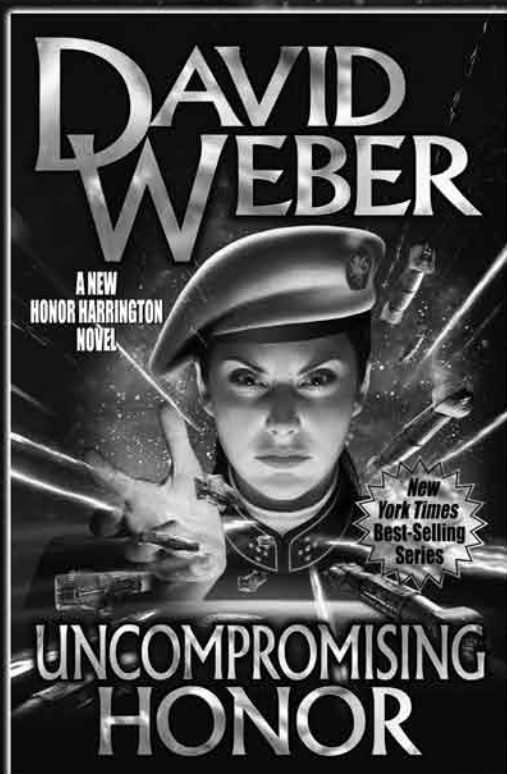


CONGREGATE

FIVE



HONOR'S FINISHING WHAT SHE STARTED



978-1-4814-8350-6 * \$28.00/\$37.00

Honor Harrington has worn the Star Kingdom's uniform for half a century. Very few people know war the way Honor Harrington does. Very few have lost as many men and women, friends and family, as she has. Yet despite that, hers has been a voice of caution, and the strategy she supports has been working: the Solarian Navy finally realizes it cannot face an Alliance battle fleet and win.

But now, the Solarian League Navy has committed atrocities such as the galaxy has not known in a thousand years. And they have finally killed too many of the people Honor Harrington loves. Hers is the voice of caution and compromise no longer, and the galaxy is about to see something it has never imagined.

Honor Harrington is coming for the Solarian League, and Hell is coming in her wake.



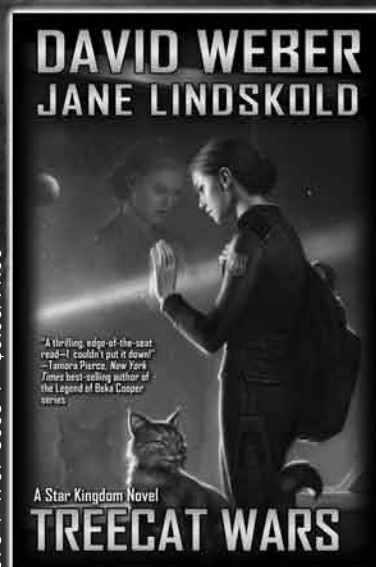
A GIRL AND HER TREECAT



978-1-4516-3826-4 * \$9.00/\$10.99



978-1-4516-3921-6 * \$9.99/\$11.99



978-1-4767-3663-1 * \$9.99/\$11.99

Meet Stephanie Harrington, future great-great-great grandmother to Honor Harrington, now a tween-age girl living on the remote planet Sphinx. It may be a backwater, but there is something special lurking in the dense forest: a species of telepathic aliens she dubs "treecats." Soon Stephanie and one of the treecats form a special bond—and it falls to them to save Sphinx from those who would destroy it.

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From the Con Chair

Welcome to ConGregarate 5!

First thing I want to do is thank everyone who came together to make this convention work; and by that I mean volunteers, dealers, guests, hotel staff... everyone!

Next I'd like to call out one of the newest features we have at ConGregarate this year... the ConGregarate Cantina. The Kittinger Ballroom has been converted into a coffee shop, of sorts. In that room, you will find concessions, live music and a place to relax for a few moments during the day.

And now, as much as I hate to bring this up, I know times in fandom are a bit, well, interesting, at the moment. It is my sincerest wish that we can all come together for one weekend to create a community of individuals with similar interests. The staff and I want this space to be a place where our debates are centered around discussions like: Star Trek vs. Star Wars, Kirk vs. Picard, original BSG vs. new BSG, or Marvel vs. DC. We have a lot of great programming scheduled and I hope that you can find something that you truly enjoy doing over the next three days. So find some of your "con" friends, and let's have a really fun weekend.

Thank you very much for coming, and have a great convention!

-James Fulbright
President/Con Chair

CONVENTION STAFF AND HARASSMENT POLICY

Convention Staff

Convention Chairman	James Fulbright
Vice Chairman	Scott Gibson
Programming Director	Tera Fulbright
Programming Assistant	Pam Greeson
Guest Services Coordinator	Richard Sarner
Costume Contest Coordinator	"Bad Andy" Simmons
Accessibility Coordinator	Richard Sarner
Auction Coordinator	Bill Mann
Gaming Coordinator	Pat Brown
Kids Track Coordinator	JT "The Engineer"
ConSuite Director	John Desmarais
Director of Registration	Amy Masters
Assistant Registration Director	Cindy Walker
Exhibit Space Coordinator	Scott Gibson
Hallway Table Staff	Stephanie Roane
Dealer Room Staff	Bill Mann
	Janine Martinez
Director of Operations	Andrew Greeson
Ops Staff	Clinton Honey
	Dana Windsor
Marketing Director	Nancy Knight Brown
Marketing Staff	Pat Brown
	Aaron Brite

Volunteers

Keith "The Old Man" Brinegar, Jen Davis, Rachel Desmarais, Conall Desmarais, Jen "Babydoll" Dinneen, Marcy Desmarais, Chuck Rizzo, Ian Simmons, John "Cue Stick" Simpson Heather "Lady Cue" Simpson, Chuck Turnitsa, Anita Turnitsa, Heidi Turnitsa, Carol Desmarais Wood

ConGregate Productions

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Laura Haywood-Cory	Vice President
Tera Fulbright	Secretary/Treasurer

Board of Directors

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Laura Haywood-Cory	
Paul Cory	
James Fulbright	
Tera Fulbright	

Harassment Policy

We are endeavoring to make ConGregate a safe place for fans to gather. Even so, certain types of inappropriate, offensive or harassing behavior can be found at public places across the world. To the best of our ability, we want to prevent inappropriate conduct during the convention.

It is very important that if you are being harassed, or in any way feel endangered, that you report it immediately. For the convention to be able to address issues, it is important that we be made aware of any situation that might occur, with as many details as can be provided (names, badge numbers, descriptive information, etc.).

If you feel you have been harassed, please find the nearest convention volunteer and ask to be directed to the Convention Chairman or Vice Chair. During convention hours, you should be able to locate a staff member at the con registration table, the Prefunction area, or at Con HQ (see map on p. 20).

Additionally, if you see someone being harassed, we encourage you to speak up and say something. As a community, fandom needs to work together to make sure everyone is treated with respect.

Once a complaint of discriminatory harassment has been filed, an investigation will be conducted. The nature and extent of the investigation will depend upon the complaint. The convention will respect the wishes of the person reporting the harassment when deciding on further steps. A convention participant, who the con organizers believe has committed harassment, or who fails to cooperate with an investigation, may be sanctioned or asked to leave the convention without a refund at the discretion of the con organizers. Participants asked to stop any harassing behavior are expected to comply immediately.

Actions taken by the con staff are separate and distinct from any legal action and do not, in fact, preclude legal consequences from happening.

* * *

Definition of Harassment - to create an unpleasant or hostile situation, especially by uninvited and unwelcome verbal or physical conduct.

Types of harassment include but are not limited to: physical assault, battery, deliberate intimidation, stalking, following, harassing photography or recording, sustained disruption of talks or other events, inappropriate or unwelcome physical contact, unwelcome sexual attention, negative comments regarding gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, age, race, or religion.

RULES OF THE CONVENTION

1. When you are in the convention areas, you must wear your badge. Lost badges will only be replaced once. The basic gist here is: yes, you have to wear your stinking badges.

2. The staff of ConGregarate reserves the right to toss anyone (members, guests, dealers, volunteers... anyone) out of the convention, without a refund, if they are behaving like a jerk. ConGregarate's management will be the sole arbiters of what constitutes behaving like a jerk. (Also see our Harassment Policy on p. 2)

3. Please be aware that harassment falls under rule number two (2) above. Keep in mind that the determination of what is harassing behavior is typically defined by the VICTIM. We will only consider intent when determining the fate of anyone we feel is guilty of harassing their fellow con-goers.

4. ConGregarate requires that you provide your real name when you register for the convention. An alias can be used on your badge, but our database must have your real name associated with it. Anyone who provides false information to the convention may be asked to leave the con, without a refund.

5. Mother always said, "Don't run in the house!" The same applies to the con site.

6. Do not tear up the hotel! We like it here and want to come back at some point. If you have a lapse in judgment and we catch you wrecking the hotel... well,... go back and read rule number 2.

7. You may only hang signs on the walls of the hotel with the hotel's permission. Special materials, and possibly labor, will need to be provided by the hotel. Fees for those services will apply.

8. Bladed weapons must be sheathed and peace-bonded at all times. All other actual weapons are prohibited in the con space (Ballrooms, Prefunction Space, Programming Suites, and Con Suite). Blasters and fake weapons are permitted if you swing by the reg desk first and allow us to "peace-bond" it (which usually consists of tying orange ribbon around the barrel).

9. The staff of ConGregarate cannot permit unauthorized vendors to sell anything at the convention. The dealers have paid good money to be here and it's simply not fair to them otherwise.

10. Please switch your cell phones, and other electronic devices, to silent ring while you are in the programming rooms. If you do receive a call, we ask that you leave the room before you answer your phone.

11. Please be aware of, and courteous to, your fellow conventioners as you navigate the walk spaces in the convention. In particular, try not to block the aisles in the dealer room, the panel rooms, and especially the ramp leading from the lobby to the Prefunction area.

12. As with most hotels, the Red Lion Hotel makes a good chunk of its money from catering. It is one way they can help keep your convention costs low. You may not eat food in the con space unless it was purchased from the hotel. Your options this weekend are: you can eat what you buy from the hotel, go out to eat, or eat in your personal room.

13. The hotel has requested that no "outside" alcohol be brought into the con areas. We encourage you to patronize the hotel bar, the hotel concessions booth, or to drink in your private hotel rooms & suites.

14. ConGregarate is not responsible for items lost during the convention. As each of us has lost stuff from time to time, we can sympathize with you. We'll even try to help you find said items. We cannot, however, afford to replace them. Sorry.

15. While the convention organizers encourage members to bring their children to ConGregarate, we ask that parents take an active role in monitoring the events in which their children participate. Some events (and most parties) may not be suitable for all ages. Also, please be aware that ConGregarate is not a daycare service. Children left unattended may be remanded to the care of Child Protective Services of Guilford County.

16. ConGregarate is offering a "Kids Track," during specific times during the convention, that has activities specifically designed for children. Feel free to take your children there if they need a break from the con. Please be aware, however, that this area is not designed as daycare.

17. No smoking (or vaping) inside the hotel. Smoking areas are available outside of the hotel lobby and on the terrace outside the convention center.

18. We believe in the "no costume is no costume" rule. Naked people are not quite appropriate for ConGregarate's common areas.

19. There are specific rules regarding photography. You can find them on p 4.

20. Since discussions of a political nature have a tendency to become incendiary, we ask that you limit those to your private hotel rooms or outside of the hotel.

21. No rule listed here supercedes local law, state law, federal law or hotel policy. You still have to obey those strictures.

22. People sometimes ask us if we can pass along a copy of their book, manuscript, etc. to an author or editor. Generally speaking the answer is "no," because most of our guests are, for professional reasons, not willing to accept unsolicited works.

23. And, finally, our most important rule during the convention is: HAVE FUN!

Photography Policy

1. While photography and videography are generally allowed in all convention spaces and the hotel lobby, photography, flash photography, or videography may be prohibited at certain events or in specific areas. These will be identified by signs, announcements, or notations in the panel descriptions in the program book, as appropriate. Violating the photography & videography rules can result in your removal from the area or event.
2. Photographers and videographers may not block walkways or emergency exits with their equipment. Backdrops may not be put up in any convention space without the permission of the convention.
3. You must ask for permission before you take a person's picture or record them, and take the answer "no" with good grace.

Statement on Inclusion

At ConGregarate, we pride ourselves in trying to provide an inclusive environment, and are proud to support all fans regardless of gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, physical appearance, body size, age, race, color, religion or national origin.



ANNOUNCING THE CONGREGATE CANTINA

Each day, you can drop into the Kittinger Ballroom to grab a bite, relax and enjoy some music from some of our very talented guests. See our schedule for times.

Hawaiian Shirt Friday



Each year, Congregate remembers contributors that we have lost from the science fiction and fantasy world. The tradition began in memory of Aaron Allston, who was well known for his love of Hawaiian shirts.

We encourage everyone to wear a Hawaiian shirt on Friday, July 13 in honor of:

- George A. Romero, *filmmaker/writer*
- Martin Landau, *actor*
- Deborah Watling, *actor*
- Robert Hardy, *actor*
- Jerry Pournelle, *author*
- Harry Dean Stanton, *actor*
- John Mollo, *costume designer*
- Julian May, *author*
- Alfie Curtis, *actor*
- Jon Paul Steuer, *actor*
- Jerry Van Dyke, *actor*
- Donnelly Rhodes, *actor*
- Ursula K. Le Guin, *author*
- Jack Ketchum, *author/actor*
- Reg E. Cathey, *actor*
- David Ogden Stiers, *actor*
- Kate Wilhelm, *author*
- Stephen Hawking, *scientist*
- R. Lee Ermey, *actor*
- Harry Anderson, *actor*
- Verne Troyer, *actor*
- Joy Poger, *fan/dealer*
- Margot Kidder, *actor*
- Gardner Dozois, *author/editor*
- Christopher Stasheff, *author*
- Shelby Vick, *fan*
- Alan Bean, *astronaut/artist*

Dr. Charles E. Gannon

Dr. Charles E. Gannon's award-winning Caine Riordan/Terran Republic hard sf novels have, as of this writing, all been Nebula finalists and national best-sellers. The fifth in the series, *Marque of Caine*, will be available late in 2018. His epic fantasy series, *The Broken World*, is forthcoming from Baen Books. He also collaborates with Eric Flint in the NYT and WSJ best-selling Ring of Fire alternate history series, and with Steve White in the NYT best-selling Starfire series. His other novels and short fiction straddle the divide between hard SF and technothrillers. Much of this work has appeared in anthologies set in the Honorverse, Man-Kzin, and War World universes, the rest appearing in other collections and Analog.



His best known work of non-fiction, *Rumors of War and Infernal Machines: Technomilitary Agenda Setting in American and British Speculative Fiction*, won the 2006 American Library Association Award for Outstanding Book, and was the topic of discussion when he was interviewed by NPR.

Along with 45 other SF writers (such as Niven, Pournelle, Brin, Bova), he is a member of SIGMA, the "SF think-tank," and has served as a consultant for various intelligence and defense agencies, including including the Pentagon, Air Force, Army, Marines, Navy, NATO, DARPA, NRO, DHS, NASA, and several other agencies and defense contractors (NDAs preclude disclosure). In many cases, these organizations have had a direct interest in the innovations and concepts he presents in his novels. Notably, the first public reading from the approved manuscript of *Fire With Fire* (first book in the Caine Riordan series) was part of a presentation to an annual conference held by the National Reconnaissance Office.

Dr. Gannon has been a Fulbright Fellow at Liverpool University, Palacky University [Czech Republic], and the University of Dundee, and received two Fulbright (and multiple U.S. Embassy) Travel Grants to these countries as well as to The Netherlands, Slovakia, England, and Italy. He has published extensively on the interaction of fiction, technology (particularly military and space), and political influence.

Prior to his academic career, Dr. Gannon worked eight years as a scriptwriter and producer in New York City, where his clients included the United Nations, the World Health Organization, and The President's Council on Physical Fitness. He has also worked in game design, primarily for GDW's roleplaying lines (*Traveller*, *2300 AD*, *Twilight 2000*, *Dark Conspiracy*), as well as crafting tactical-level simulations for other clients.

Gannon lives in Annapolis, Maryland with his wife and four children.

Jane Lindskold

Jane Lindskold is the award-winning, New York Times bestselling, internationally published author of some twenty-five novels, including the six volume Firekeeper Saga, the three volume Breaking the Wall series, the two volume Novels of the Athanor (*Changer* and *Changer's Daughter*; aka. Legends Walking) and, most recently, *Artemis Awakening* and *Artemis Invaded*.

Standalone novels include *Brother to Dragons*, *Companion to Owls*; *Marks of Our Brothers*; *Pipes of Orpheus*; *Smoke and Mirrors*; *Chronomaster*; *The Buried Pyramid*, and *Child of a Rainless Year*.



