

Instant Message



Issue 1027 • January 2026

Instant Message is the newsletter of the New England Science Fiction Association, Inc. It is published every month with a meeting, usually 11 issues per year. The NESFA clubhouse is located at 504 Medford St, Somerville, MA 02145. Our telephone number is 617-625-2311. Our website is <https://www.nesfa.org>. We can be reached via email at roster@nesfa.org for address changes and other updates to the roster, sales@nesfa.org for questions about NESFA Press, and info@nesfa.org for other questions about NESFA. NESFA® and Boskone® are registered trademarks of the New England Science Fiction Association, Inc. For access to the NESFA/Boskone Discord server: <https://tinyurl.com/BoskoneDiscord>.

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Boskone and Business Meeting Attendance List (2026-1-11)

Dave Anderson ¹	Maria Daggett	Mike Kerpan	Kelly Persons	Nancy Thalblum ²
Ted Atwood ²	Joni Brill Dashoff	Hugh Kinneberg ²	Michael Rasnick ¹	Margo Williams ²
Judy Bemis	Gay Ellen Dennett ²	Rick Kovalcik	Joe Ross ¹	Walter Williams ²
Rachel Bitterfield ²	Don Doughty	Ellen Kranzer ²	Sharon Sbarsky	Tammy Wofford ²
James Boggie	Jan Dumas	Paula Lieberman	Andrea Senchy ²	Ben Yalow
Wes Brodsky	Dave Grubbs	Ken London	Stephanie Shields	
Ann Broomhead	Charles Hannum ¹	Lori Meltzer ²	Geri Sullivan ²	
Dave Cantor	Chip Hitchcock	Mary Olszowka ¹	Tim Szczesuil	
David D'Antonio ²	Saul Jaffe	Peter Olszowka	Lee Thalblum ¹	

^[1] NESFA Meeting Only

^[2] Boskone Meeting Only

Boskone Meeting 2026-1-11

Meeting started at 12:03 pm EST

The meeting started at 12:03 pm, but we had a few technical glitches to resolve. Once those were resolved, Maria reported that things are coming along nicely and that we've worked through some glitches lately. The MPLC license cost a bit more than budgeted. The overage will come out of contingency this year. Next year's con chair needs to decide whether it's worth the money to continue running a full-scale video program.

Gay Ellen (Hotel) says the resume needs to go out this week. A copy to review will be going out soon. Our room reservations are close to oversubscribed, and we will be adding more rooms soon. Please send any changes in soon. Maria says that the only cash bar this year will be part of the Friday reception.

Tim (Program) says that we're trying to get some final info from Diego about things he'd like to do. There is some discussion about which mobility aids (wheelchairs, walkers, rollators, canes, etc) can enter the planetarium. The answer is that it's tricky and we're looking into options. The planetarium will be deflated during the Friday night dance. The program schedule is pretty much set. Because of the larger-than-usual number of people wanting signings, we'll be doing them on Friday as well. We're investigating the possibility of doing a panel with some high-profile people participating remotely. Program recommends that we set a rate of \$50 (the same as dealers and staff) for invited panelists who have fewer than 3 panels. The meeting will decide on this. We've been asked about "plus one" rates for panelist partners, and the general consensus is that it is a Bad Idea. [clerk's note: The planetarium is no longer happening. More details next month.]

Stephanie (Gaming) says that things are coming along.

Ellen (Music) says that Sassafra will be doing a special concert at 10 am on Sunday (the only time their schedules all

align)

Andrea (Art Show) says that as of right now, we have 60 panels and 12.5 tables sold/allocated. Five people still need to pay. Ann Broomhead will be handling the mail-in art. We need to update the list of artists to match this year's exhibitors rather than last year's.

Rick (Logistics and Shopping) says that everything is under control.

Tim (Security Liaison) says he's in contact with our vendor and is on track.

Wes (Sign Shop) reminds people to review last year's signs and let him know of any changes before he starts printing.

Peter (Tech Director) says that things are looking good. Staff recruitment is on track. We'll be having our first senior staff meeting soon. He also reminds people to update the time and locations spreadsheet with correct info for your room/area/activity. Maria emphasizes the importance of this.

