

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

FRIDAY 3:00 PM

THE COMIC BOOK BRONZE AGE

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Fifty years ago, Marvel and DC were well into their Bronze Age (1970-1985). Dennis O’Neil and Neal Adams introduced realism and relevancy to DC with their Green Lantern/Green Arrow crossover. Chris Claremont elevated the X-Men to superstardom. This was the era that brought us the special-event limited series as well (*Crisis on Infinite Earths*, *Secret Wars*). What made the comics of that era so great?

Panelists: *Sammie Cassell (M)*, *Sean CW Korsgaard*,
Fraser Sherman, *Wayland Smith*

DARKER DISNEY

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Let’s discuss how post-*Frozen* Disney has been addressing more mature themes, such as reincarnation, depression, and general trauma.

Panelists: *Krista Cagg*, *Sean Gleeson (M)*,
Patricia “Pattycakes” Roberts, *Tangent Artists*

THE CARE AND FEEDING OF CON GOERS

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Panelists give helpful advice on ergonomics, injury prevention, energy conservation, and general self-care to keep you well enough to enjoy the con.

Panelists: *Sabrina “Amethyst” Bruce*, *Roger Carden*,
Jenna Hamrick, *Leona R. Wisoker (M)*

WELCOME TO THE ROOKERY (KIDS’ TRACK)

York (Madison) – 50 minutes

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

MAKING YOUR COSPLAY MAKEUP LAST LIKE A PRO!

Spotsylvania (Madison) – 90 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 makeup? 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.

FRIDAY 4:00 PM

AM I DONE YET?

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

How do you decide whether your manuscript is in good shape? What are the steps to take if it is and if it isn’t? Our experts will guide you!

Panelists: *David Godwin*, *Kate Ressman*, *Alan Smale (M)*,
Sarena Straus

TOTALLY WICKED

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

It’s a two-part movie musical, based on a stage show, based on a book that’s based on another even older book that was also adapted into a movie. There’s a lot to unpack here.

Panelists: *Randee Dawn*, *Jett Dixon (M)*, *Meryl Yourish*,
Wednesday Mourning Cosplay

DOOM’S DAY: RDJ, DOCTOR DOOM, AND THE FUTURE OF THE MCU

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Join us as we explore Robert Downey Jr.’s return to the MCU as Doctor Doom. We’ll explore the potential impact of this unexpected casting on the MCU’s future, speculate on Downey’s portrayal (Stark variant or classic Doom?), and discuss Doctor Doom’s comic book legacy and influence on the MCU, as well as The Fantastic Four’s upcoming MCU debut and its connection to Doom.

Panelists: *Jenna Hamrick*, *Harry “Jack” Heckel*,
Dennis M. Myers, *Chad Ownby (M)*

A PANELIST’S GUIDE TO PANELS

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Being a good panelist starts with reading the description. Be sure you know what you’re going to be talking about. Anything after that, well, we’ll let our panelists tell you. And, yes, we’ll probably also talk about how to be a good audience member.

Panelists: *Sean CW Korsgaard*, *O. Hai Mark (M)*,
Jennifer R. Povey, *Leona R. Wisoker*

WHAT’S IN A NAME? CHOOSING CHARACTER NAMES

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Sometimes you need a scorecard to keep track of all the characters in a book. It gets even harder in SF/F when the characters don’t have real-world names that are familiar to the reader. Learn tips from published authors to avoid reader confusion.

Panelists: *James Blakey*, *Jennifer Brinn (M)*, *Mary Terrani*,
Martin Wilsey

AIRCRAFT CARRIERS IN SPACE!!!

PT 1: HOW CARRIERS WORK

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Aircraft carriers are cool. Aircraft carriers in space are even

more cool—even if they might not make sense. This talk explores aircraft carriers in reality and science fiction.

Presenter: *Christopher Weuve*

KNITTING & CROCHETING IN FANDOM

York (Madison) – 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 a Cthulhu mask? Come join us!

BEYOND DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes

D&D is a classic, but sometimes you need a little variety to spice up your life. From indie to mass-produced, what other great tabletop RPGs are out there and worth your time?

Panelists: *R.S. Belcher; Randall Hayes, PhD;*

Mike Jack Stoumbos;

J. Yamill/Orthane Productions (M)

CONCERT: TEAR UP THE PLANKS

The Glen Restaurant (Madison) – 50 minutes

Poe-inspired solo project from local musician Dexy Collier.

FRIDAY 5:00 PM

I'VE GOT A GREAT IDEA! NOW WHAT?

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Full of ideas for short stories or novels, but don't know where to start? Our panelists will help you get to the next step.

Panelists: *Shane Gries (M), J.E. Pittman, Jennifer R. Povey,*

Evan Ratke

COSPLAY OVER 30: AGEISM, ACCESS, AND AVAILABILITY

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

What are some of the challenges of being an "older cosplayer" and what are some of the benefits of being a cosplayer over 30?

Panelists: *Sabrina "Amethyst" Bruce, Angela Pritchett (M),*

Patricia "Pattycakes" Roberts,

Wednesday Mourning Cosplay

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO WRITE IT RIGHT:

LAW ENFORCEMENT FOR WRITERS

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Many stories touch on law enforcement in some way. From private detectives to cops to federal agents of some kind, a lot of the characters we love carry a badge. Hear a bit about what it's really like from a panelist with experience in the field.

Presenter: *Wayland Smith*

REVENGE OF THE COLLECTOR!

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

What do you collect? How do you deal with cost, storage space, and so on? How do you build a collection? Do you interact with other collectors? Share your collection with others?

Panelists: *Sammie Cassell, Sean Gleeson, L.R. Staszak (M),*

Frank "Uncle Grayhawk" Huminski, Kate Ressman

KEEPING ON KEEPING ON

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Motivation is a tricky beast that keeps its own schedule. What can one do to stay in the mindset needed to finish a project, be it a creative endeavor or housekeeping?

Panelists: *James E. Deeley, David Godwin (M),*

Jenna Hamrick, Bishop O'Connell

A POEM IN THE PALM

Richmond Boardroom (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

A creative writing workshop inspired by palm reading! People may read palms to reveal character traits or try to predict the future. The first step of palm-reading, however, is not to measure someone's lifeline, but to study the person and their smallest details. This workshop includes a five-fingered exercise to focus on character description and concrete detail and is guaranteed to leave you with a new poem or a prose portrait. A fun experiment for writers of all kinds!

Presenter: *April J. Asbury*

AIRCRAFT CARRIERS IN SPACE!!!

PT 2: SCIENCE FICTION CARRIERS

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Okay, so aircraft carriers are cool—but what makes sense for moving them into space? Let's look at a couple of options from science fiction, and maybe a little science.

Presenter: *Christopher Weuve*

THE CRAFTY RAVEN (KIDS' TRACK)

York (Madison) – 50 minutes

Come scratch that crafting itch. Bring your own or explore our RavenCrafts!

AN INTRO TO SONGWRITING

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes

Learn the basics of songwriting with some of our musical guests.

Panelists: *Jonah Knight, D.J. McGuire (M), Chuck Parker,*

Madison Metricula Roberts

OCCUPATIONAL HAZARD

Spotsylvania (Madison) – 90 minutes

In this character development workshop, participants will start by defining an SF or fantasy occupation... and then exploring the type of person who might take on that job. Participants will also focus on key areas such as character goals, high-level story arcs, challenges, obstacles, and limitations.

Presenter: *David Keener*

CONCERT: HIPHOPMCDUGAL

The Glen Restaurant (Madison) – 50 minutes

Hiphopmcdougal share their love of video games, cryptids, Weezer, and pizza—rapping and singing over everything from classic hip hop beats to mariachi music.

FRIDAY 6:00 PM

POV: KEEPING IT ALL STRAIGHT

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Nothing can mess your writing up quicker than muddled points of view. How do you choose one and how do you keep yourself from straying to another one?

Panelists: *James Blakey, Amber Rodenbo, Fraser Sherman (M), Mary Terrani*

COSPLAY 101

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

We'll discuss all the basics for getting into cosplay as a hobby—choosing costumes that fit your personality (or the personality that you want to display), where to find materials and patterns, basic prop-building techniques, modeling and posing, and more!

Panelists: *Logan "Mourningstar" Beard, Fredrick Corry (M), Dinozocosplay, EAE Cosplay, shortstack_cosplays*

SHE CANNA TAKE ANY MORE, CAPTAIN!

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Star Trek had five new shows all running recently. Now, *Picard*, *Discovery*, and *Lower Decks* have all come to an end and the future of *Prodigy* is uncertain. We still have *Strange New Worlds* and can look forward to *Starfleet Academy* but it feels like *Trek* is winding down for now. Where do we think the franchise is heading?

Panelists: *Jett Dixon, Billy Flynn, Dennis M. Myers (M)*

THINGS I HATE AS A READER

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Whether it's a specific type of story, a style element, an over-used stereotype, or a clichéd trope, many readers are unable to enjoy a story that contains that one particular thing that annoys them. What are some of these elements?

