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BALTI CON 60

POCKET PROGRAM

MAY 22-25, 2026

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May 22-25, 2026

Wi-Fi

Network: Renaissance_CONF

Password: Balticon

Printed listings are current as of 9 p.m. Thurs, May 14.

For the most up-to-date program, visit

<https://schedule.balticon.org>



Balticon 60 Rocket Mail



Daily Newsletter
at the Con

Available on paper at the
Information Desk each day of the
con or downloadable from
bsfs.org/b60hist.htm.

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

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Balticon 60

May 22 — 25, 2026

Locations and Hours of Operation

FLOOR 5, ATRIUM ENTRANCE:

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

FLOOR 5, ATRIUM:

- Con Suite: *Baltimore A*
 - Fri 4 PM — 2 AM
 - Sat & Sun 8 AM — 2 AM
 - Mon 8 AM — 2 PM
 - Food service ends by 1 PM.*
- Dealer Rooms: *Baltimore B & Maryland E/F*
 - Fri 2—7 PM
 - Sat & Sun 10 AM — 7 PM
 - Mon 10 AM — 2 PM
- Artist Alley
 - Fri 2—7 PM
 - Sat & Sun 10 AM — 7 PM
 - Mon 10 AM — 1 PM
 - *Table hours may vary for participation in panels, workshops, or other events.*

LOCATIONS AND HOURS OF OPERATION

- Art Show: *Maryland A/B*
 - Fri 5—7 PM; 8:30—9:30 PM
 - Sat 10 AM — 8 PM
 - Sun 10 AM — 1 PM; 2—5 PM
 - Mon 10 AM — 2 PM
- Masquerade Registration
 - Fri 4—7 PM
 - Sat 10 AM — Noon
- Autographs:
 - See schedule

FLOOR 5:

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

HELP SUPPORT BALTICON AND THE BALTIMORE SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY

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AT BALTICON 60
WILL BE MATCHED BY
ERIC J FLEISCHER, MD
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DONATIONS CAN BE MADE AT THE
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Congratulations to the the 2026 BSFS Compton Crook Award Finalists!

- *A Song of Legends Lost* by M. H. Ayinde (Saga)
- *Sleeping Worlds Have No Memory* by Yaroslav Barsukov (Caezik SF & Fantasy)
- *All the Water in the World* by Eiren Caffall (St. Martin's)
- *The Book of Lost Hours* by Hayley Gelfuso (Atria)
- *The Raven Scholar* by Antonia Hodgson (Orbit US/Hodderscape UK)
- *Splinter Effect: A Novel* by Andrew Ludington (St. Martin's/Minotaur)

For more info, please visit: bsfs.org/CCA/bsfscrules.htm.

FLOOR 6:

- Open Filk: *Kent*
 - Fri 10 PM — 2 AM
 - Sat & Sun 10 PM — 2 AM
 - Mon 2:30—6 PM
- Team Medical Dragon: *Room 6017*
 - Fri 1 PM — 3 AM
 - Sat & Sun 9 AM — 3 AM
 - Mon 10 AM — 2 PM
- Quiet Room: *6019*
 - Open all weekend

 **WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS!**



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

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



INVITED PARTICIPANTS ONLY:

- Program Ops: *Fells Point* (past elevators)
 - Fri 1—7 PM
 - Sat 9 AM — 6 PM
 - Sun 9 AM — 4 PM
 - After hours see Con Ops.
- Green Room: *Floor 12 Presidential Suite*
 - Fri 3—8:30 PM
 - Sat 9:30 AM — 8 PM
 - Sun 9:30 AM — 8:30 PM
 - Mon 9:30 AM — 3 PM

Special Events

Doors open for Main Tent events ½ hour before start.

Fri	
7:30 PM	Opening Ceremonies
8:30 PM	Art Show Reception
8:30 PM	Meet the Scientists Social
Sat	
10:00 AM	Costumer's Guild Supply Sale and Swap
11:30 AM	Artist Guest of Honor: Frank Wu
4:00 PM	Speculative Poetry Open Mic and Contest Winners Reading
8:00 PM	Masquerade
Sun	
10:00 AM	Guest of Honor: Jim Butcher Q&A
1:00 PM	Music Guest of Honor Concert: The Faithful Sidekicks
2:00 PM	Art Show Auction & BSFS Books for Kids Charity Auction
7:00 PM	Balticon Short Film Festival

Autographs

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

Fri	
7:00 PM	Coleman, Kimmel, Woods
Sat	
10:00 AM	Porter, Povey, Requard
11:30 AM	Gribble, Lawrence, Tan
1:00 PM	Penelope, Pinsker, Hayslett
2:30 PM	Gelfuso, Miles, Mills
4:00 PM	Jim Butcher
5:30 PM	Campbell, Lee, Johnson
Sun	
11:30 AM	Jim Butcher
1:00 PM	McDowell, Mewha, Thomas
2:30 PM	Edelman, Gannon, Hunt
4:00 PM	Ailur, Kaplan, Whiting
5:30 PM	Finelli, Lee, Wagner

Author Readings

Readings are an hour long and are held in **James** on **Floor 6**, except as noted.

Fri	
5:30 PM	Miles, Rabrun, and Ward
Sat	
10:00 AM	Kennedy, Kimmel, Pinsker
11:30 AM	French, Gannon, and Hunt
1:00 PM	Compton Crook Winners Gelfuso and Mills
4:00 PM	Kaplan, Mewha, Painter
5:30 PM	Readings - Broad Universe
7:00 PM	Van Name, Hasseler, Porter
8:30 PM	Coleman, Doyle, and Wyrick
Sun	
11:30 AM	Flagg, Gribble, and Winter

2:30 PM	Finelli, Newton, Smith
5:30 PM	Fitzgerald, Penelope, Thomas
7:00 PM	Johnson, Lee, and Tihi
8:30 PM	Mitchell and Whiting
10:00 PM	Tan
7:00 PM	Povey, Huntsgood, Edelman (in St. George)

Book Launches

Book launches and related parties are held in the Floor **5 Con Suite**.

Sat	
1:00 PM	Jack Campbell and Patrick Fitzgerald
2:30 PM	Haunted Island, by Martin Berman-Gorvine
Sun	
10:00 AM	10th Anniversary Celebration - Eating the Fantastic podcast by Scott Edelman
11:30 AM	A Small Light in the Darkness, by Christiane Knight
1:00 PM	Tea & Treachery at the Infinite Pantry, by Jo Miles
4:00 PM	Book launch - Meanderings by Tavair Dominique

Kaffeeklatches

Come have a chat with your favorite guest of honor! All kaffeeklatches are an hour long and are held in the **12th Floor Club Lounge**.

Sign up in advance at the information desk.

Sat	
10:00 AM	Kaffeeklatsch with GOH Hayley Gelfuso
11:30 AM	Kaffeeklatsch with GOH Jim Butcher (Sat)
1:00 PM	Kaffeeklatsch with Brianna Wu
2:30 PM	Kaffeeklatsch with Sarah Pinsker
5:30 PM	Kaffeeklatsch with GOH Frank Wu
Sun	
11:30 AM	Kaffeeklatsch with Special Guest Jennifer Blackstream
1:00 PM	Kaffeeklatsch with Tom Holtz
2:30 PM	Kaffeeklatsch with GOH Jim Butcher (Sun)
4:00 PM	Kaffeeklatsch with GOH Samantha Mills
7:00 PM	Kaffeeklatsch with Joshua Bilmes

Board Games

Scheduled game demos are held in **Watertable B** on Floor **5**, except as noted.

Open gaming continues all weekend.

Fri	
3:00 PM	Game Demo: Hardback
5:00 PM	Game Demo: Legendary: Buffy The Vampire Slayer
7:00 PM	Game Demo: Space Cats Fight Fascism
7:00 PM	Game Demo: Starfleet Battles (Private Dining Room)
8:00 PM	Game Demo: Ceres
Sat	
10:00 AM	Game Demo: Diatoms
12:00 PM	Game Demo: A Place For All My Books
12:00 PM	Game Demo: Wisewood

ROLE-PLAYING GAMES

12:00 PM	BattleTech Gothic Draft Tournament (Watertable C)
1:00 PM	Game Demo: Popcorn
3:00 PM	Game Demo: The Dresden Files Cooperative Card Game
4:00 PM	Game Demo: Wilmot's Warehouse
5:00 PM	Game Demo: Battlestar Galactica
7:00 PM	Game Demo: Covenant
7:00 PM	Game Demo: Warhammer 40,000 (Private Dining Room)
Sun	
11:00 AM	Game Demo: Alibis
12:00 PM	Game Demo: Wandering Towers
12:00 PM	Balticon 60 Magic the Gathering Draft Tournament (Watertable C)
1:00 PM	Game Demo: Mystic Paths
2:30 PM	Game Demo: Family Games: Flip 7 / Qork
2:30 PM	Game Demo: Forest Shuffle
3:00 PM	Game Demo: Dune: Imperium
4:00 PM	Game Demo: Horrified: World of Monsters
6:00 PM	Game Demo: Legendary: A Marvel Deck Building Game
7:00 PM	Game Demo: Covenant
7:00 PM	Game Demo: A Place For All My Books
7:00 PM	Game Demo: Warhammer 40,000 (Private Dining Room)
Mon	
10:00 AM	Game Demo: Caution Signs
11:00 AM	Game Demo: DC Deck-Building Game

Role-Playing Games

Scheduled table-top RPGs are held in **Watertable A** on **Floor 5**. Open gaming continues all weekend.

Fri	
4:00 PM	Pathfinder 1e: Is this the end of the world as we know it? (Session 1)
4:00 PM	Dresden Files: Neutral Grounds
4:00 PM	Drakonym: The Shards
8:00 PM	Apocalypse Frame: For the Collective
8:00 PM	D&D 5E (2016): Rescue in Bottomlands Part I
8:00 PM	Mothership: Moonbase Blues
Sat	
12:00 AM	Shadowdark RPG — "The Magician's Ambuscade"
8:00 AM	Pirate Borg: The Curse of Skeleton Point
8:00 AM	Starfinder Society Scenario #1-03: Disaster at Dreamlink Labs
8:00 AM	PFS2e Pathfinder Quest #20: The Dacilane Academy's Show Must Go On
10:00 AM	Starfinder Society Scenario #1-05: Sloughscar Summit
10:00 AM	PFS2e Pathfinder Quest #21: Infernal Infiltration
12:00 PM	Slugblaster: Your First Run
12:00 PM	Magic & Steel: Dragon Express Airborne Mail
12:00 PM	Pathfinder 1e: Is this the end of the world as we know it? (Session 2)
4:00 PM	Blade Runner: Fiery Angels Session 1
4:00 PM	D&D 5E (2016): Rescue in the Bottomlands Part II
4:00 PM	BREAK!!: A Wilting Wish
8:00 PM	Alien: Rapture Protocol Session 1
8:00 PM	Cypher: Into the Woods
8:00 PM	Mothership: Decagone
Sun	
12:00 AM	Pirate Borg — "Buried in the Bahamas"

12:00 AM	A Travelers Adventure (A Home Brew Doctor Who Game)
8:00 AM	Fallout: Machine Frequency
8:00 AM	Traveler: Element Patrol
12:00 PM	Magic & Steel: Underways of Rhea
12:00 PM	Mork Borg: Graves Left Wanting
12:00 PM	PFS2e Pathfinder Quest #22: Friends in Need
2:00 PM	PFS2e Pathfinder Quest #26: Dragon's Plea
4:00 PM	Blade Runner: Fiery Angels Session 2
4:00 PM	PFS2e Pathfinder Quest #15: In the Footprints of Horror
4:00 PM	Pathfinder 1e: Is this the end of the world as we know it? (Session 3)
6:00 PM	PFS2e Pathfinder Quest #16: The Winter Queen's Dollhouse
8:00 PM	Alien: Rapture Protocol Session 2
8:00 PM	The One Ring: Don't Leave the Path
8:00 PM	Phantasy Star: The Search for Luveno
Mon	
12:00 AM	Dungeon Crawl Classics — Sailors on the Starless Sea
8:00 AM	Fabula Ultima: Press Start

Video Program

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

Friday	
3:00 PM	Death at Love House 1976
4:00 PM	Dark Shadows 1966 Premier Episode & 1st Week's Episodes
7:00 PM	Fahrenheit 451 1966 60th Anniversary
9:00 PM	French Frights: La Main du Diable (The Hand of the Devil) 1943 French with English Subtitles
10:30 PM	Dune 2021
1:00 AM	Dune 2 2024
3:45 AM	Dune 1984 Fan Edit
Saturday	
7:00 AM	Classic Cartoons
8:00 AM	Muppets From Space 1999
9:30 AM	Mary Poppins 1964
Noon	Somewhere in Time 1980
2:00 PM	Superman 2025
4:15 PM	Buffy the Vampire Slayer "The Zeppo" Tribute to Nicholas Brendon
5:00 PM	Pulgasari 1986 North Korean Kaiju Film
6:30 PM	Bugonia 2025
8:30 PM	The Woman in the Yard 2025
10:00 PM	French Frights: Le Loup des Malveneur (The Wolf of the Malveneur) 1943 French with English Subtitles
11:30 PM	White Zombie 1932 starring Bela Lugosi
12:30 AM	Wicked 2024
2:45 AM	Wicked For Good 2025
5:00 AM	Dark Stories Tales from Beyond the Grave 2001
6:30 AM	Max Steel 2016
Sunday	
8:00 AM	Paddington 2 2017
10:00 AM	Mary Poppins Returns 2018
12:15 PM	Looney Toons The Day the Earth Blew Up 2025

ANIME PROGRAM

1:45 PM	Dr Who Shada Restored
4:15 PM	The Adventures of Prince Achmed 1926 (Die Abenteuer des Prinzen Achmed) 100th Anniversary
5:30 PM	Buffy the Vampire Slayer "Triangle" Tribute to Nicholas Brendon
6:30 PM	Evening Primrose 1966 Musical Adaptation starring Anthony Perkins
7:30 PM	The Lobster 2015
9:30 PM	French Frights Les Visiteurs du Soir (The Devil's Emissaries) 1943 French with English Subtitles
11:30 PM	Susperia 1977
1:15 AM	Eerie Tales 1919
3:00 AM	Captive State 2019
5:00 AM	The Visit 2015
6:30 AM	Classic Cartoons
Monday	
8:00 AM	Where the Wild Things Are 2009
10:00 AM	The Adventures of Prince Achmed 1926 (Die Abenteuer des Prinzen Achmed) 100th Anniversary Encore
11:00 AM	Weapons 2025
1:00 PM	Alraune 1928

Anime Program

Anime screenings are held in
Pride of Baltimore II on Floor 6.

Fri	
3:00 PM	Tojima Wants To Be A Kamen Rider 1-4
5:00 PM	Kaiju no.8 Season 2 1-4
7:00 PM	The Apothecary Diaries Season 2 25-28
9:00 PM	Clevatess 1-4
11:00 PM	Lord of Mysteries 1-4
Sat	
9:00 AM	Witch Watch 1-4
11:00 AM	Kaya-chan Isn't Scary 1-2
12:00 PM	Night of the Living Cat 1-4
2:00 PM	Tojima Wants To Be A Kamen Rider 5-9
4:00 PM	Kaiju no.8 Season 2 5-9
7:00 PM	The Apothecary Diaries Season 2 29-32
9:00 PM	Clevatess 5-8
11:00 PM	Lord of Mysteries 5-8
Sun	
9:00 AM	Witch Watch 5-8
11:00 AM	Kaya-chan Isn't Scary 3-4
12:00 PM	Castle in the Sky
2:00 PM	Howl's Moving Castle
4:00 PM	Earwig and the Witch
5:30 PM	Kaiju no.8 Season 2 10-12
7:00 PM	The Apothecary Diaries Season 2 33-36
9:00 PM	Clevatess 9-12
11:00 PM	Lord of Mysteries 9-13
Mon	
9:00 AM	Witch Watch 9-12
11:00 AM	Kaya-chan Isn't Scary 5-6
12:00 PM	Night of the Living Cat 5-8

Chronological Program Schedule

Which floor? See the [brackets].

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

Friday Afternoon

- Fri 2:30 PM**
(1h)
[5] Homeland
Presentation
- Experimenting with Stuart Kauffman's ideas about the Origins of Order**
Andy Love
In the late 20th century, Dr. Stuart Kauffman proposed that characteristics of cells, evolution and the origin of life could be generic features of networks of chemicals and designs. With today's computers it's possible to simulate the models that Kauffman developed on laptops. In this talk, Andy will explain Kauffman's concepts and show his own results.
- Fri 3:00 PM**
(2h)
[5]
Watertable B
Table 2
Game
- Game Demo: Hardback**
Kelly
Hardback is a deck-building word game, a prequel to Paperback. As an aspiring 19th-century novelist, you work to pen your next masterpiece, earning prestige along the way. Specialize your deck in certain genres to exploit card combinations, and press your luck to draw extra cards — but make sure you can still string a word together!
- Fri 3:00 PM**
(2h)
[8] Room
8006
Screening
- Tojima Wants To Be A Kamen Rider 1-4**
40 year old Tanzaburo Tojima is starting to think his lifelong dream of becoming a Kamen Rider may never come true...until he's swept up in a series of crimes inspired by the infamous "Shocker"! From Air Master and 81 Diver's Shibata Yokusaru comes a wild, heartfelt tale about adults who love Kamen Rider a little too much and start playing pretend—for real! *Children Only with Parent.*
- Fri 4:00 PM**
(1h)
[5] Federal
Hill
Panel
- Balticon 101**
Thomas The Red, Perrienne Lurie, Megan Allen-Kingsland, Robert Markowitz, Morgan Hazelwood (m)
Our panel of Balticon veterans will give you tips on how to navigate your first Balticon (or your 100th if you still need tips).
- Fri 4:00 PM**
(1h)
[5] Guilford
Panel
- Is Disney Why We Can't Have Nice Things?**
Zack Be, Jessica Moran (m), Meridel Newton, O. Hai Mark
Does Disney really ruin everything? From Marvel to Star Wars, Disney has bought some of our favorite childhood memories. Is the black-eared rodent wielding his power respectfully? Our panelists will discuss this and more, while we try not to draw the attention of Walt Disney's lawyers.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

- Fri 4:00 PM**
(1h)
[5] Homeland
Presentation
- From Star Wars to Satellites: The Reality of Orbital Combat**
Nik Alexander
The space age is well and truly here, and the reality of orbital war-fighting is as well. This presentation aims to identify the aspects of combat in science fiction that exist in the real world, and discuss the ways war-fighting in space has and will play out as space becomes an increasingly contested domain. We will explore examples in science fiction, and compare them to real world operations to better assess how space has become a strategic enabler for combat operations.
- Fri 4:00 PM**
(1h)
[5] Mount
Washington
Panel
- Anachronistic Attitudes in Fiction**
Nikhil Prabala, Gregory Amato, Scott H. Andrews, Haley Gelfuso-CC 2026 Winner
Many worldviews we consider "historically accurate" are not necessarily accurate to the times in which we place them. Attitudes and realities differed by region and social class, as did allotted freedoms. How does this get lost in fiction? When is historical accuracy sacrificed for modern tropes for the sake of fulfilling the author's pride or the audience's prejudices?
- Fri 4:00 PM**
(4h)
[5]
Watertable A
Table 1
Game
- Pathfinder 1e: Is this the end of the world as we know it? (Session 1)**
Misha
Plucked from their daily lives, the party must prove humanity's fitness to join the galactic community. (Heavily inspired by the Dungeon Crawler Carl series.) *Children Only with Parent.*
- Fri 4:00 PM**
(4h)
[5]
Watertable A
Table 2
Game
- Dresden Files: Neutral Grounds**
Micah
The game is set in Baltimore and centers on seven regulars at the café and bookstore Neutral Grounds, and their adventures as they attempt to figure out what happened to Diane Basset, the café's proprietress and resident caffeinomancer. *Children Not Allowed.*
- Fri 4:00 PM**
(4h)
[5]
Watertable A
Table 3
Game
- Drakonym: The Shards**
Yoshi
Drakonym is a cinematic fantasy TTRPG about heroes who bond with living dragons You play in Akeroth, a world of light and shadow where every roll weighs hope against consequence. Build dice pools from six core Attributes and roll the d12 Shadow Die to reveal twists and costs as the story unfolds. Wounds escalate through clear tracks instead of hit points, so every blow matters. Your dragon is your reflection and your partner The Shards is a demo game intended to introduce the Drakonym setting and give players a chance to make their own character as the story progresses.

- Fri 4:00 PM**
(1h)
[6] Gibson
Panel
- When Han Wasn't Solo - Writing the Support System**
Alan Smale, Jennifer R. Povey, Beth Morris Tanner, David Simms
Not every main character has to be a loner, an orphan, or dysfunctional. People with support systems can still save the world. While many stories utilize the Hero's Journey, some tales benefit more from the Heroine's Journey. Our panel of writers will discuss how to weave finding community with finding adventure.
- Fri 4:00 PM**
(1h)
[6] Pride of Baltimore II
Panel
- Self-Editing Strategies**
Ken Schrader, Leslye Penelope, Mark L. Van Name, Carolyn Ives Gilman
You've reached "The End," but what comes next? Before your manuscript is ready to cross an editor's desk, what should you do to beat it into shape? How do you know when you can tweak the lines, versus when it needs a full shredding? Our panelists will discuss the different types of edits, and strategies for executing them in your own writing before a professional editor sees it.
- Fri 4:00 PM**
(7h)
[10] Room 10006
Participatory
- Open House: 3D Printing Room**
Jim Wilmering, Ty McNeer
The 3D Printer room staff will be present to assist walk-ins with questions or concerns with their 3d printers
- Fri 5:00 PM**
(3h)
[5]
Watertable B Table 1
Game
- Game Demo: Legendary: Buffy The Vampire Slayer**
Nick
In *Legendary*, a semi-cooperative deck-building game, 1 to 5 players use fan-favorite characters including Buffy, Angel, Willow, and Giles and attempt to stop a Big Bad and their nefarious Schemes. Players win the game if the Big Bad is beaten four times, and lose if the Big Bad is able to complete their Scheme.
- Fri 5:00 PM**
(2h)
[8] Room 8006
Screening
- Kaiju no.8 Season 2 1-4**
Kafka Hibino's dream has come true, he's made it into The Defense Force! But, not without some hiccups.... Now that Kafka's secret is out and his fellow officers know he's Kaiju no.8, will he be able to stand at his childhood friend Mina Ashiro's side, or will his comrades turn their guns on him next?
Children Only with Parent.
- Fri 5:30 PM**
(1h)
[5] Federal Hill
Panel
- Divergent Points and Alternate History**
Bjorn E. Hasseler, Rosemary Claire Smith, WALTER H. HUNT, Alan Smale (m)
Most SFF books have a learning curve to introduce the reader to the world, but alternate history tends to assume its audience knows the history it's altering. But how much does an audience need to understand the period and the exact point of divergence? Often the story's message lies in the tension between actual history and the written alternate. But when is reality necessary, and when is it enough to say "and then the dragons came?"

Fri 5:30 PM

(1h)

[5] Guilford

*Panel***Food in Fiction***Mark Painter, A. L. Kaplan, Jen Finelli, MD, Gregory Amato*

From the feasts in *Song of Ice and Fire* to the elaborate cuisines in Steven Brust's works, food is often featured in fiction, sometimes even central to the plot. Descriptions of meals and meal creation can drive a lot of storytelling. What fictional foods would you like to eat? How do some writers describe food in ways that leave readers hungry for more?

Fri 5:30 PM

(1h)

[5] Homeland

*Presentation***Engineering Disasters***Jim Beall*

Sometimes engineering doesn't go as planned, even in modern times. A discussion on the what, how, and why of various engineering disasters and the lessons they taught. Some engineering disasters were not engineering at all. Some details sound like fiction (e.g., the brothel that saved a city!).

Fri 5:30 PM

(1h)

[5] Mount

Washington

*Panel***Beyond Jesus: Resurrection Narratives***John Robison, Robert Lewis, Kim Headlee, Jessica Moran (m), Pallas A. Bane*

Resurrection as a plot point appears in many forms of SFF, be it by downloading your soul into a new body, or casting a spell. How does the possibility of resurrection alter a plot or world? What tropes and stories do it well, and which ones bring characters back wrong? What themes and real-world experiences does resurrection allow us to explore? And how can we use resurrection without the assumption it's a biblical reference?

Fri 5:30 PM

(1h)

[6] Gibson

*Panel***How to be a Good Moderator***Carl Cipra (m), Chris Oakley, Alan J. Porter, Jennifer R. Povey*

Moderating a discussion panel at a convention is both easier and harder than it looks. Experienced moderators share their tips, tricks, and guidelines for getting the most out of the panel you're moderating.

Fri 5:30 PM

(1h)

[6] James

*Reading***Author Readings: Miles, Rabrun, and Ward***Jo Miles, Jean Marie Ward, Dominick Rabrun*

Authors Jo Miles, Dominick Rabrun, and Jean Marie Ward will read selections from their works.

Fri 5:30 PM

(1h)

[6] Pride of

Baltimore II

*Panel***How to Subjugate Nations and Dominate the World***Tom Doyle, Zack Be, Anne Gray (m), Pat Bahn*

You've won your war. You've crushed your enemies and thrill at the sound of the lamentations of the subjugated. Yay you! The world is yours, now what? Let's talk about what would happen to the world once the villains have won.

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

This is My Normal Person Costume: How to Balance Cosplay and Life
Gaia Eirich, Jamie Peddicord, Nomi S, Lilis Cosplay
Cosplay is an extremely time consuming, demanding hobby. Whether that be finishing your seams in blood, crying into your foam build, or hemming that mile-long skirt, this hobby takes dedication, drive, and no shortage of time. But how do you balance a love for creativity, and the demands of a 9-5? Our panel of burnt out, stretched thin creatives will tell you how they barely keep it together- uh, we mean, thrive as cosplayers and people.

Fri 5:30 PM
(4h)
[7] Room
7006
Workshop

Costumes in a Flash
Merrily Wolf
Balticon 24-hour Costume Contest - best for ages 5 and up. Overview: 24-hours, free supplies, separate competition group within the Masquerade, Best appearance on stage award/ribbon, certificates at presentation judge's discretion. Timeline Start Friday night, 4-hours in the costume creation room Friday night, Work on your own up to time to check into the green room on Saturday evening, complete in the 24-hour costume presentation group. Supplies: Fabric, Cardboard, Notions, Needle & thread, Glue gun, Scissors, Randomly collected things we collect for the contest. You can borrow tools (glue guns, scissors, needles, etc.) during the contest. Please return them to the masquerade.

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

We Come in Peace: Writing Non-human Sentience
D.A. Xiaolin Spires, Emad El-Din Aysha, Kemi Ashing-Giwa -CC 2024 Winner, David Ellis (m)
First contact stories are timeless, we love the idea of meeting a species who thinks and acts in alien ways. But how can we embody an extraterrestrial mind in a way that's empathetic to human readers? And how can we do it without falling back on tropes which are neurodivergent coded?

**BSFS Congratulates the Winners of the Jack L. Chalker
2026 Young Writers' Contest**

First Place

"Vibration"

Eliel Guzman

High Point High School—Beltsville, MD

Second Place

"On the 2082 Piracy Case"

Ferris McDermott

Friends School of Baltimore—Baltimore, MD

Third Place

"One Small Step"

DeRique Smith

Frederick, MD

Honorable Mention

"FairyTech Blogspace"

Maya Liawanag

Dulaney High School—Timonium, MD

Honorable Mention

"The Wanderer"

Rokhaya Lo

Randallstown High School—Randallstown, MD

Honorable Mention

"Building a Better Future"

Spencer York

Dulaney High School—Timonium, MD

Friday Evening & Night

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

Autographs: Coleman, Kimmel, Woods
Daniel M. Kimmel, Doc Coleman, DON WOODS
Autograph session with Doc Coleman, Daniel M. Kimmel, and Don Woods.

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

AI in Fact and Fiction
Aaron M. Roth, Nikhil Prabala, Jim Beall, Robyn Wyrick (m), Martin Berman-Gorvine
AI shows up in a lot of SF. How accurate are the descriptions and the reality of AI today? Chat GPT is not Hal9000, but could it become it one day? Our panel of engineers and authors will discuss the difference between fictional versus real AI.

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

Wisdom of Fonts
Chris Oakley, Susanne Allen, Kim Headlee, Lisa Hertel, Sheila Jenne (m)
Do YOU have strong opinions about fonts? Well so do we! Our panel of serif serfs, sans serif saints, and wingding wingmen will discuss and debate the styles and strengths of different typesettings.

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

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

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

Building a Podcast From the Ground Up
Alan J. Porter, Scott Edelman, Mark Painter, Dominick Rabrun
Podcasts are a common way to engage a wide variety of listeners about interesting topics. Podcasts such as Writing Excuses and Eight Days of Diana Wynne Jones got the attention of the Hugo voting public. What makes these podcasts unique and how can you choose a format that can be sustained over time? Let's discuss planning episodes, defining your audience, and setting realistic production goals with an emphasis on thoughtful creation rather than chasing trends.

