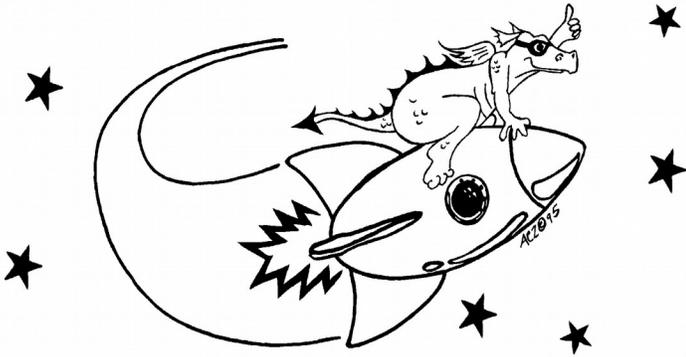


Friday : Friday

Balticon 54 Rocket Mail

The Vital Newsletter for a Virtual Con



Friday, May 22, 2020 Edition

Balticon Program Updates

Normally the Rocketmail newsletter has lots of program updates particularly on Friday due to people missing travel connections and related logistical difficulties. However, with a virtual con travel logistics is less of a problem and the schedule at <https://www.balticon.org/wp54/programming/program-schedule/> is kept updated to the minute (and is the only schedule given the unchanging printed pocket program is not available) program updates in the Rocketmail become less critical for program updates. So check the link listed above...



Compton Crook Award Winner



The Baltimore Science Fiction Society is proud to congratulate Arkady Martine as the winner of the 2020 Compton Crook Award for the novel "A Memory Called Empire" published in March of 2019 by TOR Books.

Robert A. Heinlein Award Balticon News



BSFS congratulates science fiction author Vernor S. Vinge for winning the 2020 Robert A. Heinlein Award. The award is bestowed for outstanding published works in science fiction and technical writings that inspire the human exploration of space. Dr. Vinge can not participate in Balticon this year. He sent the following statement to the Balticon Membership, "Thank you very much. My science fiction has touched on a number of topics, but the first novel I ever read was Heinlein's BETWEEN PLANETS. I believe that the exploration of space is necessary for the survival of humanity. Indeed, for the extreme case that we are alone in the universe, such exploration may be necessary for the survival of life itself."



BSFS Poetry Contest Winners



Congratulations to our 2020 Poetry contest the winners:

First Place: "Wake" Liz Hufford Phoenix, AZ

Second Place: "Deeps of Time and Innumerable Stars" Preston Stone Baltimore, MD

Third Place "Light Voyager" Adele Gardner Newport News, VA

Special Young Writers Award "Lilith" Quinn Brown Adelaide, Australia

Honorable Mention "Valkyrie Before Rain" Megan M. Yu Lawrenceville, GA

Honorable Mention "Good Night" John Grey Johnston, RI

Read their poetry online at

<http://www.bsfs.org/images/poetry/2020-win.pdf>

At press time still waiting on a pdf of winners to be delivered to be posted to that location...soon will be there.



Room Party News

There will be a DisCon III Saturday Night Party during Virtual Balticon held on DisCon Zoom account. Time: May 23, 2020 08:00 PM Eastern Time. Join Zoom Meeting at <https://zoom.us/j/98791052573>

Meeting ID: 987 9105 2573 If can not do computer find phone # to join at : <https://zoom.us/j/98791052573> Stop on by to learn about the Worldcon in Washington DC in 2021!

Virtual Con this Year, Hotel or Bust Next Year !

Due to the COVID-19 virus we were forced to hold Balticon 54 as a virtual online con this year. At this time the City of Baltimore is still on lock down to control the virus even as some parts of the USA try to open up. Given Balticon attracts people of all ages it would be too risky to our membership to hold a physical con even if government orders allow. It has been a difficult time for everyone, yet the support for BSFS and Balticon from fandom has been awesome and we will, if possible hold Balticon next year at the Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel.

Send News to the Rocketmail



This newsletter is for all Balticon news so send your news items to:
rocketmail@balticon.org