DDA (Events) says that his schedule is mostly finished and in Zambia, but there will be a few tweaks. Keith is hard at work on scripts for the opening ceremony and awards show. Sharon reminds DDA to send in his comps list soon so that she can get them their comps and their names into Zambia for their events. DDA will be sending info to the appropriate people for social media promotions.

Nancy T (Volunteers) reports that she will be assisting with pre-con volunteer services. She'll be converting last year's pile of timesheets into a spreadsheet so we can track timesheets better going forward.

Walt (Dealers) says that an updated list of dealers is online. We have 47 tables paid and are waiting for payment on 5 more. We also have a dealer who wants a second table, so we may have 53 tables this year. Info about check-in and load-in procedures will be going out soon.

Margo (Authors Alley) reports that we have 9 authors signed up. We don't have anybody signed up for Friday night. We'll be getting a list of participants and when they'll be at their tables to the web soon. Geri says that we should think about making a sign for this as well. Stephanie asks for a copy of the info.

Margo (Fan Tables) reports that we have 9 sign-ups (with a possible tenth pending). We'll have some fan amusements and a fanzine history display as well.

Lori (Staff Den) reports that she'll be meeting with staff to put together an order to give to Rick soon.

Rachel (Con Suite) says things are coming along.

Sharon (Registration)

We're officially a little bit behind last year, but once we add program participants and event participants, we'll jump well ahead.

standard: 356

Adult, Saturday One Day: 2

Adult, Sunday One Day: 1

Adult Rollover: 13

Adult, Full Weekend: 182

Young Adult, Full Weekend: 3

Teen, Full Weekend: 4

Active Military: 1

Staff/Paid: 3

Rollover Volunteer: 102

Kid in Tow: 3

Card to Culture: 7

Staff/Advance Comp: 1

Dealer: 10

DealerInc: 24

freebie: 4

Adult Aide to a Member: 1

Comp, Non-Program: 3

virtual: 2

Online Membership: 2

goh: 197

GoH: 5

Other Guest: 5

Former GoH: 187

yearahead: 53

Adult, Full Weekend: 52

Young Adult, Full Weekend: 1

club: 116

Life Member: 113

Gift from Life Member: 3

nonperson: 1

Mascot: 1

unpaid: 8

cancelled: 7

Badge names can now be two lines long if needed.

Geri (Badge Design) shows off the badge design. It looks great. Those not at the meeting will need to wait and see it at con.

Guest Liaisons: Various issues are discussed. We need to get travel expenses for Charles Urbach lined up. We need somebody to meet Stefan at the airport. Kristin might do this. If she can't, then Jan can.

Sharon (Ribbons) reports that ribbon orders will be going in soon.

Also, email webmaster@boskone.org to get updates. Social media updates can go to social-media@boskone.org. Reach out to Maria with any concerns.

The meeting finished at 2:03 pm. NESFA Meeting will start at 2:20.

NESFA Business Meeting 2026-1-11

Meeting started at 2:24 pm EST

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 2:24 PM EST.

The meeting was called to order at 2:24 pm. (Quorum for the meeting (30% of voting membership): currently 8, or 30% of 25, rounded up)

PROXIES:

No proxies for this meetings.

CORRECTIONS TO THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: None this month.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (SHARON SBARSKY):

We signed hotel contracts with the Westin for 2027, 2028, and 2029. Boskone will not be homeless. We also posted signs in the clubhouse parking lot notifying drivers that cars parked without authorization may be towed, along with the towing company's information. If you're interested in helping with the nominations committee, please let me know.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT (STEPHANIE SHIELDS):

Kickstarter was started on Tuesday, 6 January. As of Friday, we were fully funded. We are now at 103%. We're considering potential stretch goals that we can add to encourage further pledging. Chip suggests that we get a bulking dummy from Sheridan if possible to make the box-making run more smoothly. If you haven't pledged yet, go pledge. [Clerk's note: a bulking dummy was ordered]

TREASURER'S REPORT (TIM SZCZESUIL):

Checking	\$16,756.91
Boskone	\$18,735.57
PayPal	\$500.00
Postage	\$28.93
Total	\$36,021.41

The current cash balance is \$36,021.41.

The end-of-November balance was \$26,266.09. The difference is \$9,755.32, mostly due to an inflow from Boskone.

We're working with the bookkeeper on entering December 2024.

