

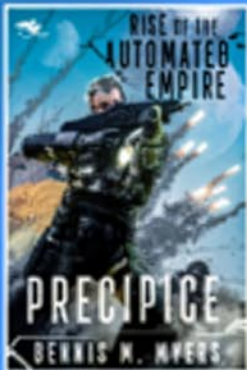
RAVENCON

April 24-26, 2026
Richmond, VA



AMAZING STORIES & RAVENCON PRESENT
100 
YEARS of SCIENCE FICTION
THE OFFICIAL CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Anderson



Rise of the Automated Empire

When power is balanced on a delicate web of lies, seemingly

minor events, a popular meme and a serial killer, cause great change.

This is the fall of the Corporate Federation, and the Empire that will rise from the ashes.



Secret of the Ombax.

Humanity's first, first contact goes horribly wrong.

A new adventure in the Automated Empire Universe.

Dennis M. Myers

AutomatedEmpire.com

Must-Read Sci-Fi!

The Founder's Seed

After humans attack their world, the unammi learn that the only person who can save their race is the misfit they tried to cast out.

Available in paperback, ebook, and audiobook.



Entheophage

When a virus strikes children worldwide, Nadine learns the truth. The children aren't sick. They're changing. (Medical Sci-Fi/Climatic Fiction)



Drema Deòraich

niveymarts.com

CONTENTS

Convention Hours / Volunteering / Programming Downloads.....	4
Convention Rules / Harassment Policy.....	5
Author Guests of Honor: K.B. Wagers & Mur Lafferty.....	6
Artist Guest of Honor: Ruth Sanderson and Special Guest: Aurelio Voltaire.....	7
Cosplay / The RavenConnie.....	8
The Charity Auction / The Webster Award / Shuttle Service.....	9
Program Participants.....	11
Program Descriptions.....	31
Signing Schedule.....	53
Reading Schedule / Book Launches.....	54
Vendors' Room / Artist & Author Alley.....	55
Map of the Hotel (Madison Building).....	57
Map of the Hotel (Jefferson Building).....	58

RAVENSTAFF

Michael D. Pederson	Con Chair	Krista Cagg.....	Nevermore News
Richard Sarner.....	Accessibility Director	Cheryl Lynn Jones.....	Office Manager
Erin Woods.....	Alley & Fan Table Director	Amanda Taylor.....	Party Tsar
Anita Bruckert.....	Asst. Alley & Fan Table Director	Angel Vaughn.....	Lead Photographer
Paul Blotkamp.....	Art Show Director	Crystal Lacy.....	Photographer
Vanora Hagen.....	Art Show Director	Jack Lacy.....	Photographer
Krissie Hadley.....	Asst. Art Show Director	Ember Rayne.....	Photographer
Mark Layne.....	Audio/Visual Director	Cheryl Lynn Jones.....	Print Shop
Jennifer Chandler.....	Away Team	Michael D. Pederson.....	Program Book
Debbie Melanson.....	Away Team	Jennifer Hancock.....	Programming Director
Angel Vaughn.....	Away Team	Stephen Burks.....	Programming (Art Track)
Crystal Smalling.....	Charity Auction Director	SmashB.....	Programming (Cosplay Track)
Jennifer Lynn.....	Asst. Charity Auction Director	Drew Thompson.....	Programming (Entertainment)
Beverly Smalling.....	Asst. Charity Auction Director	Jerry Chandler.....	Programming (Horror Track)
Bill Truesdale.....	Convention Operations Director	Jennifer Zimmerman.....	Programming (Pop Culture Track)
Liz Albitz.....	Convention Operations	William Adams.....	Programming (Science Track)
Tony Calidonna.....	Convention Operations	Crystal Ritchie.....	Programming (Science Track)
Mike Vann.....	Escape Room Director	Bill Lemmond.....	Programming
Michael Martis.....	Escape Room	Jennifer Lynn.....	Programming
Cael Parker.....	Escape Room	Anita Bruckert.....	Registration Director
Colleen Parker.....	Escape Room	Melissa Witt.....	Registration Director
Debbie Melanson.....	Gaming Director	Alex Taylor.....	Schedoodle Programmer
Richard Sarner.....	Green Room Director	Jennifer Lynn.....	Schedoodler
Leslie Danneberger.....	Asst. Green Room Director	Jerry Chandler.....	Shuttle Director
Crystal Smalling.....	Grievance Resolution Dept.	Jennifer Carter.....	Tea Party Director
Michael J. Winslow.....	Grievance Resolution Dept.	Alex Taylor.....	Technical Director
Joshua Cigna.....	Guest Liaison	René Enders.....	Vendors' Room Director
Amanda Taylor.....	Hotel Liaison	Libbie Miller.....	Vendors' Room
Mark Lucas.....	Independent Film Showcase	Linda Tuck.....	Vendors' Room
Jennifer Chandler.....	Kids' Programming Director	Joshua Cigna.....	Volunteer Wrangler
Aeowyn Chandler.....	Kids' Programming	Michael D. Pederson.....	Webmaster
Ian Chandler.....	Kids' Programming		
Anita Bruckert.....	Logistics		
Richard Siebigteroth.....	Masquerade Director		

Additional Staff

Lenore, Michael Lewis, Mr. William Michael, Adam Seats,
Elizabeth Woods

RAVENCON HOURS

Registration

Friday: 1:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
 Saturday: 8:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
 Sunday: 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Art Show

Friday: 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. • 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
 Saturday: 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. • 7:00–9:00 p.m.
 Sunday: 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Vendors' Room

Friday: 3:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
 Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
 Sunday: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Gaming Room

Opens at 2:00 p.m. on Friday
 and doesn't close until 3:00 p.m. on Sunday.

VOLUNTEERING

Attending a panel? Going to a workshop? Want to hang out in the Green Room? Making a con happen relies on more than just the staff who contact the guests, secure the hotel, and schedule events. Making a con happen relies on individuals wanting to be a part of the magic. And even better, if you give a little to RavenCon, we will give back to your convention registration fees...

Hours Volunteered to RavenCon	Discount from RavenCon Registration
4 – 5	\$15
6 – 7	\$20
8 – 11	\$30
12 – 17	FREE
18+	FREE & a T-shirt

Josh Cigna is the Volunteer Coordinators for RavenCon 2026. If you are interested in helping out, please see him as soon as you arrive. You can find him at the Registration Desk in the lobby of the Madison building.

PROGRAMMING DOWNLOADS

Whatever format you want the program in, we've probably got it! Guest bios and more can be found in the Digital Program Book. Here are links to the Digital Program Book, the Schedoodle app, and to the Program Grid...



Digital Program Book



Schedoodle



Grid

CONVENTION RULES

1. Harassment of any type is unacceptable. Any incidents should be reported directly to the RavenCon staff. We will fairly and impartially review the situation and take any actions that we feel are necessary—up to, and including, revocation of badges and notifying the authorities.
2. Please exhibit polite behavior in public areas at all times. Excessive disturbance or abuse of other guests is grounds for immediate expulsion from the convention without refund.
3. Costumers, remember that no costume is no costume. Non-costumers, please be respectful of people in costume. If you would like to photograph someone, please ask first. And remember, cosplay is not consent.
4. You must wear your membership badge at all times to be admitted to any RavenCon area or function. Lost badges will be replaced one time only.
5. Photographs, audio recordings, and videos taken during RavenCon may be used by RavenCon for the purposes of event documentation, media coverage, and promotion of the convention.
6. If you would like to film or record a panel or event, please secure the permission of everyone involved before recording or filming.
7. Please turn off your cell phone during all events. If you must make or receive a call, please leave the event so you do not disturb others.
8. While we encourage children and family participation, we ask that parents take an active role in monitoring their children's activities. Not all events are appropriate for children.
9. Please do not abuse the hotel facilities.
10. **Weapons Policy:** This includes real, replica, or toy arms of any sort, including but not limited to: swords, light sabers, pistols, rifles, blasters, squirt guns, etc. No concealed weapons are allowed on the hotel premises. All Virginia state laws concerning weapon possession and use apply.

All weapons must be non-working and peace-bonded, this includes bladed weapons which must be cased or sheathed at all times. We will be happy to assist you in peace-bonding your weapon at Con Ops.

Any weapon used in an offensive or threatening manner will be confiscated, and is grounds for expulsion from the convention without refund.
11. No camping in the halls or lobby. If you are found sleeping in any public area, you will be asked to go to your hotel room. If you do not have a hotel room, you will be asked to leave the premises.
12. No smoking, eating, or drinking is allowed in convention areas and functions.
13. RavenCon can not permit unauthorized vendors to sell products during the con. Our dealers pay good money to be here and it's simply not fair to them otherwise.
14. RavenCon is not responsible for items lost or stolen during the convention. The Lost & Found is located in Con Ops (the Norfolk Boardroom, 3rd Floor, Jefferson). Items remaining at the end of the con will be thrown away. As each of us has lost stuff from time to time, we can sympathize with you. We'll even try to help you find your missing items. We cannot, however, replace them.
15. Possession of alcoholic beverages by anyone under 21 years of age is grounds for immediate expulsion from RavenCon without a refund.
16. Alcohol is NOT to leave any hotel rooms. Room parties are encouraged but any alcohol that is served must stay in the room that it is served in. If you want to drink outside of your room, there is a very nice bar in the hotel.
17. Party hosts are responsible for carding ALL people that they serve alcohol to.
18. Room parties, although open to the convention, are held in private rooms. You need to respect your hosts, they have the final say on who is allowed in their room.
19. Please express any concerns you have to a RavenCon staff member in a timely manner.

Harassment Policy

We are a family-friendly convention. All forms of harassment are detrimental to the well-being of our attendees and the convention in general. It is imperative that everyone understands that No means No.

If you find yourself in a situation where you feel you are being harassed, please remain calm and ask the person to stop. If they do not stop, remove yourself from the situation as quickly as possible. Find friends or a staff member and ask for assistance. Refrain from the use of aggression or physical force unless your life and well-being are in danger.

If you need intervention, bring your concerns to a member of the staff as soon as possible. If you have witnesses, ask them to accompany you. The convention staff will investigate the situation. If the incident takes place after hours, proceed to Hotel Registration where they will contact the convention staff. If you feel threatened with harm, call the hotel's front desk and/or 911 to ask for police protection.

Once the incident has been reported, our Grievance Resolution Department will investigate (see Rule 1).

Please help us keep RavenCon a safe and fun environment for everyone. (RavenCon's harassment policy also extends to our hosted sites on social media as well.)

2026 GUESTS OF HONOR



AUTHOR GUEST OF HONOR: K.B. WAGERS

K.B. Wagers has a bachelor's degree in Russian Studies and their non-fiction writing has earned them an Air Force Space Command media contest award for best guest writer. A native of Colorado, they currently live in the north of the state with plenty of access to hiking trails. They are a firm believer in the importance of rest and have given several talks on burnout and the deluge of toxic productivity especially in the publishing industry.

K.B. has an avid interest in martial arts and non-violence, seeing these two things as flip sides of the same coin rather than paradoxical ideas. They enjoy whiskey and coffee in unequal measure, would gladly live in the post-apocalyptic wasteland of *Horizon Zero Dawn* (until they were likely felled by a machine). During the hockey season you can find them buried under an Avalanche and the rest of the year they

defend the managed democracy of Super Earth with the other Helldivers.

K.B. is the author of the *NeoG Adventures* from Harper Voyager and the *Indranan* and *Farian War* trilogies from Orbit Books. They are a fan of whiskey and cats, *Jupiter Ascending*, and the Muppets.

AUTHOR GUEST OF HONOR: MUR LAFFERTY

Mur Lafferty is an author.

Mur Lafferty is an editor.

Mur Lafferty is a podcaster.

Mur Lafferty podcasts about writing and writes about podcasting. She co-edits *Escape Pod*, a podcast with fiction. By writers.

She also writes about murders in space, zombies, Minecraft, and Han Solo. Her writing and podcasting have resulted in numerous award nominations and wins, such as the Best Semiprozine Hugo for *Escape Pod*, Best Novel Hugo and Nebula, Best Fancast Hugo, the Astounding Award for Best New Writer and was an inaugural inductee into the Podcast Academy Hall of Fame. Her books have received starred reviews from *Publishers Weekly*, *Kirkus Reviews*, and *Library Journal*, and have been praised by BuzzFeed, CNET, NPR, among many others.

She lives in Durham with her family.



ARTIST GUEST OF HONOR:

RUTH SANDERSON

Ruth Sanderson's career as a professional illustrator spans over 45 years. In recent years she's been illustrating fantasy and horror for the limited-edition company Centipede Press, including covers for Bram Stoker's *Powers of Darkness* and *Alligator* by Shelley Katz, as well as covers and interiors for *The House Next Door* by Anne Rivers Siddons and *Things Seen and Unseen*, a short story collection by Terry Lamsley.

Ruth was a guest at Comic-Con in San Diego and received the Inkpot Award there. Her scratchboard art has garnered two Chesley Awards. Ruth has also illustrated over 90 books for children, including many award-winning fairy tale picture books. In 2015, the Norman Rockwell Museum mounted a solo exhibition of her fairy tale illustration, and all the artwork from her book *The Twelve Dancing Princesses* is now in the museum's permanent collection. She has exhibited at many Worldcons and World Fantasy cons and has been artist GOH at numerous conventions. Among Ruth's current projects is her first novel, *The Mirror of Truth*, a YA retelling of *Snow White and The Seven Dwarves*.



SPECIAL GUEST:

AURELIO VOLTAIRE

At the age of ten, Aurelio Voltaire bought a Super 8 camera and taught himself the art of stop-motion animation. At 17, he ran away from home to New York City. There, he was hired by the production company making *Pee Wee's Playhouse* to work as a stop-motion animator on national spots. By 18, he was an award-winning animator and director working on station IDs for MTV, SyFy Channel, Nickelodeon and other networks as well as on national spots, including a series of Budweiser spots for the Super Bowl.

While commercials paid the bills, a young Voltaire yearned to make "monster movies." Through his "Chimerascope" series of short films Aurelio Voltaire was able to explore his more fantastic, monster-filled visions through short, experimental stop-motion films, each narrated by a singer. Narrators of his films include Danny Elfman, Gerard Way, Blondie front-woman Deborah Harry, Psychedelic Furs frontman, Richard Butler and new wave pioneer, Gary Numan. These five shorts earned Voltaire 35 film festival awards.

In the mid 90s, when CGI had practically replaced stop-motion animation, Voltaire ventured into other fields, achieving success as a comic book creator, toy designer and author, ultimately, becoming a world renowned recording artist. His mirthfully macabre music is a perennial favorite on many Halloween playlists and can be heard while walking through a Spirit Halloween. His greatest hits include songs written for the Cartoon Network show *The Grim Adventures of Billy and Mandy* as well as his songs featured on the viral YouTube series, *Vampair*, which presently have a combined 70 million views. The *Vampair* series is now being developed into an animated show with Voltaire taking on an executive producer role.

Circling back around to his original passion, Aurelio Voltaire has finally made a feature-length "monster movie" in his feature directorial debut, *The Demonatrix*, which will be making its Richmond debut at RavenCon.

COSPLAY

We take cosplay so seriously at RavenCon that we've got major costuming events EVERY DAY of the con!

Friday:	Cosplay Karaoke	8:00pm
Saturday:	The RavenCon Masquerade	7:30pm
Sunday:	Kids' Cosplay Parade	11:00am

Cosplay Karaoke is exactly what the label says—dress up in your favorite costume and sing your heart out. Extra credit for singing in character!

The RavenCon Masquerade will be held on Saturday night. To participate, you must register on our website (www.ravencon.com/applications/costume-contest-application) before 2:00pm on Saturday. The Masquerade is open to all ages and focuses on craftsmanship (with bonus points for presentation and performance).

The Kids' Cosplay Parade is an opportunity for our younglings to show off their costumes, get their pictures taken (if they want), and have fun!

There are also several photo sessions scheduled throughout the weekend, a costuming track full of great panels and workshops, a costume triage room (3rd Floor, Jefferson) for last-minute repairs, and an entire room reserved and decorated for any-time photo sessions.



THE RAVENCONNIE AWARD

Past Winners

2008	1984: A Brave New Worldcon
2009	1984: A Brave New Worldcon
2010	Baen Barflies
2011	Baen Barflies
2012	1984: A Brave New Worldcon
2013	Klingons
2014	Scientific Bastards
2015	DC17: Worldcon Bid Party
2016	Superheroes & Sidekicks
2017	Geek Gala/ConCarolinas
2018	Insane Asylum
2019	Quark's Bar
2020	No Award Given (COVID)
2021	No Award Given (COVID)
2022	No Award Given (COVID)
2023	Alien Peril Roaming Lab Party
2024	Alien Peril Roaming Lab Party
2025	Tiki Time

Every year, RavenCon presents an award for the best room party—The John Jones Memorial Award for Excellence in Partying, aka the RavenConnie. Everyone gets to vote! Ballots will be available in Con Ops and at the Registration Desk (smart entrants will have copies of the ballot at their party). Completed ballots will also be collected at those locations and must be turned in by noon on Sunday.

The Rules

1. The party must be registered with the convention.
2. The party must be open to all con goers.
3. If you serve alcohol, you must see identification. **No underage drinking.**
4. Please keep noise to a minimum, there may be non-convention guests staying near you.
5. No party (or host) can win more than two consecutive years.
6. One vote per person. Votes without a valid badge number will be discarded.
7. The Convention Rules (see page 5) must be followed.

The winner is announced at the Con in Review panel (Sunday, 3:00 p.m.) and the award is presented at Opening Ceremonies the following year.

THE CHARITY AUCTION

RavenCon tries to be active in local community service. Each year we hold a Charity Auction to raise funds for that year's designated charity—usually an organization that is important to one of our staff. Our programming guests, dealers, and attendees all generously donate items to be auctioned off. So far, RavenCon has raised over \$22,000 for charities and non-profit organizations.

RavenCon is supporting **RVA Community Fridges** this year. RVA Community Fridges is about more than free food. It's neighbors helping neighbors. It's sharing our

abundance and receiving what we need. It's creating and taking back space—for the people, by the people. It's about building a more resilient community.

The Charity Auction will be held Saturday night at 9:00pm in King William (the Jefferson Building). Hosts Billy Flynn and O. Hai Mark always ensure it's a fun and exciting event. Not to be missed!

If you have any items that you would like to donate to the Charity Auction this year, please bring them to Con Ops (Jefferson Building, 3rd Floor).

THE WEBSTER AWARD

The Webster Award is named for our good friend, RavenCon regular, award-winning author, well-respected member of the science fiction community, and much-missed mensch: Bud Webster.

To be eligible, a book needs to be authored by someone living in Virginia within one year prior to RavenCon. We have an open nomination process where anyone can follow a survey link on our website or Facebook page to make a nomination. The top placing nominations are then placed into contention (after we've verified eligibility). We have open voting online as well as an anonymous panel of judges. It's a preferential voting system (first, second, and third place votes are all counted with a first place vote carrying more weight than a second place vote, and so on) with the online first place winner being counted as one

equal vote amongst the anonymous judges. In the event of a tie, the second and third place online winners will also be counted.

This year's nominees are:

- Mike Allen — *Trail of Shadows*
- Stephen Starring Grant — *Mailman*
- Jason Hansa — *A Skulk of Foxes*
- Dennis M. Myers — *Secret of the Ombax*
- Bishop O'Connell — *Stain of a Nation*

The winner will be announced on Friday evening, at Opening Ceremonies. Nominations for next year will be opened up in May. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for announcements!

SHUTTLE SERVICE

As RavenCon continues to grow we do experience the occasional growing pains—like parking shortages. In order to alleviate some of these problems we have been running a shuttle van the last few years and it's been a big hit. We'll take you to and from the overflow hotel (the Comfort Suites), to local restaurants, or out to do a little quick shopping. Virginia Crossings is an amazing location for hosting a convention so we're doing everything we can to make this location work for us.

Just give us a call and we'll come get you!

804-728-0729



RAVENCON

OCTOBER 22-24, 2027



**DON'T BE AFRAID.
WE'RE MOVING TO OCTOBER!
STILL AT VIRGINIA CROSSINGS**

PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

Aeli, WolfandKitCosplay

An avid book consumer, Twilight Princess fan, and an overall wonderful person, Aeli of WolfandKitCosplay has entered the chat!

Aeli has shifted their focus to content creation over the last few years and has been focusing more on their cosplay game. Teaming up with their partner Ashe, WolfandKitCosplay was born! They've even begun working on the rough drafts of their first major novel, and enjoy what they call "grandma crafts" on a nice rainy day with a warm cup of tea. An absolute game enthusiast as well, they'll either tell you their favorite game is Skyrim, or Twilight Princess.

D.H. Aire

D.H. Aire has published more than twenty books, most recent are *Bigfoot and the Four Horsemen (Apocalypse Knot, Book III)* and *Children of a Lesser Dragon (Bred in Captivity, Book II)*. He's also recently published two novella trilogies in single editions, *Apocalypse or Bust* and *Apocalypse Knot: Hell World*. His love of history and archaeology found expression in his epic fantasy/sci-fi *Highbmage's Plight*, *Hands of the Highbmage* series, and *Knights Tower* series. He is a member of SFWA and an indie author. Follow him at: Twitter @DHaire15, Facebook (Dare 2 Believe), and dhaire.net.

Mike Allen

Mike Allen writes spooky things—a *Publishers Weekly* reviewer once called his stories "nightmare fuel." Two of his collections of horror tales, *Unseaming* and *Aftermath of an Industrial Accident*, were nominees for the Shirley Jackson Award, named after the author of *The Haunting of Hill House*.

To Mike's delight, his newest novel, Appalachian horror yarn *Trail of Shadows* (Broken Eye Books, 2025), has been named a finalist for the 2026 Webster Award—an award that honors the memory of his dear departed friend Bud Webster.

His other novels include the post-apocalyptic swarming-undead sidearms-and-sorcery adventure *The Black Fire Concerto* (re-released by Ruadán Books in 2025) and its forthcoming sequel *The Ghoulmaker's Aria*. He's also the author of two more unnerving story collections, *The Spider Tapestries* and *Slow Burn*, and six books of poetry, among those the *Philadelphia Inquirer* Editor's Choice selection *Strange Wisdoms of the Dead*.

His stories and poems have appeared in *Asimov's Science Fiction*, *Apex Magazine*, *Beneath Ceaseless Skies*, *Best Horror of the Year*, *Interzone*, *Nebula Awards Showcase*, *Strange Horizons*, *Weird Tales*, and many other magazines and anthologies.

With his wife Anita, he runs Mythic Delirium Books, home to numerous award-winning and award-nominated sci-fi and fantasy volumes that defy categories and expectations, including the five books in the *Clockwork Phoenix* anthology series. As an editor and publisher, Mike has twice been a finalist for the World Fantasy Award.

Follow him on Instagram @mythicdelirium and Bluesky @mythicdelirium.bsky.social.

Gregory Amato

Gregory Amato made a career of selling his quill as a mercenary writer for many years. He wrote true and important things for newspapers, magazines, academia, and, for over a decade, intelligence analysis for the FBI.

Now, he writes fantasy stories based on the myths and sagas of the vikings. His fiction is often influenced by tales lost to time, usually full of high adventure, and always the sort that makes readers late to dinner.

Outside his time spent spinning yarns about vikings and wizards, he teaches Judo, brews beer, and plays D&D when he gets the chance.

Gregory lives happily with his family in the Pacific Northwest.

Ambushcosplay

Ambushcosplay is a DC/Marvel cosplayer that specializes in military-themed cosplays such as GI Joe. They finished in third place in the NC ComicCon cosplay competition and are based in Richmond, VA.

April J. Asbury

April J. Asbury is a writer, teacher, and editor from southwest Virginia. She earned her M.F.A. from Spalding University and M.A. from Hollins. Her poetry and short stories appear in *Artemis Journal*, *Still: The Journal*, *Gyroscope Review*, *Pine Mountain Sand & Gravel*, *Songs of Eretz*, *Women Speak*, *Power of the Feminine I*, *Up Your Ars Poetica*, *Floyd County Moonshine*, *Anthology of Appalachian Writers*, and other publications. Her poetry collection, *Woman with Crows*, is available on apriljasbury.com.

Ashe, WolfandKitCosplay

Ashe has been a cosplayer for almost twenty years and has always loved the bizarre and strange parts of fandom.

From sci-fi to anime, their love for fandom space and pop culture knows no bounds! Especially, the cosplay and fabrication aspect.

And even more so for ballgowns and fancy builds.

Ever the eccentric, they've truly grown their repertoire to include drag performances as well!

JM Beal

JM Beal started writing seriously in 2001, behind the check-out counter at Walgreens on left over receipt paper, with a novel full of drama and romance and epic sword battles. In all honesty it will probably never again see the light of day.

It's been a long road since then, through different genres and projects and full of life events that keep getting in the way.

In the grand tradition of writers who dream big, and jump without looking, she and a friend launched a publishing company in June of 2014. You can find them at Golden Fleece Press.

