



# CONVERGENCE CONVENTION 2012

SOUVENIR PROGRAM GUIDE

# CONVERGENCE

## 2012

Welcome to CONvergence 2012! Welcome to four days of the nerdiest fun. Ever. Whether you're a Joss Whedon aficionado, hardcore *Starcraft* gamer, aspiring science fiction writer, or just want to know how to explain fantasy to your boss who's started watching *Game of Thrones*, CONvergence has you covered. With panels running all day (and late into the night!), you'll never be without entertaining conversations about your favorite genre topic.

This year's theme, **Wonder Women**, celebrates the women in science fiction and fantasy who may not always be the star but always kick butt. It also celebrates the women who create said butt-kicking heroes. Guests of Honor **Lyda Morehouse** (author), **Sharyn November** (editor), and **Tamora Pierce** (author) have created some of our favorite novels featuring female heroes, while **Bonnie Burton** (author), **Sophie Aldred** (actor), **Ruth Thompson** (artist), and **Judith Walcutt** (writer/director) have been the driving forces behind your favorite games, programs, and geek culture commentary. You'll have the chance to learn more about your favorite characters straight from them and what it takes to succeed in their professions – and maybe get an autograph or two.

But CONvergence is more than just panels. Visit **Harmonic CONvergence** to listen to live bands, or take a break to watch insanely awesome anime in **Theater Nippon**. Get your hands dirty with art and science projects in **Connie's Quantum Sandbox**. But please avoid creating grey nanobot goo in a fit of brilliance... that's so hard to get out of the carpet.

And don't forget to stay for CONvergence's nightlife. As the sun sets, out come amazing **costumes** and the outrageous personalities to match. Watch your fellow costumed con-goers perform in the **Masquerade**, or interact with them as they roam the hotel. One of the best con moments is coming across your favorite character in the flesh (so to speak) and getting photographic proof. Or finding the perfect Hulk to round out your Avengers cosplay group, because not everyone has the guts to run around in public, shirtless and painted green.

Of course, there are also the **room parties** ringing the pool area. Two levels of formerly mundane hotel rooms transform for the night into themed retreats with food, drink, music, and activities. Who can resist 1-up cupcakes or test tubes filled with delicious "science"? And don't forget about **CONsuite**, serving munchies and conversation in equal portions late into the night.

So come join us in the celebration of inspiring women that is CONvergence 2012! Gentlemen, take a seat this year and see how ladies make science fiction and fantasy even better. Ladies – it's our time to shine.



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is a presentation of



### Convergence Events

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Organization Website: [www.convergenceevents.org](http://www.convergenceevents.org)

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Special thanks go to **CONvergence department heads**, the **Convergence Events Directors** and everyone who provided content for this publication.

We always welcome feedback and suggestions, and ask that any comments be directed to the channels to the left.

## 1. Adhesives Used for Posts and Stickers:

### One True Tape

Neither the convention hotel nor CONvergence will tolerate the application of stickers or high-tack tape to hotel surfaces. Their removal is damaging to the hotel, and therefore considered unacceptable. Incidents of this kind will be treated as vandalism.

You may post non-adhesive signs with low-tack tape; we specify and require only beige masking tape, on surfaces that won't be damaged by removal, such as tile and metal. If you don't have acceptable tape, come to the Bridge. We're happy to share ours.

## 2. Badge Policy

Your convention badge is necessary for your participation in the convention. It allows you access to the convention and indicates you are a member in good standing. However, CONvergence reserves the right to revoke the membership of any member who breaks our house rules, or behaves in such a manner as is deemed unsafe or unacceptable.

## 3. City, County, State and Federal Laws

Please remember - whatever applies outside, still applies inside the hotel and the convention.

## 4. Litter

Please pick up after yourself. There are trash containers around the hotel. It makes a big difference if we try to keep things clean.

## 5. Smoking

Due to Bloomington city law the entire hotel is now non-smoking. The only place that smoking is allowed is outside of the hotel at a distance of 25 feet of any entrances. The CONsuite and cabanas are NOT smoking areas. Smoking on the patios and balconies of the rooms is not allowed.

## 6. Anti-Harassment

CONvergence is dedicated to providing a safe and comfortable convention experience for everyone. Harassment of any kind, including physical assault, battery, deliberate intimidation, stalking, or unwelcome physical attentions, will not be tolerated. If people tell you "no" or to leave them alone, your business with them is done.

Leave them alone. Do not follow them or attempt to disrupt their convention experience in any way. If you continue to attempt to have contact with those people, you may be removed from the premises.

CONvergence is not responsible for solving any interpersonal problems that may arise between individual members. In general, we can take no action to prevent a person from attending the convention unless that person has made a specific and credible threat toward the convention itself. If you feel that a threat exists against your person, we advise you to seek a restraining order against the individual in question and to involve the host hotel itself (security staff specifically) and the municipal police department in advance of the convention; otherwise, we recommend simply avoiding that individual.

If that individual stalks, harasses, or attempts to assault you at the convention itself, you may report that individual to a member of Operations (they will report it to the hotel's security staff who will get the police involved if necessary) or you may report it to hotel security directly, and the appropriate action will be taken. Conversely, any attempt to have an innocent person removed from the convention by falsely accusing him or her of threats will be itself treated as an act of harassment and will be dealt with appropriately. The responsibility for settling interpersonal disputes lies solely with the individuals involved, and CONvergence will not tolerate being used as a leveraging point in such disputes.

## 7. Weapons Policy

*"Personally, I find that tying a sporty pink ribbon to the muzzle of my xenon-assisted phased-array quantum defractor sends just the right message to my guests."*

-M. Stewart

We want everyone to have a safe and enjoyable time while at CONvergence, so please leave your weapons in your quarters. Otherwise, please adhere to the following policy, or risk being uninvited to the convention, without refund from the convention or the hotel. We really don't want to do that, so please take notice, as some of the rules may have changed!

- A)** Firearms are not allowed, period. Nor are working projectile weapons.
- B)** Bladed weapons must be sheathed and peace-bonded and cannot be drawn under any circumstances.

- C)** Due to both safety and legal concerns, realistic-looking model-firearms, replica firearms, and 'de-activated' firearms are not allowed. CONvergence reserves the right to define 'realistic' in these cases. However, see 'Programming exception' below.
- D)** All weapons must be holstered and peace-bonded if possible.
- E)** Weapons that cannot be holstered may not be pointed at any other member of the convention under any circumstances. These weapons must be marked as having been passed as safe by the Bridge.
- F)** If your weapon is of the 'large and unwieldy' variety, please, don't be a troll. Be mindful of those around you, especially in confined spaces (e.g., elevators). A six-foot mace-to-the-face can be upsetting, even if it is only foam-rubber.
- G)** Any costume that gives the appearance of being a member of law enforcement or the military will not be permitted as the potential is too great to create confusion for other members of the convention.
- H)** Programming Exception: Costumes such as those listed on the previous line, or those accompanied by weaponry that would not be permitted under the other rules, may be worn when the wearer is participating in a convention function or programming item such as the Masquerade or other (e.g., a Con-sanctioned stage-combat demonstration) where they are deemed safe and integral to the event. They may be worn only for the duration of the event.
- I)** Functional and 'de-activated' firearms are not allowed under the above exemption. Replica and model firearms may be displayed under these circumstances, provided they are peace-bonded and/or marked as safe by the Bridge.
- J)** CONvergence reserves the right to deem any item unsafe or inadmissible, regardless of whether it conforms to the 'letter of the law'. The safety of our guests is our No.1 concern.
- K)** Violations of this policy can lead to ejection and/or banning from all future Convergence Events functions and/or legal action.
- L)** The Convergence Events Board of Directors reserves the right to amend these policies without prior notice. Any ruling made by the Board of Directors is final.

## Clarifications:

- A) Projectile weapons** - If it projects a solid, liquid, gas or energy, it is considered a working projectile weapon. A laser-light pointer emits a beam that can be damaging to the corneas. Under this policy, it is a working projectile weapon. Water pistols are allowed only if they are empty, must be holstered, and must be peace-bonded or marked according to the above rules. Tasers and other stun guns are considered projectile weapons.
- B) Peace-bonding** - A peace-bonded weapon is one tied to its sheath, holster or container with a functional, easily-identifiable binding. It prevents someone else from taking your weapon without permission. It is a traditional and visible sign to everyone that you are a responsible person. We will have peace-bonding material on the Bridge for those who need it.
- C) Conceal and Carry** - Minnesota is and has been a Carry state. CONvergence however, is a private party. What this means is that we can and do ban firearms from our space, even if the owner has a Carry permit. Firearms are not permitted in CONvergence space. If someone comes to the convention with their firearm and has a permit, please summon either a Sub-Head or Head of Operations. We will explain Convention policy to them. They will be requested to leave CONvergence space and asked not to return until they have secured their weapon elsewhere.

## 8. Lost and Found Items:

If you find an object that seems to be missing it's owner, please bring it to the Bridge so that we may inventory the item and secure it in hopes of returning it to its forlorn guardian.

If you have lost an object and are now forlorn because of this, please come to the Bridge. We will check our inventory to see if another kind convention member has found it and we will return it to you after a few questions to authenticate your guardianship of said item. If we have not yet had your item turned in to us, we will make an entry into our Lost and Found software to match up against a later retrieval by a fellow convention member.

You'd be surprised how many lost, lonely, objects get turned in by your fellow, very conscientious convention members as well as how many items are never reunited with their owners.

## 9. Animal Policy

Pets are not allowed at CONvergence. This means NO dogs, cats, birds, ferrets, snakes, banthas, etc. While one pet is usually not a problem, we would soon have many pet related problems if we allowed them.

The DoubleTree has a policy that allows pets. However, during the convention they have agreed to follow our policy.

Effective March 15th 2011, the Federal ADA definition of "service animal" has changed. For the final rule published, please go to the ADA website: [http://www.ada.gov/regs2010/title11\\_2010/reg2\\_2010.html](http://www.ada.gov/regs2010/title11_2010/reg2_2010.html)

For a more direct and clear statement of the ADA definition go to this advocacy link: <http://servicedogcentral.org/content/changes>

CONvergence follows this final ruling and its clarifications. For this print version of the Operations Manual, information from the above links is appended at the end of this policy or are within this policy, but are not as fully comprehensive as what is online.

### Key changes include the following:

1. Only dogs or small ponies (not kidding!) will be recognized as service animals.
2. Service animals are required to be leashed or harnessed except when performing work or tasks where such tethering would interfere with the animal's ability to perform.
3. Service animals are exempt from breed bans as well as size and weight limitations.
4. Though not considered service animals, businesses are generally required to accommodate the use of miniature horses under specific conditions.

### Existing policies that were clarified or formalized include the following:

1. Dogs whose sole function is "the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship" are not considered service dogs under the ADA.
2. The use of service dogs for psychiatric and neurological disabilities is explicitly protected under the ADA. (Please note: the above website clearly defines that a service animal for psychiatric and neurological disorders must be trained to "do work" and "perform tasks". Please see the section titled Doing "Work" or Performing "Tasks"

contained within the definition of Service Animal, located in Subpart A—General, Section 35.104 Definitions. for a clear definition of what this entails.)

3. The "crime deterrent effects of an animal's presence" do not qualify that animal as a service animal and "an animal individually trained to provide aggressive protection, such as an attack dog, is not appropriately considered a service animal."

If your service dog meets these requirements, it will be issued a Service Animal Badge from Registration once verified by the Bridge. The next immediate step is to report to the Bridge with the service dog to check in for the weekend so that you and your service animal have as few interruptions as possible by staff verifying that you've complied with the policy. We look forward to having you both at our convention and will do our best to work with you to make the experience the best it can be for everyone!

### Excerpts from:

[http://www.ada.gov/regs2010/title11\\_2010/reg2\\_2010.html](http://www.ada.gov/regs2010/title11_2010/reg2_2010.html)

Service animal means any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals for the purposes of this definition. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the handler's disability. Examples of work or tasks include, but are not limited to, assisting individuals who are blind or have low vision with navigation and other tasks, alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds, providing non-violent protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, assisting an individual during a seizure, alerting individuals to the presence of allergens, retrieving items such as medicine or the telephone, providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability to individuals with mobility disabilities, and helping persons with psychiatric and neurological disabilities by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors. The crime deterrent effects of an animal's presence and the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship do not constitute work or tasks for the purposes of this definition.

#### § 35.136 Service animals

- a) **General.** Generally, a public entity shall modify its policies, practices, or procedures to permit the use of a service animal by an individual with a disability.
- b) **Exceptions.** A public entity may ask an individual with a disability

to remove a service animal from the premises if--

- 1) The animal is out of control and the animal's handler does not take effective action to control it; or
  - 2) The animal is not housebroken.
- c) **If an animal is properly excluded.** If a public entity properly excludes a service animal under § 35.136(b), it shall give the individual with a disability the opportunity to participate in the service, program, or activity without having the service animal on the premises.
  - d) **Animal under handler's control.** A service animal shall be under the control of its handler. A service animal shall have a harness, leash, or other tether, unless either the handler is unable because of a disability to use a harness, leash, or other tether, or the use of a harness, leash, or other tether would interfere with the service animal's safe, effective performance of work or tasks, in which case the service animal must be otherwise under the handler's control (e.g., voice control, signals, or other effective means).
  - e) **Care or supervision.** A public entity is not responsible for the care or supervision of a service animal.
  - f) **Inquiries.** A public entity shall not ask about the nature or extent of a person's disability, but may make two inquiries to determine whether an animal qualifies as a service animal. A public entity may ask if the animal is required because of a disability and what work or task the animal has been trained to perform. A public entity shall not require documentation, such as proof that the animal has been certified, trained, or licensed as a service animal. Generally, a public entity may not make these inquiries about a service animal when it is readily apparent that an animal is trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability (e.g., the dog is observed guiding an individual who is blind or has low vision, pulling a person's wheelchair, or providing assistance with stability or balance to an individual with an observable mobility disability).
  - g) **Access to areas of a public entity.** Individuals with disabilities shall be permitted to be accompanied by their service animals in all areas of a public entity's facilities where members of the public, participants in services, programs or activities, or invitees, as relevant, are allowed to go.
  - h) **Surcharges.** A public entity shall not ask or require an individual with a disability to pay a surcharge, even if people accompanied by pets are required to pay fees, or to comply with other requirements generally not applicable to people without pets. If a public entity normally charges individuals for the damage they cause, an individual with a disability may be charged for damage caused by his or her service animal.

#### i) Miniature horses.

- A) A public entity shall make reasonable modifications in policies, practices, or procedures to permit the use of a miniature horse by an individual with a disability if the miniature horse has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of the individual with a disability.
- B) **Assessment factors.** In determining whether reasonable modifications in policies, practices, or procedures can be made to allow a miniature horse into a specific facility, a public entity shall consider--
  - 1) The type, size, and weight of the miniature horse and whether the facility can accommodate these features;
  - 2) Whether the handler has sufficient control of the miniature horse;
  - 3) Whether the miniature horse is housebroken; and
  - 4) Whether the miniature horse's presence in a specific facility compromises legitimate safety requirements that are necessary for safe operation.
- C) **Other requirements.** Paragraphs 35.136 (c) through (h) of this section, which apply to service animals, shall also apply to miniature horses.

## The function of Operations is three-fold:

### 1) Communications

### 2) Information accumulation & dispersal

### 3) Problem resolution

Operations is the main communications center and point of contact for individual departments of the convention to interact with each other, and for attendees of the convention to interact with the Convention Committee.

## The Operations Bridge

"The Bridge" is open 24 hours a day during the convention and is located in Verandas 2 & 4. You can reach the Operations Bridge from any hotel phone at extension x7215.

## Wandering Hosts

In addition to the Bridge, Operations extends its presence out into the convention in the form of Wandering Hosts, who are available to answer questions, give directions, and help resolve problems. If a Wandering Host does not know the answer to your question, they can help you find someone who does.

LIPSYNC KARAOK-DRINKS - DJS - NERDS - POSITIVITY - PROTOCOLTURE

# NERD-KWIM

THE CHAMBER  
OF  
KRYPTONITE  
[RM103]



# Nerdtron

THE  
NERD CORPS  
[RM104]

- PRESS START -

WITH ROOMPARTY GUEST OF HONOR

INSERT COIN "JASON CARTER" INSERT COIN

# DO IT WITH HONOR



**JOIN** The Official Honor Harrington Fan Club! Serve aboard a Manticoran or Grayson Ship of the Wall. Chapters now forming, and they are looking for YOU!

If you are looking for a Fan Club that role-plays in the Honorverse, **The Royal Manticoran Navy** is ready for you. Visit our website to join now!

[www.trmn.org](http://www.trmn.org)



## WHAT DO YOU SAY TO A NAKED LADY IN AN ELEVATOR?

By Charles Piehl '94. Revision by Brian Etchieson and Charmaine Parnell '12.

The world of fandom operates much like any culture – societies devote a great deal of time and much of their resources to the establishment and maintenance of rules of conduct. Our cultural rules differ from those of “normal” society, but even for fans, a complex system of rules exists to help us determine our behavior as a part of the community. While some of our rules are more stringent and others more lenient, it is important that we effectively explain them to newcomers wanting to be a part of our society, so that everyone can have a good time at the convention.

Hyperbolic anecdotes are a key tool for helping new fans understand the rules of our society. Consider the following: You call for an elevator, it opens, and there is a woman standing there alone wearing nothing more than a strong sense of self-confidence. Waiting for another elevator seems uncalled for, so you get in. You are now together in a small room and naturally, your impulse is to make conversation. Unfortunately, you forgot your pocket book of nudity etiquette, and you find yourself wondering, “What do you say to a naked lady in an elevator?”

### “Hello, Naked Lady.”

Whatever you choose to say, be polite and try to be nice. These are rules we learned in kindergarten, although Mrs. Rudy probably never thought you’d apply them to a conversation with someone guilty of public nudity. Being friendly can’t hurt either, but don’t be too friendly. Remember, you have no idea why this person is naked in an elevator. Her nudity may not be intended as a sexual statement, and, even if it is, you may not be the person to whom she intends to speak. Besides, there’s more to life than sex (really!), so feel free to talk about something else: books, politics, how the con is going, religion, the weather, the elevator décor...

### “Gee, that badge must hurt.”

It is perfectly acceptable to ask about someone’s costume, their design choices, the technical challenges involved, and so forth. Most costumers and other over-dressers love these questions, although some may simply wish to keep their trade secrets to themselves.

### “Mind if I take a picture of your...costume?”

It is always OK to ask if you may take a picture. More often than not the answer is “Yes!” – after all, most of us dress up to show off, right? However, *always* ask before shoving that telephoto lens down somebody’s cleav...err...throat.

### “I want you to know that I find your costume/lack thereof personally offensive.”

As a community, we pride ourselves on being both inclusive and progressive on social issues; in fact, CONvergence policy forbids discrimination on the grounds of genetic background or planet of origin. However, the CONvergence committee firmly believes in freedom of expression, and we are not now, nor have we ever been politically correct. So, while it is perfectly acceptable to disagree with somebody and to express that disagreement, remember that you are responsible for your own behavior. If you offend someone, you will have to deal with the consequences of that choice.

### “Honk, honk!”

Unless you are close friends with the Naked Lady, this is a very bad reaction. Animal impulses don’t have a public place in any society, ours included. There are plenty of ways to appreciate any sort of costume or outfit you may see – drooling like an adolescent male isn’t one of them.

### “Lose something?”

Tastefully expressing that you find someone attractive is a sincere and honest form of flattery. Remember, though, that people say the word “no” in many different ways, and any way they say it, “no” always means “no.”

Whether this is your first CONvergence or you’re a convention veteran, as a member of the fandom culture, you should know that you will encounter varying degrees of social aptitude throughout your weekend. While CONvergence is an opportunity for all of us to express ourselves through what we wear, what we say, and what we do, no one at CONvergence is entitled to make you feel threatened. If you do feel threatened, find a Wandering Host (of which there will be several, all wearing notable purple vests), a Party Host (because all room parties are Safe Zones), or the Bridge and report your concerns. You can also talk to anyone wearing a CONCom badge, and they will help you find assistance. If we all work together, we can make CONvergence a safe and happy place for everyone! Let’s all work together to have a happy and safe Con for Naked Ladies (and the rest of us too)!

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## MARK TIME AWARD

### GOLD

#### **Brad Lansky and the 4D-Verse**

Protophonic  
Written by **J.D. Venne**  
Producer – **Dieter Zimmermann**  
[www.protophonic.net](http://www.protophonic.net)

### SILVER

#### **My Other Self**

Stagestruck Audio Theatre  
Written & Produced by **Bret Jones**

#### **Our Fair City, Season 2**

HartLife NFP  
Written by **Clayton Faits & others**  
[www.OurFairCity.com](http://www.OurFairCity.com)

### EXCELLENCE IN ADAPTATION

#### **The Martian Chronicles**

Colonial Radio Theatre on the Air  
Story by Ray Bradbury  
Dramatized by **Jerry Robbins**  
Producer – **Seth Adam Sher**  
[www.colonialradio.com](http://www.colonialradio.com)

#### **Logan’s Run – Last Day**

Colonial Radio Theatre on the Air  
Written by **Jason Brock, William F. Nolan, & Paul Salamoff**  
Producer, Seth Adam Sher  
[www.colonialradio.com](http://www.colonialradio.com)

## WINNERS FOR 2011 PRODUCTION YEAR

We had a record number of entries in the Mark Time Awards and Ogle Awards this 15th year of the competition. And from a wider range of countries than ever before, as well. We are pleased to include these winners as the best of the year in Science Fiction and Fantasy audio theater production.

## OGLE AWARD

### GOLD

#### **Intensive Care**

Final Rune & AuralStage Productions  
Written by **James Comtois**  
Producers – **Fred Greenhalgh, Matthew Boudreau, & Samantha Mason**  
[www.finalrune.com/intensive-care/](http://www.finalrune.com/intensive-care/)  
[www.auralstage.com/2011/10/intensive-care/](http://www.auralstage.com/2011/10/intensive-care/)

#### **Ghost of a Chance**

19 Nocturne Boulevard  
Written & produced by **Julie Hoverson**  
[www.19nocturnebouldvard.com](http://www.19nocturnebouldvard.com)

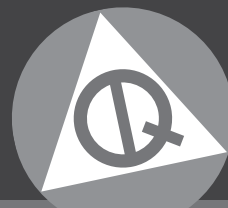
### SILVER

#### **The Strange Case of Springheel’d Jack**

Wireless Theatre Company  
Written by **Gareth Parker, Robert Valentine**  
Producers – **Robert Valentine, Gareth Parker, & Mariele Runacre-Temple**  
[www.wirelesstheatrecompany.co.uk](http://www.wirelesstheatrecompany.co.uk)

Get all the  
Mark Time  
Radio Shows

CDs @ [www.greatnorthernaudio.com](http://www.greatnorthernaudio.com)  
Downloads @ [www.zbs.org](http://www.zbs.org)



# GAYLAXICON 2012

The annual international Science Fiction, Fantasy, Horror and Comics Convention  
for Gay Men, Lesbians, Bisexuals, Transgendered People and Their Friends! **minneapolis • october 5-7**

*Be prepared for gaydioactive fallout!*



Doctor Who's  
**Gary Russell**



LINK Angel series'  
**Lyda Morehouse**



Elf Quest 's  
**Wendy Pini**



Furry Fandom's  
**Kyell Gold**



**Prism Comics**



**Sofawolf Press**

## Activities

When you're not spending time with our excellent guests, you will have plenty of other activities to keep you busy:

- Art Show
- Banquet
- Cabaret
- Chocolate
- Consuite
- Costuming
- Dealers Room

- Discussion Panels
- Gaming
- Local Events
- Parties
- Readings
- Videos

*and more!*

## Protect Yourself:

1. Register today
2. Connect on Facebook
3. *Twitter@Gaylaxicon2012*
4. Tell your friends about Gaylaxicon
5. Volunteer to help!



**Our Hotel** will be the Doubletree Hotel  
Minneapolis-Park Place in St Louis Park



Register today at our website:  
[www.gaylaxicon2012.org](http://www.gaylaxicon2012.org)

Our website includes more information on our guests, hotel, panels, dealers room, artshow, and special events!

**Utopiacon**  
October 26-28, 2012  
Cincinnati, Ohio

- 11,000 Sq. Ft. of Exhibitor Shopping
- Art Show & Silent Auction
- 3 Live Performance Stages
- Fire Performance Friday Night
- 5 Hour Concert Jubilee
- 5,000 Sq. Ft. of Gaming
- MTG Tournaments, RPG, and more!

[www.utopiacon.com](http://www.utopiacon.com)

a podcast about  
all things  
geek



<http://thegeeklife.tv>

## What some people call "alternative lifestyles" I call my clients' lives.

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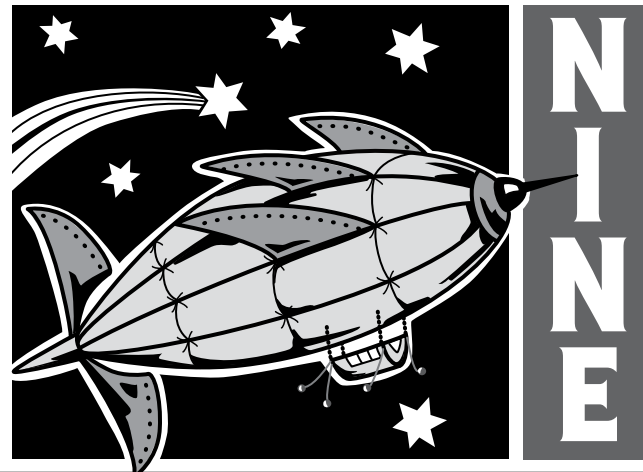
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### **TJ STARBUCK**

by Ishmael Williams

We have lost several notables in the course of the past year, and one that hits particularly close to home is the passing of Tia Jeane' (TJ, or Teej) Starbuck. TJ served as the second president to the Minnesota Society For Interest In Science Fiction & Fantasy, aka MISFITS, now known as Geek Partnership Society (GPS). The founders of CONvergence convention had wanted not just to deliver a good convention year after year, but to also serve the community. MISFITS was created to do just that, and TJ stepped forward to help establish a solid foundation for the organization by serving as president. TJ also headed one of the earliest entertainment offerings during the first years of CONvergence, a quasi-gambling establishment called Phule's Club. TJ delved into her love for things Egyptian and helped fashioned the Egyptian themed hang-out. She worked for many years at the Minnesota Renaissance Festival as merchant class street character, and she achieved her long-time dream of becoming a published author. Her first book was self published, and she had just recently found an editor to represent her second offering. The publishing of this book, largely finished and in the process of final polishing, will be TJ's final legacy as on April 29, 2012, just a little over one month past her 50th birthday, she lost a three-year battle with cancer. She passed peacefully at the home she shared with long-time friend and sister Kat Pepmiller and her husband, Jay "Rusty" Curry. A ceremony for her life was held the day she passed, one which TJ herself had helped to plan. Many friends and family gathered to tell stories, to support one another, and to celebrate the friend and family member that TJ had always been to many.

### **BONNIE BURTON**

Introduction by Eryn H.



Because Bonnie is a recognized figure, I struggled with the best way to express her awesomeness. First I wanted to submit a collage of woodland creatures with lightsabers and sci-fi-themed hand puppets with googly eyes. This summed up Bonnie perfectly; geek, humor, crafting. When I realized I would have to use words, I thought I'd utilize some of the internet's favorite memes:

"Look at your panelist, now back to Bonnie, now back to your panelist. Sadly they aren't Bonnie, but they could be..."

But even Old Spice Guy could not get my thoughts across.

All I know of Bonnie I know from the internet. Her name first came up when I was preparing to attend San Diego Comic Con for the first time. I had asked around for interesting people on Twitter so that I could feel more "in the know" on convention happenings and less like a scared kid on the first day of school. I clicked "follow" on her Twitter avatar featuring cute Bettie Page bangs,

and Bonnie did not disappoint. I found that she interacted with some of my favorite geek-bloggers and I quickly grew to like her for her wit, friendly nature, and random amusing posts.

Based in San Francisco, Bonnie's work is fandom.

She worked for LucasFilm and has made an impression on the geek world through authoring a number of books, her craft projects, and representing as an awesome nerd girl. Some of her books include

*The Star Wars Craft Book*, *You Can Draw: Star Wars*, and *Girls Against Girls: Why We Are Mean To Each Other and How We Can Change*. Her geekiness is only further emphasized by participating in high profile projects such as *Womanthology*, appearing on Felicia Day's *The Guild*, and speaking on the SDCC panel "Oh You Sexy Geek." She has also been

featured for her work in magazines like *Geek Monthly*, *Star Wars Insider*, *BUST*, *SFX*, and *WIRED*.

In an industry that is often critiqued for being too male centric, Bonnie provides a great example of how a woman can excel and be recognized. Aside from all of her work, Bonnie's best feature is her personality and being accessible to fans. Whether it be from a workshop or a signing table, her convention appearances always result in comments of great interactions she has with fellow attendees.

Now, if you are in need of further convincing that Bonnie Burton is cool, you should know that in addition to all her work, she owns a stuffed squirrel riding a speeder bike and a chipmunk band. For proof of all of the above you can find Bonnie online at her site [www.Grrl.com](http://www.Grrl.com) or Twitter @Bonniegrrl.

## JENNIFER CLARKE WILKES

Introduction by Peter Lee

Jennifer Clarke Wilkes has been a part of Wizards of the Coast for over 15 years. She's edited numerous roleplaying game projects over the years, including three editions of the *Dungeons & Dragons* roleplaying game. She was also the editor for *D&D Miniatures*, *Star Wars Miniatures*, and board games such as *Lords of Waterdeep*.

A complete list of the games she's worked on would be staggering. Add in numerous design projects – she does design too – and you can start to see her amazing talent.

A great editor allows a design to grow and flourish without fear of going too far, and Jennifer is a great editor. She's the last line of defense to catch too-crazy ideas and to smooth out unclear situations. Her work ethic sets an example, and I've learned a ton from her over the past few years. She's one of the reasons why Wizards is such a great place to work and I've been extremely fortunate to work with her.

She's also a good person who has a wicked sense of humor and a laugh best described as infectious cackling glee. She was one of the players in the first D&D group I joined when I arrived in Seattle, and she and her husband organize a fantastic board game night. Her Halloween costumes are always over the top: her costume representing the statue from the cover of the first *Dungeon Master's Guide* included shaving her head—she's that dedicated and that crazy!

Words can't describe the awesomeness.

Her slight Canadian accent makes me miss my home state of Minnesota just a little bit less. However, she hasn't yet convinced me to try the Canadian delicacy known as poutine. That might take a couple more years.



## JUDITH WALCUTT

Introduction by Lucia Newell



As a friend, there is no one better than Judith Walcutt. She is devoted & loyal to the bone, she is there for you when you need her, she will pull you up out of the mire with encouragement & compassionate love, & she will in turn pour out her own heart with you. It is never a one-sided kind of friendship.

She will write you a special poem for your 50th birthday. Not just any poem, but a great "keeper poem" that is so wonderful it could later be included in a published anthology of poems, & she will be modest about it, & humble about how much love & care she put into the poem, and the friendship.

Judith is a boundless fount of ideas & creativity. Her mind is always inventing new solutions & pathways to enhance her projects. With swift spontaneity she will lure out your most imaginative & creative self to go where "no one has gone before." She will stimulate you to write from your own voice, & help critique you if asked, but not force her opinions on you.

She gets the big picture. From years of experience writing, producing, directing, performing, and collaborating on multiple ventures at a time, Judith can see a project from all sides, turning it in her mind. Then she will come up with new ideas on how to best enhance, modify, recreate it. It seems her mind is always spinning

and open to whatever new visions the universe might send her. So it is only fitting that in 1981 she created Otherworld Media to present her work with and for children, radio, television, theater, and print.

From early on, Judith was making up stories about bear families, little girls, and miniature fantasy creatures. She later developed marvelous characters in *Mrs. McFidgen & Mrs. Whirly*, while writing about dragons, mysteries, & otherworld balloons. Her love and observations of nature and real human stories are evident in her fictional writing, adaptations, & in the profound imagery she brings to her beautiful, passionate poetry.

It is no surprise that Judith & Otherworld Media have garnered several international silver, bronze & gold medals, gavel awards, Emmies, & Grammy nominations for her work that spans from *The War of the Worlds 50th Anniversary Production* to *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz: A Centennial Celebration* & beyond. She has lived & worked all over the U.S., with world-class stars like Angela Lansbury, Jason Robards, Annette Bening, John Goodman, James Earl Jones, Ray Bradbury, and many others. Visit her creative web-site, [www.otherworldmedia.com](http://www.otherworldmedia.com) for more detailed information.

As a mother & wife, Judith is warm & loving, deeply dedicated, a lioness protectress, & unlimited in the support she provides for those she loves. She will go to the ends of the earth for her children, & has brought them up in a fertile creative environment, nurturing their natural talents, including them in productions whenever possible, & lovingly pulling them along while allowing them to lead.

She also produces delicious, lip-smacking homemade pies, & wild blackberry, elderberry & plum jams, which she generously shares with her dear ones.

When Judith's unique sense of humor is touched, she laughs with warm, hearty, infectious laughter from deep inside. And now, hopefully, you will all get to enjoy some of the more personal aspects, unique wisdom, and the lovely laughter of Judith Walcutt here at CONvergence.

## LYDA MOREHOUSE

Introduction by Naomi Kritzer

Lyda Morehouse was kidnapped by fairies as an infant and returned three days later with a note saying, "Thank you for showing us this baby, but she didn't quite grab us, alas." She consoled herself by attempting to become a superhero as a child, a Jedi Knight as a teen, and a vampire as a college student. When working at the Renaissance Festival failed to satisfy her needs, she resorted to writing science fiction and fantasy.

Deep in the recesses of her parents' basement, there are home movie reels of the *Star Trek* episodes she made with her cousin when they were ten. Filmed with a handheld camera (held by her cooperative father), Lyda's cousin played Kirk, Spock, and Scotty while Lyda played McCoy and the entire Red Shirt contingent. (She died very dramatically, many times.)

In the early 1990s, she took a Loft class on writing science fiction and fantasy, where she met Harry LeBlanc. The two of them started the Wyrdsmiths, which remains the most successful writers' group in the Twin Cities. Her big professional break came with *Archangel Protocol*, a post-apocalyptic cyberpunk dystopia with an oppressive theocracy & radical angels. *Archangel Protocol* was followed by *Fallen Host*, *Messiah Node*, & *Apocalypse Array*.

When her editor at Roc left, the series was orphaned. Lyda held a wake for her career, complete with a traditional Irish keening, single-malt Scotch, and a coffin filled with books. A few weeks later, her new editor suggested she switch to writing vampire novels, and—appropriately enough—her career rose from the dead under a new identity.

As Tate Hallaway, she wrote *Tall, Dark and Dead*, which is still selling well and was just released in mass-market paperback. That was followed by *Dead Sexy*, *Romancing the Dead*, *Dead If I Do*, and *Honeymoon of the Dead*. The



Garnet Lacey series covers the adventures of the smart-alecky, book-selling witch, Garnet, and her vampire boyfriend (fiancé, husband) Sebastian.

She followed this with the YA-oriented Vampire Princess of St. Paul series: *Almost to Die For*, *Almost Final Curtain*, and *Almost Everything*, which put a secret Vampire kingdom in the caves under St. Paul.

In the meantime, she wrote a follow-up to the Archangel Protocol series, *Resurrection Code*, which was published by Mad Norwegian Press. Most recently, she wrote *Precinct 13*, about a coroner in Pierre, South Dakota, whose first day takes a turn for the unexpected when the corpse she's autopsying grabs his liver and walks out of the room, scraping his toe-tag as he goes. (*Precinct 13* comes out in August.)

Lyda is also known in the community as a prolific mentor (having started her career with a class at the Loft, she now teaches there herself), a wildly enthusiastic fan (of comics, TV, movies, Anime...), and one of the most hilariously entertaining people you could ask for on your con programming, provided you fuel her up with coffee first.

## RUTH THOMPSON

Introduction by Ishmael Williams



Ruth began her artistic career as a young girl who, she was told, was "pretty good at drawing." In high school she discovered *Dungeons and Dragons* and never looked back. It was a world that captured her imagination, and in it she created knights and dragons and magical beings of every kind. When she had a chance, she went to her first science fiction and fantasy convention, called Continuity, in Birmingham, AL. Her sister and a friend convinced her to enter her drawings in the art show. Of the twelve pieces she entered, 7 were sold for the huge total of \$46.00. Ruth cherishes that memory.

Immediately following college, Ruth took to art full time, and has since produced illustrations for nearly every fantasy company that can be named, from collectible card games to magazines and books. After a while, she grew tired of what she calls "the business of the business" and established herself as a freelance artist. She and her husband created her company, Tarnished Images, in 1991, from which she sold art mainly at science fiction and fantasy conventions.