Panelists: *Marcos F. Eguia, Morgan Hazelwood, Joan Wendland, Meryl Yourish (M)*

EDITORS ARE NOT THE ENEMY

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Editors and author/editors discuss the role of editors and authors as partners in the creative process, how to identify a good editor (or the right editor for you), why you need an editor, and more.

Panelists: *Debbie Manber Kupfer, Bishop O'Connell, Evan Ratke (M), Ian Randal Strock*

CYBERSECURITY AND AI

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Can AI be paired with cybersecurity? Would that potentially create new methods to exploit cybersecurity? Is this how we get Skynet?

Panelists: *Doug Burbey, Sean Heare, Monica Marier, Daniel Wallace (M)*

MST3K-ING (KIDS' TRACK)

York (Madison) – 50 minutes

Watch an old movie and critique the actors and plot. Robots not required, but welcome.

WHAT IS GEEK ROCK?

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes

Wizard rock, time lord rock, electronica, chiptunes, filk, dementia—it goes by many many names but it's all still geek rock to us. What is it? Who's doing it? Where can we find communities?

Panelists: *Chuck Parker, The Platypus Princess (Alexandra Higgins), Gray Rinehart, The Salacious Crumbles (Leigh Tyberg and Madison Metricula Roberts) (M)*

FRIDAY 7:00 PM

RAVENCON OPENING CEREMONIES

The Glen Restaurant (Madison) – 50 minutes

Welcome to RavenCon 18! We'll be presenting the Webster Award for Best Virginia author. There will be lots of announcements, a few surprises, and a special performance by The Platypus Princess.

FRIDAY 8:00 PM

ART SHOW TOUR

Powhatan (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Artist Stephen Burks will be giving a tour of the art show! Come and learn about all the amazing artists and art on display!

RIVER CITY SIREN PRESS BOOK LAUNCH WITH AUTHOR GENEVA OLEANDER

Canaveral (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

BOOK BANNING: THE RETURN

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

A perennial problem for educators, book banning seems to be back in vogue. We'll discuss why banning books is harmful to everyone, how it violates the First Amendment, and how we can fight it.

Panelists: *Phillip Pournelle, Jennifer R. Povey, Gray Rinehart, David Simms (M)*

HOME RECORDING 101

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

More and more people are recording music, podcasts, or audio books in the comfort of their own home. We'll talk about equipment, software, mixing, and everything else you'll need to know to get started.

Panelists: *Sean Gleeson, Chuck Parker, Carrie Jo Patton (M)*

GHOSTBUSTERS: DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

It's a rookie Ghostbuster's first job—can he show his surly

teammate he has what it takes to catch a pesky poltergeist? *Ghostbusters: Don't Make Me Laugh* is a fan film created by the members of the real Ghostbusters, Virginia.

THE MOVIES OF VINCENT PRICE

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Vincent Price had a career that lasted for over 50 years and included several classic horror films. We'll discuss our favorites.

Panelists: *Bill Mulligan; Fraser Sherman (M); Princeton Vice, the Monster Sitter*

SHORT STORIES AS A MARKETING TOOL

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Promoting a novel? Up your promotional game with a stand-alone short story! Use them as an ebook for online giveaways, print them for in-person events, or (hopefully) sell them to an existing market. Panelists will talk about their experiences writing and publishing stand-alone shorts whether as marketing tools or as accessible, low-cost quick reads to build audiences in the usual digital and print markets.

Panelists: *JM Lee, Pamela K. Kinney, Mike Jack Stoumbos (M), Ian Randal Strock*

THE FUTURE OF WARFARE

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Drones, enhanced biotech, AI, cyber attacks... There's a lot of new and developing technology that can change the way we fight wars. We'll discuss the wheres, whys, and hows of future warfare.

Panelists: *Doug Burbey, Andrew Caballero (M), Shane Gries, Dennis M. Myers*

DIY D&D (KIDS' TRACK)

York (Madison) – 50 minutes

From dice to figurines, how to make your own at home from household items.

MUSIC TO CREATE TO

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes

Artists, what music inspires you? Does it change with what you're making? How can we find playlists to help inspire us?

Panelists: *Dirty Metal Lefty, Tangent Artists, Jack Valentine (M)*

SUMMERS IN OZ: L. FRANK BAUM AND MACATAWA, MI

Spotsylvania (Madison) – 50 minutes

Author Tom Doyle grew up in a land of Oz—or at least he spent summers there. His Oz was in Macatawa, a small beach resort community near Holland, Michigan. L. Frank Baum also spent his summers there from 1899 until 1910. For those like Tom who lived and vacationed in the Macatawa area, the connection (both real and imagined) to Baum and Oz has been important. It's generated stories, arguments, festivities, and magic. Tom will discuss how that connection came about, its facts and fictions, and its continued meaning for those in the world creation biz.

COSPLAY SHOWCASE

The Glen Restaurant (Madison) – 50 minutes

A fun in-character competition to strut your stuff in costume whether store bought or homemade!

Host: *SmashB*

FRIDAY 9:00 PM

MY FIRST AND FAVORITE ANIME

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Since the '80s and '90s, anime has grown in popularity and can now be considered mainstream. What brought you into anime and what made you stay?

Panelists: *Logan "Mourningstar" Beard, Sabrina "Amethyst" Bruce, Sean CW Korsgaard (M), Naychan Cosplay, J.E. Pittman*

THE FINANCES OF RUNNING A SMALL PRESS

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

How do you make a small fortune in SFFH publishing? Start with a large fortune! But seriously folks, how do you keep the doors open and the lights on when you're a small press, as one of many, many small fish in a very big sea? Is Kickstarting your publications a sustainable practice? What about subscription services?

Panelists: *JM Beal, Jason T. Graves (M), Shane Gries, Ian Randal Strock*

HUMOR IN HORROR

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Humor and horror go together like sweet and salty; the one heightens the other. Even the scariest movies have elements of humor in them but what happens when the creator chooses to elevate the humor above the horror? From *Abbott & Costello Meet Frankenstein* to *Freaky*, we'll cover all of our favorites.

Panelists: *Sammie Cassell, A.M. Giddings, D.M. Mewha (M)*

D&D FOR ROOKS BY ROOKS (KIDS' TRACK)

York (Madison)

Open to all levels—beginner to expert.

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: *Frank "Uncle Grayhawk" Huminski, Wayland Smith, Joan Wendland*

POINTS OF DIVERGENCE:

WRITING ALTERNATE HISTORY

Spotsylvania (Madison) – 50 minutes

Alternate historical novels, or "what if?" stories, explore the potential consequences if events in our real history had turned

out differently, or if historical characters had made different decisions. Thus, these alternative timelines usually stem from a single differing event or point of divergence, and when successful are similar enough to our own timeline to be recognizable, but different enough to be entertaining and thought-provoking. This presentation will discuss how to formulate credible points of divergence and realistic alternate histories, with examples from the alternate-historical literature of the last century.

Presenter: *Alan Smale*

THE SCIENCE FICTION DOUBLE FEATURE DRAG SHOW

The Glen Restaurant (Madison) – 90 minutes

Drag ex Machina is a collection of Drag Queens, Kings, and Things local to Virginia. Their mission is to bring LGBTQIA performance art to geeky convention spaces with performers who are sexy, funny, quirky, passionate, and represent the best parts about Fandom and Community. Be ready to go stark raving mad for The Science Fiction Double Feature Drag Show!

Emcees: *DJ Drae, O. Hai Mark*

Performers: *Mad Maxii, Fellow Plastic, Nubia, Jackyl Lantern, Dren Manduesa, Gaylien Space, Knightress Oxide*

FRIDAY 10:00 PM

ADULT THEMES IN RPGs

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

The vast majority of games approach mature topics by ignoring them. On the complete opposite end of the spectrum are games that explicitly explore dark, disturbing themes. How should a GM introduce such topics to the players? (*Warning: Mature Content*)

Panelists: *Murdermittens_, Orthane Productions (M), Jack Valentine*

THEY WEREN'T RELEASED, THEY ESCAPED

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

There are movies that people affectionately refer to as “so bad they’re good” and then there are movies where even the label of “bad” might be more than just a tad generous. Join our panelists as they discuss some of the worst films they still somehow have a soft spot in their hearts for, the reasons that they’re somewhere around the bottom of the cinematic barrel, and why they still like them despite their flaws.

Panelists: *Flynnstress (M), Bill Mulligan, Jennifer R. Povey, L.R. Staszak*

MONSTER KID 101: ITALIAN SPIDERMAN

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 90 minutes

Dr. Bob Tesla brings you the Italian “classic.” It’s a version of Spider-Man like you’ve never seen him before!

FRIDAY 11:00 PM

MYSTERIES AND MAGIC

Richmond Boardroom (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Not your great-great-grandfather’s magic show. Jonah Knight

creates an environment of mystery and memory with storytelling and magical effects. Nostalgic, funny, and thoughtful with a good dose of body horror and murder. This show is for children of all ages who want to believe in magic and, you know, enjoy murder. This show is being performed twice with intimate, limited seating. First come, first served.