While Lindskold mostly writes solo, she has collaborated with David Weber on the novels *Fire Season* and *Treecat Wars*, as well as having written several novellas for his Honorverse anthologies. At his request, she completed Roger Zelazny's novels *Donnerjack* and *Lord Demon*. With Fred Saberhagen, she co-wrote the last Berserker story: "Servant of Death."

Lindskold has also had published something like seventy short stories, nineteen of which are reprinted in her collection *Curiosities*, which also includes short essays on how each story came to be written. Another recent project is a non-fiction book on writing called, appropriately, *Wanderings on Writing*. The two books are intended as companion pieces, although they can be enjoyed separately.

She holds a PhD in English Lit from Fordham University, but don't worry. She won't grade your grammar if you talk to her.

Lindskold is an avid role-playing gamer. She took up the hobby at eighteen, and hasn't quit yet. She is also a dedicated manga/anime fan, having started back in the days when you had to explain to people what these were. She probably still has some fan-subbed VHS tapes in her collection.

As if making a living by writing isn't enough of an impossibility, Lindskold also gardens in the desert. When time permits, she does various crafts. Her secret superpower is getting medication into cats. She lives in Albuquerque with her husband, archeologist Jim Moore.



Jim Beall

Jim Beall (BS-Math, MBA, PE) has been a nuclear engineer for over 40 years, a war gamer for over 50, and an avid reader of science fiction for even longer. His experience in nuclear engineering and power systems began as a naval officer, shortly after surviving one of Admiral Rickover's infamous interviews, aboard USS Long Beach (CGN-9). Civilian experience includes design, construction, inspection, enforcement, and assessment with a nuclear utility, an architect engineering firm, and the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (USNRC). Assignments at the USNRC include reactor inspector, inspection team leader, safety analyst, and reactor policy assistant to three different Presidential-appointed different USNRC Commissioners while earning the agency's Meritorious and Distinguished Service awards.

Duties of those policy-level posts included substantial research into alternative and speculative energy sources, as well as energy forecasts. Some of those other sources were coal, oil, hydro, geothermal, tidal, solar, wind, fracking, space-based, heavy water reactors, breeder reactors, fusion, and even anti-matter.

Coauthor of the Journal of the British Interplanetary Society (JBIS) paper, "Ecological Engineering Considerations for ISU's Worldship Project." Baen Books (baen.com) has published five of his non-fiction articles:

"Our Worldship Broke!"

"Case Studies in Handwavium"

"From Corvus to Keyhole -- Shipyards: Past, Present, and Science Fiction"

"Radium Girls of Science and Science Fiction"

"Grid Wars: Innovation, Feuds, Rivalry, and Revenge in the Never-ending Battle to Electrify America and the Planet"

The Blibbering Humdingers

These magical masters of musical hi-jinx and mayhem will wizard rock the tea towel right off your house elf! Their unique blend of 80s new wave, 50s do-wop, straight up pop rock and old-timey sing-songy comedy will leave you laughing and crying for more. They draw inspiration from the Harry Potter series, *Doctor Who*, the SCA, medieval fantasy, science fiction and all kinds of delightfully, geeky fandomness.

Scott & Kirsten Vaughan began performing together in 1992 in the SCA, where they are known as Master Efenwealt Wystle and Maître Aénor d'Anjou. With the release of *Harry Potter & the Deathly Hallows* in 2007, and upon encountering bands like Draco & the Malfoys, The Mudbloods, and The Moaning Myrtles they decided to form their own wizard rock act. They live in Cary, NC (under the name Sanderz) with two kids and a cat named Rosemerta. (That's the cat's name. It would just be silly to give both our kids the same name as the cat!)

They mostly perform at *Harry Potter*, Filk and SciFi/Fantasy conventions along the east coast, but also do libraries, bars and private parties. Some of the bigger shows they've played include Portus, ConCarolinas, LeakyCon, Infinitus, MarsCon, Ohio Valley Filk Festival, GA-Filk, Dragon*Con, the Quidditch World Cup, the NYC Wizard Rock Festival, Wrockstock and LeakyCon London in 2013 (what a thrill!). Anybody want to bring them to Seattle? San Diego? LA? Germany perhaps?

When not out conquering the galaxy with her army of robotic wallabies, Kirsten creates steampunk/medieval/fantasy accessories for her online store, MyFunkyCamelot.etsy.com. And in order to protect his secret past as a renegade architect, Scott pretends to manage communications campaigns for clinical research studies at a small advertising/creative services agency (Merge, LLC). Their pal Chuck, who often plays bass with them, claims to be a mild-mannered government IT contracts coordinator, but we suspect he's really a super spy. blibberinghumdingers.com

Bill Blume

Bill Blume discovered his love for the written word while in high school and has been writing ever since. His latest book *Gidion's Blood* is now available from Diversion Books. His first novel, *Gidion's Hunt* was released in 2013. His short stories have been published in many fantasy anthologies and various ezines. Just like the father figure in his first novel, Bill works as a 911 dispatcher and has done so for more than 15 years. Prior to that, he worked as a television news producer and graduated from the University of South Carolina with a degree in Broadcast Journalism. To learn more about Bill and his writing, visit his website at: www.billblume.net

Samantha Bryant

Samantha Bryant is a middle school Spanish teacher by day and a mom and novelist by night. That makes her a superhero all the time. Her secret superpower is finding lost things. When she's not writing or teaching, Samantha enjoys time with her family, watching old movies, baking, reading, and going places. Her favorite gift is tickets (to just about anything).

She's the author of *Going Through the Change: A Menopausal Superhero Novel*, the sequel *Change of Life*, and the three-quel *Face the Change*, as well as several other short stories included in collections, all available through Curiosity Quills Press on Amazon or by request at your favorite bookseller. You can find her on Twitter @mirymom1 or at her blog/website: samanthabryant.com

Paul Cory

Paul Cory is a photographer based in Durham, North Carolina. You'll find fine art landscapes and nature, cosplay, portraits, and dancers, light movement artists and fire spinners in his portfolio.

<http://www.paulcory.com/>

Carol Cowles

Carol has long been a guardian of Geek Culture in Charlotte. She has served for several years as the Program Director for ConCarolinas and worked the Carolina and Arizona Renaissance Festivals for 13 years. She co-host two podcasts – the weekly Guardians of the Geekery and the bi-monthly Out of Our Skull. She also is known for her fabulous crafting and ferocious literary appetite. Her fandoms include all things Tolkien, *Doctor Who*, *The Walking Dead* and skulls – lots of skulls.

You can find her on the interwebs at www.purplehairedpixie.com

Wendy S. Delmater

Wendy S. Delmater is the long-time editor of *Abyss & Apex Magazine of Speculative Fiction*. Her recent publication credits include work in *The Singularity* magazine, *Illumen*, and *The Silver Blade*. Follow her on Twitter as @safewrite or on Goodreads.

Paul Dellinger

Paul Dellinger is a retired newspaper reporter who has written fiction on the side for decades, appearing in several SF magazines (some no longer with us, sadly) and more than a dozen anthologies. He has published a collection of his short stories and one short novel and collaborated on several others. He has moderated panels at a nostalgia convention and a western film convention in Roanoke, Va. He has written plays, and a 10-minute comedy-drama radio serial that ran for two years on a small station in Wytheville, Va. He wrote a musical comedy performed at a service club at West Point, and a play performed at Barter Theater, the State Theater of Virginia. He has made a study of the "real" and the "reel" west, history vs. movies.

Dimensional Riffs

Dimensional Riffs began as geeks cracking jokes and cranking out tunes. After a while, they realized they were pretty good at it. Jennifer, Chuck, Kat, Drew, and DJ take their favorite sci-fi genres (*Doctor Who*, *Firefly*, etc.) and a bunch of other stuff from 21st-century geekdom and make them into song. When they're not rocking out in cons, they're living, working, and laughing across southeastern Virginia – from Richmond to Suffolk.

<https://dimensional-riffs.bandcamp.com/releases>

Ecto 0.5

Cheralyn Lambeth will be bringing her version of the Ghostbusters "Ecto 1" car to ConGregarate. You will be able to find her show car out front of the hotel.

Geek Radio Daily

Since our 2008 debut, Geek Radio Daily has provided your daily dose of Geek every weekday with news from the Geeky world and more! Mondays highlight the weekend box office results, Tuesdays cover newly released DVDs, Wednesday is New Comic Book Day, Thursdays showcase Video Games, and



Fridays describe movies coming the theater for the upcoming weekend. You heard, right! Get your geeky news and fun on the way to work every day.

Every now and then we'll also hit ya with an episode of our long form show, called GRD's Weekly. We review movies, play games, interview celebrities, record and post convention panels, and create our own fun commentary tracks to movies of varying quality. And you'll never know what you'll find if you subscribe to our YouTube channel! Come to our live show at the con to be entertained and win prizes with our patent pending game show featuring a surprise guest!

Hosts Billy Flynn, Podcasting's Rich Sigfrid, Kever, Hawlsara and the Flynnstress deliver your daily dose of geek and entertainment with a side of "witty" humor. Check us out at [www.geekradiodaily.com\(ding!\)](http://www.geekradiodaily.com(ding!)) or YouTube, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter @geekradiodaily. Get your Geek on!

Attending ConGregarate from GRD are Billy Flynn, Kever and Hawlsara.

Jason Gilbert

Jason the author of The Rifle Chronicles series, The Clockworks of War series, and he also has stories in multiple anthologies. His stories are Alternate History with an Urban Fantasy and Horror element set in worlds of the supernatural, steam, and gears! You can check out his writing at www.jasonhgilbert.com! When he's not writing stories, he's watching crap cinema that would make your toes curl. Jason is the man behind Fail-Flix, a review site that tackles the best of the worst films with all the grace of a rabid water buffalo in an antique China shop. He also managed to collect a few favorites in his movie guide, *Bad Movie Beware!* Grab a few laughs at www.fail-flix.com! He's also Co-Host of the occasional Fail-Flix Facebook Live show "Beer and a Movie," where he and his partner Wes drink beer, watch movies, and review both! When he isn't doing either of those things, he's playing video games, reading, or contemplating what sort of mischief and shenanigans he can get into next!

Jason T. Graves

Jason is the publisher and chief editor at Prospective Press, a traditional publisher of genre fiction and select non-fiction titles, currently with twenty-five books in print and over thirty authors represented. The company now encompasses seven traditional imprints and two hybrid imprints for institutional/academic clients and individuals. He is an illustrator and the author of four novels, and was once punched—lightly—by Muhammad Ali. prospectivepress.com

Guardian Corp

Lord of the Rings, *Star Wars*, *The Princess Bride*, and many other movies have one thing in common — amazing fight scenes!

Guardian Corp is the Choreographed Stage Combat division of The Sword Conservatory, a NC nonprofit dedicated to teaching the various sword art forms. We teach the basics of both sword fighting and choreography, so that performers can look like the dashing hero or powerful villain.

Dr. Robert Hampson

Dr. Robert Hampson (aka. Tedd Roberts, aka. Speaker to Lab Animals) claims he was born to wonderful parents, grew up in Texas, attended university then went on to grad school. He is a Professor at a medical school where his research focuses on the drug and radiation effects on hippocampus and memory. He is also leads a team that is testing the first neural prosthetic device for memory restoration.

It has long been suspected that Dr. Hampson was genetically created in a growth vat and raised by hyper-intelligent rats to study and understand the human brain with an eye towards world domination. Since Robert Hampson is also known for his research on the brain, he has also been suspected to be one of the most likely causes of any future zombie apocalypse... whether it would be because of a lab "accident" or because his curiosity on its effectiveness is still hotly debated. In either (or both) cases it is suspected that he will provide expert commentary.

Robert Hampson is known for his eagerness to educate others: hosting educational Scotch tastings at conventions, consulting for numerous authors on matters pharmaceutical, biological, and neurological; and writing nonfiction essays (found at WWW.BAEN.COM - Free Library, Nonfiction 2012- 2016) on matters of science in science fiction. Hampson also educates through convention appearances, his previously mentioned essays and blog. Among all of these endeavors he has also mentored numerous young minds through his involvement with the Boy Scouts of America and by offering advice to up and coming researchers and grad students. He has recently started writing short fiction, YA novellas and SF novels. He is married, with two sons, competes in 5K races, studies and instructs Krav Maga & Pekiti Tiersia Kali, and plays trombone in a brass octet at his church.

John G. Hartness

John G. Hartness is a teller of tales, a righter of wrong, defender of ladies' virtues, and some people call him Maurice, for he speaks of the pompatus of love. He is also the award-winning author of the urban fantasy series *The Black Knight Chronicles* (Bell Bridge Books), the *Bubba the Monster Hunter* comedic horror series, the *Quincy Harker*, *Demon Hunter* dark fantasy series, and many other projects.

In 2016, John teamed up with a pair of other publishing industry ne'er-do-wells and founded Falstaff Books, a small press dedicated to publishing the best of genre fictions "misfit toys."

In his copious free time John enjoys long walks on the beach, rescuing kittens from trees and playing *Magic: the Gathering*.

For samples of John's ridiculous sense of humor, check out these free ebooks -<http://bit.ly/1U8eASF>

Simon Hawke

2017 Phoenix Award Winner

Simon Hawke was born Nikolai Yermakov to Russian immigrant parents in 1951 in New York City. He grew up on Long Island and has also lived in Pennsylvania, Washington, D.C., California, Colorado, and Arizona. He has traveled extensively, usually by motorcycle, and after 50 years of riding, only gave it up last year. After writing a number of novels under his birth name, he started writing under the pen name of Simon Hawke, and eventually changed it legally. He is the author of over 60 published novels, among them the *Time Wars* series and the *Wizard of 4th Street* series. He received his B.A. in Communications from Hofstra University and his M.A. in English and History from Western New Mexico University. The rest of his education he received from the school of hard knocks.

In addition to writing, he has worked a wide variety of jobs, some interesting and some not, and for the past 17 years has been employed by Home Depot. He is married to Deborah Brien and makes his home in Greensboro, N.C. An avid fitness enthusiast, he enjoys weight lifting, walking, yoga, and kayaking.

Dr. Daniel Herr

Dr. Herr serves as professor and Nanoscience department chair at The Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering (JSNN) of North Carolina A&T State University and The University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He leads a highly collaborative and transdisciplinary team that explores and addresses emerging and convergent nanoscale research opportunities, with a focus on functional nanomaterials, nanobioelectronics, computational nanotechnology, nanobiology/medicine, nanometrology, functional self-assembled nanomaterials and biomimetic

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systems. Dr. Herr also is passionate about communicating the joy of science and STEAM opportunities to the community and to the next generations of scientists, engineers, and other creative people. His current research interests include useful sustainable and nanoenhanced agriculture, self-assembled and biomimetic nanosystems, nanobioelectronics, composite nanomaterials, and nanoenergy.

Tom Hutchens

Tom Hutchens is the founder/CEO of the Mandalorian Mercs Costume Club. He is the Mandalorian armorsmith; combining ancient techniques with today's technology to create hyper-realistic Mandalorian armor costumes.

Stuart Jaffe

Stuart Jaffe is the madman behind the Nathan K thrillers, The Max Porter Paranormal Mysteries, the Parallel Society novels, The Malja Chronicles, *The Bluesman*, *Founders*, *Real Magic*, and much more. He trained in martial arts for over a decade until a knee injury ended that practice. Now, he plays lead guitar in a local blues band, The Bootleggers, and enjoys life on a small farm in rural North Carolina. For those who continue to keep count, the animal list is as follows: one dog, two cats, three aquatic turtles, nine chickens, and a horse. As best as he's been able to manage, Stuart has made sure that the chickens and the horse do not live in the house.

For more information about Stuart and his books, please visit / www.stuartjaffe.com/

Nickie Jamison

Nickie Jamison wrote her first full-length novel at age 10 – that creative endeavor sparked her desire to begin a writing career. Her stories dabble in and blend many different genres; science fiction, fantasy, romance, erotica, poetry, horror... whatever captures her fancy. Ms. Jamison's adult fiction has been published in several anthologies over the years and her contemporary queer romances are available through JMS Books. When not writing, Nickie enjoys knitting, drinking copious amounts of wine, binge-watching BBC's *Sherlock*, and talking about beauty products and makeup on her YouTube channel.

She lives in Hampton Roads with her darling husband, step-teenager-thing, and two furbabies; #thecatwecalljayne and #KAYLEEsmaIfRYE. You can find out more about Nickie on her website www.oopswrongcookie.com or follow her on most social media as @oopswrongcookie

Paula S. Jordan

Paula S. Jordan, former NASA orbit analyst and author of several *Analog* stories, is now finalizing her first novel: a present-day alien contact story, joining a small-town group of friends with an ancient alien-watch network to defend both humans and

friendly aliens against an anti-human faction of the alien species.

After degrees in history and drama and several years as a freelance writer, Paula earned a BS in physics and supported 30+ unmanned science missions as an orbit analyst for NASA and NOAA. She remembers most fondly the Clementine mission that first detected water on the moon.

She invites you to visit her web site at <http://PaulaSJordan.com> and at her Facebook page at: <https://www.Facebook.com/PaulaSJordan/>.

