

ARCHON

47

Pocket Program

Welcome to Archon 47! We're so glad you're here! Here are some things to know:

- **Grenadine Mobile App:** Try our programming mobile app! In the Apple or Google Play Store, search for "Event Guide". Download and install it using the access code **ARCHON47**. From there, you can view the entire Archon 47 schedule, build and save your own personal schedule of items you'd like to attend, and receive notifications for any last-minute programming changes.

Welcome to the world of tomorrow!

- **Link to Online Schedule:**



- **Venues:** Events are held at both the Gateway Center and the Doubletree Hotel. Each event listing has the venue specified. If you're not sure where to go, the folks at Con HQ can help!
- **Hospitality:** In Clinton A&B at the Doubletree Hotel. 24/7 free soda in tubs just outside the courtyard doors. Free beer for 21+ on Friday & Saturday nights with state ID and badge.
- **After Hours:** Feel free to join the fun in the evenings in and around the Doubletree Hotel! Dance, mingle, hall crawl, people watch.

- **Autographs:** Our Guests of Honor have designated autograph times which are noted on the schedule. If you desire an autograph from one of our other Pro Guests, check to see if they are scheduled for signing times.
- **Special Needs Seating for Masquerade:** If you have any special needs that require accommodation for you to be seated or sit comfortably at the Masquerade, please go to Con HQ in the Gateway Center and fill out a form. Special needs include but are not limited to physical issues such as hearing impairment, vision impairment, use of a cane or wheelchair, as well as families with children in strollers. **Forms must be filled out and turned in to Con HQ by 2 pm on Saturday, Oct. 5th.**
- **Children's Programming:** The Children's Programming Schedule begins on page 46 of this program. All children's programming is located in Salon 5 in the Gateway Center.

Quick Reference Guide

Art Auction

Ballroom A
Gateway Center
Sat. 4:30pm

Art Show

Ballroom A
Gateway Center
Fri. 10:00am – 9:00pm
Sat. 10:30am – 4:00pm
Sun. 10:30am – Noon

Charity Auction

Ballroom A
Gateway Center
Sat. 12:00pm

Children's Programming

Salon 5
Gateway Center
Fri. 3:00pm – 7:50pm
Sat. 10:00am – 6:50pm
Sun. 10:00am – 1:50pm

Con HQ

North Hall
Gateway Center
Fri. 9:00am – Midnight
Sat. 9:00am – Midnight
Sun. 10:00am – 5:00pm

Dance

Madison C&D
Doubletree Hotel
Fri. 9:00pm – 3:00am
Sat. 9:00pm – 3:00am

Dealer's Room

Center Hall A
Gateway Center
Fri. 4:00pm – 8:00pm
Sat. 10:00am – 6:00pm
Sun. 10:00am – 2:00pm

Fan Lounge

Prefunction Area
Gateway Center
Fri. 12:00pm – 9:00pm
Sat. 9:00am – 4:00pm
Sun. 9:00am – 4:00pm

Gaming Registration HQ

North Hall
Gateway Center
Fri. Noon – 10:00pm
Sat. 9:00am – 10:00pm
Sun. 9:00am – 1:00pm

Gaming – Doubletree Hotel

Madison A&B
Open Gaming: 24 Hours
Board Game Library:
Fri. 1:00pm – 1:00am
Sat. 9:00am – 1:00am
Sun. 10:00am – 2:00pm

Hallway Costume Contest

Lobby
Doubletree Hotel
Fri. 8:00pm – 10:30pm

Quick Reference Guide

Hospitality

Clinton A&B

Doubletree Hotel

Fri. 10:00am – 2:30am

Sat. 10:00am – 2:30am

Sun. 10:00am – 4:00pm

Masquerade

Center Hall B

Gateway Center

Sat. 8:00pm

Seating begins at 7:20pm

Models & Miniature Expo

Ballroom A

Gateway Center

Fri. 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Sat. 10:30pm – 4:00pm

Sun. 10:30am – noon

Programming Office

Illini B

Gateway Center

Thu. 6:00pm – 7:30pm

Fri. 10:00am – 7:00pm

Sat. 9:00am – 5:00pm

Sun. 9:00 – 12:00pm

Registration

Rotunda

Gateway Center

Thu. 7:00pm – 10:00pm

Fri. 9:00am – 11:45pm

Sat. 9:00am – 11:45pm

Sun. 9:00am – 2:00pm

Unison! Idol Fest

LaSalle

Gateway Center

Sun. 11:00am – 1:00pm

Volunteer HQ

West Box Office

Gateway Center

Friday

1:00

Short Stories: Big Ideas in a Small Package

Author - Craft

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

Mark Tiedemann(M), Kurt Pankau, Trisha Jones, David Benem, Sela Carsen

Salon 2 - Gateway Center
1:00 PM

Low Stakes Debate: Werewolves or Vampires?

Author - Fan

Which is better? Who has the better associated media? Classic vs. contemporary? Our panelists discuss the pros and cons of both, for both writing and reading.

Debbie Manber Kupfer(M), Kristin Bailey, Rhiannon Gonzalez, Adam J. Whitlatch
Marquette B - Gateway Center
1:00 PM

Born-Heroes vs. Bootstrap-Heroes

Author - Craft

How writers can choose the right type of hero for their stories.

Matt Davids

Marquette A - Gateway Center
1:00 PM

2:00

The Longevity of Classic Science Fiction of the 1960s

Media

Both Doctor Who and Star Trek began in the 1960s and now the beloved franchises have lasted decades. Despite such different concepts, both have successfully reimagined themselves over and over again to extend their longevity. How did both catch the cultural interest to last this long?

Paul Hahn(M), Douglas Ferguson, Patrick Jones, Angela Williams

Salon 2 - Gateway Center
2:00 PM

Friday

Art Demo with Lorenzo Lizana

Reading / Signing / Art Demo

Lorenzo Lizana

Salon 1 - Gateway Center
2:00 PM

Damn, I Hated That Painting: Things That Terrified Me As a Child

General

Childhood is a time of magic, but it's also a time of irrational fears. What scared you to death as a kid, and how do you feel about it now?

Brian Katcher(M), Patricia McFadden, Dana Fredsti, Erin McFadden

Salon 4 - Gateway Center
2:00 PM

Reflecting on The Good Place

Media

Where theology and science fiction meet. What was the ultimate point of the show and the characters? What do they say about us and our society?