LATE NIGHT FILK CIRCLE

The Glen Restaurant (Madison)

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

FRIDAY MIDNIGHT

MYSTICAL COSPLAY TUNNELS MEETUP

Pool Entrance (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.

Host: *SmashB*

SATURDAY 9:00 AM

READING: TANGENT ARTISTS

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

THE MOVIES OF 1975

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Some great SFFH movies turn 50 this year: *Jaws, Rocky Horror Picture Show, Monty Python and the Holy Grail*, and *Rollerball* are just a few of this year’s new semicentennarians.

Panelists: *Stephen Burks, O. Hai Mark, Meryl Yourish (M)*

AIRBRUSH BASICS FOR SFX MAKEUP AND COSPLAY

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 90 minutes

Ever wanted to use an airbrush to apply your cosplay makeup, but don’t know where to begin? Join Lena Volkova in this demonstration on how to properly use an airbrush with tips on successful application, common mistakes, and how to care for your airbrush kit.

WHY WON'T THE

ALIEN INTERVENTION THEORY GO AWAY?

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

From *Chariot of the Gods* to *Hangar 18* to *Ancient Aliens*, the idea of aliens changing the course of human development is an old one that blew up across the pop culture landscape with the pseudoscience works of Erich von Daniken and others in the late '60s and early '70s. Join us as we look at some of the sillier ways this theory has spilled out into pop culture entertainment before focusing on what’s wrong with this concept and why it should finally go away.

Panelists: *Tom Doyle, Phillip Pournelle (M), Stormraven, Christopher Weuve*

ELEMENTS OF A GOOD GAME SYSTEM

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes

A discussion of gaming systems. What makes a system work or fail? What systems work well for some types of gaming but not for others?

Panelists: *Harry “Jack” Heckel (M), Carrie Jo Patton, Wayland Smith*

SATURDAY 10:00 AM

SCRIBBLING LION FAN APPRECIATION EVENT

Canaveral (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Join Leona R. Wisoker as she hosts a fan appreciation party for the attendees of RavenCon!

READING: PAMELA K. KINNEY & J.E. PITTMAN

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

HOW TO WRITE REALISTIC DIALOGUE

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Have you ever been completely taken out of a story by unrealistic dialogue? Sometimes it's a matter of being “too realistic.” It can be harder than you think to create believable dialogue and also drop the umm... you know... real-life filler words that will bog down your writing.

Panelists: *R.S. Belcher, David Godwin, Cass Morris (M), Ian Randal Strock*

WE'RE NOT OLD—WE'RE VINTAGE!

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

What challenges have you faced as an aging fan? How have you adapted and what have you had to change or cut back on? Is there anything that you've started to enjoy more?

Panelists: *Sean Heare, Frank “Uncle Grayhawk” Huminski (M), Kate Ressman, Stormraven*

WHO'S IN CHARGE HERE? MODERATING 101

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

It's not as easy as it looks! There are dozens of ways a panel can go off the tracks and it's your job to stop that from happening. Here's how you do it.

Panelists: *Flynnstress, O. Hai Mark, Jennifer R. Povey, Joan Wendland (M)*

THE CRAFT OF WRITING: THE FIRSTS

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

First sentences, first paragraphs, and first pages! These are crucial in hooking your reader and making them want to continue reading. How can you make them the best they can be? How can you use them to convey what you want from the story and characters?

Panelists: *Jennifer Brinn, James E. Deeley, Shane Gries (M)*

READING: CHAD OWNBY & FRASER SHERMAN

Richmond Boardroom (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

SOLAR ECLIPSES: WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Why do people get so excited about a solar eclipse? Recent eclipses have inspired people to travel hundreds of miles just to watch a shadow.

Panelists: *James Blakey (M), Andrew Caballero, Open High School Rocket Club, Phillip Pournelle*

COSPLAY READING HOUR (KIDS' TRACK)

York (Madison) – 50 minutes

Cosplayers come by to read and/or play games with the kids.

AUTHOR SIGNING: SEAN CW KORSGAARD

Artist & Author Alley (Madison) – 50 minutes

TAKING CHANCES WITH YOUR ART

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes

Sometimes art needs experimentation, but it doesn't always work out. What have you tried to do that worked out brilliantly or failed miserably? What did you learn? Do failures make you more hesitant to try something new?

Panelists: *Marcos F. Eguia (M), Jason T. Graves, Kit's Craft Shop*

THE WILD GOOSE CHASE: A PUZZLE HUNT

Spotsylvania (Madison) – 90 minutes

In the last week, Gordon Pugh, animagus goose, has caused chaos in his classes, not once but seven times! The Principal of the P.A.W.S. Institute of Canada has had enough. It is time for Gordon to migrate—pack his suitcase, change into his goose form, and fly off to one of the other P.A.W.S. Institutes. Can you help him on his way? Join the Wild Goose Chase, a new puzzle hunt by Debbie Manber Kupfer. (*This puzzle hunt is intended for adults and older children.*)

CONCERT: CHUCK PARKER

The Glen Restaurant (Madison) – 50 minutes

Slice of life, confessional geek tunes that are often kind of funny.

SATURDAY 11:00 AM

CONCERT: STEVE TAYLOR

Powhatan (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Enjoy a live acoustic performance while you visit the Art Show.

READING: NICOLE GLOVER & SARENA STRAUS

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

THE EVOLUTION OF *DOCTOR WHO*

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

From classic *Doctor Who* to the modern era: what worked in the '60s and '70s that does or doesn't work today?

Panelists: *Billy Flynn (M), Dennis M. Myers, Jennifer R. Povey, Angela Pritchett*

YOUR COSPLAY TOOLBOX

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Dremel, heat gun, 3d printer, hot glue gun... We'll cover all the tools you'll need for costume and prop making and give you some clever work-arounds for when you can't afford the fancy tools.

Panelists: *Sabrina "Amethyst" Bruce, Fredrick Corry (M), EAE Cosplay, Naychan Cosplay, Patricia "Pattycakes" Roberts*

AI AND THE 21ST CENTURY HORROR HOST

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Count Gore De Vol has long been a pioneering horror host. From the early days of his television career to being the first horror host on the World Wide Web, he's worked to constantly tap new technologies. Now, join Count Gore De Vol as he shares with you examples of how AI might be used to enhance horror movie hosting in the 21st Century for his show and yours.

APPALACHIA AND SOUTHERN FICTION

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

America is the ultimate cultural mixing pot, one that results in infinitely diverse folktales and perspectives. Perhaps none is as rich and varied as the folklore of the Appalachian region. Come and hear insights and history of this unique area and how it influences the stories written by and set in these spaces.

Panelists: *April J. Asbury, R.S. Belcher, Alix E. Harrow, Sean CW Korsgaard (M), Jack Valentine*

TO PSEUD OR NOT TO PSEUD

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Is it best to publish under your legal name? Should you have several names (one per genre), or put everything under a single name so your fans can find you? Is it disingenuous to imply an identity that's not your own with your pen name?

Panelists: *Morgan Hazelwood (M), Wayland Smith, Mary Terrani, Martin Wilsey*

READING: KRISTA CAGG & JOAN WENDLAND

Richmond Boardroom (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

TECHNIQUES AND LESSONS LEARNED FOR EFFECTIVE STEM OUTREACH

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Do you want to help instill the principles of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) into the next generation, but don't know where to begin? This workshop shares ideas on how to safely and effectively set up and execute a STEM demonstration, where to find ideas and resources for demos, and where to find organizations to work with. Lastly, there will be a few fun demos to illustrate the principles. Workshop is led by Dr. Daniel Wallace, Engineer, School Board Member, and veteran of STEM outreach for nearly 40 years.

THE CRAFTY RAVEN (KIDS' TRACK)

York (Madison) – 50 minutes

Come scratch that crafting itch. Bring your own or explore our RavenCrafts!

AUTHOR SIGNING: PAMELA K. KINNEY

Artist & Author Alley (Madison) – 50 minutes

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.

SATURDAY NOON

CONCERT: THE PLATYPUS PRINCESS

(ALEXANDRA HIGGINS)

Powhatan (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Enjoy a live acoustic performance while you visit the Art Show.

BOOK LAUNCH WITH AUTHOR ROBERT E. HAMPSON

Canaveral (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Join Robert E. Hampson as he celebrates the release of his new book *Across an Ocean of Stars*.

READING: TOM DOYLE & PHILLIP POURNELLE

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

STORY OUTLINES

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

The story outline is a great bridge between your story idea and a polished work of fiction. When you're not sure how to start writing a story idea you might have, working on an outline will save you time and frustration, while also generating new ideas. We'll go over the basics to get you started.

Panelists: *JM Beal, Bishop O'Connell (M), Evan Ratke, Alan Smale*

COSPLAY MASHUPS AND CROSSOVERS

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Doctor Stranger Things? Steampunk Darth Vader? How do you mix and match your favorite things and make it look good? We have suggestions!