You can also find her on Twitter: @PaulaSJwriter.

Chris Kennedy

A bestselling Science Fiction/Fantasy author, speaker, and small-press publisher, Chris Kennedy is a former naval aviator and elementary school principal. Chris' stories include the Occupied Seattle military fiction duology, The Theogony and Codex Regius science fiction trilogies, and the War for Dominance fantasy trilogy. Get his free book, *The Death of Atlantis*, at his website, chriskennedypublishing.com.

Called "fantastic" and "a great speaker," he has coached hundreds of beginning authors and budding novelists on how to self-publish their stories at a variety of conferences, conventions and writing guild presentations. He is the author of the award-winning #1 bestseller, *Self-Publishing for Profit: How to Get Your Book Out of Your Head and Into the Stores*, as well as the leadership training book, *Leadership from the Darkside*.

Chris lives in Virginia Beach, Virginia, with his wife and family. He is currently working with the Navy to help shape Navy training processes for the year 2025. He is the holder of a doctorate in educational leadership and master's degrees in both business and public administration.

Follow Chris on Facebook at: /chriskennedypublishing.biz and on Twitter at @ChrisKennedy110

Darin Kennedy

Darin Kennedy, born and raised in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, is a graduate of Wake Forest University and Bowman Gray School of Medicine. After completing family medicine residency in the mountains of Virginia, he served eight years as a United States Army physician and wrote his first novel in the sands of northern Iraq.

His debut novel, *The Mussorgsky Riddle*, was born from a fusion of two of his lifelong loves: classical music and world mythology. *The Stravinsky Intrigue* continues those same themes, and his Fugue & Fable series will culminate in *The Tchaikovsky Finale*, all from Curiosity Quills Press. The first novel in his The Pawn Stratagem contemporary fantasy series, *Pawn's Gambit*, is available from Falstaff Books. His short stories can be found in numerous anthologies and magazines, and the best, particularly those about a certain Necromancer for Hire, are collected

for your reading pleasure under Darin's imprint, 64Square Publishing.

Doctor by day and novelist by night, he writes and practices medicine in Charlotte, NC. When not engaged in either of the above activities, he's been known to strum the guitar, enjoy a bite of sushi, and rumor has it he even sleeps on occasion. Find him online at darinkennedy.com.

Nicole Givens Kurtz

Nicole Givens Kurtz is the published author of the futuristic thriller series, *Cybil Lewis*. Her novels have been named as finalists in the Fresh Voices in Science Fiction, EPPIE in Science Fiction, and Dream Realm Awards in science fiction. Nicole's short stories have earned an Honorable Mention in L. Ron Hubbard's Writers of the Future contest, and have appeared in professional and semi-pro publications.

nicolegivenskurtz.com

mochamemoirspress.com

Cheralyn Lambeth

Cheralyn Lambeth is a professional costume, prop, and puppet builder whose work includes feature films (*The Muppet Christmas Carol*, *The Patriot*, *Evan Almighty*, *Leatherheads*, *The Hunger Games*), TV programs (*Dinosaurs*, *Homeland*, *Outcast*), and theater/interactive properties (*Sesame Street Live!*, *Star Trek: The Experience*, *Avenue Q*, *Sir Purr* for the Carolina Panthers). On the fan side of things, she is proud to be a long-time active member of the 501st Legion, serving as Legion Historian/Archivist, and is founder and Captain of the Southern Belle Ghostbusters, a *Ghostbusters* fan/cosplay team. In addition, she is an active paranormal researcher and author, working with the Charlotte (NC) Area Paranormal Society as an investigator. Her books include *Haunted Theaters of the Carolinas*, *The Well-Dressed Puppet*, and *Creating the Character Costume*, published in December 2016.

Steven S. Long

Steven S. Long is a writer and game designer who's worked primarily in the tabletop roleplaying game field for the past twenty years. During that time he's written or co-written approximately 200 RPG books. He's best known for his work with *Champions* and the HERO System, but has worked for many other RPG companies. In recent years he's branched out into writing fiction as well, contributing Fantasy short stories to numerous anthologies. He frequently claims that he's revising his novel, but this may be an elaborate scam of some sort. His first major work of non-fiction, a book about the Norse god Odin for Osprey Publishing, was released in May 2015. Since then he's primarily focused on several long-term projects, including a novel, various short stories, his *Worldbuilding Guidebook*, and *Mythic Hero*, an extensive book about world mythology for authors and gamers. His Master Plan for World Domination has

reached Stage 71-Upsilon. You can find out more about Steve and what he's up to at www.stevenslong.com.

Melissa McArthur

Melissa McArthur is the founder and president of Clicking Keys Writer Services, a full-service editing, cover design, and layout company based in the upstate of South Carolina. She also serves as an Acquiring Editor for Falstaff Books, and is an accomplished editor and proofreader.

Her urban fantasy series, *Guardians of Eternity*, will be published by Falstaff Books beginning in 2018.

A graduate of Winthrop University, Melissa has published short stories with Mocha Memoirs Press, Falstaff Books, and other quality small presses throughout the Southeast.

Melissa can be found hiding in the deep corners of the library or at home with her laptop and cat. For those of you out in cyberspace, she can also be found at any of the following cyber places:

Web: www.clickingkeys.com or Web: www.melissamcarthur.net

Facebook: www.facebook.com/melissamcarthurwrites

Twitter: www.twitter.com/mcarthur_me

Goodreads: www.goodreads.com/melissamcarthurwrites

Jennifer McCollom

Professional make-up artist, Jennifer McCollom has worked on feature films and television shows. Her film credits include *The Hunger Games*, *Taking Liberty*, *The Conjuring*, *Leatherheads*, *Talladega Nights*, *The Box*, the Oscar nominated *June Bug*, *MAX*, *The Disappointment Room*, *Masterminds* and *The Reliant*. Her TV work includes *Army Wives*, the Emmy Award-winning HBO miniseries *John Adams*, *Homeland* for Showtime, Spike TV's *Bar Rescue*, CBS's *Reckless*, as well as Cinemax's *Banshee*. She has also lent her experience to several independent films including cult favorites *Dead Inn* and *Last Lives*, as well as *A Long Way Off*, *Tarnished Notes*, and *Unbridled*.

When not on set, Jennifer teaches Film and Special Effects at local community colleges, as well as creating unique special effects pieces and costumes for fandom, including *Doctor Who*, *Star Trek* and *Steampunk*.

Jennifer was born in Wilmington, NC; and lived in Pennsylvania and Florida before settling down in Randleman, NC with her husband and cats. She holds a BA in Theatre and Physics from UNCG, is a licensed cosmetologist and I.A.T.S.E. Local 798 Journeyman.

She believes you should never stop learning!

Mark MacDicken

A professional entertainer for four decades, Mark MacDicken performs comedy magic as the eccentric wizard “Flabbergast.” Mark is also an accomplished actor, puppeteer, and balloon sculptor. Formerly known as Spiffy the Clown, he has performed at literally hundreds of family celebrations, as well as theme parks, fairs and festivals, company picnics, summer recreation programs, mall events, and on local television. In recent years, “Flabbergast” has embraced the Mid-Atlantic region fan convention scene, performing at Awesome Con DC, Balticon, MystiCon, Geek Mob, Farpoint, Shore Leave, ConGregarate, MarsCon, and adding more appearances all the time! The Wizard and his puppet friends are quickly becoming staples of local Renaissance Faires around Virginia and North Carolina.

When he's not dressing up in costumes and playing with his toys, Mark is an elementary school special education teacher. He holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Drama from the University of Southern California, and a Master of Education degree in Special Education from George Mason University. Mark lives in Northern Virginia with his wife April.

www.facebook.com/FlabbergastWiz

www.gigsalad.com/flabbergast_wizard_centreville

Margaret S. McGraw

Margaret S. McGraw is co-editor, with Misty Massey and Emily Leverett, of two anthologies of short stories about the wildest West that never was: *Weird Wild West* (eSpec Books, 2015) and *Lawless Lands: Tales from the Weird Frontier* (Falstaff Books, 2017). Her story “Rainmaker” appears in *Lawless Lands*, and she is currently working on a benefit anthology in memory of Melanie Griffin (Roaring Writers Press, 2018). Margaret writes fantasy and science fiction; blogs about prompt-writing, con reviews, and book reviews at WritersSpark.com; blogs about the journey of writing and publishing at TheMillionWords.net; and edits fiction, academic, and technical writing. Her imagination draws on her lifelong love of science fiction, fantasy, anthropology, and natural history, as well as her fascination with fiber crafts, photography, and travel. Margaret lives in North Carolina with her daughter, an array of dogs, cats, Macs and PCs, and too many unfinished craft projects. Friend Margaret on Facebook or Goodreads at “Margaret S. McGraw”, or follow her on Twitter@MargaretSMcGraw.

Gail Z. Martin

Gail Z. Martin is the author of *Vendetta: A Deadly Curiosities Novel* in her urban fantasy series set in Charleston, SC (Solaris Books); *Shadow and Flame* the fourth and final book in the Ascendant Kingdoms Saga (Orbit Books); *The Shadowed Path* (Solaris Books) and *Iron and Blood* a new Steampunk series (Solaris Books) co-authored with Larry N. Martin. A brand new epic fantasy series will launch in 2017 from Solaris Books.

She is also author of *Ice Forged*, *Reign of Ash* and *War of Shadows* in The Ascendant Kingdoms Saga, The Chronicles of The Necromancer series (*The Summoner*, *The Blood King*, *Dark Haven*, *Dark Lady's Chosen*); The Fallen Kings Cycle (*The Sworn*, *The Dread*) and the urban fantasy novel *Deadly Curiosities*. Gail writes three ebook series: The Jonmarc Vahanian Adventures, The Deadly Curiosities Adventures and The Blaine McFadden Adventures. The Storm and Fury Adventures, steampunk stories set in the Iron & Blood world, are co-authored with Larry N. Martin.

Her work has appeared in over 30 US/UK anthologies. Newest anthologies include: *The Big Bad 2*, *Athena's Daughters*, *Heroes, Space, Contact Light*, *With Great Power*, *The Weird Wild West*, *The Side of Good/The Side of Evil*, *Alien Artifacts*, *Cinched: Imagination Unbound*, *Realms of Imagination*, *Clockwork Universe: Steampunk vs. Aliens*, *Gaslight and Grimm*, and *The Baker Street Irregulars*.

Find her at www.AscendantKingdoms.com, on Twitter @GailZMartin, on Facebook at /WinterKingdoms, at DisquietingVisions.com blog and GhostInTheMachinePodcast.com, on Goodreads <https://www.goodreads.com/GailZMartin> and free excerpts on Wattpad <http://wattpad.com/GailZMartin>.

Larry Martin

Larry N. Martin is the co-author of the new Steampunk series *Iron and Blood: The Jake Desmet Adventures* and a series of short stories and novellas: The Storm & Fury Adventures set in the Jake Desmet universe. These short stories also appear in the anthologies *Clockwork Universe: Steampunk vs. Aliens*, *The Weird Wild West*, *The Side of Good/The Side of Evil*, *Alien Artifacts*, and *Gaslight and Grimm* with more to come. Larry and Gail also have co-authored science fiction short stories in the Space, Robots and Contact Light anthologies.

Misty Massey

Misty Massey is the author of *Mad Kestrel*, a rollicking adventure of magic on the high seas (Tor), *Kestrel's Voyages*, a collection of short stories featuring those rambunctious pirates (Amazon) and the upcoming *Kestrel's Dance* (Lore Seekers Press). She is a co-editor of *The Weird Wild West* (Espec) and *Lawless Lands* (Falstaff Books), and a founding member of Magical Words, the well-known blog for and about writers (magicalwords.net). When she's not writing, Misty studies Middle Eastern Dance and performs at regional events as the opportunity arises. You can keep up with what Misty's doing at mistymassey.com, Facebook and Twitter.

Gary Mitchel

Gary Mitchel is a writer, reviewer, geek blogger, gamer, sf/fantasy fan, comics reader, podcaster and International Man of Mystery (who's too dangerous for the entire country of Canada) currently living near Atlanta.

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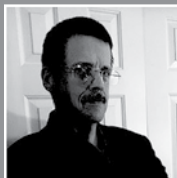
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He is co-host, with Deanna Toxopeus, of the Parsec Award nominated RevolutionSF RevCast, the site's weekly geek culture discussion; a part of the ESO Podcast network. He is also host and producer of the RevNews podcast, which looks at various topical nerd-related events. Gary has also appeared on Shauncastic, Needless Things, The Batcave Podcast, The Chronic Rift, Storm of Words, Good to be a Geek, The White Rocket Podcast, The ESO Podcast, and TheSaturday B Movie Reel podcasts. He can be found on the Facebook and followed on the Twitter as @Gary_Mitchel (and yes, Star Trek fans, it's his real name).

Gary is the Co-Director, with Joe Crowe, of the American Sci-Fi Classics Track at DragonCon. There, he has discussed Sci-Fi TV, zombies, movies, zombies, cartoons, comics and zombies. Some attendees have stated that he is "hilarious," and Gary swears that said people are not related to him.

Michael D. Pederson

2017 Rebel Award Winner

Michael D. Pederson is the publisher/editor/graphic designer responsible for *Nth Degree*. Mike began his career as a writer/publisher in 1988 when his SF short story, "Dust Storm," won first place in a local writing contest. In the 1990s, he wrote and published the Raven comic book series (with artist R. Craig Enslin) and edited and published Scene, a Virginia-based entertainment magazine.

In 2001, Mike was part of the "Best in Class – Master Division" winning presentation (Pre-Emptive Strike) at the Millennium Philcon Masquerade. Two months later he started *Nth Degree*. In 2007, he wrote a chapter on "Writing for Magazines" for Dragon Moon Press' *Writing Fantasy: The Author's Grimoire*.

In addition to *Nth Degree*, in 2006 Mike (along with Tee Morris and Tony Ruggiero) came up with the crazy idea of hosting a science-fiction convention in Richmond, Virginia. After its tenth year, RavenCon moved to Williamsburg and Mike is still the con chair. Other than RavenCon, Mike has also run programming for Trinoc*con, been Fan Guest of Honor for ConCarolinas and Mysticon, co-chaired a successful NASFiC bid (with Warren Buff), and served as Master of Ceremonies for MarsCon. Between *Nth Degree* and his many convention appearances, Mike has become the East Coast's go-to guy for interviews. He's interviewed guests for Balticon, ConCarolinas, ConGregarate, MarsCon, Mysticon, RavenCon, and StellarCon. In the last few years Mike has interviewed a wide range of writers, gamers, artists, and actors.

In 2017, Mike was honored with the Rebel Award for his contributions to Southern Fandom.

Yes, Mike is an insanely busy person; if you see him at a convention please feed him lots of caffeine and/or beer.

When not engaged in geekish pursuits, Mike is an under-employed graphic designer and lives in Richmond, Virginia.

www.ravencon.com

Erin Penn

Working in the publishing industry since 2013 (currently with Falstaff Books), Erin Penn lives to nerd, whether as a bookkeeper, website guru, fact checker, or acquisition editor. Her interests range widely from hard science to soft science, history to future, numbers to grammar. Like the Borg, she wants to assimilate it all and is impatiently awaiting the Singularity for direct download capability.

Matthew Penick

Matthew Penick is a professional costumer and fitness enthusiast, as well as the owner of costume and prop company Ribbons and Rivets, which he founded in 2009. A self-taught leatherworker, he made his first suit of armor in college out of scraps and remnants from the local Tandy. In fact, that very first suit of armor is still in action (having received numerous upgrades) and is now the award-winning Nightwalker armor set, which can be seen in several short films, a documentary in progress, and a feature length movie, *The Gamers 3: Hands of Fate*. Although it was created primarily as a leatherworking business, Ribbons and Rivets has since incorporated a variety of materials to bring designs and characters to life and is known for attention to detail and screen accuracy. Matthew enjoys doing workshops and demos on leather work and patterning, and is always happy to talk shop with fellow costumers.

facebook.com/ZealousCosplay

Maya Preisler

Maya Preisler is a professional artist, blogger, editor, and gamer with twenty-four years of convention experience. She is a published illustrator whose art has been featured at various art shows and conventions. Her poetry and writing have been published in various literary magazines and her website received international attention in the early 2000s. As a gamer, Maya was one of only two women ever inducted into a local gaming clan (the other being her sister) and spent ten years as an administrator and tech for LAN gaming at conventions. She is a professional game demonstrator for No Ordinary Gamers and an MIB for Steve Jackson Games. Maya has a BFA from UNC Charlotte and currently works several freelance jobs as an artist, illustrator, and designer and volunteers as a staffer at multiple conventions. You can find her online at www.mayarenee.com, facebook.com/artofmayarenee, and twitter.com/mayapreisler.

