

CONVERGENCE

1999

2018

NATURAL TWENTY



CHRISTOPHER JONES

SOUVENIR BOOK

CONVERGENCE

2019: THE NEXT CELEBRATION

JULY 4-7, 2019 • THE HYATT REGENCY HOTEL • MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

JOIN US

as we embark on the next great chapter of CONvergence at our new home in the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Minneapolis, MN.

Our 2019 theme will be a celebration of Reboots and Re-Imaginings in Science Fiction.

www.CONVERGENCE-CON.org WELCOME



There was an idea to bring together the people who wanted to celebrate Science Fiction and Fantasy in all of its expressions. This idea is expressed in what was called the CONvergence Manifesto, which, in part, says: "We celebrate the love of Science Fiction and Fantasy as our common bond and as an affirmation of our diversity."

The idea became a concept, then a plan (and plans within plans), and finally, a reality. In 1998 the first CONvergence was launched and the modest projections of attendance and atmosphere far exceeded the wildest dreams at that time. CONvergence is thought to be pretty good for "just a party," our first year's tagline. Since then, each CONvergence has continued to be bright and shiny, and anytime someone has missed one, they ask, "Did I miss anything?" because being a part of the culture, and making our community what it is, matters.

The year is now 2018, and CONvergence is 20 years young. Gathering the tribe, the village, the community together has been particularly difficult this year, but our community has banded together and shown that the idea has grown into a huge undertaking of love. CONvergence has generated a passion for this community to come together once a year and celebrate all things Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Anime as presented in literature, film, radio, and television. And that is what we set out to do.

Welcome to the passion, to the idea, to the community. Welcome to the Natural 20, CONvergence.

CONvergence is a volunteer-run convention. All of our volunteers dedicate a lot of time and effort into putting together this wonderful convention for all of the members to enjoy. Of course, not every aspect runs as smoothly as we hope or plan. Every year we learn, grow, and work together to change and improve CONvergence for all of its members. We would not be able to achieve success without help from our many volunteers. Whether they volunteer for an hour during the convention or plan year-round and organize a department, every volunteer is an important piece in creating CONvergence.

If you are interested in volunteering during the convention, please stop by Volunteers, located in DoubleTree Verandas

1–4, and seek out an opportunity. For year-round opportunities, please visit the "Get Involved" section of the CONvergence website: <http://www.convergence-con.org>.

Every member of CONvergence contributes to the convention experience. Sharing your stories, engaging in conversation about the things you love, having interesting debates on your favorite shows, books, or movies—all of these things create the wonderful environment that we all get to experience every year at CONvergence.

We always encourage feedback from all of our members. We have a very short survey that we are asking our members to fill out to help us collect some quantitative data about our convention. By completing the survey, you'll be providing us with some invaluable information that we can use to help us improve your experience. The survey is available on the website at <http://www.convergence-con.org/about/survey/>.

If you would like to contact a department to ask a specific question, the best way to do that would be through the contact form, located on the website under about/contact-us.

Thank you for your support of CONvergence, our community, and our partners in our community.

Cordially,

Board of Directors

Margaret Eastman

Liz Hernandez

Thomas Keeley

Nadim Khalidi

Amy Mills

Jonathan Palmer

Ishmael Williams

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is a presentation of



Convergence Events

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Convention Website: www.convergence-con.org

Organization Website: www.convergenceevents.org

The CONvergence 2018 Souvenir Book & Programming Guide

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<http://convergence-con.org/at-the-con/schedule/>

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We always welcome feedback and suggestions, and ask that any comments be directed to info@convergence-con.org.

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CONVERGENCE EVENTS

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Convergence Events, Inc. was founded in 2009 from the building blocks of the CONvergence directors and convention committee, with the premier activity being CONvergence.

CONVERGENCE EVENTS, INC. MISSION AND VALUES

Mission Statement

Convergence Events, Inc. is a non-profit, volunteer-run organization dedicated to creating exciting events that connect, enrich, and expand our diverse community, and inspiring each other through creativity, learning, and service.

Core Values

- We believe in treating ourselves, each other, and our diverse community with respect.
- We believe in accepting all diverse geek communities.
- We believe in providing a culture of openness, inclusivity, equity, and fun.
- We believe community service is delivered with professionalism, passion, and integrity.
- We believe in being open-minded and inventive.
- We believe in listening with an open mind and compassion.
- We believe in always being willing to learn.
- We believe in taking risks, learning from our experience, and taking personal and community responsibility.

- We believe in being patient and honest.
- We believe in encouraging innovation and empowered decision-making.
- We believe our actions should inspire volunteerism, confidence, and creativity.
- We believe personal and organizational balance is the key to sustainable success.

Convergence Events also supports our community by providing partnership, sponsorship, and grant opportunities, as well as sharing our knowledge with other organizations. Some of the groups and organizations to which we have recently provided our community support include Geek Partnership Society (GPS), Anime Detour, and Fearless Comedy.

For more information on our partnership, sponsorship, and grant opportunities, please visit the "Our Community" section on our Convergence Events website <http://www.convergenceevents.org>.

CONVERGENCE EVENTS CORPORATION OFFICERS

Ishmael Williams—President

Jonathan Palmer—Vice President

Liz Hernandez—Secretary

Amy Mills—Treasurer



We don't run conventions, we run the rest of the year! We're a volunteer-run, non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the incredible diversity and energy of the Twin Cities geek community with fun and inspiring events. We do public outreach with our partners through Twin Cities Pride (**Geeks@Pride**) and Art-A-Whirl, as well as help a bunch of the local conventions put on the best show possible by providing expertise, equipment, movie licenses, volunteers, and meeting and storage space.

Through our work for the geek community, we provide resources for like-minded geeks of many interests with clubs, events, and programs.

We encourage creativity and interest in science with **Project Lighthouse** (bringing the Raptor Center to CONvergence), the **Writing Contest** (reception panel at CONvergence), our **Space Camp scholarship** (winner announced at the Opening Ceremony), and the **GPS Arts Initiative**. Look for us at your favorite convention. Stop in and say hi—we're probably there!

EVENT HORIZON

The center we run is a resource providing a year-round physical presence for all of these other programs to happen, and to support the local geek community. It is a pioneering facility with storage, office, and meeting space for everything from gaming days to convention planning meetings to Klingon martial arts—and free Wi-Fi in all the rooms. We are continuing to upgrade the facilities and equipment to accommodate our growing needs. This popular facility is available for rental. With bookings on the increase, we anticipate that the day is coming when we'll need to add more space! Anyone interested in booking space should contact us at sitescheduling@geekpartnership.org.

FUNDRAISING

How do we fund all this? In addition to grants from organizations like Convergence Events, we have our own fundraising efforts. During CONvergence, check out the **Charity Auction** over in the DoubleTree North Tower, Atrium 8, and our **GPS merchandise** is for sale where you find CONvergence Merchandise. We also have a Supporting Membership program where you can become a Card Carrying Geek and attend the **Pirate Cruise (August 5th)**, both of which you can sign up for in our clubhouse in DoubleTree Cabana 110, or at the Charity Auction in DoubleTree Atrium 8.

WHAT ELSE DO WE DO?

Community building: Clubs—Check out one of our clubs; they're all free (or inexpensive), fun, and informal—you'll be glad you did: **Crafty Geek/Make It Sew, Read the Book/See the Movie, United Geeks of Gaming, Black Hat Collective, Tsuinshi Anime Club, GPS Photography Club, Geeks Read, Geek Physique, the Twin Cities Steampunk club—DIODES (Dioscurian Imperial Order of Dreamers, Engineers, and Scientists)**, and the **GPS Movie Appreciation Posse**.

Community building: Events—We have events throughout the year that you are welcome to attend. We foster a sense of

community and fun competition with the **Scavenger Hunt**, and provide general forums for nerdy goodness with the **GPS Annual Picnic**. The **GPS Movie Night** is our mostly-monthly, themed showing that can be partnered with clubs or other organizations. Stop by our room at DoubleTree Cabana 110 to find out more or to sign up.

UPCOMING 2018 EVENTS

- August 5 | Pirate Cruise
- October 14 | Scavenger Hunt (psst...Put a team together, it's fun!)

If you've never checked out any of these events, stop on by or get involved.

WANT TO TALK TO US AT CON?

Stop by the DoubleTree Cabana 110 or DoubleTree Atrium 8 to find out more and catch up on all the news going around in the geekiest metro in America!

STAY CONNECTED

Follow GPS on Facebook and Twitter.

Official Hashtag - #geekps

Use #geekps with #CVG2018 for all your GPS at CONvergence 2018 tweets, Facebook updates, Tumblr posts, and others so other GPS fans and members can find you!

"We are a society celebrating imagination, inspiring creativity, and building our community, through service and education."

GPS AT CONVERGENCE

As a featured partner, the Geek Partnership Society (GPS) has a number of events throughout the convention weekend. We encourage you to check them out.

HOW TO FIND US?



GPS AT CONVERGENCE

THE GPS ROOM PARTY CABANA 110

Programming: There will be club meetings and guest hostings throughout the weekend and outside of regular party room hours. The schedule will be posted outside the room and updated online.

- Thursday 3:30pm–Midnight
• Party Hours—8:00pm–Midnight
- Friday 12:30pm–Midnight
• Party Hours—8:00pm–Midnight
- Saturday 2:00pm–Midnight
• Party Hours—9:00pm–Midnight
- Sunday 11:00am–4:00pm

GPS CHARITY AUCTION

The GPS Charity Auction has both a silent and a live component that takes place every year at CONvergence to raise money for the many educational and community activities that we're involved in throughout the year, including the **Space Camp Scholarship** and **Project Lighthouse**. Bidding at the silent auction is open Thursday through Saturday, with an option for Quick Wins. Items that reach 5 bids go to live auction on Sunday morning. **Donations** may be dropped off by arrangement or at any time during open hours, although item placement in this year's auction depends on space available.

GPS SILENT AUCTION

DoubleTree Atrium 8 (North Tower, 2nd Floor)

- Thursday 5:00pm–8:00pm (bidding opens)
Friday 11:00am–8:00pm
Saturday 11:00am–7:00pm (bidding closes at 7:00pm)
Sunday 11:00am–2:00pm—Pick up only

GPS LIVE AUCTION

(for items that reach 5 bids)

DoubleTree Atrium 4

- Sunday 11:00am–?

DANGEROUS WHEN BORED!

DoubleTree Atrium 2

Saturday 2:00pm–3:00pm
Convergence Events is a primary supporter for what we do. Come and learn about what that support enables, the latest workings of the Geek Partnership Society, and how you can get your geek on during the rest of the year. Get news and updates about our clubs, events, and work in the geek community. Share your ideas, feedback, and questions. Find out how you can get involved.

GPS WRITING CONTEST WINNERS

DoubleTree Atrium 2

Friday 9:30am–10:30am
Past winners of the annual GPS Writing Contests read from their winning work. This year's winners are announced.

IRON PEN

DoubleTree Plaza 2

Friday 3:30pm–4:30pm
Held this year in Connie's Quantum Sandbox. This is a drabble contest to write a 100-word story based on a surprise prompt item. Entries will be judged during the weekend and the winners announced at the end of the convention. Check DoubleTree Cabana 110 where the winners and some stories will be posted.

U OF M RAPTOR CENTER

DoubleTree Atrium 4

Saturday 9:30am–Noon
GPS is once again bringing in the Raptor Center demonstration with live birds of prey. A perennial favorite!



STAY CONNECTED

There are many ways to stay connected with CONvergence, both during the convention and all year round! Follow CONvergence on Facebook, Twitter, and more!

OFFICIAL HASHTAG

The official hashtag for CONvergence 2018 is:

#CVG2018

Use #CVG2018 for all your CONvergence 2018 tweets, Instagram photos, Facebook updates, Tumblr posts, and more, so other CONvergence members can find your convention coverage!

FACEBOOK

CONvergence Facebook Page: Get official news updates and CONvergence-related content all year round!

<http://facebook.com/CONvergenceConMN>

CONvergence Discussion Group: Talk about CONvergence with our con community!

<http://facebook.com/groups/CONvergenceCon>

CONvergence Connections Group: Find CONvergence hotel roommates, car pools, babysitters, memberships for sale, and more!

<http://facebook.com/groups/CONvergenceConnections>

INSTAGRAM

@ConvergenceCon: Get official announcements and CONvergence-related content all year round and photos from CONvergence during the Con!

TWITTER

@CONvergenceCon: Get official news updates and CONvergence-related content all year round!

@CONvergenceLive: Live tweets of panels, events, and other fun stuff during the convention from CONvergence social media staff!

@CVG_Reminders: Helpful reminders tweeted during the convention so you can make the most of your weekend!

TUMBLR

CONvergenceCon.tumblr.com: Get official news updates and CONvergence-related content all year round and reblogs of the CONvergence hashtag during the con!

YOUTUBE

CONvergenceTube Channel: Videos of panels and events at CONvergence! youtube.com/CONvergenceTube

CVG-TV Channel: Videos produced for CONvergence & CVG-TV! youtube.com/CVGTelevision

Masquerade Channel: Videos of individual Masquerade entries! youtube.com/CVGmasquerade

EMAIL

Social Media not your thing? Simply head to <http://www.CONvergence-Con.org> and sign up for email updates of the latest CONvergence news.

CVG-TV

CVG-TV is CONvergence's closed-circuit television channel, broadcast in the DoubleTree and streamed online during the convention. CVG-TV brings CONvergence MainStage events, exclusive CONvergence content, and more directly to you!

WATCHING CVG-TV

CVG-TV is broadcast Wednesday afternoon through Monday morning.

In the hotel: Check the CONvergence website for the channel number

Streaming online: <http://www.cvgcon.org/stream>

CVG-TV's broadcast schedule can be found on the CVG-TV page of the CONvergence website and on the CONvergence mobile app.

OPERATIONS (OPS), THE BRIDGE AND AUXBRIDGE

OPERATIONS, THE BRIDGE AND AUXBRIDGE

The Operations Department directs communications and manages services for the convention, the convention committee, and the membership.

The Bridge is the central hub of CONvergence Operations and is the headquarters for the convention. Come to The Bridge to have questions answered, receive “The Talk” and have props peace bonded, seek lost items, and deliver items found.

The Auxiliary Bridge, AuxBridge, is located in the Sheraton and provides a supplemental location to have questions answered. AuxBridge also serves as a secondary Lost & Found location.

Wandering Hosts are Operations volunteers who provide services throughout the convention, easily identified by their purple vests. Flag down a Wandering Host for assistance or to relay a message to The Bridge.

THE BRIDGE

Located between the DoubleTree Front Desk and the Main Hotel entrance

Wednesday Noon–6:00pm
Open continuously Thursday 8:00am–Sunday 7:00pm

AUXBRIDGE

Located in the Sheraton Quinn Room (above and behind the Sheraton Garden Court)

Thursday 10:00am–6:30pm
Friday 10:00am–6:30pm
Saturday 10:00am–6:30pm
Sunday 10:00am–4:00pm

LOSE SOMETHING? FIND SOMETHING?

CONvergence maintains a primary Lost & Found on The Bridge, which is located between the DoubleTree Front Desk and the Main Hotel entrance, and a secondary Lost & Found at AuxBridge in the Sheraton Quinn Room (above and behind the Sheraton Garden Court).

AT THE CONVENTION

If you have lost something during the convention, check at The Bridge or AuxBridge. If they do not have the item, they will take your information and contact you if it is found. If you find something likely misplaced by another member, please bring it to The Bridge or AuxBridge, and Operations will attempt to reunite the item with its owner.

AFTER THE CONVENTION

If you do not realize that you have lost something until after the convention, you can contact operations@convergence-con.org to see if the object was brought to Lost & Found. Items may be picked up at the following dates and times. The GPS location is the Geek Partnership Society’s Event Horizon Center, located at 1121 Jackson Street NE, Minneapolis. Alternative pickup times can also be arranged.

Date	Time	Location
Sunday July 15	2:00pm–4:00pm	GPS
Wednesday July 18	5:30–7:30pm	GPS
Saturday July 28	5:00pm–7:00pm	Volunteer Party
Thursday August 9	6:00pm–8:00pm	GPS
Wednesday October 17	6:00pm–8:00pm	GPS
Saturday October 20*	11:00am–1:00pm*	GPS
June 2019 TBD	TBD	

* This date is unconfirmed as of 4/20/18

PHOTOGRAPHY

Greetings, Photogenic Phans! The CONvergence Photography Department helps to preserve the memory of the convention (along with our colleagues in Video). This means that our job is to take pictures of EVERYTHING! We want to make you a part of CONvergence’s Permanent Record. We can be spotted by our big cameras and big Official Photographer badges, or visit the official CONvergence Photo Booth in DoubleTree Plaza 7.

Look for our photos on the CONvergence Facebook page, the CONvergence Facebook group, and the CONvergence Convention page on flickr.com. But give us a couple of weeks at least to get our photos up on those sites—we take a lot of photos. A. LOT. OF. PHOTOS. (Like I said, we try to photograph everything!) So, enjoy the con, and please, let us immortalize you.

If you have any questions about CONvergence’s policies about photography, please visit the policy section of the website, or review the policies in this very guide.

CONVERGENCE MEMBER CONDUCT POLICIES

CORE VALUES OF CONVERGENCE

- We believe in treating ourselves, each other, and our diverse community with respect.
- We believe in taking risks, learning from our experiences, and taking responsibility.
- We believe in listening with an open mind and with compassion.
- **We believe in providing a culture of openness, inclusivity, and fun.**

CONvergence reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to take such actions as it feels appropriate where any individual or group is found to have breached convention policies. Although we consider our members to be rational and responsible people, we recognize that issues related to the policies may still arise. We will deal with any issues as promptly, efficiently, and fairly as possible.

CONvergence reserves the right to revoke membership and to eject anyone at any time from the convention without a refund.

CONVERGENCE MEMBER CONDUCT POLICIES

CONvergence is dedicated to providing a safe and inviting convention experience for everyone. These policies support the goal of ensuring that the behavior of any individual or group does not harm other attendees or detract from the Core Values of CONvergence outlined above. Member conduct policies apply to badged attendees, volunteers, members of the ConCom, Invited Participants, Guests of Honor, dealers, vendors, and all other individuals that have gone through official channels in order to participate in convention activities.

CITY, COUNTY, STATE & FEDERAL LAWS

Please remember: whatever applies outside of the convention still applies both inside the hotel and in all convention spaces.

PROHIBITED REPRESENTATION

Any representation or iconography of any hate group (including, but not limited to: Nazis, the Ku Klux Klan, Westboro Baptist Church, or any group listed on the Southern Poverty Law Center website as a current or active hate group) is expressly prohibited. Discrimination or prejudiced behavior is not tolerated by CONvergence. Harassment of any kind will not be tolerated.

HARASSMENT

Discrimination or prejudiced behavior is not tolerated by CONvergence. Harassment of any kind will not be tolerated.

Harassment includes, but is not limited to:

- physical assault and/or battery
- offensive verbal comments
- inappropriate physical contact
- unwelcome physical attention
- intimidation
- stalking
- display of hateful iconography
- non-consensual photography or recording
- sustained disruption of panels, signings, or other events

Particularly in relation to identity attributes, including but not limited to:

Race	Color	National Origin
Disability	Gender	Gender Identity
Gender Presentation	Sexual Orientation	Religion
Age	Body Size	Appearance

DEALING WITH HARASSMENT

Anyone can report harassment.

If you feel that you are being harassed or subjected to prejudiced or unwelcome behavior, if you are aware of others being harassed or subjected to prejudiced or unwelcome behavior, or if you notice someone behaving inappropriately (such as violating hotel or convention policies), we respectfully suggest the following:

- If you feel comfortable doing so, point out the inappropriate behavior to the person(s) involved. Often this will solve the problem immediately.

- If you do not feel comfortable talking with the person(s) involved or if talking to them does not resolve the issue, please report the situation immediately to CONvergence Operations. If possible, we ask that you try to provide a name, badge name, badge number, and/or physical description of the person(s) involved to assist with subsequent investigation and follow up.
- Do not feel that it is necessary to craft a complete narrative in order to be heard. It is understood that details of stressful situations can become murky and our procedures take this into account. Report situations to the best of your ability and feel free to provide supplemental reports if needed.
- If you are in a situation that makes you feel unsafe, please seek assistance from CONvergence staff immediately. Find a Wandering Host, leave the situation and come to The Bridge, find anyone on a radio, or text Operations at 651-800-1677 (651-800-1-OPS) and we will come to you.

If someone tells you “no” or asks to be left alone, your interaction with them is over. Do not follow or attempt to disrupt their convention experience in any way. If you continue, against their wishes, to attempt to have contact with people who have said “no” or have asked that you leave them alone, you may be removed from the premises. If you wish to offer an apology to someone who asked that you not interact with them, please come to The Bridge and CONvergence Operations can assist in relaying your message.

CONFLICTS BETWEEN MEMBERS

CONvergence is not responsible for solving any interpersonal problems that may arise between individual members outside of the convention. In general, we will take no preemptive action to prevent a person from attending the convention unless that person has either made a specific and credible threat toward the convention itself or in light of relevant legal reasons. However, if you are concerned about an individual, we encourage you to contact CONvergence Operations. Although we are unlikely to ban or remove individuals from the convention for actions taken elsewhere, awareness of potential problems assists in providing a safe convention experience for all members.

MINORS

Fans of all ages are welcome at CONvergence. However, CONvergence does not provide childcare, and not all events at CONvergence are appropriate for all audiences.

Members under the age of 13 should be supervised in a manner appropriate to their age and ability by an actively responsible parent, guardian, or designated adult while in convention spaces.

A designated adult is defined as someone that is not the legal guardian or parent of a minor, but is over the age of eighteen, a registered convention member, and identified in the minor's registration record as an adult responsible for them at the convention.

It is highly recommended that children under the age of 13 be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or designated adult as they explore the events, activities, and experience of CONvergence.

REGISTRATION

Minors who will be under the age of 16 on the Thursday of the convention are required to provide contact information for a parent, legal guardian, or designated adult when registering, and must have a parent, legal guardian, or designated adult with a valid membership provide legal identification at the time the minor picks up their membership badge.

Minors who will be age 16–17 on the Thursday of the convention must provide contact information for a parent, legal guardian, or designated adult when registering. Minors 16–17 years of age may collect their membership badges using their own form of authorized identification.

CURFEW

Bloomington city curfew does not apply within convention spaces. It does, however, apply outside the hotels. The juvenile curfew in the city of Bloomington is:

Ages <12: 9:00pm Sun–Thurs, 10:00pm Fri–Sat

Ages 12–14: 10:00pm Sun–Thurs, 11:00pm Fri–Sat

Ages 15–17: 11:00pm Sun–Thurs, Midnight Fri–Sat

We recommend that members under the age of 13 avoid CONvergence convention spaces after 11:00pm and that teen members generally return to nonconvention spaces by 1:00am.

ANIMAL POLICY

Pets are not permitted in convention spaces. Service Animals, as defined under the ADA, are welcome in all areas of CONvergence.

Distracting a service animal without its owner's permission is a safety hazard and denies another member the benefit of their accessibility aid. Petting, touching, or intentionally distracting a service animal without its owner's permission is not allowed under any circumstances.

MEMBERSHIP BADGES

Your convention membership badge is necessary for 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 and hold the badge of any member, for any reason, including but not limited to violating the CONvergence Member Conduct Policies or behaving in such a manner as is deemed unsafe or unacceptable.

Attempts to enter badged convention space while failing to purchase and display a valid membership badge will result in being escorted off site.

FRAUDULENT BADGE USE

The use of ANY CONvergence Badge not issued to you, or the possession with the intent to use a CONvergence Badge not issued to you, is prohibited and will result in your membership being revoked.

FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

Anyone who owes an outstanding balance to CONvergence (outstanding balance on membership payment, Art Show purchase, or Dealers Room table rental, for example), must settle that balance before being permitted to acquire their membership badge.

PROPS

We at CONvergence believe that the convention as a whole benefits from the amazing costumes and props brought, worn, and displayed by our members. In order for CONvergence to remain an enjoyable experience, everyone must agree to a social contract. This contract is simple: If a member agrees to be safe and considerate with their props, CONvergence agrees to let that member carry their props in convention spaces. To ensure that prop-carrying members abide by our social contract, CONvergence Operations provides The Talk and peace bonds props.

THE TALK

If you have a prop that meets any of the following criteria, you must come to the bridge to receive The Talk and have your prop peace bonded before carrying it in convention spaces:

- large or unwieldy
- is capable of emitting a laser beam or any sort of projectile
- resembles a weapon from any universe
- uses wheels for purposes other than accessibility

Peacebonding may also be required in other circumstances, at the discretion of CONvergence Operations. When CONvergence Operations gives The Talk, they outline what is expected of you and your specific props, and provide an opportunity to ask any questions you may have. You will receive a badge ribbon reading "I've Had The Talk." This ribbon must be worn visibly when carrying your props to indicate that you agree to our social contract.

PEACEBONDING

Peacebonding is the process of marking a prop so that it may be known to one and all that you agree to be responsible with it. At CONvergence, peace bonding is more about marking that a prop has been inspected and found to be in compliance with CONvergence Operations' safety procedures than an attempt to render the prop inert. Props must be peace bonded on The Bridge with materials provided by CONvergence Operations. Peacebonding does not carry over from year to year.

In some cases, special care must be taken when a prop is peace bonded.

- metal bladed or pointed items must be secured in a sheath.
- props normally capable of emitting projectiles or laser beams must be rendered unable to do so.
- other instances, as determined by CONvergence Operations.

PROHIBITED WEAPONS

The following are not permitted in convention spaces:

- firearms, disabled or otherwise. A MN Permit to Carry is not an exception.
- explosives/pyrotechnics

- tasers/stun guns
- pepper spray/chemical irritants
- any item deemed unsafe by CONvergence Operations

We allow the following types of props:

- knives/swords/daggers
- bows
- bats/clubs/mallets/lightsabers
- toy/replica/model firearms
- many other nifty props! This list is not comprehensive.

MOBILITY AIDS

CONvergence's props policy generally does not apply to mobility aids used for accessibility such as canes, crutches, walkers, and wheelchairs. Unless on the prohibited items list, such devices are explicitly allowed throughout convention spaces and require neither peace bonding nor The Talk. Members are welcome to bring their mobility aids to The Bridge to be inspected and receive The Talk and its associated badge ribbon if they would like to do so.

Exception: Sword canes must be peace bonded as if they were props.

TOOLS

This policy is not intended to cover tools such as pocket knives, multi-tools, glue guns, nail clippers, etc. Unless on the prohibited items list, such items are allowed, provided they are being used as tools. If such items are being carried as props, they fall under the props policy, and must be peace bonded accordingly.

WHEELS

It is not permitted to ride any manner of wheeled recreational transport device such as a bicycle, unicycle, roller skates or blades, skateboard, hoverboard, or motorized mini-vehicle in convention spaces. Strollers and wheeled mobility devices providing accessibility are permitted.

FLYING THINGS

Deployment of any flying object, be it tethered or free flying, powered or unpowered, is not permitted in convention spaces unless advanced authorization is obtained from CONvergence Operations.

PROGRAMMING EXCEPTIONS TO PROPS POLICIES

Peacebonding may be removed, and props drawn, wielded, or brandished when a member is participating in a CONvergence scheduled event at the discretion of the event organizer (e.g. Masquerade, a stage combat demonstration, etc.). Props used in such a manner must be taken to the Bridge to be re-peace bonded before being permitted in convention spaces again. Programming is never an exception to the Prohibited Items list.

COSTUMES/CLOTHING

All costumes must conform to the CONvergence Harassment Policy and Prohibited Representation Policy. Any costume that gives the appearance of being a member of present day United States military or law enforcement will not be permitted. Exception: Current or former US military personnel may wear their uniforms in a manner consistent with military regulations governing off-duty dress.

Costumes and clothing worn at the convention are still subject to nudity and public decency laws of the city of Bloomington, MN. Bloomington, MN City Code prohibits public nudity, defined as "the showing of the human male or female genitals or pubic area with less than a fully opaque covering; the showing of the female breast with less than a fully opaque covering of any portion thereof below a point immediately above the top of the areola; or the depiction or showing of the covered male genitals in a discernibly turgid state."

ALCOHOL

The legal drinking age in the state of Minnesota is 21. No one under the legal drinking age should be offered or provided with alcohol. IDs should be verified before anything is shared.

Tampering with food or drinks consumed by others will not be tolerated. Anyone found to have tampered with items consumed by others will be expelled from the convention and may face criminal charges.

Intoxication, to the point of interfering with other members or becoming a hazard to yourself, will provoke responses from First Advisors and CONvergence Operations, and may result in any of the sanctions discussed above.

If you feel unsafe, regardless of your level of alcohol consumption, please seek assistance. The safety of members is a primary concern of CONvergence. This applies even if you are not of legal drinking age.

SMOKING

The DoubleTree by Hilton Bloomington is a non-smoking establishment, per state law. Smoking is permitted only outside of the hotel at a distance of 25 feet from any entrance, preferably in the designated Smokers Paradise area. Smoking

CONVERGENCE MEMBER CONDUCT POLICIES

areas will be clearly delineated and separate canopied areas may be provided as weather demands and facilities permit (See Smokers Paradise). ConSuite, the cabanas, and shuttle pickup areas are NOT smoking areas. Smoking on the patios and balconies of the rooms is not allowed. Additionally, the DoubleTree by Hilton Bloomington does not allow electronic cigarettes within the building. Use of e-cigarettes is restricted in the same manner as traditional cigarettes.

PHOTOGRAPHY

There is a lot to see at CONvergence, and we know you'll want to snap pictures of the awesome cosplays and goings on around you. To ensure that all members have a good time, we've laid out some of the rules and guidelines to keep our event safe and fun.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CONVERGENCE STAFF

CONvergence maintains a staff of volunteer photographers to create an official record of the convention. As a result of this important task, CONvergence Photography department volunteers operate under slightly different rules than the general membership. On-duty photographers associated with the CONvergence Photography department are the only people who may take photographs without the explicit consent of the subject. By registering for a CONvergence membership, members give their consent to be photographed by the CONvergence Photography department. This consent may be suspended at any time on a case by case basis, even retroactively. If a member wishes to revoke consent for a particular photograph, they must contact photography@convergence-con.org and membershipcommunications@convergence-con.org to address the situation.

Official CONvergence Photographers may be easily identified by their official photography badge listing the current convention year.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MEMBERS

Members must ask permission before taking photographs of specific individuals. Consent may be revoked retroactively. If a subject wishes for a photograph in which they appear to be deleted, they may ask the photographer to do so, and the photographer must comply.

All pictures must be for personal or general public use such as social media, with the exception of private photoshoots as outlined below.

The use of photos, videos, or audio tapes made at CONvergence for commercial use or for the solicitation of funds for any commercial or other purpose without the express written permission of Convergence Events, Inc. is strictly prohibited.

Flash photography is not permitted during panels, programming, and MainStage events; please check with Masquerade personnel for scheduled pre- or post-Masquerade photo sessions.

CROWD PHOTOS

Prior consent is not required when taking photographs of large crowds (e.g. overlooking the Garden Court). Nor is prior consent required from people who appear incidentally in the background of an image, but who are not the primary subject of the photograph.

PROHIBITED PHOTOGRAPHY

Please do not photograph Operations, First Advisors, Emergency Medical Services, Police, or other official personnel when responding to an emergency situation. CONvergence reserves the right to ask photographers to delete any photographs of any such events.

Members who are not official CONvergence Photographers may not take photographs in CONvergence Convention Committee areas (those restricted to the Convention Committee members) and the following: Art Show, Art Auction, Print Shop, or Green Room.

PLANNED "SPONTANEOUS" GROUP ACTIVITIES

(Flash Mobs, Performance Art etc.)

On occasion, parades, moving performances, LARP-style games, or other mobile events may occur at CONvergence. These events are welcome in the Garden Court, Smokers Paradise, or the central corridor of the convention. We ask that you notify and clear these events with Operations and Programming in advance.

When engaging in such activities, please avoid the North Tower, Programming Spaces, individual parties (unless invited), the hotel bar and restaurant, and convention spaces such as The Bridge and ConSuite.

TAPE

You may post non-adhesive signs with low-tack tape. The DoubleTree by Hilton Bloomington specifies and requires use of low-tack blue painter's tape to ensure that surfaces will not be damaged by tape removal. There are no specific brand or model requirements. Any low-tack blue tape is allowed. If you do not have acceptable tape, come to The Bridge. We have plenty and are happy to share. Neither the convention hotel nor CONvergence will tolerate the application of stickers or high-tack tape to hotel surfaces. Removal of these adhesive substances is damaging to the hotel, and is therefore considered to be unacceptable. Incidents of this kind will be treated as vandalism. Don't break the hotel.

DOUBLETREE POSTER HANGING GUIDELINES

These guidelines apply to all signs other than those sponsored by official CONvergence departments that have been developed in coordination with CONvergence Publications and are hung with the approval of the CONvergence Hotel department.

- The official start time for member sponsored posters to go up is 6:00pm Wednesday. Official posters from CONvergence departments may be hung earlier.
- Posters are not permitted on any part of the escalators, particularly the metal strip down the center.
- Posters may not be affixed to room doors or door frames with tape. They may be hung using magnets.
- NO POSTERS IN THE ELEVATORS, OR ON THE ELEVATOR DOORS. This is from the City of Bloomington, not only from the hotel. Posters are permitted on the walls around the elevators.
- NO POSTERS ON THE WALLS OF THE 1st FLOOR LOBBY OR THE 1st FLOOR OF THE NORTH TOWER, except around the elevators in the North (Short) Tower.
- For all other locations, all signs must be hung using low-tack blue painter's tape. Specific brand and model requirements are no longer in effect.
- NOTE: These rules are subject to change by the Hotel at any time. Please contact CONvergence Operations for most current guidelines.

Posters hung in prohibited locations or with unapproved tape will be GENTLY removed by Wandering Hosts and brought to The Bridge.

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. There are no house elves working for CONvergence.

VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering for Convergence Events can be a lot of fun and we value each and every one of our volunteers. But, as with everything else, there are always the administrative elements that need to be documented. To that end, please understand that your volunteering for Convergence Events is at-will and no one has the right to force or guilt you into it. We do sincerely encourage you to volunteer, and hope that you will. Be proud of the time and effort you put in on behalf of Convergence Events, as it is an extremely valuable and highly appreciated gift you provide to our community.

By that same token, when volunteering for Convergence Events, you are agreeing to release and hold harmless Convergence Events from any and all liability, claims, demands, injuries, illness, death, or property damage resulting from your volunteering activities. Convergence Events does not maintain health, medical, or disability insurance coverage for any volunteer or contractor, and each volunteer and contractor is expected and encouraged to obtain their own medical and/or health insurance coverage.

VOLUNTEERS DEPARTMENT



CONvergence is a volunteer-run event and couldn't exist without countless hours of work from hundreds of dedicated fans. Some people spend dozens of hours helping at CONvergence (and more during the year); others volunteer for as little as an hour—each and every volunteer is valued. We appreciate any time you have to help! Many essential CONvergence functions are carried out by volunteers who are scheduled during CONvergence weekend. The Volunteers Department matches CONvergence members wanting to help with work that needs doing.

The benefits of volunteering are numerous—meeting new folks, volunteering with friends, supporting and growing the community, and helping to make CONvergence better than ever. But our volunteers are shown appreciation in a few other ways as well. Every volunteer, from those that give one hour all the way up to Uber Volunteers are needed to make CONvergence successful and are eligible for exclusive thank you gifts. Just one, single hour gets you a volunteer ribbon, water bottle, and an invitation to the volunteer party, which is held a few weeks after the convention. Hours earned also allow access to the Volunteer Den with a wonderful food, massages, and space to relax after volunteering. This year's volunteer t-shirt is awarded at fifteen hours. This t-shirt is unique each year and can't be purchased. In addition, earned hours can be redeemed for other gifts.

The Volunteers Department can be found in three locations at the convention this year, making it easy to find and connect with us when looking for volunteer opportunities. Our main location is in the South Tower of the DoubleTree by Hilton, sharing space with Registration in Veranda 1-4. Additionally, there are two outposts for volunteer sign ups and inquiries this year: one on the ground level of the DoubleTree by Hilton North Tower and one at the Sheraton with AuxBridge.

Hours for Main Volunteer Department (hours redemption, volunteer sign ups, and questions)

Wednesday 9:00am–6:00pm and 9:00pm–Midnight
Thursday 9:00am–Midnight
Friday 9:00am–9:00pm
Saturday 9:00am–8:00pm
Sunday 9:00am–8:00pm
Monday 10:00am–2:00pm

Hours for the North Tower Outpost (volunteer signups and questions)

Thursday Noon–1:00am
Friday Noon–1:00am
Saturday Noon–1:00am

Hours for the Sheraton Outpost (volunteer signups and questions)

Thursday 10:00am–8:00pm
Friday 10:00am–8:00pm
Saturday 10:00am–8:00pm
Sunday 10:00am–4:00pm

An advertisement for Funimation. At the top, a large monitor displays the character Goku from Dragon Ball Z. In front of the monitor are a tablet, a smartphone, and a game controller. The background is dark with a repeating pattern of the Funimation logo and various anime-related icons. Below the image, the text reads: "Start your 14-day free trial at funimation.com/subscribe". Underneath this are four buttons for downloading the app: "Download on the App Store", "GET IT ON Google Play", "Available on amazon", and "Get it from Microsoft". At the bottom, the Funimation NOW logo is displayed with the tagline "Stream Anime. Anytime. Anywhere." and a row of social media icons for Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, and YouTube, preceded by the text "Stay connected".

HOURS OF OPERATIONS

REGISTRATION

DoubleTree Verandas 1, 2, 3, and 4 (South Tower, 2nd Floor).

Wednesday 11:00am–6:00pm & 9:00pm–Midnight
Thursday 9:00am–Midnight
Friday 9:00am–9:00pm
Saturday 9:00am–8:00pm
Sunday Noon–3:00pm

Registration will accept only cash and credit cards.

OPERATIONS, THE BRIDGE, AND AUXBRIDGE

Located between the DoubleTree Front Desk and the Main Hotel entrance

Wednesday Noon–6:00pm
Open continuously from Thursday 8:00am–Sunday 7:00pm

Contact at Con

- Come directly to The Bridge
- Wandering Hosts: flag down staff wearing purple vests for assistance, or to radio a message to The Bridge
- Send an SMS text message to 651-800-1OPS (651-800-1677).

Operations/The AuxBridge

Located behind and above the Sheraton Garden Court

Thursday 10:00am–6:30pm
Friday 10:00am–6:30pm
Saturday 10:00am–6:30pm
Sunday 10:00am–4:00pm

ART SHOW

DoubleTree Plaza 6

Wednesday Noon–5:00pm (Artist Setup)
Thursday 10:00am–2:00pm (Artist Setup)
2:00pm–7:00pm
Friday 10:00am–8:00pm (Quick Sales Available)
Saturday 10:00am–6:00pm
9:00pm–11:00pm (Live Auction in Atr. 4)
Sunday 10:00am–2:00pm

ARTISTS ALLEY

Sheraton Hotel, Bloomington, Chadwick and Bailiff Ballrooms

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

CINEMA REX MOVIE ROOM

DoubleTree Plaza 4

Thursday 3:00pm–4:00am
Friday 9:30am–4:00am
Saturday 9:30am–4:00am
Sunday 9:30am–6:00pm

COFFEE FREE COFFEE SHOP

DoubleTree Cabanas 114-115

Thursday 5:00pm–Friday 6:00am
Friday Noon–Saturday 6:00am
Saturday Noon–Sunday 6:00am
Sunday Noon–3:00pm (may close earlier if coffee runs out)

SPACE LOUNGE

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

Thursday 9:00pm–2:00am
Friday 9:00pm–2:00am
Saturday 9:00pm–2:00am

CONNIE'S QUANTUM SANDBOX

DoubleTree Plaza 2

Thursday Noon–12:00am
Friday 9:00am–12:00am
Saturday 9:00am–12:00am
Sunday 9:00am–4:30pm

CONSUIE

DoubleTree Cabanas 214–220

Open continuously from Thursday 3:00pm–Sunday 5:00pm

CONVERGENCE MERCHANDISE

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

Thursday Noon–6:00pm
Friday 10:00am–6:00pm
Saturday 10:00am–6:00pm
Sunday 10:00am–4:00pm

CVG TEEN ROOM

DoubleTree Atrium 3

Thursday 2:00pm–1:00am
Friday 10:00am–1:00am
Saturday 10:00am–1:00am
Sunday 10:00am–6:00pm

DEALERS ROOM

Sheraton Hotel, Bloomington, Chadwick and Bailiff Ballrooms

Thursday 2:00pm–7:00pm
Friday 10:00am–6:00pm
Saturday 10:00am–6:00pm
Sunday 10:00am–4:00pm

HOURS OF OPERATIONS

GPS CHARITY AUCTION - SILENT

DoubleTree Atrium 8 (North Tower, 2nd Floor)

Thursday 5:00pm–8:00pm
 Friday 11:00am–8:00pm
 Saturday 11:00am–8:00pm
 Sunday 11:00am–2:00pm—Pick up only

GPS CHARITY AUCTION - LIVE AUCTION

DoubleTree Atrium 4 (2nd Floor, North Tower)
 Sunday 11:00am–?

MAINSTAGE

DoubleTree Grand Ballroom (South Tower, 2nd Floor)

See details outside the MainStage door

MASQUERADE

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

Thursday: 3:00pm–6:00pm
 Friday: 10:00am–1:00pm and 2:00pm–6:00pm
 Saturday: 9:00am–10:00am

Schedule for Participants

Saturday 8:00am–9:00am Performer Orientation
 (DoubleTree MainStage—Mandatory for performers)
 Saturday 9:00am–4:00pm Technical Rehearsal
 (DoubleTree MainStage—Performers will be assigned a 1-hour slot during this time)
 Saturday 9:00am–4:00pm Workmanship Judging
 (DoubleTree Green Room—Performer judging times will be assigned)

Masquerade Performance, DoubleTree MainStage/Grand Ballroom (2nd Floor, South Tower)

Saturday 5:30pm House Opens
 Saturday 6:00pm Masquerade Show Begins

Masquerade Art of the Dress

Thursday 3:00pm–6:00pm **Registration**
 Friday 10:00am–1:00pm **Registration**
 Friday 2:00pm–3:00pm **Registration**
 Friday 4:00pm **Orientation**
 Friday 5:00pm **Art of the Dress Begins**

Masquerade Costume Wars

Thursday 3:00pm–6:00pm **Registration**
 Friday 10:00am–1:00pm **Registration**

Costume Wars takes place in the Sheraton Garden Court

Friday 2:45pm **Orientation**
 Friday 3:00pm **Costume Wars Begin**

SMOKERS PARADISE

DoubleTree East Entrance Outside (Between North and South Towers)

Open continuously Thursday Noon–Monday 8:00am

THEATER NIPPON

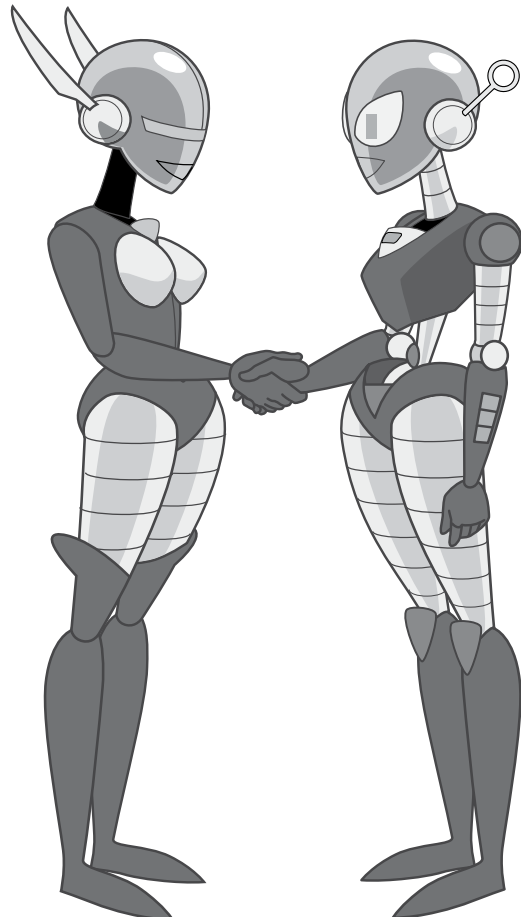
DoubleTree Atrium 1 (North Tower, 2nd Floor)

Thursday 2:00pm–3:00am Friday
 Friday 7:00am–3:00am Saturday
 Saturday 7:00am–3:00am Sunday
 Sunday 7:00am–3:00pm

VOLUNTEERS TABLE

DoubleTree Verandas 1, 2, 3, and 4 (South Tower, 2nd Floor, with Registration)

Wednesday 9:00am–6:00pm and 9:00pm–Midnight
 Thursday 9:00am–Midnight
 Friday 9:00am–9:00pm
 Saturday 9:00am–8:00pm
 Sunday 9:00am–8:00pm
 Monday 10:00am–2:00pm



NERF HERDERS

WHO ARE NERF HERDERS?

