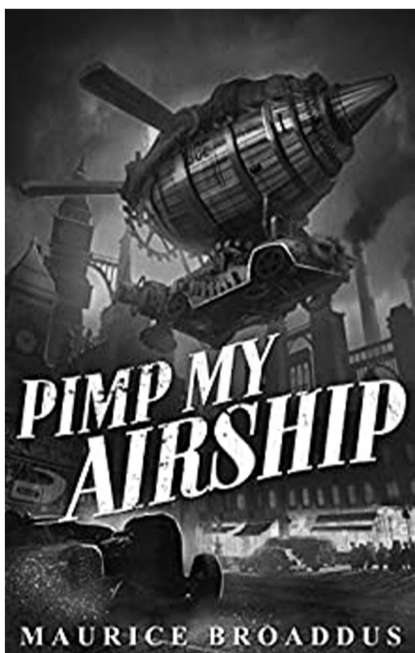


# ConGregate 9



July 14-16, 2023



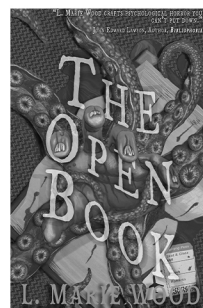
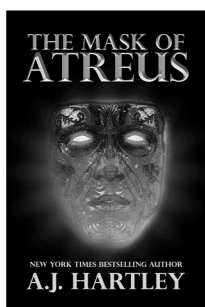
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The Schedule of Events can be found  
in the pocket program or on Sched →



## From the Con Chair

Welcome to ConGregarate 9. We are excited to have you join us for this weekend!

ConGregarate is a convention that brings together industry professionals, dealers, and fans from all over the world (well, okay, this part of the United States), to discuss speculative fiction, techniques for creation, and to network and interact with each other. We have a great lineup of guests and events planned, please check out your pocket program or Sched.com for details. We hope that you will take advantage of all that the convention has to offer. There will be plenty of opportunities to hang with other attendees and share your own experiences.

Additionally, we encourage you to explore the immediate downtown area of Winston-Salem. There are lots and lots of food and beverage options within a very short walking distance from the hotels – not to mention some pretty good food right inside the two hotels (yes, there are two, the Marriott and the Embassy Suites).

If you need to grab a quick snack or non-alcoholic beverage, we have our ConSuite in the Marriott for your convenience.

We truly appreciate that you chose to attend ConGregarate. We hope you have a great time!

-James Fulbright  
President/Con Chair



Updates coming soon  
on our website:



Enter our Film Festival:  
Now accepting shorts and features!



## AtomaCon 2024

Saturday, May 4- Sunday, May 5

\*\*\*\*New Location\*\*\*

S.C. Aeronautical Training Center  
Trident Technical College



\*\*\*\*Hotel\*\*\*

Candlewood Suites  
Northwoods Blvd.  
North Charleston, SC

# Convention Staff and Harassment Policy

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## Convention Staff

<b>Convention Chairman</b>	<b>James Fulbright</b>
<b>Vice Chairman</b>	<b>Andrew Greeson</b>
<b>Programming Director</b>	<b>Tera Fulbright</b>
Asst. Programming Director	Hannah Fulbright
Guest Coordinators	John Desmarais
	Wendell McCollom
Information Desk Coordinator	"Bad" Andy Simmons
Auction Coordinator	Glen Beattie
Auctioneer	Everette Beach
Film Festival Coordinator	Christopher Jones
<b>Director of Accessibility and Safety</b>	<b>Richard Sarner</b>
<b>ConSuite Director</b>	<b>Aaron Brite</b>
<b>Director of Registration</b>	<b>Cindy Walker</b>
<b>Exhibit Space Director</b>	<b>Bill Mann</b>
Dealer Room Assistant	Janine Martinez
<b>Director of Operations</b>	<b>Andrew Greeson</b>
<b>Marketing Director</b>	<b>James Fulbright</b>

## Volunteers

Devon Berg, Jody Byrd, John Brice, Sherman Burris, Eric Campbell, Marion Campbell, Jen "Chibi" Davis, Tim Dixon, Mike Gillespie, Greg Gunsalus, Athena Hayes, Allan Mason, Carmen Mason, Tamara Massey, Naveed Moeed, John Simpson, Heather Simpson, Izzy Simpson, Keighley Tunstall, Dana Windsor

## ConGregarate Productions

### Corporate Officers

James Fulbright, President  
Laura Haywood-Cory, Vice President  
Tera Fulbright, Secretary  
Pam Greeson, Treasurer

### Board of Directors

Everette Beach (Chairman of the Board)  
Laura Haywood-Cory  
Paul Cory  
James Fulbright  
Tera Fulbright

## Harassment Policy

We are endeavoring to make ConGregarate a safe place for fans to gather. Even so, certain types of inappropriate, offensive or harassing behavior can be found at public places across the world. To the best of our ability, we want to prevent inappropriate conduct during the convention.

It is very important that if you are being harassed, or in any way feel endangered, that you report it immediately. For the convention to be able to address issues, it is important that we be made aware of any situation that might occur, with as many details as can be provided (names, badge numbers, descriptive information, etc.).

If you feel you have been harassed, please find the nearest convention volunteer and ask to be directed to the Convention Chairman or Vice Chair. During convention hours, you should be able to locate a staff member at the con registration table, the Info Booth, the Prefunction areas, or at the Hanes Boardroom in the Marriott (see map on p. 22).

Additionally, if you see someone being harassed, we encourage you to speak up and say something. As a community, fandom needs to work together to make sure everyone is treated with respect.

Once a complaint of discriminatory harassment has been filed, an investigation will be conducted. The nature and extent of the investigation will depend upon the complaint. The convention will respect the wishes of the person reporting the harassment when deciding on further steps. A convention participant, who the con organizers believe has committed harassment, or who fails to cooperate with an investigation, may be sanctioned or asked to leave the convention without a refund at the discretion of the con organizers. Participants asked to stop any harassing behavior are expected to comply immediately.

Actions taken by the con staff are separate and distinct from any legal action and do not, in fact, preclude legal consequences from happening.

\* \* \*

**Definition of Harassment** - to create an unpleasant or hostile situation, especially by uninvited and unwelcome verbal or physical conduct.

Types of harassment include but are not limited to: physical assault, battery, deliberate intimidation, stalking, following, harassing photography or recording, sustained disruption of talks or other events, inappropriate or unwelcome physical contact, unwelcome sexual attention, negative comments regarding gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, age, race, or religion.

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# Rules of the Convention

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## Convention Rules

1. When you are in the convention areas, you must wear your badge. Lost badges will only be replaced once. The basic gist here is: *yes, you have to wear your stinking badges.*

2. The staff of ConGregarate reserves the right to toss anyone (members, guests, dealers, volunteers... anyone) out of the convention, **without a refund**, if they are behaving like a jerk. ConGregarate's management will be the sole arbiters of what constitutes "behaving like a jerk." We follow Wheaton's Law. Also, we believe in the concept of Investigate, Educate, and **then** Adjudicate.

3. Please be aware that harassment falls under rule number two (2) above. Keep in mind that the determination of what is harassing behavior is typically defined by the VICTIM. We will only consider intent when determining the fate of anyone we feel is guilty of harassing their fellow con-goers. Please see our full harassment policy on p. 2.

4. ConGregarate requires that you provide your real name when you register for the convention. An alias can be used on your badge, but our database must have your real name associated with it. Anyone who provides false information to the convention may be asked to leave the con, without a refund.

5. Mother always said, "Don't run in the house!" The same applies to the con site.

6. Do not tear up the hotel(s)! We like it here and want to come back at some point. If you have a lapse in judgment, and we catch you wrecking the hotel(s)... well,.. go back and read rule number 2.

7. You may only hang signs on the walls of the hotel (this includes the elevators) with the hotel's permission. Special materials, and possibly labor, will need to be provided by the hotel. Fees for those services will apply.

8. Bladed weapons must be sheathed and peace-bonded at all times. All other actual weapons are prohibited in the con space (Ballrooms, Prefunction Space, and Con Suite). Blasters and fake weapons are permitted if you swing by the reg desk first and allow us to "peace-bond" it.

9. The staff of ConGregarate cannot permit unauthorized vendors to sell anything at the convention. For our convention, "authorized" equals anyone with a valid contract for the Dealer Room and Hallway Spaces, or anyone with scheduled time at the signings table in the dealer room. The signings table is typically limited to books and autographs.

10. Please switch your cell phones, and other electronic devices, to silent ring while you are in the programming rooms. If you do receive a call, we ask that you leave the room before you answer your phone.

11. Please be aware of, and courteous to, your fellow conventioners as you navigate the walk spaces in the convention. In particular, try not to block the aisles in the dealer room, the panel rooms, or the pre-function areas. As some of our fellow con-goers need assistance with mobility, it's important to not block the path of others.

12. The hotels have requested that no "outside" alcohol be brought into the con areas. We encourage you to patronize the hotel bars, visit a nearby pub or brewery, or to drink in your private hotel rooms & suites.

13. ConGregarate is not responsible for items lost during the convention. As each of us has lost stuff from time to time, we can sympathize with you. We'll even try to help you find said items. We cannot, however, afford to replace them. Sorry.

14. While the convention organizers encourage members to bring their children to ConGregarate, we ask that parents take an active role in monitoring the events in which their children participate. Some events (and most parties) may not be suitable for all ages. Also, please be aware that ConGregarate is not a daycare service. Children left unattended may be remanded to the care of Child Protective Services.

15. ConGregarate is offering a "Kids Track," during specific times during the convention. There will be activities specifically designed for children. Feel free to take your children there if they need a break from the con. Please be aware, however, that this area is not designed as daycare.

16. No smoking (or vaping) inside the hotels. Smoking areas are available outside of each hotel.

17. We believe in the "no costume is no costume" rule. Naked people are not quite appropriate for ConGregarate's common areas.

18. There are specific rules regarding photography. You can find them on p. 4.

19. Since discussions of a political nature have a tendency to become incendiary, we ask that you limit those to your private hotel rooms or outside of the hotel. While members of our staff support many worthy causes, we ask that you not turn our convention into a battleground.

20. No rule listed here supersedes local law, state law, federal law or hotel policy. You still have to obey those strictures.

21. No camping out (or hanging out) in the convention spaces after the con closes for the night - even if you aren't actually sleeping. This is a liability issue for the con.

22. And, finally, our most important rule during the convention is: HAVE FUN!



# ConSuite

## Room 1810 (Marriott)

We will be serving individually packaged snacks and beverages in our ConSuite.

Hand sanitizer will be available in the suite, we kindly request that you use it before serving yourself any refreshments.

(We will be closed, briefly, a few times each day to clean the space)



## HOURS

FRI	2:00pm - 6:00pm 6:30pm - 10:00pm
SAT	9:00am - 1:00pm 1:30pm - 5:00pm 5:30pm - 10:00pm
SUN	9:00am - 11:15am 11:30am - 2:30pm

### Statement on Inclusion

At ConGregarate, we pride ourselves in trying to provide an inclusive environment, and are proud to support all fans regardless of gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, physical appearance, body size, age, race, color, religion or national origin.

### Privacy Policy

ConGregarate does not sell, or otherwise distribute, any contact information collected in any way, without first seeking the approval of each individual. Congregarate will only use collected contact information to contact specific individuals about relevant convention business.

### Photography Policy

1. While photography and videography are generally allowed in all convention spaces and the hotel lobby, photography, flash photography, or videography may be prohibited at certain events or in specific areas. These will be identified by announcements, during the event. Violating the photography & videography rules can result in your removal from the area or event.
2. Photographers and videographers may not block walkways or emergency exits with their equipment. Backdrops may not be put up in any convention space without the permission of the convention.
3. You must ask for permission before you take a person's picture or record them, and take the answer "no" with good grace.

