



The Seventh Week

clarion west writers workshop • fall 2019

graphic by Vicki Saunders



THE COOL KIDS

Flash Fiction by
ELLY BANGS CW '17

For a solid year I was riding high, getting my fix, partying all night and sleeping all day — just like Phinneas, cool and white as snow, who had mortals of all genders falling over themselves to be tasted; who had been twentysomething for centuries. I thought we'd surf that ruby-red high forever, me and him and the other Cool Kids, and I'd never suffer my own reflection again. But I woke one night with an awful taste in my mouth, and when I brushed my teeth, there I was again in the silvered glass above the sink: hazy, translucent, but undeniably there. I almost screamed.

"When's the last time you drank, Jason?" Phinneas muttered, stretching awake.

"If I don't get blood I turn *human* again?" I sounded like a noob, but I was panicking. I could feel my skin rising above room temperature like a fever.

"Relax! Plenty of blood on the dance floor."

We went hunting in the club, but my confidence was shot. My moves didn't work with gravity pulling so hard. I was sick with my own heat, less Cool by the minute. I was perspiring. I'd forgotten how bad a warm body could smell. I kept tonguing my receding canines. No mortal would offer me a neck.

Phinneas shouted in my ear: "Drink up already! You're bringing me down!"

"My animal magnetism is gone."

"Then don't ask. Just take."

I tried. I found someone all but passed out drunk, but when her neck was right

there my appetite ripped out from under me. Without the seduction, without the hypnotically induced consent, something grotesque about the act of drinking was laid bare. I almost threw up. I ran off into the night, too sick and full of shame to look back or say goodbye.

I ran into Phinneas several years later in the early hours of some night. I invited him out for coffee. I thought we could catch up: we'd been close, once.

"You're getting old, Jason," he said, rather viciously. I'd just turned thirty-one; he was as twentysomething as ever.

"It's not all bad," I said. I calmly considered my reflection in the black mirror of the window, finally at peace with itself — and for just a second the thinnest trace of Phinneas was reflected there with me, grimacing, turning away in self-disgust.

He left without another word, and I stayed up to watch the sunrise. ♦

ELLY BANGS was born with six wisdom teeth and raised in a New Age cult, and once rode her bicycle alone from Seattle to the Panama Canal. She attended Clarion West in 2017,



and it changed her life and her writing forever. Since then, her short fiction has appeared in *Clarkesworld*, *Beneath Ceaseless Skies*, and *Galaxy's Edge*, and her debut postapocalyptic cyberpunk novel recently found a publisher.

CLARION WEST RECEIVES COPYRIGHTS AND BEQUEST

We are honored (and more than a little awed) to announce that Clarion West is the recipient of the literary assets of Vonda N. McIntyre, who wished that the organization manage her literary copyrights in perpetuity.

In addition, Clarion West is honored to be a beneficiary of the Vonda N. McIntyre estate. Her bequest of \$387,129 is the largest single financial gift in the organization's history. The bequest will

bolster the Clarion West endowment, strengthening our mission and ensuring our financial stability for years. Vonda's extraordinary generosity will allow Clarion West to continue to support



emerging writers for generations to come.

Speculative fiction writer and editor Janna Silverstein has joined Clarion West as our literary contract manager to advise the organization and help manage all copyright materials. For questions relating to the literary trust of Vonda N. McIntyre, you can reach Janna at contractmanager@clarionwest.org. ♦

SUMMER OF '19

Another year, another magical summer. This year's instructor readings took place at the University Book Store, the Seattle Public Library, and Hugo House and featured an exciting new addition: ASL interpreters, presented by HSDC (the Hearing, Speech & Deaf Center). We

rounded out the summer with our weekly Write-a-thon meetups in the U District and some amazing parties. Karaoke, anyone?

Laughs were had, words were written, questions were answered, and great literature was celebrated. Thanks to all for being a part of this wonderful community. See you next summer. ♦

Vonda N. McIntyre Memorial Scholarship

With a gift of \$1,000, longtime Clarion West supporter Linda Deneroff has started a scholarship fund in memory of Vonda N. McIntyre. The fund will support Clarion West students beginning with the 2020 workshop.

Supporting speculative fiction writers was very close to Vonda's heart. She was one of the original founders of Clarion West, often visited the classroom as a Mystery Muse, and provided a place for students and other writers to stay when they visited Seattle.

Linda hopes that her donation can be a stepping-stone toward a permanent scholarship in Vonda's name, and that it encourages others to donate to the scholarship fund.

