



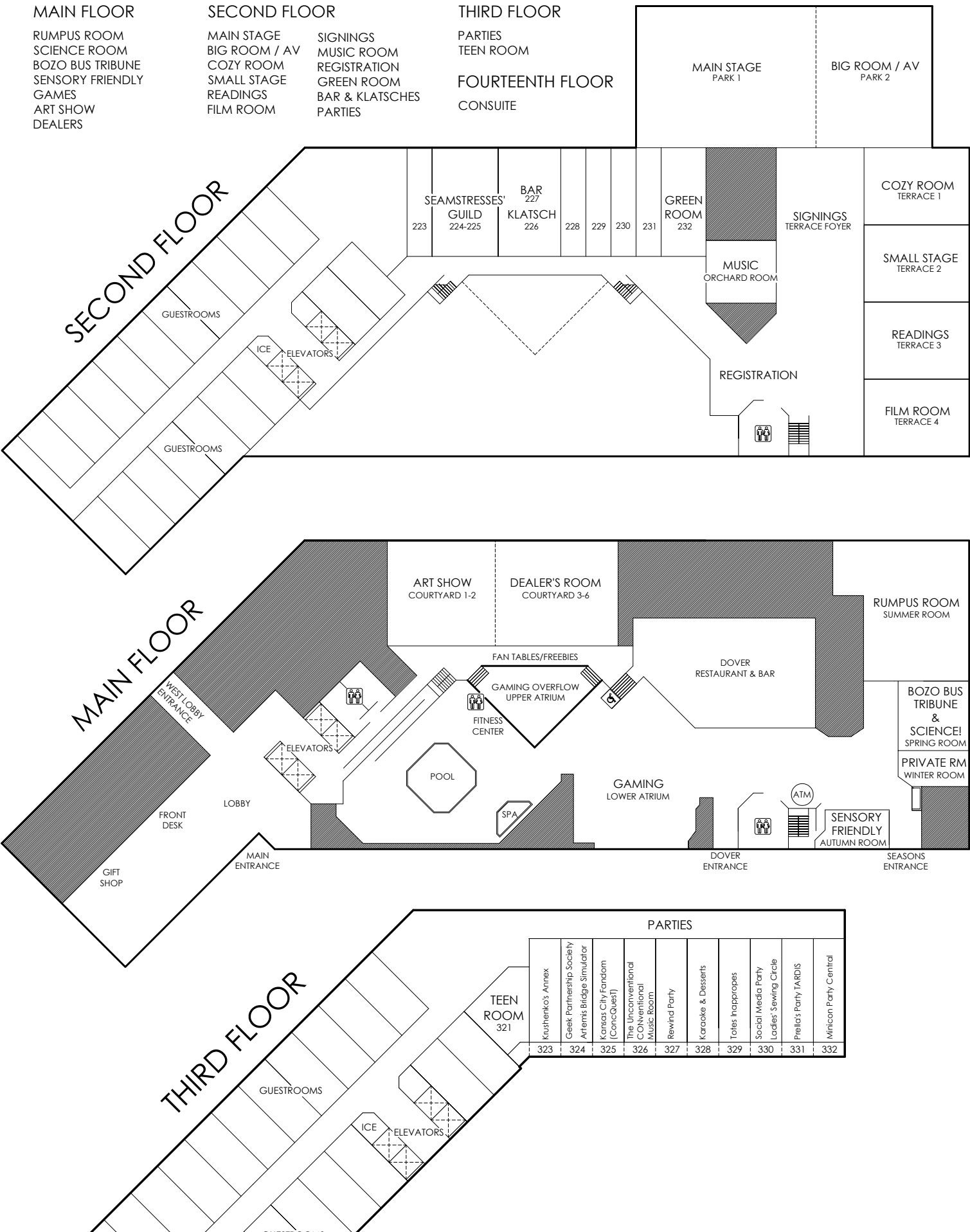
# MINICON 53

WITH GUESTS OF HONOR  
**RACHEL SWIRSKY** **LYDA MOREHOUSE**

AND FEATURED ARTIST  
**JON ARFSTROM**  
(1928-2015)



HOTEL MAP



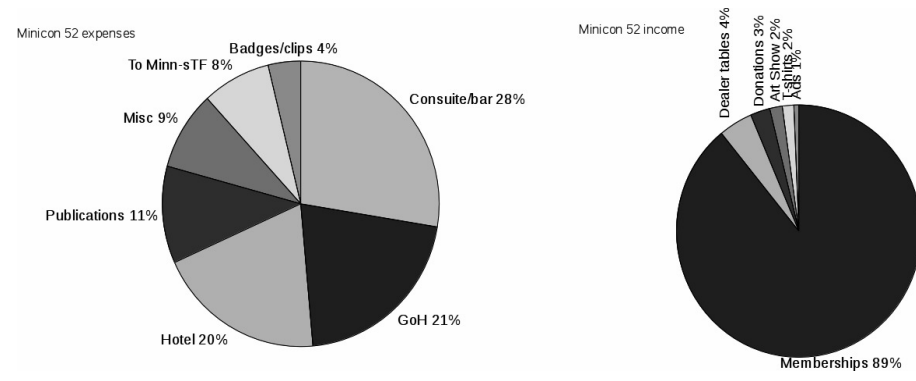
PIE

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

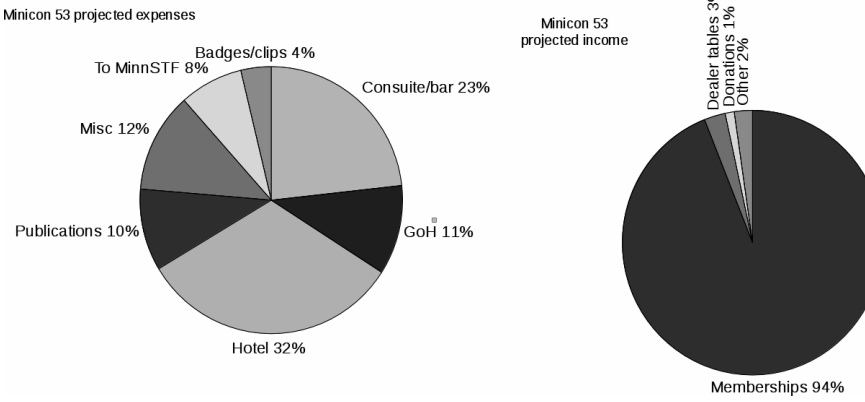
Minicon is a members-driven non-profit con. Our goal is to bring the community together for an enjoyable and possibly even educational experience, not to make the most money or to get the most people, although we take more people showing up as a good sign. We all chip in our membership fees so that there's enough to run this thing and to support our parent organization, Mnstf. If we end up with a profit after that, it means we overcharged. We make a concerted effort to hold the rates low and run a frugal con. We want you to know where your money goes, and we want to hear whether you think it's being spent well.

MINICON 52 FINANCES

All round, Minicon 52 came in near its projected numbers, with GoH ending up a little more expensive than initially estimated and various miscellaneous expenses stacking up, leading to us being a little short of the target. However, the last two years and last five have both been over the targets on average. Minicon and MnStf remain on sound financial footing.



MINICON 53 PROJECTED FINANCES



FEEDBACK

You can contact the Minicon 53 chairs for a little while longer at [treasurer@minicon53.mnstf.org](mailto:treasurer@minicon53.mnstf.org). You can always contact the Mnstf board at [board@mnstf.org](mailto:board@mnstf.org). And you are welcome to come chat at Minn-stf meetings/parties. See [mnstf.org](http://mnstf.org) for times and locations.

# A LETTER FROM THE CHAIRS

Welcome to Minicon 53! We are in a new hotel, with many new concom members! Please be gentle with us during this learning process, and help out wherever you can. Your feedback is always appreciated. There is a box for folks to submit suggestions at the registration desk, and there will be an online survey posted to social media. It is widely believed that no one actually reads this far into the "Letter From The Chairs," but we persevere. Special thanks should be given to Matt Strait and Aaron Vander Giessen, both of them did a lot of work that the chairs would have needed to do, and all without a vote on any major decisions. Are you still reading? We're excited to add new features to Minicon this year, our Rumpus Room has an outside door that allows us to have activities we couldn't have in previous years, and we've adding a "Sensory Friendly/Silent Meditation/Prayer" Room on the first floor in the Autumn Room. If you've read this far, please see Kevin Austin or Emily Stewart and collect a Ribbon of limited quantity if they're still available. Perhaps people do read this. We hope you enjoy Minicon and we hope you stick around for many years to come!

*Emily Stewart*  
*Kevin Austin*

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# REGISTRATION

Registration is located on the 2nd floor, near the programming rooms, during the following hours:

Friday .....10:00am - 10:00pm

Saturday .....9:30am - 8:00pm

Sunday .....9:30am - 4:00pm

Lost badges: If you find a badge, please bring it to the registration table. If you have lost yours, please check there. You can get a replacement for \$1.00.

Registering for Minicon 54: The form to preregister can be found in your registration packet or at the Registration table. It will never be cheaper! The at-con rates are:

Adult - \$40.00

Student (ages 13-20) - \$15.00

Kid (ages 6-12) - \$10.00

Child (ages 5 and under) - Free

Supporting Membership - \$15.00

If you pre-registered this year, you received a form that's already filled out when you picked up your badge. Update any incorrect fields, fill in any blank ones, seal it in an envelope with your payment, and put it in the box at the registration table. Need help or information after hours? Ask at the bar in rooms 226/227 overlooking the atrium.

