

Pocket Program Guide



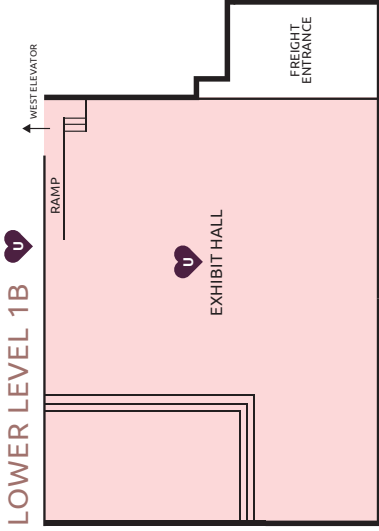
Pocket Program Guide



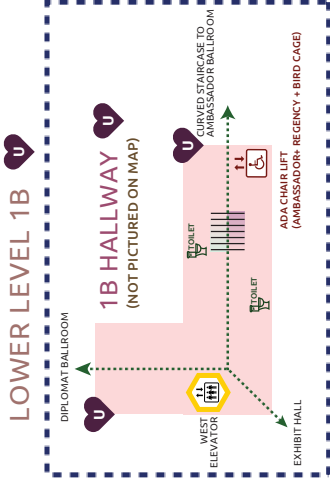
DisCon III

December 15-19, 2021 | Washington, DC

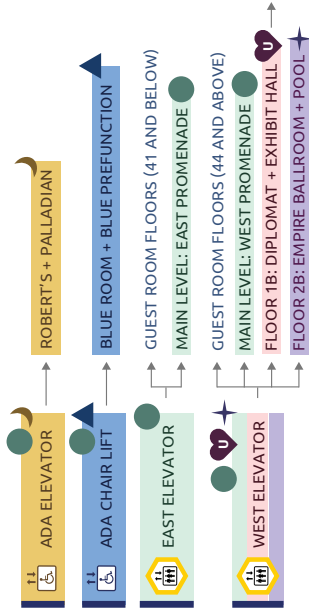
LOWER LEVEL 1B



LOWER LEVEL 1B



ADA-FRIENDLY ROUTES FROM MAIN LEVEL



A larger map can be found at various locations around the convention floors.

Wayfinding signs are also posted around the hotel.



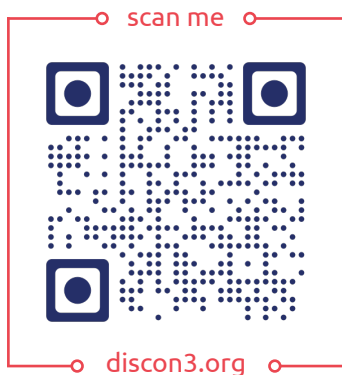
DisCon III

DisCon III gratefully acknowledges these sponsors:

- ▶ Google
- ▶ Studio Cosplay, Inc.
- ▶ Alamo Literary Arts Maintenance Organization (ALAMO)
- ▶ The Association of Science Fiction and Fantasy Artists

Other sponsors added after the print date of this convention guide are listed on our website. We are grateful to them as well!

This guide was accurate to the best of our ability at the time of its printing. For the most current information, please visit the DisCon III website:



DisCon III is sponsored by the Baltimore-Washington Area Worldcon Association, Inc. (BWAWA, Inc.), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based in Maryland.



The 79th World Science Fiction Convention

Pocket Program Guide

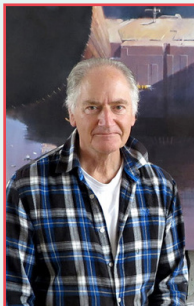
December 15-19, 2021 | Washington, DC

DISCON III GUESTS OF HONOR



NANCY KRESS

Author Guest of Honor



JOHN HARRIS

Artist Guest of Honor



MALKA OLDER

SPECIAL GUEST



BEN YALOW

FAN GUEST OF HONOR



SHEREE RENÉE THOMAS

SPECIAL GUEST

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“World Science Fiction Society”, “WSFS”, “World Science Fiction Convention”, “NASFiC”, “Lodestar Award”, and the distinctive design of the Hugo Award Trophy Rocket are service marks of the World Science Fiction Society, an unincorporated literary society.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to DisCon III, the 79th World Science Fiction Convention. We are all so pleased you've joined us to celebrate fandom here in Washington, D.C. Worldcon is run by and for fans - and it's people like you who make all of this possible. Whether you are readers, gamers, film aficionados, or otherwise involved in speculative media, you are the ones who make Worldcon "Worldcon."

As we've been preparing to host you, a single word continues to crop up in my mind: terroir. This is a word that comes from wine-making and it refers to the expression, through the wine, of a specific location and time. Worldcon moves from location to location and ideally, each has the terroir of its host city. Washington, D.C. is a city steeped in history, both within fandom and without.





Not everyone here is a local, however. Some of you have traveled to join us today, and others of you are joining us online. Fans from around the world are truly putting the “World” in Worldcon. You’re chatting with your friends on Discord, Slack, or Zoom while tuning in to panels and sharing thoughts about the media you love.

We’re here to celebrate you. We’re here to celebrate the media you love, the writers and creators who you’ve chosen to honor in the Hugo Awards, and -- most of all -- we’re here to celebrate the particular community you’ve built together, collectively. Fandom is not about any one individual, but instead about individuals coming together to create a community that is greater than the sum of its parts.

You are why we are here.

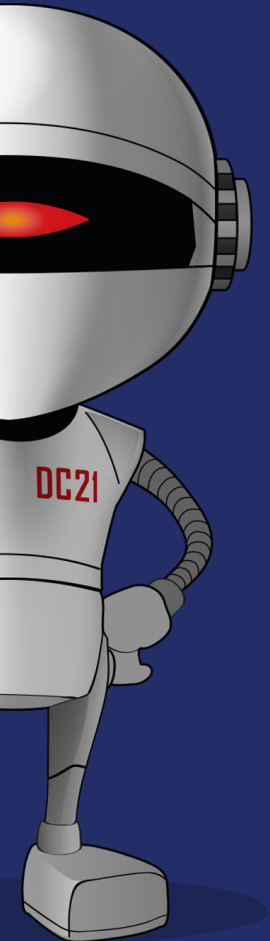
Have an absolutely wonderful Worldcon.

- Mary Robinette Kowal, 2021



BE KIND TO EACH OTHER.

DEECEE IS WATCHING...



WELCOME TO DISCON III!

CODE OF CONDUCT

ACCESSIBILITY

EVENTS

EXHIBITS

OPENING HOURS

CODE OF CONDUCT

DisCon III aims to build a community for all fans, and Codes of Conduct (CoC) help to make an inclusive community. With that in mind, please take a moment to review our Code of Conduct and Anti-Harassment Policy.

Codes of Conduct and Anti-Harassment Policies enable, guide, and encourage safe and secure relationships between convention attendees. They help to make conventions a safer space by discouraging anti-social behavior and helping everyone to feel comfortable.

This CoC applies to all DisCon III attendees – which includes Committee, staff, volunteers and members, and all others trading, exhibiting and otherwise participating. We will also expect those working for the hotels where our activities are taking place to act, and to be treated, in line with the principles of this CoC.

LISTENER TEAM

You will find references to our Listener Team throughout this CoC. The Listener Team is a group of people who hold the DisCon III community accountable to our commitment to abide by the Code of Conduct. This team handles reports about Code of Conduct issues and determines how to respond to incidents, escalating to senior staff as appropriate.

CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

This Code of Conduct is significantly based on Dublin 2019: An Irish Worldcon's COC, which was loosely based on Geek Feminism's example anti-harassment policy, created by volunteers.

HOW CAN I HELP?

- Read and follow this Code of Conduct. Ask your friends to read it as well.
- Support others – if you see someone who looks like they need help, ask if they're okay or possibly alert a DisCon III volunteer.
- Ask first! The easiest way to avoid issues is to check before doing something, and it only takes a second.
- Remember that the attendees of DisCon III come from all over the world. Cross-cultural misunderstandings can easily happen, so consider this in your humor and interactions, both online and in-person.

OVERARCHING EXPECTATIONS

Everyone involved with DisCon III is expected to show respect towards the convention attendees, venue staff, the general public, and the various communities associated with the convention. This is a family-friendly convention; children will be present at many events and in open spaces, so please consider this in your conduct.

ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY

DisCon III is dedicated to providing a harassment-free convention experience for all attendees, regardless of ethnicity, gender identity and expression, sexual identity or sexual orientation, neurodiversity, disability, physical ability or appearance, race, age, religion, or fiction/fandom preferences (this list is not exhaustive).

We do not tolerate harassment of convention attendees in any form. Behavior that will be considered harassment includes, but is not limited to:

- Intimidation, stalking, or following
- Unwelcome physical contact
- Unwelcome sexual attention
- Comments directly intended to belittle, offend, or cause discomfort including telling others they are not welcome and should leave
- Individually photographing or videoing members without their consent
- Treating cosplay/costumes as consent for unwanted contact or interaction
- Sustained disruption of talks or other events
- Sexually graphic or otherwise inappropriate images in public spaces
- Persistent and deliberate misgendering of other people
- Attempts to weaponize the Code of Conduct
- Advocating for, or encouraging, any of the above behavior

We require attendees to follow the CoC in online interactions with the convention (including the volunteer mailings, wiki, and other online facilities), at all convention venues and convention-related social activities. Attendees who are asked to stop any harassing behavior must comply immediately.

ANTI-RACISM POLICY

Racism is on the rise across all sections of society -- in sports and the media, in politics, and in our own fandom communities. DisCon III is committed to being as close to oppression free as possible, and central to this is our policy on racism, including prejudice, bias, the expression of privilege, aggressions, and microaggressions. This includes contributions made in discussion sessions and also things said to and about other DisCon III attendees.

At DisCon III we strive to ensure no one is talked over, ignored, or dismissed, and we are committed to making DisCon III as accessible as we can to people from all racial and ethnic backgrounds. Problems non-white attendees of fandom events often reference include, but are not limited to:

- Having their lived experiences dismissed
- Being expected to be an authority on non-white characters in various fandoms
- Being talked down to or assumed to be less knowledgeable about topics being discussed
- Having their cosplay negatively critiqued without being asked
- A presumption by some members of fandom that people of color do not belong in fandom and that they should not be centered in storytelling
- The use of Social Justice Warrior or SJW as a pejorative term meant to demean or belittle the idea of diversity and inclusion in fandom and storytelling
- The use of social media to target people of color and allies for harassment and abuse as an outgrowth of their participation in panels, discussions, or when commenting on their participation in fandom

- Being targeted in person or through social media with acts of aggression, harassment, or retribution for calling out harassers and abusive behavior

This sort of behavior will not be tolerated at DisCon III.

REPORTING ISSUES

If someone has harassed you or breached this CoC in any way, or if you have witnessed or become aware that harassment or a CoC breach has taken place, please ask that person or persons to stop – as long as it is safe to do so and if you feel comfortable enough to make the request. To help us identify patterns of behavior and possible repeat offenders, we would be grateful if you would also report the harassment as set out below.

If you do not want to speak to the person(s) directly, or if you engage with them and the harassment or CoC breach does not stop, please report the issue as soon as possible to one of our volunteers or a member of the Listener Team. There will be a Listener Desk at DisCon III, a Listener Team contact phone number with your registration materials, and you can also ask any member of DisCon III staff to call a Listener. Alternatively, you can report by email to coc@discon3.org. This address will be continuously monitored by our Listener Team before, during, and after DisCon III.

Harassment and other Code of Conduct violations reduce the value and enjoyment of DisCon III for everyone – we want you to be happy at our convention, so please do speak to us if needed.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I MAKE A REPORT?

When taking an in-person report, our Listener Team will first ensure that you are safe and cannot be overheard. They may involve other event staff to ensure your report is managed properly. Once you are safe, we'll ask you to tell us about what happened, and what you would like to happen next. We understand this can be upsetting, but we'll handle it as respectfully as possible and try to support you. You can also bring another person to support you if you wish.

If you submit a report by email, our Listener Team will respond to you as quickly as possible, and proceed at their discretion, based on the content, context and wishes expressed in your email.

However you choose to report an issue, you won't be asked to confront anyone. We will do our best to protect your identity if we take action as a result of your report. Details of your complaint will only be disclosed to other members of the Listener Team or Committee members who are dealing with it. We will keep you advised of the progress we're making in handling the issue, and of any action we decide to take. We will take into account your views when deciding on that action. However, please be aware that, if you report a serious criminal matter, or we believe that you or someone else may be in danger, we may need to contact the police. We would take into account any concerns you may have around involving them.

The DisCon III Team has the right to take any actions needed to keep our Worldcon a welcoming environment for all attendees. Measures taken may include warning the offender or taking any other action the team considers necessary, up to and including expulsion from the convention with no refund, at our discretion.

If you wish to take further steps following your report and our response, our team will be happy to help you contact hotel/venue security, local law enforcement, local support services, or otherwise assist you to feel safe for the run-up to and duration of the event. Above all, we want everyone to feel valued, safe, and included at our convention!

ADDITIONAL POLICIES

WEAPONS

Do not bring weapons to DisCon III, even if you have a license to carry it.

- Real weapons are forbidden. This includes but is not limited to firearms, laser weapons, electroshock weapons, missile weapons, throwing weapons, clubs, and any sharpened blade bigger than a folding pocket knife. DC law does not permit the carrying of firearms.
- Practice weapons are forbidden. Wooden swords can kill – ask anyone with sword training.
- Prop weapons that can be easily confused with a real weapon are forbidden. DisCon III's Operations Division is the final judge in deciding whether a prop weapon will be banned.
- Items that might be used as weapons, such as staffs and walking sticks, are not banned. However, anyone who uses anything in a threatening manner may have the object classified as a weapon, when it will be either seized or impounded for the rest of the convention. Anyone who refuses to comply may be dismissed from the convention without refund.

- If the program includes a weapons demonstration, the weapons used must be approved in advance by the head of the Program Division. These weapons must be wrapped securely when transported to and from both the Green Room and the demonstration room before and after the demonstration.
- For the Masquerade, any questionable prop weapons must be approved in advance by the Masquerade Director. These weapons must be wrapped securely when transported to and from the Green Room before and after the Masquerade.
- Wearing a hall costume does not entitle you to carry a weapon, real or fake. See event-specific policies.
- Weapons may be available for purchase in the Dealers' Room. They must be wrapped securely in transit to your room or vehicle.
- Some law enforcement officials are required to carry a weapon at all times. When questioned about the weapon, they need only present official identification and explain this requirement.

BADGES

Wear your badge where it can be seen at all times in convention space. This convention is a membership-only event, and your badge is your admissions pass to convention areas and activities. Badges may not be shared under any circumstances. A badge is valid only for the person to whom it was issued.

SIGNS

Please post signs only in designated areas. Use removable painters tape only. Do not affix anything to the walls of the hotel, to the

elevators, or to any item that is hotel property, or to convention signs. Any signs found posted inappropriately will be removed and destroyed.

PRIVACY

We collect your information to allow the convention committee and staff to provide you better services. Your personal information will be kept strictly confidential. We will ask for your consent before sharing your information with anyone outside this convention committee.

We must retain records relating to member registration and financial transactions. Other than this obligation, at a member's request, we will remove any information about the member from all online systems after the convention.

Member financial payment information, e.g. credit card numbers, does not come to us through online payment systems (PayPal and Square); such information is handled exclusively by the online payment service. Credit card information submitted physically (through a signed credit card slip) is kept secure and is not shared with anyone or used for any purpose other than the membership or other transaction requested by the member.

The Baltimore-Washington Area Worldcon Association, Inc., (BWAWA) is the sponsoring organization for DisCon III. For DisCon III, BWAWA observes the laws of the United States, the District of Columbia, and the by-laws of BWAWA. Within the practical limits and resources of a non-profit volunteer organization, we will observe international best practices for privacy as well as transparency in relation to information storage and privacy policies.

COVID-19 POLICY

Worldcon is more than just a convention: it is a community. As such, we all have a duty to protect each other and to protect our friends, families, and peers. This has been true from the very first Worldcon in 1939, and it remains true today.

At DisCon III, we aim to continue this tradition of providing a welcoming, supportive, and safe environment for all members of the science fiction and fantasy community. We have a responsibility to provide and maintain a safe convention experience for everyone from members and volunteers to staff and hotel employees and even to the community at large. We can't protect from every danger, but we can do our best to protect from infectious conditions that are lessened by effective vaccination programs.

This policy is intended to comply with all applicable laws. It is based upon guidance provided by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and created in consultation with epidemiologists who are familiar with conventions and fandom. We will continue to follow developments, revise the policy as necessary, and communicate any updates or changes with members.

The following is the current official DisCon III Policy related to preventing the spread of COVID-19.



TRACKING COVID-19 EXPOSURE

To be alerted of possible COVID-19 exposure from the convention, we encourage Android users to **install the DC Covid Tracker app**.

iOS users can **enable exposure notifications** and will not need to download this app.

PROOF OF COMPLETED VACCINATION (REQUIRED)

To attend any aspect of DisCon III in person, members and guests of DisCon III must be **fully vaccinated against COVID-19** before the convention with a course of vaccination approved for human use as a COVID vaccine in the country in which the vaccine was received, including authorization for emergency use.

This means you must have received all required COVID vaccination doses **no later than 14 days prior to the day you arrive** at DisCon III to allow them to reach full efficacy before arrival. For people arriving on Wednesday December 15th, that would be December 1st. The date of vaccination will be confirmed as part of the pre-Registration vaccination check.

Each such person must **present proof of vaccination**, and attendees over the age of 18 must show a **photo identification** matching the name shown on the proof of vaccination. There are no exceptions.

MASKS MUST BE WORN (REQUIRED)

COVID-19 vaccines are an important tool to help stop the pandemic, but they don't mean we can stop taking all precautionary measures. **Properly worn masks** covering nose and mouth are required for all convention members and guests **in all convention spaces**, except in designated areas when actively eating or drinking. Masks may be lowered, briefly, in other areas to sip drinks as needed.

Failure to comply is a violation of DisCon III rules and may be subject to disciplinary action. Clear masks will be provided to facilitate accessibility to panelists, event participants, and certain staff and volunteers in key positions.

ACCESSIBILITY

Accessibility Services will be available to anyone who needs assistance during the entirety of DisCon III. Our team is experienced in working at conventions, serving a variety of disabled groups. We will also have trained volunteers to assist as needed.

The fastest method of reaching us during the convention is by visiting the staffed desks (see below). You can also email access@discon3.org and one of our staff members will respond as quickly as possible. We will check email regularly during the convention. We will have a radio and can be reached this way by speaking to any member of staff with a radio.

SERVICES AVAILABLE

EVENTS + PROGRAMMING

Stickers

- Anyone who requires Accessibility Services will be given a sunflower sticker for the back of their convention badge. No declaration of disability or doctor's note is needed to receive this: anyone who self-identifies as needing services is welcome to request one.
- Show this sticker to DisCon III volunteers when requesting accommodations. No staff members need to know what disability a member may have, only what services are needed. If any volunteer asks for proof of disability, please notify Accessibility Services staff.

Accessible Seating

- In the Regency Ballroom and Palladian Room, seating is available for mobility device users to remain in their chairs, along with companion seating. End-of-row seating will be marked off for those who need it, but may be released to the general public within 15 minutes of an event starting.
- Other rooms will have accessible seating as well, in lower quantities. DisCon III volunteers will ensure seating is made available to the best of their ability. If you have any questions, please contact Accessibility Services.
- Members needing accessible seating may ask a member of staff for entry to any event space (including panels) prior to an event beginning. If there is a line to enter, members should notify a nearby volunteer that they need early admission, a chair for the line, or other accommodations as needed.

ASL Interpreting

- Interpreters will be provided at the Opening Ceremonies, Masquerade, Hugo Awards Ceremony, and Closing Ceremonies. There will be interpreters available upon request for other events, including the WSFS Business Meeting.



Captioning

- Live CART captioning will be provided for the WSFS Business Meeting, Opening Ceremonies, Masquerade, Hugo Awards Ceremony, and Closing Ceremonies. Live CART captioning will also be provided for approximately half the in-person panels, and some virtual panels. Where live CART captioning is not possible for virtual panels, the built-in Zoom auto-captioning will be used.

Mobility Device Parking

- If you do not wish to take your mobility device into a programming room with you, you may park it either in the back of the room or the hall outside, unless doing so will block more than 1/4th of the width of the hallway.
- Please note that the convention will not be offering ANY overnight parking, secured or otherwise, for those staying off-site. We simply do not have the space to do so.

HOTEL

Accessible Routes in the Hotel

- The hotel might best be described as a maze of twisty little passages. We have done our best to provide a map of accessible routing (available online and at the Accessibility Desk), and to post signage to assist with routing. Note that, at times, two elevators may be needed to get between rooms, or an elevator and a chair lift. In some cases, the necessary elevator may be in the opposite direction of the room you want to reach. Although all rooms are accessible, routing may at times be difficult. We are happy to help explain routing to the best of our ability.

Mobility Device Rentals

- All rentals should be arranged directly with Scootaround, which will drop off at and pick up from the Omni Shoreham. Attending members have access to a discounted rate; see the member website or contact Accessibility Services staff located in the Omni Shoreham lobby. In case of damage or other need to swap devices, Scootaround will be able to provide a replacement quickly; please see our staff if this is needed, so we can ensure your convention proceeds as easily as possible while you wait for a replacement.

Priority Use of Elevators

- The hotel's elevators are small and we ask all members to allow those with accessibility needs to go first. Signs will be posted as a reminder and we will provide staff if needed during peak times. If you have an invisible disability, please ask others waiting for elevators to allow you to go first. If you need support with this, please contact our team. If you encounter other issues with priority use of elevators, please ask our team for assistance as well - we will work with other con staff and members to make sure you have access to what you need.

Seating in Hallways

- As some members may need to sit periodically when walking long distances, we will have seating in hallways. While everyone is welcome to use this seating, we ask all members to please respect the needs of those who are less able to stand and walk, and allow them to take a break when traveling through the hotel.

QUIET SPACE

The Quiet Space (Governor's Boardroom) is intended to support members seeking a space to calm down and reduce sensory overload. There will be comfortable seating and basic activities such as coloring books, tissues, and water.

Quiet Space Hours:

Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat 10:00 AM - 10:00 PM

Sunday 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

To ensure everyone has the opportunity to enjoy the Quiet Space, we ask that conversations be kept to a whisper and minimized as much as possible. Phone calls, if necessary, should also be kept to low volume. This is not a space for sleeping, gaming, or other activities that could interfere with someone else's peaceful enjoyment of the Quiet Space. Complete rules will be posted both inside and outside the room.

Staff will check on the Quiet Space periodically to resupply as needed, but members are asked to let staff know if there are any shortages or incidents that need staff attention beyond regular checks.

STAFFED ACCESSIBILITY DESK

The Accessibility Desk is located in the lobby. There will also be a secondary desk near Registration during peak registration times.

Accessibility Desk Hours:

Tuesday 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Wed/Thurs 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Fri/Sat 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Sunday 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

ACCESSIBILITY: OTHER

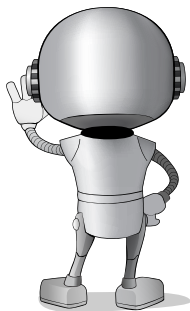
ANIMALS AT DISCON III

Service Animals

- Service Animals are welcome in all areas of DisCon III, without exception.
- Under the ADA, a service animal is defined as a dog that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability. The task(s) performed by the dog must be directly related to the person's disability.
- Note that the ADA permits questions about the **task(s)** a service animal is trained to perform, but does not allow questions about the **handler's disability**.

All Other Animals

- Animals that do not meet the ADA-protected definition of Service Animals including, but not limited to, Emotional Support Animals (ESA), are not permitted in convention-designated spaces of the hotel at any time.
- The hotel permits ESAs in private hotel rooms, though they do charge fees for their presence. There is no waiver of fees for members of the convention.



TRANSPORTATION

WMATA MetroAccess

MetroAccess is a shared-ride, door-to-door, paratransit service for people whose disability prevents them from using bus or rail. Visit www.wmata.com/service/accessibility/metro-access for more information.

Reach A Ride

Reach A Ride is an online search engine for specialized transportation provided by both private and public entities in the National Capital Region. It is hosted through the Metropolitan Washington Council Of Governments. Visit recharide.org for more information.

Information About Metrorail

Metrorail is the subway system in Washington, DC, and is operated by WMATA. Always check the website for operating hours and service alerts before you head out. Fares on Metrorail are both time- and distance-based. A short trip during non-peak times that travels only a few stations down the line will cost \$2.00 USD. A long trip during peak times can cost as much as \$6.00 USD. Each passenger must have their own hard plastic farecard or their own smartphone with the WMATA SmarTrip app installed and be logged in as a unique user.

The closest Metrorail is the Woodley Park-Zoo station. The distance to get into the station varies depending on the need for accessibility. The shortest distance from the station escalator to the hotel is 250m and includes seven steps, or 320m with no steps. If using the elevator, the route is 375m and step-free. Please see the DisCon III Accessibility Guide online for directions and photos.

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FOR THE LATEST SCIENCE FICTION, FANTASY,
HORROR, & YA NEWS, REVIEWS, & COMMENTARY
LOCUSMAG.COM/SUBSCRIBE

SPECIAL MENTIONS

KAFFEEKLATSCHES

Join a small, informal discussion group with a program participant -- an author, artist, astronaut, musician, or fan! Kaffeeklatsches are happening all through the convention. Sign up for a kaffeeklatsch and meet someone interesting!

Signup sheets for kaffeeklatsches will be at the Info Desk (Main Lobby) a day or a few hours before each event.

STROLL WITH THE STARS

Thurs/Fri/Sat | 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM | Hotel Lobby

Start your mornings with a stroll! Meet up with facilitator Debra Nickelson at 9 AM in the lobby of the hotel for the now-traditional morning stroll.

SIP WITH THE STARS

Wed/Thurs/Fri | 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM | Robert's Private Dining Room

Come hang out with published writers, critics, and convention veterans -- a great way to make new friends and get the vibe of the con! Bring your own drinks.

FILK

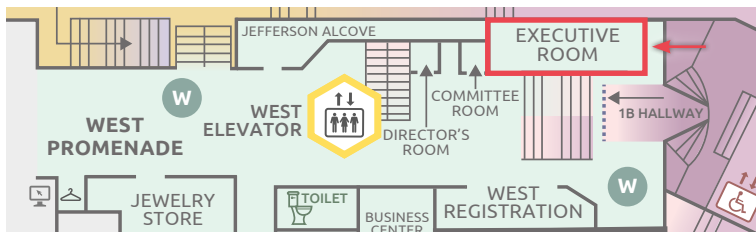
Filk, or science fiction folk music, is truly the music of our tribe! Join us for our Wednesday filk singalong, or swing by one of our open filk rooms Wednesday through Saturday.

All voices and all genres of music are welcome. You won't know if you're a filker until you try!

VOLUNTEER!

Help us build DisCon III! Volunteering is a fun and rewarding way of contributing to the community. Come find out more about volunteering possibilities at the Volunteer Desk in the Executive Room, right next to Registration.

Everyone who volunteers twelve or more hours receives a free, exclusive t-shirt as another way to thank you for your help!



PARTIES

Take part in a long-running Worldcon tradition! Parties will be hosted by various groups and delegations during each night of DisCon III. This year, we will have virtual parties in addition to our usual room parties!

Please keep in mind that alcohol will not be served to anyone under the age of 21, and controlled substances and smoking are not allowed.

Check out the party board in the Exhibit Hall to find out what's happening!

P.S.: It's not too late to throw your own party!

See <https://www.discon3.org/party-faq/> for more info.

EVENTS

OPENING AND CLOSING CEREMONIES

Come join us for the official start and end of DisCon III, the 79th World Science Fiction Convention!

Opening Ceremony Wednesday 4:00 PM, Regency Ballroom

Closing Ceremony Sunday 1:00 PM, Regency Ballroom

MASQUERADE

Friday | 8:00 PM - 11:00 PM | Regency Ballroom

The Masquerade is a formal presentation by costumers to the general convention audience in full theater style. After the costumes have been presented, Raqs Geek will be performing for half-time while the judges deliberate. Awards are presented after halftime.

Come join us for a fun evening of costumes that celebrate the fandom with fashion and flair! Doors open at 7:30 PM.

WSFS (WORLD SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY)

WSFS is the World Science Fiction Society, an unincorporated literary society, and Worldcon is the annual convention of WSFS. The membership of WSFS is everyone who is a member of the current Worldcon, so if you are a member of DisCon III, you're a member of WSFS this year.

The three things defined in the WSFS Constitution (printed in the souvenir book) are what technically make this a Worldcon: **giving out the Hugo Awards, picking the site of the Worldcon two years hence, and holding the WSFS Business Meeting.**

HUGO AWARDS CEREMONY

Saturday | 8:00 PM - 10:30 PM | Regency Ballroom

The members of DisCon III nominated works for the Hugo Awards and then voted on them to select what they think are the best works of the past year. The results will be announced at the Hugo Awards Ceremony.

Join us for this most iconic event Saturday evening in the Regency Ballroom! Doors open at 7:30 PM.

Alternative places to watch the Hugo Awards Ceremony live:

Blue Room: Hugo Watch Party with Bar

Diplomat Ballroom: Quiet Hugo Watch Party

Online: discon3.org

2023 WORLDCON SITE SELECTION (EXHIBIT HALL)

Every voting member (including attending, supporting, virtual, and other classes with voting rights) has the right to vote on where the Worldcon will be held two years from now. Unlike some organizations with a Board of Directors that decides where their annual convention will happen, WSFS puts the decision in the hands of the members.

Every year, different groups “bid” for the right to host Worldcon. During the convention, you will see different groups who are bidding for future Worldcons sitting at information tables and hosting parties where they hope to persuade members that their bid is the best and that you should vote for them.

Members vote before and during Worldcon. This year, the polls close on Friday evening at 6 PM. The results of the voting will be officially announced at the WSFS Business Meeting on Saturday.

WSFS BUSINESS MEETING

Thurs - Sun | 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM | Palladian Ballroom

The WSFS Constitution includes the rules for the Hugo Awards, Site Selection, and how to change those rules. The rules are changed by the Business Meeting.

