



Ken Fletcher '97

ROScoe

Minicon 34 Pocket Program

Convention Hours

You can find explanations of these areas in the Souvenir Book.

Art Show

Minneapolis Ballroom, Salon E/F

Friday 2pm – 7pm
Saturday 10am – 6pm
Sunday 10am – 3pm

Bridge (Convention Services)

Duluth Room

Thursday evening setup – Monday morning teardown (24 hours/day)

Childcare

5th floor Exec King, most likely (look for signs)

Friday 5pm – 10pm
Saturday 11am – 9pm
Sunday 12noon – 4pm

Consuite (Hospitality)

Rochester Room (non-smoking)

Grand Ballroom Salon G (smoking)

Presidential Suite (24th Floor/non-smoking)

Smoking Lounge (23rd Floor Exec King/look for signs)

Thursday evening setup – Monday morning teardown (24 hours/day)

Hucksters Room

Minneapolis Ballroom, Salon A/B/C

Friday 10am – 6pm
Saturday 10am – 6pm
Sunday 10am – 3pm

Post Office

Third Floor, near escalators

Friday 1pm – 5pm
Saturday 1pm – 5pm

Programming

Second and Third Floors (see grid and maps)

Friday 4pm – 10:30pm, with a dinner break from 6pm – 8pm
Saturday 10am – 11pm, with a dinner break from 6pm – 7pm
Sunday 10am – 5pm

Registration

Coat Room (Third Floor)

Thursday 8pm – 11pm (pick up preregistrations only)
Friday 10am – 10pm
Saturday 10am – 3pm

Our profound thanks to:

Childcare

Laura Jean Fish, Head
& new concom member
Laurie Mann

Convention Services

Eustace Pangolin

Programming

Linda Deneroff
Tom Whitmore

Convention Services

by Mike Bakula

Read Me!

If you need help, go to the Info Desk on 3rd floor outside of Registration; when the Info Desk is closed, the Bridge (Minicon's traditional name for its headquarters) is on the third floor, in the Duluth Room. Or call XXXX at any time.

Summaries of some of Minicon's convention policies follow. The complete policies are available in the Program Book; please take a moment to read them.

Badge Policy

- Minicon uses badges to identify our members.
- Keep your badge with you at all times while at Minicon.
- If you find a lost badge, please bring it to the Bridge.
- If you lose your badge, please come to the Bridge.
- If you are irresponsible, Minicon reserves the right to revoke your membership.

Weapons Policy

- Use common sense.
- Actual firearms, class 3 or 4 lasers, and projectile throwing toys are not permitted.
- For everything else, have a sheath or other container for it, and keep it secured.
- Minicon reserves the right to prohibit any prop or weapon.
- You kill it, you eat it.

Signage Policy

- Signs may be posted only on the signboards.
- Only one sign per board per event.
- Signboards will be in the open area on 3rd floor, and outside the consuites on 23rd and 24th floors. There may be signboards on each of the party floors (16-24).

Smoking Policy

- In accordance with the Minnesota Clean Indoor Air Act, smoking is permitted only in designated smoking areas.
- There are smoking consuites on 3rd and 23rd floors.

Want to know what all of those pretty ribbons mean?

Guest of Honor ribbons are white with purple ink. The people wearing these are Minicon 34's honored guests.

Concom ribbons are lemon yellow with metallic purple ink, and they're for the people who are responsible for Minicon this year. If you've got a question about how Minicon 34 is being run this year, ask someone wearing one of these.

Volunteer ribbons are rainbow colored with gold ink, and they're for everyone who is helping make Minicon 34 happen — from gophers to staff to concom to program participants.

Want to get a pretty rainbow ribbon yourself? Stop in at the volunteers desk anytime when we're open (*Friday 2 – 9pm, Saturday 9:30am – 9pm, Sunday 9:30am – 4pm*) and sign up for a volunteers shift (or two) and get one of those pretty rainbow Volunteer ribbons. Volunteers can also hang out in the gopher hole (*open on Friday 2 – 10pm, Saturday 10am – 10pm, and Sunday 10am – 4pm*) and schmooze with other volunteers, and if you're a volunteer, make sure you stop by the gopher hole at about 9pm Friday and 8pm Saturday. (Trust us on this one.)

See you in two weeks?

The Minicon 34 postmortem will be on Saturday, April 17, starting at 1:30 pm and finishing by 4:30 pm. The meeting will be held in the community room in the basement of Hosmer Library, 347 East 36th Street, Minneapolis.

We'll review the convention's strengths, weaknesses, and outcomes. This meeting is open to the public, especially people interested in helping with Minicon 35.

There's also a Minn-StF meeting on Saturday, April 17. The location will be announced on the Minn-StF Hotline (612-824-5559), and will also be available at the postmortem.

Program Participants

Eleanor Arnason
Karyn Ashburn
Lenny Bailes
Alice Bentley
Bob Berlien
Ruth Berman
Don Blyly
Janice M. Bogstad
Seth Breidbart
Steven Brust
Nate Bucklin
Lois McMaster Bujold
Octavia E. Butler
Dave Clement
Darlene P. Coltrain
Ctein
Kara Dalkey
Howard Davidson
Pamela Dean
Gordon R. Dickson
Linda J. Dunn
David Dyer-Bennet
Martin Easterbrook
Laurie Edison
Lise Eisenberg
Craig Finseth
Richard Fish
John M. Ford
Brad Foster
Lisa Freitag
Jim Frenkel
Beth Friedman
Neil Gaiman
Gordon Garb
Terry Garey
Anne Gay
Jeanne Gomoll
Magenta Griffith
Leigh Grossman
Linda Hafemeister
Beth Hansen
Eric Heideman
Dave Howell
Rebecca Hubbard
Steven Vincent Johnson
Christopher Jones
Peg Kerr
Greg Ketter
Laurel Krahn
Eleanor Lang
Russell Letson
Michael Levy
Fred A. Levy Haskell
Tony Lewis
Suford Lewis
Sandra Lindow