# VOLUNTEERING

Minicon is entirely volunteer run. This keeps our convention affordable, but it also means we need your help. If you see something that needs doing, ask the department head how you can help. This year, we are most in need of people to help in Consuite, Programming, and Move-in/Move-out. Ask at the Registration Desk for more information.

# EMERGENCIES:

In case of an emergency threatening life or limb, please call 911!

# POLICIES

Minicon occurs in a hotel, which is part of a city, county, state, and country. All rules and laws imposed by these larger entities apply, even though being at a con may make you feel out of this world.

Weapons: Prop weapons or costume pieces must be secured and pose no danger to others. We reserve the right to prohibit any such items from our function rooms.

Smoking: Minnesota is smokefree in all public places. Designated smoking areas are outside. Please direct specific questions to the hotel.

Help and Information: Ask at the registration/volunteers/info desk while they're open, or after hours at the consuite or bar. Also look for department heads or wandering concomm members.



## PIRATE CRUISE

Don your favorite Tricorn hat and fasten on that peg leg for our fundraising event, launching out of Stillwater on Sunday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

There be raffle tickets and more, so sign up for yer berth and invite yer friends!

Join in and help us send kids to space camp, bring science to kids in schools, libraries & rec centers, and so much more.

Tickets are \$65 to \$900 (plus fees)



<http://www.geekpartnership.org/events/pirate-cruise/>

# MINICON 53 CODE OF CONDUCT

Minn-stf acknowledges that interpersonal relationships in social settings are complex. Not everyone likes everyone else, and not everyone agrees with everyone else. Disagreements, friction, and vigorous debate are expected. However, interactions that become hostile or coercive do not have any part in a healthy social environment and Mnstf commits to addressing problem behaviors.

Harassment is difficult to define, and attempts at an exact definition are subject to rules-lawyering, so we won't attempt to do that. However, repeated unwelcome behaviors are mostly likely to be construed as harassment. If someone asks you not to touch them, not to talk to them, or not to refer to them in a way that they find objectionable, and you persist in doing so, you may be harassing them. Actions that are sufficiently egregious (assault, truly hateful language, and comparable actions) fall under this policy, even if only one occurrence has been noted. In the end, harassment is judged primarily by the person who feels harassed, and actions are more important than intent.

If you tell someone to stop something you see as harassing behavior and they don't, you may tell us. If you don't feel comfortable telling someone to stop harassing behaviour, you may also tell us. We want to make sure everyone is heard so that together we can make Minicon a healthy, fun, enjoyable experience for everyone.

**Code of Conduct Responders  
can be reached at:  
612-213-9620**

## HOW'S YOUR SQUEE?

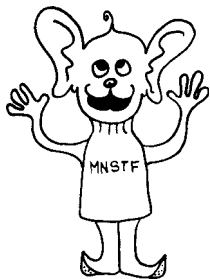
Minicon is a place to get your squee on. It's a time for strange friends and friendly strangers, marvels and wonders, interesting conversations, fascinating objects, and lots of fun. Few things destroy fun faster than having someone not take "no" for an answer. Here's the thing: you have the right to say "no." No to a conversation, no to an activity, no to a beverage, no to anything that interferes with your own, personal squee. The ability to say yes to fun includes the ability to say no to not-fun. But sometimes...sometimes people don't respect your "no," and sometimes, you feel as if you can't say "no" directly to the person harshing your squee. In those cases, we will try to help.

If you need help with a problem where someone is violating our Code of Conduct (see opposite), or not taking your "no" for an answer, PLEASE feel free to call us at (612) 213-9620, and we will try to help. This phone is answered all day and most of the night. If we don't answer, leave a voice mail message, or text, and we will respond as soon as we can. We will work with you to find a solution that lets you go back to full-on squee.

## Decongestant 3

**Sept 28-30,  
2018**

MINNESOTA  
SCIENCE  
FICTION  
SOCIETY



Decongestant is  
Minnstf's *other* con  
in 2018!

We expect it to be a  
relaxing weekend  
with about 3/4 of a  
track of mostly light programming.



We'll have a teen room, 24h gaming, a well-stocked consuite, one or two organized meals, music, a craft swap, and whatever else you bring to it.

It's at the Hilton Bloomington, 3900 American Blvd West (by France, not the other Hilton Bloomington). We've been there the last two years, and it's been great.

### Register!

Pre-register at [mnstf.org/decongestant3](http://mnstf.org/decongestant3) by Sept 10. Or mail in the form on the website, or send the usual info to Minnstf, PO Box 8297, Minneapolis MN 55408. Pre-reg is \$50 (\$40 if need be), \$10 under 21, free under 13. More details at:

**[mnstf.org/decongestant3](http://mnstf.org/decongestant3)**



## Guest of Honor

# LYDA MOREHOUSE

*Bio written by Tanya Brody*

Despite being born in California, Lyda Morehouse really comes from La Crosse, WI, where she grew up. She claims to be Californian, but we know she's really a midwesterner, like the rest of us.

She was raised Unitarian Universalist Secular Humanist (so non-Christian) but went to Catholic school from 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade. She says she used to receive her report card at the altar, refuse communion, then scurry back to her pew to check her grades for religion class. She got all As, which she attributes to Biblical stories being brand new to her, and therefore interesting.

Lyda is mildly dyslexic. Because of this, it took her until 6<sup>th</sup> grade to finish an entire book. That book was *The Hobbit* and it introduced a life-long love of science fiction and fantasy, which is why she chose it as her genre. She credits comic books for turning her into an avid reader.

"I used to play super heroes with my cousin," she says. "I was always Hawkeye to his Captain America, which I think makes better sense in the 1970s than it does in the current Marvel Cinematic Universe."

Lyda attended and graduated from Augsburg College (a Lutheran school), which is what originally brought her to the Twin Cities. When filling out their forms, she had to check "other" when asked about her religion because Unitarian wasn't an option.

Fortunately for us, Lyda liked Minneapolis enough that she stayed. She and her then partner, now wife, Shawn Rounds bought a house together in 1997, where they live with their son, Mason, and their cats.



Lyda dabbles in the visual arts, mostly fan art from her Anime obsession, *Bleach*. At one point in her life, she was also a cast member at the Minnesota Renaissance Festival.

Lyda writes science fiction under her own name (which she pronounces LIE-da, in case you were wondering - according to her, the easiest way to remember is "authors of fiction are always lying"). Her books include, *Sidhe Promised*, about a lesbian college student who ends up in fairytale Ireland. *Archangel Protocol*, *Fallen Host*, *Me ssiah Node*, *Apocalypse Amy*, and *Resurrection Code*, which take place in a world where an interactive computer network is inhabited by AIs and angels. She has been nominated for several awards and has won the 2002 Shamus for Best Original Paperback, the 2002 Barnes & Noble Maiden Voyage, and received a special citation as a Philip K. Dick winner.



Not satisfied with just one genre, Lyda also writes paranormal romance under the name Tate Holloway. She got into vampires early on, partially by playing the RPG **Vampire: the Masquerade**. She also wrote some of her first "fic" on a vampire listserv. Her books include, *School for Wayward Demons and Misfit Witches Book 1: Song of Secrets*, *Precinct 13*, The Vampire Princess of St. Paul series, *Almost Everything*, *Almost Final Curtain*, and *Almost to Die For*, and the Garnet Lacey novels, *Honeymoon of the Dead*, *Dead if I Do*, *Romancing the Dead*, *Many Bloody Returns*, *Dead Sexy*, and *Tall Dark & Dead*.

"I love the transportive quality of writing. Writing is how I continued to play pretend after it was no longer socially appropriate to do so."

Lyda is currently writing her latest Precinct 13 novel, *Unjust Cause* as a Serialized Novel, which you can find on the social platform, Wattpad.

When she's not writing about witches, vampires or angels taking over an interactive computer network implanted into humans, she works in the Circulation department at the Ramsey County Library.

## Guest of Honor

# RACHEL SWIRSKY

*Bio written by Richard Snyder (sourced and cross checked from Wikipedia.org, RachelSwirsky.com, Tor.com, and AqueductPress.com)*

Rachel Swirsky is an American literary, speculative fiction and fantasy writer, poet, and editor living in California. The founder of the award winning and internationally popular PodCastle podcast, she also served as editor from 2008 to 2010. She served as vice president of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America in 2013.

In addition to writing fiction, she also writes critical essays, reviews, and other non-fiction. She holds an MFA in fiction from the Iowa Writers Workshop, and she graduated from Clarion West in 2005.

Rachel has been published in many literary publications such as PANK, the Konundrum Engine Literary Review, and the New Haven Review. Her has appeared in numerous markets including Tor.com, Subterranean Magazine, Beneath Ceaseless Skies, Fantasy Magazine, Interzone, Realms of Fantasy, and Weird Tales, and collected in a variety of year's best anthologies, including Gardner Dozois's The Year's Best Science Fiction, Rich Horton's *The Year's Best Science Fiction & Fantasy*, Jonathan Strahan's *Year's Best Science Fiction* and *Fantasy of the Year*, and Jeff & Ann VanderMeer's *Best American Fantasy*.