We get people to the events and places that they want. We streamline the lines, we keep the elevators going, and we check your badge. Members who volunteer with us help everyone enjoy a smooth experience.

WHAT ARE NERF HERDERS DOING?

Badging: Your member badge lets you access CONvergence activities and amenities. You get into MainStage events, free drinks and snacks, and many more privileges that your membership pays for. That's why we check every member's badge when passing into CONvergence areas.

Lines: Lines at CONvergence can be epic. Without a little help, lines can sprawl or branch in ways that confuse members waiting for an event. That's why we keep the flow of people moving in the same direction and not blocking traffic.

END
OF
LINE



Elevators: Members like you ride the elevators throughout the event. Several thousand people moving up and down all weekend stress the elevator system to the breaking point. It's in everyone's interest to keep them running. That's why we travel with you, keeping the load down to a level they can handle with ease. We also hang out in the lobby preparing groups to board the cars swiftly.

WHY ARE NERF HERDERS VOLUNTEERING?

Meet people: Nerf Herders are always saying hello to members like you as you're on the go. We like helping you feel positive about your time even if you're waiting for the next event.

Keep it smooth: We like solving problems, even when things get a little stressful. We try our best to communicate clearly so you can help us make everybody's experience better.

WHERE CAN I FIND NERF HERDERS?

We're always looking for volunteers. No prior experience is necessary for many roles, and you earn volunteer hours for any training you need. If you're interested in being a part of the Nerf Herders team, please stop by The Bridge near the DoubleTree by Hilton's front desk.



ACCESSIBILITY & INCLUSION

ACCESSIBILITY TABLE

Located opposite the DoubleTree by Hilton's Front Desk, the Accessibility Table staff is available to answer your accessibility-related questions and provide resources to make your CONvergence experience great!

Accessibility Table Hours

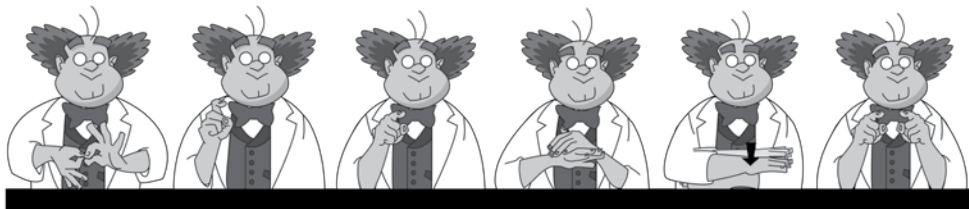
Thursday	10:00am–9:00pm
Friday	10:00am–9:00pm
Saturday	10:00am–7:00pm
Sunday	Noon–3:00pm

SENSORY BREAK ROOM

The Sensory Break Room is located in Atrium 5 on the second floor of the DoubleTree by Hilton. It is the ideal place to take a break from CONvergence with minimal distractions. Specifically, loud activity and other distracting behavior is discouraged. Sound and light will be filtered. Fidget toys and other activities will be available that visitors can use to quietly reenergize themselves. Napping, eating, and drinking beverages other than water are not allowed in the room.

Sensory Break Room Hours

Thursday	Noon–11:00pm
Friday	Noon–11:00pm
Saturday	Noon–11:00pm
Sunday	Noon–4:00pm



INTERPRETER NEED YOU? TABLE ACCESSIBILITY GO.

Do you need American Sign Language Interpretation?

ASL Interpreters are available by request through the Volunteers Table or The Bridge.

MEMBER ADVOCATES

Do you need ear to listen at Convergence? Have you found yourself overwhelmed while at the Con? Or do you need to connect to a department but don't know where to go? CONvergence Member Advocates are here to help!

Member Advocates are here for Convergence Members and ConCom.

They can guide you in the right direction to make sure that issues, ideas, and problems are addressed by the right department or be an ear to listen and connect you to the right resources for support. If you would like to utilize Member Advocates, simply stop by the Member Advocates table next to the Accessibility & Inclusion table in the DoubleTree by Hilton Lobby or email memberadvocates@convergence-con.org. You can also request a Member Advocate any time by visiting The Bridge.



CONVERGENCE SAFE SPACES

What is a CONvergence Safe Space?

Safe Spaces are locations within the convention that are, or can be made to be, places of heightened physical, intellectual, and/or emotional security.

If a member needs or desires help to feel that security, Safe Spaces either have volunteers present or are able to call volunteers to the location to assist anyone who is feeling unsafe.

Safe Spaces are a promise that assistance will be provided to anyone who seeks it, without judgment and without expressions of doubt.

Where are CONvergence Safe Spaces?

In the DoubleTree:

- The Bridge
- ConSuite
- Registration
- Space Lounge
- Gaming
- GPS Auction [Atrium 8]

- Programming Ops [Lobby Conference Room]
- GPS Clubhouse [Cabana 110]
- Anime Fusion [Cabana 129]
- Wonderland Tea Party [Cabana 207]

In the Sheraton:

- AuxBridge

If you are in a situation that makes you feel uncomfortable, causes you concern, or if something seems off and you feel that Operations should be made aware, please let us know. Find a Wandering Host. Come to The Bridge or AuxBridge. Send a text to **651-800-1-OPS (651-800-1677)**.

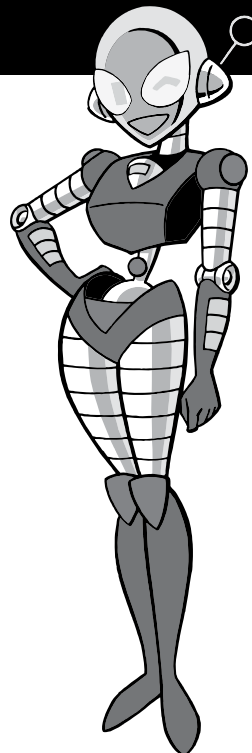
PARENTING LOUNGE

DoubleTree 222

Thursday 4:00pm–2:00am
Friday 9:00am–2:00am
Saturday 9:00am–2:00am
Sunday 9:00am–6:00pm

Need a quiet space at CONvergence to feed your child, change their diapers, express milk, get them a nap, or simply gather your wits? The Parenting Lounge is available all day to parents and caregivers with infants, young children, and children with special needs.

The Parenting Room contains a changing table, bassinet, baby swing, infant support pillows, and quiet forms of entertainment, such as coloring books and children's toys. Children must be attended at all times.



SHUTTLES

There are several shuttles available throughout the CONvergence convention weekend, both shuttling between the DoubleTree by Hilton and Sheraton Bloomington for CONvergence programming, and stopping at overflow hotels and overflow parking

CONVERGENCE SHUTTLE SERVICE

The CONvergence 2018 Shuttle Service is available from Thursday July 5 to Sunday July 8 and it is free for all CONvergence members.

Route A

Accessible shuttle making continuous trips approximately every 15 minutes.

Thursday 11:00am–3:00am
Friday 8:00am–3:00am
Saturday 8:00am–3:00am
Sunday 8:00am–5:00pm

- Stop 1–Doubletree by Hilton Main Entrance (Departing :00 & :30)
- Stop 2–Sheraton Bloomington Main Entrance (Departing :15 & :45)

Route B

ADA motorcoach making continuous trips approximately once per hour.

Thursday 11:00am–3:00am
Friday 8:00am–3:00am
Saturday 8:00am–3:00am
Sunday 8:00am–4:00pm

- Stop 1–DoubleTree by Hilton Main Entrance (Departing :00)
- Stop 2–LifeTouch Overflow Parking
- Stop 3–Crowne Plaza
- Stop 4–La Quinta Inn & Suites (within walking distance of Country Inn & Suites and Hilton Garden Inn)
- Stop 5–Hilton Minneapolis Bloomington
- Stop 6–Holiday Inn Express
- Stop 7–Guest House (formerly Park Plaza)
- Stop 8–Days Inn
- Stop 9–Dairy Queen Overflow Parking

Route C

Standard school bus making continuous trips approximately once per hour.

Thursday 11:00am–3:00am
Friday 8:00am–3:00am
Saturday 8:00am–3:00am
Sunday 8:00am–4:00pm

- Stop 1–DoubleTree by Hilton Main Entrance (Departing :20 & :40)
- Stop 2–Dairy Queen Overflow Parking
- Stop 3–Days Inn
- Stop 4–Guest House (formerly Park Plaza)

- Stop 5–Holiday Inn Express
- Stop 6–Hilton Minneapolis Bloomington
- Stop 7–La Quinta Inn & Suites (within walking distance of Country Inn & Suites and Hilton Garden Inn)
- Stop 8–Crowne Plaza
- Stop 9–LifeTouch Overflow Parking

Route D (Overnight)

Accessible shuttle making continuous trips overnight as needed.

Friday 3:00am–8:00am
Saturday 3:00am–8:00am
Sunday 3:00am–8:00am

- Stop 1–DoubleTree by Hilton Main Entrance
- Stop 2–Sheraton Bloomington Main Entrance
- Stop 3–LifeTouch Overflow Parking
- Stop 4–Crowne Plaza
- Stop 5–La Quinta Inn & Suites (within walking distance of Country Inn & Suites and Hilton Garden Inn)
- Stop 6–Hilton Minneapolis Bloomington
- Stop 7–Holiday Inn Express
- Stop 8–Guest House (formerly Park Plaza)
- Stop 9–Days Inn
- Stop 10–Dairy Queen Overflow Parking

CONvergence Shuttle Map

An interactive map of CONvergence 2018 shuttle routes can be accessed any time at cvgcon.org/shuttlemap.

Additional Shuttle Information

Each accessible van shuttle can transport up to two wheelchairs or scooters per trip and can accommodate 30 additional passengers (18 seated, 12 standing.) The ADA motorcoach can transport up to two wheelchairs or scooters per trip and can accommodate 56 passengers. The standard school bus can transport 50 passengers. For more information on accessibility at CONvergence, see our Accessibility page.

Tipping the drivers would be greatly appreciated if you use the CONvergence shuttle service, as gratuity is not included in the cost of providing the service to our members.

There is no smoking while outside waiting for the CONvergence shuttles. CONvergence members may smoke in the DoubleTree by Hilton's East Courtyard, Smokers Paradise.

Your overflow hotel may have an additional shuttle available by request that could transport you to CONvergence. It's a good idea to check with the front desk.

ART SHOW

DoubleTree Plaza 6

Wednesday Noon–5:00pm (Artist Setup)
Thursday 10:00am–2:00pm (Artist Setup)
Thursday 2:00pm–7:00pm
Friday 10:00am–8:00pm (Quick Sales Available)
Saturday 10:00am–6:00pm
Saturday 9:00pm–11:00pm (Live Auction in Atrium 4)
Sunday 10:00am–2:00pm

Please note: The Art Show does not censor artwork. Parental guidance is advised.

The CONvergence Art Show is a silent auction featuring artwork from across the country for you to browse and bid on, as well as a print shop with art available for retail purchase. Come visit the gallery and see what the artists have brought to showcase this year. There are always unique offerings available for a wide variety of artistic tastes! Saturday evening of the convention features a live Art Auction, where artwork that has received sufficient bids in the Art Show's silent auction is then offered for sale in a live auction format. Part of the fun is watching the antics of our auctioneers as they sell some spectacular pieces!



ARTISTS ALLEY

Sheraton Hotel, Chadwick and Bailiff Ballrooms

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

We are back this year at the fabulous Sheraton Hotel. Please make sure you come over and see us—Artists Alley is a great way to talk to artists face-to-face about their work and process, and to get yourself some cool custom art created during the convention. We look forward to seeing you there!

SHERATON MAP

SHERATON HOTEL (LOWER LEVEL)



Garden Court and the Dealers Room are on a level slightly below the level of the Quinn and Pond - Ames rooms. The only wheelchair access is the elevator off the Main Lobby at Street Level.

 Indicates Garden Court / Dealers Room level.

(LOBBY LEVEL)



DOUBLETREE MAP

DOUBLETREE BY HILTON HOTEL

1ST FLOOR PLAZA ROOMS

- Plaza 1 Programming
- Plaza 2 Connie's Quantum Sandbox
- Plaza 3 Programming
- Plaza 4 Cinema Rex Movie Room
- Plazas 5-6 Art Show
- Plaza 7 Photography

BETWEEN NORTH & SOUTH TOWERS

- Lobby Conference Room
- Programming Ops

1ST FLOOR CABANAS

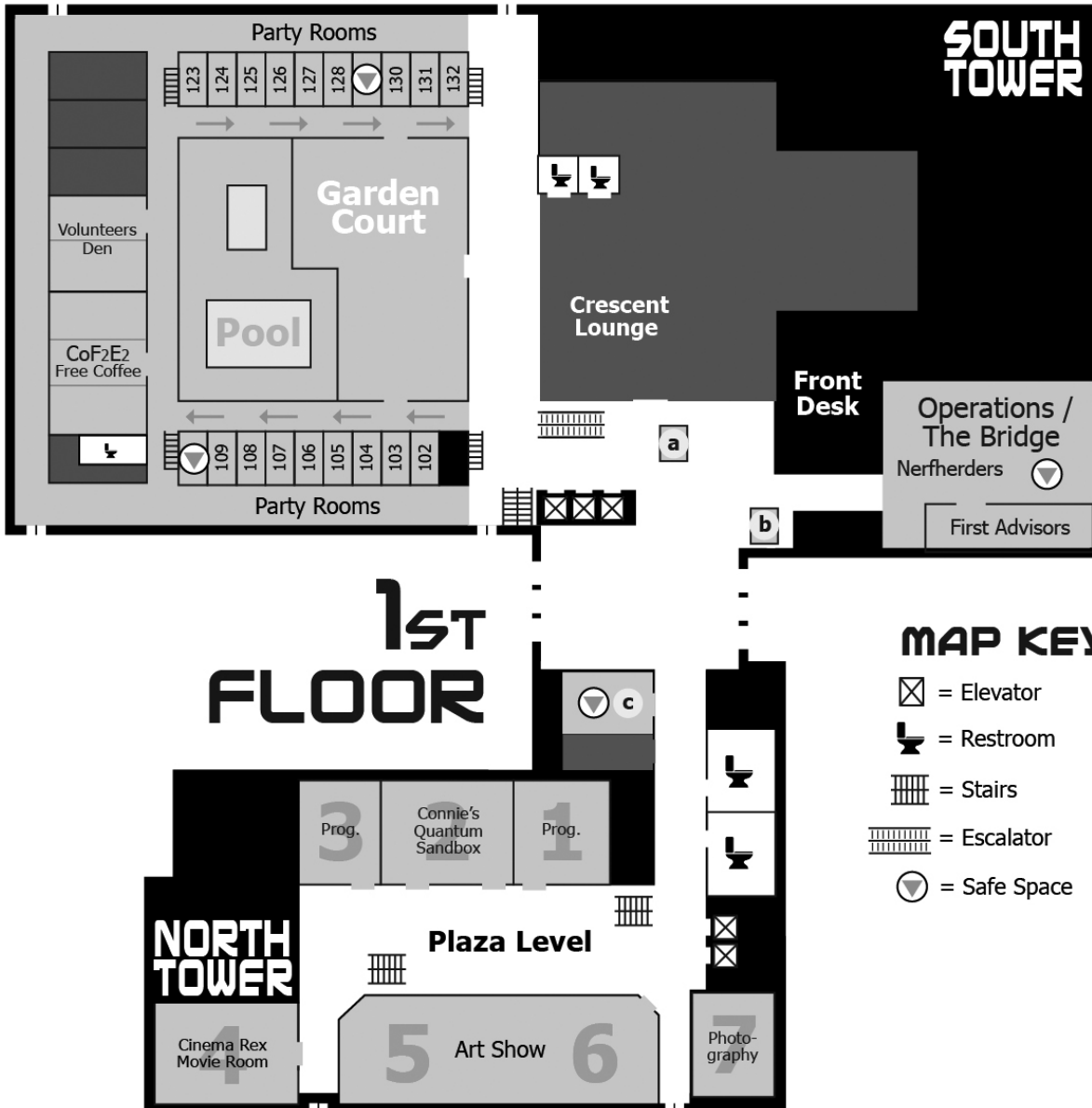
- Cabana 114-115 CoF2E2 Free Coffee Shop
- Cabana 117-118 Volunteers Den

THE BRIDGE (OPERATIONS) 1ST FLOOR NEXT TO FRONT DESK

- Main Room Operations Central
- Platform Nerfherders
- Sub Room 1 First Advisors

2ND FLOOR ATRIUMS

- Atrium 1 Theater Nippon
- Atrium 2 Programming
- Atrium 3 Teen Room
- Atrium 4 Programming
- Atrium 5 Sensory Break Room
- Atrium 6 Programming
- Atrium 7 Programming
- Atrium 8 GPS Charity Auction



DOUBLETREE MAP

CONVERGENCE CENTRAL

Grand Ballroom Coat Check Merchandise Table
Ballroom Foyer Fan Tables

BETWEEN NORTH & SOUTH TOWERS

Edina Room Programming
Bloomington Rm. Programming

VERANDAS

Verandas 6,8 Space Lounge
Verandas 2-4 CONvergence Registration

GRAND BALLROOMS

Ballrooms MainStage
Veranda 5 MainStage Green Room

2ND FLOOR CABANAS

Cabanas 214-215, 218-221 ConSuite
Cabana 216-217 ConSuite Gaming
Cabana 222 Parenting Lounge

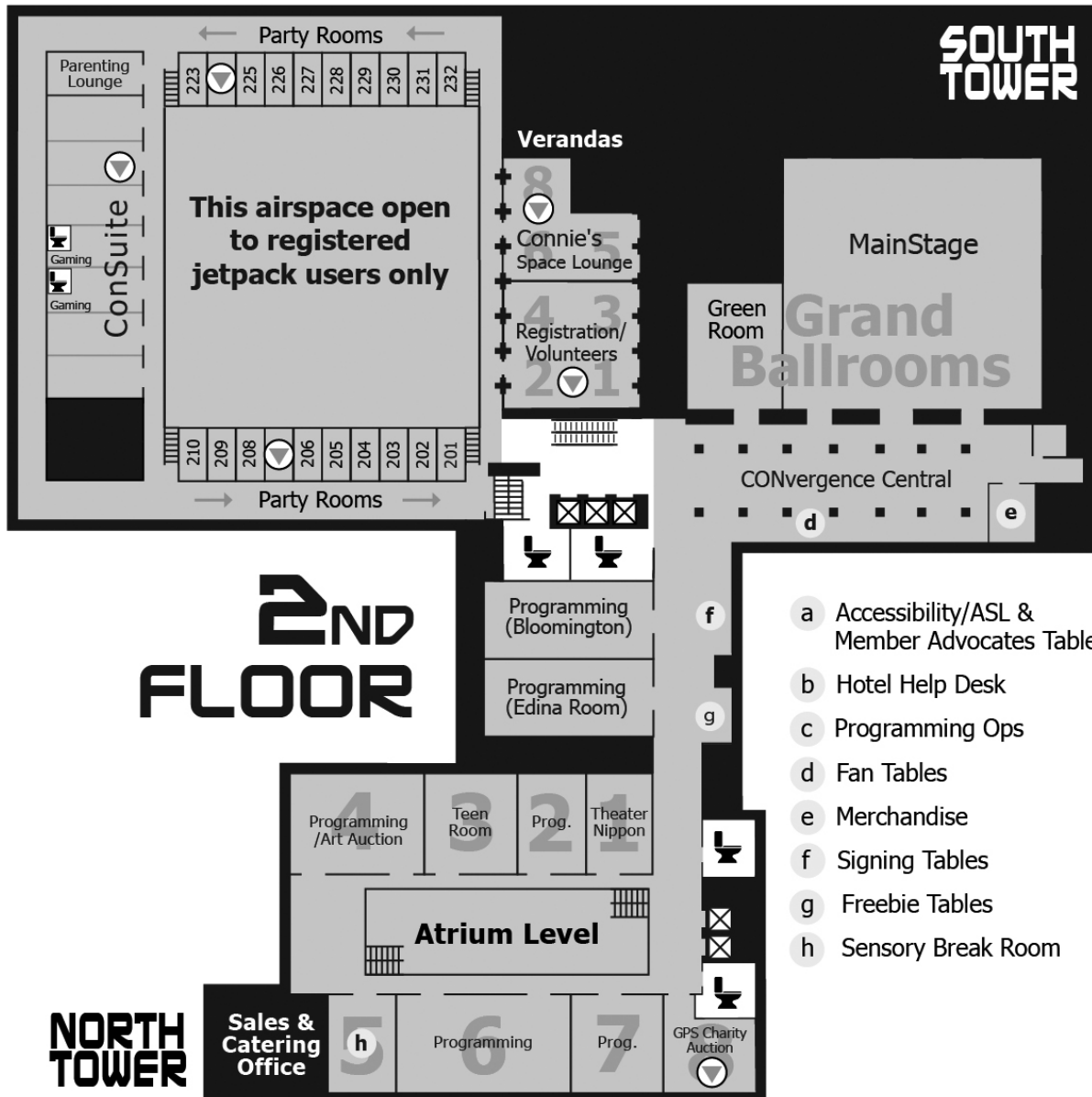
(NOT PICTURED)

SOUTH TOWER UPPER FLOORS

22nd Floor Gaming Suites

OUTSIDE




East Entrance Courtyard Smoker's Paradise

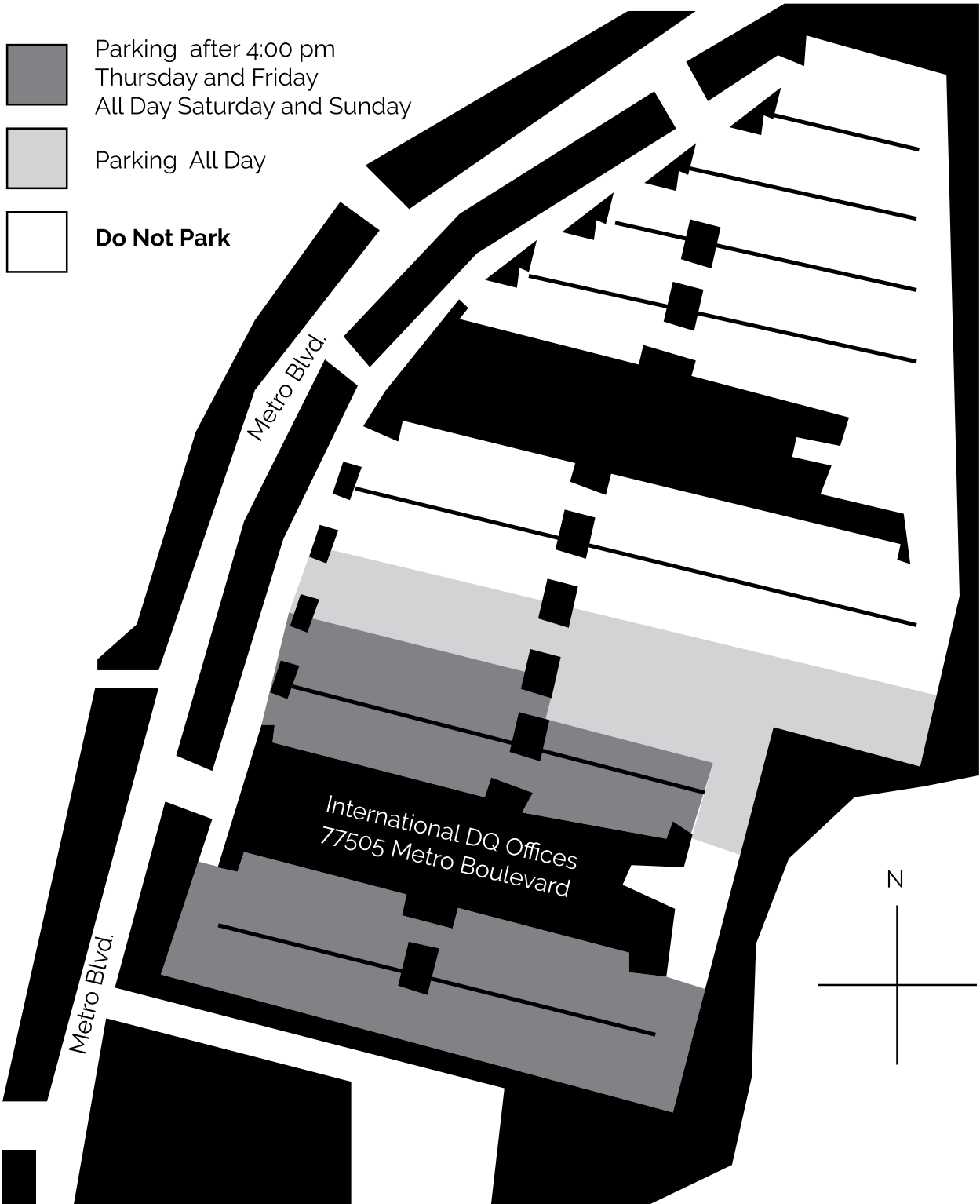


DAIRY QUEEN PARKING MAP

7505 Metro Blvd., Edina (North of the DoubleTree)

Please check the CONvergence website for parking time updates before the convention

-  Parking after 4:00 pm
Thursday and Friday
All Day Saturday and Sunday
-  Parking All Day
-  Do Not Park



GUESTS OF HONOR



ELEANOR ARNASON

By Carly Buchanan

interview of her by Lyda Morehouse on *Strange Horizons* and discovered its genesis: Jesse Helms' crusade against using National Endowment for the Arts Grants to fund gay artists. Eleanor says that the driving force behind many of the stories is to play with the cultural ideas that heterosexuality is the defacto natural way to express human sexuality, and that homosexuality is inherently wrong. She said, "how about a culture where people are normally gay, and where heterosexuality is the perversion." It was a book intended to turn all of Jesse Helms ideas upside down and give him a "cardiac arrest"

In the Hwarhath culture Eleanor lays out some really quite excellent arguments against heterosexuality. A very solid challenge to our preconceived notions of the "normal" way to have family units. If all sex for pleasure is gay sex, then there are no unwanted/unplanned children. A political debate that is sure to get traction around just about any family dinner table today.

So what started as a dig to Jesse Helms turned into a very intellectually and politically charged world exploring a different way to handle society's morals and mores.

Most recently Eleanor was part of an anthology published in 2017 called *Infinity Wars*, edited by Jonathan Strahan. This is an exploration of military science fiction as technology and war machines become ever more disastrous and deadly. Another 2018 Guest of Honor, Elizabeth Bear, was also featured in this book, so it's doubly worth the time to check out!

There is a lot to unpack in all of Eleanor Arnason's work. here and in her other work. That's why reading her stories, novels and poetry is not only entertaining but challenging. What do I assume? What do I believe? What do I like or not like and why?

Eleanor Arnason, thank you for exploring ideas along the paths less traveled with such inimitable style!

Local author Eleanor Arnason has been quietly questioning cultural norms and assumptions through her storytelling since the 1970s. A prolific writer, her poetry and short stories highlight her gift for language and challenging ideas. Her first contact novel, *A Woman of the Iron People* (1991), is described as anthropological science fiction and co-won the first ever James Tiptree, Jr. Award (an award encouraging the exploration and expansion of gender) as well as the Mythopoeic Fantasy Award (an award for writing in the spirit of the Inklings, Tolkien and Lewis' writing group).

Since the beginning of her career she has led the way in creating culturally and racially diverse worlds and characters. In her sci-fi folk tale collection *Big Mama Stories* (2013), the mamas and poppas travel through space and time, watching and sometimes helping humanity with all of its follies and foibles. In "Big Brown Mama and Brer Rabbit," one mama helps the trickster of folklore known as Brer Rabbit return to his natural form after being trapped in a human body. Brer Rabbit shares his story of being an African American man living through the Depression and on into the Civil Rights era, and he and Big Brown Mama decide to do everything they can to help humanity evolve into their full potential.

The Hwarhath universe she created has proven to be a particularly fascinating place to visit through the novel *Ring of Swords* (1993) and a number of short stories. I read a 2004

GUESTS OF HONOR

ELIZABETH BEAR

By Scott Lynch

So, I married a Wookiee.

Not a biological Wookiee, but a part-time preferential Wookiee. It's what she plays every time we roll dice in that galaxy far, far away. I think it must be the quiet nobility of the species that attracts her... the affinity with nature... the technical acumen. The, um, ability to rip arms out of sockets. She is delicate and subtle, my wife. She appreciates these little grace notes. Be careful when shaking hands with her.

I also married a dwarf.

Strange to say, considering my own frequent visitor discount at the hair care concession in Lothlorien, but she's a confirmed partisan on behalf of the under-mountain set, the doom-haunted delvers. No skipping around singing in the woodlands for her. It's all about the stoic glowering, the dark secrets, and the smashing of things with warhammers.

Someday, she will figure out a way to get a Wookiee adopted into a dwarven clan, and I, long-suffering GM, will simply sigh and remind myself that this is what happens when you marry an atomic-powered genre-blending singularity like Elizabeth Bear.

Elizabeth Bear is a bibliographer's nightmare. The novels and novellas and novelettes and short stories and essays just keep rolling along. A few years ago, she expressed some worry that she had run out of things to say or enthusiasm for saying them. That lasted about a week. At the moment, she's juggling an intermittent steampunk series, a long-running fantasy epic, and a brand-new space opera. Most biographic capsules of Bear could burn about 97% of their space simply laying out the list, and for a change I'm not going to do that. Google "Elizabeth Bear," but be sure to pack a meal and bring some friends. The quest is long, the titles are many, and even she is no longer certain how many short stories she has written and sold at any given moment.

Instead of listing books and stories, I'm going to tell you a little bit more about the woman who writes them. She digs Wookiees. She digs dwarves. She loves octopi, and if they take the lead in the race for sapience after humanity blasts itself into evolutionary oblivion, Bear will give them a very cheerful posthumous wave on their way up. She has four Hugo Awards and a vast collection of antique or esoteric fountain pens. She speaks fluent pen-nerd with a global circle of fellow pen otaku and she has more kinds of ink than an artistic squid. She gardens, which is a magic sort of thing to a creature like me. My green thumb works so powerfully in reverse that I once let a cactus die of dehydration.



Bear founded her high school roleplaying club, then went to the only college in the United States that offers a four-year program for puppetry. She plays guitar, runs half-marathons, rock-climbs, pumps heavy iron, and makes her own vanilla, chocolate, and cherry liqueurs from natural ingredients and rocket-fuel vodka. I'd call her a Renaissance woman, but that's not fair, because she's a little bit Elizabethan, Victorian, Edwardian, Art Deco, Space Age, Post-Apocalyptic, and 24th Century, too.

She lives in Massachusetts most of the year, and at a variety of astrobiology conferences, writing workshops, and conventions the rest of the time. She and her husband/humble biographer are jointly owned by an elderly Briard dog named Ace and three energetic cats named Duncan, Gurney, and Molly. As of this writing, she is preparing to buy an Icelandic pony. I don't know what she'll be up to by the time the convention begins in July—I have just realized that even a bullet-point summary of her interests was a fool's errand. She might even be queen of the world by then; the volcano base is almost ready, though I'm not supposed to know that.

I do have reasonable hope that I might survive her inevitable conquest of the globe. After all, she'll still need me to run *Star Wars* games for her.

GUESTS OF HONOR



WESLEY CHU

By Tanya Brody

Io, all of which take place in a world where two factions of an alien race inhabit humans in a symbiotic relationship kind of way (mostly) and are fighting a shadow war to dominate or destroy the planet as the rest of us go about our daily lives.

He's also continued the *Time Salvager* story, where "chronman" James Griffin-Mars saves someone he shouldn't have as he goes back in time to salvage resources a crumbling and toxic humanity now needs, all without disturbing the timeline. (Needless to say, he disturbs things a bit.) *Time Siege* picks up the story where James continues to rescue people in the hopes of saving Earth and racks up a long list of enemies in the process.

Time Salvager has been optioned to Paramount with Michael Bay listed as the director.

Most importantly, Wes's best release has been his son, Hunter, whom he and his wife Paula were happy to welcome into the world in July of 2016.

Here's the thing about Wes, and Wes's books.

They're engaging.

Wes is a great guy and will talk to you for hours about the things he loves, like martial arts, his family and his dog, Eva.

His books are really hard to put down. I tore through the first 3 Tao books in a week and a half. Like, staying up until 2 am to finish "just one more chapter" when I knew I had work projects due the next day. I haven't read that much since I was in high school and was reading tons of science fiction as well as text books for class.

Wes writes characters who are easy to become invested in. His stories are exciting and have lots of twists and turns. You want to find out what happens. You want to know whether they all survive. And you want to read more, once you've finished the book. To me, that is the mark of a truly good author.

Fortunately for those of us who have become invested in Wes's characters and stories, he keeps writing.

We're very happy to be hosting Wes as a Guest of Honor for the second time, as part of CONvergence's 20th anniversary. Go see his panels. Check out his books. Chat with him in the halls or at a reading. You'll be happy you did.

I first learned about Wesley Chu when C. Robert Cargill told me we should have him as a Guest of Honor for CONvergence.

"This guy is great! He's an actor, a stuntman, a writer, and he does kung fu!" Cargill gushed.

Okay, I admit. I was interested.

I met Wesley later that CONvergence weekend at a writer's party in a friend's hotel room. He was engaging, utterly charming and was definitely interested in being a Guest of Honor in future years. I said I'd put him on our list (which is long and can take a few years to get through.)

I asked around the writing and editing community and heard nothing but good things about Wes. He's an Alex Award winning science fiction novelist and he won the John W. Campbell Best New Writer Award in 2015. He was also a finalist for the 2013 Goodreads Choice Awards for Best Science Fiction.

So, we recommended him to the board and in 2015, we hosted him as a Guest of Honor for the first time. This was when his first two books, *The Lives of Tao* and *The Deaths of Tao* had been out for a while. His (then) newest book, *Time Salvager*, was just about to be released. I remember that he read from that one at the convention.

Since then, Wes has written several more Tao books, including *The Rebirth of Tao*, *The Days of Tao* and *The Rise of*

GUESTS OF HONOR

AMAL EL-MOHTAR

By Elise Matthesen

Amal El-Mohtar is the Oracle of Buses. She gets on a bus in Ottawa, tweets “The Oracle of Buses takes her seat, a fire in her heart’s hearth for every person sorrowing in what is some folk’s time of plenty. Approach. Ask her anything.” For however long the ride takes, she receives questions. Some she answers. At the end of the ride, she tweets, “The Oracle stands & sways amid unanswered questions, wishing she could gather them up & carry them with her. She cannot—but thanks you for them all the same, dons her gloves, & steps off the bus.

Being the Oracle of Buses is just her part-time job. Amal’s full-time work is a kaleidoscope of overlapping titles: science fiction and fantasy columnist for the New York Times Book Review, storyteller, poet, essayist, and Banjo Apocalypse Crinoline Troubadours band member. LeVar Burton called her “the seriously talented Amal El-Mohtar” when he chose her short story, “The Truth About Owls,” to read on his podcast this January. (Her reaction was to tweet, “Look at this beautiful alternate timeline no wait is this the real timeline everything’s spinning I need to lie down.”)

For Saga Press’ *The Starlit Wood: New Fairy Tales* anthology, Amal writes a story about two women, shoes of iron, a hill of glass, quests and golden apples. “Seasons of Glass and Iron” wins the 2016 Nebula Award, the 2017 Hugo Award, and the 2017 Locus Award for Best Short Story.

Lady Gaga, David Bowie, Freddy Mercury, and Madonna grace a deck of fortune-telling cards in Amal’s “Tarot de Gaga.” She deploys images from Lady Gaga’s “Bad Romance” music video to scry the fantastical, applying divinatory tactics to art. What is the fate of beauty, the beauty of fate?

In an interview by Dominik Parisien, Amal says, “I think that telling a story and being told a story are inherently magical acts. When we tell a story, we are changing the world, forcing it to conform to a narrative that is not there until we make it; when we hear a story, we are ourselves being changed as that narrative enters us, and changed again as it leaves us. To use such a profoundly powerful act only mimetically seems to me painfully limiting and mundane. It is amazing that we tell stories; why not tell amazing stories?”

There’s a dream-crafter in Damascus, sculpting gems and metal into devices permitting entry into particular dreams in “To Follow the Waves.” It’s a tale of intricate machineries and



the power and perils of artisanship. Amal also wrote an essay, “Winding Down the House: Towards a Steampunk Without Steam,” about the writing of “To Follow the Waves.” She talks of taking steampunk apart — out of love. Taking things apart, examining them, and putting them back together in better, less limited ways — isn’t that the heart of the steampunk imperative?

Friendship and exile, sacrifice and connection. Insider and outsider. Amal’s protagonist Emily in “A Hollow Play,” is used to people asking particular questions. “Where are you from? ‘Canada.’ ‘Yeah, yeah, where are your PARENTS from?’ Follow Emily into the cabaret, into her notebook, and down to the water’s edge, if you are brave enough.

All the poems. All the essays. All the reviews. The stories. The collection, if that is what *The Honey Month* is. (I think it’s an alchemical work of synesthetic fantasy turning the taste of twenty-eight different honeys into twenty-eight different written artworks.) And then all the delights of listening to Amal on panels, unfolding possibilities and inviting questions.

Pick up the kaleidoscope. Be willing to see through it, and change. Let Amal El-Mohtar take you deep into the colors and patterns where brilliant broken meanings shift and juxtapose, bringing surprise and recognition.

GUESTS OF HONOR



LINDSAY ELLIS

By Wednesday Ezaki

I believe that the best part of these videos is how or why they are important, what makes them good and what makes them bad. My personal favorites of her essays tend to be her Disney ones, because of the sheer knowledge that she has on the people who made the movies and why they were made, and she tends to put a different view on them than I usually see because of it.

Aside from her video essays, she has many different series on her channel, including Loose Cannon which is a series where she takes a character fictional or real, and talks about the history of their presence in media. She talks about how the character is portrayed by different people, different movies and directors, and the different types of portrayals they have. And when I say history, I mean the WHOLE history, from their very first portrayal all the way to today (or whenever the video was made). She also picks the person that she will be talking about based on votes from her viewers and her Patreon.

At one point in her series *The Whole Plate: Transformers and Film Studies*, an introduction to film studies featuring Michael Bay's *Transformer* movies, she talks about feminist theory. She specifically talks about Meghan Fox, and the actually progressive themes that she has, but how she is framed to contradict that. When is the last time you heard that Meghan Fox in *Transformers* is a progressive female character that has good line and a good story? Probably never. And this is exactly why Lindsay is so fantastic! She talks about things that aren't discussed or are misunderstood and why they are misunderstood.

Lindsay is always working on cool new projects. One of them is a video essay mini-series running alongside of PBS's *The Great American Read*. You can catch that this summer on PBS digital studios.

Of course, this brief overview, doesn't even touch the surface of the awesomeness of Lindsay Ellis and what she has created and done. Her satire and look on things is honestly unique, and always interesting. I cannot wait to see what she brings to *convergence 2018*. All I know is that it will be witty, sarcastic, and fantastic, please let's welcome her with open arms, and show her a great time here in Minnesota!

Ok, so I'm going to be real with you all for a moment here, when I found out last year that Lindsay Ellis is going to be a guest of honor this year, I kinda lost it and I have not shut up about it to my friends since. So when I got asked to write her bio, it happened again. Let me tell you why Lindsay Ellis is really freaking awesome.

Lindsay is most known for her video essays where she talks at length about different movies and their effect on the company that made them, the actors, and media. She uses her background in film theory and her masters from USC School of Cinematic Arts to back up what she is saying and give an educated view on whatever she is talking about.

All of her video essays are well researched and well thought out and explained; and always contain some form of alcohol and large amounts of sarcasm. Her videos are about everything from film theory and Disney to the importance of framing and themes in popular movies. She gives her opinions both good and bad and talks about interesting facts that many do not know about the history of these movies, companies, and shows. For instance, I love how she's talked about the Smurfette Principle, where shows or movies that are geared more towards boys add a female character to appeal to girls and bring in more money.

GUESTS OF HONOR

PAUL CORNELL

By Lee Harris

I first became aware of the entity we have come to know as “Paul Cornell” back in 2005. *Doctor Who* had just returned to our screens after a sixteen-year mid-season break (yes, I know there was also a TV movie in ‘96; yes, I know McGann was brilliant in it) and I watched a documentary about some of the writers that helped bring it back. There were four young men onscreen, each talking excitedly about what *Doctor Who* meant to them, and how excited they were to be part of its rebirth. They were: Steven Moffatt, Mark Gatiss, Robert Shearman and our very own Mr. Cornell. And, oh! how excited, they were. That’s the thing about Paul – he’s enthusiastic!

But I didn’t meet Paul until 2009. It was at a convention in the north of England. We were introduced by a mutual friend, and he seemed like a decent sort of guy. My predominant memory of him at that convention was his expression after he came out from a screening of the first episode of the new season of *Doctor Who*. He was grinning so widely I was worried his head would become detached from the jaw, upwards. The squee was still with him.

Because as good as he is at writing (and he is good) and as professional as he is in all his work endeavors (and he is professional), Paul is first and foremost a fan. That’s important. He loves science fiction and fantasy in all its forms with a passion, and I know he feels blessed to have been able to make a successful career in it throughout his entire working life. That’s the thing about Paul – he’s *fannish*.

And oh, my goodness! – the things he writes! He’s wonderful at crafting prose at all lengths – short stories, novellas, novels, series. He’s a great screenwriter (see *Doctor Who*, of course, also *Elementary*, *Pulse*, *Primeval*, *Robin Hood* and more). His comics are never less than fun (too many to list here, but his *Wisdom* and *Saucer Country* are two my favorites). He’s also written a bunch of audio plays and a lot of non-fiction. That’s the thing about Paul – he’s *versatile*.

He’s also quick to point out injustice where he sees it. He’s never afraid to put his head above the parapet to call out unreasonable behavior or to stand up for his friends, his community and society, even though he knows he may get targeted for it. He’s a good man, constantly striving to be better.

That’s the thing about Paul – he’s *fair*.



I remember getting a phone call from him. I was buying a new phone at that moment, so I let it go to voicemail. When I left the store I listened to the message, and as I listened, I bounced along with the words that he left, just as I imagined Paul would have done as he spoke them. That’s the thing about Paul – he’s *bouncy*.

He’s won a bunch of awards, and he has been nominated for five Hugo Awards in three separate categories for his *Doctor Who* scripts, his comic writing and his podcasting (winning for Best Fancast in both 2012 and 2013). That’s the thing about Paul – he’s *talented*.

And whenever Paul and I are at the same convention, if I’m running a panel game show, I always invite him – he brings good value. He’s articulate, he’s erudite and he always makes people laugh. That’s the thing about Paul – he’s *funny*.

So – enthusiastic, fannish, versatile, fair, bouncy, talented and funny.

Yeah. That’s the thing about Paul.

GUESTS OF HONOR



LEE HARRIS

By Paul Cornell

to come up with some new business venture to make us rich. Somewhere along the way, I decided Lee would be an exciting random factor in the life of my son, Tom, and asked him to be a Godfather. Unwrapping presents is still a bit of a white knuckle ride. His Dad Jokes are rather more Dad-like than my Dad Jokes, which I believe is the best basis for Godfatherdom.

