

# CON·GREGATE 3

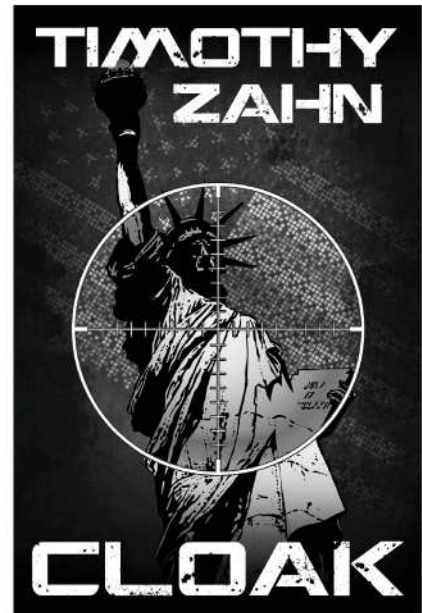
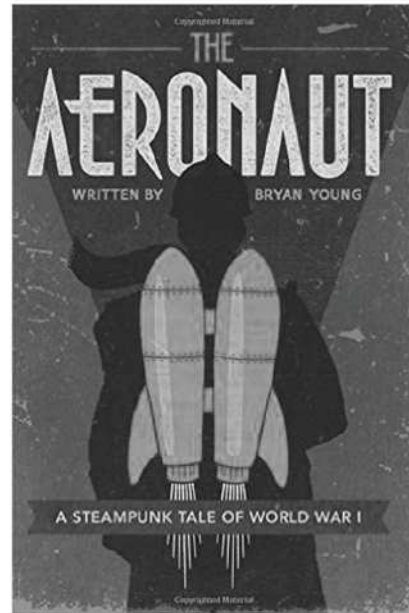
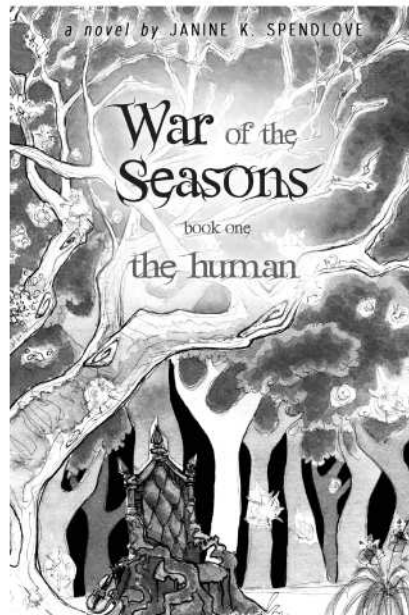
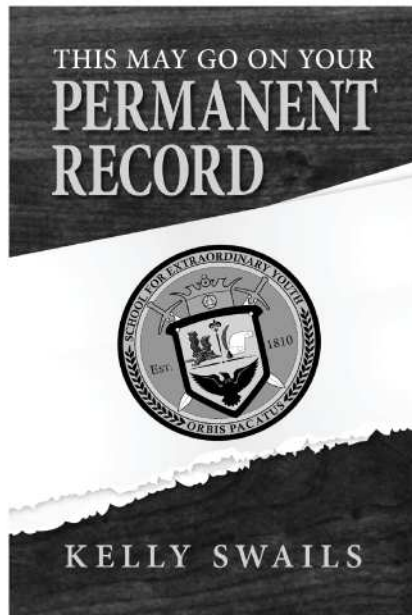
## GEEK SUMMER CAMP



JULY 15-17, 2016



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### 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.



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### From the Con Chair

Welcome to ConGregarate 3!

This note from the Con Chair is going to sound awfully familiar, and there's a reason for that. I found myself needing to address some very similar issues.

First, there are a lot of people to thank for this... not only the volunteers, but the guests, fans and dealers as well. If any of you had opted not to come to our little "summer camp," it simply wouldn't have happened.

So, thank you!

Now, as much as I really do not want to have to bring this up, there is a major political issue hanging over all of NC this year. I'm not getting into any specifics here, except to say that we would really appreciate it if, collectively, everyone would let it go for the weekend. There's a time and place to discuss certain things, and really, this is not it. Yes, there are some panels which may dredge up some of those issues, and that's fine – *in moderation* – but otherwise, let's set all of that aside and enjoy talking about the genre and maybe play some games for a few days. That is, after all, why we're here.

Now, let's have some fun!

-James Fulbright  
President/Con Chair

# CONVENTION STAFF AND HARASSMENT POLICY

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## Convention Staff

<b>Convention Chairman</b>	<b>James Fulbright</b>
<b>Vice Chairman</b>	<b>Scott Gibson</b>
<b>Programming Director</b>	<b>Tera Fulbright</b>
Assistant Programming Director	Charles Rizzo
Programming Asst / ADA Coordinator	Richard Sarner
Guest Services Coordinator	Ann Tucker
Auction Coordinator	Everette Beach
Costume Contest Coordinators	Cami & Matt Walker
Gaming Coordinator	Ron McClung
Gaming Staff	Bill Boivin
	Tim McCrary
	Mike Welham
<b>ConSuite Director</b>	<b>John Desmarais</b>
<b>Director of Registration</b>	<b>Amy Masters</b>
<b>Exhibit Space Coordinator</b>	<b>Scott Gibson</b>
Dealer Room Staff	Bill Mann
	Janine Martinez
<b>Director of Operations</b>	<b>John Endicott</b>
<b>Marketing Director</b>	<b>Cami Walker</b>

## Volunteers

Liam Allen, Malcolm Black, Jen Davis, Conall Desmarais, Marcy Desmarais, Rachel Desmarais, Bob Ellis, Hannah Fulbright, Virginia Fulbright, Andrew Greeson, Jerry Hufton, Brandon Hurley, Regina Jones, Oren Kaplan, Luke Mallicoat, Wendell McCollom, Joshua Perkins, Emma Rafford, Aimee Rigsby, Stephanie Roane, Kim Robinson, Jamie Rogers, Jamie Ryan, Rowdy Scarlett, Brenda Tackett, John Tackett, Sarah Van Tassel, Lauren Wilson, Dana Windsor, Carol Wood

## Game Masters

Keith Burkhead, Philip Carroll, Tommy Farris, Kenneth Gentile, David Gregg, Landon Hatfield, JD Hedgecock, Lynn Holiman, Todd Holiman, Zac Hines, Annette Horsley, Sam Horsley, Violet Horsley, Alan Hyde, Magnus Kerensky, Steven Savage, Rachel Welham

## ConGregate Productions

### Corporate Officers

James Fulbright -- President  
Laura Haywood-Cory -- Vice President  
Tera Fulbright -- Secretary/Treasurer

### Board of Directors

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

## Harassment Policy

We are endeavoring to make ConGregate 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 or at Con HQ in the Showcase room.

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, race, or religion.



## 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.
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 of this book.
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! 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... well, go back and read rule number 2.
7. You may only hang signs on the walls of the hotel 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, Programming Suites 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. The dealers have paid good money to be here and it's simply not fair to them otherwise.
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, and especially the ramp leading from the lobby to the Prefunction area.
12. As with most hotels, the Radisson makes a good chunk of its money from catering. It is one way they can help keep

your convention costs low. You may not eat food in the con space unless it was purchased from the hotel. Your options this weekend are: you can eat what you buy from the hotel, go out to eat, or eat in your personal room. The same applies to all beverages.

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 of Guilford County.
15. ConGregarate is offering a "kids area" on Saturday that has crafts and coloring books. 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 hotel. Smoking areas are available outside of the hotel lobby and on the terrace outside the convention center.
17. We believe in the "no costume is no costume" rule. Naked people are not quite appropriate for ConGregarate's common areas.
18. 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.
19. No rule listed here supercedes local law, state law, federal law or hotel policy. You still have to obey those strictures.
20. And, finally, our most important rule during the convention is: HAVE FUN!

## 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 signs, announcements, or notations in the panel descriptions in the program book, as appropriate. 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.

### Hawaiian Shirt Friday

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.

We encourage everyone to wear a Hawaiian shirt on Friday, July 15 in honor of:

- Yvonne Craig, *actor*
- Wes Craven, *writer/director/producer*
- Adrienne Martine-Barnes, *writer*
- Terrence Evans, *actor*
- Gunnar Hansen, *actor*
- Christopher Leith, *puppeteer*
- Robert Conquest, *editor/writer*
- Olaf Pooley, *actor*
- T.M. Wright, *writer*
- Robert Loggia, *actor*
- Brooke McCarter, *actor*
- George Clayton Johnson, *writer*
- David Bowie, *singer/songwriter/actor*
- David Margulies, *actor*
- Alan Rickman, *actor*
- David G. Hartwell, *editor*
- Wayne England, *artist*
- Alethea McGrath, *actor*
- Bud Webster, *writer*
- Tony Dyson, *special effects creator*
- Sylvia Anderson, *actor/screenwriter*
- Drewe Henley, *actor*
- Earl Hamner, Jr., *screenwriter*
- Garry Shandling, *actor*
- Ken Barr, *artist*
- Logan L. Masterson, *author*
- Erik Bauersfeld, *actor*
- Kit West, *special effects creator*
- Joyce Lavene, *writer*
- Jim Lavene, *writer*
- Jill Calvert, *artist*
- Gareth Thomas, *actor*
- Darwyn Cooke, *artist/writer*
- Janet Waldo, *actor*
- Anton Yelchin, *actor*

### Steven Barnes

#### Writer Guest of Honor

Steven Barnes has published almost thirty novels and over three million words of science fiction and fantasy. He's been nominated for Hugo, Nebula, and Cable Ace awards. While



his television work includes *Twilight Zone*, *Stargate* and *Andromeda*, his "A Stitch In Time" episode of *The Outer Limits* won the Emmy Award, and his alternate history novel LION'S BLOOD won the 2003 Endeavor. His GREAT SKY WOMAN and SHADOW VALLEY, adventures set 30,000 years ago in East Africa, were published by Ballentine/One World Books in 2006 and 2009.

CASANEGRA, an erotic mystery novel written with his wife, American Book Award-winning novelist Tananarive Due and Hollywood luminary Blair Underwood, was published by Atria in July of 2007 and immediately became an Essence Best-Seller. Its sequel, IN THE NIGHT OF THE HEAT, was published in September of 2008 and won the 2009 NAACP Image Award.

He also wrote the New York Times bestselling novel STAR WARS: THE CESTUS DECEPTION, as well as the Star Trek Novel FAR BEYOND THE STARS and issues of *Legends of the Dark Knight* (Batman: Underground Railroad, 1999).

Barnes is also a lecturer and personal consultant who has lectured on creativity and human performance technologies from UCLA, USC, and Pasadena JPL to the Smithsonian Institute. He was, for three years, Kung Fu columnist for Black Belt Magazine, and hosted the Hour 25 radio show on KPFK Pacifica Radio for four years.

He lives in Los Angeles with his wife Tananarive and son Jason. His latest novel, THE DEAD LIST, will be published by Tor in 2016.



## Lindsey Look

### Artist Guest of Honor

When Lindsey was three years old she won her first art contest, and she's been hooked ever since. Sure, she's come along way from the upside down drawing of her father with a very realistic beard, but her passion for art hasn't changed much.



Lindsey attended The Art Institute of Boston with the intention to major in animation. However, she fell in love with painting science fiction and fantasy stories, and put all of her time and energy into the illustration department at AIB. She graduated magna cum-laude with a BFA in Illustration. Today, Lindsey spends almost all of her free time drawing and painting things that don't exist.

She lives in Connecticut with her husband Josh, and her two bunnies, Gimli and Willow.

Her work has appeared in multiple volumes of SPECTRUM: THE BEST IN FANTASTIC CONTEMPORARY ART, and some of her clients include Wizards of the Coast, Penguin Books, Applibot, Audible.com, Smirk and Dagger Games, and Science Fiction Book Club.

## A.J. Hartley

### Special Writer Guest

A.J. Hartley is the international and NY Times bestselling author of a dozen novels including the mystery/thrillers THE MASK OF ATREUS, ON THE FIFTH DAY, WHAT TIME DEVOURS and TEARS OF THE JAGUAR and the young adult fantasy adventures ACT OF WILL and WILL POWER. The first of his Darwen Arkwright children's fantasy trilogy (DARWEN ARKWRIGHT AND THE PEREGRINE PACT) came out from Penguin/Razorbill in 2011 and won SIBA's best YA novel of 2012. He has also co-written with David Hewson two adaptations of Shakespeare plays as Game of Thrones-esque epic thrillers: MACBETH, A NOVEL (audio edition voiced by Alan Cumming) and HAMLET, PRINCE OF DENMARK, A NOVEL (the audio book, performed by Richard Armitage, was named Audible's book of the year for 2014).



He has two young adult series: STEEPLEJACK will be released by Tor Teen in August 2016, and CATHEDRALS OF GLASS was released in early 2016, part of a special partnership with Tom DeLonge of Blink 182 and Angels and Airwaves, with whom he is working on another sci fi series due out in 2016.

He is UNC Charlotte's Robinson Distinguished Professor of

*Special thanks to Lindsey Look for the use of the art on the cover of this book.*



Shakespeare, specializing in performance theory and practice, and is the author of various scholarly books and articles from the world's best academic publishers including Palgrave and Cambridge University Press. He is an honorary fellow of the University of Central Lancashire, UK.

## Valentine Wolfe

### Special Musical Guests

Formed in 2006, Valentine Wolfe is the combined effort of the Lady Sarah Black and Braxton Ballew. Imagine Sarah Brightman being backed by Francois Rabbath blowing through a Marshall stack at midnight. Having dubbed their music Victorian Chamber metal, the duo have synthesized a love of metal, classical, and industrial, infusing them with a Victorian sensibility that evokes the likes of Bram Stoker and Edgar Allan Poe.

Ethereal soprano vocals of Sarah Black are buttressed by the thunderous growl of Braxton's electric upright bass, the two coalescing over pounding rock and electronic grooves punctuated by a maelstrom of synthesizers, keyboards, and sound design. Their work has attracted the attention of rock audiences, goth enthusiasts, theatre composers, and con attendees all up and down the east coast.



Their latest release, The Nightingale: A Gothic Fairytale, behind which they are currently touring, is a dramatic adaptation and reinterpretation of both The Emperor and the Nightingale by Hans Christian Andersen and Ode to a Nightingale by John Keats, set in a sinister Poison Garden, based on the Alnwick Botanical Gardens in England, where every single plant can kill.

### Jim Beall

Jim Beall (BS-Math, MBA, PE) has been a nuclear engineer for over 40 years, a war gamer for over 50, and an avid reader of science fiction for even longer. His experience in nuclear engineering and power systems began as a naval officer, shortly after surviving one of Admiral Rickover's infamous interviews, aboard USS Long Beach (CGN-9). Experience after the USN includes design, construction, inspection, enforcement, and assessment with a nuclear utility, an architect engineering firm, and the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (USNRC). Assignments at the USNRC included senior resident inspector (both for construction and operations), inspection team leader, and senior enforcement specialist before serving as the policy assistant for reactors to three different USNRC Commissioners and 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. Some of those other sources were coal, oil, hydro, geothermal, tidal, solar, wind, fracking, space-based, heavy water reactors, breeder reactors, fusion, and even antimatter (mostly for the math and atomic equations). These studies were a necessary aspect for reviewing energy proposals, assessing technical reports, and drafting speeches.

Since retirement, Jim has published a handful of articles on Baen Books' website. His latest, "From Corvus to Keyhole Shipyards—Past, Present, and Science Fiction" was released in January 2016.

### Blibbering Humdingers

These magical masters of musical hijinks and mayhem will wizard rock the tea towel right off your house elf. Their unique blend of 80s new wave, 50s do-wop, straight up pop rock and old-timey sing-song comedy will leave you laughing and crying for more. Their lyrics draw inspiration from the wizarding world of *Harry Potter*, *Doctor Who*, D&D, the SCA, medieval fantasy and all kinds of nerdy fandom. Salaciously whimsical! A rollicking good time what-what!

### Samantha Bryant

Samantha Bryant believes in love, magic, and unexplainable connections between people. Her favorite things are lonely beaches, untamed cliff tops, sunlight through the leaves of trees, summer rains, and children's laughter. She has lived in many places, including rural Alaska, Kansas, Kentucky, Vermont, England and Spain. She is fierce at heart, though she doesn't look it.

She's a fan of Charlotte Brontë, William Shakespeare, Emily Dickinson, Neil Gaiman, Nicole Perlman, and Joss Whedon, among many others. She would like to be Amy Tan when she grows up, but so far it doesn't look like she'll be growing up any time soon.

Samantha writes blogs, poems, essays, and novels. Mostly she writes about things that scare or worry her. It's cheaper than therapy. Someday, she hopes to make her living solely as a writer. In the meantime, she also teaches middle school Spanish, which, admittedly, is an odd choice for money-earning, especially in North Carolina.

When she's not writing or teaching, Samantha enjoys time with her family, watching old movies, baking, reading, and going places. Her favorite gift is tickets (to just about anything).

Her debut novel, *GOING THROUGH THE CHANGE: A MENOPAUSAL SUPERHERO NOVEL* is now for sale by Curiosity Quills. Book 2: *CHANGE OF LIFE*, just released April 21, 2016 (but you should read book 1 first).