Peter Prellwitz

Peter Prellwitz has been writing stories, plays and skits since the fifth grade. As a child and young adult, Peter saw limited publication of one play and two series of children's puppet skits, just enough to hook him for life. Presently, Peter has a total of ten novels published in trade paperback and ebook, all by Double Dragon Publishing, with more than a half-dozen anthologies published/distributed by eSpec Publishing. His novel

Horizons was selected by Mike Resnick as Best Science Fiction and awarded that publisher's 2003 Draco Award. Four of his short stories appear in the anthology, *Twisted Tails*, which won the 2006 Dream Realms. Five of his novels have been finalists in the Epic Awards over the past few years. He continues writing novels and short stories. Seven more short stories have appeared in the award-winning *Defending the Future; the Bad-Ass Faeries; Beyond the Cradle*; and the *Twisted Tails* anthologies. In addition to his just released novel, *Redeeming the Plumb*, Peter has also been working with Mars' best-selling author, H.K. Devonshire, to bring Devonshire's first Martian Western novella, *Company A: Origin of the Martian Rangers*, to Earth for a first-time release. Together with more than two dozen short stories located on his site, Peter's novels weave a tapestry of mankind's exploration and settling of the galaxy over the next two and half millennia in his ongoing Shards Universe.

A native Arizonan, Peter has also lived in Wisconsin, California, Hawaii, New York, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania, where he now lives with his wife, Bethlynne. In addition to writing, Peter enjoys history, backpacking, and languages.

<http://ShardsUniverse.net>

Daphne Reeder

Daphne Reeder has been a creative force from a very young age. Beginning at the age of 5, she's been on television programs on WTVI, in plays & stage performances, and modeled, both in front of a camera and on the runway. She has always enjoyed the freedom of dressing up, and became an accomplished cosplayer by the time she was 17. Since then, she has added to her arsenal of outfits to cross multiple genres, though her passions are sci-fi/fantasy and horror. She has modeled for multiple events and has been on posters and flyers around the Charlotte and Atlanta areas.

Ms. Reeder is not only a cosplayer and model, but she's also a talented actress, and has graced the screens of many a film festival. The mind behind Drache Media Films, an independent film company that focuses on the sci-fi and horror genres, Ms. Reeder has several projects in the works, on which she will be teaming with 13th Floor EFX.

Gray Rinehart

Gray Rinehart is the only person to have commanded an Air Force tracking station, written speeches for Presidential appointees, had music on "The Dr. Demento Show," and been nominated for a literary award.

Gray is a Contributing Editor (the "Slushmaster General") for Baen Books, and his fiction has appeared in *Analog Science Fiction & Fact*, *Asimov's Science Fiction*, *Orson Scott Card's Intergalactic Medicine Show*, and elsewhere. He is also a singer/songwriter with two CDs of mostly science-fiction-and-fantasy-inspired songs: 2013's *Truths and Lies and Make-Believe* and 2015's *Distorted Vision*. His story, "Ashes to Ashes, Dust to Dust,

Earth to Alluvium," was a finalist for the 2015 Hugo Award for Best Novelette.

Gray fought rocket propellant fires, refurbished space launch facilities, commanded the Air Force's largest satellite tracking station, and did other interesting things during his rather odd US Air Force career. Gray's alter ego is the Gray Man, one of several famed ghosts of South Carolina's Grand Strand, and his web site is <http://graymanwrites.com>.

Madison "Metricula" Roberts

Madison "Metricula" Roberts (she/her) is a singer-songwriter, clown, and entertainer from Raleigh, NC. Since she doesn't sleep, Metricula divides her time between several different musical and nerdy projects.

First and foremost, you can cozy up with her at the Nerd Music Campfire and relive the summer camp nights of your youth with sing-a-longs and smores, but nerdier! You can stream tunes from her debut EP, *Songs for Gamers* for free online or pick them up via Bandcamp. While much of her original music is for all ages, in the evenings she sometimes transforms in Dark Metricula, the grinning ringleader of the Safe Sane Consensual Clown Posse--picture a birthday clown for your 18-and-up little ones!

Metricula is also a co-host of the All in the Reflexes geek culture podcast as well as a founder of the Social Justice Bards, a group of livestreaming musicians and artists on Twitch. You can catch her live (for free!) online doing music or hosting Nasty Woman Knitting Circle, where she knits... adult novelty items.

In her muggle life, Metricula is a scientist, DIY enthusiast, and avid coffee-drinker. She lives in Raleigh with her spouse, Richard, her beloved cockatiel Icarus, and a cat that loves Richard WAAAAAAYYY more than her but she's totally not mad or jealous or anything.

Follow here online basically everywhere as @metricula or find her hub at metricula.com.

J. Matthew Saunders

J. Matthew Saunders, a native of Greenville, South Carolina, is the author of numerous published fantasy and horror short stories, including the Daughters of Shadow and Blood Trilogy about the Brides of Dracula. He received a B.A. in history from Vanderbilt University and a master's degree from the School of Journalism at the University of South Carolina. He received his law degree in California and practiced there as an attorney for several years.

He is an unapologetic European history geek, enjoys the Celtic fiddle, and makes a mean sun-dried tomato-basil pesto. He currently lives near Charlotte, North Carolina with his wife and two children. To find out more, visit www.jmsaunders.com.

Rich Sigfrit

To say that I enjoy podcasting and new media would be a gross understatement. My credits include mentions in high school and collegiate papers, newspapers, *Podcasting for Dummies*, and *Advanced Podcasting Tricks*. I have been called an innovator, having created the first fandom podcast (RotO), the first podcast for an Independent Wrestling Federation (Halo: Hardwired), and distributed the first comic book made available via podcast feed (Podcast 9). I was the force behind the official Troma Podcast and a former host/editor of the 501stCast, the official podcast of the 501st Stormtrooper Legion. I produced the long running Amazing Pulp Adventures Radio Show starring Mister Adventure, serving as writer and primary voice actor for recorded and live stage versions. I served as the Technical Editor for the most recent (3rd) edition of *Podcasting for Dummies*. Currently, I am co-host on the long running Geek Radio Daily podcast.

I'm a Whovian, *Star Wars* fan, and am known to watch the occasional episode of the Handsome Brothers Ghostbusting Power Hour known as *Supernatural*. You've probably seen me at a con as the Master of Ceremonies or on a panel about podcasting (I starting podcasting in '03, for Pete's sake!). You may have seen my alter ego, Richie Muenster on a burlesque stage as an emcee for Creativity Out Of Context (an art collective which he co-founded with Sarah Jynnx), The Succubus Sorority, The Riot Kittens and formerly of Nerd-Vana and Vaudevillain Revue (I keep my clothes on, I've read the petition). I am the current reigning 3rd place champion of SparkCon's Pun Tournament, like long walks on the beach and my turn-ons are metal bikinis, goth girls and Nathan Fillion.

Joey Starnes

Joey Starnes (aka the Giddy Geeker) founded the Charlotte Geeks in 2008, and started their annual charity event, The Geek Gala, in 2009. The gala benefits the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption in memory of her little sister, Christina who passed away in 2005. In 2014, she launched the Guardians of the Geekery podcast with her co-stars Matt Starneslord, Carol the Cat, and Tiffles Tennebaum. Joey is eager to point out that she does not claim to be an expert on all geekeries – she's just happy to help organize it!

Her main geekdoms include *Doctor Who*, *Star Wars*, all things Marvel, DC TV shows, board games, and occasionally playing the MMORPG Rift. She's mostly prepared for a Zombie Apocalypse, but is always willing to give new technologies a consideration for her war chest. You can find her in all the places by starting at www.charlottegeeks.com.

David Weber

David Mark Weber is an American science fiction and fantasy author. He was born in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1952. He started writing poetry and short fiction in the fifth grade, and a lifetime of reading, writing, and studying has given him a love of storytelling that clearly shows in his work. In his stories, he

creates a consistent and rationally explained technology and society. Even when dealing with fantasy themes, the magical powers are treated like another technology with supporting rational laws and principles.

Many of his stories have military, and particularly naval, themes, and fit into the military science fiction genre. He challenges current gender roles in the military by assuming that a gender-neutral military service will exist in his futures. By frequently placing female leading characters in what have previously been seen as traditionally male roles, he has explored the challenges faced by women in the military and politics.

His most popular and enduring character is Honor Harrington, whose story, together with the "Honorverse" she inhabits, has been developed through nineteen novels, six shared-universe anthologies, a three book young-adult series, and "Honorverse historical" Manticore Ascendant series, written with Timothy Zahn and Tom Pope. To date, David currently has seventy two book titles and twenty one separate series that he has written or co-written.

David lives in Greenville, SC with his wife Sharon, their three children, three dogs and four cats.

You can keep up with David's busy schedule by following his Facebook page, davidweber.net and on Twitter.

Michael G. Williams

Michael G. Williams writes wry horror: stories of monsters, macabre humor, and subverted expectations. He is the author of two series for Falstaff Books: The Withrow Chronicles, including *Perishables* (2012 Laine Cunningham Award), *Tooth & Nail*, *Deal with the Devil*, *Attempted Immortality*, and *Nobody Gets Out Alive*; a new series in The Shadow Council Archives featuring one of San Francisco's most beloved figures, *SERVANT/SOVEREIGN*; and the upcoming science fiction mystery *A Fall in Autumn*. Michael also writes short stories and contributes to tabletop RPG development. Michael strives to present the humor and humanity at the heart of horror.

Michael is also an avid podcaster, activist, reader, runner, cyclist, and gaymer, and is a brother in St. Anthony Hall and Mu Beta Psi. He lives in Durham, NC, with his partner, two cats, two dogs, and more and better friends than he probably deserves.

White Plectrum (Keith Brinegar)

In all the years I've been performing as White Plectrum, one thing has remained constant: the support of all those who have listened, sung along, and helped spread the music. I couldn't continue to do this without your support.

When White Plectrum began, I had no idea it would go this long. Bill Mullis and I wrote and performed songs together, then began to perform songs others – James, Erik, Raymond - had helped us write or had written for us. The first WP songbook,

"Filks For Our Times", was done by Bill on his computer. We made cassettes and sold them at the conventions to the few who requested them. It was pizza and gas money, but to us, it was a labor of love. We both loved doing the music and doing the shows. Bill got married and moved to South Carolina. When he moved, I asked if he was ok with me keeping the name we'd come up with together. His one caveat was "don't embarrass me". I hope I've done you proud, old friend. I'd really love to do one more show with you. Maybe someday ...

I moved to Roanoke. That's where my solo "career" as White Plectrum began. I started working with new people – Jerry, Michael, Rhaps, Shrewlet, and whoever else showed up - writing and coming up with new ideas. We'd all get together at my place for pizza, or just to hang out. Sooner or later, someone would toss out an idea, the guitar would come out, and a new filk would be born. Other times, it would be just myself and Jerry; I'd throw an idea I had been struggling with in his direction, only to hear him respond "damn you, go make tea". When I'd return, the song would be fleshed out and ready to go. (Then there was Iron Filk. I'm still hoping someone will find a copy of that again, just so I can see it one more time.)

There were the filk-writing workshops at conventions, better known as "Filking 101". The Filk Collectives arising from those at YeagerCon, Rising Star, Technicon, Patriot Games, and other cons produced songs that became favorites. There were even late night sessions at Technicon. Filking 401, we'd call them, when we would take over a corner of the hotel bar at the end of the evening, just to relax and unwind. Just like hanging out at my place, though, the ideas would start to flow, and another filk (or two) would be born. I can still recall the filk circle at Marscon, when someone dared Michael O'Brien to come up with something new on the spot. He accepted the challenge, opened a 60s songbook someone had with them, and by the time the circle came back around to us, "Red Pill" had been written and was performed.

Nowadays, Michael Kazalski, formerly of Coyote Run, has joined me on the bass. Michael loves the music just as much as I do. He's even co-written a new filk to a song that has been haunting me for a filk for the last several years. He even did it on his way home from Marscon in about 30 minutes. (Bill and I had tried to work that one out for a long time, but just couldn't get it right.) It has been performed live only once, but I guarantee it will be done again. To find out which one, you'll just have to come to the show. Either way, Michael adds something to the show that has been missing for a long time. We've clicked, just like Bill and I did. I'm thankful he's joined me on stage whenever he can.

I've still got a great crew, although the names and faces have changed. Isaac, David, Andy, Heather and John – you guys rock! I couldn't do it without you.

Come out and give a listen. I may even have music to sell, if you want. Either way, I hope you enjoy the show. I promise I'll do my best. Who knows, I might even get you to sing along!

Joshua and Jessica Wright

Joshua and Jessica Wright's costuming adventures started off as something fun to do at a convention, but it quickly grew into something a lot more. Josh has always loved costuming but before the 501st, he was always more into the renaissance era. For Jessica, it started out as a way to dress up at conventions, but quickly turned into a way to connect with fans and most importantly kids- Jessica loves seeing their smiles.

Josh and Jessica's costumes range from *Star Wars* to Renaissance. Both have always been a huge fan of the medieval style, knights and armor, lords and ladies. And for both, costuming from *Star Wars* has become a passion. The characters, the colors, the actions. Josh has a Darth Nihilus and Sandtrooper, while Jessica is frequently a Sith Twi'lek or Imperial officer.

Their favorite thing about costuming is the reactions from the fans, seeing and hearing what they have to say when seeing their childhood jump off the screen. Or seeing some of their favorite characters come to life.

Allen Wold

Allen Wold was born in south-western Michigan, where he began writing when he was about eight years old. He still has some of those early "stories" somewhere.

He finished high school in Tucson, Arizona, and graduated from Pomona College, in Claremont, California, where he later met his wife, Diane. They married in 1972, and moved to North Carolina, where he began his career as a full time writer. In 1986, he became a full time father, and gave up writing for about three years. In 2003, he became a full time writer again, when Darcy went off to college, also at Pomona.

He has published nine novels (six of which have been re-issued by ReAnimus Press), several short stories (mostly for the Elf Quest anthologies), five non-fiction books on computers, and a number of articles, columns, reviews, and so forth, also concerning computers. He stopped doing that a long time ago.

Under his own imprint, Ogden House, he has published *Stroad's Cross; Sturgis; Dead Hand*; his collected stories for *Blood of Ten Chiefs, Freefoot; A Closet for a Dragon and Other Early Tales*; and *Cat Tales, Reminiscences*.

Currently, Allen is working on a pseudo-Lovecraftian novel; a space-opera in six parts; a pseudo-steampunk faerie story, and other projects in hand. The first volume of his epic-heroic fantasy, *The Black Ring: Zhanai'degau*, has been accepted by

GUESTS OF THE CONVENTION

Double Dragon, and should be out late next year. The other five volumes should follow.

Allen has been running his version of a writers' workshop at various conventions for more than thirty years, and has had some success, since several people have not only finished but sold stories they started in the workshop, and a couple have even won awards. He also runs a plotting workshop, an interactive lecture, which is a lot of fun, and which people have found helpful.

Allen is a member of SFWA

Darcy Wold

Darcy Wold is a part-time artist, an inveterate editor, and an even more inveterate reader. In her day job, she works for CDISC (a standards development organization specializing in clinical data interchange) as a publishing editor and a technical metadata curator. Both roles involve finding creative ways to make things

both pretty and meaningful at the same time, without either the prettiness or the meaning getting in the way of the other. Any remaining creativity goes into her art, which is currently mostly digital, and frequently fractal-based. Her published art includes some book covers and the occasional animated web ad.

Darcy was raised by a statistician and a science fiction writer in an ex-blue-collar-tobacco town, except for three years spent in west London, England. For two of those three years, she attended a theatre arts vocational school, but was unable to continue her training on the other side of the pond, and eventually majored in Asian and religious studies at a small liberal arts college in southern California. She has taken classes in a variety of partner and modern dances, and has tried to learn a couple different instruments, though without much success. She sings mezzo in a womens' chorus, identifies roughly as pratyeka-buddhist, is sometimes quite sarcastic, and aggressively scribbles out or deletes extraneous apostrophes at every opportunity.

