

A NON-PROFIT & VOLUNTEER RUN SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION

# MINICON

58

April 18-20, 2025

**Wesley Chu**

AUTHOR GUEST OF HONOR

**The Faithful Sidekicks**

MUSIC GUEST OF HONOR

**Michael Busch**

FEATURED ASTRONOMER



MINNESOTA  
SCIENCE  
FICTION  
SOCIETY

# ***QUICK RESPONSE ZONE!***



Program Book



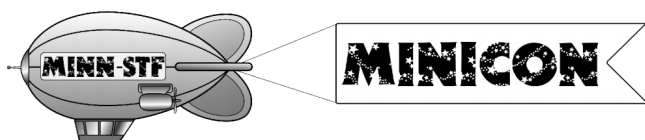
Pocket Program



Minicon 58 Website



MnStf & Minicon Discord



## ***CONTENTS***

Guests of Honor .....	2-3	Teen Room .....	7
Registration .....	4	Rumpus Room .....	7
Volunteering .....	4	Consuite & Bar .....	7
Science Room .....	4	Parties .....	8-9
Build-a-Blinkie .....	4	GPS Auction .....	9
Mathoms .....	5	Cinema Obscura .....	10
Art Show .....	5	Programming .....	11-34
Dealers .....	5	About MnStf .....	35
Music .....	5	Financials .....	38
Bozo Bus Tribune .....	6	The Concom .....	39
Medallion Hunt .....	6	Map .....	40-41
Gaming .....	6	Restaurant Guide .....	42-43
Costuming & Props .....	6	Code of Conduct .....	44

# **WESLEY CHU**

## **AUTHOR GUEST OF HONOR**



Wesley Chu is the #1 New York Times bestselling author of twelve published novels, including *Time Salvager*, *The Rise of Io*, and *The Walking Dead: Typhoon*. He won the Astounding Award for Best New Writer. His debut, *The Lives of Tao*, won the Young Adult Library Services Association Alex Award.

Chu is an accomplished martial artist and a former member of the Screen Actors Guild. He has acted in film and television, worked as a model and stuntman, and summited Kilimanjaro. He currently resides in Los Angeles with his two boys, Hunter and River.

# **WINDYCON 51**

# **RISE OF THE MACHINES**

## **NOVEMBER 7TH - 9TH**



## **DOUBLETREE BY HILTON HOTEL CHICAGO OAK BROOK, IL**



# ***THE FAITHFUL SIDEKICKS***

## ***MUSIC GUEST OF HONOR***



The Faithful Sidekicks are the husband and wife Geek Rock duo of Eric and Jen Distad.

They are an award-winning acoustic comedic filk/geek pop duo who write and perform original catchy songs about SF/F, fandoms, gaming, and technology. Combining Eric's music writing skills (he's a founding member of February Album Writing Month) with Jen's improv comedy skills, they create songs about their nerdy passions with a ton of heart and a side of snark.

The Faithful Sidekicks have won multiple Pegasus Awards, including Best Performer in 2021 and they were inducted into The Filk Hall of Fame in 2024. They have been delighting audiences at conventions, clubs, and coffeehouses around the US, Canada and even Germany since 2014. Whether it's an indie-rock song about board games, an upbeat pop song about Han Solo, or a love song written in SQL Code, The Faithful Sidekicks have something fun for every kind of fan. The Faithful Sidekicks are based in Oregon City, OR (the end of the Oregon Trail) and have released six CDs including their latest, an album of nerdy holiday songs called *Santa Is A Redshirt*.

# ***MICHAEL BUSCH***

## ***FEATURED ASTRONOMER***



Michael W. Busch received his BS in physics and astronomy at the University of Minnesota in 2005 and his PhD in planetary science at Caltech in 2010. He was a postdoc at UCLA and the National Radio Astronomy Observatory before starting as a research scientist at the SETI Institute in September 2013. He primarily studies near-Earth asteroids, using radio and radar techniques, with particular interests in the shapes, spin states, internal structures, and histories of individual objects - especially spacecraft mission targets and potential Earth impactors. He

also has side projects on martian dust storms and on SETI message design. The latter focuses on the currently-theoretical question of making a message readily intelligible to any alien astronomers who may see it.

# REGISTRATION

Location: Grand Ballroom Foyer

Friday ..... 10:00am - 9:00pm

Saturday..... 9:00am - 7:00pm

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

If you need help or information after hours, ask at the bar (room 218). They're up all night, and often know what's what.

# 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.

# MINICON MERCH

Minicon shirts for this year are \$25. Shirts from previous years and other discounted merchandise are also available. Sales are cash or check only.

# VOLUNTEERS

Location: Grand Ballroom Foyer

Minicon is 100% volunteer-run! We have no paid staff. In fact, convention staff pay the same membership fees as everyone else.

Things happen at Minicon because someone had an idea, and figured out how to make it happen. You too can make a thing happen! We can match you with tasks of all comfort levels. Come volunteer at the desk by registration!

# SCIENCE ROOM

Location: Grand Ballroom East B

Visit the Science room! We have exhibits and models, and are transforming science fiction into science fact!

# BUILD-A-BLINKIE

Location: Garden Court

Build-a-Blinkie is an organization dedicated to the teaching of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics). We currently run learn-how-to solder events in the Great Lakes area and are involved in numerous maker events, maker spaces, trade schools, libraries, universities, and area conventions.

Visit us at [build-a-blinkie.org](http://build-a-blinkie.org)

# BUILD-A-BLINKIE BADGE SOLDERING WORKSHOP

Friday ..... 5:00pm - 8:00pm

Saturday..... 10:00am - 8:00pm

Sunday..... 10:00am - 2:00pm

If you have never soldered before, this is the place to learn. You get a kit with the parts, and then at the soldering station, you build it. We will give you as much assistance as you like - we want this to be a fun and rewarding experience! You then get to show it off and take it home. If you have soldered before, this is the place to hone your skills with our more challenging kits. \$5 fee for materials.

**FREE WILL TABLE**

Location: Grand Ballroom Foyer

Do you have a lot of stuff cluttering up your place...and life?

Here is a chance to get rid of some of it with our handy "free-will" table.

Donate some items to the table, and maybe find something to take home.

This is intended for small to medium sized items, so bring your media, crafting supplies, books, left over computer parts, office supplies, and whatever else you no longer need.

Any remaining items will be collected and donated to Goodwill.

**ART SHOW**

Location: Grand Ballroom Center

The Minicon art show is a non-juried show open to all artists who'd like to submit artwork on 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.

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

*Note: All art must be picked up by 2:00pm on Sunday*

**DEALERS ROOM**

Location: Grand Ballroom West

Expect sellers of various wares, including plenty of books, jewelry, gaming accessories, crafts, etc.

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

**MUSIC CONCERTS**

Location: Bloomington

Minicon's concerts take place in the Bloomington Room on the second floor of the hotel. See the Programming section for a detailed schedule of events, including a not-to-be-missed performance from Music Guest of Honor The Faithful Sidekicks!

In addition, Minicon hosts a music circle on Friday and Saturday nights, beginning after the last concert has concluded. Gather in the hallway space across from the music room. The circle will continue until the last musician drops. We invite all Minicon members to join in to sing, play, jam, filk, listen, harmonize, and make a joyful noise. Performers of all styles, genres, and experience levels are welcome and encouraged to participate, as are any and all interested listeners.

## **BOZO BUS TRIBUNE**

Location: Normandale

The Bozo Bus Tribune is Minicon's faithful at-con newsletter - reporting on things yet to happen hopefully before they do, and on things that have happened hopefully after. It's back in the Normandale Room, at the far end of the Grand Ballroom Foyer on the second floor. If you have content for us, fill out a submission and drop it in the Submission Box, or e-mail the editor at [bbt@minicon58.mnstrf.org](mailto:bbt@minicon58.mnstrf.org).

Come by to get equipped as a reporter, report a story, or admire the various colorful puzzles and baubles in the BBT Office. Issues of the Bozo Bus will be found stacked throughout con space.

## **MEDALLION HUNT**

Location: Everywhere!

As per tradition, we will be hiding a number of shiny 1973 pennies throughout the hotel and dropping cryptic clues as to their whereabouts!

They will be hidden in common areas and programming spaces. Consult the Bozo Bus Tribune for cryptic clues throughout the weekend.

Fame and glory... and bragging rights go to the top penny collectors!

## **GAMING**

Location: Minnesota

The main gaming area is on the first floor in the Minnesota room, as well as overflow gaming in the Garden Court across from the game room.