Fri 7:00 PM
(3h)
[5] Private
Dining Room
Demo

Starfleet Battles - Demo
Lord Kron
You're in command as Starfleet clashes with the Klingon Defense Fleet! Star Fleet Battles is the flagship of the Star Fleet Universe. It is a game of ship-vs-ship combat in the 23rd century. When playing Star Fleet Battles, YOU take command of a starship, squadron, or even an entire fleet of the Federation, the Klingon Empire, or the Romulan Star Empire ... plus over a dozen other empires, each with their own unique style of combat, starships, weapons, technology, and culture.

- Fri 7:00 PM**
(3h)
[5]
Watertable B
Table 2
Game
- Game Demo: Space Cats Fight Fascism**
Pickles
A rising wave of fascism is now sweeping across the galaxy, threatening to throw the Galactic Alliance under auto-ratic rule. To help grow their power, the fascist group known as The Rat Pack has been pinning the galaxy's problems on cats. Now, these fuzzy creatures could be forced into exile all together. That is, unless a band of rebellious felines, led by Rocket (the freedom fighter), CJ (the medic), Pepper (the pouncer), and Ophelia (the smuggler) can stop these fascist forces from seizing power - all while building a new galaxy where all species are free together. Space Cats Fight Fascism is a cooperative game where you play as a band of rebel cats trying to stop fascists from seizing control of the galaxy. In Space Cats Fight Fascism, you'll hop from planet to planet, scratching away at fascist forces and freeing animals pinned under the fascists' claws.
- Fri 7:00 PM**
(1h)
[6] Gibson
Panel
- You Got Some Fantasy in My Urban**
Kathryn Faye, Miguel O. Mitchell, PhD, Andrija "Andy" Popovic, David Keener (m)
Whether it's the mist, a vampire's glamour, or a memory wiping pen, most urban fantasy features a method of keeping the fantasy out of the urban. But what's good policy for worldbuilding separation, and should it tie into the broader magic system? What are some common tropes, and their strengths?
- Fri 7:00 PM**
(1h)
[6] Kent
Panel
- Music: Copyright and IP**
MAUGORN, Tavair Dominique, Ben Newman, Eric Distad (m)
Fannish musicians love to create and perform songs and other musical works based on their favorite books, games, TV shows and movies. Whether repurposing a well-known tune, borrowing the plot from a favorite work, or simply recording existing music from a game, show or movie, there are laws that protect the rights of creators and govern when and how one can perform someone else's work or create a derivative work. Come learn from our experts what you can or cannot legally do.
- Fri 7:00 PM**
(1h)
[6] Pride of Baltimore II
Participatory
- Theme Circle: Satire and Parodies**
Merav Hoffman (m)
Bring some fun parodies and satire for a good laugh!

FRIDAY EVENING & NIGHT

Fri 7:00 PM

(1h)

[6] St. George

Panel

Beware the Suck Fairy

Jay Smith, Carl Cipra (m), Nate Hoffelder, Jeanne Adams

Have you ever gone back to a childhood favorite book or movie and found someone replaced all the magic and wonder with cliches, stereotypes, and poor characterization/writing/storytelling? It is the work of the suck fairy. Why do things we loved as children not seem so great to our adult-selves? What works from your childhood have fallen victim to the suck fairy and what still holds up, and why?

Fri 7:00 PM

(2h)

[8] Room

8006

Screening

The Apothecary Diaries Season 2 25-28

Secrets are uncovered and relationships are tested; as Maomao and Jinshi continue their "will they, won't they" dance, and the mysteries and the political intrigue continue to pile up around them. *Children Only with Parent.*

Fri 7:00 PM

(1h)

Virtual Panel

Room 1

Panel

Knights of the Virtual Table

Eric Hardenbrook, Swift Crescendo, Angela Yuriko Smith, Jana S. Brown (m)

Come one, come all to the virtual table! In this online age, virtual tabletops have boomed in popularity, revolutionizing play with tools such as dynamic lighting, built-in soundboards, and combat trackers. It has never been easier to find a game, and connect with other players around the world. But with technological ease comes technical difficulties. Come listen to experienced GMs and players discuss the advantages and disadvantages of virtual tabletops versus in-person play!

Fri 7:30 PM

(1h)

[5] Maryland

Ballroom CD

Presentation

Opening Ceremonies

Jim Butcher, Jennifer Blackstream, Eric Distad, Jen Distad, Samantha Mills -CC 2025 Winner, Mark L. Van Name, Frank Wu, Brianna Wu, Thomas The Red, Robert Markowitz, Haley Gelfuso-CC 2026 Winner

Join us for a spectacular opening to a wonderful Balticon Experience! Welcome our Guests of Honor and Special Guests, applaud the Compton Crook and Heinlein Award winners, and honor those we've lost since we were last able to meet in person.

BSFS Lending Library and Holdings

- Online Index of Science Fiction and Fantasy Authors and BSFS Lending Library Holdings
- Constantly Updated Inventory of BSFS Books

We have over 18,000 titles in our building including novels, anthologies, SF magazines such as *Analog*, *Asimov's*, *S&FS*, *Locus* and others. Drop by at any of our building events to borrow and return books!



Catalog: bsfs.libib.com

Also check out the Little Free Library outside our building at 3310 E. Baltimore Street!

- Fri 8:00 PM**
(4h)
[5]
Watertable A
Table 1
Game
- Apocalypse Frame: For the Collective**
Caleb
First came the Infection, and with it society began to die. Then came the Republic, militaries staging coups and forming a junta. Then came the Frames, exoskeletal humanoid vehicles built to battle the Infection, to draw the lines of the new world. Then came the Collective, an uprising at a remote Frame factory that seeks to claim independence from the Republic. And now, there is your team, a group of Aces within the Collective, among the best of the best. The upcoming mission isn't your first, but it may be your last: the Republic is preparing to advance on the Collective. You're to hit them before they can start. This session will provide the opportunity for quick character and mech creation at the start, and pre-gens will also be provided.
Children Only with Parent.
- Fri 8:00 PM**
(4h)
[5]
Watertable A
Table 2
Game
- D&D 5E (2016): Rescue in Bottomlands Part I**
Paul Bove
The Imperial family is trying to rescue the Kidnapped princess Lissa. The rescue expedition will take the party to the mist shrouded Bottomlands of Pleska where they will confront vicious river pirates and supernatural enemies.
Children Not Allowed.
- Fri 8:00 PM**
(4h)
[5]
Watertable A
Table 3
Game
- Mothership: Moonbase Blues**
Robert Himberger
Your friends at AZURE HORIZONS would like to notify you of a meteorological event. PLEASE STAY CALM AND AVOID WINDOWS WHILE PERFORMING YOUR CORPORATE ASSIGNED DUTIES AROUND THE AZURE BASE FACILITIES
For your participation 1000 credits will be deposited in your pre-selected financial institution on PROSPERO'S DREAM. Thank you! Mothership is an OSR Horror sci-fi RPG where the Company always knows best and you had better remember that. *Children Not Allowed.*
- Fri 8:00 PM**
(4h)
[5]
Watertable B
Table 4
Game
- Game Demo: Ceres**
Erik Delfosse, James Timmons
YEAR: 2219 The days of Earth being the center of humankind's attention has ceased. The time of long-distance spaceflight and planet colonization is upon us. Mars has been colonized for more than 100 years. Today, numerous institutions use Mars as the center of their operations. The Asteroid Mining Assembly of Corporations (A.M.A.C) oversees the works of all asteroid mining. Ceres, a dwarf planet lying amid the chaos of the Asteroid Belt, is now the home of the asteroid mining industrial complex While corporations compete for profit and power, and operations on Ceres grow rapidly, so is the demand for high-skilled laborers.

FRIDAY EVENING & NIGHT

- Fri 8:00 PM**
(1h)
[7] Room
7002
Participatory
- 1st Annual Teen Lounge Contract Negotiation Session (with snacks!)**
Megan Allen-Kingsland
Our Teen Lounge is a dedicated space for teens like you to relax, recharge, chat, and frolic any time you like during the weekend. Balticon's powers that be want you to be the driving force behind the rules that govern your space! Megan, BSFS board member and Head of Registration, will be there to facilitate as you decide amongst yourselves what the rules, requirements, and boundaries for conduct in the space will be. At the end you'll have a binding contract that'll be posted in the room for everybody to understand and follow. And also snacks! Come pitch in and help shape the Teen Lounge into what you want it to be! *Child-Focused*.
- Fri 8:00 PM**
(2h)
[7] Room
7029
Participatory
- Shabbat Dinner with Fen**
Bring your dinner and join us in celebrating Shabbat. There will be grape juice and rolls available. And space for a minyan if we manage to pull one together. Log into our Discord server and join the Shabbat Discussion channel for more details. From Chabad.org: Shavuot candles at 8:02 PM Thursday evening, Friday candles at 8:02 PM, Shabbat ends at 9:12 PM
- Fri 8:30 PM**
(1h)
[5] Federal Hill
Panel
- Crossovers**
Elora Malat, JL Gribble, Wayland Smith
What happens when the Addams Family moves to Gotham? Or your favorite character gets a Hogwarts letter? Writers of fanfiction (and sometimes official works) love to mashup IPs. Why would it be interesting for certain characters to meet? What makes two worlds compatible for collision? Some crossovers can be satisfying, while others might have been too ambitious. What are the strangest crossovers you have seen/written?
- Fri 8:30 PM**
(1h)
[5] Maryland Ballroom AB
Participatory
- Art Show Reception**
Come and meet the artists and have refreshments!
- Fri 8:30 PM**
(1h)
[6] Gibson
Panel
- Monsters or Megafauna? The Science of Fantasy Creatures**
Charles E. Gannon, Evelyn Lewis, Jessica Moran, Carl Fink (m)
Are dragons, giants, and other legendary creatures truly impossible—or just misunderstood wildlife? Using real-world biology and ecology, this panel examines how fantasy creatures could evolve, survive, and fit into believable ecosystems, giving writers tools to make their worlds feel alive.
- Fri 8:30 PM**
(1h)
[6] Kent
Participatory
- Theme Circle: Tom Lehrer**
Emily Lewis (m), Elizabeth Greenberg
From Poisoning Pigeons in the Park to The Elements, come pay tribute to a true satirical genius.

- Fri 8:30 PM**
(1h)
[8] Room
8029
Participatory
- Discussion: The Tainted Cup**
NEIL OTTENSTEIN
The Tainted Cup won a cup full of awards including the 2025 Hugo Award for Best Novel. With a neurospicy main character and a hard magic system, this book appeals to many audiences. What made this novel stand out in its field and does the sequel, A Drop of Corruption, live up to the expectations set by the first book?
- Fri 8:30 PM**
(2h45m)
[12]
Presidential Suite
Participatory
- Meet the Scientists Social**
Come meet our science participants and ask questions!
- Fri 9:00 PM**
(1h)
[5] Homeland
Panel
- We're Going to Need a Bigger Boat**
Jim Butcher, Jennifer Blackstream
Join Jim Butcher and Jennifer Blackstream in a talk about sharks.
- Fri 9:00 PM**
(2h)
[8] Room
8006
Screening
- Clevatess 1-4**
One of the Lords of Dark Beasts, Clevatess's reign shatters when he revives a hero he personally slayed and adopts an orphaned humanoid baby—the last hope to save a dying world. Now bound together, what fate awaits this unlikely trio?
Children Not Allowed.
- Fri 10:00 PM**
(1h)
[5] Federal Hill
Panel
- "Don't Get Me Started!"**
Ian Randal Strock, Jean Marie Ward, Nomi S, Daniel M. Kimmel
Our intelligent and witty panelists will pull a topic out of a hat. They will then have two minutes to rant on that topic. Audience will submit topics, the least rant-worthy topics imaginable. Moderator retains the right to reject topics that violate this standard. In the second round, our panelists will take it to the next level and create a conspiracy theory linking two topics from the hat. *Children Only with Parent.*
- Fri 10:00 PM**
(1h)
[6] Gibson
Panel
- SFF Escapism or Social Commentary**
Carolyn Ives Gilman, Mary G. Thompson, Miguel O. Mitchell, PhD
Many SFF stories are hard hitting social commentary. But what if we just want to ride dragons? Should we be reading more critically or can we just enjoy the escapism? Since authors are a product of their environment, can they avoid writing about current issues? Should they even try? This panel examines the dual nature of fantasy literature as both a form of escapism and a vehicle for social commentary.
- Fri 10:00 PM**
(4h)
[6] Kent
Participatory
- Friday Night Open Filk**
Emily Lewis, Merav Hoffman, Gary Ehrlich (m)
The filk circles are your chance to share a favorite song or two. All songs are welcome: filk, folk, Celtic, SCA, and more. Or bring an instrument and play along. Join us to sing the night away, or just stop by for a listen!

FRIDAY EVENING & NIGHT

- Fri 10:00 PM** **Are You A Werewolf**
(4h)
[6] St. George
Game
Pyris
Werewolves of Miller's Hollow is a game that takes place in a small village which is haunted by werewolves. Each player is secretly assigned a role - Werewolf, Ordinary Townsfolk, or special character such as The Sheriff, The Hunter, the Witch, the Little Girl, The Fortune Teller and so on... There is also a Moderator player who controls the flow of the game. The game alternates between night and day phases. At night, the Werewolves secretly choose a Villager to kill. During the day, the Villager who was killed is revealed and is out of the game. The remaining Villagers (normal and special villagers alike) then deliberate and vote on a player they suspect is a Werewolf, helped (or hindered) by the clues the special characters add to the general deliberation. The chosen player is "lynched", reveals their role, and is out of the game. Werewolf is a social game that requires no equipment to play, and can accommodate almost any large group of players.
- Fri 11:00 PM** **Lord of Mysteries 1-4**
(1h30m)
[8] Room
8006
Screening
In a Victorian world of steam, dreadnoughts, and occult horrors, Zhou Mingrui awakens as Klein Moretti. He walks a razor's edge between light and darkness, entangled with warring Churches. This is the legend of unlimited potential...and unspeakable danger. *Children Only with Parent.*
- Fri 11:30 PM** **Rocky Horror Picture Show**
(2h)
[5] Maryland
Ballroom CD
Screening
Rocky Horror anyone? *This item will not be streamed. *Children Only with Parent.*
- Sat 12:00 AM** **Shadowdark RPG — "The Magician's Ambuscade"**
(4h)
[5]
Watertable A
Table 1
Game
Jason
Shadowdark RPG is a fast-paced and lethal blend of Old School Renaissance sensibilities and new school mechanics. Wondrous treasures and long-forgotten secrets await you! But don't let your last torch burn out, or you could be swallowed by the Shadowdark... (CR: Arachnophobia) *Children Only with Parent.*

ATTENTION POETS!

Monthly Speculative Poetry Workshop

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

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

Saturday Morning

- Sat 8:00 AM** **Pirate Borg: The Curse of Skeleton Point**
 (4h)
 [5]
 Watertable
 A Table 1
Game
Robert Himberger
 Black Coral Bay is a tropical island with a two-faced reputation: a miserable place where the scum of the earth do the dirtiest deeds, and a legendary site of treasures lost since time immemorial. Your crew lands at the dock in Coral Town with the intent to do some business. But what kind will you do? Pirate Borg is a blown, torn and put away wet twist on the Mork Borg system, where the Caribbean of legend is fathoms deep in sorcerous terror as the scum of the seven seas cling grimly to their last ropes. *Children Not Allowed.*
- Sat 8:00 AM** **Starfinder Society Scenario #1-03: Disaster at Dreamlink Labs**
 (2h)
 [5]
 Watertable
 A Table 2
Game
Jonathan
 When a nascent godling called the Newborn was birthed from the planet Aucturn in 324 AG, chunks of its planetary womb and embryonic fluids were cast across the Pact Worlds. Most of this debris—called aucturnite—collected at the outer rim of the system, in a region known as the Gelid Edge. This forlorn field of ice and technomagical debris is a realm of occult power, haunted starship wrecks, and unknown horrors. Yet, for all its dangers, the Gelid Edge is a frontier of new discoveries and forbidden knowledge, and many Newborn evangelists, anomaly hunters, and occult researchers have flocked to the region to learn its secrets. When the Starfinder Society is contacted by scientists from Dreamlink Laboratories, who claim to have made an important discovery in the Gelid Edge, Venture-Captain Arvin dispatches a team of agents to investigate. Unfortunately, something has invaded Dreamlink Labs... and time is running short for the lab's survivors.
- Sat 8:00 AM** **PFS2e Pathfinder Quest #20: The Dacilane Academy's Show Must Go On**
 (2h)
 [5]
 Watertable
 A Table 3
Game
Nikki
 "A Pathfinder Society Quest designed for 1st-through 4th-level characters, playable in 2 hours. The ruler of Irrisen, Queen Anastasia found a number of strange dollhouses when going through her aunt's vaults. She sent one to the Pathfinders for study. When Aslynn's magic was unleashed in the vaults of Skyreach, the dollhouse's magic was reactivated. In reality, these dollhouses were prisons which would shrink down those who angered Elvanna, the former queen. Now the magic is poised to ensnare you! What's more, the animate doll servants have awakened as poppets, and while some are happy to help, others are not so welcoming."



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

Sat 8:00 AM

(1h45m)

[7] Room

7006

*Participatory***Baltikids Bagel Breakfast-- Saturday***Eta Hack*

Morning hitting you hard? Wondering where you can go to grab a bite before the con starts in earnest? Looking for a place to decompress and let your kidlings play with other young fans while you plan the day? We've got you! Join us for complimentary bagels, juice, coffee, and nibbles, courtesy of the Children's Programming team! We'll have dairy-free and gluten-free options in the mix. This event is intended for teens, kids, and their connected grown-ups. Have a good breakfast without having to think too hard about it, and meet other folks while you're at it! *Child-Focused.*

Sat 9:00 AM

(1h)

[5] 5th Floor

Lobby

*Participatory***Strolling with the Stars - Saturday***Paul O'Neil AKA Crusty But*

Guided walks of the Inner Harbor with our program participants *Children Only with Parent.*

Sat 9:00 AM

(2h)

[8] Room

8006

*Screening***Witch Watch 1-4**

Morihito Otogi, a high school student who comes from a lineage of ogres, enjoys a peaceful, ordinary life until his childhood friend, Nico, moves in with him. Nico is a witch-in-training, and chooses Morihito to be her familiar. While Nico is thrilled to reunite with her old friend and crush, Morihito is tasked with the perilous duty to protect her from a foretold calamity.

Sat 9:00 AM

(2h)

[8] Room

8029

*Participatory***Quiet Saturday Morning Craft Time**

Bring your breakfast and enjoy some quiet conversation and craft time before the day really starts.

Sat 10:00 AM

(1h)

[5] 5th Floor

Lobby

*Signing***Autographs: Porter, Povey, Requard***Jennifer R. Povey, Alan J. Porter, Jay Requard*

Autograph session with Alan J. Porter, Jennifer R. Povey, and Jay Requard.

Sat 10:00 AM

(1h)

[5] Baltimore

Ballroom A

*Participatory***Joke Swap With Bill Mayhew***Bill Mayhew*

Join Bill Mayhew for what is sure to be a great time! Bring your favorite (safe for all ages) jokes.

- Sat 10:00 AM** **Murderswoon: Morally Gray Characters**
 (1h)
 [5] Federal Hill
Panel
DM Mewha, Wendra Colleen, Author, David Simms (m), Jim Butcher, Jennifer Blackstream
 From anti-heroes, to partially redeemed villains, morally gray characters are catnip to many fiction readers. They have our hearts, but they definitely stole them. How do these morally gray characters balance the tightrope between the traditional hero and the traditional villain? Let's talk about our favorite morally gray characters and why we love them.
- Sat 10:00 AM** **Gender Expression and Sexuality in SFFH**
 (1h)
 [5] Guilford
Panel
Lee Hawkridge, Sheila Jenne, Reuben "Tihi" Hayslett, R. Taylor
 There are some famous SFFH books that have broken through the heteronormative barrier like *Left Hand of Darkness*, *The Female Man*, and *Ancillary Justice*. This panel will discuss these and other books that break through the pattern of gender conformity and monolithic sexual expression.
- Sat 10:00 AM** **Ancestry and Sex Differences in Macrophages**
 (1h)
 [5] Homeland
Presentation
Paul Parodi
 The Moore Lab at UMD studies how macrophages shape wound healing. These immune cells play a central role in directing inflammation, either promoting or resolving it, while also influencing how damaged tissue repairs itself. Our work focuses on understanding how macrophage behavior differs between different groups, including sex and ancestry, while also improving the methods used to study these cells. In this presentation, I will dive into our project examining macrophage and PBMC differences by sex and ancestry as well as providing an overview of related projects underway in the lab.

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Choose from a custom selection of new and vintage T-Shirts, Plush Dragons, Pins, Tote Bags, 3D Spine Huggers, Lanyards, Balticon Filk CDs, Temporary Tattoos, and More!

SATURDAY MORNING

Sat 10:00 AM **Beading Workshop**

(2h)

[5] Maryland
Ballroom AB
Participatory

Lisa Ashton

I'll teach you basic techniques of sewing beads to a foundation, then progress to peyote beading, using a cabochon on a felt foundation, and arrive at the magical moment when the cabochon is safely attached using only beads and thread! We'll talk about beads and supplies, and there will be samples and works-in-progress to inspire. Lisa Ashton is an experienced beader and teacher and is excited to share these techniques with everyone to create wonderful jewelry and art. Kits will be available for \$15 - payment in cash or PayPal, please. Each kit contains enough supplies to make two cabochon beaded projects, as well as typed instructions. Finished projects can be made into pins or pendants. Extra kits/supplies will be available for sale. No experience is necessary (although if you've threaded a needle and sewn before, that helps). Children over 10 are welcome if accompanied by an adult who will stay for the workshop. We will be working with seed beads, which are tiny.

Sat 10:00 AM **All Aboard! Worldbuilding Public Transit in SFF**

(1h)

[5] Mount
Washington
Panel

Nicole Glover, Carolyn Ives Gilman, David Keener, Ken Schrader, Anne Gray (m)

The modern world is made smaller than ever with the ready access to transcontinental transportation. But how does public transit change in a fantasy world or on another planet? What materials and societal structures have to exist to allow for distance transportation? What types of efficient transit could only work in SFF, and is it inevitable for it to be a train?

Sat 10:00 AM **Miniature Painting Workshop**

(3h)

[5] Private
Dining Room
Workshop

Lord Kron

Come join our very own Lord Kron in an open-to-the-public workshop on painting Miniatures. Bring your own, or use one of his sample pieces! Learn about undercoating, base coating, dry brushing, shading, and many more techniques that make your pieces pop on the table! All ages welcome, adult supervision recommended for children under 10.

BSFS and Balticon Videos on YouTube

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

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

- Sat 10:00 AM**
(2h)
[5]
Watertable A
Table 2
Game
- Starfinder Society Scenario #1-05: Sloughscar Summit**
Jonathan
Under the leadership of First Seeker Sarmak, the Starfinder Society has established a fledgling lodge in Akiton's Sloughscar Hills to study a massive, crashed starship known as the Wreck of the Returned. The Starfinder Society isn't the only group interested in the Wreck. In addition to countless freelancers and independent salvagers, three prominent factions have arisen and are clashing at every turn: the Aspis Consortium, a coalition of local Akitonian salvagers, and a government sanctioned delegation from the planet Aballon. With an eye to improving relations, Sarmak has invited representatives from each of these factions to meet on neutral ground to come to terms. When danger threatens to disrupt the Sloughscar Summit, it's up to the Starfinder Society to keep the peace. This is an adventure in the ongoing Invasion's Edge metaplot.
- Sat 10:00 AM**
(2h)
[5]
Watertable A
Table 3
Game
- PFS2e Pathfinder Quest #21: Infernal Infiltration**
Nikki
A Pathfinder Society Quest designed for 1st-through 4th-level characters, playable in 2 hours. Some disgruntled citizens in Kintargo, who preferred things under Chelaxian rule, have stolen into some very sensitive information concerning the Pathfinder Society's trade dealings and routes. In the hands of enemies, this could put many agents at risk. Cheliox barely tolerates the Society on a good day, and if these thieves-who-would-be-spies can get the encrypted information into the hands of real Chelaxian intelligence operatives, Cheliox would likely relish its ability to do incalculable harm. It's up to you to infiltrate the thieves' base of operations and steal the info back before these rabble rousers can send it off. Keeping things quiet will be key, though, as the heads of Supplies and Procurement definitely don't want to tip them off to what they really have.
- Sat 10:00 AM**
(2h)
[5]
Watertable B
Table 1
Game
- Game Demo: Diatoms**
Kelly
Diatoms is a puzzly tile-placement and pattern-making game in which players create their own microscopic mosaic, based on an obscure Victorian art form. Hidden in the water all around us are tiny lifeforms known as "diatoms". These microscopic algae cells come in a variety of exquisite geometric shapes and patterns. We collect these diatoms and delicately arrange them on slides into beautiful, tiny mosaics. You will each create your own entry for the Exhibition of Microscopic Mosaics. Compete with your fellow players to collect and place diatom shapes into a mosaic form. You take turns placing tiles representing algae colonies. From that placement, you earn diatoms of different colors and shapes. You then strategically place these diatoms on your personal board, taking care to consider how your arrangement will be scored at the end of the game.

SATURDAY MORNING

- Sat 10:00 AM** **Science Errors in SF Films**
(1h)
[6] Gibson
Panel
Mark Painter, Carl Fink, Inge Heyer, Nik Alexander, Tim Livengood
Filmmakers are not scientists, though they often have scientific advisors. But sometimes ignoring science makes for a more dramatic film. What are some of the most common scientific errors? When are you willing to ignore the science in order to enjoy a good story?
- Sat 10:00 AM** **Author Readings: Kennedy, Kimmel, Pinsker**
(1h)
[6] James
Reading
Michael Arthur Kennedy, Sarah Pinsker, Daniel M. Kimmel
Authors Michael Arthur Kennedy, Daniel M. Kimmel, and Sara Pinsker will read selections from their works.
- Sat 10:00 AM** **So You Want to be in a Band or Singing Group!**
(1h)
[6] Kent
Panel
Kira Yeversky, MAUGORN, Eric Distad (m), Elizabeth Greenberg
Most musicians are also social creatures, and we often like to perform with one another. Fannish musicians have formed duos and trios, bands, and even orchestras! What are some of the hidden challenges and benefits of performing as an organized group? Our panelists talk about a variety of experiences and insights as members of bands, orchestras and other musical groups.
- Sat 10:00 AM** **Writing Novels - the Long Haul**
(1h)
[6] Pride of Baltimore II
Panel
Maeghan Jo Kimball, Patrick Fitzgerald, A. L. Kaplan, Alan Smale (m), Sally Wiener Grotta
Writing a novel can be a marathon. It can take years - whether from life changes or plot and character problems. Our panelists will discuss staying motivated during the process, and the new perspectives that arise over time.
- Sat 10:00 AM** **Commonplace Magic**
(1h)
[6] St. George
Panel
Ann Chatham, Nomi S, Jo Miles
Magical Realism has expanded past its Latin American roots. There are stories where magic is an integral part of society or often not even treated as magic. It's treated as traditions or cultural expectations, part of every-day life, but not as something supernatural. Some examples include *The Ballad of Perilous Graves* and *To Shape a Dragon's Breath*. Panelists will discuss this trope and how it is affecting SFFH today.
- Sat 10:00 AM** **Homemade Play-Dough**
(45m)
[7] Room 7006
Participatory
Eta Hack
Join us to make a batch of everybody's favorite not-too-messy non-toxic squishy stuff! Mix, roll, color, and squish it yourself, and take it with you when you're done. Best for ages 5 and up. *Child-Focused.*
- Sat 10:00 AM** **Costumer's Guild Supply Sale and Swap**
(2h)
[7] Room 7029
Participatory
Merrily Wolf
The Costumer's Guild is hosting a sale and swap of items you don't need or want.