Jim Beall

Jim Beall (BS-Math, MBA, PE) has been a nuclear engineer for fifty years, beginning as a nuclear engineering officer in the US Navy. Civilian experience includes design, construction, inspection, enforcement, and assessment with a nuclear utility, an architect engineering firm, and the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (USNRC). Assignments included on-site health physics support, piping design stress analyses, reactor licensing, reactor startup testing (Canadian Point Lepreau heavy water reactor), research reactor inspections, and an assist mission to the State Nuclear Regulatory Inspectorate of Ukraine in Kiev. USNRC positions included reactor site construction senior resident inspector (SRI), reactor operations SRI, inspection team leader, safety analyst, senior enforcement specialist, and reactor policy assistant to three different Presidential-appointed USNRC Commissioners while earning the agency's Meritorious and Distinguished Service awards.

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

Ed Bishop

Ed Bishop is a full-time electrical, computer and systems engineer, software engineer, and data scientist. He is also a part-time researcher in theoretical and experimental parti-

cle physics participating in the CMS Experiment of the Large Hadron Collider project (applying his physics and data science expertise). His recent theoretical physics research includes joining a collaboration to study Einstein's Teleparallel Equivalent of General Relativity (TPEGR), an alternative but mathematically equivalent formulation of General Relativity created by Albert Einstein in the late 1920s, and its applications to precision cosmology (in particular how it can help explain phenomena related to dark matter, dark energy, galaxy formation, cosmic inflation and the formation of the large-scale structure of the universe) and to explore the emerging "Unified Gauge Gravity Model," which unifies TPEGR with the Standard Model of Particle Physics into a renormalizable quantum gravity theory which is a promising candidate for a "theory of everything." He was also co-editor of hometheaterinfo.com (site now defunct) with his late brother Doug and has written or edited over 5,000 film, television and streaming media reviews which have been syndicated on sites including rottentomatoes.com and metacritic.com. Ed also has an active interest in history and folklore.

James Blakey

James Blakey is an acclaimed author with over fifty short stories across multiple genres, earning three finalist nominations for the Short Mystery Fiction Society's Derringer Award, including a 2019 win for "The Bicycle Thief." His debut paranormal thriller, *Superstition*, was published by City Owl Press in 2024. James is publisher and co-editor of two speculative fiction anthologies: *Charlottesville Fantastic: Arcane Echoes from Virginia's Heartland* and *Shenandoah Fantastic: Mystic Whispers from the Valley's Vales*. An active member of the writing community, he leads critique groups in Harrisonburg, Charlottesville, and Shenandoah County, and is Secretary of the Rocktown Writers Guild. His short story collections include *The Cat Who Loved David Duchovny*, *Fast Times at Spiro Agnew High*, and *The Five People You Meet in Atlantic City*. When not writing, James summits US state high points—forty and counting—or embarks on bike-camping adventures along the East Coast. He lives in Broadway, VA. Visit JamesBlakeyWrites.com for more.

Blue Cheese Robotics

Blue Cheese Robotics (FRC Team 1086) is a student-run high school robotics team from Henrico County, VA founded in 2003. They are part of the FIRST Robotics Competition program, designing and building 100+ pound industrial robots to compete in exciting, fast-paced games with teams from around the world.

Blue Cheese Robotics strives to “brie the best they can brie,” working to inspire the next generation of STEM students through outreach and advocacy initiatives. They accrue thousands of volunteer hours yearly in hosting community and school demonstrations and festivals. Their outreach focuses on making STEM accessible and fun for all ages.

At RavenCon, Blue Cheese will be teaching attendees how to play CIAS award-winning multiplayer cybersecurity card games. Using a familiar tabletop CTG play mechanism, the games are designed to introduce players to real world cybersecurity concepts and tools. Players will build networks, implement security controls and attack their opponent, leveraging hacking and exploiting weaknesses to breach their defenses for victory.

Blue Cheese will also be demoing one of their robots. Attendees can get close-up and hands-on, learning directly from the students about the mechanical and technical design that goes into building it.

Blue Cheese Robotics is excited to bring their robot and hands-on educational STEM fun to RavenCon this year.

Bill Bridges

Bill Bridges is a writer and game designer, most known for developing White Wolf’s *World of Darkness* horror RPG setting and the *Fading Suns* science-fiction universe (currently published by Ulisses Spiele). Bill lives near Atlanta, GA, where he currently serves on the boards of the C.G. Jung Society of Atlanta and Broadleaf Writers Association.

As one of the original crew behind the landmark *World of Darkness* property, Bill helmed the *Werewolf: the Apocalypse* line of books and games. He was Senior Content Designer on CCP Games’ *World of Darkness* MMO and was the lead designer of the award-winning Storytelling system rules for White Wolf’s *Chronicles of Darkness*. He created the *Mage: the Awakening* and *Promethean: the Created* settings, and developed numerous books in the *Mage: the Ascension* game series.

His fiction works include *My Time Among the Stars* for *Fading Suns*, and *The Silver Crown*, *The Last Battle*, and *The Song of Unmaking* novels for *Werewolf: the Apocalypse*. Bill contributed to world design for Segasoft’s *Emperor of the Fading Suns* computer game and co-wrote the scripts for Viacom’s interactive horror movie *Dracula Unleashed* and Interplay’s *Star Trek: Starfleet Academy*.

Visit Bill at bill-bridges.com.

Elizabeth Broadbent

Elizabeth Broadbent is the author of *Blood Cypress* (Raw Dog Screaming Press, 2025), *Ink Vine*, and *Ninety-Eight Sabers* (both Undertaker Books, 2024). A former journalist

with bylines in *The Washington Post*, *Insider*, *ADDitude Magazine*, and *TODAY! Parents*, she was an eight-year staff writer for *Scary Mommy*; her essay, “A Mother’s White Privilege,” is used by anti-racism programs in universities and activist organization worldwide. She has appeared as a guest on BBC World News, MSNBC, CNN, and NPR’s *All Things Considered*. An exiled South Carolinian, Broadbent lives in the Commonwealth of Virginia with her husband, three sons, two dogs, and many cats.

Rachel A. Brune

Rachel A. Brune is an Army veteran, former military journalist, novelist, and editor of the creepy and macabre. She is the founder of Crone Girls Press, an indie horror micropress specializing in anthologies. In 2022, Falstaff Books published the first book in her werewolf secret agent series, *Cold Run*; later that year, she took on the position of Senior Editor of Falstaff’s new horror imprint, Falstaff Dread. She lives with her spouse, two daughters, and one fluffy orange cat.

Keely Burn

Keely Burn is a singer-songwriter from Richmond, VA who loves bringing on the Feels™ and detests genres. Her music explores anxiety, self-worth, and the natural world.

Andrew Caballero

Andrew Caballero brings over fifteen years of experience in science, engineering and technology for Department of Defense (DoD) customers like the U.S. Army, Air Force, and Navy through companies such as Textron Systems, Northrop Grumman, and Peraton Labs. Specializing in electro-optics and solid state physics, he routinely propagates lasers through various materials to induce specific effects. He has worked on systems ranging from underwater autonomous vehicles and acoustical tracking to space based optical imaging and ad hoc wireless networks as everything from a technician to a chief systems engineer. Growing up an Air Force brat, having been all over the world with hobbies including marksmanship, American history, scuba diving, sailing, computers, electronics, and the Fallout universe, he brings a peculiar perspective to his activities. Always looking to slay super mutants and demons (See the *Blood War* urban fantasy series by Doug Burbey and Mel Todd at badashpublishing.com).

Dee Leana Carter

D.L. (Dee Leana) Carter was decanted from her incubation pod in the outback of Australia many decades ago. This terrifying event was closely followed by shrieks of “there, there it goes. Hit it with a brick!”

These valiant attempts to correct the existence of D.L. were, unfortunately, unsuccessful and she now resides in New Jersey, in a box with her toys, two human beings and a variable number of cats writing humorous romances in the regency, elvish and paranormal universes. If she appears distracted when you speak to her please wave coffee under nose.

Les Carter

Born into a Navy family in Washington, D.C., Leslie Roy Carter lived all over the United States, as well as in Argentina, Newfoundland, while growing up.

After receiving a B.S. in Physics from the College of William and Mary, he was commissioned as an Ensign in the U.S. Navy. While serving as a naval officer, he earned an M.S.E.E. from the Naval Postgraduate School. His career as a surface line officer took him to many ports such as Pearl Harbor, Long Beach, San Diego, and Charleston, culminating in command of the Oliver Hazard Perry Class Frigate, U.S.S. *Reid*. He then switched to the acquisitions specialty, eventually becoming a major program manager before his retirement in 2002 with the rank of Captain.

After retiring from the Navy, he worked for ten years as a defense contractor in the Washington area and turned his attention to writing. Holding a private pilot's license, he also serves in the Maryland Wing of the Civil Air Patrol, with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Margaret L. Carter

Reading *Dracula* at the age of twelve ignited Margaret L. Carter's interest in a wide range of speculative fiction and inspired her to become a writer. Vampires, however, have always remained close to her heart. Her first published book was an anthology of vampire stories she edited, *Curse of the Undead*. Her work on vampirism in literature includes *Dracula: The Vampire and the Critics*, *The Vampire in Literature: A Critical Bibliography*, and *Different Blood: The Vampire as Alien*. She holds a PhD in English, and her dissertation contained a chapter on *Dracula*. In fiction, she has written horror, fantasy, and paranormal romance on vampires, werewolves, Lovecraftian entities, and other "monsters." Her stories have appeared in various webzines and anthologies, including several of Marion Zimmer Bradley's *Darkover* and *Sword and Sorceress* volumes. Her vampire novels include *Dark Changeling* and its sequel, *Child of Twilight* (now available in an omnibus edition, *Twilight's Changelings*), as well as several vampire romances. With her husband, Leslie Roy Carter, a retired naval officer, she co-authored a fantasy series beginning with *Wild Sorceress*. Her recent

novellas include a Victorian-era Christmas romance, *A Ghost in the Green Bestiary*; a contemporary light paranormal romance, *Summertime Echoes*; and a YA ghost story, *Her Death Was Doubtful*. Her most recent novel, *Against the Dark Devourer*, is a dark paranormal romance with Lovecraftian elements. She and Les, who live in Maryland, have four children and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Lexi Cleveland

Lexi Cleveland is the Executive Vice President at ARtGlass, a leading software technology company with headquarters in Richmond, VA, and Milan, Italy. With a passion for early American history and interactive programming. She holds a B.A. in History from the College of William & Mary, where she also earned a certificate in Early American History, Material Culture, and Museum Studies from the National Institute of American History and Democracy. Additionally, she furthered her academic pursuits by obtaining an M.A. in American Studies from Leiden University in the Netherlands.

Throughout her career, Lexi Cleveland has been actively involved in groundbreaking projects that aim to interpret and bring to life the experiences of enslaved Virginians. She has used her expertise to launch initiatives at renowned historical sites such as Colonial Williamsburg, George Washington's Mount Vernon, James Monroe's Highland, and Richmond's Monument Avenue. By combining her extensive knowledge of early American history with her skill in interactive programming, Lexi has successfully fostered a deeper understanding of the lives and legacies of those who have shaped our nation's past.

Lexi Cleveland's unwavering commitment to historical preservation, coupled with her proficiency in software technology, has established her as a respected authority in the field. With her vast experience and notable contributions to the intersection of history and technology, she continues to make valuable strides in making the past accessible and engaging for audiences worldwide.

Gary Cohn

For over thirty years Gary Cohn's business card has read, "writer, teacher, fencer, motorcyclist." He says that he has had two careers as a comics writer. The first was in the early eighties, when he co-created *Amethyst, Princess of Gemworld* and *Blue Devil* at DC Comics. His second comics career came a dozen years later, when he got aboard the Crusade Entertainment bandwagon early on, editing *Shi* and writing *Shi: Senryaku* as well as his own *Demon Gun*. Additionally, he has written a wide variety of other work,

including several Hardy Boys and Nancy Drew paperbacks, short fiction, essays, history articles, ad copy, and more. In 2014, after retiring from teaching in NYC, he moved to Richmond, VA, where he has returned to writing. Current projects include *Magic Bus*, a collection of semi-autobiographical short stories; *Playing With My Friends*, an anthology of comics stories in the old *House of Mystery* model; *New Devil*, with *Blue Devil* artist/co-creator Paris Cullins and artist Derwin Roberson; and *Nemesis*, with former NYC teaching colleague and BronxHeroes Con founder Ray Felix. Gary is currently also doing writing/editorial/consultant work for Udderly Ridiculous Productions (udderlyridiculousproductions.com).

Cos-Slayers

Maegan Anderson, Maru Godspear,

Liz Lydon, Tswify9 & Kristina Wheeler

Cos-Slayers is a Virginia-based cosplay group. They organize and participate in state-wide cosplay events such as conventions, competitions, and photoshoots. Their goal is to foster a welcoming community for anyone who wants to bring their favorite characters to life.

Bryant Cox Photography

Bryant Cox of BC Photography, LLC is the owner and lead photographer. Since 2020, he has proudly served the cosplay community, specializing in creatively lit portraits and dynamic digital art composites that bring characters to life.

Bryant provides his services at numerous conventions throughout the DMV area, where his cosplay photography booth welcomes cosplayers of all levels and all ages. Whether someone is stepping into costume for the first time or is a seasoned competitor, Bryant is committed to delivering high-quality, impactful images.

His work has been featured in various cosplay magazines, reflecting both his technical skill and dedication to the craft.

Aaron K. Crocker, Campfire Publishing

Aaron K. Crocker is an award-winning author and director based out of Fredericksburg, VA. In 2021, he started 669 Productions, a creative house devoted to psychological horror and experimental nightmares on screen. That same year, he sparked Campfire Publishing, which aims to gather writers from every shadowed corner of the world—novices and well-seasoned alike—to stitch together anthologies that carve horror into hauntingly personal niches. Whether on the page or the screen, Crocker's work aims to walk the thin veil between real-world horror and the monster in the closet.

Tomas Cruz-Melendez, Rights Clearing House

Tomas Cruz-Melendez is a science fiction author and technology entrepreneur from Virginia. He published nine science fiction novels in 2025—stories he had been carrying since 1997—and used AI-generated cover art created through Midjourney. When he submitted all nine books to the U.S. Copyright Office under identical disclosure, two were rejected and seven were approved, with no standardized explanation for the difference. That experience sent him down a research path that revealed a far deeper problem: there is no infrastructure connecting content creators to the AI companies training on their work, no system for fair compensation, and no reliable way to verify what is authentic and what is fabricated.

Drawing on 35 years of telecommunications and systems architecture experience at AT&T, Verizon, Avaya, and CACI International, Tomas founded Rights Clearing House (RCH) to build that missing infrastructure. RCH is developing a universal platform for intellectual property verification, attribution, and licensing—giving authors and creators the tools to catalog their work, set their own licensing terms, and receive fair compensation when AI systems train on their content. The company holds four patents filed with the USPTO and has been called “the NASDAQ for intellectual property.”

Tomas is also writing *Content Creators Be Damned: The Story of Building Infrastructure Big Tech Ignored*, chronicling the journey from rejected copyright registrations to building the verification systems that new laws like the EU AI Act and proposed U.S. legislation are already demanding. He lives in Fauquier County, VA, with his family, and believes that creators deserve infrastructure as sophisticated as the AI systems consuming their work.

Lori D'Angelo

Lori D'Angelo is the author of the 2024 feminist sci-fi horror short story collection, *The Monsters Are Here*, which was published in 2025 by ELJ Editions. She is also a grant recipient from the Elizabeth George Foundation, a fellow at the Hambidge Center for Creative Arts, and an alumna of the Community of Writers. She holds an MA from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and an MFA from West Virginia University. Her work has appeared in various literary journals including *BULL*, *Drunken Boat*, *Gargoyle*, *Moon City Review*, *Reed Magazine*, and *Rejection Letters*. She teaches composition at Eastern Mennonite University, writes about books for *The Daily News-Record* in Harrisonburg and is a fan of many sci-fi TV shows including *Travelers*, *12 Monkeys*, and *Person of Interest*. Some of her favorite authors are Ray Bradbury, Jane Austen, and Shirley Jackson.

Steve Davidson

Steve Davidson is the publisher of *Amazing Stories*.

Steve has been a passionate fan of science fiction since the mid-60s, before he even knew what it was called.

Drema Deòraich

Drema Deòraich is an award-winning author of speculative fiction that sometimes asks big questions. Her flash fiction, short stories, and novelettes have been published in numerous online journals, as well as a few semi-professional zines. Her novels include *Entheophage* (medical mystery/climate fiction) and *The Founder's Seed* trilogy (science fiction/science fantasy). Drema's collection of short works, *Murder of Crows, and Other Consequential Tales*, and her two novelettes—"Deer in Headlights" (dark fantasy) and "Jane Doe #7" (medical science fiction)—are all available on Kindle Unlimited. *Nexus*, the science fantasy trilogy follow-up to *The Founder's Seed*, is currently in the works.

Drema currently lives in Southeast Virginia with her husband, his two cats, and all her other characters. When time and mosquitoes permit, Drema works on transforming their yard into more welcoming habitat for small wildlife. She also occasionally blogs about writing, ideas from Life that inspire her, environmental issues, ways to live more sustainably, and whatever else captures her fancy.

Jett Dixon

Jett has been attending and assisting at conventions for over a decade.

Apple of Your Eye Cosplay is Jett's Facebook page for all things cosplay, showing off her thrift-and-scrounge style of work. She modifies pieces she's found in stores to fit her cosplay goals. Her favorite styles of cosplay are from *Star Trek*, Marvel, cartoons, and musicals.

Raised on a steady diet of 80s and 90s sci-fi, Jett adores all things *Star Trek*, enjoys *Star Wars*, *X-Files*, and *Firefly*, and watches way too much anime.

She has family ties to NASA and the Goddard Space Flight Center. A solid gamer girl, she's spent hours in World of Warcraft, Final Fantasy XIV, Pokémon Go, and multiple Animal Crossing games.

Tavair Dominique, BSFS

Tavair Dominique is a Baltimore-based multidisciplinary artist whose work spans music, visual art, and literature.

In music, he blends alternative folk with speculative themes. His projects include *Phoenix Rising the Space Cowboy*, a tribute to *Doctor Who*, along with tracks dedicated to our universe such as "Nebula Dragon (SH2-114)" and

"Black Hole Revelation." His earlier *Sagacious Traveler* series imagines conversations with himself across his timelines.

In visual art, his "Star Card" series uses pen and marker to merge cosmic imagery with inner exploration.

In literature, his anthology *Meanderings* gathers nearly twenty years of poetry that mixes speculative elements with personal reflection. His work has also appeared in the *Maryland Bards Poetry Review*.

Across these forms, Tavair invites audiences to explore speculative storytelling alongside lived experience.

DJ Drae

DJ Drae has been a DJ for 20+ years. In the club scene (s)he has DJed clubs such as The Dawning, Umlaut, and Goth Night in Charlottesville, VA and at Fallout in Richmond, VA. (S)he has also DJed at various conventions around Virginia. When not DJing at a club or convention, (s)he can be heard as one of the co-hosts of *Les Temps Per Due*, a weekly throwback show of 70's, 80's and 90's music on WNRN all across Virginia and at wnrn.org. Specializing in 80's nights and goth nights, (s)he has been cultivating specialty themed dances for RavenCon for several years.

Meri Elena

Meri Elena is a North Carolina speculative fiction author, cat mom, and friendly neighborhood witch. Meri is the author of the *Brunswick Prophecies* YA urban fantasy series. The third book is coming out this year. She has also published several short stories in anthologies. Her "real" job is communications for the NC Department of Public Safety, so ask her how to build an emergency kit for anything from a hurricane to a zombie apocalypse.

L. Ana Ellis

L. Ana Ellis, a sleep-deprived government worker by day, lets her imagination roam free while writing science fiction late into the night. After spending her days toiling over spreadsheets in a windowless cubicle with fluorescent lighting, she spends her coffee-fueled late-night writing sessions creating worlds that are more of a commentary on the present than an accurate prediction of the future. Speculating about how societies will change in the future fascinates her; she is under-terred that so far she has been wrong 100% of the time.

Ellis has written four novels, including a cyberpunk sci-fi trilogy and a book about spy cats that's targeted to preteens but fun for cat lovers of all ages. Her debut novel, *Panacea Genesis*, was a semifinalist in the 2023 Self Published Science Fiction Competition.

She lives in Alexandria, VA with her husband and two cats. When procrastinating, she occasionally posts on Instagram as lanaellisbooks. She publishes under the indie press Fire-Forged Books.

Jaq Evans

Jaq Evans is a speculative fiction and horror author based out of Richmond, VA. She grew up running feral in the Blue Ridge foothills, then spent over a decade in a state that's famously bleak and spooky—and frankly, it shows. Jaq earned an MFA in Popular Fiction from Stonecoast (University of Southern Maine). You can find their short fiction in *Fusion Fragment*, *Three-Lobed Burning Eye*, and elsewhere, and her debut novel, *What Grows in the Dark* (MIRA/HarperCollins) at your favorite local bookstore.

Nurse Feratu, Monster Kid 101

Nurse Feratu has been the assistant of Dr. Bob Tesla for many years and is in charge of Resources for Humans or as she prefers to call it Human Resources. You will likely see her identical duplicant walking around with her badge and her 7-year-old daughter.

Beth Ford

Beth Ford is an author living in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. She writes time travel romance and historical fiction. Her time travel novels include *Love Between Times* and its sequel, *Love Across Time*. Her work has also appeared in a variety of literary journals.

Lew Fraga

I am a low-budget filmmaker living in Central VA, leaning heavily into thrillers and sci-fi and fantasy, but love most other genres as well. I'm currently producing a second movie while my first is going through the film festival circuit.

J.S. Furlong

J.S. (Jen Selby) Furlong is a frequent writer's conference/book festival guest and speaker as well as a professional actor. She's the founder of both the growing, girl-powered indie house Masterful Person Company Publishing (Abante Press, Sprouts Books, Long River Press, WiseLife Books, Spyglass Press) and The Wandering Wordsmith Book Shop. She's a graduate of the Duke Ellington School of the Arts, RADA at Oxford University, and The University of Mary Washington (BLS). She's a member of SCBWI, Authors Against Book Bans, Actor's Equity Association, and SAG-AFTRA and the host of the *Author-to Author* podcast.

Current titles include the YA suspense series *The Unimaginables* (*Hidden City* (BookFest Gold Medal, Indie Excellence Award Nominee), *Tattooed Angel* (Young Adult Virginia Award librarian nominee 2025) and *Magick Squared*); the middle-grade series *Meredith's World* (*Meredith at the Met* and *Meredith for Congress*); the picture book *Mrs. Cheesely Loves Cheese*; the LARP guide *Antagonists* (*Mind's Eye Theatre/Vampire: The Masquerade*); and live circus-theater writing (*Hats*, *The Mysterious Staircase*, and *Circus of Night*—co-authored with Neil Gaiman).

Jen lives in Virginia with six goats, five chickens, four teenagers, three cats, two dogs, and her husband. Fun fact: Jen once played a small, but pivotal role on *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*.

Mark Geary

Mark Geary is a game master with over 45 years of experience in running campaigns. He's been coordinating RPG events throughout the Mid-Atlantic region since 1989, and was the host of *Friday Night Live*—a podcast dealing with fandom and gaming—from 2018-2023. Mark has been running Defenders International, one of the longest running super hero campaigns (40 years) around.

Geek Radio Daily

Geek Radio Daily is a place for geeks and stealth geeks alike to hang out and talk about a variety of geeky topics. Check out the sometimes weekly podcast...*sWeekly*, if you will. The *GRD sWeekly* 'cast is usually available on Mondays, and if you are new to the show, just jump right in!

GRD's Billy Flynn and Flynnstress also provide your daily dose of geek every weekday with news from the geeky world and more! Mondays highlight the weekend box office results, Tuesdays cover newly released DVDs, Wednesday is new comic book day, Thursdays showcases video games, and Fridays describe movies coming to the theater for the upcoming weekend.

Rebecca Gibson

Rebecca Gibson is an Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Virginia Commonwealth University, and recipient of the university's Excellence in Pedagogical Innovation Award. Her published works include *Desire in the Age of Robots and AI: An Investigation in Science Fiction and Fact* (Palgrave Macmillan 2019); *The Corseted Skeleton: A Bioarchaeology of Binding* (Palgrave Macmillan 2020); and *The Bad Corset: A Feminist Reimagining*. She holds a PhD in Anthropology from American University, and when not writing or teaching can be found reading mystery novels amidst a pile of stuffed animals.

A.M. Giddings

A.M. Giddings is a writer, scientist, cellist, independent filmmaker, and aspiring swamp hag from North Carolina. She has a PhD in Microbiology and has authored multiple scientific articles in virology, cell line design, and gene therapy. She enjoys writing stories that live within the murky boundaries between genres. She is the author of the futuristic dark fantasy series *Dance of Ages*, which begins with *Shadow into Light* and has short stories in various anthologies. She recently wrote and directed her first short horror film with Sick Chick Flicks. She is also the co-director of the Sick Chick Flicks Film Festival.

