

Panels By Title

SUN 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM Rumpus Room (Ballroom East A)

Aliens By Design

A hands-on "creating an alien" activity led by author GOH Julie Czerneda for ages 8 and up.

SAT 1:00-2:00 PM Krushenko's (Veranda 3/4)

Aliens Invade! (But Why?)

From "War of the Worlds" to the new TV series "Falling Skies," Earth is always getting invaded by aliens. But why? What, if anything, does Earth have that you can't get somewhere else? And, if you really wanted to get it from Earth, how would you go about doing it?

Ctein, Eric M. Heideman (mod), Lisa C. Freitag, Ruth Berman

FRI 8:30-9:30 PM Gaming Room (Ballroom East B)

Beat Richard at His Own Game

Richard Tatge will demo some of his hand-crafted games, then take on challengers.

SAT 4:00-5:00 PM Veranda 7/8

The Blessings and Curses of Tight-Knit Communities

Though some genre conventions (even some fan-run ones) pull in thousands of attendees, for the most part, our local fannish communities are small and tight-knit -- everyone knows everyone and newcomers can find a large group of people with whom they share interests relatively easily. But what happens when the fabric of that community breaks down, when groups (or individuals) can no longer speak to each other? What do you do when your ex is an integral part of your primary social network?

Arthur Hlavaty, Beth Friedman, Elise A. Matthesen (mod), Greg Larsen

SAT 8:30-9:30 AM Hotel Restaurant

Breakfast with Julie

Come have breakfast in the hotel restaurant with our author GOH & early riser Julie Czerneda. A sign-up sheet will be available at the Registration/Volunteers/Info Desk, first-come-first-served.

SAT 2:30-3:30 PM Veranda 7/8

Comics for Grownups - Where to Get Started (Again)

Comic books aren't just for kids and aren't just about super-heroes anymore. What are the great titles in (indie) comics today, aimed at a more mature, literate audience? What books make for good (re)introductions to the joy of graphic stories? Does the inclusion of "Best Graphic Story" in the Hugo awards affect the way we think about grownup comics? What came out in 2012 that science fiction readers should know about?

Ctein, Deanna Lepsch, Greg Larsen, Michael Kingsley (mod), Scott K. Jamison

SAT 5:30-6:30 PM Krushenko's (Veranda 3/4)

Communicating with the Animals ... and Aliens

How do human languages compare with other bioacoustic communication systems? How would other senses be used for communication, would such communication be considered language, and how might it shape alien cultures (e.g. if chemical messages like smell are used for communication, how might the persistence of odors affect a sense of privacy)?

Andy Anda, Chas Somdahl (mod), Greg L. Johnson, Julie Czerneda, Nicholas Johnson

SAT 7:00-8:00 PM Krushenko's (Veranda 3/4)

Community in the Information Age

It used to be that all (or, at least, most) fans who attended a science-fiction convention could be reasonably sure that any other person they met would have read and seen (or listened to?) the same body of work that they themselves had an easy way to bond and form community over shared experience. How do we, as fans, build community in this age of overwhelming choices and information, when you can no longer assume that everyone has seen or read something? How do you stay connected to fandom and the community when there is more out there than you could ever possibly see/read and more is being created all the time?

Jeanne M. Mealy, Lisa C. Freitag, Michael Lee (mod), Neil Rest

FRI 5:30-6:30 PM Veranda 5/6

Cooperative Board Games

In an era where reality shows and stage mothers reward backstabbing and tantrums over team-work, cooperative games (i.e. players versus the game, winning or losing as a group) are a welcome relief and appear to be becoming more popular in the gaming industry. Come hear about some of our favorites and why gamer geeks may be better prepared than their peers to succeed in the workplace.

Kelly Strait (mod), Matt McMillan, Richard Tatge, Thorin Tatge

SAT 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Veranda 5/6

Costuming Connection

How do I get started with costuming? How do I improve my beginner skills? What can I do with a simple sewing machine? Which features are cool to have on a more expensive, gadgety machine? What are some good costuming resources?

Dana M. Baird (mod), Deanna Lepsch, Laura Krentz, Linda Lounsbury

FRI 5:30-6:30 PM Krushenko's (Veranda 3/4)

Fairy Tale Physics

Could Thumbelina fly? Could somebody actually climb Rapunzel's hair without ripping her head off? And what do the laws of thermodynamics indicate about the lifestyle of the bears in the Goldilocks story? Discuss children's tales and the underlying science behind the story.

