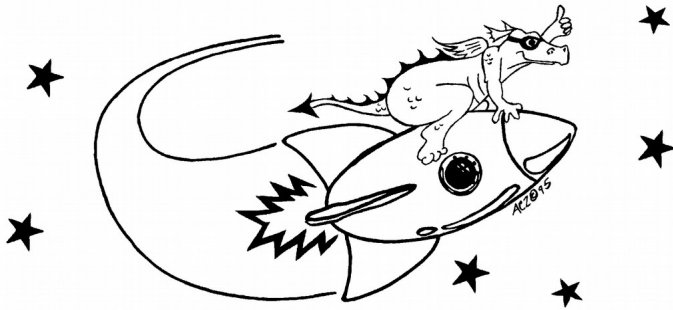


Balticon 55 Rocket Mail

The Vital Newsletter for a Virtual Con



Monday, May 31, 2021 Edition

Scavenger Hunt Update

As of Sunday night 49 people have started the Scavenger Hunt, three of whom have already finished the hunt. Congratulations to Ollie, TheRedHarlequin, and Kylie who have found all cryptids and completed their tasks!

It's not too late to start playing (unless you're reading this after the con). Start by going to #03-ribbons on Discord and click the treasure map to get the Cryptid Collector role and start the scavenger hunt. The category will magically appear at the bottom of the server list, much like Brigadoon!



Balticon Sunday Night Film Festival Winners



We reproduced our normal process of handing out ballots and having the audience vote on the best film with an online ballot this year. The winning films this year are:

- **La Tercera Parte** (The third part) by Alicia Albares and Paco Cavero is the 1st Place winner
- **Polvotron 500** by Silvia Conesa is the 2nd Place Winner

- **Earth 3** by Antoine Morineau and the film **Where do you get off** by Chuck Marra and Megan Marra tied for 3rd Place
- The films **Je Veille sur toi (Help 3)** by Janek Tarkowski, **Return to Sender** by Malibu Taetz, and A pair of very short films by Zef Lucas (**The Consent**, and **Environment 101**) by Zef Lucas earned Honorable Mention.

Award Winning Art at Balticon 55

Miguel Mitchell's painting "Amazed," which was showed on Discord during B55, received 2nd place in the Creative Expressions 2021: An Online Exhibition, sponsored by the Montgomery Art Association of Montgomery County Maryland. The award ceremony is June 6.

VB55 Fundraising Report

For the record as of 9:30 AM on 5/31/21 the total GoFundMe donations are at \$14,356.00 gifted by the generous fans that are making Virtual Balticon 55 possible.



Charm City Spec's Reading Event at the Bird in the Hand Cafe



The next Charm City Spec is coming right up, July 14th on the patio at The Ivy Bookshop in Baltimore Maryland. The list of readers includes (tentatively): Karen Osborne, Kate Reed Petty, Sarah Pinsker, Kellan Szpara! Other surprise readers are likely! Come out and celebrate the first post-pandemic CCS! This event is sponsored by BSFS outside the BSFS Building to allow the sale and consumption of alcohol. See

<https://www.facebook.com/CharmCitySpec/> closer to

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the event for more details.

Rocket Mail Done This Year Still Send News

Year round about once a month BSFS sends out a email with news about Cultural Events around Central Maryland, events happening at the BSFS Building and Balticon updates. If you have news you want to have added, as long as it will be of interest to SF Fans and is not a glaringly over the top self promotion with a spammy tinge then send that item to dale@bsfs.org and we will review and add if appropriate. If you want to get email from our list-serve type news service also send email to dale@bsfs.org letting me know and I will add you to the list by sending an invite you can just click on. (This list is managed by a google server) Otherwise, I hope to see you at the next Balticon on Memorial Day weekend in 2022 or somewhere out there in fandom.

Next Year's Balticon 56 Guests of Honor Announced

For our 56th Balticon in 2022, which will be in person at the Baltimore Renaissance Harborplace Hotel at Baltimore's Inner Harbor, our Guests of Honor will be:

Literary Guest of Honor: Nancy Springer

Artist Guest of Honor: Odera Igbokwe

Special Guests: Seanan McGuire and C J Cherryh

Compton Crook Winners: Micaiah Johnson (2021), and Arkady Martine (2020), and R. F. Kuang (2019)

More details will be posted on our website at www.balticon.org closer to the con. See you there.



The Baltimore Science Fiction Society is supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council