



9Pi-Con July 31 - August 2, 2015 Sheraton at Bradley Airport, Windsor Locks, CT

Message from the Con Chair

One evening in 2005, four people were sitting around a Chicopee living room. Ideas that had been nothing more than a glimmer in the eye coalesced into a vision which became a plan. Resources were found. Planning for the first Pi-Con had begun.

From humble beginnings, Pi-Con has grown to a convention that draws people from over 10 states plus Canada. Our attendees come from as far as Missouri, Wisconsin, and North Carolina. We have over 50 authors and other presenters. I was away from planning for the middle 6 years, but Pi-Con has made some amazing strides in that time. I am very proud of what our little con has achieved.

Even as Pi-Con has grown and gotten better and better, other changes have occurred to make the event more difficult to run. A lack of viable venues caused Pi-Con to move from the Pioneer Valley into Connecticut which has altered the local focus of the event. The staff has become more and more geographically diverse, which makes meetings more difficult. This year's staff lives among 5 different states. Even as the con has gotten better, the weight should red by the staff has increased.

Sometimes it is important to know when you have reached your limit. Rather than pushing to exhaustion and going until the wheels completely come off, our weathered staff has rallied together to create one more amazing convention. The ultimate Pi-Con. For those who are here for the first time, enjoy yourselves because this event is a decade in the making. For those who have been with us for years, thank you for all your support. I look forward to reminiscing with you and enjoying a wonderful weekend together.

So long, and thanks for all the Pi!

Michael Whitehouse 9Pi-Con Con Chair

Albacon 2016

The NY Capitol District's Science Fiction & Fantasy convention

Best Western Albany Airport Inn, Albany, NY

March 4-6, 2016

Writer Guest of Honor

David Weber

more quests TBA

For information or registration, visit www.albacon.org

Authors! Artists! Dealers of books and more!! Art Show!!! Interesting Programming!!!! Saturday Night Extravaganza!!!!

ICE CREAM!!!!!

Your Fellow Fans!!!!!





Dealers Room

Broad Universe	Broad Universe is a nonprofit international organization of women and men dedicated to celebrating and promoting the work of women writers of science fiction, fantasy and horror. We sell the work of our member authors at conventions.
Fantastic Books	We are a publisher of speculative fiction, and sell the books we publish (about 100 titles in print at the moment)
Untamed Undies	Untamed Undies is an underwear company with a focus on bringing geeky and feminist designs to folks of all gender expressions without the price hike of specialty companies. I also carry buttons stickers and art cards.
K2Steam	Jewelry and stuff
A+D Duct Tape	Accessories made with duct tape such as wallets, purses, bracelets and more. You can see a sampling of my products at www.facebook.com/AplusDDuctTape

Hall Tables

Roberta's Garage Sale	New books (mine); Used books; Filk CDs (mostly mine, some used)
Foresight	Psychic Readings: Palm. Tarot, I-Ching , Runes, Metaphysical and Fantasy books by Catherine Kane, Reiki
Michelle Rosen & Zach Zahnzinger	SteamPunk Jewelry & Accessories, such as pocket watches, wrist watches, key chains, necklaces, charm bracelets and ear cuffs. Sparkling Hand-set Swarovski Jewelry such as Large brooches bracelets, and earrings. Vintage Costume Accessories!
Team Hivemind	Our indie RPG book, Nightshade Academy
Rebecca Schwartz	Books. I'm the author of Newton's Laws series. It's in the scifi/superhero genre. Two books will be released by this date.
Теа	2D art, about equal variety of fanart and original, prints, buttons, bookmarks, postcards, keychains, small bags. I have a lot of content that focuses on characters and vibrant colors, and fanart of movies, comics, and games. I have a portfolio here: http://affectionatetea. carbonmade.com/ I also table with a friend of mine who specializes in sewing bags, totes and messenger bags as well as backpacks and small purses, and her stuff is here: http:// habiesews.tumblr.com/ We both offer commissions, I do them on the spot and Habie can do custom work.
Nightwing Whitehead	Wearable Art—handcrafted jackets and overlays for women and men.
Beads Above	Hand made costume jewelry featuring items for con attendees, such as beaded lanyards and badge pins. These items, along with necklacs and earrings come in several styles, including chainmaille and steampunk. I also sell hair clips with groups of colored crystals, as a costume accessory. Examples of my work can be seen at BeadsAbove.etsy.com
Scrumpy	Original and fanart prints and con only commissions.
Of Critters and Tentacles 22	Tentacle themed goods (Posters, hats, scarves, jewelry, charms, lights) and critter themed goods (ACEOS, Buttons, Commissions, fur suit parts and commissions)

9Pi Con Staff

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Con Chair..... Deputy Con Chair Con Book Designer Con Suite Con Treasurer Dealers Gaming Head GoH Liaison..... Main Tent Events Head Masquerade Ball Party Wrangler Programming Head Pre-Con Registration..... One Desk Ops Division Head..... Steampunk Tea..... T-shirt Design..... Tech Head Tech Assistant..... Tech Assistant..... Volunteer Coordinator Website

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David H. Silber
Sam Baldwin
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Special Thanks

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Pi-Con.org Corporation would like to offer special thanks to...

- Peg Contois of the Sheraton for making the hotel process as easy as Pi(e)
- David Silber for jumping in last minute to save the Tech day
- MCFI for providing equipment

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Jennifer Allis Provost is a native New Englander who lives in a sprawling colonial along with her beautiful and precocious twins, a dog that thinks she's a kangaroo, a parrot, a junkyard cat, and a wonderful husband who never forgets to buy ice cream. As a child, she read anything and everything she could get her hands on, including a set of encyclopedias, but fantasy was always her favorite. She spends her days drinking vast amounts of coffee, arguing with her computer, and avoiding any and all domestic behavior. Friend her on Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/ jennallis https://www.facebook.com/copperraven Follow her on Twitter: @parthalan http://jenniferallisprovost.com/ http://jenniferallisprovost. blogspot.com/

Suzanne Reynolds-Alpert

Suzanne Reynolds-Alpert writes speculative fiction from her little corner of Massachusetts. Her first collection of poetry was published November 2013, and her current WIP is a contemporary fantasy novel. She's the Program Coordinator for a multi-faith wellness center, and is serving as a commissioner for the MetroWest (MA) Commission on the Status of Women. Suzanne is blessed with a tolerant husband, two mischievous black cats, and two amazing kids. She has degrees in Communication and Sociology, and is a lifelong scifi fan and science geek. Find her online: http://suzannereynoldsalpert.blogspot.com/

Roberta Rogow

Roberta Rogow writes and performs filk, and was inducted into the Filk Hall of Fame in 2013. She also writes historical mysteries, sometimes making up the history. Her latest novel, *Mischief in Manatas*, concerns the adventures of Halvar the Hireling in a re-imagined Manhattan (think *Last* of the Mohicans meets Arabian Nights, with a Spanish accent).

Carol Salemi

Carol Salemi costumes at the Master level and has been involved in most aspects of costuming from theatre to conventions for over 50 years. She has done everything from teaching, creating, and competing to judging and masquerade directing. Each competition costume usually involves some new, fun, or challenging technique that keeps it fresh. While best known for media recreations and Native American clothing, her most recent work can be seen on TLC's My Big Fat American Gypsy Wedding and last year's Great Halloween Fright Fight on ABC. Carol enjoys working as a medical massage therapist (over 28 years), and works part time for Regal Cinemas and Sondra Celli Designs with seasonal jobs in the Haunt Industry. She also likes creating steampunk jewelry and accessories.

Micah Schneider

Micah Schneider was one of the founding staff members of Pi-con. He was co-chair for Transcending Boundaries 2014, a regional GLBTQ conference, and has been a member of the Arisia Programming staff for seven years, where he's held every possible position at least once. In his free time, Micah enjoys running, highpointing, all kinds of gaming, and being polyamorous as often as possible. He lives in Western Massachusetts with his family of choice and a small coterie of animal companions.

Kristi Petersen Schoonover

Kristi Petersen Schoonover's short fiction has been featured in countless magazines and anthologies; she's also written Skeletons in the Swimmin' Hole: Tales from Haunted Disney World, a collection of ghost stories, and a short novel, *Bad Apple*, the first chapter of which was nominated for a Pushcart. She holds an MFA in Creative Writing from Goddard College, is the recipient of three Norman Mailer Writers Colony Residencies, and is co-editor for Read Short Fiction. When she's not writing, she's a Gallery Ambassador at The Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk in Connecticut. Visit her at www.kristipetersenschoonover.com.

Ian Randal Strock

Ian Randal Strock is the owner and publisher of Gray Rabbit Publications/ Fantastic Books (www.FantasticBooks.biz), a long-term editor in speculative fiction (his first job was on the editorial staffs of Analog and Asimov's sf magazines). For a time, he published Artemis Magazine.



Dealer's Room Hours: Fri: 3:00 pm - 8:00 pm Sat: 10:00 am - 6:00 pm Sun: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Pool Hours: 6:00 am - 11:00 pm (hotel guests only)

Program Rooms close at 1:00 am Friday and Saturday except for Grasso (Gaming)

PLEASE REMEMBER...

- To read this Con Book
- To eat at least three times daily and drink enough water each day
- To set aside time and money to check out the Dealers' Room
- To keep clean
- To check out of your room by 11:00 a.m. so you're not charged a fee

Convention Behavior

PLEASE DO NOT...

- Touch other people's stuff
- Touch other people without their express permission
- Press unwanted or inappropriate advances upon others
- Damage or befoul the hotel
- Bring shame upon the name of Pi-Con or any of its participants
- Make us call the police

PLEASE DO...

BALLROOM

Main Ten

- Wear your badge at all times
- Wear clothing appropriate to the time of day and the ages of the persons around you

LOBBY LEVEL

- Keep your language and volume appropriate to the time of day and the 🛛 👄 To enjoy yourself persons around you
- Shower or bathe daily
- Tell staff about any problems
- Please note con security

As an author, he's sold more than a dozen stories to *Analog* (won two AnLabs) and a few to Nature. His non-fiction has appeared in newspapers nationwide, and Random House published his first book, The Presidential Book of Lists in 2008.

Jeff Warner

JeffWarner H.M., S.H. is/was: a professor of autodidactism, a not-recentlypublished writer, an associate member of first fandom, a 5th level ninjasmof with a lawful/good alignment, available for cheap dates, a co-founder of 3 SF conventions and a panelist/moderator/utility infielder for many more, the chair of 8pi-con, a freelance blurb-meister, and a philosophical entertainer. "Geek, Nerd, and Dork? I'm a Triple Threat!"