Her novella "The Lady Who Plucked Red Flowers Beneath the Queen's Window" won the 2010 Nebula Award and was also a nominee for a 2011 Hugo Award as well as for the 2011 World Fantasy Award.

"*If You Were a Dinosaur, My Love*" won the 2013 Nebula Award for Best Short Story, and was nominated for the Hugo award for best short story of 2013.

Her poem "*The Oracle on River Street*" won third place for the Rhysling Award and



was reprinted in the 2008 Rhysling anthology. Other works have also been long-listed for the storySouth Million Writers Award, the BSFA Award, and the Tiptree Award.

She has donated her writing to a number of charity anthologies. Her story "Heat Engine" appeared in *Last Bird, Drink Head*, which is a flash fiction anthology supporting the ProLiteracy charity. In September 2010, she contributed a story to the online chapbook story collection *Clash of the Geeks*, presented by Subterranean Press supporting the Lupus Alliance of America.

Do YOU know the way? Rachel does, as she was born in San Jose, California. She currently lives in Bakersfield, California with her husband Mike. A graduate of the University of California Santa Cruz and the Iowa Writers Workshop, she taught undergraduate science fiction and fantasy writing while a teaching assistant at The University of Iowa. In 2005, she attended the Clarion West writers' workshop.



## Featured Artist

# JON ARFSTROM (1928-2015)

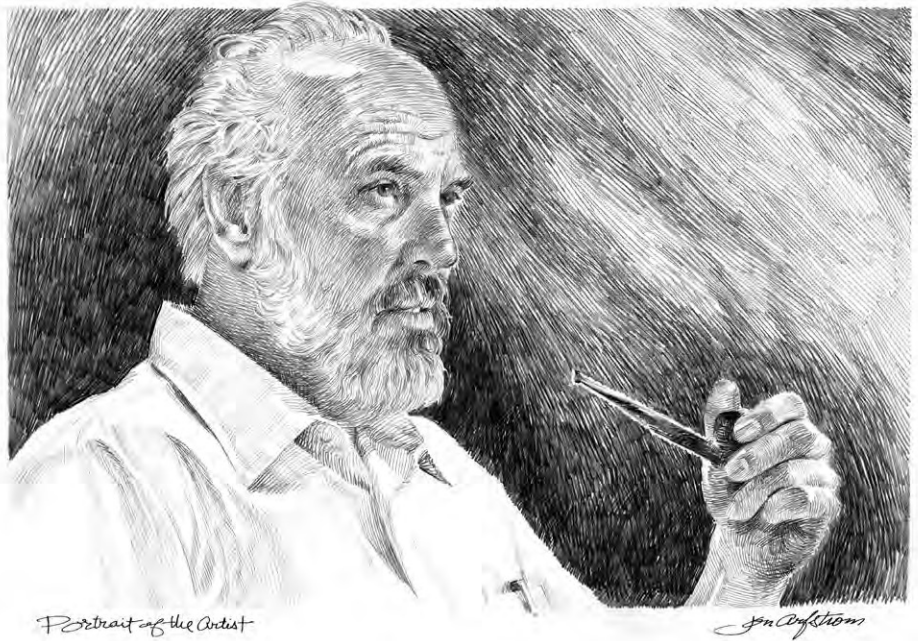
*Bio written by Richard Snyder  
(sourced and cross-checked  
from Wikipedia.org, PulpArtists.  
com, StarTribune.com, and  
HaffnerPress.com)*

Our Featured Artist is Jon Arfstrom. Born in Superior, Wisconsin in 1928 to Swedish immigrants. His father was a housepainter and calligrapher and his mother was a proud housewife.

Jon moved with his mother and four of his five siblings to Minneapolis in 1936, when his parents separated where he attended and graduated from public school. As a teenager, he spent several summers having adventures in Chicago with his older half-brother, Ralph "Bud" Modene who was a commercial artist. He entered the work force after 10<sup>th</sup> grade in 1944 where he worked on excursion ships and freighters travelling the Great Lakes.

Marrying his wife, Norma J. (nee Siegford) a year later at 16 (she was 15), they returned to Minneapolis and eventually raised 4 children: Gayle, Tory, Daryl, and Gary. He took art classes at the Minneapolis School of Art at night while working days as a clerk at Minnesota Amusement Company.

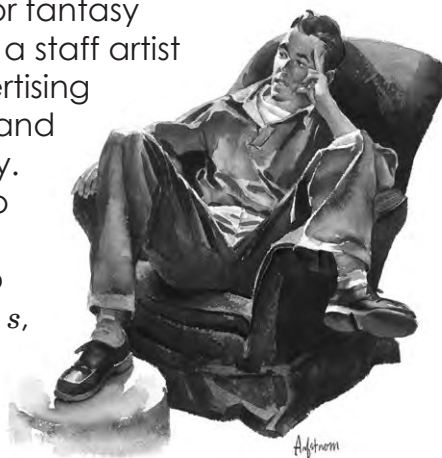
By 1949, at the ripe old age of 20, he was illustrating book covers for fantasy publications while working as a staff artist at the Gamble-Skogmo advertising agency and then the Brown and Bigelow Calendar Company. During the 50's, he went on to paint covers and illustrations for internationally known pulp magazines such as *Weird Tales*, *Mystic Magazine*, *Other Worlds Science Stories* and *Spaceway*, amongst others.



A Stoker Award winner in 1994 for "Superior Achievement in a Fiction Collection", his influential style has a wide ranging appeal and his works range from moody gothic landscapes to exciting pulp adventure covers to colorful Surrealism and abstract fantasy illustrations.

Even though he retired after 40 years from Brown and Bigelow, he never stopped creating art. His work was featured in magazines throughout the last 40 years such as *Odysey*, *Scientifantasy*, and *The Fantasy*. He also painted for leisure, religious publications and commercial works.

Sadly, Jon is a posthumous guest-of-honor having, passed away in his home at the age of 87 in 2015. His daughter will be making presentations of her father's work as well as providing some of his best works for exhibition in the art show.



Some of his work can be seen at  
[https://www.pulpartists.com/  
Arfstrom.html](https://www.pulpartists.com/Arfstrom.html)

His art can also be seen  
throughout this Program Guide.



# CONSUIITE

The Consuite exists to serve you free food and provide you with space to hang out and eat it. It is on the **fourteenth floor**, take the elevator up and you can't miss it.

# BAR

The Bar overlooks the atrium from the second floor and will be supplying a thoughtful, abundant and free assortment of homebrew and commercial beer, wine in both bottles and boxed, and of course, Blog!

Friday & Saturday: 5pm - Close

Sunday: Open when Dead Dog begins (after teardown is complete)

# KLATSCHES

Klatsches are low-key gatherings that take place in the bar (#226) during the day, and an opportunity to meet with Guests of Honor in a small group setting, and enjoy coffee, tea, or whatever the GoH's beverage of choice is. Space is limited, however, so sign up at Registration.

# GREEN ROOM

The Green Room (#232) generally opens 30 minutes before the first programming item of the day and closes at the beginning of the last programming item of the day. The green room is a respite for program participants. Come by and have a sandwich, a cup of coffee and some quiet. Meet your co-panelists.

# GAMING

The areas for tabletop gaming are the lower atrium and the upper atrium. Scheduled games or events are listed in the programming section. Please notice that this area is immediately outside the restaurant, and the hotel would like us to be respectful of their diners. Please keep these areas clean, orderly and free of trash. Having a clean gaming area also helps out the next people who want to play.



# DEALER'S ROOM

Located on Main Floor, Courtyard 3-6

## HOURS:

Friday ..... 3:00pm - 7:00pm

Saturday ..... 10:00am - 7:00pm

Sunday ..... 11:00am - 3:00pm

# DEALERS AT MINICON 53

**Alleged Animals and Other Stories:** handmade stuffed animals, misc.

**Dave Christenson Bookseller**

**DreamHaven Books**

**Funk and Fantasy:** socks, figurines, flasks, Tarot, models, bags and misc. geek

**JET Productions:** board games, DVDs

**Lady Dragon's Treasures:** handmade jewelry

**Lioness and Dragon Abbey:** Ornament for people and places

**Patrick W. Marsh:** author

**The Painted Unicorn:** t-shirts, buttons, stationary

**Spirit Haven:** crystals, jewelry, amulets, figurines

**Kathryn Sullivan:** author

# FAN FLEA MARKET

The lower atrium has some tables of donated items that we're offering in exchange for free-will donations. There are suggested donation prices on the items, please help Minicon pay for our move!

# SENSORY FRIENDLY SPACE

(Autumn Room)

This year, we will be using the Autumn Room as "Sensory Friendly Space." Feel free to use this room for silent meditation, prayer, or to avoid the sometimes overwhelming nature of conventions. Please respect others' use and only use this room only for silent activities.

# TEEN ROOM

(321)

Teen Room is a space for people ages 13-19 to socialize, play video games, build blanket forts and hang out with other teens. There will also be a teen focused "Instrument Petting Zoo" on Saturday at 11:30AM in the Orchard Room.

# ART SHOW

(Courtyard 1-2)

The Minicon art show is a non-juried show open to all artists who'd like to submit artwork in a science fiction and/or fantasy theme. Most art is for sale, although some may be just for show. Art can be bid upon or, if the artist chooses, be immediately purchased at a set price.