Scheduled games and special events will be posted outside the Minnesota room.

Main gaming will be open continuously during the convention until late Sunday night. There is plenty of space and good lighting with many games available to play. You're welcome to bring in your own games as well.

Please be respectful, and keep all of the gaming areas clean and free of trash. Take extra care to avoid spilling any food or drink, and please put all games (with all their pieces!) back the way you found them when you're done.

Thank you and happy gaming!

## **COSTUMING & PROPS!**

Location: Garden Court

This maker space is for anyone who wants to work on costumes, cosplay, or props...or just hang out and craft.

Feel free to show off what you're working on, and get/give tips or tricks you have learned along the way.

## **TEEN ROOM**

Location: Room 213

Intended for ages 13-19...the Next Generation of fans. Movies, video and tabletop games, artistic activities, socializing and more. Stop by for a tentative programming schedule posted outside.

Come and hang out!

## **RUMPUS ROOM**

Location: Edina

The Rumpus Room is a kid-centered space in the Edina room, with open playtime offering a HUGE assortment of toys, games, and crafting supplies.

Come make something or just have fun hanging out.

There are also fun, organized activities throughout the convention. See the programming schedule for planned activity times.

All ages are welcome, though very young fans should be accompanied by a responsible assistant.

*Please note: The Rumpus Room is not open during Opening or Closing Ceremonies.*

## **CONSUIITE**

Location: Rooms 214-216

Consuite is the suite for convention members to pick up refreshments and sustenance and hang out. We cannot provide your RDA's worth of nutrients for the whole weekend, nor alcohol (that's the bar), but you can expect to find Peeps®, continental breakfast, coffee, soda pop, chips and chocolate. There will be proteins and carbs!

Thursday for pre-registered members and volunteers ..... 7pm-11pm

Friday ..... Noon-Late

Saturday..... 8am-Late

Sunday..... 8am-4pm

## **CON BAR**

Location: Rooms 217-218

The Minicon Bar is where everybody knows your name –or least makes an effort to remember it from last year.

As always, the con bar is free... and worth it!

Thursday .....8pm for GoH Meet-up

Friday .....5pm - 'til you fall down

Saturday..... 5pm - 'til we fall down

Sunday..... After tear-down

Come for the drinks... stay for the arguments about color temperature!



# PARTIES!

## WIN, LOSE, OR GLORY!

Sat 8–11pm .....Rm 103

Test your drawing skills and bring glory to your house –in other words, geeky pictionary!

## DIVERSICON

Sat Night.....Rm 104

## KRUSHENKO'S MOVIE PARTY

Sun Night.....Rm 104

## EPHEMERAL PARTY

Fri 8pm .....Rm 106

A quiet party for connections and good conversation. You may laugh, you may cry, you may sing, you may dance –or not, if you choose.

## TEA & READING ROOM

Hours TBD.....Rm107

Curated selection of sci-fi literature and memorabilia...and tea!

## THE COZY CAT BOOK NOOK

Fri-Sat Evenings .....Rm108

Come to our low-key party for a chance to unwind with a good book, conversation, or calm activity such as puzzles, cards, or coloring. We will be serving hot cider and mocktails along with light snacks. Although no actual cats will be present, we welcome you to share photos of your kitties (or other fur-babies) with us!

## MONTREAL IN 2027

TBD .....Rm 109

Hé, allons tous à Montréal!

## BIFROST TALES

Fri-Sat 5–10pm .....Rm 110

Featuring the creative works of Author Faith MacGregor. Step over the Bifrost and explore an ancient world of fantastical places, creatures, heroes and villains.



## WELCOME TO MARSCON!

Thurs-Sun 7pm–Mid.....Rm 114

All inclusive and all ages hang out to promote Marscon.

## LESSINGER MEMORIAL KARAOKE PARTY

Sat 8pm–?.....Rm 115

## DANCE AT THE WORLD'S END

Fri-Sat 9pm .....Rm 116

Friday night: Dance!

Saturday night: Chill!

## THE ROYAL MANITCORAN NAVY: THE DOCKING BAY

Fri-Sat 8–11pm .....Rm 117

Come join TRMN in a rousing adventure. Roll Pods twice an hour, and try a goblet of Tree Cat Spit if you're bold enough.

Everyone is welcome!

## GEEK PARTNERSHIP SOCIETY

Fri-Sat 7pm–Midnight .....Rm 118

Check the schedule posted at our Party Room. We will have a variety of movies, music and dancing, and a "Baked Potato Taco Bar" at various times throughout the weekend. Come talk with us about the variety of Geek activities throughout the Twin Cities area.

## GPS AUCTION

Location: Grand Ballroom West

Come visit the GPS (Geek Partnership Society) auction where you will find an assortment of geeky items, donated by community members, dealers, and artists. This silent auction uses an online bidding tool. Funds raised go to support year round geeky community building with clubs, events, and programs like:

- Project Lighthouse
- The GPS Annual Writing Contest
- The Space Camp Scholarship Fund
- The GPS Arts Initiative.

Bidding begins online Thursday at 11:59pm and remains open until Saturday 8pm. By bidding in the auctions the bidder agrees to the posted auction rules, and to provide contact information (name, phone number, email) in the event that items that have been won have not been paid for and picked up.

Thank you all for your support!



Scan the QR code, visit our website at [www.geekpartnership.org](http://www.geekpartnership.org), or email us at [info@geekpartnership.org](mailto:info@geekpartnership.org).

# **CINEMA OBSCURA**

Cinema Obscura's film schedule is integrated into the main Programming Schedule and aligned with panel listings chronologically in the Program Book and Pocket Program.

Each film overlaps only a single programming block, starting and ending during the half hour breaks between those blocks. One needn't worry that they'll either miss the end of the film being viewed or the start of that next panel one wants to attend on the schedule.

2025 continues last year's theme of CROWD PLEASERS THAT NEVER QUITE FOUND A BIG ENOUGH CROWD TO PLEASE.

I was once asked, "Why bother with a convention film room? Everything's on Streaming these days."

Even if that were true, you'd have to subscribe to multiple services to get a fraction of "everything". Then, if you want something a bit "different," but don't quite know what to look for or how to find it, you have the difficult and time-consuming task of scrolling through multiple lists.

In curating selections as a Programming alternative, Cinema Obscura strives to screen what we think YOU, THE AUDIENCE, MIGHT ENJOY, never what we want to see or what we think you should see.

Happy Viewing!

– Greg Larsen, Curator

*A note to parents about RATINGS: Cinema Obscura staff does NOT check IDs for admission throughout the convention. MPAA ratings appear in the Program Book next to a film's title. Some produced decades ago may also contain references and stereotypes which are products of their era. Please consider this regarding their appropriateness for your children. Thank You!*

## PROCRASTINATION OR PREPARATION

Fri 2:30pm ..... Veranda 1-4

No one doubts that some research and world building is necessary for writing. But how much background preparation is enough? Do you ever use world building as a procrastination device? When should you just write the story, already!

*Wesley Chu, Michael Bernabo, Faith MacGregor, Rhiannon Taylor (M)*

## TABLETOP & OTHER SOCIAL GAMES

Fri 2:30pm ..... Veranda 6

Playing tabletop and board games is a great way for shy people to get together and meet others. Gamers from 2D Con, Friday Game Night and other gaming events discuss the best places to meet other gamers, and the best games they've played. Anything promising coming out soon?

*Eric and Jen Distad, Richard Tatge, Thorin Tatge (M)*

## RUMPUS ROOM: BALLOON SCULPTURES

Fri 2:30pm ..... Edina

John W. will demonstrate making dragons, mermaids, aliens, motorcycles, hats, and other objects and creatures using balloons. Participants will have the opportunity learn how to make their own balloon dog.

*John Wardale*

## FILM: THUNDERBIRDS (1965)

Fri 3:15pm (120 min) ..... Veranda 7-8

For its 50th anniversary, producer-director Stephen La Riviere (*Filmed in Supermarionation*) and his crew recreated the puppets, ships, sets and effects of *Thunderbirds* from scratch, and resurrecting Gerry Anderson's *Supermarionation* process, filmed three new episodes using original voice cast mini-albums from 1965 for audio. The results are incredible!

Features all 3 episodes + documentary. (G)

*Director: Various*

FRIDAY

PORTAL FANTASIES FROM NARNIA TO ISEKAI

Fri 4:00pm .....Grand Ballroom East A

Falling into another world was a fantasy trope before four kids hid in a closet and ended up in Narnia. Now there is a whole genre of Japanese kids transported to fantasy worlds in isekai manga and anime. Let’s discuss the many portal fantasies, the best way to get to a fantasy world and what it’s like when you get there.

