

Program Descriptions

FLASHBACK tracks were originally presented at RavenCon 2006.

FRIDAY 3:00 PM

TERRY BROOKS SIGNING

King William (Jefferson) – 2 hours

FRIDAY 4:00 PM

RELIGION IN SPECULATIVE FICTION

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

When building a world how do you create a religion that complements the society you've created? What can you draw from existing religions, and how can you make it uniquely yours? What authors have done it the best and which made-up religions are our favorites?

Panelists: *Alexander G. R. Gideon (M), Jennifer R. Povey*

CONCERT: NEFARIOUS FERRETS

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Award-winning musicians, playing folk-influenced filk and spreading the love of filk music.

ANIME: SPACE BATTLESHIP YAMOTO

York (Madison) – 2 hours 18 minutes (NR)

FRIDAY 5:00 PM

READING: JASON T. GRAVES & MERYL YOURISH

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

“B” MOVIES:

THE GOOD THE BAD AND THE UGLY (**FLASHBACK**)

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Ah... “B” movies—secret loves and undiscovered gems or excrescent garbage? You love 'em or you hate 'em. In a world of billion dollar blockbusters, why are we drawn to these low-budget underdogs?

Panelists: *Carol the Cat, Meri Elena, Peter Prellwitz (M)*

CONSENT: WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Consent has been an issue in the public eye for over a decade now. How has our awareness of consent changed and what issues still need to be addressed?

Panelists: *Ora McGuire, Maya Preisler (M)*

THERE'S A HYPERSPACE IN MY WARP DRIVE

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

We'll discuss the importance of faster-than-light travel in science fiction. From hard science to technobabble, we'll discuss

all the ways that writers deal with, get around, or even avoid dealing with the light speed barrier.

Panelists: *N.A. Ratnayake (M), Steve White*

CONCERT: DJ MCGUIRE

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

His love of sci-fi/fantasy and his experience as a federal contractor take his music to interesting places.

INDIE AUTHORS 2022

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes

Ten years ago indie authors were widely regarded as engaging in vanity publishing. Now, they've established themselves as a growing segment of the publishing industry. What will the next ten years bring?

Panelists: *Nate Hoffelder (M), Stuart Jaffe, James P. Nettles*

WHEN COMIC BOOK MOVIES FAIL

Spotsylvania (Madison) – 50 minutes

Comic book movies have countless ways they can fail—underperforming at the box office, negative reviews, even successful blockbusters can have enormous plot holes that leave a bad taste in your mouth. We'll relive the pain of some of our biggest disappointments.

Panelists: *Mark E. Geary (M), Jenna Hamrick, Darin Kennedy*

FRIDAY 6:00 PM

READING: PAMELA K. KINNEY & C. McDONNELL

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

PANELS FROM HELL (**FLASHBACK**)

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Okay, you're on a panel and the person next to you does --(?), an audience member says --(?), the room starts shrinking, or a three-headed demonic creature starts a tap dancing routine while you're doing a reading—so what do you do? Come and hear real life horror stories that will curl your toes.

Panelists: *R.S. Belcher, Wayland Smith (M), Bud Sparhawk, Michael A. Ventrella*

SCIENCE FICTION ANIME COMIC CONS—WHAT?!

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Want to learn more about events like RavenCon? Or events not like RavenCon? What exactly is the difference between science fiction cons, anime cons, and comic cons? Join us as we discuss events that showcase all things cosplay, anime, and sci-fi. We'll discuss how to plan for and make the most of whatever convention you attend—large or small.

Panelists: *Dragon_Unchained, Miss Nargaluna*

THE AUTHOR AND THE BETA READER

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

How do you choose beta readers? When are they most useful? We'll discuss how to get the most out of your beta readers, what to avoid, and how to work with their critique.

Panelists: *Hannah Bauman, Morgan Hazelwood (M), Paula S. Jordan, Will McIntosh*

REPRESENTATION VS. TOKENISM

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

There's a distinct line between characters that actually demonstrate diverse representation and ones that are there merely to tick a box. We'll discuss the difference, why it matters, and how to avoid falling into that trap.

Panelists: *Sandra Baldari, Samantha Heuwagen, Laurel Anne Hill (M)*

THE BUSINESS OF INDEPENDENT PUBLISHING

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes

How do you make a small fortune in SF/F publishing? Start with a large fortune! But seriously folks, how do you keep the doors open and the lights on when you're a small press, as one of many, many small fish in a very big sea? Is Kickstarting your publications a sustainable practice? What about subscription services?

Panelists: *Philippa Ballantine, John G. Hartness (M), Gareth B. Johnson, Ian Randal Strock*

FRIDAY 6:45 PM

ANIME: *HAJIME NO IPPO*

York (Madison) – 2 hours (TV13)

FRIDAY 7:00 PM

RAVENCON OPENING CEREMONIES

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Welcome to RavenCon 15! We'll be presenting last year's RavenConnie Award as well as the Webster Award for best Virginia author. There will be a few surprises, plus a special performance by Rhiannon's Lark!

FRIDAY 8:00 PM

READING: VAL GRISWOLD-FORD

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

FANDOM FOR THE BEGINNER (*FLASHBACK*)

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

How is being part of Fandom different from just being a fan? Our panel will cover a basic introduction to Fandom and discuss what it means to them.

Panelists: *Bill Lawhorn, Stormraven, Jim Stratton (M)*

TV & MOVIES: NOW HIRING!

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

How does one get work as an actor or a background actor? It's not as hard as you think. We'll cover everything you need to know—what to wear, what to say, how to act, and more.

Presenter: *E.L. Fortner*

HUMAN SPACEFLIGHT: A HISTORY

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

We'll take a look at the history of human spaceflight—from Apollo to the Space Shuttle to the current state of spaceflight technology and plans for the near future.

Panelists: *Jack Clemons (M), Christopher Jones, Matt Simon*

EXPOSITION IN SF/F

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

From “infodumps” to “the edges of ideas,” readers and writers of SF/F have a number of ways to describe exposition. But how do we actually write it? What's the difference between an “infodump” and a well-written description? What does “show, don't tell” actually mean? What are the specific exposition challenges that we face as writers of speculative fiction, and how do we solve them?

Panelists: *T. Eric Bakutis (M), Terry Brooks, Alexander G.R. Gideon, Katika Schneider, R.R. Viridi*

THE FUTURE OF SEX: OH, THE POSSIBILITIES!

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Robots, altered humans, uplifted animals, and aliens. The possibilities, and perils, are endless. Come speculate with our panelists on what ethical sexuality might look like in the future. (18+ only, IDs checked.)

Panelists: *Samantha Heuwagen, Chris A. Jackson (M), Ora McGuire*

SIGNING: RICHARD C. WHITE

Dealers' Room (Madison) – 50 minutes

HEY, LET'S KILL ALL THE ORCS!: MORALITY IN RPGS

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes

Our panelists discuss some of the moral issues that arise in roleplaying games and how exploring these issues can make your gaming sessions even more exciting.

Panelists: *Dr. J. “Cal” Baldari, JM Beal, Janet Carden, Gareth B. Johnson (M), Jennifer R. Povey*

WORK VS LIFE: FINDING ARTISTIC BALANCE

Spotsylvania (Madison) – 50 minutes

“Do what you love, and...” if that's an artistic pursuit, you may never have a free day for the rest of your life. How do you find balance? We share ideas for maintaining a work/life balance in creative fields.

Panelists: *James Deeley, Kristi Deeley, Bryan Nowak (M)*

FRIDAY 9:00 PM

VAMPIRES HAVE GREAT BUNS AND OTHER THINGS... (FLASHBACK)

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

You're at a cocktail party and the talk turns to vampires. All eyes glaze over as thoughts enter into the realm of fantasy. We're no longer the repressed Victorians that first popularized vampires, so why are we still so obsessed with them as sexual beings?

Panelists: *Margaret L. Carter, Jason T. Graves,
Nikole McDonald-Jones (M)*

FIRST STEPS: FROM PODCASTING TO STREAMING

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Streaming has evolved from iJustin to Twitch to a variety of platforms, but what does it take to get started? What can I—or should I—stream? What are the start-up costs to launch a channel? How do I cultivate an audience? How can I monetize my stream? Which platform is best suited for your needs? All this and more!

Panelists: *Tee Morris (M), James P. Nettles, Devo Spice*

WHAT EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT ASTRONOMY

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Astronomy is generally considered to be the oldest field of science. It allowed us to know when to plant and harvest crops, ultimately gave us the calendar, helped us to understand the movements of the tides, and eventually to navigate the Earth. Although most people remain naturally drawn to the stars, few are literate in even the basics. Dr. Ben takes his best shot at correcting that in just under an hour.

Presenter: *Dr. Ben Davis*

SOCIAL MEDIA, OR WHY I HAVEN'T FINISHED MY NOVEL

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Promotional tool? Cathartic release? Entertaining diversion? Or just a black hole that devours our free time? Our panelists will discuss the pleasures and perils of dealing with social media when you have deadlines.