Lynn Litterer
Linda Lounsbury
Catherine Lundoff
Betsy Lundsten
Hank Luttrell
Marci Malinowycz
Jim Mann
Scott Marley
Elise Matthesen
Dennis McCunney
Jim Minz
Hilary Moon Murphy
Dave Nee
Lydia Nickerson
James Nicoll
Patrick Nielsen Hayden
Teresa Nielsen Hayden
Debbie Notkin
Ulrika O'Brien
Kris O'Higgins
Mark Olson
Priscilla Olson
Bruce Pelz
Katya Pendill
Michael Pins
Nicholas Pollotta
Victor Raymond
Katya Reimann
Neil Rest
John Rezmerski
Joel Rosenberg
Vicki Rosenzweig
Kathy Routliffe
Jeff Schalles
Bruce Schneier
Jon Singer
Cally Soukup
Jerry Stearns
Caroline Stevermer
Geri Sullivan
Amber Tatge
Pat Thielen
Amy Thomson
Michael Ward
Bob Webber
Tom Whitmore
Doug Wickstrom
Laurel Winter
Jane Yolen

Programming

Program Prep

Hours:

Thursday no official hours, but we'll be setting up;
stop by and take your chances
Friday noon to 6
Saturday 9:30 to 10
Sunday 9:30 to 4

Directors Row 2 is Program Prep. This room combines both the functions of green room and programming operations in one room. This is the place to go to:

- **Pick up your programming packet.** Your packet will have your individual schedule, your volunteer ribbon, a label with a short version of the schedule that you can stick on the back of your volunteer ribbon, and anything we think of between now and then.
- **Check with Programming** if there's you need to let us know about. If you have a conflict with or question about a panel, this is the place to go.
- **Check in before a panel.** It's often a good idea to show up 10 minutes or so before your program item begins to meet briefly with your fellow panelists.

Programming Hours

Friday 4pm to 10:30pm, with a dinner break from 6pm to 8pm
Saturday 10am to 11pm, with a dinner break from 6pm to 7pm
Sunday 10am to 5pm

Author's Roundtables

Here's your chance to spend some quality time with the author or authors of your choice! This is a new feature at Minicon; whether we do it again depends on how well it goes this year.

How it works: There will be sign-up sheets at the Info Desk. Sign up for an hour with the authors you choose. *If you sign up for a slot, you are making a commitment.* There are only 18 chairs in Board Room 3, so only 17 places are available for each roundtable. To encourage people to sign up for early slots, coffee and tea will be available in the room.

Directors Row 3

When it is not otherwise scheduled, which is most of the time, Directors Row 3 is designated as a breakout room. If you're in a panel and the panel wants to run overtime, this is a place everyone can trundle over to to continue the conversation.

It is only available during scheduled programming hours.

Thank You

The Programming department is exceedingly grateful to Linda Deneroff, who both provided the database and worked with Minicon to make myriad requested changes.

Minicon thanks Tor Books for the use of its Vice-Presidential Suite for Jane Yolen's Milk-and-Cookies Storytelling, as well as their supplies.

Program Descriptions Friday, 5pm - Saturday, 12am
Is the story a classic or a cheat? Did the author stack the deck?
Was another answer possible within the story's own terms? And
why would the author do a thing like that if he didn't have to?
*Octavia E. Butler [m], David Dyer-Bennet, Peg Kerr, Mark Olson,
Nicholas Pollotta*

8:00 PM

Opening Ceremonies

Grand Ballroom

Here's where it all starts. Notables will be introduced. Silliness
will transpire. Moose will be taught to speak Swedish and
process insurance forms. Welcome to Minicon!

*Octavia E. Butler (Writer GoH), Fred A. Levy Haskell (Keynote
Speaker), Dave Nee (Bookseller GoH), Teresa Nielsen Hayden
(MC), Mark and Priscilla Olson (Fan GoHs), et al. (You)*

9:00 PM

Tour of the Art Show

Art Show

Guided tours of the Minicon Art Show, conducted by our friendly
and artistic guides.

Ask Dr. Mike

Hennepin-Carver

The renowned Dr. Mike, speculative engineer, answers your
questions about science. (Ninety minutes.) *John M. Ford*

Saturday, April 3, 1999

10:00 AM

SFWA Regional Meeting

Directors Row 1

The Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America business
meeting. SFWA members only, and you're not missing a thing.
(Two hours.) *Linda J. Dunn*

10:30 AM

Patrick O'Brian, Dorothy Dunnett,

Hennepin-Carver

Bernard Cornwell, Georgette Heyer: A Politely Uncivil Thrash

They're historical novelists — so why do so many SF readers
like them so much? What's the affinity? And when you get right
down to it, which series is objectively better? (Ninety minutes.
No throwing food.) *Steven Brust, Pamela Dean, Tony Lewis,
Tom Whitmore [m], Jane Yolen*

11:00 AM

The Legion of Super-Heroes

LaSalle

Come and celebrate the weirdest and most endearing team in
the history of comics, beloved of our co-FGoH Priscilla Olson.
Long live the Legion! *Lenny Bailes, Christopher Jones,
Dave Nee, James Nicoll, Priscilla Olson [m]*

Really Big Engineering in SF

Marquette

SF is full of grandiose engineering projects; one critic has claimed
that "giant object SF" is an identifiable subgenre. Is the sfnal
impulse to Big Engineering a characteristic aberration of our field,
or a long-term human impulse? Are really big projects
economically feasible, or are they simply too much fun to leave
alone? Are any of them genuinely plausible? *Howard Davidson,
Gordon Garb [m], Mark Olson, Jeff Schalles, Doug Wickstrom*

12:00 PM

Roundtable: Lois McMaster Bujold

Board Room 3

Author's roundtable with Lois McMaster Bujold.

Saturday, 12am - 1pm

Program Descriptions

Exposition: How Much Is Enough?