## Art Show Hours:

Friday ..... 3:00pm - 7:00pm  
Saturday ..... 10:00am - 7:00pm  
Sunday ..... 11:00am - 2:00pm

# BOZO BUS TRIBUNE

Minicon's at-con newsletter returns this year for its normal four issue run, informing congoers of news, events, schedule changes and other items of interest. Look for the BBT periodically distributed throughout convention space. Submissions are encouraged and writing implements are provided--just write up the content you'd like published and drop it in the Submission Box. We'll be in the **Spring Room** on the first floor this year, together with the Science exhibit. New diversions will include art books, twisty puzzles and a flying holiday ornament.

# SCIENCE ROOM

The Science Room exists.  
It is in the Spring Room.

# PARTIES

224-225 **Seamstress' Guild**

323 **The Krushenko's Annex**

324 **Geek Partnership Society /  
Artemis Bridge Simulator**

Come explore the galaxy with Geek Partnership Society. Join the bridge crew of the starship Artemis, fly to other parts of the universe, meet new people, and kill them.

325 **Kansas City Fandom**  
ConQuesT in Kansas City,  
Memorial Day Weekend.

326 **The Unconventional  
CONventional Music Room**

Lead by Blending, Blend by Droning, Drone by Leading: A new option to make noise at Minicon 53! We (Terry and Nico) are hosting an space where you can explore creating soundscapes, drones, and ambient chill music with various instruments. Let your experimental desire take over one of the provided instruments or bring your own. Open Thursday-Sat nights from approx 9pm to-??am. Please no food/beverages around the electronic instruments. Thank you.

327 **Rewind Party**

328 **Karaoke & Desserts**

329 **Totes Inappropes**

Games for terrible people and swearsy coloring books.

330 **A Social Media party** (Saturday)  
**Ladies' Sewing Circle** (Sunday)

331 **Prella's Party TARDIS**

Welcome to Prella's Type 100 TARDIS, hosted by Time Lady Prella Northshire, where the universe is in flux and reality doesn't matter. Relax in her guest suite for some Doctor Who, light gaming, war tales from Gallifrey and Azeroth, or just random conversation.

332 **Minicon Party Central**

Minicon Party Liasons *Don & Sharda Strumski*



# IN LOVING MEMORY OF THOSE WE HAVE RECENTLY LOST

Robert F. Ihinger, Jr.

Sarah Prince

David E Romm

Marian Turner



## BARON DAVE MEMORIAL GATHERING

As you may have heard, Baron Dave Romm passed away unexpectedly in September. Dave was the MC of Opening & Closing Ceremonies for 30 years, often folding in a full-length live Shockwave Radio Show. He was also co-founder of the Bozo Bus Tribune, reportedly the inventor of microprogramming, an ace interviewer, and a dear friend. We will be holding a memorial for Dave at 5:30pm on Easter Sunday, in the Park 2 room. This gathering will be open to everyone — no Minicon membership required.

# CINEMA OBSCURA (Film Room, Terrace 4)

Please note that this is a tentative listing, and some of the films here may not be shown during the convention due to technical difficulties or unforeseen circumstances. Check for updates in the *Bozo Bus Tribune*.

## FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 2018

5:30PM-7:00PM

**Howard Lovecraft and the Frozen Kingdom** (2016) - After visiting his father in the local Sanitarium, young Howard Lovecraft ignores his father's ominous warning and uses the legendary Necronomicon to open a portal to a strange, frozen world. There, Howard befriends a creature he names Spot who becomes his companion throughout their treacherous journey across the Frozen Kingdom. (animation – 83 minutes).

8:00PM-10:00PM

**Assassination Classroom: Episodes 1 through 4** (2015) – Planet Earth is threatened by an alien cephalopod monster who also becomes a homeroom teacher at Kunugigaoka Junior High School, teaching students the ways of assassination as well as regular school subjects. The Japanese government has posted a reward for his elimination, but he is not only difficult to kill, but the best teacher the students have ever had! Is this anime series just as nuts as it sounds? You'll just have to come find out for yourself (anime – 120 minutes).

10:00PM-12:00AM

**Audience Choice.** Want to see something that you missed or might not be able to see according to your schedule? Screenings shown by audience request.

## SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 2018

10:30AM-12:00PM

**Howard Lovecraft and The Undersea Kingdom** (2017) - After conquering R'yleh and the Frozen Kingdom, young Howard Lovecraft must now travel to the Undersea Kingdom in order to free his captured family, protect three mysterious magical books, and prevent the impending wrath of Cthulhu (animation – 79 minutes)

12:00PM-1:45PM

**Space Milkshake** (2012) - A mutant rubber ducky (voiced by George Takei (*Star Trek*)) terrorizes four blue-collar workers stranded on a sanitation space station. Also starring Kristen Kreuk (*Smallville*), Amanda Topping (*Sanctuary*, *StarGate SG-1*) and Robin Dunne (*Sanctuary*). (comedy – 85 minutes)

1:45PM-4:00PM

**Flora** (2017) - In the spring of 1929 – near the end of a golden age of exploration – an expedition of university botanists enter an uncharted forest on the North American frontier. Tasked to study the native flora, the students unearth a deadly organism and are soon in a fight with nature itself. This Canadian independent film has received multiple awards and nominations. **A Q&A session follows the screening with Saint Paul-born actress Teresa Marie Doran** (narrative – 104 minutes).



**4:00PM- 6:00PM**

***The Boy and the Beast*** (2015) - A young boy slips into an alternate dimension, the Beast Kingdom, where he is raised by a Bear-man and embarks on an adventure spanning both worlds. This film is written and directed by Mamori Hosada, the same director of *Summer Wars* and *Wolf Children*, shown at past Minicons (anime – 120 minutes).

**6:00PM - 7:15PM**

**Shorts Block (in alphabetical order)**

***Bears Discover Fire*** (2015) – A family of bears have discovered how to use fire. This film is based on Terry Bisson's Hugo, Locus, Nebula, and Sturgeon award-winning short story (narrative – 14 minutes).

***The Call of Charlie*** (2016) - A trendy Los Angeles couple fixes up co-worker Charlie, an Elder God From Beneath The Sea, on a blind date (comedy – 15 minutes).

***Destroy Madrid*** (2016) –In Madrid, 2030, the city is ravaged by the fight between governments and citizens. One member of the resistance has got a mysterious device that can finally end the war (narrative – 9 minutes).

***I am the Doorway*** (2017) – A man, trapped inside a spaceship, has contracted an alien virus. This film from the Czech Republic is based on Stephen King's 1971 short story (horror – 15 minutes).

**7:15PM-8:45PM**

***Diani & Devine Meet the Apocalypse*** (2016) - A struggling comedy duo discovers that surviving the apocalypse is almost as difficult as surviving in Hollywood. This funny film stars Etta Devine, Gabriel Diani, Barry Bostwick, Kirsten Vangsness, Jonathan Silverman, and Armin Shimerman (comedy – 90 minutes).

**8:45PM- 10:15PM**

***A Promise of Time Travel*** (2016) - A seemingly chance encounter with an estranged childhood friend draws a bookstore clerk into a plot to steal a time machine. This film has been screened at film and LGBT festivals, and has won multiple awards (narrative – 88 minutes).

**10:15PM-12:00AM**

**Audience Choice.** Want to see something that you missed or might not be able to see according to your schedule? Screenings shown by audience request.

## **SUNDAY, APRIL 1, 2018**

**12:00PM-2:00PM**

***Conlanging: The Art of Crafting Tongues*** (2017) - A exploration into the world of constructed languages (e.g., Klingon, Kryptonian, Dothraki) and the fascinating people who make them.(documentary – 95 minutes).

**2:00PM-4:00PM**

**Audience Choice.** Want to see something that you missed or might not be able to see according to your schedule? Screenings shown by audience request.

# MUSIC

The **Orchard Room** is your musical headquarters at Minicon's new home in the Park Place DoubleTree. We hope you'll join us to enjoy concerts from returning favorites and new-to-Minicon performers alike, as well as a few special events geared toward our youngest members.

For those who like their music participatory, **Terrace 1** will host **open music circles** on Friday and Saturday night beginning at 8:30 p.m. We welcome all Minicon members to join in singing, playing, jamming, filking, listening, and making a joyful noise until the last musician drops. Performers of all styles, genres, and experience levels are encouraged to participate. Should the circle become unwieldy, overflow space will be available in the bar when it opens, and in the Orchard Room after the last concert of the night has concluded.

## FRIDAY MUSIC

**4:00 - 5:00**

### INSTRUMENT PETTING ZOO (KIDS 12 AND UNDER)

Kids: Try your hand at strumming a ukulele, making spacey sounds on a synthesizer, banging a drum, or exploring many other methods of music-making. Grown-ups: Please feel free to bring any instruments you would like to demonstrate and share with Minicon's younger members!

**5:30 - 6:30**

### THE LEPRECHAUN PIRATES

The Leprechaun Pirates have been making musical waves for years now, and every year their music gets a little faster and louder. The lads are regular performers at the Minnesota Renaissance Festival. This year they are embarking on a new magical musical adventure involving electricity for their non-festival shows, playing their original and punked-out traditional tunes.

**8:30 - 9:30**

### RIVERFOLK

Riverfolk is the folk duo of Becca Leathers and Chas Somdahl (Minicon 46 Musician GoH). Their beautiful harmonies, memorable songs, and intricate guitar work have graced many a Minicon stage in years past. Join them for musical magic with help from numerous special mystery guests!

