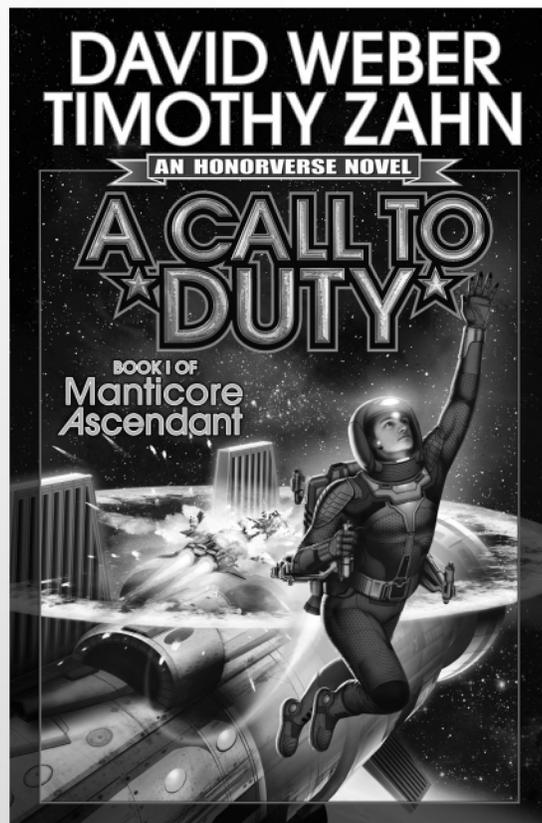
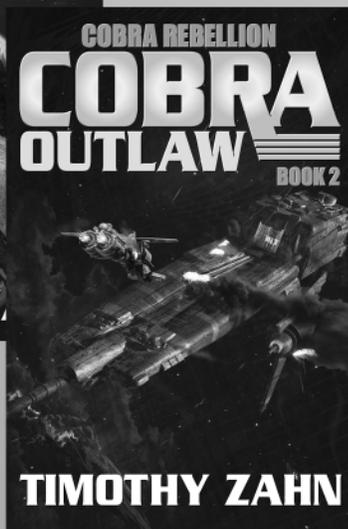
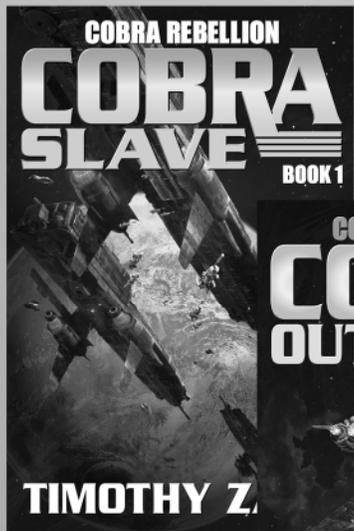




CON·GREGATE 2
SCOUNDRELS AND ROGUES

TIMOTHY ZAHN

#1 *New York Times*
Best-Selling Author



NEW SERIES IN THE
BEST-SELLING
HONORVERSE

"Zahn keeps the story moving at a breakneck pace, maintaining excitement." —*Publishers Weekly*



For free sample chapters and more visit www.baen.com

Table of Contents

Convention Staff	2
Harassment Policy	2
Rules of the Convention	3
Photography Policy	3
Featured Guests	4
Guests Bios	6
Kids Programming	19
Map of the Con Site	20
Event Descriptions	
Friday	22
Saturday	27
Sunday	34
Costume Contest Rules	29
Auction Procedures	32
Exhibitor Locations	38
Book Readings and Signings Schedule	40

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 10 in honor of:

- Harve Bennett, producer
- Eugie Foster, author
- Fred Grimm, con-runner
- Edward Herman, actor
- Bob Hoskins, actor
- John Jones, con-runner
- Louis Jourdan, actor
- Tanith Lee, author
- Alene Martel, actor
- Ann Melrose, author
- Leonard Nimoy, actor
- Terry Pratchett, author
- Dick Smith, make-up artist
- Rod Taylor, actor
- Nigel Terry, actor
- Grace Lee Whitney, actor
- Robin Williams, actor
- Christopher Lee, actor



From the Con Chair

Welcome to ConGregate 2!

Man, it feels really good to be able to say that. It wasn't guaranteed we'd get to a second year when we started this endeavor, but we did. There are a lot of people to thank for this... not only the volunteers, but the guests, fans and dealers as well. If any of you had opted not to come to our little summer party, well, it simply wouldn't have happened.

So, thank you!

Now, as much as I really do not want to have to bring this up, there is a major specter hanging over the genre right now. I'm not getting into any specifics here, except to say that we would really appreciate it if, collectively, everyone would let it go for the weekend. There's a time and place to discuss certain things, and really, this isn't it. Yes, there are some panels which may dredge up some of those issues, and that's fine – in moderation – but otherwise, let's set all of that aside and enjoy talking about the genre and playing some games for a few days. That is, after all, why we're here.

Now, let's have some fun!

-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	Charles Rizzo
Programming Assistant	Richard Sarner
Guest Services Coordinator	Ann Tucker
Auction Coordinator	Everette Beach
Gaming Coordinator	Ron McClung
Costume Contest Coordinators	Cami & Matt Walker
ConSuite Director	John Desmarais
Director of Registration	Amy Masters
Dealer Room Coordinator	Bill Mann
Asst. Dealer Room Coordinator	Janine Martinez
Director of Operations	John Endicott
Technical Coordinator	Randy Richards
Marketing Director	Nancy Knight
Diversity Outreach Coordinator	Nicole Richards

Volunteers

Liam Allen, Glen Beattie, Emily Crowder, Jen Davis, Carol Desmarais Wood, Conall Desmarais, Marcy Desmarais, Rachel Desmarais, Samantha Faulkner, Christine Hendrickson, Jamie Matthews, Wendell McCollom, Stephanie McClung, Taylor McClung, Karen Moskowitz, Stephanie Perry, Les Rickard, Aimee Rigsby, Stephanie Roane, Kim Robinson, Jamie Rogers, Rowdy Scarlett, Cassie Shulz, Moriah Soto, Bob Snare, Anita Turnitsa, Chuck Turnitsa, Heidi Turnitsa, Dana Windsor

Game Masters

Alexis Cline, April Cox, Kevin Cox, Duncan Davis, Luke Dixon, Crystal Doster, James Doster, Tommy Farris, David Gregg, Landon Hatfield, Darryl Hodgson, Todd Holiman, Lynn Holiman, Mark Ligon, Owen Ligon, Jason Martinez, Erin McCrary, Tim McCrary, Jerriann Steele, Andrew Triplett, Mike Welham

ConGREGate Productions

Corporate Officers

James Fulbright -- President
Laura Haywood-Cory -- Vice President
Tera Fulbright -- Secretary/Treasurer

Board of Directors

Everette Beach (Chairman of the Board), Laura Haywood-Cory
Paul Cory, James Fulbright, and 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 or at the con information table in the Prefunction Space. Staff members can also be found in the Showcase room.

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, race, or religion.

Convention Rules

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 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.
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. **Please see our full harassment policy on page 2.**
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 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. As with most hotels, the Radisson 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.

12. The hotel has requested that no "outside" alcohol be brought into the con areas. We encourage you to patronize the hotel bar or drink in your private hotel rooms & suites.
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. ConGregarate is offering a "kids area" on Saturday that has crafts and coloring books. 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.
16. No smoking (or vaping) inside the hotel. Smoking areas are available outside of the hotel lobby and on the terrace outside the convention center.
17. We believe in the "no costume is no costume" rule. Naked people are not quite appropriate for ConGregarate's common areas.
18. There are specific rules regarding photography. You can find them below.
19. 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.
20. No rule listed here supercedes local law, state law, federal law or hotel policy. You still have to obey those strictures.
21. 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 any no's you receive with good grace.

FEATURED GUESTS

Michael Stackpole

Writer Guest of Honor



Michael A. Stackpole is an award-winning writer, editor, podcaster, game designer, computer game designer, graphic novelist, and screenwriter. He's best known for his New York Times bestselling novels *ROGUE SQUADRON* and *I, JEDI*, both written in the Star Wars® universe. His most recent novel is *VOL'JIN: SHADOWS OF THE HORDE*, in the World of Warcraft® universe.

Timothy Zahn

Writer Guest of Honor

Timothy Zahn was born in Chicago in 1951 and grew up in the western suburb of Lombard. He attended Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan, earning a B.S. degree in physics in 1973, and moved on to the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois, for graduate work. He earned a M.S. degree there, also in physics, in 1975, and continued work toward a doctorate. Also in 1975, he began a new hobby: writing science fiction. At first a strictly spare-time avocation, over the next three years he gradually gave more time to it until he sold his first story in December 1978 ("Ernie," *ANALOG*, September 1979). In 1980 he left grad school and began writing full time.



Since then he has published forty-five novels, over a hundred short stories and novelettes, and four collections of short fiction. Best known for his ten *STAR WARS* novels, he is also the author of the *Quadrail* series, the *Cobra* series, the *Conquerors Trilogy*, and the young-adult *Dragonback* series. His latest books are *COBRA SLAVE*, the first book of the *Cobra Rebellion Trilogy*, and *STAR WARS: SCOUNDRELS*.

Upcoming books include *COBRA OUTLAW*, the second *Cobra Rebellion* novel, *SOULMINDER*, and *A CALL TO DUTY*, the first of the *Manticore Ascendant* collaborations with David Weber set in the *Honor Harrington* universe.

Albin Jonson

Fan Guest of Honor

In 1997, Albin Johnson created the 501st Legion, an Internet-based group for Star Wars costumers describing itself as Darth Vader's elite Imperial unit, "Vader's Fist." In 17 years, Albin helped grow the group to over 10,000 members worldwide in over 48 countries. The 501st has appeared in Star Wars novels, games, comics, toys, cartoons, and even Episode III. Following the loss of his daughter, Katie, to cancer in 2005, Albin and the R2 Builders Club created R2-KT, a pink astromech droid, to spread awareness of pediatric illnesses. Together, the 501st and R2-KT have raised millions for charity and worked with the Star Wars community to make a difference in the world.



Scott Rorie

Special Artist Guest

Scott Rorie is a free-lance artist from Cary, NC. Learning to draw at an early age, Scott won his first art show at 11 years old, when he won a school wide art show. After studying art all through high school, he attended Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte, NC majoring in Advertising Design. Although Scott works in many different media, his mainstay is the airbrush, which he taught himself to use. Like many airbrush artists, Scott started out painting T-shirts, but eventually moved on to canvas and illustration board. Scott's work can be found in homes from Maine to California, as well as Germany.

In April 2006, Scott was invited to participate (and had five pieces accepted) in an art exhibit in-titled "NASCAR: Inspired" at the Hickory, NC Museum of Art. As a result of the Hickory show Scott was interviewed by "Stock Car Pit Pass" online magazine. Scott's pin-up work is starting to gather a following. Collectors come back to art shows each year to see what new pieces he



Special thanks goes to Scott Rorie for donating the cover art for this program book!

has on display. In 2007, at DragonCon, Scott along with Joe Pekar ran the panel "Pin-up Art: Why the Resurgence".



In 2009 Scott began working on art/sketch cards. He has worked with 5FINITY Productions on art/sketch card series such as, Zombies vs. Cheerleaders, Moonstone Maximum, Voltron, P'Ups, The Pro, Honey West, Hack/Slash, Lady Death and Sheena. He has worked for Sadlittles on 4 card sets, Rantz Angels, Damsels and Dinosaurs, Dreamers of Darkness and Femforce.

Scott is a Marvel approved artist working for Rittenhouse Archives creating cards for Marvel's 70th Anniversary, Marvel's Heroes and Villains, Marvel's Dangerous Divas, Marvel Universe 2011, Marvel's 2012 Greatest Heroes, Marvel's Bronze Age and 2013's Marvel's Greatest Battles card sets.

He is a LUCASFILM approved artist working for Topps on the Star Wars Galaxy 5, Empire Strikes Back 30th Anniversary Widevision, Star Wars Galaxy 6, Star Wars Galaxy 7 and Galactic Files card sets. Scott has also created sketch cards for Breygent Marketing's

Woodstock Generation, Classic and Vintage Sci-Fi and Horror Movie Posters, Vampirella, Warlord of Mars and Joseph Michael Linsner's Dawn: New Horizons, Versacolor Production's Bettie Page Series 1 & 2 cards and BadAxe Studios' Dungeon Dolls and Bombshells; as well as The Walking Dead and Tarzan 100th Anniversary cards for Cryptozoic Entertainment. This year he added Marty and Boo Productions, Leaf Entertainment, Cult Stuff and Asylum Studios to the card companies he's working for.

His awards include a 1st and 2nd Place Award at the Chiller Theatre Show in NJ, Best Black and White at Nexus in Orlando, FL, and Best Mono-Chrome and Best Horror at DragonCon in Atlanta, GA. He has been published in CAVEWOMAN from Basement Comics, DIDYMOUS from Iron Horse Comics, NIGHT from Jester Press, CON-TOUR MAGAZINE, ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST and a LADY DEATH pin-up book.

Scott lives in Cary, NC with his wife Ann and their cat, Ares. He can usually be found in his studio working on a fantasy or sci-fi pin-up painting or Sketch/art cards. Look for his fan Page on Facebook, Scott Rorie Art and Illustration.

Valentine Wolfe

Special Musical Guests

Valentine Wolfe is a Victorian Chamber Metal Duo consisting of Sarah (Vocals and Electronics) and Braxton (Double Bass and Electronics). By incorporating elements of Dark Cabaret and Dark Wave, the music blends many genres and influences together to create sounds that are aggressive and anachronistic.

Valentine Wolfe features sultry and ethereal operatic vocals, electronically manipulated solo double bass and industrial dance beats. The band has played venues ranging from bars to libraries to art galleries, which reflects the creative versatility of the band.

In 2009, they released their first EP, Five Nocturnes. Subsequently, the band played their first Halloween shows to great acclaim, collaborating with burlesque and sideshow performers and theater groups along the way. In 2013, Valentine Wolfe released a graphic novel plus CD collaboration with Jacob Wenzka which was funded in part by a grant from the Metropolitan Arts Council in Greenville, SC. They have also



worked with the Warehouse Theater in Greenville, SC providing original music for several of their productions of Shakespeare plays including The Merchant of Venice, Twelfth Night, and The Tempest. Valentine Wolfe is currently preparing new songs for a rock opera set in a Poison Garden modeled after the Alnwick Poison Garden.

Two for One Con Special

(Only available directly from the author)



Buy a trade paperback of **The Wizard's Shield** for \$10.00 and get a mass market paperback copy of **A Gift for Murder** free!

Allegriana

Allegriana first entered the con scene in 2008 as “The Chainmail Chick”, a fantasy art and pinup model best known for her impressively impractical wardrobe of metal bikinis. Since then, she’s branched out into costume design, cosplay, and digital art, becoming part of award-winning costume company Ribbons and Rivets, which specializes in armor and leather work, as well as apprenticing under latex masters Organic Armor. She is a representative member of the League of Hot Geeks, part of the Charisma+2 talent agency, and one of the founding members of the “Nerdiquette” project. Allegriana currently attends numerous events each year as a promotional model, guest speaker, vendor, costume contest judge, and has won several costume and prop contests. She continues to model and has appeared in books, video skits, event trailers, ads, paintings, and her costume work has been seen on the Discovery Channel. Between shows, she maintains a YouTube channel and blog that feature reviews, humor, satire, and tutorials.

James Ford “Butch” Allen

James Ford “Butch” Allen is best known for his work as Chairman of MarsCon, the longest running Science Fiction Convention in Tidewater Virginia, but has a long history in Fandom in Virginia. He served as Chairman for Sci-Con, president for The Hampton Roads Science Fiction Association, and editor for THE LIBERATED QUARK, the clubs fanzine. Butch recently retired from NASA Langley in Hampton Virginia with 35 years of service as an Aerospace Technician. He is married to his beautiful wife Beverley, and is the favorite boy toy of their cat Priscilla.

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). Experience after the USN 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 included senior resident inspector (both for construction and operations), inspection team leader, and senior enforcement specialist before serving as the policy assistant for reactors to three different USNRC Commissioners and 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 (mostly for the math and atomic equations). These studies were a necessary aspect for reviewing energy proposals, assessing technical reports, and drafting speeches.