Nicole Glover

Nicole Glover is the author of the acclaimed historical fantasy series, *Murder and Magic*, the latest which includes *The Starseekers*. She's won the 2024 Webster Award and is a *Locus* bestseller. When she's not writing, she's working as a UX researcher where her knowledge about murder and other mysteries is surprisingly useful.

Uncle Grayhawk

Uncle Grayhawk originally hails from south-central New Jersey (not far from Philly) and is a former professional theater technician who now makes a living as a senior Windows admin for a secret branch of the federal government that resides within the walls of NOAA.

Or something like that.

More than 40 years ago, Uncle Grayhawk opened a Christmas present to find a blue and white box sporting a picture of a dragon, bearing the title of "Dungeons & Dragons". This jump-started a long time love affair with TTRPGs, spending much of his time in the DM's chair. In the early 90s, he was introduced to fan conventions and began volunteering, mostly in the realms of gaming, Security/Public Safety, and Operations.

Now, nearly three decades later, Uncle Grayhawk has served on the demo teams for several game companies, helped run more conventions than he cares to remember, amassed what can only be described as a ridiculous number of board games and TTRPGs, and acquired an equally absurd repertoire of stories that he uses to entertain and educate. He has contributed to a few RPG supplements, playtested several board games, and dabbled in podcasting. He holds a BA in Communications & Theater Arts from McDaniel College, is the parent of two adult geeks, and runs a weekly online D&D game.

You can find his ramblings on the web here: linktr.ee/unclegrayhawk.

Jason Hansa

Always interested in science fiction, Jason Hansa began writing while serving on active duty in the U.S. Army. Retiring from the Army in 2018, he currently has multiple published science fiction stories set in the BattleTech (MechWarrior computer game) universe, most of them in collected anthologies available on Amazon or the Catalyst Game Labs store. Originally from Illinois and an eternal Cubs fan, Jason now lives in Virginia with his wife and two children.

John G. Hartness

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

In 2016, John teamed up with several other publishing industry professionals to create Falstaff Books, a small press dedicated to publishing the best of genre fiction's "misfit toys." Falstaff Books has since published over 350 titles with authors ranging from first-timers to *NY Times* bestsellers, with no signs of slowing down any time soon. He is also the founder of the SAGA Genre Fiction Writers' Conference, where students hone their business and craft skills to write better books and make more money.

In his copious free time John enjoys long walks on the beach, rescuing kittens from trees and playing Magic: the Gathering. John's pronouns are he/him.

Morgan Hazelwood

Morgan Hazelwood writes from her lair in Northern Virginia. She's been sharing *Writing Tips & Writerly Musings* since 2015, first as a blogger, then as a streamer and podcaster as well. With nine fully drafted manuscripts and a stack of rejection letters, she does have one published short story, "Just a Hike In The Woods" by the Dark Recesses Webzine in January of 2022. When not writing, you can find her devouring book series on her kindle, learning to scroll saw, or feeding her webcomic addiction. She is also a volunteer for local writing conventions and was a voice actor for Anansi Storytelling—a fairytale audio drama podcast.

Sean Heare, Alien Peril

A longtime denizen of fandom, Sean Heare has spent four decades volunteering, matchmaking, and—on memorable occasions—commandeering entire conventions before

cheerfully handing them back by Sunday morning. He has served as board member, treasurer, and con chair; built a reputation for high energy, audience first panels; and collected improbable stories along the way, including nearly becoming an Author GOH without a book and being mistaken at a wedding for Grig “Punkie” Larson. Raised on *Star Trek*, Ray Bradbury, and Douglas Adams, Sean brings a wry, welcoming voice to both the stage and the hallway track, blending deep genre love with just enough chaos to keep things lively.

Between sessions, expect surprise no quarter pillow fight challenges and his late night sci fi trivia melee, Alien Peril. On panels, he’s a cheerful agent of mischief who delights in sparking spirited, good humored debates and making room for fresh voices. Offstage, Sean binges speculative TV, hoards board games, and routinely loses at Texas Hold ’Em with suspicious luck.

Above all, he champions the inclusive, ever weirder joy of fandom—celebrating the community that welcomes the gleefully odd, the endlessly curious, and anyone ready to laugh at the improbable. If there’s music, he’ll dance; if there’s a game, he’ll play; and if there’s a crowd, he’ll make sure everyone’s invited.

Heather Curatola Heckel

Heather Curatola Heckel is a role-playing game author and designer. She is best known for her contributions to several White Wolf Publishing RPG sourcebooks and supplements, including the *Children of Gaia Tribebook*, *Umbra: The Velvet Shadow*, and *Digital Web*. She is known for creating Alexis Hastings, the narrator of the first edition *Sons of Ether Tradition Book*. She has been actively involved in the role-playing community for over 35 years and takes great pride in her extensive role-playing game collection (including the game *Rus*, which most people have never seen).

She has been an editor, independent publisher, and cover designer and is working on writing her first novel. She currently teaches sociology at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, VA, focusing primarily on popular culture, fandom, AI, social media, and virtual communities.

Helen of Joy

By day, I wrangle teenagers as a Career and Technical Education teacher in a small rural high school. By night, I turn into a Crafting Necromancer, conjuring creations out of recycled fiber, paper, resin, filament, electronics, fabric, and occasionally old mail (okay, frequently bills). My newest obsessions are cosplay and sending Happy Mail—because who doesn’t love a mailbox full of joy?

I’m a proud Cat Person =^.=, currently under the benevolent reign of Gandalf (a regal Persian) and his sidekick Bookstahoodah (a tuxedo mischief-maker). For balance, I also have a Yorkie named Shostakovich who insists on being the dramatic lead in the ongoing sitcom that is my household.

I believe in kindness, creativity, and the power of meeting other kind, creative people—preferably over tea, good conversation, and spirited debate... like who the best Doctor was, and why it is Tom Baker.

Alex Higgins, The Platypus Princess

Alexandra Higgins (aka the Platypus Princess) is a self-taught singer/songwriter whose folk-indie sound evokes the spirit of Joan Baez (direct quote heard randomly and unprompted at every performance!). Her voice, often described as angelic, carries melodies that mix ethereal beauty with sharp wit and compassionate wisdom. Inspired by video games, movies, comic books, and disability advocacy, she blends cosplay, wordplay, and colorful guitar play—with a pinch of sass.

Hiphopmcdougal

Hiphopmcdougal are many things. Time travelers. Check. Space adventurers. Check. Cryptid hunters. Check. Pizza lovers. You better believe it! For over 15 years, Hiphopmcdougal has journeyed across the globe and the cosmos on countless missions and quests. Along the way, they’ve amassed not only regional recognition, but many tales of fortune and glory. Come listen as they recount these extraordinary deeds through music and song. But be warned, the unexpected awaits! Werewolves, rubber ducks, flying bags of Cheez-its, these are just a few of the possibilities that await you.

Hiphopmcdougal is the musical duo of Charlie Hodgson and Julian Biggs. Their latest album, *The Adventures of Hiphopmcdougal*, is now available on Spotify, Bandcamp, and Apple Music.

Nate Hoffelder

Nate has been helping people fix broken tech since 2010. He turns broken down WordPress sites into sites which convert visitors into superfans, also builds sites from scratch, and helps authors with their social media and newsletters.

When he’s not volunteering with writing groups, he writes bad jokes on Facebook and creates memes and graphics. His current obsessions include repairing and selling model trains, designing con badges, and finding novel uses for a thermal postage printer.

Hobbes Holluck

Hobbes Holluck is an artist/writer and art educator who has dabbled in many forms of visual storytelling to include comics, illustration, and puppetry. Hobbes's work tends to be a whimsical combination of fantasy, adventure, and humor. He is best known for his all ages fantasy-comic series *Fuzzbuquet*. Hobbes's other works include the sci-fi/fantasy series *Green Knight Street Fight*, the mythologically inspired *The Krampus Cometh* and various short form comics that have been published in *Magic Bullet*, a bi-annual comic newspaper. Hobbes tends to use traditional media when illustrating to include markers, acrylics, and airbrush.

Terry Hooker

Terry, also known as M.E. Anderson, is a freelance writer and editor, a Jersey girl from the shore turned Florida farm girl soon to be a Virginia farm girl. She has a BA in anthropology, an AAS in Culinary Arts, and an MA in Library Science. She has worked as a congressional archivist, historian, teacher, and professional chef and has presented her research on the history and iconography of southern cemeteries throughout the Southeast United States. She has edited several children's books, full length novels, dissertations, and academic papers; Terry, herself, has published scholarly papers, magazine articles, fictional stories, and books. She lives with her husband, two kids, and a plethora of critters.

E.J. Isaacs

E.J. Isaacs is a new writer with Space Wizard Science Fantasy after spending decades in Information Technology. He is a futurist and likes to talk about where technology will take us. Currently living in South Carolina, you can meet him at various local conventions. He loves science fiction, ballroom dancing, and curling up with a good book and a cup of tea. You can find him at solinterests.com, or as E J Isaacs – Author on Facebook.

Darius Jones

Darius Jones's stories and poems have appeared in *Strange Horizons*, *The No Sleep Podcast*, *Space and Time Magazine*, *Star*Line Magazine*, and Timber Ghost Press. His first book, *The Books of Hours*, a collection of 24 Dark Cosmic poems, was published by Alien Buddha Press in late 2025.

He is a member of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers Association, the Horror Writers Association, the Science Fiction Poetry Association, and the Northern Virginia Writers Club.

He lives in Alexandria, Virginia.

Follow him on Instagram @DariusJonesWrit or learn more at dariusjoneswriter.com.

Nick Justus

Nick Justus is a 2011 graduate of The Kubert School of Cartoon & Graphic Art. His list of clients include Topps, Upper Deck, Tidalwave Comics, Blue Juice Comics, Thorny Comics, Image Comics, IDW Comics, Scout Comics, Black Caravan Comics, and Cosmic Lion Productions. He frequently works on artwork for Bad Dreams Books horror authors Aron Beauregard, Daniel J. Volpe, and Kristopher Triana. He also works on personal commissions for clients and self publishes his own comics. His 9-year-old son, Ryley, is a black belt in Tae Kwon Do and is a cooler version of his dad.

“Amy” A.L. Kaplan

A.L. Kaplan's love of books started as a child and sparked a creative imagination. Born on a cold winter morning in scenic northern New Jersey, she is the author of the novel, *Star Touched*, and several short stories including “Hummingbird.” Her most recent publication is *Mark of the Goddess*, which includes original illustrations. She is a member of the Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers Association, is the past president of Maryland Writers' Association, and holds an MFA in sculpture from the Maryland Institute College of Art. When not writing or indulging in her fascination with wolves, this proud mother of two lives in Maryland with her husband and dog. Learn more about A.L. at ALKaplanAuthor.com, @ALKaplanAuthor on social media.

Linette Kasper, Campfire Publishing

Linette Kasper is an avid writer of supernatural fantasy but enjoys dabbling in other styles, especially horror and suspense. She has released three novels, *Daimon*, *Rogue*, and *Phoenix*, from her first series. She also has a horror short story, “What They Did Not Know,” published in Fundead Publications' anthology *One Night in Salem*, and a fantasy short story, “Indelible,” published in the *Rejected* fundraising anthology by Aaron K. Crocker. She also presented at the Library of Congress on “Fantasy as Escapism.” When she is not writing, she also enjoys editing works by other authors for Campfire Publishing.

She has lived in Virginia all her life but likes to travel even though she has never gone farther than the east coast and is afraid of flying. She enjoys long walks in old cemeteries, binge-watching TV shows, and trying to stop time frame by frame.

Tommy Kerper

Once upon a time, a bored lawyer and avid reader tired of his favorite characters becoming background noise to the heroes of the story, and he took it upon himself to write something different.

Thus, *I'm Not the Hero* was born.

A few books later, Tommy has dropped the lawyer gig and decided writing full-time is worth giving a chance.

Born in Florida, Tommy rolled a high luck stat and met his wife early in life. They live in Virginia with a dog full of endless energy and two boys that wear even the dog out. You can find Tommy writing, sipping another cup of coffee, or reading anything he can get his hands on.

Bethanne Kim

Bethanne Kim is the publisher of the new alternate history magazine *Eric Flint's 1632 & Beyond* and a writer in the 1632verse. Her stories focus on how individuals adapt to their new world and heal old wounds—theirs and the world around them. Her favorite characters are almost all well past retirement age because they can get away with so much more. Her 1632 novels are *Mrs. Flannery's Flowers*, *Gourmets of Grantville*, and *Red Shield*. She also has many short stories published in both *The Grantville Gazette* and *Eric Flint's 1632 & Beyond*.

Before she started writing in 1632, she wrote about emergency preparedness, zombies, Scouts, and even the US Constitution—*The Constitution: It's the OS for the US*.

Kit's Craft Shop

Kit's Craft Shop is a woman-owned, LBGTQIA+ friendly local business that specializes in oddities, curiosities, crafts, décor, and more. Our mission: To spread creativity and love through all creations! Our motto: Never lose your fire and stay inspired!

Tori Kitsune

Tori has been cosplaying since 2016 and enjoys every second of it! It is their dream to be a Disney princess for children's (of all ages) birthday parties. When they aren't cosplaying, they are playing video games (most likely Pikmin or Old School RuneScape), reading, rewatching *Twin Peaks*, or making silly earrings. If they aren't doing any of that, they are a special education assistant at a middle school in Williamsburg, where they live with their partner and two cats.

Jonah Knight

Jonah Knight is a full-time magician specializing in story-based magic. Sometimes creepy, sometimes funny, he takes the unexpected and makes it real. At the beginning of 2026

he started Haunted LLC, a Massachusetts company that produces a ghost walking tour, adult magic shows, and divination experiences (tarot, pendulums, runes, etc). Somehow he has figured out how to make a living at it.

Sean CW Korsgaard

Sean CW Korsgaard is a U.S. Army veteran, award-winning freelance journalist, author, editor, and publicist who has worked with *Analog Science Fiction & Fact*, Baen Books, and *Writers of the Future*, and recently became the editor of *Anvil* and *Battleborn* magazines. His first anthology, *Worlds Long Lost*, was released in December 2022, as was his debut short story, "Black Box." He lives in Richmond, VA with his wife and child, along with, depending on who you ask, either far too many or far too few books.

Imp Lament

A newcomer to the drag scene, Imp Lament of the Science Fiction Double Feature Drag Show brings a level of chaos and whimsy to their drag art.

Elisabeth Lang

Elisabeth Lang is the author of speculative and realistic fiction stories and novels. Her short stories have been published in the *Pen in Hand Literary Journal* and the *Bay to Ocean Journal*.

She lives, writes, and reads in Maryland and earned a BA from Johns Hopkins University and an MA from UCLA.

Elisabeth is president of the Montgomery County Chapter of the Maryland Writers' Association and a member of the Eastern Shore Writers Association.

Jackyl Lantern

From the depths of the Hot Topic clearance rack lurks a monster from your wildest screams! Jackyl Lantern of the Science Fiction Double Feature Drag Show is a creature embodying the online message board era and DIY energy of Mall Goth, Emo, and Scene so that it may thrive through Richmond Drag. For Jackyl every day should be spooky and fun, just like Halloween!

JM Lee

JM Lee is not only a proud member of the LGBTQ+ community, but also a teacher by day, belly dancer by night, and writer by passion. Blending traditional dance with storytelling, she hopes that her performances capture the spirit of many generations before her. Her books aim to be inclusive, crafting the kind of heartfelt stories her younger self wished

she'd had. When not performing, writing, or wrangling her two energetic boys, she's likely rewatching *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* or hanging upside down in an aerial yoga hammock.

Jenn Lessmann

Jenn Lessmann writes more snark/less dark urban cozies and witchy mysteries. She is the author of the *Cate Corey's Unmagical Life* trilogy, including *Unmagical* (a witchy mystery), *Unforgivable* (an urban cozy) and *Unbelievable* (a sub-urban legend). You can find her non-fiction work in *Indie Author Magazine*.

A former barista, stage manager, and high school English teacher with advanced degrees from impressive colleges, she continues to drink excessive amounts of caffeine, stay up later than is absolutely necessary, and read three or four books at a time.

Mad Maxii

Mad Maxii of the Science Fiction Double Feature Drag Show is here! Get ready to experience a shapeshifter that you will never forget!

DM Mewha

D.M. Mewha lives in the magical land of "The DC Suburbs" where he does battle with monsters such as "Beltway Traffic" and "Wow, Everything Is Too Expensive" with the help of his talented and far-too-patient wife and an assorted menagerie of pets that she threatens to make weirder as time goes on (people don't really want skunks as pets, do they?). He writes sci-fi and fantasy in a variety of flavors and is a certified TTRPG nerd who dabbles in some tabletop wargaming, which sounds better than "he plays with little plastic guys and makes them go 'pew pew'."

Jo Miles

Jo Miles writes optimistic science fiction and fantasy, including the *Infinite Pantry* cozy fantasy series and the *Gifted of Brennex* space opera trilogy. Their short stories have appeared in *Fantasy & Science Fiction*, *Lightspeed*, *Uncanny*, and more. Jo lives in Maryland, where they help nonprofits use the internet to save the world, but mostly serve the whims of their two cats. Explore all their work and sign up for updates at jomiles.com.

Mako Minami

"Aging cosplayer: hobby pro (pending driver update) • PC gamer (RGB prayers & duct-tape builds) • Yap god on techniques • Con dad fixing malfunctions, armor, & bad frames • Too many fandoms, one overheating GPU"

Cass Morris

Cass Morris lives her life at the intersection of storytelling, performance, and education as a writer and editor of novels, short fiction, and immersive experiences. Her novels, *The Aven Cycle*, are Roman-flavored historical fantasy. She is also one-third of the team behind the five-time Hugo Award Finalist podcast *Worldbuilding for Masochists*. Cass works as Story Editor at Mythik Camps, providing writing and developmental editing for the mythology-themed summer camps' interactive theatrical experiences, as well as other programming and media projects, including writing and performing the family-friendly *Myths and Muses* podcast. Previously, she worked in the education department at the American Shakespeare Center in Staunton, VA and has taught English at Reynolds Community College. She holds a Master of Letters in Shakespeare studies from Mary Baldwin University and a BA in English and History from the College of William and Mary. Find her online at linktr.ee/cassmorris.

mr.i_will_x_tell

I'm a cosplayer out of Richmond, VA. Under the cosplay name `mr.i_will_x_tell`, I put together my first cosplay in 2022. Best known for my DC and Marvel cosplays, I love cosplay because it gives you a break from some of the stress of real life. You can dress as a fandom you love and meet other people with the same passion. Also the smiles from kids being able to meet their favorite heroes and villains from comics definitely makes it worthwhile. My biggest goal as a Richmond cosplayer is to bring everyone together in the city to show the rest of the world that we have a great cosplay community here. You can catch me most times doing movie meetups, photoshoots around the city, and showing love to the cons around Richmond.

Memphis Muerte

From Winston-Salem, NC, Memphis Muerte combines southern sass and Puerto Rican passion. She has been lighting up stages and informing and entertaining panels since 2011. The spooky scholar that'll make you holler!

Bill Mulligan

A 25+ year high school science teacher, Bill Mulligan has parlayed his love of horror, science fiction, and fantasy films into podcasting, convention panels, indie filmmaking, and storytelling. With creative partners such as Christine Parker and Mark C. Lucas, he has worked on five feature films and numerous shorts, including the award-winning *400 Ways to Kill a Vampire*, *Belladonna*, *Cache Me If*

You Can, and *Emotional Support Demon*, based on his screenplays. His special effects and makeup work can be seen in *Blood of the Mummy*, *Knob Goblins*, and *The Five Stages of...* When Covid put a temporary stop to indie films, he turned an unproduced screenplay into his first novel, *Raum*, published by Falstaff Books. He is looking forward to retirement and a life spent fishing, writing, and making movies. He lives in Sanford, NC, with his wife and seven cats, which is admittedly a lot of cats.

Drey Mychalus

AI Drey Mychalus is a person and definitely not a simulation of one. I am a lifelong reader with a creative love for fantasy and speculative fiction of all sorts. After spending much of my college years collecting degrees like trading cards, I realized I needed to have a career to support myself beyond playing AD&D. I landed a number of jobs along the way, including archaeologist, history docent on the Maryland Dove sailing ship, and running a prison law library. Eventually I became a source of trauma for the public school system where they paid me to share stories written by others along with more subversive activities like teaching kids how to imagine and think for themselves. Along the way, I wrote school policies on book challenges and helped develop curriculum in every subject except math. In my spare time I am an equestrian and reenactor and also dabble in blacksmithing and medieval martial arts with more than 40 years experience. Now a writer with publication credits as diverse as covering neopagan topics for *WitchVox*, as well as writing fiction, of which I have done much. Published works include a story in the anthology *Fae Thee Well* by Dreampunk Press and one in the anthology *Lurking in the Gene Pool* by Three Cousins Publishing. I occasionally venture from my rural cabin to attend sci-fi, steampunk, and fantasy conventions in the mid-Atlantic region.

Dennis M. Myers

Originally from Minnesota, Dennis M. Myers developed a serious reading habit early in life due to the influence of his grandmother. In high school he read one particularly “awful” book and, with all that teenage hubris, decided he could do better.

He joined the US Navy in 1982. An avid roleplayer, he sold his first adventure to *Challenge Magazine* in 1990. While serving on submarines, he compiled ideas for what became the *Automated Empire* universe; a timeline spanning 4,000 years.

In 2017, the opportunity came to write full-time for

several months. With the full support of his wonderful wife, May, he began the book that is now known as *Final Assembly*, the first in his series, *Rise of the Automated Empire*.

His latest novel, *Secret of the Ombax*, was published in October, 2025. Fifth in the *Automated Empire* universe, first of a new series.

He can be found at AutomatedEmpire.com.

Tonya Nagle, PhD

Tonya possesses a strong educational foundation and diverse expertise, making her a versatile professional. Her academic credentials include a PhD in Higher Education Administration, Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing, Master of Arts in English, Master of Arts in Education with a specialization in Curriculum and Instruction, Master of Arts in Appalachian Studies, Bachelor of Science in Psychology, and an Associate of Arts in Fine Arts.

Tonya is a proud US Marine Corps veteran.

Her professional expertise spans academics, coaching, instructional design, and writing. She has been published in fiction for over 20 years as Cara North, September North, and Echo North. She is a certified teacher consultant for the National Writing Project.

Meg Nicholas

Meg Nicholas is a folklorist and storyteller of mixed Munsee-Delaware and Welsh heritage. She holds an MA in Public Sector Folklore and a BA in history from George Mason University. She currently serves as a Folklife Specialist at the American Folklife Center, in the Library of Congress, where she contributes wisdom on the stewardship and presentation of Indigenous culture within the Center’s archival collections and public programs. She is the producer of the Center’s Community Collections sub-series of the *Folklife Today* podcast. She is also a regular writer on the *Folklife Today* blog, covering topics as varied as cryptids, foodways, puppetry, and the intersection of science, history and folklife.

Bishop O’Connell

Bishop O’Connell is author of the *American Faerie Tale* series and the award-winning *Two-Gun Witch* series, as well as a consultant, writer, blogger, lover of kilts and beer, as well as a member of the Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers of America. Born in Naples Italy while his father was in the Navy, Bishop grew up in San Diego, where he fell in love with the ocean and fish tacos. After wandering the country for work and school (absolutely not evading mind controlling bunnies), he settled in Richmond VA, where he writes,

collects swords, revels in his immortality as a “visionary” of the urban fantasy genre, and is regularly chastised for making up things for his bio. He can also be found online at *A Quiet Pint* (aquietpint.com), where he muses philosophical on life, the universe, and everything, as well as various aspects of writing and the road to getting published.

Katie Oslow

Katie Oslow is a provocative author, activist, and “gender fluid enigma” who creates at the intersection of dark speculative fiction and radical social commentary. Known for her philosophy of “gender chaos,” Oslow crafts stories that dismantle traditional binaries, exploring the visceral and philosophical nature of transformation.

Her work spans across genres to address the complexities of the human experience:

Sci-Fi Dystopia: In her *Rebalance* series, Oslow envisions a future where gender and biology are tools of both control and liberation. These narratives explore systemic power and the reclamation of self in worlds designed to categorize and constrain.

Transformation Fiction: Her collection *Lessons in Lace* serves as a hallmark of her work in gender-swap and feminization erotica. In these stories, transformation is more than a plot point; it is a catalyst for deep introspection, exploring how the shift in physical form impacts identity, desire, and societal standing.

The Nexum Universe: Her darker explorations are captured in the volume *Sentenced to be His Sex Pet*. This dystopian dark erotic thriller examines the architecture of ownership and the loss of agency, mirroring real-world power dynamics through an extreme, transgressive lens.

Beyond her fiction, Oslow is a staunch advocate for transgender rights and social justice. She views her storytelling as a form of activism, utilizing “gender chaos” to challenge cis-normative structures and champion bodily autonomy. Whether writing about magical gender-swaps or dystopian enslavement, Oslow remains committed to visibility, authentic representation, and the pursuit of true liberation for all identities.

Chad Ownby

Chad Ownby is a theater teacher, podcaster, and film scholar from Richmond, VA. He finds love in analyzing and discussing films, TV, acting performances, and many various fandoms. Last year at RavenCon, he gave a presentation on his master’s thesis, “Anyone Can Be Batman: A Case Study on the Evolution of Batman in Film.”

