

# 2024 PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

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## FRIDAY 4:00 PM

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### READING: J.E. PITTMAN & J.L. YARROW

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

### THE ARCTIC IN FICTION AND REALITY

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

The Arctic has long been a source of inspiration in the world of fiction. But the Arctic is also a region of great significance for real people in the real world. So... How has the Arctic been portrayed in fiction historically and is that portrayal changing today? Evan Ratke will share his studies of the real people and places that have captured our collective imagination.

### THE HALFLING AND THE SPACEMAN PODCAST: COSPLAYER EDITION

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Join us for the recording of a new episode where we interview some of the RavenCon guests.

Featuring: *Jenna Hamrick, Tori Kitsune,  
Mourning Dove Cosplay, Smashbcosplay*

### LAUGHTER MATTERS

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

The panelists will discuss some of their favorite comedic science fiction and fantasy novels, why we need comedy, why writing comedy is so difficult, and what types of humor age well (or don't).

Panelists: *Samantha Bryant, Ken Schrader, Fraser Sherman,  
Michael A. Ventrella (M), T. Kingfisher/Ursula Vernon*

### MEET THE ROOKERY (KIDS' TRACK)

Norfolk Boardroom (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Have fun learning what a rookery is and why we have one here at RavenCon.

### PURPLE PROSE

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

What makes purple prose purple? What if purple prose is your favorite? Are adjectives and adverbs really evil? When description-heavy prose fails and when it wins.

Panelists: *Cassandra Rose Clarke, John G. Hartness,  
Gail Z. Martin/Morgan Brice (M)*

### READING: JENNIFER BRINN & PATRICK DUGAN

Richmond Boardroom (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

### WORKSHOP: 10 WAYS TO LEVEL-UP YOUR COSPLAY

Spotsylvania (Madison) – 50 minutes

What skill set do you need to cosplay successfully? Are you brand new to cosplay and don't know where to begin? Join Lena Volkova as she draws from her many years of experience as a professional costumer and shares the essential skills every cosplayer needs as well as tips on what to avoid.

### CONCERT: GRAY RINEHART

The Glen Restaurant (Madison) – 50 minutes

Gray primarily writes "filk"—music inspired by science fiction and fantasy—though he has also written about other things. Some of his songs are silly, some are serious, and some are just strange.

### COSPLAY PHOTO SHOOT MEETUP

Grand Staircase (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Join our photographers in the Jefferson lobby for a fun photo shoot that will include shots on the Grand Staircase and in the RavenCon photo-op area. Cosplayers and non-staff photographers are all welcome.

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## FRIDAY 5:00 PM

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### READING: STEPHEN J. SIMMONS & PHILLIP POURNELLE

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

### WRITING A SERIES

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

How do you plan a series? What are the secrets to writing a first book that is both self-contained and also a gateway for more books? How do you set up conflicts for future books that haven't even been plotted out yet?

Panelists: *Samantha Bryant (M), Les Carter, D.A. Godwin,  
Dennis M. Myers, Sidney Williams*

### THAT PERSONAL SPIN

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

What inspires us as cosplayers to take beloved characters and make them our own? We discuss the personal twists you can take on all your cosplays that tell the world they're yours.

Panelists: *Chiki Cosplay (M), Katelyn Addie Law Sarver,  
Second Mourning Cosplay (Scott & Wednesday  
Mourning)*

### NERDIQUETTE 2ND EDITION:

### CON BEHAVIOR FOR THE 2020S

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

In the early '00s, we tried to help women feel more secure at conventions. Now our panelists will expand on that concept and try to help more people feel comfortable by drawing attention to some of what might make other fans (and pros) feel uncomfortable and discuss what we can do to help.

Panelists: *Janet Carden, James Fulbright (M), Mike Mollman,  
Joey Starnes, Leona R. Wisoker*

### KNITTING & CROCHETING IN FANDOM 101 (KIDS' TRACK)

Norfolk Boardroom (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

What do knitting and crocheting have to do with being a fan? Want to learn how, or perhaps just find a quiet place to knit that *Doctor Who* scarf or Cthulhu mask? Come join us!

### **MINOR CHARACTERS**

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Do your minor characters take over the scene? Or do you have the opposite problem where they all seem the same? Learn the tricks of the trade that help writers populate their fiction with believable, interesting supporting characters that don't overwhelm the main characters.

Panelists: *Gail Z. Martin/Morgan Brice, Cass Morris, J.E. Pittman (M), Katika Schneider*

### **READING: SARA T. BOND & L. ANA ELLIS**

Richmond Boardroom (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

### **INDIE PUBLISHING VS. SELF-PUBLISHING**

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

For whatever reason, you're not going with a big publisher. So, which is the right option for you? Do you go with an independent small publishing house or do you self-publish? Each has their pros and cons and our authors will spell them out for you.

Panelists: *Cassandra Rose Clarke (M), Patrick Dugan, Venessa Giunta, Logan D. Irons*

### **ENTER THE FLANAVERSE**

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes

No, the various horror shows and movies aren't connected. Yes, it's just a marketing ploy by Netflix to drive interest in the works of Mike Flanagan. But... Flanagan's works DO feature recurring themes and motifs and he has a pool of actors that appear frequently in his projects. So, why not? Let's call it a connected universe! Now... discuss...

Panelists: *James Fadeley (M), Sean Gleeson*

### **SO, YOU WANNA 3-D PRINT?**

Spotsylvania (Madison) – 50 minutes

Are you looking to get into 3-D printing and need some more information before you take the leap? Come find out about different kinds of printers, materials, techniques, and the lessons learned from someone in the hobby.

Presenter: *Carrie Jo Patton*

### **CONCERT: ANGELA PRITCHETT**

The Glen Restaurant (Madison) – 50 minutes

Come hear Angela Pritchett—from the YouTube channel *Angela Plays Ukulele*—play an assortment of nerdy songs on her ukulele!

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## **FRIDAY 6:00 PM**

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### **READING: JAMES GAINES & JOHN GAINES**

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

### **MARKETING FOR WRITERS**

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Don't publishers handle all that marketing mumbo jumbo? In this booming era of indie authors, hybrids, and small presses, what does it take to get your name out there? How does a writer market themselves?

Panelists: *Sara T. Bond, David Doersch, Gail Z. Martin/Morgan Brice, Mike Mollman (M)*

### **COMPETING IN A MASQUERADE**

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

How do you enter a masquerade competition? What goes into your presentation beyond the costume? What are some common rules? We'll tell you how it all works!

Panelists: *Chiki Cosplay (M), Flynnstress, Second Mourning Cosplay (Amythest)*

### **FISSION AND FUSION:**

#### **THE FRICTION WITH NUCLEAR ENERGY**

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Join our panelists to learn all about nuclear energy, what it is and how it works, as well as the current problems and limitations on it. Why are people scared of nuclear energy, and just how real are those risks?

Panelists: *Jim Beall, Phillip Pournelle, Stephen J. Simmons (M)*

### **DEVELOP A CHARACTER VOICE**

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Join the discussion on what makes a memorable character unique and real, and why it's important that your main character isn't the only one the reader remembers. You'll also get to hear which characters gave these authors the most trouble and how it worked out for the best.

Panelists: *Day Al-Mohamed, Dennis Danvers, Venessa Giunta, Ashley R. Hall (M), Katika Schneider*

### **KIDS' DINNER BREAK (KIDS' TRACK)**

Norfolk Boardroom (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Break time! Enjoy dinner with your family, hit up the vendor room, or bring your own movie and popcorn!

### **READING: PAMELA K. KINNEY**

Richmond Boardroom (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

### **THE BENEFITS OF READING SHORT STORIES AND ANTHOLOGIES**

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Learn the benefits and wonders of the short story form and discover how to add them to your healthy reading lifestyle. Discuss some of your favorite short stories of all time.

Panelist: *Toi Thomas*

### **WRITING READABLE AND BELIEVABLE NEAR-FUTURE SF**

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes

We are looking at global warming, resource wars, mass migration, a fragile world economic system, and global political systems that seem unable to deal seriously with real problems.

How does a writer extrapolate from the present into the future while avoiding the pitfalls of infodumps and exhausted tropes? Panelists: *Doug Burbey, David Keener, Monica Louzon (M), Evan Ratke, J.L. Yarrow*

### **PUBLISHING SCAMS**

Spotsylvania (Madison) – 50 minutes

The publishing industry is rife with people promising things that aren't realistic or are outright frauds. We will dive into not only the common ones, but the emerging ones as well.

Presenter: *James P. Nettles*

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## **FRIDAY 7:00 PM**

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### **MOVIES AND POPCORN (KIDS' TRACK)**

Norfolk Boardroom (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

### **RAVENCON OPENING CEREMONIES**

The Glen Restaurant (Madison) – 50 minutes

Welcome to RavenCon 17! We'll be presenting the Webster Award for Best Virginia author. There will be a few surprises, plus a special performance by one of our music guests.