Panelists: *Fredrick Corry, Dinozocospay, shortstack_cosplays, SmashB (M)*

A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO STEPHEN KING

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Are you interested in reading Stephen King but don't know where to start? Start here!

Panelists: *Sammie Cassell, Wayland Smith, Sarena Straus (M), Valentine*

WORLD BUILDING: A DEEP DIVE

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Jack McDevitt's *Alex Benedict* novels, set in the far future, frequently reference pop culture events of the world the story takes place in. Sure, you've created a believable alien race, but what kind of music do they listen to? How do their politics work? What was their society like 200 years before your story is set? How deep should you go?

Panelists: *Doug Burbey (M), A.M. Giddings, Mike Jack Stoumbos, Leona R. Wisoker*

JOURNALING & JUNK JOURNALING

Richmond Boardroom (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Do you want to come and journal with a group of like-minded people? Or do you want some help getting started in journaling? This workshop will have supplies and even a journal for you to start and get some help with (if you want it) for journaling and junk journaling! All supplies are provided, but if you have anything specific you want to use; you can also bring that for yourself! (\$15 Materials Fee, please sign up at Registration.)

Presenter: *Angela Pritchett*

ANYONE CAN BE BATMAN: A CASE STUDY ON THE EVOLUTION OF BATMAN IN FILM, PART 1

King George (Jefferson) – 90 minutes

Since the 1940s, the universe of Batman has been imagined and reimaged numerous times. From the early serial short films to the campy 1960's version to the dark and gritty modern films, studying the Batman films from multiple theoretical lenses provides valuable insight into film studies, gender studies, and sociological and historical perspectives. This workshop provides a deep dive into the findings of Chad Ownby's graduate school capstone project on the subject. Part 1 covers all of the 1940's films, *Batman 1966*, and the four films from the '80s and '90s.

STORYTELLING FOR MIDDLE SCHOOLERS AND TEENS (KIDS' TRACK)

York (Madison) – 50 minutes

Learn about the main elements of storytelling and how to use them. Participants will make up their own story (as a group) during the workshop.

Presenter: *Meryl Yourish*

AUTHOR SIGNING: NICOLE GLOVER

Artist & Author Alley (Madison) – 50 minutes

A RAVEN IN WONDERLAND TEA PARTY

Brunswick (Madison) – 90 minutes

Join us for tea and snacks. Costumes encouraged! (*Tickets are available at Registration but buy quickly, this WILL sell out.*)

BUILD YOUR OWN MODEL ROCKET

Spotsylvania (Madison) – 90 minutes

Learn the basics of building a model rocket with the help of Open High School's Rocket Club. No experience necessary. (\$15 Materials Fee, Please sign up at Registration.)

CONCERT: HIPHOPMCDUGAL

The Glen (Madison) – 50 minutes

Hiphopmcdougal share their love of video games, cryptids, Weezer, and pizza—rapping and singing over everything from classic hip hop beats to mariachi music.

SATURDAY 1:00 PM

READING: JENNIFER R. POVEY & ALAN SMALE

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

FANTASY = HISTORY?

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Fantasy as a genre has a special connection with our ideas, pre-occupations, and prejudices about the past. It's like history—but you don't even have to pretend to use sources—or is it? Are we always thinking about the present when we write about the past? Can one be written in isolation, without the other?

Panelists: *Jennifer Brinn, Tom Doyle, JM Lee, Tempie W. Wade (M)*

AN INTRO TO PODCASTING

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

If the pandemic proved anything, it's that anyone can have a podcast. Do you not have one yet because you don't know how to get started? It's easier than you think. Our panelists will show you how.

Panelists: *Roger Carden (M), Sean Gleeson, Carrie Jo Patton*

IT CAME FROM ANOTHER WORLD: *SNARKTRAK!*

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 90 minutes

Do you know *MST3K* or *Rifftrax*? Well, *Snarktrak* is the same thing but not trademarked! This was a live riffing of the Christopher R. Mihm movie from its 10th-anniversary showing.

Presenter: *Dr. Bob Tesla*

GLORIFYING A GALAXY FAR FAR AWAY

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Join our panel to celebrate the galaxy gifted to us by George Lucas and so many other creative individuals. This panel is about everything we love about our favorite SF franchise. Complaint department located in the Saarlac pit.

Panelists: *Cass Morris (M), Dennis M. Myers, Stormraven*

SHAKE IT UP! MIXING GENRES

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

What makes a good cross-genre novel? When does it work and when does it fail? Should you follow whatever the current trend in the market is? What's been overdone and where is there still fresh space to explore?

Panelists: *R.S. Belcher, David Keener, Kate Ressman, Joan Wendland (M)*

HOW TO BE A MUSICAL GUEST OF HONOR

Richmond Boardroom (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Jonah Knight was a seven-time Musical Guest of Honor before stepping back from music. He credits two things that helped him polish his show and get attention. He will share them and run attendees through the process of turning songs into a show. This workshop is focused on musicians but all performers will find actionable ideas. Bring a notebook.

STICKER SWAP (KIDS' TRACK)

York (Madison) – 50 minutes

Get new stickers of popular anime from the Rookery. Bring stickers from home and swap with fellow Rooks.

PUSHING DRAGONS: AN IMPROVISED

DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS ADVENTURE

The Glen Restaurant (Madison) – 90 minutes

Pushing Dragons mixes improv comedy, cosplay, and D&D for an outrageous night of fun and adventure. The Push Comedy Theater is playing Dungeons and Dragons, and you're invited to play along. This is a live show where we take everything great about improv comedy and everything great about D&D and merge them together. Members of the Push Comedy Theater will go on an improvised adventure, using stripped down D&D rules (5th edition). With a giant, 20-sided die... you the audience will help determine the outcome. Unlike other live plays, we don't sit around the table. Our game is performed on a stage with the players and monsters often venturing into the audience. It is an exciting and energetic experience.

SATURDAY 2:00 PM

CONCERT: D.J. MCGUIRE

Powhatan (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Enjoy a live acoustic performance while you visit the Art Show.

RIVER CITY SIREN PRESS BOOK LAUNCH

WITH AUTHOR D.M. MEWHA

Canaveral (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

READING: APRIL J. ASBURY & JACK VALENTINE

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

YOU GOT ROMANCE IN MY GENRE!

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Romance sells, so it's no surprise that it would be blended with every other genre. Historical, fantasy, and/or horror elements have all been mashed together to make romance a wide-ranging, all-inclusive genre. Why do we like these blends so much?

Panelists: *Nicole Glover, Mary Terrani, Tempie W. Wade (M), Wednesday Mourning Cosplay*

POINT. POSE. SHOOT.

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

If only it were that simple! Our experts will share all the tricks they've learned for doing their own self-photography without any outside help.

Panelists: *EAE Cosplay, Patricia "Pattycakes" Roberts, Valentine (M)*

AI AND WRITING

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

With recent advances in AI and a widening of its general availability, will it make "real life" authors obsolete? How can authors use AI tools? And should they?

Panelists: *Shane Gries, Cass Morris, Dennis M. Myers, Sarena Straus (M)*

EXPLORING YOURSELF THROUGH RPGS

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

What can we learn about ourselves through "avatar" games, where we play ourselves (or a specific/exaggerated version thereof) in an RPG universe? Can it affect your social dynamic with your fellow players?

Panelists: *Krista Cagg (M), Roger Carden, Weavers Circle*

MYSTERIES AND MAGIC

Richmond Boardroom (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Not your great-great-grandfather's magic show. Jonah Knight creates an environment of mystery and memory with storytelling and magical effects. Nostalgic, funny, and thoughtful with a good dose of body horror and murder. This show is for children of all ages who want to believe in magic and, you know, enjoy murder. This show is being performed twice with intimate, limited seating. First come, first served.

BIOLOGY FOR WRITERS

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

From gene-hacking to dragons to zombie plagues, biology is everywhere in genre fiction, but it can be intimidating for writers. Come hear from biologists on how science can help your story, how to research biological topics, and common mistakes to avoid.

Panelists: *Randall Hayes, PhD; A.M. Giddings (M); Jason T. Graves; Robert E. Hampson*

THE CRAFTY RAVEN (KIDS' TRACK)

York (Madison) – 50 minutes

Come scratch that crafting itch. Bring your own or explore our RavenCrafts!

AUTHOR SIGNING: JENNIFER R. POVEY

Artist & Author Alley (Madison) – 50 minutes

BETTER BETA READING: BOTH SIDES OF THE PEN

Spotsylvania (Madison) – 90 minutes

So you've been asked (or you offered) to beta read for some-

one. Or maybe *you're* the one looking for beta readers. As the writer: Where do you find readers and how do you get the feedback you're looking for? As a beta reader: If they don't specify, what sort of feedback should you give? Plus, how to give useful feedback—and stay on speaking terms with the author. Optional: Bring a single-page double-spaced writing sample to be beta-read. (*Limit of 25. No fee. Sign up at Registration.*)

Presenter: *Morgan Hazelwood*

SATURDAY 3:00 PM

CONCERT: CHUCK PARKER

Powhatan (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Enjoy a live acoustic performance while you visit the Art Show.

