



Strong Women Strange Worlds
HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA

December 2, 2023

Index of Authors by Activity

(because there was that really cool-sounding book, but you can't remember the author...)

- 10:00 **Mad Libs I** – Patricia Correll, Gabby Gilliam, Melody Johnson, Jody Lynn Nye, A.M. Scott, (host Kate Pope)
- 11:00 **Improv Storytelling** – K. Aten, Elisa Bonin, Barbara Krasnoff, Patricia Miller, Sylvia Woodham, (host Kate Pope)
- 12:00 **Bluff the Audience** – Terri Bruce, Karen Hough, Vanessa MacLaren-Wray, Anne E.G. Nydam, Loren Rhoads, (host Lauren Teffeau)
- 1:00 **QuickReads I** – C.S.E. Cooney, Penelope Flynn, Elle Ire, Tiffany Morris, Cristel Orrand, Meg Smith, (host K. Aten)
- 2:00 **Speed-Date a Book** – Angela Acosta, Claudia Blood, JS Fields, Carol Gyzander, Adeena Mignogna, Anita Stewart, (host Penelope Flynn)
- 3:00 **Mad Libs II** – Claudia Blood, Terri Bruce, JF Garrard, Lydia M. Hawke, Sam Ledel, (host Kate Pope)
- 4:00 **Whose Scene is it Anyway** – Alma Alexander, Sarah Jean Horwitz, Shameez Patel Papathanasiou, Sarena Ulibarri (host JF Garrard)
- 5:00 **QuickReads II** – Holley Cornetto, Amy Grech, N.D. Jones, Gillian Polack, Angela Yuriko Smith, Nicole Wolverton, (host Vanessa MacLaren-Wray)

Ghost Guest Authors – Ann Warren Griffith, Jane Loudon, Mary Shelley, Dora Sigurson Shorter

Round Robin Stories – K. Aten, Claudia Blood, Elisa Bonnin, Terri Bruce, Patricia Correll, Elizabeth Davis, Karen Eisenbrey, Penelope Flynn, JF Garrard, Gabby Gilliam, Barbara Krasnoff, Sam Ledel, Vanessa MacLaren-Wray, Adeena Mignogna, Patricia Miller, Anne E.G. Nydam, AM Scott, Angela Yuriko Smith, Caren Gussoff Sumption, Nicole Wolverton, Sylvia Woodham

Small Bites: Flash Fiction, Poetry, and Recipes – Patricia Correll, Karen Eisenbrey, JF Garrard, Gabby Gilliam, Vanessa MacLaren-Wray, Adeena Mignogna, Patricia Miller, Anne E.G. Nydam, Sarena Ulibarri

Sampler Book of Fantasy and Horror – K. Aten, Claudia Blood, Terri Bruce, Karen Eisenbrey, JF Garrard, Carol Gyzander, Lydia M. Hawke, Barbara Krasnoff, Anne E.G. Nydam, Loren Rhoads, Nicole M. Wolverton

Sampler Book of Sci Fi – K. Aten, Claudia Blood, Karen Eisenbrey, JS Fields, Melody Johnson, Vanessa MacLaren-Wray, Adeena Mignogna, AM Scott, Lauren Teffeau, Sarena Ulibarri

Featured Authors, Alphabetically

Angela Acosta is a bilingual Mexican American poet and Visiting Assistant Professor of Hispanic Studies at Davidson College published in *Shoreline of Infinity*, *Apparition Lit*, *Radon Journal*, and *Space & Time*. She is author of *A Belief in Cosmic Dailiness: Poems of a Fabled Universe* (Red Ogre Review, 2023).