**10:00 - 11:00**

### ADAM STEMPLER

Adam Stemple was the Minicon 50 Musician GoH and has been a mainstay in the Minneapolis SF and F community for 30 years. He has played music and produced projects for authors Neil Gaiman, Jane Yolen, Emma Bull, and Steven Brust. He is maybe not as funny as he thinks he is.

**11:30 - 12:30**

### GERNSBACK CONTINUUM

Remember what the future used to sound like? When rock stars dressed in silver capes and sang about spacemen to the thunder of electric guitars? When soundtracks from Forbidden Planet to Blade Runner described the future with cool synthesized ambience? The Gernsback Continuum makes the 21st century sound like the 20th century imagined it would sound.

## SATURDAY MUSIC

**11:30 - 12:30**

### INSTRUMENT PETTING ZOO (YOUTH 13-18ISH)

Teens/youth: Try your hand at strumming a ukulele, making spacey sounds on a synthesizer, banging a drum, or exploring many other methods of music-making. Grown-ups: Please feel free to bring any instruments you would like to demonstrate and share with Minicon's teen members!



**1:00 - 2:00**

## **LAST SATURDAY FILKERS**

The Last Saturday Filkers are a small bardic circle who meet each month to share in the traditional music of science fiction fandom. Much of filk music consists of skiffy lyrics set to familiar tunes; it can also be original narrative music or silly songs. Join them to hear some classics!

**2:30 - 3:30**

## **SCOTT KEEVER**

Scott Kever is a multi-instrumentalist/composer who specializes in solo acoustic guitar. He has been a music director for Brave New Workshop, and has performed in theatrical productions with Plymouth Playhouse, Ethnic Dance Theater and Flying Foot Forum. He has performed as a member of Lojo Russo & Funks Grove, Pirates of Dreamtime, and in 2015, performed with Cats Laughing for their Reunion show at Minicon 50. He has written music for film, theatre, podcasts, and radio. Scott currently performs with Sweet Colleens (Celtic/Americana) and Orkestar Bez Ime (OBI), an award-winning Twin Cities group that specializes in folk music from the Balkan and Eastern European regions. As a solo guitarist, his influences range from jazz and classical, to American, Balkan, and Celtic folk music.

**4:00 - 5:00**

## **THE FAITHFUL SIDEKICKS**

The Faithful Sidekicks are the Acoustic Geek Comedy duo of Eric and Jen Distad. They play an eclectic mix original songs about the geeky stuff they love from comedic pop songs like "Han Solo For President" to love songs written in SQL Code, and everything in between. They've been delighting audiences at Sci-Fi Conventions, Coffee Shops, and Clubs around the US and parts beyond since 2014. They have released two CDs, the most recent being "Achievement Unlocked" which was released this past January. For more information, visit [www.thefaithfulsidekicks.com](http://www.thefaithfulsidekicks.com).

**5:30 - 6:30**

## **TERESA CHANDLER**

Teresa Chandler is a singer/songwriter, comedienne, improviser, writer, and actor. A global nomad, Teresa grew up in the tropics of Panama, Pakistan, East Africa, and under the starry skies on the open seas. She currently performs out and about with her fine trio, Mumble Something.

**7:00 - 8:00**

## **DAVID PERRY AND AMY MCNALLY**

One day David was jamming at a con and turned to Amy and said, "take it!" She's never given it back. They've played at cons around the country and in The Toolies, a Midwestern Irish pub band. Proper attire includes whiskey and pie.

**8:30 - 9:30**

## **SISTERTREE**

SisterTree renders radiant, expansive harmonies for strings and voices, and kicks it back with old favorites and downright far-fetched selections grounded in Celtic and Americana Traditions. Roving over the wild and storied landscapes of life, they envibe with the rhythms of sugarplums dropped in the forest. From lilt to throttle, they are Gaia's sirens atop the scrape of a mountain ridge, awash in an avalanche of symbiotic energies hauled up from the bones of earth to the starlight.



# RUMPUS ROOM & CHILDRENS' PROGRAMMING

(in **Summer Room**, except where noted)

**Open Programming, offered whenever someone is available to assist.**

**Scientific Scavenger Hunt:** Learn how to use various cool measuring tools to find things meeting specific requirements. Be the first to find them all. Prizes will be awarded! This program will be ongoing throughout the convention. *Josh More, Tony Stiebar, Chas Somdahl & Graham Leathers.*

**Lock Picking:** Borrow Tony's tools and learn how to spring open a lock without a key and release a Nerf Gun. This will be offered through out the con, whenever Tony or one of his trainees is in. *Tony Stiebar*

**Nerf Gun Target Practice:** Once you've mastered lock-picking see how proficient you are with your newly released weapon. This is an ongoing program offered throughout the con. *Tony Stiebar*

**Ongoing activities:** These are available throughout the convention for anyone who is interested:

**Puppet stage and puppets**

**Science and Fantasy based adult coloring books**

**Marble maze and blocks**

**Various games and puzzles**

There is also a **bin of toys** for youthful fun

We also house the **Craft Swap** table for anyone to bring unwanted toys, games and craft materials to either trade or donate.

**Note:** Only starting times are given as most programs last as long as participants and supplies hold out. We have a fabulous room at the new hotel with lots of natural light. We can easily accommodate more than one activity at-a-time. Parents please note that there is a door to the outside, so little ones will need supervision.

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## FRIDAY MARCH 30TH

**Badge Making:** Use our machines to create your own professional looking button badge. We will leave this set up to use as long as the supplies hold out. *Graham Leathers, Becca Leathers & Bonnie Somdahl.* **Starting Friday 3:00 pm.**

**Microscope Introduction and Field Trip:** Learn how to use a microscope. Then we'll go outside on the lawns and parking lot to gather materials to examine. We will also learn how to make cultures. *Josh More, Tony Stiebar & Chas Somdahl.* **Starting Friday 4:00 pm.**

**MUSIC ROOM (Orchard) Instrument Petting Zoo** for people 12 and under. **Friday 4:00PM to 5:00PM.** *This event is not in the Rumpus Room.*

**Create Your Own Dog Breed:** Starting with a beanie baby pup, add and subtract features to develop your own unique pet. These will be available to keep working on as long as our bins of beanie babies hold out. *Becca Leathers & Bonnie Somdahl.* **Starting Friday 5:00 pm.**

## SATURDAY MARCH 31ST

**Build Your Own Microscope:** Using a kit, you can build your own working microscope. The directions are quite detailed and younger children will need adult assistance. *Josh More, Tony Stiebar & Chas Somdahl, & Bonnie Somdahl.* **Starting Saturday 10:00 am.**

**Toys with Thorin:** Thorin will be on hand with games and interactive toys geared especially for our younger members. *Thorin Tatge.* **Starting Saturday 10:30 pm.**

**Photo Workshop:** Select a used camera and learn how it works while we disassemble them. If you succeed in getting it working, it's yours to keep. *Josh More & Tony Stiebar.* **Starting Saturday 11:30 am.**

**Story Time with Puppets:** Our resident puppeteer is back to entertain us with a number of fun stories and performances. *Laura Krentz.* **Starting Saturday 12:00 pm.**

**Monsters and S'more Monsters:** Grab some marshmallows and other sticky stuff and build a monster. *Becca Leathers, Graham Leathers*



*& Bonnie Smdahl. Starting Saturday 1:00 pm. Followed by . . .*

**Monster Immolation:** If you're game, we'll take your monstrous constructions outside and set them on fire! *Jo sh More , To ny Stie bar , Gra ham Le athers & Cha s Smdahl. Starting Saturday 2:00 pm.*

**Clothespin Fairies:** Using pipe cleaners, tape, silk butterfly wings, and beads we will turn humble clothespins into a magical fairies. We will have pom-pom makers to use for making hair for your fairy. *Mary K Hanson, Linda Lounsbury, Be c ca Le athers & Bonnie Smdahl. Starting Saturday 2:30 pm.*

**Costume Workshop & Hair Braiding:** Delve into our bins of supplies; add your imagination, and ta-da! You'll have the perfect disguise! Seamstresses will be on hand to help you realize your dream costume. John will be there to add a special hairstyle to complete your fashion statement! There will be a Costume Contest at 7:00 pm where you can show off your masterpiece and compete for prizes. Everyone is welcome to participate, just sign

in at the door. *Jo hn Wardale , Gu in La zar hic , Ce cilia La zar hic , Linda Lounsbury, Be c ca Le athers & Bonnie Smdahl. Starting Saturday 3:30 pm.*

**Games with Thorin:** Bring your friends; everyone is welcome to play a favorite game, or learn a new one. *Thorin Tatge. Starting Saturday 4:00 pm.*

**Science: Energy + Time = Change:** How do you feel about Banana coins Brûlée? Watching sugar become caramel is a great demo of melting (state change) and chemical change. *Jo hn Wardale. Starting Saturday 4:30 pm.*

**Learn Kraslice: the Czech Art of Easter Egg Design:** Learn how to decorate Easter eggs the Czech way, creating incredibly detailed hand-painted miniature works of art. *Ro man Ze nka (m) Starting Saturday 5:30 pm.*