If you would like to contribute to this fund, please make a note with your online donation, email us at director@clarion-west.org, or send a note designating your gift to the Vonda N. McIntyre Memorial Scholarship to Clarion West at P.O. Box 31264, Seattle, WA 98103-1264. ♦

photos by Elly Bangs



Two instructors reading — Ann Leckie at the Seattle Public Library, Amal El-Mohtar at Hugo House — with ASL interpreters at their sides.



Instructors Jack Dann and Jonathan Strahan at the University Book store.



The crowd at Jack Dann and Jonathan Strahan's interview event.



Instructors Jack Dann and Jonathan Strahan at the University Book store.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE 2019 SIX-WEEK SUMMER WORKSHOP

The class of 2019 arrived with the force of a hurricane, bringing their passion, their creativity, and their exuberant spirits from all over the world. Over six weeks, they laughed, cried, and wrote wonderful fiction together. Most of all, though, they cared for one another.

There are many things I will miss about this experience, but the most important thing I will miss is how we can joke and laugh and have fun during critique.

I have been in too many mean and vicious critique and writing groups, both professionally and personally, so much so that I started to associate writing with anger.

At a certain point in this workshop, all of us were tired, frustrated, and suffering self-doubt, and my own feelings of self-doubt, frustration, and anger came back. It almost became one of my worst nightmares, but I'm so glad we all resisted and fought against those feelings to remember joy — not just joy in each other but in writing weirdly.

I want and hope that everyone remembers the excitement that comes from writing.

Getting angry and defensive was one of my chief fears coming to Clarion, and you all helped me face it. (Not that I'm saying I'm cured. That's another twenty or thirty years of therapy.)

Even though I'm bad at expressing this, I just want all of you to know that I appreciate every one of you for being wonderful. — Monte Lin, CW '19 ♦



photo by Rashida J. Smith

Clarion West Writers Workshop

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COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: LILE GOWEN

Lile Gowen, one of Clarion West's donors and party hosts, has been involved with Clarion West since 2010 and with science fiction and fantasy for as long as he can remember.

"I guess it all started with the movies," Lile says. "Ones like *The Brain from Planet Arous* and *Gorgo*." Growing up overseas, he often saw the films a year or two after their release in the U.S.

He was back in the States when he discovered science fiction literature in the form of Ray Bradbury's young adult short story collections *R Is for Rocket* and *S Is for Space*. Today Lile has a vast collection of speculative fiction books, both classic and contemporary, in his Seattle home.

While in college, Lile discovered Boston's Science Fiction Film Festival — a gathering that he still attends. It connected him with East Coast authors and reviewers, including Daniel M. Kimmel and Garen Daly.

After moving to Seattle, Lile worked in finance. He attended Norwescon and became part of the group that puts on the Foolscape convention. He was aware of



photo by Rashida J. Smith

Nisi Shawl (center) interviewing writers Steven Barnes (left) and Matt Ruff (right) during a CW author event at Lile's house.

Clarion West, but first became involved in 2010 when Clarion West was looking to make its summer parties accessible to students and community members who use wheelchairs. Lile's home, a recent construction, has an elevator.

"Clarion West needed a place to have special events," Lile recalls. "I have a good place for a party, and was happy that I could help out."

After meeting Clarion West instructors, students, and volunteers, Lile was delighted with the community.

"That first year, I remember talking with Graham Joyce, who was over from England to teach at Clarion West," Lile says. "He was an absolutely delightful man."

Three years later, Lile hosted a summer party for Joe Hill. "Being from Maine, he's a die-hard Red Sox fan," Lile says. "We

got to talk about all things Red Sox!"

Lile's library includes books by Clarion West graduates like Nisi Shawl, former board members Kij Johnson and Kelley Eskridge, and instructors Nicola Griffith and Connie Willis. He's currently reading *The Ocean at the End of the Lane* by Neil Gaiman, who taught at Clarion West in 2013.

Reading is a big part of Lile's life — and his involvement with Clarion West is his way of supporting the work of emerging authors. In addition to hosting parties and special events, he's sponsored several Clarion West workshop instructors.

"I think of myself as a gadfly who's made some money and likes to give back," he says. "Being a small part of helping these writers go for their dreams is really fun." — K. G. Anderson ♦

NEILE GRAHAM TO RETIRE THIS FALL

photo by Leslie Howle



Neile Graham has announced that she will retire from her position as workshop director at the end of December 2019. Neile graduated from Clarion West in 1996 and became a workshop administrator in 2001, working under Leslie Howle. Neile became the workshop director in 2014 after

Leslie stepped down.

During her tenure at Clarion West, Neile helped to steer the addition of One-Day Workshops, now serving over 100 writers every year; patiently advised the board on workshop changes and needs; survived the onboarding of three executive directors; and provided guidance and support to 342 workshop students.