Knighthess Oxide

Knighthess Oxide (She/He/They) of the Science Fiction Double Feature Drag Show is Virginia’s gender-fluid sweetheart, a huge Trekkie, and a lover of horror. At his core he is a Spock lover through and through and has a wide collection of Spock memorabilia. At this year’s drag show, she’s giving you theatrical campy realness for the 100th anniversary of sci-fi with two *Star Trek* performances!

Chuck Parker

A performer for more than 35 years, Chuck Parker has filled many musical roles: heavy metal guitarist, singer/songwriter, jazz sideman, open mic host, filk circle regular, session player, and World’s Okayest Bassist™.

Chuck has been a regular on the con circuit for more than a decade, and he’s played ballrooms, biergartens and backyards all over the country, both as a solo performer and as the bassist for nerdmusik icons The Blibbering Humdingers. He plays slice of life, confessional geek tunes that are often kind of funny, and his lyrics have been called “sensitive”, “literate”, and “hard to sing...”

He is also a published poet, avid cyclist, spouse, father, and a herder of cats, both figuratively and literally.

His music may be found at chuckparker.bandcamp.com, and his musings at chuck-parker.net.

Charles Pellegrino

Charles Pellegrino is the *New York Times* best-selling author of *Her Name Titanic*, *Ghosts of the Titanic*, *To Hell and Back: The Last Train from Hiroshima*, and *Ghosts of Hiroshima*, along with eighteen other acclaimed books (including an SF trilogy under a pen name). At Brookhaven National Laboratory he was co-designer with Jim Powell of the Valkyrie relativistic rocket (hybridized with Bob Forward’s Star Wisp and animated for the *Avatar* series). With Jesse Stoff he co-authored the Europa Theory, worked out the chemistry of Saturn’s moon Titan, and advanced preliminary design (as in *Darwin’s Universe*, 1983) of the dragonfly Titan drone. He served as technical advisor to James Cameron on *Titanic* and serves presently on the *Avatar* series. As a graduate student in New Zealand, 1981, he invented what is now known as the Jurassic Park recipe, as subsequently adapted by Michael Crichton. Current projects include a new Jurassic Park direction (without the park) and the James Cameron film about double-hibakusha—people who survived both Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Raised by parents who believed in “Never give up” and aided by a few treasured teachers, he climbed up from dyslexia and autism. Never give up. And never let childhood’s sense of wonder drain away.

Kent M. Peterson

Kent M. Peterson lives in Virginia, where he worked for many years as a software tester. He now focuses on gardening and writing.

Hekla Petursson

Hekla Petursson is the host of *The 8-Bit Pop Culture Show* as well as a filmmaker and performer working in Richmond, VA. Episodes of *The 8-Bit Pop Culture Show* are released weekly, where she interviews folks she admires in pop culture, geek scenes, and the arts. She is currently producing a feature film, *Midnight Courier*, and has two surrealist fantasy short films set to release in late 2026. Recently, you may have met her in-character at Richmond Renaissance Faire events, hosting *Jeopardy* at Galaxycon or as the voice of the Awesomecon Cosplay Competition.

J.F. Posthumus

J.F. Posthumus writes tales where mystery tangles with magic, shadows whisper secrets, and danger always lurks just out of sight. A lifelong lover of the strange and fantastical, Posthumus blends crime, fantasy, and the supernatural into page-turning adventures. When not plotting new twists, she can usually be found wrangling her four younger “monsters” (her eldest, a police officer, passed in June 2023), crafting, creating digital art, or drinking too much tea while dreaming up her next story.

Jennifer R. Povey

Born in Nottingham, England, Jennifer R. Povey (she/her) now lives in Northern Virginia, where she writes everything from heroic fantasy to stories for *Analog*. She has written a number of novels across multiple sub-genres. She is a full member of SFWA. Her interests include horseback riding, *Doctor Who*, and attempting to out-weird her various friends and professional colleagues. Find her on Facebook at facebook.com/jrpovey/, Mastodon at @NinjaFingers@universeodon.com, or Bluesky at @NinjaFingers.

Stella Price

A twenty-year veteran of the industry, Stella Price has explored many avenues of the industry including owning a small press, and working as a cover designer for several small presses and traditional publishers on top of being a published author. An author of over 100 books, with a specific focus on paranormal and romance, she believes “happily ever after” isn’t just for fairy tales, and monsters need love too. She lives in South Carolina with her husband and dogs in a house where everyday is Halloween.

Re: The Music of Jonathan Coulton

Alex Taylor first picked up a guitar at age 13, and by 20, he was touring the world—playing everywhere from local bars to cruise ships. He has shared the stage with a range of musicians, from local talents to internationally acclaimed artists such as Kenny Wayne Shepherd and Taj Mahal. In the convention world, he was a founding member of Paradox Machine and has served as a technical director and sound engineer for numerous conventions, including RavenCon and ConVivial.

Steve Taylor holds a Master’s degree in Vocal Performance and has been performing worldwide since the 1970s. A former Guinness World Record holder for the most performances of Handel’s *Messiah*, he has appeared at Carnegie Hall, performed at Disney alongside Rock Hudson, and collaborated with many other renowned artists.

Together, this father/son duo makes up the cover band, Re: The Music of Jonathan Coulton and continues rocking the convention circuit.

M.T. Reiten

M.T. Reiten served in the military, with deployments to Bosnia and Afghanistan, and worked as a scientist at a national lab in New Mexico for over a decade proving that there is such a thing as too much research for writing science fiction. He practices aikido, makes pizza, and now lives near Washington, DC with his family. A *Writers of the Future* and Jim Baen Memorial Short Story Contest winner, he has published stories in *Analog* and *DreamForge* and several anthologies to include *S.M. Stirling’s The Change*, “Higher Ground” in *Robosoldiers: Thank You for Your Servos*, and the newly released “Defense of Waygo Port” in *Tales of the United States Space Force*. Visit him online at mtreiten.com.

Kate Ressman

Kate Ressman has been writing for her entire life. It’s true—she has proof of a second grade story where a cat inherits his human’s money. She is the author of *Cherry Blossom Express*, *To Market*, and *Sugar and Spice*. A bit of a nomad in the past, she has settled down and currently lives in Northern Virginia. She has two businesses, a day job, and an imaginary cat.

Miss Robinette

Miss Robinette of the Science Fiction Double Feature Drag Show is RVA’s rockin’ drag thing who loves to rock and roll! They’re also a musical theater actor and singer. You can catch them hosting drag brunches every month at the Gold Lion Community Café.

RVA Katana

RVA Katana is the Richmond area's best sword store... by default. With over 750 different kinds of swords in shop, from wooden cosplay to 700-year-old antiques, our staff has an extensive knowledge of swords, history, and metallurgy.

Noah Scalin, League of Space Pirates

"Like G.W.A.R. and the B52's had babies that were raised by Buck Rogers."—Vexine

League of Space Pirates is a band of scallywags from the future who kick out the jams while fighting the ultimate evil corporation: Übercorp. Captain Orlok and his gang of assorted thieves, scoundrels, and robots play high-energy 25th century rock-n-roll in the name of saving the universe. They provide the very latest in multivalent entertainment: incorporating music, costumes, and comedy while broadcasting from their tourship and making periodic stops at their favorite rest stop—planet Earth. The brainchild of artist Noah Scalin, League of Space Pirates is a collaborative science-fiction universe that manifests in a range of media, including live performances, internet broadcasts, music releases, novels, comic books, and more.

Sam Scheiner

Sam Scheiner is a long-time fan and scientist. He grew up in the Pittsburgh area and got involved in fandom during college. At the University of Chicago, he reincarnated their science fiction club. He met his wife at Windycon in Chicago, and his child attended their first con at the age of 4 weeks, sleeping underneath a huckster table. He was the CFO for DisCon III and currently is involved in the Washington Science Fiction Association and is a past chair of the local convention—Capclave.

His scientific areas of expertise are ecology and evolution, and he has published 11 books, including *The Ecology of Plants* and *The Theory of Ecology*, and over 120 scientific papers. He also co-authored a book with SF author Phyllis Eisenstein on arthritis. He retired after working for 26 years as a Program Director at the U.S. National Science Foundation, having escaped just in time, but continues as an active researcher.

Katika Schneider

Introduced to the art of writing by her fourth grade teacher, Kat's been an obsessive writer for most of her life. She started out writing for herself, then her characters, and began pursuing publication in 2014. She's a firm believer that everyone has a story to tell.

Holding her degree in Animal Science, Kat planned on attending veterinary school until incisions started making

her faint. She is now a roving writer, living with her husband, son, and their family of critters.

Kat is the author of *The Afflicted Saga*, a character-driven epic fantasy for epic readers.

Lawrence M. Schoen

Lawrence M. Schoen holds a Ph.D. in cognitive psychology, is a past Astounding, Hugo, and Nebula finalist, twice won the Coyoatl award for best novel, founded the Klingon Language Institute, and occasionally does work as a hypnotherapist specializing in authors' issues.

His science fiction includes many light and humorous adventures of a space-faring stage hypnotist and his alien animal companion. Other works take a very different tone, exploring aspects of determinism and free will, generally redefining the continua between life and death. Sometimes he blurs the funny and the serious. Lawrence and his wife live just outside Philadelphia, PA. He has bested both Multiple Myeloma and Leukemia and is a chimeric cancer survivor.

Second Chance Heroes

Second Chance Heroes Rat Adoptions is a 501(c)3 non-profit based in Richmond, VA. We rescue and re-home domestic rats in need—giving each rat the second chance they deserve. Since opening our doors in 2019, we have rescued and re-homed over 800 rats—survivors of laboratory settings, hoarding situations, and outdoor abandonment—matching each one with a loving home where they can thrive. We believe every rat deserves to be known, loved, and cared for. Learn more about adopting, fostering, or supporting our work at secondchancerats.org.

Chris Semtner

Chris Semtner is an award-winning, internationally exhibited visual artist whose work can be found in numerous private and public collections. He has written several articles and chapters in addition to eight books about Poe, visual art, horror, pop culture, and cryptography. His writing has appeared in Biography.com, *Crime Writers' Chronicle*, *Resources for American Literary Study*, and other publications. He has been featured in publications including the *New York Times*, *Mental Floss*, *Atlas Obscura*, *SyFy Wire*, and *Rue Morgue Magazine*, in addition to appearing in documentaries in the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Spain, Venezuela, and Japan. As the curator of the Edgar Allan Poe Museum in Richmond, VA, he regularly speaks about strange and macabre subjects at various venues from the Steampunk World's Fair to the Library of Congress and as far away as Paris and Kyoto,

Japan. He has participated in several RavenCons, and they even gave him a Webster Award.

Xexilia O. Shadows

Xexilia O. Shadows is a “retro” webcomic artist who began her magnum opus, *Eternity Concepts*, in 1999—a mystery-romance. She has since continued and crossed into gallery and museum showings of her work, along with publishing her web-comic series in an ongoing collection of volumes. With an urge to express millions of unsaid moments, screams, and cries, Shadows’ works are both cryptic and emotionally deep, functioning as a storytelling medium. Using her own unique symbol language parsed within many wider meanings of imagery, she calls her pieces “visual mysteries” and maintains that most, if not all, works contain one, often several, puzzles. Far more complex than appearances let on, with the puzzles never publicly acknowledged or discussed, Xexilia has opted to present viewers with an intellectual test and allow curiosity, boldness, and willingness to accept failure all as solutions to help unlock the deepest meanings of each work.

This year marks the second edition release of her original first volume of *Eternity Concepts*, which was first announced and released at RavenCon 2015! She hopes to release the second volume this year. *Eternity Concepts* was also the subject of her solo exhibition at ArtWorks Gallery, featuring a collection of pieces of characters and themes from the series, and chosen as the subject as she wanted to ensure *Eternity Concepts*—and webcomics—crossed over into serious art pieces rather than being just a mere online hobby. Her pieces will show in London, Paris, Milan, Tokyo, and NYC over the course of 2026, and are always on display at ArtWorks Gallery in downtown Richmond at her resident studio space in studio 108.

Daniel Sherrier

Daniel Sherrier writes the *Terrific* series of superhero novels, which began with *The Flying Woman* in 2018. He’s a William & Mary graduate, a former community newspaper writer and editor, and a black belt in Thai kickboxing. And there was that one time he jumped out of an airplane, which was memorable.

Sign Guy

Your friendly neighborhood Sign Guy is a professional nerd from a family of professional nerds who occasionally convinces people he’s competent enough to present things at conventions. When not talking at crowds, he works with satellites, ships, and dives far deeper into pulp-era sci-fi than is medically advisable.

Alan Smale

Alan Smale writes alternate history, historical fantasy, and hard SF. His novella of a Roman invasion of ancient America, “A Clash of Eagles”, won the Sidewise Award for Alternate History, and his novels set in the same universe, *Clash of Eagles*, *Eagle in Exile*, and *Eagle and Empire* (2015-2017) are available from Del Rey. His “Roman baseball” collaboration with Rick Wilber, *The Wandering Warriors*, came out from WordFire Press in 2020. *Hot Moon*, his alternate-Apollo “techno-thriller with heart”, set entirely on and around the Moon, was launched by CAEZIK SF & Fantasy in 2022, with sequels *Radiant Sky* in 2024 and *Burning Night* in 2025.

Alan has sold over fifty stories to *Asimov’s* and other magazines and anthologies, and his short story “Gunpowder Treason” earned him a second Sidewise Award in 2022. His non-fiction essays have appeared in *Lightspeed*, *Journey Planet*, and *Galaxy’s Edge*.

Alan grew up in Yorkshire, England, and earned degrees in Physics and Astrophysics from Oxford University. Until recently he performed astronomical research at NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center, and served as director of an astrophysical data archive. He also sings bass with high-energy vocal band The Chromatics, and is co-creator of their educational AstroCappella project, spreading astronomy through a cappella in schools across the country.

SmashB

SmashB is an award-winning costumer and international cosplay model. She got her start in cosplaying with her kids back in 2022. From there she pursued paneling and volunteering with local cons. She’s currently taking a break from the competition circuit to dive in more behind the scenes of cosplay programming. Her newest projects include Bridalverse gowns and co-hosting the *Bigger Boat Podcast*.

Gaylien Space

Gaylien Space, of the Science Fiction Double Feature Drag Show, is from out of this world and has decided to make Earth their destination for partying, having fun, and exploring all that Earth has to offer with the Earthlings here.

Devo Spice

Devo Spice is a nerdy comedy rapper from New Jersey who has been called “the red-headed stepson of ‘Weird Al’ Yankovic and Eminem.” Over funky beats with crisp, clear vocals Devo raps about technology, *Doctor Who*, life’s daily frustrations, and even ridiculous suggestions sent in by his fans.

Devo Spice performs regularly across the country at science fiction conventions, music clubs, comedy clubs, and any place that has a sense of humor. He has shared the stage with Dr. Demento, Psychostick, MC Lars, Jonathan Coulton, Paul and Storm, and many others.

Stormraven

Stormraven has a knack for hyperfixating to an annoying degree on fictional characters. An avid 3D printer and aspiring clay artist, she's normally found at home surrounded by fluffy critters and their well-loved chew toys.

Jacque Strapp

Jacque Strapp, of the Science Fiction Double Feature Drag Show, is a new RVA Drag King and has been having fun coming up with show ideas and costumes! He's here to prevent chafing, protect the essentials, and enhance performance.

Tangent Artists

Tangent Artists, founded in 2009, has had the privilege of providing entertaining stories in the form of comics, gaming books, merch and now novels and videos. Starting with their best seller: *The Handbook for Saucy Bards* their *Guild Guide* series is expanding to include *The Barbarian's Coloring and Activity Book* (for reading levels 2-4). And Monica Marier's *Must Love Dragons* series is launching the prequel: *Must Love Humans!* Find out how Linus met Deirdre in this meet-cute gone wrong.

Mary Terrani

Mary Terrani lives a chaotic life as the mother of two boys of the 20-something variety. They keep her on her toes on a regular basis, so she's happy to get lost in other worlds. Her long-standing passion for the written word drives her need to create chaos with her pen that only she can solve. She loves to dabble in many genres, from young adult to paranormal, and a post-apocalyptic piece she's co-written with fellow author, Sarah Cass.

When she's not writing, Mary can be found in a variety of activities including knitting, gaming, and anything involving her favorite geekdoms. Mom, author and all around geek she loves spending time with her family. You can find Mary on Instagram, Facebook, and her website.

Dr. Bob Tesla, Monster Kid 101

Dr. Bob Tesla is the official horror host for Saint Euphoria Pictures. We had a monthly live show until 2020 (I wonder what happened then?) but we now have a weekly show on Twitch!

Toi Thomas

A self-proclaimed techie and foodie, Toi Thomas was born in Texas but considers Virginia to be home. She enjoys cooking, all things geek, and collecting vinyl records, teapots, and books. Toi is an animal lover and reading advocate, believing there is a book out there for everyone. Currently working as a behavioral clinician, Toi and her husband, Eric, share their home with a feisty tortoise named Betty.

Toi writes clean, adult, multi-genre fiction as well as nonfiction. Toi also writes and illustrates the *Chip and Joe* series, *Carnie Loves Books*, and *Margie "The Scaredy Dog" Finds a Home*. Toi actively creates with her fans at Patreon, where she caters to both paid and unpaid subscribers with video and original content.

Toi continues to develop and share long- and short-form fiction, in addition to insights and recipes from her ongoing food journey. From collecting to commentary, world building to recipes, Toi has something for the whole family.

D. H. Timpko/Alexis Dupree

D. H. Timpko is the author of the *Firma Twins* adventures, science fiction novels for middle grade children (ages 8-12). *Book 1, The Firma Twins and the Purple Staff of Death*—identical twins learn they have fantastical powers far beyond anything they could have imagined. *Book 2, The Firma Twins and the Flute of Enchantment*, takes place at a science fiction convention and was shortlisted for the 2021 Gertrude Warner Book Awards for Middle Grade Fiction.

Timpko has just finished the first two books in the *Mariah Rhodes* series (*Book 1: Escaping to Space* and *Book 2: Surviving the Danger Planet*)—science fiction novels for middle grade kids about an abused teenage girl in the future whose uncontrolled telekinesis leaves her stranded in a lost colony on an unstable planet. She is now writing *Book 3* in the series: *Joining Space Fleet*.

Under the pseudonym Alexis Dupree, she wrote *Managing Major Chronic Diseases: Advice from a Patient* and *Knee Replacement Advice, Checklists, and Journal*.

The UnCastables

The UnCastables are a Richmond, VA improv comedy group creating wild, side-splitting shows fueled by audience ideas and big comedic risks. From theaters to conventions, they deliver fast, chaotic, bold improv shows that deliver unforgettable laughs!

Valentine

Valentine is an internationally published cosplayer, panelist, and content creator. Her guesting, judging, and paneling endeavors have led her all over the east coast to conventions such as Galaxycon Richmond, Galaxycon Raleigh, Cosplay World Richmond, Tekko, Triad Anime Con, RavenCon, and Colossalcon East. Despite living with a chronic illness herself, she uses her platform to uplift and educate others in her efforts to make the cosplay community a place where everyone truly belongs. Her passion and skill for cosplay has opened a path to new opportunities such as partnering with the brand, MoeFlavor, and even being selected as an official Cosplay Creator for NIKKE: Goddess of Victory. Valentine constantly uses her platform to lift up other cosplayers, including her prior position as Monthly Q&A Manager for Carolina Cosplayers. She is always reminding her community to do everything for the love of cosplay.

Jack Valentine

Jack has more than thirty years of gaming and LARP experience. Having been a storyteller since he was a little kid, about fifteen years ago he began putting his work on paper. In addition to working as a freelance editor, he returned to his childhood dream of being an author, and has now written more than sixty short novels, many of them spicy romances, under his pen names, available on Amazon.

Tiffany Vega

Tiffany Vega is a multi-genre author and a co-owner of Outsider Publishing Company. Her passions are reading, writing, and crafting—which she always brings in to her books. She is a mother of three men and three fur babies.

Victims and Villains

Victims and Villains is a Richmond-based multimedia non-profit that creates content to discuss mental health through pop culture.

Hannah “Spoon” Wilson

Hannah “Spoon” Wilson is a professional illustrator and artist whose work ranges from book covers and inset illustrations, to fine art and paintings, to biological illustration. They frequently explore elaborate depictions of the natural world, mixed with witchy, nerdy, and fantastical elements. Their work is crafted in a variety of media, but ink, watercolor, and digital are their favorites.

Recent publications of their work include inset illustrations in *Lesbians in Space 2: The Sapphics Strike Back*— an

anthology by Space Wizard publishing, the covers for the brand new Gen X romance series by Samantha Bryant— *Not Too Late*, *Acid Reign*, and *Ready or Not*, and the inset illustrations for the upcoming reprint of *When the Television Decides to Murder your Girlfriend* by Martin Shannon.

When they aren't drawing, you can typically find them making and dressing up in custom cosplays! Other hobbies of theirs include reading while curled up with their cat, weaving, hiking, and traveling with their husband and dog.

You can see their work on most social media sites under @spoonwooddraws, on their website at spoonwood-visuals.com, or come by their booth in the Artist Alley to say hello!

CAPCLAVE 2026

REBECCA ROANHORSE

NINO CIPRI

Guests of Honor



October 2-4, 2026

Location: Rockville Hilton & Executive Meeting Center,
1750 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852

capclave@gmail.com; info@capclave.org
<https://www.capclave.org>; <https://www.wsfa.org>; <https://twitter.com/capclave>
Capclave is produced by the Washington Science Fiction Association (WSFA)

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

FRIDAY 3:00 PM

THE OBSERVATORY OF INTUITION

Could Be (Anywhere) – Time is a Meaningless Construct!
The Observatory of Intuition is a magical divination tent appearing here this weekend. If you find it, proprietor Jonah Knight will welcome you in, give you a tarot reading, cast runes, or perform magical effects.

SOMEONE ELSE'S SANDBOX

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes
A discussion on how to write official media tie-in novels and the pros and cons of writing within the constricts someone else has set forth.
Panelists: *JM Beal, Jason Hansa, Bethanne Kim, Lawrence M. Schoen (M)*

FROM COSPLAYER TO COMPETITOR: A GUIDE TO YOUR FIRST CONTEST

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes
Stepping into the world of competitive cosplay can be exciting, *and* overwhelming. This panel will break down the essentials, including competition types, craftsmanship tips, stage presence, and what judges expect, so you can compete with confidence!
Panelists: *Memphis Muerte (M), Valentine, Hannah "Spoon" Wilson*

YOUR CHARACTER'S PLAYLIST: MUSIC AS MUSE & METHOD

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes
We'll explore how specific songs, genres, or even just a beat can inspire a scene, define a character's emotional landscape, or help an author find their story's rhythm.
Panelists: *Linette Kasper, Jenn Lessmann, Tonya Nagle, PhD (M), J.F. Posthumus*

HOBBIES FOR WRITERS

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes
Our job is to be creative. Our hobbies can involve being creative, too. Do we use different versions of creativity depending on the project? Does one bleed into the other? Do you find your writing affecting your hobbies and vice versa?
Panelists: *Beth Ford, Heather Curatola Heckel (M), Nate Hoffelder, Elisabeth Lang*

HOW DO WE BREAK THROUGH THE NOISE WHEN FACTS NO LONGER MATTER?

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes
Science and medicine, more so than many other things in society, need to be fact-based. That's especially true when the science and medicine in question shape public policy. But what happens when a substantial portion of society proudly

declare that, "I have a feeling about these things," and ill-informed and uninformed opinion is valued above knowledge and facts? More importantly, how does the reality-based community reassert itself when so many people value the lies they want to hear over the facts they need to know?

Panelists: *Ed Bishop, Lexi Cleveland, Lori D'Angelo (M), Sam Scheiner*

AUTHOR SIGNING:

JAMES BLAKEY & SEAN CW KORSGAARD

Artists & Authors Alley (Madison) – 50 minutes

ROOKS WILL BE ROOKS: WELCOME TO THE ROOKERY – KIDS' PROGRAMMING

York (Madison) – 50 minutes
Presenter: *Dorian Mahaffey Zane*
Have fun learning what a rookery is and why we have one here at RavenCon. Start the con off in style with a glitter tattoo by Dorian!

FRIDAY 4:00 PM

DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes
Every story needs research. And, of course, you have to do far more research than what actually ends up on the page. We'll cover the best resources, as well as when enough is enough.
Panelists: *Jim Beall (M), Nicole Glover, Linette Kasper, Kate Ressler, Mary Terrani*

THE PHILOSOPHY OF STAR TREK: INFINITE DIVERSITY IN INFINITE COMBINATIONS

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes
Delve into the ethical and philosophical themes of *Star Trek*, from the Prime Directive to the Federation's ideals of equality.
Panelists: *Drema Deòraich, Jo Miles (M), Dennis M. Myers, Katie Oslow*

DON'T QUIT YOUR DAY JOB

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes
Panelists discuss the various jobs they've had through the years to support their creative endeavors.
Panelists: *Gary Cohn (M), Tommy Kerper, Cass Morris, M.T. Reiten*

AUTHOR READING: JAQ EVANS & LORI D'ANGELO

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

DESIGNING REALISTIC SPACESHIPS

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes
Waste reclamation? Hydroponics? Radiation shielding?