**PARK 2 - Small Ballroom on 2nd Floor - Costume Contest:** Show off the costumes that were made in the costume workshop! *This event is not in the Rumpus Room. 7:00PM - 8:00PM, Park 2.*

## SUNDAY APRIL 1:

**Easter Egg Hunt:** Just what it sounds like, but more than you would expect. Search the Rumpus Room with your friends to discover the hidden plastic eggs. *Shannon Perry. Starting Sunday 10:00 am.*

**Sock Puppies:** Transform a humble sock into your own cuddly stuffed animal. No sewing required. Feel free to make as many as you'd like. *Be c ca Le athers & Bonnie Smdahl. Starting Sunday 10:30 am.*

**In Search of Tardigrades:** Use one of our microscopes or bring the one you made yourself and examine cultures that we prepared on Friday. We will also be on the lookout for paramecium, eugeina, hydra, didinium, and volvox among other things. *Jo sh More , To ny Stie bar & Cha s Smdahl. Starting Sunday 11:00 pm.*

**How to Make a Balloon Dog:** Learn the art of balloon sculpting and make your own inflated pet. *Jo hn Wardale. Starting Sunday 12:00 pm.*

**Training Dogs:** Since we have easy access to the outside, we can go out and learn the basics of dog training and see some especially talented dogs go through their paces. *Erin Mc kee , Gra ham Le athers, Cha s Smdahl & Bonnie Smdahl. Starting Sunday 1:00 pm.*

**Minicon Tool-Time for Kids:** Yes Disassemble! Take apart, unscrew, and pry, smash. Deconstruct and learn about the stuff we use. Phones, cameras, toasters, blenders, pumps, hibernation pods, timers, tablets, tricorders, time bracelets, space helmets, blasters (with power supply removed), computers, clocks, radios, and more. NO PHASERS/PHOTON TORPEDOES. \*\*\* Bring stuff to destroy \*\*\* We need your stuff. Caution: children will use real tools with sharp edges and powerful motors. Supervision and eye protection provided. PARENT VOLUNTEERS ENCOURAGED."

(Tool-Time was developed by Marian Turner and is dedicated to her memory.) *Mich ael Ka uper, Eri ca Stark & To ny Stie bar. Starting Sunday 2:00 pm.*

# FRIDAY 3/30 PROGRAMMING

## 4:00 PM EV and Hybrid Vehicles in the Parking Lot

Are you considering an EV or Hybrid vehicle? Meet EV and Hybrid vehicle owners and their cars. What features do they like and dislike? Are public charging stations worth it? What are the benefits of having a level 2 charging station in your home?

**Parking Lot** *Emily Stewart (m), Erik Hagstrom*

## 4:00 PM Let's Get Crafty

A chance to work on your arts and crafts projects while enjoying conversation with other crafters. Show off your latest projects.

**Terrace 1 (Cozy)** *Laura Krentz (m)*

## 4:00 PM Science Fiction in Classic Rock

Rock music has had a long relationship with myth, fantasy images, and science fiction. Many rock concept albums tell stories with fantastic themes. Discuss the themes of such artists as David Bowie, Hawkwind, Jefferson Airplane, The Moody Blues, Pink Floyd, and Yes.

**Park 2** *Greg Larsen (m), Adam Steмпle, Jerry Steams, Michael King*

## 5:30 PM Is this the cyberpunk future we were promised?

We never got that future full of flying cars and jetpacks, but we do seem to have quietly arrived at a cyberpunk dystopia: ruled by oligarchs, everyone using their cyberdecks to be online all the time, massive surveillance, bodymods commonplace, AIs seem to be lurking on the fringes... How different are futures in William Gibson's *Sprawl* or Lyda Morehouse's *Archangel Protocol* series from what we have now?

**Park 1 (Mainstage)** *Greg Johnson (m), Eric Heideман, Aaron Coker, Lyda Morehouse*

## 5:30 PM Who Has Your Password?

If you died tomorrow, who would manage your digital legacy? We have so many passwords, so many accounts. Could your partner pay the bills - do they know the bank account password? What happens to your frequent flyer miles? Who would stop Facebook from

ghoulishly reminding all your friends to wish you a happy birthday each year? We could also discuss the concept of "literary executor" for unpublished and non-written word material.

**Park 2** *Magenta Griffith (m), Beth Friedman, David Dyer-Bennet, Sharon Kahn*

## 7:00 PM Opening Ceremonies

Welcome to the convention! Meet the Guests of Honor, get the crucial information you'll need to survive the next 3 days.

**Park 1 (Mainstage)** *Toni Brust (m), Kevin Austin, Lyda Morehouse, Emily Stewart, Rachel Swirsky*

## 8:30PM Crappy Magic Card Draft

A very casual Magic draft created entirely with cards from the cheapie bin or donated leftovers that didn't fit into someone's deck. Players will draft a 60 card deck, and have a chance to play with and try out the mechanics of some of the less commonly used cards. There is room for up to 15 players; sign up will be at the Registration Tables. Feel free to bring cards to donate for future games. **Gaming Area**

*Facilitated by Ellen Schousboe.*

## 8:30 PM I am not Chuck Tingle

Doctor Chuck Tingle, a taekwondo grandmaster from Billings, Montana, who acquired a PhD in holistic massage at DeVry University (which does not offer such a degree), was the clear savior of the 2015 Hugo award, and continues to be a delight. Dr. Tingle has yet to make a public appearance, and speculations about identity are easy to come by. Several people we know have brilliant theories about who Chuck Tingle is. Some of them may even BE Chuck Tingle.

**Park 1 (Mainstage)** *Rick Snyder (m), Terry Hughes, Lyda Morehouse, Rachel Swirsky, Steven Brust*

## 10:00 PM Gaming with Rachel Kronick

Come play board and card games with someone on the other side of the planet!

**Gaming Area**



# FRIDAY 3/30 PROGRAMMING

## 10:00 PM Kaffeeklatsch with Rachel Swirsky

A small group meets with the GoH in an informal setting to share a beverage and friendly conversation. Attendance is limited - signup sheets at registration.

**Bar**

## 11:00PM Memorial for Absent Friends.

We've lost some members of our community recently, here is a chance to say goodbye.

We will read some obituaries, tell stories, and raise a glass to those who are no longer with us.

**Consuite**

## 11:00 PM Reading: Steven Brust in the hot tub

Yep, just what the title says. Steve reads in the hot tub, down by the pool.

**Hot Tub**

# SATURDAY 3/31 PROGRAMMING

## 10:00 AM Presentation: What's in the Water? And Why Should we Care?

Mark Ferrey is an Environmental Research Scientist for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, with special expertise in ground and surface water contamination. Pharmaceuticals and endocrine disrupting chemicals are now routinely detected in lakes, rivers and streams at very low concentrations. Should we be concerned about these and other chemicals in our water? Mark will discuss what we are detecting in our aquatic environments - and what effects these contaminants are having on fish and wildlife.

**Park 2 Mark Ferrey (m)**

## 10:00 AM Easy Morning Yoga

Yoga is for everyone. Standing, sitting and being calm and mindful are all parts of yoga. Liz Fish will lead some easy yoga to help folks stretch and feel more conscious of themselves, with a focus on adaptability. Wear comfortable loose clothing, feel free to bring a towel if you'd like.

**Terrace 1 (Cozy) Liz Fish (m)**

## 10:00 AM Kaffeeklatsch with Lyda Morehouse

A small group meets with the GoH in an informal setting to share a beverage and friendly conversation. Attendance is limited - signup sheets at registration.

**Bar**

## 11:30 AM Art of the Review

Making a good review of a book or other artistic endeavor is as much an art as the original crafting. What makes for an interesting review? How do you gain the trust of the audience? What's the best balance between honesty and fairness? Who do you look up reviews by when you want to get the best info? Our panelists will discuss these and other questions.

**Terrace 3 (Reading) Scott Jamison (m), Greg Johnson, Aaron Coke, Russell Leeson**

## 11:30 AM Slideshow: John Arfstrom's Work

Tory Arfstrom Ferrey will talk about her father and his life's work

**Park 2**

**Tory Ferrey (m)**

## 11:30 AM The Space Program in the Trump Era, Year 2

How is NASA faring under the current administration? Are we really going back to the moon? What about Mars?

**Terrace 2 (small stage) Eric Heideman (m), Ben Huse, Michael Kaup, Bill Higgins**

## 11:30 AM Retellings

How to write stories that reference folklore, fairy tales, traditional sources or other texts.

**Park 1 (Mainstage)**

**Tom Hogan (m), Jane Yolen, Eleanor Amason, Pamela Dean, Rachel Swirsky**

# SATURDAY 3/31 PROGRAMMING

**1:00 PM Reading: C.J. Mills**  
**Terrace 3 (Reading)**

**1:00 PM The Year in SF**  
What were we reading this past year?  
**Terrace 2 (small stage)**

*Greg Johnson (m), Russell Leeson*

**1:00 PM A Million Miles beyond  
Midnight: NASA's James  
Webb Space Telescope**

The next big space telescope, named for a former NASA administrator, is slated for launch in 2019. Its 6.5-meter-diameter mirror, orbiting a million miles from the Earth, is designed to give astronomers superb capabilities for exploring the infrared universe. Bill Higgins reviews the Webb's design and the phenomena it will examine.