Michael Brown

Outwardly a shy, retiring sort but with a rich universe occupying the space between his ears, Michael Brown finally found the doorway between the inner and outer fantasy worlds: DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS. He walked through that door and never looked back. Now having been in the gaming realm for over thirty years, he has played or run AD&D, Traveller, Champions/HERO, and GURPS. A (somewhat) prolific writer, he has penned articles for DRAGON MAGAZINE, PYRAMID MAGAZINE, THE JOURNAL OF THE TRAVELLERS’ AID SOCIETY, FREELANCE TRAVELLER, the RPG Archive website, and the Zhodani Base Website. Somewhere along the line, he found time to teach himself to read and draw, earn an Associates’ Degree in Graphic Design and a Pharmacy Technician Certification -- weather a brief period of homelessness (publishing a blog about the experience that went viral), oppose bullies of every stripe, and raise three children.

Richard Dansky

Writer, game designer and cad, Richard Dansky was named one of the Top 20 videogame writers in the world in 2009 by Gamasutra. His work includes bestselling games such as Tom Clancy’s Splinter Cell: Conviction, Far Cry, Tom Clancy’s Rainbow Six: 3, Outland, and Splinter Cell: Blacklist. His writing has appeared in magazines ranging from THE ESCAPIST & LOVECRAFT STUDIES, as well as numerous anthologies. The author of the Wellman Award-nominated VAPORWARE, he was a major contributor to White Wolf’s World of Darkness setting and is the developer on the 20th Anniversary edition of WRAITH: THE OBLIVION. Richard lives in North Carolina with his wife and their amorphously large collections of books and single malt whiskeys.

JT the Engineerd

JT the Engineerd is an all-purpose geek. She obtained her Masters of Science in Engineering Mechanics with a focus in biomechanics from Virginia Tech in 2013. Her research focused on animal locomotion and included the analysis of beetle respiration and helping construct a platform to measure the force produced during an insect’s jump. She also hopes to obtain a Masters of Education in Instruction and Curriculum in the near future as well as complete the requirements for her full Virginia Department of Education Teacher License. Currently, she teaches basic engineering and design to future nerdlings (aka high school students) in Henrico County, Virginia. She also serves as the advisor to her schools chapter of the Technology Student Association (TSA) and has recently started a Quidditch club.

Outside of the world of science and education, The Enginerd is an avid fan of many TV and literary fandoms including DOCTOR WHO, STAR WARS, HARRY POTTER, Marvel, and well, it's quite a long list. To future discuss her fandom, she is the author of FrakinSpoilers in which she reviews the occasional movie and talks about other nerdery. Many of her fandom interests have come to her later in life and she missed out on seeing many shows such as Firefly and Buffy as they aired on TV. This sparked the idea of her Buffy series on her website in which she watches an episode and writes her reactions before moving on to the next episode. In addition to TV, she also games, playing World of Warcraft as well as games across multiple platforms including Steam, Xbox 360, and Nintendo Wii and 3DS.

The Enginerd has also started to dabble in the world of cosplay and costuming. She is currently working on a Red Riding Hood Monster Hunter as well as a Viking Warrior costume. Her creative abilities also extend to the world of crafts and photography. Some have called her a wizard with duct tape. She has also had several photos featured on Upcoming section on 500px. While her true passion is animal photography, she has also been a staff photographer for RavenCon and ConCarolinas. Her photography can be viewed on 500px and Flickr. She also is currently works as Programming Staff for RavenCon.

Figures Sold Separately

A podcasting group from Asheville, NC, whose members include:

Renee Hill - Ingredients: Water, 35 litres. Carbon, 20kg. Milk, 4 litres. Flour, 1.5kg. Chocolate, 800g. Salt, 250 g. Coffee and/or Tea, 100g. Puns, 80g. Video Games, 7.5g. Sprinkles, 5g. Animals in Costumes, 3g. Plus trace amounts of fifteen other elements. I, Renee "Slam Dunk" Hill, spend my retirement making puns, baking things, and having the best hair you've ever seen. DEAL WITH IT.

Matt Johnson - Matt is the co-owner of ZaPow Studio and the ZaPow Podcast Network. He started out as the producer of the show, and eventually wound up behind the mic, too. Doctor Who geek, podcaster, former radio DJ/engineer, and aviation enthusiast - no trivial error TV makes about airplanes gets by him!

Ken Krahl - Genius, billionaire, playboy philanthropist of the group, Ken is a polysyllabic proponent of the Oxford comma. He founded a geeky website/event community with his friends back in 2011, because geeks do awesome things when we're all different together. He can sometimes be found directing a convention in Asheville and other Multiverse endeavors.

Jimmy MacKenzie - Jimmy is an active blogger who enjoys writing about horror movies and futurism. Sometimes he plays the curmudgeon when geek culture gets a little too consumerist for him. There's nothing greater than a great rock n' roll tune. In his spare time, he gives away free books where there are needs.

Jonathan French

Jonathan French is the author of the Autumn's Fall Saga, an epic fantasy series. His debut novel, THE EXILED HEIR, has been hailed as "a combination of pen strokes that successfully resurrect the old world fantasy concepts of Beowulf, Prydain, Oz and Masters of the Universe." His second book, THE ERRANTRY OF BANTAM FLYN, launched in July on the Kindle bestseller lists at #6 in Norse/Viking fantasy and #36 in Myths/Legends. Like many fantasy novelists, he originally developed his magical setting as a backdrop for the roleplaying games he ran for his friends. After submitting his creations to a once-mighty RPG company, he received an offer to purchase his intellectual property. Ultimately, he chose to keep his brainchildren close to home and began writing the Autumn's Fall novels in earnest.

An outspoken advocate on the merits and future of independent publishing, Jonathan has led panel discussions at conventions across the Southeast, with subjects ranging from marketing to art direction. He currently lives in Atlanta with his wife and toddling son, who can already throw a mean d10. Current projects include a gritty sword and sorcery book, scheduled for release in Spring 2015.

Ron Garner

Ron Garner is the CEO of Silence in the Library Publishing, a small press specializing in science fiction and fantasy and dedicated to changing the relationship between publishers, authors, and readers. He grew up in Vicksburg, Mississippi, but spent thirteen years of his life moving around the country in various billets as an officer in the United States Marine Corps before becoming a publisher. He holds an undergraduate degree in Computer Science and a Juris Doctorate from UNC-Chapel Hill. He spends way too much of his time running foot races around the country and building things that are of questionable use. Ron currently resides in North Carolina with his wife and his frighteningly confident teenage daughter.

Kenneth Gentile

Kenneth Gentile was born a crossfire hurricane... err, wait. No, not the rocket from another world...Nope, dad was not a fallen Jedi...Oh, here it is: Kenneth Gentile was born in Chester, PA (Just outside Philly), in the way-back days of rotary phones and black & white televisions, when "tweeting" was something a bird did, and your "social network" was the other kids that snuck out behind the garage to get out of an early bedtime. All that changed when he was introduced to his first Tom Swift novel, in a dusty corner of St Robert's Elementary library. His electric rifle has never been far from his side since. It didn't take long to burn through what little the library had in science fiction and fantasy (amazingly they did have both Doc Smith's Lensmen and Skylarks series), and pretty soon he was devouring everything

in sight: books, comics, monster magazines. Anything he could get his hands on was fair game. Then came gaming. Dungeons and Dragons and Gamma World to start and oh that insidious mistress had her claws deep in poor Kenn, for now reading wasn't enough.

Now he must create. That was going on four decades or so ago, and it's shown no signs of stopping. As well as being an avid role-player and Gamemaster for 38 years (Oh gods, has it been THAT long?!) he's finally gotten off his ahhh... "put his nose to the grindstone" and now has several short stories set in his Scorched Earth post-apocalyptic fantasy world, as well as his first Dr. Peppermint novella "... the Colour of Time" published. He currently lives in Asheville, NC with a crazy dog, a crazier Mate, and an office he desperately needs to clean up. When he's not running Convention games of Deadlands and Numenera... he's working on his next project "Chevy Nova and the Lost Treasure of Motorheart." Be sure to tell him "You need to be writing."

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 author of THE BLACK KNIGHT CHRONICLES from Bell Bridge Books, a comedic urban fantasy series that answers the eternal question: Why aren't there more fat vampires? He is also the creator of the comic horror Bubba the Monster Hunter series, and the creator and co-editor of the BIG BAD series of horror anthologies from Dark Oak Press and Media. 2015 has seen John launch a new dark fantasy series featuring Quincy Harker, Demon Hunter.

In his copious free time John enjoys long walks on the beach, rescuing kittens from trees and recording new episodes of his ridiculous podcast Literate Liquors, where he pairs book reviews and alcoholic drinks in new and ludicrous ways. John is also a contributor to the Magical Words group blog. An avid MAGIC: THE GATHERING player, John is strong in his nerd-fu and has sometimes been referred to as "the Kevin Smith of Charlotte, NC." And not just for his girth.

Laura Haywood-Cory

Laura Haywood-Cory has been some flavor of editor or proofreader since her first job after college, which was proofreading yellow page listings for a phone book company. She's been involved in science fiction fandom since the mid-1980s. She has managed two different sf conventions, co-founded a local sf club, and participated in an APA (amateur press association) -- the Southern Fandom Press Alliance for four years. In 2008, her career path melded with her hobbies when she joined the team at Baen Books, where she spent almost seven years as an editorial assistant, then associate editor. In late 2014 she took a position at her homeowners association. Regardless of her day job, she enjoys connecting readers with books that they'll love.

Hawthorn & Holly

Hawthorn & Holly are a pop punk band that plays songs about Harry Potter. Started in 2007, these wizards hail from Charlotte, North Carolina. Leah Schroeder and Christie Mowery weave gorgeous harmonies with Eddie Mowery on guitars. You may find them performing at HP conventions such as Misti-Con, as well as other fandom conventions in the southeast. Their albums on iTunes include Jinxed in the Head and Our Friends Are Wizards and our first Christmas album, Christmas Magic is featured on Tunecore. You might catch them playing songs about DOCTOR WHO and THE HUNGER GAMES, in addition to other fandom songs. Their music is fun and infectious, you may find yourself singing along to their fun and infectious music and falling in love with their ballads as well.

Hawthorn & Holly are the wands of Draco Malfoy and Harry Potter in the book, but in this band stands for the joining of light and dark to create music that appeals to the Slytherin in us all, but also shows that nothing is greater than the power of friendship!

Tom Hutchens

Born in Winston-Salem North Carolina, Tom spent a great deal of his childhood dressing up as his favorite Star Wars and GI Joe characters. By 2003 this love for heroic characters would manifest itself in Tom's ability for armor craft, as he learned to meld time honored armor-smithing techniques with today's technology to create hyper-realistic sets of Mandalorian armor. Tom also enjoys crafting realistic and working life-sized Star Wars props.

In 2007 Tom founded the Mandalorian Mercs Costume Club here, with NC's Talon Clan being the organization's first chapter. Years of hard work would gain the club recognition by Lucasfilm LTD. as the "Elite Mandalorian Costume Organization." Tom has lent his knowledge of Mandalorian character, armor, and culture to help collaborate on various Star Wars books, as well as being a writer for Starwars.com. Tom's Mandalorian character "Mandalore the Uniter" has been added to the list of Star Wars "Legends" Mandalorians in both THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO WARFARE and BOUNTY HUNTER CODE. When he isn't helping out with the Star Wars Universe he's a network security administrator, entrepreneur, armorer, and maintains a farm with his wife in Mocksville NC.

Paula S. Jordan

Paula S. Jordan is the author of three ANALOG stories, including "Voorh," a novelette, (Jul/Aug 2014.) That story and her previous ANALOG entry, "Two Look At Two" (April 2011,) are adaptations from two present-day alien-contact novels in progress. Her first professional publication, "The Gift of Unbinding" (May, 2001), also appeared in ANALOG. She is now at work on more short stories as well as the novels. She blogs regularly at Darkcargo.com. After degrees in history and speech

MystiCon



"A Bit Un-Conventional"

February 26-28, 2016

George R.R. Martin

Convention Guest of Honor

Additional Guests of Honor:

J.P. Targete - Artist

John Watts - Gaming

Bella Morte - Music

Linda Shuping Smith - Fan

Rich Sigfrit - M.C.

*Holiday Inn Tanglewood
Roanoke, VA*

For more information visit:
www.mysticon-va.com



★ *Authors* ★ *Artists* ★ *Media Guest(s)* ★
★ *Gaming* ★ *Larping* ★ *Indie Film Fest* ★ *Vendors & More* ★

and several years as a freelance writer, Paula earned a BS in physics and worked thirteen years as an orbit analyst for NASA and NOAA. She supported 30+ unmanned science and weather missions including the Clementine mission that first detected water on the moon.

Chris Kennedy

A bestselling Science Fiction/Fantasy author and speaker, Chris Kennedy is a former naval aviator with over 3,000 hours flying attack and reconnaissance aircraft. Chris is currently working as an Instructional Systems Designer for the Navy. Chris' full length novels include the Occupied Seattle military fiction duology, The Theogony and Codex Regius science fiction trilogies, and the War for Dominance fantasy trilogy. Chris has also published "Chasing a Spectre," a short story that is the prequel for the War for Dominance novels, and his story "Thieves in the Night" is part of the RIDERS OF THE RED HORSE military fiction anthology.

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 2003 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. His short stories can be found in various publications and he is currently hard at work on his next novel. Doctor by day and novelist by night, he writes and practices medicine in Charlotte, North Carolina. When not engaged in either of the above activities, he has been known to strum the guitar, enjoy a bite of sushi, and rumor has it, he even sleeps on occasion.

Carl Kesner

Carl Kesner is a grumpy and all around irascible curmudgeon. He spends his days pining for fjords and watching B-grade movies on his flat screen TV. Carl is a military brat who, by life example, underscores the truth found in the adage that says you can take the military out of the brat, and you are left with a brat. He lives in Virginia with his wife, Barbara (a woman on the Chesapeake Bay Seagulls' Ten Most-Wanted List) and Scooter, the cat who came to dinner and decided to stay. All the loose change he has found under the sofa cushions in his house has been donated to the MystiCon Science-Fiction Convention in Roanoke, VA. Oh yeah, he's had some odiferous poetry published in local zines along with a few fumbling interviews of celebrity personages. Carl also screams at the sky, records said screams on his iPad, and transcribes them into rants unsuitable for the editorial page of his hometown newspaper.

Carl is currently serving a sentence of indeterminate length as the MystiCon Promotions Director.

Debra Killeen

Debra Killeen is the author of the award-winning fantasy series, The Myrridian Cycle. The first volume of her new series, Unholy War is forthcoming from Double Dragon Publishing. Debra resides in the Asheville area of North Carolina, where she shares a home with her sister, the author Diana Bastine, and two exceptional cats - Finn and Osiris.

Nicole Givens Kurtz

Nicole Givens Kurtz is the author of the science fiction/cyberpunk, Cybil Lewis, series. Her novels have been named as finalist in the 2006 Fresh Voices in Science Fiction, EPPIE finalists in Science fiction, and DREAM REALM AWARDS Finalist in science fiction. She's a member of the Science Fiction Writers of America (SFWA). Her short stories have appeared in such noted publications as CROSSED GENRES, TALES OF THE TALISMAN, and anthologies such as THE BIG BAD (VOL. II), SIX GUNS STRAIGHT FROM HELL, SPACE COPS, and BLACK SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY'S GENESIS ANTHOLOGY II.

Cheralyn Lambeth

Cheralyn Lambeth is a professional costume, prop, and puppet builder whose work includes feature films (The Muppet Christmas Carol, Evan Almighty, Leatherheads, The Hunger Games, Max), television (Dinosaurs!, Homeland), interactive properties (Paramount's Star Trek: The Experience at the Las Vegas Hilton, Titanic: The Movie on Tour) and books (HAUNTED THEATERS OF THE CAROLINAS and THE WELL-DRESSED PUPPET). On the fan side of things, Cher is a long-time member of and Historian for the 501st Legion, and can also be seen as the Romulan Commander in the Starship Farrugut episode "The Price of Anything," as well as the Computer Voice of the Starship Montana in the web audio series Star Trek: The Continuing Missions.