Holodecks? Join our panelists to discuss what elements a realistic future spaceship would need.

Panelists: Andrew Caballero, E.J. Isaacs, Sign Guy (M)

HOW WESTERNS HAVE INFLUENCED SCIENCE FICTION

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes

From *Star Trek* to *Firefly*, science fiction has always drawn a lot of inspiration from Westerns. In fact, prior to *Star Wars* vaulting SF to blockbuster status, Westerns were one of the biggest genres in fiction, movies, and television. We'll discuss how many of the biggest Western tropes have since been absorbed by SF.

Panelists: *Lew Fraga, Drey Mychalus, Stormraven (M)*

CONCERT: CHUCK PARKER

The Glen Restaurant (Madison) – 50 minutes

Slice of life, confessional geek tunes that are often kind of funny.

TRASH TO TREASURE – KIDS' PROGRAMMING

York (Madison) – 50 minutes

Join us and learn how items can go from Goodwill to Masquerade, from packing material to futuristic robots.

Presenter: *Tori Kitsune*

FRIDAY 5:00 PM

THE DICE DECIDE:

COSPLAY IMPROV GAME SHOW (PG-13)

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

A chaos-fueled game where costumed contestants roll D20s to determine improv prompts or challenges from the audience. Examples: "You just failed a charisma check—flirt with the dragon," or "Roll to seduce the vending machine."

Panelists: *Ambushcosplay, SmashB (M), Miss Robinette, mr.i_will_x_tell, Victims and Villains*

MISTAKES I MADE AS A YOUNG AUTHOR

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

"I know! I'll tell the story from the POV of a house plant!" Yeah, we all did stupid things when we were getting started. But we can laugh about them now. Right? *Right?*

Panelists: *Dee Leana Carter, M.T. Reiten, Toi Thomas, Tiffany Vega (M)*

AUTHOR READING:

D.H. TIMPKO/ALEXIS DUPREE & L. ANA ELLIS

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

HAPPY BIRTHDAY NEW WHO

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

"Rose" hit the airwaves on March 26, 2005. That means that new Who is officially old enough to order itself a beer or ten. And it might want to as it contemplates its current state of affairs. Join our panelists as they talk about the best of the last

21 years of New Who, where a few things went wrong, and the best course they think *Doctor Who* needs to take in the coming years.

Panelists: *Jennifer R. Povey (M), Daniel Sherrier*

WHAT SCIENCE IS AND IS NOT

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Science as portrayed in popular media, including much of science fiction, is very different from what science actually is and how it is portrayed. I will show you how to distinguish science from non-science, describe how scientists really do what they do, dive into the philosophical realm of epistemology, and explore how scientists are people just like you, including my favorite depictions of scientists in SF. By the end of the hour you will have a better understanding of what science is than many scientists.

Presenter: *Sam Scheiner*

THE GREATEST GEEKINESS OF 1976

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Can you believe that 1976 was 50 years ago? Yeah, neither can we. But we can still look back on it with loving nostalgia, even if we don't want to admit it was that long ago. Join our panelists as they talk about the things they loved—books, toys, films, television, and anything else that comes to mind—from the year 1976.

Panelists: *James Blakey, Bill Bridges (M), Uncle Grayhawk*

AUTHOR SIGNING:

TONYA NAGLE, PHD, TANGENT ARTISTS & BETH FORD

Artists & Authors Alley (Madison) – 50 minutes

WHEN DOES SCIENCE FICTION STRAY INTO FANTASY?

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes

The argument is frequently made that *Star Wars* is fantasy and NOT science fiction. Where else does SF wander into fantasy's territory?

Panelists: *Dennis M. Myers (M), Morgan Hazelwood, Bishop O'Connell*

CONCERT: TAVAIR DOMINQUE

The Glen Restaurant (Madison) – 50 minutes

Blending alternative folk with speculative themes.

CRAFTY RAVEN – KIDS' PROGRAMMING

York (Madison) – 50 minutes

Come scratch that crafting itch. Bring your own or explore our RavenCrafts!

FRIDAY 6:00 PM

INTRODUCTION TO (LIBERAL) SOUTHERN GOTHIC

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Despite its association with the Lost Cause, Southern Gothic can be a tool for change and social justice. Join longtime journalist, feminist, author, and anti-racism activist Elizabeth

Broadbent as she discusses both the major themes in Southern Gothic literature and the ways authors use them to discuss injustice and oppression. If there's time, we'll ask any Southern Gothic authors in the audience to (briefly) introduce themselves and their work.

COSTUMING WITH "NONTRADITIONAL" MATERIALS

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Costumers and cosplayers are known for creating costumes out of anything. Fabric, foam, plastic, paper, and yarn are just the tip of the iceberg. Nothing is off-limits if you're creative enough. We'll discuss all the unusual things we've used to create costumes.

Panelists: *Mako Minami, JM Lee, John Dondero*

USING FOOD IN YOUR WRITING

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Food is such an essential part of our lives that it goes without saying that you should include it in your writing. Does your character cook? Do they garden? Do they raise and slaughter their own livestock? These are details that can bring your world and characters to life.

Panelists: *"Amy" A.L. Kaplan (M), Gregory Amato, Bethanne Kim*

AUTHOR READING: KATIE OSLOW

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION: MAKE IT SIMPLE, STUPID

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

It seems like a simple concept. Good science communication means taking the complex and, for the layman, the confusing, and boiling it down to something understandable. But what are the best ways to do that? Moreover, how do you simplify it while avoiding the pitfalls of having your entry-level introduction for others seem to contradict established, advanced science?

Panelists: *Meri Elena (M), Lori D'Angelo, Sam Scheiner, Jim Beall, Charles Pellegrino*

CRITIQUES FOR EVERY SEASON:

GIVING AND RECEIVING FEEDBACK

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Giving and receiving feedback is a skill that can make or break creativity. This panel explores the essentials of constructive critique: what works, what doesn't, and how to refine your approach to help artists, writers, and creators grow.

Panelists: *Elisabeth Lang (M), Mur Lafferty, Katika Schneider, Drema Deòraich*

AUTHOR SIGNING: KENT M. PETERSON, HOBBS HOLLUCK & BILL MULLIGAN

Artists & Authors Alley (Madison) – 50 minutes

100 YEARS OF SCIENCE FICTION:

AMAZING STORIES TURNS 100! WITH CAKE!

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes

2026 is *Amazing Stories* 100th Anniversary! There will be cake

and stories and fandom history and smiles and laughs. Join us as we talk about where we came from and where we hope to go!

Panelists: *Steve Davidson, Rebecca Gibson (M), Sean CW Korsgaard, Kermit Woodall*

HOW FANTASY MAKES HISTORY APPROACHABLE – KIDS' PROGRAMMING

York (Madison) – 50 minutes

A look at how fantasy stories can spark an interest in actual history.

Panelists: *D.H. Aire (M), Terry Hooker, Drey Mychalus*

FRIDAY 7:00 PM

RAVENCON OPENING CEREMONIES

The Glen Restaurant (Madison) – 50 minutes

Welcome to RavenCon 2026! You'll get to meet our Guests of Honor and we'll be presenting the Webster Award for Best Virginia author. There may be a few surprises, plus a special performance by Devo Spice! This year's Webster Award Nominees are: Mike Allen, Stephen Starring Grant, Jason Hansa, Dennis M. Myers, and Bishop O'Connell.

Participants: *K.B. Wagers, Mur Lafferty, Ruth Sanderson, Nicole Glover, Devo Spice, Michael D. Pederson, Marla Mahaffey, Steve Davidson, Eva Cross*

ROOKERY RANDOMNESS – KIDS' PROGRAMMING

York (Madison) – 50 minutes

Host: *Nurse Feratu*

Join us for some freeform play time.

FRIDAY 8:00 PM

POP CULTURE IN THE AGE OF STREAMING

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Pop culture used to be defined by communal experiences. Movies, television, and radio provided the content, but the fact that everyone had to experience entertainment at the same time shaped it. If the biggest show came on at 8pm Monday night, we tuned in Monday night at 8pm and talked about it Tuesday morning. Now our entertainment is scattered across endless streams and subject to the whims of whenever people get around to their watch lists. Has pop culture lost something because of this?

Panelists: *Tomas Cruz-Melendez, Devo Spice, Valentine*

HORROR AT THE BOX OFFICE (1976)

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

The horror movies of 1976 included some undisputed classics of the horror genre, and more than a few hilarious clunkers. Join our panelists as they look back on the best, the worst, and the "so bad they're good" of 1976. And, maybe, they'll cover a few hidden highlights that you've somehow managed to miss even after 50 years.

Panelists: *Aaron K. Crocker, Mark Geary (M)*

WRITING & WRESTLING:

EVERYTHING COMES BACK TO WRESTLING

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Regardless of the conversation, you can always bring it back to the topic of the greatest form of theater—wrestling. Whatever you do in the creative space, from fantasy writing to film-making, you can tie back to pro-wrestling. Join us for a discussion where we share how watching and studying wrestling can help any and all creatives. (*Panel courtesy of Dwan L. Hearn.*)

Panelists: *Bill Mulligan, Chad Ownby, Jack Valentine (M)*

SHORT FILM EXTRAVAGANZA

Henry (Jefferson) – 4 hours

Quite a few RavenCon guests are talented filmmakers and the Short Film Extravaganza celebrates these creators and their work. Enjoy a self-curated sampling of short films, a Q&A, and a meet-and-greet—all in one place!

Presenter: *O Hai Mark*

AUTHORITARIANISM VS. DEMOCRACY: WHICH TRULY DEFINES THE WORLD?

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

With much of the world living under authoritarian regimes, is democracy really the global standard? This panel explores political history, cultural perspectives, and ethical considerations surrounding governance in the modern world.

Panelists: *Ed Bishop, Andrew Caballero, Les Carter, Lexi Cleveland (M)*

BREAKING BOUNDARIES:

SCIENCE FICTION'S TAKE ON GENDER

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Explore how different sci-fi stories address gender, identity, and sexuality. How do works like *The Left Hand of Darkness* and *Star Trek* challenge traditional gender roles and expectations?

Panelists: *Rebecca Gibson (M), Jo Miles, Katie Oslow, Jennifer R. Povey, K.B. Wagers*

ART SHOW TOUR

Powhatan (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Our Artist GOH, Ruth Sanderson, will be giving a tour of the art show! Come and learn about all the amazing artists and art on display!

AUTHOR SIGNING:

ELIZABETH BROADBENT & A.M. GIDDINGS

Artists & Authors Alley (Madison) – 50 minutes

LOVECRAFT, SMITH, AND HOWARD:

THE CTHULHU MYTHOS

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes

Lovecraft created something truly bizarre and unique. Editors

helped to shape it and other writers built upon it. We'll look at nearly one hundred years of Mythos history.

Panelists: *Mike Allen, Darius Jones (M), Sean CW Korsgaard*

STARGAZING EXTRAVAGANZA

Courtyard (In Front of Madison) – 2 hours

Join the Richmond Astronomical Society and Dr. Bob Tesla & Nurse Feratu for a viewing of the night sky.

COSPLAY KARAOKE

The Glen Restaurant (Madison) – 90 minutes

This is your chance to show off your costume AND your singing skills! You're gonna be a star!

Hosts: *SmashB, Tori Kitsune*

MST3K-ING – KIDS' PROGRAMMING

York (Madison) – 50 minutes

Watch old movies and criticize the acting and plot. Where else will talking during a movie be encouraged? Puppets and/or robots welcome.

Hosts: *Tangent Artists*

FRIDAY 9:00 PM

THE HORROR OF DOCTOR WHO (ROUNDTABLE)

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Doctor Who has been around for over 60 years and is considered a classic of science fiction television. However, *Doctor Who*, both in the classic and in the modern eras, has sometimes been at its strongest when it jumped into the horror genre. Come join the discussion about how *Doctor Who* has played with horror, or even when it became nightmare fuel for some.

Panelists: *Helen of Joy, Jennifer R. Povey, Devo Spice (M)*

ATTACK OF THE INSECTS

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

They've been a staple of horror for longer than most people realize. Creepy crawlies really creep us out, and not always without good reason. We've seen everything from insects turned into kaiju-sized monsters to regular-sized bugs taking over entire towns. Join our panelists as they discuss some of their favorite insect-related horror and why bugs seem to get under our skin so easily.

Panelists: *Meri Elena, Uncle Grayhawk (M)*

AI ART OR HUMAN HEART? SPOTTING THE DIFFERENCE

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

As AI-generated art becomes more common, discerning between human-made and machine-created pieces can be tricky. In this panel, experts will share tips and tricks for identifying AI-generated art, from subtle details in texture and style to the nuances of creative choices. We'll also discuss where to find and support authentic, human-made art.

Panelists: *John Dondero, Nate Hoffelder (M), Kent M. Peterson*

CREATING WHILE NEURODIVERGENT

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes
Most fans are creative people—we write, we sing, we dance, we create costumes. Lots of fans are also neurodivergent—ADHD, autism, OCD, dyspraxia, and many other situations fall under this umbrella. Join our panelists as they talk about how being neurodivergent interacts with creativity.
Panelists: *Gary Cohn, JM Lee (M)*

ONE OF THE CRAZIEST SHOWS THE SCI-FI CHANNEL GAVE US: WELCOME TO FARSCAPE

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes
It was a wildly inventive and insanely fun take on science fiction television, an example of what the then Sci-Fi Channel could be at its best. If you watched it, come join us as we look back on one of the underappreciated greats of SF television.
Panelists: *Lew Fraga, “Amy” A.L. Kaplan, Dennis M. Myers (M), Stella Price*

FOR ALL MANKIND:

ALTERNATIVE HISTORIES IN SF MEDIA

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes
From the works of Harry Turtledove to *For All Mankind*, join us for a discussion of the myriad universes of alternate histories available in books, television, and movies.
Panelists: *Jim Beall, Bethanne Kim, Sean CW Korsgaard, Sign Guy, Alan Smale (M)*

D&D FOR ROOKS BY ROOKS – KIDS’ PROGRAMMING

York (Madison) – 50 minutes
Bare bones Dungeons & Dragons, open to all levels—beginner to expert.

FRIDAY 10:00 PM

WORST... CLIFFHANGER... EVER...

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes
The cliffhanger done right is a work of art that has you desperate to see the resolution. But sometimes, you get a cliffhanger where that just doesn’t happen. Join our panelists as they talk about the most agonizingly bad cliffhangers in entertainment history that drove them up a wall or broke their brains due to the level of WTF involved.
Panelists: *James Blakey (M), Sean Heare, Xexilia O. Shadows*

WHAT’S IN MY CON BAG?

COSTUME PACKING FOR CONVENTIONS

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes
We’ll discuss tips on how to pack for non-local conventions, covering both driving and flying.
Panelists: *Ambushcosplay, Jett Dixon, Stormraven (M), Tswify9, Kristina Wheeler*

HORROR STORIES AND THE SUPERNATURAL IN ANCIENT LITERATURE

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes
Witches. Werewolves. Necromancy. Cannibalism. These may

Upcoming After Dark RVA.com Events (21+)

- DRINKERS & DRAGONS FANTASY BAR CRAWL**..... **May 16** @ Carytown
- SIP & SHINY SHOES WORKSHOP** Footwear Upcycling..... **May 17** @ Fallout
- GATSBY GALA** **May 30** @ The Hofheimer
- RICHMOND FAERY BALL**..... **June 5** @ Fallout
- RIVER CITY PIRATE BALL**..... **June 27** @ The Hofheimer

- DRAGONFIRE TAVERN** Pop-Up Immersive Fantasy Adventure & Costume Ball..... **July 11** @ Black Iris
- COSPLAY PHOTO mini-CON**..... **July 19** @ Fallout
- PIRATE BAR CRAWL** International Talk Like A Pirate Day..... **Sept. 19** @ Scotts Addition
- RVA VAMPIRE BALL** RVAvampires.com..... **Nov. 14** @ The Hofheimer
- KRAMPUS BALL** Part of RVA Krampusnacht..... **Dec. 5** @ Fallout



Watch for these & other 21+ events at **AfterDarkRVA.com** — *proud Sponsor of the RavenCon Grand Masquerade!*

sound like the makings of a modern horror film, but they also lurk in the pages of ancient literature. Join us as we unearth the creepiest, most unsettling stories from antiquity and explore their eerie echoes in modern horror. From ghostly hauntings to gruesome rituals, we'll dive into the dark side of the ancient world—and how it continues to haunt the genre today.

Panelists: *Gregory Amato, April J. Asbury (M), Margaret L. Carter, Aaron K. Crocker*

DISTINGUISHING FACTORS:

HOW SOCIETY SHAPES WHO WE ARE

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Is individuality a form of freedom, or do societal expectations define us? This discussion examines how culture, identity, and personal expression are shaped by the push and pull of norms and self-determination.

Panelists: *Jim Beall (M), Les Carter, Heather Curatola Heckel*

ARE THEY REALLY STRANGE NEW WORLDS

IF IT'S JUST MINING ITS OWN PAST?

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Star Trek has always been about our future, but has it become a show stuck in its own past? Has the desire for nostalgia and fan service outweighed good storytelling and an exploration of ideas, or is it striking the right balance? Is *Trek* being served well by its current course, or would it be better served by finding new stories with new characters in its own future of unknown, strange new worlds?

Panelists: *E.J. Isaacs, Jo Miles (M)*

HAS SCIENCE FICTION BECOME STAGNANT IN THE 21ST CENTURY? WHY, OR WHY NOT?

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes

Fantasy is everywhere these days, but darn it, we still love our science fiction! Why does science fiction seem to be in stasis right now and how can we turn that around?

Panelists: *Tomas Cruz-Melendez, Drey Mychalus (M), K.B. Wagers*

SCIENCE FICTION DOUBLE FEATURE DRAG SHOW

The Glen Restaurant (Madison) – 90 minutes

Drag ex Machina is a collection of Drag Queens, Kings, and Things local to Virginia. Our mission is to bring LGBTQIA performance art to geeky convention spaces. We have performers who are sexy, funny, quirky, passionate and represent the best parts about fandom and community.

Performers: *Imp Lament, Jackyl Lantern, Mad Maxii, Knightress Oxide, Miss Robinette, Gaylien Space, Jacque Strapp*

Musical Interlude: *Alex Higgins/The Platypus Princess*

MC: *DJ Drae*

FRIDAY 11:00 PM

HISTORY AND LEGACY OF THE AMERICAN HORROR HOST

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Its roots and inspirations may come from traditions all over the world, but the horror host was, for a time, a uniquely American art form. They were there late at night, and sometimes in the early afternoon, taking their viewers on a journey that was often more entertaining than the movies they were hosting. Take a nostalgic look back at the evolution of the American horror host, what they meant to their legion of fans, and what their future might hold.

Panelists: *Jerry Chandler, Memphis Muerte (M), Tangent Artists, Jack Valentine*

WHO PUT THESE MONSTERS IN MY ROMANCE? (18+)

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

The romance genre has always been kind to vampires, werewolves, and the occasional ghost but lately monster romance has become increasingly mainstream and can involve anything from Mothman to... Donuts? What the heck is happening here?

Panelists: *Maegan Anderson, Meg Nicholas (M), Stella Price*

WRITING HARD SF: THE SCIENCE OF AVATAR

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

A talk and Q&A about writing hard science fiction and world-building based on real science. The starship in *Avatar* is a James Cameron hybrid design of Charles Pellegrino, Jim Powell, and Robert Forward of Brookhaven National Laboratory. The design was improved upon by James Cameron, including a means of dumping much more of the gamma ray shine from the engines, using concepts in 12-dimensional space-time Grid Theory (Pellegrino, Powell). That's not to say that everyone needs to design an actual starship and smash antiprotons to write a science fiction story. But it does help to read a lot of real science.

Panelists: *Ed Bishop, Charles Pellegrino (M)*

FRIDAY MIDNIGHT

JACKBOX AFTER HOURS

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Fancy an adults only night of party games, laughs, and a touch of naughty humor? Join us for an after hours Jackbox games session!

Panelists: *Billy Flynn, O Hai Mark*

SATURDAY 9:00 AM

THE OBSERVATORY OF INTUITION

Could Be (Anywhere) – Time is a Meaningless Construct!

The Observatory of Intuition is a magical divination tent appearing here this weekend. If you find it, proprietor Jonah Knight will welcome you in, give you a tarot reading, cast runes, or perform magical effects.

EVOLUTION OF THE JAPANESE SWORD

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Many people believe the Japanese sword hasn't changed for a thousand years, but that couldn't be further from the truth. It's been a steady evolution of shape and construction. Come see examples up to 800 years old, provided by best-selling fantasy author JC Kang of RVA Katana.

FROM SHEET TO STREET: COSPLAYING YOUR OC

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

How to design, dress, and embody your TTRPG original character. Tips include: Translating stats to fashion, props that reflect class/race/background, and in-character posing.

Panelists: *Maegan Anderson (M)*, *Maru Godsphear*, *Liz Lydon*, *Tswify9*, *Kristina Wheeler*

GALAXIES & KINGDOMS:

MASTERING THE ART OF WORLD BUILDING

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

What makes worlds like Middle-Earth and Arrakis feel alive? Great world building! This session will teach you how to craft immersive settings, from sprawling fantasy kingdoms to futuristic sci-fi civilizations, and make them feel as real as our own.

Panelists: *Jim Beall*, *"Amy" A.L. Kaplan (M)*, *Tommy Kerper*, *Cass Morris*

SHORT STORIES, BIG IMPACT

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Everybody has their favorite short stories—ones that left a lasting impression. So, how exactly does a writer do that in so few words? We'll share our tricks for writing memorable short fiction.

Panelists: *Rachel A. Brune*, *Lori D'Angelo*, *Drey Mychalus (M)*

HOMESTEADING 101

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Our panelists will discuss the basics of how to get started living off the land.

Panelists: *Ed Bishop (M)*, *Terry Hooker*, *Kent M. Peterson*

REBUILDING SUPERMAN

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

2025 saw the release of James Gunn's *Superman* and a return to a more classic, kinder, gentler Superman. It was the launch of the new theatrical DCU. Did it do its job? Did it make you more interested or less? Was it a step in the right direction, or was it too little too late? Join our panelists as they discuss *Superman*, the DCU, and where we will (or won't) be going from here.

Panelists: *James Blakey (M)*, *Gary Cohn*, *Mark Geary*, *Daniel Sherrier*

AUTHOR READING:

JOHN G. HARTNESS & MORGAN HAZELWOOD

Richmond Boardroom (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

AUTHOR SIGNING:

TAVAIR DOMINQUE, JASON HANSA & KATIE OSLOW

Artists & Authors Alley (Madison) – 50 minutes

TEA 101: AN INFORMAL PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ABOUT TEA

Spotsylvania (Madison) – 50 minutes

A presentation/informal discussion about tea from RavenCon vendor "Moments in Tea." E.J. and Kathryn Isaac will answer questions such as: What is tea? What is not tea? How is tea processed into white, green, black, oolong, or Pu'erh tea? As well as discussion on preparing tea for those not familiar with it. They'll help to dispel myths about tea and educate the audience.

COSPLAY READING HOUR – KIDS' PROGRAMMING

York (Madison) – 50 minutes

Cosplayers come by to read and/or play games with the kids.

Hosts: *Ambushcosplay*, *Miss Robinette*

SATURDAY 10:00 AM

KATANA, MYTH AND LEGEND: Q&A

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Katana are either viewed as supernatural cutting blades or worthless junk. The truth is somewhere in between. Best-selling fantasy author JC Kang of RVA Katana will parse fact from fiction and answer your burning questions about Japan's most iconic sword.

GRAPHIC NOVELS & ILLUSTRATED FICTION:

BLENDING PROSE AND ART

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

A unique fusion of visuals and narrative, graphic novels and illustrated fiction offer powerful storytelling tools. Explore the creative process behind combining words and images into a cohesive whole.

Panelists: *Gary Cohn (M)*, *Hobbes Holluck*, *Nick Justus*, *Xexilia O. Shadows*

SELF-PUBLISHING 101:

METHODS, PLATFORMS, AND GETTING STARTED

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Ready to take your writing or artwork into your own hands? This panel will cover the best methods and platforms for self-publishing, whether you're working on a novel, comic, or even a graphic novel. We'll explore popular platforms like Amazon Kindle, IngramSpark, and Webtoon, along with tips on formatting, marketing, and building your audience.

Panelists: *L. Ana Ellis*, *Nate Hoffelder*, *Tonya Nagle*, *PhD (M)*, *Lawrence M. Schoen*

AUTHOR READING: TIFFANY VEGA & TANGENT ARTISTS

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

THE UNMADE FILMS OF GEORGE ROMERO

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

George Romero was a filmmaking maverick who spent much of his career working outside of the traditional studio system. This brought us some cult classics and some bona fide classics, but it also meant that the studios were sometimes hesitant to work with a man who wanted to do things his way. Which led to a series of films that might have been the next big thing, but fell apart—sometimes at the last minute—when studios balked at working with him. Join our panelists as they talk about the George Romero films we could have had.