Morven Westfield

Morven Westfield is a fiction writer, technical writer, and occasional podcaster who lives west of Boston. The author of a two-book series in which a coven of witches investigate supernatural evil in the form of vampires, she regularly contributes non-fiction articles on folklore and the supernatural to The Witches Almanac. Like many writers, she keeps a messy office and drinks way too much coffee. www.morvenwestfield.com

Michael Whitehouse

Just when you think you're out, they pull you back in again! Michael Whitehouse was one of the original founders of Pi-Con back in the back before times. After a half decade hiatus, during which he moved to Connecticut, got married, had a baby, and started a new game company, he has returned to reprise his role at Pi-Con chair.

Trisha J. Wooldridge

Trisha J. Wooldridge is the current president of Broad Universe and a senior editor for Spencer Hill Press. Under her full name, she writes grown-up horror stories and poems that occasionally win awards. Look for her in the Bad-Ass Faerie anthologies, Epitaphs, Wicked Seasons, Corrupts Absolutely?, Holiday Magick, Once Upon An Apocalypse Volume 1, and *Demonic Visions 5*. She co-produced the anthologies *UnCONventional* and Doorways to Extra Time. As child-friendly T.J. Wooldridge, she has three novels: The Kelpie, The Earl's Childe, and Silent Starsong. Trish is also the writer for the vampire webcomic Aurelio. Find out more at www. anovelfriend.com.

Also Featuring: Hugh Casey, Kim Edwon, Llalania Ghose, Kelly Quick, Jonathon Podolsky, Rebecca Schwartz

Special Presenters

Come Again Players http://www.comeagainplayers.org/

Doctor Who Club of Western MA

East Coast Combative Arts

(Frank Perrin, Carlo Lombardo, Steven Randolph) East Coast Combative Arts is a group that focuses in Fight Choreography and the education on Historical Martial Arts throughout history. The group and its members are available for consulting, workshops, school programs, and fight choreography for stage and screen. http://www.eastcoastcombativearts. com/

Mob Made Games

Andy Hall, (testtubegames.com) Andrew Richardson Christopher Sheldon-Dante (voidborne.com) Ben Shostak (highstrangenessgame.com) Trevor Stricker (http://www.pgconnects.com/sanfrancisco/speakers/ trevor-stricker/)



Wes Hazard

A New England native, Wes Hazard was named as one of "5 Boston Comedians to Watch" by The Boston Globe Magazine. A writer and storyteller as well as comedian, Wes brings wit, energy and honesty to the stage, qualities that have made him a regular performer in Boston venues as well as at The Boston Comedy Festival and The Women in Comedy Festival. He wishes you only the best.

Walter Hunt

Walter H. Hunt is a science fiction and historical fiction writer. His first four military sf books, originally published by Tor and now in the Baen e-library, were set in the "Dark Wing" universe; his 2008 novel A Song In Stone concerns the mysteries of the Templars and Rosslyn Chapel; his 2014 novel *Elements of Mind* (edited by Guest of Awesome Vikki Ciaffone) is about mesmerism in the Victorian era; and his first novel in the world of 1632. 1636: The Cardinal Virtues has just been published by Baen. He is an active Freemason and baseball fan, and lives in Massachusetts with his wife and daughter.

Kate Kaynak

Kate Kaynak was born and raised in New Jersey, but she managed to escape. After serving a five-year sentence in graduate school, she taught psychology around the world for University of Maryland. While in Izmir, Turkey, she started up a conversation with a handsome stranger in an airport... and ended up marrying him. They now live in New Hampshire with their three kids, where she founded Spencer Hill Press in 2010, cofounded Tulip Publishing in 2014, and wrote the Ganzfield series (*Minder*, Adversary, Legacy, Accused, Operative, and Soulmate). In her spare time, Kate enjoys reading, writing, and fighting crime with her amazing superpowers. www.katekaynak.com

Catt Kingsgrave

Catt Kingsgrave writes prose and verse from her home in upstate New York, which she shares with her partner and four cats. When not writing, she does all the other things which are artistic and unprofitable. Except she still does not make jam. http://cluegirl.dreamwidth.org

Ken Kingsgrave-Ernstein

Corporate Superhero by day, mild mannered husband, boyfriend and photographer by night, Ken dabbles in many different areas of knowledge and trivia...especially trivia.

Jena Kitteninstrings

Jena Kitteninstrings has been costuming for 10+ years. She went to school for Opera and Vocal performance and fell in love with and refused to leave the costume department. She does all kinds of cosplay from Super Heroes, to Anime, to Historical Reenactment but has a soft spot for all things spandex. She's been working with armor and foam crafting for about 5 years now and loves finding new things to deconstruct and making the guys at the hardware store wonder why someone would need such odd things. When she's not crafting or at a con she can generally be found at home with her nose in a book or rolling around with her 7 year old.

David Larochelle

David Larochelle is a researcher at the Berkman Center for Internet & Society who works at the intersection of computer science and social science. He's worked extensively in information security and is the coauthor of Splint, an Open Source tool for detecting security vulnerabilities in C programs. However, more recently he's focused on understanding and building the Internet rather than attacking and defending it. His involvement with fandom began when he joined the William & Mary Science Fiction and Fantasy Club (SKIFFY). He served as Vice President and was named Senator for Life upon gradation. http://blogs.law.harvard. edu/dlarochelle/

Kayet Lavaté

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Kayet has been running tabletop RPGs since "acquiring" his sister's Dungeon Master's Guide and Player's Handbook in grade school. He runs and plays everything from classic swords and sorcery to post-apocalyptic

nuclear peep wars. When not gaming or coding, he can usually be found hanging from his fingertips at the nearest cliff. Beer is a food group.

Gordon Linzner

Gordon Linzner founded Space and Time magazine in 1966 and now functions as editor emeritus. He is the author of three published novels and over a score of short stories. He resides in his native New York City. His freelance work includes copy-editing, tour guiding, sound engineering, and heading up the Saboteur Tiger blues band.

Michael McAfee

Michael McAfee lives in the greater Boston area. He has been involved in many areas of fandom since 1990, and has been on panels about most of them. His poetry has been professionally published. He has run flirting workshops at cons and SCA events for over fifteen years. He is an actor, writer, director, producer, engineer and former managing director for the Post Meridian Radio Players (www.pmrp.org). Feel free to talk with him about future projects.

Gary McGath

Gary McGath has been active in filk for a long time. He is the clerk of MASSFILC, has chaired three ConCertinos (including 2015), and is the author of Tomorrow's Songs Today: The History of Filk Music. He has twice been nominated for Pegasus Awards and was named to the Filk Hall of Fame in 2004. URL: http://www.mcgath.com

Sarah "Tashari" Morrison

Sarah Morrison is a fantasy artist and aspiring children's illustrator. Her preferred mediums include oil paints, relief printmaking, and watercolors combined with colored pencils, which she uses to create imagery that inspires stories for the viewer. She also expresses her art in textiles with fantastical, unique ball gowns. She was a Guest of Honor at 8Pi-Con. You can see her work at http://tashari.org

Benjamin Newman

A software developer by day, Ben Newman has been active in filk for half his life, and has written nearly 200 songs on diverse topics ranging from books, movies and video games to computers and science to religion and mysticism. He also likes to play games and craft in a variety of materials.

Susan Peak

Susan Peak is a nurse practitioner, counselor, teacher, and a lover of history and science fiction. She is new but excited at the prospect of meeting other geeks. Life has been a serious affair for the most part. She's joyful at meeting folks who occasionally live in alternate universes as well as this one, and hopes to share something someone will enjoy.

Jennifer Pelland

Jennifer Pelland is an author-turned-bellydancer. A two-time Nebula nominee for her short fiction, Jennifer's collection Unwelcome Bodies and novel *Machine* are both available from Apex Publications. Her most recent work has been published in Space and Time magazine and the anthology Choose Wisely: 35 Women Up to No Good. But after discovering that moving her butt was more fun than sitting on it, she became a performing bellydancer, dancing at venues as varied as the Athenian Corner Restaurant, the Watch City Steampunk Festival, and Arisia. You can follow what's left of her writing at www.jenniferpelland.com, and her dancing at www.tassellations.com/zia.

Dr. James Prego

Dr. James Prego practiced for nine years as a naturopathic doctor, and is currently a professor of Biology at Touro College and Molloy College. He is a past board member of the NYANP, is the current NY rep to the AANP's House of Delegates, and has won numerous awards for his work in naturopathic medicine. Dr. Prego is a long time fan of all things science fiction and has interests in acting, shadowcasting, and more. He has given talks, written articles, and spoken on radio shows, discussing numerous health topics.

Guest of Honor Tanya Huff



Her books have been translated into nine languages (ten if you include British English)(which she does) and her five book Blood series, an urban fantasy/ vampire/mystery mix which predated the current vampire craze by about fifteen years, was adapted into the 22 episode television series *Blood Ties*—a process she enjoyed every moment of. Not only because it was the first time in twenty-five years she actually got to use her degree.

She watches baseball but not hockey, has won one (yes, one) game of Settlers of Catan, prefers David Tennant to Matt Smith although Peter Davidson is her Doctor, and thought Iron Man 3, while not as amazing as Iron Man 1, was better than Iron Man 2. Her taste in books ranges across the board, depending on mood at the time, but Terry Pratchett and Charles de Lint remain at the top of her favourites list and she still hasn't gotten over the loss of Diana Wynne Jones. When she's not writing, gardening, dealing with the cats, watching TV, or reading, she's learning to play the djembe.

Guest of Awesome

Vikki Ciaffone

Vikki Ciaffone is a senior editor for Spencer Hill Press and Spence City, and a freelance editor. She has been reading and writing since she was tall enough to see over the coffee table. She is personally responsible for the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (she apologizes, but the populace was obsessed with Pictionary, which Vikki abhors). She then turned her attention to Troy, and engineered its downfall in her quest to burn out the Pictionary Plague. She claims no responsibility for Pompeii or the Fall of Rome, though she might possibly have had something to do with the sun setting on the British Empire. In her spare time, Vikki has been known to shoot craps with the Fates and the Valkyries for shiny trinkets.