- Sat 10:00 AM Introduction to 3D Printing**
(1h)
[10] Room
10006
Presentation
Jim Wilmering
What is 3D printing? What is needed to print? The presenter will cover different types of 3D printers, different filament types and fill materials, and the different slicer software available.
- Sat 10:00 AM Kaffeeklatsch with GOH Hayley Gelfuso**
(1h)
[12] Club
Lounge
Participatory
Haley Gelfuso-CC 2026 Winner
Spend an hour with 2026 Compton Crook Award Winner Haley Gelfuso. Limited to 10 spaces. Sign-up sheet is at the Info Desk next to Registration.
- Sat 10:00 AM Fantastical Foods: Worldbuilding a Food Culture**
(1h)
Virtual Panel
Room 1
Panel
Gillian Polack, Melissa Scott, Emad El-Din Aysha
From ambrosia to lembas bread, SFF is full of delicious foods, many of which only exist in our imaginations. How do you worldbuild foods that feel fantastical? How strange is too strange, and how do you avoid exoticizing a real-world foods? And how do you describe the taste of something that doesn't exist?
- Sat 10:45 AM Young'un Cosplay**
(45m)
[7] Room
7006
Participatory
Eta Hack
Hey little ones-- do you need a little extra magic, power or glam to spruce up your Balticon? Come join us to make some simple, awesome costumes and accessories that'll liven things up for you all weekend long. Shout-out to the support of the Enoch Pratt Free Library for making this program possible! *Child-Focused.*
- Sat 11:00 AM Doors Open for Artist GoH**
(30m)
[5] Maryland
Ballroom CD
Room Turn
Doors Open for Artist GoH
- Sat 11:00 AM Anime 5E: Fey Tower of Chaos**
(1h)
[7] Room
7002
Game
Yoshi
The world will turn to eternal darkness if the Dark Fey destroy the Five Statues of Light. Three have already fallen. You can save the world if you defeat the Dark Mistress in her Tower of Chaos. Fey Tower of Chaos is a short action/dilemma scenario for Anime 5E that Dyskami hosted at Gen Con 2024. Sixth-level pregens will be provided at the game. *Child-Focused.*
- Sat 11:00 AM Kaya-chan Isn't Scary 1-2**
(1h)
[8] Room
8006
Screening
Kaya-chan kindergartener with an incredibly strong sixth sense. She secretly beats up the ghosts that stalk her friends and family, but in turn, she's treated like a troublemaker since nobody understands her strange behavior. Everything changes when her teacher, Chie, discovers her secret. Kaya-chan's little fists will go flying at any sinister spirits that show up! *Children Only with Parent.*

- Sat 11:30 AM** **First Timers and Friends**
(2h)
[5] 5th Floor Lobby
Participatory
Morgan Hazelwood
Whether you're a first timer or a regular hand at Balticon, come for some snacks and mingling. If you're interested in learning more, Morgan Hazelwood will be guiding a tour! From the registration desk to main events, from the Art Show to the Con Suite, this tour explains it all. Plus, tips on getting the most out of your convention and picking up some of the lingo. The tour will be half an hour, starting at noon (12:00pm). **We will meet on the Dance Floor in the Atrium.**
- Sat 11:30 AM** **Autographs: Gribble, Lawrence, Tan**
(1h)
[5] 5th Floor Lobby
Signing
JL Gribble, CECILIA TAN, Tris Lawrence
Autograph session with J.L. Gribble, Tris Lawrence, and Cecelia Tan.
- Sat 11:30 AM** **Balticon 60: How did we get here?**
(1h)
[5] Federal Hill
Panel
Megan Allen-Kingsland (m)
In 1967 a handful of folks decided to gather in Baltimore for the first Balticon. Sixty years later Balticon is still running. What does it take to keep a convention going for 60 years? How does the culture of community persist throughout generations, and keep alive the influences we love? Join Eric Gasior, Sue Wheeler, Elaine Stiles, Dale Arnold, and Steve Zeve as they regale us with their tales.
- Sat 11:30 AM** **What Should I Read Next? Horror Version**
(1h)
[5] Guilford
Panel
Brigitte Winter, Carl Cipra (m), Dominick Rabrun, R.A. Johnson, Wayland Smith
Who are some of the new voices in Horror? What are some underappreciated or undiscovered classics you should be reading? Our panelists will share their favorites, the ones that make them howl to the moon. Unless you have a fogged mirror handy, bring something to take notes with.
- Sat 11:30 AM** **The Lucy Mission: First Mission to the Jupiter Trojan Asteroids**
(1h)
[5] Homeland
Presentation
Keith Noll
The Lucy mission began its journey to the Jupiter Trojan asteroids on October 16, 2021 when it took off from Cape Canaveral in a spectacular pre-dawn launch. On the way to the Trojans, Lucy has had two passes through the Main Asteroid Belt bracketed by Earth gravity assist flybys. Even though these two asteroid flybys were primarily engineering tests, each encounter yielded a wealth of surprises including the first ever contact-binary satellite, another contact binary - this time a larger asteroid, and geological evidence of spin-induced surface changes. The results from these two test runs offer an exciting preview for the main event - a series of five Trojan encounters starting in August 2027!

- Sat 11:30 AM** **Artist Guest of Honor: Frank Wu**
 (1h)
 [5] Maryland Ballroom CD
Presentation
Frank Wu
 Artist Guest of Honor, Frank Wu, will present a slide show of his art.
- Sat 11:30 AM** **Nigerian History**
 (1h)
 [5] Mount Washington
Presentation
Chidumebi Njoku-Browne
 The Prelude to the Biafran War African Religions: Syncretism between Vodun and Isese
- Sat 11:30 AM** **Hopepunk and a Brighter Tomorrow**
 (1h)
 [6] Gibson
Panel
Sheila Jenne, Reuben "Tihi" Hayslett, Meridel Newton, Nikita Rowitz (m), Somto Ihezue
 A quarter of the way through the 21st century, there seems to be a lot of pessimism about the future. So what drives the optimism of genres like hopepunk? How can they reframe our view of the future? What actions can we take to make that future a reality? Are there stories out there that do it well?
- Sat 11:30 AM** **Author Readings: French, Gannon, and Hunt**
 (1h)
 [6] James
Reading
John L. French, Charles E. Gannon, WALTER H. HUNT
 Authors John L. French, Charles Gannon, and Walter H. Hunt will read selections from their works.
- Sat 11:30 AM** **Musical Improv Workshop**
 (1h)
 [6] Kent
Workshop
Eric Distad
 From guitar jamming to drum circles to freeform improv and beyond, there's something special about bringing people together to just make music. But how do you do it? In this workshop, we'll explore ideas and techniques for making unplanned music together. We'll look at different ways of finding unique things to add to enhance the jam and when to use them, how to start, move, and stop together as a group and more. We hope to have something fun here for everyone whether you are just starting out or a long-time improv fan. Please bring an instrument, even if it's just yourself and be ready to have fun making music together.
- Sat 11:30 AM** **Mental Health in MG & YA**
 (1h)
 [6] Pride of Baltimore II
Panel
David Simms, Diana Peterfreund, Wendra Colleen, Author, Jen Finelli, MD
 YA and middle grade authors have a unique opportunity to address the concerns of mental health in children and teens through the lens of SFF. Coming of age is a staple of the genres, and a common source of mental challenges. How do we use technology and magic to explore these topics? When magic takes a toll on its user, what parallels can that have to various types of modern mental health concerns? Is the vastness of space a metaphor for loneliness and isolation, or a safe haven?

SATURDAY MORNING

- Sat 11:30 AM** (1h)
[6] St. George
Panel
- Historically Adequate: Cutting Corners in Historical Costuming**
Lilis Cosplay, Misha Bushyager, Ann Chatham, Gaia Eirich
Sourcing materials, patterning, fitting, and hand stitching everything from drawers to pelisse is not always possible for every human. Let's discuss where historically inclined sewists can incorporate some 21st century methodology to create historical costumes they're proud of.
- Sat 11:30 AM** (45m)
[7] Room
7006
Refresh
- Lunch Break-- Children's Programming (Sat)**
Everybody's gotta eat! We'll close up the room for a bit and look forward to seeing you after our break. *Children Not Allowed.*
- Sat 11:30 AM** (2h)
[8] Room
8029
Workshop
- Mashup Mayhem Workshop**
David Keener
So, you wanna do a mashup, eh? You think it will be fun to write a story that mixes up multiple genres in unique and exciting ways, like a Fantasy/Mystery or a Horror/Comedy? Awesome! In this workshop, we'll cover strategies for blending genres, meeting multiple trope expectations, and creating consistent worldbuilding for your hybrid story. In this collaborative workshop, we'll also brainstorm mashup ideas together and see where they take us.
- Sat 11:30 AM** (1h)
[10] Room
10006
Presentation
- Intermediate 3D Printing**
Ty McNeer
The presenter will cover 3D printing issues such as maintenance, repair and more advanced slicer tuning.
- Sat 11:30 AM** (1h)
[12] Club
Lounge
Participatory
- Kaffeeklatsch with GOH Jim Butcher (Sat)**
Jim Butcher
Spend an hour with Guest of Honor Jim Butcher Limited to 10 spaces. Sign-up sheet is at the Info Desk next to Registration. There will be another kaffeeklatsch on Sunday at 2:30
- Sat 11:30 AM** (1h)
Virtual Panel
Room 1
Panel
- Writing Disabilities Without Ableism**
Ada Palmer, Akua Lezli Hope, Gillian Polack, Jana S. Brown
From Violet in Fourth Wing, to Toph from Avatar: the Last Airbender, to the MCU's Daredevil and Professor X, there have been many examples of disability representation in SFF-for better or worse. What are the common pitfalls authors trip into when writing disabilities? Let's take a look at ableist tropes and how to avoid them, as well as more esoteric ideas of what good representation means in a SFF setting.

Sat 11:30 AM (1h) Virtual Panel Room 2 <i>Panel</i>	Empower Your Setting <i>Melissa Scott, Marisa Wolf, Gail Z. Martin (m), Dana Bell</i> People talk about crafting a perfect villain, but what if your environment is the antagonist? Location has a bigger place in a story than often considered, and a well-designed setting can fill the role of a character. From a magic system to a sentient spaceship, setting contributes to tone, theme, character growth, tension, emotional resonance, and so much more. Our panelists will discuss ways to think about your setting, and craft a place with personality.
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Saturday Afternoon

Sat 12:00 PM (2h) [5] Maryland Ballroom AB <i>Workshop</i>	Make a "Leather" Pouch <i>Tyaz Cosplay</i> A beginners introduction to working with EVA foam. Participants will texturize and paint EVA foam to make it look like leather. Then they will use it to make a small pouch. This workshop is for ages 13 and older. Limited to 15 participants - sign-up sheet is at the information desk.
Sat 12:00 PM (4h) [5] Watertable A Table 1 <i>Game</i>	Slugblaster: Your First Run <i>Caleb</i> Slugblasting. The act of using a hoverboard to skate through other dimensions. It's dangerous, it's stupid, it's got parent groups in a panic, and it's the coolest thing ever. Your dream is to go big, to make a name for yourself as a slugblaster, get sponsored, make it your life; way better than the boring monotony of your home could ever offer you. Just be careful when you kickflip over a quantum centipede; not every dimension is as safe as yours. But that's part of the thrill, right? Time for your first run. The session will open with quick and simple character creation before play begins.
Sat 12:00 PM (4h) [5] Watertable A Table 2 <i>Game</i>	Magic & Steel: Dragon Express Airborne Mail <i>DON WOODS</i> Players assume the role of young dragons and human riders delivering mail to distant and sometimes dangerous locations. <i>Children Only with Parent.</i>
Sat 12:00 PM (4h) [5] Watertable A Table 3 <i>Game</i>	Pathfinder 1e: Is this the end of the world as we know it? (Session 2) <i>Misha</i> Plucked from their daily lives, the party must prove humanity's fitness to join the galactic community. (Heavily inspired by the Dungeon Crawler Carl series.) <i>Children Only with Parent.</i>

Sat
12:00 PM
(2h)
[5]
Watertable B
Table 1
Game

Game Demo: A Place For All My Books
hymie!
A Place for All My Books is a puzzley book gathering, sorting, and organizing game in which players arrange stacks of books in different rooms of their apartment as personal projects. When done, they can admire their accomplishments and gain their rewards – not least of which is renewed energy, which they can then spend to head out into the village - to pick up more books! The organizational puzzles are easy to accomplish, with the challenge being how many of them you can accomplish all at once to optimize each "admire" action.

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

Game Demo: Wispwood
Michelle Hymowitz
A curious cat prowls into the forest, lured by flickering lights of all colors dancing through the trees. What are they? Oh, the wisps from the old tales! Each one sparkles with charm and mischief, carrying a unique personality. Can you guide them just right and make your forest the brightest? Welcome to Wispwood, a magical place populated by glowing wisps. On your turn, choose a wisp tile and a shape to place in your personal grid — your very own growing forest. Each wisp has desires about where it wants to shine, and even the magical trees have preferences! You'll aim to meet their expectations across three scoring rounds. Between rounds, the forest shifts — fading and expanding — yet the wisps you've already placed remain, shaping the possibilities ahead.

Sat
12:00 PM
(8h)
[5]
Watertable C
Game

BattleTech Gothic Draft Tournament
Yoshi
BattleTech Gothic brings the Endless War to life on your tabletop! Catalyst Game Labs brings to your table a re-imagined Inner Sphere as a grimdark universe, featuring "Abominations" and an ongoing feudal war between the great houses. BattleTech Gothic puts you in the pilot seat of these twisted horrors! Players will be provided a blind box single mech pull from BattleTech Gothic, and will then battle it out with other players in a Swiss Style one-on-one duel tournament! Grand Prize is a BattleTech Gothic core set, with 2nd and 3rd receiving standard BattleTech lance units. Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/xN6Krvp2kSqG1MN28>
Children Only with Parent.

Sat
12:00 PM
(1h)
[7] Room
7029
Panel

The Sara(h)s, a Panel
Sarah Avery, Sara Itka, Sarah Pinsker
Is your name Sara(h)? Have you ever wondered what is was like to be a Sara(h)? With or without the H? Join a few Sara(h)s for some conversation about the name, being an author, and whatever other silliness the Sara(h)s decide to discuss.

- Sat 12:00 PM**
(2h)
[8] Room 8006
Screening
- Night of the Living Cat 1-4**
In 20XX, the world is dominated by cats. A virus that turns anyone who touches a cat into a cat has spread into a worldwide nyandemic. Anytime cats rub against a human, they turn the person into a cat. Can humanity fight their urge to pet cats to survive in a cat-ridden world? *Children Only with Parent.*
- Sat 12:15 PM**
(45m)
[7] Room 7006
Presentation
- Fossils and Fun with Dr. Tom**
Thomas R. Holtz, Jr., PhD
Everyone's favorite paleontologist is stopping by with a hands-on, kid-friendly tour of his incredible collection of fossils. Go beyond dinosaurs to learn about all kinds of amazing relics from the mind-bogglingly distant past. One rule: nobody lick the coprolite! Good for all ages.
- Sat 1:00 PM**
(1h)
[5] 5th Floor Lobby
Signing
- Autographs: Penelope, Pinsker, Hayslett**
Leslye Penelope, Sarah Pinsker, Reuben "Tihi" Hayslett
Autograph session with Authors Leslye Penelope, Sarah Pinsker, and Reuben "Tihi" Hayslett.
- Sat 1:00 PM**
(1h)
[5] Baltimore Ballroom A
Participatory
- Book Launch: Jack Campbell and Patrick Fitzgerald**
Patrick Fitzgerald, Joshua Bilmes, Jack Campbell
Debut author, Patrick Fitzgerald, celebrates the launch of his book along with Jack Campbell and his book Squad Kill.
- Sat 1:00 PM**
(1h)
[5] Federal Hill
Panel
- Science Fiction Needs Correct Science**
Inge Heyer, Mark Painter, Sam Scheiner, Andy Love, Chris Oakley (m)
When bad science pulls you out of the story, that's not good. Some stories are extrapolated from science, some stories use handwavium. How do you incorporate science into your story and when can you get away with a hand wave? Let's explore practices and techniques for ensuring you have enough science in your stories.
- Sat 1:00 PM**
(1h)
[5] Guilford
Panel
- Alternate Alternate Histories**
Dominick Rabrun, Elektra Hammond, Rosemary Claire Smith, WALTER H. HUNT, Alan Smale (m)
Even with all of human history to choose from, many alternate history authors keep coming back to the American Civil War or WWII. What are some less common alternate histories? How about some that are less American-centric? How do authors address subject matter that may be foreign to their audiences?

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

- Sat 1:00 PM**
(1h)
[5] Homeland
Presentation
- An intro to biometrics... from Sci Fi through Sci Fact**
Shahram Orandi
Usage of Biometrics makes notable appearances in fiction such as STTOS, and movies like 2001 Space Odyssey. But long before these, we were already using biometrics and this helped shape our technological landscape. I'll present a survey of biometric technologies starting with early examples (use of fingerprints), and move forward introducing other modalities (voice, DNA, iris, face, gait, etc.) with a brief on how each works, and tie each it into some notable sci fi along the way. We will also touch on how biometrics is intertwined with artificial intelligence (AI) and how you may not be able to have meaningful AI without it.
- Sat 1:00 PM**
(1h)
[5] Mount
Washington
Panel
- Transhumanism in Fiction**
David Walton, Mark L. Van Name, Zack Be (m), Miguel O. Mitchell, PhD, Susanne Allen
Transhumanism is "the belief that human race can evolve beyond its current physical and mental limitations, especially by means of science and technology." As we imagine the ways technology will change the way we define ourselves, SFF is uniquely capable of asking "What is human?" What are some major works in the transhumanism genre, and how has the movement evolved with changing visions of the future?
- Sat 1:00 PM**
(3h)
[5]
Watertable B
Table 3
Game
- Game Demo: Popcorn**
Perrienne Lurie
In Popcorn, each player manages their own movie theater and tries to show the best combination of movies in order to attract guests to their seats. In each round you may acquire a new movie, build or upgrade your theater, and use advertising to attract new guests. Then it's showtime, with you drawing guests at random from your bag to see who has shown up. Place guests in the right seats to activate special powers; match them with the right movies, and you get a bonus. After watching films in your theater, guests might be spirited away to other theaters thanks to ads presented by those theater owners—but you'll probably do the same to them, too. Be sure to bring in fresh films to keep guests on the edge of your seats. After all, happy guests can help your theater win awards in town; more importantly, they can keep the "popcorn" piling up in your coffers, and whichever theater owner fills their popcorn box the best wins.
- Sat 1:00 PM**
(1h)
[6] Gibson
Panel
- Sociological Ramifications of Magic**
Gregory Amato, Jay Requard, Beth Morris Tanner (m), Mary G. Thompson, Chidumebi Njoku-Browne
In a world where magic exists, why do people still do physical labor? If there are dragons, why don't they rule? The genre of fantasy often overlooks the realistic implications in their worldbuilding that science fiction often dwells on. But let's discuss how magic could influence politics, societal structure, and everyday life.

- Sat 1:00 PM**
(1h)
[6] James
Reading
- Author Readings: Compton Crook Winners Gelfuso and Mills**
Samantha Mills -CC 2025 Winner, Haley Gelfuso-CC 2026 Winner
Compton Crook winners Samantha Mills (2025), and Haley Gelfuso (2026) will read selections from their work.
- Sat 1:00 PM**
(30m)
[6] Kent
Concert
- Concert: Kira Yeversky**
Kira Yeversky (m)
Kira Yeversky is a singer, mandolin player, and all-around creative from Pittsburgh, PA, where she draws on folk music traditions to write songs of hope, resilience, and staying silly in spite of it all.
- Sat 1:00 PM**
(1h)
[6] Pride of Baltimore II
Panel
- Where Have All the Parents Gone?**
Patrick Thomas, DM Mewha, Wendra Colleen, Author, A. L. Kaplan, Rigel Ailur
Kids are always being thrown into life threatening situations in books, but in real life, their parents would never let this happen. Is that why so many parents in middle grade and young adult stories are either dead or oblivious? How can authors navigate the "parent problem"? What does portraying neglectful adults as normal or even beneficial teach young audiences? Do authors have the responsibility of addressing who should be watching these kids?
- Sat 1:00 PM**
(1h)
[6] St. George
Panel
- Who Cares About the Chosen One?**
Carl Fink, Mary Soon Lee, Tommy Kerper, Michael Arthur Kennedy
Stories are full of chosen ones and special prophecies, but history is full of regular people just trying to get it right under difficult circumstances. Forget the chosen one, let's talk about those people. What are some of our favorite stories about everyday folks saving the day?
- Sat 1:00 PM**
(1h)
[7] Patio
Participatory
- Hula Hooping with Patches**
Patches
Come Hula Hoop with our own patches and cut loose the con stress!
- Sat 1:00 PM**
(1h)
[7] Room 7002
Participatory
- Exquisite Corpse Story-Writing**
Grab a pen and paper-- things are about to get weird. Exquisite Corpse stories are a group writing technique that creates some wild, hilarious results. It's a great way to get creativity flowing and get to know other writers. The end product is always fresh, whether you're a newbie or an experienced writer. Drop in and see what reveals itself! Shout-out to the Enoch Pratt Free Library for their support making this program possible! *Child-Focused.*

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

- Sat 1:00 PM**
(45m)
[7] Room
7006
Participatory
- Comic and Zine Makers' Corner**
Eta Hack
Say it with panels! Whether silly or serious, fanciful or factual, comics and zines can be an awesome way to express what's on your mind. Learn some techniques for making your ideas shine as a comic or zine, and leave the session with a mini-masterpiece to share! Shout-out to the support of the Enoch Pratt Free Library for making this program possible. *Child-Focused*.
- Sat 1:00 PM**
(1h)
[7] Room
7029
Participatory
- Shabbat Lunch with Fen**
Bring your lunch and join us in celebrating Shabbat. There will be grape juice and rolls available. Log into our Discord server and join the Shabbat Discussion channel for more details. From Chabad.org: Shavuot candles at 8:02 PM Thursday evening, Friday candles at 8:02 PM, Shabbat ends at 9:12 PM
- Sat 1:00 PM**
(1h)
[12] Club
Lounge
Participatory
- Kaffeeklatsch with Brianna Wu**
Brianna Wu
Spend an hour with videogame designer Brianna Wu. Limited to 10 spaces. Sign-up sheet is at the Info Desk next to Registration.
- Sat 1:00 PM**
(1h)
Virtual Panel
Room 1
Panel
- Self Editing Strategies**
Akua Lezli Hope, Jana S. Brown, Dana Bell, Melissa Scott
You've reached "The End," but what comes next? Before your manuscript is ready to cross an editor's desk, what should you do to beat it into shape? How do you know when you can tweak the lines, versus when it needs a full shredding? Our panelists will discuss the different types of edits, and strategies for executing them in your own writing before a professional editor sees it.
- Sat 1:00 PM**
(1h)
Virtual Panel
Room 2
Panel
- Location, Location, Location**
D.A. Xiaolin Spires, Joyce Reynolds-Ward, Gail Z. Martin, Mari Ness
Chicago is a character in Butcher's Dresden Files. Dark, brooding Gotham City is a match for dark, brooding Batman. And who can forget the soul of New York as portrayed in N.K. Jemison's The Great Cities duology? Let's talk about some of our favorite settings and the techniques authors use to make them come alive.
- Sat 1:30 PM**
(30m)
[6] Kent
Concert
- Concert: Roberta Rogow**
Roberta Rogow (m)
Roberta Rogow takes you on a journey from Star Trek to Martian rovers, through strange tales of history and conventions gone wrong!

- Sat 1:45 PM**
(45m)
[7] Room
7006
Participatory
- Pokémon Diorama PLUS Science Fiction Paper Mosaics**
Eta Hack
Prepare for trouble, and make it double! This mighty crafting session includes two projects that you can participate in as much as you like. Group Quest: We'll be assembling a single jumbo-sized Pokémon diorama (figurines provided) showing everyone's favorite catchable beasts in their various natural habitats. Go high, go low, go around all sides of this collaborative creation to make an epic display the whole con can enjoy. Make friends while you make art! Solo Quest: Use the power of paper, an ancient artistic medium, to capture art about the distant future! Whether you pick a specific fandom, a real space mission like Artemis, or sci-fi creations of your own devising, work with our experts to bring your vision to life. Shout-out to the support of the Enoch Pratt Free Library for making this program possible! *Child-Focused.*
- Sat 2:00 PM**
(1h)
[7] Room
7002
Participatory
- Let's Make Wire Elf Ears**
Do you hear something? Upgrade your ears with a fancy bit of elven costuming you'll learn to make yourself. Join us to do some filagree work that's straight outta Rivendell. Shout-out to the Enoch Pratt Free Library for their support making this program possible! *Child-Focused.*
- Sat 2:00 PM**
(2h)
[8] Room
8006
Screening
- Tojima Wants To Be A Kamen Rider 5-9**
40 year old Tanzaburo Tojima is starting to think his lifelong dream of becoming a Kamen Rider may never come true...until he's swept up in a series of crimes inspired by the infamous "Shocker"! From Air Master and 81 Diver's Shibata Yokusaru comes a wild, heartfelt tale about adults who love Kamen Rider a little too much and start playing pretend—for real! *Children Only with Parent.*
- Sat 2:00 PM**
(2h)
[8] Room
8029
Workshop
- Speculative Poetry Workshop**
Miguel O. Mitchell, PhD
Speculative poetry is ancient; it began with verse to describe cosmic origins and supernatural entities in stories passed down by oral tradition. In modern speculative poetry, there are poems about dreamscapes, fantasy, horror, ancient and modern myths, science fiction, surrealism, superheroes, magical realism, and just stuff that doesn't fit a neat category. In this workshop, we will read examples of different forms of speculative poetry, and you can practice writing some. I encourage compassionate critiques from participants; we want to help each other write better poems, not be hurtful. I will also describe the benefits of membership in the Science Fiction and Fantasy Poetry Association (SFFPA), an international organization of 400+ speculative poets. Within the SFFPA website, I will describe the speculative poetry markets, many of which pay for poems. Writing speculative poetry can be a great way to express your creativity within the SFFH genres, so let's give it a try.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

- Sat 2:30 PM**
(1h)
[5] 5th Floor
Lobby
Signing
- Autographs: Gelfuso, Miles, Mills**
Samantha Mills -CC 2025 Winner, Haley Gelfuso-CC 2026 Winner, Jo Miles
Autograph session with 2025 Compton Crook Winner Samantha Mills, Jo Miles, and 2026 Compton Crook Winner Haley Gelfuso.
- Sat 2:30 PM**
(1h)
[5] Baltimore
Ballroom A
Participatory
- Book Launch: Haunted Island, by Martin Berman-Gorvine**
Martin Berman-Gorvine
Book (Re)Launch: Haunted Island, by Martin Berman-Gorvine
- Sat 2:30 PM**
(1h)
[5] Federal
Hill
Panel
- Detectives in Urban Fantasy**
Andrija "Andy" Popovic, John L. French, Patrick Thomas, Jim Butcher, David Keener (m)
Someone whose job is to uncover facts and reveal hidden underworlds is the perfect protagonist to develop urban fantasy's mingling of worlds. But how often is the urban fantasy detective written as an interesting investigator rather than an infodump recipient? How do supernatural powers affect the deductive process? And with all the pro bono work, how do they always afford the cool outfits?
- Sat 2:30 PM**
(1h)
[5] Guilford
Panel
- Ask Me Anything: Scientists**
Aaron M. Roth, Dr. Eric Haag, Dr. Valerie J. Mikles, Jim Beall (m), Rob O'Malley, Tim Livengood
Need help figuring out how your star-spanning empire watches live TV? Building an arcology on the moon and not sure where to start? Terraforming not your forte? Ask our scientists to help solve your world-building problems.
- Sat 2:30 PM**
(1h)
[5] Homeland
Presentation
- Frank Wu Science presentation**
Frank Wu
Frank Wu Science presentation
- Sat 2:30 PM**
(3h)
[5] Maryland
Ballroom AB
Workshop
- Japanese Bookbinding Workshop**
Traditional Japanese bookbinding often requires no glue, which makes it an easy entry point to learn how to make your own books. We'll learn a form of "stab binding" which only requires paper, thread, cardstock, and minimal tools to get started. Discussion of ideal materials, methods, and ways to take your next hobby further will be provided, along with other examples of handmade bindings and boxes. Kits will be available for \$20, payable in cash or Paypal, with the goal of taking home a completed book. Bookbinders Jim Freely of Giant Cricket Tools and Alexis Candelaria from Foxglove Books & Binding LLC will guide students through the literal ins and outs of stab bindings. No experience is necessary (although previous sewing knowledge will put you at the head of the class!) This class is not appropriate for children under 12. Children 12 and up must be accompanied by an adult. Limited to 12 participants - sign-up sheet is at the information desk.