### Voice Recording

Some of our panelists may decide to record their panels for later personal use. The following rules apply:

1. All panelists must agree to be recorded.
2. No recording may posted on the internet or broadcast in any way without written permission of ConGregarate's senior management.
3. A sign must be placed on the panelist table, in the front of the panel room, prior to beginning any kind of recording.

### Statement on Community Health

At ConGregarate, we take the health of the members of our community very seriously. While we can't force you to follow the 6-2-1 rule (get at least 6 hours of sleep, eat 2 meals, and take 1 shower each day), we do recommend it.

Furthermore, with the new COVID-19 variant spreading quickly, we recommend masking up, particularly in crowded spaces

We are also doing what we can to help:

1. We have, since our very first year, offered individually packaged drinks and snacks in the ConSuite.
2. We are suggesting that folks find creative ways to greet each other, that maybe doesn't involve shaking hands with half of the con attendees.
3. Cleaning your hands is never a bad idea.

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## Hawaiian Shirt Memorial

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Each year, Congregate remembers contributors that we have lost from the science fiction and fantasy world. The tradition began in memory of Aaron Allston, who was well known for his love of Hawaiian shirts.

This year we are including those individuals who have passed since our 2022 convention. We encourage everyone to wear a Hawaiian shirt on Friday, July 14 in honor of:

- Kirstie Alley
- Martin Amis
- Rebecca Balding
- Greg Bear
- Richard Bober
- Eric Brown
- Sergio Calderon
- Suzy McKee Charnas
- Robbie Coltrane
- Kevin Conroy
- Albert E. Cowdrey
- Ned Dameron
- Lenny Von Dohlen
- Louise Fletcher
- Eric Flint
- Christopher Fowler
- Jason David Frank
- Ken Gentile
- Bert I. Gordon
- Paul Grant
- Barbara Haldeman
- Lee Harding
- Anne Harris
- Anne Heche
- Dorothy J. Heydt
- Leslie Jordan
- Lance Kerwin
- Michael Kopsa
- Angela Lansbury
- Michael Lerner
- Carol Locatell
- Lisa Loring
- Tom Maddox
- Matthew Mather
- Ian McGinty
- Kim Mohan
- Lisa Montell
- Ray Nelson
- Olivia Newton-John
- Nichelle Nichols
- Wolfgang Petersen
- Jill Pinkwater
- Rachel Pollack
- Michael Reaves
- Lance Reddick
- John Victor Romita Sr.
- Maureen Kincaid Speller
- Peter Straub
- Ray Stevenson
- Bruce Taylor
- John Teehan
- Chaim Topol
- Joe Turkel
- Tina Turner
- Rajnar Vajra
- David Warner
- Darren Watts
- Raquel Welch
- Annie Wersching
- Treat Williams
- Joseph Wrzos

*In memoriam*



## Guests of Honor



### John Scalzi

John Scalzi is the Hugo-winning and New York Times bestselling author of *Old Man's War*, *Redshirts*, and *The Kaiju Preservation Society*, among other novels. Some of his short work was featured in the Netflix animated series *Love Death + Robots*. He was president of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America (now the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers Association), but he got better.

He owns one dog, three cats, a six-necked guitar and a church. His burritos are internet infamous and possibly actual crimes. He lives in Ohio. Yes, he knows you have a cousin who lives in Ohio. Everyone has a cousin who lives in Ohio. He's standing behind you right now. Run.



### Michael A. Stackpole

Michael A. Stackpole is the multiple New York Times bestselling author of over forty fantasy and science fiction novels, his best known books written in the *Star Wars*® universe, including *I, Jedi* and *Rogue Squadron*, as well as the X-Wing graphic novel series. He has also written in the Conan, Pathfinder, BattleTech and World of Warcraft universes, among others.

In 2017, Stackpole was the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing at Arizona State University Distinguished Writer-in-Residence. Stackpole's other honors include: Induction into the Academy Gaming Arts and Design Hall of Fame, a Parsec Award for "Best Podcast Short Story," and a Topps's selection as Best *Star Wars*® Comic Book Writer. Stackpole is the first author to sell work in Apple's App Store, and he's been an advocate for authors taking advantage of the digital revolution.





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# Guests of the Convention

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## Craig Alanson

Craig Alanson used to create fiction in the form of financial reports for a large IT company (no one ever read the reports, so no harm done). He now writes fiction books, including the Expeditionary Force sci fi series, and the Convergence urban fantasy series. His books feature a talking beer can, and a talking dog, and it's clear Craig is working through some issues. He lives in Vermont and Florida with his long-suffering wife, and three disobedient dogs. He always has some lame excuse for why he can't clean out the garage, but his wife forgives him since his books have been on the NYT best-seller list 12 times.

## Paul Barrett

Paul Barrett has had multiple careers, including rock and roll roadie, theater stage manager, television camera operator, mortgage banker, and support specialist for Microsoft Excel. This eclectic mix allowed him to go into his true love: motion picture production. He has produced two feature films (*Night Feeders*, *Cold Storage*) and two documentaries. When not producing films, he works on them in various capacities, including script supervisor, prop master, or art department. His credits include *The Angry Black Girl and Her Monster*, *The Eyes of Tammy Faye*, *Uncle Frank*, *Outcast*, and *Banshee*, among many others. Amidst all this, Paul has written and produced numerous commercial and industrial video scripts in his tenure with his former creative agency, Indievision. He has six novels in print, with more on the way. Four of his novels have been made into audiobooks. Paul is an avid board gamer, miniatures painter, movie enthusiast, and all-around nerd. He lives in North Carolina with his film director/graphic designer husband, where they work as servants to four cats: Trixie, Buster, and Yin.

## Jim Beall

Jim Beall (BS-Math, MBA, PE) has been a nuclear engineer for over 50 years, beginning as a nuclear engineering officer in the US Navy. Civilian experience includes design, construction, inspection, enforcement, and assessment with a nuclear utility, an architect engineering firm, and the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (USNRC). Assignments included on-site health physics support, piping design stress analyses, reactor licensing, reactor startup testing (Canadian Point Lepreau heavy water reactor), research reactor inspections, and a nuclear regulatory program assist mission to the State Nuclear Regulatory Inspectorate of Ukraine in Kiev. USNRC positions included reactor site construction senior resident inspector (SRI), reactor operations SRI, inspection team leader, safety analyst, senior enforcement specialist, and reactor policy assistant to three different Presidential-appointed USNRC Commissioners while earning the agency's Meritorious and Distinguished Service awards. Duties of those policy-level posts included substantial research into alternative and speculative energy sources, as well as energy forecasts and transmission technologies. Some of those other sources were coal, oil, hydro, geothermal, tidal, solar, wind, fracking, space-based, heavy water reactors, breeder

reactors, fusion, and even anti-matter. Coauthor of Journal of the British Interplanetary Society (JBIS) paper, "Ecological Engineering Considerations for ISU's Worldship Project." Baen Books has published several of his non-fiction articles on a variety of subjects, including: "Our Worldship Broke!" - (Also *Anthologized in Stellaris: People of the Stars* by Baen Books) "Case Studies in Handwavium", "From Corvus to Keyhole -- Shipyards: Past, Present, and Science Fiction", "Radium Girls of Science and Science Fiction", "Grid Wars: Innovation, Feuds, Rivalry, and Revenge in the Never-ending Battle to Electrify America and the Planet", "Atomic Follies", "Warships of Sea And Space: Form Follows Function Follows Technology" -Part 1 (History), "Warships of Sea And Space: Form Follows Function Follows Technology" -Part 2 (Science), "Recycling: From Stars to Starships", and "Borders: From the First Sumerians to the Last Starfighter."

## H. David Blalock

H. David Blalock has been writing speculative fiction for over 50 years. His work has appeared in novels, novellas, stories, articles, reviews, and commentary both in print and online. Since 1996, his fiction has appeared in over two dozen magazines including *Pro Se Presents*, *Aphelion Webzine*, *Quantum Muse*, *Shelter of Daylight Magazine*, *The Harrow*, *The Three-Lobed Burning Eye*, *The Martian Wave* and many more. He is editor for *parABnormal Magazine* from Hiraeth Publishing. His work continues to appear on a regular basis through multiple publishing houses.

## Jo Boone

Jo Boone has been actively publishing her work since she was 8 years old. She does not know when she hit her first million word mark, but surely it was a while ago. Her goal these days, when she writes, is to cram as much fun stuff into her writing as she possibly can, like a traveler abroad who has bought too many souvenirs and is trying to fit them into an overstuffed suitcase. Jo has published short stories, essays, and a lot of really soporific nonfiction prior to publishing her first two novels, *The Magnetar* and *Elaninae*, available now from Chris Kennedy Publishing. Volume 3 in the Combined Service series, *The Celestial Sea*, is in the works!

## Samantha Bryant

Samantha Bryant writes superhero and horror stories, which one depends on whether she wants to save the world today, or burn it down. She is best known for her Menopausal Superhero series of novels through Falstaff Books, winner of a Jacquis Award for feminist writing. Well, that and her banana bread (the secret is sour cream). If you like speculative fiction featuring complicated women defying expectations, you'll enjoy her work. Check out her full catalog at <http://bit.ly/SamanthaBryant>, explore her blog and website at <http://samanthabryant.com> or find her wasting time on Twitter and Instagram @samanthabwriter. If all else fails, check the woods. She likes to get lost there.

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# Guests of the Convention

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## Emily Jane Buehler

Emily Jane Buehler writes cozy fantasy romances where everyday people (and fairies) have adventures and fall in love. Her stories are lighthearted with action and adventure, love and magic, and protagonists who learn to believe in themselves and find their courage. And yes, they are kissing books. She thinks of them as the beach reads that Princess Eilonwy packs when she goes on vacation. Emily Jane believes that by portraying positive relationships with good communication, romance novels can help readers envision such connections for themselves, model consent, and portray diverse types of relationships and people. They can be a fun escape while still having depth and contributing to a better society. Emily Jane has a chemistry background and worked for years as a bread baker before publishing her first book, *Bread Science: The Chemistry and Craft of Making Bread*, which includes the science of bread-making as well as the step-by-step process. She teaches baking classes at the Campbell Folk School in western Carolina and is still trying to think of a clever name for her sourdough starter. She has also published a memoir about her bicycle trip from New Jersey to Oregon called *Somewhere and Nowhere: A Bicycle Journey Across America*. Emily Jane lives and works in Hillsborough with a bossy, bite-y cat named Coco. She is a freelance copyeditor of science papers. When she has any free time, and even when she doesn't, she likes to hike with her partner, write paper letters to friends outside of Kim's Bakery, and defuse Coco by letting him kill his feather toy.

## Roger and Janet Carden

Roger and Janet Carden are the husband-and-wife team behind *The Halfling and the Spaceman: Journeys Into Active Fandom*. (2022-present) *The Halfling and the Spaceman* is a podcast featuring a series of conversations with creators as they detail their personal journey from becoming inspired by fandom to being creators in their own right. In addition, the Cardens also publish *Crimson Streets*. *Crimson Streets* (2016–present) is an online magazine and associated anthology series dedicated to fiction in the style of the pulp magazines of yesteryear, focused on fast-paced stories of action, adventure, and intrigue, from hard-boiled detectives and dangerous dames, to bold aviators and unspeakable horrors. Before starting *Crimson Streets*, Roger and Janet worked with a team which published *The Familiar* (1988–1998), a professional print magazine dedicated to role-playing and adventure games. Roger is a co-founder of the Game Publishers Association and an early supporter and member of CAR-PGa, the Committee for the Advancement of Role-Playing Games. Both enjoy playing “let's pretend” with their friends via tabletop role-playing games. Janet is a fan of mystery and crime novels, whereas Roger is a fan of classic science-fiction and fantasy. They both really enjoy genre movies; the good ones--and the really, really bad ones.