Eleanor A. Arnason, Eric M. Heideman (mod), Jane Yolen, Laramie K. Sasseville, Laura Krentz

SAT 2:30-3:30 PM Veranda 5/6

The Future is Here

...It just isn't evenly distributed. Many technologies that seem like they should only belong in science fiction are actually available today just not widely available or affordable. What sorts of nifty things are out there, if only we had the money to acquire them for ourselves? What is it about this technology that makes it only available to the 1%?

Guy Stewart, Lisa C. Freitag (mod), Magenta Griffith, Neil Rest

SAT 4:00-5:00 PM Krushenko's (Veranda 3/4)

GoH Interview: Author GoH (Julie Czerneda)

Chas Somdahl, Interviewer

SAT 1:00-2:00 PM Edina

GoH Interview: Fan GoH (Richard Tatge)

Dave Romm, Interviewer

FRI 8:30-9:30 PM Krushenko's (Veranda 3/4)

The Hero(ine)'s Quest

How three letters change the way we visualize the sword-bearer. Or should there be different rules/goals/spells for males and females on adventures? Or does asking this question make my butt look fat?

CJ Mills, Jane Yolen, Julie Czerneda, Pamela C. Dean, Peg Kerr (mod)

SAT 3:00-4:00 PM Edina

Hugo Nominee Announcements - 3:00-4:00pm

Minicon is honored to be one of four locations world-wide where this year's Hugo nominees will be announced LIVE.

Diane Lacey, Joel Phillips

SAT 5:30-6:30 PM Veranda 7/8

The Imposter Syndrome -- Do You Belong in the SF Community, or Are You Simply Faking It?

The Imposter Syndrome is the opposite side of the coin that reads, "fake it till you make it." It's the fear that someone's going to call you out, expose you as someone unqualified to belong to the fraternity of creative professionals, or that you're not qualified to be a panelist. It's the phenomenon that causes you to question whether you belong, to wonder what it is that qualifies you to be a part of the community of writers and editors, and whether you have that quality, or if you're simply faking it. How does this force play on members of our community, fans and pros alike?

CJ Mills, Elise A. Matthesen, Greg Larsen, Rachel Kronick (mod)

SUN 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Veranda 5/6

Is the AARP a Fannish Organization?

It's a fact that we're living longer and the median age of attendees at many fan-run conventions is increasing. What new issues do con-runners need to consider as our population ages? How are our conventions affected by the age of the

people working on them and the age of the people we expect to get in the door?

Carol Kennedy, Ethel Romm, Lisa C. Freitag (mod), Magenta Griffith

SUN 3:00-4:00 PM Veranda 7/8

Lady Poetesses from Hell

Lady Poetesses From Hell is a poetry performance group. They dress very nicely and have wicked senses of humor.

Eleanor A. Arnason, Elise A. Matthesen, Jane Yolen, John C. Rezmerski, K.C. O'Malley, Ruth Berman, Terry A. Garey

SAT 10:00-11:00 AM Edina

Look. Magic!

A slide show and presentation by photographer Roger Czerneda, "Look. Magic!" is a gallery show that grew from images taken to assist his author-wife in envisioning a fantasy realm drawn from this one, and includes art reflecting the writings of Anne Bishop, Mark Leslie, and Adrienne Kress. Come see how the visual and literary arts can inspire one another. More at www.czernedaphotography.com

SUN 1:00-2:00 PM Edina

The Making of Marrowdell

While working on her fantasy novel, A TURN OF LIGHT, author GOH Julie Czerneda built a scale model of the village and its surroundings. Come hear about how and why she did it and get a glimpse of the "village" of Marrowdell.

SAT 5:30-6:30 PM Veranda 5/6

The New Pony Phenomenon

A new fad has swept the internet, amassing a huge fanbase in an amazingly short time. My Little Pony has been retooled into a work of epic fantasy that appeals to both men (Bronies) and women (Pegasisters), with extensive fanfics that delve into science fiction, romance, and horror. How did all this happen and where is it going? What is the ponies' secret?

Curt Liebling, Pat Scaramuzza (mod), Thorin Tatge

FRI 5:30-6:30 PM Edina

Next Generation Photo Workshop - Part1

Learn by doing. On Friday, Baron Dave Romm and perhaps others will talk about digital photography and provide examples. We'll explore PhotoShop and/or other editing tools. Then, it's your turn. During the con, attendees will take pictures as assigned.

