

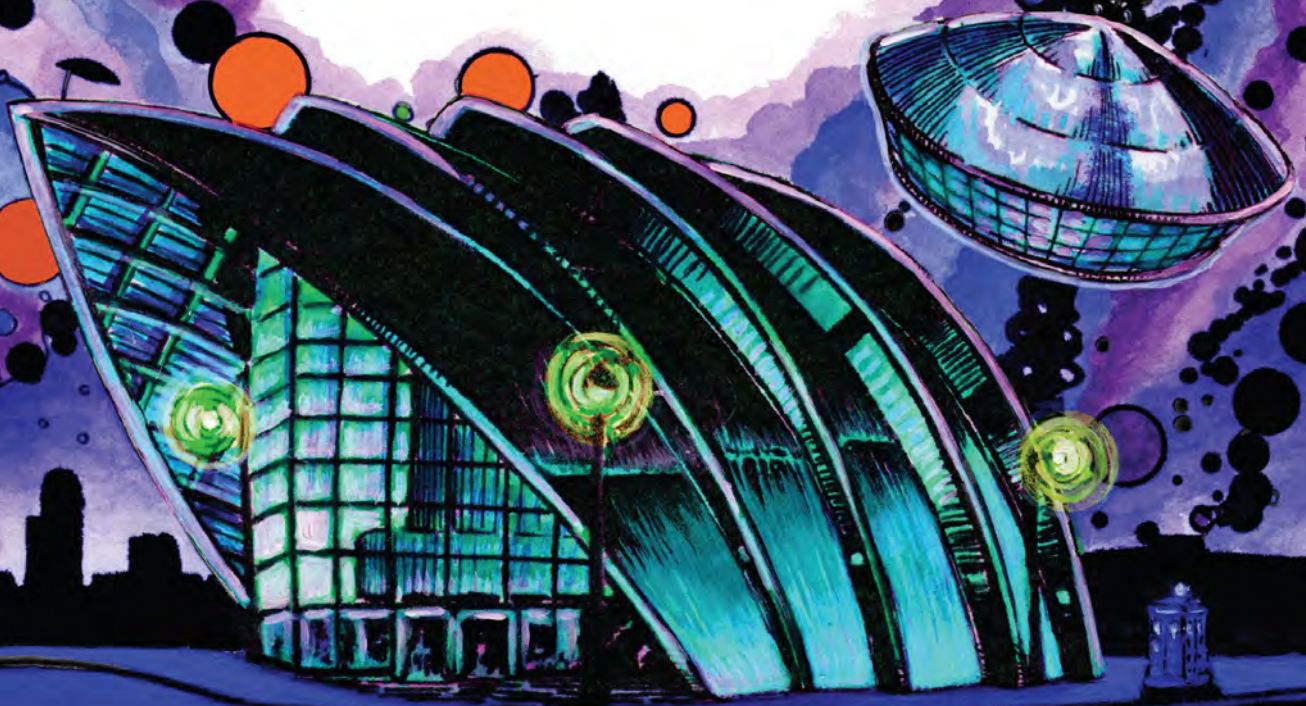


Glasgow 2024

A Worldcon
For Our Futures

8th–12th August 2024

SEC, Glasgow



www.glasgow2024.org

    @glasgowin2024

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From the Con Chair (Our North Star)

I don't remember which was my first Capricon. A lot of people on the concomm (convention committee) do, though – long-timers will proudly declare the number of their first Capricon, but I didn't take much note of it at the time. I was still overwhelmed by the "con scene" and didn't understand the decades of tradition and culture I was dipping my toe into. I just knew that cons like Capricon were places where I could listen to smart people talk about nerdy things, sell my work as a bright-eyed, bushy-tailed hopeful artist, and have fun with friends at parties (oh, the parties!).

The oldest program book I have in my personal archives seems to be from Capricon 29, though, for what it's worth. That one was run by Helen Montgomery, who I've long looked up to in the years since. And, paging through that program book, I see a lot of other names I now know, many of whom have become friends... and sadly, some who have passed.

I do remember that the first Capricon I ever worked concomm for was Capricon 32, though. Previously, I had tipsily inquired of Kerry Kuhn, the art show lead at WindyCon, how one gets into running art shows, and she got the now-familiar gleam in her eye of a conrunner sensing a fresh volunteer. Once I learned the ropes as her second, I was recruited by Sondra de Jong to be the art show lead at Capricon. And then I spent over a decade doing that, making friends among the convention art community and driving our poor IT lead up the walls (seriously, Chris Dundon, you are a *bona fide saint*).

Along the way, I recruited other friends and brought them into the conrunning fold (sorry not sorry) until every Capricon, no matter how busy my life is, has felt like a joyous reunion and celebration. This convention has become one of the brightest stars in the constellation of my life, something that helps me orient myself when times get rough – and good heavens, have times been rough for us all lately!

Because of recent difficulties, Capricon has had to change and adapt, just as all fan-run conventions must change and adapt over time to endure. And so, when I was considering what this year's theme would be, I envisioned an adventurer – doesn't matter what genre they're from – looking up at the night sky and seeing the stars overhead.

Stars provide hope, guidance, and a sense of continuity, for all that they wheel and spin around us and constellations slowly creep into new configurations. Stars give an anchor to orbits, provide essential guides to navigators, and bring light and life to the universe. Stars endure in ways that we do not – and even long-dead stars endure *in us*. As Delenn said on Babylon 5: "We are starstuff. We are the universe made manifest, trying to figure itself out."

This year, we celebrate The Endurance of Stars, and the ability of the speculative fiction genres to spark our imaginations, allow us to reflect on our journeys and explore ourselves, and to show us a way forward even in the darkest of nights.

Whether this is your first Capricon or your forty-fourth, I hope you join me in looking up – and looking forward – to what this event and community has in store for us next. Thank you all for sharing this adventure with me.

Con Chair, Capricon 44
– Sam Haney Press

Safety Policy for COVID-19

Due to outbreaks at other conventions & events, and upon recommendation from the head of the CDC*, Capricon will maintain a **Mandatory Masking Policy** for all members (both staff and attendees) in all convention spaces unless actively eating or drinking. This means that the ConSuite will be considered a high risk area, and will have signage indicating such. Convention-affiliated parties may choose to require masking or not, and signage at their doors will indicate their preference; parties not requiring masks will likewise be considered high risk areas.

However, we will no longer be requiring proof of current vaccination at registration. We encourage all members to update their vaccinations prior to the convention regardless, not just for COVID-19 but for other seasonal illnesses as well.

We strongly recommend that all members test themselves for COVID-19 just prior to coming to the convention. Free COVID-19 test kits are available at <https://faq.usps.com/s/article/At-Home-COVID-19-Test-Kits>. If you test positive for COVID-19 before the convention, please stay home - we will offer rollover badges to those unable to come to the convention due to COVID-19. We also request that anyone feeling ill, experiencing new symptoms, or testing positive for COVID-19 / Flu / RSV during the convention quarantine in their hotel sleeping room or go home.

If you think/know you have contracted COVID-19, please contact us at covid@Capricon.org (during Capricon or within 2 weeks afterwards) with details of which spaces you've been in, so that we can track potential hotspots. Any information we share with the membership at large will be anonymized as best as we are able.

If you have already purchased your badge and have medical reasons that mean this policy will prevent you from attending Capricon 44, please contact chair@Capricon.org for further information.

*<https://news.yahoo.com/cdc-director-recommends-masking-against-212240951.html>

What is Phandemonium?

Phandemonium, Inc. sponsors the annual science fiction convention Capricon, ensuring that attendees have as much fun as possible. We also promote science fiction as a genre and support the Chicagoland fannish community. We also host other events throughout the year. Up-to-date information on these events can be found on our blog (www.Capricon.org/blog) or on our social media sites.

If you are interested in any of our ongoing programs, have new ideas, or just have questions about Phandemonium please look for a board member this weekend and let's have a chat.

Who's in Phandemonium?

If you have a badge for Capricon: it's you! Your registration at Capricon automatically includes membership in Phandemonium for the year.

Phandemonium also includes:

- The Board of Directors, who are responsible for stewardship of the Corporation, including – but not limited to – choosing the chair for each convention and the Corporate Staff (see below);
- The Corporate Staff, who perform vital functions in support of the Board of Directors and the Corporation as a whole;
- The Annual Ad-Hoc Convention Committee (aka 'the ConCom'), who does all the valuable work it takes to hold the convention each year;
- The Keepers of Valuable Knowledge, who perform specific necessary duties and/or provide continuing knowledge of how to accomplish various important tasks related to the Corporation.

Want to Get Involved?

On Saturday, the Board will host a "Meet the Candidates" panel, where Phandemonium members get the chance to ask questions about the organization and to meet and hear from the candidates running for the Board of Directors.

On Sunday, we'll be having an open board meeting to discuss corporate business and elect two new Board members to replace those whose terms are ending. All Phandemonium members are invited and encouraged to attend and vote. Phandemonium is always looking for those in our membership who want to become more involved — especially with the ConCom.

If you have ever thought that helping run a convention would be fun, then 1) you're right! and, 2) you can! Please see any board member over the weekend for more information on how to become more involved in the convention or in Phandemonium as a whole.

Phandemonium Board President
– Helen Montgomery

Phandemonium Board Members

Board Members (Elected)

Michelle Rebot (3rd year)
Deanna Sjolander (3rd year)
Vicki Ortega (2nd year)
Lizzy Lippert (2nd year)
Helen Montgomery (1st year)
Raven Esler (1st year)

Board Members (Appointed)

Alexia Hebel Treasurer
Tori Carnall-Hawkins Secretary
Sam Haney Press Capricon 44 Chair

Corporate Staff (Appointed)

Eljay Rich Accessibility Director
Xap Esler Archivist
Dave McCarty Facilities Coordinator
Vicki Ortega Health & Sanitation
Paul Timmins IT Director
Michelle Rebot Social Media Coordinator
Melanie Silver Community Outreach
Wendy Z. Robb Interim Treasurer 2nd
Sondra de Jong Supreme Minister of Fun

Keepers of Valuable Knowledge

Alice Bentley Dave McCarty
Phil Foglio Amy Schaffer
Tracy Lunquist Brian Rogers
Helen Montgomery

Contact Information

Phandemonium, Inc.
126 E. Wing Street, Suite 244
Arlington Heights, IL 60004
Email: info@Capricon.org

Capricon 44 Convention Committee

Joe Karpierz	Advertising	Julia Wiessing	Marketing
Ed Friman	Ambassador Tables	Jamie Hogan	Merchandising 1st
Lizzy Lippert	Art Show 1st	Wren Hawkins-Kamper	Merchandising 2nd
Eljay Rich	Art Show 2nd	Xap Esler	Music 1st
JP Kroschel	Awards	Pat McManamon	Music 2nd
Xap Esler	Salon 1st	Sin Williams	Operations 1st
Rebecca McManamon	Salon 2nd	Andrew Beardsley	Operations 2nd
Vicki Ortega	ConSuite 1st	Rachel Cohan	Parties 1st
Jon Higgins	ConSuite 2nd	Wash Esler	Parties 1st
Leane Verhulst	Dealers 1st	Michelle Rebot	Photography
Theresa Hahn	Dealers 2nd	Jeanne Steele	Program Ops 1st
Atlas Biro	Design	Linda Hawkins	Program Ops 2nd
Aimee Dundon	Equipment	Tammy Coxen	Programming 1st
Tori Carnall-Hawkins	Events	Shaun Duke	Programming 2nd
Jenna Kantor	Gaming 1st	D. "Ordo" Ordoñez	Publications 1st
Sarah Rice	Gaming 2nd	R. "Raevyn" Davies	Publications 2nd
Justin Matulonis	Gophers 1st	"Cheesecake" Perez	Registration
George Hinkes	Gophers 2nd	Ed Friman	Ribbons
Raven Esler	Guests	Helen Montgomery	Signage
Michael Kelly	Info Desk 1st	Michael Hagerman	Teen Lounge
Sharon Waltham	Info Desk 2nd	Leane Verhulst	Time Lord - Plan Z
Xris Hawkins-Kamper	Kids Programming	Alexia Hebel	Treasury 1st
Sherri Sanders	Logistics 1st	Eric Hildeman	Treasury 2nd
Bob Delatore	Logistics 2nd	MJ Duhan	Website 1st
Rosencrantz Strange	Thunderbraid	Rich Jarrow	Website 2nd
	Logistics 2nd		

Phandemonium Code of Conduct

Phandemonium, (Capricon's parent organization) Capricon, and various affiliated outreach events exist for the enjoyment and enrichment of the fannish community. To ensure that the greatest number of people achieve this objective, we have established this Code of Conduct. By this Code, we seek only to ensure that the behavior of any individual or group does not disturb the membership as a whole, nor does it detract from the overall enjoyment of our events.

It is important that you read and understand this Code. **Anyone who attends a Phandemonium event, including Capricon, is expected to follow this Code for the entire duration of the event, including any informal pre- or post-event activities.**

Phandemonium reserves the right to amend these rules at any time without prior or posted notice and reserves the sole right of interpretation. Please keep in mind that these rules are put in place to ensure the safety and comfort of our attendees. They are not all-inclusive. In all cases, the singular rule that supersedes all others is, "Any action or behavior that is illegal or causes significant interference with event operations, excessive discomfort to other attendees, or adversely affects Phandemonium's relationship with its guests, its venue, or the public is strictly forbidden and may result in revocation of membership privileges."

Although we anticipate no difficulties, Phandemonium is prepared to deal with any issues related to the Code in as rapid and efficient a manner as possible should they occur. We thank our members and attendees for their past cooperation and for their continued assistance in making Phandemonium events enjoyable experiences for everyone. Have fun and please remember to be courteous of those around you while doing so!

All Phandemonium events may have additional policies that members / attendees are required to follow. Any additional policies for events will be posted on the official Capricon website and social media.

I. Respect for Others

Phandemonium wants all its attendees to enjoy themselves at its events. As such, we ask that you respect each other. All Phandemonium events should be a space where everyone feels welcomed and comfortable. Phandemonium forbids abusive, insulting, harassing, and / or intimidating behavior which includes, but is not limited to, stalking, physical or verbal intimidation, discriminatory comments, inappropriate physical contact, hate group iconography and unwelcome sexual attention.

Consent: Only "yes" means yes. If a person does not express clear consent for attention or personal intervention, then consent has not been given.

Discrimination (based on, but not limited to, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, or physical / mental disability) is not tolerated.

Harassment of any kind is not tolerated. It includes but is not limited to:

- offensive verbal comments about gender, gender identity and expression, sexuality, sexual orientation, disability or impairment, physical appearance, body size, race/ethnicity, age or religion
- intimidation, stalking or following
- photographing or recording someone without their permission
- sustained disruption of talks or other events
- uninvited physical contact
- uninvited sexual attention
- bathroom policing

Participants asked to stop behavior that is perceived as harassing must comply immediately.

Racism of any kind will not be tolerated. At Phandemonium, we want to welcome the voices of people who are often spoken over or erased in Fandom - and make Phandemonium events as inclusive as we can to people from all racial and ethnic backgrounds.

Upstate New York Science Fiction and Fantasy Alliance Presents



THE 16TH NORTH AMERICAN SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION

July 18- 21, 2024

Hyatt Regency Buffalo &
Buffalo Convention Center



GUESTS OF HONOR

AUTHOR

Alan Dean Foster

YA/COMICS AUTHOR

Nilah Magruder

ARTIST

Kaja Foglio

ARTIST

Phil Foglio

FAN

Tony Lewis

FAN

Suford Lewis

A gathering of authors, artists, scientists, costumers, gamers, and other creatives and fans from across the United States and Canada celebrating the best of science fiction, fantasy, horror, and related genres.

FEATURING

Workshops • Panels
Gaming • Cosplay
Masquerade • Exhibits
Art Show • Dealers' Autographs

ATTENDING MEMBERSHIPS

\$85 Adult (20+)

\$60 Young Adult

\$40 Child (7-12)

...until Feb 29, 2024

VOLUNTEERS

Join our committee, staff, or at-con volunteer crew!

Sign up on the website or email us at

info@buffalonasfic2024.org



BuffaloNASFiC2024.org

"World Science Fiction Society", "WSFS", "Worldcon", and "NASFiC" are service marks of the World Science Fiction Society, an unincorporated literary society. Buffalo NASFiC 2024 is organized by Upstate New York Science Fiction and Fantasy Alliance, 5500 North Bailey Avenue #517, Buffalo, New York 14226

Phandemonium Code of Conduct

Iconography & Sexualized Imagery/Discussion:

As we strive to provide a welcoming, safe environment for all attendees, we expressly forbid sexual images and symbols associated with historical atrocities and current hate groups from public* spaces at the convention. The following outlines the allowed exclusions:

Sexualized imagery or discussion related to sex, pornography, discriminatory language or similar is allowed if it meets all of the following criteria: **(a)** organizers have specifically granted permission in writing; **(b)** it is necessary to the topic of discussion and no alternative exists; **(c)** it is presented in a respectful manner, especially towards women and LGBTQIA people; and **(d)** attendees are warned in advance verbally or in the program and respectfully given ample warning and opportunity to leave beforehand. This exception does not allow use of gratuitous sexual images as attention-getting devices or unnecessary examples.

Hate based iconography is strictly forbidden from all public and convention* space. It includes (but is not limited to) iconography, paraphernalia, and cosplay representative of Nazi, neo-Nazi, KKK, and other hate groups. Anyone wearing or displaying an item of clothing, prop, or other item considered a hate symbol will be asked to remove it from the convention and refusal to do so will result in ejection from the convention without refund.

*A more detailed discussion of what constitutes "public" vs. "private" vs. "Convention" spaces can be found in the Phandemonium Policies and Procedures document.

II. How Phandemonium requests you report Instances of Disrespect

If you feel that you are being discriminated against, harassed, or if you notice someone behaving inappropriately (such as violating hotel, Phandemonium or convention policies), we respectfully suggest the following:

1. If you feel comfortable doing so, point out the inappropriate behavior to the person(s) involved. Often this will solve the problem immediately.
2. If you do not feel comfortable talking with the person(s) involved, or if talking to them does not resolve the issue, please report the situation as soon as you are able to any Phandemonium / Capricon event coordinator (i.e. Phandemonium Board Members, Convention Committee Members, Event Organizers, or Operations Staff). If the incident takes place during the Capricon Convention, these individuals can be identified by their Staff badge or "Staff" ribbon attached to their badge.
3. A report can be filed electronically by emailing conduct@phandemonium.org at any time. This email is directed to the Board President, Convention Chair, and Supreme Minister of Fun.

It would be extremely helpful if you could provide a name, badge name/number and/or physical description of the person(s) involved.

III. Corporate Response to Violations of The Code of Conduct

1. Phandemonium reserves the right to revoke without refund the membership of anyone for just cause, and eject anyone at any time from a Phandemonium event.
2. Failure to adhere to any of the above policies may result in a number of possible consequences. Consequences include, but are not limited to the following:
 - Talking with all parties involved and attempting to mediate a solution to the problem
 - Issuing verbal warnings
 - Revoking memberships and requesting that the person(s) leave the event
 - Involving hotel or facility staff or security
 - Contacting local law enforcement
 - Banning of attendance and membership to future Phandemonium events

Archon

October 4 - 6, 2024

47



**Gateway Convention Center
and Doubletree Hotel
Collinsville, IL**

**Art Show
Masquerade
Filking
Dances
and so much more!**

**GoH - Travis Baldree
AGoH - Bob Eggleton
TM - TBD**

**Masquerade MC - Kevin Dulle
MORE TO COME!!!**

Find out more at <http://www.archonstl.org>

Phandemonium Code of Conduct

IV. Privacy, Photographs, and Recording Electronic Information

Phandemonium event attendees should be aware that photography and video and/or audio recordings are frequently made by Phandemonium during events and that their likenesses may appear in those recordings. Attendees agree to assign without compensation the use of their likeness for the use of promotional material.

Personal Photography / Recordings: Please be polite and ask before taking photographs or recordings of attendees whenever possible. Video and audio recording and photography for personal archival use only is generally acceptable, unless individuals make it clear that they do not wish to be photographed or recorded (e.g.: a verbal request or via the official Capricon "No Photo" ribbon), in which case any photography or recording of them is expressly forbidden.