Park 2

**Park 2** *Bill Higgins (presenter)*

**1:00 PM GoH Interview - Lyda  
Morehouse and Tate Hallaway**

Tate Hallaway (in puppet format) and Lyda Morehouse (in human format) interview each other. Tate has the best sellers, Lyda has the awards. Sometimes they don't like each other a lot, so Naomi Kritzer will referee.

**Park 1 (Mainstage)** *Naomi Kritzer (m),  
Laura Krentz, Lyda Morehouse*

**2:00 PM Reading: Pamela Dean**  
**Terrace 3 (Reading)**

**2:30 PM Wrinkles in Time - Madeleine  
L'Engle (1918-2007)**

Not only is this year, Madeleine L'Engle's 100th birthday, the Wrinkle in Time movie was just released in March.

**Terrace 2 (small stage)**

*Eric Heideman (m), C.J. Mills, Ruth Berman,  
Kathy Sullivan, Martin Summerton*

**2:30 PM GoH Interview - Rachel  
Swirsky**

**Park 1 (Mainstage)** *Rob Callahan (m),  
Rachel Swirsky, Tom Hoggan*

**2:30 PM Ask a Scientist**

A panel of varied scientists answers questions from the audience. This is a perennially popular

Minicon panel, so here it is again!

**Park 2** *Matt Strait (m), Bill Thomasson, Ctein,  
Mark Ferrer, Pat Scaramuzza*

**3:00 PM Reading: Adam Stemple /  
Jane Yolen**

Back to back half hour readings  
**Terrace 3 (Reading)**

**3:30 PM Cotton Candy**

*hosted by Seth Chmelik*

**Parking Lot**

**4:00 PM Ursula K. LeGuin, In Memoriam  
(1929-2018)**

**Terrace 2 (small stage)**

*Eric Heideman (m), Ruth Berman, Kate Brady,  
Eleonor Armason*

**4:00 PM Reading: Laramie Sasseville**  
**Terrace 3 (Reading)**

**4:00 PM Combining the Mystery/  
Detective Genre with SF**

Although humanity changes very slowly, in the future the methods used to commit crime and enforce laws will certainly change. What elements of detective fiction make for satisfying science fiction? What elements of science fiction make for satisfying mysteries? In the cold world of cyberpunk, does justice usually prevail?

**Park 1 (Mainstage)**

*Scott Jamison (m), C.J. Mills, Ellen Kuhfeld,  
Lyda Morehouse, Dan Rosen*

**4:00 PM Superheroes on Screen**

These days everybody is pulling superheroes out of old comics and plunking them on screens both large and small. Why do DC superheroes seem to work better on the small screen, but Marvel dominates in the theater? What about the animated movies?

**Park 2**

*Rick Snyder (m), Dave Kingsley, Greg Larsen,  
Aaron Coker, Nico Johnson*

**4:30 PM Reading: Rob Callahan**  
**Terrace 3 (Reading)**

# SATURDAY 3/31 PROGRAMMING

## 5:30 PM **We Suck - Winning Through Losing**

Guest of Honors share tales of mistakes and challenges that they have had, how valuable they are as lessons, and the hilarity that ensued.

### **Park 1 (Mainstage)**

*Rick Snyder (m), Lyda Morehouse, Rachel Swirsky*

## 5:30 PM **Automation and the Future of Work**

Are robots coming to take away our jobs? Or will human work become less tedious and more productive with the assistance of helpful AI? Let's talk about the difference between "a job" and meaningful work. What are the elements of work that make it something that a human being might like to do?

**Terrace 2 (small stage)** *Ethan Sommer (m), Bill Thomasson, Magenta Griffith, Rachel Kronick*

## 5:30 PM **Actually, it's pronounced 'PED-an-try'**

A big part of geeking out is pride in knowing more about a topic than other people do. But this can easily shade into pure pedantry, or worse. How do we embrace our own geekiness without stomping on anyone else's? How do we de-link geekiness and oneupsmanship?

**Park 2** *Kevin Austin (m), CJ Mills, Adam Stemple, Katie Clapham, Martin Summerton*

## 5:30 PM **Learn Kraslice: the Czech Art of Easter Egg Design**

Learn how to decorate Easter eggs the Czech way, creating incredibly detailed hand-painted miniature works of art.

**Rumpus Room** *Roman Zenka (m)*

## 7:00 PM **The Meaning of Captain America**

Captain America has always stood for things that are actually good about the US: caring about the oppressed, working to make society fairer, doing the right thing. How has that vision changed over the course of Cap's history? How is recent politics affecting what Captain America means now?

**Park 1 (Mainstage)** *Eric Heideman (m), Lyda Morehouse, Scott Jamison, Rob Callahan*

## 7:00 PM **Costume Contest**

Show off your costumes, either planned or made at the 3:30PM Costume workshop in the rumpus room!

**Park 2** *George Richard (m), Bonnie Smdahl*

## 7:00 PM **Is There Something Special about Short Form Writing?**

What is the difference between writing short stories, novels, and serial fiction, other than the word count? Most people seem to be better at one form vs the other - is there anybody that can do both equally well? Does short fiction require a different skill set from long form writing? What about other forms of short fiction such as song writing and graphic novels?

### **Terrace 2 (small stage)**

*Dan Rosen (m), Danith McPherson, Jeremy Steams, Kathy Sullivan, Rachel Swirsky*

## 8:00 PM **Fandom Feud**

Two teams compete against each other in a contest to name the most popular responses to survey questions.

**Bar Mike** *Riley (m)*

## 8:30 PM **Golems and other Jewish Themes in F/SF**

Many Jewish themes have become well-established tropes of speculative fiction, but the legend of the golem is arguably the most popular. In popular culture, the replicants from Blade Runner have been proposed to be golems, and the rock monster aspect of The Fantastic Four's Ben Grimm can also be connected to the legend. Discuss the well-known and more obscure retellings of this theme. And then, as always, there's Frankenstein.

**Park 1 (Mainstage)** *Adam Stemple (m), Ruth Berman, Rachel Swirsky, Dan Rosen*

## 8:30 PM **Group Reading: John M. Ford**

A Reading of Some Works of John M. Ford - In honor of his birthday, which is just past the convention, we will be reading some shorter works of John "Mike" Ford. Come to listen, to read, or both! We're starting out in a programming room (probably in a circle) and then continuing in the bar. Elise will have some



# SATURDAY 3/31 PROGRAMMING

reading selections printed out for last-minute reader volunteers, including many very short pieces. If you have something short you would particularly like to read, please contact her at [lionesselise@gmail.com](mailto:lionesselise@gmail.com) so we don't have twelve people all reading the same sonnet. Thanks!

**Terrace 3 (Reading)** *Elise Matthe sen (m), Sharla Stremski, Pamela Dean*

## 8:30 PM **A Saucer of Loneliness - the Fiction of Theodore Sturgeon (1918-1985)**

It's the 100th birthday of this popular, genre-defining writer. Let's discuss his work and his impact on the field.

### **Krushenko's Annex (323)**

*Eric Heide man (m), Kathy Sullivan, Pamela Dean*

## 8:30 PM **What's Your Neuro Tribe?**

It has been frequently noted that folks on the autistic spectrum are over-represented in science fiction fandom. Is this really true, and if so, why? And is this historic neuro-diversity part of what makes fandom the wonderful, weird world that it is? This panel idea is inspired by the book "NeuroTribes: The Legacy of Autism and the Future of Neurodiversity" by Steve Silberman.

**Terrace 2 (small stage)** *Lisa Freitag (m), Joy Johnson, Michael Schneider, Lisa Sanders*

## 8:30 PM **The Mystery of the WTF Star**

The star known as KIC8462852, aka "Tabby's

Star", became a hot news item when it looked like an alien megastructure had been discovered there. That may not be true, but the star is still a mystery. Let's discuss what is so weird about this star, what explanations have been speculated on, and what we know now.

### **Park 2**

*Pat Scaramuzza (m), Michael Kauper, Ctein, Bill Higgins*

## 10:00 PM **Astrophotography by Rachel Kronick**

A slideshow of some recent astrophotography by Rachel Kronick.

### **Park 2**

*Rachel Kronick (m)*

## 10:00 PM **Scotch Tasting II: The Peatening**

Hosted by Joel Phillips, the Godfather of Minicon. This event was wildly popular last year, so we've decided to bring it back! Those interested in learning about and sampling a variety of single-malt Scotch are welcome to participate. Space is limited, and guests are strongly encouraged to bring a bottle to share and a story to tell. Slainte!

PSA: For your convenience, we've moved to a hotel about a half-mile from a liquor store with an excellent selection of single-malt scotch. Just sayin'. **Bar**

## 11:59 PM **Pub Quiz**

Get your teams in order for the return of Saturday Night Trivia! **Bar**

# SUNDAY 4/1 PROGRAMMING

## 10:00 AM **Easy Morning Yoga**

Yoga is for everyone. Standing, sitting and being calm and mindful are all parts of yoga. Liz Fish will lead some easy yoga to help folks stretch and feel more conscious of themselves, with a focus on adaptability. Wear comfortable loose clothing, feel free to bring a towel if you'd like.

**Terrace 1 (Cozy)** *Liz Fish (m)*

## 10:00 AM **Kaffeeklatsch with Jane Yolen**

On the occasion of the publication of her

366th book, Jane would like to invite you to a celebratory kaffeeklatsch. Attendance is limited - signup sheets at registration.