In 1994, Ruth found Renaissance festivals, which

quickly became her greatest passion. Festivals represented a living, breathing version of the world she thought lived only in books, art, and her imagination. Since 1994, she has increased her exhibitions at Ren Faires from 1 to 14, with her work displayed year-round, from Arizona to New York. She also has licensed her work to the Excalibur Hotel, Hot Topic clothes, and the Franklin Mint. It was in 1997 that I first encountered Ruth's art. I began living with my life partner and housemate and sharing things we had in common, notably our own individual loves for the genres of science fiction and fantasy. In a moment of happy circumstance, we discovered a print that depicted a dragon standing tall over a female warrior and a male who was perhaps a bard or a wizard. The moment united the three of us, and we chose that art as an iconic representation of our newly formed family.

In 1998 I joined CONvergence, at which Ruth was the 2000 Artist Guest of Honor. I was elated by the opportunity to meet someone who had created something that meant a lot to me personally, and to my family. The following year I found her booth, Tarnished Images, at the Minnesota Renaissance Festival. Ruth greeted me warmly, and we talked of her excellent experience at CONvergence. She said then that she hoped to come back one day, so when the "Women of Wonder" theme was decided for CONvergence 2012, Ruth came immediately to mind. She was thrilled at the invitation - Ruth has always been appreciative of the fact that we remember her and think of her so fondly. After twelve years and a lifetime of memories, we gladly welcome back our good friend, the amazing artist Ruth Thompson.



## SOPHIE ALDRED

Introduction by Nick Seidler

Every now and then you encounter an actor or actress that really makes being a sci-fi fan exciting. That's the feeling that I get when I think of Sophie Aldred. She has a genuine love for her career and a true interest in the character that most of us have come to know her for: Ace on *Doctor Who*!

As the character of Ace, Sophie would help redefine the role of the companion character in the *Doctor Who* series. Her character, first introduced in the story "Dragonfire" opposite the Seventh Doctor Sylvester McCoy, was a street-smart teenager eager to adventure with the Time Lord from Gallifrey. Spunky and "real," her characterization as a believable modern 1980s teenager quickly made her a fan favorite. In her adventures, Ace would meet Daleks, Cybermen, and work with Brigadier Lethbridge Stewart's UNIT to help the Doctor save the world. The series' storylines featured Ace's character and her personal development prominently. Sophie Aldred's Ace was the companion on the series when the original run ended in 1989 with the story "Survival." Her character's universal appeal to the audience would become the template for the companion Rose when the series returned in 2005. Ask her about her character Ace and she will reveal a love and understanding as if she is the character herself.

But Sophie is not a one-trick pony. Her engaging and warm style of acting has been on display in theater and television, including performances opposite Topol in *Fiddler on the Roof*, the prime-time soap opera *EastEnders*, and as a children's TV presenter on various series such as *Rainbow* and *Melvin & Maureen's Musicgrams*.

In 1993 she returned to the role of Ace for the BBC's Children in Need charity special in the 3-D special *Doctor Who: Dimensions in Time*. Not long after the special, Sophie wrote the book *Ace!: The Inside Story of the End of an Era* about her character, co-authored by the visual effects artist Mike Tucker. The book gave details about the character including the original plans for Ace's departure in what would have been *Doctor Who's* 27th Season were it produced. It seems she somehow finds herself back in Ace's black bomber jacket one way or



another.

Sophie Aldred married fellow actor Vince Henderson in 1997. She took a break from acting and concentrated on her family. After the birth of her two children, Adam and William, she worked as a teacher in their school. From her career as a children's TV presenter to her work in the classroom, Sophie has always been engaging youth and working to make the world a bit better for others.

In the intervening years she has done a large amount of voice work including series such as *Bob the Builder* and in the role of Dennis the Menace on the series *Dennis and Gnasher*. She has also reprised the character of Ace in over 30 *Doctor Who* audio adventures produced by Big Finish. Her most recent appearance was in the independent film *Thriller Theater!* (2011) which was filmed in nearby Madison, Wisconsin.

CONvergence is excited to welcome the warm and wonderful Sophie Aldred to our convention and we hope to hear all about her exciting and varied career. Her conversations are engaging and warm, just as we might hope. We expect the experience to be "Ace"!

## SHARYN NOVEMBER

Introduction by Michael Levy

I first became aware of Sharyn November as an editor of young adult fiction a number of years ago when her name began appearing repeatedly in conjunction with the books I was reviewing for *Publishers Weekly* & *VOYA*. If Sharyn was the editor, it was certain to be a good book at the very least, & more often than not a great one. Her choices were often gritty, even edgy, books that sometimes challenged the limits of young adult fiction & particularly YA fantasy. Further, she was editing some of the biggest names in the field and, more often than not, getting their best work out of them. It wasn't until years later when I actually met Sharyn, however, that I discovered what an entirely remarkable person she is. We were on a young adult fiction panel at a convention, perhaps WisCon, & I initially found her to be very intimidating.

The first thing you're likely to notice about Sharyn November is that she's beautiful, not perhaps in a conventional sense, but in an eccentric, kinetic, New York Jewish, witty, smart, pre-Raphaelite sense. She's tall, dresses in black flowing skirts & tops, & wears her astonishingly thick mahogany red hair very long. She has a strong jaw & lively eyes. She always seems to be in motion, perhaps overly caffeinated, especially while making some perceptive comment about fantasy literature or young adult publishing. She can easily dominate most conversations if she chooses to, but is equally willing to listen when other people have worthwhile things to say, & she's particularly interested in the opinions of young adults. Now that I've gotten over finding her scary, she's probably my all-time favorite person to share a panel with.

Before becoming an editor, Sharyn was a successful poet, song writer & rock musician. She's now worked at Penguin & its subsidiaries in various editorial capacities



for more than twenty years & is currently both senior editor at Viking Children's Books & editorial director of her own fantasy imprint, Firebird Books, which she founded in 2002. Firebird primarily publishes reprints & reissues but does the occasional

original volume, most importantly, a trio of astonishingly good short story anthologies, *Firebirds*, the World Fantasy Award-nominated *Firebirds Rising*, and *Firebirds Soaring*. Sharyn has also been responsible for convincing a number of important authors of adult fiction to write young adult stories, both in the *Firebirds* anthologies & at book length. Among the best of these books have been Kelly Link's *Pretty Monsters*, Elizabeth Hand's *Illyria*, Ellen Klages's *The Green Glass Sea*, and John Barnes's *Tales of the Madman Underground*. Her list of authors, not all of them fantasists, includes Lloyd Alexander, Laurie R. King, Charles de Lint, Sarah Dessen, Nancy Farmer, Allison Goodman, Hiromi Goto, Nina Kiriki Hoffman, Diana Wynne Jones, Nnedi Okorafor, Meredith Ann Pierce, & Megan Whalen Turner. Her most recent original publications are Elizabeth Hand's wonderful time slip story *Radiant Days*, and John Barnes's novel *Losers in Space*. Sharyn is a two time nominee for the World Fantasy Award.

When I asked Sharyn if there were any interesting facts about her that aren't already common knowledge, she asked me to mention that she's always looking for good book recommendations, & that she has a short attention span. Despite the latter, she can take credit for bringing into print a remarkably high percentage of the best Young Adult fantasies of the last twenty years. I hope that you will make a point of attending Sharyn November's panels because she's not only smart & knowledgeable, but also one of the most enjoyable raconteurs you're likely to come across at CONvergence or any other science fiction convention.

## TAMORA PIERCE

Introduction by Hedgie Yoder



In my sophomore year of high school, my feistiest friend loaned me her paperbacks of the *Song of the Lioness Quartet*, and reading it in public was like carrying around a secret handshake. Everywhere I was met by people who loved Tamora Pierce's books. Strangers and schoolmates, with a mix of far-off smiles and bounding excitement and everything in between, would pause to share how much they loved Alanna. When the book in your hands is such a focal point, you know you have found something truly great.

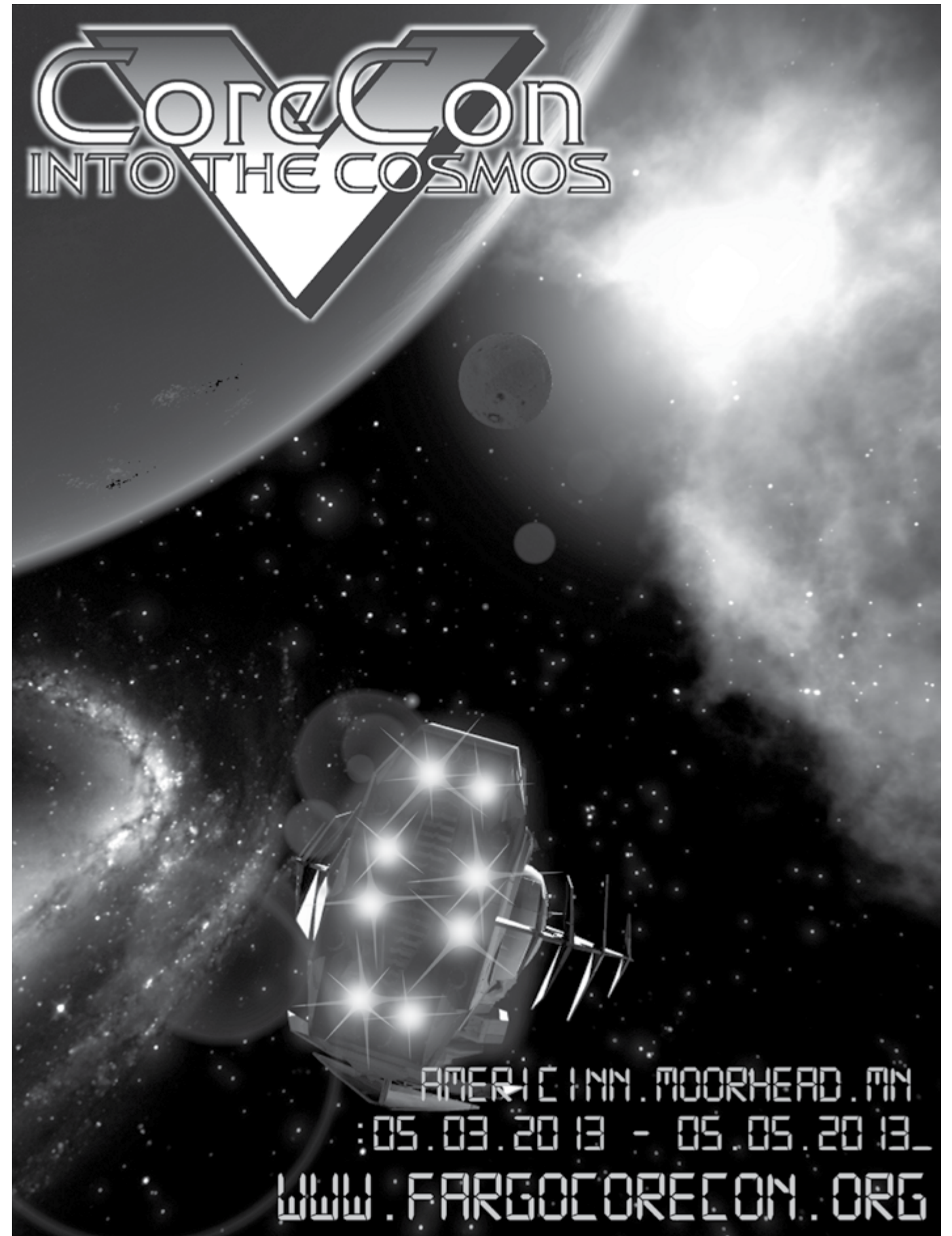
Tamora Pierce has lived nearly as storied a life as any of her characters. She was born in a mining town in Pennsylvania, but has lived on the San Francisco Bay writing her first stories, in Philadelphia rediscovering her talent, and in Upstate New York selling her writing for the first time. In the late '70s, she moved to Idaho where she worked as a housemother in a group home for girls. To these girls she told the story of a heroine, Alanna, who disguised her gender to earn her knighthood and change the world. This retelling of a manuscript Tamora



had already written, intended originally as an adult novel, is the birth of Alanna's story as we know it. Tamora rewrote that manuscript for a teenage audience, and *Alanna: The First Adventure* was published in 1983.

Since the completion of the *Song of the Lioness Quartet*, Tamora has published 24 more books. Her prolificacy has never come at the expense of character integrity. Though her stories all feature strong characters, they are each unique in background, motivation, and voice. In addition, Tamora has successfully introduced transgender characters when other publishers are still shying away from gay characters (not for lack of trying on the authors' parts). She presents current issues, like torture and gender inequality, without pulling punches. In her recent anthology, *Tortall and Other Lands*, we find ourselves in a land of deep gender segregation. There, we meet both a woman disguising herself as a man for the freedoms the masquerade offers, and a woman who keeps her veil but teaches others to read and reinterpret the texts preaching that gender divide. Both do so at the ultimate risk to their selves, but during the course of their stories we also learn and consider the hidden costs of their choices. Which is more liberating, the veil or the trousers? Can freedom be found in hiding or anonymity? Can strength?

My feisty friend has always been a bit of a warrior, and I know Tamora's books have contributed to her pursuit of martial arts training. Likewise, when my acrobatics class seems too scary or too painful, I remind myself of Alanna training with a sword two sizes too big, and I push through. All those people who cannot walk past someone with their nose in one of Tamora's books without pausing to cheer have been equally touched. Tamora Pierce did not make us strong; we did that. But she excels at creating worlds where we can be strong, where we can seek adventure and change our own world for the better, and we salute her for it.



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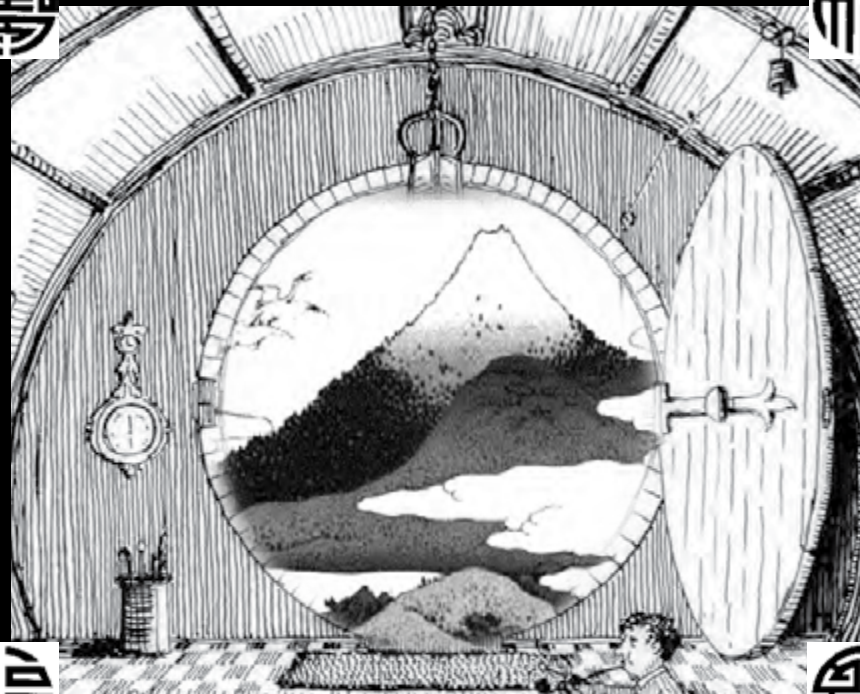
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## Inspiration

You have done amazing things! Your support of CONvergence and Convergence Events has made wonderful things possible. Our mission is to connect, enrich & expand this community. You've helped make the stuff of dreams come true right here in your community. CONvergence continues to be an astounding and inspirational event filled to rafters with hand-made awesome. We like to think of CONvergence as the biggest family reunion you could attend, with a full on circus parked right in the middle of it! Thank you!

## FRIENDS NEW & RENEWED

Building on the work you helped us launch last year, Convergence Events has grown and deepened our partnerships in the region.

We have continued to grow our existing relationships, as with the Geek Partnership Society (GPS), while working to develop new partnerships with groups like GEMS-Girls in Engineering, Math, and Science- at Field Middle School.

We continue to stand with GPS to serve the different facets of our diverse community. That leads us to working together on joint



**ATC and Anime Detour** [www.animedetour.com](http://www.animedetour.com)  
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**Fallout Shelter Arcade** [www.falloutshelterarcade.com](http://www.falloutshelterarcade.com)  
451 Taft St NE, Suite L4, Minneapolis, MN  
952-221-6483

**GPS** [www.geekpartnership.org](http://www.geekpartnership.org)  
Fall events- Garage Sale, Scavenger Hunt, Haunted House

projects, and supporting each other in our individual missions. While we know our differences, we can still come to together whether we are laughing or crying.

Partnerships have continued with **Fallout Shelter Arcade, Joking Envelope, Vilification Tennis, North Star Roller Girls, and Moments Shared Photography.** These partners come to our convention, yet have more to share with our membership year round.

New in the last year, Convergence Events supported **GEMS** with a donation for their trip to Costa Rica to perform experiments in the rainforest. We also supported **Flyaway Film Festival** last October through monetary and cross pollination of events.

Convergence Events would like to thank **Anime Detour, MarsCon,** and others who supported us throughout the year with room parties, and Converge-Upons at their events and locations.

Over the upcoming year, Convergence Events looks forward to developing new and deeper relationships with our current & future partners.

We will continue to enrich and connect with our community!

**Joking Envelope** [www.jokingenvelope.com](http://www.jokingenvelope.com)  
Bring your badge to these places year round, for perks as CONvergence member:

**Moments Shared Photography** [momentsshared.com](http://momentsshared.com)  
Capturing images to be cherished and shared

**Nerd-Kon** [www.nerd-kon.com](http://www.nerd-kon.com)  
Omaha-based 18+ community-focused convention

## Welcome to the Geek Partnership Society!

We're not a convention, or a fan club, or a dating site (sorry). GPS is, in short, a community center designed around fans, geeks, and the things we're passionate about. We've been around for years as MISFITS, and we're moving into a new chapter in our history with a new name, a broader mission and, in partnership with Convergence Events, we're going to bring more and more great geeky stuff to the Twin Cities.

## What do we do?

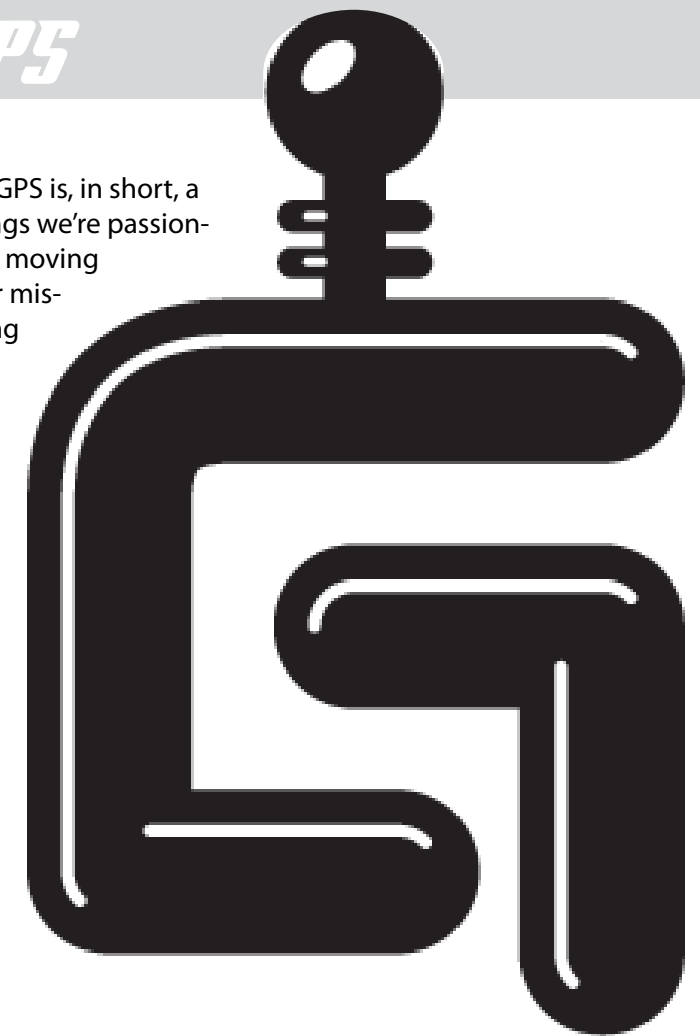
- Sponsor speakers in the schools
- Connect kids to nature with the Raptor Center
- Entertaining evening events like our Trivia Contest, Scavenger Hunt and Geek Prom
- Sending kids to NASA's Space Camp, and helping Reach for the Stars send even more kids to Space Camp
- Networking and training resources for local geek non-profits
- The annual Writing Contest you may be hearing about around CONvergence this weekend
- Clubs with regular activities for writers, gamers, crafters, anime fans, athletes... and more all the time.

## How do we do it?

- Key partnerships with Convergence Events and Anime Twin Cities – A horde of volunteers who are so much fun it's scary. A tribe of geeks throughout the area that motivate us to reach further all the time.

So what is a geek? Broadly put, geeks are people passionate about something. Generally, geeks are people passionate about SF, technology, and well, geeky stuff. Strict definitions are elusive sometimes, but that's ok. Geeks are the people who can bring television series back to life. We are the reason most of the money Hollywood makes on movies is from SF/Fantasy. Our art and stories have taken over popular culture while the technology we champion now runs the world. And we are positively everywhere. We live in one of the geekiest metro areas on Earth, and GPS is here to make it more fun, more connected, and if possible even more geeky.

We aren't going it alone. Convergence Events has committed to continuing their financial & program support for our work into the future. The Charity Auction this weekend is one example of where we work together to support GPS programs. The support isn't all one-way. We will continue to provide more infrastructure to support Convergence Events and their programs into the foreseeable future.



We pioneered a tradition of year-round activities, and now we're doing it again with a facility geared to serve geeks and geeky pursuits. We want to create such a variety of activities, events, and Who-Knows-What that one need never be bored again.

It's not just about us, because that wouldn't be nearly as much fun. We're interested in reaching out to local geek organizations, conventions, clubs and businesses to build some community involvement, find ways we can help each other, pool resources, & have fun together. We're not interested in taking anybody over; we want to work WITH you to promote our community and the great things we do, and to do it even better.

How do you learn more? Talk to anyone you see wearing our logo. Visit us in Room 110 and we'll tell you what we're up to, and you can tell us what you want to see!

We cure boredom. How? Take a look at our calendar at [www.geekpartnership.org/calendar.htm](http://www.geekpartnership.org/calendar.htm) and if you have an event you want listed, let us know! [info@geekpartnership.org](mailto:info@geekpartnership.org) is the email to use!

We are a society celebrating imagination, inspiring creativity, and building our community all through service and education. [www.geekpartnership.org](http://www.geekpartnership.org)

# Anime Detour 2013

## A Decade of Construction

Join us in celebrating ten years of  
always taking the Detour!

APRIL 19 - 21, 2013  
DoubleTree by Hilton  
Bloomington, MN

Registration is just \$45 until September 30

<http://animedetour.com>

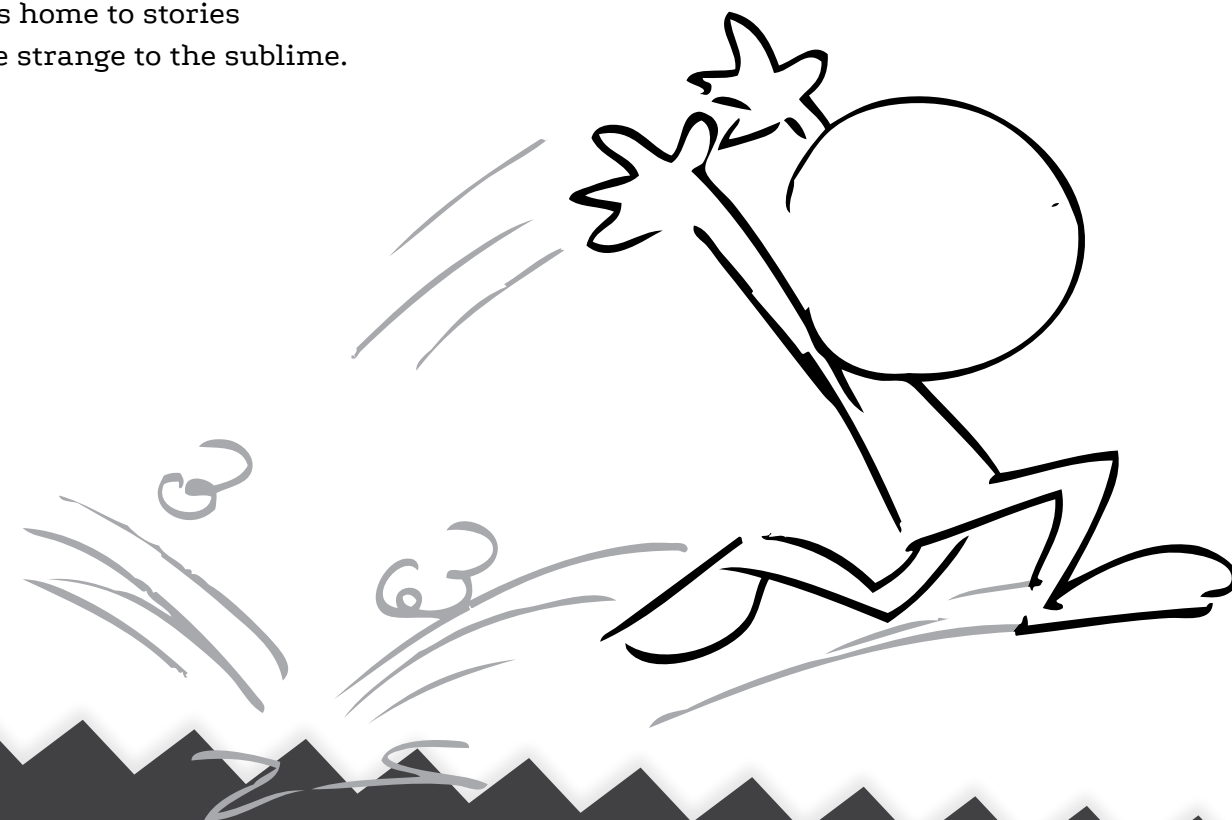


Find us on Facebook

# What'll you see today?

For 11 days in August, Minnesota Fringe  
presents an astonishingly eclectic list  
of 165 one-hour shows  
at venues throughout Minneapolis-St. Paul.

From dance to sci-fi and fantasy,  
from kids' shows to rowdy, bawdy romps,  
Fringe is home to stories  
from the strange to the sublime.



MINNESOTA  
*fringe*

Tickets just \$12 + \$4 festival admission button  
Save with multi-show passes!

Schedule and tickets at  
[fringefestival.org](http://fringefestival.org)

MINNESOTA'S FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS  
**AUGUST 2-12, 2012 MPLS-ST. PAUL**



# Hours of Operation and Locations

## REGISTRATION

Nine Mile Grill (Next to Hotel Front Desk)

Thursday	Noon—11:00pm
Friday	9:00am—8:00pm
Saturday	9:00am—8:00pm
Sunday	Noon—7:30pm

## OPERATIONS (OPS)/THE BRIDGE

Veranda 2, 4 (2nd Floor, South Tower)

Thursday	8:00am Opens
Sunday	6:00pm Closes

You can call The Bridge at **x7215**

## ART SHOW

Plazas 5—6 (First Floor, North Tower)

Wednesday	Noon—5:00pm (Artist Check-in Only)
Thursday	10:00am—2:00pm (Artist Check-in Only) 2:00pm—7:00pm (Gallery Open / Artist Check-in)
Friday	10:00am—7:00pm (Gallery Open)
Saturday	10:00am—6:00pm (Gallery Open) 9:00pm (Art Auction – Atrium 4)
Sunday	10:00am—2:00pm (Art Pick-up & Sunday Sales)

## AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE (ASL)

(See page 34 for more information)

Thursday	2:00pm—11:00pm
Friday	9:00am—11:00pm
Saturday	9:00am—11:00pm
Sunday	9:00am—6:00pm

## ARTISTS ALLEY

CONvergence Central (2nd Floor, South Tower)

Thursday	2:00pm—6:00pm
Friday	10:00am—6:00pm
Saturday	10:00am—6:00pm
Sunday	10:00am—6:00pm

## CINEMA REX MOVIE ROOM

Plaza 4 (1st Floor, North Tower)

Thursday	3:00pm—4:00am (Friday morning)
Friday	10:00am—4:00am (Saturday morning)
Saturday	10:00am—4:00am (Sunday morning)
Sunday	10:00am—6:00pm

## CoF<sub>2</sub>E<sub>2</sub> FREE COFFEE SHOP

Cabanas 115—116 (1st Floor, South Tower)

Thursday	3:00pm—3:00am (Friday morning)
Friday	7:00am—3:00am (Saturday morning)
Saturday	7:00am—3:00am (Sunday morning)
Sunday	7:00am—5:00pm

## CONNIE'S SPACE LOUNGE

Verandas 3, 5, 6, 8 (South Tower, 2nd Floor)

Thursday	9:00pm - 2:00am (Friday morning)
Friday	1:00pm-4:00pm & 9:00pm - 2:00am (Saturday morning)
Saturday	2:00pm - 5:00pm & 10:00pm - 2:00am (Sunday morning)

(Smoothies only available during evening hours)

## CONNIE'S QUANTUM SANDBOX

Plaza 3 (1st Floor, North Tower)

Thursday	3:00pm—Midnight
Friday	9:00am—Midnight
Saturday	9:00am—Midnight
Sunday	9:00am—4:30pm

## CONSUIE

Cabanas 214—219 (2nd Floor, South Tower)

Thursday	3:00pm Grand Opening Party
Sunday	5:00pm Closes

## DEALERS ROOM

Grand Ballroom West & Front Center (2nd Floor, South Tower)

Thursday	2:00pm—6:00pm
Friday	10:00am—6:00pm
Saturday	10:00am—6:00pm
Sunday	10:00am—4:00pm

## GAMING

Vista Suites (22nd Floor, South Tower)

Gaming Suites (2202 & 2204 Role Playing Games, 2206 The Source, 2207 Card Games)

Thursday	12:30pm—12:30am (Friday morning)
Friday	9:30am—12:30am (Saturday morning)
Saturday	9:30am—12:30am (Sunday morning)
Sunday	9:30am—3:30pm

Open Gaming (Suite 2203)

Thursday	12:30pm Opens
Sunday	3:30pm Closes

LAN Gaming (Suite 2205)

Thursday	3:30pm—2:00am (Friday morning)
Friday	11:00am—2:00am (Saturday morning)
Saturday	11:00am—2:00am (Sunday morning)
Sunday	11:00am—3:30pm

ConSuite Gaming

(Cabana 220, 2nd Floor, South Tower - Board & Strategy Games)

Thursday	12:30pm Opens
Sunday	3:30pm Closes

## GPS CHARITY AUCTION

Atrium 1 (2nd Floor, North Tower)

Thursday	5:00pm-8:00pm
Friday	11:00am-8:00pm
Saturday	11:00am-8:00pm
Sunday	11:00am-2:00pm (Pick-up Only)

## HARMONIC CONVERGENCE (HARMCON)

Stevie Ray's (1st Floor, South Tower across from Navigator's Lounge)

Thursday	8:30pm—4:00am (Friday morning)
Friday	9:30am—4:00am (Saturday morning)
Saturday	9:30am—4:00am (Sunday morning)
Sunday	9:30am—4:30pm

## HOTEL HELP DESK

Lobby (1st Floor, South Tower Across from Hotel Front Desk)

Thursday	1:00pm—6:00pm
Friday	1:00pm—5:00pm

After Friday, contact the Bridge (x7215) with any CONvergence Hotel issues.

## KRUSHENKO'S

Vista Suite 2201 (22nd Floor, South Tower, Programming) and Cabana 201 (Party)

Thursday	5:00pm—6:00pm (Programming) 8:00pm—Midnight (Party)
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Friday	11:00am—6:00pm (Programming) 8:30pm—2:00am (Party)
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Saturday	11:00am—6:00pm (Programming) 9:45pm—2:00am (Party)
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Sunday	11:00am—5:00pm (Programming) 7:30pm—Midnight (Party)
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## MASQUERADE

Grand Ballroom East (2nd Floor, South Tower)

Participant Sign-up/Registration (in CONvergence Central, outside Grand Ballrooms)

Thursday	3:00pm—6:30pm
Friday	10:00am—Noon 1:00pm—5:00pm

Saturday Schedule for Participants

9:00am—10:00am  
Performer Orientation (MainStage)  
(Mandatory for performers)

Noon—4:00pm

Technical Rehearsal (MainStage) Performers will be assigned a 15 minute slot during this time)

Noon—4:00pm

Workmanship Judging (Green Room)  
(Performer judging times will be assigned)

6:00pm Show Call (Green Room)

Masquerade Performance (MainStage)

6:30pm House Opens  
7:00pm Masquerade Show Begins

## CONVERGENCE MERCHANDISE

CONvergence Central Coat Check (2nd Floor, South Tower)

Thursday	2:00pm—6:00pm
Friday	10:00am—6:00pm
Saturday	10:00am—6:00pm
Sunday	10:00am—4:00pm

## PROGRAMMING GREEN ROOM

Atrium 5 (2nd Floor, North Tower)

Thursday	Noon—10:00pm
Friday	9:00am—10:00pm
Saturday	9:00am—10:00pm
Sunday	9:00am—4:00pm

## SMOKERS PARADISE

East Entrance Outside (Between North and South Towers)

Thursday	Noon Opens
Sunday	Noon Closes

## THEATER NIPPON ANIME ROOM

Plaza 2 (1st Floor, North Tower)

Thursday	5:00pm—3:00am (Friday morning)
Friday	7:00am—3:00am (Saturday morning)
Saturday	7:00am—3:00am (Sunday morning)
Sunday	7:00am—3:00pm

## TEEN ROOM

Cabana 222 (2nd Floor, South Tower)

Thursday	6:00pm—1:00am (Friday morning)
Friday	11:00am—1:00am (Saturday morning)
Saturday	11:00am—1:00am (Sunday morning)
Sunday	11:00am—5:00pm

## VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer Table /Information Desk at CVG Central (2nd Floor, South Tower)

Wednesday	Noon—6:00pm
Thursday	Noon—Midnight
Friday	9:00am—11:00pm
Saturday	9:00am—Midnight
Sunday	10:00am—6:00pm

## VOLUNTEERS DEN (VOL DEN)

Cabana 117/118 (1st Floor/ South Tower)

Wednesday	Noon - ? Set Up
Thursday	Noon - 2:00am (Friday Morning)
Friday	10:00am - 2:00am (Saturday Morning)
Saturday	10:00am - 2:00am (Sunday Morning)
Sunday	10:00am - 4:00pm

## MASSAGE ROOM IN THE VOLUNTEERS DEN

Thursday	Noon - Midnight
Friday	Noon - Midnight
Saturday	Noon - Midnight
Sunday	Noon - 3:30pm



# Special Events

## ALL WEEKEND

### FALLOUT SHELTER ARCADE

Thursday-Sunday / Garden Court

Organizer: Fallout Shelter Arcade & Convergence Events

In 2010 we entered into a partnership with **Fallout Shelter Arcade**, Minnesota's only operator of the **Virtual World Tesla II** cockpit simulators. We are excited to have Fallout Shelter Arcade return at CONvergence 2012, where they will again bring their Tesla II cockpit simulators running **BattleTech: Firestorm** to Garden Court. These simulators are free to watch, and while there is a fee to play, Convergence Events receives a portion of the proceeds. Fallout Shelter Arcade also does monthly gaming events at their own location. Visit them at <http://falloutshelterarcade.com>.

## THURSDAY

### MATRIX TAG

9:00pm - 11:00pm Cabana 101 Patio

Players choose the roles of Agent Smith, Neo, Morpheus, Trinity, or play an Agent or Zionist. Any number of people can play, joining in and leaving at any time. **Panelist:** *Shannon Green*

## FRIDAY

### ASSASSIN'S GUILD BOFFING ASSOCIATION PRACTICE AND INFORMATION SESSION

1:00pm - 3:00pm Garden Court

Join us in the Garden Court for informational discussion, weapon demonstrations, combat instruction and practice. Hone your skills against the best and be sure to sign up for Saturday's Tournament. Ages 14 & Up.

### THE SHUHARIKAN AIKIDO DOJO PRESENTS A DEMONSTRATION OF YOSHINKAN AIKIDO

3:30pm - 4:30pm Garden Court

This martial art is required learning for members of the Tokyo riot police and is a practical and powerful defensive art accessible to people of all ages and abilities. Come see how to fall and not get hurt and how to throw someone twice your size.