- Sat 2:30 PM**
(1h)
[5] Mount
Washington
Panel
- Do Plot Devices Really Need Explaining?**
Scott Edelman, Sally Wiener Grotta, Brianna Wu, Maeghan Jo Kimball
Current writing advice encourages everything to have a reason for existing, that every question is a promise to the reader for the future. But what if there aren't explanations to be had? When is it okay to leave things unexplained? Can the wondrous sometimes be left up to wondering?
- Sat 2:30 PM**
(1h)
[6] Gibson
Panel
- Romanticizing the Monarchy**
Carolyn Ives Gilman, Ian Randal Strock, Jennifer R. Povey, Chidumebi Njoku-Browne, John Robison (m)
The vast majority of nations in our time are republics yet it seems that the vast majority of imagined nations are monarchies, with varying levels of autocracy. What draws us to this form of government in our fiction? What are the storytelling strengths of a centrally focused form of government? Or is writing monarchies easier than creating other forms of government?
- Sat 2:30 PM**
(1h)
[6] James
Presentation
- How do I Bring My Children's Book To Market?**
Nate Whiting - The Accidental Poet
Do you have a children's book in you? Join husband and wife team Nate and Jo, as they discuss what it actually takes to publish a children's book. They'll cover everything from the spark of an idea, to working with your illustrator, to publishing your story. Don't worry, they promise to leave plenty of time for questions.
- Sat 2:30 PM**
(1h)
[6] Kent
Panel
- Expanding the Circle**
Gary Ehrlich, Merav Hoffman, Kira Yeversky, Tavair Dominique, Emily Lewis (m)
In recent years people have discovered the filk community via YouTube, Tumblr, Facebook and other social media and online venues. How do we make sure the community is welcoming so these new friends and voices stay? How do we engage them as volunteers to keep music tracks and filk conventions going strong? *Child-Focused.*
- Sat 2:30 PM**
(1h)
[6] Pride of Baltimore II
Panel
- Using and Abusing the Miscommunication Trope**
Ellen Smith, Jack Campbell, Mark L. Van Name, Tris Lawrence
If only people would just talk to one another... and who knew "To Serve Man" was a cookbook? Whether its miscommunication or a false mystery, such tropes can be powerful tools to create conflict. Our panelists will discuss how to avoid abusing it, and some examples of when it's done well.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

- Sat 2:30 PM**
(1h)
[6] St. George
Panel
- Dipping Your Very Scandalous Toe Into Historical Costuming**
Ann Chatham, Lilis Cosplay, Lisa Ashton, Misha Bushyager, Nomi S (m)
The realm of historical costuming is vast. What do you need to know before you take the leap? Aside from some fantastic YouTubers who are making it accessible, where else can you find support and community to help you on your journey. And when do you need to know the difference between historically accurate, historically adequate, and historically inspired?
- Sat 2:30 PM**
(45m)
[7] Room
7006
Participatory
- Monster Apples**
Eta Hack
Have a spooky apple-icious snack with us! Liven up one of nature's favorite handheld treats with edible decorations, or just have the apple and skip any possible allergens. Best for ages 3 and up. Allergy Warning: Nuts, Dairy. *Child-Focused.*
- Sat 2:30 PM**
(1h)
[7] Room
7029
Participatory
- Discussion: Megillat Ruth**
Sara Itka
We read the story of Ruth on the second day of Shavuot, a holiday that takes place during the barley and wheat harvest. Why Ruth? What makes her significant? No Hebrew knowledge is needed for this discussion. We will close with the saying of Kaddish, the memorial prayer. All are welcome.
- Sat 2:30 PM**
(1h)
[10] Room
10006
Presentation
- Multicolor Printing and Tool Changers**
Jim Wilmering
The presenter will discuss the different methods to print multicolor. They will discuss slicer settings used to create multicolor prints. The different styles of multicolor systems will be compared to show the difference in material used and print times.
- Sat 2:30 PM**
(1h)
[12] Club
Lounge
Participatory
- Kaffeeklatsch with Sarah Pinsker**
Sarah Pinsker
Spend an hour with author and musician Sarah Pinsker. Limited to 10 spaces. Sign-up sheet is at the Info Desk next to Registration.
- Sat 2:30 PM**
(1h)
Virtual Panel
Room 1
Panel
- The Structured Pantser**
Melissa Scott, Marisa Wolf, Angela Yuriko Smith
What if I'm neither a pantser nor a plotter, but something in-between? What if I want to focus my discovery writing without tying myself to an outline? What if I want more discovery writing without ruining a perfectly good outline? Like most things in writing, there is no one answer. Panelists will discuss ways to combine the two methods.

- Sat 2:30 PM**
(1h)
Virtual Panel
Room 2
Panel
- Frankenstein, AI, and Scientific Responsibility**
Leonardo Espinoza, Emad El-Din Aysha, David Ellis
With the new Frankenstein amid the discourse about AI development, it is timely and relevant to revisit the conversation of what responsibility scientists and engineers have towards their creations and how they are used. Let's use science fiction as a lens to discuss moral philosophy and how it pertains to the ethics of innovation.
- Sat 3:00 PM**
(3h)
[5]
Watertable B
Table 1
Game
- Game Demo: The Dresden Files Cooperative Card Game**
Pickles
In The Dresden Files Cooperative Card Game, players work together to solve cases from the bestselling Dresden Files novels in the ultimate what-if scenario: What if Harry was on the scene with allies who weren't there in the original story? Players take on the role of Harry Dresden and his allies, investigating cases and taking on foes from the books. To accomplish this, you'll share a common pool of action points (called Fate points), and each player must choose between taking an action or generating Fate points each turn. Solve more cases than there are foes left standing to win! Play your hand, clear the board, and beat the odds in the final showdown at the end of the book. Use teamwork, strategy, and a wee bit of luck to win the day.
- Sat 3:00 PM**
(1h)
[7] Room
7002
Meeting
- Geek Out about Books with Librarians**
Did you know that there are people who get paid to think about books? And read books? And geek out about books to other people? ALL THE TIME? Come geek out about your latest book obsessions with amazing librarians from Baltimore's own Enoch Pratt Free Library. Then hear about the books they're crazy about right now and why. This'll focus on the YA space, but there's plenty of room to swing younger or older as the conversation moves. Shout-out to the support of the Enoch Pratt Free Library for making this program possible! *Child-Focused.*
- Sat 3:15 PM**
(45m)
[7] Room
7006
Presentation
- SCIENCE XTREME!!#^1!**
Eta Hack
Who likes science? **raises all three mutant hands** Then this is the panel for you! Come enjoy some fun demos and walkthroughs of fun, kid-friendly concepts across the sciences. Best for ages 5 and up. *Child-Focused.*
- Sat 4:00 PM**
(1h)
[5] 5th Floor
Lobby
Signing
- Autographs: Jim Butcher**
Jim Butcher
Autograph Session with Jim Butcher

Sat 4:00 PM
 (1h30m)
 [5] Federal Hill
Participatory

Speculative Poetry Open Mic and Contest Winners Reading
Miguel O. Mitchell, PhD

Come read your speculative poetry! Share what you've been working on. The winners of the Steve Miller BSFS Annual Poetry Contest will also read their winning poems. Patti Kinlock, Poetry Contest Coordinator, will present the awards. First Place: "Terracotta Warrior" Y.M. Pang Second Place: "Starlight Bathing" Vivian McInerny Third Place: "The Planet that Learned our Fear" Ayesha Mansoor Youth Award: "Faster Than Light" Madame Reeds-A-Lot Honorable Mention: "The Witch of Dark Matter" Kristin5689 Honorable Mention: "The River Remembers" Hashim Quraishi *This item will be held in the hotel and virtually, allowing for online participation.

Sat 4:00 PM
 (1h)
 [5] Guilford
Panel

The Fanfic-ification of Traditional Publishing
Tris Lawrence, JL Gribble, Sheila Jenne, CECILIA TAN, Evelyn Lewis (m)

Fanfiction has invaded traditional publishing! A lot of well-known authors got their start in fanfic. We're looking at you Fifty Shades and Mortal Instruments. Elements like content warnings, tags, "characterXcharacter" are now seen in indie and trad publishing. Let's talk about the good, the bad, and the ugly of these developments, and how we feel about them.

Sat 4:00 PM
 (1h)
 [5] Homeland
Presentation

Turning Science into Skin Care: Cells that Change Skin
Sam Lee

Our research explores how a person's own cells can help skin adapt and become stronger. Fibroblasts from the sole of the foot can "teach" other skin to develop tougher, volar-like features—thicker epidermis and better tolerance to pressure. We share highlights from a recent clinical study and single-cell analyses that reveal how skin identity can be reprogrammed, and discuss what this could mean for comfort and protection in daily life, including for people using prosthetics or living with chronic skin damage.

Sat 4:00 PM
 (1h)
 [5] Mount Washington
Panel

Ethics of Magic Systems
Beth Morris Tanner, M. Flagg, Brianna Wu

In fantasy worldbuilding, we often talk about "hard magic" and "mechanics," but we scarcely discuss the ethics of how our magic would work. The structure of the magic system can communicate ideas of how the world is or should be. How are we (purposely or not) using the magic we build to communicate ethics? And how do we make sure our magic isn't undermining our main themes?

- Sat 4:00 PM**
(4h)
[5]
Watertable A
Table 1
Game
- Blade Runner: Fiery Angels Session 1**
Caleb
Another day, another case. But it's not every day that you're assigned to question someone who was trying to infiltrate the Wallace Corporation Memory Vaults. Not every day that person displayed feats worthy of a replicant, but doesn't have any of the serial marking of a Nexus-9. Something's off here, and you're in the middle of it. *Children Not Allowed.*
- Sat 4:00 PM**
(4h)
[5]
Watertable A
Table 2
Game
- D&D 5E (2016): Rescue in the Bottomlands Part II**
Paul Bove
The second part of the Kidnap/rescue adventure takes place as the rescuers close in on the trail of the missing princess as the time comes to storm the lair of the river pirates. Pregens will be provided. *Children Not Allowed.*
- Sat 4:00 PM**
(4h)
[5]
Watertable A
Table 3
Game
- BREAK!!: A Wilting Wish**
Reynaldo Madrinan
Delve into dangerous magitech ruins to retrieve the legendary Wishflower and help a desperate family! Featuring the newest BREAK!! adventure from our upcoming supplement START
- Sat 4:00 PM**
(3h)
[5]
Watertable B
Table 2
Game
- Game Demo: Wilmot's Warehouse**
Nick
In Wilmot's Warehouse, your team will work cooperatively to organize the warehouse, using memory, imagination, and silly stories you make up. Draw product tiles from the stack, discuss what they look like, and place them somewhere you'll remember. After you place each tile, you flip it over and can't look at it again until the end of the game, so your team has to remember where you've placed previous tiles as you decide where to place new ones. At the end of the game, in a five-minute rush, your team has to match all 35 face-down tiles with customer cards. Consult your performance review to see how well you did!
- Sat 4:00 PM**
(1h)
[6] Gibson
Panel
- Our Favorite Monsters**
JD Donnelly, Thomas R. Holtz, Jr., PhD, Patrick Fitzgerald, Frank Wu, Jennifer R. Povey (m)
From Nessie, to Godzilla, to Mike Wazowski, monsters are fascinating creatures. Some are benevolent helpers, some are forces of destruction, and some just want to lurk under beds. Our panelists will share their favorites, and maybe you'll discover some more to love.
- Sat 4:00 PM**
(1h)
[6] James
Reading
- Author Readings: Kaplan, Mewha, Painter**
DM Mewha, A. L. Kaplan, Mark Painter
Authors A.L. Kaplan, DM Mewha, and Mark Painter will read selections from their works.
- Sat 4:00 PM**
(1h30m)
[6] Kent
Participatory
- Renaissance Dance**
Patches, Gary Ehrlich, MAUGORN, Elizabeth Greenberg
Come learn a bunch of easy and fun Renaissance-era dances. Taught by Patches, with music provided by Maugorn and friends.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

- Sat 4:00 PM**
(1h)
[6] Pride of Baltimore II
Panel
- After the End: Post-Apocalyptic Fiction**
dave ring, David Keener, Emily Wagner (m), R.A. Johnson
Post-Apocalyptic fiction tells stories about what comes after a great disaster. What makes these stories so popular? Why are we fascinated with the collapse of our civilization? Why is this subgenre especially popular in Young Adult fiction? Does post-apocalyptic fiction help us prepare for threats or cause us to underestimate them? Panelists will discuss this popular subgenre, how it reflects society.
- Sat 4:00 PM**
(1h)
[6] St. George
Panel
- Gateway Games to Get Your Friends Hooked**
Nomi S, hymie!, Bob Oliver, Perrienne Lurie (m)
Do you have friends who don't know anything about playing board or card games? Would you like to be able to draw them into gaming? Come to this panel and find out about the best games to start off teaching newbies that will help encourage them to join the hobby.
- Sat 4:00 PM**
(45m)
[7] Room 7006
Participatory
- Brewtastic Magical Potions**
Eta Hack
Cork up some secret concoctions with us! Learn the trick for making toy potions with vibrant colors that sparkle and swirl with a gentle shake. NOT FOR DRINKING. JUST FOR PLAYING. (Our lawyers made me say that in all caps.) This is a crafting session where you can make potions and take them with you as cosplay accessories, LARP items, sloshy fidgets or what have you. Stick around afterwards for a kid-focused imaginative play session called Potion Market, using the potions you just made! *Child-Focused.*
- Sat 4:00 PM**
(1h)
[7] Room 7029
Panel
- Writing Despite it All**
D. H. Timpko/Alexis Dupree, David Simms, Kira Yeversky, Jen Brinn, Wayland Smith
When the world feels like a dumpster fire, how do you keep writing? Join this panel as experts discuss how to keep the words flowing in uncertain times. This panel will be a supportive exploration of coping mechanisms.
- Sat 4:00 PM**
(3h)
[8] Room 8006
Screening
- Kaiju no.8 Season 2 5-9**
Kafka Hibino's dream has come true, he's made it into The Defense Force! But, not without some hiccups.... Now that Kafka's secret is out and his fellow officers know he's Kaiju no.8, will he be able to stand at his childhood friend Mina Ashiro's side, or will his comrades turn their guns on him next?
Children Only with Parent.
- Sat 4:00 PM**
(1h)
[8] Room 8029
Panel
- Joining or Resisting the Hive Mind?**
Carl Fink, O. Hai Mark, Robyn Wyrick, Michael Capobianco
There have been many depictions of collective intelligences in SFF. Our panelists will discuss which ones are the most interesting and whether it is better to retain one's individuality or to merge with the collective consciousness.

- Sat 4:00 PM**
(1h)
[10] Room
10006
Presentation
- Computer Aided Design (CAD) - Creating 3D Models**
Ty McNeer
The presenter will present the different CAD software are available. They will focus specifically on Fusion 360 for creating 3D models.
- Sat 4:00 PM**
(1h)
[12] Club
Lounge
Participatory
- LGBTQIA and Allies Tea**
Morgan Stallard
Enjoy an afternoon snack in a safe space.
- Sat 4:00 PM**
(1h)
Virtual Panel
Room 1
Panel
- Building Worlds Through Words**
Art Sierra, D.A. Xiaolin Spires, Anne E.G. Nydam, Emad El-Din Aysha, Jayrod P. Garrett
SFF authors often talk about worldbuilding, but what's less talked about is WORD-building: the art and craft of bringing worlds to life through innovative language. Our panelists will discuss how crafting prose and language affects the impact of stories.
- Sat 4:00 PM**
(1h)
Virtual Panel
Room 2
Panel
- SFF: Escapism or Social Commentary**
Kemi Ashing-Giwa -CC 2024 Winner, Marisa Wolf, Mari Ness, Phoebe Barton
Many SFF stories are hard hitting social commentary. But what if we just want to ride dragons? Should we be reading more critically or can we just enjoy the escapism? Since authors are a product of their environment, can they avoid writing about current issues? Should they even try? This panel examines the dual nature of fantasy literature as both a form of escapism and a vehicle for social commentary.
- Sat 4:45 PM**
(45m)
[7] Room
7006
Participatory
- Potion Market**
Eta Hack
The market's open, and the potion merchants have a whole range of ridiculously powerful (or just ridiculous) color-changing potions to sell. Who knows who'll come through with coin to spend--heroes, villains, monsters, aliens, beloved household pets? Join us for some open-ended imaginative play about a potion market and the adventure-ready dark forest right next door to it. Meet new friends and use your potions to transmogrify them forever! This session builds on Brewtastic Color-Changing Potions, the crafting session right before it. Come to both to get the ultimate potion-making and potion-playing experience, or just drop in for whichever half sounds more fun! *Child-Focused*.

Alphabet Soup Board Gaming



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

Info: matthewsands@bsfs.org.

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

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

- Sat 5:00 PM**
(5h)
[5]
Watertable B
Table 4
Game
- Game Demo: Battlestar Galactica**
Pyris, James Timmons
Battlestar Galactica: The Board Game is a game of mistrust, intrigue, and the struggle for survival. Based on the Sci Fi Channel series, Battlestar Galactica: The Board Game puts players in the role of one of their favorite characters from the show. Each playable character has their own abilities and weaknesses, and must all work together in order for humanity to have any hope of survival. However, one or more players in every game secretly side with the Cylons. Players must attempt to expose the traitor while fuel shortages, food contaminations, and political unrest threatens to tear the fleet apart. After the Cylon attack on the Colonies, the battered remnants of the human race are on the run, constantly searching for the next signpost on the road to Earth. They face the threat of Cylon attack from without, and treachery and crisis from within. Humanity must work together if they are to have any hope of survival...but how can they, when any of them may, in fact, be a Cylon agent?
- Sat 5:00 PM**
(1h)
[7] Room
7002
Meeting
- Young Writers' Contest Meetup**
The Jack Chalker Young Writers' Contest is a Balticon institution that drew almost 40 stories from students across Maryland this year. We're thrilled to welcome all teens who submitted a story (plus their friends and family) to meet up for snacks and mingling in the teen lounge! *Child-Focused.*
- Sat 5:30 PM**
(1h)
[5] 5th Floor
Lobby
Signing
- Autographs: Campbell, Lee, Johnson**
Jack Campbell, Mary Soon Lee, R.A. Johnson
Autograph session with Jack Campbell, Mary Soon Lee, and R.A. Johnson.
- Sat 5:30 PM**
(1h)
[5] Federal
Hill
Presentation
- Mars: where is the air?**
Tim Livengood
There is plenty of evidence that Mars once was a different world, with flowing water and enough air pressure that your ears might pop, but your eyeballs would not. No longer. How much air was there, then; where did it go; and why is it not completely gone? We are studying it today, with rovers on the ground of Mars, spacecraft in orbit, and telescopes from Earth.
- Sat 5:30 PM**
(1h)
[5] Mount
Washington
Panel
- Logistics and Tactics: Writing Campaigns**
Charles E. Gannon, Alan Smale, WALTER H. HUNT, Jay Requard (m)
Military fiction exists on all kinds of scales, from an individual's story to a mass campaign. This panel will talk about techniques for writing large-scale military fiction, including such things as logistics, strategy, and political conflict.

- Sat 5:30 PM**
(1h)
[6] Gibson
Panel
- We Come in Peace: Writing Non-human Sentience**
MJ Huntsgood, Rigel Ailur, Christopher Mark Rose, Anne Gray (m), Rob O'Malley
First contact stories are timeless, we love the idea of meeting a species who thinks and acts in alien ways. But how can we embody an extraterrestrial mind in a way that's empathetic to human readers? And how can we do it without falling back on tropes which are neurodivergent coded?
- Sat 5:30 PM**
(1h30m)
[6] James
Reading
- Readings - Broad Universe**
Christiane Knight, Emily Wagner
Join the folks from Broad Universe for some super snappy short fire readings! NEED LIST OF READERS
- Sat 5:30 PM**
(1h)
[6] Kent
Concert
- Concert: Maugorn the Stray**
MAUGORN
Our favorite wandering minstrel sings from his eclectic repertoire of over a thousand songs.
- Sat 5:30 PM**
(1h)
[6] Pride of Baltimore II
Panel
- Characters Who Get Better**
Jennifer R. Povey, Mark L. Van Name, Robert Lewis, Somto Ihezue
We're not just talking about a loveable scoundrel, (I see you Han Solo) but a character who started off unlikable, mean, evil even. Sometimes their growth arc is so great they end up becoming some of the most loved characters in their genre. Let's talk about our favorites, how they changed, and why we love them.
- Sat 5:30 PM**
(1h)
[6] St. George
Panel
- Smashing Genres Together**
Sara Itka, Samantha Mills -CC 2025 Winner, Dr. Valerie J. Mikles, Diana Peterfreund
Romantasy, portal thriller, and alien SF horror, are just some examples of blended genres. How can authors approach subgenre writing when different genres have very clear expectations? We'll take a look at some good, and not so good, examples. And we'll talk through ideas you may have.
- Sat 5:30 PM**
(45m)
[7] Room 7006
Participatory
- Jump into Junk Journals**
Eta Hack
Trash can become timeless with a little creativity! Learn techniques for building a junk journal, an eclectic mixed media project that's part art piece, part diary, and all fun. Best for ages 6 and up. *Child-Focused.*
- Sat 5:30 PM**
(1h)
[7] Room 7029
Panel
- What Makes a Good Editor?**
dave ring, Scott H. Andrews, Scott Edelman, JL Gribble
What are the hallmarks of a good editor? What strategies and techniques do professional editors use to review a story or poem and help it become its best self? How does one navigate the editor/author relationship from the editorial side? Is there a trick to convincing a publishing team that this book right here is the one the publisher needs? Our panel of editors will discuss these and other important facets of editing.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

- Sat 5:30 PM** **It's Not Dead Yet**
(1h) *Jay Smith, Kelly Pierce, Ken Schrader, Nate Hoffelder (m)*
[8] Room *Hoffelder (m)*
8029 Was the last time you posted to your blog or podcast... before the pandemic? It can be hard to determine whether an abandoned online presence should be laid to rest or resurrected. Panelists will discuss the importance of audience, platform, and end-goals when determining when to revive an account, and when to just walk away.
Panel
- Sat 5:30 PM** **Pultrusion – Turning PET#1 Soda Bottles into Filament**
(1h) *Jim Wilmering*
[10] Room *Wilmering*
10006 The presenter will cover the open-source process of pultrusion. They will explain the current kit. The process will be demonstrated at each step and filament will be created.
Presentation
- Sat 5:30 PM** **Kaffeeklatsch with GOH Frank Wu**
(1h) *Frank Wu*
[12] Club Spend an hour with Guest of Honor Frank Wu
Lounge Limited to 10 spaces. Sign-up sheet is at the Info
Participatory Desk next to Registration.
- Sat 5:30 PM** **Sympathy for the Devil**
(1h) *Valerie Estelle Frankel, Kemi Ashing-Giwa -CC 2024 Winner, David Ellis*
Virtual Panel *Frankel, Ellis*
Room 1 What happens when the villain's motivation makes more sense than the hero's? Why do so many villains have more charisma than the heroes? (Why does charisma seem to be a villainous trait anyway?) What makes us root for them?
Panel
- Sat 5:30 PM** **Diving into History for Story Ideas**
(1h) *Gillian Polack, Mike Luoma, Iver P Cooper, Dana Bell*
Virtual Panel *Polack, Luoma, Cooper, Bell*
Room 2 Authors have often used historical events as a model for things happening in their SFFH stories. As with anything is has been done well and not so well. When is filing off the serial numbers enough, and when do we need to adapt it further to fit our story? Our panelists will provide tactics and strategies for using history as inspiration.
Panel

The BSFS Avery/Deutsch Amateur Writing Contest 2026

The Baltimore Science Fiction Society Avery/Deutsch Amateur Writing Contest is open to amateur writers over 18 years old who are Maryland residents and to students attending any Maryland two or four year college. It is free to enter and is named in memory of the late BSFS members Shirley Avery and Martin Deutsch. The 2026 contest opens April 15 and closes June 15 at 11:59 PM.

Winners will be announced at the Capclave Convention that will be held October 2-4, 2026 in Rockville, MD.

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

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

Saturday Evening & Night

- Sat 6:00 PM**
(6h)
[5] Guilford
Participatory
- Masquerade Photography**
Here's your chance to photograph the costumes.
6:00 PM - Professional Photography 9:00 PM - Fan Photography
- Sat 6:00 PM**
(6h)
[5] Homeland
Participatory
- Masquerade Green Room**
If you are presenting at the Masquerade, you must check-in at the Green Room.
- Sat 7:00 PM**
(1h)
[5] Federal Hill
Panel
- Speculative Medicine**
Dr. Eric Haag, Anne Gray, Jen Finelli, MD, Miguel O. Mitchell, PhD (m)
Often, SF has machines that can heal injuries and diagnose diseases. Looking at where we are in medicine now, what do we really think medicine will look like in the future? Will we all have computers embedded in our brains? How much editing of our genomes will there be? Will all our doctors be AI? Let's talk about some of these fantastic ideas.
- Sat 7:00 PM**
(1h)
[5] Mount Washington
Panel
- Curling Up with Cozy Fantasy**
Jo Miles, Jen Distad, Eric Hardenbrook, Nomi S (m)
Let's get cozy! Cozy fantasy is more popular than ever. Why do we love it so much? What makes a story cozy? And is there such a thing as too cozy? We'll talk favorite tropes and recommend lots of books as we celebrate this warm and fuzzy genre.
- Sat 7:00 PM**
(3h)
[5] Private Dining Room
Demo
- Warhammer 40,000 - Demo**
Lord Kron
In the Grim Darkness of the Future, there is only WAR! It is the 41st Millennium. For more than a hundred centuries The Emperor has sat immobile on the Golden Throne of Earth. He is the Master of Mankind by the will of the gods, and master of a million worlds by the might of his inexhaustible armies. He is a rotting carcass writhing invisibly with power from the Dark Age of Technology. He is the Carrion Lord of the Imperium for whom a thousand souls are sacrificed every day, so that he may never truly die. To be a man in such times is to be one amongst untold billions. It is to live in the cruelest and most bloody regime imaginable. These are the tales of those times. Forget the power of technology and science, for so much has been forgotten, never to be re-learned. Forget the promise of progress and understanding, for in the grim dark future there is only war. There is no peace amongst the stars, only an eternity of carnage and slaughter, and the laughter of thirsting gods

SATURDAY EVENING & NIGHT

- Sat 7:00 PM**
(3h)
[5]
Watertable B
Table 1
Game
- Game Demo: Covenant**
Erik Delfosse
The Dwarven King has issued an order to the houses of each clan. It is imperative to reclaim Karrak-cum-Kazar, the sacred mountain. For too long it has been occupied by the poison of the dark lords, with their creatures defiling the halls that once housed the noblest of all Dwarves. The insult cannot last any longer. The Dwarves return to the mountain. Covenant is played in turns over three ages. During their turn, players will assign the Dwarves of their clan to different tasks that will allow them to explore the ancient halls of the ancestors and drive out their enemies while rebuilding their ancestral home. Your dwarf tokens and tools will allow you to do all kinds of actions: dig into the mountain, defeat the enemies that live there, and build all kinds of buildings that will bring the legendary dwarf city back to life. At the end of the game, the clan that has accumulated the most glory will take the recognition of the monarch and the victory.
- Sat 7:00 PM**
(1h)
[6] Gibson
Panel
- Writing Found Families**
DM Mewha, Doc Coleman, Tommy Kerper, Tris Lawrence, Patrick Fitzgerald
Found family is one of the most popular tropes spanning all genres and media. What makes this trope so beloved? What elements make a good found family, and do these elements differ by genre?
- Sat 7:00 PM**
(1h)
[6] James
Reading
- Author Readings: Van Name, Hasseler, Porter**
Mark L. Van Name, Bjorn E. Hasseler, Alan J. Porter
Authors Mark L. Van Name, Gjorn Hasseler, and Alan J. Porter will read selections from their works.
- Sat 7:00 PM**
(1h)
[6] Kent
Concert
- Concert: Tavair Dominique**
Tavair Dominique (m)
Tavair Dominique is a Baltimore-based singer-songwriter, poet, and author whose music ranges from introspection to self-reflection to poetic lyricism.
- Sat 7:00 PM**
(1h)
[6] Pride of Baltimore II
Panel
- Puzzle Locks and Passwords**
Adam H., Micah, Nikki, Scott H. Andrews, Meridel Newton (m)
What do you do when the way is blocked not by a monster, but a door with no handle? How many clues is too little or too many, and when should you have them just roll an intelligence check? Our panelists will talk planning and managing puzzles in your campaign, and when you may want to use one.

- Sat 7:00 PM**
(1h)
[6] St. George
Panel
- What's Happened to Kinky SFF After 50 Shades?**
CECILIA TAN, Zack Be, Kathryn Faye, Morgan Hazelwood
There have always been SFF books with a thread of kink and power exchange. In the '70s came the Gor books. In the '80s, Sharon Green. In the '90s Telepaths Don't Need Safewords. In the 2000s, Kushiel's Dart. But after the 50 Shades phenomenon, which removed any taboo the publishing business might have clung to around BDSM, has kink in SFF boomed? Are romantasy books like Manacled, or even Fourth Wing and ACOTAR, the successors, or has SFF lost its edge now that kink is mainstream? *Children Only with Parent.*
- Sat 7:00 PM**
(1h)
[7] Room
7029
Participatory
- Discussion: Stranger Things**
Bill Lawhorn
Netflix's Stranger Things wrapped up its highly anticipated fifth, and final, season this year. Did it live up to its expectations? Which of our burning questions were answered and what was left in the Upside Down? Are any of our favorite characters left alive? (What's next for the Duffer brothers?)
- Sat 7:00 PM**
(2h)
[8] Room
8006
Screening
- The Apothecary Diaries Season 2 29-32**
Secrets are uncovered and relationships are tested; as Maomao and Jinshi continue their "will they, won't they" dance, and the mysteries and the political intrigue continue to pile up around them. *Children Only with Parent.*
- Sat 7:00 PM**
(1h)
Virtual Panel
Room 1
Panel
- The Future in Verse: Writing Speculative Poetry**
Anne E.G. Nydam, Mari Ness, Jayrod P. Garrett, Stace Johnson
Poetry can engage with SFFH themes such as technology, space travel, myth, climate change, and imagined worlds. Why are poetic forms uniquely suited to exploring big ideas through emotion, image, and compression? We will touch on different poetic approaches, from narrative poems to lyric and experimental work.
- Sat 7:00 PM**
(1h)
Virtual Panel
Room 2
Panel
- Avoiding Tokenism**
L. Marie Wood, Valerie Estelle Frankel, Oghenechovwe Donald Ekpeki, Gillian Polack
How do writers create a diverse group of characters organically without seeming to have a Black/Jewish/Trans character just for tokenism? How can books/tv/movies integrate different backgrounds? What works are good models of this kind of diversity?
- Sat 7:30 PM**
(30m)
[5] Maryland
Ballroom CD
Room Turn
- Doors Open for Masquerade**
Doors open for Masquerade seating

Balticon 59 Masquerade Awards

Young Fan

- Sunny the Axolotl Wizard – Most Magical
- Handsome Jack – Most Energetic
- Sunny the Axolotl Wizard – Best in Class Workmanship

Novice – Presentation

- Keeper of the Stories – Best in Class
- Lady Maria of the Astral Clock Tower – Most Deadly
- Regency Dandy Magneto – Diamond of the Season
- Warrior Cats – Best Cat Toy
- Space Cowboy – Most Dazzling
- Lethal Undercover Jedi – Honorable Mention

Novice – Workmanship

- Keeper of the Stories – Best Original Character
- Regency Dandy Magneto – Most Sustainable Cosplay
- Mythrill Arts Judge's Award – Warrior Cats: Into the Wild Personified
- Lady Maria of the Astral Clock Tower – Best in Class

Journeyman – Presentation

- Brother Philostogen – Most Impressive
- Hawk Eye not the Hawk Guy – Best Presentation
- In Memory of Black Suffragettes – Best in Class

Journeyman – Workmanship

- Brother Philostogen – Jinafiire Judge's Award
- Masquerade Kate Bishop Hawkeye – Most Elegant

Master – Presentation

- Princess Mirabel, I Give You Wings – Most Original Interpretation
- Patchwork Peacock – Best in Class

Master – Workmanship

- In Memory of Black Suffragettes – Best in Class
- Presentation Zuko – Best in Show – Presentation Zuko
- Workmanship Patchwork Peacock – Workmanship Patchwork Peacock

Sat 8:00 PM

(3h)

[5] Maryland Ballroom CD

Presentation

Masquerade

The annual extravaganza of fantastic costumes in amazing presentations, all for your viewing pleasure. BSFS Young Writers winners will be announced. BSFS Books for Kids charity auction will start during the half-time. GET YOUR SEAT EARLY for a special Pre-Masquerade presentation from Pyrkon.