Every attending member of DisCon III may attend the Business Meeting, debate changes to the rules, and vote on them. In general, changes have to be adopted by the vote of the Business Meeting at two consecutive Worldcons. This year, the Business Meeting will vote on whether to ratify changes adopted in previous years, after which the members will consider new proposals. If you're an attending member of DisCon III, you can attend this meeting and get involved in the "Town Meeting" of the World Science Fiction Society.

Due to constraints on space and time this year, the Business Meetings on Thursday through Saturday must adjourn no later than 12:30 PM. Each day's meeting will start at 10:00 AM sharp. Arrive early to collect and read papers and to hear announcements that will be made before the meeting.

WORLDCON CHAIRS PHOTO SESSION

Each year, the past (and future) Chairs of the Worldcon traditionally gather for a photo/video session. This year, that gathering is scheduled for Sunday at 9:30 AM in the Palladian Room, just before the WSFS Business Meeting. If you're a Worldcon chair, please be there for the photo. If you want to photograph Worldcon chairs in their natural habitat, please come and bring your camera.

EXHIBITS

DEALERS ROOM

Come browse our wares in the Dealers Room! You're sure to find something you love!

Dealer List:

- Ancient Illumination
- Angelwear
- Apex Publications
- Arc Manor LLC
- Arrow J Knight
- B Cubed Press
- Bayside Books of Maryland, IOBA
- Berlant Books
- Bryan Nowak
- Celtic Art Store
- ClarksWorld / Wyrms Publishing
- Con History and TransfromARTive Tarot and Media
- Concellation
- Crystal Dreams Design
- D. X. Varos, Ltd.
- Dana Fraedrich, Steampunk Fantasy Author
- David Edward, SciFi Author: Earth 50,000 BC Series
- David R Freeland Jr. Designs
- Divinity's Twilight Fantasy Novels LLC
- Dragonstone Press
- Dragonwell Publishing
- DreamHaven Books & Comics
- Earth Wisdom
- Elven Caravan

Dealer List (Con't)

- Elven Caravan
- Falstaff Books
- Fantaminals
- Fantastic Books
- First Fandom Experience
- Frank's Cool Stuff
- Geeks Bearing Gifts
- Guardbridge Books
- Hibernacula
- Janet Kofoed Jewelry
- Kathmandu Book
- La Wren's Nest
- Larry Smith Book Seller, LLC
- Magpie Curios
- MAJart Works
- Micci Trolio
- MIZ Bespoke Designs
- Nate Hoffelder
- Nathan W. Toronto
- NESFA Press
- Nonasuch Vintage & Craft
- Nonstop Press
- Old Earth Books
- Omnihedral
- PJET Gallery
- PM Press
- Prime Books
- Rantings of a Wandering Mind
- Ravenwing Wearable Art
- Richard Wooten Author
- SFWA
- Sign of the Unicorn
- Strange Hours Atelier
- Tall Stories
- The Dragon's Lair / Plushie Zoo
- The Merchant of Many Things
- The Mind's Eye Book Store
- Tigereyes Press
- Undiscovered Treasures
- Yatakhayaloon Co. Ltd.
- Ziesing Books
- Zombies Need Brains LLC



ART SHOW

Come by the Hampton Ballroom to see a showcase of amazing science fiction and fantasy artists from around the world!

Stop by our **special exhibits**: a Rotsler exhibit for fan artists and a Stephen Hickman memorial retrospective.

The **Artists' Reception** is Friday afternoon 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM. Come meet and mingle with our talented artists!

Art Show Participants:

- Harris, John (Artist GoH)
- Adams, Luke
- AFSA
- Annie's Blessed Beads
- Beck, Alan
- Blackistone, Bruce
- Brewer, Hershel
- Charlton, Hannah
- Clemens, Sarah
- Damewood, Loren
- Douglass, John
- Felix, Sara
- Granacki, John
- Hertel, Lisa
- Hooper, Heidi
- Housman, Ariela
- Howell, Dave
- Jones, Angela
- Keck, Bob
- Landis, Kathryn
- Larsen, Carolyn
- Laubenstein, Jeff
- Man, Richard
- Manzieri, Maurizio
- Martin, Keira
- Mather, Theresa
- McCracken, Patricia
- Mitchell, Miguel
- Morgan, SunnyJim
- norenxaq
- Organ-Kean, Margaret
- Pancake, David
- Perkins, Lynn
- Peterson, Judy
- Picacio, John
- Sanderson, Ruth
- Schoenhuth, Spring
- Scott, Terese
- Sheriff, España
- Stiles, Steve
- Tornheim, Kendra
- Tucker, Drew
- Vess, Charles
- Villafranca, Vincent

OPENING HOURS

EXHIBIT HALL & DEALERS ROOM

Located on Lower Level 1B

Wednesday	Noon - 6:00 PM
Thurs/Fri/Sat	10:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Sunday	10: 00 AM - 3:00 PM

ART SHOW

Located in the Hampton Ballroom

Wednesday	3:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Thurs/Fri	10:00 AM - 7:00 PM
Friday Reception	3:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Saturday	10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Sunday	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

LISTENER DESK

Located at the Omni's East Registration Desk

Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat	9:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Sunday	9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Please Note:

The Listener Desk may not always be staffed.

If there is nobody at the Listener Desk, you can contact the Listener Team by phoning +1-202-770-8283. Alternatively, you can go to Ops or the Info desk and ask them to contact the Listener Team on your behalf.

REGISTRATION DESK

Located at the Omni's West Registration Desk

Tuesday 3:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat..... 8:00 AM - 7:30 PM

Sunday 9:00 AM - Noon

INFO DESK

Located in the Main Lobby

Wed/Thurs/Fri 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Saturday 8:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Sunday 9:00 AM - Noon

ACCESSIBILITY DESK

Located in the Main Lobby

Tuesday 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Wed/Thurs 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Fri/Sat 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Sunday 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

There will be a secondary Accessibility Desk near Registration during peak registration times.

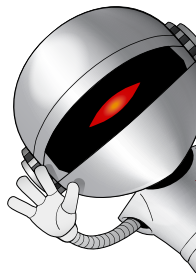
VOLUNTEER DESK

Located in the Executive Room (Opposite West Reg. Desk)

Wed/Thurs 9:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Fri/Sat 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Sunday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM



PROGRAM

VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON PROGRAMMING

DisCon III is the first Worldcon to ever hold both in-person and virtual programming!

We will host **ten streaming links** that can be viewed by virtual attendees. Streaming links will be posted on **discon3.org** shortly before the start of each event.

All events in the following rooms will be streamed:

- Congressional A/B
- Regency Ballroom
- Palladian Ballroom
- Blue Ballroom
- Empire Ballroom
- Diplomat Ballroom
- Kress Room (virtual only)
- Older Room (virtual only)
- Harris Room (virtual only)
- Thomas Room (virtual only)

All other rooms are in-person only.

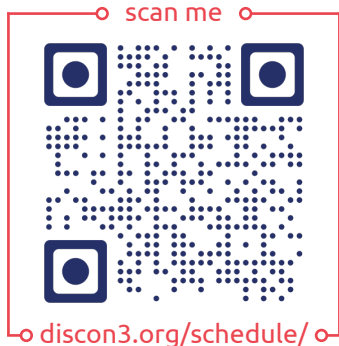


This icon means that the event will be streamed.

ONLINE PROGRAM

Log in at **discon3.org** to access the full schedule!

The online program schedule will allow you to mark your favorite events and stay informed on last minute changes.



TUESDAY

7:00PM

TUESDAY NIGHT "ALMOST THERE" FILK

7:00pm | Calvert Room | Participatory Event

Making music all night long. Unicorns, space flight, cons, cats the topic could be anything and could change at any time. All styles of music welcome. Singers, instrumentalists, and listeners all welcome.

WEDNESDAY

2:30PM

CONCERT: THE GOTHICLES

2:30pm |  Empire Ballroom | Concert

The Gothicles roll in from Boston bringing an energetic performance of 20 years' worth of industrial music and video with a comic flair about everything from the videogame Contra to the world's most amazing animals. As COMA Music Magazine said, "The Gothicles are one of the forerunners in industrial music for the nerdy masses."

Music

KID-FRIENDLY CRAFTING

2:30pm | Room 323 | Participatory Event

Make and take! Materials will be provided to make fun takeaways like badge ribbons, geeky holiday ornaments, and fantasy eye masks.

Children's, Crafting, Interactive

SIGNING - STEVEN H SILVER

2:30pm | Autographs 2 | Participatory Event

*Fan Interest, Signing
Steven H Silver*

SIGNING -PATRICIA A JACKSON

2:30pm | Autographs 1 | Participatory Event

Get your books signed by Patricia A. Jackson
*Fan Interest, Signing
Patricia A. Jackson*

WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY

4:00PM

CONCERT: VICTOR SIERRA

4:00pm |  **Thomas** | **Concert**

Celebrated steampunk band Victor Sierra will be regaling us from Paris, France, with songs of the airship *Hydrogen Queen* and the adventures of its crew. The band invites you to go beyond the horizon line, to go for the strange, to be stirred in unison, and to live unpredictable experiences!

Music

Victor Sierra

FANNISH Pictionary

4:00pm |  **Palladian Ballroom** | **Participatory Event**

Bring your artistic talent (or lack thereof!) and join the fun guessing fannish phrases, titles, or characters, based on drawings by you or your fellow fans.

Art, Fan Interest, Interactive

Randee Dawn (moderator), Scott Edelman, Yakira, Sarah Gulde, Jennifer Rhorer

FANZINES AND META FANDOM

4:00pm |  **Kress** | **Panel**

Fanzines have been a vital part of science fiction and fantasy from the beginning of modern genre fiction in the 1930s. They provide a record of friends, feuds, fashion, and fascinations. Periodically their demise is predicted, but they are still going strong, drawing in new participants and evolving along with fandom. This is a chance to talk to current and previous Hugo nominees about why they produce fanzines.

Fan Interest, Publishing

Alasdair Stuart (moderator), Cheryl Morgan, Olav Rokne, Marguerite Kenner, Ira Alexandre, Chris Garcia

SF SINGALONG

4:00pm | **Cabinet Room** | **Participatory Event**

A singalong of classic filk songs. Bring your voice. Lyrics will be provided.

Interactive, Music

Erwin S. (Filthy Pierre) Strauss

GAMING ROOM AND ONLINE GAMING -- WEDNESDAY

4:00pm |  **Blue Room Prefunction** | **Scheduled Game**

Come join us for freeform gaming!

Online, visit the gaming channels on Discord.

Onsite, visit the gaming room, which is the Blue Room Prefunction space on level one. Stop by for a pickup game, or to see the schedule of games people are looking to run.

Want to run a game? Fill out our online form to share the details for both onsite and online games. Or simply leave a note in person on the message board in the gaming room.

Gaming, Interactive

NOT JUST D&D: GREAT TABLETOP RPGS

4:00pm |  **Older** | **Panel**

Dungeons & Dragons is the 800-pound gorilla, but what are some other cool role-playing games? Panelists discuss their favorite RPGs, what sets them apart, and what is needed to play them.

Gaming

dave ring (moderator), Vivian Abraham, Shaun Duke, Patricia A. Jackson, Tao Wong

WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY

OPENING CEREMONIES

4:00pm |  Regency Ballroom | Participatory Event

Welcome to the convention. We will present the First Fandom and Big Heart awards, as well as remarks from the Chair.

*Special Events, WSFS
werewolf!/, Nancy Kress, Sheree Renée
Thomas, Mary Robinette Kowal, Malka Older*

READING - HILDY SILVERMAN AND JENNIFER R. POVEY

4:00pm | Capitol Room | Reading

Reading with author/artist Hildy Silverman and Jennifer R. Povey.

Jennifer R. Povey, Hildy Silverman

SIGNING - CHRIS PANATIER

4:00pm | Autographs 1 | Participatory Event

*Fan Interest, Signing
Chris Panatier*

SIGNING - JONATHAN PACE BRAZEE

4:00pm | Autographs 2 | Participatory Event

*Fan Interest, Signing
Jonathan Brazee*

THE STATE OF MACHINE LEARNING

4:00pm |  Congressional (A&B) | Panel

An artificial intelligence does not necessarily have to think like a human being. How do current AIs approach questions of cognition and meaningful analysis? What are other ways that an intelligent AI might perceive and understand the world?

*Philosophy, Science
Mason A. Porter, V Anne Smith, Peter N.
Glaskowsky, John Ashmead, Emma Johanna
Puranen*

WHAT TO SEE WHILE YOU'RE IN DC

4:00pm | Forum Room | Panel

Come to hear regional fans discuss their favorite Washington, DC, landmarks and destinations, including the lesser-known places you might otherwise miss.

*DisCon Orientation
Matt G. Leger, Jean Marie Ward, Joshua
Bilmes, DW "Lemur" Rowlands, Sarah Avery*

5:00PM

LOCAL CREATORS RECEPTION

5:00pm | Ambassador Ballroom | Participatory Event

Come join us in honoring local creators here at Worldcon. Bring your autographs books because we're bringing them all together in one location for you to meet.

Interactive

WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY

5:30PM

CONCERT: SASSAFRASS

5:30pm |  Empire Ballroom | Concert

Sassafrass is a singing group led by science fiction author and Pegasus-nominated composer Ada Palmer. They perform original a cappella music with fantasy, mythology and science fiction themes. Noted for their close harmonies and their intricate narrative lyrics, Sassafrass unveiled their Norse song cycle *Sundown: Whispers of Ragnarok* at Balticon in 2013.

Music

Ada Palmer

FUTURE MEAT

5:30pm |  Congressional Room (A&B) | Panel

What does the future hold for carnivorous foodways as factory farming becomes less and less sustainable and more socially unpopular? Is the future cloned meat, vat steaks, cricket burgers, or fungus-based "chicken"? Are we growing past the need to refer to products as meat substitutes? Can we trust the companies which produce them? What are the ethical implications?

Ethics, Science

Jana Bianchi (moderator), Jonathan Brazee, Chris Panatier, Jennifer Rhorer, Jo Miles

IMAGINATIVE REALISM WITH MAURIZIO MANZIERI

5:30pm |  Palladian Ballroom | Presentation

Join Maurizio Manzieri in a journey through galaxies and faraway worlds. The Hugo-nominated artist will guide us through his fantastic portfolio, talking about recent illustrations and the magic surrounding his multi award-winning career.

Art

Maurizio Manzieri

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH CL POLK

5:30pm |  Harris | Kaffeeklatsch

Online small group conversation with CL Polk.

C. L. Polk

MARK PROTECTION COMMITTEE - DAY 1

5:30pm | Presidential Board Room | Participatory Event

This is the first of two meetings at DisCon III of the only permanent body of the World Science Fiction Society (WSFS), the Mark Protection Committee (MPC). As its name suggests, the MPC manages the intellectual property for WSFS, including the registered marks for "Worldcon," "Hugo Award," and "NASFiC." Wednesday's meeting will finalize its report to WSFS for 2021. The MPC meets again on Sunday after the adjournment of the WSFS business meeting and will choose its officers for 2021-22.

WSFS

WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY

READING - DAVID MCRINGO & KEITH DECANDIDO

5:30pm | Capitol Room | Reading

Reading - David McRingo & Keith DeCandido.
Keith DeCandido, David McRingo

SCIENCE FICTION FOR MUSEUM FUTURES

5:30pm |  Diplomat Ballroom | Panel

Museums aren't just historical repositories. They play an essential role in shaping how we see the future. To celebrate the Smithsonian's 175th anniversary, Arizona State University led an effort to imagine possible futures for the national museums and the communities they serve. Join artist Brian Miller, Elizabeth Merritt of the Center for the Future of Museums, and Ruth Wylie of the Center for Science and the Imagination to discuss the project and explore how museums can ignite civic imagination.

Archaeology, History
Bob Beard (moderator), Brian Miller, Elizabeth Merritt

SO THIS IS YOUR FIRST WORLDCON...

5:30pm |  Blue Room | Panel

What the heck is all of this? What's going on? What can I do? What should I do? Who is everyone? If you've never been to Worldcon before, this panel is for you.

DisCon Orientation
Sarah Gulde (moderator), Perriane Lurie, Roberta Rogow, Suzanne Palmer

UNDEAD SHOWS: TV AND MOVIES THAT WON'T DIE

5:30pm |  Kress | Panel

Some movie franchises and TV series were great when they started but lost their way long before their final installments. What are or were some of the worst examples of this phenomenon, and what caused these once-great properties to go off the rails?

History, TV & Film
Matthew S. Rotundo, Raven A., Hildy Silverman, Sumiko Saulson

WHAT MAKES A CLASSIC A CLASSIC?

5:30pm | Calvert Room | Panel

Join us for a discussion of the books, TV shows, movies, comics, and computer games that have become classics and ask why they have stayed with us. Panelists will discuss everything from the content through to the context, the contemporary market, and the modern memory.

Comics, Literature, TV & Film
Shaun Duke (moderator), Bradford Lyau, Chris M. Barkley, John Hertz, Ellen Kushner

7:00PM

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

7:00pm |  **Blue Room** | **Panel**

The World Science Fiction Society (WSFS) is the body of fans who choose the recipients of the Hugo Awards and the locations for future Worldcons and NASFiCs. By attending DisCon III, you are a WSFS member, and can participate in the annual business meeting which takes place in sessions throughout the convention. But the meeting can be hard to follow if you don't know the topics of discussion. Panelists will review the business passed on from last year's con and the new proposals to be discussed.

WSFS

Ben Yalow (moderator), Linda Deneroff, Kevin Standlee, Donald Eastlake

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGIES

7:00pm |  **Kress** | **Panel**

The vast majority of the world's population uses some kind of prosthetic or assistive device, from glasses, to mobility aids, to those jar-opening doohickies. How should they change our conceptions of disability and what using a prosthetic device really means? What bleeding-edge assistive technologies are out there right now that may seem like science fiction? Do engineers overthink it, and are some technologies impositions. And when is simpler, better?

Science

Ada Palmer (moderator), Elsa Sjunneson, Christine Taylor-Butler, Avani Wildani

BREAKING A STORY, HOLLYWOOD-STYLE

7:00pm |  **Older** | **Panel**

In Hollywood, "breaking a story" means listing each scene in a story and arranging them in order for maximum dramatic effect. This panel will discuss how to apply this technique to novels and other narratives.

TV & Film, Writing

Rebecca Roanhorse (moderator), Sumiko Saulson, Nikhil Singh

CONCERT: AMY MCNALLY & RHIANNON'S LARK

7:00pm | **Calvert Room** | **Concert**

Amy McNally is that chick in a skirt and no shoes who sits on the floor with a violin and a stash of Pixy Stix. Yeah, that one, with the hair. She's been hanging around jam circles like that for 20 years and playing fiddle for over 30 years now. Playing with multiple bands, singing with Lady Mondegreen, performing guerrilla accompaniment, and on recordings with assorted musicians and rogues, she does folk, Celtic, and historical music too, but considers herself a filker first.

Have you ever wanted to hear a Disney princess singing about the things you love—board games, ninjas, and krakens? Rhiannon's Lark is happy to make your wish come true. This geek-goddess-girl tackles everything from T. Rex to moral dilemmas with insightful lyrics, gorgeous vocals, and gentle humor.

Music

Amy McNally, Rhiannon's Lark

WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY

READING - NANCY KRESS**7:00pm** |  **Diplomat Ballroom** | **Reading**

An author reading by DisCon III Guest of Honor Nancy Kress.

*Panelist: GOH, Reading
Nancy Kress*

CONCERT: BEN NEWMAN**7:00pm** |  **Thomas** | **Concert**

Ben Newman is a singer-songwriter and filker who writes songs on a wide variety of topics: science fiction and fantasy, religion (several), science and computers, and many more. He writes original melodies and borrows tunes from other songwriters, soundtracks, and media such as movies and video games.

*Music
Benjamin Newman*

COSTUMING TIPS I WISH I LEARNED EARLIER**7:00pm** | **Cabinet Room** | **Panel**

Ever wonder why your costumes don't look as sharp as the ones on the front of the pattern? Our panel will discuss how to select the right fabric, why interfacing exists, the importance of ironing, and indispensable finishing techniques.

*Costume/Cosplay
Kevin Roche (moderator), sandy manning,
Karen Schnaubelt*

CRAFTING CIRCLE**7:00pm** | **Presidential Board Room** | **Participatory Event**

Grab your knitting needles, embroidery thread, or any other supplies you have. Let's make some art together.

*Crafting, Interactive
Yakira (moderator), Merav Hoffman, Jennifer Rhorer*

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH BEVERLY BAMBURY**7:00pm** |  **Harris** | **Kaffeeklatsch**

Online small group conversation with Beverly Bambury.
Beverly Bambury

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH SHEREE RENÉE THOMAS**7:00pm** | **Suite 325 Main Room** | **Kaffeeklatsch**

A small-group discussion with DisCon III Guest of Honor Sheree Renée Thomas. Advance sign-up required.

*Panelist: GOH
Sheree Renée Thomas*

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH HEATHER ROSE JONES**7:00pm** | **Suite 325 Dining Room** | **Kaffeeklatsch**

Small group conversation with Heather Rose Jones.

Heather Rose Jones

METROPOLIS RESCORED**7:00pm** |  **Palladian Ballroom** | **TV - Movie/Show**

DisCon III presents the classic science fiction film *Metropolis* with an original rescore by musical artist Ryako. A Q&A session with Ryako will follow the screening.

*TV & Film
Melissa Ciriaco (moderator)*

SIP WITH THE STARS (WEDNESDAY)

7:00pm | Hotel Lobby |
Participatory Event

New con-goers are invited to hang out with published writers, critics, and convention veterans. A great way to make new friends and get the vibe of the con! We'll break into groups of 4-5 people, each with a mix of newer and more experienced folks. Sips With the Stars events are planned on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings at 7-8 p.m. in the private dining room of the hotel restaurant. Bring your own drinks!

DisCon Orientation, Fan Interest, Interactive John Wiswell (moderator), Tom Doyle, José Pablo Iriarte, Elle E. Ire, Shaun Duke

VIEWING DISABILITIES THROUGH A HISTORICAL LENS

7:00pm |
Congressional Room (A&B) | Panel

Crude conceptions of disabled people abound in shallowly-written historical fantasy and popular imagination, but how was disability actually treated in historical cultures around the world? Our panel of archaeologists, anthropologists, historians and other experts sheds a modern, well-researched light on this oft-stereotyped area.

Anthropology, Archaeology, History AJ Odasso (moderator), Mari Ness, Gillian Polack, teri.zin, Leigha McReynolds

8:00PM

HOW MAGAZINES ARE CHANGING

8:00pm |
Congressional Room (A&B) | Panel

Twenty years ago, a new age of internet magazines started rising alongside the print favorites. Now there are so many different ways to broadcast, produce, and consume short fiction. How are magazines changing to reflect that? We'll look at how everything has changed over time, from what stories are popular to delivery methods to submissions rules and processes, and speculate about what may be coming next.

*New Media, Publishing
Gautam Bhatia (moderator), Scott H. Andrews, Vida Cruz, Brandon O'Brien*

MEDIEVAL DANCE

8:30pm | Empire Ballroom |
Participatory Event

Come learn a bunch of easy and fun medieval dances.

Interactive

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH NICOLE GLOVER

8:00pm | Harris | Kaffeeklatsch

Online small group conversation with Nicole Glover.

Nicole Glover

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH MAURIZIO MANZIERI

8:00pm | Suite 325 Dining Room |
Kaffeeklatsch

Small group discussion with Hugo nominated Artist Maurizio Manzieri.

Maurizio Manzieri

WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH NATALIE NAUDUS**8:00pm | Suite 325 Main Room | Kaffeeklatsch**

Small group conversation with Audiobook narrator Natalie Naudus.

*Natalie Naudus***READING - THOMAS, HAIRSTON, MORIGAN****8:00pm |  Diplomat Ballroom | Reading**

An author reading by DisCon III Guest of Honor Sheree Renée Thomas and friends Andrea Hairston and Pan Morigan.

*Panelist: GOH, Reading**Sheree Renée Thomas, Andrea Hairston, Pan Morigan***UKULELE JAM****8:00pm | Calvert Room | Participatory Event**

Calling all ukulele players! It's time for a jam session. Come make music with other uke enthusiasts.

*Interactive, Music**Blind Lemming Chiffon***WEDNESDAY NIGHT OPEN FILK - CHAOS STYLE ROOM 1****8:00pm | Forum Room | Participatory Event**

Making music all night long. Unicorns, space flight, cons, cats—the topic could be anything and could change at any time. All styles of music welcome. Singers, instrumentalists, and listeners all welcome.

*Interactive, Music**W. Randy Hoffman***WEDNESDAY NIGHT PICK-PASS-PERFORM SONG CIRCLE****11:30pm | Cabinet Room | Participatory Event**

What is a pick-pass-perform song circle? Everyone in the room gets the chance to perform a number, pick a song by asking for a specific song, asking a specific person to perform, or picking a song topic, or pass their turn. All forms of music welcome.

*Interactive, Music**Ellen Kranzer***11:30PM****WEDNESDAY NIGHT OPEN FILK - CHAOS STYLE ROOM 2****11:30pm | Calvert Room | Participatory Event**

Making music all night long. Unicorns, space flight, cons, cats the topic could be anything and could change at any time. All styles of music welcome. Singers, instrumentalists, and listeners all welcome.

*Interactive, Music**Lynn Gold***WEDNESDAY** | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY



8:30AM

ACCESSIBLE YOGA -- THURSDAY

8:30am | Cabinet Room | Participatory Event

A fully inclusive, gentle yoga class for people of all abilities. Practicing in a chair or on a mat with some optional standing poses, participants will move, stretch, rejuvenate and relax through a series of gentle yoga movements, breathing exercises, and meditation. This class will offer different variations and options, encouraging participants to explore at their own pace and expand their yoga experience within a welcoming and inclusive community. Companions and support people are welcome.

Fan Interest, Interactive
Ty Arnold (moderator)

9:00AM

STROLL WITH THE STARS (THURSDAY)

9:00am | Hotel Lobby | Participatory Event

Meet up with facilitator Debra Nickelson at 9 a.m. in the lobby of the hotel for the now-traditional morning stroll.

Interactive
Dr Deb (moderator)

9:30AM

WSFS PRELIMINARY BUSINESS MEETING

9:30am |  Palladian Ballroom | Participatory Event

The WSFS Business Meeting is open to all Worldcon members. This is where rules regarding Hugo Awards, site selection of future Worldcons, and related matters are voted upon. The preliminary meeting considers resolutions (including extensions of Hugo Award eligibility), and sets the agenda and debate time limits for the other meetings. This meeting can kill newly submitted business, but not proposals pending ratification from past years. Arrive early for handouts and orientation.

WSFS

WEDNESDAY | **THURSDAY** | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY

GAMING ROOM AND ONLINE GAMING -- THURSDAY

10:00am |  **Blue Room Prefunction | Scheduled Game**

Come join us for freeform gaming!

Online, visit the gaming channels on Discord.

Onsite, visit the gaming room, which is the Blue Room Prefunction space on level one. Stop by for a pickup game, or to see the schedule of games people are looking to run.

Want to run a game? Fill out our online form to share the details for both onsite and online games. Or simply leave a note in person on the message board in the gaming room.

Gaming, Interactive

READING - MALKA OLDER

10:00am |  **Empire Ballroom | Panel**

An author reading by DisCon III Guest of Honor Malka Older.

*Panelist: GOH, Reading
Malka Older*

CHANGING GENES: CAN WE, SHOULD WE?

10:00am |  **Blue Room | Panel**

CRISPR, the gene-editing tool, has made much greater precision potentially possible in editing the genes of bacteria, viruses, crops, animals, and humans. How far can an organism's genome be changed? What are the possibilities, ethics, and outcomes of tinkering with genomes, including our own?

*Ethics, Science
Cláudia Fusco, Nancy Kress, Rod Van Blake,
Douglas F. Dluzen, Lezli Robyn*

HOW NASA AND OTHER SPACE AGENCIES USE ART

10:00am |  **Diplomat Ballroom | Presentation**

A few years ago, NASA published an amazing series of exoplanet travel posters jointly developed by artists, designers, and scientists. The project exemplified art-centered outreach efforts by NASA and other space agencies. Panelists will discuss these efforts and how they are being used to promote understanding and generate interest in space exploration.

*Art, Science
Matt G. Leger*

MRS. HAWKING STORYBOARD DISCUSSION

10:00am |  **Thomas | Panel**

From the gaslit streets of Victorian London emerges a shadowy figure... Mrs. Hawking, a lady vigilante who stands for the downtrodden women of society. Join co-writers Phoebe Roberts & Bernie Gabin and members of the cast as they shed light into the world of Mrs. Hawking from the series's inception onstage to the innovative new "Zoom plus" productions.

Then, be sure to catch the performances of *Mrs. Hawking: Fallen Women* and *Gentlemen Never Tell*, both of which are streaming during the con.

Cari Keebaugh (moderator), Phoebe Roberts, Bernie Gabin, Circe Rowan, Christian Krenek, Eric Cheung, Naomi Ibasitaz

SIGNING - MEG ELISON**10:00am | Autographs 1 | Participatory Event***Fan Interest, Signing
Meg Elison***SIGNING - WESLEY CHU****10:00am | Autographs 3 | Participatory Event***Fan Interest, Signing
Wesley Chu***PLANNING AND RUNNING A VIRTUAL FAN EVENT****10:00am |  Kress | Panel**

Virtual cons have been contemplated for a while, but 2020 forced many of us to get serious about them for the first time. In the process, organizers were presented with a lot of new organizational and technical challenges. The panelists will explore the different challenges, organizational structures, and opportunities presented by a virtual con versus an in-person event.

*Con Running, Fan Interest
Cheryl Morgan (moderator), John Coxon,
Claire Rousseau, Dale Vaughn, Vida Cruz***KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH NEIL CLARKE****10:00am | Suite 325 Bedroom Room | Kaffeeklatsch**

Small group conversation with Editor Neil Clarke - advance sign up recommended.
Neil Clarke

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH HANNAH ONOGUWE**10:00am |  Harris | Kaffeeklatsch**

Online small group conversation with Hannah Onoguwe.
Hannah Onoguwe

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH AJ ODASSO**10:00am | Suite 325 Dining Room | Kaffeeklatsch**

Small group conversation with AJ Odasso.
AJ Odasso

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH SARA MEGIBOW**10:00am | Suite 325 Side Room | Kaffeeklatsch**

Small group discussion with Sara Megibow.
Sara Megibow

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH SEANAN MCGUIRE**10:00am | Suite 325 Main Room | Kaffeeklatsch**

Small group discussion with author Seanan McGuire. Advance sign up recommended
Seanan McGuire

POST-PANDEMIC AESTHETICS**10:00am |  Older | Panel**

The 1918 flu pandemic had huge impacts on culture over the subsequent decades, including significant changes to architecture and personal fashion. What kinds of long-term changes to our public aesthetic will we see in reaction to COVID-19? Will restaurants and other public spaces need to change their room layouts and building designs? Will branded, designer facemasks become *de rigueur* symbols of conspicuous consumption?