## Sammie Cassell

Sammie Cassell is a North Carolina based filmmaker, actor, improv and sketch comedian, and all around busy guy. His film/tv credits include *Halloween Kills*, *Eyes of Tammy Faye*, *Kill Giggles* and upcoming appearances in *Righteous Gemstones* and *Please Don't Destroy*. A life long comic book fan and collector along with being a lover of all things horror, wrestling and pop culture, he's also known as Sammie the Comic Book Man. Sammie and his production partners, Dan Sellers, Jeff Cochran, and Chad Hunt with Wreak Havoc Productions also do the *Carolina Haints Podcast*, the *Wreak Havoc Film Buffs Podcast* and the *Carolina Haints* book. Comedy performances are based out of the Idiot Box in Greensboro NC.

## Carol Cowles

Carol has long been a fixture of Geek Culture in Charlotte. She has served for several years as the Programming Director for ConCarolinas and worked the Carolina and Arizona Renaissance Festivals for 15 years. She also podcasts – she is Carol the Cat on *Guardians of the Geekery*, The Cinemistress on *Geek Radio Daily* and one half of *Refried Scenes* on The Poprika Network. When she is not podcasting – she is reading, writing or crafting. If you have trouble locating her, check your local cineplex, as movie theatres are her second home. Her fandoms include all things Tolkien, *Doctor Who*, *Star Trek*, *Star Wars* and tea – lots of tea.

## Kevin A. Davis

Kevin A. Davis, contemporary fantasy and science fiction writer, was born in Las Vegas, Nevada and has lived on both coasts. Presently he resides in a rural north Florida community where he and his wife own a bookstore. AngelSong, a six book contemporary fantasy series, features the unstoppable Haddie and can be found on Amazon, Audible, and Ingram. His Khimmer Chronicles series features the irreverent, naïve, and fun-loving Ahnjii joined with Khimmer, the mind of her adaptive Nightarmor. As panelist at fandom conventions, and an attendee, he travels to many conventions in the Southeast United States with a wide interest in speculative fiction from epic fantasy to science fiction.

## Tonya Denny

Founder of the Winston Salem Paranormal Society, Tonya Denny has been researching supernatural topics since the early 90's. Beginning with aliens, ufology, metaphysics, ghost hunting, and continuing today with her newfound love for cryptozoology. The founding members of WSPS are currently sponsoring the Kernersville Paranormal Research Meetup Group, the NC Haunted Portal Facebook Group, Eclectic Paranormal Research Alliance-Networking, and 3 investigation teams covering Forsyth County, Guilford County, and Davidson County of NC. WSPS also helps to educate the general public by offering classes and workshops on ghost hunting, bringing in speakers on paranormal

## Guests of the Convention

topics, and arranging events and trips to area haunted locations. Tonya also writes the Kernersville Portal blog at WSPS's newest adventure, the Carolina Vortex Blogsite.

### Jett Dixon

Jett has been attending & assisting at conventions for over a decade, finally delving into the roles of Programming Staff (RavenCon, ConCarolinas, Conapalooza) and Panelist.

Apple of Your Eye Cosplay is Jett's Facebook page for all things cosplay, showing off her thrift- and scrounge-style of work. She also does modifications to pieces she's found in her extensive wardrobe. Her favorite styles of cosplay are from *Star Trek*, Marvel, cartoons, and musicals.

### Patrick Dugan

Patrick is the author of the award-winning Darkest Storm Series published by Falstaff Books. Other titles include *Fate & Flux: A Steampunk Adventure* through and Watchers of Asteria series from Distracted Dragon Press. Other publications include *Fairy Films: Wee Folk on the Big Screen*, a collection of fairy essays. Patrick is a member of SFWA. An avid gadget user, Patrick is also the Director of Technology Services for Author's Essentials LLC providing solutions and advice for writing professionals. Patrick's writings delve into software, hardware, social media, and all

things web-related. The primary focus of Author's Essentials is how and when to employ technology to enhance your writing process. Patrick resides in Charlotte, NC with his wife and two children. In his spare time, he's a PC gamer, homebrewer, 3D printer enthusiast, and DIYer. You can usually find him in the Hearthstone Tavern or wandering Azeroth as a Blood Elf Warlock in the evenings.

### Nancy Dunne

Multi-genre fantasy author Nancy E. Dunne lives and works in the Upstate area of South Carolina with her Irish Wolfhounds Bryn and Ciaragh, her terrier mix Willow-Pickle, and her husband Simon. Nancy is a nationally certified American Sign Language/English interpreter as well as an author, and when she's not hard at work in higher education can be found working on her next novel and hanging out with 'the girls' and her husband. Her Orana Chronicles high fantasy world boasts two completed series to date: Tales of the Forest War and The Nature Walker Trilogy. A third series, Guardians of Orana, is in progress, with three published novels out of a total of six. For something completely different, she has one published novel (and one in progress) in her litRPG/portal fantasy series, *The World of Arcstone*, as well as one published novel (so far) in an alternative history/gaslamp fantasy series, *Luminous Beings*.

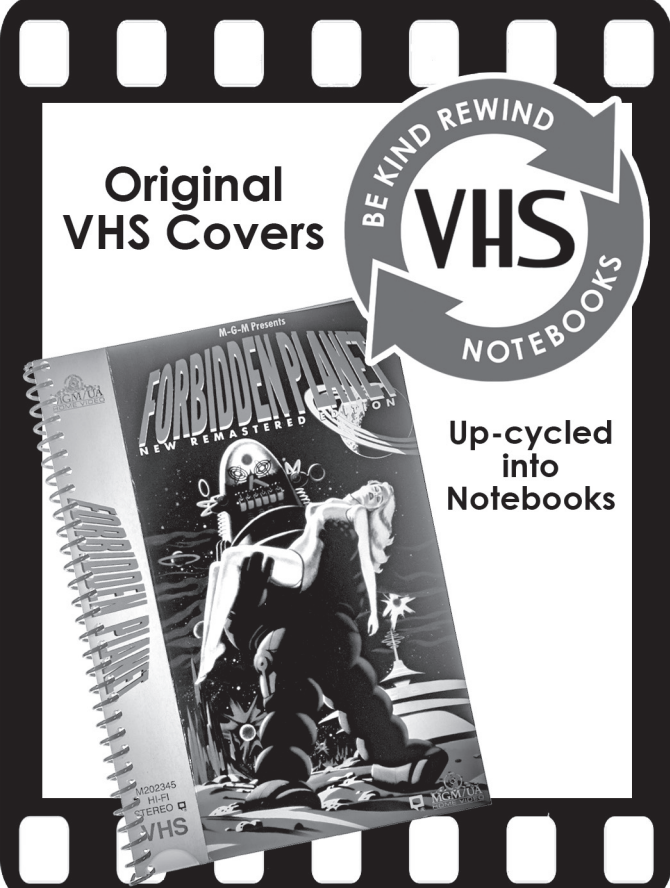


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# Guests of the Convention

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## The Nefarious Ferrets

The Nefarious Ferrets are Frank and Donna Parker of NC. Meeting each other in 2006, at ConCarolinas, they realized they had many things in common: science fiction, a love of music and ferrets. A match made in fandom, they married at ConCarolinas 2007.

AtomaCon 2017, they “adopted” bass player D.J. McGuire from VA – “The second-best bass player in my own damn band,” The Dimensional Riffs. He makes a fantastic addition to the group.

Performing as the Nefarious Ferrets since 2009, they have performed at the Geek Gala, ConCarolinas Filk Circles, and the Georgia Filk Convention (GaFilk 2X10s). They were the 2017 Filk Guests at AtomaCon in Charleston, SC and returning performers at RavenCon, ConCarolinas, and ConGregarate. As well as participating in house filks throughout the Carolinas.

## Angela Giddings

Angela Giddings is a writer, scientist, and independent filmmaker from North Carolina. She has a PhD in Microbiology and authored multiple scientific articles in virology, cell line design, and gene therapy. She is also the author of the futuristic dark fantasy series Dance of Ages, which begins with *Shadow into Light* and continues with *A Shower of Embers*. Recently, her science fiction short story “Moving Day” was published in the Brave New Worlds anthology from *Zombies Need Brains* and her horror short story “Express Delivery” was published in the *A Woman Unbecoming* anthology from Crone Girls Press. In addition to her writing, she has also worked on short and feature-length horror films with Sick Chick Flicks behind and in front of the camera and is the co-director of the Sick Chick Flicks Film Festival.

## Jason Gilbert

Jason is the author of The Clockworks of War series, The Rifle Chronicles, and urban fantasy series The Coldstone Case Files. His stories are Alternate History with an Urban Fantasy and Horror element set in worlds of the supernatural. His favorite pastimes are reading, video games, horror movies, beer, and heavy metal music...but on the weekends he is his own boss!

## Theresa Glover

Theresa Glover is the author of the Caitlin Kelley Monster Hunter series from Falstaff Books and spends her days writing, editing and plumbing the dark depths of the human psyche in search of character inspirations from the relative comfort of her home in North Carolina. When not planning or attending conventions, hustling books at events, editing for Falstaff, recording ridiculous role-playing antics for the Calamity Janes podcast, or playing *Magic: The Gathering*, she can be found buried in a book or devouring horror movies alone in the dark.

Theresa is also a developmental editor with Falstaff Books. She is a cast member of the Calamity Janes - an *Authors and Dragons* podcast, a staff member of the Saga Conference and Authors and Dragons Con, and a whiz at playing book matchmaker at all

the conventions where she works the Falstaff Books table. She is an all-around nerd who enjoys geeking out over the craft of writing, publishing, conventions, genre fiction, and is currently working on a banned/challenged book project for Falstaff and looking forward to putting awesome books into the hands of readers and discovering new gems by new authors and old friends. Upcoming projects include a collaboration with John G. Hartness on selling books at conventions, additional stories about Caitlin Kelley, and much more.

## Jo Graham

Jo Graham is the author of twenty-seven books and three online games. Best known for her historical fantasy novels *Black Ships* and *Stealing Fire*, and her tie-in novels for MGM’s popular *Stargate: Atlantis* and *Stargate: SG-1* series, she has been a Locus Award finalist, an Amazon Top Choice, a Spectrum Award finalist, a Romantic Times Top Pick in historical fiction and a Lambda Literary Award and Rainbow Award nominee for bisexual fiction. In 2022, her novel *Sounding Dark*, the first book in The Calpurnian Wars series, was a Manly Wade Wellman Award nominee. With Melissa Scott, she is the author of five books in the Order of the Air series, a historical fantasy series set in the 1920s and 30s. Her latest book, *A Blackened Mirror*, a historical fantasy set in Renaissance Rome, was released in March 2023. She is also the author of three pagan spirituality books. She lives in North Carolina with her partner and is the mother of two daughters.

## Jason T. Graves

Jason is a writer of words, a doodler of drawings, and fixer of other peoples’ words and doodles. Many years ago, he founded Prospective Press. He was once punched—lightly—by Muhammad Ali. You should ask him about that last one, because no one ever does.