### Alexandra Christian

Alexandra Christian is an author of mostly paranormal romance, dark fantasy and horror. A self-proclaimed Southern Belle from Hell, Lexxx is a native South Carolinian who lives with a ghost hunter and an epileptic wiener dog. She has published several novels, novellas and short stories various publishers including Mocha Memoirs Press, Purple Sword Publications, Seventh Star Press, and Ellora's Cave. She also wears an editor's hat as A.C. Thompson. Recently, she's been conquering the self-publishing world as one half of Little Red Hen Romance. Lexxx's long-term aspirations are to one day be a best-selling authoress and part-time pinup girl.

### David B. Coe / D.B. Jackson

David B. Coe is the award-winning author of nineteen novels and more than a dozen short stories. Under his own name (<http://www.DavidBCoe.com>) he writes the Case Files of Justis Fearsson, published by Baen Books. The first two books, *SPELL BLIND* and *HIS FATHER'S EYES* came out in 2015. The third volume, *SHADOW'S BLADE*, has recently been released.

As D.B. Jackson (<http://www.DBJackson-Author.com>), he is the author of the Thieftaker Chronicles (*THIEFTAKER*, *THIEVES' QUARRY*, *A PLUNDER OF SOULS*, and *DEAD MAN'S REACH*), a series which combines elements of urban fantasy, mystery, and historical fiction.

David is also the author of the Crawford Award-winning *LonTobyn Chronicle*, the critically acclaimed *Winds of the Forelands* quintet and *Blood of the Southlands* trilogy, and the novelization of Ridley Scott's movie, *ROBIN HOOD*. David's books have been translated into a dozen languages.

### Paul Cory

Paul Cory is a photographer based in Durham, North Carolina. You'll find fine art landscapes and nature, cosplay, portraits, and dancers, light movement artists and fire spinners in his portfolio.



### Shawn J. Durlington

Shawn J. Durlington currently resides in Greenville, North Carolina, but grew up in Portsmouth, Virginia. As a child, he enjoyed doodling and scribbling whenever he should have been paying attention in class. Durlington received a Bachelor's in Fine Arts Art Education and a Bachelor's in Fine Art Studio Art from East Carolina University in 2006, where he studied Printmaking and Textiles. After teaching middle school art for four years, he decided it was time to return to school for his master's degree. In 2013 he earned a Master's in Fine Arts in Animation and Visual Effects, studying in the area of Visual Development from Academy of Art University.

Currently Shawn is creating art customized for each person and bringing out the child inside each of us. He is also working on getting his children's book put together THE ADVENTURES OF MELVIN AND ME.

In the words of Peter Pan "I'll never grow up! Why should you?"

### Donna Eason

Donna Eason is an Upper School English teacher at Cary Academy in Cary, NC. Along with teaching English 9: The Heroic Journey and English 10: Identity and Change, Donna teaches an upper-level elective called Creative and Collaborative World building. In this course, students work individually and collectively to create unique, speculative-fiction worlds. Then, they build these worlds in a 3D platform and create organic stories by immersing themselves as characters in their original civilizations.

Outside of school, Donna is a huge science fiction fan, and two years ago, she created The Color of Fandom, a geek-oriented Meetup that focuses on diversity in books, comics, tv shows, movies, video games, board games, and cosplay in the speculative fiction world. The group is continuously thriving - at 250+ members, it is the most active geek-focused Meetup in the Triangle.

### Figures Sold Separately

Every week, Jimmy, Renee, Ken, Matt, and Car-2 tear into the fan culture and welcome special guests from page and screen! The cast consists of Ken, the genius billionaire playboy philanthropist, Renee, the pun-making nerd baker with the best hair you've ever seen, Jimmy, the blogger, curmudgeon and rock-n-roll fan, Car2-D2, the pop culture droid with a soft spot for Tolkien, and Matt, the Doctor Who geek and aviation know-it-all. Follow their exploits at [fsspodcast.com](http://fsspodcast.com) and @fsspodcast on Twitter.

**Renee Hill** - Ingredients: Water, 35 litres. Carbon, 20kg. Milk, 4 litres. Flour, 1.5kg. Chocolate, 800g. Salt, 250 g. Coffee and/or Tea, 100g. Puns, 80g. Video Games, 7.5g. Sprinkles, 5g. "Covers of 90s hits performed in animal noises", 3g. Plus trace amounts of fifteen other elements. Renee "Slam Dunk" Hill, spends her retirement making puns, baking things, and having the best hair you've ever seen. She's at @cakedcrusader13 for the following.

**Ken Krahl** - Genius, billionaire, playboy philanthropist, Ken is a polysyllabic proponent of the Oxford comma and the idea that geeks do awesome things by being different together. Ken directs the GeekOut Fan Arts Festival in Asheville and produces plenty of other awesome stuff for nerds. Encourage his insanity on Twitter at @MultiverseAVL.

**Car2-D2** - A perky droid with a soft spot for Tolkien, Car-2's happiest when streaming epic marathons of classic TV, being body painted, crocheting Amigurumi figures, or losing herself in LEGO video games. She nerds out about alternative healing therapies and being the last person in the world to discover 80s pop culture. You can find her Instagramming at @Car2.D2.

**Matt Johnson** - Matt is the co-owner of ZaPow Studio and ZaPow Productions. He started out as the show's producer and eventually wound up behind the mic of this and a lot of other podcasts. Doctor Who geek, former radio DJ/engineer, and aviation know-it-all; no trivial error TV makes about airplanes gets by him! He's @NCMattJ on Twitter.

### Glenda Finkelstein

Glenda Finkelstein has a wide and varied career as a writer, having published song lyrics, human-interest articles, poems, short stories, novels, and screenplays. Her interest in writing was not just a happenstance, having a great-grandfather who was a wonderful poet, and aunts and uncles who nurtured her imagination. Inspired by the legendary J.R.R. Tolkien, this art form was a natural course for her to take. She has written one historical novel, but her heart lies mostly with the Science Fiction and Fantasy genres where her imagination can soar unhindered. Her writing has won her several awards, and is branching off into new uncharted territories. Her latest novel, PHOENIX RISING, was published by Final Destiny Press and marks her tenth book.

She is a dynamic public speaker, and in addition to her writing, she has ventured into the arena of acting. She voices six of her female characters in the audio adaptation of her novel, NEMESIS RISING, a powerful rendition that even has the added benefits of sound effects and mood music. You can see all of her works on her website page at [www.finaldestinypress.com](http://www.finaldestinypress.com). Her greatest hope is to ignite a love affair with reading in the hearts of people everywhere.

### Ronald T. Garner

Ronald T. Garner is the CEO of Silence in the Library Publishing, a small press dedicated to speculative fiction, and a Major in the United States Marine Corps Reserve. He has short fiction published in various anthologies, and in his spare time builds things of questionable utility. Ron lives in North Carolina with his wife and daughter.

### Jason Gilbert

Jason Gilbert is a movie fan and critic whose taste turned to the dark side when he discovered the worst Hollywood had to offer. He reviews these movies in the most comedic nature on his site, [www.fail-flix.com](http://www.fail-flix.com), where he rips into them with all of the grace of a rabid were-buffalo in an antique China shop run by pygmies. The Best of the Worst films are great and all, but Jason really can't resist something that promises to be unwatchable! Why does he do it? He either likes pain or really hate his eyes.

### Melissa Gilbert

Melissa Gilbert teaches college writing, works as a freelance editor at Clicking Keys, writes twice monthly for Magical Words, and tells stories (writing as Melissa McArthur). Her current publications include a short story, "The Chase," in *AN IMPROBABLE TRUTH: THE PARANORMAL ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* published by Mocha Memoirs Press and the Maggie the Gatherer series. Melissa is utterly fascinated by books; she believes that there's something magical about holding them in your hand and watching as the words disappear and the story unfolds before your eyes. She hopes that she can do that for readers both as an editor and a writer—create stories that engulf you, change you, scare you, bewilder you, make you laugh, make you cry, and through stories, reveal deeper truths about life.

### John Grigni

John Grigni has been an illustrator and designer for over 25 years. He began using computers for 3D work in the early 90s. He's provided illustrations for a number of gaming companies, both traditionally and digitally. In 2012 he started Argos Animation, and has been using Blender heavily in his production work. In 2014 he did the opening animation for the first ConGregarate.

### John G. Hartness

John G. Hartness is a teller of tales, a righter of wrongs, defender of ladies' virtues, and some people call him Maurice, for he speaks of the pompatus of love. He is also the best-selling author of EPIC-Award-winning series *The Black Knight Chronicles* from Bell Bridge Books, a comedic urban fantasy series that answers the eternal question Why aren't there more fat vampires? He is also the creator of the comic horror *Bubba the Monster Hunter* series, and the creator and co-editor of the *Big Bad* series of horror anthologies from Dark Oak Press and Media. 2015 has seen John launch a new dark fantasy series featuring Quincy Harker, *Demon Hunter*.

In his copious free time, John enjoys long walks on the beach, rescuing kittens from trees and recording new episodes of his ridiculous podcast *Literate Liquors*, where he pairs book reviews and alcoholic drinks in new and ludicrous ways. John is also a contributor to the *Magical Words* group blog and avid *Magic: The Gathering* player. John is strong in his nerd-fu and has

sometimes been referred to as the Kevin Smith of Charlotte, NC. And not just for his girth.

### Laura Haywood-Cory

Laura Haywood-Cory has been some flavor of editor or proofreader since her first job after college, which was proofreading yellow page listings for a phone book company. She's been involved in science fiction fandom since the mid-1980s. She has managed two different sf conventions, co-founded a local sf club, and participated in an APA (amateur press association) -- the Southern Fandom Press Alliance -- for four years.

In 2008, her career path melded with her hobbies when she joined the team at Baen Books, where she spent almost seven years as an editorial assistant then associate editor. In late 2014 she took a position at her homeowners association. Regardless of her day job, she enjoys connecting readers with books that they'll love.

### Stuart Jaffe

Stuart Jaffe is the author of *The Max Porter Paranormal-Mysteries*, *The Malja Chronicles* post-apocalyptic fantasy series, *The Bluesman* pulp series, and much more including the stand alone novels *FOUNDERS* and *REAL MAGIC*. His short stories have been collected in *10 BITS OF MY BRAIN* and *10 MORE BITS OF MY BRAIN*. Numerous other short stories have appeared in magazines and anthologies.

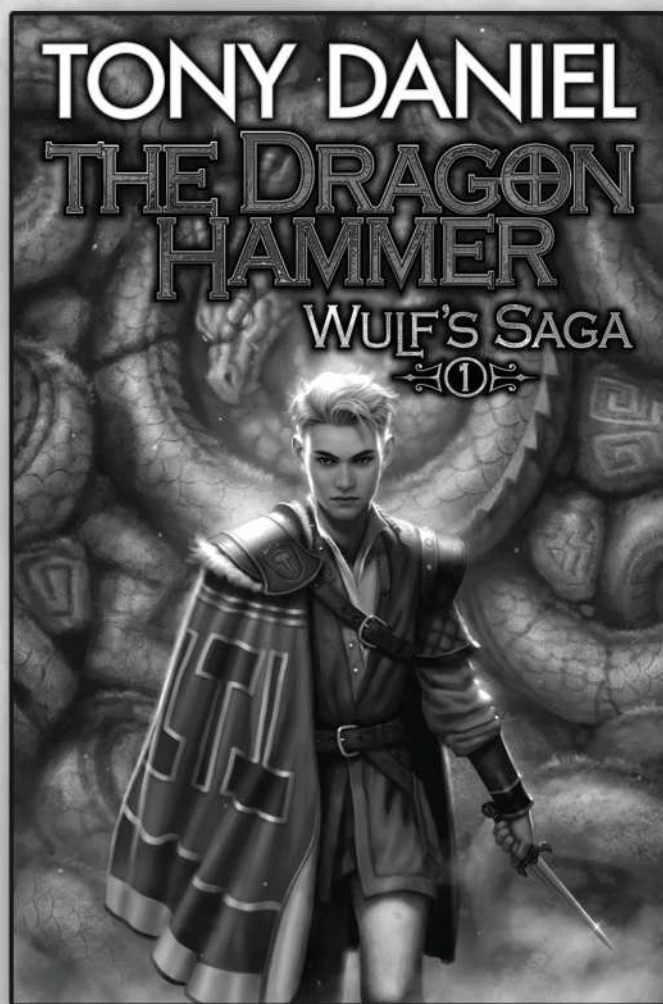
Stuart lives in rural NC, and for those who keep count, the latest animal listing is as follows: one dog, four cats, one albino corn snake, one Brazilian black tarantula, three aquatic turtles, assorted fish, seven chickens, and a horse. Thankfully, the chickens and the horse do not live inside the house.

### Tally Johnson

Tally Johnson is a graduate of Spartanburg Methodist College and Wofford College with degrees in history. He is the author of *GHOSTS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA UPOUNTRY*, *GHOSTS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA MIDLANDS*, *GHOSTS OF THE PEE DEE* (all for The History Press) and *CIVIL WAR GHOSTS OF SOUTH CAROLINA* (for Post Mortem Press) and has a story in *AN IMPROBABLE TRUTH* (from Mocha Memoirs Press).

Tally currently serves as Special Services Coordinator for the Chester County Library and has been active in many community groups, including Chester County First Steps, the Chester County Arts Council, the School Improvement Council for the Chester Park School of the Arts and the Chester Little Theater among others. He is on the Roster of Approved Artists as an author, as well as the South Carolina School Librarians' list of storytellers. He enjoys spending time with his family and friends, hiking, hammock camping, visiting historic sites, and reading. He has been a guest at ConGregarate, ConCarolinas, Fandom Fest, MonsterCon, MystiCon, AtomaCon and Imaginarium.

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### Paula S. Jordan

Paula S. Jordan is the author of three ANALOG stories, including “Vooorh,” a novelette, (Jul/Aug 2014.) That story and her previous ANALOG entry, “Two Look At Two” (April 2011,) are adaptations from a present-day alien-contact novel in progress. Her first professional publication, “The Gift of Unbinding” (May, 2001), also appeared in ANALOG. She is now at work on more short stories as well as the novel.

After degrees in history and speech and several years as a freelance writer, Paula earned a BS in physics and worked thirteen years as an orbit analyst for NASA and NOAA. She supported 30+ unmanned science missions including the lunar-orbiting Clementine mission that first detected water on the moon.

### Chris Kennedy

A bestselling Science Fiction/Fantasy author and speaker, Chris Kennedy is a former naval aviator with over 3,000 hours flying attack and reconnaissance aircraft, an elementary school principal and an instructional systems designer for the Navy. Chris is a member of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America and the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators.

Chris’ full length novels include the Occupied Seattle military fiction duology, The Theogony and Codex Regius science fiction trilogies, and the War for Dominance fantasy trilogy. He is also the author of the self-help book, SELF-PUBLISHING FOR PROFIT and the forthcoming leadership book LEADERSHIP FROM THE DARKSIDE. Called fantastic and a great speaker, he has coached hundreds of beginning authors and budding novelists on how to self-publish their stories at a variety of conferences, conventions and writing guild presentations.

### Darin Kennedy

Darin Kennedy, born and raised in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, 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 2003 in the sands of northern Iraq.

His debut novel, a paranormal thriller titled THE MUSSORGSKY RIDDLE, was born from a fusion of two of his lifelong loves: classical music and world mythology. The sequel, THE STRAVINSKY INTRIGUE, is due out late spring / early summer 2016 and continues the journey through myth, music, and madness. PAWN’S GAMBIT, his contemporary fantasy, is scheduled for publication in 2016. His short stories can be found in over twenty anthologies and magazines. He is currently, as always, hard at work on his next novel.

Doctor by day and novelist by night, he writes and practices medicine in Charlotte, North Carolina. When not engaged in

either of the above activities, he has been known to strum the guitar, enjoy a bite of sushi, and rumor has it he even sleeps on occasion.

### Nicole Givens Kurtz

Speculative pulp author, Nicole Givens Kurtz, writes science fiction, fantasy, and horror. Her most popular work, futuristic pulp series, Cybil Lewis blends whodunit mysteries within futuristic, post-apocalyptic world-building. Her novels have been named as finalists in the Fresh Voices in Science Fiction, EPPIE in Science Fiction, and Dream Realm Awards in science fiction. Nicole’s short stories have earned an Honorable Mention in L. Ron Hubbard’s Writers of the Future contest, and have appeared in such noted publications as *Crossed Genres*, *Tales of the Talisman*, and *Genesis Magazine* as well as numerous anthologies.

### Emily Lavin Leverett

Emily Lavin Leverett is a fantasy, sci-fi, and horror writer, an editor, and an English Professor. Her works have appeared in FLASH FICTION ONLINE, DRAFHORSE: A JOURNAL OF WORK AND NO WORK, and ATHENA’S DAUGHTERS II. Her edited collections include THE BIG BAD: AN ANTHOLOGY OF EVIL AND BIG BAD II with John Hartness, as well as TALES FROM THE WEIRD WILD WEST with Misty Massey and Margaret McGraw. Her study of medieval English romance heavily influences her fiction. Recent scholarly work discusses violence—particularly flaying and cannibalism—as a means of constructing English Identity in the late medieval romances THE SIEGE OF JERUSALEM and RICHARD COER DE LYON.

Her first novel is book one in The Eisteddfod Chronicles published by Falstaff Books in 2016. Co-written with Sarah Joy Adams, the novel combines medieval romance and modern epic with urban fantasy.

When neither writing nor teaching, she and her spouse spend time together reading, watching television and movies, rooting for the Carolina Hurricanes, and attending to their two rambunctious cats. She also blogs at Writing Under a Dancing Star.