Currently Cher lives in Charlotte, free-lancing on film/TV projects and working on her latest book CREATING THE CHARACTER COSTUME: TOOLS, TIPS AND TALKS WITH TOP COSTUMERS AND COSPLAYERS.

Rebecca Ledford

Rebecca Ledford is the Manager of Phase 5 Publishing, LLC, a small publisher of science fiction, fantasy, and horror based in Western North Carolina. After graduating UNCA with a BA in psychology, she worked at a photo/graphics store, the Mössbauer Effect Data Center as a publication assistant, and a law firm in Asheville. In her limited spare time, she enjoys making things (all sorts of things), listening to music, indulging in photography, creating art, theorizing about cosmology, indulging random flash obsessions and furthering her household mythology with her mate of 15 years and beagle/bulldog mix, General Patton.

Emily Lavin Leverett

Emily Lavin Leverett is a fantasy, sci-fi, and horror writer from North Carolina. Her works have appeared in FLASH FICTION ONLINE and DRAFTHORSE: A JOURNAL OF WORK AND NO WORK, and will appear in Summer 2015 in ATHENA'S DAUGHTERS II from Silence in the Library. She also edits short story collections including THE BIG BAD: AN ANTHOLOGY OF EVIL and BIG BAD II with John Hartness, from Dark Oak Press. When not writing or editing, she also is a Professor of Medieval English Literature at a small college in Fayetteville. She teaches English literature including Chaucer and Shakespeare, as well as teaching composition and grammar. Medieval studies, especially medieval romance, heavily influence her work. When neither writing nor teaching, she's reading novels, short stories, and comic books or watching television and movies with her spouse and their cats.

Steven S. Long

Steven S. Long's been involved in the gaming industry for twenty years, during which time he's written, co-written, edited, or developed approximately 200 books and won numerous industry awards. Besides freelancing for lots of RPG companies, such as White Wolf Game Studios and Pinnacle Entertainment Group, he's held full-time jobs with Last Unicorn Games, Wizards of the Coast, and Decipher. In 2001 he became part owner of DOJ, Inc., the company that bought the assets of Hero Games, and from 2001 to 2011 was the HERO System Line Developer. Currently Steve is back to freelancing and is exploring the brave new world of self-publishing.

In addition to various gaming-related projects Steve's spent the past few years working on Fantasy fiction. He's had about a dozen short stories published (or soon to be) and keeps insisting he'll get back to revising his novel any day now. He's also involved with several other fascinating projects. For example, in mid-2015 Osprey Publishing will release his first major nonfiction work, a book about the Norse god Odin.

Steve, who's single and in his late 40s, lives in scenic Greensboro, NC. He's a graduate of Duke University and Duke University School of Law (go Blue Devils!).

Mark MacDicken

Professional entertainer for over 30 years, Mark MacDicken performs comedy magic as the eccentric wizard, Flabbergast. As well as being an accomplished actor and comedy magician, Mark is also a top-notch puppeteer and balloon sculptor. Often seen as Spiffy the Clown, he has performed at hundreds of birthday parties, as well as theme parks, fairs and festivals, company picnics, summer recreation programs, mall events, and on local television.

When he's not dressing up in costumes and playing with his toys, Mark is a special education teacher at an elementary school. He has 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 and adult son and daughter.

Gail Z. Martin

Gail Z. Martin is the author of IRON AND BLOOD: THE JAKE DESMET ADVENTURES a new Steampunk series (July 2015, Solaris Books) co-authored with her husband, Larry N. Martin, as well as WAR OF SHADOWS (Orbit Books, April 2015) and the DEADLY CURIOSITIES new urban fantasy series (new book November 2015 Solaris Books), set in Charleston, SC. She is also author of ICE FORGED and REIGN OF ASH in The Ascendant Kingdoms Saga. Gail is the author of The Chronicles of The Necromancer series (THE SUMMONER, THE BLOOD KING, DARK HAVEN and DARK LADY'S CHOSEN) from Solaris Books and The Fallen Kings Cycle (THE SWORN and THE DREAD) from Orbit Books. She writes two series of eBook short stories: The Jonmarc Vahanian Adventures and the Deadly Curiosities Adventures.

Gail's work will appear in at several new anthologies in 2015. In 2014, her stories were featured in: CLOCKWORK UNIVERSE STEAMPUNK VS. ALIENS, ATHENA'S DAUGHTERS, DREAMS OF STEEL 5, THE BIG BAD 2, DANCE LIKE A MONKEY, ICARUS: A GRAPHIC NOVEL (illustrated story), HEROES, REALMS OF IMAGINATION, UNEXPECTED JOURNEYS and WITH GREAT POWER. Other US/UK anthologies include MAGIC (Solaris), THE BITTEN WORD, RUM & RUNESTONES, SPELLS & SWASHBUCKLERS, and THE MAMMOTH BOOK OF GHOST STORIES BY WOMEN.

Misty Massey

Misty Massey is the author of MAD KESTREL (Tor), a rollicking fantasy adventure of magic on the high seas, and KESTREL'S VOYAGES, a book of short stories featuring Kestrel and her crew. Misty is one of the featured writers on Magical Words. When she's not writing, she studies Middle Eastern dance.

James Maxey

James Maxey's mother warned him if he read too many comic books they'd warp his mind. She was right. Now an adult who can't stop daydreaming, James is unsuited for decent work and ekes out a pittance writing down demented fantasies about masked women, fiery dragons, and monkeys. Oh god, so many monkeys. In an effort to figure out how Superman could fly, James read books by Carl Sagan and Stephen Jay Gould and Stephen Hawking. Turns out, Superman probably wasn't based on any factual information. Who would have guessed? Realizing it was possible to write science fiction without being constrained by the actual rules of science proved liberating for

GUESTS OF THE CONVENTION

James, and led to the pseudo-science fiction of the Bitterwood series, superhero novels like *NOBODY GETS THE GIRL*, and the steam-punk visions of *BAD WIZARD*.

James lives in Hillsborough, North Carolina with his lovely and patient wife Cheryl and too many cats. ConGregarate would like to congratulate James Maxey on being named the 2015 Piedmont Laureate for North Carolina.

Thomas A. Mays

Thomas A. Mays (Tom) is a 19-years-and-counting veteran of the US Navy, working as an officer in the surface fleet aboard destroyers and amphibious ships, as well as teaching and assisting with research into electromagnetic weapons and ballistic missile defense. He has two degrees in Applied Physics, but his passion is writing (he tries not to let what he actually knows get in the way of telling a good story). *A SWORD INTO DARKNESS* is his first published novel, but he is working on a sequel (among other projects) and released an anthology of his published and unpublished military science fiction, *REMO* in April, 2014. Tom usually lives wherever the Navy tells him to (currently North Carolina), making a home with his lovely wife, three beautiful kids, and an insane Hawaiian mutt.

Alicia McCalla

Alicia McCalla writes for both new adults and adults with her brand of multicultural urban fantasy, paranormal, romance, and horror. Her stories always include strong women heroines who fight back, sometimes to the death.

Alicia is an activist in the movement towards diversifying Science fiction and Fantasy (#diversityinSFF). She created the first "State of Black Science Fiction 2012" blog tour, is an active member in the State of Black Science Fiction Facebook group and has a ScoopIt page where she actively curates topics related to Afrofuturism, Black Science Fiction, Black Speculative fiction and Multicultural Science Fiction.

Alicia is a native Detroitier who currently resides in metro Atlanta. She works as a media specialist or school librarian in a local school district. Alicia enjoys spending time with her husband and son. Her first book for new adults, *BREAKING FREE*, is available in print or for immediate download. She has an adult series that mixes African-American women's fiction with dark urban fantasy.

Jennifer McCollom

Professional make-up artist, Jennifer McCollom got her start in Theatre through both high school and college. She graduated from UNCG with a BA in Theatre and a minor in Physics. Her first professional film was *Taking Liberty* filmed in Winston-Salem, NC. Then it was on to local favorites *Dead Inn* and *Last Lives*. Jennifer followed up her local work with a trip to LA to study at the Westmore Make-up Academy.

Her work on the smaller NC projects allowed Jennifer to move on to bigger films. She has been a make-up artist on *Army Wives*, *Leatherheads*, *Talladega Nights*, *The Box*, the Oscar nominated *June Bug*, the Emmy Award-winning HBO miniseries *John Adams*, and most recently *The Hunger Games*, *Homeland* for Showtime, Spike TV's *Bar Rescue* and CBS's drama *Reckless*. While film work was quiet in NC, she attended RCC Cosmetology School and attained her cosmetology license to add to her skills. Having also spent 15 years working for make-up companies such as Clarins and Darphin, she brings experience doing facials to her salon work as well.

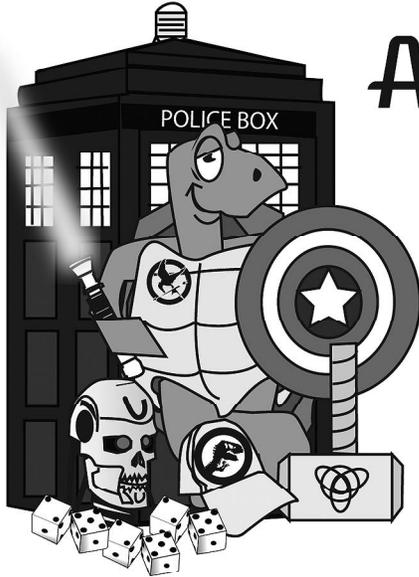
Jennifer perhaps is best known in local NC fandom for her incredible special effects pieces and costumes. She has created pieces and costumes for fandoms including *Dr. Who*, *Star Trek* and *Steampunk*.

Karen McCullough

Karen McCullough's wide-ranging imagination makes her incapable of sticking to one genre for her storytelling. As a result, she's the author of more than a dozen published novels and novellas, which span the mystery, fantasy, paranormal, and romantic suspense genres. A former computer programmer who made a career change into being an editor with an international trade publishing company for many years, she now runs her own web design business to support her writing habit. Awards she's won include an Eppie Award for fantasy; three other Eppie finals; *Prism*, *Dream Realm*, *Rising Star*, *Lories*, *Scarlett Letter*, and *Vixen Awards*, and an Honorable Mention in the *Writers of the Future* contest. Her short fiction has appeared in several anthologies and numerous small press publications in the fantasy, science fiction, and romance genres. She lives in Greensboro, NC, with her husband of many years.

Margaret S. McGraw

Margaret S. McGraw's writing includes the prompt-writing blog *WritersSpark.com*, several short stories currently in circulation for publication, and two novels in progress: *MIRA'S CHILDREN* is a YA science fiction adventure, and *OCEANSONG* is a modern-day fantasy. Margaret is co-editor, with Misty Massey and Emily Leverett, of *WEIRD WILD WEST*, an anthology of short stories about the wildest West that never was. Her imagination draws on her lifelong love of science fiction, fantasy, and anthropology. Her education and experience range from anthropology and communication through web design and IT management. Margaret lives in North Carolina with her daughter and an array of cats, dogs, Macs and PCs, and too many unfinished craft projects.



AtomaCon 2015

November 13-15

Charleston Plaza Hotel
North Charleston, SC

*Charleston's Largest Sci-fi,
Fantasy, Gaming, Science
and Technology Convention*

**Costuming * Literary* Science and Technology
* Paranormal * Fandom * Steampunk * Art
Tracks**

(Over 175 hours of programming!)

Costume Contest * Dealer's Room* Gaming Room

**Literary Guest of Honor
Nebula, Hugo, and Campbell Winner
Robert J Sawyer**

**Science Guest of Honor Filk Guest of Honor
Science Comedian Teri Wachowiak
Brian Malow**

**Artist Guest of Honor
Don Maitz and Janny Wurts**

Other Features:

Performances by Valentine Wolfe, Noise Complaint,
a Cosplay Tap Dance Ensemble, Comic Showcase,
Sanctioned Poke'man Video and Trading Card Game
Tournaments with Prizes!

<http://atomacon.org> @atomacon

Discordia Dames Featuring Nerd-Vana

With more than 10 years' experience between the four members, Memphis Muerte, Ruby Redd, Claudia Vainglory and Vicious Jane, Discordia Dames put together burlesque shows with a variety of styles and themes, keeping things fresh and interesting. The Dames, featuring Special Guests Nerd-Vana, are excited to bring you the best and nerdiest in variety entertainment!

Rhonda Oglesby

Rhonda Oglesby is a writer, designer, and herder of ideas on the GameOnGirl web site. Through three years of interviews, writing, and speaking, she has become a student of how gender identity is portrayed and treated in the real and cyber life of the gaming community. Her articles on the site are deeply researched critical thinking about how to be a better geek citizen. She has dual degrees in Mathematics and Computer Science from Western Kentucky University and has a secret passion for spreadsheets. Rhonda loves playing video and tabletop games, reading comic books, and watching television and always has a million and one projects encompassing her interests in cosplay, speaking at cons, programming, writing, and art.

Michael D. Pederson

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 Robert Quill) 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. He's been chairing RavenCon ever since. Other than RavenCon, Mike has also run programming for Trinoc*coN, been Fan Guest of Honor for ConCarolinas and Mysticon, 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 ConGregarate, MarsCon, Mysticon, RavenCon, and StellarCon. In the last few years Mike has interviewed a wide range of writers, gamers, artists, and actors. Those interviews have included Aaron Alston, Kevin J. Anderson, Elizabeth Bear, Jennie Breeden, Terry Brooks, Jim Butcher, Orson Scott Card, Nicki Clyne, David B. Coe, Glen Cook, Larry Correia, Peter David, Peter Davison, Richard Hatch,

Jim Hines, D.B. Jackson, Sherrilyn Kenyon, Alethea Kontis, Katherine Kurtz, Todd McCaffrey, Rebecca Moesta, Tamora Pierce, Mark Poole, John Ringo, Carrie Ryan, Michael Stackpole, Bruce Sterling, S.M. Stirling, Lani Tupu, David Weber, Janny Wurts, Timothy Zahn, and too many more to list.

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.

Matthew Pennick

Matthew Pennick 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.

Jay Posey

Jay Posey is an author and game designer who has been writing professionally for over a decade. He's the author of the best-selling Legends of the Duskwalker series, including THREE and MORNINGSIDE FALL. Currently Senior Narrative Designer at Ubisoft/Red Storm Entertainment, Jay has spent the past ten years contributing games such as the Ghost Recon and Rainbow Six franchises, as well as a number of other Top Secret Projects he's not allowed to talk about. He started in game development in 1998, and is a contributing author to the book PROFESSIONAL TECHNIQUES FOR VIDEO GAME WRITING. Jay currently resides in Durham, NC.

Angela Pritchett

Angela Pritchett is a costumer, author, YouTube host, special FX makeup artist, actor, and educator. She has a degree in music education and a master's degree in Ethnomusicology. With a vivid and often creepy imagination, she writes short fiction for adults and YA in the genres of horror, steampunk, sci-fi and fantasy. She has also published essays on some of her favorite fandoms! Discovering costuming at a young age, Angela has been dressing up as some of her favorite characters at conventions

for over 17 years, and has won many awards in craftsmanship and performance at conventions. This has earned her a place as a judge at a great many conventions for their costume contests.

Angela is also an actress and special Fx makeup artist, working in independent film, and television for the past 14 years. She has worked on films such as Plan 9, the Porkchop Trilogy, The Nephilim Chronicles, and many more! Angela is a host on the YouTube show "The Girls Who Waited," the geek girl YouTube show about Doctor Who and more, with fellow geek girl Lil.

Stephen Mark Rainey

Stephen Mark Rainey is author of the novels THE MONARCHS, BLUE DEVIL ISLAND, BALAK, THE LEBOCOVEN, DARK SHADOWS: DREAMS OF THE DARK (with Elizabeth Massie), and THE NIGHTMARE FRONTIER; the short story collections FUGUE DEVIL; OTHER WEIRD HORRORS, THE LAST TRUMPET, LEGENDS OF THE NIGHT, OTHER GODS, and THE GAKI; OTHER HUNGRY SPIRITS; the scripts for three DARK SHADOWS audio dramas (THE PATH OF FATE, CURSE OF THE PHARAOH, and BLOOD DANCE); and over 90 published works of short fiction. For ten years, he edited the award-winning DEATHREALM magazine, and has edited three anthologies (SONG OF CTHULHU, DEATHREALMS, and EVERMORE). Mark is an avid geocacher, an activity that often leads him into scary locations, many of which make their way into his fiction. He lives in Greensboro, NC.