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## **FRIDAY 8:00 PM**

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### **HORROR IN SPACE**

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

What SF elements pair well with horror when set in space? Does religious horror (spirits, demons, possession, etc.) work in such a science-focused setting? With space so inherently dangerous, does space horror need a monster at all? Let's talk about what works and what doesn't.

Panelists: *R.S. Belcher, Bill Bridges (M), Amanda Downum, Monica Louzon, Ken Schrader*

### **FIX IT ON THE FLY: EMERGENCY COSPLAY REPAIRS**

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

*Help! My zipper broke!* Have you had a costuming mishap? Join us and learn quick fixes for costume emergencies, malfunctions, makeup mishaps, and armor accidents. This panel will equip attendees with the skills to tackle any unexpected issues, ensuring their cosplay can withstand the rigors of a convention day.

Panelists: *Chiki Cosplay, Mourning Dove Cosplay, Angela Pritchett (M), Second Mourning Cosplay (Pattycakes)*

### **A LIFETIME OF ARMAGEDDON SCENARIOS. WHEN CAN WE FINALLY RELAX?**

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Y2K, the new ice age, the population explosion, the second, third and 100th coming... Come join Dr. Ben Davis as he discusses all the times the world was supposed to end just in his lifetime on this late, great planet Earth.

### **DON'T LUCAS MY BOOKS!**

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Publishers sometimes re-edit the works of authors who are dead or otherwise unable to defend their works. If you do your reading on an e-book the text on your device may change without notification and without your permission. How does this affect your experience as a reader? As an author?

Panelists: *Ellen Datlow, James P. Nettles, Phillip Pournelle (M), Wayland Smith*

### **DO IT YOURSELF DUNGEONS & DRAGONS (KIDS' TRACK)**

Norfolk Boardroom (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

From dice to figurines, how to make your own game with household items... and shrinky dinks.

### **THE ART OF THE BOOK**

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Cover art: How does an artist connect with an author? How does an author find an artist? We bring both artists and writers together to sort it all out!

Panelists: *Bill Blume, John G. Hartness, Nikole MacDonald-Jones, Mike Jack Stoumbos (M)*

### **READING: NICKIE JAMISON**

Richmond Boardroom (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

### **DR. SARCOFIGUY'S FRIGHT GALLERY**

King George (Jefferson) – 90 minutes

Dr. Sarcofiguy presents *Manster*, featuring special guests: Rosie Ray, THE THING WITH TWO HEADS!

### **SIGNING: PAMELA K. KINNEY**

Vendors' Room (Madison) – 50 minutes

### **CON STORIES: THE GAME SHOW!**

Brunswick (Madison) – 90 minutes

Whatever con we're at, all the old-timers get together on a panel and tell their favorite con stories—the good, the bad, and the freakin' weird. This time, though, it's a competition! You won't want to miss this one.

Host: *Michael D. Pederson*

Contestants: *James Fulbright, Bishop O'Connell, Jean Marie Ward*

### **USING MUSIC TO ENHANCE YOUR WRITING (AND READING)**

Spotsylvania (Madison) – 90 minutes

This interactive workshop will help writers of all levels to improve their writing through the use of music. Learn how listening to certain styles and tempos create innate rhythms in your stories, from descriptions to dialogue. Exercises with hand drums and guitar will give a hands-on experience and produce results. Presented by a psychologist/professor/author who has given music therapy workshops in several states. All are welcome as this science transcends genre. Personal plans can be developed with attendees both during the session and through correspondence afterwards.

Presenter: *David Simms*

### CONCERT: ASYLUM 213

The Glen Restaurant (Madison) – 50 minutes

Asylum 213 have taken the east coast and surrounding regions by storm, garnering notoriety for their chaotic, high-energy, jaw-dropping, and unpredictable live performances.

### TOUR THE ART SHOW!

Powhatan (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Join Artist Heidi Hooper as she discusses the art and artists in the RavenCon Art Show.

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## FRIDAY 9:00 PM

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### HOW DO YOU SANELY GOVERN A MULTI-PLANET SYSTEM?

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Science fiction is full of stories of rebellious colonies (e.g. *The Moon is a Harsh Mistress*, *The Expanse*). Is that the natural outcome of colonizing the solar system or is there a form of governance that can overcome massive distances, communications delays, and dependence on people and resources from the home planet?

Panelists: *James Gaines, John Gaines (M), Gray Rinehart, Ken Schrader*

### ETHICS IN COSPLAY: CONSENT, CREDIT, AND CULTURE

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

An important discussion on the ethics of cosplay—focusing on consent for photos, crediting original creators and designers, and navigating cultural appropriation respectfully. This panel aims to promote a more inclusive, respectful, and mindful cosplay community.

Panelists: *Diebreado & Sikecoz (M), Katelyn Addiele Law Sarver, Second Mourning Cosplay (Amythest & Pattycakes)*

### THE OLDEST FAIRY-TALE:

#### “THE SMITH AND THE DEVIL”

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

“The Smith and the Devil” is an often-forgotten and overlooked fairytale. However, linguists and archaeologists now believe it is the oldest recorded folk story in history. This makes the character of The Smith the oldest magical being. Tales of The Smith indicate that he has immense power. Join a professional archaeologist and explore the linguistic and archaeological evidence for The Smith’s origins and age.

Presenter: *Dr. Dea Mozingo-Gorman*

### STAR WARS: WHAT’S NEXT?

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Skywalkers, Obi-wan, Ashoka, Boba Fett... has Disney been too hung up on old and familiar characters? Upcoming projects seem to be moving the *Star Wars* universe into new directions. *The Acolyte* is going to be a mystery. *Skeleton Crew* will be kid-focused. There’s an untitled movie being developed in

a new era called the New Jedi Order and another one being set in the distant past. Are we excited to see something new?

Panelists: *Sammie Cassell, Sean Gleeson (M), Joey Starnes*

### D&D WITH DUNGEON MASTER TOM (KIDS’ TRACK)

Norfolk Boardroom (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Whether you’ve never touched a D20 or you carry your trusty randomness generator with you everywhere this session will be perfect for you! Players of all ages, come join us in the Rookery for a family-friendly adventure in the worlds most popular pen and paper RPG system.

### BE OUR GUEST

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Want to be a guest at your local con? Used to be one but you’re not sure how to get back in? Don’t really know what it’s all about? Come chat with some of our current guests and learn what makes a good candidate, how to submit yourself, and how to be a good guest once you’re accepted.

Panelists: *Jenna Hamrick, Wanda Harward (M), Leona R. Wisoker*

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## FRIDAY 10:00 PM

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### DORIS MANNING MEMORIAL

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

This year, RavenCon lost one of it’s own. Join us as we pay tribute to a great con staffer and even better friend.

### MONSTER KID 101: GORY FUN!

King George (Jefferson) – 90 minutes

Since this is a late night show, Dr. Bob Tesla is bringing you a gory, fun movie for a PG-13 audience. We’re not sure which movie Dr. Bob is bringing but, one thing is for sure, there will be blood!

Presenters: *Dr. Bob Tesla & Nurse Feratu*

### DJ DRAE PRESENTS: ’80S NIGHT

Brunswick (Madison) – 2 hours

DJ Drae will keep you moving on the dance floor with a mix of new wave, pop, and all your favorite ’80s tunes. Get into the groove with artists like Madonna, A-Ha, Prince, The Cure, and many more! Requests are always encouraged.

### DO YOU KNOW JACK? (ADULT VERSION)

Spotsylvania (Madison) – 90 minutes

Play along and find out as we explore the Jackbox Party Packs. Compete as a panelist, play along with the audience, or just have fun watching as we play wacky trivia, fill in the blank, and other games. Everyone gets to play, just bring a mobile device! (*18+ only, IDs checked.*)

Hosts: *Doug Burbey, The Wonderful Billy Flynn, Tori Kitsune, O. Hai Mark, Mourning Dove Cosplay, Second Mourning Cosplay (Brittany Davis)*

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**CONCERT: KEELY AND THE TEA LIGHTS**

The Glen Restaurant (Madison) – 50 minutes

An alternative band with folk-pop leanings, a penchant for vocal harmonies, and a lyrical style that can jump from deeply sensitive introspection to quirky humor.

**COSPLAY PHOTO SHOOT MEETUP**

The Tunnels (Madison) – 50 minutes

Join our photographers in the tunnels beneath Virginia Crossings for a fun photo shoot. Cosplayers and non-staff photographers are all welcome. We'll meet on Floor 1 of Madison by the entrance to the pool.

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**FRIDAY MIDNIGHT**

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**LATE-NIGHT FILK CIRCLE**

King George (Jefferson)

A late-night gathering of musicians where you can sing, play, or just listen. Open to everyone!

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**SATURDAY 9:00 AM**

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**MOVE-A-CON (KIDS' TRACK)**

Norfolk Boardroom (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Martial World of Henrico invites children to start their day off with a fun, action-filled martial arts class. Meet in the Rookery.

Presenter: *Theresa Newbrough*

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**SATURDAY 10:00 AM**

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**READING:****HARRY "JACK" HECKEL & SAMANTHA BRYANT**

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

**USING HORROR MOVIES TO EXPLORE STRUCTURE**

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

How successful horror movies can help writers and viewers understand the importance of structure in creating cohesive, gripping fiction.