Anna Mulch(M), Cindi Gille-Rowley, Jan DiMasi

Salon 6 - Gateway Center
2:00 PM

Surprise! You are the Panelist!

General

A moderator is selected but 2 other panelists are selected from the audience randomly. A subject (chosen by the moderator) to talk about is handed to the surprise panelists to discuss.

Nick Butcher(M), Neko Pilarcik-Tellez, Kurt Pankau

Illini A - Gateway Center
2:00 PM

Creating a Character

Costuming

I've got a great costume idea. How can I show it off besides just walking across a stage?

Snail Scott(M), Bruce Mai, Nora Mai, Wyatt Weed

Marquette B - Gateway Center
2:00 PM

Alien Species That Make Sense

Author - Craft

How do you create alien species that make sense to the readers?

Friday

Not doing so will create gigantic plot holes, so learn how to avoid this!

Elizabeth Donald, David VonAllmen, Rachel

Neumeier(M), Guy Anthony De Marco, John Hornor Jacobs

Marquette A - Gateway Center
2:00 PM

Author Reading with Debbie Manber Kupfer & Diana Morgan

Reading / Signing / Art Demo

Debbie Manber Kupfer, Diana Morgan

Fishbowl - Gateway Center
2:00 PM

3:00

Indie and Small Press Publishing

Author - Craft

Sometimes large press publishing isn't right for your book. When should you seek out indie or small presses? What are the benefits? How do you get connected with them? Why use them over self-publishing?

R.J. Carter(M), Adam J. Whitlatch, Mark

Tiedemann, Trisha Jones, Ray Tabler

Salon 2 - Gateway Center
3:00 PM

Art Demo with Rodney Eaton

Reading / Signing / Art Demo

Rodney Eaton

Salon 1 - Gateway Center
3:00 PM

AI and Writing

Author - Craft

With recent amazing advances in AI and a widening of its general availability, will it make "real life" authors obsolete? How can authors use AI tools - and is it ethical?

Jan Gephardt(M), Elizabeth Donald, Guy Anthony De Marco, Tom Briggs

Salon 4 - Gateway Center
3:00 PM

Star Trek: The Next Generation's Collapse

Media

How seasons 6 and 7 nearly destroyed all that came before them!

Friday

Matt Davids

Salon 6 - Gateway Center
3:00 PM

Will Traditional Art Ever Become Obsolete?

Artist

Will drawing, painting or sculpting go the way of blacksmithing? Is it destined to be a niche market catering to hardcore collectors?

*David Lee Pancake, Sam Haney
Press(M), Ross
Hathaway, William
Hodgson, Rachael Mayo*

Illini A - Gateway Center
3:00 PM

William "Bear" Reed Memorial

Fandom

All friends are welcome in remembering William "Bear" Reed.

Marquette B - Gateway Center
3:00 PM

Why I Love Ace Hardware and Other Costuming Sources

Costuming

Want to find a Klingon shoulder pad? Need some luminescent paint? We have suggestions.

*JD Streett, Sandy
Pettinger, Bruce Mai, Rich Zellich*

Marquette A - Gateway Center
3:00 PM

Author Reading with Dana Fredsti

Reading / Signing / Art
Demo, GOH

Dana Fredsti

Fishbowl - Gateway Center
3:00 PM

How Fandom is Portrayed in Mainstream Media

Fandom

In many commercials, TV shows, and movies, the picture of fandom is of guys in weird costumes while women participate in "normal" activities. Obviously, we know this is not true. Why are these stereotypes still promoted despite the wider acceptance of fannish culture over the last 20 years?

*Diana Morgan(M), Heather
Hinson, John Radke, Travis
Creason, Jan DiMasi*

Friday

St. Clair A & B - DoubleTree -
Collinsville
3:00 PM

4:00

Open Mic / Jam Session

Filk

Join us for a casual gathering as we start to make music.

Mississippian - Gateway Center
4:00 PM

I've Got Ideas - Now What?

Author - Craft,GOH

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

*Kurt Pankau(M),Ray
Tabler,Sherri Dean,Travis
Baldree,John Hornor Jacobs*

Salon 2 - Gateway Center
4:00 PM

Art Demo with John Kaufmann

Reading / Signing / Art Demo

John Kaufmann
Salon 1 - Gateway Center
4:00 PM

Digital Sculpting on the iPad

Artist

Interested in digital sculpting? Watch David Lee Pancake demo the application Nomad Sculpt and discuss various other applications for mobile devices and computers that he works with daily. During this panel he will begin his process of digitally sculpting a dragon head or some other creature on his iPad, and then after the panel he will continue to refine the sculpture until the end of the con. Everyone is welcome to check on his progress!

David Lee Pancake

Salon 4 - Gateway Center
4:00 PM

Ghosts and Tears: The Flanaverse

Media

Mike Flanagan has produced some of the best horror series to come out in recent years, in addition to several well-received movies. Why is he so good at what he does? What are some of our favorites? And what do we expect from The Exorcist and The Dark Tower Saga?

Friday

*Darren Orf(M), Erin
McFadden, Patricia
McFadden, Sam Haney Press*

Salon 6 - Gateway Center
4:00 PM

Defining Science Fiction

Fandom

Should we endeavor to keep ourselves "pure", defining SF so as to exclude fantasy? Must a definition of SF include a reference to "science" or "technology"?

*Rich Horton(M), Bryce
Meyer, Tom Briggs, Paul Hahn*

Illini A - Gateway Center
4:00 PM

Cultural Mythology and Folklore

Author - Fan

Everyone knows Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny, and the Tooth Fairy, but what other personifications of holidays and milestones exist? How did these characters come about? Have any been lost to the ages?

*Kathryn Sullivan(M), Nora
Mai, Sela Carsen, Thomas
Stratman*

Marquette B - Gateway Center
4:00 PM

Product Versus Art

Artist

Some creators pump out work like they're pouring water while others look down on commercial success as selling out. Is it enough sometimes to do what you know will sell in order to pay the bills, or is the artistic quality all that matters?

*Neko Pilarcik-Tellez, Anna
Mulch, Jan Gephardt(M)*

Marquette A - Gateway Center
4:00 PM

Author Reading with Pierre Pettinger

Reading / Signing / Art Demo

Pierre Pettinger

Fishbowl - Gateway Center
4:00 PM

Make-n-Take Leather Workshop - Eyeball or Genshin Impact Keychain

For Genshin Impact fans or anyone that likes creepy eyes! Learn how to work with Leather! This is an introductory level workshop where you will learn how to set a cabochon of Genshin Impact vision or creepy eyeball, hole punching, basic sewing, and add personalization

Friday

for a keychain. There is a \$15 material fee (paid when supplies are handed out), but you will take home the finished product. Limited to 20 people. (Cash/Credit/Venmo.)

