

Schedule

Friday 3pm

Lobby: Registration Opens

Friday 4pm

Ballroom 1: Filk Mad Libs

Randy Hoffman

Commonwealth East: Getting Started and Prospering in Costuming and Cosplay

Lisa Ashton, Karen Schnaubelt, Anne Strongman

Join us for a perspective and round table about costuming and cosplay!

There will be a brief discussion, followed by wide-ranging topics of interest, from the philosophies of costuming, to techniques and tools you might want, from head pieces and wigs to alien feet and modifying shoes, makeup to accessories, underpinnings to armor. From pre-history, to medieval armor, to Fantasy in many guises, to historical re-enacting, to comic books and superheroes, to haunted attractions, Costuming encompasses every scenario, time period, occupation, mood, statement of character, and personality you can imagine, and getting started can be confusing. Come and enter this wonderful visual world and see where it takes you, and who you will meet!

Equinox: Gaming Opens

908: Con Suite Opens

Friday 5pm

Ballroom 1: Discussion: The Filk Hall of Fame: How To Populate and Improve It

Randy Hoffman

Commonwealth West: Taking Over the World: How SF and Fantasy Came to Dominate Popular Culture

Herb Kauderer, Jim Mann, Shannon Eichorn

In a recent historical podcast on the History of Rome, the speaker, explaining how the Romans took down war elephants by tying rope behind chariots, circling the elephants, and tripping them, noted that "this is the same successful strategy that the Rebel Alliance used to bring down Imperial Walker in the Battle of Hoth." Do we need any more proof that SF has penetrated all parts of our culture? It wasn't so long ago, though, that SF was on the fringes and "it was a proud and lonely thing to be a fan." The panel discusses the change and how it occurred.

Commonwealth East: Getting Started and Prospering in Costuming and Cosplay

Lisa Ashton, Karen Schaubelt, Anne Strongman

Lobby: Autographing

Tamora Pierce, Tim Liebe
Ballroom 3,4: Dealers Room Opens

Friday 6pm

Ballroom 1: Concert
88bit

Commonwealth West: Robot Companions in Fact and Fiction

Aaron Roth (M), Bill Keith, Brian Koscienski

Who are the best robot companions in SF? And what about real robot companions?

Ballroom 2: Art Show Opens

Friday 7pm

Ballroom 1: Opening Ceremonies

Tobias Buckell, Michael Longcor, Cat Rambo, Kevin Hayes (M)

Lobby: Registration Closes

Friday 8pm

Ballroom 1: Concert
Charming Disaster

Commonwealth West: Game of Thrones Ended. What's Next?

Jeff Young, Laurie Mann, Herb Kauderer (M)

Game of Thrones has dominated the discussion of SF/Fantasy TV in recent years. Now that it's over, what shows will we all be talking about

Ballroom 2: Art Show Closes

Ballroom 3,4: Dealers Room Closes

Friday 9pm

Ballroom 1: Concert
Viking Guitar

Commonwealth West: Best of the Decade: The Best of Recent SF Movies and TV

Stephen Fisher, Frederic Durbin (M), Barbara Doran, Tim Liebe

225: Beer Tasting

James Walton, Jim Mann, Laurie Mann, Mary Tabasko

Friday 10pm

Ballroom 1: Open Filk into the wee hours

Commonwealth West: "Hormones Are Not the Fault of My Editors": More of the Worst Lines from Amateur Erotica

Randy Hoffman

Saturday 8am

908: Con Suite Opens

Saturday 8:45am

Lobby: Registration Opens, Maquerade Sign-up Opens

Saturday 9am

Solstice: Wring Exercises

George Stewart-Walkling, Isaac Payne, Nicole Kosar

Board Room: First Pages Writing Workshop (2hr)

Cat Rambo

Saturday 10am

Ballroom 1: Artificial Intelligence in Fiction and Real Life

Aaron Roth

Come here about what we're doing in AI and hear how AI in real life compares to AI in fiction.

Commonwealth West: Hard SF and Space Opera

Bill Keith, Grant Carrington (M), Marie Vibbert

There was a time not long ago when many thought hard SF and space opera were dying – or at least that good hard SF and space opera were fading away. But that's all changed, with a resurgence both in good hard SF as well as good space opera (and all the areas in between). The panel looks both at the way these areas have evolved and discusses some good recent examples.