LaSalle

One of the surest ways to kill a good story is to explain *everything*: an over-elaborate backstory, the nuts and bolts behind the magic, or how the Riverworld works. On the other hand, sometimes the best way to convey a complicated future, fantasy world, or alternate continuum to your readers is to just tell them about it. Do all questions have to be answered? Are there ever good reasons to leave the readers hanging, or is it just fun? And what's the place of an elegant infodump? *Eleanor Arnason, Steven Brust, John M. Ford, Teresa Nielsen Hayden [m], Katya Reimann*

Reading: Joel Rosenberg

Directors Row 1

Joel Rosenberg reads (out loud).

Mask-Making

Grand Ballroom

Mardi Gras is over, but you can still make a fantastical mask. We'll provide materials. For adults and children. (In the back of the Grand Ballroom.) *Linda Lounsbury*

Dave Nee, interviewed by Greg Ketter

Marquette

Stories told, mysteries revealed, odd bits explained, by our Bookseller Guest of Honor, a seriously interesting guy. Come and listen. *Dave Nee, Greg Ketter*

Children Get the Best Fantasy

Hennepin-Carver

Genre fantasy written for adults can get into a rut. In books written for children, you get worlds where the threat of a road-widening scheme can only be overcome by the choice of spoon to use in opening one's soft-boiled egg, where it's vitally important to do up one's shoelaces correctly, and where goddesses can only be appeased by an offering of a complete set of Chalet School novels. Is this because children have fuzzier boundaries between the trivial and the important? Are they simply a tougher audience who won't accept the kind of fluff that grownups are prepared to swallow? Or are we comparing the top end of one genre with the bottom end of the other? *Ruth Berman, Jim Frenkel, Caroline Stevermer [m], Laurel Winter, Jane Yolen*

1:00 PM

Roundtable: Octavia E. Butler

Board Room 3

Author's roundtable with Octavia E. Butler.

SFWA Charity Auction

LaSalle

Charity auction for the SFWA Emergency Medical Fund. All sorts of autographed items and memorabilia will be available. Come early, bid high. *Linda J. Dunn*

Reading: Peg Kerr

Directors Row 1

Peg Kerr reads (out loud).

The Place Between Art and the Way Real People Use Art

Marquette

How does the best SF art frame and contour our skiffy "sense of wonder" — or does it in fact constrain and limit it? Why does so much fantasy art try for the romantic sublime, but wind up — even when it's very skillfully executed — serving only as decoration? When does SF and fantasy art overcome these problems, and how? *Darlene P. Coltrain, Ctein, Brad Foster, Patrick Nielsen Hayden, Jane Yolen [m]*

Program Descriptions

Saturday, 1pm - 3pm

Filking and Folking:

Hennepin-Carver

A Historical Retrospective

Back before "filk" was practically a separate fandom, it was just something fans did — contiguous with a widespread interest in folk music and other informal music-making in a fannish context. Journey with us through the Wayback Machine as we discuss the roots of filk and the history of music in fandom, and maybe even find some common ground between the widely separated descendants of that original fannish impulse. *Lenny Baines, Nate Bucklin, Dave Clement, Fred A. Levy Haskell, Bruce Pelz [m]*

Gender Play/Gender Roles in

Presidential Suite

Hong Kong Fantasy-Theme Films: A Talk, with Media

As a general rule, women have stronger and more interesting roles in Hong Kong action films, both fantasy-themed and otherwise, than American actors have had in the same types of films. There is also a long-standing tradition, dating back to Cantonese opera films of the early 1930s and 1940s, of gender and sexuality play, women playing male roles, drag (male and female), etc. Examples and discussion. *Catherine Lundoff*

2:00 PM

Roundtable: Jane Yolen

Board Room 3

Author's roundtable with Jane Yolen.

Spy vs. Spy in the Computer Age: A Talk

LaSalle

Dead drops, semaphores, cutouts, telltales...the tools of spying. In a world of continuous communications and ubiquitous eavesdropping, is there any hope for covert communications? Learn about some old tricks of the trade, and some new ones. *Bruce Schneider*

Reading: Jim Frenkel

Directors Row 1

Jim Frenkel reads (out loud) excerpts from some of his writers.

Autographing

Foyer

Octavia E. Butler, Kara Dalkey, Nicholas Pollotta

Getting More from Your Reading

Marquette

Presenting a handful of tricks and techniques your teachers may have forgotten to mention — the readerly equivalent of ResEdit or Norton Tools, for those moments when a much-praised book strikes you as totally opaque. They're fun, they're dead simple, and they can magically increase the number of really good books in your universe. *Pamela Dean, Scott Marley, Teresa Nielsen Hayden, Debbie Notkin [m]*

The Bookstore as Community-Builder

Hennepin-Carver

As the big chains discovered in this decade (and good booksellers have known all along), bookstores can be community centers in a number of ways. Listen as some of the best SF booksellers talk about the pitfalls and advantages thereof. *Alice Bentley, Don Blyly, Marci Malinowycz [m], Dave Nee*

3:00 PM

Roundtable: Joel Rosenberg

Board Room 3

Author's roundtable with Joel Rosenberg.

Saturday, 3pm - 4pm

Program Descriptions

Does Photography Have a Role in SF and Fantasy Art?

LaSalle

What *does* photography have to do with science fiction and fantasy? Is it only relevant if you diddle with the photo to add SF/fantasy content? Or can the photographer's eye add more to the photo than simple reality? *Ctein, David Dyer-Bennet, Laurie Edison [m], Lisa Freitag, Pat Thielen*

Reading: Octavia E. Butler

Directors Row 1

Octavia E. Butler reads (out loud).