## Dr. Robert Hampson

Dr. Robert E. Hampson is a Neuroscientist and author. By day, he is a professor at Wake Forest School of Medicine, studying how our brains encode memory. By night, he writes military, adventure and hard-science Science Fiction as well as nonfiction articles explaining science to the general public. Robert Hampson’s 2023 breakout novel *The Moon and the Desert*, builds on his scientific background to update the 1970’s classic TV program *The Six Million Dollar Man*. His SF writing career began with “They Also Serve,” a short story in *Riding the Red Horse*, published in 2015. That story became the foundation of his first solo novel *The Human Side*, in 2020. He has three collaborative novels with Sandra Medlock, Chris Kennedy and Casey Moores in the Wrogul’s Oath arc of the popular Four Horsemen Universe. In addition to these five novels, he has co-edited two anthologies, and published more than 25 works of short fiction (some written as “Tedd Roberts”). He is also a regular contributor of nonfiction articles for science fiction readers, with more than 15 articles published. One of the articles, “Why Science is Never Settled,”





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was nominated for the Hugo Award in 2015 as Best Related Work. Hampson has sequels in the works to both solo novels, *The Wrogl's Oath*, and *The Founder Effect* anthology. Dr. Hampson's forty-year scientific career has ranged from studying the effects of commonly abused drugs on memory, to the effects of space radiation on the brain. His current work, as lead scientist for Braingrade, Inc., is developing a medical device to restore human memory function damaged by injury or disease. He is also a professor of physiology/pharmacology and neurology at Wake Forest School of Medicine where he teaches regularly in the neuroscience and biomedical graduate curriculum. He also developed and teaches a course on Communicating Science, in which young scientists practice writing for—and speaking to—the general public. He is a scientific journal editor; a reviewer for dozens of journals and research agencies; has been interviewed on his research by newspapers, radio and TV; a consultant to TV and game producers, defense contractors, and authors. He has published more than 175 peer-reviewed scientific articles. Hampson has worked as a newspaper carrier, greeting card merchandizer, computer data entry operator and programmer, and laboratory technician, and lived in Pennsylvania, Texas and North Carolina. He now lives in the Piedmont of North Carolina with his wife, Ruann. Robert E. Hampson is available as a consultant through SIGMA – the Science Fiction Think Tank and the Science and Entertainment Exchange (a service of the National Academy of Sciences).

### Dave Harlequin

Described by both press and colleagues as an “independent renaissance man” and “voice of the underground,” Dave Harlequin is a professional screenwriter, journalist, producer, and independent filmmaker from Charlotte, North Carolina. He is the Creative Director of North Carolina based studio A Stranger Concept Films and is the Festival Director of the annual Stranger Days Independent Film Festival. He has written and produced over a dozen films and has won over 50 awards at various film festivals and conventions around the world. In addition to his film work, Harlequin is the Editor in Chief of *Nerd Nation Magazine*, has over a dozen published short stories, dozens more non-fiction published credits, and has been nominated for two Rondo Hatton Awards for his journalistic contributions. Outside of his career in entertainment, Harlequin is an avid cinema and ice hockey fan, and enjoys cooking, coffee, gaming, and hanging out with his dog.

### John G. Hartness

John G. Hartness is a teller of tales, a righter of wrong, defender of ladies' virtues, and some people call him Maurice, for he speaks of the pompatus of love. He is also the award-winning author of the urban fantasy series *The Black Knight Chronicles*, the *Bubba the Monster Hunter* comedic horror series, the *Quincy Harker, Demon Hunter* dark fantasy series, and many other projects. He is also a cast member of the role-playing podcast *Authors & Dragons*, where a group of comedy, fantasy,

and horror writers play *Dungeons & Dragons*. Very poorly. In 2016, John teamed up with several other publishing industry professionals to create Falstaff Books, a small press dedicated to publishing the best of genre fiction's “misfit toys.” Falstaff Books has since published over 250 titles with authors ranging from first-timers to NY Times bestsellers, with no signs of slowing down any time soon. In his copious free time John enjoys long walks on the beach, rescuing kittens from trees and playing *Magic: The Gathering*. John's pronouns are he/him.

### Wanda Harward

Wanda Harward is a member of The Charlotte Geeks team, assisting founder Joey Starnes and Carol Cowles with the Geek Gala, Muggles Market, con going, and other shenanigans as required. Her geeky interests include anime, Japanese fashion (decora), filk music, renaissance faires, and gaming (online and tabletop). She runs a twice monthly D&D 5e group, with her son as co-DM. Professionally, Wanda is a life coach and tarot reader who specializes in coaching for geeks, gamers, and others. She has been reading Tarot for over 20 years, professionally since 2017. She has been a tarot reader for many Charlotte, NC events and locations, including The Bag Lady, Carolina Renaissance Festival, Get Some Game, several local conventions, and Providence Country Club.

### Blibbering Humdingers

The Blibbering Humdingers perform acoustic, nerd rock for -Gamers, geeks, and galactic guardians, Browncoats, centaurs, and Mandalorians; Hobbits, elves, and wizard gangsters; Avengers, Defenders, and black-belt hamsters; Elder gods, small gods, fans of Tripod; Fremmen, Atredies, Houses of the Landsraad; Hufflepuff sandwiches, pitches & snitches, trans-inclusive feminist witches; Lions and tigers and bears (oh my!); the droids you're looking for, and the last jedi; Samurai cats, I am Groot... and every manner of hoopy frood. Listen to the songs of our people. Kirsten and Scott Vaughan hail from Cary, NC and have been performing music together since 1992 (mostly around the SCA). The Blibbering Humdingers started in 2007 focused primarily on the Harry Potter series. They've since moved away that into other fandoms, for reasons that should be obvious. Sons Aiden and Liam started performing with the band around 2018. Chuck Parker often joins in on bass, and the occasional wicked guitar solo.

### Tom Hutchens

Tom is the original Mandalorian armorsmith; a Davie County native, Tom founded the Mando Mercs Costume Club (Mandalorian Mercs) in 2007 as a home for people who wanted to build Mandalorian costumes without looking exactly like Boba or Jango Fett. Over the past 15 years, the Mandalorian Mercs has become the third largest international *Star Wars* costume organization, and helped inspire the creation of *The Mandalorian* streaming series that has catapulted the Mandalorian characters and culture into becoming household names. Working out of his

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## Guests of the Convention

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armory near Mocksville, NC, Tom has been forging sets of steel Mandalorian armor for over 15 years, as well as consulting on various *Star Wars* Legends books.

### Stuart Jaffe

Stuart Jaffe is the madman behind The Max Porter Paranormal Mysteries, the Nathan K thrillers, The Parallel Society series, The Malja Chronicles, *The Bluesman*, *Founders*, *Real Magic*, and so much more. His unique brand of old pulp adventure mixed with a contemporary sensibility brings out the best in a variety of SF/F sub-genres. He trained in martial arts for over a decade until a knee injury ended that practice. Now, he plays lead guitar in a local blues band, The Bootleggers, and enjoys life on a small farm in rural North Carolina. For those who continue to keep count, the animal list is as follows: one dog, two cats, two aquatic turtles, nine chickens, and a horse. As best as he's been able to manage, Stuart has made sure that the chickens and the horse do not live in the house.

### Nickie Jamison

Ora McGuire writes under the pseudonym Nickie Jamison. She is a writer of LGBTQ+ erotica and romance blended with sci-fi, fantasy, and horror. Her short stories have been featured in two charity anthologies edited by the late Lynn Townsend. Ora's hobbies include, fan-girling about all things MCU and Sherlock, talking about Bruno, and obsessively playing Animal Crossing: New Horizons.

She lives in Hampton Roads Virginia with her husband and two spoiled furbabies: #thecatwecalljayne and #KAYLEsmallFRYE.

### Christopher Jones

Christopher Jones has been involved with the independent film community for just over 10 years. He made his debut in the award-winning horror short *Between Hell and a Hard Place* and has gone on to star in several other projects produced in North Carolina. In 2020, he tried his hand at writing and directing, winning awards for his writing and directorial debut, *Dark Trepidation 3*. Last year's short feature, *The Hicksorcists* has been well received at film festivals around the world and this year's horror short *The Closet* is making its debut here at ConGregarate. He likes long walks off short piers, the smell of Roses (the retail chain, not the flower), the love of a good bourbon, and writing his own bios. He's looking forward to meeting all of you (except for Fred Millington from Topeka, KS. Fred knows what he did.

### Darin Kennedy

Darin Kennedy, born and raised in Winston-Salem, NC, is a graduate of Wake Forest University and Bowman Gray School of Medicine. After completing family medicine residency in the mountains of Virginia, he served eight years as a United States Army physician and wrote his first novel in the sands of northern Iraq. His novel, *The Mussorgsky Riddle*, was born from a fusion of two of his lifelong loves: classical music and world mythology.

*The Stravinsky Intrigue* continues those same themes, and his Fugue & Fable series culminates in *The Tchaikovsky Finale*. His The Pawn Stratagem series, *Pawn's Gambit*, *Queen's Peril*, and *King's Crisis*, combines contemporary fantasy, superheroics, and the ancient game of chess. His YA novel, *Carol*, is a modern-day retelling of *A Christmas Carol* billed as Scrooge meets Mean Girls. His short stories can be found in numerous anthologies and magazines, while those about a certain Necromancer for Hire are collected for your reading pleasure. Doctor-by-day and novelist-by-night, he writes and practices medicine in Charlotte, NC.

### Nicole Givens Kurtz

Nicole Givens Kurtz is an author, editor, and educator. She's the recipient of the Ladies of Horror Grant, the Horror Writers Association's Diversity Grant and the Atomaccon Palmetto Scribe Award-Best Short Story 2021. She's been named as one of Book Riot's 6 Best Black Indie SFF Writers. She's also the editor of the groundbreaking anthology, *SLAY: Stories of the Vampire Noire*. Her novels have been a finalist in the Dream Realm Awards, Fresh Voices, and EPPIE Awards for science fiction. She's written for White Wolf, Bram Stoker Finalist in Horror Anthology, *Sycorax's Daughters*, and *The Realm's* The Vela: Salvation series. Nicole has over 40 short stories published as well as numerous novels and three active speculative mystery series. She's a member of Horror Writers Association, Sisters in Crime, and Science Fiction Writers of America.

### Cheralyn Lambeth

Cheralyn Lambeth is a professional costume, prop, and puppet builder whose work includes feature films (*The Muppet Christmas Carol*, *The Patriot*, *Evan Almighty*, *The Hunger Games*, *Are You There, God? It's Me, Margaret*), television shows (*Dinosaurs!*, *Homeland*, *Outcast*), and live/interactive properties (*Avenue Q*, *Star Trek: The Experience*). Cher also works on various projects in front of the camera, including a co-starring role as Elsa Einstein on *The Vampire Diaries* spinoff show *Legacies*. Additionally, she is a published author, with several books currently on the market (*Haunted Theaters of the Carolinas*, *Introduction to Puppetry Arts*, *Creating the Character Costume*, and *Twas Halloween Evening: A Tale of the Zombie Apocalypse*); her current book titled *Art in the Time of Corona* is scheduled for publication this year by Prospective Press. On the fan side of things, Cher is proud to be a long-time member of the 501st, and a founding member of the 501st Carolina Garrison. She is also founder/team captain of the Southern Belle Ghostbusters, and a true paranormal investigator with the Charlotte Area Paranormal Society. Her most recent accomplishment was breaking and earning the current Guinness World Record for Largest Collection of Finger Puppets.

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# Guests of the Convention

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## Emily Lavin Leverett

Emily Lavin Leverett is a writer, editor, and professor. She writes the modern fantasy series the Eisteddfod Chronicles with Sarah Joy Adams: *Changeling's Fall*, *Winter's Heir*, and *Traitor's Spring* are out now. The series will end with *Summer's Regent* in 2023 and *A Queen for All Seasons* in 2024. The Wolf and the Nun, a paranormal historical romance about the twelfth century poet and abbess Marie de France, includes the *Wolf in the Cloister*, *The Enchanted Rose*, and *The Song of the Black Wolf*. The series finale, *An Honorable Love*, follows in 2023. Her scholarship includes the co-edited volume *Terry Pratchett's Ethical Worlds*, as well as articles on Neil Gaiman's *Sandman* and authenticity in popular medievalism. She lives in North Carolina where she, her spouse, and their cats are avid Carolina Hurricanes fans.