Sat 8:00 PM

(4h)

[5] Watertable A Table 1

Game

Alien: Rapture Protocol Session 1

Caleb

It's 2185, and the mining station Jeremiah VI needs its resupply for the year. You're the lucky roughnecks who got the job. Simple enough, really, and killing multiple birds with a single stone: you're taking the USCSS Fianza for the run, dropping off the supplies, picking up the promethium Jeremiah mined, and then taking the ship back to earth with the load where it'll then be decommissioned. Do it right, and you might just ear a permanent crew contract with WY. Sounds like a dream, right? *Children Not Allowed.*

Sat 8:00 PM

(4h)

[5] Watertable A Table 2

Game

Cypher: Into the Woods

Mascot

"Boggs Holler is quiet in the way graves are quiet. Folks keep to themselves. They don't ask questions. But lately, you've been hearing a voice from the woods. They voice of a lost loved one. It's calling your name. A teenage boy named Eli Ramey disappeared three nights ago. He was last seen walking the edge of the treeline, answering someone who sounded like his dead Mama. His grandma didn't call the police. She called you." *Children Not Allowed.*

- Sat 8:00 PM**
(4h)
[5]
Watertable A
Table 3
Game
- Mothership: Decagone**
Robert Himberger
You are part of a team sent to explore a deep-sea research facility, and as you await the arrival of the lift, suddenly it stops a meter short of the floor. The panel lights with alarm and the landing is silent. You get about your work, but the hairs on the back of your neck stand up; have you seen this before? Mothership is an OSR Horror RPG where you definitely have a bad feeling about this drop; even if your co-workers don't think much of it because you always say that. *Children Not Allowed.*
- Sat 8:00 PM**
(3h)
[7] Patio
Participatory
- Lunar Observation**
Michelle Hymowitz, hymie!
This will take place on the 7th Floor Rooftop Patio, weather permitting. The Moon and Jupiter will be out on Saturday night. We will have our telescope. I honestly don't what we will be able to see, but please feel free to come out and join us. Be sure to check Rocketmail for updates. This is a "drop in / drop out" event. There is no reason, or expectation, for you to spend the whole four hours. Just come by and check out the Moon for a few minutes.
- Sat 8:30 PM**
(1h)
[5] Federal
Hill
Panel
- Erotic Flash Fiction**
Andrija "Andy" Popovic, CECILIA TAN, Maeghan Jo Kimball, Kathryn Faye, David Simms
Join us for a quickie! A few quickies, actually! No, not that kind--well, sort of. Erotic speculative fiction authors share fiction that's short in length but long on sensuality *Children Not Allowed.*
- Sat 8:30 PM**
(1h)
[5] Mount
Washington
Panel
- Is the Violence Necessary?**
Jay Requard, Elektra Hammond, Jo Miles, Jack Campbell
Violence is often a part of SFFH, but is it a necessary element for creating dramatic tension and exploring conflict? How much is too much? What is acceptable for your sub-genre? How do authors navigate the ethical considerations of depicting violence? *Children Only with Parent.*
- Sat 8:30 PM**
(2h)
[6] Gibson
Participatory
- Science Fiction Trivia Contest**
Brick Barrientos
Fans will compete in a trivia contest of science fiction, fantasy, horror and other geeky interests. Come play or watch smugly from the audience in this game show-style competition complete with buzzers.
- Sat 8:30 PM**
(1h)
[6] James
Reading
- Author Readings: Coleman, Doyle, and Wyrick**
Tom Doyle, Robyn Wyrick, Doc Coleman
Authors Doc Coleman, Tom Doyle, and Robyn Wyrick will read selections from their works.
- Sat 8:30 PM**
(1h30m)
[6] Kent
Participatory
- Theme Circle: Songs of Hope**
Merav Hoffman (m), Elizabeth Greenberg
We all could use some hope in these trying times. Bring your favorite uplifting songs (filk, folk, or other genre) to share as we try to bring a bit of light into a dark world.

SATURDAY EVENING & NIGHT

- Sat 8:30 PM**
(1h)
[6] Pride of Baltimore II
Panel
- Not Your Biggest Fan: Managing Negative Feedback**
Carolyn Ives Gilman, D. H. Timpko/Alexis Dupree, Jay Smith, Jeanne Adams
You've put your heart, sweat, and tears into your literary masterpiece, but someone left a bad review. Then someone else approaches you at a conference and tells you they don't like it. How do you handle this, and separate yourself from reactions to your work? Staying professional when something you care about is criticized is hard. Let's get some tips from authors who have survived negative feedback.
- Sat 8:30 PM**
(1h)
[7] Room 7029
Participatory
- Discussion: My Favorite Frankenstein**
Daniel M. Kimmel
Let's talk our favorite Frankenstein versions. (Costumes optional)
- Sat 8:30 PM**
(2h)
[8] Room 8029
Meeting
- BSFS Writer's Circle Get Together**
A gathering of folks who participate in the BSFS Writer's Circle.
- Sat 8:30 PM**
(1h)
[10] Room 10006
Presentation
- 3D Printed Combat Robots (MACRObot)**
Ty McNeer
This will be a presentation by MACRObot. It will cover what are 3D printed combat robots. What is needed to participate/compete. It will provide the names and location of other combat robot event organization around this area.
- Sat 8:30 PM**
(1h)
Virtual Panel Room 1
Panel
- Uniqueness of Vtubing**
Glitch Symphony, Swift Crescendo, Vantura, Alyss and Dusty (m), Smol Bean
Among an ocean of catgirls, femboys, overly muscular men, and imitators, how do you maintain your unique identity as a vtuber? Our panelists discuss the challenges, dangers, and triumphs of not only succeeding as a vtuber, but also how to maintain your individuality while doing so. *Children Only with Parent.*
- Sat 9:00 PM**
(1h)
[7] Patio
Participatory
- Havdalah With Fen**
Join us for havdalah. Everyone is welcome. There was even a rumor that filkers would show up. *Grape juice, besamim, and havdalah candle will be provided. You are welcome to bring your own if you wish. Baltimore candle lighting times, from Chabad.org: (Thursday, Erev Shavuot, Light candles at 8:00 PM) Friday, Light candles at 8:01 PM Shabbat ends at 9:10 PM
- Sat 9:00 PM**
(2h)
[8] Room 8006
Screening
- Clevatess 5-8**
One of the Lords of Dark Beasts, Clevatess's reign shatters when he revives a hero he personally slayed and adopts an orphaned humanoid baby—the last hope to save a dying world. Now bound together, what fate awaits this unlikely trio?
Children Not Allowed.

- Sat 10:00 PM** **Fate or Free Will**
 (1h)
 [5] Federal Hill
Panel
Tom Doyle, Martin Berman-Gorvine, Zack Be (m), Jim Butcher, Jennifer Blackstream
 Myths and stories are full of heroes attempting to fulfill or defy prophecies with varied results. From Dune to Percy Jackson, prophecies are used to further narratives and direct characters. But can characters honestly experience true agency if the results are predestined? Can audiences experience real suspense if we already know the ending? How have authors made destiny interesting?
- Sat 10:00 PM** **Saturday Night Open Filk**
 (4h)
 [6] Kent
Participatory
Emily Lewis, Merav Hoffman, Gary Ehrlich (m)
 The filk circles are your chance to share a favorite song or two. All songs are welcome: filk, folk, Celtic, SCA, and more. Or bring an instrument and play along. Join us to sing the night away, or just stop by for a listen!
- Sat 10:00 PM** **Two Rooms and a Boom**
 (4h)
 [6] St. George
Game
Pyris
 In Two Rooms and a Boom – a social deduction/hidden role party game for six or more players – there are two teams: the Red Team and the Blue Team. The Blue Team has a President. The Red Team has a Bomber. Players are equally distributed between two rooms (i.e., separate playing areas). The game consists of five timed rounds. At the end of each round, some players will be swapped into opposing rooms. If the Red Team's Bomber is in the same room as the President at the end of the game, then the Red Team wins; otherwise the Blue Team wins. Lying encouraged.
- Sat 10:00 PM** **Smash or Pass Digimon**
 (1h)
 Virtual Panel Room 1
Panel
Alyss and Dusty (m), Glitch Symphony, Swift Crescendo, Smol Bean
 Join our panelists as they once again take on the challenge of Smash or Pass, this time featuring a curated lineup of everyone's favorite Digital Champions! Featuring returning Smash or Pass Panelist Glitch Symphony! *Children Not Allowed.*
- Sat 11:00 PM** **Lord of Mysteries 5-8**
 (1h)
 [8] Room 8006
Screening
 In a Victorian world of steam, dreadnoughts, and occult horrors, Zhou Mingrui awakens as Klein Moretti. He walks a razor's edge between light and darkness, entangled with warring Churches. This is the legend of unlimited potential...and unspeakable danger. *Children Only with Parent.*
- Sun 12:00 AM** **Pirate Borg — "Buried in the Bahamas"**
 (4h)
 [5] Watertable A Table 1
Game
Jason
 Pirate Borg is a scurvy-ridden, rules-light, rum-soaked RPG. Buckle your swashes and batten your hatches in this adventure. Drink grog! Loot forgotten tombs! Slay the undead and turn their bones into . . . drugs? In this lethal, to-the-hilt game you're as likely to end up in Davy Jones' Locker as you are wealthy beyond your wildest dreams. *Children Not Allowed.*

SUNDAY MORNING

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

A Travelers Adventure (A Home Brew Doctor Who Game)
Beastie
You see in the distance of your world/universe a blue box flickering in and out of existence. What do you do? This will be a home brew game with more storytelling than rolling dice. You can bring any type of character you'd like from any universe or world.

Love Tabletop Role-Playing Games?



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

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

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

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



Sunday Morning

Sun 8:00 AM
(4h)
[5]
Watertable A
Table 1
Game

Fallout: Machine Frequency
Robert Himberger
War never changes, so we're told. Another thing that never changes is that the Brotherhood of Steel is always trying to secure ancient technology; some say to protect mankind from itself, and others that their paranoid need for control demands it. Set out into the wastelands and decide for yourself. *Fallout 2d20* is a licensed adaptation of the concept behind the video game series from Bethesda. *Children Only with Parent.*

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

Traveler: Element Patrol
Yoshi
The cruisers of the Imperial Navy are both its symbol and its workhorses. The three classes of ship that make up the Element cruiser family are mainstays of the Imperial Navy, and can be found across Charted Space. From fighting wars and protecting the space lanes, to flag showing missions and voyages of discovery, Element cruisers are true, reliable workhorses of the navy. These huge vessels are equipped with configurable pods, allowing them to be tailored to specific missions, and this box set contains eight such pods, allowing a cruiser to act as a fleet carrier, exploration ship, scout or strike vessel. Your Bridge Crew must navigate the challenges of patrolling the Frontier in a time of strife and struggle, ensuring the Empire's sovereignty, diffusing diplomatic incidents, and mapping new hazards. Will you do the Imperial Flag proud? Or will your crew be found wanting? *Children Only with Parent.*

- Sun 8:00 AM** (1h45m)
[7] Room 7006
Participatory
- Baltikids Bagel Breakfast-- Sunday**
Eta Hack
Morning hitting you hard? Wondering where you can go to grab a bite before the con starts in earnest? Looking for a place to decompress and let your kidlings play with other young fans while you plan the day? We've got you! Join us for complimentary bagels, juice, coffee, and nibbles, courtesy of the Children's Programming team! We'll have dairy-free and gluten-free options in the mix. This event is intended for teens, kids, and their connected grown-ups. Have a good breakfast without having to think too hard about it, and meet other folks while you're at it! *Child-Focused.*
- Sun 9:00 AM** (1h)
[5] 5th Floor Lobby
Participatory
- Strolling with the Stars - Sunday**
Paul O'Neil AKA Crusty But
Guided walks of the Inner Harbor with some of our program participants *Children Only with Parent.*
- Sun 9:00 AM** (1h)
[6] St. George
Participatory
- Celebrate Mass**
John Robison
Father John Robison, an Old Catholic Priest, will be leading a brief worship service. (Yes, it will be in English!) All are welcome to participate to what ever level they feel comfortable. All baptized Christians are welcome to receive the sacrament.
- Sun 9:00 AM** (2h)
[7] Room 7029
Participatory
- Quiet Sunday Morning Craft Time**
Bring your breakfast and enjoy some quiet conversation and craft time before the day really starts.
- Sun 9:00 AM** (2h)
[8] Room 8006
Screening
- Witch Watch 5-8**
Morihiro Otogi, a high school student who comes from a lineage of ogres, enjoys a peaceful, ordinary life until his childhood friend, Nico, moves in with him. Nico is a witch-in-training, and chooses Morihiro to be her familiar. While Nico is thrilled to reunite with her old friend and crush, Morihiro is tasked with the perilous duty to protect her from a foretold calamity.
- Sun 10:00 AM** (1h)
[5] Baltimore Ballroom A
Participatory
- 10th Anniversary Celebration - Eating the Fantastic podcast by Scott Edelman**
Scott Edelman
Scott Edelman has been hosting his Eating the Fantastic podcast for 10 years. Come celebrate with donuts, door prizes, etc.
- Sun 10:00 AM** (1h)
[5] Federal Hill
Panel
- Memories of Balticons Past**
Tom Schaad, Thomas The Red, EVA WHITLEY, Brick Barrientos, A. L. Kaplan (m)
No sh*t, there I was... This really happened at Balticon.... And nobody was arrested. Let's listen to some fans and pros talk about past Balticons.
- Sun 10:00 AM** (2h)
[5] Guilford
Participatory
- Masquerade Show and Tell**
See some of last night's Masquerade costumes and props up close and find out how they were made.

SUNDAY MORNING

- Sun
10:00 AM**
(1h)
[5] Homeland
Presentation
- SciFi meets SciFact: Can Fungi Take Over Your Brain?**
Tina Saey, Carolyn Gramling
A panel of science journalists talks about giving context to the news and writing about the real science behind science fiction. Topics will include Nanotyrannus, vaccine beer and whether fungi can take over our brains.
- Sun
10:00 AM**
(1h)
[5] Maryland
Ballroom CD
Participatory
- Guest of Honor: Jim Butcher Q&A**
Jim Butcher
Guest of Honor, Jim Butcher, will take questions from the audience!
- Sun
10:00 AM**
(1h)
[5] Mount
Washington
Panel
- Historical Fiction: DocuDrama or Fantasy First?**
Gregory Amato, Nicole Glover, Michael Arthur Kennedy, R.A. Johnson
Historical fiction and associated subgenres exist on a spectrum of historically authentic to complete fantasy. But how much historical accuracy is reasonable to expect from our fiction? Are there any hidden ways to tell where a piece of media will fall on the spectrum before we view it? And if high society is run by vampires, do authentic etiquette rules still apply?
- Sun
10:00 AM**
(3h)
[5] Private
Dining Room
Workshop
- Miniature Painting Workshop**
Lord Kron
Come join our very own Lord Kron in an open-to-the-public workshop on painting Miniatures. Bring your own, or use one of his sample pieces! Learn about undercoating, base coating, dry brushing, shading, and many more techniques that make your pieces pop on the table! All ages welcome, adult supervision recommended for children under 10.
- Sun
10:00 AM**
(1h)
[6] Gibson
Panel
- Science of Good Technobabble**
Mary G. Thompson, Sara Itka, Sam Scheiner, Jessica Moran (m)
Captain! We need to reverse the proton thrusters on the starboard plasma engine before we lose the containment field! Technobabble is a staple of the science fiction genre, but some writers do it better than others. What makes good technobabble, how do we craft it, and how much true science knowledge is needed to emulate it? (The program team spent way too much time writing the bad technobabble and not enough time writing the panel description.)

- Sun**
10:00 AM
(1h)
[6] James
Panel
- Fan Theories and Headcanons**
Elora Malat, Evelyn Lewis (m), Andy Love, Jay Smith
Headcanons and fan theories are personal and deeply held interpretations of characters' motivations, histories, and relationships. Why and how do some of them become a part of greater fandom to the point that they are as well-known as official canon? Should creators pay attention to fan headcannons or should this stay firmly in fanfic? Let's discuss some of our favorite headcanons.
- Sun**
10:00 AM
(1h)
[6] Kent
Panel
- Adapting Stories and Media to Songs**
Eric Distad, Kira Yeversky, MAUGORN, Ben Newman (m)
Many songs in the filk community are based on novels, comics, television shows and movies. The panel explores how these songs are inspired and the choices songwriters make when basing a song on a preexisting work.
- Sun**
10:00 AM
(1h)
[6] Pride of Baltimore II
Panel
- Writing the Gods and Their Wars**
Chidumebi Njoku-Browne, Jen Finelli, MD, Patrick Thomas, Jennifer R. Povey (m), Jack Campbell
From Percy Jackson to The Poppy War, we petty humans love to watch the gods have a cat fight. Our earliest folklore, like the Enuma Elish or the Odyssey contain this trope. What do we get from these stories and how can we use these tropes to have a discussion about our own squabbling gods? How can writers employ these archetypes to explore themes of religion, equity, and humanity?
- Sun**
10:00 AM
(1h)
[6] St. George
Panel
- Building a TTRPG**
Misha Bushyager, Reynaldo Madrinan, DON WOODS, Brigitte Winter (m)
So you want to publish your very own Tabletop Roleplaying Game. You've got a setting, you've got characters, you've got mechanics. But... Now what? Where do you start? Art, layout, editing, shipping... How much does it all cost? How much should you charge for your books? Most importantly, how do you ensure your passion project doesn't bankrupt you?
- Sun**
10:00 AM
(45m)
[7] Room 7006
Participatory
- A Sock Monster Army: Reading & Crafting**
Nate Whiting - The Accidental Poet
You'll never look at your laundry the same way! Join local author and poet Nate Whiting for a reading from the delightfully offbeat new book *A Sock Monster Army: The Adventures of Julie & Tristan*. Make a sock creature of your own to take home as a devoted defender, a cutesy cuddler, or both! Best for ages 4 and up. *Child-Focused*.

SUNDAY MORNING

- Sun**
10:00 AM
(1h)
[8] Room
8029
Workshop
- Workshop: Writing Your First Story**
Alex Stacy
As a group, we'll learn about basic storytelling, and then construct our own story together using familiar characters from Pokemon (or anywhere else). This will be a simplified overview of the concepts of plot, story, and character. We'll pick favorite characters, decide on a few character traits, and give them an obstacle to overcome. The result will be a completed story, which will then be read to the group. For Ages 4 – 12.
- Sun**
10:00 AM
(1h)
[10] Room
10006
Presentation
- Introduction to 3D Printing**
Jim Wilmering
What is 3D printing? What is needed to print? The presenter will cover different types of 3D printers, different filament types and fill materials, and the different slicer software available.
- Sun**
10:00 AM
(1h)
Virtual Panel
Room 1
Panel
- Freelancing in the Publishing Industry**
Jana S. Brown, Angela Yuriko Smith, Oghenechovwe Donald Ekpeki
The world of genre publishing is wild and ever-changing. How can a freelancers, like editors, artists, writers, and sensitivity readers survive? What new opportunities might be opening up, and what old doors might now be closed? Get advice from people who have navigated the challenges.
- Sun**
10:00 AM
(1h)
Virtual Panel
Room 2
Panel
- Creating Believable Futures**
Mike Luoma, Ada Palmer, Phoebe Barton, Stace Johnson
Heinlein's characters use slide rules and flying cars. Now we carry computers in our pockets, and still don't have flying cars. Science fiction isn't really about predicting the future, it's about commenting on the present through a different lens. How can writers future proof their stories? Is it even possible?
- Sun**
10:45 AM
(45m)
[7] Room
7006
Participatory
- Munchable Moons: Learning Lunar Phases with Oreos**
Eta Hack
America's favorite cookie meets humanity's favorite celestial body! Join us as we walk our way through the phases of the moon in a fun way, with Oreos as our demonstration medium. Dairy-free, with gluten-free options available. *Child-Focused.*
- Sun**
11:00 AM
(2h)
[5]
Watertable B
Table 1
Game
- Game Demo: Alibis**
Kelly
Whodunnit? In Alibis, a suspicious lineup of supervillains lies before you and your team, and you're tasked with finding the true criminal. To start the game, you're secretly given information about two innocent suspects. Cooperatively, associate your two characters with a one-word clue. If everyone does that correctly, you've found the culprit! Be careful; your clue might erroneously point at another player's villain.

- Sun**
11:00 AM
(4h)
[7] Patio
Participatory
- Safe Solar Observation**
Michelle Hymowitz, hymie!
This will take place on the 7th Floor Rooftop Patio, weather permitting. Come join us for a look at the Sun through a Hydrogen Alpha telescope, a filtered telescope specifically designed to safely look at features on the Sun. Depending on the weather and actual solar activity, we hope to see some sunspots and some activity along the edge of the Sun's atmosphere. This is a "drop in / drop out" event. There is no reason, or expectation, for you to spend the whole four hours. Just come by and check out the Sun for a few minutes. Be sure to check Rocketmail for updates. Never look at the Sun without proper eye protection. Standard sunglasses are NOT designed for looking directly at the Sun.
- Sun**
11:00 AM
(1h)
[8] Room
8006
Screening
- Kaya-chan Isn't Scary 3-4**
Kaya-chan kindergartener with an incredibly strong sixth sense. She secretly beats up the ghosts that stalk her friends and family, but in turn, she's treated like a troublemaker since nobody understands her strange behavior. Everything changes when her teacher, Chie, discovers her secret. Kaya-chan's little fists will go flying at any sinister spirits that show up! *Children Only with Parent.*
- Sun**
11:30 AM
(1h)
[5] 5th Floor
Lobby
Signing
- Autographs: Jim Butcher**
Jim Butcher
Autograph session with Guest of Honor Jim Butcher.
- Sun**
11:30 AM
(1h)
[5] Baltimore
Ballroom A
Participatory
- Book Launch: A Small Light in the Darkness, by Christiane Knight**
Christiane Knight (m)
Book Launch: A Small Light in the Darkness, by Christiane Knight
- Sun**
11:30 AM
(1h)
[5] Federal
Hill
Panel
- Artists That Write, Writers That Draw**
JD Donnelly, Micah, Frank Wu, Brianna Wu, Dominick Rabrun (m)
Artist Guest of Honor Frank Wu has won four Hugo awards for art. Since 2015, he has shifted his focus to writing. Several well known writers also draw illustrations in their own novels or collections. This combination of talents is well known in the comics industry but not as well known in science fiction and fantasy. These creators will discuss their own personal journeys of art and writing.

- Sun 11:30 AM**
(1h)
[5] Homeland
Presentation
- NASA's Laser Interferometer Space Antenna Mission**
Steven Hirshorn
LISA is a space-based gravitational wave observatory led by the European Space Agency (ESA) with NASA as a major partner. LISA is designed to detect and measure gravitational waves—slight ripples in the fabric of spacetime—from astronomical sources. The mission is slated to launch in 2035.
- Sun 11:30 AM**
(1h)
[5] Mount Washington
Panel
- Multigenerational Fandom**
Megan Allen-Kingsland, Jamie Peddicord
Our panelists and their children, and their children's children, will talk about what it's like raising a fan and growing up in fandom. Megan Allen-Kingsland - her kids and her dad Ellen and her daughters - Ruth and Jamie Seth Rosenberg Evan Haag
- Sun 11:30 AM**
(1h)
[6] Gibson
Panel
- Surviving the End of the World**
Jen Finelli, MD, Meridel Newton, David Keener, Sam Scheiner (m), Thomas R. Holtz, Jr., PhD
What are the different ways the world can end, but leave a few survivors? What type of people are most likely to survive various world-ending disasters and what skills will be most effective. Which end of the world works - TV, movies, books, and comics do you find most convincing?
- Sun 11:30 AM**
(1h)
[6] James
Reading
- Author Readings: Flagg, Gribble, and Winter**
JL Gribble, M. Flagg, Brigitte Winter
Authors M. Flagg, J.L. Gribble, and Brigitte Winter will read selections from their works.
- Sun 11:30 AM**
(1h)
[6] Kent
Panel
- The Folklore of Space**
Nik Alexander, Dr. Carey Lisse (m), Tim Livengood, Chidumebi Njoku-Browne
Both the visions of a space-faring society and the real-life exploration of space have generated their share of myths and legends. What are some of the real and fantastical tales that have come out of the US and other space programs? What stories, myths and legends might a future space-faring society tell? *Child-Focused.*
- Sun 11:30 AM**
(1h)
[6] Pride of Baltimore II
Panel
- How Character Relationships Can Drive Conflict**
MJ Huntsgood, Sally Wiener Grotta, Tris Lawrence, R.A. Johnson (m), Sarah Pinsker
"Mother always liked you best!" From tough-love mentors, to lancers chafing against their leaders, relationships can help drive conflict in your story. Let's talk about character goals, tropes and plot points, and all the ways characters in conflict can propel your story.

Sun 11:30 AM
(1h)
[6] St. George
Panel

Dark Lording for Fun and Profit
Eric Hardenbrook, Adam H., Misha Bushyager, Ian Sipple (m), Nikhil Prabala

Having an antagonist is great, but what takes them past the level of mustache-twirling villain, and into the realm of the Big Bad Evil Guy? Panelists will discuss how to build the structure of minions and influence for your BBEG to stand on, so the heroes have to climb in level to reach them before the final showdown.

Sun 11:30 AM
(45m)
[7] Room
7006
Refresh

Lunch Break-- Children's Programming (Sun)
We have to eat again?! I know it seems inefficient, but here we are. We'll close up the room and look forward to catching up with you again after our break! *Children Not Allowed.*

Sun 11:30 AM
(1h)
[7] Room
7029
Panel

Punctuation and Other Things
Bjorn E. Hasseler, D. H. Timpko/Alexis Dupree, Ian Randal Strock, Andrew McDowell

Let's go back to basics. Putting a sentence together is more than words. Using punctuation correctly can make sure your reader understands what you're trying to say. Periods, quotation marks, semi-colons, colons, question marks, and exclamation points - there's so many to choose from. Our panelists will talk about the basic rules of these tools; because sometimes a refresher is a good thing. (We'll also talk about commas and our love-hate relationship with them.)

<p>Sun 11:30 AM (1h) [8] Room 8029 <i>Workshop</i></p>	<p>The Business of Writing: A Deep Dive <i>Kim Headlee</i></p> <p>Sit down, buckle in, and ask lots of questions while twenty-five-year publishing veteran Kim Iverson Headlee helps you kick your writing career into high gear with such topics as publication and promotion plans, getting book reviews, the power of imprints, ISBNs, and more. Whether you're a traditionally published writer, an indie writer, a hybrid writer, or someone just starting out, there's something here for you.</p>
<p>Sun 11:30 AM (1h) [10] Room 10006 <i>Presentation</i></p>	<p>Resin 3D Printing</p> <p>The presenter will discuss what resin 3D printing is, the equipment and resins used. They will show examples of printed items. The post processing of resin prints will be discussed. No resin printing will occur during this presentation due to the toxic nature of resin printing.</p>
<p>Sun 11:30 AM (1h) [12] Club Lounge <i>Participatory</i></p>	<p>Kaffeeklatsch with Special Guest Jennifer Blackstream <i>Jennifer Blackstream</i></p> <p>Spend an hour with Special Guest author Jennifer Blackstream. Limited to 10 spaces. Sign-up sheet is at the Info Desk next to Registration.</p>
<p>Sun 11:30 AM (1h) Virtual Panel Room 1 <i>Panel</i></p>	<p>Alternate Alternate Histories <i>Emad El-Din Aysha, Iver P Cooper, Gillian Polack, Valerie Estelle Frankel</i></p> <p>Even with all of human history to choose from, many alternate history authors keep coming back to the American Civil War or WWII. What are some</p>

SUNDAY AFTERNOON

	less common alternate histories? How about some that are less American-centric? How do authors address subject matter that may be foreign to their audiences?
Sun 11:30 AM (1h) Virtual Panel Room 2 <i>Panel</i>	The Folklore of Space <i>Phoebe Barton, David Ellis, Melissa Scott</i> Both the visions of a space-faring society and the real-life exploration of space have generated their share of myths and legends. What are some of the real and fantastical tales that have come out of the US and other space programs? What stories, myths and legends might a future space-faring society tell?