Panelists: *James Fadeley (M), John Gaines, Pamela K. Kinney, Sidney Williams*

**FREELANCING IN THE AGE OF "FAST ART"**

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

It's tough out there! Especially when you're an artist struggling against the mass-produced art world. How do you get people to choose your art versus store-bought pre-printed art?

Panelists: *Heidi Hooper, Nikole MacDonald-Jones, James P. Nettles (M)*

**IRISH BOG BODIES IN RITUAL MAGIC**

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Bog bodies are the most famous mummies in the world. Who were these individuals and how did they become so perfectly

preserved? Join a professional archaeologist and travel to Ireland. We'll examine these questions, and how these mummies tie into ritual magic use 2,200 years ago.

Presenter: *Dr. Dea Mozingo-Gorman*

**GEEK PARENTING: THE JOYS AND CHALLENGES OF GEEKS RAISING GEEKS**

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Panelists will discuss the fun and the terror of being a geek and raising little geeks of your own. The panel invites the audience to participate with questions and comments.

Panelists: *Bill Blume (M), Sammie Cassell, Wanda Harward*

**PRINCESS READING HOUR (KIDS' TRACK)**

Norfolk Boardroom (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Come join Rapunzel, with special guest Flynn Rider, as they spin some tales for the hatchlings of the Rookery.

Presenter: *Tori Kitsune as Rapunzel*

**SOFT WORLD BUILDING IN SPECULATIVE POETRY**

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Poetry elevates us from animal to person, from electric currents to connected souls, from unbridled meat and instinct to... er, well, there's no escaping that last one. Speculative poetry lets the reader escape while connecting with themselves. Soft world building inside poetry immerses readers without overcrowding. This panel discusses the art of revealing just enough for poetry to shine.

Panelists: *Cassandra Rose Clarke, Adele Gardner, Monica Louzon (M)*

**READING: GAIL Z. MARTIN/MORGAN BRICE & EDWARD MCKEOWN**

Richmond Boardroom (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

**BAEN BOOKS TRAVELING ROADSHOW & PRIZE PATROL**

King George (Jefferson) – 90 minutes

Come see what Baen Books has in the works from your favorite authors, and possibly score a free book!

Presenters: *Jim Beall, Philip Pournelle, Gray Rinehart (M), Brent "EvilPenguin" Roeder*

**SIGNING: CASS MORRIS**

Vendors' Room (Madison) – 50 minutes

**FIFTEEN FINGERS AND TWO TAILS: CREATING NON-HUMAN CHARACTERS**

Spotsylvania (Madison) – 90 minutes

You've created an amazing world for your story, but who or what is living in it? You need someone to carry the plot. This workshop will explore how to populate your setting with appropriate and believable characters. (*Max of 20 participants.*)

Presenter: *A.L. Kaplan*

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**SATURDAY 10:30 AM**

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### **COSPLAY PHOTO SHOOT MEETUP**

Central Courtyard (Outside) – 30 minutes

Join our photographers for a fun photo shoot in the outdoor courtyard area (arbors, cannon, central courtyard) of Virginia Crossings (weather permitting). Cosplayers and non-staff photographers are all welcome.

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### **SATURDAY 11:00 AM**

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#### **READING: ADELE GARDNER & MONICA LOUZON**

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

#### **FIXING HUMANITY'S MISTAKES THROUGH ALTERNATIVE HISTORY**

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

A panel of writers and readers of alternative history will discuss the tropes, the conventions, and the twists of this popular genre.

Panelists: *Bishop O'Connell (M), Fraser Sherman, Alan Smale, J.L. Yarrow*

#### **VIDEO GAME ADAPTATIONS**

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

*Five Nights at Freddy's, Fallout, Halo, Super Mario Bros., The Last of Us...* and so many more! We're in a golden age of video game adaptations with even more coming out this year. What makes for a successful adaptation? Which have been our favorites and which ones are we most excited to see?

Panelists: *Chiki Cosplay, The Wonderful Billy Flynn, S.C. Houff (M), Sean Gleeson*

#### **IT TAKES A VILLAGE:**

#### **THE LOGISTICS OF HUMAN COLONIES IN SPACE**

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

How do you maintain a supply chain? Do you limit reproduction? Do you need to rotate people planetside? How do you integrate different cultures? Creating a human colony in space is going to be a logistical challenge. How will we handle it?

Panelists: *Annie Davis, Flynnstress, James Gaines, John Gaines, David Keener (M)*

#### **GOH READING: T. KINGFISHER/URSULA VERNON**

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Join our Author Guest of Honor as she reads a selection of her recent work.

#### **ROOKERY COSTUME WORKSHOP (KIDS' TRACK)**

Norfolk Boardroom (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Get help with costumes you've already started, you want to make, or just want to talk about.

#### **HARD SCIENCE FICTION, SOFT SCIENCE FICTION, AND SCIENCE FANTASY**

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

How and where do we draw the lines between hard SF, soft SF, and science fantasy? How much real science does each category entail? Do we categorize works differently based on

what scientific or mystical aspects they focus on? Or are these categories really just arbitrary marketing tools that don't matter in the end? Hear what our panelists think, and some of their favorite examples of each.

Panelists: *Bill Bridges, Dr. Kyle R. Garton, Harry "Jack" Heckel, Dennis M. Myers (M)*

#### **READING: SALINEE GOLDENBERG & SIDNEY WILLIAMS**

Richmond Boardroom (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

#### **SIGNING: GOH ELLEN DATLOW**

Vendors' Room (Madison) – 50 minutes

#### **A RAVEN IN WONDERLAND TEA PARTY**

Brunswick (Madison) – 90 minutes

Join us for tea and snacks. Costumes encouraged! (*This is a pre-purchased event and has already sold out.*)

#### **CONCERT: DEVO SPICE**

The Glen Restaurant (Madison) – 50 minutes

Nerdy comedy rapper who has been called "the red-headed stepson of 'Weird Al' Yankovic and Eminem."

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### **SATURDAY NOON**

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#### **READING: EVAN RATKE & DENNIS DANVERS**

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

#### **HISTORICAL SPECULATIVE FICTION**

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Our author guests discuss the joys and pitfalls of playing in history's sandbox. We'll also discuss how historical fiction differs from alternative history.

Panelists: *Logan D. Irons, Cass Morris, Fraser Sherman (M), Alan Smale*

#### **THE PUBLIC DOMAIN**

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Each year, some new beloved property enters the public domain, meaning anyone can do anything with it. But should they? The same company that turned Winnie-the-Pooh into the slasher film *Blood & Honey* is ready for when Bambi goes public domain. Steamboat Willy has a first-person shooter coming called "Mouse." We'll discuss the pros and cons of public domain properties and praise some truly great works that have come from creators being able to play freely with someone else's creation.

Panelists: *Sammie Cassell (M), James Fadeley, Dr. Kyle R. Garton, A.L. Kaplan*

#### **BEYOND THE CLASSROOM: WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?**

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Join our science guests as they discuss some of their favorite publicly available resources for science and technology. Whether you're a writer looking to get those details right, a student who

wants to know if a field of study is right for them, or just a citizen who wants to be more knowledgeable and informed, our panelists will help point you in the right direction.

Panelists: *Jim Beall, Meri Elena (M), Sidney Williams*

**GOH SIGNING: T. KINGFISHER/URSULA VERNON**

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

**MINIATURE PAINTING WORKSHOP (KIDS' TRACK)**

Norfolk Boardroom (Jefferson) – 90 minutes

Learn the basics of painting mini figures for your next tabletop adventure, board game, or display shelf. Free figures, paints, and tools supplied! You're welcome to bring your own supplies if you like. Supplies kindly donated by Reaper Minis. (*Ages 6 and up.*)

***THE HALFLING AND THE SPACEMAN PODCAST***

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Join us for the recording of a new episode where we interview some of the RavenCon guests.

**WORKSHOP: JUNK/COLLAGES JOURNALING 101**

Richmond Boardroom (Jefferson) - 50 minutes

Junk/collage journaling is a form of journaling where you make collages with photos, stickers, paper and whatever, and then add your own thoughts and journal entries with them! Come and start your own junk journal or bring one you already have and do a fun collage with us! This is a hands-on workshop where you will get to start your junk journal! Journals will be provided as well as materials, but you can also bring any paper, photos, stickers, and supplies you may want to use. (*10 participants. Sign up sheet at Registration. \$15 supply fee.*)

Presenter: *Angela Pritchett*

***TERRIBLE MOVIES WITH WONDERFUL PEOPLE***

King George (Jefferson) – 90 minutes

Today's movie is *Attack of the Giant Leeches*.

Presenters: *Carol Cowles, O. Hai Mark*

**SIGNING: ADELE GARDNER & MONICA LOUZON**

Vendors' Room (Madison) – 50 minutes

**PITCH & QUERY WORKSHOP**

Spotsylvania (Madison) – 90 minutes

How do you get interest from an agent or publisher for your manuscript? What persuades them, or your readers, to give your book a try? In this workshop we will walk through the development of a query letter and your pitch.