### GEEK PHYSIQUE YOGA QUEST

5:00pm - 6:00pm Garden Court

Join us on an epically silly journey, as the Women of the Whedonverse take on some Big Bads. This blend of yoga and storytelling is the best yoga class in the 'verse! Yoga mats are available to borrow if you need one.

## SATURDAY

### USS NOKOMIS 12TH ANNUAL CONVERGENCE BLOOD DRIVE

11:00am Hotel Lobby/West Entrance

Since Robert Heinlein organized his first drive at MidAmericon in 1976, blood drives have been a staple at many big cons. In keeping with this grand tradition, the **USS Nokomis** (a Twin Cities Star Trek Fan Club - [www.usnokomis.org](http://www.usnokomis.org)) is once again proud to host a CONvergence blood drive on Saturday, July 7th. (continued)

Remember these handy pointers:

- You can save THREE lives with your donation
- It only takes about an hour
- Almost everyone can donate blood, even if they stayed up late partying on Friday night

You can schedule your donation online to reserve your preferred time - go to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org). If you haven't pre-scheduled your appointment, you can stop in to Room 108 on Thursday or Friday night and talk to a USS Nokomis member. You may also stop by the lobby after 11am on Saturday to check for open appointments.

Please remember: you have the ability to be a hero and save lives by doing something very simple. Go boldly to the bus and roll up your sleeve!!

### 12TH ANNUAL IKU WARHAMMER INVITATIONAL BATTLE TOURNAMENT

9:30am - 11:30am Garden Court

Worthy warriors are invited to join the Klingons sat morning 9:30am poolside as they fight for a cure against diabetes. Certifications are at 9:30am with the tourney beginning at 10:00am. Entry fee is \$10.00 and all proceeds go to the **American Diabetes Association**. **Panelists:** *Jerry Harrison, George Richard*

### NORTHSTAR ROLLER GIRLS EXHIBITION BOUT

2:00pm - 4:00pm East Entrance

(Outside, Between North and South Towers)

Want to see some of your favorite Super Heroines and Villainesses battle it out on roller skates? Then step outside to watch the **Minneapolis North Star Roller Girls** exhibition bout! Setup from 2:00pm-3:00pm. Bout begins at 3:00pm!

### THE 7TH ANNUAL ASSASSIN'S GUILD BOFFING ASSOCIATION TOURNAMENT

2:00pm - 5:00pm Garden Court

Join us in the Garden Court for a Tournament of Champions! Prove your skill, test your might and Rise to the Top! Ladder style double elimination, space is limited; sign up fast. Ages 14 & Up. **Sponsored By Celtic Magic Inc. 2012**

### MATRIX TAG

9:00pm - 11:00pm Cabana 101 (Patio)

Players choose the roles of Agent Smith, Neo, Morpheus, Trinity, or play an Agent or Zionist. Any number of people can play, joining in and leaving at any time. **Panelist:** *Shannon Green*

## SUNDAY

### THE TARDIS HIGH TEA PARTY

2:00pm Garden Court

It's tea with The Doctor, with a bustle-and-crinoline twist. A rift in time has allowed The Doctor to sit down with all eleven Victorian lady versions of himself (plus a few Companions and villains) in a performance-style high tea.

# CVG ASL

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETATION AT CONVERGENCE

CONvergence is proud to again offer ASL communications assistance for all **Deaf, HH and ASL Impaired**, and welcome them to join us in our celebration of Science Fiction and Fantasy.

At the convention you will see **interpreters** at the front of some events and panels. If they ask for space in the front row, please respect such requests. You should also feel free to call on them if you need a hand, or two, to chat with a hearing-impaired fan.

Below are the hours ASL Interpreters will be available. If you need an interpreter at the convention please contact us through the **Volunteers Table** in CONvergence Central, and when the Volunteers Table is closed you can contact us at **The Bridge (Verandas 2 & 4 - x7215)**.

Thursday	2:00pm—11:00pm
Friday	9:00am—11:00pm
Saturday	9:00am—11:00pm
Sunday	9:00am—6:00pm

# Artists Alley

### CONvergence Central (South Tower, 2nd Floor)

Thursday	2:00pm—6:00pm
Friday	10:00am—6:00pm
Saturday	10:00am—6:00pm
Sunday	10:00am—6:00pm

Artists Alley is for graphic artists with small art drawn while you wait, and graphic art for sale.

This year we are also featuring "Personal Services" such as henna tattoos, face painting, costume repair, and hair braiding.

Artists Alley is located in CONvergence Central on the 2nd floor outside of the Dealers Room.

We look forward to seeing you!



# Art Show & Auction

### Plazas 5—6 (North Tower, 1st Floor)

Wednesday	Noon—5:00pm (Artist Check-in Only)
Thursday	10:00am—2:00pm (Artist Check-in Only) 2:00pm—7:00pm (Gallery Open / Artist Check-in)
Friday	10:00am—7:00pm (Gallery Open)
Saturday	10:00am—6:00pm (Gallery Open) 9:00pm (Art Auction - Atrium 4)
Sunday	10:00am—2:00pm (Art Pick-up & Sunday Sales)

Art show will again be located in **Plazas 5 and 6**. As always, we'll have artwork of all kinds from across the country for you to **browse and buy**. There will also be **artwork awards** that you can vote on.

**The Art Auction** will start at **9:00pm on Saturday night** and will be located in **Atrium 4**, upstairs and across from the Art Show. Please note that the Auction will start at 9:00pm whether the Masquerade is finished or not.

If you have purchased art, you can come pick it up on Sunday between 10:00am and 2:00pm. If you are an artist, you can come pick up your art during that same time.



#### Plaza 4 / First Floor, North Tower

Cinema Rex is all about comfort, atmosphere, and great movies. Rex turns his film room into one big cozy living room filled with free concessions and puts the movies on a big screen with a great sound system.

This year Rex was determined to come up with a great and eclectic balance of films featuring amazing women from all different angles: from Disney's *Mulan*, to the classic 70's film *The Stepford Wives*. Unfortunately, many of the films that Rex wanted to show were not available for licensing! Perhaps the most notable example of this being James Cameron's *Aliens* due to the recent release of the film *Prometheus*.

Not surprisingly, Rex also found that most strong female character roles were skewed to more recent films. So please forgive him for the lack of older movies in this year's schedule.

But despite all of these issues, Rex thinks he has found some wonderful rare film gems in: *Triangle*, a psychologically disturbing UK horror film; *The Extraordinary Adventures of Adèle Blanc-Sec*, the delightful Victorian steam-punky adventure film by French film maker Luc Besson; and *Agora*, a film that explores the ancient astronomer and mathematician Hypatia's quest for understanding the motions of the solar system. None of these films were ever released theatrically in the US.

So although this year's schedule was a challenge for Rex to come up with, he really hopes you will enjoy the interesting collection of films he's gathered for you.

Thanks to those who filled out comment cards in past years, we appreciate your input and hope to receive more this year. Rex reads every one personally, and your opinions and film suggestions are very helpful.

## THURSDAY

- 3:00pm **The Muppets** (G - 2011 - 103 min.)  
*dir. James Bobin w/ Jason Segel, Amy Adams, Chris Cooper*  
Miss Piggy. Nuff said!
- 5:00pm **Chicago** (PG-13 - 2002 - 113 min.)  
*dir. Rob Marshall w/ Renee Zellweger, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Richard Gere*  
Pop! Six! Squish! Uh Uh, Cicero... Lipschitz! One the best film adaptations of a stage musical ever made. He had it comin'! (*this showing captioned*)
- 7:00pm **The Skeleton Key** (PG-13 - 2005 - 104 min.)  
*dir. Iain Softley w/ Kurt Russell's step-daughter, Gena Rowlands, Peter Sarsgaard*  
Kurt Russell's step-daughter will be servin' up some pizza! Oh, and this creepy, antebellum haunted mansion bayou story will keep you guessing. (*this showing captioned*)
- 9:00pm **Trailer Park**  
See what the future holds as Rex dishes out trailers for hot upcoming releases, as well as some independent shorts and other fun stuff.
- 10:00pm **Sucker Punch** (PG-13 - 2011 - 110 min.)  
*dir. Zack Snyder w/ Emily Browning, Vanessa Hudgens*  
This highly stylized film follows a young woman committed to an asylum for the supposed murder of her younger sister. She must escape before being lobotomized by her seedy doctor. Using the unconventional means of dance, she transports herself into a fantasy world that mimics the challenges she faces in reality. But like most things, it's never that simple. You'll have to come see!
- Midnight **Silent Hill** (R - 2006 - 125 min.)  
*dir. Christophe Gans w/ Radha Mitchell, Sean Bean*  
Part one of the Radha Mitchell Double Feature: Sprung from one of the most horrifying and successful series of survival horror games made - a video game movie that doesn't suck! A mother searches through the depths of terror to find her daughter with a dark secret. *Silent Hill* is brimming with atmosphere, beautifully disturbing imagery and one kick-ass mom.
- 2:00am **Pitch Black** (R - 2000 - 109 min.)  
*dir. David Twohy w/ Radha Mitchell, Vin Diesel*  
Yeah, yeah... you think Vin Diesel steals the show. But his portrayal really comes through against Radha Mitchell's role as the leader of the party and moral center of this film, making this the perfect second half of our Radha Mitchell Double Feature.

## FRIDAY

- 10:00am **Enchanted** (PG - 2007 - 107 min.)  
*dir. Kevin Lima w/ Amy Adams, Patrick Dempsey, James Marsden*  
In this clever parody of classic Disney films, the princess Giselle is forced from her animated home onto the unforgiving streets of New York City. Real life is a bitch. (*this showing captioned*)
- Noon **The Extraordinary Adventures of Adèle Blanc-Sec** (NR - 2010 - 107 min.)  
*dir. Luc Besson w/ Louise Bourgoin and some other French people*  
From the director of *The Fifth Element* comes a whimsical tale of an Indiana Jonesque authoress and her exploits with pterodactyls, magic, and mummies in Egypt and Paris during the early 1900s. Never before released in the US - theatrically or on DVD - this film is a must see! (*with English subtitles*)
- 2:00pm **Best of 2011 Midwest Sci-Fi Short Film Festival**  
Filmmakers from around Minnesota and the upper Midwest

submitted short films of various geeky genres and styles. Come see some of Rex's favorites.

- 3:00pm **Hanna** (PG-13 - 2011 - 111 min.)  
*dir. Joe Wright w/ Saoirse Ronan, Cate Blanchett, Eric Bana*  
Part espionage thriller, part messed up fairy tale, the first selection in the Cate Blanchett Double Feature is the story of a teenage assassin on a mission of revenge. The film stars Eric Bana as Hanna's father/mentor and Cate Blanchett as the CIA agent out to destroy them both.
- 5:00pm **Elizabeth** (R - 1998 - 124 min.)  
*dir. Shekhar Kapur w/ Cate Blanchett, Geoffrey Rush, Christopher Eccleston, Joseph Fiennes*  
Queen Elizabeth I was one of the greatest rulers in western civilization, which is especially remarkable given the paternal structure of the monarchy and society in her time. This is the film that put Cate Blanchett in the upper echelon of modern-day film actresses.
- 7:30pm **Agora** (R - 2010 - 127 min.)  
*dir. Alejandro Amenábar w/ Rachel Wiesz, Max Minghella*  
In the midst of religious upheaval between Christians, Jews, and Pagans in ancient Alexandria, the philosopher and astronomer Hypatia tries to rectify the inelegant theories of the motions of the planets as explained by the Ptolemaic and heliocentric models. This high budget, well-made historical drama never had a theatrical release in the US.
- 10:00pm **Aeon Flux** (PG-13 - 2005 - 93 min.)  
*dir. Karyn Kusama w/ Charlize Theron, Frances McDormand*  
From the animated MTV series of the same name, Charlize Theron stars as Aeon Flux, a member of an underground rebel movement. When sent on a mission to shatter the foundation of her dystopian society, she uncovers a conspiracy with far reaching implications. Visually striking in direction, costuming and artistic design, this is the only female-directed film showing in Rex this year!
- Midnight **Kill Bill Volume 1** (R - 2003 - 111 min.)  
*dir. Quentin Tarantino w/ Uma Thurman, Lucy Liu, Vivica A. Fox, Daryl Hannah*  
Women! Brides! Blood! Swords! Tarantino's stylized tribute to classic Kung Fu movies is a blast to watch from start to finish.
- 2:00am **Kill Bill Vol. 2** (R - 2004 - 136 min.)  
*dir. Quentin Tarantino w/ Uma Thurman, David Carradine, Michael Madsen, Daryl Hannah*  
More resolution than sequel, Volume 2 shifts the mood with a bit of spaghetti western flavor and a more serious emotional edge. But don't worry, there's still plenty of fighting and blood for your late-night viewing pleasure!
- 10:00am **The Secret of NIMH** (G - 1982 - 82 min.)  
*dir. Don Bluth w/ Elizabeth Hartman, Dom DeLuise, Derek Jacobi, Wil Wheaton*  
A masterpiece of classic animation, Don Bluth's film tells the story of Mrs. Brisby's quest to save her family as she braves dangers in her surroundings, and also the risk of her dealings with highly intelligent rats who have internal conflicts of their own.
- 11:30am **She** (NR - 1965 - 106 min.)  
*dir. Robert Day w/ Ursula Andress, Peter Cushing, Christopher Lee*  
Magic, adventure, a lost city, and a beautiful, immortal goddess. This was the highest budget from Hammer Studio and was shot on location in Egypt. She also teaches us an important lesson: never step into magical fires more than once.

## SATURDAY

- 1:30pm **Elektra** (PG-13 - 2005 - 97 min.)  
*dir. Rob Bowman w/ Jennifer Garner, Goran Visnjic, Kirsten Prout*  
Often panned as one of the weakest of the early Marvel movies, *Elektra* far surpasses its Ben Affleckted predecessor. Well directed and well acted throughout, *Elektra* comes across as one of the more thoughtful, intelligent, and story driven superhero films. This along with beautiful cinematography and not overly-edited action sequences makes Elektra deserving of another look. (*this showing captioned*)
- 3:30pm **Chicago** (PG-13 - 2002 - 113 min.)  
*dir. Rob Marshall w/ Renee Zellweger, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Richard Gere*  
Pop! Six! Squish! Uh Uh, Cicero... Lipschitz! One the best film adaptations of a stage musical ever made. He had it comin'! (*this showing captioned*)
- 5:30pm **The Extraordinary Adventures of Adèle Blanc-Sec** (NR - 2010 - 107 min.)  
*dir. Luc Besson w/ Louise Bourgoin and some other French people*  
From the director of *The Fifth Element* comes a whimsical tale of an Indiana Jonesque authoress and her exploits with pterodactyls, magic, and mummies in Egypt and Paris during the early 1900s. Never before released in the US - theatrically or on DVD - this film is a must see! (*with English subtitles*)
- 7:30pm **Terminator 2: Judgment Day (Special Extended Edition)** (R - 1992 - 154 min.)  
*dir. James Cameron w/ Linda Hamilton, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Edward Furlong*  
Terminator and T2 are both great films but this story is where the character of Sarah Connor steps up and kicks ass. Cameron's generally been good at creating and directing strong female characters and this is a prime example.
- 10:00pm **Triangle** (R - 2009 - 99 min.)  
*dir. Christopher Smith w/ Melissa George, Joshua Mclvor*  
Sailing near the Bermuda Triangle, a storm forces our characters to leave their boat for the "safety" of a deserted cruise ship. This UK-produced film was never released in US theaters. A classic horror story with a supernatural twist, it's disturbing and surprisingly good.
- Midnight **Sucker Punch** (PG-13 - 2011 - 110 min.)  
*dir. Zack Snyder w/ Emily Browning, Vanessa Hudgens*  
This highly stylized film follows a young woman committed to an asylum for the supposed murder of her younger sister. She must escape before being lobotomized by her seedy doctor. Using the unconventional means of dance, she transports herself into a fantasy world that mimics the challenges she faces in reality. But like most things, it's never that simple. You'll have to come see!
- 2:00am **Underworld** (R - 2003 - 121 min.)  
*dir. Len Wiseman w/ Kate Beckinsale, Scott Speedman, Michael Sheen, Bill Nighy*  
Kate Beckinsale stars as Selene in the first installment of the eternal war between Vampires and Lycans. Plenty of slow-motion action, a budding romance with a vampire- Lycan hybrid, and skin-tight lycra and leather!

## SUNDAY

- 10:00am **The Muppets** (G - 2011 - 103 min.)  
*dir. James Bobin w/ Jason Segel, Amy Adams, Chris Cooper*  
 Miss Piggy. Nuff said! *(this showing captioned)*
- Noon **Enchanted** (PG - 2007 - 107 min.)  
*dir. Kevin Lima w/ Amy Adams, Patrick Dempsey, James Marsden*  
 In this clever parody of classic Disney films, the princess Giselle is forced from her animated home onto the unforgiving streets of New York City. Real life is a bitch. *(this showing captioned)*
- 2:00am **Elektra** (PG-13 - 2005 - 97 min.)  
*dir. Rob Bowman w/ Jennifer Garner, Goran Visnjic, Kirsten Prout*  
 Often panned as one of the weakest of the early Marvel movies, *Elektra* far surpasses its Ben Afflecked predecessor. Well directed and well acted throughout, *Elektra* comes across as one of the more thoughtful, intelligent, and story driven superhero films. This along with beautiful cinematography and not overly-edited action sequences makes *Elektra* deserving of another look. *(this showing captioned)*
- 4:00am **Hanna** (PG-13 - 2011 - 111 min.)  
*dir. Joe Wright w/ Saoirse Ronan, Cate Blanchett, Eric Bana*  
 Part espionage thriller, part messed up fairy tale, the first selection in the Cate Blanchett Double Feature is the story of a teenage assassin on a mission of revenge. The film stars Eric Bana as Hanna's father/mentor and Cate Blanchett as the CIA agent out to destroy them both. *(this showing captioned)*



Connie as My Little Pony artwork by MandyDax, an entry in the 2012 CONvergence Art Contest.

## CoF<sub>2</sub>E<sub>2</sub> Free Coffee Shop

### Cabanas 115—116 (1st Floor, South Tower)

Thursday	3:00pm—3:00am (Friday morning)
Friday	7:00am—3:00am (Saturday morning)
Saturday	7:00am—3:00am (Sunday morning)
Sunday	7:00am—5:00pm

Your favorite free java joint is back again this year. As we know your convention weekend will fly by, CoF<sub>2</sub>E<sub>2</sub> is available to help you keep your eyes open 20 hours a day. We open at 3:00pm on Thursday and will close briefly each night (technically morning) between 3:00am and 7:00am.

CoF<sub>2</sub>E<sub>2</sub> yet again provides all the free coffee related beverages your heart desires, with the purchase of convention admittance, of course. We have espresso drinks in regular or decaf, coffee, tea, and milk steamers, and as usual we will be offering soy milk as an option for your drinks. So stop by and see what's new (chai steamers), or just take advantage of the coffee shop atmosphere to hang out with friends or get off your feet for a while.

This year, CoF<sub>2</sub>E<sub>2</sub> is donating their tips to Girls in Engineering, Mathematics, and Science (GEMS / Little GEMS) and Guys in Science and Engineering (GISE / Jr. GISE). Both are after-school and summer programs designed specifically for K-8th grade girls and boys (respectively) in the Minneapolis Public School District. The goal of these programs is for students to have measurable and significant gains in mathematics and science. Inaugurated in 1997, the success of GEMS prompted the development of GISE in 2006. The Little GEMS and Jr. GISE programs started in the fall of 2010.

## Connie's Space Lounge

### Verandas 3, 5, 6, 8 (South Tower, 2nd Floor)

Thursday	9:00pm - 2:00am
Friday	1:00pm-4:00pm & 9:00pm - 2:00am
Saturday	2:00pm - 5:00pm & 10:00pm - 2:00am

(Smoothies only available during evening hours)

### CLUB SPLOUNGE: THE HOTTEST PLACE TO CHILL IN THE GALAXY

#### Thursday: Big Mother's Club Misstopia - 9:00pm - 2:00am

Celebrate ladies night under the watchful and strangely soothing eyes of Big Mother. Back by popular demand, the Time and Space Lounge will return for one night of dystopi-FUN. Bring a lady, meet a lady, give a lady a smoothie; Big Mother provides safety, security, surety – so don't be afraid to take a risk... and don't forget to take your medicine.

#### Friday: Anyanka's Club Vengeance - 9:00pm - 2:00am

You'll be chillin' like a villain(ess) in the not-so-tender embrace of the Evil Lady Cave: infamous haunt of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Femme-Fatale. Step-mothers, sirens, wicked witches, evil sorceresses, and other unapologetically homicidal ladies need a safe-haven to swap spells and drink smoothies too! Come on in but remember...you're in their space (lounge) now.

#### Saturday: Club Excessive - 10:00pm - 2:00am

Celebrate Ladies night with special guest DJ, hostess, dancer, lounge, and smoothie bartender... the ultimate space princess herself(s)... Barbarella! We may not know anything about Tau Ceti, but we're busting positronic beats and partying like it's 40,000 AD. Loincloths, bare chests, and giant wings – and that's just the men! Dial down the creep-factor and dial up the sex appeal; this lounge is all "excessive" all the time!

### SCHEDULE OF SPECIAL EVENTS:

#### THURSDAY:

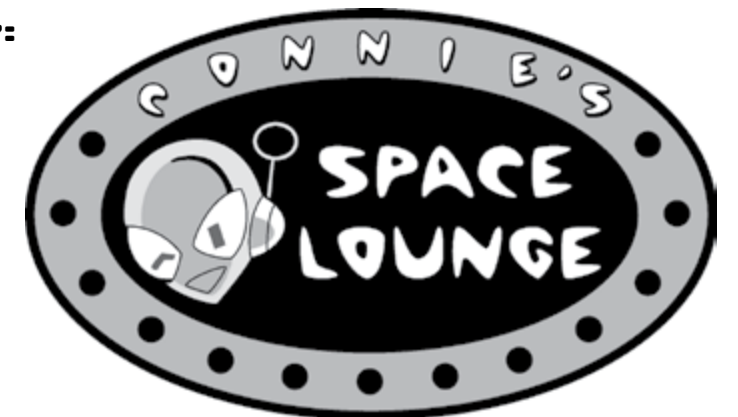
Big Mother's Club Misstopia	9:00pm-2:00am
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#### FRIDAY:

Space Craft	1:00pm-3:00pm
Dalek Poetry Slam	3:00pm-4:00pm
Anyanka's Club Vengeance	9:00pm-2:00am

#### SATURDAY:

Classic Video Game Tournament	2:00pm signup
Club Excessive	10:00pm-2:00am





# Connie's QUANTUM SANDBOX

(Plaza 3, North Tower, 1st Floor)

## HOURS OF OPERATION

Thursday	3:00pm—Midnight
Friday	9:00am—Midnight
Saturday	9:00am—Midnight
Sunday	9:00am—4:30pm

No convention would be complete without an activity room, and CONvergence is no exception! Born of the merge between the former Art and Science rooms, Connie's Quantum Sandbox is the CONvergence destination for all those wanting to get their hands dirty doing some art, some science, or a little of both! With an emphasis on activities (hands-on, interactive events) over panels, the Sandbox seeks to engage con-goers of all ages in fun and exciting experiences that will enrich CONvergence (and hopefully be a little fun, and maybe just a little dangerous, too). If you're curious, stop on by! We can be found in Plaza 3 throughout CONvergence.

This year, Sandbox After Dark has been expanded to include Thursday and Saturday, as well. If you're looking for some adult activities (no, not that kind of adult activities...), come to the Sandbox after 9 PM on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday for adult-themed activities. Sandbox After Dark will be badged. Please bring photo ID.

## SANDBOX RULES (YES, IT DOES)

Here at Quantum Sandbox, we have a few rules, follow them to avoid sadness and loss. If you choose not to follow the rules we have laid out here, one of the Sandbox Co-Heads or Sub-Heads can and will ask you to leave and not return (at least for the rest of that day). If you lose anything (your dignity, a body part) it may not be returned, depending on its resale value.

### Here are the rules for Connie's Quantum Sandbox:

- Do not leave your young (under 10) children unattended. If you do, you may find they have been sold into slavery or processed for component materials. You don't want to find out if we're kidding about this.
- If you are attending a science activity, NEVER put any of the activity materials into your mouth. You may not know what they are (even if you think you do), and you never know where they have been. This is where "ruin your day" takes on a whole new meaning.
- Follow ANY AND ALL instructions given by Sandbox staff and activity leaders. Some of our activities are legitimately dangerous and/or involve the use of dangerous implements. The safety of our patrons is foremost in our minds - we don't want you to get injured. So do what we tell you to.

- Do not abuse the Sandbox staff – we think very highly of and appreciate our volunteers (and we need them for the Sandbox to run effectively).
- Wait your turn. Lines may be long, especially during the hair-braiding and face-painting panels. We WILL get to you (although it might move faster if YOU decide to help us paint or braid!)
- Respect others and their property. This includes the property of the Sandbox staff – many of us bring our own materials to run our panels, and we do not appreciate people destroying them. Moreover, horseplay during science activities has a serious potential to injure someone.

## ALLERGY WARNING:

Some of the events in the Sandbox (namely those that involve costuming and face- or body-painting) will probably involve the use of latex. Latex can cause allergic reactions in some individuals - please know your sensitivity to latex and be prepared to take action should you come in contact with latex while in the Sandbox. The Sandbox staff will make every effort to keep the latex isolated while it is not in use, but we encourage our patrons to be safe and as cautious as necessary. If you have questions on latex use, feel free to ask one of the Sandbox staff members.

We also feature activities that have food products as part of the activity. Some of these food products may contain peanuts or other nut products, gluten, lactose, or other ingredients that can trigger food allergies. As with all our supplies, we make every effort to keep our food inventory isolated while it is not in use, but we encourage our patrons to be safe and as cautious as necessary. If you have questions about these activities, or the ingredients we use, feel free to ask one of the Sandbox staff members.

## BLAST OFF THURSDAY

3:30pm—6:00pm	<b>Face-painting</b> What's a marauder without a mask? Come have your face besmirched with a painted mask, so that you can more easily hide your secret identity from the rest of the convention. <i>Jim Shields, Matthew Bannerman, Angie Anderson, Sandy Darst, Sonya Honaker, Nikita Wolterson</i>
7:00pm—8:00pm	<b>Revenge of the Beaded Hairsticks</b> Come make your own hairsticks to keep your hair in a lovely up-do and out of your way while you're busy kicking butts and taking names. <i>Sandy Darst</i>
8:30pm—9:30pm	<b>Noisy Demonstrations</b> ZIP! ZING! WHAM! Come watch as Sandbox comes alive with noise and science! If you'd use

onomatopoeia to describe it, expect to hear it during this series of demos, filled with chemistry, physics, and fun!! *Angie Anderson, Matthew Bannerman, Renee Petersen*

10:00pm—Midnight	<b>Sandbox After Dark: Cakes Your Mother Warned You About</b> If your mother didn't warn you about these cakes, you had a pretty cool mom. Or she was in prison. Either way, join us for some Epic Cake Decorating - results sure to turn heads and make mouths (at least) water. <b>GLUTEN PRESENT! 18+ Bring ID.</b> <i>Angie Anderson, Sonya Honaker, Jim Shields, Matthew Bannerman, Abbey Chapel</i>
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## SCIENCE FRIDAY

9:30am—10:30am	<b>Battle of the Beaks</b> Pretend you are a hungry bird and use different "beaks" to compete for food. Which birds will have the adaptive advantage and get the most food? What might happen if the environment changes? <i>Mary Myers</i>
11:00am—Noon	<b>You Disgust Me I</b> Your body is a temple...at which disgusting bacteria and other organisms worship constantly. Come to the Sandbox and shine your visage on the descendants of your devout followers - see how disgusting you really are. <i>Matthew Bannerman</i>
12:30pm—1:30pm	<b>Bones</b> Discover what an owl had for dinner! Dissect an owl pellet to solve the mystery and reveal clues about the owl's diet and predator/prey relationships. What types of bones will you find in your pellet? <i>PZ Myers</i>
2:00pm—3:00pm	<b>Evolution of Strange Ancient Creatures</b> Skip, jump and play with strange ancient creatures across 600 million years of evolution! Learn about 67 bizarre creatures, 12 geologic periods and six mass extinctions. <i>Mary Myers</i>
3:30pm—4:30pm	<b>Oobleck</b> Everyone loves playing with goo, and this goo comes with a story, a spaceship, and some science! It's a healthy helping of reading, drawing, and slime, and you and your kids will love it! <i>Sophie Aldred, Matthew Bannerman</i>
5:00pm—6:00pm	<b>Deconstruction of Dragons</b> How do you take an iconic creature and make it your own. Ferocious and Angry, Wise and Benevolent, Gentle and Comic. Join artists in this drawing workshop and learn tips and tricks to add personality and your own style to your mythical creations. <i>Ruth Thompson, John Garner, Nikita Wolterson</i>
7:00pm—8:00pm	<b>Bubbles</b> Make your own bubble blower and find out if you can blow bubbles that are squares or triangles. Delve into the magic of bubble shapes and bubbles in nature then make a bubble craft. <i>Monica Fitchett</i>
8:00pm—Midnight	<b>Sandbox After Dark: Art is Skin-Deep</b> For the adults at the convention wanting to create or be a canvas for body painting, this is your panel! Come visit the Sandbox, free of children, for a night of art and enjoyment. We will try to limit the debauchery. <b>LATEX PRESENT! 18+ Bring ID.</b> <i>Jim Shields, Angie Anderson, Sonya Honaker, Matthew Bannerman</i>

## PARTY SATURDAY

9:30am—10:30am	<b>Making Sock Friends with Joy-Filled Puppets</b> Do you like speaking with your hands but get frustrated when they refuse to talk back? Solve that problem by joining Kim Baerg, a puppeteer and owner of Joy Filled Puppets, in making sock puppets and then playing with them. <i>Kimberly Baerg</i>
11:00am—Noon	<b>You Disgust Me II</b> Your body is a temple...at which disgusting bacteria and other organisms worship constantly. Come to the Sandbox and shine your visage on the descendants of your devout followers - see how disgusting you really are. <i>Matthew Bannerman</i>
12:30pm—1:30 pm	<b>Pipecleaner Dragonmaking</b> Soft Sculpture Artist, Julie Bowman will be teaching all ages how to make their own simple pipecleaner dragon. Modifications are also shown, and it can get crazy from there. <i>Julie Bowman</i>
2:00pm—3:00pm	<b>Toys in Space</b> How does Gravity affect your favorite Toy?? Come Propose your hypotheses then find out the answer by watching a NASA video to see what actually happened in space. <i>Ben Huset</i>
3:30pm—4:30pm	<b>Color Crayon Candle Crafting</b> What can I do with all these old broken bits of leftover crayons? Give them new life as candles!. <i>Jaqui Hegland</i>
5:00pm—6:00pm	<b>Matchbook Notebooks</b> We will be making a small notebook that can easily slip in your pocket. Perfect for small reminders, phone numbers, and mini masterpieces. <i>Amaya Goldsmith</i>
6:30pm—8:00pm	<b>Not So Simple Puppets</b> Do you dream of taking your puppet making skills beyond "paper bag" and "sock"? If so, this may be the panel for you! Kimberly Baerg of Joy Filled Puppets will instruct you in the finer points of puppet making. <i>Kimberly Baerg</i>
8:30pm—9:30pm	<b>Leather Bag of Dice Holding +2</b> Let's face it, building up your skill proficiencies can be time consuming and boring. In real life however, you can have a fun time with others as you craft a leather bag for your Dice... or your Health Potions... your choice. Supplies donated by Tandy Leather. <b>Participant limit: 30.</b> <i>Jason Rolfstad</i>
10:00pm—Midnight	<b>Sandbox After Dark: Unmentionables After Dark</b> You can't wander around the Con naked, but if you cover up the naughty bits with Pasties & Edible Underwear, you might be able to get away with it for a few minutes. Don't have any of those? Come on in! We'll show you how to make them! <b>18+ Bring ID</b> <i>Sonya Honaker, Carla Mantel, Angie Anderson</i>

## TOUCHDOWN SUNDAY

9:30am—10:30am	<b>Crayon's Corner</b> KIDS!! Bring your parents to this Exciting Story and Activity Hour. Crayon (Caryn Lengeek ) leads this wonderful CONvergence staple. <i>Caryn Lengkeek</i>
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## SUNDAY CONTINUED

- 11:00am—Noon **Steampunk Craft Hour**  
Join us for a steampunk-themed craft hour. Create a mechanical collage, design your own airship, or color your own vintage paper dolls! *Kevin Borchers*
- 12:30pm—1:30pm **Catapults**  
Come fling small, squashy things at each other right after you've constructed a simple catapult! Please leave your own missiles at home. *Renee Petersen*
- 2:00pm—3:00pm **Magnets! How do they work?**  
Come to the Magnet Lab with Professor Lowry, and he'll show you all kinds of cool demonstrations with magnets. We'll explore how magnetism originates and what you can do with it, plus you get to make-and-take your own electromagnetic motor!  
*Matt Lowry*
- 3:30pm—4:30pm **Yarngasm**  
Come on now, how can two things called a "needle" look so different? We have two artists to answer that question. On one side of the room we will be knitting and on the other we will be learning simple counted cross stitch. Come join us for a calm but entertaining activity. *Eli Tracy and Abby Lehrke*



## ConSuite

**Cabanas 214—219 (South Tower, 2nd Floor)**  
**Open 24 Hours: Thursday 3:00pm—Sunday 5:00pm**

ConSuite is a place where you can get between-meal snacks and soda free with your convention membership. We will be serving rice, soups, PB & J sandwiches, chips, and candy. There will also be some breakfast food available in the morning, and watch for special treats. These "special treats" (we call them "Wow Foods") are put out at unannounced times on a first-come, first-served basis, so stop by often. In addition to catching a snack, there's lots of space to hang out and play board games with friends. Our convention mascot Connie's evil twin, **Connie Mark II**, has found a home at ConSuite, and assures us that working in food service motivates her To Serve Fans at a whole new level.

## GRAND OPENING

**Thursday at 3:00pm**, ConSuite is hosting a **Grand Opening** event. Stop by for a snack, to meet the crew, and for special surprises!

# Dealers Room

## Grand Ballroom West & Front Center (2nd Floor, South Tower)

Thursday	2:00pm—6:00pm
Friday	10:00am—6:00pm
Saturday	10:00am—6:00pm
Sunday	10:00am—4:00pm

Located in the Grand Ballroom off CONvergence Central on the second floor of the South tower, the Dealers Room offers a large and diverse gathering of wares, with a little bit of everything to tempt you. From anime to books, corsets to the latest gaming modules, the Dealers Room offers every type of merchandise a fan could desire.

