

# The Annual Report

clarion west writers workshop • 2019

## Our Mission



**We support emerging and underrepresented 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.**

## Executive Director's Message



MARNEE CHUA  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I continue to be inspired by the Clarion West community — in Seattle and beyond. Over the past two years we've been forced to say goodbye to some dear friends and are joining forces to help others through difficult times. The drain on our community has been telling. But the way that everyone has come together to support each other in love and loss is even more telling. Clarion West is surrounded by a caring family of individuals with a shared passion.

Perhaps sometimes it seems that telling stories, especially speculative fiction stories, is not as important as the work of other organizations and individuals during difficult times. But the wild and amazing stories that are told by our alumni, and writers all over the world, help readers everywhere to engage with ideas in meaningful new ways.

**We need these stories to provide an escape, to challenge our views, and to test our critical thinking about the world around us.**

Clarion West has been able to create such a strong and thriving community, passionate about the craft of writing, in

no small part due to the dedication of our staff. In 2019, we said goodbye to Neile Graham, who has retired as our Workshop Director, but promises not to go too far. For 19 years, Neile has helped to ensure that our classes and workshops are high quality as well as warm and welcoming. Her constant guiding light is going to be missed. Taking over from her is Jae Steinbacher, who has been training with Neile for the past two years and is already an integral part of the organization, with their attention to detail and commitment to the success of the workshop. Please join me in welcoming Jae to their new position, as well as welcoming several more of our new staff, including Elly Bangs as Database Specialist and Janna Silverstein as the Literary Contracts Manager for the copyrights of Vonda N. McIntyre. And, finally, we have two board members stepping down from their volunteer positions this year to join our staff. Vicki Saunders has already taken on the formal role of Communications and Art Director, and Rashida J. Smith will be joining us as our next Workshop Administrator.

Please read on to find our 2019 financial report, workshop report, and information about our sponsors and alumni. We thank you for your continued support. ♦

# Summer 2019 Workshop Report

## Boundless Talent



NEILE GRAHAM (CW '96)  
WORKSHOP DIRECTOR



JAE STEINBACHER (CW '14)  
WORKSHOP ADMINISTRATOR

2019 was an amazingly energetic year for the workshop, and we're proud to unleash another class of 18 talented, smart, introspective, and truly wonderful writers upon the speculative scene. This year's class included a number of immigrants, both to the U.S. and to other countries. They brought with them stories of loss and tradition, of family and heritage — needed perspectives in the increasingly global world of publishing.

This summer also served as Neile Graham's final in her tenure as Workshop Director. Her warm nature and steady guidance will be greatly missed! Neile and Workshop Administrator Jae Steinbacher led the six-week workshop with support from Tegan Moore and classroom assistants Evan J. Peterson and Elly Bangs. Despite moving to Oregon, Joe was back again to serve up amazing dishes and boost students' morale, and Esther kept the house spick and span. Our volunteer base helped with move-in and move-out; provided support in the classroom; drove students to parties and other events; and set up, cleaned up, and populated those parties! We couldn't do what we do without the help of so many, and we are grateful to everyone who pitched in.

Elizabeth Hand, one of our seasoned instructors, joined the class for a first week of exercises to get them tuned up and excited for writing complete stories. She put the group to work exploring emotionally charged pieces, worldbuilding techniques, and character motivation.

Stephen Graham Jones, another old hand at the Clarion technique, swept in to usher students through their first grueling set of stories and critiques. Between tales of the supernatural — and of the show *Supernatural* — and his own publishing experience, Stephen offered the class a wealth of writing tools and industry knowledge.

The third week was marked by first-time instructor Amal El-Mohtar's empathetic and whimsical explorations of the night brain, the poetic side of fiction writing. With the students producing capable, publishable work, she nudged them deeper into the emotional core of their writing.

Ibi Zoboi, an alumna of the workshop (Class of '01, Neile's first!), also taught for us for the first time, offering up her experience in the publishing field, from what it takes to get the attention of agents



Photo: Jesse Stewart

Nelly Geraldine Garcia-Rosas receives the Octavia E. Butler Memorial Scholarship, presented by Eileen Gunn.

and publishers to how to write what you want — and be successful doing it. She also discussed the young adult field, how to develop an artist's statement, and how best to write about identities outside one's experience.

