

59

# MINICON

**AUTHOR GUEST OF HONOR**  
**PATRICIA C. WREDE**

**GAME DESIGNER GUEST OF HONOR**  
**MATT LEACOCK**

**FEATURED MUSICIANS**  
**GRAHAM & BECCA LEATHERS**



MINNESOTA  
SCIENCE  
FICTION  
SOCIETY

**APRIL 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-5, 2026 EASTER WEEKEND**

Minicon 59  
[Program Book](#)



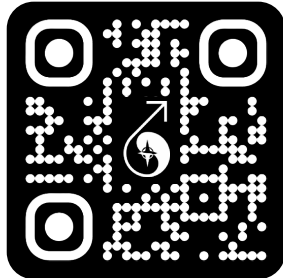
Minicon 59  
[Pocket Program](#)



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# MINICON

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# Patricia C. Wrede

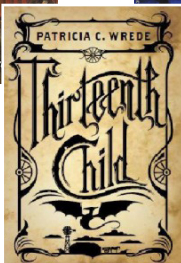
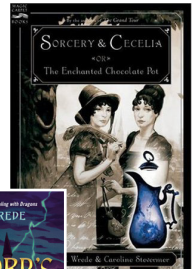
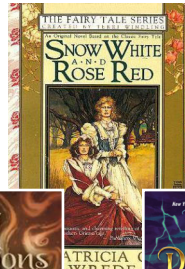
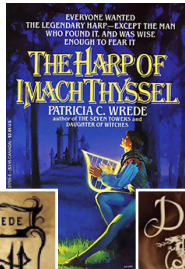
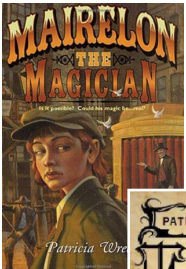
## Author Guest of Honor



The only reason we waited until Minicon 59 to have Pat Wrede for our Guest of Honor is that we all thought that, of course, she'd already been Guest of Honor sometime, like, maybe, Minicon 35 or 45 or something. We're not sure how our younger selves missed her. She's lived in Minnesota since graduating from Carleton College, and has participated in many Minicons. Pat is beloved by fans and librarians and teachers everywhere for her young adult fantasies, particularly the *Enchanted Forest Chronicles*. And now we get to have her as our Author Guest of Honor for Minicon 59.

She's also a lovely person. Last winter, a local puppet theater put on their own adaptation of *Dealing With Dragons*. The young woman who played the Princess Cimorene was appropriately chatty and snarky and rolled her eyes at proper princess behavior. The woman who played Cimorene's dragon, Kazul, was kind, quietly intimidating, and just a little bit prim. When you meet Pat, you mostly see Kazul, but if you pay close attention, Cimorene's feistiness and wit will sparkle through.

Patricia C. Wrede has written lots of other books, too, including *Mairelon the Magician*, *Sorcery and Cecilia*, *Snow White and Rose Red*, and three *Star Wars* Junior Novelizations. Her most recent book is *The Dark Lord's Daughter*, which might be the first portal fantasy to open from the Minnesota State Fair. Everyone, including Pat, is hoping that the sequel, *The Dark Lady*, will be finished by Minicon 59.



# Matt Leacock

Game designer Guest of Honor



Matt Leacock has been designing board games since he was very young and full time since 2014. He is best known as a designer of cooperative games, including *Pandemic*, *Pandemic Legacy*, *Forbidden Island*, and *Daybreak*. *Pandemic*, first published in 2008, has sold over 5 million copies worldwide and is available in over 30 languages. His latest game, *Daybreak*, challenges players to stop climate change. He lives in Sunnyvale, California.

# Graham & Becca Leathers

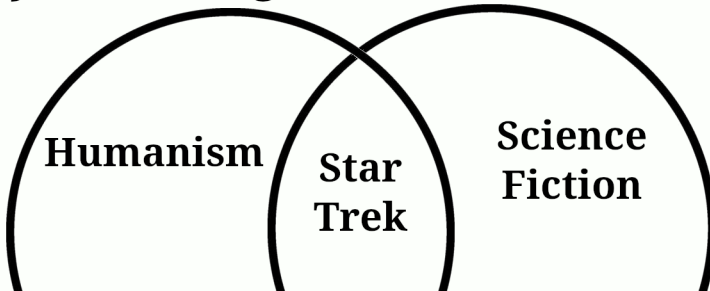
Featured Musicians



Graham and Becca Leathers are long-time staples of the fannish music community, currently based in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Their talents are apparent to anyone who's ever attended a Minicon music room concert or music circle. Becca is well-known as half of Riverfolk (alongside Minicon 46 Music Guest of Honor Chas Somdahl), contributing intricate guitar work and gorgeous vocals to originals and cover songs alike. Graham writes, performs, and records his own novelty songs ranging

from the sublime to the ridiculous; his song "Chocolate Is a Vegetable" won a Pegasus Award for excellence in filk music in 2017. Together they perform as the duo Bardz at Large.

## Today's Venn Diagram:



Curious about humanism?

Learn more at [www.humanistsmn.org](http://www.humanistsmn.org)



**HUMANISTS** MN

*Secular by Nature. Ethical in Purpose.*

## Registration

*Location: Grand Ballroom Foyer*

Thursday..... 4pm–7pm

Friday..... 9am–9pm

Saturday ..... 9am–7pm

Sunday ..... 9am–4pm

You can register for Minicon 60 anytime during Minicon 59, either at the reg desk using your pre-printed form, or online. The special at-con (adult) rate for Minicon 60 is \$55.

If you need help or information after hours, ask at the bar (room 218).

They're up late.

## Lost badges

If you find a badge, please bring it to the registration table. If you have lost yours, please check there. You can get a replacement for \$1.

## Merch

Minicon t-shirts are \$20. We also have other cozy Minicon and MN-Stf apparel, stickers, pint glasses, and lots of vintage stuff from past Minicons!

## Volunteers

*Location: Grand Ballroom Foyer*

Things happen at Minicon because someone had an idea, and figured out how to make it happen. You too can make a thing happen! We can match you with tasks of all comfort levels. We will open at noon on Thursday and be available throughout the convention until teardown on Sunday.

## Build-a-Blinkie

*Location: Garden Court*

Build-a-Blinkie is an organization dedicated to the teaching of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics). We currently run learn-how-to solder events in the Great Lakes area and are involved in numerous maker events, maker spaces, trade schools, libraries, universities, and area conventions.

Visit us at [build-a-blinkie.org](http://build-a-blinkie.org)

Thursday..... 5pm–8pm

Friday..... 9am for volunteers  
10am–8pm

Saturday ..... 9am for volunteers  
10am–8pm

Sunday ..... 9am for volunteers  
10am–2pm

If you have never soldered before, this is the place to learn. You get a kit with the parts, and then at the soldering station, you build it. We will give you as much assistance as you like—we want this to be a fun and rewarding experience! If you have soldered before, this is the place to hone your skills with our more challenging kits. There is a \$5 fee for materials.

## Freebie Table

*Location: Grand Ballroom Foyer*

Donate some items to the table, like crafting supplies, books, computer parts, office supplies, and whatever else you no longer need, and maybe find something to take home.

## Bozo Bus Tribune

*Location: Normandale*

Minicon's at-Con newsletter, aka the BBT, reflects the flavors and happenstances of Minicon!

Look for it in the common areas.

Pop into the BBT Office in the Normandale Room to become a no-pressure reporter or peruse the puzzles and curios! OR drop your own write-ups of panels, parties, funny quotes or other facticles in the Submission Box outside the door (utensils provided). Alternately, news can be sent to the editor at [bbt@minicon59.mnssf.org](mailto:bbt@minicon59.mnssf.org)

## Medallion Hunt

*Location: Everywhere! Within Reason!*

As per tradition, we will be hiding a number of shiny 1973 pennies throughout the hotel and dropping cryptic clues as to their whereabouts!

Look for them in common areas and programming spaces. They will be hidden by noon on Thursday, and must be redeemed by 3pm on Sunday.

Consult the Bozo Bus Tribune for cryptic clues throughout the weekend.

## Science Room

*Location: Veranda 2-4-5-6*

We have exhibits and models, and are transforming science fiction into science fact!

Friday-Saturday..... 10am-7pm

Sunday ..... 10am-4pm

## Art Show

*Location: Grand Ballroom Center*

The Minicon art show is a non-juried show open to all artists who'd like to submit artwork on a science fiction and/or fantasy theme. At-Con submissions welcome for as long as space allows! Most art is for sale, although some pieces may be just for show. Art can be bid upon or, if the artist chooses, be immediately purchased at a set price.

Friday-Saturday..... 10am-7pm

Sunday ..... 10am-2pm

*NOTE: All art must be picked up by 2pm on Sunday, April 5. Please talk to the Art Show Head for alternate arrangements.*

## Dealer's Hall

*Location: Grand Ballroom West*

Come one! Come all!

Check out Author's Alley and Dealer's Hall! We have books, trinkets, and treasures galore! So much for you to see and explore! Do you need a new plush? Perhaps a new book? A new piece of jewelry to complete your look? A piece of art? A new game to play? Something to add to your home display? Whatever you are looking for, I'm sure we will have it and more!

Friday-Saturday..... 10am-7pm

Sunday ..... 10am-2pm

# GPS Auction

*Location: Grand Ballroom Center*

Come visit the GPS (Geek Partnership Society) auction where you will find an assortment of geeky items, donated by community members, dealers, and artists. This silent auction uses an online bidding tool. Funds raised go to support year round geeky community building with clubs, events, and programs like:

- Project Lighthouse
- The GPS Annual Writing Contest
- The Space Camp Scholarship Fund
- The GPS Arts Initiative

Bidding begins online Thursday at 12:00pm and remains open until Saturday 7pm.

By bidding in the auctions the bidder agrees to the posted auction rules, and to provide contact information (name, phone number, email) in the event that items that have been won have not been paid for and picked up.

Thank you all for your support!

Scan the QR code or visit:

[www.charityauctions.com](http://www.charityauctions.com)



Website: [geekpartnership.org](http://geekpartnership.org)

Email: [info@geekpartnership.org](mailto:info@geekpartnership.org)

# Teen Room

*Location: Room 212*

For ages 13–19, the Next Generation of fans is a space for movies, games, socializing, videos, and more.

Come hang out, we have plans!

## Tabletop Games

Friday..... 6:30–8:30pm

## Video Games

Saturday ..... 2pm–4pm

## Movies + Karaoke

Saturday ..... 7pm–10pm

## Teens Go Swimming!

Sunday ..... 10pm–12pm

# Rumpus Room

*Location: Bloomington*

The Rumpus Room is a family-friendly activity center for “children of ALL ages.”