*Anthropology, Economics
Naomi Kritzer, Leonardo Espinoza Benavides,
sandy manning, Charlie Stross, Ana Rüsche,
Melina Papadopolou*

THE NOMMO AND OTHER AWARDS FOR AFRICAN SFF

10:00am |

🖥️ **Congressional Room (A&B) | Presentation**

This panel will discuss the Nommo Award and other awards and contests that create visibility for speculative fiction writers on the African continent.

Africa, Awards, International

Dilman Dila (moderator), Mazi Nwonwu,

Mame Bougouma Diene, Stephen Embleton

11:30AM

AI IN FICTION AND REALITY

11:30am | 🖥️ **Empire Ballroom | Panel**

This panel will discuss the differences between fictional artificial intelligence and the real thing. How are the real dangers of AI different from the ones envisioned in fiction and popular media?

Ethics, Literature, Science

Andrea Hairston (moderator), Lettie Prell,

Lincoln Peters, Benjamin C. Kinney, Natalie Luhrs, Avani Wildani, RWW Greene

BALANCING STORY AND SCIENTIFIC AUTHENTICITY

11:30am | 🖥️ **Older | Panel**

Many readers love real science, or just the appearance of real science, in their science fiction. It is no small challenge to create compelling literature that also triggers a scientific sense of wonder. Panelists discuss how to do it right.

Science, Writing

John Ashmead (moderator), Derek Kunsken,

Maquel A. Jacob, Catherine Asaro, Lezli Robyn, Eva L. Elsigue

BUT, I DON'T WANT TO BE A HERO

11:30am | 🖥️ **Blue Room | Panel**

The reluctant hero is a solid staple of fiction and comic books. Panelists discuss how to write the heroes who never wanted to be, what motivates them, how to maintain their reluctance throughout a whole series, and how to make them relatable to readers.

Panelist: GoH, Writing

Patricia A. Jackson, Nancy Kress, Alan Smale, Fonda Lee, Elle E. Ire, David McRingo

CONCERT: JOHN MCDAID & GARY EHRLICH**11:30am | Cabinet Room | Concert**

John McDaid is a singer-songwriter from Portsmouth, Rhode Island, who has been performing his geek-inflected songs for over 40 years. An award-winning short story author, he brings a writerly focus to his lyrics, complemented by a guitar style that draws on contemporary and traditional folk. Gary Ehrlich is a singer songwriter from the DC area. A structural engineer by profession, he often works architectural themes into his songs, be it designing whimsical hotels or dreaming of future cities.

*Music**Gary Ehrlich, John G. McDaid***HORROR FOLKLORE AROUND THE WORLD****11:30am | Forum Room | Panel**

Let's visit horror traditions from all over the world, providing creatures such as manananggal, vampire pumpkins, and Wurdulac. What frightens us? What do our fears tell us about the way societies work? How do different traditions write fear?

Horror, International, Mythology
Marie Brennan (moderator), Michael R. Underwood, Chikodili

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH ELLEN DATLOW**11:30am | Suite 325 Dining Room | Kaffeeklatsch**

Small group discussion with Editor Ellen Datlow. Advance sign up recommended
Ellen Datlow

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH GAUTAM BHATIA**11:30am | Harris (Virtual) | Kaffeeklatsch**

Small group conversation with Gautam Bhatia.

*Gautam Bhatia***KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH ALIZA GREENBLATT****11:30am | Suite 325 Side Room | Kaffeeklatsch**

Small group conversation with Aliza Greenblatt.

*A. T. Greenblatt***KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH NAOMI KRITZER****11:30am | Suite 325 Main Room | Kaffeeklatsch**

Small group conversation with Naomi Kritzer.

*Naomi Kritzer***KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH SUMIKO SAULSON****11:30am | Suite 325 Bedroom Room | Kaffeeklatsch**

Small group conversation with Sumiko Saulson.

*Sumiko Saulson***PATTERN FITTING WORKSHOP****11:30am | Suite 480 | Workshop***Costume/Cosplay, Interactive***READINGS - MARTHA WELLS AND MATTHEW S. ROTUNDO****11:30am | Capitol Room | Reading**

Readings with Martha Wells and Matthew S. Rotundo.

Martha Wells, Matthew S. Rotundo

SCIENCE TALK 15 -- LOW-COST SPACE LAUNCHES

11:30am |

🖥️ **Congressional Room (A&B) | Presentation**

Low-Cost Space Launch via Single-Stage-to-Orbit (SSTO)

Pat Bahn

TGV Rockets created a conceptual design for a small single stage to orbit (SSTO) reusable launch vehicle (RLV) that utilized our eutectic fuel blend and an altitude compensating nozzle.

Science

Pat Bahn

SCIENCE TALK 8 -- QUANTUM COMPUTING

11:30am | 🖥️ **Diplomat Ballroom | Presentation**

Really Weird Science: An introduction to Real Quantum Computing

Kevin Roche, Advisory Engineer-Scientist, Quantum Ambassador, Qiskit Advocate, IBM Research Almaden

The hype around Quantum Computing makes it hard to tell what is real and what is marketing. Kevin will try to dispel those clouds of uncertainty, starting with an introduction to the weird science that enables this new technology, and demonstrating how you can try out real quantum computers yourself (for free!) on the IBM Quantum Labs website. This presentation is intended for an interested audience with any level of technical background (no fancy mathematics required!)

Science

Kevin Roche

SIGNING - CARRIE VAUGHN

11:30am | **Autographs 2 | Participatory Event**

*Fan Interest, Signing
Carrie Vaughn*

SIGNING - LAWRENCE M. SCHOEN

11:30am | **Autographs 1 | Participatory Event**

*Fan Interest, Signing
Lawrence M. Schoen*

SIGNING - USMAN T. MALIK

11:30am | **Autographs 3 | Participatory Event**

*Fan Interest, Signing
Usman T. Malik*

SIN, SINE AND COSINE IN AFRICAN SF

11:30am | 🖥️ **Thomas | Panel**

The Scientific Core of African Sci-fi, African lore and religion in Science & Magic systems & world building. One of the core features of African SFF writing is the continuity of traditional and spiritual belief—and their validity as effective technologies and sciences.

Africa, International, Literature

Suyi Davies Okungbowa (moderator), Dilman Dila, Nikhil Singh, Wole Talabi

SMALL READERS, BIG ISSUES: MG AND YA FICTION

11:30am | Calvert Room | Panel

Middle Grade sf, fantasy and horror works with the hopes and fears of the young; it explores moral and ethical dilemmas. Some of these are interpersonal issues, but many are about the way the we treat the world around us, and how it treats us. Our panellists will discuss the most challenging YA fiction in our field and how it responds to the concerns of younger readers.

Mary G. Thompson, Christine Taylor-Butler, Wesley Chu, Delia Sherman, Roseanne Brown

WHAT MAKES A GREAT SFF AUDIO BOOK?

11:30am | Kress | Panel

There are more audio books on the market every year. This panel will tackle questions such as how much they cost to produce, how to market them, what makes science fiction and fantasy audiobooks good, how to choose the right voice, and what can the reader get from an audio book that they might not get from reading the page?

*New Media, Publishing
Claire Rousseau (moderator), Peter Adrian Behraves, Heath Miller, Tao Wong, Natalie Naudus*

1:00PM

ADDING FANNISH SKILLS TO YOUR RESUMÉ

1:00pm | Palladian Ballroom | Panel

Wrangling volunteers, publishing fanzines, beta reading, negotiating hotel contracts... Plenty of fannish skills can be converted to real-world professions. How can you translate fannish experiences into a career?

*Con Running, Fan Interest
Morgan Hazelwood (moderator), Diana M. Pho, Ben Yalow, Lynn Cohen Koehler, Natalie Naudus*

GUIDED TOUR OF DISCON III

1:00pm | Hotel Lobby | Participatory Event

This guided walking event will take participants on a tour of DisCon III's main panel areas, Dealers Room, Art Show, freebie/flyer tables, exhibits, social spaces, party boards, and so much more!

DisCon Orientation

CONCERT: LAWRENCE DEAN

1:00pm | Thomas | Concert

Lawrence Dean first encountered filk at the Brighton Worldcon in 1979. He wrote his first sci-fi song, "The Ballad of Arthur Dent," in 1980 and is active in UK filk. Lawrence has written over 135 songs, nearly half of which are filk or filk-related. The rest are a mix of folk, country, and contemporary. His music has been performed and recorded by professional folksingers and fellow filkers across America, Canada, Australia, and the United Kingdom. Lawrence is the winner of the 2021 Pegasus Awards for Best Filk Song and Best Writer/Composer.

*Music
Lawrence Dean*

CONCERT: LYNN GOLD & ROBERTA ROGOW

1:00pm | Cabinet Room | Concert

This is a pair of 30-minute concerts by Lynn Gold and Roberta Rogow. Roberta is from North Jersey. Lynn is a "naturalized" Californian. This will be a battle of the North vs. the South—of New Jersey! Watch two women correct each others' pronunciations while making you laugh and think.

Music

Lynn Gold, Roberta Rogow

ANATOMY OF A SHOE

1:00pm | Calvert Room | Presentation

Bespoke shoemaker SunnyJim Morgan takes you on a tour of what's on your feet. Ever wondered what makes an Oxford different from a derby? How high heels are made? Are elves involved? We'll cover that, as well as some history of shoes and shoemaking, the parts of a shoe, methods of construction, materials used, and a few of the places you can go to learn more.

SunnyJim Morgan

HONORING CHARLES SAUNDERS' SWORD AND SOUL

1:00pm |

 Congressional Room (A&B) | Panel

In honor of his recent passing, our panelists explore the continuing influence of Charles Saunders' inversion of sword and sorcery — "sword and soul" — on current writers and publishers such as P. Djeli Clark, Nalo Hopkinson, Troy Wiggins, and Sheree Renée Thomas. Learn how *FIYAH Magazine* and others are continuing Saunders' work of encouraging Black speculative fiction writing collectives. Hear about the efforts to turn the Imaro books into a TV series.

Literature

Carl Cipra (moderator), Cora Buhler, Sheree Renée Thomas, Wes, Milton Davis

IS THERE A DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE?

1:00pm | Forum Room | Panel

After the fight, what shape is your hero in? Can they realistically carry on hero-ing in the next scene, or will they need a recovery scene before jumping back into the fray? What are some good ways to plausibly introduce complications into the healing and medical processes established in your setting to make the hero's recovery more interesting?

Science, Writing

Benjamin C. Kinney, Leonardo Espinoza Benavides, Lincoln Peters, Shannon Chakraborty, Usman T. Malik

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH WESLEY CHU

1:00pm | Suite 325 Bedroom Room | Kaffeeklatsch

Small group discussion with Wesley Chu. Advance sign up recommended.

Wesley Chu

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH PHOEBE BARTON

1:00pm |  Harris | Kaffeeklatsch

Online small group conversation with Phoebe Barton.

Phoebe Barton

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH JENN LYONS

1:00pm | Suite 325 Side Room | Kaffeeklatsch

Kaffe Klatch with Author Jenn Lyons

Jenn Lyons

**KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH JEREMY
TEGROTENHUIS****1:00pm | Suite 325 Main Room |
Kaffeeklatsch**Small group conversation with Jeremy
TeGrotenhuis.*J.T. Greathouse***KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH SCOTT
EDELMAN****1:00pm | Suite 325 Dining Room |
Kaffeeklatsch**Small group conversation with Scott
Edelman.*Scott Edelman***LOGISTICS OF OFF-WORLD
DISASTERS****1:00pm |  Harris | Panel**Complex logistics are required to respond
to mundane natural disasters. How could
we handle a natural disaster occurring on
another planet or in space? What additional
political and diplomatic complications arise
when working on an interplanetary scale?*Panelist: GoH, Ethics, Science**Jennifer Rhorer (moderator), sandy manning,
Malka Older, Katherine Crichton, David
McRingo***READINGS - CHRIS PANATIER
AND A.C. WISE****1:00pm | Capitol Room | Reading**Readings with Chris Panatier and A.C. Wise.
*A.C. Wise, Chris Panatier***SIGNING - ALIZA GREENBLATT****1:00pm | Autographs 3 |
Participatory Event***Fan Interest, Signing**A. T. Greenblatt***SIGNING - ELLEN DATLOW****1:00pm | Autographs 1 |
Participatory Event***Fan Interest, Signing**Ellen Datlow***SIGNING - JENNIFER R. POVEY****1:00pm | Autographs 2 |
Participatory Event***Fan Interest, Signing**Jennifer R. Povey***POVERTY AND WEALTH
INEQUALITY IN SCIENCE
FICTION****1:00pm |  Kress | Panel**How are the productivity gains depicted
in science fiction distributed? Why do so
many stories feature an oligarchical ruling
class? Does the expression of class differ
across times, cultures, and nations? How do
science fiction and fantasy writers discuss
the intersection of class and other modes of
oppression and discrimination?*Economics, Literature, Writing**Olav Rokne (moderator), Victor Manibo,
Alasdair Stuart, Brenda Kalt, Rivers Solomon,
Catherine Asaro***THE WORK OF NANCY KRESS****1:00pm |  Blue Room | Panel**Nancy Kress won the Hugo and the Nebula
in 1991 with *Beggars in Spain*. She won the
Nebula Award for Best Novella in 2013 for
After the Fall, Before the Fall, During the Fall,
and again in 2015 for *Yesterday's Kin*. She
is a prolific short story writer and novelist.
Her most recent book is *Sea Change* (2020).
Come discuss with our panelists the work of
DisCon III's Author Guest of Honor Nancy
Kress.*About: Guest of Honor, Literature**Gary K Wolfe (moderator), Brenda Cooper,
Daryl Gregory, Walter Jon Williams*

TO PSEUD OR NOT TO PSEUD**1:00pm** | 🗨️ **Older** | **Panel**

Is it best to publish under the name in your wallet? Should you have different names for every genre, or put all your work under a single name so your fans can find you? Is it disingenuous to use a pen name to imply an identity that's not your own, or is this just creative expression? Under what circumstances does using a pen name cross a line? Panelists explore these questions, and the degree to which authors "become" their pen names.

Publishing, Writing

Tao Wong (moderator), LP Kindred, Lina Rather, Carrie Vaughn, Claire Light/Jadie Jang

WORKING WITH AN AGENT**1:00pm** | 🗨️ **Empire Ballroom** | **Panel**

It's 2021, do you still need an agent? Typically, yes! Agents are very useful, not only in securing a traditional book deal, but also in handling contract disputes, foreign rights, and helping you land that elusive movie or TV option. Panelists will discuss when and why agents are useful, and how to determine if your agent is doing the best job for you.

Publishing, Writing

Elle E. Ire, Jennie Goloboy, Andrea Stewart, Kim-Mei Kirtland, Joshua Bilmes

SIGNING - NANCY KRESS**2:30pm** | **Autographs 2** | **Participatory Event**

Fan Interest, Signing
Nancy Kress

2:30PM**ASK AN EDITOR: SHORT FICTION WRITING****2:30pm** | 🗨️ **Blue Room** | **Panel**

What makes a good short story? How do you know it's ready? Where should you send it and how should you respond to comments? This is your chance to ask burning questions to a panel of respected short fiction editors.

Literature, Publishing, Writing

Arley Sorg (moderator), Sheila Williams, Ellen Datlow, Neil Clarke, Sheree Renée Thomas

CONCERT: ARDAMUS & RYAKO**2:30pm** | 🗨️ **Empire Ballroom** | **Concert**

A pair of 30-minute concerts by Ardamus and Ryako. Time for some nerdcore rap! Ardamus is a DC local who summarizes the scope of his work as "music.money.sex.drugs.politics.spirits.comedy" but who can get real with deeply personal topics as well. Ryako, by contrast, is here from Belgium and follows up the screening of her new score for *Metropolis* (see the Wednesday schedule) with some SFnal music that includes her vocals.

Music

Ardamus, Ryako

CONCERT: S.J. TUCKER**2:30pm** | 🖥️ **Thomas** | **Concert**

"Without our songs and stories, we are nothing." S.J. Tucker is the captain of her own independent music career. Named a vanguard of the mythpunk movement and even "the face of neo-tribal Paganism" by *Witches & Pagans* magazine, Tucker is the voice of lore at the campfire and the sharp laughter of modern myth. With one hand anchored in her art and the other held out to you, she is songs and stories, community and wit.

Music
S.J. Tucker

FRANKENSTUFFIES**2:30pm** | **Room 323** | **Participatory Event**

What happens when you combine stuffed animal body parts with kids' imaginations? We provide the stuffies and assistance with needle and thread, you bring the big ideas.

Children's, Crafting, Interactive
Angela Pound (moderator), Kevin Roche, Yakira

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH MARY SOON LEE**2:30pm** | 🖥️ **Harris** | **Kaffeeklatsch**

Online small group conversation with Mary Soon Lee.

Mary Soon Lee

LANGUAGE IN SCIENCE FICTION, FANTASY, AND HORROR**2:30pm** | 🖥️ **Congressional Room (A&B)** | **Panel**

From *The Languages of Pao* to *Embassytown*, authors from all eras have explored the limits of humankind's greatest invention: language. In this panel, linguists and language experts discuss what works and what doesn't, and how to walk the line between science and science fiction with respect to language.

Linguistics & Language, Writing
K.A. Doore, Jenn Lyons, Lawrence M. Schoen, Hanne Paine, Eli K.P. William, Nikhil Singh, Arkady Martine

LET'S JUDGE A BOOK BY ITS COVER**2:30pm** | **Calvert Room** | **Panel**

What makes a good speculative fiction book or magazine cover? How can you give good art direction to help the artist succeed? How do we feel about eye-catching covers that show scenes that aren't actually in the book? Our artists and publishers cover the subject in as much detail as 50 minutes will allow!

Art, Publishing
Jonathan Brazee (moderator), John Picacio, L. D. Lewis, Maurizio Manzieri, Beverly Bambury, Tao Wong

MEET UP: THE HEINLEIN SOCIETY**2:30pm** | **Ambassador Ballroom** | **Discussion Group**

Learn about The Heinlein Society, which honors the written work and lives of Robert and Virginia Heinlein.

Fan Interest, Interactive, Literature
John Tilden (moderator)

POETRY OPEN MIC

2:30pm | Cabinet Room | Participatory Event

Poets of all experience levels are welcome to share their work at DisCon III's open mic!

Interactive, Poetry
AJ Odasso (moderator)

READINGS - DARYL GREGORY AND SU J. SOKOL

2:30pm | Capitol Room | Reading

Readings with Daryl Gregory and Su J. Sokol.
Daryl Gregory, Su J Sokol

ROBERT'S RULES AND ACCESSIBILITY

2:30pm |  Palladian Ballroom | Panel

Robert's Rules of Order is a set of strict rules for running meetings used by governmental bodies and many fan groups. They can also present a significant entry barrier for many, including people with disabilities, non-native English speakers, and people with nontraditional educational backgrounds. How can we work within the framework of Robert's Rules to ensure accessibility to everyone who wants to participate?

Con Running, Fan Interest
Marguerite Smith (moderator), Vivian Abraham, Christine Sandquist

SIGNING - SCOTT EDELMAN

2:30pm | Autographs 1 | Participatory Event

Fan Interest, Signing
Scott Edelman

SIGNING - ALEX SHVARTSMAN

2:30pm | Autographs 3 | Participatory Event

Fan Interest, Signing
Alex Shvartsman

SIGNING - SARAH PINSKER

2:30pm | Autographs 2 | Participatory Event

Fan Interest, Signing
Sarah Pinsker

THE FALLOUT OF BEING THE CHOSEN ONE

2:30pm | Forum Room | Panel

Being a Chosen One isn't always happily-ever-after. The season-by-season model of television, and the multi volume novel, allows viewers to explore the arc of the chosen one-type hero after the initial hero's journey is complete. What are some of the emotional impacts and plot implications of the Chosen One's story? What kind of generational trauma can being, or being near, the Chosen One inflict?

Literature, TV & Film
Hildy Silverman (moderator), John Wiswell, Ellen Kushner, Naomi Kritzer, Patricia A. Jackson

URBAN PLANNING IN THE SPACE AGE

2:30pm |  Kress | Panel

In the colonies of the future, who will be responsible for planning what the city looks like and how it develops? Is this a job for engineers, for the civil service, or someone else? What factors should be considered?

Anthropology, Economics, Science
Brenda Cooper (moderator), Martha Wells, Mari Ness, DW "Lemur" Rowlands, Malka Older

WEBCOMIC WORKSHOP**2:30pm | Presidential Board Room | Workshop**

Storyboard artist and fantasy writer Tenaya Anue walks workshop participants through the nuts and bolts of creating the characters, storylines, and images for webcomics. Appropriate for attendees of all ages and skill levels.

Interactive, New Media, Writing
Tenaya Anue

WORLDBUILDING THROUGH FOOD**2:30pm |  Kress | Panel**

Food can be a vital element to help readers better understand the world of a speculative fiction story. How does technology in your story define the food culture (or is it the other way around)? What does the food say about trade and commerce, and how does it reflect class structure?

Economics, Writing
Alette de Bodard (moderator), C. L. Polk, Gillian Polack, Shannon Chakraborty, George Jreije

4:00PM**1001 YEARS LATER: WHAT'S UP WITH ARABIAN FICTION****4:00pm | Calvert Room | Panel**

The Arabic countries have a rich history of storytelling, but what stories are being told in the modern day? Who is telling them and who is reading them? What is the relationship of present-day storytelling to the colonial and romanticized past? Panelists will discuss Arabian fiction's past, present and future, how it influenced fiction worldwide, what happened to it, where it is going, and what this all means to the rest of the world.

SIGNING - JO WALTON**4:00pm | Autographs 1 | Participatory Event**

Fan Interest, Signing
Jo Walton
International, Literature
Emad El-Din Aysha, Ahmed Salah Al-Mahdi, Yasser Bahjatt, Tim Gregory, Ashraf Fagih

ART SHOW GALLERY CRAWL**4:00pm | Art Show | Participatory Event**

Join the Art Show staff for a group stroll through the Art Show to view and discuss the works on display.

Art, Interactive
John Hertz (moderator), Suzanne Palmer, Ardamus, Natalie Naudus

ASK AN EDITOR: LONG-FORM WRITING**4:00pm |  Kress | Panel**

What makes a good novel? How do you know it's ready? Where should you send it and how should you respond to comments? This is your chance to ask burning questions to a panel of respected agents and editors.

Publishing, Writing
Joshua Bilmes (moderator), Navah Wolfe, Trevor Quachri, George Jreije, Katherine Crighton, Patrick LoBrutto

BILL & BRENDA SUTTON / TJ & MITCHELL BURNSIDE CLAPP

4:00pm |  Empire Ballroom | Concert

Just a blink ago, Bill and Brenda Sutton were a wild, romantic, crazy, young singing duo. Now they're a grizzled curmudgeon and a silver-haired granny, still belting out songs. Their sets are always lively and filled with the unexpected. T.J. and Mitchell Burnside Clapp are a Pegasus-Award-winning wife-and-husband team that performs filk songs ranging from funny to heartfelt.

Music

TJ Burnside Clapp, Brenda Sutton, Bill Sutton

BLACK SPECULATIVE POETRY

4:00pm |  Thomas | Panel

DisCon III Special Guest Sheree Renée Thomas and other panelists discuss Black speculative poetry and read from their own work.

Literature, Poetry, Reading

Brandon O'Brien, Sheree Renée Thomas,

Akua Lezli Hope, Eugen Bacon, Tlotlo

Tsamaase

BUILDING AN URBAN FANTASY

4:00pm |  Older | Panel

We all know what cities look like. How do you take that foundation and turn it into a setting for your urban fantasy story? This panel will offer tips and suggestions to get you started.

Interactive, Teens, Writing

Cláudia Fusco, Sean Mead, Aliette de Bodard,

Claire Light/Jadie Jang

SIGNING - JOHN WISWELL

4:00pm | Autographs 3 | Participatory Event

Fan Interest, Signing

John Wiswell

NANCY KRESS IN CONVERSATION

4:00pm |  Palladian Ballroom | Interview

DisCon III is delighted to host a conversation between Author Guest of Honor Nancy Kress, Bob Silverberg, and Alvaro Zinos-Amaro. This conversation is prerecorded for broadcast at the convention, and is introduced by DisCon III Chair Mary Robinette Kowal.

Panelist: GOH

Ivaro Zinos-Amaro, Nancy Kress, Robert

Silverberg, Mary Robinette Kowal

READINGS - MEG ELISON AND USMAN T. MALIK

4:00pm | Capitol Room | Reading

Reading with authors Meg Elison and Usman T. Malik.

Meg Elison, Usman T. Malik

REVIEWING: WIDELY OR DEEPLY?

4:00pm |  Congressional Room (A&B) | Panel

Presented with all of SFF to review, how does a reviewer determine their beat? Should they read widely, and address work as a knowledgeable generalist, or read deeply within their specialty, and bring that specialty to bear? Reviewers will discuss their practices of how they choose what to review or not to review, their path to their current specialty, if any, and their intentions for future work.

Reviewing/Critique, Writing

Karlo Yeager Rodriguez (moderator), A.C.

Wise, Gary K Wolfe, Jake Casella Brookins,

Arley Sorg, Penelope Flynn

SIGNING - SUMIKO SAULSON**4:00pm | Autographs 2 |
Participatory Event***Fan Interest, Signing
Sumiko Saulson***STREAMING SERVICES AND YOU****4:00pm | Forum Room | Panel**

Speculative media content is increasingly offered through subscription services like Netflix, Amazon Prime, Hulu, and CBS All Access. Do your subscriptions reflect your identity as a consumer and fan? What does it say if you subscribe to Britbox and Shudder versus Prime and Disney+?

*Fan Interest, New Media, TV & Film
Matt G. Leger, Perrienne Lurie, Pamela K
Kinney, Randee Dawn, Diana M. Pho***THE ART OF FILLING IN THE
PROGRAM SURVEY****4:00pm | Harris | Panel**

Program participation surveys vary in form and interest, but they all have one thing in common: they want to know what makes you interesting and what you can offer. All program teams can tell similar stories: "you know me, just assign me to something," topics so popular they could run nonstop for 35 hours with a different team every hour, "I know nothing about this but I love talking about it so I'm ideal." Come to this panel to learn what program teams really want to know about you.

*Con Running, Writing
dave ring (moderator), Caroline Mullan,
Derek Kunsken, SunnyJim Morgan, David G
Shaw***THE ROLE OF NEW
TECHNOLOGY IN PRESERVING
HISTORY****4:00pm | Diplomat Ballroom |
Panel**

Understanding and preserving the past can be a challenge. How have new technologies, including developments in remote sensing and physical preservation, allowed us to study the past in a less destructive manner? Where do digital archives fit in? What about preserving digital media as artifacts?

*Archaeology, History, Science
Daniel Ritter (moderator), Ada Palmer, sandy
maning, Marie Brennan, Avani Wildani,
David Moles***WORLDBUILDING SPACEFARING
CIVILIZATIONS****4:00pm | Blue Room | Panel**

How can you, as a writer, effectively build a spacefaring civilization into your work? What parts of space empires can be directly extrapolated from world history, and what elements will you need that are unique to interstellar commerce, diplomacy, warfare, and lifestyles?

*Anthropology, Economics, Writing
David D. Levine, John Scalzi, Catherynne
Valente, Emma Johanna Puranen, Shadreck
Chikoti*

PUBLIC HUGO FINALISTS RECEPTION

5:00pm | Ambassador Ballroom | Participatory Event

This public reception provides a chance for members to meet the Hugo Award finalists and honor the winners from ConZealand.

Awards

Michelle Clark (moderator), Sheril Bogenrieff

2021 NOMMO AWARDS CEREMONY

5:30pm | Congressional Room (A&B) | Presentation

The Nommo Award, presented by The African Speculative Fiction Society, recognizes works of speculative fiction by Africans, defined as "sf, fantasy, stories of magic and traditional belief, alternative histories, horror and strange stuff that might not fit in anywhere else." Awards are given in categories for novel, novella, short story, and graphic novel. Four winners will discuss their work and read excerpts in prerecorded presentations. The master of ceremonies is Sheree Renée Thomas.

Africa, Awards, Literature

Sheree Renée Thomas, Iquo DianaAbasi, Suyi Davies Okungbowa, Tochi Onyebuchi

AN AVATAR OF YOUR OWN—BODIES IN VIDEO GAMES

5:30pm | Thomas | Panel

When video gamers create a character, we often want it to resemble us in gender, body type, age, and ability. However, the options in character generation are often limited by design choices that can be influenced by prejudice, assumption, or lack of anticipation of need. What companies are doing a good job? What could be done better?

Gaming

Jenn Lyons (moderator), Maquel A. Jacob, Hirotaka Osawa, Sumiko Saulson, Jasmine Gower

CONCERT: DR. MARY CROWELL

5:30pm | Empire Ballroom | Concert

Dr. Mary Crowell is a chanteuse who teaches piano and composition for a living. She loves RPGs, and sings about gaming, love, lust, and whatever else strikes her. She's been known to go from sultry to silly in the blink of an eye.

Music

Dr. Mary Crowell

FINDING THE AUTHORIAL VOICE**5:30pm | Forum Room | Panel**

Story, characters, and plot are important, but what often defines a book is the feel of the prose. It can turn a merely adequate story into a raging success... or an excellent story into something barely tolerable. The voice as heard by the reader is critically important. So, what defines voice? From stylistic choices like dialect and punctuation to narrative choices like POV, this panel will discuss how to find the authorial voice that best fits you.

Writing

José Pablo Iriarte (moderator), Jo Walton, Andrea Stewart, Cass Morris, Usman T. Malik, J.T. Greathouse

FOLKLORE & MYTHOLOGY ACROSS THREE TRADITIONS**5:30pm | Older | Panel**

Three academic talks:

Jewish Cultural Representation in Novik's*Spinning Silver**Gillian Polack*

Foodways are integral to interpreting the use of food. How Jewish characters and culture are depicted in *Spinning Silver* through foodways demonstrates how Novik depicts cultures and religious values in the novel. Viewing foodways in the context of the culture of Jewish Lithuania illuminates Novik's invented Litvas.

