

- » Reading: Katya Reimann Atrium 3
» Signing: Peg Kerr, Jane Yolen, Pamela Dean Plaza Mall

SATURDAY - 7:00 PM

- » Auction Plaza 1
The usual art show auction, plus an auction to support Minicon, featuring rare and unusual Terry Pratchett items.
- » Fortean-inspired SF Atrium 7
With its focus on the unusual and odd, *The Fortean Times* can't help but have inspired SF writers. We'll discuss our favorite Fortean-inspired authors and their works. Magenta Griffith (M), Greg Ketter, Denny Lien
- » The Making of *Planetfall* Atrium 6
Michael Heagle, Troy LaFaye, and the crew of *Planetfall* tell you everything you ever wanted to know about making a movie on a budget
Michael Heagle, Troy La Faye

- » Reading: Pamela Dean Atrium 3

SATURDAY - 8:00 PM

- » From Fanzine to Professional Artist Atrium 6
Our artist Guests of Honor Fastner and Larson got their start doing funny animal sketches for the comics fanzine *Vootie*. How did *Vootie* influence the comics genre? Is it still possible to make the transition from fan artist to professional?
Dave Rom (M), Ken Fletcher, STEVE FASTNER AND RICH LARSON
- » Publishing 101 Atrium 7
An always popular discussion of the important steps between putting your words on paper and seeing them in print. This may include the proper format for submissions, potential markets, the role of editors, cover art, and anything in between. Bring questions for our panel of experts.
Katya Reimann (M), Kathryn Sullivan, Jim Frenkel, Melinda Kimberly

- » Lady Poetesses from Hell: a poetry reading with attitude Atrium 3
Jane Yolen, Terry Garey, Laurel Winter, Rebecca Marjesdatter, John Rezmerski, Cathy Tingo, Jane Hanson, Ruth Berman

SATURDAY - 9:00 PM

- » Ankh-Morpork Masquerade Ball Bloomington
Come dance to the music of *Folk Underground* at this Discworld-themed ball. Dressing up as your favorite Discworld character is encouraged and may be rewarded.
- » Karaoke Party Suite 108
- » What's So Funny about a Minneapolis World Con? Atrium 7
Minneapolis in '73, our local attempt at bidding for a World Con, has been a funny excuse for a party for years. Why do some people think the idea of a World Con being held in Minneapolis is the funniest idea of all.
Geri Sullivan (M), Dave Rom, JIM YOUNG, Martin Schafer

- » Working on your Craft: Writing as an Evolving Process Part 2 Atrium 6
As with any other art, writing requires practice, and a writer's skill can improve over time. Writers discuss the things they have learned as they have evolved and ways in which they have gained a new level of expertise. How can you tell when you're improving? How can you judge your own progress as a writer?
Naomi Kritzer (M), Jerry Stearns, Peg Kerr, C.J. Mills, Lois McMaster Bujold

- » Open Mike Poetry Reading: hosted by Laurel Winter Atrium 3

SATURDAY - 10:00 PM

- » Revenge: Why it's a Motivation and Why it's Cool Atrium 7
Some stories' plots are driven by a character's (or an author's) desire for revenge. How does revenge work as a plot device? Which stories do it best? Why is it so much fun to read and to write?
Barb Jensen (M), Joel Rosenberg, Adam Stemple, Steven Brust, Sarah Monette

SUNDAY - 9:00 AM TBA

- » Breakfast with TERRY PRATCHETT: A special event for volunteers only.