We offer scheduled workshops and engaging activities such as an escape room, balloon art, Tool Time (taking stuff apart), and lock picking.

See the programming schedule for planned activity times.

All ages are welcome, though very young fans should be accompanied by a responsible assistant.

Thursday..... 5:30pm–7pm

Friday–Saturday ..... 10am–7pm

Sunday ..... 10am–3:30pm

*Note: The Rumpus Room is not open during Opening or Closing Ceremonies.*

# Gaming

*Location: Garden Court*

Main gaming will be open continuously during the convention until late Sunday night. There is plenty of space and good lighting with many games available to play. You're welcome to bring in your own games as well.

Please be respectful, and keep all of the gaming areas clean and free of trash. Take extra care to avoid spilling any food or drink, and please put all games (with all their pieces!) back the way you found them when you're done. Thank you and happy gaming!

## Cyberpunk 2020: Friday Night Fire Fight

*Location: Nine Mile Grill*

This is an RPG event hosted by Roger Mlynczak. See details on page 19.

Plays 8 people. Approx. 4 hours.

Friday..... 7:00pm

## Gaming with Matt Leacock

*Location: Garden Court*

GoH **Matt Leacock** will play his games *Daybreak* and *Fate of the Fellowship* with fans. If YOU would like to be one of those fans, inquire at the Info Desk.

### *Daybreak*

Saturday ..... 2:30pm

### *Fate of the Fellowship*

Sunday ..... 11:30am

# Consuite

*Location: Rooms 214-216*

Consuite is the place for convention members to pick up refreshments and sustenance and hang out. We cannot provide your RDA's worth of nutrients for the whole weekend, but you can expect to find coffee, soda pop, snacks—including some healthy choices—and light meal options during meal times. Drop by often, mingle with other congoers and chat with volunteer staff.

The Consuite will be open from Opening Ceremonies to Closing Ceremonies, though staff may only be available during the following hours:

Thursday..... 7pm–Late

Friday-Saturday ..... 7am–2am

Sunday ..... 7am–4pm

# Con Bar

*Location: Rooms 217-218*

The Bar is a chill space where all are welcome. Come by and grab a drink, or just sit and escape the harsh light of 'hotel' for a bit and relax.

We will have beer, cider, mead, Blog, and the usual selection of weird donations.

As always, your money is no good here. The bar is free...and worth it!

Thurs.....8pm–'Til you fall down

Fri-Sat .....5pm–'Til we fall down

# Parties

## Costumer's Conclave

*Room 107*

Fri–Sun..... 8pm–Midnight

Come sip tea, crunch cookies, and talk costume. Emergency cosplay repair will also be available.

Saturday at 2pm the room will be open for in-room microprogramming, like costume presentations and sewing tips & tricks for newbies. We may open the party room for more costume related programming, if needed.

## General Technics

*Room 108*

Thurs–Sat..... 7pm–11pm

Tech-minded folks from many industries gather to talk about whatever topic comes to mind—DIY technology, big ideas, and the kind of wide-ranging conversation that might make John Brunner's *Stand on Zanzibar* feel right at home. Friends, food, conversation.

## Narrativity

*Room 109*

Fri–Sat..... Evening

The best little writing con you've probably never heard of. Come eat tasty nibbles, tell bad jokes, play Cards Against Narrativity, and geek out about the art & craft of writing.

## Rook Creek Press

*Room 110*

Fri–Sat..... 9pm–Late

Rook Creek Press is proud to present *The Dark Reflections* shared world series based on the art of Jeff Lee Johnson! Join us for a drink or two as we meander from places labeled normal to a world that clatters, slinks, and drips.

## Ben Lessinger Memorial Karaoke Party

*Room 114*

Thurs..... TBD

Fri–Sat..... 8pm–Late

Sun ..... TBD

Come ready to sing or listen! This is "be a star" not "music circle." There should be healthy snacks and drinks.

## Dance at the World's End!

*Room 116*

Thurs..... 9pm–Midnight

Fri–Sat..... 9pm–1am

Dance music from the 1960s to today (though I'm partial to the 1980s).

Hang out and chat and listen or dance. Special emphasis on space and fantasy themed songs, but requests are welcome. Saturday will be more Dr. Demento-type hits, with, of course, *Time Warp* at Midnight both nights!

# Parties

## Marscon

*Room 117*

Thurs–Sun..... 7pm–Midnight

Family-friendly, non-alcoholic party with snacks and popcorn.

## Karaoke & Desserts!

*Room 118*

Thurs..... 8pm–Midnight

Fri..... 7pm–1am

Sat ..... 7pm–Midnight

Sing something from among the thousands of songs in our list, hang out with friends, enjoy the music, treat yourself to some desserts!

## The Ephemeral Party

*Room 208*

Friday..... 8pm–Whenever

A quiet party for connections and good conversation. You may laugh, you may cry, you may sing, you may dance –or not, if you choose.

## Minnesota Space Frontier Society Sponsor

*Room 209*

Fri..... 9:20pm–Midnight

Sat ..... 9:20pm–1am

Sun ..... 7pm–Midnight

A space themed party room!

## Geek Partnership Society

*Room 213*

Fri–Sat..... 7pm–Midnight

This year, GPS is partnering with the Consuite. Our patio will be a little bit GPS and a little bit an extension of Consuite. Conveniently, we're right next door. What does that mean, you ask? Well, our patio will be available for sitting and chatting. And, at various times, we'll be helping serve some of the Consuite food and stuff. Stop by to find out more about what foods will be available when.

## The Happy Beholder

*Room 115*

Fri–Sat..... 8pm–Midnight

A beholder-owned tavern where you can test your luck for a free drink.

## Krushenko's

*Room 210*

Sat ..... 8pm–Midnight

Krushenko's is accustomed to serving alien guests since 1983!

Stop in to talk about science fiction and Diversicon, MNStf's other convention.

# Escape Room

*Location: Bloomington/Rumpus Room*

Can rebel spies stop the Empire's latest genocidal plan? If you like puzzles, ciphers, and ticking doomsday clocks, come tackle this pop-up escape room inspired by *Star Wars* and the *Pandemic* board game. Knowledge of either is not required. Sign up as a group or individual beforehand in the Rumpus Room. Walk-ups are welcome Friday and Saturday evenings!

*Friday.....7pm, 8pm, 9pm*

*Saturday..... 7pm, 8pm, 9pm, 10pm*

All ages welcome. Ages 12 and under should be with an adult. The password when you arrive is, "I have friends everywhere."

# Cinema Obscura

*Location: Veranda 7-8*

Cinema Obscura's film schedule is integrated into the main Programming Schedule and aligned with panel listings chronologically in the Program Book and Pocket Program. Each film overlaps only a single programming block, starting and ending during the half hour breaks between those blocks. One needn't worry that they'll either miss the end of a film being viewed or the start of that next panel one wants to attend on the schedule.

The ongoing theme of CROWD PLEASERS THAT NEVER QUITE FOUND A BIG ENOUGH CROWD TO PLEASE continues, plus another I term TIME PASSAGES, where once well-known titles have lapsed into obscurity over time.

I was once asked, "Why bother with a convention film room? Everything's on Streaming these days." Even if that were true, you'd have to subscribe to multiple services to get a fraction of "everything". Then, if you want something a bit "different," but don't quite know what to look for, or how to find it, you have the difficult and time-consuming task of scrolling through multiple lists.

In curating selections as a Programming alternative, Cinema Obscura strives to screen what we think YOU, THE AUDIENCE, MIGHT ENJOY, never what we want to see, or what we think you should see. Happy Viewing!

– Greg Larsen, Curator

*A note to parents about RATINGS: Cinema Obscura staff does NOT check IDs for admission throughout the convention. MPAA ratings appear in the Program Book after each film synopsis. Some produced decades ago may also contain references and stereotypes which are products of their era. Please consider all of this regarding their appropriateness for your children. Thank You!*

# Music Concerts

*Location: Edina*

Minicon's concerts take place in the Edina Room on the second floor of the hotel. See the programming section for a detailed schedule of events, including two not-to-be-missed performances from featured musical guests Becca and Graham Leathers!

## Music Circles

In addition, Minicon hosts music circles on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. Thursday's circle will begin after opening ceremonies. Friday and Saturday's circles will begin after the day's last concert has concluded.

Gather in the Ballroom Grand Foyer to participate. We invite all Minicon members to join in to sing, play, jam, filk, listen, harmonize, and make a joyful noise. Performers of all styles, genres, and experience levels are welcome and encouraged to participate, as are any and all interested listeners. The circle will continue until the last musician drops.

# BrawlFactory Open Gaming

*Location: Garden Court*

*Schedule? ..... We don't need no stinkin' schedule!*

The Brawlfactory will be available throughout the Con (Look for the Hat) for attendees to stop by and try some dice rolling...or card playing...or miniature moving...or peep pounding...or just to chat a bit about gaming fun.

A smattering of homemade diversions will be set up—or available to check out—to occupy time when just wandering around or waiting for the next scheduled event becomes intolerable.

Feel a bit hungry? Sit down at the *Salad Bar*. Want to squish a few bugs? Enlist in the *Beer & Pretzel Space Marines*. Need to humble yourself before the Dice Gods? Kneel before "Aaaaarrggh!" It's all lightweight fun. "Better than nothing" is the bar the Factory aims to clear. Stop by for a bit of silliness—you might even have fun!

# Thursday | Programming

## Decorate the Rumpus Room!

Thursday 5:30pm.....Bloomington: Rumpus Room

People of all ages are invited to come spruce up the Rumpus Room!

## Opening Ceremonies

Thursday 7:00pm.....Front Ballroom

Let's get this party started!

## GoH Meet & Greet

Thursday 7:30pm.....Con Bar

Meet our GoHs **Patricia C. Wrede**, **Matt Leacock**, **Graham & Becca Leathers**.

## Music Circle Starts

Thursday 8:00pm.....Grand Ballroom Foyer

# Friday | Programming

## Decorate the Rumpus Room...Some More!

Friday 10:00am.....Bloomington: Rumpus Room

## Working in Someone Else's World

Friday 11:30am.....Front Ballroom

Gaming Guest of Honor **Matt Leacock** adapted *Lord of the Rings* for a board game called *Fate of the Fellowship*. Writer Guest of Honor **Patricia C Wrede** wrote the Junior Novelizations of the *Star Wars* prequel trilogy. How do these opportunities arise? Writer J.M. Lee wrote several books in the *Dark Crystal* universe. What problems come from working with a controlled intellectual property?