Filking for Kids

Directors Row 3

Find out why filking is fun! Make a filksong of your own on a subject you choose, and sing it at full volume until the subject cries for mercy. *Aliera Brust, Nate Bucklin, Anne Gay*

Autographing

Foyer

Lois McMaster Bujold, Steven Brust, Katya Reimann

Gordon R. Dickson:

Marquette

50 Years of Authors, Agents, and Publishers

Gordon R. Dickson (author of the Dorsai books and *The Dragon and the George*) speaks *ad libitum*, answers some questions, signs some autographs, rattles a few skeletons in their closets, and generally holds forth. Come hear one of SF's great storytellers. *Gordon R. Dickson*

History as the Hard Science in SF

Hennepin-Carver

Resolved: that history is as much a core science in our genre as astronomy, biology, or physics, and that our concept of what comes next in the human story is determined by our idea of what's happened up to now. *Eleanor Arnason, John M. Ford, Peg Kerr, Russell Letson, Patrick Nielsen Hayden [m]*

4:00 PM

At the Intersection of Computers and Art

LaSalle

From CGI and ray tracing to heartstoppingly real animation, the ubiquity of computing power is changing not just how we do art but what we conceive to *be* art. Experts discuss how and why. *Craig Finseth, Beth Hansen, Steven Vincent Johnson, Michael Ward [m]*

Costume Reception

Con Suite

Pose, promenade, be presented by our MC, or be part of the admiring throng. Didn't prepare a costume? Be instantly adorned by our assistants! See and be seen in your finest (or weirdest) plumage. In the foyer. (Two hours.) *Suford Lewis (host), Tony Lewis (host), Marci Malinowycz (host), Amber Tatge (host)*

Reading: Lois McMaster Bujold

Directors Row 1

Lois McMaster Bujold reads (out loud).

Rich Science

Marquette

Some writers (Simak, Schmitz, Brin) write their stories in universes where the laws of science are very rich, in which there are numerous ways to do things: Brin has six different kinds of hyperdrive in operation; Simak's aliens invent things we can't understand because they look at the world differently. Others write worlds where there is at most one way of going FTL, and where the laws of science are plain and universal. Is extravagance just more fun? Is parsimony actually more realistic? *Howard Davidson, Gordon Garb, Lynn Litterer, Mark Olson, Bob Webber [m]*

Program Descriptions

Saturday, 4pm - 9pm

How Do You Recommend Books?

Hennepin-Carver

A panel for booksellers, teachers, librarians, and fellow-travellers. What questions do you ask would-be readers who aren't sure what they're looking for, and how do you make recommendations based on their answers? Should you try to teach them techniques for finding their own books, or is it more help to them to just diagnose their reading history and make your best guesses as to what they'd like? *Lenny Bailes, Eleanor Lang [m], Michael Levy, Dave Nee, Tom Whitmore*

5:00 PM

Roundtable: Steven Brust

Board Room 3

Author's roundtable with Steven Brust.

Batman: Who's Wearing That Cowl?

LaSalle

Batman is a rock-solid icon — and changes with the wind. From the 1930s "guy who punches everything" to the Ace Detective of the 1950s and the the cheesy pop icon of the 1960s, to Miller's epochal *Dark Knight* and the later movies, this supposedly consistent character has undergone major metamorphoses. What happened, why, and what's cool about it? *Lenny Bailes, John M. Ford, Neil Gaiman, Dave Howell, Teresa Nielsen Hayden*

Reading: Laurel Winter

Directors Row 1

Laurel Winter reads (out loud).

Artists' Jam 2

Directors Row 3

Artists get together *again* and have fun jamming up collaborative works. *Divers Hands*

Is There a Fannish Accent?

Marquette

Karyn Ashburn, a professional speech pathologist with a preternaturally good ear, thinks there may be distinctive and anomalous speech patterns that are common to fans — and she doesn't mean fanspeak. If you've spent a lot of your life around SF people (as many of us have), prepare to have your mind blown as she explores this. *Karyn Ashburn*

Octavia E. Butler,

Hennepin-Carver

interviewed by Janice Bogstad

An hour with our distinguished Writer Guest of Honor, author of the Patternist novels, the Xenogenesis series, *Parable of the Sower* and the recent *Parable of the Talents*. *Octavia E. Butler, Janice M. Bogstad*