V. Media Relations

Phandemonium welcomes members of the press at its events. All journalists, media photographers, bloggers, podcasters and any other members of the press are required to display an official Press ribbon or be accompanied by a Phandemonium / Capricon staff member at all times while at Phandemonium events. Members of the press who have not been issued a Press ribbon may not conduct interviews or take photographs, audio or video footage without an escort.

VI. Financial Transactions

Checks that are presented against insufficient funds will be charged a fee of \$30 per check. Anyone who has an outstanding balance due to Phandemonium must settle that balance before being permitted to attend the Capricon Convention or an outreach event.

Capricon 44 Code of Conduct

In addition to the General Phandemonium Code of Conduct, Capricon members are expected to abide by the following Code of Conduct upon purchase of membership. It applies in all publicly accessible spaces at the facility and convention function areas.

Capricon reserves the right to revoke, without refund, the membership of anyone for just cause. This may also lead to being banned from future Capricon conventions. Persons violating the law may be turned over to the police or the hotel security.

All Phandemonium / Capricon events may have additional policies that members / attendees are required to follow. Any additional policies for events will be posted on the official Capricon website and social media.

Please also read over Capricon 44's COVID Policy before purchasing your badge.

Badges:

Capricon is a membership-only event, hosted by Phandemonium. All members must wear their badge at all times.

A badge is: 1) valid only for the person to whom it was issued, 2) only valid for the year of issue and may not be reused in a following year, 3) may not be shared under any circumstances.

Capricon requires that any child 12 or older have a purchased membership (or appropriate day badge) for the convention.

Age Restrictions:

All convention areas are open to members of all ages, with the exception of events or exhibits that are specifically noted to be inappropriate for minors and access to which is controlled.

JULY 5-7, 2024
Wyndham Indianapolis West

Metal
and Bolts and
Gears,
Oh my!

INCONJUNCTION XLIII
Science Fiction & Fantasy Convention

INCONJUNCTION.ORG

Capricon 44 Code of Conduct

Hotel:

Please follow any and all rules set by the convention hotel. Phandemonium asks that you pay special attention to the following:

Damages: Any act of vandalism, deliberate or excessive damage to hotel property, or interference with hotel staff in the performance of their duties will have negative consequences for individuals and the convention. Consequences for individuals could range from being billed for damages, evicted from the hotel and/or convention, and criminal charges. These types of incidents can also harm the relationship Phandemonium has with the hotel, resulting in monetary losses or cancellation of our contract. The person in whose name a sleeping room is rented is solely responsible for the conduct of all individuals in the room as well as for the condition of the room. Excessive trash, soiling or other damage to hotel property, or any circumstance that may present a hazard to hotel housekeeping staff will also result in negative consequences as noted above.

Smoking: Illinois has an indoor clean air ordinance; this is beyond the control of Phandemonium and the hotel. Smoking or vaping is not allowed in any public buildings, including restaurants and bars, nor within 15 feet of building entrances. Designated smoking locations can be found outside the entrances to the hotel. The hotel does not allow smoking or vaping in sleeping rooms. NOTE: members who smoke or vape in sleeping rooms are subject to cleaning charges.

Pets: The hotel does not allow pets in function space. This is for the protection of the pet, the pet owner, our members, and hotel guests. Service animals are permitted in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Shoes: Shoes are to be worn in all public and convention spaces at the facility. Socks are NOT shoes.

Signs: Signs may be posted only in designated areas. Any signs posted in designated areas must be affixed using "blue painter's tape" ONLY. Do not affix anything to the walls of the hotel, to the elevators, to the windows, or to/over official Capricon signage. Blue painter's tape is available in limited quantities in Convention Operations.

Non-convention guests/General Public: The hotel is not dedicated completely to our use for the weekend. Members of the general public stay here or visit the hotel to dine and socialize. Please be considerate of non-convention individuals at all times. This includes hotel staff.

Weapons:

No actual weapon or any item that can be mistaken for one may be carried either openly or concealed at any time on properties being used for Capricon, regardless of any government permits which you may possess, unless it has been peace bonded by Operations. If you wish to carry such a weapon, it must be presented to Operations. Operations staff is the final arbiter of what weapons require peace bonding. If you are unsure about whether your weapon may be considered realistic, Operations staff will be happy to check it for you.

Any actual weapon or any item that can be mistaken for one that is purchased in the dealer room must be wrapped and immediately transported to your room or vehicle. If you wish to use the item at the convention, please refer to section 1 of this policy.

[In the event that Capricon sponsors a masquerade] If an actual weapon or any item that can be mistaken for one is part of your masquerade costume, you must transport it to and from the masquerade green room wrapped securely unless peace bonded. The masquerade director must approve your use of any weapons during the masquerade.

Live steel is prohibited. The Operations Department is the final arbiter of what constitutes live steel.

Any weapon, actual, realistic, or toy/prop, that is utilized in a threatening or harmful manner may result in confiscation of the item and/or removal of your membership without refund.

Failure to adhere to any of the above policies is grounds for removal of your membership without refund.

We are a private and voluntary membership-based organization. As a condition of membership, no member shall carry concealed firearms at our event. Any open carry is subject to the above noted weapons policies.

WINDYCON 50

INFINITE DIVERSITY IN
INFINITE COMBINATIONS

NOVEMBER 8 – 10, 2024
OAK BROOK, ILLINOIS

"Mankind will reach maturity on the day
it learns to value diversity - of life and
ideas. To be different is not
necessarily to be ugly; to have a
different idea is not necessarily to be
wrong. The worst thing that could
happen is for all of us to look and think
and act alike."

- Gene Roddenberry

www.windycon.org



Capricon 44 Code of Conduct

Parties:

Only certain convention hotel rooms are available for hospitality suites, and all hospitality events / parties must be coordinated with the Capricon Party Liaison and occur in these designated spaces.

Party floors are crowded; we encourage you to leave your props in your room or vehicle.

All hospitality events / parties must follow the Phandemonium and Capricon Codes of Conduct. Hospitality / party rooms are considered private space and as such, the individual host may have additional rules beyond those mentioned herein.

Alcohol:

The legal drinking age in Illinois is 21. Hosts of registered hospitality events are required to verify legal drinking age (by checking unexpired proper government issued identification) of anyone who wishes to drink alcohol at their event. Capricon does not allow alcohol consumption in convention function space. Please follow hotel policies on alcohol consumption/transportation in hotel spaces, such as the lobby.

Privacy, Photographs, and Recording Electronic Information:

Capricon supports intellectual property rights. The usage of photographic or recording devices is prohibited within certain areas of the convention, including the Film Room, Anime Room, Art Show, and Art Auction. Where allowed, we suggest that personal photographs be taken before or after a program event to avoid distracting panelists and audience members from the discussion.

If you do not wish to be photographed, please go to either Operations or the Info Desk and request a "No Photo" ribbon. If you affix a "no photo" ribbon to the side of your badge, the official con photographer and the social media chair will make a reasonable effort to honor your wishes. The con photographer and the social media chair can be recognized by their "Official Photographer" ribbon. You may still decline to be photographed if asked, even without a ribbon.

Sales of Merchandise:

All vending (exchange of money for goods or services) must be authorized by the convention, and only take place in authorized locations. Vendors must comply with all applicable laws (including but not limited to copyright and tax laws).

Reporting:

If you are being harassed by a member of Capricon 44, notice that someone else is being harassed, or have any other concerns, please either contact the Code of Conduct Team by going to Convention Operations or by filing a report electronically by emailing conduct@phandemonium.org at any time. This email is directed to the Board President, Convention Chair, and Supreme Minister of Fun.

If the person who is harassing you is on the team, they will recuse themselves from handling your incident. We will respond as promptly as we can.

Consequences:

Participants asked to stop any harassing behavior are expected to comply immediately.

If a participant engages in harassing behavior, the Code of Conduct Team may take any action they deem appropriate, up to and including expulsion from all Capricon 44 spaces and other actions as seen fit by the Board of Directors.



UBS ABANDON
ABANDON.BARFLEET.ORG

Ariela Housman - Artist Guest of Honor

Ariela Housman is a Hugo-nominated artist and one half of two woman team that is Geek Calligraphy.

Ariela first learned calligraphy at age ten in art class; it was the start of a life-long interest. She kept practicing on her own and the following year attempted to calligraph her own Bat Mitzvah invitations (it didn't go well). Frustrated but undeterred, she kept up her interest until, at age 17, she fulfilled a high school senior internship requirement by apprenticing to Mickie Caspi, a renowned calligrapher and artist who specializes in Jewish marriage documents (*ketubot*). After graduating, she was invited back as a summer employee for two years, and then went freelance.

After college, while taking commissions for *ketubot*, which are usually lavishly decorated and hung on the wall of a marital home, Ariela received two requests for Star Trek art,



two for Star Wars, one for steampunk, and one for zombies in the space of 18 months. Realizing that there was an under-served niche market lurking here, Ariela enlisted the help of her best friend, Terri Ash.

Terri spent a number of years working in a Judaica store where she handled nearly all the orders for *ketubot*. Many of the orders were for *ketubot* by Mickie, which meant that Terri spoke to Mickie's business partner and husband, Eran. Terri combined her experience with the wholesale and retail markets for *ketubot* with her knowledge of the Caspi's business model to become the business manager of Geek Calligraphy.

Geek Calligraphy was launched in early 2016. From January to May 2016, Ariela put out a new product every other week; by May, Terri had convinced her that this was, in fact, a bananapants production schedule for someone with a full-time day job, and reined her in to a more sustainable pace.

Inspired by The Calculating Stars by Mary Robinette Kowal

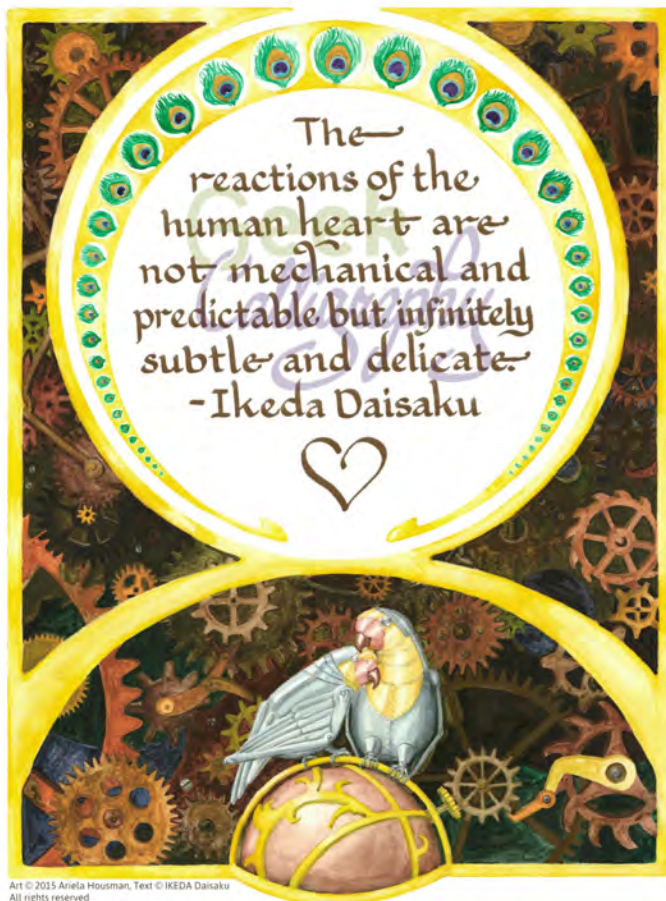
Ariela Housman - Artist Guest of Honor



Ariela Housman - Artist Guest of Honor

As it says on the tin, Geek Calligraphy specializes in calligraphy and art with a geeky bent, spanning a range from tech nerdery to licensed art for speculative fiction novels to Judaica. Some of their best beloved pieces are the "Coder's Oath," inspired by Ariela's former day job where she was not a programmer but "played one on TV"; the "Lady Astronaut Nouveau," based on *The Calculating Stars* by Mary Robinette Kowal; and "A Wonderful Woman," a calligram which shapes the words of Proverbs 31, most famously "A valorous woman, who can find her?" into the Wonder Woman logo.

Ariela and Terri are also enthusiastic supporters of and advocates for artists' rights to fair compensation for their work. Though Ariela spends less time yelling about it on the internet, both Ariela and Terri are dedicated to encouraging both their current colleagues and newer artists to charge what their time and skills are worth.



Geek Calligraphy has two branch locations, one in Ariela's studio in Skokie, IL, and one in Terri's home in Seattle, WA.

In 2021, Ariela ran as far away as possible from her day job in nonprofit technology, becoming a full time Torah scribe who spends all day writing with a quill on parchment. She finds the lack of constant system updates to her work operating system restful.

Website: <https://geekcalligraphy.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GeekCalligraphy/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/geekcalligraphy/>

Tumblr: <http://geekcalligraphy.tumblr.com/>

Pinterest: <https://www.pinterest.com/geekcalligraphy/>

Coder's Oath

I promise to free my allocated memory.

I pledge to check StackExchange thoroughly before posting my question.

I vow to write clean code:

**I will close my braces and end lines with a semi-colon (except in HTML and Python);
I will label all of my code clearly in the comments and resolve the to-dos therein;
I will follow formatting conventions.**

I will validate all my pages with W3c.

I pledge to test frequently and in multiple ways: unit, integration, and user.

I will try not to weep over legacy code.

I will do my best not to BSoD when outside factors force me to renege on any of the previous.

I vow to help introduce new people to the joy of coding. To that end, I promise not to shout "RTFM" in response to newbie questions, nor will I otherwise deliberately make newbies cry.

I will treat my fellow coders with respect regardless of any differences between us.

I will use my powers for good and not for evil.

K. Tempest Bradford

Author Guest of Honor

K. Tempest Bradford is an award-winning author, teacher, media critic, podcaster, and community organizer who writes fantasy and science fiction steeped in Black Girl Magic. Her middle grade novel, *Ruby Finley vs. the Interstellar Invasion*, won the 2022 Andre Norton Nebula Award and is nominated for an IGNYTE Award.

Tempest's short fiction has appeared in several anthologies and magazines, including *New Suns 2: Original Speculative Fiction by People of Color*, *Black Sci-Fi Short Stories*, *Sunspot Jungle*, *Diverse Energies*, *Federations*, *Strange Horizons*, *Electric Velocipede*, *EscapePod*, and *PodCastle*, plus many more. Her debut novel is about Ruby—a young, Black genius who loves entomology—her encounter with the weirdest bug she's ever seen, and the mysterious men in black suits who come looking for it.



Tempest organizes and teaches classes and seminars on writing inclusive, diverse fiction for [Writing the Other.com](http://WritingtheOther.com). She's also given talks, seminars, and workshops on these and other creative writing topics for Clarion West, Sarah Lawrence College, LitReactor, Sisters in Crime, the Sirens Conference, Willamette Writers Conference, the Writing Excuses Conference and Retreat, several local RWA chapters, and other writing groups, conferences, colleges, and entertainment companies.

In 2020 Tempest, alongside Nisi Shawl and Cynthia Ward, won the *LOCUS* Magazine Special Award for Inclusivity and Representation Education for their work with Writing the Other. Tempest, Nisi, and Writing the Other were also nominated in 2020 and 2021 for the IGNYTE Community Award.

Tempest enjoys commenting on media as much as consuming it and won't hesitate to harsh your squee about that TV show, movie, book, or other piece of entertainment that doesn't live up to high standards. Her articles, media criticism, and reviews can be found on NPR, LitReactor, the SFWA blog, io9, and various other media outlets. Her essays have appeared in collections (*Chicks Dig Time Lords*, *Luminescent Threads: Connections to Octavia E. Butler*, and more) and college textbooks (*Call And Response: Key Debates in African American Studies*, and *Current Issues and Enduring Questions* 12th ed.).

When not writing or teaching, she hosts and contributes to multiple podcasts, including ORIGINALity, Writing Excuses, the JEMcast, and The Write Gear.

She's active in the SFF community and volunteers for a number of non-profit organizations. In the past she's served as a juror for the James Tiptree Jr. (now Otherwise) Award, served as Programming co-chair for the WisCon feminist science fiction convention, organized fundraising auctions and salons for the Interstitial Arts Foundation, and raised funds for Clarion West, her writing workshop alma mater.

K. Tempest Bradford ***Author Guest of Honor***



Currently, she serves on the board of the Carl Brandon Society, an organization dedicated to increasing racial and ethnic diversity in the production of and audience for speculative fiction.

Tempest has often been recognized for her activism and community engagement. Most recently in 2023 she and the other members of the Carl Brandon Society leadership team won a *LOCUS* Magazine Special Award for Developing Diversity in Genre Communities. The organization is also a 2023 nominee for the *IGNYTE* Awards Community Award for Outstanding Efforts in Service of Inclusion and Equitable Practice in Genre. In 2022 she was honored with the Lemonade Award for acts of kindness which further science fiction community. In 2021 she was nominated for the *IGNYTE* Ember Award for unsung contributions to the genre.

You can connect with Tempest and find her fiction, classes, and news updates on KTempestBradford.com. She occasionally shares bits of in-progress fiction and microstories via her den of patronage: The Tempestuous Salon.

Mastodon: <https://wandering.shop/@tempest>
Tumblr: <https://ktempestbradford.tumblr.com/>
Instagram: <http://instagram.com/ktempestbradford>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/551290811719098/>

Catherine Lundoff

Literary Guest of Honor

Catherine Lundoff is an award-winning queer writer, editor and publisher from Minneapolis where she lives with her wife and the cats who own them. By day, she is a professional computer geek, and the rest of the time, she does a lot of other things. She is the author of over 100 published short stories and essays in genres ranging from horror to historical fiction. Her work has appeared in such venues as *Queer Weird West*, *Fireside Magazine*, *Nightmare Magazine*, the *SFWA Blog*, *Dream Foundry*, *Sherlock Holmes and the Occult Detectives*, *American Monsters Part 2*, *World of Darkness: Ghost Hunters*, *Haunting Shadows (Wraith the Oblivion 20th Anniversary Anthology)* and *The Cainite Conspiracies (Vampire the Masquerade 20th Anniversary Anthology)*.



Her books include the Wolves of Wolf's Point Series: *Silver Moon*, *Blood Moon* and *Blue Moon* (forthcoming), and the short story collections *Unfinished Business: Tales of the Dark Fantastic*, *Out of This World: Queer Speculative Fiction Stories* and *A Day at the Inn, A Night at the Palace and Other Stories*. She is also the editor of the anthologies *Scourge of the Seas of Time (and Space)* and *Haunted Hearths and Sapphic Shades: Lesbian Ghost Stories* and co-editor (with JoSelle Vanderhooft) of *Hellebore and Rue: Tales of Queer Women and Magic*. In addition, she has written acclaimed erotica and erotic romance as Emily L. Byrne, including the novel *Medusa's Touch* and the short story collections *Desire* and *Knife's Edge*.

She is also the publisher at Queen of Swords Press, a genre fiction publisher specializing in fiction from out of this world featuring LGBTQ+ protagonists. Queen of Swords Press publishes award-winning work by such authors as Melissa Scott, Amy Griswold, A.J. Fitzwater, Jennie Goloboy, Michael Merriam, Heather Rose Jones, Alex Acks and Catherine's own books, as well as work by other authors. In 2024, we will be releasing new editions of Melissa Scott's Astreiant Series, Michael Merriam will be an Author Guest of Honor at MarsCon Minneapolis and Melissa Scott will be a Guest of Honor at Cleveland Concoction.

In addition, she teaches writing and editing workshops at the Rambo Academy, Springboard for the Arts, the Loft Literary Center, Clarion West (online) and the Novel in Progress Book Camp. Sometimes, she also sleeps, reads, goes to cons, drinks a lot of tea and watches a bunch of local theater.