My standard appeal to anyone who values what NESFA does and wishes to see us continue to exist, if you can, please donate or include a bequest to NESFA in their wills.

Sharon reports that we now have a working Venmo account for taking donations (@nesfa-charity)

CLERK'S REPORT (MICHAEL KERPAN):

Clerking has continued.

EBOARD REPORT (MIKE KERPAN):

No news this month.

RULES COMMITTEE REPORT (DAVE ANDERSON):

The rules on the website have been updated with a lot of pending changes.. The pending file has also been brought up to date, and more changes will be voted on and updated accordingly as well.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT (DAVE C FOR GAY ELLEN DENNETT):

New general members since the previous report:

Caleb Power
Paul Clemons
Brian Martins
Diana Liechty
Peter Medeiros

Sharon says that if you have a problem with the online membership renewal widget, please email the eboard or the Membership committee and we will figure out an alternative way for you to pay your dues.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT (RICK KOVALCIK):

We continue to work on getting our books up to date. Audits will occur once that happens.

BOSKONE 62 REPORT (JONI DASHOFF):

Judy says she's almost ready for her books to be audited.

BOSKONE 63 REPORT (MARIA DAGGETT):

We're going to have a convention as planned. We've sent out our first newsletter and will send another in late January. Move from committee to authorize a special rate of \$50 for program participants who are assigned to fewer than the 3 panels needed to receive a comp. Motion passes by unanimous consent.

BOSKONE 64 REPORT (MIKE KERPAN):

Move (Mike K, Paula) to set year-ahead rates for B64 to \$50 (adult) / \$30 (YA 18-25) / \$25 (Teen 13-17) / \$20 (Children 5-12) to end on 3/31/26. Motion passes unopposed.

NESFA PRESS REPORT (DAVE GRUBBS):

Note: Items above marked with a "[*]" are exactly the same as in last month's report.

News:

- The Kickstarter to fund the printing of *Dubious Pleasures* (the B63 GoH book by Greg Cox) was relaunched on January 6th and, as of yesterday, has reached its goal. The Kickstarter will stay open at least through Tuesday, January 27th.
* Visit tinyurl.nesfa.org/CoxKickstarter and support this project.
- The Greg Cox GOH book, *Dubious Pleasures*, is at Sheridan for printing. The books are expected to show up at the clubhouse by the end of January.
- NESFA Press could still use some help.

Ideas for New Books:

- LB Lee has suggested that we produce a collection of Spider Robinson's best short works and is looking into it.
- [*] Someone suggested that we produce a collection of works by the winners of the Cordwainer Smith Rediscovery Award. Does anyone want to help with that? Or take it on as editor?
- [*] Charles ("Chuck") Lang has proposed that NESFA Press publish editions of public-domain material, for which Chuck would create new illustrations. We are considering the idea. We presume such books would feature many good visuals—though we haven't yet considered any specific titles.
- [*] We continue to seek more hardcover projects. If you have a project in mind, we can help.

Reprints:

- The POD editions of Fredric Brown's *From These Ashes* and *Martians and Madness* are nearly ready for posting to Barnes & Noble for sale.
- Predictions show that within the next year, we will also run out of Eric Russell's *Entities*, van Vogt's *Transfinite*, Zelazny's *V4: Last Exit to Babylon*, and the second edition of the Ellison biography *A Lit Fuse* (which we plan to delay reprinting until we run out of the first edition, which is still selling well on Amazon). At this point, we have enough money to reprint one, which would most probably be Zelazny *Z4*. We hope to make the others available in small quantities via Barnes & Noble print-on-demand, similar to what we are doing with the *Compleat Boucher*, the Brown books, and *Letters to the Pumpkin King*. We may also wish to make other books available by POD, including possibly *A New Dawn*, *Masque of Manana*, and *Vietnam and Other Alien Worlds*.