Presenters: *Patrick Dugan, James P. Nettles*

**CONCERT: TEAR UP THE PLANKS**

The Glen Restaurant (Madison) – 50 minutes

Poe-inspired solo project from local musician Dexy Collier.

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**SATURDAY 1:00 PM**

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**READING: R.R. VIRDI & DAVID KEENER**

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

**THE BUTLER WIZARD DID IT: CRIME IN FANTASY**

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

How do crime stories and mysteries work in a created world with magic and fantastic elements? What can an author do to ensure that methods and opportunities enabled through fantastic means are neither blatantly obvious nor impossible to predict in advance?

Panelists: *R.S. Belcher, Bill Blume, Amanda Downum, Wayland Smith (M)*

**DCEU vs DCU**

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Say what you want about DC Comics' and Zack Snyder's DCEU, but Snyder's fans seem to be both loyal and willing to go to bat for the property they love. Will they (and all the rest of us) be able to put their feelings aside and give James Gunn a chance with the new DCU? Are we looking forward to *Gods and Monsters* or are we too deep in superhero burnout?

Panelists: *Sammie Cassell, Jim Deeley, John Gaines (M), Sean Gleeson*

**JOBS OF THE FUTURE**

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Jobs are going to change as a result of technological developments and we need to prepare coming generations to work in this changing environment. What will the use of AI, telepresence, extended reality, and increasing robotics and automation do to technology-oriented jobs? What will it do to creative jobs? How will we train for these jobs? Join us for a chat to explore future possibilities.

Panelists: *Day Al-Mohamed; Sara T. Bond; Rebecca Gibson, PhD; Stephen J. Simmons; Joey Starnes (M)*

**INTERVIEW: GOH ELLEN DATLOW**

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Join us as Michael D. Pederson interviews our Editor GOH, Ellen Datlow.

**THE OXFORD COMMA: BATTLE ROYALE!**

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Come see our panelists battle it out over the Oxford comma! Armed with pillows (liability, dontcha know), only one will remain standing! Seriously, internet memes aside, why do folks get so passionate about a comma? What is an Oxford comma, what does it do, when do you use it, and how can the lack of an Oxford comma have real world consequences in some (law) cases?

Panelists: *Jennifer Brinn, Flynnstress, Salinee Goldenberg, Gail Z. Martin/Morgan Brice, Phillip Pournelle (M)*

**SIGNING: J.L. YARROW**

Vendors' Room (Madison) – 50 minutes

**COSPLAY SUPER GROUP SHOT**

Central Courtyard (Outside) – 30 minutes

We are starting a new tradition and want to have all the judges and contestants and other cosplayers join us in the courtyard for a super group shot prior to the start of pre-judging for the Masquerade.

**DEMO: ELEPHANT'S TOOTHPASTE**

Fire Pit Area (Outside, Weather Permitting) – 50 minutes

Dr. Ben Davis discusses the chemistry behind “elephant toothpaste.” Then he does it! It's fun, it's educational, and with a little luck, no one gets showered in steamy water. (*Kids welcome, but adult supervision required.*)

**BOOK LAUNCH: LIES OF STONE**

Canaveral (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Come help author Leona R. Wisoker celebrate the arrival of a multi-year project. The first book in a new series, *Lies of Stone*, would not exist without the support and encouragement of this very community, so this event will be a party to thank YOU. There will be cake. And GOOD COFFEE. No sales\*. No readings. No pressure. Just an hour of cake, coffee, and celebration. (*\*Preordered books can be picked up at the launch. Bring a receipt please. To preorder a book, please visit: [thescribblinglion.com/shop](http://thescribblinglion.com/shop).*)

**SATURDAY 2:00 PM****READING: CHRIS SEMTNER & DAVID SIMMS**

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

**THE WRITER'S TOOLBOX**

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Panelists reveal the essential tools every author needs. Do you need separate software for creating outlines? Do you use a basic word processor or something geared specifically to writers? We'll show you how to wield these tools effectively, personalize your writing process, and enchant readers with your stories.

Panelists: *Venessa Giunta (M), Logan D. Irons, Katika Schneider, Ken Schrader, Wayland Smith*

**HAPPY IN HELL**

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Explore the underworld created in *Hazbin Hotel*. Not the first series created by Vivienne Medrano, how is this world similar to the one in *Helluva Boss*? From its tongue-in-cheek humor to its impact on adult animation, we'll dissect the secrets behind its success. The discussion will also touch on the appropriateness of youth cosplay from adult-themed shows; inviting perspectives from fans, cosplayers, and critics.

Panelists: *Diebreaddo & Sikecoz (M), Tori Kitsune, Lena Volkova*

**THE PHYSICS OF SPACE COMBAT**

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

What are the basic principles that govern movement in space, and how are they different from what we're used to? Panelists will also discuss what sorts of weapons would be effective in space and which ones wouldn't, as well as what sort of defenses would be practical in that environment.

Panelists: *Jim Beall, Phillip Pournelle, Stephen J. Simmons (M), J.L. Yarrow*

**AI: SEPARATING FACT, FICTION, AND GOOD 'OL COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT**

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

AI might be a lot of things. It might enslave us all. It might usher in a new era of post-scarcity abundance. Or it might just be the next big tech innovation that is going to change everything but still get rolled over by big copyright. (Who remembers Napster, Bittorrent, or the Pirate Bay?)

Panelists: *David Keener, James P. Nettles, Bishop O'Connell (M), Second Mourning Cosplay (Vito)*

**STICKER SWAP (KIDS' TRACK)**

Norfolk Boardroom (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Bring your own stickers and swap with your fellow con-goers!

**COINCIDENCE AND FATE IN PLOTTING**

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Is it fair to your readers to have wild coincidences, dramatic fate, or elaborate prophecies propelling your plot forward? Panelists discuss how much coincidence is too much and how it can work (or not) in a story.

Panelists: *Day Al-Mohamed, Jennifer Brinn (M), Dennis Danvers, R.R. Viridi*

**SPECULATIVE POETRY WORKSHOP**

Richmond Boardroom (Jefferson) – 2 hours

For this “make-and-take” wordcraft event, both newcomers and experienced poets are invited to share their creativity with inspirational prompts. Those who wish may share their new gems with no judgment, just appreciation (it's also fine not to share). Set your imagination free to explore your favorite SF, fantasy, and horror concepts; delve into myths, fables, and fairy tales; or focus on the supernatural, slipstream, or magical realism. Please bring whatever supplies you use to write.

Presenter: *Adele Gardner*

**MAKING ART OUT OF DRYER LINT**

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Award-winning dryer lint artist Heidi Hooper demonstrates how she makes her art out of dryer lint.

Presenters: *Heidi Hooper, Michael A. Ventrella*

**SIGNING: R.S. BELCHER & SALINEE GOLDENBERG**

Vendors' Room (Madison) – 50 minutes



### **A RAVEN IN WONDERLAND TEA PARTY**

Brunswick (Madison) – 90 minutes

Join us for tea and snacks. Costumes encouraged! (*This is a pre-purchased event and has already sold out.*)

### **BECOMING BOLD: RECOGNIZING YOUR WORTH AND LIVING THE LIFE OF YOUR DREAMS**

Spotsylvania (Madison) – 2 hours

You may possess valuable skills, but yearn to expand your knowledge and capabilities. If you are tired of sensing your untapped potential this interactive presentation is tailored to empower you with the insights and tools needed to unlock your true potential. You will be asked to identify your strengths and areas for improvement and select ONE goal you want to pursue in the next 12 months. Participants will walk through the Cycles of Success and leave with concrete steps for reaching their goal. (Max 15 participants.)

Presenter: *Dr. Hope Dugan*

### **CONCERT: AMERICANS ABROAD**

The Glen Restaurant (Madison) – 50 minutes

Local folk-punk band that plays fast acoustic songs tackling issues such as worker's rights and the human condition.

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## **SATURDAY 3:00 PM**

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### **READING: FRASER SHERMAN & REBECCA GIBSON, PHD**

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

### **SF PROPHETS AND MESSIAHS**

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Geek Wellness Education president David Lane will be joined by geek pastor Colby Whittaker and, via video conference, Cult Intervention Specialist and *Cult News 101* founder Patrick Ryan, to discuss Paul Atreides, Neo, and other messiahs in science fiction, as well as the dangers of real world cults and the supposed prophets/messiahs who lead them.

### **FROM SKETCH TO SUIT:**

#### **DESIGNING AND PLANNING YOUR COSPLAY**

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

This panel will walk attendees through the process of turning concept art or character images into a wearable cosplay. It will cover design considerations, material selection, and planning your project timeline. Ideal for those looking to start making their own costumes from scratch.

Panelists: *Jenna Hamrick (M), Second Mourning Cosplay (Ivy/Nightwind), Lena Volkova*

### **FUSION. HOW CLOSE ARE WE?**

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Join Jim Beall, a nuclear engineer with fifty years experience in the field, and nuclear physicist Dr. Ben Davis as they discuss the next step in nuclear energy: Fusion reactors. How close are we? What problems lie in the way, and what would success mean for the future of atomic energy?