SUNDAY - 11:00 AM

- » Schools of Magic Bloomington
The ways in which magic is taught are varied. Fantasy offers everything from the Unseen University to apprenticeship (often cut short by the untimely death of the wise old master). How many training programs can we come up with? Does the method of teaching influence the magic? Which school would you like to attend?
Lisa Freitag (M), TERRY PRATCHETT, Jane Yolen, Caroline Stevermer, Beth Freidman

- » The Year in Science: The Rerun Atrium 7
Our panel of experts discusses discoveries, theories, and plans from the past year.
Lynn Litterer, Andy Anda, Angie Karash, Paul Richards

- » Mandarin Chinese Workshop Atrium 8
Come learn what they're really saying in *Firefly*, or learn a few choice phrases.
Rachel Kronick

- » Reading: C.J. Mills Atrium 3

SUNDAY - 12:00 noon

- » The Year in SF Atrium 7
Our panel of experts discusses the past years' most important SF books and stories. What got published and what's worth reading?
Michael Levy (M), Russell Letson, Jim Frenkel, Greg Johnson, Howard Davidson

- » *Good Omens* Atrium 8
A discussion of this collaboration between Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman, "the funniest book about the apocalypse ever written," sponsored by Second Foundation.
Eric Heideman (M)

- » Reading: Peg Kerr Atrium 3

SUNDAY - 1:00 PM

- » How To Be Funny Atrium 6
It may not be possible to teach funniness, perhaps because it isn't really a word. Our panel of experts will deconstruct the works of Terry Pratchett and try to figure out what makes them so funny.
Laurel Winter (M), John M. Ford, JIM YOUNG, Steven Brust

- » Is *Blade Runner* a Classic? Atrium 8
The 1982 movie was incredibly influential from a design standpoint, but was it just form without substance?
Eric Heideman (M), Jim Frenkel, Paul Richards, Rachel Kronick

- » Reading: Lisa Freitag Atrium 3

- » Signing: TERRY PRATCHETT, JIM YOUNG Plaza Mall

SUNDAY - 2:00 PM

- » Peter Pan Themes in SF Atrium 6
Since its publication nearly 100 years ago, J.M. Barrie's children's book has had enough retellings to become nearly mythical. Recently there have been two new movies, *Peter Pan* and *Finding Neverland*. Clearly the story captures something in our hearts. We'll discuss how the story has influenced others' work and our own.
Eric Heideman (M), Jane Yolen, Lisa Freitag, Ruth Berman, Laura Krentz

- » Erotic Comic Art Atrium 6
What are your favorite erotic comic books and graphic novels?
Anne Murphy (M), Greg Ketter, FASTNER AND LARSON, Nicole Bourgoin

- » Space Opera Atrium 7
Some SF stories are driven by the technology that powers the space ship, and others by the people on board. Which books do "character-driven" SF well?
Greg Johnson (M), R.M. Meluch, Lois McMaster Bujold, C.J. Mills

- » Signing: Joel Rosenberg, Steve Brust Plaza Mall

SUNDAY - 3:00 PM

- » Closing Ceremonies Bloomington

MINICON FORTEAN POCKET PROGRAM

FRIDAY - 10:00 AM

- » Writer's Workshops Atrium 1 and Atrium 5

FRIDAY - 3:00 PM

- » *Firefly* Geek-Out: discussion Atrium 8
Rachel Kronick (M)

FRIDAY - 4:00PM

- » Wee Folk, Good Folk Atrium 6
Fantasy and folklore are full of tales about little people. Sometimes the wee ones are helpful, sometimes they're mischievous at best. Why are we fascinated with little people? Are they fun to write about? Does anyone think that the finding of "hobbit bones" in Indonesia will change any of our stories?
Ruth Berman (M), Katya Reimann, Nicole Bourgoin, Richard Tatge, Doug Wickstrom, TERRY PRATCHETT

- » Down the Rabbit Hole: discussion Atrium 8
Participants share stories about how they got hooked on SF. This is a group discussion, "Diversicon style," with all in attendance invited to participate.
Eric Heideman (M)

FRIDAY - 5:00 PM

- » Who am I, Anyway? Atrium 8
Exploring an odd film sub-genre where the protagonist spends most of the film trying to remember who he is and what is real. Examples: *Total Recall*, *Vanilla Sky*, *Dark City*, *Angel Heart*, *Mulholland Drive*, *Donnie Darko*, the *Matrix* movies, and many others.
Rachel Kronick (M), Eric Heideman, Jim Frenkel, Magenta Griffith, Dave Christenson

- » *The Birth of a Candidate* Plaza 4
A short film co-written by JIM YOUNG.