Following three years in the Canadian Naval Reserve (as a cook), a year studying forestry (although not very hard), a winter hanging around Universal studios (on the set of Operation Petticoat), a degree in Radio and Television Arts, and time spent managing North America's oldest surviving SF&F bookstore (Bakka-Phoenix when it was only Bakka) Tanya Huff moved to rural Ontario with her wife Fiona Patton and began writing science fiction and fantasy fulltime—or as full-time as possible around the needs of nine cats, two dogs, and eighty acres of land. Her twenty-nine books range from heroic fantasy (the Quarters books) through humour (the Keeper Chronicles) to military SF (the Torin Kerr Confederation series) and include Scholar of Decay, a novel set in TSR's Ravenloft universe as well as four short story collections and five e-collections and recent e-reprints of *Gate of Darkness*, *Circle of Light* and *The* Fire's Stone. Her latest novel was The Future Falls, the third in the Emporium series (DAW November 2014) and her next will be a new Torin Kerr novel, Peacekeeper #1: An Ancient Peace, the first in a new series riffing off the end of The Truth of Valor. (DAW October 2015).

She is the only author who has won both the Constellation Award and the Aurora.

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About the Schedule

Panels should start at five minutes after the hour and end at five minutes before, to allow people to move between rooms and get settled. Figure on 50 minutes for your panel or presentation.

Panel Moderators are designated with (M) next to their names.

Events marked (18+) include adult content and are restricted to persons over the age of 18 ONLY.

We're continuing last year's innovation of "Roundtable" panels—designed to be fully interactive with the audience, rather than the usual "several people talk at a table and then take questions" format. Not all topics work well as discussions, but many do. Panels with "Roundtable" in their descriptions will be held in the Bradley Boardroom around a large table (except for one, because they never all fit). The panelists and moderator will open the discussion, present leading questions and keep the conversation on topic. Everyone may join in the discussion freely.

"Rules of the Roundtable": Be polite. Don't interrupt. Don't go wildly off-topic. Pay attention to the moderator and panelists—they're guiding the conversation so everyone will have a fun 50 minutes. And enjoy yourself! Great discussions are what cons are all about.

Filking Gaming Noden-Reed Grasso Friday Friday magical Liopleurodon. 8:00 pm Intro to Filk/Filk Classics, Marc Grossman, 7:00 pm – ? Cards Against Humanity 24-hour (or until Susan de Guardiola mod. saturation point) Marathon (in Mezzanine Lobby) 9:00 pm Mad Science Filking Circle, Gary McGath, mod. 4:00–7:00 pm **Found Footage.** A Fiasco game, which means 10:00 pm Open Filk Roberta Rogow, mod. few rules and a lot of improv. Materials provided. Found Footage is designed to set up Saturday a story inspired by everything from the Blair You Don't Have to Sing to be a Filker, Gary 11:00 am Witch project to Ghost Hunters to Scooby Doo. 3 McGath, mod. to 5 players (Julie Konopka) 12:00 pm I Wrote a Song About What??? Roberta Rogow. 6:00 – 10:00 pm **RPG: Not Kansas.** Members of a military Mario Di Giacomo mod. Gary McGath, Paul Estin, Ben Newman exploration team become stranded on the Mario Di Giacomo is a voracious reader, perspiring writer, and a master 1:00 pm Solo Concerts, Gary McGath, Ben Newman, Paul wrong planet with limited supplies. The natives Estin, Roberta Rogow (order to be determined) are restless. Open20(c) gaming system with pre-4:00 pm Fantasy and Fairy Tale Circle. Roberta Rogow, generated characters. Designed for 4 players. mod. (Kayet Lavaté) Lisa Evans 5:00 pm Dinner Break Lisa Evans is a long-time fan, writer and quilt historian from Western 7:00 pm Stories in Song Circle, Ben Newman, mod. Saturday Cards Against Humanity Marathon (in 8:00 pm The Dark Side Circle, Paul Estin, mod. Continuing... Mezzanine Lobby) 9:00 pm The Naughty Bits Circle, Marc Grossman, mod. Lockdown at the Banzai Institute. A game 10:00 pm Open Filk, Roberta Rogow, mod. 12:00-4:00 pm using the Fate System (materials provided). The Banzai Institute suddenly went into lockdown, invading her luxurious split-level ranch. Sunday keeping its rock-star/physicist owner out, and **Keith Fiermonte** 11:00 am Ecumenifilk, Ben Newman, mod. something... unearthly inside. Can the latest 12:00 pm Memorial: Remembering Pratchett, Nimoy, recruits to his record label and science team *Keyes, etc.* Gary McGath, mod. save the day? (Julie Konopka) wardensdarkcon Open Filk, Dead Dog/Gripe Session, Roberta 1:00 pm 6:00-10:00 pm **RPG: Territory Mine.** You have been sent to **Carl Fink** Rogow, Gary McGath, mods. a cluster in the Kepler belt to prospect for key minerals. Then the competition shows up, and they do not play well with others. Open20(c) gaming system with pre-generated characters. Designed for 6 players. (Kayet Lavaté)

Sunday

11:00am-2:00 ConCardia Tournament (Michael Whitehouse)

Susan Hanniford Crowley

Susan Hanniford Crowley is an Amazon Kindle Bestselling Author of Vampire Romance and writes science fiction, fantasy, and paranormal York. romance, specializing in vampires and rare supernaturals. Susan is an **Terry Franklin** active (professional) member of SFWA, a PAN member of RWA, and an A panelist at the first Pi Con, and at every one since, Terry Franklin lives in Associate Editor with *Space and Time* magazine. Susan's fantasy work the Connecticut River Valley, and has written science fiction and science appeared in Sword & Sorceress anthologies. Her science fiction "She journalism for years. He has also been known to dabble in politics, from Came to Sing" appeared in *Beyond Centauri* magazine. Susan founded the the local Town Meeting in Amherst, Mass, to presidential campaigns. Nights of Passion blog and authored the Vampires in Manhattan series including The Stormy Love Life of Laura Cordelais. Mrs. Bright's Tea Room William Freedman is her steampunk romance. Soul Mate Publishing published *Vampire King* William Freedman is a New York-based satirist who uses science fiction of New York, which is available in ebook and print at Amazon, Barnes and and fantasy tropes. He is author of Mighty Mighty and Land that I Love Noble and Kobo and other fine ebook stores. Vampire King of New York and co-author with Ben Parris of the novelization of *Supernaturalz*, a film is the first book in Susan's new series Arnhem Knights of New York. Her in which Bill received script consultant credit. He served as editor for Age website: http://www.susanhannifordcrowley.com Her twitter name: of Certainty: What if God Existed? featuring stories by 10 notable authors SHCrowley. Her Facebook name: Susan Hanniford Crowley. Her blog: including Nebula Award laureate James Morrow. His novelette "Forever http://nightsofpassion.wordpress.com and Ever, Amen" appeared in the 2006 Spirit House chapbook which raised money for tsunami survivors. His recently completed draft, Pitch Heather Dawn Ribbons: A Cantata for Four Voices, is currently being read for comments Heather Dawn is the Vice Chair of LI-CON, a young convention that will by established horror and dark fantasy authors and pitched to agents. He be held August 14-16 on Long Island. She studied Anthropology under blogs at AuctorLanxSatura.com.

Dr. John Shea, Dr. Elizabeth Stone, and Dr. David Hicks at Stony Brook University; minored in Art History and Medieval Studies. Her studies focused on world religions (past and present) and ancient arts & culture. Heather moonlights as the vigilante personification of Voltaire's Candy Claws, spreading candy and cheer to good little boys and girls. She enjoys teaching and sharing her infinite (and often bizarre) knowledge. Heather doesn't believe in "growing up", but if she does she would like to be a

Susan de Guardiola has been active in fandom for more than thirty years as a costumer, masquerade emcee, and all-around fan. She has worked as a book reviewer for Publishers Weekly and the Amazon Breakthrough Novel Contest and ran the Hugo Awards Ceremony in 2012. Professionally, she is a social dance historian who may often be found in musty library stacks researching dance from the 16th to the early 20th century, which she teaches at workshops and dance events across the United States and in Russia. In her spare time, she plays high-speed online Scrabble.

of 'rithmetic (according to his postgraduate degree, anyway). An amateur historian of science fiction, fantasy, and anime, Mario has been waxing pedantic about the topic at conventions for the last quarter-century.

Massachusetts. She's been a panelist at Worldcon, Arisia, Boskone and ConBust, co-founded the Smith College Science Fiction and Fantasy Society, and has been an active blogger, fan writer and costumer for over thirty years. Current projects include writing a popular weekly diary on terrible books for Daily Kos, publishing erotica for Circlet Press under the name Sarah Ellis, and doing her best to keep the raccoons in the attic from

Keith Fiermonte is the director of the webseries Wardens: Dark Conspiracy, an Indie filmmaker and fantasy enthusiast. Facebook.com/

 $Carl\,Fink\,is\,the\,Chair\,of\,LI\text{-}CON, a\,young\,convention\,that\,will\,be\,held\,August$ 14-16 on Long Island. Taking Heinlein's comment about specialization to heart, he has in his life worked on a loading dock, managed a store, been a schoolteacher, worked as a technical trainer, managed corporate Information Technology, and is an occasional freelance writer, appearing in Smart Computing and Linux Journal. A member of the James Randi

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Foundation and the Skeptics Society, Carl is particularly likely to challenge pseudoscience and superstition. He lives and works on Long Island, New

Shuvom Ghose

Shuvom Ghose is a Libertarian sci-fi author from New Hampshire, who is trying to remind folks that military sci-fi can be FUN again with his Infinity Squad series. He also enjoys helping aspiring authors get over the hump and self-publish and loves hashing out plot beats, so you can ask him any questions about plotting, revising, editing or self-publishing any time you find him.

Justine Graykin

Justine Graykin is a writer and free-lance philosopher sustained by her deep, abiding faith in Science and Humanity, and the belief that humor is the best anti-gravity device. She lives, writes and putters around her home in rural New Hampshire, occasionally disappearing into the White Mountains with a backpack. Author of *Archimedes Nesselrode*, a book written for adults who are weary of adult books (Double Dragon, 2013), her musings appear regularly in the Concord Monitor and on her website at justinegraykin.com. Her latest SF novel, Awake Chimera, is due for release in July 2015.