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May 31-June 2

Charlotte, NC

Hilton Charlotte University Place

Tory Belleci
Science GOH

Kelly Lockhart
Master of Ceremonies

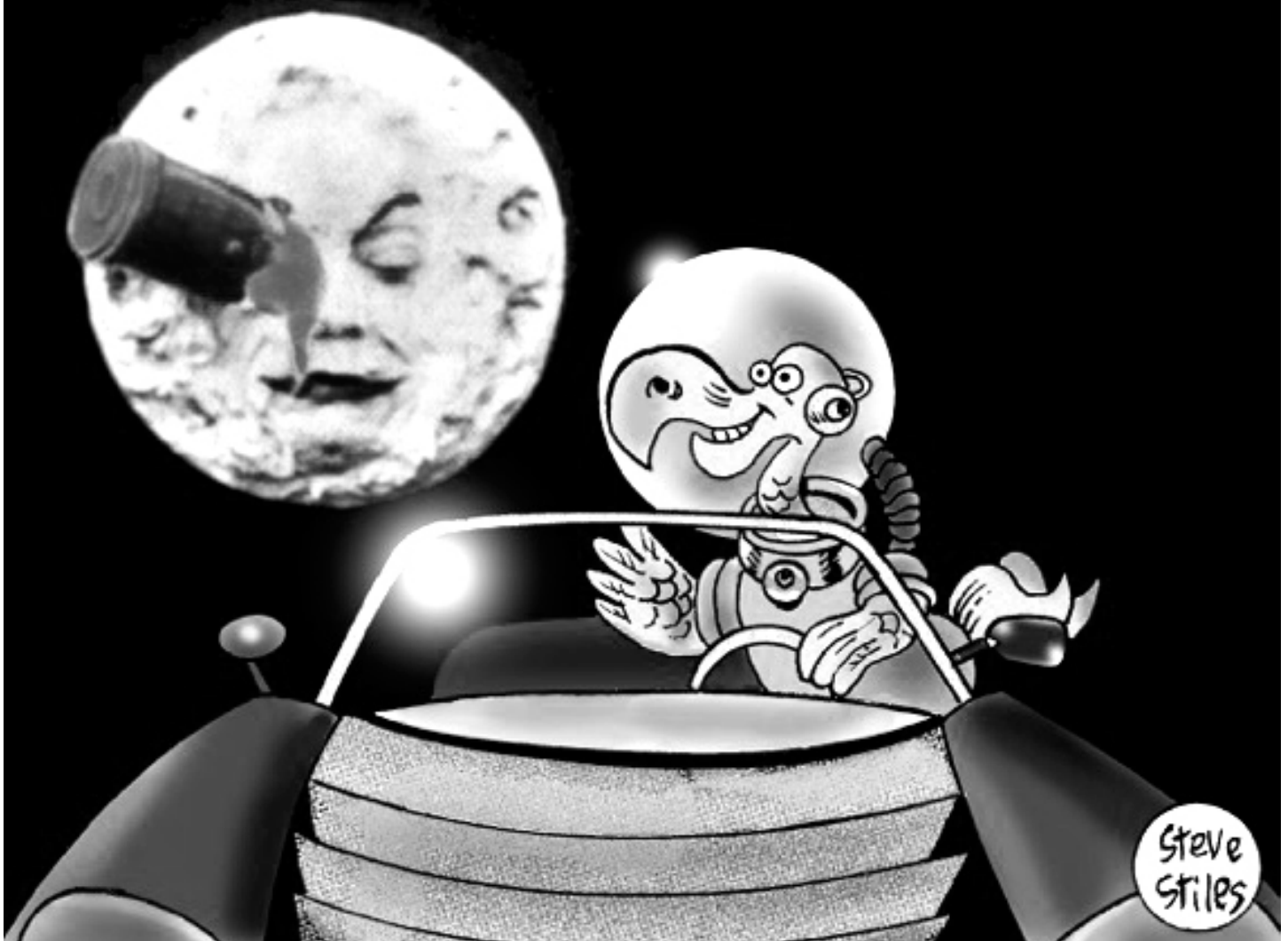
Aaron Rosenberg
Gaming Writer Special Guest

Now Are The Foxes
Comedy Special Guests

concarolinas.org



Capclave 2018



28 – 30 September 2018

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Guests of Honor

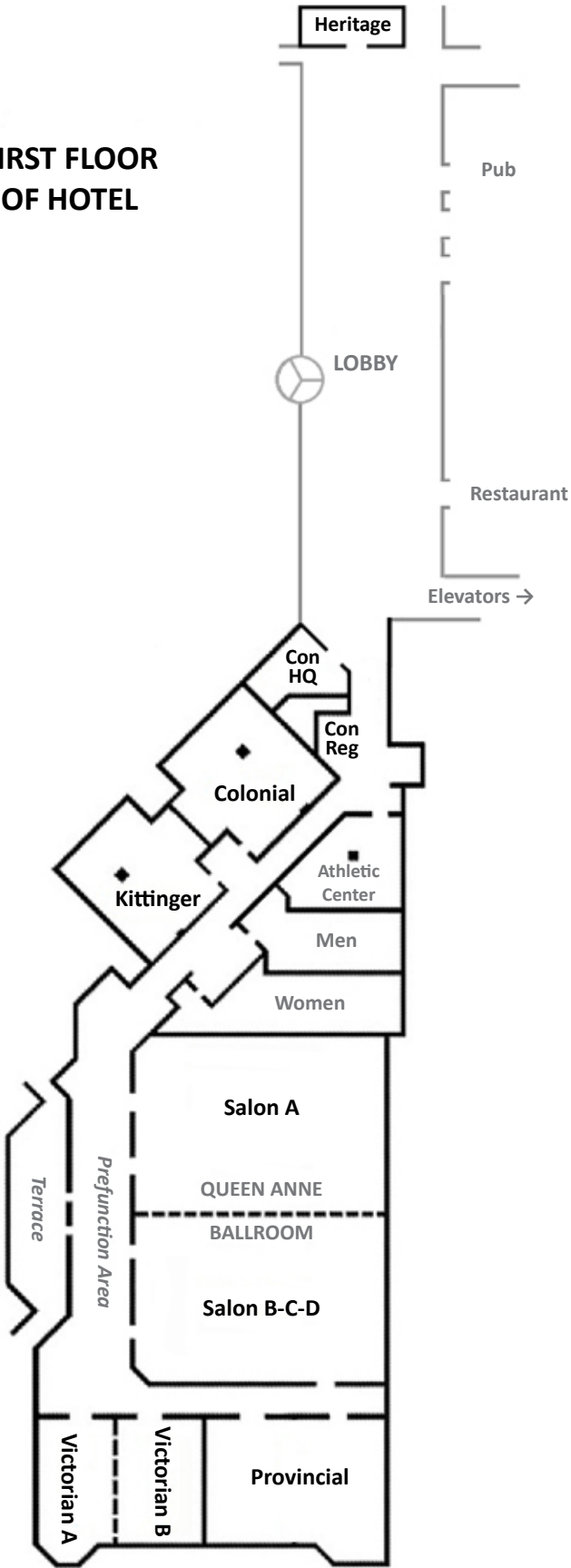
Nancy Kress

Alyssa Wong

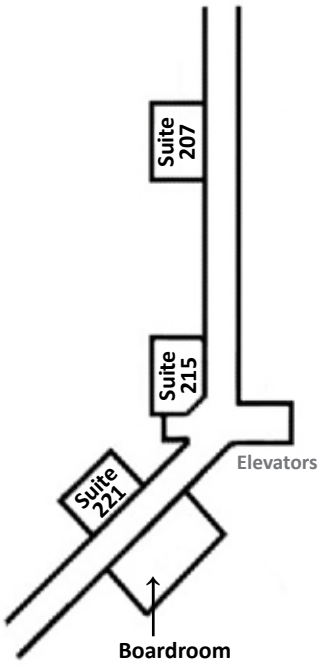
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*An annual Washington, D.C.-area literary science fiction & fantasy convention
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Artist Guest of Honor
John Hairston Jr



Author Special Guest
Gail Z Martin



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EVENT DESCRIPTIONS

FRIDAY

You will find two types of events listed: Audience Participation (AP) and Experts Talk (ET). ET events are traditional con panels. In AP events, we encourage audience participation.

10 Weirdest Things I've Used In A Costume (ET)

FRI – 1:00 PM

Salon B-C-D

Panelists discuss the top 10 strangest things they've used in a costume.

Panelists: JT the Enginerd (M), Cheralyn Lambeth, Jennifer McCollom, Matthew Penick, Daphne Reeder

What Should We Be Reading? (AP)

FRI – 1:00 PM

Provincial

Audience and panel members alike talk about books we've read and want to pitch to the room. Everyone should come ready to recommend and/or note recommendations!

Panelists: Michael G. Williams (M), Samantha Bryant, Paul Dellinger, Stuart Jaffe, Nicole Givens Kurtz

How To Survive The Zombie Apocalypse (ET)

FRI – 1:00 PM

Victorian A

Zombies never seem to go away. Even Disney has a story about them. What makes these creatures so captivating and how would you survive?

Panelists: Gary Mitchel (M), Wendy S. Delmater, Nickie Jamison

Black Panther Deconstructed (ET)

FRI – 2:00 PM

Salon B-C-D

The Black Panther is one of the highest grossing superhero movies to date. What makes it so popular and how is it changing the genre? Spoiler Alert.

Panelists: Nicole Givens Kurtz (M), Samantha Bryant, Margaret S. McGraw, Michael G. Williams

Out Of The Hat (AP)

FRI – 2:00 PM

Provincial

Our brave panelists discuss the mystery topics as provided by the attendees pulling a topic out of hat!

Panelists: Carol Cowles (M), Misty Massey, Joey Starnes

It's ALIVE! Bringing Your Characters To Life Workshop (AP)

FRI - 2:00 PM (Two Hours)

Victorian A

Find out what it takes to create characters that readers want to journey with. You'll learn why some characters never rise above a cliché and how to keep them active throughout your story. Author Bill Blume will show how he built the cast for his "Gidion Keep, Vampire Hunter" series, what he's gotten right (and wrong) and how to use it to improve your stories.

Panelist: Bill Blume

Battlestar Galactica: From The 1970s To The 2000's To Now (AP)

FRI – 2:00 PM

Victorian B

BSG, while perhaps not having the vocal fans of Star Wars and Star Trek, is still a classic example of the SF Genre. Why do fans find themselves drawn to the story of the Battlestar Galactica - whether the 70's version or the 00's version?

Panelists: Gary Mitchel (M), JT the Enginerd, Maya Preisler

Ask An Editor (AP)

FRI – 2:00 PM

Boardroom

Ever wanted to know what makes a story stand out? Or what an editor hates? Or even what coffee they drink? This is your chance. Several editors will be available to answer your questions on anything.

Panelists: Michael D. Pederson (M), John G. Hartness, Chris Kennedy, Melissa McArthur, Gray Rinehart

Alternatively Abled in Fiction (ET)

FRI – 3:00 PM

Boardroom

In the worlds of our imagination, we often have our heroes at the pinnacle of power and abilities. What happens when disability enters a science fiction, superhero, or fantasy world?

Panelists: Erin Penn (M), Wendy S. Delmater

Collaborating In The Honorverse (ET)

Salon B-C-D

FRI -3:00 PM

It's David's World, but each time someone else writes in it, it changes a little bit. Join our GoH's Charles E. Gannon and Jane Lindskold as they talk about what it is like to collaborate with David. David Weber will also speak to what he looks for in a good collaborator.

Panelists: Charles E. Gannon (GoH), Jane Lindskold (GoH), David Weber

Urban Fantasy Or Paranormal Romance (ET)

FRI – 3:00 PM

Provincial

Is there a difference? How do you determine which is which? As an author how to you address which one to market your books to?

Panelists: Gail Z. Martin (M), Paul Dellinger, Stuart Jaffe, Nickie Jamison

A Wrinkle In Time Deconstructed (ET)

FRI – 3:00 PM

Victorian B

The book often served as an introduction to the genre while the movie has introduced a whole new audience to the story. Let's discuss.

Panelists: Margaret S. McGraw (M), Darin Kennedy, Nicole Givens Kurtz, Maya Preisler

Congregate Cantina

FRI – 3:00 PM

Kittinger

This year we have converted one of the ballrooms into the ConGregarate Cantina. The hotel will be selling concessions and there will be table space where you can sit, eat and relax. Additionally, some of our guests will provide periodic live music. And we plan to have some open mic time in case someone wants to filk. Open mic times will be listed outside the room.

Performer: Metricula

Writing Local (ET)

FRI – 4:00 PM

Salon B-C-D

Urban Fantasy is set where you live or have lived. Why use the real world as a backdrop instead of an imagined location? We will talk about NC and other locations where our panelists have lived and how they have appeared in their books.

Panelists: Erin Penn (M), Stuart Jaffe, Gail Z. Martin, J. Matthew Saunders, Michael G. Williams

Doctor Who: From Classic to Modern (ET)

FRI 4:00 PM

Provincial

There were so many callbacks to the classic series this year. We discuss the classic series & its influence on the modern incarnation of the show.

Panelists: Joey Starnes (M), Bill Blume, Jason Graves, Darin Kennedy, Jennifer McCollom

Allen Wold's Plotting Workshop (AP)

FRI – 4:00 PM (Two Hours)

Victorian A

Allen's plotting workshop teaches you the elements of plot. What is it? How do you do it? And how does it interact with other aspects of writing such as characters and dialogue?

Panelist: Allen Wold

Women In Pulp (ET)

FRI – 4:00 PM

Victorian B

The pulps of the world were full of tough men. The iconic pulp characters are all men, and the common perception of the pulps is that they were written by male writers, about male characters, for male readers. However, the pulps were more progressive than mainstream fiction in a number of respects, including the number of formidable female characters who appeared in them and the females who authored them. Our panelists discuss the past and the future of women in pulp.

Panelists: Nicole Givens Kurtz, Steven S. Long

Tools Of The Trade (ET)

FRI – 4:00 PM

Boardroom

A legal pad and a Bic pen. What else does one need to write? Well, if you want to actually work in publishing, you should probably have some tools available to use. The panelists discuss what tools are essential for writers, what are nice to have, and what are a waste of time and money.

Panelists: Melissa McArthur (M), Nickie Jamison, Larry Martin, Peter Prellwitz

ConGregarate Cantina

FRI – 4:00 PM

Kittinger

Performer: White Plectrum

Common Mistakes In Writing (ET)

FRI – 5:00 PM

Salon B-C-D

What do editors see from new writers and how to skip over the first generation of beginner writing errors.

Panelists: Erin Penn (M), Wendy S. Delmater, Jason Graves, Margaret S. McGraw

EVENT DESCRIPTIONS

AI: There's A Storm Coming (ET)

FRI – 5:00 PM

Provincial

Our relationship with artificial intelligence is a complicated one. Nowadays machines can learn on their own and some have even developed their own secret languages to communicate with one another. Fortunately science fiction has been looking at this situation for a long time, and might have the answers we need. Whether terrifying or hopeful, our panel will discuss all the ways technology functions as a character in speculative fiction.

Panelists: Misty Massey (M), James Beall, Robert Hampson, Larry Martin

Teaching Speculative Fiction In Schools (ET)

FRI – 5:00 PM

Victorian B

From 1984 to Harry Potter, speculative fiction has always found its way into schools - sometimes even finding itself banned. How can you teach the lessons often shared in SF while still meeting the requirements of learning?

Panelists: Nicole Givens Kurtz (M), Samantha Bryant, JT the Enginerd

Balancing Act: Life & Creative Work (ET)

FRI – 5:00 PM

Boardroom

Few writers these days are only writers. Many of the writers you read are also working a day job, parenting, coaching, or just spending time doing other hobbies they enjoy. The panelists will discuss how they manage this balancing act, what they've learned about life and themselves through this process, and how others can successfully balance a full plate as well.

Panelists: Melissa McArthur (M), Bill Blume, Jason Gilbert, Michael G. Williams

ConGregate Cantina

FRI – 5:00 PM

Kittinger

Performer: Mark MacDicken

Kids Track: Coloring

FRI – 5:00PM

Heritage

Our Kids Track room opens for coloring and crafting.

Costuming Mashups (ET)

FRI – 6:00 PM

Salon B-C-D

Whether it's a Victorian twist on superheroes, clubwear inspired by cartoons, or a steampunk version of your favorite space captain, there's a new twist to yesterday's character costume. Our panelists discuss some of the endless possibilities in this growing trend of mashups, re-imaginings, and reinterpretations.

Panelists: Cheralyn Lambeth (M), Jennifer McCollom, Daphne Reeder

Diverse Voices In Creative Expression (AP)

FRI – 6:00 PM

Provincial

Let's talk LGBTQ, women, people of color, disabled fans, and anyone else who feels underrepresented within the Genre. Our panelists will talk about both their creation of art/literature and their consumption of it.

Panelists: Michael G Williams (M), Hawlsera, Erin Penn, Maya Preisler, Darcy Wold, Richard Sarner

Best Practices Query Small Press Workshop

FRI – 6:00 PM (Two Hours)

Victorian A

Join Jason Graves as he shows you best practices (and worst) for querying small presses, what to look for and look out for, and the differences between different types of publishers and "publishers."

Panelist: Jason Graves

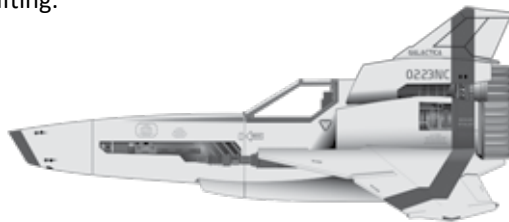
The Colonial Ministry of Defense: A Battlestar Galactica Fan Club (ET)

FRI – 6:00 PM

Victorian B

Raiders, Vipers and Battlestars, oh my! Join the Colonial Ministry of Defense as we discuss the organization as well as the show that inspired it. We want to introduce you to BSG and talk about the things that intrigued you about it. Was Caprica Six just a figment of Baltar's imagination? Was Baltar a figment of Six's? And really...what was Starbuck at the end of the reboot anyway? In the end...The Colonial Fleet Needs You!