Panelists: **Patricia C. Wrede**, **Matt Leacock**, *J.M. Lee*

## Reading: Carolyn Stervermer

Friday 11:30am.....Veranda 1

## Pick Your Own Event

The Rumpus Room will help you with any small project you're working on.

Friday 11:30am.....Bloomington: Rumpus Room

# Programming | Friday

## Field Trip: Build-a-Blinkie

Extra assistance for young fans that want Blinkie their badges.

*Friday 11:30am* ..... *Garden Court: Build-a-Blinkie*

## How to Run a Con

*Friday 11:30am* ..... *Back Ballroom*

Minicon 59 Chairs Matt and Stacey Strait spill all the tea on what it is like to run a con and why you should try it sometime.

*Panelists: Matt Strait, Stacey Strait*

## Film: *The Tick* (animated series) (1993)

*Friday 11:30am (175 min)* ..... *Veranda 7-8*

He. Is. Mighty! He. Is. The Tick! Ben Edlund's big blue crime fighting comic book moron leaps from the page to the small screen, with Edlund adapting those adventures himself. Watch one episode or hang out for all eight! [TV-G]

## Reading: Peg Kerr

*Friday 12:00pm* ..... *Veranda 1*

## Hershey Teaches ZAR

*Friday 1:00pm* ..... *Garden Court*

ZAR! The unofficial card game of Minicon! What are peeps doing excitedly with these colorful cards? It's like *UNO*, but faster and funner. Don't get frustrated... learn to play the finer points with *Zar* Master Hershey.

*Host: Hershey Harris*

## A Conversation with Patricia C. Wrede

*Friday 1:00pm* ..... *Front Ballroom*

Instead of a Guest of Honor interview or speech, we offer conversation between long-standing friends about life, writing, and anything else that might come up.

*Panelists: Patricia C. Wrede, Carolyn Stevermer, Lois McMaster Bujold*

## What Are You Reading? (Non-Fiction)

*Friday 1:00pm* ..... *Veranda 3*

Geek out about and maybe discover the next book in your TBR pile.

*Panelists: Blue Delliquanti, Russell Letson, Eleanor Arnason, Magenta Griffith, David Lenander*

# Friday | Programming

## Red Star Blue Star Old Star New Star

*Friday 1:00pm .....Back Ballroom*

Physics, astronomy, biology and other sciences are frequently used in comic books as plot devices. Let's talk about how science is used (or misused). Topics may include multiverses and alternate dimensions, macro quantum tunneling, cloning, hybridization, nanotech, and star drives.

*Panelists: Michael Bernabo, Bob DeMer, Rachel Reddick, Anna Waltz, Dave Kingsley*

## Reading: Mallory Glass

*Friday 1:00pm .....Veranda 1*

## Balloon Sculpting

*Friday 1:00pm .....Bloomington: Rumpus Room*

## Reading: Karl Gallagher

*Friday 1:30pm .....Veranda 1*

## Film: *Simplicity: The Life & Art of Alex Toth (2007)*

*Friday 2:25pm (79 min) .....Veranda 7-8*

Alex Toth told complex comics stories effectively, across a variety of genres, using clean and concise line work. His character designs and storyboards later defined modern action/adventure animation. Hear his story as told by friends, family and former colleagues over a plethora of Toth's art from his DC Comics days through his animation designs for *Jonny Quest*, *Space Ghost*, *Super Friends* and other icons. [G]

*Director: Jonathan Mefford*

## Reading: C.M. Alongi

*Friday 2:30pm .....Veranda 1*

## Young Fan Concert: Graham & Becca Leathers

*Friday 2:30pm .....Bloomington: Rumpus Room*

An acoustic concert by our Featured Musicians using songs that work for all ages, heavy on sing-along elements. Customization or requests likely.

# Programming | Friday

## Star Wars Roundup

Friday 2:30pm ..... Veranda 3

Discussing the most recent *Star Wars* shows and movies.

Panelists: Aaron Vander Giessen, Michael Hagerman, Michael Bernabo

## In Memoriam: Terry Garey

Friday 2:30pm ..... Front Ballroom

Join friends and family to celebrate Terry Garey: award-winning SF poet, long-time fan, generous host, excellent cook, creative quilter, devoted friend and sister. We will read some of her poetry, tell stories about her surprising life, and share memories of what made Terry special. (double time slot)

Host: Karen Schaffer

## Connecting with Friends & Family Through Board Games

Friday 2:30pm ..... Back Ballroom

Games are a wonderful way to make friends and connect with people. But what happens when you love board games and your friends are just...bored? How to pick games your loved ones are sure to love playing with you. GOH **Matt Leacock** will also talk a bit about cooperative board games and what makes them special.

Panelists: **Matt Leacock**, Christopher Weiss, Wanda Mac Gregor, Thorin Tatge, Crystal Therese

## Merfolk Meet-Up

Friday 3:00pm ..... Pool

Shello! Ever been curious about mer-life? Already an enthusiast with your own tail? Somewhere in between? Come play as a fish with resident merfolk.

Host: Amy Williams-Scott

## Reading: Ian Young

Friday 3:00pm ..... Veranda 1

# Friday | Programming

## Film: *Animal Farm* (animated film) (1954)

Friday 3:50pm (72 min) ..... Veranda 7-8

"Some animals are more equal than others." George Orwell's political fable still resonates today in ways he couldn't have predicted...or did he? Who says cartoons aren't for grown-ups? [NR]

Director: John Halas & Joy Batchelor

## Tee Shirt Decorating

Friday 4:00pm .....Bloomington: Rumpus Room

Embellish or create anything; BYO Bag or any garment, or grab one of our tee shirts—Youth XS to Youth XL—or see merch for shirts to embellish. Use colored and glittery hot glue, paint-pens and any other crafty items to create your own wearable garment. We also have coloring sheets to be used as stencils.

## Sword & Shadow: Writing Combat, Craft, and Intrigue

Friday 4:00pm .....Back Ballroom

Come see a live demo of Historical Fencing and discuss how to write ultra realistic fight and battle scenes for your novels. This demo includes live fencing with steel competition blades and will also cover the historical texts where you can find the techniques.

Host: Faith MacGregor

## Mashups & Memes

Friday 4:00pm ..... Veranda 3

What things can be put together and what should never be put together. Shakespeare and Klingons, *Lord of the Rings* and Harry Potter, Cats and Kiss...

Panelists: K.M. Herkes, Jason Otting, Jean Mlynczak

## Concert: Lisa Freitag

Friday 4:00pm ..... Edina: Music

Lisa Freitag demonstrates the inadvisability of giving children piano lessons by misusing her sixty-year-old classical training to play music from video games and anime. Expect music from *The Last of Us*, *Skyrim*, *Mushi-shi*, *Fullmetal Alchemist*, and at least one of Joe Hisaichi's arrangements from his Miyazaki film score.

## Reading: Adam Stemple

Friday 4:00pm ..... Veranda 1

# Programming | Friday

## Reading: R.J. Howell

Friday 4:30pm ..... Veranda 1

## Film: *Corman's World: Exploits of a Hollywood Rebel* (2011)

Friday 5:15pm (89 min) ..... Veranda 7-8

Roger Corman was known for making independent films fast and cheap, capitalizing on the undiscovered talents of Jack Nicholson, Peter Fonda, Ron Howard, James Cameron and many others who learned their craft by doing it! See how he did it in an era that defined change! [R]

Director: Alex Stapleton

## Japanese Foam Sword Rock-Paper-Scissors

Friday 5:30pm ..... Bloomington: Rumpus Room

Rock paper scissors with combat! Basically, you do rock paper scissors then the winner of that has to pick up the foam swords before the loser can pick up the shield to actually *win* the round. Best two rounds out of three takes the game. Winner gets two lollipops loser gets one. It's fun!

Host: Michael Hagerman

## Portal Fantasy & PTSD

Friday 5:30pm ..... Front Ballroom

Going through a magical doorway to a world of wonder and heroic adventure has its benefits, but it can't help but also be somewhat traumatic. What happens when you return after defeating the wicked whatever (and possibly realizing that the real treasure is the friends you made along the way)? How does one adjust to one's post-adventure life? Have you changed too much to feel safe ever again?

Panelists: **Patricia C. Wrede**, David Lenander, Kathryn Sullivan, Lisa Freitag, Barb Jensen

## Reading & Signing: Lois McMaster Bujold

Friday 5:30pm ..... Veranda 1

Join Lois for a reading from the sixteenth Penric novella! This will be followed by quiet conversation at which books will be signed and polite questions will probably be answered.

## Signing: Matt Leacock

Friday 5:30pm ..... Garden Court

# Friday | Programming

## The Case for Physical Media in the Age of Streaming

*Friday 5:30pm .....Back Ballroom*

Not everything is on streaming. Multiple subscriptions can be expensive. Plus, you are at their mercy if streamers choose to remove or modify content on their platforms, or...you get the point. During this hour we'll discuss the reasons why building your own personal digital library (via either downloading or collecting discs) can be a preferable alternative. Plus, what lessons did the VCR teach us before its extinction?

*Panelists: Drew Jensen, Greg Larsen*

## Concert: Astrisoni

*Friday 5:30pm ..... Edina: Music*

Astrisoni is a folk duo consisting of Heather Estelme and Nate Wulver, whose songs explore complex topics via sci-fi and fantasy. Expect vengeful unicorns, tragic robots, ghost pirates, and songs to hunt Bigfoot to. Their music can be found at [astrisoni.bandcamp.com](http://astrisoni.bandcamp.com).

## Play ZAR with Hershey!

*Friday 6:00pm .....Con Bar Annex*

*Host: Hershey Harris*

## Film: *Hypnotic* (2023)

*Friday 6:50pm (93 min) ..... Veranda 7-8*

Ben Affleck stars as a detective spiraling down a rabbit hole as he investigates a series of strange mind-bending crimes mysteriously connected to his missing daughter. [R]

*Director: Robert Rodriguez*

## Reading: Lyda Morehouse

*Friday 7:00pm ..... Veranda 1*

## Escape Room #1

*Friday 7:00pm .....Bloomington: Rumpus Room*

See description on page 10.

# Programming | Friday

## Books We Cull, Books We Keep

Friday 7:00pm .....Front Ballroom

How do you curate your personal library? Do you keep every book you read? Do you read every book you keep?