As the students were beginning to tire at the fifth-week mark, editorial duo Jack Dann and Jonathan Strahan stepped in to infuse the classroom with energy, levity, and a buddy routine that was as warm and humorous as it was effective at getting across their pro insights. They gave the group the needed boost to push on through the final week ...

... and Ann Leckie capped things off with inspiring positivity. Another workshop alumna (Class of '05), Ann was well aware of the sleep deficits and stress under which the students were operating, and she took the group in hand to make the last week yet another success. With her finishing touches, the class set off into the world on an exhausted but elated final note.

Overall, a marvelous way to end the alchemical changes the workshop effects on the students, the instructors, the workshop team, and our board and volunteers year after year: with 18 new beloved alumni poised to change the speculative writing scene. We look forward now, anticipating the new instructors, new students, and new administrative team Jae and Rashida J. Smith will lead in 2020 with their compassion and energy. What a wonderful year! ♦

# In Students' Words



photo: Derrick Boden

"I was amazed by the Clarion West community. Writing has always been a solitary activity, and **THE AMOUNT OF PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL GUIDANCE I RECEIVED WAS VERY INSPIRING.**" — **Millie Ho**



photo: Derrick Boden

"Clarion West was a life-changing experience. Never before have I grown so rapidly as a writer — and, perhaps, as a person — as during those six weeks in Seattle. To be surrounded by so many like-minded people with a single communal goal was equally unique and awesome. The caliber of everyone's writing was so incredibly high, it served as all the motivation we needed to bring our A-game every day. The Clarion West community was so welcoming, and many of the bonds I formed will undoubtedly be lifelong. If you're serious about writing, **CLARION WEST IS THE SINGLE BEST OPPORTUNITY TO MARKEDLY IMPROVE YOUR CRAFT, TO ADVANCE YOUR CAREER, AND TO ENJOY A WEALTH OF UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCES.** I couldn't recommend it more." — **Derrick Boden**

"Clarion West is everything it professes to be: a crash course in craftsmanship; a wealth of opportunities and introductions; a glittering party and an intense workload. I was expecting all that when I arrived. **WHAT I WAS NOT EXPECTING WAS TO FEEL MORE LOVED, SUPPORTED, HELD, AND CHAMPIONED THAN I HAVE EVER FELT IN MY ENTIRE LIFE.** All the work and play of Clarion West is grounded in kindness and honesty, and that gave me the courage to take risks, engage with my vulnerabilities, ask questions, and build relationships. As a result, I have 17 new family members, who are all just as invested in me as I am in them. And I have an ambitious set of goals I believe myself to be capable of achieving, largely because of that kinship." — **EA Crawley**



Photo: Derrick Boden

"Clarion West is a dream come true for anyone looking to focus on their craft with a group of people who care as much as they do. The environment is at once stimulating and nurturing; **IT ENCOURAGED ME TO WRITE BOLDLY AND THINK DEEPLY** during those six weeks and beyond them. I am better for it in every way." — **Kristina Ten**



Photo: Derrick Boden

photo: Ely Bangs



THE CLASS OF 2019

**L to R, back row:** Rosco Oz Lance, Gardner Thomas Mounce, Tim Chawaga, Phoebe Barton. **Middle row:** Celeste Rita Baker, Eugenia Triantafyllou, Kristiana Willsey, M. L. Krishnan, Filip Hajdar Dmrovšek Zorko, Monte Lin, Kristina Ten. **Front row:** Isha Karki, Nelly Geraldine García-Rosas, Minal Hajratwala, Millie Ho, C. S. Peterson, Ann Leckie (Week Six instructor), EA Crawley, Derrick Boden

# 2019 Financial Statement



MIRIAH HETHERINGTON  
TREASURER

Thanks to the ongoing support and generosity of donors, sponsors, and volunteers, we met — and exceeded — our fundraising goals in 2019. This made it possible for Clarion West to provide high-quality education to speculative fiction writers and also assist over 80% of the 2019 Six-Week Summer Workshop students with full or partial scholarships.

**Scholarships:** In 2019, Clarion West received funding from our community and donors for two new 2020 scholarships to the Six-Week Summer Workshop and a limited number of One-Day Workshop participants.