7:00 PM

Mark Time Radio Hour

Grand Ballroom

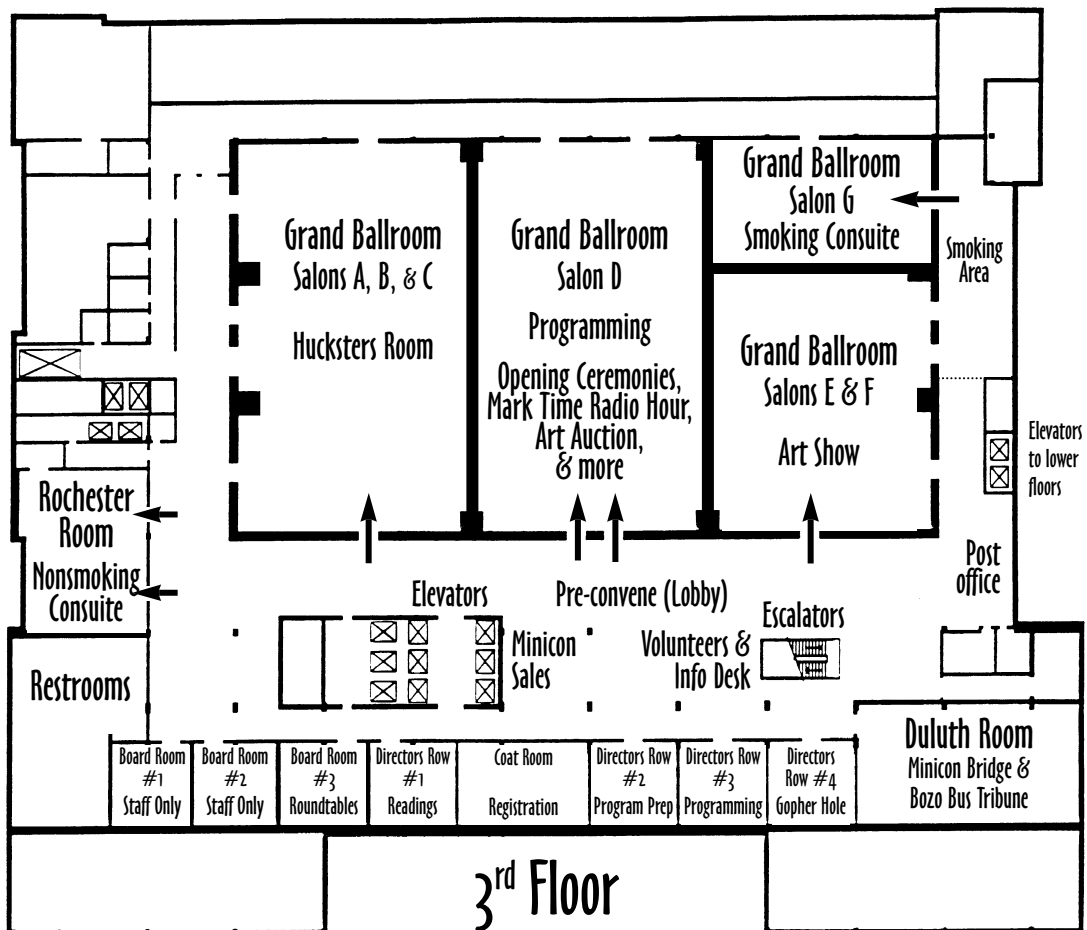
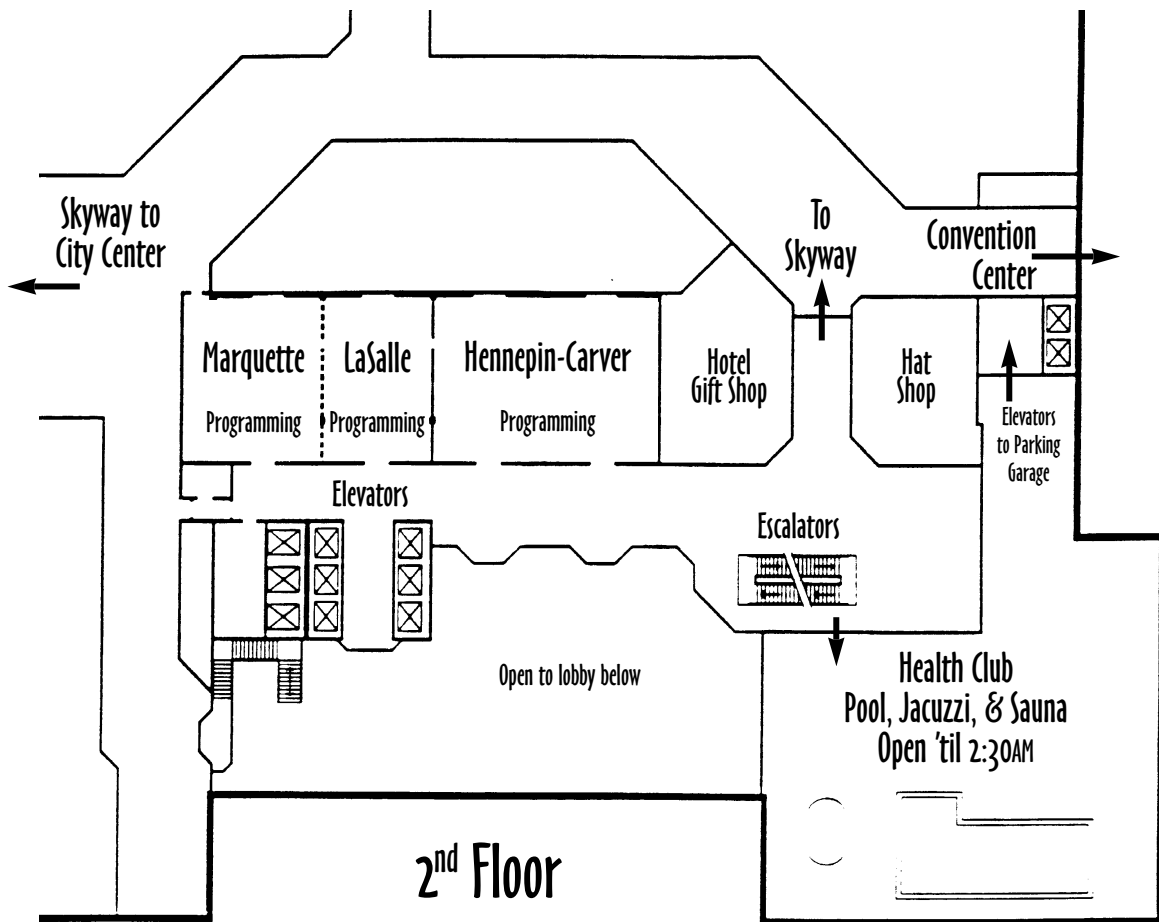
Another in the long series of silly SF radio at Minicon — keeping the tradition alive! Following the announcement of the winners of the Mark Time Award for SF Audio, and the Ogle Award for Fantasy Audio, we'll bring you two plays: "Duplicating Duluth," by Jerry Stearns and Brian Price: a cyberpunk story with enough twists that it'll make a pretzel seem two dimensional; and a Shockwave play by David E Romm and Brian Westley. (Ninety minutes.) *Richard Fish, Jerry Stearns, et al.*

9:00 PM

Reading: Steven Brust

Directors Row 1

Steven Brust reads (out loud).



Art Auction *Grand Ballroom*

If it was in the Art Show and had enough written bids, now's the time to defend your bid and buy the artwork of your dreams.