### Todd Lacey

Todd started his professional acting career at the age of 6 with the well known ‘Edison Players’ in south Florida. With over 40 stage productions under his belt Todd has also worked in commercials and film with some familiar titles as *The Abyss*, *The Three Amigos*, *The last of the Mohicans* and *Gettysburg* just to name a few. Still active, Todd also pursues other creative passions in writing and creating costumes. Todd has always been interested in costuming at a very early age. His mother was a professional actress and casting director for Screen Gems back in the 60s but she also had a love for creating costumes for theater. For the past 15 years his passion for costuming has given

him opportunities to show his work. His reference work include him as 'Darth Revan' in STAR WARS: THE ESSENTIAL WARFARE BOOK, his Mandalorian in STAR WARS: THE BOUNTY HUNTER CODE BOOK, and his classic 'Marvel Hawkeye' in COSPLAY: THE FANTASY WORLD OF ROLE PLAY by Laure Orsini. Todd can also be found as the reference model for the Star Wars Topps cards with Plo Koon and Darth Revan. Todd currently resides in Charlotte, North Carolina with his wife, four dogs and two cats.

### **Cheralyn Lambeth**

Cheralyn likes to refer to herself as a "movie fan who went pro," crediting her work in the film/TV/entertainment industry to her early love of Star Wars. After a brief stint in the Air Force Reserve, she went on to study drama and Radio/Television/Motion Pictures at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Shortly after graduation, Cheralyn relocated to New York to study at The Juilliard School, working on both academic and professional productions such as performing Off-Broadway with John Leguizamo on his one-man show Mambo Mouth. She then moved to Minneapolis to create Muppet costumes for Sesame Street Live! (as well as a large purple bunny for the film *The Net*) and returned to New York a year later to work with Jim Henson Productions on the TV series *Dinosaurs!* and the film *The Muppet Christmas Carol*.

After her time at Henson, Cheralyn worked with Paramount Production Services, creating costumes and props for Paramount properties such as The Star Trek Earth Tour, Titanic: The Movie on Tour, and Star Trek: The Experience at the Las Vegas Hilton. Some of her other credits include work (both behind and in front of the camera) on the feature films *The Patriot*, *The New World*, *Evan Almighty*, *Leatherheads*, and *The Hunger Games*, as well as work on the National Park Service film *Manassas: End of Innocence* currently showing at the Manassas battlefield park center. She was also a principal character in the History Channel docudrama *Isaac's Storm*, which premiered in the fall of 2004 and can still occasionally be seen on THC. Her most recent work includes the Showtime television series *Homeland* and the Cinemax series *Outcast*.

On the hobby side of things, Cheralyn is proud to be an active and long-time member of the international Star Wars costuming club the 501st Legion, serving as Legion Historian/Archivist and as a member of the organization's public relations team. She also works with The ShadowPlayers Stage Combat Group, demonstrating stage combat and the history of weaponry at festivals, school activities, and other events all along the Eastern Seaboard.

Most recently, Cheralyn has been expanding her writing career, combining her interest in paranormal research with her theatrical background to produce her first book, HAUNTED THEATERS OF THE CAROLINAS, with Schiffer Publishing. She has also written for Examiner.com as the Charlotte (NC) Paranormal Examiner and the Charlotte Sci-Fi Examiner, and recently completed a second

book, THE WELL DRESSED PUPPET, released by Routledge/Taylor & Francis in September 2014. She is currently working on GHOSTS OF GREATER CHARLOTTE, as well as a second book for Routledge titled CREATING THE CHARACTER COSTUME: TOOLS, TIPS, AND TALKS WITH TOP COSPLAYERS AND COSTUMERS, scheduled for publication in 2016.

### **Steven S. Long**

Steven S. Long is a writer and game designer who's worked primarily in the tabletop roleplaying game field for the past twenty years. During that time he's written or co-written approximately 200 books. He's best known for his work with Champions and the HERO System, but has worked for many other RPG companies. In recent years, he's branched out into writing fiction as well, contributing Fantasy short stories to numerous anthologies. He frequently claims that he's revising his novel, but this may be an elaborate scam of some sort. His first major work of nonfiction, a book on the Norse god Odin for Osprey Publishing, was released in May 2015, and since then he's primarily focused on MYTHIC HERO, an extensive book about world mythology for authors and gamers. His Master Plan for World Domination has reached Stage 70-Lambda.

### **Mark MacDicken**

Professional entertainer for over 30 years, Mark MacDicken performs comedy magic as the eccentric wizard Flabbergast. As well as being an accomplished actor and comedy magician, Mark is also a top-notch puppeteer and balloon sculptor. Formerly known as Spiffy the Clown, he has performed at hundreds of family celebrations, as well as theme parks, fairs and festivals, company picnics, summer recreation programs, mall events, and on local television. In recent years, Flabbergast has embraced the Mid-Atlantic region fan convention scene, performing at Awesome Con DC, Balticon, MystiCon, Farpoint, Shore Leave, ConGregarate, SciFiCon, and adding more appearances all the time!

When he's not dressing up in costumes and playing with his toys, Mark is an elementary school special education teacher. He holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Drama from the University of Southern California, and a Master of Education degree in Special Education from George Mason University. Mark lives in Northern Virginia with his wife and adult son and daughter.

### **Gail Z. Martin**

Gail Z. Martin is the author of the new epic fantasy novel SHADOW AND FLAME (Orbit Books, March 2016) which is the fourth and final book in the Ascendant Kingdoms Saga; IRON AND BLOOD: THE JAKE DESMET ADVENTURES, a new Steampunk series (Solaris Books) co-authored with Larry N. Martin and VENDETTA: A DEADLY CURIOSITIES NOVEL in her urban fantasy series set in Charleston, SC (Solaris Books) and the upcoming

## GUESTS OF THE CONVENTION

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SHADOWED PATH (June 2016, Solaris Books) an anthology set in her world of THE SUMMONER. She is also the 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) from Solaris Books and The Fallen Kings Cycle (THE SWORN, THE DREAD) from Orbit Books. Gail writes several series of ebook short stories: THE JONMARC VAHANIAN ADVENTURES, THE DEADLY CURIOSITIES ADVENTURES, the King's Convicts and King's Exiles series of Blaine McFadden novellas and with Larry N. Martin, the Steampunk Storm & Fury Adventures. Her work has appeared in over 20 US/UK anthologies with more to come.

### Larry N. Martin

Larry N. Martin is the co-author of the new Steampunk series IRON AND BLOOD: A JAKE DESMET ADVENTURE and a series of short stories and novellas: The Storm & Fury Adventures set in the Jake Desmet universe. These short stories also appear in the anthologies CLOCKWORK UNIVERSE: STEAMPUNK VS. ALIENS, THE WEIRD WILD WEST, THE SIDE OF GOOD/THE SIDE OF EVIL, ALIEN ARTIFACTS, CINCHED: IMAGINATION UNBOUND and GASLIGHT AND GRIMM with more to come. Larry and Gail also have co-authored science fiction short stories in the SPACE, ROBOTS and CONTACT LIGHT anthologies.

### Misty Massey

Misty Massey is the author of MAD KESTREL, a rollicking adventure of magic on the high seas from Tor Books, and KESTREL'S VOYAGES, a collection of short stories featuring those rambunctious pirates (available for the Kindle.) She is a co-editor of THE WEIRD WILD WEST anthology from Espec Books and a founding member of Magical Words, the well-known blog for and about writers (magicalwords.net). When she's not writing, Misty studies Middle Eastern Dance and performs at regional events as the opportunity arises.

### Alex Matsuo

Alex Matsuo is an actor, dramaturg, playwright by day, and a podcaster, paranormal researcher and author by night. Alex currently hosts the radio show The Wicked Domain on LiveParanormal.com and has previously hosted the radio shows ParaNation and Paranormal Insider Radio. She also runs a podcast for the North Carolina theatre community called, Triangle On Stage.

She is the founder of the Association of Paranormal Study, which specializes in private home investigations and consultations. She is the author of THE HAUNTING OF THE TENTH AVENUE THEATER, published by Llewellyn Worldwide, the biggest paranormal and new age publisher in the world. Alex has also published THE HAUNTED ACTOR, as well as MORE THAN GHOSTS (a guide for investigators taking on private paranormal cases).

Alex is also a contributing writer to The Supernatural Magazine and Paranormal Enlightenment Magazine as well as the pop culture website, TheRichest.

Alex received her Master of Arts in theatre arts from San Diego State University in 2011 and currently resides in Raleigh, North Carolina. You can find more information at [www.alexmatsuo.com](http://www.alexmatsuo.com).

### Jennifer McCollom

Jennifer McCollom is a professional makeup artist, who has worked on feature films and television shows. Her film credits include *The Hunger Games*, *Taking Liberty*, *The Conjuring*, *Leatherheads*, *Talladega Nights*, *The Box*, the Oscar nominated *June Bug*, *MAX*, and most recently *The Disappointment Room* and *Masterminds*. Her TV work includes *Army Wives*, the Emmy Award-winning HBO miniseries *John Adams*, *Homeland* for Showtime, Spike TV's *Bar Rescue*, CBS's *Reckless*, as well as Cinemax's *Banshee*. She has also lent her experience to several independent films including cult favorites *Dead Inn* and *Last Lives*, as well as *A Long Way Off*, *Tarnished Notes*, and releasing in September 2016, *Unbridled*.

When not on set, Jennifer teaches Film and Special Effects at local community colleges, as well as creating unique special effects pieces and costumes for fandom, 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 believes you should never stop learning.

### Karen McCullough

Karen McCullough's wide-ranging imagination makes her incapable of sticking to one genre for her storytelling. As a result, she's the author of more than a dozen published novels and novellas, which span the mystery, fantasy, paranormal, and romantic suspense genres. A former computer programmer who made a career change into being an editor with an international trade publishing company for many years, she now runs her own web design business to support her writing habit. Awards she's won include an Eppie Award for fantasy and a Vixen Award. She's been a finalist in the Daphne duMaurier, Prism, Dream Realm, Rising Star, Lories, Ippie, and Scarlett Letter Awards; a four-time Eppie Award finalist; and an Honorable Mention in the Writers of the Future contest. Her short fiction has appeared in several anthologies and numerous small press publications in the fantasy, science fiction, and romance genres. She lives in Greensboro, NC, with her husband of many years.



### **Margaret S. McGraw**

Margaret S. McGraw's writing includes the prompt-writing blog WritersSpark.com, several short stories currently in circulation for publication, and two novels in progress: MIRA's CHILDREN is a YA science fiction adventure, and OCEANSONG is a modern-day fantasy. Margaret is co-editor, with Misty Massey and Emily Leverett, of WEIRD WILD WEST, an anthology of short stories about the wildest West that never was. Her imagination draws on her lifelong love of science fiction, fantasy, and anthropology. Her education and experience range from anthropology and communication through web design and IT management. Margaret lives in North Carolina with her daughter and an array of cats, dogs, Macs and PCs, and too many unfinished craft projects.

### **Edward McKeown**

Edward McKeown escaped from NY, but his old hometown supplies much of the background to his humorous "Lair of the Lesbian Love Goddess" shorts, as his new hometown in Charlotte, North Carolina does for his Knight Templar urban fantasy series. He enjoys a wide variety of interests from ballroom dance to the martial arts. Ed has also edited four Sha'Daa anthologies of tales of the Apocalypse and a wide variety of short stories some

of which are collected in KNIGHT IN CHARLOTTE and the soon to be released ON THE CASE.

Ed is best known for his Robert Fenaday/Shasti Rainhell series of SF novels set on the Privateer Sidhe. He has now debuted a new series set in the same universe, featuring a 50,000 year old android named Maauro and her friend, a disgraced pilot named Wrik Trigardt, as they battle governments and the Thieves Guild for their freedom in, MY OUTCAST STATE.

Set in the same universe as the Robert Fenaday/Shasti Rainhell stories, but decades later, MY OUTCAST STATE begins a new cycle of exploration of Confederation Space. The second book, AGAINST THAT TIME, will be out later this year

### **Gary Mitchel**

Gary Mitchel is a writer, reviewer, geek blogger, 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.

He is co-host, with Deanna Toxopeus, of the Parsec Award nominated RevolutionSF RevCast, the site's weekly geek culture discussion; a part of the ESO Podcast network. He is also host

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### **Steve White**

**Co-author of the StarFire series**

and producer of the RevNews podcast, which looks at various topical nerd-related events.

Gary has also appeared on Shauncastic, Needless Things, The Batcave Podcast, The Chronic Rift, Good to be a Geek, The ESO, and Saturday B Movie Reel podcasts. He can be found on the Facebook and followed on the Twitter as @gary\_mitchel (and yes, it's his real name).

Additionally, Gary is the Co-Director, with Joe Crowe, of the American Sci-Fi Classics Track at DragonCon. There, he has discussed Sci-Fi TV, zombies, movies, zombies, cartoons, comics and zombies. Some attendees have stated that he is "hilarious," and Gary swears that said people are not related to him.

### Michael D. Pederson

Michael D. Pederson is the publisher/editor/graphic designer responsible for Nth Degree. Mike began his career as a writer/publisher in 1988 when his SF short story, "Dust Storm," won first place in a local writing contest. In the 1990s, he wrote and published the Raven comic book series (with artist R. Craig Enslin) 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. Two months later he started Nth Degree. In 2007, he wrote a chapter on Writing for Magazines for Dragon Moon Press' Writing Fantasy: The Author's Grimoire.

In 2006, Mike (along with Tee Morris and Tony Ruggiero) came up with the crazy idea of hosting a science-fiction convention in Richmond, Virginia. After its tenth year, RavenCon moved to Williamsburg and Mike is still the con chair. 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 (with Warren Buff), 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 ConGregarate, MarsCon, Mysticon, RavenCon, and StellarCon. In the last few years Mike has interviewed a wide range of writers, gamers, artists, and actors. Those interviews have included Aaron Allston, Kevin J. Anderson, Elizabeth Bear, Terry Brooks, Jim Butcher, Orson Scott Card, Glen Cook, Larry Correia, Peter David, Sherrilyn Kenyon, Katherine Kurtz, Todd McCaffrey, Rebecca Moesta, Tamora Pierce, John Ringo, Michael Stackpole, Allen Steele, Bruce Sterling, S.M. Stirling, David Weber, Janny Wurts, Timothy Zahn, and too many more to list.

Yes, Mike is an insanely busy person; if you see him at a convention please feed him lots of caffeine and/or beer. When not engaged in geekish pursuits, Mike is an under-employed graphic designer and lives in Richmond, Virginia.

### Matthew Penick

Matthew Penick is a professional costumer and fitness enthusiast, as well as the owner of costume and prop company Ribbons and Rivets, which he founded in 2009. A self-taught leather worker, he made his first suit of armor in college out of scraps and remnants from the local Tandy. In fact, that very first suit of armor is still in action (having received numerous upgrades) and is now the award-winning Nightwalker armor set, which can be seen in several short films, a documentary in progress, and a feature length movie, "The Gamers 3: Hands of Fate." Although it was created primarily as a leatherworking business, Ribbons and Rivets has since incorporated a variety of materials to bring designs and characters to life and is known for attention to detail and screen accuracy. Matthew enjoys doing workshops and demos on leather work and patterning, and is always happy to talk shop with fellow costumers.

### Maya Preisler

Maya Preisler is a professional artist, writer, editor, gamer and actress. Her art has been featured in many art shows at various conventions throughout the Southeast, and she is a published illustrator. Her poetry and writing have been published in various literary magazines since she was a child, and her website was internationally recognized and featured on Australian radio shows in the early 2000s. As a gamer, Maya was one of only two women ever inducted into a local gaming clan (the other being her sister) and spent ten years as an administrator and tech for LAN gaming at conventions. She is also a professional game demonstrator as a member of No Ordinary Gamers and is an MIB for Steve Jackson Games. She recently added professional acting to her list of credits by being part of Kersey Valley Spookywoods' 30th anniversary season. Maya has a BFA in cross disciplinary studies from UNC Charlotte and currently works several freelance jobs as an artist, illustrator, and designer.

### Angela Pritchett

Angela Pritchett is a costumer, author, YouTube host, special FX makeup artist, actor, and educator. She has a degree in music education and a master's degree in Ethnomusicology.

With a vivid and often creepy imagination, she writes short fiction for adults and YA in the genres of horror, steampunk, sci-fi and fantasy. She has also published essays on some of her favorite fandoms that have been published as well!

Discovering costuming at a young age, Angela has been dressing up as some of her favorite characters at conventions for over 17 years, and has won many awards in craftsmanship and performance at conventions. This has earned her a place as a judge at a great many conventions for their costume contests.

Angela is also an actress and special Fx makeup artist, working in independent film, and television for the past 14 years. She

has worked on films such as *Plan 9*, *The Porkchop Trilogy*, *The Nephilim Chronicles*, and many more! Angela is a host on the YouTube show “The Girls Who Waited”, the geek girl YouTube show about Doctor Who and more, with fellow geek girl Lil.