Randy Richards

Randy Richards originally hails from Chalmette, Louisiana, the actual location of the "Battle of New Orleans." He currently lives in the South, where he runs a photography business and writes professionally. Randy Richards has been playing Dungeons & Dragons since the late 70s, but started in earnest in the early 80s. "In the 1980s," Richards says, "we had the Basic D&D boxed game in our Gifted & Talented class, and I used to play a Cajun halfling. The other kids loved it, especially the accent." In 1994 after working in Tennessee, Richards was transferred to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and started a family. "That's when I first got published. I wrote "Dark Magic in New Orleans" for DUNGEON MAGAZINE." In the late 90s, Richards hosted a series of GenCon events, one of which included the co-creators of D&D, Gary Gygax and Dave Arneson, and other big names including Frank Mentzer, Lisa Stevens (later CEO of Paizo Publishing), and Anne Brown.

Richards is also the former editor of the Greyhawk Grimoire, an online publication devoted to the World of Greyhawk campaign setting; and is the founder of the World of Greyhawk Fan Club, which once claimed to be "the largest Greyhawk fan organization in the world." He has written numerous online fan-fiction adventures set in the Greyhawk campaign setting, including "Slerotin's Tunnel" and "Suel Imperium: Age of Glory." Richards

was elected to the board of directors of the Science; Engineering Education Foundation in 2006. He also published DREAMMIRE, a swamp source book for D20/D&D games. In 2008, he became an officer of Star One Delta, a local sci-fi/science organization. In 2013, Richards was commissioned to write a new Alternate-History-Fantasy series called, The League of Founding Fathers. His first book in the series, PAUL REVERE: THE ZOMBIES ARE COMING is due out later in the year.

Gray Rinehart

Gray Rinehart may be the only person to have commanded an Air Force unit, written speeches for Presidential appointees, and had music on "The Dr. Demento Show." Gray's 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 one album of mostly science-fiction-and-fantasy-inspired songs -- Truths and Lies and Make-Believe -- and another album in work. Before becoming a Contributing Editor (the "Slushmaster General") for Baen Books, 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.

James Rippe

James is a local artist from Durham, NC and holds a BFA from William Paterson University in NJ. James has continued his passion for art with Ripptowne Photography and through cosplay. His first and most well-known costume was "Formal Vader;" how Darth Vader would dress for the empire's most formal occasions complete with a tuxedo, light saber cane and a glass of champagne. While creating other costumes, James formed The 105th Squad, a non-profit costume and prop builder group which has become the largest costuming group in North Carolina. His goal is to help others learn the art of costuming and to help both local and international charities with the amazing creations that the 105th Squad produces.

Tedd Roberts

Tedd Roberts is the pseudonym of a neuroscience researcher whose interest in public education and brain awareness has led him to write science fact and fiction with the goal of accurate, yet enjoyable brain science. His professional research has gained recent international attention for the development of a specialized "neural prosthetic" with the eventual goal of restoring human memory function by bridging damaged brain areas and reconnecting the regions which process memories. Finding that doing and writing all that science still left him with some uncommitted hours in the day, Dr. Roberts also works within Science Fiction and Fantasy fandom by writing short fiction, as well as giving public talks on science, science fiction

and the science in science fiction. He writes nonfiction articles for Baen Books, is a subject matter expert to many of Baen's authors, is a science advisor to Brown Crown Games' upcoming "Escaping Titan" release, and is a member of the Science and Entertainment Exchange - a service of the National Academy of Sciences to provide science expertise for the entertainment industry.

Married for more than 25 years, he has been a Sunday School teacher, Boy Scout leader, carpenter, greeting card company merchandiser, retail clerk, computer technician, computer programmer, public school teacher, college tutor, and professional Lab Rat. He is an Eagle Scout, and has two sons who are also Eagle Scouts. He currently serves on the faculty at a medical school in the southeastern U.S. where he runs three research labs, one clinical lab and teaches medical; graduate students. In his nonexistent remaining free time he collects "curio and relic" firearms, studies Krav Maga and Kali martial arts, plays trombone in a Brass Octet and travels frequently to Scotland on work-related business that has absolutely nothing to do with his expertise and appreciation for single-malt Scotch.

Dahlia Rose

Dahlia Rose is the best-selling author of contemporary, military and paranormal romance with a hint of Caribbean spice. She was born and raised on a Caribbean island and now currently lives in Charlotte, North Carolina, with her five kids, who she affectionately nicknamed "The Children of the Corn," and her biggest supporter and longtime love. She has a love of erotica, dark fantasy, sci-fi, and the things that go bump in the night. With over five dozen books published Dahlia has become a reader favorite. Not only because of her writing but her vivacious attitude in talking to her fans online and at various events. Books and writing are her biggest passions, and she hopes to open your imagination to the unknown between the pages of her books.

Edmund R. Schubert

Edmund R. Schubert is the author the novel, DREAMING CREEK, and some 40+ short stories, about half of which are in his collection, THE TROUBLE WITH EATING CLOUDS. Most recent publications include the short stories "A Little Trouble Dying" in IGMS and "Feels Like Justice To Me" in the anthology BIG BAD 2. He's held a variety of editorial positions, currently serving his eighth year as editor of Orson Scott Card's INTERGALATIC MEDICINE SHOW. He's co-edited three IGMS anthologies with Card, as well as editing and contributing to the non-fiction book, HOW TO WRITE MAGICAL WORDS: A WRITER'S COMPANION. Schubert still insists, however, that his greatest accomplishment came during college, when his self-published underground newspaper made him the subject of a professor's lecture in abnormal psychology.

Rich Sigfrit

To say that he enjoys podcasting and new media would be a gross understatement. Rich's credits include mentions in high school and collegiate papers, newspapers, PODCASTING FOR DUMMIES, and ADVANCED PODCASTING TRICKS. He has 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). He was the force behind the official Troma Podcast and a former host/editor of the 501st Cast, the official podcast of the 501st Stormtrooper Legion. He 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.

Rich has also done commercial voice work as the voice of CRASH and SWE Wrestling, Volaris phone systems, Howards RV and Fit Family NC (also providing puppeteering). He has MC'd numerous conventions and events and is the host of Thinkin' While You're Drinkin', a traveling Trivia company. Between the podcasts, requested voices from other shows, and father of 3, various audio sketches and dramas have been heard on ChronoRadio, Star Wars and Beyond, SwitchedOn Show, the Geeklabel Podcast and Dragon Pages' Wingin' It syndicated show, (plus countless guest appearances on other shows) of which he is very proud. Currently, Rich is the media consultant for GOUGE pro Wrestling and the voice of Nerd-Vana, RTP's only Nerd/Geek themed Burlesque/Variety show and an Online Teacher at Youth Digital. In his spare time, he sleeps.

Stephen J. Simmons

Stephen J. Simmons started writing shortly after he retired from the Navy, primarily because his children had grown too old to listen to bedtime stories and the cats never laughed at the funny bits. After he sold over a dozen flash-fiction stories to various online publishing venues only to see every one of them promptly go out of business after buying his work, he decided to try his hand at longer formats. He has some short stories available through Naked Reader Press, and he inflicted his first novel, THE GALILEO SYNDROME, upon an unsuspecting public in 2014. Stephen grew up in a tiny hamlet in the Catskill Mountains of upstate New York, and went to high school in Albany. He spent twenty-one years in the Navy, both as a nuclear operator on five fast-attack submarines and as an instructor in both of the Navy's nuclear power training schools. He currently works as the nuclear information security manager for Newport News Shipbuilding.

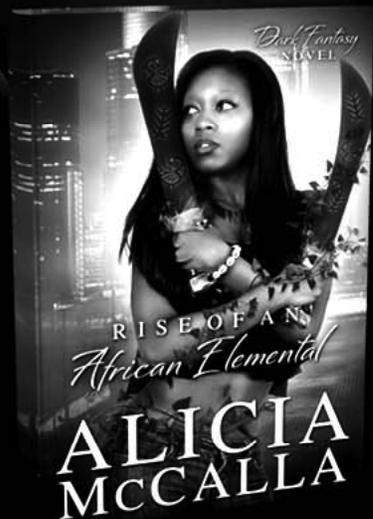


**A SERIAL-KILLING
PRIEST HAS BEEN
HUNTING BLACK GIRLS
FOR CENTURIES...**

He always gets his prey.
Can Shania stop him from taking
her daughter?

Download your series starter
eBook library for free.

Visit: www.aliciamccalla.com



Christina Stiles

Christina Stiles is an award-winning freelance tabletop roleplaying game writer, editor, developer, and publisher from South Carolina. She is also a developer for Misfit Studios and Rogue Genius Games; she publishes gaming products and fiction via her own Christina Stiles Presents line, as well. Her most recent works include THE ROGUE MAGE RPG GAME MASTER'S GUIDE, MIDGARD TALES from Kobold Press, DAUGHTERS OF FURY from Paizo Publishing, and the upcoming BITE ME! THE GAMING GUIDE TO LYCANTHROPES from Misfit Studios. She is currently working on MEDUSA'S GUIDE FOR GAMER GIRLS. Christina has worked for Atlas Games, Bastion Press, Eden Studios, Goodman Games, Green Ronin Publishing, Kobold Press, Misfit Studios, Paizo Publishing, Rogue Genius Games, Super Genius Games, Troll Lord Games, and White Wolf Studios.

Christina will be running games throughout the weekend. You can find her games listed in OGRE by searching for GM (first name, last initial) under Advanced Search Options.

Travis Surber

Travis Surber is a self-taught artist from Bassett, VA. From 2009 until 2014 he was the creator of the web comic Hainted Holler which ran for over 800 strips. The gag-a-day strip centered around a group of Southern geeks and the weirdness they found in the small town they called home. After the strip ended Travis took several months off to focus on family and his day job. In January 2015 he launched All Purpose Nemesis, a site devoted to his new creative pursuits which include short stories, game design, and putting together a graphic novel inspired by his daughter. Travis was also one of the artists selected to create a piece for the Chuck Jones Center for Creativity's annual Red Dot Auction this year.

Keith Brinegar (White Plectrum)

Keith Brinegar was born in North Carolina, and has since lived in Texas, Mississippi, Nevada, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Virginia, and Germany, with most of those moves due to two tours of duty in the US Air Force. He began performing at an early age, receiving his first guitar at the age of 10. During his junior high and high school years, he formed several bands, at one point reaching third place in a state Battle of the Bands. He received his BA from Winston-Salem State University between tours in the Air Force. He also recorded a demo tape in Nashville, performing a cover of Kenny Rogers' "The Gambler."

White Plectrum was formed from the remnants of Raymond and Billfunkel almost 25 years ago by Keith Brinegar and Bill Mullis. White Plectrum's first public performance was at a benefit for Stellarcon at the Loggerhead Brew Pub and Restaurant in Greensboro, NC. That performance was recorded and shortly after became White Plectrum's first CD "Insert Appropriate Title Here". When Keith moved from North Carolina to Virginia

in 1996, he began a solo career as White Plectrum. Since that time there have been several more CDs, recorded both live and in studio. With performances at conventions such as Stellarcon, Technicon, Rising Star, MarsCon, Sci-Con, SheVaCon, and others, Keith as White Plectrum has always given the listening audience the best show possible. Many people have supported Keith over the years, both assisting with filk-writing as well as handling and manning equipment. The current lineup has Keith on stage, singing and playing guitar; Gene Moody manning the sound system as the current "Chairman of the Board"; Isaac Moody as the "Wire Monkey" equipment handler; and Linda Turner selling CDs as "the Bodacious CD Babe." Songs such as "The Ballad of Jones the Cat," "Call of Cthulu," and "the Loveable Lament of the Dragon and the Lady" have become fan favorites at shows, and many more such songs are always a staple of a White Plectrum performance. In his mundane, "normal" life, Keith works for the federal government, but don't hold that against him.

Michael G Williams

Michael G. Williams writes wry suburban horror: stories of monsters, macabre humor and the deceptively picturesque. He is the author of the novels PERISHABLES (2012 Laine Cunningham Novel Award), TOOTH; NAIL, DEAL WITH THE DEVIL, and the forthcoming ATTEMPTED IMMORTALITY. Michael has also written a number of short stories across the spectrum of speculative fiction. Michael favors first-person narration for its power to preserve the humor and humanity at the heart of horror. Michael maintains The Perishables Project, an open-source publishing blog discussing his marketing efforts, and is an avid reader, runner, cyclist and gamer. Michael lives in Durham, NC, with his partner, two cats and more and better friends than he probably deserves. He is a brother in St. Anthony Hall and Mu Beta Psi.

Leona R. Wisoker

Leona R. Wisoker writes a variety of speculative fiction, from experimental to horror, from fantasy to science fiction. Her science-fantasy series, CHILDREN OF THE DESERT, follows several characters through a world slowly coming apart as dangerous secrets are revealed and centuries-long plots move into their final stages. Shorter works, such as "Silver and Iron" in the SHA'DAA: PAWNS anthology and "Dragon Child" in the Galactic Creatures anthology reflect Leona's early love of stories that involve demons and elves.

Leona's work is fueled by massive quantities of coffee and chocolate. She often contemplates exercise, decides it's too much time away from working on really important things, then returns to creating bizarrities, researching random subjects, or planning her next garden project.

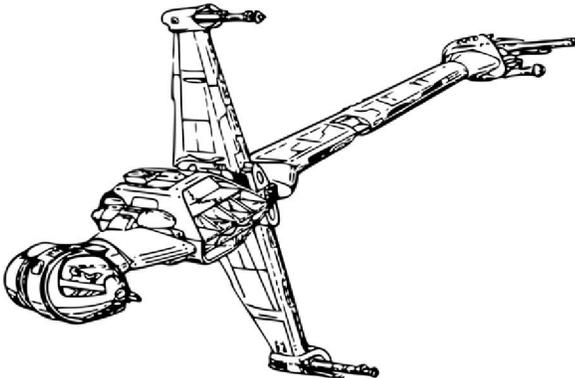
Allen Wold

Allen Wold was born in south-western Michigan, where he began writing when he discovered an old portable typewriter in his back closet. 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, writing when he could make the time. In 2003, he became a full time writer again, when his daughter, 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 (he's completely self-taught, and it probably shows), and a number of articles, columns, reviews, and so forth, also concerning computers (written in language even he can understand). Currently, Allen is still working on his epic heroic fantasy (3000 pages, 800,000 words); a vampire novel (no twinklies) in submission; a bizarre haunted house story that is far too long; and other projects in hand. He also has a short collection of essays, CAT TALES, a collection of short stories, A CLOSET FOR A DRAGON AND OTHER EARLY TALES, and a haunted village novel, STROAD'S CROSS, all available from Amazon. Allen has been running his version of a writer's workshop at various conventions for more than thirty years, and has had some success, since several people have not only finished but sold stories started in the workshop. 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 was raised in the realm of science fiction conventions, and has never, to her knowledge, been mistaken for normal (a fact of which she is rather proud). She paints and draws vibrant abstracts and fantasy 'scapes, and has a growing smattering of clinical knowledge and copyright law from her day job as a technical writer for data standards. Darcy is also a regular panelist on Allen Wold's Writer's Workshop, where she represents that ultimate critic: the reader.



ConGregate Kids

Looking for something geeky to do with your kids! Check out these events especially for children and tweens at ConGregate!



ConGregate Kids Craft Center

FRI - 1:00 PM – 7:00 PM

SAT - 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

SAT - 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM

SUN - 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Heritage Room

We have designated this room for parents to take their kids to allow the kids to decompress, should the con become overwhelming. There will be coloring and crafts available.

NOTE: This is NOT daycare. You must remain with your children.

S.H.I.E.L.D. Double Agent Initiative

SAT - 10:00 AM, Heritage Room

The Double Agent Initiative is a children's scavenger hunt for "Hydra Sympathetic" individuals to retrieve antique tokens, keeping them out of the hands of Johann Schmidt (a.k.a. Red Skull). **Participating children will receive their orders from S.H.I.E.L.D.'s founder – Agent Peggy Carter on Saturday at 10:00 am in the Heritage Room.** The person with the most tokens turned in will receive The Tesseract, to take home for safe keeping, ensuring Hydra does not gain possession.