Websites: www.catherinelundoff.net and www.queenofswordspress.com

Victor Raymond - Fan Guest of Honor

"Living In The Future" A short memoir by Victor Raymond © 2023

So who am I? Here's the short form:

"Victor Raymond is a biracial, bisexual, Native American from the Twin Cities. He has been a science fiction convention chair or executive committee member, twice for Minicon and twice for WisCon. He has been a convention Fan Guest three times in the past: Keycon 12 in Winnipeg, MB in 1995, Arisia in 2005, and Convergence in 2018. In addition, Victor is a former President of the Minnesota Science Fiction Society (MinnStF), an Organizing Editor for Stipple-APA, a founding steering committee member of the Carl Brandon Society (carlbrandon.org) and a former board member of the Interstitial Arts Foundation.



"Outside of fandom, Victor has been a community organizer, a tenants' rights advocate, a National Co-coordinator of BiNet USA, a co-founder of the Bisexual Empowerment Conference, and a three time invited guest to White House events during the Obama Administration. He has also served as a board member of the Minnesota American Indian AIDS Task Force (now the Indigenous Peoples' Task Force). He holds a PhD in Sociology from Iowa State University, with a graduate minor in Women's Studies."

But that doesn't really tell you very much. Let me explain this another way.

When I was a child, I discovered science fiction. This was in the late 60s, maybe 1970. I was in elementary school, and my best friend's dad had loaned me his Scribner's hardcover copy of *Space Cadet* by Robert A. Heinlein. — I was *entranced*.

Reading about Matt Dodson was exciting - what SF fans in the past described as a *sense of wonder* - I was exploring a whole new world, seeing places and people in strange and challenging circumstances. Looking back on *Space Cadet* now, it is fairly easy to see how it reflected the time it was written and the background of the author: the newly-discovered horrific nature of nuclear war; then-current ideas about Martian air being breathable, and Venus as a hot jungle planet; Heinlein's experiences as a U.S. Navy officer. As a work of science fiction, it is as dated as Jules Verne or H.G. Wells — but that doesn't mean it was not or *is* not relevant, even now.

I went on from there — I read Asimov, Clarke, Tolkien, C.L. Moore, Andre Norton, you name it. Some authors were then relatively new: C.J. Cherryh, Samuel R. Delany, Ursula K. Le Guin, and many others. I probably spent more years in the rest of the galaxy than on Planet Earth, but in the end, I always came back.

Victor Raymond - Fan Guest of Honor

As a teenager, I got involved in SF fandom, role-playing games, and the Society for Creative Anachronism. I also read books about history, current affairs, and social activism, particularly Saul Alinsky and his community organizing work in Chicago's Back of the Yards neighborhood in the 1930s. Putting it all together, I was aware that science fiction was both about the future and about social conditions in the here-and-now. That the choices we make *today* shape the world of *tomorrow*, and it was important to keep that in mind.

One of the books I read as a teenager had a profound effect on me: Diane Duane's *The Door Into Fire*. It was the first book I had read where it was considered perfectly normal to be bisexual — where sexuality wasn't a matter of social judgment and potential discrimination. I also found that science fiction fandom was a place where being different was pretty much expected, and since *I* was bisexual, I encountered very little homophobia or biphobia.

Fast forward a bit: after I graduated from college, I stayed involved in science fiction fandom. I got involved in the convention committee for Minicon, held every year on Easter weekend in the Twin Cities — I eventually became one of the hotel liaisons for the convention, then was on the Executive Committee for Minicon 28 and 33. At that same time, I also became the vice-chair and later the chair of the Board of Directors of the St. Paul Tenants Union. I have to say, my experiences helping run fannish organizations were *highly* beneficial in helping to run more mundane institutions.

Because of the science fiction and fantasy I had read, I knew about the theme of "if this goes on" — if society became really unequal, what would that look like? So when I testified in front of city councils or the state legislature, I had some inspiration for fighting injustice. I also became part of the Speakers Bureau for the Gay and Lesbian Community Action Council of Minnesota (now Outfront Minnesota), and learned to tell my own story as a biracial and bisexual person. When Minnesotans were fighting for LGBTQIA+ equality in the 1990s, I became the co-chair of the People of Color Caucus of It's Time, Minnesota. We won that fight in 1992.

Fast forward again: a few years before starting graduate school in 1999, I became more involved in helping to run WisCon, the world's foremost feminist science fiction convention. In 1999, I worked with Nalo Hopkinson, Ian Hagemann, Mary Anne Mohanraj, Cecilia Tan, Nisi Shawl and others to form the Carl Brandon Society, "to help the world understand that we can't create a just future if people of color aren't included in its imagining." We could not have done that without all of us meeting at WisCon, and we have all gone on in our own work to make the world a better place.

Since that time, I have chaired WisCon twice, and became re-involved in LGBTQIA+ activism on a national level. I was an invited guest to the Obama White House to celebrate Pride Month in June 2014. When I stepped into the main hallway and looked around, I was somewhat lost in the sea of faces of LGBTQIA+ activists from all over the country. The *only* person I recognized was Rose Hayes, an amazing trans woman who has served on the Board of Directors of the National LGBTQ Task Force. How did I know her? We met at WisCon, and became friends there. More importantly, *we worked together* on WisCon.

Victor Raymond - Fan Guest of Honor

What I am trying to say is that science fiction and its fandom have played a pivotal role in my life. It has shown me what the future might hold, and helped me to better understand the present. More importantly, because of the work I have done with other science fiction fans, I have had an advantage in my work in the "mundane" part of my life. Works including N.K. Jemisin's *Inheritance Trilogy*, or Charlie Jane Anders' *All the Birds in the Sky*, or John M. Ford's *Aspects* have all deepened my understanding of everyday life, and how important it is to be engaged in the immediate realities of the environment, politics, and social issues that we all confront, individually and together.

A lot of times, science fiction is denigrated as "escapism" - that somehow, sf readers are somehow incapable of dealing with the real world. I think that is entirely off the mark. In reality, by imagining something completely different, science fiction helps us think about the here-and-now, the real world. If we are going to imagine better futures, we have to work on making a better present. With the help of science fiction, we can do that. More importantly, if *I* can do that, so can you.

Will you get involved in making the world a better place? Can we do this together? I hope so.



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CURIOUS?

For a limited time, write to us using our **CONTACT US** form, and we'll send you a complimentary digital issue!

In Memoriam: Marinda Darnell

By R. "Raevyn" Davies

The fandom community, and the world overall, suffered a devastating loss this year when cancer stole Marinda Darnell from us all.

Marinda was a beacon of light in an often dark world. She cared deeply for her community and never missed an opportunity to serve. The good she did in her short time here will have a profound and lasting impact.

Marinda's service-oriented nature led her to enlist in the US Navy where she served as a nuclear technician. While enlisted, she suffered a disabling injury that ended her military career. Undaunted, she strove to remain positive and continued to look out for everyone around her. Those whose lives she touched are now the bearers of cherished memories of her kindness, her compassion, and her strength.



Marinda worked as an artist for Mayfair Games. She was a games ambassador at conventions and other events, teaching attendees to enjoy Mayfair's offerings. In addition to this, she filled volunteer roles for multiple conventions, including Capricon and Chicon 8, where she was named "Hero of The Convention".

Marinda was devoted to the endurance of Capricon, having worn many hats for the convention and Phandemonium over the years. She served in multiple volunteer roles, including Con Chair in 2016, and remained with the convention until the end. At the conclusion of her battle with cancer, she was serving as the Information Technology department head. Ever the pragmatist, she created a succession plan to ensure the department and convention would endure.

While we as a community mourn the loss of Marinda from our space, may we reminisce in joy and share the light she shined upon us.

"Marinda is literally the reason I know Capricon at all and spent my first in person Capricon as IT second (lol and the only IT person on site on the first time at the new hotel and my first Capricon in person)."

– Paul Timmins (IT 1st, Capricon 44)

"Marinda chose me as her sister within a few hours of first meeting me. Even while enduring her own struggles, she would actively reach out to take care of me and others. There aren't many hearts out there bigger or more full of love than hers was."

– Lexi Taylor (IT Staff, Capricon 44)

"Marinda asked me to be her fan GOH knowing full well I'd have *plans* for the job, and she let me run with it anyway. I will always be proud to have been Miss Capricon."

– Wendy Z. Robb, (Fan Guest of Honor, Capricon 36)

"Marinda is *literally* one of the reasons I'm alive today. For someone who barely knew me, someone I never actually served with, someone who got out of the Navy well before I even enlisted, she still embodied the word "Shipmate" in every sense: someone you can rely on even when the world is crashing down on you. It was a group effort by my friends to save my life, but she was the tip of the spear that made it happen. For this, I owe her a Wookiee Life Debt that sadly, I now can never repay. Your watch has ended, Shipmate. Fair winds and following seas, wherever you are."

– Petty Officer 2nd Class D. "Ordo" Ordoñez, USN (Publications 1st, Capricon 44)

In Memoriam: Sandra Levy

By Helen Montgomery

Sandra Levy, a longtime member of the Capricon family, passed away in March 2023 from ALS.

Sandy was a lifelong fan of Science Fiction and Fantasy, attending conventions and participating in the SCA. Her love of reading led her into her career as an academic librarian, working for many years at the University of Chicago library until she retired in 2019. She both attended and worked on numerous conventions, including Capricon, Worldcons, and Discworld conventions. Her love of conventions and reading also led to her being a long-time member of the Phandemonium Bookclub and a volunteer with the Science Fiction Outreach Project.



For Capricon and Worldcons, Sandy usually volunteered to run the Info Desk (although she also enjoyed working on Hugo Night receptions at Worldcon, showing up in something sparkly and feathery and fabulous!). Before the conventions she might be the person answering emails from attendees, and she was always cheerful, helpful, and oh so patient with people who emailed. Many of us would look on in awe at her people skills, marveling at her ability to enjoy the interactions without frustration!

She would get to see so many people when she sat the desk at a convention, both old friends and new attendees, who often very quickly became new friends. People would stop by to pick up a piece of candy and say hello, or ask a question, and she absolutely loved it. She loved welcoming newcomers to a convention. When she volunteered with the Science Fiction Outreach Projects, she would be the person that managed to get into long conversations with random people as she helped them choose their free books, and she adored working with the kiddos to help them choose a book and foster their love of reading (she was, after all, a librarian).

Ever since she was a child, Sandy loved to travel with family, friends, and coworkers. When she retired in 2019, it was with hopes to continue traveling, but between ALS and the COVID pandemic, she was unable to do nearly as much as she had hoped, but she had so many wonderful memories and stories, and so many people were privileged to have created those memories with her.

In reading tributes to Sandy, the word used most often to describe her was kind. She was smart, funny, generous with her time, and above all, kind.

She is, and will continue to be, missed. Her memory will be an everlasting blessing.

In Memoriam: Charlie Bernstein

By Jason Robinson

Charlie Bernstein was a founding member of The State of Wisconsin Asylum for Criminally Insane Bovine---commonly known as the Cow Asylum. A party which started in the curved halls of the 'enterprise hotel' as a convention promotion party, Charlie's influence quickly evolved it from a cooler of beer and a boom box in the corner to a riotous dance party serving test tubes of 'inoculations'. For more than a decade, Charlie stood behind the bar cheerfully serving test tube shots of his own creation to everyone who had a thirst.

In 2016, a car wreck profoundly changed his life, resulting in near total paralysis. However, Charlie faced this challenge with remarkable spirit and resilience, supported by his family, friends, and his colleagues at Raven Software.

He took his motto, "Shit happens. Roll with it." to heart and approached his recovery with fierce determination and humor. His friends and fellow members of The Herd, Jennifer White and Jason Robinson, joined him in this journey, helping him achieve a life as full and independent as before.



On November 25th, 2023, we sadly bid farewell to our beloved Charlie Bernstein when he died unexpectedly in his home.

Charlie was a guiding light, demonstrating perseverance and resilience in the face of adversity. His attitude, even in the darkest of times, was nothing short of inspirational. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in his memory to Capricon's Party Department.

In Memoriam: Bob Granstaff

By Dee Collins

Dancing Bob Granstaff a longtime member of local phandom left us for that big Meatloaf concert in the sky on December 20, 2023. He left behind scores of us loved ones, his confam.

If you know Dancing Bob then you know he was always willing to listen to your troubles and help out if possible. He was a generous man in every way he could be, he always wanted to help anyone in need. He often put others before himself. He provided emotional support for so many of us. The last few years when things became difficult (for a variety of reasons) he was completely blown away and overwhelmed by the support and love he received from all of us. He was grateful beyond words.

The conventions were his opportunity to recharge, he always referred to them as his vacations. He loved to dance and mourned the loss of dances at the cons and we mourned with him. I feel sorry for the people who didn't get to dance with him or see him dance, he really was very good!

In the hospital, Bob expressed that he didn't want people to fuss or worry about him. I suspect he didn't realize how many people love and care for him or how many lives he touched for the better. Even if you'd had a falling out and weren't on speaking terms, if he had ever loved you, he only wished for you to "live long and prosper". Bob made it clear he didn't want a funeral or memorial service, he didn't want people to be sad. He would want us to take care of one another, he would want us to enjoy the cons and have fun. Easier said than done, I know.

Still, let's celebrate the amazing, giving, supportive, hilarious, crazy, silly, dancing, pizza eating, bacon loving, Nectar of The God's drinking (Dr. Pepper for those of you who don't know the proper terminology) icon that Dancing Bob is and was! He was far from perfect but he was one of us!! So lift your Nectar of the Gods, grab that pizza, blast the Meatloaf (AC/DC will work too!) and dance your buttuska off because that is the best way to celebrate our Dancing Bob. We will miss him, yes. As long as enjoy the cons and support each other, he'll always be with us. Love you Bob!!



Charity

This year, Capricon 44 is proud to support **Changing Worlds**, a Chicago based non-profit organization. Learn more about the incredible work Changing Worlds does and how to contribute at their website here: <https://www.changingworlds.org/>



Many stories, One City.

Mission and Vision

Changing Worlds' mission is to foster inclusive communities through oral history, writing and art programs that improve student learning, affirm identity, and enhance cross-cultural understanding.

Our unique programming approach integrates cultural, family and community histories with writing and the arts to help participants explore their own backgrounds, promote peace, and learn about others while strengthening their academic and arts learning skills.

We work toward our mission through separate yet interconnected program areas that include:

- In-School and After-School Partnerships
- Teacher Professional Development workshops, seminars and institutes
- Community Outreach Initiatives, such as traveling exhibits, short-term programs, collaborative partnerships, and special events

Diversity Statement

We maintain that achieving diversity requires an enduring commitment to inclusion that must find full expression in our organizational culture, values, norms and behaviors. Throughout our work, we will support diversity in all of its forms, encompassing but not limited to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, pregnancy, national origin, ancestry, age disability, marital status, veteran status, gender, gender identity/ expression, citizenship, health status, or any other status protected by applicable federal, state or local law.

Leading by example we aspire to make diversity a core and abiding strength of the organization.

Information Desk

Location:	Convention Registration Desk
Hours:	Thursday: 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM
	Friday: 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM
	Saturday: 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM
	Sunday: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

The stars may help us navigate the seas and stars, but Capricon has the Info Desk, conveniently located on the 3rd Floor next to Registration. Whether you seek a panel, a special event, or someplace to eat, we're here to answer your questions. What we don't know immediately, we live to find out, and even if you ask nothing, we have chocolate!

Registration

Location:	Convention Registration Desk
Hours:	Thursday: 2:00 PM - 9:00 PM
	Friday: 9:00 AM - 9:00 PM
	Saturday: 9:00 AM - 7:00 PM
	Sunday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Your first stop at Capricon should be the Registration Desk. If you've pre-registered for your badge, you can pick up it up at the Registration Desk, or if you haven't registered for the convention already, you can purchase your badge there too! Your badge will get you into all the panels and events we have to offer. Our badges come in a variety of colors and styles: Full Weekend, Single Day, Youth, and Kid-In-Tow! **For any Registration issues after hours, please visit Operations.**

Accessibility

Capricon is committed to ensuring accessibility for people with disabilities to our convention. Any member of the Capricon community can request accommodations; this is not limited to those who consider themselves disabled. To quote [An Introduction To Accessibility on digital.gov](#):

Disability is a mismatch between a person and their environment. For the person who isn't able to do something, it's this mismatch that impairs an individual.

If you require accessibility accommodations, encounter accessibility barriers, or have any other accessibility issues, let us know how we can help by emailing our Accessibility Team at accessibility@capricon.org.

We will also have a low-sensory quiet room for those who may have sensory issues and become overwhelmed. There will be seating, water, and some quiet activities available.

Low-Sensory Room Location:	Bucktown
Hours	Thursday: 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM
	Friday: 10:00 AM - 10:00 PM
	Saturday: 10:00 AM - 10:00 PM

Convention Operations

Location: Lincoln Boardroom
Hours: Thursday: Open 8:00 AM
Sunday: Close 8:00 PM

Operations is here for the Convention, and the best way of Having A Good Time at Capricon is by following these guidelines:

- 1. Don't be that person!** Think before you do that Thing You Were Going To Do. Remember that Operations hates doing paperwork. Help us do less paperwork by not doing things that will cause us to do paperwork.
- 2. Always be courteous, kind, and respectful of other people's personal space.** This rule applies AT ALL TIMES, in and outside of the Con space, and enthusiastic and vigorous consent is the only consent that matters.
- 3. Read and follow the Code of Conduct.** As a Reminder, Capricon does not tolerate harassment of any form. All attendees are expected to treat other attendees, vendors, staff, and the general public with respect. Please help do your part to provide a safe and welcoming environment for those around you.
- 4. Operations is here for the Convention.** If there is a question or a concern, ask. We'll do our best to get answers to your question ourselves or get you to the right place.
- 5. Follow the directions of Con Staff.** After 40 years, we've got a remarkably good handle on how things need to be done.

Seriously, don't make us do paperwork. Paperwork is us Not Having A Good Time

Volunteers (Gophers)

Location: Convention Registration Desk

Do you want to help Capricon be the best experience for everyone that it can be? Have some extra time before/during/after the convention? Then do your part to help the convention by volunteering as a Gopher! Come to the Registration Desk (or Operations after hours) to find out what jobs we might need done, when we might need them done, and coordinate when you might be available to help! You can volunteer to help during the convention, setup Wednesday/Thursday before the convention starts, or teardown Sunday after Closing Ceremonies.

Volunteer to work enough hours and you may be eligible for crash space in the "Gopher Hole", the space in the shared hotel room provided by Capricon for volunteers as overnight sleeping space, though space is limited, and first come, first served). If you put in even more volunteer hours, you may qualify to have your badge reimbursed back to you (to be issued after the convention, if convention finances permit).

We provide a free meal for Gophers Saturday night, and to the generous Gopher who volunteers for the most hours, you receive the coveted "Gopher of the Year" award!

Goat Droppings

Pick up a copy at: Operations, ConSuite, Registration, or Info Desk

Check for *Goat Droppings*, your daily newsletter for any last minute program changes, Guest of Honor interviews, things to do, and Capricon activity reports. We also feature the "Out of Context" column, showcasing random quotes heard around the hotel throughout the weekend. Out of Context quotes can be emailed directly to ooc@Capricon.org or posted on the [Capricon Facebook Page](#) under **#Capricon**. The deadline to submit for the next day's edition is 6:00 PM.

Remember what Capricious the Goat says, "**Pick it up or you might step in it!**"

ConSuite

Location: Fountainview

Hours: **Thursday:** **3:00 PM – 2:00 AM**
 Friday: **9:00 AM – 2:00 AM**
 Saturday: **9:00 AM – 2:00 AM**
 Sunday: **9:00 AM – 3:00 PM**

Welcome to ConSuite! Come relax as you enjoy a beverage or a quick snack to catch up with friends as you look out over the river. Though we'll only be able to serve snacks this year, with no outside food allowed in, there are quite a few seating areas just outside our door and on other event floors where you can enjoy yourself with friends as well. Stop in for a nibble and to say hi!

Ambassador Tables

Location: 4th floor, across from Dealers Room

Capricon believes in supporting our fellow fans and the best way to do so is to provide a way to let you know they exist. We have a limited number of complimentary Ambassador Tables that can be reserved by Fannish organizations to share your passion with the Capricon community. While there is no cost for a table, the fact that we are an all-volunteer, fan-run organization that relies heavily on registrations makes it imprudent to provide free memberships with each table. You don't have to have a Capricon membership to help your organization man its table, but your access to the rest of the con will be necessarily restricted. Stop by the tables and learn more about genre events in the Greater Chicagoland area (and beyond). If you're interested in securing an ambassador table for next year's Capricon, email fantables@Capricon.org to find out more or and to reserve your table.

