

A close-up photograph of a glass filled with golden beer. A splash of liquid is captured mid-air above the surface of the beer, creating a crown-like shape. The background is a solid, warm yellow-orange color.

# WordBrew 6

Kieran's Pub, Minneapolis  
28 October 2018

Lookbook

# Wordbrew 6

Kieran's Pub, Minneapolis



For the sixth year in a row, Minneapolis wins! Cool venues like Kieran's, cool people supporting local artists, and cool speculative fiction authors like the ones you're about to discover in this lookbook. Enjoy!

Yours Darkly,  
*Conrad Zero*



# Wordbrew 6

Kieran's Pub, Minneapolis

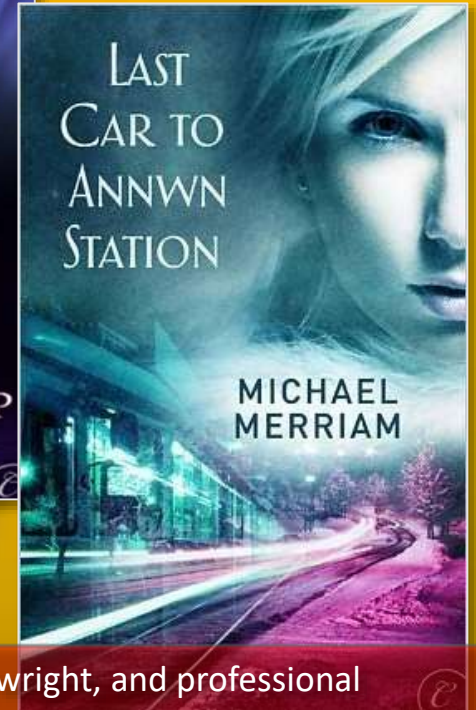


Click on the links in the bottom-right to connect with authors and watch their readings on youtube.com. Click on book covers for purchasing info. (May contain affiliate links. Thank you for supporting Wordbrew artists!) [Follow us on Facebook](#), and we'll see you next year!



# Michael Merriam

M.C. for Wordbrew 6



Michael Merriam is an author, actor, poet, playwright, and professional storyteller. He has published ten books and over 90 pieces of short fiction and poetry. His novel, *Last Car to Annwn Station*, was named a Top Book by Readings in Lesbian & Bisexual Women's Fiction and his novella, *Should We Drown in Feathered Sleep*, was long-listed for the Nebula Award. His scripts have been produced for stage and radio, and he has appeared on stage in the Minnesota Fringe Festival, Tellebration, StoryFest Minnesota, and over the air on KFAI and Minnesota Public Radio.

Michael is a co-founder of the Minnesota Speculative Fiction Writers.

[michaelmerriam.com](http://michaelmerriam.com)

[Introducing Michael at Wordbrew 6](#)



# Damian Sheridan

## Speculative Fiction



Author Damian Sheridan's Speculative Fiction has been published by Pill Hill Press, Embry Press, Third Flat Iron Press, Sam'sDot Press and locally with The City Pages.

He is currently working on a limited graphic novella series titled *In the Valley of the Shadow*.

[twitter.com/djsheri](https://twitter.com/djsheri)

[instagram.com/damisheridan](https://www.instagram.com/damisheridan)

[Damian Sheridan reading at Wordbrew 6](#)



# Amber James

Speculative Fiction



Amber James is a speculative and literary fiction writer. She completed her first spec-fic novel, *Come Back Around*, as a member of the 2017 class of the Loft Literary Center's Novel Writing Project. She recently finished a series of six short stories, and is at work on her second novel. Before becoming a writer, Amber was a bookseller at two West Coast independent bookstores. She lives in Minneapolis with her wife and dog.