Program Participants

Ari Alpert

Ari Alpert fell in love with sci-fi watching Creature Double Feature and reruns of Star Trek and Twilight Zone. He dragged his family to the Star Trek Lives convention as a child, and made Star Wars (A New Hope) a ritual on countless weekends. From as early as he can remember, Ari wanted to be a mad scientist or a DJ. After a brief radio career, he has been working in information technology for the past 20 years. Ari loves all things science with a special passion for health care technology.

Ken Altabef

Ken Altabef's short stories have appeared in *The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction, Interzone, BuzzyMag, Abyss & Apex, and others. ALAANA'S* WAY is his 5 book epic fantasy series with an arctic twist. His first short story collection "Fortune's Fantasy" is also published by Cat's Cradle Press. He co-edited two anthologies for Blueberry Lane Books. Author's website:www.KenAltabef.com

Anne

Anne of Temporary Body Art by Anne has been a part of the henna world for the past twenty years and has recently branched out into glitter and mica temporary body art. She has a long history of doing workshops at libraries and a more recent history of working conventions, festivals, and Willimantic's Third Thursday. Feel free to stop by the K2Steam booth and ask any questions you may have.

Ed Bishop

Ed Bishop is a full-time computer systems and software engineer and part-time researcher in theoretical and experimental particle physics participating in the CMS Experiment of the Large Hadron Collider project. During LHC down time, he has also done research and development in theoretical and experimental condensed matter physics for a private nanotechnology research consortium on nano-scale photonic components (for applications including light-based communications, conventional and quantum computers) and nano-scale plasmonic components (for applications including third-generation photovoltaic cells and nanolasers). He is also co-editor of hometheaterinfo.com and has written or edited over 4,000 film, television and streaming media reviews which have been syndicated on sites including rottentomatoes.com and metacritic.com.

Jennifer Bresnick

Jennifer Bresnick is the author of *Dark the Night Descending* and *The Last* Death of Tev Chrisini, winner of Shelf Unbound Magazine's 2012 Best Independently Published Book Award. When she isn't working on a novel, talking about self-publishing, or reporting on the healthcare industry for her day job, she can be found on the archery range, crocheting, or capitulating to the demands of her cat – but not all at the same time. Please visit www.ienniferbresnick.com for self-publishing news. writing advice, fantasy talk, and updates on Jennifer's latest works.

Grant Carrington

Grant Carrington was a member of the 1968 and 1969 Clarion Workshops, and was a Tulane Workshop Associate Editor in 1971. He edited Amazing/ *Fantastic* magazine from 1971 to 1974, was the book & record review editor for *New Look* in 1976, and a contributing editor to *Eternity* in 1978. He has published more than 40 stories. "His Hour Upon the Stage" was a Nebula finalist in 1976. Grant was a winner of the short story award at Sandhills Writers Conference in 1977 for "Andromeda Unchained". Five of his plays have been produced in Baltimore. His collection *Time's Fool* (Doubleday 1981) was republished as *Time's Fool and Other Stories*. Another short story collection, *Annapolis to Andromeda* will be published by Brief Candle Press. His two CDs, Songs Without Wisdom and Ancient Laughter, are available from CDBaby. grantcarrington.freeyellow.com



D. L. Carter

D.L. Carter (Dee Leana) was decanted from her incubation pod in the outback of Australia many decades ago. This terrifying event was closely followed by shrieks of "there, there it goes. Hit it with a brick!" These valiant attempts to correct the existence of D.L. were, unfortunately, unsuccessful and she now resides in New Jersey, US., in a box with her toys, two human beings and a variable number of cats.

Nicholas Checker

Druids is a magical tale of an isolated young druid and two rival knights trying to rescue their ruined land from a deranged sorcery. Where my novel is a rousing adventure boasting of swordplay, magic, and heroes battling dark forces, it also makes its share of meaningful statements, including the role of women in male-dominated climates. It also introduces an original eerie concept in the Cryptic Sense and an elemental horror not seen before in fantasy novels.

Debi Chowdhury

Writer, Storyteller, Costumer, program and event planner, an avid gardener and traveler.

Vikki Ciaffone

Vikki Ciaffone (Guest of Awesome) is a senior editor for Spencer Hill Press and Spence City, and a freelance editor. She has been reading and writing since she was tall enough to see over the coffee table. She is personally responsible for the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (she apologizes, but the populace was obsessed with Pictionary, which Vikki abhors). She then turned her attention to Troy, and engineered its downfall in her quest to burn out the Pictionary Plague. She claims no responsibility for Pompeii or the Fall of Rome, though she might possibly have had something to do with the sun setting on the British Empire. In her spare time, Vikki has been known to shoot craps with the Fates and the Valkyries for shiny trinkets.

George W. Claxton

George Claxton has graduate degrees in anthropology and archaeology and has done field work in archaeology in both the Old World and the New. He has worked as a science reporter for the Detroit Free Press and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and as a legal affairs reporter for the Newspapers of New England chain and (on one occasion) the New York Times. He currently works for the Department of Homeland Security.

Helen Collins

Helen Collins lives in East Lyme, CT in a 1740s house on a salt marsh. She is strongly committed to animals, yoga, painting, ongoing restoration of her house and the preservation of the natural environment. Her first SF novel, MutaGenesis, highly recommended in a large number of reviews, was nominated for a Nebula award. NeuroGenesis, her second SF novel, also received high critical praise. Both are now in second editions in paperback and are available through Amazon. MutaGenesis and *Neurogenesis* are now available as ebooks, as is her novel *Egret*, a love story.

Tina Connell

Tina Connell has been reading SF for over 55 years, and has been active in SF fandom for 35 years. She and her husband collect SF books and art, and costume as a hobby. She is usually found backstage, presiding over the Masquerade Green Room Repair Table. Her costumes have appeared at several regional and CostumeCons, and in two winning WorldCon masquerade groups, at TorCon and LA Con 4. Now that she has retired she is looking forward to having more time to work on costumes.

Friday

9:00 am

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Writers' Workshop Welcome by Guest of Honor Tanya Huff Hatheway

9:35 am

Creating Stories — Hatheway

Susan Hanniford Crowley, Justine Graykin Susan Hanniford Crowley and Justine Graykin will lead you in a game of chance. Play the game and pick cards to find inspiration for a story. A "writing improv" game for those who want to try writing or a writer of any stage who would like to stretch their creativity.

Writing Erotica — Seminar

Grant Carrington, Catt Kingsgrave, Gordon Linzner Gordon Linzner will interview Catt Kingsgrave and Grant Carrington on what erotica is (for those that do not know), what parts are common to every story, and what makes erotica unique. What makes the difference between a published or rejected story?

10:40 am

Writing Sick and Twisted Characters — Hatheway D.L. Carter

We have a very educated readership nowadays. Everyone who watches CSI and Criminal Minds considers themselves an expert on psychopathology. This can be a problem if the only crazy people you know well enough to develop a back story for are your relatives. But wait! You do know sick and twisted entities who can give you clear guidance on hero and villain back story—the ACME cartoon characters. Let the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of *Mental Illness* and the ACME crew help you make believably evil characters.

Everything But the Writing — Seminar

Jennifer Allis Provost, Trisha J. Wooldridge

There are lots of great workshops to help your craft, but what about actually selling your writing and making money? Let's take a look at what else you need to know to be a professionally published author from queries to organizations, contracts and rights* to filing taxes**.

(* and **—neither Trish nor Jenn are lawyers or tax advisors; we're just giving you basic info.)

1:00 pm

Promotion for Authors — Hatheway Bianca D'Arc

Have a book coming out and don't know what to do? In this workshop, we'll discuss promotion strategies including the tried and true bookmark, excerpt booklet and swag, etc. We'll also talk a bit about social media—cover reveals, countdowns, online parties—sale strategies, including introductory pricing, vendor choices to be made (to KU or not to KU?), and online advertising.

World Building — Seminar

Jennifer Bresnick (M), D.L. Carter, Jennifer Allis Provost, Kristi Petersen Schoonover

The panelists will explore the many aspects of building believable worlds for your stories and novels. How does the writer do this?

2:00 pm

Paranormally Yours—Writing the Paranormal Tale or Novel - Hatheway Debi Chowdhury, Susan Hanniford Crowley (M), Bianca D'Arc, Tanya

Huff, Morven Westfield The panelists will examine the many aspects of writing the paranormal tale from setting to character. What qualities are in

every paranormal from sheer horror to paranormal romance that define the genre?

Reading Your Work Aloud — Seminar

Justine Graykin

Reading your work aloud is the key to connecting with your audience, especially if your work is not yet well-known. A reading is not an ordeal to be endured; it's an opportunity. Join us to learn how to overcome stage fright and prepare properly so that you have the confidence to get the most out of that opportunity.

3:00 pm

Tarot Workshop — Hatheway

Trisha J. Wooldridge Learn how to use the Tarot to help your writing from idea creation to working through writer's block.

What Editors Look For — Seminar

Inanna Arthen, Susan Hanniford Crowley (M), Kate Kaynak, Gordon Linzner, Ian Randall Strock

The panelists, all professional editors or publishers, will reveal what editors look for. Why are some stories rejected, while others are not? Is everyone looking for the same thing? What's a writer to do?

4:00 pm

Writing Science Fiction and Fantasy — Hatheway

Susan Hanniford Crowley, Bianca D'Arc, Gordon Linzner (M), Jennifer Allis Provost

The panelists will look specifically at how to write successful science fiction and fantasy. What traits are specific to this genre? What are the challenges?

Building Strong Characters — Seminar

Grant Carrington, William Freedman, Tanya Huff, Kristi Petersen Schoonover, Morven Westfield (M)

The panelists will discuss how heroes, heroines, and villains must be of equal strength, while secondary characters must move the story forward. You'll learn how to make your character strong, believable, memorable and beloved by readers.

5:00 pm

Writers' Circle — Hatheway

Debi Chowdhury

A ceremony of thanks followed by an informal gathering with light refreshments and socializing. Anyone bringing books from home can get them signed by our publisher/editor/author participants.

6:00 pm

Costumers' Meet and Greet — Hatheway

A great time to meet old and new friends...and "get this party started". Belly dancing, historical, ethnic, etc...are all welcome. Bring your instruments...wear your costumes...share your moves!