Panelists: *Patrick Dugan, Morgan Hazelwood (M),
C. McDonnell*

YOU WANT TO DO WHAT?

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

If you are new to or just curious about the world of kink (don't worry, you're not the only one), this panel is for you. If doesn't matter if you are a dom, a sub, switch, or if you have no idea what any of that means, come to the panel. Long-time members of the community will answer your questions in a non-judgemental environment. This is a basic level introduction panel. (18+ only, IDs checked.)

Panelists: *Ora McGuire, Wayland Smith (M)*

CONCERT: RHIANNON'S LARK

King George (Jefferson) – 1 hour

Have you ever wanted to hear a Disney princess sing about the things you love... board games, ninjas, and krakens? Rhiannon's Lark is happy to make your wish come true.

ANIME: INTERSPECIES REVIEWERS 1-5

York (Madison) – 2 hours (TVMA)

THE DARK SIDE OF FANTASY

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes

Monsters, fangs, grit and gore, and so much more. From giant spiders and necromancy to demons and body horror, there are a lot of horror themes that are common to the fantasy genre. But isn't fantasy supposed to be about escapism? So, why do we like the scary side of fantasy?

Panelists: *R.S. Belcher, Michael D'Ambrosio, Pamela K. Kinney,
Richard C. White (M)*

FRIDAY 10:00 PM

THIS ONE TIME AT A CON...

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Panelists share their most unforgettable, weirdest, shocking, and craziest convention stories. Always a favorite!

Panelists: *Dave Harlequin, Bill Lawhorn (M)*

BIOLOGICAL AND MEDICAL CONSIDERATIONS OF HUMAN SPACEFLIGHT

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

The realities of biology and the medical sciences in space are often handwaved away or given short shrift in SF/F, even in so-called Hard SF. Matt Simon will discuss some facts that science-grounded authors should keep in mind when writing about humans and spaceflight.

Presenter: *Matt Simon*

FANTASY AND PARANORMAL ROMANCE: WHERE'S THE LINE?

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

At what point does fantasy/paranormal romance stop being romance and turn into erotica? Aren't genre definitions really just marketing tools anyway? Or is there a wide enough divide between fans of romance and fans of erotica that a line needs to be drawn between the two?

Panelists: *Margaret L. Carter, Chris A. Jackson,
Jennifer R. Povey (M)*

SO GAY I CAN'T EVEN THINK STRAIGHT

Norfolk Boardroom (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

For those of us in the LGBTQ+ community, SF/F has been a place where we can be truer to what we feel on the inside. Some of us first discovered that we had feelings for certain characters from sci-fi or fantasy that weren't like everyone else.

It doesn't matter if you are questioning, shy, open or whatever. Come and participate in a group discussion of what sci-fi and fantasy has done to help you. (18+ only, IDs checked.)
Panelists: *Carl Cipra (M)*

WITCHCRAFT IN THE MODERN AGE

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes
Witchcraft has been around for centuries, but with urban sprawl, witches are having to adapt to the world around them. Come learn about the different types of witches, their practices, and the effects modern life has had on them—from purse altars to Tumblr.
Panelists: *Cass Morris, Maya Preisler (M)*

THE BEST ANIMATED MOVIES EVER

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes
Everybody has their favorites. Maybe it's a Disney classic, maybe it's something by Ralph Bakshi, but we know it's probably a Studio Ghibli movie.
Panelists: *Roger Carden, James Deeley, Michael A. Ventrella (M)*

FRIDAY 10:30 PM

CONCERT: DEVO SPICE

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes
Join Devo Spice for comedy-rap songs about technology, *Doctor Who*, and anything else he finds funny.

FRIDAY 11:00 PM

FORMIDABLE WOMEN

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes
Why do we like reading about strong women? How do you give a formidable woman flaws without losing her strength? More importantly, how do you write a formidable woman without writing her as a man?
Panelists: *Philippa Ballantine, C. McDonnell (M), Nancy Northcott*

FOR THE LOVE OF HORROR!

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes
Our panelists talk about what makes horror special—from movies, to TV, to games, to comics, to cosplay. Do we just like being scared or do we get a cathartic release from horror? We'll recommend some of our favorites and talk about what upcoming spooks we're looking forward to.
Panelists: *R.S. Belcher, Carol the Cat, Michael D'Ambrosio, Mark E. Geary (M)*

YOU, ME AND...

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes
We'll talk about relationships that consist of more than two people—mainly discussing polyamory and swinging. We'll discuss broaching the subject with your partner, how to communicate what you're thinking and feeling, what these two

lifestyles are and aren't, and the differences between them. Come prepared to ask questions. (18+ only, IDs checked.)
Panelists: *Samantha Heuwagen (M), Ora McGuire, Wayland Smith*

80'S DANCE PARTY WITH DJ DRAE

Spotsylvania (Madison) – 2 hours
DJ Drae will keep you moving on the dance floor with a mix of New Wave, Pop, and all your favorite 80's tunes—Michael Jackson, Madonna, Cyndi Lauper, Prince, The Cure, Bananarama, A-Ha, Wham! and many more! Requests are always encouraged!

FRIDAY 11:30 PM

LATE NIGHT OPEN FILM

King George (Jefferson) – 1 hour+
A late-night gathering of musicians where you can sing, play, or just listen. Open to everyone!

SATURDAY 9:00 AM

INFLUENCES IN OUR WRITING (*FLASHBACK*)

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes
How do things that happen in our real lives affect the choices we make in our writing—or do they? How often do authors project themselves into their characters?
Panelists: *Darin Kennedy, Gray Rinehart, Meryl Yourish (M)*

PIVOT POINTS FOR ALTERNATE HISTORY

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes
If you want to write alternate history, how do you decide which historical events to alter? And by how much? Panelists discuss finding the pivot points in history, the moments that determined the course of the future, and how to change them for your story.
Panelists: *JM Beal, Carl Cipra (M), Steve White*

PACING THE NOVEL

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes
How do you intensify a scene, bringing the reader deep into the narrative, and still keep the novel moving? With three basic types of text (exposition, dialog, description) you can suspend time or send the story rocketing forward. We share techniques for balancing intensity and movement in order to draw readers in and keep them turning pages.
Panelists: *DB Bray (M), Terry Brooks, Patrick Dugan, John G. Hartness, Wayland Smith*

YOUR EDITOR IS A MONSTER (FOR YOUR OWN GOOD)

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes
Your work has been accepted and has gone to the editor, and now they hold your precious baby in their steely talons. How do you learn to work with an editor, which battles can and should you pick, and how do you settle on a shared vision for

your work? When can you say no, and when do you say “Yes, but...” (or “Yes, and...”) instead?

Panelists: *Hannah Bauman (M), Jack Clemons, Jason T. Graves*

SATURDAY 10:00 AM

READING: DEBBIE MANBER KUPFER

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

THE NEW AUTHOR AND MARKETING (*FLASHBACK*)

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Success! You’ve been published—now the work of self-promotion begins. How do you get the name recognition you need in order to stimulate your sales? How do you do it on a budget?

Panelists: *Laurel Anne Hill, Nate Hoffelder (M), Meryl Yourish*

MISFITS & MAYHEM:

WHAT’S NEW FROM FALSTAFF BOOKS

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Come find out about the latest releases from Falstaff Books, see what’s coming soon, and win free books!

Panelists: *R.S. Belcher, John G. Hartness (M),
Melissa McArthur, Bishop O’Connell*

THE SCIENCE OF FOOD

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

You’ve heard all the buzz words: Sustainability, plant-based proteins, vertical farming... What do they actually mean and how is technology going to change the way we eat?

Panelists: *Denise Clemons, Meri Elena, Angela Giddings (M)*

CREATING A MAGIC SYSTEM

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Your characters are wizards? Great! What are the limits of their power? What are its sources? Where are they vulnerable? What makes your system unique? Come hear authors discuss how to build a magic system that’s both believable and workable.

Panelists: *James Deeley (M), Alexander G.R. Gideon,
Cass Morris, Jim Stratton*

BUILDING COLLABORATIVE WORKS

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Collaboration can be exhilarating, but how do you make it work? How do you stay true to your own voice while working with someone else? How do you develop ideas together? We’ll discuss techniques for working with a partner (dividing the labor, communicating) as well as the psychological aspects of a partnership (when to compromise, how to play to each other’s strengths and weaknesses).

Panelists: *Philippa Ballantine, Harry “Jack” Heckel,
Nancy Northcott (M), John “Jack Heckel” Peck,
Mary Terrani*

CONCERT: RHIANNON’S LARK—

NORMAL IS BORING CHILDREN’S SHOW

King George (Jefferson) – 1 hour

Interactive music for kids and playful people of all ages. Traditional and original children’s songs that encourage self-expression, movement, and songwriting on the spot!