Panelists: Douglas Van Dyke Jr, Peg Kerr, Rachel Reddick, KM Herkes, Linda Lounsbury, Liz McCullough

## Zines and Beyond: Fannish Publications

Friday 7:00pm .....Back Ballroom

Science fiction fans were publishing fanzines and APAs for decades before punk zines took off in the 1980s. As technology has evolved so have fannish publications: from ditto and mimeograph to dot-matrix printers and Xerox. The advent of the internet saw a transition to e-zines and blogs. What is fannish publishing like today and what will the future bring?

Panelists: Lizzy Adams, Alison Sommer, Mallory Glass, Jeanne Mealy

## First Time Self-Publishing Wins & Losses

Friday 7:00pm .....Veranda 3

Authors discuss what they got right and wrong the first time they self published.

Panelists: Faith MacGregor, C.M. Alongi, Blue Delliquanti, Ian Young

## Game: Cyber Punk 2020 | Friday Night Fire Fight

Friday 7:00pm ..... Nine Mile Grill

Number of Players: 8, Duration 4 hours

A roleplaying game of the near future printed in the early 1980s that got it remarkably correct. Just bring some dice and pencils and I will teach the rest

Description: It's been several weeks since the Body Count Lotto has hit. Yesterday the prize was 35k EB. The Forlorn Hope bar and grill turns up the sound on the Vid as the numbers are called out. You look at your chits and swear. Missed again. Some Choomer a few tables down stand up and yells "I HIT!". Now what?!

Host: Roger Mlynczak

## Escape Room #2

Friday 8:00pm .....Bloomington: Rumpus Room

See description on page 10.

# Friday | Programming

## Concert: Teresa Chandler

Friday 7:00pm ..... *Edina: Music*

Teresa Chandler identifies as genre fluid, playing any kind of music that speaks to her heart. She writes fearless songs about love, hope, loss, and the resilience of our human connection, and funny songs about what we long for and what we could do without. Her favorite venues are smaller, intimate places where the audience sits close and leans in to share laughter and catch those sweet musical moments before they disappear into thin air.

## Research and World Building, or, Write the Story, Already!

Friday 8:30pm ..... *Front Ballroom*

How much background preparation is too much? Do you use World Building as a procrastination device?

*Panelists: Mallory Glass, Douglas Van Dyke Jr, Wil Bastion, Adam Stemple, Faith MacGregor, Peg Kerr*

## Concert: Bardz at Large (Featured Musicians)

Friday 8:30pm ..... *Edina: Music*

All the way from Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, Bardz at Large are Minicon 59 featured musical guests **Graham and Becca Leathers**, performing original songs and putting their own unique spin on all the Renaissance festival hits.

## CyberPunk in the Age of AI

Friday 8:30pm ..... *Veranda 1*

How is this genre evolving? How can cyberpunk tropes integrate (keep up with) developments in technology, especially AI?

*Panelists: Karl Gallagher, Lyda Morehouse, Blue Deliquanti*

## Film: *Slingshot* (2024)

Friday 8:30pm (108 min)..... *Veranda 7-8*

Casey Affleck and Laurence Fishburne star as part of an elite trio on the first deep space mission to Saturn's moon Titan. Gearing up for a dangerous slingshot maneuver to keep them on course, mysterious things begin to happen. With millions of miles of absolutely nothing surrounding their ship, are they real, imaginary or somehow both. If you thought *Europa Report* was suspenseful, wait until you see this claustrophobic psychological thriller! [R]

*Director: Mikael Håfström*

# Programming | Friday

## You Got Your Fantasy in My Science Fiction!

Friday 8:30pm .....Back Ballroom

When does crossing genres work? And when do readers find it a distraction? Do you prefer to read "pure" sf or fantasy, and what does that look like? Let's talk about genres, definitions and boundaries, and what happens when we cross the streams.

Panelists: C.M. Alongi, David Lenander, R.J. Howell, Bob DeMers, Wil Bastion

## Writing in Online Games

Friday 8:30pm ..... Veranda 3

How has writing for gaming evolved? Discuss the writing in games such as *Horizon*, *Red Dead Redemption*, and *The Last of Us*.

Panelists: Michael Bernabo, Jason Otting, Anna Waltz

## Escape Room #3

Friday 9:00pm .....Bloomington: Rumpus Room

See description on page 10.

## Reading: Amanda Meuwissen

Friday 9:30pm ..... Veranda 1

Author of *The Incubus Saga* series and the *Tales from Gemstone Kingdoms* series she will share a selection of her work. Please be aware this reading is for more mature audiences.

## Whisky/Whiskey/Uisce Beatha Tasting

Friday 9:00pm ..... Con Bar Annex

After much research into this panel, Captain Obvious has determined that several bottles of both good whisky and good whiskey will be tasted. Single Malt and other good, oak-aged spirits (Bourbon, Rye, other) will be shared. SMALL samples will be poured; there's usually a large selection! Bottle share is suggested but not required. Do NOT fear the suitcase of Awesome!

Hosts: John Wardale, Felicia Herman, Seth Breidbart, Laura Krentz, Guy Stewart

## Reading: B.H. Gorden

Friday 10:00pm..... Veranda 1

Author of the *Iron Shackles* and *The Gifted Chain* will share a selection of her work. Please be aware this reading is for more mature audiences.

# Saturday | Programming

Reading: Eleanor Arnason

*Saturday 10:00am ..... Veranda 1*

## Lightsabers & Cosplay Tips

*Saturday 10:00am ..... Bloomington: Rumpus Room*

Build your own lightsaber and maybe some frugal cosplay tips.

*Host: Tyler Bloom*

## The Enduring Allure of Regency Romance

*Saturday 10:00am ..... Front Ballroom*

The Regency period was only nine years long, yet it has inspired fiction—especially romance—for generations. What is it about this moment in time that continues to captivate the imagination?

*Panelists: Patricia C. Wrede, Caroline Stevermer, Catherine Lundoff, Mallory Glass, Peg Kerr*

## Ask a Scientist

*Saturday 10:00am ..... Back Ballroom*

Mike Schneider works testing for air pollution. Rachel Reddick has a PhD in physics and works in Data Science. Michael Busch is a research scientist at SETI institute. Karl Gallagher is a rocket scientist. Bring them your science questions!

*Panelists: Mike Schneider, Michael Busch, Rachel Reddick, Mara DeMers, Karl Gallagher*

## 80s Card Games with Thorin

*Saturday 11:30am..... Bloomington: Rumpus Room*

In the 1980s (mostly 1983), Parker Brothers, Ideal and some other companies produced a slew of custom card games in tiny boxes--colorful, eye-catching, and quick, if a bit unbalanced by today's standards. Come play some of these odd gems like *Luck Plus*, *Shake 'Em & Take 'Em*, *Dott-O*, *ONO 99*, and licensed games based on properties like *Q\*bert* and *Krull*.

*Host: Thorin N. Tatge*

## Can Board Games Save the Planet?

*Saturday 11:30am..... Front Ballroom*

GOH **Matt Leacock** walks us through the journey of developing his cooperative climate change board game, *Daybreak*.

*Host: **Matt Leacock***

# Programming | Saturday

## Writing Elderly Characters

*Saturday 11:30am.....Back Ballroom*

Elderly characters are often peripheral to stories. They tend to be portrayed as set in their ways, and almost never given their own character arc. Does this relegate them to stereotypical roles like mentors, villains, or disabled victims? Are those roles changing as longevity increases? Do grandchildren affect how aging characters view the future? Does new technology aggravate generational conflict? How can fiction writers better portray older characters?

*Panelists: Michael Merriam, Guy Stewart, Lisa Freitag, Eleanor Arnason, Randy Holland*

## Echoes of WWII in Science Fiction

*Saturday 11:30pm ..... Veranda 3*

Many classic science fiction writers were personally impacted by WWII, mentally and physically. What were the immediate and lingering impacts on their writing? Do we still see a legacy in science fiction tropes today?

*Panelists: Michael Bernabo, Karl Gallagher, Anna Waltz*

## Film: *The Tick* (live action series) (2001)

*Saturday 11:30am (135 min) ..... Veranda 7-8*

The Big Blue Bug of Justice is back! This time in Live Action! Superhero parodies definitely don't get better than this! No one else but the incomparable Patrick Warburton in a blue rubber suit with remote controlled antennae could make me laugh this hard! You can watch one or all six episodes, but you'd better have something better to do if you don't like laughing! [TV-MA]

## Reading: Rachel Reddick

*Saturday 12:00pm ..... Veranda 1*

## #BookTok: One Author's Social Media Journey

*Saturday 1:00pm ..... Front Ballroom*

C.M. Alongi, author and creator of the popular TikTok series *CaFae Latte*, will talk about the ups and downs of being a content creator.

*Host: C.M. Alongi*

# Saturday | Programming

## Minicon Saved My Life, Literally!

*Saturday 1:00pm..... Veranda 1*

Finding community and mutual aid has never been more important! Greg Larsen recounts his cardiac arrest at a MNStF party, hospitalization, pitfalls of an independent lifestyle, the aftermath of his life being saved and of those who acted quickly to help save it. Ann Totusek covers CPR, planning in advance for the unthinkable, including basic forms to honor your wishes. Greg was lucky to be with friends when tragedy struck; You might NOT!

*Panelists: Greg Larsen, Hershey Harris, Ann Totusek, Lilysong Watson*

## Meet Graham and Becca Leathers

*Saturday 1:00pm..... Veranda 3*

Spend time chilling and hanging out with our Music Guests of Honor. Feel free to bring food or drink from the Consuite with you.

## 3D Printing: Hobby or Wizardry?

*Saturday 1:00pm.....Back Ballroom*

Thinking of getting a 3D printer? What would you use it for? Panelists will talk about all these things, answer questions about their printers and bring examples of the marvelous things they have created with them.

*Panelists: Ethan Sommer, Dean Gahlon, Sharon Kahn, Scott Raun*

## Concert: Peggy O'Neill

*Saturday 1:00pm..... Edina: Music*

Mix together some blues, some folk, light jazz, and a unique perspective to get the song styling of Peggy O'Neill. She is someone with a great voice who has been performing and writing songs for over 40 years.

## Hair Braiding

*Saturday 1:00pm.....Bloomington: Rumpus Room*

Braid or be braided! John W. demonstrates a variety of techniques: classic French & Dutch braids, round (Crown) braids, ... 3, 4, 5 & 7 strands, and other styles like hearts, spirals and a pull-up-weave.