### **Bar**

## 10:00 AM **This Will End Well**

Sometimes a long-running series ends with just the right notes, wrapping up enough loose ends but not too many, in a way that satisfies all the fans. But there are many examples of endings that have been muddled, controversial, or downright bad: the BSG series reboot; Mass

# SUNDAY 4/1 PROGRAMMING

Effect 3; the 2001 Planet of the Apes movie; maybe Evangelion... How can writers avoid messing up endings? What can fans do when endings go wrong anyway?

## **Park 1 (Mainstage)**

*Be th Kinde rman (m), Joy Jo hnso n, Lyda Mo re ho use , Sc ott Jamiso n, Tà nya Bro dy*

## **11:30 AM Lady Poetesses from Hell**

Lady Poetesses From Hell is a poetry performance group. They dress very nicely and have wicked senses of humor.

## **Park 1 (Mainstage) Tè rry Ga re y (m),**

*Ruth Be rman, Jane Yo le n, Elise Matthe se n, Ele a no r Ama so n, Ra c he l Swirsky*

## **11:30 AM Ask An Expert Who Can Get A Word In Edgewise**

A biochemist/immunologist, a sleep study expert, and an electrician give some basic information about commonly asked questions, and then take questions from the audience.

**Park 2** *Em ily Ste wa rt (m), Ma ry Be rte lso n, Lyd ia Nic ke rso n*

## **1:00 PM Trends in Children's and Young Adult Fantasy and SF**

What's popular now in fantasy and science fiction for kids and teens? What new trends do we see developing in the near future? What books should you buy for your favorite kid or teen? What books would adults enjoy, too?

**Park 2** *Ada m Ste mple (m), Jane Yo le n, Lau ra Kre ntz, Ka thy Sulli van*

## **1:00 PM Angels in Literature**

In Greek mythology, Daedalus constructs wings for his son Icarus, to mimic angels in flight. In cyberpunk, man has constructed electronic angels, free from those pesky laws of physics. What defines an angel? How do angels in SF differ from the classical treatment of angels? How are they similar? What attracts writers and readers to this trope? And what would Milton think?

## **Park 1 (Mainstage) Ric k Snyde r (m),**

*Ruth Be rman, Ka te Bru dy, Lyda Mo re ho use , Ste ve n Brust*

## **2:30 PM Ladies Sewing Circle**

Meets in Laura's hotel room **330**

*Lau ra Kre ntz (m), Linda Lo unsbury, Tè rry Ga re y, Lisa Sa nde rs*

## **2:30 PM Bladerunners [contains Spoilers]**

Many people think that Bladerunner is the best sf film ever made. At long last we have a sincere sequel. Did they get it right?

## **Park 2**

*Gre g La rse n (m), Eric He ide man, Lyda Mo re ho use , Nic o Jo hnso n*

## **2:30 PM Breaking the Rules in Writing**

When and how to break the rules of fiction, like "don't write in second person" or "don't use information dumps."

## **Park 1 (Mainstage)**

*Ra c he l Swirsky (m), C J Mills, Da nith Mc Phe rso n, Ada m Ste mple , Joy Jo hnso n, Ka thy Sulli van*

## **2:30 PM At Con Post-Mort**

What have we learned that can be applied to next year? What's the good gossip? What was that noise last night?

## **Terrace 1 (Cozy)**

*Ke vin Austin (m), Em ily Ste wa rt*

## **4:00 PM Closing Ceremonies**

Minicon is the only convention that closes with a traditional assassination. Don't be late or you might miss it.

## **Park 1 (Mainstage)**

*To ni Brust (m), Ke vin Austin, Lyda Mo re ho use , Em ily Ste wa rt, Ra c he l Swirsky*

## AFTER MINICON

See next page for information on the Dead Dog Party, Dessicated Dodo Party, the MNstf Picnic and other events taking place after Minicon.

Also, volunteers are always appreciated for tearing down and moving out!

Also see page 9 for information on a memorial for Baron Dave Romm taking place Sunday evening at the hotel

# WHAT IS MNSTF?

It's the Minnesota Science Fiction Society, abbreviated MnStf, MinnSTF, MN-STF, and other variants. It's the non-profit group that brings you Minicon. Each year, the MNStf board of directors approves the next Minicon chairperson and looks after the continuing needs of the convention. Minstf does more than just Minicon. It also runs a small convention each year in the fall, mainly for the purpose of having something like Minicon, but without all that pesky programming and stress. Ours changes name frequently. Besides running conventions, Minnstf's major activity is hosting social events through the year (officially known as "meetings"). Those events include a summer picnic, a pool party, and social events, often at members' homes. Meeting locations are published in MnstF's monthly newsletter Einblatt, Twitter and Facebook. The Einblatt is available at [mnstf.org/einblatt](http://mnstf.org/einblatt). You can also sign up for our events and discussion mailing lists at [mnstf.org](http://mnstf.org). How do you become a member of MnStf? It's easy! If you ever attend a meeting, you're a member. If you sign in at seven meetings in a year, you become a voting member for that year and can help choose the Minn-Stf board.

## DEAD DOG PARTY

The Dead Dog party is at the hotel Sunday night after teardown is complete. This is still part of the con! All are welcome! Bar, Consuite, and common areas.

## DESSICATED DODO PARTY

This is our second after party! We just can't stop. All Minicon members are welcome. Mon, Apr 2, 6PM. Irene & Scott Raun's, 3928 11th Ave S, Mpls. Dogs, smoking outside. FFI: 612-822-0451 [realitychallenged@fireopal.org](mailto:realitychallenged@fireopal.org), [sraun@fireopal.org](mailto:sraun@fireopal.org)

## EINBLATT!

Einblatt! is the monthly events calendar of Minn-Stf. It attempts to inform people of conventions, meetings, and other fannish events taking place in or related to the Twin Cities fannish community. <http://mnstf.org/einblatt/>

## THE MNSTF PICNIC

The summer Mnstf picnic will be Saturday, July 21, 2018, at Minnehaha Park, Picnic Area #2, Minneapolis (same place as the last several years). We start around noon, and continue until dark, perhaps 8pm. Snacks and beverages will be provided. There'll be a grill going throughout the day; bring your own grilling items. As is customary at MNstf "meetings", there will be game playing. Besides table and board games, expect to see outdoor games such as croquet, bocce ball and frisbee. We are right next to the horseshoe pit, so if you have a set of horseshoes and like to play, bring them. Dogs are welcome, but the park requires that they be kept on leash. The picnic area is between Nawadaha Blvd and Godfrey Pkwy.





# CONVENTION COMMITTEE

The convention committee (or concom) are the people that organize and run the convention. Anybody can help out on the committee as long as you're willing to put in the work to put on a great convention. If you'd like to help, please email [volunteers@minicon53.mnsthf.org](mailto:volunteers@minicon53.mnsthf.org).

## **CHAIR**

Emily Stewart

## **VICE CHAIR**

Kevin Austin

## **ART SHOW**

Terry Hughes & Alec Phillips

## **BADGES**

Bill Christ

## **BAR**

Susan Philbrook (head)

Brian Lundgren

## **BOZO BUS TRIBUNE**

Thorin Tatge

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

Eric Forste (head)

David Dyer-Bennet

Beth Friedman

Lydy Nickerson

## **CONSUIE**

Hershey Harris

## **COSTUME CONTEST**

George Richard

## **DEALER'S ROOM**

Alice Bentley

Lisa Freitag

## **ELECTRONIC PR DELIVERY**

David Dyer-Bennet

## **E-MAIL ADDRESS HANDLER**

Matt Strait

## **FILM ROOM**

Michael Kingsley

## **GAMING**

Richard Tatge

## **GREEN ROOM**

Karen Cooper, Sharon Kahn

## **GUEST LIAISON**

Rick Snyder (head)

Tanya Brody

Tom Hogan

Lisa Freitag

## **HOTEL LIAISON**

Aaron Vander Giessen

Diane Stewart

## **INSURANCE**

Emily Stewart

## **LOGISTICS**

James Porter

## **MEDALLION HUNT**

Jason Spitzer

## **MUSIC**

Beth Kinderman

## **NEXT GEN/TEEN ROOM**

Soren Stremski

## **CEREMONIES**

Toni Brust

## **PARTY LIAISON**

Don Stremski

Sharla Stremski

## **PROGRAMMING**

Sharon Kahn

## **PUBLICATIONS**

Sharla Stremski (head), Susan

Philbrook, Joyce Scrivner

## **PRE-REGISTRATION**

Clay Harris

## **REGISTRATION/INFO TABLE**

Carol Kennedy

## **RUMPUS ROOM**

## **(KIDS' PROGRAMMING)**

Bonnie Somdahl

## **SCIENCE ROOM**

Ben Huset

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Aaron Vander Geissen

## **TREASURER**

Matt Strait

## **WEB MASTER**

Joe Pregracke

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THE Twin Cities  
DOCTOR WHO Convention

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2018

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**The Paternoster Gang**  
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**DUBLIN 2019**  
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**Guests of Honour**  
Jocelyn Bell Burnell  
Ginjer Buchanan  
Mary & Bill Burns  
Diane Duane  
Steve Jackson  
Ian McDonald

**Rates go up on April 3rd  
Get your membership now!**

**August 15 - 19, 2019**  
Convention Centre Dublin  
[www.dublin2019.com](http://www.dublin2019.com)  
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