Panelists: *Jerry Chandler, Bill Mulligan (M), Jack Valentine*

ETHICAL AI

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

The genie is out of the lamp and we ain't getting it back in there. AI is here to stay. Join our panel of creators as they discuss ethical uses of AI, how not to use AI, what publishers and other distributors of entertainment need to do as AI progresses, and what fans who care about human creators need to do in an age when it's going to get harder to tell what is and isn't an AI rip-off product.

Panelists: *Lexi Cleveland, Heather Curatola Heckel, Bishop O'Connell (M), M.T. Reiten*

READING WITH AUTHOR GOH MUR LAFFERTY

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

AUTHOR READING: MIKE ALLEN & TAVAIR DOMINQUE

Richmond Boardroom (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

RICHMOND ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Courtyard (In Front of Madison) – 2 hours

Join the RAS for a solar viewing.

ULTIMATE BLANKET FORT COMPETITION

Brunswick (Madison) – 2 hours

Dive into the cozy, whimsical world of competitive blanket fort construction, where creativity knows no bounds! Come watch contestants as they team up or go solo in crafting the most imaginative, sturdy, and inviting blanket fort. Throughout the event, our emcees and judges will offer tips, tricks, and playful banter, ensuring a spirited atmosphere as participants twist and tuck their way to victory.

MC: *O Hai Mark*

Judges: *Flynnstress, Elisabeth Lang*

BELLY DANCE PERFORMANCE BY JM LEE

The Glen Restaurant (Madison) – 50 minutes

A belly dance performance with a history of belly dance and a Q&A session.

AUTHOR SIGNING:

MARY TERRANI, J.F. POSTHUMUS & LORI D'ANGELO

Artists & Authors Alley (Madison) – 50 minutes

PAINT A PRINT

Spotsylvania (Madison) – 2 hours

Choose from a selection of 3d prints to make your own, then paint it and take it home! (*Limit: 50 people. \$15 per person, if folks finish early and wish to paint additional prints, they may chose from a selection of prints at print cost.*)

Participants: *Daniel Andrews, Kit's Craft Shop (M), Lee Tolliver*

CRAFTY RAVEN – KIDS' PROGRAMMING

York (Madison) – 50 minutes

Come scratch that crafting itch. Bring your own or explore our RavenCrafts!

SATURDAY 11:00 AM

MAKING ROUGH DRAFTS SHINE

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Are your rough drafts a hot mess? Don't worry! Authors aren't expected to be improv geniuses. With a few tricky techniques, you can turn your rough draft into a story polished enough to make your fans beg for more.

Presenter: *Morgan Hazelwood*

GENDER BENDING IN COSPLAY

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Costuming across genders—what goes into portraying a character that doesn't necessarily match your typical presenting persona?

Panelists: *Maru Godspear, Tori Kitsune (M), Liz Lydon, Mako Minami*

BOOK LAUNCH WITH AUTHOR JO MILES (AND TEA AND PASTRIES!)

Canaveral (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Come join author Jo Miles as they celebrate the release of their new cozy fantasy, *Tea & Treachery at the Infinite Pantry*. With tea and pastries (treachery optional).

REWRITING THE CLASSICS

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Let's talk about modernizing your favorite classic stories. Where to start, how to find out if they are in the public domain, and how to make them uniquely yours.

Panelists: *Dee Leana Carter, Beth Ford, Sean CW Korsgaard (M), Ruth Sanderson*

AUTHOR READING: CHRIS SEMTNER & DARIUS JONES

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

SATURDAY MORNING SCI-FI:

CARTOONS THAT WARPED OUR YOUNG MINDS

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

From *Transformers* to *Exo-Squad* and *Aeon Flux*, explore the weird, wonderful sci-fi animation Gen X and Millennials grew up on.

Panelists: *Jason Hansa (M), Devo Spice*

VIRTUAL AMA WITH DAVID BRIN

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Famed author and virtual GOH, David Brin, will be joining us electronically to answer all your burning questions. Ask him anything!

GOH SIGNING WITH K.B. WAGERS & MUR LAFFERTY

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

AUTHOR READING:

DREMA DEÒRAICH & BETHANNE KIM

Richmond Boardroom (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

AUTHOR SIGNING: “AMY” A.L. KAPLAN, MERI ELENA & TERRY HOOKER

Artists & Authors Alley (Madison) – 50 minutes

CRITS & GIGGLES:

AN RPG-INSPIRED IMPROV COMEDY

The Glen Restaurant (Madison) – 50 minutes

Performed by The Uncastables, Crits & Giggles is an RPG-inspired improv comedy where audience suggestions fuel a live fantasy quest. Group chats become adventuring parties, bad Tinder dates turn into villains, and the audience rolls the dice that shape the chaos onstage.

KNITTING & CROCHETING FOR FANS –

KIDS’ PROGRAMMING

York (Madison) – 50 minutes

What do knitting and crocheting have to do with being a fan? Want to learn how, or perhaps just find a quiet place to knit that *Doctor Who* scarf or a Cthulhu mask? Come join us!

SATURDAY NOON

HOW TO FIND & COMMISSION ART FROM A HUMAN ARTIST

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Not sure where to begin when hiring an artist? This panel walks you through finding the right fit, understanding pricing, and communicating your vision to bring your project to life—ethically and effectively.

Panelists: *L. Ana Ellis, J.S. Furlong, J.F. Posthumus,
D.H. Timpko/Alexis Dupree (M)*

DRAG: MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Drag has a lot of rumor and misinformation attached to it. But what IS drag, really? Is it a form of cosplay? A method of artistic expression? A means to understand those with experiences different than our own?

Panelists: *Aeli, Ashe, Jackyl Lantern, Miss Robinette (M)*

MYTHIC BEGINNINGS:

THE INFLUENCE OF FOLKLORE ON SPECULATIVE FICTION

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

How do myths, legends, and folklore inspire modern sci-fi and fantasy? Panelists discuss the timeless stories that shaped the genre.

Panelists: *Mike Allen, April J. Asbury, Cass Morris,
Stella Price (M)*

AUTHOR READING:

“AMY” A.L. KAPLAN, LAWRENCE M. SCHOEN

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

YEAH, BUT WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER CARTOONS?

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

In the 1980s, Saturday mornings and after-school cartoons ruled television and have been the subject of nostalgic retrospectives for years now. *Masters of the Universe*, *G.I. Joe*, *Jem and the Holograms*, *Transformers*, *Voltron*, and others have been the subject of countless look-back shows, and resurrected as modern cartoons and even live-action movies. But what about the rest of them? Join us as we talk about the forgotten cartoons we loved from that era.

Panelists: *James Blakey, Maru Godsphear, Jason Hansa (M),
Hobbes Holluck*

ROBOTS IN ACTION

King George (Jefferson) – 90 minutes

Join Blue Cheese Robotics to see a demo of one of their robots and hear about its creation.

READING WITH AUTHOR GOH, K.B. WAGERS

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

AUTHOR SIGNING:

CHRIS SEMTNER, DARIUS JONES & DM MEWHA

Artists & Authors Alley (Madison) – 50 minutes

CONCERT: HIPHOPMCDUGAL

The Glen Restaurant (Madison) – 50 minutes

Hiphopmcdougal share their love of video games, cryptids, Weezer, and pizza—rapping and singing over everything from classic hip hop beats to mariachi music.

INTRODUCTION TO ESSAYS AND NONFICTION

Spotsylvania (Madison) – 2 hours

This is not your English teacher’s essay! Magazines, journals, and even news sites are eager to publish both opinion and critical essays, which provide a great way to up your visibility—and maintain it between books. In this workshop, longtime journalist, author, and educator Elizabeth Broadbent will discuss why the essay form can work for you, and how to do it well. We’ll go over finding your niche, as well as the nitty-gritty of structure (there’s a formula!), how to keep an audience interested, how to use SEO to make your editor swoon, and other practical advice. Come ready to write! This is an interactive workshop that should get you ready to pitch.

LUNCH AND OLD 'TOONS – KIDS' PROGRAMMING

York (Madison) – 50 minutes

Bring your lunch, have a seat, and watch some cartoons.
(*Must have a Rook (child) with you to participate.*)

SATURDAY 1:00 PM

MY FAIRY TALE LIFE: ARTIST GOH RUTH SANDERSON'S 50-YEAR CAREER IN ILLUSTRATION

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Our Artist GOH will give a visual talk on her long career as a book illustrator for children and adults.

“SCANNER JAMMED!”:

HOW TO MAKE SCI-FI PROPS ON A BUDGET

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

How to use cheap, Dollar Tree alternatives to make props. Think tricorders, comm badges, even a TARDIS!

Panelists: *Aeli, Ashe, John Dondero (M), Meg Nicholas*

BOOK LAUNCH WITH AUTHOR KATIE OSLOW

Canaveral (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Come join author Katie Oslow as she celebrates the release of her new gender-bending dystopian bio-punk sci-fi novel—*Rebalance: Resistance*.

...BUT I'VE NEVER RIDDEN A HORSE!

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Many people haven't ridden a horse, fought with a sword, or brawled on the street. How do we create realistic descriptions of events in our stories if we don't have personal experience with the activity? We'll show ya.

Panelists: *Gregory Amato, J.S. Furlong (M), Kate Ressman, Katika Schneider*

AUTHOR READING: M.T. REITEN & BILL MULLIGAN

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

GEEK RADIO DAILY

Henry (Jefferson) – 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!

Presenters: *Billy Flynn, Flynnstress*

FOUNDATION, MURDERBOT, MICKEY 17, AND MORE: THE NEW WAVE OF SF ADAPTATIONS

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Science fiction on the big and small screens has come a long way, and the quality of science fiction adaptations from novels to the small screen have come even further. Join our panelists as they talk about their favorite recent movie and TV adaptations and which medium has been working best for some of their favorite properties.

Panelists: *Drema Deðraich, Sean Heare (M), Mur Lafferty, Dennis M. Myers*

AUTHOR READING: TOI THOMAS & TONYA NAGLE, PHD

Richmond Boardroom (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

AUTHOR SIGNING: TOMAS CRUZ-MELENDZ, ALAN SMALE & CHARLES PELLEGRINO

Artists & Authors Alley (Madison) – 50 minutes

A RAVEN IN WONDERLAND TEA PARTY (1ST SEATING)

Brunswick (Madison) – 1 hour

Join us for tea and snacks. Costumes encouraged! (*Tickets are available at Registration but buy quickly, this WILL sell out.*)

Featuring: *Tori Kitsune, Terra Bailey*

TRASH TO TREASURE – KIDS' PROGRAMMING

York (Madison) – 50 minutes

Join us and learn how items can go from Goodwill to Masquerade, from packing material to futuristic robots.

Presenter: *Helen of Joy*

STAR WARS COSPLAY MEETUP

Gazebo (In front of Monroe) – 2 hours

Join us for an epic *Star Wars* Cosplay Meetup! A two-hour immersive gathering designed for fans from every corner of the galaxy. Whether you're representing the original trilogy, prequels, sequels, *The Clone Wars*, *Rebels*, *The Mandalorian*, or beyond, we've got you covered. We'll guide themed group shots featuring all the iconic *Star Wars* universes, plus dynamic duo and rivalry pairings. Come ready to connect, pose, and celebrate the Force with fellow fans—light side, dark side, or somewhere in between. (*Will move to the tunnels in case of rain.*)

Hosts: *SmashB (M), Bryant Cox Photography, Victims and Villains*

SATURDAY 1:30 PM

CONCERT: LEAGUE OF SPACE PIRATES

The Glen Restaurant (Madison) – 50 minutes

League of Space Pirates are an interstellar crew of rebel rockers on a mission to save the universe from the clutches of the sinister Übercorp. This seven-piece band of scallywags seamlessly blends high-energy 25th-century rock-n-roll with a theatrical flair, offering an unforgettable multi-dimensional experience.





BALTICON 60

science fiction and fantasy convention

May 22-25, 2026

Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel

202 East Pratt St, Baltimore, MD 21202



JIM BUTCHER
GUEST OF HONOR



The Faithful Sidekicks
Music Guest



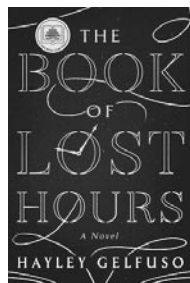
Frank Wu
Guest of Honor
Artist/Author/Scientist



Jennifer Blackstream
Special Guest



Samantha Mills
2025 Compton Crook
Award Winner



Hayley Gelfuso
2026 Compton Crook
Award Winner



Andy Weir
2026 Robert Heinlein
Award Winner

Come join us for: Writers, Editors, Cosplay, Masquerade, Science, Film Festival, Art Show, Dealers Room, Video Room, Music, Gaming, Anime, Children's Program, Readings—all for fans by fans!

Sponsored by the Baltimore Science Fiction Society, a 501(C)(3) non-profit educational organization.
PO Box 686 Baltimore MD 21203-0686

BALTICON.ORG
Email: balticoninfo@balticon.org
Phone: 410-JOE-BSFS (563-2737)

 Balticon is supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council.
msac.org

 The Creative Baltimore Fund is a grant program funded by the Mayor's Office and the City of Baltimore.



ASL is available for some programs upon request.

SATURDAY 2:00 PM

BUILDING BETTER WORLDS:

THE ROLE OF HISTORY IN FANTASY & FICTION

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Great fiction is built on great research. Panelists share techniques for using history to shape fantasy settings, inspire characters, and craft realistic conflicts that resonate with readers.

Panelists: *Beth Ford (M), Bethanne Kim, DM Mewha, Drey Mychalus*

DID GEORGE ROMERO REALLY CREATE THE MODERN ZOMBIE?

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

George Romero is credited as being the father of the modern zombie, but is that actually true? Can it be honestly and accurately argued that he's not? Can it even be honestly and accurately argued that George Romero didn't create the "Romero Zombie" as it's defined? Join our panel of debaters, some for, some against, and choose which side presents the best case.

Panelists: *Jerry Chandler (M), Bill Mulligan, Jack Valentine*

WRITING ISN'T A JOB; IT'S SEVEN JOBS IN A TRENCHCOAT!

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

The average writer has a day job. How do they manage to draft new stories, edit, publicize, create a presence on social media, and, if independent, do all the publishing tasks in the time they have? Writers discuss their schedules and how they keep all the balls in the air (and which ones they might choose to let fall).

Panelists: *L. Ana Ellis, Darius Jones, Tommy Kerper, Mary Terrani (M)*

AUTHOR READING:

A.M. GIDDINGS & JENNIFER R. POVEY

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

FORGOTTEN GEMS OF ANIME

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Looking for something new to watch, but you keep getting recommendations for the same 30 or so current and classic anime? Join our panelists as they discuss some of the forgotten gems of the world of anime—or their own personal forgotten cult favorite—that they feel deserve a little more love from the community.

Panelists: *Maegan Anderson, Sean CW Korsgaard, Xexilia O. Shadows, Stormraven (M)*

INTERVIEW WITH AUTHOR GOH MUR LAFFERTY

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Join us as Michael D. Pederson interviews our Author GOH, Mur Lafferty.

AUTHOR SIGNING:

NICK JUSTUS, GARY COHN & MIKE ALLEN

Artists & Authors Alley (Madison) – 50 minutes

HELP! I'M BROKE BUT I WANT TO COSPLAY!

COSPLAYING ON A BUDGET

Spotsylvania (Madison) – 50 minutes

Is there a character you really want to cosplay but it seems crazy expensive? Let us help you be thrifty and smarter with your cosplay builds! In this panel, we will show how to make your dollar stretch with some tips and tricks to make cosplays for half the cost of buying it. We are experienced cosplayers both with years of experience working on a budget. Get a free ribbon for attending!

Panelists: *Terra Bailey, Tori Kitsune (M)*

MINIATURE PAINTING WORKSHOP – KIDS' PROGRAMMING

York (Madison) – 50 minutes

Come learn the basics of painting mini-figures for your next tabletop adventure, board game, or display shelf. Free figures, paints, and tools supplied, or bring your own! Supplies kindly donated by Reaper Minis. (*Ages 6-17*)

Presenter: *Josh Cigna*

SATURDAY 3:00 PM

THE LONG HAUL: TAKING YEARS TO WRITE A BOOK

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

We explore the challenges and rewards of writing novels that take years to complete. Panelists discuss staying motivated over long timelines, managing life changes while focused on writing, and revisiting early material with fresh perspective. Learn to balance creative passion with obligations, handle feedback after years of effort, and know when a manuscript is ready.

Panelists: *D.H. Timpko/Alexis Dupree, Bishop O'Connell (M), Kent M. Peterson, Katika Schneider*

COSPLAY DIPLOMACY: PEACE TALKS BETWEEN TREKKIES AND STAR WARS FANS

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

A silly yet sincere panel where fans celebrate differences in storytelling, design, and cosplay approach—and discover a shared love for sci-fi.

Panelists: *Ambushcosplay, Bryant Cox Photography, mr.i_will_x_tell (M), SmashB*

FUNDAMENTALS OF KATANA DRAWING AND SHEATHING

Canaveral (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

You've seen it in your favorite movies, tv shows, and anime; now learn how to draw and sheath a katana! With forty years of experience, RVA Katana's Scott Takahashi will talk about misconceptions and show the safe, correct method. We will provide wooden swords for practice!

WHAT CAN AN EDITOR DO FOR YOU?

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

If you're self-published, there are so many expenses to consider. One expense you may be tempted to cut is an editor. What do editors even do? What's the difference between a developmental editor and a copyeditor? Most of what an edi-

tor does is invisible to the reader, so how can you judge who is a good editor?

Panelists: *Aaron K. Crocker (M), John G. Hartness, Tonya Nagle, PhD, Daniel Sherrier*

AUTHOR READING: GARY COHN & HOBBS HOLLUCK

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

2025 AT THE BOX OFFICE

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Hollywood bet big on franchises, adaptations, and reboots in 2025, as well as a few high-profile originals. Join our panelists as they discuss what went right, what went wrong, what surprised everyone, and how they managed to mess up that one so badly.

Panelists: *Hekla Petursson, Valentine (M), Victims and Villains*

DON'T FEED THE PLANTS (OR FUNGI)!

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

The word “monster” usually conjures images of animal-type creature features (including humanoids), but from *The Day of the Triffids* to *The Last of Us*, the horror genre reminds us that some of the scariest things in nature are mean and green.

Presenter: *Meri Elena*

AUTHOR READING:

JENN LESSMANN & DEE LEANA CARTER

Richmond Boardroom (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

AUTHOR SIGNING: REBECCA GIBSON,

JENNIFER R. POVEY & DREMA DEÒRAICH

Artists & Authors Alley (Madison) – 50 minutes

A RAVEN IN WONDERLAND TEA PARTY (2ND SEATING)

Brunswick (Madison) – 1 hour

Join us for tea and snacks. Costumes encouraged! (*Tickets are available at Registration but buy quickly, this WILL sell out.*)

MAGIC WITH JONAH KNIGHT

The Glen Restaurant (Madison) – 50 minutes

Jonah Knight is a full-time magician specializing in story-based magic. Sometimes creepy, sometimes funny, he takes the unexpected and makes it real.

MONSTERS BY DESIGN: RATS, MEDIA, AND THE COST OF A FALSE NARRATIVE (PG13)

Spotsylvania (Madison) – 50 minutes

Rats have played the villain in movies, video games, and pop culture for decades, and that's not an accident. Join Eva Cross, the founder of local Richmond rescue Second Chance Heroes Rat Adoptions, for an investigation into how media shapes the way we think about rats, and what that costs in real lives. Part cultural critique, part heartwarming rescue story, this talk will change the way you see one of the most misunderstood animals on the planet.

Presenters: *Eva Cross, Adam Swanson*

CRAFTY RAVEN – KIDS' PROGRAMMING

York (Madison) – 50 minutes

Come scratch that crafting itch. Bring your own or explore our RavenCrafts!

SATURDAY 4:00 PM

THE TROUBLE WITH TIME TRAVEL:

A LOOK AT THREE MODERN TIME TRAVEL STORIES

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

This presentation will look at three modern time travel representations in popular culture—in the film series *Back to the Future* and in the TV shows *Travelers* and *12 Monkeys*. It will delve into the risks and benefits of time travel and delve into why themes of time travel are still so popular today.

Presenter: *Lori D'Angelo*

PUBLIC SPEAKING FOR CREATIVES

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

You need to promote your creation, but you fear public speaking or not knowing what to say. Let's take a look at how to find opportunities, how to create and deliver an effective message, and what to do about nerves/imposter syndrome.

Panelists: *Gregory Amato, Tomas Cruz-Melendez (M), John G. Hartness, Morgan Hazelwood*

WHAT MAKES A GREAT BOOK COVER

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Is it about character design, typography, atmosphere—or all of the above? This panel breaks down the key elements of compelling cover art and how it connects with genre, audience, and story.

Panelists: *Beth Ford, J.S. Furlong, Katie Oslow (M), Xexilia O. Shadows*

AUTHOR READING:

JACK VALENTINE & APRIL J. ASBURY

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

THE GREATEST GEEKINESS OF 1986

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Can you believe that 1986 was 40 years ago? Yeah, neither can we. But we can still look back on it with loving nostalgia, even if we don't want to admit it was that long ago. Join our panelists as they talk about the things they loved—books, toys, films, television, and anything else that comes to mind—from the year 1986.

Panelists: *James Blakey, Uncle Grayhawk (M)*

CRYPTID BIOLOGY

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Explore with us the questions of what are cryptids, how science views cryptids (it's actually not straightforward), and what are the possible ecosystems where cryptids could hypothetically be found.

Panelists: *Elizabeth Broadbent, A.M. Giddings, Bill Mulligan (M), Alan Smale*

INTERVIEW WITH AUTHOR GOH, K.B. WAGERS

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

With cake! Join us as Michael D. Pederson interviews our Author GOH, K.B. Wagers

AUTHOR SIGNING:**DEE LEANA CARTER, STELLA PRICE & TOMMY KERPER**

Artists & Authors Alley (Madison) – 50 minutes

CRITS & GIGGLES:**AN RPG-INSPIRED IMPROV COMEDY**

The Glen Restaurant (Madison) – 50 minutes

Performed by The Uncastables, Crits & Giggles is an RPG-inspired improv comedy where audience suggestions fuel a live fantasy quest. Group chats become adventuring parties, bad Tinder dates turn into villains, and the audience rolls the dice that shape the chaos onstage.

CREATE A FLOOF

Spotsylvania (Madison) – 2 hours

Have you always wanted your very own, adorable hand-sewn creation? Now you can with Floofs! Floofs are made from a variety of up-cycled fabrics and faux furs so that you can make something adorable and keep crafting materials from going to waste! Chose from a variety of vintage fabrics and accessories for your Floof! (*Max limit of 50. \$15 for materials.*)Presenters: *Kit's Craft Shop, Lee Tolliver, Daniel Andrews***CARD MAGIC FOR BEGINNERS – KIDS' PROGRAMMING**

York (Madison) – 50 minutes

Learn easy, entry-level card magic that you can use as a foundation for learning and creating more of your own. We'll demonstrate a handful of easy-to-learn card tricks, show how they work, and, more importantly, show why they work. Supplies provided and first 20 attendees get a deck of cards with gaff cards.

Presenter: *Jerry Chandler*

SATURDAY 5:00 PM

KINGS OF KAIJU

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Godzilla just hit 70, King Kong is closing in on 100, and both are still going strong. Other giant monsters have come and gone, some being quickly forgotten while others slowly faded away after (relatively) brief runs at monster stardom. What is it about these two kings of the monsters that has kept them so popular across the decades and through interpretations that have ranged from the absolutely goofy to the downright terrifying?

Panelists: *Maegan Anderson, Sean CW Korsgaard (M), Memphis Muerte, Bill Mulligan***AUTHOR READING:****LINETTE KASPER & AARON K. CROCKER**

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

FROM AUTOMATONS TO AI: OUR ROBOTIC ANCESTORS

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Automatons have been around since long before science fiction. Our panelists will discuss the evolution of these stories and myths.

Panelists: *Heather Curatola Heckel (M), Rebecca Gibson, Nicole Glover, Toi Thomas***HUMANITY AMONG THE STARS: THE ETHICAL IMPLICATIONS OF COLONIZING OTHER PLANETS**

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

As humanity looks to the stars, the possibility of colonizing other planets becomes ever more plausible. But what ethical questions arise when we consider colonizing worlds beyond Earth? From terraforming to the displacement of potential alien life, this panel will explore the moral quandaries surrounding space colonization, examining how these issues are handled in speculative fiction and how they may play out in the real world.

Panelists: *Les Carter, E.J. Isaacs (M), Jo Miles, Charles Pellegrino***BOOK SWAP**

Richmond 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.

AUTHOR SIGNING:**JACK VALENTINE, APRIL J. ASBURY & RUTH SANDERSON**

Artists & Authors Alley (Madison) – 50 minutes

UNDER THE MOONS OF MARS:**AUTHORS OF THE SCIENTIFIC ROMANCE**

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes

Popularized by authors like H.G. Wells and Jules Verne, scientific romance thrived in the late 19th and early 20th-century. Full of adventure and speculative wonders rooted in scientific literacy, it describes tales of extraordinary journeys, inventions, and explorations.