### Stephen Mark Rainey

Stephen Mark Rainey is author of the novels *BALAK*, *THE LEBO COVEN*, *DARK SHADOWS: DREAMS OF THE DARK* (with Elizabeth Massie), *THE NIGHTMARE FRONTIER*, and *THE MONARCHS*; the novella *GODS OF MOAB*; over 100 published works of short fiction; five short-fiction collections; and several audio dramas for Big Finish Productions based on the ABC-TV series *Dark Shadows*, featuring members of the original TV series cast. Recent publications include the anthologies *THE BEST OF DARK DISCOVERIES* from Dark Regions Press and *THE BEST OF SHIVERS* from Cemetery Dance Publications. For ten years, he edited the award-winning *Deathrealm* magazine and has edited anthologies for Chaosium, Arkham House, and Delirium Books. Mark lives in Greensboro, NC. He is an avid geocacher, which oftentimes puts him in some pretty scary settings.

### JR Ralls

JR Ralls is the writer and executive producer of *Dark Dungeons* ([www.darkdungeonsmovie.com](http://www.darkdungeonsmovie.com)). JR says making that film was one of the greatest experiences of my life. He funded it through Kickstarter and worked very hard to make sure all his backers got their rewards. As far as he can tell, each of them was satisfied with the movie he produced for them and he hopes to get the opportunity to make another film. He has also sold multiple short-stories to various publications.

### Daphne Reeder

Daphne Reeder has been a creative force from a very young age. Beginning at the age of 5, she's been on television programs on WTVI, acted in plays & stage performances, and modeled in front of a camera. She has always enjoyed the freedom of dressing up, and became an accomplished cosplayer by the time she was 17. Since then, she has added to her arsenal of outfits to cross multiple genres, though her passions are sci-fi/fantasy and horror. She has modeled for multiple events, and has frequented posters and flyers around the Charlotte and Atlanta areas. Daphne is not only a cosplayer and model, but she also is the mind behind Drache Media Films, an independent film company that focuses on the sci-fi and horror genres. She has several projects in the works, ranging from a Star Wars fan series, to post-apocalyptic and horror features with the CGI geniuses of 13th Floor EFX.



### Gray Rinehart

Gray Rinehart is the only person to have commanded an Air Force tracking station, written speeches for Presidential appointees, had music on *The Dr. Demento Show*, and been nominated for a literary award.

Gray is a Contributing Editor (the Slushmaster General) for Baen Books, and his fiction has appeared in *Analog Science Fiction & Fact*, *Asimov's Science Fiction*, *Orson Scott Card's Intergalactic Medicine Show*, and elsewhere. He is also a singer/songwriter with two CDs of mostly science-fiction-and-fantasy-inspired songs: 2013's *Truths and Lies* and *Make-Believe* and 2015's *Distorted Vision*. His story, “Ashes to Ashes, Dust to Dust, Earth to Alluvium,” was a finalist for the 2015 Hugo Award for Best Novelette.

Gray fought rocket propellant fires, refurbished space launch facilities, commanded the Air Force's largest satellite tracking station, and did other interesting things during his rather odd US Air Force career. Gray's alter ego is the Gray Man, one of several famed ghosts of South Carolina's Grand Strand, and his web site is <http://graymanwrites.com>.

### James Rippe

James Rippe is a local artist from Durham, NC and holds a BFA from William Paterson University in NJ. James has continued his passion for art with Riptowne Photography and through cosplay. His first and most well known costume was *Formal Vader*; how *Darth Vader* would dress for the empire's most formal occasions complete with a tuxedo, lightsaber cane and a glass of champagne. While creating other costumes James formed *The 105th Squad*, a non-profit costume and prop builder group which has become the largest costuming group in North Carolina. His goal is to help others learn the art of costuming and to help both local and international charities with the amazing creations that the 105th Squad produces. The 105th Squad is a registered 501(c)3 charity. More information can be found on their website.

### Tedd Roberts

Dr. Tedd Roberts (aka *Speaker to Lab Animals*) claims he was born to wonderful parents, grew up in Texas, attended university then went on to grad school. He is a Professor at a medical school where his research focuses on the hippocampus and memory. While his history since he entered university was confirmed, there have been some suspicions about his origins before that.

It has been suspected that Tedd was genetically created in a growth vat and raised by hyperintelligent rats to study and understand the human brain with an eye towards world domination. Tedd is known for his eagerness to educate others. For example: hosting educational Scotch tastings at conventions, consulting for numerous authors on matters pharmaceutical, biological, and neurological; and writing nonfiction essays



## GUESTS OF THE CONVENTION

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(found at WWW.BAEN.COM Free Library, Nonfiction 2012 2016) on matters of science in science fiction. Tedd educates others through convention appearances, his previously mentioned essays and blog. Among all of these endeavors he has also mentored numerous young minds through his involvement with the Boy Scouts of America and by offering advice to up and coming researchers and grad students.

Dr. Roberts is also known for his research, and due to this Speaker has been suspected to be one of the most likely causes of any future zombie apocalypse ... whether it would be because of a lab "accident" or because his curiosity on its effectiveness is still hotly debated. Simultaneously, his professional alter ego has been considered to be one of the most likely to find a cure for any zombie apocalypse, although some suspect he already has one waiting "just in case." In either (or both) cases it is suspected that Tedd will provide expert commentary.

Known for his high level of productivity and involvement in many activities, some suspect that Speaker has either cloned himself, or developed a treatment allowing him to no longer require sleep. Unhappy with his low level of productiveness (compared to the other personalities, not normal humans) recently started writing short stories and YA novels. Amongst his three busy lives, he found time to marry and help raise two sons, study Krav Maga & Pekiti Tiersia Kali, play trombone in a brass octet, and be an active member of his church.

### Chris Shrewsbury

Chris Shrewsbury has been attending conventions and cosplaying for almost 30 years. Growing up in WV, he's attended, volunteered at, and been staff at literally dozens of cons along the east coast. While studying Speech Pathology and Deaf Education at Liberty Univ., he became a nationally certified signlanguage interpreter and has worked with many notable entertainers, educators, and government officials. He also served a tour in the U.S. Navy as well as teaching both hearing and hearing-impaired students at the pre-school through university levels.

In recent years, Chris has developed a progressive degenerative neurological condition affecting mainly strength, balance, and heightening pain levels, causing him to spend increasing amounts of time wheelchair-bound. Also known as Rolling Thunder Cosplay, he is a vocal advocate and encourager of the disabled, especially within the fandom convention and cosplay communities. Still an active cosplayer, many of his costumes incorporate his disability. For one of his more notable creations, Chris built a detailed mobile replica of the TARDIS around his wheelchair, earning him first prize in the Doctor Who division at NC Comicon 2014.

In addition to cosplay, he is an avid convention panelist, writer,

prop fabricator, costume judge, and is currently volunteer staff at Fayetteville ComicCon and Accessibility Coordinator at Animazement.

### Rich Sigfrit

To say that Rich Sigfrit enjoys podcasting and new media would be a gross understatement. His credits include mentions in high school and collegiate papers, newspapers, PODCASTING FOR DUMMIES, and ADVANCED PODCASTING TRICKS. He has been called an innovator, having created the first fandom podcast (RotO), the first podcast for an Independent Wrestling Federation (Halo: Hardwired), and distributed the first comic book made available via podcast feed (Podcast 9). Rich was the force behind the official Troma Podcast and a former host/editor of the 501stCast, the official podcast of the 501st Stormtrooper Legion. He produced the long running Amazing Pulp Adventures Radio Show starring Mister Adventure, serving as writer and primary voice actor for recorded and live stage versions. He has done commercial voice work as the voice of CRASH, SWE and GOUGE Wrestling, Volaris phone systems, Howards RV and Fit Family NC (also providing puppeteering). He has MC'd numerous conventions and events and is the host of Thinkin' While You're Drinkin' as well as the house MC for Succubus Sorority and Nerd-Vana Burlesque under the names Dr Fantastical and Richie Muenster.

Between the podcasts, and requested voices from other shows, this father of 3 has also appeared in various audio sketches and dramas on ChronoRadio, Star Wars and Beyond, SwitchedOn Show, the Geeklabel Podcast and Dragon Pages' Wingin' It syndicated show, (plus countless guest appearances on other shows) of which he is very proud.

In his spare time, he sleeps.

### Tamsin Silver

Originally from Michigan, Tamsin L. Silver is a New York City based author who writes YA Urban Fantasy. She currently has two series out: the Windfire Saga and the Sabrina Grayson Novels. She is also the creator/writer/director for the Web Series, Skye of the Damned, produced by VampireFreaks.com and Small Town Pictures. In 2016, she hopes to add to that list with a new werewolf novel, MOON OVER MANHATTAN, and the post apocalyptic short story collection, THE CLANDESTINE CONFLICT.

While on the writing path, Tamsin graduated from Winthrop University with a BA in Theatre and a Secondary Education, and a minor in Creative Writing and Shakespeare. She's taught middle school and high school theatre as well as run two theatre companies, where she holds awards in directing for both.

# MYSTICON

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You can learn more about Ms. Silver by visiting [www.tamsinsilver.com](http://www.tamsinsilver.com) or attending one of the east coast conventions, such as ConCarolinas, DragonCon, and New York Comic Con (to name a few), where she speaks on panels and sells her wares. If you cannot catch her there, her website has links to all of her books in print and e-copy, her web series, her blogs, and social media.

### **Stephen J. Simmons**

Stephen J. Simmons started writing shortly after he retired from the Navy, primarily because his children had grown too old to listen to bedtime stories and the cats never laughed at the funny bits. After he sold over a dozen flash-fiction stories to various online publishing venues only to see every one of them promptly go out of business after buying his work, he decided to try his hand at longer formats. He has some short stories available through Naked Reader Press, and he inflicted his first novel, *THE GALILEO SYNDROME*, upon an unsuspecting public in 2014.

Stephen grew up in a tiny hamlet in the Catskill Mountains of upstate New York, and went to high school in Albany. He spent twenty-one years in the Navy, both as a nuclear operator on five fast-attack submarines and as an instructor in both of the Navy's nuclear power training schools. He currently works as the nuclear information security manager for Newport News Shipbuilding.

### **Janine K. Spendlove**

Janine K. Spendlove is a KC-130 pilot in the United States Marine Corps. In the writing world, she is an award winning author primarily known for her War of the Seasons fantasy series. She has several short stories published in various speculative fiction anthologies, to include tie-in work for Star Wars. Janine is also a member of Women in Aerospace (WIA), BroadUniverse (BU), Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America (SFWA), and is a co-founder of GeekGirlsRun (GGR), a community for geek girls (and guys) who just want to run, share, have fun, and encourage each other. A graduate of Brigham Young University, Janine loves pugs, enjoys knitting, making costumes, playing Beatles tunes on her guitar, and spending time with her family. She resides with her husband and daughter in North Carolina. She is currently at work on her next novel.

### **Christina Stiles**

Christina Stiles is an award-winning freelance tabletop roleplaying game writer, editor, and developer from South Carolina. She develops for Misfit Studios and Rogue Genius Games, and she is a publisher (Christina Stiles Presents and Misfit Studios), as well. Some of Christina's works include *BITE ME! THE GAMING GUIDE TO LYCANTHROPEs*, *ROGUE MAGE RPG: ROLEPLAYING IN THE WORLD OF FAITH HUNTER*, *MIDGARD TALES* from Kobold Press, *CHAMPIONS OF PURITY* from Paizo Publishing, and the upcoming *MEDUSA'S GUIDE FOR GAMER GIRLS*. Christina has worked for Atlas Games, Bastion Press,

Eden Studios, Goodman Games, Green Ronin Publishing, Kobold Press, Misfit Studios, Paizo Publishing, Rogue Genius Games, Super Genius Games, Troll Lord Games, and White Wolf Studios. Christina also teaches a class on writing for tabletop role-playing games at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, SC.

### **Sharon Stogner**

Sharon Stogner is the co-creator of the I Smell Sheep website ([www.ismellsheep.com](http://www.ismellsheep.com)). A quirky multi-media review site of Speculative Fiction that also provides author/actor guest posts, interviews, convention coverage and other WTF-ery. She is also a freelance fiction editor ([www.devilinthedetailsediting.com](http://www.devilinthedetailsediting.com)). Born and raised in NC she currently lives in the Triad area with her husband and their two daughters. She has a BS in Biology from UNC and a masters in Microbiology from NCSU. She loves dark urban fantasy in any form, spaghetti, and is way cooler online.

### **JT The Enginerd**

JT The Enginerd is an all-purpose geek. She obtained her Masters of Science in Engineering Mechanics with a focus in biomechanics from Virginia Tech in 2013. Her research focused on animal locomotion and included the analysis of beetle respiration and helping construct a platform to measure the force produced during an insect's jump. She also hopes to obtain a Masters of Education in Instruction and Curriculum in the near future as well as complete the requirements for her full Virginia Department of Education Teacher License. Currently, she teaches basic engineering and design to future nerdlings (aka high school students) in Henrico County, Virginia. She also serves as the advisor to her school's chapter of the Technology Student Association (TSA) and as well as the coach for the Quidditch club.

Outside of the world of science and education, The Enginerd is an avid fan of many TV and literary fandoms including Doctor Who, Star Wars, Harry Potter, Marvel, and well, it's quite a long list. To further discuss her fandom, she is the author of *FrakinSpoilers* in which she reviews the occasional movie and talks about other nerdery. In addition to TV, she also games, playing World of Warcraft as well as games across multiple platforms including Steam, Xbox 360, and Nintendo Wii and 3DS.

The Enginerd has also started to dabble in the world of cosplay and costuming. She is currently working on a Red Riding Hood Monster Hunter as well as a Viking Warrior costume. Her creative abilities also extend to the world of crafts and photography. Some have called her a wizard with duct tape. She has also had several photos featured on Upcoming section on 500px. While her true passion is animal photography, she has also been a staff photographer for RavenCon and ConCarolinas. Her photography can be viewed on 500px and Flickr.



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### White Plectrum (Keith Brinegar)

Keith Brinegar (White Plectrum) was born in North Carolina, and has since lived in Texas, Mississippi, Nevada, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Virginia, and Germany, with most of those moves due to two tours of duty in the US Air Force. He began performing at an early age, receiving his first guitar at the age of 10. During his junior high and high school years, he formed several bands, at one point reaching third place in a state Battle of the Bands. He received his BA from Winston-Salem State University between tours in the Air Force. He also recorded a demo tape in Nashville, performing a cover of Kenny Rogers' "The Gambler."

### Michael G. Williams

Michael G. Williams writes wry suburban horror: stories of monsters, macabre humor and the deceptively picturesque. He is the author of the novels PERISHABLES (2012 Laine Cunningham Novel Award), TOOTH & NAIL, DEAL WITH THE DEVIL, and the upcoming ATTEMPTED IMMORTALITY. Michael has also contributed short stories to a number of anthologies of horror and science fiction, and he is a member of the team developing the updated World of Darkness RPG WRAITH: THE OBLIVION 20TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION for Onyx Path Publishing. Michael favors first-person narration and memorable characters for their power to present the humor and humanity at the heart of horror.

Michael maintains The Perishables Project ([www.theperishablesproject.com](http://www.theperishablesproject.com)), an open-source publishing blog discussing his marketing efforts, and is an avid reader, runner, cyclist and gamer. Michael lives in Durham, NC, with his partner, two cats and more and better friends than he probably deserves. He is a brother in St. Anthony Hall and Mu Beta Psi.

### Leona R. Wisoker

Leona R. Wisoker writes a variety of speculative fiction, from experimental to horror, from fantasy to science fiction. She also loves to teach, edit (her own and other people's work), read (mostly nonfiction these days), and tend to drink mass quantities of coffee. In her less-than abundant spare time, she is a wild garden warrior, an adventurous cook, and a champion catnapper, especially if sunbeams are available.



### Allen Wold

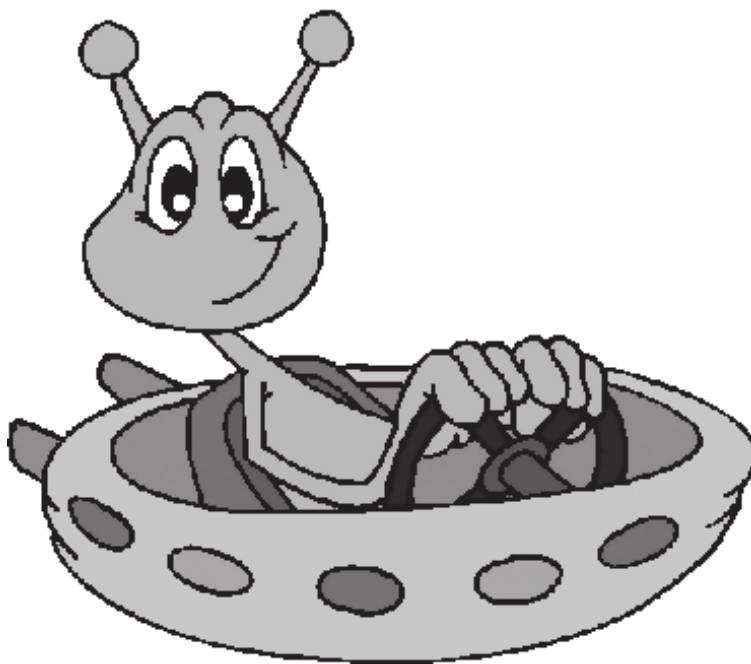
Allen Wold was born in south-western Michigan, where he began writing teeny little stories at age seven when he discovered an old portable typewriter. They're in a file cabinet somewhere. He finished high school in Tucson, Arizona, and graduated from Pomona College, in Claremont, California, where he 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 in 2003, he became a full time writer again, when his daughter, Darcy, went off to college.