Professionally, since I've known him, Lee has moved from strength to strength. He was made Senior Editor at Angry Robot books, where he presided over the rise of Lauren Beukes, then moved to Tor.com Publishing, also as Senior Editor, to launch their monthly line of SF and Fantasy novellas, including my own *Lychford* books. In that time, he's also been the Chair of the British Fantasy Society, which, as I've seen close-up, is a career in itself.

Lee has been the editor of some extraordinary, award-winning books, including *Every Heart a Doorway* by Seanan McGuire, *Binti* by Nnedi Okorafor, *Zoo City* by Lauren Beukes and *All Systems Red* by Martha Wells. We share, I think, a mission, which is to spread the love for literary SF and fantasy. That mission takes Lee into territories such as CONvergence, where 'media' fandom can meet literary fandom. I believe we share the belief, also, that the lit side of that encounter needs to keep up with how much fun the media side is having. Hence Lee's commitment to running panel games and generally doing more of the sort of things an actor guest, rather than an editor guest, would usually be doing. I'm his standard patsy for *Ready, Steady, Flash* for example, a game where he's called upon to entertain the audience with his comic patter while I fail utterly to write a story at high speed.

I can promise you (terms and conditions apply) that if you go to any of Lee's panels this weekend you'll be entertained, but don't let the comedic exterior distract you from the crunchy editorial goodness inside.

Lee Harris is the only British person to ever be nominated for Best Editor at the Hugo Awards in both Long Form and now Short Form categories. This is really quite surprising, but it's by no means the only thing about Lee that's surprising, or unique.

For instance, Lee is the first person to have directed a professional theatre production of a Terry Pratchett novel (*Eric*, in 2003), and the only person to have directed a stage adaptation of a Robert Rankin novel (*The Antipope*, in 2004). He comes from a theatrical background, having worked in a children's theatre company at Butlin's holiday camp in Ayr, where he met his wife, then a redcoat. (American readers may need to search for some of the words I'm using here.)

I first met him, at a convention, when he was editing a science fiction and fantasy magazine called *Hub* that was distributed by email, but paid professional rates for stories. He's always been someone with an eye for a business opportunity or gamble, the only person I know who would note that an event we were at was being held at a casino, and on his way out try his luck at a game entirely new to him... and win. The World Science Fiction Convention being held in Reno was his opportunity to lead my wife off to play poker.

That theatrical background manifests itself in a love for musical theatre and an insanely professional approach to karaoke. The gambling instinct means that for a long time Lee and I would spend our time in convention bars trying

GUESTS OF HONOR

INFORMATION SOCIETY

By Skaht Hansen

One summer day in the early 90's, I joined a couple of online friends I knew from the BBS scene for a day-long road trip. The purpose was to attempt to visit and photograph as many Big Boy Burger statues as we could manage in one day, which meant a lot of driving from town to town where we thought there might be a Big Boy Burger- location resources in the 90's were much more limited. For musical entertainment, our driver had brought along her entire collection of Information Society tapes.

At that time, I believe the extent of my knowledge about Information Society (InSoc, as I was instructed on that trip) was that they used a sample of Spock on the "What's On Your Mind (Pure Energy)" 12" single. Honestly, though, being a child of the era when MTV's purpose was to play music videos, it was difficult to miss their impact.

From their beginnings in the early 80's at Macalester College in St. Paul, singer Kurt Harland Larson and rhythm mastermind Paul Robb built the band as an amalgamation of art performance and a fusion of early electronic music styles. Soon afterwards bassist James Cassidy joined the group (along with a variety of personnel over the years too extensive to list here), rounding off the core of the original members that remain to this day. Their new free-styling electronic rhythms eventually got the attention of the ever-evolving dance club scene in New York just as house music was beginning to emerge from Detroit and Chicago. A well-performing Minneapolis-released 12" single for "Running" led to a major-label deal and relocation to the Big Apple, and soon Information Society was one of the top synthpop bands in the world.

But aside from now being a big name in the world of pop music, Information Society always recognized and embraced that they were a part of the new digital culture. Years before Daft Punk would sing about common computer functions, InSoc made use of their practical application. The band's first major-label CD, the self-titled "Information Society," was released in the short-lived CD+G format, incorporating images of production notes from the album. Their 1992 album "Peace and Love, Inc." includes a track meant to be decoded by a 300-baud modem (something my road-trip companions had actually done). Even the title of 2014's "Hello World" is a nod to learning computer languages, but the album also brilliantly contains a track with a hidden message that can be seen with an audio spectrogram.

In addition, geek influence is apparent in every aspect of the music and the band's identity. From the aforementioned



Spock sample to a song about Charlie-X from TOS (and many other Star Trek references and samples), the band's video for "Think" arguably has a Gibson-era cyberpunk aesthetic and the album cover for "Hack" has Kurt's own Mad Max-esque vehicle on it. Incidentally, Kurt Harland is a frequent host of Deathguild Thunderdome, a "Mad Max: Beyond Thunderdome" inspired geodesic dome where people are actually attached to bungee harnesses and launched at each other wielding padded plastic weapons that appears annually at Burning Man and at special events in San Francisco.

Outside of InSoc, there's no shortage of geek and fandom cred. Kurt has been principal composer on a number of platform video games, Paul Robb worked with Trey Parker and Matt Stone on music for South Park and Orgazmo, and James Cassidy is a well-respected researcher and educator in crop and soil sciences and advocate of organic growing.

I'm personally hugely excited to bring InSoc to CONvergence, marking not only a return to their home turf, but a chance to play to a crowd that understands all the geeky references.

Our Big Boy Burger statue photo quest wound up being a bust. After driving nearly 250 miles, we discovered that by that time, most of the restaurants had already removed their once iconic statues. But on that day, I discovered a life-long appreciation for Information Society, and that made the random summer road trip absolutely worth it.

GUESTS OF HONOR



James Kakalios is the Taylor Distinguished Professor in the University of Minnesota's School of Physics and Astronomy. He received his Ph.D. in Physics from the University of Chicago in 1985; he worked as a post-doctoral research associate at the Xerox – Palo Alto Research Center; and then in 1988, having had enough of those California winters, joined the faculty of the School of Physics and Astronomy

JAMES KAKALIOS

By Shannon Negaard-Paper

at the University of Minnesota. His research involves the synthesis and characterization of amorphous/nanocrystalline composite semiconductor thin films, and the study of voltage fluctuations in neurological systems.

In 2001 he created a Freshman Seminar class entitled: "Everything I Know About Science I Learned from Reading Comic Books" that led to his writing a popular science book *THE PHYSICS OF SUPERHEROES*. Published in 2005 in the U.S. and the U.K., it has been translated into seven languages, and was followed by *THE AMAZING STORY OF QUANTUM MECHANICS* (2010) and *THE PHYSICS OF EVERYDAY THINGS: The Extraordinary Science Behind an Ordinary Day* (2017). He is a Fellow of the American Physical Society (APS) and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), and has served as the Chair of the APS Committee on Informing the Public and the Past-Chair of the APS Forum on Outreach and Engaging the Public. His efforts at science communication and public outreach have been recognized by a 2009 Regional Emmy Award, the 2014 AAAS Public Engagement with Science Award, the American Institute of Physics' 2016 Andrew Gemant Award and an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Lincoln (U.K.).

GUESTS OF HONOR

KELLY MCCULLOUGH

By Laura McCullough

Every wrinkle on my face is Kelly McCullough's fault. Sure, they're all smile lines, but still.

Kelly makes people smile. And laugh. And be happy. Both in person and through his written works. Every book he has written has silliness and snark, even when the protagonist or setting is rather dark. Because the world can be dark but laughing is the best way to handle it. He was raised to believe that laughter is a survival skill, and that's still how he lives each day.

When you hear Kelly talk, you will get a sense of his intelligence, his humor, and his sense of self. He is utterly comfortable in his skin and that gives him freedom to play. I tease him about his "breathtaking self-confidence." He views that comment as a compliment.

Having watched him develop as a writer over nearly three decades, I can appreciate the work that goes into becoming someone who can write a good book. It's a constant process of learning and bettering your skills. He never wants to write the same book. He always wants to use the next project to improve himself and learn more about writing. As an educator (a college physics professor), I double-plus-good like this.

If you asked me which of his books I like best, it is probably the one he's writing right now. Whichever one that is. I get to read words written that day, that no one else has ever seen. I see the process of the plot taking shape, the characters developing and growing, and the inevitable twist that every one of his books has. I calm him during the 30,000-word freak-out when he has no clue what happens next, and remind him that this happens every time. When he is frustrated I get to listen and make suggestions (usually: "take a plot walk"). And I get to read the amazing endings that pull together every thread and plotline in the book. The happy endings. Because while I accept that life's decisions have cost, I refuse to read books that don't have happy endings. And Kelly is a very good spouse who wants to keep me happy.

Life as an author's spouse is very...interesting. Life as a silly person's spouse even more so. Over the last 28 years I have grown so used to having Kelly wake up and spout nonsense I almost forget it's not normal. You mean most people don't



have to open their eyes and respond to their partner talking about "the beautiful Princess Mooina" (a cow princess)? Or "Robert the Bruce Springsteen: they can take our guitars, but they canna take our freedom!" Twitter and Facebook help; I can now share the job of responding with friends and fans. Thanks to those that help me out!

The perfect example of Kelly's brain is when he had a horrible stomach flu. He couldn't write, or read, or do anything but lie in bed and suffer. By day four he was nearly hallucinating. He started talking about a dragon. A dragon who "ated" things. Like shiny knights. But how do you shuck a knight? Kelly recovered from the flu, but the hallucinations lived on. Thus, was *Dragon Diaries* born: the story of a dragon who likes "ateding" things (except for Cat) and who has a very interesting viewpoint on life.

If you need a dose of the surreal in your life, check out Kelly's social media, read his books, go to his panels, attend his signings. You never know what will be said, but it's likely to bring a smile to your face, if not an outright laugh. He's been keeping me laughing for 28 years, and that leaves a mark, which is why my wrinkles are all his fault.

GUESTS OF HONOR



MARY JO PEHL

By Tim Wick

She was thanking us for putting her on stage at a terrible time.

I think the nature of *Mystery Science Theater 3000* is that everyone involved had to work to make it a success. They wrote, they acted, they crewed, they operated puppets. They did whatever they had to do. And when you have to create something like that in an environment where you are only dependent on each other, you really never forget how lucky you are that the project lasted more than a few episodes.

Mary Jo has never been gifted success. She worked for it. She earned it. And she continues to work for it.

This last April, she was back at Die Laughing and she had a great spot on Saturday night. And she was, as should surprise no-one, very funny.

And she thanked us for the time.

No, Mary Jo. Thank you for your time. And thank you for returning to CONvergence as a Guest of Honor. You've earned it.

What is striking to me about Mary Jo Pehl is how gracious she is.

While *Mystery Science Theater 3000* may not have been the most popular geek television show of all time, it's cult status is unmistakable. Especially here in the land of its origin. The stars of the show could be forgiven for taking some advantage of their celebrity.

Over the last few years, Mary Jo has performed Stand-up comedy sets at Die Laughing, a 50-hour comedy marathon produced by Fearless Comedy Productions. She is, as should surprise no-one, very funny.

Two years ago, she appeared insanely early on a Sunday. A time when almost no-one wants to perform and even fewer people are interested in watching. It was the time that was available. She performed her set to an audience of fewer than ten and when she was done, she thanked us for the time.

I wanted to say "you are Pearl Forrester! You wrote for *Mystery Science Theater 3000*! You've appeared on Rifftrax and Cinematic Titanic!" You were in *Hidden America with Jonah Ray* and *Lady Dynamite*! You're a widely published author and your commentaries have been on NPR's *All Things Considered*! But I assumed she'd already read her Wikipedia page.

GUESTS OF HONOR

TAMORA PIERCE

By Megan Spotts

I met Tamora Pierce the first time she came to CONvergence. My soul had been vibrating since the announcement she was coming. I had been devouring her novels for almost twenty years by then, pouring over them with old friends, and making new friends every time I mentioned her name. You can always see the light brighten in people's eyes when they talk about her. The symbol of feminism tattooed on Tamora Pierce's body is no joke. Her radical ideas about what women can accomplish have inspired whole generations of women to dream.

Back before the word "fan fiction" was widely in use, Tamora started down her career path by writing it. From *Star Trek* and Tolkien to Bradbury and *Time Tunnel*, she geeked as geeky as geeks geek. Like many fan fiction writers, she sought to escape reality and play in the worlds she'd come to love.

In 1983, her first book was published, *Alanna: The First Adventure*. The title was apt for more than Alanna because Tamora wrote more than average teen fantasy. Alanna wanted to be a knight, and only boys could be knights. It was not only Alanna's first adventure, it was often ours as well. At the time, female protagonists were rare, feminist ones even harder to find. Alanna not only kept up with the boys while hiding her gender; but, like us, she went through puberty, chose birth control, had sex. She shattered a glass ceiling for readers as we cheered her on from our cozy libraries. Tamora Pierce had started down a wonderful road, where she wrote the people she wanted to see as heroes: strong, bright, determined women. Women we wanted to be.

We rode with Alanna; we fought alongside her; we fell in love and learned how to manage it. Tamora had originally written Alanna's story, *The Song of the Lioness* as a 732-page novel for adults, but her first agent recommended she cut it into four pieces and rewrite it for teenagers. This was obviously a good idea. She based the rewrite on her time working as a housemother in a group home for teenaged girls. While she worked the series into its final form, she started a radio production company, reviewed martial arts movies, worked as a temporary secretary, read manuscripts for romance novels, and did some freelance editing. She, too, was evolving into her final form. (A writer, not a Pokémon, and to give her credit, I'm sure she's always evolving in some way)

Alanna paved the way for other female warriors, not just in the genre, but also in her homeland with follow-up series *The*



Immortals, *The Protector of the Small* and *The Daughter of the Lioness*, and *Beka Cooper: A Tortall Legend*.

Lately, she has been writing about her first male protagonist, Numair Salmalin. I haven't read *The Numair Chronicles* yet, but it's her first dive into writing a single male hero. To NPR, she even admitted she had to ask her writing partner, Bruce Coville, questions about boys and puberty.

There's a photo of me sitting next to Tamora Pierce. I have this look on my face that every fan person in the world will understand—that absolute, transcendent joy of listening to one of your greatest idols speak. She could have been talking about actual literal poop and I would not have twitched a muscle or changed my expression. I was far from the only person in her trance. What happens in her presence is a mere microcosm of how she has affected the world. Her heroines will forever be bright stars that feminine children reach for as they grow.

GUESTS OF HONOR



Twenty years have passed since comic book artist Gordon Purcell agreed to be a Guest of Honor at the very first CONvergence. This is a Big Deal for so many reasons, but mostly it's mind boggling to think about how much has changed in the world, in the convention, and in comics since that time. We're lucky to have a Guest of Honor who has seen us change over the last 20 years. If Gordon was interesting to listen to at the first CONvergence, can you imagine how many new insights and stories he has now?!

Growing up in Antigo, WI Gordon Purcell was always interested in comics and from a young age he learned to create the art he saw in the pages of his favorite comics and on television screens. For years Purcell worked on his art without knowing if it would or could translate into any sort of career or even a paid hobby. That all changed when he read Stan Lee's book *Comics the Marvel Way* and the mystery of what to do with his talent and drive to create was lifted. He went on to attend the University of Minnesota where he pursued studies in visual art, and theatrical production, which really gave him a boost over other artists on many of the properties he worked on.

He is best known for his fantastic comic book portrayals of popular films and television shows. Gordon has a talent for

GORDON PURCELL

By Carly Buchanan

depicting actors, scenery, and props realistically. In fact, it is what he is best known for and why he is such a popular artist. His ability to recreate the look and feel of licensed universes and characters was something of a rare talent that led to work on the comics for many television and movie properties. In other words, Captain Kirk had better look like Captain Kirk if you're doing the art for *Star Trek*.

His credits include *The X-files*, *Xena: Warrior Princess*, *Godzilla*, *The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles*, *Lost in Space*, *Barb Wire* and *The Terminator*. However, he is probably best known for his work within the *Star Trek* universe. He has created art for *Star Trek: The Original Series*, *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*, and *Star Trek: Voyager*. The best part about working on *Star Trek* books? Getting to visit the sets!

He was a comic book artist for *Soulsearchers and Company*, *Flare*, *The Flash*, *Fantastic Four*, *Superman*, *Wonder Man*, *Hulk vs. Nova*, *Moon Knight*, *What If...?*, *Race Warriors*, *Kolchak: The Night Stalker*, *Justice League*, *Ben 10*, and *Elvira*.

Gordon is also something of a trivia whiz. He has competed on both *Jeopardy* and *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?* In the latter game, with only two hours of sleep and less than a day between the phone screen and taping the show he managed to get to the \$50,000 question.

Today Gordon is working on the *Stargate Atlantis* comic series and we can't wait to hear about it at CONvergence. You should carve out some time this convention to see a panel with Gordon Purcell. It's sure to be a great time with a real legend in the comics industry.

GUESTS OF HONOR

VICTOR RAYMOND

By Ishmael I. Williams

It was at some point in 1991 or 1992 that I first met Victor, the exact details escape me. He was one of the first I met in the fan community, and I immediately appreciated his wit, humor and demeanor. It wasn't until ReinCONation, a relaxing fall convention, that I truly came to appreciate his wit. It was my first true fan-run convention in a community in which I knew only about 4 people. Thanks to Victor, by the end of the weekend, I'd been introduced to every attendee (about 125 people) at least twice, with some introductions going as high as 4 - 6 instances.

But you see, that's Victor. Beyond his own charm and inherent charisma, Victor can be a wizard at connecting people with like-minded individuals and being very relaxed and natural at doing it. Victor can put almost anyone at ease and delights in interacting with people around him.

As my friendship with Victor grew, I became aware of his love for gaming. Victor has, to my untrained eye, a complete collection of every gaming book ever published. I recognize this is an exaggeration, but it speaks to the vast knowledge for gaming that he carries in his head. I've never had the pleasure of being involved in a campaign with him but with all he knows and has done, I'm sure it would be remarkable.

Add to this knowledge, the fact that Victor is President of the Tékumel Foundation, an organization dedicated to preserving "the literary works and all related products and activities surrounding Professor M.A.R. Barker's world of Tékumel and the Empire of the Petal Throne." This is an "old school" gaming society that is dedicated to this particular system. Victor is working to keep it going and provide new material, as well as reproducing older materials so future generations can enjoy this fascinating world.

Victor is also very dedicated to expanding diversity in the fan-convention community. To that end he has founded the Carl Brandon Society, a group dedicated to addressing many issues involving race in the SF&F community. This is perhaps one of Victor's crowning achievements, as it speaks to ideals he holds very dear, and he speaks about that diversity and the Society with passion.

What means most to me in my friendship with Victor is that he is my guiding light in my involvement in convention running. From my fledgling days as a department head support person through my years as the hotel liaison, Victor



has been a source of inspiration, guidance, and knowledge. We turned to Victor to help author the original by-laws of our organization, when we first started CONvergence and have sought his thoughts and experienced opinion at several crossroads. The knowledge he has about convention running is encyclopedic, and he shares that knowledge willingly and with great glee.

I feel honored to know him and to call him friend. I am pleased that he is a Guest of Honor at CONvergence 2018 and I eagerly anticipate spending time with him both on his panels and with him personally.

GUESTS OF HONOR



MARINA SIRTIS

By Connie the Robot

Angeles and was a supporting actress in several movies before (And how cool is this) Gene Rodenberry himself asked her to audition for a role in *Star Trek: The Next Generation*. Aren't you so so so glad he did?

"She's also done tons of voiceover work, too, like *Family Guy* (She actually played herself in this one. Imagine being so well known you get cast as yourself!), *Adventure Time* and *OK K.O. Let's be Heroes*. No doubt, you remember her performing her fan beloved character, Demona, live at CONvergence 2014 for the 20th anniversary of *Gargoyles*. I wonder what sort of goodies Greg Weisman's Radio Play will bring this year?! When these two work together they make magic, so definitely check out any panel that has both of them on it! Speaking of this Guest of Honor powerhouse of AWESOME, Can anyone say *Young Justice*? I sure can't wait to hear what she's doing as Queen Bee on the new season!

"Could it get aaany better?! It can! She's a movie star too! Aside from all of the Star Trek TNG movies she was in, in 1999 she was the star of an independent movie called *Paradise Lost* (with Marina I can't imagine it's anything but paradise), and in 2004 she starred in *Spectres* for which she won Best Actress at the Shocker Film Festival.

"And, you should totally go to her panels so you can hear that delicious accent! That is, if you can track her down at one. She might be watching the World Cup. She is such an amazing superfan she has a tattoo of the logo for her favorite team, the Tottenham Hotspur Football Club! Hey! I'm 18 now, maybe I should get a tattoo too! Or maybe I will just admire Marina's ink... She's also got a big heart, working for animal rights and rescue animal adoption.

"Oh! And let's quell that rumor that her lipstick is still on the side of my head. Sadly, I had to get it polished off to keep my dome bright and sparkling. Maybe I'll get some more this year! OOOOooooOOOO! Keeping my fingers crossed!"

"Haaaaaiiiiiiiiiieeeee!!! It's me! Connie! I was SOOPER excited to be asked to write up Marina's bio for our 20th anniversary CONvergence. I've never done one before so here we go!

"Marina has been all over the galaxy, universe and where no one has gone before in her most popular role as Counselor Deanna Troi in *Star Trek: The Next Generation* but she's done wayyyyyy more than that! She's all over TV these days from dramas like *Scandal* and *Grey's Anatomy* to voicing some great animation and games. She has over 91 credits on IMBD including other TV shows, movies, and even producing. Check it out! It's really impressive!

"But before all of her screen work, Marina grew up in Harringay, North London. Determined to pursue acting she went behind her parents' back and auditioned for drama school while still in Secondary School. When she finished at the Guildhall School for Music and Drama she joined the Connaught Theater, where she spent a few years "treading the boards"(Look at me using theatrical slang!) Live theater is just so thrilling! I know! I know! You're all wondering when she started racking up those IMDB credits! She started working on several British TV shows like: *The Return of Sherlock Holmes* and *Up the Elephant* and *Round the Castle* (Which just sounds cool!) Well, at 31 she moved to Los

GUESTS OF HONOR

LISA SNELLINGS

By Amy Powlas Murphy

What can a two or three-inch figure, with dots for eyes, tell us about the world? A lot, as it happens, if it's one of Lisa Snellings' Poppets. What are Poppets?

At first glance, they are little sculptures, or figures in multi-media art pieces. Some are adorable, some are creepy, many are a delicious blend of both. They make you smile to look at them. They are the sort of thing you put on your desk and wish a good morning as you begin your day.

There's more, of course. They have a story. Poppets are an old people. They are observers, watching us whether we know it or not. Humans, in their eyes, are a young race, children really, with all the selfishness and silliness that go with having a lot to learn. They are also imitators who mimic human behavior. Looking at a Poppet is looking through a lens, and into a mirror. They have things to tell us about the world, and about ourselves. They are so much larger than the tiny figure you see and, if you're lucky, hold in your hand. They are totems, they are touchstones, they are reminders of who we are and how far we've come. They are reminders of how far we have to go.

Since she began making them, Poppets have become a personal alphabet that Lisa uses to reflect the wonder and whimsy that are found in the everyday world, and the universal experiences shared by all silly humans. Her work is informed by observations of the world around her and a lifetime of experiences. Speaking with her, it is clear that her creative energy rises from a place of deep truth, with all the nuanced shades of feeling we carry in our hearts.

Lisa's work has collaborated on a series of chapbooks from DreamWorks: *Strange Attractions*, edited by Edward E. Kramer; *Strange Roads*, with Peter S. Beagle; *Strange Light*, with Larry Niven. These experiences varied in their details, but she found each one fascinating and enjoyable. She's written her own book, *Poppet: An Introduction*, about how and why Poppet came to be.

Lisa's current project is *Night Birds*, an exploration of fear and anxiety, and a Poppet Tarot. You can find out more about them on her Patreon.

Growing up in South Carolina, her ideal Saturday was spent on the porch, listening to the rain and reading classic works of Science Fiction: Bradbury, Sturgeon, and Kornbluth. She



still reads every day, but opportunities to spend an entire afternoon at it are more rare in the busy life of a professional artist.

This is her first visit to CONvergence. She's looking forward to sharing insights into the work of a professional artist, including how to work through the hard times. She will also be displaying works in the art show. I'm looking forward to hearing what she has to say and seeing more of her work.

GUESTS OF HONOR



MELINDA SNODGRASS

By Caitlin Knight

Box Office Poison, and *This Case is Going to Kill Me*. She is also a co-editor for George R.R. Martin's long running *Wild Cards* series. There are two upcoming *Wild Cards* releases this year *Knaves Over Queens* and *Low Chicago* were both released in June of this year.

It was at Martin's urging that she entered the world of Hollywood, outside of working on *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, she has worked on several other television series such as *The Outer Limits*, *Sliders*, *SeaQuest DSV*, *Odyssey 5*, *Reasonable Doubts* and was consulting producer on *The Profiler*. She is currently an executive producer on a *Wild Cards* television series. Exciting, right?!

In addition to writing, Melinda manages a small natural gas plant in New Mexico, where she lives. She finds this industry fascinating, if you get the chance to chat with her ask her to tell you the story of the test wells that were fracked with nuclear devices in the 1960's. In her spare time (yes, I am shocked that she has any as well) she owns a Lusitano stallion that she shows at the Grand Prix level in dressage and a young buckskin gelding. As a horse lover myself nothing could recommend someone to me more than this does.

Here at CONvergence Melinda will be running the full gamut of her strengths with her programming. She'll be talking about her writing for both television and print, discussing breaking into the entertainment business, and engaging in some panels that are purely for fun. Take some time to visit with Melinda and see some of her panels this convention!

When I was a child *Star Trek: The Next Generation* was my universe, or at least the one I wished I lived in. Melinda Snodgrass served as the story editor for the series in the second and third seasons as well as having writing credits for several episodes. These included: "The High Ground," "The Ensigns of Command," "Up the Long Ladder," and the award winning "The Measure of a Man." All episodes that had quite the impact on the *Star Trek* universe.

Her episode "The Measure of a Man" is the reason Melinda was hired on as story editor for the next season and a half of *The Next Generation*. This episode cumulates with a trial to determine whether Lt. Commander Data is the property of Starfleet or an individual with his own personal rights. This is one among many of her works that focus on judges or the judiciary system, a topic she is well versed in due to the fact that she holds a juris doctorate from the University of New Mexico where she focused on legal history, Constitutional law, and jurisprudence. She loves the law, but was never terribly fond of lawyers, so after practicing law for three years and at the urging of Victor Milan she began writing and never looked back. A career move that I, and the rest of us, are very grateful for.

Melinda is a prolific writer, writing science fiction and urban fantasy short stories and novels including the *Circuit* trilogy, *The Edge* series, and *The Imperials Saga*. Her latest novels, written under the pen name Phillipa Bornikova, exploring the world of urban fantasy with her protagonist Linnet Ellery. She is three books into this fantastic series: *Publish and Perish*,

GUESTS OF HONOR

VINCENT TRUITNER

By David J. Rust

Vincent Truitner has been an epic visual crafter of artwork since long before I first met him at the Roseville-area high school, Alexander Ramsey, back in the eighties. A comic-book fan, painter, illustrator, gamer, and animator, his imagination is one of the finest and most honed of anyone I've met. I've been honored to be his GM and his friend for decades.

His earliest work as a professional animator came shortly after graduating from the Rhode Island School of Design. Both Pixar and Warner Brothers Animation served as stepping-off points for him with work in 1999's *"Toy Story 2"* and *"The Iron Giant"*. In the latter, you can spot a scene he told me about merely due to its iconic facial expressions. It features The Giant, having been told to hide and stand still to avoid being seen, reaching forlornly after a towed-away truck that was to be his snack. You know that scene, right? Everyone knows it and I bet you can picture the look on The Giant's face, too.

Vincent continued to work on feature films and his skills blossomed in the realms of speculative fiction movies. He once jokingly referred to his animating of sentinels (in *"Matrix: Revolutions"*) and Doctor Octopus' arms (in *"Spider-Man 2"*) as making him "the tentacle guy". Later, he also worked on 2012's *"The Amazing Spider-Man"* after Andrew Garfield stepped into the role.

His work has been in television and video games as well. Games he has helped animate include *Ben 10: Alien Force* and *Rise of the Argonauts*. He also was able to work in *Kinect Star Wars*: a truly appropriate use of his abilities considering his deep-flowing love of all things *Star Wars*. (He actually owns a *"Revenge of the Jedi"* movie poster from before the title was changed!) His toy collection is something truly wonderful to behold ... so many action figures!

Vincent's eye for detail can be seen in the visually stunning *"The Owls of Ga'Hoole," "Alice Through the Looking Glass," "Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children,"* and *"Maleficent"* (incidentally his all-time favorite Disney villain). And then there were the shape-changing daemons in *"The Golden Compass"*. If you want to get an idea of some really detailed work, ask him about how many moving parts were in the CG model he animated for the haunted house in *"Monster House"*. (If I remember correctly, it was in the thousands!)

As a fan and collector of the *Transformers* toy line back in the 80's, Vincent was able to fulfill lifelong dreams when he



worked at legendary visual effects studio Industrial Light & Magic on a *Transformers* film, animating fan-favorite characters like Optimus Prime and Grimlock (as well as even more tentacles). Most recently, tentacles notwithstanding, he returned to the world of super-heroes and worked on 2017's smash hit, *"Spider-Man: Homecoming"*. That's right: he's worked on all three generations of "Spider-Man" films.

Vincent is one of today's great visual artists who definitely falls into the category of "local boy makes good". He grew up in the Saint Paul suburbs, spent some time at the U of MN, and then spread his artistic wings and flew. To welcome him back to his childhood home is a great pleasure. Be sure to track him down during CONvergence 2018 to ask him about what's next: The conversation you'll have is sure to be worth it!

GUESTS OF HONOR



GREG WEISMAN

By Tim Wick

attendees had left and most of our Guests of Honor were in bed.

But Greg went to the panel. And later, at some highly uncivilized time of night, he sat with some of us and talked about it.

He said he was surprised that even though he didn't know the people we were talking about, he was misting up as we told our stories.

He told us this as he was sitting with a bunch of people he had met twice in his life. Just sitting on the floor in a hotel and hanging out like anyone else. There may have been alcohol involved. At that point in the weekend there usually is.

We keep asking Greg to return to this convention because he shares our passions and he happens to be lucky enough to help create new ones for us to enjoy. He's the kind of guest who would sit a panel in every spot if asked. He produces original radio plays and gives convention attendees the opportunity to take part.

And most of all, he attends panels at Midnight on a Sunday and feels for people he never knew.

He was here for our tenth year. He is back for our twentieth. No doubt he will be here for our thirtieth. Eventually there will be a "Greg Weisman Memorial Six Day Panel."

But hopefully not for a very long time.

This year is Greg Weisman's sixth appearance as a Guest of Honor at CONvergence. Having attended fully one quarter of our conventions as a Guest of Honor, it feels almost redundant to talk again about his work on *Gargoyles* and *Young Justice*. Or his books. Did you know he writes books?

As he is now attending his sixth CONvergence, it feels like we've covered this territory with Greg. So I'm going to tell you a story.

For those new to our convention, there was a time when it ran only three days. For year ten, we decided to extend the convention a day based on encouragement from a member named Michael Sheard, who insisted the convention should be five days long. It was intended to be a special one year event to celebrate the milestone of a decade of CONvergence.

You know how that worked out.

Michael had passed away a year prior, and we wanted to honor him by making our convention last five days. Technically, at least.

And so, at midnight on Sunday, we held the inaugural and so far only "Michael Sheard Memorial Five Day Panel." We spent an hour devoted to remembering Michael and many other friends we'd lost in the first ten years of CONvergence. At that point in the convention weekend most of the convention

GUESTS OF HONOR

MICHAEL WILSON AKA KNIGHTMAGE

By Hal Bichel

I will never forget the first time I laid eyes on Michael “Knightmage” Wilson. He was on the dance floor at a pre-party for Cincinnati Comic Expo 2013 wearing a Batman bathrobe, bat signal boxers, and a screen-accurate Batman cowl; holding a beer and getting down with Catwoman.

Since then it has been a treat to watch him grow and develop his wholly unique cosplay celebrity. Often on his social media, he’ll post progress photos, showing how he builds an amazing costume in just a matter of two or three days—comic book, cartoon, video game, movie, and TV show characters. Nothing is off the table. He once used an unimaginable amount of brown yarn to make a Captain Caveman costume, complete with Cave Bird that popped out of his club.

He’s also built Spawn, Inspector Gadget, Hellboy, The Tick, Cyborg, Swamp Thing, Frank-N-Furter, Space Ghost, Afro Samurai, and so, so many more costumes. Most of them can be viewed in albums on his Facebook page, which itself is a beacon of positivity and encouragement for other cosplayers and fans of cosplay. An avid wrestling fan, Michael has also created various costumes for World Wrestling Entertainment superstars. His impressive costume fabrication skills and the energy he brings to his cosplay has led to him being named one of the top male cosplayers by sites such as *The Richest*, *Screencrush*, *The Nerderly*, *Kotaku*, and *Geeks are Sexy*.

But the thing that really makes Knightmage stand apart in my mind is how he uses his cosplay celebrity and talents for service at every opportunity. Every convention appearance he does, he partners with a local or national charity to generate support for them. Instead of selling photo prints of his costumes like so many other celebrity cosplayers, Knightmage gives his away and simply asks for a charity donation in return. His charity work is not limited to conventions, either. He has also leveraged his social media presence to raise awareness and money for everything from Downs Syndrome to collecting bottled water for Flint, Michigan. Michael has deservedly received numerous awards for his charitable deeds including the Outstanding Service Award from Credit Where Credit Is Due, and most notably the Presidential Volunteers Award from President Barack Obama and the White House.



Throughout his convention appearances across the world, Michael has judged multiple cosplay contests and hosted cosplay panels and workshops showcasing the positive, inspiring, and supportive side of cosplay. If you have a chance to catch him on a panel, you definitely will not want to miss it—especially if you are a cosplayer or aspiring cosplayer yourself.

When Michael is not building or wearing costumes, he pursues acting and stunt work. He has worked on Hollywood comic book movie productions including *The Avengers*, *The Dark Knight Rises*, *Captain America 2: Winter Soldier*, and more. Michael has also worked on and has been featured in several fan films and productions such as “Flash Fall” by Together Brother Productions, and the popular YouTube series *MAN AT ARMS: Reforged*.

Michael is a decorated 18-year veteran Deputy Sheriff for the Mahoning County Sheriff’s Office in Ohio, where he lives. Sometimes he dresses up as Batman for work functions. Just let that one sink in.

GUESTS OF HONOR



YTASHA WOMACK

By Lynn Winter

histories and the power of the imagination. She devotes a great deal of her work to sparking and encouraging the imaginations of others.

For example, after the "Afrofuturism" book was published, Ytasha had the opportunity to talk to a group of 5th graders in an art class on the West side of Chicago. When asked to think about their future and what they wanted from it, most of the responses lay within the parameters of reducing violence of all kinds. It took time to get through that discussion and to help the children to stretch their imaginations. Once they began, they were really excited about the fact that they could shape the future. "Are you trying to tell us that we can use our imaginations and we can create the kind of world that we want to create, and we can change the things around us?" YES!!! **Success for a new generation!**

Imagination!! Humanity!! These are Ytasha's battle cries. Using books, films, music, podcasts, interviews and tours, Ytasha will get her message out there for others to believe beyond the here and now and to use what they have, to change the shape of their lives in the black diaspora.

"Afrofuturism is a way of looking at the future or alternate realities through an African continental or Diasporic lens. It's an artistic aesthetic, way of looking at the world, and means of healing. Afrofuturism intersects black culture, the imagination, liberation, technology, and mysticism. It celebrates interdimensionality, the divine feminine, nature, and intuition. Exploring Afrofuturism is one way to help humanity better understand itself and our role in the universe."

Her beautifully imagined and created works are national and international and are inspiring to all those who value humanity.

Take time to see her films, including her most recent, *A Love Letter to the Ancestors From Chicago*. Read her books, *Rayla 2212*, *Rayla 2213* and *A Afrofuturism: The World of Black Sci-Fi and Fantasy Culture*. Attend her panels. Understand her goals. Embrace imagination and humanity. Talk with her and work on learning so much more because Afrofuturism is a world that we can ALL thrive in, not just survive in.

What do the book *Rayla 2212* and the latest Marvel movie, *Black Panther*, have in common? Both of them have a fantastic soundtrack!! OK OK...they are also both wonderful representatives of Afrofuturism!

"Afrofuturist extraordinaire" are definitely two words to describe author, director, dancer, podcaster, and whatever else Ytasha Womack comes up with as a job title. She herself denotes herself as a "Futurist" and a "Champion of humanity and imagination." All of these things are effortless in her personality and actions.

I've had brief discussions with her and I've done some light "digging" on the internet. There are depths to Ytasha and her artistry that could rival the deepest of underwater canyons. She'd probably prefer to be compared to the vastness of space, and you can follow along in that direction with several of her works (ALL THE THINGS!!!) found on her website: <https://www.ytashawomack.com>.

The book *A Afrofuturism: The World of Black Sci-Fi and Fantasy Culture* is something that really got me thinking in a new direction. "Race" as an invention. The depths to Afrofuturistic music and its relationship to quantum theories. Spiritual and ancient ways that were wiped out, leaving a gaping hole in the fabric of all nations. The writers, directors and musicians who walked this path before Ytasha, working to make the word "Afrofuturism" mainstream. There is so much to enjoy about this book if you're searching for knowledge.

For Ytasha to get to her Afrofuturist path, she embraced art, history, science, and mythology as a means of understanding the world. She became really excited about unexplored

At Hallie Q. Brown Community Center, we're looking for a few good volunteers to help us punch out poverty, Professor Poverty that is, scourge of all that's good and geeky.

At Hallie Q. Brown Community Center it is our mission to help improve the quality of life for people in our community. We do that through our programs like our food shelf, clothing closet, early learning center and more and through special initiatives like Project Superhero, Comic Book Clubs, HungerCon, and Superhero Food & Fund Drive.



SPECIAL THANKS TO DC AND MARVEL COMICS ARTIST CHRISTOPHER JONES FOR DONATING THIS ILLUSTRATION OF CAPTAIN HOB KNOCKING OUT PROFESSOR POVERTY AND DEFEATING THE FORCES OF H.U.N.G.E.R. CHECK OUT MORE OF HIS WORK AT WWW.CHRISTOPHERJONESART.COM

But we can't do it alone. We need you! If you're looking for a chance to make a difference, check our great volunteer opportunities. We're also looking for a few really brave heroes to help start some new geeky programs. Know how to knit and want to share that skill with some young people? Want to start a D&D or Magic gaming club? Like to share your writing or drawing talent teaching others? Come on over! And get involved.

***www.hallieqbrown.org
270 N. Kent Street
St. Paul, MN, 55102
651-224-4601***

Hallie's Heroes



Visit our website to learn more about the opportunities available, submit your own ideas and find out who Professor Poverty is and how you can help to stop him.

You can make a difference by joining Hallie's Heroes and helping others. Cape optional.

Volunteer in our food shelf, clothing closet, early learning center, administration, etc. or bring your own idea.



INVITED PARTICIPANTS

In addition to our many Guests of Honor and alumni Guests of Honor, CONvergence welcomes other professionals in the science-fiction/fantasy industry and related fields to participate in activities so that they may share their knowledge and experience with our attendees. The following Invited Participants will be attending the convention this year. To learn more about them, please visit the CONvergence website at <http://www.convergence-con.org/guests/also-appearing/>

Lauren Addy—Animator, Illustrator, Comic Writer
Jess Banks—Writer for Atlas Games, Freelance RPG Editor and Art Director, Broadcaster for MN Services for the Blind's Radio Talking Book Network
Cynthia Booth—Author and Actress
Roy C. Booth—Author, Comic Book Store Owner, Playwright
Julie Bowman—Soft Sculpture Artist
Rob Callahan—Author
Taylor Cisco—Television Producer, Author, Contemporary Afrofuturist
Aaron Coker—Writer, Podcaster, Critic
Gaea Dill-D'Ascoli—Artist
Shaun Duke—Teacher / Podcaster
Anthony W. Eichenlaub—Author
Renate Fiora—High School Physics Teacher
Laura Anne Gilman—Author, Editor
John Heimbuch—Writer, Director, and Theatrical Producer
S.P. Jayaraj—Author
Miriam Krause—Science Communicator and Podcaster
Aimee Kuzenski—Writer and Audiobook Narrator
Phillip Andrew Bennett Low—Author and Playwright
The DreamStitcher (Rae Lundquist)—Costumer
Anne Lyle—Author
Justine Mastin—Psychotherapist, Yoga Teacher, and Writer
Michael May—Author and Podcaster
Julian McFaul—Theatre Artist / Camp Director
Dr. Vernon McIntosh Jr.—Scientist, Communicator
Mark McPherson—Author, Film Critic
Alexis Nordling—Supplicant to the Geek Gods (Teacher)
DrLOV (Laura Okagaki-Vraspir)—Scientist
Melissa F. Olson—Author
Dr. NerdLove (Harris O'Malley)—Author, Dating Coach, Advice Columnist

Gregory Parks—Actor, Clown, Improviser
Miss Shannan Paul—Comedian, Speaker, Radio Host
David M. Perry, *Pacific Standard Magazine*—Journalist and Historian
SEE MORE PERSPECTIVE—Xicanx Hip Hop and Spoken Word Futurist
Jack Reher—Screenwriter/Producer
Douglas Saldana—Performer, Puppeteer
Brian Salisbury—Podcast Host, Critic
Cath Schaff-Stump—Author, Podcaster, and Professor
Paranormal Sarah (Sarah Soderlund)—Forensic Psychology & Parapsychology Researcher
Abra Staffin-Wiebe—Author
Bill Stiteler—Writer/Bon Vivant
Birdchick (Sharon Stiteler)—Park Ranger and Writer
Steve "Morjax" Sylvestre—Chemist and YouTuber
Michael Damian Thomas—Editor/Publisher
Patrick S. Tomlinson—Author
Tyler Tork—Author and IT Dude
Richard Townsend—Podcaster, DJ, and Writer
Shannon Townsend—Belly Dance Artist and Podcaster
Chrysoula Tzavelas—Author and Game Writer
Michael R. Underwood—Author, Podcaster, Sales Manager
Tim Uren—Actor, Writer, and Podcaster
Madeleine Vasaly—Independent Editor and Co-Head of Twin Cities Geek
Adam J. Whitlatch—Author
Tim Wick—Playwright
Eric Zawadzki—Tabletop RPG Game Designer and Fantasy Author
Destiny Ziebol—Scientist

DEALERS ROOM

Sheraton Hotel, Bloomington, Chadwick and Bailiff Ballrooms

The fabulous Dealers Room is located in CONvergence South in the Sheraton Hotel next to Artists Alley.

The Dealers Room holds many new and returning vendors selling costumes, gadgets, collectibles, sparklies, books, and many other goodies! You may even spot a Guest of Honor wandering about the aisles. If you don't see what you want, ask for it; we can help you find a wonderful keepsake!