### **INTERVIEW: GOH T. KINGFISHER/URSULA VERNON**

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Join us as Michael D. Pederson interviews our Author GOH, T. Kingfisher/Ursula Vernon.

### **COSPLAY WITH YOUNGLINGS (KIDS' TRACK)**

Norfolk Boardroom (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Join Smashbcosplay to learn all about cosplay with younglings. Topics will include: making family-friendly cosplays, kid props, cosplay competition info, cosplay photography, and cosplay adventures!

### **WRITING WITH A PARTNER**

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Neil Gaiman purportedly responded to the headline “*Good Omens* was co-written almost 30 years ago by Sir Terry, who died in 2015 after a public struggle with Alzheimer's, and Neil Gaiman.” with “I was grateful for the comma.” Join our panel of authors to learn how to make collaborative writing a partnership, rather than a struggle.

Panelists: *Doug Burbey, Les Carter, James Fadeley, Harry “Jack” Heckel (M)*

### **YOU WANT ME TO DO WHAT?**

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Count Gore De Vol will present a multi-media presentation on the challenges of hosting horror movies and have a “Name That Horror Tune” contest!

### **SIGNING: BILL BLUME**

Vendors' Room (Madison) – 50 minutes

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## **SATURDAY 4:00 PM**

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### **READING: A.L. KAPLAN & BISHOP O'CONNELL**

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

### **WRITING BELIEVABLE CHARACTERS**

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Why backstory matters. There is always a lot that gets left off the page. Panelists will discuss what makes a good character, what you need to know that the reader doesn't, and why it probably isn't going to make it into the final draft.

Panelists: *Margaret L. Carter, Pamela K. Kinney, Evan Ratke, Alan Smale (M), Jean Marie Ward*

### **GEEK RADIO DAILY**

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Come to a taping of the award not-winning podcast of *GRD's Weekly Podcast*. We will be discussing with the audience all the geeky goings-ons of RavenCon and we might just have a surprise or two lined up for you. It's a lot of fun and not to be missed!

Presenters: *Carol Cowles, The Wonderful Billy Flynn, Flynnstress*

### **WHAT EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT ASTRONOMY**

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Astronomy is generally considered to be the oldest field of science. It allowed us to know when to plant and harvest crops, ultimately gave us the calendar, helped us to understand the movements of the tides, and eventually to navigate the Earth. Although most people remain naturally drawn to the stars, few are literate in even the basics. Dr. Ben Davis takes his best shot at correcting that in just under an hour.

### **WHAT EVERY EDITOR WISHED AUTHORS KNEW**

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

At some point in your writing career chances are you are going to work with an editor, but many authors know next to nothing about the field of editing. Copyeditors, acquisition editors, managing editors, line editors, developmental editors... What do they all do? How do you know what kind of editor you need? How do you find a good editor? How do you work with an editor of a magazine, anthology, or publishing house? Everything you need to know but were afraid to ask.

Panelists: *Ellen Datlow, David Keener, Monica Louzon, Gray Rinehart (M), Michael A. Ventrella*

### **KNITTING & CROCHETING IN FANDOM 101 (KIDS' TRACK)**

Norfolk Boardroom (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

What do knitting and crocheting have to do with being a fan? Want to learn how, or perhaps just find a quiet place to knit that *Doctor Who* scarf or Cthulhu mask? Come join us!

### **VOICES OF TOMORROW**

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Local students from area high schools discuss what inspires them in today's science fiction.

Panelists: *Michael J. Winslow (M)*

### **READING: DAVID DOERSCH & JAMES FADELEY**

Richmond Boardroom (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

### **MONSTER KID 101: THE GIANT SPIDER**

King George (Jefferson) – 90 Minutes

For our all-ages afternoon show, Dr. Bob Tesla brings you Christopher R. Mihm's *The Giant Spider: Special Edition!* That's right, Dr. Bob has this '50s-style giant monster movie in a way you will NEVER see anywhere else!

Presenters: *Dr. Bob Tesla & Nurse Feratu*

### **SIGNING: AMANDA DOWNUM**

Vendors' Room (Madison) – 50 minutes

### **MAKING YOUR SFX MAKEUP LAST: TIPS, TRICKS, AND TOOLS**

Spotsylvania (Madison) – 50 minutes

Have you ever needed to be green for an entire day? Will a sudden downpour ruin your makeup and hours of hard work? Does the idea of sweating off your makeup make you nervous? Have your cosplay photos been ruined by streaky make-

up? Join Lena Volkova as she shares some tips, tricks, and tools of the trade to help you make your makeup last all day... or sometimes days. Sharing her industry knowledge as a scare actor and theatrical SFX makeup artist, Lena will show how to expertly apply popular kinds of SFX makeup (e.g., water-based, cream), discuss removal, and share practical ways to make your makeup last.

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### **SATURDAY 4:45 PM**

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#### **CONCERT: RYAN IRBY**

The Glen Restaurant (Madison) – 50 minutes

Ranging from progressive folk to ambient, electronic and jazz, Irby's music explores lyrical themes of existentialism, climate anxiety, and mental illness.

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### **SATURDAY 5:00 PM**

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#### **READING: R.S. BELCHER & MICHAEL A. VENTRELLA**

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

#### **THE RISE OF ISEKAI MEDIA: THE TIME WE GOT REINCARNATED AS AN ANIME PANEL AT RAVENCON**

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

If you've (n)ever heard of isekai media (a subgenre of the portal story where characters are transported to another world), you'll want to attend this panel discussion. Isekai storytelling has become more mainstream today, but where did it come from and why has it become divisive among fans? We'll talk about its origins, its ties to similar storytelling motifs, and its reflection upon escapism. If you don't attend, we'll assume that truck-kun found you!

Panelists: *Wanda Harward (M), Edward McKeown, Second Mourning Cosplay (Amythest & Mourningstar)*

#### **THE ORIGINAL GODDESS HAD CURVES**

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Small statues of super curvy women have been discovered at archaeological sites in Europe, Asia, Siberia, and even the tiny island of Malta. These statues (dating from around 35,000 years ago) were made from bone, ivory or ceramics, making them the oldest known ceramics and art in the world. Who or what were these voluptuous women? Why did they occur across so many cultures for over 25,000 years? Join a professional archaeologist to examine the figurines, the archaeological sites they come from, and discuss the many theories surrounding these mysterious ladies.

Presenter: *Dr. Dea Mazingo-Gorman*

#### **HOW DO I ART?**

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Ever wonder how you can make your art into your job? Join our panelists as they guide you through what it takes to get your work published and/or accepted. We'll also discuss how

to get into art shows, the difference between gallery exhibitions and online stores, and where to find inspiration.

Panelists: *Heidi Hooper, Nikole McDonald-Jones (M)*

### THE RAVENCON BOOK SWAP

Richmond Boardroom (Jefferson) – 2 hours

Geeks got all 'da books! Movers hate us. Now's your chance to swap some of those old books for new old books! This is a great chance to turn someone on to your favorite series or just clear off some space on that shelf at home.

### SIGNING: REBECCA GIBSON, PHD & L.R. GOULD

Vendors' Room (Madison) – 50 minutes

### CHECKS & BALANCES: MAGIC IN A FANTASY SETTING

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes

Every great spell or power has a disclaimer attached. Join our pros as they address the balance of having compelling and powerful magic in fantasy while avoiding making it a panacea or deus ex machina.

Panelists: *Venessa Giunta, D.A. Godwin (M), Mike Mollman, R.R. Viridi*

### FUNDRAISING IN ONLINE SPACES

Spotsylvania (Madison) – 50 minutes

Learn hard-earned lessons on how to organize, promote, and run a fundraiser online. Discussion will include different ways to get your fundraiser out there, the importance of team building and advertising, as well as how you can get sponsors to help.

Presenter: *Carrie Jo Patton*

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## SATURDAY 5:30 PM

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### PRE-JUDGING FOR THE MASQUERADE

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 90 minutes

Costumes will be pre-judged for workmanship and detail. (*For Masquerade participants only, everyone else has to wait until 7:30 pm to see all the awesomeness.*)

Judges: *Anissa of EAE Cosplay, Chiki Cosplay, Angela Pritchett*

### CONCERT: LEAGUE OF SPACE PIRATES

The Glen Restaurant (Madison) – 50 minutes

League of Space Pirates are an interstellar crew of rebel rockers on a mission to save the universe from the clutches of the sinister Übercorp. This seven-piece band of scallywags seamlessly blends high-energy 25th-century rock-n-roll with a theatrical flair, offering an unforgettable multi-dimensional experience.

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## SATURDAY 6:00 PM

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### READING: JOHN G. HARTNESS

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

### STAR TREK: THE CONTINUING MISSION

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

*Picard* has been the first new *Trek* in ages to move the timeline forward. Yes, *Discovery* is set way in the future but it's a jump and not a progression; even set in the future it still FEELS like a prequel. *SNW* has been nothing but fun but has it actually added anything new to the *Trek* universe? Where do we, as fans, want to see the *Trek* universe go? (Yes, the answer is *Legacy*.)