- |                                     |                         |                             |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 20th Century Books                  | Paraselenic Studios     | Source Comics and Games     |
| Aerial Artwork                      | Prairie Knoll Stitchery | Spacetravler                |
| After the Sheep Fiber Arts          | Realms Anime            | Springtime Creations        |
| Akashawear                          | Rhiannon's              | Steeleworks                 |
| Alt.Kilt                            | Rhythm of the Moon      | Surly-Ramics                |
| Angelwear Creations                 | Saint Euphoria Pictures | The Blonde Swan             |
| Artemis Leather                     | SaraCura                | The Tarot Garden            |
| Boudoir Belle Reproductions         | Scoundrelle's Keep      | Thompson Productions L.L.C. |
| Cardz                               | Scrying Eye Games       | Whimsey Winks               |
| Xtcetera                            | Singing Lemur Jewelry   | WOE IS OZ Comics            |
| Crimson Chain                       | SLR Knives              |                             |
| Leather Works                       |                         |                             |
| David Christenson Bookseller        |                         |                             |
| Death and Pestilence Armory         |                         |                             |
| Dreamers Cards, Games & Collectible |                         |                             |
| Dreamhaven Books                    |                         |                             |
| Earth Wisdom Music and Clothing     |                         |                             |
| Emerald's Emporium                  |                         |                             |
| Da Vinci Scientifica                |                         |                             |
| Frankensweater                      |                         |                             |
| Funk'n Fantasy                      |                         |                             |
| Highwind Steamworks                 |                         |                             |
| Infinite Diversity                  |                         |                             |
| Jedi Master Thrash                  |                         |                             |
| KMKDesigns                          |                         |                             |
| Lady Heather's Fashions             |                         |                             |
| Leo Watrin                          |                         |                             |
| Level Up Games                      |                         |                             |
| Light Year Productions              |                         |                             |
| LSVSL                               |                         |                             |
| Midnight Syndicate Soundtracks      |                         |                             |
| Mohr Creations                      |                         |                             |
| Mythical Creations                  |                         |                             |
| Odyssey Anime                       |                         |                             |
| Off World Designs                   |                         |                             |
| Omega Artworks                      |                         |                             |
| Opinicus Soaps                      |                         |                             |
| Papa's Hideaway                     |                         |                             |



L. Frank 5/2001

# Gaming

## OPEN GAMING

**Vista Suite 2203 / 22nd Floor, South Tower** — Opens 3:30pm Thursday / Closes 3:30pm Sunday

## CONSUIE GAMING

**Consuite / 2nd Floor, South Tower** — Opens 3:00pm Thursday / Closes 5:00pm Sunday

## LAN GAMING

**Vista Suite 2205 / 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor, South Tower** — (See schedule on page 46)

## GAMING SCHEDULE

### THURSDAY

2:00pm—3:00pm **Arena Assault** *Vista Suite 2204A*  
Card game featuring robots, ninjas, samurai and cat girls fighting it out. Very fast paced and lots of fun. *Run by Bob Wagner*

6:00—7:00 pm **Munchkin Tournament Player Meeting** *Vista Suite 2202C*  
Steve Jackson Games' Munchkin card game like you've never seen it before -- tournament style! Come meet up with your Tournament GM and other players to get signed up for this event. There will be one round Thursday night, one round Friday morning, one round Friday evening, and the finals Saturday night after Masquerade. Attendance at the player meeting is \*strongly recommended\* so our referee knows how many people will be participating! *Run by Andy Mullin*

7:30pm— **Munchkin Tournament Round 1** *Vista Suite 2202C*  
First round of Munchkin Tournament for players who were at the player meeting. Steve Jackson Games' Munchkin card game in a tournament format. *Run by Andy Mullin*

### FRIDAY

11:00am—Noon **Zombie Ninja Pirate Vampire Werewolf Fairies (ZNPVWF)** *ConSuite Gaming*  
Can you become the ultimate mystical combo-creature? Zombie Ninja Pirate Vampire Werewolf Fairies is a fast-paced, tongue-in-cheek fantasy card game where you become combinations of types of characters. You race to collect objects in your Chest to help you or hurt your opponents, depending on which characters you become. With well known, award-winning artists and silly strategy, this is a quick, fun game for the whole family. 2-10 players age 13 and up. Game plays less than an hour. *Run by Matthew Duhan of Gozer Games*

11:00am—12:30pm **Munchkin Tournament Round 2** *Vista Suite 2202C*  
Second round of Munchkin Tournament for players who were at the player meeting. Steve Jackson Games' Munchkin card game in a tournament format. *Run by Andy Mullin*

Noon—1:30pm **Red Dragon Inn Friday Girls Night Out** *Vista Suite 2204A*  
4 players Red Dragon Inn Girls Night Out: Sometimes even professional adventurers need a night out with their girlfriends. Join Wizgille The Tinkerer, Kaylin The Renegade, Serena The Pious (\*cough\*OrcPaladin\*cough\*) and the rest of the ladies of Red Dragon in for a man-free night of gambling, drinking and brawling. Last person sober with money to spend wins. *Run by Bob Wagner*

2:00pm—4:00 pm **Titans of Industry** *Vista Suite 2202D*  
It is the 1930s, a time of much industrial building and growth. Buy factories and businesses, in order to produce goods and sell them to gain victory points. The person who can best manage their buildings and meet their goals will win. This is Gozer Games' newest game, planned to be released later this year. Come get a sneak peek of this new game. 3-5 players age 13 and up. Game plays about 2 hours (longer Euro-type game). *Run by Matt Duhan of Gozer Games*

3:00pm—4:30pm **Kung Fu Fighting** *Vista Suite 2204A*  
Your Kung Fu is strong but your jaw is weak grasshoppah! Take up the Demon Possessed Ladder of Your Ancestors, spin-kick your opponent through the wall and bring honor to your house in this card game of cinematic martial arts combat! *Run by Bob Wagner*

5:00pm—6:00pm **Zombie Ninja Pirate Vampire Werewolf Fairies (ZNPVWF)** *ConSuite Gaming*  
Can you become the ultimate mystical combo-creature? Zombie Ninja Pirate Vampire Werewolf Fairies is a fast-paced, tongue-in-cheek fantasy card game where you become combinations of types of characters. You race to collect objects in your Chest to help you or hurt your opponents, depending on which characters you become. With well known, award-winning artists and silly strategy, this is a quick, fun game for the whole family. 2-10 players age 13 and up. Game plays less than an hour. *Run by Matthew Duhan of Gozer Games*

7:00pm—8:30pm **Munchkin Tournament Round 3** *Vista Suite 2202C*  
Third round of Munchkin Tournament for players who were at the player meeting. Steve Jackson Games' Munchkin card game in a tournament format. *Run by Andy Mullin*

8:00pm—12:30am **Magic: the Gathering Tournament** *Vista Suite 2207*  
16 players Once again CONvergence's Card Gaming Suite presents the annual Magic the Gathering tournament. 16 people will be invited to play with no entry fee. Sealed decks will be provided. It will be best 2 out of 3 as always, with the winner receiving 8 decks to do what they please. 2nd place will get 4 decks. We are also wanting 2 referees to resolve any disputes with any rules and gameplay and they will receive a deck each for refereeing. *Referee: Rob Polzin*

8:30pm—10:00pm **Lunch Money / Beer Money** *Vista Suite 2204A*  
For everyone who ever went to Parochial School, and those who didn't, this is cheaper than therapy and a LOT more fun -- beat the snot out of the other girls on the playground and take all their Lunch Money! You can clock your adversaries with a Lead Pipe, a Roundhouse Right, and remind them to Say Hi to God for you. It's trouble in the schoolyard, but pure fun at CONvergence. This is a late-night event, so ladies, don't be surprised to see your fellow competitors in costume! ;) *Run by Bob Wagner*

### SATURDAY

11:00am—12:30pm **Arena Assault** *ConSuite Gaming*  
Card game featuring robots, ninjas, samurai and cat girls fighting it out. Very fast paced and lots of fun. *Run by Bob Wagner*

1:00pm—3:30pm **Lords of Waterdeep** *ConSuite Gaming*  
5 players The latest from Wizards of the Coast, "Lords of Waterdeep", is a tabletop board and strategy game in which you don't play the adventurers on a quest, you play the secret masters of a fantasy city who hire those characters and send them on their missions. The goal? To make the city of Waterdeep the best it can be (in your own image, of course). Come and join this exciting game of intrigue, swords, and magic. *Run by David J Rust*

3:30pm—5:00pm **Kung Fu Fighting** *ConSuite Gaming*  
Your Kung Fu is strong but your jaw is weak grasshoppah! Take up the Demon Possessed Ladder of Your Ancestors, spin-kick your opponent through the wall and bring honor to your house in this card game of cinematic martial arts combat! *Run by Bob Wagner*

2:00pm—4:00pm **Titans of Industry** *Vista Suite 2202D*  
It is the 1930s, a time of much industrial building and growth. Buy factories and businesses, in order to produce goods and sell them to gain victory points. The person who can best manage their buildings and meet their goals will win. This is Gozer Games' newest game, planned to be released later this year. Come get a sneak peek of this new game. 3-5 players age 13 and up. Game plays about 2 hours (longer Euro-type game). *Run by Matt Duhan of Gozer Games*

5:00pm—6:00pm **Zombie Ninja Pirate Vampire Werewolf Fairies** *ConSuite Gaming*  
Can you become the ultimate mystical combo-creature? Zombie Ninja Pirate Vampire Werewolf Fairies is a fast-paced, tongue-in-cheek fantasy card game where you become combinations of types of characters. You race to collect objects in your Chest to help you or hurt your opponents, depending on which characters you become. With well known, award-winning artists and silly strategy, this is a quick, fun game for the whole family. 2-10 players age 13 and up. Game plays less than an hour. *Run by Matthew Duhan of Gozer Games*

6:30pm—8:00pm **Zombie Ninja Pirate Vampire Werewolf Fairies (ZNPVWF)** *ConSuite Gaming*  
Can you become the ultimate mystical combo-creature? Zombie Ninja Pirate Vampire Werewolf Fairies is a fast-paced, tongue-in-cheek fantasy card game where you become combinations of types of characters. You race to collect objects in your Chest

to help you or hurt your opponents, depending on which characters you become. With well known, award-winning artists and silly strategy, this is a quick, fun game for the whole family. 2-10 players age 13 and up. Game plays less than an hour. *Run by Matthew Duhan of Gozer Games*

6:30pm—8:00 pm **Red Dragon Inn (regular)** *Vista Suite 2206A*  
Five adventurers walk into a bar and start a fight... that's pretty much Red Dragon Inn. Come play as your favorite stock character (many races, genders and types to choose from), and for Goddess' sake don't give whiskey to that dratted bunny... we just got the place rebuilt! *Run by Bob Wagner*

8:30pm—10:00pm **Cards Against Humanity ADULT (18+) ONLY, ID Required)** *Vista Suite 2206A*  
If you haven't seen it by now, this may be your game. Cards Against Humanity makes its semi-organized debut at CONvergence, and to quote the GM, it's "the seriously messed-up love child of Apples To Apples and a coked-out outlaw biker." This game is most definitely NOT for either children OR the easily-offended, so park the kiddies with your sitter and come take your first steps on this hilarious journey of \*WRONG\*!! *Run by Bob Wagner*

9:00 pm— **Munchkin Tournament FINALS!** *Vista Suite 2202C*  
Third round of Munchkin Tournament for players who were at the player meeting. Steve Jackson Games' Munchkin card game in a tournament format. *Run by Andy Mullin*

### SUNDAY

10:00am—11:30am **Small World** *ConSuite Gaming*  
Like Risk only in a fantasy setting and taking 90 minutes instead of a week and a half to play. Lots of fun. *Run by Bob Wagner*

## ROLEPLAYING EVENTS

### THURSDAY

4:00pm—6:00pm **D&D Next Edition Playtest** *Vista Suite 2202A*  
*GM: Jennifer Clarke Wilkes (CONvergence GoH!)*  
Join in a public playtest for the next iteration of the Dungeons & Dragons game! Play in a D&D Next adventure and give us your feedback to help guide the future of D&D! Players of any edition of the game are welcome to participate and pre-generated characters will be provided.

5:00pm—? **Firefly RPG: Ladies to the Rescue!** *Vista Suite 2204A*  
*GM Bob Wagner (Firefly RPG, 2-6 players, all levels of experience welcome, all materials provided)*  
The crew of the good ship Serenity stop by the planet Deadwood, home of their very own (God help em) Jayne Cobb for to visit his mom, have a homecooked meal and maybe take in a hobo fight or two. Well, sure enough things go wrong, the menfolk get bound by law and it's up to Mother Cobb, Zoe, River and the rest of the ladies of Serenity to go get the boys out of trouble. Again. Come and play as one of the female crew members of the finest ship in the verse or as the mother of the Hero of Canton himself in this RPG based on Joss Whedon's Firefly.

## THURSDAY (CONTINUED)

9:00pm—11:00pm **D&D Next Edition Playtest** **Vista Suite 2202A**  
*GM: Jennifer Clarke Wilkes (CONvergence GoH!)*  
Join in a public playtest for the next iteration of the Dungeons & Dragons game! Play in a D&D Next adventure and give us your feedback to help guide the future of D&D! Players of any edition of the game are welcome to participate and pre-generated characters will be provided.

## FRIDAY

9:30am—11:30 am **D&D Next Edition Playtest** **Vista Suite 2202A**  
*GM: Jennifer Clarke Wilkes (CONvergence GoH!)*  
Join in a public playtest for the next iteration of the Dungeons & Dragons game! Play in a D&D Next adventure and give us your feedback to help guide the future of D&D! Players of any edition of the game are welcome to participate and pre-generated characters will be provided.

12:30pm—5:30pm **Beach Blanket Body Count** **Vista Suite 2203**  
*GM Cameron Vincent (Feng Shui RPG, up to 5 players)*  
You ever wonder what would happen if you gave Annette Funicello two .45s and told her Frankie was in trouble? Come see. Susie and Veronica live on the beach but there's something in the water. When their men go missing, they have to find out the secret that lies just beneath the surface! Caught in a whirlpool of action, our heroes unearth a plot that threatens the entire Western hemisphere. Can they save their beaus and maybe even the rest of the world in time? Experience not required, but creative/silly people will have fun more fun saying things like: "I surf directly into the torpedo's path so it impacts before the torpedo can arm itself. Oh, I'll also continue firing my uzi at the pleasure cruise of death."

3:00pm—5:00pm **D&D Next Edition Playtest** **Vista Suite 2202A**  
*GM: Jennifer Clarke Wilkes (CONvergence GoH!)*  
Join in a public playtest for the next iteration of the Dungeons & Dragons game! Play in a D&D Next adventure and give us your feedback to help guide the future of D&D! Players of any edition of the game are welcome to participate and pre-generated characters will be provided.

8:00pm—10:00pm **D&D Next Edition Playtest** **Vista Suite 2202A**  
*GM: Chris Wilkes*  
Join in a public playtest for the next iteration of the Dungeons & Dragons game! Play in a D&D Next adventure and give us your feedback to help guide the future of D&D! Players of any edition of the game are welcome to participate and pre-generated characters will be provided.

## SATURDAY

9:30am—11:30am **D&D Next Edition Playtest** **Vista Suite 2202A**  
*GM: Jennifer Clarke Wilkes (CONvergence GoH!)*  
Join in a public playtest for the next iteration of the Dungeons & Dragons game! Play in a D&D Next adventure and give us your feedback to help guide the future of D&D! Players of any edition of the game are welcome to participate and pre-generated characters will be provided.

12:30pm— 6:30pm **Steam Century Mystery** **Vista Suite 2203**  
*GM Steam Century, Red Ribbon Society (LARP, open to a great many players!)*  
The Steam Century mystery is a multifaceted game that combines elements of live action role-playing and crime dramas. Players follow a trail of clues by investigating rooms and interacting with costumed characters. Our mystery events are role playing games in the sense that we, the cast, stay in character. Players are invited to play in character with us at their comfort level. You are also welcome to just play the game to solve the mystery and don't worry about pretending to be any kind of character. Participants are free to come and go during the time period, and enjoy the convention as they play detective. Donations appreciated. Orientation at 12:30; Answers due at 5:15 pm, Finale at 5:45 pm

9:30pm— 11:30pm **D&D Next Edition Playtest** **Vista Suite 2202A**  
*GM: Jennifer Clarke Wilkes (CONvergence GoH!)*  
Join in a public playtest for the next iteration of the Dungeons & Dragons game! Play in a D&D Next adventure and give us your feedback to help guide the future of D&D! Players of any edition of the game are welcome to participate and pre-generated characters will be provided.

## SUNDAY

9:00am—11:00am **D&D Next Edition Playtest** **Vista Suite 2202A**  
*GM: Jennifer Clarke Wilkes (CONvergence GoH!)*  
Join in a public playtest for the next iteration of the Dungeons & Dragons game! Play in a D&D Next adventure and give us your feedback to help guide the future of D&D! Players of any edition of the game are welcome to participate and pre-generated characters will be provided.

12:30—? **Coffee Break of the Dead** **Vista Suite 2206A**  
*GM Bob Wagner (All Flesh Must Be Eaten RPG, 2-8 players, ages 15+, all experience levels welcome, please bring your dice!)*  
The perennial CONvergence favorite returns!! Another Monday, another day at your soul-sucking grind of a job. The elevator's crowded, everyone's in a mood and just when you think it couldn't get any worse, the power goes out, the elevator dies ...and the first face you when they re-open appears to have been chewed half off!

2:30pm—4:30pm **D&D Next Edition Playtest** **Vista Suite 2202A**  
*GM: Jennifer Clarke Wilkes (CONvergence GoH!)*  
Join in a public playtest for the next iteration of the Dungeons & Dragons game! Play in a D&D Next adventure and give us your feedback to help guide the future of D&D! Players of any edition of the game are welcome to participate and pre-generated characters will be provided.

## COMPUTER EVENTS

### THURSDAY

5:00pm— 7:00pm **Counter-Strike**  
7:00pm— 8:30pm **Warcraft III, Vista Suite 2205**  
8:30pm—10:00pm **Warcraft III Tournament**  
10:00pm—11:30pm **Team Fortress II**  
11:30pm—1:00am **Starcraft**  
1:00am—2:00am **Open LAN Gaming**

### FRIDAY

11:00am— 12:30pm **Open LAN Gaming**  
12:30pm—2:00pm **Starcraft**  
2:00pm—3:30pm **Counter-Strike**  
3:30pm—5:00pm **Counter-Strike Tournament**  
5:00pm—7:00pm **Team Fortress II**  
7:00pm—8:30pm **Starcraft**  
8:30pm—10:00pm **Starcraft Tournament**  
10:00pm—11:30pm **Counter-Strike**  
11:30pm—1:00am **Team Fortress II**  
1:00am—2:00am **Open LAN Gaming**

### SATURDAY

11:00am - 12:30pm **Open LAN Gaming**  
12:30pm - 2:00pm **Warcraft III**  
2:00pm - 3:30pm **Open LAN Gaming**  
3:30pm - 5:00pm **Team Fortress II**  
5:00pm - 7:00pm **Team Fortress II Tournament**  
7:00pm - 8:30pm **Starcraft**  
8:30pm - 10:00pm **Open LAN Gaming**  
10:00pm - 11:30pm **Counter-Strike**  
11:30pm - 1:00am **Warcraft III**  
1:00am - 2:00am **Open LAN Gaming**

### SUNDAY

11:00am - 3:30pm **Open LAN Gaming**

## COLLECTIBLE CARD GAMES

*Vista Suite 2207*

### THURSDAY

Noon **Magic the Gathering: Archenemy**  
Casual format. 4 players max. Multiplayer format that pits three players against one. The Archenemy uses an extra deck to activate diabolical plots to destroy his enemy. Required materials: please bring your own Legacy format deck (60 card minimum, no sideboard).  
7:00pm **Magic the Gathering: Legacy Constructed (Sanctioned Tournament)**  
Officially sanctioned tournament. 16 players max. Required materials: please bring your own Legacy format deck (60 card minimum + optional 15 card sideboard). Please check www.wizards.com for current legal cards for deck, or see judge the day of the tournament.

### FRIDAY

10:00am **Magic the Gathering: D.E.Q.L.A. (Other)**  
Casual format. 7 players required. Uses combination of Emperor, Archenemy, and Planechase formats. Check website for rules (www.tcgamefest.com) or see judge the day of the event. Required materials: please bring your own Legacy format deck (60 card minimum, no sideboard).

*Vista Suite 2205*

Noon **Magic the Gathering: Archenemy**  
Casual format. 4 players max. Multiplayer format that pits three players against one. The Archenemy uses an extra deck to activate diabolical plots to destroy his enemy. Required materials: please bring your own Legacy format deck (60 card minimum, no sideboard).  
2:00pm **Magic the Gathering: Standard Draft**  
Official sanctioned tournament. 16 players max. Required materials: please bring 3 unopened packs of most current expansion set format (vendors will have supply of packs in vendor hall). A limited supply of basic lands will be provided. If you have them, please bring your own.  
7:00pm **Magic the Gathering: Legacy Constructed (Sanctioned Tournament)**  
Officially sanctioned tournament. 16 players max. Required materials: please bring your own Legacy format deck (60 card minimum + optional 15 card sideboard). Please check www.wizards.com for current legal cards for deck, or see judge the day of the tournament.

## SATURDAY

10:00am **Magic the Gathering: Elder Dragon Highlander (Commander)**  
Casual format. 6 players max. Also known as EDH (Elder Dragon Highlander). Multiplayer format similar to Free for All. Required materials: please bring your own Commander format deck. (99 cards, only 1 copy of any card except basic lands, 1 general, no sideboard).  
12:00pm **Magic the Gathering: Archenemy**  
Casual format. 4 players max. Multiplayer format that pits three players against one. The Archenemy uses an extra deck to activate diabolical plots to destroy his enemy. Required materials: please bring your own Legacy format deck (60 card minimum, no sideboard).  
2:00pm **Magic the Gathering: Standard Draft**  
Official sanctioned tournament. 16 players max. Required materials: please bring 3 unopened packs of most current expansion set format (vendors will have supply of packs in vendor hall). A limited supply of basic lands will be provided. If you have them, please bring your own.  
7:00pm **Magic the Gathering: Legacy Constructed (Sanctioned Tournament)**  
Officially sanctioned tournament. 16 players max. Required materials: please bring your own Legacy format deck (60 card minimum + optional 15 card sideboard). Please check www.wizards.com for current legal cards for deck, or see judge the day of the tournament.

## SUNDAY

10:00am **Magic the Gathering: Quantum Leap (Free-for-all)**  
Casual format. 6 players max. Uses combination of Vanguard cards and Planechase deck for free-for-all Magic fun. Check website for rules (www.tcgamefest.com) or see judge the day of the event. Required materials: please bring your own Legacy format deck (60 card minimum, no sideboard).  
Noon **Magic the Gathering: Archenemy**  
Casual format. 4 players max. Multiplayer format that pits three players against one. The Archenemy uses an extra deck to activate diabolical plots to destroy his enemy. Required materials: please bring your own Legacy format deck (60 card minimum, no sideboard).  
1:30pm **Magic the Gathering: D.E.Q.L.A. (Other)**  
Casual format. 7 players required. Uses combination of Emperor, Archenemy, and Planechase formats. Check website for rules (www.tcgamefest.com) or see judge the day of the event. Required materials: please bring your own Legacy format deck (60 card minimum, no sideboard).





**Former Stevie Ray's Stage/First Floor, South Tower**

Thursday 8:30pm—4:00am (Friday morning)  
 Friday 9:30am—4:00am (Saturday morning)  
 Saturday 9:30am—4:00am (Sunday morning)  
 Sunday 9:30am—4:30pm

Harmonic CONvergence (HarmCON) is our more intimate venue for live music and entertainment. The space will feature a blend of music and spoken word performances. Each year we look for musicians, comedians and other performers interested in using this space. If you or someone you know are interested in performing at CONvergence, contact us at [harmonicconvergence@convergence-con.org](mailto:harmonicconvergence@convergence-con.org).

**NEW TO HARMCON IN 2012: YOU!**

Bring your talent and show us what you got. Sign up early and get a short slot to sing a song, tell a joke, read a poem, perform a weird human trick, and express your geek chic. First come/ first serve for this new half-hour format. Sign up sheet is at the **Sound Tech table**. Friday, July 6 & Saturday, July 7 6:15pm-6:45pm

**THURSDAY**

8:30pm-9:30pm **Triple Depresso**  
Acoustic emotional instability. Like before you started on the antidepressants.

10:00pm-11:00pm **Tongue in Geek Comedy**  
Stand Up! Records comedy showcase

11:30pm-12:30am **Pirates of Dreamtime**  
Cruising the Sonic Waves of the Ether...can you dig?

1:00am-2:00am **Feng Shui Ninjas**  
Puppet show and friends!!!

2:15am-4:00am **GeeKaraoke**  
Karaoke for the masses

**FRIDAY**

9:30am-10:30am **Mark Time/Ogle Winners**  
Audio Theater winning selections

11:00am-12:00pm **Ionosphere Casting Shadows**  
When does a guitar NOT sound like a guitar?

12:30pm-1:30pm **Do A Barrel Roll**  
Ode to the music of videogames...nostalgically chic..epically evil-crushing....seriously

2:00pm-3:00pm **Rockstar Storytellers**  
Radio-style storytelling, dripping with coffee-and-cigarette-soaked hipster irony

3:30pm-4:30pm **Fuzzy Machete**  
If The Who got really into Joss Whedon and Sailor Moon

5:00pm-6:00pm **Tanya Brody**  
The voice of an angel and the heart of a poet

6:15pm-6:45pm **NEW-Open Mike**  
Open Mike stage..sign up early!

7:00pm-8:00pm **Bad September**  
Retro-futurist Steampunk rock band

8:30pm-9:30pm **The Idisi**  
Unconventional wyld womyn's chorus

10:00pm-11:00pm **Tongue in Geek Comedy**  
Stand Up! Records comedy showcase

11:30pm-12:30am **The Long Straight Forever**  
Rock meets Celtic meets PARTY

1:00am-2:00am **Dissociate Scary**  
Happy music/noise that enriches/convulses your soul/face

2:15am-4:00am **GeeKaraoke**  
Karaoke for the masses

**SATURDAY**

9:30am-10:30am **Mark Time/Ogle Winners**  
Audio Theater winning selections

11:00am-12:00pm **Our Fair City**  
A live episode of science fiction audio-drama hailing from Chicagoland

12:30pm-1:30pm **Rumgumption**  
The band in the underbelly of the Airship Titanic

2:00pm-3:00pm **Nerd Alert ! Comedy CD Panel and signing**  
Panel about the making of and release of CD Nerd Alert

3:30pm-4:30pm **The Laughing Hearts**  
High energy, face melting instrumentals

5:00pm-6:00pm **Scott Keever**  
Guitarist/composer (electronic/soundtrack/ acoustic/worldbeat)

6:15pm-6:45pm **NEW-Open Mike**  
Open Mike stage...sign up early!

7:00pm-8:00pm **The Great Luke Ski**  
Comedy songs on fandom & pop-culture topics

8:30pm-9:30pm **Possible Oscar**  
Comedy rock for the nerd in all of us. Original and parody songs.

10:00pm-11:00pm **Tongue in Geek Comedy**  
Stand Up! Records comedy showcase

11:30pm-12:30am **The Dregs**  
Crazy mix of comedy, music and geek

1:00am-2:00am **Bror!**  
Steven Brust & Johnny Sjogren...add a dash of brotherly love...stir...repeat

2:15am-4:00am **GeeKaraoke**  
Karaoke for the masses

**SUNDAY**

9:30am-10:30am **Mark Time/Ogle Winners**  
Audio Theater winning selections

11:00am-12:00pm **Gabriel Hilmar**  
Sultry Songs and Music of Spain

12:30pm-1:30pm **Beth Kinderman & The Player Characters**  
Folky geeky progressive rock

2:00pm-3:00pm **JJ Kidder Mixtape**  
A man of many mash-up talents... piano and electronica joys

3:30pm-4:30pm **Hummingbirds**  
Three ladies who sing it like they mean it. Acoustic gold!



At right: *Sci-Fi Girls Playing Cards* by Brock Beauchamp, an entry in the 2012 CONvergence Art Contest

# KRUSHENKO'S

AT CONVERGENCE

FOUNDED 1983

## Vista Suite Rooms (22nd Floor, South Tower) Panels, discussions, interviews, presentations (daytime hours)

### Cabana 201 (2nd Floor, South Tower) Conversational parties

Thursday	5:00pm—6:00pm (Programming) 8:00pm—12:00am(Party)
Friday	11:00am—6:00pm (Programming) 8:30pm – 2:00am (Party)
Saturday	11:00am—6:00pm (Programming) 9:45pm—2:00am (Party)
Sunday	11:00am—5:00pm (Programming) 7:30pm – 12:00am (Party)

Krushenko's, from a Manhattan bistro in Minicon 1983 Guest of Honor Larry Niven's *Ringworld*, started at Minicon 1983 as a space that encouraged science fiction and fantasy discussion at SF conventions. It has evolved over the years, and influenced the shape and focus of other programming and party spaces at local conventions, but the Krushenko's commitment to promoting SF discussion and conversation remains vibrantly alive, having spread to also include annual Krushenko's appearances at MarsCon, Con-Sarnit, CONvergence, Diversicon, and Arcana in the Twin Cities and WisCon in Madison. At CONvergence 2012, Krushenko's (Vista Suites, 22nd floor) will offer panels, discussions, interviews, and presentations in the daytimes. In the evenings, Krushenko's-style conversational parties will happen in Cabana 201. "Krushenko's is accustomed to serving alien guests!"

## CONVERGENCE BOOKSWAP!

For years the much loved Book Swap has been housed in the very top floor of the CON. It sat full of books just wanting a new happy home, lost in the melee of a growing CON. But now it may yet find the joy of pairing a lonely book with a new bibliophile.

The Book Swap has MOVED! It is now located in the far more convenient and accessible location in room within Cabana 201 where we're also having readings & Krushenko's night time parties on the second floor. So come and bring your old books to find new homes and maybe take a book or ten home to fill those empty shelves. You never know what amazing undiscovered literary treasure might be waiting for you.

## THURSDAY

8:00pm-Midnight **Welcome to K's Annex Party**  
Let's help launch CONvergence 2012 with a mellow party celebrating this long-running (since 1983) space for conversation about science fiction, fantasy, science, and related topics. **Location: Cabana 201**

## FRIDAY

11:00am **The Women of Julius Schwartz's Comic**  
Carol Ferris. Iris West. Shayera Hol. Jean Loring. Sue Dibny. Alanna. Under the editorship of Julius Schwartz (1915-2004) at DC in the '50s and '60s, writers created a gallery of female characters who remain unsurpassed for intelligence and complexity. **Panelists: Anthony Tollin, Roy C. Booth, Eric Heideman (mod) Location: Vista Suite 2201 (22nd Floor)**

12:30pm

**Whatever Happened to Monica Rambeau?**  
Marvel Comics has a long history of creating complex and powerful female characters, only to render them dead, insane, possessed, and/or stripped of most of their powers. Why?

**Panelists: Eric Heideman (mod), Roy C. Booth, David Schwartz, Cynthia Booth, Rob Callahan Location: Vista Suite 2201 (22nd Floor)**

2:00pm

**All Tied Up, Early Wonder Woman**  
Wonder Woman is the iconic female super hero. Let's explore her early years. **Panelists: Terry O'Brien, Roy Cook, Will Shetterly, Eric Heideman (mod), Roy C. Booth, Anthony Tollin Location: Vista Suite 2201 (22nd Floor)**

3:30pm

**Geek Partnership Society Writing Contest Ceremony**  
Past winners of the annual GPS Writing Contests read from their winning work. This year's winners are announced.

**Panelists: George Richard, Hilary Moon Murphy Location: Vista Suite 2201 (22nd Floor)**

8:30pm-2:00am

**Tales of the Unanticipated Party**  
Hang out with the staff of and contributors to this Twin Cities speculative fiction magazine-anthology. The staff hope to premiere #31, the Silver Anniversary Issue, in July or August. **Location: Cabana 201**

## SATURDAY

11:00am

**Women SF Writers: The Early Years**  
Margaret Cavendish and Mary Shelley. Claire Harris and Andre Norton. C. L. Moore and Leigh Brackett. Come celebrate the works and histories of these and other acclaimed female SF writers from the early days of SF (Pre-1960).

**Panelists: Catherine Lundoff, Scott Lynch, Elizabeth Bear Location: Vista Suite 2201 (22nd Floor)**

12:30pm

**What's the Best Book I Read Last Year?**  
Really, what was the best book that you read last year? Remember to raise your hand. **Panelists: Sue Rice Location: Vista Suite 2201 (22nd Floor)**

2:00pm

**Heroines of the Pulps**  
The adventurous heroines of the pulps are recalled by Anthony Tollin, editor/publisher of Sanctum Books DOC SAVAGE and THE SHADOW trade paperbacks. **Panelists: Anthony Tollin Location: Vista Suite 2201 (22nd Floor)**

3:30pm

**Evolution of the Psychological Thriller**  
From *Shadow of a Doubt* and *Psycho* to *Inception*. Hitchcock laid the groundwork—what are some great examples of this sub-genre? **Panelists: Eric Heideman, Cynthia Booth, David Christenson Location: Vista Suite 2201 (22nd Floor)**

5:00pm

**SF Writing Groups: The 2012 Scene**  
This annual (since 1986) get-together of the Minnesota Imaginative Fiction Writers' Alliance lets speculative fiction groups link with authors who are looking for a critique group. **Panelists: Eric Heideman Location: Vista Suite 2201 (22nd Floor)**

8:30pm

**One On One with Lyda Morehouse**  
A moderated, recorded interview with Guest of Honor Lyda Morehouse that will be included on our CONvergence 2012 DVD. Come be a part of the live audience - there will be an opportunity for audience questions.

**Panelists: Kelly McCullough (mod), Lyda Morehouse Location: Vista Suite 2201 (22nd Floor)**

9:45pm-2:00am

**Bandana Square Conventions Party**  
Hosted by three conventions that will be held at Best Western, Bandana Square, St Paul: Diversicon 20, a multicultural speculative fiction con on August 3-5, 2012, with GOHs Tananarive Due and Steven Barnes; Arcana 42, a dark fantasy-horror con, October 19-21, 2012, with GOH S.T. Joshi; and Con-Sarnit 6, a Western con, early June, 2013. **Location: Cabana 201**

## SUNDAY

11:00am

**The Obama-Era Space Program: Where Do We Go and How Do We Get There?**

This third-annual panel looks at how space exploration, robotic and human, is doing under the cash-strapped Obama admin. Anyone who has visited Kennedy Space Center in the last years knows that our space program isn't dead. Why doesn't anyone else?

**Panelists: Eric Heideman (mod), G. David Nordley, David Buth, Ben Huset Location: Vista Suite 2201 (22nd Floor)**

12:30pm

**One On One with Sharyn November**  
Meet Sharyn November as we interview her for our 2012 Convention DVD. Learn about her work and be prepared to ask her just about anything! **Panelists: Eric Heideman (mod), Sharyn November Location: Vista Suite 2201 (22nd Floor)**

2:00pm

**The Raven: Nevermore**  
*The Raven* is the most recent trip Hollywood has taken into the world of Edgar Allen Poe. Discuss this movie and other filmed adaptations of his work. Most of which starred Vincent Price. **Panelists: Joel Arnold, Cynthia Booth, Brian Salisbury, Amanda Hofman-Frethem Location: Vista Suite 2201 (22nd Floor)**

3:30pm

**Primates In Fact, Fiction and Folklore**  
Our annual bio-horror panel on the scary side of nature (past entries have included bats, ants, & pathogens). This time we examine the truth and make believe about gorillas, chimpanzees, orangutans, monkeys, lemurs, bonobos—and ourselves. **Panelists: Melissa Kaercher (mod), Eric Heideman (mod) Location: Vista Suite 2201 (22nd Floor)**

7:30pm-Noon

**A Party for Readers and Viewers**  
Sponsored by Second Foundation, a Twin Cities speculative fiction book-discussion group—whose members are also film buffs—that has met regularly since 1983. **Location: Cabana 201**



# MainStage

## Grand Ballroom East (2nd Floor, South Tower)

### THURSDAY

5:45 pm **House Doors Open**

6:00pm-7:00pm **Mark Time Radio Show**  
Be sure to turn out for the Mark Time Radio Show, on Main Stage at 6pm (right before opening ceremonies). The show, "Waiting for the Download", will feature Guests of Honor and two members of the renowned FiresignTheatre. We don't want to give away too much, but expect it to be full of geeky humor and science fiction references.

7:00pm - 8:00pm **Opening Ceremonies of the 2012 CONvergence: Wonder Women**  
It's here! It's here!!! We're here!! AGHHHHH!!!!!! Ok, so we are ALL a little excited to get this gig underway. Hundreds upon thousands of pre-con volunteer hours, we are poised to log countless more at-con hours to put on the AWESOME-est geek party in the LAND. We kick it off with our Wonder Women theme, spend time introducing some fantastic Guests, watch some hilarious and genius skits, and see who gets some Mark Time /Ogle awards. Opening Ceremonies is where we find out just what the next 4 days will bring. WE KNOW! (did we mention that we are all a little excited) So let's do this!

8:30pm - 9:30pm **Marian Call –Featured Musical Performer**  
Marian Call delivers whimsical Alaskan folk funk for the Coffee Counter-Culture. She sounds a little like Joni Mitchell & Regina Spektor raising the child of Jason Mraz & Erin McKeown. Call's sound is always soulful, honest, and clever, loved by all types -- computer geeks, church ladies, teenage thugs, NPR listeners, and urban hipsters worldwide. She has toured all 50 United States and most of Canada, yet despite her incessant touring stays rooted in Alaska for inspiration. On October 1, 2011, Call released her much-anticipated fan-funded double album Something Fierce.

10:00pm - 11:30pm **Girls Gone Smackdown!**  
The ladies take to the arena this year as we have 16 awesome women battle it out to determine which one is the greatest of them all! Come cheer on your favorites as we determine this year's Smackdown champion! Panelists: *Christopher Jones, Joseph Scrimshaw, Bonnie Burton, Kelvin Hatle, Tim Wick, Melissa Kaercher, Tim Uren, Sharon Stiteler, Windy Bowlsby*

Midnight **The Future Was Then: Retro Dance**  
**DJ SLT** brings his collection of 80's, 90's and 2000's tracks straight from his weekly radio show on KFAI, "Across the Board," which is described as "like listening to a live mix tape."

1:00am DJ Spider hails from Charlotte, NC, where she's been spinning for over 20 years while also being a comic geek, costumer, and social media enthusiast. Spider spins a retro dancey mess of genres.