Speed-Date: *A Belief in Cosmic Dailiness: Poems of a Fabled Universe*



Alma Alexander is an internationally published novelist, short story writer and anthologist who lives in the Pacific Northwest of the USA with the obligatory writer's cats and assorted visiting wildlife. www.AlmaAlexander.org

Whose Scene: *Val Hall: Century*



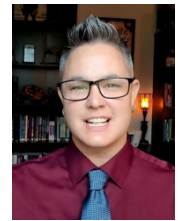
K. Aten - Award winning author and Michigan native, Kelly Aten-Keilen brings heroines to life in a variety of blended LGBTQ fiction genres. She specializes in romantic speculative fiction, focusing on extra-ordinary women who are as flawed as they are compelling. Kelly will publish her 15th novel later this year with Flashpoint Publications. www.katenauthor.com

Improv Storytelling

Sci Fi Sampler: *Remember Me, Synthetica*

Fantasy & Horror Sampler: *Elemental Attraction*

Round Robin Storybook



Claudia Blood's early introduction to Dungeons and Dragons, combined with her training as a scientist and a side trip into the world of IT set her up to become an award-winning author of Science Fiction and Fantasy. www.ClaudiaBlood.com

Speed-Date: Renegades Rising series

MadLibs: *Company Assassin*

Sci Fi Sampler: *The Duchess*

Fantasy & Horror Sampler: *Book of Secrets*

Round Robin Storybook



Elisa A. Bonnin was born and raised in the Philippines, after which she moved to the United States to study chemistry and oceanography. Publishing a book has been her childhood dream, and she is thrilled to share her stories. She is the author of *Dauntless* and *Stolen City*. eabonin.com

Improv Storytelling

Round Robin Storybook



Terri Bruce writes hard-to-classify fantasy and science fiction stories that explore the supernatural side of everyday things. She is the author of the paranormal/contemporary fantasy Afterlife series, the speculative fiction short story collection *SOULS*, and numerous short stories in various anthologies and magazines. www.terribruce.net

Bluff the Audience: *Souls*

MadLibs: *Whereafter* (Afterlife #3)

Fantasy & Horror Sampler: *Hereafter* (Afterlife #1)

Round Robin Storybook



C.S.E. Cooney is the two-time World Fantasy Award-winning author of *Saint Death's Daughter* and *Bone Swans*. Other work includes *The Twice-Drowned Saint*, *Dark Breakers*, and *Desdemona and the Deep*. She has narrated over 120 audiobooks, and will sing for anyone who stands still long enough.

QuickRead: *Saint Death's Daughter*



Holley Cornetto is a writer, librarian, professor, book reviewer, and transplanted southerner. Her novella, *We Haunt These Woods*, was published by Bleeding Edge Books. In addition to writing *The Horror Tree's* newsletter, she reviews for *Publisher's Weekly* and *The Horror Tree*. She teaches creative writing at Southern New Hampshire University. Twitter @HLCornetto

QuickRead: "A Few Small Repairs" from *It Calls from the Veil* anthology
Fantasy & Horror Sampler: They Are Cursed Like You



Patricia Correll is a writer of ghost stories, fantasy, and daily to-do lists. She/her. Thief, archer, food for fire ants. https://twitter.com/Author_PCorrell

MadLibs: *Monstrous Creatures*
Small Bites book of flash fiction, poetry, and recipes
Round Robin Storybook



Elizabeth Davis is a second generation writer living in Dayton, Ohio. They live there with their spouse and two cats - neither of which have been lost to ravenous corn mazes or sleeping serpent gods. When they aren't busy creating beautiful nightmares and bizarre adventures, they can be found at Deadfishbooks.com

Round Robin Storybook



Karen Eisenbrey lives in Seattle, WA, where she leads a quiet, orderly life and invents stories to make up for it. Karen writes fantasy and science fiction novels, as well as short fiction and the occasional poem or song if it insists. <https://kareneisenbreywriter.com/>

Sci Fi Sampler: *Ego & Endurance*
Fantasy & Horror Sampler: *Daughter of Magic*
Small Bites book of flash fiction, poetry, and recipes
Round Robin Storybook



JS Fields is a scientist who has spent too much time around organic solvents. They enjoy roller derby, woodturning, making chainmail by hand, and cultivating fungi in the backs of minivans. <http://www.jsfieldsbooks.com>

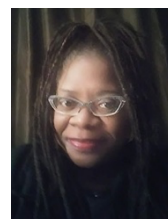
Speed-Date: Ardulum series
Sci Fi Sampler: *Queen*



Penelope Flynn writes and illustrates adult-targeted horror, suspense, science fiction and fantasy. Her works have been in several anthologies and the third book of her Chronicles of Renfields series launched in September 2021. She moderates the podcast Discussions From the Otherhood and heads Ambitious Hybrid Multimedia and Prolific Hybrid Multimedia.