"Neile Graham's retirement marks the end of an era for Clarion West. Throughout her 19 years of involvement, she elevated the workshop to new heights," says Yang-Yang Wang, chair of the board of directors. "Her meticulous attention to detail resulted in the workshop winning two awards, and her gentle heart helped more than a few students get through the workshop. Enjoy your retirement, Neile; you'll be dearly missed!"

In retirement, Neile plans to devote more time to her own writing. She will also stay involved with Clarion West,



photo by Ely Bangs

Neile Graham, Clarion West Workshop Director, with instructor Ibi Zoboi and former Workshop Director Leslie Howle at Ibi Zoboi's reading this summer at the Seattle Public Library.

especially (fingers crossed) with the planning for our first novel-writing workshop. And, true to her style and care for Clarion West, Neile has been planning ahead for succession through the training of key staff. Clarion West will be making more announcements toward the end of the year regarding our plans for filling her position. ♦

ANNOUNCING OUR INSTRUCTORS FOR THE 2020 SIX-WEEK SUMMER WORKSHOP



Week 1: Andy Duncan

READING JUNE 23, 2020

Boisterous, humorous, fantastical, and fabulist, Andy Duncan's fiction has been honored with a Nebula Award, a Theodore Sturgeon Memorial Award, and three World Fantasy awards. His third collection, *An Agent of Utopia: New and Selected Stories*, was published in 2018 by Small Beer Press.



Week 2: Eileen Gunn

READING JUNE 30, 2020

Eileen Gunn's stories are known for their wry intelligence and sharp imagination. She is a short story writer, essayist, editor, and author of two story collections. Her fiction has received the Nebula Award in the U.S. and the Sense of Gender Award in Japan and has been nominated for the Hugo, Philip K. Dick, and World Fantasy awards.



Week 3: Tina Connolly & Caroline M. Yoachim

READING JULY 7, 2020

Bewitching, clever, delightful, original, and unexpected, Tina Connolly's stories and novels have been finalists for the Hugo, Nebula, Andre Norton, Locus, and World Fantasy awards. She is the author of the Ironskin trilogy from Tor Books, the Seriously Wicked series from Tor Teen, and the collection *On the Eyeball Floor and Other Stories* from Fairwood Press.



Caroline M. Yoachim's imaginative stories are bittersweet and haunting. She is a prolific author whose short stories have appeared in *Asimov's*, *Fantasy & Science Fiction*, *Uncanny*, *Beneath Ceaseless Skies*, *Clarkesworld*, and *Lightspeed*, among other places. She has been a finalist for the Hugo, World Fantasy, Locus, and multiple Nebula awards.



Week 4: Nalo Hopkinson

READING JULY 14, 2020

Vibrant and edgy, rich and dazzling, deeply human and humane, Nalo Hopkinson's fiction has received the Campbell and Locus awards, the World Fantasy Award, and the Sunburst Award for Excellence in Canadian Literature of the Fantastic. Nalo was born in Jamaica and lived in Jamaica, Guyana, the U.S., and Trinidad before moving to Canada as a teenager. She has published six novels and numerous short stories.



Week 5: Neil Clarke

READING JULY 21, 2020

Neil Clarke is the creator of the acclaimed online magazine *Clarkesworld*. Launched in October 2006, the online magazine has been a finalist for the Hugo Award for Best Semiprozine four times (winning three times), the World Fantasy Award four times (winning once), and the British Fantasy Award once (winning once). Neil is also a seven-time finalist for the Hugo Award for Best Editor (Short Form).



Week 6: Ted Chiang

READING JULY 28, 2020

One of the most critically admired and awarded authors of current short fiction, Ted Chiang attended the Clarion Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers' Workshop in 1989. His fiction has won four Hugo, four Nebula, and four Locus awards. His novella "Story of Your Life" was the basis for the Oscar-nominated film *Arrival* starring Amy Adams. ♦



Music of the Spheres by All Ries

Our board of directors is excited to share Clarion West's new mission statement. During our 2017 staff and board retreat, we began to examine the growth of our offerings, our increasing focus on inclusivity and equity, and our core values as an organization. We asked ourselves: How do we maintain and improve high-quality and relevant programming for speculative fiction writers now and in the future?

After much reflection, on April 11, 2019, we finalized our new mission statement.

Mission

We support emerging and under-represented voices by providing writers with world-class instruction to empower their creation of wild and amazing worlds. Through conversation and public engagement, we bring those voices to an ever-expanding community.

Vision

When we are successful, we set writers on the path to success, we foster greater equity and inclusion in the speculative fiction world, we help bring quality speculative fiction to light, and we bring writers and readers together. ♦