

Subject: CoKoCon 2020 - Year 3!
From: CoKoCon Mail <mailadmin@cokocon.org>
Date: 11/24/19, 1:57 AM
To: cokocon@cokocon.org



[CoKoCon](#) is your general science fiction/fantasy convention in Phoenix, AZ with a slight focus on authors! With the sf/f convention season concluded for 2019, here's your first update for CoKoCon 2020!

WE'RE BACK!

We're happy to announce that CoKoCon will return for a third year in 2020, working with the same mindset as our first two years with minor tweaks here and there to make things even smoother.

We'll be on the same Labor Day weekend, which in 2020 will be September 4-7. As always, that's Thursday to Sunday for a four day convention.

One obvious change will be to our venue, as we will not be returning to our previous host hotel. We're talking with a number of potential new venues and we'll let you know as soon as we've signed a contract.

MEMBERSHIPS ON SALE!

Memberships are on sale on our website, which, as always, is cokocon.org.

Adult memberships (over 12) are currently \$40 with youths (7-12) half price and kids-in-tow (under 7) free (but limited to 2 per adult).

Membership gets you full access to all four days of the convention and to everything happening within it.

GUESTS OF HONOR

We currently have two Guests of Honor to announce and we'll be introducing you to them in future mailings.

For now, we'll just let you know that we're very happy to announce **Steven Barnes** as our Author GoH and **S. J. Tucker** as our Filk GoH. We're looking forward to bringing them out to CoKoCon 2020. We know you'll make them very welcome!

Thank you to the Phoenix Filk Circle for kindly sponsoring S. J. Tucker.

APPLICATION FORMS

All our forms are already live on our website so, if you're looking to take part in CoKoCon 2020 as a Dealer, a Fan Table Coordinator, a Game Master or a Volunteer, there's a form there for you. Just go to the appropriate page from the menu and complete that.

FEEDBACK

We'd love to hear your feedback about 2019. While we're continuing to build a consistent operating model, that doesn't mean that we've got everything right yet. If you have any positive or negative feedback, or if you have suggestions for future Guests of Honor or program participants, we have a form for you too. You can find it on a hidden page here:

<http://www.cokocon.org/2020/feedback.html>

GENERAL

CoKoCon is a general science fiction/fantasy convention jointly sponsored by CASFS and WesternSFA. Our 2020 event will be held over the four day Labor Day weekend (Sep 4-7) at a hotel TBD. Adult memberships (over 12) are currently \$40 with youths (7-12) half price and kids-in-tow (under 7) free (but limited to 2 per adult). Hotel room prices are TBD. Membership will be capped at 500. All details are on our website.

Website: <http://www.cokocon.org/>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/CoKoCon/>

Twitter: <https://www.twitter.com/cokocon1/>

Address: PO Box 67457, Phoenix, AZ 85081

NOTE

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To ensure that you get all our updates, please add us to your whitelist.

Subject: CoKoCon 2020 - Price Increase, Hotel and Steven Barnes
From: CoKoCon Mail <mailadmin@cokocon.org>
Date: 12/23/19, 6:28 PM
To: cokocon@cokocon.org



[CoKoCon](#) is your general science fiction/fantasy convention in Phoenix, AZ with a slight focus on authors! Here's your update for Monday, December 23.

Attendance will be **capped at 500** so get your membership soon!

MEMBERSHIP PRICE INCREASE

Please be aware that memberships will increase in price with the new year.

Currently adult memberships (over 12) are \$40 with youths (7-12) half price and kids-in-tow (under 7) free (but limited to 2 per adult).

On New Year's Day, adult memberships will go up to \$50. Youths will remain half price and kids-in-tow will remain free and limited in the same way.

Membership gets you full access to all four days of the convention and to everything happening within it.

HOTEL

While we'd love to find a hotel at which we can host CoKoCon forever, it was clear that we would have to find a new hotel for 2020 and we've been on the hunt ever since the end of CoKoCon 2019.