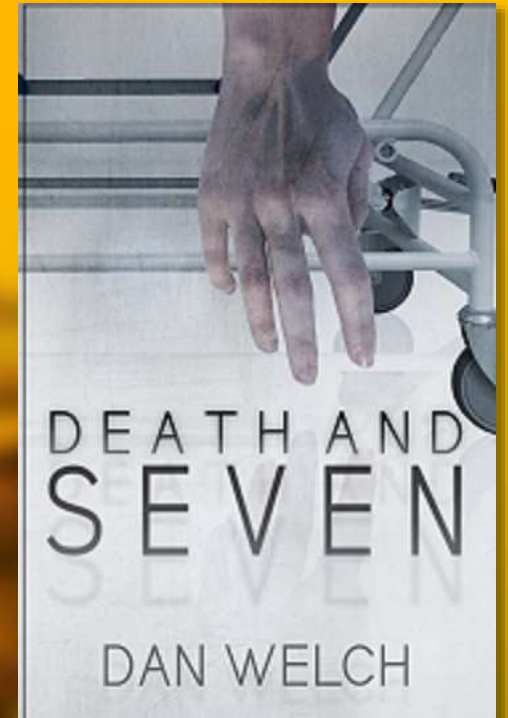
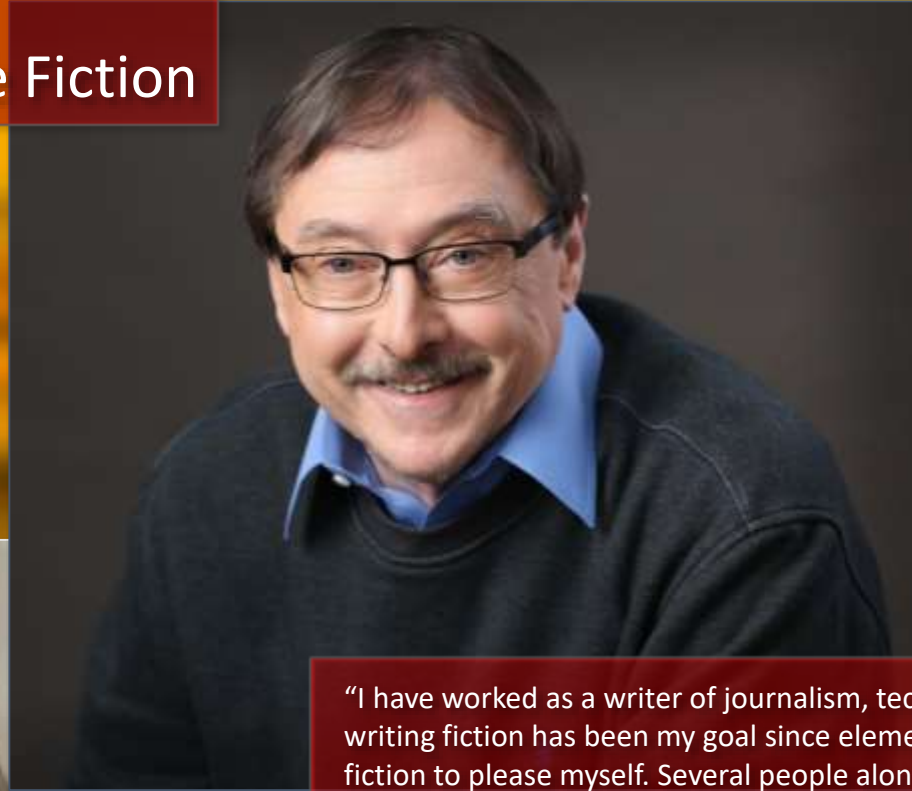
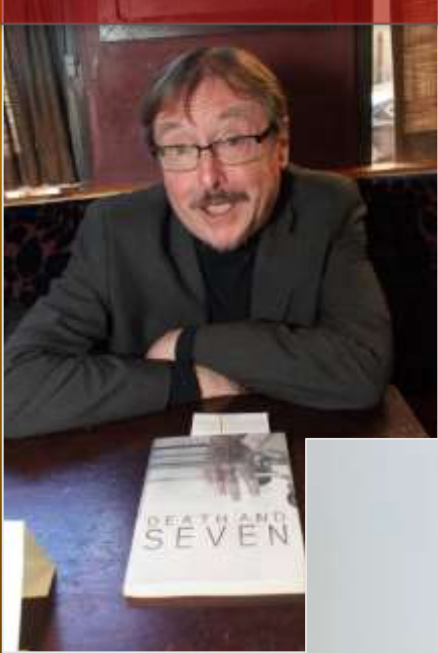
[AmberJamesWrites.com](http://AmberJamesWrites.com)

[twitter.com/TheWriteAmber](https://twitter.com/TheWriteAmber)

[Amber James reading at Wordbrew 6](#)

# Dan Welch

Science Fiction



"I have worked as a writer of journalism, technical documentation and computer code. But writing fiction has been my goal since elementary school. Stubbornly I have always written fiction to please myself. Several people along the way advised me to write what other people might want to read. I concede, in retrospect, that that is advice aspiring young authors should probably take. But I persisted. I had started young and I did get better and faster. Last summer Immortal Works accepted my novel *Death and Seven* for publication. Episodes of the original Charlie's Angels TV show included a brief clip of a man at a typewriter, presumably Stephen J Channel, hammering away at around 60 words a minute. About half way through *Death and Seven* I started to have periods like that of my own. I knew what I wanted to say, I knew how to say it and the words came as fast as I could type. It was exhilarating and I want to do it again."