Children may sign up at Registration and must be accompanied by an Adult.

STEM For Kids

SAT – 11:00 AM, Suite 207

Join several of our science guests as they provide a time to do some interactive science and engineering activities for the children.

Milk And Magic

SAT – 1:00 PM, Suite 207

Join Flabbergast the Wizard for some magic. Kids will be supplied with milk and cookies.

Filk and Cookies

SAT – 2:00 PM, Suite 207

Kid Friendly Filking (and cookies!)

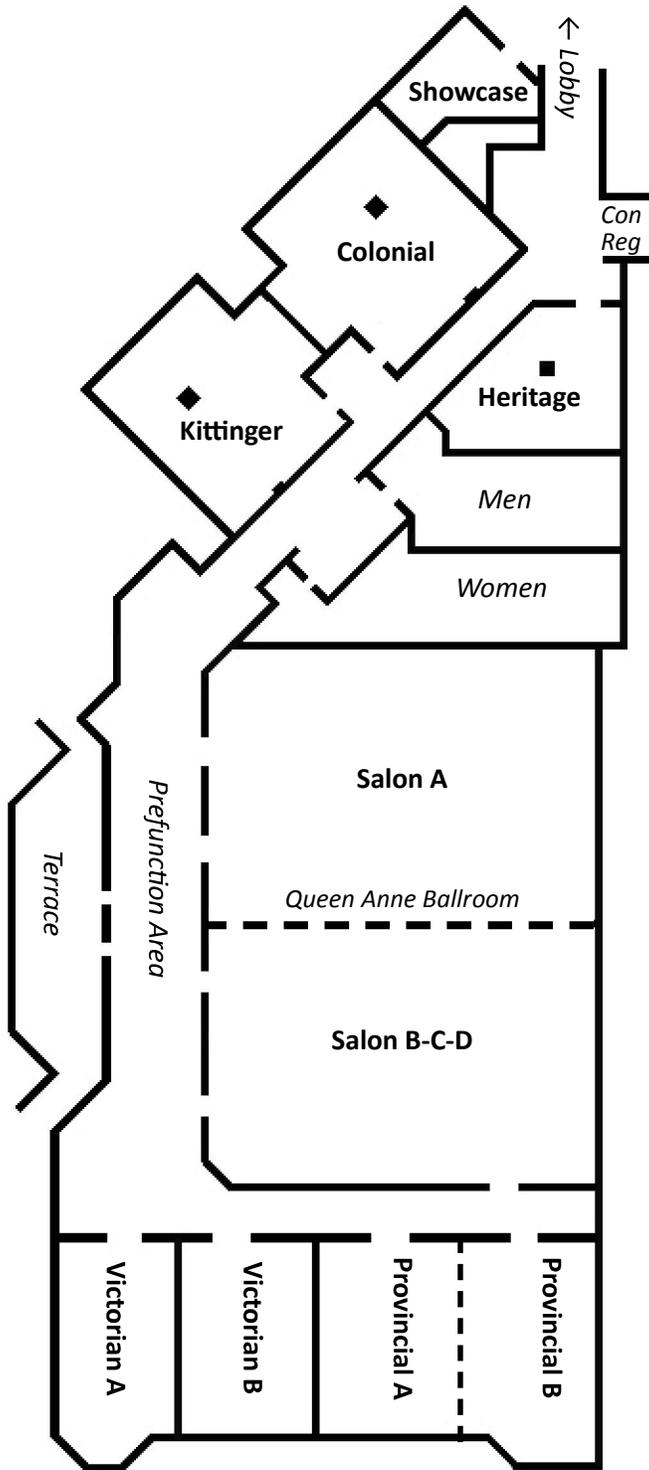
Kids Track: Music By Mark

SUN – 11:00 AM, Heritage

Join Mark MacDicken as he entertains.

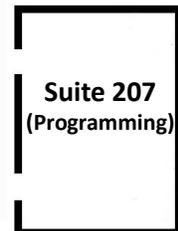
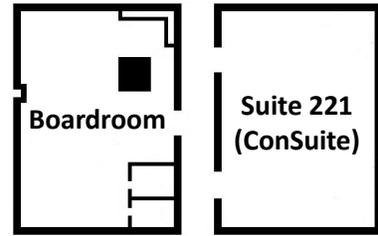


MAP OF THE CON SITE



Radisson

2nd Floor of Hotel



**COMING SOON FROM
SILENCE IN THE LIBRARY PUBLISHING**

MONSTERS

Featuring stories by

Aaron Allston, Michael A. Stackpole, Timothy Zahn, and more

PRE-ORDER NOW!

at silenceinthelibrarypublishing.com



Sign up at our website to receive updates on our new releases and our free quarterly e-zine.

EVENTS 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.

What Made Spock So Essential To Star Trek? (AP)

FRI - 1:00 PM

Queen Anne – Salons B,C,D

The character of Spock connected in many ways with fans around the world. What is it about the character and his relationships with others that helped define generations of Star Trek fans?

Panelists: Randy Richards (M), Matthew Foster, Ron Garner, Nicole Givens Kurtz, Carl Kesner

Star Wars Collectible Roadshow (ET)

FRI – 1:00 PM

Provincial A

Join long time Star Wars collector Scott Gibson as he shares tips and suggestions for building and maintaining your collection from his 38 years of tracking down treasures from a galaxy far, far away...

Panelists: Scott Gibson

Dead Is Dead, Until They Come Back (AP)

FRI – 1:00 PM

Provincial B

A round table discussion of how to let go of a lost favorite character via death or banishment into another dimension. And the hope of them returning and how.

Panelists: James Maxey (M), Gail Z. Martin, Dahlia Rose

Medicine of the Future (ET)

FRI - 1:00pm

Victoria B

Hypo sprays that cure epidemics instantly, bio beds in sickbay that monitor without wires and tubes to the patient. Experts discuss health care apocalypse scenarios, how do we see medicine practiced in 20 or 50 years, etc?

Panelists: Tedd Roberts (M), Mike Brown, JT the Engineerd, Debra Killeen, Darcy Wold

ConGRegate Kids Craft Center (AP)

FRI – 1:00 PM (All afternoon)

Heritage

We have designated this room for parents to take their kids to allow the kids to decompress, should the con become overwhelming. There will be coloring and crafts available. NOTE: This is NOT daycare. You must remain with your child(ren). Runs from 1:00 PM – 7:00 PM.

Writers' Roundtable (AP)

FRI – 2:00 PM

Queen Anne – Salons B,C,D

This will be an open discussion among our literary guests about everything related to writing. This is the place to all ask those burning questions that you have: what they find to be the most difficult aspect of writing, why they derive joy out of this craft, and how they think the future of writing will evolve.

Panelists: Jonathan French (M), Michael Stackpole, John Hartness, Chris Kennedy, Darin Kennedy, Emily Lavin Leverett, Misty Massey

Learn About Sched (ET)

FRI - 2:00 PM

Provincial B

ConGRegate is using the mobile platform of Sched.org as the way to display the programming and guests for the convention. This panel will introduce you to the website and how to use it.

Panelists: Everette Beach

Fan Expectations To Media Adaptations & Tie-Ins (AP)

FRI – 2:00 PM

Provincial A

From Star Wars to the Marvel Universe, fans can get vocal about our feelings. Are we entitled to our say, or just entitled?

Panelists: Rhonda Ogelsby (M), Albin Johnson, Tom Hutchens, Ken Krahl (FSS), Margaret McGraw

Dystopian/Disaster Stories (AP)

FRI – 2:00 PM

Victorian B

From Hunger Games to Mad Max, the world ends and humanity survives. What can we learn about ourselves and our future from these stories?

Panelists: James Maxey (M), Matthew Foster, Nicole Givens Kurtz, Dahlia Rose

Essential Superheroics (AP)

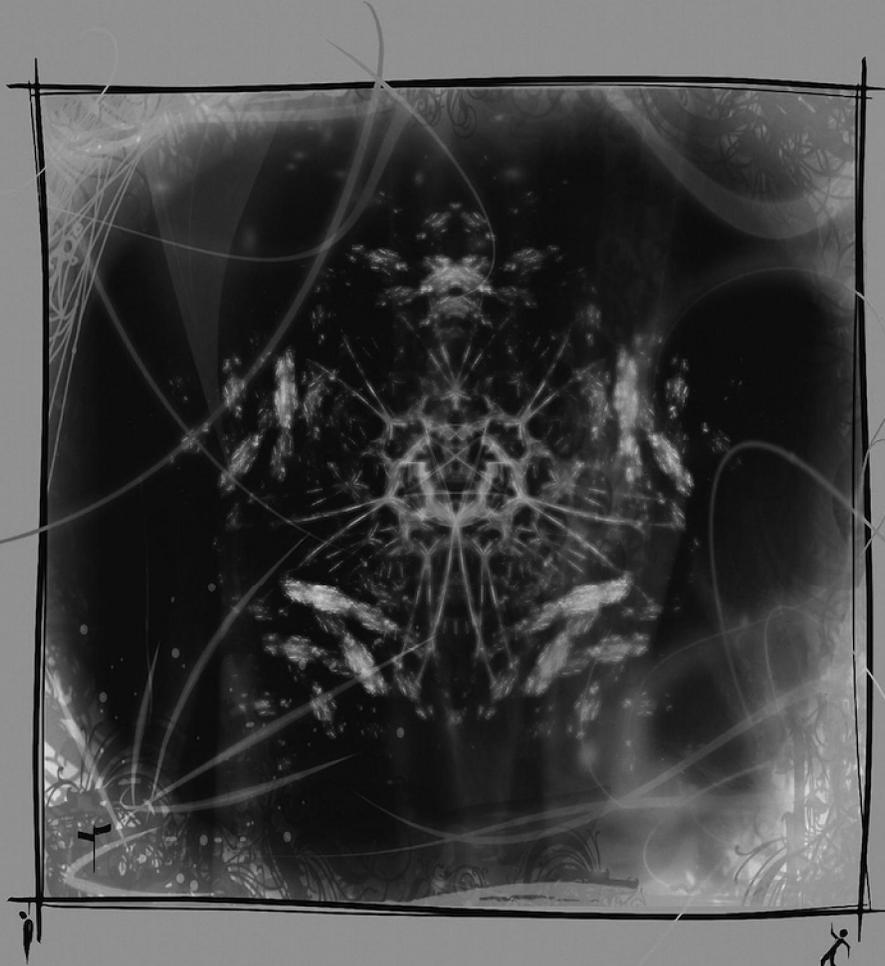
FRI – 3:00 PM

Queen Anne – Salons B,C,D

Given the explosion of superheroes in movies, TV, graphic novels and comics over the last ten years, can we get the room to agree on the top ten superhero media experiences that are absolutely essential?

Panelists: James Maxey (M), Ron Garner, Kenneth Gentile, Darin Kennedy, Nicole Givens Kurtz, Rhonda Ogelsby

Stroad's Cross



Allen L. Wold

Stroad's Cross was oddly well preserved for a village that had been abandoned fifty years ago. The buildings showed no signs of mold or termites or vandalism, or even that the former residents had ever moved out.

In a way, some of them never had.

Nobody wants to die....

EVENTS DESCRIPTIONS

Build A Better Space Habitat (AP)

FRI - 3:00 PM

Provincial B

A space habitat is a logical next step beyond the International Space Station. Where might we build it, and how? How would we make it safe to actually live in?

Panelists: Tedd Roberts (M), James Beall, JT the Enginerd, Matthew Foster, Paula Jordan, Stephen Simmons

Finding The Story (ET)

FRI – 3:00 PM

Provincial A

Join WGoH, Michael Stackpole as he shares quick tips and tools for finding a story in almost any circumstances.

Panelists: Michael Stackpole

The Long And Short Of It (ET)

FRI – 3:00 PM

Victorian B

The Fantasy genre has typically produced epic length novels, while the Sci-Fi genre has both long novels and shorts in magazines or anthologies. Why does Sci-Fi lend itself to both lengths and Fantasy doesn't? What are the attractions, pros and cons of both lengths? As more people read in snatches of time on mobile devices, could the shorter length become more popular, why or why not?

Panelists: John Hartness (M), Richard Dansky, Debra Killeen, Rebecca Ledford, Steven S. Long, Tom Mays, Edmund Schubert

Puppetry In SF/Fantasy (ET)

FRI – 4:00 PM

Queen Anne – Salons B,C,D

From Star Wars to Babylon 5, puppets and puppeteers have held a place in the genre. How do puppets compare to CGI and what makes the puppet define a character?

Panelists: Cheralyn Lambeth (M), Mark MacDicken, Jennifer McCollom, Angela Pritchett, Travis Surber

Warrior Women From A To Z: Arwen To Zelda (ET)

FRI - 4:00 PM

Provincial A

From Xena and Wonder Woman to Brienne of Tarth and even Zelda, warrior women can be very different. What defines them? What critical aspects of a character make them "warriors?"

Panelists: JT the Enginerd (M), Allegriana, Ron Garner, Jonathan French, Alicia McCalla, Rhonda Oglesby

The Care And Feeding Of Fan Groups (ET)

FRI – 4:00 PM

Provincial B

Four Carolina fan icons talk about starting their groups, what they hope for the groups, how to maintain the organizations and how to let go.

Panelists: Tom Hutchens (M), Albin Johnson, James Rippe, Scott Rorie

Weird Wild West Clockwork Cowboys (ET)

FRI – 4:00 PM

Victorian B

Our panelists discuss how Steampunk, Supernatural Fantasy and Westerns connect to tell tales of the fantastic frontier!

Panelists: Gail Z. Martin (M), Larry Martin, Kenneth Gentile, Nicole Givens Kurtz, Emily Lavin Leverett, Misty Massey, Margaret McGraw

Defining Rogues And Scoundrels (AP)

FRI – 5:00 PM

Queen Anne – Salons B,C,D

Han Solo, Mal Reynolds, Artemis Entreri, Robin Hood, Aramis of the Musketeers, the Gray Mouser, Mat Cauthon, and Gambit are just some of the characters that could be considered rogues or scoundrels...so let's define the terms. Are rogues and scoundrels interchangeable or is there a difference between them?

Panelists: Chris Kennedy (M), Timothy Zahn, Emily Lavin Leverett, Gail Z. Martin, Misty Massey, Michael G. Williams, Leona Wisoker

Copyright And The Author (ET)

FRI - 5:00 PM

Provincial A

Everyone knows we should copyright our work. But what does that mean? Does mailing it to yourself really count? Our panelists discuss the legal ins and outs of protecting your work.

Panelists: Laura Haywood-Cory (M), Ron Garner, Karen McCullough, Ed Schubert, Darcy Wold

Adapting Books, TV, & Movies To Roleplaying Games (ET)

FRI - 5:00 PM

Provincial B

How do you take your favorite story and turn it into an RPG (either table top or video)? What aspects of the world are critical to include and what do you leave out?

Panelists: Steven S. Long (M), Michael Stackpole, Michael Brown, Rich Dansky, Kenneth Gentile, Randy Richards

Science in Fiction Workshop (AP)

FRI – 5:30 PM

Victorian B

Great science fiction takes reality to the edge and leaps. Quarky Trons presents an interactive seminar -- “Science in Fiction” Thunderdome. Attendees will band together to test their science fiction supremacy, competing in a series of trivia trials. In the first trial only the penitent Sci-Fi readers shall pass. The second trial tests the word of the great writers. Finally, the remaining souls take a leap of faith. Please sign up at registration.

Panelists: Matthew Foster

Concert: Hawthorn And Holly

FRI – 6:00 PM

Queen Anne – Salons B,C,D

Concert by Wizard Rock Group Hawthorn and Holly

Panelists: Hawthorn and Holly

Nerdiquette 201 (ET)

FRI - 6:00 PM

Provincial A

Taking the Nerdiquette Project to the next level, the panel talks about how conventions can help – from Harassment Policies to safe spaces.

Panelists: Laura Haywood-Cory (M), Allegriana, Paul Cory, Cheralyn Lambeth

Kickstarting Things (ET)

FRI - 6:00 PM

Provincial B

From books to games to movies, crowdsourcing has become a new and different way to make dreams come true. What do you need to know before you take on your first Kickstarter? Tips and Tricks from insiders who’ve done it before.

Panelists: Ron Garner (M), Misty Massey, Gail Z. Martin

Beyond The First Draft (AP)

FRI – 6:30 PM

Victorian B

This is a FREE two-hour round-table workshop, very informal, designed to answer questions and offer general guidance for a group of up to six new authors who have completed the first draft of a novel and now face the challenges of a second draft. Gray Rinehart, the primary submissions reader at Baen Books, will also be present to answer questions from the perspective of his five years experience in that position. Attendance is limited. Please sign up at Registration.

Panelists: Paula Jordan (M), Gray Rinehart

E Komo Mei (Opening Ceremonies)

FRI – 7:00 PM

Queen Anne – Salons B,C,D

E Komo Mei (“eh koh-moh my-ee”) – means “Welcome” in Hawaiian. This is the new version of our opening ceremonies. There will be door prizes and short speeches by some of the guests! Don’t forget to wear your Hawaiian shirt.

Panelists: Allen Wold (Host), Michael Stackpole, Timothy Zahn, Albin Johnson, Scott Rorie, Valentine Wolfe

Talk To Us: Interviews By Podcast (ET)

FRI - 7:00 PM

Provincial A

The do’s, don’ts, and how-to’s of conducting a podcast interview. What technologies are available to let you interview people from across the globe?

Panelists: Rhonda Oglesby (M), Rich Sigfrit, Figures Sold Separately (Ken Krahl, Renee Hill, Jimmy McKenzie, Matt Johnson)

Women Of Warp (ET)

FRI - 7:00 PM

Provincial B

From Lt. Uhura To Captain Janeway To Seven Of Nine, Star Trek Has Changed The Face Of Women In Space. Panelists will discuss its representations of women as well as the contributions of women behind the scenes.

Panelists: Nicole Givens Kurtz (M), Mike Brown, Randy Richards

Heroes Of Crossplay (ET)

FRI – 8:00 PM

Provincial A

Sometimes costuming your favorite character means stepping across genders. What does it mean to costume as a character of another gender? What tips and tricks can you use to minimize those aspects of your original gender?

Panelists: Cheralyn Lambeth (M), Virginia Fulbright, Jennifer McCollom

Privilege: The Prince And The Pauper (ET)

FRI - 8:00 PM

Provincial B

Race, class, gender, sexuality and economic assumptions in epic fantasy... who holds the power and who is powerless? Who has agency—the ability to move around freely and take action that makes a difference—and who doesn’t? Let’s talk about the assumptions we make reading/writing epic fantasy—the past was more interesting, varied and weird than you might think!

Panelists: Gail Martin (M), Jonathan French, Ron Garner, Stephen Simmons, Leona Wisoker

EVENTS DESCRIPTIONS

HollyWeird Squares (AP)

FRI – 8:30 PM

Queen Anne – Salons B,C,D

Do you have what it takes to play “Tic-Tac-Toe”? Take your chance by signing up to agree or disagree with the answers given by our celebrity squares. Contestants will be drawn randomly from the audience. Prize will be awarded to the player who wins the most rounds.

Host: Steven S. Long

Squares: Rich Sigfrit, Allegriana, Gray Rinehart, Glen Beattie & Figment, Wendell McCollom, Keith Brinegar, Randy Richards, Misty Massey, John Hartness

Portfolio Review (AP)

FRI – 8:30 PM

Victorian B

Artists bring a sample of their work and receive suggestions and constructive feedback by our guest artists and editor.

Panelists: Travis Surber (M), Rebecca Ledford, Scott Rorie

The Evolving Role Of Authors (ET)

FRI – 9:00 PM

Provincial A

Given the rapidly evolving role of authors in publishing, particularly in regards to means of publication — i.e., self-publishing, shared-responsibility publishing, traditional publishing, etc., how does a new author decide what is the best path for them?

Panelists: Michael G. Williams (M), Jonathan French, Karen McCullough, Mark Rainey

Weapons In SF (ET)

FRI – 9:00 PM

Provincial B

From blasters to lightsabers, from railguns to handguns, what weapons have their history in the real world and which ones are pure fantasy (at least for now)

Panelists: Chris Kennedy (M), Jim Beall, JT the Enginerd, Matthew Foster, Ron Garner, Tom Mays, Stephen Simmons

Doctor Who Through A Woman’s Eyes (ET)

FRI – 10:00 PM

Provincial A

Let’s talk about #12, Clara, Companions new and old and how the ‘madman in a blue box’ in all his regenerations looks when viewed from the perspective of female fans. What about the Doctor’s daughter? How could she evolve in the storyline?

Panelists: Angela Pritchett (M), JT the Enginerd, Gail Martin, Jennifer McCollom, Dahlia Rose, Leona Wisoker

50 Years Of Dune (ET)

FRI – 10:00 PM

Provincial B

This year is the 50th anniversary of the publication of DUNE. What’s made that work so enduring and important? What impact has it had on the rest of SF/Fantasy?

Panelists: Steven S. Long (M), Jim Beall, Kenneth Gentile, Chris Oakley, Michael Pederson

Music And Art In SF And Fantasy (ET)

FRI – 10:00 PM

Victorian B

From Hildebrandt to Eggleton, from Williams to Queen, how has music and art influenced our understanding and enjoyment of SF&F? What makes music or art look and feel futuristic? Does the definition change as contemporary music and art changes? If the several decades old music and art in Star Wars wasn’t considered so iconic, would it still be considered futuristic?

Panelists: Darin Kennedy (M), Carl Kesner, Mark MacDicken, Tedd Roberts, Darcy Wold

Concert: Valentine Wolfe

FRI – 10:30 PM

Queen Anne – Salons B,C,D

Concert by Special Musical Guests, Valentine Wolfe.

Successful Self-Publishing: Tricks And Traps (ET)

FRI – 11:00 PM

Provincial A

This presentation will provide an overview of what prospective self-published authors need to know (editing, sales, marketing, etc.) followed by an in-depth discussion with panelists on their insights and experiences as successful author/publishers.

Panelists: Chris Kennedy (M), Jonathan French, Rebecca Ledford, Tom Mays, Karen McCullough, Michael G. Williams

Cyberpunk In Anime (ET)

FRI – 11:00 PM

Provincial B

A general discussion of Cyberpunks representation in anime classics such as Ghost in the Shell, Psycho Pass and other.

Panelists: Nicole Kurtz (M), Kenneth Gentile

Ask A Mad Scientist (AP)

FRI – 11:00 PM

Victorian B

You know those panels where a bunch of stuffy scientists talk about science in fancy language that goes over your head but everyone comes out feeling 20 IQ points smarter? Yeah, didn't think so, and that's good, because this is not one of those panels. Science - it's confusing, mysterious, and sometimes you just have to wonder what the scientists were thinking when they came up with the ideas. Here's your chance to corner some scientists in a panel room for a Q&A on new, funny, important, weird and/or confusing science. It's late in the evening, so let's see if we can have some fun with it!

Panelists: Tedd Roberts (M), Jim Beall, JT the Engineerd, Matthew Foster, Darin Kennedy, Stephen Simmons

What Horror Should We Be Reading (AP)

FRI – 12:00 Midnight

Queen Anne – Salons B,C,D

Defining "should" as appealing to broad tastes as well as genre specific. Audience and panelists discuss what's new in the realm of Horror novels and which authors we should be looking out for.

Panelists: Michael G Williams (M), Richard Dansky, John Hartness, Valentine Wolfe, Nicole Givens Kurtz

We've Got You Covered (ET)

FRI – 12:00 Midnight

Provincial A

What are the primary jobs of a book cover? Does a cover need to portray different things on a printed book vs. a digital one? Should your cover be innovative and different than the other covers in your genre so people notice it? With so many people buying and reading books on small mobile devices, does the way a cover show up matter? I saw the perfect photo on the internet for my book cover, can I use it? Since it saves a lot of money, should I make my own cover? What makes a really bad cover? What makes a really good cover?

Panelists: Rhonda Oglesby (M), Ron Garner, Rebecca Ledford, Margaret McGraw, Darcy Wold

Step On It (ET)

FRI – 12:00 Midnight

Provincial B

Sci-Fi has many methods of traveling fast through space: warp, jumps, wormholes, FTL drives, folding space... What method makes the most sense? Or are we willing to suspend our disbelief as long as the method sounds plausible? What makes a technology plausible? What are the things that pop a reader out of the story?

Panelists: Matthew Foster (M), Jim Beall, JT the Engineerd

Coming To You Live! Recording Live Podcasts (ET)

FRI – 12:00 Midnight

Victoria B

Recording Live Podcasts... what do you need know and what challenges do you face?

Panelists: Rich Sigfrit (M), Matt Johnson (FSS)

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.

Luke Skywalker: Galactic Hero or Jedi Trained Assassin (AP)

SAT – 9:00 AM

Queen Anne – Salons B,C,D

A round-table discussion on what Yoda and Obi-Wan's true intentions were in training Luke. Did they want him rebuild the Jedi, or simply destroy the Sith?

Panelists: Tom Hutchens (M), Timothy Zahn, Albin Johnson, Ken Krahl (FSS), Leona Wisoker

Death Of Characters: Story Progression Or Authorial Sadism? (ET)

SAT – 9:00 AM

Provincial A-B

In the course of events, an author sometimes has to eliminate a character. At times, depending upon the character, this causes readers great distress. We will discuss why this has to happen and learn a little about the art, methodology, psychology, and science of character-killing. Through the course of the panel, we will also delve into the greatest deaths in the Harry Potter, Lord of the Rings/Hobbit, Narnia, and other novels that are near and dear to fans everywhere.

Panelists: Jonathan French (M), Michael Stackpole, Paula Jordan, Chris Kennedy, Darin Kennedy, Emily Lavin Leverett, Dahlia Rose

ConGigate Kids Craft Center (AP)

SAT – 9:00 AM

Heritage

We have designated this room for parents to take their kids to allow the kids to decompress, should the con become overwhelming. There will be coloring and crafts available. NOTE: This is NOT daycare. You must remain with your child(ren).

EVENTS DESCRIPTIONS

Them's Fighting Words: Writing Combat In Science Fiction (ET)

SAT – 10:00 AM

Queen Anne – Salons B,C,D

We've all seen movies or read stories where what we know about science does not mesh with what's presented to us. Science fiction readers are willing to suspend their disbelief to a point, and it's important to know where that point is. This panel will focus on the finer details of writing combat in science fiction where the planet, the vacuum of space, and the technology can all challenge what we know.

Panelists: Chris Kennedy (M), Rich Dansky, Ron Garner, Darin Kennedy, Tom Mays, Jay Posey, Tedd Roberts

30 Years Of The Space Shuttle – From The Eyes Of A Former NASA Employee (ET)

SAT – 10:00 AM

Provincial A-B

Join James "Butch" Allen as he presents 30 years of the Space Shuttle from his direct experience as a Technician.

Panelists: James Ford "Butch" Allen

Allen Wold's Regionally Famous Workshop

SAT – 10:00 AM

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. Please sign up at Registration.

Panelists: Allen Wold (M), Rebecca Ledford, Stephen Mark Rainey, Darcy Wold

Kids Track: S.H.I.E.L.D. Double Agent Initiative (AP)

SAT – 10:00 AM

Heritage

The Double Agent Initiative is a children's scavenger hunt for "Hydra Sympathetic" individuals to retrieve antique tokens, keeping them out of the hands of Johann Schmidt (a.k.a. Red Skull). Participating Children will receive their orders from SHIELD's founder – Agent Peggy Carter. The person with the most tokens turned in will receive The Tesseract, to take home for safe keeping, ensuring Hydra does not gain possession. Children may sign up at Registration.

Inside the ConGregarate Studio: FGoH Interview – Albin Johnson

SAT – 11:00 AM

Queen Anne – Salons B,C,D

Michael D. Pederson interviews our Fan Guest of Honor Albin Johnson.

Baen Travelling Roadshow (AP)

SAT – 11:00 AM

Provincial A-B

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

Panelists: Gray Rinehart

Kids Track: STEM For Kids

SAT – 11:00 AM

Suite 207

Join several of our guests as they provide a time to do some interactive science and engineering activities for the children.

Panelists: JT the Engineerd, Matthew Foster, Stephen Simmons, Tom Mays, Butch Allen

ConGregarate Kids Craft Center (AP)

SAT – 11:00 AM (All afternoon)

Heritage

We have designated this room for parents to take their kids to allow the kids to decompress, should the con become overwhelming. There will be coloring and crafts available. NOTE: This is NOT daycare. You must remain with your child(ren). Runs from 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM.

Concert: Hawthorn And Holly

SAT – 12:00 PM

Queen Anne – Salons B,C,D

Concert by Wizard Rock Group Hawthorn and Holly

105th Squad Makers Workshop (AP)

SAT – 12:00 PM

Victorian B

The 105th Squad is a multi-genre Costume and Prop Builder group. We refer to our members as engineers, because they work together in building various projects. Take advantage of this workshop to share your work and learn from others. Feel free to ask members for tips as they are here to help.

Panelists: James Rippe, members of the 105th Squad

Concert: Valentine Wolfe

SAT – 1:00 PM

Queen Anne – Salons B,C,D

Concert by Special Musical Guests, Valentine Wolfe.

Nuclear Follies and Oddities (ET)

SAT – 1:00 PM

Provincial A-B

Did you hear the one about the nuclear-powered windmill? The "Atomic Age" opened with many and often bizarre attempts to harness the new technology. A nuclear engineer explores those first decades, with many photos and videos.

Panelists: Jim Beall

Kids Track: Milk And Magic (AP)

SAT – 1:00 PM

Suite 207

Join Flabbergast the Wizard for some magic. Kids will be supplied with milk and cookies.

Panelists: Mark MacDicken

Concert: White Plectrum

SAT – 2:00 PM

Queen Anne – Salons B,C,D

Concert by musical guests, White Plectrum.

Live Action Slush Pile (AP)

SAT – 2:00 PM

Provincial A-B

Here's how this works: submit the first page of a story or book. One page only. The Magical Words crew then has their reader read each one out loud, and as he reads they listen until they hear something that would make them stop reading if they were editors. At that point they put up a hand. When all three have hands up, the reader stops reading and there is a discussion of what was heard. People can own up to their samples or keep them anonymous.

Panelists: John Hartness, Misty Massey, Gail Martin, Ed Schubert

Special Effects Make-up Workshop (AP)

SAT – 2:00 PM

Victorian B

Learn how to apply special effect pieces (scars, vampire bites, etc.) by professional Hollywood Special Effects Make-up Artist Jennifer McCollom. Jennifer will provide a variety of pieces for you to select from as well as the glue to apply it. She will teach you how apply the piece and then blend your make-up around it for a seamless appearance.

\$30.00 – Includes one piece, glue

Limit 15 attendees. Sign up at Registration.

Panelists: Jennifer McCollom

Kids Track: Filk and Cookies (AP)

SAT – 2:00 PM

Suite 207

Kid Friendly Filking (and cookies!)

Panelists: Gray Rinehart

Inside the ConGregarate Studio: WGoH Interview - Michael Stackpole (ET)

SAT – 3:00 PM

Queen Anne – Salons B,C,D

Michael D. Pederson interviews our Writer Guest of Honor Michael Stackpole.

Improving Cultural Diversity In SF (ET)

SAT – 3:00 PM

Provincial A-B

From cons to stories to TV and Film, how do we as fans reach out to different races, cultures and make them more welcome and more obvious in SF.

Panelists: Misty Massey (M), Laura Haywood-Cory, Nicole Givens Kurtz, Emily Lavin Leverett, Alicia McCalla, Jay Posey, Randy Richards

Phase 5 Publishing Book Launch (AP)

SAT – 3:30 PM

Suite 207

Join Phase 5 Publishing as they celebrate the release of some of their newest books.

Panelists: Kenn Gentile, Rebecca Ledford

Inside the ConGregarate Studio: WGoH Interview – Timothy Zahn (ET)

SAT – 4:00 PM

Queen Anne – Salons B,C,D

Michael D. Pederson interviews our Writer Guest of Honor Timothy Zahn.

Plotting Workshop (AP)

SAT – 4:00 PM

Victorian B

Allen's plotting workshop takes you through 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. Sign up at Registration.

Panelists: Allen Wold

Book Launch (AP)

SAT – 4:30 PM

Provincial A-B

Join several authors as they celebrate the release of their newest books! (Light snacks will be served.)

Panelists: John Hartness, Darin Kennedy, Gail Martin, Matt Saunders



See our ad on the back cover for information about our 2016 con.

EVENTS DESCRIPTIONS

Photography 101 Workshop (AP)

SAT – 5:00 PM

Queen Anne – Salons B,C,D

So you just bought a new camera, but the pictures still do not look quite as professional as you had hoped. Professional photographers James Rippe and Paul Cory will provide some hands on suggestions to help your pictures look more like art, rather than something snapped on your smartphone. Allegriana and Angela Pritchett will serve as Models and SFX Artist Jen McCollom will offer suggestions on make-up for pictures.

Panelists: Allegriana, Paul Cory, Jen McCollom, Angela Pritchett, James Rippe

Creating The Well Dressed Puppet (AP)

SAT – 5:00 PM

Suite 207

Join Master prop-maker Cheralyn Lambeth as she takes you through basic puppet making.

Puppet Kits are \$5.00. See Sched.org for list of available kits.

Limited attendance. Sign up at Registration.

Panelists: Cheralyn Lambeth

Kids Track: S.H.I.E.L.D. Double Agent Initiative Award Ceremony (AP)

SAT – 5:00 PM

Heritage

Join SHIELD's founder – Agent Peggy Carter as she presents The Tesseract to the person with the most tokens.

Book Launch (AP)

SAT – 6:00 PM

Provincial A-B

Join some of our authors as they celebrate the release of their newest books! (Light snacks will be served.)

Panelists: Debra Killeen, Cheralyn Lambeth, Dahlia Rose

Costume Contest (AP)

SAT – 7:00 PM

Queen Anne – Salons B,C,D

In grand convention tradition, ConGRegate will host a costume contest on Saturday night. The contest is open to any costumed individual or group. See rules on Page 31.

Host: Rich Sigfrit

Judges: Albin Johnson, Matt Pennick, Angela Pritchett

The Location Next Door (ET)

SAT – 7:00 PM

Provincial A-B

Have you ever used a favorite place in a story? Would it be easier to write a real setting? Or harder? How would you research it? How true to the place do you have to be? Could there be problems with describing the real setting too literally or taking too many liberties with it or its culture or people? What local or regional settings have you used or would you like to use in future speculative fiction?

Panelists: Paula Jordan (M), John Hartness, Debra Killeen, Misty Massey, Karen McCullough, Michael G. Williams

Chris Kennedy Book Launch (AP)

SAT – 7:00 PM

Suite 215 (Barfly Central)

Join guest Chris Kennedy as he launches his newest book!

Panelists: Chris Kennedy

Awards Ceremony (ET)

SAT – 8:00 PM

Queen Anne – Salons B,C,D

Join as we present some local Awards: The Cornerstone Award for Fandom in the Carolinas and the Manly Wade Wellman Award for SF in the Carolinas.

The Cornerstone Award is an annual honor presented by a group of fans from the Carolinas known as the Singularity Effect, dedicated to acknowledging other fans' contributions. To be eligible for the award, the fan must have been involved in promoting/helping fandom in the Carolinas (North and/or South) in some way for at least ten years. The award is named after a brick that was saved during the demolition of a High Point hotel that hosted multiple conventions over a number of years.

The Manly Wade Wellman Award for Science Fiction and Fantasy was founded in December 2013 to recognize outstanding achievement in science fiction and fantasy novels written by North Carolina authors. The 2014 award, voted on by the combined membership of North Carolina science fiction and fantasy conventions (illogiCon, ConCarolinas, ConTemporal, and ConGRegate), will cover novels published in 2013. Nominations will open at illogiCon in January ahead of a final voting round, with the award being presented at ConGRegate in July. The award is named for long-time North Carolina author Manly Wade Wellman with the permission of his estate.

Panelists: Laura Haywood-Cory, Sam Montgomery-Blinn

2015 Costume Contest Rules & Information

The ConGregarate Costume Contest is open to any costumed individual or group, but all participants must have valid ConGregarate membership badges.

Costume Contest sign-up sheets will be located at the Registration table and available until noon on Saturday.

No entries will be accepted after that time.

If you have audio material to be played while you are on stage, please have it recorded on an otherwise blank CD, which is labeled with your name, your badge number, and the name of your costume (or group).

There should be no more than ten (10) seconds of blank time before your audio begins to play. The audio must be turned in with your Costume Contest sign-up sheet. ConGregarate cannot guarantee your audio will be played during your presentation. We reserve the right to review music before allowing it to be used. CDs can be reclaimed after the Costume Contest awards are presented.

If you plan to use music during your presentation, you must provide written permission from the artist to the convention prior to the Costume Contest.

There will be no live microphone for contestants to use on stage.

There will be no spotlights or other light effects available on stage.

If you plan to draw or otherwise "use" a weapon during your presentation, note that on your Costume Contest sign-up sheet. Judges will make any necessary determination of suitability and safety.

If you are taking part in a group entry, only one Costume Contest sign-up sheet is necessary for the entire group, but the name and badge number of all group members must be listed on that sheet.

The Costume Contest is open to all ages. An adult must accompany children under the age of 14. Parents can accompany their children onstage. Entrants under 14 years of age will not be judged, but will receive certificates for participating.

Awards categories may include: Best in Show, Best Craftsmanship, Top Novice, Top Journeyman, Top Master, and Judge's Choice. Depending on the number of entrants, other awards may be added.

Participants will be judged on costume construction, originality, and presentation. Decisions of the judges will be final.

Categories definitions:

- **Youth** costumers are those under the age of 14 years (see above).
- **Novice** costumers are those who have won three (3) or fewer major (Best -, Top -, 1st Place in a category) awards in costume competitions.
- **Journeyman** costumers are those who have won more than three major awards in costume competitions, but have won fewer than three (3) Best in Show or Best Overall awards.
- **Master** costumers are those who have won more than three (3) Best in Show or Best Overall awards and/or are paid for their work.

Any entrant may choose to compete in a higher category.

No individual may present more than one costume in the contest.

Individuals are limited to one (1) minute on stage. Groups entries are limited to one (1) minute plus thirty (30) seconds for each additional member up to a maximum of three (3) minutes on stage.

Any of the following on stage will result in disqualification and ejection from the Costume Contest: smoke effects, open flames, squirting liquids, firing projectiles, throwing objects into the audience, use of obscene language, pornographic representations, full or partial nudity. Help us keep ConGregarate a safe and family-friendly convention.

We ask that anyone with a costume which has won three (3) or more major (Best, Top, or 1st Place) Costume Contest or costume competition awards elsewhere not enter that particular costume into ConGregarate competition unless it has been significantly changed or improved.

Contestants need to be in the Green Room at least one (1) hour before Costume Contest time to be pre-judged and assigned a place in line. If you have a re-creation costume, bring any supporting photos, illustrations, text passages, models, or other reference materials with you for judges to examine. Please remember to EAT before pre-judging!!!

It is possible that latecomers may not be allowed to participate, even if they have registered by turning in a sign-up sheet.

The Green Room will be secured while the Costume Contest is taking place. Only identified contestants or their parents will have access to the Green Room in that time period.

ConGregarate reserves the right to remove anyone from the contest at any time for any reason, including but not limited to: indecent costume, unprofessional conduct, tardiness, and disruption of the contest.

Participants must stay within the contest area (the Costume Contest room, Green Room, or designated meeting area) until judging is completed and awards are presented.

EVENTS DESCRIPTIONS

World Building with Steven S. Long

SAT – 8:00 PM

Victorian B

It's a crash course in world building with Game Designer Steven S. Long. Work with Steve to design a world taking into account everything from ecology to community.

Panelists: Steven S. Long

Concert: Valentine Wolfe

SAT – 9:00 PM

Queen Anne – Salons B,C,D

Concert by Special Musical Guests, Valentine Wolfe.

ConGregate Charity Auction (AP)

SAT – 9:00 PM

Provincial A-B

Proceeds from the auction will benefit the Greensboro Urban Ministry, a non-denominational organization, which provides emergency financial assistance, food assistance, emergency and transitional shelter, and rapid re-housing to those in need. We hope you are able to come to the auction and help us support this year's worthy cause, as we try to meet or beat the over \$1000 we raised last year. See the Charity Auction Information on this page.

Panelists: Michael Stackpole, Margaret McGraw, Jennifer McCollom

Ask An Editor (AP)

SAT – 9:00 PM

Suite 207

Have a question you'd really like to ask an editor. Join four pros in a relaxed atmosphere as they answer your questions from grammar to queries to submissions.

Panelists: Laura Haywood-Cory, Emily Lavin Leverett, Gray Rinehart, Ed Schubert

Open Filk

SAT – 10:00 PM

Victorian B

Bring your guitar and sing or just listen along as musicians come together to filk your favorite songs.

Discordia Dames featuring Nerd-Vana Burlesque Show

SAT – 10:30 PM

Queen Anne – Salons B,C,D

Enjoy a geeky burlesque show with a variety of styles and themes, bringing you the best and nerdiest in variety entertainment!

Show is 18+. Members must present ID and a ConGregate Badge.

Charity Auction Information

Anyone attending the convention is welcome to bid in the auction, but you must have a badge on to register at the auction. Your badge number will be your bidder number.

To make a bid: Raise your hand, jump up and down, or shout your bid if necessary! The auctioneer will make every attempt to see all bids, but he is not perfect. Active participation by the bidder helps!

Bids will only be accepted in whole US dollar amounts.

If you are not bidding, please be silent (to a reasonable degree).

Only request to see an item closer if you really intend to bid, since this slows down the auction.

A bid acknowledged by the auctioneer is a legal contract to purchase the item.

The highest bid acknowledged by the auctioneer is the winner. In the event of a dispute between bidders, the auctioneer shall have sole and final discretion either to determine the successful bidder or to re-offer the item in dispute.

When you make a successful bid on an item, please call out your badge number so it can be recorded. You may pay for an item as the bidding for that item ends, or items will be held until the end of the auction session, when all winnings must be paid for. Purchased items need to be removed as soon as payment has been made. Acceptable methods of payment will be announced at the start of the auction.

CAVEAT EMPTOR ("Let the Buyer Beware!"). Although the auctioneer will make every attempt to describe all items correctly, every item is sold "as is". The convention is not responsible for, nor can we guarantee condition, authenticity, completeness, etc. of any item.

Proceeds from the Charity Auction will go to benefit:



80+ titles available at MochaMemoirsPress.com

MOCHA MEMOIRS PRESS



Offering New Flavors in Fiction

Visit our table at ConGregate for special deals!

Science Fiction

- Steampunk
- Aliens
- Cyberpunk

Fantasy

- Dragons
- Urban
- Angels & Demons

Horror

- Ghosts
- Zombies
- Psycho Killers

Romance

- Interracial
- Contemporary
- Paranormal

...and many, many more!



© 2012 BETH WATERS

CONCAROLINAS

June 3rd - 5th, 2016

FEATURING

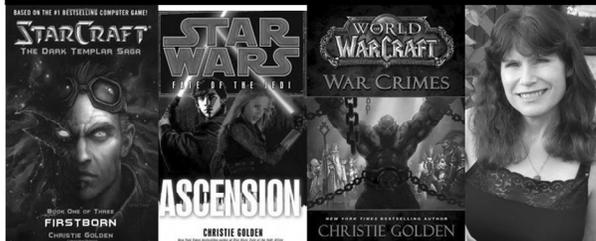
- Over 100 Guests
- Costume Contest
- Dealer's Room
- Short Film Festival
 - Karaoke
 - Gaming
- Panels Including Writing, Paranormal Costuming, Music and More!



Guests of Honor:



Bill Blair - Media Special Guest



Christie Golden - Author Special Guest

Register by May 4th, 2016 or Pay More at the Door!

WWW.CONCAROLINAS.ORG

EVENTS DESCRIPTIONS

The Cross Appeal Of Niche Genres (AP)

SAT – 12:00 Midnight

Provincial A-B

Does audience enthusiasm for one genre (like Steam Punk) mean they are willing to experiment with others (like Weird West), or do these pockets of readers isolate themselves?

Panelists: Michael G. Williams (M), Kenneth Gentile, Tom Mays, Margaret McGraw

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.

Non-Denominational Prayer Service (AP)

SUN – 9:00 AM

Provincial A

This “open to all” event will be led by Fans for Christ.

Panelists: Fans of Christ

Concert: Hawthorn And Holly

SUN – 10:00 AM

Queen Anne – Salons B,C,D

Concert by Wizard Rock Group Hawthorn and Holly

Costuming vs. Cosplay (ET)

SUN – 10:00 AM

Provincial A

Semantics? ...Or is there a difference? And if so, what is it? And, how do fans educate each other on which they think they are doing?

Panelists: Tedd Roberts (M), JT the Engineerd, Tom Hutchens, Cheralyn Lambeth, Mark MacDicken, Angela Pritchett

Series, Serial Or Cereal (ET)

SUN – 10:00 AM

Provincial B

We’ve all found a series we love reading and can’t wait for the next book. What makes one book good to expand into a series and another book’s sequel nothing better than soggy cereal? Can a series be created from a single book or does it have to be thought out before the first book is written. What is the difference between series and serials? What are the pros and cons of each? What kinds of linking can make a group of books a series?

Panelists: John Hartness (M), Timothy Zahn, Ron Garner, Darin Kennedy, Alicia McCalla, Dahlia Rose

Allen’s Workshop Recap (AP)

SUN – 10:00 AM

Victorian B

Panelists: Allen Wold (M), Rebecca Ledford, Stephen Mark Rainey, Darcy Wold

The Tim And Mike Show (AP)

SUN – 11:00 AM

Queen Anne – Salons B,C,D

Join GoH’s Timothy Zahn and Michael Stackpole as they talk about anything and everything, as well as take questions from the audience.

Writing The Other (ET)

SUN – 11:00 AM

Provincial A

Writing the opposite gender, sexual identity as well as touching disabilities, race and other aspects of humanity? How do you write characters with these aspects respectfully yet honestly? If lack of real life experience is the proposed reason, then why could that same author write a strong vampire or wizard character?

Panelists: Alicia McCalla (M), Paula Jordan, Nicole Givens Kurtz, Emily Lavin Leverett, Stephen Mark Rainey, Randy Richards, Edmund Schubert

Absinthe And Airships (ET)

SUN – 11:00 AM

Provincial B

How faithful does Steampunk need to be to the real Naughty Nineties? How much of what we think we know about Victorians is real—and how much was hushed up?

Gail Martin (M), Larry Martin, Karen McCullough, Margaret McGraw

Leather Working Workshop

SUN – 11:00 AM

Victorian B

Ribbons and Rivets teaches the class how to etch and dye a leather cuff.

Workshop Fee: \$20.00

Limited attendance. Sign up at Registration.

Panelists: Matt Pennick, Allegriana

Kids Track: Music By Mark

SUN – 11:00 AM

Heritage

Join Mark MacDicken as he entertains.

Panelists: Mark MacDicken

RAVENCON 11

WILLIAMSBURG, VA • APRIL 29–MAY 1, 2016



More guests to be announced soon!

RavenCon is a Science Fiction & Fantasy Convention that features over nine continuous tracks of programming (300+ hours!). More than 100 writers, fans, artists, scientists, musicians, gamers, filmmakers, and costumers will be available for discussions, panels, readings, and signings. There's also anime, concerts, parties, workshops, children's programming, vendors, and our famous Gaming Room that never closes. Plus, there's always a surprise or two up our sleeves. We guarantee, there's always something fun to do at RavenCon! ***More info online at ravencon.com.***



THE CON OF OPPORTUNITY!

EVENTS DESCRIPTIONS

Engineering By Government Bureaucracy (ET)

SUN – 12:00 PM

Queen Anne – Salons B,C,D

Stormtroopers can't hit anything and the Death Star had a monumental weakness. Our panelists explain why these things happen with an eye toward 'real-life' situations and problems.