2:00am Nitrogen and noise have together held residencies in various venues since the late 90's and are set to tag team from their collection of music throughout the years as well as modern remixes of classic songs.

### FRIDAY

11:00am-12:30pm **Sophie Aldred Panel**  
Best known for her portrayal of the 7th Doctor's companion, Ace, Sophie Aldred is an English actress, singer, and television & radio presenter with a love of performing for children. After her 1987-1989 run on Doctor Who, Sophie presented the long-running BBC series Words and Pictures, Melvin and Maureen's Music-a-Grams, and other children's programs. She's been a voice actress in Big Finish Production's Doctor Who audio plays, as well as animated series such as Bob the Builder and Dennis & Gnasher. A fan of Doctor Who as well as a performer, she co-wrote, Ace, The Inside Story of the End of An Era with Mike Tucker in 1996. From serving milkshakes on an ice planet to flinging Nitro Nine canisters at Daleks, she share's Ace's perspective on the universe of Doctor Who.

3:00pm - 4:00pm **The Dork Forest Podcast with Jackie Kashian**  
In 2005 Kashian began hosting a podcast, The Dork Forest, with new episodes being released once or twice a week. Recorded in her living room in Van Nuys, the show features 'dork on dork dialog' between Kashian and her guests about their favorite obsessions—commonly referred to by Kashian as 'dorkdoms'. Guests have included Paul F. Tompkins, Jen Kirkman, James Urbaniak, Jimmy Pardo, Aisha Tyler, and Mary-Lynn Rajs kub. Fans of the show refer to themselves as 'Rangers Of The Dork Forest'. In 2010, the podcast changed from a live format to pre-recorded with superior audio quality and a new theme song, "Welcome to The Dork Forest", written by Mike Ruekberg. In 2011 Kashian performed her first live Dork Forest, and has scheduled future live episodes.

Jackie will be chatting all- things-dork with a plethora of special guests joining her at CONvergence 2012.

5:30pm - 6:30pm **Steam Century Presents the 4th Annual Steampunk Fashion Expo!**  
Mister Darke and Steam Century are proud to present our Fourth Annual Steampunk Fashion Expo! Come see this display of the finest in Steampunk and Neo-Victorian attire. Convention members wishing to participate in the Fashion Expo may sign up any time until 3:30 PM Friday in the patio of Cabana 132. Participants should report to the Green Room in costume by 4:30 PM Friday. No experience required! No skits/dialogue/performance—just fashion! Awards presented for the most notable outfits!

We are also pleased to announce the return of the Amazing Rana as our featured performer! Come for the Fashion, stay for the Belly Dance Extravaganza! Presented by Steam Century: *Jack Barker; Shannon Green; Richard Miller; Ashli Fain.*

7:00pm - 8:00pm

### Jackie Kashian -Featured Comedian

Jackie has been a national touring comic for over 15 years. She has her own half hour special on Comedy Central, was a semi-finalist on Last Comic Standing, and has been on This American Life with Ira Glass. A native of Milwaukee, WI, Jackie discovered her love of stand-up comedy while attending The University of Wisconsin-Madison, and was soon given stage time at a club operated by Bill Kinison (brother of stand-up legend Sam Kinison) five nights a week. Her grades suffered but her comedy flourished.

Her latest CD, "It is Never Going to Be Bread" was one of the top ten comedy albums on Amazon in 2010. She has a weekly podcast, The Dork Forest, where she interviews people about their obsessions.

*The LA Weekly:* "Jackie Kashian is like the comic next door - if the comic next door is prone to acutely hilarious family stories" (her podcast - The Dork Forest is) "dependably entertaining."

*ABC Australia:* "The gem of the night was Jackie Kashian. Her droll, perceptive description of her family was hilarious."

*Minneapolis Star Tribune* "[her comedy] is that rare, wonderful combination: smart and funny."

And from Perth's newspaper: -*The West Australian*, called her "whipsmart."

8:30pm - 9:30pm

### Joseph Scrimshaw's Verbing The Noun

Joseph Scrimshaw's brand new comedy show is a (probably not very helpful) guide to romance and sex for geeks, nerds, and other people with big brains. The show will be recorded for release as a CD and digital download!

*The convention is getting crowded and we know that there isn't always room to watch our most popular Main Stage events. This year, there will be overflow for Joseph Scrimshaw and Vilification Tennis! (FCC rules prevent broadcast due to language.) This year we will have Overflow seating in the Bloomington room.*

10:00pm - 11:00pm

### Vilification Tennis

Vilification Tennis recaptures the CONvergence Main Stage for another installment of their caustic game of wits. Enjoy a show that is most definitely not designed with your kids in mind. Those of you who are easily offended, will be. Overflow seating will be available.

*The convention is getting crowded and we know that there isn't always room to watch our most popular Main Stage events. This year, there will be overflow for Joseph Scrimshaw and Vilification Tennis! (FCC rules prevent broadcast due to language.) This year we will have Overflow seating in the Bloomington room.*

Midnight

12:00am

### Electrafixiation: Sound as a Weapon

**DJ o2** is a dj/producer from the Twin Cities who offers contextualized journeys of a musical nature. Always count on tight sets exploring a centralized theme spanning a variety of genres.

1:00am

**DJ Nitrogen** has been spinning darkwave/industrial music in the Twin Cities since before CONvergence began. Holding residency at one of the longest darkwave dance nights in the country, Nitrogen brings the electric aggression to the dance floor.

2:00am

**Super-Industrial Tag Team: DJs Fenris, dv8, Nitrogen, and noise** collectively represent a huge chunk of the current industrial/darkwave talent in the region. A multi-way tag- team of industrial, goth, electro, synthpop, future-pop, and all flavors in-between bring us to the early morning. Possibly a special guest or two, too!

### SATURDAY

9:00am - 10:00am

### The Masquerade Participant's Orientation

This orientation is for registered Masquerade entrants of all skill levels, and is a mandatory meeting if you wish to participate. Please assemble in front of the Mainstage ballroom doors, and we will open them at 845am to get everyone in so we can start at 9am sharp. We look forward to seeing you and producing a great show featuring you!

11:00am - 3:00pm

### Masquerade Technical Rehearsal/Mainstage & Workmanship Judging/Green Room

Technical Rehearsal and Workmanship Judging are closed events and are for participants and crew only as we prepare to bring you a fantastic show Saturday night. Thank you!

7:00pm - 8:00pm

### CONvergence presents The Masquerade

The Masquerade is our premiere costume contest featuring the amazing talents of our con attendees. Come see amazing recreations, interpretations, original designs, comedy skits, dramatic presentations, and mayhem that take the stage. Our Masquerade crew spends the day working with all the contestants to bring a dynamic and entertaining event. We hope you will enjoy and cheer our participants on. Doors open for Mainstage at 630pm to start seating, and this year we will have Overflow viewing in the BLOOMINGTON room.

8:15pm - 9:00pm

### Stand Up! Records presents The Masquerade "Half-Time Comedy Show "

Our partner Stand Up! Records bring us some of the Mid-West's finest stand-up comics for our half-time show. Hosted by Gus Lynch and featuring the comedic goodness of Andy Erikson, Tommy Ryman, Amber Preston, Chris Maddock, and Kjell Bjorgen.

Enjoy their awesomeness while the judges look at numbers and wrestle over who wins what.

For more information on the fabulous Stand Up! Records folks: <http://standuprecords.com/mission.html> and <https://www.facebook.com/standuprecords>

9:00pm - 9:30pm

### The Masquerade Awards Presentation

And the results are in....and the winners are....?

- 10:30pm **Pulse: The Beat Keeps Us Going**  
Strobe-Free Scince-Fiction/Geek Dance: DJs o2 and noise present a collection of sci-fi and geek dance music to shake your nerdy booty to. Come dance and sing along.
- Midnight **DJ Spider** always pleases with her commanding presence on the dance floor. Yes, she's really that tall! Come experience her costumed self as she serves up a hot dish of house, electro, dubstep covers, mash-ups, and other things she likes.
- 1:00am **DJ Fenris** turns up the energy with a heavy helping of hardstyle dance tracks and viscious beats. Be sure to bring extra water.
- 2:00am **DJ Starfive** sneaks away from her dutiful post in Splounge to share with us her fantastic sense of dance electro and heavy remix tracks. Always a favorite, we're happy to have her back.
- 3:00am Easily one of the busiest djs in the city, **DJ dv8** spins regularly at at least three clubs, not to mention all the secret events he doesn't tell us about. We've secretly talked him into showing off his skills with gritty electro and dubstep.
- 4:00am **DJ noise** hides in the shadows a lot, but he's easy to hear if difficult to see. Favoring darker grooves and spooky sounds put to pulsing rhythms, the music is always a surprise.

## SUNDAY

- 1:00pm - 2:30pm **Gallowglass Irish Trio Reunion**  
Celtic music as it was never meant to be heard... but thrown to the ground kicking and screaming. After 20 years and 3 reunion tours, each member has moved off, and literally away, onto their own musical foray. Ken Larson, Lojo Russo and Michael Matheny return to the stage with a purpose.
- What started out as a good idea turned into a few years of great, rollicking, no mamby-pamby, kick-ass fun. Gallowglass Irish Trio used the MN Renaissance Festival as their stomping grounds and stomp they did, turning the Ren Fest world on its ear (as it were, to coin a phrase) producing gut-wrenching tragic ballads and bucolic aires along with side-splitting patter and full-on bullshit favorites. Gallowglass did to a tune what needed to be done and we did it with all the gusto we could muster while sober. (T'would be of interest to see what might ensue from a few pulls off a nice 12-year-old single malt, yeh?)
- 4:45pm - 5:00pm **Live Action Set presents....**  
2011 Ivey Award winners Live Action Set return to amaze you again with their physical theater prowess. Last year they brought down the house with their excellent "LOTR in 9 minutes"
- Do not miss this year's presentation ....or you will be very, very sad...seriously.
- Check out more of their goodness: <http://www.liveactionset.org/>
- 5:00pm - 6:30pm **2012 CONvergence Closing Ceremonies**  
We know.....it is sad to say goodbye, but all good things must end so we can go make more awesome for next year. Come celebrate with us on a con well done...you know you'll laugh...and cry...just a little bit.

## Parking & Shuttles

### PARKING

In addition to the hotel parking lots, **Lifetouch** and **Dairy Queen Corporate** have allowed us to park in their lots.

**Lifetouch** (5160 West 76th Street, Edina, MN 55439):

You may park here anytime between Thursday July 5th at noon until Monday July 9th at noon. The twenty spaces closest to the Lifetouch building are reserved for Lifetouch employees, so please do not park in those particular spots!

**Dairy Queen Corporate** (7505 Metro Boulevard, Edina, MN 55439):

You may park here, however, for more information, please see the parking flyers located at the front hotel desk as many of the parking spots are reserved for Dairy Queen employees until 5pm both Thursday and Friday. Saturday and Sunday you may park anywhere in their lot.

### SHUTTLE

Our shuttle this year will be running once an hour, every hour, from 10:00am Thursday July 5 until 10:00pm Sunday July 8. The shuttle stops are:

**DoubleTree**  
**Lifetouch parking**  
**Crowne Plaza**  
**Days Inn**  
**Staybridge**  
**Hampton Inn**  
**LaQuinta**  
**Hilton Garden Inn**  
**Dairy Queen Corporate parking**

### BUS

If you'd rather take the bus, **Metro Transit** routes 6 and 540 have stops near the DoubleTree. Both routes run along W 78th Street between the DoubleTree and Sofitel. Detailed schedules are at [www.metrotransit.org](http://www.metrotransit.org).

# 劇場 NIPPON ANIME ROOM

### Plaza 2 (1st Floor, North Tower)

Thursday	5:00pm—3:00am (Friday morning)
Friday	7:00am—3:00am (Saturday morning)
Saturday	7:00am —3:00am (Sunday morning)
Sunday	7:00am—3:00pm

Theatre Nippon - where all of your favorite (and occasionally not-quite-so-favorite) anime are shown, non-stop! Except for when we're closed. Yes, we do close! Just not for very long. For those that like the weird and silly, we've got Princess Jellyfish; for those that can't get enough of those bishounen, we've got Ouran Host Club; for those who want some action and fighting, we've got Seirei no Moribito and Claymore; and for those who want a little historical flavor, we'll have Saiunkoku and Victorian Romance Emma.

And, as always every night, starting at 11:30 pm, we'll feature one of our legendary parodies. There will even be a drawing after the parody on Saturday (really Sunday morning) at 12:30 am, so enter your name to win! Winners must be present at the time of drawing. Donations for the drawing are always welcome!

Due to the increasing difficulty in obtaining screening permissions for anime, our schedule is unfortunately up in the air until the very last minute, so we are not able to provide exact showings here. Stop by our room and we'll have a schedule posted there that will accurately reflect our showings.

As a gentle reminder, not all anime is appropriate for all ages. We'll have a rating next to each show so you can decide if you are comfortable with your children watching the show, and you can always ask one of our staff what a show might contain, but it is ultimately up to you if you wish to let your children watch any given show.



# Parties and Cabanas

## (First, Second and Fourth Floors, South Tower)

Parties are always one of the most exciting parts of CONvergence, and you'll be hard pressed to find more fun outside of a sinister underground lair. In addition to two floors of poolside cabanas, parties can also be found in our **Satellite Party Zone** on the Fourth Floor, around the corner and upstairs from poolside. Don't miss them!

Listed below are the official party rooms on all the party floors, as well as convention functions located in poolside cabanas (such as ConSuite, CoF<sub>2</sub>E<sub>2</sub>, and Krushenko's). The information here reflects what was provided to CONvergence at press time and is subject to change.

★ Designates a CONvergence Party Partner. Thank you to all our fantastic party sponsors and hosts!

## FIRST FLOOR

### Cabana Party Name and Information

#### 102 **Midnight at the Oasis** ★

*Hosted by Smiling Lune*

Friday 7:30pm—2:00am  
Saturday 7:30pm—2:00am

Come quench your thirst and feast your eyes on the lovely dancers of Smiling Lune and Friends. Join us for hourly performances on Friday and Saturday nights. Come shimmy with us! And remember... "No one is just friends with a belly dancer!" – William Shatner's girlfriend, Impulse 1974.

#### 103 **Nerd-Kon: The Chamber of Kryptonite** ★

*Hosted by NerdTron/Nerd-Kon*

Thursday 9:00pm—3:00am  
Friday 9:00pm—3:00am  
Saturday 9:00pm—4:00am  
Sunday 7:00pm—12:00am

Visit Nerd-Kon and discover the source of their power, the origin of their abilities, and to see where they go recharge and replenish their "green" strength. Only those who have first proven themselves in the Nerd-Corps can enter the Chamber of Kryptonite. Men of steel enter at their own risk.

#### 104 **Nerdtron: The Nerd Corps** ★

*Hosted by NerdTron/Nerd-Kon*

Thursday 9:00pm—3:00am  
Friday 9:00pm—3:00am  
Saturday 9:00pm—4:00am  
Sunday 7:00pm—12:00am

Friends, super powers, partying, nerd culture, epic battles, epic villains, frozen pizza, awesome mixed drinks, space bags, day-time group karaoke, beach balls, air guitar, making friends, making memories, and saving the galaxy. Come dance and sing along with us, and remember...if you save the nerd, you save the world.

#### 105 **Lursa & Betors House of Pain & Pancakes** ★

*Hosted by IKV RakeHell*

Thursday 9:00pm—1:00am  
Friday 9:00pm—2:00am  
Saturday 9:00pm—2:00am

Come for the pain, stay for the pancakes! Enjoy the Empires' best influence enhancement devices and pancakes.

Free Coffee	CoF <sub>2</sub> E <sub>2</sub>	Volunteers	Den
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110	FIRST FLOOR CABANAS	123
109		124
108		125
107		126
106		127
105		128
104		129
103		130
102		131
101		132

### Cabana Party Name and Information

#### 106 **Worship the Goddesses** ★

*Hosted by Worship the Goddesses*

Thursday 7:00pm—12:00am  
Friday 8:00pm—1:00am  
Saturday 8:00pm—1:00am

Welcome back worthy worshippers! Whether song, gift, or poem, the Goddesses will enchant your heart, inspire your creativity, and warm your soul. Relax with the Goddesses, or bring your own lovely Goddess, and fall in love all over again! Enjoy the nectar of the Goddesses and feel your worries slip away.

### Cabana Party Name and Information

#### 107 **Anime Twin Cities** ★

*Hosted by Erick Hofer*

Thursday 5:00pm—12:00am  
Friday 6:00pm—2:00am  
Saturday 6:00pm—2:00am

Come see some of your favorite AMVs, have some snacks, or just hang out in our lounge on the patio as Anime Detour brings their room party back again for more tunes, sing-a-longs, pop culture trivia games, and fun!

#### 108 **Starship Enterprise** ★

*Hosted by USS Nokomis*

Thursday 7:00pm—12:00am  
Friday 7:00pm—12:00am  
Saturday 7:00pm—12:00am

Come aboard the Enterprise and visit with members of the USS Nokomis. No square food this year, but the drinks are still colorful.

#### 109 **GHOSTBUSTIN' 911**

*Hosted by Ice Park City Productions*

Thursday 8:00pm—12:00am  
Friday 7:00pm—1:00am  
Saturday 7:00pm—1:00am  
Sunday 8:00pm—12:00am

The Twin Cities Ghostbusters are setting up shop at CONvergence! Stop by to take a photo with the containment unit and Stay Puft, watch episodes of GHOSTBUSTIN' 911, and enjoy ectoplasmic treats! The ECTO-1D will also be parked outside the hotel.

#### 110 **GPS Clubhouse**

*Hosted by Geek Partnership Society (GPS)*

Thursday 7:00pm—12:00am  
Friday 6:00pm—12:00am  
Saturday 6:00pm—1:00am

It's 2012 and the Geek Clubhouse is back. Join us this year for all those geeky things and clubs. Stop by and check out the programming

#### 123 **Campaign CONvergence** ★

*Hosted by Campaign CONvergence*

Thursday 8:00pm—10:00am  
Friday 8:00pm—1:00am  
Saturday 8:00pm—1:00am

Evil masterminds maneuver, manipulate, and murder their way to the presidency. Just like the real election, only not as depressing! Cast your ballot for the next president...it may be the last real decision that you ever make. Check out our debate Friday night (see program guide). Results are posted Saturday night.

#### 124 **The Cow Asylum** ★

*Hosted by Cow Asylum*

Thursday 5:00pm—11:00pm  
Friday 9:00pm—2:00am  
Saturday 9:00pm—2:00am

Come dance with us until the cows come home.

#### 125 **Sir Terry Pratchett's Discworld** ★

*Hosted by Seamstresses' Guild*

Thursday 5:00pm—2:00am  
Friday 5:00pm—2:00am  
Saturday 5:00pm—2:00am  
Sunday When we are wake, and until we go to bed.

It takes strength to be a woman in Terry Pratchett's Discworld, and the Seamstresses' Guild is no different. Wearing pantaloons and corsets are not always easy! Join us for fun, movies, frivolity, food, and sweet tea. After 9pm, a "special" sweet tea is available for the adults.

### Cabana Party Name and Information

#### 126 **The Ochaya** ★

*Hosted by Cameron and Amaya*

Thursday 7:00pm—12:00am  
Friday 7:00pm—12:00am  
Saturday 7:00pm—12:00am

The Ochaya is a Japanese-inspired tea room where convention patrons can come and relax with various varieties of freshly brewed Asian teas. One can also enjoy a light traditional snack and board games.

#### 127 **Orange Crush** ★

*Hosted by Genevieve Lessard, Kelly Cole, Jennifer Wolf*

Friday 8:00pm—1:00am  
Saturday 8:00pm—1:00am

Come geek out over all things orange with us at Orange Crush! Post your status to our wall and pin the costume on the super heroine on our magnetic board! Orange soda, orange snacks, and orange adult beverages are here for your orange pleasure!

#### 128 **Stand Up! Records** ★

*Hosted by Stand Up! Records*

Thursday 8:00pm—1:00am  
Friday 8:00pm—1:00am  
Saturday 8:00pm—1:00am

Stand Up! Records Comedy Club returns with more magic, more stand-up comedy, more burlesque, and no cover charge!

#### 129 **Vice City 2010** ★

*Hosted by The Sprite Engine*

Thursday 7:00pm—2:00am  
Friday 7:00pm—2:00am  
Saturday 7:00pm—2:00am

Vice City is a celebration of old arcade and console games. We aim to maintain a relaxed and social atmosphere for game-players of all skill levels. Come play anything from Muscle March to Puzzle Fighter. Head down memory lane and just have fun.

#### 130 **House of Toast** ★

*Hosted by House of Toast*

Thursday 8:00pm—12:00am  
Friday 8:00pm—12:00am  
Saturday 9:00pm—1:00am

We serve toast with every possible topping and countless possible combinations (some of them irrational), including special items like Sushi rolls. We don't serve alcohol because it just makes the toast soggy. Also featuring is the Snack Food Glory Hole pre-party. SFGH opens one hour prior to HoT each night.

#### 131 **Supercon**

*Hosted by Supercon!!! The Great Geek Livingroom*

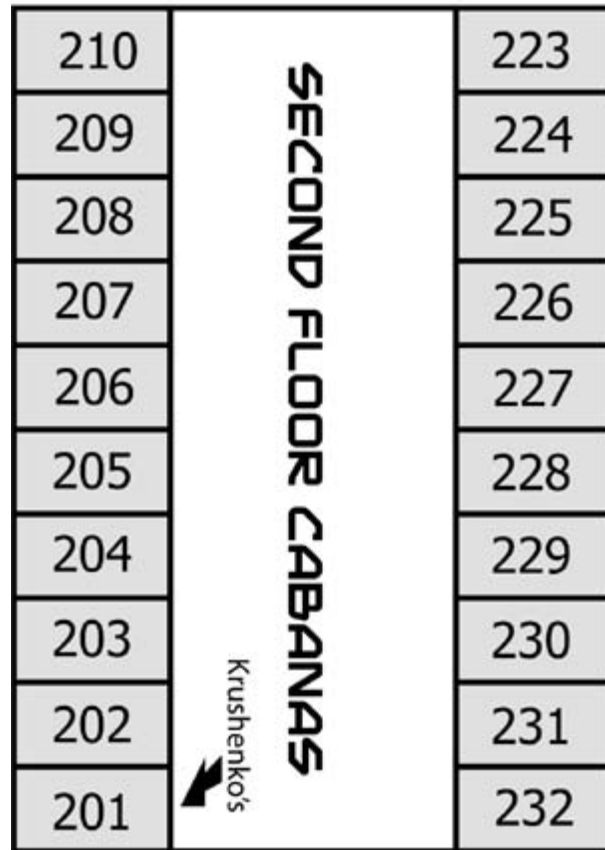
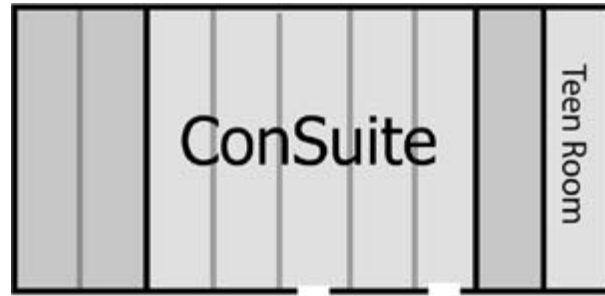
Friday 8:00pm—12:00am  
Saturday 8:00pm—12:00am

Come and join Wolfie B. Bad as he shows you the wonders of SuperCon!!! The Great Geek Livingroom. Ask him anything, and he will give you answers to what you most likely didn't want. Stop in, hang out, and have an alcoholic concoction made up on the spot by our professional amateur.

## SECOND FLOOR

### Cabana Party Name and Information

- 202 **X Marks The Spot ★**  
*Hosted by Zeppelin Steampunk Pirates of Love*  
 Thursday 8:00pm—2:00am  
 Friday 8:00pm—2:00am  
 Saturday 8:00pm—2:00am  
 The Airship X is back in port and the women have taken over! Come by and try some of the S.P.O.T. or our good Doctor's newest elixer, B.L.A.C. T.I.E. Be sure to bring someone to throw into Captain Red's new stocks!
- 203 **Perfectly Legitimate Spaceship ★**  
*Hosted by The Gangsternauts*  
 Thursday 8:00pm—1:00am  
 Friday 9:00pm—3:00am  
 Saturday 9:00pm—3:00am  
 Sunday 8:00pm—1:00am  
 It's not a speakeasy.
- 204 **The Royal Manticoran Navy: Do It With Honor! ★**  
*Hosted by Cruiser Division 211, TRMN*  
 Thursday 7:00pm—12:00am  
 Friday 7:00pm—12:00am  
 Saturday 7:00pm—12:00am  
 HMS Invincible! HMS Merlin! HMS Samurai! The Twin Cities Chapters of the Royal Manticoran Navy invite you to celebrate our own wonder woman, Admiral Honor Harrington! Enjoy a refreshing Old Tilman or savor a glass of the Delacourt '27. Celery for your tree cat! Party Honorverse style!
- 205 **Xena Woman of Wonder ★**  
*Hosted by Xenaversity*  
 Thursday 7:00pm—12:00am  
 Friday 7:00pm—12:00am  
 Saturday 7:00pm—12:00am  
 Come get "schooled" at the University of Xena! Open house for new students! A sample of classes offered: Feminine Wiles and Weapons 101, 6 Degrees of Geneology – It All Started with Xena & the Female Scholars of the World. Receive your very own acceptance letter. Try to avoid the ruler, the super-heroine paddle, and the dunce cap!
- 206 **Bits & Pieces Put Together to Present a Semblance of a Whole ★**  
*Hosted by MNSTF/ Minicon*  
 Thursday 8:00pm—1:00am  
 Friday 8:00pm—1:00am  
 Saturday 8:00pm—1:00am  
 Sunday 9:00pm—1:00am  
 A party to celebrate and promote MnStf and Minicon. MnStf is a year-round organization that hosts parties, picnics, a fall Relaxacon, and Minnesota's longest running science fiction convention, Minicon. Party is inclusive of, but not limited to, delicious drinks, entertainment, Oxford commas, and fabulous conversation.
- 207 **Gaylaxicon 2012 ★**  
*Hosted by North Country Gaylaxians*  
 Thursday 7:00pm—12:00am  
 Friday 7:00pm—12:00am  
 Saturday 7:00pm—12:00am  
 Celebrate the coming Gaypocalypse and learn how gaydioactivity will affect you! Gaylaxicon returns to the Twin Cities in October 2012, and we're here to help you prepare for the GAYDIOACTIVE FALLOUT.
- 208 **Captain Kirk's House of Ill-Repute!**  
*Hosted by ValleyCon 38*  
 Friday 8:00pm—12:00am  
 Saturday 8:00pm—12:00am  
 The Captain returns with his infamous "Two-Fisted Punch" and much more! Classic party hi-jinks with the Original Captain!



### Cabana Party Name and Information

- 209 **Zombie Tiki Bar ★**  
*Hosted by Crypticon Minnesota*  
 Thursday 7:00pm—1:00am  
 Friday 7:00pm—1:00am  
 Saturday 7:00pm—1:00am  
 Zombie Guys return to CONvergence this year with a twist on your old favorite. The Crypt is going Tiki. Don on your best tropical shirts and coconut bras, have a drink, and party with the Zombies.
- 210 **Deadly Delights**  
*Hosted by Deadly Delights*  
 Thursday 7:00pm—12:00am  
 Friday 7:00pm—12:00am  
 Saturday 8:00pm—12:30am  
 Deadly Delights presents Blizzard. Tired of playing the beta version of Diablo III? Did Blizzard nerf your class on WoW again? Are you dying of boredom while waiting for Heart of the Swarm? Then stop on by and tell us your problems, and we will tell you the wrong release dates.

### Cabana Party Name and Information

- 223 **Occupy CONvergence ★**  
*Hosted by Occupy Minneapolis*  
 Thursday 7:00pm—2:00am  
 Friday 9:00pm—2:00am  
 Saturday 9:00pm—2:00am  
 The 99% includes beings on worlds throughout the multiverse. We have already successfully occupied Saturn, R'lyeh, and Middle Earth. Join us for lively discussion of rebel alliances throughout time and space, trivia contests, surprise guests, and refreshments shared from our successful campaigns against various empires.
- 224 **Save The Princess ★**  
*Hosted by Level Up Games*  
 Thursday 8:00pm—1:00am  
 Friday 8:00pm—2:00am  
 Saturday 8:00pm—2:00am  
 Sunday 12:00pm—5:00pm  
 Retro video game themed party! It will contain projectors with classic games. Our party will feature Mario and Zelda based decor and cos-play. There will be retro game-themed drinks for you to enjoy. Party will be hosted with Matt Lauer from Mimosa Mornings.
- 225 **Hogwarts ★**  
*Hosted by D.C.O.M Squad*  
 Thursday 9:00pm—2:00am  
 Friday 9:00pm—2:00am  
 Saturday 9:00pm—2:00am  
 Sunday 5:00pm—10:00pm  
 Welcome to Hogwarts, a place to meet friends over a glass of Pumpkin Juice in the Great Hall, to munch on Bertie Bott's Every Flavor Beans while taking the OWL exams (open book trivia contest), or just hang out and converse with HP characters, surrounded by Hogwarts decor. OWL winners posted on Sunday at 10am.
- 226 **The Dancing Dove ★**  
*Hosted by Dancing Dove*  
 Thursday 8:00pm—2:00am  
 Friday 8:00pm—2:00am  
 Saturday 8:00pm—2:00am  
 Sunday 5:00pm—10:00pm  
 Fan of Tamora Pierce? Want to break bread with the King of the Rogues? Then visit the Dancing Dove Inn. Once there, talk with Lady Knight Alanna, throw dice with George or Rosto, and clash with Beka Cooper. Kings, knights, nobles, and thieves all gather here.
- 227 **SkepchickCON ★**  
*Hosted by Skepchick*  
 Thursday 8:00pm—1:00am  
 Friday 8:00pm—1:00am  
 Saturday 8:00pm—1:00am  
 Your favorite geek girls are back again! Join the Skepchicks and their friends in our spaceship for fun activities, lively conversation, and swag. Don't forget to raise a Buzzed Aldrin shot with us and toast to SCIENCE!
- 228 **Brains ★**  
*Hosted by Freethoughtblogs*  
 Thursday 8:00pm—1:00am  
 Friday 8:00pm—1:00am  
 Saturday 8:00pm—1:00am  
 Freethoughtblogs debuts at CONvergence with a celebration of brains — weird science, hard-boiled skepticism, uncompromising critical thinking, and fun. Stop on by for smart drinks, smart videos, smart games, and smarty pants with snarky attitudes. (Skepchicks and skepdudes are welcome. Zombies will be muzzled.)
- 229 **Tardis Tea Society**  
*Hosted by Tardis Tea Society.*  
 Thursday 8:00pm—12:00am  
 Friday 8:00pm—1:00am  
 Saturday 8:00pm—1:00am  
 Sunday 2:00pm—6:00pm or later  
 Your favorite tea party returns from galactic travels to serve up teas and treats from our latest expeditions. You might find some ales and other delights from far far away as well.

### Cabana Party Name and Information

- 230 **D-Notice**  
*Hosted by Twinports Gaming & Sci Fi*  
 Thursday 9:00pm—1:00am  
 Friday 9:00pm—2:00am  
 Saturday 9:00pm—2:00am  
 Welcome to D-Notice. This is the room that the con-goers love to see. We have our famous food and drink that you will enjoy. Stop by and say hi, and don't forget to try your luck with our "trivia dot dish". And last, but not least, bring caution tape.
- 231 **Mos Icee Cantina ★**  
*Hosted by Minnesota Force*  
 Friday 8:00pm—1:00am  
 Saturday 8:00pm—1:00am  
 Princess Leia, Mara Jade, Bastila Shan, Padmé Amidala. The Star Wars' universe is full of strong women who changed the galactic history and the image of women in science fiction. Visit the Mos Icee Cantina for a frosty snow cone, listen to the Modal Nodes' music, and enjoy the company of the fairer gender.
- 232 **VHU Asks: What the Heck Happened To Saturday Morning Cartoons???** ★  
*Hosted by VHU*  
 Thursday 7:00pm—12:00am  
 Friday 7:00pm—12:00am  
 Saturday 8:00am—12:00pm and 7:00pm—9:00pm  
 We called, and our childhood answered. Revisit the very best, and the very worst, of 80's and 90's cartoons. Do your favorites hold up to the nostalgia factor? Party with us each night, and don't forget to join us on Saturday morning for SATURDAY MORNING CARTOONS.

## FOURTH FLOOR

### Room Party Name and Information

- 401 **Anime Fusion ★**  
*Hosted by Quad Cities Anime*  
 Friday 6:00pm—12:00am  
 Saturday 6:00pm—12:00am  
 Sunday 6:00pm—12:00am  
 Anime Fusion 2012 Room Party serving snacks and beverages, open to all ages.
- 402 **Jews in Space**  
*Hosted by Jews in Space!*  
 Friday 6:00pm—10:00pm  
 A celebration of all things geeky and Jewish. All are welcome, There will be our usual, popular soup on Friday night.
- 403 **Mad Tea Party**  
*Hosted by Death and Pestilence Armory!*  
 Friday 10:00pm—2:00am  
 Saturday 10:00pm—2:00am  
 Come back down the rabbit hole with us, and join us for a different kind of tea time.
- 404 **Brit Con "Scones for Tea" ★**  
*Hosted by Brit Con MN*  
 Thursday 8:00pm—1:00am  
 Friday 8:00pm—1:00am  
 Saturday 8:00pm—1:00am  
 The British are coming to CONvergence. Get your "Brit" on and discuss the best of the media, sci-fi, and fantasy from across the pond. Enjoy scones, tea, and other British inspired snacks. Learn about our new convention, Brit Con 2012, which will open during Labour Day weekend.
- 405 **Paradigm ★**  
*Hosted by Intrepid Magazine*  
 Friday 7:00pm—1:00am  
 Saturday 7:00pm—1:00am  
 Sunday 7:00pm—1:00am  
 Ancient aliens, UFOs, fringe science, unexplained phenomena, and the Nephilim. Stop by for a philosophical conversation or to simply imbibe in a repast suitable for hob-knobbing banter with fellow wizards.

## Smokers Paradise

### East Entrance Outside (Between North and South Towers)

Thursday 12:00pm Opens  
 Sunday 12:00pm Closes

In an effort to make a more pleasant atmosphere for our smoking members and to accommodate our non-smoking members who will be entering the hotel at the South Entrance, we have created a Smokers Paradise, located at the East Entrance, between the North and South Towers. In this central location you will find seating and other accommodations while you smoke in the Smokers Paradise tent. We encourage you to smoke in this new location.

## Teen Room

### Cabana 222 (2nd Floor, South Tower)

Thursday 6:00pm—1:00am (Friday morning)  
 Friday 11:00am—1:00am (Saturday morning)  
 Saturday 11:00am—1:00am (Sunday morning)  
 Sunday 11:00am—5:00pm

The Teen Room is a space for CONvergence teens and tweens to gather and enjoy the convention in their own environment. The space is designated for our young ones to hang out, get to know each other and share their own ways of being fans of Science Fiction and Fantasy. We look forward to reaching our next generation of fans.

## Volunteers | Volunteers Den

### VOLUNTEER TABLE / INFORMATION DESK AT CVG CENTRAL

#### Volunteer Table / Information Desk at CVG Central CVG Central (2nd Floor, South Tower)

Wednesday Noon—6:00pm  
 Thursday Noon—Midnight  
 Friday 9:00am—11:00pm  
 Saturday 9:00am—Midnight  
 Sunday 10:00am—6:00pm

CONvergence is a volunteer-run event and couldn't exist without countless hours of work from hundreds of dedicated fans. That's true from the Department Heads and Staff of the Convention Committee to the at-con volunteer who works a single hour as a badger.

That's right; you can be a part of the team that makes the convention run by volunteering your time at the convention. Some people spend dozens of hours helping out at-con (and more during the year), but you can volunteer for as little as a single hour and that hour is highly valued. Lots of essential CONvergence functions – from badging to moving stuff where it needs to go – are carried out by volunteers who are scheduled at the con.

The Volunteer Department puts CONvergence Members looking to help out at the con where they are needed. Volunteering one single hour gets you a Volunteer Button and an invitation to the Volunteer Party a few weeks after the convention. Four hours earns you access to our Volunteer Den at the convention where we have our Massage Room. You also earn Connie Points, which can be spent on lots of nifty stuff!

For those ultra-helpers that rack up 15+ hours of more of volunteer time, you can earn a Volunteer T-shirt. These collectable shirts are unique each year, and can't be purchased. You can only get them by volunteering, which to us makes them a badge of honor!