Patricia C. Wrede, Kathryn Sullivan, Grenevic Stremski, David Lenander, Wil Bastion (M)

EROS CHANGED EVERYTHING

Fri 4:00pm ..... Veranda 1-4

The possibility of lower-cost access to space raises lots of opportunities and potential disasters. Who will fund and run space progress in the future? When will it happen? How will we bring resources back from asteroids? Can we spot asteroids likely to hit Earth in time to do something about it? Will mining projects create more danger of impacts?

Michael Busch, Karl Gallagher, Peter Kacner, Bill Higgins, Ben Huset

READING: KM HERKES

Fri 4:00pm ..... Veranda 5

CONCERT: ASTRISONI

Fri 4:00pm ..... Bloomington

Astrisoni is a filk duo consisting of Heather Estelme and Nate Wulver, whose songs explore complex topics via sci-fi and fantasy. Expect vengeful unicorns, tragic robots, ghost pirates, and songs to hunt Bigfoot to. Their music can be found at [astrisoni.bandcamp.com](http://astrisoni.bandcamp.com).

RUMPUS ROOM: SHRINKY DINKS

Fri 4:00pm ..... Edina

Use shrinky dink plastic and markers to create your "artwork" in the Rumpus Room. Then, take it home and watch it shrink in your own oven.

Nora Strait



## FILM: A YOUNG DOCTOR'S NOTEBOOK (2014)

Fri 5:20pm (93 min) ..... Veranda 7-8

In the middle of the night in the middle of nowhere a young doctor fresh from med school (Daniel Radcliffe) arrives to lead an eerie, backwoods 1917 Siberian hospital. Completely unprepared for its bizarre staff and patients who might make David Lynch cringe, he turns to his older self (Jon Hamm) for advice. Darkly funny (and it's about as far from *Harry Potter* and *Mad Men* as you can get!). (R)

*Director: Alex Hardcastle*

## HOPE SURVIVES

Fri 5:30pm .....Grand Ballroom East A

Dealing with Hard Times Through SF/F: What do you read when the world seems to be falling apart around you? Do you read dystopian science fiction or cozy comfort fantasies? How can F/SF help us survive in times of bad news and darkness?

*Peg Kerr, Kathryn Sullivan, Russ Kinnard, Lisa Freitag, Adam Stemple (M)*

## ON LEARNING HOW TO WRITE

Fri 5:30pm ..... Veranda 1-4

The pathways to becoming a writer are many and varied. But not everyone can get a degree or attend expensive workshops. Can you learn to write by reading? How about reading and writing fan fiction?

Is a beta-reader as good as an editor?

Once you decide to sit down and write something, how do you improve your craft?

*Deb Kinnard, Wesley Chu, Guy Stewart, Douglas Van Dyke, Ozgur K. Sahin, Lyda Morehouse (M)*

## READING: WIL BASTION

Fri 5:30pm ..... Veranda 5

**FRIDAY**

**CONCERT: MOONZOUT**

Fri 5:30pm ..... Bloomington

Listen up, kittlings. Four pieces of chaos bringing you the latest in fresh trippy jams, Discordian originals, and genre bent covers! Improvisational fnord psychedelic jazz rockers at your service! But remember the rule: Be careful. Be very, very careful. This Cat has warned you, you may find yourself joining in Eristic Ecstasy not for the weak.

- <https://23s.theinfinitycorporation.com>
- <https://moonzout.69.mu/epk> (fka General Synesthesia)
- <https://tothrees.bandcamp.com>
- <https://zerosharp.bandcamp.com>

**RUMPUS ROOM: YOUNG FAN CONCERT**

Fri 5:30pm ..... Edina

The Faithful Sidekicks will perform an acoustic concert using songs for all ages, heavy on sing-along elements. Customization and requests likely.

**OPENING CEREMONIES**

Fri 7:00pm ..... Veranda 1-4

Welcome to Minicon 58! The Minicon Concom led by Matt Strait, Stacey Strait, (and anyone else they can rope into doing it) will introduce Wesley Chu, Eric and Jen Distad of the Faithful Sidekicks, and astronomer Michael Busch. This will be followed by a meet-up and convention tour for old and new fans hosted by LillySong Watson.

**TV SERIES: THE PINK PANTHER (1962-1966)**

Fri 7:00pm (84 min) ..... Veranda 7-8

Toons for a Fannish Persuasion. The fuchsia feline's 1960s MGM cartoons cleverly relied solely on sight and sound gags with absolutely no dialogue! The shorts curated here have hilarious hauntings, moronic monsters, a bit of magic and some psychedelia, to boot! Great fun for everyone! (G)

**THE FEMALE GAZE**

Fri 8:30pm .....Grand Ballroom East A

Academics have talked about the male gaze, which reduces women to stereotypes, often sexual. But there must also be a female gaze. Do women see things differently? Is this gaze reductive to men, or anything else? Can a woman write an accurate male character? Why would a woman want to write about men anyway?

*Nancy Jane Moore, Naomi Kritzer, CM Alongi, Dina Krause (M)*

**THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TABLE**

Fri 8:30pm ..... Veranda 1-4

Join a discussion with authors, crafters, vendors, and artists about what it's like on the other side of the dealer table! What's unique about selling in a convention Dealer's Room? Is there any etiquette about selling, demonstrating, or buying stuff in a convention vendor hall? What things would we like to see more of, or look for, or wish we experienced a lot less?

*Dex Greenbright, KM Herkes, Jean Mlynczak, Pat Taylor, Ozgur K. Sahin (M)*

**READING: ADAM STEMPLE**

Fri 8:30pm ..... Veranda 5

**WUXIA FAN MEET-UP**

Fri 8:30pm ..... Veranda 6

Wuxia is the Chinese genre of fantasy martial arts, full of powerful heroes and amazing wire-work. Meet Wesley Chu and talk about your favorite martial arts films. What are the best wuxia films? Where can you find them? Who does the best stunts and most exciting fight scenes? Are some more realistic or accurate than others?

*Wesley Chu, Peter Kacner, Aimee Kuzenski (M)*

# FRIDAY

## FILM: THE NEW MUTANTS (2020)

Fri 8:30 pm (95 min) ..... Veranda 7-8

Based on the Marvel comic, it's leanings toward horror and being a victim of covid-era theater closures means it's time for a critical re-evaluation. (PG-13)

Director: Josh Boone

## CONCERT: TRAILER PARK QUEEN

Fri 8:30pm ..... Bloomington

Trailer Park Queen started as a solo project in 1994. Berni aka Trailer Park Queen has performed for years in her parody band. Tonight she will be solo. Listen at your own risk.

## READING: RHIANNON TAYLOR

Fri 9:00pm ..... Veranda 5

## MUSIC CIRCLE

Fri 9:00pm ..... Bloomington Foyer

## WHISK(E)Y TASTING

Fri 9:30pm ..... Con Bar

Learn about it! Styles, rules, spelling, flavor profiles, terroir...all the things! Discuss the flavor nuances, but, please...be classy and bring a little something to share (psst...there's a Total Wine & Spirits 4 miles away).

Please note, because of the variety and quality of selections that will be on hand, your hosts request attendees refrain from "pre-gaming" and allow them to do all the pouring.

Seth Breidbart, Felicia Herman, Laura Krentz, Guy Stewart, John Wardale (M)

## READING: PAT MURPHY

Fri 9:30pm ..... Veranda 5

## MODERN CENSORSHIP

Fri 10:00pm .....Grand Ballroom East A

There has always been some degree of censorship, or at least restriction, on who is allowed to read what and what books are allowed to be shelved where. But these days it is not just porn which is under attack by politicians seeing an easy mark. Who is censoring what? Is book banning a form of censorship? What can we do about it?

*Dina Krause, Greg Ketter, Karl Gallagher, Naomi Kritzer, Russ Kinnard (M)*

## INDIE AUTHOR BUFFET

Fri 10:00pm .....Veranda 1-4

Come listen to a whole panel of indie and small-press authors taking turns reading from their works in a round-robin style gathering! You're bound to hear something you enjoy, so make sure you find out how to pick up a copy or two!