He has recently published A CLOSET FOR A DRAGON AND OTHER EARLY TALES, STURGIS, FREEFOOT, and STROAD'S CROSS. Many of his earlier novels have also been re-published. Currently he is working on an epic Lovecraft/Shirley Jackson fusion, a six part space opera, a weird haunted house story, and a Faerie Story, among others.

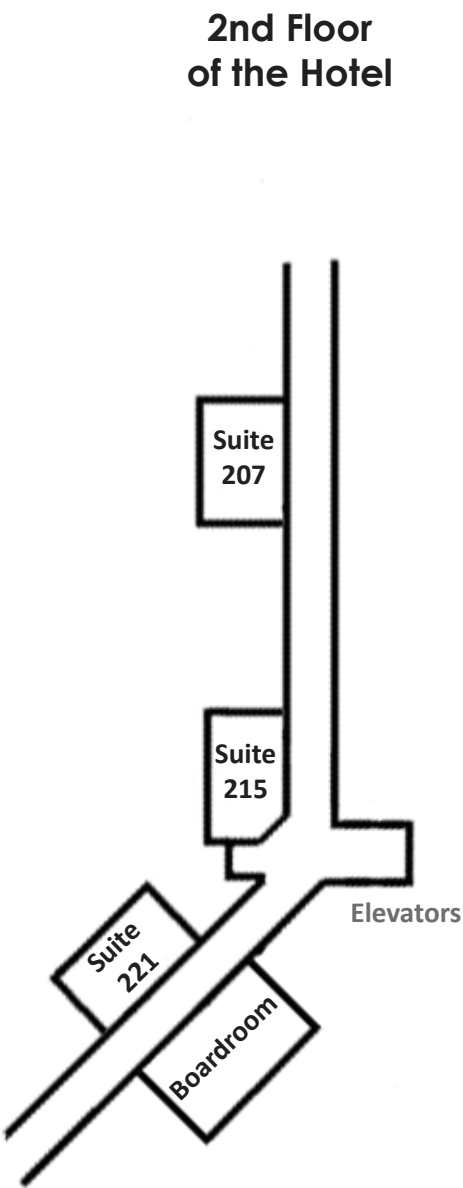
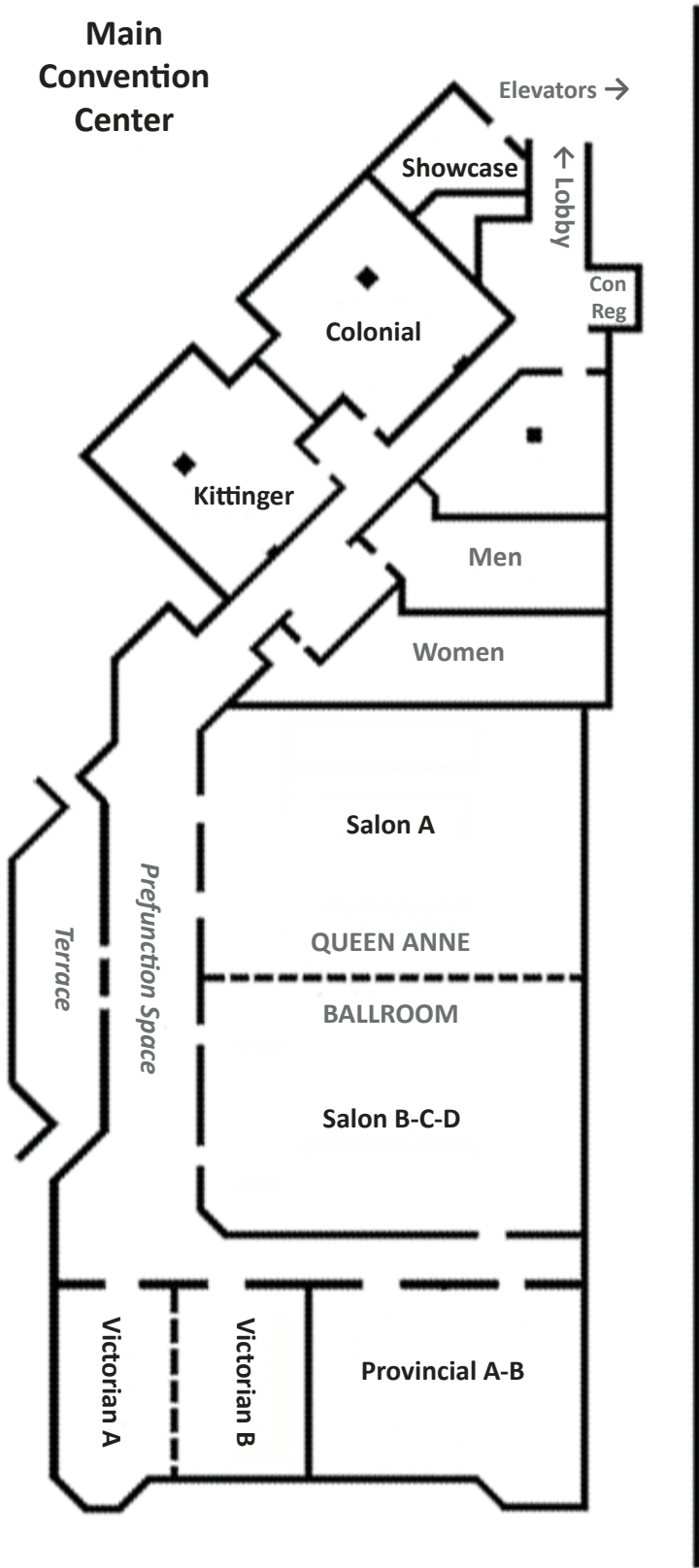
Allen has been running his Writers' Workshop at conventions for more than thirty years, and his Plotting Workshop for about six. Besides writing, he is full-time household and management, part time father, and sometimes sleeps. He is a member of SFWA.

### Darcy Wold

Darcy Wold was raised in the realm of science fiction conventions, and has never, to her knowledge, been mistaken for normal (a fact of which she is rather proud). She paints and draws vibrant abstracts and fantasy 'scapes, and has a growing smattering of clinical knowledge and copyright law from her day job as a technical writer for data standards. Darcy is also a regular panelist on Allen Wold's Writer's Workshop, where she represents that ultimate critic: the reader.



MAP OF THE CON SITE



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# DEAD HAND

Allen L. Wold

That which the dead man left behind did not remain  
confined to his empty house. It slowly reached out into the  
neighborhood, touching many who lived near by.  
Some of them died.



Coming soon from Amazon



## EVENT DESCRIPTIONS

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### FRIDAY

*You will find two types of events listed: Audience Participation (AP) and Experts Talk (ET). ET events are traditional con panels. In AP events, we encourage audience participation.*

#### **Lost In Time (ET)**

**FRI - 1:00 PM**

Salon B-C-D

So your story takes place in the past? How do you get real factual information about that time period? What resources (other than Google) can you look to? When do you determine you've researched enough and it's time to write? Our panelists discuss the hows and whys of researching for your writing.

Panelists: Tally Johnson (M), David B. Coe, Glenda Finkelstein, Stuart Jaffe, Tamsin L. Silver

#### **Independent Films: Changing the Industry? (ET)**

**FRI – 1:00 PM**

Provincial A-B

Independent Films are becoming more and more popular. From smaller budgets to more creative control, how are independent films changing the nature of the film industry?

Panelists: Jennifer McCollom (M), Jason Gilbert, JR Ralls

#### **Podcasting Your Passion (ET)**

**FRI – 1:00 PM**

Victorian A

Podcasting – from Serial to Nerdist, from Pharos Project to Smodcast, there's a number of online radio shows that demonstrate that there's an audience for anything. But how might you get started? Tips and tricks by local podcasters on different formats for the curious and quizzical.

Panelists: Gary Mitchel (M), Ken Khral, Alex Matsuo, Rich Sigfrit, Michael G. Williams

#### **How Star Trek Created Our World (ET)**

**FRI – 1:00 PM**

Suite 215

An astounding number of indispensable elements of modern life bear uncanny resemblances to things depicted in the iconic series, Star Trek. We may not have transporters yet, but what things from Star Trek's "future" are realities right now?

Panelists: Steven S. Long (M), JT the Enginerd, Chris Shrewsbury

#### **The Role of Politics in F/SF (ET)**

**FRI – 2:00 PM**

Salon B-C-D

Our panelists discuss the finer points of politics and how to incorporate them into the story. NOTE: We discourage bringing real world politics into the discussion.

Panelists: Steven S. Long (M), Jason Gilbert, Larry N. Martin, Tamsin L. Silver, Leona R. Wisoker

#### **Terrible Reasons Not To Include Diverse Characters in Fiction (ET)**

**FRI – 2:00 PM**

Provincial A-B

Authors are becoming more and more aware of how diversity can impact their readership. So how do you incorporate diversity from race to sexual orientation to transgender into your stories respectfully and honestly?

Panelists: Stuart Jaffe (M), Samantha Bryant, AJ Hartley, Darin Kennedy, Emily Lavin Leverett

#### **I Wouldn't Run Unless Zombies Were Chasing Me (ET)**

**FRI – 2:00 PM**

Victorian A

People who can't get into exercise for its own sake have more alternatives than ever. Wii fit, DDR and other fitness games have helped. There are events like "Run for Your Life", a 5k race where "zombies" chase "survivors" overland and through obstacles. There are all kinds of classes from dance to circus acrobatics, some of them cheap or even free. Come learn about the wide world of alternative exercise experiences.

Panelists: JT the Enginerd (M), Steven Barnes, Ken Khral, Alex Matsuo, JR Ralls

#### **Twistin' With the Wizard (AP)**

**FRI – 2:00 PM**

Victorian B

Learn to make creative, geeky balloon sculptures, or share a design of your own! Balloons and pumps supplied. Recommended for ages 7 and up.

Panelist: Mark MacDicken

#### **Getting To Know Your Aliens and Other Non-Humans (ET)**

**FRI – 2:00 PM**

Suite 215

OK, you've designed your fantasy or alien world, or you've selected a real planet from NASA's now vast catalog. What physical aspects of that world, or the nature of any (likely varied) cultures that you've developed there, might be useful in providing insights for the design of a typical resident's personality? An atypical resident's personality? What other sources might there be for clues to personality development?

Panelists: Paula S. Jordan (M), Glenda Finkelstein, Michael G. Williams

### Self/Indie Publishing: Marketing (ET)

FRI – 3:00 PM

Salon B-C-D

A common misconception among authors is that your book is your brand. Wrong! YOU are your brand! So...How do you draw attention to your brand and use it to gather sales? We will show you how to build a great brand!

Panelists: Chris Kennedy (M), Melissa Gilbert, Stuart Jaffe, John G. Hartness, Sharon Stogner

### Love Their Works, Hate Their Views (ET)

Fri – 3:00 PM

Provincial A-B

People are wondering whether the World Fantasy Award should be changed given Lovecraft's views on race, and even Heinlein remains problematical for many readers. What do we do about authors whose political, religious, gender and racial views we find objectionable? Do we view their work solely on its own? Do we make allowances for cultural standards in past times or other places - as with Shakespeare? If we hold to our standards, are we rejecting a good work unjustly?

Panelists: Laura Haywood-Cory (M), Ronald T. Garner, Emily Lavin Leverett, Misty Massey, Michael G. Williams

### Writing Urban Fantasy beyond Werewolves and Vampires and Witches (ET)

FRI – 3:00 PM

Victorian A

The idea that there are wondrous, yet dangerous, beings living hidden amongst us is so immensely attractive that certain tropes may have been overused. How can a writer create that sense of dangerous wonder amidst familiarity without invoking vampires or werewolves?

Panelists: Misty Massey (M), AJ Hartley, Emily Lavin Leverett, Margaret S. McGraw, Tamsin L. Silver

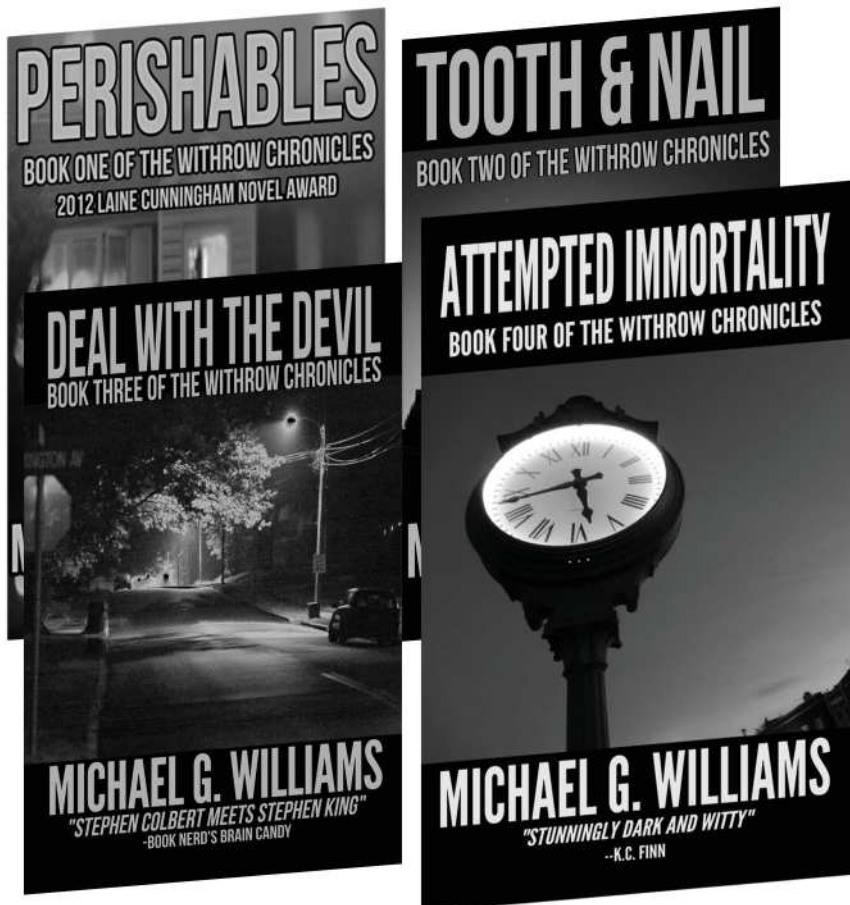
### Plotting Workshop by Allen Wold (AP)

FRI – 3:00 PM

Victorian B

Allen's plotting workshop takes you through the elements of plot. What is it? How do you do it? And how does it interact with other aspects of writing such as characters and dialogue. This is a 2-hour workshop.

Panelist: Allen Wold



## THE WITHROW CHRONICLES

This is what happens when North Carolina's most cantankerous vampire has to save the world:

Adventure, acrobatics, zombies, terrifying comedy, hilarious horror, After-Thanksgiving sales, espionage, road trips, rooftop chases, homegrown superheroes (and supervillains), murder, mayhem, hackers, technopagans, trespassing bibliomancers, mix tapes, smart dogs, undead cousins, potluck dinners, post-apocalyptic recipes, guaranteed closure, and more strange nooks and corners of North Carolina than you even knew exist.

AVAILABLE FROM THE AUTHOR AT CONGREGATE:

## ATTEMPTED IMMORTALITY

FOURTH IN A FIVE-BOOK SERIES.

## EVENT DESCRIPTIONS

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### **75 Years of the All American Hero (AP)**

**FRI – 3:00 PM**

Suite 215

2016 marks the 75th anniversary of two of the world's most beloved and recognizable superheroes. In 2015, Wonder Woman was featured in three ongoing series for the first time ever and she recently made her big screen debut alongside Superman and Batman. Captain America has spent many decades entertaining fans, both in comics and films. Join this year's panel as we reflect on these two American Heroes' past, present and future, as well as their similarities and differences.

Panelists: Angela Pritchett (M), Todd Lacey, Maya Preisler

### **On The Difference Between Screenplays & Novels (ET)**

**FRI – 4:00 PM**

Provincial A-B

Does writing a book and writing a screenplay require two completely different skill sets? What if you already have the story? How do you go about telling that story through an entirely different medium? Our panelists discuss the differences between the two forms of popular storytelling.

Panelists: Michael D. Pederson (M), Steven Barnes, Glenda Finkelstein, JR Ralls, Tamsin L. Silver

### **Steampunk, Victorians and the Occult (ET)**

**FRI – 4:00 PM**

Victorian A

For a society that was so morality-conscious, it seems like there were a fair number of people (aristocrats even) who became interested in the occult around the end of the 19th century—performing séances, reading tarot, joining neo-pagan societies like the Golden Dawn, and so on. Why was occultism so popular, and how did the rest of society react to it?

Panelists: Gail Z. Martin (M), Braxton Ballew, Sarah Black, Tally Johnson, Margaret S. McGraw

### **How to Introduce SF/F to Kids under 13 (AP)**

**FRI – 4:00 PM**

Suite 215

There are lots of books out there for young adults. But how do you introduce the genre to fans in the 8 -13 age range? What books do you recommend?

Panelists: Angela Pritchett (M), Samantha Bryant, Jason Gilbert

### **Concert: White Plectrum**

**FRI – 4:30 PM**

Salon B-C-D

### **Evolving Role of Authors (ET)**

**FRI – 5:00 PM**

Provincial A-B

Given the rapidly evolving role of authors in publishing, particularly in regards to means of publication — i.e., self-publishing, shared responsibility publishing, traditional publishing, etc., how does a new author decide what is the best path for them?