Thursday 2:00pm–7:00pm
Friday 10:00am–6:00pm
Saturday 10:00am–6:00pm
Sunday 10:00am–4:00pm

LIST OF DEALERS

Aja's Katears - etsy.com/shop/AjaKatears

Angelwear - angelwearcreations.com

Art by David Lee Pancake - davidleepancake.com

Artemis Leathers - artemisleathers.com

Boar's Head Leather, LLC - boarsheadleather.com

Boudoir Belle Reproductions - boudoirbellereproductions.weebly.com

Brazen Device - brazendevice.com

Cobb's Cabinet of Curiosities - cobbscabinet.com

Crafty Squirrel Designs - CraftySquirrelDesign.etsy.com

Crimson Chain Leatherworks - Crimsonchainleatherworks.com

DaVinci Scientifica Emporium - davinciscientifica.com

Dragon Alley Jewelry - facebook.com/dragonalleyjewelry

Dreamers Vault Games Inc. - dreamersvault.com

Earth Wisdom - earthwisdommusicandclothing.com

Emerald's Emporium - EmeraldsEmporium.com

FTL Publications - ftlpublications.com

Funk 'n Fantasy - facebook.com/pg/funknfantasy

Geekiana - geekiana.com

Highland Princess Designs, LLC - facebook.com/highlandprincessdesigns

Highwind Steamworks - highwindsteamworks.etsy.com

Horizon Music, Inc. - hmnetwork.com

Hunter's Den - supernaturalmn.com, supernaturalden.etsy.com

KMK Designs LLC - kmkdesignsLLC.com

La Gazza Pazza - lagazzapazza.com

Lady Heathers Fashions - ladyhethersfashions.com

Lisa Sell LLC - etsy.com/shop/LisaSell

Midwest Makeup - midwestmakeupsupply.com

Mohr Creations - mohr-creations.com

MO'R Designs - N/A

Nani?Wear - naniwear.com

Northern Sun Merchandising - northernsun.com

OffWorld Designs - offworldldesigns.com

Scoundrelle's Keep - scoundrelleskeep.com

SLR Knives - N/A

The Blonde Swan - etsy.com/shop/TheBlondeSwan

The Celtic Croft - kilts-n-stuff.com

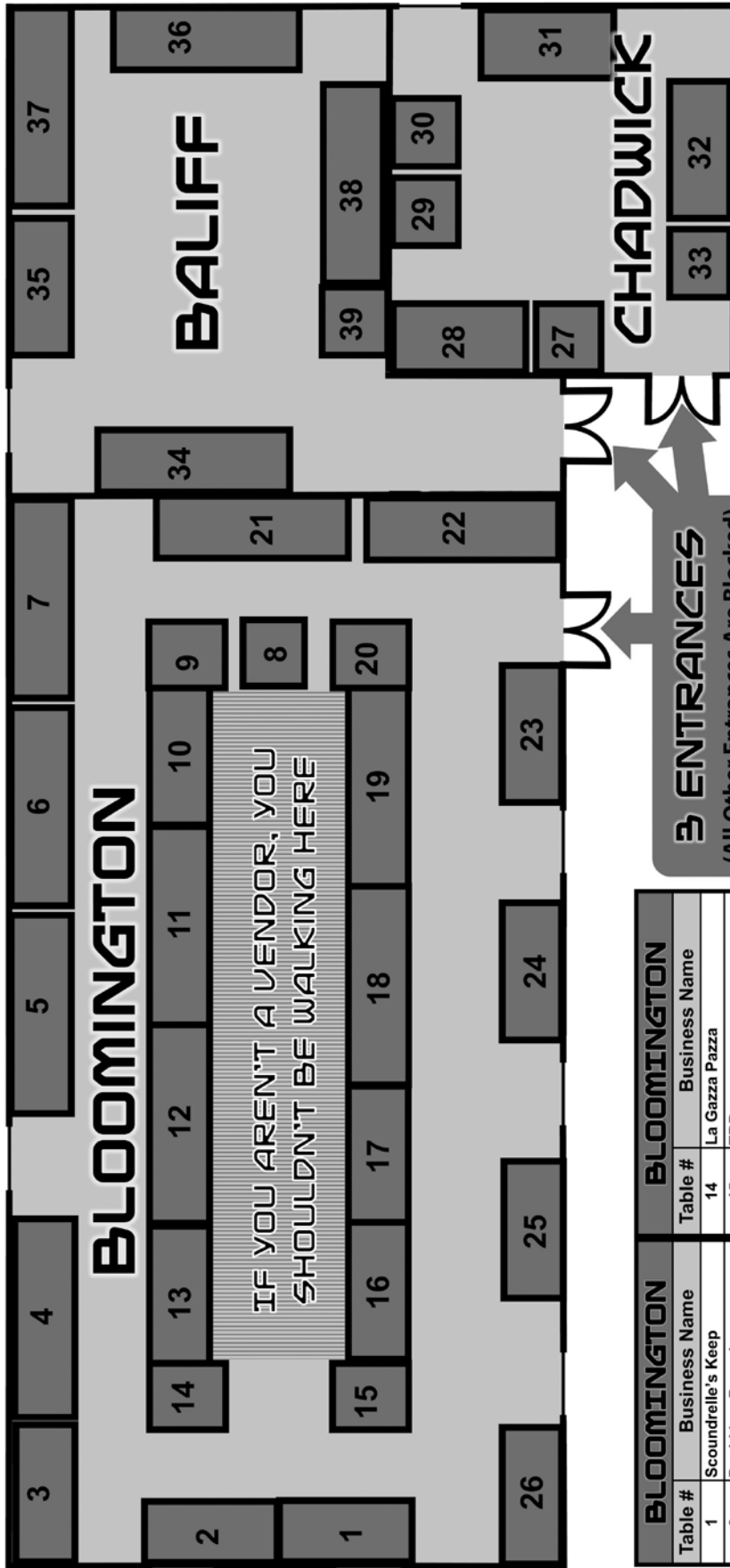
The Wizard's Wagon - hahaanime.com

Whimsey Winks - N/A





2018 DEALER'S ROOM



BLOOMINGTON		
Table #	Business Name	Business Name
1	Scoundrelle's Keep	La Gazza Pazza
2	David Lee Pancake	TBD
3	Dragon Alley Jewelry	Crafty Squirrel Designs
4	OffWorld Designs Inc.	Boar's Head Leather, LLC
5	DaVinci Scientifica Steampunk	Funk & Fantasy
6	Lady Heather's Fashions	The Wizard's Wagon
7	Artemis Leather	Geekiana
8	Brazen Device	Celtic Croft
9	FTL Publications	MOR Designs
10	SLR Knives	Mohr Creations
11	Nani?Wear	Highland Princess Designs, LLC
12	Boudoir Belle Reproductions	The Blonde Swan
13	Angelwear	KMK Designs

CHADWICK		
Table #	Business Name	Business Name
27	Whimsey Winks	Northern Sun
28	Lisa Sell	Highwind Steamworks
29	Aja's Katears	Crimson Chain Leather
30	Cobb's Cabinet Curios	Hunters Den
31	Dreamers Vault Games	Emerald's Emporium
32	Earth Wisdom	Horizon Music
33	Midwest Makeup Supply	

BALIFF		
Table #	Business Name	Business Name
34	Northern Sun	
35	Highwind Steamworks	
36	Crimson Chain Leather	
37	Hunters Den	
38	Emerald's Emporium	
39	Horizon Music	

CONSUIITE

DoubleTree Cabanas 214–220

Open continuously Thursday 3:00pm–Sunday 5:00pm

While plotting to take over the world is a full time job, Connie Mark II (still not good... but always "better") has graciously permitted ConSuite staff and volunteers to keep all her meat babies supplied with snacks and drinks during CONvergence. In addition to a variety of free snacks and beverages, you'll also find places to play board games, hang out, or just spend some time during your stay at CONvergence.

VOLUNTEERING...WITH A SIDE OF KETCHUP.

While coming to CONvergence and partaking of the fun is excellent, ConSuite runs on volunteers; without them, the rice,, veggies, snacks, soda—and even water—dry up.

YOU WANT FOOD. MARK II WANTS YOU.

Volunteer with ConSuite and make sure all of Connie Mark II's meat babies get fed.

CONSUIITE AND YOU

Connie Mark II has decreed that meat babies are to keep ConSuite stocked and clean during their visit. Please clean up after yourselves; no one is getting paid to clean up your mess. If you see something broken, spilled, empty, or otherwise needing attention, please say something to a volunteer in the room. If no one is available, go to DoubleTree Cabana 212 (ConSuite staff headquarters) and let someone know (or leave a message with the badger outside the door if no one answers).

Unattended children are not allowed in ConSuite. Staff will track down parents as quickly as possible and put the parents to work.

DID YOU KNOW CONSUIITE OFFERS FOOD?

Part of Connie Mark II's mission is to make sure all of her meat babies make it alive to the end of CONvergence. To that end, the following foods are part of the cornucopia available in ConSuite for everyone's enjoyment: rice with assorted sauces and toppings, PB&J sandwiches, cookies, fruits, vegetables, chips and dip, sweet candies, milk (2% and chocolate), and soda. We also offer breakfast cereals, OJ, and pastries in the mornings.

HOUSE OF TOAST

The world-famous House Of Toast folks will be stopping by ConSuite periodically to serve up their fantastic toast toppings (and toast!).

DEAD DOG PARTY

After CONvergence is done on Sunday, the truly dedicated (and the insane) continue to work to make the hotel normal again for Monday. These faithful few are rewarded with a Dead Dog Party on Sunday night, after ConSuite and the other departments have had a chance to pack and clean up. We intentionally start it well after the Closing Ceremony has ended, so help a CONvergence department get things organized for tear down, then join the rest of us at ConSuite to relax and enjoy some more food and conversation as a reward for all of your hard work!

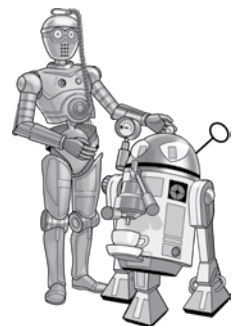


COF2E2 FREE COFFEE SHOP

DoubleTree Cabanas 114–115

CoF2E2 is your one-stop shop for caffeine and all things related! This year, back by popular demand, is cold press, along with our regular selection of espresso, teas, and liquid gold (drip brew coffee). Swing in, fuel up at the TARDIS station and don't forget to leave suggestions or comments for us in the feedback box!

Thursday 5:00pm–Friday 6:00am
Friday Noon–Saturday 6:00am
Saturday Noon–Sunday 6:00am
Sunday Noon–3:00pm (may close earlier if coffee runs out)



CONVERGENCE MERCHANDISE

CONvergence Central Coat Check

(DoubleTree South Tower, 2nd Floor)

Thursday	Noon–6:00pm
Friday	10:00am–6:00pm
Saturday	10:00am–6:00pm
Sunday	10:00am–4:00pm

CONvergence Merchandise

CONvergence Merchandise offers an array of CONvergence-branded products, both new and old. We have at least one new t-shirt design every year, as well as many other fun surprises. We also have gear from past conventions, such as shot glasses, keychains, badge holders, lanyards, sweatpants, and polo shirts. Come on down and find out what we have that you just can't live without.

SMOKERS PARADISE & UNFILTERED ACOUSTIC STAGE

CONvergence is happy to host the Smokers Paradise tent: a nice, shaded, breezy area outdoors for smokers to hang out in and partake of their tobacco products and e-cigarettes in a friendly atmosphere with plenty of seating, tables, and lots of ashtrays.

Smokers Paradise is located across from the main entrance of the DoubleTree by Hilton, outside the East doors, next to the outdoor patio. You must be a registered member of CONvergence to enter Smokers Paradise.

Smokers Paradise Hours

Wednesday Noon–Monday 8:00am

If you are a smoker, a friend of a smoker, or just like being outside during a summer day to relax on the comfy patio furniture, come on out to the East Courtyard and join us! It's much more comfortable than crowding around the exits, and

there's no risk of getting a citation for being too close to the entryway. Truly, this is Smokers Paradise.

Enjoy music at Smokers Paradise's very own intimate acoustic stage, UNFILTERED, open daily Thursday through Saturday for 45-minute music, storytelling, and spoken word sets.

UNFILTERED Hours

Thursday	10:00am–10:00pm
Friday	10:00am–10:00pm
Saturday	10:00am–10:00pm

Want to perform at UNFILTERED? Simply stop by Smokers Paradise when you arrive at the convention and sign up for a set time! Acoustic performances are welcome. There is no secure storage available for gear or instruments at Smokers Paradise, so plan to keep yours with you before and after your set.



MAINSTAGE

MainStage celebrates 20 years, naturally, of CONvergence by packing our schedule with some of our favorite recurring shows along with a few fantastic surprises. Our huge video screens means there are no bad seats in the house and expanded seating allows for staying put through multiple shows; please see the map for additional details.

THURSDAY JULY 5

6:00pm–6:50pm Big Fun Radio Funtime

Big Fun Radio Funtime presents old time radio plays for a new time audience. Sit back, close your eyes, and let the funny sounds transport you to different places and times. There might be aliens, vampires, monster trucks, or even shoe salesmen, but it will all be fun. Maybe even Big Fun! Presented by Fearless Comedy Productions.

7:00pm–8:00pm Opening Ceremony

It's a glamorous red-carpet extravaganza as we welcome our many Guests of Honor to the DoubleTree for four days of fabulous fandom! This star-studded affair will get you pumped up to celebrate the 20th anniversary of CONvergence like nothing else. Master of Ceremonies Tim Wick is joined by Connie for an award show like no other.

8:30pm–10:00pm Smackdown

10:00pm–11:30pm Sci-fi Erotica Read-Aloud: The Drinking Game

Grab your flask and your friends and join us as we dive into another carefully curated selection of the "best" in scifi erotica.

Panelists: Kristina Winn, Katie Rodriguez MacInnes, Kate Cornish, Katherine Affeldt, Scott Raleigh, Windy Bowsby, Molly Hair. **ASL interpreted** by Claire Alexander

11:59pm–5:00am Icosahedron Wonderland (dance)

Our Thursday night dance features a scramble of our dj's serving up tasty portions of retro dance, mashups, classic club songs, and featuring a block of electro swing music to spin around our dance floor to. See the video signage outside our room for additional information and schedule updates.

FRIDAY JULY 6

2:00pm–3:00pm Gargoyles Redux

5:00pm–5:30pm Art of the Dress Runway Show

Art of the Dress is the show for costumers who want an opportunity for their outfits to be seen in front of an audience but don't wish to participate in the structured judging of Masquerade. Come show off your cosplay under the bright lights of our stage for all to appreciate!

5:30pm–6:30pm Cirque de Vingt

Help celebrate 20 years with CONvergence's very own circus! Witness performances of many styles, belly dance, acrobats, comedy, sideshow, and high flying aerial artists—all with signature geeky themes of course! Step right up to the MainStage, these are acts not to miss!

7:00pm–8:00pm Joseph Scrimshaw

8:30pm–9:30pm PowerPoint Karaoke

Melissa Kaercher (tech), Bill Stiteler (moderator/MC) **Contestants:** Sharon Stiteler, Molly Glover, Duck Washington, Tim Uren, **Judges:** C. Robert Cargill, Joseph Scrimshaw

10:00pm–11:00pm Vilification Tennis

Vilification Tennis is a structured improvisational show where competitors engage in a battle of insults. The show is never the same because the competitors keep changing and the material is constantly evolving. We feel that there is humor inherent even in the most taboo subjects and we are, therefore, willing to make fun of things that most people would think aren't the least bit funny. Like your mom. Beware—this show is not for those with delicate sensibilities. (We will need to clear the room after this performance to prepare for music.)

11:30pm–5:30am Boss Level (dance)

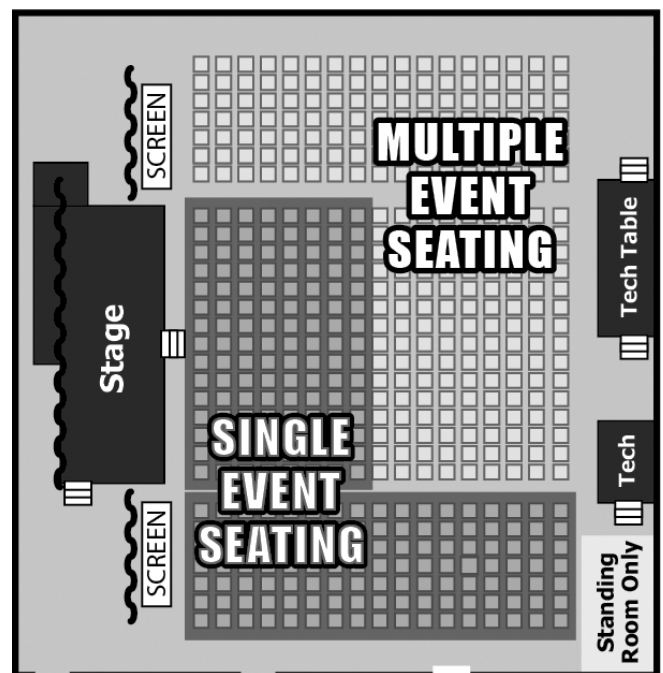
Get ready to get your groove on as we pull out all the stops for a night of intense dancing and tunes until dawn. Not only will this night feature two special guests, but the CONvergence Go-Gos are back for their 5th year of dancing, shaking their behinds together all night long to some awesome music! See our video signage for additional info and updates to our schedule.

11:30pm–Midnight Kristopher Carter Presents:

"The Kr Protocol" World Premiere DJ Set

Emmy-winning composer and 2017 Guest of Honor Kristopher Carter returns to CONvergence to debut his EDM project, "The Kr Protocol." Come dance as Kristopher spins a series of Kryptonite-fueled sci-fi and superhero EDM remixes to open the Friday night rave.

CONVERGENCE 2018 MAINSTAGE



Midnight–1:00am DJ HarshMellow

Kurt Harland Larson, also ominously known as “DJ HarshMellow,” is better known as the lead singer of Information Society from Minneapolis. Playing a mix of Industrial-EDM and Goth, he is sure to both inspire and vaguely trouble anyone brave enough to attend.

1:00am–2:00am DJ Curium’s Dance for UnCanny Con-Goers

Attention: Wonder Women, Wakandans, Warriors, and Wanderers! Even the most prolific superheroes, villains, and misanthropes need to blow off some steam. So adorn yourself with your best spandex, capes, and masks-that-don’t-really-disguise-your-face and join us as we dance off the stress of saving and destroying the world to music from Comic Book Soundtracks.

2:00am–3:00am Fenris

Slow and steady wins the race, but when you add gritty and grindy to that mix, we know you’ll need extra water when you cross the finish line. Fenris again brings his own specialized sound to CONvergence.

3:00am–4:00am DJ O2

Somebody that has always believed that music should tell a story, O2 has taken CONvergence along for the ride while exploring themes related to the convention.

4:00am–5:30am Spier

Presenting a mix of high-energy beats, rumbling bass tones, and geek enthusiasm, Spier brings his formula for a good time to those that want to get down.

SATURDAY JULY 7

6:00pm–8:00pm Masquerade

The CONvergence Masquerade is where those friends you used to have who disappeared for seven months in preparation for this convention can finally be seen again. Come see what they locked themselves away for. Showcasing the talents of costumers spanning all skill levels from beginners to masters, awards are given by judges for both workmanship and presentation.

11:30pm–6:30am In Our Wildest Dreams (dance)

Saturday’s musical journey traverses a dreamlike state beginning with a live performance from Information Society! Our traditional hour of sci-fi and geek related music follows, then the party continues with the folks that have been making MainStage dance for years. *See our video signage for additional info and updates to our schedule.*

11:30pm–12:45am Information Society

A look into the history of Information Society (InSoc) is a peek at the evolution of electronic music with a flair for all things geek. Even if you somehow don’t think you know the name, you’re certain to know the music. InSoc tore into the scene during MTV’s golden era and added firmly to the richness of music originating from Minnesota. CONvergence is happy to celebrate its 20th year with these titans of synthpop.

12:45am–2:00am Sci-fi music hour

Nerd songs, parodies, geeky rap battles, things to sing along to, spontaneous conga lines, and just a bit of snark. That’s what you can expect when geeks get behind dj gear and are allowed to press (or is it push?) the buttons that make the music go.

2:00am–3:00am noise

This will be noise’s 20th year of playing music at CONvergence, which either means he’s crazy or super-dedicated to making sure you get your dance on. Hang on for some growling bass and black-light inspired twists through familiar tunes and darker delights.

3:00am–4:00am dv8

A pivotal part of the MainStage crew, dv8 always delights by dv8-ing from the music he plays at clubs to offer the CONvergence crowd something different and wonderful, with over two decades of experience playing at conventions to draw from.

MAINSTAGE DANCE ETIQUETTE

MainStage stays open late to give you a place to get your dance on and burn off some extra energy. While we welcome all, here are a few things to keep in mind that will keep everybody’s experience spaced out and groovy.

- Hydrate! We promise the air conditioning is turned up as high as it will go. Nevertheless, it can get warm quickly if you dance a lot. MainStage is lucky enough to be one of the places that has a water tap, so you shouldn’t have to go far to quench your thirst. There are also drinking fountains near the escalators. Remember to keep an eye on and re-use your cup if you can.
- As with any other space at this convention, costumes are NOT consent. Make sure to ask before dancing with that awesome Kylo Ren or Leeloo—some people are more comfortable dancing alone.
- Please ask before getting on our stage. We have scheduled dancers and performers that will be on stage from time to time and asking people to move around constantly gets awkward for everybody. If nobody is there, feel free to ask us, but please be respectful if the current performer doesn’t want the company.
- Please limit requests. Most of our performers work through the year to prepare their sets for CONvergence. If you don’t like the music right now, remember that most performers play for no longer than an hour and then something different will happen. If you do like the music, make sure you let that performer know.
- The dances can get loud. If you enjoy the atmosphere but are concerned about the volume, please find complimentary earplugs near our main door.

4:00am–6:30am DJ Nitrogen

Though recently departed from the Minneapolis area, Nitrogen returns to CONvergence because making people dance at con has become a tradition.

SUNDAY JULY 8

12:30pm–1:30pm Harisen Daiko Drum Group

Easily the premiere go-to event for those that aren’t still sleeping in their Sunday, Harisen Daiko presents CONvergence with a unique interpretation of science-fiction themes via traditional Japanese percussion and performance.

2:30pm–3:30pm Beholders and Illithids and Pals: Rev. Matt’s Monster Science

A complete history (not actually complete) of the monsters created for Dungeons and Dragons! Get yourself Beheld, Mind-Flayed, Hook-Horored and Flumphed at this scholarly talk and also hilarious comedy show about everyone’s favorite role-playing game, or at least one of their top five, I mean, come on. Owlbears! Thri-kreens! Jokes! PowerPoint!

5:00pm–x:xxpm Closing Ceremony

Twenty years down! It’s time to say a fond farewell to CONvergence for another year, but don’t feel blue; Master of Ceremonies Andrea Ropella and robot mascot Connie are here to unravel the mysteries of next year’s theme and say goodbye to our illustrious Guests of Honor! We’ll also delve into the details of the dedicated departments that work all year to make your CONvergence dreams come true.

PARTIES AND CABANAS

FIRST FLOOR

103 Earworm: Party Like It's 1999

"War is all around us, my mind says prepare to fight / So if I gotta die I'm gonna listen to my body tonight."

Earworm is back to ring in the new millennium (again!) with a dance party of retro hits that won't leave your head and are bound to keep you distracted from both the impending Y2K disaster and the end of the world as we know it! <https://www.facebook.com/earwormCVG/>

Thursday	8:00pm–Midnight
Friday	8:00pm–2:00am
Saturday	8:00pm–2:00am
Sunday	Not Open

104 Rocky Horror with Transvestite Soup

Come party with your local Rocky Horror shadow cast and get a Columbia-level sugar rush or non alcoholic shot on us! Stop by and meet Frank-N-Furter, take a selfie with our giant googly-eyed penis, learn about our cast, and help yourself to some health literature and safer sex supplies! Sometimes we'll even have cake! <http://transvestitesoup.org/>

Thursday	8:00pm–Midnight
Friday	8:00pm–Midnight
Saturday	8:00pm–Midnight
Sunday	Not Open

106 The Lillith

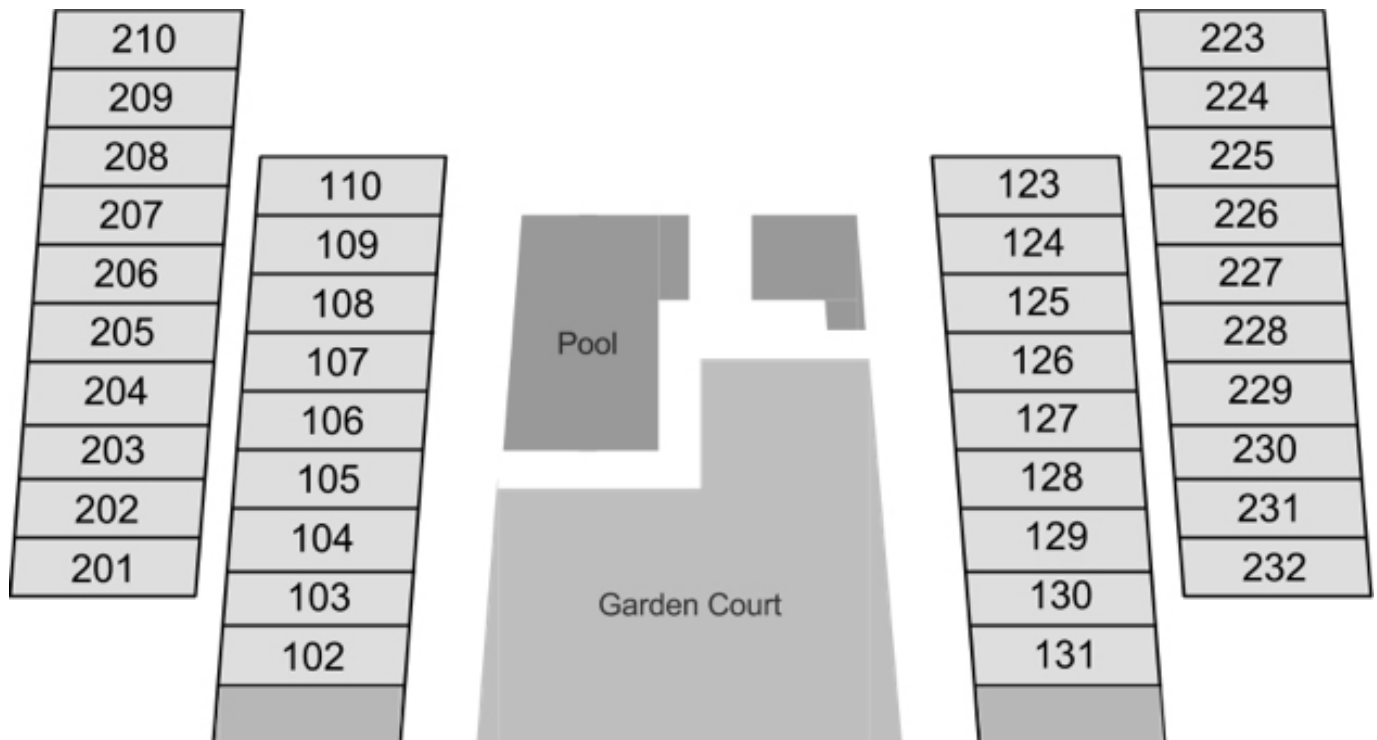
The Lillith has pulled into port and dropped some of its booty on the pier so that they may disembark to party hearty with these strange creatures. Stop by to take a picture, drink, play, listen to music, and be merry with a few pirates while they are still in port! <https://www.facebook.com/thelillith/>

Thursday	7:00pm–11:00pm
Friday	7:00pm–11:00pm
Saturday	7:00pm–11:00pm
Sunday	Not Open

108 Quick Stop and RST Video

I assure you, we're open! Join us for a Gatorade, gallon of milk, or the perfect carton of eggs! <https://www.jerseystudios.net/>

Thursday	7:00pm–Midnight
Friday	8:00pm–1:00am
Saturday	8:00pm–1:00am
Sunday	Not Open



109 Fandom Scouts

The Fandom Scouts are back to help make Fandom a better, safer space. Join us in our blanket fort, make yourself some merit badges, do some camp crafts, and eat a s'more with us!

Thursday	Not open
Friday	7:30pm–12:30am
Saturday	8:00pm–1:00am
Sunday	Not Open

110 Hero Breakroom: GPS Party Room

Even heroes need a break! Stop by to relax from a busy day at the con. We will have a low-key room with crafts, snacks, and drawings for prizes! <https://www.geekpartnership.org/>

Thursday	8:00pm–Midnight
Friday	8:00pm–Midnight
Saturday	8:00pm–Midnight
Sunday	TBD

123 The Last Days of Bag End

Welcome to Bag End. Do stop in for a nibble of seed cake, a sip of cider, and great conversation. A children's birthday party for Bilbo will be held at 1pm on Friday (1 adult attendant per child/children, please) and "Tea with Belladonna" will be held from 1pm to 4pm on Saturday. DO sign up by the green door in advance.

Thursday	8:00pm–1:00am
Friday	1:00pm–3:00pm for children's party, 8:00pm–1:00am
Saturday	1:00pm–4:00pm for Tea with Belladonna, 8:00pm–1:00am
Sunday	Not Open

125 U.S. Outpost 31

A room where horror enthusiasts can come to talk about the genre and watch clips from their favorite films. It's time CONvergence had a place for horror lovers again!

Thursday	8:00pm–Midnight
Friday	8:00pm–2:00am
Saturday	8:00pm–2:00am
Sunday	Not Open

126 Junior's Bar

Junior's Bar is an RWBY-themed party room. Come dance and drink with Junior and his Henchmen at the club. Open to all ages from Noon–5pm on Friday and Saturday for games and anime. Open to 21+ from 8:00pm–3:00am on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights. <https://www.facebook.com/jrpartyroom/>

Thursday	8:00pm–3:00am
Friday	Noon–5:00pm, 8:00pm–3:00am
Saturday	Noon–5:00pm, 8:00pm–3:00am
Sunday	Not Open

127 Pinkie's PPParty

Do you love ponies? Do you love parties? Well, so do we! Come check out Pinkie Pie's Positively Phenomenal Pony Party (or Pinkie's PPParty for short)! Come join us for MLP:FIM themed snacks, drinks, activities, and more! Because nobody throws a party like Pinkie Pie!

Thursday	6:00pm–Midnight
Friday	Noon–5:00pm 7:00pm–Midnight
Saturday	10:00–5:00pm 7:00pm–Midnight
Sunday	Midnight–2:00pm

128 The E-Tank

Gaming is our passion and we want to bring that to you! Come by to play new and old video games with others in a friendly atmosphere with games like Sm4sh bros, DBZ Fighters, Mario Kart 8 and more!

Thursday	8:00pm–2:00am
Friday	8:00pm–2:00am
Saturday	8:00pm–2:00am
Sunday	Not Open

129 Anime Fusion

Revisit classic anime and discover new favorites with the convention that spans the ages. Whether you're just getting into anime, or haven't dusted off those old VHS tapes in years, there's a place for you at Anime Fusion. Stop in, watch some anime, and let us grill you a cheese! <http://www.animefusion.net/>

Thursday	6:00pm–10:00pm
Friday	6:00pm–10:00pm
Saturday	6:00pm–10:00pm
Sunday	Not Open

130 Anime Twin Cities

We're gearing up for Anime Detour 2019 "Refuse To Lose" with a tailgate party. Stop by for tailgating snacks and games. Then learn about our monthly social events, clubs, charitable efforts and community partnerships. Detour is only once a year but we've got your year round Anime fandom fix. <http://www.animetwincities.org>

Thursday	7:00pm–Midnight
Friday	6:00pm–Midnight
Saturday	6:00pm–Midnight
Sunday	Not Open

131 Vault 131

Escape the wastelands in our retro-futuristic lounge, complete with refreshing libations and music inspired by our predecessors' hope for the future and the promises of technology. Don't miss out on our signature drink: The Atomic Blast.

Thursday	Not Open
Friday	8:00pm–Midnight
Saturday	8:00pm–Midnight
Sunday	Not Open

PARTIES AND CABANAS

SECOND FLOOR PARTIES

201 The Continental Hotel (Assassin's Guild)

Seated in the lap of luxury, this historic establishment offers its comforts and atmosphere to only the most discerning of clientele. This is a place of meeting and professional discourse. As such, no business may be conducted on Continental property. All who enter do so as associates and shall meet in peace and civility. Please join us for refreshment, entertainment (movies, music, DDR), games, and pleasant company. Find information on the Guild's events, such as the foam sword combat tournament, or perhaps pick up a contract or two. Here at The Continental, we are all friends. <http://www.celticmagicinc.com/>

Thursday	8:00pm–Midnight (or later)
Friday	8:00pm–1:00am (or later)
Saturday	8:00pm–1:00am (or later)
Sunday	Open on and off, all day and night

203/204 The Lodge Room

A crime has been committed. The clues to solving it lie all around. Can you piece together the puzzle and convict the guilty party? A reward awaits those who can! <http://www.bradenlodge.org/>

Thursday	7:00pm–1:00am
Friday	7:00pm–1:00am
Saturday	7:00pm–1:00am
Sunday	Not Open

205 The Room of Requirement

To our new guests, welcome! To our old guests, welcome back! Another weekend full of magic awaits you. Step into the Wizarding World and visit Platform 9 ¾ on your way to grab a butterbeer or pumpkin juice. If you're feeling as courageous as a Gryffindor, take a chance with a potion! <https://www.facebook.com/theroomofrequirement>

Thursday	7:00pm–11:00pm
Friday	7:00pm–11:00pm
Saturday	7:00pm–11:00pm
Sunday	Not Open

207 Wonderland Tea Party

Come down the rabbit hole with us again. Enjoy some snacks, watch various renditions of Alice movies, try your luck at our Disc Drop game, and enter our raffle.

Thursday	Not Open
Friday	See Website
Saturday	See Website
Sunday	Not Open

223 Pee Wee's Playhouse

Come on in and pull yourself up a chair. Multimedia artists Children of Dagon return with a tiki tribute to Pee Wee's Playhouse.

Thursday	7:00pm–Midnight
Friday	7:00pm–Midnight
Saturday	7:00pm–Midnight
Sunday	Not Open

225 The Magic School Party Room

Join us for an exploration of the natural world and revel in the nostalgia of our favorite School Bus. Free, family-friendly experiments during the day, and scientific discussions over refreshments in the evening. Just don't be afraid to take chances, make mistakes, and get messy in this party room.

Thursday	11:00am–6:00pm
Friday	11:00am–6:00pm; 9:00pm–11:00pm
Saturday	11:00am–6:00pm; 9:00pm–11:00pm
Sunday	Not Open

226 Rapture Masquerade Ball 1959

Travel to the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean to experience New Year's Eve 1958 in the underwater city of Rapture.

Thursday	9:00pm–1:00am
Friday	7:00pm–1:00am
Saturday	7:00pm–1:00am
Sunday	Not Open



228 CONsole Room/ConFABulous

CONsole Room (the Twin Cities' Dr. Who Convention) and ConFABulous (sponsored by Gaylaxicon Minnesota, an LGBT gaming and relaxacon), a family-friendly party room, will again feature crafts and activities, root beer or orange floats, and themed foods.

Thursday	Not Open
Friday	7:00pm–Midnight
Saturday	7:00pm–Midnight
Sunday	Not Open

230 Bubbles & Baubles

In the spirit of all things magick, visit Bubbles & Baubles. Daytime hours will include receiving a bewitched talisman or conversing with our fortune teller for a glimpse into your future. Nighttime hours will include conversing with our witches and warlocks and being served potions by our most potent enchanters.

Thursday	8:00pm–Midnight
Friday	Noon–2:00pm, 8:00pm–Midnight
Saturday	Noon–2:00pm, 8:00pm–Midnight
Sunday	Not Open

231 Mos Icee Cantina

Jabba is returning again as host to the Mos Icee Cantina. Stop by for a cold ice or hang out with Jabba on the balcony.

Thursday	8:00pm–Midnight
Friday	8:00pm–1:00am
Saturday	8:00pm–1:00am
Sunday	Not Open

232 Rum & Bass (Just Bass for 2018)

CONvergence's hottest mini dance festival is back for another year of floor-shaking madness! Dance the night away, enjoy some non-alcoholic refreshments, win merch enchanted with +1 to Style, and help us make this another con to remember! Party like a nerd! <https://www.facebook.com/RumBassCON/>

Thursday	8:00pm–2:00am
Friday	8:00pm–2:00am
Saturday	8:00pm–2:00am
Sunday	Not Open



CINEMA REX



DoubleTree Plaza 4 / First Floor, North Tower

It's the BIG TWO OH for CONvergence! 20 years! How the time flies! For year 10, Rex decided to pick one film to re-show out of each previous convention's schedule to represent that year. That seemed like a good idea, and so once again Rex will be reshowing a film from each of the last 10 years.

For big reptiles like Rex, 20 years is just a drop in the bucket. But for his underlings...it's a different story. Rex can see that they aren't long for this world and he feels sorry for them. That's why once again, Rex is going to allow each of his main staff to choose one film for their "Employee Pick," just like he did in year 10. What a guy!

For this 20th year, Rex has more special events than ever. To start off, there's the usual Trailer Park and an extra-long showing of the Best of the Midwest Film Festival. Horror Show Hot Dog is back to do their picks of some horrific—and sometimes hilarious—creepy shorts. Guest of Honor Vincent Truitner returns to Cinema Rex and will discuss his special effects work in not one, but two feature films: *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children* and *Maleficent*. Film critic and blogger Guest of Honor Lindsay Ellis will discuss her comparison analysis of the two Addams Family films. Rex ends the weekend with Guest of Honor Mary Jo Pehl talking about her writing efforts in *Mystery Science Theater 3000*.

But that is not all! Rex is going to celebrate its 20th year with an event called Rex's Super Happy Fun Time where he will VJ some of his all-time favorite shorts shown over the years, and also some new material. Last, but not least, Jeremy Stomberg, Duck Washington, and Bill Stiteler are back to ruin us all with the riffing of...The Avengers. No, no. I'm sorry. This is not the wonderful MCU Avengers. This is that film you tried to forget existed, about that sixties British TV show with a great cast and all the potential in the world. Yeah, that one!

For those of you who are new to CONvergence, Cinema Rex is all about comfort, atmosphere, and great movies. Rex turns his film room into one big, cozy living room filled with couches and comfy chairs, and puts the movies on a big screen with amazing sound. Hope to see you there!

THURSDAY JULY 5

3:00pm **The Fifth Element** PG-13—1997—126m

dir. Luc Besson w/Bruce Willis, Milla Jovovich, Gary Oldman, Chris Tucker, Ian Holm

Write-up from 2017: A highlight of 90's sci-fi, this film is an over-the-top, adrenaline-filled great time. And hey, there's even a bit of opera. Be sure to bring your multi-pass.

5:30pm **Nightmare Before Christmas** PG—1993—76m

dir. Henry Selick w/Chris Sarandon, Catherine O'Hara, Danny Elfman

Michael's Pick: Come join us and the "Bone Daddy" in Celebrating 25 years of this fantastic film. Get immersed in the misadventures of Jack Skellington, The Pumpkin King, who has become bored with doing the same "Old Thing." When Jack accidentally stumbles on Christmastown, he plots to bring Christmas under his control by kidnapping Santa Claus and taking over the role. But Jack soon discovers even the best-laid plans of mice and skeleton men can go seriously awry.

7:00pm **Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2** PG-13—2017—136m

dir. James Gunn w/Kurt Russell and some other people

Kurt Russell finally appearing in a Marvel film? Has Rex died and gone to heaven? Enjoy the groovy awesome mix and the sharp wit of James Gunn's script and direction for this second in the Guardians series within the MCU. (this showing is captioned)

10:00pm **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.

11:00pm **Horror Show Hotdog Horror Shorts Festival**

The crew of the locally produced podcast Horror Show Hotdog has curated shorts to be shown at the Twin Cities Horror Festival. They've chosen their favorites from past festivals to be shown in Cinema Rex.

Midnight **Behind the Mask: The Rise of Leslie Vernon** R—2006—92m

dir. Scott Glosserman w/Nathan Baesel, Angela Goethals, Zeld Rubinstein

Eric's Pick: There are several horror films which are of their genre while also poking a bit of fun at that genre at the same time, like "Scream." Here's one that treads the ridge between genuine slasher and parody with the skill of a mountain goat.

In a world where Freddie and Jason are real, Leslie Vernon is in training to be the next big thing in mass murder. Thanks to this mockumentary, we get to follow his progress. This movie takes great pleasure in setting up slasher tropes, only to knock them down again...or is it the other way around? You decide. (this showing is captioned)

2:00am **Mad Max: Fury Road Black and Chrome Edition** R—2015—120m

dir. George Miller w/Tom Hardy, Charlize Theron, Nicholas Hoult, Hugh Keays-Byrne

Write-up from 2016 (edited for B/C edition): You've probably seen this one. But have you seen the Black and Chrome version on our big screen and kick ass sound system? You probably should. I watch, I wander, I watch again.

FRIDAY JULY 6

10:00am **Clue**

PG—1985—94m

dir. Jonathan Lynn w/Eileen Brennan, Tim Curry, Madeline Kahn, Christopher Lloyd, Michael McKean, Martin Mull, Lesley Ann Warren

Write-up from 2009: Board games are funny too! Based on the omnipresent board game, this film is a who's who of 80s comedic talent. Which ending will Rex show? Come and find out! (this showing is captioned)

Noon **Best of 2017 Midwest Sci-Fi Short Film Festival**

Our usual festival of short films of various geeky genres and styles from Midwestern filmmakers has expanded in recent years. The Best of the Midwest has reached out beyond the Midwest for selections from around the world. Come see some of Rex's favorites.

1:00pm **The City of Lost Children**

R—1995—112m

dir. Jean-Pierre Jeunet, Marc Caro w/Ron Perlman, and some French people

Write-up from 2011: Mad scientists, conjoined twins, and carnies galore! A cult scours the underbelly of the city to kidnap children and steal their dreams. Stunning, bizarre visuals and an extraordinary collection of dark, odd characters shine in this twisted French film. (with English subtitles)

3:00pm **Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children**

PG-13—2016—127m w/guest Vin Truitner

dir. Tim Burton w/Eva Green, Asa Butterfield, Samuel L. Jackson, Ella Purnell

This delightfully dark and whimsical story follows a seemingly ordinary boy who is anything but. As charming and sweet as it is genuinely creepy, this Victorian-style tale seems timeless and familiar without feeling tired. Guest of Honor Vin Truitner will say a few words before the film and then stick around for a Q&A after to discuss his work on the movie.

6:00pm **Sucker Punch (Extended Cut)**

R—2011—128m

dir. Zack Snyder w/Emily Browning, Vanessa Hudgens

John's Pick: Far more than a simple flash-over-substance action film, Zack Snyder's highly controversial film can be interpreted in many ways and on many levels. However, few view it as the dark musical that it is with each number (effectively music videos) advancing the storyline. Rex showed the theatrical version of this film in 2012. This extended cut is longer, darker, and brings a deeper understanding and meaning to the original cut.

8:30pm **Rex's Super Happy Fun Time**

It is CONvergence's 20th year and Rex wants to celebrate by playing lots of his favorite fun short videos that he's stockpiled over the years, along with some new recent ones. So come for 5 minutes, come for 20 minutes, or come for the whole show. It's going to be a super happy fun time!!!

9:30pm **The Game**

R—1997—129 min

dir. David Fincher w/Michael Douglas, Sean Penn, Deborah Kara Unger

Write-up from 2014: Consumer Recreation Services will bring your fantasies to life and make your dreams come true, whether you want them to or not! David Fincher brings us a dose of urban fantasy, not with spells and dragons, but with creepy manipulation, smoke and mirrors, and a whole lot of money.

Midnight **Se7en**

R—1995—127m

dir. David Fincher w/Kevin Spacey, Brad Pitt, Morgan Freeman

Write-up from 2010: Kevin Spacey chillingly portrays serial killer John Doe as he takes it upon himself to eradicate a randomly chosen representative of each of the seven deadly sins. Murder-by-Numbers!