Well, we've now found that hotel and it's another DoubleTree with quick and easy access from an interstate. It's the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Phoenix Tempe, which is at Priest & Broadway, right off I-10. Their address is 2100 S Priest Dr, Tempe, AZ 85282. Here are links to [their website](#) and [Google Maps](#).

Rooms will remain at \$92 per night for single and double, with \$102 for triple and \$112 for quad. We should have a booking link on the website later in the holidays

and we'll share that in the next newsletter.

We're looking forward to this new hotel, which has more function space that's closer together.

STEVEN BARNES

As previously mentioned, we're very happy to welcome Steven Barnes as our Author Guest of Honor.

Steven has published thirty-three novels and over three million words of science fiction and fantasy. He's been nominated for Hugo, Nebula, and Cable Ace awards.

While his television work includes *The Twilight Zone*, *Stargate* and *Andromeda*, his *A Stitch In Time* episode of *The Outer Limits* won the Emmy Award and his alternate history novel *Lion's Blood* won the 2003 Endeavor.

Casanegra, an erotic mystery novel written with his wife, American Book Award-winning novelist Tananarive Due, won the 2009 NAACP Image Award.

Barnes also holds three black belts and was for three years Kung Fu columnist for *Black Belt Magazine*. He lives in Los Angeles with his wife and son Jason. He has a daughter, Nicki, who lives in San Diego.

2020 co-chair Hal Astell will be exploring his books, one title a month, at the Nameless Zine, as of January, and the CASFS Book Social will be discussing his *Dream Park* (co-written with Larry Niven) on June 16.

PARTICIPANTS

Our programming team has been busy confirming participants for CoKoCon 2020 and we're adding them to the Participants page as they come in.

Many authors have already been added, so you can start to think about what to bring with you to CoKoCon to get signed!

GENERAL

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weekend (Sep 4-7) at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Phoenix Tempe at 2100 S Priest Dr, Tempe, AZ 85282. Adult memberships (over 12) are \$40 until the end of 2019 (\$50 as of New Year's Day) with youths (7-12) half price and kids-in-tow (under 7) free (but limited to 2 per adult). Hotel room prices are \$92 (single/double), \$102 (triple) or \$112 (quad). Membership will be capped at 500. All details are on our website.

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Subject: CoKoCon 2020 - Linda D. Addison, Local Author GoH
From: CoKoCon Mail <mailadmin@cokocon.org>
Date: 1/13/20, 1:09 AM
To: cokocon@cokocon.org



[CoKoCon](#) is your general science fiction/fantasy convention in Phoenix, AZ with a slight focus on authors! Here's your update for Monday, January 13.

Attendance will be **capped at 500** so get your membership soon!

LINDA D. ADDISON

As a science fiction/fantasy convention with a slight focus on authors, we're very keen to have both an Author and Local Author Guest of Honor.

We've already announced Steven Barnes as our Author GoH. We're very happy to now announce Linda D. Addison as our Local Author GoH.

Linda is an award-winning poet and author of four collections, including *How To Recognize a Demon Has Become Your Friend*. She was the first African-American recipient of the HWA Bram Stoker Award® and she received the 2016 HWA Mentor of the Year Award and the 2018 HWA Lifetime Achievement Award.

Check out her latest poetry in *The Place of Broken Things*, written with Alessandro Manzetti, and the *Miscreations* anthology. She's excited about the 2020 release of a film (inspired by her poem of same name), *Mourning Meal*, by producer/director Jamal Hodge.

All our guests are detailed on our [Guests of Honor page](#).

MEMBERSHIPS

Memberships increased in price, as scheduled, with the new year. This is our last increase before the convention itself.

Currently adult memberships (over 12) are \$50 with youths (7-12) half price and kids-in-tow (under 7) free (but limited to 2 per adult).

Membership gets you full access to all four days of the convention and to everything happening within it.

Memberships can be purchased from our [Members page](#).

APPLICATIONS

Our new venue, the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Phoenix Tempe at 2100 S Priest Dr, Tempe, AZ 85282, has plenty of room for us to play with.