*Michael Merriam, Sherry Merriam, Justin Rose, Ozgur K. Sahin (M)*

## READING: NANCY JANE MOORE

Fri 10:00pm .....Veranda 5

## FILM: COLOSSAL (2016)

Fri 10:05 pm (110 min) .....Veranda 7-8

When a broke party girl (Anne Hathaway) returns to her hometown, news hits of a Kaiju-like creature destroying Seoul, South Korea. She slowly realizes she is somehow connected to this far-off phenomenon, and must determine how her seemingly small life has a colossal effect on the world. (R)

*Director: Nacho Vigalondo*



# SATURDAY

## CODING FOR DIFFERENCE

Sat 10:00am .....Grand Ballroom East A

Both readers and writers have biases in what they expect from characters. How does a writer overcome this to portray diversity? Does the plot follow a different path if the characters are diverse? How does a writer let the reader know that a character is black or Asian or neurodiverse, etc?

*Nancy Jane Moore, Wil Bastion, CM Alongi, KM Herkes, Pat Murphy (M)*

## "OH MY GOD, IT'S FULL OF STARS!" SENSE OF WONDER IN SF

Sat 10:00am ..... Veranda 1-4

There are moments in science fiction that send chills down your spine, as the universe suddenly opens in front of you. But it seems, these days, that stories happen mostly in bleak dystopias. What books inspired this sense of wonder in the past? Is there still a sense of wonder? Where can you find it?

*Russ Kinnard, Kathryn Sullivan, Karl Gallagher, Ozgur K. Sahin, Michael Bernabo*

## HOLOCAUST LESSONS FROM SF/F

Sat 10:00am ..... Veranda 6

Stories about the holocaust have influenced the field of SF/F, and have been retold in interesting ways, both helpful and harmful. Dina Krause, Chicago fan and docent at the Chicago Holocaust Museum, speaks about the continuing relevance of WWII and the holocaust.

*Dina Krause*

## RUMPUS ROOM: WORD GAMES WITH THORIN

Sat 10:00am ..... Edina

Words can be made in so many ways! Unscrambled from a grid, a hand of cards or a giant pile... assembled from dice while the timer ticks incessantly... stacked in a precarious branching tree, traced through a hedge maze, or guessed in tiny pieces! No Scrabble, but I'll bring Alfred M. Butts' other game. Join me for a slew of quick word game options.

*Thorin Tatge*

# ***SATURDAY***

## **READING: ERIC HEIDEMAN**

10:30am..... Veranda 5

## **TRANSITIONING DEPICTED IN SF/F**

Sat 11:30am .....Grand Ballroom East A

We think of science fiction as being on the cutting edge of both science and sociologic advances. How has SF/F portrayed characters who are non-binary or able to swap genders at will? Has the image changed over the years? How can it be helpful or hurtful to a person who is transitioning?

*Blue Deliquanti, LillySong Watson, Grenevic and Phoenix Stremski, Mary VanAlstine, Wil Bastion (M)*

## **THE MONKEY KING GOES WEST**

Sat 11:30am ..... Veranda 1-4

As the world becomes more diverse, the SF/F genre is borrowing from everywhere. Eastern myths and magic are becoming increasingly familiar to Western audiences via books, movies and television dramas. Let's talk about Monkey and his famous Journey to the West, martial arts, cultivators, yokai, immortal emperors, and other legends that are making their way to the rest of the world.

*Peter Kacner, Anna Waltz, Delia Ihinger, Lyda Morehouse, Lisa Freitag (M)*

## **READING: MALLORY GLASS**

11:00am..... Veranda 5

## **READING: ELEANOR ARNASON**

Sat 11:30am ..... Veranda 5

## **LOIS MCMASTER BUJOLD SIGNING**

Sat 11:30am ..... Veranda 6

Join Lois for a quiet conversation at which books will be signed and polite questions will probably be answered.

# SATURDAY

## RUMPUS ROOM: TALKING TO ALIENS

Sat 11:30am ..... Edina

How might you talk to an alien? And would you be understood? In this interactive activity we'll review some of the problems that messages for hypothetical aliens encounter; discuss some SETI message designs (like the Arecibo Message and the Voyager Record), then consider what parts of them might be understood or creatively misunderstood.

*Michael Busch*

## READING: GUY STEWART

Sat 12:00pm ..... Veranda 5

## TV SERIES: INVADER ZIM

Sat 12:35 pm (97 min)..... Veranda 7-8

The most irksome of the Irken invasion fleet, the clueless Zim and his taco-obsessed robot Gir are sent to Earth, not as the vanguard Zim believes they are, but as an annoyance to be banished. Hilarity ensues! (G)

## WRITING FIGHT SCENES & ACTION SEQUENCES

Sat 1:00pm .....Grand Ballroom East A

What makes an effective fight scene? Our panel of experts discusses how to write realistic fights and use action to advance characterization and plot. Learn to write an action scene that readers won't want to skip.

*Wesley Chu, Pat Murphy, Steven Brust, Aimee Kuzenski, Adam Stemple, Nancy Jane Moore (M)*

## DEATH BY FAILURE TO COMMUNICATE

Sat 1:00pm ..... Veranda 1-4

Many engineering disasters are caused by the inability of the engineers to make the managers understand the looming threat. Engineer Karl Gallagher will discuss the ways in which communication failure contributed to several disasters, including the Space Shuttle Challenger launch and the Space Shuttle Columbia destruction on re-entry.

*Karl Gallagher*

# ***SATURDAY***

## **READING: MCAD GROUP**

Sat 1:00pm ..... Veranda 5

## **LIBRARIES IN THE TRUMP ERA**

Sat 1:00pm ..... Veranda 6

What will happen to libraries now that everything is being defunded and book banning is being used as a political statement? How can we aid librarians? How can we get books into the hands of the people who need to read them?

*Rhiannon Taylor, Laura Krentz, David Lenander, Linda Lounsbury (M)*

## **CONCERT: BARDZ AT LARGE**

Sat 1:00pm ..... Bloomington

All the way from Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, Bardz at Large are Graham and Becca Leathers, performing original songs and putting their own unique spin on all the Renaissance festival hits.

## **RUMPUS ROOM: LEARN & WRITE SF/F FLASH FICTION**

Sat 1:00pm ..... Edina

Roald Dahl (*Willy Wonka*); Matt Weir (*The Martian*); and Nnedi Okorafor (*Ibinti*) all wrote small before going BIG. In this workshop, I'll teach you how to imagine, build, then write FLASH FICTION—an entire story in 500-1000 words!

This panel can run longer if people would like to stay.

*Guy Stewart*

## **FILM: *PI***

Sat 2:15 pm (85 min)..... Veranda 7-8

What does Wall St., a Kaballah sect, and apparently suicidal computers have in common? See for yourself in future Oscar winner Aronofsky's first film! (R)

*Director: Darren Aronofsky*

# SATURDAY

## HOW TO DEAL WITH WRITER'S BLOCK

Sat 2:30pm .....Grand Ballroom East A

Writing is a solitary pursuit, but you don't have to be alone. Writers of both songs and prose discuss strategies to use when the writing isn't happening, and to keep it happening when it is. Can things like NaNoWriMo and FAWM, writer's groups, Zoom meetings, and even book clubs be helpful? How do you keep writing through hard times?

*Eleanor Arnason, Eric Distad, Adam Stemple, Michael Bernabo, CM Alongi (M)*

## ASTEROIDS & THE SOLAR SYSTEM

Sat 2:30pm ..... Veranda 1-4

Asteroids are a diverse group of small solar-system objects that never accumulated into planets. Featured astronomer Michael Busch will talk about both near-Earth and main-belt asteroids as parts of the solar system and as targets for space missions. He will also review the impact hazard from near-Earth asteroids and how it is being addressed.

*Michael Busch*

## READING: OZGUR K. SAHIN

Sat 2:30pm ..... Veranda 5

## THE YEAR IN SF/F

Sat 2:30pm ..... Veranda 6

A review of science fiction books written in the past year.

*David Lenander, Greg L. Johnson, Russell Letson (M)*

## CONCERT: CHESHIRE MOON

Sat 2:30pm .....Bloomington

Cheshire Moon is the fanciful collaboration of trickster bird Lizzie Crowe and crazed magician Eric Coleman. What began as a simple joining of two talents in song circles, and occasionally during the mad-hatter antics of Eric Coleman on stage, whipped and frothed into the most likely of pairs. Eric's love of punk, folk and prog rock gives them an eerie, otherworldly sound, while Lizzie brings the voice of that otherworld to life in voice and verse.



## RUMPUS ROOM: HAIR BRAIDING

Sat 2:30pm ..... Edina

Braid or be braided! John W. demonstrates a variety of techniques: classic French & Dutch braids, round (Crown) braids, ... 3, 4, 5 & 7 strands, and other styles like hearts, spirals and a pull-up-weave.