READING: BISHOP O'CONNELL & HARRY "JACK" HECKEL

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

BUILDING A WORLD FOR A CHARACTER AND A CHARACTER FOR A WORLD

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Some writers start with a world, some start with a character. The relationship between character and setting can have a huge impact on the story being told regardless of the medium. This panel will explore ways to make character and setting resonate. Panelists: *Jennifer Brinn (M), Marcos F. Eguia, Evan Ratke, Alan Smale, Mike Jack Stoumbos*

COSTUMING TIPS I WISH I LEARNED EARLIER

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Ever wonder why your costumes don't look as sharp as the ones on the front of the pattern? Our panel will discuss how to select the right fabric, why interfacing exists, the importance of ironing, and indispensable finishing techniques.

Panelists: *EAE Cosplay, Naychan Cosplay, Murdermittens_ (M), Valentine*

APOCALYPTIC AND ANTI-APOCALYPTIC FICTION: LEFT BEHIND OR LAUGHING?

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

The 1990s saw a dramatic rise of apocalyptic fiction like the *Left Behind* series, which some book marketers dubiously labeled Christian science fiction. During the same time, a counternarrative within science fiction and fantasy became popular: the anti-apocalyptic story, which took its structure from the Christian plotline but avoided the usual tragic outcome in a humanistic manner: e.g., in the book *Good Omens*. Tom Doyle will discuss the common forms and implications of these conflicting narratives, and look at where they are now.

INTERVIEW: GOH ALIX E. HARROW

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Join us as Michael D. Pederson interviews our Author GOH Alix E. Harrow.

FINDING THE PERFECT WRITING GROUP

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

What do you need? A critique group to nurture your writing and reassure you? Deadlines? Harsh critics who will push and challenge you? Simple line edits? A safe place to complain about the wretchedness of the writing life? These are all important needs, and a good writing group can fulfill them. But how do you find (or create) the perfect group for your needs?

Panelists: *April J. Asbury (M), David Godwin, JM Lee, Martin Wilsey*

BALLOON ANIMALS 101

Richmond Boardroom (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

This workshop is oriented for BEGINNERS, aged 13-adult. The only prerequisite is to be able to tie off a balloon. The workshop will provide 1) a balloon pump, 2) an assortment of colorful balloons, and 3) an instruction booklet... all for you to keep. You will learn how to make several "classic" balloon animals, and learn how to create more. This fun workshop is led by Dr. Daniel Wallace; Engineer, School Board Member, and veteran of ballooning for nearly 30 years. (\$20 Materials Fee. Please sign up at Registration.)

GEEK RADIO DAILY

King George (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!

Podcasters: *Billy Flynn, Flynnstress*

ROOKERY RANDOMNESS (KIDS' TRACK)

York (Madison) – 50 minutes

Come join us for some freeplay time.

AUTHOR SIGNING: JACK VALENTINE

Artist & Author Alley (Madison) – 50 minutes

PROFESSIONAL GAME MASTERS

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes

The professional Game Master is a rising new career possibility. It offers its own unique sets of challenges and also offers a different approach to how we interact with our players. We'll share insights on encounter design, table behavior, finding contracts, and more.

Panelists: *James E. Deeley, Aaron Laniewicz (M), Phillip Pournelle*

LEARN ABOUT LASERS!

Outdoor Terrace (Madison) – 50 minutes

Andrew Caballero will be presenting a demonstration of laser propagation through air and fog as he explains things like beam expansion, reflection, collimation, and beam focusing. Presentation of the concepts of fluence and beam imaging will

also be covered. Some laser games will be available for play. All ages welcome. This will be a relatively short presentation but you are invited to ask questions and increase your knowledge of lasers and their capabilities.

SATURDAY 4:00 PM

READING: JAMES BLAKEY & SEAN CW KORSGAARD

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

CHANGING THE PAST

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Unhappy with the present? Re-write it! Alternate history is almost like wish-fulfillment for writers. What are the more interesting and inventive alternate timelines stories out there? What can alternate histories tell us about our present reality?

Panelists: *Tom Doyle, Tera Fulbright (M), Nicole Glover, Bishop O'Connell*

THE BIZ OF CREATING

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Taxes, revenue sources, budgets, grants... No one really likes to talk about the business of business, but it's very important to be on top of it. Learn how to position yourself to make a living doing what you love.

Panelists: *R.S. Belcher, Roger Carden, Kate Ressman, Gray Rinehart (M)*

WEBCOMICS WORTH READING

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Most of us probably know about *XKCD* or *Looking For Group*, but what are some other web-based comics worth checking out?

Panelists: *Stephen Burks, Amber Rodenbo (M), Fraser Sherman, Leona R. Wisoker*

GOH SIGNING: ALIX E. HARROW

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

This is your chance to get your books signed by our Guest of Honor, Alix E. Harrow!

NEUROFOLLIES: AVOIDING OVERUSED (AND FALSE) BRAIN TROPES IN FICTION

King George (Jefferson) – 90 minutes

Neuroscientist Robert E. Hampson talks about the commonly (ab)used tropes about brain function and dysfunction, and why authors need to learn more about the brain in order to avoid these common fallacies.

PRE-MASQUERADE COSPLAY MEETUP

Grand Staircase (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

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. We will continue the tradition of a super group shot prior to the start of pre-judging and want to

have all the judges and contestants and other cosplayers join us in the central courtyard. Cosplayers and non-staff photographers are all welcome.

KNITTING & CROCHETING IN FANDOM

York (Madison) – 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 a Cthulhu mask? Come join us!

AUTHOR SIGNING: APRIL J. ASBURY

Artist & Author Alley (Madison) – 50 minutes

DIVERSITY IN TTRPGs

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes

Tabletop role-playing games offer a unique platform for collaborative storytelling and creative exploration. However, for many years, they lacked the diversity and representation needed to reflect the true tapestry of human experience. Recently, there's been a growing awareness of the importance of inclusive storytelling, where games embrace diverse characters, cultures, and identities. We'll talk about how you can make your own games more diverse.

Panelists: *Jett Dixon, Jennifer R. Povey (M), J. Yamill/Orthane Productions*

WORLD OF VULTURE CULTURE (FEATURING 3D TERRARIUM BUILD)

Spotsylvania (Madison) – 90 minutes

Take a journey into the creative art of Vulture Culture, also known as bone art. This subcategory of taxidermy explores the realm of creative possibilities while respecting the art in a traditional fashion. At the end of the panel, get a chance to create and take home your very own 3d printed terrarium build. (\$45 Materials Fee. Please sign up at registration. Max 50 people.)

Presenter: *Kit's Craft Shop*

CONCERT: RE: THE MUSIC OF JONATHAN COULTON

The Glen Restaurant (Madison) – 50 minutes

The father/son duo of Alex and Steve Taylor make up the cover band, Re: The Music of Jonathan Coulton, that's been rocking the convention circuit.

ROCKET LAUNCH DEMO

Outside, Basketball Court (Behind Madison) – 50 minutes

Open High School Rocket Club will be launching rockets! (*Dependent on weather.*)

SATURDAY 5:00 PM

READING: BILL MULLIGAN & R.S. BELCHER

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

DISNEY: LIVE-ACTION VS ANIMATED

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Disney has continued to produce live-action versions of their animated films, sometimes creating a “controversy” along the way. Is Disney short on ideas or are these retellings offering a new take on the story?

Panelists: *Sean Gleeson, Nicole Glover, Monica Marier, Stormraven (M)*

GHOSTBUSTERS: DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

It's a rookie Ghostbuster's first job—can he show his surly teammate he has what it takes to catch a pesky poltergeist? *Ghostbusters: Don't Make Me Laugh* is a fan film created by the members of the real Ghostbusters, Virginia.

RESEARCH, RESEARCH, RESEARCH!

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Research is important for writers. If your work isn't grounded in reality (especially in speculative fiction), it can break the suspension of disbelief. How do you find good sources? What actually needs to be researched and what can be left up to the imagination? How deep do you need to go to be believable?

Panelists: *Pamela K. Kinney, J.E. Pittman, Tempie W. Wade, Martin Wilsey (M)*

THE RAVENCON BOOK SWAP

Richmond Boardroom (Jefferson) – 90 minutes

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.

MST3K-ING (KIDS' TRACK)

York (Madison) – 50 minutes

Watch an old movie and critique the actors and plot. Robots not required, but welcome.

AUTHOR SIGNING: SARENA STRAUS

Artist & Author Alley (Madison) – 50 minutes

GM LESSONS I LEARNED THE HARD WAY

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes

When you first start GMing, things might not always go so well. That's normal but can be hard to overcome. Learn from some veterans how to cope with the expected unexpected.

Panelists: *Frank “Uncle Grayhawk” Huminski, Orthane Productions (M), Jennifer R. Povey, Weavers Circle*

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.