If you're interested in attending CoKoCon 2020 as a vendor with a table in our Dealers' Room; an artist exhibiting in our Art Show; a fan group manning a promotional Fan Table; a game master hosting games in our Gaming room; a host running a Room Party; or a member of our Volunteer team helping us to provide the best experience possible for everyone; we have application forms up on the website.

Just go to the appropriate page on our website and fill out the form that you'll find there: [Art Show](#), [Dealers](#), [Fan Tables](#), [Gaming](#), [Room Parties](#), [Volunteers](#).

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Subject: CoKoCon 2020 - S. J. Tucker, Filk GoH
From: CoKoCon Mail <mailadmin@cokocon.org>
Date: 2/18/20, 2:16 AM
To: cokocon@cokocon.org



[CoKoCon](#) is your general science fiction/fantasy convention in Phoenix, AZ with a slight focus on authors! Here's your update for Monday, February 17.

Attendance will be **capped at 500** so [purchase your membership](#) and [book your room](#) soon!

S. J. TUCKER

We're very happy to welcome S. J. Tucker as our Filk Guest of Honor, kindly sponsored by the Phoenix Filk Circle.

"Without our songs and stories, we are nothing." Song tamer S. J. Tucker has been the glad captain of her own independent music career since 2004, when she left the workaday world behind to travel the continent, singing songs and changing lives. Named a vanguard of the Mythpunk movement and well known to fandom, Tucker is the voice of lore at the campfire and the sharp laughter of modern myth. With one hand anchored in her art and the other held out to you, she is songs and stories, community and wit.

Music is S. J.'s greatest love, with story and theatre coming close on its heels. An award-winning songwriter with a degree in theatre arts, S. J. ("Sooj" to fans and friends) has crafted hundreds of original songs, set her focus on genres from full electronica to bare knuckled folk, and produced more than fourteen full-length releases in as many years.

Her body of work, whether recorded or in performance, leaves plenty of space for the mind's eye to run wild on the subjects of both classical and modern fantasy worlds, magical creatures, and archetypes from world folklore. Whether you found her through solid crowd favorites like *Firebird's Child* and *Cheshire Kitten*, or you're just encountering her fierce, healing spirit live on stage for the first time this year, S. J. has a song for you. Listen free and decide for yourself at

music.sjtucker.com.

All our guests are detailed on our [Guests of Honor page](#).

BOOK DISCUSSION

One tradition we've been keen to establish at CoKoCon is a book discussion and Michael Senft, who runs the Sci-Fridays Book Club at the Poisoned Pen, will be back to lead it, alongside Nebula Award-nominated author Beth Cato, our Local Author GoH in 2018.

This year's book will be *The Calculating Stars* by Mary Robinette Kowal. Read or listen to it ahead of the event or come in blind, but beware of spoilers!

PARTY AT LEPRECON

If you're attending LepreCon 46 in Chandler over the Easter weekend (check out leprecon.org for details), we'll be hosting a room party on the Saturday evening (that's Saturday, March 11). We'll share the room number and other details on social media closer to the event.

We'll have plenty of food and drink available for everyone, including Lord Craig's cordials, and plenty of good company too. Come and ask us about CoKoCon or just come for a chat. It'll be great to see you either way!

We'll also have a special announcement to make that we're keeping a secret for now!

NEW HOTEL

Just to hammer home that we're at a new hotel this year. It's still a DoubleTree but it's not the same one as our first two years. We'll be at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Phoenix Tempe at 2100 S Priest Dr, Tempe, AZ 85282.

The more we check it out, the happier we are with our new home. They'll be housing our attendees close to the convention center, which has parking all around it for easy access. All our programming will be close together on one floor and we love our spacious lobby, which will allow for plenty of fan tables and social space.

Don't forget to [book your rooms](#)!

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Subject: CoKoCon 2020 - Still Happening
From: CoKoCon Mail <mailadmin@cokocon.org>
Date: 3/23/20, 1:38 AM
To: cokocon@cokocon.org



[CoKoCon](#) is your general science fiction/fantasy convention in the Phoenix, AZ metro area with a focus on authors! Here's your update for Monday, March 23.

Attendance will be **capped at 500** so get your membership soon!