*Host: John Wardale*

# Programming | Saturday

## Film: *Doomed! The Untold Story of Roger Corman's Fantastic Four Movie* (2017)

*Saturday 2:15pm (85 min)..... Veranda 7-8*

Secrets! Lies! Conspiracy! Betrayal! Those are just a few of the words used to describe the ill-fated FF film that cast & crew believed they were making for a theatrical audience in 1994. Cast members (armed with props and stills) toured comic shops across America on their own dime to promote it before its world premiere at the Mall of America. Two days before that premiere, it was mysteriously yanked. Find out what happened and which questions remain unanswered surrounding what would become the highest selling bootleg film to date! [NR]

*Director: Marty Langford*

## Faux Stained Glass

*Saturday 2:30pm.....Bloomington: Rumpus Room*

Use Laser Cut frames (MANY SF related items!), markers, tissue paper, and glue to make window decorations that look very similar to stained glass.

## Gaming with GoH Matt Leacock: *Daybreak*

*Saturday 2:30pm..... Garden Court*

Gaming guest of honor **Matt Leacock** will play his game *Daybreak* with fans. Inquire at the Info Desk if you would like to be one of those fans.

## Are the Classics Still Classics?

*Saturday 2:30pm.....Front Ballroom*

How relevant are the big name authors people read "back in the day" today? What exactly counts as a classic now, anyway? Are there books that you loved, but you hesitate to recommend now because of how they've aged? Most importantly, which classics do you still recommend?

*Panelists: Ruth Berman, Emma Bull, Kathryn Sullivan, Liz McCullough, Karl Gallagher*

## Patricia C. Wrede Reading & Signing

*Saturday 2:30pm.....Back Ballroom*

Join Writer Guest of Honor **Patricia C Wrede** for a reading, possibly from the sequel to *Dark Lord's Daughter*. This will be followed by quiet conversation at which books will be signed and polite questions will probably be answered.

# Saturday | Programming

## This Year in Science Fiction

*Saturday 2:30pm*..... *Veranda 1*

This panel continues a Minicon tradition of discussing the “you-should-really-read-this” SF stories from the past year.

*Panelists: Russel Letson, Greg Johnson, David Lenander*

## Project Hail Mary

*Saturday 2:30pm*..... *Veranda 3*

Fans discuss the popular book by Andy Weir and the film its adaptation starring Ryan Gosling.

*Panelists: Jeanne Mealy, Bill Higgins, Ben Huset, Kathye Coyle*

## Concert: Versatile Fluff

*Saturday 2:30pm*..... *Edina: Music*

Grenevic Sharladanel Stremski and Rev. Rebecca Elfprincess have a variety of geeky songs for you. Want to hear gender-neutral love songs that can span multiverses or survive the zombie apocalypse? Songs based on internet memes? Songs from and about video games? Come listen!

## Film: *William Shatner: You Can Call Me Bill (2023)*

*Saturday 3:45pm (96 min)*..... *Veranda 7-8*

Why would we screen a documentary about Shatner? Because it is there! Actually, its not just for *Trek* fans, isn't half bad, and is worth it to witness his life-changing experience of going into space. [PG-13]

*Director: Alexandre O. Philippe*

## Reading: Kathryn Sullivan

*Saturday 4:00pm*..... *Bloomington: Rumpus Room*

Kathryn Sullivan will do a reading from one of her YA/children's fantasy books.

## What Do You Do When an Asteroid is About to Hit the Earth?

*Saturday 4:00pm*..... *Veranda 3*

NASA's Center For Near Earth Object Studies has developed a series of hypothetical scenarios as a training tool for addressing the asteroid impact hazard. Join Michael Busch, research scientist at the SETI Institute, to play out one of these scenarios and save the earth.

*Host: Michael Busch*

# Programming | Saturday

## Naomi and Greg are F\*\*\*ing Angry

*Saturday 4:00pm.....Front Ballroom*

Naomi Kritzer is a keen observer of local politics. Greg Ketter recently found himself the angry face of Minnesota resistance. Let's talk about the origins of the unrest on the streets of Minneapolis, how Minnesota became the symbol of the worldwide fight against autocracy, and what we will have to continue to do to keep freedom alive.

*Panelists: Naomi Kritzer, Greg Ketter*

## Concert: Candles Enough

*Saturday 4:00pm..... Edina: Music*

We perform an eclectic mix of original folk music, covers, and parodies. We believe there's light at the end of any tunnel and sometimes that light is giggling. Come for the geeky acoustic joy, stay for the not-so-veiled protest songs.

## Reading: David Walbridge

*Saturday 4:30pm.....Veranda 1*

## Evil Overlords

*Saturday 5:30pm.....Front Ballroom*

From Starter Villain to Dreadful to GoH Pat Wrede's The Dark Lord's Daughter, evil overlords are having a moment. Who are the best over-the-top evil overlords? What's the appeal of the comedic antihero, anyway? Is the cartoonishness of real life evil making these books more appealing? Have you ever woken up one morning and thought, "Oops: I guess I'm a villain"?

*Panelists: Patricia C. Wrede, Lyda Morehouse, Anna Waltz, Adam Stemple, Naomi Kritzer*

## The Poul Anderson Century

*Saturday 5:30pm.....Veranda 3*

Poul Anderson (1926-2001), who began selling science fiction while living in Minnesota, became a prolific hard-SF novelist known for his outstanding worldbuilding skill. He was also a prominent writer of fantasy. In Anderson's centennial year, let's discuss some of his memorable stories, and consider how this SFWA Grand Master's work might be viewed from the 21st Century.

*Panelists: Ruth Berman, Richard Tatge, Sharon Kahn, Lois McMaster Bujold*

## Reading: Faith MacGregor

*Saturday 5:30pm.....Veranda 1*

# Saturday | Programming

## The Roddenberry Connection

*Saturday 5:30pm.....Back Ballroom*

In 1991, Gene Roddenberry received the American Humanist Association's Humanist Arts Award for Star Trek's vision of a hopeful future built on reason and cooperation. Join us to discuss Roddenberry's influence, modern humanism, and its connections to science fiction fandom.

*Panelists: Drew Jensen, Scott Lohman, Polly Peterson, Cory Brodeur*

## Lock Picking

*Saturday 5:30pm.....Bloomington: Rumpus Room*

Learn how key-locks work, and how vulnerable they are.

*Host: John Wardale*

## Film: *Simplicity: The Life & Art of Alex Toth (2007)*

*Saturday 5:30pm (79 min)..... Veranda 7-8*

This is an Encore Screening, previously shown Friday at 2:25pm.

## Concert: Big Loud Monsters

*Saturday 5:30pm..... Edina: Music*

Big Loud Monsters are the multi-genre-spanning musical pairing of Justin Hartley and Dave Stagner. They will bring you an unpredictable mix of cover songs and originals sure to make you laugh, cry, think, and scratch your head in confusion and wonderment.

## Trains and Science Fiction

*Saturday 7:00pm.....Front Ballroom*

In the mid-19th century, steam locomotives were on the bleeding edge of technology. Did you know there are lesser-known examples of trains in science fiction, some predating H. G. Wells and Jules Verne? Come and learn about how the early days of SF were influenced by locomotives and how that provided the inception for Steampunk as a result of the Space Race. We'll also discuss how trains are still inspiring modern writers like China Mieville today.

*Panelists: Drew Jensen, Scott Jamison, Bob DeMers, Grenevic Sharladanel Stremski, Edison Jensen*

## Escape Room #4

*Saturday 7:00pm.....Bloomington: Rumpus Room*

See description on page 10.

# Programming | Saturday

## Fanfic Meetup

*Saturday 7:00pm*..... *Veranda 3*

Do you love writing fan fiction? Or are you looking for encouragement and inspiration to get started? Come meet up with birds of a feather.

*Host: Anna Waltz*

## On Writing Badly

*Saturday 7:00pm*..... *Back Ballroom*

Why you should lower your standards: Perfectionism ruins stories—and arcane grammar rules inhibit all writers. Maybe we should just give in to bad writing, accept tropes and encourage messy creativity.

*Panelists: Lyda Morehouse, C.M. Alongi, R.J. Howell, Will Shetterly, Peg Kerr*

## Concert: Adam Stemple

*Saturday 7:00pm*..... *Edina: Music*

Adam Stemple is an award-winning musician, producer, and Minicon 50 Musician Guest of Honor. He has played everything from hard rock to Irish music to "ethno-gothic sludge jazz," and puts out a remarkable sound for just a guy on guitar.

## Film: *Sasquatch Sunset* (2024)

*Saturday 7:00pm (89 min)*..... *Veranda 7-8*

If you thought *Rubber* was Cinema Obscura's most "WTF?" film, you ain't seen nuthin' yet! Or should I say 'yeti'? Nor is it anything like Hammer Studios' *The Abominable Snowman*. You too may ask, "What did I just see?" when it's over! Starring Riley Keough and Jesse Eisenberg. No humans were recognizable during the making of this film. [R]

*Director: David & Nathan Zellner*

## Smoooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooth

*Saturday 7:00pm*..... *Con Bar*

Anyone can come join the Smoooooooooth, and give a shout-out to those we have lost—whether recently, or ages ago. Out loud, or silently. All are welcome!

## Escape Room #5

*Saturday 8:00pm*..... *Bloomington: Rumpus Room*

See description on page 10.

# Saturday | Programming

## Reading Dystopia vs Living Dystopia

*Saturday 8:30pm.....Front Ballroom*

So here we are! Full fledged actual dystopia! What did all the dystopic SF get wrong and what did they get right? How does it feel to read or re-read dystopias as we live in our own? Are you craving dystopias in your reading, or are you looking for the lightest fluffiest most optimistic SF/F you can find?

*Panelists: Naomi Kritzer, Lyda Morehouse, Peg Kerr, Adam Stemple*

## Moderating Discord Servers

*Saturday 8:30pm.....Veranda 1*

Experienced server mods share their experiences in running Discord groups and discuss the future of the platform.

*Panelists: Aaron Vander Giessen, Anna Waltz, Christopher Weiss*

## Streaming Service Geek-Out: What to Watch Next

*Saturday 8:30pm.....Veranda 3*

Some would say we are living in the golden age of television, but with so many streaming services it's hard to keep track of what the good shows are and where to find them. Fans discuss what's worth the subscription fees.

*Panelists: Mallory Glass, Michael Hagerman, Lilysong Watson*

## Concert: Riverfolk (Featured Musicians)

*Saturday 8:30pm.....Edina: Music*

Riverfolk is the folk duo of **Becca Leathers** and Chas Somdahl (Minicon 46 GoH). Their beautiful harmonies, memorable songs, and intricate guitar work have graced many a Minicon stage in years past. Join them for musical magic!