Time	Noden- Reed	Parsons	McLean	Seminar	Grasso	Ellsworth	Hatheway	Bradley Boardroom	Ballroom	Other		
9:00							WELCOME					
10:00				Writing Erotica			Creating Stories Game					
11:00				Everything But the Writing			Writing Sick & Twisted Characters					
12:00				(Lunch)			(Lunch)					
1:00				World Building			Promotion for Authors					
2:00				Reading Your Work Aloud			Paranormally Yours					
3:00				What Editors Look For			Tarot Workshop					
4:00				Building Strong Characters	Found Footage		Writing Science Fiction & Fantasy					
5:00							WRITERS' CIRCLE					
6:00							Costumers'					
7:00		Running the Galactic Empire	Sales Skills for Geeks				Meet and Greet					
8:00	Intro to Filk / Filk Classics	Can You Outrun a Zombie?	The Day Job and Your Passion	The Future of Computing and Moore's Law	Not Kansas	Not Kansas	Not Kansas	Food, Glorious Food			Valhalla's Call: Viking Martial Arts in History and Myth	Cards Against Humanity Marathon
9:00	Mad Science Filk Circle	Who Are You?	Building a Better Alien			READINGS Ken Altabef Jennifer Bresnick			Comedy Show with Wes Hazard			
10:00				Powerpoint Karaoke		BDSM 101: A Beginner's Guide (18+ ONLY)			Rocky Horror Picture Show Come Again			
11:00	Open Filk									Cards Against Humanity Marathon		
12:00									Players			

Friday Grid



potentially disastrous consequences. Would the Prime Directive be a wise tool for foreign policy in today's world? Can it even be applied? Should we resist the urge to meddle in the affairs of other cultures?

Welcome to the Multiverse – Seminar Ed Bishop

The past 15 years have seen more advancement in the field of cosmology than the previous 150 years. Attempts to understand the nature of the universe have progressed from a handful of numbers, some with significant error bars, to a true precision science that now places strong boundary conditions on cosmological models. In this era of "precision cosmology," one of the strangest hypotheses to emerge is the "Multiverse Hypothesis," that our universe if one of many, each with slightly different physical laws. Can this hypothesis be validated, and if so, how?

12:00 pm

New and Notable Spec-Fic TV – Bradley

George W. Claxton, Lisa Evans (M), William Freedman (Roundtable) It seems like there's never been such a wealth of SF/ F/H TV to choose from! Penny Dreadful, Arrow, iZombie, Daredevil, Extant, Agent Carter, Agents of SHIELD, Hemlock Grove, Sense8, Vampire Diaries, The Last Ship, Continuum, Lost Girl, Orphan Black, Gotham, The Whispers, Wayward Pines...and more. Let's share our favorites, talk about why some don't measure up and speculate on where this trend may be going.

Readings — Ellsworth

Jennifer Allis Provost, Susan Hanniford Crowley

Stuff Your Stories – McLean

Ken Altabef, Jennifer Bresnick, Llalania Ghose, Shuvom Ghose, Kristi Petersen Schoonover (M)

Your fiction should be as decadent and multi-layered as that elegant tiramisu. How to do that? Blend a better recipe: in this briefing, you'll take a taste of character development through dialogue, savor metaphor and simile, season with setting, add a dash of symbolism and get your plot/pacing to a rolling boil. In short, you'll get a run-down on taking advantage of everything life has to offer to jam-pack your stories, turning them into richer experiences for your reader. And let's not forget as writers, we're readers, too; take these techniques and use them to delight in others' prose!



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Fandom Etiquette – Parsons

Ed Bishop, David Larochelle (M), Dr. James Prego

So we can all agree bullying is wrong, but what about other behaviors that might go unnoticed, like fannish gatekeeping or cultural appropriation under the guise of fandom? How do you deal with poor behaviors? What are the guidelines for what's appropriate in our rapidly changing world?

1:00 pm

SF/F/H TV in the 70s and 80s – Bradley

Ari Alpert, Dr. James Prego, Kristi Petersen Schoonover (M)

(Roundtable) The 70s and 80s offered a tremendous amount of SF/F/H television programming, some of it spun off from films or comics but much of it original. Wonder Woman, Kolchak: The *Night Stalker, Night Gallery,* the original *Battlestar Galactica, The* Incredible Hulk, Beauty and the Beast, The Greatest American Hero, The Six Million Dollar Man, The Bionic Woman, Spielberg's Amazing Stories and the long-awaited return of Star Trek with Next *Generation*—just to name a few. Some of these shows have been remade in recent years. How do these programs hold up?

Readings — Ellsworth

Walter Hunt, Grant Carrington

Guest of Awesome Reunion Panel – McLean

Hugh Casey, Vikki Ciaffone, Justine Graykin, Trisha Wooldridge (M) Join us for a lively session of reminiscing as some of Pi-Con's past Guests of Awesome share their thoughts on being chosen for this unique post of honor.

Economy of Invention – Parsons

Jennifer Bresnick, Nicholas Checker, William Freedman (M), Michael McAfee

What do wizards do after they graduate from Hogwarts? How do hobbits earn money? The hardest part of fantasy world-building is creating a convincing fictional economic system that doesn't have more holes than the United States tax code. How much does a writer need to think through, and what are some key points?

2:00 pm

Goodbye to the Pi – Ballroom

Join us for our final Closing Ceremonies of reminiscing, celebration, memories, story-telling and appreciation for nine successful runs of the best little convention ever. Save some cash for the Last Assets Auction and you might take home a piece of Pi-Con history!

Con Suite

The 9Pi-Con Con Suite is located in "Amelia's," the same large room where the Dealers are. While we may not manage another iteration of last year's "Octo-Pie," the inimitable Terry Franklin will be offering you the delicious snacks and relaxing atmosphere that's always been one of the best parts of Pi-Con. And yes, there will be pie. Lots and lots of pie.

> Fri: 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm Sat: 9:00 am - 8:00 pm Sun: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Time	Noden- Reed	Parsons	McLean	Seminar	Grasso	Ellsworth	Hatheway	Bradley Boardroom	Ballroom	Other
10:00		What the NA is That?	Physics is Weird	Dr. Who: Then, Now, and In- Between		Interpreting the Critique	Ren-Faire Rosettes Workshop	ROUNDTABLE The Last Slice of Pi		
11:00	Ecumenifilk	Pros and Perils of the Prime Directive	How Magic Works	Welcome to the Multiverse		READINGS Justine Graykin William Freedman	Working With Wigs	ROUNDTABLE It Drives Me Nuts When Writers Do This!	Holy Warriors: Martial Arts in the Crusades	
12:00	Memorial	Fandom Etiquette	Stuff Your Stories		ConCardia Tournament	READINGS Jennifer Allis Provost Susan Hanniford Crowley		ROUNDTABLE New and Notable Spec- Fic TV		
1:00	Open Filk/Dead Dog/Gripe Session	Economy of Invention	Guest of Awesome Reunion		1	READINGS Walter Hunt Grant Carrington		ROUNDTABLE SF/F/H TV in the 70s and 80s		
2:00									Goodbye to the Pi	

Sunday Grid

Physics Is Weird – McLean

Ed Bishop, Carl Fink (M), Rebecca Schwartz A follow-up to last year's fun and popular "Biology Is Weird."

What the NA is That? – Parsons

Nicholas Checker (M), Vikki Ciaffone, Kate Kaynak, Jennifer Allis Provost

"New Adult" is the most recent sub-category of fiction. Is it just YA with some sex thrown in, or is it really aimed at a unique audience and their concerns?

Doctor Who, Then, Now and In-Between - Seminar

Doctor Who Club of Western MA

We'll compare and contrast the two main eras of Doctor Who, Classic (1963-1989) and the Reboot (2005-present). Has the Doctor become over-sexualized? Is he a sociopath or was he just written that way? Was the 1996 movie part of the classic era or reboot? The Reboot has greatly expanded the fandom but is there a divide between fans of the Classic Series and New? We'll also mention some "forgotten" parts of the Who Universe, such as Shakedown, comics, games, etc. This talk is presented by Dr. Who Club of Western MA. www.DrWhoClub.com

11:00 am

Holy Warriors: Martial Arts in the Crusades - Ballroom Frank Perrin, Carlo Lombardo

While there is no doubt that the series of conflicts known as the Crusades were a bloody series that left a wake of destruction and casualties, it did however inspire many ideals of romanticism that remained imbedded in the literature of both Western and Eastern Cultures. Images of valiant crusading Knights and Saracen Warriors were both drawn and written about especially into the 19th century. Many works of historical fiction use this war as a backdrop, but it is easy to neglect the realism and brutality that



7:00 pm

Sales Skills for Geeks - McLean Michael Whitehouse

Whether you are trying to get your book published or trying to convince your friends to go see the new My Little Pony movie, you use sales skills every day. Michael Whitehouse, car salesman by day, geek SMOF by night, will share some of the secrets of getting people to come around to your way of thinking.

Running the Galactic Empire – Parsons

Ari Alpert, Grant Carrington, Hugh Casey, George W. Claxton (M), William Freedman

Many of the most beloved SF universes, from Dune to Star Wars, posit a "galactic empire" with a central government and multiple cultures. Given the vast distances in space and the diversity of all those planets, how plausible is this notion? Could anyone really rule a galaxy?

8:00 pm

The Pen and the Sword: Accurately Representing Martial Combat in Written Work – Ballroom

Frank Perrin, Steven Randolph

This program will cover how writers can more accurately describe aspects of combat in their work. From sword fighting techniques and weapons to body mechanics and damage to the body the right description can make an impact on how the reader comprehends and visualizes aspects of violence in storytelling. Writers will have the chance to see real weapons first hand to gain an understanding of their weight, size and physical attributes. With time allowed, the writers will be able to write a short description of a fight and can see it play out in front of them to understand if it makes sense.

Food, Glorious Food – Ellsworth

Vikki Ciaffone (M), Helen Collins, Llalania Ghose, Trisha J. Wooldridge People often complain about the foods that people eat in fantasy novels (there actually is a reason that everyone eats stew) and space operas, but we seldom talk about how to invent, imagine, and describe food creatively. Let's discuss about how food is acquired, what foods are reasonably available in various environments and share your recipes for orc flambé, or Ent salad.