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH MALKA OLDER**5:30pm | Suite 325 Main Room | Kaffeeklatsch**

A small-group discussion with DisCon III Guest of Honor Malka Older. Advance sign-up required.

*Kaffeeklatsch, Panelist: GOH**Malka Older***KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH FONDA LEE****5:30pm | Suite 325 Side Room | Kaffeeklatsch**

Small group discussion with author Fonda Lee. Advance sign up recommended.

*Fonda Lee***KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH JASON SANFORD****5:30pm | Suite 325 Dining Room | Kaffeeklatsch**

Small group conversation with Jason Sanford.

*Jason Sanford***Folklore in Three British Children's Fantasy Books***Alison Baker*

In this paper I will be discussing the use made of three characters from folklore (the Black Dog, the Headless Horseman and the Brownie or Hob) in Briggs' *Hobberdy Dick*, Rowling's *Harry Potter* and the *Goblet of Fire* and Pratchett's *The Wee Free Men*. I will outline the use the authors make of folklore to underpin or under cut the sense of Britishness and social class.

African Creation Mythologies.*Eugen Bacon*

Aligned with cultural influences on international genre works, this paper will gaze at creation mythologies in the African continent. It showcases the rich belief systems that carry across Africa and the diaspora, and that might inform current and future black speculative fiction.

*Academic, International, Mythology**Gillian Polack, Eugen Bacon, Ali Baker*

READINGS - JOHN SCALZI AND CARRIE VAUGHN

5:30pm | Capitol Room | Reading

Readings with John Scalzi and Carrie Vaughn.

John Scalzi, Carrie Vaughn

SCIENCE TALK 4: CLIMATE CHANGE

5:30pm | Diplomat Ballroom | Presentation

Climate Change Science, Mitigation, & Adaptation

Ted Weber

This presentation will describe the physics behind the greenhouse effect and how it is increasing temperatures and changing the climate. Then I'll discuss methods to reduce future warming and damage, and how to adapt to warming that's already occurring. Mitigation strategies include reducing greenhouse gas emissions, pulling them out of the atmosphere, and reflecting excess heat into space. Adaptation strategies include resistance, resilience, and transformation.

Feeding the sparrowhawk while the sky breathes fire

Claire McCague

In 2020, fossil-fuel CO₂ emissions temporarily dropped by 5-7% due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but atmospheric concentrations of CO₂ and methane both rose. While optimists insist we can and must invent a pathway to rapidly decrease emissions, pragmatists point at the gap between emission reduction targets and the historic pace of global energy transitions. The greenhouse gas problem is a complicated hot mess. What are we going to do about it?

Science

T. C. Weber, Claire McCague

SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES

5:30pm | Kress | Panel

This panel features five-minute presentations by scientists about discoveries in their field that sound like science fiction but are real.

Science

Mason A. Porter (moderator), Avani Wildani, Chris Dardick, Thomas Holtz, Stephen Granade, Katie Mack, Emma Johanna Puranen

TALKING ABOUT THE BIG HEART AWARD

5:30pm | Blue Room | Panel

Worldcon awards the David A. Kyle Big Heart Award each year to a member of the science fiction community for their good work and great spirit. This panel features past winners of the Big Heart Award who will talk about its influence on fandom.

Fan Interest, History

Gay Haldeman (moderator), Erwin S. (Filthy Pierre) Strauss, Carolina Gomez Lagerlöf, Vincent Docherty, Ben Yalow

THE CW'S CONTRIBUTION TO GENRE TV

5:30pm | Calvert Room | Panel

Over the past 10 years, the CW has become a major source for speculative television. Panelists will discuss the role of the CW shows in the development of genre TV, and how the network has had an impact on the mainstreaming of genre.

TV & Film

DH Aire (moderator), Jennifer R. Povey, Pamela K Kinney, Mari Ness, Marshall Ryan Maresca

TWO TRUTHS AND A LIE: CONVENTION VERSION

5:30pm |  Palladian Ballroom | Participatory Event

Panelists present three wacky stories about things that have happened at conventions. Only two are true. Can you, the audience, find the lie?

Fan Interest, Interactive

David D. Levine, Scott Edelman, Geri Sullivan, Lynn Gold, Suzanne Palmer, Darcie Little Badger, Ardamus

WORKSHOP: CREATING MEDIEVAL-STYLE PAINTINGS

5:30pm | Presidential Board Room | Workshop

Making an illuminated manuscript feels like a magic trick—some paint, some gold, and suddenly you are holding a piece of the past. Join teaching artist Hannah Charlton to create tiny Medieval-style paintings using gouache and plant-based parchment. We will be making illuminated bookmarks using historical techniques and modern materials in a fun, friendly environment, and learn about a medium that shaped the world.

Art, Interactive

Hannah Charlton

ALTERNATE FAMILIES IN SF, FANTASY, AND HORROR

7:00pm | Cabinet Room | Panel

From found families to werewolf clans to polyamory to alien hives, this panel will discuss the best (and worst) examples of alternate family structures in science fiction, fantasy, and horror.

LGBTQ+, Literature, Reviewing/Critique
LP Kindred (moderator), Alex Acks, Stina Leicht, Melissa Caruso, Sherwood Smith, Suzanne Palmer

YE OLDE COSTUMES

5:30pm | Cabinet Room | Panel

What did it look like when our ancestors created and wore costumes? The panelist will discuss knowledge derived from theater, historical art, costume parties, tableau, pageants, and early photography.

Costume/Cosplay, History

Yakira (moderator), Debi Chowdhury, Ada Palmer, sandy manning, Delia Sherman

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FACT IN HISTORICAL FICTION

7:00pm | Calvert Room | Panel

What was the Ishango bone for? What games did the Romans play with d20s? We may never know, but archaeologists spend a lot of time working it out. For the rest of us, it can be hard to tell the difference between a fact, a likely fact, and a mere educated guess. Learn how to tell the difference to make your historical fiction and fantasy better.

Anthropology, Archaeology, History

Jennifer R. Povey, Jason Sanford, Marie Brennan, E. Lily Yu

READING - ELI K.P. WILLIAM & WENDY VAN CAMP

7:00pm |  Harris | Reading

Authors Eli K.P. William & Wendy Van Camp each read from recently published or upcoming works.

Eli K.P. William, Wendy Van Camp

CHICON 8 PRESENTS...

7:00pm |  Palladian Ballroom | Presentation

Come hear the Chicon 8 team present its plans for the 80th World Science Fiction Convention in 2022 in Chicago.

Con Running, Fan Interest, WSFS

Helen Montgomery (moderator)

CONCERT: WRECK THE SYSTEM**7:00pm** |  **Empire Ballroom** | **Concert**

Wreck The System is a DC-area nerdcore hip-hop band who blends other genres—including rock, EDM, dirty pop, dubstep, chiptune, and pretty much anything they want—into their music. Wreck The System is known for their energetic and amazing stage shows. Their fans identify with their overall message, which is “Be who you are without fear!”

*Music***HORROR AS SOCIAL COMMENTARY****7:00pm** |  **Kress** | **Panel**

Horror offers so much more than slasher movies and ghost stories. The importance of the horror genre across literature, film, and increasingly television can hardly be overstated as a crucial platform to explore human weakness and critique social ills—while sometimes delivering sensational scares! Join a discussion about what horror is for, and what horror can do across mediums.

Horror, TV & Film

Beverly Bambury (moderator), Ruthanna Emrys, Usman T. Malik, Nick Mamatas, Dilman Dila

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH LINDSAY ELLIS**7:00pm** | **Suite 325 Side Room** | **Kaffeeklatsch**

Small group discussion with author, essayist and film critic Lindsay Ellis. Advance sign up recommended.

*Lindsay Ellis***KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH RANDEE DAWN****7:00pm** | **Suite 325 Dining Room** | **Kaffeeklatsch**

Small group conversation with Randee Dawn.

*Randee Dawn***PLOT A MORE FANTASTIC FOUR MOVIE****7:00pm** | **Forum Room** | **Participatory Event**

There have been 4 attempts to make a Fantastic Four movie (so far). They were all bad. The attendees of DisCon III can do better. Let's plot, storyboard, and cast the perfect Fantastic Four movie.

Interactive, TV & Film

Jennifer Rhorer (moderator), Bob Greenberger, Tenaya Anue, Sumiko Saulson, Keith DeCandido

READINGS - STEVEN H SILVER AND CAROL GYZANDER**7:00pm** | **Capitol Room** | **Reading**

Readings with Steven H Silver and Carol Gyzander.

*Steven H Silver, Carol Gyzander***THE WORK OF MALKA OLDER****7:00pm** |  **Blue Room** | **Panel**

Our Guest of Honor Malka Older is both a novelist academic, and humanitarian aid worker. She was named the 2015 Senior Fellow for Technology and Risk at the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs, and has more than eight years' experience in humanitarian aid and development. Our panelists will explore what this means for her science fiction.

*About: Guest of Honor, Literature
Ada Palmer (moderator), Harold Feld, Tom Doyle, José Pablo Iriarte, Su J Sokol*

SCIENCE TALK 7: NEURAL NETWORKS AND AI

7:00pm |  **Diplomat Ballroom | Presentation**

Artificial Intelligence: Past, Present, Futures

John Ashmead

From neural nets and genetic algorithms to facial recognition and deep fakes, artificial intelligence (AI) is everywhere today. What exactly do we mean by AI? How did AI get where it is today? What role will it play in our lives? What are the benefits and risks of AI? And when will we have real AI?

Neural network attack vectors

Avani Wildani

Neural networks in the brain are sparsely connected, composed of components with an over 50% failure rate, and still amazingly consistent in their high-level behavior over time. We are building models of biologically plausible neural networks to help explain how the brain can protect against a malicious adversary while keeping networks tiny, low power, and easily trained. Using parameters taken from the somatosensory cortex, we have built a prototype simulator to show the relationships between connectivity and severity of possible attacks.

Science

Avani Wildani (moderator), John Ashmead

SIP WITH THE STARS (THURSDAY)

7:00pm | **Hotel Lobby | Participatory Event**

New con-goers are invited to hang out with published writers, critics, and convention veterans. A great way to make new friends and get the vibe of the con! We'll break into groups of 4-5 people, each with a mix of newer and more experienced folks. Sips With the Stars events are planned on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings at 7-8 p.m. in the private dining room of the hotel restaurant. Bring your own drinks!

DisCon Orientation, Fan Interest, Interactive John Wiswell (moderator), Scott Edelman, Victor Manibo, Elle E. Ire, Shaun Duke, Arley Sorg

WRITING "GRAY" MARKETS

7:00pm |  **Congressional Room (A&B) | Panel**

Legally speaking, whether you can buy or sell body parts in the U.S. is an extremely gray area. You can't sell a human kidney... unless it's pickled in a jar, in which case you can. Sort of. Sometimes. How do you convey this kind of semi-legality in your imagined world? This panel will discuss worldbuilding through the lens of legal and semi-legal commerce.

Economics, Writing

Marshall Ryan Maresca (moderator), Andrea Stewart, M. Darusha Wehm, Fonda Lee, Andrew Gudel

8:00PM

CONCERT: WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN GAMER SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

8:00pm | 🖥️ **Regency Ballroom** | **Participatory Event**

The Washington Metropolitan Gamer Symphony Orchestra is a nonprofit community orchestra whose mission is to share video game music by putting on affordable, accessible concerts in the D.C. area. Founded in 2012, the ensemble has grown to more than 100 members between the orchestra and choir. Join them for an evening of music from some of your favorite video games.

Music, Special Events

WHERE WILL WE GO IN 2023? CHENGDU & WINNIPEG Q&A

8:30pm | 🖥️ **Palladian Ballroom** | **Presentation**

There are two bids to run the Worldcon in 2023: Chengdu and Winnipeg. This is a chance to hear both teams tell you about their plans and sites prior to the vote on Friday.

*Con Running, Fan Interest, WSFS
Terry Fong (moderator)*

CONCERT: HEATHER MARGETSON

8:30pm | 🖥️ **Thomas** | **Concert**

Heather Margetson (formerly known as Heather Borean) is a singer-songwriter from Canada whose music will tug at your heartstrings.

*Music
Heather Margetson*

INSTRUMENTAL PLAY-ALONG WITH MAUGORN THE STRAY

8:30pm | **Calvert Room** | **Participatory Event**

Bring your instruments! After a 30-minute concert by Maugorn the Stray, he will lead the first portion of this instrumental play-along/jam session. All instruments welcome. As the evening grows late, the session will become self-organizing.

Interactive, Music

INTERNATIONAL SPACE PROGRAMS

8:30pm | 🖥️ **Diplomat Ballroom** | **Presentation**

Americans may not hear much about it, but there's a thriving culture of space exploration and science outside of the United States. Come hear about some of the notable missions, developments, and discoveries of 2020 and 2021.

*International, Science
Geoffrey Landis (moderator), John Ashmead,
Emma Johanna Puranen*

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH B. MORRIS ALLEN

8:30pm | 🖥️ **Harris** | **Kaffeeklatsch**

Online small group conversation with B. Morris Allen.

Morris Allen

MAKING SPACE FOR MAKING

8:30pm |

🖥️ **Congressional Room (A&B) | Panel**

Crafting, making, and cosplay all take space for equipment and materials. Panelists will discuss different approaches for finding space in your home for your projects—from unique storage solutions, to creating dedicated makerspaces in garages and basements. What are the pros and cons of using community makerspaces?

Costume/Cosplay, Crafting

Wendy Van Camp (moderator), Debi

Chowdhury, Charles Vess, Alex Wren

MEMORIAL SONG CIRCLE & THURSDAY NIGHT OPEN FILK

8:30pm | **Forum Room | Participatory Event**

A song circle to honor of those from the fannish community who are no longer with us, followed by a session of making music all night long. Unicorns, space flight, cons, cats—the topic could be anything and could change at any time. All styles of music welcome. Singers, instrumentalists, and listeners all welcome.

Interactive, Music

Ellen Kranzer

READINGS - DELIA SHERMAN AND JENNY RAE RAPPAPORT

8:30pm | **Capitol Room | Reading**

Readings with Delia Sherman and Jenny Rae Rappaport.

Jenny Rae Rappaport, Delia Sherman

THE EVOLUTION OF SOCIAL DEDUCTION GAMES

8:30pm | 🖥️ **Older | Panel**

Werewolf, Mafia, and other social deduction games based around uncovering evil players have been mainstays of sleepovers and school trips for decades. One of the more recent video game versions, *Among Us*, became a pandemic phenomenon. How have social deduction games developed over the years, and how have their mechanics been incorporated into other genres of gaming?

Gaming

Ira Alexandre (moderator), Hirotaka Osawa,

Alina Sidorova

2023 BIDDERS AND THE 2022 SEATED WORLDCON: Q&A

8:30pm | **Palladian Ballroom | Presentation**

There are two rival bids who want to run the 2023 Worldcon. Come to this session where Chengdu and Winnipeg will tell you their plans prior to the vote on Friday.

Afterwards there is a chance to hear Chicon 8's plans for their Worldcon next year.

Con Running, Fan Interest, WSFS

Helen Montgomery, Terry Fong

THURSDAY NIGHT PICK-PASS-PERFORM SONG CIRCLE

8:30pm | |

What is a pick-pass-perform song circle? Everyone in the room gets the chance to perform a number, pick a song by asking for a specific song, asking a specific person to perform, or picking a song topic, or pass their turn. All forms of music welcome.

Interactive, Music

Roberta Rogow

9:30PM

JOHN SCALZI DANCE PARTY

9:30pm |  Empire Ballroom | Participatory Event

Interactive, Music

READING - IORI KUSANO & YASHIMA YUGEN

10:00pm |  Harris | Reading

Authors Iori Kusano and Yashima Yugen each read from their recently published or upcoming work.

Iori Kusano, YASHIMA Yugen

SOCIAL MEDIA: MAKING ENEMIES & ALIENATING PEOPLE

10:00pm |

 Congressional Room (A&B) | Panel

Social media can be an excellent place to find online community, especially during a pandemic, but it can also be a fraught world of vicious gossip, lip service activism, and whatever the Algorithm is. The panel will explore ways of using different forms of social media to connect with like-minded people, while providing tips to avoid falling prey to such platform's worst aspects.

Fan Interest, Internet Culture

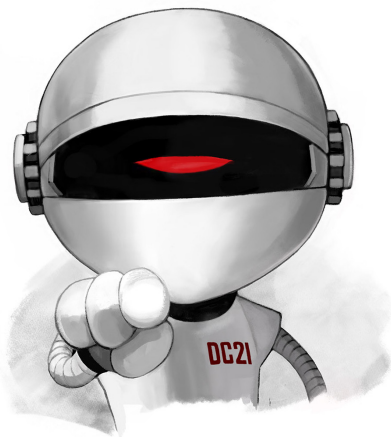
Travis Tippens (moderator), Catherynne Valente, Naomi Kritzer, Elizabeth Hirst

WHAT MAKES A SHŌNEN JUGGERNAUT?

10:00pm |  Diplomat Ballroom | Panel

The Shōnen manga formula goes something like this: take relatable underdog characters marketed towards teenage boys, add melodramatic themes of friendship, loyalty, loss, and struggle plus some cool fights, and sprinkle with redemption arcs, coming-of-age conflicts, and character deaths to taste. What makes certain titles iconic or commercially successful? How do Shōnen stories distinguish themselves from Western coming-of-age narratives like Harry Potter or *A Wrinkle in Time*?

Anime and Manga, International, Teens
Jo Ladzinski (moderator), Ira Alexandre, Haruna Ikezawa, J.T. Greathouse, Haruna



WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY



FRIDAY

8:30AM

BEING AFRICAN IS TOUGHER THAN YOU THINK

8:30am |  **Congressional Room (A&B) | Panel**

Practical barriers for creatives on the African continent include travel costs, visas, payment methods, conversation rates—not to mention failing electricity, high data costs, and PayPal not always working. Distinguished writers from the continent talk about the impact of practical problems, and if it gets better when you move to the West.

Africa, Economics

Oghenechovwe Donald Ekpeki (moderator), Yvette Lisa Ndlovu, Dilman Dila, Stephen Embleton

9:00AM

STROLL WITH THE STARS (FRIDAY)

9:00am | **Hotel Lobby | Participatory Event**

Meet up with facilitator Debra Nickelson at 9 a.m. in the lobby of the hotel for the now-traditional morning stroll.

Interactive

Dr Deb (moderator)

9:30AM

WSFS MAIN BUSINESS MEETING

9:30 |  **Palladian Ballroom | Participatory Event**

The WSFS Business Meeting is open to all Worldcon members. Come see and participate in how the sausage is made regarding the World Science Fiction Society (WSFS), relating to rules concerning the Hugo Awards, site selection of future Worldcons, and related matters. The main meeting debates and votes upon changes to the WSFS Constitution, including proposals pending ratification from past years, and new proposals that survived the preliminary business meeting. Arrive early for new handouts.

WSFS

WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | **FRIDAY** | SATURDAY | SUNDAY

10:00AM

CREATING A MORE ACCESSIBLE CONVENTION

10:00am |  **Congressional Room (A&B) | Panel**

How can we make conventions safer and more inclusive for those of us with disabilities (visible and otherwise) through mutual support and cultural change?

Con Running, Fan Interest
Ell Schulman (moderator), Claire Light/Jadie Jang, Kate Heartfield, Vida Cruz, Jasmine Gower

HISTORY OF THE FABRIC ARTS

10:00am | **Cabinet Room | Panel**

From horse-drawn felts to drop spindles, bone needles to stone loom weights, our experts consider how historical fabric art processes developed across various regions and what impact fabric technology had in the lives and products of historical peoples. Join art historians and fabric arts specialists as they talk about their favorite historical examples and coolest research discoveries.

Anthropology, Costume/Cosplay, History
Jenn Lyons (moderator), Rowenna Miller, Lisa Ashton, Sarah Avery

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH BONNIE JO STUFFLEBEAM

10:00am | **Suite 325 Dining Room | Kaffeeklatsch**

Small group discussion with Author and Rubber Duck collector Bonnie Jo Stufflebeam

Bonnie Jo Stufflebeam

INTRODUCING THE HUGO AWARD FOR BEST VIDEO GAME

10:00am |  **Empire Ballroom | Panel**

For the first time in its history, the Hugo Awards will honor a video game, using DisCon III's discretionary Hugo Award. A trial best interactive video game Hugo Award was attempted in 2006, but was dropped due to lack of nominations. Since then, science fiction and fantasy video games have continued to evolve and generate intense interest from both reviewers and the wider fan community. This panel will discuss what we can learn from this year's nominations for best video game.

Awards, Gaming
dave ring (moderator), Michael R. Underwood, Humza Kazmi, Ira Alexandre, E. Lily Yu

LEGAL AND ACTUARIAL SUPERNATURAL HYPOTHETICALS

10:00am | **Forum Room | Panel**

What does a lifetime annuity mean to the undead? Are werewolves responsible for their actions during the full moon if they contracted lycanthropy by accident? Do mermaids have standing to bring citizen suits under the Clean Water Act? Do vampire thralls run afoul of anti-slavery laws? Not actual legal advice. Results may vary. Please contact your local coven before attempting to bargain with the fae.

Anthropology, Philosophy
Naomi Kritzer, Andrija "Andy" Popovic, Vivian Abraham, Alex Shvartsman, Tenaya Anue, Pat Bahn

THE FUTURE IS CREATING/ STEALING YOUR JOB

10:00am | Calvert Room |
Presentation

Two academic talks:

SF Prototyping for Business Innovation

Hirota Osawa

SF prototyping is a business thinking method for utilizing science fiction narrative for making innovative ideas when considering the design of future societies. The method is getting famous in the US, China, and Japan. We compared it with conventional scenario planning in 9 groups, and the results were analyzed by 14 business experts with Mitsubishi Research Institute. The results suggest that the SF prototyping approach is more provocative and fun than the scenario planning approach.

Do Androids Dream of Taking Your Job?

Jesper Stage

In the past, technological breakthroughs have often led to job losses in individual economic sectors, but average wages have usually gone up and overall employment has generally increased as well. Might things be different in the future? What might artificial intelligence and robots mean for the labor market? This talk will look at some of the real-world economics of the impacts of technological change on the labor market and compare with how we see this depicted in science fiction.

Academic, Economics

Hirota Osawa (moderator), Jesper Stage

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH CORA BUHLERT

10:00am |  Harris | Kaffeeklatsch

Online small group conversation with Cora Buhlert.

Cora Buhlert

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH MELISSA CARUSO

10:00am | Suite 325 Side Room |
Kaffeeklatsch

Small group discussion with author Melissa Caruso

Melissa Caruso

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH NANCY KRESS

10:00am | Suite 325 Main Room |
Kaffeeklatsch

Nancy Anne Kress began writing in 1976 and won the Hugo and Nebula Awards for her 1991 novella *Beggars in Spain*, which became a novel in Jean Marie Ward. Her five other Nebulas include recognition for her novellas *After the Fall*, *Before the Fall*, *During the Fall* (2013), and *Yesterday's Kin* (2015). Her most recent novels are *Flash Point* (2012), *The Eleventh Gate* (2020), and *Sea Change* (2020).

Panelist: GOH

Nancy Kress

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH TERI.ZIN

10:00am | Suite 325 Bedroom Room |
Kaffeeklatsch

Kaffe Klatsch with teri.zin

teri.zin

READINGS - JULIETTE WADE AND ALAN SMALE

10:00am | Capitol Room | Reading

Readings with Juliette Wade and Alan Smale.

Alan Smale, Juliette Wade

SIGNING - GREGORY A. WILSON

10:00am | Autographs 4 |
Participatory Event

Fan Interest, Signing

Gregory A. Wilson

SIGNING - JOHN SCALZI

10:00am | Autographs 2 |
Participatory Event

*Fan Interest, Signing
John Scalzi*

SIGNING - MARY ROBINETTE KOWAL

10:00am | Autographs 1 |
Participatory Event

*Fan Interest, Signing
Mary Robinette Kowal*

SIGNING - NATALIE NAUDUS

10:00am | Autographs 3 |
Participatory Event

*Fan Interest, Signing
Natalie Naudus*

SIGNING - GREGORY A. WILSON

2:30pm | Autographs 2 |
Participatory Event

*Fan Interest, Signing
Gregory A. Wilson*

SO HAPPY TOGETHER

10:00am | Kress | Panel

Collaboration can be exhilarating—and infuriating. What's the key to making it work? How do you stay true to your own voice while working on a project with someone else? How do you develop an idea together? This panel will discuss different techniques for working with a partner (including dividing the labor and communicating), as well as the psychological aspects of a partnership (when to compromise, how to play to each other's strengths and weaknesses, and more).

Writing

Ellen Kushner (moderator), Brenda W. Clough, Alyc Helms, Hildy Silverman, Dohjin Miyamoto, Arley Sorg

THE FUTURE OF WORK (POST PANDEMIC EDITION)

10:00am | Diplomat Ballroom |
Panel

Just when it looked as if labor was losing any leverage, and wages, working conditions and permanent work seemed on a downward spiral, the world is experiencing post-pandemic labor shortages across sectors, and changes in worker expectations for compensation, safety, and work environment. What near-term labor market changes can we expect to be lasting? What can we learn from past plagues? What are the implications for extrapolating farther-flung future societies?

History

Dale Vaughn (moderator), Jo Walton, Stina Leicht, Wesley Chu, Meg Elison, David McRingo

JOHN PICACIO'S SPOTLIGHT ON NEW ARTISTS

10:00am | Blue Room |
Presentation

Multiple Hugo-winning artist John Picacio showcases several new artists on the speculative art scene who will present their work to the Worldcon audience.

Art, New Media

John Picacio (moderator)

WHAT'S GREAT ABOUT AFRICAN SF?

10:00am | Thomas | Panel

The good, the great, and the just plain weird. Writers, editors and filmmakers talk about works they love from Africa—novels, films, comics, and literary gossip mags.

Africa, Literature, TV & Film

Oghenechovwe Donald Ekepeki (moderator), Chinelo Onwualu, Terrence Francis, Mame Bougouma Diene, Wole Talabi

GAMING ROOM AND ONLINE GAMING -- FRIDAY

10:00am |  Blue Room Prefunction | Scheduled Game

Come join us for freeform gaming!

Online, visit the gaming channels on Discord.

Onsite, visit the gaming room, which is the Blue Room Prefunction space on level one. Stop by for a pickup game, or to see the schedule of games people are looking to run.

Want to run a game? Fill out our online form to share the details for both onsite and online games. Or simply leave a note in person on the message board in the gaming room.

Gaming, Interactive

11:30AM

PUBLISHING IN AFRICA

11:30am |  Thomas | Panel

There has been an explosion of interest in African science fiction and fantasy internationally. What is the situation of publishing on the continent? What impact has been had by the internet? What are the highs and lows—and what may be coming next? Is there a downside to authors finding new audiences outside of Africa?

Africa, International, Publishing
Oghenechovwe Donald Ekpeki (moderator),
Iqo DianaAbasi, Virgilia Ferrao, Chinelo
Onwuulu, Mazi Nwonwu, Shadreck Chikoti

GAMESCHOOLING

11:30am |  Kress | Panel

The authorities always said games would rot our brains. But these days there are tons of games and gaming techniques, both online and offline, that teach skills such as math, science, language, and critical thinking. Our panel of educators, game experts, and parents will provide input on how to navigate the gaming waters with an eye toward learning.

Gaming, Teaching/Education
sandy manning (moderator), Alan, Yakira,
Chris Dardick, Joey Yu

SPECULATIVE NOIR

11:30am | Forum Room | Panel

How much do speculative fiction subgenres like cyberpunk and urban fantasy owe to noir? Are there tropes or other aspects of noir that spec fic should subvert or reject? What can speculative fiction noir do that regular noir can't? From neon-lit future noir to hardboiled fairy tales, this panel will discuss the influence of classic noir and hardboiled fiction on speculative fiction.

Literature
Victor Manibo (moderator), Ellen Datlow,
Andrija "Andy" Popovic, T. C. Weber

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH CASS MORRIS

11:30am | Suite 325 Dining Room | Kaffeeklatsch

Small group conversation with Cass Morris.
Cass Morris

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH LAWRENCE M. SCHOEN

11:30am | Suite 325 Main Room | Kaffeeklatsch

Fun small group discussion with author Lawrence M. Schoen
Lawrence M. Schoen

WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | **FRIDAY** | SATURDAY | SUNDAY

CONCERT: KATHLEEN SLOAN & MERAV HOFFMAN

11:30am | Cabinet Room | Concert

After spending years listening to music and singing the occasional harmony, Kathleen started solo performing after she moved to Denver, Colorado, in 1989. Since then, her clear soprano has braced many folk cons. Her award-winning songs are guaranteed to delight. Merav Hoffman lives in New Jersey and while best known for her harmonies is a marvelous solo performer as well. She is an accomplished songwriter and her concert is guaranteed to delight.

Music

Kathleen Sloan, Merav Hoffman

CREATING NEW MYTHOLOGY FROM HIDDEN HISTORY

11:30am | Blue Room | Panel

One of the astounding things about the internet has been the way historians—both amateur and professional—have used it to research, write, and make available histories that have not been accessible before. Histories of the marginalized, oppressed, sidelined, and disappeared are now available as the stuff of story. This panel will discuss the pleasures, possibilities, and pitfalls of the new true stories writers are discovering and using.

History, International, Mythology

Ada Palmer (moderator), Karlo Yeager Rodriguez, Andrea Hairston, Sheree Renée Thomas, Rebecca Kuang, Roseanne Brown

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH MAQUEL A. JACOB

11:30am | Suite 325 Side Room | Kaffeeklatsch

Small group conversation with author Maquel A. Jacob.

Maquel A. Jacob

HOLDING SUPERHEROES ACCOUNTABLE

11:30am | Empire Ballroom | Panel

For superheroes to feel heroic, we want them to fight evil while remaining above the moral fray. But in many comics and comic book films, superheroes cross moral lines. How do we ethically evaluate heroes who act immorally, like Batman torturing villains, Wanda holding an entire town hostage, or Wonder Woman sexually assaulting a mind-controlled bystander? How can we talk about these stories in a way that holds heroes accountable for their immoral actions?