SATURDAY 5:30 PM

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 the Masquerade to see all the awesomeness.)*

SATURDAY 6:00 PM

READING: RANDALL HAYES, PHD & D.M. MEWHA

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

THE TROUBLE WITH TIME TRAVEL

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Time travel stories have become so ubiquitous that you can't tell one without referencing past classics. Netflix has given us a couple of time travel/teen/horror mashups recently but they feel like tongue-in-cheek ironic nods to the same tired tropes. Is there an original time travel story waiting to be told or is it time to give the genre a rest for a bit?

Panelists: *Krista Cagg, Fraser Sherman, Alan Smale (M)*

QUIET HORROR

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Relying on mood, atmosphere, and psychological suspense one could say that quiet horror owes a huge debt to Edgar Allan Poe. So, why have we not had a quiet horror panel before now? Let's fix that! Come hear our panelists' thoughts on this intensely terrifying sub-genre.

Panelists: *Randee Dawn (M), Pamela K. Kinney, Kate Ressman*

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: *Billy Flynn, O. Hai Mark*

WRITING YOUR FIRST BOOK

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

We all have to start somewhere, right? Our authors offer tips and advice, and explain the hurdles you may face along the way in your writing journey.

Panelists: *Harry “Jack” Heckel (M), Evan Ratke, L.R. Staszak, Tempie W. Wade*

REBUNKING CRYPTIDS

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Many species of animal—even sizeable terrestrial mammals—are discovered every year, and yet despite the discovery of new species like the olinguito, and rediscovery of relic species like the coelocanth, giant squid, and chevrotain, cryptozoologists are consigned to the pseudoscientific ghetto by establishment scholars. Why this bias, and what makes cryptozoological species like the sasquatch or mokole-mkembe inherently unbelievable to conventional zoologists?

Panelists: *Andrew Caballero, David Keener, David Simms (M), Valentine*

CARD MAGIC FOR BEGINNERS (KIDS' TRACK)

York (Madison) – 50 minutes

Learn easy, entry level card magic that you can use as a foundation for learning and creating more of your own. You will be shown a handful of easy-to-learn card magic tricks, shown how they work, and, more importantly, shown why they work. Supplies provided and first 20 attendees get a deck of cards with gaff cards.

ANALOG ART IN A DIGITAL WORLD

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes

Why work in traditional media anymore? Our panelists discuss the benefits and restrictions of their preferred artistic media and share tips on how to hybridize between 2D, 3D, and digital art.

Panelists: *Stephen Burks, Marcos F. Eguia, Jason T. Graves, Chris Semtner (M)*

SATURDAY 7:00 PM

READING: AMBER RODENBO & MARCOS F. EGUIA

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

THE ISLAND OF LOST TOYS

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

A lot of us are, somehow, unfathomably, getting older. And with age comes nostalgia. A number of shows and books have been produced that focus on the toys of yesteryear, but they all pull from the same Top 10 list of G.I. Joe, Barbie, Transformers, My Little Pony, He-Man, Star Wars, LEGO, Cabbage Patch Kids, etc. Join our panelists as they talk about their favorite toys that aren't getting the nostalgia love they deserve.

Panelists: *Sammie Cassell (M), Phillip Pournelle*

THE SLOW DEATH OF SWORD & SORCERY

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Is the traditional secondary-world fantasy swashbuckler adventure story a moribund format, now that most pulp action SFFH stories have shifted to urban fantasy settings? What does it take to make sword and sorcery relevant to contemporary tastes? Has this genre shifted mostly to mid-

dle-grade and YA works, or does interest in *The Witcher* signal a resurgence in old-fashioned fantasy action yarns for grown-ups?

Panelists: *Jennifer Brinn, Sean CW Korsgaard, D.M. Mewha, Bishop O'Connell (M)*

MUSIC IN SFFH LITERATURE

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Music can be a vital element of world-building and heartfelt storytelling. Stories about musicians and music—whether in the future or the past, or created by fantastical creatures or aliens—can put a new spin on old themes. We'll look at how music can be woven into stories, when it goes too far (do we *really* need four pages of lyrics?), and where it adds a new layer of magic.

Panelists: *R.S. Belcher, Tera Fulbright, Gray Rinehart (M), David Simms*

SKEPTICAL THINKING 101: WHY IT'S MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

It sometimes feels like we're officially in a post-fact, post-truth world and any attempt to be the voice of facts and reality is about as useful as screaming at an oncoming storm. However, our panelists will go over the basics of skeptical thinking, its application in everyday life, and why it's more important than ever for everyone to speak up and be that voice.

Panelists: *James Blakey, Andrew Caballero (M), A.M. Giddings, Aaron Laniewicz*

COZY GAMING

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes

Looking for a game that just makes you feel good? Our gaming experts will share their favorite cozy games and discuss why this gaming style is growing in popularity.

Panelists: *Jett Dixon, Debbie Manber Kupfer (M), L.R. Staszak, Tangent Artists*

SATURDAY 7:30 PM

DREAMPUNK PRESS BOOK LAUNCH WITH AUTHOR TEMPIE W. WADE

Canaveral (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Join DreamPunk Press to celebrate the publication of award-winning author Tempie W. Wade's newest novel, *The Purveyor*. We'll have books for purchase (that Tempie can sign), literary games with prizes, and very light refreshments. We may even be able to convince Tempie to give a reading!

THE RAVENCON MASQUERADE

The Glen (Madison) – 90 minutes

Come and see all the fabulous cosplays that our attendees have created! Plus, a mid-show performance by The Salacious Crumbles (Leigh Tyberg and Madison Metricula Roberts)!

Emcees: *Count Gore De Vol, Bill Mulligan*

SATURDAY 8:00 PM

OK... I'M DONE

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Sometimes a series gets too convoluted to follow, or the creator becomes problematic, or the quality just drops off. When is it time to bail on something you used to love? When is it worthwhile to ignore the issues and push on?

Panelists: *JM Beal (M), Fraser Sherman, Meryl Yourish*

QUEER VAMPIRES

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Vampires, by the very nature of how they use seduction as part of the hunt, seem to be at least a little queer. A discussion about expressly queer vampires and the queerness that's always been a part of the lore.

Panelists: *Krista Cagg, Amber Rodenbo, Tangent Artists (M)*

GRAMMAR GOODIES (ASK AN EDITOR)

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

What are the common grammatical mistakes that every editor ends up fixing in most manuscripts? What are the less-well-known ones that we just love to nitpick? Where do we stand on the Oxford comma?

Panelists: *JM Lee (M), Cass Morris, Gray Rinehart, Ian Randal Strock*

EUGENICS IN SCIENCE FICTION

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Science fiction has long grappled with the concepts of human “advancement” and “perfection” in genetic terms. Let's talk about what authors have done well and where they've perpetuated oppressive tropes and a misunderstanding of how genetics work.

Panelists: *Dr. J. “Cal” Baldari, James Blakey (M), Jason T. Graves, Phillip Pournelle*

DIY D&D (KIDS' TRACK)

York (Madison) – 50 minutes

From dice to figurines, how to make your own at home from household items.

SATURDAY 9:00 PM

CREATURE COMMANDOS

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

It's the first property released in the new DCU and a spin-off of *The Suicide Squad* (which James Gunn says is *not* part of the new continuity). As kind of an odd choice for launching a universe, what does the show tell us about the DCU? More importantly, is it good?

Panelists: *Sean Gleeson; Randall Hayes, PhD; The Platypus Princess (Alexandra Higgins); Wayland Smith; Princeton Vice, the Monster Sitter (M)*

OLD-SCHOOL MONSTERS

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Hollywood versions of vampires and other monsters bear little resemblance to the creatures people actually once believed in. We'll discuss monsters in folklore and myth and how they differ from the movie versions.

Panelists: *Sammie Cassell, Sean Devereux (M), Morgan Hazelwood, Chris Semtner*

THE RAVENCON CHARITY AUCTION

King William (Jefferson) – 2 hours

We'll be auctioning off some REALLY cool stuff to raise money for The Dandelion Hive.

Emcees: *Billy Flynn, O. Hai Mark*

MILITARY TACTICS ONLY HOLLYWOOD COULD LOVE

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Television and film seem to have a love affair with battles where both armies charge headlong at each other for no good reason. What methods can writers and creators use to make battle sequences both interesting and reasonably true to life? What are examples of movies and shows that manage to show both realistic and compelling battles?

Panelists: *Dr. J. “Cal” Baldari, Dirty Metal Lefty (M), Shane Gries, Sean CW Korsgaard*

SCIENCE: YEAR IN REVIEW

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

What cool things have been developed and discovered? Our science guests will fill you in on all the scientific happenings of the past year.

Panelists: *Andrew Caballero, A.M. Giddings, Robert E. Hampson, Daniel Wallace (M)*

D&D FOR ROOKS BY ROOKS (KIDS' TRACK)

York (Madison)

Open to all levels—beginner to expert.

IMMINENT PERIL LIVE!