Trivia Contest*Marquette*

A panel of experts will throw questions at the audience, and throw candies for the correct answers. The one with the most uneaten candies wins. Organized by Fan Guests of Honor Mark and Priscilla Olson, masters of all they survey. (Ninety minutes.) *Mark Olson, Priscilla Olson, Jon Singer*

Milk-and-Cookies Storytelling Hour*Vice-Presidential Suite*

Jane Yolen tells stories. We listen, eat our cookies and drink our milk. A Minicon tradition. *Jane Yolen*

10:00 PM

A Deepness in the Sky*Hennepin-Carver*

The most-discussed new hard-SF novel of 1999, already responsible for gigabytes of Internet traffic: Vernor Vinge's new novel set in the universe of *A Fire Upon the Deep*. Plunge, with our guides, into what John Clute once called "the frenzy of interpretation." Note: this discussion will contain spoilers for both *Deepness* and *Fire*. *Jim Frenkel [m], Lydia Nickerson, other participants TBA*

Sunday, April 4, 1999

10:00 AM

From Here to the Federation:*LaSalle***Extrapolating the *Star Trek* and *Babylon 5* Backstory**

Does the Trek universe only make sense if you assume the Soviet Union won the Cold War? Given the settings presented by the two shows, what's implied about the intervening historical background? Is it even possible to get from here to there? *Beth Friedman, Gordon Garb [m], Magenta Griffith, Suford Lewis, James Nicoll*

Booksellers: What Touches SF Around the Edges?*Marquette*

If you really want to know which non-SF books appeal to SF readers' tastes, ask a specialty bookseller. Four of the savviest in the business discuss the practical literary theory involved in knowing what SF readers are interested in when they aren't reading SF. *Linda Hafemeister, Greg Ketter [m], Hank Luttrell, Dave Nee*

11:00 AM

Roundtable: Nicholas Pollotta*Board Room 3*

Author's roundtable with Nicholas Pollotta.

Round Robin Poetry Reading*LaSalle*

Umpteenth annual Minicon round-robin poetry reading, including many Rhysling winners and nominees. There's a whole world out there you might not know about. Sometimes it scans, sometimes not. Mysteries explained and unexplained. *Ruth Berman, Terry Garey [m], Rebecca Hubbard, Sandra Lindow, John Rezmerski, Laurel Winter*

The Industry Fen Don't See*Directors Row 3*

Believe it or not, there's more to publishing than the mighty editor rejecting (or occasionally accepting) a manuscript. Come hear tales of agents, production departments, packaging, marketing, and the other invisible lodges of the craft. Contemplate that eternally inscrutable question, "What do Art Directors want?" And much more besides. This will be an informal roundtable, with plenty of Q&A. *Jim Frenkel, Leigh Grossman, Eleanor Lang, Teresa Nielsen Hayden [m], Katya Pendill*

The Year in Science*Marquette*

Just in case you needed reminding what the S in SF stands for: our crew of lively professionals and laypersons will take a gallop across the fields of What's New. *Howard Davidson, Gordon Garb, Tony Lewis [m], Lynn Litterer, Mark Olson*

The Fiction of Octavia E. Butler*Hennepin-Carver*

Our Writer Guest of Honor's distinguished and compelling body of work, discussed by some of our most thoughtful readers. *Octavia E. Butler, Lisa Freitag, Jeanne Gomoll [m], Eric Heideman, Debbie Notkin*

12:00 PM

Roundtable: Pamela Dean*Board Room 3*

Author's roundtable with Pamela Dean.

Baseball in Science Fiction*LaSalle*

Is there any earthly reason so much SF and fantasy has been written about baseball? And what would *really* happen if the World Series came down to a race between the Boston Red Sox and the Chicago Cubs? Serious works of speculative baseball will be discussed, along with peanuts and crackerjack. *Steven Brust [m], Jim Frenkel, Beth Friedman, Jim Mann, Cally Soukup*

Reading: Amy Thomson*Directors Row 1*

Amy Thomson reads (out loud).

Intellectual Property:*Marquette***Patents, Trademarks, Copyrights, et al.**

What's the difference? What do they do? How can you best protect your work? Some likely digressions: Are software patents a valid protection for innovators, or a tool that allows the giants of the industry to squash their competition? Is copyright a natural right or a social convention? How long is it reasonable for copyright protection to extend after a creator's death? And: how do you move from idea to invention in the real world? *Seth Breidbart, Jim Minz [m], Hilary Moon Murphy, Bruce Schneider*

What's Depressing,*Hennepin-Carver***What's Cautionary, What's Uplifting**

Brian Aldiss once described the British SF of the 1960s as being full of "bracing gloom," thus demonstrating that you can't necessarily predict what some people will find uplifting or downbeat. Skiffy speculation that horrifies one reader may strike another as wildly optimistic — and the worlds that some readers long to live in may strike others as dystopias. Editor and bookseller Debbie Notkin prods some of our best minds to hold forth on these and related subjects. *Lois McMaster Bujold, Octavia E. Butler, Kara Dalkey, Linda J. Dunn, Debbie Notkin [m]*

Roundtable: Laurel Winter**Board Room 3**

Author's roundtable with Laurel Winter

The Fannish Impulse Over the Wires**LaSalle**

Once we did it with hectographs and mimeo ink. Now we do it with email and HTML. But is it the same thing when it travels at nearly the speed of light? And what does it mean when half the mainstream culture seems to be doing the same thing? Fans hailing from before and after the change grapple with these and other questions. This is not your father's "fandom on the Internet" panel. *Lenny Bailes, Laurel Krahn, Fred A. Levy Haskell [m], Ulrika O'Brien*

Reading: Nicholas Pollotta**Directors Row 1**

Nicholas Pollotta reads (out loud).

Breaking the Law in Comics**Marquette**

Can your superhero team be sued for collateral damage if you take out half of downtown in a fight with a supervillain? How much legal protection does a secret identity give you? Do heroes who use energy-based superpowers contribute to global warming, and are such powers in violation of the Law of Conservation of Energy? A group of mild-mannered citizens just like yourself discusses these and other issues confronting the modern costumed hero. *Bob Berlien [m], Seth Johnson, Eleanor Lang, Dennis McCunney, Priscilla Olson*

Comedy of Manners in Fantasy and SF**Hennepin-Carver**

Mannered fiction has played an increasing role in modern fantasy and SF. Why? Who? How did they get in? And whose honor is at stake? (I protest, sir, we have been discussing nothing else for the past hour...!) *Steven Brust, Lois McMaster Bujold [m], Jim Minz, Caroline Stevermer*

Roundtable: Jim Frenkel**Board Room 3**

Editor's roundtable with Jim Frenkel.