Tanya Freedman

St. Clair A & B - DoubleTree -
Collinsville
4:00 PM

5:00

Concerts: Magical Wanderings / The Homebrew Bard

Folk

Magical Wanderings: Two musical partners in crime lead you through fanciful musical escapades of epic proportions! The Homebrew Bard: Backed by talented friends Ben and Tony, Homebrew Bard brings a mix of original music as well as popular fantasy covers across two shows (Friday and Saturday).

Mississippian - Gateway Center
5:00 PM

The Wild Goose Chase – A Puzzle Hunt

General

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

Debbie Manber Kupfer

Madison C&D – DoubleTree -
Collinsville
5:00 PM

Writing Neurodivergent Characters

Author - Craft

It's becoming more common to see autistic, ADHD, and other neurodivergent characters in fiction. How do we include people with these brain differences without falling into harmful stereotypes? How do you craft a believable character when their traits exist on a spectrum? A panel of writers discusses various approaches and ways to learn how to craft believable neurodivergent characters.

Friday

Diana Morgan(M), Kasey Mackenzie, Trisha Jones, Zo Allen, Esme Symes-Smith

Salon 2 - Gateway Center
5:00 PM

Art Demo with Jeremy Shipley

Reading / Signing / Art Demo

Jeremy Shipley

Salon 1 - Gateway Center
5:00 PM

Into The Slenderverse: A Faceless Figure's Influence

General

An introductory look at the internet cryptid Slenderman. His creation, rise to fame, the birth of a grand fan-driven multiverse...and the decline of his empire. Can he bounce back? This will include brief summaries of a selection of major Slenderman-related and analog horror projects!

Codi Coleman

Salon 4 - Gateway Center
5:00 PM

Introduction to Anime

Media

Learn about the different themes and tropes that make up popular Japanese animation and graphic novels.

Betsy Britt

Salon 6 - Gateway Center
5:00 PM

The History of Archon

Fandom

How did we get here? Join our panelists in remembering the highs and lows of Archon past, and the people involved that brought you these conventions.

Alan DeVaughan(M), JD Streett, Wyatt Weed, Anna Mulch

Illini A - Gateway Center
5:00 PM

Why Doesn't Anybody Let Me Talk About...

Author - Fan

Our panelists discuss some of the things they wish they could do a panel about, but never get the chance.

Van Allen Plexico(M), Mark Tiedemann, Neko Pilarcik-Tellez, Joey Froehlich

Marquette B - Gateway Center
5:00 PM

Friday

The Evolution of Your Art

Artist,GOH

Artists grow and change over time and you are no exception. How and why does this gradual evolution occur? How has it affected your art?

*Snail Scott(M),Bob
Eggleton,John
Kaufmann,William
Hodgson,Sherrri Dean*

Marquette A - Gateway Center
5:00 PM

Autograph Session with R.J. Carter & John Hornor Jacobs

Reading / Signing / Art Demo

R.J. Carter,John Hornor Jacobs
Fishbowl - Gateway Center
5:00 PM

6:00

Opening Ceremonies

GOH

Lasalle - Gateway Center
6:00 PM

Friday Night LARP

Gaming

St. Clair A & B - DoubleTree -
Collinsville
6:00 PM

7:00

Concert: Rockabilly Bones and The Black Spots

Filk

A three piece band performing rockabilly renditions of sea shanties and pirate versions of rockabilly classics.

NOTE: This concert will be taking place outside in the front of the Gateway Center. In the event of bad weather, it will take place in the Mississippian room.

Mississippian - Gateway Center
7:00 PM

Furious Fantastic Females

General

Women aren't just arm-candy for the brawny hero! A discussion of female characters in sci-fi, horror and fantasy. Let's talk about tough women facing every kind of challenge, from Ripley's fight with Xenomorphs to Katniss Everdeen in the Hunger Games.

Friday

Diana Morgan(M), John Radke, Lucy Synk, Gracie York, Kasey Mackenzie

Salon 2 - Gateway Center
7:00 PM

Solar Eclipses: What's the Big Deal?

Science, GOH

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

Jack Glassman(M), Darren Orf, Angela Williams, Tom Briggs, Gary Hanak

Salon 1 - Gateway Center
7:00 PM

Journaling Your RPG: Notes For the Notetakers

General

From journaling your game to gaming your journal, our panel of notebook nerds and sticker freaks will explore the whys and hows of RPG journaling, including solo journaling TTRPGs.

Kathy L. Brown(M), Hester Makepeace, Kelly Brown

Salon 6 - Gateway Center
7:00 PM

Who's Doing What Now? Managing Volunteers

Fandom

Fan run conventions rely exclusively on volunteers, from the Con Chair to the gophers. How do you get people to work together to make a convention happen, particularly when they may all have very different fannish priorities?

Alan DeVaughan(M), Zi Teng Wang, Steven H Silver, Rich Horton

Illini A - Gateway Center
7:00 PM

St. Louis Comics Superstar: Remembering Denny O'Neil

General

DC/Marvel writer Denny O'Neil arguably changed the landscape of comic books in the late 1960s and '70s. What did his work mean to you?

Walt Jaschek(M), Thomas Stratman, Lorenzo Lizana

Marquette B - Gateway Center
7:00 PM

Friday

Plotting Out Your Painting

Artist,GOH

How do you organize your vision into a cohesive form of art without it becoming too busy or too sparse? Learn how to make your artwork eye-catching and memorable!

*Jeremy Shipley(M),Bob
Eggleton,William
Hodgson,Rachael Mayo*

Marquette A - Gateway Center
7:00 PM

Author Reading with Jan Gephardt & Ray Tabler

Reading / Signing / Art Demo

Jan Gephardt,Ray Tabler

Fishbowl - Gateway Center
7:00 PM

8:00

Concert: Ars Arcanum

Filk

With work rooted in their love of Dungeons & Dragons, come for snarling guitars, catchy vocals, complex percussion, and general weirdness.

NOTE: This concert will be taking place outside in the front

of the Gateway Center. In the event of bad weather, it will take place in the Mississippian room.