ANIME: *SATURDAY MORNING WITH SID & MARTY KROFFT*

York (Madison) – 3 hours (GA)

DISCWORLD FAN PANEL

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes

Terry Pratchett crafted a large and highly enjoyable world with distinct cultures and a unique system of magic. Who are your favorite characters? Situations? Quotable lines? And how do we really feel about BBC’s *The Watch*?

Panelists: *Cynthia Hardesty, Monica Marier (M),
Dave Seidman-Joria, Richard Siebigteroth*

GHOSTBUSTERS: A RETROSPECTIVE

Spotsylvania (Madison) – 50 minutes

The Richmond chapter of Ghostbusters, Virginia will help us navigate our way through the many facets of the franchise, both real world and fictional.

SATURDAY 11:00 AM

READING: MERI ELENA & LAUREL ANNE HILL

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

COSPLAY WHAT?! HOW DO I GET STARTED?

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

An introductory panel for those looking to get started in the world of cosplay. So much to cover—finding materials, becoming the character, creating a design—and the most important question: How in the world do I get started?

Panelists: *Cheralyn Lambeth (M), Lemiriana Cosplay,
Miss Nargaluna*

SCRIVENER 101

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Scrivener is one of the most popular apps for writers. If you’re new to writing or just curious about what Scrivener can do for you, we’ll answer all your questions. We’ll also discuss the major features of Scrivener 3.0.

Presenter: *Patrick Dugan*

WRITING THE ALIEN

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

The challenge of writing an intelligence unlike our own lies at the heart of much of our best science fiction. How does an author tackle this difficult task?

Panelists: *Paula S. Jordan (M), Pamela K. Kinney,
Will McIntosh, Gray Rinehart*

READING: TERRY BROOKS

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes
Join our GOH as he reads a recent selection of his work.

ARE 'YA READING YA?

It's not just for Young Adults, there are lots of great books to be found in YA fiction! What are some of the best YA books that everyone should be reading? We'll tell 'ya!
Panelists: *Sandra Baldari, Kathryn Sullivan (M)*

SIGNING: MARY TERRANI

Dealers' Room (Madison) – 50 minutes

BUSINESS PLANNING FOR WRITERS

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes
You've sold your first novel and now have to figure out how to make a living as a writer. There's a lot more than just writing a book and cashing the checks, though. Since a freelancer's income is never guaranteed, how do you budget properly? Should you set yourself up as a corporation? How do you handle taxes? A guide to planning the business aspect of your career.

Panelists: *James P. Nettles (M), Bud Sparhawk, Ian Randal Strock*

GEEK PARENTING

Spotsylvania (Madison) – 50 minutes
Our geeky parent panelists give advice and tell tales of raising kids, sharing our passions and hobbies with them, and helping them to foster their own passions as well.
Panelists: *JM Beal, Flynnstress, Peter Prellwitz, Richard Siebigteroth (M)*

SATURDAY 11:30 AM**CONCERT: NEFARIOUS FERRETS**

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes
Award-winning musicians, playing folk-influenced filk and spreading the love of filk music.

SATURDAY NOON**READING: JENNIFER R. POVEY & GRAY RINEHART**

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

COSTUMES FOR EVERYONE!

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes
People come in all different shapes and sizes, and so do costumes. Our costuming professionals will share tips on designing costumes for different body types as well as suggestions for altering pre-existing costumes and patterns.
Panelists: *Heidi Hooper (M), Miss Nargaluna*

WRITERS' TOOLS FOR INCREASING PRODUCTIVITY

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Time management, outlining, plotting, social media campaigns, crowdsourcing... Writers face unique challenges when it comes to productivity. We'll share some of our favorite tools that can help you make your writing and marketing time more productive.

Presenter: *Patrick Dugan*

THE MORPHOLOGY OF FANTASY CREATURES

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes
Do elves and pixies have better hearing because their ears are pointed, and if so, why do they need it? Do mermaids reproduce like humans or like fish? How much food does a dragon need to consume to sustain that much mass? We'll get into the anatomical and biological nuts and bolts of your favorite fantasy creatures.

Panelists: *Meri Elena, Chris A. Jackson (M), Paula S. Jordan, Darin Kennedy*

SIGNING: TERRY BROOKS

King William (Jefferson) – 2 hours

BOOK SWAP

Norfolk Boardroom (Jefferson) – 2 hours
Geeks got all 'da books! Movers hate us. Now's your chance to swap some of those old books for new old books! This is a great chance to turn someone on to your favorite series or just clear off some space on that shelf at home.

RAVENCON LAWYERS UP!

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes
Getting the law right in fiction is tricky. Our panel of law experts will answer ANY questions you have about fictional interactions with the legal system.
Panelists: *Jim Stratton, Michael A. Ventrella (M), Steve White*

SIGNING: STUART JAFFE

Dealers' Room (Madison) – 50 minutes

CREATIVE COUPLES

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes
Working together or apart, how do couples balance their work time with their couple time? How do you support your partner's creative efforts without compromising your own focus? Being creative can be hard, is it twice as hard when there are two of you? Is it also twice as rewarding?

Panelists: *Les Carter, Margaret L. Carter, Denise Clemons, Jack Clemons (M)*

WE ARE ALL 1/2,000,000TH OF A HUGO WINNERS NOW

Spotsylvania (Madison) – 50 minutes
Fan fiction writers of AO3 (Archive of Our Own), a warehouse for fan fiction, recently won a Hugo for Best Related Work. AO3 is just one of many outlets for fan fiction. We'll discuss fan fiction—who writes it, why, and where can we find it?

Panelists: *JM Beal (M), Stormraven*

SATURDAY 12:30 PM

CONCERT: DEVO SPICE

King George (Jefferson) – 1 hour

Join Devo Spice for comedy-rap songs about technology, *Doctor Who*, and anything else he finds funny.

SATURDAY 1:00 PM

READING: BRYAN NOWAK & WAYLAND SMITH

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

ART COMPOSITION (*FLASHBACK*)

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Great art needs great composition. Artists discuss composition theory as well as their achievements and failures in regards to composition.

Panelists: *Heidi Hooper, Nikole McDonald-Jones*

POE AND PRICE: A MATCH MADE IN HELL

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Thanks to the series of successful Edgar Allan Poe adaptations in which he starred, film legend Vincent Price became forever linked with Poe in the hearts of generations of horror films. After starring in twelve Poe movies, Price continued to lecture about Poe, edited a collection of his stories, and recorded haunting readings of Poe's works. We will explore the ways Price interpreted and found inspiration in Poe.

Presenter: *Chris Semtner*

MITIGATING IMPLICIT BIAS

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

When we think of those biases we observe exhibited toward others, we are focused on those conscious, or explicit, biases exhibited willfully or through inculcation. Unfortunately, as products of cultures, religions, cliques, and the myriad arbitrary discriminators we use for grouping, we are all subject to an insidious form of bias known as implicit bias. This master-class will explain what implicit bias is, how it differs from cognitive bias and explicit bias (stereotyping/isms), and then we will talk about the current research on mitigating these deeply-rooted and typically unnoticed flaws in our psyche. Time permitting, we will use a handful of SF/F properties to show how we can mitigate using counter-stereotypical exemplars.

Presenter: *Dr. J. "Cal" Baldari*

WRITING HISTORICAL CHARACTERS

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Our panelists discuss the issues surrounding creating sympathetic characters in historical contexts that are at odds with modern ideas of morality and acceptability.

Panelists: *Laurel Anne Hill, Cass Morris, Peter Prellwitz (M), Tempie W. Wade*

ANIME: *KODOCHA 1-5*

York (Madison) – 2 hours (TV13)

SIGNING: JENNIFER R. POVEY

Dealers' Room (Madison) – 50 minutes

GEEK RADIO DAILY

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes

Come to a taping of the award not-winning podcast of *GRD's Weekly Podcast*. We will be discussing with the audience all the geeky goings-ons of RavenCon and we might just have a surprise or two lined up for you. It's a lot of fun and not to be missed! With special guest Philippa Ballantine.

GRD: *Carol the Cat, Billy Flynn, Flynnstress, Rich Sigfrit*

WEANED ON RPGS

Spotsylvania (Madison) – 50 minutes

How many storytellers got their start with roleplaying games? D&D, Call of Cthulhu, Car Wars, Rifts, Vampire the Masquerade... how did playing and running these games nurture our storytelling abilities?

Panelists: *T. Eric Bakutis (M), James Deeley, Mark E. Geary, Harry "Jack" Heckel*

SATURDAY 2:00 PM

READING: MICHAEL A. VENTRELLA & CHRIS SEMTNER

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

At 2:25, Chris Semtner will be reading from *The Poe Shrine: Building the World's Finest Edgar Allan Poe Collection*. A true story of mystery, madness, and murder worthy of the Master of the Macabre.

ART AND THE ARTIST:

PASSION VS. COMMISSION (*FLASHBACK*)

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Why do we create Art? Is it for love or the love of money? Does this in any way make a paid illustration any less artistic than a passion project? Our artists will answer the tough questions.