[dannywelch22.com](http://dannywelch22.com)

[immortal-works.com](http://immortal-works.com)

[facebook.com/DannyWelch22](https://facebook.com/DannyWelch22)

[Dan Welch reading at Wordbrew 6](#)



# Jessica Walsh

Urban Fantasy / Horror



Jessica Walsh knows there's a wealth of creatures and stories that live just in the shadows of our world. Not to mention a LOT of protagonists who don't get invited on the adventure just because they're different. Her stories aim to give voice to these worlds and characters and create the home she never completely found in novels from her youth.

[snowtigra.etsy.com](https://snowtigra.etsy.com)

[patreon.com/sewntogether](https://patreon.com/sewntogether)

[twitter.com/storytellersnow](https://twitter.com/storytellersnow)

[facebook.com/snowcosplays](https://facebook.com/snowcosplays)

[Jessica Walsh reading at Wordbrew 6](#)



# Kieran's Irish Pub

Home of Wordbrew 6



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[kierans.com](http://kierans.com)



# Dreamhaven Books

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# Riawa Thomas-Smith

Speculative Fiction



Riawa Thomas-Smith writes in a number of genres, from Poetry to Fantasy, Horror, Weird and Speculative Fiction, some infused with humor. She started reading her poetry aloud on the open mic scene starting in the 1990s and has shared stories at the Not-So-Silent Planet readings and the Rivendell Group. She has performed at Storyfest and Horrorfest and hopes to gather her tales into an anthology someday. She lives in Minneapolis, with her husband and two talking parakeets.

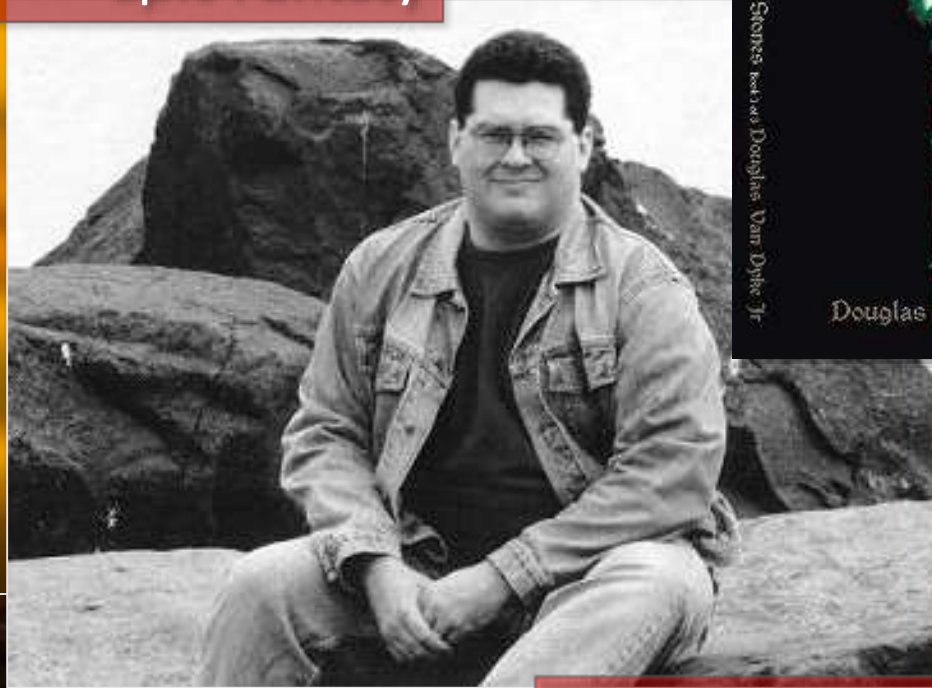
[Riawa on Facebook](#)

[Riawa Thomas-Smith reading at Wordbrew 6](#)



# Douglas van Dyke Jr

## Epic Fantasy



Douglas has published five books set in the epic fantasy world of Dhea Loral. It's a land rich in heroes, magic, legends, and ambitious gods who plot to circumvent the restrictions of their own Covenant. The fan favorite, *The Widow Brigade*, launched with 10 perfect 5-star ratings on Amazon. His writing desk window looks out on the scenic St Croix valley.