Solstice: Reading

Andi O'Connor

Board Room: First Pages Writing Workshop (2 hr) (cont'd)

Cat Rambo

225: Kaffeklatsch

Tobias Buckell

Lobby: Autographing

Shannon Eichorn, Tim Esaias

Ballroom 2: Art Show Opens

Ballroom 3,4: Dealers Room Opens

Saturday 10:30am

Solstice: Reading

Susan Dexter

Saturday 11am

Ballroom 1: NASA Innovative Advanced Concepts

Geoffrey Landis

NASA's Geoffrey Landis talks about innovative concepts from NASA.

Commonwealth West: Before the Boom: Fantasy Before the Seventies Explosion

Darrell Schweitzer, Barbara Doran (M), Stephen Fisher, Andi O'Connor, Nancy Janda

Fantasy publishing exploded in the mid-1970s, but there were a number of major works before then, from writers like E.R. Eddison, Mervyn

Peake, C.S. Lewis, and others. Lin Carter brought many into print with the Ballantine Adult Fantasy series. What are the best of the pre-1970s fantasy?

Commonwealth East: SF Publishing: The World is Changing

Brian Koscienski, Scot Noel, Larry Ivkovich, Rigel Ailur

Solstice: Reading

Mary Soon Lee

225: Kaffeklatsch

Tamora Pierce

Lobby: Autographing

Wendelin Gray, A.M. Rycroft

Saturday 11:30am

Solstice: Reading

Charles Oberndorf

Saturday Noon

Ballroom 1: Concert

Morva Bowman and Alan Pollard

Commonwealth West: SF in the 21st Century: The Changing World of SF

Tobias Buckell, Charles Oberndorf (M), Mattie Brahen, Jeff Young, Aaron Roth

SF and Fantasy have changed a lot in the last 20 years. The stories and characters are going places they didn't before, and the worlds created and their creators are more diverse. At the same time, some types of stories have fallen out of favor. The panel looks at the state of SF now.

Commonwealth East: Lang Belta: The Language of the Expanse

Hanne Madeleine Gates Paine

Learn about the language spoken in the Belt.

Solstice: Reading

Brenda Clough

Board Room: Hidden Designs: Illusion Knitting the Moon

Brea Ludwigson

Come learn the art of illusion knitting with Brea Ludwigson. We'll make a moon-and-star pattern designed by Dawn Huddlestone. Brea will bring some "stuphph" or supply your own: two small balls of worsted-weight yarn (2 contrasting colors) and needles in the size 6-8 range.

Skill level: easy (just knit and purl stitches).

225: Kaffeklatsch

Brandon Ketchum, Shannon Eichorn

Saturday 12:30pm

Solstice: Reading

Tim Esaias

Saturday 1pm

Ballroom 1: Concert

Sherman Dorn

Commonwealth West: Fantasy in the 21st Century: The Best of Recent Fantasy

Brenda Clough, Tamora Pierce, Barbara Doran, A.M. Rycroft

There are a number of newer fantasy authors who dominate the fantasy world, though a few old hands still remain a strong presence.

What are the best recent fantasies?

Commonwealth East: SF Poetry

Mary Turzillo, Mary Soon Lee, Tim Esaias, Geoffrey Landis

SF poetry is alive and well. The panel discusses the best of recent poetry, where to find it, and perhaps reads some of their own.

Solstice: Reading

Brian Koscienski

225: Kaffeeklatsch

Lobby: Autographing

Susan Dexter, Bill Keith

Saturday 1:30pm

Solstice: Reading

Scot Noel

Saturday 2pm

Ballroom 1: Concert

Universe No. 122

Commonwealth West: Beyond Campbell: The SF Explosion of the 1950s

Darrell Schweitzer, Eric Leif Davin (M), Herb Kauderer, Larry Connolly

In the 1940s, SF was dominated by Astounding, but the field expanded rapidly in the 1950s, starting at the beginning of the decade with two new major magazines: F&SF and Galaxy. The decade also saw more novels (including a major series of YA works) and more anthologies. The panel looks at the major developments and lasting impact of the 1950s.

Commonwealth East: Beginnings and Endings

Cat Rambo (M), Tamora Pierce, Frederic Durbin

Many writers say that most difficult parts of writing for them are getting started on the story and on creating a good ending. How do you approach that. How do you provide a compelling beginning? How do you end a story in a way that doesn't make readers feel let down? What are examples in prominent works where the author nailed it (or didn't)?