- » *Magic: The Gathering* tournament begins Con suite
An ongoing competition of the popular card game. See Joel or Beth Philips for details.

- » Reading: Adam Stemple Atrium 3

FRIDAY - 6:30 PM

- » Opening Ceremonies Bloomington
Dave Rom, TERRY PRATCHETT, JIM YOUNG, STEVE FASTNER AND RICH LARSON

Following Opening Ceremonies

- » Ask Dr Mike Bloomington
All-purpose expert Dr Mike takes questions from the audience on Life, the Universe and Everything.
John M Ford

FRIDAY - 8:00 PM

- » Meet the Artists and Art Show Tour Plaza 5
Special tour of the art show with artists in attendance. Meet our artist Guests of Honor STEVE FASTNER AND RICH LARSON.

FRIDAY - 8:30 PM

- » Shark People and Other Fish Stories Atrium 6
Our Guest of Honor Jim Young's book *Armed Memory* is about people who are genetically remade into sharks. What other science fiction has been inspired by the idea of people turning into sharks or, at least, living under water? What is their appeal?
Eleanor Arnason, JIM YOUNG, Ruth Berman, Laurel Winter, Nate Bucklin

- » The Year in Science: Part 1 Plaza 1
Our panel of experts discusses discoveries, theories, and plans from the past year.
Chas Sordahl(M), Jordin Kare, Bill Higgins, Pat Scaramazzi, Howard Davidson

- » *Planetfall*: a showing of the movie, with discussion to follow Plaza 4

- » Reading: S.N. Arly Atrium 3

FRIDAY - 9:30 PM

- » Political Blogging: Threat or Menace? Atrium 6
Political blogs are changing the whole paradigm of how the individual interacts with society. Or are they? What is a "blog" anyway, and how has the meme evolved? Are they the wave of the future or an over-hyped trend?
Laurel Krahn, Joel Rosenberg, Martin Schafer, Dave Wilford, Christopher K Davis
- » KODT Interactive Reading: Richard Tatge Atrium 7
- » Learning to Write: Can it be Done? Plaza 1
Is it possible to teach writing, or is it all up to the individual's innate talent? Should you go to college, attend Clarion, join a writer's group, take drugs, or go with the flow?
Adam Stemple (M), Anna Waltz, Hillary Moon Murphy, SN Arly
- » Reading: Laurel Winter Atrium 3

FRIDAY - 10:00 PM

- » Nanny Ogg's Potluck Consuite
Hot food in the Consuite - sample some of the dishes from *Nanny Ogg's Cookbook*.

FRIDAY - 10:30 PM

- » MNStF Music Circle Plaza 2
This room will be available throughout the weekend for music.
- » Filk Singing Atrium 7
This room will be available throughout the weekend for music.

SATURDAY - 10:00 AM

- » Curse Words and Other Ways to Tell it isn't a Children's Book Bloomington
Usually we talk about the things that make a book a children's book, but this time we thought we'd take a different direction. Are there any subjects that cannot be part of a children's book? Are curse words really forbidden? Are there books out there that definitely could not be read by children? Why not?
Jane Yolen (M), TERRY PRATCHETT, Patricia C. Wrede, Caroline Stevermer, Laurel Winter

SATURDAY - 11:00 AM

- » Rain of Frogs: Fortean Phenomena 101 Atrium 6
An introduction to the wonderful world of Charles Fort and the magazine *The Fortean Times*. This magazine began publication in 1973, to "review and research strange phenomena and experiences, curiosities, prodigies and portents" and, according to the magazine itself, "keep alive the ancient task of dispassionate weird-watching, and exploring the wild frontiers between the known and the unknown."
Dave Rom (M), JIM YOUNG, Dean Gahlon, Magenta Griffith
- » Ask A Kid Atrium 7
There are a lot of good books being aimed at children these days. A panel of actual kids discusses the books they've been reading, and why you should read them too.
Lisa Freitag (M), William Ketter, Fiona Ihinger, Rachel Rosenberg