2:00am **Get Out**

R—2017—104m

dir. Jordan Peele w/Daniel Kaluuya, Allison Williams, Catherine Keener, Bradley Whitford

Last year's acclaimed suspense film, "Get Out" garnered a lot of attention for blending humor, tension, and social commentary in one excellent package, and was nominated for a best picture Oscar, to boot. Much of the horror feels all too real in the current climate. Lots of you have already seen this, but what better way to re-watch than in Cinema Rex with a bunch of other geeks? And if you haven't, now's your chance to make up for that transgression. Sorry, but we won't be serving any tea. (this showing is captioned)

SATURDAY JULY 7

10:00am **Nightmare Before Christmas**

PG—1993—76m

dir. Henry Selick w/Chris Sarandon, Catherine O'Hara, Danny Elfman

Michael's Pick: Come join us and the "Bone Daddy" in Celebrating 25 years of this fantastic film. Get immersed in the misadventures of Jack Skellington, The Pumpkin King, who has become bored with doing the same "Old Thing." When Jack accidentally stumbles on Christmastown, he plots to bring Christmas under his control by kidnapping Santa Claus and taking over the role. But Jack soon discovers even the best-laid plans of mice and skeleton men can go seriously awry. (this showing is captioned)

11:30am **The Avengers**

PG-13—1998—89m—with live riff by Duck Washington, Bill Stiteler, and Jeremy Stomberg

dir. Jeremiah Chechik w/Ralph Fiennes, Uma Thurman, Sean Connery, Jim Broadbent, Eddie Izzard

In honor of CONvergence's 20-year anniversary we're celebrating by riffing a film as old as the convention itself, The Avengers! No, not those Avengers, the ones played by Ralph Fiennes and Uma Thurman! Watch as they talk and wear clothes in a film not worthy of the sophisticated 1960's British TV Show it was based on. Bill Stiteler, Jeremy Stomberg, and Duck Washington will humorously peel back the layers as Cinema Rex screens a film that critics declared "stupifyingly awful" and "graphic proof of a vicious god." Come prepared to laugh and cringe.

1:30pm **The Legend of Hell House**

PG—1973—95 min

dir. John Hough w/Roddy McDowall, Pamela Franklin, Clive Revill

Write-up from 2013: Acclaimed writer Richard Matheson (Incredible Shrinking Man, I Am Legend, Stir of Echoes) weaves a suspenseful tale of a physicist and two mediums who are commissioned to investigate the possibility of survival after death in a brooding mansion with a dark and twisted past.

3:30pm **The Congress**

NR—2013—122m

dir. Ari Folman w/Robin Wright, Harvey Keitel, Paul Giamatti

Write-up from 2015: In "The Congress," Robin Wright plays the role of a lifetime as Robin Wright. While raising her children and trying to keep a struggling acting career alive, an industry mogul presents an opportunity to Robin that will change her career, life, and our entire society as we know it.

This little-known recent film twists and turns down a self-referential path that will take you to strange unanticipated places.

6:00pm The Addams Family
PG-13—1991—99m—w/guest Lindsay Ellis
dir. Barry Sonnenfeld w/Anjelica Huston, Raul Julia, Christopher Lloyd, Christina Ricci
They're creepy and they're kooky, mysterious and spooky... Nobody needs an introduction to the Addams clan; but you're going to get one anyway! Guest of Honor Lindsay Ellis will be on hand before the film to compare and contrast this film and its sequel. (this showing is captioned)

8:00pm The Last Days
NR—2013—100m
dir. David Pastor, Alex Pastor w/Quim Gutierrez, Jose Coronado, Marta Etura
Cara's Pick: This sophomore post-apocalyptic film from writer/director brothers David and Alex Pastor is set in Barcelona where a mysterious global epidemic has left all humans with a deadly reaction to being outdoors. As the city descends into chaos, Marc sets off on a quest to find Julia, his missing girlfriend—without ever venturing outside. (with English subtitles)

10:00pm Happy Death Day
PG-13—2017—96m
dir. Christopher Landon w/Jessica Rothe, Israel Broussard, Ruby Modine
Kicking off our "Death Triple Feature," this inventive thriller flick came out last fall, and Rex knows that a bunch of you didn't see it. It's basically a horror homage to "Groundhog Day," but steps far enough away with inventive plot twists to stand quite well on its own. (this showing is captioned)

Midnight Death To Smoochy
R—2002—109m
dir. Danny DeVito w/Robin Williams, Edward Norton, Catherine Keener, Danny DeVito, Jon Stewart
Ansley's Pick: Since Rex wouldn't allow Ansley to show the six hour version of Fanny and Alexander for her staff pick, she chose this instead. The world of children's entertainment isn't what it seems, rife with scandals, mobs, and murder. Precious Edward Norton finds himself in over his head when he replaces corrupt kiddie show host Robin Williams, who has nothing left to live for but rainbow-covered revenge. A sharp, dark comedy with a powerhouse cast that was criminally underrated.

2:00am Death Proof
R—2007—114m
dir. Quentin Tarantino w/Kurt Russell, and some other people
Write-up from 2008: Kurt Russell in a Tarantino film? It's like Rex has died and gone to heaven. You may wish you never met Stuntman Mike, but you'll be glad you saw this down-'n'-dirty half of last year's Grindhouse.

SUNDAY JULY 8

10:00am Maleficent
PG—2014—97m—w/guest Vin Truitner
dir. Robert Stromberg w/Angelina Jolie, Elle Fanning, Sharlto Copley
If you missed the sleek fairytale focusing on the perspective of the villain the first time around, now is your chance to see it with special introduction and post-film Q&A by CVG guest Vincent Truitner discussing his involvement with the film. (this showing is captioned)

12:30pm Clue
PG—1985—94m
dir. Jonathan Lynn w/Eileen Brennan, Tim Curry, Madeline Kahn, Christopher Lloyd, Michael McKean, Martin Mull, Lesley Ann Warren
Write-up from 2009: Board games are funny too! Based on the omnipresent board game, this film is a who's who of 80s comedic talent. Which ending will Rex show? Come and find out! (this showing is captioned)

2:30pm The Extraordinary Adventures of Adèle Blanc-Sec
NR—2010—107m
dir. Luc Besson w/Louise Bourgoin, and some other French people
Write-up from 2012: From the director of The Fifth Element comes a whimsical tale of an Indiana Jones-esque authoress and her exploits with pterodactyls, magic, and mummies in Egypt and Paris during the early 1900's. Never before released in the US—theatrically or on DVD—this film is a must see! (with English subtitles)

4:30pm Mystery Science Theater 3000
PG-13—1996—73m—w/guest Mary Jo Pehl
dir. Jim Mallon w/Trace Beaulieu, Michael J. Nelson, Jim Mallon, Kevin Murphy
Most geeks were excited when MST3K made the jump from TV to the big screen and this film did not disappoint. Guest of Honor Mary Jo Pehl will do a Q&A session about her work with MST3K before we roll the film!

2017 MIDWEST SCI-FI SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

DoubleTree Atrium 6

Friday Noon

This year, to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of CONvergence, we will be featuring a retrospective of the best sci-fi short films to screen at the festival over the past eight years.

Please see the Programming Schedule for Day/Time/Locations.

Happy anniversary, CONvergence!

—The Midwest Sci-Fi Short Film Festival

SPACE LOUNGE

Is your party in need of rest, refreshment, entertainment, or enhancement? Space Lounge is the intergalactic way station of the future you've been questing for. Hunger and thirst are such 21st century concerns—visit our Sensory Bar to nourish all your OTHER senses! Check in with one of our bartenders to receive a bespoke sensory experience that's sure to be a critical hit. Before heading out on your quest, feast your ears upon futuristic sounds, create a visual record in our space photo booth, and relax in our glowy lounge. Lawful good to chaotic evil, there's something here for everyone!

DoubleTree Verandas 5, 6, and 8 (South Tower, 2nd Floor) General Hours of Regular Lounge Operation

Thursday 9:00pm–2:00am
Friday 9:00pm–2:00am
Saturday 9:00pm–2:00am

Schedule of Special Events

Friday 7:00pm–9:00pm Teens Only!

Space Lounge is excited to again partner with the CONvergence Teen Room to create a Teens-Only (ages 13–20) event in Space Lounge. Bartend at our sensory bar, DJ, or just have all the awesomeness of Space Lounge for your teen-

self and friends during this two-hour Teen/Space Lounge cooperative event! Space Lounge never serves alcohol, but during the Teens-Only timeframe, no alcohol will be allowed into the room. Also, non-teens other than Space Lounge staff will not be allowed into the room. Stop by and ask for any Space Lounge head or sub-head with any questions!

Just-One-Hour Electric Elevensies!

Friday 11:00pm–Midnight

Be ye halfling, centaur, goblin, or fae- if you hunger for piles and piles of phat beats, feast upon Just One Hour Electric Elevensies on the Space Lounge dance floor. One hour of getting down in our electronic underground.

Classic Video Game Tournament

Saturday 1:00pm–4:00pm

This elimination-style competition on a 2-player glass table-top arcade machine featuring games ranging from the classic to the bizarre. Space is limited. (1:00pm signup, 2:00pm start).

Transdimensional Courier Kickstarter Launch Party

Saturday 4:30pm–5:30pm

A launch party for DISCREPANCY, an intertemporal short film, set in the world of John Heimbuch's The Transdimensional Couriers Union.

CVG TEEN ROOM

DoubleTree Atrium 3

The Teen Room is a safe place for people ages 13–20 to hang out, meet new individuals, and talk about interesting topics with other teens in a room run by teens and young adults. Come over to DoubleTree Atrium 3, 2nd floor (right next to Theatre Nippon, and right above Connie's Quantum Sandbox). You can meet fellow teens, go to a movie at Cinema Rex, attend a panel, play one of our games, and chat with people your age about topics that you find interesting. Since the Teen Room is a safe place for teens ages 13–20, please remember that no alcohol is allowed in the room!

Teen Room Hours

Thursday 2:00pm–1:00am
Friday 10:00am–1:00am
Saturday 10:00am–1:00am
Sunday 10:00am–6:00pm

Connie's QUANTUM SANDBOX

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

Thursday Noon–12:00am
Friday 9:00am–12:00am
Saturday 9:00am–12:00am
Sunday 9:00am–4:30pm

Welcome to the Sandbox

Connie's Quantum Sandbox is where art and science come together in the most enjoyable ways. We have a variety of hands-on activities that may be messy, might make your hands dirty, but are definitely fun. Come and exercise your creative muscles and keep an eye out for any quantum cats!

Our activities are for a range of ages so please check the schedule for the recommended age. Some After Dark activities require an ID. Children under 14 years must be accompanied by an adult.

Hours & Schedule

Connie's Quantum Sandbox no longer has drop-in activities. All activities can be found on the CONvergence Schedule.

Please Note

Lines may get long, so be prepared to wait patiently. In the event that Connie's Quantum Sandbox reaches activity capacity, everyone will be alerted as soon as possible so you can choose to go to another panel if you wish. If you need accessibility accommodations, please inform the Nerf Herder or Sandbox Staff member at the head of the line.

All participants for scheduled activities MUST leave the room at the scheduled end-time. We have to clean the room and prepare for the next activity within a 30 minute window and this prep work is not possible unless members vacate the space.

Connie's Quantum Sandbox is a multi-age venue, but does not provide childcare and does not allow unattended children under the age of 14. If children under 14 are found unattended, they will be escorted to the Bridge until their lost parents are located.

After Dark activities often require parent supervision or a photo ID to attend. For activities that require adult supervision, no one under 18 is admitted without parental supervision. For other After Dark activities, no admittance is allowed without proper photo ID for persons 18 years or older. NO EXCEPTIONS!

It's important to respect others and their property. Most of our supplies come from donations, and many of our tools are

borrowed from convention staff. We do not tolerate theft or vandalism in Connie's Quantum Sandbox.

The Sandbox is NOT equipped to help with costume construction and/or repair.

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 own 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 members 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 tree 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 members 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.



FURRY MIGRATION PRESENTS



SEPTEMBER 7 - 9, 2018 HYATT REGENCY MINNEAPOLIS

GUESTS OF HONOR
RICK GRIFFIN
TANIDAREAL

SPECIAL GUESTS
FOX AMOORE
PEPPER COYOTE

FURRYMIGRATION.ORG

@furrymigration FurryMigration

THURSDAY JULY 5

12:30pm–3:00pm Facepainting

If you've always wanted to be a cat, a dragon, or a superhero, we can make that happen! *Jim Shields, John Garner*

3:30pm–4:30pm 1000 Blank White Cards

Come join us to create an imaginative and freeform card game. Everyone makes cards and joins them together with friends for a social and funny game. Watch the gaming schedule for a time to play! *Alicia Beck, Christina Gregerson*

5:00pm–6:00pm Pipe Cleaner Dragons and Critters

Amazing Soft Sculpture Artist Julie Bowman will be teaching all ages how to make wonderful creatures from the Flexible Master of Craft Materials...the pipe cleaner. Modifications are also shown and it can get crazy from there. *MythJulie*

7:00pm–8:00pm Animated Paper Circuits

Come enjoy some electrical theory while building animated LED circuits using paper! Presented by Spark Y. All ages, 10 and under with supervision. *Destiny Ziebol*

8:30pm–12:30am Modify Your T-Shirt

Bring an old t-shirt, and turn it into a new style of top, or into a bag or a scarf. Or use one from our stash. *Electra Vincent*

FRIDAY JULY 6

9:30am–10:30am Geek Craft: Ornaments and Lights

It is never too early to decorate your favorite spaces. Make pretty, decorative spheres slathered in glue and comic books. Or make pretty, decorative "Guiding Lights" or night lights that look like your favorite animal, plant, or superhero. Or do both! *Angie Anderson, Dierdre Schultz*

11:00am–Noon Art-Go-Round

Artists of skill level from novice to professional collaborate to make art master pieces using various media. Open to all ages. You might even get to go home with an amazing picture! *John Garner, Nikita Woltersen, Vincent Truitner*

12:30pm–1:30pm Iron Pen

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 winners announced at the end of the convention. Judges may include some of the Guests of Honor. *Heather Bufkin*

2:00pm–3:00pm Pop Up Cards

Learn how to make your own pop up greeting cards with one of our Guests of Honor. *Lisa A Snellings*

3:30pm–4:30pm Newtonian Ducky Races

Do you have what it takes to get your rubber ducky to the finish line first? Build your duck a custom car utilizing basic physics and then race it against other ducks. *Geoff Wessendorf, James Kakalios, Sandy Darst*

5:00pm–6:00pm Zombify Your Plushie

Julie Bowman will show you how to turn a cute and adorable Plush Creature into an even cuter and more adorable Plush Zombie. *MythJulie*

7:00pm–8:00pm Hydraulic Arm Build

Using cardboard, syringes, tubing and water, build a moving arm that can pick up and move small objects. Instruction on theory and some design advice will be given; style, beauty, and hydraulic grace is up to you. Presented by Spark Y. *Destiny Ziebol*

8:30pm–9:30pm Chainmaille 101

A basic European 4 in 1 chainmaille lesson for those who have always been curious. We will use links that can be worked without tools, so ages 11+ should be able to enjoy themselves. *Brandon Kline*

10:00pm–12:30am Sandbox After Dark: Art is Skin Deep

Sandbox After Dark presents: Body Painting! You paint, we paint, it's fun for everybody! GoH Michael 'Knightmage' Wilson will also discuss his preferred paints. 18+ Bring ID. *Jim Shields, John Garner, Michael Knightmage Wilson*

SATURDAY JULY 7

9:30am–10:30am Crayon's Corner

KIDS!! Bring your parents to this Exciting Story and Activity Hour. Crayon (Caryn Lenggeek) leads this wonderful CONvergence staple. *Caryn Lenggeek*

11:00am–Noon Cardboard Table Top Pinball

Be a wizard! A pinball wizard! We will make our own pinball machines out of cardboard. *Renee Petersen*

12:30pm–1:30pm Personalize Your Water Bottle

You volunteered and got a cool water bottle—yay! But how do you keep track of it? By decorating it in the Sandbox, of course! Come on in and make your water bottle truly your own! *Angie Anderson*

2:00pm–3:00pm Fairy Doors and Space Portals

Create your entry to a whole new world. Miniature wooden doors to decorate the bases of trees, walls, or even your bookcase. *Dierdre Schultz*

3:30pm–4:30pm A Natural 20: Paper Dice

Cut, fold, and tape or glue paper into a set of dice. *Sean Berry*

5:00pm–6:00pm Sewing 101: Bag of Holding

Brush up on your hand sewing skills, or come learn for the first time, while making a small pouch to carry dice or other treasures. *MythJulie*

7:00pm–8:00pm DIY Spectrometers

Bring your cell phone for this activity, and we will use it to view and measure the properties of light. Presented by Spark Y. *Destiny Ziebol*

8:30pm–9:30pm Mini Nebula Jars

Have you ever wanted your own personal nebula? Now you can make one to wear everywhere! *Nikita Woltersen*

10:00pm–12:30am From Canvas to Connie

You know and love CONvergence's Connie. Now have your own painting of her! Our expert will walk you through the steps from a blank canvas to a masterpiece that you create yourself. *Lauren Addy*

SUNDAY JULY 8

9:30am–Noon Armory Building with Adventures in Cardboard

Come build armor, weapons, magical items, and anything else you can imagine out of cardboard (with the assistance of our armorers), then use your gear to battle in the Garden Court at 12:30. All ages, 10 and under with supervision. *Brynn Berryhill, Douglas Saldana, Gaea Dill-D'Ascoli, Julian McFaul*

12:30pm–1:30pm Steampunk Craft Hour

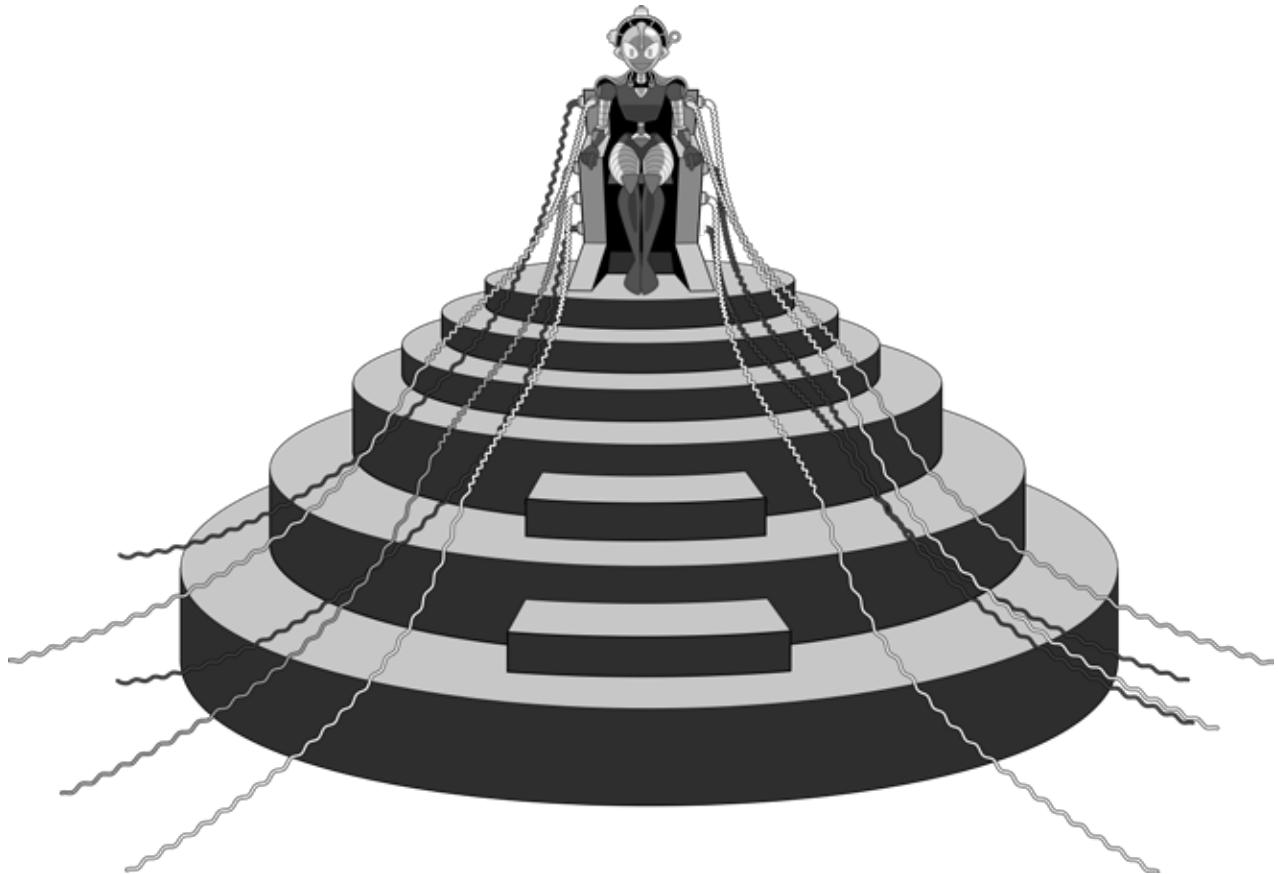
The Red Ribbon Society hosts an hour of steampunk-themed crafts. Create a mechanical collage, color your own vintage paper dolls, assemble beads, or build a helium airship! *Susan Claire Claire*

2:00pm–3:00pm Table-top Catapults

You can't assault your neighbours with large projectiles, but what about marshmallows? Build an assortment of craft stick catapults ranging from a trebuchet to mangonel to a ballista. *Renee Petersen*

3:30pm–4:30pm Make Paper Fly!

Learn to fly with a real pilot! Sean Berry will teach different methods of folding and flying paper airplanes. Come learn what makes a plane fly well, and what might not work so well. *Sean Berry*



MASQUERADE

The CONvergence Masquerade is one of the premiere events of the convention, showcasing the talents of costumers spanning all skill levels, from beginners to masters. Awards are given by the judges for both workmanship in the construction of the costumes and performance in the presentation.

The Masquerade takes place on Saturday evening at 6:00pm on the CONvergence MainStage, in the Grand Ballroom of the DoubleTree. The CONvergence Masquerade is also broadcast live on CVG-TV, available on all TVs inside the DoubleTree hotel rooms.

PARTICIPATE IN THE MASQUERADE

All entries in the CONvergence Masquerade must sign up online and then come to the Masquerade Registration Table during the convention to confirm their spot in the show, tech rehearsal time, and workmanship judging time. Entries will also be taken at the Masquerade Registration Table during the convention.

Tech rehearsal and workmanship judging will be done on Saturday from 9:00am–4:00pm. You will be scheduled into an hour slot during that time, and will do both an on-stage run through and workmanship judging at some point within your scheduled hour. Note that the tech rehearsal and workmanship judging times are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis. There is a limit to the number of entries that will be scheduled into a given hour time slot, so if you have time restrictions, be sure to schedule your hour at the Masquerade Registration Table early.

MASQUERADE REGISTRATION TABLE

The Masquerade Registration Table is located in CONvergence Central, just outside of the CONvergence MainStage. The hours for the Masquerade Registration Table are:

Thursday	3:00pm–6:00pm
Friday	10:00am–1:00pm and 2:00pm–6:00pm
Saturday	9:00am–10:00am

MASQUERADE ORIENTATION

Masquerade Orientation is mandatory and takes place on Saturday in the CONvergence MainStage from 8:00am–9:00am (check the programming guide for additional time slots). There are no exceptions, regardless of how many times you have participated in previous Masquerades. If you have any difficulty with mobility, whether in your costume or not, please inform us during Orientation.

Additional Details: See the web page for additional details about the CONvergence Masquerade, or stop by the Masquerade Registration Table.

ART OF THE DRESS

The Art of the Dress Costume and Couture Show gives all CONvergence members a chance to show off their costumes, ensembles, and unique fashions on stage—without the pressure of competition!

The Art of the Dress Costume and Couture Show takes place on Friday at 5:00pm on the CONvergence MainStage, in the Grand Ballroom of the DoubleTree (see the CONvergence Schedule). The Art of the Dress is also broadcast live on CVG-TV, available on all TVs inside the DoubleTree hotel rooms.

Participate in the Art of the Dress

To participate in the Art of the Dress Costume and Couture Show, you must register before 1:00pm on Friday. You may do this online or at the Art of the Dress Registration Table (the same place as the Masquerade Registration Table).

Art of the Dress Registration Table

The Art of the Dress Registration Table is located in CONvergence Central just outside of the CONvergence MainStage. The hours for the Art of the Dress Registration Table are:

Thursday	3:00pm–6:00pm
Friday	10:00am–1:00pm and 2:00pm–3:30pm

The number of participants may be limited, so register early to guarantee yourself a spot.

Art of the Dress Orientation

There will be a short, mandatory orientation for Art of the Dress participants at 4:00pm Friday in the CONvergence MainStage green room.

Additional Details: See the web page for additional details about the CONvergence Art of the Dress Costume and Couture Show, or stop by the Art of the Dress Registration Table.

COSTUME WARS

Costume Wars is a timed event in which teams of two are provided with a sack of unknown and somewhat random materials. Teams are then expected to make something wonderful in just one hour. Entries will be judged, and the top three will be awarded trophies. Everyone will get accolades and applause!

Each team will consist of two persons, with an optional third, non-participating person to act as a model/dressmaker's dummy only. The third person cannot help build the costume, but can and should be dressed in the newly created attire and is expected to show it off. A third person is not required, and if no third person is present, one or both of the two builders will need to wear the creation.

Costume Wars takes place on Friday at 3:00pm in the Sheraton Garden Court.

Participate in Costume Wars

To participate in Costume Wars, you must register before 1:00pm on Friday at the Masquerade Registration Table. The number of participating teams in Costume Wars is strictly limited to 25, so register early to guarantee your team a spot. If we have interest from more than 25 teams, we will take a waiting list.

Costume Wars Registration at the Masquerade Registration Table

Registration for Costume Wars will take place at the Masquerade Registration Table located in CONvergence Central just outside of the CONvergence MainStage. The hours for Costume Wars registration at the Masquerade Registration Table are:

Thursday	3:00pm–6:00pm
Friday	10:00am–1:00pm

Additional Details: All participating teams in Costume Wars must check in at the Sheraton Garden Court on Friday no later than 2:45pm for a short orientation, or your spot in Costume Wars may be given away to a team on the waiting list.

See the web page for additional details about the CONvergence Costume Wars, or stop by the Masquerade Registration Table.



HARMONIC CONVERGENCE

Harmonic CONvergence is an intimate venue for live entertainment, featuring a blend of music, burlesque, comedy, and spoken word performances. For the second year in a row, HarmCON can be found in the Gibson Room of the Sheraton Hotel. We hope you'll cross the street and join us to experience the amazing talent in our CONvergence community!

HarmCON hosts some adults-only events, as noted below; please have your ID ready to be admitted to these 18+ performances. Please also be aware that we must clear the room of all HarmCON audience members after each act has concluded, and that we cannot permit "seat saving" in between shows. For the best chance at getting into our most popular shows, we recommend arriving early and being prepared to wait in line.

For more information about HarmCON's many amazing acts and for the most up-to-date performance listings, please consult the CONvergence online schedule at schedule.convergence-con.org.

THURSDAY JULY 5

5:30pm–6:30pm The Fandom Menace

Lost your saucer? Your space nuts gone far-out? Went where no man has gone before? The Fandom Menace will help you navigate with a Spocktacular video and music show featuring classic themes from your (parents'?) favorite SF & fantasy movies and TV shows. *Nick Rezmerski*

7:00pm–8:00pm The Not-So-Silent Planet: A Speculative Open-Mic

Have you ever imagined a world whose laws of physics differ from our own? Welcome to the Twin Cities' first open-mic dedicated to speculative fiction! Sign up for 5-7 minutes and tell us about a place of which we've never dreamt. *Ben San Del, phillip andrew bennett low*

8:30pm–9:30pm David Perry

David Perry plays folk, rock, country, and Celtic from a weird mix of originals and covers. Be ready to shout, "Hit Somebody!" *David M. Perry*

9:30pm–10:30pm Doomkitten and Dogbone (18+)

Doomkitten & Dogbone are the comedy music duo you never knew you needed in your life. For mature listeners with childlike humor who enjoy big words. You can find them at <http://www.facebook.com/Doomandbone> and <https://doomkittendogbone.bandcamp.com/releases>. *Dogbone, Doomkitten*

11:30pm–12:30am Zwaremachine

Live electronic band performance combining visuals with custom lighting and stage design for a unique venue experience. Zwaremachine are known for various stunts including walking through walls, time-shifting, and designing futuristic sonic weaponry. *Adam01, Mach Fox, Ryan Ruckus*

FRIDAY JULY 6

11:00am–Noon Candles Enough

We are an eclectic mix of filk, pop, and parodies. We believe there is light at the end of any tunnel, and sometimes that light is giggling. Our set is intended to be comfortable for people with sensory sensitivity. Find us at: facebook.com/candlesevenough. *Kelly Reich, Sarah Ravelly*

12:30pm–1:30pm Ionosphere Casting Shadows

When does a guitar not sound like a guitar? Todd Madson's soothing ambient space guitar soundscapes allows for a way to de-stress from a day of panels, people, and activity. Expect a special tribute to the late con photographer Baron Dave Romm. *Todd Madson*

2:00pm–3:00pm Tanya Brody

Tanya Brody once again graces HarmCon with her special blend of original and traditional folk, with a few fun covers thrown in for good measure. Hear her sing some favorite tunes, and learn a few new ones, as she accompanies herself on harp and guitar. *Tanya Brody*

3:30pm–4:30pm Scott Keever

Scott Keever is a composer and multi-instrumentalist who specializes in solo guitar from Celtic to Balkan, jazz to classical. He has performed regionally with Cats Laughing, Lojo Russo & Funks Grove, Zurround, The Sweet Colleens, and Orkestar Bez Ime. *Scott Keever*

5:30pm–6:30pm Random Fractions

This Chicago-area duo blends guitar and bass with vocal harmonies in original songs about life, the universe, and just about everything along with some unexpected covers for a fantastically fun musical journey. *Cathy McManamon, Jason Neerenberg*

5:30pm–6:30pm Poetry Slam Sign-Up

Sign up for Poetry Slam event.

7:00pm–9:00pm CONvergence Poetry Slam

Nerds have words, and we want to hear them! Show up, sign up, and if the lottery gods are kind you (yes, you) may be drawn to read two three-minute poems to an audience of drunken strangers, and watch your heart and soul assigned numeric value. *Allison Broeren, Bryan Thao Worra, Cole Sarar, Dan Marlow, Lyda Morehouse, Lynne M Thomas, Saymoukda Vongsay, phillip andrew bennett low*

10:00pm–11:00pm Naughty Bawdy Brigade (18+)

We, the Mistresses of the Naughty Bawdy Brigade entertain you with songs, jokes, limericks, and a whole lot of double entendre. We plan to entrance or entrap (your choice) you with our assets. Check us out at <https://www.facebook.com/MBessMNeINBB/> *Amanda Nerud, Anna Miller-Sherman, Tracy Fuller*

11:30pm–12:30am The Nerdlesque Strikes Back! (18+)

Nerdy burlesque performers assemble! Back at HarmCon for year 3 of geek- and pop culture-infused burlesque and cabaret performance art! We'll showcase a medley of your favorite characters through the dazzling, humorous, and sexy scope of burlesque! *Champagne Lorraine, Holliedazzle, Joy Coy, Mona Montague, Opiumm Hayze, Sinasaurus Vex*

SATURDAY JULY 7

11:00am–Noon Ravenscroft Musicke Guild

We're just like Voltron, except we have violins, viola, cello, harp, and recorders instead of robot lions. And we mix covers of TV and movie themes with Renaissance ballads, instead of defending the planus Arus. Okay; I guess we're nothing like Voltron. *Chris Mortika, Eve Zabronsky, Katherine Kilde, Kathleen O'Laughlin, Kerry Teckla Peterson, Stephanie Claussen*

12:30pm–1:30pm The Faithful Sidekicks

The Faithful Sidekicks make (mostly) funny acoustic rock music about all the nerdy/geeky things—catchy original songs for all the fandoms we love delivered with a side of snark. <http://www.thefaithfulsidekicks.com>. *Eric Distad, Jen Distad*

2:00pm–3:00pm Galactic Hot Pants

Modular Synth Lord Orathkar emerges from oblivion to put your brain in a blender, joined by Admiral Astroprobe on vocals and acoustic guitar. Each audience member receives a singularity. Youtube channel: https://youtu.be/R6mvrY_JqY. *Kevin Campbell, Niles Randolph*

3:30pm–4:30pm CONvergence Stand-Up Comedy Showcase

An hour of stand-up comedy featuring an all-star lineup of veteran CONvergence performers. *Ben San Del, Corey Adam, Joseph Scrimshaw, Miss Shannan Paul*

5:30pm–6:30pm SlytherPuff

SlytherPuff is a local Wizard Rock Duo who perform original and cover songs about their favorite fandoms, including Harry Potter, Marvel, Mad Max, and more! Maren brings the Slyther, and Morgan brings the Puff! *Maren Aalgaard, Morgan A Strickland*

7:00pm–7:30pm Peter the Great (18+)

Peter the Great is a stand-up comedian and cosplayer who takes an innuendo-fueled and whimsically dark spin on geek fandoms and nerd culture at sci-fi, fantasy, comic, anime, and gaming conventions! Follow him on social media @PetertheGreatMN

8:30pm–9:30pm Feng Shui Ninjas

FENG SHUI NINJAS are provided AS IS. No warranty expressed or implied. ABSOLUTELY NO REFUNDS. Listen at your own risk! Click "I agree" to listen to this concert. *Dave Stagner, John Kentner, Justin Hartley, Tami Murck*

10:00pm–11:00pm Fearless Stand-Up Showcase (18+)

Laugh along with four local comedians from Fearless Comedy Productions, a non-profit company bringing comedy to the Twin Cities. Nothing is off limits at this 18+ showcase. *Aiden In A Kilt, Cara White, Jason Kruger, Pher Sturz*

11:30pm–12:30am The Dregs

The Dregs have performed at CVG almost as long as there's been a CVG! They return with their signature blend of music and stupidity. Enjoy classics like "Pissing off the Geeks" and newer "hits" like "Sharknado!" You won't be sorry unless you aren't there! *Molly Zupon, Paul Score, Rachael Salisbury Dimba, Susanne Becker, Tim Wick, Trevor Hartman*

Fearless Standup Showcase
Saturday at 10:00 PM
Harmonic CONvergence

Big Fun Radio Funtime
Thursday at 6:00 PM
Main Stage

Check out
Fearless Comedy
at CONvergence!

Improv for Cosplayers
Friday at 7:00 PM
Garden Court

Masquerade Halftime Show
Saturday
during Masquerade Halftime
MainStage

Death at at Convention:
A Whodunnit Panel
Saturday at 2:00 PM, Plaza 1

fearlesscomedyproductions.com

GAMING

THURSDAY JULY 5

11:00am–3:30pm Zombicide Fantasy Era
DoubleTree 2202 Table C

Necromancers have unleashed a zombie invasion in the age of swords and sorcery! The plague has spread rapidly through the Orc ranks, and it's up to your group of straggling adventurers to survive, take back the realm, and punish those responsible!! *Eric R. Peterson (mod)*

11:00am–5:00pm PFS—Gallows of Madness (part 1)
DoubleTree 2203 Table A

Part One of a three-day module. The Abyss Approaches! Something wicked—and monstrous—stirs around the rugged Isgeri town of Saringallow, where the hated legacy of noble Chelish diabolists runs deep. *Pathfinder Society (mod)*

11:00am–12:30pm LAN—Open Gaming
DoubleTree 2208

Open LAN gaming on the PCS in 2208—come see what's new this year! *LAN Gaming (mod)*

12:30pm–3:30pm Terran Revenge Fleet
DoubleTree 2202 Table B

They came for Earth but left the job half done. Earth rebuilt, unified by a single thought: REVENGE! Come join us for Terran Revenge Fleet! An amazing system will have you playing a character within 30 seconds! *Robert Ski Cudinski (mod)*

12:30pm–7:00pm My Little Pony: Festival of Lights
DoubleTree 2202 Table D

The ancient city of Umberfoal, beneath the Badlands in the Southern reaches of Equestria, needs your help! Will you have what it takes to restore Umberfoal and ignite the Festival of Lights after more than a thousand years? *Jeremy Thigpen (mod)*

12:30pm–5:00pm SFS—Starfinder Society—Quests!
DoubleTree 2203

A series of one-hour quests allowing new and experienced players to try out Starfinder Society play! *Pathfinder Society (mod)*

12:30pm–5:00pm PFS—Heroes for Highdelve!
DoubleTree 2203 Table B

Highdelve is in danger, and only true heroes can save the day! *Pathfinder Society (mod)*

12:30pm–5:00pm PFS—Pathfinder Society—Quests!
DoubleTree 2203 Table C

A series of one-hour quests allowing new and experienced players to try out Pathfinder Society play! *Pathfinder Society (mod)*

12:30pm–2:00pm Dominion
DoubleTree 2205 Table B

Come play Dominion, the board game that created the deck-building genre! We'll have all expansions through Nocturne available along with the revised Second Edition base and Intrigue cards. Setup will be adjusted based on player experience. *Carl Patten (mod)*

12:30pm–3:30pm LAN—League of Legends
DoubleTree 2208

One of the most popular games in the world. Team tournament matches will be held during the morning, with finals on Saturday afternoon. Also available for team play during open gaming/late night gaming. PERSONAL ACCOUNT REQUIRED***LAN Gaming (mod)*

1:00pm–10:00pm Artemis and Valkyrie Bridge Simulators
DoubleTree 2204

Come play in our Artemis Bridge Simulator! This is a cooperative game in which up to 6 players assume the role of different crew members on a starship bridge. Two bridge simulators are running, offset by a 30 min. In-person sign-ups are required.

2:00pm–2:00am Sword of Air
DoubleTree 2205 Table A

Spinoff of the legendary Sword of Barakus CONvergence campaign, we start fresh at Level 1—players may bring characters generated using the 25-point buy model (3.5 DMG) **or** can play a pre-generated character. Human or Demi-Human only, please. *Burl Zorn (mod), Jenna Touchette (mod)*

2:00pm–2:00am Open Board Gaming
DoubleTree 2205 Table C

Board game library provided by our friends at The Source, with a couple of tables open for those who'd like to play!

3:30pm–5:00pm Roll Player (Minions & Monsters)
DoubleTree 2202 Table C

Compete to create the greatest fantasy adventurer—roll and draft dice to assemble character attribute scores. Purchase weapons and armor to outfit your hero. Train to gain skills and discover your heros traits to prepare them for their journey. *Eric R. Peterson (mod)*

3:30pm–5:00pm LAN—Open Gaming
DoubleTree 2208

Open LAN gaming on the PCS in 2208—come see what's new this year! *LAN Gaming (mod)*

5:00pm–10:00pm SFS—Starfinder Society—Adventure
DoubleTree 2203

A five-hour adventure for Starfinder Society play!

5:00pm–10:00pm PFS—Pathfinder Society—Quests!
DoubleTree 2203 Table A

A series of one-hour quests allowing new and experienced players to try out Pathfinder Society play! *Pathfinder Society*

5:00pm–10:00pm SFS—Starfinder Society—Quests!
DoubleTree 2203 Table B

A series of one-hour quests allowing new and experienced players to try out Starfinder Society play!

5:00pm–10:00pm PFS—Pathfinder Society—Quests!
DoubleTree 2203 Table C

A series of one-hour quests allowing new and experienced players to try out Pathfinder Society play!

5:00pm–8:30pm LAN—Starcraft and SC2
DoubleTree 2208

Starcraft and SC2 in LAN gaming—Bot stomps, Versus modes, and the new co-op mode in Starcraft 2. **PERSONAL ACCOUNT REQUIRED** *LAN Gaming (mod)*

8:30pm–10:00pm LAN—Open Gaming
DoubleTree 2208

Open LAN gaming on the PCS in 2208—come see what's new this year! *LAN Gaming (mod)*

THURSDAY CONTINUED

10:00pm–2:00am LAN—18+ Open Gaming

DoubleTree 2208

Grown-up open gaming time on the LAN PCs—put the kids to bed and come join the geeky fun! *LAN Gaming (mod)*

FRIDAY JULY 6

11:00am–7:00pm Steam Century Mystery

DoubleTree 2201

Come play in this year's Steam Century Mystery—all are welcome, costumes encouraged! Use your investigative talents to discover clues, piece together evidence, and thwart vicious evildoers in style!

11:00am–2:30pm Marvel Legendary (with Expansions)

DoubleTree 2202 Table C

Deck-building game set in the Marvel Comics Universe (MCU). Battle other players with heroes, villains, and if you're strong enough, take on the Mastermind! *Eric R. Peterson (mod)*

11:00am–7:00pm Let's Play D&D 5th ed.

DoubleTree 2202 Table D

Ever wanted to experience D&D or get your role-playing fix? In this newcomer-friendly game, we create a party of first-level adventurers and take them through a brief adventure. *Charles Roberts (mod)*

11:00am–5:00pm PFS—Gallows of Madness (part 2)

DoubleTree 2203 Table A

Part Two of a three-day module. The Abyss Approaches! Something wicked—and monstrous—stirs around the rugged Isgeri town of Saringallow, where the hated legacy of noble Chelish diabolists runs deep. *Pathfinder Society (mod)*

11:00am–10:00pm Artemis and Valkyrie Bridge Simulators

DoubleTree 2204

Come play in our Artemis Bridge Simulator! This is a cooperative game in which up to 6 players assume the role of different crew members on a starship bridge. Two bridge simulators are running, offset by a 30 min. In-person sign-ups are required.

11:00am–12:30pm LAN—Open Gaming

DoubleTree 2208

Open LAN Gaming on the PCs in 2208—come on up and warm up for the day's tournaments! *LAN Gaming (mod)*

12:30pm–3:30pm Terran Revenge Fleet

DoubleTree 2202 Table B

They came for Earth but left the job half done. Earth rebuilt, unified by a single thought: REVENGE! Come join us for Terran Revenge Fleet! An amazing system will have you playing a character within 30 seconds! *Robert Ski Cudinski (mod)*

12:30pm–5:00pm PFS—Pathfinder Society—Quests!

DoubleTree 2203 Table B

A series of one-hour quests allowing new and experienced players to try out Pathfinder Society play!

12:30pm–5:00pm SFS—Starfinder Society—Quests!

DoubleTree 2203 Table C

A series of one-hour quests allowing new and experienced players to try out Starfinder Society play!

12:30pm–2:00pm Mystic Vale

DoubleTree 2205 Table B

A dying king has cursed the Valley of Life, and your clan of druids seeks to restore the land. Mystic Vale is both deck-building and card-building. *Carl Patten (mod)*

12:30pm–3:30pm LAN—League of Legends

DoubleTree 2208

One of the most popular games in the world. Team tournament matches will be held during the morning, with finals on Saturday afternoon. Also available for team play during open gaming/late night gaming. PERSONAL ACCOUNT REQUIRED** *LAN Gaming (mod)*

2:00pm–2:00am Sword of Air

DoubleTree 2205 Table A

A spinoff of the legendary Sword of Barakus CONvergence campaign, we start fresh at Level 1—bring characters generated using the 25-point buy model (3.5 DMG), *or* play a pre-generated character. Humans & Demi-Humans only, please!

Burl Zorn (mod), Jenna Touchette (mod)

2:00pm–2:00am Open Board Gaming

DoubleTree 2205 Table C

Boardgame library provided by our friends at The Source and table space open for those who are looking for a quick game

3:30pm–5:00pm Shootin' Ladders

DoubleTree 2202 Table C

This is NOT the Chutes & Ladders you remember! Arm your gingerbread man with the best guns you can find, and do unto others (but do it first) while climbing up ladders and sliding down chutes! *Eric R. Peterson (mod)*

3:30pm–5:00pm LAN—Open Gaming

DoubleTree 2208

Open LAN gaming on the PCs in 2208—warm up for Overwatch, get in a little League of Legends, or check out Starcraft2! *LAN Gaming (mod)*

5:00pm–8:30pm Para-thulu-zombi-noia!

DoubleTree 2202 Table B

Trust No One; keep your laser pistol and powder of ibn ghazi ready! Mother computer sends YOU, an elite troubleshooter, on a mission of utmost importance, to help keep at bay the things from beyond space and time. OH, THE INSANITY! *Robert Ski Cudinski (mod)*

5:00pm–8:30pm Firefly (board game)

DoubleTree 2202 Table D

Based on the Firefly TV series: Start with a captain and a ship. Hire and equip a crew to find and complete jobs to keep flying while avoiding deadly Reavers, Alliance Patrols, and other captains who may be pirates, or even do some pirating yourself. *Stan Carlson (mod)*

5:00pm–10:00pm SFS—Starfinder Society—Quests!

DoubleTree 2203 Table B

A series of one-hour quests allowing new and experienced players to try out Starfinder Society play!

5:00pm–10:00pm PFS—Pathfinder Society—Adventure

DoubleTree 2203 Table C

A five-hour adventure for Pathfinder Society play!