Panelists: Members of the Colonial Ministry of Defense



Writing in a Shared Universe (ET)**FRI – 6:00 PM****Boardroom**

Co-writing and collaboration are great, but sometimes they're just a little too close for comfort. Another type of collaborative possibility is writing in a shared universe. The panelists discuss what it's like to write in a shared universe, how they got involved in that universe, & what universes they'd like to further write in.

Panelists: Chris Kennedy (M), John G. Hartness, Steven S. Long, Melissa McArthur, Peter Prellwitz

Kids Track: Easy Science Experiments**FRI – 6:00 PM****Heritage**

Teacher JT the Enginerd has pulled together some quick and easy science experiments. Come see what she shares!

E Komo Mei (Opening Ceremonies) & The Manley**Wade Wellman Award****FRI – 7:00 PM****Salon B-C-D**

E Komo Mei or "Welcome" in Hawaiian. This is our version of opening ceremonies. Door prizes will be given out. Additionally, we will present The Manly Wade Wellman Award for Science Fiction in the Carolinas.

Panelists: Allen Wold, James Fulbright, Charles E. Gannon, Jane Lindskold, Sam Montgomery-Blinn

What Social Media Is Right For You? (ET)**FRI – 7:00 PM****Provincial**

From Facebook to Twitter, YouTube to Twitch, there are tons of ways to get your presence out on social media? How do you determine what is the best platform for your creative endeavor?

Panelists: Joey Starnes (M), Margaret S. McGraw

Beat da Geeks (AP)**FRI – 8:00 PM****Salon B-C-D**

Challenge our Geeks! You win - you get chocolate! They lose - they get a jelly bean - from Bernie Botts Every Flavor Bean!

Panelists: Carole Cowles, Billy Flynn, Rich Sigfrit, Metricula

Heroes To Antiheroes To Villains (ET)**FRI – 8:00 PM****Provincial**

What really makes them different, and does it matter? How are they similar? Would you tell a story from the Villain's POV (e.g. Murder of Roger Ackroyd, Demolished Man)?

Panelists: Allen Wold (M), Bill Blume, Charles E. Gannon, Darcy Wold

Judge A Book By Its Cover? Workshop (AP)**FRI – 8:00 PM (Two Hours)****Victorian A**

Research has shown that 53% of a book's sales are based solely on its cover, so getting it right is critical to your book's success. You may have the best blurb, but if no one ever picks your book up to read it, you're not going to get the chance to hook them. It's your job to know what makes a successful cover, not your graphic designer! This session will not only show you how to design an effective cover for your book, it will also lead you through the production process to get it completed.

Panelist: Chris Kennedy

Authors Read**FRI – 8:00 PM****Victorian B**

Book readings by our authors

Panelists: Cheralyn Lambeth, Jason Graves

How Much Science Is Needed? (ET)**FRI – 8:00 PM****Boardroom**

This panel will look at writing science into your science fiction. Both scientifically-minded and non-science people are welcome as we try to determine how much science does it take to make good science fiction.

Panelists: Robert Hampson (M), Jim Beall, Paula S. Jordan, Larry Martin, Gray Rinehart

Stranger Things? Not So Strange. (AP)**FRI – 8:00 PM****Kittinger**

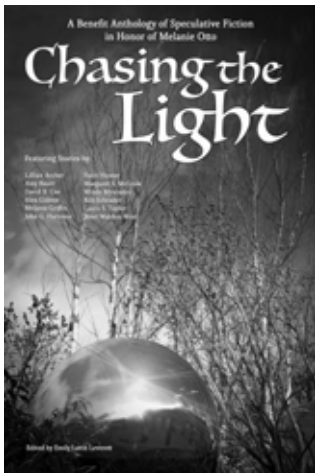
Stranger Things already shows signs of being a cult favorite. What is it about this show that draws fans from all over to discuss, share and imagine what will happen next?

Panelists: Gary Mitchel (M), Samantha Bryant, JT the Enginerd, Darin Kennedy, Nicole Givens Kurtz

The Progression Of Star Wars: Movies 1-8 (AP)**FRI – 9:00 PM****Provincial**

Long ago on a desert planet far, far away, audiences were first introduced to Luke Skywalker and the Jedi legacy that had been passed down through generations. This hero's journey has resonated with audiences on a grand scale over the past 40 years in movies, television, books, comics, and more. What do we expect/hope for Ep 9?

Panelists: Carol Cowles (M), Darin Kennedy, Maya Preisler, J. Matthew Saunders



Once upon a time, *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author Faith Hunter and award-winning authors David B. Coe and John G. Hartness agreed to mentor a group of rising authors—the Roaring Writers.

Chasing the Light—with tales across the spectrum of science fiction and fantasy—is their celebration of success.

It is also a tribute honoring Melanie Otto (AKA Melanie Griffin), one of the founding authors, who died unexpectedly in 2016. With this collection, including stories by Melanie, the Roaring Writers share her light with readers everywhere. Thanks to the generosity of their mentors and contributors, all profits from the sales of this anthology will be donated to help Melanie's lifelong partner defray medical and legal costs.

Online at themillionwords.net/ctl

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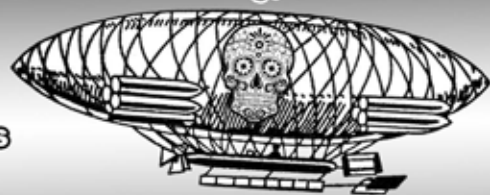
SATURDAY, NOV 3

- Muggles Market 10 AM - 4 PM
- Geek Gala 7 PM - Midnight
- Live Music & Comedy Performances
- Trivia & Costume Contests
- Photo Booth & Caricatures
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- Geeky Goody Basket Raffle
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Authors Read

FRI – 9:00 PM

Victorian B

Book readings by our authors

Panelists: Robert Hampson, Samantha Bryant

Gaming And Other Geeky Inspirations (ET)

FRI – 9:00 PM

Boardroom

Charles E. Gannon, Jane Lindskold and David Weber were influenced by gaming and other geeky things in their writing. Join them as they talk about how these geeky things influenced their writing and how it impacts them now.

Panelists: Charles E. Gannon, Jane Lindskold, David Weber

Cosplay Community

FRI – 9:00 PM

Kittinger

Panelists discuss body image and confidence in oneself, self-worth, ways to work on confidence, and how to stay positive in the community when faced with negative people or negative comments on social media. Cosplaying regardless of age, skin color, gender, body type/size, or disability, will be covered.

Panelists: “Bad Andy” Simmons, Nickie Jamison, Daphne Reeder, Tom Hutchens

ConGregarate’s Roast of John G. Hartness

FRI – 10:00 PM

Salon B-C-D

Led by Roastmaster Billy Flynn, the multi-talented John G. Hartness finds himself on the receiving end of friendly barbs served up by his friends.

Panelists: Billy Flynn, John G. Hartness, Rich Sigfrit and more...

And Then The Thief Said... (ET)

FRI – 10:00 PM

Provincial

We’re all on a quest for inspiration, and we have to take it where we can find it. Often that inspiration comes during the playing of RPGs, and why not? We were utterly entranced and thrilled by the events that played out, so won’t readers feel the same? Our panel will delve into the dangers of trying to turn our game-playing adventures into novels.

Panelists: Misty Massey (M), Bill Blume, Michael G. Williams, Nickie Jamison

Choosing An Editor (ET)

FRI – 10:00 PM

Victorian A

Acquiring editors, developmental editors, copyeditors... what kind of editor do you need? And how do you find one?

Join the panelists to learn more about the kinds of editors, what to expect when working with an editor, and how to choose an editor that you can work with—and how to work in a situation when you don’t get to choose your own editor.

Panelists: Jason Gilbert (M), Wendy S. Delmater, Jason Graves

Authors Read

FRI – 10:00 PM

Victorian B

Book readings by our authors

Panelists: Charles E. Gannon, Margaret McGraw

Cartoons In SF (ET)

FRI – 10:00 PM

Boardroom

From the Steven Universe to Teen Titans and more, are these cartoons really designed for kids? Or are they really targeting the Grown-ups?

Panelists: Metricula (M), Nicole Givens Kurtz, Jennifer McCollom, Gary Mitchel

Science, Medicine And The Honorverse (ET)

FRI – 10:00 PM

Kittinger

Honor Harrington has advanced “bionics,” regeneration and genetic engineering. Where do we stand with these technologies, where are we going, and how will they shape the society of the future?

Panelists: Erin Penn, Robert Hampson

Alt Geek (AP)

11:00 PM

Provincial

Geekdom is often inclusive and crosses over with alternative lifestyles. Come meet other alt geeks and learn how to expand within the community. (18+)

Panelists: JT the Enginerd (M), Nickie Jamison, Metricula, Gary Mitchel

EVENT DESCRIPTIONS

Authors Read

FRI – 11:00 PM

Victorian B

Book readings by our authors

Panelists: Paula S. Jordan, Jason Gilbert

Ask a Mad Scientist (AP)

FRI – 11:00 PM

Boardroom

Several of our favorite mad scientists will gather to share their evil knowledge! (note: fields of expertise will be shared so questions can be in the fields available)

Panelists: Robert Hampson (M), Jim Beall, Darin Kennedy, Darcy Wold

It's Friday The 13th... And So What? (AP)

FRI – 11:00 PM

Kittinger

So... we need to talk about the date... From movies to books, what is it about the date that makes everyone nervous?

Panelists: Jason Gilbert

SATURDAY

You will find two types of events listed: Audience Participation (AP) and Experts Talk (ET). ET events are traditional con panels. In AP events, we encourage audience participation.

Chopped Props (ET)

SAT – 10:00 AM

Salon B-C-D

Come see what props our teams will create out of surprise materials before you can bid on them at the charity auction!

Panelists: Cheralyn Lambeth, members of the 105th Costuming Group

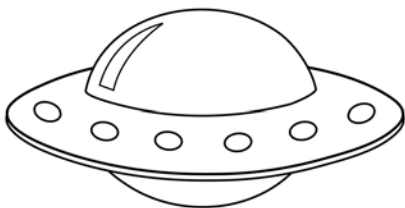
The Baen Traveling Roadshow (ET)

SAT – 10:00 AM

Provincial

Join the Slushmaster General from Baen Books, Gray Rinehart, as he shares upcoming releases and gives away Baen Swag!

Panelists: Gray Rinehart, Charles E. Gannon, Jane Lindskold



More Than Swords (ET)

SAT – 10:00 AM

Victorian A

While there are plenty of fantasy soldiers who wield a sword, ax, or bow, you can also find those who have magic and more modern weapons, such as stories where well-armed mercenaries use magic and technology that are inexplicably linked. Let's talk about how to integrate the war and the military into fantastical settings.

Panelists: Chris Kennedy (M), Gail Z. Martin, Peter Prellwitz

Allen's Regionally Famous Workshop (AP)

SAT – 10:00 AM (Two Hours)

Victorian B

Allen has been providing conventions with his workshop for many years. Joined by established authors, he provides a safe, creative environment to practice writing. New and established writers can benefit from this workshop. Limited attendance. Sign up at Registration.

Panelists: Allen Wold (M), Stuart Jaffe, Wendy S. Delmater, Darcy Wold

Pirate Queens And Girl Bandits (ET)

SAT – 10:00 AM

Boardroom

Anne Bonney wasn't the only female pirate on the high seas, and there were a lot more wild ladies in the wild west than just Belle Starr. Let's talk about history's most daring women, and how we can use their stories to enhance our own characters!

Panelists: Misty Massey (M), Margaret S. McGraw, Maya Preisler, Paula S. Jordan

Kids Track: The Incredibles Need Your Help!

SAT – 10:00 AM

Heritage

A surprise guest arrives to ask kids to help find the bright, shiny new thing and defeat the evil genius who stole it! They will be asked to pick a superhero name and trait. Our fledgling superheroes will design a symbol (that we'll safety pin) that they can use to defeat Dr. E. Vilmore.

Panelists: JT the Enginerd, Jennifer McCollom

Close Up Magic by Flabbergast (ET)

SAT – 11:00 AM

Victorian A

Join the magical Wizard, Flabbergast for a little close-up, kid friendly magic.

Panelist: Mark MacDicken

Critters in SF (ET)

SAT – 11:00 AM

Boardroom

From Wolves to Owls to Treecats, fantasy stories haven often paired adventurers with animals, why, how, what? What does the partnership bring to the story?

Panelists: Margaret S. McGraw (M), Jason Gilbert, Jane Lindskold, Michael G. Williams

Kids Track: The Science Of Supers

SAT – 11:00 AM

Heritage

Our heroes rejoin to meet with several scientists to talk about how superheroes came to be and how the powers they have chosen can help defeat our evil genius.

Panelists: JT the Enginerd, Robert Hampson

Chris Kennedy Publishing Road Show (ET)

SAT – 11:30 AM

Provincial

Join Chris Kennedy of Chris Kennedy Publishing as he shares upcoming releases from his publishing house.

Panelist: Chris Kennedy.

Concert: Blibbering Humdingers

SAT – 12:00 PM

Salon B-C-D

These magical masters of musical hi-jinx and mayhem will wizard rock the tea towel right off your house elf!

Evernote For Writers Workshop (AP)

SAT – 12:00 PM (Two Hours)

Victorian A

There are a lot of tools out there for writers: Word, Scrivener, OneNote, etc. Evernote is one such tool, a tool that every writer can use. From planning to drafting to saving documents, we will discuss the benefits and tricks to help you use Evernote to take your writing to the next level.

Panelist: Melissa McArthur

Photography Workshop (AP)

SAT – 12:00 PM (Two Hours)

Victorian B

Professional Photographer Paul Cory returns to ConGregarate to share his tips and tricks on photography from lighting to posing. Cosplayers will be posing for workshop attendees so make sure you bring your camera. Participants should plan to show up within the first 10 minutes of the scheduled start time – the workshop may be mobile.

Panelists: Paul Cory, Jessica Wright, Joshua Wright

Silver Anniversaries On The Silver Screen (AP)

SAT – 12:00 PM

Boardroom

Jurassic Park, *Groundhog Day*, *Army of Darkness*, *Hocus Pocus*; from cult classics to the blockbuster of the year, let's discuss - what made them good? And why do we still watch them?

Panelists: Gary Mitchel (M), Jason Gilbert, Nickie Jamison, Michael G Williams

Authors Roleplaying Live! (ET)

SAT – 1:00 PM (Two Hours)

Provincial

So what happens when you get a bunch of talented authors, one established game designer who GM's and a slightly crazy fan together on Facebook? They decide to run a D&D game at your convention! Join our super group of players as they face the challenges given to them in classic D&D fashion by DM Steven S. Long.

Panelists: Steven S. Long (DM), Charles E. Gannon, John G. Hartness, Jane Lindskold, Gail Z. Martin, Misty Massey, Michael D. Pederson

Build An Alien (AP)

SAT – 1:00 PM

Boardroom

You've 'built' that quirky planet you'd like to play on. Now you need some critters that could evolve and survive there. What issues do you need to consider in designing them? The audience will participate in strategizing the alien design. A rough planet design will be distributed to panelists beforehand and made available to attendees via chalkboard or flip chart.

Panelists: Paula S. Jordan (M), Paul Dellinger, Michael G. Williams, Peter Prellwitz

ConGregarate Cantina

SAT – 1:00 PM

Kittinger

Performer: White Plectrum

Kids Track: The Scientific Method

SAT – 1:00 PM

Heritage

Dr. Daniel Herr will introduce kids to the Scientific method; Hypotheses/Test/ Result – and show them a sneak peak of some "super" plants.

Panelist: Dr. Daniel Herr

EVENT DESCRIPTIONS

Concert: Dimensional Riffs

SAT – 1:30 PM

Salon B-C-D

Dimensional Riffs is a Nerd Rock band that was born like a Phoenix out of the ashes of Paradox Machine. They represent all that is awesome in Fandom.

Tales From The Grid (ET)

SAT – 2:00 PM

Victorian A

Tales from the Grid traces America's electrification, including inventions, feuds, rivalries, and revenge from Edison to today, and from P. T. Barnum's mighty elephant to California's threatening duck, with over 50 slides and videos.

Panelists: Jim Beall

Why You Should Self-Publish (ET)

SAT – 2:00 PM

Boardroom

Self-publishing has a lot going for it. What are some of the reasons an author might choose to self-publish and what process/tips/tools would they recommend?

Panelists: Erin Penn (M), Simon Hawke, J. Matthew Saunders, Larry Martin

ConGregate Cantina

SAT – 2:00 PM

Kittinger

Performer: Mark MacDicken

Kids Track: The Chase

SAT – 2:00 PM

Heritage

Dr. E. Vilmore has been spotted. Clues will lead to various locations within the convention center.

Panelists: JT the Engineerd

Leather Working 101 Workshop (AP)

SAT – 2:30 PM (Two Hours)

Victorian B

A primer for the basics of leatherwork led by the designers at Ribbons and Rivets, where participants edge, burnish, dye, seal, and decorate their very own wrist cuff. All tools and materials will be provided. Just bring a pair of hands. **Fee is \$20.** Participants may sign up at Registration. Payment accepted at the workshop.