*John Wardale*

## READING: CTEIN

Sat 3:00pm ..... Veranda 5

## FILM: DOCTOR MORDRID: MASTER OF THE UNKNOWN (1992)

Sat 3:45 pm (74 min)..... Veranda 7-8

When Marvel denied Full Moon studios the rights to *Dr. Strange* in 1992, that didn't stop them from making their own decent version. Jeffrey Combs (*Re-Animator*, *Star Trek*) as the titular doctor. (NR)

*Director: Albert & Charles Band*

## MODERN ARCHETYPES

Sat 4:00pm .....Grand Ballroom East A

Every generation has a hand in shaping the characters and stories they inherit. This panel considers characters created in the past hundred or so years—Peter Pan, Sherlock Holmes, Cthulu, Superman—who are well on their way to becoming legends. Who else is gaining legendary status? How do they influence us as a culture? How might popular franchises like *Star Wars* or *Naruto* evolve into myths for the next generation?

*Eleanor Arnason, Pat Murphy, Anna Waltz, Ruth Berman, Dave Lenander (M)*

## PROP DESIGN SHOW & TELL

Sat 4:00pm ..... Veranda 1-4

Amateur prop designer and 3D printer/modeler Tyler Bloom assists other costumers, particularly with awesome mecha and futuristic weapon designs. He will present slides and demonstrations of his costume props, and discuss how to go about designing and building a costume around your budget.

**SATURDAY**

**READING: NAOMI KRITZER**

Sat 4:00pm ..... Veranda 5

**MEET WESLEY CHU!**

Sat 4:00pm ..... Veranda 6

Spend time hanging out and talking with Author Guest of Honor Wesley Chu. Bring your books to sign. Feel free to bring food or drink from the consuite with you.

**CONCERT: THE FAITHFUL SIDEKICKS (MUSIC GOH)**

Sat 4:00pm ..... Bloomington

The Faithful Sidekicks have been delighting audiences at conventions, clubs, and coffeehouses around the US, Canada and even Germany. Combining Eric's music writing skills with Jen's improv comedy skills, they create songs about their nerdy passions like SF/F, fandoms, gaming, and technology, they have something fun for every kind of fan.

**RUMPUS ROOM: TISSUE BOX THEATER WORKSHOP**

Sat 4:00pm ..... Edina

Tell a story in a Tissue Box Theater. (Also called a Cranky Movie.) Turn the crank at the top to see the next scene, and make little puppets to act in front of the scenes. For all ages, but younger children should bring an adult helper.

*Laura Krentz*

**READING: PEG KERR**

Sat 4:30pm ..... Veranda 5

**READING: BRUCE BETHKE**

5:00pm..... Veranda 5

# ***SATURDAY***

## **FILM: QUATERMASS & THE PIT, AKA FIVE MILLION YEARS TO EARTH (1967)**

Sat 5:10 pm (97 min)..... Veranda 7-8

This Hammer classic intelligently balances science fiction and horror in a way that few films can. While excavating a new London Underground tunnel, workers discover unusual skeletons and an advanced power which has remained semi-dormant for 5 million years... until now! (PG-13)

*Director: Roy Ward Baker*

## **ARE CLASSIC SF BOOKS STILL CLASSIC?**

Sat 5:30pm .....Grand Ballroom East A

Science is constantly evolving as new areas of knowledge, sometimes quite specialized, are opened up. Are the books we read “back in the day” still relevant? Does the science hold up? Are there new stories today in which accurate science is featured? Has science fiction changed enough with the times? How can we keep up with developments in space science and technology?

*Russ Kinnard, Ctein, Keith Malgren, Tom Potter, KM Herkes (M)*

## **WRITING THE PHYSICALLY DISABLED CHARACTER**

Sat 5:30pm ..... Veranda 1-4

Disabled characters, particularly those with physical disabilities, are still underrepresented in SF/F. Who are the most interesting disabled characters? How does (or doesn't) their disability interfere with their lives? What challenges for the writer does a character with their own challenges bring to the plot? How does one go about accurately representing disability in fiction?

*Wesley Chu, Lois McMaster Bujold, Wil Bastion, Guy Stewart, Michael Merriam, Randy Holland (M)*

## **READING: STEVEN BRUST**

Sat 5:30pm ..... Veranda 5

# SATURDAY

## ANIME MEET-UP

Sat 5:30pm ..... Veranda 6

Fans of anime both old and new meet to talk about their favorite series and collect anime recommendations.

*Kathryn Ramage, Grayson Malinowski*

## CONCERT: VERSATILE FLUFF

Sat 5:30pm ..... Bloomington

Grenevic Sharladanel Stremski and Rev. Rebecca Elfprincess have a variety of geeky songs for you. Want to hear gender-neutral love songs that can span multiverses or survive the zombie apocalypse? Songs based on internet memes? Songs from and about video games? Come listen!

## RUMPUS ROOM: FAUX STAINED GLASS

Sat 5:30pm ..... Edina

Use laser cut frames (MANY SF related items!), markers, tissue paper, and glue to make window decorations that look very similar to stained glass.

*Nora Strait*

## READING: KARL GALLAGHER

Sat 6:00pm ..... Veranda 5

## READING: DOUGLAS VAN DYKE

Sat 6:30pm ..... Veranda 5

## FILM: PRIMER (2004)

Sat 6:55 pm (77 min)..... Veranda 7-8

Suppose you and a fellow engineer accidentally discovered a limited form of time travel in your garage with your tech startup while moonlighting from your day jobs? And you each had different ideas about how your joint discovery should be used and ran experiments without the other's knowledge? What might happen? (PG-13)

*Director: Shane Carruth*

# SATURDAY

## THE PITFALLS AND BENEFITS OF WRITING HUMOR

Sat 7:00pm .....Grand Ballroom East A

Great humor has the power to make the world feel a little bit sunnier. But what can you do when your slapstick falls short, your puns stink and everybody nose it, and your comedic timing...misses its cue? Come join us for a discussion about the often-underestimated work of making people laugh.

*Eleanor Arnason, Wesley Chu, Melanie Meyer, Lyda Morehouse, Dex Greenbright (M)*

## THE INTERSECTION OF AI & ART

Sat 7:00pm ..... Veranda 1-4

Artists and writers are worried, perhaps reasonably, that they will need to fight for their careers as they are replaced by AI. What is AI missing that humans do well? How quickly will AI get better at human art? Can AI be used for good?

*Nancy Jane Moore, Rachel Reddick, Blue Deliquanti, Bruce Bethke, Ethan Sommer (M)*

## READING: ANNA WALTZ

Sat 7:00pm ..... Veranda 5

## HANDS ON ASTRONOMY WORKSHOP/CLASS

Sat 7:00pm ..... Veranda 6

Learn to find your way around the night sky using a star wheel and free apps. Sky legends from around the world. Learn your True Birth Sign thru Astronomy, not Astrology. Cool Astronomy factoids you may not know. Free star wheel. NOT a craft activity. NOT a children's panel (though children are welcome with an adult).

*Michael Kauper*

## CONCERT: ADAM STEMPLE

Sat 7:00pm ..... Bloomington

Adam Stemple is an award-winning musician and producer and former Minicon Music GoH. He has played everything from hard rock to Irish music to "ethno-gothic sludge jazz," and puts out a remarkable wall of sound for just a guy on guitar.

# SATURDAY

## RUMPUS ROOM: LOCK PICKING

Sat 7:00pm ..... Edina

Learn how locks work, and how vulnerable they are.

## READING: FAITH MACGREGOR

Sat 8:00pm ..... Veranda 5

## THE RESTAURANT AT THE END OF THE BOOK

Sat 8:30pm .....Grand Ballroom East A

Food often figures heavily in adventuring. Even video games have menus, these days. How do you invent food for your characters? Do you research planetary ecology, or historical cooking, or do you just make it up? Do you have any recipes? What fictional universe would you visit just to sample the cuisine?

*Deb Kinnard, Wil Bastion, Steven Brust, CM Alongi, Ozgur K. Sahin, Lyda Morehouse (M)*

## HEROIC MOTHERS

Sat 8:30pm ..... Veranda 1-4

Mothers are often minor characters, particularly in young adult fantasy, where they are notoriously absent. They seem to influence the protagonist by being either psychological monsters or lovingly supportive. But what about mothers who have active roles in the story? Are there heroes who are mothers? Villains? How does the real life experience of being a mother (or having a mother) shape a story? Let's discuss mothers' potential for complex relationships and as interesting characters.