Dave Romm, Delia Ihinger, Jory Phillips

SUN 2:30-3:30 PM Edina

Next Generation Photo Workshop - Part2

How did it go? A reflection and discussion, based on lessons learned over the weekend. We'll all look at your photos, edit them and release them back into the wild. Bring your camera and its USB connector. If we run out of time, we'll

continue discussions later and/or online.

Dave Romm, Delia Ihinger, Jory Phillips

FRI 4:00-5:00 PM Veranda 5/6

Oh, Canada!

Our Author GOH is not the only Minicon attendee from Canada - do you know who the others are? Come find out what's awesome about our neighbor(s) to the north.

Diane Lacey (mod), Graham Leathers, Julie Czerneda, Roger Czerneda

SUN 1:00-2:00 PM Krushenko's (Veranda 3/4)

P.K. Dick: Studies in the New Millennium

Wherein lies the enduring appeal of the life and work of Philip K. Dick (1928-1982)?

Arthur Hlavaty, Eric M. Heideman (mod), John W. Taylor, Sean Nye

FRI 4:00-5:00 PM Krushenko's (Veranda 3/4)

Person of Interest

Does this TV show represent (near-future) science fiction? or is this sort of almost here technology not really speculative and just fiction? Where do we draw the line between what is "speculative" and what isn't? Are there other examples of this phenomenon in today's popular media (aka where (else) is the general public being exposed to science fiction without their knowledge)?

CJ Mills, Greg Larsen (mod), Michael Kingsley

FRI 8:30-9:30 PM Veranda 5/6

Promoting Your Own Book

Getting published is a lot more complicated than it used to be. Where do you start when your publisher asks you to handle your own book promotion? Is that e-book contract you just got offered really a good deal? What do you need to know about self-publishing, Kickstarter, printing on demand?

Aimee Kuzenski, Blake Hausladen, Deanna Lepsch (mod), Eleanor A. Arnason, Laramie K. Sasseville

SAT 1:00-2:00 PM Veranda 5/6

Science Fiction for Science Literacy

Especially with the upcoming publication of the Next Generation Science Standards, science education is focusing ever more on creative problem solving and analysis. How can science fiction serve as a useful resource for teachers in approaching "non-content" skills and concepts?

Chas Søndahl (mod), Guy Stewart, Julie Czerneda, Kelly Strait

SAT 8:30-9:30 PM Krushenko's (Veranda 3/4)

Sex in Science Fiction

How does the "pornographication" of culture affect speculative fiction? How does the rise and immense popularity of paranormal romance interact with/influence this effect on the rest of the genre? How vanilla is the "racy" sf of your youth (based either on your worldly experience or in comparison to what is written today)?

Aimee Kuzenski, Deanna Lepsch, Elizabeth Bear, Laramie K. Sasseville, Sean Nye (mod)

SAT 8:30-9:30 PM Edina

Striking a Pose

Based on the notorious blog posts by Jim Hines, examining the way women are portrayed on SF/F book covers. In particular - are these poses realistic? Can they be replicated by a male body? (Or even a flesh-and-blood female body?) What do such images say about the portrayal of women (even in books with strong female protagonists) in SF/F?

Dana M. Baird, David Dyer-Bennet, Scott Lynch, Sharon Kahn (mod)

SAT 11:30AM – 12:30 PM Edina

Trip of a Lifetime

For the last four years, the Phillips family has had the awesome experience of following the development of the Landsat (LDCM) satellite in a very personal way. In February, the satellite finally launched, and they had tickets to attend. The Phillips will speak about their experience and Pat will share some slides and information about the scientific side of the project.

Beth Phillips, Jory Phillips, Pat Scaramuzza

SAT 4:00-5:00 PM Veranda 5/6

Twin Cities Fandom from the Outside

What is unique about Minnesotan fandom? Could our non-local attendees talk about what is different about MN fandom or how they would characterize it? Are the differences Twin Cities fans notice about non-regional conventions (e.g. Worldcons held outside the Midwest) the same (or corresponding) differences that outsiders would notice about our convention?

Ctein, Diane Lacey, Liza Furr (mod), Michael Lee, Neil Rest

SUN 2:30-3:30 PM Veranda 5/6

Twin Cities Ties to Gaming

How much do you know about the role Twin Cities fandom has played in the development of games and the gaming community? From the beginnings of Dungeons & Dragons to local contemporary gaming companies (e.g. Fantasy Flight), what have the Twin Cities contributed to gaming?

John Goodenough, Rachel Kronick (mod), Richard Tatge

SUN 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Krushenko's (Veranda 3/4)

Unfilmable Science Fiction

How have advances in (special effects) technology changed which books we believe could never be made into movies? What are some good examples of books that we used to think couldn't be done, but now they've gone and done it (for better or for worse)?