**Bequest:** With the unexpected passing of Vonda N. McIntyre, we lost a beloved co-founder, supporter, and inspiration. Vonda left Clarion West a generous bequest — the copyright to all of her published works to manage in perpetuity and an IRA investment account valued at \$386,074 at the time of transfer.

**Surplus Income:** The surplus income reflected in the 2019 Financial Statement is due to donations for two new scholarships to begin funding students in 2020, a donation for the Leslie Howle Fellowship to be distributed over five years, and the minimum distribution of \$19,207 from the Vonda N. McIntyre bequest, which immediately bolstered our instructorship and scholarship programs for 2019 and 2020.

**Brokerage Account:** In 2019, Clarion West also received a generous donation of stock valued at \$8,176 from former board member Jeffrey Lemkin. This was

deposited into the investment brokerage account that Clarion West opened in 2010 under the guidance of experienced investor and board member Susan Gossman. Susan reports:

"I established the brokerage account with \$1,000 transferred from savings. In the years following the establishment of the brokerage account, we continued to review our finances and transfer money from savings when appropriate. By managing these funds wisely and through additional gifts of stock over the years, we had a total of \$73,955 in the brokerage account at the end of 2019.

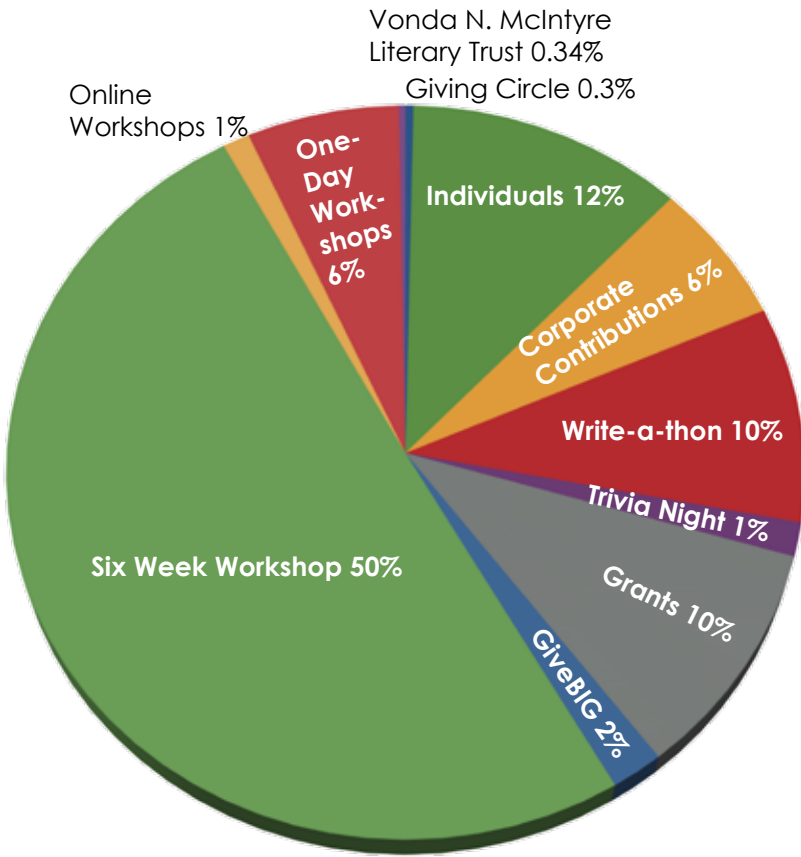
"As the volunteer investment manager, I focused on socially responsible investments, therefore, Clarion West did not own shares in companies engaged in industries such as fossil fuel, gun manufacturers, or private prison companies.

Not only does this reflect Clarion West's values, we earn higher returns from this type of investing.