This year's Ambassador Tables include:

Tabletop Gaymers	Changing Worlds
Speculative Literature Foundation	Glasgow 2024
League of Enchantment - Chicago	LA in 2026

Dealers Room

Location:	Sheraton Ballroom V
Hours:	Thursday: 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM
	Friday: 12:00 PM – 7:00 PM
	Saturday: 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM
	Sunday: 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Come to the Dealers Room to find all sorts artifacts from all sorts of fandoms: books, movies, jewelry, clothes, art, toys, etc. Find that one thing, or several things that you know you can't live without it and will cherish it for eons! Our dealers this year are:

A.W. Davidson: Independent science fiction author. <https://awdavidson.com/>

Archimedes Azure Creations: Steampunk and fantasy jewelry, accessories, ties, candles, crochet items, and pouches.
<https://www.facebook.com/ArchimedesAzureCreations>

Avie Spore: Independent artist of mushrooms and *mush* more! I work in traditional and digital art. I carry clothing, stickers and prints of my work.

Dana Fraedrich, Steampunk Fantasy Author: At Dana's booth, you'll find her steampunk book series, of course, but also handmade scented candles based on her characters, handmade polyhedral dice, crocheted goods, jewelry, and more.
<https://www.wordsbydana.com/>

DVD World Books and Toys: We sell science fiction and horror DVDs and Blu-rays as well as old science fiction books. We also sell old and hard-to-find games and toys and comic books.

Fein Publishing: E. S. Fein is the author of the *Neoevolution Earth* series, two standalone novels (*A Dream of Waking Life* and *Points of Origin*), and two short story collections (*Ascendescension* and *The Process is Love*). More than anything, he enjoys writing strange stories about strange characters in strange situations. Some people refer to him as a lucid dreaming expert. Others know him as a rapper. But E. S. Fein just thinks of himself as a dude who likes to think about what it means to be a dude thinking abo... <https://officialesfein.com/>

Fresco Additive Design: 3D printing - design and building

Gamer's Lair: We sell a wide selection of distinctive 3D printed dragons, toys, pop culture figures, and home goods as well as D&D accessories, dice and 3D printed dice towers. <https://www.facebook.com/GamersLairOhio>

Goshdarned Good Authors: We are Chicago area authors who love to attend conventions together. This year we have Dex Greenbright, K.M. Herkes, Rhiannon Taylor, and Jamie Garner. <https://dawnrigger.com/goshdarned-good-authors/>

House of DT Inc: David Taylor II is an author that writes children's books, fantasy novels, and comic books.

Dealers Room

KT Avenue: We aim to brighten your day with our unique items. We offer trading cards - Pokémon & Yu-Gi-Oh!, Anime Action figures, Sports cards/memorabilia, and unique and original jewelry. <https://ktavenue.com/>

Mastafran Comics: Ryan Francis is an independent cartoonist in Joliet! He's made a variety of artwork for children's books, comics, T-shirts, tabletop games, and video games. Ryan has self-published many comics, such as: *Shirley's Day* (2018), *Incident at the Game Store* (2019), and *The Pizza Man* (2019), with future comics and art projects to come! <https://www.mastafran.com/>

Megan Mackie, Author: I am an independent author from Chicago. I published a book called *The Finder of the Lucky Devil*. <https://www.meganmackieauthor.com/>

The Microphone Misfitz: A high energy uplifting Nerdcore Hip-Hop, Rastafari Ensemble offering a variety of related merchandising. Each of the groups 5 albums comes inside of a comic book - collect the whole set!
<https://www.themicrophonemisfitz.com/>

Puppet Me This: Pattern, design, and build professional Muppet-style puppets, including commission/custom builds. <http://www.puppetmethis.com/>

Rosarium Publishing: Having launched in 2013 with *Mothership: Tales from Afrofuturism and Beyond*, Rosarium Publishing publishes comics and speculative fiction with a multicultural flair. As we like to say, we've been "introducing the world to itself since 2013," and we do so with projects from Mexico to Italy to Uganda and Sri Lanka and everywhere in between.

We've done such projects as *Mothership*, *Sunspot Jungle* (105 short stories from around the world; "Tempest" being one), *Stories for Chip*, as well as such projects as *Triangulum* (Sri Lanka), *They Will Dream in the Garden* (Mexico), *Where Rivers Go to Die* (Uganda), *Creative Surgery* (Italy), and *A Tale of Truths* (Norway). We even have a graphic novel, *Blue Hand Mojo*, by John Jennings, set in the South Side of Chicago.
<http://www.rosariumpublishing.com/>

Rubi In Paradise: At Rubi In Paradise you will find lots of ghosts along with: crochet dolls and creations, prints, pins, stickers - All related to Anime, Fantasy, Horror, and Witches. <https://rubisimagination.wixsite.com/rubiinparadise/artistalleyinfo>

Squishy Ishy: Squishy Ishy runs a size-inclusive clothing line. Stop by for some new threads or other trinkets! <https://squishyishyart.square.site/s/shop>

The Black Sheep's Friend: Sewn and embroidered bags, accessories, and home items. Commissions welcomed. <https://theblacksheepsfriend.square.site/>

The Copper Hippo: Nerdy themed handmade jewelry and accessories, dice crowns, necklaces, rings, earrings, bracelets, pens, resin animals, handmade incense, crystals, and more. <https://www.copperhippo.com/>

The Pugling Hoard: Jewelry and accessories with a steamy twist. OAK necklaces, pins, earrings, hair clips, and much more. <https://www.thepuglinghoard.com/>

Zachary Jeffries: Self-published author. <https://www.jeffriesbooks.com/>

Art Show

Location: **Sheraton Ballroom IV**

Viewing Hours: **Thursday: 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM**

Friday: 11:00 AM – 8:00 PM

Saturday: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Print Shop Hours: **During all viewing hours and buyer pickup on Sunday.**

Buyer Pickup Hours: **Saturday: After auction by appointment ONLY**

Sunday: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Artist Only Hours: **Thursday: 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM (setup)**

Friday: 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM (setup)

Sunday: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM (pickup)

The art show is a place where you can enjoy a wide variety of work from many talented artists. You can find almost anything in the art show, from traditional paintings to photography, digital art, jewelry, fiber arts, calligraphy, mixed media, and more. Exhibitors here range from established professionals to up-and-coming amateurs, and we even have space for artists to do demonstrations and talk about their work. Everything culminates in the Artist Showdown and the Live Art Auction on Saturday night, so be sure to stop by before it's too late!

Bidding at the Show

The Art Show is divided into two sections: the **Auction Gallery** and the **Print Shop**. The **Auction Gallery** is run primarily as a written auction. Bid sheets will be adjacent to the piece, and you may bid by writing your name, badge number, & bid amount on the sheet. The first bid on a piece must be at or above the minimum bid; subsequent bids must be greater than the previous bid by at least \$1.00

If a piece in the Auction Gallery receives 3 (or more) qualifying bids, it will go to the Live Art Auction on Saturday night. If a piece receives fewer than 3 bids, the highest bid on that piece prior to close of the Art Show on Saturday will win.

Pieces in the **Print Shop** are available for immediate sale at set prices as marked.

Artists' Demo Tables

Artists of all kinds can be found at the tables in front of the Art Show, demonstrating their skills and answering questions about their work. Check the schedule at the door to see what times your favorite artist might be in residence!

Charity Items

A special section in the Art Show is dedicated to items donated towards our annual charity and may be bid upon in the same way as Art Show pieces. In order to keep the Art Auction sane and speedy, the head of the Art Show may determine which items will go on to the live Charity Auction.

Art Show

Artist Showdown

Back by popular demand, we will be hosting our annual Artist Showdown on Saturday before the Art Auction. Guided by audience input (submit your ideas at the Art Show throughout the convention!) and our stalwart announcer, artists square off against each other in a competition of wit and speed - skill is useful but not a deciding factor. Brave souls who wish to enter the fray should sign up at the Art Show desk on Friday or Saturday before the event.

Art Auction

Our accomplished and entertaining auctioneers will help you in your acquisition of the very best the art show has to offer. Complete – or start - your collection while feeling that heady rush of besting the competition: only at the Auction!

Picking Up Art

Buyer pickup and print shop sales will be open on Sunday. We will also offer early buyer pickup on Saturday night after the auction by appointment only. You may schedule an early art pickup with art show staff during open hours before the auction begins.

We accept payment via cash, check, or charge (Visa and MasterCard only, please). No art will be released without payment. You'll also need your badge with you to verify your bid and that you're a member of the con.

Art Show Awards

As usual, all art awards are decided by you, the attendees! Ballots and a ballot box will be available in the Art Show every day of the con until we close on Saturday. The awards – works of art in their own right - will be on display in the art show until they are awarded during the live auction on Saturday night.

Work in the art show (NFS pieces included, but Print Shop pieces excluded) may be eligible for the following awards:

Best in Show
Best Pro Work
Best Non-Pro Work
(Previously "Best Fan Work")
Best Challenge Entry

The **Best Challenge Entry** award goes to the artist voted to best fulfill the Artist's Challenge by creating work that incorporates a goat (the convention's mascot) and three of the following: a galaxy, a rocket ship, an astrological sign, or a celestial object.

Parties

Location: 8th, 9th, and 10th floors

While our sun may be out of sight, we have the rest of the universe to light up our night; might as well use it to test your endurance in the parties department! Whether you can only explore one night, or boldly go for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, let our hosts be your guide to fun and adventure throughout our evening festivities. Still have questions? Feel free to email us at Parties@Capricon.org.

Thank you for attending the parties!! Without you, the party floors would be a bunch of empty rooms with their doors open, you are the reason we do this. Look in the hallways around the program areas and near the elevators to see flyers advertising the different parties, take the elevator up to floor 8, 9, or 10 (which will not require a room key this year), pick a place that looks interesting and start there. Another great way to find parties is to go to the party floors and see who has their doors open. If you want to know more about the parties before diving in, come to the main lobby at 9pm on Friday and Saturday night to join the Party Crawl! We will be limiting the amount of people on the tour, so make sure to show up on time to get a spot (see the Guide for more information). Make sure to bring your badge, government ID, and mask! Our daily newsletter, Goat Droppings, will also have the most up to date information in case anything changes.

Having a good time at the convention is everyone's goal, and we have some suggestions to make it the best weekend possible:

Obey the Law

You'd think this would go without saying, but here we go anyway... Things such as underage drinking and/or property damage cause serious problems for everyone involved, and Capricon as a whole. Remember, if it is illegal outside of the convention, it's illegal inside the convention. This also means that all rules from the Capricon and Phandemonium Codes of Conduct also apply. If you need a refresher, please review the Codes of Conduct on page 8 ([or at this link](#)) before attending any convention functions.

Respect Everyone

The people throwing the parties are working hard at their own expense to throw parties for you to enjoy. Please remember to appreciate the effort that they are expending on your behalf. And remember, a party is no fun if you're the only one there... If you don't respect the other party goers, you may find yourself without people to party with. If someone has said no thank you, don't push. You may be trying to help them have more fun, but if they aren't willing just let it drop. They may have a very good reason for not being interested, or they may just not want to. It doesn't matter what the reason is. No means no, and that is the end of the discussion

Take Care of yourself

You know your body, and what it needs, please make sure you take care of yourself. There is nothing worse than knowing that fun is happening all around you but being too sick to have any yourself. Please make sure to drink some water, especially if you are drinking adult beverages, eat at least 2 meals that aren't just snack foods, and get some rest when you need it. Pushing your limits may make a night more enjoyable but breaking them entirely will result in sadness and hangovers. Also, remember it is always OK to turn down a drink. You know your limits and know when to say when.

Parties

No Liquor off the Party Floors!
Just don't do it.

COVID-19 Policy

In addition to Capricon's own COVID-19 policy (which you can review on page 5 or [at this link](#)), parties will have signs on their doors as to any requirements for their party. Please follow their instructions when not directly eating or drinking.

Party Awards

We want to give our hosts the recognition they deserve for all their hard work and time put into making their party happen. To do this we ask the guests to tell us what they thought was the best party. Was it a small group having an intense discussion about Golden Age Comics? Did you enjoy the drinks and dancing of one of our more club-like parties? Fill out a ballot telling us who knocked it out of this world.

Ballots will all be electronic this year, so either tap/scan the QR code below or go [here](#) for the parties ballot page. Don't have a device to vote with? Ask the party hosts or find a party liaison, and we will set you up with a ballot.



Ballots will be counted at 10:00 AM on Sunday
Don't count on us having hangovers! Vote before 10:00 AM.

This year we are looking for you to decide the best Thursday Party, best Friday Party, and best Saturday Party. The results of voting are announced at closing ceremonies. We encourage all attendees to show up for Closing Ceremonies to find out who won. Who knows? Maybe it'll be you!



ASTRONOMICON 15

NOVEMBER 7-9, 2025

RIT INN AND CONFERENCE CENTER

ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

Author GoH: Lawrence M. Schoen



richard@richardman.photo

***Music GoH: Kilngon
Pop Warrior***



Artist GoH: TBA

FGoH: TBA

WWW.ASTRONOMICON.ORG

Adler's Planetary Salon

Location: *Sheraton Ballroom I*
Hours: *Friday: 10:00 AM – 6:30 PM*
Saturday: 10:00 AM – 6:30 PM
Sunday: 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

The stars may change but our Salon is still your destination for creativity, music, community, and of course our group puzzle table. We host readings, musical offerings, and a stash of art supplies to get your own creative juices flowing. Come hang out, make something for our community art space, relax, and chat as you make your way across the constellations of Capricorn!

Musical Programming

It's been said that the two oldest constants in humankind's existence are the Stars and Music. Capricorn 44 aims to celebrate the endurance of both, with concerts, workshops, and circles in Sheraton I & II. Below is our Music schedule with full program listings and additional links found at <https://capricorn.org/departments/music/>.

Friday

1:00 PM: Susan Weiner
2:30 PM: Tunesters Union
4:00 PM: Clif Flynt <https://cflynt.com/>
7:00 PM: Adam Selzer (*Sheraton II*) <https://82ndstreetband.bandcamp.com>
8:30 PM: Random Fractions (*Sheraton II*) <https://randomfractions.bandcamp.com>
10:00 PM: Open Music Circle

Saturday

1:00 PM: Songwriting From the Gut panel
2:30 PM: Court & Country <https://courtandcountry.bandcamp.com>
4:00 PM: Cathy McManamon <https://cathymcmanamon.bandcamp.com>
8:30 PM: The Microphone Misfitz <https://themicrophonemisfitz.bandcamp.com>
10:00 PM: Open Music Circle

Sunday

11:30 AM: Just Jam Session

We start things off Friday with a trio of concerts in Adler's Planetary Salon (Sheraton I), then after a break so you can explore the cosmos (or at least food options?) we move next door to the Main Stage (Sheraton II) for performances by author, historian, and musician Adam Selzer, with Random Fractions after.

Saturday we begin in our celebrated Salon with a workshop on Songwriting from the Gut, followed by more concerts there. Saturday evening features the rocketing energy of the Microphone Misfitz on our Main Stage after the always-entertaining Art Auction.

After the concerts finish on the Main Stage on both Friday and Saturday nights, we'll move back to the Salon to share one of the most enduring forms of human connection known - open circles, where everyone has a chance to get out their voices and instruments and come together. Finally, we'll close out Sunday with Capricorn's long-loved musical Jam, giving everyone a chance to kick in one last time. See you there!

Teen Lounge

Location: Old Town

Hours: **Thursday: 5:00 PM - 1:00 AM**
Friday: 9:00 AM - 1:00 AM
Saturday: 9:00 AM - 1:00 AM
Sunday: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

The Teen Lounge is where you can get away from your younger siblings and parents, spending some time engaging with others on your own level. Drop in any time during open hours to hang out with old and new friends in the Teen Lounge, where we'll be playing party games all weekend: Ultimate Werewolf, Jackbox Games, Crashword, Codenames, Whatsamusic, and possibly more! For the full schedule, just stop in to ask.

Kids Programming

Location: Mayfair

Hours: **Thursday: 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM**
Friday: 10:00 AM - 9:00 PM
Saturday: 9:00 AM - 10:00 PM
Sunday: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Welcome to Kids Programming where members under the age of 13 can relax, play, and make friends! Join us for fun among the stars as we share stories, create masterpieces, and make discoveries together. Only children with paid memberships can attend unaccompanied. **Please note Kids Programming is not babysitting.** Kids-in-Tow badges must be accompanied by a parent/guardian at all times, and children under the age of 5 may need additional assistance for some activities.



Kids Programming

Thursday 5:00 PM: Kids Room Open Hours

Kids programming will be open for kids to come and hang out! There is no kid's programming scheduled during this time, but kids are welcome to hang out in the room and socialize, play, and create!

Friday 10:00 AM: Kids Open Gaming

Sit down for a while and play board games specially selected for kids ages 4 to 12

Friday 2:30 PM: Kids Open Crafting

Kids craft tables will be available all weekend with pre-packed projects and enough supplies to fuel your own creativity! All Ages

Friday 7:00 PM: Bedtime Story With Clif Flynt

Celebrate the Year of the Dragon with a reading and activity from Clif Flynt! Parade in a dragon costume and hear the tale of a young boy and his new friend, and how they nearly burn down the ancient city of Kashgar during the New Year celebrations!

Friday 8:00 PM: Kids VHS Night!

We will be watching a classic VHS, sure to be fantastic! This film is rated G and is appropriate for most children. Parents can stop by to review the contents of the media before we watch it. All Ages

Saturday 9:00 AM: Open Lego Building

Legos will be out ALL weekend this year so you can build to your heart's delight! Set a project aside if you need to come back to it another time. Don't forget to take a picture of your creation before the weekend's over! Ages 4+

Saturday 2:30 PM: Balloon Beasts!

Can you make a fantastical beast? Stretch your imagination and create your balloon beast to bring along on our Balloon Parade! Children may need hands-on assistance from a guardian in the creation of these squeaky friends. Best for ages 4 and up

Saturday 4:00 PM: Balloon Parade!

We've made our Balloon Beasts, now's our chance to show them off! We'll start at the kid's room and parade through the halls showing off our creations! The kid's room will be closed during this time. All Ages

Saturday 5:30 PM: Slime from Space!

Join us in making glitter slime, your own handful of stars! This activity will be MESSY (see: glitter; slime) and requires a guardian's assistance in most cases. Ages 3+

Saturday 7:30 PM: Kid's Dance Party

Show off your dance moves to your friends, make friendship bracelets, and enjoy some coloring while we boogie under the stars! All Ages

Sunday 9:00 AM: Kids Room Open Hours

Kids programming will be open for kids to come and hang out! There is no kid's programming scheduled during this time, but kids are welcome to hang out in the room and socialize, play, and create!

Gaming

Location: Sheraton Ballroom III (4th floor)

Hours: Thursday 5:00 PM - Midnight

Open 24 hours from Friday 8:00 AM until Sunday 3:00 PM

Welcome to Capricon Gaming! Beyond our doors you will find a wide variety of games to play and people to play them with. We have dice and card games as well as board games. We have games that can be over faster than they start and some that will have you so wrapped up that you aren't sure where the time has gone. We even have a few games that you can play by yourself, if that's your jam. We have a large library of games that you can borrow to play as well as a variety of scheduled events happening. There are also plenty of tables available for you to play something that you brought with you. There's always someone on duty to help you out, whether you aren't sure what game you want to play or if you need help finding a couple extra players. So come on in, browse the library, peruse the game schedule, and see a friendly member of the Game Room Staff to check out a game or sign up for a spot at a scheduled event.

This year, in addition to our great library and scheduled games, we are having a special event, the Capricious Scavenger Hunt! Unsure of how to approach the game room? Use the scavenger hunt as a guide to meet new people, try new games, and win fabulous prizes! Successful hunters will get raffle tickets for one of the three prize packages on display in the Game Room. Stop by Sheraton Ballroom III and ask a staff member to get you started with the list of possible tasks. Happy gaming!