Comics, Ethics, Philosophy

A.C. Wise, Brenda W. Clough, Jenn Lyons, James Bacon, Peter Adrian Behravesh, Hildy Silverman

INTERVIEWING 101: HOW TO TALK TO THE PRESS

11:30am | Older | Presentation

Got a book coming out? Got a project you want people to know about? Are you an expert in something? Then you need to get your voice heard in the media! It's not as scary as you might think it is, but good prep, a little research and some training can turn you into the kind of source reporters will want to speak to again and again. And each time, they'll mention your book, or your craft, or your business, or your project! Rande Dawn is a veteran entertainment journalist for outlets including Variety, the LA Times and Today.com, and she'll show you in this special interactive workshop how to be the one fielding the questions ... and the one with all the answers.

Interactive, Writing

Rande Dawn

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH SARAH PINSKER

11:30am | Suite 325 Bedroom Room | Kaffeeklatsch

Small group conversation with Sarah Pinsker.

Sarah Pinsker

READINGS - ALEX SHVARTSMAN AND E. LILY YU

11:30am | Capitol Room | Reading

Readings with Alex Shvartsman and E. Lily Yu.

Alex Shvartsman, E. Lily Yu

SIGNING - CAROL GYZANDER

11:30am | Autographs 4 | Participatory Event

Fan Interest, Signing

Carol Gyzander

ROUND TABLE ON BUSINESS INNOVATION

11:30am |

🖥️ Congressional Room (A&B) | Panel

Science fiction prototyping is a promising way of thinking about future societies in the VUCA (Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity, and Ambiguity) era. SF prototyping creates scenarios using workshops to activate the knowledge of multiple persons in a company, and to discuss how society should be by backcasting from a future image. We welcome distinguished researchers from Japan.

Academic, Economics, International Dohjin Miyamoto (moderator), YASHIMA Yugen, Denis TAILLANDIER, Haruna

SCIENCE TALK 12: THE JAMES WEBB SPACE TELESCOPE

Introduction to the James Webb Space Telescope

Scott Rohrbach

The James Webb Space Telescope will launch during DisCon III, on December 18, 2021. Scott will give us an overview of this new telescope's capabilities as well as the plans the astronomical community has for exploring exoplanets, far-away galaxies, and numerous other astronomical phenomena.

11:30am | 🖥️ Diplomat Ballroom | Presentation

Science

Scott Rohrbach

SELLING YOUR ARTWORK IN THE DIGITAL AGE

11:30am | Calvert Room | Panel

Instagram, conventions, YouTube, Instagram, TikTok, Facebook, art galleries, local craft shows, Instagram, Etsy, Patreon, personal websites, and Instagram... What are the best ways to get your artwork noticed? Where do you focus your energy to get the most bang for your buck? Do you need an art agent, and if so, how do you get one? Why do you hate Instagram, and why do you have to use it anyway?

Art, Internet Culture, New Media Sara Felix (moderator), John Picacio, Charles Vess, Penelope Flynn

SIGNING - NEIL CLARKE

11:30am | Autographs 3 | Participatory Event

Fan Interest, Signing

Neil Clarke

SIGNING - BONNIE JO STUFFLEBEAM

11:30am | **Autographs 2 | Participatory Event**

*Fan Interest, Signing
Bonnie Jo Stufflebeam*

SIGNING - CATHERYNN VALENTE

11:30am | **Autographs 1 | Participatory Event**

*Fan Interest, Signing
Catherynne Valente*

1:00PM

CONCERT: THE CHROMATICS

1:00pm |  **Empire Ballroom | Concert**

For 25 years, The Chromatics have been a high-energy vocal band on a mission to delight audiences with a full spectrum of songs about science, technology, life, and their intersections. They have taken their astronomically correct a cappella songs (a project called AstroCappella) from coast to coast, and their CD has flown in space (for realz!). Here on earth they've captivated young and old alike in many places, including the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage.

Music

CRAFTING AN ELEVATOR PITCH

1:00pm |  **Diplomat Ballroom | Panel**

Success is equal parts preparation and luck—so be prepared when luck puts you in the right place at the right time! How do you get ready for a pitch opportunity with an editor or producer, when you may have less than a minute to sell your dream project?

Publishing, Writing

Sarah Avery (moderator), Michael R.

Underwood, José Pablo Iriarte, Diana M.

Pho, Joshua Bilmes

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH CRANT CARRINGTON

1:00pm | **Suite 325 Dining Room | Kaffeeklatsch**

Small group conversation with Grant Carrington.

Grant Carrington

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH JO WALTON

1:00pm | **Suite 325 Bedroom Room | Kaffeeklatsch**

Small group discussion with author Jo Walton. Advance sign up recommended

Jo Walton

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH MARK L. VAN NAME

1:00pm | **Suite 325 Main Room | Kaffeeklatsch**

Small group conversation with Mark L. Van Name.

Mark L. Van Name

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH PATRICIA A. JACKSON

1:00pm | **Suite 325 Side Room | Kaffeeklatsch**

Small group conversation with Patricia A. Jackson.

Patricia A. Jackson

LEARN LANG BELTA: THE LANGUAGE OF THE EXPANSE

1:00pm | Calvert Room | Workshop

Far from Earth's gravity well, the brave and resourceful Belters have developed their own Creole language. Lang Belta combines languages from all over Earth with the unique culture of the Belt. This course is a friendly, hands-on introduction, teaching you to understand spoken Lang Belta and to produce original sentences of your own. No knowledge of The Expanse is required, and there will be no plot spoilers.

Interactive, Linguistics & Language
Hanne Paine

LOST (OR GAINED) IN TRANSLATION?

1:00pm | Older | Panel

Translation is more than simply replacing words. Translators must ensure that the target audience can understand the work, while communicating the author's voice as closely as possible. Panelists will discuss the creative art of translating and how translation can enhance, detract from, or even recontextualize an original text.

International, Linguistics & Language, Writing
Su J Sokol (moderator), Rebecca Kuang, Alex Shvartsman, Emad El-Din Aysha, Jana Bianchi

QUEERING NECROMANCY

1:00pm | Forum Room | Panel

The intersection of queerness and necromancy has cropped up several times in recent years. Is there something about defying heteronormativity that resonates with these themes? What inspiration can we draw from such works that challenge genre conventions?

Horror, LGBTQ+
Jenn Lyons (moderator), LP Kindred, dave ring, Jo Ladzinski, K.A. Doore, Kel Coleman

NOBODY LOOKS LIKE THEMSELVES ANYMORE

1:00pm | Thomas | Panel

What are the cultural and social boons and banes that might come from a growing technological ability to change your physical appearance? What are the implications for identity? For fashion? How might governments, science fictional or otherwise, react to developments in body alterations and/or consciousness if less tied to a single physical form? Will we all experience the benefits and banes equally?

Anthropology, Ethics, Science
Phoebe Barton (moderator), Vivian Abraham, Iori Kusano, George Jreije

SCIENCE TALK 3: GALILEO AND THE SCIENCE DENIERS

Mario Livio

A fresh biography of Galileo Galilei which puts his scientific discoveries in context. Disturbed by rampant science denial in America that has only intensified in recent years, I researched the life, ideas, and actions of this brilliant man who encountered similar challenges centuries ago. The result is a fascinating biography filled with lessons relevant for today—whether with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic or climate change. I will discuss a few of these topics in this talk. My book *Galileo and the Science Deniers* was selected by *The Washington Post* as one of the best books of 2020.

1:00pm | Harris | Presentation

History, Science
Dr. Mario Livio

READINGS - LESLEY WHEELER AND GREGORY A. WILSON

1:00pm | Capitol Room | Reading

Readings with Lesley Wheeler and Gregory A. Wilson.
Lesley Wheeler, Gregory A. Wilson

REVERSE-HAREM REFORM SCHOOL OMEGAVERSE ROMANCE

1:00pm |  Kress | Panel

In 2018, this genre was barely a gleam in AO3's eye. Suddenly it was all over Goodreads, Amazon, and paranormal romance forums, with dozens of series all over the web. Why and how did this extremely specific genre become the hot ticket of 2019 and 2020? What questions does it open up?

Fan Interest, Literature

Yakira (moderator), Lindsay Ellis, N.E.

Davenport, Sumiko Saulson, Marina Berlin

RIGOR AND RANKING: REVIEWING

1:00pm |
 Congressional Room (A&B) | Panel

This panel will cover what makes for a great review? How does one go about becoming a reviewer? Where would one go to read SFF reviews? What is the benefit of a critical review, and how does one write such a review well? If a reviewer makes a misstep in a review, how should an editor respond?

Reviewing/Critique, Writing

Adri Joy (moderator), Alona Silina, Gautam

Bhatia, Eli K.P. William, Nikhil Singh,

Penelope Flynn

SIGNING - JEREMY TEGROTHUIS

1:00pm | Autographs 4 |
Participatory Event

Fan Interest, Signing

SIGNING - MARIE BRENNAN/ M.A. CARRICK

1:00pm | Autographs 1 |
Participatory Event

Fan Interest, Signing

Marie Brennan

SIGNING - KATIE MACK

1:00pm | Autographs 3 |
Participatory Event

Fan Interest, Signing

Katie Mack

SIGNING - NATHAN W. TORONTO

1:00pm | Autographs 2 |
Participatory Event

Fan Interest, Signing

Nathan W. Toronto

THE PUBLIC DOMAIN WE DON'T HAVE

1:00pm |  Palladian Ballroom |
Panel

Entertainment industry lobbyists keep pushing copyright life further and further into the future. If copyright in the U.S. hadn't been extended in 1976 and again in 1998, many more works would now be in the public domain. Join us to discuss the fun mashups we might have had if copyright extension hadn't passed. Bring your own soapbox.

Fan Interest, History, Interactive

Jennifer Rhorer (moderator), Avani Wildani,

Tenaya Anue, Katherine Crighton

THE SOFTER SIDE OF SCIENCE FICTION

1:00pm |  Blue Room | Panel

What is "social science fiction?" How have authors used ideas from "soft" sciences like sociology, anthropology, and linguistics to craft convincing future scenarios, telling fascinating stories while shedding light on current human problems?

Science, Writing

Kathryn Sullivan (moderator), Nancy Kress,

Sarah Pinsker, Mur Lafferty, Wesley Chu,

Malka Older, Lezli Robyn

WHAT IS THIS THING CALLED FILK?

1:00pm | Cabinet Room | Panel

You've seen filk items on the convention schedule, but aren't sure what it is. Come find out!

Fan Interest, Music

Matt G. Leger, Kathleen Sloan, Mark, Merav Hoffman

2:30PM

BUILDING STARSHIPS WITH A DIGITAL BRUSH

2:30pm | Presidential Board Room | Workshop

Maurizio Manzieri, 2021 Hugo Award nominee for best professional artist, is a renowned international cover artist and teacher of digital illustration, residing in Turin, Italy. During this exclusive workshop, he will be pleased to share his techniques of work.

Art, Interactive

Maurizio Manzieri

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO BID FOR WORLDCON

2:30pm | Palladian Ballroom | Panel

How do you choose a location? How much startup capital do you need? How do you assemble a staff? This panel will tell you everything you need to know, including what unsuspected resources are at your disposal, when putting together a Worldcon bid.

Con Running, Fan Interest, WSFS

Stephen Cooper (moderator), Erwin S. (Filthy Pierre) Strauss, James Bacon, Marguerite Smith, Tal Goldman, Ben Yalow

CONCERT: SEANAN MCGUIRE AND DEAD SEXY

2:30pm | Empire Ballroom | Concert

In addition to being a professional author, Seanan McGuire is an award-winning singer/songwriter and an active member of the filk community. She says, "This is both because I love music, and because I have always specialized in acquiring way too many hobbies." Seanan's songs range from serious love songs, to sultry ballads about mad scientists, to educational songs about epidemiology. Come to this lively concert to hear Seanan and her backup band, Dead Sexy, perform songs by Seanan and others.

Music

Seanan McGuire, Brenda Sutton, Bill Sutton, Dr. Mary Crowell, Amy McNally

MEETUP: ESCAPE ARTISTS

2:30pm | Ambassador Ballroom | Discussion Group

A meetup for the fans of the Escape Artists podcasts, including 2021 Hugo nominees *Escape Pod* and *PodCastle*. Come chat all things audio short fiction with us!

Fan Interest, Interactive, Literature
Benjamin C. Kinney, Mur Lafferty

WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | **FRIDAY** | SATURDAY | SUNDAY

FINDING COMMUNITIES

2:30pm |  Thomas | Panel

It can be hard to find people with common interests if you are isolated geographically, or when you move to a new place. What goes into finding fellow fans, conventions, gaming or social groups? How do you get to know a new community culture? What pitfalls should you avoid?

Fan Interest, Internet Culture
Victor Manibo (moderator), Perianne Lurie, Christine Sandquist, AJ Odasso, Alina Sidorova

JUNK PILE COSTUMING FOR KIDS

2:30pm | Room 323 | Workshop

Duct tape, old buttons, tin foil, paper plates, glitter, glue sticks... We'll supply the junk, you bring your imagination! We'll help you make a costume from everyday scraps. No sewing skills needed.

Children's, Costume/Cosplay, Interactive
Angela Pound (moderator), Kevin Roche, Yakira

PLANETARY DEFENSE AT NASA

2:30pm |  Diplomat Ballroom | Panel

NASA's Planetary Defense Coordination Office (PDCO) leads efforts to find and track near-Earth objects—asteroids and comets that can come near Earth—and to address the asteroid impact hazard. The Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART), targeted for launch in late November, is NASA's first test mission of an asteroid deflection technique. Join panelists from the PDCO and DART teams to learn more about planetary defense at NASA and DART's epic journey to the Didymos binary asteroid system.

Science
Kelly Fast (moderator), Lindley Johnson, Thomas Statler, Andrew Rivkin

PUBLISHING YOUR E-BOOK

2:30pm | Calvert Room | Panel

What is the process for self-publishing your own e-books? Who should you hire to create a high-quality product and make it stand out? Where can you sell it beyond Amazon? Come and learn how to get your e-books published and noticed by the right readers.

Publishing
DH Aire (moderator), Brenda W. Clough, Matthew S. Rotundo, Tao Wong, Katherine Crighton

READINGS - JOSE PABLO IRIARTE

2:30pm | Capitol Room | Reading

Reading - Jose Pablo Iriarte.
José Pablo Iriarte

SHEREE RENÉE THOMAS WITH DANIAN DARRELL JERRY

2:30pm |  Blue Room | Presentation

We are honored to host DisCon III Special Guest Sheree Renée Thomas, winner of the 2001 and the 2005 World Fantasy Award for Year's Best Anthology in conversation with Danian Darrell Jerry: writer, and teacher of literature and composition at the University of Memphis.

Panelist: GOH
Danian Darrell Jerry (moderator), Sheree Renée Thomas

SUBLIGHT DIPLOMACY

2:30pm | Forum Room | Panel

How do you approach interstellar diplomacy if you don't have faster-than-light communication? When mutual aid is out of the question, what can you offer instead?

Economics, Philosophy, Writing
Carolyn Ives Gilman (moderator), Peter Adrian Behravesch, Walter Jon Williams, Andrew Gudge, David Moles

TEXTILES AND POLITICS

2:30pm | Cabinet Room | Panel

From the royal purples of the Mediterranean to sumptuary laws, what people wore (or were allowed to wear) was a political statement. Join historians in a discussion of the politics of clothing. Let's talk about textiles, clothing styles, adornments, and politics.

Costume/Cosplay, History
Rowenna Miller (moderator), Alyc Helms,
Cass Morris, Marie Brennan, Sarah Avery

THE BEST VIDEO GAMES OF THE LAST TEN YEARS

2:30pm | Older | Panel

What are the best video games of each year from 2010 to 2019? What about for the decade as a whole? What games should have been nominated for a Hugo Award, if a Hugo for video games had existed in the year of their release? Panelists and audience members will make the call together.

Gaming, Interactive
Heath Miller (moderator), Michael R.
Underwood, Gregory A. Wilson, Jasmine
Gower

THE WIZARD'S BUTLER DID IT: FANTASY WHODUNITS

2:30pm | Harris | Panel

Mysteries are popular in fantasy settings. How do you make a crime story and mystery work in a fantasy setting with magic and fantastic elements? What can an author do to take best advantage of the fantasy setting, and ensure that methods and opportunities enabled through fantastic means are neither blatantly obvious nor impossible to predict in advance?

Writing
Nicole Glover (moderator), Mary Morman,
Sean Mead, Aliette de Bodard, Roberta
Rogow, Marshall Ryan Maresca

THE NEVER-ENDING STORY: SERIES FICTION

2:30pm |
Congressional Room (A&B) | Panel

Sometimes it seems as if series fiction dominates the field. Every author has a sequel in the works, trilogies become five books, ten books, and sometimes the author dies before the series ends. This panel will discuss what you can do with a series that you can't do with a standalone, the different pleasures of connected stories set in one world, and the series that is a single story.

Writing
John Scalzi (moderator), Martha Wells,
Fonda Lee, Mary Robinette Kowal, Sherwood
Smith, Shannon Chakraborty

XENOLINGUISTICS

2:30pm | Kress | Panel

What makes a language alien, or at least non-human? This may involve grammatical systems not found (so far) in natural human languages, or even modes of communication distinct from spoken, signed, or written language. Will aliens have different understandings of the context in which a communication takes place?

Linguistics & Language
Lawrence M. Schoen, Brenda Kalt, Ruthanna
Emrys, Juliette Wade, Jana Bianchi, Yasser
Bahjatt

SIGNING - JOE HALDEMAN

2:30pm | Autographs 1 |
Participatory Event

Fan Interest, Signing
Joe Haldeman

SIGNING - KEITH DECANDIDO

2:30pm | Autographs 4 | Signing

Signing with Keith DeCandido
Keith DeCandido

SIGNING - REBECCA KUANG

2:30pm | Autographs 2 |
Participatory Event

*Fan Interest, Signing
Rebecca Kuang*

SIGNING - RANDEE DAWN

2:30pm | Autographs 3 |
Participatory Event

Signing with Rande Dawn.
*Fan Interest, Signing
Rande Dawn*

4:00PM

CONCERT: CARLA ULBRICH AND JOE GIACOIO

4:00pm |  Empire Ballroom |
Concert

Carla Ulbrich and Joe Giacoio are married singer songwriters. Carla Ulbrich is a comical singer-songwriter and guitarist whose biggest musical influences were Sesame Street, camp songs, and cat food commercials. She has a love of the absurdities of ordinary life, a somewhat twisted viewpoint, and a way with words. Joe Giacoio has won a number of awards for his unique guitar-playing style and quirky songwriting.

Music

Carla Ulbrich, Joe Giacoio

ENVISIONING BLACK FUTURES

4:00pm |  Thomas | Panel

What does it mean to envision Black futures? This panel will discuss Afrofuturism, Africanfuturism, and methods to draw on the mythology and history of the African diaspora to imagine technologically advanced tomorrows and fantastical alternate universes.

Africa, International, Writing

*Sheree Renée Thomas, Andrea Hairston,
Patricia A. Jackson, N.E. Davenport, Dana L.
Little, Nicole Glover, Ada Nnadi*

GARY K. WOLFE INTERVIEWS NANCY KRESS

4:00pm |  Blue Room | Panel

Gary K. Wolfe, well known reviewer for *Locus Magazine*, interviews DisCon III Guest of Honor Nancy Kress.

Panelist: GOH

*Gary K Wolfe (moderator), Nancy Kress,
Mary Robinette Kowal*

NON-EUROPEAN VAMPIRES

4:00pm |  Older | Panel

The concept of bloodsucking monster that looks (vaguely) like a person but actually feeds on people isn't unique to European folklore. Let's dive into mythology from around the world to explore other conceptions of the vampire and what makes them compelling.

*Horror, International, Mythology
Beverly Bambury (moderator), Usman T.
Malik, L. Marie Wood, Tao Wong, Nick
Mamatas, Nikhil Singh*

MRS. HAWKING PART VI: FALLEN WOMEN**4:00pm** |  **Palladian Ballroom** | **TV - Live Event****by Phoebe Roberts and Bernie Gabin**

London, 1888

Mrs. Hawking's rival may have been vanquished, but the struggle has left rifts in the bonds between our heroes. They find themselves alienated and in pain even as they must take on the infamous murderer Jack the Ripper. Where once they were always there for one another, a new life path for Mary, Nathaniel's lingering trauma, and Mrs. Hawking's pulling away from her chosen family threaten to shatter the team forever.

READINGS - TOM DOYLE AND ANDREA STEWART**4:00pm** | **Capitol Room** | **Reading**

Readings with Tom Doyle and Andrea Stewart.

*Andrea Stewart, Tom Doyle***SIGNING - DARYL GREGORY****4:00pm** | **Autographs 1** | **Participatory Event***Fan Interest, Signing
Daryl Gregory***SIGNING - LESLEY M. WHEELER****4:00pm** | **Autographs 4** | **Participatory Event***Fan Interest, Signing
Lesley Wheeler***SIGNING - MATTHEW S. ROTUNDO****4:00pm** | **Autographs 3** | **Participatory Event***Fan Interest, Signing
Matthew S. Rotundo***SIGNING - SHEILA WILLIAMS****4:00pm** | **Autographs 2** | **Participatory Event***Fan Interest, Signing
Sheila Williams***TAKING CARE OF VOLUNTEERS****4:00pm** |  **Congressional Room (A&B)** | **Panel**

Cons and other fannish activities rely on volunteer efforts but many conventions burn through volunteers at every level. Depending on people who work for free (plus maybe some snacks and a t-shirt) presents special challenges. Panelists will discuss best practices for recruiting and managing volunteers, as well as cases in which you should use paid labor; how to provide good working conditions and ways to prevent burn out.

*Con Running
Vivian Abraham (moderator), LP Kindred,
Bill Sutton, Claire Rousseau, Jennifer Rhorer,
Sumiko Saulson***THE SMALL PRESS TAKEOVER OF SHORT FICTION****4:00pm** | **Forum Room** | **Panel**

There was a time, long ago, when short fiction had to be published in one of the "big three" magazines to get popular attention and critical acclaim. The rise of magazines like *Clarkesworld*, *Uncanny*, and *Beneath Ceaseless Skies*, among many others, make markets of today a much more level playing field. We'll talk about what's changed and why, and what it means for the state of speculative fiction.

*Literature, Publishing
Jed Hartman (moderator), Michael A.
Ventrella, Neil Clarke, Scott H. Andrews,
Lynne M. Thomas, L. D. Lewis*

TIARA WORKSHOP

2021-12-17 16:00:00 |
Presidential Board Room | Workshop

Make and decorate a tiara with Hugo and Chesley nominated artist Sara Felix.
Sara Felix

TRANSLATION SLAM

Many of us enjoy reading speculative fiction in translation, but don't appreciate the nuanced work that goes into creating it. In this translation slam*, each panelist has translated a piece from its original language into English. They will share their translations with the audience and discuss their decision-making process and the nuances that went into their choices.

*slam (noun, informal): a performance in which competitors recite their entries to an audience.

4:00pm | Cabinet Room | Panel

International, Linguistics & Language, Writing

Sue (moderator), Jean Bürlesk, Alex Shvartsman, Julia Meitov Hersey, Yasser Bahjatt

UNUSUAL POLITICAL STRUCTURES IN SPECULATIVE FIC

4:00pm |  Kress | Panel

There is excellent speculative fiction creating political structures different from the usual monarchies, republics, and despotisms. Systems like the microdemocracy in Malka Older's *Infomocracy*, direct democracy in Alastair Reynolds' *The Prefect*, and the take on empire in Arkady Martine's *A Memory Called Empire* create interesting structures outside of our more usual paradigms. What makes them work, and what lessons can we learn about worldbuilding thematic and believable systems of government?

Literature

Jo Miles (moderator), Aliette de Bodard, Arkady Martine, Adri Joy, Malka Older, Gautam Bhatia

WRITING TO SPEC

4:00pm | Calvert Room | Panel

Plenty of paid writing jobs involve writing to spec—that is, writing to an assigned topic and style. From comics to licensed properties to ghostwritten novels, writing to spec can be both lucrative and frustrating. How can you find the best compromise between your artistic voice and your client's expectations? How closely will you be expected to hew to your assignment? What goes into writing a "bible" anyway? Writers and editors who have worked for different companies share their experiences.

Publishing, Writing

Alex Acks (moderator), Brenda W. Clough, Diana M. Pho, Wesley Chu, Seanan McGuire

5:30PM

ASEXUAL CHARACTERS DONE RIGHT

5:30pm | Calvert Room | Panel

Asexual characters are on the rise in speculative fiction, and it's about time! Panelists will discuss their favorite recent ace characters and storylines, how to portray nuanced ace relationships, and common pitfalls and errors to avoid.

LGBTQ+, Writing

Heather Rose Jones (moderator), John Wiswell, Darcie Little Badger, Melissa Caruso

BAD KIDNEYS AND OTHER NFTS

5:30pm | Blue Room | Panel

The perils of being on the internet have a tendency to create an infinite number of awful rabbit holes to fall into. Our panelists will discuss ways to avoid becoming Twitter's main character, tools to steer clear from bad takes, and general ideas on good literary citizenship. All in the face of problematic favs and infinite bad actors in addition to the rest of the world's ills.

Fan Interest, Internet Culture

Marianne Kirby (moderator), L. D. Lewis, Malka Older, Arley Sorg

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH BOB GREENBERGER

5:30pm | Suite 325 Dining Room | Kaffeeklatsch

Small group discussion with Author, Editor and Educator Bob Greenberger. Advance sign up recommended
Bob Greenberger

CONCERT: BLIBBERING HUMDINGERS

5:30pm | Thomas | Concert

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

Music

CONCERT: DEVO SPICE

5:30pm | Empire Ballroom | Concert

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. His synchronized video just adds to the hilarity. He performs regularly across the country at science fiction conventions, music clubs, comedy clubs, and any place that has a sense of humor.

Music

Devo Spice

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH FULVIO GATTI

5:30pm | Suite 325 Side Room | Kaffeeklatsch

Small group conversation with author Fulvia Gatti.

Fulvio Gatti

WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | **FRIDAY** | SATURDAY | SUNDAY

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH JEAN BÜRLESK

5:30pm | Suite 325 Main Room | Kaffeeklatsch

Small group conversation with Jean Bürlesk.
Jean Bürlesk

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH SHANNON CHAKRABORTY

5:30pm | Suite 325 Bedroom Room | Kaffeeklatsch

Small group conversation with Shannon Chakraborty.
Shannon Chakraborty

KEEPING WHITE SUPREMACY OUT OF FANDOM

5:30pm | Forum Room | Panel

White supremacists are infiltrating and laying claims to many aspects of fan culture, from Tolkien to Norse mythology, military speculative fiction, and the SCA. What does this mean for authors, publishers, and fans? How do we keep them from co-opting our work and poisoning our spaces?

Fan Interest

Michael A. Ventrella, Julie Hofmann she/her, Gina Saucier, Diana M. Pho, Patricia A. Jackson, Sumiko Saulson

POETRY READINGS (ONSITE)

5:30pm | Cabinet Room | Participatory Event

This is a chance to hear a range of talented and award-winning speculative fiction poets perform and discuss their work.

Poetry, Reading

Brenda Cooper, Mari Ness, Ursula Whitcher, Lesley Wheeler

SCIENCE TALK 6: DINOSAURS AND GENOMES

5:30pm |  Diplomat Ballroom | Presentation

What's New in the World of Dinosaurs?

Tom Holtz

Their age might long be over, but new information is discovered about the dinosaurs every year. Paleontologist Thomas Holtz discusses the latest discoveries about dinosaurs, and what they mean for our understanding of these magnificent animals.

Navigating the Genome: The Final Frontier

Doug Dluzen, Chris Dardick

Gene editing technology is no stranger to fiction, often serving as a vehicle to envision sometimes wonderful, sometimes dystopian, futures. This talk will highlight the latest breakthroughs of human genome editing capabilities, including its usage in medicine, disease control, and information storage. Examples from famous works for fiction will guide a discussion on common misconceptions, the ethics of shaping our own evolution, and the practicality of gene editing for space travel.

Science

Thomas Holtz, Douglas F. Dluzen, Chris Dardick

SUFI, ARABIC, AND ITALIAN SF**5:30pm** |  **Older** | **Presentation**

Three academic talks:

Sufi Science Fiction*Emad El-Din Aysha*

Sufism has been deployed many times in genre works, not least SF. Sufism however is lacking in Arabic and Islamic science fiction. The situation is changing as Arab SF authors, old and young, brave this fledgling subgenre. The downside is commercialization and commodification of Sufism and Islam.

Law, Economics and Arabic Science Fiction*Ahmad Al-Mahdi*

World-building involves translation. There is futurespeak but also the way a world is introduced via motifs and tropes the audience can recognize, a process of familiarization analogues to translation. Linguistic translation of a work of science fiction involves another layer, a shift from one cultural-historical set of experiences to another.

The Birth of Science Fiction in Italy*Simone Pettine*

This paper will discuss the first sf novel published in Italy, by Dino Buzzati in 1960: *Il grande ritratto*. Using the strategies of textual criticism, the proposal therefore aims to make to point of the influences that led to the drafting of *Il grande ritratto* of Dino Buzzati, as well as the themes that it left as a starting point for posterity.

*Academic, International, Literature**Emad El-Din Aysha, Simone Pettine***KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH CHRIS DARDICK****7:00pm** | **Suite 325 Main Room** | **Kaffeeklatsch**

Small group conversation with Chris Dardick.

*Chris Dardick***THE WORK OF SHEREE RENÉE THOMAS****5:30pm** | **Congressional Room (A&B)** | **Panel**

Sheree Renée Thomas is one of the most notable editors in our field. She is the editor of the anthologies *Dark Matter: A Century of Speculative Fiction From the African Diaspora* and *Dark Matter: Reading the Bones*, winners of the 2001 and 2005 World Fantasy Award for Year's Best Anthology. These books collect works by many African-American and African writers in the genres of science fiction, horror, and fantasy. Join our panel to discuss the work of DisCon III Special Guest Sheree Renée Thomas.

About: Guest of Honor, Literature
Farah Mendelsohn (moderator), Andrea Hairston, Danian Darrell Jerry, Farah Mendlesohn, Oghenechovwe Donald Ekpeki, Joy Sanchez-Taylor, Nisi Shawl

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND GENDER**7:00pm** | **Congressional Room (A&B)** | **Panel**

Why do writers bother assigning gender to AIs? Would an AI accept the gender we assign it, and would it bother performing gender the way we often see in fiction? Do we ever see AIs performing masculinity in the same way we seem them performing femininity? Panelists will discuss how various writers have explored the genders of AIs over the years.