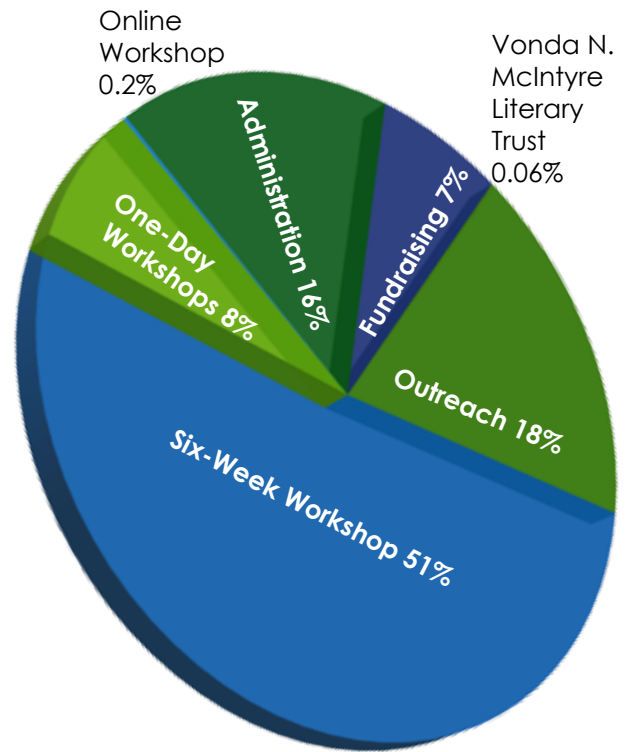
**Summary:** At the end of 2019, Clarion West's combined brokerage, CDs, and savings accounts totaled \$536,805. Together, these investments provide a significant opportunity for growth and capacity building and to ensure the sustainability of our programs for years to come. We are committed to expanding our programs and community outreach to support emerging and underrepresented voices, and to ensuring the paid staff time needed to do this. As we grow to meet our full accessibility goal for the Six-Week Workshop in 2021, which brings a dramatic increase in cost, we are extremely grateful for Vonda's bequest and for the generous increase in donations and scholarships from our community. ♦

	Jan – Dec 2019	Jan – Dec 2018
<b>Revenue</b>		
Corporate Contributions	\$15,606	\$24,650
Individual Giving	\$29,106	\$13,964
Write-a-thon	\$23,448	\$22,687
GiveBIG	\$5,018	\$6,977
Speculative Fiction Trivia Night	\$3,659	-
Grants	\$24,900	\$2,760
<b>Six-Week Workshop Income</b>		
Scholarships	\$55,058	\$45,125
Instructorships	\$26,200	\$7,200
Six-Week Workshop Tuition & Fees	\$43,020	\$47,830
<b>Total Six-Week Workshop Income</b>	<b>\$124,278</b>	<b>\$100,155</b>
One-Day Workshop Income	\$16,000	\$13,800
Online Workshop Income	\$2,805	-
Women in Speculative Fiction Giving Circle	\$700	\$1,077
Vonda N. McIntyre Literary Trust Income	\$847	-
Dividend & Interest Income	\$54	\$229
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$246,420</b>	<b>\$186,299</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Outreach and Promotion	\$38,061	\$30,807
Six-Week Workshop	\$108,084	\$96,359
One-Day Workshops	\$15,863	\$10,367
Online Workshops	\$412	-
Administration	\$33,334	\$32,468
Fundraising	\$14,614	\$8,890
Literary Trust Expenses	\$260	-
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$210,628</b>	<b>\$178,891</b>
<b>Surplus Income</b>	<b>\$35,792</b>	<b>\$7,390</b>