PenelopeFlynn.com

QuickRead:
Round Robin Storybook



JF Garrard is an award-winning speculative fiction writer, editor and publisher. She is the President of Dark Helix Press, Host of the literary podcast The Artsy Raven, President for the Canadian Authors Association's Toronto Branch and Deputy Editor for *Ricepaper Magazine*. Her portfolio of books and short fiction is listed on <https://jfgarrard.com>

MadLibs: *The Undead Sorceress*

Fantasy & Horror Sampler: *The Undead Sorceress*

Small Bites book of flash fiction, poetry, and recipes

Round Robin Storybook



Gabby Gilliam lives in the DC metro area with her husband and son. Her poetry has most recently appeared in *One Art*, *Plant-Human Quarterly*, *The Ekphrastic Review*, *Pure Slush*, *Deep Overstock*, *Vermillion*, *MacQueen's Quinterly*, and *Anti-Heroine Chic*. You can find her online at gabbygilliam.squarespace.com or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GabbyGilliamAuthor.

MadLibs: "Naming the Whelp" from *Alder & Ebony* anthology

Small Bites book of flash fiction, poetry, and recipes

Round Robin Storybook



Amy Grech has sold over 100 short stories to various anthologies and magazines, including *Even in the Grave*. Amy is an Active Member of the Horror Writers Association who lives in Forest Hills, Queens. You can connect with her on X: https://twitter.com/amy_grech or visit her website: <https://www.crimsonscreech.com>

QuickRead: *Even in the Grave*



Ann Warren Griffith (1911 or 1918-1983) was an American writer of humorous essays and science fiction. During WWII she flew planes in the U.S. Airforce as a member of the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) program. Her work, including two satirical sci fi pieces, was published in major magazines. (The piece presented today appears in the anthology *Rediscovery 2*, and was read with kind permission of the editor Gideon Marcus.) <https://journeypress.com/titles/rediscovery-science-fiction-by-women/>

Ghost Guest: presented by Terri Bruce



Carol Gyzander writes and edits horror, dark fiction, and sci-fi in the northern New Jersey suburbs of New York City. She is Co-Coordinator of the HWA NY Chapter and co-hosts their online Galactic Terrors readings every second Thursday (see HWANY.org). HWA, MWA, HNS, BU. CarolGyzander.com

Speed-Date: *Forget Me Not* (Systema Paradoxa Book 10)

Fantasy & Horror Sampler: *Forget Me Not* (Systema Paradoxa Book 10)



Lydia M. Hawke is a Canadian writer of paranormal women's fiction who is on a mission to reclaim the term crone and make it positive again. A wife, mother, and grandmother herself, Lydia's newest series features a woman who discovers her magic—and her power—at the age of 60. LydiaHawkeBooks.com

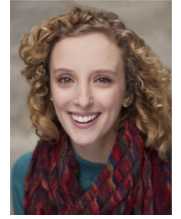
MadLibs: *Becoming Crone*

Fantasy & Horror Sampler: *Sins of the Angels*



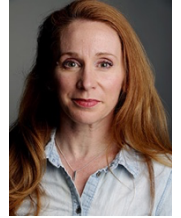
Sarah Jean Horwitz grew up next door to a cemetery and down the street from an abandoned fairy-tale theme park, which probably explains a lot. She is the author of several middle grade fantasy novels. Her newest book is *The Demon Sword Asperides*. Sarah Jean currently lives near Boston. www.sarahjeanhorwitz.com

Whose Scene: *The Demon Sword Asperides*



K.A. Hough is a Canadian writer who balances her passion for exercise and science with her love of cookies and nonsense. She lives with her husband, three energetic kids, and a codependent dog. In her spare time, she writes essays, teaches boot camps in the parks, and drinks tea. karenhoughwrites.com

Bluff the Audience: *Ground Control*



Elle E. Ire When she isn't taking shooting lessons or cave swimming with bats, Elle Ire writes science fiction and paranormal romance featuring kickass women who fall in love with each other. Elle has nine published novels with DSP Publications. She is represented by Naomi Davis at Bookends Literary Agency. elleire.com