Scheduled Game Descriptions

Casting Shadows: Board Game, 2-4 Players, Ages 12+, 60 minutes

Explore a dark, enchanting world and battle your opponents in this turn-based competitive strategic board game.

Throughout the game, you'll collect resources, learn spells, summon a companion, and - if you're lucky - unlock your Shadow Form, all in the quest to become the ultimate Shadow Caster. The last player standing in this supernatural showdown wins the game!

Traveller: "Losing Air": Role Playing Game (Classic Traveller), 3-6 players, Ages 15+, up to 3 hours

Thrown together by a pirate attack, you are aboard a lifeboat, far away from any inhabited planet. Can you work together to survive—especially when you are losing air?

This is an adventure for Classic Traveller RPG from Far Future Enterprises, in a non-3rd Imperium setting. No experience needed, all materials provided, beginners welcome!

Dungeons & Dragons: "Doomground": Role Playing Game (Original D&D), 3-8 players, Ages 15+, up to 3 hours

Hundreds of years ago, Doomground was the site of the last cosmic battle between Law and Chaos. With the adherents of Chaos and their minions defeated, the land has been quiet since then - or maybe not!

It's the 50th Anniversary of the publication of *Dungeons & Dragons*, all the way back in 1974! No experience required, all materials will be provided, new players get priority. (This event is open to players and observers - think of it as an actual play experience.)

Disney Villainous: Board Game, 2 - 6 Players, Ages 10+, up to 2 hours

In this epic contest of sinister power, take on the role of a Disney villain and strive to achieve your own devious objective. Discover your character's unique abilities and winning strategy while dealing twists of fate to thwart your opponents' schemes. Find out who will triumph over the forces of good and win it all!

In *Villainous*, each player takes control of one of six Disney characters, each one a villain from a different Disney movie. Each player has their own villain deck, fate deck, player board, and 3D character.

On a turn, the active player moves their character to a different location on their player board, takes one or more of the actions visible on that space then refills their hand to four cards. Cards can be allies, items, effects, conditions, and even curses. Play your cards to fulfill your unique win condition.

Scheduled Game Descriptions

Flamecraft: Card Game, 1 - 5 Players, Ages 10+, up to 1 hour

Artisan dragons, the smaller and magically talented versions of their larger (and destructive) cousins, are sought by shopkeepers so that they may delight customers with their flamecraft. You are a Flamekeeper, skilled in the art of conversing with dragons, placing them in their ideal home and using enchantments to entice them to produce wondrous things. Your reputation will grow as you aid the dragons and shopkeepers, and the Flamekeeper with the most reputation will be known as the Master of Flamecraft.

In *Flamecraft*, players take on the role of Flamekeepers, gathering items, placing dragons and casting enchantments to enhance the shops of the town. Dragons are specialized (bread, meat, iron, crystal, plant and potion) and the Flamekeepers know which shops are the best home for each. Visit a shop to gain items and a favor from one of the dragons there. Gathered items can be used to enchant a shop, gaining reputation and the favors of all the dragons in the shop. If you are fortunate enough to attract fancy dragons then you will have opportunities to secure even more reputation.

Fluxx (with the Head of Gaming): Card Game, 2 - 6 Players, Ages 8+, up to 30 minutes

The Head of Gaming, more commonly known as Hoptavia, can be elusive and hard to find when she isn't in the Game Room. So she's decided to give everyone a chance to complete that task for the Scavenger Hunt by assigning herself to a table and playing some *Fluxx* with whomever wants to join her. She will have a variety of different types of *Fluxx* to play and might even have some promo cards available if you manage to beat her (while supplies last.)

Formula D: Racing Dice Game, 2 - 10 Players, Ages 8+, 60 minutes

Formula D is a high stakes Formula One type racing game where the players race simulated cars with the hope of crossing the finish line first. The game mechanisms are a simple race - get to the finish line first! However, players have to use a significant amount of planning, and rely on quite a bit of luck. Each player manages when to shift gears, with each gear providing a different speed. Each turn, players may move up one gear, stay in that gear, or move down gears. This forces players to match possible rolls with the optimum distance for that turn, and hopefully plan ahead. However, speed is not the only issue! Corners have a "stop" rule that requires players to stop once, twice, or three times on that corner in consecutive turns or face a penalty. This creates an effective speed limit to the corners.

Of course, things do not always go as planned! Players take penalties (decreases to the car's attributes) if they miss their roll, bump into another car, are blocked by other cars, have to brake heavily, or have to downshift several gears. Too many penalties will result in elimination, or a severe setback for that car. You'll need to manage your car's health, plan the best path, and have luck with the dice if you want to win the race!

Scheduled Game Descriptions

Pandemic: Co-Op Board Game, 1 - 4 Players, Ages 8+, up to 60 minutes

In *Pandemic*, several virulent diseases have broken out simultaneously all over the world! The players are disease-fighting specialists whose mission is to treat disease hotspots while researching cures for each of four plagues before they get out of hand.

Taking a unique role within the team, players must plan their strategy to mesh with their specialists' strengths in order to conquer the diseases. For example, the Operations Expert can build research stations which are needed to find cures for the diseases and which allow for greater mobility between cities; the Scientist needs only four cards of a particular disease to cure it instead of the normal five—but the diseases spread quickly and time is running out. If one or more diseases spreads too fast or if too much time elapses, the players all lose. If they cure the four diseases, they all win!

Terraforming Mars: Board Game, 1 - 5 Players, Ages 12+, 2 hours

In the 2400s, mankind begins to terraform the planet Mars. Giant corporations initiate huge projects to raise the temperature, oxygen level, and ocean coverage until the environment is habitable. In *Terraforming Mars*, you play one of those corporations and work together in the terraforming process, but compete for victory points that are awarded not only for your contribution to the terraforming, but also for advancing human infrastructure throughout the solar system.

Wingspan: Card Game, 1 - 5 Players, Ages 10+, 45 - 60 minutes

You are bird enthusiasts—researchers, bird watchers, ornithologists, and collectors—seeking to discover and attract the best birds to your network of wildlife preserves. Each bird extends a chain of powerful combinations in one of your habitats. *Wingspan* is a competitive, medium-weight, card-driven, engine-building board game with over 170 birds illustrated by Beth Sobel, Natalia Rojas, and Ana Maria Martinez.

Magic the Gathering - Casual Commander : Card Game, Ages 13+

Join us for a totally casual get-together to play commander/edh! No competitive decks allowed, and there will be free booster giveaways for everyone who shows up, courtesy of Noble Knight Games.

There will be three tables dedicated to this 3 hour event. There is no limit to how many players can participate or limit to how long the games can be. Players may continue playing once the event officially ends but may be asked to move if the tables are needed for another event.

Magic the Gathering - Learn to Play : Card Game, Maximum of 6 Players, Ages 13+, up to 2 hours

In *Magic the Gathering*, you play the role of a planeswalker—a powerful wizard who fights other planeswalkers for glory, knowledge, and conquest. Your deck of cards represents all the weapons in your arsenal. It contains the spells you know and the creatures you can summon to fight for you.

Curious? Want to know more about the grandfather of collectible card games (CCG)? Always wanted to play but didn't know where or how to start? Join Sam, our Convention Chair, as she explains everything there is to know to get started playing MtG and teaches you how to play your very first game.

This is a Learn to Play session for learning how to play Magic the Gathering. Intro Decks provided courtesy of Noble Knight Games. No experience needed!

Gaming Schedule

Location: Sheraton Ballroom III

Thursday: 5:00 PM - 11:00 PM

OPEN GAMING

Friday: Open at 8:00 AM

Aquarius:

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM Terraforming Mars
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM Formula D

Boötes:

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Fluxx with the Head of Gaming

Draco:

12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Pandemic

Equuleus:

7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Classic Traveller "Losing Air"

Fornax:

12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Learn to Play Magic the Gathering

Gemini:

12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Learn to Play Magic the Gathering

Saturday: Open 24 hours

Aquarius:

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM Wingspan
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM Terraforming Mars

Boötes:

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Fluxx Hour with the Head of Gaming

Draco:

12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Flamecraft
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Casting Shadows

Equuleus:

3:00 PM - 6:00 PM Original Dungeons & Dragons

Fornax:

12:00 PM - 3:00 PM Casual Commander Magic the Gathering

Gemini:

12:00 PM - 3:00 PM Casual Commander Magic the Gathering

Hercules:

12:00 PM - 3:00 PM Casual Commander Magic the Gathering

Sunday: Closing at 3:00 PM

Draco:

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM Disney Villainous

Chicago Scavenger Hunt

This year, Capricon is holding a scavenger hunt to find landmarks near the convention. All of these should be within a twenty minute walk and you can try to find them when you venture out for meals or as an excursion in and of itself. Answers will be provided on Sunday at 11:30 in the Bridgeport Room. Come and share which places you found, learn the identity of the ones you couldn't find, and learn a little more about Chicago.

Captained the Reutan
He squatted on city land
Ville is named for him.

Far from his office
Sit and tell Bob your troubles
Near where the Pier ends

Built by Shah Jihan
Theft for the Colonel's glory
Just bricks in the wall

At DuSable Bridge
Learn about the watershed
Watch the bridges rise

It sank in '15
Eight-forty-eight people died
Bonansinga's book

Without these three men
The revolution won't start.
They'll tell their story

Age appropriate
Playgrounds are provided for
Chicago's children

Near this tower's base
Find a garden without plants
Branches chime softly

Home to more Worldcons
Than any other city
It has hosted five

You can cross the Loop
Without fresh air or daylight
Modern day Morlocks



Writers' Room

It's a weekend long writing workshop inside of the convention! Drop in to your choice of more than 20 different workshops and sessions. Most will be in the Columbus Room, which you'll find tucked away behind the main elevators.

The Writers' Room workshop focuses on building story elements such as character, world building, and story structures for the novice writer while providing a good refresher for the more experienced storyteller. We'll also deep dive into more focused topics and explore the business of writing. You'll have the opportunity to ask experienced pros your difficult questions, pick the brains of professional editors, and meet fellow writers in a relaxed and welcoming space.

Thursday

3:30 PM More Capable Than You
5:00 PM Writing When You Have No Spoons
6:30 PM Writing About the Multiverse

Friday

10:00 AM Promptapalooza
11:30 AM Small Press Publishing - Like a Quest, Only More So!
1:00 PM Professional Organizations for Writers
2:30 PM Proactive vs. Reactive Characters
4:00 PM Opening Sentences
5:30 PM Fairy Tales as a Source of Story
5:30 PM Grants and Other Support for the Arts: A Primer (Wrigleyville room)
7:00 PM Writing While Neurodivergent
8:30 PM Making Magic Make Sense in Fiction

Saturday

10:00 AM Situational Character Building
11:30 AM Writing Horror and Dark Fantasy
1:00 PM Worldbuilding for Authors
2:30 PM One Page Plot Method
2:30 PM Real Steam for Writers (Michigan room)
4:00 PM Self-Editing for Writers
5:30 PM Wait, Didn't They Have Green Eyes?
7:00 PM Self Promotion for Writers
8:30 PM Well Intended, But Not Well Received

Sunday

10:00 AM Hero's Journey vs. Heroine's Journey
11:30 AM Writing Older Characters for Younger Readers

Main Programming

Capricon 44's theme is The Endurance of Stars, and our program took that in a bunch of directions! Look for items about stars and the things that come from them, but also about endurance - personal, professional, and of some of our favorite media properties! And of course, in addition to exploring our theme, we've got panels related to general SFF topics, media, comics, art, writing, science, and other fannish interests. For the most up-to-date program, be sure to check out the programming guide online at <https://capricon.org/departments/programming/>.

Capricon Program uses a 60/90 schedule. That means panels are 60 minutes long with a 30 minute passing period. This gives rooms a bit of time to air out, and you more time to check out the dealers room or art show, or grab a snack from the ConSuite.

Please let us know what you think about your experiences with programming. We need your input to make it better every year! You can stop by Program Ops in the Wrigleyville room to give immediate feedback, come to the Feedback Session after Closing Ceremonies, or send us an email after to programming@Capricon.org. Feedback on topics and panelists is welcome, along with programming ideas for next year.

If you're one of our panelists and you have any questions, concerns, and/or requests for your panel, **Main Programming Operations is located in the Pullman Room.**

Finally, thank you to our wonderful program participants! Thank you for sharing your time, expertise, humor, and knowledge with us. We couldn't do this without your help!

Thursday February 1st 3:30 PM

All the GoHs - Gold Coast

Panelists: K Tempest Bradford, Ariela Housman, Catherine Lundoff, Victor Raymond

Your reward for coming to the convention early on Thursday! All of our Guests of Honor (GoHs) in one room at one time, chatting amongst themselves and with you. We have no idea what they'll talk about, but we bet it will be interesting.

More Capable Than You - Columbus

Panelists: Llewella Forgie, Reina Hardy, Karen Herkes, Jason Youngberg

Writing and developing characters who happen to be smarter than you can be daunting. How do super geniuses and hyper-capable characters behave? How do you reflect that in your character design while still making them believable and approachable? Our panelists explore the myriad ways you can do just that!

Thursday February 1st 4:30 PM

Puppet Time! - Wrigleyville

Panelist: Averie Morgan

Everyone loves puppets! Well, most everyone. So, let's learn a few basic puppeteering skills, whether it's for storytelling, performance, building a brand, or just for fun. Puppeteer Averie Morgan will teach you basic puppeteering skills and puppet care in this hands-on workshop!

Main Programming

Thursday February 1st 5:00 PM

Bad Books, Good Reads - Gold Coast

Panelists: Terri Ash, Travis Creason, D. Ordo Mancera, Catie Pfeifer (M)

We all love to talk about awful movies, but what about the delicious joys of reading "bad" written media? Many science fiction and fantasy novels fall short of the mark when it comes to plot, characterization, grammar, style... but are still entertaining, silly fun, or unintentionally hilarious reads. Our panelists share their favorites and discuss what makes some appealing and others worthy only of throwing across the room.

Writing When You Have No Spoons - Columbus

Panelists: Shaun Duke (M), JM Guilfoyle, Cecilia Tan, Jason Youngberg

Most folks know what it's like to come home from work and have no energy left. Add in all the pressures of the real world and it can sometimes feel impossible to put your fingers to the keyboard. So how do you find the energy to keep writing? Our panelists explore their own struggles with a lack of spoons and share some of the strategies they've found helpful to get words down on the page.

Thursday February 1st 6:30 PM

Audiobooks/Podcasts: Reading for Your Ears - Gold Coast

Panelists: Jeanne DeVore, Reina Hardy, Brian Sebb, Jason Youngberg (M)

What are the audiobooks and podcasts we're especially fond of? What makes a good audiobook or podcast? Come share your favorites.

How to Hold an Interstellar Empire - Streeterville

Panelists: Chris Gerrib (M), Will Saddler, Henry Spencer, W A Thomasson

SF is full of stories of empires collapsing or struggling to maintain control, whether from self-inflicted wounds or external forces. But how DO you control a galactic empire? What technology and social actions do you need to keep such an empire stable? And what happens when revolution comes knocking on your fictional door? Our panelists explore the ways SF empires have attempted to maintain control, where they've gone wrong, and more.

Writing About the Multiverse - Columbus

Panelists: Richard Garfinkle (M), Bill "McSciFi" McCormick, N. Frances Moritz, Steven H Silver

From alternate earths to parallel dimensions and beyond, multiverses have played a significant role in some of our favorite works of literature and film. But what does it take to write a compelling tale in a multiverse? Our panelists discuss the daunting task of developing, writing about, and making sense of multiverses in fiction.

Main Programming

Thursday February 1st 6:30 PM (Continued)

Convention Tour Thursday - Tour Spot

Panelists: Helen Montgomery, Leane Verhulst

Welcome to Capricon! Our convention hosts are here to help introduce you to the convention, show you where everything is, and make some suggestions of things that you shouldn't miss this year. Highly recommended for anyone who hasn't attended Capricon before!

Thursday February 1st 8:00 PM

Opening Ceremonies - Sheraton II

Panelists: K Tempest Bradford, Ariela Housman, Catherine Lundoff, Samantha Press, Victor Raymond

Welcome to Capricon 44. Join us as we kick off this year's event, get some idea of what to expect, and meet our Guests of Honor and the people who make it all possible.

Friday, February 2nd 8:30 AM

Early Morning Walking (Friday) - Tour Spot

Panelist: Justin Matulonis

Get your steps in before you spend the day sitting in chairs and listening to the program. Meet in the lobby to walk in the hotel and chat to other walking-inclined fan.

Friday, February 2nd 10:00 AM

More Technology, More Problems - Michigan

Panelists: Raevyn Davies, Dina Krause, Jeffrey Liss (M), W A Thomasson

With every new advancement in technology, new problems arise. And with every new problem, a new solution is necessary. What might this cycle tell us about technological advancement? Can we solve it? Should we? Our panelists answer these questions while examining the difficulty with finding technological solutions for our problems.

Hopeful Science Fiction and Fantasy - Gold Coast

Panelists: Terri Ash, K Tempest Bradford, Richard Garfinkle, Karen Herkes, Lisa Moe (M)

For every dystopian tale, SFF presents us with hopeful alternatives. Indeed, one can turn to SFF, new and old, to find hope in a world that is sometimes all too dark. Our panelists discuss some of their favorite works of hopeful SFF from yesteryear and right now to help spark some joy in your life.

Stories that Cross Cultures - Streeterville

Panelists: Jeana Jorgensen, Pat Sayre McCoy, Lucy A Synk (M), Jason Youngberg

Long before the internet and mass printing, cultures across the globe were creating similar stories, myths, legends, and fairy tales. Why did they are they so similar? What are good examples of this phenomenon?

Main Programming

Friday, February 2nd 10:00 AM (Continued)

Learn to Write Calligraphy! - Wrigleyville

Panelist: Ariela Housman

GoH Ariela Housman will teach you to write the alphabet in calligraphy! Materials provided, advance signup required at the info desk.

Promptapalooza - Columbus

Panelist: Donna J.W. Munro

"Little Red Riding Hood" as steampunk. Go! How many words can you write from a prompt in just three minutes? Come find out at Promptapalooza 2024! Short, chiefly silly prompts will get your creative juices flowing in a fun, social writing environment. Bring a laptop, a pencil and notebook, or just a smartphone, but come ready to write!

Puppet Time! - Sheraton I – Salon

Panelist: Averie Morgan

Everyone loves puppets! Well, most everyone. So, let's learn a few basic puppeteering skills, whether it's for storytelling, performance, building a brand, or just for fun. Puppeteer Averie Morgan will teach you basic puppeteering skills and puppet care in this hands-on workshop!

The Rise and Fall of the Social Media Empire - Sheraton II

Panelists: Shaun Duke, Alia Federow, Laurie Mann (M), Justin Matulonis, Gwen Tolios

Before 2022, the social media "empire" appeared to be stable. But the past year has brought on a whirlwind of instability, new apps, unpopular change, and, well, chaos. Do these changes mean we may go back to older social media modes? Or is there a new future on the horizon? Either way, what does that mean for us and our fan communities? Our panelists try to make sense of the new social media landscape in this panel that will almost certainly be "up to the minute" because someone with the controls will turn something off at the last minute.

Friday, February 2nd 11:30 AM

Dust.. from... SPACE!!! - Michigan

Panelists: Bill Higgins, Henry Spencer

The OSIRIS-REx asteroid sampler has returned with a bounty of asteroid dust. Our panelists discuss what the findings have been so far, what is still to come, and what it all means.

How to Moderate Panels - Bridgeport

Panelists: Sue Burke, Janice Gelb (M), Jerry Gilio, Alessandra Kelley, Dina Krause

Great moderation can make the difference between a mediocre panel and a fantastic one. Come learn tips from our panel of experienced moderators.

Main Programming

Friday, February 2nd 11:30 AM (Continued)

Star Wars Retrospective - Gold Coast

Panelists: Terri Ash, James Bacon (M), Jim Mann, Patrick Morgan, Brian Sebby

If you'd asked a Star Wars fan in 1990 if we'd have more hours of Star Wars on our screen per year than the entire original trilogy and their special editions combined, they might have laughed in your face. Yet here we are. But how did we get here? No, not the production story. The cultural story. Our panelists discuss Star Wars (past, present, and future), offering thoughts on what made this cultural phenomenon what it is today.