*Pat Murphy, Lois McMaster Bujold, Patricia C. Wrede, KM Herkes, Naomi Kritzer (M)*

## READING: IAN YOUNG

Sat 8:30pm ..... Veranda 5

# ***SATURDAY***

## **FILM: SWISS ARMY MAN (2019)**

Sat 8:30 pm (97 min)..... Veranda 7-8

Hank (Paul Dano, The Riddler in *The Batman*) is stranded on a deserted island with no hope of returning home, until a corpse named Manny (Daniel Radcliffe) washes up on shore. Despite the fact that Manny is dead (or is he?), the pair become fast friends and have the wildest adventure together (or do they?). Everything will be revealed in the end...but, will you believe it? (R)

*Written & Dir. by Daniel Scheinert & Daniel Kwan*

## **CONCERT: RIVERFOLK**

Sat 8:30pm ..... Bloomington

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

## **MEET THE FAITHFUL SIDEKICKS!**

Sat 8:30pm ..... Veranda 6

Spend time chilling and hanging out with our music Guests of Honor Eric and Jen Distad. Feel free to bring food or drink from the Consuite with you.

## **READING: W.A. THOMASSON**

Sat 9:00pm ..... Veranda 5

## **MUSIC CIRCLE**

Sat 9:00pm ..... Bloomington Foyer

## **GETTING YOUR WORK OUT THERE**

Sat 10:00pm ..... Grand Ballroom East A

Okay, you've written something. Now, you just have to get it in print. Do you try the major publishers? Small presses? Do you need an agent or an editor? Should you consider e-publishing? When and how is self-publishing a wise business decision?

*Guy Stewart, Melanie Meyer, CM Alongi (M)*

# SATURDAY

## WHO’S VOTING FOR TEAM ROCKET?

Sat 10:00pm ..... Veranda 1-4

The Best Worst Anime Characters: Who are your favorite anime villains? Who has the best evil laugh? Who has the best costumes? Who would be most fun to hang out with in bars? On missions? In the hot tub?

*Lyda Morehouse, Jason Otting, Dani Sommer, Aaron Vander Giessen, Anna Waltz*

## TRIVIA WITH BRIAN!

Sat 11:59pm sharp-ish ..... Con Bar

Enjoy a beverage while hoping that your teammates remember more than you do about that one thing you sorta recall reading or seeing or hearing about that one time. What do you mean you’ve never heard of it? Everyone else got it. Maybe the next question’s easier. No? Well, at least there’s drinks.





## FANNISH TRAVEL

Sun 10:00am .....Grand Ballroom East A

There are conventions outside of Minneapolis! Some of us actually travel to get to them! Some of us travel to get to Minicon. Fans who travel to attend conventions tell stories of their favorite trips and destinations.

*Jeanne Mealy, Ctein, Stacey Strait, Hershey Lima, Dean Gahlon, Deb Kinnard*

## KICK-ASS FEMALE CHARACTERS

Sun 10:00am ..... Veranda 1-4

Women have been given action roles in both film and on the page for decades now. How has the tough fighting female character developed? Who are the best kick-ass women? How does a writer approach creating a realistic woman warrior?

*Wesley Chu, CM Alongi, Douglas Van Dyke, Ruth Berman, Nancy Jane Moore (M)*

## FILM: SCREAMERS (1998)

Sat 10:05pm (108 min)..... Veranda 7-8

Screenplay by Dan O'Bannon (*Alien*) from a Philip K Dick story. During a prolonged war, an offworld outpost commander (Peter Weller) finds that the smart weapons under his command are evolving into something far more devastating than they already are. (R)

*Director: Christian Duguay*

## RUMPUS ROOM: TEAM PUZZLE CHALLENGE

Sun 10:00am ..... Edina

Do you like puzzles? Join a team that tackles a series of obstacles and brainteasers with unique restrictions. Whether you're the fearless leader or humble follower, you'll have fun. All-ages are welcome! You can just show up, but if you RSVP in the Rumpus Room before Sunday morning it'll help us plan this event

*Randy Holland*

# SUNDAY

## KNITTING & FIBER ARTS IN SF/F

Sun 11:30am .....Grand Ballroom East A

In a continuing series about crafting in SF/F, let's talk about fiber arts and how they are represented in our favorite books and stories. What books feature yarn and thread, weaving and sewing, dyeing and embroidery? Does your favorite fiber art need a book? Knitting is only the beginning.

*Peg Kerr, Beth Friedman, Laura Krentz, Carly Preston, Ruth Berman, KM Herkes (M)*

## ASK A SCIENTIST

Sun 11:30am ..... Veranda 1-4

Fans who work in some aspect of the sciences will answer your questions.

*Karl Gallagher, Mike Schneider, Bill Higgins, Ben Huseeth, Bill Thomasson, Michael Kauper*

## READING: MICHAEL MERRIAM

Sun 11:30am ..... Veranda 5

## THIS YEAR IN FILM

Sun 11:30am ..... Veranda 6

An open discussion about the movies we've seen in the past year.

*Anna Waltz*

## TV SERIES: SPACE GHOST & DINO BOY (1966)

Sun 11:30am (150 min)..... Veranda 7-8

Short attention span after a few nights of partying? These 7-minute cartoons are perfect for that! Not familiar with them? A short attention span helps.

*Creator: Alex Toth, Producer: Hanna-Barbara*

## RUMPUS ROOM: MINI MEDALLION HUNT

Sun 11:30am ..... Edina

Like the 3-day version, but located in the Rumpus Room, and finished in 1.5 hours. Intended for the little fans.

## READING: QUEEN OF SWORDS

Sun 12:00pm ..... Veranda 5

## WHO WRITES FAN FICTION? AND WHY?

Sun 1:00pm .....Grand Ballroom East A

Fanfiction has arguably evolved into its own genre in the past fifty years. There are now millions of entries in thousands of fandoms written by an uncounted number of people worldwide. Who is writing fanfiction? Who is their audience? What are the most popular subjects? Why do they write this when there is almost no hope of selling it?

*Wil Bastion, Carly Preston, Beth Friedman, Delia Ihinger, Anna Waltz (M)*

## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Sun 1:00pm ..... Veranda 1-4

How can you use pacing, plot and dramatic timing so your story flows naturally? What shapes do stories come in? How do you mold a story into shape? Is there a difference between genres? Does the intended story length change anything? Do you start with characters or an idea? Do you let your characters decide?

*Wesley Chu, Rhiannon Taylor, Adam Stemple, Bill Thomasson, Guy Stewart, Deb Kinnard (M)*

## READING: CM ALONGI

Sun 1:00pm ..... Veranda 5

## SONG-WRITING WORKSHOP

Sun 1:00pm ..... Veranda 6

*Eric and Jen Distad*

## CONCERT: PEGGY O'NEILL

Sun 1:00pm ..... Bloomington

Mix together some blues, some folk, light jazz, and a unique perspective to get the song styling of Peggy O'Neill. She is someone with a great voice who has been performing and writing songs for over 40 years.

# SUNDAY

## RUMPUS ROOM: TOOL TIME

Sun 1:00pm ..... Edina

Disassemble old electronics and other devices. Learn safe and correct use of hand tools. Bring in junk electronics for disassembly...NOT necessarily re-assembly. This activity will be done in time for Closing Ceremonies.

## READING: JUSTIN ROSE

Sun 1:30pm ..... Veranda 5

## WHAT DOES A HAPPY ENDING LOOK LIKE?

Sun 2:30pm .....Grand Ballroom East A

Many readers, particularly of genre fiction, expect a happy ending. Sometimes it's obvious, like a marriage, a criminal apprehended, or surviving to sunrise. But perhaps more satisfying stories require more complicated endings. What sort of characters require more nuanced endings? Do readers get upset if they don't get the perfect ending? What is happiness anyway?

*Wesley Chu, Wil Bastion, Peg Kerr, Ozgur K. Sahin, Faith MacGregor, Naomi Kritzer (M)*

## SO YOU WANT TO RUN A CONVENTION

Sun 2:30pm ..... Veranda 1-4

Conventions don't just happen. What goes on behind the scenes in putting on a convention? People with Minicon (and other convention) experience talk about the things that need to come together in order to organize an SF convention. Maybe you want to get involved...