History, Science

Marcia D. Nichols, Lettie Prell, Martha Wells, Phoebe Barton, Aaron M. Roth, Hirotaka Osawa

READING - C. ROSE CLARKE

7:00pm |  Harris | Reading

Authors Cassandra Rose Clarke & Jordan Kurella each read from recently published or upcoming works.

Cassandra Rose Clarke

WHEN PLOT TWISTS GO BAD

5:30pm |  Kress | Panel

When a story denies the audience the narrative they expect, reactions can range from "What a clever twist!" to "That's awful," to even "I feel used." What causes some unexpected plot developments to disappoint rather than delight—and how do you craft a satisfying surprise?

Writing

Jen Gunnels (moderator), C. L. Polk, J.S. Dewes (Jenny), Sarah Gulde, Marina Berlin, Lezli Robyn

BROAD UNIVERSE RAPID-FIRE READING

7:00pm | Cabinet Room | Reading

Broad Universe is an international non-profit organization dedicated to promoting, encouraging, honoring, and celebrating women and alternatively-gendered writers and editors in science fiction, fantasy, horror, and other speculative genres. Come hear several "broads" read short excerpts from their works. Think of it as a tasting menu to help you find your next favorite author!

Literature

Randee Dawn (moderator), Kathryn Sullivan, D. H. Timpko, Roberta Rogow, Elle E. Ire, K.G. Anderson, Carol Gyzander, Maggie Slater, L.J. Cohen, Elizabeth Crowens

CONCERT: TOM SMITH

7:00pm |  Thomas | Concert

"Weird Al" with more books, Jonathan Coulton with more jokes, Carlin with more Cthulhu. Since James Bacon, Tom Smith has been breaking hearts, minds, and laws of propriety and physics with his insane blend of sf/fantasy, life with computers, pop culture, politics, and puns. More than 20 albums later, he maintains the best is yet to come.

Music

Tom Smith

CONCERT: KIVA

7:00pm |  Empire Ballroom | Concert

For 30 years the DC-area band KIVA has been entertaining and enthralling audiences with their percussive, acoustic, worldbeat ensemble, celebrating the magic of nature and ancient bardic traditions with music that opens the heart and heals the spirit. The band combines strong vocal harmonies with rich and diverse acoustic and electric instrumentation, performing originals, traditionals, and covers. The musicians are inspired by many cultures, spiritual disciplines, and musical styles.

Music

FUTURE WORLDCONS: 2024 TO INFINITY AND BEYOND!

7:00pm |  Palladian Ballroom | Panel

While the 2023 Worldcon is being chosen this year, there are other bids for future Worldcons. Glasgow (Scotland) 2024; Seattle (U.S.) 2025; Orlando (U.S.), Nice (France), Jeddah (Saudi Arabia), and Los Angeles (U.S.) 2026; Tel Aviv (Israel) 2027; Brisbane (Australia) Michael A. Ventrella; Dublin, 2029; and Texas, 2031 have all indicated intentions to bid. Come hear what they have to say about why you should support them.

Con Running, Fan Interest, WSFS Vincent Docherty (moderator), Guy Kovel, Adam Beaton, Kathy, Joyce Lloyd, Marguerite Smith, Kevin Black, SunnyJim Morgan, Tal Goldman

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH ELLEN KUSHNER

7:00pm | Suite 325 Bedroom Room | Kaffeeklatsch

Small group discussion with Ellen Kushner - advance sign up recommended
Ellen Kushner

WRITING SHORT FICTION

7:00pm |  Blue Room | Panel

Most writing classes and how-to books focus on writing novels, but short fiction (from flash fiction to vignettes to short stories) requires its own set of skills. Panelists discuss techniques for developing ideas—worldbuilding, plot, characterization—within the parameters of short fiction.

Writing
Kel Coleman (moderator), Michael Swanwick, Rebecca Roanhorse, José Pablo Iriarte, A. T. Greenblatt

GLOBAL FEMINIST SCIENCE FICTION

7:00pm |  Kress | Panel

Feminism doesn't stand still. Nor is there only one feminism. Since the 1970s, science fiction and fantasy have been the genres *par excellence* to work out new ideas and explore what feminism can be and do. Our panelists discuss how feminism has grown and developed alongside the publishing world of science fiction and fantasy, how each has changed, and how they have changed each other.

Fan Interest, History, International Arkady Martine (moderator), Dale Vaughn, Rivers Solomon, Catherine Asaro, Ada Nnadi

THE SCIENCE OF GRAPHENE

7:00pm |  Diplomat Ballroom | Presentation

This is a general introduction to the science of graphene and cool things that people (but not necessarily me) have done with graphene.

Science
Aaron Feldman

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH NATHAN W. TORONTO

7:00pm | Suite 325 Dining Room | Kaffeeklatsch

Small group conversation with Nathan W. Toronto
Nathan W. Toronto

SIP WITH THE STARS (FRIDAY)

7:00pm | Hotel Lobby |
Participatory Event

New con-goers are invited to hang out with published writers, critics, and convention veterans. A great way to make new friends and get the vibe of the con! We'll break into groups of 4-5 people, each with a mix of newer and more experienced folks. Sips With the Stars events are planned on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings at 7-8 p.m. in the private dining room of the hotel restaurant. Bring your own drinks!

DisCon Orientation, Fan Interest, Interactive John Wiswell (moderator), Victor Manibo, Tom Doyle, Fonda Lee, Jason Sanford, Arley Sorg

TEACHING AND ANALYZING GENRE FICTION

7:00pm | Calvert Room | Panel

Speculative fiction readers are familiar with the tropes and techniques of genre fiction. How do teachers make genre fiction more accessible to students who aren't frequent speculative fiction readers? Experienced teachers discuss their techniques for teaching speculative literature in a classroom, and trade recommendations for convincing administrators that speculative literature should be a part of school curriculums.

*Literature, Reviewing/Critique, Teaching/Education
Nino Cipri (moderator), Andrea Hairston, Lesley Wheeler, Shaun Duke, N.E. Davenport, Gregory A. Wilson*

WELCOME TO CLONE CLUB

7:00pm | Forum Room | Panel

Orphan Black, a show following the struggles of a group of clone sisters, was a great show with a small audience. This panel will celebrate its themes, science, and characterizations. Just don't talk about Clone Club...

*TV & Film
Jennifer R. Povey, Brick Barrientos, Benjamin Rosenbaum, Malka Older, Leigha McReynolds*

8:00PM

MASQUERADE

8:00pm | Regency Ballroom | Participatory Event

The Worldcon Masquerade is a time-honored tradition going all the way back to 1940, offering costumers and cosplayers the chance to showcase the most amazing costumes in fandom. Come and see some of the best costumes from around the world on our stage.

*Costume/Cosplay, Special Events
Karen Purcell (moderator), werewolf!*

WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | **FRIDAY** | SATURDAY | SUNDAY

8:30PM

CONCERT: CHRIS WEBER

8:30pm |  Thomas | Concert

DisCon III is pleased to provide the occasion for Chris Weber's first filk concert for a convention in many years. Long a fixture of the West Coast filk scene, Chris has written and performed songs inspired by the fiction of Gordon R. Dickson, Philip Jose Farmer, Tim Powers, and others.

Music

Chris Weber

FRIDAY NIGHT OPEN FILK - CHAOS STYLE ROOM 1

8:30pm | Forum Room | Participatory Event

Making music all night long. Unicorns, space flight, cons, cats the topic could be anything and could change at any time. All styles of music welcome. Singers, instrumentalists, and listeners all welcome.

Interactive, Music

W. Randy Hoffman

NON-ENGLISH FANFIC CULTURES

8:30pm |  Kress | Panel

Fanfiction is a worldwide culture. Archive of Our Own (AO3) hosts fanfic in over 70 languages, and fanfiction has been many fans' first exposure to English. There is great variation, however, in different fanfic language communities in terms of popular fandoms, tropes, and communal norms. This panel features fanfic writers from around the world sharing what is unique about their home fanfic communities.

Fan Interest, International

Alina Sidorova (moderator), Leonardo Espinoza Benavides, Iori Kusano

FRIDAY NIGHT PICK-PASS-PERFORM SONG CIRCLE

8:30pm | Cabinet Room | Participatory Event

What is a pick-pass-perform song circle? Everyone in the room gets the chance to perform a number, pick a song by asking for a specific song, asking a specific person to perform, or picking a song topic, or pass their turn. All forms of music welcome.

Interactive, Music

Lynn Gold

IMAGINARY BOOK CLUB

8:30pm |  Congressional Room (A&B) | Panel

Our panelists have found some amazing books they would like to recommend to you. Unfortunately, you won't be able to buy them in the Dealers Room, because none of them actually exist. (Warning: this panel may make you wish they did!)

Literature

Ellen Kushner (moderator), Lynn Gold, Bill Sutton, Michael Swanwick, Brandie June

INCORPORATING GENRE FICTION IN THE CLASSROOM

8:30pm | Calvert Room | Panel

Can speculative fiction be used to teach history, science, politics, and other subjects? Outside of literature classes, there are many different ways to incorporate speculative fiction ideas to engage students in the classroom. What are the best ways to do this? What are some pitfalls?

Literature, Teaching/Education

Bob Greenberger (moderator), sandy manning, John G. McDaid, Hirotaka Osawa, Dana L. Little, Leigha McReynolds

WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | **FRIDAY** | SATURDAY | SUNDAY

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH GILLIAN POLACK

8:30pm |  Harris | Kaffeeklatsch

Online small group conversation with Gillian Polack.

Gillian Polack

THE MORPHOLOGY OF FANTASY CREATURES

8:30pm |  Diplomat Ballroom | Panel

Do elves and pixies have better hearing because their ears are pointed, and if so, why do they need it? Big Bird is eight feet tall, has thumbs, and forward-facing eyes. Does that make him an apex pursuit predator? (No, he's a charismatic herbivorous megafauna.) And don't get us started on Cookie Monster...

Biology, Writing

DW "Lemur" Rowlands, Rodrigo Juri, Benjamin C. Kinney, Fonda Lee, Eva L. Elastique

THE WORK OF NALO HOPKINSON

8:30pm |  Blue Room | Panel

Nalo Hopkinson is an award-winning author and 2021's SFWA Damon Knight Memorial Grand Master. This panel will discuss the range and scope of Hopkinson's work across fiction and nonfiction, and explore her impact on writers and on writing.

International, Literature

Tom Doyle (moderator), Debi Chowdhury, Gary K Wolfe, Sheree Renée Thomas, teri.zin

9:30PM

GLASGOW IN 2024 CEILIDH

9:30pm |  Empire Ballroom | Participatory Event

Join the Glasgow in 2024 Worldcon Bid for a traditional Gaelic ceilidh dance. Learn the easy steps to this group dance and have some fun!

Interactive, International, Music

FRIDAY NIGHT OPEN FILK - CHAOS STYLE ROOM 2

10:00pm | Calvert Room | Participatory Event

Making music all night long. Unicorns, space flight, cons, cats—the topic could be anything and could change at any time. All styles of music welcome. Singers, instrumentalists, and listeners all welcome.

Interactive, Music

Gary Ehrlich

WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | **FRIDAY** | SATURDAY | SUNDAY

SCIENCE TALK 11: SPACE EXPLORATION

10:00pm |  **Diplomat Ballroom** | Presentation

The Internet of Power

Pat Bahn

As the fossil energy economy begins to exceed climatological reserves and a climate emergency is occurring, the potential for a new era of smart energy production can expand. Renewables driven by subsurface, surface energy allows the growth of non-variable cost structures in power generation. An era of SuperPower will produce the energy needed for true interplanetary economies.

Mars or Bust?

Katie Mack

There's been plenty of talk about sending humans to Mars, but how feasible is it, really? What limits our ability to live on Mars right now, and what technology needs to be developed to get us there? I'll summarize all the thorny issues of interplanetary travel and habitation, and why we might (or might not) soon be leaving footprints in the Martian dust.

Exploring Titan

Geoffrey Landis

Titan, Saturn's moon, is the only moon in the solar system with a thick atmosphere and bodies of liquid on the surface. But on Titan, the liquid is not water, but hydrocarbons—lakes of liquid methane and ethane. This talk will discuss why Titan is important and give details on some proposals for possible future missions to Titan.

Science

Pat Bahn, Geoffrey Landis, Katie Mack

THE SEIUN AWARD & JAPANESE SF TODAY.

10:00pm |  **Congressional Room (A&B)** | Panel

This panel of experts will discuss the history of the Seiun Award, the Japanese speculative fiction award for the best science fiction works and achievements of the preceding year, and the state of Japanese speculative fiction today.

Awards, International

Madamrobot (moderator), Hirota Osawa, YASHIMA Yugen, Haruna Ikezawa, Dr. Takayuki Tatsumi, Ms Mari Kotani.

ROCKY HORROR SHADOW CAST

midnight |  **Palladian Ballroom** | Drama

Rocky Horror shadow cast.

Interactive, LGBTQ+

werewulf!!, Malka Older

SATURDAY

8:30AM

GENDER AND AFRICAN SF

8:30am |

📺 **Congressional Room (A&B) | Panel**

Some African countries have a reputation for homophobia and entrenched gender roles. Yet among younger African writers, feminism and concern for LGBTQI+ rights are almost signature issues, marking a clear generational divide. Panelists will discuss the history, the present, and expectations for the future.

Africa, LGBTQ+, Writing
Chikodili (moderator), Tlotlo Tsamaase, Nana Akosua Hanson, Ada Nnadi, Lesley Arimah

TORAH STUDY

8:30am | **Forum Room | Participatory Event**

Join us for a celebration of Shabbat with a Torah study from Barry Nove. No Hebrew knowledge is necessary for this study of the classic medieval commentaries. The study will be followed by the saying of the Kaddish memorial prayer. All are welcome.

DH Aire

ACCESSIBLE YOGA -- SATURDAY

8:30am | **Cabinet Room | Participatory Event**

A fully inclusive, gentle yoga class for people of all abilities. Practicing in a chair or on a mat with some optional standing poses, participants will move, stretch, rejuvenate and relax through a series of gentle yoga movements, breathing exercises, and meditation. This class will offer different variations and options, encouraging participants to explore at their own pace and expand their yoga experience within a welcoming and inclusive community. Companions and support people are welcome.

Fan Interest, Interactive
Ty Arnold (moderator)

9:00AM

STROLL WITH THE STARS (SATURDAY)

9:00am | **Hotel Lobby | Participatory Event**

Meet up with facilitator Debra Nickelson at 9 a.m. in the lobby of the hotel for the now-traditional morning stroll.

Interactive
Dr Deb

WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | **SATURDAY** | SUNDAY

9:30AM

WSFS SITE SELECTION BUSINESS MEETING

9:30am |  **Palladian Ballroom** | **Participatory Event**

At the beginning of this meeting, the results of the 2023 Worldcon Site Selection will be announced and the newly seated 2023 Worldcon will make its initial presentation. After site selection business is finished, the meeting will take up all business not concluded by Friday's main meeting. Anything not concluded at this meeting will be considered at the meeting on Sunday, if required.

WSFS

10:00AM

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH BRANDIE JUNE

10:00am |  **Harris** | **Kaffeeklatsch**

Online small group conversation with Brandie June.

Brandie June

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH JOE HALDEMAN

10:00am | **Suite 325 Bedroom Room** | **Kaffeeklatsch**

Small group discussion with author Joe Haldeman

Joe Haldeman

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH REBECCA F. KUANG

10:00am | **Suite 325 Side Room** | **Kaffeeklatsch**

Small group discussion with author Rebecca F. Kuang

Rebecca Kuang

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH WALTER JON WILLIAMS

10:00am | **Suite 325 Main Room** | **Kaffeeklatsch**

Small group discussion with author Walter Jon Williams

Walter Jon Williams

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH JOSHUA BILMES

10:00am | **Suite 325 Dining Room** | **Kaffeeklatsch**

Small group discussion with Joshua Blimes

Joshua Bilmes

READINGS - EMMA JOHANNA PURANEN & PAN MORIGAN

10:00am | **Capitol Room** | **Reading**

Readings with Emma Johanna Puranen & Pan Morigan.

Pan Morigan, Emma Johanna Puranen

WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | **SATURDAY** | SUNDAY

SIGNING - AJ ODASSO

10:00am | Autographs 1 |
Participatory Event

Fan Interest, Signing
AJ Odasso

SIGNING - CHRIS DARDICK

10:00am | Autographs 3 |
Participatory Event

Fan Interest, Signing
Chris Dardick

SIGNING - HEATHER ROSE JONES

10:00am | Autographs 2 |
Participatory Event

Fan Interest, Signing
Heather Rose Jones

SIGNING - LINDSAY ELLIS

10:00am | Autographs 1 |
Participatory Event

Fan Interest, Signing
Lindsay Ellis

STORY STRUCTURES BESIDES THE HERO'S JOURNEY

10:00am | Older | Panel

Tell me if you've heard this one: a young, inexperienced character goes on a journey, gets tested, overcomes a great challenge, and returns home triumphant. Yeah, yeah—been there, done that! Let's explore story structures that aren't the standard three-act hero's journey.

Writing
Jenn Lyons (moderator), Fonda Lee, A. T. Greenblatt, Vida Cruz, E. Lily Yu, Mazi Nwonwu

BEYOND THE ORCHESTRA

10:00am | Kress | Panel

Industrial, electronic, rock, world music... These days composers work with much more than just a traditional orchestral score for movie and television soundtracks. What composers are producing the most interesting scores right now? What directors tend to favor non-orchestral works? In what directions are speculative media scores heading?

Music
Vincent Docherty (moderator), David G Shaw

DECENTERING THE U.S. IN SFF PUBLISHING

10:00am | Thomas | Panel

There are thriving speculative fiction publishers, magazines, writers and communities in many places outside the U.S. How do these communities position themselves relative to other SFF markets and readers? How successful are they?

International, Publishing, Writing
Jana Bianchi (moderator), Regina Kanyu Wang, Oghenechovwe Donald Ekpeki, Alona Silina, Terrie Hashimoto

WHAT DO WE LOOK FOR IN A FANZINE?

10:00am | Calvert Room | Panel

Everyone on this panel writes fanzines. What that means has changed over the years, but they are all passionate about them. The panel will talk about what excites them, what delights them, and what makes them nominate something for a Hugo.

Fan Interest, Publishing, Reviewing/Critique
Cheryl Morgan (moderator), Guy Herbert Lillian, Joe Sherry, Erin Underwood, Sarah Gulde, Jaroslav Olša

PITCHING YOUR NOVEL TO AGENTS & PUBLISHERS

10:00am | Presidential Board Room | Workshop

A professional publisher and editor teaches writers how to pitch their novel.

Interactive, Publishing, Writing
Rick Lewis

THE CULTURE OF THE UNCONQUERED

10:00am | Empire Ballroom | Panel

Black Panther, in comics and film, provides a view of an African country that has never been conquered or colonized. This panel will discuss what it means for a civilization to develop entirely on its own without the interference of "white gaze." What other authors have imagined the culture of the unconquered?

Africa, Anthropology, Writing
Jordan Ifueko (moderator), Rebecca Roanhorse, Sheree Renée Thomas, Ahmad Siddiqi, Usman T. Malik, Roseanne Brown

THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF CHAPTERS

10:00am | Blue Room | Panel

Do you even need chapters? How long should they be? Should you title your chapters or just number them? Where do you break a chapter, and how do you write a good cliffhanger? How do you write chapters with multiple character points of view? So much to discuss for such a small topic!

Writing
Delia Sherman (moderator), Ada Palmer, Alex Acks, Nancy Kress, Elle E. Ire, Patricia A. Jackson, Aparna Verma

THEY FLUBBED THE LANDING: DISAPPOINTING FINALES

10:00am | Diplomat Ballroom | Panel

Why is it so difficult to come up with an ending for a long-running TV or film series that satisfies fans, creators, and critics? Do finales fall apart because writers try too hard to please everyone? Panelists will discuss endings that weren't satisfying, why they didn't work, and what could have been done differently.

TV & Film
Jennifer R. Povey, Randee Dawn, Hildy Silverman, Matthew S. Rotundo

WRITING ABOUT THE THING WE LOVE: FAN WRITING.

10:00am | Congressional Room (A&B) | Panel

Writing passionately about our genres is, for many of us, what it's all about. The internet has supported an explosion of fan writing in many forms, on many topics. Good-quality fan writing can now be found about almost every thing. In this panel Hugo-nominated authors will talk about their fan writing, why they write it, and what they think makes good fan writing.

Fan Interest, Writing
Chris Garcia (moderator), Cora Buhlert, Jason Sanford, Paul Weimer, Elsa Sjunneson, Natalie Luhrs

ZOOM IN. ENHANCE!

10:00am | Cabinet Room | Panel

Television and film make detectives and forensic scientists into superheroes. But how much can you really tell from a grainy video, fingerbone, or scrap of fabric? How accurate are the super-science labs portrayed in shows like *Bones* and *CSI*? Panelists separate the science from the fiction in film, TV, and video game crime procedurals.

Science, TV & Film

Claire McCague (moderator), Michael A. Ventrella, Lincoln Peters, Avani Wildani, DW "Lemur" Rowlands

GAMING ROOM AND ONLINE GAMING -- SATURDAY

10:00am |  Blue Room Prefunction | Scheduled Game

Come join us for freeform gaming!

Online, visit the gaming channels on Discord.

Onsite, visit the gaming room, which is the Blue Room Prefunction space on level one. Stop by for a pickup game, or to see the schedule of games people are looking to run.

Want to run a game? Fill out our online form to share the details for both onsite and online games. Or simply leave a note in person on the message board in the gaming room.

Gaming, Interactive

11:30AM

CONCERT: MATT LEGER AND MARY MULHOLLAND

11:30am | Cabinet Room | Concert

Mary Mulholland and her husband Matt Leger are talented musicians and songwriters hailing from the Atlanta area. Mary is a songbird. Matt copes with the mundanity of existence and his own attention-deficit disorder by writing songs, alternately funny (he hopes) and serious (the sad outcome of early exposure to the oeuvres of Barry Manilow, Neil Diamond, and Percy Faith).

Music

Matt G. Leger, Mary Mulholland

CONSIDERING CLIMATE CHANGE IN YOUR WORLDBUILDING

11:30am |  Kress | Panel

In 2016, Amitav Ghosh wrote: "Climate change is like death, no one wants to talk about it." But climate change is an unavoidable fact of the near future, which any novel set in the next century must take into account. Even if your novel is not a story about climate change, changing temperatures and rising sea levels will impact your setting and worldbuilding. Let's talk about what might happen and how it should be reflected in your work.

Science, Writing

Sam Scheiner (moderator), Laura E. Goodin, Avani Wildani, Ana Rüsche, T. C. Weber, Phoebe Wagner

CULTURES OF FEAR

11:30am |  Thomas | Panel

The stringy-haired ghost girl is a Japanese trope, while the isolated cabin in the woods is very American. How much of horror is culturally specific? How do such tropes develop, and how do they translate to foreign audiences?

Horror, International, Literature
Usman T. Malik, Marianne Kirby, Julia Meitov Hersey, Jana Bianchi, Alina Sidorova, Shadreck Chikoti

DECOLONIZING SECONDARY WORLD FANTASY

11:30am |  Older | Panel

Secondary world fantasy gives opportunities to shape narrative and setting in forward-looking ways, yet so often writers look backwards and lean on facile historical analogues. How do you free your worldbuilding from, or use it to oppose, colonialist narratives when our own history is so inextricably linked with colonialist expansion?

Literature, Writing
Leonardo Espinoza Benavides (moderator), Brenda W. Clough, Sameem Siddiqui, Rebecca Kuang, Ahmed Salah Al-Mahdi, Hannah Onoguwe

READINGS - BRENDA COOPER AND ERIKA T. WURTH

11:30am | Capitol Room | Reading

Readings with Brenda Cooper and Erika T. Wurth.
Brenda Cooper, Erika T. Wurth

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH DIANA M. PHO

11:30am | Suite 325 Dining Room | Kaffeeklatsch

Small group discussion with Diana M. Pho
Diana M. Pho

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH JOHN WISWELL

11:30am | Suite 325 Main Room | Kaffeeklatsch

Small group conversation with John Wiswell.
John Wiswell

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH KEL COLEMAN

11:30am | Suite 325 Side Room | Kaffeeklatsch

Small group conversation with Kel Coleman.
Kel Coleman

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH MARSHALL RYAN MARESCA

11:30am | Suite 325 Bedroom Room | Kaffeeklatsch

Small group discussion with author Marshall Ryan Maresca
Marshall Ryan Maresca

IS THE GENRE TOO BIG FOR MEANINGFUL HUGOS?

11:30am |  Blue Room | Panel

When DisCon I was held in 1963, fewer than 250 science fiction novels were published in English. In 2020, there were more speculative fiction novels published than one person could read. Short story publishing is even more crowded. What does a "best of" award mean when nobody can properly assess the full genre?

Fan Interest, Literature
Vincent Docherty (moderator), Olav Rokne, Jo Walton, Natalie Luhrs, Shaun Duke, Arley Sorg

REAL ESTATE IN SPACE**11:30am | Calvert Room | Panel**

Space law is a real, existing field of law, but it's only beginning to touch on the complexity of property rights in space. *The Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies* is the international treaty that addresses these issues, but current events suggest that we may soon reach the limits of its provisions. What happens when Elon Musk tries to sell you a condo on Mars? *Economics, International, Science Wes (moderator), RWW Greene, Gautam Bhatia, Katherine Crighton, Su J Sokol, Penelope Flynn*

SHORT FICTION, EXPANDED**11:30am |  Diplomat Ballroom | Panel**

Sometimes an excellent short story or novella demands to be fleshed out and republished as a novel. How can you do this successfully, and what are some of the pitfalls to avoid? When is the expansion an enhancement, and when is it just a marketing necessity?

*Writing**A.C. Wise, Michael Swanwick, Sarah Pinsker, Jenny Rae Rappaport, Dana L. Little***SIGNING - DALE THOMAS VAUGHN****11:30am | Autographs 4 | Participatory Event***Fan Interest, Signing Dale Vaughn***SIGNING - ROBERTA ROGOW****11:30am | Autographs 3 | Participatory Event***Fan Interest, Signing Roberta Rogow***SIGNING - DARCIE LITTLE BADGER****11:30am | Autographs 1 | Participatory Event***Fan Interest, Signing Darcie Little Badger***SIGNING - WALTER JON WILLIAMS****11:30am | Autographs 2 | Participatory Event***Fan Interest, Signing Walter Jon Williams***THE FINANCES OF RUNNING A SMALL PRESS****11:30am | Forum Room | Panel**

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

*Publishing**Lizzzz Zitzow (moderator), Sheila Williams, Neil Clarke, Lynne M. Thomas, Wesley Chu, Alex Shvartsman***THE TIFFANY PROBLEM IN HISTORICAL FANTASY****11:30am |  Harris | Panel**

The name Tiffany sounds modern, but is actually old. Sometimes historical accuracy can look like an anachronism to modern readers. How should writers address this? When should you change things to seem more plausible, and when should you stand your ground?

*Anthropology, History, Writing**Jennifer R. Povey, Heather Rose Jones, Andrea Hairston, Claire Light/Jadie Jang, Kate Heartfield, Paul B. Sturtevant*

THE RESURRECTION OF PSYCHOLOGICAL HORROR

11:30am |  Empire Ballroom | Panel

Jordan Peele's *Get Out* brought psychological horror movies to the forefront again, pulling audiences back to the quieter side of horror. But it is not new. The 70s and 80s were a slasher movie fan's dream period, but also had a fair amount of psychological horror: *The Omen*, *The Exorcist*, *Angel Heart*, and *Jacob's Ladder*, to name a few. How do these movies hit differently from other kinds of horror? Is it scarier when you have to think?

Horror, TV & Film

Carol Gyzander (moderator), Snezana Kanachki, Catherynne Valente, Sumiko Saulson

VIDEO GAME WRITING AS A DISCIPLINE

11:30am |

 Congressional Room (A&B) | Panel

For a long time, video game writing was seen as a separate discipline from, and often inferior to, more "serious" speculative media. As video game narratives become increasingly complex, and gameplay becomes more sophisticated, is it still useful to define video game writing as a separate discipline? If so, why?

Gaming, New Media, Writing

Cláudia Fusco, Phoebe Barton, Cassandra Rose Clarke, Stephen Granade, Joey Yu, Gregory A. Wilson

1:00PM

CONCERT: MARK BERNSTEIN & BLIND LEMMING CHIFFON

1:00pm |  Cabinet Room | Concert

A pair of 30-minute concerts by Mark Bernstein and Blind Lemming Chiffon. Mark Bernstein is known for his tongue-twisting tales. Blind Lemming Chiffon is known for his wry sense of humor and his instrumental prowess. Be prepared to be amused and entertained!

Music

Blind Lemming Chiffon, Mark Bernstein

CONCERT: SARA HENYA

1:00pm |  Empire Ballroom | Concert

Sara Henya is a singer-songwriter and harpist based in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Her music can best be described as fantasy pop, combining the fun of pop music and the ethereal sound of the harp. Sara incorporates imaginative, fairy-like visuals that allow her audience to feel completely immersed in her colorful fantasy world. Though passionate, she never takes herself too seriously, incorporating humor into her music and performances.

Music

Sara Henya

WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | **SATURDAY** | SUNDAY

MEETUP: THE REUNITED KINGDOMS FACEBOOK GROUP

1:00pm | **Ambassador Ballroom | Discussion Group**

A meetup for The Reunited Kingdoms Facebook group.

Fan Interest, Interactive, Literature
Lord Great Steward (moderator)

HEAVY METAL AND FANTASY

1:00pm | **Harris | Panel**

Epic fantasy can tread on a razor's edge of goofiness. A certain suspension of irony is needed to take barbarians, wizards, and silly names seriously. Heavy metal music similarly requires emotional commitment to stylistic bombast. Is earnestness and willingness to commit why we love both genres? From classic warrior metal bands like Manowar to the more modern, poppy sound of Unleash the Archers, let's talk about what metal and fantasy have in common, and why they go well together.