Mississippian - Gateway Center
8:00 PM

Science Fiction as Laboratory for Societal Questions

Fandom

For the Fall 2023 semester at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE) a seminar course was offered by the presenter to Honors students that explored the use of Science Fiction's structure to examine social ideas. Stories were assigned to students (none of whom had significant prior experience with Science Fiction) that dealt with issues including race, gender, identity, and climate change, as well as others. This presentation looks at the stories selected for the course, as well as describing some of the student responses to the material. This talk was originally presented, in a slightly different form, at Worldcon 82 in Glasgow, Scotland, in August.

Jack Glassman

Salon 1 - Gateway Center
8:00 PM

Friday

The Interconnectedness of the Star Trek Universe

Media

Star Trek encompasses TV shows, movies, books, and other media. How do they keep everything straight canon-wise with so many diverse pieces? Is there still room for a personal artistic voice when the franchise owner has a specific vision?

Jack Snyder, Cindi Gille-Rowley, Jim Yelton, Paul Hahn(M)

Salon 6 - Gateway Center
8:00 PM

Creating New Illustrations from Older Originals

Artist

Have you ever considered using Photoshop with your original art to create a new work? Artists discuss using digital tools like Photoshop to create a new kind of "mixed media" to further their own artistic limits.

Lucy Synk(M), Rachael Mayo, Sam Haney Press

Illini A - Gateway Center
8:00 PM

Pro vs. Anti Debate, or Dead Dove, Do Not Eat

Author - Fan

What is this new generation of pearl-clutching from people who aren't even old enough to clutch pearls? What is Pro Shipping and Anti Shipping? A discussion on just what Dead Dove, Do Not Eat means in the fanfic world and why there seems to be a sense of entitlement from generations that grew up on the internet suddenly policing what everyone should be reading rather than hitting the back button.

Heather Hinson(M), Esme Symes-Smith, Rhiannon Gonzalez

Marquette B - Gateway Center
8:00 PM

You Look Great For 70: Godzilla's Platinum Anniversary

General, GOH

Godzilla has graced our lives with its dainty presence for 70 years now, and is even a respected Oscar winner. Let's talk all things giant prehistoric reptile monster.

Bob Eggleton, Van Allen Plexico, Jimmy D. Gillentine(M), Michales Joy

Friday

Marquette A - Gateway Center
8:00 PM

Hallway Costume Contest

Lobby Foyer - DoubleTree -
Collinsville
8:00 PM

9:00

Open Filk

Filk

Mississippian - Gateway Center
9:00 PM

The Annual Mad Poet Reading

Reading / Signing / Art Demo

Listen to Joey Froehlich, The
Mad Poet, read selections of his
mad poetry. Highly
recommended and highly
unique!

Joey Froehlich

Illini A - Gateway Center
9:00 PM

Man of Many Names: Remembering Dev Hanke

Fandom

Known as Dev, Juan, or Brock
in various fannish circles, he
was always quite the character.
Join friends in sharing stories
and memories of our good
friend.

Marquette B - Gateway Center
9:00 PM

Dance

Madison C & D - DoubleTree -
Collinsville
9:00 PM

10:00

Flustered Mustard Presents: The Rocky Horror Picture Show Annual Screening

Suggested Age: 18+

Lasalle - Gateway Center
10:00 PM

12:00

Open Filk (After Hours)

Filk

Led by Fan Guest of Honor
Gary Hanak.

St. Clair A & B - DoubleTree -
Collinsville
12:00 AM

Saturday

10:00

Embracing Fear

Author - Craft

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

Lyri Ahnam(M), John Allen, LaShaunda C. Hoffman, Jessica Mathews

Salon 2 - Gateway Center
10:00 AM

Maybe, Definitely, or No Way!

Science

Panelists (with aid from the audience) will look at various technologies from science fiction and will discuss whether they are possible, inevitable, or utterly impossible.

Darren Orf, Zi Teng Wang, Jack Glassman, Paul Hahn(M), Bob Perry

Salon 1 - Gateway Center
10:00 AM

3D Printing for the Modern Sculptor

Artist

David Lee Pancake discusses the pros and cons of various technologies and machines currently available, with videos of the whole process, from sculpting to slicing to printing.

David Lee Pancake

Salon 4 - Gateway Center
10:00 AM

Behind the Scenes

Media, GOH

Movie productions are a hotbed of chaos. Listen to industry pros as they tell lively behind the scenes stories and explain how it really works when trying to create movie magic.

Jack Snyder, JD Streett(M), Wyatt Weed, Dana Fredsti

Salon 6 - Gateway Center
10:00 AM

The Technical Aspect to Art Technology

Artist

Digital tools open up a new artistic world, but we can't ignore the technical drudgery

Saturday

like scanning and image resizing, which can be just as crucial to your ability to create. So, how can you successfully do these things so you can get on with your work?

Jeremy Shipley(M), Brent Chumley, Allison Stein, John Kaufmann

Illini A - Gateway Center
10:00 AM

Veering into High Fashion

Costuming

What technical skills do you need to develop to become a master costumer? Are there any classes that are recommended? What are the benefits of joining a guild vs. networking with other costumers? Does advanced technical skills equal high fashion costuming?

Pierre Pettinger, Nora Mai, Bruce Mai, Sandy Pettinger

Marquette B - Gateway Center
10:00 AM

The Next Step: Are You Ready?

Author - Craft

How do you decide whether your manuscript is in good shape? What are the steps to

take if it is and if it isn't? Our experts will guide you!

Steven H Silver, Trisha Jones, Elizabeth Donald, Guy Anthony De Marco, Cole Lanahan(M)

Marquette A - Gateway Center
10:00 AM

Autograph Session with Angie Fox & Sela Carsen

Reading / Signing / Art Demo

Angie Fox, Sela Carsen

Fishbowl - Gateway Center
10:00 AM

11:00

Using Feedback to Craft a Novel Readers Will Love

Author - Craft

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

C.L. Postill(M), George Sirois, John Allen, Jennifer Stolzer

Saturday

Salon 2 - Gateway Center
11:00 AM

The Future of Food

Science

The 'food pills' of 20th century SF seem quaint now, but food chemistry and genetic engineering are now producing amazing things. Meanwhile, other forces are pushing back toward natural sustenance. In an increasingly populated world with a changing climate, what is sustainable, or desirable? What is 'natural'? What could food become?