[dhealoral.com](http://dhealoral.com)

[Douglas on Facebook](#)

[twitter.com/ThaminDheaLoral](https://twitter.com/ThaminDheaLoral)

[Douglas van Dyke Jr reading at Wordbrew 6](#)



# Vivian Otoo

Science Fiction / Fantasy



Vivian Otoo a Maryland native has lived in Minneapolis for the past few years. After graduating from the University of Minnesota four years ago she's decided to take her writing career seriously. Right now, she is working on her first science-fiction young-adult novel and in the future wants to produce more works of fiction.

[Justwritenow.co](http://Justwritenow.co)

[twitter.com/adwin\\_o2](https://twitter.com/adwin_o2)

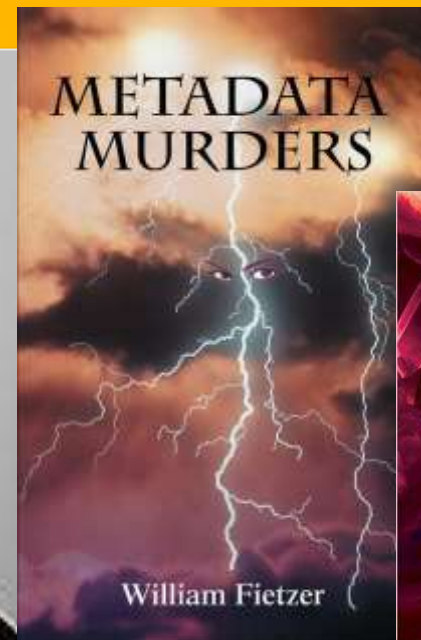
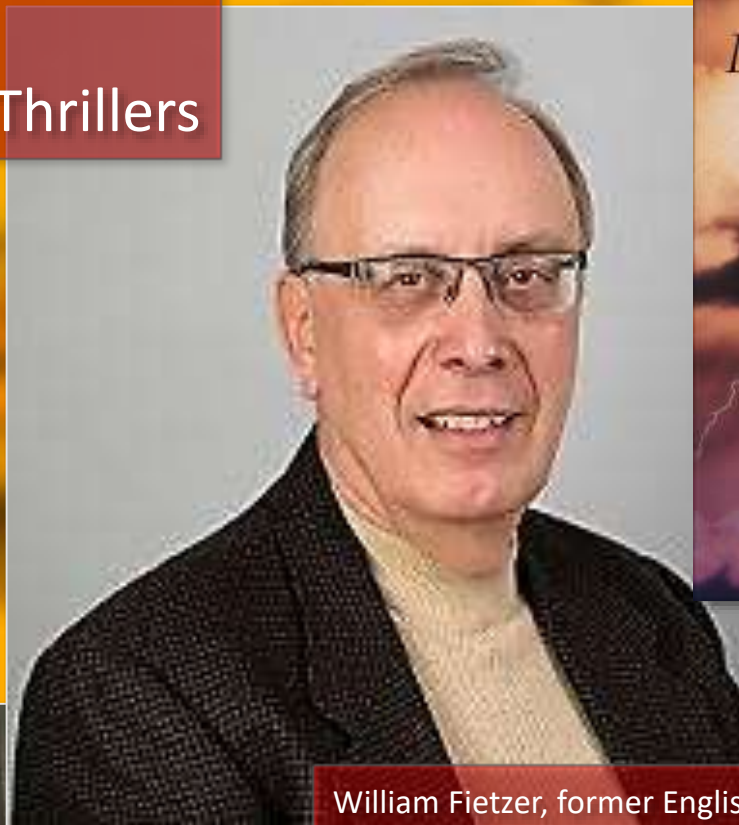
[instagram.com/authorvivian.o.2](https://instagram.com/authorvivian.o.2)

[Vivian Otoo reading at Wordbrew 6](#)



# William Fietzer

Visionary Thrillers



William Fietzer, former English instructor (National American University), academic librarian (University of Minnesota), and amateur golfer (south Metro), resides in south Minneapolis with his wife and their black Norwegian forest cat, Selene. He has written articles, reviews, and stories for the St. Paul Almanac, examiner.com, "The Daily Planet" and other publications about the diverse cultures and spiritual developments that make up our Twin Cities and national cultural scene. His two previous novels, *Penal Fires* and *Metadata Murders*, explore the shadowy intersection of American culture, crime, and technology. His latest, *Mission: Soul Rescue*, adds the paranormal and collective unconscious to the mix.