Panelists: *Jim Deeley, James Fulbright (M), Edward McKeown*

### THE PSYCHOLOGY OF SPECULATIVE FICTION

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Speculative fiction draws from some of our greatest dreams and deepest fears. Join our panelists as they discuss the roots of these ideas, and talk about how we use fiction to explore the things our minds struggle with.

Panelists: *Meri Elena, Dr. Kyle R. Garton, L.R. Gould, David Simms (M), Sidney Williams*

### ULTIMATE BLANKET FORT COMPETITION

King William (Jefferson) – 90 minutes

Dive into the cozy, whimsical world of competitive blanket fort construction, where creativity knows no bounds! Come watch contestants as they team up or go solo in crafting the most imaginative, sturdy, and inviting blanket fort. Throughout the event, our emcees and judges will offer tips, tricks, and playful banter, ensuring a spirited atmosphere as participants twist and tuck their way to victory.

Emcees: *The Wonderful Billy Flynn, O. Hai Mark*

Judges: *Nikole MacDonald-Jones, Cass Morris, Toi Thomas*

### CARD MAGIC FOR BEGINNERS (KIDS' TRACK)

Norfolk Boardroom (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Learn easy, entry level card magic that you can use as a foundation for learning and creating more tricks of your own. You will be shown a handful of easy card tricks, how they work, and WHY they work. (*Supplies provided. First 20 attendees get a deck of cards containing gaff cards.*)

Presenter: *Jerry Chandler*

### THIRTEEN POE MOVIES

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Join the Poe Museum's curator, Chris Semtner, for a rundown of the thirteen best (or worst) cinematic adaptations of Edgar Allan Poe's works.

### FINDING FRIENDS AND STARTING CLUBS

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes

Have you ever pondered the "Fermi Geek Paradox" after finding yourself in a new place, maybe on a long work trip or after moving to a new town? Learn from our esteemed panelists as they discuss how to find your pod, your clan, or your people, and how to pivot these introduction into a

long-standing group of like-minded folks to answer the question: “Where is everybody?”

Panelists: *Janet Carden, Roger Carden, Salinee Goldenberg, Mike Mollman, Joey Starnes (M)*

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## SATURDAY 7:00 PM

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### 2023 MOVIES YOU MISSED

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

We’ll review and discuss underrated and/or overlooked cinematic gems released over the last year.

Panelists: *Sammie Cassell, Sean Gleeson (M), Nickie Jamison*

### BETWEEN A GREY BOX AND THE UNCANNY VALLEY: QUESTIONS OF HUMAN-ROBOT ATTRACTION IN SF

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

This presentation will examine the current state of robotics technology contrasted against what we see in various works of science fiction, touching on *Blade Runner*, *Blade Runner 2049*, the *Matrix* franchise, and *Ex Machina*. This informative session is a must for fans of any robot-based sci-fi properties, and anyone who wishes to embrace their cyborg nature. (18+ only, IDs checked.)

Presenter: *Rebecca Gibson, PhD*

### DO IT YOURSELF DUNGEONS & DRAGONS (KIDS’ TRACK)

Norfolk Boardroom (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

From dice to figurines, how to make your own game with household items... and shrinky dinks.

### SHORT FILM: *TALK TO THE HAND*

King George (Jefferson) – 30 minutes

In this spoof of the film *Talk to Me*, a group of friends use a cursed hand to talk to the dead and it doesn’t quite go as planned. Written and directed by Tom Rockwell (aka Devo Spice). (18+ only, IDs checked.)

### TAROT AS A WRITING TOOL

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes

The 78 cards of a classical Tarot deck evoke symbols and meanings that encompass a huge swath of the human experience. Our panelists will introduce you to some of these themes, and discuss how they can be used as tools for inspiring and exploring characters, plot devices, and motivations in your writing.

Panelists: *R.S. Belcher, Patrick Dugan, Wanda Harward, J.E. Pittman (M)*

### FALSTAFF ROAD SHOW

Spotsylvania (Madison) – 50 minutes

Falstaff Books, a NC-based digital and print publisher, once again brings together their box of “misfit toys” to highlight their new and upcoming releases. Come learn about the exciting and entrancing titles released in the past few months, as well as what surprises they have for us in the next few months!

Presenters: *John G. Hartness and the staff of Falstaff Books*

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## SATURDAY 7:30 PM

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### THE RAVENCON MASQUERADE

The Glen Restaurant (Madison) – 90 minutes

This year, RavenCon teams up with Cosplay World to create an event where fan costumers can show off their latest creations. Plus, a special mid-show Costume Showcase.

Hosts: *Count Gore De Vol & Doctor Sarcophguy*

Judges: *Anissa of EAE Cosplay, Chiki Cosplay, Angela Pritchett*

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## SATURDAY 8:00 PM

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### MCU: PHASE 5

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

We’re halfway through a poorly received Phase 5 with three more movies still coming out. If the Infinity Saga was the MCU’s Golden Age and Phase 6’s *Fantastic Four* will hopefully launch their Silver Age (mirroring what happened in the 1960s) does that mean that we’re currently in the Dark Ages of the 1950s when nobody wanted superhero stories? Is the Multiverse Saga just too weird for the general public? What’s going to happen with Kang? Have the stories become too complicated to follow without having seen every show on Disney+?

Panelists: *Sammie Cassell (M), Sean Gleeson, Nickie Jamison, Phillip Pournelle*

### THE SCIENCE OF PEOPLE

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Anthropology, sociology, and psychology are all sciences where humanity studies itself. What do we learn from these branches of science? How do they improve the world, and what do these things look like in the context of science and speculative fiction?

Panelists: *Annie Davis (M), James Gaines, Dr. Dea Mozingo-Gorman, James P. Nettles, David Simms*

### FAMILY GAME NIGHT (KIDS’ TRACK)

Norfolk Boardroom (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

A family that plays together, stays together! Bring your adults with you to the Rookery and find a new board or card game that will draw in players young and old, new and experienced. We guarantee that the games will be accessible by the youngest hatchling and enjoyable by the oldest Corvus!

### BLUE PLANET RED: A LIFE ON MARS DOCUMENTARY

King George (Jefferson) – 2 hours

Filmmaker Brian Cory Dobbs will show *Blue Planet Red*, an award-winning film on the history, evidence for life, and catastrophes that contributed to the death of Mars. Stick around after the movie for a Q&A with the filmmaker!

Presenters: *Brian Cory Dobbs, Ginger Holliday*

### SCIENCE FICTION, GENDER, AND QUEERNESS

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes

How does science fiction provide unique opportunities to

explore gender and queerness? How do those ideas apply to robots? Or aliens?

Panelists: *L.R. Gould, Monica Louzon, Dennis M. Myers, Leona R. Wisoker (M)*

### MARTIAL ARTS DEMO

Fire Pit Area (Outdoors) – 50 minutes

Join Henrico Demo Team come rain or shine around the fire pit. The team will perform their award-winning routine complete with thrills, spectacular flipping, high jumps, and out-of-this-world weapon skills. Don't miss this!

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## SATURDAY 9:00 PM

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### BROWN CHICKEN, BROWN COW... ERR... BROWN WOLF

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

With the continuing popularity of shifter romance, let's talk about how writers create a balanced and compelling love story when one or more of the main characters are not human? What pitfalls should writers avoid? Should you be studying animal behavior? What tropes are expected by readers?

Panelists: *Cassandra Rose Clarke (M), Dennis Danvers, Gail Z. Martin/Morgan Brice*

### HOW WILL RELIGION CHANGE IN SPACE?

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Will there be chaplains on starships? How do you determine dates for Passover or Easter when moving at the speed of light? How do you face toward Mecca? How will religious communities form and change when in space? What kind of religious education (if any) would be needed on generation ships?

Panelists: *Bill Bridges, Roger Carden, Les Carter, Margaret L. Carter, Dr. Kyle R. Garton (M)*

### RAVENCON CHARITY AUCTION

King William (Jefferson) – 2 hours

In honor of long-time RavenCon staffer Doris Manning, we'll be auctioning off some REALLY cool stuff.

Emcees: *The Wonderful Billy Flynn, O. Hai Mark*

### LATE-NIGHT POST-MASQUERADE PHOTO SHOOT

The Tavern Bar (Madison) – 50 minutes

All cosplayers (guests or attendees) are welcome to join our photographers in some laid-back fun with a late-night photo shoot in the Tavern Bar and Deck area. Cosplayers and non-staff photographers are all welcome. Grab a drink and hang-out with us for some fun.

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## SATURDAY 10:00 PM

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### ASK A NECROMANCER

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Amanda Downum is the author of *The Necromancer Chronicles*. Not content with armchair necromancy, she is also a licensed

mortician. Her non-fiction column "Ask a Necromancer" appears in *The Deadlands* magazine. Here's your chance to ask her anything you want about handling the dead.

Presenters: *Amanda Downum, Justin Schneider*

### BLUE PLANET RED Q&A

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Filmmaker Brian Cory Dobbs will answer questions about his film, *Blue Planet Red*.