Jack Glassman(M), Bryce Meyer, Zi Teng Wang, Bob Perry,

Salon 1 - Gateway Center
11:00 AM

Creator Finances

General

No one really likes to talk about finances, but it's so important to be on top of them. Learn how to position yourself to make a living doing what you love.

Matt Davids

Salon 4 - Gateway Center
11:00 AM

Where Did All the Good Ideas Go?

Media

There has been a dearth of original content over the last few years, and it seems like everything is a sequel, adaptation, remake, or new stories in an existing property. What happened? Will we ever get new and fresh stories again?

Darren Orf, Mark Tiedemann, Jack Snyder(M), Luke Smith

Salon 6 - Gateway Center
11:00 AM

How Do Artists Come Up with an Idea?

Artist

Art unfortunately doesn't make itself, and step one is coming up with an idea. Every artist's method is different, and our panelists share how they develop their ideas.

John Kaufmann(M), Mike Cole, Lucy Synk, Rodney Eaton, Bruce Mai

Lasalle - Gateway Center
11:00 AM

Saturday

The Artwork of Bob Eggleton

Artist,GOH

Join our Artist Guest of Honor as he shares his work, process, and insights.

Bob Eggleton

Illini A - Gateway Center
11:00 AM

Things I Hate as a Reader

Author - Fan

Whether it's a specific type of story, a style element, or an overused stereotype, many readers are unable to enjoy a story that contains the particular thing that annoys them. What are some of these things?

Heather Hinson, Les Haven(M), Cole Lanahan, Kristin Bailey

Marquette B - Gateway Center
11:00 AM

Shake it All Up: Combining Genres

Author - Craft,GOH

What makes a good cross-genre novel? When does it work and when does it fail? Should

you follow whatever the current trend in the market is?

Kurt Pankau(M), Jimmy D. Gillentine, Glen Cook, Marella Sands, Dana Fredsti

Marquette A - Gateway Center
11:00 AM

Autograph Session with Travis Baldree

Reading / Signing / Art Demo,GOH

Travis Baldree

Fishbowl - Gateway Center
11:00 AM

Make-n-Take Leather Workshop - Leather Dice Tray

Learn how to work with Leather! This is an introductory level workshop where you will learn how to make a foldable leather dice tray. There is a \$25 material fee, but you will take home a finished product. You will cut, punch holes, and install snaps in this project. The material fee is paid when supplies are handed out. Limited to 20 people. (Cash/Credit/Venmo.)

Tanya Freedman
St. Clair A & B - DoubleTree - Collinsville
11:00 AM

Saturday

12:00

In Brief: Two Sentence Horror Stories

Author - Craft

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

Debbie Manber Kupfer(M), John Hornor Jacobs, Guy Anthony De Marco, Angie Fox

Salon 2 - Gateway Center
12:00 PM

Frankenstein Unleashed

Media

An exploration comparing and contrasting themes in the novel and original 1931 film.

Matt Davids

Salon 1 - Gateway Center
12:00 PM

Charity Auction

Benefits the Down Syndrome Association of Greater St. Louis.

Ballroom A - Gateway Center
12:00 PM

Changing the Past

General

Alternate history can make some great stories, but it needs to be handled with care, common sense, and sensitivity. What are the more interesting and inventive alternate timelines stories out there? What can alternate histories tell us about our timeline today?

Steven H Silver(M), Kathy Bailey, Rich Horton

Salon 4 - Gateway Center
12:00 PM

Deadpool: The Greatest Franchise

Media

Is Deadpool the chosen one? The one franchise to rule them all? The savior of the MCU? No? Well, let's talk about it anyway!

Diana Morgan(M), Walt Jaschek, Mike Cole, Jimmy D. Gillentine

Salon 6 - Gateway Center
12:00 PM

Saturday

Public Domain: Can It Be An Opportunity?

General

With Steamboat Willie entering public domain the first major crack has appeared in the corporate copyright vaults. Other major properties like comic book stories from the 30s are not far behind. How much are you really allowed to do, and is it a good idea to try?

*R.J. Carter(M),Mike
Phoenix,Jim Yelton,Lorenzo
Lizana*

Lasalle - Gateway Center
12:00 PM

Fandom and Religion

Fandom,GOH

Wiccans, pagans, Christians, and more. Fandom is composed of many people with different beliefs, and we hope other fans are more accepting. What are your experiences?

*Lucy Synk(M),Joey
Froehlich,Travis Creason,Gary
Hanak*

Illini A - Gateway Center
12:00 PM

Ship, Ship, Hooray!

Author - Fan

Who do you ship? Why are ships important to us? Is it mere escapism from the endless monotony of day-to-day life? Let's discuss all the reasons to back your favorite ships in a lively, but respectful manner.

*Heather Hinson(M),John
Radke,Sam Haney Press,Cindi
Gille-Rowley*

Marquette B - Gateway Center
12:00 PM

The Craft of Writing: The Firsts

Author - Craft,GOH

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

*Van Allen Plexico(M),Marella
Sands,Michales Joy,Travis
Baldree,Glen Cook*

Marquette A - Gateway Center
12:00 PM

Autograph Session with Bob Eggleton

Reading / Signing / Art
Demo,GOH

Saturday

Lyri Ahnam(M), George Sirois

Bob Eggleton

Fishbowl - Gateway Center

12:00 PM

12:30

Mandatory Masquerade Meeting

Mandatory meeting for Masquerade participants only.

Center Hall B - Gateway Center

12:30 PM

1:00

One Shots

Filk

Sign up to perform a single song.

Mississippian - Gateway Center

1:00 PM

Screenwriting 101

Author - Craft

The proliferation of streaming platforms has created a demand for new content. International bestselling author, award-winning screenwriter, and audio drama director George Sirois will provide an insider's view of writing for film and television and also provide tips on writing an audio drama.

Salon 2 - Gateway Center

1:00 PM

Space Colonizers

Science,GOH

Is there any chance we'll get off this planet to extend humanity to the far reaches of space? Any hope of creating future populations among the stars? What is the likelihood, and what are the ethics involved?

Bryce Meyer(M), Jan Gephardt, Gary Hanak, David VonAllmen, Bob Perry

Salon 1 - Gateway Center

1:00 PM

Which Would You Rather Be: Werecreature or Vampire?

General

Let's ponder the age-old question together! Perhaps you'd like to be a vampire because you don't want to get hair on your furniture, or a werewolf because you love garlic too much. Panelists and audience members compile a list of pros and cons for each and see who ends up on top!