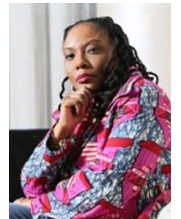
QuickRead: *Dead Woman's Pond*



N.D. Jones, Ed.D. is a USA Today bestselling author who lives in Maryland with her family. In her desire to see more novels with positive, sexy, and three-dimensional Black characters as soul mates, friends, and lovers, she took on that challenge herself.

ndjonesparanormalpleasure.com

QuickRead: *Of Deception and Divinity*



Melody Johnson is the award-winning author of the Love Beyond and Night Blood series. Earning the 2021 Maggie Award of Excellence, *Beyond the Next Star* is an exciting branch from Melody's paranormal romance roots, keeping the dark grit from her Night Blood Series and taking it to new worlds. authormelodyjohnson.com

MadLibs: *Beyond the Next Star*

Sci Fi Sampler: *Beyond the Next Star*



Barbara Krasnoff's stories have appeared in a variety of publications; "Sabbath Wine," which was published in *Clockwork Phoenix 5*, was a finalist for the 2016 Nebula Award. Her novel *The History of Soul 2065*, from Mythic Delirium Books, appeared in June 2019. Currently, she's Reviews Editor at *The Verge*. <https://historyofsoul2065.com/>

Improv Storytelling

Round Robin Storybook



Sam Ledel writes sapphic fiction in the fantasy and historical romance genres. She's the proud author of seven novels with Bold Strokes Books. When not writing, she may be found daydreaming with a cup of coffee in hand and her Jack Russell terrier snuggled close by.

www.samledel.com

MadLibs: *Heart of Stone*

Round Robin Storybook



Jane Wells Webb Loudon (1807-1858) was an English author and early writer of science fiction, as well as writing and illustrating books about gardening and horticulture. Her most famous fiction work is *The Mummy! A Tale of the Twenty-Second Century*. Her work is now in the public domain, and *The Mummy!* can be found on Project Gutenberg.

Ghost Guest: presented by Vanessa MacLaren-Wray



Vanessa MacLaren-Wray writes speculative fiction about humans and other people making connections in a complex universe. She's the author of the Patchwork Universe series, including *All That Was Asked*, *Shadows of Insurrection*, and *Flames of Attrition*. She often guest-hosts for the podcast Small Publishing in a Big Universe.

<https://cometarytales.com/>

Bluff the Audience: *Flames of Attrition*

Sci Fi Sampler: *The Smugglers*

Small Bites book of flash fiction, poetry, and recipes

Round Robin Storybook



Adeena Mignogna, author of The Robot Galaxy series, is an engineer working in aerospace, and a long-time science fiction geek with a strong desire to inspire others through speaking and writing about robots, AI, aliens, virtual reality, and more! <http://linktr.ee/adeenam>

Speed-Date: *Lunar Logic*

Sci Fi Sampler: *Lunar Logic*

Small Bites book of flash fiction, poetry, and recipes

Round Robin Storybook



Patricia Miller is a member of SFWA and writes science fiction, fantasy, and horror. Publications include short fiction in numerous anthologies, *MetaStellar*, *Zooscape*, and Cinnabar Moth Literary Collections, *Dastardly Damsels*, and *99 Fleeting Fantasies*. A complete listing of stories, her occasional blog, and more info can be found at:

<https://trishmillerwrites.com>

Improv Storytelling

Small Bites book of flash fiction, poetry, and recipes

Round Robin Storybook



Tiffany Morris is an L'nu'skw (Mi'kmaw) writer from Nova Scotia. She is the author of the swampcore horror novella *Green Fuse Burning* (Stelliform Books, 2023) and the Elgin-nominated horror poetry collection *Elegies of Rotting Stars* (Nictitating Books, 2022). Her work has appeared in *Nightmare*, *Uncanny*, and *Apex Magazine*, among others.

tiffmorris.com

QuickRead: "Night in the Chrysalis" from the anthology *Never Whistle At Night*



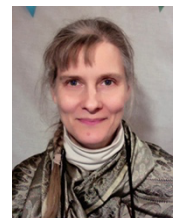
Anne E.G. Nydam has written and illustrated books for all ages. She also makes relief block prints and writes short stories and poems celebrating the wonders of worlds both real and imaginary. She lives near Boston with the usual sorts of family and pets, including a pampered Venus fly trap. nydamprints.com

Bluff the Audience: *The Extraordinary Book of Doors*

Fantasy & Horror Sampler: *The Extraordinary Book of Doors*

Small Bites book of flash fiction, poetry, and recipes

Round Robin Storybook



Jody Lynn Nye lists her main career activity as ‘spoiling cats.’ When not engaged upon this worthy occupation, she writes fantasy and science fiction, most of it humorous. Since 1987 she has published over 50 books and more than 175 short stories. Jody teaches the two-day writers' workshop at Dragon Con, and is Coordinating Judge of the Writers of the Future Contest.