- » Sturgeon's Row: discussion Atrium 8
We'll discuss some of the treasures this uniform edition has brought to light and take a new look at Sturgeon's stature as a writer, particularly of short fiction.
Eric Heideman (M)

- » Reading: Jane Yolen Atrium 3
- » Signing: TERRY PRATCHETT Bloomington

SATURDAY - 12:00 noon

- » Turtles All the Way Down: Creation Myths in Fantasy and SF Plaza 1
From the Big Bang to God creating the universe in seven days, creation theories are many and varied. Which ones are your favorites? Which real creation stories are they based on? Should mankind worry about such things, or should we be satisfied with "it's turtles all the way down."
Barb Jensen (M), Eleanor Amason, Rachel Kronick, Marilee Layman, Sarah Monette

- » Collage Therapy (2 hours) Edina
Explore your subconscious through the art of collage. Materials for 11 people will be provided, first come first served. Not a children's event, though younger collage artists may participate if they can handle the entire process alone, or if they bring an adult to supervise. Psychological analysis of finished product optional.
Karen Cooper

- » Created Worlds in Young Adult Literature Atrium 8
Dave Lenander (M), Peg Kerr, Beth Freidman, Laura Krentz

- » Conspiracy in the North Woods Plaza 4
A slide show revealing the truth about the forest service. Very Fortean.
Kip Williams

- » World Building for Kids (90 minutes) Atrium 1
Create Your Own World! This is the first part of series of activities for kids, revolving around the idea of creating imaginary worlds. This workshop will include map-making and building sugar cube constructions.
Ann Totusek, Marian Turner, Lana Klassen

- » Reading: Caroline Stevermer and Patricia C. Wrede Atrium 3

SATURDAY - 1:00 PM

- » Did Tolkien Harm Fantasy? Atrium 7
It is unreasonable to accuse Tolkien of being responsible for the last fifty years of fantasy writing, but it is arguable that his work was so influential that it all but stopped fantasy in its tracks. Fantasy tends to be pastoral and nostalgic. Is there anything else we can blame Tolkien for? What might the field have been like without him?
Dave Lenander (M), Phil Kaveny, Peg Kerr, Pamela Dean, Sarah Monette

- » Fannish Hoarding Plaza 1
This is the latest in our series of fannish psychology discussions. This year we'll take on hoarding behavior (or, as most of us refer to it, collecting), inspired by a recent newspaper article featuring the decluttering of several of our members' houses. Why do we do it? How do we get it under control (assuming we want to, of course)?
Barb Jensen (M), Joyce Scrivner, Becca Allen, Magenta Griffith

- » STEVE FASTNER and RICH LARSON: slide show Plaza 4

- » *Call of Cthulhu*: A new D and D adventure for kids Atrium 5

- » The Films of Miyazaki Hiyo Atrium 8
Miyazaki's excellent anime movies are now being released in the US: *Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind*, *Princess Mononoke*, *Spirited Away*, *Castle in the Sky* and, of course, *My Neighbor Totoro*, are all now available. What themes do we like in his work and what is too "cutesy"?

- » Rachel Kronick (M), Anna Waltz, Marilee Layman, Kathryn Sullivan

- » Reading: Lois McMaster Bujold Atrium 3

- » Signing: Katya Reimann, Patricia C. Wrede, Caroline Stevermer Plaza Mall

SATURDAY - 1:30 PM

- » Cupcakes and Bubbles Atrium 1
Time to take a break from world building to decorate your own cupcake and play with bubbles.
Marian Turner, Richard Tatge

SATURDAY - 2:00 PM

- » Jim Young Interviews Terry Pratchett Bloomington

- » Fannish Estate Planning Atrium 7
Well, some of us are now old enough to be worried about such things. Just what do you think your grateful heirs are going to do with that collection of yours, hmmm? Our panel of experts discusses the options for who to contact and where to start to make sure your favorite things don't wind up in the trash.
Linda Lounsbury (M), Joyce Scrivner, Seth Breidbart, Jonathan Adams, Greg Ketter