Panelists: Stephen Mark Rainey (M), John G. Hartness, Chris Kennedy, Karen McCullough, Tamsin L. Silver

### **The Art of the Short Story (ET)**

**FRI – 5:00 PM**

Victoria A

From Anthologies to Magazines to freebies from your favorite author, the short story seems to be making a comeback. Our panelists discuss their best tips and suggestions on writing in a condensed amount of words.

Panelists: Gail Z. Martin (M), David B. Coe, John G. Hartness

### **Photography Workshop for Cosplayers (AP)**

**FRI – 5:00 PM**

Victorian B

Join Jennifer McCollom and Angela Pritchett as they walk you through make-up and posing tips for cosplayers when it comes to photography. Professional photographers James Rippe and Paul Cory will be on hand to offer the photographers "eye." Bring a costume and your Make-up Bag for the most impact!

This is a 2-hour workshop.

Panelists: Paul Cory, Jennifer McCollom, Angela Pritchett, James Rippe

### **Quiet Space**

**FRI – 5:00 PM**

Suite 215

For individuals with auditory, visual, or sensory issues, or those just needing a quiet place to get away, this room is available for use during this time. Please, no talking or electronics.

### **Arts & Crafts (Kids Track)**

**FRI – 5:00 PM**

Suite 207

Take time to get down to the arty basics. Fantasy and science-fiction themed coloring pages at various difficulty levels. Markers and colored pencils will be provided. Grownups also welcome.

NOTE: This is NOT daycare. You must remain with your child(ren).



### **Concert: Gray Rinehart**

**FRI – 5:30 PM**

Salon B-C-D

### **The Woman Unscorned (ET)**

**FRI – 6:00 PM**

Provincial A-B

For far too long, the go-to conflict for female characters was rape. We think it's time writers stopped depending on such a horrific act to move their stories along. Listen to our pros discuss ways to motivate, impede, and address change in female characters that move beyond rape.

Panelists: Misty Massey (M), Laura Haywood-Cory, Nicole Givens Kurtz, Emily Lavin Leverett, Margaret S. McGraw

### **Developing Characters beyond a Single Dimension (AP)**

**FRI – 6:00 PM**

Victorian A

Learn how to take the characters you create and develop them into beings that your reader will care about and how this process drives the story forward. Ask questions of our expert panel about specific characters and challenges you face.

Panelists: Glenda Finkelstein (M), Paula S. Jordan, Darin Kennedy, Larry N. Martin, Leona R. Wisoker

### **Do You Believe In Ghosts? (ET)**

**FRI – 6:00 PM**

Suite 215

Join several of our experts in the paranormal as they share urban legends and encounters with Southern Ghosts.

Panelists: Tally Johnson (M), Cheralyn Lambeth, Alex Matsuo

### **Kids and Cons (Kids Track)**

**FRI – 6:00 PM**

Suite 207

Attending a convention with small children can be challenging. Panelists and audience members will share what worked for them. While the adults are talking, "kids" can meet each other and hang out in the craft area in the same room.

### **E Komo Mei (Opening Ceremonies)**

**FRI - 7:00 PM**

Salon B-C-D

E Komo Mei or "Welcome" in Hawaiian. This is the version of our opening ceremonies.

Door prizes will be given out.

Host: Allen Wold

Panelists: Steven Barnes (WGOH), Lindsey Look (AGOH), AJ Hartley (Special Guest), Valentine Wolfe (Special Guest)

### **A.I. - Science Fiction and Fact (ET)**

**FRI – 7:00 PM**

Provincial A-B

When someone like Stephen Hawking calls Artificial Intelligence "the worst mistake mankind could make," is this based on science fact or science fiction? When Microsoft has to pull its first AI as it becomes racist and horrible, are there inherent safeguards, possible mandatory artificial safeguards that need to be included? And fear aside, what could real artificial intelligence do for all intelligent life forms?

Panelists: JT the Engineerd (M), Jim Beall, Darin Kennedy, Stephen Simmons

### **Intro to Costuming (ET)**

**FRI – 7:00 PM**

Victorian A

Is there a costume you are set on completing, but not sure where to start? Join experienced costumers to learn the basics of navigating your first (or second, etc.) costume. This panel will teach you about researching your costume, identifying resources, beginning the creation process, and what to do once you've finished. From concept to cosplay, let these experienced costumers guide you down the right path!

Panelists: Cheralyn Lambeth (M), Todd Lacey, Matt Pennick, Daphne Reeder

### **Flabbergast the Wizard**

**FRI – 8:00 PM**

Provincial A-B

Flabbergast, the time-traveling wizard, stops into Geek Summer Camp, with his puppet pals and puzzling presentations of prestidigitation to amaze and amuse children and adults alike. Prepare to be Flabbergasted!

Suitable for all Ages

Panelist: Flabbergast the Wizard

### **The Flawed Hero (ET)**

**FRI – 8:00 PM**

Victorian A

Antiheroes generally are characters who have to do good things but also have qualities that most standard heroes would not have, such as being willing to kill or having a problem with narcotics. Antiheroes have to be flawed in some way and when we cheer them we are meant to examine ourselves. From Punisher to Dexter, what is it that we can learn from the antihero?

Panelists: Gary Mitchel (M), Darin Kennedy, Nicole Givens Kurtz, Alexandra Christian, Leona R. Wisoker

## EVENT DESCRIPTIONS

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### **Zombie Defense: Urban Survival School (AP)**

**FRI – 8:00 PM**

Victorian B

This workshop will teach basic moves and techniques to protect yourself from attack, enabling you to escape, evade, take cover or fight back if necessary. The techniques are reflexive and involve natural movements, easy to learn by anyone regardless of sex, age or body type. In addition, they are fun and can be incorporated into daily activity, exercise, and work-home routines.

This workshop will be 90 minutes.

Panelists: Tedd Roberts, AFKA Senior Master Patrick Macon

### **Geeky Rants (AP)**

**FRI – 8:00 PM**

Suite 215

This panel is an amazingly entertaining discussion that lets folks good-naturedly vent on what's wrong in their chosen fandom. Whether it's the cancellation of Firefly or exactly how "fast" is a parsec, this never-the-same-twice event combines the best (and worst!) elements of audience-participation comedy and couples therapy. Not to be missed, this will be the highlight of Summer Camp!

Panelists: Chris Shrewsbury, Rich Sigfrit

### **Arts & Crafts (Kids Track)**

**FRI – 8:00 PM**

Suite 207

Take time to get down to the arty basics. Fantasy and science-fiction themed coloring pages at various difficulty levels. Markers and colored pencils will be provided. Grownups also welcome.

NOTE: This is NOT daycare. You must remain with your child(ren).

### **Southern Voices Book Launch**

**FRI – 8:30 PM**

Salon B-C-D

Join several of our authors as they celebrate the launch of their latest books! We'll have food and tea and a chance to win prizes and of course, buy their books!

Authors: Samantha Bryant, David B. Coe, John G. Hartness, Stuart Jaffe, Chris Kennedy, Cheralyn Lambeth, Gail Z. Martin, Michael G. Williams

### **Beyond The Boob Window: Practical and Stylish Fighting Clothes for Your Intrepid Heroine (ET)**

**FRI - 9:00 PM**

Victorian A

It's been made fun of in comics, and anthologies, so why do our heroines still wear the chain mail bikini or armor that covers everything but the breasts? Our panel of women authors and artists discuss how to draw or write clothes that make sense for your heroine, whether practical or sexy.

Panelists: Janine K. Spendlove (M), Lindsey Look, Maya Preisler, Darcy Wold

### **Side Kicks - Who Needs 'Em (ET)**

**FRI – 9:00 PM**

Suite 215

Your sidekicks can play to your Main character's strengths or weaknesses. They can do and say things your main character can't. How do you craft a good sidekick and is one enough?

Panelists: Karen McCullough (M), Darin Kennedy, Larry N. Martin

### **Name That Show (AP)**

**FRI – 9:30 PM**

Provincial A-B

Similar to the classic TV game show "Name That Tune," contestants will bid on how few actors it will take for them to name the SF themed show.

Host: Jennifer McCollom

### **Concert: Valentine Wolfe**

**FRI – 10:00 PM**

Salon B-C-D

### **Podcasting Workshop (AP)**

**FRI – 10:00 PM**

Victorian B

Members of the podcast Figures Sold Separately will help you learn how to find, subscribe and listen to podcasts for learning, or just for fun! You'll also learn how to create and share your own podcast.

Panelists: Renee Hill, Car2-D2, Ken Khral

### **Finding the Right Editor (ET)**

**FRI – 10:00 PM**

Suite 215

Finding an editor is a bit like dating – you have to try a number before you find someone who is the best match. Our panelists' share some of the questions that you should ask to make sure you are finding the best match for your work.

Panelists: Sharon Stogner (M), Melissa Gilbert, Leona R. Wisoker

# RAVENCON 12

WILLIAMSBURG, VA • APRIL 28–30, 2017

Author Guest of Honor:

**Mercedes Lackey**

Artist Guest of Honor:

**Larry Dixon**



Special Artist Guest of Honor:

**Ed Beard Jr.**

Fan Guest of Honor:

**Chris Addotta-Smith**

RavenCon is a Science Fiction & Fantasy Convention that features over twelve continuous tracks of programming (over 300 hours!). More than 100 writers, fans, artists, scientists, musicians, gamers, filmmakers, and costumers will be available for discussions, panels, readings, and signings. There's also anime, concerts, parties, workshops, children's programming, vendors, and our famous Gaming Room that never closes. We guarantee, there's always something fun to do at RavenCon! *More info online at [ravencon.com](http://ravencon.com).*



*Held at the DoubleTree Williamsburg—50 Kingsmill Road, 757-259-5697*

***THE CON OF OPPORTUNITY!***



## EVENT DESCRIPTIONS

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### **Campfire Songs (AP)**

**FRI – 10:30 PM**

Victorian A

Remember singing around the campfire? Well, come do it again. Join Gray Rinehart around a friendly “campfire” and sing into the night.

Panelist: Gray Rinehart

### **From Who’s Perspective? (ET)**

**FRI – 11:00 PM**

Suite 215

Traditionally, urban fantasies have been written in first person, but now we’re seeing third person limited, third person omniscient, etc. What are the advantages and disadvantages of each, especially considering the genre?

Panelists: Margaret S. McGraw (M), Alexandra Christian, Darin Kennedy

### **Ask a Mad Scientist (AP)**

**FRI - 11:30 PM**

Provincial A-B

You know those panels where a bunch of stuffy scientists talk about science in fancy language that goes over your head but everyone comes out feeling 20 IQ points smarter? Yeah, didn’t think so, and that’s good, because this is not one of those panels. Here’s your chance to corner some scientists in a panel room for a Q&A on new, funny, important, weird and/or confusing science. It’s late in the evening, so let’s see if we can have some fun with it

Panelists: Tedd Roberts (M), Jim Beall, JT the Engineerd, Stephen Simmons, Darcy Wold

### **Ghost Stories (ET)**

**FRI – 11:30 PM**

Victorian A

Join Tally Johnson as he tells scary stories around the “campfire.”

Panelist: Tally Johnson

### **This One Time at Geek Summer Camp (ET)**

**FRI – 12:00 Midnight**

Salon B-C-D

You can guess where this is going... Join Lexxx as she shares with you some of her more risqué stories.

Panelist: Alexandra Christian

## **SATURDAY**

*You will find two types of events listed: Audience Participation (AP) and Experts Talk (ET). ET events are traditional con panels. In AP events, we encourage audience participation.*

### **Tai Chi with Steven Barnes (AP)**

**SAT – 9:00 AM**

Provincial A-B

Steven Barnes (WGoH) will be conducting a Tai Chi workshop on Saturday and Sunday mornings during ConGregarate. This will be a gentle exercise available to all skill levels. Wear loose clothes—it’s a great way to wake up in the morning!

Panelist: Steven Barnes

### **Genre Blending: SF/F and More (ET)**

**SAT – 9:00 AM**

Victorian A

Mixing science fiction and fantasy with other genres like mystery and westerns can give you a genre cocktail that is great...or very, very bad. Some authors have been hugely successful, while others have crashed and burned. Our experts tell you how to get it just right.

Panelists: Chris Kennedy (M), Gail Z. Martin, Larry N. Martin, Stephen Mark Rainey, Tamsin L. Silver

### **Duct Tape Bowties Are Cool! (Kids Track)**

**SAT – 9:00 AM**

Victorian B

Come learn about how to create and craft with duct tape. This workshop will guide you through the process of creating your very own duct tape bow or bow-tie and you will even leave with a detailed set of instructions to repeat the process on your own.

\$5 fee.

Panelist: JT the Engineerd

### **The Future of Podcasting (ET)**

**SAT – 9:00 AM**

Suite 215

What is the future of podcasting? There have been some great leaders who have contributed those initial steps, and some great innovators along the way, but now what? What can podcasters do to innovate the format?

Panelists: Gary Mitchel (M), Renee Hill, Alex Matsuo

### **Iron Maker**

**SAT – 9:00 AM**

Salon B-C-D

Two teams from the 105th Squad will face off to build a SF themed costume with previously unseen materials that will be provided at the competition. The teams will be limited to two hours, and a “curve ball” may be injected into the competition midway through the build.

Panelists: Cheralyn Lambeth, Matt Pennick, James Rippe, other members of the 105th

### **Superheroes A=and Why We Need Them? (AP)**

**SAT – 10:00 AM**

Victorian A

Superhero films and shows are more popular than ever. Is it because many of us secretly wish to be heroes ourselves? Share why you love superheroes, which ones you identify with and why and how they have inspired you to be a hero in your own life. Perhaps even discuss ways in which we can make a bigger impact on the world and be even more heroic.

Panelists: Maya Preisler (M), Samantha Bryant, JT the Engineerd, John G. Hartness, Steven S. Long

### **Allen’s Regionally Famous Writers’ Workshop (AP)**

**SAT – 10:00 AM**

Victorian B

Allen has been providing conventions with his workshop for many years. Joined by established authors, he provides a safe, creative environment to practice writing. New and established writers can benefit from this workshop. Limited attendance. Please sign up at Registration. This is a 2 hr. workshop.

Panelists: Allen Wold (M), Karen McCullough, Stephen Mark Rainey, Leona R Wisoker, Darcy Wold

### **Conventions and Cosplay with Disabilities (AP)**

**SAT – 10:00 AM**

Suite 215

An engaging discussion exploring the challenges and opportunities faced by those dealing with many types of disabilities, from sensory and mobility impairments to “invisible conditions” like ADHD and social anxiety disorder. In a safe and supportive environment, we’ll share experiences and information aimed at enhancing the fandom convention, with a special emphasis on the amazing world of cosplay.

Panelist: Chris Shrewsbury

### **Crowdfunding Your Vision (ET)**

**SAT – 10:30 AM**

Provincial A-B

Kickstarter. Patreon. Donation Buttons. How can writers and publishers use crowdfunding platforms to make more and better art? How do you create a reward system that makes it worth it for readers and consumers to fund your project? Our panel of pros discuss their own experiences, offer advice, and break down the pros and cons of various crowdfunding methods.

Panelists: Gail Z. Martin (M), Shawn J. Durlington, Ronald T. Garner, JR Ralls

### **Fixed Points in Time (ET)**

**SAT – 11:00 AM**

Suite 215

There are fixed points in time, points that not even The Doctor can change. Our Panelists discuss some of those points and the impact it has on The Doctor and his story.

Panelists: Angela Pritchett (M), Car2-D2, Maya Preisler

### **ConGregarate Camp Badges (Kids Track)**

**SAT – 11:00 AM**

Suite 207

Kids! Come one, come all, to ConGregarate’s Geek Summer Camp. Join us in the kids track and make your summer camp badge sashes. Then attend every Kids track programming you can!! For every programming event you attend, you will receive a merit “badge” to apply to your sash or mask. Let’s see just how many “badges” you can get!

### **The Daily Lives of Fans (AP)**

**SAT – 11:30 AM**

Provincial A-B

Are you weird, geeky, or a total nerd, and proud of it? Do you express your fannishness in daily life, or do you tone it down for your day job? Come participate in a discussion and share how you show your fannish colors.

Panelists: Janine K. Spendlove (M), Renee Hill, Margaret S. McGraw, Gary Mitchel, Chris Shrewsbury

### **What Can Genre Authors Learn From Shakespeare? (ET)**

**SAT – 11:30 AM**

Victorian A

What can present day writers of genre fiction learn from history’s most successful writer? This presentation by international bestselling author, AJ Hartley, explores some of the techniques Shakespeare used to please his audience, make a fortune, and produce some of the most enduring literature of all time.

Panelist: AJ Hartley

## EVENT DESCRIPTIONS

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### **Concert: Blibbering Humdingers**

**SAT – 11:30 AM**

Salon B-C-D

### **Photography Workshop for Photographers (AP)**

**SAT – 12:00 PM**

Victorian B

Professional photographers James Rippe and Paul Cory will provide some hands on suggestions to help your pictures look more like art, rather than something snapped on your smartphone. Models will be available. Cosplayers will be posing for the workshop attendees, so make sure you bring your camera.

Participants should plan to show up within 10 minutes of the scheduled start time. When we finish with the introductory discussion, the workshop will be mobile to give participants a chance to work in real-con conditions. Actual workshop 2 hours.

Panelists: James Rippe, Paul Cory, Daphne Reeder, Angela Pritchett

### **The Practical Physiology of Immortality (ET)**

**SAT – 12:00 PM**

Suite 215

OK, so we finally learn how to prevent gene replication errors, harness stem cell regression in situ to replace worn out organs and effectively halt aging. But now the brain is an organ with finite synapses and therefore a finite information storage capacity -- so how does it handle ten centuries of information and experience? What gets retained, and what gets permanently forgotten? Is the human brain even structured to handle this?

Panelists: Tedd Roberts (M), JT the Engineerd, JR Ralls

### **The Magic Of Flabbergast (Kids Track)**

**SAT – 12:00 PM**

Suite 207

Join the magical Wizard, Flabbergast for a little close-up, kid friendly magic. Kids Track Merit Badge Eligible.

Panelist: Flabbergast the Wizard

### **Where to Find Diversity in Media and Books (ET)**

**SAT – 12:30 PM**

Victorian A

We have to admit, the entertainment arena is saturated with science fiction and fantasy, and we are seeing a renaissance of diverse speculative fiction. This panel will help you cut down the mass quantity of choices by pointing you to our “must see/ must read” titles that do a superb job in portraying people of color, women, LGBTQ, and people with physical and mental differences.

Panelists: Donna Eason, Color of Fandom

### **Inside The ConGregarate Studio with Steven Barnes (ET)**

**SAT – 1:00 PM**

Salon B-C-D

Inside the ConGregarate Studio, Michael Pederson interviews Steven Barnes on everything from Writing to working in Hollywood and ends with the infamous 10 questions.

Panelists: Steven Barnes, Michael D. Pederson

### **From Corvus to Keyhole -- Shipyards: Past, Present, and Science Fiction (ET)**

**SAT – 1:00 PM**

Victorian A

This panel discusses (complete with slides and videos) the role of shipyards from the days of the Roman Empire through today and into the future, including Dave Weber’s Honorverse with its massive fleets.

Panelist: Jim Beall

### **105th Demo/Workshop (AP)**

**SAT – 1:00 PM**

Victorian B

The 105th Squad is a multi-genre Costume and Prop Builder group. We refer to our members as engineers, because they work together in building various projects. Take advantage of this workshop to share your work and learn from others. Feel free to ask members for tips as they are here to help

Panelists: James Rippe, Members of the 105th

### **Ready? Aim! Oops! (ET)**

**SAT – 1:00 PM**

Suite 215

Writing SF and fantasy almost always includes some weaponry. This panel will cover common misconceptions about how weapons work, and the best ways to include them in your stories.

Panelists: Misty Massey (M), Ronald T. Garner, Edward McKeown

### **Creating the Well-Dressed Puppet (Kids Track)**

**SAT – 1:00 PM**

Suite 207

Join Master prop-maker Cheralyn Lambeth as she takes you through basic puppet making.

Puppet Kits are \$5. See Sched.org for list of available kits.

Limited attendance. Sign up at Registration. Kids Track Merit Badge Eligible.

Panelist: Cheralyn Lambeth



### **Mixing History and Magic (ET)**

**SAT – 1:30 PM**

Provincial A-B

Naomi Novik's Temeraire books address this by keeping many elements of history familiar but dramatically changing others. In Charlaine Harris's Southern Vampire Mysteries, paranormal entities have always been there, but they hid from ordinary humans for safety and therefore lacked the ability to influence the course of history. How do other authors of historical fantasy and urban fantasy balance the inherently world-changing nature of magic with the desire to layer it on top of the world we have?

Panelists: Gail Z. Martin (M), David B. Coe, Melissa Gilbert, Tamsin L. Silver, Sharon Stogner

### **Protagonists with PTSD (ET)**

**SAT – 2:00 PM**

Suite 215

How does an author make a character with PTSD more realistic and believable? What are some things that could make them more believable/faithful to people who actually suffer from the disorder? And, what are some common misconceptions/clichés that you have seen in television or movies that you're just sick and tired of when it comes to PTSD, and should be avoided?

Panelists: Tedd Roberts (M), Ronald T. Garner, Janine K. Spendlove

### **Songs and S'more (Kids Track)**

**SAT – 2:00 PM**

Suite 207

Join us as we sample the camp favorite of marshmallow, chocolate and graham crackers and sing some songs.

**\*\*Note:** the ConSuite is not an allergy safe zone.

Panelist: Gray Rinehart

### **HollyWeird Squares (AP)**

**SAT – 2:30 PM**

Salon B-C-D

Do you have what it takes to play "Tic-Tac-Toe"? Take your chance by signing up to agree or disagree with the answers given by our celebrity squares. Contestants will be drawn randomly from the audience. Prize will be awarded to the player who wins the most rounds.

Host: Steven S. Long

Squares: Figment, Mark MacDicken, White Plectrum, John G. Hartness, Michael D. Pederson, Rich Sigfrit, Misty Massey, JT the Engineerd, Gary Mitchel

### **Star Wars Saved My Life (ET)**

**SAT – 2:30 PM**

Provincial A-B

STAR WARS SAVED MY LIFE is a journey like no other, designed to help you tap into the very creative source that spawned our most popular cinematic entertainments. Join Steven Barnes, as he elaborates on life skills applied to body, mind, relationships, and finances.

Panelist: Steven Barnes (WGoH)

### **Be the Next Pixar - 3D Modeling and Animation for Anyone (Blender Workshop) (AP)**

**SAT – 2:30 PM**

Victorian A

For anyone interested in getting a start on 3D work, whether for illustration, animation, or game development, Blender presents a powerful tool with an enormous advantage: it's free! But most people's initial reaction is that it's too complicated. Artist John Grigni will help you past that first impression and help you start creating models in 3D. This workshop is intended as an overview of the capabilities of the program, a tutorial on some of the basics, and a gateway to the large online Blender community, sharing tutorials and assets, both free and paid.

Panelist: John Grigni

### **Quiet Space**

**SAT – 3:00 PM**

Suite 215

For individuals with auditory, visual, or sensory issues, or those just needing a quiet place to get away, this room is available for use during this time. Please no talking or electronics.

### **Mask Creations (Kids Track)**

**SAT – 3:00 PM**

Suite 207

Every Hero has a secret identity. Keep yours safe by creating a mask of your own. Kids Track Merit Badge Eligible.

### **Leather Workshop (AP)**

**SAT – 3:30 PM**

Victorian B

Ribbons and Rivets teaches the class how to etch and dye a leather cuff. Workshop Fee: \$20

Panelist: Matt Pennick

### **Baen Traveling Road Show**

**SAT – 4:00 PM**

Provincial A-B

Join the Slushmaster General from Baen Books, Gray Rinehart, as he shares upcoming releases and gives away Baen swag!

Panelist: Gray Rinehart

## EVENT DESCRIPTIONS

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### **The Not So Secret Fandom (AP)**

**SAT - 4:00 PM**

Victorian A

It used to be that fandom was a secret room that only those in fandom knew about and played in, but now the door is wide open, with a big neon sign hanging above it. How do we feel now that mainstream media is aware of our playroom and parading our works to the general public? What are the wows, as well as the woes, of fandom being in the public eye?

Panelists: Michael G. Williams (M), Alexandra Christian, Shawn J. Durlington, Ronald T. Garner, Laura Haywood-Cory

### **Superheroes and the Law (ET)**

**SAT – 4:00 PM**

Suite 215

Are mutants a protected class? Who foots the bill when a hero damages property while fighting a villain? What happens legally when a character comes back from the dead? Our esteemed panelists talk about the ramifications of being a superhero and how the law could affect them.

Panelists: Steven S. Long (M), Samantha Bryant, Edward McKeown

### **STEM For Kids (Kids Track)**

**SAT – 4:00 PM**

Suite 207

Join several of our guests as they provide a time to do some interactive science and engineering activities for the children.

Panelists: Stephen Simmons, JT the Engineer

### **Inside the ConGregarate Studio with Lindsey Look (ET)**

**SAT – 4:30 PM**

Salon B-C-D

Inside the ConGregarate Studio, Michael Pederson interviews Lindsey Look about her experiences as an artist and ends with the infamous 10 questions.

Panelists: Lindsey Look, Michael D. Pederson

### **Raiding Your Closet for Costumes (ET)**

**SAT – 5:00 PM**

Victorian A

Old clothes from the back of your closet or from the racks at your favorite thrift store are a great way to build a foundation for costumes and cosplay. Repurposing that leisure suit or ruffled shirt into components for a superhero or supervillain is not only an inexpensive alternative, but also requires little to no sewing skills. Thanks to the wonder of modern no-sew components, fabric paint, glue, and other readily available items, even a novice costumer can create a great look.

Panelists: Angela Pritchett (M), Todd Lacey, Jennifer McCollom, Daphne Reeder

### **Oh No, Tokyo! Here Comes Godzilla! (AP)**

**SAT – 5:00 PM**

Suite 215

Toho's Godzilla returns 2016, Legendary's version in 2018 and there's talk of Godzilla appearing in Pacific Rim 3, Godzilla is returning in a big way in the upcoming years. Panelists discuss the original Kaiju and how it's changed over the years, and seek the audience's input in the best versions of Godzilla.

Panelists: Stephen Mark Rainey (M), Jason Gilbert, Gary Mitchel

### **Concert: Valentine Wolfe**

**SAT – 6:00 PM**

Salon B-C-D

### **How Would Your Fight Scene Work? (AP)**

**SAT – 6:00 PM**

Victorian A

How do you make sure your fight scenes are clear but keep up the pacing required of the rest of the story? Talk with our panel about plausibility in fight scenes, what a writer needs to know about hand-to-hand combat, weapons, and more.

Panelists: Janine K. Spendlove (M), Steven Barnes, David B. Coe, Darin Kennedy, Stuart Jaffe

### **Science Research for the SF Writer (AP)**

**SAT – 6:00 PM**

Victorian B

There is a relationship between science and science-fiction. Often it is science that sparks the writer's imagination, but science writing and fiction writing are not the same. NOT a cut-and-dried lecture, this workshop features expert scientist authors who will describe a general approach to research in their fields, then work with you to address your key science-related interests and concerns. They will help you to refine your writing so that you can portray the science in your story realistically and accurately without overloading the reader with technobabble. Sign up at Registration. Limited Audience.

Panelists: Jim Beall, Paula S. Jordan, Tedd Roberts

### **What Makes It Steampunk? (ET)**

**SAT – 6:00 PM**

Suite 215

When writing, what elements, tropes, or styles are necessary to make a story Steampunk? Do you really need airships and corsets?

Panelists: Misty Massey (M), AJ Hartley, Karen McCullough



**Author Guest of Honor**

**Keith DeCandido**

**Star Trek, Buffy the Vampire Slayer, Doctor Who, Supernatural,  
X-Files, Farscape, Heroes, Spider-Man, X-Men, Sleepy Hollow**

**Performance Guest of Honors**

**Pineapple Shaped Lamps**

**Sanctioned Poke'mon and Smash Brother Tournaments**

**Costume Contest, Dealer's Room and Artist Alley**

**Literary/Writer's Track**

**Science and Technology and Parnormal Track**

**Fandom and Costuming Track**

**Video and Card Gaming**

**Make and Takes, Kid's Activities**

**Drink and Draw, Geeks Who Drink Trivia**

**Fan Films**

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## EVENT DESCRIPTIONS

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### **Star Trek Celebrates 50 Years (AP)**

**SAT – 6:30 PM**

Provincial A-B

2016 is the 50th anniversary of Star Trek, and the venerable franchise has had a profound impact on fans, creators, scientists, and popular culture. Come discuss what Star Trek means to you, and what might lie in store for the next 50 years of the final frontier.

Panelists: Michael G. Williams (M), Steven S. Long, Gary Mitchel, Edward McKeown, Chris Shrewsbury

### **So You Want To Start A Fan Group? (ET)**

**SAT - 7:00 PM**

Suite 215

You've found a fan group and want to start a chapter of your own. How do you go about it? What challenges and rewards can you expect?

Panelists: Laura Haywood-Cory (M), Donna Eason, Daphne Reeder

### **Award Ceremony**

**SAT - 7:30 PM**

Salon B-C-D

Join as we present the Manly Wade Wellman Award for Science Fiction in the Carolinas.

### **Let's Talk Cover Art (ET)**

**SAT – 7:30 PM**

Provincial A-B

Are you curious about commissioning cover artwork? Join our panelists as they talk about finding an artist, what to expect in terms of time and cost, what information the artist needs to start, and the process of cover creation.

Panelists: Stuart Jaffe (M), Shawn J. Durlington, Chris Kennedy, Lindsey Look, Sharon Stogner

### **Costume Contest**

**SAT – 8:00 PM**

Salon B-C-D

In grand convention tradition, ConGregarate will host a costume contest on Saturday night. Bring your best costume and show off your skills! Bonus: While the judges are making their final decisions, some of our Master Class costumers from other cons will show off their work.

Judges: James Rippe, Angela Pritchett, Cheralyn Lambeth

Host: Rich Sigfrit

### **Confronting the Publishing Gatekeeper (AP)**

**SAT – 8:00 PM**

Victorian B

Have you been collecting rejection slips on a science fiction or fantasy novel, but haven't been able to figure out why? Do you have thick enough skin to take direct, honest, face-to-face critique? Bring your cover letter, the first 5 pages of your story, and your 1- or 2-page synopsis and get real-time feedback from the "Slushmaster General." First-come, first-served, and volunteers only! If time permits, we may discuss short fiction; however, novels will have first priority. Learn what happens to manuscripts when you send them to a publisher, and how to make yours stand out ... in the right way.

Panelist: Gray Rinehart

### **Cubic Foot of Wonder (AP)**

**Sat – 8:00 PM**

Suite 215

You meet a time traveler, who gives you this offer: You get to make a speech in front of the 1954 World Science Convention. 700 of the most receptive minds you can imagine are there, with John W. Campbell there as the Guest of Honor. Your mission -- show them the most wonderful things you can about the future. The problem? Well, the machinery isn't ideal. You can only take a single box, volume - one cubic foot. If it doesn't fit, it can't go. You can count on nothing else being there in 1953 to help you. It is you, the suit you'll wear to keep you alive during the trip, and that box. So... what do you put in the box?

Panelists: Tedd Roberts (M), Gary Mitchel, Stephen Simmons

### **Broad Universe Rapid Fire Reading**

**SAT – 8:00 PM**

Suite 207

Broad Universe members will read from their latest stories and novels in this rapid fire reading. Come discover your new favorite writer and learn about an organization that supports women writers, editors, and publishers. We also offer chocolate and the chance to win prizes. Not all authors will be present the full 2 hours.

Panelists: Samantha Bryant, Alexandra Christian, John G. Hartness, Paula S. Jordan, Nicole Givens Kurtz, Gail Z. Martin, Margaret S. McGraw, Janine K. Spendlove, Leona R Wisoker

### **Charity Auction Viewing**

**SAT: 9:00 PM**

Provincial A-B

Stop by and see what will be up for auction.

### **The Challenger and Its Impact on Space (ET)**

**SAT – 9:00 PM**

Suite 215

In January 1986, the Space Shuttle Challenger exploded off the coast of Cape Canaveral, seventy-three seconds into flight. Witnessed live by millions of Americans, in part because of the presence of a teacher on board, the disaster represented a major setback in the United States space program, and deeply affected the entire country. Come remember the seven astronauts lost during the tragedy, and discuss the impact it had on the American space program even to this day.

Panelists: Stephen Simmons (M), Glenda Finkelstein, Chris Shrewsbury

### **Camp ConGregarate: The Final Jam**

**SAT – 9:30 PM**

Salon B-C-D

It's time to have some fun. Join our musicians in a rollicking, rolling, round table of music - from folk to gothic and everything in between.

Guests: White Plectrum, Mark MacDicken, Valentine Wolfe, Gray Rinehart, Stuart Jaffe

### **ConGregarate Charity Auction (AP)**

**SAT – 9:30 PM**

Provincial A-B

Proceeds from the auction will benefit the Greensboro Urban Ministry food bank. We hope you are able to come to the auction and help us support this year's worthy cause, as we try to meet or beat the over \$1500 we raised last year.

### **Movie: *Santa Claus Conquers the Martians***

**SAT – 10:00 PM**

Victorian A

Join us for an old fashioned movie experience. Bring your blankets or low lawn chairs. We will have regular seating available as well.

### **Writing A Series: The How and the What (ET)**

**SAT – 10:00 PM**

Victorian B

Many of the most commercially successful speculative novels are series. How do you avoid repetition while keeping the setting and characters consistent from book to book? Authors talk about how (and whether) they planned to write a series.

Panelists: Gail Z. Martin (M), Samantha Bryant, Nicole Givens Kurtz, Janine K. Spendlove, Leona Wisoker

### **Blasts From the Past (AP)**

**SAT – 10:00 PM**

Suite 215

2016 is the 10th anniversary of Pan's Labyrinth, the 15th anniversary of The Fellowship of the Ring, the 25th anniversary of Terminator 2, the 30th anniversary of Aliens, and the 35th anniversary of Raiders of the Lost Ark. Come celebrate the milestones of popular and award-winning films that helped shape our geek lives.

Panelists: Cheralyn Lambeth (M), Jason Gilbert, Edward McKeown

### **But I Liked That Guy (ET)**

**SAT – 11:00 PM**

Victorian B

Although one of the guiding rules of writing is not to kill a character that readers have gotten to know well, a growing number of writers (led by George R.R. Martin) has been doing just that. Angry? Frustrated? Let's talk about when it might be necessary to kill a character and what the aftermath might be.