The Glen Restaurant (Madison) – 90 minutes

Imminent Peril is the action-packed, creatively chaotic, improv party RPG! Join the creator as he and guest players build a hilarious world full of chaos, danger, and questionable decisions as they desperately try to outwit their impending doom. Every round the audience can digitally vote for who they think is least likely to survive, and eliminated players are replaced with volunteers.

Presenter: *Aaron Laniewicz*

YOU'RE GOING TO NEED A BIGGER DRINK

The Tavern (Madison) – 50 minutes

Celebrating 50 years of *Jaws*. Join SmashB in the bar to celebrate and discuss 50 years of this iconic movie franchise.

SATURDAY 10:00 PM

THE SPICE MUST FLOW

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

How much “spice” should you include in your novel? Are sex scenes out of place in SFFH? How much detail is too much? (*18+ only, IDs will be checked.*)

Panelists: *Krista Cagg (M), Cass Morris, Amber Rodenbo*

WHAT HAPPENED TO ORIGINAL MOVIES?

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

There have been numerous complaints about the dearth of original content, and it seems like everything is a sequel, adaptation, or remake. Join our panelists as they talk about the realities of big-budget movie making, and tip you off to some great movie gems that don’t have multi-million dollar PR budgets.

Panelists: *Sammie Cassell, Randee Dawn, Sean Gleeson (M)*

HORROR MASTERS:

THE FILMS OF ROMERO, CRAVEN, AND CARPENTER

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

These three writer/directors redefined American horror in the 1970s and ’80s. Do their films still hold up under a modern lens?

Panelists: *R.S. Belcher, Bill Mulligan (M), Tangent Artists*

FOUND FAMILY IN SFFH

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

The concept of a found family is everywhere in recent pop culture. The idea that friends can inspire as much love and loyalty as biological families resonates with many SFFH fans, especially those in marginalized groups. We’ll discuss shows/books/movies that have our favorite examples of found family.

Panelists: *D.M. Mewha, Weavers Circle (M)*

ASK A (MAD) SCIENTIST

King George (Jefferson) – 90 minutes

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

Panelists: *Robert E. Hampson (M)*

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!

COSPLAY MEETUP: NIGHTTIME VERSION

Pool Entrance (Madison) – 50 minutes

Join our photographers and get some great nighttime shots. We’ll meet on Floor 1 of Madison by the entrance to the pool. Cosplayers and non-staff photographers are all welcome.

Host: *SmashB*

SATURDAY 11:00 PM

HAPPY DAY! THE *HAZBIN HOTEL* SING-ALONG

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

You know the songs! Come and join your fellow fans in celebrating the music of your favorite adult cartoon series. (*18+ only, IDs will be checked.*)

Hosts: *Logan “Mourningstar” Beard,
Wednesday Mourning Cosplay, Stormraven (M)*

SUNDAY 9:00 AM

READING: MIKE JACK STOUMBOS & DAVID SIMMS

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

YOUR COSPLAY MATERIALS

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Specialty fabrics, thermoplastics, EVA foam, and more! We’ll tell you where to find them, how to use them, and how best to store them.

Panelists: *Fredrick Corry (M), Dinozoccosplay,
Naychan Cosplay, shortstack_cosplays*

DRAWING FROM IMAGINATION

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Not everyone needs models or source material. So, how do they do it? Find out what fundamental techniques artists commonly use to create something from nothing.

Panelists: *Jason T. Graves (M), Chris Semtner, Tangent Artists*

POST-CON FILK

Spotsylvania (Madison) – 50 minutes

I love the music at conventions! Where can I find more of it after the convention? We’ll tell you!

Panelists: *D.J. McGuire, Chuck Parker, The Platypus Princess
(Alexandra Higgins) (M), The Salacious Crumbles
(Leigh Tyberg and Madison Metricula Roberts)*

SUNDAY 10:00 AM

RIVER CITY SIREN PRESS BOOK LAUNCH WITH AUTHOR MARCOS F. EGUIA

Canaveral (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Join River City Siren Press Author Marcos F. Eguia as he celebrates the release of his newest book.

READING: MERYL YOURISH & DEBBIE MANBER KUPFER

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

IT’S OK TO BE BAD

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

You can’t be a great artist or writer at the beginning, and it’s ok to do something just because you enjoy it. What motivates you to continue?

Panelists: *JM Beal, Nicole Glover, Evan Ratke (M),
Mary Terrani*

EDGAR ALLAN POE IN POP CULTURE

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

He's a Funko Pop! He's been memed countless times. He's been used as a character in multiple recent television shows and movies. We know why his works are still popular, but why has Poe himself become such a cultural icon?

Panelists: *Dexy Collier, Chris Semtner (M)*

HOW TO PACK FOR A CON

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

How do you get your costumes into the smallest number of suitcases? What amenities from home do you need to bring? How do you handle multiple suitcases? Do you need to bring your own food? How do you fit everything into one car? How much can you bring if you're flying? So many issues to discuss.

Panelists: *Tera Fulbright, Sean CW Korsgaard, Murdermittens_, Angela Pritchett (M)*

CRYPTID FICTION

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

What are our favorite cryptid stories? From Dan Simmons' critically-acclaimed *The Terror* to just about anything by Chuck Tingle there is a WIDE range of cryptid fiction out there. Come, discuss.

Panelists: *R.S. Belcher, Pamela K. Kinney, Jennifer R. Povey (M)*

USING FOOD IN YOUR WRITING

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Food is such an essential part of our lives that it goes without saying that you should include it in your writing. Does your character cook? Do they garden? Do they raise and slaughter their own livestock? These are details that can bring your world and characters to life.

Panelists: *Dennis M. Myers (M), Bishop O'Connell, Kate Ressman, Martin Wilsey*

COSPLAY SWAP MEET

Richmond Boardroom (Jefferson) – 90 minutes

Do you have a cosplay that needs a new home? The cosplay swap meet is a great way to meet fellow cosplayers while you exchange accessories, props, costumes, and wigs that are taking up space. Clean out your cosplay closet and walk away with a new favorite costume or prop you may have otherwise struggled with. Bring your gently worn items—nothing stained, ripped, or in poor condition; small easy-to-repair damage is okay. No cash exchanges/commissions!

Host: *Jackyl Lantern*

IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT!

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Let's talk about our favorite world-ending disasters, from solar flares to plagues to supervolcanoes... Watch our science guests talk about their favorite (possible but unlikely) world-ending scenarios.

Panelists: *Andrew Caballero, Robert E. Hampson (M), Sean Heare, Amber Rodenbo*

COSPLAY READING HOUR (KIDS' TRACK)

York (Madison) – 50 minutes

Cosplayers come by to read and/or play games with the kids.

Participants: *Gaylien Space*

PUPPETRY 101

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes

Come learn the basics of puppetry!

Panelists: *Ghostbusters: Don't Make Me Laugh; Princeton Vice, the Monster Sitter*

HAND SEW BUTTON-EYE CHARACTERS

Spotsylvania (Madison) – 90 minutes

Pick from a selection of character patterns and hand sew your own plush! (\$20 Materials Fee. Please sign up at Registration. Max 50 people.)

Presenter: *Kit's Craft Shop*

COSPLAY MEETUP IN THE CENTRAL COURTYARD

Central Courtyard (Outside) – 50 minutes

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

Host: *SmashB*

SUNDAY 11:00 AM

READING: GRAY RINEHART & ROBERT E. HAMPSON

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

SHORT STORIES: BIG IDEAS IN SMALL PACKAGES

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Not everything has to be grand, epic multi-book endeavors. Sometimes your idea fits best as a short story. We discuss the elements of a great short story, and how to approach them if you're not used to thinking on a smaller scale.

Panelists: *Dr. J. "Cal" Baldari, Jennifer Brinn, Tera Fulbright, Jack Valentine (M)*

CREATING MEMORABLE CHARACTERS FOR YOUR TTRPG

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Whether you're a player looking to make your character stand out or a GM looking to spice up your NPCs this workshop will help you create memorable characters for your next role-playing game. The crew from Pushing Dragons will show you some simple improv tricks that will make your characters unforgettable—no accents or funny voices needed.

STORY STRUCTURES OTHER THAN THE HERO'S JOURNEY

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

A young, inexperienced character goes on a journey, gets tested along the way, overcomes a great challenge, and returns home triumphant, Yeah, yeah—been there, done that. Let's

explore story structures that aren't the standard three-act Hero's Journey.

Panelists: *JM Beal, Tom Doyle (M), Alix E. Harrow, J.E. Pittman, Leona R. Wisoker*

EMBRACING FEAR

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Facing the blank page, submitting work for publication, and getting dreaded rejections can trigger paralyzing fears. Learn how writers can work with fear, both personally and when crafting characters, to turn this challenging emotion into an ally.

Panelists: *April J. Asbury, Jenna Hamrick (M), Morgan Hazelwood, Kate Ressman*

BASICS OF 3D PRINTING

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

We'll cover how 3D printers work, when they should be used, and how to design for them and use them. We'll also discuss some resources on purchasing printers and 3D printing services.