## Film: *The Pink Panther* Cartoons (1964-1966)

*Saturday 8:30pm (84 min).....Veranda 7-8*

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND! The fuchsia feline's fannish fun returns with this encore screening of madcap magic, moronic monsters, and hilarious hauntings with some psychedelia and sci-fi to boot –all without a single syllable uttered! [G]

## Escape Room #6

*Saturday 9:00pm.....Bloomington: Rumpus Room*

See description on page 10.

# Programming | Saturday

## Beer Tasting!

*Saturday 9:00pm ..... Con Bar Annex*

Learn about and sample a wide variety of beers! Safe and inviting lagers! Dark and/or hoppy ales! From barrel aged to confusing sours, ask questions and get answers as long-winded and technical as you want! Got something weird to contribute? We'll all gladly try it!

*Hosts: Mark Christiansen & John Wardale*

## Escape Room #7

*Saturday 10:00pm ..... Bloomington: Rumpus Room*

See description on page 10.

## Spicy Reading Open Mic

*Saturday 10:00pm ..... Veranda 3*

Bring something spicy to read, it need not be your own writing. Please be aware this reading is for more mature audiences.

*Host: Crystal Therese*

## Trivia With Brian!

*Saturday 11:59pm ..... Con Bar*

Did you know that the word “trivia” is Latin for “three-way”?

We noticed you from across the bar and were wondering if you might join us for a tantalizing night of questions and answers. Get comfortable, because some of this knowledge goes deep!

*Host: Brian*



**February 12–14, 2027**

Con of the North is Minnesota's longest-running, volunteer-organized gaming convention. Join us for a wintry three days of games during the middle of February. We offer tabletop role-playing, board games, card games, miniature wargames, live-action RPGs, networked computer games, and more!

[www.conofthenorth.org](http://www.conofthenorth.org)

DoubleTree Hotel Bloomington  
Minneapolis South, Minneapolis

# Sunday | Programming

## Simon's Revenge

*Sunday 10:00am.....Bloomington: Rumpus Room*

Are you good at following directions? This is a tricky verbal game in which you will hold up colored cards. Your host Thorin will take you thru one or more 'katas', each of which will have its own theme. Will you hold up the right card more than anybody else and win a prize? Note: this game was originally developed for inner city teenagers at a library program.

*Host: Thorin N. Tatge*

## Reading: Emma Bull

*Sunday 11:30am.....Veranda 1*

## Mini Medallion Hunt

*Sunday 11:30am.....Bloomington: Rumpus Room*

Like the 4-day version, but condensed into the RR, finished in 1.5 hours, and intended for younger fans.

*Host: J. Spitzer*

## Gaming with GoH Matt Leacock: : Fate of the Fellowship

*Sunday 11:30am.....Garden Court*

Gaming guest of honor **Matt Leacock** will play his game Fate of the Fellowship with fans. Inquire at Info Desk if you would like to be one of those fans.

## Science for Supervillains

*Sunday 11:30am.....Front Ballroom*

You want to take over the world, right? Should you get that extra degree in biochemistry? Or will physics help your evil schemes more? Let's discuss which branches of scientific knowledge make for successful supervillainy in today's universe. Sharing your diabolical plans for galactic domination will be optional.

*Host: Scott Jamison*

## Maim 'Em Right

*Sunday 11:30am.....Back Ballroom*

The return of the rant about medical accuracy in F/SF. *Doctor Lisa Freitag* will briefly come out of retirement to discuss common medical errors in fiction (and why they are hilarious), so writers can avoid them.

*Host: Lisa Freitag*

# Programming | Sunday

## How to Create a Character

*Sunday 11:30am..... Veranda 3*

How are characters born? Do they speak to you in dreams? Do you roll one like in D&D? Do they emerge from the plot? A panel of expert writers talk about how they go about creating the characters to which their story happens.

*Panelists: Michael Bernabo, Allison Sommer, Blue Deliquanti, Adam Stemple, Peg Kerr*

## Film: *Space Ghost & Dino Boy* (animated series) (1966)

*Sunday 12:00pm (150 min)..... Veranda 7-8*

Do I really have to explain this one? Just chill here on Sunday after 3 nights of partying. [TV-G]

## Bill Higgins Science Show

*Sunday 1:00pm.....Back Ballroom*

Bill Higgins will present one of his ever-popular slide shows about life, the Universe, and everything.

## Are All Jedi Fascists?

*Sunday 1:00pm.....Front Ballroom*

Fascism is a common theme in science fiction. But what is fascism, or a republic, really? Are Minnesota's current events a sign of rising fascism, flaws of a republic, or something else? By dissecting Star Wars politics, perhaps we can objectively understand how democracies struggle with authoritarianism, church/state separation, terrorism, transnational criminals, and whether Grogu (Baby Yoda) needs help from Child Protection Services.

*Panelists: Randy Holland, Natasha Krentz, Paige Thissen, Christopher Weiss*

## Marketing Your Writing After Publication

*Sunday 1:00pm..... Veranda 3*

Once you've got copies of your work out there on paper or ebook, it's time to find readers. How do you promote your book?

*Panelists: Faith MacGregor, Rachel Reddick, Mallory Glass, C.M. Alongi*

## Fantasy Author Group Reading

*Sunday 1:00pm..... Veranda 1*

*Authors: KM Herkes, Douglas VanDyke Jr*

# Sunday | Programming

## Concert: Trailer Park Queen

*Sunday 1:00pm* ..... *Edina: Music*

Trailer Park Queen started as a solo project in 1994. Berni aka Trailer Park Queen has performed for years in her parody band. Today she will be solo. Listen at your own risk!

## Tool Time

*Sunday 1:00pm* ..... *Bloomington: Rumpus Room*

Disassemble old electronics and other devices. Learn safe and correct use of hand tools. Bring in junk electronics for disassembly...NOT necessarily re-assembly. [double time slot]

## Rivendell Interview with Ruth Berman

*Sunday 2:30pm* ..... *Veranda 3*

David Lenander, founding member of the Rivendell discussion group, will interview Ruth Berman on her latest release, *The Broken Lute*.

*Panelists: Ruth Berman, David Lenander*

## Second Book in the Series

*Sunday 2:30pm* ..... *Front Ballroom*

You've finished a novel and maybe gotten it published. How do you know if there is a possibility of a sequel, or even a series? When, why, and how does a whole new book evolve? Is the second book harder to write, or does it get easier?

*Panelists: Patricia C Wrede, C.M. Alongi, Lyda Morehouse, B.H. Gorden, Faith MacGregor, Naomi Kritzer*

## The Very Very Basics of Story Telling

*Sunday 2:30pm* ..... *Veranda 1*

We love stories. We tell stories. We read stories—But what makes for a good story? Why do many stories (or books, or movies, or jokes) fail? What are the elements that often go missing—or that can save your story?

*Host: David Walbridge*

# Programming | Sunday

## Concert: Beth Kinderman & the Player Characters

*Sunday 2:30pm* ..... *Edina: Music*

Beth Kinderman is a progressive filk-rock singer-songwriter. Together with her band, the Player Characters, she has released seven albums of music inspired by SF and fantasy literature, the tribulations of her RPG characters, philosophy, mythology, and beyond. Since her band's last appearance at Minicon, she has performed outside the United States for the first time as Interfilk guest at FilKONtario 2025, won a Pegasus Award for her song "The Ones Who Walked Away," and been guest of honor at Consonance 2026 (San Jose, CA).

## Closing Ceremonies

*Sunday 4:00pm* ..... *Front Ballroom*

## Dead Dog Party

*Sunday 7-ish* ..... *Various*

A curiously terrible name for a good time. After the convention is packed up and put back in its little box, we will still have access to the Consuite and Con Bar spaces, and Garden Court. Come hang out and socialize...even more!