## Elizabeth Lord

Elizabeth walked into a science meeting at the Rhine Research Center in Durham six years ago and her life hasn't been the same since. By day, she is a moderately mannered clinical laboratory technician, but her nights are spent studying the poorly understood abilities of the mind, consciousness, and reality as we know it. Her original intention was to write a novel about a woman who could touch objects and receive impressions (psychometry) which still may happen one day. Instead, she is writing a series about a telepathic teen named Calliope O'Callahan for the young adults who may be struggling to understand their unusual abilities. Much of what is in the series has actually been studied as true phenomena and is an accurate portrayal of real psychic experiences. Elizabeth is a member of the Rhine Research Center and New Thinking Allowed Foundation and a copy editor for the *Journal of Parapsychology* and the *New Thinking Allowed* series of YouTube videos. She also has a parapsychology blog which complements her series of novels called "The Adventures of Calliope O'Callahan".

## Michael Mammay

Michael Mammay is a science fiction writer and a retired army officer. He is a graduate of the United States Military Academy. His debut novel, *Planetside* came out in July, 2018, and was selected as a Library Journal best book of 2018. The audio book, narrated by RC Bray, was nominated for an Audie award. *The Misfit Soldier* came out on 2/22/22, and *The Weight of Command* is available in all formats on January 17, 2023. His next novel, *Generation Ship*, is scheduled for release by Harper Voyager on August 22, 2023. Michael lives with his wife in Georgia.

## O. Hai Mark

O. Hai Mark is an old school geek, software engineer by day and voracious pop culture consumer by night. He is a daily streamer on Twitch, sometime actor and blogger, contributor to *Geek Radio Daily*, a sometime shadow-caster, and an online social activities director. Currently he hosts weekly online game nights, monthly online karaoke nights, and DJs for GRD's monthly poker nights. O. Hai hosts a weekly movie stream called *Terrible Movies*

with *Wonderful People* where he and a panel of regular guests watch and discuss the oft-maligned but still fun movies that are the mainstay of late night cable, creature features, and riffers.

## Gail Z. Martin

Gail Z. Martin is the author of *Scourge: A Darkhurst Novel*, from Solaris Books. Gail is also the author of *Vendetta: A Deadly Curiosities Novel* and *Trifles and Folly 1: A Deadly Curiosities Collection*, the latest in her urban fantasy series set in Charleston, SC; *Shadow and Flame* is the fourth book in the Ascendant Kingdoms Saga; *The Shadowed Path* (The first Jonmarc Vahanian Adventures collection), as well as *Iron and Blood* a Steampunk series, and *Spells, Salt, & Steel*, both co-authored with Larry N. Martin. She is also author of *Ice Forged*, *Reign of Ash*, and *War of Shadows* in The Ascendant Kingdoms Saga, The Chronicles of The Necromancer series (*The Summoner*, *The Blood King*, *Dark Haven*, *Dark Lady's Chosen*); The Fallen Kings Cycle (*The Sworn*, *The Dread*) and the urban fantasy novel *Deadly Curiosities* and *Tangled Web*. Gail writes three ebook series: The Jonmarc Vahanian Adventures, The Deadly Curiosities Adventures and The Blaine McFadden Adventures. The Storm and Fury Adventures, steampunk stories set in the Iron & Blood world, are co-authored with Larry N. Martin. Gail's work has appeared in over 35 US/UK anthologies. Newest anthologies include: *The Big Bad 2*, *Athena's Daughters*, *Heroes*, *Space*, *Contact Light*, *With Great Power*, *The Weird Wild West*, *The Side of Good/The Side of Evil*, *Alien Artifacts*, *Cinched: Imagination Unbound*, *Realms of Imagination*, *Clockwork Universe: Steampunk vs. Aliens*, *Gaslight and Grimm*, *Baker Street Irregulars*, *Journeys*, *Hath no Fury* and *A Haven Harbor Halloween*.

## Larry N. Martin

Larry N. Martin writes and co-authors science fiction, steampunk, and urban fantasy for Solaris Books, Falstaff Books and SOL Publishing. His newest book is *The Splintered Crown*, a portal gaming fantasy. He also is the author of *Salvage Rat*, the first in a new space opera series. Together with Gail Z. Martin, Larry co-authors the steampunk series *Iron and Blood: The Jake Desmet Adventures* and a series of related short stories: *The Storm & Fury Adventures*. Also check out the snarky monster hunter series *Spells, Salt, and Steel* set in the New Templar Knights universe, the post-apocalyptic series *Wasteland Marshals*, and *Cauldron*, the first in the Joe Mack Shadow Council Files.

## Misty Massey

Misty Massey is the author of the Mad Kestrel series of rollicking pirate fantasy adventures on the high seas, and the upcoming Dead Man series (featuring Doc Holliday returned from beyond!) She works as a proof and developmental editor for Falstaff Books, Loreseekers Press and Mocha Memoirs Press. When she's not writing, Misty plays Malibu, the cheerful, sun-drenched cleric, on the *Authors & Dragons* podcast sister show, *Calamity Janes*. She's a sucker for ginger snaps, African coffee, and the darkest rum she can find.

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## Alex Matsuo

Alex Matsuo is a paranormal researcher, social media influencer, and author. She is the founder of the Association of Paranormal Study and runs *The Spooky Stuff*. If it's weird, spooky, unusual, scary, macabre, or haunted, she wants to write and talk about it! Alex is known for being outspoken about inclusion and diversity in the field as well as her approach to the paranormal with a skeptical believer mindset. Alex was recently seen on the third season of *Haunted Hospitals* in Episode 12 titled, "It Followed Me Home." The episode can be seen on Discovery Plus. She has also been seen on Travel Channel's *Most Terrifying Places in America*. In addition, she is the host of the podcast, *The Spooky Stuff*. Alex has written several books about the paranormal including, *The Hamptonville Hauntings: Ghosts of the Trivette Clinic*, *One Bed Over: A Hospital Haunting*, *The Brave Mortal's Guide to Ghost Hunting*, *The Haunting of the Tenth Avenue Theatre*, *More than Ghosts: A Guide to Working Residential Cases in the Paranormal Field*, and *The Haunted Actor*. Alex holds an MA in theatre from San Diego State University and currently resides in Arlington, Virginia. She has been featured on KPBS – San Diego, Fox News, and The Washington Post for her various endeavors. Finally, Alex is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution through her ancestor, Joseph Toler.

## Jennifer McCollom

As a professional make-up artist, Jennifer McCollom has worked on feature films, television shows, plays, and numerous commercials. Her film credits include *Halloween Kills*, *The Hunger Games*, *The Black Phone*, *The Conjuring*, *The Box*, *The Eyes of Tammy Faye*, *Leatherheads*, *Talladega Nights*, *Taking Liberty*, the Oscar nominated *June Bug*, *MAX*, *The Disappointment Room*, *Masterminds*, *The Reliant* and the upcoming *Spirit, Please Don't Destroy*, and *Harvest Moon* (with Paul Bettany). Her TV work includes *Army Wives*, the Emmy Award-winning HBO miniseries *John Adams*, *Homeland*, *Bar Rescue*, *The Righteous Gemstones*, *Reckless*, as well as Cinemax's *Banshee*. She has also lent her experience to several independent films including cult favorites *Dead Inn*, *Last Lives*, *A Long Way Off*, *Tarnished Notes*, and *Unbridled*.

When not on set, Jennifer is creating unique special effects pieces and costumes for all the fandoms, including *Doctor Who*, *Star Trek* and Steampunk.

Jennifer was born in Wilmington, NC; and lived in Pennsylvania and Florida before settling down in Randleman, NC with her husband and cats. She holds a BA in Theatre and Physics from UNCG, is a licensed cosmetologist and I.A.T.S.E. Local 798 Journeyman. She also qualified for her SAG card for acting in *Righteous Gemstones*.

She believes you should never stop learning and she is always happy to teach!

## D. J. McGuire

A Jersey musician who fell for a Suffolk writer, DJ has been a cost estimator and project manager on various federal government contracts for over 20 years, which he combines with his love of Sci-fi in his multiple solo albums (such as *Starfleet Program Manager*, and *All's Fair In Filk And War*). He also teaches economics at his local community college and plays bass for The Nefarious Ferrets and for Dimensional Riffs.

## Charlie Mewshaw

Co-host of *Arcane Carolinas* and *Arcane Destinations*, Charlie Mewshaw spent several formative years in the suburbs of Raleigh, North Carolina before settling down a river basin or two further west. He has been a fan of history and tales of the unknown for as long as he can remember and enjoys seeking out local legends and folklore. He has been a guest presenting and discussing these topics at DragonCon Goes Virtual, Galaxycon Raleigh and Richmond, ConCarolinas, ConGregarate, Con-Tinual and Ret-Con and was the winner of the 2022 WRAL Voters Choice Award in the podcast category for *Arcane Carolinas*.

## Gary Mitchel

Gary Mitchel is a writer, reviewer, geek blogger, voice actor, gamer, sf/fantasy fan, comics reader, podcaster and International Man of Mystery (who's too dangerous for the entire country of Canada) currently living near Atlanta. Gary is the Co-Director, with Joe Crowe, of the American Sci-Fi Classics Track at DragonCon. Together, they host a bi-weekly Online Panel on their YouTube page, with various guests, discussing all kinds of geeky topics, from 80s vampires, to cats in space, to the best fictional bands. Gary is a member of Good to Be a Geek Media where he is the Producer & Co-Host of *A Podcask of Amontillado*, a horror podcast that is a terrifyingly good time; Co-Host of *Storm of Words*, a podcast dedicated to the fantasy universe *A Song of Ice and Fire* created by George R. R. Martin; and Producer & Co-Host of the upcoming *A Beacon in Space*, dedicated to exploring sci-fi television. He has also been a frequent guest on various other podcasts, such as *The ESO Podcast*, *Tables of Content*, *The White Rocket Podcast*, *Execute Chapter 66*, and more. Gary is also head of the Theater & Performing Arts Lovers YouTube Channel, which puts on a monthly panel with the goal of creating a community of fellow thespians, performers and fans who gather at Dragon Con. They also have a Facebook group, where all Theater Kids are welcome! Gary can be found on Facebook and followed on Twitter as @Gary\_Mitchel (and yes *Star Trek* fans, it's his real name). At conventions, he has discussed Sci-Fi, Fantasy, zombies, Horror, zombies, cartoons, comics, and zombies. Some attendees have stated that he is "hilarious," and Gary swears that said people are not related to him.



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# Guests of the Convention

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## Mourning Dove Cosplay

Mourning Dove Cosplay is a North Carolina based cosplayer who has been cosplaying and attending conventions since 2018. She has attended various conventions in Virginia and North Carolina. She has cosplayed as various characters including Wednesday Addams, Emma Frost, Mavis and many others. Not only is she an avid cosplayer but she has also been a performer with two *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* shadow casts where she has performed as characters including Magenta, Janet, Colombia, Rocky, and Frank-N-Furter. She also had the honor of her first cosplay guesting spot this year at RavenCon 16 and is looking forward to having more opportunities to guest in the future.

## Steve Murphy

As a writer, Steve has three published novels with co-writer Paul Barrett, a third currently undergoing developmental edits and three more in the works. Paul and Steve have also written several screenplays, many of which have placed highly in national competitions. Steve has spent much of his life in uniform, starting with four years in the Navy as a GMM (Gunners Mate Missiles) – earning the Navy Expeditionary Medal and Navy Unit Commendation. This was followed by two years in the Army where he worked as a forward observer. Steve then became a police officer in Charlotte, NC, where he spent 23 years. Fourteen of those years he was on the SWAT team, 9 of which he worked as a sniper. Steve is not a stranger to film production, having worked as a military/law consultant on several projects, a set dresser for films, and a lighting technician in live theater. But his main strength is in project management and ensuring the producers stay on target and time and helping deal with any problems that come up with the crew. In addition, his knowledge of military protocol and interest in military history help maintain verisimilitude in all the military aspects on any project. The father of two now adult boys, Steve lives on a farm in North Carolina with his wife, two dogs and an elusive cat.