- [*] A longer-term NESFA Press project is to typeset the Hymnals (NESFA Song Books) in InDesign, with the music entered into Sibelius (a music typesetting system).

eBooks:

- We received a response to our request for ebook rights for *The Compleat Boucher*. At least one of the stories is already out there in ebook form, published by another group. At this point, we do not think the project is worth pursuing because it would require a new title, probably a new introduction, and it would take sales away from the hardcover.
- The ebook updates for the two Brown books, which match the updated Print-on-Demand editions, are almost ready for posting.
- The ebook state of *Dreamweaver's Dilemma* will likely be available by the end of January.
- The ebook state of the Boskone 63 Cox book will be available in February, along with the hardcover.
- [*] The ebook state of *The Ides of October* is still on the table. The content is far too complex and changes too quickly for physical reprints to be reasonable, but an ebook could be updated quickly and regularly. Chris Kovacs is prepared to provide updates.

Technical items:

- The NESFA Press shared drive contains files for every NESFA Press project we found on our original "N:" drive, as well as any projects we have created, updated, or collected from editors of older NESFA books.
- Our master ISBNs file is located in the NESFA Press shared Drive, in the 01-Management/Catalog/ISBNs.docx folder. An extracted text file named ISBNs.txt sits beside it for easy searching.

Proofers are requested to review copyright pages for upcoming ebooks.

NESFA SALES REPORT (TIM SZCZESUIL):

Sales continue sluggishly. If anyone has any ideas for publicising NESFA Press books without spending money, please let me know.

E-COMMERCE REPORT (SHARON SBARSKY):

Thanks again to Judy for her help. We've moved the ecommerce export batch to Tuesday to try to make timing work better for everybody. Once the kickstarter ends, we'll be adding Miva items for Boskone Book Preorders, both shipped and for in-person pickup. We still need more volunteers to get shipping reports from PSS into Miva so that people can check their tracking numbers.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE (KRISTIN SEIBERT):

Outreach continues. Bluesy Tuesy will be putting up flyers for Boskone / NESFA while they put up flyers for Tuesy.

SALES AT CONVENTIONS (BOSKONE) (SAUL JAFFE):

Things are coming along. I'll be making a signup sheet and contacting people soon. Tim reminds us that we'll be having a book launch party and the Boskone Book will take pride of place.

SALES AT CONVENTIONS - VERMONT EXPO (?):

Please volunteer to help run this.

CLUBHOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT (RICK KOVALCIK/STEPHANIE SHIELDS):

Folks have been working on repairing the front window frames and making them look pretty. Rick reports that the last set of windows has finally been finished, but the gutter in the back still needs to be dealt with so that the parking lot doesn't turn into a skating rink. Stephanie reminds people to wipe down the tables. Rick reports that we're investigating ways of better sealing our basement.

IT COMMITTEE REPORT (RICK KOVALCIK):

No overall report.

COMPUTER REPORT (RICK KOVALCIK):

We still have computers. They appear to be working.

WEB REPORT (SHARON SBARSKY):

Deena is working on some bugs, but otherwise things are business as usual.

SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT (SHARON SBARSKY):

Things are getting a little more active. Please let me know if you want to help.

GAMING COMMITTEE REPORT (STEPHANIE SHIELDS):

Gaming continues. We're putting together a list of games to buy.

HOTEL COMMITTEE REPORT (GAY ELLEN DENNETT):

Room pickup is good. Please email hotel@boskone.org if you need a room and can't get it.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE REPORT (MIKE KERPAN):

We still have a library. Mycroft has found a bunch of data anomalies that he and LB have been fixing. It's just about time to look into teaching Koha how to send book return reminders and overdue notices.

MAIL ROOM REPORT (RICK KOVALCIK):

Mail continues to come in, and I continue to pick it up in Framingham roughly once per week.

PROCUREMENT REPORT (DAVE ANDERSON):

I continue to buy necessities. Members continue to donate drinks and munchies, which is much appreciated.

NESFA FELLOWSHIP (TBD) :

We're working on putting together a banquet, even though we don't have a new fellow.

GAUGHAN AWARD (JONI DASHOFF) :

Things are proceeding. We should have a winner soon.

SHORT STORY CONTEST (KYLIE SELKIRK)

Sharon reports that judges have been selected and are now reviewing the finalists.

SKYLARK AWARD (JOE ROSS) :

12/17 is the deadline for receiving ballots. Anything that hasn't already been mailed is unlikely to be received in time. Ballots dropped off in person at my house or sent by email will work.

CLUBHOUSE AND ONLINE ACTIVITIES (WEDNESDAY NIGHTS, READING, WRITING, OTHER):

The usual.