The Day Job and Your Passion—What Works For You? -McLean

Lisa Evans, Ken Kingsgrave-Ernstein, Jennifer Pelland, Morven Westfield (M)

This is an evergreen topic. We all have to earn a living. Do we get a day job that earns a lot of money, in the hope that we can afford to retire early, or save up to take some time off? Or do we just do our creative stuff nights and weekends? What are the best jobs for inspiration? Is it better to have a job that doesn't use up most of your brain? This article has some interesting observations that could be jumping-off points for discussion: http://lunalunamag. com/2013/12/27/i-am-not-my-job-why-i-left-new-york-city/

Can You Outrun A Zombie? — Parsons

Susan Hanniford Crowley, Mario DiGiacomo, William Freedman, Gordon Linzner (M)

What happened to those shuffling mindless zombies? Who said zombies should be running after you and what parts of you are edible? A discussion on the history of zombies and how they have evolved in the media. Let's explore zombies together.

these warriors faced in everyday combat. This presentation demonstrates the historical fighting styles and weapons of both Christian and Muslim warriors during the first crusade. With time allowing the presentation will end in a staged interpretation of a crusading battle.

It Drives Me Nuts When Writers Do This! — Bradley

Grant Carrington, D.L. Carter, Jennifer Allis Provost, Suzanne Reynolds-Alpert (M)

(Roundtable) Killing off characters, using bad language, gratuitous sex and violence, not enough sex and violence, writing in the present tense, getting all meta? What are your literary pet peeves? Come and vent!

Readings — Ellsworth

Justine Graykin, William Freedman

Working With Wigs – Hatheway

Jena Kitteninstrings, Carol Salemi

This demo/discussion will include places to purchase and how to then alter, add wefts, color, style, clean and wear wigs for costumers/cosplay/theatre.

How Magic Works – McLean

Ken Altabef, Vikki Ciaffone, Tanya Huff, Trisha J. Wooldridge (M) Any sufficiently advanced magic is indistinguishable from science, but what can you do to balance dramatics and believability? Join us to discuss how to make a magic system that functions within the context of your world and is not just a black box from which you can pull whatever you need to solve the problem of the moment.

The Pros and Perils of the Prime Directive – Parsons

Susan de Guardiola, Ken Kingsgrave-Ernstein (M), Ian Randal Strock In the Star Trek universe, the Prime Directive was designed to keep the crew of the Enterprise from giving in to the impulse to "help" less technologically advanced civilizations. Well-intentioned meddling without full understanding of the implications can have



The Future of Computing and Moore's Law – Seminar Ed Bishop

According to a simple statement of Moore's Law (made by the cofounder of Intel), the number of transistors per integrated circuit doubles every 2 years, which is roughly related to computer processing power. This law has held since 1975, and has fueled the modern information technology revolution, but some say it is showing signs of slowing. How long can it go on, and what happens when it stops? Also, what new technologies could keep it going for decades to come, and is there an absolute physical limit?

9:00 pm

Comedy Show – Ballroom

Wes Hazard Stand-up comedy by local comedian Wes Hazard **Readings** — Ellsworth Kan Altabef, Jennifer Bresnick

Who Are You? – Parsons

George W. Claxton (M), Terry Franklin, Dr. James Prego

Given recent events in the news, and continuing advances in genetics and other sciences, this is likely to become more of an issue in the future. How do we identify ourselves? As male, female, inter-sex, middle sex? Do we belong to a particular phenotype group that was established in the 19th century for purposes of exclusion, or do we identify as "mixed race?" How does all of this change if we start creating new forms of life, or designer beings?

10:00 pm

The Rocky Horror Picture Show – Ballroom Come Again Players

BDSM 101: A Beginner's Guide – Ellsworth

Ken Kingsgrave-Ernstein, Catt Kingsgrave, Micah Schneider (M) The acronym BDSM covers a wide array of activities and interests. How can you explore this world without getting in over your head? How can you stay safe while experimenting and exploring your own limits? We 'll go over a few do's and a lot of don'ts, and you may just come away with some new ideas to try! 18+ Only.

Powerpoint Karaoke – Seminar

Can you improvise a Power Point presentation from random slides? Nothing is too silly in this version of Mad Libs for the boardroom.

Saturday

10:00 am

After the Con is Over-Building Fan Communities Outside of Events — Bradlev

Hugh Casey, Nicholas Checker, Heather Dawn, Catt Kingsgrave, David Larochelle (M)

(Roundtable) Many people go to their first con alone and meet dozens of kindred spirits and new friends. What are some of the most effective ways of connecting with people and developing friendships afterwards? Does social media really do it, or does a fan community need more concrete interactions? What do you do when you get back home if there isn't already an established fanfriendly community there?



Time	Noden- Reed	Parsons	McLean	Seminar	Grasso	Ellsworth	Hatheway	Bradley Boardroom	Ballroom	Other
10:00		Separate But Equal	Are SF and Fantasy Anti- Democratic?	The Black Death: The Flea That Changed the World	Trusting a Gamer Over 30	This Thing Called Found Footage	Mini-hats/ Fascinators Workshop	ROUNDTABLE After the Con is Over		Cards Against Humanity Marathon
11:00	You Don't Have to Sing to Be a Filker	The Future of Identity	Happy Books Suck	Science and Science Fiction in Games		Gods of Other Worlds		ROUNDTABLE The Books You Read Under the Covers	GUEST OF HONOR READING AND SIGNINGS	
12:00	l Wrote a Song About What??	Age and Treachery: The Older Fan	When Critiques Go Bad	Kappas and Goblins and Onis, Oh My!		BROAD UNIVERSE RAPID FIRE READING	Sick Pups Meeting	ROUNDTABLE Big Conventions vs Small Ones	The Pen and the Sword: Accurately Represent- ing Martial Combat in Written Work	Cards Against Humanity Marathon
1:00	SOLO	The Road Goes Ever On and On	I Don't Want to Offend	TLB 101: Intro to Time Lord Biology	Lockdown at the Banzai Institute	Building a Better Character	Costuming on the Cheap	ROUNDTABLE Young Adult Fiction and Film		
2:00	CONCERTS	The Inklings	Religion, Skepticism and Atheism in SF Fandom			Anthropo- logy in Sci-Fi and Fantasy	Creating Armor for Costuming/ Cosplay	ROUND ROBIN IMPROV STORY- TELLING	Belly Dance Perform- ance and Workshop	
3:00		The Nature of Gender	Has Fandom Abandoned SF?						Steampunk Tea GUEST OF HONOR INTERVIEW	Cards Against Humanity Marathon
4:00	Fantasy and Fairy Tale Circle	Bioethics and Sci-Fi	Team Bang or Team Whimper?							
5:00		Evolution of the Vampire	ROUNDTABLE SF/F/H TV of the 90s	The Women of Doctor Who: Equals and Foils				ROUNDTABLE What is a Book Worth?		
6:00		Agreeably Disagreeing	Changing Face of Horror	Post Meridian Players Radio Show Episodes		World Building		ROUNDTABLE Spoilers and Trigger Warnings		
7:00	Stories in Song Circle	The Spiritual Atheist	Care and Feeding of Boys Who Read	The Transhuman Condition		Trouble with Time Travel	Intro to Henna and Safe Body Art	ROUNDTABLE What Makes You Love a Character?		Panel in the Pool
8:00	The Dark Side Circle	Limiting Narrative Viewpoint	Romance and Spec-Fic What's the Overlap?	Tarot Poetry Readings	Territory Mine	READINGS Kristi Petersen Schoonover Gordon Linzner			TIME TRAVELERS BALL	
9:00	The Naughty Bits Circle	How Can They Believe That?	Flirting Workshop	Wardens: Dark Conspiracy Screening		READINGS Nicholas Checker Helen Collins			DALL	
10:00	Open Filk			The Making of Wardens: Dark Conspiracy						
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11:00										

Saturday Grid

Readings — Ellsworth

Kristi Petersen Schoonover, Gordon Linzner

Romance and SpecFic—What's the Overlap? — McLean D.L. Carter, Susan Hanniford Crowley (M), Lisa Evans, Jennifer Allis Provost

Romance is the most consistently successful fiction genre, partly because it's so broad and includes so many subcategories. "Paranormal romance" and romantic fantasy include many specfic elements, and SF romance exists, too. How far does romance overlap with spec-fic, and is there a gray area for books that aren't quite either, but are a little of both?

Limiting Narrative Viewpoint: Interior vs. Exterior - Parsons

Ken Altabef, Nicholas Checker, Helen Collins, Shuvom Ghose (M), Justine Graykin

Assuming you want to show only what the characters know, a limited narrator can be from the point of view of the characters including thoughts (aka getting inside their heads) or can be from outside all characters and describe only what an independent observer would experience without character thoughts (aka objective or dramatic). What is the effect on the reader? How does the choice affect the writing process?

Tarot Poetry Performance – Seminar Michael McAfee

Michael McAfee has written a series of poems based on each of the cards in the standard Tarot deck. Members of the audience draw cards to determine which poems get performed as dramatic recitations. These poems can also be used to answer questions, just like at a Tarot reading.

9:00 pm

Readings — Ellsworth Nicholas Checker, Helen Collins

Flirting Workshop — McLean Michael McAfee

Would you like to practice making the world a better place by helping people feel good about themselves? This flirting workshop is interactive and occasionally calls for volunteers from the audience. Note: this is not a seduction workshop; flirting in this case means helping others feel sexy in a positive way.

"How Can They Believe That?" — Parsons

Ari Alpert, Ed Bishop (M), Llalania Ghose, David Larochelle, Since most liberals associate mostly with other liberals, it might be difficult to understand where conservatives are coming from because they only get the soundbites. Often, the difference in opinion is based on different "facts." For example, if you believe life begins at conception and a fetus is a living child, you are probably pro-life, whereas if you believe life begins at birth and a fetus is not yet a child, then you are more likely pro-choice. These different positions are not necessarily "false." How do we compassionately understand the views of others instead of just condemning them?

Film Presentation and Q&A: Wardens: Dark Conspiracy — Seminar

Kim Edwon, Keith Fiermonte, Kelly Quick

Wardens: Dark Conspiracy is a fantasy drama, that takes place in an imagined world filled with different races, magics and political intrigues. We follow two sets of characters, the first being Merides and Elan, the second being Drake and Genevive, as they try to piece together the mystery of a prominent mage's death. They encounter

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many friends and foes alike as they travel between realms and dimensions in search of answers. *Wardens* is filled with monsters, magic and battle as the four fight not only a growing evil presence but the ever changing dynamics between all of those involved. A screening of this web series will be followed by a panel of Q&A with the people who make it.