Presenters: *Brian Cory Dobbs, Ginger Holliday*

### DJ DRAE PRESENTS: GOTH NIGHT

Brunswick (Madison) – 2 hours

Have you ever wondered what type of music Edgar Allan Poe would listen to if he were alive today? Come out and dance as we dive deep into the darkness with two hours of goth, industrial, and darkwave meant to keep you writhing and squirming on the dance floor. Gothic Victorian clothing not required (but definitely encouraged)!

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## SATURDAY 11:00 PM

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### ASK A (MAD) SCIENTIST

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 90 minutes

Our science guests answer audience questions on science and science fiction. Any questions! Always a favorite at RavenCon!

Panelists: *Jim Beall (M), Doug Burbey, Dr. Ben Davis, Amanda Downum, L.R. Gould, Dr. Dea Mozingo-Gorman, James P. Nettles, Stephen J. Simmons*

### EYE OF ARGON

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

The worst science fiction story ever written gets a reading by our brave panel as they compete to go the longest without tripping over a misspelled word or laughing uncontrollably. Audience members are also encouraged to take a chance. Can you keep a straight face, especially when the panel begins acting out the story?

Performers: *Gail Z. Martin/Morgan Brice, Gray Rinehart, Michael A. Ventrella, Jean Marie Ward, Leona R. Wisoker*

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## SUNDAY 9:00 AM

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### MOVE-A-CON (KIDS' TRACK)

Norfolk Boardroom (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Join Henrico Demo Team come rain or shine! The team will perform their award-winning routine complete with thrills, spectacular flipping, high jumps, and out-of-this-world weapon skills. Don't miss this!

Presenter: *Theresa Newbrough*

### BREAKFAST AND POE

The Glen Restaurant (Madison) – 3 hours

We're hosting a special breakfast with our Guests of Honor,

Ellen Datlow and T.Kingfisher/Ursula Vernon, followed by an exclusive tour of the Poe Museum by its curator, Chris Semtner. (*Max 5 people, \$50 each, sign up at Registration.*)

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## SUNDAY 10:00 AM

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### READING: WAYLAND SMITH & JAMES P. NETTLES

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

### WORKSHOP:

#### IT'S ALIVE! BRINGING YOUR CHARACTERS TO LIFE

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Discover how to create characters that readers want to journey with. Learn why some are just clichés and how to keep them active throughout your story. Author Bill Blume shows how he built the cast for his *Gidion Keep* series and his latest novel *West of Apocalypse* and what he's gotten right (and wrong) to improve your stories.

#### THE MAGIC OF MAKEUP IN COSPLAY

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Delve into the transformative power of makeup in cosplay. This panel covers basic to advanced makeup techniques, special effects makeup, and tips for long-lasting wear. It's perfect for cosplayers looking to elevate their character portrayal through makeup artistry.

Panelists: *Diebreado & Sikecoz, Mourning Dove Cosplay, Second Mourning Cosplay, Smashbcosplay, Lena Volkova (M)*

#### PODCASTING: EPISODE 1, 10, 100, AND BEYOND

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

How do podcasters keep the episodes coming? How do you choose between evergreen or topical content? Our panel of podcasters tell you what they do to make sure they keep the tap of episodes flowing and interesting for both audience and participants. Learn tips and tricks on how to produce the best sounding shows, how to engage with your audience, and how to be a better consumer of the offerings of content creators.

Panelists: *Janet Carden, Roger Carden, Ashley R. Hall, S.C. Houff (M)*

#### NEW WHO? WHO KNEW?

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

New Doctor, new companion, and a Disney-sized budget! What did our panelists think about the specials and what are our hopes for the new season? And you can expect there will be fan-theories galore concerning Mrs. Flood!

Panelists: *Sean Gleeson, A.L. Kaplan (M), Dennis M. Myers, Angela Pritchett*

#### PRINCESS READING HOUR (KIDS' TRACK)

Norfolk Boardroom (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Come join Princess Ariel with special guest Prince Eric as they spin some tales for the hatchlings of the Rookery.

Presenter: *Tori Kitsune as Ariel*

#### AI'S IMPACT ON ART

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

AI-generated art continues to infiltrate the art community, and we're pushing back! Get the real info on AI, NFT, Opensea, and others.

Panelists: *Heidi Hooper, Nickie Jamison, Nikole MacDonald-Jones (M)*

#### FAN KNIT-IN

Richmond Boardroom (Jefferson) – 2 hours

Bring your fiber-projects and sit and chat with fellow geeks about your favorite movies, TV shows, books, and (of course) fiber-art projects.

#### ANGEL LORE FOR THE AGES

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Learn the origins of the "angel" concept across cultures and discover what place angels have in horror and other speculative genres. Discuss some of your favorite angel depictions in modern media.

Presenter: *Toi Thomas*

#### SIGNING: R.R. VIRDI

Vendors' Room (Madison) – 50 minutes

#### CAFTANS AND COFFEE (AND TEA)

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes

Join the Merry Mayhem—to dress in caftans or other comfy clothes, drink coffee or tea, and discuss our favorite geeky games, books, how to work together to organize events, and support each other's geeky efforts. Ms Roper cosplays encouraged but not required. Camp songs may be involved. Tea samples created by The Rooted Dandelion will be available.

Panelists: *Carol Cowles, Wanda Harward, Joey Starnes*

#### EVICTING THE PSYCHOTIC ROOMMATE IN YOUR HEAD

Spotsylvania (Madison) – 50 minutes

This interactive presentation is designed to explore the roots and impacts of limiting mindsets, feeling overwhelmed, and not being "good enough." You will learn tools to help silence your inner critic and practical strategies you can begin using immediately. There will be a FREE PDF download provided to each attendee to use to support their reflections.

Presenter: *Dr. Hope Dugan*

#### CONCERT: DIRTY METAL LEFTY

The Glen Restaurant (Madison) – 50 minutes

Dirty Metal Lefty's sound ranges from dark, soulful, blues-inspired acoustic rock to visceral, grinding swamp rock with jazz and metal undertones.

#### COSPLAY PHOTO SHOOT MEETUP

Grand Staircase (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Did you miss out on Friday's Grand Staircase event or just want more pictures? Well, come on down! Join our photographers in the Jefferson for a fun photo shoot that will

include shots on the Grand Staircase and in the RavenCon photo-op area. Cosplayers and non-staff photographers are all welcome.

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## SUNDAY 11:00 AM

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### READING: ALAN SMALE & CASS MORRIS

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

### THE BIGGEST MISTAKES MADE BY NEW WRITERS

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Author and editor, Michael A. Ventrella quickly goes through a list of the biggest mistakes new authors have made: writing mistakes, editing mistakes, publicizing mistakes, printing mistakes...

### COSPLAY PHOTOGRAPHY: BOTH SIDES OF THE CAMERA

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

This is for both cosplayers and photographers. Join us and learn how to collaborate for the perfect shoot. Topics include: finding the right location, posing, lighting techniques, and photo editing tips to bring your cosplay to life. Perfect for those looking to elevate their cosplay portfolio.

Panelists: *Chiki Cosplay (M)*, *Diebreaddo & Sikecoz*,  
*LionHeart Expressions*, *Mourning Dove Cosplay*,  
*Second Mourning Cosplay (Scott)*

### CAN WE RESTORE MEMORIES?

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Come listen to Brent Roeder, PhD, talk about current research in the field of memory research.

### WORLD BUILDING FOR A SERIES

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

When you know you're writing multiple books, how much of your world building do you front load into the first book? Do you allow your world to evolve and grow as the series progresses or do you want a world that remains constant? Since you expect readers to be around for the long haul do you feel more pressure to create a more detailed world?

Panelists: *Sara T. Bond*, *Bill Bridges*, *Jim Deeley*,  
*Katika Schneider*, *J.L. Yarrow (M)*

### COSTUME PARADE (KIDS' TRACK)

Norfolk Boardroom (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Let's close out RavenCon 2024 with a bang! Wear the costume you've worked on this weekend or bring your favorite from home and strut your stuff through the halls of the convention!

Host: *Smashbcosplay*

### BIZARRE THINGS I LEARNED WHILE RESEARCHING MY BOOK

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Researching is critical for writing, but sometimes a writer

ends up finding more than they bargained for...

Panelists: *Jennifer Brinn (M)*, *Nickie Jamison*,

*Gail Z. Martin/Morgan Brice*, *J.E. Pittman*

### BEING A DIY BAND WITH GEEKY INFLUENCES

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

A panel looking at how a DIY band works. We'll focus on our influences outside of music and how we bring it all together.

Panelists: *Dexy Collier (M)*, *Dylan Lawson*, *Marvin Ward*

### SIGNING: JAMES FADELEY

Vendors' Room (Madison) – 50 minutes

### EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT FILMMAKING (BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK)

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes

Our tried-and-true panel of experts talk about all things filmmaking.