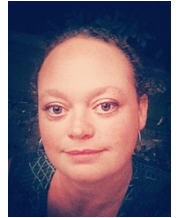
MadLibs: “My Little Old One” from the anthology *The Cackle of Cthulhu*



Cristel Orrand is the author of two cross-genre novels, *The Amalgamist* and *Khayal*, the poetry and prose collection *Heartwood*, and most recently, the novelette “M.O.U.T.H. Piece” in the *Objectified* anthology published by Crone Girls Press. She is currently working on a southern gothic historical fiction novel series, and her poetry.

<https://cristelorrand.wixsite.com/writer>

QuickRead: *The Gatekeepers*



Shameez Patel Papathanasiou is a South African author working as a civil engineer by day and writing fantasy by night. Her literary adventures take her to worlds filled with magic, monsters and someone to fall in love with. Her debut novel, *The Last Feather*, is a threat-and-danger, hidden-world fantasy. www.shameezwrites.com

Whose Scene: *The Last Feather*



Dr Gillian Polack is an award-winning Australian speculative fiction writer. She was awarded the 2020 A. Bertram Chandler Award for lifetime achievement in science fiction. Her most recent novel is *The Green Children Help Out*. Her novels are science fiction and fantasy, which is odd, for she is an ethnohistorian. <https://gillianpolack.com/>

QuickRead: *The Time of the Ghosts*



Loren Rhoads is the co-author (with Brian Thomas) of the As Above, So Below books, a dark urban fantasy duet about a succubus and her angel. Her short stories have appeared in *Best New Horror*, *Tales of Evil*, *Sins of the Sirens: 14 Tales of Dark Desire*, and many more. lorenrhoads.com

Bluff the Audience: *Lost Angels*

Fantasy & Horror Sampler: *The Angel's Lair*



AM Scott spent twenty years as a US Air Force space operations officer, and now operates a laptop, trading in real satellites for fictional spaceships. AM's writing cave is deep in the mountains of western Montana. AM is also a volunteer leader with Team Rubicon Disaster Response. amscottwrites.com

MadLibs: *Lightwave: Clocker*

Sci Fi Sampler: *Lightwave: Clocker*

Round Robin Storybook



Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley (1797-1851) was an English novelist, radical thinker, and influential friend of other famous authors. Her most famous work is *Frankenstein, or The Modern Prometheus*, which was an immediate popular success, and is now considered a pioneering work of science fiction.

Ghost Guest: presented by Tiffany Morris



Dora Sigurson Shorter (1866-1918) was an Irish poet and sculptor. She was a major figure of the Irish Literary Revival, and made much use of Irish mythology and folklore in her poetry. Her work is now in the public domain, and some of her books can be found on Project Gutenberg.

Ghost Guest: presented by JF Garrard



Angela Yuriko Smith is a third-generation Shimanchu-American, award-winning poet, author, and publisher with 20+ years of newspaper experience. Publisher of *Space & Time* magazine (est. 1966), two-time Bram Stoker Awards® Winner, and an HWA Mentor of the Year, she shares Authorntunities, a free weekly calendar of author opportunities at angelayurikosmith.com

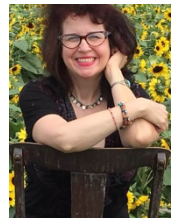
QuickRead: *Unquiet Spirits: Essays by Asian Women in Horror*

Round Robin Storybook

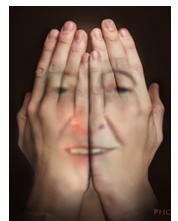


Meg Smith's poetry and fiction have appeared in *Dark Moon Digest*, *The Cafe Review*, *Muddy River Poetry Review*, *Star*Line*, *The Horror Zine*, and many more. She is author of five poetry books and a short fiction collection, *The Plague Confessor*. She welcomes visits to megsmithwriter.com.