**WINDYCON 52**  
SANCTUARY AMONG THE STARS

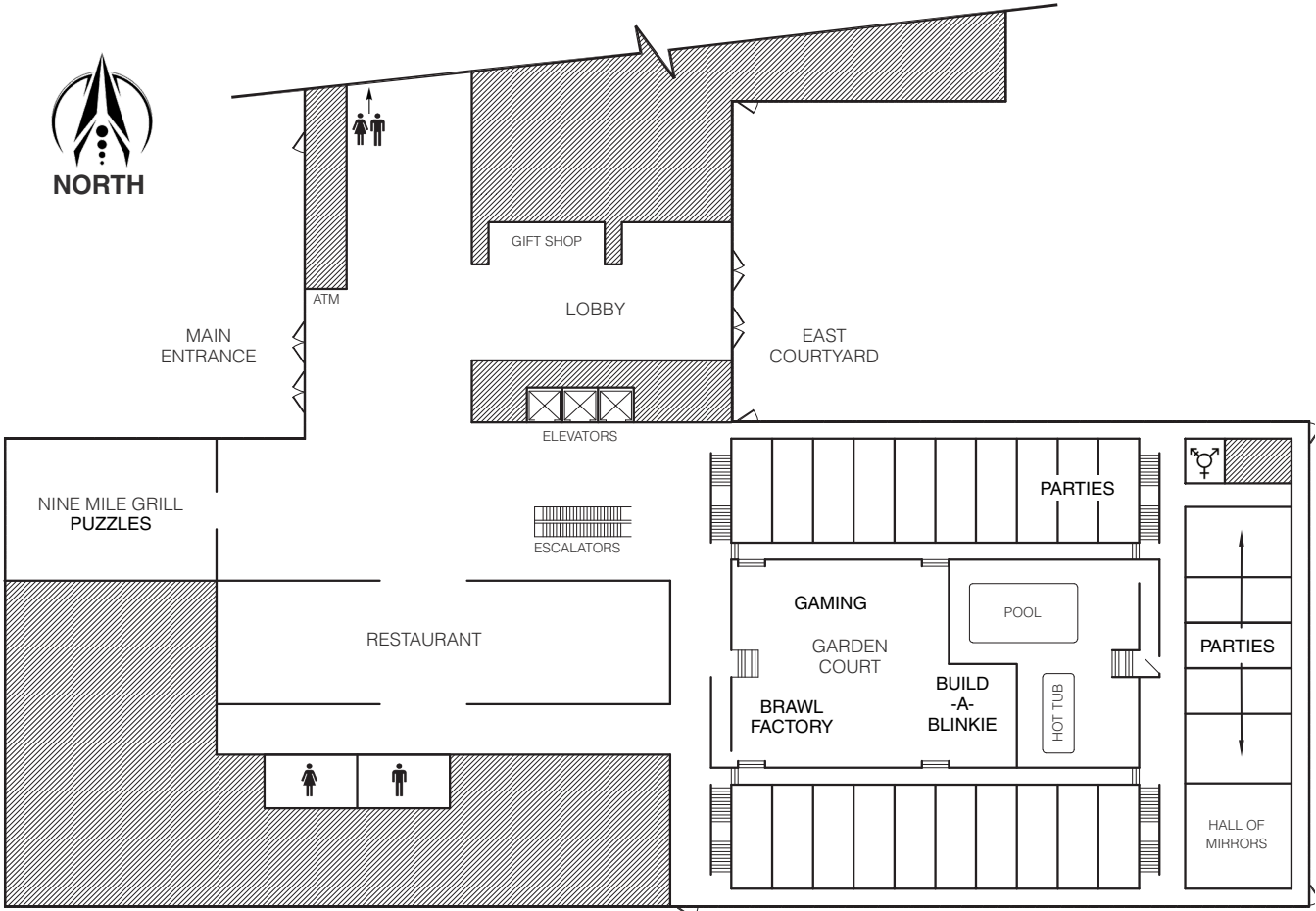
**Andrew E.C. Gaska**

**Tristian "TrisRex" Johnson**

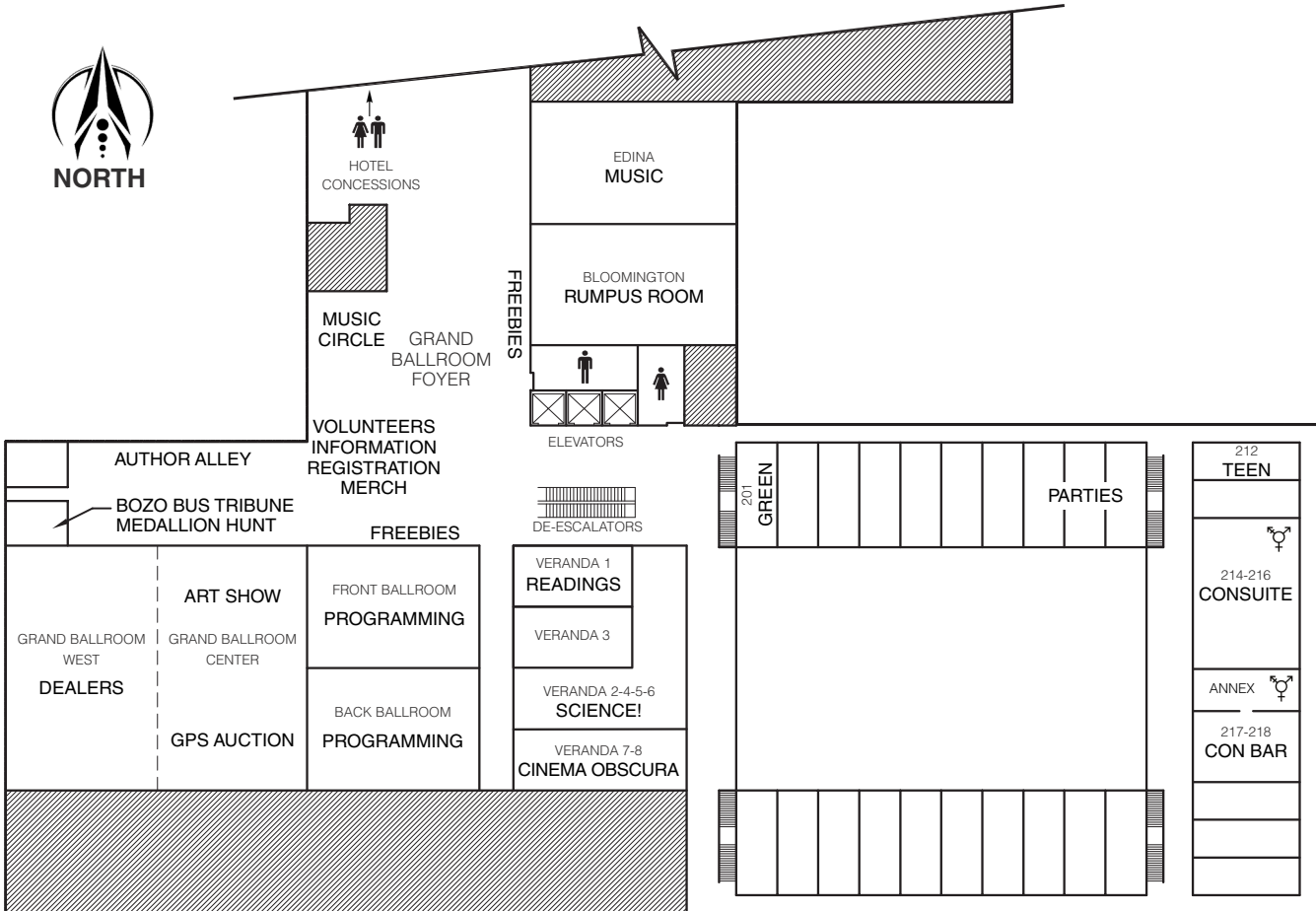
- Gen Con Games Library
- Play and Win
- RPGs
- LARP(Live Action Role Play)
- Nerf Battle
- Concerts
- Vendors hall
- Art Show
- Charity Tournaments

SCAN ME

Hyatt Regency O'Hare Rosemont IL  
October 9<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> 2026  
windycon.org



# Map | First Floor



# SecondFloor | Map

# Restaurant Guide

## Atomic Wings

952.222.0307

Fri.....10am-10pm  
Sat .....10am-10pm  
Sun .....9am-10pm

## Burger King

952.896.9871

Fri.....5am-12am  
Sat .....5am-12am  
Sun .....5am-12am

## Caribou Coffee

952.831.9230

Fri.....5:30am-6pm  
Sat .....7am-6pm  
Sun .....7am-2pm

## Dairy Queen

952.405.9427

Fri.....10am-10pm  
Sat .....10am-10pm  
Sun .....10am-10pm

## Domino's Pizza

952.944.2463

Fri.....10:30am-1am  
Sat .....10:30am-1am  
Sun .....10:30am-12am

## Jersey Mike's

952.666.3606

Fri.....10am-9pm  
Sat .....10am-9pm  
Sun .....CLOSED

## Jimmy John's

952.835.8654

Fri.....10:30am-9pm  
Sat .....10:30am-9pm  
Sun .....CLOSED

## My Burger

952.582.4132

Fri.....10:30am-9pm  
Sat .....10:30am-9pm  
Sun .....CLOSED

## Red's Savoy

952.831.8100

Fri.....11am-9pm  
Sat .....11am-9pm  
Sun .....CLOSED

## Starbucks

612.655.7209

Fri.....5:30am-7:30pm  
Sat .....5:30am-7:30pm  
Sun .....5:30am-7:30pm

## Subway

952.844.0266

Fri.....9am-9:30pm  
Sat .....9am-9:30pm  
Sun .....9am-9pm

## Taco Libre

952.303.3360

Fri.....10am-11pm  
Sat .....10am-11pm  
Sun .....10am-10pm

# Restaurant Guide

Hangry Joe's Chicken & Wings

952.900.6707

Fri.....10am-11pm

Sat .....10am-11pm

Sun .....10am-10pm

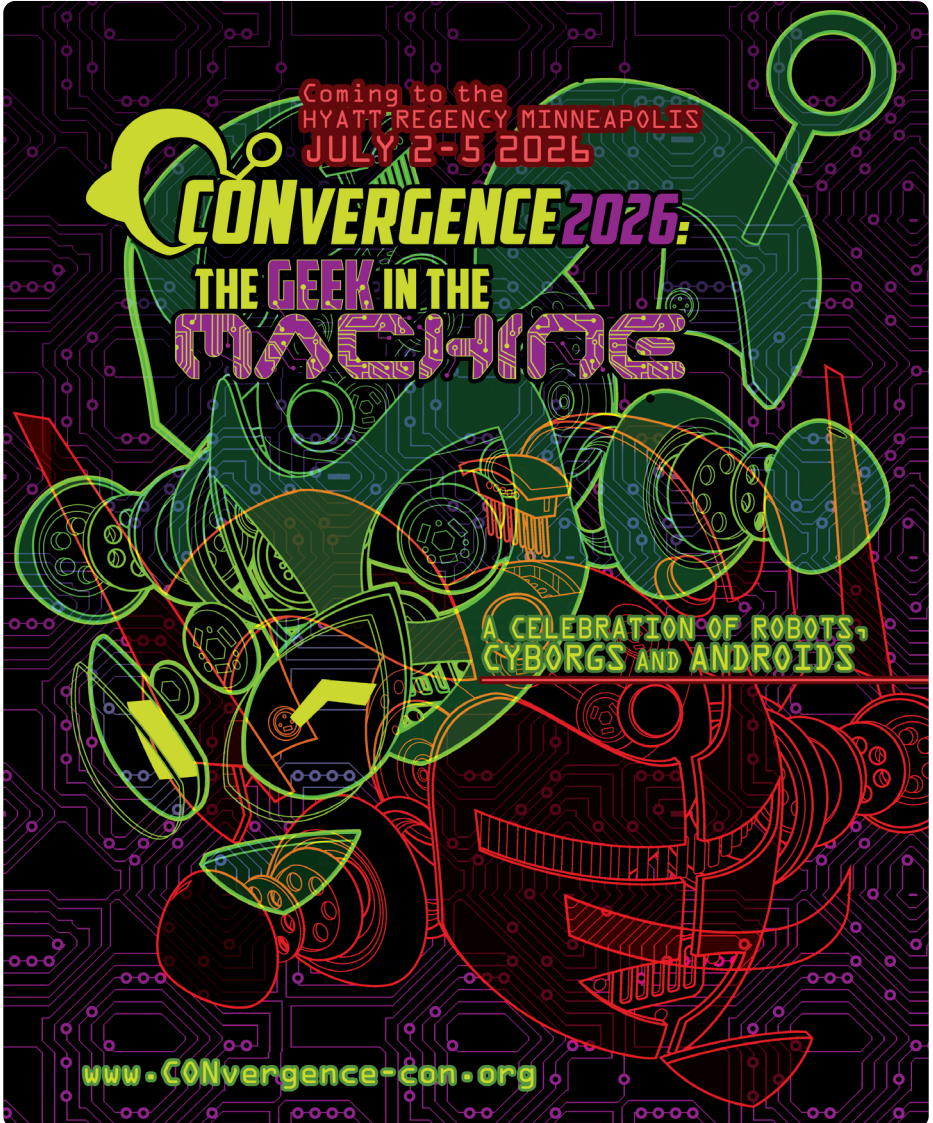
Pizza Lucé (they deliver)

952.767.0854

Friday.....11am-12am

Saturday .....10am-12am

Sunday .....10am-12am



# About MN-STF

## What is MN-STF?

It's the Minnesota Science Fiction Society, variously abbreviated MnStf, Minn-STF, MN-Stf, and other variants. It's the group that brings you Minicon.