Trisha Jones(M), Zo Allen, Betsy Britt, John Radke

Saturday

Salon 4 - Gateway Center
1:00 PM

Doom's Day: RDJ, Doctor Doom, and the Future of the MCU

Media

Join us as we explore Robert Downey Jr.'s return to the MCU as Doctor Doom. Our expert panel will explore such topics as the potential impact of this unexpected casting on the MCU's future, speculations on Downey's portrayal (Stark variant or classic Doom?), Doctor Doom's comic book legacy and its influence on the MCU, fan reactions and concerns about this controversial decision, and The Fantastic Four's upcoming MCU debut and its connection to Doom. We'll dive into comic lore, discuss multiverse implications, and debate the future of Marvel's villains in this can't-miss session for MCU enthusiasts!

*Van Allen Plexico(M), Douglas
Ferguson, Jim Yelton, Mike
Phoenix*

Salon 6 - Gateway Center
1:00 PM

They Thought That Was Going to Be the Future?!

Media

The movie *Soylent Green* was supposed to take place in 2022. Clearly it missed the mark! Our panelists discuss other ideas of the future that movies from the past have put forth and whether it's fortunate or unfortunate that they never came to pass.

*Jack Glassman(M), Travis
Creason, Mark Tiedemann, Jack
Snyder*

Lasalle - Gateway Center
1:00 PM

The Future: AI and Art

Artist

The future is here, and it's confusing. Is generative AI a form of plagiarism, or synthesis? Can it be a tool for artists? Or a way to replace artists? What is the value of the human creator, if any? Does exposure to AI visual content alter what viewers expect or perceive?

*John Kaufmann(M), Rich
Zellich, Ross Hathaway, David
Lee Pancake*

Illini A - Gateway Center
1:00 PM

Old School Monsters

Author - Fan

Saturday

Hollywood versions of vampires and other monsters bear little resemblance to the creatures people actually once believed in. A discussion about monsters in folklore and myth that go beyond the expected.

Nora Mai, Kristin Bailey(M), Brian Katcher, Sela Carsen

Marquette B - Gateway Center
1:00 PM

How to Tell if You're a "Real" Writer

Author - Craft

Is writing your true calling, or are you just messing around? Will your passion for writing stand the test of time?

Phyllis Wheeler(M), Kathy L. Brown, LaShaunda C. Hoffman, Diana Morgan

Marquette A - Gateway Center
1:00 PM

Author Reading with Elizabeth Donald & Adam J. Whitlatch

Reading / Signing / Art Demo

Elizabeth Donald, Adam J. Whitlatch

Fishbowl - Gateway Center
1:00 PM

2:00

Fannish Jeopardy - Presented by Filk

Filk

Like Jeopardy, every question must be guessed based on the clue "Answer". Except in this game, every clue is a nerdy, fannish in-joke mundanes would never get. 3 contestants will be randomly chosen from the audience.

Mississippian - Gateway Center
2:00 PM

POV: Keeping it All Straight

Author - Craft

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

Brian Katcher(M), Angie Fox, Rachel Neumeier, Esme Symes-Smith, Pierre Pettinger

Salon 2 - Gateway Center
2:00 PM

Bringing Books Back to Life: The Windhover Project

Artist

Saturday

Weird Sisters Publishing recently received a legacy: the intellectual property rights to the literary estate of science fiction writer Warren C. Norwood. With thousands of books published each day, they were faced with the question of how to breathe new life into these decades-old books. Artist/Illustrator Lucy A. Synk and Publisher/Art Director Jan S. Gephardt put their heads together and developed a plan for an illustrated revival. Here's how they're doing it.

Lucy Synk, Jan Gephardt

Salon 1 - Gateway Center
2:00 PM

AI in the Arts: Good or Evil?

General

What are the implications of using AI in film, writing, gaming, and art? Is it a tool or is it only theft of others' creative works? Can it be used ethically? Will it spell the end of many opportunities?

Elizabeth Donald, Bryce Meyer, Brent Chumley(M), Lorenzo Lizana

Salon 4 - Gateway Center
2:00 PM

Dune Too Much?

Media

Villeneuve's Dune Parts 1 and 2 only focused on the first book. Let's talk about the two movies as a whole. What worked in this third adaptation? What would need to change in a Dune Messiah movie to fit into the new franchise?

Marella Sands, Sam Haney Press, Jimmy D. Gillentine, Darren Orf(M)

Salon 6 - Gateway Center
2:00 PM

Horror Masters: The Films of Romero, Craven, and Carpenter

Media, GOH

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

Sherri Dean(M), Dana Fredsti, Jeremy Shipley

Lasalle - Gateway Center
2:00 PM

Saturday

Working the Magic

Artist, GOH

Our artists share candid details about their processes, influences, and inspirations in the production of their art.

Rodney Eaton(M), Neko Pilarcik-Tellez, John Sies, Bob Eggleton

Illini A - Gateway Center
2:00 PM

Trash Bag Workshop

Costuming

Our panelists discuss using some items you might usually throw away or recycle as materials for costumes or props.

Snail Scott(M), Wyatt Weed, Sandy Pettinger, JD Streett

Marquette B - Gateway Center
2:00 PM

Self-Publishing 101

Author - Craft

Have you decided to try your hand at self-publishing? Unsure of how to start? Come hear about the process, potential options, and steps you must take along the way.

Gracie York(M), David Benem, Ray Tabler, Christine Amsden

Marquette A - Gateway Center
2:00 PM

Autograph Session with Steven H Silver, Rich Horton, & Trisha Jones

Reading / Signing / Art Demo

Steven H Silver, Trisha Jones, Rich Horton

Fishbowl - Gateway Center
2:00 PM

Make-n-Take Leather Workshop - Tooled My Hero Academia or Marvel Keychain

Learn how to work with Leather! This is an introductory level workshop where you will learn how to use basic leather tools to transfer a design onto leather. In the 2 hour session, you will use basic leather tools to make impressions of various MHA or Marvel design options into the leather, add rivet and keyring, and color. There will be an opportunity to personalize your keychain as well. There is a \$15 material fee (paid when supplies are handed out), but you will take home the finished product.

Saturday

Limited to 20 people.
(Cash/Credit/Venmo.)