Stop by the Volunteer Table in the CONvergence Central area outside the Grand Ballrooms. They'll tell you where we need your help, how to track your hours, and get you started. The Volunteer Table is our primary at-con location to coordinate and gather volunteers. The table is located at the entrance to Convergence Central. You can also redeem your Connie Points here! Stop by sign up and see what your Connie Points can get you!

### VOLUNTEERS DEN

#### Cabana 117/118 (1st Floor/ South Tower next to CoF<sub>2</sub>E<sub>2</sub>)

Wednesday Noon - ? Set Up  
 Thursday Noon - 2:00am (Friday Morning)  
 Friday 10:00am - 2:00am (Saturday Morning)  
 Saturday 10:00am - 2:00am (Sunday Morning)  
 Sunday 10:00am - 4:00pm

The Den is a place for our valued Volunteers to relax after their shift, have a massage or just hang out with other volunteers. All you need to enjoy this perk is four (4) hours of volunteering. Bring your volunteer card and your Convention badge to gain entry! We are conveniently located next door to F2E2 and we hope to see you there. (If you have a ConCom badge that works too!)

Remember to check with our Volunteer Staff on duty if you need a couple extra hours to get your Volunteer T-shirt or earn more Connie Points. They will help you find something you will enjoy!

### MASSAGE ROOM IN THE VOLUNTEERS DEN

Thursday Noon - Midnight  
 Friday Noon - Midnight  
 Saturday Noon - Midnight  
 Sunday Noon - 3:30pm

## Former Guests of Honor & Attending Professionals

Below is a listing of returning Guests of Honor and other Professionals scheduled to be participating in CONvergence 2012. You can find out more about them on the CONvergence website: <http://convergence-con.org/guests/attending-pros/>

**William Alexander**, author

**S.N. Arly**, author

**Joel Arnold**, author

**Dana M. Baird**, author and artist

**Elizabeth Bear**, author

**Ruth Berman**, author

**Bruce Bethke**, author & publisher

**Cynthia Booth**, playwright and artist

**Roy C. Booth**, playwright

**Julie Bowman**, artist

**Steven Brust**, author

**Emma Bull**, author

**Rob Callahan**, author

**C. Robert Cargill**, author & playwright

**Jason Carter**, actor (former Guest of Honor)

**Haddayr Copley-Woods**, author

**Paul Cornell**, author, screen writer & comics creator (former Guest of Honor)

**Matthew Lee Davis**, author

**Holly Day**, author

**Eli Effinger-Weintraub**, author & editor

**Sigrid Ellis**, blogger & editor

**Corvus Elrod**, game designer

**Mary Monica Pulver (Monica Ferris)**, author

**Denise Garner**, artist (former Guest of Honor)

**Fred Greenhalgh**, audio drama producer

**Pete Hautman**, author

**Eric Heideman**, editor and author

**JV Johnson**, editor

**Christopher Jones**, comic book writer/artist

**Stephen P. Jones**, author & comics creator

**Melissa S. Kaercher**, artist and comics colorist

**Dr. James Kakalios**, scientist and author (former Guest of Honor)

**Pam Keeseey**, author & editor (former Guest of Honor)

**John Kovalic**, comics creator & game designer (former Guest of Honor)

**Naomi Kritzer**, author

**Greg Laden**, scientist and author

**Troy LaFaye**, filmmaker (former Guest of Honor)

**Bridget Landry**, scientist (former Guest of Honor)

**Peter Lee**, game designer

**David Lenander**, author & scholar

**Michael Levy**, author & scholar

**Tim Lieder**, author and publisher

**Sandra Lindow**, poet

**Shira Lipkin**, author

**Catherine Lundoff**, author and editor

**Scott Lynch**, author

**Kelly McCullough**, author (former Guest of Honor)

**Jennifer Menken**, artist and television producer

**Michael Merriam**, author

**Moontalk Productions**, including Bill Stiteler, TJ Kudalis & Amanda R. Kudali

**Hilary Moon Murphy**, author

**Sean M. Murphy**, author

**PZ Myers**, scientist

**Lars Pearson**, publisher and author

**Scotty Roberts**, publisher

**Amy Davis Roth**, artist and science blogger

**Brian Salisbury**, film critic

**Catherine Schaff-Stump**, author

**Bryan Thomas Schmidt**, author

**David J. Schwartz**, author

**Joseph Scrimshaw**, playwright and performer

**Will Shetterly**, author

**\*Skepchicks:** Amy, Bug\_girl, Carrie Iwan, Elyse, Masala\_Skeptic, Rebecca Watson

**Robert Smith?**, scientist

**Gordon Smuder**, television writer & producer and performer

**Jerry Stearns**, audio producer and performer

**Adam Stemple**, author and musician

**Bill Stiteler**, playwright and performer

**Sharon Stiteler**, author and science blogger

**Kathryn Sullivan**, author

**Lynne M. Thomas**, editor & archivist (former Guest of Honor)

**Michael D. Thomas**, editor and author

**Anthony Tollin**, comics creator & radio play archivist (former Guest of Honor)

**Tyler Tork**, author

**Vincent Truitner**, animator (former Guest of Honor)

**Tim Uren**, playwright & performer

**Monica Valentinni**, author & game designer

**Shawn Van Briesen**, comics creator & artist

**Joan Marie Verba**, author

**David Walbridge**, author & performer

**Daniel Wallace**, author and editor

**Anna Waltz**, author

**Adam J. Whitlatch**, author

**Tim Wick**, performer & producer

**Stephanie Zvan**, author and science blogger



# Guests of Honor and Featured Performers

We want to make sure that you have every possible chance to meet and enjoy our Guests of Honor while they are here at CONvergence. Below is a listing of the panels and appearances scheduled for our 2012 Guests. For a more detailed description of these panels, refer to the listing starting on page 63.

There will be signing sessions by our Guests of Honor and other attending professionals at our Autograph Table located across the hall from the Bloomington Room. More may be scheduled than are listed here—please check the schedule posted there for the latest listing of signings.



## SOPHIE ALDRED

**Actress:** *Ace (Doctor Who), Bob the Builder and Dennis & Gnasher,*  
**and Co-Wrote:** *The Inside Story of the End of An Era*

Friday, 11:00am	Sophie Aldred . . . . .	Main Stage
Friday, 12:30pm	Sophie Aldred Signing . . . . .	Autograph Table
Friday, 3:30pm	Oobleck . . . . .	Connie's Quantum Sandbox
Friday, 5:00pm	Voice Acting . . . . .	Atrium 4
Saturday, 12:30pm	One on One with Sophie Aldred . . . . .	Atrium 4
Saturday, 3:30pm	Media for Children . . . . .	Edina
Saturday, 10:00pm	Just a Minute . . . . .	Bloomington
Sunday, 3:30pm	Sophie Aldred Signing . . . . .	Autograph Table



## BONNIE BURTON

**Author:** *The Star Wars Craft Book, Draw Star Wars: The Clone Wars, You Can Draw: Star Wars, Star Wars: The Clone Wars: Planets in Peril, and Girls Against Girls: Why We Are Mean To Each Other and How We Can Change*

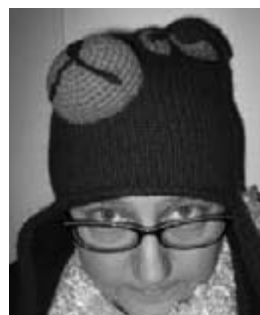
Thursday, 10:00pm	Girls Gone Smackdown. . . . .	Main Stage
Friday, 2:00pm	Bonnie Burton & Firesign Theatre Signing . . . . .	Autograph Table
Friday, 3:30pm	Where Were All the Geek Girls When I Was Growing Up? . . . . .	Atrium 4
Friday, 7:00pm	This Model Life: or Genius to Scale . . . . .	Plaza 1
Saturday, 2:00pm	Sherlock: Series Two . . . . .	Edina
Saturday, 3:30pm	The Womanthology Project . . . . .	Atrium 2
Saturday, 5:00pm	Obsessed (with Joseph Scrimshaw) . . . . .	Plaza 1
Saturday, 8:30pm	Drinking with Geeks . . . . .	Plaza 1
Saturday, 10:00pm	Women in Horror: Are They All Victims? . . . . .	Plaza 1
Sunday, 11:00 a.m.	One on One with Bonnie Burton . . . . .	Atrium 2



## JENNIFER CLARKE WILKES

**Game Editor:** Credits includes *Magic the Gathering, Vampire: The Masquerade, and Dungeons & Dragons (2nd, 3rd, & 4th ed).*

Thursday, 4:00pm	Dungeons & Dragons Next Playtest . . . . .	2202, Table A
Thursday, 9:00pm	Dungeons & Dragons Next Playtest . . . . .	2202, Table A
Friday, 9:30am	Dungeons & Dragons Next Playtest . . . . .	2202, Table A
Friday, 12:30pm	Financial Considerations in Game Design . . . . .	Atrium 3
Friday, 3:00pm	Dungeons & Dragons Next Playtest . . . . .	2202, Table A
Friday, 7:00pm	One on One with Jennifer Clarke Wilkes . . . . .	Atrium 3
Friday, 8:30pm	The Future of Dungeons & Dragons . . . . .	Atrium 8
Saturday, 9:30am	Dungeons & Dragon Next Playtest . . . . .	2202, Table A
Saturday, 11:00am	Magic: The Gathering – Through the Looking Glass . . . . .	Atrium 3
Saturday, 9:30pm	Dungeons & Dragons Next Playtest . . . . .	2202, Table A
Saturday, 12:30pm	@#%@ Writers . . . . .	Atrium 8
Saturday, 3:30pm	Playing with the Boys' Toys . . . . .	Atrium 3
Sunday, 9:00am	Dungeons & Dragons Next Playtest . . . . .	2202, Table A
Sunday, 12:30pm	Your Princess is in Another Castle: Stereotypes in Gaming . . . . .	Atrium 3
Sunday, 2:30pm	Dungeons & Dragons Next Playtest . . . . .	2202, Table A



## LYDA MOREHOUSE

**Author:** *LINK Angel, Garnet Lacey, and Vampire Princess of Saint Paul series*

Thursday, 5:00pm	Changing Roles of Women in Comics . . . . .	Atrium 2
Thursday, 8:30pm	Post-Apocalyptic Tea Party . . . . .	Atrium 8
Friday, 11:00am	Teaching Writers . . . . .	Atrium 8
Friday, 2:00pm	How Dark Can You Go with Young Adult Fiction? . . . . .	Atrium 7
Friday, 3:30pm	Where Were All the Geek Girls When I Was Growing Up? . . . . .	Atrium 4



## LYDA MOREHOUSE (CONTINUED)

Friday, 8:30pm	Is the Short Story Still Viable? . . . . .	Atrium 7
Friday, 10:00pm	Secret Fandoms . . . . .	Atrium 8
Saturday, 9:30am	Martial Arts for the Working Writer . . . . .	Atrium 4
Saturday, 11:00am	The Avengers . . . . .	Plaza 1
Saturday, 12:30pm	Is Urban Fantasy Just Romance for Geeks? . . . . .	Atrium 7
Saturday, 2:00pm	PowerPoint Karaoke . . . . .	Atrium 6
Saturday, 3:30pm	New Roles for Female Characters in YA Fantasy Novels . . . . .	Atrium 7
Saturday, 5:00pm	Wonder Woman Made Me Gay . . . . .	Atrium 2
Saturday, 8:30pm	One on One with Lyda Morehouse . . . . .	2201
Sunday, 11:00am	Women in Marvel Super Hero Movies . . . . .	Plaza 1
Sunday, 2:00pm	What Makes a Female Character Strong? . . . . .	Atrium 4

## SHARYN NOVEMBER

**Author:** *Firebirds Rising*

Thursday, 8:30pm	The Difference in Writing for Young Adults vs. Adults . . . . .	Atrium 7
Friday, 2:00pm	How Dark Can You Go with Young Adult Fiction? . . . . .	Atrium 7
Friday, 5:00pm	Writing for an Aging Demographic . . . . .	Atrium 7
Saturday, 12:30pm	@#%@ Writers . . . . .	Atrium 8
Saturday, 3:30pm	New Roles for Female Characters in YA Fantasy Novels . . . . .	Atrium 7
Sunday, 12:30pm	One on One with Sharyn November. . . . .	2201
Sunday, 3:30pm	The Worlds of Lloyd Alexander: Fantasy Geographies . . . . .	Atrium 3



## TAMORA PIERCE

**Author:** *Alanna: the First Adventure, The Realms of the Gods, Circle of Magic, Trickster's Choice, and Lady Knight.*

Thursday, 5:00pm	How Do You Design Environments and Locations? . . . . .	Atrium 7
Friday, 11:00am	Tamora Pierce's Magic Circle . . . . .	Atrium 7
Friday, 2:00pm	How Dark Can You Go with Young Adult Fiction? . . . . .	Atrium 7
Friday, 5:00pm	Writing for an Aging Demographic . . . . .	Atrium 7
Friday, 7:00pm	Keeping the Book Fresh . . . . .	Atrium 7
Saturday, 11:00am	Women Whose Books You Should Be Reading . . . . .	Atrium 7
Saturday, 2:00pm	The Importance of Strong Heroines . . . . .	Atrium 7
Saturday, 3:30pm	Tamora Pierce Signing . . . . .	Autograph Table
Saturday, 5:00pm	One on One with Tamora Pierce . . . . .	Atrium 8
Sunday, 11:00am	Naming Characters . . . . .	Atrium 7
Sunday, 2:00pm	What Makes a Female Character Strong? . . . . .	Atrium 4



## RUTH THOMPSON

**Artist:** *Tarnished Images*

Friday, 12:30pm	Overcoming 'Artist's Block' . . . . .	Atrium 2
Friday, 3:30pm	The Business of Art . . . . .	Atrium 2
Friday, 5:00pm	Deconstruction of Dragons . . . . .	Connie's Quantum Sandbox
Saturday, 11:00am	Where Does Your Inspiration Come From? . . . . .	Atrium 4
Saturday, 12:30pm	Life Drawing with Ruth Thompson . . . . .	Garden Court, Northwest
Saturday, 9:00pm	A . . . . .	rt Auction Atrium 4
Sunday, 12:30pm	Iron Artist . . . . .	Atrium 6
Sunday, 3:30pm	One on One with Ruth Thompson . . . . .	Atrium 2



## JUDITH WALCUTT

**Writer, Director, and CEO of Otherworld Media**

Friday, 9:30am	Otherworlds Story Slam: A Writing Workshop for Young Writers . . . . .	Atrium 4
Friday, 11:00am	Should We Go into and Live in Space? . . . . .	Bloomington
Friday, 12:30pm	War of the Worlds Audio . . . . .	Atrium 6
Friday, 2:00pm	Judith Walcutt and Firesign Theatre Signing . . . . .	Autograph Table
Saturday, 3:30pm	Media for Children . . . . .	Edina
Sunday, 12:30pm	One on One with Judith Walcutt . . . . .	Atrium 8

## FIRESIGN THEATRE (DAVID OSSMAN AND PHILIP PROCTOR)

Thursday, 6:00pm	Mark Time Radio Show . . . . .	Main Stage
Friday, 11:00am	The Bergman Memorial Brouhaha. . . . .	Atrium 6
Friday, 2:00pm	Firesign Theatre Signing and Judith Walcutt . . . . .	Autograph Table
Friday, 11:30pm	Beyond the Grave: An Evening with the Late Peter Bergman . . . . .	Atrium 8
Saturday, 12:30pm	All Things Firesign . . . . .	Atrium 6
Sunday, 12:30pm	One on One with Judith Walcutt and Firesign Theatre . . . . .	Atrium 8



# Panels and Programming

CONvergence programming operates on a schedule of 60-minute programming slots with 30-minute breaks in between. The break is designed to allow time for our members to finish a panel, chat a bit, visit ConSuite or the restroom, and still make it to the next programming item they want to see. Panels and events listed in the following section are expected to run for approximately one hour unless otherwise indicated. Programming items are divided into tracks, with an individual room dedicated to each track. At times, we have panels that will take place in a room other than the "home room" for their particular track. Please make sure you double-check the room in which your panel will take place.

Programming Track	Home Room
Movies	Plaza 1
Connie's Quantum Sandbox	Plaza 3
Art & Comics	Atrium 2
Gaming	Atrium 3
Sci-Fi Hot Dish	Atrium 4
Programming Ops	Atrium 5
Audio/Visual Room	Atrium 6
Literature	Atrium 7
Sci-Fi Side Dish	Atrium 8
Television	Edina Room
Science & Technology	Bloomington Room

## Programming can also be found in:

Krushenko's	Cabana 201 & Vista Suite 2201
Connie's Space Lounge	Veranda 3,5,6,8
Gaming Suites	Vista Suites, 22nd Floor

Daily schedules will be posted outside of each programming room and at Programming Schedule kiosks around the convention.

## Schedule Changes

CONvergence Publications has worked with all the different parts of the convention to make this Programming Guide as accurate as possible, but since last-minute changes occur, refer to the Programming Update Boards located outside **Atrium 5** and in **CONvergence Central** for updates, as well as the online CONvergence schedule at <http://schedule.convergence-con.org/> or scan the **QR Code** above with your smart phone.

## THURSDAY

### 3:30PM THURSDAY

#### Super Hero Costuming for Women

##### Art, Costuming, Theme / Atrium 2

Do all women super hero costumes need to be so little or so skin-tight? What are other options for women? *Deborah Jones*

#### CONvergence 101

##### Theme / Atrium 4

Our annual introduction to all things CONvergence. Whether this is your first year or you are one of the founders, you will probably learn something you didn't know. *Brian Etchieson, Briana Falb-Joslin, Charmaine Parnell, Christopher Jones, Jen Manna, Tabitha Anderson*

#### Are Print Books Dead?

##### Books / Atrium 7

Yes, we know that some people still prefer to have a book in their hands but what is the reality of the book industry? Are printed books on their way out for good? *Dave Margosian, G. David Nordley, Kelly McCullough, Shannon Ryan, Sue Rice*



#### The Gluten Free Geek

##### Sidedish / Atrium 8

A panel to talk about the gluten free options at and outside the convention as well as a window into understanding what it is like to live a gluten free lifestyle. *Mary Sevick, Sarah Hagen*

#### Skepchicks Save the Day AND Your Money!

##### Skepchick / Bloomington

The panel will expose a variety of pseudosciences of the beauty industry and other products targeted at women. From Super-Juice to balance bracelets, find out which products are a scam and which are worth your hard earned cash. *Amy Davis Roth, Ashley Hamer, Heina Dadabhoy, Maria Walters, Rebecca Watson*

### 5:00PM THURSDAY

#### Changing Roles of Women in Comics

##### Comics, GoH, Theme / Atrium 2

Exploring the roles of women in Comics from the silver age to the modern age. How have things gotten better and how have they stayed the same? *Lyda Morehouse, Roy Cook, Sigrid Ellis*

#### No-One Mourns the Wicked

##### Hot Dish / Atrium 3

A discussion of stories that redeem "evil" characters or give them extra depth. Exploring complex story lines that allow villains to be \*characters\* instead of just \*bad guys.\* *Adam Stemple, Dana Baird, Gordon Smuder, Lisa Blauersouth, Tyler Tork*

#### How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Spoilers

##### Got Dish / Atrium 4

Are we doing ourselves a disservice in avoiding spoilers? In our fear of spoilers, do we cut ourselves off from some wonderful journalism? Ultimately, does knowing the plot really spoil our enjoyment? *Jason Tucker, Joan Marie Verba, Romeo Azar*

#### How Do You Design Environments and Locations?

##### GoH, Writing / Atrium 7

Exploring the process of designing the places your characters will inhabit. How to build a world that supports the story. *Anna Waltz, Christopher Baldwin, M. K. Layden, Tamora Pierce*

#### How to Throw a Room Party

##### Convergence, DIY / Atrium 8

A panel for those who are throwing their first room party or those who might want to throw one in the future. When it has gone right and when it has gone disastrously wrong. *Don Stremski, Tish Cassidy*

#### Mad Art Lab

##### Art, Skepchick / Bloomington

A comparison of the creative process in art and the scientific method in science. The audience will make art during the talk. *Amy Davis Roth, Ashley Hamer, Emily Finke, Jennifer Menken, Maria Walters, Melissa Kaercher*

#### Wilma Deering: Woman of the Future

##### Theme / Cabana 201

Perhaps the most innovative element of BUCK ROGERS IN THE 25th CENTURY was its characterization of Lt. Wilma Deering as a capable, heroic female officer, far removed from the perpetual female victims of most early science fiction and comic strips.

*Anthony Tollin*

#### The Dresden Files

##### TV, Comics, Literature / Edina

The Dresden Files series tells the story of Harry Blackstone Copperfield Dresden, Chicago first (and only) Wizard Pl. Come talk about the Books, Comics and TV show. *Alexandra Howes, Brandy Snyder, Elizabeth Erickson, Jason Kobett, Tony Artym*

#### Is There Anything Good on Netflix Streaming?

##### Movies / Plaza 1

Netflix Streaming has much more to offer than the usual series of low-budget monster mashers and direct-to-video snooze fests. Discover the latest gems and what you should probably be watching to get the most out of your 8 bucks. *Ben Ellis, Brian Salisbury, Heina Dadabhoy, Mark McPherson (mod), Shawn Van Briesen*

### 8:30PM THURSDAY

#### Friends of Bill W - Thursday

##### Sidedish / Atrium 2

Space reserved for friends of Bill W. gathering.

#### Being at the Head of the Table: Female GMs

##### Gaming, Theme / Atrium 3

What challenges do women game masters have when leading a gaming group? Share your strategies and stories about being a female game master. *Beth Kinderman, Katie Tremaine, Rachel Kronick*

#### Quidditch - For Real!

##### Hot Dish / Atrium 4

We've all heard about the most popular sport of the Wizarding world. Did you know that there is an International Quidditch League and you can really play the game? Come learn about this fictional sport that is becoming a more and more popular real one! *Ashley Novitsky*

#### Geek Life Live Podcast

##### Audio, Podcast / Atrium 6

Join the Geek Life Live podcasters for a live recording of their show! *Melissa Kaercher, Mike Town, Paul Comeau, Richard Brantley*

#### The Difference in Writing for Young Adults vs. Adults

##### Books, GoH, Writing / Atrium 7

What are the differences in writing fiction based on the age of your audience? Do you set out to write Young Adult fiction or do you discover that is what you are writing? *Dana Baird, Haddayr Copley-Woods, Kathy Sullivan, S.N. Arly, Sharyn November*

#### Post Apocalyptic Tea Party

##### GoH, Sidedish / Atrium 8

This panel will discuss how to deal with people and groups that claim GLBT people are destroying their way of life when in fact they are actually destroying and discriminating against us. The politics of marriage equity and other topics will be discussed. *Brett Thompson, Claudia Slovacek, Don Kaiser, Jason Tucker, Lyda Morehouse*

#### Toy Customization

##### DIY, Sidedish / Bloomington

Mint in the box isn't any fun. Take your toys out of the box and make them look the way you want them to look! This panel will explore ideas for customizing your toys and techniques to do it right. *Bryon Stump, Holly Spotts, Lori Fischer, Michael Zecca*

#### The Role of Religion in Science Fiction and Fantasy

##### Hot Dish / Edina

Religion is pervasive in modern society but typically missing from most genre stories. Are we to assume that religion is no longer relevant in the future or is it something that simply isn't relevant to the story? *Bob Alberti, Caroline Symcox, Hilary Moon Murphy, Holly Day, Kath Dimmich*

#### DIY Video Production Kit Workshop

##### DIY, Video / Plaza 1

Are you sure you need that \$50,000 steadicam rig to shoot your next Youtube epic? Practical advice on building your very own Video Production Kit that won't break your budget. *Chris McWethy, Rob Withoff, Romeo Azar, Terry O'Brien, Tim Liebe*

### 10:00PM THURSDAY

#### Masquerade 101

##### Art, Costuming / Atrium 2

Whether you are an old pro or a newcomer, this panel will help you learn the basics of participation in the CONvergence masquerade. *Dayna Jean Wolter, Erin Kasper*

#### How to Talk to Girls at Con

##### Hot Dish / Atrium 4

Geek girls share stories of awkward interactions at Con to help you avoid the same kinds of mistakes. Conveniently scheduled on Thursday so you have the entire convention to practice! *Alexandra Howes, Eryn Hildebrand, Jenne Hayden, Kristina Halseth, Sigrid Ellis*

#### The Film Confessional Podcast LIVE

##### Podcast / Atrium 6

The Film Confessional Podcast offers a weekly roundtable of film review and discussion as seen by its panel of one girl and four gays. See whether you agree as they review the last year's offering of sci-fi/dystopic films. *Angela Fabbri, Jason Tucker, Joe Agee*

#### Final CONvergence: Doomsday Scenarios

##### Sidedish / Atrium 7

The zombies are right outside the door. Which geeks do you keep close and which to you push into the parking lot as bait. Surviving apocalyptic scenarios convention style! *Adam Whitlatch, Jason Thibeault, Matt Lowry, PZ Myers, Robert Smith?*

#### Podfic

##### Audio / Atrium 8

Ever wish you had an audiobook of your favorite fanfic? Podficers have been doing just that for years in a multitude of fandoms. Stop by to find out more about podficing, and maybe put a face to that voice you've been listening to on the internet. *Bess Stuvencend, Lunate8, Revolutionary Jo*

## 10:00PM THURSDAY CONTINUED

### Goblins

#### Books / Bloomington

Exploring the folkloric and literary history of goblins as well as recent incarnations. Panelists will probably also sing at least one song from Labyrinth. Consider yourself warned. *Hilary Moon Murphy, Kelly McCullough, Tyler Tork, Veronica Cummer, William Alexander*

### How did the Warrior Princess Change your Life?

#### Theme, TV / Edina

Xena: Warrior Princess is one of the great geek shows with a female protagonist. For our year of Wonder Women, we'll look back at this icon of geek girl power. *Brett Thompson, Kelly Pesola, Lynne Thomas, Michael D. Thomas, Paul Harmeyer*

### The Films of Tim Burton

#### Movies / Plaza 1

Has Tim Burton jumped the undead shark or is he still creating vibrant, cutting edge cinema? Your answer probably depends on who you ask. The panel will take a look at his body of work (including Dark Shadows) and draw their own conclusions. *Amanda Hofman-Frethem, Nick Larson, Sarah Hagen, Steven Jones, Tim Lieder*

## 11:30PM THURSDAY

### Dr. Horrible Sing Along

#### DIY, Joss / Atrium 6

Join your fellow Whedonites as you sing along to Dr. Horrible's Sing Along Blog. Don't forget your laundry!

### Escaping the Slush Pile

#### Literature/ Bloomington

A panel of experienced slush readers will take the first five pages of manuscripts submitted by audience members, and identify the point at which they would stop reading, if any, and why. *Adam Whitlatch, Michael Merriam, Scott Lynch, Jennie Goloboy, Patrick Tomlinson*

## FRIDAY

## 9:30AM FRIDAY

### Creating Mini People

#### Art / Atrium 2

From Asian Ball-Joint Dolls to Cabbage Patch Kids to VooDoo Dolls, talk about the type of dolls that are out there, how to start your collection, and how to convince your friends they (the dolls, not your friends) are not that creepy. *Elspeith Lee, Holly Spotts, Lori Fischer*

### Games Your Parents Used to Play

#### Classic, Gaming / Atrium 3

What games of a generation ago can't be beat? From original Dungeon's and Dragons to computer games like Oregon Trail, or classic board games given electronic revisions like Monopoly or Risk, what games are still playable today? *Chris Stenzel, Paul Harmeyer*

### Otherworlds Story Slam: A Writing Workshop for Young Writers

#### GoH / Atrium 4

Want to write your own trilogy? It all begins with one time, one place, one world, one character. Bring paper and pencil (or your writing tool of choice) and come prepared to work out your imaginations. Hosted by Judith Walcutt. *Judith Walcutt*

### Growing up Online

#### Freethoughtblogs / Atrium 7

Each new generation is more electronically connected than the last. How does this broaden or narrow our world views? What does it do to our online interactions? How do we help our kids

navigate this environment? *Anne Sauer, Ashley Hamer, Barbara Burke, Jason Thibeault, Scott White, Stephanie Zvan*

### Convergence Events Open Meeting

#### Convergence / Atrium 8

Learn about what Convergence Events is working on outside of CONvergence. If you love the convention, here is your chance to enjoy our events all year round! *Christin 'LeXi' Davies, Jon Olsen, Michael Lee*

### National Novel Writing Month

#### Writing / Bloomington

Fifty thousand words in 30 days (or so). Find out more about this national movement from some regular participants. *Becca Patterson, Devin Harnois, EP Beaumont, Miriam Krause, Shannon Ryan*

### Star Wars for Kids

#### Children, Movies, Star Wars / Plaza 1

A moderated discussion about "Star Wars" for the youth set. Adults are encourage to attend but we will make every effort to have the kids drive the discussion. *Mark Stegbauer, Philip Glover, Teresa Jackson*

## 11:00AM FRIDAY

### The Women of Julius Schwartz Comics

#### Comics, Theme / 2201

Carol Ferris. Iris West. Shayera Hol. Jean Loring. Sue Dibny. Alanna. Under the editorship of Julius Schwartz (1915-2004) at DC in the 6650s and 6660s, writers created a gallery of female characters who remain unsurpassed for intelligence and complexity. *Anthony Tollin, Eric Heideman (mod), Roy C. Booth*

### I am Geek Therefore I Draw

#### Art, Skepchick / Atrium 2

A panel of artists who create art inspired by geek culture. Why it inspires them and why they feel it is as important as traditional art. *Amy Davis Roth, Anne Sauer, Ashley Hamer, Damian Sheridan, Emily Finke*

### North Country Gaylaxians presents Gaylaxicon 2012

#### Sidedish / Atrium 3

This panel will introduce the North Country Gaylaxians club and Gaylaxicon, the national GLBT Science Fiction convention. We will also discuss what it means to be a gay fan in the 21st century. *Andrew Bertke, Claudia Slovacek, Don Kaiser, Jason Tucker, Joe Agee, Landon Thomas*

### "Iron Pen" Drabble Contest

#### DIY / Atrium 4

Stretch your creative muscles by writing a 100-word story based on a surprise prompt item. Entries will be judged during the weekend and the winner announced at the end of the convention. *Heather Bufkin*

### The Bergman Memorial Brouhaha

#### GoH / Atrium 6

Members of Firesign and others will talk about their friend and colleague Peter Bergman, who passed away recently. *Brian Westley, David Ossman, Melinda Peterson, Phil Proctor*

### Tamora Pierce's Magic Circle

#### Books, GoH / Atrium 7

This series of books was nominated for finalists for the Mythopoeic Fantasy Award in Children's Literature. Join Tamora and members of the committee to discuss the series. *David Lenander, Sue Rice, Tamora Pierce*

### Teaching Writers

#### GoH, Writing / Atrium 8

Outside of coming to writing panels at conventions, what are other resources available for writers looking to learn? The panel will cover all the options (we know of) that are available

to aspiring writers. *Holly Day, Joel Arnold, Lyda Morehouse, Matthew Lee Davis, Shannon Ryan*

### Bryan Thomas Schmidt, Michael Merriam and Dana

#### Baird Signing

#### Signing / Autograph Table

Bryan Thomas Schmidt, author of "The Worker Prince," will be available to sign his work. Dana has just released "Broken Legacy." Michael's newest release is "Sky Tinted Waters." *Bryan Thomas Schmidt, Dana Baird, Michael Merriam*

### Should We Go Into and Live in Space?

#### GoH, Sci/Tech, Teen / Bloomington

A panel designed for our younger convention attendees that asks them to consider why we might want to have humans explore and live in space. *Judith Walcutt*

### Tim Lieder Reading

#### Reading / Cabana 201

Tim Lieder reads from his work. *Tim Lieder*

### Behind the 8 Ball: Why Jonny Quest is Awesome

#### Classic, TV / Edina

A panel all about the reasons Johnny Quest is the most awesome show in the history of awesomeness. *David Romm, Jennifer Menken, Kathy Sullivan, Mark Stegbauer, Steven Philip Jones*

### Aliens - In Depth

#### Movies, Theme / Plaza 1

A comprehensive look at James Cameron's "Aliens." We'll compare the theatrical and director's cuts, explore themes and consider the question of whether or not Ripley is really one of the strongest female sci-fi characters. *Jon Cazares, Lex Larson, Melissa Kaercher, Mike Hallenbeck, Tim Wick*

## 12:30PM FRIDAY

### Whatever Happened to Monica Rambeau?

#### Comics, Theme / 2201

Marvel Comics has a long history of creating complex and powerful female characters, only to render them dead, insane, possessed, and/or stripped of most of their powers. Why? *Cynthia Booth, David Schwartz, Eric Heideman (mod), Rob Callahan, Roy C. Booth*

### Overcoming "Artist's Block"

#### Art, GoH / Atrium 2

What do you do when you don't know what to draw or paint next? How do you get past those crippling moments when you just aren't sure what should be on the page/canvas? *David Walbridge, John Kovalic, Laramie Sasseville, Mariah Fryer, Ruth Thompson*

### War of the Worlds Audio

#### Gaming, GoH / Atrium 3

2013 is the 75th Anniversary of the Orson Welles' radio show, and 25th Anniversary of Otherworld Media's 50th Anniversary Show for Public Radio. Learn about the various audio versions of the most famous radio show of all time. *David Ossman, Jerry Stearns (mod), Phil Proctor, Judith Walcutt*

### Financial Considerations in Game Design

#### Gaming, GoH / Atrium 3

Play mechanics are important but what about the "hidden" considerations of game design like box size, manufacturing cost and so on? How do the financial constraints of production impact the final product? *Eric Knight, Jennifer Clarke Wilkes, Peter Lee, Rachel Kronick, Tim Uren*

### Is Twilight Really as bad as they say?

#### Books, Current / Atrium 7

Everyone liked to hate on "Twilight." Is the series as bad as everyone thinks it is? *Amanda Hofman-Frethem, James Turnbull, Sue Rice*

### Comfortable in your Geek Skin?

#### Hot Dish / Atrium 8

How comfortable are you in your geek skin? Have you "come out" to your co-workers? Talking about the trials and triumphs of growing up geek in "polite" society. *Brett Thompson, David Romm, Gordon Smuder, Kiah Nelson, Neil Anderson*

### Sophie Aldred Signing

#### GoH, Signing / Autograph Table

Sophie will be available at the autograph table. *Sophie Aldred*

### The Hunger Games

#### Books, Current / Bloomington

Discuss the books, not the movie! Who are we kidding? We'll probably talk about the movie a little bit.... *Alexandra Howes, Jennifer Lundstrom, Kristina Halseth, Michael Zecca, Windy Bowlsby*

### Fringe

#### Current, TV / Edina

Alternate timelines, shape shifters and hairless guys around every corner. Let's talk about FOX's weirdes but most awesome show! *Dave Margosian, Deborah Frethem, Geoffrey Hofman-Frethem, Steven Erickson, Tim Liebe*

### James Bond at 50

#### Movies / Plaza 1

Everyone's favorite Super Spy has been in the theatres for fifty years now. We've been in bondage for a long time now. Let's argue about which Bond films are the best and which are the worst. *Anthony Tollin, Jeremy Stomberg, Romeo Azar, Steven Philip Jones, Tony Artym*

## 2:00PM FRIDAY

### All Tied Up - Early Wonder Woman

#### Theme / 2201

Wonder Woman is the iconc female super hero. Let's explore her early years. *Anthony Tollin, Eric Heideman (mod), Roy C. Booth, Roy Cook, Terry O'Brien, Will Shetterly*

### Dr. Blink, Superhero Shrink

#### Comedy, Comics / Atrium 2

New things are afoot with Dr. Blink. Learn about where this property is headed from the creators. *Christopher Jones, John Kovalic, Joseph Scrimshaw, Melissa Kaercher*

### Women Gamers

#### Gaming, Theme / Atrium 3

A panel of female gamers discussing the joys, trials, and particular challenges of being a woman in gaming. *Kelly Pesola, Meredith Gillies, Monica Valentinelli, Rachel Kronick*

### Don't Feed the Trolls

#### Skepchick, Web / Atrium 4

Sexism, misogyny & the internet. A discussion about the recent wave of internet bullying against women and what we can do about it. *Greg Laden, Heina Dadabhoy, Jason Thibeault, Rebecca Watson, Stephanie Zvan*

### The Physics of the Day After Tomorrow

#### Sci/Tech / Atrium 6

What do Word Clouds, Black Swans, Income Distributions, and Traffic Jams have in common? A pretty simple idea underlies Normal and Log-Normal distributions, and accounts for a wide range of phenomena. Another in a series of Dr. Jim Kakalios' lectures. *Jim Kakalios*

### How Dark Can You Go With Young Adult Fiction?

#### Books, GoH, Teen / Atrium 7

Young Adults can handle some pretty scary stuff. How far can (or should) an author of YA material go? *Lyda Morehouse, Michael Levy, Sharyn November, Tamora Pierce, William Alexander*

## 2:00PM FRIDAY CONTINUED

### Heroines of Anime and Manga Anime, Theme / Atrium 8

From Sapphire to Haruhi Suzumiya and beyond, interesting heroines have long been a staple of manga and anime. What are some of your favorites? *Caroline Symcox, Jessi Silver, Scott Jamison (mod)*

### Bonnie Burton and Firesign Theatre Signing GoH, Signing / Autograph Table

Guests of Honor Bonnie Burton and the members of Firesign Theatre will be available to sign their work. Bonnie specifically offered to sign " books or photos or trading cards or puppies. Whatever ya want!" *Bonnie Burton, David Ossman, Judith Walcutt, Phil Proctor*

### Social Networking for Luddites Web / Bloomington

Why would anyone have a Facebook account AND a Twitter account? What is Google Plus anyway and why should you care? How to use social networking as way to \*actually\* stay connected online. *Bryan Thomas Schmidt, Joan Marie Verba, Sharon Stiteler, Sigrid Ellis, Ted Meissner*

### Broad Universe Rapid Fire Reading Reading / Cabana 201

Members of Broad Universe will read their short fiction. Broad Universe is an international organization with the primary goal of promoting science fiction, fantasy, and horror written by women. *Catherine Lundoff, Kathy Sullivan*

### Companions in Doctor Who Dr Who, Theme, TV / Edina

Dr. Who just isn't the same without his trusty companions. Let's talk about our favorite. Like Ace. *Lars Pearson, Lynne Thomas, Michael D. Thomas, Steve Manfred, Tim Liebe*

### Dodgeball DIY / Outdoors

It isn't the nerds against the jocks any more. Now it's nerd against nerd! *Derek Mahr*

### Big Budget vs. Small Budget Movies / Plaza 1

Does more money mean better filmmaking? What are the benefits to making a film on a shoestring? What are the things only money can buy? Besides Will Smith. *C. Robert Cargill, Edward Douglas, Paul Harmeyer, Romeo Azar, Troy LaFaye*

## 3:30PM FRIDAY

### Geek Partnership Society Writing Contest Ceremony GPS / 2201

Past winners of the annual GPS Writing Contests read from their winning work. This year's winners are announced. *George Richard, Hilary Moon Murphy*

### Honor Harrington Could Kick Captain Kirk's Ass Literature / Atrium 7

Horatio Hornblower in space, indeed! A look at David Weber's Honorverse and the Royal Manticoran Navy. *John Neitz, Kathy Sullivan, Tim Liebe, Windy Bowsly, Patrick Tomlinson*

### The Business of Art Art, GoH / Atrium 2

Learn about the business aspect of being a successful artist. Convention art shows, online sales, etc. *Ruth Thompson*

### Creating Board Games Gaming / Atrium 3

What goes on behind the scenes to create the board games you know and love? *Matthew Duhan, Peter Lee, Tim Uren*

### Where Were all the Geek Girls when I was Growing Up? GoH, Hot Dish / Atrium 4

What was it like to be a geek girl before nerd culture conquered the world? This panel discusses when these women knew they were geeks, what their entry into fandom was, and their perspective on how things have changed. *Bill Stiteler (mod), Bonnie Burton, Dawn Krosnowski, Eryn Hildebrand, Laurie Richardson, Lyda Morehouse*

### The Rise and Fall of the Nephilim Books, Current / Atrium 6

Scotty Roberts, author of "The Rise and Fall of the Nephilim" and the upcoming "The Reptilian Enigma" delves into the ancient alienist theory that there was an interruption in the human bloodline and DNA.