Sunday

10:00 am

The Last Slice of Pi – Bradley

Hugh Casey, Terry Franklin, Justine Graykin, Micah Schneider (M), Ieff Warner

(Roundtable) As we say goodbye to Pi-Con, this retrospective panel will share the high and low points of past Pi-Cons, and otherwise reminisce. You'll have an opportunity to share what this con has done for individuals and what it has accomplished.



Interpreting the Critique – Ellsworth

Shuvom Ghose (M), Michael McAfee, Morven Westfield, Trisha J. Wooldridge

You've finished the draft and shared it with your beta readers or writers group. It comes back with edits and criticisms. How do you judge which are valid? When should you change something and when should you stick to your guns? How about when those criticisms come from a professional editor? How about when publication hinges on a particular change which your gut says is wrong? Do you trust yourself or your critic?

Ren Faire Rosettes Make and Take Workshop – Hatheway Carol Salemi

Attendees will get a package of materials necessary to create a beautiful rosette/cockade to wear as a lapel or hat pin or barrette. Materials include pre-cut fabric & hardware, needle & thread, beads & ribbon and center focal piece. \$5 materials fee.



6:00 pm

Spoilers and Trigger Warnings-Why Do We Want to Know What's Inside? - Bradley

Lisa Evans, Kate Kavnak, Gordon Linzner (M), Suzanne Revnolds-Alpert

(Roundtable) Some people don't want to know anything about a book in advance. But many of us prefer to know upfront if there might something in there we'd rather not read. What are some of the things we'd like fair warning about, and why?

World Building – Ellsworth

Vikki Ciaffone (M), Helen Collins, Tanya Huff, Rebecca Schwartz Horses smell bad. Bees cannot be kept near goats. Farms take up a lot of land and produce has to be transported somehow. And don't get us started on the reason why the blacksmith's forge was on the edge of town. OR, maybe you should get us started. When creating your world, no matter if high or low fantasy or space opera the little things help bring the reader into the story. Discuss with the panel what helps and how much of the sense of smell, sight, hearing and taste is needed for world building.

The Changing Face of Horror – McLean

Susan Hanniford Crowley (M), Mario DiGiacomo, Catt Kingsgrave The supernatural and paranormal have been undergoing changes ranging from young adult novels such as Warm Bodies to the more adult paranormal romance field such as the Southern Mysteries (aka Sookie Stackhouse) novels by Charlaine Harris. Zombies may not be mindless. Vampires may have needs beyond blood, or walk in the sun. What is supernatural? A gifted human or a genetically enhanced soldier as in Christine Feehan's Night Games? Let's discuss the changing face of horror and why it's shifting. Are we witnessing a horror evolution?

Agreeably Disagreeing – Parsons

Ari Alpert, Hugh Casey, Carl Fink, Walter Hunt, David Larochelle (M) Rational debate, civil discourse, and amicable disagreement are all vanishing arts in our world. What are some guidelines for talking about important issues on which we strongly disagree? Can people on opposite sides of an issue truly find consensus and compromise without the "agree to disagree" cop-out?

Post Meridian Radio Theater Listening Party – Seminar Michael McAfee

The Post Meridian Radio Players is Boston's premiere all-volunteer radio theater troupe. Excerpts of CDs from the PMRP's catalog will be played for your entertainment.

7:00 pm

What Makes You Love a Character? - Bradley

Nicholas Checker, Vikki Ciaffone, Walter Hunt, Catt Kingsgrave (M) (Roundtable) The most successful books in literary history have one thing in common: a compelling and memorable character who wins the imaginations and affection of readers. Sometimes these characters aren't at all "likeable" in the traditional sense, but readers still love them. What characters do you adore, and why?

The Trouble with Time Travel – Ellsworth

George W. Claxton (M), Helen Collins, Mario DiGiacomo, Dr. James Prego

There are a number of different ways of looking at time travel. You create a new timeline every time you change something; you cannot have any real effect upon the timeline because anything you have done has already been done; anything you do to change the



future will prevent you from going back, so you change nothing, and so on.

Introduction to Henna and Safe Body Art – Hatheway Anne

Curious about henna and other forms of temporary body art? This workshop gives you a brief overview of safe temporary body art with an emphasis on henna, teaches you how to create a basic henna design, and gives you the opportunity to decorate yourself with your own cone of henna. \$5 material fee. For more information, stop by the K2Steam booth and ask for Anne.

The Care and Feeding of Boys Who Read - McLean

William Freedman, Ken Kingsgrave-Ernstein (M), David Larochelle It's no secret: fewer boys are avid readers than girls, and far more of them abandon reading as they grow up. Librarians also know that boys will rarely read books with female protagonists, no matter how tough, while girls commonly read books with male main characters. It may be no coincidence that educators note problems with boys falling behind academically as they get older. Yet in the early 20th century, boys were the target market and eager consumers of metric tons of pulp science fiction and fantasyadventure fiction. What's stopping boys from reading fiction now, and how do we nurture all these potential book-buyers of the future?

The Spiritual Atheist – Parsons

Ari Alpert, D.L. Carter (M), Justine Graykin, Kate Kaynak, Jennifer Pelland

Without a "higher authority" to arbitrate our moral and spiritual lives, we are left to construct them on our own. How does an atheist go about defining what is moral behavior? Can there be a spiritual life without God? Does Buddhism have the answers? Our panel will discuss ways of defining moral behavior and filling spiritual needs without resorting to religious authority.

Panel in the Pool – Pool

Jeff Warner (M)

"Pushing the extremes with Extremophiles!" The brines of Mars and the sub-surface oceans of Enceladus are the wellsprings of hope for extraterrestrial life, albeit 'Life as we know it'. However the hydrocarbon lakes of Titan might harbor life as we DON'T know it: http://phys.org/news/2015-02-life-saturn-moon-titan. html (Sagan and Salpeter's ideas about living gasbags on Jupiter are now just slightly less crazy.)

The Transhuman Condition – Seminar Ed Bishop

Can we fundamentally revolutionize what it means to be human through technological advancements? Should we? Transhumanism is a global movement whose goal is to transform the human condition by enhancing intellectual, physical and psychological capacities. What could developments in AI, Bionics, Neuropsychopharmacology, Smart Drugs & Nutrients, Gene Therapy, Life/Youth Extension, Nanotechnology and other interrelated fields offer to improve the human condition in the decades to come, and what is happening right now?

8:00 pm

Time Travelers Ball – Ballroom

Join in the dance and strut your stuff at our informal masquerade contest wearing your finest space-time/temporal creations. Ribbons will be awarded for the judges' favorites.

This Thing Called Found Footage - Ellsworth

Keith Fiermonte, William Freedman, Kristi Petersen Schoonover (M) GoH Reading and Signing - Ballroom Ever since three "student filmmakers" Blair Witched it in 1999, Tanya Huff found footage has become (to the delight of some and the chagrin The Books You Read Under the Covers – Bradley of others) a staple in the horror film industry. Why are more Susan de Guardiola, Lisa Evans (M), Jennifer Allis Provost coming out every year? What does this say about our changed (Roundtable) We all have "guilty pleasures"—books that we love "selfie"-oriented culture, and how has it changed the way we and follow and re-read but feel just a little shy about confessing expect stories to be told? On the flipside, how is this phenomenon reviving the old-school unreliable-narrator tale and true magic to. Time to 'fess up! What books feed something in your soul, in defiance of others' opinions of them? And why do those books just realism? We invite you to come and discuss these questions, share do it for you? your faves and flops, and why you love found footage films...or hate 'em. The Gods of Other Worlds – Ellsworth

Trusting a Gamer Over Thirty – Grasso

Charles Ciaffone, Llalania Ghose, Walter Hunt, Micah Schneider (M) What's it like to be a graying gamer among a lot of younger enthusiasts? If you're older and really enjoy the newest cutting edge games, how do you fit in?

Mini-hats/Fascinators Make and Take Workshop -Hatheway

Carol Salemi

Attendees will get a mini hat base and all sorts of materials including trims, ribbons, netting, flowers and feathers in order to create their own ready-to-wear hat. \$5 materials fee

Are SF and Fantasy Anti-Democratic? – McLean

D.L. Carter, Vikki Ciaffone (M), Mario DiGiacomo, Justine Graykin, Susan de Guardiola, Lisa Evans, Carl Fink (M), Ian Randal Strock Gordon Linzner In fantasy, Destiny or the gods decide who's supposed to be King. That was a comment made by a librarian in response to a book In science fiction, you don't get to vote on the optimum solution. group's request for suggestions of "happy books." Is that true? Does Both genres have a long history of showing societies dominated a book have to be serious to be taken seriously? Is great writing by a magical or scientific elite (from the Lensmen to the Witches necessarily dark and emotionally wrenching? Does humor and of Lancre), and often portray that as a good thing. Meanwhile, fans optimism belong in literature, or does it automatically relegate a look down on "mundanes." Are SF and fantasy incompatible with book to "B" tier? And does "happy" necessarily mean "humorous?" the ideals of democracy?

Separate but Equal – Parsons

Ari Alpert, Ed Bishop, Suzanne Revnolds-Alpert (M), Rebecca Schwarz

Nobel scientist Tim Hunt made some very unfortunate comments about women not belonging in the lab with men because their presence is disruptive (men fall in love with them; they fall in love with the men; they cry when criticized). Presuming there is any truth to this, what would be the alternative? All male vs. all female laboratories? How could that possibly work? What losses to scientific collaboration would such segregation cause? Is this just another case of irrational resistance to change, like the arguments against allowing women or gays to serve in the military? Or is there value to having males and females not work together? Some schools/organizations have female-only robotics teams or STEM programs, with the theory that girls learn differently than boys, and that girls behave differently when boys are around. Should we segregate in order to accommodate, or integrate and try to train the genders to work better together?

The Black Death: The Flea That Changed the World -Seminar

Susan Peak

How the Black Death completely altered the course of history in Europe.



11:00 am

Ken Altabef (M), Walter Hunt, Kate Kaynak, Ben Newman

Too often the religious concepts of other worlds and other species are closely based on human ideas of God, or, condescendingly, ideas of "primitive worship." Western writers often draw on religions foreign to their culture or time to give a sense of "alienness." But patterning the religions of beings evolved on another world after human concepts of worship is like having them be essentially human with superficial additives (pointed ears or facial prosthetics). This panel would discuss how to get beyond our parochial spirituality (or if this is even possible).