LGBTQIA+ Gathering - Wrigleyville

Panelists: Lisa Moe, Victor Raymond (M), Cecilia Tan

LGBTQIA+ convention members are invited to meet and greet!

Convention Tour Friday AM - Tour Spot

Panelists: Helen Montgomery, Leane Verhulst

Welcome to Capricon! Our convention hosts are here to help introduce you to the convention, show you where everything is, and make suggestions of things you shouldn't miss. Highly recommended for anyone who hasn't attended Capricon before!

Friday, February 2nd 1:00 PM

Susan Weiner Concert - Sheraton I

Panelist: Susan Weiner

Songs of science, love, politics and utter ridiculousness. With maybe some fiddle tunes!

From Sketch to Finished Art Work with Ariela Housman - Michigan

Panelist: Ariela Housman

Artist GoH Ariela Housman will be showing the original licensed artwork Dragon Naturalist Nouveau in the art show this year. In this sketchbook tour she'll show the sketches that take the idea from conception to completion and talk about her correspondence with author Marie Brennan and how that feedback was incorporated. The session will culminate with a trip to the art show to see the original final artwork.

Reading: Detzner/Garfinkle/Huston - Bridgeport

Panelists: Brendan Detzner, Richard Garfinkle, Mark Huston

Brendan Detzner, Richard Garfinkle, and Mark Huston read from their works.

Queer Eye for Sci-Fi - Gold Coast

Panelists: Jeana Jorgensen, Catherine Lundoff (M), D. Ordo Mancera, Red

Queer Eye for Sci-Fi returns! The cosmos is vast and it is queer. Science fiction is full of stories exploring alternate sexualities, gender norms, and more. This panel will explore some of the best examples of civilizations, aliens, and future peoples from SF history which expand our understanding of gender identities.

Main Programming

Friday, February 2nd 1:00 PM (Continued)

The Dispossessed at 50 - Streeterville

Panelists: Alexei Collier, Shaun Duke (M), Jacqueline Holland, Laurie Mann, Victor Raymond

Ursula K. Le Guin's Hugo and Nebula Award winning novel *The Dispossessed* may be one of her most ambitious novels. Our panelists discuss their thoughts about the novel, its impact (on science fiction and Le Guin's career), and so much more. Critical utopians are welcome to attend!

Stitch'n Bitch Friday - Wrigleyville

Panelist: N. Frances Moritz

Bring your knitting, crocheting, cross-stitching, or other-portable-craft project and work on it in the company of other crafters.

Professional Organizations for Writers - Columbus

Panelists: Greg Clumpner, Llewella Forgie, Karen Herkes (M), Donna J.W. Munro, Angeli Primlani, Cecilia Tan

SLF, SFPA, SFWA, and RWA aren't just acronym soup. These organizations are ways for authors to network, learn about their craft, and more. Current members will discuss what these organizations offer and how they can benefit you.

When SF Goes Literary - Sheraton II

Panelists: James Bacon, Sue Burke (M), K.V. Peck, Gary K Wolfe

If you've ever seen a work of SF called "literary," you might wonder what that even means. Is "literary SF" something easily described? Or is it another of those "I know it when I see it" situations? And what are the implications of defining some SF works in this way? Our panelists discuss the meaning of "literary" in the SF world and explore the impact and influence of so-called "literary SF" works.

Friday, February 2nd 2:30 PM

Tunesters Union - Sheraton I

Panelists: Carol Ferraro, Barbara Lettermann

Tunesters Union share folk and filk music with lovely harmonies.

Star Trek of Yesteryear - Michigan

Panelists: Jim Cherry, Jeffrey Liss, Randall Roman, Brian Sebby (M), Lucy A Synk

With all the new *Star Trek* shows filling our screens, it seems as good a time as any to take a look back at where the franchise has been. Our panelists do just that, turning their critical eye to *Star Trek's* history in this retrospective panel on the edge of the final frontier.

Main Programming

Friday, February 2nd 2:30 PM (Continued)

What Are...Runes? - Bridgeport

Panelist: Cathy McManamon

Introductory information about the Elder Futhark runic symbols and their origins, the runelore behind them, and how they are used in the modern day. Cathy has studied runes for nearly 20 years, written a double album song project about the runes, and has some experience in northern magic practice.

The Forever War at 50 - Gold Coast

Panelists: Shaun Duke, Jerry Gilio, Bill Higgins, Benjamin Wallin, Gary K Wolfe (M)

Since its release in 1974, Joe Haldeman's Hugo and Nebula Award winning novel *The Forever War* has been assigned in college classes and hailed as a profound exploration of the dehumanizing effects of war. Now on its 50th anniversary, our panelists look back on the novel's release, its impact, and its relevance today.

Hugo Awards Nominating - Streeterville

Panelists: Chris Gerrib, Rich Horton, Helen Montgomery (M)

It's our favorite time of year! Hugo Award nominating is happening now! Join our roundtable discussion for a look back at 2023 and some thoughts on who and what deserves to be nominated this year. (Note: This panel will provide a very brief overview of the process of how to nominate, but the focus is on discussing which works deserve nomination.)

Sketchbook Tour: Dex Greenbright - Wrigleyville

Panelist: Dex Greenbright

Dex Greenbright takes you on a wander through his sketchbook. Learn about his process of creation.

Proactive vs. Reactive Characters - Columbus

Panelists: Brendan Detzner (M), Llewella Forgie, R.W.W. Greene, Reina Hardy, Jason Youngberg

Some characters are built differently. In this panel, we'll discuss the strengths and weaknesses of proactive and reactive characters and explore when each type of character is appropriate for a story. What are the risks or the rewards involved in incorporating each of them?

Interview with GoH K. Tempest Bradford - Sheraton II

Panelists: K Tempest Bradford, Cecilia Tan

Cecilia Tan interviews Capricon Author GoH K. Tempest Bradford.

Main Programming

Friday, February 2nd 4:00 PM

Clif Flynt Concert - Sheraton I

Panelist: Clif Flynt

Clif is a story teller. Some of his songs tell serious stories, but more are silly. Clif will sing a selection of silly and serious songs, not all of which start with the letter "s".

A Look at the Holocaust in Comics: Two Papers - Michigan

Panelist: James Bacon

James Bacon presents two papers he has written. The first discusses **V for Vengeance**, a lesser known 1942 boys paper series in **The Wizard**. It portrayed the brutality and violence of the war in an unprecedented manner, arguing that it was preparing the youth for the horror of war. In it, concentration camp escapees The Deathless Men exact their revenge. The second paper, **The Holocaust in Comics**, takes a broad look at the portrayal of the Holocaust, considering those comic book works that focus solely on the subject, mainstream comics that touch upon the situation, and European comics which include them as part of their story. Bacon makes the argument for challenging when the comic goes astray, and champions the stories that capture the imagination and share history through the power of comics. Following his presentation, there will be time for questions and discussion.

Reading: Munro/Primlani/Davila - Bridgeport

Panelists: Larissa N. N. Davila, Donna J.W. Munro, Angeli Primlani

Donna Munro, Angeli Primlani and Larissa N. N. Davila read from their works.

Applying SF Ideals to the Present - Gold Coast

Panelists: D. Ordo Mancer, Victor Raymond (M), Lucy A Synk, W A Thomasson

Many of SF's most famous tales feature humanity (and sometimes our alien friends) striving to build better worlds. At their root are a set of ideals, from ways of being to conservation and beyond. What can we learn from these ideals? Which ones can (and should) we take with us to make our world better now? Our panelists explore what SF can teach us about better tomorrows.

Diversify Your Bookshelf - Streeterville

Panelists: Jeana Jorgensen (M), Alessandra Kelley, Lisa Moe, Will Saddler, Benjamin Wallin

In a world of too many books, it can be hard to figure out what to read next while keeping your shelves diverse and inclusive. Well, this panel is here to help you with that! Our panelists share some of their favorite diverse reads to help you build the reading list of your dreams. Bring a pen and paper... you'll need it...

Con Running and What It Has Taught Me - Wrigleyville

Panelists: Dina Krause, Helen Montgomery (M), Leane Verhulst, Susan Weiner

Con running can look great on your resume! Our panel of con runners discusses the useful and functional aspects of con running and how those skills get used in the "real world."

Main Programming

Friday, February 2nd 4:00 PM (Continued)

Opening Sentences - Columbus

Panelists: Greg Clumpner, Rich Horton, Mark Huston (M), N. Frances Moritz, K.V. Peck

Panelists read first sentences from a variety of books and stories. What works as a hook? What can make readers want to keep reading?

Interview with GOH Catherine Lundoff - Sheraton II

Panelists: Catherine Lundoff, Mary Mascari

Mary Mascari interviews Capricon Editor GoH Catherine Lundoff.

Autographing: Bradford/Sjolander - Autograph Tables

Panelists: K Tempest Bradford, Deanna Sjolander

K Tempest Bradford and Deanna Sjolander will be available to sign their works!

Friday, February 2nd 5:30 PM

Romancing the Genre - Michigan

Panelists: JM Guilfoyle, K.V. Peck, Deanna Sjolander (M), Gwen Tolios

Join us for an exploration of genres in romance stories. We'll touch on romance tropes and focus on genres such as mystery/suspense, science fiction, time travel, fantasy, LGBTQ themes, historical, contemporary, and more. We'll share insights about our favorite genres and why we write the genres we do. Lastly, we'll suggest ways to explore writing genres new to you through writing groups, anthologies, and being a part of a literary community. We'll leave time for your questions at the end.

Using Board Games in the Classroom - Bridgeport

Panelist: Aaron Moring

The allure of games is that players make decisions that have meaningful consequences. By introducing games into the classroom, the curriculum can come alive. Discuss strategies of using tabletop games and bring something new to your students.

The Current State of the MCU - Gold Coast

Panelists: Alia Federow, Lisa Moe (M), Patrick Morgan, Matthew Munro, Brian Sebbly

Phase 5 is halfway finished and has thus far received a less warm welcome than its predecessors. With just a few more projects left to release, fans might be wondering where this is all going and whether it'll reveal a satisfying opening to the next phase. Our panelists take a look at the state of the MCU since Phase 5 began and offer their thoughts on the franchise's future.

Main Programming

Friday, February 2nd 5:30 PM (Continued)

What's Immortal With You? - Streeterville

Panelists: A.M. Arktos, Richard Garfinkle, Jacqueline Holland (M), Henry Spencer

Immortality is more than vampires and dudes with unusual relationships with self-portraits. Immortals can be gods, monsters, curses, and even your next door neighbor Ted. What makes immortality such a provocative idea in literature? Our panelists discuss the lure of immortality, explore their favorite examples from literature, and absolutely do not turn the audience into vampires. Probably...

Grants and Other Support for the Arts: A Primer - Wrigleyville

Panelists: Mary Anne Mohanraj, Darius Vinesar

From professional and private organizations to government agencies, there are dozens of ways to fund and support both individual and collective artistic work. Where do you go to find these things? What is the process for applying? Our panelists discuss how to find grants and other forms of support for creators, how to apply, what resources are available to increase your chance of success, and more.

Fairy Tales as a Source of Story - Columbus

Panelists: Reina Hardy, Jeana Jorgensen (M), Megan Mackie, Steven H Silver

From retellings to narrative stylings, fantasy has often borrowed heavily from the world of fairy tales. So how do fairy tales provide useful maps for storytelling? Our panelists discuss the lure of fairy tales, their favorite modern twists, and ways to inject fairy tale storytelling into your work.

Convention Tour Friday PM - Tour Spot

Panelists: Justin Matulonis, Leane Verhulst

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Friday, February 2nd 7:00 PM

Adam Selzer Concert - Sheraton II

Panelist: Adam Selzer

Adam Selzer is an author and historian whose last records were titled 82nd Street and The Limited Time; as a musician he was once described as the offspring of Bob Dylan and some Muppet. He'll be taking a break from working on another book about old timey serial killers to play songs about food, comic book shops, the perils of nostalgia, and, time permitting, farts.

Main Programming

Friday, February 2nd 7:00 PM (Continued)

Trivia for Chocolate - Michigan

Panelist: Steven H Silver

Answer trivia questions correctly, get a piece of chocolate. Whoever has the most pieces of candy at the end wins. It is harder than it sounds because empty wrappers don't count!

You Want to Podcast/YouTube But Mics/Webcams Scare You - Bridgeport

Panelists: A.M. Arktos, Shaun Duke (M), Red, Benjamin Wallin

There might be a podcast or YouTube channel for everything under the sun, but that doesn't mean starting one isn't a little scary. Our panelists share some insights about starting a podcast for the first time. How do you plan your first show? What are some dos and don'ts you should avoid? What questions do YOU have? Come learn a thing or two, and bring a sea of questions for our panelists to answer!

Enduring Book Clubs - Gold Coast

Panelists: David Hirsch, Rich Horton, Lisa Moe (M), Helen Montgomery, Gwen Tolios

What does it take to make your SFF book club succeed and survive? What makes a healthy and thriving book community and discussion? Share your pointers, positive experiences, and hopes for reading conversations.

Too Much Pizza (or, Too Many Projects, No Time) - Streeterville

Panelists: Terri Ash (M), Greg Clumpner, Dina Krause, Finley Roman, Jennifer Skwarski

Many fans have a variety of projects and hobbies they enjoy on top of their work and family commitments - art, writing, creative work, making. But the more projects you take on, the less likely it is that you'll get them all done. Our panelists discuss their own troubles with too many projects and share tips for how to get yourself back on track.

Writing While Neurodivergent - Columbus

Panelists: Richard Garfinkle (M), Dex Greenbright, JM Guilfoyle, Karen Herkes, Donna J.W. Munro

What challenges does neurodivergence create for writers? How do writers manage their differences and challenges in order to meet deadlines, produce works, and not allow their neurodifferences to derail them as they write? Our panelists tackle these questions and more.

Friday, February 2nd 8:00 PM

Euchre Tournament - Wrigleyville

Panelist: Helen Montgomery

Get ready to play some cards! Bring your partner or, if you don't have a partner, we'll find you one. (For the game only, anything else is your responsibility.) Remember, this is a friendly game. Weapons policy will be strictly enforced at the tournament.

Main Programming

Friday, February 2nd 8:30 PM

Random Fractions Concert - Sheraton II

Panelists: Cathy McManamon, Jason Neerenberg

Jason & Cathy will take you on a musical journey from here to there and in between! Magical places, runes, connections, and wonder are part of the experience...and definitely a song or two about water.

1970s Probes - Michigan

Panelists: Bill Higgins, Randall Roman, Henry Spencer

Our panelists discuss the flyby probes of the 1970s: the Pioneers, Voyagers, Mariners, etc. Where are they now and are we still getting anything useful from them?

Improv 101 - Streeterville

Panelist: Brian Sebbby

If you've ever been interested in giving improv a try but didn't know where to start? This event is for you! We'll play some improv games, demonstrate the basics of improv, and show you how saying "yes and..." can help you both on stage and in real life.

Making Magic Make Sense in Fiction - Columbus

Panelists: K Tempest Bradford, Richard Garfinkle (M), Dex Greenbright, Mark Huston, Cecilia Tan

For many fantasy readers and writers, magic systems require rules. Magic, after all, comes at a cost, whether that involves time, energy, or even the health of its user. So what works and doesn't? How do you make a magic system that makes sense? Our panelists discuss some of the best examples and offer tips for developing your own magic systems.

Friday, February 2nd 9:00 PM

Party Crawl Friday - Tour Spot

New to the Capricon party scene? Our parties are renowned for being fabulous, but they can be a bit overwhelming if you're new. Join some of our party hosts and our Party Liaison on a "party crawl" where they will introduce you to people and show you where all the fun can be had. Must be 21 years of age or older as alcohol will be served in many of the parties. Meet the tour host in the lobby. (Space is limited, first-come, first-served).

Friday, February 2nd 10:00 PM

Friday Night Open Circle - Sheraton I

Panelist: Jason Neerenberg

Everyone is welcome to play and sing and recite poetry/spoken word pieces in our open circle. An anchor will moderate at least the first two hours to ensure everyone is included. Listeners are welcome and encouraged to take seats in the outer circles.

Main Programming

Saturday, February 3rd 8:30 AM

Early Morning Walking (Saturday) - Tour Spot

Panelist: Justin Matulonis

Get your steps in before you spend the day sitting in chairs and listening to the program. Meet in the lobby to walk in the hotel and chat to other walking-inclined fens.

Saturday, February 3rd 10:00 AM

Judging a Book by Page 119 - Michigan

Panelists: David Hirsch, Helen Montgomery (M), N. Frances Moritz, Steven H Silver

Authors usually have a good first 100 pages in them, but then things can go sideways. By reading a section from around page 119, can you judge if the book is any good?

Chicago-SF Book Club: The Warrior's Apprentice - Bridgeport

Panelists: Chris Gerrib, W A Thomasson

Join Chicago-SF as we discuss Lois McMaster Bujold's *The Warrior's Apprentice*, the 1986 novel that introduced the world to one of the great characters in science fiction literature: The irrepressible Miles Vorkosigan.

The Impact of Graphic Novels - Gold Coast

Panelists: Brendan Detzner (M), Lisa Freitag, Gene Ha, John O'Neill, Red

For well over a century, graphic novels have been a significant medium for the telling of visual stories. Today, they fill book shelves with massive, sometimes-colorful, tomes and, occasionally, make their way to the big screen. Beyond those obvious markers of impact, how have graphic novels influenced the visual medium as a place for telling stories? Have they affected how we think about storytelling? Our panelists explore the historical impact of the graphic novel, from the professional to the personal, artistic to the narrative.

Gaming and Technology - Streeterville

Panelists: A.M. Arktos, Tanya DePass, Alia Federow, Benjamin Wallin,
Jason Youngberg (M)

Today, there are numerous virtual tabletops and other tools and simulators designed to help you run a TTRPG, card game, or board game online. Now, you can play D&D with people anywhere in the world, toss some monsters on a virtual Magic: the Gathering table, and even ruin your relationships with a game of Monopoly. But can they replace the physical table experience? Our panelists explore the success of these options and their drawbacks.

Stitch'n Bitch Saturday - Wrigleyville

Panelists: Jeanne DeVore, Jennifer Skwarski

Bring your knitting, crocheting, cross-stitching, or other-portable-craft project and work on it in the company of other crafters.

Main Programming

Saturday, February 3rd 10:00 AM (Continued)

Small Press Publishing - Like a Quest, Only More So! - Columbus

Panelists: Greg Clumpner, Larissa N. N. Davila, Catherine Lundoff, Kristen McDermott, Deanna Sjolander (M)

Panel featuring several small press book publishers discussing how they got started in the business, challenges, plans for the future, hopes and dreams, and other related topics.

SLF's Mini Deep Dish Reading - Sheraton I – Salon

Panelists: Sue Burke, Jim Cherry, Shaun Duke, Angeli Primlani (M), Darius Vinesar

The Speculative Literature Foundation is a Chicago-based non-profit organization dedicated to promoting literary quality in speculative fiction. In this mini version of their Deep Dish reading series you'll hear from a variety of local authors giving short readings.

Resistance Requires Imagining a Better Future - Sheraton II

Panelists: K Tempest Bradford, R.W.W. Greene, Megan Mackie, Victor Raymond (M), Lucy A Synk

From ecotopias to egalitarian societies, science fiction and fantasy has often explored the political side of imagining better futures or better worlds. But what happens when those conjectures influence reality? Do these visions provide fuel for real world political movements or ideas? This panel will explore times when SFF has impacted real world politics for the better.

Convention Tour Saturday AM - Tour Spot

Panelists: Justin Matulonis, Leane Verhulst

Welcome to Capricon! Our convention hosts are here to help introduce you to the convention, show you where everything is, and make some suggestions of things that you shouldn't miss this year. Highly recommended for anyone who hasn't attended Capricon before!