[williamfietzer.com](http://williamfietzer.com)

[twitter.com/elstir1](https://twitter.com/elstir1)

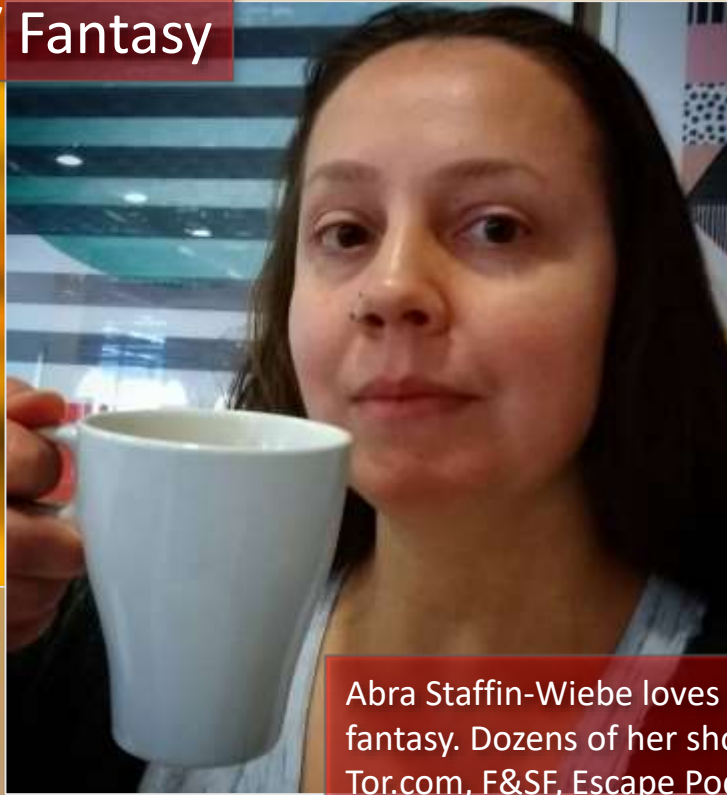
[William on Facebook](#)

[William Fietzer reading at Wordbrew 6](#)



# Abra Staffin-Wiebe

Sci-Fi / Horror / Fantasy



Abra Staffin-Wiebe loves optimistic science fiction, cheerful horror, and dark fantasy. Dozens of her short stories have appeared at publications including Tor.com, F&SF, Escape Pod, and Odyssey Magazine. She lives in Minneapolis, where she wrangles her children, pets, and the mad scientist she keeps in the attic. When not writing or wrangling, she collects folk tales and photographs whatever stands still long enough to allow it. Her most recent book, *The Unkindness of Ravens*, is an epic fantasy coming-of-age story about trickster gods and favors owed. Enjoy an excerpt here:

<http://www.aswiebe.com/moreunkindness.html>

[aswiebe.com](http://aswiebe.com)

[facebook.com/AbraSW/](https://facebook.com/AbraSW/)

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[Abra Staffin-Wiebe reading at Wordbrew 6](#)





# Parkway Pizza

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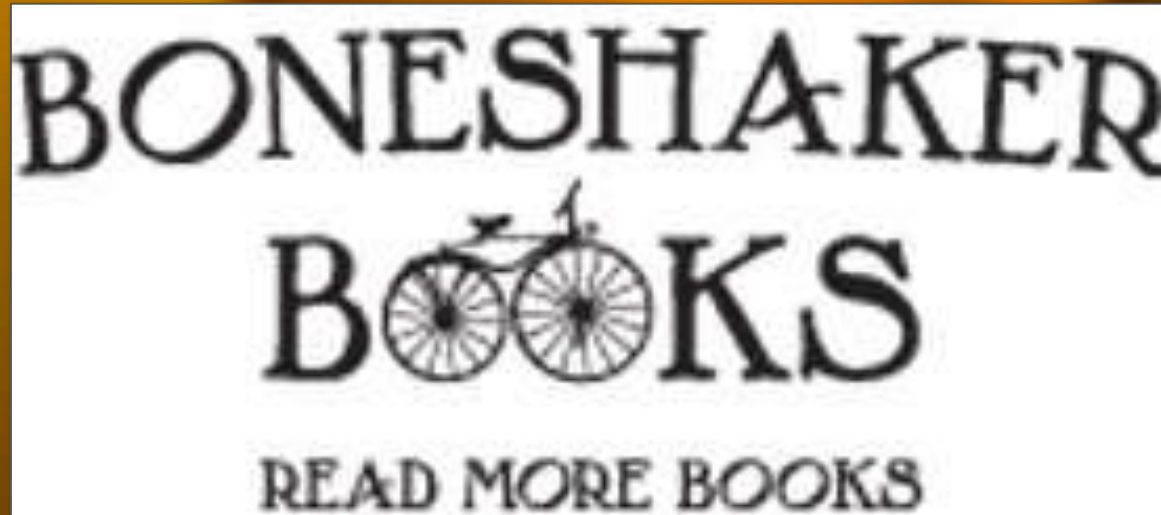