Panelists: *Bill Bridges (M), Gary Cohn, Jennifer R. Povey***CONCERT: DEVO SPICE**

The Glen Restaurant (Madison) – 50 minutes

Nerdy comedy rapper who has been called "the red-headed stepson of 'Weird Al' Yankovic and Eminem."

ROOKERY RANDOMNESS – KIDS' PROGRAMMING

York (Madison) – 50 minutes

Join us for some freeform play time.

SATURDAY 5:30 PM

MONSTER KID 101

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 2 hours

Dr. Bob Tesla is showing RavenCon an episode of Season 4 of his Twitch show before it airs as a special treat to RavenCon guests! Which movie will it be? Unknown but every episode of this season features a “space-based” movie, so the sky is the limit!

Presenters: *Dr. Bob Tesla & Nurse Feratu*

PRE-JUDGING FOR THE MASQUERADE

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 90 minutes

Costumes will be pre-judged for workmanship and detail. (*For Masquerade participants only, everyone else has to wait until 7:30 pm to see all the awesomeness.*)

Judges: *Steve Lesnik, Brian Sarcinelli, Sarah Yawarski*

SATURDAY 6:00 PM

GROWING YOUR COSPLAY SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWING

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Whether you're just starting out or looking to boost engagement, this panel explores how to grow and sustain a cosplay brand on social media. Learn tips for crafting eye-catching content, choosing the right platforms, navigating algorithms, and building a community that supports your creative journey. Panelists will share personal strategies, success stories, and lessons learned.

Panelists: *Bryant Cox Photography, SmashB (M), mr.i_will_x_tell, Victims and Villains*

COZY FANTASIES: MORE THAN JUST A CUP OF TEA

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

With the success of books like *Legends and Lattes*, we're all familiar with the new subgenre of cozy fantasy. But what is it really? How does it differ from other types of fantasy (epic fantasy, urban fantasy, etc.)? How is it similar? What makes a story “cozy”? We'll discuss this new phenomenon.

Panelists: *Margaret L. Carter, Jenn Lessmann (M), Tangent Artists*

THE SCIENCE MAY LOOK SILLY, BUT THE RESULTS ARE SERIOUS (AND USEFUL)

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Yes, the frequently lampooned shrimp running on a treadmill looked ridiculous. But did that mean it was a waste of tax dollars? No. The treadmill was only a small part of research that studied how changes in water quality impact the creatures that live in it, which can be an early warning indicator of possible environmental dangers to humans. Join us as we talk about how the silly-looking science can often be far more serious than politicians and the MSM make them out to be.

Panelists: *Meri Elena, Rebecca Gibson, A.M. Giddings, Sam Scheiner (M)*

AN HOUR WITH AURELIO VOLTAIRE

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Aurelio Voltaire takes audience questions and talks about what he's up to these days.

AUTHOR SIGNING: LINETTE KASPER, AARON K. CROCKER & DANIEL SHERRIER

Artists & Authors Alley (Madison) – 50 minutes

WHEN WORLD'S COLLIDE: SCIENCE FICTION AND HORROR

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes

These two genres have been intertwined since the beginning—Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. Is it because both genres deal in the unknown and powers beyond our control? Is it because there's very little difference between dread and awe? Join us as we discuss the history of this glorious mash-up.

Panelists: *Mike Allen (M), Darius Jones, Valentine*

CONCERT: CHUCK PARKER

The Glen Restaurant (Madison) – 50 minutes

Slice of life, confessional geek tunes that are often kind of funny.

RUNNING A SMALL PRESS

Spotsylvania (Madison) – 50 minutes

What does it take to start your own small press—and more importantly, keep it going? How do authors and publishers find each other? Do small presses need a specific focus? Beyond the usual challenges of any business (such as supply chains, personnel, finances and advertising), are there other considerations specific to a small press?

Panelists: *JM Beal, Rachel A. Brune (M), J.S. Furlong, Tiffany Vega*

SATURDAY 7:00 PM

I WILL NEVER MAKE THAT AGAIN: CRAFTING NIGHTMARES AND TRIUMPHS

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Every creator has that one project—the one that pushed their limits, tested their patience, and left them wondering if it was worth it. Artists, costumers, crafters, and makers share their stories of grueling challenges and proud accomplishments. From the hours spent to the lessons learned, discover how these experiences shaped their processes, perspectives, and their willingness to tackle ambitious projects in the future.

Panelists: *JM Beal, Meg Nicholas, Kristina Wheeler, Hannah “Spoon” Wilson (M)*

THE WRITER'S MIND: NURTURING MENTAL HEALTH IN A CREATIVE LIFE

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Join our panel of authors, mental health professionals, and well-being advocates as they offer compassionate insights and practical strategies for protecting and nurturing your mental

health while pursuing your passion. This panel aims to foster an open and supportive environment, acknowledging the shared experiences of writers and providing actionable steps towards a healthier, more fulfilling creative life.

Panelists: *April J. Asbury, Bill Bridges, JM Lee (M), D.H. Timpko/Alexis Dupree*

BABYLON 5: WARNINGS FROM THE FUTURE

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Babylon 5 took real history and masterfully wove it into a science fiction epic, but was it also warning us about our own not-too-distant future? Join our panelists as they discuss *Babylon 5*, its legacy in American science fiction, and whether or not it was an unheeded warning for the decades after it aired.

Panelists: *D.H. Aire, A.M. Giddings (M), Mur Lafferty, Katie Oslow, Sam Scheiner*

SCIENCE FICTION BY GASLIGHT: SCIENCE FICTION BEFORE SCIENCE FICTION

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes

Yes, there was science fiction before Hugo Gernsback gave it a name. A lot of it. The 19th century was full of amazing stories—from early dabblers like Shelley and Poe to the popular adventures of Verne and Wells to plenty of others you never heard of. We'll share all our favorites.

Panelists: *Dee Leana Carter, E.J. Isaacs, Chris Semtner (M)*

TRASH TO TREASURE – KIDS' PROGRAMMING

York (Madison) – 50 minutes

Time to finish those treasures.

SATURDAY 7:30 PM

THE RAVENCON MASQUERADE

The Glen Restaurant (Madison) – 90 minutes

Come and see all the fabulous cosplays that our attendees have created! With entertainment by Tavair Dominique.

Judges: *Steve Lesnik, Brian Sarcinelli, Sarah Yawarski*

Music: *Tavair Dominique*

MC: *Hekla Petursson*

SATURDAY 8:00 PM

EUROPEAN SWORD HISTORY AND TYPOLOGY

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Made up of dozens of political entities over the years, many different types of swords were developed, spread, and evolved. RVA Katana's Mark Bergstrom will discuss modern classifications, as well as show several examples and discuss their usage.

VAMPING IT UP: YOU CAN'T KEEP A GOOD VAMPIRE DOWN

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Whenever someone thinks the vampire genre has run its course for a time, something like *Sinners* comes along and gets everyone interested again. What is it about these blood suckers that keeps bringing us back to them? Come join us as we look at our favorites and try to figure out why we keep coming back to the brood over and over again.

Panelists: *Margaret L. Carter, Lew Fraga (M), Terry Hooker, Bill Mulligan*

THE HORROR CARTOONS OF SATURDAY MORNINGS AND WEEKDAY AFTERNOONS

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

They were an essential part of every budding horror fan's childhood viewing diet—the horror-themed cartoons of yesteryear. Take a look back with our panelists at some of their favorites and maybe share a few of your own along the way.

Panelists: *Uncle Grayhawk, Hobbes Holluck, Devo Spice (M), Tangent Artists*

NERD: AUTOMATA

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Sexy killer robots? In *my* anime? It's... exactly as likely as you think. But, where did all these robots come from? Well, from a 1921 Czech stage play, of course! Okay, but... how did we get from there to here? Great question! Join Sign Guy, professional nerd and reader of at least three books, to trace the history of robots from their distant beginnings to the modern day.

RICHMOND ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Courtyard (In Front of Madison) – 2 hours

Join the RAS for a viewing of the night sky.

ROOKERY RANDOMNESS –

KIDS' PROGRAMMING

York (Madison) – 50 minutes

Join us for some freeform play time.

SATURDAY 9:00 PM

WATCHING THE MONSTERS FADE AWAY

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

From the mid-1970s to the mid-1980s, the interest in cryptozoology grew to never-before-seen levels. That was great for the people making money off of cryptozoology, but it didn't work out well for some of the legendary monsters in the brightest spotlights. Greater exposure brought greater skepticism that some cryptids couldn't survive. Join our panelists as they talk about the 50-year fall of some cryptid legends and whether or not there are lessons to be found there for skepticism as a whole.

Panelists: *Bill Bridges, Lexi Cleveland (M), Meg Nicholas, Alan Smale*

WHAT COSPLAY MEANS TO ME

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Join us as veteran cosplayers share their personal journeys, passion for cosplay, and the impact it's had on their lives. Our panelists will dive into their cosplay careers, from their humble beginnings to their most challenging projects. They'll also discuss the charities and causes that are close to their hearts and how cosplay can be a platform for positive change and community support.

Panelists: *Kozi Cosplay, Liz Lydon, mr.i_will_x_tell (M), Kristina Wheeler*

MAD MONSTER DEATHMATCH

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Across the last 100 years, some amazing (and not so amazing) monsters have threatened mankind. But what's the one question we all asked on the playground? Which monster would win in a fight against another monster? Now, come and help figure out this question as an adult. Join our panelists as they bring monsters into the mix to do one-on-one battle in multiple rounds, making their arguments for why their monsters* should win, and then you, the audience, will decide. **Kaiju not included.*

Panelists: *Uncle Grayhawk, Memphis Muerte, Jack Valentine (M), Tiffany Vega*

ASK A (MAD) SCIENTIST

King George (Jefferson) – 90 minutes

Our science guests answer audience questions on science and science fiction. Any questions, no matter how crazy! Always a favorite at RavenCon!

Panelists: *Jim Beall (M), Ed Bishop, Andrew Caballero, Charles Pellegrino*

RAVENCON CHARITY AUCTION

King William (Jefferson) – 2 hours

We'll be auctioning off some REALLY cool stuff to raise money for RVA Community Fridges. It's a great cause and a LOT of fun!

Auctioneers: *Billy Flynn, O Hai Mark*

DJ DRAE PRESENTS: SCI-FI DANCE NIGHT

Brunswick (Madison) – 90 minutes

In honor of 100 years of science fiction, let's dance the night away to some of your favorite sci-fi related songs. You'll hear classics from artists like David Bowie and Beastie Boys, as well as songs from past musical guests of RavenCon like MC Lars and The Library Bards. You don't need to know how to do the robot to have a good time!

D&D FOR ROOKS BY ROOKS – KIDS' PROGRAMMING

York (Madison) – 50 minutes

Bare bones Dungeons & Dragons, open to all levels—beginner to expert.

SATURDAY 9:30 PM

KEELY & THE TEA LIGHTS: LIVE!

The Glen Restaurant (Madison) – 50 minutes

Join Keely Burn, a passionate singer-songwriter somewhere between “flibbertigibbet” and “sad girl,” and her brilliant band of besties, The Tea Lights, as they play selections from their upcoming album, *Universal Anxiety*.

SATURDAY 10:00 PM

NO ONE CAN HEAR YOU SCREAM: MONSTERS, HORROR, AND THE VOID

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

From lurking monsters to the terror of the unknown, this panel dives deep into what makes horror so chilling—especially the vast, empty void. Join us as we discuss iconic horror films, the monsters that haunt our nightmares, and the psychological terror of isolation. Whether it's the creeping dread of space, the things that go bump in the night, or the horror of the unknown, we'll explore the genres and elements that give us the chills and why they continue to captivate us.

Panelists: *Jaq Evans, Terry Hooker, Linette Kasper, DM Mewha (M)*

WHO SAYS MURDER CAN'T BE FUN?

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

The mystery and crime genres are once again seeing the rise of detectives who are more than a little eccentric and mysteries where the solving of them is more about enjoying the ride. Come join our panelists as they discuss everything from *Knives Out* to *Poker Face* to the return of *Matlock* and more while looking at why we love murder to be fun.

Panelists: *Meg Nicholas, J.F. Posthumus (M), Valentine*

SATURDAY 11:00 PM

THEY'RE NO LONGER WHO YOU THOUGHT THEY WERE

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

The Thing, Invasion of the Body Snatchers, Children of the Stones, and even borderline clunkers like *Invaders from Mars* and *Futureworld* have all played with the same horror concept—the paranoia of feeling like the people around you are no longer who they used to be. Join our panelists as they discuss their favorite examples of this type of paranoia in horror and why it strikes so deeply in so many fans of the genre.

Panelists: *Jett Dixon, Meri Elena, Jaq Evans (M)*



THE DEMONATRIX (PG13)

King George (Jefferson) – 90 minutes

Join us for Aurelio Voltaire's Richmond premiere of his new movie, *The Demonatrix*! Followed by a Q&A after the movie.

LATE NIGHT FILK CIRCLE

The Glen Restaurant (Madison) – 50 minutes

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

SATURDAY MIDNIGHT

JACKBOX AFTER HOURS

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Fancy an adults only night of party games, laughs, and a touch of naughty humor? Join us for an after hours Jackbox games session!

Presenters: *Billy Flynn, O Hai Mark*

SUNDAY 9:00 AM

THE OBSERVATORY OF INTUITION

Could Be (Anywhere) – Time is a Meaningless Construct!

The Observatory of Intuition is a magical divination tent appearing here this weekend. If you find it, proprietor Jonah Knight will welcome you in, give you a tarot reading, cast runes, or perform magical effects.

PUPPETRY 101

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Come learn the basics of puppetry!

Presenters: *Hobbes Holluck, Tangent Artists (M)*

CRYPTID COUTURE:

COSPLAYING THE UNSEEN & UNPROVEN

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

How to turn legendary characters like Mothman, Bigfoot, and Fresno Nightcrawlers into recognizable costumes and then embody the character based on folklore. We'll let the audience suggest a cryptid and then panelists will pitch a look live.

Panelists: *Aeli, Ashe (M), Liz Lydon, Memphis Muerte*

THE COST OF PUBLISHING: THE UGLY TRUTH

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Publishing costs money. Small press and independent publishers share a candid view of their budgets for recent years— income and outgo, the good, the bad, and the downright ugly. How can someone plan for the true cost of publishing, and what are ways to make it work even when the business might be in the red?

Panelists: *John G. Hartness, Nate Hoffelder, Jenn Lessmann (M), Kate Ressman*

AUTHOR SIGNING: JO MILES,

LAWRENCE M. SCHOEN & L. ANA ELLIS

Artists & Authors Alley (Madison) – 50 minutes

FAN KNIT IN

York's Sitting Area (Madison) – 2 hours

Bring your fiber-projects and sit and chat with fellow geeks about your favorite movies, TV shows, books, and (of course) fiber-art projects.

COSPLAY READING HOUR – KIDS' PROGRAMMING

York (Madison) – 50 minutes

Cosplayers come by to read and/or play games with the kids.

Readers: *Helen of Joy, Miss Robinette*

SUNDAY 10:00 AM

ENERGY BLASTS, EXPOSITION, AND A LOT OF SCREAMING:

RANKING THE TOP TEN FIGHTS OF *DRAGON BALL Z*

THROUGH A FILM STUDIES LENS

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Let the debate begin! Using the criteria of fight choreography, storytelling, and just overall awesomeness, film scholar and educator Chad Ownby breaks down his choices for the top 10 fights in his favorite childhood show, *Dragon Ball Z*!

THE MEDIUMS OF COSPLAY

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Cosplay is an art form with endless possibilities. In this panel, we'll explore the different mediums used to create stunning costumes and props, including fabric, thermoplastics, foam, leather, and even 3D printing. Learn the basics of each medium, tips for getting started, and which tools and materials are best for your project.

Panelists: *Aeli, Ashe, Mako Minami,*

Hannah "Spoon" Wilson (M)

KILLING YOUR BABIES

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

It has to happen. Characters must die. But how do you do this effectively? How do you make a death meaningful? We'll explore the hallmarks of a satisfying death scene and how to make your readers care.

Panelists: *John G. Hartness, Tommy Kerper, Bethanne Kim,*

Tiffany Vega (M)

AUTHOR READING:

BISHOP O'CONNELL & JAMES BLAKEY

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

STATE OF THE TREK (ROUNDTABLE)

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

YOU vent or share your thoughts from your audience seat about the changing face of media, fandom, culture—and what it all means for *Star Trek*. From the latest seasons of *Strange New Worlds* and *Starfleet Academy* to the legacy of the original series, it's all fair game—including the biggie...

When will someone really be in charge at Paramount to call the shots?

Panelists: *Jett Dixon (M), E.J. Isaacs*

USING FLAT EARTH TO DECIPHER WHY PEOPLE FALL FOR CONSPIRACY THEORIES

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Flat Earth is a preposterous idea, yet it still saw a rebirth and a growth in followers over the last decade. Why do people fall for conspiracy beliefs like this? Join our panelists as they use Flat Earth belief to break down how and why people fall into even the craziest seeming belief systems so easily, so quickly, and so deeply.

Panelists: *Aaron K. Crocker (M), Sean Heare, Xexilia O. Shadows*

INTERGALACTIC VILLAINY: WHY WE LOVE SPACE ANTAGONISTS

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Darth Vader, Frieza, Thanos... What makes a great space villain? Dive into the psychology, design, and storytelling behind some of pop culture's most compelling intergalactic baddies, from anime to sci-fi and beyond.

Panelists: *Les Carter, Jennifer R. Povey (M), Victims and Villains*

AUTHOR READING: ELIZABETH BROADBENT & JM LEE

Richmond Boardroom (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

AUTHOR SIGNING: D.H. AIRE & GREGORY AMATO

Artists & Authors Alley (Madison) – 50 minutes

FORGOTTEN DISNEY

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes

There are a lot of Disney movies that don't get the love they deserve. Panelists will reminisce about their favorite underrated films.

Panelists: *Keely Burn, Jason Hansa, Cass Morris (M), Stormraven, Tswify9*

CONCERT: HIPHOPMCDUGAL

The Glen Restaurant (Madison) – 50 minutes

Hiphopmcdougal share their love of video games, cryptids, Weezer, and pizza—rapping and singing over everything from classic hip hop beats to mariachi music.

KNITTING & CROCHETING FOR FANS –

KIDS' PROGRAMMING

York (Madison) – 50 minutes

What do knitting and crocheting have to do with being a fan? Want to learn how, or perhaps just find a quiet place to knit that *Doctor Who* scarf or a Cthulhu mask? Come join us!

SUNDAY 11:00 AM

GET READY TO ADD ROMANCE TO YOUR WRITING

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

From our earliest childhood fairy tales, romantic stories are everywhere and for every age reader. Whether you want to write the perfect love story or a toxic warning story, there are

ways to make the characters realistic. From first kisses to marriage and everything in between, you only have to include as much detail as you want.

Presenter: *Morgan Hazelwood*

NOT QUITE THE KING...

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

King Kong is one of cinema's most popular monsters. Some of the knockoffs and cash-ins? Not so much. Join our panelists as they look at the best of the worst of the King Kong clones that didn't quite live up to being the King. And, who knows? You may discover some "so bad they're good" films to add to your watch list.

Panelists: *Mike Allen, Jerry Chandler (M), Bill Mulligan*

CONFESSIONS OF A PLOT HOLE: WHERE OUR STORIES GO AWRY (AND HOW WE FIX THEM!)

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Join our panel of honest and hilarious authors as they bravely share their biggest plot mishaps and the ingenious (or sometimes desperate) ways they found to patch them up.

Panelists: *James Blakey, Nicole Glover, Katika Schneider, Mary Terrani (M)*

AUTHOR READING:

KENT M. PETERSON & DREY MYCHALUS

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

FROM TIN MEN TO TERMINATORS: ROBOTS IN POP CULTURE

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

From loyal companions to existential threats, robots have fascinated us for decades. Explore their evolution in movies, TV, anime, and beyond, and how they reflect our hopes (and fears) for the future.

Panelists: *Lori D'Angelo (M), Sign Guy, Toi Thomas*

THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW THE GOVERNMENT PAID FOR (AND WHY IT NEEDED TO)

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Federal research grants are being cut left and right. But, of course, the real innovation is from private sector funding, right? Maybe not so much. Join our panelists as they discuss the history of government-funded research, the development behind things that we depend on but take for granted in our daily lives, and why privately funded, for-profit research won't bring on advances and breakthroughs in the way some think.

Panelists: *A.M. Giddings, M.T. Reiten, Sam Scheiner (M)*

QUOTH THE RAVEN:

HISTORIC AND CONTEMPORARY SPECULATIVE POETRY

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Speculative poetry exists at the intersection of verse and genre fiction (SFFH and mystery). It's not new, either, with contributors such as Ursula K. Le Guin, Edgar Allan Poe, J.R.R. Tolkien, and HP Lovecraft. However, in recent years, it's become more recognized, with the rise of things such as the

Science Fiction Poetry Association and the Bram Stoker Award for Poetry. We'll talk about our favorite poets and tell you where to get your Spec Poetry fix.

Panelists: *April J. Asbury, Rachel A. Brune (M), Darius Jones, Chris Semtner*

AUTHOR READING:

SEAN CW KORSGAARD & DANIEL SHERRIER

Richmond Boardroom (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

AUTHOR SIGNING:

JENN LESSMANN, JM LEE & J.S. FURLONG

Artists & Authors Alley (Madison) – 50 minutes

**EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS
AND THE SCIENTIFIC ROMANCE**

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes

Tarzan, Barsoom, Pellucidar... If you're discussing scientific romance or early science fiction, you can't avoid the giant shadow that Burroughs cast. We'll discuss his works, his career, and his legacy.

Panelists: *JM Beal (M), Gary Cohn, Lawrence M. Schoen*

MAGIC WITH JONAH KNIGHT

The Glen Restaurant (Madison) – 50 minutes

Jonah Knight is a full-time magician specializing in story-based magic. Sometimes creepy, sometimes funny, he takes the unexpected and makes it real.

SCRATCHBOARD WORKSHOP WITH RUTH SANDERSON

Spotsylvania (Madison) – 2 hours

Explore the art of scratchboard with Artist GOH Ruth Sanderson, known for her award-winning scratchboard art. Ruth will give a short Powerpoint talk on the history of the medium, showing various artists' work in vastly different styles, and the basic principles in working in this medium. She will demonstrate transferring drawings, mark-making, and everyone will practice with the various tools. Then participants can create an image of their choice on Ampersand scratchboard, from reference material provided, or from their own imagination. All materials are provided. (*No fees. 12 people max.*)

ROOKERY COSTUME PARADE – KIDS' PROGRAMMING

York (Madison) – 50 minutes

Kids of all ages, find Edgar and Miss Tori, and show off your cosplays! Purchased, homemade, fandom, or OC? All cosplays are welcome. Take a walk from the Rookery through the fan tables and vendor hall and strut your stuff.

Host: *Tori Kitsune*

SUNDAY NOON

**SONGWRITING 101:
MUSIC, LYRICS, AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN**

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Ever wondered what a songwriter's process is like? Looking to

get some tips on writing your own songs? Join singer-songwriter Keely Burn as she discusses where to find melodies, whether to draw from fictional scenarios or one's personal life when writing lyrics, and how knowledge of music theory helps craft a song, among other topics.

ART AUCTION

Buckingham (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—they only go to auction once the Bid Sheet is filled up.*)

WRITING A BETTER FIGHT SCENE

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

A good fight scene can be as important to the success of your story as a good plot and good characters, especially if your story has moments that depend on the action. Join our panelists as they help you improve your craft when it comes to throwing fists on the printed page.

Panelists: *Rachel A. Brune, Bishop O'Connell, J.F. Posthumus, Alan Smale (M)*

AUTHOR READING: MERI ELENA & JO MILES

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

MY FIRST FANDOM

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

We all started somewhere. What was the first thing that drew you into fandom? Why and how did it hook you, and how did you engage with it?

Panelists: *Maru Godspear (M), Heather Curatola Heckel, "Amy" A.L. Kaplan, Toi Thomas*

THE FUTURE OF WORK:

AUTOMATION, AI, AND UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

As automation and artificial intelligence continue to transform industries, what happens to the concept of work? Will jobs as we know them become obsolete, and what would that mean for the economy and social structures? This panel explores the idea of a future society where robots handle the mundane and humans are free to pursue creative, intellectual, or leisure-based endeavors. Will Universal Basic Income be the solution, or will society find itself in a new kind of class struggle?

Panelists: *Andrew Caballero (M), Steve Davidson, L. Ana Ellis*

**ALIENS AMONG US: HOW SCIENCE FICTION
REFLECTS OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH "THE OTHER"**

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Aliens in science fiction often symbolize the unknown or "the other." This panel delves into how depictions of extraterrestrial life mirror real-world attitudes toward cultural differences, migration, and coexistence. What do our aliens say about us, and how can they challenge our perspectives?