COVID-19

Many conventions set for March and April have cancelled or postponed due to concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic. We commiserate with them, their committees, attendees and everyone whose hard work and dedication has been impacted. It's a tough time and we look forward to it easing soon so that everyone's lives can go back to normal. We hope that you're all safe and well and that you stay that way.

At this time, we expect the situation to be back to as close to normal as possible by September, so CoKoCon remains on the calendar and we'll do everything we can to make it a success.

However, we're also keeping an eye on COVID-19, what the [CDC](#) and [ADHS](#) recommend and what the city, state and federal governments require. If things continue to the point where we need to cancel or postpone, then we'll do so, but we'll keep you updated all the way.

Be safe and see you soon.

KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON

While COVID-19 will remain a focus for us, we're continuing to build CoKoCon 2020 and we're continuing to update our website as we add new participants, programming and events.

Many favourite local groups are already confirmed to return, including the Awesomelys, the D.R.E.A.D. Fleet and the Phoenix Astronomical Society, so look forward to more guilty pleasure movies, swashbuckling pirates and star parties.

Other traditional events are also confirmed, including the Apocalypse Later Roadshow, with another set of all-new international short films; At the Movies, with more trailers and swag; and a Book Discussion, led by Michael Senft of Sci-Fi Fridays. Of course, there will be a Charity Auction and a Sketch Off.

Many authors are already confirmed, so check your bookshelves for books to get signed and order the ones you don't have.

We're excited about the workshops we'll be bringing to young and old alike and a variety of panels and other events to keep everything fresh. Expect a lot more to be posted to the website over the next few months.

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Subject: CoKoCon 2020 is Cancelled
From: CoKoCon Mail <mailadmin@cokocon.org>
Date: 5/29/20, 6:09 PM
To: cokocon@cokocon.org



CANCELLATION

With great sadness, we're announcing the cancellation of CoKoCon 2020, which would have taken place over the Labor Day weekend.

We've been paying close attention to COVID-19 ever since early March when it started prompting conventions to cancel or postpone. We've held out hope that this pandemic would wane soon enough for the world to find a safe new normal, but it's become clear that that is not going to happen in time.

Our chief concern is always for the people who make CoKoCon such a special place: our guests, our participants, our members and our staff. At this time, we have to acknowledge that we'll be unable to guarantee a safe and healthy environment for everyone, so it's our duty to cancel CoKoCon 2020 and shift our focus to CoKoCon 2021.

All purchased memberships for CoKoCon 2020 will roll automatically to CoKoCon 2021. While our policy has always stated no refunds, we'll waive that here if anyone prefers a refund in this instance. Just contact info@cokocon.org.

All applications for CoKoCon 2020 will roll automatically to CoKoCon 2021 unless you, as a dealer, fan table coordinator, party host, gamemaster, etc. choose not to do so. Again, just contact info@cokocon.org.

If you have a hotel reservation, we would recommend that you contact the hotel directly to cancel. Their phone number is (480) 967-1441.

As we have other Guests of Honor already contracted for 2021, we're talking with our 2020 GoHs about moving them to 2022. We still very much want to bring them to CoKoCon and we know that you want us to do so too. We are very happy

to let you know now that Steven Barnes and Linda Addison have already agreed to be GoHs at CoKoCon 2022.

We'll be rolling the CoKoCon website from 2020 to 2021 over the next couple of weeks and it'll include announcements of our 2021 guests, along with all other details and new forms.

As a sneak peek, we can proudly announce now that our Author Guest of Honor at CoKoCon 2021 will be the multi-award winning Seanan McGuire. You may know her from her best-selling October Daye or InCryptid urban fantasy series; from her Hugo, Nebula and Locus Award winning Every Heart a Doorway novella; from her Newsflesh or Parasitology books under the name of Mira Grant; or from her non-writing work as a filker or podcaster. Other GoHs will be announced shortly.

If you have any further questions, please contact us at info@cokocon.org.

We'd have loved to have seen you at CoKoCon 2020, but for now please keep yourselves safe and well and we'll see you at CoKoCon 2021.

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