Literature, Music
Matthew S. Rotundo, Andrija "Andy" Popovic, Chris Panatier, Fulvio Gatti, Cassandra Rose Clarke, F. Brett Cox

LARPING: 2021 AND BEYOND

1:00pm | **Congressional Room (A&B) | Panel**

Live action role-playing games, orLARPs, have developed a rich repertoire of practices across many communities. How can newcomers get involved? How have these communities adapted their practices in response to COVID-19? What innovations do we hope will carry forward into the future? Panelists will discuss what is next forLARPs.

Gaming
Jennifer Whitten (moderator), Ada Palmer, Vivian Abraham, Melissa Caruso

THE CONVENTION CAREER OF BEN YALOW

1:00pm | **Palladian Ballroom | Panel**

Ben Yalow has been involved in SF fandom for about 45 years, been to more than 800 cons, and worked on about a third of them. His first con was Lunacon 14 in 1971. He's been a member of numerous Worldcon bids and has worked on many since the mid-1970s. He has often served as hotel liaison and is known as keen negotiator of fan-favorable contracts. He knows the WSFS Business Meeting inside out. Panelists will discuss Ben's career in fandom and why he is DisCon III's fan guest of honor.

Con Running, Fan Interest, Panelist: GOH Vincent Docherty (moderator), Stephen Cooper, Joe Siclari, Bobbi Armbruster

THE MAGNIFICENT NOVELLA

1:00pm | **Blue Room | Panel**

Novellas are thriving. Benefiting from the work of small presses and the opportunities of digital magazines, the form has received a new lease of life. These authors will discuss the novella in terms of craft and form, in regards to their own work, and the growing landscape of novellas produced both by the lovely folks at Tor and elsewhere.

Literature, Writing
Lina Rather (moderator), Carrie Vaughn, Mur Lafferty, L. D. Lewis, C.S. Malerich (she/her)

HEINLEIN & ENLIGHTENMENT; ASIAN FOOD FUTURES

1:00pm | Calvert Room | Presentation

Two academic talks:

Robert A. Heinlein: Radical Moderate and the Enlightenment

Bradford Lyau

Analyzing Robert A. Heinlein in light of recent revisions of the Enlightenment and studies analyzing Heinlein works. The different, often conflicting ideological slants used to describe Heinlein's politics could be explained in part by this analysis. I will use Jonathan Israel's recent studies of the Enlightenment as the basis of this era's recent revisions.

Taste and Longing in Asian SF

Annie Sheng

Humans transform identities and histories through relationships with food in imagined futures. I draw from anthropological analysis and Asian SF stories to examine how people make meaning of their lives through food. An example is machinery, corporeality, and the desire for taste present in futures featuring humanity and the synthetic in Xia Jia, Indrapramit Das and Isabel Yap's works. From noodle stalls to fruits of the homeland, sensory-rich scenes of food are layered with analytical meaning.

Academic, Economics

D.A. Xiaolin Spire, Bradford Lyau

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH BRENDA W. CLOUGH

1:00pm | Suite 325 Bedroom Room | Kaffeeklatsch

Small group conversation with Brenda W. Clough

Brenda W. Clough

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH LYNNE M. THOMAS

1:00pm | Suite 325 Main Room | Kaffeeklatsch

Small group discussion with Editor, Librarian, and Publisher Lynne M. Thomas.

Lynne M. Thomas

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH NINO CIPRI

1:00pm | Suite 325 Side Room | Kaffeeklatsch

Small group conversation with Nino Cipri.

Nino Cipri

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH SHEILA WILLIAMS

1:00pm | Suite 325 Dining Room | Kaffeeklatsch

Small group discussion with Editor Sheila Williams. Advance sign up recommended.

Sheila Williams

READING - ELLEN KUSHNER & TENAYA ANUE

1:00pm | Capitol Room | Reading

Reading with Ellen Kushner and Tenaya Anue.

Tenaya Anue, Ellen Kushner

SIGNING - E. LILY YU

1:00pm | Autographs 3 | Participatory Event

Fan Interest, Signing

E. Lily Yu

SIGNING - MARTHA WELLS

1:00pm | Autographs 2 | Participatory Event

Fan Interest, Signing

Martha Wells

SIGNING - T.C. WEBER

1:00pm | Autographs 1 | Participatory Event

Fan Interest, Signing
T. C. Weber

SIGNING - USMAN T. MALIK

1:00pm | Autographs 4 | Signing

Signing with Usman T. Malik.

THE PREJUDICES OF URBAN FANTASY

1:00pm | Older | Panel

What unexamined prejudices exist in urban fantasy? Where do they come from? Which works and authors are addressing them?

Literature

C. L. Polk, Aliette de Bodard, Claire Light/
Jadie Jang, Charlie Stross, Alona Silina, Jana Bianchi

UNSOLVED HISTORICAL MYSTERIES

1:00pm | Kress | Panel

Where is Punt? Where is Cleopatra buried? Who was Jack the Ripper? What happened to the Minoans? If you had access to time travel, which burning questions and unsolved mysteries from history would you want to solve?

History

Steven H Silver (moderator), Jean Marie Ward, Alan Smale, DW "Lemur" Rowlands, Emad El-Din Aysha, Kate Heartfield

WHEN DOES EVIL BECOME IRREDEEMABLE?

1:00pm | Forum Room | Panel

Any interesting, complex character will have positive and negative qualities. Is there a point when a character steps so far over the line into evil that they can never again be viewed sympathetically? If it exists, where do we draw the line? Does it move depending on how much we like a particular character?

Ethics, Writing

N.E. Davenport, Mark L. Van Name, Jo Walton, John Wiswell, Jean Bürlesk, Bonnie Jo Stufflebeam, AJ Odasso

WORLDBUILDING IN SPECULATIVE HORROR

1:00pm | Thomas | Panel

A horror setting generally starts with a safe and familiar world, and then introduces strange and frightening elements. But what if you don't want to use the real world as your setting? How do you construct a horror novel that takes place in an entirely speculative world? What techniques can make the unfamiliar a safe starting point on which to build your horror?

Horror, Writing

A.C. Wise, Erika T. Wurth, Usman T. Malik, L. Marie Wood

BEADING WORKSHOP

1:00pm | Suite 480 | Workshop

Costume/Cosplay, Interactive

2:30PM

2020 RUINED MY NOVEL!

2:30pm | Forum Room | Panel

2020 was a giant curveball for the entire world. Everyone was affected in one way or another. What about authors? Our panelists will discuss what changes they had to make to their 2020 work-in-progress to accommodate all the weird things that were happening in the real world.

Writing

Wesley Chu (moderator), Alyc Helms, Victor Manibo, Lisa Nohealani Morton, Sue, Lindsay Ellis, Naomi Kritzer

READING - ALIETTE DE BODARD

2:30pm | Harris | Reading

Author Aliette de Bodard reads from their recently published or upcoming work.

Aliette de Bodard

BUT DOES IT HAVE POCKETS?

2:30pm | Cabinet Room | Panel

Your costume looks great, but where will you put your keys and cell phone while walking the convention floor? Panelists will cover ways to add pockets to your garments, along with other creative ways to carry your stuff, eat, drink, and handle other sometimes-overlooked necessities.

Costume/Cosplay, Crafting

Yakira (moderator), Debi Chowdhury, Kevin Roche, sandy manning, SunnyJim Morgan

GET CREATIVE WITH LEGO

2:30pm | Room 323 | Participatory Event

Help us create an alien landscape with Lego! Participants are welcome to photograph their creations and the final project will be shared on DisCon III's social media. Children and attending guardians should check-in with staff upon arrival.

Children's, Crafting, Interactive
Angela Pound

CONCERT: KENNY YOUNG AND THE EGGPLANTS

2:30pm | Empire Ballroom | Concert

Claiming to be from Brooklyn (but possibly from outer space), Kenny Young and the Eggplants are a not-easily-described semi-acoustic trio who perform intergalactic folk-and-roll songs about giant squirrels, scary bits of cheese, malevolent washing machines, and Martian garden gnomes, among other important topics. Perhaps the most entertaining description comes from The New York Times, which said that the band gives "eloquent voice to the multifaceted neuroses of prolonged adolescence."

Music

WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | **SATURDAY** | SUNDAY

GERI SULLIVAN INTERVIEWS FAN GOH, BEN YALOW

2:30pm |  **Blue Room** | **Interview**

DisCon III is delighted to welcome you to an interview with our fan guest of honor, Ben Yalow, one of the best known Worldcon convention runners and meeting presidents in the field. Ben will be introduced by DisCon III chair, Mary Robinette Kowal, and interviewed by Geri Sullivan, convention runner and winner of the Hugo Award for Best Fanzine.

Panelist: GOH

Geri Sullivan (moderator), Ben Yalow

POETRY READINGS (VIRTUAL)

2:30pm |  **Kress** | **Panel**

This is a chance to hear a range of talented and award-winning speculative fiction poets perform and discuss their work.

Poetry, Reading

Akua Lezli Hope, Mary Soon Lee, Cassandra Rose Clarke, F. Brett Cox

LOOKING FOR THE FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH

2:30pm |  **Diplomat Ballroom** | **Panel**

Speculative fiction stories often feature societies in which a healthy lifespan stretches over multiple centuries. What is the scientific plausibility of such lifespans or life-extending technologies? How is access to longevity likely to be distributed? What impact would artificially-extended lifespans have on culture and the environment?

Ethics, Science

Jason Sanford (moderator), Rodrigo Juri, Douglas F. Dluzen, N.E. Davenport

MARTIAL ARTS & SITUATIONAL AWARENESS FOR WRITERS

2:30pm | **Presidential Board Room** | **Workshop**

A martial arts instructor teaches simple body mechanics and awareness of surroundings which anyone can practice. This workshop helps writers to visualize spaces to prepare for action and fight scenes, and to look at ways to choreograph engaging action so the blocking is clear to readers. We'll focus on simple movement, activities with hands (martial arts), and activities with melee weapons.

Interactive, Writing

William C. Tracy

WRITING BELIEVABLE CHILDREN

2:30pm |  **Congressional Room (A&B)** | **Panel**

How old is too old for baby talk? Is it normal for seven-year-olds to talk about death? Can we just write children as small adults? Panelists walk us through how to write more realistic children for any audience (not just YA).

Writing

José Pablo Iriarte, Nancy Kress, Darcie Little Badger, Jordan Ifueko, Chris Weber

MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT HUMAN ORIGINS AND EVOLUTION

2:30pm |  Older | Panel

Evolution is the foundational concept of biology. Unfortunately, in the popular imagination and in public discourse (including within science fiction and fantasy media), misconceptions abound regarding what evolution is, how it works, and its implications for human origins, diversity, and identity. In this panel, three biological anthropologists will identify and discuss common misconceptions about human origins and evolution, and invite attendees to share their own questions and perspectives.

Anthropology, Science

Rob O'Malley, Tina Lasisi, Briana Pobiner

NICHOLAS WHYTE INTERVIEWS MALKA OLDER

2:30pm |  Palladian Ballroom | Panel

Malka Older is an author, academic, aid worker, and a special guest of DisCon III. Her first novel, *Infomocracy* (2016), is the first in the series *The Centenal Cycle*, which also includes *Null States* (2017) and *State Tectonics* (2018), which won the Prometheus Award in 2019. Malka is interviewed by Nicholas Whyte, a former Hugo Award administrator and advisor on ally development and coalition building for APCO International, and introduced by DisCon III chair, Mary Robinette Kowal.

Panelist: GOH

Nicholas Whyte (moderator), Mary Robinette Kowal, Malka Older

READING - CATHERYNNÉ VALENTE

2:30pm | Capitol Room | Reading

Reading with Catherynne Valente.

Catherynne Valente

PRE/POST IRON CURTAIN FICTION IN EASTERN EUROPE

2:30pm | Calvert Room | Panel

The fall of the Eastern bloc and Soviet-dominated governments signaled a massive change in the cultural, legal, and economic status of many former Soviet-satellite nations. Now with 30 years of perspective since the fall, how did this affect the themes, topics, and formats of genre fiction, in those nations, on the page and screen?

History, Literature

Alex Shvartsman (moderator), Julia Meitov Hersey, Fulvio Gatti

SIGNING - ADA PALMER

2:30pm | Autographs 2 | Participatory Event

Fan Interest, Signing

Ada Palmer

SIGNING - FONDA LEE

2:30pm | Autographs 3 | Participatory Event

Fan Interest, Signing

Fonda Lee

SIGNING - JENN LYONS

2:30pm | Autographs 4 | Participatory Event

Fan Interest, Signing

Jenn Lyons

SIGNING - MARSHALL RYAN MARESCA

2:30pm | Autographs 1 | Participatory Event

Fan Interest, Signing

Marshall Ryan Maresca

WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY

A MRS. HAWKING SPINOFF, GENTLEMEN NEVER TELL

4:00pm |  **Palladian Ballroom** |
TV - Live Event

by **Phoebe Roberts and Bernie Gabin**

A comedic spinoff of the ongoing Hawking story, we follow Mrs. Hawking's nephew Justin as he trots the globe having romantic adventures in the spirit of P.G. Wodehouse. While on a business trip to Venice during Masquerade, dashing bisexual rake Justin Hawking is there to make deals and make love, not necessarily in that order. But behind the masks of the ball is more intrigue than he bargained for, and Justin must interrupt his dalliances long enough to stick up for those without his privilege to float through life.

CHANGING THE FUTURE OF THE FUTURE

4:00pm |
 **Congressional Room (A&B)** |
Presentation

Two academic talks:

**Alt-Histories Against Technological
Determinism**

Laura Osur

For All Mankind (Apple TV+, 2019-) and Mary Robinette Kowal's *Lady Astronaut* series (2018, 2020) present alternative histories of the space race. Read in conversation with each other and as part of a global debate around ethical technology and the commercialization of space, these two properties argue against the theory of technological determinism and for a more active, nuanced, and gendered discussion of the history and future of technological development.

**Africanfuturism as Developmental
Rebellion**

Jenna N. Hanchey

I examine how Africanfuturism pushes back against Western visions of development

through what Nyerere calls developmental rebellion. Examining the work of Nnedi Okorafor, Tade Thompson, Wanuri Kahiu, Suyi Davis Okungbowa, & Tendai Huchu, I trace four ways that Africanfuturism decolonizes development. Africanfuturism: (1) releases radical desire; (2) recreates ecological contexts; (3) uses alien technology in decolonial ways; and (4) limns alternative possibilities for life itself.

Academic, History, International
Laura Osur, Jenna Hanchey

CONCERT: NIGHT WATCH PARADOX

4:00pm |  **Empire Ballroom** |
Concert

The musical equivalent of *Treasure Island*, Baltimore steampunk band Night Watch Paradox brings the audience along on a participatory journey of musical performance and storytelling as they travel in their imaginary steam-powered airship through time and space.

Music

FROM GRIMM TO DISNEY AND BACK: THE CHANGING FAE

4:00pm |  **Blue Room** | Panel

Early fairy tales tended to be very dark stories. The 1800s saw the emergence of lighter, more whimsical fairies. Walt Disney made them even more saccharine. Now we are starting to see a return to the more dangerous, untrustworthy Fae. From *Grimm's Fairy Tales* to *Sleeping Beauty*, *Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell*, and *The Dresden Files*, our panelists will discuss how the Fae have changed over the years.

Literature, Mythology
Jo Walton, Jenny Rae Rappaport, Jean Bürlesk, Lesley Wheeler, Hildy Silverman, E. Lily Yu, Cláudia Fusco

IN PRAISE OF RANDOMNESS**4:00pm | Calvert Room | Panel**

Random elements are a design tool used in many video game plots and progressions, whether it be procedurally generated enemies or quests, or large-scale reordering of the game logic. There are similar, but different, dynamics in tabletop role-playing games' use of dice and random generation tables. Why does randomness in game progression work? What are the consequences when it doesn't? How do random plots change the way players experience agency in the game?

Gaming

Marie Brennan (moderator), Humza Kazmi, Benjamin Rosenbaum, Aaron M. Roth, Gregory A. Wilson

MEETUP: FANTASY SHORT FICTION OF THE YEAR**4:00pm | Ambassador Ballroom | Discussion Group**

This is a discussion group for the year's best short fantasy fiction.

Fan Interest, Interactive, Literature
Dave Hook (moderator)

READINGS - AKUA LEZLI HOPE AND CLAIRE MCCAGUE**4:00pm | Capitol Room | Reading**

Readings with Akua Lezli Hope and Claire McCague.

*Akua Lezli Hope, Claire McCague***SIGNING - ALAN SMALE****4:00pm | Autographs 2 | Participatory Event**

Fan Interest, Signing
Alan Smale

SIGNING - JULIETTE WADE**4:00pm | Autographs 1 | Participatory Event**

Fan Interest, Signing
Juliette Wade

SIGNING - SU J SOKOL**4:00pm | Autographs 3 | Participatory Event**

Fan Interest, Signing
Su J Sokol

SIGNING - TOM DOYLE**4:00pm | Autographs 4 | Signing**

Signing with Tom Doyle.
Tom Doyle

SIDEWISE IN TIME: NEW ALTERNATIVE HISTORIES**4:00pm | Forum Room | Panel**

This panel features the presentation of the Sidewise Award for Alternate History, established in 1995 to recognize the best alternative history stories and novels of the year.

Literature
Rebecca Roanhorse (moderator), Steven H Silver, Yasser Bahjatt

SOCIAL DYNAMICS AND SUPERPOWERS**4:00pm | Older | Panel**

Superheroes can mean something very different to members of marginalized communities than they do to members of a dominant culture. How do the dynamics of a superpower fantasy change when the hero is a member of an oppressed group?

Comics, LGBTQ+, TV & Film
Sumiko Saulson (moderator), Randy Smith, Mari Ness, John Wiswell, Elizabeth Hirst, Keith DeCandido

SCIENCE TALK 10: TELESCOPES AND RADIO WAVES

4:00pm |  Diplomat Ballroom | Presentation

Black Holes for Fun and Profit

Katie Mack

Our understanding of black holes has increased dramatically, and we've discovered entire populations of them that defy our current best astronomical explanations. I'll give an overview of the science of black holes and an up-to-date summary of what we've learned through gravitational waves, observations of the black hole in our own galaxy's center, and the incredible effort to take a photo of a black hole in another galaxy.

Spectrum Wars - The Battle for Radio Frequencies

Keith Gremban

Radio frequency (RF) spectrum is a scarce, but infinitely renewable resource. RF spectrum is critical to our 21st century lives - in ways that often conflict with each other. Earth observation satellites are critical to everything from weather forecasting to assessing crop health. The same frequencies are also in demand for telecommunications. We will review the applications that depend on RF spectrum, review the state-of-the-art in managing RF spectrum, and present some of the mechanisms - technical and legal - that are being developed to provide fair access to radio frequencies.

Science

Katie Mack, Keith Gremban

READINGS - MARK ROTH

5:30pm | Capitol Room | Reading

Mark Roth

SPACE SCIENCE FICTION AT THE SMITHSONIAN

4:00pm |  Kress | Presentation

Why is Lt. Uhura's costume at the National Museum of African-American History and Culture? How did the National Air and Space Museum come to display both the 11-foot studio model of *Star Trek's* Starship Enterprise and a full-size T-70 X-wing vehicle from *Star Wars*? Join Dr. Margaret Weitekamp, a curator and the chair of the space history department at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum for a virtual discussion of their space science fiction holdings.

Science, TV & Film

Margaret Weitekamp

SPECULATIVE F(R)ICTION

4:00pm |  Harris | Panel

Smut? In our speculative fiction? Of course! Let's talk about what's trendy in speculative erotica and the state of erotica publishing. What are the current awards, and who judges them? How is erotic romance different from erotica, and is the distinction useful for writers or publishers?

Literature, Publishing, Writing

Marianne Kirby (moderator), Andrija "Andy" Popovic, Cassandra Rose Clarke, Bonnie Jo Stufflebeam

HOW TO START A FAN PODCAST

5:30pm |  Congressional Room (A&B) | Panel

So you want to start podcasting at fellow fans. What kind of tech setup do you need? How do you build an audience? How do you develop a format? How do you network with other fan podcasters? Our panelists will share their tips for getting started.

Fan Interest, New Media

Ali Baker (moderator), Thomas Wagner, Shaun Duke, Ana Rüsche, Dana L. Little

WHY DO WE LOVE NOVELLAS AND NOVELETTES?

4:00pm | Cabinet Room | Panel

Novellas and novelettes are having a moment right now. What makes them effective? Is it because they can home in on a specific idea or emotional payoff in depth, that they are the perfect length for one reading session, or some other kind of magic? What are some of our favorites to read, and what is it that draws authors to write at these lengths?

Literature, Writing

Sarah Pinsker (moderator), A. T. Greenblatt, Meg Elison, Lezli Robyn, Tochi Onyebuchi

WORKSHOP: MAKE A WATERCOLOR SUNSET

4:00pm | Presidential Board Room | Workshop

Learn to paint a sunset with watercolors. All skill levels are welcome. The instructor will provide necessary supplies. ALLERGY ALERT: Latex in use.

Art, Interactive

Lisa Hertel

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH JONATHAN PACE BRAZEE

5:30pm | Suite 325 Dining Room | Kaffeeklatsch

Small group conversation with author Jonathan Pace Brazee.

Jonathan Brazee

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH ROWENNA MILLER

5:30pm | Suite 325 Main Room | Kaffeeklatsch

Small group discussion with author Rowenna Miller

Rowenna Miller

MAKING ART COMMISSIONS MOSTLY PAINLESS

5:30pm | Calvert Room | Panel

So you want to sell custom artwork? Great! How do you set prices, establish reasonable limitations, and handle revisions? How do you work with clients who are way too specific or way too general? When can you "fire" a client, and when is it best to suck it up and make Captain Kirk an ocelot like they want, even though you know in your heart he's a caracal?

Art, Fan Interest

SunnyJim Morgan (moderator), Andi Dukleth, Penelope Flynn

NEW TV: FROM FOUNDATION TO SQUID GAME & BEYOND

5:30pm | Older | Panel

The pandemic has left many of us looking for even more streaming and network shows than before. We'll discuss the biggest hits, our favorites, and shows we wish had gone differently. From adaptations of classics to the next new hotness, anything goes!

TV & Film

Zaza Koshkadze (moderator), Merav Hoffman, RWW Greene, Wendy Van Camp

SOLARPUNK: A POSITIVE FUTURE

5:30pm | Kress | Panel

Solarpunk is a movement that envisions how the future might look if humanity succeeds in solving significant modern problems, with an emphasis on climate change, pollution, and sustainability. Panelists discuss themes and plot elements unique to Solarpunk, story outcomes that work best in this genre, and real-world changes that have emerged from the Solarpunk movement.

Literature

T. C. Weber, Andrea Hairston, Brenda Cooper, Phoebe Wagner, Maureen Kincaid Speller

SCIENCE TALK 2: TELESCOPES AND EXOPLANETS

5:30pm |  **Diplomat Ballroom** | Presentation

Exoplanets

Padi Boyd

In 1992 the first planet orbiting a star other than our Sun was discovered. Since then, almost 5000 planets in 3600 systems have been added to our catalogue of exoplanets. We will discuss the latest findings and marvel at the variety (and new types) of worlds that exist.

Exoplanet Worldbuilding in Science Fiction

Emma Johanna Puranen

Real exoplanets were first discovered in the past few decades, but science fiction authors have been writing about worlds outside our solar system for much longer. How does the diversity of fictional exoplanets compare to real-world discoveries? How are writers influenced by science? We apply data science techniques to a database of fictional exoplanets to investigate how this current era of unprecedented exoplanet discovery has impacted the way writers worldbuild their fictional exoplanets.

Literature, Science

Padi Boyd, Emma Johanna Puranen

WASHINGTON, DC, IN SPECULATIVE FICTION

5:30pm | **Cabinet Room** | Panel

Washington, DC, is a popular and compelling setting for mysteries and political thrillers, but what about speculative fiction? How is DC and its culture represented in science fiction and fantasy? How can you avoid reducing this complex city to a caricature? Which writers get it right, and how badly do some get it wrong?

History, Reviewing/Critique, Writing

DW "Lemur" Rowlands, Brick Barrientos, Lina Rather, Andrija "Andy" Popovic

THE COMPLEXITIES OF WAR

5:30pm |  **Blue Room** | Panel

Fantasy and science fiction seem to have a love affair with battles where two armies charge headlong at each other across vast plains or the immense vacuum of space for no good reason, and there is a notable absence of blood, bowels, and trauma. What are the best examples of realistic warfare? What methods can writers use to make battle sequences both interesting and reasonably true to life? How do we convey the complexities of war?

History, Writing

Leonardo Espinoza Benavides (moderator),

Joe Haldeman, Rod Van Blake, Maquel A.

Jacob, Wes

THE CREEPYPASTA PANEL

5:30pm |  **Harris** | Panel

Creepypasta: the internet evolution of the urban legend. It has risen from nothing to become a mature horror genre over the last decade. What is it, why does it work, and how will it evolve into the future?

Horror, Internet Culture, Literature

Cassandra Rose Clarke (moderator), Darcie

Little Badger, Nino Cipri, Alina Sidorova

WHY WON'T YOU STAY DEAD?!

5:30pm | **Forum Room** | Panel

Characters have come back from the dead so often in superhero comics that it's become a running joke, sometimes cheapening the impact of the death in the story. Creators have come up with a wide variety of tricks to resurrect or otherwise return "dead" characters to life. Is it just lazy storytelling, editorial decisions driven by commercial reasons, or is it something inherent to the storytelling form and round-robin method of collaborative authorship of comics?

Comics

Jennifer R. Povey, Mari Ness, Carrie Vaughn,

A.C. Wise, Jenny Rae Rappaport

WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | **SATURDAY** | SUNDAY

THEREMIN WORKSHOP

5:30pm |  Thomas | Workshop

You won't be able to get hands-on with the device in this streaming workshop, but Marnen Laibow-Koser will do his best to show you how to get great sound out of the world's first electronic instrument, the weird and wonderful theremin.

Interactive, Music

CONCERT: WASD

5:30pm |  Empire Ballroom | Concert

WASD is a DC-area metal project taking inspiration from classic PC-game soundtracks and making rock covers of your favorite computer game tunes. Coming soon to a LAN party near you.

Music

7:00PM

CONCERT: KIM THE COMIC BOOK GODDESS

7:00pm |  Empire Ballroom | Concert

Kim the Comic Book Goddess plays a mean keyboard, is like a cross between Tom Lehrer and Meat Loaf, and sings with a voice like Natalie Merchant about many more topics than just comic books. She's the surprise around the corner, but not in your cereal box, because she never really liked chickens anyway.

Music

FROM PAGE TO STAGE: PRODUCING YOUR OWN PLAYS

7:00pm |  Kress | Workshop

Have you ever wanted to bring a scene to life on stage? This workshop will walk you through the process from writing to production.

Interactive, Writing
Laura E. Goodin

CONCERT: MARNEN LAIBOW-KOSER ON THEREMIN

7:00pm |  Thomas | Concert

Massachusetts' Marnen Laibow-Koser is a computer geek who has been studying and playing music since the tender age of three and composing for nearly as long. He's a multi-instrumentalist performing mostly classical and Anglo-American folk music, and when he's not streaming a theremin concert to a convention like this, he can be found playing at numerous contra and English country dances.

Music

SCIENCE CONSIDERED AS A HELIX OF SEMICOLD CONES

7:00pm |  Congressional Room (A&B) | Presentation

David Shaw

Look at the ingredient list of your favorite and ultra-premium ice cream. What is all that stuff, and what does it contribute to what should be a simple concoction of dairy, sugar, flavoring, and air? How does temperature affect the texture of ice cream, and why is ice the absolute last thing you want to notice? We'll look at the factors involved in making the best homemade ice cream. Whether you are a beginner or not, you'll learn something that will help you step up your ice cream game.

Science
David G Shaw

WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | **SATURDAY** | SUNDAY

THEME SONG CIRCLE A

7:00pm | Cabinet Room |
Participatory Event

A song circle with a topic to be determined. Performers and listeners welcome. The day before attendees who have moderated a song circle before can sign up to host a theme filk and to choose its topic on a first-come, first-served basis. Check the daily newsletter for information about signing up to host and what the topic will be.

Interactive, Music
W. Randy Hoffman

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH ADA LOUISE GRACE PALMER

7:00pm | Suite 325 Side Room |
Kaffeeklatsch

Small group conversation with Ada Louise Grace Palmer.
Ada Palmer

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH ARLEY SORG

7:00pm | Suite 325 Main Room |
Kaffeeklatsch

Small group conversations with editor/writer Arley Sorg
Arley Sorg

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH TENAYA ANUE

7:00pm | Suite 325 Dining Room |
Kaffeeklatsch

Small group discussion with artist and writer Tenaya Anue
Tenaya Anue

7:30PM

HUGO WATCH PARTY WITH BAR

7:30pm | Blue Room |
TV - Live Event

Can't get into the main auditorium? Watch the Hugo Awards with us!

Special Events

QUIET HUGO WATCH PARTY

7:30pm | Diplomat Ballroom |
TV - Live Event

Can't get into the main auditorium? Watch the Hugo Awards with us!

Special Events

8:00PM

HUGO AWARD CEREMONIES

8:00pm | Regency Ballroom | Participatory Event

The Hugo Awards are science fiction's most prestigious awards. We gather together for the most prestigious ceremony in science fiction to discover the winners of the 2021 Hugo Awards.

Special Events, WSFS

WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | **SATURDAY** | SUNDAY

10:30PM

CONCERT: BATYA "THE TOON" WITTENBERG

10:30pm |  Thomas | Concert

Batya "The Toon" Wittenberg is a self-described successful transplant to New York City. As a lyricist she has a sharp wit. Batya's songs can bring you to tears—tears of laughter, tears of joy, tears of beauty. Her songs span a wide range of genres, from folk to rap and beyond.

Music

SCIENCE TALK 14 -- MATHEMATICAL MODELS

10:30pm |  Congressional Room (A&B) | Presentation

Mathematical Models of the Spread of Diseases, Opinions, Information, and Misinformation

Mason A. Porter

Social networks have a huge effect on the spread of diseases, memes, opinions, and information in a population. In this presentation, I'll give an introduction to the mathematical modeling of the spread of both diseases and opinions. I'll also discuss the importance of these ideas to the current COVID-19 pandemic and associated "infodemics" online.

Science

Mason A. Porter, David G Shaw

SATURDAY NIGHT OPEN FILK - CHAOS STYLE ROOM 1

10:30pm | Forum Room | Participatory Event

Making music all night long. Unicorns, space flight, cons, cats—the topic could be anything and could change at any time. All styles of music welcome. Singers, instrumentalists, and listeners all welcome.