Panelists: *Lori D'Angelo, Sean Heare (M), Nicole Glover, DM Mewha, K.B. Wagers*

AUTHOR READING: BETH FORD & TERRY HOOKER

Richmond Boardroom (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

AUTHOR SIGNING:

E.J. ISAACS & D.H. TIMPKO/ALEXIS DUPREE

Artists & Authors Alley (Madison) – 50 minutes

FROM VIDEO GAMES TO THE BIG SCREEN

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes

The movie *Mortal Kombat 2*—the new *Mortal Kombat 2* movie, not the old *Mortal Kombat 2* movie—is about to hit the big screen, continuing a long tradition of video games being mined to make big-budget movies. Come join our panelists as they discuss the best and (especially) the worst of Hollywood (and others) going to the video arcade.

Panelists: *Tori Kitsune, Valentine (M)*

CONCERT: RE: THE MUSIC OF JONATHAN COULTON

The Glen Restaurant (Madison) – 50 minutes

The father/son duo of Alex and Steve Taylor make up the cover band, Re: The Music of Jonathan Coulton, that's been rocking the convention circuit.

DINO EGG HUNT – KIDS' PROGRAMMING

York (Madison) – 50 minutes

Put those science talents to work hunting Dino Eggs left by everyone's favorite Asian reptile!

SUNDAY 1:00 PM

SFX MAKEUP 101

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Scars, cuts, bruising, and bites. Learn these basic and practical effects using latex alternatives.

Panelists: *Ashe, Maru Godspear (M), Bill Mulligan, Tswify9*

WORKING WITH A CO-AUTHOR

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

You and a friend have a story you want to write together. It sounds simple but it's not. What are the benefits and the pitfalls of working with someone? How do you deal with disagreements over plot points? Over the choice of the cover? If you're self-publishing, how do you distribute the book and deal with the royalties, and the costs? What are the joys of writing with someone instead of alone?

Panelists: *Tonya Nagle, PhD, Kent M. Peterson, Stella Price (M), Mary Terrani*

AUTHOR READING: E.J. ISAACS & DM MEWHA

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

“JOSE CHUNG'S ‘FROM OUTER SPACE’”

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

30 years ago, the SF/horror (and occasionally comedy) series *The X-Files* unleashed perhaps its most meta and experimental episode, “Jose Chung's ‘From Outer Space’”. The immediate response to the episode was decidedly mixed, but it's gone on to be considered one of the classic episodes of the series. Take a look back at one of the craziest episodes of the series—what made it work, what made it an ahead-of-its-time classic of the series, and how it changed the way some people looked at *The X-Files*.

Panelists: *James Blakey, Elizabeth Broadbent (M)*

THE SCIENCE OF THE APOCALYPSE

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Zombies? Mutants in the wastelands? Roving gangs of cannibal bikers? When civilization falls, you'll have even scarier things to worry about. Join our panel of science experts as they discuss the various viruses, fungi, and other threats out there that will be trying to kill you in frequently agonizing and occasionally terrifyingly drawn-out ways. It'll be fun!

Panelists: *John Dondero (M), M.T. Reiten, Sam Scheiner*

THE END OF *STRANGER THINGS*

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Ten years ago, the unusual goings on in the fictional town of Hawkins, Indiana became one of the biggest pop culture phenomena in streaming (and beyond). Join our panelists as they take a look back on *Stranger Things*, discuss their high and low points as fans, and discuss the series finale and whether or not they managed to stick the landing.

Panelists: *Helen of Joy, Meg Nicholas, Chad Ownby, Hekla Petursson (M)*

AUTHOR READING:

TOMAS CRUZ-MELENDEZ & J.S. FURLONG

Richmond Boardroom (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

SIGNING: LEW FRAGA & MISS ROBINETTE

Artists & Authors Alley (Madison) – 50 minutes

WOMEN TRAILBLAZERS IN EARLY SFFH

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes

Daphne Du Maurier, Shirley Jackson, Mary Shelley... Where would genre fiction be without these pioneers?!

Panelists: *April J. Asbury, A.M. Giddings (M), Linette Kasper, JM Lee*

CONCERT: ALEX HIGGINS/THE PLATYPUS PRINCESS

The Glen Restaurant (Madison) – 50 minutes

A singer/songwriter whose folk-indie sound blends cosplay, wordplay, and colorful guitar play—with a pinch of sass.

TERRARIUM CREATION

Spotsylvania (Madison) – 50 minutes

Terrariums are a fun way to express yourself and a forum of relaxation! Pick from a selection of figurines, floral, ethically sourced bones, and more to create your newest piece! (*Max limit of 50. \$20 for materials.*)

Presenters: *Kit's Craft Shop, Lee Tolliver, Daniel Andrews*

WRITING YA FOR YA – KIDS' PROGRAMMING

York (Madison) – 50 minutes

How does one go about writing YA? How do ya actually feel about what is being written for YA? Teens share their thoughts on the books that are aimed specifically at them.

Presenter: *D.H. Aire*

SUNDAY 2:00 PM

ART AND COLLABORATION

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Whether you want to hire an artist, collaborate on a project with a friend, or are an artist being brought onto a project, what does that relationship look like? How do you navigate communication so everyone is on the same page? What does the legal side of things look like?

Panelists: *Nick Justus, J.F. Posthumus (M), Hannah "Spoon" Wilson*

NOBODY RECOGNIZES MY COSPLAY!

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

We've all been there—dressed up as a beloved but underappreciated character, but everyone mistakes you for someone else. Cosplayers share their funny (and frustrating) stories of playing obscure characters and the confusion that comes with it. Bring your own lesser-known cosplays and join the fun—let's give these characters the recognition they deserve!

Panelists: *Tori Kitsune (M), Mako Minami, mr.i_will_x_tell, Meg Nicholas*

BOOK LAUNCH WITH AUTHOR JACK VALENTINE

Canaveral (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

**The RavenCon Program Book
is proudly printed by**



10148 W Broad St #201
Glen Allen, VA 23060
Phone: (804) 290-4407



SIGNINGS

Artist & Author Alley (Madison)

FRIDAY

3:00 pm	James Blakey & Sean CW Korsgaard
5:00 pm	Tonya Nagle, PhD, Tangent Artists & Beth Ford
6:00 pm	Kent M. Peterson, Hobbes Holluck & Bill Mulligan
8:00 pm	Elizabeth Broadbent & A.M. Giddings

SATURDAY

9:00 am	Tavair Dominique, Jason Hansa & Katie Oslow
10:00 am	Mary Terrani, J.F. Posthumus & Lori D'Angelo
11:00 am	"Amy" A.L. Kaplan, Meri Elena & Terry Hooker
12:00 pm	Chris Semtner, Darius Jones & DM Mewha
1:00 pm	Tomas Cruz-Melendez, Alan Smale & Charles Pellegrino
2:00 pm	Nick Justus, Gary Cohn & Mike Allen
3:00 pm	Rebecca Gibson, Jennifer R. Povey & Drema Deòraich
4:00 pm	Dee Leana Carter, Stella Price & Tommy Kerper
5:00 pm	Jack Valentine, April J. Asbury & Ruth Sanderson
6:00 pm	Linette Kasper, Aaron K. Crocker & Daniel Sherrier

SUNDAY

9:00 am	Jo Miles, Lawrence M. Schoen & L. Ana Ellis
10:00 am	D.H. Aire & Gregory Amato
11:00 am	Jenn Lessmann, JM Lee & J.S. Furlong
12:00 pm	E.J. Isaacs & D.H. Timpko/Alexis Dupree
1:00 pm	Lew Fraga & Miss Robinette
2:00 pm	Tiffany Vega & Xexilia O. Shadows

**The Guest of Honor Signing
with K.B. Wagers & Mur Lafferty
will be held in King William (Jefferson)
Saturday at 11:00 am.**

READINGS

Fairfax Library (Jefferson)

FRIDAY

- 4:00 pm Jaq Evans & Lori D'Angelo
5:00 pm D.H. Timpko/Alexis Dupree & L. Ana Ellis
6:00 pm Katie Oslow

SATURDAY

- 10:00 am Tiffany Vega & Tangent Artists
11:00 am Chris Semtner & Darius Jones
12:00 pm "Amy" A.L. Kaplan, Lawrence M. Schoen
1:00 pm M.T. Reiten & Bill Mulligan
2:00 pm A.M. Giddings & Jennifer R. Povey
3:00 pm Gary Cohn & Hobbes Holluck
4:00 pm Jack Valentine & April J. Asbury
5:00 pm Linette Kasper & Aaron K. Crocker

SUNDAY

- 10:00 am Bishop O'Connell & James Blakey
11:00 am Kent M. Peterson & Drey Mychalus
12:00 pm Meri Elena & Jo Miles
1:00 pm E.J. Isaacs & DM Mewha

Richmond Boardroom (Jefferson)

SATURDAY

- 9:00 am John G. Hartness & Morgan Hazelwood
10:00 am Mike Allen & Tavair Dominique
11:00 am Drema Deòraich & Bethanne Kim
1:00 pm Toi Thomas & Tonya Nagle, PhD
3:00 pm Jenn Lessmann & Dee Leana Carter

SUNDAY

- 10:00 am Elizabeth Broadbent & JM Lee
11:00 am Sean CW Korsgaard & Daniel Sherrier
12:00 pm Beth Ford & Terry Hooker
1:00 pm Tomas Cruz-Melendez & J.S. Furlong

King William (Jefferson)

SATURDAY

- 10:00 am Author GOH Mur Lafferty
12:00 pm Author GOH K.B. Wagers

BOOK LAUNCHES

RavenCon is always proud to be able to help authors introduce new works to the world. Be sure to join these authors as they launch their new works.

Canaveral (Jefferson)

SATURDAY 11:00 AM

Book Launch with Author Jo Miles (and tea and pastries!)

Come join author Jo Miles as they celebrate the release of their new cozy fantasy, *Tea & Treachery at the Infinite Pantry*. With tea and pastries (treachery optional).

SATURDAY 1:00 PM

Book Launch with Author Katie Oslow

Come join author Katie Oslow as she celebrates the release of her new gender-bending dystopian bio-punk sci-fi novel— *Rebalance: Resistance*.

SUNDAY 2:00 PM

Book Launch with Author Jack Valentine

Come join author Jack Valentine as he celebrates the release of *Whippoorwill*.

Visit
Richmond
VA.com



**DISCOVER
REVOLUTIONARY
ROOTS**

**RICHMOND
REGION 250**

Always Revolutionary

VENDORS' ROOM

RavenCon always strives to have a varied Vendors' Room filled with interesting and unique vendors. You will find a wide array of goods, including: books, costumes and costuming accessories, games, jewelry, craft items, t-shirts, plushies, pop culture items, artwork, and more books! This year we have the following fantastic vendors:

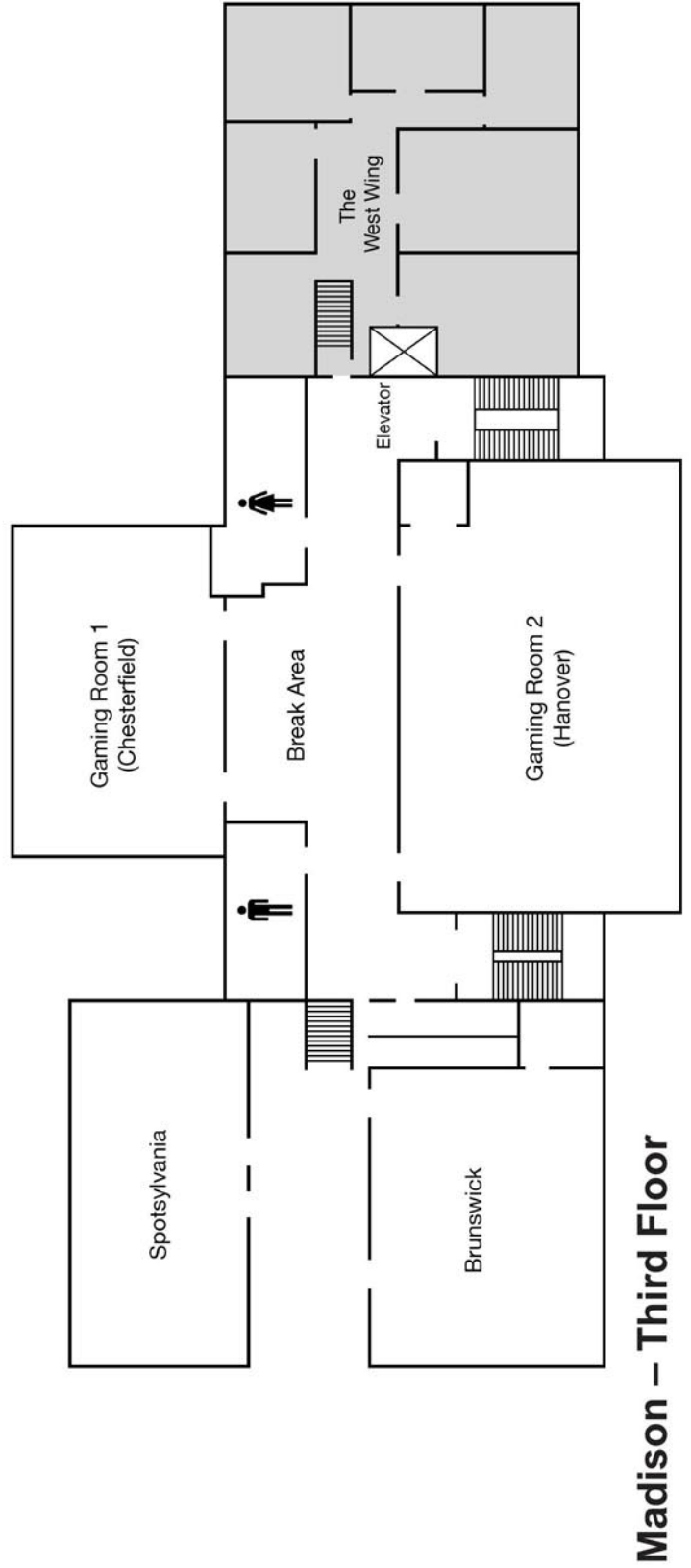
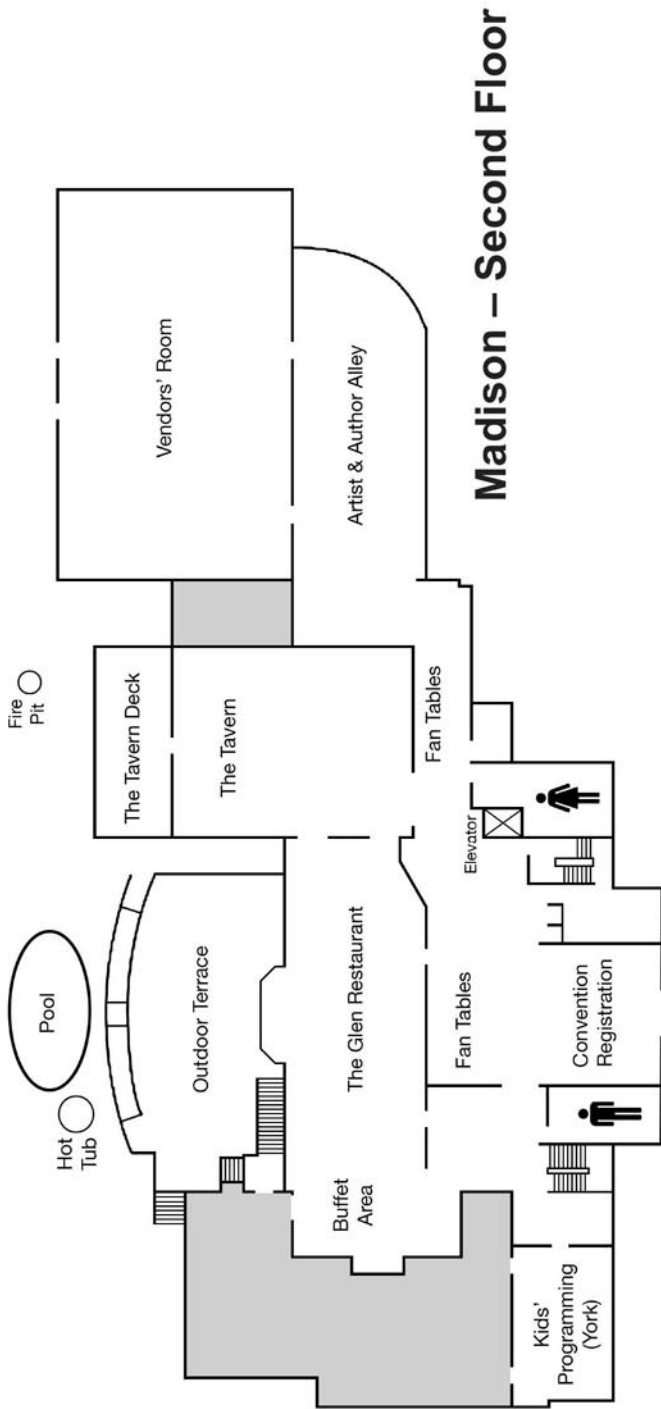
AJ Mabie Designs LLC	Moments In Tea (by KTeas LLC)
Amazing Stories	Mystik Waboose
Arte of the Booke	NRW Artz
Brew, Book & Candle LLC	Oakley's Gently Used Books
Cakelady Desserts	Orielis' Books
Celebrations by Starr	Otaku International Express
Chaos Publications	Otaku United Studio
Cover dem Bones	PicturesqueProjects
The Craft Crustaceans	Pink Peony Boutique
Distractia Designs	The Scribbling Lion Bookstore
DreamPunk Press	Silend Gifts & More, LLC
Falstaff Books	Steampunk Garage
FlowVista Art	Tabitha's Trinkets and Treasures
Gothic Apothecary	Tangent Artists
Ink & Wildflower	Throwback Games
La Prima Nerda	Verillas
The Luna Collection	Walt's Cards
Magical Mysteries — Fairy Hair Sparkles	Wow Fudge, LLC
Mirror Maskerade	Wyrnwood Creations
The Missing Volume	Yosapocky

ARTIST & AUTHOR ALLEY

In addition to our Vendors' Room, RavenCon is proud to feature a separate Artist & Author Alley. Here you'll find a wide array of small press authors, comic creators, and freelance artists all displaying and selling their own unique creations. Here's a list of some of the talented creators you'll find in the Alley this year:

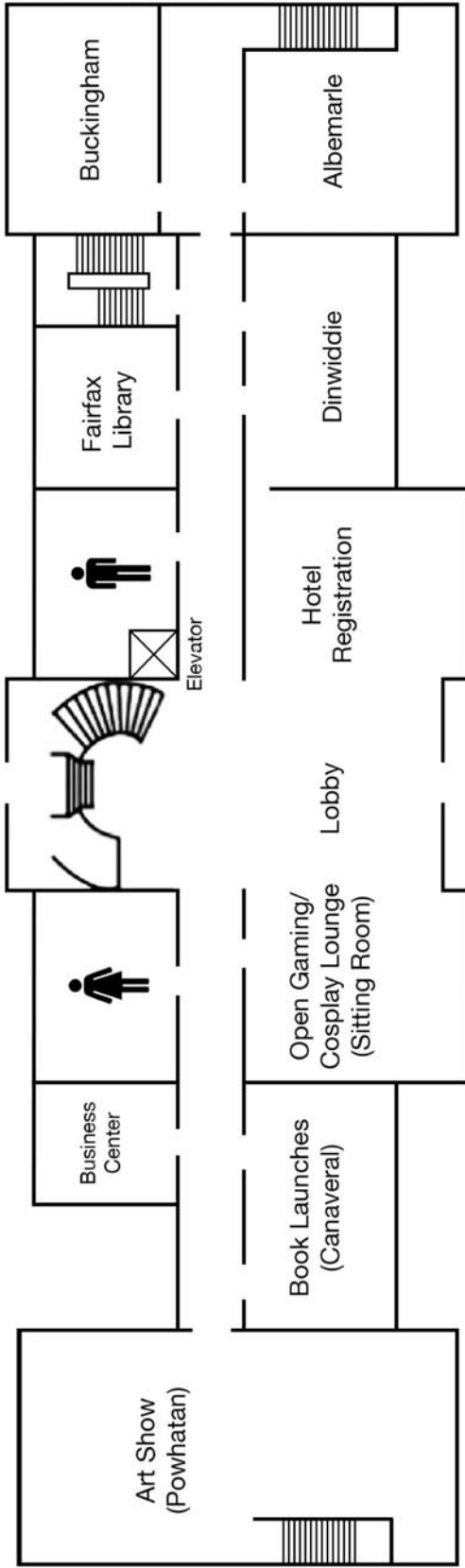
Author Signings Table	M. Angel LLC
Automated Empire	Bishop O'Connell
Bad Natures Comics	Sarah Miller Creations
Mark E. Drotos, Paranormal Suspense Author	Katika Schneider, Author
Elise's Pieces Plush	Spoonwood
Eventide Goat Art	StabbyTabbyTime Body Piercing
Kelsie Brumet	Mike Jack Stoumbos
Found Lost Time	Aurelio Voltaire
gb MacRae	

MAP OF THE HOTEL - MADISON BUILDING

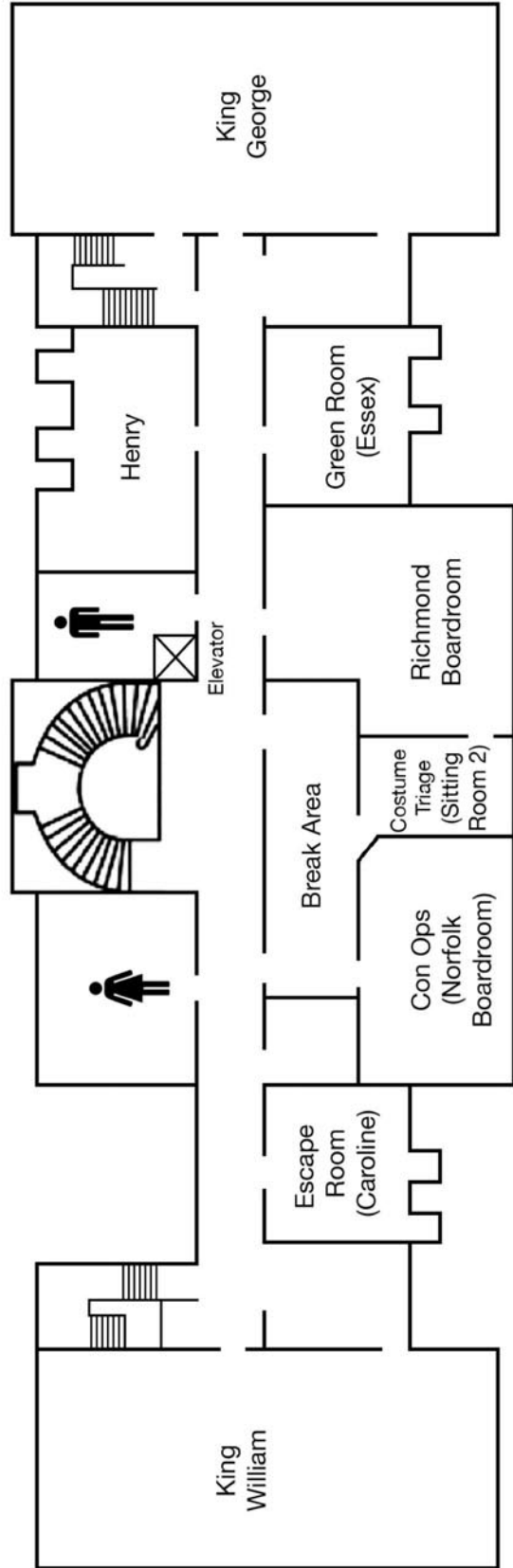


MAP OF THE HOTEL - JEFFERSON BUILDING

Jefferson - Second Floor



Jefferson - Third Floor



MYTHIK CAMPS

*This summer,
a hero
will emerge...*

From sword fighting and armor crafting to nature-scouting and riddle-busting, Mythik Camps inspire your child to build new skills, forge friendships, and brave the unknown, all while engaging with mythological stories from around the world.

Break from the ordinary — choose adventure.
(YOU'LL BE THEIR HERO, TOO)

PICK YOUR PROGRAM
RICHMOND, VA

**Camp
Half-Blood**

(RISING 2ND-6TH GRADES)

**Camp
Jupiter**

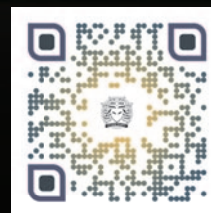
(RISING 6TH-9TH GRADES)



**FOREST HILL PARK
DAY CAMP 2026**

15 TO **24**
JUNE TO JULY

\$520 PER WEEK



REGISTER TODAY!
[MYTHIKCAMPS.COM](https://www.mythikcamps.com)

Scholarships available!
Please contact info@mythikcamps.com
for more information.

WHERE KIDS BECOME HEROES!

Hexilia D. Shadows

eternity concepts

eternityconcepts.net/ravencon

ravencawn000001111101010

TAKE AWAY THE CURSE OF FOREVER

BE A PART OF THE MYSTERY

ETERNITYCONCEPTS.NET