Panelist: Matthew Penick

Concert: Metricula

SAT - 3:00 PM

Salon B-C-D

This loveable clown serenades you with some of her music.

Nanoscience Inspired By Nature (ET)

SAT - 3:00 PM

Provincial

Dr. Daniel Herr shares his TED Talk and answers questions about the future of nanoscience. TED Talks are influential videos from expert speakers on education, business, science, tech and creativity.

Panelist: Dr. Daniel Herr

Writing The Happily Ever After (ET)

SAT - 3:00 PM

Boardroom

It's not all epic battles, dragon slaying, space pirates, and dystopic races to the death. Sometimes you have to make room for romance when you're saving the world.

Panelists: Gail Z. Martin (M), Paul Dellinger, Wendy S. Delmater, Jason Gilbert, Misty Massey

Kids Track: Regroup

SAT - 3:00 PM

Heritage

From the clues gathered, our Heroes' regroup to figure out how to trap Dr. E. Vilmore and set up a trap to capture him.

Panelist: JT the Engineerd

Weapons Of Impracticality (ET)

SAT – 3:30 PM

Provincial

Members of Guardian Corp will discuss weapons from sci-fi and fantasy that would be very dangerous/impractical to use in the real world (lightsaber, bat'leth, etc.).

Panelists: Guardian Corp

Concert: White Plectrum

SAT – 4:00 PM

Salon B-C-D

Filker extraordinaire, Keith Brinegar, will make you laugh and sing - all at the same time.

Tedd Talks: Communicating Science (ET)

SAT – 4:00 PM

Provincial

Biomedical Graduate Students from Dr. Robert E. Hampson's (aka. Tedd Roberts) Communicating Science course are learning to give seven-minute "TED Talk" style presentations about their science. Come hear about some exciting new fields of biomedical research. Heckling is discouraged, but the students could certainly use some real-world feedback on their talks! We might even get Dr. Hampson to tell us about the awesome breakthroughs in his research.

Panelist: Robert Hampson

Pitch Wars (AP)

SAT – 4:00 PM

Boardroom

Got a novel or series that you want to write? Then come pitch it! Three small press publishers will be on hand to offer advice (and maybe even a contract.)

Panelists: John G. Hartness (M), Chris Kennedy, Jason Graves

ConGregarate Cantina

SAT – 4:00 PM

Kittinger

Performer: Gray Rinehart

Kids Track: The Downfall of Dr. E. Vilmore

SAT – 4:00 PM

Heritage

Our heroes have led Dr. E. Vilmore into a trap and using their superpowers defeat him and regain the big shiny. They receive keys to the City.

Panelists: JT the Enginerd

Inside The ConGregarate Studio: Jane Lindskold (ET)

SAT 4:30 PM

Provincial

Inside the ConGregarate Studio, Michael D. Pederson interviews Jane Lindskold on everything from writing Wolves and Treecats to role-playing games and ends with the infamous 10 questions.

Panelists: Michael D. Pederson, Jane Lindskold

Flabbergast The Wizard Magic Show (ET)

SAT – 5:00 PM

Salon B-C-D

Join the witty and wise Wickstrom and his Wizard, Flabbergast as they perform illusions and other magical tricks for fans of all ages.

Panelist: Mark MacDicken

Why Isn't There A Movie Yet? (AP)

SAT – 5:00 PM

Victorian A

Hollywood loves to remake successful movies, even when there are loads of better options sitting in print waiting to be discovered. What books do you think would make a great movie? Is there a series that HBO needs to get busy with right now? Let's talk about the perfect books that no one has filmed yet.

Panelists: Misty Massey (M), Paul Dellinger, Jason Gilbert, Jennifer McCollom, Gary Mitchel

Costume Armor Creation (ET)

SAT – 5:00 PM

Victorian B

Come learn a variety of techniques to bring your favorite fantasy/sci-fi characters to life! Join our experienced group of cosplayers as we discuss our fabrication methods from weathered armor to futuristic fabrics. Panelists will talk with you on a variety of con-safe materials to use; malleable plastics, EVA foam, durable fabrics, lighting effects, constructing tips, material links, resource budgeting and so much more! Swing by to learn how to create your own epic build!

Panelists: Cheralyn Lambeth (M), Tom Hutchens, Matthew Penick, Jessica Wright, Joshua Wright

The Short Story: Anthologies And Other Markets (ET)

SAT – 5:00 PM

Boardroom

A lot of authors break into the writing career via short stories. Our panelists discuss where you can find places to submit to, what to look out for and how to get the most out of your story.

Panelists: John G. Hartness (M), Jason Graves, Darin Kennedy, Nicole Givens Kurtz, Gray Rinehart

ConGregarate Cantina

SAT – 5:00 PM

Kittinger

Performer: Stuart Jaffe

Kids Track: Open Coloring/Crafts

SAT – 5:00 PM

Heritage

After defeating Dr. E. Vilmore, our supers can now relax with crayons and crafts. (Room open until 7:00 PM.)

The Xenobiology Archeology Dig (ET)

SAT – 5:30 PM

Provincial

Our intrepid group of explorers has landed on a planet in uncharted territory. Join them as they explore the artifacts left by the previous owners.

Panelists: Jim Beall (M), Charles E. Gannon, Jason Gilbert, Robert Hampson

Cosplay and Charity (ET)

SAT – 6:00 PM

Victorian A

Cosplay can be hard work at times but also is very rewarding, too. Come learn how to turn your hobby and fandoms into a charitable activity or event!

Panelists: Tom Hutchens, Members of the 105th

EVENT DESCRIPTIONS

Supernatural Trivia Party (AP)

SAT – 6:00 PM

Victorian B

The Brothers Winchester are celebrating 13 Seasons of fighting the supernatural, listening to great music and avoiding the law! Come, talk about your favorite moment, share some trivia and celebrate with other fans of the show.

Panelist: Gail Z. Martin

Geek Radio Daily Live! At ConGregarate (ET)

SAT – 6:00 PM

Boardroom

Join the Geek Radio Daily crew for a live version of their show.

Panelists: Rich Sigfrit, Billy Flynn, Carol Cowles, Hawlsiera and Kever

ConGregarate Cantina

SAT – 6:00 PM

Kittinger

Performer: Metricula

Learning Fight Choreography (AP)

SAT – 6:30 PM

Salon B-C-D

The Force is calling to you - you are never too old to begin your Jedi training. Come and learn lightsaber combat choreography with the Guardian Corp. We will provide you with a “play” lightsaber capable of stage combat, as we teach to you the choreography skills we use in our performances.

Panelist: Guardian Corp

Inside The ConGregarate Studio: Charles E. Gannon (ET)

SAT – 6:30 PM

Provincial

Inside the ConGregarate Studio, Michael D. Pederson interviews Charles E. Gannon on everything from science and writing to his work as a consultant with the government and military and ends with the infamous 10 questions.

Panelists: Michael D. Pederson, Charles E. Gannon



Make Mine Marvel, Please (AP)

SAT – 7:00 PM

Boardroom

Over the last eight decades, Marvel has created an expansive universe filled with timeless stories and spectacular visuals. Today, Marvel’s films, TV series, and comics continue to bring complex and diverse worlds to life. From an ethnically diverse group of L.A. teens to a blind lawyer in NYC, from spacefaring misfits to wisecracking webslingers, from an African king to an introspective android—everyone can find a Marvel character to call their own. Join our panelists as they dig deep into Marvel’s history and enduring impact.

Panelists: Joey Starnes (M), Carol Cowles, Nicki Jamison, Steven S. Long, Gary Mitchel

Falstaff/Sol Roadshow (ET)

SAT – 7:30 PM

Provincial

Join John G. Hartness and Larry and Gail Z. Martin as they showcase the upcoming releases from both of their Publishing houses: Falstaff Books and Sol Books.

Panelists: John G. Hartness, Gail Z. Martin, Larry Martin

Authors Read

SAT – 7:30 PM

Victorian B

Book readings by our authors

Panelists: Simon Hawke, Stuart Jaffe

Costume Contest (AP)

SAT - 8:00 PM

Salon B-C-D

In grand convention tradition, ConGregarate will host our annual costume contest. Bring your best costume and show of your skills or just enjoy the show!

Hosts: Billy Flynn and Rich Sigfrit

Judges: Tom Hutchens, Jennifer McCollom, Daphne Reeder

Intermission Entertainment provided by White Plectrum

Picking Up The Torch (ET)

SAT – 8:00 PM

Boardroom

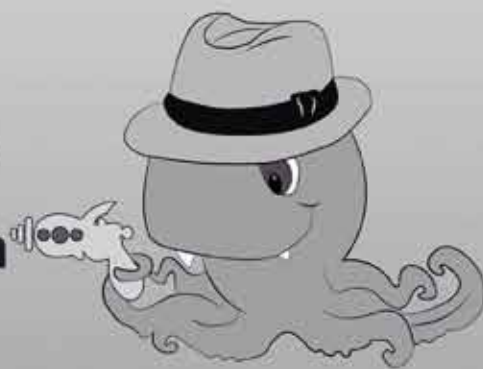
What is it like being the ‘newcomer’ in an established series? What are the challenges and rewards of writing in a universe that is so well established that the fans know more details than the new writers? How do you deal with continuity and canon?

Panelists: Robert Hampson (M), Charles E. Gannon, Jane Lindskold

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Bella Morte

Music Guests of Honor

Rich Sigfrit

Master of Ceremonies

Jarod Kearney

Convention Photographer



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EVENT DESCRIPTIONS

Authors Read

SAT – 8:30 PM

Victorian B

Book readings by our authors

Panelists: Wendy S. Delmater, Nicole Givens Kurtz

It's The Dating Game... But With Books! (AP)

SAT – 8:30 PM

Kittinger

Before you commit to a night of “Kindle and Chill” - find out which book you really want to date. 2 readers will get to “interview” characters from different books to see which one they want to take home. Authors will get in to character and answer dating-style questions based on the popular 70s game show.

Panelist: Joey Starnes (M), Margaret S. McGraw

Writing A Series (ET)

SAT - 9:00 PM

Boardroom

How do you keep the same set of characters and the same genre fresh? How do you avoid telling the same story over and over? And does every series have to be 17 books long? Author guests talk about how they keep a series fresh after a bunch of books and how to leave room for the good ideas they might have four books later - as well as how to avoid some pitfalls!

Panelists: Darin Kennedy (M), Samantha Bryant, Paul Dellinger, Charles E. Gannon, Peter Prellwitz

Steampunk Jamboree (AP)

Sat – 9:30 PM

Salon B-C-D

Familiar tunes, funny fan-fueled lyrics, and a few British Chestnuts, presented for you to sing along with Flabbergast and the Missus in Victorian Music Hall-style. Rated E for Everyone.

Panelist: Mark MacDicken

Auction Viewing (AP)

SAT – 9:30 PM

Provincial

Stop by and see what will be up for Auction at 10pm.

So You Want To Start A Con... Don't! (ET)

SAT – 9:30 PM

Victorian A

Have you ever thought that starting a con would be neat? Do you have a great idea that you think will be the next DragonCon or SDCC? Our panelists, who have worked cons from large to small, tell you all the pitfalls to be aware of before you get started.

Panelists: Gary Mitchel (M), Carol Cowles, James Fulbright (if available), Michael D. Pederson, Joey Starnes

Authors Read

SAT – 9:30 PM

Victorian B

Book readings by our authors

Panelists: J. Matthew Saunders, Larry Martin

The Incredibles 2 (AP)

SAT – 9:30 PM

Kittinger

It's here! It's finally here! The first Incredibles came out from Pixar in 2004, 14 years later the second was released? How did it compare to the first? Was it worth the wait?

Panelists: JT the Enginerd (M), Nickie Jamison, Margaret S. McGraw

ConGregarate Charity Auction (AP)

SAT – 10:00 PM

Provincial

Proceeds from the auction will benefit the Greensboro Urban Ministry food bank. We hope you are able to come to the auction and support this year's worthy cause as we try to meet or beat the \$\$\$\$ raised last year.

Auctioneer: Everette Beach

Costuming Outside Our Comfort Zone (ET)

SAT – 10:00 PM

Boardroom

So many of us get into a pattern of types of costuming. Maybe it's a historical era we look good in or technique we've perfected. But how do we break out of that rut, challenging ourselves to learn new things and have new experiences? How do you work yourself up to that first revealing costume, first original design, or first gender swap? Let's ponder out loud what inspires you to make that change and try something new.

Panelists: Cheralyn Lambeth (M), Jennifer McCollom, Daphne Reeder, Matthew Penick, Jessica Wright

So You Want To Be A YouTube/Twitch Star? (ET)

SAT - 10:30 PM

Victorian A

YouTube and Twitch, even Facebook now give you the opportunity to livestream across the world. How do you decide what to stream and how do you make the most of your moments on the screen?

Panelists: Metricula (M), Rich Sigfrit

Writing Magical Stories (ET)

SAT – 10:30 PM

Salon B-C-D

Magic can be one of the most memorable and fun components of a fantasy story, but it can also be destructive. In order for magic to “work,” what are the important rules to follow? Or does magic mean there are no rules? Our panelists discuss magic in

SUNDAY

You will find two types of events listed: Audience Participation (AP) and Experts Talk (ET). ET events are traditional con panels. In AP events, we encourage audience participation.

their stories, and how it can elevate your own writing.

Panelists: Erin Penn (M), Jason Gilbert, Larry Martin, J. Matthew Saunders

The Art & the Artist (ET)

SAT – 10:30 PM

Kittinger

The panel discusses separating the historical artist from their art. Can you appreciate the work of someone who isn’t your “cup of tea” personally? Even through times have changed, the work of those historical authors are still impactful - how do we reconcile their works with who they were?

Panelists: Carol Cowles (M), Samantha Bryant, Nicole Givens Kurtz, Margaret S. McGraw

Authors Read

SAT – 10:30 PM

Victorian B

Book readings by our authors

Panelists: Darin Kennedy, Michael G. Williams

The Rogue 105th Live Reading (ET)

SAT – 11:00 PM

Boardroom

Members of the 105th go rogue and showcase their verbal skills instead of costuming talent with a surprise script reading.

Panelists: Members of the 105th

Non-Denominational Prayer Service

SUN – 9:30 AM

Provincial

This is a non-denominational prayer service open to anyone who wishes to attend.

Panelist: Gray Rinehart

Crafting Circle (AP)

SUN – 9:30 AM

Salon B-C-D

Join a number of our guests and fans who knit, crochet or do other needlework. Ask questions or just join the fun.

Panelists: Metricula, Erin Penn, Margaret S. McGraw

Home Recording On The Cheap (ET)

SUN - 10:00 AM

Victorian A

What software and hardware do you need to get your podcast, livestream, video, or audio recordings up and running? Highlights free or low-cost software as well as hardware builds at different price points.

Panelists: Rich Sigfrit (M), Carol Cowles, DJ McGuire (Dimensional Riffs), Michael G. Williams

Allen Wolds Workshop – Recap (AP)

SUN – 10:00 AM

Victorian B

This is Part two of Allen’s Workshop. Participants from Saturday are encouraged to return.

Panelists: Allen Wold (M), Stuart Jaffe, Wendy S. Delmater, Darcy Wold

Atomic Follies (ET)

SUN – 10:00 AM

Boardroom

All the things we did that we probably shouldn’t have done as we began studying nuclear power.

Panelist: Jim Beall

ConGregate Cantina

SUN – 10:00 AM

Kittinger

Performer: White Plectrum

Kids Track: What are YOU reading?

SUN – 10:00 AM

Heritage

We invite children and middle grades to gather and share recommendations for books, stories and authors that they love.

Panelist: JT the Engineerd

Ask Chuck Anything (AP)

SUN – 10:30 AM

Salon B-C-D

Author, Professor, Consultant, all around nice guy, Charles E. Gannon (Chuck) opens the floor to any questions any one wants to ask.

Panelist: Charles E. Gannon

EVENT DESCRIPTIONS

Childbirth In Genre Fiction (ET)

SUN – 10:30 AM

Provincial

Childbirth in Genre Fiction: how is it handled? Is it glossed over or are there visceral details? Has technology replaced it? What does that mean for the story the author is trying to tell?

Panelists: Metricula (M), Darin Kennedy, Maya Preisler

YA (Young Adult) Fiction – Why It Matters (ET)

SUN – 11:00 AM

Victorian A

From Harry Potter to *The Hunger Games*, YA fiction introduces the genre to a new generation every year. Why does it matter that we make SF/F accessible to a younger generation?

Panelists: Margaret S. McGraw (M), Darcy Wold, Bill Blume

Authors Read

SUN – 11:00 AM

Victorian B

Book readings by our authors

Panelists: Jane Lindskold, Gail Z. Martin

Marketing for Newbies Workshop (AP)

SUN – 11:00 AM (Two Hours)

Boardroom

A common misconception among authors is that your book is your brand. Wrong! YOU are your brand! So... How do you draw attention to your brand and use it to gather sales? Come to this workshop and find out!

Panelist: Chris Kennedy

Kids Track: How Not To Become A Supervillain (ET)

SUN – 11:00 AM

Heritage

It's hard being a kid. But it only takes one to make a difference. Are you that one? We talk about bullying and what it means, how to ask for help and how to help others who are being bullied.

Panelist: JT the Engineerd

2001: A Space Odyssey and Planet Of The Apes

Celebrate 50 Years (AP)

SUN – 11:30 AM

Salon B-C-D

50 years ago, 2 iconic films were released. What made them special? And how did they influence the SF/F genre going forward?

Panelists: Gary Mitchel (M), Paul Dellinger, Jason Gilbert

Debate Club 2: The Return (AP)

SUN – 11:30 PM

Provincial

Do you remember our first ConGregarate? Do you remember sitting around talking about which was better? Star Wars or Star Trek? Who was the better villain: Darth Vader or Kahn? Well, here's your chance again. Just be ready for the surprise twist!

Panelists: Michael D. Pederson, Rich Sigfrit, Billy Flynn

Powered Armor in the Honorverse World (ET)

SUN – 12:00 PM

Victorian A

In David Weber's Honorverse book series, a kind of power armor is used by the Royal Manticoran Marines. Its appearance is brief and raises a number of questions. Join us as we discuss this infantry battle armor and its functionality in the space opera setting.

Panelists: Members of the Royal Manticoran Navy fan group

Broad Universe Rapid Fire Reading (ET)

SUN – 12:00 PM

Victorian B

Broad Universe members will read from their latest works in the rapid fire reading. Come discover a new favorite author and learn about an organization that supports women writers, editor and publisher. We also offer chocolate and the chance to win prizes.

Panelists: Samantha Bryant, Nickie Jamison, Paula S. Jordan, Gail Z. Martin, Margaret S. McGraw

Novellas: The Wave Of The Future (ET)

SUN – 12:30 PM

Salon B-C-D

Novellas fall somewhere between a short story and a novel but there seem to be more and more of them available. What makes a novella and why are they so popular with both authors and readers?

Panelists: John G. Hartness (M), J. Matthew Saunders, Melissa McArthur, Michael G. Williams

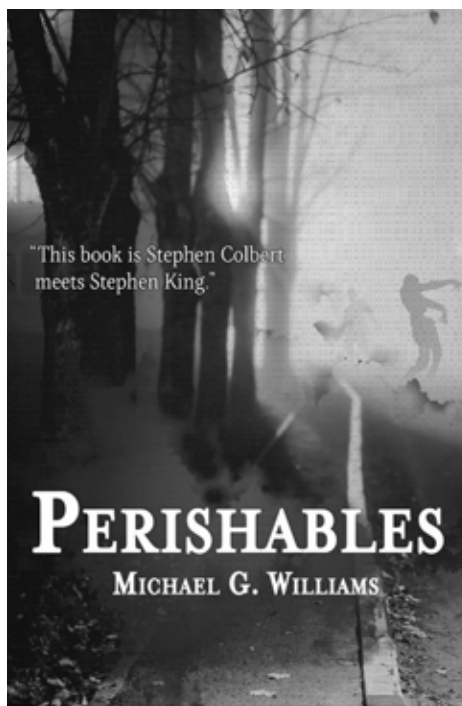
Defining The SF/F Genre (ET)

SUN – 1:00 PM

Provincial

If we define SF/F as Science Fiction/Fantasy, what about all the other stories out there that don't necessarily fit? From Disney to Fairytales, how do you determine what really is SF/F?

Panelists: Peter Prellwitz (M), Paul Dellinger, Jason Graves, Erin Penn, Maya Preisler



CAUTIONARY WORDS FROM REAL REVIEWS OF

.....THE WITHROW CHRONICLES

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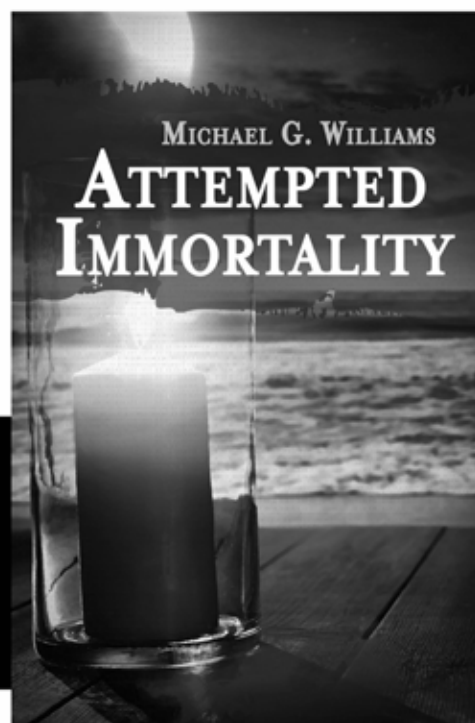
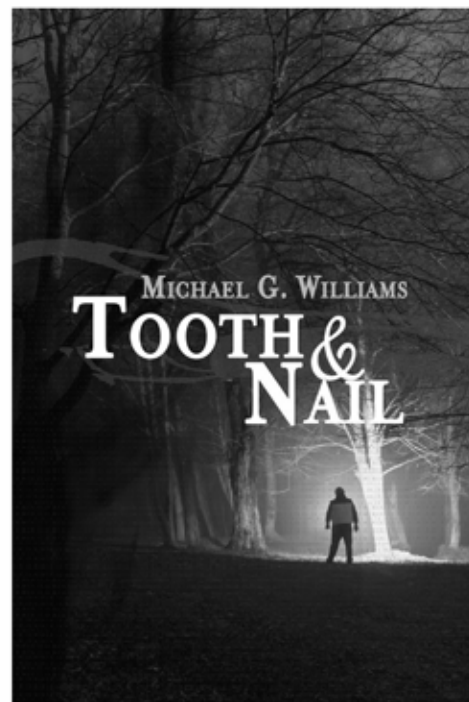
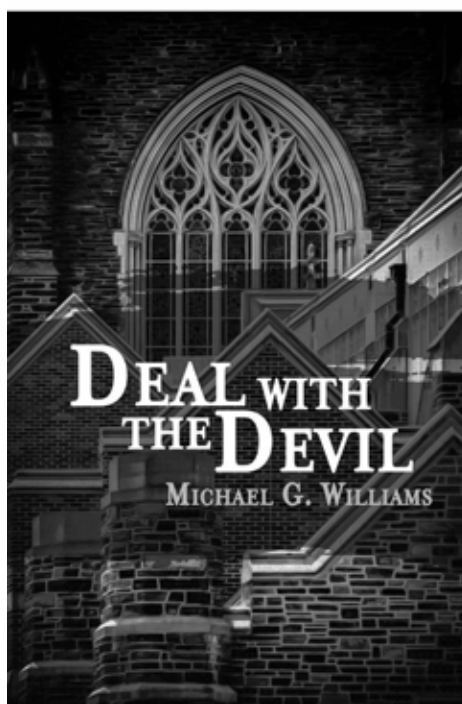
*"Stephen Colbert meets
Stephen King!"*

*"It finishes with the
kind of intensity that
found me frozen
completely upright and
holding my breath..."*

*"You're going to have to
buy and read this. You
won't forgive yourself if
you do not."*

*"This series is getting
better and better with
every volume..."*

"That boy is CRAZY."



AVAILABLE NOW FROM
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EVENT DESCRIPTIONS

Do You Remember When? (AP)

SUN – 1:00 PM

Victorian A

Some fantastic SF/F came out in the 70's and 80's - from Alf to Knight Rider, from Harry and the Hendersons to Greatest American Hero. Do these shows retain their charm? Or are they a part of history?

Panelists: Gary Mitchel (M), Carol Cowles, Larry Martin, DJ McGuire (Dimensional Riffs)

Believe It Or Not? (ET)

SUN – 1:00 PM

Victorian B

They say truth is stranger than fiction. What are some things that you have seen that if you put it in a story, readers wouldn't believe it?

Panelists: Wendy S. Delmater (M), Nickie Jamison, Darcy Wold

Ideas from Gaming (ET)

SUN – 1:00 PM

Boardroom

How has gaming influenced the author? A follow up from the Author Game on Saturday.

Panelists: Michael D. Pederson (M), Charles E. Gannon, Jane Lindskold, Misty Massey

Cosplay 201 (ET)

SUN – 1:30 PM

Salon B-C-D

So you caught the cosplay "bug." You've made a costume or two but you're feeling the pressure of bigger, better costumes and you're not sure WHAT to do. No worries, we've got your back! Come talk to us about tools, advanced materials, techniques, quick solutions to complicated costumes and all manner of cosplay related crafting topics. You have questions, we're ready to answer it!

Panelists: Mark MacDicken (M), Cheralyn Lambeth, Jennifer McCollom, Matthew Penick, Daphne Reeder

Discover Discovery (AP)

SUN – 2:00 PM

Provincial

Panelists and audience members talk about their reactions to the first season of *Star Trek: Discovery*. Is this the most Star Trek of Star Treks, or the least? The first season has provoked a lot of strong responses both good and bad. Let's have a spoiler-heavy discussion about it! Some audience participation is welcome!

Panelists: Michael G. Williams(M), Gary Mitchel

Where Do You Watch? (AP)

SUN – 2:00 PM

Boardroom

Netflix and Amazon both have popular original series. CBS and Disney will both be streaming series that they don't show on their regular channels. What does that mean for the networks? Is the best SF no longer free?

Panelists: Samantha Bryant (M), Paul Dellinger, Jason Gilbert, Nickie Jamison

DC Superhero Girls (AP)

SUN – 2:00 PM

Victorian A

Featuring iconic DC Super Hero characters like Wonder Woman, Supergirl, and Batgirl, our panelists discuss this world of digital content, videos, books, toys, and other exciting merchandise that inspires girls to find the hero within themselves, empowering them to recognize that they, too, can save the day.

Panelists: JT the Engineerd (M), Maya Preisler

Con in Review (AP)

SUN – 2:30 PM

Salon B-C-D

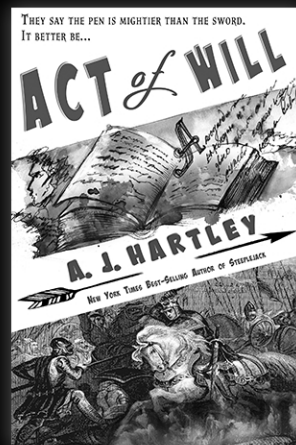
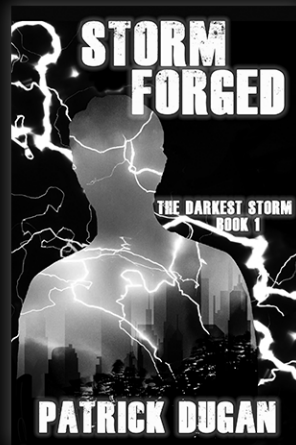
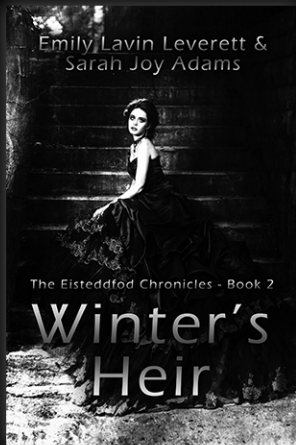
You know the deal. The cons over and we want your feedback. Take a few minutes before you leave and tell us...what went well? What can we improve?

Panelists: The Con Staff

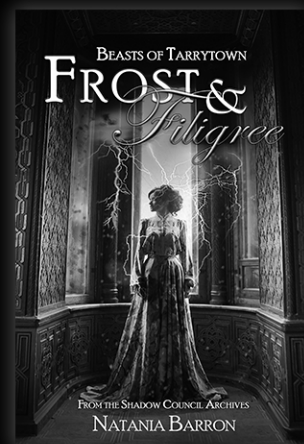
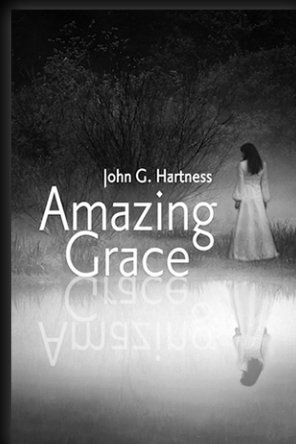


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Pick up these and more at our hallway table
or join us for a reception & book bonanza
Friday & Saturday from 7-9PM in Room 207!



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& Frost & Filigree -
our Finalists
for the 2018
Manly Wade Wellman
Award!



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EXHIBITORS AND BOOK SIGNINGS

Exhibitors

Dealer Room Hours

- FRI 3:00pm - 7:00pm
- SAT 10:00am - 6:00pm
- SUN 10:00am - 2:00pm

Dealer Room (Salon A)

- Blake's Toy Chest
- Creativity Out of Context
- Fashions by Figment
- Keith's Sci-Fi & Fantasy Collectibles
- Modern Goldfish
- O Amanda Panda
- Obsidian's Caldera
- Orielis Books
- Phase 5 Publishing
- Retro Dadio
- Ribbons and Rivets
- Ssalefish Comics
- White Hart Creations

Hallway Tables (Prefunction Area)

- 105th Builders
- 501st Legion
- Broad Universe
- USS Charon/Starfleet
- Chris Kennedy Publishing
- Colonial Ministry of Defense
- Falstaff Books
- Greensboro Public Library
- Mandolorian Mercs
- Mocha Memoirs Press
- MystiCon
- Royal Manticoran Navy

Signings

Unless otherwise noted, all signings are located at the Signings table in Salon A (Dealer Room) of the Queen Anne Ballroom.

Some guests have vendor tables where they might be found at times not listed below.

Friday 3:00 PM – Gray Rinehart, J. Matthew Saunders

Friday 4:00 PM – David Weber

Friday 5:00 PM – Charles E. Gannon

Saturday 10:00 AM – Mark MacDicken

Saturday 11:00 AM – Maya Preisler, Jason Graves

Saturday 12N – Bill Blume, Darin Kennedy

Saturday 1:00 PM – Simon Hawke, Samantha Bryant

Saturday 2:00 PM – Jason Gilbert, Paul Dellinger

Saturday 3:00 PM - Jane Lindskold

Saturday 4:00 PM – Charles E. Gannon

Saturday 5:00 PM – Gail Z. Martin, Larry Martin

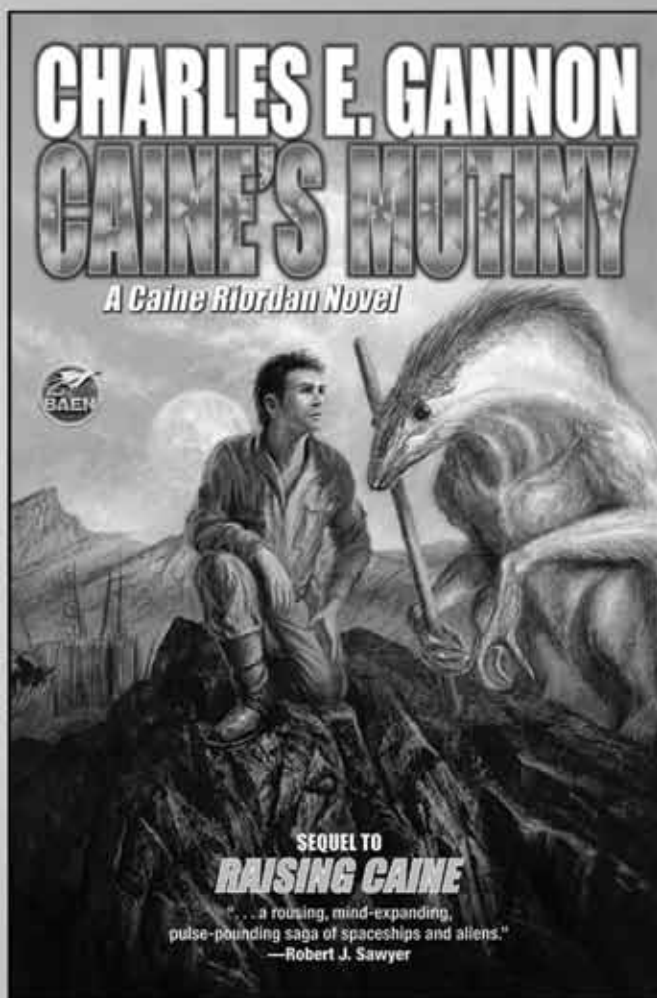
Sunday 10:00 AM – Jane Lindskold

Sunday 11:00 AM – Michael G. Williams, Paula S. Jordan

Sunday 12:00 PM – Wendy S. Delmater, Peter Prellwitz

Sunday 1:00PM – Stuart Jaffe, Margaret S. McGraw





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—David Weber

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—*Daily News of Galveston County*



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CONGREGATE

SIX



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Writer GoH

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