Panelists: *Kristi Deeley, Nikole McDonald-Jones (M)*

ESCAPE FROM RAVENCON:

AN INTERACTIVE PUZZLE WORKSHOP

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 2 hours

The Plutonians are furious. They have heard that upstart Earthlings have downgraded their planet and they want revenge. They have traveled to our world and have infiltrated this convention. However, as they are microscopic they can only communicate through a series of puzzles. Help us solve these puzzles to escape this room and save mankind!

Presenters: *Debbie Manber Kupfer, Joey Kupfer*

NEXT-GENERATION AIR AND SPACE VEHICLES: FROM DESIGN TO FUNCTION

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Can we science fiction fans finally get our flying cars already? What about the new generation of government and private spacecrafts? How will advanced concepts transform

the aviation of tomorrow? Find out from our panel of aerospace professionals.

Panelists: *Christopher Jones, Jason Kirk, Matt Simon (M), Dr. Laura White*

URBAN FANTASY: A DEEP DIVE

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Urban fantasy uses a real world setting while employing traditional fantasy elements to shape the story. A variety of authors have put their own spin on it, incorporating elements from other subgenres: romance, horror, mystery, even steampunk. Join our panelists for a discussion about why they enjoy writing urban fantasy, and the challenges of writing within multiple subgenres.

Panelists: *Philippa Ballantine, Stuart Jaffe (M), Mary Terrani, R.R. Virdi*

CONCERT: RHIANNON'S LARK

King George (Jefferson) – 1 hour

Have you ever wanted to hear a Disney princess sing about the things you love... board games, ninjas, and krakens? Rhiannon's Lark is happy to make your wish come true.

SIGNING: STEVE WHITE

Dealers' Room (Madison) – 50 minutes

MEET THE 501ST AND THE REBEL LEGION

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes

The local Virginia chapters of the 501st and the Rebel Legion will give you an introduction on how join up. They'll also discuss the different costume types and ways to build and create your own.

Panelists: *Freedom Base, Garrison Tyranus*

CHARLATANRY AND CHICANERY: GMING ON THE FLY

Spotsylvania (Madison) – 50 minutes

Deep wells of research, reams of notes, and mountains of game statistics—these are all good gamemastering tools, but there's one skill that can't be prepared: improvisation. The best GMs can create memorable experiences for players out of nearly any challenge, and being a good GM is about being a consummate BSer. Join the best BSers in the business for tips, tricks, and philosophies, plus answers to your questions about how to handle the most challenging scenarios players might throw your way.

Panelists: *Janet Carden, James Deeley, Gareth B. Johnson (M)*

SATURDAY 3:00 PM

DETECTING COUNTERFEIT GAMING CARDS

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Dan Barnett, of Walt's Cards, walks us through the process of recognizing counterfeit gaming cards.

THE WHY OF COSPLAY

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Rather than discussing how to cosplay we'll explore the why. What itch does it scratch? What skills will you gain by practicing the art of cosplay? How will it enrich your life?

Panelists: *Jenna Hamrick, Cheralyn Lambeth (M), Miss Nargaluna*

WHAT EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT RELATIVITY

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Albert Einstein's theory of general relativity is now over 100 years old (special relativity is older yet). Relativity impacts our daily lives, even though most of us don't realize it. It's "time" (another concept relativity addresses) that we all understood it better. Dr. Ben does his best to explain it all with minimal pain, but expect to have your mind expanded, like intergalactic space. Presenter: *Dr. Ben Davis*

AN INTERVIEW WITH TERRY BROOKS

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Join us as Tee Morris interviews our GOH, Terry Brooks.

BOOK LAUNCH:

WEREWOLVES, DOGMEN, AND OTHER SHAPESHIFTERS

Norfolk Boardroom (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Join author Pamela K. Kinney as she unveils her newest book, *Werewolves, Dogmen, and Other Shapeshifters Stalking North America*.

ELEMENTS OF THE FANTASTIC IN SHAKESPEARE

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

From the witches of *Macbeth* to the fairies in *Midsummer Night's Dream*, Shakespeare wove fantastic elements into his plays. Join us to discuss where the master bard found these themes and how he used them.

Panelists: *Carl Cipra (M), Monica Marier, Cass Morris, Dave Seidman-Joria*

SIGNING:

HARRY "JACK" HECKEL & JOHN "JACK HECKEL" PECK

Dealers' Room (Madison) – 50 minutes

MAPPING YOUR NOVEL

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes

Maps in SF/F novels are useful for the readers to keep track of important locations and how characters move across the landscape. They can be terrific aids to world building but aren't the easiest things to create. Panelists will discuss the advantages maps offer to an author, how to create them and make them believable, and how accurate authors need to be.

Panelists: *DB Bray (M), Jason T. Graves, Richard C. White*

INDIE FILMMAKING 101: GETTING STARTED IN FILM

In this fully-interactive discussion, join our panel of award-winning independent film professionals as they discuss the ins and outs of independent filmmaking, share tips and tricks they've learned along the way, and go over what to do (and

what not to do) when getting started in making your own movies, as well as answer any questions you might have.

Panelists: *E.L. Fortner, Angela Giddings, Dave Harlequin (M), Torch*

SATURDAY 3:15 PM

ANIME:

THE THIRD: THE GIRL WITH THE BLUE EYE 1-5

York (Madison) – 2 hours (TV15)

SATURDAY 4:00 PM

READING: SAMANTHA HEUWAGEN & STUART JAFFE

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

STUPID CHARACTERS (**FLASHBACK**)

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

When the power is out and there is a strange noise in the basement and one of your friends has gone missing someone always goes to investigate. In real life though, would you really go? Why do writers have their characters do stupid things that defy all rules of logic?

Panelists: *T. Eric Bakutis, Val Griswold-Ford (M), Chris A. Jackson, Peter Prellwitz*

PEACH BLOSSOMED HEMS: CHARACTER IN COSPLAY

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 2 hours

Arriving at RavenCon, you find yourself transported to the port town of Teegra's Peak, where an orphaned girl and her raven companion need your help to make her wedding gown. Join the workshop for a two-day scavenger hunt for shiniest our raven friend can use to adorn the gown. Then sit in on a sewing circle the day of the workshop for a sewing session to adorn a lovely costume from the story you're acting out. During the sewing circle we will discuss three important points for cosplayers: Character Embodiment, The Importance of Background Culture in Your Character Portrayal, and Costume Planning. Be surrounded by the sights and sounds of Teegra's Peak while we sew on pretty things. Story and scavenger hunt details here: <http://spooniart.com/ravenhunt/>

Presenter: *Nikole McDonald-Jones*

WOMEN IN STEM: VISIBILITY MATTERS

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Throughout history, women have contributed to science, technology, and science fiction, but their accomplishments are often forgotten or erased. How has this shaped our current imbalance in these fields? How do we keep ourselves visible to future generations? In what ways does visibility lead to the success of women in STEM, and is visibility enough to guarantee continued success? In what ways can we move forward from where we are?

Panelists: *Paula S. Jordan, Dr. Yolanda Shea, Dr. Laura White (M)*

MYTHOLOGICAL INFLUENCES ON FANTASY

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Greek and Roman mythologies have been popular in fantasies set both in the past and in the present day. Arthurian legends are also frequent inspirations. Now Norse, Egyptian, Native American, and South Asian mythologies are appearing as well. What is the appeal of mythology in general? Which ones can be retired? Which ones would we like to see more of?

Panelists: *Gareth B. Johnson, Cass Morris, Jennifer R. Povey (M), Maya Preisler*

WHAT ARE SENSITIVITY READERS?

(AND WHEN AND WHY AUTHORS SHOULD USE THEM)

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Sensitivity readers are a subset of beta readers who review unpublished manuscripts with the express purpose of spotting cultural inaccuracies, representation issues, bias, stereotypes, or problematic language. We'll discuss their importance as well as how best to work with them.

Panelists: *Dr. J. "Cal" Baldari, Sandra Baldari, C. McDonnell, Michael A. Ventrella (M)*

BAEN BOOKS TRAVELING ROADSHOW & PRIZE PATROL

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Join Baen Books authors and editors for a look at new and forthcoming releases, with a chance to win a free book!

Presenters: *Gray Rinehart, Steve White*

SIGNING: MERI ELENA

Dealers' Room (Madison) – 50 minutes

INDIE FILMMAKING 102:

RAISING MONEY FOR YOUR INDIE FILM

Spotsylvania (Madison) – 50 minutes

So you've decided to get out there and make your own film? Great! Now just one little problem, how are you going to pay for it? Join our panel of award-winning independent film professionals as they discuss different methods of raising funds for your project, choosing which path best fits your particular needs, how to launch a successful crowdfunding campaign and what to do (and what not to do), as well as answer any questions you might have.