The Minnesota Science Fiction Society, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to furthering the appreciation of science fiction and fantasy literature.

Minn-Stf was founded in 1966 and we've been active in the worldwide community of science fiction fandom ever since. We also do other charitable educational work.

## Membership

How do you become a member of MnStf? It's easy! If you ever attend a meeting (see below), you're a member. If you sign in at five meetings in a year, you become a voting member for that year and can help choose the Minn-Stf board.

## Meetings

Minn-Stf 'meetings' are actually house parties—or sometimes picnics—and typically happen on the first and third Saturdays of the month. They are very casual social gatherings, and all are welcome!

There is generally a two- to ten-minute business meeting which consists primarily of announcements of upcoming events, and the rest of time is spent socializing, and perhaps board games or music.

Expect snacks.

Event locations and details can be found on the Google calendar at [mnstf.org](http://mnstf.org), as well as on Discord.

## MN-Stf Picnic

MnStf usually has at least one summer picnic at a public park. Join us for an afternoon cookout filled with gaming, socializing, and fun. There's usually a grill going throughout the day, so bring something for the grill, a dish to share, or a game to play. Details will always be announced at [www.mnstf.org](http://www.mnstf.org) as soon as a location and date have been confirmed.

## Pool Party

Every winter MnStf has a pool party at the Minicon hotel. Hang out in the hot tub, have a swim, or just hang out and socialize. Details will be available at [www.mnstf.org](http://www.mnstf.org).

## Diversicon

Like Minicon, Diversicon is a part of the Minnesota Science Fiction Society. Small cons like this can stay alive with help. We will have two wonderful local guests, both with an impressive body of work, and two dead (posthumous) guests.

# Socials

## [Mnstf.org](https://mnstf.org)

Info about the MN Science Fiction Society and our events calendar.

## [Discord](#)

Announcements, discussions, and the occasional virtual meeting.

## [Bluesky](#)

Short form announcements.

## [Mastodon](#)

Bridged account to whatever is posted on Blue Sky so you can keep it Federated.

## [Tumblr](#)

Announcements and what passes for discussion.

## [Facebook](#)

The occasional post, all graphics, all the time.

## [Instagram](#)

All the great Tumblr content on a Meta platform.

## [Minicon 59](#)

Site for this convention.

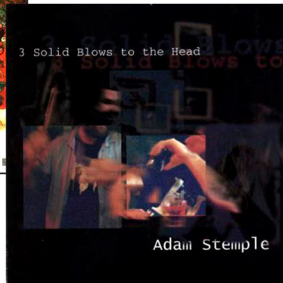
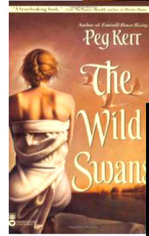
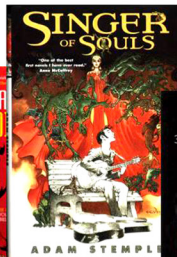
## Diversicon 33

July 24 - 26, 2026 <https://diversicon33.mnstf.org/>  
*"Past to the Future"*

Diversicon is pleased to announce our Guests of Honor will be **Peg Kerr** and **Adam Stemple**.



Diversicon will return to:  
[Crowne Plaza](#)  
[Minneapolis](#)  
[West](#)  
3131 Campus Dr  
Plymouth, MN  
55441-2620



# Code of Conduct

In the case of serious emergencies, please call 911.

## How To Report Problems

For convention-related problems of any sort (that do not involve hazards to life or limb), please report these problems to the staff at the registration or information desks. We ask all Minicon members to abide by the following code of conduct:

Minicon acknowledges that interpersonal relationships are complex and not everyone likes everyone else, and not everyone agrees with everyone else.

Disagreements, friction, and vigorous debate are expected. However, interactions that become hostile or coercive do not have any part in a healthy social environment and Minicon commits to addressing problem behaviors.

If someone asks you not to touch them, not to talk to them, or not to refer to them in a way that they find objectionable, and you persist in doing so, you may be harassing them. If you tell someone to stop something you see as harassing behavior and they don't, you may tell us.

If you don't feel comfortable telling someone to stop, you may also tell us. We want to make sure everyone is heard so that together we can make Minicon a healthy, fun, enjoyable experience for everyone. To report violations of this code, whether or not action is desired, go to the registration or information desk and talk to the staff there.

## Weapons Policy

Prop weapons or costume pieces must be secured and pose no danger—or apparent danger—to others. We reserve the right to prohibit any item we find problematic from our convention spaces.

## Credits

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Game Images: [bgg.com](https://bgg.com)

Image: Rebel Loon by Bernardo Anderson

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# Minicon's Stance on ICE

The Minnesota Science Fiction Society stands on the side of constitutional rights. We do not cooperate with ICE, and we will not consent to either ICE or any other law enforcement entering our spaces without a properly signed judicial warrant. Minicon private spaces are clearly marked and only badged Minicon members are allowed entry.

This DoubleTree is an immigrant-owned franchisee of Hilton. While Hilton hotels are known to house ICE agents, the owners of our hotel do not cooperate with ICE. To the best of our knowledge and theirs, no ICE agents are renting rooms here. Hotel staff, like Minicon staff, will require a valid judicial warrant if any law enforcement seeks entry to non-public hotel spaces. These include Minicon function spaces, hotel rooms and hotel staff areas. For more detail on hotel policies, please visit our information desk.

Please report any suspicious activity, ICE or otherwise, to Minicon staff when it is safe for you to do so. This year, we will have trained volunteer observers to help monitor our spaces. You can report to one of these, to the info desk, or to any Minicon staff member.



# Fun With Finances!

Minicon is a members-driven non-profit convention. Our goal is to bring the community together for an enjoyable and possibly even educational experience. It isn't to collect the most money or even to get the most people, although we love having more members. We all chip in our membership fees so that there's enough money to run this thing and to support our parent organization, Mn-Stf. In our opinion, if we end up with a profit afterwards...we've overcharged.

We have made a concerted effort in the last few years to keep registration rates low and run an affordable con, while still having great guests of honor, plenty of food & beverages, and providing a fun weekend overall. We want you to know where your money goes and welcome your feedback by contacting the Mnstf board at [board@mnstf.org](mailto:board@mnstf.org), and you are welcome to come chat at Minn-stf meetings (parties!). See [mnstf.org](http://mnstf.org) for times and locations.

## Where Did My Money Go?

We love transparency, so we'll tell you!

Minicon 58 was directed by the Minnstf board to bring in \$6000 more than it spent, to cover the club's anticipated annual expenses (which includes storing Minicon's stuff). We only made \$3476.

Memberships were 90.6% of our income, with dealer's tables being 5.3%, donations 3.5%, t-shirts 0.4% and the art show 0.2%. The most common membership rate paid was \$53.

If you paid \$53, here's where your money went:

Hotel .....	\$26.00	Badges .....	\$1.20
Consuite & Bar .....	\$6.40	Minn-Stf .....	\$5.00
Guests of Honor .....	\$4.70	The Rest .....	\$3.30
Publications .....	\$5.20	Being Most Excellent .....	Free!

THE BOARD HAS DIRECTED MINICON 59 TO MAKE \$6000!

# Your Concom

Art Show .....	Rachel Traynham (head) Jacob Black	Photography .....	David Dyer-Bennet Ben Huset
A/V .....	Phoenix Stremski	Programming .....	Crystal Therese (head) Lisa Freitag
Badges .....	Bill Christ Build-a-Blinkie		Sharon Kahn
Bozo Bus .....	Thorin Tatge (head) Jason Spitzer		Hershey Harris Edison Jensen
Chair .....	Matt Strait Stacey Strait (Co-Chair)		Mara DeMers Anna Waltz
Con Bar .....	Susan Philbrook Brian Lundgren		Christopher Weiss
Consuite .....	Drew Jensen (head) Ann Totusek Natasha Krentz Paul Ference	Print Wrangler .....	Grenevic Stremski
Dead Dog .....	LillySong Watson	Publications .....	Susan Philbrook (head) David Dyer-Bennett Edison Jensen
Dealer's Room .....	Jean Mlynczak (head) Natasha Krentz	Recycling Dæmon .....	Hershey Harris
Easels .....	Delia Ihinger	Registration, At-Con .....	Andy Exley Ethan Sommer
Escape Room .....	Randy Holland	Registration, Pre-Con .....	Clay Harris
Film Room .....	Greg Larsen	Restaurant Guide .....	Crystal Therese
Freebie Table .....	Mark Richards	Rumpus Room .....	John Wardale Nora Strait Randy Holland
Gaming .....	Clay Harris (head) Hershey Harris	SALT .....	Aaron Vander Giessen (head) Phoenix Stremski J Spitzer
Green Room .....	Lisa Foley		Stacey Strait Ethan Sommer
Guest Liaison .....	Anton Petersen	Science Room .....	Ben Huset
Hotel Liaison .....	Stacey Strait (head) Aaron Vander Giessen	Social Media .....	Aaron Vander Giessen
Info Desk .....	Mara DeMers	Teen Room .....	Rebecca Strait Dani Sommer
Logistics .....	James Porter (head) Hershey Harris	Treasurer .....	Andra St. Arnauld
Medallion Hunt .....	J. Spitzer Michael Hagerman	Volunteers .....	Sharon Kahn Sybil Smith Drew Jensen
Merchandising .....	Stacey Strait	Webmaster .....	Christopher Weiss
Music .....	Beth Kinderman Dave Stagner		
Party Liaison .....	Corin Dennison		
Outreach .....	LillySong Watson Evie Bogie		

# MINICON 60

SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION

MINNEAPOLIS

○○○✿○○○  
**AUTHOR:**  
**ADA PALMER**

○○○✿○○○  
**ARTIST:**  
**PHIL AND  
KAJA FOGLIO**

○○○✿○○○  
**MUSICIAN:**  
**SASSAFRASS**

○○○✿○○○  
**FAN:**  
**GERI SULLIVAN**

**MARCH 25-28, 2027**  
**EASTER WEEKEND**



Register now to get the best membership rate!