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[Facebook.com/parkwaypizza](https://www.facebook.com/parkwaypizza)

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[Boneshakerbooks.com](http://Boneshakerbooks.com)



# Jason D Wittman

Fantasy



Jason D. Wittman lives in works in Minnesota. His work has appeared in The Best of Baen's Universe and Stupefying Stories. He can recite Poe's *The Raven* from Memory.

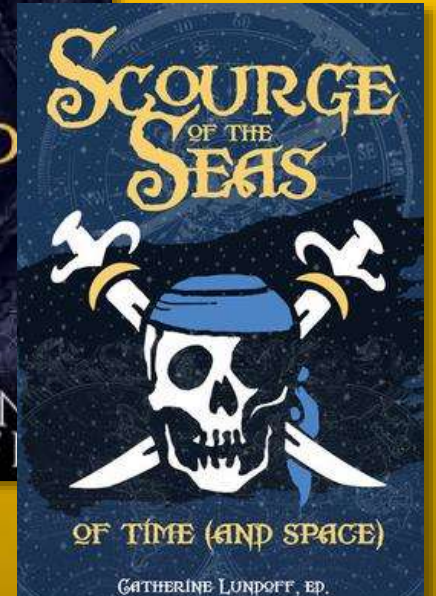
[Jason on Facebook](#)

[Jason D Wittman reading at Wordbrew 6](#)



# Catherine Lundoff

Dark Fantasy



Catherine Lundoff is an award-winning writer, editor and publisher from Minneapolis. She is the author of *Silver Moon* and *Out of This World: Queer Speculative Fiction Stories* and editor of the forthcoming pirate anthology, *Scourge of the Seas of Time (and Space)*, as well as a number of short stories in different genres. She is also the publisher at Queen of Swords Press, a genre fiction publisher specializing in fiction from out of this world and she writes erotica and erotic romance as Emily L. Byrne. website: [www.catherinelundoff.net](http://www.catherinelundoff.net)

[twitter.com/clundoff](https://twitter.com/clundoff)

[facebook.com/Clundoff](https://facebook.com/Clundoff)

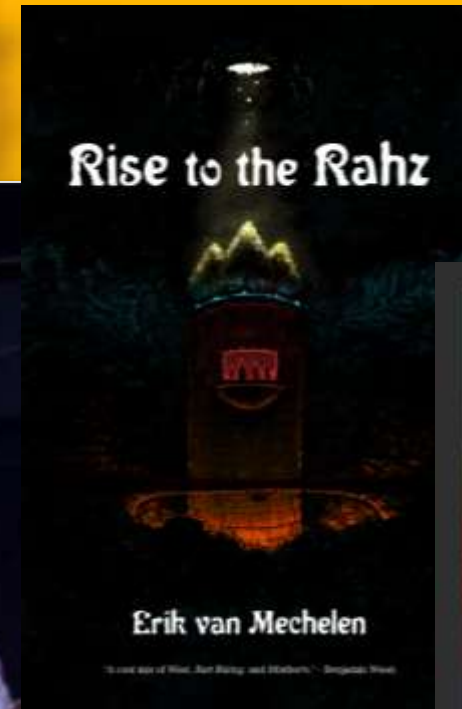
[queenofswordspress.com](http://queenofswordspress.com)