## James Nettles

James Nettles has an over 30 year career consulting in various technologies, is an author, writing science fiction, fantasy, urban fantasy, horror, and contemporary fiction and nonfiction on business, technology, privacy, security, and entrepreneurship. He is the founder of Author Essentials, a company founded for the education of creatives on building and doing business, the business dean for the Speculative Fiction, the host of the *Creating Pros* Podcast (CreatingPros.com) and one of the founders of the Con-Tinual Convention, an ongoing, online convention since 2020.

## Nancy Northcott

After practicing law for 18 years, Nancy Northcott decided she'd spent enough time in pinstripes and mothballed her law license to become a writer. She made her first sale, a paranormal romance series to Hachette/Grand Central, in 2012. Along the way, Nancy put her lifelong love of comic books, SFF, and

history to use by teaching courses on Science Fiction, Fantasy & Society, The 1920s, and Landmarks in American Law at UNC Charlotte. She has presented workshops on writing to RWA chapters and at the RWA national conference and delivered a paper on the evolving relationship of Dick Grayson and Barbara Gordon at Bowling Green State University's Batman in Popular Culture conference. Nancy now writes historical fantasy for Falstaff books and serves as Comics Track Director for Con-Tinual. In addition, she independently publishes romance and collaborates with Jeanne Adams on the Outcast Station science fiction adventure series.

## Chris Oakley

Chris Oakley owned and operated Oakley Gently Used Books, a bricks & mortar used bookshop with a specialty in Sci Fi/ Fantasy, for more than 20 years (1995-2016) in Charlottesville, VA. She has been a bookseller at Madicon, MarsCon, MystiCon, RavenCon, Libertycon DSC50, DSC60 and Omegacon. She has edited and published "underground" newspapers as well as literary magazines. (Chris Oakley collection of alternative press, Special Collections, University of Delaware). As a GCIU Journeyman, she worked in small commercial print shops before opening her bookshop in 1995. For many years, she was the organizer and moderator for the VA Festival of the Book Sci Fi/ Fantasy programs with Katherine Kurtz, Hugh Howey, Stephen Hickman, Steve White, Toni Weisskopf, David Coe, Jack Campbell (John Hemry) and others as guests. Chris still brings her passion for bookselling and science fiction to the vendors rooms of conventions and does volunteer book sorting, research and pricing to raise money for her local Friends of the Library (Jefferson-Madison Regional) book sales. (Our team raised over \$137,000 for the library system at our October 2022 sale.)

## Christine Parker

Christine Parker is filmmaker based in the quaint North Carolina town of Erwn. She has been making her own independent films since 2003. To date, she has 5 feature films under her belt and more than a dozen short films mainly in the horror and sci-fi genre. She is an advocate for women in film and to that end has started Sick Chick Flicks, a film production company that focuses on female-driven films. Sick Chicks Flicks also runs an annual film festival in Chapel Hill, NC that features films made by women. Her most current project is her fifth feature-length film, *Blood of the Mummy* that can be seen on Amazon Prime, Tubi, and various other streaming platforms. Since the pandemic she has taken up sewing 18th Century clothing.

## Chuck Parker

A performer for more than 35 years, Chuck Parker has filled many musical roles: heavy metal guitarist, singer/songwriter, jazz sideman, open mic host, filk circle regular, session player, and World's Okayest Bassist™. Chuck has been a regular on the con circuit for more than a decade, and he's played ballrooms, biergartens and backyards all over the country, both as a solo



# CONGREGATE 10

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**JULY 12-14, 2024**

*We have agreed to terms with the following  
Guests of Honor*



**SHERRILYN KENYON  
JODY LYNN NYE  
BILL FAWCETT  
VALENTINE WOLFE**

## WHAT TO EXPECT IN 2024

**KEVIN J. ANDERSON**  
Author Guest of Honor

**REBECCA MOESTA**  
Author Guest of Honor

**BRIAN DANHAUSEN**  
Paranormal  
Guest of Honor

- Costume Contest
- Dealer rooms
- Film Festival
- Discussion panels
- Music
- Workshops
- Gaming
- Celebrations



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## Guests of the Convention

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performer and as the bassist for wizard rock icons The Blibbering Humdingers. He plays slice of life, confessional geek tunes that are often kind of funny, and his lyrics have been called “sensitive”, “literate”, and “hard to sing...” He is also a published poet, avid cyclist, spouse, father, and a herder of cats, both figuratively and literally.

### Michael D. Pederson

Way back in 2004, Mike came up with the crazy idea of hosting a convention in Richmond, VA. He’s been chairing RavenCon ever since. In addition to running RavenCon, Mike published the fanzine *Nth Degree* for seventeen years, wrote and published the Raven comic book series, and edited and published *Scene*, a Virginia-based entertainment magazine. In 2001, Mike was part of the “Best in Class – Master Division” winning presentation (Pre-Emptive Strike) at the Millennium Philcon Masquerade. In 2007, he wrote a chapter on “Writing for Magazines” for Dragon Moon Press’ *Writing Fantasy: The Author’s Grimoire*. Other than RavenCon, Mike has also run programming for Trinoc\*con, been Fan Guest of Honor for ConCarolinas and Mysticon, co-chaired a successful NASFiC bid, and served as Master of Ceremonies for MarsCon. Between *Nth Degree* and his many convention appearances, Mike has become the East Coast’s go-to guy for interviews. He’s interviewed guests for Balticon, ConCarolinas, ConGregarate, MarsCon, Mysticon, RavenCon, and StellarCon. In 2017, Mike was honored with the Rebel Award for his contributions to Southern Fandom.

### Matthew Penick

Matthew Penick has been a cosplayer for over a decade and took his passion for costuming to the professional level in 2009 with the creation of the theatrical design company Ribbons and Rivets. The self-taught designer began primarily working with leather, and still considers leatherwork to be his specialty, but over the years he has added a plethora of materials and processes to the Ribbons and Rivets toolkit to bring all manner of characters to life. His work has been used in promotions, book covers, films, and by many a fellow cosplayer and can be found at [www.Ribbonsandrivets.com](http://www.Ribbonsandrivets.com). While he spends most of his time working on commissions or inventory pieces for Renaissance Festivals and Comiccons he does manage to feed his old cosplay itch every now and then.

### Maya Preisler

Maya Preisler has been creating art and telling stories since they were old enough to hold a pen, writing and illustrating their first science fiction novel at age eight. Maya is the proud author of a genre-bending spec fic novel and a short story in *Corvid-19*. Their artwork graces the covers of multiple novels across a variety of genres. Maya currently works in publishing as a Marketing Director at Mocha Memoirs Press and with various independent authors performing a variety of duties including editing, interior layout, cover design, and formatting.

### Daphne Reeder

Daphne Reeder has been a creative force in multiple avenues and genres. A passionate cosplayer for going on 20 years, she has expanded her repertoire to include prop making and full bodypainting. Daphne is a member of multiple costuming groups and enjoys sharing her knowledge whenever she has the chance. Aside from cosplaying, she also runs her own independent film studio: Drache Media Films, specializing in Horror and SciFi/Fantasy. Ms. Reeder is a woman with many hats; as of January 2023 she became the new CEO of By Night Studios, the licensee company for White Wolf’s *World of Darkness* games, focusing primarily on the LARP side of gaming. Her current projects include a complete rework of her *World of Warcraft* Draenei Paladin armor, a horror movie and supernatural series, and several projects for By Night Studios.

### Gray Rinehart

Gray Rinehart writes science fiction and fantasy stories, nonfiction, songs... and other things. He is the only person to have commanded an Air Force satellite tracking station, written speeches for Presidential appointees, originated a poetic form, and had music on *The Dr. Demento Show*. He is currently a contributing editor (the “Slushmaster General”) for Baen Books.

Gray is the author of the lunar colonization novel *Walking on the Sea of Clouds*, and his short fiction has appeared in *Analog Science Fiction & Fact*, *Asimov’s Science Fiction*, *Orson Scott Card’s Intergalactic Medicine Show*, and multiple anthologies. As a singer/songwriter, he has two albums of mostly science-fiction-and-fantasy-inspired music.

During his unusual USAF career, Gray fought rocket propellant fires, refurbished space launch facilities, “flew” Milstar satellites, drove trucks, encrypted nuclear command and control orders, commanded the largest remote tracking station in the Air Force Satellite Control Network, and did other interesting things. His alter ego is the Gray Man, one of several famed ghosts of South Carolina’s Grand Strand, and his web site is [graymanwrites.com](http://graymanwrites.com).

### Jason Roach

Jason Roach is an American Writing Awards finalist in LGBT+ Fiction & Thriller Fiction for his book *The House on Dead Man’s Curve* – inspired by his personal paranormal experiences. He is the owner of Gold Dust Publishing, a new indie publishing company for LGBTQIA+ and allies authors. A paranormal enthusiast, he has been a core member of the Association of Paranormal Study since 2020. He has previously been a guest at GalaxyCon and ConCarolinas where he has given presentations on the paranormal.



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## Guests of the Convention

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### Madison Metricula Roberts

Madison Metricula Roberts (she/her, goes by “Madison” and “Metricula” interchangeably) is a singer-songwriter, clown, guitarist, and entertainer from Raleigh, NC, with sets of material tailored to both all-ages or 18+ audiences. Her music ranges from pop-folk, Americana, and Peter, Paul & Mary style campfire classics and has been featured on The FuMP, Marc Gunn’s Geek Pub Songs, and more! She’s also one half of the geeky songwriting duo The Salacious Crumbles with her friend Leigh Tyberg.

### J. Matthew Saunders

J. Matthew Saunders is the author of the Daughters of Shadow and Blood trilogy inspired by the Brides of Dracula, the Dreadful Penny occult detective series, and numerous fantasy and horror short stories. He is a member of HWA. He was born in the small Appalachian town of Clayton, Georgia and grew up in Greenville, South Carolina. He received a B. A. in history from Vanderbilt University and a master’s degree from the School of Journalism at the University of South Carolina. He also earned a law degree while living in California. Matthew has been making up stories for as long as he can remember, an inclination he attributes to his upbringing in the American South, where storytelling is just part of everyday life. As someone pointed out to him, a Southerner can’t answer a question without rambling through the weather, Saturday’s football game, at least three decades of local history, someone else’s family tree, and what he had for lunch. Matthew doesn’t see anything wrong with that. Matthew also believes being raised in the South, where history is always present, nurtured an abiding love for the subject, though his interests range a little farther, across the ocean, actually. He happily devours any book he can find on the history of the British Isles or the Balkans. And since many of the stories he heard growing up had to do with ghosts and other assorted things that go bump in the night, he developed an interest in folklore and superstition and the urge to put his own unique stamp on the stories about those things in the shadows. He currently lives near Charlotte, North Carolina with his wife and two children.

### Melissa Scott

Melissa Scott is from Little Rock, Arkansas, and studied history at Harvard College and Brandeis University, where she earned her PhD in the Comparative History program. She is the author of more than thirty original science fiction and fantasy novels, most with queer themes and characters, as well as authorized tie-ins for *Star Trek: Deep Space 9*, *Star Trek: Voyager*, *Stargate SG-1*, *Stargate Atlantis*, and *Star Wars Rebels*. She won Lambda Literary Awards for *Trouble and Her Friends*, *Shadow Man*, *Point of Dreams* (written with her late partner, Lisa A. Barnett), and *Death By Silver*, with Amy Griswold. She also won Spectrum Awards for *Shadow Man*, *Fairs’ Point*, *Death By Silver*, and for the short story “The Rocky Side of the Sky” (Periphery, Lethe Press) as well as the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer. She was also shortlisted for the Otherwise (Tiptree) Award. Her latest

short story, “Sirens,” appeared in the collection *Retellings of the Inland Seas*, and her text-based game for Choice of Games, *A Player’s Heart*, came out in 2020. Her most recent solo novel, *Water Horse*, was published in June 2021. Her next solo novel, *The Master of Samar*, will be out in 2023.