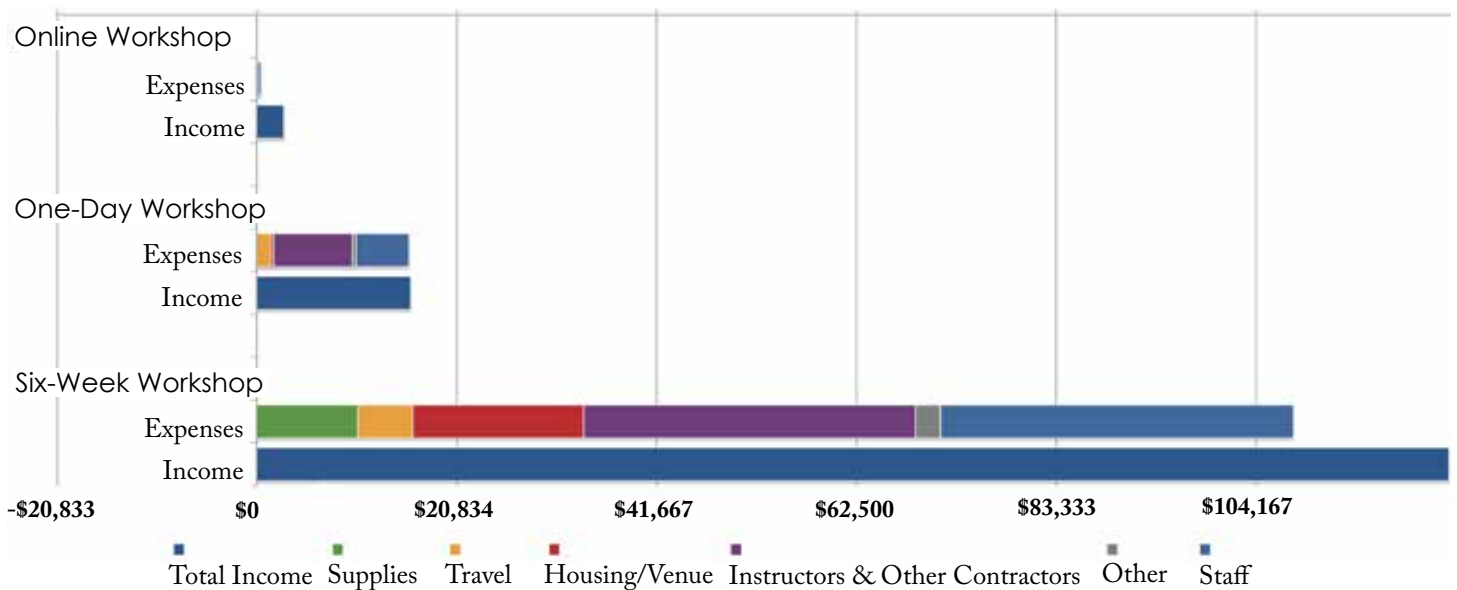
## 2019 % Income by Source



## 2019 % Expenses by Program



## 2019 Workshop Income Comparison



# A Decade to Celebrate



YANG-YANG WANG (CW '14)  
CW BOARD CHAIR

As we look to 2020, let's take a moment to reflect on how far Clarion West has come as an organization. Our highlights for the past decade include:

- 1 Hiring our first Executive Director
- 2 Establishing One-Day Workshops — our first programming expansion since the founding of Clarion West in the 1980s
- 3 Over three times the number of yearly applicants as at the start of the decade
- 4 International students comprising 50% of last year's class
- 5 Winning a World Fantasy Award and a Locus Award

These achievements have been the result of Clarion West's wonderful community of alumni, donors, volunteers, staff, board members, and other supporters. We've all contributed in our own way, and we should all feel proud.

This decade also saw the retirement of two longtime workshop staff — Leslie Howle and Neile Graham. They have been instrumental in elevating the program to ever higher levels.

We have dreams of transforming the organization into an international presence over the next decade, with physical and digital programming beyond the Seattle area. We're committed to updating our programming and ensuring it becomes universally accessible.

We hope you'll join us in realizing this vision. ♦

## 2019 One-Day Workshop Report



TEGAN MOORE (CW '15)  
WORKSHOP SPECIALIST

Clarion West's One-Day Workshops have been providing high-quality daylong instruction for students in Seattle since 2011. In 2019 we brought in world-class instructors to teach on topics ranging from horror (Nino Cipri) and romance (Jasmine Silvera) to revision (Maureen McHugh) and editing (Scott H. Andrews). In November we offered our **first Clarion West Weekend Workshop** with Nisi Shawl and K. Tempest Bradford. We hope to continue evolving our One-Day Workshops to serve the Pacific Northwest writing community's needs and attract compelling instructors and students at all skill levels and points in their careers. In 2020 we hope to offer additional Weekend Workshops and create new workshops and workshop formats to inspire the speculative fiction community.