Solstice: Reading

Marie Vibbert

Board Room: Workshop: Victorian pin cushion / hat stand

Lisa Ashton, Karen Schnaubelt

Come join in a workshop with Miss Lizzy herself, Lisa Ashton, to make a Victorian-style pincushion or hat stand! Whichever you choose, you will complete and take with you a lovely and elegant accessory to enhance

any parlor. Cost for supplies is \$10, no pre-registration needed. You will do a little bit of sewing, some assembly, some work with a hot glue gun, and Voila! Your project will be ready to take home and hold your pins, or display a hat! Everyone welcome: children under about 12 require a parent for assistance or supervision, as needles and hot glue are used.

225: Kaffeeklatsch

Brenda Clough, Tim Esaias

Lobby: Autographing

Barbara Doran, Andi O'Connor

Saturday 2:30pm

Solstice: Reading

Grant Carrington

Saturday 3pm

Ballroom 1: Guest of Honor Talk

Tobias Buckell

Board Room: Demo: Painting

Rhonda Libbey

Saturday 4pm

Ballroom 1: Concert

Eben Brooks

Commonwealth West: Return to the Solar System: Recent SF Set In Our Solar System

Geoffrey Landis (M), Ian Randal Strock, Bill Keith, Ken Chiacchia

A number of major works have been set in the solar system as we now know it to be. What are the best ones? What do we still get wrong?

What areas haven't been explored as settings yet?

Commonwealth East: What Was Your Craziest Story Idea, and How Did That Work Out for You?

Tim Esaias (M), Brenda Clough, Cat Rambo, R.K. Thorne

Solstice: Reading

Charles Oberndorf

225: Kaffeeklatsch

Scot Noel

Lobby: Autographing

Tobias Buckell

Saturday 4:30pm

Solstice: Reading

Mark Painter

Saturday 5pm

Ballroom 1: Concert

Hawthorn and Holly

Commonwealth West: Blue Collar SF & Fantasy

Marie Vibbert (M), Charles Oberndorf, Eric Leif Davin, Tamora Pierce
Sometimes we get the feeling that SF is all about the ship captains, the leaders of the expedition, the corporation owners who sell the moon. But it's not. Some great SF and fantasy focuses on the ordinary men and women (and aliens) who make things happen. The panel discussions some great examples and why they are such an important part of the field.

Commonwealth East: Modern Horror: The Best of Recent Horror

Darrell Schweitzer (M), Larry Connolly, A.M. Rycroft, Frederic Durbin, Christine Soltis

Solstice: Reading

Barbara Doran

Saturday 5:30pm

Solstice: Reading

Shannon Eichorn

Saturday 6pm

Commonwealth East: Publishing from an Illustrator's Perspective; or How to Work with an Illustrator

Rhonda Libbey

Lobby: Masquerade Sign-up Closes

Ballroom 2: Art Show Closes

Ballroom 3,4: Dealers Room Closes

Saturday 7pm

Commonwealth West: Space on TV: Discovery, The Orville, The Expanse and More

Tim Liebe, Ian Randal Strock, Hanne Madeleine Gates Paine, Brandon Ketchum

There are a number of good new space-based shows on TV. What makes a good one? What are your favorites?

Lobby: Registration Closes

Saturday 8pm

Ballroom 1: Masquerade and FFG concert

Michael Longcor

Commonwealth West: Science Blunders in Movies and Books

Mark Painter, Tim Liebe, Bill Keith, Ken Chiacchia

225: Triangulation: Dark Skies launch party

Diane Turnshek

Saturday 9pm

Ballroom 1: Masquerade and FFG concert, con'td

Michael Longcor
Commonwealth West: Science Fiction Balderdash
Tobias Buckell (M), Brenda Clough, Geoffrey Landis, Mary Soon Lee,
Charles Oberndorf
Tobias S. Buckell hosts a game of Balderdash as played by some of your
favorite writers, using words mined at great cost and difficulty from old
SF/F novels. The audience will vote on which writer had the most likely
(or most entertaining) definition.
225: Triangulation: Dark Skies launch party, cont'd
Diane Turnshek

Saturday 10pm

Ballroom 1: Open Filk (after Michael Longcor's concert ends) until the wee
hours
225: Fortress Party
Brian Koscienski