Tanya Freedman

St. Clair A & B - DoubleTree -
Collinsville
2:00 PM

3:00

Concerts: The Creative Cats / The Homebrew Bard

Filk

The Creative Cats: Mother and son duo singing songs about science and science fiction. The Homebrew Bard: Backed by talented friends Ben and Tony, Homebrew Bard brings a mix of original music as well as popular fantasy covers across two shows.

Mississippian - Gateway Center
3:00 PM

My Literary Masterpiece!

Author - Craft,GOH

You've been working on your novel for years, but you just can't bring yourself to pull the trigger and try to sell it. How much polishing and rewriting is too much?

*Rachel Neumeier(M), Travis
Baldree, Christine
Amsden, Michales Joy, Kathy
Bailey*

Salon 2 - Gateway Center
3:00 PM

Booze in Space

Science

Alcoholic beverages are frequently included in Science Fiction works, such as Saurian brandy, Romulan ale, Klingon blood wine, and synthehol – and that's just from one SF universe! We'll discuss how these beverages are depicted (often without any useful description) as well as issues associated with their production and consumption: how would one operate a still on a space station? What are the physiological effects of alcohol on a body in zero-g?

*Jack Glassman(M), Ray
Tabler, Travis Creason, Tom
Briggs*

Salon 1 - Gateway Center
3:00 PM

Conversation with the Con Chairs & Staff Saturday Session

General

Saturday

Have some suggestions? Want to share a great idea? Hated everything? Want to know how to connect with those in charge? Now's your chance to share your thoughts.

Erin McFadden(M), Patricia McFadden, Rhiannon Gonzalez, Scott Corwin

Salon 4 - Gateway Center
3:00 PM

The Movies of Mad Max and Furiosa

Media, GOH

Let's compare the movies in post-apocalyptic trendsetter George Miller's dystopian opus! We'll examine the original trilogy vs. the contemporary Fury Road and Furiosa, their vehicles, and other elements of this world.

David VonAllmen(M), Bob Eggleton, Adam J. Whitlatch, Jimmy D. Gillentine

Salon 6 - Gateway Center
3:00 PM

Taking Chances: Fight or Flight

Artist

Sometimes art needs experimentation, but it doesn't always work out. What have you tried to do that worked out

brilliantly or failed miserably? What did you learn? Do failures make you more hesitant to try something new?

John Kaufmann, Allison Stein, Neko Pilarcik-Tellez(M), William Hodgson, Nancy Hathaway

Lasalle - Gateway Center
3:00 PM

Different Voices, Different Lives

Fandom, GOH

Join Fan Guest of Honor Gary Hanak as he discusses his music, performances, and how he has evolved since first becoming interested in Filk.

Gary Hanak

Illini A - Gateway Center
3:00 PM

Fanfic to Published: Authors Who Went Pro

Author - Fan

A deep dive look into published authors who used to write fanfiction. E.L. James wasn't the first fanfic writer to go pro. She wasn't even the best. 20, 40, 60 years ago, it wasn't done. People kept their fanfic name and their published name separate and hidden. Now,

Saturday

authors are scrubbing off the serial numbers and publishing fanfiction as romances. Some are good, some are questionable.

Heather Hinson(M), Esme Symes-Smith, Van Allen Plexico, Diana Morgan

Marquette B - Gateway Center
3:00 PM

Marketing and Promotion for SFF Authors

Author - Craft

Learn basic tools for promoting your writing, including maximizing your digital profile and tips on SEO (search engine optimization).

Max Hoven(M), LaShaunda C. Hoffman, Phyllis Wheeler, Jessica Mathews

Marquette A - Gateway Center
3:00 PM

Autograph Session with Joey Froehlich & Mark Tiedemann

Reading / Signing / Art Demo

Joey Froehlich, Mark Tiedemann

Fishbowl - Gateway Center
3:00 PM

4:00

Concert: Uncle Fluffy's Post-Apocalyptic Sing-Along

Filk

Teaching children survival skills after the apocalypse.

Mississippian - Gateway Center
4:00 PM

What's in a Name? Choosing Character Names

Author - Craft

Sauron versus Sarumon, Darryl and my other brother Darryl—character names can trip up readers if not handled correctly. Learn tips from published authors to avoid reader confusion.

Kathy L. Brown(M), Jennifer Stolzer, Diana Morgan, Fedora Amis

Salon 2 - Gateway Center
4:00 PM

Unwrapping the Original Mummy

Media

An examination of the 1932 horror film classic.

Saturday

Matt Davids

Salon 1 - Gateway Center
4:00 PM

The Rise of Storytelling in Video Games

General

It's not all about platforming and raids anymore! Immersive storytelling in video games has continued to rise over the years. Let's discuss!

*Zi Teng Wang(M), Douglas
Ferguson, Gracie York, Lorenzo
Lizana*

Salon 4 - Gateway Center
4:00 PM

Are You There Red Leader?

Media

Discuss the minor characters who made a lasting impression in our favorite franchises.

*Betsy Britt(M), Jim Yelton, Codi
Coleman*

Salon 6 - Gateway Center
4:00 PM

Art By the Inch

Artist

In this interactive panel our artists will guide the audience in making mini individual art pieces.

*Rodney Eaton(M), Allison
Stein, Sherri Dean, Rachael
Mayo*

Illini A - Gateway Center
4:00 PM

A Beginner's Guide to Stephen King

Author - Fan

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

*Brian Katcher, Patricia
McFadden, Travis Creason, Erin
McFadden(M)*

Marquette B - Gateway Center
4:00 PM

Writing Your First Book

Author - Craft

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

*Kathryn Sullivan, Michales
Joy(M), Adam J. Whitlatch, Angie
Fox, Mike Phoenix*

Marquette A - Gateway Center
4:00 PM

Saturday

Author Reading with Van Allen Plexico & Steven H Silver

Reading / Signing / Art Demo

Van Allen Plexico, Steven H Silver

Fishbowl - Gateway Center
4:00 PM

How to Successfully Host an Archon Room Party

Fandom

Have you enjoyed yourself at an Archon room party and thought about hosting one yourself? Come join this collection of room party hosts as we share our knowledge and experiences while we encourage you to join us in the fun.

Nick Butcher(M), Luke Smith, Sarah Ulloa, Tony Mast, Jennifer Brenner

St. Clair A & B - DoubleTree –
Collinsville
4:00 PM

4:30

Art Auction

Ballroom A - Gateway Center
4:30 PM

5:00

Concert: Fan GoH Gary “MoFilk” Hanak

Filk, GOH

Join us for a presentation of some of his older stuff and some of his newer stuff—you know, the usual hodgepodge. You never know what you’re going to hear next!