### Fraser Sherman

Born in England, Fraser Sherman spent most of his life in Northwest Florida. He’d be there still if he hadn’t fallen in love and moved to Durham NC to marry his dream woman. They’re still together, with two dogs and two cats added to the family. Fraser has had two dozen published short stories, put in a decade covering city government as a reporter, and has written six film reference books. In 2022 he published *The Aliens Are Here*, a book on extraterrestrials in films and TV; self-published *Undead Sexist Cliches*, about the stupidity of misogynist beliefs; and self-published the steampunk novel *Questionable Minds*. Away from his computer he likes bicycling, comic books, fantasy novels, history books, vegetarian cooking, baking bread and triumphing over insomnia. He’s had multiple roles in community and college theater, his favorite being Malvolio in *Twelfth Night*. More recently he appeared in a Medscape educational video as the man with intracranial bleeding who doesn’t want to go to the hospital.

### Chris Shrewsbury

Chris is a nationally certified sign language interpreter. A Navy veteran, he spent years as a pre-K through university teacher, and operated his own business logistics services company. As a wheelchair-bound lower-leg amputee and end-stage kidney disease dialysis patient, Chris actively promotes disability rights and accessibility at a wide variety of events and organizations. He is a passionate advocate and educator. In addition to disability awareness and empowerment, public speaking, writing, and performance of improv and “I-wish-I-could-stand-up comedy”, he also serves on various boards and committees dealing with disabilities and accessibility. Chris’ perspective, experience, dedication, and sense of humor make him a welcome addition to groups and events locally and nationwide.

### Sarah J. Sover

Sarah J. Sover uses her degree in Biology to thoroughly gross out readers of off-kilter fantasy novels. With a background in veterinary science and wildlife rehabilitation, she loves bringing creatures to life on the page, whether they be monsters or fae. Her debut novel, the comedic fantasy *Double-Crossing the Bridge* (2019), and its sequel, *Trolled* (TBD) follows a group of grog-chugging trolls intent on pulling off suicidal heists. Her Urban Fantasy Fractured Fae Series, which includes *Fairy Godmurder* (2022), *Faed to Black* (2023), and *Pixie Dusted* (TBD), utilizes Sarah’s science background in the creation of magical serial killers and the ex-fairy godmother who hunts them down. Sarah also writes short fiction for anthologies, usually with a dark or humorous beat, as well as non-fiction articles for *Writer’s Digest*

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## Guests of the Convention

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*Magazine* and for Dan Koboldt's Science in Sci-fi, Fact in Fantasy blog series. Her article "Organic Worldbuilding Through Ecology" appears in his collection *Putting the Fact in Fantasy*. Sarah raises two little forces of nature with her husband Alex in John's Creek, Georgia. She can frequently be found battling through Hyrule or Hades while sipping a good IPA. She also enjoys painting and drawing, beating the yard into submission, and appearing at regional conventions.

### Joey Starnes

Joey Starnes (aka the GiddyGeeker) does not claim to be an expert on all geekeries – she's just happy to organize it. She runs the Charlotte Geeks, home of the *Guardians of the Geekery* podcast, the Geek Gala, and the Muggles Market. Her main geekdoms include *Doctor Who*, Marvel, *Star Wars*, board games, WoW, and most anything British. She also has a slight obsession with HGTV, Food Network, and TikTok. She's mostly prepared for a Zombie Apocalypse but is always willing to upgrade her bug-out bag contents. She has yet to build up an immunity to iocane powder. When not scooting from con to con, she's blissfully ensconced on the couch with her dog Angel and her husband Matt.

### SYRINX

Syrinx has been on the stage of entertainment since 1996 with various bands, theater groups, movie productions, conventions, trivia nights, and haunted attractions. The spotlight shines brighter on his DJ career which started on the radio in 2009. His weekly mixshow currently airs on OutWorld Fleet Radio and is also syndicated on Roundtown Radio. He was also signed to Tigersquawk Records in 2017 as his group Khionik (with Brian Graupner of The Gothsicles) and also as a solo artist and a remixer for his labelmates. He has recently been promoted to Head of Station Partnership Content and Development for Outworld Fleet Radio in January 2023, and also maintains the newly designed website for the station as well.

### White Plectrum

White Plectrum (WP) was formed from the remnants of Raymond and Bullfunkel 34 years ago by Keith Brinegar and Bill Mullis. Bill has since moved on, and there have been many people along the way since then helping to make WP shows memorable. The current lineup has Keith on stage, singing and playing guitar, Michael Kazalski playing bass (when he's not performing at a paying gig, that is), John Simpson manning the board and Heather Simpson as roadie and wrangler. Unfortunately, Michael can't be with us this weekend, and I can't sing like I used to, so this year will be the first "Plectrum and Friends" show. We hope you'll come out, sing along, join the fun and make this year's performance something special.

### Brandon Whitworth

Basically I'm a rocket scientist (technically my degree is in mechanical engineering with a concentration in aerospace studies, but eh... ) and a licensed professional engineer (which I don't really use doing rocket science). Initially my career started at United Space Alliance supporting the Space Shuttle Propulsion System Engineering and Integration Office. Basically my job was to make sure the various propulsion system projects worked together. I also had the opportunity to do some analysis work and update the Shuttle Launch Commit Criteria, for which I was awarded the Silver Snoopy from the Astronaut Crew Office. After about four years of working on the Shuttle Program I moved to APT Research Inc and started doing work for the Missile Defense Agency. Most of my job involved supporting risk analyses, such as making sure no satellites were accidentally shot down during tests or determining keep out areas for ships and aircraft. After about four years of that I switched groups at APT Research Inc and started working in the explosives safety group. My job duties were many and varied; ultimately I was essentially the chief engineer for the group. I worked with many different entities, such as the Department of Defense Explosive Safety Board (DDESB), the Institute of Makers of Explosives (IME), a group in NATO working on explosives safety models, the Air Force Research Lab, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. Recently I switched companies and now work for a small company, N2L. We support various projects in Marshall Space Flight Center's Blast and Debris Team, with the main focus currently on various projects for the NASA Engineering Safety Center's Liquid Oxygen (LOX) - Liquid Methane Assessment Team. The LOX-Methane Assessment Team is focused on determining the potential explosive hazard of launch vehicles fueled using liquid oxygen and methane. I'm also a semi-professional musician with my band Foot Pound Force. We are three rocket scientists and our IT support guy who write and perform songs about nerdy and geeky topics. I refer to us as "semi-professional" because we get paid to play music, but it isn't our full time job. I'm also a "semi-professional" sim racer, currently racing in the sports car series of XtremeMotorsports, which uses the iRacing service. "Semi-professional" here means that I am on a sponsored team where league fees are paid for us and I can win money if I finish well enough in the season championship. I think of any winnings as "iRacing money", basically equivalent to "beer money". The races are also broadcast live on Youtube, so that's fun. I'm also in the process of training to get my private pilot's license. I've probably got other hobbies I could talk about (but can't think of at the moment), but I think I've gone on long enough.

# Guests of the Convention

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## Jenn Whitworth

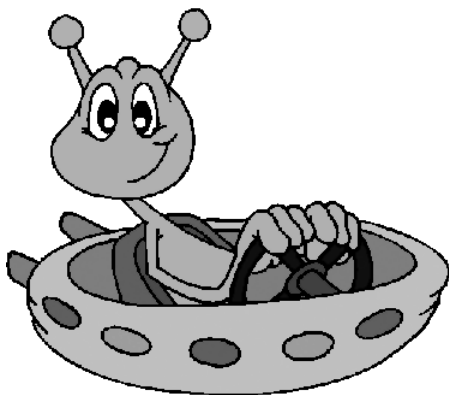
Jennifer Whitworth is an engineer, writer, and mom from Huntsville, AL. She began supporting ISS science operations in 2001 as a flight controller at the Payload Operations and Integration Center. In the past twenty plus years she's been fortunate enough to support ISS science ops in several flight controller positions and as a technical subject matter expert. Currently, she is working to help to develop the processes and procedures for science operations on the Artemis Gateway - the new lunar space station that will orbit the moon and provide a fascinating platform for science experiments over the next decades. Outside of work she writes everything from urban to epic fantasy, hangs with her family, and watches her dog chase squirrels in the backyard.

## Michael G. Williams

Michael G. Williams writes queer-themed science fiction, urban fantasy, and horror celebrating monsters, macabre humor, and subverted expectations. He's the author of three series for Falstaff Books: the award-winning vampire/urban fantasy series *The Withrow Chronicles*; the thrilling urban fantasy series *SERVANT/SOVEREIGN* featuring real estate, time travel, and San Francisco's greatest historical figures; the science fiction noir *A Fall in Autumn*, winner of the 2020 Manly Wade Wellman Award; and a bunch of short stories. He strives to present the humor and humanity at the heart of horror and mystery with stories of outcasts and loners finding their people. Michael co-hosts *Arcane Carolinas*, studied Appalachian history and folklore at Appalachian State University, and is a brother in St. Anthony Hall. He lives in Durham, NC, with his husband, a variety of animals, and more and better friends than he probably deserves.

## Darcy Wold

Darcy Wold is a part-time artist, an inveterate editor, and a full-time standards developer for the representation of data collected in the context of clinical trials. She has an especial appreciation for the intersection of art and science. Her art almost always incorporates natural patterns and the element of random chance, fractals, or both.



## Allen Wold

*Guest Emeritus*

In 2021, Allen officially retired from the convention game. We, at ConGregarate, would not let that slide without honoring him in some way... so, he's now our Guest Emeritus. To that end, Allen may, or may not, appear at the con; may, or may not, sit in on panels; and may, or may not, say hello to you in hall. Okay, who are we kidding, that last part it is probably a "will say hello." Anyway... thanks for many great years, Allen! We look forward to you seeing you whenever possible.

Allen L. Wold was born a long time ago in south-western Michigan, where he began writing when he was about eight years old. He still has some of those early "stories" somewhere.

He finished high school in Tucson, Arizona, and graduated from Pomona College, in Claremont, California, where he later met his wife, Diane. They married in 1972, and moved to North Carolina, where he began his career as a full time writer. In 1986, he became a full time father, and gave up writing for about three years, then continued as a part time writer until 2003 when Darcy went off to college, also at Pomona.

Of his previously published novels, six of have been re-issued by ReAnimus Press. He wrote five non-fiction books on computers, and a number of articles, columns, and reviews about using computers. He also wrote stories for the *Blood of Ten Chiefs* anthologies.

Under his own imprint, Ogden House, he has published *Cat Tales*, *Reminiscences*, a series of essays; *A Closet for a Dragon* and *Other Early Tales*, the earliest of which was written in 1961; *Stroad's Cross*, about an abandoned village which shouldn't have been found; *Dead Hand*, about a neighborhood haunted by the consequences of an old man's death; *Freefoot*, his collected stories for *Blood of Ten Chiefs*; *Sturgis*, a mystery concerning a supernatural serial killer; *Slaves of War*, a space-opera in six parts; and *A Thing Forgotten*, a pseudo-neo-steampunk faerie story.