QuickRead: *The Plague Confessor*



Sarah Smith's internationally bestselling books are published in 15 languages. She's won the Agatha for best teenage mystery, the Massachusetts Book Award for best teenage novel, and numerous other honors, including NY Times Notables and various Best Book of the Year lists. She's working on a fantasy with pirates and talking eagles, and is delighted by the number of characters she can kill. www.sarahsmith.com



A. F. Stewart is a steadfast sci-fi and fantasy geek, born and raised in Nova Scotia, Canada, which she still calls home. She favours the dark and deadly when writing, and as an indie author she's published novels, novellas and story collections, with a few side trips into poetry. <https://afstewart.ca/>

Speed-Date: *Fairy Tales and Nightmares*



Caren Gussoff Sumption is a science fiction writer of mixed Romany ancestry, living near Seattle. She is the author of 6 books, the setting chapter in the Gotham Writers' Workshop Practical Guide, and more than 100 short stories. Her latest novella will be out in September, from Vernacular Books. <https://spitkitten.com/>

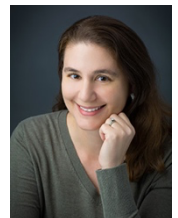
MadLibs: *Three Songs For Roxy*

Round Robin Storybook



Lauren Tefteau is the author of *Implanted* (Angry Robot), a cyberpunk/solarpunk adventure shortlisted for the 2019 Compton Crook award for best first SF/F/H novel. Her climate fantasy novella *A Hunger with No Name* from University of Tampa Press releases Fall of 2024. www.laurenctefteau.com

Sci Fi Sampler: *Implanted*

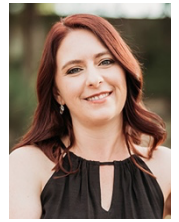


Sarena Ulibarri is the author of two science fiction novellas (*Another Life* from Stelliform Press and *Steel Tree* from Android Press) as well as nearly 50 short stories, which have appeared in magazines such as *Lightspeed*, *DreamForge*, and *Solarpunk Magazine*. She lives, writes, and plants trees in the American Southwest. www.sarenaulibarri.com

Whose Scene: *Steel Tree*

Sci Fi Sampler: *Steel Tree*

Small Bites book of flash fiction, poetry, and recipes

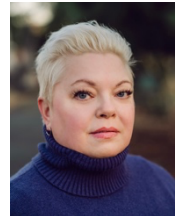


Nicole M. Wolverton is a Pushcart-nominated writer of horror and speculative fiction and creative nonfiction. Her short works appear in dozens of publications—and her debut young adult novel, *A Misfortune of Lake Monsters*—will be out in summer 2024 from CamCat Books. She lives in the Philadelphia area. www.nicolewolverton.com

QuickRead: “Harvest” from *The Wordsmiths* anthology

Fantasy & Horror Sampler book: *A Misfortune of Lake Monsters*

Round Robin Storybook



Sylvia Woodham lives in Germany with her dog, and works in international business when not writing. She has short stories published so far.

<https://sylviawoodham.wixsite.com/home>

Improv Storytelling

Round Robin Storybook



Plus host **Kate Pope**, the "token non-author" on the organizing committee. She is a reader extraordinaire and a tie-dye artist, and will do anything for MadLibs.



Special thanks to all those who contributed “backstage” to make this Extravaganza possible, including Kelly Aten, Claudia Blood, Terri Bruce, Patricia Correll, Ef Deal, Karen Eisenbrey, JF Garrard, Gabby Gilliam, Amanda Huskisson, Lindsay Macannon, Clare Macannon, Vanessa MacLaren-Wray, Anne E.G. Nydam, Kate Pope, and Sarah Smith.

We also depend on the generosity of our audience. Although we are an all-volunteer organization and are committed to keeping our events free, the tech we use does have costs.

If you’d like to leave us a tip through [Ko-fi](#), we do appreciate it very much!



Find out more about us, and our past authors and upcoming events at
strongwomenstrangeworlds.weebly.com