*Hershey Lima, Jeanne Mylnzak, Stacey Strait, Aaron Vander Giessen, Dina Krause*

## CONCERT: LISA FREITAG

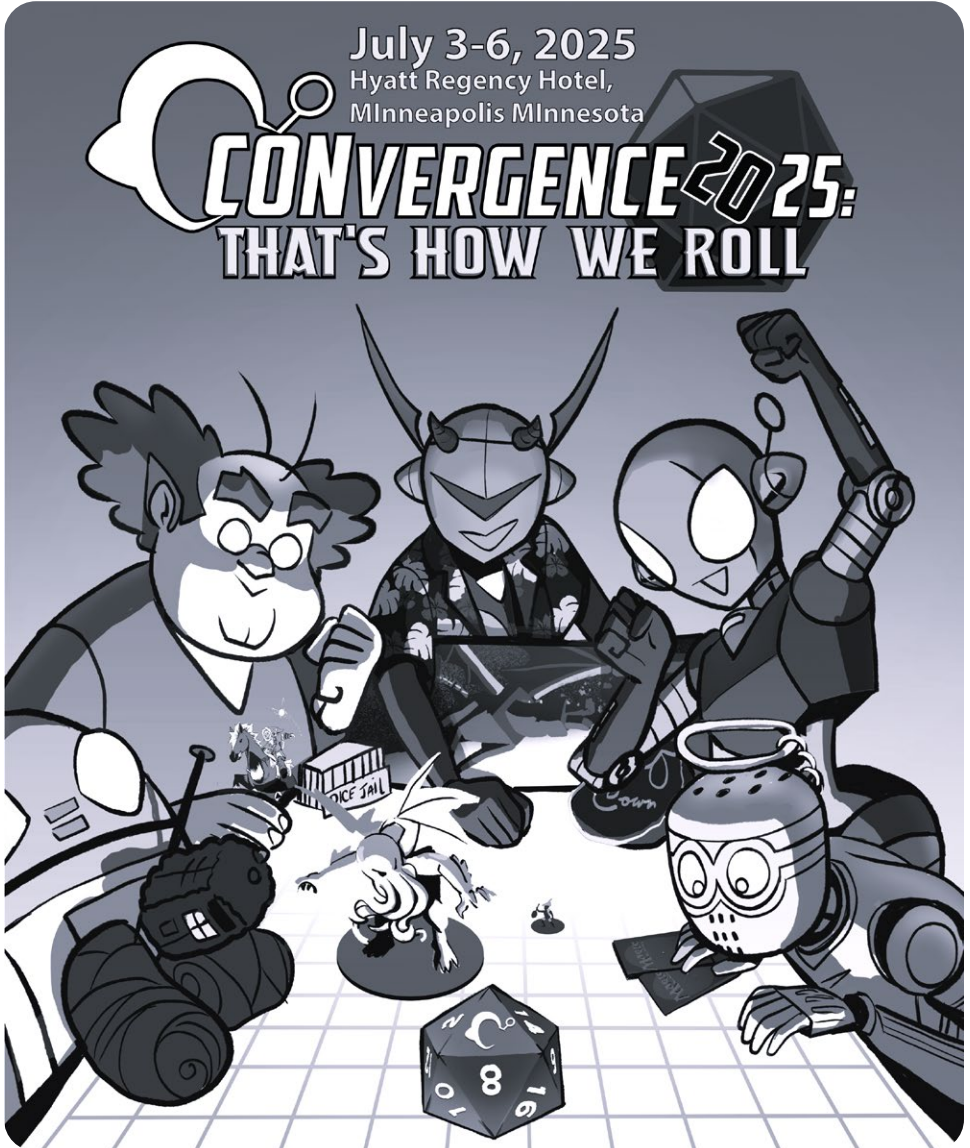
Sun 2:30pm .....Bloomington

Lisa Freitag demonstrates the inadvisability of giving children piano lessons by misusing her sixty-year-old classical training to play music from video games and anime. Expect music from The Last of Us, Skyrim, Baldur's Gate, Naruto, Fullmetal Alchemist, and at least one of Joe Hisaichi's arrangements from his Miyazaki film scores.

**CLOSING CEREMONIES**

Sun 4:00pm ..... Veranda 1-4

Bye!



# ***ABOUT MN-STF***

## ***WHAT IS MN-STF?***

It's the Minnesota Science Fiction Society, variously abbreviated MnStf, Minn-STF, MN-STF, and other variants. It's the non-profit group that brings you Minicon.

The Minnesota Science Fiction Society, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to furthering the appreciation of science fiction and fantasy literature. Minn-Stf was founded in 1966 and we've been active in the worldwide community of science fiction fandom ever since. We also do other charitable/educational work.

## ***MEMBERSHIP***

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 five meetings in a year, you become a voting member for that year and can help choose the Minn-Stf board.

## ***MEETINGS***

The first thing you need to know, is that Minn-Stf meetings are parties, and usually happen on the first and third Saturdays of each month. They are casual social gatherings –house parties, picnics and sometimes remote.

Secondly, you're invited!

There is generally a two- to ten-minute business meeting which consists primarily of announcements of upcoming events.

Expect snacks, drinks, interesting conversation, maybe some games or music. Event locations and details can be found on the google calendar at [mnstf.org](http://mnstf.org), as well as on Discord.

## ***MNSTF PICNIC***

MnStf usually has at least one summer picnic at a public park. Join us for an afternoon cookout filled with gaming, socializing, and fun. There's usually a grill going throughout the day, so bring something for the grill, a dish to share, or a game to play. Details will be announced at [www.mnstf.org](http://www.mnstf.org) as soon as a location and date have been confirmed.

## ***POOL PARTY***

Each year MnStf has a pool party held in the winter, at the Minicon hotel. Hang out in the hot tub, have a swim, or just hang out and socialize. Details will be available at [www.mnstf.org](http://www.mnstf.org).

## ***DIVERSICON***

This year Diversicon is a part of the Minnesota Science Fiction Society.

Small cons like this can stay alive with help. We have two wonderful local guests, both with an impressive body of work, and we have our usual mix of programing and fun.

# Diversicon 32

*“The End of Everything (more or less)”*

**September 5-7, 2025**

**Crowne Plaza Minneapolis West**

3131 Campus Drive, Plymouth MN 55441

## SF AUTHOR GUESTS OF HONOR



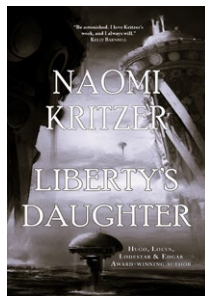
### LYDA MOREHOUSE

Novels include the *AngelLINK* series and  
*Welcome to Boy.net*



### NAOMI KRITZER

Novels include *Liberty's Daughter*, *Chaos on CatNET*, and *Catfishing on CatNET*



## Registration

Adults until July 31: \$45

Adults, after July 31: \$55

Students: \$30

Kids 5-11: \$15

**Website:** [www.diversicon.org](http://www.diversicon.org)

**Contact:** [diversicon@gmail.com](mailto:diversicon@gmail.com)



# ***FUN WITH FINANCES!***

Minicon is a members-driven non-profit convention. Our goal is to bring the community together for an enjoyable and possibly even educational experience. It isn't to collect the most money or even to get the most people, although we *love* having more members. We all chip in our membership fees so that there's enough money to run this thing and to support our parent organization, Mn-Stf. In our opinion, if we end up with a profit afterwards...we've overcharged.

We have made a concerted effort in the last few years to keep registration rates low and run an affordable con, while still having great guests of honor, plenty of food & beverages, and providing a fun weekend overall. We want you to know where your money goes and welcome your feedback by contacting 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.

## ***WHERE DID MY MONEY GO?***

We love transparency, so we'll tell you!

Minicon 57 was directed by the MN-Stf board to bring in \$4700 more than it spent, to cover the club's anticipated expenses (which includes storing Minicon's stuff).

Instead, we made \$8532!