This year we launched our **first on-line workshop: N.K. Jemisin offered an interactive lecture on Worldbuilding: Macro to Micro**. Writers around the globe were able to participate in dreaming up a secondary world and populating it with crowd-sourced customs and mores. After addressing their questions, N.K. set them loose at the end of the session to begin developing their own worlds. ♦

### 2019 Board of Directors

Yang-Yang Wang | *Chair*  
Rashida J. Smith | *Vice Chair*  
Tod McCoy | *Secretary*  
Miriah Hetherington | *Treasurer*  
Vicki Saunders | *Past Chair*  
Susan Gossman  
Brooks Peck  
Nisi Shawl  
Misha Stone  
Gordon B. White  
Marnee Chua | *Executive Director* | *ex officio*  
Neile Graham | *ex officio*

### Staff

Marnee Chua | *Executive Director*  
Neile Graham | *Workshop Director*  
Jae Steinbacher  
*Workshop Administrator* | *Copy Editor*  
Tegan Moore  
*One-Day Workshop Administrator*  
Vicki Saunders  
*Art & Communications Director*  
Jeremy Sim | *Communications Specialist*

### Special Projects

Elly Bangs | *Database Specialist*  
Lucetta Lightfoot | *Bookkeeper*  
Joe Schindler | *Culinary Specialist*  
Janna Silverstein  
*Literary Contract Manager*  
Suzanne Tompkins  
*Special Projects Coordinator*  
Erik Owomoyela | *Website Manager*

### Volunteers

Kate Schaefer | *Database Volunteer*  
Kyra Freestar | *Copy Editor*  
Tom Whitmore | *Copy Editor/Proofreader*

# Thank You for Your Support of Clarion West

FOR THE PERIOD OF  
JANUARY 1, 2019  
TO DECEMBER 31, 2019

Our contributors ensure that Clarion West is here to provide writing workshops for writers who create wild and amazing worlds, write creative prose, and make infinite futures seem possible. We are so grateful for these generous gifts that enable us to keep pushing our boundaries, and yours.

With the help of the following donors and organizations, Clarion West completed another enriching Six-Week Summer Workshop in 2019, held nine One-Day Workshops, one Weekend Workshop, and our first online workshop! This summer we were able to reach new audiences by providing ASL interpreters at each of our public readings and by working with partners to host events, free workshops, and youth programs.



## These organizations and individuals provided significant grants to support Clarion West, its writers, and its public reading series:

- \$10,000 — Gordon and Casey White (including an employer match)
- \$8,176 — Amazon Literary Partners
- \$8,176 — Jeffrey and Bonney Lemkin (gift of stock)
- \$2,760 — Civic Partners Grant, Office of Arts & Culture, City of Seattle
- \$2,700 — 4Culture

## A sincere thank-you to our 2019 named scholarship donors!

Scholarships made in memory of the following honored individuals:

- Elliot Alexander Memorial
- Michael Alexander Memorial
- Elliot and Michael Alexander Memorial
- The Poul and Karen Anderson Memorial International Travel Fund
- Mark Bourne Memorial
- Gordon R. Dickson Memorial (supported by the Mid-western SF community)
- Susan C. Petrey Memorial
- Mary Rosenblum Memorial



## Full and partial scholarships are generously supported by the following:

- The Class of 2014 Five-Year Anniversary Scholarship
- Norwescon
- Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America
- The Women in Speculative Fiction Giving Circle

## The following distinguished scholarships were awarded in 2019:

- The Octavia E. Butler Memorial Scholarship, awarded to Nelly Geraldine García-Rosas
- The Worldbuilder Scholarship, awarded to Tim Chawaga

## A sincere thank-you to our 2019 named fellowship donors!

Fellowships given in honor of the following individuals:

- Leslie Howle Fellowship supporting Week One with Elizabeth Hand
- Sally Klages Memorial Fellowship supporting Week Three with Amal El-Mohtar and sponsored by Ellen Klages
- Vonda N. McIntyre Memorial Fellowship supporting Week Four with Ibi Zoboi
- Susan C. Petrey Fellowship supporting Week Six with Ann Leckie

## Thank you to the businesses that sponsored our 2019 Write-a-thon!

- \$1,200 — Bill Speidel's Underground Tour
- \$500 — Dr. Thomas Bridgman, DDS
- \$250 — Pegasus Book Exchange

## New Scholarship Announcements!

- With a gift of \$1,000, Blue Corn Creations, a publishing firm undertaking a variety of Native American-themed projects, has launched a scholarship for writers of Native American descent at the Clarion West Writers Workshop. This gift has been matched with an additional \$8,750 by Dan Sugalski to ensure a full scholarship for qualifying participants in 2020.
- 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. Additional donations toward this scholarship are welcome and encouraged. ♦