David Christenson (mod), Eric M. Heideman, Michael Kingsley, Ruth Berman

SAT 7:00-9:30 PM Veranda 5/6

Visit the Original Mpls Dungeon

Experience a trial run in the original Minneapolis Dungeon game, the legendary local precursor to D&D. Richard Tatge pulls out his old DM notes and invites the audience to roll up characters and join in an exploratory run. Don't worry, you won't be bored. Even on the first level there is a lot going on.

SAT 2:30-3:30 PM Krushenko's (Veranda 3/4)

Wait, What Do You Mean Pluto's Not a Planet?

The changing nature of scientific knowledge is perhaps one of the hardest aspects of the field for lay people (children or adult) to accept. New discoveries continually refine our understanding and sometimes result in a radical redefinition of our worldview. What are some of the most interesting/important conflicts arising from the introduction of new scientific ideas throughout history, and what is it about these ideas that has made them so difficult for so many to accept? What sorts of battles of this kind are we (still) fighting today?

Ben Huset, Eric M. Heideman (mod), Mary Bertelson, Michael Kauper, Pat Scaramuzza

SUN 1:00-2:00 PM Veranda 5/6

Which Came First

The chicken or the egg? The story or the world? Does the story you want to tell determine the setting, or does your chosen setting demand a certain kind of story to be told in it? Are there some types of stories that simply cannot be told in a particular setting? How do creators balance these seemingly opposing forces in imagining their tales?

Dana M. Baird (mod), Jane Yolen, Marissa Lingen, Pamela C. Dean, Ruth Berman

SUN 2:30-3:30 PM Krushenko's (Veranda 3/4)

The Works of Julie Czerneda

Come and talk about the fiction of our Author Guest of Honor. Sponsored by Second Foundation, a Twin Cities speculative and science fiction book discussion group that has met regularly since 1983.

Eric M. Heideman (mod), John Everett Till, Sean Nye

SAT 10:00-11:00 AM Krushenko's (Veranda 3/4)

The Year in SF

Our annual review of the best (or, at least, some of the most interesting) works released in the past year.

Greg L. Johnson (mod), John W. Taylor, Russell Letson

READINGS and SIGNINGS

SAT 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Krushenko's (Veranda 3/4)

READING and SIGNING: Julie Czerneda

SAT 1:00-1:30 PM Veranda 1/2

READING: CJ Mills

SAT 1:30-2:00 PM Veranda 1/2

READING: Blake Hausladen

SAT 2:00-3:00 PM Veranda 1/2

READING: Jane Yolen and Adam Stemple

SAT 3:00-4:00 PM Veranda 1/2

READING: Michael Merriam

Michael will read from his new short story collection, *Whispers in Space*.

SAT 4:00-4:30 PM Veranda 1/2

READING: Jason Wittman

SAT 4:30-5:00 PM Veranda 1/2

READING: Marissa Lingen

SAT 5:00-6:00 PM Veranda 1/2

READING: Pamela Dean

SAT 6:00-6:30 PM Veranda 1/2

READING: Aimee Kuzenski

Aimee Kuzenski reads from her first novel "Prisoner of War", a modern speculative novel featuring the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse.

SAT 6:30-7:30 PM Veranda 1/2

READING: Ka Vang

Ka Vang is a fiction writer, playwright, and poet who has devoted much of her professional life to capturing Hmong folktales on paper. She will be reading from her young adult novel, *Shoua and the Northern Lights Dragon*, a chapter book set in Minnesota's northern woods about Shoua, a shaman-in-the-making, determined to save the dragon in order to prove her place in the family.

SUN 11:30 AM – 12:00 PM Veranda 1/2

READING: Dana Baird

SUN 12:00-1:00 PM Veranda 1/2

READING: Elizabeth Bear

SUN 1:00-2:00 PM Veranda 1/2

READING: Scott Lynch

Scott will read from a new and unpublished fantasy short story.

SUN 2:00-3:00 PM Veranda 1/2

Rapid-Fire Readings – Minnesota Speculative Fiction Writers

Members of MinnSpec, a 300+ strong writers' organization, read from their works. More information about MinnSpec at <http://www.meetup.com/MNspec/>

Michael Merriam, Ricky Foos, Sherry Merriam

SAT 5:00-5:30 PM 2nd Floor Foyer

SIGNING: Jane Yolen, Adam Stemple, Michael Merriam, Blake Hausladen