Panelists: *E.L. Fortner, Angela Giddings, Dave Harlequin (M), Torch*

SATURDAY 5:00 PM

READING: BISHOP O'CONNELL & PATRICK DUGAN

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

SCIENCE FICTION FANDOM THROUGH THE YEARS

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

From the first days when we communicated with each other through pulp magazine letter columns right up to the modern

age, fandom has been through a lot. We'll hit some of the high (and low) points of the whole 96 years of fandom.

Panelists: *Bill Lawhorn, Nathan Vernon Madison (M)*

WILL YOUR UPLOADED MIND STILL BE YOU?

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Imagine a future in which a machine can scan your brain and migrate the essentials of your mind to a computer. Time passes. Your biological body dies. Your uploaded self still exists. But is your “electronic consciousness” really you in a digital afterlife?

Panelists: *T. Eric Bakutis, Dr. J. “Cal” Baldari, Laurel Anne Hill (M), Jim Stratton*

PLOTTER, PANTSER, OR BOTH?

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Do you plot out every little aspect of your work-in-progress, or do you write on the fly and figure it all out as you go? Or maybe you do both. Our panelists discuss how they work and the strengths and weaknesses of each style.

Panelists: *Bryan Nowak, Mary Terrani, R.R. Viridi, Meryl Yourish (M)*

BOOK LAUNCH PARTY—TANGENT ARTISTS

Norfolk Boardroom (Jefferson) – 1 hour

Tangent Artists invite you to celebrate their recently funded Kickstarter with a crafting party for their *Must Love Dragons* novel. There will be readings from the upcoming novel, crafting supplies (including everything you need to make your own personalized character journals), and a sneak peak at our next Guild Guide: *The Barbarian's Coloring and Activity Book!* All ages welcome (children must be supervised by an adult). Please adhere to all RavenCon masking guidelines. Takeaway drinks and prepackaged snacks will be available to consume according to most recent con rules.

DIVERSITY 101

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Diversity is a topic that is often discussed. To facilitate better and deeper discussions, come learn some of the basics. Let's define things like intersectionality, derailing, tone arguments, and more. Let's ask the questions that might feel difficult to ask in more advanced panels. Suggested pre-panel Googling: Derailing for Dummies, Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack.

Panelists: *Sandra Baldari, JM Beal (M), Samantha Heuwagen, Maya Preisler*

MOVIE: CROSSROADS—

A STAR TREK FAN PRODUCTION

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Yes, that's right. The Nefarious Ferrets have made a *Star Trek* fan film. Come for the film, stay for the discussion!

SIGNING: R.S. BELCHER

Dealers' Room (Madison) – 50 minutes

ANIMALS, AIs, AND OTHER COMPANIONS

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes

Sometimes the pets, or robot companions, are the whole reason to read a book. Lets talk about our favorite companions, what goes into writing a great companion, and how to keep them from taking over the story.

Panelists: *Alexander G.R. Gideon (M), Pamela K. Kinney, Kathryn Sullivan*

BEST SOCIAL MEDIA PRACTICES FOR WRITERS

Spotsylvania (Madison) – 50 minutes

How do you establish your social media presence, where should you focus your attention, and what are the best practices for getting engagement while avoiding the toxic side of social media? Bring your burning social media questions!

Panelists: *Philippa Ballantine, Hannah Bauman, Morgan Hazelwood, Stuart Jaffe (M)*

SATURDAY 5:30

ANIME: ULTRAMAN 1-4

York (Madison) – 100 minutes (GA)

SATURDAY 6:00 PM

READING: TEE MORRIS & PETER PRELWITZ

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

SHADOWS, SHADOWS, SHADOWS: THE LITERARY HISTORY OF WEIRD TALES AND THE ARTISTIC VALUE OF PULP FICTION

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

“The pulps” were cheap all-fiction periodicals ubiquitous in North America between the wars. Titles such as *Argosy*, *Blue Book*, *Adventure*, *Black Mask*, *Amazing Stories*, and many more, swelled the newsstands; indeed, the pulps were the main source of fiction for Americans migrating to urban centers in the interwar period. Despite their one-time ubiquity and enduring cultural influence, however, the pulps have been forgotten by most and viewed as unworthy literary ephemera. Indeed, most pulp fiction appears as inelegant garbage in the shadow of the legendary literary experiments of “modernism,” i.e. the work Ezra Pound, T.S. Eliot, Virginia Woolf, and Ernest Hemingway. But that is not the whole story. English Professor, Dr. Jason Ray Carney, author of *Weird Tales of Modernity*, will discuss the strange history of the “artistically ambitious” pulp fiction magazine, *Weird Tales* (1923-1954), the publishers who conceived it, and the writers who published in it.

SF BEYOND PHYSICS AND SPACE TRAVEL

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

It's been 40 years (at least) since space travel and physics problems could credibly claim to be the main aspect of “hard

SF.” The biological, environmental, computer, and social sciences, from genomics to climate to pandemics to the mind, seem more central to our future from where we stand today. What narrative opportunities do these sciences offer SF writers? Which stories make the most of those opportunities, and which fall into common traps? And what areas should further explore?

Panelists: *Angela Giddings, Chris A. Jackson, N.A. Ratnayake (M), Dr. Yolanda Shea*

THE MID-STORY BLAHS

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

You’re about halfway through writing your book, and things are slowing down. Is it time to have the Klingons bust down the door and start blasting away, phasers set to kill? Our writers discuss how to keep the action lively, and how to keep the reader interested.

Panelists: *Les Carter, C. McDonnell, Bud Sparhawk (M), Richard C. White*

MOVIE: *THREE QUARTERS*

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Join us for the Virginia Premiere of *Three Quarters*, the multiple-award-winning short film from director Dave Harlequin and A Stranger Concept Films about a middle-aged disabled man who struggles to come to terms with his new life as an amputee as he is stalked and tormented by a strange, supernatural entity. Stick around after the showing for a special Q&A with director Dave Harlequin and members of the cast and crew.

THE REALITIES OF BEING A WRITER

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes

It’s not all red carpet premieres and champagne. Frankly, it’s mostly sitting alone and staring at a blank screen until you start sweating words. We’ll discuss setting goals and dealing with expectations—what you hope for and what you’ll get.

Panelists: *Hannah Bauman (M), Patrick Dugan*

DRAGONS ARE CATS

Spotsylvania (Madison) – 50 minutes

In the majority of friendly dragon literature, the dragons’ personalities seems to mimic the personalities of cats. Let’s discuss.

Panelists: *Carol the Cat, Denise Clemons, Flynnstress (M)*

SATURDAY 6:30 PM

MASQUERADE PRE-JUDGING

Henry (Jefferson) – 1 hour

Only open for participants of the Masquerade.

SATURDAY 7:00 PM

READING: R.S. BELCHER & R.R. VIRDI

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

SPACE OPERA: DOES IT STILL HAVE A PLACE IN PRESENT-DAY SCIENCE FICTION? (*FLASHBACK*)

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Space opera was your good old-fashioned SF story with lots of adventure and a bit of melodrama. Have they gone away or do we just call it military sci-fi now?

Panelists: *Michael D’Ambrosio, Ian Randal Strock, Kathryn Sullivan (M), Steve White*

WRITER BEWARE

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Richard White, a member of SFWA’s Writer Beware committee for 15 years, offers a presentation/Q&A session on how to identify desirable/undesirable agents and publishers for your work if you’re looking at trade publishing/small publishing. He also discusses the latest in unhelpful offers for people who’re looking at self-publishing.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN GAMING

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

From well-researched board games like Terraforming Mars to immersive realistic physics in video games, what are the interactive entertainment options out there for the super nerd? How “realistic” are the technology and magic systems of some of the popular RPGs? Roll a pendantism check.

Panelists: *Christopher Jones (M), Jason Kirk, James P. Nettles*

LET’S GET READY TO RUMBLE: COMBAT IN SF/F

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Action scenes are a staple of the SF/F genre. Panelists discuss examples of how and where this is done well, and why a good action sequence can create urgency and add impetus to the story. On the other hand, a poorly researched action scene can take you right out of the story. How do you get the details right?

Panelists: *Dr. J. “Cal” Baldari, DB Bray, Les Carter, Gray Rinehart (M)*

NANOWRIMO

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes

You’ve heard of it, you know people who’ve done it—should you try it once? Should everyone? Hear from people who’ve participated in NaNoWriMo (and won) and ask questions.

Panelists: *Val Griswold-Ford, Morgan Hazelwood, Harry “Jack” Heckel (M), Debbie Manber Kupfer*

MEET THE VIRGINIA HORROR WRITERS ASSOCIATION

Spotsylvania (Madison) – 50 minutes

The Horror Writers Association (HWA) is the largest organization in the world dedicated to the horror genre. The Virginia Chapter is dedicated to creating a strong community of horror lovers throughout the state.

SATURDAY 7:15 PM

ANIME: *THE TWIN EFFECT*

York (Madison) – 107 minutes (PG13)

SATURDAY 7:30 PM

THE RAVENCON MASQUERADE

King George (Jefferson) – 90 minutes

Fan costumers show off their latest creations. With mid-show entertainment by Music GOH Rhiannon's Lark!