Sick Pups Meeting – Hatheway

Happy Books Suck – McLean

The Future of Identity – Parsons

George W. Claxton, David Larochelle (M), Jennifer Pelland, Jeff Warner

Bruce Jenner and Rachel Dolezal want to be somebody else. Ray Kurzweil wants to be immortal and Donna Haraway would rather be a genderless cyborg. Henry Louis Gates Jr. on "Finding Your Roots" uses DNA profiles and Genetic geotracking to explore the 'identities' of various famous people. But as Ken Burns points out there's a difference between the "Purity of Blood and the Experience of Life." So, given inevitable advancements in Technology and Medicine, and the usual glacial pace of sociological change, What is the Future of Identity?

Science and Science Fiction in Games - Seminar

Andy Hall, Andrew Richardson (M), Christopher Sheldon-Dante, Ben Shostak, Trevor Stricker

Videogames often stretch believability when it comes to the science in sci-fi. How can games tell stories and present speculative fiction in a way that keeps them enjoyable as games? Presented by four independent game developers.

12:00 pm

Valhalla's Call: Viking Martial Arts in History and Myth -Ballroom

Frank Perrin, Carlo Lombardo

Vikings are a popular focus in pop culture. However, their combat techniques are already just as mysterious as their culture.



Big Conventions vs Small Ones – Bradley

Hugh Casey, Micah Schneider, Kristi Petersen Schoonover, Trisha J. Wooldridge (M)

(Roundtable) There are people who prefer small, intimate cons and people who live for big, all-inclusive conventions like DragonCon. What's best about both sizes of con, and what are the disadvantages to getting too big or staying small?

Broad Universe Rapid Fire Reading – Ellsworth Broad Universe

When Critiques Go Bad – McLean

Grant Carrington, Nicholas Checker, Llalania Ghose, Gordon Linzner (M)

Writers are constantly told to submit their writing to critiques by other writers or by "beta readers" and other non-professionals. Can this backfire? Is the ability to critique well something that should be—and has to be—taught? Can a bad critique make a promising writer give up?

Age and Treachery: The Older Fan — Parsons

Ken Kingsgrave-Ernstein, Lisa Evans, William Freedman, Michael *McAfee, Jeff Warner (M)*

How goes growing older impact one's experiences as a SF/F/H fan? How do our experiences color how we enjoy the ideas, the stories, and/or the media?

Kappas, Goblins, and Oni's... Oh My! - Seminar Heather Dawn

Is that a mysterious shadow on your Shoji screen? Are you having strange dreams? Ever wonder what happens to your soul when you sleep? This presentation will tell you everything you need to know about the beasties in Japanese ghost folklore, how to survive a Yurei attack, and where you can "catch them all" in Anime.

1:00 pm

Young Adult Fiction and Film-Where Do We Go From Here? - Bradley

Susan Hanniford Crowley (M), Cera Crowley, Rebecca Schwartz (Roundtable) From Harry Potter to Hunger Games and Divergent where is the trend headed now? Dystopia, vampires, magic, fairies...does YA just keep telling the same stories over and over? What new changes may be coming, and will young fans welcome them?

Building a Better Character – Ellworth

Vikki Ciaffone, Tanya Huff, Morven Westfield, Trisha J. Wooldridge (M)

Whether you are creating characters for a novel, a play, a television series, or an RPG the person you are making should have a background that makes sense, motivations beyond the plot of your story and be a balanced, even if broken, human being (or whatever). Come and discuss how this is achieved.

Costuming on the Cheap — Hatheway

Tina Connell, Jena Kitteninstrings, Sarah Morrison

Learn the tips and tricks of creating really nice looking costumes

and accessories without spending tons of money. Find out some unusual and inexpensive materials and unlikely sources...

I Don't Mean to Offend... – McLean

including your own closet!

Hugh Casey, Shuvom Ghose, Justine Graykin (M), Suzanne Reynolds-Alpert

When there was a single "norm" that everyone pretty much recognized, the burden was on the person who was "different." In more enlightened times, the burden now seems to be on all of us to be sensitive to differences and to avoid language or behavior that might offend. With so much diversity, it can be difficult, especially for someone older or the product of a sheltered life, to walk the minefield of possible ways one might unwittingly offend. Our panelists will talk about how to deal with inadvertent offenses, and how to politely raise awareness without being offensive oneself.

The Road Goes Ever On and On – Parsons

Ken Altabef, Jennifer Bresnick, George W. Claxton, Terry Franklin (M) Fifty years ago this year, Ballantine Books published the first "authorized" paperback set of J.R.R. Tolkien's The Lord of the Rings in the United States, with their very 1960s covers, and launched the Middle Earth mania which will not die. Despite accusations of sexism, racism, blatant allegory, stilted writing and deadly dullness, what keeps Tolkien's work so vastly popular? Can we still learn from this straight white guy?

TLB 101: Intro to Time Lord Biology – Seminar

Guest lecturers from the Unified Intelligence Taskforce (UNIT) Science Division will teach you the main differences between human and Gallifreyan anatomy; regeneration, reproduction, physiology, and DNA. We'll also discuss the distinction between Time Lord and Gallifreyan. Presented by Doctor Who Club of Western MA. www.DrWhoClub.com

2:00 pm

Belly Dancing with Jennifer Pelland – Ballroom Jennifer Pelland

Jennifer Pelland will give a short performance followed by a mini-workshop in belly dancing technique. All are welcome to participate!

Round-Robin Improv Story-Telling – Bradley

Jennifer Bresnick, Tanya Huff, Catt Kingsgrave, Michael McAfee Our authors will take a suggestion from the audience, and start telling the story. After a minute for each writer, the next one takes over. After one round, the audience will make another suggestion and the authors will pick up from there and continue. No limits on creativity allowed (except to keep it family-friendly)!

Anthropology in SciFi & Fantasy – Ellsworth

Vikki Ciaffone (M), George W. Claxton, Helen Collins, Carl Fink Why do insectoid aliens act like humans? Should werewolves be sexist? Would a hive society have a concept of the individual? To build a believable world, you must also have believable cultures to live in that world. A look at anthropology will help you create societies that live and breathe and fit the world that they live in. Join us for talks about the "universal" (or not) nature of humanity.

Creating Armor for Costuming/Cosplay – Hatheway Jena Kitteninstrings

Explore the basics of making faux armor and what you will need to get started. Demo and discussion will include tools, materials and tips on construction and how to work with Worbla, Sinthra, Friendly Plastic, Craft Foam and some resins.

Religion, Skepticism, and Atheism in SF Fandom -- McLean

Justine Graykin (M), Walter Hunt, Jeff Warner Which came first-the non-theist story or the non-theistic fan? Are rational empirical people more attracted to rational empirical stories? Or do the stories provide emotional validation for the people?

The Inklings – Parsons

Nicholas Checker (M), Heather Dawn, Lisa Evans, Jennifer Allis Provost

Imagine if your book club included J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis. That was the Inklings, who met in or near Oxford in England in the 1930s and 1940s. Just how influential were they? And how many of us would visit them if we found a time machine?

3:00 pm

Steampunk Tea – Ballroom

Spend this time enjoying a little tea and snacks. Dress in your favorite costumes from Victorian or Edwardian to Dr. Who or Wild Wild West! (Tickets \$20 to cover costs, available at the One Desk)



Has Fandom Abandoned SF? - McLean

Susan de Guardiola, Walter Hunt, Catt Kingsgrave, Ian Randal Strock (M)

Science Fiction fandom is enormous. Mega-conventions like Comic-Con and DragonCon draw fifty or a hundred thousand fans. The biggest movies of the year are invariably SF, and SF television series are more popular than ever before. So why are sales of science fiction books and magazines steadily shrinking?

The Nature of Gender: Past, Present and Future – Parsons

Justine Graykin, David Larochelle (M), Suzanne Reynolds-Alpert, Micah Schneider

What exactly is gender? What makes most of us feel we have one, some of us feel we have more than one, and others feel we have no gender at all? How is the meaning of gender changing in presentday American culture? What factors are influencing this change? What might gender look like in the future?



4:00 pm

Team Bang or Team Whimper? — McLean

Ed Bishop (M), William Freedman, Gordon Linzner, Suzanne *Reynolds-Alpert*

How will the world really end? Our panelists consider various possibilities for the end of the world, or at least the end of the world as we know it.

Bioethics and Sci-Fi — Parsons

Ari Alpert, Terry Franklin (M), David Larochelle, Dr. James Prego From Gattaca to the Eugenics Wars, debating the moral cost of technological progress.

5:00 pm

Guest of Honor Interview - Ballroom

Tanya Huff, Inanna Arthen

What is a Book Worth? — Bradley

Jennifer Bresnick (M), Nicholas Checker, Ian Randal Strock, Trisha J. Wooldridge

(Roundtable) Authors spend months crafting novels. But in the age of Kindle Unlimited and Kindle Prime, ebook bundles, free promotions, advance reading copies offered by the hundred to ordinary readers, and ebook lending libraries, the price of books is spiraling downward. Some readers don't think they should have to pay anything for an ebook; others think 99 cents, or \$1.99, is enough. Are books losing their value in a post-paper age?

SF/F/H TV of the 90s – Parsons

Michael McAfee, Jennifer Pelland (M), Jennifer Allis Provost, Dr. James Prego

(Roundtable) As cable came into its own, many shows were developed and broadcast by smaller networks, like the WB, or produced by studios and sold for syndication. The 1990s saw a strong trend toward paranormal shows, with vampires and witches all over the dial. Buffy the Vampire Slayer, Forever Knight, Charmed, a prime-time revival of Dark Shadows, Kindred: the Embraced, Angel, Xena, Hercules, Highlander (both of them), Early Edition, ST: Deep Space Nine, ST: Voyager...let's share our thoughts on the best, the worst, and the unfairly unnoticed.

The Evolution of the Vampire – Parsons

Susan Hanniford Crowley (M), Mario DiGiacomo, Heather Dawn, Morven Westfield

How have vampires changed in the media? A fun look at the large variety of vampires, from that first Nosferatu to young adult vampires in Vampire Academy and more. Come for the laughs to discuss all in fun. Don't forget your fangs!

The Women of Doctor Who: Equals and Foils – Seminar Doctor Who Club of Western MA

This Pi-Con we'll focus on several of The Doctor's female companions who really held their own against our favorite Time Lord's dominant presence. This is also your chance to discuss the revelation of a female Master and appreciate The Rani (another female Time Lord). Presented by Doctor Who Club of Western MA. www.DrWhoClub.com