Saturday 11pm

Equinox: Gaming Ends
225: Fortress Party, cont'd
Brian Koscienski

Sunday 8am

908: Con Suite Opens

Sunday 9am

Solstice: Writing Exercises
Kevin Hayes
Board Room: Short Story Writing Workshop (3 hr)
Cat Rambo
Lobby: Registration Opens

Sunday 10am

Commonwealth West: Business of Publishing
Brea Ludwigson, Ian Randal Strock
How is the business of publishing changing?
Solstice: Reading
Brandon Ketchum
Equinox: Reading
Wendelin Gray
Board Room: Short Story Writing Workshop (3hr), cont'd
Cat Rambo
225: Kaffeeklatsch
Tamora Pierce, Marie Vibbert
Lobby: Autographing
Brian Koscienski, Jeff Young

Other: Walk & Talk with Geoff and Mary
Geoffrey Landis, Mary Turzillo
Ballroom 2: Art Show Opens
Ballroom 3,4: Dealers Room Opens

Sunday 10:30am

Solstice: Reading
Frederic Durbin
Equinox: Reading
open

Sunday 11am

Ballroom 1: Submarines of the American Civil War
Tim Esaias
Commonwealth West: Read This Next: Recommendations of Recent SF and Fantasy
Geoffrey Landis (M), Hanne Madeleine Gates Paine
The good news is that there is more new SF and Fantasy being published than we can possibly read. That's also the bad news, as it's often difficult to figure out what to read next. The panel provides recommendations.
Commonwealth East: Using History and Mythology in SF and Fantasy
Brenda Clough (M), Shannon Eichorn, Barbara Doran, Wendelin Gray
Solstice: Reading
Tobias Buckell
Equinox: Reading
Larry Ivkovich
Board Room: Short Story Writing Workshop (3hr), cont'd
Cat Rambo
225: Kaffeeklatsch
Lobby: Autographing
Brandon Ketchum, Frederic Durbin

Sunday 11:30am

Equinox: Reading
Mattie Brahen

Sunday Noon

Ballroom 1: Concert
Random Fractions
Commonwealth West: The Future Is Coming and It's Different Than We Imagined
Tobias Buckell, Mary Turzillo, Grant Carrington
What's coming? The singularity? Mars colonies? Flooded coastlines? Or something very different?
Commonwealth East: The Evolving Short Story Market

Mary Soon Lee, Scot Noel, Mark Painter

It used to be that the short story market in SF was dominated by a handful of magazines and a few original anthologies. That's changed. The market is much wider. How does that affect both readers and writers.

Solstice: Reading

Darrell Schweitzer

Board Room: Workshop: Polishing Amber

Nancy Janda

225: Kaffeklatsch

Charles Oberndorf, Herb Kauderer

Lobby: Registration Closes

Ballroom 2: Art Show Closes

Sunday 12:30pm

Solstice: Reading

Jeff Young

Sunday 1pm

Ballroom 1: Concert

Professor Shyguy

Commonwealth West: Making Money as a Writer

Herb Kauderer, Larry Ivkovich, Rigel Ailur

Discussion of ways for writers to make money, ranging from traditional publishing to new forms of publishing and promotion.

Commonwealth East: Fiber Art/Textiles

Susan Dexter

Solstice: Reading

Tamora Pierce

Board Room: Workshop: Polishing Amber, cont'd

Nancy Janda

225: Fortress Publishing Beerklatsch

Brian Koscienski, Jeff Young

Ballroom 2: Art Show Auction

Sunday 1:30pm

Commonwealth West: Art Show Auction

Solstice: Reading

Ken Chiacchia

Ballroom 2: Art Show Pick-up & Pay

Sunday 2pm

Ballroom 1: Dead Dog Filk

Commonwealth West: This Year in Dublin, Next Year in Wellington:

Upcoming World Science Fiction Conventions

Laurie Mann

Learn more about upcoming World Science Fiction Conventions.

225: Kaffeeklatsch

Geoffrey Landis, Mary Turzillo

Lobby: Confluence Wrap-Up

Kevin Hayes

How did you like Confluence this year? How can we make it better next year? Come share your thoughts and ideas!

Sunday 3pm

Ballroom 1: Dead Dog Filk, cont'd

Ballroom 3,4: Dealers Room Closes

Sunday 4pm

Ballroom 1: Dead Dog Filk, cont'd

908: Con Suite Closes

Sunday 5pm

Other: Dinner run (offsite) followed by Undead Dog Filk (con suite)