Lady Poetesses from Hell**LaSalle**

The Lady Poetesses From Hell will reveal their most unladylike poetic interiors, while maintaining their exquisite ladylike exteriors with perfect aplomb. *Terry Garey [m], Rebecca Hubbard, John Rezmerski, Laurel Winter, Jane Yolen*

Reading: John M. Ford**Directors Row 1**

John M. Ford reads (out loud).

Doc Smith:**Marquette****Which Is Better, the Science or the Style?**

The works of E. E. "Doc" Smith are widely regarded as the wellspring from which galaxy-slammng space opera descends — and they've recently all been republished. David Dyer-Bennet thinks the science is the best thing about them; Mark Olson thinks it's the literary style. Mike Ward will be acting as referee. *David Dyer-Bennet, Mark Olson, Michael Ward [m]*

Buffy: Fantasy, Soap Opera, or Both?**Hennepin-Carver**

Is Buffy a specimen of supernatural fiction, or a soap opera in which the witches, werewolves, vampires, and other assorted monsters happen to be real? And is it or is it not the best-written show on television? *Bob Berlien, Beth Friedman, Kathy Routliffe, Caroline Stevermer, Tom Whitmore [m]*

Roundtable: John M. Ford**Board Room 3**

Author's roundtable with John M. Ford

A Neo's Guide to the Freebie Table**LaSalle**

A passel of fans who go to a lot of conventions pick up one each of all the flyers on the freebie table, and interpret them for your edification and amusement. Audience participation will occur. *Martin Easterbrook, Bruce Pelz, Michael Pins, Geri Sullivan [m]*

Garden and Architectural Design as it Applies to Conventions**Marquette**

How can the principles of good garden design be used to create convention spaces and flow patterns that people will use and enjoy? Why do sofas arranged around three sides of a square work better than three sofas in a line, and why does putting it on a square of carpet work even better? If you've ever wondered what smofs *really* talk about late at night, come and listen. *Elise Matthesen, Lydia Nickerson, Priscilla Olson [m], Tom Whitmore*

SF and the Political Slipstream**Hennepin-Carver**

Science fiction and political radicalism have been dancing partners since the 1930s. From technocrats to libertarians, SF writers and readers have entertained the best and worst ideas of the political fringe. Sometimes, as with feminism, those ideas have gone on to become mainstream; sometimes not. Is this the true utopian impulse, or just another case of SF's appetite for outré ideas? And what role does the SF subculture, or fandom, play in influencing the SF that gets written? *Laurie Edison [m], Jeanne Gomoll, Patrick Nielsen Hayden, Victor Raymond, Neil Rest*

Closing Ceremonies**Grand Ballroom**

Come see the wrap-up, hear about next year's guests, and see the Minn-StF president assassinated. *Steven Brust, et al.*

Ed Cox Doodle Here:

Friday, April 2, 1999

LaSalle			Marquette		Hennepin-Carver		Readings & Roundtables	Autographings & Special Events	
4 pm	Weren't We Waiting for the End of the World? Bob Berlien, Jim Minz, Lydia Nickerson, Patrick Nielsen Hayden [m], Victor Raymond		How to Enjoy a Science Fiction Convention Martin Easterbrook, Lise Eisenberg, Priscilla Olson [m], Vicki Rosenzweig, Tom Whitmore		Xena and Hercules: The Gods in Our Own Image Jim Frenkel, Elise Matthesen [m], Dennis McCunney, Katya Reimann, Amy Thomson		Reading: <i>(Directors Row 1)</i> Jane Yolen	Autographing: <i>(Foyer)</i> Gordon R. Dickson, Peg Kerr, Joel Rosenberg	
5 pm	Artists' Jam 1 <i>(2 hours)</i> Divers Hands		Occult Fiction in Fantasy Magenta Griffith, Catherine Lundoff, Betsy Lundsten, Kris O'Higgins, Tom Whitmore [m]		The Cold Equations: Let's Settle This Once and For All Octavia E. Butler [m], David Dyer-Bennet, Peg Kerr, Mark Olson, Nicholas Pollotta		Reading: <i>(Directors Row 1)</i> Katya Reimann	Autographing: <i>(Foyer)</i> Pamela Dean, John M. Ford, Jane Yolen	
6 pm									
7 pm									
8 pm									
9 pm					Ask Dr. Mike <i>(90 minutes)</i> John M. Ford			Opening Ceremonies <i>(Grand Ballroom, Salon D)</i> Fred A. Levy Haskell (keynote speaker), Teresa Nielsen Hayden (MC), Octavia E. Butler (WGoH), Mark & Priscilla Olson (FGoHs), Dave Nee (BGoH)	
								Tour of the Art Show <i>(in the Art Show)</i>	

Saturday, April 3, 1999

LaSalle			Marquette		Hennepin-Carver		Readings & Roundtables	Autographings & Special Events	
10 am							SFWA Regional Meeting <i>(2 hrs., Directors Row 1)</i> Linda Dunn		
11 am	The Legion of Super-Heroes Lenny Bailes, Christopher Jones, Dave Nee, James Nicoll, Priscilla Olson [m]		Really Big Engineering in SF Howard Davidson, Mark Olson, Doug Wickstrom, Jeff Schalles, Gordon Garb [m]		Historical Fiction Thrash <i>(10:30-noon, 90 minutes)</i> Steven Brust, Pamela Dean, Tony Lewis, Tom Whitmore [m], Jane Yolen				
Noon	Exposition: How Much Is Enough? Eleanor Arnason, Steven Brust, John M. Ford, Teresa Nielsen Hayden [m], Katya Reimann		Dave Nee, interviewed by Greg Ketter		Children Get the Best Fantasy Ruth Berman, Jim Frenkel, Caroline Stevermer [m], Laurel Winter, Jane Yolen		Reading: <i>(Directors Row 1)</i> Joel Rosenberg Roundtable: <i>(Board Room 3)</i> Lois McMaster Bujold	Mask-Making <i>(back of the Grand Ballroom)</i> Linda Lounsbury	
1 pm	SFWA Charity Auction Linda Dunn		The Place Between Art and the Way Real People Use Art Darlene Coltrain, Ctein, Brad Foster, Patrick Nielsen Hayden, Jane Yolen [m]		Filking and Folking: A Historical Retrospective Lenny Bailes, Nate Bucklin, Dave Clement, Fred A. Levy Haskell, Bruce Pelz [m]		Reading: <i>(Directors Row 1)</i> Peg Kerr Roundtable: <i>(Board Room 3)</i> Octavia E. Butler	Gender Play/Gender Roles in Hong Kong Fantasy-Theme Films <i>(Presidential Suite)</i> A talk, with media, by Catherine Lundoff	