Panelists: Jim Beall (M), Matthew Foster, Tom Mays, Gray Rinehart, Stephen Simmons

Promoting Your Podcast (ET)

SUN – 12:00 PM Noon

Provincial A

Where and how does an up and coming podcaster spread the word about their releases? How do you keep your enthusiasm for the podcast while you wait for an audience? Do you mix subjects you think others will like with what you like, all of one or the other?

Panelists: Rich Sigfrit (M), Figures Sold Separately, John Hartness, Rhonda Ogelsby

Unique Costuming Materials (ET)

SUN – 12:00 PM

Provincial B

Our panelists discuss using materials other than cloth, chainmail, foam, duct tape, and leather. What are some unusual materials that you can use to make costumes and what are some that you shouldn't use.

Panelists: JT the Enginerd (M), Allegriana, Tom Hutchens, Jennifer McCollom, Matt Pennick, Angela Pritchett

ConGregarate Kids Craft Center (AP)

SAT – 12:00 PM (All afternoon)

Heritage

We have designated this room for parents to take their kids to allow the kids to decompress, should the con become overwhelming. There will be coloring and crafts available. NOTE: This is NOT daycare. You must remain with your child(ren). Runs from 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM.

Concert: White Plectrum

SUN – 1:00 PM

Queen Anne – Salons B,C,D

Concert by musical guests, White Plectrum.

Beyond Spandex Studs (ET)

SUN – 1:00 PM

Provincial A

The panelists discuss comics and superheroes that push boundaries, break new ground, include more people and turn tropes upside down.

Panelists: Gail Martin (M), Carl Kesner, James Maxey, Travis Surber, Michael G Williams

Women In Science & Tech (ET)

SUN – 1:00 PM

Provincial B

Why don't more women go into science and tech? What can we do to promote women to go into science? Why do we even need more women in science in the first place?

Panelists: JT the Enginerd (M), Karen McCullough, Rhonda Oglesby, Tedd Roberts

Celebrity Star Wars Trivia Pursuit

SUN – 1:00 PM

Victorian B

Winners from Saturday Night's Auction partner with our Star Wars GoHs to play a game of Star Wars Trivia Pursuit.

Panelists: Timothy Zahn, Michael Stackpole, Albin Johnson

Other Loves (ET)

SUN – 2:00 PM

Queen Anne – Salons B,C,D

How does the other stuff you love influence your fiction? How do other arts, sports or hobbies flavor the lives of your characters? And have the other loves of your characters influenced you?

Panelists: Paula Jordan (M), Jonathan French, Karen McCullough, Margaret McGraw, Dahlia Rose, Michael G. Williams

Back To The Future (ET)

SUN – 2:00 PM

Provincial A

Marty McFly travelled to the future this year and found hoverboards and flying cars, why aren't we there yet? And just how close are we?

Panelists: Randy Richards (M), James Beall, JT the Enginerd, Matthew Foster, Cheralyn Lambeth, Tedd Roberts

Why Diversify (ET)

SUN – 2:00 PM

Provincial B

There's a lot of talk around conventions and the bigger pictures of harassment and diversity. Why should conventions look at harassment policies and the diversity of their guest list? What value does it bring to the greater SF fandom? Convention runners and guests discuss.

Panelists: Michael Pederson (M), James Ford "Butch" Allen, Mike Brown, Carl Kesner, Nicole Givens Kurtz, Alicia McCalla, Leona Wisoker

GAMING FOR THE CAROLINAS



WWW.JUSTUSPRODUCTIONS.COM



You ♥ the movies.

Let the movies
love you
back.

REGAL CROWN CLUB



Enjoy these discounts every week!
Monday featured candy \$2
Tuesday small popcorn \$2



Regal Mobile App
Store your Regal Crown Club® card
on your mobile for hassle-free use.

REGAL CINEMAS®

• REGmovies.com •

Phase 5 Annual Review
Short Fictions
Vol. 1

Ph Phase 5 Publishing



Phase 5
Publishing



EVENTS DESCRIPTIONS

Tail End In Seat (ET)

SUN – 3:00 PM

Queen Anne – Salons B,C,D

So, you have about 50,000 words written in your novel, and you've been stuck there for a month. Maybe you've lost interest in the story or maybe you're a part time writer who has not found a way to get back to the story. Our panelists will discuss some of their favorite tricks to staying motivated and reinvigorating themselves to write.

Panelists: Michael G. Williams (M), Michael Stackpole, Paula Jordan, Karen McCullough, Leona Wisoker, Allen Wold

Con In Review (AP)

SUN – 3:00 PM

Provincial A

The con is almost over. Take a few minutes before you leave and tell us...what worked? What didn't? We will also have a suggestion box in the room if you would like to leave ideas for guests or panel topics for future Cons.

Panelists: James Fulbright, other available Staff

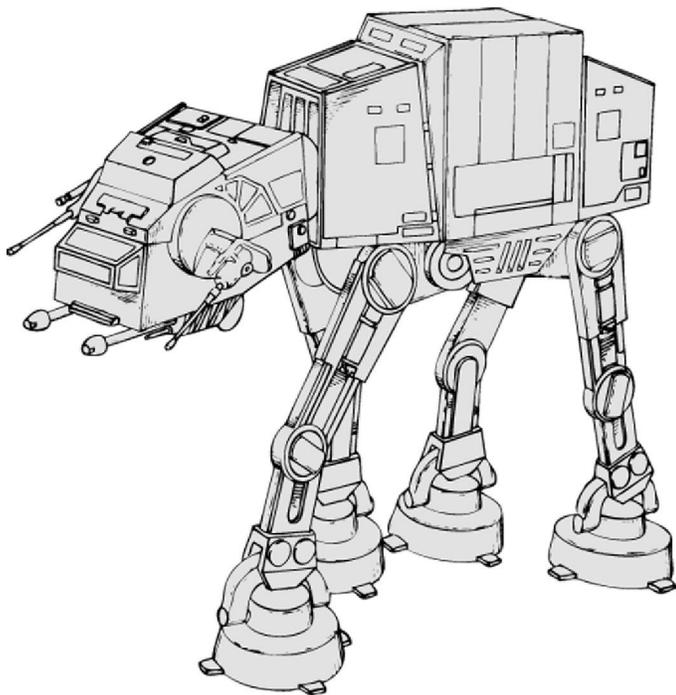
Flash Topic (Or It's Late On Sunday...) (AP)

SUN – 3:00 PM

Provincial B

It's Sunday. It's late. Our remaining brave panelists will talk about whatever topics you (the audience) throw at them.

Panelists: Matthew Foster, Tom Mays



Exhibitors

Attending Dealers (Salon A)

- Scott Rorie - Artist
- Bead Weaver
- Big Bear Healing Gifts
- Buzzy Multimedia
- Fashions By Figment
- Frank's Cool Stuff
- Kit Kringle
- Obsidians Caldera
- Orielis Books
- Pair-A-Dice Games
- Phase 5 Publishing
- Ssalefish Comics
- The Missing Volume

Authors' Alley (Victorian A)

- Michael Stackpole (GoH)
- Timothy Zahn (GoH)
- John Hartness
- Mocha Memoirs Press
- Silence in the Library

Fan Tables (Prefunction Area)

- Valentine Wolfe
- Albin Johnson/501st Legion
- Battlestar Reprisal
- Fans for Christ
- Mandalorian Mercs
- illogicon
- MystiCon
- Royal Manticoran Navy
- Starfleet / USS Charon
- The 105th Squad

WNC'S POPULAR ARTS CONVENTION!

MULTIVERSE PRESENTS:
GEEKOUT
2016

GEEKOUTAYL.ORG
ASHEVILLE, NC

100+ VENDORS AND ARTISTS
GAMING & LARP
AFTER HOURS SHOWS
FAMILY-FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES

- PANELS AND WORKSHOPS ON-

ACTING & PERFORMANCE
BLOGGING & PODCASTS
COSTUMING & MAKE-UP
MEDIAVAL ARTS & SCIENCES
PARANORMAL INVESTIGATION
ROBOTICS & TECHNOLOGY
WRITING & STORYTELLING
AND MUCH MORE!

READINGS AND SIGNINGS

Readings

All readings are located in Suite 207.

Friday, July 10, 2015

4:00 PM - Allen Wold
4:30 PM - Paula Jordan
5:00 PM - Tedd Roberts
5:30 PM - Gray Rinehart
6:00 PM - Alicia McCalla and Nicole Givens Kurtz
8:00 PM - Tom Mays
8:30 PM - Stephen Mark Rainey
9:00 PM - Gail Martin
9:30 PM - James Maxey

Saturday, July 11, 2015

10:00 AM - Angela Pritchett
10:30 AM - Karen McCullough
6:00 PM - Timothy Zahn and Michael Stackpole
8:00 PM - Broad Universe *
10:00 PM - Darin Kennedy
10:30 PM - John Hartness

Sunday, July 12, 2015

11:00 AM - Jonathan French
11:30 AM - Michael G. Williams
12:00 PM - Randy Richards
1:00 PM - Leona Wisoker

* *Broad Universe is composed of Debra Killeen, Nicole Givens Kurtz, Emily Lavin Leverett, Gail Martin, Misty Massey, and Leona Wisoker*

Signings

Unless otherwise noted, all signings are located at the signings table in the Author's Alley (Victorian A).

Author Alley Hours *

Friday 3:00pm - 7:00pm
Saturday 10:00am - 6:00pm
Sunday 10:00am - 2:00pm

* *See page 38 for a list of exhibitors*

Friday, July 10, 2015

4:00:00 PM - Gray Rinehart/Karen McCullough
5:00:00 PM - Thomas Mays
6:00:00 PM - Michael G. Williams

Saturday, July 11, 2015

10:00 AM - Gray Rinehart/Gail Z Martin
11:00 AM - Karen McCullough/James Maxey
12:00 PM - Alicia McCalla/Nicole Givens Kurtz
1:00 PM - Chris Kennedy/Darin Kennedy
2:00 PM - Thomas Mays/Angela Pritchett
3:00 PM - Timothy Zahn (at his table)
3:00 PM - Stephen Mark Rainey/Dahlia Rose
4:00 PM - Michael Stackpole (at his table)
4:00 PM - Debra Killeen/Jonathn French
5:00 PM - Michael G. Williams

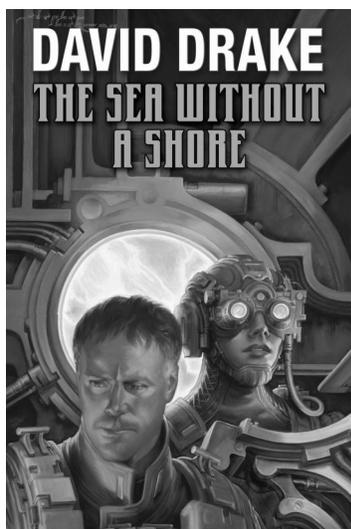
Sunday, July 12, 2015

10:00 AM - Gail Z. Martin/James Maxey
11:00 AM - Debra Killeen/Angela Pritchett
12:00 PM - Dahlia Rose/Darin Kennedy
1:00 PM Jonathan French/Chris Kennedy

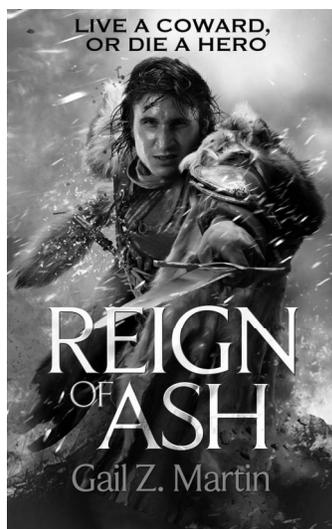
Author Tables

Timothy Zahn, Michael Stackpole and John Hartness will likely be found at their tables during times not listed above. If the author is not scheduled for a panel, there is a strong chance they might be at their table.

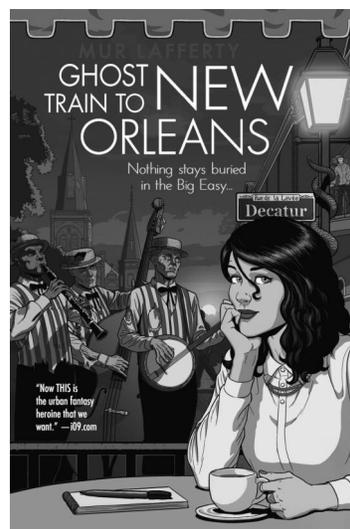
THE NORTH CAROLINA SPECULATIVE FICTION FOUNDATION
IS PROUD TO PRESENT THE NOMINEES FOR THE
2015 MANLY WADE WELLMAN AWARD



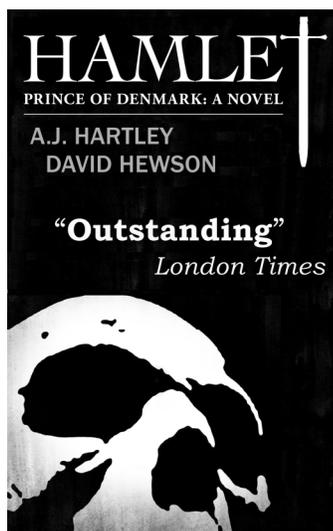
The Sea Without a Shore
by **David Drake** (Baen)



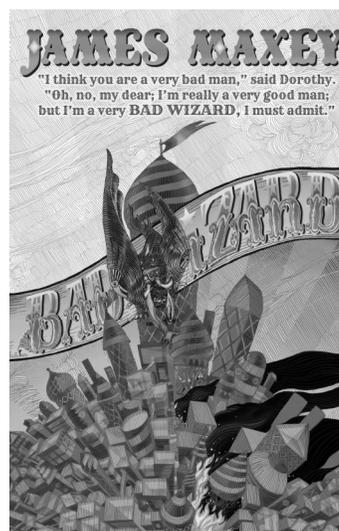
Reign of Ash
by **Gail Z. Martin** (Orbit)



Ghost Train to New Orleans
by **Mur Lafferty** (Orbit)



Hamlet, Prince of Denmark
by **A.J. Hartley and David Hewson** (Audible)



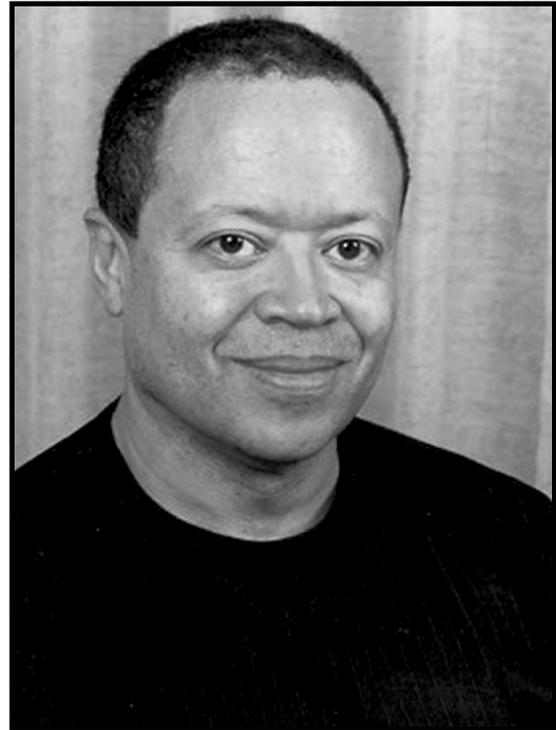
Bad Wizard
by **James Maxey**
(Antimatter Press)

The Manly Wade Wellman Award was founded to recognize outstanding achievement in science fiction and fantasy novels written by North Carolina authors. The 2015 award, voted on by the combined membership of North Carolina science fiction and fantasy conventions illogiCon, StellarCon, ConCarolinas, ConTemporal, and ConGregarate, covers novels published in 2014. The award is named for long-time North Carolina author Manly Wade Wellman with the permission of his estate. For more information please visit:

ncsff.org

CON·GREGATE 3

Geek Summer Camp



Steven Barnes

Writer Guest of Honor

Author of the Dream Park series (with Larry Niven), The Heorot series (with Larry Niven and Jerry Pournelle), The Aubry Knight series, as well as television screenplays for *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*, *Andromeda*, *The Outer Limits*, *Stargate SG-1*, and *The Twilight Zone*

July 15-17, 2016 • Radisson Hotel • High Point, North Carolina
www.con-gregate.com