5:00pm–8:30pm LAN—Overwatch

DoubleTree 2208

Overwatch ended the crisis, and helped maintain peace, inspiring an era of exploration, innovation, and discovery. But, after many years, Overwatch was disbanded. Now, conflict is rising again—are you with us? **PERSONAL ACCOUNT REQUIRED** *LAN Gaming (mod)*

7:00pm–8:30pm Mysterium

DoubleTree 2205 Table B

A group of psychics are conducting a seance to solve a mysterious murder at a haunted mansion. The ghost (one of the players) can only give clues in the form of images. Run out of time and the ghost vanishes for a year. *Carl Patten (mod)*

8:30pm–1:00am Fiasco!*DoubleTree 2202 Table B*

Inspired by cinematic tropes, Fiasco is a group storytelling game in which character ambitions run high, impulse control is low, and chaos reigns supreme. Characters will lose, die, and fail despite or likely because of their well-laid plans.

*Robert Ski Cudinski (mod)***8:30pm–10:00pm LAN—Open Gaming***DoubleTree 2208*

Open LAN gaming on the PCs in 2208—come get some! *LAN Gaming (mod)*

10:00pm–11:30pm Joking Hazard*DoubleTree 2202 Table A*

Do you like to laugh? Do other people wince when you tell stories? Joking Hazard is the game for you! You and your sick friends use cards to try and make the most offensive comic strip possible. (18+ ONLY, ID REQUIRED) *Bob Wagner (mod)*

10:00pm–2:00am LAN—18+ Open Gaming*DoubleTree 2208*

Grown-up time on the LAN PCs—the kiddos are in bed, so come get your game on! *LAN Gaming (mod)*

SATURDAY JULY 7

9:30am–5:00pm PFS—Gallows of Madness (part 3)*DoubleTree 2203 Table A*

Part Three of a three-day module. The Abyss Approaches! Something wicked—and monstrous—stirs around the rugged Isgeri town of Saringallow, where the hated legacy of noble Chelish diabolists runs deep. *Pathfinder Society (mod)*

11:00am–3:30pm The Kessel Run*DoubleTree 2202 Table C*

Can **you** do it in less than 12 parsecs? Star Wars X-Wing meets MarioKart power-ups. Rady? Set? GO! *Eric R. Peterson (mod)*

11:00am–5:00pm SFS—Starfinder Society—Quests!*DoubleTree 2203 Table B*

A series of one-hour quests allowing new and experienced players to try out Starfinder Society play!

11:00am–7:00pm PFS—Pathfinder Society—Quests!*DoubleTree 2203 Table C*

A series of one-hour quests allowing new and experienced players to try out Pathfinder Society play!

11:00am–10:00pm Artemis and Valkyrie Bridge Simulators*DoubleTree 2204*

Come play in our Artemis Bridge Simulator! This is a cooperative game in which up to 6 players assume the role of different crew members on a starship bridge. Two bridge simulators are running, offset by a 30 min. In-person sign-ups are required.

11:00am–3:30pm LAN—League of Legends*DoubleTree 2208*

One of the most popular games in the world. Team tournament matches will be held during the morning, with finals on Saturday afternoon. Also available for team play during open gaming/late night gaming. PERSONAL ACCOUNT REQUIRED** *LAN Gaming (mod)*

12:30pm–4:00pm Dominion*DoubleTree 2205 Table B*

Come play Dominion, the breakthrough board game that created the deck-building genre! We'll have all expansions through Empire available with the revised Second Edition base and Intrigue cards. Setup will be adjusted based on player experience. *Carl Patten (mod)*

2:00pm–7:00pm Let's Play D&D 5th ed.*DoubleTree 2202 Table D*

Ever wanted to experience D&D or get your role-playing fix? In this newcomer-friendly game, we create a party of first-level adventurers and take them through a brief adventure. *Charles Roberts (mod)*

2:00pm–7:00pm Dialect*DoubleTree 2202 Table E*

Dialect is cooperative storytelling game about a community, their language, and what it means for that language to be lost. *Lauren Sindt (mod)*

2:00pm–2:00am Sword of Air*DoubleTree 2205 Table A*

A spinoff of the legendary Sword of Barakus CONvergence campaign, we start fresh at Level 1—players may bring characters generated using the 25-point buy model (3.5 DMG) *or* can play a pre-gen. Humans or demi-Humans only, please!

*Burl Zorn (mod), Jenna Touchette (mod)***2:00pm–2:00am Open Board Gaming***DoubleTree 2205 Table C*

Boardgame library, courtesy of our friends at The Source, and table open for those looking for a bit of boardgaming with friends.

3:30pm–5:00pm Inn Fighting*DoubleTree 2202 Table C*

From the creators of Three-Dragon Ante comes the dice game of the D&D world—treachery and chaos abound, as every game promises a new (and hilarious) tavern-brawling experience! *Eric R. Peterson (mod)*

3:30pm–5:00pm LAN—Open Gaming*DoubleTree 2208*

Open gaming time on the PCs in 2208—come warm up for Overwatch, or try your hand at one of the other games in the LAN library! *LAN Gaming (mod)*

5:00pm–8:30pm Para-thulu-zombi-noia!*DoubleTree 2202 Table B*

Trust No One; keep your laser pistol and powder of ibn ghazi ready! Mother computer sends YOU, an elite troubleshooter, on a mission of utmost importance, to help keep at bay the things from beyond space and time! OH THE INSANITY! *Robert Ski Cudinski (mod)*

5:00pm–8:30pm Firefly (board game)*DoubleTree 2202 Table C*

Based on the Firefly TV series: Start with a captain and a ship. Hire and equip a crew to find and complete jobs to keep flying while avoiding deadly Reavers, Alliance Patrols, and other captains who may be pirates, or even do some pirating yourself. *Stan Carlson (mod)*

5:00pm–10:00pm PFS—Pathfinder Society—Quests!*DoubleTree 2203 Table A*

A series of one-hour quests allowing new and experienced players to try out Pathfinder Society play!

5:00pm–8:30pm SFS—Starfinder Society—Quests!*DoubleTree 2203 Table B*

A series of one-hour quests allowing new and experienced players to try out Starfinder Society play!

5:00pm–8:30pm LAN—Overwatch*DoubleTree 2208*

Overwatch ended the crisis, and helped maintain peace, inspiring an era of exploration, innovation, and discovery. But, after many years, Overwatch was disbanded. Now, conflict is rising again—are you with us? **PERSONAL ACCOUNT REQUIRED** *LAN Gaming (mod)*

SATURDAY CONTINUED

7:00pm–11:30pm PFS—Heroes for Highdelve!

DoubleTree 2203 Table C

Highdelve is in danger, and only true heroes can save the day!

7:00pm–8:30pm Red Dragon Inn—Saturday Night 21+ Edition

DoubleTree 2205 Table B

The adventuring is done for the day, and the adventurers have returned to The Red Dragon Inn to make merry: drink, brawl, and gamble! Be the last adventurer standing with gold in your pockets or end up sleeping in the barn! *Carl Patten (mod)*

10:00pm–1:00am Fiasco!

DoubleTree 2202 Table E

Inspired by cinematic tropes, Fiasco is a group storytelling game in which character ambitions run high, impulse control is low, and chaos reigns supreme. Characters will lose, die, and fail despite or because of their well-laid plans and schemes. *Lauren Sindt (mod)*

10:00pm–2:00am LAN—18+ Open Gaming

DoubleTree 2208

Saturday-night grown-up time in LAN—come check out the Five Nights at Freddy's pack and get your spooky animatronic on! Other games also available for your LAN enjoyment! *LAN Gaming (mod)*

SUNDAY JULY 8

11:00am–5:00pm Coffee Break of the Damned

DoubleTree 2202 Table A

Mondays suck and this one sucks more than most. The power in your office has died. You're stuck in an elevator—and when the doors open Jimmy the intern is chewing on Dave from accounting's face. Fight your way to safety or join the menu! *Bob Wagner (mod)*

11:00am–3:00pm Roll Player (Minions & Monsters)

DoubleTree 2202 Table C

Compete to create the greatest fantasy adventurer—roll and draft dice to assemble character attribute scores. Purchase weapons and armor to outfit your hero. Train to gain skills and discover your hero's traits to prepare them for their journey. *Eric R. Peterson (mod)*

11:00am–3:30pm SFS—Starfinder Society—Quests!

DoubleTree 2203 Table A

A series of one-hour quests allowing new and experienced players to try out Starfinder Society play!

11:00am–3:30pm PFS—Pathfinder Society—Quests!

DoubleTree 2203 Table B

A series of one-hour quests allowing new and experienced players to try out Pathfinder Society play!

11:00am–3:00pm Artemis and Valkyrie Bridge Simulators

DoubleTree 2204

Come play in our Artemis Bridge Simulator! This is a cooperative game in which up to 6 players assume the role of different crew members on a starship bridge. Two bridge simulators are running, offset by a 30 min. In-person sign-ups are required.

11:00am–3:30pm LAN—Open Gaming

DoubleTree 2208

Come up to 2208—this is your last chance at Open Gaming on the LAN PCs this convention, but don't worry...they'll be back in 2019! *LAN Gaming (mod)*

Noon–5:00pm Sword of Air

DoubleTree 2205 Table A

A spinoff of the legendary Sword of Barakus CONvergence campaign, we start fresh at Level 1—bring characters generated using the 25-point buy model (D&D 3.5 DMG), *or* play a pre-gen. Humans or Demi-Humans only, please! *Burl Zorn (mod)*, *Jenna Touchette (mod)*

Noon–5:00pm Open Board Gaming

DoubleTree 2205 Table C

Come up and check out the board game library provided by our friends from The Source, and sit down for a quick game with your friends!

12:30pm–3:30pm Firefly (board game)

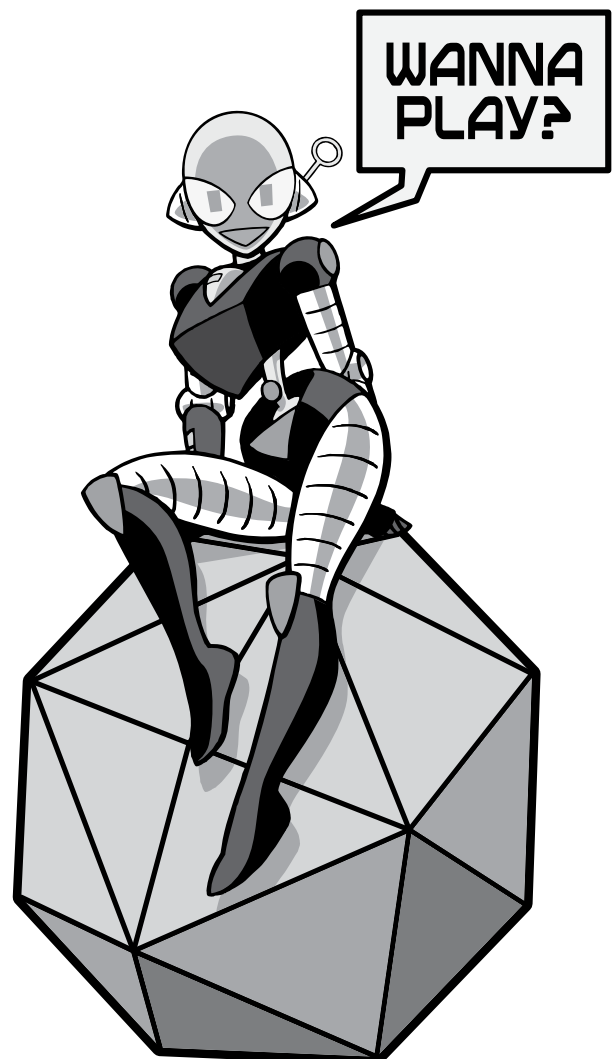
DoubleTree 2202 Table D

Based on the Firefly TV series: Start with a captain and a ship. Hire and equip a crew to find and complete jobs to keep flying while avoiding deadly Reavers, Alliance Patrols, and other captains who may be pirates, or even do some pirating yourself. *Stan Carlson (mod)*

12:30pm–2:00pm Red Dragon Inn—Sunday Hangover Edition!

DoubleTree 2205 Table B

The adventuring is done for the day, and the adventurers have returned to The Red Dragon Inn to make merry: drink, brawl, and gamble! Be the last adventurer standing with gold in your pockets, or end up sleeping in the barn! *Carl Patten (mod)*



THEATER NIPPON ANIME ROOM

Come join us in DoubleTree Atrium 1 for classic anime of yesterday and today. Remember to stop by to enter the drawing for your chance to win fabulous prizes! Winners will be announced, with much fanfare, at the conclusion of Evangelion Redearth on Saturday night (usually around midnight). You must be present to win!

DoubleTree Atrium 1 (North Tower, 2nd Floor)

Thursday Noon–3:00am Friday
Friday 7:00am–3:00am Saturday
Saturday 7:00am–3:00am Sunday
Sunday 7:00am–3:00pm

THURSDAY JULY 5

Noon–1:30pm **Gokudo**
PG-13 Dubbed

It all starts when Gokudo steals a pouch from a fortune teller, thinking it contains a gem. Instead, it contains a genie that grants Gokudo three wishes, but he doesn't think very hard about them. He does get his wishes, but not exactly in the way he expected.

1:30pm–2:30pm **Project A-Ko 2: Plot of the Daitokuji Financial Group**
PG-13 Subtitled

Three weeks after the incident that left an alien ship balancing on top of Graviton City, A-Ko and the gang go on summer vacation. Meanwhile, the CEO of the Daitokuji Financial Group arms the local military with new mecha to attack the ship and obtain its advanced technology.

2:30pm–4:00pm **Persona 4: The Animation**
PG-13 Dubbed

Shortly after Yuu Narukami's arrival in a small town, mysterious killings begin to occur on foggy days. At the same time, rumors about a strange television channel spread like wildfire; when staring into their TV screen at midnight, a person may see their soul mate. Yuu and his friends attempt to stop the murders by exploring the diabolical secret world of the Midnight Channel.

4:00pm–5:30pm **The Asterisk War**
PG-13 Subtitled

Ayato Amagiri just transferred into one of the most elite schools for Genestella in the world, where students learn to control their powers and duel in entertainment battles. Ayato, however, has no real interest in dueling—he has a secret motive for joining this prestigious school.

5:30pm–7:30pm **Basilisk**
R Dubbed

The centuries-long war between the Iga and Kouga ninja clans is stopped by order of the powerful warlord Ieyasu Tokugawa. Years later, the heirs of the two clans have fallen in love. They aim to bring real peace through their marriage, but their hopes are dashed when flames of rivalry between their clans are reignited, and they are dragged into another war.

7:30pm–9:30pm **Code Geass: Lelouch of the Rebellion**
R Subtitled

Lelouch Lamperouge, exiled prince of Britannia, finds himself caught in the crossfire when Japanese resistance forces attempt to regain independence. A mysterious girl gives him Geass, the "Power of Kings," which allows him to escape and seek revenge against Britannia.

9:30pm–11:30pm **Mobile Suit Gundam: Iron Blooded Orphans**
R Subtitled

A representative of the Martian independence movement is targeted for assassination by Earth's military peacekeeping organization. The attack might turn out to be the catalyst that leads Mars' army of child soldiers to forge their own destiny.

11:30pm–1:00am **Puella Magi Madoka Magica the Movie Part 1: Beginnings**
PG-13 Subtitled

Two best friends encounter a creature that claims he can grant wishes if they agree to become magical girls and fight witches. Fighting is dangerous, but the appeal of a wish is too strong to ignore. Soon, they are confronted with the harsh truth behind their powers and the ultimate price of their wishes.

FRIDAY JULY 6

1:00am–2:30am **Penguindrum**
R Subtitled

For the Takakura family, destiny is an ever-spinning wheel. When their little sister is miraculously saved from death by a souvenir penguin hat, twins Kanba and Shouma are sent on a wild goose chase for the Penguin Drum by the entity residing in the hat.

7:00am–8:30am **The Wonderful World of Puss 'n Boots**
G Dubbed

Pero, a sword-wielding musketeer cat, is guilty of the ultimate crime: rescuing mice from certain doom. On the run, he befriends a boy who is mistreated by his family. While seeking their fortune, they encounter a beautiful princess and must save her when she is kidnapped.

8:30am–10:00am **A Journey Through Fairyland**
G Subtitled

Michael loves to garden, but it constantly makes him late for orchestra practice and he gets kicked out of music school. Asleep that night, he meets a fairy who takes him to fairyland, where both flowers and music come alive. His interests might not be mutually exclusive, after all.

10:00am – Noon **Azumanga Daioh**
PG-13 Dubbed

There certainly isn't a shortage of peculiar girls in Yukari-sensei's homeroom class. Their many adventures are filled with constant laughter, surreal absurdity, and occasionally even touching commentary on the bittersweet, temporal nature of high school.

Noon–2:00pm **Ouran High School Host Club**
PG-13 Dubbed

Looking for a quiet place to study, honor student Haruhi Fujioka stumbles upon the Host Club, where the school's handsomest boys with too much time on their hands entertain young ladies who also have too much time on their hands. By a comedy of errors, Haruhi is forced to join the club.

2:00pm–4:00pm Full Metal Panic!

R Dubbed

Sousuke Sagara must go undercover at a high school to protect Kaname Chidori, a girl with mysterious powers. He was raised on a battlefield and has no idea how to act like a normal student; luckily, he's much more useful in a gunfight.

4:00pm–5:30pm Log Horizon

PG-13 Subtitled

After the latest update of the MMORPG Elder Tale prevents the players from logging out, socially awkward college student Shiroe sets out to discover the limits of his new reality. He must learn to work with players and NPCs alike to bring stability to the virtual city.

5:30pm–7:30pm King of Thorn

R Subtitled

160 people are put into a cold sleep to escape a deadly virus. When they awaken, they find the facility deserted and covered with thorns, and are soon attacked by monsters. Seven survivors escape, trying to discover what has happened to the world.

7:30pm–9:30pm Attack on Titan

R Dubbed

Centuries ago, mankind was slaughtered to near extinction by monstrous titans, forcing humans to hide in fear behind enormous concentric walls. The fragile calm is shattered when a colossal titan breaches the supposedly impregnable outer wall, reigniting the fight for survival.

9:30pm–11:00pm Higurashi no Naku Koro ni

R Subtitled

Keiichi Maebara has just moved to a quiet little village. As the village prepares for its annual festival, he discovers that there have been several murders and disappearances in recent years connected to the festival and the village's patron god.

11:00pm–1:00am Redline

R Subtitled

Held once every five years, everyone wants to stake their claim to fame at Redline, the most deadly racing tournament in the universe. All the while, organized crime and militaristic governments want to leverage the race to their own ends. Can a high-speed romance survive a race of mass destruction?

SATURDAY JULY 7

1:00am–2:30am Hellsing Ultimate

R Dubbed

Hellsing is an organization dedicated to destroying the supernatural forces that threaten the very existence of humanity. Their ultimate weapon is the vampire Alucard, who works against his own kind as an exterminator.

7:00am–9:00am Kaiba

R Subtitled

In a world where memories exist in memory chips separate from the body, death of the body no longer means death of the soul. A man named Kaiba wakes up in an empty room with no memories, a mysterious hole in his chest, and a locket holding the picture of a woman.

9:00am–11:00am Fighting Foodons

G Dubbed

An 11-year old boy bands together with his younger sister and a young boy who has a large appetite to battle an evil empire by using their Foodons—strange monsters that are created from various foods.

11:00am–1:00pm Rose of Versailles

PG-13 Subtitled

In 1755, Marie Antoinette is born in the royal family of Austria and raised in luxury. In France, a girl is born in the family of the Commander of the Royal Guards and raised as a man. Marie Antoinette and Oscar meet as the clock ticks toward the end of the French royalty.

1:00pm–3:00pm Assassination Classroom

PG-13 Subtitled

When a mysterious creature chops the moon down to a permanent crescent, the students of class 3-E of Kunugigaoka Middle School find themselves confronted with an enormous task: assassinate the creature responsible for the disaster before Earth suffers a similar fate.

3:00pm–5:00pm Nisekoi

PG-13 Dubbed

Raku Ichijou is a first year in high school and the sole heir to an intimidating Yakuza family. To improve relations with a rival family, he must pretend to date the rival chief's daughter. Unfortunately, they fall in hate at first sight.

5:00pm–6:45pm your name

PG-13 Subtitled

One day, Mitsuha awakens in a room that is not her own and suddenly finds herself living her dream life in Tokyo—but in another body! Elsewhere, Taki finds himself living Mitsuha's life in the humble countryside. In pursuit of an answer to this strange phenomenon, they begin to search for one another.

6:45pm–8:00pm Barefoot Gen

PG-13 Subtitled

In the summer of 1945, Gen is a young boy living a difficult yet satisfying life in the city of Hiroshima. He spends most of his time helping his family to survive. Little do they know, on the 6th of August, their lives are about to change dramatically.

8:00pm–10:00pm Empire of Corpses

R Subtitled

By the 19th century, reanimated corpses are programmed by humans to act as laborers. Medical student John Watson is on a hunt to obtain Doctor Victor Frankenstein's notes, which he believes hold the key to the secrets of the soul currently missing from reanimation technology.

10:00pm–11:30pm Afro Samurai

R Dubbed

The only way to claim the godly powers of the Number One headband is to win the Number Two headband and challenge the current owner to a duel. Years ago, Afro's father was killed for the Number One headband. Now, Afro must fight through a myriad of foes to gain his revenge.

SUNDAY JULY 8

12:30am–2:15am Vampire Hunter D: Bloodlust

R Dubbed

The daughter of an affluent family has been mysteriously kidnapped, and several hunters are after the reward. Amidst the chase lurks a sinister evil which has been manipulating their every move and has set a chilling trap that none will expect and few will survive.

7:00am–8:30am Swan Lake

G Subtitled

When Prince Siegfried spots a beautiful swan with a crown on its head, he feels compelled to follow it. The swan is a princess named Odette, who is under an evil wizard's curse, and the only thing that can break the spell is a man who truly loves her.

8:30am–10:30am Space Battleship Yamato
PG-13 Subtitled

By 2199, the inhabitants of earth have been forced underground to escape the irradiated surface. An emergency transmission from a neighboring galaxy offers a glimmer of hope to save the doomed planet. To make the perilous journey, the World War II era battleship Yamato is reborn as Space Battleship Yamato.

10:30am – Noon Magic Users Club
PG-13 Dubbed

One sunny day invaders came from space and defeated the UN forces in seconds. After that, the invaders roamed around and peacefully observed human society. A high school magic club decides to defeat them and free the world.

Noon–1:30pm Wolf's Rain
PG-13 Dubbed

In a dying world, there exists an ancient legend: when the world ends, the gateway to paradise will be opened, but only wolves can find their way to this mythical realm. Though long thought to be extinct, wolves still exist and live among humans, disguising themselves through elaborate illusions.

1:30pm–3:30pm Record of Lodoss War
R Subtitled

An ancient witch aims to preserve the island of Lodoss by creating political unbalance and preventing any one kingdom from gaining control. Only six young champions stand between this new threat and Lodoss' descent back into the darkness of war and destruction.

3:30pm–5:00pm Dragon Age: Dawn of the Seeker
R Dubbed

In a time of darkness and barbarism, a religious order is seeking to bring stability to a world corrupted by sinister magic. The Templar warriors ruthlessly restrain the Mages and their magical cabals. But when the Templars fail, the elite order of the Seekers takes charge.



PANELS AND PROGRAMMING

Audience participation is an important part of most CONvergence panels. Please feel free to (respectfully) ask questions.

You are welcome to bring food and drink into the programming rooms and to re-arrange the chairs (assuming the room isn't too full), but please put chairs back and take care of your trash. There are trash receptacles located in each room (usually by the doors). There are no magic fairies to clean up the rooms: just CONvergence volunteers.

If you want to send us comments on a panel, a form is available at <http://www.convergence-con.org/panel-evaluation>.

If you have a suggestion for next year's CON (CONvergence 2018), a form is available at <http://www.convergence-con.org/get-involved/panels/panel-suggestion-form/>.



WEDNESDAY JULY 4

6:00pm–7:00pm Parties Primer
DoubleTree Atrium 2

THURSDAY JULY 5

11:00am – Noon Parties Primer
DoubleTree Atrium 2

12:30pm–1:30pm Advances in Agricultural Technology
DoubleTree Atrium 2

Let's discuss the last year in agricultural science and legislation. *Jessica Wynd Miller, Laura Okagaki-Vraspir, Richard Hurley, Vernon LaShawn McIntosh (mod)*

12:30pm–1:30pm Adventure in Short Stories
DoubleTree Atrium 4

Recent years have seen a fantastic revival in short stories in both fantasy and science fiction. We'll discuss what makes a short story great and talk about some of the best and most experimental stories of recent years. *Anthony W. Eichenlaub, Kathryn Ann Sullivan (mod), Meredith J Gillies, Michael Damian Thomas, Tim Lieder*

12:30pm–1:30pm Star Trek: The Next Generation Retrospective
DoubleTree Atrium 6

A look back at the series that resurrected Trek for good. *Clarence Wethern (mod), Dana M Baird, Gabriela Santiago, Rich Wielgosz, Steven Baumgartner*

12:30pm–1:30pm Indie Superheroes
DoubleTree Atrium 7

It's not just the Big 2 in the superhero game anymore. Independent and small-press comics, prose books, even dance companies are developing compelling new superhero narratives. Come talk about the superheros rising up outside DC and Marvel. *Gordon Purcell, Lee Blauersouth (mod), Sean Patrick Casey, Terry O'Brien*

12:30pm–1:30pm Beyond John Williams
DoubleTree Bloomington

John Williams is the man, but he isn't the only one. Who are some other great composers of film scores? *Dave Margosian, Duck Randall Washington, Kayla McGrady (mod), Kristopher Carter, Scott Keever*

12:30pm–1:30pm X-Files Season 11
DoubleTree Edina

Mulder and Scully are back for another season of The X-Files. How does it hold up to the rest of the series? In this panel we discuss what are the best and worst moments of the show's newest season and what lies in store for The X-Files in the future. *Allyson Cygan, Danielle Marie Indovino Cawley (mod), Deb Brazil, Kristina Winn, Stephan N Stomberg*

12:30pm–4:30pm ChessWerks
DoubleTree Garden Court—Southeast

See what it's like to play with three foot wood. *Eric Lamansky*

12:30pm–1:30pm Of Mindfulness and Madness
DoubleTree Plaza 1

How can we be mindful in our current environment? How can we find peace when the world seems to be crumbling around us? Panelists discuss Zen, spirituality, and mindfulness in a time of neo-Nazis, Harvey Weinstein, and Trump. *Amanda Larsen, Justine Mastin, Renate Marie Fiora (mod), Steve Bentley, William Donohue*

12:30pm–1:30pm I Volunteer as Tribute!
DoubleTree Plaza 3

Volunteers. We love them. We need them. We couldn't succeed without them. And yet there's a special set of challenges when you depend on people who work for free. How do we get the job done without hurt feelings, missed memos, or dropped balls? *Chase Peterson, Christopher Baye, Echo Faith Martin, Mary McKinley, Sarah Barsness (mod)*

12:30pm–1:30pm Reading—Aimee Kuzenski
Sheraton Ames

Aimee Kuzenski

12:30pm–1:30pm Sense8 Fan Panel
Sheraton Whalon

Cancelled but still popular. Talking about the series and our hopes for the final movie. *Amy Marie Dekker, Sarah Molasky (mod)*

2:00pm–3:00pm Starving Artist (With Child)
DoubleTree Atrium 2

Artists with children talk about how they've managed to follow their dream of pursuing the unforgiving artistic life while tackling the financial and scheduling challenges of raising a family. *Amy Marie Dekker, Carl Zachmann, Lisa A Snellings*

2:00pm–3:00pm How to Say No to Your Editor
DoubleTree Atrium 4

So you got a contract: congratulations! Now you need to defend your ideas against those without your vision. How do you do this and keep a positive relationship? *Elizabeth Bear, Kelly McCullough, Laura Anne Gilman, Lee Harris, Madeleine Vasaly (mod)*

2:00pm–3:00pm Spider-Man: Homecoming Fan Panel
DoubleTree Atrium 6

Let's talk about what might be the best Spider-Man movie ever. *John Michael Seavey, Keane Amdahl, Nathan M Anderson (mod), Nolan Montcalm, Vincent Truitner*

THURSDAY CONTINUED

2:00pm–3:00pm Assistive Technology and Speculative Fiction

DoubleTree Atrium 7

How do devices which people today use to help them overcome disabilities overlap with the speculative fiction world? *David M. Perry, Katarina Ruth Larsen, Lee Blauersouth, Renate Marie Fiora, Vetrnita Anderson (mod)*

2:00pm–3:00pm Deep Space Nine Fan Panel

DoubleTree Bloomington

Arguably the best Trek series of all time, it is 25 years old this year! How has it aged? *Brittany Ann Kerschner, Cetius d'Raven (mod), Jenny Stohl Powell, Steve Bentley, Taylor Cisco*

2:00pm–3:00pm Going Into the Arts Against Advice

DoubleTree Edina

How do you pursue your dreams when everyone around you is discouraging you? Come get advice on pursuing your artistic career. *Curt Lund (mod), Emma Bull, John Heimbuch, Satish P. Jayaraj, Scott Keever*

2:00pm–3:00pm Appeasing the Fans

DoubleTree Plaza 1

How do you write in an established world without alienating the fan base? *Craig Smith, Mark Redacted (mod)*

2:00pm–3:00pm Build Your YouTube Following

DoubleTree Plaza 3

How do you start your own YouTube channel? We'll talk about everything from making your own videos and starting a YouTube channel to getting subscriptions and more. *Kat Surth, Lindsay Ellis, Steve Sylvestre (mod)*

2:00pm–3:00pm Reading—Anne Lyle

Sheraton Ames

Anne Lyle

3:30pm–4:30pm Science Education Watershed Moments

DoubleTree Atrium 2

It's been a great 20 years for science education. What were the moments which helped students go from "Huh?" to "Eureka!" *Jessica Wynd Miller, Melanie Reap, PZ Myers, Renate Marie Fiora (mod), michelle squeeky cadieux*

3:30pm–4:30pm Globalization of Hollywood

DoubleTree Atrium 4

As countries outside North America, particularly China, continue to grow their box office muscle, how has globalization changed Hollywood's approach to making movies and what does it mean for the future of film? *Adam Lueck, Matt Gamble (mod), Rakhi Rajpal, Vincent Truitner*

3:30pm–4:30pm Physics of Infinity Stones

DoubleTree Atrium 6

Power, Space, Time, Mind, Soul, and Reality—Jim Kakalios describes the real physics behind the stones that empower Thanos' Infinity Gauntlet. *James Kakalios*

3:30pm–4:30pm History of the North Country Gaylaxians

DoubleTree Atrium 7

North Country Gaylaxians does book discussions, party rooms, and has brought Gaylaxicon (and ConFABulous) conventions to Minnesota. This panel discusses the history of the organization, how it has affected LGBTQ fandom in Minnesota and how it has evolved. *Claudia Slovacek, Donald Kaiser (mod), Victor Raymond*

3:30pm–4:30pm Kill It If You Have To

DoubleTree Bloomington

Are we holding onto our pop culture past too tightly? By not letting go of our childhood ideals of Star Wars, Spielberg, and everything 80's, are we forcing the current generation to grow up in the nostalgic fever dream of Generation X? *Adam Momsen, Caleb Schultz, Charlene Holm, Gregory Parks, Kevin Eldridge*

3:30pm–4:30pm Ready, Steady, Flash!

DoubleTree Edina

Four writers are given a phrase, around which they must each write a piece of flash fiction. Live, in front of the audience. They have 5 MINUTES in which to write it. The audience votes on the best. *Amal El-Mohtar, Lee Harris, Melinda M. Snodgrass, Paul Cornell, Wesley Chu*

3:30pm–4:30pm Sword Masters Live

DoubleTree Garden Court—Southwest

Korean sword art Haidong Gumdo demonstration. See dynamic performances by trained students from White Tiger Martial Arts! Watch, be wowed, and ask questions. Discover your inner warrior today! *Aaron VanderGiessen, Bill Hedrick, Chris Kickhafer, Gabriel Olson-Musel, George Richard, Heather Sigstad, Kevin Ehrler, Kyle Anderson, Laura Kreft, Mark Wurdeman, Melanie A Galloway, Sarah Wurdeman, Simon Gibson*

3:30pm–4:30pm AI in Fiction and Reality

DoubleTree Plaza 1

In this panel we will discuss the differences between fictional artificial intelligence and the real thing. How are they different and which of the dangers that fiction warns us about are real? *Anthony W. Eichenlaub (mod), Lee Blauersouth, Stephanie Zvan, Vernon LaShawn McIntosh, William Donohue*

3:30pm–4:30pm Radio Auditions

DoubleTree Plaza 3

Auditions for Greg Weisman run radio play. *Christopher Jones, Greg Weisman*

3:30pm–4:30pm Reading—Tim Wick

Sheraton Ames

Tim Wick

3:30pm–4:30pm Death Note Fan Panel

Sheraton Whalon

Are you a fan of Death Note? With the release of the American Netflix version released last year, let's talk about what we loved and didn't care for in Death Note manga, anime, & movies. *Kristopher Pflipsen, Lyda Morehouse (mod), Susie Kline*

5:00pm–6:00pm In Terry Gilliam's Wildest Dreams

DoubleTree Atrium 2

Let's talk about the demented (in a good way) mind of Terry Gilliam. Starting with his trilogy of imagination ("Time Bandits", "Brazil", and "The Adventures of Baron Munchausen") and going up through his latest picture, "The Zero Theorem". *Alexis Nordling, Garrick A Dietze, Kt M Schaefer, Michael H Carus (mod), Niles Joseph Schwartz*

5:00pm–6:00pm Breaking the Holographic Ceiling: Female Leadership in Star Trek

DoubleTree Atrium 4

Ever since Number One in "The Cage", there have been many great female leaders in the Star Trek universe. Let's talk about their evolution. *Aaron Coker (mod), Brittany Ann Kerschner, Jennifer Manna, Laura Okagaki-Vraspir, Taylor Cisco*

5:00pm–6:00pm Evolution of the Vampire

DoubleTree Atrium 6

How has the western concept of vampires changed over the past two hundred years? How did the demands of fiction and drama alter a much older tradition to make it more marketable, and why are we still fascinated? *Amanda Alexander, Brian Forrest (mod), Dana M Baird, John Heimbuch, bricklyn holtgrave*

5:00pm–6:00pm Putting the CON in Consent

DoubleTree Atrium 7

Let's talk about enthusiastic consent, particularly in fandom spaces. We'll be looking at how to ask for consent from partners, ranging from photos to romance. *Antoinette Elizabeth Pajak, Harris O'Malley, Kerry Teckla Peterson, Michelle Farley, Rakhi Rajpal (mod)*

THURSDAY CONTINUED

5:00pm–6:00pm Handmaid's Tale

DoubleTree Bloomington

Atwood's 1985 dystopian novel, now a Hulu series, about a US overthrown by a totalitarian Christian theocracy continues to ring true amid the events of this decade. *Danielle Marie Indovino Cawley, Kris Lynn Coulter, Laura E Bidgood (mod), Miriam Krause, Sarah Molasky*

5:00pm–6:00pm Mars Rovers Past and Present

DoubleTree Edina

Actual Rocket Scientist and Alumni Guest of Honor Bridget Landry reviews what we've learned from past Mars rover missions and looks at what's to come! *Bridget Landry*

5:00pm–7:00pm Matrix Tag

DoubleTree Garden Court—Southeast

Will you help Neo win the war for Zion or Agent Smith to subjugate humans? Red pill or blue pill? Do both! Matrix Tag is played in the hallways of the con and is designed for adults and teens. But what is it? You must experience it for yourself. *Shannon Green*

5:00pm–6:00pm Fandom First

DoubleTree Plaza 1

Geekdom and speculative fiction are often at the forefront of progressive movements. How does pop culture influence the real world? *David M. Perry, Josiah John Mannion (mod), Justine Mastin, Renate Marie Fiora, Vetrina Anderson*

5:00pm–6:00pm Aging in Pop Culture

DoubleTree Plaza 3

Fresh off the heels of Logan and before Indiana Jones 5, panelists discuss pop culture's handling of aging. As CONvergence turns 20, it's a good time to remember we're all getting older. What does that mean for us in the pop culture world? *Gregory Parks, Joe Weinberg (mod), Kurt Larson, Mary Jo Pehl, Tim Lieder*

5:00pm–6:00pm Reading—Cath Schaff-Stump

Sheraton Ames

Cath Schaff-Stump

5:00pm–6:00pm Keeping Up with the Cardassians

Sheraton Whalon

A makeup demo! Using new and interesting materials, Special Effects Makeup Artist Bill Hedrick will transform his volunteer into one of the Cardassians (from Star Trek, not reality TV), showing techniques and products you can use for your cosplay. *Bill Hedrick, Hal Bichel*

7:00pm–8:00pm Friends of Bill W

DoubleTree Atrium 2

7:00pm–8:00pm Cute Animals in Science Fiction

DoubleTree Atrium 4

What are the most adorable alien species? From tribbles to whatever those things in Episode VIII are. *Amy Stomberg, Brittany Ann Kerschner (mod), Kris Lynn Coulter, Nicole LaBat*

7:00pm–8:00pm Avengers: Infinity War Fan Panel

DoubleTree Atrium 6

Thanos is on the war path and the Avengers and their allies are the only ones who stand (and may fall?) in his path. Join us for a discussion of the film that's the beginning of the end of Marvel Studios's Phase Three! *Aaron Coker (mod), Eric Zawadzki, Keely Ann Cooper, Satish P. Jayaraj, nick A Jaworski*

7:00pm–8:00pm Climate of Westeros and Essos

DoubleTree Atrium 7

Climate models use real physical processes and can be used to simulate the climate of the world portrayed in Game of Thrones. What parts of that world are similar to Earth? Discuss the effects of global warming on such cities as Braavos or King's Landing. *Craig Smith, Jessica Wynd Miller, Michael Zecca (mod)*

7:00pm–8:00pm American Gods Fan Panel

DoubleTree Bloomington

Taking a look at the first and next season of American Gods. *Anthony Ronald Pecoraro, Christina Myers (mod), Jim Tincher, Laura E Bidgood, Lauren Lynn Wells*

7:00pm–8:00pm Masculinity Detox

DoubleTree Edina

Let's talk about deconstructing, dismantling, and destroying the detrimental, malicious impact of hegemonic masculinity (and other forms of negative masculine expression) within the geek community. *Antoinette Elizabeth Pajak, Elliott Kios Dean, Harris O'Malley (mod), Lee Cygan, Steve Bentley*

7:00pm–8:00pm Speculative Biology 101

DoubleTree Plaza 1

Biologists explain the "real science" behind sci-fi and fantasy universes' various life forms. *Laura Okagaki-Vraspir, PZ Myers, Renate Marie Fiora (mod), Vernon LaShawn McIntosh (mod)*

7:00pm–8:00pm Mapping the Landscape

DoubleTree Plaza 3

Fantasy writers and fans discuss the importance of maps in fantasy fiction. *Anne Lyle, Douglas Hulick, Jamie Riedesel (mod), Kathryn Ann Sullivan, Ruth Berman*

7:00pm–8:00pm Reading—Mark McPherson

Sheraton Ames

Mark McPherson

7:00pm–8:00pm Ash vs.the Evil Dead Fan Panel

Sheraton Whalon

Deb Brazil, Jennifer Manna (mod), Joe Weinberg

8:30pm–9:30pm Dealing with Social Anxiety at Convergence

DoubleTree Atrium 2

We love Con, but many struggle. Social anxiety affects many CONvergence attendees and it can greatly affect the CON experience. Let's talk about ways to get through the con and have the best possible experience while dealing with social anxiety. *Jason P Dean, Justin M. Lewis, Kelso Rowland, Rob Callahan, Stephanie Zvan (mod)*

8:30pm–9:30pm Representation Matters

DoubleTree Atrium 6

Why is seeing someone who looks like us is important in media? *Cat Choy (mod), Jonathan Palmer, Morgan A Strickland, Rakhi Rajpal, Rory Ni Coileain*

8:30pm–9:30pm Every Country has a Monster

DoubleTree Atrium 7

We'll look at monsters from other countries and how other cultures portray ghosts, vampires, and other classic creatures. *Amanda Alexander, Brittany Ann Kerschner, Jay Seevers, Melissa F Olson, Ty Blauersouth (mod)*

8:30pm–9:30pm Justice League & the DC Cinematic Universe

DoubleTree Bloomington

Following up on the success of Wonder Woman, did the DC universe continue to right the ship with the Justice League film? *Craig Smith, Dave Margosian (mod), Mariah Dawn Kaercher, Taylor Cisco*

8:30pm–9:30pm Women in STEM—The Road Not Taken

DoubleTree Edina

Women in STEM fields who got to where they are by taking the long way around. What advantages and hardships did they run into along the way? What advice can they give people who are on a similar path? What struggles do they face as women in their field? *Colleen Caldwell, Heather Ann Dickinson, Kris Lynn Coulter, Melanie A Galloway, Sarah Molasky (mod)*

THURSDAY CONTINUED

8:30pm–9:30pm **Babylon Five Fan Panel**

DoubleTree Plaza 1

Babylon 5: the series that pioneered the idea of the arc and the long-term plan, as well as breaking ground in many other ways. Let's talk about it on the 20th anniversary of its finale. *Alexandra Howes (mod), Craig A. Finseth (mod), Jon Stark Olsen, Kirsten Hazel Roepke-Karsen, Mark Goldberg*

8:30pm–9:30pm **13 Reasons Why**

DoubleTree Plaza 3

A panel of experts in Sexual Assault, Suicide, and Teenage Mental Health will gather to discuss the issues presented on the Netflix show *13 Reasons Why*. *Elise Muellerleile, Elizabeth Reynolds (mod), Justine Mastin, Shelly Chermack, Tai Hays*

8:30pm–9:30pm **Swamp Thing: Roots to Branches**

Sheraton Ames

Created by Len Wein and Bernie Wrightson in 1971, Swamp Thing is a character that has been touched by many creators: Alan Moore, Brian K. Vaughan, Grant Morrison, and recently, Scott Snyder. Hear how the character has changed. *Dani Torrents, Jesse J Haller, Kevin Eldridge, Lathan Murrell, Sean Patrick Casey (mod)*

8:30pm–9:30pm **Virtual Gender in Video Gaming**

Sheraton Whalon

Are avatars representing real or idealized body types or ideas? Does diversity exist during character creation? What companies are doing a good job? *Elliott Kios Dean, Erik Blackstad, Lara Richardson (mod), Lee Cygan*

10:00pm–11:00pm **Video Games That Need to Die**

DoubleTree Atrium 2

What video game franchises just need to go away? *Kieran Alan Stomberg, Michael Spaulding, Ryan Thomas Placzkowski (mod), Stephan N Stomberg*

10:00pm–11:00pm **IT Fan Panel**

DoubleTree Atrium 4

Let's discuss and compare the Stephen King book, "IT", with the 90s mini-series and the recent film. How and why things were changed and updated. *Ian Bryan (mod), Matt Allex, Megan Slawson, Molly Cathryn Glover*

10:00pm–11:00pm **Guests Uncensored**

DoubleTree Atrium 6

Put the kids to bed and come to this panel where our Guests of Honor talk about anything they want to talk about....anything. *Greg Weisman, Lee Harris, Melinda M. Snodgrass, Paul Cornell, Victor Raymond*

10:00pm–11:00pm **Flirting 101**

DoubleTree Atrium 7

Flirtation is just one part of human interaction, but so many of us don't understand it. We interact so much more than just vocally. Recognizing body language and facial expressions can not only help with romance but also in the rest of your life. *Catherine Margaret Buechner, Harris O'Malley, Michelle Farley, Rakhi Rajpal, Sonni Grace de Soto*

10:00pm–11:00pm **Community Fan Panel**

DoubleTree Bloomington

NBC's *Community* was a bastion of pop culture references, incredible humor, and meta-fun. This panel will explore the nerdiest parts of the show's six seasons (and a movie?) and attempt to discover all the tiny Easter eggs we missed the first time around. *AlyshaRose Jordan, David Brennan, Jacob M Gulliver (mod), Lis Ann Morton*

10:00pm–11:00pm **Why Do We Ship?**

DoubleTree Edina

Geeks love to ship characters. Why do we do it and what are some of our favorite characters to ship? *Christina Myers, Donavon Indovino Cawley, Katherine L Berger Tremaine, Susan Joy Willson, Teresa Kramer*

10:00pm–11:00pm **Supernatural Fan Panel**

DoubleTree Plaza 1

Still going after all these years! What's keep the series alive in the hearts of its fans? Will it ever jump the shark (or has it already done so)? *Brittany Ann Kerschner, Jennifer Lee Lundstrom, Jennifer Manna, Justine Mastin, Nicole LaBat (mod)*

10:00pm–11:00pm **Not-So-Silent Planet: A Speculative Podcast (Season Finale!)**

DoubleTree Plaza 3

Welcome to the Twin Cities' very own podcast dedicated to original speculative fiction! Join us for our FINAL show, and have your jaded chuckles recorded for posterity. *Ben San Del, Joshua Scrimshaw, Pat Harrigan, Phillip Andrew Bennett Low*

10:00pm–11:00pm **Painting Miniatures**

Sheraton Ames

Want to know where can you get the best miniatures, what paints should you use, and an explanation of dry brushing? This panel is for you. *Deborah Kay Spiesz, Laura Thurston, Michael H Carus (mod)*

10:00pm–11:00pm **Attack the Block Fan Panel**

Sheraton Whalon

Have you seen this movie featuring some actors you would recognize from *Doctor Who*? *Alexis Nordling, Charlene Holm, Damarra Atkins (mod), Tim Lieder*

11:30pm–12:30am **Geeky Stuff in Therapy**

DoubleTree Atrium 2

Come hear about how therapists have incorporated nerdy interests into their therapy practices, and how therapy clients have used their geeky interests in their pursuit of better mental health! *Jasmine Gem Marshall, Justine Mastin, Lee Blauersouth, Maddie P Coulter (mod), Taiana Hayes*

11:30pm–12:30am **Gothic Fiction**

DoubleTree Atrium 4

The science fiction/fantasy genre was born on a dark and stormy night with *Frankenstein*. What other dark and lovely fiction is out there today? *Amanda Alexander, Brittany Ann Kerschner (mod), Melissa F Olson, Tim Lieder*

11:30pm–12:30am **It's a CONvergence CONspiracy!**

DoubleTree Atrium 6

Your favorite conspiracy theorists are back, and this time, we're exposing the truth behind CONvergence itself. 20 years of fandom and fun? More like 20 years of dark, hidden conspiracies! Don't attend this panel unless you can handle The Truth! *Jeremy Stomberg, Molly Cathryn Glover, Nick Glover, Tim Wick*

11:30pm–12:30am **Blade's 20th Anniversary**

DoubleTree Atrium 7

1998 marked the unlikely beginnings of the superhero boom with the release of "Blade", starring Wesley Snipes. Let's spend an hour talking about the movie, the franchise, and the world it created. *Craig Smith, John Michael Seavey, Jonathan Palmer, Lathan Murrell, Matt Gamble (mod)*

11:30pm–12:30am **Misogyny in the Geek Community**

DoubleTree Bloomington

Casual misogyny is a huge problem in our nerd/geek world. This panel will be about how our culture has become more mainstream, how the sexism in our communities has become more noticeable, and what we can do to fight back. Mansplanning denied! *AlyshaRose Jordan, Cat Choy (mod), Harris O'Malley, Lara Richardson, Michelle Farley*

THURSDAY CONTINUED

11:30pm–12:30am Kink Talk

DoubleTree Edina

A discussion on the social mechanics of engaging in fetish play and relationships. How you mentally plan out goals. How to initiate discussions on play. Talking about various kinds of play practice and safety and fun. *Anj Olsen, Christopher Baye, Lauren Lynn Wells, Michael H Carus (mod), Sonni Grace de Soto*

11:30pm–12:30am Cinema Surgery

DoubleTree Plaza 3

Junkfood Cinema host Brian Salisbury and programmer Adam Lueck take a scalpel to three of their favorite cult films suffering from a bad case of schlockitis. In the course of the show, the guys will see if they can stitch together a healthier Hollywood. *Adam Lueck, Brian Salisbury*

11:30pm–12:30am Bug-Out Bag

Sheraton Ames

How to make your own bug-out bag to prepare for the zombie apocalypse. *Holly Chamas, Kristina George, Nick Krekeler (mod), Tanya—, nick A jaworski*

FRIDAY JULY 6

9:30am–10:30am Not My Fandom

DoubleTree Atrium 4

This panel of "experts" will discuss Supernatural, Doctor Who, Twin Peaks, and Game of Thrones. Come ask questions but expect frustrating answers, as the only knowledge they have about the subject matter comes from memes, T-shirt sayings, & fanfic. *Autumn Patterson, Curt Lund (mod), Elisabeth Doree, Kate Schmidt, Stephanie Doree*

9:30am–10:30am George Lucas Retrospective

DoubleTree Atrium 6

Has George Lucas gotten a bad rap? Panelists look back on his complete works and discuss whether all the hatred over the last 20 years has been justified or overblown. *Matt Gamble, Shaun M Duke (mod), Vincent Truitner, bricklyn holtgrave*

9:30am–10:30am Geeks at School

DoubleTree Atrium 7

How to fly your geek flag at school. *Deb Brazil, Raederle Sterling (mod), Renate Marie Fiora, Taiana Hayes*

9:30am–10:30am Cooking for Geeks

DoubleTree Edina

We'll discuss making meals at home that will feed your inner nerd. *Adam Art Poetter (mod), Brian Hinshaw, Hertzey Hertz, Kathryn Yee, Steve Bentley*

9:30am–10:30am Cosplay Tips

DoubleTree Plaza 1

Come get ideas for how to make your hall costume stand out. *Amy Marie Dekker, Laura Marie Oliver, Michael Knightmage Wilson, Rae Lundquist, Sara Huebschen*

9:30am–10:30am Local Businesses

DoubleTree Plaza 3

If you want to buy local, here are some businesses you should support. *Anj Olsen, Art Allen (mod), Elise Anna Matthesen, Elizabeth Ann Jankowski*

9:30am–10:30am Reading—Abra Staffin-Wiebe

Sheraton Ames

Abra Staffin-Wiebe

9:30am–10:30am Reading—Naomi Kritzer

Sheraton Whalon

Naomi Kritzer

11:00am – Noon ASL 101

DoubleTree Atrium 2

Come learn about ASL. Bring your questions.