## CW IN 2019 BY THE NUMBERS\*

- 75** Short stories
- 23** Novels
- 41** Awards/recognitions received
- 6** Short story collections
- 16** Graphic novels
- 30** Poems
- 3** Essays
- 1** Video game
- 3** Short story translations
- 3** Anthologies edited
- 1** Play

\*as reported by CW friends and alumni

# Award-Winning Alumni

Over the last year, our alumni have published hundreds of stories all over the world and are actively publishing novels, screenplays, and more. Each year, our alumni are nominated for and win awards for their work in speculative fiction — including poetry, audio stories, short stories, novelettes, and full-length novels.

## NEBULA AWARD

### NOMINEES



Best Novelette  
"The Last Banquet of Temporal Confections," by Tina Connolly (CW '06)  
"An Agent of Utopia," by Andy Duncan (CW '94)  
Best Short Story  
"And Yet," by A.T. Greenblatt (CW '17)

Best Game Writing  
*Rent-A-Vice*, by Natalia Theodoridou (CW '18)

## HUGO AWARD

### NOMINEES

Best Novelette  
"The Last Banquet of Temporal Confections," by Tina Connolly (CW '06)

John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer  
Vina Jie-Min Prasad (CW '17)

Best Dramatic Presentation, Short Form  
The Expanse: "Abaddon's Gate," by Daniel Abraham (CW '98), Ty Franck, and Naren Shankar



## WORLD FANTASY AWARD

### WINNERS

Short Story  
"Like a River Loves the Sky," by Emma Törzs (CW '17)

Novella  
"The Privilege of the Happy Ending," Kij Johnson (CW '87)

## WORLD FANTASY NOMINEES

Collection  
*An Agent of Utopia: New & Selected Stories*, by Andy Duncan (CW '92)  
*Phantom Limbs*, by Margo Lanagan (CW '99)

World Fantasy Convention Guest of Honor  
Sheree Renée Thomas (CW '99)  
Margo Lanagan (CW '99)



## THEODORE

### STURGEON

## MEMORIAL AWARD

### NOMINEES

"Umberright," by Carolyn Ives Gilman (CW '89)  
"On the Day You Spend Forever with Your Dog," by Adam Shannon (CW '17)



KATE WILHELM  
SOLSTICE AWARD

WINNER  
Nisi Shawl (CW '92)

## GILBERTO OWEN NATIONAL LITERATURE PRIZE

### WINNER

*Ansibles, perfiladores y otras máquinas de ingenio*, by Andrea Chapela (CW '17)

## LOCUS RECOMMENDED READING LIST

"Mother Tongues," by S. Qiouyi Lu (CW '16)

## BARNES AND NOBLE

### BESTSELLER LIST

*A Secret History of Witches*, by Louise Marley (CW '93)

## NPR'S YEAR'S BEST BOOKS 2019

*A Spectral Hue*, by Craig L. Gidney (CW '96)



## ANTHOLOGIES



Best American Science Fiction and Fantasy 2019 (ed. John Joseph Adams)

"Dead Lovers on Each Blade, Hung," by Usman Malik (CW '13)

"On the Day You Spend Forever with Your Dog," by Adam Shannon (CW '17)

### Notable Stories:

"And Yet" by A.T. Greenblatt (CW '17)  
"The Hard Spot in the Glacier," by An Owomoyela (CW '08)  
"De MotherJumpers," by Celeste Rita Baker (CW '19)  
"The No-One Girl and the Flower of the Farther Shore," by E. Lily Yu (CW '13)  
"Music for the Underworld," by E. Lily Yu (CW '13)  
"Unplaces: An Atlas of Non-Existence," by Izzy Wasserstein (CW '17)  
"Hehua," by Millie Ho (CW '19)  
"Bride Before You," by Stephanie Malia Morris (CW '17)

*The Best Science Fiction and Fantasy of the Year: Volume Thirteen* (ed. Jonathan Strahan)

"Mother Tongues," by S. Qiouyi Lu (CW '16)



## 2019 Rhysling Award Anthology

"In the Vaults," Adele Gardner (CW '04)  
"My Little Vampire," Adele Gardner (CW '04) ♦