Memberships were 94% of our income, with donations at 2%, dealer tables 2%, t-shirts 1%, and art show 1%. The most common membership rate paid was \$55. If you paid \$55, here's where your money went:

Hotel .....	\$16.40	Badges .....	\$1.00
Consuite & Bar .....	\$6.80	Miscellaneous.....	\$5.70
Guests of Honor .....	\$6.20	Mn-Stf.....	\$14.30
Publications.....	\$5.80	Music.....	\$1.20

**THE FINANCIAL GOAL FOR MINICON 58 IS \$6000**



# ***YOUR MINICON 58 CONCOM***

Art Show.....Rachel Traynham	Music ..... Beth Kinderman
Accessibility..... Leslie Perg	Party Liaison..... Crystal Therese
A/V Head ..... Phoenix Stremski (Head)	Parties, Outreach .....LillySong Watson
Michael Hagerman	Evie Bogie
Badges ..... Bill Christ	Photography ..... David Dyer-Bennet
Build-a-Blinkie	Programming ..... Lisa Freitag (Head)
Bar..... Susan Philbrook (Head)	Carly Preston
Brian Lundgren	Mara DeMers
Bozo Bus ..... Thorin Tatge (Head)	Publications ... Susan Philbrook (Head)
Jason Spitzer	Grenevic Stremski
Chair ..... Matt Strait	David Dyer-Bennet
Cinema Obscura ..... Greg Larsen	Registration.....Clay Harris (Pre-Reg)
Consuite.....Paul Ference (Head)	Ethan Sommer (At-Con)
Ann Totusek	Andy Exley (At-Con)
Costuming & Props..... Tyler Bloom	Restaurant Guide ..... Crystal Therese
Dealer's Room . Jean Mlynczak (Head)	Rumpus Room..... John Wardale
Natasha Krentz	Nora Strait
Free-Will Table ..... Mark Richards	Science Room ..... Ben Huset
Gaming..... Clay Harris	Signage..... Evie Bogie
Green Room ..... Lisa Foley	Social Media....Aaron Vander Giessen
Guest Liaisons.....Anton Petersen	Teen Room.....Rebecca Strait
Hotel Liaison.....Stacey Strait (Head)	Dani Sommer
Aaron Vander Giessen	Treasurer ..... Andra St. Arnauld
Info Desk..... Mara DeMers	Volunteers.....Sybil Smith
Logistics..... James Porter (Head)	Sharon Kahn
Hershey Harris	Webmaster ..... Richard Mueller
Medallion Hunt ..... Jason Spitzer	
Merchandising .....Stacey Strait	

## ***WANT TO JOIN THE CONCOM?***

**Come to a Concom Meeting!**

**See our meeting schedule at [www.mnstf.org](http://www.mnstf.org)**

# SECOND FLOOR

MORE  
RESTROOMS &  
ELEVATORS

EDINA  
RUMPUS ROOM

BLOOMINGTON  
MUSIC



MUSIC CIRCLE  
FREEBIES  
AUTHORS  
VOLUNTEERS  
INFORMATION

ELEVATORS

REGISTRATION & MERCH  
MEDALLION HUNT  
BOZO BUS TRIBUNE

ESCALATORS

GRAND BALLROOM WEST DEALERS	GRAND BALLROOM CENTER ART SHOW	GRAND BALLROOM EAST B SCIENCE	GRAND BALLROOM EAST A
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VERANDA 1-4		VER 5	VER 6	VERANDA 7-8 FILM
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TEEN	CONSUITE 214-216	CON BAR 217-218
GREEN		



# FIRST FLOOR



EAST  
COURTYARD

MORE  
RESTROOMS &  
ELEVATORS

LOBBY

MAIN  
ENTRANCE

SHOP

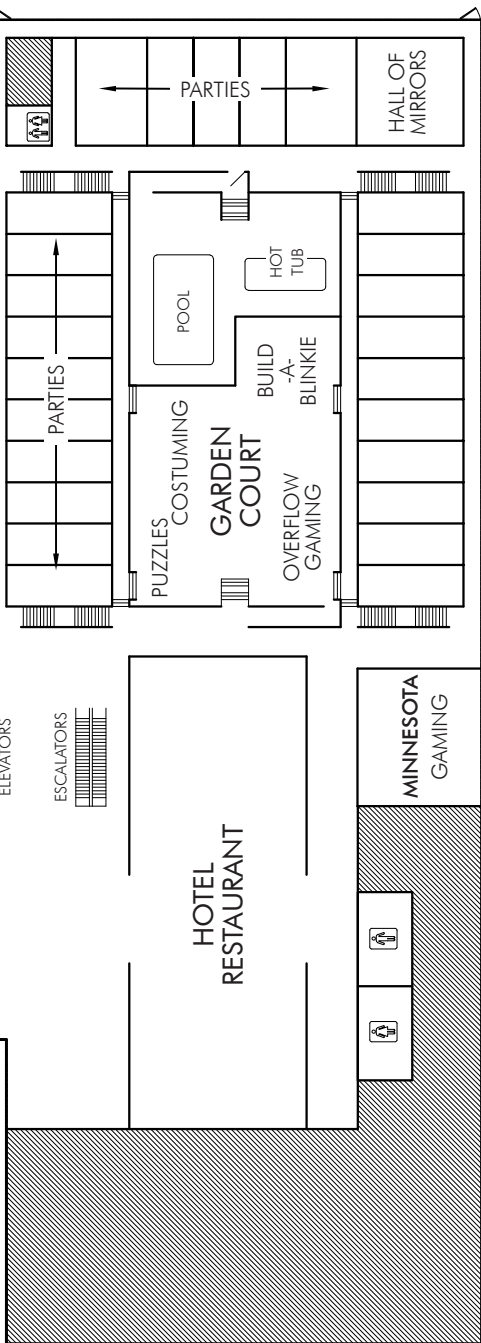
FRONT DESK

ELEVATORS

ESCALATORS

HOTEL  
RESTAURANT

MINNESOTA  
GAMING



# **RESTAURANT GUIDE**

## **ATOMIC WINGS**

Fri ..... 10am-10pm  
Sat ..... 10am-10pm  
Sun ..... 9am-10pm

952.222.0307

## **BURGER KING**

Fri ..... 5am-12am  
Sat ..... 5am-12am  
Sun ..... 5am-12am

952.896.9871

## **CARIBOU COFFEE**

Fri ..... 5:30am-6pm  
Sat ..... 7am-6pm  
Sun ..... 7am-2pm

952.831.9230

## **DAIRY QUEEN**

Fri ..... 10am-10pm  
Sat ..... 10am-10pm  
Sun ..... 10am-10pm

952.405.9427

## **DOMINO'S PIZZA**

Fri ..... 10:30am-1am  
Sat ..... 10:30am-1am  
Sun ..... 10:30am-12am

952.944.2463

## **JERSEY MIKE'S**

Fri ..... 10am-9pm  
Sat ..... 10am-9pm  
Sun ..... CLOSED

952.666.3606

## **JIMMY JOHN'S**

Fri ..... 10:30am-9pm  
Sat ..... 10:30am-9pm  
Sun ..... CLOSED

952.835.8654

## **MY BURGER**

Fri ..... 10:30am-9pm  
Sat ..... 10:30am-9pm  
Sun ..... CLOSED

952.582.4132

## **RED'S SAVOY**

Fri ..... 11am-9pm  
Sat ..... 11am-9pm  
Sun ..... CLOSED

952.831.8100

## **STARBUCKS**

Fri ..... 5:30am-7:30pm  
Sat ..... 5:30am-7:30pm  
Sun ..... 5:30am-7:30pm

612.655.7209

## **SUBWAY**

Fri ..... 9am-9:30pm  
Sat ..... 9am-9:30pm  
Sun ..... 9am-9pm

952.844.0266

## **TACO LIBRE**

Fri ..... 10am-11pm  
Sat ..... 10am-11pm  
Sun ..... 10am-10pm

952.303.3360

# Seattle Worldcon 2025



Building Yesterday's Future - FOR EVERYONE



August 13-17, 2025

Seattle Convention Center



Your Hosts

K. Tempest Bradford

Kisi Shaul

Poet Laureate

Brandon O'Brien

Guests of Honor

Martha Wells

Donato Giancola

Bridget Landry

Alexander James Adams



<https://seattlein2025.org>



# CODE OF CONDUCT

Minn-stf acknowledges that interpersonal relationships are complex and 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 most 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 someone tells you to stop something they perceive as harassing behavior, stop right away. 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 behavior, 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.

To report violations of this code, whether or not action is desired, go to the registration desk and talk to the staff there.

## CREDITS

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**REGISTER EARLY ...AND OFTEN!**

Register while you're here  
to get the best membership rate!

**APRIL 2<sup>1/2</sup>-5, 2026 EASTER WEEKEND**

**59**

# MINICON

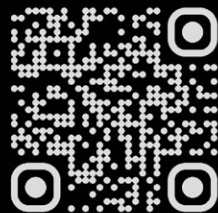
**AUTHOR GUEST OF HONOR  
PATRICIA C. WREDE**

**GAME DESIGNER GUEST OF HONOR  
MATT LEACOCK**



**DOUBLETREE BY HILTON HOTEL  
BLOOMINGTON MINNEAPOLIS SOUTH**

**[WWW.MNSTF.ORG/MINICON59](http://WWW.MNSTF.ORG/MINICON59)**







MINNESOTA  
SCIENCE  
FICTION  
SOCIETY