11:00am–Noon Acting for Stage, Screen, and Microphone

DoubleTree Atrium 4

What are the differences between voice, stage, and screen acting? How do you change your processes and performances to fit the medium? *Aimee Kuzenski, Brian Forrest (mod), Dawn Krosnowski, Greg Weisman, Marina Sirtis*

11:00am – Noon Women of the New Star Wars

DoubleTree Atrium 6

Looking at all the kick ass women we've been getting in the Star Wars universe. *Amal El-Mohtar, Amy Stomberg, Katarina Ruth Larsen, Keely Ann Cooper, Teresa Kramer*

11:00am – Noon Creativity

DoubleTree Atrium 7

Are just certain people creative? Can creativity be learned and practiced? What are the benefits and drawbacks of being creative? We will discuss the topic and share some tips and warnings. *Holly Chamas, Jon Stark Olsen (mod), Lauren Addy, Lisa A Snellings, Satish P. Jayaraj*

11:00am – Noon Signing—Anne Lyle

DoubleTree Autograph Table A

Anne Lyle

11:00am – Noon Signing—Cath Schaff-Stump

DoubleTree Autograph Table B

Cath Schaff-Stump

11:00am – Noon Sealion's Guide to Logical Fallacies

DoubleTree Bloomington

Getting frustrated by circular or pointless arguments on the internet? This is the panel for you! This panel of pseudo-experts will discuss the Logical Fallacies and other frequently employed tactics to derail civil discussion and ruin conversations. *Brianne Bilyeu, Gregory Parks, Molly Cathryn Glover, Nick Glover, Stephanie Zvan, Tim Wick*

11:00am – Noon A Wrinkle in Time Movie

DoubleTree Edina

Come discuss the latest adaptation of Madeleine L'Engle's novel. *Christina Myers, Dee Eisel (mod), Elizabeth Bear, Raederle Sterling, Ty Blauersouth*

11:00am – Noon T'ai Chi

DoubleTree Garden Court—Southwest

Twin Cities T'ai Chi Ch'uan Studio (tctaiChi.org) offers a T'ai Chi session(s) at CONvergence. *Kimberly Husband*

11:00am – Noon World Building

DoubleTree Plaza 1

How do you create a world in which your characters lives and operate? What questions need to be asked and answered? *Danith McPherson (mod), Elisa Hansen, Jamie Riedesel, Kelly McCullough, Ytasha Womack*

11:00am – Noon Empire of the Petal Throne

DoubleTree Plaza 3

The land of Tekumel is one of the oldest and most detailed gaming worlds and the Tekumel Foundation is dedicated to preserving and promoting this. Come and hear from the panel what's new, what is coming out, and some secrets only the insiders know. *Victor Raymond*

11:00am – Noon Reading—Tamora Pierce

Sheraton Ames

Tamora Pierce

FRIDAY CONTINUED

11:00am – Noon Plug-in Electric Vehicles *Sheraton Whalon*

Considering a plug-in electric vehicle or curious to learn more? Panelists will share their experiences and enthusiasm for EV-related topics including 2nd gen. 200+ mile range vehicles, deployment of fast charging infrastructure in Minnesota, and more. *Birch Hansen, Dante Carter, Erik Haggstrom, Michael Bearfoot, Stephen Ronning, Timmy Nguyen*

12:30pm–1:30pm Surviving as a Writer *DoubleTree Atrium 2*

It's hard being a genre writer, especially after your first piece has been published or purchased. We'll cover what you do next and how you can both function and have fun along your chosen career path. *Adam J. Whitlatch, Craig Smith, Laura Anne Gilman (mod), Melissa F Olson, Wesley Chu*

12:30pm–1:30pm Suitable For Everyone? *DoubleTree Atrium 4*

Age is meaningless when content is awesome. Where's the fine line between child and adult programming? What makes YA YA? *Greg Weisman, Katarina Ruth Larsen, Meredith J Gillies, Raederle Sterling (mod), Tamora Pierce*

12:30pm–1:30pm Physics of Everyday Things *DoubleTree Atrium 6*

Based on his latest book, Jim Kakalios will explain the basic physics that surrounds us in our daily life—from toasters to flat screen TVs to wrist fitness monitors. *James Kakalios*

12:30pm–1:30pm Fat Positivity & Representation *DoubleTree Atrium 7*

Fat bodies are everywhere in real life, but where do we see them reflected in the media? What can we do to contribute to fat representation and create body-positive spaces within our communities as fans, creators, and people? Come join our discussion. *Catherine Margaret Buechner, Diana Fitzwater (mod), Echo Faith Martin, Genevieve Alberti, Jasmine Gem Marshall*

12:30pm–1:30pm Signing—Melinda Snodgrass *DoubleTree Autograph Table B*

Melinda M. Snodgrass

12:30pm–1:30pm Signing—Naomi Kritzer *DoubleTree Autograph Table C*

Naomi Kritzer

12:30pm–1:30pm Signing—Marina Sirtis *DoubleTree Autograph Table D*

Marina Sirtis

12:30pm–1:30pm Superhero Movies—Are They Done Yet? *DoubleTree Bloomington*

There are a lot of super hero films coming out these days. When does that trend end and how soon should it? *Dave Margosian (mod), Eleanor Arnason, John Michael Seavey, Keane Amdahl, Nolan Montcalm*

12:30pm–1:30pm The Orville Fan Panel *DoubleTree Edina*

Jeanne M Mealy, Justin Edward Grays, Laura Okagaki-Vraspir, Michael Zecca (mod), Walter W Parker

12:30pm–4:30pm ChessWerks *DoubleTree Garden Court—Southeast*

See what it's like to play with three foot wood. *Eric Lamansky*

12:30pm–1:30pm Parents and Kids Meetup *DoubleTree Garden Court—Southwest*

Open meet up for kids and their parents to mingle, share ideas, and make friends. *Danielle Robinson, Fiona Furlong, Madeline Fleigle-Lee*

12:30pm–1:30pm Laughing (at/with) (the) (G/g)od(s) *DoubleTree Plaza 1*

Aristophanes and Moliere. Douglas Adams and Terry Pratchett. Monty Python and South Park. Throughout history, comedians have found religion to be a fertile ground for satire. Where should lines be drawn when wrestling with the most profound of truths? *Amanda Larsen, Elliot Besmann, Hertzey Hertz, William Donohue, Phillip Andrew Bennett Low (mod)*

12:30pm–1:30pm Kids Ask a Writer *DoubleTree Plaza 3*

Specifically for kids—ask writers about what they do and how they do it. *Abra Staffin-Wiebe, Chrysoula Tzavelas, Mary Jo Pehl, Roy C. Booth, Tyler Tork (mod)*

12:30pm–1:30pm Reading—Amal El-Mohtar *Sheraton Ames*

Amal El-Mohtar

2:00pm–3:00pm Cosplaying as a Family *DoubleTree Atrium 2*

How does costuming change when you're trying to please a whole bunch of people, rather than just yourself. Oh, and all of the costumes have to work together and be ready at the same time. *Amanda Fineran, Amy Fischer, Deb Brazil, Katarina Ruth Larsen, Steven Dale Theiss*

2:00pm–3:00pm Evolution of a Book Series *DoubleTree Atrium 4*

How does one published book become a trilogy, then a series, then a media franchise? *Craig Smith, Kelly McCullough, Patrick S Tomlinson (mod), Wesley Chu*

2:00pm–3:00pm Judging a Book by Its Cover *DoubleTree Atrium 6*

Two competing teams of "literary experts" explain the plot of a book, based only upon the cover art they see on the screen. *Dawn Krosnowski, Jerry Belich, Lee Harris, Melissa Sue Kaercher, Miss Shannan Paul, Molly Cathryn Glover, Nick Glover, Paul Cornell, Sharon Stiteler, Tim Wick (mod)*

2:00pm–3:00pm Riffing *DoubleTree Atrium 7*

Making fun of movies isn't as easy as it sounds. *Bill Stiteler (mod), Duck Randall Washington, Mary Jo Pehl, Meghan McManus*

2:00pm–3:00pm Signing—Jim Kakalios *DoubleTree Autograph Table A*

James Kakalios

2:00pm–3:00pm Signing—Michael "Knightmage" Wilson *DoubleTree Autograph Table B*

Michael Knightmage Wilson

2:00pm–3:00pm Signing—Tamora Pierce *DoubleTree Autograph Table C*

Tamora Pierce

2:00pm–3:00pm Rise and Fall of Joss Whedon *DoubleTree Bloomington*

He's a geek icon, but after the lukewarm receptions of *Age of Ultron* and *Justice League*, and following the affair scandal and accusations of false feminism, is it time to stop worshiping at the altar of Joss? *Josiah John Mannion, Miriam Krause (mod), Rachel Traynham, Sarah Molasky, Tim Lieder*

2:00pm–3:00pm Dinosaur Fan Panel *DoubleTree Edina*

Like dinosaurs? So do we! Come discuss your favorites and what they mean to you. *Adam Art Poetter (mod), Cynnthia Anne Verbrugge, Eleanor Arnason, Elizabeth Bear, Matt Kessen*

FRIDAY CONTINUED

2:00pm–4:00pm Assassin's Guild Boofing Practice

DoubleTree Garden Court—Southwest

Are you not feeling particularly competitive and just want to hit friends, loved-ones, or other con-goers with foam padded weapons? Feel free to do so in this practice event. No need to feel intimidated, relax, and have fun fighting! *David Bianchi*

2:00pm–3:00pm How to be a Good Ally

DoubleTree Plaza 1

People of Color will explain how you can be a good ally to improve race relations in the geek community. *AlyssaRose Jordan (mod), Cat Choy, Rakhi Rajpal, Rita K Walaszek, Victor Raymond*

2:00pm–3:00pm Shieldmaidens of Geekdom

DoubleTree Plaza 3

Discuss the need and purpose of creating spaces for those who identify as female to meet other females/femmes to participate in geek-orientated activities such as The Source's Shieldmaidens Sundays. *Chandra Reyer, Elspeth Skyler Lee, Lisa Olson, Meredith J Gillies, Quinn Mogil*

2:00pm–3:00pm Book Club—Truitner/Cisco/low

Sheraton Ames

Guest of Honor Vincent Truitner and Invited Participants Taylor Cisco and Phillip Andrew Bennett Low invite you to listen to and discuss their works. *Taylor Cisco, Vincent Truitner, Phillip Andrew Bennett Low*

2:00pm–3:00pm Highlander Fan Panel

Sheraton Whalon

Come celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Highlander series—there can be only one (unless we want to mention Highlander: The Raven while we're at it). *Adam J. Whitlatch, Cetius d'Raven (mod), Lee Andrew Fillingsness, Renate Marie Fiora*

3:30pm–4:30pm Life Cycles of the Inanimate

DoubleTree Atrium 2

Biological things are born grow and die. But what about ideas, books, fashion, or even conventions? Do they follow a similar path? Do similar rules apply? *Craig A. Finseth, Lisa A Snellings, Sarah Beth Soderlund*

3:30pm–4:30pm Kids Ask a Scientist

DoubleTree Atrium 4

Specifically for kids—scientists answer your questions about science. *Jessica Wynd Miller, Laura Okagaki-Vraspir, Renate Marie Fiora (mod), Steve Sylvestre, Steven Dale Theiss*

3:30pm–4:30pm Stranger Things: Season 2

DoubleTree Atrium 6

Let's just spend a little more time with 80s nostalgia and kids in peril! *David Brennan (mod), Kevin Eldridge, Kiah Nelson, Meghan McManus, Sarah O'Connor*

3:30pm–4:30pm Crafting an Elevator Pitch

DoubleTree Atrium 7

Coming up with that paragraph that will sell everyone on your great idea is pivotal to make it a reality, whether it's a play or the next better mouse trap. How's it done? Get advice from creators in various fields. *Jack Reher, Lana Wood Johnson (mod), Lee Harris, Melinda M. Snodgrass, Taylor Cisco*

3:30pm–4:30pm Signing—Amal El-Mohtar

DoubleTree Autograph Table A

Amal El-Mohtar

3:30pm–4:30pm Signing—Kelly McCullough

DoubleTree Autograph Table B

Kelly McCullough

3:30pm–4:30pm Signing—Greg Weisman

DoubleTree Autograph Table C

Greg Weisman

3:30pm–6:00pm Signing—Marina Sirtis

DoubleTree Autograph Table D

Marina Sirtis

3:30pm–4:30pm How Did I Get Here?

DoubleTree Bloomington

The path to success can be direct or a long and winding road. Listen to some of our Guests of Honor share their stories. *Lindsay Ellis, Victor Raymond*

3:30pm–4:30pm The Third Doctor

DoubleTree Edina

Let's take a closer look at the third Doctor, played by John Pertwee. *Bryon Savid Stump, Gabriela Santiago (mod), Justin M. Lewis, Michael Damian Thomas, Paul Cornell*

3:30pm–4:30pm Keeping Creatively Energized

DoubleTree Plaza 1

How do you keep the creative ideas flowing? How do you continue to create? *Abra Staffin-Wiebe, Cath Schaff-Stump, Deborah Jane Frethem, Emilie Peck, Wesley Chu*

3:30pm–4:30pm We Deliver!

DoubleTree Plaza 3

Comedians will tell you: it's all about the delivery. Storytellers, emcees, comics, and spoken word performers provide their best tips and tricks for effective onstage delivery. *Ben San Del (mod), Elizabeth Ess, Mary Jo Pehl, Miss Shannan Paul, Stephan N Stomberg*

3:30pm–4:30pm Reading—Ytasha Womack

Sheraton Ames

Ytasha Womack

3:30pm–4:30pm Cosplay Project Management

Sheraton Whalon

Any costume is a project with distinct pieces, each with their own timelines. How do you break down the process and create realistic timelines and budgets? Do you already have the skills or are you learning something new? *Dana M Baird (mod), Kaerie -, Melissa Joy Sowers, Paul Haga, Ty Blauersouth*

5:00pm–6:00pm Convergence Events Open Meeting

DoubleTree Atrium 2

Get an update on the latest with the organization that runs CONvergence with members of the Convergence Events Board of Directors. *Amy Mills, Ishmael Williams, Jonathan Palmer, Lauren Sindt, Liz Hernandez, Margaret Eastman, Nadim Khalidi, Stephanie Zuercher, Thomas Keeley*

5:00pm–6:00pm Character Actors

DoubleTree Atrium 4

Let's gush about some of our favorite actors who aren't leads. *Alexis Nordling, Brandy Danaki, Brian Salisbury, Matt Gamble, Nathan M Anderson (mod)*

5:00pm–6:00pm Marvel Villain Retrospective

DoubleTree Atrium 6

Villains are, arguably, one of the weaknesses of the Marvel Cinematic Universe. Which villains have really worked and which have fallen short? *Gordon Purcell, Jess Banks, John Michael Seavey (mod), Keely Ann Cooper, Kelly McCullough*

5:00pm–6:00pm Batman: the Golden Age

DoubleTree Atrium 7

Award-winning playwright Phillip Low has created an adaptation of the Batman's earliest appearances! Come listen to a full-cast reading of Bill Finger's self-made world's great detective. *Duck Randall Washington, Joshua Scrimshaw, Kelvin Hatle, Tim Uren, Phillip Andrew Bennett Low (mod)*

FRIDAY CONTINUED

5:00pm–6:00pm Signing—Ytasha Womack

DoubleTree Autograph Table A

Ytasha Womack

5:00pm–6:00pm Signing—Paul Cornell

DoubleTree Autograph Table B

Paul Cornell

5:00pm–6:00pm Signing—Roy C Booth

DoubleTree Autograph Table C

Roy C. Booth

5:00pm–6:00pm That Doctor Looks Like a Lady

DoubleTree Bloomington

Doctor Who has finally cast its die with a female lead. What do we like about the new direction of the series? *Alexander Seymour, Anne Lyle (mod), David Brennan, Justin M. Lewis, Michael Scott Shappe*

5:00pm–6:00pm Casual Chat with Guest Authors

DoubleTree Edina

Guest of Honor authors answer audience questions and chat about whatever is on their minds. *Amal El-Mohtar, Eleanor Arnason, Elizabeth Bear, Tamora Pierce*

5:00pm–5:30pm Harisen Daiko Preview

DoubleTree Garden Court—Southwest

A quick preview of the thundering taiko drums that await in Harisen Daiko's Sunday performance on MainStage (home of the Taiko Sci Fi medley!). *Al Zdrzil, Christopher Stephan, Frederick Sylvestre, Holly Johnson, James Sammartano, Jill McTavish, Kristin Grandt, Marit Hanson, Melissa Green, Scott Grandt, Steve Sylvestre, Tristan Stephan, Vanessa Stephan*

5:00pm–6:00pm Enterprising Individuals Live! The Measure of a Man

DoubleTree Plaza 1

Picard defends Data in a trial for his right to exist! Join us for a live taping of the Enterprising Individuals podcast as we talk with Melinda Snodgrass about writing *Star Trek: The Next Generation's* first truly great episode, "The Measure of a Man"! *Aaron Coker, Bridget Landry, Ella Pearson, Gabriela Santiago (mod), Melinda M. Snodgrass*

5:00pm–6:00pm Radio Auditions

DoubleTree Plaza 3

Auditions for Greg Weisman run radio play. *Christopher Jones, Greg Weisman*

5:00pm–6:00pm Reading—Taylor Cisco

Sheraton Ames

Taylor Cisco

5:00pm–6:00pm Clothes Make the Character

Sheraton Whalon

Learn how costuming and costume design can reveal or conceal information about characters in fiction. *Danith McPherson, Peregrine Johnson, Rae Lundquist, Ty Blauersouth (mod)*

7:00pm–8:00pm Friends of Bill W

DoubleTree Atrium 2

7:00pm–8:00pm Stories Don't Just Happen

DoubleTree Atrium 4

Stories aren't magic—they come from somewhere. Come listen to creators talk about their process *Cath Schaff-Stump, Chrysoula Tzavelas, Kelly McCullough, Melinda M. Snodgrass, Ytasha Womack*

7:00pm–9:30pm 2018 Midwest Sci-Fi Short Film Festival

DoubleTree Atrium 6

This year, to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Convergence, we will be featuring a retrospective of the best sci-fi short films to screen at the festival over the past eight years. *Troy LaFaye*

7:00pm–8:00pm Year in Comics

DoubleTree Atrium 7

Let's talk about comics that came out in the last year. *Gordon Purcell, Lee Harris, Meredith J Gillies, Nick Glover, Sean Patrick Casey (mod)*

7:00pm–8:00pm Live Action Disney

DoubleTree Bloomington

Disney has started creating live action versions of their own animated films. Come discuss the successes and failures of those already made and propose your wish list. *Charlene Holm, Kayla McGrady (mod), Lindsay Ellis, Meghan McManus, Michelle Farley*

7:00pm–8:00pm Guilty Pleasures

DoubleTree Edina

Bad movies we love and why we love them. *Aaron Coker, Elisa Hansen, Mark McPherson, Shaun M Duke (mod), bricklyn holtgrave*

7:00pm–8:00pm Odd Salon

DoubleTree Plaza 1

Expert talks on odd topics; odd talks on everything else. Presenting short stories from the odd corners of history, science, art, and adventure. *Curated by Kurt Larson, Fellow of Odd Salon San Francisco. Kurt Larson (mod)*

7:00pm–8:00pm Cosplay For a Cause

DoubleTree Plaza 3

How can you use your love of cosplay to bring joy to others and raise money for charities? *Amanda Fineran, Michael Knightmage Wilson, Paul Haga, Sara Huebschen, Todd Murray*

7:00pm–8:00pm Reading—Cynthia Booth

Sheraton Ames

Cynthia Booth

7:00pm–8:00pm A World Without Bees

Sheraton Whalon

The bee population continues to decline. What do we do about a world without bees? *Arthur Kneeland, Brittany Ann Kerschner, Dirk Ykema, Jessica Wynd Miller, Sharon Stiteler (mod)*

8:30pm–9:30pm Dream Narratives

DoubleTree Atrium 2

From William Shakespeare to Lewis Carroll to Neil Gaiman, ambitious authors are addicted to dreams as a narrative device. What's going on when we're asleep that is so terribly compelling to fantasy writers? *Daniel Mauleon, Emma Bull, Kristin Tipping, Kurt Larson, Ruth Berman*

8:30pm–9:30pm When is Star Trek Space Opera?

DoubleTree Atrium 4

Space Opera is a subgenre of science fiction and sometimes Star Trek falls into that subgenre, but very often it does not. So when is Star Trek Space Opera, anyway? *Alexis Nordling (mod), Gordon Purcell, Justin Edward Grays, Taylor Cisco*

8:30pm–9:30pm Working with a Co-Author

DoubleTree Atrium 7

What's it like to write a novel when you aren't doing it alone? *Adam J. Whitlatch, Amal El-Mohtar, Cynthia Booth, Eric Zawadzki (mod), Jennifer J Allan*

8:30pm–9:30pm Dr. Who Companions

DoubleTree Bloomington

Come discuss your favorite and your least favorite companions. *AMBER RADEN, Elizabeth Ann Jankowski, Joe Weinberg, Kirsten Hazel Roepke-Karsen, Lorine EB Menzuber (mod)*

8:30pm–9:30pm Game of Thrones: Comparing Books to TV

DoubleTree Edina

As both an epic book series and an epic television series, "Song of Ice and Fire" and "Game of Thrones" make choices to fit their formats and audiences. Discuss the point of view narration, the ages of characters, character names, and more. *Christina DZA Marie, Lindsay Bell (mod), Lis Ann Morton, Meghan McManus*

FRIDAY CONTINUED

8:30pm–9:30pm Jack Kirby Fan Panel

DoubleTree Plaza 1

By age 19, Jack Kirby was working as a professional artist. He went on to co-create most of the Marvel Universe in the 1960s. A career lasting 5 decades, we will talk about the man and our favorite works of his. *James Kakalios, Jesse J Haller, Roy C. Booth (mod), Sean Patrick Casey, Stuart West*

8:30pm–9:30pm Genealogy: Uncovering the Secrets of Your Family Tree

DoubleTree Plaza 3

In the spirit of CON history, let's talk about family history. From Ancestry to 23andMe, there are more ways to get connected. Join our panelists to learn about the secrets in their family trees and find out how to start exploring your own. *Andrea Ropella, Brynn Berryhill, Kathryn Yee, Sarah Barsness (mod)*

8:30pm–9:30pm Paranormal Minnesota

Sheraton Ames

Where are there ghosts in Minnesota? *Sarah Beth Soderlund (mod), Todd F Powell, Wendy Fossum*

8:30pm–9:30pm Anime 101

Sheraton Whalon

An introduction to Anime. What are the conventions? What are some good starting points? *Chrysoula Tzavelas, James Christopher Horvath, Jessica Lynn Silver, Michael Grimm (mod), Scott Kevin Jamison*

10:00pm–11:00pm Worst Magic Items Ever

DoubleTree Atrium 2

What magic items aren't work their weight? Which items should be more problematic than they're presented (*cough* the Glaive in "Krull")? Come vilify (or maybe vindicate) your least favorites. *Bill Stiteler, Eric Zawadzki (mod), Naomi Kritzer*

10:00pm–11:00pm Pounded in the Butt by the Chuck Tingle Fan Panel

DoubleTree Atrium 4

Talking about Chuck Tingle and his work. *Jonathan Palmer, Kristina Winn, Lyda Morehouse (mod), Rory Ni Coileain, Sharon Stiteler*

10:00pm–11:00pm Westworld Fan Panel

DoubleTree Atrium 6

Craig Smith, Mark Goldberg, Michael Jankowski, Michelle Farley (mod), Scott Alan Holm

10:00pm–11:00pm Aro/Ace Relationships

DoubleTree Atrium 7

Come talk about topics related to identities that fall on the asexual or aromantic spectrums. Share your experiences and insight or ask questions if you're unsure. Discuss representation and share recommendations. Meet others like you here at Con. *Charlene Holm, Dirk Ykema, Genevieve Alberti, Laura Thurston, Meg Thiel*

10:00pm–11:00pm John Carpenter Fan Panel

DoubleTree Edina

John Carpenter has made some great films and some other films. We'll talk about the great ones...and the other ones. *Brian Salisbury (mod), Kyle Dekker, Matt Gamble, Nathan M Anderson, Tim Lieder*

10:00pm–11:00pm Secrets of the Mysterious Old Radio

DoubleTree Plaza 1

Join us for a special live recording of The Mysterious Old Radio Listening Society podcast. *Eric Webster, Joshua Scrimshaw, Tim Uren*

10:00pm–11:00pm Farscape Fan Panel

DoubleTree Plaza 3

A discussion of the science fiction series set in space aboard a living ship. *Aaron Coker, Brittany Ann Kerschner, Donavon Indovino Cawley, Elizabeth Bear, Michael Zecca (mod)*

10:00pm–11:00pm Pay to Play

Sheraton Ames

Downloadable content and micro-transactions have been around for a while now and show no signs of going away. How has this altered gaming, for good or ill? *Allyson Cygan, Chase Peterson, Kieran Alan Stomberg, Sean Sullivan*

10:00pm–11:00pm Twin Peaks: Digging Deep into The Return

Sheraton Whalon

Now that David Lynch's return to Twin Peaks has ended, what now? We will cover theories, thoughts, and cherry pie. *Alexandra Howes, Lis Ann Morton, Niles Joseph Schwartz, Pat Harrigan, Sheva Rosenberg (mod)*

11:30pm–12:30am The Dysk: The World of Sir Terry Pratchett

DoubleTree Atrium 2

Discworld is the stage for some of the most ingenious characters and stories ever created. We lost Sir Terry in 2015, but wit and his artful social commentary live on. Join us for discussion of this incredible world-builder. *Assad Khaishgi (mod), Michelle Curtis*

11:30pm–12:30am Next Big Monster

DoubleTree Atrium 4

Zombies had their day in the sun. Vampires also had their day in the...well, maybe not the sun, but you get what I'm saying. Horror and fantasy writers and publishers debate what creature will or should be the next big monster sensation, and why. *Abra Staffin-Wiebe, Kristin Tipping, SA Sidor, Sarah Beth Soderlund (mod)*

11:30pm–12:30am Killer B's Improv Movie Show

DoubleTree Atrium 6

As clips of strange movies play onscreen, a team of voice actors and musicians create a whole new soundtrack... without ever seeing the movies before! It's film, improv comedy, and live music all in one, plus a 75% chance of rubber-suit monsters! *C. Robert Cargill, Dawn Krosnowski, Duck Randall Washington, Jerry Belich, Joseph Scrimshaw, Kelvin Hatle, Kristopher Carter, Lauren Haven, Matt Kessen, Melissa Sue Kaercher, Molly Cathryn Glover, Scott Keever, Tim Uren*

11:30pm–12:30am Slash Panel

DoubleTree Atrium 7

Come one, come all, and let's get together for the annual panel to discuss same-sex shipping and fanfiction! We'll talk recent trends in tropes and ships, and share recs for what we've been reading. (This is panel is rated "lemon", as in "you should probably"). *Bess Stuvinoxend (mod), Jo Thrace, Kes, Skazka 9000, Teresa Kramer*

11:30pm–12:30am Pun-El

DoubleTree Bloomington

Once again, the English language (and a few others) gets punched, pun-ked, and pun-ji'd without fear of flying fruit! The Pun-El returns. Speech class was never like this! *Art Allen, Brian LaBounty, Edward Eastman, Lee Harris, Margaret Eastman*

11:30pm–12:30am Crime Scare of '80s Action Films

DoubleTree Edina

Cops using violence to stop crime was totally cool in the '80s. Discuss whether or not these films have any ramifications in our current social climate. *Alexis Nordling, Lathan Murrell, Nick Krekeler (mod), Niles Joseph Schwartz, Tanya—*

11:30pm–12:30am Get Thee Behind Me, Santa: A Filthy Children's Time Travel Farce for Adults Only

DoubleTree Plaza 3

It's December 21st, 2012, and something's gone terribly wrong with the timeline. Now it's up to Saint Nicholas, a soft-boiled detective, and an unknown carpenter's son named Jesus of Nazareth to set things right! *phillip andrew bennett low*

11:30pm–12:30am American Vandal Fan Panel

Sheraton Ames

A panel about the Netflix series American Vandal. *Janet Lano, Laura E Bidgood, Lis Ann Morton (mod), William Leisner*

11:30pm–12:30am Orphan Black Wrap Up

Sheraton Whalon

Come celebrate the characters, science, and themes developed over the five seasons of Orphan Black. What has its impact been on pop culture? How have BBC America and Canadian productions impacted the sci-fi landscape? The #CloneClub continues! *AlyssaRose Jordan (mod), Josiah John Mannion, Kiah Nelson, Lorine EB Menzuber, Sarah O'Connor*

SATURDAY JULY 7

9:30am–10:30am Selling on Etsy

DoubleTree Atrium 2

If you are handcrafting products, how can you connect with buyers? *Angela Jones-Parker, Elise Anna Matthesen, Holly Chamas, Jay SeEVERS, Lisa A Snellings*

9:30am–10:30am How to Be an Action Hero

DoubleTree Atrium 6

The heroes of action movies have a lot of interesting, unique skills and traits that let them win the day. Here we discuss those skills and traits. How would one learn them? How useful are they in real life. What traits of action heroes are problematic? *Amanda Germaine Day (mod), Angus Watson, Christina DZA Marie, Lathan Murrell, Scott Kevin Jamison*

9:30am–10:30am Kid Friendly Streaming

DoubleTree Atrium 7

What great content for kids you can find on Netflix, Hulu, and other streaming services? *Katarina Ruth Larsen, Lorine EB Menzuber (mod), Vetrnita Anderson*

9:30am–10:30am The Big Lebowski 20 Years On

DoubleTree Bloomington

It debuted to little fanfare but has grown to iconic status. This fan panel discusses why The Big Lebowski has had such an enduring legacy. *Bill Stiteler, John White, Nathan M Anderson (mod), Tim Lieder, Wendy Fossum*

9:30am–10:30am Fitness for Geeks

DoubleTree Edina

Ways to get your geek on and keep yourself fit. *Diana Fitzwater, Kurt Fleschner (mod), Lindsay Bell, Rachel Tanquist, Sarah Molasky*

9:30am–10:30am Dragons of Middle-Earth: The Puppet Show!

DoubleTree Plaza 1

Learn about the mighty dragons that plagued Middle-earth in a funny and informative manner...puppet style. It's safe to laugh at these live dragons! *Corinne Lindskog, Daniel Blaine Lindskog, Jessica Lindskog*

9:30am–10:30am Magic: The Gathering's Color Pie

DoubleTree Plaza 3

When it comes to developing a solid MtG deck, one should first understand the color pie. Whether you have been playing for years and want to talk about the colors' motives or are newer to the game and want to learn about them, we are here for you. *Alexis Nordling, Matthew Donald Everhart, Wendy A Hoskin (mod)*

9:30am–10:30am Reading—Justine Mastin

Sheraton Ames

Justine Mastin

9:30am–10:30am Reading—Adam J. Whitlatch

Sheraton Whalon

Adam J. Whitlatch

11:00am – Noon Bad Player, No XP

DoubleTree Atrium 2

How can you as a game master ensure a safe space for your gaming group and deal with troublesome players without creating additional tension? *Brian Casey (mod), Cam Banks, Joseph Jay-Dixon, Maddie P Coulter, Mark Redacted*

11:00am – Noon Star Trek: Discovery Panel

DoubleTree Atrium 6

New Trek on TV! What do we love and what do we think could be better? *Ben Walker, Gabriela Santiago, Joan Marie Verba, Michael Scott Shappe (mod), Shawn Scott Smith*

11:00am – Noon How to be a Citizen Scientist

DoubleTree Atrium 7

How you can help scientists do their work? *Jessica Wynd Miller, PZ Myers, Richard Hurley, Sarah Molasky (mod), michelle squeeky cadieux*

11:00am – Noon Signing—Taylor Cisco

DoubleTree Autograph Table A

Taylor Cisco

11:00am – Noon Signing—Mark McPherson

DoubleTree Autograph Table B

Mark McPherson

11:00am – Noon Signing—Patrick S. Tomlinson

DoubleTree Autograph Table C

Patrick S Tomlinson

11:00am – Noon Signing—Marina Sirtis

DoubleTree Autograph Table D

Marina Sirtis

11:00am – Noon Remembering "The Iron Giant"

DoubleTree Bloomington

Looking back at one of the best films from 1999.

Adam Lueck, Dave Margosian, Elizabeth Bear, Vetrnita Anderson (mod), Vincent Truitner

11:00am – Noon Thor: Ragnarock Fan Panel

DoubleTree Edina

What did we love and hate about Thor: Ragnarock?

Allyson Cygan, Amal El-Mohtar, Emma Bull, John Michael Seavey (mod), Todd Murray

11:00am–1:30pm Assassin's Guild Boasting Tournament

DoubleTree Garden Court—Southwest

Welcome to the 12th annual Assassin's Guild Boasting Tournament! Compete against your fellow con-goer by hitting each other with foam padded weapons! Trophies will be awarded to the top combatants!

David Bianchi

11:00am – Noon It Was a Different Time

DoubleTree Plaza 1

You don't have to go back far to find blatantly racist, sexist, or homophobic moments in otherwise great media. How do we reconcile with our non-woke pop culture past? What in today's pop art will we look back on with similar discomfort decades from now?

AlyssaRose Jordan, David John Rust (mod), Jack Reher, Miss Shannan Paul, Tim Lieder

11:00am – Noon Love Letters to the Ancestors from Chicago

DoubleTree Plaza 3

Guest of Honor Ytasha Womack screens the short film she directed.

Ytasha Womack

SATURDAY CONTINUED

11:00am – Noon Reading—Scott Lynch

Sheraton Ames

Scott Lynch

11:00am – Noon Unit 418: An Adventure in Comic Making and Story Writing

Sheraton Whalon

Get a first look behind the curtain into the mind of the madwoman responsible for the web comic, Unit 418. Meet the characters and hear their story followed by how it was developed and produced straight from the mouth of the author and illustrator! *Lauren Addy*

12:30pm–1:30pm Comics for Kids

DoubleTree Atrium 2

Come discuss titles appropriate for 12 and unders. *Cynthia Booth, Gillian Chan, Jennifer L Klumpp, John Michael Seavey, Sean Patrick Casey (mod)*

12:30pm–1:30pm Radio Play Rehearsal

DoubleTree Atrium 6

Rehearsal for Greg Weisman radio play. *Greg Weisman, Kristopher Carter, Marina Sirtis, Natalie Nowytski, Tanya Brody, Windy Bowlsby*

12:30pm–1:30pm Literary Awards

DoubleTree Atrium 7

Does getting a literary award help your career? What's the impact, both positive and negative, of being recognized for your work with a big, heavy, piece of metal or glass? *Amal El-Mohtar, Eleanor Arnason, Lyda Morehouse, Michael Damian Thomas, Naomi Kritzer (mod)*

12:30pm–1:30pm Signing—phillip andrew bennett low

DoubleTree Autograph Table A

phillip andrew bennett low

12:30pm–1:30pm Signing—Adam Whitlatch

DoubleTree Autograph Table B

Adam J. Whitlatch

12:30pm–1:30pm A Passenger on the Cruise Ship *Mental Health*

DoubleTree Bloomington

We use fandom as an escape, and as such, we want to see ourselves represented. Panelists will open up about their cognitive disorders and all things geek, including: representation, how different media help us cope, and some creators that are like us. *Barbarajean Hartos-Hord, Brynn Berryhill, Kelso Rowland, Maddie P Coulter (mod), Michael Jankowski*

12:30pm–1:30pm Roles of Women in Entertainment

DoubleTree Edina

Women don't just wear pink hats and protest 45. They also make us laugh, cry, and even scream at our TVs. Let's celebrate the ways women are taking over the entertainment world as directors, writers, producers, and on screen. *AlyssaRose Jordan (mod), Christina DZA Marie, Mary Jo Pehl, Melinda M. Snodgrass, Ytasha Womack*

12:30pm–4:30pm ChessWerks

DoubleTree Garden Court—Southeast

See what it's like to play with three foot wood.