Sunday Afternoon

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

Magic & Steel: Underways of Rhea
DON WOODS
Players will explore the ancient ruins of an underground city in search of a secret stargate connection to Old Earth, the legendary home world of the human race. Game system's creator will serve as gamemaster. *Children Only with Parent.*

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

Mork Borg: Graves Left Wanting
Robert Himberger
An immense cemetery, older and greater than memory, Graven-Tosk sits in Sarkash like a festering scab. To the east, the Shadow King's manse looms always, impossibly equidistant. Although abandoned since the palace's ruination, bodies somehow keep finding their way inside. All the while, living and unliving attempt to claw their way out. Mork Borg is a OSR rpg with the mentality and aesthetics of a black metal album. Drive those characters like you stole them- because the original owners of their bodies are just around the corner. *Children Not Allowed.*

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

PFS2e Pathfinder Quest #22: Friends in Need
Nikki
A Pathfinder Society Quest designed for 1st-through 4th-level characters, playable in 2 hours. The Tskikha iruxi enclave has long been a staunch ally of the Pathfinder Society. Their enclave's location near some elementally-attuned Azlanti ruins has given the Society a wealth of research opportunities while allowing them to protect the iruxi from the dangers in the ruins, which have a tendency to cause trouble. Recently they seem to have attracted some elemental scamps, which are causing mischief and chaos throughout the enclave. The Tskikha have once again called upon their allies for help.

Sun 12:00 PM
 (2h30m)
 [5]
 Watertable B
 Table 2
Game

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

<p>Sun 12:00 PM (8h) [5] Watertable C <i>Game</i></p>	<p>Balticon 60 Magic the Gathering Draft Tournament <i>Yoshi</i> Join our second Balticon Magic The Gathering Open Draft Tournament! Entry to this tournament is included with your Balticon membership! All cards drafted by participants are theirs to keep at the end of the tournament! Max Entries: 24 Rules are as follows: -Each player will be given 3 sealed Draft Boosters -Each player will open the packs one at a time, choose a card from the pack, then pass the remaining cards to their left -Once each set of packs has been drafted, players will open their next pack until all packs have been opened -Once all packs have been opened and passed, players will then be given time to assemble a minimum 40-card deck - Mana will be provided by the event staff and must be returned at the end of the tournament -Prizes will be given out to First, Second, and Third place - This is a Swiss bracket with 3 rounds. Each round will be 50 minutes, best 2 out of 3 wins each round Sign up here: https://forms.gle/KRZbKGGuCH2LsmYT6</p>
<p>Sun 12:00 PM (1h30m) [8] Room 8006 <i>Screening</i></p>	<p>Castle in the Sky Pazu's life changes when he meets Sheeta, a girl whom pirates are chasing for her crystal amulet, which has the potential to locate Laputa, a legendary castle floating in the sky.</p>
<p>Sun 12:15 PM (1h30m) [7] Room 7006 <i>Participatory</i></p>	<p>Frankenstuffies <i>Nomi S</i> Let out your inner mad scientist with crafty genius Nomi! Her library of stuffed animal elements is ready and waiting for an exciting new existence as mashed-up creatures of your imagination. Pick a bit from here, a bit from there, add a little embroidery floss, and voila! IT'S ALIVE! Best for ages 8 and up. <i>Child-Focused.</i></p>

SUNDAY AFTERNOON

<p>Sun 12:30 PM (30m) [5] Maryland Ballroom CD <i>Room Turn</i></p>	<p>Doors Open for The Faithful Sidekicks Concert Doors Open for The Faithful Sidekicks Concert. Grab a seat!</p>
<p>Sun 1:00 PM (1h) [5] 5th Floor Lobby <i>Signing</i></p>	<p>Autographs: McDowell, Mewha, Thomas <i>Andrew McDowell, DM Mewha, Patrick Thomas</i> Autograph session with Andrew McDowell, DM Mewha, and Patrick Thomas.</p>
<p>Sun 1:00 PM (1h) [5] Baltimore Ballroom A <i>Participatory</i></p>	<p>Book Launch: Tea & Treachery at the Infinite Pantry, by Jo Miles <i>Jo Miles</i> Come celebrate the release of this delicious new cozy fantasy with author Jo Miles, and enjoy some tea and pastries.</p>
<p>Sun 1:00 PM (1h) [5] Federal Hill <i>Presentation</i></p>	<p>Brain Organoids, AI, and the Future of Biocomputing <i>Thomas Hartung</i> Science fiction has long imagined minds outside the human body. This talk explores a real frontier: "Organoid Intelligence", where tiny, lab-grown clusters of human brain cells are connected with sensors, computers, and AI. They are not tiny thinking people, but living models that may help us study learning, memory, neurological disease, drug safety, and new forms of energy-efficient computing. We'll separate fact from fantasy and ask what responsibilities come with growing smarter systems.</p>
<p>Sun 1:00 PM (1h) [5] Guilford <i>Panel</i></p>	<p>I Don't Know How to Write What I Know <i>Ann Chatham, Scott Edelman, Leslye Penelope, David Walton, Haley Gelfuso-CC 2026 Winner</i> Writers hear 'write what you know' all the time. But how do you take this aphorism and apply it to SFFH? Let's talk about what 'write what you know' really means and how to apply it to your fiction.</p>
<p>Sun 1:00 PM (1h) [5] Maryland Ballroom CD <i>Concert</i></p>	<p>Music Guest of Honor Concert: The Faithful Sidekicks <i>Eric Distad, Jen Distad</i> The Faithful Sidekicks are the husband and wife Geek Rock duo of Eric and Jen Distad. They write and perform original songs about the things that interest them and have as much fun as possible in the process. Spanning a wide range of genres from alt rock to Irish folk, there music is as eclectic as their subjects, which run from rock songs about board games to folk ballads about Star Trek. Their hope is that if they are having fun, you will have even more fun! Eric plays guitar, bouzouki, mandolin and handles most of the lead vocals. Jen plays bass, concertina, mandolin, ukulele, extra percussion and adds backing vocals. Together they make acoustic geek comedy rock to leave a smile on your face.</p>

<p>Sun 1:00 PM (1h) [5] Mount Washington <i>Panel</i></p>	<p>Advancing the Story Without Trauma <i>Jean Marie Ward, Doc Coleman, Jeanne Adams, David Simms (m)</i></p> <p>While it is accepted that an inciting incident is required as a launch point for a plot arc, our protagonists—and their audiences—might have had enough of certain literary devices. From fridging to sexual violence to burning down the village, creators frequently give characters agency only after making them powerless. Panelists will discuss alternative strategies for kicking off a plot and character motivation.</p>
<p>Sun 1:00 PM (2h) [5] Watertable B Table 1 <i>Game</i></p>	<p>Game Demo: Mystic Paths <i>Pyris</i></p> <p>In the deduction game <i>Mystic Paths</i>, players navigate paths through a labyrinth called the Eternal Forest. Each player's path is unique — and only you know the way. However, you cannot traverse the forest alone. Your teammates are needed to open the sealed portals along each step. Give clever clues, hope your teammates can read your mind, and complete your journey! Each player takes a turn providing clues about which portal is their next step. Each step can have up to five different portals, but only one is the correct one, so players give clues that relate (hopefully) to the correct next step. The challenge is that the only clues available are cards that have been dealt, so sometimes the clues may not relate to the next portal of a journey, which means you have to get creative. ThisFor example, the next portal on your journey could be the word "anteater", and your clues are limited to cards you are dealt, like scary, or tall, or handsome. Which would you choose as your clue?</p>
<p>Sun 1:00 PM (1h) [6] Gibson <i>Panel</i></p>	<p>Frankenstein, AI, and Scientific Responsibility <i>Robyn Wyrick, Rob O'Malley, Brianna Wu, Chris Oakley (m)</i></p> <p>With the new <i>Frankenstein</i> amid the discourse about AI development, it is timely and relevant to revisit the conversation of what responsibility scientists and engineers have towards their creations and how they are used. Let's use science fiction as a lens to discuss moral philosophy and how it pertains to the ethics of innovation.</p>
<p>Sun 1:00 PM (1h) [6] James <i>Panel</i></p>	<p>Navigating Your First Year as a Published Author <i>Emily Wagner, M. Flagg, Michael Capobianco, Christiane Knight</i></p> <p>As authors we often internalize not only our work but critique of it. Critique is unavoidable, so how do you handle jealousy, self-comparison, and criticism as a new author. How do you build a supportive community to surround yourself with, and how do you know when it's time to turn off your phone?</p>

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<p>Sun 1:00 PM (1h) [6] Kent Panel</p>	<p>Epistolary Forms <i>CECILIA TAN, Ellen Smith, Scott H. Andrews, Nicole Glover</i> With <i>This is How You Lose the Time War</i>, <i>Dracula</i>, Chelsea Quinn Yarbro's Saint-Germain series, epistolary forms are not uncommon in SFFH. From interviews, letters, journal entries, and newspaper articles, what is the appeal of this type of story telling? Let's discuss our favorite epistolary examples and why we love them, or not.</p>
<p>Sun 1:00 PM (1h) [6] Pride of Baltimore II Panel</p>	<p>Space: The Ultimate Locked Room Mystery <i>John L. French, Sarah Pinsker, R.A. Johnson, Sam Scheiner (m), Sheila Jenne</i> Add "...but in space" to "locked room mystery" and you make the stakes even higher. From Tade Thompson's <i>Far From the Light of Heaven</i> to Mur Lafferty's <i>Station Eternity</i> to Mary Robinette Kowal's <i>The Spare Man</i>, contemporary authors embrace and explore this collision of tropes. What elements do we love about this trope? Who has done it well?</p>
<p>Sun 1:00 PM (1h) [6] St. George Panel</p>	<p>Actions and Consequences: DMing THAT Guy <i>Adam H., Misha Bushyager, Reynaldo Madrinan, Eric Hardenbrook</i> One of the biggest problems that can be encountered with running games at events is That Guy. Everyone has heard of a That Guy. They're the Murder Hobo, the Horny Bard, the one player who doesn't care about the story or progression or the rest of the party. Our team of Game Masters will share their stories, and discuss tactics to curtail these behaviors.</p>
<p>Sun 1:00 PM (1h) [7] Room 7029 Participatory</p>	<p>Hugo Finalist Discussion <i>Sam Lubell, Perrienne Lurie</i> Discuss the finalists for this year's Hugo Awards.</p>
<p>Sun 1:00 PM (1h) [8] Room 8029 Workshop</p>	<p>Patreon Workshop: The View from the Trenches <i>Charles E. Gannon</i> Award-winning author Chuck Gannon shares his practical experience after two years of using Patreon for purposes of revenue generation and IP expansion. The bottom line: there are a lot of pitfalls, but if you know where they are, this workshop can save you time and headaches. Learn how to tailor the Patreon platform for the specific needs of individual authors.</p>
<p>Sun 1:00 PM (1h) [12] Club Lounge Participatory</p>	<p>Kaffeeklatsch with Tom Holtz <i>Thomas R. Holtz, Jr., PhD (m)</i> Spend an hour with dinosaur expert Tom Holtz.. Limited to 10 spaces. Sign-up sheet is at the Info Desk next to Registration.</p>

<p>Sun 1:00 PM (1h) Virtual Panel Room 1 <i>Panel</i></p>	<p>Escaping the Self-Publishing Stigma <i>Mike Luoma, Angela Yuriko Smith, Joyce Reynolds-Ward, Stace Johnson</i> For years, many reader and reviewers were dominated by trad books. But in the modern publishing age, we're seeing more room for micro-presses and self-published authors to make their mark. What in-roads to trad spaces exist for indie published books? And how can indie authors compete with trad books, and attempt to circumvent the persistent stigma?</p>
<p>Sun 1:00 PM (1h) Virtual Panel Room 2 <i>Panel</i></p>	<p>Size Does Matter: Choosing Your Story Length <i>Oghenechovwe Donald Ekpeki, L. Marie Wood, Dana Bell, Daniel M. Kimmel</i> What approaches do authors use when determining the length of their work? How do they figure out if their idea is a short story or if there's enough for something longer? Does story determine length or are there other factors? Our panel of published authors will discuss how they solve these issues.</p>
<p>Sun 1:45 PM (45m) [7] Room 7006 <i>Participatory</i></p>	<p>Frankenstuffies Dog Park <i>Eta Hack</i> Even the fiercest beasties need some time to stretch their legs and romp with their friends! Whether you just created a new fiendish friend with us in Frankenstuffies today, or you have a stuffed buddy you're bringing in from outside, this'll be the perfect place to show off its fluffy personality to all the other monsters and their owners! This'll be an open-ended imaginative play session with a few surprises from the Children's Programing team to make the Dog Park a little more lively. Stuffies will meet other stuffies! Kids will meet other kids! Hop in with us and join the fun. The Frankenstuffies Dog Park builds on the crafting event Frankenstuffies that comes right before it. Come to both for the full experience, or just come to whichever half looks more fun! <i>Child-Focused.</i></p>
<p>Sun 2:00 PM (2h) [5] Homeland <i>Participatory</i></p>	<p>Art Show Auction & BSFS Books for Kids Charity Auction Items from the Art Show that had 3 or more silent bids go to voice auction here. Once those are finished, we'll continue the charity auction. Note: This item will not be broadcast.</p>



**The Baltimore
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*Level up with our all-volunteer
community orchestra!*

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<p>Sun 2:00 PM (2h) [5] Watertable A Table 3 <i>Game</i></p>	<p>PFS2e Pathfinder Quest #26: Dragon's Plea <i>Nikki</i> A Pathfinder Society Scenario designed for 1st-through 4th-level characters, playable in 2 hours. Over a year ago trouble in the Verduran Forest drove a young horned dragon from their lair. Unable to oppose the forces of the Wildwood Lodge under its then-twisted leadership, they fled north. They desperately want to return to the forest but aren't confident enough in their own capabilities to make the attempt themselves. They've heard of the Pathfinders, and how they've solved numerous issues and helped others. Their pride as a dragon, though, won't let them ask for help. Instead, they have come to the Woodsedge Lodge proposing an alliance. Venture-Captain Armeline Jirneau has seen through the dragon's story, but is sympathetic to their plight. She needs you to scout the northern Verduran, as she knows the troubles with the Wildwood lodge have passed. Should this work out, the Society will have one more draconic ally, even if this one is a bit young and naïve.</p>
<p>Sun 2:00 PM (2h) [8] Room 8006 <i>Screening</i></p>	<p>Howl's Moving Castle When Sofi, an unconfident young woman, is cursed with an old body by a spiteful witch, her only chance of breaking the spell lies with Howl, a self-indulgent yet insecure young wizard, and his companions in his legged, walking castle</p>
<p>Sun 2:30 PM (1h) [5] 5th Floor Lobby <i>Signing</i></p>	<p>Autographs: Edelman, Gannon, Hunt <i>Charles E. Gannon, WALTER H. HUNT, Scott Edelman</i> Autograph session with Scott Edelman, Chuck Gannon, and Walter H. Hunt.</p>
<p>Sun 2:30 PM (1h) [5] Federal Hill <i>Panel</i></p>	<p>When Storytellers Borrow vs Outright Steal <i>Ian Sipple (m), Ann Chatham, Jen Brinn, Kathryn Faye</i> All creatives borrow from their influences, be it unconsciously or with purpose. But how do you steal strategically? When do you utilize well-trodden tropes to make the story feel familiar, and when do you subvert or twist it to keep your audience on their toes? Our panel of writers and GMs will discuss their best IP heists, and when they got away with it.</p>
<p>Sun 2:30 PM (1h) [5] Guilford <i>Panel</i></p>	<p>The Legal Ramifications of Superheroes <i>Alan J. Porter, John L. French, Wayland Smith, Ken Schrader</i> Secret identities: Who are they protecting? Why isn't Batman jailed for breaking into homes and dangling people out of windows? Shouldn't the Hulk get sued for damages? Let's discuss the legality of vigilante justice and how superhero stories get away with suspending our disbelief.</p>

<p>Sun 2:30 PM (1h) [5] Maryland Ballroom CD <i>Presentation</i></p>	<p>Ascension: Life Lessons from the Space Shuttle Columbia Tragedy <i>Steven Hirshorn</i> On February 1, 2003, the Space Shuttle Columbia and her crew of seven were lost as STS-107 broke apart during reentry mere minutes before Columbia was scheduled to land. The Columbia orbiter suffered a catastrophic failure due to a breach when falling foam from the External Tank struck the underside of the left wing. The tragedy grounded the Space Shuttle Program and initiated an investigation with a congressionally authorized board. In this firsthand account, author and current Chief Engineer for Aeronautics Steven R. Hirshorn details his experiences over those two and a half years as the operations representative to the Space Shuttle Orbiter Project Office, charged with the safety and success of NASA's human spaceflight endeavors. With technical expertise and deeply human, visceral insight, Hirshorn's perspective on these events—and the lessons he draws from them—provide insight for engineers, managers, and leaders now charged with advancing human spaceflight today.</p>
<p>Sun 2:30 PM (1h) [5] Mount Washington <i>Panel</i></p>	<p>A Good Redemption is Hard to Find <i>Jack Campbell, M. Flagg, Patrick Fitzgerald, Jo Miles, Margaret Bates (m)</i> Redemption arcs are a tricky needle to thread. Too easy or complete, and they don't feel earned. Too messy, and we get the sense that redemption isn't possible. Everyone makes mistakes, and some characters commit atrocities. What wrongs should have the possibility of redemption? What, if anything, is irredeemable? What goes into a satisfying redemption story, and have our feelings about this changed with the times?</p>
<p>Sun 2:30 PM (1h30m) [5] Watertable B Table 2 <i>Game</i></p>	<p>Game Demo: Family Games: Flip 7 / Qork <i>Kelly</i> Flip 7 Flip over cards one by one without flipping the same number twice. Sound easy? Think again! This isn't just any deck of cards... In Flip 7 there's only one 1 card, two 2's, three 3's, etc plus a bunch of special cards that can score you extra points, give you a second chance, or freeze you or your opponents in your tracks. Are you the type of player to play it safe and bank points before you bust, or are you going to risk it all and go for the bonus points by flipping over seven in a row? Press your luck meets strategy in this addictive card game that's sure to be the greatest card game you've ever played! Qork Think fast, react faster! When the dice total seven or show doubles, you must pull your string before the Cupper slams the cup. Be careful—hesitate too long or pull too soon, and you'll be hit with points!</p>

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<p>Sun 2:30 PM (2h) [5] Watertable B Table 3 <i>Game</i></p>	<p>Game Demo: Forest Shuffle <i>Perrienne Lurie</i> In Forest Shuffle, players compete to gather the most valuable trees, then attract species to these trees, thus creating an ecologically balanced habitat for flora and fauna. To start, each player has six cards in hand, with cards depicting either a particular type of tree or two forest dwellers (animal, plant, mushroom, etc.), with these latter cards being divided in half, whether vertically or horizontally, with one dweller in each card half. On a turn, either draw two cards — whether face down from the deck or face up from the clearing — and add them to your hand, or play a card from your hand by paying the cost, then putting it into play. During set-up, three winter cards were placed into the bottom third of the deck. When the third winter card is drawn, the game ends immediately, then players tally their points based on the trees and dwellers in their forest. Whoever scores the most points wins.</p>
<p>Sun 2:30 PM (1h) [6] Gibson <i>Panel</i></p>	<p>Writing Disabilities Without Ableism <i>Ellen Smith, Nikita Rowitz, David Simms, Sara Itka (m)</i> From Violet in Fourth Wing, to Toph from Avatar: the Last Airbender, to the MCU's Daredevil and Professor X, there have been many examples of disability representation in SFF-for better or worse. What are the common pitfalls authors trip into when writing disabilities? Let's take a look at ableist tropes and how to avoid them, as well as more esoteric ideas of what good representation means in a SFF setting.</p>
<p>Sun 2:30 PM (1h) [6] James <i>Reading</i></p>	<p>Author Readings: Finelli, Newton, Smith <i>Jen Finelli, MD, Meridel Newton, Rosemary Claire Smith</i> Authors Jen Finelli, Meridel Newton, and Rosemary Claire Smith will read selections from their works.</p>
<p>Sun 2:30 PM (1h) [6] Kent <i>Concert</i></p>	<p>Concert: Ben Newman <i>Ben Newman</i> Ben's muse isn't like other songwriters' muses. Which is a good thing; his often-whimsical songs run the gamut from science fiction to gaming to religion to computers and more.</p>

<p>Sun 2:30 PM (1h) [6] Pride of Baltimore II <i>Panel</i></p>	<p>Strong Female Leads <i>Jean Marie Ward, Rigel Ailur, MJ Huntsgood (m), Jennifer Blackstream, Haley Gelfuso-CC 2026 Winner</i> From the Bechdel test to the Sexy Lamp test, we have lots of metrics for determining if our media is treating female characters well. Yet there's still much debate about the need for "strong female leads," and what exactly that means. Why is physical strength/badassery the thing that seems to make a character "strong," and why would it be a requisite for main-character-dom? Why is a female character's value dependent on her strength or main character status? And why does falling in love (especially with a man) commonly seem to undermine that strength?</p>
<p>Sun 2:30 PM (1h) [6] St. George <i>Panel</i></p>	<p>Premarketing Your Book <i>CECILIA TAN, Shahid Mahmud, Leslye Penelope, Chris Oakley, Sarah Avery (m)</i> You have a book, congratulations! Now what? Don't wait for it to be published to start marketing. Our panelists will talk about how to use book trailers, social media, your newsletter, and more, to pave the way so your book can be successful.</p>
<p>Sun 2:30 PM (45m) [7] Room 7006 <i>Participatory</i></p>	<p>Cosmic Cookie Decorating <i>Eta Hack</i> Who wants a custom decorated sugar cookie? I sure do! Channel the outrageous baking show of your choice as you decorate, or just whip together a tasty snack at your own pace. We'll have gluten and dairy-free options available and clearly labeled. <i>Child-Focused.</i></p>
<p>Sun 2:30 PM (1h) [7] Room 7029 <i>Panel</i></p>	<p>Indie Recs, Bring Your Favorites <i>Andrew McDowell, dave ring, Gregory Amato</i> There are some amazing works out there by Indie authors. Let's show them some love. Share your favorites.</p>
<p>Sun 2:30 PM (1h) [8] Room 8029 <i>Workshop</i></p>	<p>Editing Workshop: Take Your Story to the Next Level! <i>Maeghan Jo Kimball, Alex Stacy</i> Being able to edit your own work is always going to be necessary, whether your next stage is Beta Readers, a Development Editor, or even an Agent. In this workshop, we'll discuss how to prepare for a round of edits, as well as strategies for getting the work done with your sanity intact. We'll provide a checklist of things to look for and a guide for dissecting plots, sub-plots and character arcs to see how well they're working in your story. Come learn how to hone your story to take it to the next level. Handouts provided.</p>
<p>Sun 2:30 PM (1h) [10] Room 10006 <i>Presentation</i></p>	<p>Pultrusion - Turning PET#1 Soda Bottles into Filament <i>Jim Wilmering</i> The presenter will cover the open-source process of pultrusion. They will explain the current kit. The process will be demonstrated at each step and filament will be created.</p>

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<p>Sun 2:30 PM (1h) [12] Club Lounge <i>Participatory</i></p>	<p>Kaffeeklatsch with GOH Jim Butcher (Sun) <i>Jim Butcher</i> Spend an hour with Guest of Honor Jim Butcher Limited to 10 spaces. Sign-up sheet is at the Info Desk next to Registration. There will be another kaffeeklatsch on Saturday at 11:30</p>
<p>Sun 2:30 PM (1h) Virtual Panel Room 1 <i>Panel</i></p>	<p>Surviving the Slush Pile <i>Dana Bell, Jana S. Brown, Stace Johnson, Angela Yuriko Smith</i> The number of submissions to anthologies and e-zines has been steadily climbing. Why are more writers submitting, and how is this effecting the quality of submissions? What weight does that place on editors and slush readers?</p>
<p>Sun 2:30 PM (1h) Virtual Panel Room 2 <i>Panel</i></p>	<p>My First Published Book <i>Lisa Hodorovych, Mike Luoma, Leonardo Espinoza, Oghenechovwe Donald Ekpeki</i> The first published book is a major milestone in a writer's life, regardless whether they were trad published or went the indie route. Panelists will talk about how they wrote and published their first books. They will discuss difficulties and challenges, as well as how to know when you are ready to publish as opposed to creating another "trunk" novel. They will also talk about what they might have done differently.</p>
<p>Sun 3:00 PM (4h) [5] Watertable B Table 4 <i>Game</i></p>	<p>Game Demo: Dune: Imperium <i>Erik Delfosse, James Timmons</i> (This game will be played with lots of expansions) As a leader of one of the Great Houses of the Landsraad, raise your banner and marshal your forces and spies. War is coming, and at the center of the conflict is Arrakis – Dune, the desert planet. You start with a unique leader card, as well as a deck identical to those of your opponents. As you acquire cards and build your deck, your choices will define your strengths and weaknesses. Cards allow you to send your Agents to certain spaces on the game board, so how your deck evolves affects your strategy. You might become more powerful militarily, able to deploy more troops than your opponents. Or you might acquire cards that give you an edge with the four political factions represented in the game: the Emperor, the Spacing Guild, the Bene Gesserit, and the Fremmen. Defeat your rivals in combat, shrewdly navigate the political factions, and acquire precious cards. The Spice must flow to lead your House to victory!</p>

<p>Sun 3:15 PM (45m) [7] Room 7006 <i>Participatory</i></p>	<p>Tween & Teen Writers' Circle <i>Eta Hack</i> We love all things literary, especially new authors finding their voices. In this tween-led workshop, younger authors will get a space to talk through the stories and worldbuilding they're dreaming up, whether those ideas are captured in words or just imagination. We'll also talk about ways to get past indecision and the fear of doing it wrong, and just get stuff down on the page! Whether fiction, comics, poetry or songs are your jam, fun writing challenges will spark creativity and help you build technique. So come hang out with young writers like you and see what floats off the page! Best for ages 10 and up. <i>Child-Focused.</i></p>
<p>Sun 3:30 PM (30m) [5] Maryland Ballroom CD <i>Room Turn</i></p>	<p>Doors Open for Dinosaurs: The Update Doors open for Dinosaurs: The Update seating</p>
<p>Sun 4:00 PM (1h) [5] 5th Floor Lobby <i>Signing</i></p>	<p>Autographs: Ailur, Kaplan, Whiting <i>Rigel Ailur, A. L. Kaplan, Nate Whiting - The Accidental Poet</i> Autograph session with Rigel Ailur, A. L. Kaplan, and Nate Whiting.</p>
<p>Sun 4:00 PM (1h) [5] Baltimore Ballroom A <i>Participatory</i></p>	<p>Book launch - Meanderings by Tavair Dominique <i>Tavair Dominique</i> OPUS Blurb: "MEANDERINGS spans nearly two decades of early expressive journaling, scribbles between transitions, navigating life's inevitable crises, and moments of quiet reflection. The work unfolds in three movements, each exploring different stages of human experience. Interwoven within are three ongoing series: Sonder Window (portraits of passersby and imagined worlds), The Tale of Elliott Sundae, and Knuckle Lights & Nanites (speculative threads that explore unique journeys through grief)..." This collection holds nearly two decades of writing and reflects a deeply personal creative journey, so it would mean a great deal to celebrate it in a space like Balticon. With its mix of reflection, grief, imagination, and speculative threads, I think it would make for a meaningful reading and discussion in community.</p>
<p>Sun 4:00 PM (1h) [5] Federal Hill <i>Panel</i></p>	<p>Writing the Big Picture: Make it Epic <i>Mary Soon Lee, Charles E. Gannon, Jim Butcher, Reuben "Tih" Hayslett</i> What makes something epic? Is it just length, or does it need more than that? Has this become an overused term? How do writers create an epic feel? Does it matter whether a work is science fiction or fantasy? Panelists will discuss epic works, giving examples of ones which work and which do not.</p>