Saturday, February 3rd 11:30 AM

Lucy's Tour of the Trojan Asteroids - Michigan

Panelist: Bill Higgins

The two swarms of frigid Trojan asteroids, circling the Sun at the same distance as Jupiter, have never been visited by spacecraft. NASA's Lucy mission plans to change that. Launched in 2021, Lucy's intricate trajectory will eventually fly by eleven asteroids, including eight Trojans of varying size and composition far beyond the main Asteroid Belt. Passing through the asteroid belt on her way to the distant realm of the Trojans, Lucy's first flyby this past November held surprises - and if all goes well, the best is yet to come.

Main Programming

Saturday, February 3rd 11:30 AM (Continued)

Costuming on Minimum Wage - Bridgeport

Panelists: Raevyn Davies, Ariela Housman (M), Alessandra Kelley, D. Ordo Mancer, Jennifer Skwarski

What are materials and methods that would allow someone on a tight budget to make a solid cosplay? Come get and share tips!

Social Activism and Fandom - Gold Coast

Panelists: Travis Creason, Tanya DePass, Alia Federow, W A Thomasson, Susan Weiner

It is great to escape the real world for awhile at conventions, but when we go home what can we do to make the world a better place using our fannish perspectives? Put another way, "Infinite Diversity in Infinite Combinations" needs to meet Karl Popper's paradox of tolerance - and there are some interesting and useful outcomes from that.

Comic Book Adaptations - Streeterville

Panelists: James Bacon, Shaun Duke (M), Gene Ha, Matthew Munro, Red

Which adaptations have worked best and which have gone horribly wrong?

Phandemonium Book Club - Wrigleyville

Panelist: David Hirsch

The Phandemonium book club will celebrate it's 20th Anniversary by discussing *Martians, Go Home* by Fredric Brown. All are welcome!

Writing Horror and Dark Fantasy - Columbus

Panelists: Greg Clumpner (M), Brendan Detzner, Jacqueline Holland, Donna J.W. Munro

Horror writers discuss what goes into crafting dark fiction. We'll discuss the masters of dark writing, subgenres, and reader expectations, and techniques modern horror writers employ. Who is publishing stories? Novels? Where can a new writer go to get help in the horror community?

GoH Readings: Bradford/Lundoff - Sheraton I - Salon

Panelists: K Tempest Bradford, Catherine Lundoff

K Tempest Bradford and Catherine Lundoff read from their works.

The Princess Bride at 50 - Sheraton II

Panelists: Terri Ash, Jeanne DeVore, Reina Hardy, Rich Horton, Laurie Mann (M)

Perhaps most famously known for its younger film adaptation, William Goldman's "adaptation" of S. Morgenstern's *The Princess Bride* continues to be a well-regarded and much loved work. Our panelists look back on the novel's release, explore its impact (especially beyond its film adaptation), and more.

Main Programming

Saturday, February 3rd 11:30 AM (Continued)

Autographing: Herkes/Guilfoyle - Autograph Tables

Panelists: JM Guilfoyle, Karen Herkes

Karen Herkes and JM Guilfoyle will be available to sign their works!

Saturday, February 3rd 1:00 PM

Songwriting From the Gut - Sheraton I

Panelists: Cathy McManamon (M), Jason Neerenberg, Susan Weiner

Many songs come from dark places within songwriters or places of trauma. Why write such songs? How is creation a valuable tool for processing difficult issues? How do we decide whether to share them publicly - or not?

Growing Old in Science Fiction and Fantasy - Michigan

Panelist: Catherine Lundoff

Join Catherine Lundoff for a presentation and discussion on depictions of aging in SF/F/H. What does it mean to age in genres that are full of magical cures, technological fixes, and beings that (sometimes) live forever? Let's talk about magical crones, middle-aged starship captains, senior scientists, and all the other characters that break out of stereotypes and take depictions of aging in new directions.

Reading: Greene/Silver/Sjolander - Bridgeport

Panelists: R.W.W. Greene, Steven H Silver, Deanna Sjolander

RWW Greene, Steven H Silver, and Deanna Sjolander read from their works.

Reaching the Next Generation Fan - Gold Coast

Panelists: Alia Federow, Lisa Freitag, Alessandra Kelley, N. Frances Moritz, Victor Raymond (M), Finley Roman

One of the hardest parts of keeping a fandom alive is bringing in younger fans. But how do you appeal to younger fans to bring them into your fan space? What changes might we need to make to bring younger fans to longrunning conventions or fandoms for shows and movies long since passed? Our panelists explore some of the challenges and joys of reaching out to a younger demographic.

How to Destroy an Interstellar Empire - Streeterville

Panelists: Chris Gerrib (M), Pat Sayre McCoy, W A Thomasson, Benjamin Wallin

SF is full of stories of revolutions and revolts taking down vast interstellar empires, whether from clever sabotage from within, major military action from outside, or, in many cases, both. But how DO you take down a galactic empire? What technology and social actions do you need to destabilize an empire? And what happens when the empire cracks down on dissent? Our panelists explore the ways SF revolutions have attempted to undermine empire, where they've gone wrong, and more.

Main Programming

Saturday, February 3rd 1:00 PM (Continued)

How To Draw Anything - Wrigleyville

Panelist: Gene Ha

Gene will teach you how to draw **anything**! People, buildings, cars, animals: what would you like to draw better? Give someone a pencil, paper, a camera phone, and a few simple principles and watch them draw anything. Add a web browser and their imagination, and they can even draw the faraway and the imaginary. Art is a process of observation, experiment, and play.

Worldbuilding for Authors - Columbus

Panelists: A.M. Arktos, K Tempest Bradford, Alexei Collier, JM Guilfoyle, Jeana Jorgensen (M)

When it comes to writing your setting, you should take care to make it feel like it's a real place. Unless your story is in space, your characters shouldn't be floating around somewhere devoid of details. Even if it is set in space, you will still need information to communicate your location to the reader. In this workshop, we'll discuss how to layer details into your story for more robust and interesting worlds.

Babylon 5: Past and Future - Sheraton II

Panelists: Terri Ash, Bill Higgins (M), Brian Sebby

Late in 2023, *Babylon 5* released the first new media production in over 20 years. With the reboot still in the works, it's time to take a look back at this remarkable show. What still draws us to it today? And what do we hope to see when it comes back to our screens in the not-to-distant future? Our panelists discuss these questions and explain why everyone, sooner or later, comes to Babylon 5.

Autographing: Jeffries/Peck/Davidson/Forge - Autograph Tables

Panelists: A.W. Davidson, Llewella Forge, K.V. Peck, Zachary Jeffries

Zachary Jeffries, K.V. Peck, A.W. Davidson, and Llewella Forge will be available to sign their works!

Snow Goons! - Tour Spot

Bring your snowpants and gloves and come outside with us to build Snow Goons! "What are Snow Goons?" you ask. Snowmen, but seriously twisted, a la Calvin and Hobbes. (Weather permitting) Those brave enough to venture outside will be gathering together in the lobby.

Saturday, February 3rd 2:30 PM

Court & Country Concert - Sheraton I

Panelists: Elizabeth Langan (M), David Bannister, Laura Herzing, Betsey Langan, Wendy Richardson, Keith Rohrer, JoAnn Scheffer Pan

Court & Country will take you on a journey through time, featuring a combination of well-researched historical pieces along with a selection of hybrid and modern folk, presented in an accessible and entertaining manner.

Main Programming

Saturday, February 3rd 2:30 PM (Continued)

Real Steam for Writers - Michigan

Panelist: Mark Huston

Steam is not only for steampunk. It is not a lost technology, but still in heavy use today, and it will be tomorrow. Come learn all about it! And if you're a writer, learn what you need to know to keep the reader from saying, "Ahhh! It doesn't work that way!"

Reading: Herkes/Jorgensen/Tan - Bridgeport

Panelists: Karen Herkes, Jeana Jorgensen, Cecilia Tan

KM Herkes, Jeanna Jorgenson, and Cecilia Tan read from their works.

When You Reach for the Stars and Miss... - Gold Coast

Panelists: Greg Clumpner (M), Chris Gerrib, Jacqueline Holland, Dina Krause, Geri Sullivan

Just like poop, everybody fails. The trick is learning how to deal with it! Our panelists explore what to do when you fail, from lessons learned to coping strategies and more.

The World Has Changed - Streeterville

Panelists: Tanya DePass, Janice Gelb (M), Red, Finley Roman, Will Saddler

Where fandom and science fiction started and where they are now has changed over the past century. At one point, fandom was an isolated sub-culture with an undeservedly poor reputation. Now, fans proliferate throughout society, so much so that we can't always recognize (or value) one another in a time when science fiction is culturally dominant. What does that mean for the rest of the 21st century and the existence of fandom as we know it?

Meet the Candidates - Wrigleyville

Panelist: Helen Montgomery

Phandemonium, Inc. is the parent corporation for Capricon. Each year Capricon members elect two new members to the Board of Directors at our open Board Meeting held on Sunday at Capricon. This panel offers the opportunity for you to meet the candidates prior to the vote.

One Page Plot Method - Columbus

Panelist: Donna J.W. Munro

Learn how to create a complex plot in one hour, on one piece of paper. In this workshop, all you need is a basic idea and character. From there, the structure is a matter of asking the right questions.

Sixty Years of Doctor Who and What's Next - Sheraton II

Panelists: Jim Mann (M), Patrick Morgan, Brian Sebby, Jennifer Skwarski

The 60th Anniversary of *Doctor Who* was in November 2023, with the return of David Tennant and with new Doctor Ncuti Gatwa. Was the transition successful from a narrative or fannish point of view? What does the future of Who look like?

Main Programming

Saturday, February 3rd 2:30 PM (Continued)

Autographing: Silver/Greene/Tolios - Autograph Tables

Panelists: R.W.W. Greene, Steven H Silver, Gwen Tolios

Steven H Silver, R.W.W. Greene, and Gwen Tolios will be available to sign their works!

Art Show Docent Tour with Ariela Housman - Tour Spot

Panelist: Ariela Housman

Join GoH Ariela Housman for a wander through the art show!

Saturday, February 3rd 4:00 PM

Cathy McManamon Concert - Sheraton I

Panelist: Cathy McManamon

Cathy performs her solo material from her recent Full of Filk album and a few favorites by...ahem...other redheads.

Where's My Flying Car? - Michigan

Panelists: Chris Gerrib, Bill Higgins, Mark Huston (M), Jeffrey Liss, Henry Spencer

Once upon a time, SF "promised" us all manner of wondrous thing that never came true. Flying cars. Rocket packs. Even aliens (maybe). What happened to these promises? Did something better come along? Were they not practical? Or are we still working to make them come true? How does our view of the future differ from what we once expected? Our panelists explore these questions and more!

Reading: Arktos/Duke/Tolios - Bridgeport

Panelists: A.M. Arktos, Shaun Duke, Gwen Tolios

AM Arktos, Shaun Duke, and Gwen Tolios read from their works.

The Many Hats of a Creative - Gold Coast

Panelists: Terri Ash, Dex Greenbright, Karen Herkes, Ariela Housman (M), Deanna Sjolander, Cecilia Tan

In the present market, freelancers (artists and writers) are expected to be marketers, bookkeepers, customer service reps, production and distribution managers, and more. And they do all that in addition to writing and/or making art. But how exactly does one manage all of that? Our panelists talk about some of the tips, tricks, and tools you can use to make the ancillary work easier to manage!

Planetcon Mars Bid: Mariner Valley in 3014 - Lake Wobegon

Panelists: Valentine Michael Smith (M), Douglas Quaid, Amy Wong, John Carter

A meeting to bid for the 1072th Interplanetary Science Fiction Convention, in Mariner Valley in 3014, at the Olympus Mons Hilton! Come see the canals! Eat the locally grown potato chips! Grok the water in fullness! No billionaires allowed.

Main Programming

Saturday, February 3rd 4:00 PM (Continued)

Will Fan-Run Cons Endure? - Streeterville

Panelists: James Bacon, K Tempest Bradford, Tammy Coxen, Helen Montgomery (M), Leane Verhulst

Even before the Covid-19 pandemic began, many regional fan-run science fiction conventions were struggling. Some didn't survive the pandemic and others are on the precipice. Between declining attendance and difficulty finding volunteers to work on the convention, things aren't looking so good for cons like Capricon. Even Worldcon is facing a shortage of bids for upcoming years. What are the challenges fan-run cons are facing? What are the differences between cons that are doing well, and those that aren't? What can we do to slow or reverse the tide?

DIY Custom Action Figure Workshop - Wrigleyville

Panelists: Nina Castillo, Aaron Moring, Christian Tabotabo

Want to craft your very own, one-of-a-kind action figure? If you can imagine it, come try to make it a reality. In this workshop, you will choose/create/customize a figurine and finish it off with a proper package for display. Materials and know-how will be provided; you bring the creativity and dexterity.

Self-Editing for Writers - Columbus

Panelists: Sue Burke (M), Clif Flynt, JM Guilfoyle, K.V. Peck, Steven H Silver

For many writers, editing is a daunting task. How are you supposed to sit down and make meaningful changes to your own work when you've spent days, weeks, months, or even years writing it? Our panelists share their tips and tricks for self-editing and demystify the editing process.

Autographing: Horton/Lundoff/Holland - Autograph Tables

Panelists: Jacqueline Holland, Rich Horton, Catherine Lundoff

Rich Horton, Catherine Lundoff, and Jacqueline Holland will be available to sign their works!

Saturday, February 3rd 5:00 PM

Artist Showdown - Sheraton II

In this event, artists are encouraged to face off against one another in a quick-draw challenge in front of a live audience. *Please note: While this is a drawing competition, it is not necessarily judged on skill alone. Artists of all disciplines may find themselves on even footing. If you wish to participate please sign up in the Art Show any time prior to 6:00 PM. on Saturday.

Main Programming

Saturday, February 3rd 5:30 PM

Bruce Schneier Talks about Democracy & AI - Michigan

Panelist: Bruce Schneier

Bruce Schneier will discuss different ways that AI can affect democracy, both for the better and for the worse. Think beyond misinformation, to computer-generated laws, artificial deliberations, and computers in your pocket that vote thousands of times a day based on the preferences it infers that you have. Utopia or dystopia? It really depends on how we use AI, where we rely on it, and when we eschew it.

Reading: Collier/Holland/Peck - Bridgeport

Panelists: Alexei Collier, Jacqueline Holland, K.V. Peck

Alexei Collier, Jacqueline Holland and K.V. Peck read from their works.

New Trek: Just Released and Still to Come - Gold Coast

Panelists: David Hirsch, Randall Roman (M), Brian Sebby, Benjamin Wallin

Over the past few years, *Star Trek* has exploded with new shows/movies. Some might say that *Star Trek* fans are lucky devils! So what stands out in this sea of *Star Trek* goodness? Our panelists sit down to discuss the last few years of this new renaissance and the future series and films to come.

The Bible as Fantasy Novel - Streeterville

Panelists: Janice Gelb (M), Jeana Jorgensen, Will Saddler, Lucy A Synk, Susan Weiner

The Bible uses fantastic elements in describing the inexplicable, prophecies, and fables. What elements of the Bible correlate to common tropes in fantasy literature? How have the fantasy elements in the Bible influence writers of fantasy?

Wait, Didn't They Have Green Eyes? - Columbus

Panelists: Donna J.W. Munro, Deanna Sjolander

When writing a series, how do you keep all the facts and descriptions straight and consistent? Creating a style guide for your story can help keep your details in order and will be an important asset you can use to further develop your story. Come learn all the tips and tricks!

Saturday, February 3rd 7:00 PM

Martial Arts in SF and Fantasy - Bridgeport

Panelist: Oleg Kazantsev

Every good speculative story needs a conflict, and all too often that conflict involves more than just Socratic dialogue. From cyberpunk to wuxia fantasy, the very pinnacle of physical conflict is hand-to-hand combat, a clash that feels immediate, personal, and palpable. It may be a noble duel or a bloody melee; it may take place in our own backyard or in the weightlessness of open space. The possibilities are endless... but do we know how it feels, how it works, and how it fits into the story? Oleg will talk about what you need to know to write combat scenes well and to think about the evolution of combative & martial arts within societies.

Main Programming

Saturday, February 3rd 7:00 PM (Continued)

Wait, You Read/Watch THAT? - Gold Coast

Panelists: Alexei Collier, Raevyn Davies, Lisa Freitag, D. Ordo Mancera, Catie Pfeifer

Have you ever read something you didn't think you'd love but turned out to be a favorite? Do you watch a show that confuses your friends because it doesn't seem to be "you"? Maybe a friend had a book or movie in their collection that seemed out of place, but you picked it up and found yourself temporarily obsessed. Our panelists explore what those moments tell us about our tastes, our concept of the guilty pleasure, and more.

Space Horrors - Streeterville

Panelists: Matthew Munro, John O'Neill, Red (M), Benjamin Wallin

From alien chestbursters to demonic alternative dimensions, science fiction has occasionally ventured to the stars to present us with the horrors of deep space. But what makes space such a scary place to be? What terrible things might be lurking out there waiting for us? Our panelists discuss some of their favorite examples of space-based horror and some of the horrors they'd love to see!

Frankenstuffies - Wrigleyville

Panelists: Nina Castillo, Aaron Moring, Christian Tabotabo

Take stuffed animals apart and remake them into new creations. This workshop is suitable for all ages, but children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult to participate.

Self Promotion for Writers - Columbus

Panelists: Greg Clumpner (M), A.W. Davidson, Catherine Lundoff, Megan Mackie, Gwen Tolios

Knowledgeable authors provide sage advice on the ins and outs of promoting yourself as an author and building a loyal fan base; from table displays and hand selling books at cons to growing a newsletter list. How to manage appearances and manipulating and engaging with social media to reach potential and current readers. Where do you start? How much is enough and where is the line you shouldn't cross? What is essential? What is the recipe for success in indie marketing?

Art Auction - Sheraton II

Attend the live-voice art auction on Saturday evening. Over the years, we have had great auctioneers and we expect to be impressed and amused again this year by both the auctioneers and the art! Remember, artists need to eat too, so bring your credit cards. Cash is also welcome.

Main Programming

Saturday, February 3rd 8:30 PM

The Microphone Misfitz Concert - Sheraton II

Panelists: Kin Solo, DFEX, Jet Nam/Jet9, Ray of Light, Mel L., D-Nick

The Microphone Misfitz are a high energy uplifting Nerdcore Hip-Hop, Rastafari Ensemble that puts breaking, djing, art and High powered raps in one performance package. The group was featured on the River City Girls 2 video game & soundtrack & were the first hip-hop group allowed to tour China after they banned hip-hop in 2015. Each of the groups five albums comes inside of a comic book.

Sexy Words with Cecilia and Catherine - Gold Coast

Panelists: Catherine Lundoff, Cecilia Tan

GoH Catherine Lundoff and Cecilia Tan give short readings from their erotica works, and share some thoughts about what makes fiction hot (or not)!

Well Intended, But Not Well Received - Columbus

Panelists: Greg Clumpner (M), Clif Flynt, W A Thomasson

Many writers experience that moment of failure when a reader doesn't connect with a character or plot the way they had hoped. These can present hard lessons, but it's not all doom and gloom. Our panelists explore what to do when readers don't connect with your work and the lessons you can learn from these moments.

Saturday, February 3rd 9:00 PM

Party Crawl Saturday - Tour Spot

New to the Capricon party scene? Our parties are renowned for being fabulous, but they can be a bit overwhelming if you're new. Join some of our party hosts and our Party Liaison on a "party crawl" where they will introduce you to people and show you where all the fun can be had. Must be 21 years of age or older as alcohol will be served in many of the parties. Meet the tour host in the lobby. (Space is limited, first-come, first-served).

Sunday, February 4th 8:30 AM

Early Morning Walking (Sunday) - Tour Spot

Panelist: Justin Matulonis

Get your steps in before you spend the day sitting in chairs and listening to the program. Meet in the lobby to walk in the hotel and chat to other walking-inclined fen.

Sunday, February 4th 10:00 AM

Saturday Night Open Circle - Sheraton I

Panelist: Jason Neerenberg (M)

Everyone is welcome to play and sing and recite poetry/spoken word pieces in our open circle. An anchor will moderate at least the first two hours to ensure that everyone is included. Listeners are welcome as well and encouraged to sit in the outer circles.