Eric Lamansky

12:30pm–1:30pm Almost Our World

DoubleTree Plaza 1

How do you build a fictional world inspired by our concerns for the real world we live in, be they environmental or political? Come learn from writers who will describe their process. *Elizabeth Bear, Laura Anne Gilman (mod), Satish P. Jayaraj, Tamora Pierce, Wesley Chu*

12:30pm–1:30pm NerdCore 101

DoubleTree Plaza 3

Love Fandom? Love music? Love WRITING MUSIC? This panel is for you. Local Nerdcore artists walk through their process for creating the music they love to perform. Engage with them in their process and try some of it out yourself, workshops style! *Dante Quinn, Jason Kruger, Maren Aalgaard, Morgan A Strickland, Tim Wick*

12:30pm–1:30pm Reading—Kelly McCullough

Sheraton Ames

Kelly McCullough

12:30pm–1:30pm Get Off My World! A Doctor Who Live Podcast

Sheraton Whalon

Local podcasters Joshua, Kelvin, Pat, and Ariel are joined by special guest Joseph Scrimshaw for a live recording of their Doctor Who discussion podcast Get Off My World! Join us for deep nerdy discussion, inflammatory opinions, and major Doctor Who love. *Ariel Leaf, Joseph Scrimshaw, Joshua Scrimshaw, Kelvin Hatle, Pat Harrigan*

2:00pm–3:00pm Dangerous When Bored

DoubleTree Atrium 2

Come and learn about what CONvergence's support enables and the latest workings of GPS and how you can get your geek on the rest of the year. Share your ideas, feedback, and questions. Find out how you can get involved. #EnableAllTheSquee. *Danielle Pebbles, Ann Roubik, Seth Chmelik, Kathye Coyle*

2:00pm–3:00pm Tamora Hangs with Teens

DoubleTree Atrium 3

Guest of Honor Tamora Pierce hangs out in the Teen Room. *Tamora Pierce*

2:00pm–4:00pm Minnesota Herpetological Society

DoubleTree Atrium 4

Curious about scaly, creepy, crawly critters? Join members of the Minnesota Herpetological Society for a hands-on presentation of their native and exotic cold-blooded companions. *Rose Maunu*

2:00pm–3:00pm Radio Play

DoubleTree Atrium 6

Join Greg Weisman and his CONvergence-assembled cast for a radio play. *Greg Weisman, Kristopher Carter, Marina Sirtis, Natalie Nowytski, Tanya Brody, Windy Bowlsby*

2:00pm–3:00pm I'll Know What I Want When I See It

DoubleTree Atrium 7

Talk about the process of creating art and props when those in charge don't really know what they want. How to go about obtaining specifications, requirements, and nice-to-haves. *Angela Jones-Parker, Lauren Addy, Lisa A Snellings, Scott Keever*

2:00pm–3:00pm Signing—Mary Jo Pehl

DoubleTree Autograph Table A

Mary Jo Pehl

2:00pm–3:00pm Signing—Kelly McCullough

DoubleTree Autograph Table B

Kelly McCullough

2:00pm–3:00pm Signing—Melinda Snodgrass

DoubleTree Autograph Table C

Melinda M. Snodgrass

2:00pm–3:00pm Ant Man & the Wasp Fan Panel

DoubleTree Bloomington

The movie just came out but we're gonna talk about it. SPOILER WARNING! *James Kakalios, Jim Tincher, John Michael Seavey, Keane Amdahl (mod), Nick A Jaworski*

SATURDAY CONTINUED

2:00pm–3:00pm Disney Version

DoubleTree Edina

What happens to a perfectly innocent property when Disney gets its hands on it? What's lost and what's gained in the translation? *Brittany Ann Kerschner (mod), Lindsay Ellis, Rita K Walaszek*

2:00pm–3:00pm Group Signing

DoubleTree Garden Court—Southwest

This signing is for Invited and other Participants to sign their work. *Adam J. Whitlatch, Cynthia Booth, Laura Anne Gilman, Mark McPherson, Melissa F Olson, Patrick S Tomlinson, Roy C. Booth, Steve Sylvestre, Taylor Cisco*

2:00pm–3:00pm Death at a Convention

DoubleTree Plaza 1

CONvergence partner Fearless Comedy Productions presents a murder mystery at CVG2108! One of our panelists is too annoying to survive. Help figure out who killed them. *Andrea Ropella, Angela Fox, C. Robert Cargill, Christopher Jones, Dawn Krosnowski, Matt Kessen, Paul Cornell, Tim Wick*

2:00pm–3:00pm Gaming and Technology in Education

DoubleTree Plaza 3

Why is my child playing an MMO for math homework?" *Curt Lund (mod), Katarina Ruth Larsen, Kurt Larson, Melanie Reap, Renate Marie Fiora*

2:00pm–3:00pm Reading—Eleanor Arnason

Sheraton Ames

Eleanor Arnason

2:00pm–3:00pm Creating with a Multilingual Mind

Sheraton Whalon

How does speaking and thinking in multiple languages influence the artistic process? Join a panel of multilingual creatives to hear about the advantages, frustrations, and experiences of producing with a multilingual mind. *Josiah John Mannion, Rob Callahan, SEE MORE PERSPECTIVE, Sarah Beth Soderlund (mod)*

3:30pm–4:30pm Why Can't Composers Be Authors?

DoubleTree Atrium 2

While directors, cinematographers, and other artists are lauded for having a distinct style, why is it that composers get a bad rap for scores that sound the same? Maybe it's time to show some appreciation for Zimmer, Elfman, and others? *Kristopher Carter, Kurt Larson, Lindsay Bell (mod), Nathan M Anderson, Scott Keever*

3:30pm–4:30pm Geeks Without God Live

DoubleTree Atrium 6

Geeks Without God returns for their sixth anniversary to discuss being godless geeks! *Melinda M. Snodgrass, Molly Cathryn Glover, Nick Glover, Tim Wick*

3:30pm–4:30pm Finish Your Book

DoubleTree Atrium 7

Many people have started a book but few ever get finished. What's the secret? Published authors share their tips on getting words written, chapters finished, and books completed. A little tough love for authors stuck on page 57. *Elizabeth Bear, Laura Anne Gilman (mod), Lee Harris, Naomi Kritzer (mod), Wesley Chu*

3:30pm–4:30pm Signing—Tamora Pierce

DoubleTree Autograph Table A

Tamora Pierce

3:30pm–4:30pm Signing—Greg Weisman

DoubleTree Autograph Table B

Greg Weisman

3:30pm–4:30pm Signing—Christopher Jones

DoubleTree Autograph Table C

Christopher Jones

3:30pm–6:00pm Signing—Marina Sirtis

DoubleTree Autograph Table D

Marina Sirtis

3:30pm–4:30pm MST3K Fan Panel

DoubleTree Bloomington

Talk about the return of Mystery Science Theater 3000 and classic episodes. *Jasmine Gem Marshall, Jeremy Stomberg, John Michael Seavey (mod), Kelly Jo Fredrickson, Mary Jo Pehl*

3:30pm–4:30pm Blade Runner 2049

DoubleTree Edina

There was a new Blade Runner film. What did you think? Should we get another in the series? *Craig Smith, Eleanor Arnason, Michael Grimm (mod), Sarah O'Connor, Walter W Parker*

3:30pm–4:30pm Group Signing

DoubleTree Garden Court—Southwest

This signing is for Invited and other Participants to sign their work. *Adam J. Whitlatch, Anthony W. Eichenlaub, Cynthia Booth, Patrick S Tomlinson, Roy C. Booth, Steve Sylvestre, Taylor Cisco, phillip andrew bennett low*

3:30pm–4:30pm Diversity in Role Playing

DoubleTree Plaza 1

Does role playing have a diversity problem? If so, what can be done to solve it? *David John Rust, Katherine L Berger Tremaine (mod), Maddie P Coulter, Meredith J Gillies, Victor Raymond*

3:30pm–4:30pm Genre Fiction for Kids and Young Adults

DoubleTree Plaza 3

Even the oldest fans were kids once. What genre properties did you enjoy in your youth? What properties do you wish existed for young fans today? *Dee Eisel, Lis Ann Morton, Raederle Sterling (mod), Vetrina Anderson, Vincent Truitner*

3:30pm–4:30pm Reading—Melissa F. Olson

Sheraton Ames

Melissa F Olson

3:30pm–4:30pm Year in Anime

Sheraton Whalon

What is the best new anime from the last year?

Anthony Ronald Pecoraro, Chrysoula Tzavelas, James Christopher Horvath (mod), Jessica Lynn Silver, Ryan Thomas Placzkowski

5:00pm–6:00pm Thoughts on Patreon

DoubleTree Atrium 2

Patreon is a crowdfunding platform that has allowed a new generation of creative minds to live off their work, but just how potent is Patreon? How else can we support our favorite artists? *Elise Anna Matthesen, Jay SeEVERS, Lisa A Snellings, Steve Sylvestre (mod)*

5:00pm–6:00pm Klingon Christmas Carol 2018

DoubleTree Atrium 4

Find out what's new and different this year! Discussion will be lead by a veteran KCC actor and the panel will include the artistic staff. May include a bat'leth fight demonstration and/or group singing. *Angela Fox, Dawn Krosnowski, Gregory Parks, Jena Young, Lana Rosario (mod)*

5:00pm–6:00pm Legacy of Star Trek

DoubleTree Atrium 6

What is the lasting impact of one of the longest-lasting franchises in science fiction? *Donavon Indovino Cawley, Joan Marie Verba (mod), Melinda M. Snodgrass, Michael Scott Shappe, Rory Ni Coileain*

SATURDAY CONTINUED

5:00pm–6:00pm Introduction to GMing

DoubleTree Atrium 7

Join us and our panel of experienced GMs as they guide you through the dos and don'ts of running your own tabletop role-playing game. It does not matter if you are new or experienced in gaming, there is always something to learn. As always, roll well.

Aaron Michael Berndt, Brian Casey, David John Rust (mod), Sarah Ravelly, Terry O'Brien

5:00pm–6:00pm Signing—Eleanor Arnason

DoubleTree Autograph Table A

Eleanor Arnason

5:00pm–6:00pm Signing—Cynthia Booth

DoubleTree Autograph Table B

Cynthia Booth

5:00pm–6:00pm Signing—Melissa F. Olson

DoubleTree Autograph Table C

Melissa F Olson

5:00pm–6:00pm Know-It-All Panel

DoubleTree Bloomington

The Know-It-All Panel doesn't know what they are going to talk about until the audience tells them! From Solving the Millennial Problem to Explaining Gravitational Theory, this erudite team of improvisers and their special guests are ready to enlighten.

Andrea Ropella, Eric Thompson, James Fairbairn, Susanne Becker, Tim Wick

5:00pm–6:00pm Movie Year in Review

DoubleTree Edina

A lot of movies that came out in the last year. What were the highs and lows? *Kt M Schaefer, Mark McPherson, Michael May (mod), Niles Joseph Schwartz, Nolan Montcalm*

5:00pm–7:00pm Matrix Tag

DoubleTree Garden Court—Southeast

Will you help Neo win the war for Zion or Agent Smith to subjugate humans? Red pill or blue pill? Do both! Matrix Tag is played in the hallways of the con and is designed for adults and teens. But what is it? You must experience it for yourself. *Shannon Green*

5:00pm–6:00pm Geek Slink Belly Dance

DoubleTree Garden Court—Southwest

Come learn a geeky-slinky choreography that ANYONE can do! All abilities, all ages, sizes, and character classes are welcome. Geek Slink director Shannon Townsend invites you to come shake it and learn some of her geek-tastic moves. *Shannon Townsend*

5:00pm–6:00pm Junkfood Cinema Live!

DoubleTree Plaza 1

Junkfood Cinema, the weekly cult and exploitation filmcast so good, it just has to be fattening. Hosted by Brian Salisbury and novelist/screenwriter C. Robert Cargill (Doctor Strange), JFC is devoted to the unabashed love of movies of all quality levels.

Brian Salisbury, C. Robert Cargill

5:00pm–7:00pm Meteorites! Coming to a Planet Near You!

DoubleTree Plaza 3

Meteorite collecting is a lifelong exploration into both history and science. Come see a collection of hundreds of specimens and a comprehensive presentation on the topic. Stay after for a chance to hold a piece of The Moon and Mars! *John Shea*

5:00pm–6:00pm Reading—Rob Callahan

Sheraton Ames

Rob Callahan

5:00pm–6:00pm Understanding the Hugo Awards

Sheraton Whalon

There has been a lot of controversy surrounding the Hugo Awards for the last few years. What's it all about? *Lyda Morehouse, Scott Lynch (mod), Shaun M Duke*

7:00pm–8:00pm Friends of Bill W

DoubleTree Atrium 2

7:00pm–8:00pm I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue

DoubleTree Atrium 6

This is a British radio game show: basically an excuse for four panelists and the host to play childish games for an hour. Come watch our panelists play Mornington Crescent and One Song to the Tune of Another! *Lee Harris, Marina Sirtis, Paul Cornell, Scott Lynch, Windy Bowsby*

7:00pm–8:00pm State Of Horror

DoubleTree Atrium 7

The horror genre is an oft overlooked genre within fiction. Let's talk about why there's so much appeal for sci-fi/fantasy fans. *Ann Laabs, Kelso Rowland, Michelle Curtis, Roy C. Booth (mod), Stephan N Stomberg*

7:00pm–8:00pm Whitewashing

DoubleTree Bloomington

In what ways do we see progress in how TV, movies, and streaming are changing their representation of people of diversity in key roles? Let's talk about positive shows like "Atlanta", "Blackish", and others while noting whitewashing as a real issue. *Cat Choy, Christina DZA Marie, Jess Banks, Miss Shannan Paul (mod), Morgan A Strickland*

7:00pm–8:00pm Obsessed Podcast with Joseph Scrimshaw

DoubleTree Edina

A live recording of Joseph's hit comedy podcast about liking things a lot. *Ben San Del, Joseph Scrimshaw, Sara Scrimshaw, Tim Wick*

7:00pm–9:30pm Mega Panel

DoubleTree Plaza 1

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! *Derek Mahr, Jeremy Stomberg, Melissa Sue Kaercher, Molly Cathryn Glover, Nick Glover*

7:00pm–8:00pm Writing Your Own Character

DoubleTree Plaza 3

When you are a character in your own work, there needs to be a separation between your persona and the real you. What do you want your fans to know about you, what do you keep private, and how do you make those decisions? *Craig Smith, Jack Reher, Lindsay Ellis, Melissa F Olson*

7:00pm–8:00pm Reading—Tyler Tork

Sheraton Ames

Tyler Tork

7:00pm–8:00pm Grant Writing for Artists

Sheraton Whalon

Funding your artistic projects can feel overwhelming, but it's an important piece of bringing them to life. This panel of grant recipients will provide their tips, tricks, and personal experiences on funding their art through grants. *Carl Zachmann, John Heimbuch (mod), Katie Simning, Natalie Nowytski, Scott Keever*

8:30pm–9:30pm Polyamory 101

DoubleTree Atrium 2

Configurations, lexicons, myths, and resources. Polyamory means "many loves"—but there is not just one way to be poly. Come discuss polyamory, what it means, and ways to navigate more than one love. *Carl Zachmann, Joe Weinberg, John Heimbuch (mod), Justin Edward Grays, Kelso Rowland*

SATURDAY CONTINUED

8:30pm–9:30pm Black Panther Movie Fan Panel

DoubleTree Atrium 6

What did we love and hate about the Black Panther film? *Damarra Atkins (mod), Jonathan Palmer, Keane Amdahl, Morgan A Strickland, Ytasha Womack*

8:30pm–9:30pm Licensed Comic Books

DoubleTree Atrium 7

Working with licensed comic book properties has some unique challenges and constraints. How does one get this kind of work and keep within those boundaries? *Christopher Jones, Erik Evensen, Gordon Purcell*

8:30pm–9:30pm Star Trek: The Original Series Fan Panel

DoubleTree Bloomington

OK, we have new Trek, but it all started with the original series. Let's look back at the reasons this series has lasted as long as it has. *Aaron Coker, Alexandra Howes (mod), Jasmine Gem Marshall, Steven Baumgartner, Taylor Cisco*

8:30pm–9:30pm Vampire Movies

DoubleTree Edina

The best and worst of movies about bloodsuckers. *Elisa Hansen, Josiah John Mannion, Matt Gamble, Tim Lieder, bricklyn holtgrave (mod)*

8:30pm–9:30pm Writing Violence in Violent Times

DoubleTree Plaza 3

Creating science fiction and fantasy offer an escape from the real world, but what if the real world is more scary than your imagination? *Abra Staffin-Wiebe, Gabriela Santiago (mod), Jack Reher, Melissa F Olson*

8:30pm–9:30pm Reading—SEE MORE PERSPECTIVE

Sheraton Ames

SEE MORE PERSPECTIVE

8:30pm–9:30pm The Tick Fan Panel

Sheraton Whalon

The new Tick and, of course, the classic Tick. All about the Tick. Spoon! *Elizabeth Bear, Jeff A Spain (mod), Kristopher Pflipsen, Lara Richardson*

10:00pm–11:00pm Kristopher Carter Listening

DoubleTree Atrium 2

Kristopher Carter will present his new EP for CONvergence attendees! *Kristopher Carter*

10:00pm–11:00pm Bond, James Bond

DoubleTree Atrium 6

A look at 007 through the lens of Ian Fleming's works. We will be focusing heavily on the book series, with some discussion of how the films contrast. *Alee Baker, Jeremy Stomberg (mod), Paul Cornell*

10:00pm–11:00pm Stepping Out of the Shadows

DoubleTree Atrium 7

Every few years a horror film makes it way to the general public and is loved, accepted, and even awarded in the mainstream; however, the stigma on the horror genre remains. We will discuss the impact of this negative view on fans and the genre itself. *Andrea Ropella, Matt Alex, Megan Slawson*

10:00pm–11:00pm British Comedies

DoubleTree Bloomington

Looking beyond Monty Python. No bad accents allowed! *Damarra Atkins, Elizabeth Ann Jankowski (mod), Lee Harris, Lorine EB Menzuber, Walter W Parker*

10:00pm–11:00pm 50 Shades of NOPE!

DoubleTree Edina

Sex and romance tropes in fiction—why do they work in movies and NOT in real life? *Cat Choy, Harris O'Malley, Jim Radloff, Michelle Farley (mod), Sonni Grace de Soto*

10:00pm–11:00pm Reflecting on Black Mirror

DoubleTree Plaza 1

Black Mirror fans reflect on the show's four seasons. What are its best episodes? Sharpest insights? Scariest moments? Coolest ideas? Audience input encouraged! *Charlene Holm, Curt Lund (mod), Kiah Nelson, Laura E Bidgood, Taylor Cisco*

10:00pm–11:00pm Fermentation

DoubleTree Plaza 3

Fermentation spans the globe and all of human history, but our focus is your kitchen. Panelists will discuss how bacteria, yeasts, and other microorganisms ferment plant and animal matter to create delicious food and drink. *Doug Yoder, Jessica Silk, Lauren Lenzen*

10:00pm–11:00pm Lovecraftian Horror

Sheraton Ames

There is a lot of writing about the elder gods HP Lovecraft could have never envisioned. Let's look at some of our favorites. *Craig A. Finseth, Michelle Curtis, Skazka 9000*

10:00pm–11:00pm Gotham Fan Panel

Sheraton Whalon

Craig Smith, Kevin Eldridge, Nick C Thyes (mod)

11:30pm–12:30am Nuts and Bolts of Jokes

DoubleTree Atrium 2

Comedians and comedy writers discuss the mechanics of a good joke. How can something so simple as a setup/punchline prove so complex and unpredictable? How can artists sharpen their joke writing and delivery? What's the funniest joke of all time? *Ben San Del, David Otto Walbridge, Elizabeth Ess, Stephan N Stomberg, phillip andrew bennett low (mod)*

11:30pm–12:30am Nefarious Vagenda

DoubleTree Atrium 6

The nefarious plot of all geeky womankind revealed!

Alee Baker, Amy Stomberg, Claire Alexander, Jessica Cargill, Laurie Richardson Sweep, Melissa Sue Kaercher, Molly Cathryn Glover, Sharon Stiteler, Windy Bowlsby

11:30pm–12:30am Are Women Responsible for the Horror Film Renaissance?

DoubleTree Atrium 7

Women make up the majority of the horror fan audience and are increasingly being given greater roles both in front and behind the camera in the genre. Could this embracing of diversity be responsible for the recent rise of quality in the horror genre? *Jennifer Manna, Lara Richardson (mod), Lis Ann Morton, Matt Gamble, Michelle Curtis*

11:30pm–12:30am Sex in Sci-Fi/Fantasy

DoubleTree Bloomington

Sex and sexuality is an important part of the human experience. Let's examine how one creates and consumes fictions when it delves into the most intimate of subjects. *Greg Weisman, John Michael Seavey (mod), Lathan Murrell, Lauren Lynn Wells*

11:30pm–12:30am Ask a Submariner: Foul Mouthed Sailor Edition

DoubleTree Edina

Ask submariners everything you wanted to know about working on a submarine. *Andrew McKay, Christopher Baye, Dan Stiglich, Doug Kirks, Kyle Dekker (mod)*

11:30pm–12:30am Great Art by Horrible People

DoubleTree Plaza 3

So what happens when you find out something terrible about someone you love? Can you still appreciate their art? What about the art of those who worked with them? *Duck Randall Washington, James Christopher Horvath, Josiah John Mannion (mod), Sarah Beth Soderlund, Tim Lieder*

- 11:30pm–12:30am Kim Newman & Intertextuality**
Sheraton Ames
 30 years of pastiche, parody, allusion, and transformative fandom fun in the works of British horror/SFF author Kim Newman. *Skazka 9000, Terry O'Brien*
- 11:30pm–12:30am Indie Wrestling**
Sheraton Whalon
 Independent wrestling is bigger and better than ever with diverse performers and more options than ever. Join the Married Marks Podcast (and maybe a few guests) for a look at the independent wrestling scene. *Richard Townsend, Shannon Townsend*

SUNDAY JULY 8

- 12:30am–1:30am Signing—Information Society**
DoubleTree Autograph Table A
- 9:30am–10:30am Merging Work and Play**
DoubleTree Atrium 2
 How can your hobbies influence your professional life, for better or for worse? *Diana Fitzwater, John Heimbuch, Kyla MCT (mod), Renate Marie Fiora, Sarah Barsness*
- 9:30am–10:30am Small Scale World Building**
DoubleTree Atrium 4
 Can you create a believable, fictional space in an inn? A room? Learn how to create interesting spaces for gaming and fiction on a micro scale? You know there is an orc in the corner of the pub; but why is there an orc in the corner? *Anne Lyle (mod), Brian Casey, Eric Zawadzki, Michael H Carus, Michael Jankowski*
- 9:30am–10:30am Steven Universe Fan Panel**
DoubleTree Atrium 6
 What's awesome about Steven Universe? *Amal El-Mohtar, Kiah Nelson, Lee Cygan, Lis Ann Morton (mod), Nick C Thyres*
- 9:30am–10:30am Planet of the Apes 50th Anniversary**
DoubleTree Bloomington
 Based on French author Pierre Boulle's 1963 novel *La Planète des Singes*, the film *Planet of the Apes* was released in 1968. Since then, there have been sequels, reboots, a TV show, an animated series, and comic books. Come celebrate 50 years of Apes. *Dave Margosian, Laura E Bidgood, Michael May*
- 9:30am–10:30am Scientists in Fiction**
DoubleTree Edina
 How are scientists portrayed in fiction? When do they get it right and when do they get it wrong? *Christina DZA Marie, Colleen Caldwell, Laura Okagaki-Vraspir (mod), PZ Myers, Sarah Molasky*
- 9:30am–10:30am YogaQuest Presents Jurassic Park: a Narrated Yogic Adventure!**
DoubleTree Garden Court—Southwest
 Hold onto your butts, it's YogaQuest time again. Join Justine Mastin (aka JustiniYogini) for this dino-filled narrated yogic adventure! No previous experience, special clothing, or equipment required. Come exactly as you are and pose nerdy with us! *Justine Mastin*
- 9:30am–10:30am Strange Encounters of the Cosplay Kind**
DoubleTree Plaza 1
 Cosplayers tell fun stories of their adventures of being in costume out in the real world. *Brian Hinshaw, Rae Lundquist*
- 9:30am–10:30am Frontier Fiction**
DoubleTree Plaza 3
 It's not just "the weird west" out there. Discover what other frontiers can be sought out and explored through science fiction and fantasy. *Kathryn Ann Sullivan, Laura Anne Gilman (mod), Patrick S Tomlinson, Tyler Tork*
- 9:30am–10:30am Reading—Jess Banks**
Sheraton Ames
Jess Banks

- 9:30am–10:30am Reading—Anthony W. Eichenlaub**
Sheraton Whalon
Anthony W. Eichenlaub
- 11:00am–Noon Graphic Novels**
DoubleTree Atrium 2
 "Watchmen" is great, but is not the end-all, be-all of graphic novels. Come discuss your favorites, whether or not they've been turned into a movie. *Gordon Purcell, Jennifer L Klumpp, Kevin Eldridge, Meghan McManus, Sean Patrick Casey (mod)*
- 11:00am – Noon Demystifying the Publishing Process**
DoubleTree Atrium 4
 So you wrote a book. How do you get it published? Do you need an agent? What about an editor? How do advances work? Is self-publishing the way to go? Get the lay of the land at this panel. *Deborah Jane Frethem, Kelly McCullough, Lee Harris, Madeleine Vasaly (mod), Wesley Chu*
- 11:00am – Noon The Last Jedi**
DoubleTree Atrium 6
 That's right—Star Wars continues on whether you like it or not. Did you like it? *Allyson Cygan, Amy Stomberg, Bess Stuvencoxend (mod), Gregory Parks, Jeremy Stomberg*
- 11:00am – Noon Signing—Ytasha Womack**
DoubleTree Autograph Table A
Ytasha Womack
- 11:00am – Noon Signing—Kristopher Carter**
DoubleTree Autograph Table B
Kristopher Carter
- 11:00am – Noon Wild Cards Fan Panel**
DoubleTree Bloomington
 Let's talk about the long running anthology series
Melinda M. Snodgrass, Paul Cornell
- 11:00am – Noon Adapting Comic Book Universes to Television**
DoubleTree Edina
 Guest of Honor Greg Weisman and Former Guest of Honor Christopher Jones will discuss their experiences in making television out of comic properties. *Christopher Jones, Greg Weisman*
- 11:00am – Noon Celebrity Science**
DoubleTree Plaza 1
 From Carl Sagan and Bill Nye to Neil Degrasse Tyson, how have celebrity scientists expanded our understanding of science? *James Kakalios, Jessica Wynd Miller, Laura Okagaki-Vraspir (mod), PZ Myers, Sharon Stiteler*
- 11:00am – Noon 20 Years of Table Top Gaming**
DoubleTree Plaza 3
 Board games have come a long way in the past 20 years. Panelists discuss the evolving culture of table-top gaming, where it might go from here, and share their favorite games from the last two decades. *Joseph Jay-Dixon, Katherine L Berger Tremaine, Kyla MCT (mod), Scott White, Taiana Hayes*
- 11:00am – Noon Reading—Patrick S. Tomlinson**
Sheraton Ames
Patrick S Tomlinson
- 11:00am – Noon The Married Marks**
Sheraton Whalon
 One couple, two opinions, no countouts! Join local podcasters Richard and Shannon Townsend as they discuss the ins, the outs, the ups, the downs, and the greatest (and worst) of professional wrestling from around the globe. *Richard Townsend, Shannon Townsend*
- Noon–1:30pm Signing—Marina Sirtis**
DoubleTree Autograph Table D
Marina Sirtis

SUNDAY CONTINUED

12:30pm–1:30pm Great Geek Musicians

DoubleTree Atrium 2

If you like your music geeky, what are some good options beyond Weird Al and Jonathon Coulton? *Cetius d'Raven, Chase Peterson, Jonah Robert Rees, Kerry Teckla Peterson (mod)*

12:30pm–1:30pm Representing Disability in Fantasy Settings

DoubleTree Atrium 4

From "A Game Of Thrones" to "Lord of the Rings" to "How to Train Your Dragon" and beyond, we will examine how disability is dealt with in fantasy settings and have a discussion about the types of representation we would like to see. *Christina DZA Marie (mod), Jennifer Manna, Katarina Ruth Larsen, Kathryn Yee, Kt M Schaefer*

12:30pm–3:00pm Art: Impossible

DoubleTree Atrium 6

Watch as talented artists are given impossible challenges! Could you create a CONvergence-themed amusement park in thirty minutes? How about design a new Doctor Who costume in five minutes? These artists create the impossible! *Christopher Jones, Jerry Belich, Melissa Sue Kaercher, Tim Wick (mod), Windy Bowsby*

12:30pm–1:30pm Tools for Writers

DoubleTree Atrium 7

What tools make writing easier? What are the pros using to get faster, stay organized, and ergonomically healthy. A panel of professional writers discusses useful tools: software, hardware, and wetware that works. *Aimee Kuzenski (mod), Anne Lyle, Elisa Hansen, Lindsay Ellis, Tyler Tork*

12:30pm–1:30pm Signing—Greg Weisman

DoubleTree Autograph Table A

Greg Weisman

12:30pm–1:30pm Signing—Anthony W. Eichenlaub

DoubleTree Autograph Table B

Anthony W. Eichenlaub

12:30pm–1:30pm Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai Fan Panel

DoubleTree Bloomington

Alexis Nordling (mod), Bill Stiteler, Diana Fitzwater, Steven Baumgartner, Walter W Parker

12:30pm–1:30pm Cassini: The End is Here!

DoubleTree Edina

Alumni Guest of Honor and Cassini team member Bridget Landry shows us what Cassini taught us right up to the final plunge into Saturn. *Bridget Landry*

12:30pm–1:30pm Dueling Circles and Skirmishes with Adventures in Cardboard

DoubleTree Garden Court—Southwest

You've built your cardboard weapons... now go use them! *Brynn Berryhill, Douglas Saldana, Gaea Dill-D'Ascoli, Julian McFaul*

12:30pm–1:30pm Unintentional Racism in Science Fiction

DoubleTree Plaza 1

Sometimes science fiction tries to be progressive and fails. Let's talk about some examples.

Lathan Murrell, Nat Morse-Noland (mod), Rita K Walaszek, SEE MORE PERSPECTIVE, Ytasha Womack

12:30pm–1:30pm Practical vs. Digital Effects

DoubleTree Plaza 3

We live in the era of amazing digital effects but sometimes practical effects are still best. Let's talk about some great examples of both. *Adam Momsen, AlyssaRose Jordan, Jacob M Gulliver (mod), Matt Gamble, Vincent Truitner*

12:30pm–1:30pm Reading—Dr. Nerdlove

Sheraton Ames

Harris O'Malley

12:30pm–1:30pm Gaylaxians Book Discussion Update

Sheraton Whalon

North Country Gaylaxians read 10 to 12 books with positive portrayals of GLBT situations and characters or from GLBT authors in a year. This panel will give an update on the books we've read, which we thought were good, which we disliked and why. *Claudia Slovacek, Donald Kaiser (mod), Kendra Akin*

2:00pm–3:00pm Corsets 101

DoubleTree Atrium 2

First: YES, corset wearers can breathe and not damage organs. New to corsets? Learn how to: differentiate between a bustier, corset & faja; measure for a proper fit for hip- and rib-spring; lace yourself in; properly store & clean; and stealth. *LauraJean Krueger, Melissa Joy Sowers, Michelle Farley (mod), Sara Huebschen*

2:00pm–3:00pm White Supremacy and Speculative Fiction

DoubleTree Atrium 4

White supremacists claim Tolkien, Norse mythology, military SF/F, and more beloved books and sub-genres as supporting their ideology. What does that mean for authors and fans? Are we complicit? How can we fight against it? *Amal El-Mohtar, Eleanor Arnason, Gabriela Santiago, Sarah Beth Soderlund (mod), Sarah Molasky*

2:00pm–3:00pm The Good Place Fan Panel

DoubleTree Atrium 7

The Good Place has had two great seasons of being a mix of philosophy, comedy, and fantasy. Let's talk about our favorite moments, the twists and turns, and where we want Season 3 to go! Warning, there will be spoilers! *Allyson Cygan, James Kakalios, Kiah Nelson, Laura Okagaki-Vraspir (mod), Lee Cygan*

2:00pm–3:00pm Signing—Tamora Pierce

DoubleTree Autograph Table A

Tamora Pierce

2:00pm–3:00pm Signing—Michael "Knightmage" Wilson

DoubleTree Autograph Table B

Michael Knightmage Wilson

2:00pm–3:00pm Signing—Dr. Nerdlove

DoubleTree Autograph Table C

Harris O'Malley

2:00pm–3:00pm Bond Villain Retrospective

DoubleTree Bloomington

Who had the best diabolical plans and who didn't require the efforts of the world's greatest spy to thwart them?

Bill Stiteler, Brian Salisbury (mod), John White, Michael May, Wendy Fossum

2:00pm–3:00pm Escaping the Pigeon Hole

DoubleTree Edina

When you become known for a single aspect of your work, how do you let people know about all the other wonderful things you can do? Conversely, how do you embrace type-casting and make it work for you? *Anj Olsen, Art Allen (mod), Greg Weisman, Kurt Larson, Marina Sirtis*

2:00pm–4:00pm Doctor Who Tea Party—We're All A Little Mad Here

DoubleTree Garden Court—Southwest

The Victorian Lady Doctors invite you to join us for an Unusual Tea Party. Seems the Doctor landed in Wonderland and things have gotten a bit confused. So come wearing whatever suits your fancy. There will be fun and tomfoolery. But will there be tea? *Natasha Jo Krentz*

SUNDAY CONTINUED

2:00pm–3:00pm What is Afrofuturism?

DoubleTree Plaza 1

Black Panther is putting afrofuturism into the mainstream. Learn more about this genre and about some good resources to explore it further. *Lathan Murrell, Miss Shannan Paul (mod), Morgan A Strickland, Taylor Cisco, Ytasha Womack*

2:00pm–3:00pm Enjoyable Trash

DoubleTree Plaza 3

What trashy things do we love and why? What makes them trashy and why are they still appealing? *AlyssaRose Jordan, Hertzey Hertz, Lauren Lynn Wells (mod), Matt Gamble, bricklyn holtgrave*

2:00pm–3:00pm Reading—Laura Anne Gilman

Sheraton Ames

Laura Anne Gilman

2:00pm–3:00pm Dark Matter Fan Panel

Sheraton Whalon

Discuss this Canadian sci-fi show and what the crew of the Raza means to you. Can your identity be rewritten or are we hardwired to be good or bad? *Jamie Riedesel (mod), Jon Stark Olsen, Josiah John Mannion*

3:30pm–4:30pm Inhabiting Your Character

DoubleTree Atrium 2

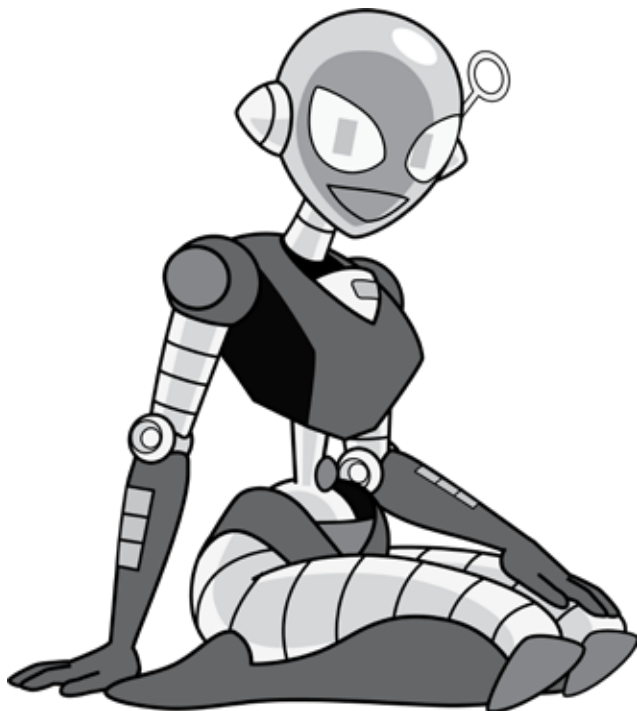
It's easy to roll dice, but to truly play the role of your character is challenging. Using accents, voice work, improvisation, & thinking in character, you will learn to role play like a pro. Led by actors & game masters, we will discuss & demonstrate. *Amanda Germaine Day (mod), Dawn Krosnowski, Jim Radloff, Joe Weinberg, Jon Enge*

3:30pm–4:30pm Film Noir & Hybrid Noir

DoubleTree Atrium 4

From neon-lit future noir to hardboiled fairy tales, we discuss the influence of classic noir and hardboiled fiction on other genres, including speculative fiction.

Elizabeth Ess, Emma Bull, Matt Gamble (mod), Melissa Sue Kaercher, Skazka 9000



3:30pm–4:30pm May The Blank Be With You: A Star Wars Comedy Quiz

DoubleTree Atrium 6

Joseph Scrimshaw, comedian and co-host of the Star Wars podcast, Force Center, presents a fast, fun, and absurd quiz show about that galaxy far, far away. *Joseph Scrimshaw*

3:30pm–4:30pm Kick-Ass Female Spies of World War II

DoubleTree Atrium 7

If Agent Carter were real, she would have been recruited for Churchill's Special Operations Executive, or the Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare. Some went missing in action or identities were kept secret for years. Come hear about these real life heroes. *Christopher Joe Daniels, Elspeth Skyler Lee, Michael Allen Kingsley (mod), Todd F Powell, Wendy Fossum*

3:30pm–4:30pm Signing—Marina Sirtis

DoubleTree Autograph Table D

Marina Sirtis

3:30pm–4:30pm Avoiding Tokenism in Literature

DoubleTree Bloomington

Creating actual diversity requires a great effort to avoid unintentionally tokenizing your characters. Tokenism, even when unintentional, is what leads to adding "diversity" for the sake of diversity. How do we engender true diversity in our literature? *Justin Edward Grays, Kerry Teckla Peterson, Tamora Pierce*

3:30pm–4:30pm Guy Fieri Fan Panel

DoubleTree Edina

Last year we celebrated Alton Brown. This year, we celebrate Guy! *Deb Brazil, Donavon Indovino Cawley, Jon Stark Olsen (mod), Kristina Winn*

3:30pm–4:30pm Movie Machine Podcast

DoubleTree Plaza 1

Join the crew of Hot Chocolate Media as they improvise the concept of a movie based on a random suggestion from the internet. *Ben Lifson, Brian Salisbury, Jacob M Gulliver, Kyle Dekker*

3:30pm–4:30pm Cosplay Mash-Ups

DoubleTree Plaza 3

What do you do when you want to put together a costume that will show off two of your favorite things at once. *Jacob Royce Schornak, Lara Richardson (mod), Melissa Joy Sowers, Rachel Cleveland, Steven Dale Theiss*

3:30pm–4:30pm Reading—S. P. Jayaraj

Sheraton Ames

Satish P. Jayaraj

3:30pm–4:30pm The Bible as Literature

Sheraton Whalon

The Bible is one of the most popular books of all time but does it hold up as literature? Is it well crafted? Interesting? Engaging? Let's look at The Bible as a work of art and commerce. *Amanda Larsen, Barbarajean Hartos-Hord, Danielle Robinson, Kayla McGrady (mod), Tim Lieder*

MONDAY JULY 9

Midnight–1:00am Michael Sheard Memorial Five Day Panel

DoubleTree Plaza 1

Michael Sheard was the man who suggested CONvergence should be five days. He, like many others in our community, is gone but in his honor, we will make our 20th year last five days with this panel taking place at midnight on Monday! *Tim Wick*

CONVENTION COMMITTEE

ACTIVITIES

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Book Swap

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Nessa Feilan—Head
Brandon Slick—Sub-Head

Cinema Rex

Ansley Grams—Head
Eric Knight—Head
John Grams—Head
Michael MacDonald—Head
Cara White—Sub-Head
Ryann Collins—Specialist

Connie's Quantum Sandbox

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Marcia Colby—Head
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Eric Peterson—Specialist
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Jessica Mastey—Specialist
Jill McTavish—Specialist
Keith Apperson—Specialist
Kevin Borchers—Specialist

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Kim Louisiana—Sub-Head

Michael Lee—Specialist

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Christina Pederson—Head
Craig Finseth—Head
Jared Fasching—Head
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Michael Carus—Head
Patrick Marsh—Head
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Samantha Evert—Head
Zoe Fasching—Head
Emily Palmer—Specialist

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Benjamin Spencer—Sub-Head
Hannah Stein—Sub-Head
Noah Mosley—Sub-Head

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Stephanie Zuercher—Director Elect

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Holley Van Susteren—Sub-Head
Kath Dimmich Mahaffy—Sub-Head
Merchandise
Ben Mueller—Head
Wendi Beam Einberger—Sub-Head

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James Hall—Head
Jed Amerson-Holt—Head
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Lori Baerg—Sub-Head
Robert Wagner—Sub-Head

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Dorothy Norton—Sub-Head
Kristin Daley—Sub-Head
Krystal Kubiszewski—Sub-Head
Sarah Barsness—Sub-Head
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Rebecca Justiniano—Head
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Sheilah Howard—Sub-Head
Stephanie Cardenas—Sub-Head
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Echo Martin—Specialist
Hal Bichel—Specialist
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Kris Spiesz—Sub-Head
Kaaren Spiesz—Specialist

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Electra Vincent—Head
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Isabelle Leroux—Sub-Head
Jana Palo—Sub-Head
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Lindsey Stene—Specialist
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Michael Kingsley—Sub-Head
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Robben Leaf—Sub-Head
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Tanya Brody—Head
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Amanda Tempel—Sub-Head
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Anton Petersen—Sub-Head
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Chelsea Okey—Sub-Head
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Megan Petersen—Sub-Head
Natasha Krentz—Sub-Head
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Scott Raleigh—Sub-Head

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Sara McAtee—Sub-Head
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Molly Glover—Specialist
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George Atendido
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Felix Quinn
Trisha Renken-Sebastian

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Alanna Worrall
Allison Tieman
Electra Vincent
Madeline Lee

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

REGISTRATION

DoubleTree Verandas 1–4 (South Tower, 2nd Floor).

Wednesday 11:00am–6:00pm & 9:00pm–Midnight
Thursday 9:00am–Midnight
Friday 9:00am–9:00pm
Saturday 9:00am–8:00pm
Sunday Noon–3:00pm

Registration will accept only cash and credit cards.

TRANSFERRING MEMBERSHIPS

All membership badge transfers must be processed by the Registration department during the convention. There is a non-refundable \$20 transfer fee. Once a membership badge has been issued, it becomes non-transferable. For more information on how to transfer a membership visit this page: <http://www.convergence-con.org/get-involved/register/>

LOST MEMBERSHIP BADGES

Check Lost & Found in Operations to see if your lost membership badge was turned in, if not you will need a replacement which is available at Registration. The fee is \$20 for the replacement of Adult or Teen membership badges. Ages 0-12 years will be replaced for free.

RATES AND DATES FOR 2019

	Adult 18+	Ages 13–17	Ages 6–12	Ages 5 and Under
Until Jan 15, 2019	\$75	\$45	\$25	Free
Until June 1, 2019	\$85	\$45	\$25	Free
At The Door	\$125	\$65	\$35	Free

You may register for the 2019 convention beginning on Sunday, July 8, 2018. If you are paying by credit card, log in to your existing account or create an account at the registration link on the web page at <http://www.convergence-con.org/>

If you are paying with cash or in need of assistance, stop by Registration on Sunday, July 8, from Noon to 3:00pm and we will help you sign you up. Please refer to our web site at <http://www.convergence-con.org/> for more information.

SURVEY

We have a short survey that we are asking our members to fill out to help us collect some quantitative data about our convention. By completing the survey, you'll be providing us with invaluable information that we can use to help us improve your experience. The survey is available on the website at <http://www.convergence-con.org/about/survey>.

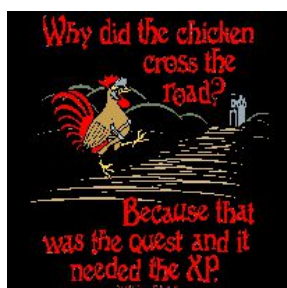
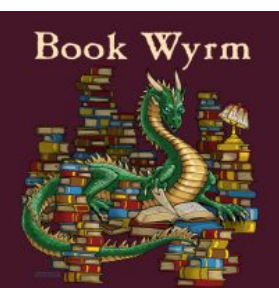
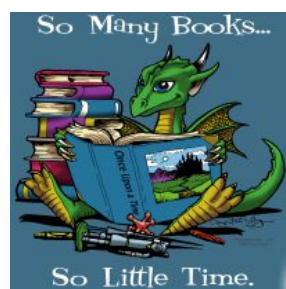
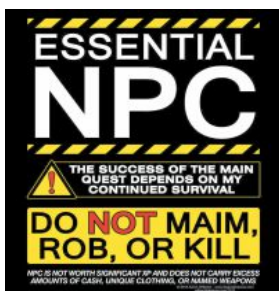
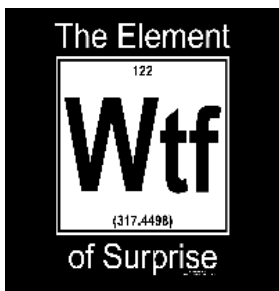


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PLAYWRIGHTS: CHRISTOPHER KIDDER-MOSTROM AND SASHA WARREN
TRANSLATED BY: CHRIS LIPSCOMBE

A KLINGON CHRISTMAS CAROL



DECEMBER 7, 8, 10, 14, 15,
20, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28, 29
7:30 PM, SUNDAYS AT 4:30



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MOUNDS
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