MEDIA COORDINATOR REPORT (MIKE KERPAN):

Media continues. We upgraded the AV system and eliminated a rats' nest of cabling. As part of the process, we labeled the system with clear instructions.

NESFA PICNIC (GAY ELLEN DENNETT):

Joe Ross reports that the Brookline website doesn't seem to have Larz Anderson Shelter in the sign-up page. He's going to call them tomorrow to see what's going on. [clerk's note: Reservations are delayed. Joe Ross is keeping an eye on things to make sure we get in once they finally open.]

MCFI LIAISON (RICK KOVALCIK)

No report

WORLDCON LIAISON (SHARON SBARSKY):

Worldcon planning and bidding continue. Montreal has delayed its next rate increase at least until the end of January,

SILENT AND SILLY COMMITTEES: Silent

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Move (Stephanie, Mike) to authorize Stephanie to borrow a Zettle machine and other sales equipment in order to run a small sales table at Somercon on 1/25/26 to be returned on 1/26/26. Stephanie will need help loading in and out and will need flyers for Boskone and NESFA Gaming. Motion passes unopposed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None

Motion to adjourn (Dave G, Dave A). Passes unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 4:33 pm.

COMING SOON

Dubious Pleasures

by Boskone 63's Guest of Honor

Greg Cox

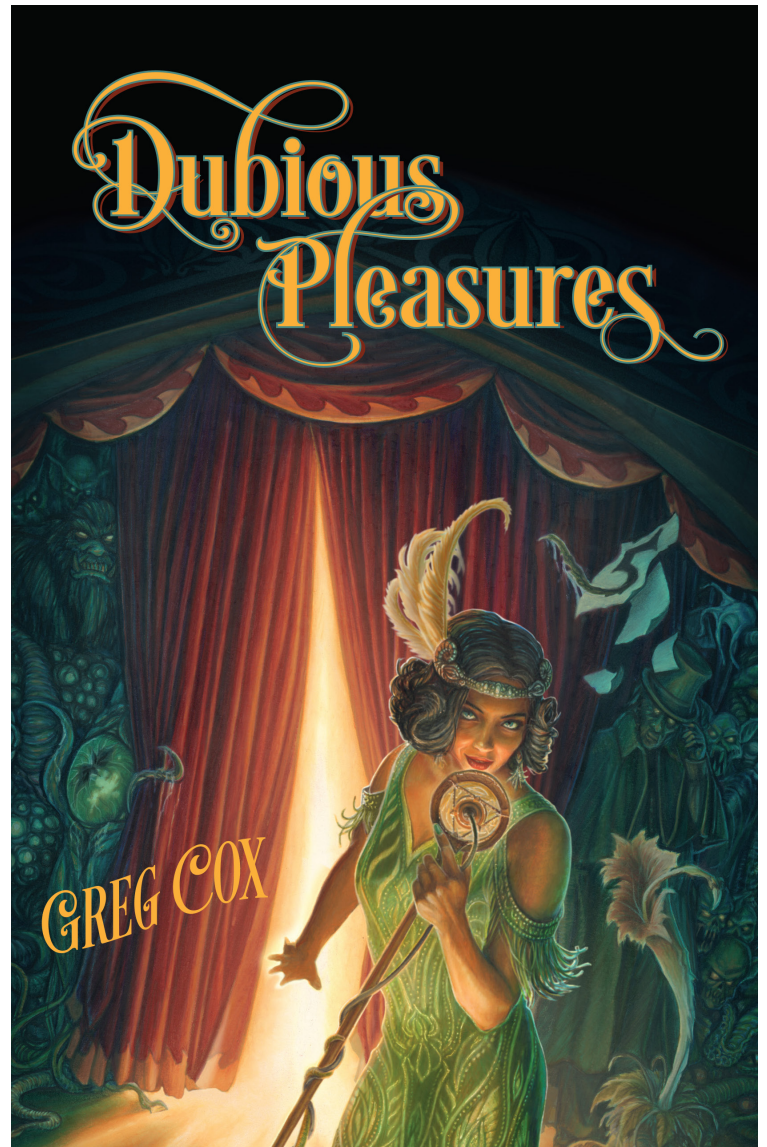
A new collection of short fiction
by Greg Cox, showcasing his work
outside the media tie-in space.