Emcees: *Billy Flynn, Rich Sigfrit*

Judges: *Heidi Hooper, Jestin Jefferies, Rick Siebigteroth*

SATURDAY 8:00 PM

READING: JAMES P. NETTLES & DB BRAY

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

HOW WILL FUTURE GENERATIONS VIEW *HARRY POTTER*? (**FLASHBACK**)

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Will *Harry Potter* be a classic tale for future generations or has it just been a product of the media and promotional circus surrounding it? [Edited for 2022: And, y'know, the other stuff...]

Panelists: *Alexander G.R. Gideon, Peter Prellwitz (M), Michael A. Ventrella*

REPRESENTING MENTAL HEALTH IN SF/F

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

A discussion of how depictions of mental illnesses in SF/F (and, really, all fiction) can contribute to stigma, but also raise awareness if done with honesty.

Panelists: *Hannah Bauman, Jenna Hamrick, Samantha Heuwagen (M), Darin Kennedy*

THE SCIENCE OF SCIENCE FICTION

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Star Trek, Star Wars, and a whole gaggle of books, TV series, and movies have us all longing for that better day when science cures all, or you know, maybe leaves us scraping to survive in a nuclear hellscape. Dr. Ben talks about the things that, once science fiction, we now take for granted. Or will take for granted in the near future.

Presenter: *Dr. Ben Davis*

BLOOD MAGIC BOOK LAUNCH

Norfolk Boardroom (Jefferson) – 1 hour

Join Prospective Press as they launch Mari Elena's new book, *Blood Magic*.

CHASING GHOSTS AND URBAN LEGENDS

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes

We tell ghost stories and urban legends to scare, but do these stories say more about the teller than the monsters? An exam-

ination of some popular legends and what the stories and their evolution over time tell us about our culture and real world fears.

Panelists: *JM Beal, Carol the Cat (M), Val Griswold-Ford, Pamela K. Kinney*

SATURDAY 9:00 PM

ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO GO THERE? (**FLASHBACK**)

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Sensitive issues: should they be ignored? Should writers worry about offending people at the risk of not telling the story?

Panelists: *Stormraven, Jim Stratton (M)*

ANXIETY, DEPRESSION, AND THE CREATIVE LIFE

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

We will discuss how anxiety and/or depression motivate or challenge our creative lives as artists and performers. We will explore coping mechanisms and the trope of the tortured artist—is it true to our lives or a falsehood that hurts more than helps?

Panelists: *Kristi Deeley, Alexander G.R. Gideon, John G. Hartness, C. McDonnell (M), Katika Schneider*

WORKING AT NASA LANGLEY

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Join our panelists as they talk about careers at NASA Langley.

Panelists: *Christopher Jones, Jason Kirk, N.A. Ratnayake (M), Dr. Yolanda Shea, Matt Simon, Dr. Laura White*

RAVENCON CHARITY AUCTION

King William (Jefferson) – 2 hours+

We're auctioning off some REALLY cool stuff to raise money for the The Edgar Allan Poe Museum right here in Richmond, VA.

Emcees: *Billy Flynn, Rich Sigfrit*

DEFENDING THOSE MOVIES

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes

There are a whole lot of movies that didn't do well at the box office or with the critics that are beloved by some. Some examples: Tomorrowland, Europa Report, Watchmen. The panelists will trot out their favorites and do their best to defend them. (Note: this is not about movies that "I love because they are bad" or are "so bad that they're good." It's about movies that the panelists genuinely think deserve respect.)

Panelists: *Stuart Jaffe, Jennifer R. Povey, Peter Prellwitz (M)*

TOM LEHRER SINGALONG

Spotsylvania (Madison) – 50 minutes

A RavenCon tradition! Filthy Pierre leads the crowd in a round of some of Tom Lehrer's best-loved classics.

SATURDAY 9:15 PM

ANIME: *GTO: THE MOVIE*

York (Madison) – 108 minutes (NR)

SATURDAY 10:00 PM

SO YOU WANT TO WEAR A KILT

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Kilts are becoming more and more popular—and there are many styles. How does one wear it? Is a great one necessary? Do I have to be Irish/Scottish/Latvian? What is worn underneath? You have questions; we have answers.

Panelists: *James Deeley, Jason T. Graves, Jestin Jeffries, James P. Nettles (M)*

OVERCOMING THE CREATIVE BLOCK

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Creative block is one of the worst things a creative person faces, but there are tricks and exercises you can use to overcome these obstacles. Let our panel of creative people share their secrets with you.

Panelists: *Val Griswold-Ford (M), Katika Schneider*

CULTURAL APPROPRIATION

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Let's have a conversation about the line between appropriation and appreciation.

Panelists: *Carol the Cat (M), Maya Preisler, Jim Stratton*

CONCERT: DJ MCGUIRE

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

His love of sci-fi/fantasy and his experience as a federal contractor take his music to interesting places.

THE BOOK OF BOBA FETT:

THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes

After the success of *The Mandalorian*, excitement ran high with news that everyone's favorite bounty hunter, Boba Fett, was getting his own spinoff series. For many, however, this show didn't live up to its hype. Join us as the panel discusses what worked well, what was disappointing, and what was truly disastrous in *Book of Boba Fett*, season 1.

Panelists: *Joshua LeHuray (M), Nathan Vernon Madison*

SATURDAY 11:00 PM

EVIL CHARACTERS: ARE THEY REALLY EVIL OR JUST MISUNDERSTOOD? (*FLASHBACK*)

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Let's get real. If you are going to tell a story with an evil character and be fair, do we not owe them a little bit of time to explore what they have done and why they have done it?

Panelists: *R.S. Belcher, Michael D'Ambrosio, James Deeley, Nikole McDonald-Jones (M)*

ASK A (MAD) SCIENTIST

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 2 hours

Our science guests answer audience questions on science and science fiction. Always a favorite at RavenCon!

Panelists: *Jim Beall, Jack Clemons (M), Dr. Ben Davis, Darin Kennedy, Jason Kirk, James P. Nettles, Nalin Ratnayake, Dr. Yolanda Shea, Matt Simon, Dr. Laura White*

WRITING THE SEX SCENE

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Sex is a part of life, and an aspect we can use to learn many things about a character. Are they chatty in bed, or kinky, or do they prefer the lights off? All are insights that help a reader relate to the characters. But does sex "need" to be in your writing? Let's discuss what sex in writing means, how to mine it for plot and how to spot when it doesn't further the writer's intent. (18+ only, IDs checked.)

Panelists: *Samantha Heuwagen, Chris A. Jackson, Nancy Northcott (M)*

CONCERT: SATURN DEATH CULT

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Join us on our journey to Saturn in the 31st millennium on our crumbling ship, fueled by riffs. Takeoff will begin shortly.

THE WORKS OF H.P. LOVECRAFT

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes

You can't discuss 20th century horror without talking about Lovecraft. His works seem more prevalent now than they have at any other point in the last fifty years. But how do you reconcile the problematic nature of his work and his beliefs? With *Lovecraft Country*, Matt Ruff showed us that it's possible to recontextualize Lovecraft in a way that's relevant to the 21st century. So, can we talk about Lovecraft?

Panelists: *Dr. Jason Ray Carney, Alexander G.R. Gideon, Joshua LeHuray, Nathan Vernon Madison (M)*

DJ DRAE PRESENTS: HALLOWEEN BASH

Spotsylvania (Madison) – 2 hours

You've heard of Christmas in July. Maybe you've even heard of half-birthdays. Well we're going to celebrate Halloween in April since it's almost half-Halloween. Come dance to all your favorite Halloween-themed spooky tunes. Costumes and cosplays encouraged, but not required.

SATURDAY MIDNIGHT

WHERE DID THEY GET THOSE WONDERFUL TOYS?

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

It doesn't matter if you are a new or an experienced kinkster, everyone wants toys. We will talk about what makes a good kinky toy, what different types of toys do and where to find

them. Also we will discuss pervertables (toys that were designed for other purposes) and building your own toys. (18+ only, IDs checked.)

Presenter: *Ora McGuire*

LATE NIGHT OPEN FILK

King George (Jefferson) – 1 hour+

A late-night gathering of musicians where you can sing, play, or just listen. Open to everyone!

SUNDAY 9:00 AM

READING: MONICA MARIER

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

GUERRILLA MARKETING FOR SELF-PUBLISHED AUTHORS

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Join our panel of self-published authors for a discussion of low- and/or no-cost marketing of their writing.

Panelists: *Nate Hoffelder (M), Debbie Manber Kupfer, C. McDonnell*

WRITING MAJOR MINOR CHARACTERS

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Do you ever read a book and come across a character that is so wonderful you want to know everything about them, yet you know you never will because they aren't the main character? Such characters add immeasurably to our reading experience and yet they are amongst the hardest to write. This session discusses how to do just that.