- » Graphic Novels vs. Manga Atrium 8
Eric Heideman (M), Kevin Trainor, Rebecca Marjesdatter, Anna Waltz

- » Taking things Apart for Kids Atrium 1
Marion Turner, Bill Higgins

SATURDAY - 3:00 PM

- » When Writers Collaborate Plaza 1
Several of our attending authors have collaborated on novels. How do they do it anyway? Write alternating chapter or paragraphs? How are arguments resolved? Would you do it again?
Steven Brust (M), Katya Reimann, Jane Yolen, Caroline Stevermer, Patricia C. Wrede, Adam Stemple

- » Fannish Skills in Real Life Atrium 6
We've talked a lot about the social liabilities of the typical fan, but are there also strengths? Have you been able to apply skills learned in fandom in your mundane life?
Barb Jensen (M), Geri Sullivan, Angie Karash, Jerry Stearns, Sharon Sbarsky

- » The Works of Terry Pratchett: discussion Atrium 8
A discussion sponsored by the Rivendell Group, a fantasy book discussion group that has met regularly since 1973.
Dave Lenander (M)

- » Writer's Workshop for Kids (two hours) Atrium 1
Work with Dave Rom on *The Daily Howler*, the newsletter for kids, or take a world-building writing seminar from writer Kathryn Sullivan.
Marian Turner, Dave Rom, Kathryn Sullivan

- » Moneyduck Tournament Edina
We're not going to try to explain this silly paper version of whisper-down-the-lane.
Rachel Kronick (M)

- » Reading: R.M. Meluch Atrium 3

- » Signing: Laurel Winter, Naomi Kritzer Plaza Mall

SATURDAY - 4:00 PM

- » Working on your Craft: Writing as an Evolving Process Part 1 Bloomington
As with any other art, writing requires practice, and a writer's skill can improve over time. Writers discuss the things they have learned as they have evolved and ways in which they have gained a new level of expertise. How can you tell when you're improving? How can you judge your own progress as a writer?
Jane Yolen (M), Pamela Dean, Steven Brust, TERRY PRATCHETT

- » Fictional Internets Atrium 7
How do the Internets envisioned by John Brunner, Neal Stephenson, Pat Cadigan, Vernor Vinge, David Brin, and others, compare with the one we've actually got?
John Ladwig (M), Christopher K Davis, Seth Breidbart, Bill Higgins

- » Tolkien 101: discussion Atrium 8
Meet other Tolkien aficionados and share thoughts about this writer's remarkable work. Sponsored by the Minnesota Tolkien Society.

- » Reading: Naomi Kritzer Atrium 3

- » Signing: Lois McMaster Bujold, C.J. Mills, R.M. Meluch Plaza Mall

SATURDAY - 5:00 PM

- » A Field Guide to Genre Writing Plaza 1
How many genres are there? Is there any type of fiction that isn't a genre? Is genre writing something to avoid or embrace?
C.J. Mills (M), Steven Brust, Joel Rosenberg, SN Arly, Lois Greiman, Monica Ferris

- » I Survived Minicon 1 Atrium 8
Our Guest of Honor, Jim Young, was one of the Floundering Fathers of Minicon. Join him and other old pharts in reminiscing about early Minicons and the founding of its parent organization, MNStF. Anyone who was present in those early years is welcome on the panel. Dodd Clegler may even show up!
Linda Lounsbury (M), JIM YOUNG, Richard Tatge, Nate Bucklin, Ken Fletcher, Frank Stodolka

- » NASA Slideshow: Titan and its Neighbors Plaza 4
On 14 January, the European Huygens probe parachuted to a landing on Titan, Saturn's haze-shrouded moon. It revealed a complex landscape of frozen water shaped by methane rainfall, and an atmosphere that is a frigid cauldron of organic chemicals. NASA's Cassini spacecraft continues to orbit Saturn, frequently returning to Titan.
Bill Higgins