Limited edition, just 750 copies

Cover illustration by

Charles Urbach

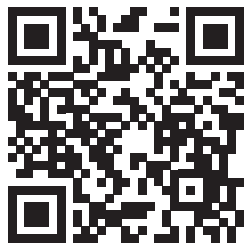
Boskone 63 Official Artist



**Pick up at
Boskone**

\$18

+ sales tax
for pickup at Boskone 63

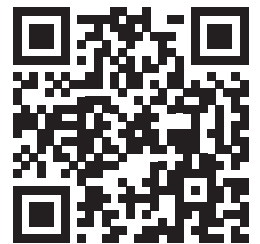


<https://tinyurl.com/NESFADubiousB63>

Ship after Boskone

\$30

+ shipping
(+ sales tax for MA addresses)
for shipping after Boskone 63



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for more information email sales@nesfa.org

BOSKONE 63

FEBRUARY 13-15, 2026

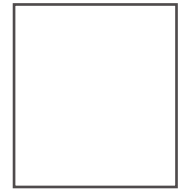
WESTIN BOSTON SEAPORT DISTRICT

Membership Rates
Adult Memberships: \$70
Young Adult Memberships: \$40
Teen Memberships: \$25
Child Memberships: \$20

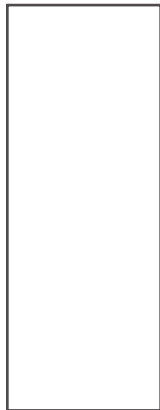
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January 31, 2026

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In Times To Come

(See www.nesfa.org/events for the full schedule)

Jan 31 6 pm-whenever • **Media Night**
Feb 1 noon-whenever • **Boskone Meeting (Noon) and NESFA Business Meeting** (no earlier than 2PM)
Feb 3 7:30-10:30 pm • **Bluesy Tuesy**
Feb 5 7:30-9:30 pm • **Genderfree Scottish Country Dance**
Feb 6 7-9 pm • **NESFA Reading Group**
There Is No Antimemetics Division by qntm (Sam Hughes)
Feb 7 1 pm whenever • **Boskone Work Session**
Feb 7 6 pm-whenever • **Media Night**
Feb 8 1 pm whenever • **Boskone Work Session**
Feb 10 7:30-10:30 pm • **Bluesy Tuesy (not at NESFA)**
Feb 11 5 pm - whenever • **Truck Loading at NESFA**
Feb 12 3 pm - whenever • **Truck Unloading at the Westin**
Feb 13-15 • **Boskone 63** at the Boston Westin Seaport District Hotel in Boston, MA
Feb 15 5 pm - whenever • **Truck Loading at the Westin**
Feb 17 7:30-10:30 pm • **Bluesy Tuesy (not at NESFA)**
Feb 19 7:30-9:30 pm • **Genderfree Scottish Country Dance**
Feb 21 6 pm-whenever • **Media Night**

Pay your dues online. Visit nesfa.org/join

Feb 22 noon-10 pm • **Game Day**
Feb 24 7:30-10:30 pm • **Bluesy Tuesy**
Feb 28 6 pm-whenever • **Anime and Animation Night**
Mar 1 noon-10 pm • **Game Day**
Mar 3 7:30-10:30 pm • **Bluesy Tuesy**
Mar 5 7:30-9:30 pm • **Genderfree Scottish Country Dance**
Mar 6 7-9 pm • **NESFA Reading Group**
The Peacemaker's Code by Deepak Malhotra
Mar 7 6 pm-whenever • **Media Night**
Mar 8 1 pm-whenever • **Boskone Debrief**
Mar 10 7:30-10:30 pm • **Bluesy Tuesy**
Mar 14 6 pm-whenever • **Doctor Who Night**
Mar 15 noon-10 pm • **Game Day**
Mar 17 7:30-10:30 pm • **Bluesy Tuesy**
Mar 19 7:30-9:30 pm • **Genderfree Scottish Country Dance**
Mar 21 6 pm-whenever • **Media Night**
Mar 22 2 pm-whenever • **NESFA Business Meeting**
Mar 24 7:30-10:30 pm • **Bluesy Tuesy**
Mar 28 6 pm-whenever • **Anime and Animation Night**