**[Catherine Lundoff reading at Wordbrew 6](#)**



# Erik van Mechelen

Epic Fantasy / Weird



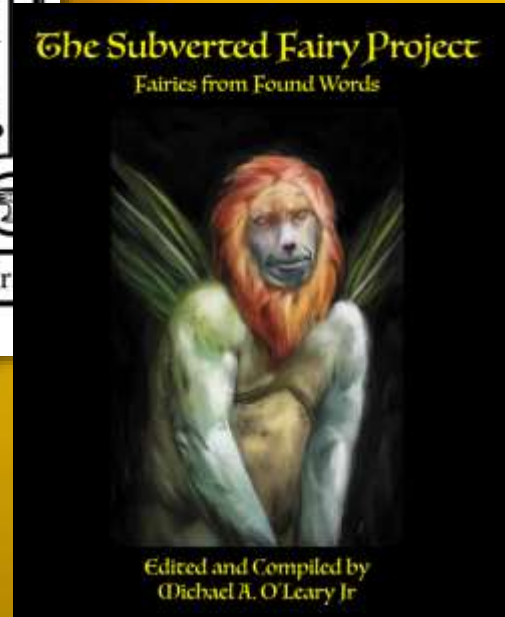
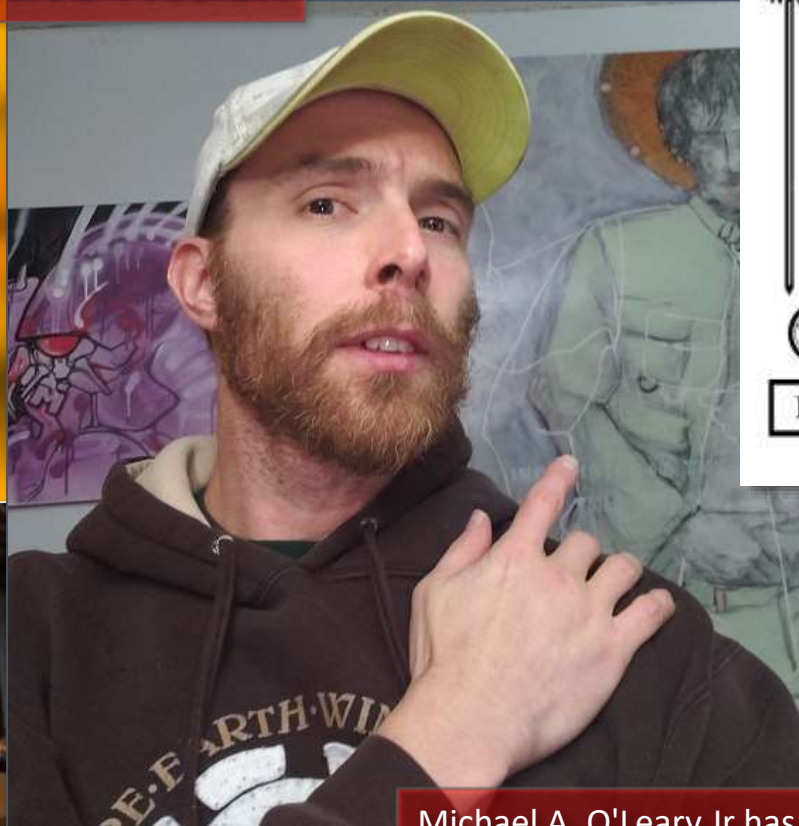
Erik van Mechelen is the author of *Rise to the Rahz* and *Sound of Stone* and creator of the Known Caverns, a world whose denizens struggle to find meaning in a constantly shifting social, political, and geographical landscape; where groups of different species, each with a rich heritage and strong traditions, battle for control or form alliances to survive; and where the fates of the lonely flutter delicately in the balance.

[erikvanmechelen.com](http://erikvanmechelen.com)

[Erik van Mechelen reading at Wordbrew 6](#)

# Michael A O'Leary Jr

Speculative Fiction



Michael A. O'Leary Jr has written a genre-bending horror novel called *Térata* and a collection of short stories, *Choices & Metamorphoses*. He is currently collaborating with a host of artists and writers to redefine the fundamental idea of fairies with *The Subverted Fairy Project*.