An incredible picture of "race interrupted." *Scotty Roberts*

### Christopher Jones, Steven Philip Jones, Rob Callahan, and Joseph Scrimshaw Signing Signing / Autograph Table

Christopher Jones, artist on "Young Justice," *Steven Philip Jones*, author of the *Talisman* series, *Rob Callahan*, author of *Grave Whisperer* and *Joseph Scrimshaw*, author of *Comedy of Doom*.

### Pottermore

#### HarryPotter / Atrium 8

The expansion of the Harry Potter books are underway. Join us as we talk about, wands, shorting, potion, wizard duels, J.K. Rowling's new information, and what pottermore is all about. *Elizabeth Erickson, Jamie Cleven, Matt Ledder, Tony Artym*

### Who Will Save the Polar Bears?

#### Sci/Tech, Skepchick / Bloomington

A panel of climatologists and other expert scientists will discuss the facts and the controversies surrounding climate change. *Greg Laden, John Abraham, Maggie Koerth Baker, Paul Douglas, Shawn Otto*

### Phillip Andrew Bennet Low Reading

#### Reading / Cabana 201

Rockstar Storyteller Phillip Low will read from his work. *Phillip Andrew Bennett Low*

### Supernatural Current, TV / Edina

The show continues it's quest to destroy supernatural evil and we KNOW you want to talk about it. Come share your favorite moments from the latest season. *Alexandra Howes, Jennifer Lundstrom, Kiah Nelson, Nick Larson, Veronica Cummer*

### Sinister - Producing a Film

#### Movies / Plaza 1

C. Robert Cargill spent several weeks in New York as his first movie was filmed. Listen to him talk about the experience of making a movie with a budget and actors and stuff. *C. Robert Cargill, Tim Wick (mod)*

## 5:00PM FRIDAY

### Storytelling Slam DIY / 2201

Open to all interested storytellers - come and share your short stories in CONvergence's Storyteller Slam up in the Vista Suite. *Phillip Andrew Bennett Low, Rob Callahan*

### Saucer Country Comics, Current / Atrium 2

Released this March, Paul Cornell will talk about his new Vertigo comics title "Saucer Country," about a presidential candidate who gets abducted by aliens. *Paul Cornell*

### Star Wars: The Old Republic

#### Gaming, Star Wars / Atrium 3

This new online game combines MMO game play with a galaxy far far away. Discuss and meet with your fellow players, or learn about how this will start you down on the quick and easy path. *Laura Okagaki, Meredith Gillies, Michael Scott Shappe*

### Voice Acting

#### GoH, Hot Dish / Atrium 4

Professional voice actors talk about what makes voice acting difficult, exciting and interesting.

*Dawn Krosnowski, Melinda Peterson, Phil Proctor, Sophie Aldred*

### Shiny New Anime

#### Audio-Visual / Atrium 6

Join us once again to learn about the best new Anime broadcast in Japan over the last year. We'll even bring clips from our favorites! *Jessi Silver, Boris Smelov, Jo Thomsen*

### Writing for an Aging Demographic

#### GoH, Writing / Atrium 7

When you are writing for Young Adults, how do you keep your audience from growing out of your books? When your audience is growing up, do you try to keep them? *Sharyn November, Tamora Pierce*

### Writing Comedy Music

#### Comedy, Writing / Atrium 8

In our ongoing series on comic theory, our panel will talk about the nuts and bolts of writing comedy music and - with the help of the audience - they will even write a song during the panel! *Courtney McLean, Jeremy Messersmith, Joseph Scrimshaw, Tim Wick*

### Transylvania Television, Shawn Otto and

#### Maggie Koerth-Baker Signing

#### Signing / Autograph Table

The cast of Transylvania Television will be available for autographs. *Shawn Otto* is the author of *Fool me twice: Fighting the assault on science in America*. *Maggie Koerth-Baker* is author *Before the lights go out: Conquering the energy crisis before it...* *Gordon Smuder*

### Ask a Scientist

#### Sci/Tech, Skepchick / Bloomington

A general Q & A with expert scientists from a variety of fields. *Brianne Bilyeau, Lori Fischer, Matt Kuchta, Matt Lowry, Miriam Krause, Robert Smith?*

### Minn-Spec Meeting

#### Books / Cabana 201

Come and learn about the Minnesota Speculative Fiction Writers, a 280+ member-strong organization. *Hilary Moon Murphy, Michael Merriam (mod), Tyler Tork*

### A Game of Thrones

#### Current, TV / Edina

We couldn't find people to sit a panel about this show last year. We imagine that will be a challenge no longer. Talk about the hottest geek property on television. *Daren Johnson, Laura Graves, Mara Kapp, Neil Anderson, Sarah Hagen*

### Geek Physique Yoga Quest

#### Garden Court - Southwest

Join us on an epically silly journey, as the Women of the Whedonverse take on some Big Bads. This blend of yoga and storytelling is the best yoga class in the 'verse! Yoga mats are available to borrow if you need one. We <3 n00bs!

### The Year in Review

#### Current, Movies / Plaza 1

Our annual panel about the year in genre film. The stuff we loved, the stuff we hated and the stuff you missed. *Brian Salisbury, C. Robert Cargill, Lyrae Anderson, Melissa Kaercher, Romeo Azar*

## 7:00PM FRIDAY

### One on One with Jennifer Clarke Wilkes

#### GoH, Sidedish / Atrium 3

Our annual video interview with our Guest of Honor presented as a public forum so \*you\* can help us interview them! *Jennifer Clarke Wilkes, Tim Uren (mod)*

### Friends of Bill W - Friday

#### Sidedish / Atrium 2

Open to all friends of Bill W.

### Sci-Fi/Fantasy Improv Comedy / Atrium 4

A new installment of sci-fi fantasy improv theatre. Remember - we are making it up as we go so copyright infringement is nearly impossible! *Holly Spotts, Jo Thomsen, Lori Fischer*

### Campaign CONvergence Presents "Evil Presidential Debates"

#### Comedy / Atrium 6

Come and listen to evil presidential candidates blast, browbeat and backstab each other in a no-holds barred "debate!" Pledge your fealty to your future leader. Featuring Callisto, the Queen of Hearts and Mom. Brought to you by the Campaign CVG party room

### Keeping the Next Book Fresh

#### GoH, Writing / Atrium 7

How do you keep your writing fresh when it is time to sit down and write the next book or story? *Bryan Thomas Schmidt, Holly Day, Kelly McCullough, Shannon Ryan, Tamora Pierce*

### DC Reboot

#### Comics / Atrium 8

DC spent a lot of time and money rebooting their entire line. How did it go? Exploring the new world of DC and the decision that had everyone talking. *Daniel Wallace, Fes Works, Lars Pearson, Mark McPherson, Scott Jamison*

### Wonder Women of the Whedonverse

#### Joss, Theme / Edina

Does Joss write strong women, fantasy women or both? Exploring the way Whedon writes his female characters and how we respond to them. *Mark Goldberg, Miriam Krause, Tim Liebe, Will Shetterly, Windy Bowsly*

### This Model Life: or Genius to Scale

#### GoH, Movies / Plaza 1

Exploring the special effects of the Toho Kaijo movies. From Godzilla to Mecha Godzilla and beyond. Fans of the American film need not apply. *Bonnie Burton, Mark Stegbauer, Melissa Kaercher, Steven Philip Jones*

## 8:30PM FRIDAY

### First Issue: Live Comic Book Review

#### Comics / Atrium 2

The Webcomic Beacon Presents: First Issue is a webseries at [firstissue.webcomicbeacon.com](http://firstissue.webcomicbeacon.com) where we review the first issue of a comic book, to see if it succeeds or fails as a #1... regardless of if we like it or not. *Fes Works, Marcus Almond, Melissa Kaercher*

### A Day in the Life of a Game Designer

#### Gaming / Atrium 3

The creative process from dawn to the next dawn: what really goes on. *Corvus Elrod, Matthew Duhan*

### Diversity in Steampunk

#### Theme / Atrium 4

Does all steampunk have to be Victorian England? Certainly not! And it isn't. Join a discussion of race, gender, class, and religion in this diverse genre. Hosted by the Red Ribbon Society (a.k.a Steam Century). *Alexandra Howes, Amy Williams-Scott, Kevin Borchers, Michael Merriam, Sarah McDole*

### 2012 Midwest Sci-Fi Short Film Festival

#### Current, Movies, Video / Atrium 6

Once again we present a showcase of local filmmaking talent. Come enjoy our fourth year of fantastic locally produced short films. *Troy LaFaye*

## 8:30PM FRIDAY CONTINUED

### Is the Short Story Still Viable?

**Books, GoH / Atrium 7**

Short stories have been around for a long time but is the audience evaporating? Will digital technology help it or hinder it? *Damian Sheridan, Joel Arnold, Lyda Morehouse, Lynne Thomas, Paul Cornell*

### The Future of Dungeons & Dragons

**Gaming, GoH / Atrium 8**

Sales are flagging and the latest version of D & D promises more input from gamers. What direction will this storied gaming system take in the years to come? *Bradford Walker, Jennifer Clarke Wilkes, Peter Lee, Terry O'Brien*

### The Physiology of Drugs & Alcohol

**Sci/Tech, Skepchick / Edina**

Does alcohol and pot kill brain cells? Can "magic" mushrooms help with depression? Are cigarettes worse than heroin? A discussion of the myths, misconceptions and science behind our cultures favorite poisons. *Bruce Miller, Natalie Reed, PZ Myers*

### The Best Scores in Genre Films

**Movies / Plaza 1**

From Oscar Winner John Williams to Oscar Winner Trent Reznor, discuss the best (and worst) of genre film scores. *Brian Salisbury, Dave Margosian, Edward Douglas, M. K. Layden, Scott Keever*

## 10:00PM FRIDAY

### EL and LED Costuming

**Art, Costuming / Atrium 2**

Brighten up the night: how to use this new stuff to make your costume shine. *Gail Celio, Todd Murray*

### When Fandom goes Mainstream

**Hot Dish / Atrium 3**

What do you do when your boss wants to chat about the latest episode of Game of Thrones? How do you connect with someone who s just discovering your niche genre? *Ben Ellis, David Romm, Gordon Smuder, Meredith Gillies, Tyler Tork*

### Post Apocalyptic Survival

**Hot Dish / Atrium 4**

The bombs have fallen... now what? Putting together an Emergency Survival Kit and other important skills. Author Adam J. Whitlatch discusses strategies to survive after civilization falls. Audience participation! Prizes! *Adam Whitlatch*

### So You've Sold a Novel: Now What Happens?

**Writing / Atrium 7**

Congratulations -- you sold your novel. Now comes the hard part: rewrites, editorial comments, cover art, marketing, promotions, and making sense of the royalty statement. Come ask established novelists questions about what happens after the sale. *Bryan Thomas Schmidt, Dana Baird, Doug Hulick, Kelly McCullough, Michael Merriam*

### Secret Fandoms

**GoH, Sidedish / Atrium 8**

Professionals admit their dirty little fannish secrets. Learn about the stuff they only admit behind closed doors. *John Kovalic, Lyda Morehouse, Monica Valentinelli*

### Evolution and the Female Orgasm

**Sci/Tech / Edina**

A hot topic; there is no evidence of selection for orgasm in women but rather, it seems to be a side effect of selection for the male orgasm. Some people argue there must be some adaptive purpose. *Craig A. Finseth, Greg Laden, Heina Dadabhoj, PZ Myers, Rebecca Watson*

### Found Footage Films - the Next Tape

**Movies / Plaza 1**

Films like "Chronicle, Apollo 18" and "Paranormal Activity 3" continue this popular genre of filmmaking. Which ones work and which ones failed? *John Seavey, Mara Kapp, Romeo Azar*

## 11:30PM FRIDAY

### Friday Late Night Music Circle

**Music / Atrium 2**

A late night gathering of musicians where you can sing, play or just listen.

### Slash Fiction

**Atrium 4**

Get your slash goggles and tin hats on, because we're back to discuss what's new, exciting, and extremely homoerotic in the world! Don't worry, there'll be plenty of meta to go around. *Alexandra Howes, Bess Stuvencoxend, Elisabeth Brommer, Mara Kapp, Revolutionary Jo*

### Cocktails with Cthulhu

**Hot Dish / Atrium 7**

H.P. Lovecraft once wrote, "I am nauseated by even the distant stink of any alcoholic liquor." What is it about these nauseous, degenerate elixirs that so terrified the Old Gentleman? Join us to sing along to HPL's only drinking song! *Dawn Krosnowski, Joseph Scrimshaw, Melissa Kaercher, Pat Harrigan, Tim Uren*

### Beyond the Grave - An Evening with the Late Peter

**Bergman**

**Audio, GoH / Atrium 8**

Hosted by his Firesign Theatre partner, Phil Procter. Phil Procter

### Paranormal TV

**Current, TV / Edina**

Ghost Hunters, Long Island Medium and other shows that explore the paranormal are growing in number and popularity. Come discuss the attraction of these shows. *James Johnson, Jennifer Lundstrom, Romeo Azar, Scotty Roberts, Shannon Ryan*

## SATURDAY

### 9:30AM SATURDAY

### The End of the Comic Shop?

**Comics / Atrium 2**

DC and Marvel both now offer releases of both paper and digital versions of their comics on the same day. Is there any reason for comic shops to stay in business? *Anthony Tollin, Cynthia Booth, Mark Stegbauer, Meredith Gillies, Roy C. Booth*

### Geeks Without God - Live

**Comedy, Podcast / Atrium 3**

Tim, Molly & Nick are three geek/comedian/atheists who are going to record their debut podcast at the convention! What could possibly go wrong? Special guests may join them or they'll have to go it alone! Either way, it should be fun to watch! *Molly Glover, Nick Glover, Tim Wick*

### Martial Arts for the Working Writer

**GoH, Writing / Atrium 4**

Don't laugh - taking martial arts is a great way to expand your repertoire as a writer. Come learn about some cool moves you can write about as well as the other benefits a working knowledge of Martial Arts can provide. *Adam Whitlatch, Aimee Kuzenski, Anna Waltz, Lyda Morehouse, Patrick Tomlinson*

### Alien Evolution

**Sci/Tech, Skepchick / Atrium 6**

What does the history of life on Earth tell us about what we might expect about life on other planets? Is it reasonable to expect to find humanoids on other worlds? *Bug Girl, Emily Finke, Greg Laden, Lori Fischer, PZ Myers*

### Adolescent Heroines in Sci-Fi and Fantasy

**Books, Theme / Atrium 7**

Hermione, Katniss and beyond. Great examples of young women in speculative fiction.

*Hadday Copley-Woods, Kathy Sullivan, Michael Levy, Naomi Kritzer*

### Science Fiction and Fantasy on Stage

**Theater / Atrium 8**

Discuss productions of SF/F in theatre. What are some great SF/F plays you ve seen, locally or nationally? What would you like to see on stage? What adaptations of SF/F books or movies would you like to see on stage? *Eli Effinger-Weintraub, John Heimbuch, Phillip Andrew Bennett Low, Shawn Van Briesen*

### Elementary Robotics for Teens & Youth

**DIY, Sci/Tech, Teen / Bloomington**

Bring the kids so you can all learn how to make your very own robots in the comfort of your living room. Tell the kids if the learn how to build a robot, they won't have to mow the lawn any more! *Doug Thorpe*

### The Legend of Korra

**Children, Current, Teen, Theme, TV / Edina**

The long anticipated sequel to "Avatar: The Last Airbender" is slated to air spring or early summer featuring a young woman protagonist. Let's talk about how the series is going so far or our hopes for where the series will lead. *Adam Stemple, Daren Johnson, David Schwartz, Kiah Nelson, Matt Everhart*

### 12th Annual IKV WarHammer Invitational Bat'leth

**Tournament**

**Garden Court - Southwest**

Worthy warriors are invited to join the klingons sat morning 930 poolside as they fight for a cure against diabetes. Certifications are at 930 with the tourney beginning at 1000. Entry fee is \$10.00 and all proceeds go to the American Diabetes Assoc. *George Richard, Jerry Harrison*

### Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows

**British, Movies / Plaza 1**

We all know that every geek viewed this film as little more than a placeholder until the new season of "Sherlock" came out. Let's talk about the movie on it's own merits. *Christopher Jones, M. K. Layden, Mara Kapp, Steven Philip Jones*

## 11:00AM SATURDAY

### Female SF Authors: The Early Years

**Books, Classic, Theme / 2201**

Margaret Cavendish and Mary Shelley. Claire Harris and Andre Norton. C. L. Moore and Leigh Brackett. Come celebrate the works and histories of these and other acclaimed female SF writers from the early days of SF (Pre-1960). *Catherine Lundoff, Elizabeth Bear, Scott Lynch*

### The Physics of Super Fashion

**Costuming, Skepchick, Superhero / Atrium 2**

Scientists critique super hero costumes to determine whether they'd be a help or a hinderance.

*Emily Finke, Melissa Kaercher, Roy Cook*

### Magic: The Gathering - Through the Looking Glass

**Gaming, GoH / Atrium 3**

Hear about the world of Magic: The Gathering from folks who have worked on the venerable card game for years. What is it like to be involved with this incredibly popular game? *Jennifer Clarke Wilkes*

### Where Does your Inspriation Come From?

**GoH, Hot Dish / Atrium 4**

Artists of all kinds talk about what inspires them to create. How do you get the next great idea and once you have the idea, how do you turn it into art? *Adam Stemple, David Walbridge, Gordon Smuder, Ruth Thompson, Tim Wick*

### The Kids Aren't All Right

**Books, Movies, TV / Atrium 6**

Terrifying and just plain wrong moments from children's media. Not limited to cartoons, but also things that were INTENDED for children will be included. (Defined as 'under PG13 rating') **IMPORTANT NOTE:** this panel may not be appropriate for children. *Eryn Hildebrand, Jennifer Menken, Jerry Belich, Jessi Silver, Steven Philip Jones*

### Women Whose Books You Should be Reading

**Books, Current, GoH / Atrium 7**

Who are some of the best of the current female writers in SF/F/H? A survey of current bestsellers and emerging women authors in the field. *Jonna Gjevre, Kelly Pesola, Monica Valentinelli, Tamora Pierce, Tim Lieder*

### Meet GPS

**GPS / Atrium 8**

Learn about the latest workings of the Geek Partnership Society. News and updates about our clubs, events and work in the Geek community. *Andy Murphy, Brandy Snyder, Kerry McCartney, Lisa Blauersouth, Theodore Berquam III*

### Kathy Sullivan Signing

**Signing / Autograph Table**

Kathryn Sullivan will be available to sign her latest works. *Kathy Sullivan*

### Mutants!

**Sci/Tech / Bloomington**

We're all mutants. Here's how we know and the truth about what mutations actually do. *Bug Girl, Greg Laden, Lori Fischer, PZ Myers*

### C. Robert Cargill Reading

**Reading / Cabana 201**

C. Robert Cargill will read from the first chapter of his upcoming book "Dreams and Shadows." *C. Robert Cargill*

### Women of Star Trek

**Star Trek, Theme, TV / Edina**

From Uhura to Uhura, how have female characters evolved in Trek over the last 45 years? Was Voyager maligned just because it had a female captain? What women of Trek have had the greatest impact? *Chris Stenzel, Kevin Horner, Shannon Ryan, Steven Erickson*

### Paul Cornell Teaches Cricket to Americans: Now with

**Real Cricket**

**British, Outside, Sidedish / Outdoors**

When Paul Cornell was here two years ago, he taught Cricket in a panel room. This year he'll be teaching it outside! With real bats, balls and wickets! Fore! Or - you know - whatever you say in cricket.... *Paul Cornell*

### The Avengers

**Current, GoH, Movies, Superhero / Plaza 1**

By the time the convention arrives, we will know if the combined testoserone on screen was a success or failure. Did Joss satisfy the faithful? Are we looking forward to a sequel or dreading it? *Christopher Jones, Lyda Morehouse, Michael Lee, Romeo Azar, Will Shetterly*

## 12:30PM SATURDAY

### What's the Best Book I Read Last Year?

**Books, Current / 2201**

Really, what was the best book that you read last year?

Remember to raise your hand. *Sue Rice*

### Leather 101

**Art, DIY / Atrium 2**

Leather is not for saddles anymore! From armor to corsets, learn the basics of leathercraft, what works and what doesn't! *Heather Luca, Jason Rolfstad, Todd Murray*

## 12:30PM SATURDAY CONTINUED

### If I Could Re-start the Universe Comics / Atrium 3

The 52 reboot gave DC writers the chance to build a new universe for their character. if you could build a new Comic universe for your favorite character, what would you do? *Kelly McCullough, Kevin Horner, Michael Lee*

### One on One with Sophie Aldred GoH, Theme / Atrium 4

A moderated interview with Sophie for our 2012 DVD. We'll cover all aspects of Sophie's career - not just Dr. Who. There will be an opportunity for audience questions. *Pat Harrigan, Sophie Aldred*

### All Things Firesign Audio, GoH / Atrium 6

Focus on the Firesign Theatre and all the stuff they've done: radio, TV, movies, records and CDs, and more. *David Ossman, Phil Proctor, Richard Fish*

### Is Urban Fantasy just Romance for Geeks? Books, GoH / Atrium 7

Of course it isn't. Discuss the breadth of work that fits into this popular sub-genre.

*Brandy Snyder, James Turnbull, Lyda Morehouse, Michael Merriam, Paul Cornell*

### @#%@ Writers GoH, Sidedish / Atrium 8

We all know that writers appreciate their editors and editors appreciate their writers. There \*are\* times where they can get on each other's nerves just a little bit. In calm, even tones editors talk about working with writers. No Blood will be Spilled. *Catherine Lundoff, Jennifer Clarke Wilkes, Lynne Thomas, Sharyn November*

### Robert Smith? Signing Signing / Autograph Table

Robert Smith?, author of "Braaiiiiiinnss!: From Academics to Zombies" will be available to sign his work. *Robert Smith?*

### Big Bang Theory Television / Edina

A round table discussion of "The Big Bang Theory" with a focus on the female characters in the show. *Alexandra Howes, Ally Guglielmi, Steve Manfred, Tony Artyrn, Dave Margosian*

### The Chilling Effect of Climate Change Denialism Sci/Tech, Skepchick / Bloomington

Exploring how the climate change denial movement affects the classroom. When the political climate gets in the way of discussing the actual climate. *Don Shelby, Greg Laden, John Abraham, Maggie Koerth Baker, Shawn Otto*

### Poetry Writing and Marketing Workshop DIY / Cabana 201

Sandra Lindow returns to conduct another workshop for those interested in improving their skills as poets. Workshop will include a discussion of marketing, a writing exercise and sharing of results. *Sandra Lindow*

### Life Drawing with Ruth Thompson Art, DIY, GoH / Garden Court - Northwest

Guest of Honor Ruth Thompson invites artists of all skill levels to join her for an afternoon-long life drawing workshop. Please note this event is from 12:30PM - 6:00PM. Costumed attendees will be invtd to act as subjects for this unique convention event! *Ruth Thompson*

### The Amazing Spider-Man Movies, Superhero / Plaza 1

With the reins being handed to a new creative team, the Spider-Man franchise saw a movie reboot just a few short days ago.

How did things go? Our panel will include Dr. Jim Kakalios, who was a consultant on the film. *Christopher Jones, Jim Kakalios*

## 2:00PM SATURDAY

### Heroines of the Pulp Classic, Theme / 2201

The adventurous heroines of the pulps are recalled by Anthony Tollin, editor/publisher of Sanctum Books *Doc Savage* and *The Shadow* trade paperbacks. *Anthony Tollin*

### The Philosophy of Batman Superheroes / Atrium 2

BAM! POW! is a big part of Batman but so are debates about the nature of good and evil and their roles in society. Come hash out the philosophical issues with us. We promise not to use batarangs. *Chris Stenzel, Christopher Jones, Daniel Fincke, Daniel Wallace, Tabitha Anderson*

### RPG's and the Magic Circle Gaming / Atrium 3

There's no denying the power of a great role playing experience, but where does it come from and what keeps a session from tapping into it? Join Corvus in an exploration of where the magic really comes from and how you can tap into it every time you play. *Corvus Elrod*

### PowerPoint Karaoke Comedy, GoH, Video / Atrium 6

A team of experts will give PowerPoint presentations for a panel of celebrity judges. What's the catch? They've never seen the slides!

*Bill Stiteler, C. Robert Cargill, Jen Scott, Joseph Scrimshaw, Lyda Morehouse, Melissa Kaercher, Sharon Stiteler, Tim Uren, Tim Wick*

### The Importance of Strong Heroines GoH, Theme, Writing / Atrium 7

Damsels in distress used to be the mainstay trope of SFF but now stronger heroines are not only in demand but even common. Why is it important to avoid stereotypes in writing women characters? Are there any limitations? What are the pitfalls?

*Bryan Thomas Schmidt, Catherine Lundoff, Kathy Sullivan, Melinda Peterson, Tamora Pierce*

### Conventions beyond CONvergence Sidedish / Atrium 8

There are a lot of other conventions out there from the large Dragoncon and Comiccon, the historic Worldcons, and conventions like Diversicon, Arisia, or Capricon in every city around the country. What makes each unique?

*Helen Montgomery, Michael D. Thomas, Michael Lee, Sondra de Jong*

### Kelly McCullough, Lynne Thomas, Elizabeth Bear and Scott Lynch Signing

Signing / Autograph Table

Kelly will be singing his new book "Bared Blade." Lynne will have copies of "Chicks Dig Time Lords" and "Chicks Dig Comics." Elizabeth is author of "Shoggoths in Bloom." Scott is the author of "The Lies of Locke Lamora." *Elizabeth Bear, Kelly McCullough, Lynne Thomas, Scott Lynch*

### Women in Science and Technology Sci/Tech, Skepchick, Theme / Bloomington

A panel of women in Science and Technology fields will discuss the challenges they face in their fields.

*Amanda Little, Brianne Bilyeau, Maria Walters*

### Sherlock: Series Two British, GoH, TV / Edina

The Woman, the Hound, and the Fall! Sherlock's second series has returned, and we're more eager than ever to discuss what can be deduced from these latest episodes as well as what

could be in store for our favorite detective post-Reichenbach. *Alexandra Howes, Bonnie Burton, Jo Thomsen (mod), Rana Raeuchle, Steven Philip Jones*

### The 7th Annual Assassins Guild Boffing Association Tournament Boffing / Garden Court - Southwest

Join us in the Garden Court for a Tournament of Champions! Prove your skill, test your might and Rise to the Top! Ladder style double elimination, space is limited; Sign up fast. Ages 14 & Up. Sponsored By Celtic Magic Inc. 2012.

### Northstar Roller Girls Exhibition Bout Sidedish / Outdoors

Want to see some of your favorite Super Heroines and Villainesses battle it out on roller skates? Then step outside to watch the Minneapolis North Star Roller Girls exhibition bout!

### Masters of Disaster Movies / Plaza 1

We've seen the world end many times in the works of Roland Emmerich and Irwin Allen. Are these truly fantastic scenarios, or could disaster be lurking around the corner? *Erik Pakieser, G. David Nordley, Nate Anderson, Romeo Azar, Tim Liebe*

## 2:30PM SATURDAY

### Raptor Center Hot Dish / Atrium 4

The Raptor center returns to CONvergence with more of their amazing birds! This event is presented by GPS. *Sharon Stiteler*

## 3:30PM SATURDAY

### Evolution of the Psychological Thriller Movies / 2201

From Shadow of a Doubt and Psycho to Inception. Hitchcock laid the groundwork what are some great examples of this sub-genre? *Cynthia Booth, David Christenson, Eric Heideman*

### The Womanthology Project Comics, GoH, Theme / Atrium 2

A comic book anthology created by women for charity. Marvel, DC and other comic companies seem to believe that women can't create comics people want to read. Learn about the project that proved them wrong. *Bonnie Burton, Meredith Gillies*

### Playing with the Boys' Toys Gaming, GoH, Theme / Atrium 3

The world of gaming is still a male dominated one. What does it take for women to ensure that the games they are playing are designed with them in mind? *Jennifer Clarke Wilkes*

### Anime 101 Anime / Atrium 6

Anime/Manga is one of the hottest fandoms in the world. What's the big deal? What are some good titles for neophytes? *Caroline Symcox, Jessi Silver, Scott Jamison, Terry O'Brien*

### New Roles for Female Characters in YA Fantasy Novels Books, GoH, Teen, Theme / Atrium 7

Discussing examples of female roles in recent Young Adult fiction, and how they have changed over the years. *Jonna Gjevne, Kathy Sullivan, Lyda Morehouse, Michael Levy, Sharyn November*

### Dragons, Cats and Singing Ships: The Legacy of Anne McCaffrey Books, Theme / Atrium 8

Pern was not her only world: come learn about all the rest and discuss her legacy. *Brandy Snyder, Kristina Halseth, S.N. Arly*

### Tamora Pierce Signing GoH, Signing / Autograph Table

Guest of Honor Tamora Pierce will be available to sign her work. *Tamora Pierce*

### The Science of Evolution Sci/Tech / Bloomington

Exploring what is new and interesting in the study of evolution. *Bug Girl, Greg Laden, Matt Kuchta, PZ Myers*

### Bryan Thomas Schmidt Reading Reading / Cabana 201

Bryan Thomas Schmidt, author of "The Worker Prince" reads from his own work. *Bryan Thomas Schmidt*

### Media for Children GoH / Edina

Guests Sophie Aldred and Judith Walcutt share their perspective on working with children's media and their thoughts on new platforms to reach kids. Moderated by Paul Cornell. *Judith Walcutt, Paul Cornell (mod), Sophie Aldred*

### Quentin Tarantiono: Feminist Filmmaker? Movies, Theme / Plaza 1

Exploring the works of Quentin Tarantio with an eye to his treatment of female characters. Jackie Brown, Beatrix Kiddo and other female characters of his creation - are they feminist charcters? *Bill Stiteler, Melissa Kaercher, Tim Wick, Windy Bowlsby*

## 5:00PM SATURDAY

### SF Writing Groups: The 2012 Scene Writing / 2201

This annual (since 1986) get-together of the Minnesota Imaginative Fiction Writers Alliance lets speculative fiction groups link with authors who are looking for a critique group. *Eric Heideman*

### Wonder Woman Made Me Gay GoH, Superheroes, Theme / Atrium 2

This panel will discuss how strong female heros speak to the inner gay in us all and why Wonder Woman has a strong following within the gay male community. *Andrew Bertke, Brett Thompson, Jason Tucker, Joe Agee, Lyda Morehouse*

### Transformative Works Hot Dish / Atrium 4

From fan fiction to art, vids, podfic, and beyond! Fans interact with and reinterpret the books, TV shows, and films they love all the time. We'll talk about why that is and how we navigate the dangerous waters of copyright, amongst other topics. *Gail Celio, Jennifer Lundstrom, Jo Thomsen, Kiah Nelson, Scott Jamison*

### Minnesota Women Filmmakers Movies, Theme / Atrium 6

Women filmmakers talk about (and show off) their work. Learn about the challenges and rewards of making movies. *Brianna Deihl, Christine Walker, Jennifer Prettyman, Nicole Kreuz, Troy LaFaye, Vanessa Miles*

### A Song of Ice and Fire Books / Atrium 7

Discussing George RR Martin's "Song of Ice and Fire" series, including the most recent book "A Dance with Dragons." *Caroline Symcox, Damian Sheridan, Laura Graves, Mara Kapp*

### One on One with Tamora Pierce Books, GoH / Atrium 8

Come join us as we interview Guest of Honor Tamora Pierce for the 2012 CONvergence DVD. This will be a moderated discussion with time for audience questions. *Jody Wurl (mod), Tamora Pierce*

### Joel Arnold, Christpher Jones Signing and Steven Philip Jones Signing Signing / Autograph Table

Joel Aronld is the author of "Northwoods Deep." Christopher Jones is the artist on "Young Justice." Steven Philip Jones is author of the Talismen series. *Christopher Jones, Joel Arnold, Steven Philip Jones*

## 5:00PM SATURDAY CONTINUED

### Adam Whitlatch Reading Reading / Cabana 201

Adam Whitlatch reads from his work. *Adam Whitlatch*

### Matt Smith Continued Current, Dr Who, TV / Edina

The Doctor, River, Rory and Amy Pond returned to do battle with The Silence and all manner of other things that go bump in the cosmos. Discuss your favorite moments from the second half of Matt Smith's second season! *Charlie Paulsen, John Seavey, M. K. Layden, Michael Lee, Robert Smith?*

### Obsessed (with Joseph Scrimshaw) Audio, Comedy, GoH, Web / Plaza 1

A special live recording of Scrimshaw podcast OBSESSED. Joseph will interview Paul Cornell and Bonnie Burton about their obsessions with WHO KNOWS WHAT. *Bonnie Burton, Joseph Scrimshaw, Paul Cornell*

### Panel: Ancient Alien Debate Sidedish / Bloomington

Is there evidence of alien influence on ancient society or not? Our panel of experts will debate the merits of the evidence.