Main Programming

Sunday, February 4th 10:00 AM

Reading: Clumpner/Flynt/Thomasson - Bridgeport

Panelists: Greg Clumpner, Clif Flynt, W A Thomasson

Greg Clumpner, Clif Flynt, and WA Thomasson read from their works.

Jurassic Park 30 Years Later - Gold Coast

Panelists: Shaun Duke, Mark Huston, Jim Mann (M), Matthew Munro, Benjamin Wallin

In 1993, Michael Crichton's novel roared into theaters as a blockbuster film. Not only did the franchise reinvigorate the love that most of us have for dinosaurs, it layered in science horror, movie monsters, and adventure flicks all while exposing us to the magnificence of Jeff Goldblum's bare chest. Our panelists discuss the lasting impacts of the film franchise.

Libraries of the Future - Streeterville

Panelists: Karen Herkes, Rich Horton (M), Lisa Moe, Finley Roman, Pat Sayre McCoy

Are Libraries and librarians here to stay or will they be phased out by technology? What will a library look like in 100 years?

Hero's Journey vs. Heroine's Journey - Columbus

Panelists: K Tempest Bradford, Brendan Detzner, JM Guilfoyle, Donna J.W. Munro (M), Angeli Primlani

Joseph Campbell identified the Hero's Journey as a basic story structure and it has been taught to all the generations of writers as the golden standard of storytelling. Gail Carriger, a best selling author and archeologist, found that structure didn't explain all stories. In her "Heroine's Journey," Carriger identified a different structure. Let's discuss the differences and how both of these structures serve us as writers.

Random Panel Topic - Sheraton II

Panelists: Sue Burke, Ariela Housman, Mary Mascari (M), Will Saddler, Brian Seby

What happens to the panel ideas that get rejected? They are reborn here as random panel topics. Our panelists will choose topics (at random, of course) and speak expertly on them for five minutes each. You'll be rolling on the floor with laughter.

Sunday, February 4th 11:30 AM

11:30 AM Just Jam! Session - Sheraton I

Panelists: Xap Esler, Cathy McManamon (M), Jason Neerenberg

Bring your voice, your instruments, and even your own 3-4 chord songs to jam along in our traditional close to the Capricon Music Track!

Main Programming

Sunday, February 4th 11:30 AM (Continued)

Webb Watches the Sky - Michigan

Panelist: Bill Higgins

The James Webb Space Telescope, launched almost two years ago, has now set to work. Its large mirror, orbiting a million miles from the earth, is designed to give astronomers superb capabilities for exploring the infrared universe. New data flow down constantly from JWST in the form of images and spectra. Bill Higgins will discuss a selection of recent scientific results, viewing phenomena associated with planets, stars, and galaxies JWST has examined.

Chicago Scavenger Hunt - Bridgeport

Panelist: Steven H Silver

If you're reading this, it means you're interested in joining us on a little scavenger hunt! Learn about the Downtown Chicago area by going to page 44 and following the clues to exciting haunts within walking distance of the hotel. Can you find them all? This panel will give attendees a chance to share their finds, discover what they missed, and learn a bit more about the con's local Chicago area! So go scavenging for clues and finds and come here on Sunday to share your spoils!

SFF Romance - Gold Coast

Panelists: Terri Ash, Mark Huston, Megan Mackie, Helen Montgomery (M), Cecilia Tan, Zachary Jeffries

While there are countless stories with romantic subplots, there is also an entire universe of romance novels set in SFF worlds. Our panelists discuss what makes SFF romance such a compelling genre and share some of their favorite works.

The Old School Gaming Renaissance & Its Bad Reputation - Streeterville

Panelists: Tanya DePass, Victor Raymond

Where did that come from, why is it important to address, and how do we do that? No, really - lots of people think there are too many straight white older grognards making life difficult for everybody else. How do we deal with that perception, knowing we can't just toss OSR games out?

Learn to Write Calligraphy! - Wrigleyville

Panelist: Ariela Housman

GoH Ariela Housman will teach you to write the alphabet in calligraphy! Materials provided, advance signup required at the info desk.

Writing Older Characters for Younger Readers - Columbus

Panelists: Brendan Detzner (M), Reina Hardy, Karen Herkes, Laurie Mann

Whether they're parents, grandparents, elderly neighbors, or mysterious helpers from a bygone era, older characters often play a role in stories written for young people. Yet, some presentations of older characters engage in stereotypes. Our panelists take a look at some of the dos and don'ts of writing older characters for younger readers.

Main Programming

Sunday, February 4th 12:30 PM

Phandemonium Board Meeting & Election - Sheraton II

Panelist: Helen Montgomery

Phandemonium, Inc. is the parent corporation for Capricon. As a member of Capricon, you are a member of the corporation and have voting rights! Join us at our annual open meeting where you will elect two new board members, have an opportunity to hear what else Phandemonium is doing, and tell us what you would like Phandemonium to do for fandom outside of Capricon. Note that board meeting will take place during the first hour, but election ballots will continue to be accepted in the second hour.

Sunday, February 4th 1:00 PM

Labor Rights Movements in Fact and Fiction - Gold Coast

Panelists: R.W.W. Greene, W A Thomasson, Susan Weiner (M)

From labor unions to anti-capitalist revolutions and beyond, SF/F is full of reflections on labor rights. Naturally, some have direct ties to the past while others imagine solutions (or disasters) to problems we're facing now. Our panelists take a look at the connections between labor rights movements in SF/F and the movements and issues of the past, present, and future.

The Role of the Heavens in Mythology - Streeterville

Panelists: A.M. Arktos, Megan Mackie, Will Saddler, Pat Sayre McCoy (M)

Our sky is full of references to gods, mythological characters, and stories. Indeed, many cultures have their own stories for the stars we see every night. Our panelists look to some of the familiar and unfamiliar interpretations of the heavens and share their thoughts on what they tell us about ourselves.

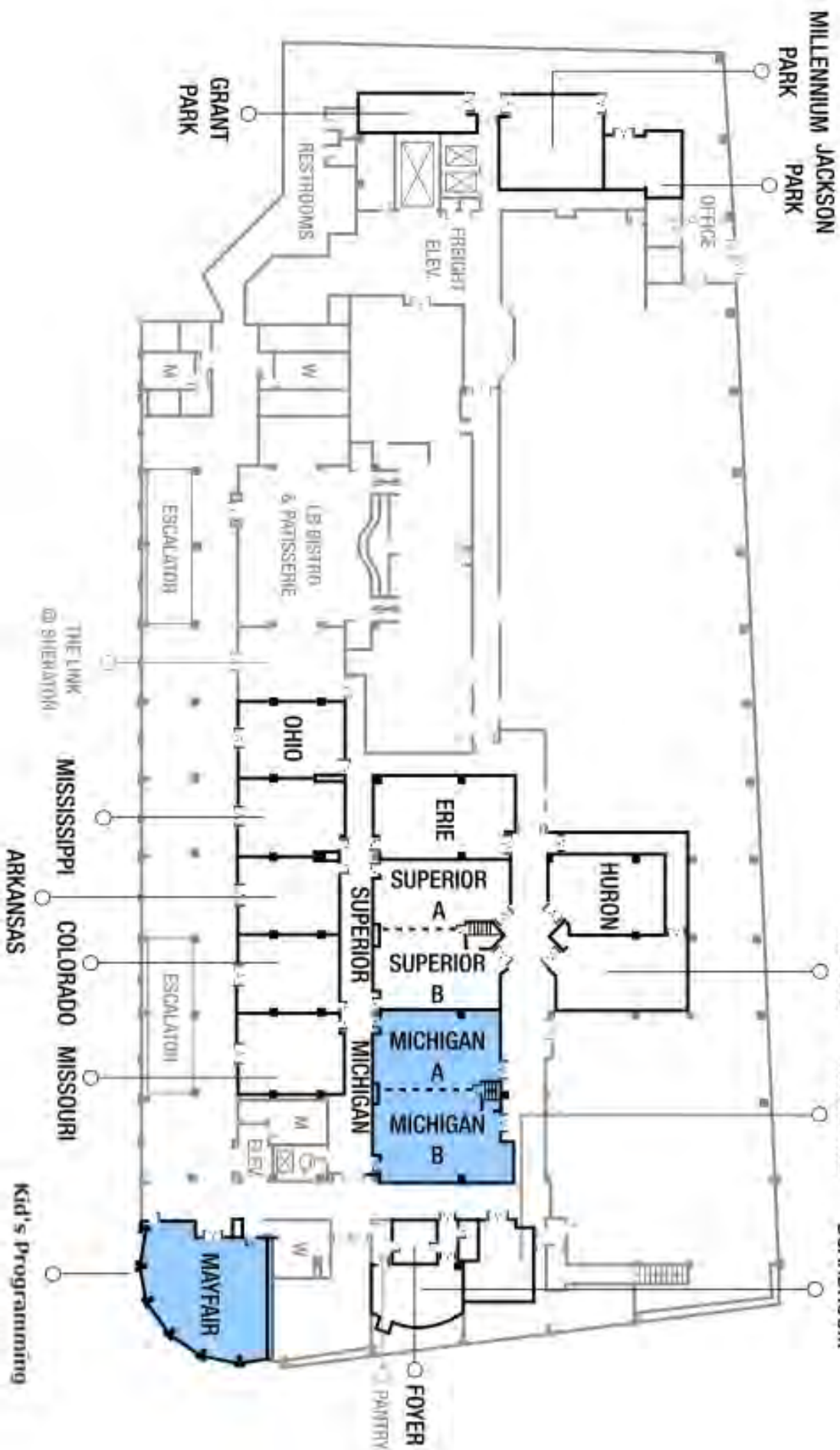
Sunday, February 4th 2:30 PM

Closing Ceremonies & Feedback Session - Sheraton II

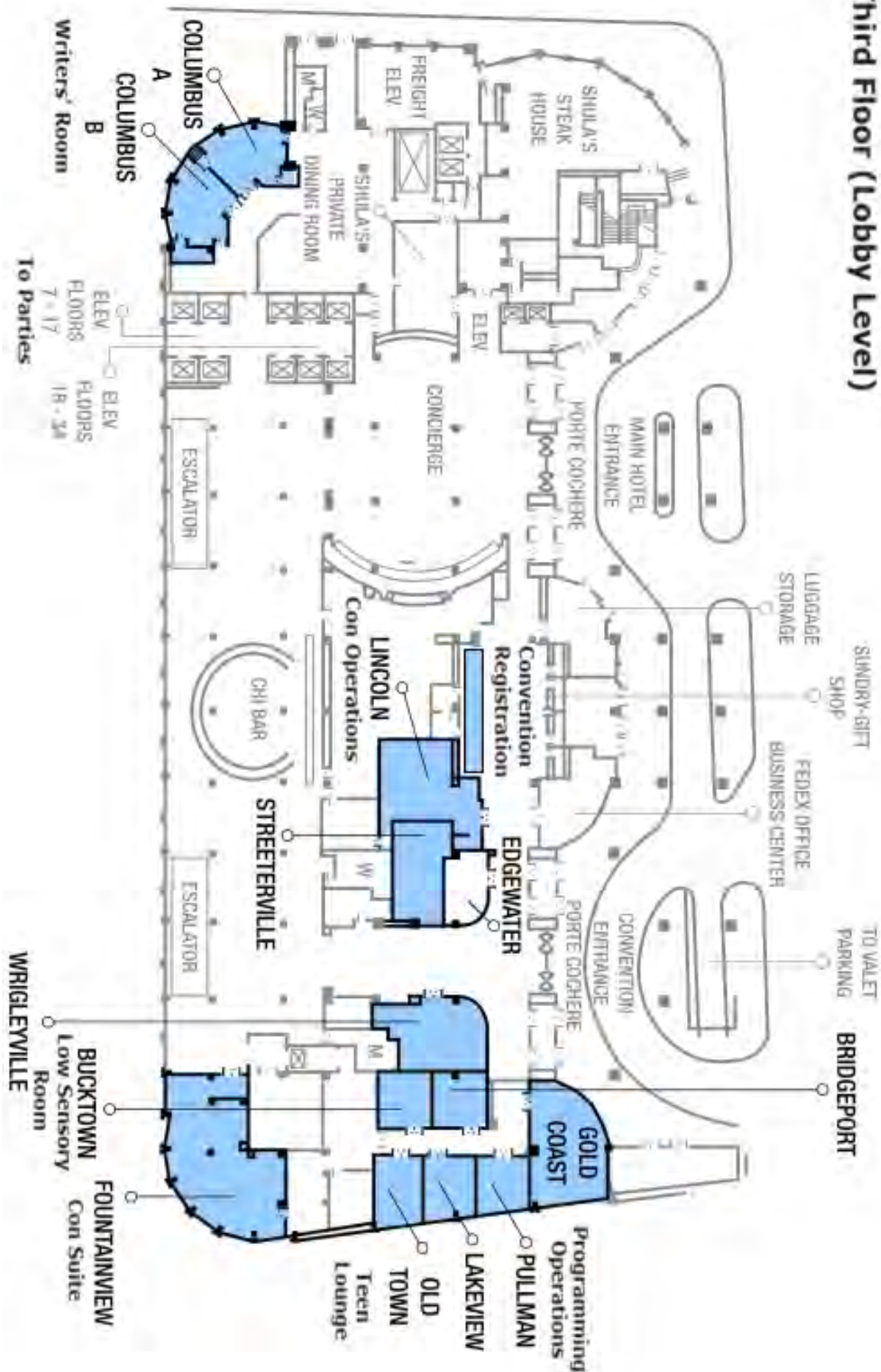
Panelists: K Tempest Bradford, Ariela Housman, Samantha Press, Victor Raymond

Sadly, every convention must come to an end and so must this one. Say goodbye to our Guests of Honor and find out who won our fabulous awards. Capricon 45 will also give a hint of what's to come when we convene again in 2025. The feedback session will follow immediately after Closing Ceremonies.

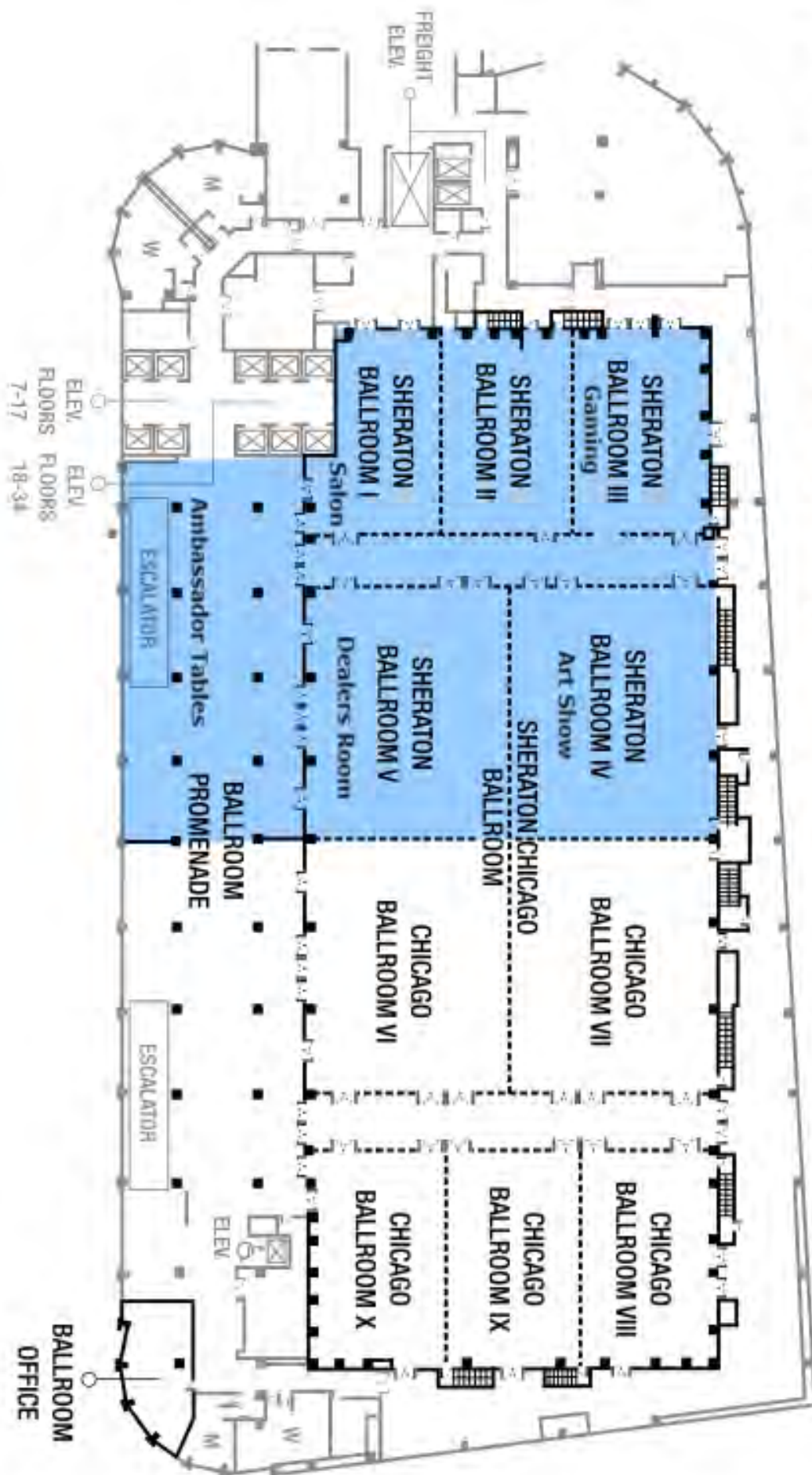
Second Floor (below Lobby Level)



Third Floor (Lobby Level)



Fourth Floor (Above Lobby Level)



Department Hours

Information Desk

@ Convention Registration Desk

Thursday: 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Friday: 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM
Saturday: 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM
Sunday: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Registration

@ Convention Registration Desk

Thursday: 2:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Friday: 9:00 AM - 9:00 PM
Saturday: 9:00 AM - 7:00 PM
Sunday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Convention Operations

@ Lincoln Boardroom

Thursday: Open 8:00 AM
Sunday: Close 8:00 PM

Low-Sensory Room @ Bucktown

Thursday: 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Friday: 10:00 AM - 10:00 PM
Saturday: 10:00 AM - 10:00 PM

Program Operations @ Pullman

Thursday: 2:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Friday: 9:00 AM - 9:00 PM
Saturday: 9:00 AM - 9:00 PM
Sunday: 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM

Dealers Room @ Sheraton V

Thursday: 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Friday: 12:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Saturday: 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Sunday: 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Salon @ Sheraton Ballroom I/II

Friday: 10:00 AM - 6:30 PM
Saturday: 10:00 AM - 6:30 PM
Sunday: 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Gaming @ Sheraton III

Thursday: 5:00 PM - 12:00 AM
Friday: Open 8:00 AM
Sunday: Close 3:00 PM

Kids Programming @ Mayfair

Thursday: 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Friday: 10:00 AM - 9:00 PM
Saturday: 9:00 AM - 10:00 PM
Sunday: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Teen Lounge @ Old Town

Thursday: 5:00 PM - 1:00 AM
Friday: 9:00 AM - 1:00 AM
Saturday: 9:00 AM - 1:00 AM
Sunday: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

ConSuite @ Fountainview

Thursday: 3:00 PM - 2:00 AM
Friday: 9:00 AM - 2:00 AM
Saturday: 9:00 AM - 2:00 AM
Sunday: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Art Show @ Sheraton IV

Viewing Hours: Thursday: 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Friday: 11:00 AM - 8:00 PM
Saturday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Print Shop Hours: During all viewing hours and buyer pickup on Sunday

Buyer Pickup Hours: Saturday: After auction by appointment ONLY
Sunday: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Artist Only Hours: Thursday: 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (setup)
Friday: 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (setup)
Sunday: 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (pickup)

Seattle Worldcon 2025



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August 13-17, 2025

Seattle Convention Center

Your Hosts

K. Tempest Bradford
Nisi Shawl

Guests of Honor

Martha Wells
Donato Giancola
Bridget Landry
Alexander James Adams



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