[Flivverart.com](http://Flivverart.com)

[twitter.com/goyalion](https://twitter.com/goyalion)

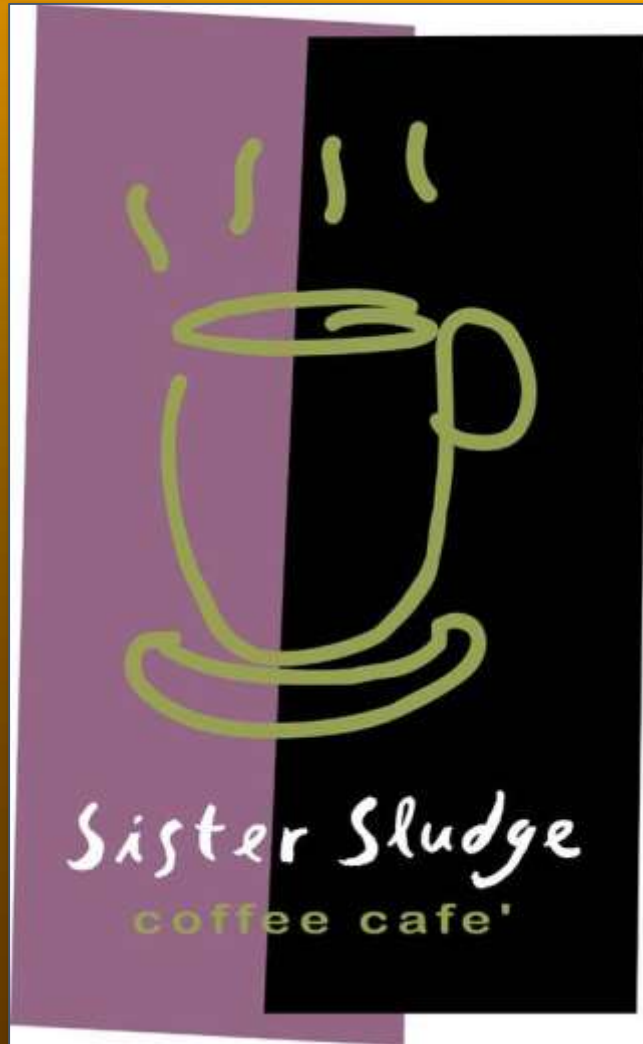
[facebook.com/subvertedfairy](https://facebook.com/subvertedfairy)

[Michael A O'Leary Jr reading at Wordbrew 6](#)



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[Chatterboxpub.net](http://Chatterboxpub.net)



# MinnSpec

Writers Group



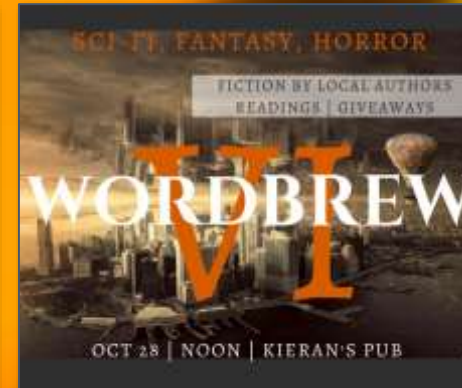
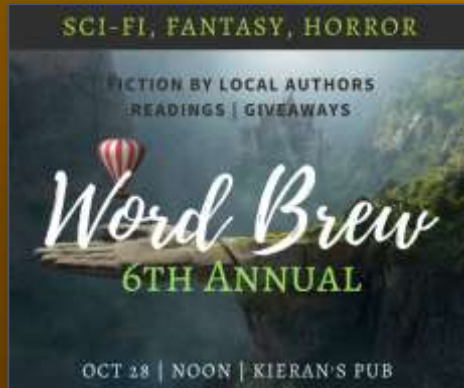
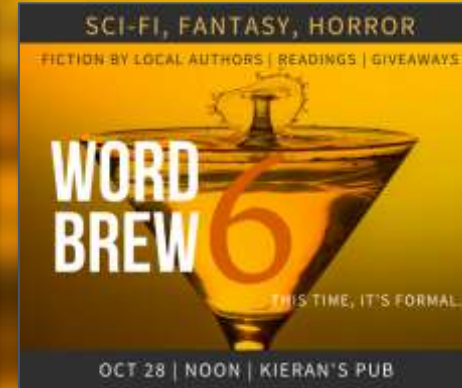
*The Minnesota  
Speculative Fiction  
Writers Group*

Authors of Speculative Fiction  
Join for free at [meetup.com/minnspec](https://www.meetup.com/minnspec)



# Wordbrew 6

## Social Media Graphics



By Kate Bitters

[Clickclackwriting.com](http://Clickclackwriting.com)



# Wordbrew 6

Wordbrew 2018 Team

**Conrad Zero**  
**Kate Bitters**  
**Vu Dang**  
**Terry Faust**  
**Michael Merriam**  
**Michael O'Leary Jr**  
**Sloane Talest**  
**Margaret Taylor**

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