Panelists: *Day Al-Mohamed (M)*, *Brian Cory Dobbs*

### WORKSHOP: STRONG STORIES NEED STRONG HEROES

Spotsylvania (Madison) – 2 hours

Compelling heroes are the centerpiece of successful stories. They're not just carried along by the plot—they drive the plot. They demand the reader's attention and drag them on a journey. If your heroes aren't doing that, then this is the workshop for you. This group collaborative session will teach you a multi-layered approach to crafting a compelling, memorable hero. During the character-building exercises, you'll also learn how to build a meaningful character arc for your hero that you can leverage for your story's plot. (*Max 20 participants.*)

Presenter: *David Keener*

### CONCERT: AMERICANS ABROAD

The Glen Restaurant (Madison) – 50 minutes

Local folk-punk band that plays fast acoustic songs tackling issues such as worker's rights and the human condition.

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## SUNDAY NOON

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### READING: TOI THOMAS & GEREMIAH DELVALLE

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

### THE BASICS OF STARTING A PODCAST

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Learn the basics, and pitfalls to avoid, when starting a podcast.

Presenter: *Carrie Jo Patton*

### ART AUCTION

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Did the item you bid on go to auction? Come prepared to fight for it! (*Note: Keep an eye on any bids you place throughout the weekend—they only go to auction once the Bid Sheet is filled up.*)

### SCIENCE BLOOPERS IN STORIES AND MOVIES

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Many of us enjoy poking holes in movie and book world building. In this panel, our science guests will discuss some of their favorite (or most frustrating) moments in media and literature that made them go, “None of this works like that!”

Panelists: *Jim Beall, James Gaines (M), John Gaines, L.R. Gould*

### CHARACTER-FOCUSED STORYTELLING

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Theme-, action-, plot-, or character-driven; what do these mean, and what does character-focused storytelling look like?

Panelists: *Jennifer Brinn, Dennis Danvers,*

*John G. Hartness (M), Edward McKeown*

### LUNCH AND OLD 'TOONS (KIDS' TRACK)

Norfolk Boardroom (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Bring your lunch and come watch some old classic cartoons!

### THE POWER OF PLACE

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Panelists discuss what places have left marks on them and why, and how they use these universal experiences in their stories.

Panelists: *Ashley R. Hall (M), J.E. Pittman, R.R. Viridi*

### READING: MIKE MOLLMAN & JASON T. GRAVES

Richmond Boardroom (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

### THERE ARE NO BAD MOVIES (ONLY BAD AUDIENCES)

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

A humorous look on cinematic criticism.

Panelists: *Jerry Chandler, John Dimes aka Doctor Sarcofiguy (M),*

*O. Hai Mark, Bill Mulligan*

### SIGNING: A.L. KAPLAN

Vendors' Room (Madison) – 50 minutes

### MEDICATED AND MOTIVATED

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes

How do you face a day's writing when you also have to face the daily battle of chronic pain?

Panelists: *Meri Elena, Harry "Jack" Heckel (M), S.C. Houff*

### COSPLAY PHOTO SHOOT MEETUP

Central Courtyard (Outside) – 50 minutes

Join our photographers for a fun photo shoot in the outdoor courtyard area (arbors, cannon, central courtyard) of Virginia Crossings (weather permitting). Cosplayers and non-staff photographers are all welcome.

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## SUNDAY 1:00 PM

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### READING: LEONA R. WISOKER & GRAY RINEHART

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

### THE FUTURE OF FANDOM

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Geek Wellness Education president David Lane will be joined by William R. Ward of the *Inspired Geeks Podcast* and, via video conference, media psychologist and author Cynthia Vinney, PhD, to discuss toxic fandom and what, if anything, can be done to make fandom fun again.

### CROSSPLAY AND GENDERBENDING:

#### A CREATIVE TAKE ON COSPLAY

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Celebrate the creativity and inclusivity of crossplay and genderbending in cosplay. This panel discusses tips for costume modification, makeup techniques for gender transformation, and how to approach these cosplays respectfully and authentically.

Panelists: *Diebreado & Sikecoz, Mourning Dove Cosplay (M),*

*Second Mourning Cosplay, Smashbcosplay*

### THE FUTURE OF FOOD

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Impossible meats grown in labs, CRISPR edited vegetables, a potential future without bananas. Our panelists will discuss the scientific future of food and what things might look like in the short and long term.

Panelists: *Meri Elena (M); Rebecca Gibson, PhD;*

*James P. Nettles*

### INDIE PUBLICATION 101

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

You've decided not to pursue an agent or follow the path of mainstream publishing. Let's talk about getting started.

Panelists: *Bill Blume (M), D.A. Godwin, Evan Ratke,*

*T. Kingfisher/Ursula Vernon, J.L. Yarrow*

### CLOTHES MAKE THE CHARACTER

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Learn how costuming and costume design can reveal or conceal information about characters in fiction.

Panelists: *Sara T. Bond (M), Cass Morris, J.E. Pittman,*

*R.R. Viridi*

### READING: NIKOLE McDONALD-JONES & DAY AL-MOHAMED

Richmond Boardroom (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

### POE IN NON-LITERARY MEDIA

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

A panel looking at forms of media beyond literary that reference and draw influences from Edgar Allan Poe.

Panelists: *Lee Church, Dexy Collier (M)*

### SIGNING: L. ANA ELLIS

Vendors' Room (Madison) – 50 minutes



## WRITING FLASH FICTION AND SHORT STORIES

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes

Length matters and what might work in a novel or novella might not work in a short story or flash fiction piece. Join our panelists as they talk tips and tricks for writing on the shorter side.

Panelists: *Samantha Bryant, Logan D. Irons, Pamela K. Kinney, Wayland Smith (M), Jean Marie Ward*

## CONCERT: DEVO SPICE

The Glen Restaurant (Madison) – 50 minutes

Nerdy comedy rapper who has been called “the red-headed stepson of ‘Weird Al’ Yankovic and Eminem.”

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## SUNDAY 2:00 PM

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### READING: JEAN MARIE WARD

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

### DON'T POINT THAT THING AT ME!

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Space operas almost always have weapons. From cutlasses to phasers, what are your favorite hand-held weapons from adventure sci-fi? What weapons offer certain advantages in different environments?

Panelists: *Bill Blume, Doug Burbey (M), Jim Deeley, Edward McKeown*

### THE IMPORTANCE OF LOCAL CONS

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Small local cons are the backbone of fandom. Despite the competition from bigger cons with bigger names and larger draws, small conventions help hold us together as a community. Our panelists will discuss what they love most about local fan-run conventions, how to get involved, and how small conventions can work together to help each other as the little fish in the pond.

Panelists: *Janet Carden, Roger Carden, James Fulbright (M), S.C. Houff, Leona R. Wisoker*

### WHEN AND HOW TO PICK AN EDITOR

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

How do you know when you reach the point where you need an editor? When you reach that point, how do you pick one? What type of editor do you need? Our panelists will share their experiences and give some suggestions on why/when/how to pick an editor.

Panelists: *R.S. Belcher, D.A. Godwin, Cass Morris (M), Bishop O'Connell*

### ROOKERY WRAP-UP (KIDS' TRACK)

Norfolk Boardroom (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Say goodbye to everyone, grab your crafts, and let us know what you would like to see for next year!

## READING: HEIDI NICKERSON & L.R. GOULD

Richmond Boardroom (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

### DO YOU KNOW JACK? (ALL AGES)

King George (Jefferson) – 90 minutes

Play along with us to find out as we explore the Jackbox Party Packs. Compete as a panelist, play along with the audience, or just have fun watching as we play wacky trivia, fill in the blank, and other games. Everyone gets to play, just bring a mobile device!

Hosts: *Carol Cowles, The Wonderful Billy Flynn, Flynnstress, O. Hai Mark*

### SIGNING: LOGAN D. IRONS

Vendors' Room (Madison) – 50 minutes

### DRAW YOUR COSPLAY

#### WITH MARVEL ARTIST JASON KEITH

Spotsylvania (Madison) – 50 minutes

Marvel color artist and Cosplay World show runner, Jason Keith, will run a session on how to turn your cosplay into amazing artwork.

### CONCERT: KEELY BURN

The Glen Restaurant (Madison) – 50 minutes

A song-poet from outer space, Keely plays folk-pop with a love for vocal harmonies and ukuleles.

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## SUNDAY 3:00 PM

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### THE GREATEST WRITING ADVICE I'VE EVER RECEIVED

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

The writing world is full of advice. “Always write first thing in the morning,” “never write before having lunch,” “write drunk, edit sober,” and my personal favorite “just sit down and do it.” Our panel of writers will pass on what advice they've received that was actually helpful to them, plus a few stories about the advice that wasn't.

Panelists: *Samantha Bryant, Ashley R. Hall, Harry “Jack” Heckel, Bishop O'Connell, Jean Marie Ward (M)*

### RAVENCON IN REVIEW

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes

Did you enjoy the convention? Tell us what you think. We'll also announce the winners of this year's RavenConnie.

Panelists: *Michael D. Pederson (M), RavenCon Staff*

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## SUNDAY 4:00 PM

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### END OF THE CONVENTION

Thank you for attending! See you next year!