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<p>Sun 4:00 PM (1h) [5] Guilford <i>Panel</i></p>	<p>Precursors to Large Language Models in science fiction <i>Bryant Keith O'Hara, Dr. Carey Lisse, Andy Love (m), Nate Hoffelder</i></p> <p>Large Language Models (LLMs) are in the news now, but science fiction has been dealing with the issues that these algorithms raise for decades, from Asimov's "Liar" (a mind-reading robot that tells people what they want to hear) to John Barnes' Memes (superhumanly persuasive algorithms that can convince anyone of anything). What can these examples and others tell us about today's (and tomorrow's) LLM challenges?</p>
<p>Sun 4:00 PM (1h30m) [5] Maryland Ballroom CD <i>Presentation</i></p>	<p>Dinosaurs: The Update <i>Thomas R. Holtz, Jr., PhD</i></p> <p>Dr. Tom Holtz, Jr. presents his annual update on what's new with things that happened millions of years ago.</p>
<p>Sun 4:00 PM (1h) [5] Mount Washington <i>Panel</i></p>	<p>Publishing AMA: Self Pub and Small Press and Trad, Oh My! <i>Ian Randal Strock, Joshua Bilmes, Kim Headlee, Doc Coleman (m)</i></p> <p>Deciding what path to pursue with your manuscript can be one of the most important decisions of an author's career. But what metrics should be used to determine whether to go self pub, small press, or traditional publishing? Our panel of professionals from all walks of the industry will answer audience questions about the different publishing options.</p>
<p>Sun 4:00 PM (4h) [5] Watertable A Table 1 <i>Game</i></p>	<p>Blade Runner: Fiery Angels Session 2 <i>Caleb</i></p> <p>Another day, another case. But it's not every day that you're assigned to question someone who was trying to infiltrate the Wallace Corporation Memory Vaults. Not every day that person displayed feats worthy of a replicant, but doesn't have any of the serial marking of a Nexus-9. Something's off here, and you're in the middle of it. <i>Children Not Allowed.</i></p>
<p>Sun 4:00 PM (2h) [5] Watertable A Table 2 <i>Game</i></p>	<p>PFS2e Pathfinder Quest #15: In the Footprints of Horror <i>Nikki</i></p> <p>"A Pathfinder Society Quest designed for 1st-through 4th-level characters, playable in 2 hours. A group of powerful Pathfinders had to abandon the exploration of an underground complex after defeating a powerful lich and stopping a devastating ritual by the skin of their teeth. You are tasked with exploring this complex now cleared of threats and cataloging what's there. The ritual, though, while incomplete, has still linked the site to its counterpart in the Netherworld, and once you enter, you find that their task will not be as simple or boring as promised, as they have to fight through the shadowy mirror of the Netherworld complex just to get back home, with unknown threats that most assuredly were not cleared out."</p>

<p>Sun 4:00 PM (4h) [5] Watertable A Table 3 <i>Game</i></p>	<p>Pathfinder 1e: Is this the end of the world as we know it? (Session 3) <i>Misha</i> Plucked from their daily lives, the party must prove humanity's fitness to join the galactic community. (Heavily inspired by the Dungeon Crawler Carl series.) <i>Children Only with Parent.</i></p>
<p>Sun 4:00 PM (3h) [5] Watertable B Table 1 <i>Game</i></p>	<p>Game Demo: Horrified: World of Monsters <i>Pickles</i> You're one of Earth's premier monster experts, and you've come to a mysterious arcane-punk town centered around the Void, a doorway between worlds from which terrors of all ilk might erupt. Horrified: World of Monsters is a standalone game that features gameplay similar to 2019's Horrified, and in this co-operative game, you'll face off against the riddling Sphinx, the reclusive Yeti, the ravenous Jiangshi, and the Great Old One itself, Cthulhu. Each monster presents a unique challenge, and you can face them individually or in combination, with players pooling their unique skills to overcome puzzle-like obstacles inspired by monstrous legends and lore to gather item tokens, protect citizens, and avoid attacks.</p>
<p>Sun 4:00 PM (1h) [6] Gibson <i>Panel</i></p>	<p>How Omegaverse Challenges Gender Roles <i>Evelyn Lewis, Tris Lawrence, R. Taylor (m), Morgan Hazelwood</i> By adding a secondary gender of Alpha/Beta/Omega, omegaverse fanfiction asks questions about society's perception of gender by making us experience characters in different roles than we would normally expect them. How are the conscious or unconscious biases of readers challenged by a female alpha who's protective and possessive, or male omega who can bear children? What do the societies presented in such stories make us realize about our own cultures? <i>Children Not Allowed.</i></p>
<p>Sun 4:00 PM (1h) [6] James <i>Panel</i></p>	<p>The Big Four Are No More: Where to Get Sewing Patterns After Joann's <i>Misha Bushyager (m), Jamie Peddicord, Gaia Eirich</i> The Big Four have been foundational for many of us on our costuming, and general sewing journeys. And while it looks like they are still in print, with Joann's closure, it might be harder to find them. However, over the last few years, the indie pattern market has exploded. Unfortunately, so has the AI trash. Let's share our favorite indie designers and talk about what to look for in a reputable company and how to avoid wasting money on AI scams.</p>
<p>Sun 4:00 PM (1h) [6] Kent <i>Concert</i></p>	<p>Songs from the Music Staff <i>Emily Lewis, Merav Hoffman, Gary Ehrlich</i> What started as a desperate attempt to fill a hole in the music track proved so popular it's now an annual tradition! Your Balticon Music Staff takes the stage to regale you with some of their favorite songs. Harmony and hilarity are both guaranteed! <i>Child-Focused.</i></p>

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<p>Sun 4:00 PM (1h) [6] Pride of Baltimore II <i>Panel</i></p>	<p>Space Industries: The New Gold Rush <i>Larry Paxton, Nik Alexander, Pat Bahn, Christopher Mark Rose, Jim Beall (m)</i> Currently space industries focus on data collection, imagery, and communications. New industries are looking at commercial uses for space: space tourism, microgravity manufacturing, interplanetary travel, asteroid mining, and more. Let's discuss the business models, key milestones, and technologies to move towards the visions of Outland, 2001: A Space Odyssey, and The Expanse.</p>
<p>Sun 4:00 PM (1h) [6] St. George <i>Participatory</i></p>	<p>Streaming Services and SFF <i>Bill Lawhorn, Emily Wagner, Wendra Colleen, Author, JL Gribble</i> With so much quality SFF on outlets like Apple, Prime, and Netflix, what shows are worth watching? This is a discussion group for fans to talk about their favorite streaming SFF shows.</p>
<p>Sun 4:00 PM (45m) [7] Room 7006 <i>Participatory</i></p>	<p>Pokémon Trivia Challenge-- with prizes! <i>Eta Hack</i> With 1,028 different Pokémon out there, it takes a mighty mind to master knowledge of all of them. Ever wonder how your Pokémon smarts stack up? Come hang out with other wannabe trainers and fans, from casual to obsessed and everything in between, for some fun trivia and hilarious questions. This is a teen/tween-led program with fabulous prizes for participants! Best for ages 5 and up. <i>Child-Focused.</i></p>
<p>Sun 4:00 PM (1h) [7] Room 7029 <i>Workshop</i></p>	<p>Make a Wire Tree <i>Lisa Hertel</i> If you can use a twist-tie, you can do this! We'll make a little tree out of recycled CAT5 wire. Ages 6+</p>
<p>Sun 4:00 PM (1h30m) [8] Room 8006 <i>Screening</i></p>	<p>Earwig and the Witch An orphan girl, Earwig, is adopted by a witch and comes home to a spooky house filled with mystery and magic</p>
<p>Sun 4:00 PM (1h) [10] Room 10006 <i>Presentation</i></p>	<p>Intermediate 3D Printing <i>Ty McNeer</i> The presenter will cover 3D printing issues such as maintenance, repair and more advanced slicer tuning.</p>
<p>Sun 4:00 PM (1h) [12] Club Lounge <i>Participatory</i></p>	<p>Kaffeeklatsch with GOH Samantha Mills <i>Samantha Mills -CC 2025 Winner</i> Spend an hour with 2025 Compton Crook Award Winner Samantha Mills Limited to 10 spaces. Sign-up sheet is at the Info Desk next to Registration.</p>

<p>Sun 4:00 PM (1h) Virtual Panel Room 1 <i>Panel</i></p>	<p>Animal Companions <i>Anne E.G. Nydam, Stace Johnson, Joyce Reynolds-Ward (m), Rob O'Malley</i> Who fetches the hero's sword when he drops it, or pecks out the eyes of the sorceress' enemies? From K-9 to Toothless to the horse companions of Valdemar, many heroes bring their animals on adventures. Which are our favorites? At which point do they transcend from pet to true-blue four-legged friend? And what makes these hairy, furry, and scaly friends so memorable?</p>
<p>Sun 4:00 PM (1h) Virtual Panel Room 2 <i>Panel</i></p>	<p>Learning from Bad Reviews <i>Lisa Hodorovych, Leonardo Espinoza, Mike Luoma, Akua Lezli Hope</i> You've finally got your work out there... and someone hated it. In painful, elaborate detail. Is there anything a creator can learn from negative reviews about their own work? Can they tell you anything about your audience?</p>
<p>Sun 4:45 PM (45m) [7] Room 7006 <i>Participatory</i></p>	<p>Blacklight Costuming for Kids <i>Eta Hack</i> Ooh shiny! Make some awesome, simple costume pieces and accessories designed to look amazing in blacklight. After you create, stick around for the Blacklight Dance Party or slink away into the halls to share your creations more widely. Best for ages 5 and up. <i>Child-Focused.</i></p>
<p>Sun 5:30 PM (1h) [5] 5th Floor Lobby <i>Signing</i></p>	<p>Autographs: Finelli, Lee, Wagner <i>Emily Wagner, Jen Finelli, MD</i> Autograph session with Jen Finelli, S.J. Lee, and Emily Wagner.</p>
<p>Sun 5:30 PM (1h) [5] Federal Hill <i>Panel</i></p>	<p>Less Painfully Marketing Your Book <i>Sarah Avery, Christiane Knight, JD Donnelly, Shahid Mahmud</i> Marketing is overwhelming. Let's have a gentle conversation about what you really need to do to promote your book. We'll sort through the platforms that will help you without taking over all your energy. And give you suggestions to create a good-better-best marketing plan.</p>
<p>Sun 5:30 PM (1h) [5] Guilford <i>Panel</i></p>	<p>Reading the Room: Resuscitate your Recitation <i>Nate Whiting - The Accidental Poet, Rosemary Claire Smith, Tavair Dominique, Bryant Keith O'Hara (m)</i> You've volunteered to read your prose or poem out loud. Now what? Recitation is a different skill than writing. A good reading takes practice: knowing how to read your punctuation, avoid a monotone, manage your time, use inflection to aid pacing, and mind your microphone. These are just a few things our panelists will cover.</p>

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<p>Sun 5:30 PM (1h) [5] Homeland <i>Presentation</i></p>	<p>Beyond Decline: Dementia, Neurodiversity, and the Future of Brain Health <i>Jess Fredericksen, Michelle Wanzer</i> This talk reframes dementia as a form of neurodivergence—cognitive difference rather than simple decline. It introduces StrongerMemory, a brain-health framework that uses practical, science-based strategies to support attention, executive function, and memory in seniors. We explore how these approaches have improved cognitive abilities in older adults and why the same tools may help anyone strengthen focus, memory, and everyday brain health.</p>
<p>Sun 5:30 PM (1h) [5] Mount Washington <i>Panel</i></p>	<p>Writing Sex for Horror Fiction <i>Andrija "Andy" Popovic, Kathryn Faye, Brigitte Winter, Margaret Bates, Jessica Moran (m)</i> Sex is one of the most intimate things humans can do and leads to vulnerability, both emotionally and physically. It's this vulnerability where the horror author can introduce terrifying scenarios. Horror authors have used body horror, dreamscapes, and other techniques to introduce sex in a frightening context while avoiding sexual assault as the key player in the narrative. Let's discuss the methods horror authors use to make us squirm. <i>Children Only with Parent.</i></p>
<p>Sun 5:30 PM (1h) [6] Gibson <i>Panel</i></p>	<p>Idiots Guide to the DCU & MCU <i>John Tilden, Alan J. Porter, Evelyn Lewis (m), NEIL OTTENSTEIN, Robert Lewis</i> Have you ever wanted to get into superheroes, but didn't know where to start? What about that one character you've been dying to deep dive into, but can't figure out where the lore starts and ends? Our panelists will delve into the nuances of comics, arcs, and how and what to read.</p>
<p>Sun 5:30 PM (1h) [6] James <i>Reading</i></p>	<p>Author Readings: Fitzgerald, Penelope, Thomas <i>Patrick Fitzgerald, Patrick Thomas, Leslye Penelope</i> Authors Patrick Fitzgerald, Leslye Penelope, and Patrick Thomas will read selections from their works.</p>
<p>Sun 5:30 PM (1h) [6] Kent <i>Panel</i></p>	<p>Learning To Love The Deadline <i>Kira Yeversky, Eric Distad (m), Jen Distad, Wendra Colleen, Author</i> Deadlines can be a source of stress but they can also be a source of inspiration. This panel will talk about methods and techniques for creating (words or music) quickly, for managing the "Inner Critic", and how to bypass writer's block. We'll also talk about timed writing challenges like FAWM (February Album Writing Month) and NaNoWriMo, why someone would even want to attempt it, and how attempting the challenge can help improve your overall writing skill.</p>

<p>Sun 5:30 PM (1h) [6] Pride of Baltimore II <i>Panel</i></p>	<p>Standalone or Series? <i>M. Flagg, Andrew McDowell, Ellen Smith</i> How do you know if your idea is a standalone or a series? What structures do you need in your book to pull the reader into other novels and when can you give a satisfactory ending in one book? We'll look at an author's approach to story development to determine if there's enough of a through-line to fuel a series, or if it would be better suited as a standalone.</p>
<p>Sun 5:30 PM (1h) [6] St. George <i>Panel</i></p>	<p>Fantasy Beyond the Castles <i>Jay Requard, Mary Soon Lee, Tom Doyle, Elora Malat (m)</i> Western Europe medieval style fiction has dominated the landscape, but there's more out there. What great fantasy works are being done that are influenced by South America, Africa, India, or Asia? Bring your favorite examples.</p>
<p>Sun 5:30 PM (45m) [7] Room 7006 <i>Participatory</i></p>	<p>Blacklight Dance Party <i>Eta Hack</i> Turn on the dark! We're transforming Children's Programming into a kid friendly blacklight dance hall. Rock the blacklight gear and accessories you just created in the Blacklight Costuming session, or just hit the dance floor in your own threads. Also balloons, lots of balloons! Best for ages 5 and up. <i>Child-Focused.</i></p>
<p>Sun 5:30 PM (1h) [7] Room 7029 <i>Participatory</i></p>	<p>Discussion: Compton Crook Finalists <i>Sam Lubell</i> A discussion of this year's Compton Crook finalists.</p>
<p>Sun 5:30 PM (1h30m) [8] Room 8006 <i>Screening</i></p>	<p>Kaiju no.8 Season 2 10-12 Kafka Hibino's dream has come true, he's made it into The Defense Force! But, not without some hiccups.... Now that Kafka's secret is out and his fellow officers know he's Kaiju no.8, will he be able to stand at his childhood friend Mina Ashiro's side, or will his comrades turn their guns on him next? <i>Children Only with Parent.</i></p>
<p>Sun 5:30 PM (2h) [8] Room 8029 <i>Participatory</i></p>	<p>Lazy Sunday Afternoon Productivity Sprints <i>Morgan Hazelwood, Doc Coleman</i> Sure, Sunday Afternoons are traditionally lazy, but when else are you going to fit in your personal projects? Bring a project and come hang out! Free snacks. Hosted weekly on YouTube and Twitch, Morgan's productivity stream is coming LIVE to BALTICON 60! Following the Pomodoro technique, Morgan alternates focused productivity time with snacking and chatting. Writers, crafters, artists, and snack-aficionados are all welcome. <i>#snackFueledWriter</i></p>

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<p>Sun 5:30 PM (1h) [10] Room 10006 <i>Presentation</i></p>	<p>3D Printing for Cosplay <i>Jim Wilmering</i> The presenter will cover what items can be printed for a cosplay. They will cover what step may be necessary when making life sized items. They will also cover the steps for post processing your prints to create the final item.</p>
<p>Sun 5:30 PM (1h) Virtual Panel Room 1 <i>Panel</i></p>	<p>Writing Despite it All <i>Akua Lezli Hope, Leonardo Espinoza, Gillian Polack, Anne E.G. Nydam, Nikhil Prabala</i> When the world feels like a dumpster fire, how do you keep writing? Join this panel as experts discuss how to keep the words flowing in uncertain times. This panel will be a supportive exploration of coping mechanisms.</p>
<p>Sun 5:30 PM (1h) Virtual Panel Room 2 <i>Panel</i></p>	<p>Gothic Romance and the Sociology of Horror <i>L. Marie Wood, Gail Z. Martin, Lisa Hodorovych</i> What psychological desire does a vampire enthrall? What hole does monster romance fill? Horror archetypes represent societal fears, but what happens when we take these fears and romanticize them? How does making a monster sympathetic alter the way we view their monstrous nature? <i>Children Not Allowed.</i></p>

Balticon 59 Sunday Short Science Fiction Film Festival (BS³F³) Winners



1. **Stephen Kings's The Reach (2024)** – Italy
Director: Luca Caserta
2. **Invasion '53 (2024)** – United States of America
Director: Danielle Weinberg
3. **Dad in The Echo (2023)** – China
Director: Jacky Heng Sun

The Balticon Sunday Short Science Fiction Film Festival (BS³F³) features independently produced short films from around the world, including live action and animated films in the science fiction, fantasy, and horror genres. Awards are given based on audience preferences.

Sunday Evening & Night

- Sun 6:00 PM**
(2h)
[5]
Watertable A
Table 2
Game
- PFS2e Pathfinder Quest #16: The Winter Queen's Dollhouse**
Nikki
"A Pathfinder Society Quest designed for 1st-through 4th-level characters, playable in 2 hours. The Dacilane Academy often calls upon the Pathfinder Society to get them out of trouble, or to aid their students. Considering that many Pathfinders enroll their children in the academy, the relationship is one of mutual benefit. It's therefore no surprise when the academy calls upon the Pathfinders to help make sure nothing terrible happens during the play that the students will be performing at a nearby theater, the Muse of the Rose. Recently, performances there have seen unfortunate accidents. No one has been seriously injured, but the performances were all ultimately ruined. It's up to you to ensure that the Dacilane Academy's performance doesn't suffer the same fate, even if they have to prevent disasters backstage during the show itself."
- Sun 6:00 PM**
(3h)
[5]
Watertable B
Table 2
Game
- Game Demo: Legendary: A Marvel Deck Building Game**
Nick
Legendary: A Marvel Deck Building Game is set in the Marvel Comics universe. Players choose a number of hero decks – Spider-Man, Hulk, Wolverine, etc. – and shuffle them together. Over the course of the game, players will recruit powerful hero cards to add to their deck in order to build a stronger and more resourceful deck. Villains will reveal themselves and add themselves to the row of villains. If the row fills up, a villain escapes, possibly punishing the heroes in some way. As players fight and defeat villains, they collect those cards, which will be worth points at game's end. If all of these cards are claimed, the game ends and players tally their points to see who wins. If the mastermind completes his scheme, however – having a certain number of villains escape, for example, or imposing a certain number of wounds on the heroes – then the players all lose.
- Sun 6:30 PM**
(30m)
[5] Maryland
Ballroom CD
Room Turn
- Doors Open for Film Festival**
Doors Open for Film Festival

SUNDAY EVENING & NIGHT

Sun 7:00 PM

(1h)

[5] Federal Hill

Presentation

Christian Authors of SFF

Robert Lewis

Christian writers of Science Fiction and Fantasy thrive beyond Narnia - faith wrestling with spaceships, demons, and mind-magic. From C.S. Lewis's cosmic theodicy to Mary Doria Russell's Catholic doubt in deep space and today's Carol Award winners, these authors wrestle doubt, grace, and providence in worlds fans love. Full Author List: Foundational: C.S. Lewis (Space Trilogy) Madeleine L'Engle (A Wrinkle in Time). Beyond: Mary Doria Russell (The Sparrow/Children of God) - Catholic theodicy, alien suffering. Charles Williams (War in Heaven) - occult Grail theology (Inklings). Owen Barfield (Poetic Diction) - mythic imagination (Inklings). Frank Peretti (This Present Darkness) - spiritual warfare thriller. Morgan L. Busse (Ravenwood Saga) - Carol winner, virtue in brokenness. N.D. Wilson (100 Cupboards) - a dark, suspenseful, and action-packed fantasy, often compared to Narnia. J.R.R. Tolkien - eucatastrophe climax & recent faith scholarship.

Sun 7:00 PM

(1h)

[5] Guilford

Panel

75 Years After I, Robot

Tom Doyle, Ian Randal Strock, Mark Painter, Susanne Allen

It's now been 75 years since the publication of *I, Robot* and *The Martian Chronicles* — cornerstone works of modern science fiction that, like so many others, still resonate today. Let's explore how those classic SF authors connect with our own time and what influence they have had in shaping the present/future we are living in. Were they visionaries, or did their scientific backgrounds lead them to foresee what would come in areas such as technology, medicine, or social control? Or perhaps those shaping our present/future today have been influenced by their stories?

Sun 7:00 PM

(1h)

[5] Homeland

Presentation

What a Million Farts Can Teach Us

Brantly Hall

Flatulence is produced almost entirely by the gut microbiome and carries real information about digestion and gut health, but it has never been measured at scale. To change that, Brantly Hall and his team built a wearable biosensor and launched the Human Flatus Atlas, a study mapping gut microbial gas production across thousands of people. In this talk, he shares what the Human Flatus Atlas is beginning to reveal, and why measuring a million farts could meaningfully advance our understanding of digestion, the gut-brain axis, and human health.

Sun 7:00 PM

(4h30m)

[5] Maryland Ballroom CD

Screening

Balticon Short Film Festival

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

Sun 7:00 PM

(1h)

[5] Mount

Washington

*Panel***Frankenstein and Gothic Horror***Jessica Moran, John L. French, O. Hai Mark*

The gothic horror genre clawed its way into the world with classics such as Frankenstein, Dracula, and The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. How does gothic horror set itself apart from its often more gruesome and gory peers? What are some examples of modern gothic horror, and where do they differ from the genre's roots? And why do audiences often seem to forget who the real monsters of these stories are?

Sun 7:00 PM

(3h)

[5] Private

Dining Room

*Demo***Warhammer 40,000 - Demo***Lord Kron*

In the Grim Darkness of the Future, there is only WAR! It is the 41st Millennium. For more than a hundred centuries The Emperor has sat immobile on the Golden Throne of Earth. He is the Master of Mankind by the will of the gods, and master of a million worlds by the might of his inexhaustible armies. He is a rotting carcass writhing invisibly with power from the Dark Age of Technology. He is the Carrion Lord of the Imperium for whom a thousand souls are sacrificed every day, so that he may never truly die. To be a man in such times is to be one amongst untold billions. It is to live in the cruelest and most bloody regime imaginable. These are the tales of those times. Forget the power of technology and science, for so much has been forgotten, never to be re-learned. Forget the promise of progress and understanding, for in the grim dark future there is only war. There is no peace amongst the stars, only an eternity of carnage and slaughter, and the laughter of thirsting gods

Sun 7:00 PM

(3h)

[5]

Watertable B

Table 1

*Game***Game Demo: Covenant***Erik Delfosse*

The Dwarven King has issued an order to the houses of each clan. It is imperative to reclaim Karrak-cum-Kazar, the sacred mountain. For too long it has been occupied by the poison of the dark lords, with their creatures defiling the halls that once housed the noblest of all Dwarves. The insult cannot last any longer. The Dwarves return to the mountain. Covenant is played in turns over three ages. During their turn, players will assign the Dwarves of their clan to different tasks that will allow them to explore the ancient halls of the ancestors and drive out their enemies while rebuilding their ancestral home. Your dwarf tokens and tools will allow you to do all kinds of actions: dig into the mountain, defeat the enemies that live there, and build all kinds of buildings that will bring the legendary dwarf city back to life. At the end of the game, the clan that has accumulated the most glory will take the recognition of the monarch and the victory.

SUNDAY EVENING & NIGHT

- Sun 7:00 PM**
(2h)
[5]
Watertable B
Table 3
Game
- Game Demo: A Place For All My Books**
hymie!
A Place for All My Books is a puzzley book gathering, sorting, and organizing game in which players arrange stacks of books in different rooms of their apartment as personal projects. When done, they can admire their accomplishments and gain their rewards – not least of which is renewed energy, which they can then spend to head out into the village - to pick up more books! The organizational puzzles are easy to accomplish, with the challenge being how many of them you can accomplish all at once to optimize each "admire" action.
- Sun 7:00 PM**
(1h)
[6] James
Reading
- Author Readings: Johnson, Lee, and Tihi**
Reuben "Tihi" Hayslett, Mary Soon Lee, R.A. Johnson
Authors R.A. Johnson, Mary Soon Lee, and Tihi will read selections from their works.
- Sun 7:00 PM**
(1h)
[6] Kent
Participatory
- Classic Filk Sing-Along**
Emily Lewis, Roberta Rogow, Gary Ehrlich (m), Ben Newman
Come join our long-time regulars (and a special guest or two) as they lead a sing-along of classic filk songs from the 1970's and 1980's. Lyrics will be projected so you can learn these timeless songs.
- Sun 7:00 PM**
(1h)
[6] Pride of
Baltimore II
Panel
- Lit RPG? Wassat?**
Bill Lawhorn, Ian Sipple (m), Tommy Kerper, Elektra Hammond
What is LitRPG? Is it just writing up your D&D campaign as a novel or something more? What makes a Lit RPG different from a fantasy quest novel? Are there elements of a D&D type campaign that don't work well in novels? What are some LitRPG books we should be reading?
- Sun 7:00 PM**
(1h)
[6] St. George
Reading
- Author Readings: Povey, Huntsgood, Edelman**
Jennifer R. Povey, MJ Huntsgood, Scott Edelman
Authors Jennifer R. Povey, MJ Huntsgood, and Scott Edelman will read selections from their books.
- Sun 7:00 PM**
(1h)
[7] Room
7029
Participatory
- Discussion: A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms**
Perrienne Lurie
In a return to the history of Westeros, this new Max series explores the realm with Dunk and Egg. How has the series stayed true and diverged from the original stories. What is there to look forward to as well as which characters have the best interactions? How have a few deaths led to the world seen in Game of Thrones? *Children Only with Parent.*
- Sun 7:00 PM**
(2h)
[8] Room
8006
Screening
- The Apothecary Diaries Season 2 33-36**
Secrets are uncovered and relationships are tested; as Maomao and Jinshi continue their "will they, won't they" dance, and the mysteries and the political intrigue continue to pile up around them. *Children Only with Parent.*

- Sun 7:00 PM**
(1h)
[12] Club Lounge
Participatory
- Kaffeeklatsch with Joshua Bilmes**
Joshua Bilmes
Spend an hour with agent Joshua Bilmes. Limited to 10 spaces. Sign-up sheet is at the Info Desk next to Registration.
- Sun 7:00 PM**
(1h)
Virtual Panel Room 1
Panel
- The Geek's Guide to Literary Theory**
Leonardo Espinoza, Valerie Estelle Frankel, David Ellis, Joyce Reynolds-Ward (m)
Once upon a time, some teacher tried to convince you of the right way to read a piece of literature. But lit theory is not about the “right” or “wrong” way to read a text. It's a group of lenses through which we view writing to gain a greater understanding. Let's talk about what lenses we use as well as other ways to examine texts, yours and others, to deepen your understanding of literary craft. Plus, you'll sound hella smart in bars and at parties.
- Sun 7:00 PM**
(1h)
Virtual Panel Room 2
Panel
- So you Want to be a VTuber?**
Alyss and Dusty (m), Glitch Symphony, Swift Crescendo, Vantura, Smol Bean
VTubers make sure to put their best face forward on YouTube, Twitch, and other platforms. Speaking through their custom avatars, our panel of Vtubers, both large and small, will discuss the VTuber phenomenon. From avatar selection to content tracks to the reason behind the masks, they'll share all their tips for up-and-coming Vtubers.
- Sun 8:00 PM**
(4h)
[5]
Watertable A Table 1
Game
- Alien: Rapture Protocol Session 2**
Caleb
It's 2185, and the mining station Jeremiah VI needs its resupply for the year. You're the lucky roughnecks who got the job. Simple enough, really, and killing multiple birds with a single stone: you're taking the USCSS Fianza for the run, dropping off the supplies, picking up the promethium Jeremiah mined, and then taking the ship back to earth with the load where it'll then be decommissioned. Do it right, and you might just ear a permanent crew contract with WY. Sounds like a dream, right? At this point, everything's gone to hell. *Children Not Allowed.*
- Sun 8:00 PM**
(4h)
[5]
Watertable A Table 2
Game
- The One Ring: Don't Leave the Path**
Micah
It has been five years since the Battle of Five armies, and peace has come to North of Middle Earth, and with it, opportunities for trade. Baldor Rivergold, a man of Dale intending to capitalize on this, hires a company of adventurers from around Lake-town to escort a his merchant caravan across Mirkwood.