*Scotty Roberts, Desiree Schell (mod), PZ Myers, Greg Laden + Additional Panelists TBD*

## 7:00PM SATURDAY

### Who Wants to Win 100GP? Gaming / Atrium 6

Here is your chance to test your D & D knowledge in a quest to win 100GP without slaying a single Kobold. No multi-classed players will be turned away. Be prepared to telepathically contact a friend. *Cameron Vincent, Fish DeSmith, Mitchell Melykson (mod)*

### Crash Course in Podcasting Audio, DIY, Web / Atrium 8

Interested in starting your own podcast but need a few pointers from the experts? This is the panel for you! *Fes Works, Scott White, Ted Meissner*

### Mega Panel Comedy, Hot Dish / Edina

The panel where we talk about anything and everything \*except\* the CONvergence Masquerade. If you are interested in everything \*except\* the masquerade, this is the panel for you! *Daniel Wallace, Derek Mahr, Jeremy Stomberg, Lyrae Anderson, Neil Anderson, Romeo Azar*

### SF Squeecast Live Side Dish / Atrium 3

A live recording of the SF Squeecast featuring returning guests! *Lynne Thomas, Paul Cornell, Elizabeth Bear*

### The Heroine's Journey: Is it Different from the Hero's Journey? Side Dish / Atrium 3

Discuss the challenges and obstacles that change when the hero is a woman. *Kathy Sullivan, Sigrid Ellis, Sandra Lindow (mod)*

## 8:30PM SATURDAY

### One on One with Lyda Morehouse GoH / 2201

A moderated, recorded interview with Guest of Honor Lyda Morehouse that will be included on our CONvergence 2012 DVD. Come be a part of the live audience - there will be an opportunity for audience questions. *Kelly McCullough (mod), Lyda Morehouse*

### The Importance of Faith in Fiction Writing / Atrium 3

Lust, greed, anger, revenge are all common motivators seen in fiction, but in the real world, faith is often just as strong or

stronger. Why is the power of belief so powerful? How do you incorporate it in worldbuilding? *Bryan Thomas Schmidt, Caroline Symcox, Emma Bull, Naomi Kritzer, Steven Philip Jones*

### Friends of Bill W - Saturday Sidedish / Atrium 2

A final opportunity for Friends of Bill W. to gather at the con.

### The Renaissance Festival Podcast Live Audio, Podcasting / Atrium 6

Come enjoy a recording of the Renaissance Festival Music podcast LIVE! Featuring live performances by some of our favorites! *Matt Ledder, Tony Artym*

### The Future of Publishing Books / Atrium 7

In a world where self-publishing is a realistic thing to do, how are traditional publishers affected?

*Dawn Frederick, Lars Pearson, Monica Valentinelli, Shawn Van Briesen, Tim Lieder*

### The Walking Dead Current, TV / Edina

Frank Darabont has left the series. Did season 2 measure up or did you feel his absence? Now that the zombie apocalypse is on TV every week, do you feel more prepared for a real one? *Adam Stemple, Anjila Olsen, Dave Margosian, Mara Kapp, Neil Anderson*

### Drinking with Geeks Comedy, GoH / Plaza 1

There will be drinking. There will be geeks. There will probably be regret. Join us! *Bill Stiteler, Bonnie Burton, C. Robert Cargill, Jerry Belich, Joseph Scrimshaw, Laurie Richardson, Melissa Kaercher*

## 10:00PM SATURDAY

### The Evolution of Heroes Sidedish / Atrium 8

Heroes have evolved from larger than life good guys who are perfect to dark, imperfect anti-heroes and somewhere in between. What brought about the changes? What kind of heroes do you like? Where do you see heroes evolving in the future? *Bryan Thomas Schmidt, Daren Johnson, Kelly McCullough, Mark Stegbauer, Michael Scott Shappe*

### Avoiding Clichés Like the Plague Literature / Atrium 7

Once upon a time on a dark and stormy night, the end of the world as we know it was brought about by cliches. How do we avoid this fate worse than death? *Damian Sheridan, Christopher Baldwin, Anna Waltz, Elizabeth Bear, Eli Effinger-Weintraub*

### Just a Minute

#### Hot Dish / Bloomington

Paul Cornell taught us this game in 2009 and many of us have been playing it ever since. Paul is back. We'll see if he thinks we've improved. *Sophie Aldred, Paul Cornell*

### Graphic Novels you Haven't Read (But Should) Comics / Atrium 2

We know you have all read Watchmen. While that is a great book, it is not the only book. Here are a few others we think you will enjoy. *Meredith Gillies, Jeremy Stomberg, Terry O'Brien, Roy Cook, Lars Pearson*

### American Horror Story Current, TV / Edina

Every ghost story that creeped you out as a kid and a guy in latex. What did you think of this season and where do you think it will go next year? *Amanda Hofman-Frethem, Kristina Halseth, Laura Okagaki, Mara Kapp, Nick Larson*

### Women in Horror: Are they all Victims?

#### GoH, Movies, Theme / Plaza 1

February is Women in Horror Month. Let's talk about the many roles women have in Horror aside from being victims. *Bonnie Burton, Melissa McConnell, Nate Anderson*

## 11:30PM SATURDAY

### Saturday Late Night Music Circle Music / Atrium 2

A late night gathering of musicians. Come join us to sign, play or just listen!

### Zombies for 2012

#### Hot Dish / Bloomington

Are the undead finally dead, or are they just coming back to life? A discussion of the zombie genre, where we've been, and where we will be going next. *Anjila Olsen, Erik Pakieser, Robert Smith?, Tyler Tork*

### The Pun-el Comedy / Edina

It's like watching a car wreck. You can't look away. *Bob Alberti, Ed Eastman (mod), Margaret Eastman*

### Killer B's Spectacular Movie Improv Show A/V / Atrium 6

Watch as a team of live comedians (and a Theremin player) create new film soundtracks in front of your very eyes! The one catch: they have never seen the films before! *Joseph Scrimshaw, Jerry Belich, Melissa Kaercher (mod), Tim Uren, Amanda Schuckman, Melinda Peterson, Phil Proctor, Kelvin Hatle, Aric McKeown, David Ossman*

### UFO Disclosure Imminent?

#### Hot Dish / Atrium 8

With the Obama mandated lift of government study restrictions, is there any evidence of UFO's being leaked? *Dave Schrader, James Johnson, Scotty Roberts*

### Oh God, Why? Movies / Plaza 1

Crappy movies that don't deserve to exist. Whose idea were they and where to they live so we can throw rotten tomatoes in their pool? *C. Robert Cargill, John Seavey, Laura Okagaki, Mark McPherson, Paul Harmeyer*

## SUNDAY

## 9:30AM SUNDAY

### Sewing Tips and Tricks for Newbies

#### Art, Costuming / Atrium 2

We will be demonstrating various kinds of seams, finishing seams, topstitching, sewing and clipping curves, applying trim, etc. as well as shortcuts and tips learned from a combined 70+ years of experience. *Julie Bowman, Kath Dimmich, Rae Lundquist*

### Parenting Strong Female Role Models Theme / Atrium 3

What kind of woman do you want your daughter to become? How what you do as a parent will help your daughter be her own person and not the person society expects her to be. *Angie Anderson, Melissa McConnell, Sonya Honaker, Tabitha Anderson*

### Sci-Fi and Fantasy Literary Criticism

#### Books / Atrium 7

Exploring speculative fiction literary criticism beyond the usual "awesomeness vs. meh" in fandom. What type of criticism is helpful to authors and readers? *Doug Hulick, Elizabeth Bear, Michael Levy, Sean M. Murphy, William Alexander*

### The Christian Roots of Modern Fantasy

#### Books, Classic / Atrium 8

Carroll and MacDonald were clergymen. Chesterton and Lewis were Christian apologeticists. Tolkien was a fervent Catholic and Rowling and Meyer have both discussed the role of faith in their work. What about fantasy has attracted the Christian imagination? *Bryan Thomas Schmidt, Caroline Symcox, Kristina Halseth, Phillip Andrew Bennett Low, Steven Philip Jones*

### Invisible Superheroes

#### Sci/Tech, Skepchick, Theme / Bloomington

We know you've heard of Marie Curie. Who else? Women in science who made amazing strides but were forgotten by history. *Bug Girl, Laura Okagaki, PZ Myers, Rebecca Watson*

### Non Genre Shows Geeks Watch

#### TV / Edina

Glee, Bones, Castle, Community and other television shows that are made for geeks without being about typical genre topics. Which ones are your favorites? *David Schwartz, Kiah Nelson, Krystal Kubiszewski, Tim Liebe*

## 11:00AM SUNDAY

### The Obama-Era Space Program: Where do We Go and How do we Get There? Sci/Tech / 2201

This third-annual panel looks at how space exploration, robotic and human, is doing under the cash-strapped Obama admin. Anyone who has visited Kennedy Space Center in the last years knows that our space program isn't dead. Why doesn't anyone else? *Ben Huset, David Buth, Eric Heideman (mod), G. David Nordley*

### One on One with Bonnie Burton

#### GoH, Sidedish / Atrium 2

An opportunity to enjoy a one on one interview with Bonnie Burton to be taped and included with our 2012 Convention video. The interviewer will leave lots of time for audience questions! *Bonnie Burton, Melissa Kaercher*

### Creating Communities in Gaming

#### Gaming / Atrium 3

This panel will discuss how communities with common or diverse demographics develop within gaming. Are these just an outgrowth of friends getting together, or is something more at work here?

*Bradford Walker, Don Kaiser, John Till*

### GPS Charity Auction

#### Art, DIY, GPS / Atrium 4

All silent auction items that went to voice auction will be sold at this charity auction benefiting the Geek Partnership Society.

### Fan Vidding 101

#### Video / Atrium 6

Join local creators and fans for a primer on vids, a fan art form of setting media to music with over 35 years of history! We'll talk about how vids got started and how they compare to mashups and fan films. There will be plenty of examples to watch.

*Elisabeth Brommer, Jessi Silver, Jo Thomsen*

### Naming Characters

#### GoH, Writing / Atrium 7

The secret art of coming up with good names for your characters. *S.N. Arly, Scott Jamison, Sean M. Murphy, Tamora Pierce, Veronica Cummer*

### The Future of Libraries

#### Books / Atrium 8

Lost in the discussion of the eReader explosion is the question of how our public libraries will be affected? What is the future of these valuable public institutions? *Jody Wurl, Lynne Thomas, Meredith Gillies, Shannon Ryan, Tim Liebe*

## 11:00AM SUNDAY CONTINUED

### Joan Marie Verba, Tim Lieder and Roy C. Booth Signing Signing / Autograph Table

Joan is the author of "Voyager: Exploring the Outer Planets." Tim is the publisher of Dybbk Press. Roy is a playwright and author and contributor to "Sky-Tinted Waters." *Joan Marie Verba, Roy C. Booth, Tim Lieder*

### Marketing 101: From your Room Party to your Own Business Hot Dish / Bloomington

Selling yourself isn't easy. How do you get potential customers to want our product? It is easy but it isn't always simple. *Anjila Olsen, Bryan Thomas Schmidt, David Walbridge, James Johnson, Romeo Azar*

### Michael Merriam Reading Reading / Cabana 201

The author of "Last Car to Annwn Station" reads from his newest release, "The Curious Case of the Jeweled Alicorn." *Michael Merriam*

### Torchwood Current, Dr Who, TV / Edina

The show has crossed the pond without jumping the shark. Discuss the most recent season of Dr. Who's hottest spin off. *Amanda Hofman-Frethem, Charlie Paulsen, M. K. Layden, Mark Goldberg, Robert Smith?*

### Women in Marvel Super Hero Movies GoH, Movies, Superheroes, Theme / Plaza 1

Marvel has been producing a large number of successful films lately but female characters are almost completely absent except as girlfriends. There are superheroines and strong women in the Marvel Universe. Why aren't they on film? *David Schwartz, Lyda Morehouse, Paul Harmeyer, Sigrid Ellis*

## 12:30PM SUNDAY

### One on One with Sharyn November GoH / 2201

Meet Sharyn November as we interview her for our 2012 Convention DVD. Learn about her work and be prepared to ask her just about anything! *Eric Heideman (mod), Sharyn November*

### Masquerade Results Art, Costuming / Atrium 2

Want to understand why judges made the decisions they did? Want to talk about your favorite costumes from the Masquerade? This is the panel for you! *Dayna Jean Wolter, Erin Kasper*

### Your Princess is in Another Castle: Stereotypes in Gaming Gaming, GoH, Theme / Atrium 3

Exploring the roles of women in games. How do we escape the stereotypes? *Corvus Elrod, Jennifer Clarke Wilkes, Katie Tremaine, Paul Harmeyer*

### Iron Artist Comedy, GoH / Atrium 6

Join us in Artist Arena where art will be created on the fly from a secret ingredient. See artists make art, hear judges make snark. Find out if a Muskrat can defeat Batman or will the Mole Twins surprise us all? See what Iron Chef wishes it could be! *Christopher Jones, Eryn Hildebrand, Jerry Belich, John Kovalic, Joseph Scrimshaw, Kelvin Hatle, Louis Frank, Melissa Kaercher, Perrin Klumpp, Ruth Thompson, Tim Wick*

### Medieval Minnesota Books / Atrium 7

Authors who have set their novels in medieval Europe discuss how they have used their backgrounds in the SCA to help develop the historical settings for their writing. *Doug Hulick, Ellen Kufeld, Joan Marie Verba (mod), Mary Monica Pulver, Ruth Berman*

### One on One with Judith Walcutt GoH / Atrium 8

Enjoy an intimate interview with Guest of Honor Juith Walcutt that will be taped for our 2012 Convention video. She may even be joined by a few friends from Firesign Theatre! *Jerry Stearns (mod), Judith Walcutt*

### Squid Sci/Tech / Bloomington

Science, lore and fiction of the most exotic creature of the briny deep. Why? Because they are awesome! *Eleanor Arnason, Greg Laden, Matt Kuchta, PZ Myers*

### Shannon Ryan Reading Reading / Cabana 201

Shannon Ryan, Author of "Minion of Evil," will read from his work. *Shannon Ryan*

### Once Upon a Time Current, TV / Edina

This show remixes fairy tales with a modern take for weekly television. What makes this show such a huge success? *Allyson Cygan, Kelly Pesola, Michael Lee*

### Lois McMaster Bujold Signing Signing / Autograph Table

Lois McMaster Bujold will be available to sign her work. *Lois McMaster Bujold*

### When Film was Film: CGI vs. Old Tech Movies / Plaza 1

CGI is here to stay but there is much to be said for old style special effects. Taking a look at modern special effects - when would a model have done a better job than a computer? *Brian Salisbury, Gordon Smuder, Nate Anderson, Troy LaFaye*

## 2:00PM SUNDAY

### The Raven: Nevermore Classic, Current, Movies / 2201

The Raven is the most recent trip Hollywood has taken into the world of Edgar Allen Poe. Discuss this movie and other filmed adaptations of his work. Most of which starred Vincent Price. *Amanda Hofman-Frethem, Brian Salisbury, Cynthia Booth, Joel Arnold*

### Star Wars Costuming Art, Costuming, Star Wars / Atrium 2

The panel will focus on the world of Star Wars costuming and discuss costume creation, types of costumes, where to find stuff, costuming on a budget, etc. You may not be able to move fruit with your mind, but we can help you look like you can! *Brian Bean, Jim Mossey, Neil Monson, Rick Rietow, Steve Fuchs, Teresa Jackson*

### Tabletop RPG: Getting New Gamers Gaming / Atrium 3

What ways do you get new people interested in role playing games? Which systems are simple to introduce to someone unfamiliar with them, and what are the best gateways to roleplay? *Peter Lee, Scott White, Terry O'Brien*

### What Makes a Female Character Strong?

#### Books, GoH, Theme / Atrium 4

How do we measure strength when we are talking about female characters in fiction? How can we make a female character strong without making her just like a male character? *Christopher Baldwin, Dana Baird, Eleanor Arnason, Emma Bull, Lyda Morehouse, Tamora Pierce*

### The Women of Harry Potter

#### Books, HarryPotter, Movies / Atrium 7

Come join us for a talk about the most powerful witches that Harry Potter has come across in his life. What makes Bellatrix, Rita Skeeter, Luna, Hermione, and all the other woman of Harry Potter interesting? *Bob Alberti, Chris Stenzel, Elizabeth Erickson, Rana Raeuchle, Tony Artym*

### Using the Tool to Fix the Tool - Convention Growth Convergence / Atrium 8

Last year we looked at the problem of having a really big, really cool and ever-growing con. This year we'll brainstorm creative solutions in a facilitated discussion *David Walbridge*

### Vive le Difference

#### Sci/Tech / Bloomington

Boys like trucks, girls like dolls. Or do they? What are the real differences between men and women (other than the obvious physical ones)? How much is cultural, how much is a consequence of real biological differences? *Craig A. Finseth, Greg Laden, Natalie Reed, Stephanie Zvan*

### Open Mic Poetry Reading

#### Reading / Cabana 201

Hosted by Sandra Lindow, who will also read some of her own work. *Sandra Lindow*

### Reboots that Work

#### Movies / Plaza 1

Sometimes reboots don't make any sense. Sometimes they do. When is it a good idea to give a franchise a fresh coat of paint? *Michael Zecca, Neil Anderson, Romeo Azar, Tim Lieder*

### Lois McMaster Bujold Reading

#### Reading / Edina

Former Guest of Honor Lois McMaster Bujold will be reading the first chapter from her upcoming book, "Captain Vorpatril's Alliance," to be released by Baen Books on November 6th. *Lois McMaster Bujold*

## 3:30PM SUNDAY

### One on One with Ruth Thompson

#### Art, GoH / Atrium 2

Sit down and enjoy a moderated chat with Ruth Thompson that will be recorded for inclusion on the CONvergence 2012 DVD. *Ruth Thompson, Tim Wick (mod)*

### The Worlds of Lloyd Alexander: Fantasy Geographies Books, Classic, GoH / Atrium 3

Author of "The Black Cauldron" and other works and the Godfather of Guest of Honor Sharyn November, this panel will explore the his works and the unique geography of the worlds he created. *Brandy Snyder, Haddayr Copley-Woods, Rana Raeuchle, Ruth Berman, Sharyn November*

### Klinzai After Dark by the IKV RakeHell

#### Comedy / Atrium 4

The IKV RakeHell returns to the CONvergence stage with their newest theatrical production: "Klinzai After Dark." Join our resident Klingon thespians as they present yet another theatrical triumph for the Empire! *IKV RakeHell*

### Ten Ladies of Tortall

#### Books / Atrium 7

Beka, Alanna, Aly, Kel and Daine aren't the only leading ladies of the Tortall Universe. So what makes these five and the many other amazing role models and characters we love? Why do they inspire us? *Elsbeth Lee, Hedgie Yoder, Kathy Sullivan, S.N. Arly, Sue Rice*

### 100 Years of Edgar Rice Burroughs

#### Books, Classic / Atrium 8

2012 is the 100th Anniversary of the publication of "John Carter of Mars" and "Tarzan." Now is the perfect time to talk about Burroughs' influence on modern culture. *Anthony Tollin*

### Sophie Aldred Signing 2

#### GoH, Signing / Autograph Table

Sophie will be available at the autograph table. *Sophie Aldred*

### Dana Baird Reading Reading / Cabana 201

Dana Baird, author of "The Spell Keeper Legends" series, will read from some of her recent work. *Dana Baird*

### The Brony Panel TV / Edina

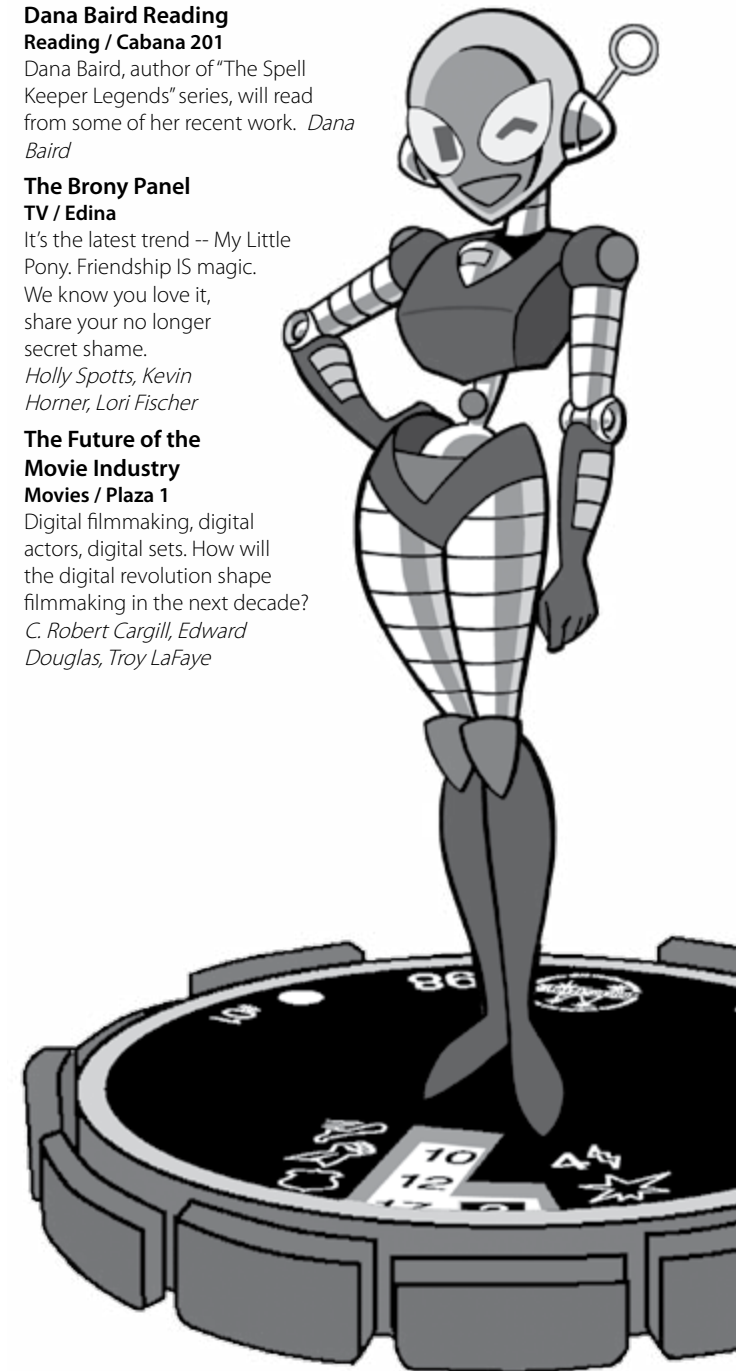
It's the latest trend -- My Little Pony. Friendship IS magic.

We know you love it, share your no longer secret shame.

*Holly Spotts, Kevin Horner, Lori Fischer*

### The Future of the Movie Industry Movies / Plaza 1

Digital filmmaking, digital actors, digital sets. How will the digital revolution shape filmmaking in the next decade? *C. Robert Cargill, Edward Douglas, Troy LaFaye*



# CONVERGENCE 2012 MAPS

## 1ST FLOOR PLAZA ROOMS

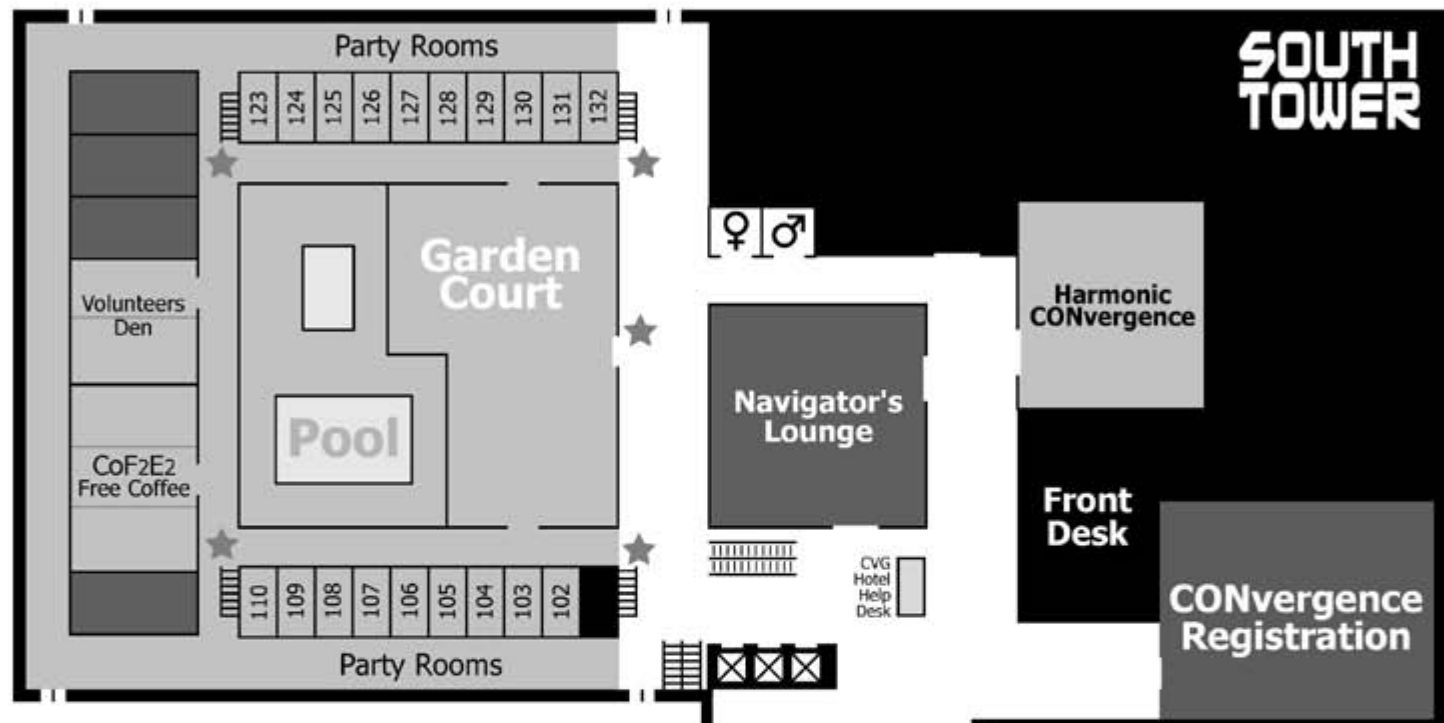
- Plaza 1 Movies Programming
- Plaza 2 Theater Nippon Anime Room
- Plaza 3 Connie's Quantum Sandbo

## 1ST FLOOR CABANAS

- Cabana 114-116 CoF2E2 Free Coffee Shop
- Cabana 117-118 Volunteers Den

## 2ND FLOOR ATRIUM ROOMS

- Atrium 1 Silent Auction
- Atrium 2 Arts & Comics Programming
- Atrium 3 Gaming Programming
- Atrium 4 SF Hot Dish Prog./Art Auction
- Atrium 5 Programming Ops (Green Room)
- Atrium 6 A/V Programming Room
- Atrium 7 Literature Programming
- Atrium 8 SF Side Dish Programming



## 1ST FLOOR



### MAP KEY

- ☒ = Elevator
- ♂ = Men's Room
- ♀ = Women's Room
- ≡ = Stairs
- ≡≡ = Escalator
- ★ = Badging Stations

## CONVERGENCE CENTRAL

- Artist Alley, Merchandise Table, Volunteers Table/Information Services

## BETWEEN NORTH & SOUTH TOWERS

- Edina Room Television Programming
- Bloomington Rm. Science & Technology Programming

## VERANDAS

- Verandas 3,5,6,8 Connie's Space Lounge
- Verandas 2,4 Operations Bridge

## 2ND FLOOR CABANAS

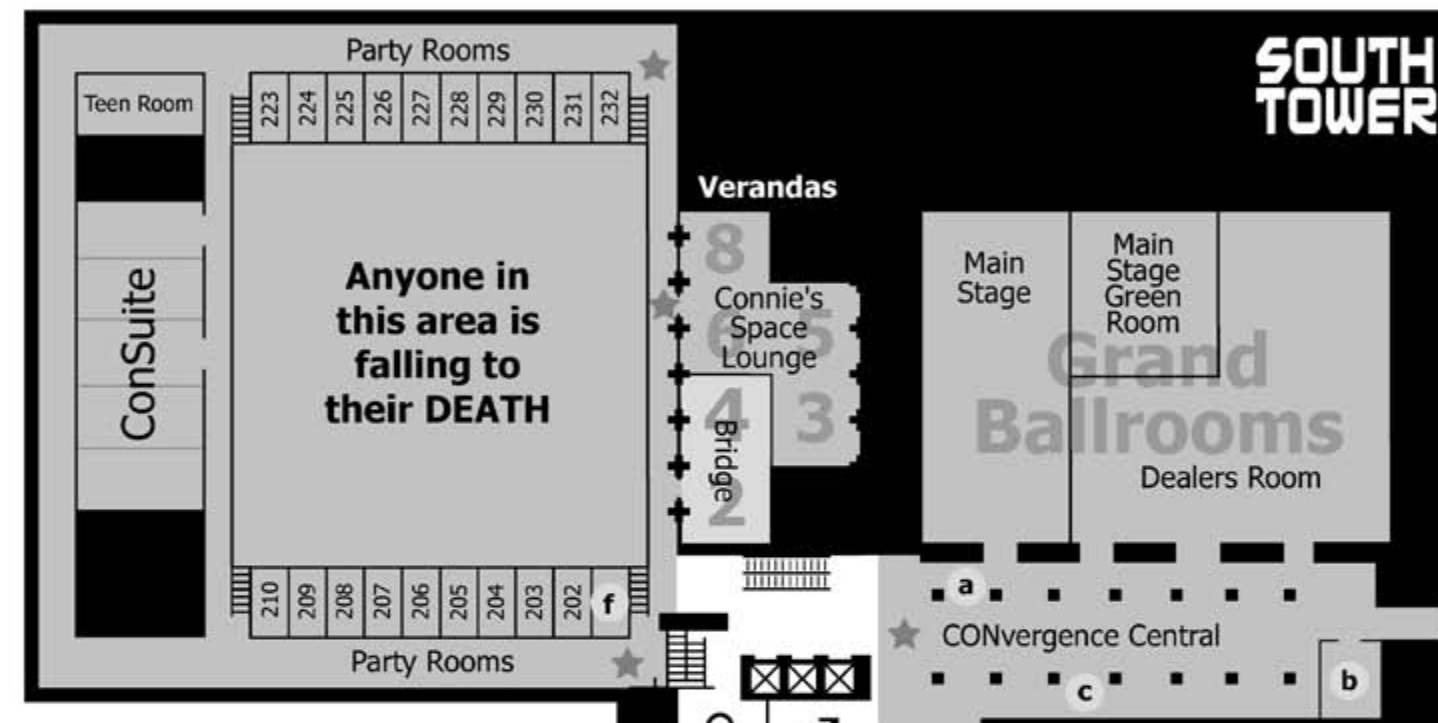
- Cabana 201 Krushenko's
- Cabanas 214-219 ConSuite
- Cabana 222 Teen Room

## GRAND BALLROOMS

- Ballroom West & Center Front Dealers Room
- Rear Center Green Room
- Ballroom East Main Stage

## SOUTH TOWER UPPER FLOORS (NOT PICTURED)

- 4th Floor Satellite Party Floor
- Room 2201 Krushenko's
- Rooms 2203, 2204, 2206 and 2207 Gaming Suites



## 2ND FLOOR



- a Volunteers Tables
- b Merchandise
- c Artists Alley
- d Signing Tables
- e Freebie Tables
- f Krushenko's



# CONVENTION COMMITTEE

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Elizabeth Jones – *Staff*  
Eric Olson-Watson – *Sub-Head*  
George Atendido – *Sub-Head*  
Julie Yoder – *Sub-Head*  
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Lisa QT – *Sub-Head*  
Mandy Tempel – *Sub-Head*  
Maya Bender – *Co-Head*  
Nick Zuleger – *Staff*  
Tom Harty – *Sub-Head*



# SPECIAL THANKS

## CONVERGENCE

&

## CONVERGENCE EVENTS

WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE WHO HELPED TO MAKE CONVERGENCE 2012 HAPPEN.

That includes the members of our **Convention Committee**, the **CONvergence Steering Committee**, the **Convergence Events Directors**, our **Volunteers**, anyone who **sat a panel**, **entered the Masquerade**, **performed on stage**, **held a room party** or otherwise **lent their knowledge, creativity and talents** to CONvergence 2012.

We would like to thank our wonderful guests of honor:

**Sophie Aldred, Bonnie Burton, Jennifer Clarke Wilkes, Lyda Morehouse, Sharyn November, Tamora Pierce, Ruth Thompson, & Judith Walcutt**

as well as special Main Stage performers:

**Firesign Theatre, Marian Call, Jackie Kashian, Joseph Scrimshaw, Villification Tennis, Stand Up Records!, & Gallowglass Irish Trio.**

As always, we thank the **DoubleTree by Hilton** and its **staff** for hosting CONvergence, and the other area hotels that took on some of the overflow!

Special Thanks to **Windy Bowlsby, Tim Uren, Jeremy Stomberg, Bill Stiteler, Kelvin Hatle, Molly Glover, Clarence Wethern, Jerry Belich, Melissa Anne Murphy, Dawn Krosnowski, Joseph Scrimshaw, Tim Wick, Alex Wick, Heather Bjerstedt, Sunshine Travel, Melissa Friedman, Hard Cover Theater, Duck Washington, Pam Germ, Sara Stevenson Scrimshaw, Jen Scott, Jo Thomsen, Brian Jonas, Neil Monson and Phillip Andrew Bennet Low** for their help in writing, directing, and producing this year's sketches and videos for Opening and Closing Ceremonies, and our thanks to the **rest of their casts**.

Thank you to **Moments Shared Photography** ([www.momentsshared.com](http://www.momentsshared.com)), **Fallout Shelter** ([falloutshelterarcade.com](http://falloutshelterarcade.com)), **Fantasy Flight Games** ([www.fantasyflightgames.com](http://www.fantasyflightgames.com)), and the **Students, Staff & Faculty of Digital Video & Media Production Program at Minnesota School of Business** ([www.msbcollge.edu/degree-programs/creative-media/digital-video-media-production/](http://www.msbcollge.edu/degree-programs/creative-media/digital-video-media-production/)) for their presence at this year's convention.

Thank you to the **2012 Party Hosts** for working so closely with us to improve inter-departmental relations.

Thank you **Dean Pederson** and **Sam Kovar** for their assistance with our video department.

CVG-TV thanks **Gary Muellerleile, PSAV**, and **Minneapolis Television Network** for valuable equipment and support.

Thank you to the organizations and businesses that have given to this year's convention: **BearCom, The Minnesota School of Business, Presto Graphics, Skyline Graphics, Anime Twin Cities, Joy Filled Puppets, Tandy Leather, Camp Quest, The Science Museum of Minnesota, Toil and Trouble Productions, Middle English Interpreting Services, Lifetouch, International Dairy Queen, Xenaversity and The Ochaya.**

Thank you to **all the attendees** who became members of CONvergence 2012.

Our sincere thanks and apologies to **anyone we forgot**.

If you know someone who should be on this list, please let us know. There's still time to give credit where credit is due, both on our web site and in our Post Mortem Report published in a couple of months.

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July 4-7, Bloomington, MN  
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel

## PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

Please print clearly • Only ONE pre-registration per form

### Registration Rates

Check the box that will apply on the dates of the convention:

#### Adult Membership 18+

Until December 31, 2012 \$ 50  
Until May 15, 2013 \$ 60  
At The Door \$ 100

Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Ages 13-17

Until December 31, 2012 \$ 40  
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Until December 31, 2012 \$ 20  
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You **must** specify one of the age levels above.

People wishing adult badges will be asked to show a picture ID showing that they are at least 18 years old at the time they pick up their badge.

By registering for a CONvergence membership, you are giving your consent to be photographed or videotaped by the convention.

Birth Date information will only be used to help CONvergence maintain its database.

**Required** – These fields **MUST** be filled out for us to process your registration.

▲ Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

▲ Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

▲ City, State, ZIP Code, Country (if not USA) \_\_\_\_\_

▲ Phone (Cell/Home/Work) – at least one is required \_\_\_\_\_

*NOTE: An e-mail address is used to speed up the process of confirming your registration and providing you with information about the convention. Without one we will default to mailing you Progress Report booklets, rather than emailing the PDF.*

Please print and mail me hard-copy booklets anyway.

▲ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

▲ Badge Name Required 30 Character MAX \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in volunteering (If checked, your email address will be provided to the volunteers department.)

I'd like more information about American Sign Language (ASL) translation service at the convention.

I am paying by check: Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

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Thank you for your interest in and support of CONvergence, brought to you by Convergence Events. If we do not have your e-mail address, confirmation will be sent upon our next scheduled US Mailing cycle. Any confirmation given is pending the clearing of payment. Please note that we keep our information private and won't share your personal information with anyone. Information provided is proprietary to Convergence Events. If you have questions or need to contact us for any reason, please use the contact information listed above.

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