Panelists: *Open High School Rocket Club, Carrie Jo Patton (M), Stormraven*

COSPLAY KIDS PARADE/MEETUP

Grand Staircase (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

An opportunity for the kids to show off their cosplay with a parade through the convention and then have their photos taken by one of our staff photographers.

Host: *Tori Kitsune*

FAN KNIT-IN

York (Madison) – 90 minutes

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

WRITING RESILIENT & COMPELLING TTRPG CAMPAIGNS

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes

Game masters face a seemingly insurmountable challenge, they need to create a compelling and entertaining world and story for their players and at the same time roll with the punches when a player at the table undertakes the unexpected. Join our panel on how to prepare a rich world and story, and how to handle things when the story goes off the rails.

Panelists: *Harry "Jack" Heckel, Mike Jack Stoumbos (M), Weavers Circle*

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.

SUNDAY NOON

READING: RANDEE DAWN & LEONA R. WISOKER

Fairfax Library (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

WHAT'S YOUR COMFORT MEDIA?

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

What media do you turn to when you've had a bad day? What about it centers or resets you?

Panelists: *Flynnstress, Jenna Hamrick, Morgan Hazelwood, JM Lee (M)*

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.*)

IMPROV AROUND THE GAME TABLE

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Improv is the big buzz word lately in role-playing games. But it's not just "Yes, And"-ing every idea players throw at the game master or coming up with a myriad of voices and accents for your NPCs. There are a lot of core improv concepts that can easily be applied to role-playing games. Concepts like making your partner look good, active listening, sharing the focus, and more.

Presenters: *Pushing Dragons*

THROUGH THE MAGIC DOOR: THE APPEAL OF PORTAL FANTASY

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Who isn't intrigued by opening a door and stepping into a new world? Do we relate to these stories because of dissatisfaction with the real world? This is one of the oldest sub-genres of fantasy and it's not waning in popularity. Our panelists will discuss the history and appeal of portal fantasy and isekai.

Panelists: *James Blakey, Krista Cagg, Alix E. Harrow, Cass Morris, Bishop O'Connell (M)*

USING FEEDBACK TO CRAFT YOUR NOVEL

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Critique groups, beta readers, sensitivity readers... Feedback is important for improving your writing, but no story will please everyone. Learn when and how to incorporate useful feedback into your manuscript—and when to ignore criticism that doesn't serve the story you want to tell.

Panelists: *JM Beal, David Godwin (M), Alan Smale*

READING: A.M. GIDDINGS & WAYLAND SMITH

Richmond Boardroom (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

IT'S A CONSPIRACY!

King George (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Join our panelists as they take a somewhat more lighthearted look at the world of conspiracy and discuss the silliest

conspiracy notions they've encountered. Then buckle up as they explain why there's no such thing as a harmless conspiracy theory and why everyone should speak up against such things.

Panelists: *Doug Burbey (M), Stormraven, Valentine, Daniel Wallace*

HOW TO DESIGN AN ESCAPE ROOM

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes

In an escape room, you are locked in a room and have to solve intricate puzzles to get out. Beyond puzzles, there is also a story to each room that you untangle as you solve the puzzles. What goes into designing an effective escape room, both from a story perspective and a puzzle perspective?

Panelists: *Jonah Knight (M), Orthane Productions, Michael D. Pederson*

HOW TO WIN AT PITCHING

Spotsylvania (Madison) – 50 minutes

In this workshop, we will go over the different types of writing pitch competitions that are out there and how you can use them to hone your craft and maybe even get the attention of an agent or publisher! This will be a hands-on workshop where you will get to practice your pitch and share it with other attendees for feedback.

Presenter: *Sarena Straus*

CONCERT:

THE PLATYPUS PRINCESS (ALEXANDRA HIGGINS)

The Glen (Madison) – 50 minutes

A singer/songwriter whose folk-indie sound blends cosplay, wordplay, and colorful guitar play—with a pinch of sass.

MAGPIE MEETUP & RIBBON SWAP

Outside Terrace (Madison) – 50 minutes

Have you been collecting shiny objects all weekend? Bring your badge ribbons, buttons, bookmarks, or whatever you've got to our meetup and trade them with your fellow magpies!

SUNDAY 1:00 PM

BOOK LAUNCH WITH AUTHOR JACK VALENTINE

Canaveral (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Join author Jack Valentine as he celebrates the release of his new book.

Hosts: *April J. Asbury, Jack Valentine*

PROBLEM CHILDREN

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

How to work through novels that are difficult to write. We discuss what might cause the difficulties, what to do about them, and when to cut your losses and give up.

Panelists: *JM Beal (M), James E. Deeley, Nicole Glover, Harry "Jack" Heckel*

MAKE IT UNIQUE & PERSONAL

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

What little elements do you include to make your costume your own? How do you make your Sailor Moon or Deadpool stand out from the thousands of others out there? Special accessories? Unique design elements? We'll discuss how to bring your personality out in your costumes.

Panelists: *EAE Cosplay, Naychan Cosplay, SmashB, Valentine (M)*

ANYONE CAN BE BATMAN: A CASE STUDY ON THE EVOLUTION OF BATMAN IN FILM, PART 2

Albemarle (Jefferson) – 90 minutes

Since the 1940s, the universe of Batman has been imagined and reimaged numerous times. From the early serial short films, to the campy 1960's version, to the dark and gritty modern films, studying the Batman films from multiple theoretical lenses provides invaluable insight into film studies, gender studies, and sociological and historical perspectives. This workshop provides a deep dive into the findings of Chad Ownby's graduate school capstone project on the subject. Part 2 covers the Christopher Nolan films and beyond.

WHY HORROR?

King William (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Horror as a genre speaks to us all in different ways. Fear is human, so tasting of that fear is a universal experience. Why do we seek to be scared? What lessons does the genre teach us?

Panelists: *Krista Cagg, A.M. Giddings, Murdermittens_ (M), David Simms*

SYMPATHY FOR THE DEVIL

Henry (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Sometimes the bad guy's motivation just makes sense. What villains did you agree or sympathize with? What makes you root for the bad guy?

Panelists: *Randee Dawn, Tom Doyle, David Keener (M), Weavers Circle*

READING: JASON T. GRAVES & CHRIS SEMTNER

Richmond Boardroom (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

WHAT THE U.S. NAVY TAUGHT ME ABOUT STARFLEET

King George (Jefferson) – 90 minutes

On the surface, Starfleet looks like a navy — the US Navy, to be specific. But looks can be deceiving. Come hear the similarities and differences between the two, from someone who works as a naval analyst in his day job.

Presenter: *Christopher Weuve*

MYTHOLOGY 101 (KIDS' TRACK)

York (Madison) – 50 minutes

Delve into a mythology! (So many to choose from!)

Panelists: *Dr. J. "Cal" Baldari, Cass Morris*

3D PRINT PAINTING

Spotsylvania (Madison) – 90 minutes

Select from a selection of 3d prints and paint your own to take home! Materials fee pays for prints, paint, brushes, and additional materials. (*\$15 Materials Fee. Please sign up at Registration. Max 50 people.*)

Presenter: *Kit's Craft Shop*

CONCERT: THE SALACIOUS CRUMBLES

(LEIGH TYBERG AND MADISON METRICULA ROBERTS)

The Glen Restaurant (Madison) – 50 minutes

Songs that range from the goofy to the heartfelt, and good ol' fashioned cantina songs. They may not have a kloo horn, but even Figrin D'an would jizz to these sing-alongs and good times!

SUNDAY 2:00 PM

TWO-SENTENCE HORROR STORIES

Dinwiddie (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

"The last man on Earth sat alone in a room.

There was a knock on the door..."—Frederick Brown

In this interactive panel, the moderator will guide the panelists and the audience through writing two-sentence horror stories which will then be put head to head. Whose will be best? Come and see!

Panelists: *Randee Dawn; Sean Heare (M),*

Debbie Manber Kupfer;

Princeton Vice, the Monster Sitter

X-MEN '97

Buckingham (Jefferson) – 50 minutes

Picking up where the original 1990's series left off, *X-Men '97* has received strong fan support and has been renewed for two more seasons. What do our panelists think of the new show?

Panelists: *Sean Gleeson; Randall Hayes, PhD (M);*

Angela Pritchett; Wayland Smith

MST3K-ING (KIDS' TRACK)

York (Madison) – 50 minutes

Watch an old movie and critique the actors and plot. Robots not required, but welcome.

CONCERT: D.J. MCGUIRE

The Glen Restaurant (Madison) – 50 minutes

D.J.'s love of sci-fi/fantasy and his experience as a federal contractor take his music to interesting places.

SUNDAY 3:00 PM

ROOKERY FOR TOMORROW (KIDS' TRACK)

York (Madison) – 50 minutes

Come say goodbye to everyone, get your crafts, and tell us what you want for next year.

RAVENCON IN REVIEW/CLOSING CEREMONIES

Brunswick (Madison) – 50 minutes

Did you enjoy the convention? Tell us what you think. We'll also announce the winners of the RavenConnie and talk about plans for next year.

SUNDAY 4:00 PM

END OF CONVENTION