Panelists: *JM Beal, Patrick Dugan, Bryan Nowak (M), R.R. Viridi*

DISCOVERING YOUR CHARACTERS

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

There's something magical about the art of character creation. Your imagination gives birth to another being who develops their own life; a life that you don't always have 100% control over. It's scary wonderful when your characters take you in directions you never expected your story to go. Our authors share their secrets to creating multi-dimensional characters as well as stories about their most surprising character discoveries.

Panelists: *Philippa Ballantine, DB Bray (M), Paula S. Jordan, Mary Terrani*

AUTHOR BRANDING

ACROSS MULTIPLE PLATFORMS AND MEDIA

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes

For aspiring and experienced authors alike, one of the main challenges is gaining exposure. Social media like Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr, and TikTok have become key. But it's more than simply having an account. Building an author brand and a following is about developing content to attract your target audience as well as being creative and standing out in the

crowd. Spreading your work across various media types: print, ebook, audio book, podcasting, and vlogging are ways to reach more readers. Authors and social media experts will discuss building an author brand, social media etiquette, and developing content in various media formats.

Panelists: *John G. Hartness, Stuart Jaffe, Darin Kennedy (M), Tee Morris, Katika Schneider*

SUNDAY 10:00 AM

READING: RICHARD C. WHITE & JOHN G. HARTNESS

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

ART ON A BUDGET (FLASHBACK)

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Okay, so you have an interest in art—now what? We'll show you how to get started on a shoestring budget and still create some potentially good material.

Panelists: *Kristi Deeley, Heidi Hooper, Nikole McDonald-Jones (M)*

COMPLEX STORYTELLING: LET'S PLOT TOGETHER!

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 2 hours

Let's be honest: writing a story is hard. Imagining a whole story from start to finish, complete with compelling characters and shocking plot twists, can feel impossible. Join editor, author, and writing coach Hannah Bauman in this interactive workshop to learn about creating complex stories. Not only will we review the main elements of storytelling, but you'll walk away with the start of a plot outline and the tools to finish it outside of the workshop.

ENERGY SOURCES IN SPECULATIVE FICTION

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Nuclear engines, antimatter, artificial singularity driven warp cores, Dyson Spheres, magic crystals, and good ol' chemical rocketry. A discussion of the various energy and propulsion sources in science fiction and fantasy.

Panelists: *Jim Beall, Les Carter, Gray Rinehart (M)*

KNITTING CIRCLE (FLASHBACK)

Norfolk Boardroom (Jefferson) – 2 hours

How about a little knitting to wind down from the hustle and bustle of the previous two days?

Host: *Val Griswold-Ford*

POINTS OF VIEW

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Readers need to know whose head they're living in at any given moment. Anchoring point of view also establishes the emotional stakes in the scene. But whose point of view should dominate? And should it be first person or some form of third person? How about the rarely used (and extremely challenging) second person? The panel discusses these questions and more.

Panelists: *T. Eric Bakutis, Carl Cipra (M), Patrick Dugan*

CONCERT: NEFARIOUS FERRETS

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes
Award-winning musicians, playing folk-influenced filk and spreading the love of filk music.

ANIME: *DIRTY PAIR: PROJECT EDEN*

York (Madison) – 90 minutes (TV16)

SIGNING: BISHOP O'CONNELL

Dealers' Room (Madison) – 50 minutes

135 YEARS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes
Yes, there's been an uptick in Holmes reworkings since most of the original stories entered the public domain but that hasn't diminished our interest in a 135-year-old character. Why do we still enjoy seeing the same stories over and over again? What about Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's detective makes him so re-readable?

Panelists: *Flynnstress (M), Jim Stratton, Michael A. Ventrella*

HOW TO PANEL AT CONVENTIONS

Spotsylvania (Madison) – 50 minutes
Do you want to do panels at conventions but don't know where to start? Our panelists will teach you how to craft and run panels that conventions will want, and more importantly, that audiences will enjoy.

Panelists: *Dr. J. "Cal" Baldari, James Deeley (M), James P. Nettles, Wayland Smith*

SUNDAY 11:00 AM

READING: JM BEAL & ANGELA GIDDINGS

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

THRIFT STORE COSTUMING (*FLASHBACK*)

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes
How to get the most costume for your buck and still be competitive on the costuming circuit.
Panelists: *Jenna Hamrick, Nikole McDonald-Jones, Cheralyn Lambeth (M)*

ALIEN INVASION

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes
What exactly is the likelihood of an alien invasion? What could be their motivations? And how do we fight someone that could sit patiently in the asteroid belt and hurl giant rocks at us? We'll play out some of the more interesting scenarios for you.
Panelists: *Michael D'Ambrosio, Paula S. Jordan (M), Steve White*

BUILDING A SUBPLOT

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes
The more issues the characters face in a novel, the bigger the story feels. Yet the subplot can't take over the book. Come hear authors discuss weaving a subplot into your main plot

and balancing the story between them.
Panelists: *Terry Brooks, Stuart Jaffe, Darin Kennedy (M), Nancy Northcott, Peter Prellwitz*

HOW TO WORK WITH AN EDITOR

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes
The writer/editor relationship doesn't need to be a difficult one. In the best of circumstances, it can be a collaboration that improves your story in ways that you hadn't anticipated. But how do you get there? Sometimes it's a matter of trial and error, searching for the right partnership. Sometimes it takes time and effort. Our panelists will discuss their writer/editor relationships—how they've formed, how they work together, and how they've benefited from them.

Panelists: *R.S. Belcher, Samantha Heuwagen (M), Chris A. Jackson, Ian Randal Strock*

STARDATE 99929.09: STARFLEET VOW EXCHANGE

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes
Everyone is invited to the wedding of Laurette Strausser and Avery Settle. All are encouraged to wear their best *Star Trek* uniforms or cosplay.

DOCTOR WHO: AFTER THE REGENERATION

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes
Each time the Doctor regenerates, the series also revitalizes and reboots itself. This panel will talk about the first season of each of the Doctors; comparing how they reintroduce the concepts of the show each time.
Panelists: *Jennifer R. Povey, Richard Siebigteroth, Devo Spice (M), Kathryn Sullivan*

BEING A BETTER MODERATOR

Spotsylvania (Madison) – 50 minutes
You've been assigned to moderator a panel. Now what? We'll focus on the winning strategies for managing your unruly, wild, and reticent panelists to deliver a great 50 minutes of content.
Panelists: *James P. Nettles (M), Bryan Nowak, Wayland Smith*

SUNDAY 11:45

ANIME: *ROBOTECH: SHADOW CHRONICLES*

York (Madison) – 3 hours (PG)

SUNDAY NOON

READING:

ALEXANDER G.R. GIDEON & KATHRYN SULLIVAN

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

THE SHORT STORY: IS IT THE BEGINNING OF A CAREER OR A DEAD END? (*FLASHBACK*)

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes
Is there a benefit to pursuing the craft of short story writing?

Why? The pay is not the best and finding a market can be very difficult—so why should a writer pursue an art that can be more complex than writing a novel? Is there even a demand for the short story anymore?

Panelists: *Janet Carden, Chris A. Jackson, Will McIntosh, Bud Sparhawk (M)*

JUNK SCIENCE

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Junk science, anti-science, pseudoscience, and woo. They each have their adherents and they've all risen in prominence lately. How do you recognize them and how can you counter them? Our panelists will give you the tools.

Panelists: *Dr. Ben Davis, Meri Elena, Angela Giddings (M), Darin Kennedy, James P. Nettles*

WORLDBUILDING IN SF/F

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Whether it's diamond-hard science fiction or the fluffiest of fantasies, most speculative fiction is grounded in reality somewhere. Our panelists will discuss how to build that reality from the ground up and share their favorite examples of well-crafted worldbuilding.

Panelists: *R.S. Belcher, Bishop O'Connell, Dave Seidman-Joria, Richard C. White (M)*

ART AUCTION

Norfolk Boardroom (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Did the item you bid on go to auction? Come prepared to fight for it! (Note: Keep an eye on any bids you place throughout the weekend. Remember, they only go to auction once the Bid Sheet is filled up.)

ACTIVISM: INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF FANDOM

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Many fans and con attendees are very involved in current social movements. Some have extended that work into the fandom and con community. Let's discuss this work both in fandom and in the greater society, and how that impacts us as fans and creators in this genre.

Panelists: *Cass Morris, Maya Preisler (M), Stormraven, Michael A. Ventrella*

CONCERT: RHIANNON'S LARK

King George (Jefferson) – 1 hour

Don't miss your last chance to see Rhiannon's Lark!

RED DWARF: A SMEGHEAD'S GUIDE

Spotsylvania (Madison) – 50 minutes

12 seasons and counting (running over a span of 30+ years), *Red Dwarf* is a piece of great British sci-fi with a strong cult following. Why do we love it so?