Saturday, April 3, 1999 – Continued

LaSalle		Marquette	Hennepin-Carver	Readings & Roundtables	Autographings & Special Events
2 pm	Spy vs. Spy in the Computer Age: A Talk Bruce Schneider	Getting More from Your Reading Pamela Dean, Scott Marley, Teresa Nielsen Hayden, Debbie Notkin [m]	The Bookstore as Community-Builders Alice Bentley, Don Blyly, Marci Malinowycz [m], Dave Nee	Reading: <i>(Directors Row 1)</i> Jim Frenkel Roundtable: <i>(Board Room 3)</i> Jane Yolen	Autographing: <i>(Foyer)</i> Octavia E. Butler, Kara Dalkey, Nicholas Pollotta
3 pm	Does Photography Have a Role in SF and Fantasy Art? Ctein, David Dyer-Bennet, Laurie Edison [m], Lisa Freitag, Pat Thielen	Gordon R. Dickson: 50 Years of Authors, Agents, and Publishers Gordon R. Dickson	History as the Real Hard Science in SF Eleanor Arnason, John M. Ford, Russell Letson, Peg Kerr, Patrick Nielsen Hayden [m]	Reading: <i>(Directors Row 1)</i> Octavia E. Butler Roundtable: <i>(Board Room 3)</i> Joel Rosenberg Filking for Kids: <i>(Directors Row 3)</i> Alicia Brust, Nate Bucklin, Anne Gay	Autographing: <i>(Foyer)</i> Steven Brust, Katya Reimann, Lois McMaster Bujold Mark Time Rehearsal <i>(Grand Ballroom, Salon D)</i>

Sunday, April 4, 1999

LaSalle		Marquette	Hennepin-Carver	Readings & Roundtables	Autographings & Special Events
10 am	From Here to the Federation: Extrapolating the <i>Star Trek</i> and <i>Babylon 5</i> Backstory Beth Friedman, Gordon Garb [m], Magenta Griffith, Suford Lewis, James Nicoll	Booksellers: What Touches SF around the Edges? Linda Hafemeister, Greg Ketter [m], Hank Luttrell, Dave Nee			
11 am	Round Robin Poetry Reading Ruth Berman, Terry Garey, Rebecca Hubbard, Sandra Lindow, John Rezmerski, Laurel Winter	The Year in Science Howard Davidson, Gordon Garb, Tony Lewis [m], Lynn Litterer, Mark Olson	The Fiction of Octavia E. Butler Octavia E. Butler, Lisa Freitag, Jeanne Gomoll [m], Eric Heideman, Debbie Notkin	Roundtable: <i>(Board Room 3)</i> Nicholas Pollotta	The Industry Fen Don't See <i>(Directors Row 3)</i> Jim Frenkel, Leigh Grossman, Eleanor Lang, Teresa Nielsen Hayden [m], Katya Pendill
Noon	Baseball in Science Fiction Steven Brust [m], Jim Frenkel, Beth Friedman, Jim Mann, Cally Soukup	Intellectual Property: Patents, Trademarks, Copyrights, et al. Seth Breidbart, Jim Minz [m], Hilary Moon Murphy, Bruce Schneider	What's Depressing, What's Cautionary, What's Uplifting Lois McMaster Bujold, Octavia E. Butler, Kara Dalkey, Linda Dunn, Debbie Notkin [m]	Reading: <i>(Directors Row 1)</i> Amy Thomson Roundtable: <i>(Board Room 3)</i> Pamela Dean	

1 pm	The Fannish Impulse Over the Wires Lenny Bailes, Laurel Krahn, Fred A. Levy Haskell [m], Ulrika O'Brien	Breaking the Law in Comics Bob Berlien [m], Seth Johnson, Eleanor Lang, Dennis McCunney, Priscilla Olson	Comedy of Manners in Fantasy and SF Steven Brust, Lois McMaster Bujold [m], Jim Minz, Caroline Stevermer	Reading: <i>(Directors Row 1)</i> Nicholas Pollotta Roundtable: <i>(Board Room 3)</i> Laurel Winter	
2 pm	Lady Poetesses from Hell Terry Garey [m], Rebecca Hubbard, John Rezmerski, Laurel Winter, Jane Yolen	Doc Smith: Which Is Better, the Science or the Style? David Dyer-Bennet, Mark Olson, Mike Ward [m]	Buffy: Fantasy, Soap Opera, or Both? Bob Berlien, Beth Friedman, Kathy Routliffe, Caroline Stevermer, Tom Whitmore [m]	Reading: <i>(Directors Row 1)</i> John M. Ford Roundtable: <i>(Board Room 3)</i> Jim Frenkel	
3 pm	A Neo's Guide to the Freebie Table Martin Easterbrook, Bruce Pelz, Michael Pins, Geri Sullivan [m]	Garden and Architectural Design as it Applies to Conventions Elise Matthesen, Lydia Nickerson, Priscilla Olson [m], Tom Whitmore	SF and the Political Slipstream Laurie Edison [m], Jeanne Gomoll, Patrick Nielsen Hayden, Victor Raymond, Neil Rest	Roundtable: <i>(Board Room 3)</i> John M. Ford	
4 pm					Closing Ceremonies <i>(Grand Ballroom, Salon D)</i> Steven Brust, et al.

Notes: