

BALTICON 59

POCKET PROGRAM

MAY 23-26, 2025

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May 23-26, 2025

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

MSAC

maryland state arts council

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Note:

Program listings are current as of
Thursday May 16, 10:30PM.

For up-to-date information, please pick up the daily
Rocket Mail, or see our downloadable, interactive
schedule at:

<https://schedule.balticon.org/>

Balticon 59 Rocket Mail



Daily Newsletter
at the Con

Available on paper at
the Information Desk
each day of the con or
download from **bsfs.
org/b59hist.htm**.

The WiFi password is "**Balticon**".



WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS!



Earn next year's **BALTICON** membership! Win prizes!
Get a free t-shirt! Have fun! Make new friends!
We'll even feed you!

Stop by the Volunteers Desk near the Cloak Room & Fells Point
for details, or email **volunteers@balticon.org**.



Pocket Program Design: Gwyn Fireman
Cover Art: "Festival Night" by Stephanie Law
Cover Design: Patti Kinlock
Programming Lead: Yakira Heistand

Balticon 59 May 23 — 26, 2025

Locations and Hours of Operation

FLOOR 5, ATRIUM ENTRANCE:

- Registration
 - Fri 1 PM — 10 PM
 - Sat 8:45 AM — 7 PM
 - Sun 8:45 AM — 5 PM
 - Mon 10 AM — 1:30 PM
- Information Desk
 - Same hours as Registration; after hours see Con Ops.
- Accessibility
 - Fri 1 PM—10 PM
 - Sat 10 AM—7 PM
 - Sun 10 AM—5 PM
 - Mon 10 AM—1:30 PM

FLOOR 5, ATRIUM:

- Con Suite: *Baltimore A*
 - Fri 4 PM—2 AM
 - Sat & Sun 8 AM—2 AM
 - Mon 8 AM—2 PM
 - Food service ends by 1 PM.*
- Dealer Room: *Baltimore B & Maryland E/F*
 - Fri 2 PM — 7 PM
 - Sat & Sun 10 AM — 7 PM
 - Mon 10 AM — 2 PM
- Artist Alley & Writers' Row
 - Same hours as Dealers, with breaks for participation in panels, workshops, or other events.
- Art Show: *Maryland A/B*
 - Fri 5 PM — 7 PM; 8 PM — 9 PM
 - Sat 10 AM — 8 PM
 - Sun 10 AM — 1 PM; 2 PM — 5 PM
 - Mon 11 AM — 2 PM
- Masquerade Registration
 - Fri 4 PM — 7 PM
 - Sat 10 AM—Noon
- Autographs:
 - See schedule

FLOOR 5:

- Con Ops: *Fells Point* (past elevators)
 - Friday 2 PM — Monday 5 PM
 - Phone: 410-986-4830
- Sales Table: *outside Federal Hill*
 - Fri 2 PM — 6:30 PM
 - Sat & Sun 10:30 AM — 6:30 PM
 - Mon 10:30 AM — 2 PM
- Volunteer Desk: with Sales Table
- Hal Haag Memorial Game Room: *Watertable*
 - A: Role Playing Games
 - Fri 2 PM—12 AM
 - Sat & Sun 8 AM—12 AM
 - Mon 8 AM—2 PM
 - B: Tabletop Games
 - Fri 6 PM — 2 AM
 - Sat & Sun 10 AM — 2 AM
 - Mon 10 AM — 2 PM
 - C: Video Games
 - Fri 4 PM—9 PM
 - Sat & Sun 8 AM—10 PM
 - Mon 8 AM—2 PM

FLOOR 6:

- Open Filk: *Kent*
 - Fri 10 PM — 2 AM
 - Sat & Sun 10 PM — 2 AM
 - Mon 2:30 PM — 7 PM
- Team Medical Dragon: *Room 6017*
 - Fri 1 PM — 3 AM
 - Sat & Sun 9 AM — 3 AM
 - Mon 10 AM — 2 PM
- Quiet Room: *6019*
 - Open all weekend

INVITED PARTICIPANTS ONLY:

- Program Ops: *Fells Point* (past elevators)
 - Fri 1 PM— 7 PM
 - Sat 9 AM — 6 PM
 - Sun 9 AM — 2 PM
 - After hours see Con Ops.
- Green Room: *Floor 12 Presidential Suite*
 - Fri 3 PM— 8:30 PM
 - Sat 9:30 AM — 8 PM
 - Sun 9:30 AM — 8:30 PM
 - Mon 9:30 AM — 3 PM

Hours may be subject to change.

Special Events

Special Events are in the Main Tent
(**Floor 5 Ballroom** aka Maryland CD)
except where noted.

Friday	
7:30 PM	Opening Ceremonies
11:00 PM	Rocky Horror Picture Show
Saturday	
10:00 AM	GoH Foley Artists Presentation
10:00 AM	Sponsored Waffle Brunch (<i>Consuite/Baltimore A</i>)
11:30 AM	Interview with Sharon Lee, Heinlein Award Winner
1:00 PM	Interview with GoH Silvia Moreno-Garcia (<i>Homeland</i>)
2:30 PM	Science GoH Marc Abrahams: The Ig Nobel Prize
8:00 PM	Masquerade
Sunday	
10:00 AM	Interview with GoH Sebastien de Casell (<i>Homeland</i>)
11:30 AM	Interview with Artist GoH Stephanie Law (<i>Homeland</i>)
1:00 PM	GoH Concert: Baltimore Gamer Symphony Orchestra
7:00 PM	Short Film Festival



Autographs

All autograph sessions are an hour long and are held at the autograph tables on **Floor 5**.

Friday	
5:30 PM	Richard Sparks and Jack Carroll
Saturday	
10:00 AM	Sarah Pinsker and Kemi Ashing-Giwa
11:30 AM	Bjorn Hasseler and Virginia DeMarce
1:00 PM	Doc Coleman and Bryant Johnson
2:30 PM	Robert Sawyer and Charles Gannon
4:00 PM	Silvia Moreno-Garcia and Micaiah Johnson
5:30 PM	David Simms and Melissa Scott
7:00 PM	S.C. Megale and Jack Campbell
Sunday	
10:00 AM	J.D. Blackrose and Tris Lawrence
11:30 AM	Catherine Asaro and Jennifer Povey
2:30 PM	Sharon Lee and Jo Miles
4:00 PM	Sebastien de Castell and Andrew McDowell
7:00 PM	Nicole Glover and Elijah Kinch Spector

Kaffeeklatsches

Chat with your favorite author or guest of honor!
All salons are an hour long and are held in the **12th Floor Club Lounge**.
Sign up in advance at the information desk.

Saturday	
4:00 PM	Samantha Mills
7:00 PM	Stephanie Law
8:30 PM	Sebastien de Castell
Sunday	
10:00 AM	Sharon Lee
11:30 AM	Joanna Fang and Blake Collins
2:30 PM	Silvia Moreno-Garcia
4:00 PM	Marc Abrahams

Readings

Readings are an hour long and are held in the **St. George Room on Floor 6**, unless otherwise noted.

Friday	
5:30 PM	Randee Dawn and Jennifer Povey
7:00 PM	Doc Coleman and Sam Haines
8:30 PM	Sebastien de Castell and Silvia Moreno-Garcia (<i>Homeland</i>)
Saturday	
10:00 AM	Jack Carroll, Virginia DeMarce, Micaiah Johnson, Melissa Scott, and Marie Vibbert
11:30 AM	Young Writer’s Contest Winners (<i>Federal Hill</i>)
1:00 PM	Catherine Asaro, Sheila Jenne, Adeena Mignogna, Christopher Mark Rose, and T.C. Wever
2:30 PM	Speculative Poetry: Contest Winners and Open Mic (<i>Federal Hill</i>)
4:00 PM	Robert Sawyer and Mark Van Name
Sunday	
10:00 AM	Sarah Avery, Nicole Glover, Alex Shvartsman, and Richard Sparks
11:30 AM	Broad Universe—Randee Dawn, D.H. Timpko, Christiane Knight, Roberta Rogow, and Morgan Hazelwood
1:00 PM	C.D. Brown, Christiana Ellis, Kit Englard, Elektra Hammond, and Sherri, Cook Woosley
2:30 PM	J.D Blackrose, Carolyn Ives Gilman, Somoto Ihezue, A.L. Kaplan, and Mary G. Thompson
4:00 PM	Sharon Lee and Jean Marie Ward
5:30 PM	Christiane Knight and Tris Lawrence
7:00 PM	Charles Gannon and Tom Doyle
Monday	
11:30 AM	Scott Edelman, Miguel O. Mitchell, Andrija Popovic, Mark Painter, and Ian Randal Strock

Book Launches

Book launches are held in the **Con Suite on Floor 5**.

Saturday	
4:00 PM	The Brotherhood of Rain and Cinder by S.C. Megale
6:30 PM	Rock and Roll, Cake and Ice Cream—Randee Dawn and Richard Sparks
Sunday	
11:30 AM	Midnight Brew by C.D. Brown
2:30 PM	Permutations: A Well World Anthology published by Arc Manor

Board Games

Scheduled game demos are held in
Watertable B on Floor 5.

Open gaming continues all weekend.

Friday	
2:00 PM	Telestrations
3:00 PM	Abduktion
4:00 PM	Space Cats Fight Fascism
5:00 PM	Mystic Paths
6:00 PM	Robot Quest Arena
7:00 PM	The Gang
8:00 PM	Caution Signs
9:00 PM	Illiterati
10:00 PM	The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey
Saturday	
9:00 AM	Space Cats Fight Fascism
10:00 AM	Things in Rings
12:00 PM	Tesseract
12:00 PM	Abduktion
2:00 PM	Rebel Princess
3:00 PM	Wondrous Creatures
4:00 PM	Musical Chairs
5:00 PM	Arcs
5:00 PM	Telestrations
6:00 PM	Buffy The Vampire Slayer
7:00 PM	Finspan
8:00 PM	This Game Is Killer
Sunday	
10:00 AM	Space Cats Fight Fascism
11:00 AM	In the Footsteps of Marie Curie
11:00 AM	Quacks
12:00 PM	Wandering Towers
1:00 PM	Rajas of the Ganges
2:00 PM	Caution Signs
3:00 PM	Robot Quest Arena
4:00 PM	Flip 7
5:00 PM	Library Labyrinth
6:00 PM	Ceres
7:00 PM	Just One
7:00 PM	The Loop
8:00 PM	Space Base
Monday	
9:00 AM	The Fellowship of the Ring
10:00 AM	Link City
11:00 AM	Wandering Towers
2:00 PM	Telestrations

Role-Playing Games

Scheduled table-top RPGs are held in
Watertable A on Floor 5, except as noted.
Open gaming continues all weekend.

Friday	
4:00 PM	Blade Runner: Electric Dreams (Part 1)
4:00 PM	Pathfinder 1e: From the Blackness (Pt 1)
4:00 PM	Magic & Steel: Lord Fenni's Curse
7:00 PM	Fabula Ultima Live Play! Live at Balticon!
8:00 PM	Mork Borg: Vermis 1
8:00 PM	Cyberpunk Edgerunners: The Jacket
8:00 PM	Old gods of Appalachia: What Paths May Cross (Session 1)
Saturday	
12:00 PM	Porcelain Souls: Covenant Broken, Covenant Restored (Demo 1)
12:00 PM	Porcelain Souls: Covenant Broken, Covenant Restored (Demo 4)
12:00 PM	Pathfinder 1e: From the Blackness (Pt 2)
12:00 PM	Magic The Gathering TCG Draft Tournament
4:00 PM	Mork Borg: Vermis - The Silver Swamp
4:00 PM	Porcelain Souls: Covenant Broken, Covenant Restored (Demo 2)
4:00 PM	Blade Runner: Electric Dreams (part 2)
6:00 PM	Intro to Warhammer 40k! (Session 1)
8:00 PM	D&D 5e: The Night of Terror
8:00 PM	Alien: Heart of Darkness (part 1)
8:00 PM	Old gods of Appalachia: What Paths May Cross (Session 2)
9:00 PM	Are You a Werewolf?
Sunday	
12:00 PM	Porcelain Souls: Covenant Broken, Covenant Restored (Demo 5)
12:00 PM	Pathfinder 1e: From the Blackness (Pt 3)
12:00 PM	Unlimited - Is it safe to travel through Lower Elam?
12:00 PM	Pokemon TCG Draft Tournament
4:00 PM	The Witch is Dead - Double Session
4:00 PM	Mork Borg: Vermis - The Flutewood
4:00 PM	Porcelain Souls: Covenant Broken, Covenant Restored (Demo 3)
6:00 PM	Intro to Warhammer 40k! (Session 2)
8:00 PM	Alien: Heart of Darkness (Part 2)
8:00 PM	Unlimited - I owe the gambling house how much?
9:00 PM	Two Rooms and a Boom

Video Program

Screenings are held in **Room 6015 on Floor 6**, through the double doors. All times are approximate.

Friday	
3:00 PM	Jack the Giant Killer
4:30 PM	Popeye (1980)
6:30 PM	Kaz Rowe That Time Dracula Sued Nosferatu
7:00 PM	Nosferatu: Ein Synphonie des Grauens
8:30 PM	Hollywood Graveyard Presents: Tomb of Nosferatu
10:00 PM	Dune: The Complete Saga Fan Edit of the Dune
11:55 PM	After Life
Saturday	
2:00 AM	Stories of Lost Souls
3:30 AM	The Odyssey (2001)
6:30 AM	Classic Cartoons
7:00 AM	The Pied Piper of Hamelin
8:30 AM	Harold and the Purple Crayon
10:00 AM	Oz the Great and Powerful
12:15 PM	Beetlejuice (1986)
1:45 PM	Apartment 7A (2024)
3:00 PM	Faces of the Undead Special Presentation
4:00 PM	Civil War (2024)
6:00 PM	Nosferatu the Vampyre
10:00 PM	Dune Part 1
Sunday	
12:30 AM	The Substance (2024)
5:30 AM	Abigail (2024)
7:30 AM	Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella
9:00 AM	The Last Unicorn
12:30 PM	Mickey 17 (2025)
3:00 PM	Faces of the Undead Special Presentation Encore
4:00 PM	Wicked Part 1
6:45 PM	A Quiet Place Day One
8:30 PM	Nosferatu (2024)
10:45 PM	Dune Pt 2 (2024)
Monday	
1:00 AM	Joker (2019)
3:00 AM	Joker: Folie a Deux
5:30 AM	Dr Who The Infinite Quest / Dr Who :Dreamland
9:30 AM	Tale of Tales
12:00 PM	Godzilla Minus One
2:00 PM	The Little Stranger

Anime Program

Anime screenings are held in **Room 8006 on Floor 8**.

Friday	
3:00 PM	ZENSHU [14+][TEEN] Episodes 1-4
5:00 PM	KAIJU no.8 [14+][TEEN] Episodes 1-4
7:00 PM	The Apothecary Diaries [14+][TEEN] Episodes 12-15
9:00 PM	Solo Leveling Season 2 - Arise from the Shadows [16+][ADULT] Episodes 12-15
11:00 PM	Dan Da Dan [16+][ADULT] Episodes 1-4
Saturday	
9:00 AM	Terrified Teacher at Ghou! School [14+][CHILD] Episodes 1-2
10:00 AM	The Red Ranger Becomes an Adventurer in Another World [14+][CHILD] Episodes 1-4
12:00 PM	Astro Note [14+][CHILD] Episodes 1-4
2:00 PM	ZENSHU [14+][TEEN] Episodes 5-9
4:30 PM	KAIJU no.8 [14+][TEEN] Episodes 5-8
6:30 PM	The Apothecary Diaries [14+][TEEN] Episodes 16-19
8:30 PM	Solo Leveling Season 2 - Arise from the Shadows [16+][ADULT] Episodes 16-20
11:00 PM	Dan Da Dan [16+][ADULT] Episodes 5-8
Sunday	
9:00 AM	Terrified Teacher at Ghou! School [14+][CHILD] Episodes 3-4
10:00 AM	The Red Ranger Becomes an Adventurer in Another World [14+][CHILD] Episodes 5-8
12:00 PM	Mary and the Witch's Flower [PG][CHILD] Movie
2:00 PM	The Boy and the Heron [PG-13][CHILD] Movie
4:00 PM	ZENSHU [14+][TEEN] Episodes 10-11
5:00 PM	KAIJU no.8 [14+][TEEN] Episodes 9-12
7:00 PM	The Apothecary Diaries [14+][TEEN] Episodes 20-23
9:00 PM	Solo Leveling Season 2 - Arise from the Shadows [16+][ADULT] Episodes 21-24
11:00 PM	Dan Da Dan [16+][ADULT] Episodes 9-12
Monday	
9:00 AM	Terrified Teacher at Ghou! School [14+][CHILD] Episodes 5-6
10:00 AM	The Red Ranger Becomes an Adventurer in Another World [14+][CHILD] Episodes 9-12
12:00 PM	Astro Note [14+][CHILD] Episodes 5-8
2:00 PM	ZENSHU [14+][TEEN] Episode 12
2:30 PM	The Apothecary Diaries [14+][TEEN] Episodes 24

Chronological Program Schedule

Which floor? See the [brackets].

Well-behaved children are welcome in most programs;
exceptions are noted.

Friday Afternoon

- Fri 2:00 PM**
(4h)
[5] Watertable B
Table 1
Scheduled Game
- Game Demo: Telestrations**
Crystal (m)
Each player begins by sketching a TELESTRATIONS word dictated by the roll of a die. The old fashioned sand timer may limit the amount of time they get to execute their sketch, but it certainly doesn't limit creativity! Time's up! All players, all at the same time, pass their sketch to the next player, who must guess what's been drawn. Players then simultaneously pass their guess -- which hopefully matches the original word (or does it??) -- to the next player who must try to draw the word they see -- and so on.
- Fri 2:30 PM**
(1h)
[5] Homeland
Presentation
- Energy Dissipation: It's all downhill but sometimes by interesting routes (The Update)**
Andy Love
- Fri 3:00 PM**
(4h)
[5] Watertable B
Table 2
Scheduled Game
- Game Demo: Abduktion**
Kelly (m)
Abduct (collect) ducks in specific formations by using action cards to move your (or your opponent's) ducks around. Each player gets an individual stream board that can hold 10 ducks. Put the ducks into patterns by moving them around with action cards. When your ducks in a single color match a pattern on one of the shared formation cards, you earn the card and abduct the ducks into the UFO. Grab more ducks out of the UFO and try to make another pattern before the cards run out.
- Fri 3:00 PM**
(1h30m)
[6] Room 6015
Screening
- Jack the Giant Killer**
A farmboy-turned-knight must protect a princess from the schemes of an evil wizard.
- Fri 3:00 PM**
(2h)
[8] Room 8006
Screening
- ZENSHU [14+][TEEN] Episodes 1-4**
Natsuko struggles to understand the concept of first love, and as a result, she's unable to create the storyboard, causing the movie production to come to a standstill. One day, she passes out while working on her storyboard and wakes up in the world of her favorite childhood anime movie "A Tale of Perishing" from Crunchyroll

Fri 4:00 PM
(1h)
Virtual Panel
Room 1
Panel

There's History, Then There's Real History
Ada Palmer, Joyce Reynolds-Ward, Melissa Scott, Gail Z. Martin
How much history does entertainment media-driven history have in it? If someone asked us to imagine a dinosaur, most would think of the creatures known from Jurassic Park, not the latest visualizations developed by scientists. The Vikings were a problem for Christian imperialism, but did they really have tattoos on the side of their faces? How many more such incorrect beliefs do we have in our heads about our history as humans? Our panel of historians, professional and amateur, will discuss these questions and more.

Fri 4:00 PM
(1h)
Virtual Panel
Room 2
Panel

Alternate Realities and Parallel Universes
Emad El-Din Aysha, Oghenechovwe Donald Ekpeki, Valerie Estelle Frankel, Evelyn Lewis (m)
Stories employing alternate realities and parallel universes allow us to explore fundamental questions about what makes up a person. What is the true core of a person's identity and character, and what changes under different circumstances? Which works effectively present many versions of one character, or many different characters that are similar but not fundamentally the same person?

Fri 4:00 PM
(5h)
[10] Room
10006
Workshop

3D Printing Clinic
Ty McNeer
Join our 3D printing team for some trouble shooting. Is everything turning to spaghetti? Is your printing not responding? Are your print jobs getting yeeted off the bed? You got problems, we got answers. Mostly.

Fri 4:00 PM
(1h)
[5] Federal Hill
Panel

Villainous Psychology: How to Make Villains Feel Real
David Simms (m), Zack Be, Charles E. Gannon, Sydney Olivia
Realistic villains can make or break a story. But how can authors craft human, empathetic, and totally terrible people for their readers to love? How can authors learn from real life super villains in crafting their own? This panel of authors and psychologists (and author psychologists) will discuss the psychology of crime and trauma, and how to work these elements into realistic villains that leap off the page.

ATTENTION POETS!

Monthly Speculative Poetry Workshop

Join BSFS members and friends for a writers' workshop for SF, Fantasy, and Speculative poets the third Wednesday of each month from 7:00-8:30 PM via Zoom.

Check the BSFS calendar for details: bsfs.org/bsfscldr.htm

Fri 4:00 PM (1h) [5] Guilford Panel	From Concept to Final Draft <i>Andrew McDowell, John Appel (m), L. Penelope, Richard Sparks</i> Join a panel of authors as they reveal the twists and turns of their creative journeys. They'll focus on the ways their books changed while they were writing them—whether through feedback, inspiration, or a sudden plot twist. From initial concepts to final drafts, these writers will share their unique processes, challenges, and triumphs. Discover the fascinating and unpredictable world of writing in a candid and insightful conversation.
Fri 4:00 PM (1h) [5] Homeland Presentation	Ohhhh...that feels good: Texture and Stability in Food Science <i>LeShawn Gee</i> Ohhhh...that feels good: Texture and Stability in Food Science <i>Child-Focused</i> .
Fri 4:00 PM (1h) [5] Mount Washington Panel	Pandemics in Fact and Fiction <i>Perrienne Lurie, Virginia DeMarce, Joanna Fang, Sam Scheiner (m)</i> SFF contains many examples of plagues, epidemics, and their impact on human civilization. Let's talk about the experience of living through a global pandemic compared with fictional examples. Which are closer to reality and which are substantially off target? How will the experience affect our genre in the future?
Fri 4:00 PM (3h) [5] Private Dining Room Workshop	Miniature Painting Workshop (Session 1) <i>Lord Kron</i> Come learn to paint miniatures of all kinds with our esteemed Lord Kron! Scratch that creative itch, and let loose your artistic vision upon the bare plastic!
Fri 4:00 PM (4h) [5] Watertable A Table 1 <i>Scheduled Game</i>	Blade Runner: Electric Dreams (Part 1) <i>Caleb</i> Your fellow Blade Runners are in trouble. One's been shot dead, and the other has gone missing. It doesn't matter that they're Nexus-9's, your job is still to find your coworker and bring her back. Any means necessary. <i>Children Only with Parent</i> .
Fri 4:00 PM (4h) [5] Watertable A Table 2 <i>Scheduled Game</i>	Pathfinder 1e: From the Blackness (Pt 1) <i>Misha</i> Earth has long been cut off from magic, to hide it from the Dominion of the Black. What happens when that protection breaks? <i>Children Only with Parent</i> .

Fri 4:00 PM (4h) [5] Watertable A Table 3 <i>Scheduled Game</i>	Magic & Steel: Lord Fenni's Curse <i>DON WOODS (m)</i> "Lord Fenni's Curse" is an introductory game scenario for the Magic & Steel RPG system. Don Woods, author and developer of Magic & Steel will be the gamemaster. From 4 pm to 5 pm, participants will be invited to "roll up" characters for the game, with the author assisting in character generation. Intermission 5 pm to 5:30 pm. Rolling up your own characters is optional; characters pre-rolled by the gamemaster will also be available. The actual game begins at 5:30 and ends at 8 pm. The game scenario begins at a respectable local pub where Lord Fenni's agent is seeking a few mercenaries from out of town for a secret mission. Combat begins quickly when some local thugs enter the pub, looking for trouble.
Fri 4:00 PM (4h) [5] Watertable B Table 3 <i>Scheduled Game</i>	Game Demo: Space Cats Fight Fascism <i>Pickles (m)</i> A rising wave of fascism is now sweeping across the galaxy, threatening to throw the Galactic Alliance under autocratic rule. To help grow their power, the fascist group known as The Rat Pack has been pinning the galaxy's problems on cats. Now, these fuzzy creatures could be forced into exile all together. That is unless a band of rebellious felines, led by Rocket (the freedom fighter), CJ (the medic), Pepper (the pouncer), and Ophelia (the smuggler) can stop these fascist forces from seizing power - all while building a new galaxy where all species are free together. Space Cats Fight Fascism is a cooperative game where you play as a band of rebel cats trying to stop fascists from seizing control of the galaxy. In Space Cats Fight Fascism, you'll hop from planet to planet, scratching away at fascist forces and freeing animals pinned under the fascists' claws.
Fri 4:00 PM (1h) [6] Gibson Panel	Make Them Laugh <i>Alex Shvartsman, Randee Dawn, Sara Itka, Sebastien de Castell</i> "Curse you and your surprising yet inevitable betrayal!" Sometimes, no matter how hard we throw the joke, it just doesn't land. Humor is subjective which is what makes it so tricky. Our panel of clown writers will discuss the mechanics of humor and how to get your reader to laugh.
Fri 4:00 PM (1h) [6] James Panel	Relating to our Furry Friends <i>AD Boorman (m), Dan Jolley, Suzanne Buck, Rob O'Malley</i> From Bestars, to The Lion King, to Warrior Cats, to Zootopia, we adore animals in our media. How does personification and anthropomorphization change our perception of animals in media, and permit us to form attachments to them? And how do we feel about these attachments when they turn into attraction? Let's discuss some of our favorites as we remember that friendship is magic.

Fri 4:00 PM
(1h)
[6] Pride of
Baltimore II
Panel

Writing for Audio Formats

Aaron Fors, Robert J. Sawyer, Christiana Ellis
Is writing for audio different from writing words on a page meant to be read? With an increasing number of books being published in audio format, what do authors need to pay attention to? As writers, we're often told that dialogue tags like 'said' and 'asked' become invisible to the reader. But with narrators able to signal who's talking with a voice or dialect, is that still true? Have audiobooks changed the craft of writing?

Fri 4:00 PM
(1h)
[6] St. George
Panel

Revenue Streams for the Content Creator

Nate Hoffelder, Stephanie Law, Michael R. Underwood
Whether a content creator is there to educate, entertain, or just for the likes, it never hurts to get paid. What revenue channels are actually getting content creators paid? Which have fallen out of favor, and which new ones should you be paying attention to? How can you find the one that best fits with your presentation style? Panelists will share their favorite (and least favorite) platforms and channels.

Fri 4:00 PM
(1h)
[7] Room 7029
Participatory Event

Rings of Power Discussion

NEIL OTTENSTEIN (m), Robert Lewis, Thomas R. Holtz, Jr., PhD
There have now been two seasons of Amazon's Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power. What has worked in this adaptation? What has not worked? Which characters will become Nazgul? Our panel will discuss.

Fri 4:30 PM
(2h)
[6] Room 6015
Screening

Popeye (1980)

The adventures of the famous sailor man and his friends in the seaside town of Sweethaven.

Fri 5:00 PM
(4h)
[5] Watertable B
Table 4
Scheduled Game

Game Demo: Mystic Paths

Nick (m)
In the deduction game Mystic Paths, players are challenged to navigate paths through a labyrinth called the Eternal Forest. Each player's path is unique — and only you know the way. However, you cannot traverse the forest alone. Your teammates are needed to open the sealed portals along each step. Give clever clues, hope your teammates can read your mind, and complete your journey! To complete the journey, each player takes a turn providing clues about which portal is their next step. Each step can have up to five different portals, but only one is the correct one, so players give clues that relate (hopefully) to the correct next step. The challenge is that the only clues available are cards that have been dealt, so sometimes the clues may not relate to the next portal of a journey, which means you have to get creative. This is where you need to try to read the minds of your teammates.

Fri 5:00 PM
(2h)
[8] Room 8006
Screening

KAIJU no.8 [14+][TEEN] Episodes 1-4

The story revolves around Kafka Hibino, a 32-year-old longing to join The Defense Force and make good on his promise to a childhood friend, Mina Ashiro. He befriends a new coworker Reno Ichikawa, while cleaning up Kaiju remains, whose determination to join The Defense Force inspires Kafka to fulfill his childhood promise to pass the entrance exam and join Mina to protect humanity. When a small Kaiju burrows itself inside Kafka, he gains superhuman strength and powers fit for fighting Kaiju. He works to earn the trust of his human teammates, defeat increasingly powerful Kaiju, and keep the world safe. from Crunchyroll.

Fri 5:30 PM
(1h)
Virtual Panel
Room 1
Panel

Religious Conflict in SFF

David Ellis, Gillian Polack, Ada Palmer, Valerie Estelle Frankel, Daniel M. Kimmel
What types of religions might characters follow, and what happens when characters—or even entire religious communities—come to blows over those beliefs? A classic episode of Babylon 5 features each of the nonhuman species sharing their culture's religions. Other examples include A Song of Ice and Fire, Battlestar Galactica, and Raised by Wolves. Our panelists will discuss religious conflicts in SFF.

Fri 5:30 PM
(1h)
Virtual Panel
Room 2
Panel

Is it Really a Man's World: Women Authors in Fantasy

Gail Z. Martin, Joyce Reynolds-Ward, Nikhil Prabala, Marisa Wolf (m)
With so many women sitting at the top of the New York Times and USA Today bestseller's list, why do we still perceive fantasy as a man's word? Is it because romantic fantasy isn't seen as 'serious' fantasy? Is the genre divided into 'serious' (implicitly male) fantasy and girly romantasy? Do boys read fantasy too? Why do we still have to ask these questions in 2024?

Fri 5:30 PM
(1h)
[5] 5th Floor
Lobby
Signing

Autographs: Richard Sparks and Jack Carroll

Richard Sparks, Jack Carroll
Autographs: Richard Sparks and Jack Carroll

Fri 5:30 PM
(1h)
[5] Federal Hill
Panel

The Art of the Live Play - Running a Streamed TTRPG

Yoshi (m), Vantura, Michael R. Underwood, Swift Crescendo, Griz
As Table Top RPGs have become more popular in the main stream of gaming, a new format for the shared game table has emerged, the Liveplay. In Liveplays, streamers appear online playing the game together for their audience to enjoy. But how has the Liveplay phenomenon affected the TTRPG landscape? How do streamers manage their communities during Liveplays where chat interaction is minimized as the game is in progress? Join our panel of streamers as we discuss this growing fad! *Children Only with Parent.*

Fri 5:30 PM
(1h)
[5] Guilford
Panel

Underground Civilizations

Catherine Asaro, Jim Beall, Inge Heyer, Christopher Mark Rose
Underground civilizations lurk below the surface of literature and media in SFF. When are they metaphor and when are they actual constructs? Asimov's Caves of Steel, Hugh Howey's Silo, and many Dwarven civilizations are all representations of thriving underground societies. But how practical are they? Our panelists will discuss these and other examples from SFF and how far you have to suspend your disbelief to really dig in.

Fri 5:30 PM
(1h)
[5] Homeland
Presentation

Alien Ghosts: Mass Extinctions and Speculative Biology

Kemi Ashing-Giwa -CC 2024 Winner
When it comes to planetary-level catastrophes, asteroids are only the beginning. Over Earth's history, five mass extinction events—brought about by vastly different causes—have threatened life on our planet as we know it. However, mass extinctions, and extinctions in general, remain rare in speculative fiction. Together we'll cover the cataclysms that wiped out up to 80% of all animal genera, touch on the current biodiversity crisis, and explore a few depictions of ancient life—and the loss of it—in SFF. *Child-Focused*.

Fri 5:30 PM
(1h)
[5] Mount
Washington
Panel

All About That Tense

Sarah Avery, Scott Edelman, Mark L. Van Name, Virginia DeMarce (m), Mark Painter
Don't be tense about tense! There may be twelve different verb tenses, but our experts can help you sort them out.

Fri 5:30 PM
(1h)
[6] Gibson
Panel

Staying Focused as a Creative

Brie Tart, David Keener, Stephanie Law, Ann Chatham, Ken Altabef (m)
With the internet at our fingertips and social media on our phones, it's easy to get distracted by what's immediate and forget to stay focused on what's important. But what if what's distracting you is another great idea? Our panelists will share tools and strategies for staying on task, even when the distraction is coming from inside the house.

Fri 5:30 PM
(1h)
[6] James
Panel

It's the Finer Things: Finishing Touches that Make Award Winning Cosplays

Lilis Cosplay, Gaia Eirich, Sydney Olivia (m), Savvy Dragon Cosplay
Have you ever wondered what separates a best in show costume from the rest? What techniques do judges fawn over, and what needs to be perfect in order to put your best foot forward? This panel of award winning cosplayers and judges will discuss what details of your costume need to be in tip top shape and what skills to hone in order to level up your competition game.

Fri 5:30 PM
(1h)
[6] Pride of
Baltimore II
Participatory
Event

Marvel Cinematic Universe 2024/2025

Rigel Ailur, Doc Coleman, NEIL OTTENSTEIN, Thomas R. Holtz, Jr., PhD, Evelyn Lewis (m)
Marvel released Echo, Agatha All Along, What If? S3 and Deadpool & Wolverine in 2024. 2025 so far has seen Captain America: Brave New World in February and Daredevil: Born Again in March and Thunderbolts scheduled for May. What did you enjoy? What are you looking forward to later in the year?

Fri 5:30 PM
(1h)
[6] St. George
Reading

Reading: Randee Dawn and Jennifer Povey

Randee Dawn, Jennifer R. Povey
Randee Dawn and Jennifer Povey will read selections from their works.

Friday Evening

Fri 6:00 PM
(4h)
[5] Watertable B
Table 1
Scheduled Game

Game Demo: Robot Quest Arena

Erik Delfosse (m)
Robot Quest Arena is a deckbuilding arena battle game with awesome pre-painted robot miniatures! Use battery cards to move, power your weapons, and buy powerful new cards for your deck. Navigate around the hazards of the arena and blast your opponents to score points. Destroyed bots respawn each round, so you're never out of the action!

Fri 6:30 PM
(30m)
[6] Room 6015
Screening

Kaz Rowe That Time Dracula Sued Nosferatu

Everyone is talking (and discouraging) about Robert Eggers' Nosferatu, but did you know this movie was almost never made? Back in the 1920s, the widow of Bram Stoker, author of Dracula, sued Nosferatu (1922) for copyright infringement and the court ordered all copies be burned. So how did this horror icon survive? Come learn with me! *Children Only with Parent*.

Fri 7:00 PM
(1h)
Virtual Panel
Room 1
Panel

History as Inspiration in SFFH

Emad El-Din Aysha, Gillian Polack, John Robison (m)
Authors draw their inspiration from somewhere, right? A Song of Ice and Fire was inspired by The Wars of Roses. Asimov used the fall of the Roman Empire as inspiration for his Foundation series. Let's discuss our favorite history inspired works of SFFH.

Love Tabletop Role-Playing Games?



Our Tabletop Role-Playing Games (RPGs) meetup usually takes place the last Saturday of the month from 1:00-5:00 PM on Discord. We will be rotating through various tabletop Sci Fi RPGs. You are welcome if you love tabletop RPGs.

Never played an RPG before? You are most welcome. We will be running for all levels. We have a few experienced GMs, but are always looking for more.

Premade characters will be available—we will run as many games as we have people for.

Check the calendar at www.bsfs.org/bsfscldr.htm. Info: yoshi@bsfs.org.



Fri 7:00 PM
(4h)
Virtual Room 3
Scheduled Game

Fabula Ultima Live Play! Live at Balticon!
Yoshi, Vantura, Swift Crescendo, Alyss and Dusty
The Fabula Ultima Live Play featured at twitch.tv/AlyssandDusty comes to Balticon! Join our intrepid adventurers (and their VTuber players) as they trek across a world created by and for the players in tandem with the GM! Fabula Ultima is a Fantasy TTRPG heavily inspired by JRPGs such as Final Fantasy and Xenogears, anime such as Slayers and Bleach, TTRPGs such as 13th Age and Blades in the Dark. It offers an open setting that encourages players and DM to cooperate to create the world in which the campaign will inhabit. Further, its class system invites multi-classing to create unique character combinations! Featuring: DM - Alyss and Dusty - <https://www.twitch.tv/alyssanddusty> Player - Vantura - <https://www.twitch.tv/vanturav> Player - Swift Crescendo - <https://www.twitch.tv/swiftcrescendo> Player - Yoshi - <https://www.twitch.tv/ophillis> *Children Only with Parent.*

Fri 7:00 PM
(1h)
Virtual Panel
Room 2
Panel

At the Intersection of Fantasy and Technology
David Ellis, Jana S. Brown, Jayrod P. Garrett (m)
With the advancement of technology and the demystification of nature, what we expect from our fantasy has changed. Are magic systems harder to write because of our greater knowledge of science and technology? Has the intersection of science and magic become more prevalent, and what are the advantages to this intersectionality? Does this affect our portrayals of hard and soft magic systems? How do we as readers think about these things?

Fri 7:00 PM
(1h)
[5] Federal Hill
Panel

How to be a Good Moderator
Chris Oakley, Aaron M. Roth, Evelyn Lewis (m), Elektra Hammond
Moderating a discussion panel at a convention is both easier and harder than it looks. Experienced moderators share their tips for keeping order, steering the discussion, and fixing it when things go wrong.

Fri 7:00 PM
(1h)
[5] Guilford
Panel

Happy Mind, Happy Writer
Christiane Knight, D. H. Timpko, David Simms (m), Aaron Fors
We all know stress contributes to writer's block. Some is related to external pressures, but much of it comes from within. Creating clear boundaries with family and friends, keeping a clear workspace, as well as other strategies can reduce stress and let inspiration flow. Our panelist will share their tips for a healthy mindscape and a happy writing life.

Fri 7:00 PM
(1h)
[5] Homeland
Panel

Why Do We Still Love Vampires?
Brie Tart, Jennia D'Lima (m), Jessica Moran, Martin Wilsey
Why have vampires held our interest for centuries? Other monsters might see brief spikes in their popularity as trends come and go, but vampires consistently keep us riveted. They've been characterized as vile villains, misunderstood creatures fighting their ghoulish nature, and (blood) lusty love interests. This panel will sink its teeth into the various ways vampires continue to entice and excite us.

Fri 7:00 PM
(30m)
[5] Maryland
Ballroom CD
Room Turn

Doors Open for Opening Ceremonies
Doors open for seating at Opening Ceremonies

Fri 7:00 PM
(1h)
[5] Mount
Washington
Panel

Is it Horror or Dark Fantasy?
Randee Dawn, Carl Cipra (m), Jean Marie Ward, David Boop
New sub genres pop up all the time. Dark Fantasy is being used a lot these days. Is it just horror light or something altogether different?

Fri 7:00 PM
(4h)
[5] Watertable B
Table 2
Scheduled Game

Game Demo: The Gang
Kelly (m)
Round up your gang and get ready to pull off a series of bank heists using the power of poker! In The Gang, a co-operative version of Texas Hold'em, players bet on how good they think their hand of cards will be relative to the other players, then try to make their predictions a reality. Early in a round, without talking to each other, each player chooses a chip indicating how good they think their hand is. Then they begin dealing cards into the middle of the table and have a chance to reassess their hands as more cards are revealed. At the end of the round, players see whether they correctly evaluated their hand. If all players did, you get to open one of the bank vaults! If not, you trip the alarm! If you manage to open three vaults before you trip the alarm three times, your gang wins!

Fri 7:00 PM
(1h)
[6] Gibson
Panel

The Commercialization of Space
Larry Paxton, Tim Livengood, Inge Heyer, Christopher Mark Rose
Space exploration is expensive. We're now seeing the privatization of this endeavor. What are the advantages to this? What can governments do better? Can anybody make a profit? Will space become a playground for oligarchs? Let's talk about this final frontier.

Fri 7:00 PM
(1h)
[6] James
Panel

From Design to Reality
Hannah Fors, Lilis Cosplay, Gaia Eirich, Tyaz Cosplay (m)
How to select patterns, pick appropriate fabrics, and other skills required for turning two-dimensional idea into a three-dimensional object.

Fri 7:00 PM
(1h)
[6] Kent
Panel

Everything You Wanted to Know About Filk
Roberta Rogow, Ben Newman, JT Thomas, Gary Ehrlich (m)
Filk has a long history in fandom, with its own traditions and quirks. Come learn about its not so secret history, and how it's as much a community as a musical genre. Discover where the community and its members can be found at cons, online, and elsewhere!

Fri 7:00 PM
(1h)
[6] Pride of Baltimore II
Panel

Getting Your Short Stories to Readers
David Keener, L.H. Moore, Alex Shvartsman, D.H. Aire (m)
How do you get readers to find your short stories? There's a variety of ways short stories are published today, from anthologies - online and in print, to zines, to single author collections. Writers specializing in short stories have difficulty connecting with and building an audience. How can you find the people who enjoy your work, and how can they find you in a cost effective way? We will discuss short story collections, social media, conventions, and other ways of reaching your readership.

Fri 7:00 PM
(1h30m)
[6] Room 6015
Screening

Nosferatu: Ein Symphonie des Grauens
Vampire Count Orlok expresses interest in a new residence and real estate agent Hutter's wife. *Children Only with Parent.*

Fri 7:00 PM
(1h)
[6] St. George
Reading

Reading: Doc Coleman and Sam Haines
Doc Coleman, Martin Berman-Gorvine
Doc Coleman and Sam Haines will read selections from their works.

Fri 7:00 PM
(2h)
[7] Room 7006
Workshop

Costumes in a Flash
Eta Hack, Ben Rovik, Merrily Wolf
Fabric! Glue! Pins! Needles! Ribbons! Lace! Buttons! CDs! We have everything you need for costumers young and less young to whip up something hall-costume-worthy in record time. Best for ages 5 and up. *Child-Focused.*

Fri 7:00 PM
(2h)
[7] Room 7029
Participatory Event

Shabbat Dinner with Fen
Bring your dinner and join us in celebrating Shabbat. There will be grape juice and rolls available. And space for a minyan if we manage to pull one together. Log into our Discord server and join the Shabbat Discussion channel for more details. From Chabad.org: Light candles at 8:02 PM, Shabbat ends at 9:08 PM

Fri 7:00 PM
(2h)
[8] Room 8006
Screening

The Apothecary Diaries [14+][TEEN]
Episodes 12-15
Maomao lived a peaceful life with her apothecary father. Until one day, she's sold as a lowly servant to the emperor's palace. But she wasn't meant for a compliant life among royalty. So when imperial heirs fall ill, she decides to step in and find a cure! This catches the eye of Jinshi, a handsome palace official who promotes her. Now, she's making a name for herself solving medical mysteries! from Crunchyroll

Fri 7:30 PM
(1h)
[5] Maryland
Ballroom CD
Presentation

Opening Ceremonies
Mark L. Van Name (m), Kelly Pierce, Yakira Heistand, Kemi Ashing-Giwa -CC 2024 Winner, Marc, Stephanie Law, Sebastien de Castell, Silvia Moreno-Garcia, Joanna Fang, Blake Collins, Sharon Lee, Samantha Mills -CC 2025 Winner
Join us for a spectacular opening to a wonderful Balticon Experience! Welcome our Guests of Honor and Special Guests, applaud the Compton Crook and Heinlein Awards, and honor those we've lost since we were last able to meet in person.

Fri 8:00 PM
(4h)
[5] Watertable A
Table 1
Scheduled Game

Mork Borg: Vermis 1
Robert Himmerger
Which flesh is your flesh? The world of Vermis is dying. Darkness is eternal, infinite, unrelenting. No one can escape it, we are born in the light and rot in the dark. Yet you live. Are you a light that cannot fade by darkness? A light that shines even in the darkest corners of the world? Or are you simply a corpse mesmerized by a reflection of your living flesh, wondering what you could have done and could have been? This is a Mork Borg adaptation of one section of the guidebook for the non-existent game Vermis. No understanding of either is required to play. *Children Only with Parent.*

Fri 8:00 PM
(4h)
[5] Watertable A
Table 2
Scheduled Game

Cyberpunk Edgerunners: The Jacket
Caleb
Night City, the home you love and hate. Where you run on the edge doing things that are definitely not proper or legal to make a living. A fixer, Dakota Smith, has called in a favor. A cowboy wants a job done, and you're to meet him to get the deets. Simple, right? *Children Only with Parent.*

Fri 8:00 PM
(4h)
[5] Watertable A
Table 3
Scheduled Game

Old gods of Appalachia: What Paths May Cross (Session 1)
Aria Winters
After a mysterious train derailment that causes no casualties but attracts a startling number of birds to the location, the player characters quickly realize this isn't an ordinary train derailment. It takes place at the edge of a railroad tunnel with a long history of misfortune and several characters with their own agendas may leave the characters chasing their own tails. *Children Only with Parent.*

BSFS and Balticon Videos on YouTube

Some BSFS and Balticon panels and presentations are available to view on the BSFS/Balticon YouTube channel (youtube.com/c/BaltimoreSciFi/videos). The recordings will contain automatically generated captions. You can also view videos from previous Balticons.

YouTube can be used in a web browser or you may download the YouTube app for your device.

Fri 8:00 PM (4h) [5] Watertable B Table 3 <i>Scheduled Game</i>	Game Demo: Caution Signs <i>Crystal (m)</i> Each round in Caution Signs, you're presented with a secret combination of adjective and noun: stylish rhino, gassy monkeys, flexible cow, melting babies — ten thousand combinations are possible. You have twenty seconds to sketch an image of this combo on a caution sign. All of these images are then revealed to the round's guesser, along with the individual adjectives and nouns, and the guesser tries to figure out what each sign is warning them about.
Fri 8:30 PM (2h45m) [12] Presidential Suite <i>Participatory Event</i>	Meet the Scientists Social Come meet our science participants and ask questions!
Fri 8:30 PM (1h) [5] Federal Hill <i>Panel</i>	Voice in Writing <i>Ken Altabef, Zack Be, Sarah Avery (m), David Boop</i> How do you cultivate a marketable voice? Your voice is more than just your writing style. With agents and editors asking for more "voicey" fiction, how do you write characters who feel alive and lived in? How can you as an author find your unique voice?
Fri 8:30 PM (1h) [5] Guilford <i>Panel</i>	I Learned About the Omegaverse so You Don't Have To. <i>Morgan Hazelwood, Sheila Jenne, Lee Hawkridge, R. Taylor (m)</i> Has your curiosity been piqued whilst perusing your favorite fanfic site when you stumble upon Greek symbols or the mysterious A/B/O? Did you want to know more or were afraid to have that in your search history? Don't worry, we've done it for you! Our panel of Omegaverse experts/traumatized persons will take to a magical world of speculative erotic fiction that would terrify any self-proclaimed "alpha male." <i>Children Not Allowed.</i>
Fri 8:30 PM (1h) [5] Homeland <i>Reading</i>	Reading: Sebastien de Castell and Silvia Moreno-Garcia <i>Silvia Moreno-Garcia, Sebastien de Castell</i> Guests of Honor Sebastien de Castell and Silvia Moreno-Garcia will share their favorite, or fan favorite, (or both) selections from published works. If we're lucky, they may share samples of what they're working on. **Note: This may start late if Opening Ceremonies runs long. There is nothing scheduled after so we will get our full hour with our Guests of Honor. Probably longer if we bribe them...

Fri 8:30 PM (1h) [5] Maryland Ballroom AB <i>Participatory Event</i>	Art Show Reception Come and meet the artists and have refreshments!
Fri 8:30 PM (1h) [5] Mount Washington <i>Panel</i>	When Writing Advice is Rong <i>Dan Jolley, Ian Randal Strock, Scott H. Andrews, Joshua Bilmes, Mark Painter (m)</i> Is show don't tell always correct? Should I stay away from genre tropes? Is writing in the present tense really that awful? Can I mix POVs? Our panel of experienced writers and editors will address these questions and more.
Fri 8:30 PM (1h) [6] Gibson <i>Panel</i>	Howard the Duck Retrospective <i>NEIL OTTENSTEIN, Scott Edelman</i> Howard the Duck first appeared in Adventure into Fear #19 in 1973 and eventually got his own series in 1976. This irreverent character became so popular he received write-in votes for the presidential election of 1976. More recently the pants-less Anatidae made small appearances in several MCU films. Our panelists will discuss the evolution of the character over the years and his impact.
Fri 8:30 PM (30m) [6] Kent <i>Concert</i>	Concert: Roberta Rogow <i>Roberta Rogow</i> Roberta Rogow takes you on a journey from Star Trek to Martian rovers, through strange tales of history and conventions gone wrong!
Fri 8:30 PM (30m) [6] Room 6015 <i>Screening</i>	Hollywood Graveyard Presents: Tomb of Nosferatu What if nearly a century ago, Arthur Dark traveled to Germany with his wife Helen to shoot the very first Hollywood Graveyard film, and in doing so, unleashed a dark shadow from cinema's past? <i>Children Only with Parent.</i>
Fri 9:00 PM (4h) [5] Watertable B Table 4 <i>Scheduled Game</i>	Game Demo: Illiterati <i>Nick (m)</i> Illiterati is a real-time, co-operative word game in which players work together to form words and bind books. Each player starts the game with five letter tiles and a red torched book that shows a condition that player must achieve to restore that book. A library of three random tiles is placed in the center of the table. The game takes place in three-minute rounds, and before the round begins each player draw seven letter tiles from the draw bag. Once the countdown begins, players can talk and trade letters as much as they want with one another and the library to try to achieve their goal. Once time ends, if the library contains too many letters — and this threshold is based on your difficulty level — then you trigger a burn event. Flip all of these letters face down, then remove one of them from the game, then discard excess letters to the discard bag. If you burn too many letters, you lose the game.

Fri 9:00 PM
(2h)
[8] Room 8006
Screening

Solo Leveling Season 2 - Arise from the Shadows [16+][ADULT] Episodes 12-15
They say whatever doesn't kill you makes you stronger, but that's not the case for the world's weakest hunter Sung Jinwoo. After being brutally slaughtered by monsters in a high-ranking dungeon, Jinwoo came back with the System, a program only he could see, that's leveling him up in every way. Now, he's inspired to discover the secrets behind his powers and the dungeon that spawned them. from Crunchyroll *Children Only with Parent.*

Friday Night

Fri 10:00 PM
(1h)
Virtual Panel
Room 1
Panel

That Shouldn't Fit
Glitch Symphony, Gracie, Amanda, Yakira Heistand
"I've seen enough hentai to know where this is going!" Ooops wrong hole...or was it? An exploration of Hentai and the seemingly unending fascination of finding ways to squeeze various things into various holes. *Children Not Allowed.*

Fri 10:00 PM
(4h)
[5] Watertable B
Table 1
Scheduled Game

Game Demo: The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey Deck-Building Game
Pickles (m)
In The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey Deck-Building Game, each player takes on the role of a member of The Company as they set out on the long and treacherous path to Lonely Mountain. Play as Bilbo Baggins, Gandalf the Grey, Thorin Oakenshield, or others. Each player starts with his own basic ten-card deck and draws a hand of five cards each turn. Power is the currency you will use to buy new, stronger cards to add to your deck. Five types of cards can be acquired: Enemies, Allies, Artifacts, Maneuvers, and Locations. Each player always has five face-up cards from which to choose each turn, so new options and surprises await each turn. When you have amassed enough Power, you can take on an Archenemy! Each Archenemy has Loot cards you can acquire. Defeat a Troll and you might find Sting, Orcrist, or Glamdring! Take on The Goblin King and you might find the maneuvers you need to escape from the Misty Mountains. Azog is the final Archenemy, and he has unfinished business...

Fri 10:00 PM
(2h)
[6] Gibson
Screening

Score! Live: Film TBA
Score! Live: Film TBA

Fri 10:00 PM
(6h)
[6] Kent
Participatory Event

Friday Night Filk Circle
Gary Ehrlich, Emily Anne Lewis, JT Thomas
The filk circles are your chance to share a favorite song or two. All songs are welcome: filk, folk, Celtic, SCA, and more. Or bring an instrument and play along. Join us to sing the night away, or just stop by for a listen!

Fri 10:00 PM
(2h)
[6] Room 6015
Screening

Dune: The Complete Saga Fan Edit of the Dune
A Duke's son leads desert warriors against the galactic emperor and his father's evil nemesis to free their desert world from the emperor's rule. *Children Only with Parent.*

Fri 11:00 PM
(2h)
[5] Maryland Ballroom CD
Screening

Rocky Horror Picture Show
Rocky Horror anyone? *Children Only with Parent.*

Fri 11:00 PM
(2h)
[8] Room 8006
Screening

Dan Da Dan [16+][ADULT] Episodes 1-4
When high schooler Momo, from a family of spirit mediums, first meets her classmate Okarun, an occult geek, they argue—Momo believes in ghosts but denies aliens, and Okarun believes in aliens but denies ghosts. When it turns out both phenomena are real, Momo awakens a hidden power and Okarun gains the power of a curse. Together, they must challenge the paranormal forces threatening their world. from Crunchyroll *Children Only with Parent.*

Fri 11:55 PM
(2h)
[6] Room 6015
Screening

After Life
After a car accident, a young woman caught between life and death meets a funeral director who claims to have the gift of transitioning the dead into the afterlife. *Children Only with Parent.*

Sat 2:00 AM
(1h30m)
[6] Room 6015
Workshop

Stories of Lost Souls
Short stories of conquest, desperation and the will to overcome. *Children Only with Parent.*

Sat 3:30 AM
(3h)
[6] Room 6015
Screening

The Odyssey (2001)
When two boys are looking for stuff in an attic, they find a map that leads to the most extraordinary treasure that was never found in many long years. *Children Only with Parent.*

Saturday Morning

Sat 6:30 AM
(30m)
[6] Room 6015
Screening

Classic Cartoons
A selection of Classic and Current Animated Cartoons *Child-Focused.*

Sat 7:00 AM
(1h30m)
[6] Room 6015
Screening

The Pied Piper of Hamelin
Overwhelmed by rats, a medieval town hires a magical piper who can rid the town of the pest in exchange for gold but the crooked mayor has no intention of honoring the deal.

Sat 8:00 AM
(1h45m)
[7] Room 7006
Workshop

Baltikids Bagel Breakfast-- Saturday
Ben Rovik
Come enjoy a complimentary breakfast spread aimed at kids and their grownups-in-tow! We get it-- scrounging up a decent family breakfast morning after morning at the con can be daunting. We didn't want to have to use that much brainpower before 9 AM either! That's why Children's Programming decided to spring for kid-friendly breakfast eats and set them out for folks like you, to make it a little easier to start your intergenerational con day on a good foot. Every day of the weekend, food will be available by 8 AM and packed up at 9:45. We'll have toys and chill activities set up in the room too, so when little appetites are sated they can play and have something to do while grownups chat. So nerdy parents and nerdy kids, come eat some stuff and get to know each other! And then go forth and be awesome (and less hangry). We'll have dairy free, gluten free, and kosher options available and label stuff thoroughly to answer any allergen/diet questions as best we can. *Child-Focused.*

Sat 8:30 AM
(1h30m)
[6] Room 6015
Screening

Harold and the Purple Crayon
Inside of his book, adventurous Harold can make anything come to life simply by drawing it. After he grows up and draws himself off the book's pages and into the physical world, Harold finds he has a lot to learn about real life.

Sat 9:00 AM
(3h)
[5] Private Dining Room
Workshop

Miniature Painting Workshop (Session 2)
Lord Kron
Come learn to paint miniatures of all kinds with our esteemed Lord Kron! Scratch that creative itch, and let loose your artistic vision upon the bare plastic!

Sat 9:00 AM
(3h)
[5] Watertable B Table 2
Scheduled Game

Game Demo: Space Cats Fight Fascism
Pickles (m)
A rising wave of fascism is now sweeping across the galaxy, threatening to throw the Galactic Alliance under autocratic rule. To help grow their power, the fascist group known as The Rat Pack has been pinning the galaxy's problems on cats. Now, these fuzzy creatures could be forced into exile all together. That is unless a band of rebellious felines, led by Rocket (the freedom fighter), CJ (the medic), Pepper (the pouncer), and Ophelia (the smuggler) can stop these fascist forces from seizing power - all while building a new galaxy where all species are free together. Space Cats Fight Fascism is a cooperative game where you play as a band of rebel cats trying to stop fascists from seizing control of the galaxy. In Space Cats Fight Fascism, you'll hop from planet to planet, scratching away at fascist forces and freeing animals pinned under the fascists' claws.

Sat 9:00 AM
(1h)
[6] James
Participatory Event

Shabbat Discussion
D.H. Aire
Join us for a celebration of the Shabbat with a Torah study with Barry Nove. No Hebrew knowledge is necessary for this study of the classic medieval commentaries, featuring the week's parsha, Behar-Bechutotai - on the Sabbatic Year/Shmita in Leviticus. The text study will be followed by the saying of the Kaddish memorial prayer. All are welcome.

Sat 9:00 AM
(1h)
[8] Room 8006
Screening

Terrified Teacher at Ghoulish School
[14+][CHILD] Episodes 1-2
Haruaki Abe is happy to finally fulfill his dream of becoming a teacher. That happiness is short-lived after he arrives at Hyakki Academy and finds out the school is full of monsters! Can Abe overcome his cowardice and get his supernatural students under control? Join the timid teacher and his bizarre class for a tale of ghoulish mischief and paranormal education. from Crunchyroll

Sat 10:00 AM
(1h)
Virtual Panel
Room 1
Panel

Lessons From Cyberspace
Kris Vyas-Myall, David Keener, Syd (m)
Balticon was the first con to go virtual after COVID-19 hit. We've since evolved into a hybrid convention while others have gone back to solely in-person. What have convention runners learned from the virtual versus in-person experience? What's missing when we're not here in person, what did we gain through the virtual experience, and how do we keep the best parts of both?

Sat 10:00 AM
(1h)
Virtual Panel
Room 2
Panel

Sex, Sexuality, and Worldbuilding
Cherrie Fors, Galen Dara, Walt Boyes, R. Taylor
Talking about who we have sex with and we do it is a reflection of our own culture. What are the taboos, stated or unstated, that shape a culture, and why might they be there? What assumptions do we bring to the table when looking at sex and relationships? Are pseudo-European feudal cultures inherently heteronormative and why do we assume that high-tech societies are necessarily going to be more "enlightened" than our own? *Children Not Allowed.*

Sat 10:00 AM
(1h30m)
[10] Room 10006
Workshop

Intro to 3D Printing
Ty McNeer
New to 3D printing? Join our team of 3D printing experts for a discussion on printers, materials, and programs. Take a look at different machines and materials and ask all your burning questions.

Sat 10:00 AM
(1h)
[5] 5th Floor Lobby
Signing

Autographs: Sara Pinsker and Kemi Ashing-Giwa
Sarah Pinsker, Kemi Ashing-Giwa -CC 2024 Winner
Autographs: Sara Pinsker and Kemi Ashing-Giwa

Sat 10:00 AM (2h) [5] Baltimore Ballroom A <i>Participatory Event</i>	Waffle Brunch Fresh hot waffles. Sponsored by Philcon, Boskone and Montreal
Sat 10:00 AM (1h) [5] Federal Hill <i>Panel</i>	The Cat Really is out to Get You! <i>Elektra Hammond, Jack Campbell, Diana Peterfreund, Hannah Fors (m)</i> Cats figure in horror movies as therapists, guides, witches' assistants, monsters... Cats, as we know, go their own way; being bland and cliché is not for them. Mutant cat killers, a cat sage with four tails, cat models, beloved by a certain mangaka, Asian cats who are not even afraid of the zombie apocalypse, let's talk about these and other four footed furry (or hypoallergenic) felines.
Sat 10:00 AM (1h) [5] Guilford <i>Panel</i>	Writing HoH and Deaf Characters <i>Kit Englard, Brie Tart</i> Fiction often portrays a lopsided, effort-intensive relationship between Deaf characters and their hearing counterparts. How can authors portray communication between these characters? What technologies exist to facilitate communication and what could the future look like? What does it look like to code-switch between Deaf and hearing cultures? Let's talk about this with a panel of Deaf/HoH and related community members.
Sat 10:00 AM (1h) [5] Homeland <i>Presentation</i>	A Mite-y Powerful Technology <i>Ron Ochoa</i> A Mite-y Powerful Technology <i>Child-Focused</i> .
Sat 10:00 AM (2h) [5] Maryland Ballroom AB <i>Participatory Event</i>	Beading Workshop <i>Lisa Ashton</i> I'll teach you basic techniques of sewing beads to a foundation, then progress to peyote beading, using a cabochon on a felt foundation, and arrive at the magical moment when the cabochon is safely attached using only beads and thread! We'll talk about beads and supplies, and there will be samples and works-in-progress to inspire. Lisa Ashton is an experienced beader and teacher and is excited to share these techniques with everyone to create wonderful jewelry and art. Kits will be available for \$15 - payment in cash or PayPal, please. Each kit contains enough supplies to make two cabochon beaded projects, as well as typed instructions. Finished projects can be made into pins or pendants. Extra kits/supplies will be available for sale. No experience is necessary (although if you've threaded a needle and sewn before, that helps. Children over 10 are welcome if accompanied by an adult who will stay for the workshop. We will be working with seed beads, which are tiny.

Sat 10:00 AM (1h) [5] Maryland Ballroom CD <i>Presentation</i>	Foley Artist Presentation <i>Joanna Fang, Blake Collins</i> Guests of Honor Joanna Fang and Blake Collins explain what a Foley Artist is and how they elevate your movie, TV, and gaming experiences through sound. This panel may include strange noises and unexpected sounds.
Sat 10:00 AM (1h) [5] Mount Washington <i>Panel</i>	Storytelling: Now and in the Future <i>Bryant Johnson, Richard Sparks, Carolyn Ives Gilman, Jessica Moran (m)</i> Stories are at the root of who we are as humans. Why do stories capture our attention? Has the commercialization and industrialization of story-telling helped or hurt how our stories are told? Our panelists will discuss the current condition of their profession and their hopes and fears for its future.
Sat 10:00 AM (4h) [5] Watertable B Table 3 <i>Scheduled Game</i>	Game Demo: Things in Rings <i>Kelly (m)</i> In the center of the table, place the Rings and form a triple Venn diagram. Designate one player to be "The Knower." The Knower knows the different logic rules for each Ring and will facilitate the game. All other players start with a hand of five object cards. Depending on the Ring, the logic rules will be related to different characteristics, like spelling, grammar, physical properties, cultural relevance, or industry. On your turn, place an object card from your hand into the Venn diagram. If it fits that ring's rules, place another card. If it doesn't fit the rules, "The Knower" moves the card to the right area. The player then draws another card. The point of the game is to get rid of all of your cards. Can you figure out the Rings' logic before your opponents?
Sat 10:00 AM (1h) [6] Gibson <i>Panel</i>	Mommy Issues <i>Ann Pollack, Sarah Avery, Jen Brinn, Tom Doyle (m), Samantha Mills -CC 2025 Winner</i> Let's discuss the role of motherhood in SFFH, both as antagonists and protagonists. Why do we put mothers on a pedestal? Are they only interesting when they've messed up their kids? Most of us have had much more complicated experiences with our own mothers. The experience of motherhood is not just two-dimensional martyrdom—and some of the field's best works reflect that. Let's talk about some of SFFH's mommy issues: bad moms, absent moms, deadbeat moms, mothers as protagonists and as villains.

Sat 10:00 AM
(1h)
[6] James
Panel

FMA Brotherhood: A Fan Retrospective

Brick Barrientos, Evelyn Lewis, Yoshi

In 2009, Studio Bones announced they were remaking Full Metal Alchemist to faithfully follow the finished story of the Manga. A reboot of the 2003 series, fans were unsure what to expect following the comedic tone the original had set. 16 years later, Brotherhood is still touted as one of the best anime ever made, and fans across the world are still moved by its story. What made Brotherhood so compelling to such a wide fanbase? How is it now, over 15 years later, that the picture of a little girl and her dog can bring legions of followers to their knees in tears? Join our panelists as we turn back the clock and explore one of the most popular and impactful anime of the previous decades.

Children Only with Parent.

Sat 10:00 AM
(1h)
[6] Kent
Panel

I am the Very Model...

JT Thomas, Roberta Rogow, Nomi S, Harold Feld, Emily Anne Lewis

"I am the very model of a modern major general..." Join us for a dissection and analysis of Gilbert and Sullivan's "patter" songs. These songs are the forerunners of rap and the modern musical. They are some of the most enduring stage-musical songs ever written. What are the creative lessons to learn for both musicians and writers?

Sat 10:00 AM
(1h)
[6] Pride of
Baltimore II
Panel

Underutilized Bases for Magic Systems

S. C. Megale, Aaron M. Roth, Jennifer R. Povey

Magic systems are the backbone of a lot of fantasy. However, magic can be based on more than the ancestral grimoire or memorized magic words. How can writers build unique magic systems using uncommon foundations? What ways can they use common magic tropes in unusual ways? Let's talk about the building blocks of magic.

Sat 10:00 AM
(2h15m)
[6] Room 6015
Screening

Oz the Great and Powerful

A small-time magician is swept away to an enchanted land and is forced into a power struggle among three witches. *Children Only with Parent.*

Sat 10:00 AM
(1h30m)
[6] St. George
Reading

Short Fire Readings: Carroll, DeMarce, Johnson, Scott, Vibbert

Virginia DeMarce, Jack Carroll, Micaiah Johnson - CC 2021 Winner, Marie Vibbert, Melissa Scott

Short Fire Readings by Jack Carroll, Virginia, DeMarce, Micaiah Johnson, Melissa Scott, and Marie Vibbert. This item will run 90 minutes to give all the authors a reasonable chunk of time. We're trying something new. Take the survey and tell us what you think!

Sat 10:00 AM
(45m)
[7] Room 7006
Workshop

Play Dough

Eta Hack, Ben Rovik

Join us to make a batch of everybody's favorite not-too-messy non-toxic squishy stuff! Mix, roll, color, and squish it yourself, and take it with you when you're done. Best for ages 5 and up. *Child-Focused.*

Sat 10:00 AM
(1h)
[7] Room 7029
Participatory Event

Maryland Costumers and Cosplayers Yard Sale

Jamie Peddicord

Come join us at the Maryland Costumers & Cosplayers (MCC) "yard sale"! Patterns, costume books, fabric, accessories, antique lace, costumes (some finished, some not)... come browse & buy, you never know what you might find.

Sat 10:00 AM
(2h)
[8] Room 8006
Screening

The Red Ranger Becomes an Adventurer in Another World [14+][CHILD] Episodes 1-4

Togo Asagaki was the Red Ranger in a heroic Ranger squad. During their final battle against an evil organization, he was ready to give his life to guarantee their triumph. But fate had other plans, and he suddenly found himself in an entirely different world. Embracing his new role as an adventurer, he transforms into Kizuna Red and continues his pursuit of justice, helping those in need. from Crunchyroll

Sat 10:00 AM
(2h)
[8] Room 8029
Workshop

Speculative Poetry Writing Workshop

Miguel O. Mitchell, PhD

In this workshop, we will practice writing speculative poetry and share our creations. First, I will explain several types of poetic forms and we will read examples that have science fiction, fantasy, or horror themes. Then using writing prompts, you will have opportunities to write short speculative poems that fit into specific forms, and we will discuss them. This workshop embraces all those who want to try their hand at writing poems, so kindness and respect should emanate from each suggestion.

Sat 10:45 AM
(45m)
[7] Room 7006
Participatory Event

Fun with Science with Brent Warner

Brent Warner

Get ready for a science demo sure to delight and excite! Be prepared to get a little hands on and come armed with questions and curiosity. Best for ages 5 and up. *Child-Focused.*



BSFS and Balticon activities are supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council.
msac.org

Sat 11:00 AM (1h30m) [5] 5th Floor Lobby <i>Tour</i>	First Timers and Friends! (Meet-n-greet and tour) <i>Morgan Hazelwood</i> Whether you're a first timer or a regular hand at Balticon, come for some snacks and mingling. If you're interested in learning more, Morgan Hazelwood will be guiding a tour! From the registration desk to main events, from the Art Show to the Con Suite, this tour explains it all. Plus, tips on getting the most out of your convention and picking up some of the lingo. The tour will be half an hour, starting at noon (12:00pm). **We will meet on the Dance Floor in the Atrium.**
Sat 11:30 AM (1h) Virtual Panel Room 1 <i>Panel</i>	Juggling POV <i>Mary Soon Lee, Sally Wiener Grotta, Joyce Reynolds-Ward, Gail Z. Martin</i> It's a hallmark of SFF to provide different points of view. How many POV characters are too many? How do you jump from one character to another without losing your readers? Learn from pros who have kept their readers along for the ride.
Sat 11:30 AM (1h) Virtual Room 3 <i>Concert</i>	Virtual Concert: Lawrence Dean <i>Lawrence Dean</i> Lawrence is a long-time member of the British filk community, a fantastic songwriter and engaging performer. He has three Pegasus Awards to his credit including Best Filk Song awards for "Following Our Dreams" and "Second-Hand Heaven".
Sat 11:30 AM (1h) Virtual Panel Room 2 <i>Panel</i>	Morality and Ethics for the Non-Human <i>Cherrie Fors, David Ellis, Marisa Wolf, Art Sierra</i> Defining morality is really about fleshing out culture. Right and wrong are not black and white, especially in SFF. Good and evil heavily depend on context. From tricky fae to conquering aliens, how can writers explore morality and ethics in their non-human characters?
Sat 11:30 AM (1h30m) [10] Room 10006 <i>Workshop</i>	Intermediate 3D Printing <i>Ty McNeer</i> You've mastered the basics. You're able to print files without modification. It's time to expand your skills! We'll talk about upgrading your printer and playing with your designs. (Along with ways to justify more printers to your SO.)
Sat 11:30 AM (1h) [5] 5th Floor Lobby <i>Signing</i>	Autographs: Bjorn Hasseler and Virginia DeMarce <i>Bjorn E. Hasseler, Virginia DeMarce</i> Autographs: Bjorn Hasseler and Virginia DeMarce
Sat 11:30 AM (1h) [5] Federal Hill <i>Reading</i>	Reading: Young Writer's Contest Winners Reading: Young Writer's Contest Winners

Sat 11:30 AM (1h) [5] Guilford <i>Panel</i>	Lawyers in Space <i>Adeena Mignogna, Mary G. Thompson, Martin Berman-Gorvine (m), Pat Bahn, Harold Feld</i> Authors of SFF often need to create legal systems as part of their worldbuilding. What are the issues related to building legal rules, customs and relationships related to moving, staying and acting in outer space? How do we avoid sounding like a legal text? After all, politics is messy.
Sat 11:30 AM (1h) [5] Homeland <i>Presentation</i>	Complexity in the Universe <i>Sean Carroll</i> A famous law of physics, the Second Law of Thermodynamics, states that the entropy of the universe increases over time. And entropy is supposed to be a measure of disorder or randomness. This raises an important question: how did we come to be? Biological organisms are exquisitely ordered and complex, not something we might expect to arise out of a universal tendency toward disorder. In this talk I will show how simplicity/complexity is a distinct idea from order/disorder, and suggest how complexity can naturally develop between the Big Bang and today, before eventually fading away in the far future. <i>Child-Focused</i> .
Sat 11:30 AM (1h) [5] Maryland Ballroom CD <i>Interview</i>	Heinlein award winner interview <i>Sharon Lee, Tom Schaad</i> Guest of Honor and Heinlein Award Winner Sharon Lee interview.
Sat 11:30 AM (1h) [5] Mount Washington <i>Panel</i>	Revolutions are Messy <i>Micaiah Johnson - CC 2021 Winner, Jessica Moran, Kemi Ashing-Giwa - CC 2024 Winner, Bob Oliver, John Robison (m)</i> So many stories about defeating an empire begin and end with a single revolution, but what about the complexities, messiness, and banality of actual revolutions? How does the American rebel myth interfere with alternate revolution narratives? Panelists will discuss the depictions of revolutions in speculative fiction and how believable they are.
Sat 11:30 AM (1h) [6] Gibson <i>Panel</i>	Traditional Publishing Scares Me: How to Traditionally Publish Your Book <i>Joshua Bilmes, Sydney Olivia, Silvia Moreno-Garcia, Ian Randal Strock, Brie Tart (m)</i> The world of traditional publishing is scary, and doesn't come with a user manual. The days of mail-in manuscripts are over, and you can't just buy an agent at Walmart. From query letters and comps, to the one-page synopsis, what do authors need to break into traditional publishing?

Sat 11:30 AM

(1h)

[6] James
Panel**Makeup for Stage and Hall Costumes***Lilis Cosplay, Jamie Peddicord, CosplayOnWords (m)*

Stage makeup is very different from your everyday smokey eye. Learn about unusual techniques for applying makeup intended to be seen up close or from afar. We'll talk about brands and tools, and health and safety. And how to make sure you don't stain your skin blue. (you will)

Sat 11:30 AM

(1h)

[6] Kent
Panel**Arranging Songs and Making Them Your Own***Rob BGSO, Cheryl BGSO, Michael Schwartz, Emily Anne Lewis (m), Ben Newman*

So you've written a new item of music, or discovered a great item of music you'd love to cover. How do you go about performing it in a way that will engage and entertain your audience? If you're doing a cover, do you mimic the original or find your own style? Our panel of musicians offer their tips.

Sat 11:30 AM

(1h)

[6] Pride of
Baltimore II
Panel**Everybody Eats***A. L. Kaplan, Jo Miles, Mark L. Van Name (m), Martin Wilsey, Ruthanna Emrys*

Let's face it, we all have to eat. Understanding the food technology and cultural milieu of your world is part of worldbuilding. There's a reason ancient Roman street food was normal, and Pueblo communal kitchens served not just as a way to feed people but as a cultural necessity. Let's talk about ways your characters and their communities might make and eat food.

Sat 11:30 AM

(1h)

[6] St. George
Panel**GMing: Thinking on Your Feet***Suzanne Buck, Kelly Pierce, Nomi S, Jennifer R. Povey (m)*

You craft the perfect campaign and world — but the players decide to investigate the random alley cat? Is the cat a wizard's familiar? A demon lord? Or just cute? Learning how to think on your feet is an important part of GMing, but not everyone is trained in improv. From planning event based campaigns, adding excitement with kick-in-the-door sequences, and improvising charming NPCs, our panelists will share their favorite tips for loosening up, and keeping things fluid and fun.

Sat 11:30 AM

(1h)

[7] Patio
Participatory
Event**Hula Hooping with Patches***Patches*

Come Hula Hoop with our own patches and cut loose the con stress!

Sat 11:30 AM

(45m)

[7] Room 7006
Refresh**Closed for Lunch-- Saturday***Eta Hack, Ben Rovik*

Your intrepid Children's Programming team will be away for lunch. See you for more fun after the break! *Child-Focused.*

Saturday Afternoon**Sat 12:00 PM**

(4h)

[5] Watertable A
Table 1
Scheduled Game**Porcelain Souls: Covenant Broken, Covenant Restored (Demo 1)***Mitch Bustillos*

Sink into a world of the macabre. The remnants of humanity's essence now reside in the shell of dolls. Moving among the carcasses of the world left behind. Inspired by the movie 9 and the many works of the Quay Brothers. We ask you to join us in creating the most horrific TTRPG through porcelain lenses. See the nightmares birthed by the phantasmagorias and never forget the ones you will die alongside. There were three of them. Each one carries with them a passion for their children. Each one encompassed the anatomy of a vine. The Rose sprouted from the top. Seeking the sun. The Rot drips on its lengthy vine, under the shadows and content in its place. Then the Grey. The dirt. Devoid of the vine and a part of something wholly different. Become a part of one of the Ziggurats. Silver and glass pillars breaching the sky. The home of us who remain. Each one seeks their own path. One seeks humanity, one despises it, the other too alien to even acknowledge such bygone amusements. *Children Only with Parent.*

Sat 12:00 PM

(4h)

[5] Watertable A
Table 2
Scheduled Game**Porcelain Souls: Covenant Broken, Covenant Restored (Demo 4)***Caleb*

Sink into a world of the macabre. The remnants of humanity's essence now reside in the shell of dolls. Moving among the carcasses of the world left behind. Inspired by the movie 9 and the many works of the Quay Brothers. We ask you to join us in creating the most horrific TTRPG through porcelain lenses. See the nightmares birthed by the phantasmagorias and never forget the ones you will die alongside. There were three of them. Each one carries with them a passion for their children. Each one encompassed the anatomy of a vine. The Rose sprouted from the top. Seeking the sun. The Rot drips on its lengthy vine, under the shadows and content in its place. Then the Grey. The dirt. Devoid of the vine and a part of something wholly different. Become a part of one of the Ziggurats. Silver and glass pillars breaching the sky. The home of us who remain. Each one seeks their own path. One seeks humanity, one despises it, the other too alien to even acknowledge such bygone amusements. *Children Only with Parent.*

Sat 12:00 PM

(4h)

[5] Watertable A
Table 3
Scheduled Game**Pathfinder 1e: From the Blackness (Pt 2)***Misha*

Earth has long been cut off from magic, to hide it from the Dominion of the Black. What happens when that protection breaks? *Children Only with Parent.*

Sat 12:00 PM
(4h)
[5] Watertable B
Table 1
Scheduled Game

Game Demo: Tesseract
hymie! (m)
The Tesseract appeared in our skies six days ago, over the exact magnetic north of the planet. It was the size of a city block. Since that time it has been condensing, collapsing upon itself. It can now fit into the palm of your hand. Our world's best minds must now find a way to contain and control the reactions of this alien artifact, or its exponentially increasing destructive power will remove our planet from existence. Tesseract is a compelling, cooperative dice-manipulation game for 1 to 4 players. The focal point of the game is a block of 64 dice, the Tesseract, which sits at the center of the board on a raised platform. Players will remove cubes to place in their individual labs, transfer them as needed to others, adjust the cube's values and, importantly, isolate the cubes into the containment matrix, neutralizing them.

Sat 12:00 PM
(2h)
[5] Watertable B
Table 2
Scheduled Game

Game Demo: Abduktion
Michelle Hymowitz (m)
Players are all interns on an alien UFO, working for an intergalactic corporation that has one main function: abducting ducks. (For research purposes, duh). But, ducks need to be collected in specific formations, and you'll have to use spatial logic and cunning to rearrange your ducks before your opponents to win! Abduct (collect) ducks in specific formations by using action cards to move your (or your opponent's) ducks around. Each player gets an individual stream board that can hold 10 ducks. Put the ducks into patterns by moving them around with action cards. When your ducks in a single color match a pattern on one of the shared formation cards, you earn the card and abduct the ducks into the UFO. Grab more ducks out of the UFO and try to make another pattern before the cards run out.

Sat 12:00 PM
(6h)
[5] Watertable C
Scheduled Game

Magic The Gathering TCG Draft Tournament
Yoshi
The first ever Balticon Magic The Gathering Open Draft Tournament! Entry to this tournament is included with your Balticon membership! All cards drafted by participants are theirs to keep at the end of the tournament! Rules are as follows: -Each player will be given 3 sealed Draft Boosters -Each player will open the packs one at a time, choose a card from the pack, then pass the remaining cards to their left -Once each set of packs has been drafted, players will open their next pack until all packs have been opened -Once all packs have been opened and passed, players will then be given time to assemble a minimum 40-card deck - Mana will be provided by the event staff and must be returned at the end of the tournament - Prizes will be given out to First, Second, and Third place -This is a Swiss bracket with 3 rounds. Each round will be 50 minutes, best 2 out of 3 wins each round

Sat 12:00 PM
(2h)
[7] Room 7029
Participatory Event

Shabbat Lunch with Fen
Bring your lunch and join us in celebrating Shabbat. There will be grape juice and rolls available. Log into our Discord server and join the Shabbat Discussion channel for more details. From Chabad.org: Light candles at 8:02 PM, Shabbat ends at 9:08 PM

Sat 12:00 PM
(2h)
[8] Room 8006
Screening

Astro Note [14+][CHILD] Episodes 1-4
Takumi, a gifted chef, just landed a new job. He works at the Astro Manor apartment building that offers breakfast, and there he encounters the beautiful landlady—Mira. It's love at first sight, and he hopes to charm her, but the quirky tenants and bizarre phenomena don't make it easy. He even learns by pure chance that Mira is secretly an alien! Will their love survive these unearthly oddities? from Crunchyroll

Sat 12:00 PM
(2h)
[8] Room 8029
Workshop

Worldbuilding: Creating Religions for Your SFF Story
S. C. Megale
This crash course in major religious structures provokes authors to think about religion in their own worldbuilding. We'll look at elements from three real-life religious structures -- Catholic, Latter-Day Saints, and Pagan (this is a wide term!) -- and apply them to SFF scenarios. How can religious institutions act as a powerful influence in your imagined world? Do all classic fantasies need a pagan religious background? What makes a fantasy religion realistic? All of these questions and more will be discussed as we open the door to the variety of possibilities offered when storytellers contend with the divine.

Sat 12:15 PM
(1h30m)
[6] Room 6015
Screening

Beetlejuice (1986)
The spirits of a deceased couple are harassed by an unbearable family that has moved into their home, and hire a malicious spirit to drive them out. *Children Only with Parent.*

Sat 12:15 PM
(45m)
[7] Room 7006
Presentation

Ancient Life for Young People
Thomas R. Holtz, Jr., PhD
Paleontologist Tom Holtz explains to young Balticon attendees the many things we can learn from fossils and rocks. Come on down! Good for all ages. *Child-Focused.*

Sat 1:00 PM
(1h)
Virtual Panel
Room 1
Panel

Space Westerns - Old Genre, New Weapons?
Joyce Reynolds-Ward, Dana Bell, Art Sierra
What is a Space Western? Firefly, Cowboys and Aliens, Cowboy Bebop, Wild Wild West are some great examples of this genre but what are their defining factors? The lone gunman or ragtag team of misfits, are Space Westerns a team sport or solo adventure, or both? Is DS9 a Space Western - new frontier, limited resources and support, conflict all over, and a saloon keeper who makes shady deals? How about Star Wars: A New Hope? Let's hear what our panelists have to say.

Sat 1:00 PM (1h) Virtual Room 3 <i>Concert</i>	Virtual Concert: Ada Palmer <i>Ada Palmer</i> Join us for a fun and fascinating musical hour with Ada Palmer, award winning songwriter and novelist.
Sat 1:00 PM (1h) Virtual Panel Room 2 <i>Panel</i>	Self-Editing Strategies <i>Jana S. Brown, Wendy Van Camp, Akua Lezli Hope, Mike Luoma</i> You've reached "The End," but what comes next? Before your manuscript is ready to cross an editor's desk, what should you do to beat it into shape? How do you know when you can tweak the lines, versus when it needs a full shredding? Our panelists will discuss the different types of edits, and strategies for executing them in your own writing before a professional editor sees it.
Sat 1:00 PM (1h) [5] 5th Floor Lobby <i>Signing</i>	Autographs: Doc Coleman and Bryant Johnson <i>Doc Coleman, Bryant Johnson</i> Autographs: Doc Coleman and Bryant Johnson
Sat 1:00 PM (1h) [5] Federal Hill <i>Presentation</i>	Wonderful News for Vampires---Synthetic blood (True Blood?) is being developed <i>Alan Doctor</i> Wonderful News for Vampires---Synthetic blood (True Blood?) is being developed <i>Child-Focused</i> .
Sat 1:00 PM (1h) [5] Guilford <i>Panel</i>	Morality and Ethics for the Non-Human <i>Charles E. Gannon, Marie Vibbert, Jennifer R. Povey, Miguel O. Mitchell, PhD (m), Robert J. Sawyer</i> Defining morality is really about fleshing out culture. Right and wrong are not black and white, especially in SFF. Good and evil heavily depend on context. From tricky fae to conquering aliens, how can writers explore morality and ethics in their non-human characters?
Sat 1:00 PM (1h) [5] Homeland <i>Interview</i>	Interview with GoH Silvia Moreno-Garcia <i>Silvia Moreno-Garcia, Tom Schaad</i> Interview with Guest of Honor Silvia Moreno-Garcia
Sat 1:00 PM (1h) [5] Mount Washington <i>Panel</i>	Writing the Right Textiles <i>Hannah Fors, Kit Englard, Rosemary Claire Smith, Ann Chatham, Melissa Scott (m)</i> Cotton is not ubiquitous! Appropriate clothing for your characters will often depend on their environment, their status, and their occupation. Choosing appropriate textiles depends not only on the climate your civilization occupies, but their technology level too. Let's talk about what you need to know to make these decisions and how you can choose the best fabrics for your characters.

Sat 1:00 PM (1h) [6] Gibson <i>Panel</i>	A Manifesto is not a Novel <i>Jo Miles, Micaiah Johnson - CC 2021 Winner, Mark L. Van Name, Salinee Goldenberg, Elijah Kinch Spector</i> Everything has an angle; what's yours? All fiction is political, but how do you write a fictional narrative that doesn't become polemic? How can you weave your message into the story without overwhelming the narrative? What if you don't know what your message is? Let's talk about being aware of your own biases and how to build your world around them and not for them.
Sat 1:00 PM (1h) [6] James <i>Panel</i>	Wigging Out: A Beginner's Guide to Cosplay Wigs <i>Lilis Cosplay, Sydney Olivia, CosplayOnWords (m)</i> Having the perfect wig can make or break your cosplay. Our panelist provides some helpful resources on where to buy your wigs, how to spot a dud, how much you should be spending on a quality cosplay wig, and when to just give and up and go to Amazon. <i>Child-Focused</i> .
Sat 1:00 PM (1h) [6] Kent <i>Concert</i>	Concert: Tavair Dominique <i>Tavair Dominique</i> Tavair Dominique is a Baltimore-based singer-songwriter, poet, and author whose music ranges from introspection to self-reflection to poetic lyricism.
Sat 1:00 PM (1h) [6] Pride of Baltimore II <i>Panel</i>	There's History, Then There's Real History <i>Jack Campbell, John Robison, Rigel Ailur, Virginia DeMarce, Carl Cipra (m)</i> How much history does entertainment media-driven history have in it? If someone asked us to imagine a dinosaur, most would think of the creatures known from Jurassic Park, not the latest visualizations developed by scientists. The Vikings were a problem for Christian imperialism, but did they really have tattoos on the side of their faces? How many more such incorrect beliefs do we have in our heads about our history as humans? Our panel of historians, professional and amateur, will discuss these questions and more.
Sat 1:00 PM (1h30m) [6] St. George <i>Reading</i>	Short Fire Readings: Asaro, Jenne, Mignogna, Rose, Weber <i>Christopher Mark Rose, Adeena Mignogna, T. C. Weber, Sheila Jenne, Catherine Asaro</i> Short Fire Readings by Catherine Asaro, Sheila Jenne, Adeena Mignogna, Christopher Mark Rose, and T.C. Weber. This item will run 90 minutes to give all the authors a reasonable chunk of time. We're trying something new. Take the survey and tell us what you think!

Sat 1:00 PM (45m) [7] Room 7006 <i>Participatory Event</i>	Minecraft Mosaics <i>Ben Rovik, Eta Hack</i> Let your inner builder out IRL with some epic paper pixel fun. You'll be amazed at the 2D Minecraft art you can make of your favorite characters, mobs and buildings with mosaic techniques. Work solo or team up with friends on a block-rocking group build. No grieving! Best for ages 5 and up. <i>Child-Focused</i> .
Sat 1:30 PM (1h30m) [5] Maryland Ballroom AB <i>Workshop</i>	Make a "Leather" Vambrace <i>Tyaz Cosplay</i> A beginners introduction to working with EVA foam. You will create a vambrace or bracer out of EVA foam and make it look like leather. This workshop is for ages 13 and older. Limited to 15 participants - sign-up sheet is at the information desk.
Sat 1:45 PM (1h15m) [6] Room 6015 <i>Screening</i>	Apartment 7A (2024) A struggling young dancer finds herself drawn in by dark forces when a peculiar, well-connected older couple promise her a shot at fame. <i>Children Only with Parent</i> .
Sat 1:45 PM (45m) [7] Room 7006 <i>Workshop</i>	Cosmic Cookie Decorating <i>Eta Hack, Ben Rovik</i> Who wants a custom decorated sugar cookie? I sure do! Channel the outrageous baking show of your choice as you decorate, or just whip together a tasty snack at your own pace. Best for ages 3 and up. Allergy warning: Eggs, Dairy, Gluten. <i>Child-Focused</i> .
Sat 2:00 PM (3h) [5] Watertable B Table 2 <i>Scheduled Game</i>	Game Demo: Rebel Princess <i>Crystal (m)</i> Snow White, The Little Mermaid, Cinderella, and many other fairy tale princesses are celebrating a five-day party. The prince charmings, who have not been invited, will try to infiltrate the ball to propose marriage to the girls. As a princess, you have to avoid marriage proposals and remain single and independent after the celebrations. Rebel Princess is a trick-taking game that takes place over five rounds, representing the five days of a party, and each round has a special rule that makes each game totally different. The player with the highest number of the suit that started the trick takes all the cards of that trick — but that's not necessarily good as players want to avoid taking cards with prince charmings, who each bring one marriage proposal, aside from the enchanted frog who brings five proposals. The player with the fewest marriage proposals after five rounds wins.

Sat 2:00 PM (2h30m) [8] Room 8006 <i>Screening</i>	ZENSU [14+][TEEN] Episodes 5-9 After graduating from high school, Natsuko Hirose starts her career as an animator. Her talent quickly flourishes, and she makes her debut as a director in no time. Her first anime becomes a massive hit, sparking a social phenomenon and earning her recognition as an up-and-coming genius director. Her next project is set to be a romantic comedy movie themed around first love! However, having never been in love herself, Natsuko struggles to understand the concept of first love, and as a result, she's unable to create the storyboard, causing the movie production to come to a standstill. One day, she passes out while working on her storyboard and wakes up in the world of her favorite childhood anime movie "A Tale of Perishing". from Crunchyroll
Sat 2:00 PM (2h) [8] Room 8029 <i>Workshop</i>	Better Beta Reading: Both Sides of the Pen <i>Morgan Hazelwood</i> So you've been asked (or offered) to beta-read for someone. Or maybe *you're* the one looking for beta readers. As the writer: Where do you find them and how do you get the feedback you're looking for? As a beta reader: If they don't tell you, what sort of feedback should you give? Plus, how to give feedback that helps — and stay on speaking terms with the author. Optional: Bring a single-page double-spaced writing sample to be beta-read.
Sat 2:30 PM (1h) Virtual Panel Room 1 <i>Panel</i>	It's Life, But Not As We Know It <i>David Ellis, Leonardo Espinoza Benavides, Art Sierra, Cherrie Fors (m)</i> Imagine life under un-Earthly conditions. What would it look like if it evolved in the atmosphere of a gas giant? Or under an atmosphere whose haze obscured any view of the universe beyond? Our panelists will offer some best guesses as to what it might look like under these and other scenarios. <i>Child-Focused</i> .
Sat 2:30 PM (1h) Virtual Room 3 <i>Panel</i>	Marketing for the Indie <i>Gail Z. Martin, Mike Luoma, Wendy Van Camp</i> As an indie, the biggest problem you face as a writer is "discoverability." In today's publishing landscape, if your book ain't marketed, it ain't selling. There are a plethora of tools and strategies available to you. Let's talk about newsletters, social media, leveraging your backlist, websites, and more!
Sat 2:30 PM (1h) Virtual Panel Room 2 <i>Panel</i>	Portrayal Doesn't Mean Advocacy <i>Nikhil Prabala, R. Taylor, Christopher Mark Rose, Joy Ward</i> What characters say or do is not always what the author endorses. Good adventure stories can also tell disturbing truths. An author who writes about war does not necessarily promote violence, yet their readership might assume otherwise. How can authors make it clear they don't promote what their characters do?

Sat 2:30 PM (1h30m) [10] Room 10006 <i>Presentation</i>	Functional 3D Printing for Cosplay <i>Savvy Dragon Cosplay</i> Thanks to 3D printing I CAN fit that Cosplay into my Suitcase Discuss how 3D printing can help solve cosplayers' unique problems. As well as add functionality to your costume.
Sat 2:30 PM (1h) [12] Club Lounge <i>Participatory Event</i>	LGBT+ Tea Social <i>Morgan Stallard</i> Join us for an informal tea party for LGBT+ fans of all ages. Family and friends welcome. Tea and cake will be served.
Sat 2:30 PM (1h) [5] 5th Floor Lobby <i>Signing</i>	Autographs: Robert Sawyer and Charles Gannon <i>Charles E. Gannon, Robert J. Sawyer</i> Autographs: Robert Sawyer and Charles Gannon
Sat 2:30 PM (2h) [5] Federal Hill <i>Participatory Event</i>	Speculative Poetry Open Mic and Contest Winners Reading <i>Miguel O. Mitchell, PhD, Sharon Lee</i> Come read your speculative poetry! Share what you've been working on. The winners of the Steve Miller BSFS Annual Poetry Contest will also read their winning poems. Sharon Lee will present the awards. *This item will be held in the hotel and virtually, allowing for online participation.
Sat 2:30 PM (1h) [5] Guilford <i>Panel</i>	Editors Can be Your Friends <i>Joshua Bilmes, Misha Bushyager, Melissa Scott, Scott H. Andrews (m)</i> Editors can be your best friends and advocates. But you need to know how to work with them and what to expect from them. How can editors help writers? How can writers encourage editors to help them? What rules do editors wish writers knew? First rule...don't be a jerk.
Sat 2:30 PM (1h) [5] Homeland <i>Presentation</i>	Improbable Research and the Ig Nobel Prizes <i>Marc</i> The Ig Nobel Prizes honor achievements so surprising that they make people LAUGH, then THINK. The prizes are intended to celebrate the unusual, honor the imaginative — and spur people's interest in science, medicine, and technology. Every year since 1991, ten new prizes have been awarded. A complete list of the winners is at https://improbable.com/ig/winners/ . Marc Abrahams founded the Ig Nobel ceremony, and serves as its main organizer. He edits the magazine Annals of Improbable Research. Marc will discuss some of the people and things that have won Ig Nobel Prizes, and many other things that are just as surprising. <i>Child-Focused</i> .

Sat 2:30 PM (1h) [5] Mount Washington <i>Panel</i>	Character Building <i>Sara Itka, Ken Altabef, T. C. Weber, Sarah Pinsker</i> Readers love complex characters who leave an emotional impact. It can be a daunting task to create a character with personality, flaws, and quirks, but are those character questionnaires, the ones with hundreds of questions, really worth your time? Let's explore what you really need to know about your characters before you start writing.
Sat 2:30 PM (1h) [6] Gibson <i>Panel</i>	Permutations: A Return to Well World <i>Shahid Mahmud, Catherine Asaro, Elektra Hammond, David Boop</i> Arc Manor is releasing an anthology set in Jack L. Chalker's Well World Universe. Hear from the publisher, the editor, two of the authors, and Eva Whitley as they discuss the genesis of this unique project. Featuring Shahid Mahmud, David Boop, Eva Whitley, Catherine Asaro, and Elektra Hammond.
Sat 2:30 PM (1h) [6] James <i>Panel</i>	What Makes a Good Player <i>Ian Sipple, Eric Hardenbrook, Christiana Ellis, Doc Coleman (m)</i> Countless tales are told of the legendary "That Guy," the fiend who destroys the good times of tabletops everywhere. But little is said about the others, the celestial beings who remember names, piece together plot points, and work with their GM on narrative and theme. This panel of GMs and Players will tell stories of the best player moments, and elucidate what makes these angels so special.
Sat 2:30 PM (1h) [6] Kent <i>Concert</i>	Concert: George Hrab <i>George Hrab</i> George is an accomplished guitarist, pianist, and songwriter and host of "The Geologic Podcast." His streaming series "Seven Songs with George Hrab" explores seven songs around a common theme.
Sat 2:30 PM (1h) [6] Pride of Baltimore II <i>Panel</i>	Writing Trauma Responses Responsibly <i>Kit Englard, Sydney Olivia, Zack Be, David Simms (m)</i> Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is often thought of as a soldier's disease. However, a variety of events can be considered traumatic and the responses to this trauma might not look like you'd expect. What triggers might your characters have, and how might they react to these triggers? Our panel of mental health experts will discuss how you can sensitively portray a character's PTSD.

Sat 2:30 PM
(1h)
[6] St. George
Panel

It's all in the Footnotes: Storyless Storytelling

Jim Beall, Tom Schaad, Marie Vibbert, Mary G. Thompson (m)

Fiction in general has a long tradition of adding verisimilitude by including created documents. SFF has even told stories entirely through footnotes, art gallery exhibit descriptions, FAQs, bibliographies, containment procedures, academic journal articles, technical instructions, posts on wiki talk pages, and more. What are the advantages and disadvantages of storyless storytelling? What are some of your favorite examples?

Sat 2:30 PM
(45m)
[7] Room 7006
Performance

Me and the Bears Storytelling with Bill Mayhew

Eta Hack, Ben Rovik

Veteran storyteller Bill Mayhew will regale you with the most interesting and creative stories. A Balticon tradition for decades! Best for ages 5 and up. *Child-Focused*.

Sat 2:30 PM
(1h)
[7] Room 7029
Panel

Love in Our Fiction

S. C. Megale, Diana Peterfreund, Somto Ihezue, Kemi Ashing-Giwa -CC 2024 Winner, Tris Lawrence (m)

Every fairy tale ends with the princess marrying the prince, but is romantic love the only way to happily ever after? From familial love, to the love shared between best friends, this panel explores titles that celebrate love in all its forms.

Sat 3:00 PM
(3h)
[5] Watertable B
Table 3
Scheduled Game

Game Demo: Wondrous Creatures

Kelly (m)

Welcome to the world full of fantastic creatures! You are an admirer, a creature enthusiast who will join the journey of forming the world's leading creature reserve. Unique Worker Placement: Wondrous Creatures's worker placement mechanism provides an intriguing Hex Puzzle experience. Your deployed worker interacts with surrounding icons to bring in resources or cards, and works to activate special effects! Transforming Terrains: As the game progresses, powerful special effects are newly placed on the map. Get creative and use these special effects to unleash your very own powerful combos! 100+ Different Creature Cards: Collect and combine various different creature cards. Every creature holds its own distinctive ability and provides a deep strategic tableau building experience. Evolving Worker Abilities: Your workers hold their own unique abilities. As you progress through the game, unlock their abilities and strengthen your workers!

Sat 3:00 PM
(1h)
[6] Room 6015
Screening

Faces of the Undead Special Presentation

An anthology style horror with the disturbing conclusion that death is not the end. But only the beginning. Created by a Voodoo Priestess, a Necromancer is caught in the psychological turmoil of what is real and what is not. *Children Only with Parent*.

Sat 3:15 PM
(45m)
[7] Room 7006
Participatory Event

Rewriting the Animal Kingdom

Eta Hack, Ben Rovik

Fish with lungs. Birds that don't fly. Mammals that lay eggs. The animal kingdom is full of creatures that don't fit in the boxes that we've invented for them. Think you could do it better? Bring your creativity and brainstorm with friends about how to arrange a big selection of animals we'll provide. Maybe dolphins and bats belong together (animals that echolocate), and so do termites and naked mole rats (digging critters with queens). Maybe you'll pick up some new facts about animals along the way! Best for ages 5 and up. *Child-Focused*.

Sat 4:00 PM
(1h)
Virtual Panel
Room 1
Presentation

Deconstructing Hardspace: Shipbreaker – A Process for Building Original IPs

Rory (m)

Blackbird Interactive's Rory McGuire shares the process of creating the critically-acclaimed Hardspace: Shipbreaker, unpacking the origins of its unusual gameplay, as well as the rules and processes it implemented to "protect" the game from idea fatigue, other company opportunities and, ultimately, themselves. Rory will talk about the various game studios and external sources of inspiration the team drew influence from in setting up these creative processes and challenges they faced, giving attendees a rare, inside look at, and valuable ideas for, how to build more evocative worlds.

Sat 4:00 PM
(1h)
Virtual Room 3
Panel

The Craft of Reviewing

Daniel M. Kimmel, Kris Vyas-Myall, Joy Ward, Betsy R. Marks (m)

Join experienced reviewers as they discuss what a review is, what reviews aim to accomplish, and how they go about putting them together.

Sat 4:00 PM
(1h)
Virtual Panel
Room 2
Panel

In Defense of Short Fiction

L. Marie Wood, Dana Bell, Oghenechovwe Donald Ekpeki

In the Golden Age short stories were the cutting edge of SFFH. Today, the short story in SFFH is still well represented in both print and online magazines, but often is considered the poor cousin to novels. What do short stories convey to the reader that is distinct from novels? What can you do with a short story that you can't in longer fiction? And why do people want to read short stories? Our panelists will discuss the importance of short form fiction.

Sat 4:00 PM (1h30m) [10] Room 10006 <i>Demo</i>	Let's Unbox a Ender-3 V3 KE 3D Printer <i>Kelly Pierce</i> Our Con Chair, Kelly, a total noob to 3D printers will unbox and set up a brand new 3D printer for your amusement. And to prove that anyone can do it.
Sat 4:00 PM (1h) [12] Club Lounge <i>Meeting</i>	Kaffeeeklatsch with Samantha Mills <i>Samantha Mills -CC 2025 Winner</i> Spend an hour with Guest of Honor, Compton Crook winner Samantha Mills. Limited to 10 spaces. Sign-up sheet is at the Info Desk next to Registration.
Sat 4:00 PM (1h) [5] 5th Floor Lobby <i>Signing</i>	Autographs: Silvia Moreno-Garcia and Micaiah Johnson <i>Silvia Moreno-Garcia, Micaiah Johnson - CC 2021 Winner</i> Autographs: Silvia Moreno-Garcia and Micaiah Johnson
Sat 4:00 PM (1h) [5] Baltimore Ballroom A <i>Participatory Event</i>	Book Launch: The Brotherhood of Rain and Cinder <i>S. C. Megale</i> Join S.C. Megale for their first classical YA fantasy and their first Balticon! The Brotherhood of Rain and Cinder is the first novel in a trilogy. The consuite will be hopping with fun and games, and a reading!
Sat 4:00 PM (1h) [5] Guilford <i>Panel</i>	My Favorite Monster <i>Sherri Cook Woosley, Thomas R. Holtz, Jr., PhD, Joanna Fang (m), Rob O'Malley</i> Are monsters inherently bad or are they just misunderstood? What is your favorite monster - mythical or historical? Why are some creatures overused - like werewolves and vampires - while others are ignored? What are some of the less familiar magical beasts and the works they appear in? Let's listen to our panelists talk about their favorite monsters and why they love them.
Sat 4:00 PM (1h) [5] Homeland <i>Presentation</i>	Vision Zero <i>Robin Rowe</i> Vision Zero, the DOT mandate to reduce U.S. traffic fatalities (from 30,000 a year to zero) and energy use using AI, DSRC/V2X transponders and traffic shaping. <i>Child-Focused</i> .
Sat 4:00 PM (2h) [5] Maryland Ballroom AB <i>Workshop</i>	Fun with Origami: Learn the Basics <i>Sonya Bleakley</i> Explore basic shapes. Finished projects include: cranes, Yoda, and some decoration. Paper will be provided. Suggested for ages 8 and up - with parent. Limited to 15 participants. **Sign-up sheet is at the information desk just past registration.

Sat 4:00 PM (1h) [5] Mount Washington <i>Panel</i>	It's Life, But Not As We Know It <i>Kemi Ashing-Giwa -CC 2024 Winner, Sam Scheiner, Tim Livengood, Suzanne Buck</i> Imagine life under un-Earthly conditions. What would it look like if it evolved in the atmosphere of a gas giant? Or under an atmosphere whose haze obscured any view of the universe beyond? Our panelists will offer some best guesses as to what it might look like under these and other scenarios.
Sat 4:00 PM (4h) [5] Watertable A Table 1 <i>Scheduled Game</i>	Mork Borg: Vermis - The Silver Swamp <i>Robert Hemberger</i> The Silver Swamp, an ancient land of illusions and apparitions, lies between you and the end of the dream you seek. But this swamp is filled with the ghosts of those who never returned from following their light; will you be damned to wander the waters for eternity like so many others? This session uses the Mork Borg system, and is based on the guidebook for the non-existent game Vermis. No understanding of either is required. <i>Children Only with Parent</i> .
Sat 4:00 PM (4h) [5] Watertable A Table 2 <i>Scheduled Game</i>	Porcelain Souls: Covenant Broken, Covenant Restored (Demo 2) <i>Mitch Bustillos</i> Sink into a world of the macabre. The remnants of humanity's essence now reside in the shell of dolls. Moving among the carcasses of the world left behind. Inspired by the movie 9 and the many works of the Quay Brothers. We ask you to join us in creating the most horrific TTRPG through porcelain lenses. See the nightmares birthed by the phantasmagorias and never forget the ones you will die alongside. There were three of them. Each one carries with them a passion for their children. Each one encompassed the anatomy of a vine. The Rose sprouted from the top. Seeking the sun. The Rot drips on its lengthy vine, under the shadows and content in its place. Then the Grey. The dirt. Devoid of the vine and a part of something wholly different. Become a part of one of the Ziggurats. Silver and glass pillars breaching the sky. The home of us who remain. Each one seeks their own path. One seeks humanity, one despises it, the other too alien to even acknowledge such bygone amusements. <i>Children Only with Parent</i> .
Sat 4:00 PM (4h) [5] Watertable A Table 3 <i>Scheduled Game</i>	Blade Runner: Electric Dreams (part 2) <i>Caleb</i> Your fellow Blade Runners are in trouble. One's been shot dead, and the other has gone missing. It doesn't matter that they're Nexus-9's, your job is still to find your coworker and bring her back. Any means necessary. <i>Children Only with Parent</i> .

Sat 4:00 PM
(3h)
[5] Watertable B
Table 1
Scheduled Game

Game Demo: Musical Chairs
hymie! (m)
Musical Chairs is a whimsical card game that simulates a game of musical chairs but with cards instead of music. Each round, players start with a hand of eight cards to play. The starting player must play their lowest card to begin the round. Cards are played in ascending order until the current player does not have a legal move or chooses to not play one of the optional actions. In either case, the music now stops, and everyone has to take a seat. After every played card, players move their pawn around a circular board. Choosing where to stop is critical because the color of the chair you end up on determines which cards you score — both from your hand and from the cards already played.

Sat 4:00 PM
(1h)
[6] Gibson
Panel

Writing Action Scenes
Charles E. Gannon, Dan Jolley, Sebastien de Castell, Alan Smale (m), John Appel
From one-on-one fist fights, to epic battles, we all love action scenes. But what goes into writing one, and how do you keep your readers engaged? Let's talk about tips and strategies for crafting action scenes that are both memorable and build an emotional connection with your characters.

Sat 4:00 PM
(1h)
[6] James
Panel

I'm Sensing a Pattern Here: When to Use (or Lose!) Patterns in Cosplay
Tyaz Cosplay, Lilis Cosplay, Sydney Olivia (m)
Have you ever looked at a garment or piece of armor in cosplay and thought "How in the world do I make that?" Patterns can be very important when constructing out of this world cosplay garments, but they can also be tedious and hard to find. This panel will discuss when to use a patterns, helpful alternatives, and whether you actually need those tissue paper nightmares at all.

Sat 4:00 PM
(1h30m)
[6] Kent
Participatory Event

Renaissance Dance
Patches, Gary Ehrlich, MAUGORN
Come learn a bunch of easy and fun Renaissance-era dances. Taught by Patches, with music provided by Maugorn and friends.

Sat 4:00 PM
(1h)
[6] Pride of
Baltimore II
Panel

AI and Gender
Adeena Mignogna, Michelle Seibert Appel, Hannah Fors, Catherine Asaro (m)
AIs are a common science fiction trope. They have no sex and no body, and yet gender identities are common in writing about AIs. What does it say about us when we assign genders to our digital assistants, and how do our beliefs and assumptions about both AI and gender impact our storytelling?

Sat 4:00 PM
(2h)
[6] Room 6015
Screening

Civil War (2024)
In a dystopian future, four journalists travel across the United States during a nation-wide conflict. While trying to survive, they aim to reach the White House to interview the president before he is overthrown. *Children Only with Parent.*

Sat 4:00 PM
(1h)
[6] St. George
Reading

Reading: Robert Sawyer and Mark Van Name
Robert J. Sawyer, Mark L. Van Name
Robert Sawyer and Mark Van Name will read selections from their works. *Child-Focused.*

Sat 4:00 PM
(1h)
[7] Room 7029
Meeting

Pitch Your Novel to Candlemark and Gleam
Melissa Scott
Candlemark & Gleam is opening for submissions for 2026 publication, and this is your chance to talk to editor/publisher Melissa Scott about your project. C&G is a well-respected small press specializing in ambitious, carefully-crafted SF and fantasy that takes readers to new and challenging places — fiction that shapes the dark. I'm looking for compelling stories, and am particularly interested in mythic SF, exploration of SFnal and fantasy societies, queer and feminist work, and historical (and historically-influenced) fantasy. No YA or horror, please, and grimdark is a very hard sell. Come tell me a story! Sign up for your 10 minute appointment. Sign-up forms are at the information desk just past Registration.

Sat 4:00 PM
(2h)
[8] Room 8029
Screening

Dr. Who: Viewing and Discussion
Perrienne Lurie
Watch the latest episode of Dr. Who and talk about it.

Sat 4:30 PM
(2h)
[8] Room 8006
Screening

KAIJU no.8 [14+][TEEN] Episodes 5-8
The story revolves around Kafka Hibino, a 32-year-old longing to join The Defense Force and make good on his promise to a childhood friend, Mina Ashiro. He befriends a new coworker Reno Ichikawa, while cleaning up Kaiju remains, whose determination to join The Defense Force inspires Kafka to fulfill his childhood promise to pass the entrance exam and join Mina to protect humanity. When a small Kaiju burrows itself inside Kafka, he gains superhuman strength and powers fit for fighting Kaiju. He works to earn the trust of his human teammates, defeat increasingly powerful Kaiju, and keep the world safe. from Crunchyroll

Sat 4:45 PM
(45m)
[7] Room 7006
Workshop

Button Bugs: Cute Crawly Crafting
Eta Hack, Ben Rovik
Learn how to transmogrify buttons, beads, and bits of stones into the most captivating swarming things you can imagine! Draw on the wild world of real insects for your inspiration, or just get gluing and see what crawls out. Trade and share with your friends! Best for ages 5 and up. *Child-Focused.*

Sat 5:00 PM
(4h)
[5] Watertable B
Table 2
Scheduled Game

Game Demo: Arcs
Erik Delfosse (m)
Arcs is a sharp, tactical space opera game, for 2–4 players, set in a dark yet silly universe. Players represent officials from a distant, decaying and neglectful Empire who are now free to vie for dominance whether through battle, gathering scarce resources or diplomatic intrigue. Ready yourself for dramatic twists and turns as you launch into this galactic struggle. A deck of cards in 4 suits with ranks from 1-7 (2-6 for less than 4 players) defines the action selection system. These cards are played in a trick-taking adjacent system to select actions, take the initiative and declare Ambitions. The 3 declared Ambitions are what will score in that deal. Timing is everything. Bad hands must be mitigated by careful card play and benefiting from other players' card play. Battles are resolved quickly with the attacker choosing their level of risk. The defenders must be prepared with adequate defensive ships and cards in their tableau.

Sat 5:00 PM
(3h)
[5] Watertable B
Table 4
Scheduled Game

Game Demo: Telestrations
Crystal (m)
Each player begins by sketching a TELESTRATIONS word dictated by the roll of a die. The old fashioned sand timer may limit the amount of time they get to execute their sketch, but it certainly doesn't limit creativity! Time's up! All players, all at the same time, pass their sketch to the next player, who must guess what's been drawn. Players then simultaneously pass their guess -- which hopefully matches the original word (or does it??) -- to the next player who must try to draw the word they see -- and so on.

Sat 5:15 PM
(45m)
[7] Room 7006
Participatory Event

Pokemon Trivia Challenge
Gracie
With 1,015 types of Pokemon out there, it takes a mighty mind to recall them all. Luckily, we have a literal professor of Pokemon with us to share her knowledge and love of Ash's world! Come hang out with other Pokemon fans, from casual to obsessed and everything in between, for some fun trivia and hilarious questions. Fabulous prizes for participants! Best for ages 5 and up. *Child-Focused*.

Sat 5:30 PM
(1h)
Virtual Panel
Room 1
Panel

Revolutions are Messy
Nikhil Prabala, Gillian Polack, Kris Vyas-Myall, Ada Palmer
So many stories about defeating an empire begin and end with a single revolution, but what about the complexities, messiness, and banality of actual revolutions? How does the American rebel myth interfere with alternate revolution narratives? Panelists will discuss the depictions of revolutions in speculative fiction and how believable they are.

Sat 5:30 PM
(1h)
Virtual Panel
Room 2
Panel

Streaming 101: We Go Live In 3... 2...
Lee Hawkridge, Morgan Hazelwood, Vantura, Griz
Streaming isn't just for tv and movies these days. Between Twitch, TikTok, and Facebook live, just about anyone can hit a button and have tens or thousands of people watching them live. Whether you're looking to stream games, crafting, or co-working productivity sprints, there's a community out there waiting for you. Join our panel of streamers to discuss platforms, lighting, sound, and finding your audience.

Sat 5:30 PM
(1h30m)
[10] Room
10006
Workshop

Intro to Fusion 360
Ty McNeer
Fusion 360 is a versatile 3D modeling program, free for personal use like hobbyists and home-based, non-commercial projects. Cant find that wingnut? (The spouse doesn't count.) You can print one! (Not the spouse.)

Sat 5:30 PM
(1h)
[12] Club
Lounge
Meeting

Kaffeeklatsch with Sebastien de Castell
Sebastien de Castell
Spend an hour with Guest of Honor Sebastien de Castell. Limited to 10 spaces. Sign-up sheet is at the Info Desk next to Registration.

Sat 5:30 PM
(1h)
[5] 5th Floor
Lobby
Signing

Autographs: David Simms and Melissa Scott
Melissa Scott, David Simms
Autographs: David Simms and Melissa Scott

Sat 5:30 PM
(1h)
[5] Federal Hill
Presentation

What was T. rex thinking? Brain evolution from dinosaurs to birds
Amy Balanoff
The evolution of powered flight is a rare event in vertebrate history, having only evolved three times—among bats, the extinct pterosaurs, and birds. Although much is known about the modifications of the skeleton and integument that allowed dinosaurs to go from ground-dwelling to flying animals, the role that the brain plays in this transition is still not well understood. My research takes patterns derived from physiological data of brain activity in flying birds to elucidate what changes in the allowed them to navigate the three-dimension environments encountered during flight. *Child-Focused*.

Sat 5:30 PM
(1h)
[5] Mount
Washington
Panel

Writing Dialogue
C.D. Brown, Catherine Asaro, Mark Painter, Alan Smale (m)
"What are you saying?" Jim asked. "I don't know, but the author thinks I should be saying something important," Sally replied. Dialogue should reflect unique character, not just plot. How do you make your characters sound authentic? Our panelists will offer tips for writing effective dialogue and share good and bad examples.

Sat 5:30 PM
(1h)
[6] Gibson
Panel

Critique: Do's and Don'ts

Rosemary Claire Smith, Scott Edelman, Micaiah Johnson - CC 2021 Winner, Larry Hodges, Sarah Pinsker (m)

It's easy to have an opinion, but it's hard to swallow other people's. Conversely, it's very easy to hear critique and internalize it as an attack. What techniques can we learn to give and receive constructive feedback?

Sat 5:30 PM
(1h)
[6] James
Panel

Coming out of the Dungeon

Ian Sipple (m), Paul Bove, Eric Hardenbrook, Michael R. Underwood

From classic dungeon crawls to slice of life storytelling, role-playing games have evolved and mutated in the fifty years since their conception. Many vintage games and titles are still played, though their presentation and execution may differ from the original intent. How are modern players clashing with old-style expectations, and how can you blend nostalgic charm seamlessly into your current games?

Sat 5:30 PM
(1h)
[6] Kent
Concert

Concert: Maugorn the Stray

MAUGORN

Our favorite wandering minstrel sings from his eclectic repertoire of over a thousand songs.

Sat 5:30 PM
(1h)
[6] Pride of Baltimore II
Panel

Magical Realism

Silvia Moreno-Garcia, Sherri Cook Woosley, Mark L. Van Name (m), David Boop

This supernatural genre is tied tightly to Mexican and other Latin American cultures. What is considered unnatural is a natural part of every day existence. Our panelists will discuss foundational works of the genre and what modern works are continuing the tradition.

Sat 5:30 PM
(1h)
[6] St. George
Panel

Ask Me Anything: Editors and Publishers

Bjorn E. Hasseler, Joshua Bilmes, Shahid Mahmud, dave ring, Scott H. Andrews

A panel of professional editors and publishers answer questions from the audience.

Sat 5:30 PM
(1h)
[7] Room 7029
Participatory Event

Writer Meetup: All Things Romance

Sheila Jenne

Do you write romantasy or PNR? Do you guarantee a Happily Ever After, or a Happy For Now? Come meet other romance authors in the SFFH world. This is a space for authors, and budding authors, to find other folks who write in their genre. This is a networking event for authors. Building a writing community is important and Balticon aims to facilitate that.

Saturday Evening

Sat 6:00 PM
(4h)
[5] Guilford
Participatory Event

Masquerade Photography

Here's your chance to photograph the costumes. 6:00 PM - Professional Photography 9:00 PM - Fan Photography

Sat 6:00 PM
(4h)
[5] Homeland
Participatory Event

Masquerade Green Room

If you are presenting at the Masquerade, you must check-in at the Green Room.

Sat 6:00 PM
(4h)
[5] Watertable B Table 3
Scheduled Game

Game Demo: Legendary: Buffy The Vampire Slayer

Nick (m)

Legendary: Buffy The Vampire Slayer is the newest addition to the Legendary series. In Legendary, a semi-cooperative deck-building game, 1 to 5 players use fan-favorite characters including Buffy, Angel, Willow, and Giles and attempt to stop a Big Bad and their nefarious Schemes. Players win the game if the Big Bad is beaten four times, and lose if the Big Bad is able to complete their Scheme. Based on the popular TV series only, Legendary: Buffy the Vampire Slayer features a light/dark track that influences characters' strength, which is meant to boost the thematic feeling.

Sat 6:00 PM
(3h)
[5] Watertable C
Scheduled Game

Intro to Warhammer 40k! (Session 1)

Lord Kron

Forget the promise of progress and understanding, for in the grim dark future there is only war. There is no peace amongst the stars, only an eternity of carnage and slaughter, and the laughter of thirsting gods. Our own Lord Kron invites all who are willing to a demo of his most glorious servant's crusade in his blessed name! Come join us as we demo the miniatures wargame Warhammer 40,000! The demo will include a small force of Imperial Space Marines, the Emperor's glorious Angels of Death, facing off against the brutish xenos known as the Orks, in service of their Cunning but Brutal (or perhaps Brutal but Cunning) gods Gork and Mork.

Sat 6:00 PM
(2h)
[6] Room 6015
Screening

Nosferatu the Vampyre

Count Dracula moves from Transylvania to Wismar, spreading the Black Plague across the land. Only a woman pure of heart can bring an end to his reign of horror. *Children Only with Parent.*

Sat 6:30 PM
(1h30m)
[5] Baltimore
Ballroom A
*Participatory
Event*

Book Launch: Rock and Roll, Cake and Ice Cream!
Randee Dawn, Richard Sparks
Join Randee Dawn and Richard Sparks in the Consuite to celebrate their books *The Only Song Worth Singing* and *New Rock, New Realm!* There'll be readings, giveaways, an chance to buy books - and, as promised, both cake and ice cream!

Sat 6:30 PM
(2h)
[8] Room 8006
Screening

The Apothecary Diaries [14+][TEEN] Episodes 16-19
Maomao lived a peaceful life with her apothecary father. Until one day, she's sold as a lowly servant to the emperor's palace. But she wasn't meant for a compliant life among royalty. So when imperial heirs fall ill, she decides to step in and find a cure! This catches the eye of Jinshi, a handsome palace official who promotes her. Now, she's making a name for herself solving medical mysteries! from Crunchyroll

Sat 7:00 PM
(1h)
Virtual Panel
Room 1
Panel

What's in a Name?
Valerie Estelle Frankel, Gillian Polack, Ada Palmer, Walt Boyes (m)
Naming your characters can be one of the hardest parts of writing. A good name can evoke a feeling, fuel your worldbuilding, and make for a more memorable character. Names can help key readers into your genre and tropes, and can play a crucial role in character development. And sometimes a name is just a name, with no hidden agenda or meaning. Let's hear what our panelists have to say about names and their significance.

Sat 7:00 PM
(1h)
Virtual Panel
Room 2
Panel

Building Community to Survive Your Writing Journey
Marisa Wolf, Akua Lezli Hope, Leonardo Espinoza Benavides, Mike Luoma
It's been said that "it takes a village to write a book." Writers who are successful tend to have a strong support system of friends, fellow writing professionals, beta readers, and fans to help them. Find out how to build the kind of support system you need to become the writer you want to be.

Sat 7:00 PM
(1h)
[12] Club
Lounge
Meeting

Kaffeeklatsch with Stephanie Law
Stephanie Law
Spend an hour with Artist Guest of Honor Stephanie Law. Limited to 10 spaces. Sign-up sheet is at the Info Desk next to Registration.

Sat 7:00 PM
(1h)
[5] 5th Floor
Lobby
Signing

Autographs: S.C. Megale and Jack Campbell
S. C. Megale, Jack Campbell
Autographs: S.C. Megale and Jack Campbell

Sat 7:00 PM
(1h)
[5] Federal Hill
Presentation

Virtual Reality
John Ashmead
Virtual reality is (virtually) everywhere today, but what do we mean by virtual reality (VR?) Where is VR being used? And where is it likely to go? For that matter, what we mean by reality has a strong element of the virtual in it: we do not see individual particles of light, we 'see' Grandma; we do not hear sound waves, we hear her "Hello." What is the relationship between the elaborate constructions of our minds and the underlying 'real' reality, whatever that is? We'll look at where virtual reality is today, what the philosophers from Plato to Professor Farnsworth of Futurama fame have to say about it, and what VR means for the future of science and technology.

Sat 7:00 PM
(1h)
[5] Mount
Washington
Panel

Writing Lean Prose
Sara Itka, C.D. Brown, Dave Ring, D. H. Timpko (m)
How do you identify the clutter in your writing? Our panelists will discuss what makes prose crisp and effective, and ways to help you improve.

Sat 7:00 PM
(4h)
[5] Watertable B
Table 1
Scheduled Game

Game Demo: Finspan
Pickles (m)
You are a marine researcher seeking to find and observe an array of aquatic life in the colorful Sunlight Zone, ghostly Twilight Zone, and pitch-black Midnight Zone of the world's seas and oceans. In Finspan, the fish you discover over four weeks will generate a series of benefits as you dive deeper into the ocean. Each dive site specializes in a key aspect of expanding your research: Grow your collection of fish. Discover freshly laid eggs. Hatch eggs into young and consolidate young to form schools. The winner is the player with the most points gained from fish, eggs, young, schools, and achievements.

Sat 7:00 PM
(1h)
[6] Gibson
Panel

Making Readers Care About Your Characters
Christiane Knight, Sebastien de Castell, T. C. Weber (m), Diana Peterfreund
Plotting is awesome, but it's characters, and the emotions they make the reader feel, that people remember. How do we make the reader care about our characters? How do we use plot events to evoke character feelings and reactions? Learn tips and tricks from our illustrious panel.

Sat 7:00 PM
(1h)
[6] James
Panel

SFF Vehicles
Jim Beall, Marie Vibbert, Martin Wilsey, Rosemary Claire Smith
From brainstorming concepts to functional design. Hear from authors, engineers, and artists how to conceptualize, describe, and represent SFF vehicles. Our panelists will discuss how to design a vehicle and still leave room for the audience to use their imaginations.

Sat 7:00 PM (1h) [6] Kent <i>Concert</i>	Concert: Ben Newman <i>Ben Newman</i> Ben's muse isn't like other songwriters' muses. Which is a good thing; his often-whimsical songs run the gamut from science fiction to gaming to religion to computers and more.
Sat 7:00 PM (1h) [6] Pride of Baltimore II <i>Panel</i>	Humorous Fantasy is a Serious Business <i>Doc Coleman, Alex Shvartsman, Jean Marie Ward (m), Martin Berman-Gorvine</i> Is humorous fantasy underrated? In an era of serious narratives and grimdark stories, have humorous approaches to fantasy become less popular? Readers may not take humorous fantasy seriously because of its... non-seriousness. Humor, absurdity, and satire are not only a reason to laugh, but can also be a vehicle for biting observations. Sir Terry Pratchett was a past master of this form. Who leads the field now?
Sat 7:00 PM (1h) [7] Room 7029 <i>Participatory Event</i>	Writer Meetup: All Things Horror <i>David Simms</i> Do you write horror and all its chilling subgenres like dark fantasy and psychological horror? Come meet other horror authors in the SFFH world. This is a space for authors, and budding authors, to find other folks who write in their genre. This is a networking event for authors. Building a writing community is important and Balticon aims to facilitate that.
Sat 7:20 PM (30m) [5] Maryland Ballroom CD <i>Room Turn</i>	Doors open for Masquerade Doors open for Masquerade seating
Sat 8:00 PM (1h) [10] Room 10006 <i>Workshop</i>	3D Printing Clinic <i>Ty McNeer</i> Join our 3D printing team for some trouble shooting. Is everything turning to spaghetti? Is your printing not responding? Are your print jobs getting yeeted off the bed? You got problems, we got answers. Mostly.
Sat 8:00 PM (3h) [5] Maryland Ballroom CD <i>Presentation</i>	Masquerade <i>Dr. Karen</i> The annual extravaganza of fantastic costumes in amazing presentations, all for your viewing pleasure. BSFS Young Writers winners will be announced. BSFS Books for Kids charity auction will start during the half-time. GET YOUR SEAT EARLY for a special presentation from Pyrkon. (Doors will open at 7:20 to facilitate showing this video before the Masquerade at 8:00.) Pyrkon (55,000 attendees) in Poznan Poland has a Competitive Masquerade with a prize pool of \$4,000 USD. The Winner represents the Nation of Poland at a Worldwide Competition in Paris, France. The video Highlights of 16 Costumes presented in 30 minutes. Maskarada Video Courtesy of Pyrkon - Remigiusz Zygarowicz

Sat 8:00 PM (4h) [5] Watertable A Table 1 <i>Scheduled Game</i>	D&D 5e: The Night of Terror <i>Paul Bove</i> Intrepid members of the imperial guard find they must defend a frontier village from raiders, monsters, and supernatural terror. <i>Children Only with Parent.</i>
Sat 8:00 PM (4h) [5] Watertable A Table 2 <i>Scheduled Game</i>	Alien: Heart of Darkness (part 1) <i>Caleb</i> The company found a new lifeform, and they want you to study it. Their offer's uncharacteristically generous—you catalog this organism, determine how they can use it, and bring it back so they can slap their patent on it. Fairly routine stuff. In exchange, they'll hook you up with a cushy corporate department head position, secure you a book deal, and make sure the institute of your choice gives you tenure. Did I mention the money? There's a lot of it. Simple survey, sample, and analysis job. Seemed too good to be true. <i>Children Not Allowed.</i>
Sat 8:00 PM (4h) [5] Watertable A Table 3 <i>Scheduled Game</i>	Old gods of Appalachia: What Paths May Cross (Session 2) <i>Aria Winters</i> After a mysterious train derailment that causes no casualties but attracts a startling number of birds to the location, the player characters quickly realize this isn't an ordinary train derailment. It takes place at the edge of a railroad tunnel with a long history of misfortune and several characters with their own agendas may leave the characters chasing their own tails. <i>Children Only with Parent.</i>
Sat 8:00 PM (4h) [5] Watertable B Table 4 <i>Scheduled Game</i>	Game Demo: This Game Is Killer <i>hymie! (m)</i> This Game Is KILLER is a survival party game about being hunted by an alien life form aboard a cramped cargo vessel in deep space. The object is simple: Survive at any cost — and remove the alien threat before it kills you all. In a round, you will be dealt two cards. Each can be played as either your position on the ship (i.e., where you are) or an action (what you do). On a turn, you play one card, then after everyone has finished, play reverses and comes back around, with you playing the second card for whatever you didn't choose the first time. Thus, you always have one position and one action. Then the alien's location is revealed. If you share that location and you have the highest priority number, you're dead. If a crew member's action kills you, you're dead. But don't worry, a game is normally about 15 minutes long, so soon you're back in the action.
Sat 8:00 PM (2h) [6] Room 6015 <i>Screening</i>	Dr Who: Scream of the Shalka The Doctor tries to help a village where the residents are in fear of an alien race called the Shalka.

Sat 8:30 PM
(1h)
[5] Federal Hill
Panel

I'm Going to Kiss that Corpse: Why We Love Paranormal Romance

Jessica Moran, Morgan Hazelwood, Andrija "Andy" Popovic, J.D. Blackrose

From sparkly vampires and bloodthirsty werewolves, to tricky fae and probing aliens, the genre of paranormal romance explores the ability to love what can kill you. Let's explore some of our favorite media and swooniest creatures, and why Pyramid Head can park his boots under my bed.

Sat 8:30 PM
(1h)
[5] Mount
Washington
Panel

Retrofuturism

Marie Vibbert, Aaron Fors, John Ashmead, Bob Oliver

Retrofuturism is a popular choice for science technology. Inspired by bygone eras and the futures imagined, what is it about the esthetics of yesteryear that we love?

Sat 8:30 PM
(1h45m)
[6] Gibson
Participatory
Event

Science Fiction Trivia Contest

Brick Barrientos

Pairs of fans compete in a trivia contest about science fiction, fantasy, horror and other geeky interests. Come play or watch smugly from the audience in this game show style competition complete with buzzers.

Sat 8:30 PM
(1h30m)
[6] Kent
Participatory
Event

Theme Circle: CAT-astrophes, BIRD-brains and other FAN-tastic Pets

Emily Anne Lewis, Harold Feld

Pets, familiars, furry and feathered companions - come share your favorite songs or other bits of DOggerel) about the fine creatures who share our homes and hearts.

Sat 8:30 PM
(1h)
[6] Pride of
Baltimore II
Panel

Religious Conflict in SFF

John Robison, Tom Doyle, Virginia DeMarce (m), Rob O'Malley, Robert Lewis

What types of religions might characters follow, and what happens when characters—or even entire religious communities—come to blows over those beliefs? A classic episode of Babylon 5 features each of the nonhuman species sharing their culture's religions. Other examples include A Song of Ice and Fire, Battlestar Galactica, and Raised by Wolves. Our panelists will discuss religious conflicts in SFF.

Sat 8:30 PM
(1h)
[6] St. George
Panel

Modern Sensibilities in Current Fantasy

Sheila Jenne, Carolyn Ives Gilman (m), Nicole Glover, Elijah Kinch Spector

There's been a lot of discussion about 'classic' science fiction and how it reflects the culture of the time in which it was written, it's time to talk about fantasy. Classic fantasy seems to always have themes of colonialism, monarchy, racism, and classism. Do we still see these themes in current fantasy? What are some good works that reach past these themes?

Sat 8:30 PM
(2h30m)
[8] Room 8006
Screening

Solo Leveling Season 2 - Arise from the Shadows [16+][ADULT] Episodes 16-20

They say whatever doesn't kill you makes you stronger, but that's not the case for the world's weakest hunter Sung Jinwoo. After being brutally slaughtered by monsters in a high-ranking dungeon, Jinwoo came back with the System, a program only he could see, that's leveling him up in every way. Now, he's inspired to discover the secrets behind his powers and the dungeon that spawned them. from Crunchyroll Children Only with Parent.

Sat 9:00 PM
(4h)
[6] James
Scheduled Game

Are You a Werewolf?

Pyrus (m)

Are You a Werewolf? is a game that takes place in a small village which is haunted by werewolves. Each player is secretly assigned a role - Werewolf, Ordinary Townsfolk, or special character such as The Sheriff, The Hunter, the Witch, the Little Girl, The Fortune Teller and so on... There is also a Moderator player who controls the flow of the game. The game alternates between night and day phases. At night, the Werewolves secretly choose a Villager to kill. During the day, the Villager who was killed is revealed and is out of the game. The remaining Villagers (normal and special villagers alike) then deliberate and vote on a player they suspect is a Werewolf, helped (or hindered) by the clues the special characters add to the general deliberation. The chosen player is "lynched", reveals their role, and is out of the game. Werewolf is a social game that requires no equipment to play, and can accommodate almost any large group of players.

Sat 9:00 PM
(1h)
[7] Patio
Participatory
Event

Havdalah With Fen

Join us for havdalah. Everyone is welcome. There was even a rumor that filkers would show up. *Grape juice, besamim, and havdalah candle will be provided. You are welcome to bring your own if you wish. Baltimore candle lighting times, from Chabad.org: Light candles at 8:02 PM Shabbat ends at 9:08 PM

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- Online Index of Science Fiction and Fantasy Authors and BSFS Lending Library Holdings
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Saturday Night

- Sat 10:00 PM**
(1h)
Virtual Room 3
Reading
- Reading: Marie Vibbert, Leo Benavides, and Bjorn Hasseler**
Marie Vibbert, Leonardo Espinoza Benavides, Bjorn E. Hasseler
Marie Vibbert, Leonardo Espinoza Benavides, and Bjorn Hasseler will read selections from their work.
- Sat 10:00 PM**
(1h)
[5] Federal Hill
Panel
- The First Ever Balticon Smash or Pass After Dark Panel!**
Glitch Symphony (m), Gracie, Swift Crescendo, Amanda, Yakira Heistand
Join our panel of streamers and gamers as we sort through lists of fictional characters, bizarre creatures, and popular monsters and judge, would you smash, or would you pass? Our panelists will review each character up for offer, and give their opinions on their viability as partners. *This item will be held in the hotel and virtually, allowing for online participation. *Children Not Allowed.*
- Sat 10:00 PM**
(1h)
[5] Mount Washington
Participatory Event
- Dirty Mad Libs!**
CosplayOnWords
Take a few creatives, their best works of erotica, remove some key words, and have onlookers fill in the blanks. It's audience participation at its best with dirty mad libs! For adults only. *Children Not Allowed.*
- Sat 10:00 PM**
(6h)
[6] Kent
Participatory Event
- Saturday Night Filk Circle**
Gary Ehrlich, Emily Anne Lewis, JT Thomas
The filk circles are your chance to share a favorite song or two. All songs are welcome: filk, folk, Celtic, SCA, and more. Or bring an instrument and play along. Join us to sing the night away, or just stop by for a listen!
- Sat 10:00 PM**
(2h30m)
[6] Room 6015
Screening
- Dune Part 1**
Paul Atreides arrives on Arrakis after his father accepts the stewardship of the dangerous planet. However, chaos ensues after a betrayal as forces clash to control melange, a precious resource. *Children Only with Parent.*
- Sat 11:00 PM**
(2h)
[8] Room 8006
Screening
- Dan Da Dan [16+][ADULT] Episodes 5-8**
When high schooler Momo, from a family of spirit mediums, first meets her classmate Okarun, an occult geek, they argue—Momo believes in ghosts but denies aliens, and Okarun believes in aliens but denies ghosts. When it turns out both phenomena are real, Momo awakens a hidden power and Okarun gains the power of a curse. Together, they must challenge the paranormal forces threatening their world. from Crunchyroll *Children Only with Parent.*
- Sun 12:30 AM**
(2h30m)
[6] Room 6015
Screening
- The Substance (2024)**
A fading celebrity takes a black-market drug: a cell-replicating substance that creates a younger, better version of herself. *Children Only with Parent.*

Sun 3:00 AM
(2h30m)
[6] Room 6015
Screening

One Cut of the Dead
Things go badly for a hack director and film crew shooting a low budget zombie movie in an abandoned WWII Japanese facility, when they are attacked by real zombies. *Children Only with Parent.*

Sun 5:30 AM
(2h)
[6] Room 6015
Screening

Abigail (2024)
After a group of criminals kidnap the ballerina daughter of a powerful underworld figure, they retreat to an isolated mansion, unaware that they're locked inside with no normal little girl. *Children Only with Parent.*

Sunday Morning

Sun 7:30 AM
(1h30m)
[6] Room 6015
Screening

Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella
Although mistreated by her cruel Stepmother (Ilka Chase) and stepsisters Portia (Kaye Ballard) and Joy (Alice Ghostley), Cinderella (Dame Julie Andrews) is able to attend the royal ball through the help of a Fairy Godmother (Edie Adams).

Sun 8:00 AM
(1h45m)
[7] Room 7006
Workshop

Baltikids Bagel Breakfast-- Sunday
Ben Rovik
Come enjoy a complimentary breakfast spread aimed at kids and their grownups-in-tow! We get it-- scrounging up a decent family breakfast morning after morning at the con can be daunting. We didn't want to have to use that much brainpower before 9 AM either! That's why Children's Programming decided to spring for kid-friendly breakfast eats and set them out for folks like you, to make it a little easier to start your intergenerational con day on a good foot. Every day of the weekend, food will be available by 8 AM and packed up at 9:45. We'll have toys and chill activities set up in the room too, so when little appetites are sated they can play and have something to do while grownups chat. So nerdy parents and nerdy kids, come eat some stuff and get to know each other! And then go forth and be awesome (and less hangry). We'll have dairy free, gluten free, and kosher options available and label stuff thoroughly to answer any allergen/diet questions as best we can. *Child-Focused.*

Sun 9:00 AM
(3h)
[5] Private Dining Room
Workshop

Miniature Painting Workshop (Session 3)
Lord Kron
Come learn to paint miniatures of all kinds with our esteemed Lord Kron! Scratch that creative itch, and let loose your artistic vision upon the bare plastic!

Sun 9:00 AM
(1h)
[6] James
Participatory Event

Morning Mass
John Robison
The Reverend John Robison will be saying Mass. All are welcome to attend.

Sun 9:00 AM
(1h30m)
[6] Room 6015
Screening

The Last Unicorn
A beautiful unicorn sets out to learn if she truly is the last of her kind in this sparkling animated musical.

Sun 9:00 AM
(1h)
[8] Room 8006
Screening

Terrified Teacher at Ghou! School [14+][CHILD] Episodes 3-4
Haruaki Abe is happy to finally fulfill his dream of becoming a teacher. That happiness is short-lived after he arrives at Hyakki Academy and finds out the school is full of monsters! Can Abe overcome his cowardice and get his supernatural students under control? Join the timid teacher and his bizarre class for a tale of ghoulish mischief and paranormal education. from Crunchyroll

Sun 10:00 AM
(1h)
Virtual Panel
Room 1
Panel

Press X to Doubt - Video Game Rec Panel
Glitch Symphony, Yoshi (m), Griz, Blake Collins, Joanna Fang
Have you exhausted all the sites of Azeroth? Are you tired of flinging Covenant and Illuminate aside? Are your Blades of Chaos finally sated of their bloodlust? Driven over the edge of Rainbow Road for the last time? Come join our panel of gamers, developers, and game musicians as we discuss our favorite Video Games, both current and upcoming, and our recommendations for newcomers to the media.

Sun 10:00 AM
(1h30m)
[10] Room 10006
Workshop

Intro to 3D Printing
New to 3D printing? Join our team of 3D printing experts for a discussion on printers, materials, and programs. Take a look at different machines and materials and ask all your burning questions.

Sun 10:00 AM
(1h)
[12] Club Lounge
Meeting

Kaffeeklatsch with Sharon Lee
Sharon Lee
Spend an hour with Guest of Honor, Heinlein Award winner Sharon Lee. Limited to 10 spaces. Sign-up sheet is at the Info Desk next to Registration.

Sun 10:00 AM
(1h)
[5] 5th Floor Lobby
Signing

Autographs: J.D. Blackrose and Tris Lawrence
J.D. Blackrose, Tris Lawrence
Autographs: J.D. Blackrose and Tris Lawrence

Sun 10:00 AM
(1h)
[5] Federal Hill
Presentation

100 Ways to Die in the Universe
Kathy Alatalo
100 Ways to Die in the Universe *Child-Focused*.

Sun 10:00 AM
(1h)
[5] Guilford
Participatory Event

Masquerade Show and Tell
Dr. Karen
See some of last night's Masquerade costumes and props up close and find out how they were made.

Sun 10:00 AM
(1h)
[5] Homeland
Interview

Interview with Guest of Honor Sebastien de Castell
Sebastien de Castell
Interview with Guest of Honor Sebastien de Castell.

Sun 10:00 AM
(1h)
[5] Mount Washington
Panel

In Defense of Short Fiction
Andy Love, Carolyn Ives Gilman, L.H. Moore, Samantha Mills -CC 2025 Winner, Scott Edelman (m)
In the Golden Age short stories were the cutting edge of SFFH. Today, the short story in SFFH is still well represented in both print and online magazines, but often is considered the poor cousin to novels. What do short stories convey to the reader that is distinct from novels? What can you do with a short story that you can't in longer fiction? And why do people want to read short stories? Our panelists will discuss the importance of short form fiction.

Sun 10:00 AM
(4h)
[5] Watertable B Table 1
Scheduled Game

Game Demo: Space Cats Fight Fascism
Pickles (m)
A rising wave of fascism is now sweeping across the galaxy, threatening to throw the Galactic Alliance under autocratic rule. To help grow their power, the fascist group known as The Rat Pack has been pinning the galaxy's problems on cats. Now, these fuzzy creatures could be forced into exile all together. That is unless a band of rebellious felines, led by Rocket (the freedom fighter), CJ (the medic), Pepper (the pouncer), and Ophelia (the smuggler) can stop these fascist forces from seizing power - all while building a new galaxy where all species are free together. Space Cats Fight Fascism is a cooperative game where you play as a band of rebel cats trying to stop fascists from seizing control of the galaxy. In Space Cats Fight Fascism, you'll hop from planet to planet, scratching away at fascist forces and freeing animals pinned under the fascists' claws.

Sun 10:00 AM
(1h)
[6] Gibson
Panel

Legends and Mythos of Vampires
Jessica Moran, Silvia Moreno-Garcia, Marie Vibbert, Sherri Cook Woosley (m)
Throughout the world there are many types of vampires. In this panel we'll talk about the legends and mythos of vampires from cultures other than Eastern Europe, including the Caribbean, Africa, and Asia. And let's correct some of the misinterpretations of the Eastern Europe vampires, which were part of children's fairy tales.

Sun 10:00 AM
(1h)
[6] James
Participatory Event

Hugo Finalist Discussion
Perrienne Lurie, Carolyn Frank
Let's talk about this year's Hugo award finalists. What are your favorites, your least favorites? What should have been nominated but wasn't?

Sun 10:00 AM
(1h)
[6] Kent
Panel

The Folklore of Space

Gary Ehrlich, Tim Livengood, John Robison, JT Thomas

Both the visions of a space-faring society and the real-life exploration of space have generated their share of myths and legends. What are some of the real and fantastical tales that have come out of the US and other space programs? What stories, myths and legends might a future space-faring society tell?

Sun 10:00 AM
(1h)
[6] Pride of
Baltimore II
Panel

Audiobooks: Publishing Your Book

Bryant Johnson, Martin Wilsey, Aaron Fors, Adeena Mignogna

You're ready to present your story to the world. There's the traditional route of looking for a publisher, and self-publishing is easier than ever. You could also premiere your book via audio. How do you go about preparing your work for audio presentation? How do you find a narrator? How do you distribute it to your potential audience? Our panelists will help answer these questions and more.

Sun 10:00 AM
(1h30m)
[6] St. George
Reading

Short Fire Readings: Avery, Glover, Shvartsman, and Sparks

Sarah Avery, Richard Sparks, Elijah Kinch Spector, Alex Shvartsman, Nicole Glover

Short fire readings by Sarah Avery, Nicole Glover, Alex Shvartsman, and Richard Sparks. This item will run 90 minutes to give all the authors a reasonable chunk of time. We're trying something new. Take the survey and tell us what you think!

Sun 10:00 AM
(45m)
[7] Room 7006
Workshop

Snack Science: Experiments you can eat

Eta Hack, Ben Rovik

The kitchen becomes our laboratory in this fun exploration of science concepts. The best part? Every interactive experiment ends with snackable results. Get on the tasty tenure track with us! Best for ages 3 and up. *Child-Focused*.

Sun 10:00 AM
(1h30m)
[7] Room 7029
Participatory Event

Sunday Morning Craft-n-Chat

Patches

Join us for a few hours of social crafting time. Bring your favorite beverage and craft.

Sun 10:00 AM
(2h)
[8] Room 8006
Screening

The Red Ranger Becomes an Adventurer in Another World [14+][CHILD] Episodes 5-8

Togo Asagaki was the Red Ranger in a heroic Ranger squad. During their final battle against an evil organization, he was ready to give his life to guarantee their triumph. But fate had other plans, and he suddenly found himself in an entirely different world. Embracing his new role as an adventurer, he transforms into Kizuna Red and continues his pursuit of justice, helping those in need. from Crunchyroll

Sun 10:00 AM
(2h)
[8] Room 8029
Workshop

Shared Worlds: Profits, Pitfalls, and Unique Possibilities

Charles E. Gannon

You find working in a shared world thrilling and also . . . an occasionally onerous labor of love. But just like any other labor, you maximize your chances of success by having a plan. This session shows you how to build a check list for both, and how to turn your choices into a game plan for launching a shared universe set in a world you built either individually or collectively. The same process applies to all genres and all worlds, whether one based closely on the one we live in, or one that is entirely your own creation. If time permits, we'll workshop an example!

Sun 10:30 AM
(2h)
[6] Room 6015
Screening

Beetlejuice Beetlejuice

After a family tragedy, three generations of the Deetz family return home to Winter River. Still haunted by Beetlejuice, Lydia's life is turned upside down when her teenage daughter, Astrid, accidentally opens the portal to the Afterlife. *Children Only with Parent*.

Sun 10:45 AM
(45m)
[7] Room 7006
Workshop

Tween Writing Circle (Plus Bookmaking for Younger Kids)

Ben Rovik, Eta Hack

Balticon loves all things literary, especially new authors finding their voices. In this tween-led* workshop, younger authors will get the chance to talk through the stories and worldbuilding they're dreaming up, whether those ideas are captured in words or just imagination. Fun writing challenges will spark creativity and build technique. While tweens are chatting, younger kids will be able to write, build and bind their own storybooks with a grown-up's help. *with adult facilitators on hand to support. *Child-Focused*.

Sun 11:00 AM
(4h)
[5] Watertable B
Scheduled Game

Game Demo: In the Footsteps of Marie Curie

Perrienne Lurie (m)

In the Footsteps of Marie Curie is a family game for 2 to 4 players, in which young scientists help the famous scientist with her various research studies on Radium. Using the machine in her laboratory, represented by a cube tower, you can manipulate and transform your resources to carry out various experiments on pitchblende, uranium and radium. You can also enhance your workshop with cards that offer various bonuses. By writing Thesis, you can collect increasingly interesting bonuses.

Alphabet Soup Board Gaming



Join BSFS and friends for live Board Gaming at the BSFS Building, 1:00-6:00 PM on the third Sunday of each month.

Info: matthewsands@bsfs.org.

Check the BSFS calendar for details: bsfs.org/bsfscldr.htm

Sun 11:00 AM
(4h)
[5] Watertable B
Table 2
Scheduled Game

Game Demo: Quacks
Kelly (m)
In Quacks, which was first released as The Quacks of Quedlinburg, players are charlatans — or quack doctors — each making their own secret brew by adding ingredients one at a time. Take care with what you add, though, for a pinch too much of this or that will spoil the whole mixture! Each player has their own bag of ingredient chips. During each round, they simultaneously draw chips from their bags and add them to their pots. The higher the face value of the drawn chip, the further it is placed in the pot's swirling pattern, increasing how much the potion will be worth. Push your luck as far as you can, but if you add too many cherry bombs, your pot will explode! At the end of each round, players gain victory points and coins to spend on new ingredients, depending on how well they managed to fill up their pots. But players whose pots have exploded must choose points or coins — not both! The player with the most victory points at the end of nine rounds wins the game.

Sun 11:00 AM
(4h)
[7] Patio
Participatory Event

Safe Solar Observation
hymie! (m)
Come join us for a look at the Sun through a Hydrogen Alpha telescope, a filtered telescope specifically designed to safely look at features on the Sun. Depending on the weather and actual solar activity, we hope to see some sunspots and some activity along the edge of the Sun's atmosphere. This is a "drop in / drop out" event. There is no reason, or expectation, for you to spend the whole four hours. Just come by and check out the Sun for a few minutes. Be sure to check Rocketmail for updates. Never look at the Sun without proper eye protection. Standard sunglasses are NOT designed for looking directly at the Sun.

Sun 11:30 AM
(1h)
Virtual Panel
Room 1
Panel

GMing: Thinking on Your Feet
Kris Vyas-Myall, Nikhil Prabala, Michael R. Underwood, Jayrod P. Garrett (m)
You craft the perfect campaign and world — but the players decide to investigate the random alley cat? Is the cat a wizard's familiar? A demon lord? Or just cute? Learning how to think on your feet is an important part of GMing, but not everyone is trained in improv. From planning event based campaigns, adding excitement with kick-in-the-door sequences, and improvising charming NPCs, our panelists will share their favorite tips for loosening up, and keeping things fluid and fun.

Sun 11:30 AM
(1h)
Virtual Panel
Room 2
Panel

Pandemics in Fact and Fiction
Emad El-Din Aysha, Carolyn Ives Gilman, Cherrie Fors (m)
SFF contains many examples of plagues, epidemics, and their impact on human civilization. Let's talk about the experience of living through a global pandemic compared with fictional examples. Which are closer to reality and which are substantially off target? How will the experience affect our genre in the future?

Sun 11:30 AM
(1h)
[12] Club
Lounge
Meeting

Kaffeeeklatsch with Joanna Fang and Blake Collins
Joanna Fang, Blake Collins
Spend an hour with Guests of Honor, Foley Artists Joanna Fang and Blake Collins. Limited to 15 spaces. Sign-up sheet is at the Info Desk next to Registration.

Sun 11:30 AM
(1h)
[5] 5th Floor
Lobby
Signing

Autographs: Catherine Asaro and Jennifer Povey
Catherine Asaro, Jennifer R. Povey
Autographs: Catherine Asaro and Jennifer Povey

Sun 11:30 AM
(1h)
[5] Baltimore
Ballroom A
Participatory Event

Book Launch: Midnight Brew
C.D. Brown
C.D. Brown's new novel "Midnight Brew" is a sequel to their first "Vamp City" which also had its debut at Balticon. The book is a tense showdown between a young witch who is discovering her powers and the previous characters, vampires who occupy the leading roles in the Los Angeles cabals. Using humor, horror and plenty of action, each confrontation escalates until the Loa (Voodoo gods) themselves intervene. Join C.D. Brown in the consuite for fun, games, and snacks. And a sample reading from their new book!

Sun 11:30 AM
(1h)
[5] Federal Hill
Presentation

Quantum steampunk: The physics of yesterday's tomorrow
Nicole Yunger Halpern
A genre of science fiction is coming to life where quantum technology meets energy science. In steampunk, Victorian settings feature futuristic gadgets: automata and time machines populate smoggy London and the Wild, Wild West. Outside fiction, technology has advanced beyond the steam engine to quantum computers, which will be able to solve certain problems much more quickly than ordinary computers. Quantum computing has melded with energy science, which dates to the Victorian era, in a field dubbed quantum steampunk. Can quantum physics benefit engines as it benefits computation? How would a quantum engine or battery look? I will introduce this real-world science fiction. *Child-Focused.*

Sun 11:30 AM (1h) [5] Guilford <i>Panel</i>	"Alexa, What's the Current State of AI?" <i>Nate Hoffelder, Aaron M. Roth, Shahid Mahmud, Bryant Keith O'Hara (m)</i> The conversation around generative AI has sparked debate and controversy. Despite the controversy some authors and artists are using AI to assist them in their creative efforts. Yet this comes with the dangers of potential plagiarism, boycotting and backlash from fans, and limitations on marketing and future business. Can this technology be helpful to creatives at all, or are the risks too great?
Sun 11:30 AM (1h) [5] Homeland <i>Presentation</i>	Artist Guest of Honor Stephanie Law Presentation <i>Stephanie Law</i> Artist Guest of Honor Stephanie Law presentation.
Sun 11:30 AM (1h) [5] Mount Washington <i>Panel</i>	The Heist in SFF <i>L. Penelope, T. C. Weber, Mark Painter, Mark L. Van Name (m)</i> "It's gonna be our last job. Trust me!" Beginning in crime fiction, the heist plot has spread in SFF - Starter Villain in SF and Mistborn in Fantasy. Given its immediate addition of dramatic tension and raised stakes, the heist provides narrative advantages to authors in genres from horror to romance. Our panelists will discuss what makes a good heist story and share some examples. Can they get away with it?
Sun 11:30 AM (1h) [6] Gibson <i>Panel</i>	Ducks and How to Make Them Pay <i>Kelly Pierce, Martin Berman-Gorvine, Nomi S, Ian Randal Strock, Flappy</i> Is it a discussion of extortion schemes, animal husbandry, or an exploration of how to hold the Anatidae family accountable for their many and various crimes? That's up to the panelists!
Sun 11:30 AM (1h) [6] James <i>Panel</i>	Lightbulb Moments: How Authors Develop Ideas <i>Larry Hodges, Andrew McDowell, Jo Miles, Nicole Glover, Samantha Mills -CC 2025 Winner</i> Ideas are cheap, but you can't pull a good book out of a hat. How do authors develop their bits of creative inspiration into full length stories? Is there a magic to a good idea, or is it more about confidence of execution? When is it time to abandon an idea which isn't coming together? Our panelist will discuss what makes an idea worth bringing into the sunlight, and which should stay in the shade.
Sun 11:30 AM (1h) [6] Kent <i>Concert</i>	Concert: T.J. and Mitchell Burnside-Clapp <i>T. J. Burnside Clapp, Mitchell Burnside Clapp</i> T.J. and Mitch have been fans and filkers for over 40 years, have won a combined five Pegasus Awards, and were recently inducted into the Filk Hall of Fame. Come hear their unique blend of serious, science and silly!

Sun 11:30 AM (1h) [6] Pride of Baltimore II <i>Panel</i>	K-drama Bingo <i>Bill Lawhorn, Lilis Cosplay</i> Get out your finger hearts and your slow motion capture! Together we will check off everything that must appear in every drama, and maybe we will discover something new along the way. Prepare yourselves for unexpected falls and comas, spectacular vomiting, dangerous relationships and much, much more. Warning! This panel may contain cute sound effects.
Sun 11:30 AM (1h30m) [6] St. George <i>Reading</i>	Readings - Broad Universe <i>Randee Dawn, Christiane Knight, Roberta Rogow, D. H. Timpko, Morgan Hazelwood</i> Join the folks from Broad Universe for some super snappy short fire readings! Randee Dawn, D.H. Timpko, Christiane Knight, Sarena Straus, Roberta Rogow, Morgan Hazelwood
Sun 11:30 AM (30m) [7] Room 7006 <i>Refresh</i>	Closed for Lunch-- Sunday <i>Eta Hack, Ben Rovik</i> Your intrepid Children's Programming team will be away for lunch. See you for more fun after the break! <i>Child-Focused</i> .
Sun 11:30 AM (1h) [7] Room 7029 <i>Participatory Event</i>	Writer Meetup: All Things Mystery and Suspense <i>Jen Brinn</i> Do you write mystery and suspense? Come meet other mystery authors in the SFFH world. This is a space for authors, and budding authors, to find other folks who write in their genre. This is a networking event for authors. Building a writing community is important and Balticon aims to facilitate that.

BSFS Congratulates the 2024 Amateur Writing Contest Winners

First Place: "Good Neighbors" by **Alara Rogers**.
When a big alien menace moves in next door on an Earth colony world, one mom from Minnesota takes it on herself to deal with things.

Second Place: "Work" by **Kevin Barrett**.
A special agent tasked with seizing illegal fiction to help train the AIs that produce all human culture finds herself embellishing the truth a little too frequently.

Third Place: "The Cost of Doing Business" by **Sierra McNew**.
A sun-sensitive suburban homeowner applies a fierce bargaining strategy to acquire window repairs.

Honorable Mention: "The Curist" by **Denise Cross**.
An 8th grader reports on Dr. Pearl Cavanaugh Mendy, the woman who cured cancer.

Honorable Mention: "The Love of Cats" by **Holden Lee**.
A young mouse aspires to knighthood but is cast out after losing his fear of cats.

The BSFS Amateur Writing Contest accepts stories annually from April 15-June 15. Winners are announced at Capclave. For entry rules, see: bsfs.org/bsfsssc.htm.

Sunday Afternoon

Sun 12:00 PM
(4h)
[5] Watertable A
Table 1
Scheduled Game

Porcelain Souls: Covenant Broken, Covenant Restored (Demo 5)

Caleb

Sink into a world of the macabre. The remnants of humanity's essence now reside in the shell of dolls. Moving among the carcasses of the world left behind. Inspired by the movie *9* and the many works of the Quay Brothers. We ask you to join us in creating the most horrific TTRPG through porcelain lenses. See the nightmares birthed by the phantasmagorias and never forget the ones you will die alongside. There were three of them. Each one carries with them a passion for their children. Each one encompassed the anatomy of a vine. The Rose sprouted from the top. Seeking the sun. The Rot drips on its lengthy vine, under the shadows and content in its place. Then the Grey. The dirt. Devoid of the vine and a part of something wholly different. Become a part of one of the Ziggurats. Silver and glass pillars breaching the sky. The home of us who remain. Each one seeks their own path. One seeks humanity, one despises it, the other too alien to even acknowledge such bygone amusements. *Children Only with Parent.*

Sun 12:00 PM
(4h)
[5] Watertable A
Table 2
Scheduled Game

Pathfinder 1e: From the Blackness (Pt 3)

Misha

Earth has long been cut off from magic, to hide it from the Dominion of the Black. What happens when that protection breaks? *Children Only with Parent.*

Sun 12:00 PM
(4h)
[5] Watertable A
Table 3
Scheduled Game

Unlimited - Is it safe to travel through Lower Elam?

Bill Snee

You find yourself in the town of Amberfall Market in Lower Elam. The Party has been hired to escort wagons to a frontier village of Aspen Mill. Aspen Mill is in the north near the country of Voltar. The wagon members will be the new village members. Will there be risks on the road? *Children Not Allowed.*

The BSFS Amateur Writing Contest

2025

The Baltimore Science Fiction Society Amateur Writing Contest is open to amateur writers over 18 years old who are Maryland residents and to students attending any Maryland two or four year college. It is free to enter.

The 2025 contest opens April 15 and closes June 15 at 11.59 PM.

Winners will be announced at the Capclave Convention that will be held September 19-21, 2025 in Rockville, MD.

First place receives \$250, an invite to the next Capclave and Balticon, and their story published in the *BSEAN*, the Balticon souvenir book. Second and Third place winners also receive cash prizes, and along with runners up, are invited to the next Balticon.

For details, including how to submit, see: bsfs.org/bsfsssc.htm.

Sun 12:00 PM
(2h)
[5] Watertable B
Table 3
Scheduled Game

Game Demo: Wandering Towers

Erik Delfosse (m)

Each year, the graduating classes of the Ravenrealm Magic School compete to demonstrate their mastery of magic. For the final exam, all the wizards of each class must assemble at the legendary Ravenskeep... but every last one of them has procrastinated, distracted by learning new spells. They've also used all their potions—they can't show up unprepared, with empty potion bottles! Help your wizards get to Ravenskeep as quickly as possible. Using their magic they could even move the very towers atop which they stand to get there more easily! But how can they refill their potion bottles along the way? Well, here's a little secret: Trapping wizards allows you to capture some of their magical essence in a bottle...

Sun 12:00 PM
(6h)
[5] Watertable C
Scheduled Game

Pokemon TCG Draft Tournament

Amanda, Yoshi, Gracie

The first ever Balticon Pokemon TCG Open Draft Tournament! Entry to this tournament is included with your Balticon membership! All cards drafted by participants are theirs to keep at the end of the tournament! -Each player will receive 1 build box -Players will have 90 minutes of instructional play and deck building -There will be 3 45 minute rounds of play -Prizes will be given out to the top 3 players, as well as packs for all participants

Sun 12:00 PM
(45m)
[7] Room 7006
Performance

Fairy Tales for Modern Times with Tim Livengood

Tim Livengood

In olden times, people wondered where the lightning came from, how the wind blew, and what caused measles. People still wonder. But now we have iPads and toaster ovens and ecology. So the stories have changed. Come hear the updated tales from the mind of perennial Balticon favorite Tim Livengood. Best for ages 3 and up. *Child-Focused.*

Sun 12:00 PM
(2h)
[8] Room 8006
Screening

Mary and the Witch's Flower [PG][CHILD] Movie

Young Mary follows a mysterious cat into the nearby forest and discovers an old broomstick and the strange Fly-by-Night flower, a rare plant that blossoms once every seven years. Together, the flower and the broomstick whisk Mary above the clouds, and far away to Endor College -- a school of magic run by headmistress Madam Mumblechook and the brilliant Doctor Dee. But there are terrible things happening at the school, and when Mary tells a lie, she must risk her life to try and set things right. from Crunchyroll

Sun 12:00 PM (2h) [8] Room 8029 <i>Workshop</i>	Building a Space Battle <i>David Keener</i> So, you want to include a titanic space battle in your military SF novel or your galaxy-spanning space opera. But...who's fighting? Why are they fighting? You'd like to make the battle realistic...but what tactics and strategies make sense? In this workshop, you'll learn by doing as we collaboratively build an epic space battle.
Sun 12:30 PM (30m) [5] Maryland Ballroom CD <i>Room Turn</i>	Doors Open for BGSO Concert Doors Open for BGSO Concert
Sun 12:30 PM (2h30m) [6] Room 6015 <i>Screening</i>	Mickey 17 (2025) During a human expedition to colonize space, Mickey 17, a so-called "expendable" employee, is sent to explore an ice planet. <i>Children Only with Parent.</i>
Sun 12:45 PM (1h30m) [7] Room 7006 <i>Participatory Event</i>	Frankenstiffies <i>Nomi S</i> Let out your inner mad scientist with crafty genius Naomi! Her collection of stuffed animal elements is ready and waiting to be given an imaginative new existence as mashed-up creatures. Pick a bit from here, a bit from there, add a little embroidery floss, and voila! IT'S ALIVE! Best for ages 8 and up. <i>Child-Focused.</i>
Sun 1:00 PM (1h) Virtual Panel Room 1 <i>Panel</i>	From Concept to Final Draft <i>Mary Soon Lee, Mike Luoma, Gail Z. Martin, Oghenechovwe Donald Ekpeki</i> Join a panel of authors as they reveal the twists and turns of their creative journeys. They'll focus on the ways their books changed while they were writing them—whether through feedback, inspiration, or a sudden plot twist. From initial concepts to final drafts, these writers will share their unique processes, challenges, and triumphs. Discover the fascinating and unpredictable world of writing in a candid and insightful conversation.
Sun 1:00 PM (1h30m) Virtual Room 3 <i>Workshop</i>	Chapbook Craft: Your Words, Your Way <i>Wendy Van Camp</i> Unleash your poetic vision! Join Poet Laureate Emerita Wendy Van Camp in an empowering workshop on crafting and publishing your own indie chapbook. Navigate the art of self-expression, from selecting verses to formatting. Elevate your words from manuscript to a tangible, personalized collection. Your poetry, your rules, let's bring your vision to life.

Sun 1:00 PM (1h) Virtual Panel Room 2 <i>Presentation</i>	The Aliens Did Not Build Your Pyramids: Pseudoscience and Misinformation <i>Aaron Fors, David Ellis (m), Rob O'Malley, Andy Love</i> Throughout history improvements in information communication have been followed by attempts to influence the content and access of information. Whether from well-meaning but ignorant individuals or nefarious groups, misinformation spreads faster than ever now. How can we navigate this landscape of misinformation and source the truth?
Sun 1:00 PM (1h) [5] Federal Hill <i>Panel</i>	Non-European Folklore in SFF <i>Tom Doyle, Stephanie Law, Jessica Moran (m), Somto Ihezue</i> Creators of SFF literature often draw inspiration from the folklore of various cultures. European mythology remains an inexhaustible source of inspiration. But we're not the only cultures with rich mythologies. Sylvia Moreno-Garcia, P. Djeli Clark, Monique Blackgoose, and Xiran Jay Zhao are a few authors who draw from non-European sources. Let's talk about these and other works that are inspired by non-European myths.
Sun 1:00 PM (1h) [5] Guilford <i>Panel</i>	So you want to be a Game Master? <i>Ian Sipple (m), Jennifer R. Povey, Eric Hardenbrook, John Appel, Michael R. Underwood</i> First time Game-Mastering? Are prospective players asking whether you run your table Rules as Written or Rule of Cool, but you don't know how to answer? Are you new to TTRPGs and want to get your friends to join you at the table? Have you wanted to give your Forever GM friend a break? Come to "So you want to be a Game Master?", where our panel of experienced game runners will teach you how to lead an RPG, and ensure the fun is spread evenly around the table.
Sun 1:00 PM (1h) [5] Maryland Ballroom CD <i>Concert</i>	Guest of Honor Concert: Baltimore Gamer Symphony Orchestra The Baltimore Gamer Symphony Orchestra is an all-volunteer community orchestra performing music from video games as arranged by the orchestra's own conductors and members. Even if you're not a gamer, their energy, talent and sheer joy will carry you on a musical journey not to be missed!
Sun 1:00 PM (1h) [5] Mount Washington <i>Panel</i>	Juggling POV <i>Jean Marie Ward, Alan Smale (m), Catherine Asaro, Ken Altabef</i> It's a hallmark of SFF to provide different points of view. How many POV characters are too many? How do you jump from one character to another without losing your readers? Learn from pros who have kept their readers along for the ride.

Sun 1:00 PM
(4h)
[5] Watertable B
Table 4
Scheduled Game

Game Demo: Rajas of the Ganges
Nick (m)
Through tactics and karma to wealth and fame... In 16th century India, the powerful empire of the Great Moguls rises between the Indus and the Ganges rivers. Taking on the role of rajas and ranis – the country's influential nobles – players in Rajas of the Ganges race against each other in support of the empire by developing their estates into wealthy and magnificent provinces. Players must use their dice wisely and carefully plot where to place their workers, while never underestimating the benefits of good karma. Success will bring them great riches and fame in their quest to become legendary rulers.

Sun 1:00 PM
(1h)
[6] Gibson
Panel

The Stakes are High, and They're Well Done
Charles E. Gannon, J.D. Blackrose, Sarah Avery, Sebastien de Castell, Sharon Lee
Have you ever DNFed in the middle of a book? Whether as a reader or a writer, we have all encountered the treacherous canyons of the "saggy middle." But how can authors avoid this common pitfall? Our panelists will talk about utilizing tension and raising stakes to bridge the gap between the call to action and the final showdown, and keep readers turning pages.

Sun 1:00 PM
(1h)
[6] Kent
Panel

What's in a Name?
Andrew McDowell (m), Jo Miles, A. L. Kaplan, Bjorn E. Hasseler, Martin Wilsey
Naming your characters can be one of the hardest parts of writing. A good name can evoke a feeling, fuel your worldbuilding, and make for a more memorable character. Names can help key readers into your genre and tropes, and can play a crucial role in character development. And sometimes a name is just a name, with no hidden agenda or meaning. Let's hear what our panelists have to say about names and their significance.

Sun 1:00 PM
(1h)
[6] Pride of Baltimore II
Panel

Science and Writing: How Real Experiences Inform Our Imaginations
Adeena Mignogna, Ruthanna Emrys, T. C. Weber, Jack Carroll
A panel of writers will discuss how they've drawn inspiration from scientific realities in the areas of genetic modification, botany, linguistics, and neuroscience to create extraordinary fantasies.

Sun 1:00 PM
(1h30m)
[6] St. George
Reading

Short Fire Readings: Brown, Ellis, England, Hammond, Woosley
Kit Englard, Christiana Ellis, Sherri Cook Woosley, C.D. Brown, Elektra Hammond
Short Fire Readings by C.D. Brown, Christiana Ellis, Kit Englard, Elektra Hammond, and Sherri Cook Woosley. This item will run 90 minutes to give all the authors a reasonable chunk of time. We're trying something new. Take the survey and tell us what you think!

Sun 1:00 PM
(1h)
[7] Room 7029
Participatory Event

Writer Meetup: All Things Short Form Fiction
R. Taylor
Do you write short form fiction? Are flash fiction and short stories your jam? Come meet other short form fiction authors in the SFFH world. This is a space for authors, and budding authors, to find other folks who write in their genre. This is a networking event for authors. Building a writing community is important and Balticon aims to facilitate that.

Sun 2:00 PM
(2h)
[5] Homeland
Participatory Event

Art Show Auction & BSFS Books for Kids Charity Auction
Eric (Dr. Gandalf) Fleischer, Kelly Pierce
Items from the Art Show that had 3 or more silent bids go to voice auction here. Once those are finished, we'll continue the charity auction. Note: This item will not be broadcast.

Sun 2:00 PM
(4h)
[5] Watertable B
Table 3
Scheduled Game

Game Demo: Caution Signs
Crystal
Each round in Caution Signs, you're presented with a secret combination of adjective and noun: stylish rhino, gassy monkeys, flexible cow, melting babies — ten thousand combinations are possible. You have twenty seconds to sketch an image of this combo on a caution sign. All of these images are then revealed to the round's guesser, along with the individual adjectives and nouns, and the guesser tries to figure out what each sign is warning them about.

Sun 2:00 PM
(2h)
[8] Room 8006
Screening

The Boy and the Heron [PG-13][CHILD] Movie
Mahito, a young 12-year-old boy, struggles to settle in a new town after his mother's death. However, when a talking heron informs Mahito that his mother is still alive, he enters an abandoned tower in search of her, which takes him to another world. from Crunchyroll

Sun 2:15 PM
(45m)
[7] Room 7006
Workshop

Banana Sushi
Eta Hack, Ben Rovik
Order up! Take your banana snacking to the next level with fun techniques and embellishments to make America's favorite fruit look fresh from the sushi counter. Recharge and relax with other families while grabbing a healthy bite to eat. Good for all ages. Allergens: Wheat, Coconut. No raw fish or shellfish anywhere in sight. *Child-Focused.*

Sun 2:30 PM
(1h)
Virtual Panel
Room 1
Panel

Editors Can be Your Friends
Dana Bell, Sally Wiener Grotta, Walt Boyes (m), Jennia D'Lima
Editors can be your best friends and advocates. But you need to know how to work with them and what to expect from them. How can editors help writers? How can writers encourage editors to help them? What rules do editors wish writers knew? First rule...don't be a jerk.

- Sun 2:30 PM**
(1h)
Virtual Room 3
Panel
- Orpheus Again?**
Akua Lezli Hope, Galen Dara, Ada Palmer, Valerie Estelle Frankel
Orpheus and Eurydice mythos have seeded the imaginations of numerous creators. From the Netflix show *Kaos* to Broadway's *Hadestown* to the novelette *L'Esprit de L'Escalier* by Catherynne M. Valente, why does this myth have such a resonance in modern times? What is it telling us about how we see life and love? Or is there something deeper?
- Sun 2:30 PM**
(1h)
Virtual Panel
Room 2
Panel
- Literary Awards as a Catalyst**
Leonardo Espinoza Benavides, Joyce Reynolds-Ward (m), Oghenechovwe Donald Ekpeki
Within SFF and Horror, there is a long tradition of literary competitions and awards, Nebula, Hugo, World Fantasy, Bram Stoker, etc. Are literary awards an important part of the literary world? Do they have a significant impact on the promotion of literature, authors and specific publications? Do these awards push folks to write more/better? Are these awards significant motivation to keep writing?
- Sun 2:30 PM**
(1h30m)
[10] Room 10006
Presentation
- 3D Printing in Industry**
Savvy Dragon Cosplay
From Prototyping to Product, Industrial 3D Printing This panel will talk about the many uses for 3D printing in the industrial world. As well as talk about some of the more unique 3D printers that are used in the different industries.
- Sun 2:30 PM**
(1h)
[12] Club Lounge
Meeting
- Kaffeeklatsch with Silvia Moreno-Garcia**
Silvia Moreno-Garcia
Spend an hour with Guest of Honor Silvia Moreno-Garcia. Limited to 10 spaces. Sign-up sheet is at the Info Desk next to Registration.
- Sun 2:30 PM**
(1h)
[5] 5th Floor Lobby
Signing
- Autographs: Sharon Lee and Jo Miles**
Sharon Lee, Jo Miles
Autographs: Sharon Lee and Jo Miles
- Sun 2:30 PM**
(1h)
[5] Baltimore Ballroom A
Participatory Event
- Book Launch: Permutations: A Well World Anthology**
Shahid Mahmud, Elektra Hammond, David Boop, Catherine Asaro
Join us for the book launch and reading of *Permutations: A Well World Anthology*.

- Sun 2:30 PM**
(1h)
[5] Federal Hill
Presentation
- More than Words: What can we learn about communication by studying primates and canines?**
Elizabeth Warren
How would you communicate if you didn't have any words? Non-human animals, who do not have access to words at all (at least, not in the traditional sense!), are able to effectively convey their needs and desires, both with us and with each other. But what is your dog really thinking when they bring you a toy with those pleading eyes? Do other animals think about communication in the same way that we do? In this presentation, I will show you our latest methods and findings on just what is going on in the minds of apes, monkeys, and dogs when they interact with others, and explore how some of the complicated communication mechanisms that we see in humans might have developed over evolutionary time. *Child-Focused*.
- Sun 2:30 PM**
(1h)
[5] Guilford
Panel
- Urban Fantasy**
Andrija "Andy" Popovic, C.D. Brown, D.H. Aire, Miguel O. Mitchell, PhD (m)
Urban fantasy is a subgenre of fantasy, placing supernatural elements in an urban setting. What makes urban fantasy particularly compelling to its readers? When writing urban fantasy, are there any specific ways to incorporate supernatural elements most effectively? What tropes work particularly well with urban fantasy? What are some of the most exciting recent urban fantasy books out there?
- Sun 2:30 PM**
(1h)
[5] Mount Washington
Panel
- Jews In Space: Jewish SF On and Off The Page**
Alex Shvartsman, Martin Berman-Gorvine (m), Ian Randal Strock, Randee Dawn
The history of science fiction is replete with Jewish authors and creators... but not many characters. What can make a story feel Jewish and what's the role of assimilation and stealth representation?
- Sun 2:30 PM**
(1h)
[6] Gibson
Panel
- Working Weirdos: How to Find Your Writing People**
Yakira Heistand, Sara Itka, Brie Tart, Sydney Olivia
Watch a writing group in its natural habitat. Join our panel of professional authors as they discuss their paths to publishing and each other. They'll discuss how and why their group works, how they help each other level up their writing, and empower through critique. They'll give you tips and tricks to create your own group dynamic which fosters an environment of support and growth.

Sun 2:30 PM
(1h)
[6] James
Panel

It's Over 9000 (Dollars): Budgeting for Cosplay

Lilis Cosplay, Tyaz Cosplay, Gaia Eirich, Evelyn Lewis (m)

With cosplay materials easier than ever to find in craft and hobby stores, it's easy to want to go hog wild with your credit card. However, cosplay expenses can rack up quick, and there are lots of easy, cheap ways to make your materials stretch further. This panel will discuss how to budget your cosplays, ways you can save, and even which materials are better to splurge on.

Sun 2:30 PM
(1h)
[6] Kent
Concert

Concert: Harold Feld

Harold Feld

Herald, bard and storyteller with a love of Jewish and Middle Eastern stories.

Sun 2:30 PM
(1h)
[6] Pride of
Baltimore II
Panel

Assembling Your Cast

Elijah Kinch Spector, Nicole Glover, Doc Coleman, Rigel Ailur

You have your setting. You have your hero. But what about everyone else? How does your genre shape your main cast? How villainous is your antagonist? Do you need a love interest? How central to the story should your side characters be? Our panelists will discuss genre, tropes, and character development.

Sun 2:30 PM
(1h30m)
[6] St. George
Reading

Short Fire Readings: Blackrose, Gilman, Ihezue, Kaplan, Thompson

J.D. Blackrose, Somto Ihezue, Mary G. Thompson, A. L. Kaplan, Carolyn Ives Gilman

Short Fire readings by J.D. Blackrose, Carolyn Ives, Gilman, Somoto Ihezue, A.L. Kaplan, and Mary G. Thompson. This item will run 90 minutes to give all the authors a reasonable chunk of time. We're trying something new. Take the survey and tell us what you think!

Sun 2:30 PM
(1h)
[7] Room 7029
Panel

Making a Book Club Work

Brick Barrientos, Eric Hardenbrook, Andy Love, Rosemary Claire Smith

Selecting books, recruiting members, and achieving longevity; what goes into a successful book discussion group?

Sun 2:30 PM
(1h)
[8] Room 8029
Participatory Event

Writer Meetup: All Things YA and Middle Grade

David Simms

Do you write YA or middle grade? Come meet other YA and middle grade authors in the SFFH world. This is a space for authors, and budding authors, to find other folks who write in their genre. This is a networking event for authors. Building a writing community is important and Balticon aims to facilitate that.

Sun 3:00 PM
(3h)
[5] Watertable B
Table 2
Scheduled Game

Game Demo: Robot Quest Arena

Erik Delfosse (m)

Robot Quest Arena is a deckbuilding arena battle game with awesome pre-painted robot miniatures! Use battery cards to move, power your weapons, and buy powerful new cards for your deck. Navigate around the hazards of the arena and blast your opponents to score points. Destroyed bots respawn each round, so you're never out of the action!

Sun 3:00 PM
(1h)
[6] Room 6015
Screening

Faces of the Undead Special Presentation Encore

An anthology style horror with the disturbing conclusion that death is not the end. But only the beginning. Created by a Voodoo Priestess, a Necromancer is caught in the psychological turmoil of what is real and what is not. *Children Only with Parent.*

Sun 3:00 PM
(45m)
[7] Room 7006
Participatory Event

Kids' Dance Party

Eta Hack, Ben Rovik

Let's see those moves! Rock out to nerdy favorites and today's bops in our glittery, fancied-up dance space. If rival dance crews form to show off their competing choreography, hey, that happens sometimes. A fun way to move and meet other fans. Good for all ages. *Child-Focused.*

Sun 3:30 PM
(30m)
[5] Maryland
Ballroom CD
Room Turn

Doors Open for Dinosaurs: The Update

Doors open for Dinosaurs: The Update seating

Sun 3:45 PM
(45m)
[7] Room 7006
Workshop

Wicked Fun Character Building in the Land of Oz

Eta Hack, Ben Rovik

Magic! Talking animals! Munchkins! Toto! The Land of Oz has been defying gravity for more than 100 years, staying enduringly popular in books, movies, and music. Come build your own awesome Oz-adjacent character for use in an RPG campaign, story, playdate, or just for fun. The process behind building a backstory and creating a rich character can apply to any setting too, not just Emerald City-adjacent ones. If an impromptu Wicked singalong starts up, we probably won't squash it, just don't disturb the other panels. *Child-Focused.*

Sun 4:00 PM
(1h)
Virtual Panel
Room 1
Panel

Is the Martyrdom Really Necessary?

John Robison, Nikhil Prabala, Joyce Reynolds-Ward (m), Joy Ward

What is the difference between selflessness and sacrifice? And when does it become martyrdom? Why are some characters written to fail alone when there's a choice to succeed together? What does this trope say about humanity, individuality, and the value of life? Why is this trope so popular and what do we get out of it? Is a sacrifice really needed to redeem our SFF worlds?

- Sun 4:00 PM**
(1h)
Virtual Room 3
Reading
- Reading: Catherine Asaro, T.C. Weber, CL Fors**
T. C. Weber, Cherrie Fors
Catherine Asaro, T.C. Weber and CL Fors will read selections from their works.
- Sun 4:00 PM**
(1h)
Virtual Panel
Room 2
Panel
- Happy Mind, Happy Writer**
Leonardo Espinoza Benavides, Gail Z. Martin, Jana S. Brown, Jayrod P. Garrett (m)
We all know stress contributes to writer's block. Some is related to external pressures, but much of it comes from within. Creating clear boundaries with family and friends, keeping a clear workspace, as well as other strategies can reduce stress and let inspiration flow. Our panelist will share their tips for a healthy mindscape and a happy writing life.
- Sun 4:00 PM**
(1h30m)
[10] Room
10006
Presentation
- Combat Robots and Other 3D Printing Fun**
Ty McNeer
You thought combat robots only for the big guys? We made battle bots with 3D printers! Macrobot one pound robots battling to the death! /cheesy announcer voice. There's so much more you can do with 3D printing! Come check it out.
- Sun 4:00 PM**
(1h)
[12] Club
Lounge
Meeting
- Kaffeeklatsch with Marc Abrahams**
Marc
Spend an hour with Science Guest of Honor Marc Abrahams. Limited to 10 spaces. Sign-up sheet is at the Info Desk next to Registration.
- Sun 4:00 PM**
(1h)
[5] 5th Floor
Lobby
Signing
- Autographs: Sebastien de Castell and Andrew McDowell**
Sebastien de Castell, Andrew McDowell
Autographs: Sebastien de Castell and Andrew McDowell
- Sun 4:00 PM**
(1h)
[5] Federal Hill
Panel
- Space Westerns - Old Genre, New Weapons?**
Jack Campbell, Christiana Ellis, Martin Berman-Gorvine (m), Elektra Hammond
What is a Space Western? Firefly, Cowboys and Aliens, Cowboy Bebop, Wild Wild West are some great examples of this genre but what are their defining factors? The lone gunman or ragtag team of misfits, are Space Westerns a team sport or solo adventure, or both? Is DS9 a Space Western - new frontier, limited resources and support, conflict all over, and a saloon keeper who makes shady deals? How about Star Wars: A New Hope? Let's hear what our panelists have to say.

- Sun 4:00 PM**
(1h)
[5] Guilford
Panel
- Building Community to Survive Your Writing Journey**
David Keener, Christiane Knight, Tris Lawrence, L. Penelope (m)
It's been said that "it takes a village to write a book." Writers who are successful tend to have a strong support system of friends, fellow writing professionals, beta readers, and fans to help them. Find out how to build the kind of support system you need to become the writer you want to be.
- Sun 4:00 PM**
(1h)
[5] Homeland
Panel
- Final Girl and the Female Gaze: How has Horror Changed?**
David Simms, Silvia Moreno-Garcia, Jennia D'Lima (m), Joanna Fang
From the "classic" films and books from the 1970s to now, what changes have we seen in the roles women have typically played across the horror genre? How have these more complex characters changed the genre? What changes do we hope to see in the future?
- Sun 4:00 PM**
(1h30m)
[5] Maryland
Ballroom CD
Presentation
- Dinosaurs: The Update**
Thomas R. Holtz, Jr., PhD
Dr. Tom Holtz, Jr. presents his annual update on what's new with things that happened millions of years ago.
- Sun 4:00 PM**
(1h)
[5] Mount
Washington
Panel
- Deities Galore**
J.D. Blackrose, Jennifer R. Povey (m), Sherri Cook Woosley, Jen Brinn, Brie Tart
Why limit your characters to a single Creator? Human history certainly has some great examples of pantheons and mythos about how the gods interact with their followers, and each other. Let's talk about polytheistic structures in SFF.
- Sun 4:00 PM**
(4h)
[5] Watertable A
Table 1
Scheduled Game
- The Witch is Dead - Double Session**
Andrew Lillien
There will be two sessions, one at 4 PM and the other at 6 PM Once upon a time, there was a kind and beautiful witch who lived in the forest with her familiars, and life was peaceful and happy until a FREAKING WITCH HUNTER broke into her cottage and dragged her out and FREAKING MURDERED HER and now she is DEAD. But if you get revenge and kill him and bring his eyes to her corpse within a week she will come back to life. Or so you have heard. Even if it doesn't work, at least he is dead.
Children Only with Parent.



BSFS is a 501(c)(3), non-profit, charitable, literary and educational organization, dedicated to the promotion of, and an appreciation for, science fiction in all of its many forms. BSFS and Balticon are run entirely by volunteers.

A copy of the current financial statement of the Baltimore Science Fiction Society, Inc. is available by writing PO Box 686, Baltimore, MD 21203 or by calling (410) 563-2737. Documents and information submitted under the Maryland Solicitations Act are also available, for the cost of postage and copies, from the Maryland Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis MD 21401, (410) 974-5534.

Sun 4:00 PM
(4h)
[5] Watertable A
Table 2
Scheduled Game

Mork Borg: Vermis - The Flutewood
Robert Himberger
On the slopes of a grim and frostbitten peak, stands a forest of trees that scream an otherworldly melody when the wind rises on the cold mountain nights. Within squat the bones of an ancient relic of dead times, and from within it an unseen hand tugs at your will, calling you closer. Guard your body and wits, for both are the playthings of the fate you well deserve. This session uses the Mork Borg system, and is based on the guidebook for the non-existent game Vermis. No understanding of either is required. *Children Only with Parent.*

Sun 4:00 PM
(4h)
[5] Watertable A
Table 3
Scheduled Game

Porcelain Souls: Covenant Broken, Covenant Restored (Demo 3)
Mitch Bustillos
Sink into a world of the macabre. The remnants of humanity's essence now reside in the shell of dolls. Moving among the carcasses of the world left behind. Inspired by the movie 9 and the many works of the Quay Brothers. We ask you to join us in creating the most horrific TTRPG through porcelain lenses. See the nightmares birthed by the phantasmagorias and never forget the ones you will die alongside. There were three of them. Each one carries with them a passion for their children. Each one encompassed the anatomy of a vine. The Rose sprouted from the top. Seeking the sun. The Rot drips on its lengthy vine, under the shadows and content in its place. Then the Grey. The dirt. Devoid of the vine and a part of something wholly different. Become a part of one of the Ziggurats. Silver and glass pillars breaching the sky. The home of us who remain. Each one seeks their own path. One seeks humanity, one despises it, the other too alien to even acknowledge such bygone amusements. *Children Only with Parent.*

Sun 4:00 PM
(2h)
[5] Watertable B
Table 1
Scheduled Game

Game Demo: Flip 7
Kelly (m)
Flip over cards one by one without flipping the same number twice. Sound easy? Think again! This isn't just any deck of cards... In Flip 7 there's only one 1 card, two 2's, three 3's, etc plus a bunch of special cards that can score you extra points, give you a second chance, or freeze you or your opponents in your tracks. Are you the type of player to play it safe and bank points before you bust, or are you going to risk it all and go for the bonus points by flipping over seven in a row? Press your luck meets strategy in this addictive card game that's sure to be the greatest card game you've ever played!

Sun 4:00 PM
(1h)
[6] Gibson
Panel

Purposeful Diversity in Sword and Sorcery
Kit Englard, Dan Jolley, Richard Sparks, Jessica Moran (m)
Many writers are consciously exploring ways to carry forward what they love about Sword and Sorcery while leaving behind its legacy of sexism, racism, and colonialism. What goes into an effort to celebrate and reinvigorate a genre steeped in nostalgia while making room for the people that genre has pushed down? Who has done it well?

Sun 4:00 PM
(1h)
[6] James
Panel

Being a bad guy without being a Bad Guy
Sara Itka, Eric Hardenbrook, Misha Bushyager, Paul Bove
"You can be a bad guy without being a Bad Guy" - Zangief. Explore the complexities and challenges of embodying morally ambiguous personas in role-playing games. Learn strategies to develop nuanced and compelling antihero characters, delve into the psychology behind their motivations, and navigate the delicate balance between immersion and maintaining a healthy gaming environment.

Sun 4:00 PM
(1h15m)
[6] Kent
Participatory Event

Classic Filk Sing-Along
Gary Ehrlich (m), Harold Feld, Jack Carroll, JT Thomas, Ben Newman
Come join our long-time regulars (and a special guest or two) as they lead a sing-along of classic filk songs from the 1970's and 1980's. Lyrics will be projected so you can learn these timeless songs.

Sun 4:00 PM
(1h)
[6] Pride of Baltimore II
Panel

Pitch Your Idea for a SFFH TV Show
Robert J. Sawyer, Andrija "Andy" Popovic, Zack Be, Lee Hawkridge
Our panelists will pitch ideas for a new SFFH TV show. Audience members will vote for their favorites. Fun will be had.

Sun 4:00 PM
(2h45m)
[6] Room 6015
Screening

Wicked Part 1
Elphaba, a young woman ridiculed for her green skin, and Galinda, a popular girl, become friends at Shiz University in the Land of Oz. After an encounter with the Wonderful Wizard of Oz, their friendship reaches a crossroads.

Sun 4:00 PM
(1h)
[6] St. George
Reading

Reading: Sharon Lee and Jean Marie Ward
Jean Marie Ward, Sharon Lee
Sharon Lee and Jean Marie Ward will read selections from their works.



Sun 4:00 PM
(1h)
[7] Room 7029
Meeting

Pitch Your Short Story to Eric Flint's 1632 and Beyond
Bjorn E. Hasseler
Bjorn E. Hasseler is editor-in-chief of Eric Flint's 1632 & Beyond. We publish issues of 50,000 words on the first of odd-numbered months, set in Eric Flint's 1632, Time Spike, and Alexander Inheritance universes. It's a great place for new writers to get a story published, and there's a community that will give you feedback, with opportunities to revise and resubmit. This is an open session. Show up any time during the hour or stay for the whole thing.

Sun 4:00 PM
(1h)
[8] Room 8006
Screening

ZENSHU [14+][TEEN] Episodes 10-11
After graduating from high school, Natsuko Hirose starts her career as an animator. Her talent quickly flourishes, and she makes her debut as a director in no time. Her first anime becomes a massive hit, sparking a social phenomenon and earning her recognition as an up-and-coming genius director. Her next project is set to be a romantic comedy movie themed around first love! However, having never been in love herself, Natsuko struggles to understand the concept of first love, and as a result, she's unable to create the storyboard, causing the movie production to come to a standstill. One day, she passes out while working on her storyboard and wakes up in the world of her favorite childhood anime movie "A Tale of Perishing". from Crunchyroll

Sun 4:00 PM
(1h)
[8] Room 8029
Participatory Event

Writer Meetup: All Things Science Fiction
John Appel
Do you write science fiction and all its wonderful subgenres, like space opera or military scifi? Come meet other science fiction authors in the SFFH world. This is a space for authors, and budding authors, to find other folks who write in their genre. This is a networking event for authors. Building a writing community is important and Balticon aims to facilitate that.

Sun 4:30 PM
(45m)
[7] Room 7006
Participatory Event

Build Your Own Fairy Garden
Eta Hack, Ben Rovik
Make a perfectly inviting space for a sparkly-winged friend to come visit! Using a whole array of natural and crafty materials, design and decorate a fairy garden you can take home with you. Best for ages 3 and up (Parent's Note: the Fey of Greater Baltimore have agreed to abide by the Balticon Code of Conduct for the duration of the con. Any children whisked into the astral plane will be returned in a half an eyeblink with bag lunches, clean rooms, and fully loaded college funds.) *Child-Focused.*

Sun 5:00 PM
(3h)
[5] Watertable B
Table 4
Scheduled Game

Game Demo: Library Labyrinth
Pickles (m)
Library Labyrinth is a co-operative board game set in a cursed library that plays in about 45-60 minutes for 2-5 players and around 30 minutes as a solo game. The play space is a grid of 25 octagonal tiles that can rotate and flip, revealing (and changing) parts of the library. Some tiles spawn literary terrors, which players need to defeat by drafting different book cards from their hands. These book cards each feature a fictional or historical woman with a combination of six different skills. Team up different cards to defeat specific terrors, then travel through the library to place the terrors back on the correct shelves. The curse is still at work in the library, however, undoing your good work, so make sure that you don't run out of time or let the library become overwhelmed...

Sun 5:00 PM
(2h)
[8] Room 8006
Screening

KAIJU no.8 [14+][TEEN] Episodes 9-12
The story revolves around Kafka Hibino, a 32-year-old longing to join The Defense Force and make good on his promise to a childhood friend, Mina Ashiro. He befriends a new coworker Reno Ichikawa, while cleaning up Kaiju remains, whose determination to join The Defense Force inspires Kafka to fulfill his childhood promise to pass the entrance exam and join Mina to protect humanity. When a small Kaiju burrows itself inside Kafka, he gains superhuman strength and powers fit for fighting Kaiju. He works to earn the trust of his human teammates, defeat increasingly powerful Kaiju, and keep the world safe. from Crunchyroll

Sun 5:00 PM
(2h)
[8] Room 8029
Participatory Event

Lazy Sunday Afternoon Productivity Sprints
Morgan Hazelwood, Doc Coleman
Sure, Sunday Afternoons are traditionally lazy, but when else are you going to fit in your personal projects? Bring a project and come hang out! Free snacks. Hosted weekly on YouTube and Twitch, Morgan's productivity stream is coming LIVE to BALTICON 59! Following the Pomodoro technique, Morgan alternates focused productivity time with snacking and chatting. Writers, crafters, artists, and snack-aficionados are all welcome. #snackFueledWriter

Sun 5:15 PM
(45m)
[7] Room 7006
Workshop

Timey-Wimey Clocks
Eta Hack, Ben Rovik
Create your own time piece to make sense of the intricacies of the past, present and the future. *Child-Focused.*

- Sun 5:30 PM**
(1h)
Virtual Panel
Room 1
Panel
- Legends and Mythos of Vampires**
Jana S. Brown, Gillian Polack, Gail Z. Martin
Throughout the world there are many types of vampires. In this panel we'll talk about the legends and mythos of vampires from cultures other than Eastern Europe, including the Caribbean, Africa, and Asia. And let's correct some of the misinterpretations of the Eastern Europe vampires, which were part of children's fairy tales.
- Sun 5:30 PM**
(1h)
Virtual Room 3
Concert
- Virtual Concert: Batya Wittenberg**
Batya "The Toon" Wittenberg
Our favorite Toon and Pegasus Award-winning songwriter joins us virtually for an hour of music and mayhem.
- Sun 5:30 PM**
(1h)
Virtual Panel
Room 2
Panel
- Judging a Book by its Label**
Nikhil Prabala, Valerie Estelle Frankel, Ada Palmer, Leonardo Espinoza Benavides (m)
The line between "trash" and "art" often reflects not just judgments about craft, but also a prejudice about genre fiction. So much of what we read crosses this divide between genre and literary fiction. Let's talk about the trashy and the sublime.
- Sun 5:30 PM**
(1h30m)
[10] Room
10006
Workshop
- Advanced 3D Printing**
Ty McNeer
You're ready to up your game and really challenge yourself. What do you need to learn to really wow the experts? (Or that one "friend" who always one-ups you.) Let's talk about printers, filament, and design.
- Sun 5:30 PM**
(1h)
[5] Federal Hill
Panel
- It was Great, but The Ending Sucked**
Christiana Ellis, Jack Campbell, C.D. Brown (m), Rigel Ailur
Let's talk about what makes a good or satisfying conclusion to a movie or TV series. This panel will discuss the story elements or promises made to the viewers that lead up to the ending, and in some cases why those promises are not fulfilled. Our panelists will look at bad or unsatisfying endings of movies and shows and provide better ones.
- Sun 5:30 PM**
(1h)
[5] Guilford
Panel
- Ya Canna Change the Laws of Physics**
Evelyn Lewis (m), John Ashmead, Jim Beall, Inge Heyer, Pat Bahn
Can you really rip a bodice? (No.) Every genre incorporates a set of assumptions, usually colorful, about how the world works. But how long can Our Hero swash that 2 lb. buckler shield before arm fatigue sets in? Could Dave Bowman make it back into the Discovery One without his helmet? Our panel of experts looks at the classic figures, settings, and situations of SFF to determine such puzzlers as the tensile strength of Rapunzel's hair.

- Sun 5:30 PM**
(1h)
[5] Homeland
Presentation
- What if fungi win?**
Arturo Casadevall
The talk will introduce the audience to the wonderful world of fungi and highlight how they both benefit and threaten humanity. The talk will emphasize that humans have tremendous resistance to fungal diseases because of our warm body temperatures but that protection may wane with global warming. We'll touch on 'The last of us' and I will make the case that a pandemic with a mind-altering fungus is improbable, but not impossible. *Child-Focused.*
- Sun 5:30 PM**
(1h)
[5] Mount
Washington
Panel
- Reframing Older Works**
Elijah Kinch Spector, Robert Lewis, Ruthanna Emrys, Chris Oakley (m), Mark Painter
There are many series and works that have left a large cultural impact, and revisiting these works can help us gain a deeper understanding of the story. What can be learned from works that have aged poorly? How do our choices of which ones to showcase and what elements to change in adaptations shape our view of older works? Our panelists will discuss older works' influence on the literary landscape, the innovations they made, and how our perception of them has changed over the years.
- Sun 5:30 PM**
(1h)
[6] Gibson
Panel
- Orpheus Again?**
Sherri Cook Woosley, Tom Doyle, Rosemary Claire Smith (m), Jean Marie Ward
Orpheus and Eurydice mythos have seeded the imaginations of numerous creators. From the Netflix show *Kaos* to Broadway's *Hadestown* to the novelette *L'Esprit de L'Escalier* by Catherynne M. Valente, why does this myth have such a resonance in modern times? What is it telling us about how we see life and love? Or is there something deeper?
- Sun 5:30 PM**
(1h)
[6] James
Panel
- The Prop Shop: Making Cosplay Props and Weapons**
A. L. Kaplan, Aaron Fors, Tyaz Cosplay (m), Hannah Fors
Have you ever wanted to cosplay a character with a shield bigger than their entire body but you don't even know where to start? Shields, swords, bows, and blasters are integral parts of several cosplays, but how exactly do you even make them? This panel of prop experts will discuss what materials work best, how to construct your props, and how to make sure they don't accidentally fall apart on stage (oops!).

Sun 5:30 PM

(1h)

[6] Kent
Panel**Great Music, Terrible Game***Sonya Bleakley, Rob BGSO, Riley Zielinski*

Some games offer no replay value in their content, but the music worms its way into your brain. What was your terrible game with amazing bops? Bring our panelists your best music and your worst playthroughs as we riff our way through the worst games that topped the music charts!

Sun 5:30 PM

(1h)

[6] Pride of
Baltimore II
Panel**Real Effects of Fairy Tale Logic***Jen Brinn, Ann Chatham, Elektra Hammond, David Boop*

If fairy tales were real how would the world actually look? What happens if you break a bargain? Could the Rule of Threes influence politics? What if the seventh son of the seventh son was from a sperm bank? How ridiculous would it be if fairy tale logic was real?

Sun 5:30 PM

(1h)

[6] St. George
Reading**Reading: Christiane Knight and Tris Lawrence***Tris Lawrence, Christiane Knight*

Christiane Knight and Tris Lawrence will read selections from their works.

Sun 5:30 PM

(1h)

[7] Room 7029
Meeting**Pitch Your Novel to Arc Manor***Shahid Mahmud*

Have a science fiction or fantasy novel you're ready to share with the world? Shahid Mahmud of Arc Manor, a leading small press in the genre, is hosting a live pitching session for authors seeking publication for novels. Bring your best pitch and get a chance to connect directly with the publisher. Caezic SF & Fantasy, Phoenix Pick, and Galaxy's Edge are imprints of Arc Manor. Sign up for your 15 minute appointment. Sign-up forms are at the information desk just past Registration.

Sunday Evening**Sun 6:00 PM**

(4h)

[5] Watertable B
Table 1
*Scheduled Game***Game Demo: Ceres***Erik Delfosse (m)*

YEAR: 2219 The days of Earth being the center of humankind's attention has ceased. Long-distance spaceflight and planet colonization are upon us. Mars has been colonized for more than 100 years. The Asteroid Mining Assembly of Corporations (A.M.A.C) oversees the works of all asteroid mining. Ceres, a dwarf planet lying amid the chaos of the Asteroid Belt, is now the home of the asteroid mining industrial complex. Are you ready to board the mission and lead Ceres? Ceres is a 1-4 player game where players take the role of an Asteroid Mining Corporation in the near future and try to outplay their opponents and rule Ceres! The game covers 3 years in Ceres and the respective full business cycles of the corporations. Players can choose among a variety of actions, improving their technology through research and liaising with the Mars council in order to exploit their power even more! *Children Only with Parent.*

Sun 6:00 PM

(3h)

[5] Watertable C
*Scheduled Game***Intro to Warhammer 40k! (Session 2)***Lord Kron*

Forget the promise of progress and understanding, for in the grim dark future there is only war. There is no peace amongst the stars, only an eternity of carnage and slaughter, and the laughter of thirsting gods. Our own Lord Kron invites all who are willing to a demo of his most glorious servant's crusade in his blessed name! Come join us as we demo the miniatures wargame Warhammer 40,000! The demo will include a small force of Imperial Space Marines, the Emperor's glorious Angels of Death, facing off against the brutish xenos known as the Orks, in service of their Cunning but Brutal (or perhaps Brutal but Cunning) gods Gork and Mork.

Sun 6:30 PM

(30m)

[5] Maryland
Ballroom CD
Room Turn**Doors Open for Film Festival**

Doors Open for Film Festival

Sun 6:45 PM

(1h45m)

[6] Room 6015
*Screening***A Quiet Place Day One**

A young woman named Sam finds herself trapped in New York City during the early stages of an invasion by alien creatures with ultra-sensitive hearing. *Children Only with Parent.*

Sun 7:00 PM

(1h)

[5] 5th Floor
Lobby
*Signing***Autographs: Nicole Glover and Elijah Kinch Spector***Nicole Glover, Elijah Kinch Spector*

Autographs: Nicole Glover and Elijah Kinch Spector



Sun 7:00 PM
(1h)
[5] Federal Hill
Panel

Multiverses and You (and Your Evil Twin)
John Ashmead, Elektra Hammond, Morgan Hazelwood, Nomi S
Why have one Spider-Man when you can have a hundred Spider-People? Multiverses are everywhere! Everything Everywhere All at Once won several Oscars. What are some of the best and worst examples of multiverses in SFF?

Sun 7:00 PM
(1h)
[5] Guilford
Panel

Writing Spice and Smut
Andrija "Andy" Popovic, R. Taylor (m), Sheila Jenne, Tris Lawrence, Mark Painter
"Every scene should move the plot forward" is common writing advice. How does this apply to sex scenes? When are they really necessary? What strategies and techniques should authors consider when writing a sex scene? What common pitfalls should they avoid? And what do you do with your left arm? Let's talk about the nitty gritty of getting down and dirty. *Children Only with Parent.*

Sun 7:00 PM
(1h)
[5] Homeland
Presentation

VfOx The Student Collaboration Experiment of the DAVINCI Mission to Venus
Dr. Noam Izenberg
VfOx, which stands for Venus Oxygen Fugacity, is the Student Collaboration Experiment of the DAVINCI mission to Venus. Physically, it's a small sensor used to measure the partial pressure of molecular oxygen in Venus' lower atmosphere. Conceptually, it's an academic program comprising university courses, summer internships, and other projects spanning mission development through the science phase in 2033-4. VfOx will be designed, fabricated, tested, operated, and results analyzed by undergraduate and graduate students mentored by the DAVINCI team in partnership with Johns Hopkins University and other programs, with an emphasis on building and encouraging STEM careers and multidisciplinary teams – especially between scientists and engineers. *Child-Focused.*

Sun 7:00 PM
(4h30m)
[5] Maryland Ballroom CD
Screening

Balticon Short Film Festival
Join us for the annual Sunday night Balticon Short Film Festival. We have four and a half hours of amazing talent and skill to share. There will be two brief intermissions. PLEASE NOTE: The room gets very chilly. Dress appropriately. *This item will not be streamed. *Children Only with Parent.*

Sun 7:00 PM
(1h)
[5] Mount Washington
Presentation

A Fannish Introduction to Runes as a Writing System
Brent Warner
In fantasy stories, runes show up as sigils with magic power. In history, runes are a family of alphabets used by Germanic peoples, including Vikings and Anglo-Saxons. They used them for writing all sorts of things, both magic and mundane. I'll show examples of runic inscriptions I've seen in the British Isles. Three writers of fantasy/science fiction (Verne, Kipling, Tolkien) used actual runes in illustrations of their work; I'll include those. Also, the influence of runes lives on (though you'd never guess it) in the phrase "Ye Olde" as in "Ye Olde Computerre Shoppe".

Sun 7:00 PM
(2h)
[5] Watertable B Table 2
Scheduled Game

Game Demo: Just One
Just One is a cooperative party game in which you play together to discover as many mystery words as possible. Find the best clue to help your teammate. Be unique, as all identical clues will be canceled! A complete game is played over 13 cards. The goal is to get a score as close to 13 as possible. In case of a right answer, the players score 1 point. In case of wrong answer, they lose the current card as well as the top card of the deck. Thus losing 2 points. In case of lack of answer, the players only lose the current card, and therefore only 1 point.

Sun 7:00 PM
(4h)
[5] Watertable B Table 3
Scheduled Game

Game Demo: The Loop
Nick (m)
The LOOP is a quirky co-operative game in which you battle the evil Dr. Faux. Play a Temporal Agent in four different game modes, full of new challenges and replay value. Gather powerful artifacts, defy the Doctor's duplicates, and sabotage his maniacal machine. Make the most of your cards and master the LOOP to use them multiple times in impressive chains — but the Doctor isn't going to make this easy on you! The evil Dr. Faux has built a terrrrrible time machine! With the help of the duplicates of himself that he is creating through the ages, he aims to carry out his Omniscience 2000 project to become master of the universe. But the rifts that he is opening in spacetime will probably destroy quantum space way sooner... Join the Agency in the shoes of one of its most legendary agents, and co-operate to foil the fiendish schemes of Dr. Faux, using quirky but still powerful artifacts.

Sun 7:00 PM
(1h)
[6] Gibson
Presentation

Confirmation Bias and Other Ways to Be Wrong

Andy Love

Richard Feynman said 'The first principle is that you must not fool yourself — and you are the easiest person to fool.' In this talk, Andy Love will talk about one of the easiest ways to fool yourself - Confirmation Bias - that helpful way a human brain can select and interpret data to avoid the unpleasant sensation of "being wrong." He'll talk about how to recognize the confirmation bias in your thoughts and in other people, and how to avoid being misled by it. This is an updated version of a talk previously given in 2018

Sun 7:00 PM
(1h)
[6] James
Panel

Your Player Said What??

Lee Hawkridge, Eric Hardenbrook, Misha Bushyager, Ian Sipple (m)

Many things said around a tabletop shouldn't be repeated—but we're going to anyways! Together we'll share and relive the best and worst anecdotes from our campaigns, things we never thought we'd say, and things we wish we never did. Experienced GMs and players welcome. *Children Only with Parent.*

Sun 7:00 PM
(1h)
[6] Kent
Concert

Songs From the Music Staff

Emily Anne Lewis, Gary Ehrlich, JT Thomas

This was so popular as an accidental item last year we brought it back with intention. Your Balticon Music Staff takes the stage to regale you with some of their favorite songs. Harmony and hilarity are both guaranteed!

Sun 7:00 PM
(1h)
[6] Pride of Baltimore II
Panel

Ask Me Anything: First Aid for Writers

Everyone knows Dr. Google isn't great for medical advice. And what's actually happening when you hear "Ambo in bay 2?" How are we supposed to put our characters through cruel and imaginative torments in a biologically accurate way? Our panel of EMTs and paramedics will answer your pressing questions about acute trauma and first aid.

Sun 7:00 PM
(1h)
[6] St. George
Reading

Reading: Charles Gannon and Tom Doyle

Tom Doyle, Charles E. Gannon

Charles Gannon and Tom Doyle will read selections from their works.

Sun 7:00 PM
(1h)
[7] Room 7029
Participatory Event

Writer Meetup: All Things Fantasy

D.H. Aire

Do you write fantasy and all its epic subgenres like portal fantasy and sword and sorcery? Come meet other fantasy authors in the SFFH world. This is a space for authors, and budding authors, to find other folks who write in their genre. This is a networking event for authors. Building a writing community is important and Balticon aims to facilitate that.

Sun 7:00 PM
(2h)
[8] Room 8006
Screening

The Apothecary Diaries [14+][TEEN] Episodes 20-23

Maomao lived a peaceful life with her apothecary father. Until one day, she's sold as a lowly servant to the emperor's palace. But she wasn't meant for a compliant life among royalty. So when imperial heirs fall ill, she decides to step in and find a cure! This catches the eye of Jinshi, a handsome palace official who promotes her. Now, she's making a name for herself solving medical mysteries! from Crunchyroll

Sun 7:00 PM
(2h)
[8] Room 8029
Meeting

BSFS Writer's Circle Get Together

Miguel O. Mitchell, PhD

A gathering of folks who participate in the BSFS Writer's Circle.

Sun 8:00 PM
(1h)
[10] Room 10006
Workshop

3D Printing Clinic

Join our 3D printing team for some trouble shooting. Is everything turning to spaghetti? Is your printing not responding? Are your print jobs getting yeeted off the bed? You got problems, we got answers. Mostly. *Child-Focused.*

Sun 8:00 PM
(4h)
[5] Watertable A Table 2
Scheduled Game

Alien: Heart of Darkness (Part 2)

Caleb

The company found a new lifeform, and they want you to study it. Their offer's uncharacteristically generous—you catalog this organism, determine how they can use it, and bring it back so they can slap their patent on it. Fairly routine stuff. In exchange, they'll hook you up with a cushy corporate department head position, secure you a book deal, and make sure the institute of your choice gives you tenure. Did I mention the money? There's a lot of it. Simple survey, sample, and analysis job. Seemed too good to be true. *Children Not Allowed.*

Sun 8:00 PM
(4h)
[5] Watertable A Table 3
Scheduled Game

Unlimited - I owe the gambling house how much?

Bill Snee

After a crazy night of celebration in the town of Blackbark, you and your friends awaken to discover that you have gambled away all your money and more. You now owe the Toad's Tavern an excessive amount of gold. You need to raise some more to repay the gambling house before its enforcers come for you. *Children Not Allowed.*

**For a complete history of
Balticon, please visit:
[www.bsfs.org/
bconhist.htm](http://www.bsfs.org/bconhist.htm)**

- Sun 8:00 PM**
(4h)
[5] Watertable B
Table 4
Scheduled Game
- Game Demo: Space Base**
Pickles (m)
In Space Base, players assume the roles of Commodores of a small fleet of ships. Ships begin docked at their stations and are then deployed to sectors as new ships are commissioned under your command. Use cargo vessels to engage in trade and commerce; mining vessels to build reoccurring base income; and carriers to spread your influence. Establish new colonies in a sector to gain even more influence. Space Base is a quick-to-learn, quick-to-play dice game using the core "I roll, everyone gets stuff" mechanism seen in other games. It's also a strategic engine builder using a player board (your space base) and tableaux of ship cards you can buy and add to your board. The cards you buy and the order you buy them in have implications on your engine beyond just the ability on the card you buy. Players can take a number of directions: long odds and explosive gains, low luck and steady income, big end-game combos to launch from last to first, or a mix-and-match approach.
- Sun 8:30 PM**
(1h)
Virtual Room 3
Concert
- Virtual Concert: Stace Johnson**
Stace Johnson
Stace is a mild-mannered writer, poet, and musician whose musical stylings span geek folk, nerd comedy and storytelling, originals, parodies and covers. *Child-Focused.*
- Sun 8:30 PM**
(1h)
[5] Federal Hill
Panel
- VTuber vs PNGTuber**
Vantura, Alyss and Dusty, Glitch Symphony, Swift Crescendo, Yoshi (m), Griz
As the Virtual Streamer world continues to expand, we begin to see other types of VTubers appear, the next most common being the PNGTuber. But why do some Streamers choose to use an animated PNG avatar, instead of a full VTuber avatar? What advantages, disadvantages does the PNGTuber offer vs the VTuber? How does it affect content and interaction on their channels? Join our panel of PNGTubers and VTubers as we explore the flat side of Virtual Streaming. *This item will be held in the hotel and virtually, allowing for online participation. *Children Only with Parent.*
- Sun 8:30 PM**
(1h)
[5] Guilford
Panel
- It's Never Too Late to Start Your Writer Journey**
AD Boorman (m), Andrija "Andy" Popovic, Christiane Knight, Bryant Keith O'Hara, J.D. Blackrose
Some of us are late bloomers, and some of us chose to raise a family or build another career before we started our writing journey. Whatever your path to becoming a writer, it's never too late to start. Our panelists will talk about the struggles and rewards of becoming an author later in life.

- Sun 8:30 PM**
(1h)
[5] Homeland
Presentation
- Water, water everywhere, but which drops can we drink?**
Jim Beall
A review of extraterrestrial water sources within the Solar System, including possible challenges to their use. *Child-Focused.*
- Sun 8:30 PM**
(1h)
[5] Mount
Washington
Panel
- Eye of Argon Reading**
Ian Randal Strock (m), A. L. Kaplan, Jean Marie Ward, Mary G. Thompson
Yes, we're doing it again. We just can't stop enjoying the absurdity of this absurdly written piece of absurd fiction. While the reading starts with our panelists, the pain often spills over into the audience. Gird your loins.
- Sun 8:30 PM**
(1h)
[6] Gibson
Panel
- Sex, Sexuality, and Worldbuilding**
Sydney Olivia, Zack Be, dave ring, Jennifer R. Povey (m)
Talking about who we have sex with and we do it is a reflection of our own culture. What are the taboos, stated or unstated, that shape a culture, and why might they be there? What assumptions do we bring to the table when looking at sex and relationships? Are pseudo-European feudal cultures inherently heteronormative and why do we assume that high-tech societies are necessarily going to be more "enlightened" than our own? *Children Not Allowed.*
- Sun 8:30 PM**
(1h30m)
[6] Kent
Participatory Event
- Theme Circle: Gaming Songs**
Ben Newman, Emily Anne Lewis
Come sing your favorite songs about your favorite video games, board games, RPGs and LARPs. Or inspired by one of your gaming sessions. Some video games even have songs within them, those are welcome too!
- Sun 8:30 PM**
(1h)
[6] Pride of
Baltimore II
Panel
- At the Intersection of Fantasy and Technology**
Doc Coleman, Sara Itka, Scott H. Andrews, John Appel (m)
With the advancement of technology and the demystification of nature, what we expect from our fantasy has changed. Are magic systems harder to write because of our greater knowledge of science and technology? Has the intersection of science and magic become more prevalent, and what are the advantages to this intersectionality? Does this affect our portrayals of hard and soft magic systems? How do we as readers think about these things?
- Sun 8:30 PM**
(2h15m)
[6] Room 6015
Screening
- Nosferatu (2024)**
A gothic tale of obsession between a haunted young woman and the terrifying vampire infatuated with her, causing untold horror in its wake. *Children Only with Parent.*

Sun 9:00 PM
(4h)
[6] St. George
Scheduled Game

Two Rooms and a Boom
Pyris (m)
In Two Rooms and a Boom – a social deduction/hidden role party game for six or more players – there are two teams: the Red Team and the Blue Team. The Blue Team has a President. The Red Team has a Bomber. Players are equally distributed between two rooms (i.e., separate playing areas). The game consists of five timed rounds. At the end of each round, some players will be swapped into opposing rooms. If the Red Team's Bomber is in the same room as the President at the end of the game, then the Red Team wins; otherwise the Blue Team wins. Lying encouraged.

Sun 9:00 PM
(2h)
[7] Room 7029
Screening

The Last of Us: Viewing and Discussion
Perrienne Lurie
Watch the latest episode of The Last of Us. Followed by time to talk about it.

Sun 9:00 PM
(2h)
[8] Room 8006
Screening

Solo Leveling Season 2 - Arise from the Shadows [16+][ADULT] Episodes 21-24
They say whatever doesn't kill you makes you stronger, but that's not the case for the world's weakest hunter Sung Jinwoo. After being brutally slaughtered by monsters in a high-ranking dungeon, Jinwoo came back with the System, a program only he could see, that's leveling him up in every way. Now, he's inspired to discover the secrets behind his powers and the dungeon that spawned them. from Crunchyroll *Children Only with Parent.*

Sunday Night

Sun 10:00 PM
(3h)
Virtual Room 3
Participatory Event

Virtual Filk Circle hosted by Ellen Kranzer
Ellen Kranzer
A chance for our virtual attendees to swap a few songs.

Sun 10:00 PM
(1h)
[5] Federal Hill
Panel

Rise of the VTuber Part Deux: A Beginner's Guide to Avatar Streaming
Alyss and Dusty, Glitch Symphony, Swift Crescendo, Vantura, Yoshi (m), Griz
VTubers make sure to put their best face forward on YouTube. Speaking through their custom avatars, our panel of VTubers, both large and small, will discuss the VTuber phenomenon. From avatar selection, to content tracks, to the reason behind the masks, they'll share all their tips for up and coming VTubers. *This item will be in the hotel and online, allowing for virtual participation. *Children Only with Parent.*

Sun 10:00 PM
(1h)
[5] Homeland
Reading

Ig Nobel Awards Readings and Discussion Continued
Marc
Ig Nobel Awards Readings and Discussion Continued *Child-Focused.*

Sun 10:00 PM
(2h)
[6] Gibson
Screening

Score! Live: Film TBA
Score! Live: Film TBA

Sun 10:00 PM
(6h)
[6] Kent
Participatory Event

Sunday Night Filk Circle
Gary Ehrlich, Emily Anne Lewis, JT Thomas
The filk circles are your chance to share a favorite song or two. All songs are welcome: filk, folk, Celtic, SCA, and more. Or bring an instrument and play along. Join us to sing the night away, or just stop by for a listen!

Sun 10:45 PM
(2h15m)
[6] Room 6015
Screening

Dune Pt 2 (2024)
Paul Atreides unites with the Fremen while on a warpath of revenge against the conspirators who destroyed his family. Facing a choice between the love of his life and the fate of the universe, he endeavors to prevent a terrible future. *Children Only with Parent.*

Sun 11:00 PM
(2h)
[8] Room 8006
Screening

Dan Da Dan [16+][ADULT] Episodes 9-12
When high schooler Momo, from a family of spirit mediums, first meets her classmate Okarun, an occult geek, they argue—Momo believes in ghosts but denies aliens, and Okarun believes in aliens but denies ghosts. When it turns out both phenomena are real, Momo awakens a hidden power and Okarun gains the power of a curse. Together, they must challenge the paranormal forces threatening their world. from Crunchyroll *Children Only with Parent.*

Mon 1:00 AM
(2h)
[6] Room 6015
Screening

Joker (2019)
Arthur Fleck, a party clown and a failed stand-up comedian, leads an impoverished life with his ailing mother. However, when society shuns him and brands him as a freak, he decides to embrace the life of chaos in Gotham City. *Children Only with Parent.*

Mon 3:00 AM
(2h30m)
[6] Room 6015
Screening

Joker: Folie a Deux
Struggling with his dual identity, failed comedian Arthur Fleck meets the love of his life, Harley Quinn, while incarcerated at Arkham State Hospital. *Children Only with Parent.*

Mon 5:30 AM
(2h)
[6] Room 6015
Screening

Dr Who The Infinite Quest / Dr Who :Dreamland
The Doctor and Martha Jones trek through space and time in a race against the galaxy's greatest despot, Baltazar, to follow a complex trail of clues to discover the location of the legendary lost spaceship, the Infinite, which, according to myth, can grant anybody their hearts desire. While visiting a diner in Nevada in 1958, the Doctor finds an alien artifact and ends up on a mission to save the Rivesh Mantilax from the danger of the Viperox and the U.S. Military.

Monday Morning

Mon 7:30 AM
(2h)
[6] Room 6015
Screening

The Wizard of Oz (1939)
Young Dorothy Gale and her dog Toto are swept away by a tornado from their Kansas farm to the magical Land of Oz and embark on a quest with three new friends to see the Wizard, who can return her to her home and fulfill the others' wishes. *Child-Focused.*

Mon 8:00 AM
(1h45m)
[7] Room 7006
Workshop

Baltikids Bagel Breakfast-- Monday
Ben Rovik
Come enjoy a complimentary breakfast spread aimed at kids and their grownups-in-tow! We get it-- scrounging up a decent family breakfast morning after morning at the con can be daunting. We didn't want to have to use that much brainpower before 9 AM either! That's why Children's Programming decided to spring for kid-friendly breakfast eats and set them out for folks like you, to make it a little easier to start your intergenerational con day on a good foot. Every day of the weekend, food will be available by 8 AM and packed up at 9:45. We'll have toys and chill activities set up in the room too, so when little appetites are sated they can play and have something to do while grownups chat. So nerdy parents and nerdy kids, come eat some stuff and get to know each other! And then go forth and be awesome (and less hangry). We'll have dairy free, gluten free, and kosher options available and label stuff thoroughly to answer any allergen/diet questions as best we can. *Child-Focused.*

Mon 9:00 AM
(3h)
[5] Private Dining Room
Workshop

Miniature Painting Workshop (Session 4)
Lord Kron
Come learn to paint miniatures of all kinds with our esteemed Lord Kron! Scratch that creative itch, and let loose your artistic vision upon the bare plastic!

Mon 9:00 AM
(4h)
[5] Watertable B Table 1
Scheduled Game

Game Demo: The Fellowship of the Ring: Trick-Taking Game
Pickles
The Fellowship of the Ring: Trick-Taking Game is a co-operative card game that plays out over eighteen chapters that lead players through the events of the novel The Fellowship of the Ring. The chapters can be played in any order, but ideally you play them in sequence. In each chapter, each player takes a different character role — Frodo, Gandalf, Sam, Pippin, Farmer Maggot, etc. — and each character has a condition that must be met in order to pass the chapter and advance in the story. Frodo needs to capture ring cards, for example, while Pippin wants to take as few tricks as possible. As you advance through the chapters, new characters, items, and challenges are introduced to the game. The deck consists of 37 cards, with one card being set aside as "lost" each hand. Whoever is dealt the One Ring becomes Frodo, then other players choose from the available characters based on their hand. The One Ring is the game's only trump card.

Mon 9:00 AM
(1h)
[8] Room 8006
Screening

Terrified Teacher at Ghoul School [14+][CHILD] Episodes 5-6
Haruaki Abe is happy to finally fulfill his dream of becoming a teacher. That happiness is short-lived after he arrives at Hyakki Academy and finds out the school is full of monsters! Can Abe overcome his cowardice and get his supernatural students under control? Join the timid teacher and his bizarre class for a tale of ghoulish mischief and paranormal education. from Crunchyroll.

Mon 9:30 AM
(2h)
[6] Room 6015
Screening

Tale of Tales
From the bitter quest of the Queen of Longtrellis, to two mysterious sisters who provoke the passion of a king, to the King of Highhills obsessed with a giant Flea, these tales are inspired by the fairytales by Giambattista Basile. *Children Only with Parent.*

Mon 10:00 AM
(1h)
Virtual Panel Room 1
Panel

The Folklore of Space
David Ellis, Batya "The Toon" Wittenberg, Gillian Polack, Ada Palmer
Both the visions of a space-faring society and the real-life exploration of space have generated their share of myths and legends. What are some of the real and fantastical tales that have come out of the US and other space programs? What stories, myths and legends might a future space-faring society tell?

Mon 10:00 AM
(1h)
Virtual Panel Room 2
Panel

Anime/Manga Recommendation Panel
Glitch Symphony, Yoshi, Sonya Bleakley
Panel for recommending Anime and Manga in the SFF Genre. Our panelists will discuss their favorite Anime/Manga, why they love them, and which other Anime/Manga you may enjoy based on those recs.

- Mon 10:00 AM**
(3h)
[10] Room 10006
Workshop
- Pickup Your Prints and Last Minute Help**
Ty McNeer
The room is open! Come claim any prints you made and ask any last minute questions.
- Mon 10:00 AM**
(1h)
[5] Federal Hill
Panel
- Our Favorite Dragons**
Nomi S, Ann Pollack, Thomas R. Holtz, Jr., PhD, Inge Heyer
From Smaug to Drogon to Temeraire, dragons are fascinating creatures. Some are benevolent sages, some are forces of destruction, and some just like to collect shoes. Our panelists will share their favorites and maybe you'll discover some more to love.
- Mon 10:00 AM**
(1h)
[5] Guilford
Panel
- Oz Through the Years**
John Robison, Tom Doyle, Sam Scheiner
L. Frank Baum created a uniquely American fantasy world, but that was over a century ago. It has been reimaged by other writers (Ruth Plumly Thompson, Gregory Maguire), Hollywood (from Judy Garland and Fairuza Balk to Cynthia Erivo and Ariana Grande) and Broadway (The Wiz and Wicked). Why does it have such a hold on our imaginations? Let's talk about the various incarnations of Oz stories and what we love and hate about them.
- Mon 10:00 AM**
(1h)
[5] Homeland
Presentation
- What's That Smell? The Winds of Alien Worlds**
Tim Livengood
What's That Smell? The Winds of Alien Worlds *Child-Focused*.
- Mon 10:00 AM**
(1h)
[5] Mount Washington
Panel
- Knights of the Virtual Table**
Lee Hawkrigde, Eric Hardenbrook, Sara Itka (m), Ian Sipple
Come one, come all to the virtual table! In this online age, virtual tabletops have boomed in popularity, revolutionizing play with tools such as dynamic lighting, built-in soundboards, and combat trackers. It has never been easier to find a game, and connect with other players around the world. But with technological ease comes technical difficulties. Come listen to experienced GMs and players discuss the advantages and disadvantages of virtual tabletops versus in-person play!

Oral History of BSFS Video Online

David M. Ettlin, one of the two surviving founding members of BSFS, tells the story on YouTube at: <https://youtu.be/4Bxb4WBvh6E?si=Hllpfg-J9W4HeUEQ>

- Mon 10:00 AM**
(4h)
[5] Watertable B Table 2
Scheduled Game
- Game Demo: Link City**
Kelly (m)
In Link City, build a city by matching ideas! In this cooperative party game, players create the biggest possible city in 6 exciting rounds, trying to have the most connections between the Location tiles and score points. In each round, a different person takes on the role of mayor. His or her mission: secretly connect 3 new locations to the sites marked by 3 building studs. The twist? The other players then talk together, trying to make the same choices as the mayor. Harmony is the only way to validate the mayor's decisions and expand the city! Take up the challenge, unlock bonuses and admire your unique and unusual city!
- Mon 10:00 AM**
(1h)
[6] Gibson
Panel
- Basic Novel Writing Organization**
Alan Smale (m), Sharon Lee, Samantha Mills -CC 2025 Winner, Sebastien de Castell
Whether your a plotter or panster, or somewhere in between, at some point in the process you have to make sure your pacing and story arcs all make sense. How do you organize and plan out your novel or book series so that your editor loves you? Let's talk story structure.
- Mon 10:00 AM**
(1h)
[6] James
Panel
- Pokemon GO**
Elektra Hammond, Kelly Pierce, Bjorn E. Hasseler
Pokémon GO: A Pop Culture Phenomenon
Pokémon GO is not just a mobile game, but a phenomenon that has forever changed the way we interact with technology and urban spaces. Since its launch in 2016, the game has captured the hearts of millions of players around the world, creating a global pop culture phenomenon. What makes Pokémon GO so special and why has it become one of the most important events in the world of gaming? Let's will explore the impact of the game on various aspects of social and cultural life, from changing the way people spend their free time to its impact on physical and mental health.
- Mon 10:00 AM**
(45m)
[7] Room 7006
Workshop
- Choose Your Own Craft**
Eta Hack, Ben Rovik
Get cracking on any project that we did in an earlier session in the con! From Frankenstiffies to Fairie Gardens to Minecraft Mosaics to Books and Bugs, come in and craft on with friends. *Child-Focused*.
- Mon 10:00 AM**
(2h)
[8] Room 8006
Screening
- The Red Ranger Becomes an Adventurer in Another World [14+][CHILD] Episodes 9-12**
Togo Asagaki was the Red Ranger in a heroic Ranger squad. During their final battle against an evil organization, he was ready to give his life to guarantee their triumph. But fate had other plans, and he suddenly found himself in an entirely different world. Embracing his new role as an adventurer, he transforms into Kizuna Red and continues his pursuit of justice, helping those in need. from Crunchyroll

Mon 10:45 AM (1h15m) [7] Room 7006 <i>Participatory Event</i>	Bricktastic Lego Free Build <i>Eta Hack, Ben Rovik</i> Tons of LEGO, kids and imagination! Chill Monday vibes! Nothing more to say. Best for ages 5 and up. <i>Child-Focused</i> .
Mon 11:00 AM (4h) [5] Watertable B Table 3 <i>Scheduled Game</i>	Game Demo: Wandering Towers <i>Erik Delfosse (m)</i> Each year, the graduating classes of the Ravenrealm Magic School compete to demonstrate their mastery of magic. For the final exam, all the wizards of each class must assemble at the legendary Ravenskeep... but every last one of them has procrastinated, distracted by learning new spells. They've also used all their potions—they can't show up unprepared, with empty potion bottles! Help your wizards get to Ravenskeep as quickly as possible. Using their magic they could even move the very towers atop which they stand to get there more easily! But how can they refill their potion bottles along the way? Well, here's a little secret: Trapping wizards allows you to capture some of their magical essence in a bottle...
Mon 11:30 AM (1h) Virtual Panel Room 1 <i>Panel</i>	Lawyers in Space <i>Iver P Cooper, Nikhil Prabala, Joyce Reynolds-Ward, Melissa Scott</i> Authors of SFF often need to create legal systems as part of their worldbuilding. What are the issues related to building legal rules, customs and relationships related to moving, staying and acting in outer space? How do we avoid sounding like a legal text? After all, politics is messy.
Mon 11:30 AM (1h) [5] Federal Hill <i>Panel</i>	Extreme Environments and Humans <i>Tim Livengood, Sam Scheiner, Suzanne Buck, Rob O'Malley</i> How extreme can a planet be before it's inhospitable to human life? There are regions on Earth where humans cannot survive. Knowing this, what technologies currently exist to allow humans to live while we terraform a planet? Our panel of science nerds will talk about some practical strategies explorers and colonists could use.
Mon 11:30 AM (1h) [5] Homeland <i>Presentation</i>	From Tots to Titans: Dinosaur Growth and Paleocology <i>Thomas R. Holtz, Jr., PhD</i> From Tots to Titans: Dinosaur Growth and Paleocology <i>Child-Focused</i> .

Mon 11:30 AM (1h) [5] Mount Washington <i>Panel</i>	Reincarnated into an Isekai Panel <i>Bill Lawhorn, Yoshi, Lilis Cosplay, Savvy Dragon Cosplay</i> The isekai genre has taken over like a college student reincarnated into a medieval fantasy world. But what is this fascinating genre? How does it differ from its cousins Portal Fantasy and LitRPG? Our panelists will discuss our favorite isekai stories, and why they hit our imaginations like an oncoming bus we can't avoid.
Mon 11:30 AM (1h) [6] Gibson <i>Panel</i>	Creation Myths <i>John Robison, Stephanie Law, Harold Feld, Aaron Fors</i> In the beginning, there was nothing. But what comes after? Every culture has their own version of a creation myth, explaining not only how the world came to be, but how we came to be on the world and our role in it. Let's talk about dragons, giants, lights in the sky, coyote, spiders, and firmaments.
Mon 11:30 AM (1h) [6] Kent <i>Panel</i>	Making Music When You're Neurodivergent <i>Ben Newman, Gary Ehrlich, Emily Anne Lewis, JT Thomas</i> Many creative people, including musicians, are some flavor of neurodiverse. This panel will explore how neurodivergence informs, supports, interferes with, or otherwise interacts with making music and participating in musical communities, and how those communities can better support their members' challenges.
Mon 11:30 AM (1h30m) [6] St. George <i>Reading</i>	Short Fire Readings: Edelman, Mitchell, Painter, Popovic, Strock <i>Scott Edelman, Miguel O. Mitchell, PhD, Mark Painter, Andrija "Andy" Popovic, Ian Randal Strock</i> Short Fire Readings with Scott Edelman, Miguel O. Mitchell, Andrija Popovic, Mark Painter, and Ian Randal Strock. This item will run 90 minutes to give all the authors a reasonable chunk of time. We're trying something new. Take the survey and tell us what you think!

Monday Afternoon

Mon 12:00 PM
(4h)
[6] Room 6015
Screening

Godzilla Minus One

Japan has barely recovered from the Second World War when a gigantic peril emerges off the coast of Tokyo. Koichi, a deserter traumatized by his first confrontation with Godzilla, sees this as an opportunity to redeem his conduct during the war. *Children Only with Parent.*

Mon 12:00 PM
(2h)
[8] Room 8006
Screening

Astro Note [14+][CHILD] Episodes 5-8

Takumi, a gifted chef, just landed a new job. He works at the Astro Manor apartment building that offers breakfast, and there he encounters the beautiful landlady—Mira. It's love at first sight, and he hopes to charm her, but the quirky tenants and bizarre phenomena don't make it easy. He even learns by pure chance that Mira is secretly an alien! Will their love survive these unearthly oddities? from Crunchyroll

Mon 1:00 PM
(1h)
Virtual Panel
Room 1
Panel

Sourcing Your Sources

Iver P Cooper, Gail Z. Martin, Ada Palmer, Melissa Scott, Joyce Reynolds-Ward (m)
Quality research is a vital part of writing and worldbuilding, but sometimes your librarian can't tell you what chloroform smells like. Where do you find the obscure and fascinating details to bring your world to life? How do you vet your sources when there's so much to sift through? Our panelists will discuss useful strategies for finding and evaluating information.

Mon 1:00 PM
(1h)
[5] Federal Hill
Panel

So you want to find a Streamer to Follow?

Yoshi (m), Lee Hawkridge, Sonya Bleakley
Are you new to the gaming scene and looking for a streamer to watch? Have your children expressed interest in watching Let's Plays but you want to make sure they're being safe? Are you concerned about finding a streamer who maintains a safe-space in their community for all? Join our panelists of gamers, streamers, and VTubers as we discuss our favorite streamers to recommend, what their communities offer, and what content is safe for you and your family.

Mon 1:00 PM
(1h)
[5] Homeland
Presentation

Birds of Prey: Cloaked for Recovery, Destined for Flight

Evelyn Lewis
Birds of Prey: Cloaked for Recovery, Destined for Flight *Child-Focused.*

Mon 1:00 PM
(1h30m)
[6] Kent
Participatory Event

Memorial Filk Circle

Gary Ehrlich
A chance to remember our friends who've joined that great bardic circle in the sky, and sing our favorite songs of theirs.

Mon 2:00 PM
(1h)
[5] Watertable B
Table 1
Scheduled Game

Game Demo: Telestrations

Crystal
Each player begins by sketching a TELESTRATIONS word dictated by the roll of a die. The old fashioned sand timer may limit the amount of time they get to execute their sketch, but it certainly doesn't limit creativity! Time's up! All players, all at the same time, pass their sketch to the next player, who must guess what's been drawn. Players then simultaneously pass their guess -- which hopefully matches the original word (or does it??) -- to the next player who must try to draw the word they see -- and so on.

Mon 2:00 PM
(1h)
[6] Room 6015
Screening

The Little Stranger

After a doctor is called to visit a crumbling manor, strange things begin to occur. *Children Only with Parent.*

Mon 2:00 PM
(30m)
[8] Room 8006
Screening

ZENSHU [14+][TEEN] Episode 12

After graduating from high school, Natsuko Hirose starts her career as an animator. Her talent quickly flourishes, and she makes her debut as a director in no time. Her first anime becomes a massive hit, sparking a social phenomenon and earning her recognition as an up-and-coming genius director. Her next project is set to be a romantic comedy movie themed around first love! However, having never been in love herself, Natsuko struggles to understand the concept of first love, and as a result, she's unable to create the storyboard, causing the movie production to come to a standstill. One day, she passes out while working on her storyboard and wakes up in the world of her favorite childhood anime movie "A Tale of Perishing". from Crunchyroll

Mon 2:30 PM
(1h)
[5] Homeland
Panel

Improving Balticon

Morgan Hazelwood, Yakira Heistand, Thomas The Red, Kelly Pierce (m)
It's time to hear from you! Tell us what you liked and what you think we can do better.

Mon 2:30 PM
(2h30m)
[6] Kent
Participatory Event

Dead Dog Filk

Gary Ehrlich
One last chance to sing a song or two before you head for home (Or stagger down the hallway!)

Mon 2:30 PM
(30m)
[8] Room 8006
Screening

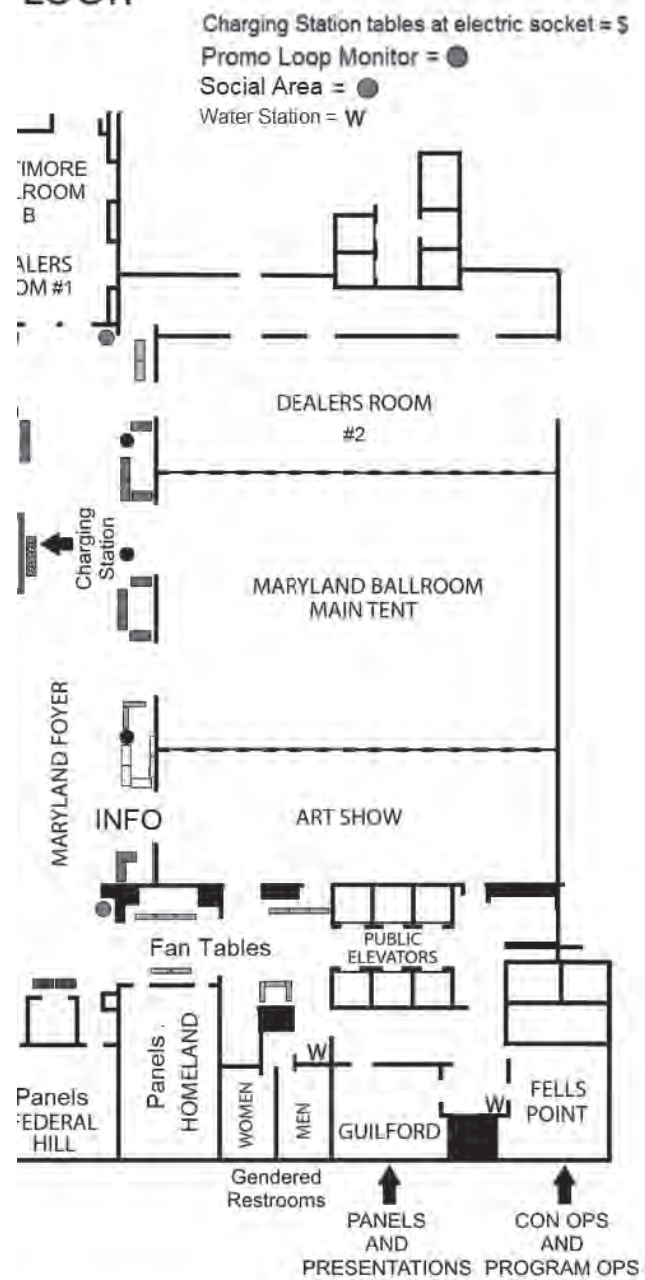
The Apothecary Diaries [14+][TEEN] Episodes 24

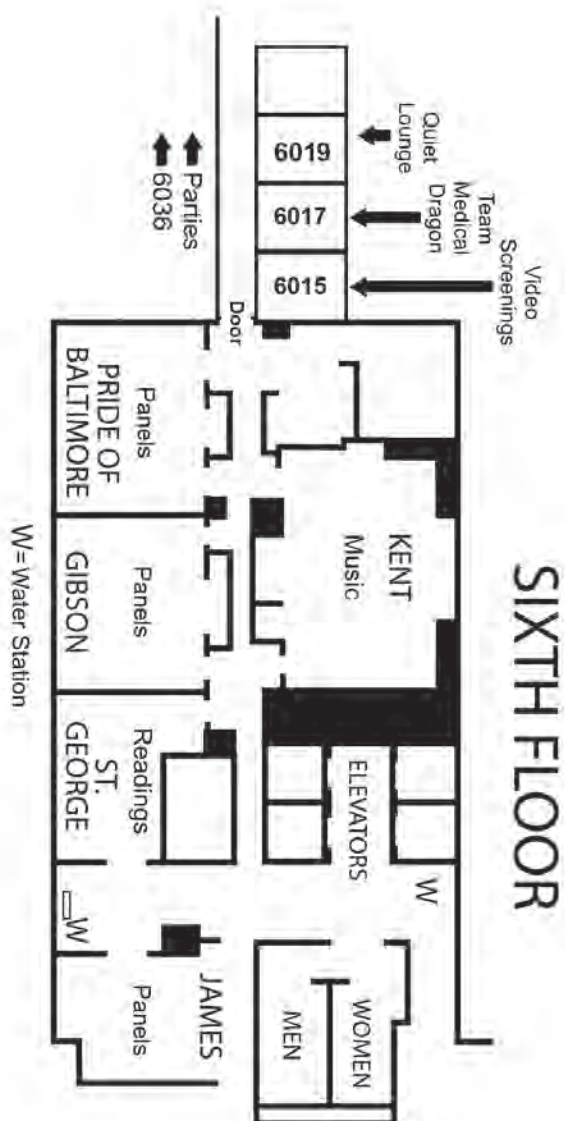
Maomao lived a peaceful life with her apothecary father. Until one day, she's sold as a lowly servant to the emperor's palace. But she wasn't meant for a compliant life among royalty. So when imperial heirs fall ill, she decides to step in and find a cure! This catches the eye of Jinshi, a handsome palace official who promotes her. Now, she's making a name for herself solving medical mysteries! from Crunchyroll

RENAISSANCE BALTIMORE Balticon FIFTH FLOOR

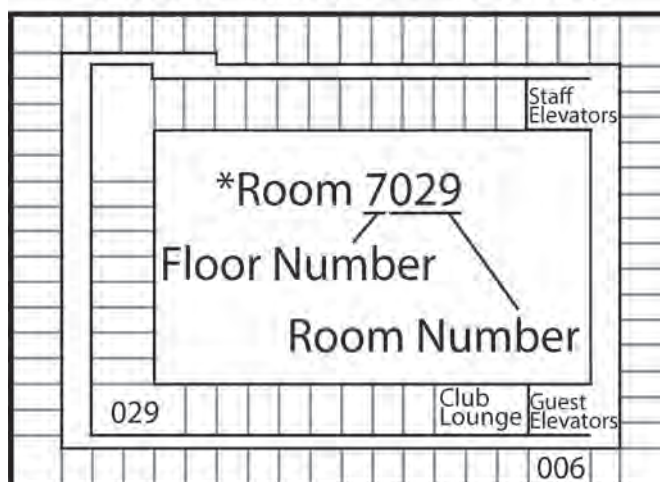


THE HARBORPLACE HOTEL Balticon 59 FLOOR





GUEST ROOM FLOORS



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