Panelists: *Sandra Baldari, Debbie Manber Kupfer*

SUNDAY 1:00 PM

READING:

NIKOLE McDONALD-JONES & MAYA PREISLER

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

THE ART OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Have you ever wanted more formal training in shooting the perfect picture? To learn how to use your camera more effectively? To understand composition and lighting? Did you just want to know how to take a good shot? If so, this workshop is for you. We will go over the basics of photography and how to use effectively use your camera while developing an eye for better pictures and content. Bring your cameras if you like.

Presenter: *E.L. Fortner*

HANDWAVIUM, UNOBTAINIUM, AND OTHER MACGUFFINS

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

FTL, mana, and other flights of fancy fuel SF as well as fantasy. How can authors use, and not abuse, their beloved MacGuffins?

Panelists: *Denise Clemons, Patrick Dugan, C. McDonnell (M)*

SIGNING: TERRY BROOKS

King William (Jefferson) – 2 hours

RESEARCH!

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

How much research should you do for a project? What are the best ways to do this research? What are a good researcher's favorite resources? Learn from the pros how they tackle a project.

Panelists: *JM Beal, Carl Cipra (M), Laurel Anne Hill*

B-MOVIES YOU MAY NOT HAVE HEARD OF, BUT SHOULD WATCH

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes

Originally, B-movies were created as a companion to a main attraction in a double feature. Since then, the term has gone on to mean nearly any low-budget film. Almost everyone has heard of some, such as *Army of Darkness*, but come and listen to our panelists discuss some of their favorite B-movies that you probably haven't seen yet, but you really should.

Panelists: *Monica Marier (M), Peter Prellwitz*

HOW TO RUN A LONG-TERM RPG CAMPAIGN

Spotsylvania (Madison) – 50 minutes

Sure, it's easy to run a one-off or a pre-made module, but how do you keep a sustained years-long campaign running? How do you keep the players engaged and interested over the long haul? Our veteran GMs share their years of experience with you.

Panelists: *Roger Carden, James Deeley (M), Mark E. Geary, Gareth B. Johnson*

SUNDAY 1:30

CONCERT: DIRTY METAL LEFTY

An eclectic, heterogeneous blend of dark, soulful alternative rock with blues, metal, and jazz undertones.

BELTANE CELEBRATION

A fan-led celebration of Beltane will be held outside, meeting behind the Madison building.

SUNDAY 2:00 PM

ENDINGS IN FILM, TELEVISION, AND LITERATURE:**NAME YOUR FAVORITE! (FLASHBACK)**

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Ah... the ending. Some like them warm and fuzzy and some like them cold and heartless. What's your favorite? Is there a required norm for the happy ending or can we get a little realistic once in a while?

Panelists: *Carol the Cat (M)*, *Stormraven*

HORSES BEHAVE LIKE HORSES

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Authors discuss writing animals and plants that behave the way animals and plants really behave. This panel includes discussion on some good and bad examples in media and literature as well as resources for writers to do the appropriate research.

Panelists: *Jennifer R. Povey (M)*, *Katika Schneider*,
Kathryn Sullivan

PUBLISHING SCAMS

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

If a hybrid publisher offered to publish your book, do you know when you should decline? What if an agent offers to sell your book to a movie studio? The answer to both these questions is that you should walk away when the "publisher" or "agent" asks you for money. In this panel you will find out why that is the case, and that's not all we'll share.

Panelists: *Sandra Baldari*, *Nate Hoffelder*, *Richard C. White*,
Meryl Yourish (M)

GETTING INTO GEEK MUSIC

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes

How do you even begin? There's so much noise—so many genres. This will be the easiest panel to attend. Ask questions, mention bands you like, and we'll connect you with the nerd music for you! It'll be an hour of good tunes and weird choices.

Panelists: *DJ "BassFerret" McGuire*, *Donna "LadyFerret" Parker*,
Frank "FilkFerret" Parker (M)

SUNDAY 2:30 PM

OPEN FILKING

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

They haven't thrown us out yet! There's still time for one more song!

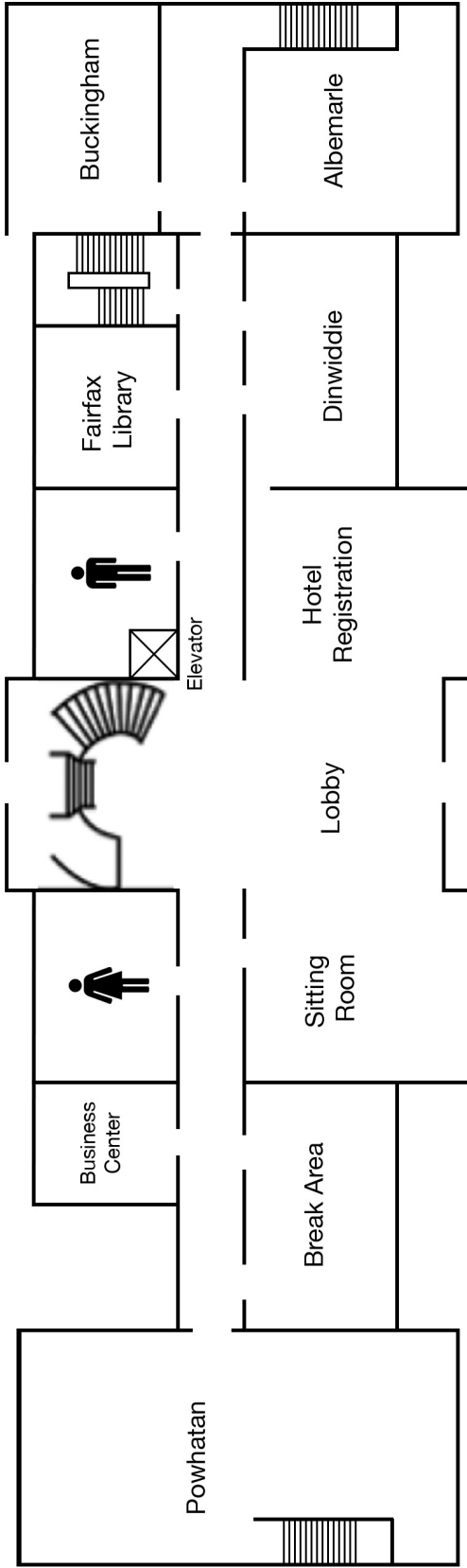
SUNDAY 3:00 PM

END OF THE CONVENTION

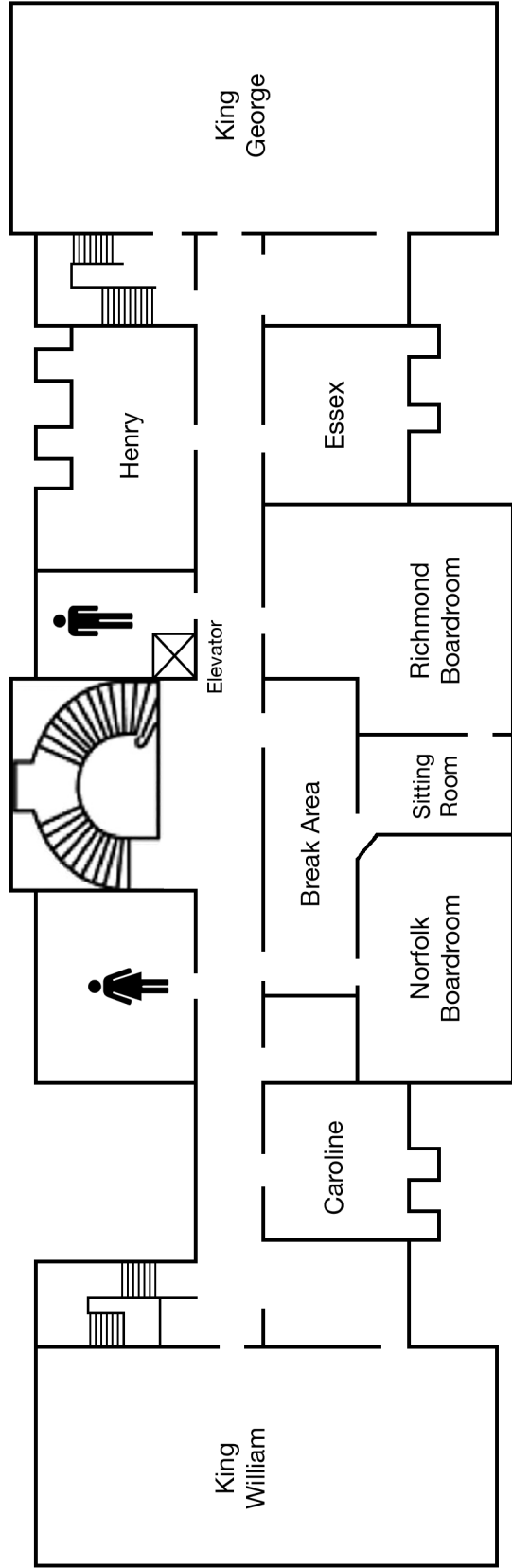
Thank you for attending. See you next year!

Map of the Hotel

Jefferson – Second Floor



Jefferson – Third Floor



Map of the Hotel