Interactive, Music

W. Randy Hoffman

SATURDAY NIGHT OPEN FILK - CHAOS STYLE ROOM 2

10:30pm | Calvert Room | Participatory Event

Making music all night long. Unicorns, space flight, cons, cats—the topic could be anything and could change at any time. All styles of music welcome. Singers, instrumentalists, and listeners all welcome.

Interactive, Music

Merav Hoffman

SATURDAY NIGHT PICK-PASS-PERFORM SONG CIRCLE

10:30pm | Cabinet Room | Participatory Event

What is a pick-pass-perform song circle? Everyone in the room gets the chance to perform a number, pick a song by asking for a specific song, asking a specific person to perform, or picking a song topic, or pass their turn. All forms of music welcome.

Interactive, Music

TJ Burnside Clapp

11:00PM

CONCERT: SUMMER RUSSELL

11:00pm |  Thomas | Concert

Summer Russell is a lifelong lover of music and poetry, myth and magic, science and nature. Her voice and instrumentals bring to bring a richness to songs both new and old. Lyrically, her themes range from myth and magic to science, nature, and the wonders of the heart.

Music

DIGITAL DICE: TAKING YOUR TTRPG ONLINE

11:00pm |  Congressional Room (A&B) | Panel

The last year has caused droves of tabletop role-playing gamers to migrate to the internet. Moving online has brought with it a myriad of advantages—and some disadvantages. Our select group of gamers will share their best tips for running your gaming group in an online format.

Gaming

Bill Sutton (moderator), Ell Schulman, Humza Kazmi, Iori Kusano, Alex Wren

11:30PM

HUGO AWARDS PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

11:30pm |  Regency Ballroom | Participatory Event

A chance for members of the audience to take photos of the Hugo Award nominees and winners.

Interactive



8:30AM

ARE WE KEEPING OUR HOMES TOO CLEAN?

8:30am |

🖥️ Congressional Room (A&B) | Panel

Or, why should you let your kids eat dirt? This panel addresses the necessary microbes in the biomes of our homes and workplaces. How do germs really spread? Does disinfecting our homes with Lysol-type cleansers destroy the helpful bacteria that kill germs? Do plants really clean the air? Why is it important to spend time outside?

Science

Rodrigo Juri (moderator), Sam Scheiner, V Anne Smith, Stephanie Perniciaro, David G Shaw

CLIMATE CHANGE & AFRICAN NARRATIVES

8:30am | **🖥️ Thomas | Panel**

A panel of African authors and editors discuss how climate change is viewed in new African fiction.

Africa, Writing

Nick Wood (moderator), Yvette Lisa Ndlovu, Tlotlo Tsamaase, Chinelo Onwualu, Hannah Onogwe, Wole Talabi

9:30AM

WSFS - WORLDCON CHAIRS PHOTO SESSION

9:30am | **🖥️ Palladian Ballroom | Participatory Event**

This is a traditional gathering of past, present, and future Worldcon chairs. Come and get a photo of Worldcon chairs in their natural habitat.

Fan Interest, WSFS

WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | **SUNDAY**

INSPIRED OR COPIED? THE ETHICS OF ART

10:00am | Calvert Room | Panel

Unapproved use of licensed material, traced artwork, copied costume patterns, digital manipulation—there are so many ways for artists to cross the line into unethical behavior when using another artist's work as source material. How do we distinguish between inspiration, homage, and borderline theft? If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, how should artists feel about seeing their work duplicated elsewhere?

Art, Costume/Cosplay, Ethics

Chris M. Barkley, Jane Frank, Matt G.

Leger, Harold Feld, J.T. Greathouse, Keith DeCandido

ASSEMBLING AN ANTHOLOGY

11:30am | Blue Room | Panel

The speculative fiction anthology is one of the most popular and enduring forms of publishing in the industry. Crowdfunding and virtual productivity tools have democratized the form so that almost anyone can do it—but should they? How does the beginning anthologist solicit pieces, choose the best ones, and gently reject ones that don't make the cut? How do they pick and properly curate a theme? How do they order the stories, or does that even matter? Talk with some veteran editors to find out.

Publishing

dave ring (moderator), Ellen Datlow, Lynne M. Thomas, Alex Shvartsman, Wendy Van Camp

FANWORK FACTIONS

10:00am | Empire Ballroom | Panel

Fanfiction and other fanworks are well known for creating space for the stories that aren't-quite-told in canon. Communities have developed their own ethical standards about how and when elements can be used from other peoples' work, but we have also seen significant ship wars and the rise of purity culture. How are these community norms created, and how are they enforced? How does one stay afloat amidst the shifting tides of morality, taste, and social custom?

Fan Interest, Internet Culture

AJ Odasso (moderator), Cass Morris, Patricia A. Jackson, Nino Cipri

HORROR IN POPULAR MUSIC

10:00am | Harris | Panel

Horror themes in popular music transcend musical genre. From heavy metal, to horrorcore hip-hop, to ghost cowboys, to the cabaret horror ballads of La Femme Pendu, horror songs cut across all demographics and time periods in a way that fantasy and science fiction songs do not. What is it about horror that lends itself to popular music? What's the appeal? Who has done it well lately, and why?

Horror, Music

F. Brett Cox, Fulvio Gatti, Kat Kourbeti, Elizabeth Hirst

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH M.A. CARRICK

10:00am | Suite 325 Dining Room | Kaffeeklatsch

Small group conversation with M.A. Carrick
Alyc Helms, Marie Brennan

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH BENJAMIN C. KINNEY

11:30am | Suite 325 Bedroom Room | Kaffeeklatsch

Small group conversation with Benjamin C. Kinney

Benjamin C. Kinney

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH MARY ROBINETTE KOWAL

10:00am | Suite 325 Main Room | Kaffeeklatsch

Small group conversation with Mary Robinette Kowal. Advance signup recommended

Mary Robinette Kowal

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH WILLIAM LEDBETTER

10:00am | Suite 325 Bedroom Room | Kaffeeklatsch

Small group conversation with William Ledbetter.

William Ledbetter

MEETUP -- MARY OSMANSKI MEMORIAL SERVICE

10:00am | Ambassador Ballroom | Participatory Event

Friends of Mary Osmanski gather to remember and celebrate her life.

Interactive

PREPARING YOUR MANUSCRIPT FOR SUBMISSION

10:00am | Older | Workshop

A small press manager guides participants through the general formatting and submissions guidelines for most publishers and agents. We will provide examples of dos and don'ts for manuscript submissions.

Interactive, Publishing, Writing

Steven Radecki

READING - KATHERINE CRIGHTON & BENJAMIN ROSENBAUM

10:00am | Capitol Room | Reading

Readings with Katherine Crichton & Benjamin Rosenbaum.

Benjamin Rosenbaum, Katherine Crichton

READING - KATE HEARTFIELD & OGHENECHOVWE EKPEKI

11:30am | Harris | Reading

Authors Kate Heartfield & Oghenechovwe Donald Ekpeki each read from recently published or upcoming works.

Kate Heartfield (moderator), Oghenechovwe Donald Ekpeki

READINGS - CLAIRE LIGHT/JADIE JANG & RJ FORSTNER

11:30am | Capitol Room | Reading

Readings with Claire Light/Jadie Jang and Chanie Beckman/RJ Forstner.

Claire Light/Jadie Jang, RJ Forstner she/her

REPRESENTING MULTILINGUAL WORLDS

10:00am | Kress | Panel

Civilizations of the past have tended to be multilingual, sometimes with more than one common language along with various local languages and dialects. What are some ways to represent this diversity in a fictional text? How can linguistic diversity enhance other facets of storytelling?

Linguistics & Language, Writing

Jeffrey S. Jones, Sameem Siddiqui, Andrija "Andy" Popovic, Brenda Kalt, Alona Silina, Terrie Hashimoto

SCIENCE TALK 9: ENTREPRENEURSHIP, QUANTUM

10:00am |  **Diplomat Ballroom | Presentation**

Contextualizing Physics Innovation and Entrepreneurship connecting Mindset to Skillset

Bahram Roughani, Randy Jones

Physics education faces challenges in student engagement. This can be due to the techno-centric approach in physics education with little or no attention devoted to exploring the relationship between physics concepts and human needs. To enhance engagement we may need to focus on the “why” in order to inspire purpose and passion for learning physics. We will discuss the potential impact of contextualizing Physics in real world application based on Innovation and Entrepreneurship and will present specific examples.

The Quantum Internet: Hype or the Next Step?

John Ashmead

What do we mean by the quantum internet? Why do we need more than just quantum computing? What are quantum cryptography, quantum key distribution, quantum sensors? How are these concepts entangled? What are the advantages of the quantum internet? key problems? Who will get to use it? And do we have just a bunch of interesting technologies that all have quantum in their name or can the whole be more than the sum of its parts?

Science

John Ashmead

SIGNING - JASON SANFORD

10:00am | **Autographs 2 | Participatory Event**

*Fan Interest, Signing
Jason Sanford*

SIGNING - MELISSA CARUSO

10:00am | **Autographs 1 | Participatory Event**

*Fan Interest, Signing
Melissa Caruso*

SIGNING - BENJAMIN ROSENBAUM

11:30am | **Autographs 1 | Participatory Event**

*Fan Interest, Signing
Benjamin Rosenbaum*

SIGNING - NINO CIPRI

11:30am | **Autographs 2 | Participatory Event**

*Fan Interest, Signing
Nino Cipri*

SIGNING - REBECCA ROANHORSE

11:30am | **Autographs 3 | Participatory Event**

*Fan Interest, Signing
Rebecca Roanhorse*

SOUND AND COLOR: A GRAPHIC NOVEL PRIMER

10:00am |  **Congressional Room (A&B) | Panel**

The tools of graphic novels allow writers to take strikingly different approaches to plot, tone and world-building than those using strictly prose. Our panel will explore key features of this form of storytelling, the process of working with an artist, common questions about the medium, and highlight a number of pivotal texts for newcomers.

Comics, Writing

*Gregory A. Wilson, Charles Vess, Tao Wong,
Marina Berlin, Joey Yu, Nikhil Singh*

THE PHYLOGENETIC TREE OF SPACE OPERA

10:00am |  Blue Room | Panel

Cowboy Bebop and *Dune* are back on screens but it's not 1965, 1984, or 1998. Is it that everything old is new again, or is space opera just a genre that keeps on giving? If E.E. "Doc" Smith's *The Skylark of Space* is the root of the tree and Asimov's Foundation series is the trunk, where do the branches lead us?

History, Literature, TV & Film

John Scalzi (moderator), Leonardo Espinoza Benavides, Catherynne Valente, Walter Jon Williams, Eva L. Elsigue

THEME SONG CIRCLE C

10:00am | Forum Room | Participatory Event

A song circle with a topic to be determined. Performers and listeners welcome. The day before attendees who have moderated a song circle before can sign up to host a theme filk and to choose its topic on a first-come, first-served basis. Check the daily newsletter for information about signing up to host and what the topic will be.

Interactive, Music

W. Randy Hoffman

WORDS AND AWARDS— CREATING VISIBILITY IN AFRICA

10:00am |  Thomas | Panel

This panel will discuss the range of awards and other markers of achievement on the Continent, and how they raise the profile of African authors.

Africa, Awards, International

Mazi Nwonwu (moderator), Dilman Dila, Mame Bougouma Diene, Stephen Embleton

WSFS FINAL BUSINESS MEETING/MPC MEETING

10:00am |  Palladian Ballroom | Participatory Event

The WSFS Business Meeting is open to all Worldcon members. Come see and participate in how the sausage is made regarding the World Science Fiction Society (WSFS). This is where rules regarding Hugo Awards, site selection of future Worldcons, and related matters are proposed, debated, and voted upon. Any business not concluded at previous meetings will be considered here. The WSFS Mark Protection Committee will meet here after adjournment to elect officers and consider its agenda for 2021-22.

WSFS

GAMING ROOM AND ONLINE GAMING -- SUNDAY

10:00am |  Blue Room Prefunction | Scheduled Game

Come join us for freeform gaming!

Online, visit the gaming channels on Discord.

Onsite, visit the gaming room, which is the Blue Room Prefunction space on level one. Stop by for a pickup game, or to see the schedule of games people are looking to run.

Want to run a game? Fill out our online form to share the details for both onsite and online games. Or simply leave a note in person on the message board in the gaming room.

Gaming, Interactive

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH L.D. LEWIS

11:30am | Suite 325 Dining Room | Kaffeeklatsch

Small group conversation with author/editor L.D. Lewis

L. D. Lewis

WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH BEN YALOW

11:30am | Suite 325 Main Room | Kaffeeklatsch

A chance to talk with Ben Yalow about his long career in con-running. Ben has been involved in SF fandom for about 45 years, attended more than 800 cons, and worked on about a third of them. His first con was Lunacon 14 in 1971. He has been a member of numerous Worldcon bids and has worked on many of them starting in the mid-1970s. He coined the phrase "wimpy zone." One of his apothegms: "Running a Worldcon is impossible. Running a NASFIC is harder."

Ben Yalow

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH DOUGLAS F. DLUZEN, PHD

11:30am | Suite 325 Side Room | Kaffeeklatsch

Small group discussion with scientist/science writer/editor Douglas F. Dluzen. Advance sign up suggested

Douglas F. Dluzen

ANIME AND MANGA IN TRANSLATION

11:30am | Calvert Room | Panel

Anime and manga are frequently altered during the process of translation. Changes can range from small shifts in wording for the sake of comprehension to significant changes in plot and character. How do Western publishers and media companies decide what changes to make for their English-speaking audiences? When do these changes work well, and when do they damage the story? Are fans who don't speak Japanese missing out?

Anime and Manga, International
Dana L. Little, Ada Palmer, Maquel A. Jacob, Peter Adrian Behravesh, Nick Mamatas

ASTEROID MINING AND THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

11:30am | Diplomat Ballroom | Panel

A single medium-sized asteroid can contain more gold and platinum than all of Earth. How do we keep the first giant hunk of space gold from crashing the world's commodities markets? How might speculative technologies lead to creation of markets for asteroid resources?

Economics, Science

Geoffrey Landis (moderator), Peter N. Glaskowsky, Keith Gremban, Stina Leicht

CONCERT: HAROLD FELD & MARC GROSSMAN

11:30am | Cabinet Room | Concert

A pair of 30-minute concerts by Harold Feld and Marc Grossman. Both of these performers have been active in the Society for Creative Anachronism and will serenade you with everything from ancient song to futuristic filk.

Music

Harold Feld, Marc Grossman

SAILING THE SEA OF SUBMISSIONS

11:30am | Kress | Panel

What is it like for marginalized or underrepresented writers to navigate submissions and rejections in short fiction? How do such writers consider editorial feedback related to voice or relatability, when it's possible that feedback could be coming from a place of bigotry or close-mindedness rather than a reflection of their craft?

Publishing, Reviewing/Critique, Writing
LP Kindred, Phoebe Barton, K.G. Anderson, Vida Cruz, Beverly Bambury, AJ Odasso

MANIFESTATIONS OF GENDER

11:30am |

🖥️ **Congressional Room (A&B) | Panel**

Three academic talks:

Author and Character Gender in the Hugos

Jennifer Zwahr-Castro

From 2001-2020, over half of Hugo winners in this category have been women. The current study is a first step in a more nuanced understanding of gender representation among nominees in the best novel category and the central characters portrayed in those works.

Where Will it All Lead?: Gwyneth Jones's Life

Nick Hubble

I compare Gwyneth Jones's novel, *Life*, with Marie Stopes's *Love's Adventure*, the novel to which Virginia Woolf repeatedly alludes (Chloe and Olivia) in *A Room of One's Own*. I examine how Jones's novel imagines the ending "of the great project" in which Anna is free both to "like Olivia" and to run her own lab.

Gynoids, Fembots, and other Mechanized Women

Marcia D. Nichols

A mainstay of science fiction, gynoids and other mechanized women wreak havoc on the masculinist order. I will trace the history of the gynoid from her roots in 18th century science and literature into the 20th century in order to provide a feminist critique of the traditional use of the gynoid as a projection of fear.

Academic, LGBTQ+

Marcia D. Nichols, Dr Nick Hubble, Jennifer Zwahr-Castro

SCIENCE FICTION MOVIES ACROSS THE WORLD

11:30am | 🖥️ **Older | Panel**

What are the best new science fiction movies across the globe? The panel will make its recommendations, and you, the audience, can add more. This is a chance to contribute to watch lists for the 2022 Hugo Awards.

International, TV & Film

Ahmed Salah Al-Mahdi, Elsa Sjunneson, Mazi Nwonwu, Terrence Francis, Nikhil Singh

SONGWRITING TIPS FROM THE PEGASUS AWARD NOMINEES

11:30am | 🖥️ **Thomas | Workshop**

The Pegasus Awards were founded by OVFF (Ohio Valley Filk Fest) to recognize and honor excellence in filking. Our panelists have all been nominated for Pegasus Awards for their songwriting. Come hear what they have to say about the art of crafting the perfect song.

Music, Writing

John G. McDaid, Benjamin Newman

THEME SONG CIRCLE B

11:30am | **Forum Room | Participatory Event**

A song circle with a topic to be determined. Performers and listeners welcome. The day before attendees who have moderated a song circle before can sign up to host a theme filk and to choose its topic on a first-come, first-served basis. Check the daily newsletter for information about signing up to host and what the topic will be.

Interactive, Music

W. Randy Hoffman

1:00PM

CLOSING CEREMONIES

1:00pm |  **Regency Ballroom** | Participatory Event

We say farewell to DisCon III, pass the torch to Chicon 8, and enjoy the artistry of the performing arts group Raks Geek.

Special Events, WSFS

Helen Montgomery (moderator), Nancy Kress, Sheree Renée Thomas, Mary Robinette Kowal, Malka Older

DEAD DOG FILK

1:00pm | **Forum Room** | Participatory Event

The con is over, but the music continues. Bring your voices, bring your instruments, bring your ears. All forms of music welcome.

Interactive, Music

W. Randy Hoffman

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH DALE THOMAS VAUGHN

1:00pm | **Suite 325 Dining Room** | Kaffeeklatsch

Small group conversation with Dale Thomas Vaughn.

Dale Vaughn

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH JENNIE GOLOBOY

1:00pm | **Suite 325 Bedroom Room** | Kaffeeklatsch

Small group conversation with Jennie Goloboy.

Jennie Goloboy

KAFFEEKLATSCH WITH KATIE MACK

1:00pm | **Suite 325 Main Room** | Kaffeeklatsch

Small group conversation with Katie Mack.

Katie Mack

READINGS - DAVID D. LEVINE AND JEAN MARIE WARD

1:00pm | **Capitol Room** | Reading

Readings with David D. Levine and Jean Marie Ward.

David D. Levine, Jean Marie Ward

2:30PM

MARK PROTECTION COMMITTEE - DAY 5

2:30pm |  **Palladian Ballroom** | Participatory Event

The Mark Protection Committee (MPC) meets following adjournment of the final WSFS business meeting, and it will choose its officers for 2021-22. These meetings are open to all members of DisCon III, particularly those who are interested in what makes the Worldcon a Worldcon.

WSFS

WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | **SUNDAY**

KAFFEEKLATSCHES

- Ada Louise Grace Palmer
- AJ Odasso
- Aliza Greenblatt
- Arley Sorg
- B. Morris Allen
- Ben Yalow
- Benjamin C. Kinney
- Beverly Bambury
- Bob Greenberger
- Bonnie Jo Stufflebeam
- Brandie June
- Brenda W. Clough
- Cass Morris
- Chris Dardick
- CL Polk
- Cora Buhlert
- Crant Carrington
- Dale Thomas Vaughn
- Diana M. Pho
- Douglas F. Dluzen, PhD
- Ellen Datlow
- Ellen Kushner
- Fonda Lee
- Fulvio Gatti
- Gautam Bhatia
- Gillian Polack
- Hannah Onoguwe
- Heather Rose Jones
- Jason Sanford
- Jean Bürlesk
- Jenn Lyons
- Jennie Goloboy
- Jeremy TeGrotenhuis
- Jo Walton
- Joe Haldeman
- John Wiswell
- Jonathan Pace Brazee
- Joshua Bilmes
- Katie Mack
- Kel Coleman
- L.D. Lewis
- Lawrence M. Schoen
- Leslye Penelope
- Lindsay Ellis
- Lynne M. Thomas
- M.A. Carrick

- Maquel A. Jacob
- Mark L. Van Name
- Marshall Ryan Maresca
- Mary Robinette Kowal
- Mary Soon Lee
- Maurizio Manzieri
- Melissa Caruso
- Nancy Kress
- Naomi Kritzer
- Natalie Naudus
- Nathan W. Toronto
- Neil Clarke
- Nicole Glover
- Nino Cipri
- Patricia A. Jackson
- Phoebe Barton
- Randee Dawn
- Rebecca F. Kuang
- Rebecca Roanhorse
- Rowenna Miller
- Sara Megibow
- Sarah Pinsker
- Scott Edelman
- Seanan McGuire
- Shannon Chakraborty
- Sheila Williams
- Sheree Renée Thomas
- Sumiko Saulson
- Tenaya Anue
- teri.zin
- Walter Jon Williams
- Wesley Chu
- William Ledbetter

Reserve your spot to attend a kaffeeklatsch! Signup sheets for kaffeeklatsches will be at the **Info Desk** (Main Lobby) a day or a few hours before each event.

AUTHOR SIGNINGS

- A.T. Greenblatt
- Ada Palmer
- AJ Odasso
- Alan Smale
- Alex Shvartsman
- Benjamin Rosenbaum
- Bonnie Jo Stofflebeam
- Carol Gyzander
- Carrie Vaughn
- Catherynne Valente
- Chris Dardick
- Chris Panatier
- Dale Thomas Vaughn
- Darcie Little Badger
- Daryl Gregory
- E. Lily Yu
- Ellen Datlow
- Fonda Lee
- Gregory A. Wilson
- Heather Rose Jones
- Jason Sanford
- Jenn Lyons
- Jennifer R. Povey
- Jeremy TeGrotenhuis
- Jo Walton
- Joe Haldeman
- John Scalzi
- John Wiswell
- Jonathan Pace Brazee
- Juliette Wade
- Katie Mack
- Keith DeCandido
- Lawrence M. Schoen
- Lesley M. Wheeler
- Lindsay Ellis
- Marie Brennan/M.A. Carrick
- Marshall Ryan Maresca
- Martha Wells
- Mary Robinette Kowal
- Matthew S. Rotundo
- Meg Elison
- Melissa Caruso
- Nancy Kress
- Natalie Naudus
- Nathan W. Toronto
- Neil Clarke

- Nino Cipri
- Patricia A Jackson
- Randee Dawn
- Rebecca Kuang
- Rebecca Roanhorse
- Roberta Rogow
- Sarah Pinsker
- Scott Edelman
- Sheila Williams
- Steven H Silver
- Su J Sokol
- Sumiko Saulson
- T.C. Weber
- Tom Doyle
- Usman T. Malik
- Walter Jon Williams
- Wesley Chu



As a general guideline, please limit yourself to **three items per signing**. Once you have your three items signed, you can rejoin the end of the line if there is time for further autographs.

SCIENCE TALKS

THURSDAY

- Quantum Computing 11:30 AM | Diplomat Ballroom
Low-Cost Space Launches 11:30 AM | Congressional A&B
Climate Change 5:30 PM | Diplomat Ballroom
Neural Networks and AI 7:00 PM | Diplomat Ballroom

FRIDAY

- The James Webb Space Telescope 11:30 AM | Diplomat Ballroom
Galileo and the Science Deniers 1:00 PM | Harris
Dinosaurs and Genomes 5:30 PM | Diplomat Ballroom
Space Exploration 10:00 PM | Diplomat Ballroom

SATURDAY

- Telescopes and Radio Waves 4:00 PM | Diplomat Ballroom
Telescopes and Exoplanets 5:30 PM | Diplomat Ballroom
Mathematical Models 8:30 PM | Congressional A&B

SUNDAY

- Entrepreneurship, Quantum 10:00 AM | Diplomat Ballroom



Shore Leave 42

15-17 July 2022

A Fan-run Media Science Fiction
Convention in Baltimore, MD

Presented by the Star Trek Association of Towson, Inc. (STAT)



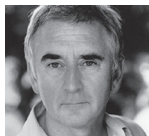
Adam Baldwin

Firefly – Jayne Cobb
Chuck – John Casey
The Last Ship – XO Mike Statterly



Jewel Staite

Firefly – Kaylee Frye
Sargate Atlantis – Dr. J. Keller
The L.A. Complex – R. Westbrook



Denis Lawson

Star Wars – Wedge Antilles
Bleak House – John Jarmdyce
New Tricks – DI Steve McAndrew



BarBara Luna

Star Trek – Marlena
Buck Rogers – Koori
Zorro (1958) – Theresa Modesto



Eddie McClintock

Warehouse 13 – Pete Lattimer
Supergirl – Col. James Harper
Agents of SHIELD – Vin-Tak



Aimee Garcia

Lucifer – Ella Lopez
Dexter – Jamie Batista
Rush Hour – Didi Diaz

*More media guests will be announced.
All guests will appear in person.*

Convention registration is open now.

**You must be fully vaccinated to attend.
See our full COVID policy on our website.**

Our confirmed author, artist, and scientist guests:

Chris Abbott, Danielle Ackley-McPhail, Rigel Ailur, Lorraine Anderson, Derek Tyler Attico, Diane Lee Baron, Christopher L. Bennett, The Boogie Knights, Alan Chafin, John Coffren, Russ Colchamiro, Greg Cox, Kathleen David, Peter David, Keith DeCandido, Kevin Dilmore, Mary Fan, Kelli Fitzpatrick, Michael Jan Friedman, Phil Giunta, Robert Greenberger, Glenn Hauman, Andrew Hiller, Heather Hutsell, Amy Imhoff, Jim Johnson, Luna-C, David Mack, Mike McPhail, Christopher D. Ochs, Susan Olesen, Joshua Palmatier, Scott Pearson, Roberta Rogow, Aaron Rosenberg, Jenifer Rosenberg, Hildy Silverman, Dayton Ward, Laura Ware, Howard Weinstein, Richard White, and Steve Wilson.
More participants will be announced as they are confirmed.

For Hotel Information:

**Delta Hotels Baltimore Hunt Valley
245 Shawan Road
Hunt Valley, Maryland 21031**

Tel. 410-785-7000 or 866-764-8359

(Hotel reservations for 2022 are being taken now)
Make your own reservations and mention **Shore Leave**
for a special room rate of \$137 plus applicable taxes.

For Any Other Information:

**Shore Leave 42
PO Box 6809
Towson, Maryland 21285-6809**

www.shore-leave.com

Email: go to www.shore-leave.com/contacts/
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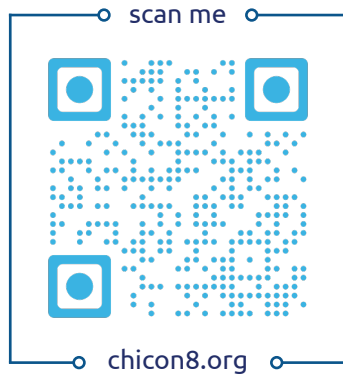
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**SEE YOU
IN 2022 AT
CHICON 8!**

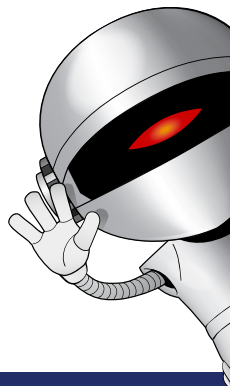


**FAREWELL,
FRIENDS!**

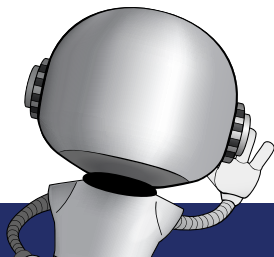
NOTES



DisCon III



NOTES





DisCon III

PUBLIC TRANSIT & PARKING

PUBLIC TRANSIT (RECOMMENDED)

Public transit is a great option for getting to and from DisCon III!

Metrorail: The Omni Shoreham lies across the street from the **Woodley Park Station** located on **Metro's Red Line**. Get a SmartTrip Card or download the SmartTrip app to use **Metrorail**.

Buses: The L1, L2, and 96 **Metrobus** and the **DC Circulator** also serve the **Woodley Park Station**. The DC Circulator runs later and offers \$1 fares for several routes across the city.

Bikes + Scooters: Try a DC-area service offering shared bikes, e-bikes, and e-scooters! We're big fans of **Capital Bikeshare**.

DRIVING + PARKING

Parking at the Omni Shoreham:

Hotel parking is \$35/day, valet-only, with no in-and-out privileges for non-guests. Space is extremely limited.

If you attempt nearby street parking, please read signs carefully.

Nearby paid lots:

- **Colonial Parking LeadingAge Building (Lot 609) - day only**
2300 Calvert St., NW, 20008 Washington, DC
- **Colonial Parking (Lot 462) - 24/7**
2415 18th St NW, Washington, DC 20009

Distant paid lots:

There are many options to park farther away from the Omni Shoreham. Consider parking at a lot near a **Red Line Metrorail Station** and taking Metro to the hotel (Woodley Park Station).



NEED TO GET AROUND?

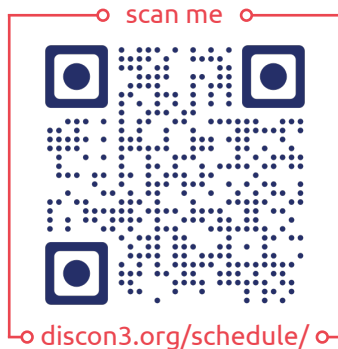
Citymapper is our favorite transport app for navigating DC. Just enter your destination, and Citymapper will show you various transit options for getting there – including arrival times, cost estimates, and more!



ONLINE PROGRAM

Log in at **discon3.org** to access the full schedule!

The online program schedule will allow you to mark your favorite events and stay informed on last minute changes.



Acknowledgements:

Managing Editors Diana Yan + Matt Arnold

Communications Division Head Adam Beaton

Art Director Lauren Raye Snow

This Pocket Program Guide would not be possible without the contributions from many volunteers from all departments. Thank you, DisCon III volunteers!

Cover Art: **Spectral Lines** by John Harris. Original work. © 2017 John Harris.

"... a race so in love with their home sun, they scorched its spectral lines on the sides of their ships."