SUNDAY EVENING & NIGHT

- Sun 8:00 PM**
(4h)
[5]
Watertable A
Table 3
Game
- Phantasy Star: The Search for Luveno**
Yoshi
The Search for Luveno is an introductory adventure for Phantasy Star Tabletop Roleplaying. The adventure is designed so you can progress through it while reading it. Relevant rules are presented during the adventure as need for them arises. The Search for Luveno introduces four protagonists: -Alis, the Human Guardian -Lutz, the Newman Thaumaturge -Myau, the Musk Cat Savant -Odin. the Human Warrior Experienced adventurers who have travelled together for some time. Phantasy Star uses the Esper Genesis System
- Sun 8:30 PM**
(1h)
[5] Federal
Hill
Participatory
- Dirty Mad Libs!**
O. Hai Mark, Pallas A. Bane
Take a few creatives, their best works of erotica, remove some key words, and have onlookers fill in the blanks. It's audience participation at its best with dirty mad libs! For adults only. *Children Not Allowed.*
- Sun 8:30 PM**
(1h)
[5] Homeland
Presentation
- 3I ATLAS: The Good, The Bad, & The (Natural) Alien**
Dr. Carey Lisse
All about what we know about interstellar object 3I/ATLAS, the 3rd macroscopic body detected flying through our solar system from somewhere else
- Sun 8:30 PM**
(1h)
[5] Mount
Washington
Panel
- Con Wars: Balticon vs Capclave**
Bill Lawhorn, Robert Markowitz
It's not as exciting as it sounds, but still pretty funny. Join Robert Markowitz, next year's con chair for Balticon, and Bill Lawhorn, past and future chair of Capclave, while they debate the pros and cons (and tell some wild stories) about these two Baltimore/DC area cons.
- Sun 8:30 PM**
(1h)
[6] James
Reading
- Author Readings: Mitchell and Whiting**
Miguel O. Mitchell, PhD, Nate Whiting - The Accidental Poet
Poetry Authors Miguel O. Mitchell and Nate Whiting will read selections from their works.
- Sun 8:30 PM**
(1h30m)
[6] Kent
Participatory
- Theme Circle: Computers and Technology**
Jen Distad (m), Ben Newman, Eric Distad
We all have those interesting, frustrating, and often song-worthy experiences with computers and technology. Come join us and share them!
- Sun 8:30 PM**
(1h)
[10] Room
10006
Presentation
- B59 Follow-Up: One Year of 3D Printing as a New User**
Kelly Pierce
The presenter will follow-up the presentation of a new person assembling their first printer from 2025. They will discuss both positive and negative experiences. What a new person should expect and where to find help.

- Sun 8:30 PM**
(1h)
Virtual Panel
Room 1
Panel
- Rewriting the Fairy Tale**
Mari Ness, Anne E.G. Nydam, Valerie Estelle Frankel, Diana Peterfreund
Fairy tales make excellent frames for modern fiction. What is the appeal of reinterpreting these traditional stories? Is it simply our desire to rewrite injustice or a way to bring the villain's truth to light? What are some of our favorite retellings?
- Sun 8:30 PM**
(1h)
Virtual Panel
Room 2
Panel
- Knowing Your Invisible Audience, How to Play to Your Fans When VTubing**
Alyss and Dusty (m), Vantura, Swift Crescendo, Smol Bean
One of the greatest challenges streaming, and especially vtubing, can present is audience interaction. When dealing with your audience through the internet, and unable to gauge their personal reactions, how do you judge what's working and what's not? How do you express your own moods or emotions to your audience without them being able to see your face or body? Join our panel of vtubers as they discuss the tricks of the trade that they use to keep their audience engaged, and interact with them through and beyond their content.
- Sun 9:00 PM**
(2h)
[8] Room
8006
Screening
- Clevatess 9-12**
One of the Lords of Dark Beasts, Clevatess's reign shatters when he revives a hero he personally slayed and adopts an orphaned humanoid baby—the last hope to save a dying world. Now bound together, what fate awaits this unlikely trio?
Children Not Allowed.
- Sun 10:00 PM**
(1h)
[6] James
Reading
- Author Readings: Tan**
CECILIA TAN
Author Cecilia Tan will read selections from their works.
- Sun 10:00 PM**
(4h)
[6] Kent
Participatory
- Sunday Night Open Filk**
Emily Lewis, Merav Hoffman, Gary Ehrlich (m)
The filk circles are your chance to share a favorite song or two. All songs are welcome: filk, folk, Celtic, SCA, and more. Or bring an instrument and play along. Join us to sing the night away, or just stop by for a listen!
- Sun 10:00 PM**
(4h)
[6] St. George
Game
- Blood on the Clocktower**
Pyris
Blood on the Clocktower is a bluffing game with players on opposing teams of Good and Evil, overseen by a Storyteller player who conducts the action and makes crucial decisions. The goal of the game is to successfully deduce and execute the demons before they outnumber the townfolk. During a 'day' phase players socialize openly and whisper privately to trade knowledge or spread lies, culminating in a player's execution if a majority suspects them of being Evil. During a 'night' time, players close their eyes and are woken one at a time by the Storyteller to gather information, spread mischief, or kill.

MONDAY MORNING

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

Lord of Mysteries 9-13
In a Victorian world of steam, dreadnoughts, and occult horrors, Zhou Mingrui awakens as Klein Moretti. He walks a razor's edge between light and darkness, entangled with warring Churches. This is the legend of unlimited potential...and unspeakable danger. *Children Only with Parent.*

Mon
12:00 AM
(4h)
[5]
Watertable A
Table 1
Game

Dungeon Crawl Classics — Sailors on the Starless Sea
Jason
You're no hero. You're just an ordinary peasant in an unremarkable hamlet in the shadow of the cyclopean ruins. But now something stirs beneath the crumbling blocks and villagers are snatched from their beds. With no heroes to defend you, who will rise to stand against the darkness? Dungeon Crawl Classics is THE original Old School Revival system, a fast-paced, open-feeling rules set allowing for epic game experiences without unnecessary tethers. In this adventure each player plays FOUR "zero level" adventurers, most of whom are certain to die horribly. *Children Only with Parent.*

Monday Morning

Mon 8:00 AM
(4h)
[5]
Watertable A
Table 1
Game

Fabula Ultima: Press Start
Yoshi
FABULA ULTIMA is a Tabletop Roleplaying Game inspired by Japanese-style console RPGs, or JRPGs. In Fabula Ultima, you and your friends will tell epic stories of would-be heroes and fearsome villains, set in fantasy worlds brimming with magic, wondrous locations, and uniquely bizarre monsters! PRESS START is Fabula Ultima's ready-to-play introductory scenario: a complete tutorial that will plunge you into a tale of bravery and memorable characters, now featuring revised and updated wordings from version 1.1 of the Core Rulebook... all you need is the courage to fight for what you hold most dear!

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

Baltikids Bagel Breakfast--Monday
Eta Hack
Hard to believe that the con is almost over, and you still have to figure out breakfast. (That's just rude.) Join us for a last hurrah of complimentary bagels, juice, coffee, and nibbles, courtesy of the Children's Programming team! We'll have dairy-free and gluten-free options in the mix. This event is intended for teens, kids, and their connected grown-ups. Have a good breakfast without having to think too hard about it, and meet other folks while you're at it! *Child-Focused.*

- Mon 9:00 AM** **Witch Watch 9-12**
 (2h)
 [8] Room
 8006
Screening
 Morihito Otogi, a high school student who comes from a lineage of ogres, enjoys a peaceful, ordinary life until his childhood friend, Nico, moves in with him. Nico is a witch-in-training, and chooses Morihito to be her familiar. While Nico is thrilled to reunite with her old friend and crush, Morihito is tasked with the perilous duty to protect her from a foretold calamity.
- Mon 10:00 AM** **Where Science Fiction Meets Science Fact**
 (1h)
 [5] Federal Hill
Panel
Dr. Eric Haag, Larry Paxton, Sam Scheiner, Dr. Carey Lisse (m)
 From hyperspeed to time travel, many recurring elements of science fiction have been deemed scientifically impossible. But what elements of classic science fiction have already become reality? How does new scientific discovery inform modern science fiction? And how does science fiction push the future of science? Our panel of authors and scientists will discuss the intersection of science and science fiction.
- Mon 10:00 AM** **A World Without Power Bills!**
 (1h)
 [5] Guilford
Panel
Pat Bahn, Elektra Hammond, Inge Heyer
 Many SF futures feature access to unlimited energy. From Heinlein's shipstone, to Star Trek's fusion cores, to the high technology of Ian Bank's Culture series. What would a world look like without power bills? How does energy-not-in-crisis alter society and bids for resources? When you take away one problem, what others emerge?
- Mon 10:00 AM** **It's All About the Geology: Bedrock of Sci-Fi Worlds**
 (1h)
 [5] Homeland
Presentation
Troy Bernier
 From galactic mining operations to legendary power crystals, geology is the hidden backbone of science fiction world-building. This presentation explores how mineral resources and real geological principles shape iconic franchises—from ore hauling in Alien to dilithium in Star Trek and kyber crystals in Star Wars. Terrain, tectonics, and rare elements often drive technology, conflict, and destiny across entire galaxies. Without geology, many sci-fi stories wouldn't exist.
- Mon 10:00 AM** **The 90s Babies Have Grown Up**
 (1h)
 [5] Mount Washington
Panel
Elora Malat, Kathryn Faye, Pallas A. Bane
 Percy Jackson, The Hunger Games, Harry Potter, His Dark Materials, and Twilight, to name a few, were some of the first books read by the tweens and teens of the late 90s and 00s. These readers are now approaching their 40s, beginning to be influential at work and in government. How have these works impacted their lives, and are they still affecting how they see the world? How has this shaped what they like to read now?

MONDAY MORNING

- Mon**
10:00 AM
(3h)
[5] Private Dining Room
Workshop
- Miniature Painting Workshop**
Lord Kron
Come join our very own Lord Kron in an open-to-the-public workshop on painting Miniatures. Bring your own, or use one of his sample pieces! Learn about undercoating, base coating, dry brushing, shading, and many more techniques that make your pieces pop on the table! All ages welcome, adult supervision recommended for children under 10.
- Mon**
10:00 AM
(2h)
[5]
Watertable B Table 1
Game
- Game Demo: Caution Signs**
Michelle Hymowitz
Each round in Caution Signs, you're presented with a secret combination of adjective and noun: stylish rhino, gassy monkeys, flexible cow, melting babies — ten thousand combinations are possible. You have twenty seconds to sketch an image of this combo on a caution sign. All of these images are then revealed to the round's guesser, along with the individual adjectives and nouns, and the guesser tries to figure out what each sign is warning them about.
- Mon**
10:00 AM
(1h)
[6] Gibson
Panel
- TRUST THE READER (except when you can't)**
JD Donnelly, Tommy Kerper, Jen Brinn, Frank Wu
As writers, we must study our genres meticulously before we enter them. But how much can we assume our readers know about the genre precedents we're writing in? What terms are ubiquitous staples of a genre, and what jargon makes genre fiction inaccessible to outsiders?
- Mon**
10:00 AM
(1h)
[6] St. George
Panel
- Corsets Are Easy (Sort Of)**
Evelyn Lewis, Misha Bushyager, Lilis Cosplay (m), Jamie Peddicord
Foundation garments are arguably the most important part of historical costuming. They dictate the shape of the body for each time period. They are also the most daunting (and sometimes difficult) item to make. Whether you're making stays, bodies, or corsets, let's talk about how to get a good fit, where to source materials and patterns, and talk about some of the skills needed for success.
- Mon**
10:00 AM
(45m)
[7] Room 7006
Participatory
- Riddles, Puzzles and Codes**
Eta Hack
Is your brain not fried enough after the first three days of the con? Come scramble it further with us! We'll cover a range of fun logic and word puzzles, with lots of options geared to your age and interests. *Child-Focused.*
- Mon**
10:00 AM
(3h)
[10] Room 10006
Participatory
- Open House: 3D Printing Room**
Ty McNeer, Jim Wilmering
The 3D Printer room staff will be present to assist walk-ins with questions or concerns with their 3D printers

- Mon**
10:45 AM
 (1h15m)
 [7] Room
 7006
Participatory
- Bricktastic Lego Free Build**
Eta Hack
 Tons of LEGO, kids and imagination! Chill Monday vibes! Nothing more to say. Best for ages 5 and up. *Child-Focused.*
- Mon**
11:00 AM
 (3h)
 [5]
 Watertable B
 Table 2
Game
- Game Demo: DC Deck-Building Game**
Pickles
 Batman! Superman! Wonder Woman! Aquaman! The Flash! Green Lantern! Cyborg! The Justice League of America is ready for action – are you? Fight the never-ending battle for truth, justice, and peace in the DC Comics Deck-Building Game! Each player chooses one of the seven hero cards, each of which has a special power, and starts with a deck of ten cards. Each turn, a player starts with a hand of five cards and can acquire or conquer the five types of cards in the game: heroes, villains and super-villains, equipment, super powers, and locations. To defeat villains, you'll need to have power – but when a super-villain is defeated, a new one comes into play, attacking all the heroes while doing so. Make sure you've acquired defenses – like superspeed or bulletproof powers, or The Batsuit equipment – to protect yourself from harm. Craft your hero deck into a well-oiled machine to take on the most vile villains in the DC Universe in your quest for victory (points)!
- Mon**
11:00 AM
 (1h)
 [8] Room
 8006
Screening
- Kaya-chan Isn't Scary 5-6**
 Kaya-chan kindergartener with an incredibly strong sixth sense. She secretly beats up the ghosts that stalk her friends and family, but in turn, she's treated like a troublemaker since nobody understands her strange behavior. Everything changes when her teacher, Chie, discovers her secret. Kaya-chan's little fists will go flying at any sinister spirits that show up! *Children Only with Parent.*
- Mon**
11:30 AM
 (1h)
 [5] Federal
 Hill
Panel
- Effective Marketing for the Indie Author**
Kim Headlee, Sarah Avery, Michael Arthur Kennedy, Christiane Knight, Jennifer Blackstream
 Hurray, the gatekeepers are gone! Now you've got a "discovery" problem instead. How do readers find out about you? How do you market your book when you don't have the resources of a big publisher? What are some strategies that can help you get noticed?
- Mon**
11:30 AM
 (1h)
 [5] Guilford
Panel
- Censorship and Reading**
John Robison, Elektra Hammond, Nikita Rowitz, Jennifer R. Povey (m), R. Taylor
 With a society so saturated with many forms of media, why are books the target? We see attempts to limit access to stories in schools and public libraries. The logic is often baffling and it's hard to understand how anyone with half a brain could believe the reasoning. Logic, however, doesn't always enter the picture with so much emotion from both sides. Let's talk about how you can be part of your local community's efforts to protect everyone's right to read.

MONDAY MORNING

- Mon**
11:30 AM
(1h)
[5] Homeland
Presentation
- Big Dinosaurs from a Small State: Maryland in the Age of Dinosaurs**
Thomas R. Holtz, Jr., PhD
During the Mesozoic Era, what dinosaurs were stomping around Frederick and wading in the swamps of Laurel? Find out from paleontologist Dr. Tom Holtz about the fossils of dinosaurs and their contemporaries in the Old Line State
- Mon**
11:30 AM
(1h)
[5] Mount
Washington
Panel
- The Structured Pantser**
A. L. Kaplan, Samantha Mills -CC 2025 Winner, Jen Brinn, Haley Gelfuso-CC 2026 Winner, CECILIA TAN
What if I'm neither a pantser nor a plotter, but something in-between? What if I want to focus my discovery writing without tying myself to an outline? What if I want more discovery writing without ruining a perfectly good outline? Like most things in writing, there is no one answer. Panelists will discuss ways to combine the two methods.
- Mon**
11:30 AM
(1h)
[6] Gibson
Panel
- Crafting a Query Letter**
MJ Huntsgood, Joshua Bilmes, Brigitte Winter, Shahid Mahmud, Kathryn Faye (m)
What does it take to write a meaningful query letter? How do you catch the right agent's eye? Authors who have survived the trenches, and hopefully some agents and editors, will share their knowledge and help you craft a query letter that will get you noticed.
- Mon**
11:30 AM
(1h)
[6] Kent
Panel
- The Worst Happened, Now What**
Gary Ehrlich, Tavair Dominique, Eric Distad (m), Jen Distad
You've prepared for a big performance, the day arrives and then the unexpected happens. We'll talk (and laugh) about all the things that can go wrong during a performance, both in person and online. We'll tell our stories of epic and non epic failures, what we learned from them, how to prepare for them and how to recover from them.
- Mon**
11:30 AM
(1h)
Virtual Panel
Room 1
Panel
- Liveplays - what to consider**
Swift Crescendo, Alyss and Dusty, Nomi S (m), Smol Bean
With the recent Explosion of TTRPGs and the rise of Tabletop Gaming in the online space, Liveplays, streamed plays of various TTRPGs, have become more popular than ever. But how do you run a Liveplay? What are the pitfalls and traps streamers and players may fall into? How do you balance gameplay with audience interaction? Join our panel of streamers as they discuss the challenges of running a Liveplay and keeping up with their audience as they do so!



Mayor Brandon Scott
& the City of Baltimore

CREATIVE
BALTIMORE
FUND

The Creative Baltimore Fund is a grant program funded by the Mayor's Office and the City of Baltimore.

Monday Afternoon

- Mon 12:00 PM**
(2h)
[8] Room 8006
Screening
- Night of the Living Cat 5-8**
In 20XX, the world is dominated by cats. A virus that turns anyone who touches a cat into a cat has spread into a worldwide nyandemic. Anytime cats rub against a human, they turn the person into a cat. Can humanity fight their urge to pet cats to survive in a cat-ridden world? *Children Only with Parent.*
- Mon 1:00 PM**
(1h)
[5] Federal Hill
Panel
- Practical Politics of Fairy Tales**
Pat Bahn, Jean Marie Ward, Nik Alexander (m), Robert Lewis
What happens after Snow White rides off with her prince? Does anyone consider the power vacuum left behind after the Evil Queen is defeated? Let's talk about political things overlooked in fairy tales, such as the kingdom-wide repercussions of a king being turned into a frog, what "The Snow Queen" is actually queen of, and why there are so many princes and princesses riding around anyway.
- Mon 1:00 PM**
(1h)
[5] Guilford
Panel
- Tales From the Slush Pile**
Joshua Bilmes, Brigitte Winter, Kathryn Faye (m)
Editors share tales of some of the gems they've received, and give advice on how to avoid becoming fodder for future panels like this.
- Mon 1:00 PM**
(1h)
[5] Homeland
Presentation
- If You Can't Beat Them, Eat Them: The Lionfish Invasion**
Evelyn Lewis
The Indo-Pacific lionfish has become one of the most destructive invasive species in the Atlantic and Caribbean, devouring native fish populations and destabilizing coral reef ecosystems. With no natural predators and a rapid reproduction rate, their spread has been devastating—and relentless. But in a surprising twist, scientists, conservationists, and chefs have joined forces with an unconventional strategy: turn lionfish into a luxury seafood item. This panel explores the ecological impact of the invasion, the science behind removal efforts, and whether market-driven solutions can realistically curb their spread. Can fine dining help save coral reefs—or is the problem too big for the dinner table?
- Mon 1:00 PM**
(1h)
[5] Mount Washington
Panel
- Fatphobia and SFF**
Christiane Knight, Jen Finelli, MD, Pallas A. Bane, John Robison
SFF has a dreadful legacy of fatphobia. Fatness often is equated with villainy and sloth, or with a helplessness to be shed over the course of the story. If they're not dying first, fat people are usually the butt of the joke. Who is writing these types of characters better, and more importantly, how can the genre world follow their lead?
- Mon 1:00 PM**
(1h)
[6] Kent
Participatory
- Memorial Filk Circle**
A chance to remember our friends who've joined that great bardic circle in the sky, and sing our favorite songs of theirs.

MONDAY AFTERNOON

Mon 1:00 PM **Niche vs Variety Streamers - Pros & Cons**
(1h)
Virtual Panel
Room 1
Panel
Glitch Symphony, Swift Crescendo (m), Smol Bean
When looking at Streamers by content, they can generally be classified into two broad categories: Niche Streamers who focus on a specific type or track of content, or Variety Streamers who cover a wide cross-section of content to share with their audience. But which is the correct choice? Does one content track have an advantage over multiple? Are they exclusive? Our panelists will tackle these questions and discuss how to determine which choice is right for you!

Mon 2:30 PM **Improving Balticon**
(1h)
[5] Homeland
Panel
Thomas The Red, Robert Markowitz, Yakira Heistand
It's time to hear from you. Tell us what you liked and where you think we can do better.

Mon 2:30 PM **Dead Dog Filk**
(1h)
[6] Kent
Participatory
One last chance to sing a song or two before you head for home (Or stagger down the hallway!)

Oral History of BSFS Video Online

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

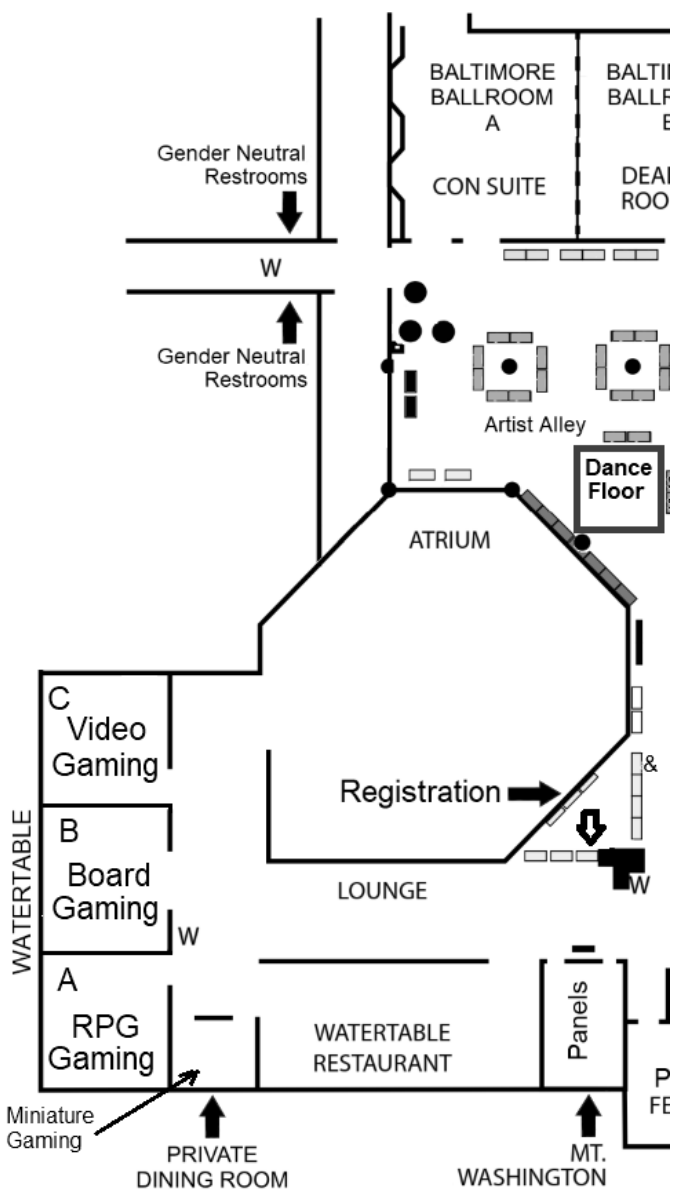
Thank you for coming!
Have a safe trip home!
See you next year at Balticon 61!



RENAISSANCE BALTIMORE

Baltico

FIFTH FLOOR



RE HARBORPLACE HOTEL

on 60

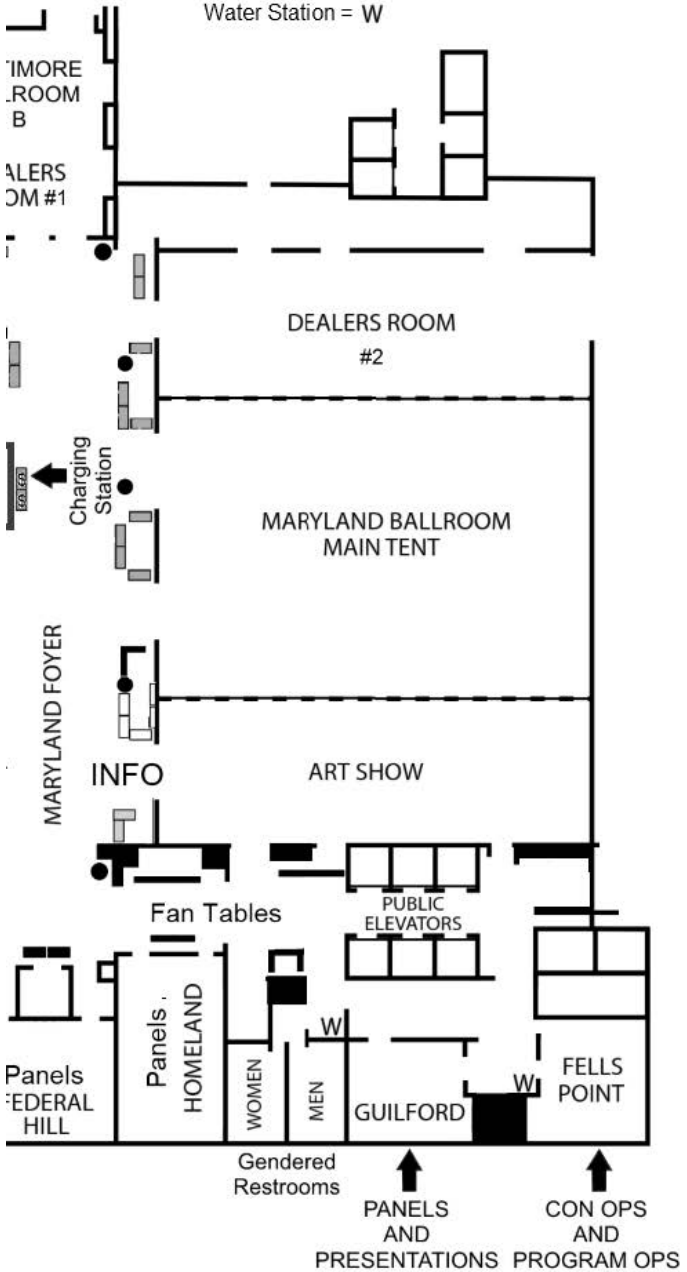
FLOOR

Charging Station tables at electric socket = \$

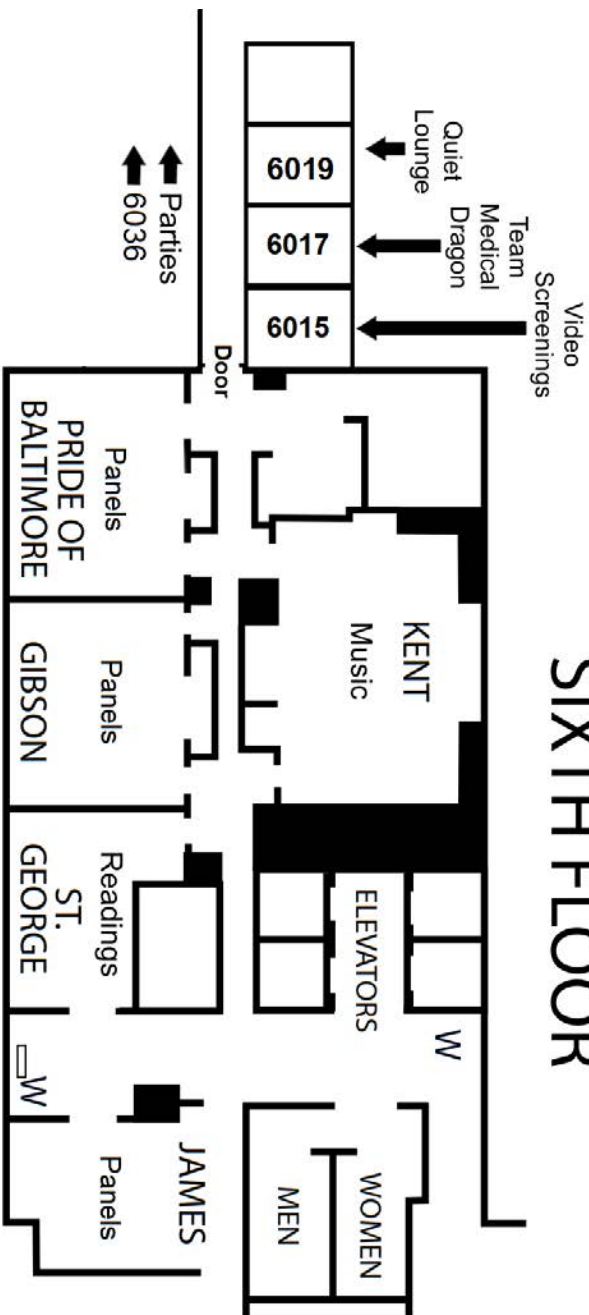
Promo Loop Monitor = ●

Social Area = ●

Water Station = W

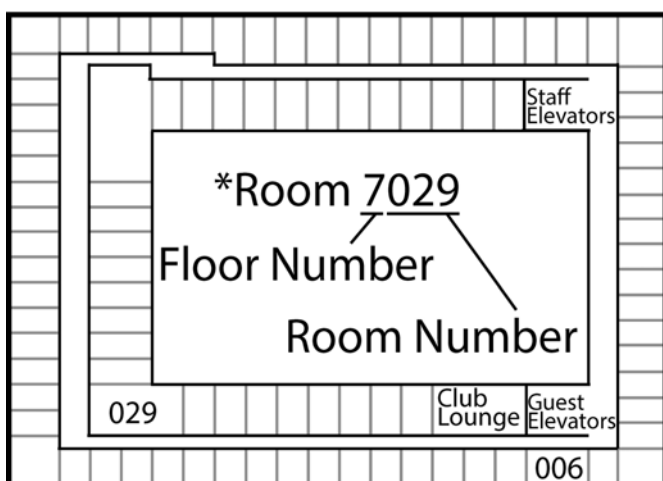


Balticon 60
SIXTH FLOOR



W= Water Station

GUEST ROOM FLOORS



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