Panelists: Gary Mitchel (M), Jason Gilbert, Melissa Gilbert, John G. Hartness, Chris Kennedy

### **Holy Golden Anniversary, Batman! (ET)**

**SAT – 11:00 PM**

Suite 215

2016 marks the 50th anniversary of the Batman TV series, a campy show that's indelibly imprinted on many producers of pop culture today. We'll talk about the first great superhero TV show, including everything we loved about it, and all the things that make us cringe.

Panelists: Tally Johnson (M), Alexandra Christian, Chris Shrewsbury

### **Haunted Soundscapes (ET)**

**SAT – 12:00 Midnight**

Salon B-C-D

You've heard Tally's ghost stories...now join him and Cheralyn Lambeth with haunted soundscapes along with Braxton of Valentine Wolfe.

Panelists: Cheralyn Lambeth, Tally Johnson, Valentine Wolfe

### **What's Up With That? (ET)**

**SAT – 12:00 Midnight**

Suite 215

A 101 style introduction to kink, BDSM, and the meaning of life. Well maybe not the last one. Come learn about what all the letters stand for and talk about what 50 SHADES OF GREY got right and what was just plain wrong. Ages 18 and up.

Panelists: Rich Sigfrit (M), JT the Engineer

## EVENT DESCRIPTIONS

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### SUNDAY

*You will find two types of events listed: Audience Participation (AP) and Experts Talk (ET). ET events are traditional con panels. In AP events, we encourage audience participation.*

#### **Non-denominational Prayer Service**

**SUN – 9:00 AM**

Victorian A

This is a non-denominational prayer service open to anyone who wishes to attend.

Panelist: Gray Reinhart

#### **Tai Chi with Steven Barnes (AP)**

**SUN – 9:00 AM**

Provincial A-B

Steven Barnes (WGoH) will be conducting a Tai Chi workshop on Saturday and Sunday mornings during ConGregarate. This will be a gentle exercise available to all skill levels. Wear loose clothes-it's a great way to wake up in the morning!

Panelist: Steven Barnes

#### **DC vs. Marvel (AP)**

**SUN – 10:00 AM**

Salon B-C-D

Do you love the movies or TV shows made by one comic book giant more than the ones made by another? Is there something different about how their characters are portrayed onscreen that's behind how you feel about them? Are there any lessons to be learned from this by would-be screenwriters about what makes a successful script?

Panelists: Gary Mitchel (M), JT the Engineerd, Nicole Givens Kurtz, Todd Lacey, Chris Shrewsbury

#### **Cosplay for Everybody (ET)**

**SUN – 10:00 AM**

Victorian A

If you want to cosplay, you should do it. Come hear 105th Squad panelists talk about out why staying positive and keeping it fun are some if not the most important things about being a cosplayer.

Panelists: James Rippe, Members of the 105th Squad

#### **Allen's Regionally Famous Writers' Workshop – Re Cap (AP)**

**SUN – 10:00 AM**

Victorian B

This is part two of Allen's workshop.

Panelists: Allen Wold, Karen McCullough, Stephen Mark Rainey, Leona R Wisoker, Darcy Wold

#### **Kids Reading (Kids Track)**

**SUN – 10:00 AM**

Suite 215

Need a quick minute to load the car? Author Janine Spendlove will read a kid friendly story while you check out of the hotel. We do require one parent to remain with your child at all times.

Panelist: Janine K. Spendlove

#### **Tag You're It (ET)**

**SUN – 10:30 AM**

Provincial A-B

Many authors are told to get rid of the tags in dialog, those 'he said' and 'she asked' that tell who spoke. If you take the tags out, how does the reader know who's talking? This panel talks about other ways to let the reader know who said something.

Panelists: Sharon Stogner (M), Samantha Bryant, David B. Coe, Melissa Gilbert, Darrin Kennedy

#### **Collaboration Isn't For Everybody: Pros and Cons (ET)**

**SUN – 11:00 AM**

Salon B-C-D

Art isn't always a solitary pursuit. Collaboration between writers, or between writers and artists, musicians and writers, or jewelry makers and dancers have produced amazing results. Join panelists who have been part of successful collaborations to learn how you can find a partner to work with, how collaborations work, and what pitfalls to avoid.

Panelists: John G. Hartness (M), Steven Barnes, AJ Hartley, Stuart Jaffe, Emily Lavin Leverett

#### **Filking Workshop (AP)**

**SUN – 11:00 AM**

Victorian B

Filk songs are songs set in and around fandom. They often use borrowed tunes and parodied words, but some are done to original music with totally original lyrics. Join three of our talented musicians as they take you through the steps of filking a song.

Panelists: Gray Rinehart, Mark MacDicken, White Plectrum

#### **The Wise Old Wizard (AP)**

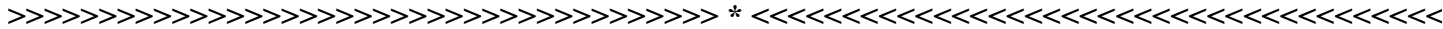
**SUN – 11:00 AM**

Suite 215

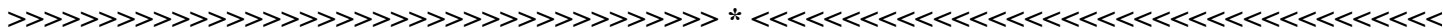
Merlin, Wainamoinen, Math, Gandalf, Lord Darcy, Dumbledore, Merriman Lyon, Uncle Andrew... Who do you enjoy, admire or despise, and why? What do the character of the archetypal wielders of magical power tell us about power?

Panelists: Steven S. Long (M), Alexandra Christian, Misty Massey



[illegible]

# Raymond is loved, and pregnant.



**It's an offer he can't refuse.**

**>>>>>>>> I Dare You To Be Entertained <<<<<<<<<<**

## EVENT DESCRIPTIONS

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### **The Fandom Awakens (AP)**

**SUN - 11:30 AM**

Provincial A-B

Everything is Star Wars and nothing hurts! Let's talk about the importance of casting a woman and two men of color as the leading characters in this major movie franchise. Let's talk about how no one in the cast wants to gender BB-8. Let's talk about General Leia. Let's talk The Force Awakens until episode 8 comes out or we all run out of breath...

Panelists: Janine K. Spendlove (M), Jason Gilbert, Todd Lacey, Margaret S. McGraw, Edward McKeown

### **Case Studies in Handwavium (ET)**

**SUN – 11:30 AM**

Victorian A

Jim Beall traces the “partnership” of science and science fiction from Edison/Wells to Alcubierre/Travis Taylor.

Panelist: Jim Beall

### **Psychology of First Contact (ET)**

**SUN – 12:00 PM**

Suite 215

The people who are willing to go live on space stations or who volunteer to crew exploratory ships, like those of us who served on submarines or in other extreme environments, are decidedly and extraordinarily NON-representative of the Human Race as a whole. And we tend to be a fairly insular and egotistical subset of the Race, to boot. How does this skew First Contact scenarios?

Panelists: Stephen Simmons (M), Randall Hayes (Panelist), Paula S. Jordan

### **Concert: Valentine Wolfe**

**SUN – 12:30 PM**

Salon B-C-D

### **World Building Without the Info Dump (ET)**

**SUN – 12:30 PM**

Provincial A-B

You're creating a whole new world or universe in your SF/F. How do you add that to your story and still keep the story moving? The SF/F world is the foundation of your characters' worldview, their attitudes, how they think and feel. This panel will talk about the mechanics of how to turn what has happened before the story begins, into the fabric of the narrative itself.

Panelists: Stuart Jaffe (M), AJ Hartley, Glenda Finkelstein, Tamsin L. Silver, Darcy Wold

### **The Appeal of Sherlock Holmes (ET)**

**SUN – 12:30 PM**

Victorian A

What is it about the character of Sherlock Holmes that has such appeal to fans? From the original stories to movies and anthologies that take Holmes to other eras or change himself, there seems to be something inherent in the depiction of Holmes that fills a need in the audience. Is it his mental abilities? His isolated lifestyle? The fact that he chooses to fight crime? What would a writer have to do with Holmes to make the character, in effect, not “really” Sherlock Holmes?

Panelists: Tally Johnson (M), Alexandra Christian, Melissa Gilbert, Ken Khral, Nicole Givens Kurtz

### **Rising above the Noise: Maximizing Your Profits w/ Amazon.com (AP)**

**SUN – 1:00 PM**

Victorian B

Now that you've got a book, how do you get people to find it among the 800,000 books that will be published on Amazon this year? How do you draw attention to your book and get into the Amazon algorithm? You need to know Amazon's algorithm and how to beat it if you want to maximize your sales. This workshop will show you the path to success Chris used to sell 40,000 books last year and have two different #1 Amazon bestsellers!

Panelist: Chris Kennedy

### **Gender and Genderfluidity in the Genre (ET)**

**SUN – 1:00 PM**

Suite 215

We used to get one ambiguously gay character...usually a queer-coded villain. We NEVER got anyone nonbinary (why would aliens even have a gender binary?). As LGBTQIA people are getting more recognition in society, we're finally getting more queer characters in fiction. We're finally beginning to see queer communities, as opposed to The Token Gay Friend. The lesbians don't die at the end! Let's talk about the exploration of gender and sexuality in genre fiction, and how we'd like to see it expand.

Panelists: Sharon Stogner (M), Samantha Bryant, Maya Preisler

### **Rainbow Connection (AP)**

**SUN – 1:30 PM**

Provincial A-B

Where the misfit and the dreamer are so alone... Many of us considered ourselves misfits and outcasts – whether nerd or geek or other, fans gather to talk about that moment when they suddenly realized that they weren't alone.

Panelists: Michael D. Pederson (M), John G. Hartness, Michael G. Williams, Leona R Wisoker



Artwork by John Grigni

**Costuming Materials and Costs (ET)****SUN – 1:30 PM**

Victorian A

From Spandex to leather, how do you determine the best materials to make your costume? What formulas and tips can you use to estimate the costs of a creation before you spend money on the materials.

Panelists: Cheralyn Lambeth (M), Todd Lacey, Jennifer McCollom, Matt Pennick, Daphne Reeder

**Con in Review (AP)****SUN – 2:00 PM**

Salon B-C-D

The con is almost over. Take a few minutes before you leave and tell us...what worked? What didn't? We will also have a suggestion box in the room if you would like to leave ideas for guests or panel topics for future Cons.

**Exhibitors****Dealer Room Hours**

- FRI 3:00pm - 7:00pm
- SAT 10:00am - 6:00pm
- SUN 10:00am - 2:00pm

**Dealer Room (Salon A)**

- Lindsey Look (Artist Guest of Honor)
- Shawn's Custom Characters
- Bead Weaver
- Fashions by Figment
- Final Destiny Press
- Kit Kringle
- Obsidians Caldera
- Orielis Books
- Pair-A-Dice Games
- Ssalefish Comics
- The Scribbling Lion
- Unique Creations by Amy

**Hallway Tables (Prefunction Area)**

- A.J. Hartley
- Broad Universe
- Magical Words
- Mocha Memoirs Press
- Silence In the Library Publishing
- Valentine Wolfe
- 105th Squad
- Mandalorin Mercs
- MystiCon
- Royal Manticoran Navy
- USS Charon (StarFleet)



## Java and Pros

Join a selection of guests as they read from their works or answer questions and enjoy a nice cup of coffee.

### Suite 207

#### Friday, July 15

**9:00 PM** – Alexandra Christian, Paula S. Jordan, Nicole Givens Kurtz

**10:00 PM** – Samantha Bryant, John G. Hartness, Gail Z. Martin

**11:00 PM** – Chris Shrewsbury

#### Saturday, July 16

**9:00 AM** – David B. Coe, AJ Hartley, Stuart Jaffe

**10:00 AM** – Misty Massey, Margaret McGraw, Janine K. Spendlove

**7:00 PM** – Glenda Finkelstein, Karen McCullough, Leona R. Wisoker

**8:00 PM** – Broad Universe Rapid Fire Reading  
Samantha Bryant, Alexandra Christian, John G. Hartness, Paula S. Jordan, Nicole Givens Kurtz, , Gail Z. Martin, Margaret McGraw, Janine K. Spendlove, Leona R. Wisoker

**10:00 PM** – Darin Kennedy, Stephen Mark Rainey, Michael G. Williams

**11:00 PM** – Edward McKeown

## Signings

Unless otherwise noted, all signings are located at the signings table in the Dealer Room (Salon A - Queen Anne Ballroom).

#### Friday, July 15

**3:00 PM** – Gail Z. Martin, Mark MacDicken

**4:00 PM** – Darin Kennedy, Stephen Mark Rainey

**5:00 PM** – Glenda Finkelstein, JR Ralls

**6:00 PM** – Maya Preisler, Karen McCullough

#### Saturday, July 16

**10:00 AM** – David B. Coe, Edward McKeown

**11:00 AM** – Stephen Barnes

**12:00 PM** – Glenda Finkelstein, Nicole Givens Kurtz

**1:00 PM** – Stephen Mark Rainey, Michael Williams

**2:00 PM** – Jennifer McCollom, JR Ralls

**3:00 PM** – A. J. Hartley, Stuart Jaffe

**4:00 PM** – Angela Pritchett, Janine Spendlove

**5:00 PM** – Samantha Bryant, Alexandra Christian

#### Sunday, July 17

**10:00 PM** – Edward McKeown, Angela Pritchett

**11:00 PM** – Gail Z. Martin, Karen McCullough

**12:00 PM** – Stephen Barnes

**1:00 PM** – David B. Coe, Darrin Kennedy

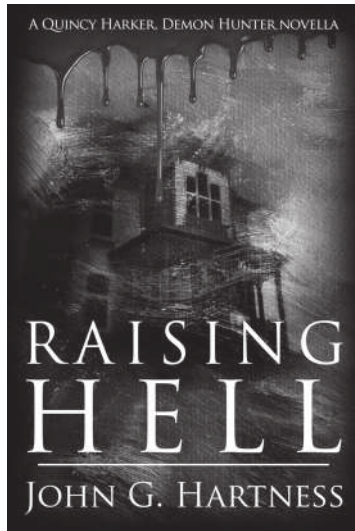
#### Author Tables

Some of our authors have tables set up in the Pre-function Space and Dealer Room. They will likely be found at their tables during times not listed above. If the author is not scheduled for a panel, there is a strong chance they might be at their table.

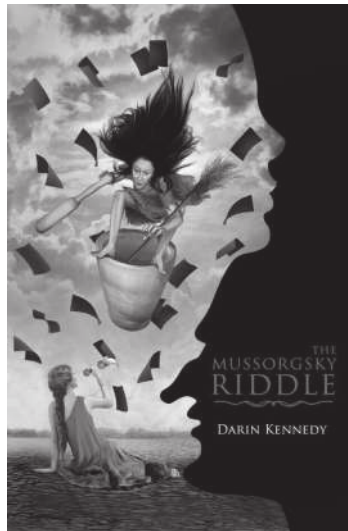
Authors who have tables are listed on p. 38.



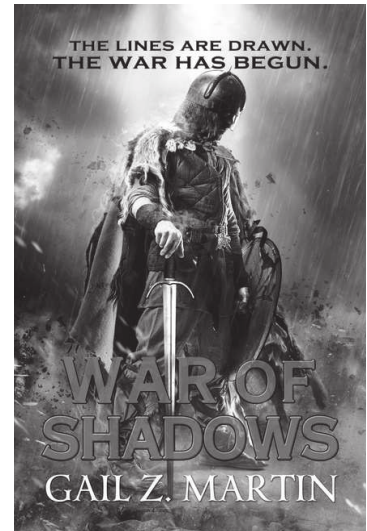
THE NORTH CAROLINA SPECULATIVE FICTION FOUNDATION  
IS PROUD TO PRESENT THE NOMINEES FOR THE  
**2016 MANLY WADE WELLMAN AWARD**



*Raising Hell*  
by **John G. Hartness**  
Falstaff Books



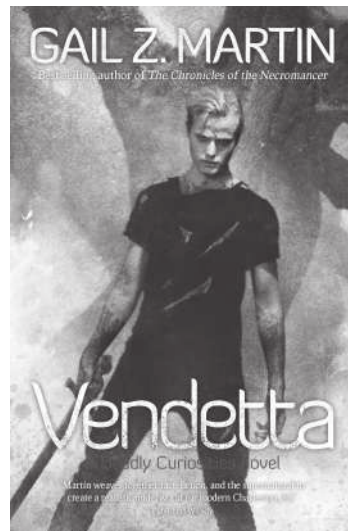
*The Mussorgsky Riddle*  
by **Darin Kennedy**  
Curiosity Quills



*War of Shadows*  
by **Gail Z. Martin**  
Orbit Books



*Iron and Blood*  
by **Gail Z. Martin and  
Larry N. Martin**  
Solaris Books



*Vendetta*  
by **Gail Z. Martin**  
Solaris Books



*Castle Hangnail*  
by **Ursula Vernon**  
Dial Books

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 2016 award, voted on by the combined membership of North Carolina science fiction and fantasy conventions illogiCon, StellarCon, ConCarolinas, ConTemporal, and ConGregarate, covers novels published in 2015. The award is named for long-time North Carolina author Manly Wade Wellman with the permission of his estate. For more information or to register to nominate and vote, please visit:

[ncsff.org](http://ncsff.org)

# ConGregate 4 & DeepSouthCon 55



**Barbara Hambly**  
Writer Guest of Honor

Author of numerous books, such as the Windrose Chronicles, The Darwath Trilogy, the Sun Wolf and Starhawk series, the Benjamin January series, the Winterlands series, and the James Asher series

**July 14-16, 2017 • Radisson Hotel • High Point, North Carolina**  
**[www.con-gregate.com](http://www.con-gregate.com)**