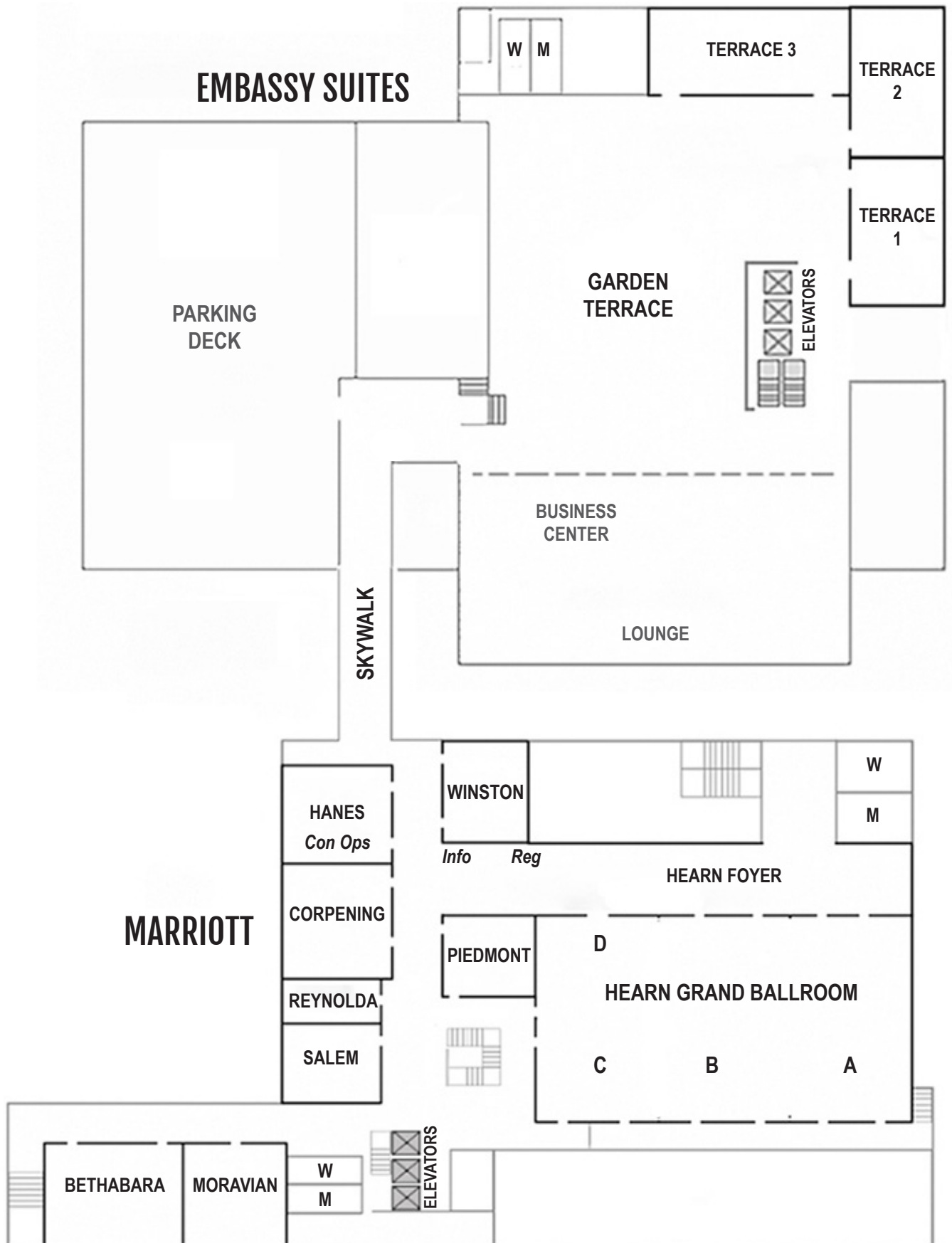
Currently, Allen is working on *The Empty House*, a fusion of Lovecraftian cosmic horror and Shirley Jackson's understated storytelling; *Star Kings*, a cycle of twelve stories set in a far future beyond George Lucas's imagination; and *Soul Stone* (working title), a man's quest through entangled worlds to free his father's stolen soul. The six volumes of his epic-heroic fantasy, *The Black Ring*, have been published by Double Dragon Press.

Allen has been running his version of a writers' workshop at various conventions for more than thirty years, and has had some success, since several people have not only finished their stories, and sold them, but a couple of those stories have won awards. He also runs a plotting workshop, which is an interactive lecture, and is a lot of fun, and which people have found helpful.

Allen is a member of SFWA.

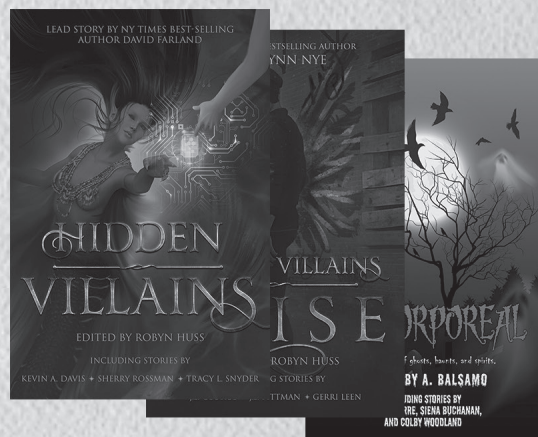


# Map of the Convention Site





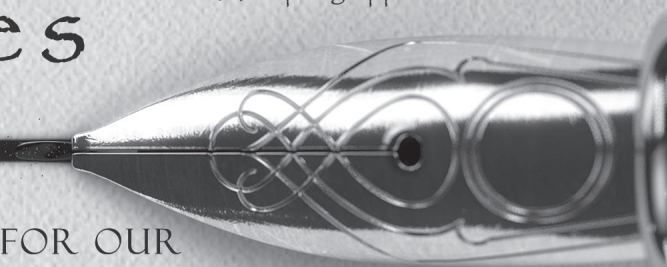
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# Dealers & Exhibitors

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## Dealer Room

(Hearn A/B - Marriott)

- Michael A. Stackpole (GOH)
- AJ Rojek Comics
- Be Kind Rewind
- Beardiful Creations
- Creative Jems GA
- Fashions by Figment
- Franks Cool Stuff
- Inkd Publishing LLC
- Jamy Gearhart Art
- Karou's Kreations
- NRW Arts
- Orielis Books
- Pair-a-Dice games
- Patrick Dugan & Jim Nettles
- Ribbons and Rivets
- Roll 2 Create
- The Missing Volume
- The Rooted Dandelion
- Tied With A Bow
- Walt's Cards
- Signings table

## Artists

(Hearn Foyer - Marriott)

- Bigger Sword Comics
- ENDtense J.E.T. Studios
- Maya Preisler
- Savage Sand Box



## Author Alley

(Garden Terrace - Embassy Suites)

- Jo Boone
- Samantha Bryant
- Nancy Dunne
- Falstaff Books
- Gold Dust Publishing
- Jason Gilbert
- Darin Kennedy
- Alex Matsuo
- Mocha Memoirs Press
- Prospective Press
- Ruth Sacharzewski
- Matt Saunders
- Fraser Sherman
- Sarah Sover
- Sol Books
- John Washinsky

## Film Production Companies

(Garden Terrace - Embassy Suites)

- Drache Media
- FilkFerret Productions

## Photography

(Garden Terrace - Embassy Suites)

- Sail Off Photography

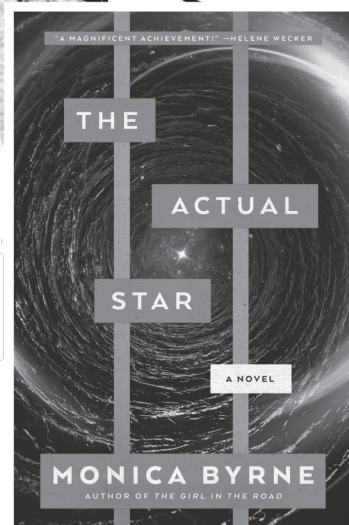
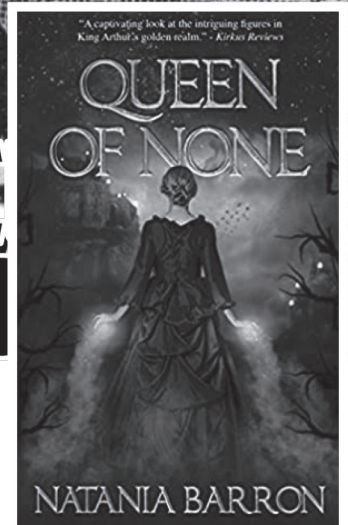
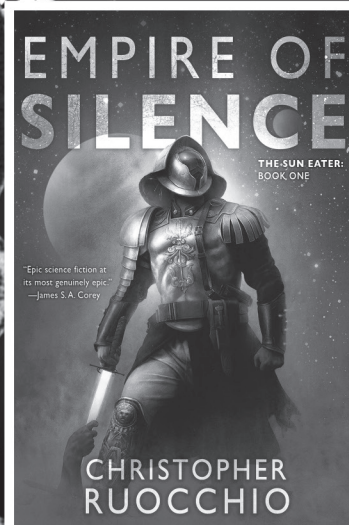
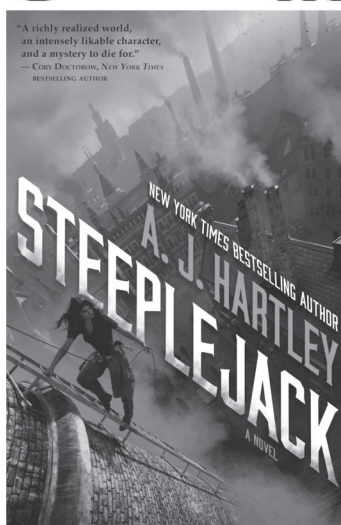
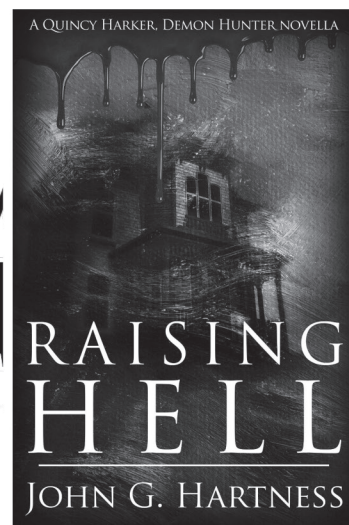
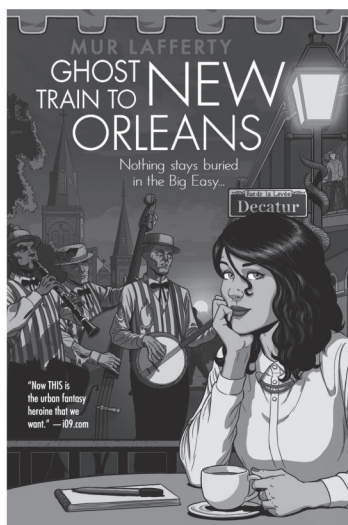
## Fan Tables

(Hearn Foyer - Marriott)

- Colonial Ministry of Defense
- ConCarolinas
- The Ebon Legion
- Mando Mercs
- Mercenary Guild
- RavenCon
- Ret-Con
- The Halfling & The Spaceman
- Winston-Salem Paranormal Society



Join us at Friday's opening ceremonies for the presentation of the 10th **Manly Wade Wellman Award** for North Carolina Science Fiction and Fantasy to find out which book will join these 9 previous winners:



The Manly Wade Wellman Award was founded in 2013 to recognize outstanding achievement in science fiction and fantasy novels written by North Carolina authors. The award is named for long-time North Carolina author Manly Wade Wellman with the permission of his estate. For more information please visit [ncsff.org](http://ncsff.org).

# CONGREGATE 10

JULY 12-14, 2024

*See ya'll  
next year!*