Mississippian - Gateway Center
5:00 PM

Skipping the Traditional Publishing Houses?

Author - Craft, GOH

Publishing has changed. Are the well-known publishing houses becoming the dinosaurs of the trade? Lots of authors, both new and established, are using self-publishing. Is it for you and how do you get started?

Zo Allen(M), Travis Baldree, Mark Tiedemann, Sela Carsen, John Hornor Jacobs

Salon 2 - Gateway Center
5:00 PM

The Intersection of Science and Faith

Science

Saturday

Does science and faith always have to be diametrically opposed? How can scientists reconcile their faith with their work? Or is there no place in science for beliefs of faith?

Lucy Synk(M), Jan Gephardt, Jack Glassman, Rachel Neumeier

Salon 1 - Gateway Center
5:00 PM

Overstimulation at Conventions

Fandom

Conventions can be loud, crowded, and hot. What methods have you used to calm down and center yourself when becoming overwhelmed in such a bustling and active environment?

John Radke, Sherri Dean(M), Kurt Pankau
Salon 4 - Gateway Center
5:00 PM

My First and Favorite Anime

Media

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

Nick Butcher(M), Betsy Britt, Jeremy Shipley, Patrick Jones, Codi Coleman

Salon 6 - Gateway Center
5:00 PM

Problem Children

Author - Craft

How to work through novels that are hard to write. Discuss why they might be difficult, what to do about them, and when to cut your losses and give up.

Kasey Mackenzie(M), Christine Amsden, Guy Anthony De Marco

Illini A - Gateway Center
5:00 PM

Best Children's Sci-Fi

Author - Fan

Are you looking for a book to get your child interested in sci-fi or fantasy but don't know where to start? Our panelists discuss some of the best children's sci-fi and fantasy books to get your kiddo reading - and thinking.

Kathryn Sullivan(M), Alan DeVaughan, Abigail Motl

Marquette B - Gateway Center
5:00 PM

Saturday

Editors Are Not the Enemy

Author - Craft

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

R.J. Carter(M), Gracie York, Rich Horton, Tom Briggs, Kristin Bailey

Marquette A - Gateway Center
5:00 PM

Autograph Session with Debbie Manber Kupfer & Esme Symes-Smith

Reading / Signing / Art Demo

Debbie Manber Kupfer, Esme Symes-Smith

Fishbowl - Gateway Center
5:00 PM

6:00

They Were Great... Until They Weren't

General

In this age where anyone can voice their opinions or information can easily be spread

and corroborated, how do you handle it when your favorite creator turns out to be awful?

Kathy Bailey(M), R.J. Carter, Les Haven, Christine Amsden

Salon 4 - Gateway Center
6:00 PM

Geek Trivia!

General

Test your knowledge of everyone's favorite geeky subjects! The Geek Trivia team is once again bringing you the best pop culture trivia in the city. Grab a team and prove to your fellow geeks that you are the superior minds. You memorized all those Star Wars characters for some reason, right? (2 hours)

Kevin Hammel

Salon 6 - Gateway Center
6:00 PM

The Anatomy of a Convention

Fandom

What are some of the things that go on behind the scenes to make a con happen? (Other than crying.)

Zo Allen(M), Alan DeVaughan, Steven H Silver

Saturday

Illini A - Gateway Center
6:00 PM

How to Write Realistic Dialogue

Author - Craft,GOH

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

David VonAllmen, Travis Baldree, Cole Lanahan, Ray Tabler, Rachel Neumeier

Marquette A - Gateway Center
6:00 PM

Autograph Session with Elizabeth Donald & Jan Gephardt

Reading / Signing / Art Demo

Elizabeth Donald, Jan Gephardt

Fishbowl - Gateway Center
6:00 PM

Saturday Night LARP

Gaming

St. Clair A & B - DoubleTree -
Collinsville
6:00 PM

7:00

Comic Book Culture and Illinois History

General

Illinois has frequently served as a locus for the history of comic strips and books. Creators lived here, publishers have set up shop here, important events occurred here—while Chicagoland has birthed memorable characters (Dick Tracy, Blondie, Brenda Starr), downstate has also made lasting contributions to the culture as well (Popeye, Black Panther, The Phantom). From Hollywood and Broadway to a U.S. President and the Mafia, Illinois cartoonists/ publishers/ printers/ educators/ retailers have nurtured the seeds that lie in the hearts of Illinoisans, thereby demonstrating the importance of the Land of Lincoln to the industry and history of comics.

Stephen Harrick

Salon 4 - Gateway Center
7:00 PM

Whose Turn is It, Anyway?

Author - Craft,GOH

Saturday

Cowriting can be intriguing, but how do you do it successfully? How do you even find a cowriter? How do you need to adapt your process? What if your writing styles don't complement each other perfectly?

Marella Sands(M), Dana Fredsti, Van Allen Plexico, Angie Fox, Adam J. Whitlatch

Marquette A - Gateway Center
7:00 PM

7:20

Masquerade & Masquerade Overflow Seating Begins

Center Hall B - Gateway Center
7:20 PM

8:00

Open Filk

Filk

Mississippian - Gateway Center
8:00 PM

The Archon Masquerade

Center Hall B - Gateway Center
8:00 PM

9:00

Dance

Madison C & D - DoubleTree -
Collinsville
9:00 PM

12:00

Open Filk (After Hours)

Filk

Led by Fan Guest of Honor
Gary Hanak.

St. Clair A & B - DoubleTree -
Collinsville
12:00 AM

Sunday

10:00

Food Production and Storage in Space

Science

How will crewed starships on long-term missions or colonists on space stations and habitats feed themselves? How does the International Space Station handle their food now? What measures need to be in place if disaster strikes?

Bryce Meyer(M), Jack Glassman, Bob Perry

Salon 1 - Gateway Center
10:00 AM

Masquerade Show and Tell

Center Hall B - Gateway Center
10:00 AM

Cemetery Iconography

General

Cemeteries are rich sources for genealogy and historical information, but do you know what all those symbols and icons mean in older cemeteries? Spend some time learning just how to read a tombstone!

Nora Mai(M), Kristin Bailey, Allison Stein

Salon 4 - Gateway Center
10:00 AM

The Bronze Age Plus 50

Media

Fifty years ago, Marvel and DC were deep into what we now call the Bronze Age of Comics. What made the comics of that era so great, and will they ever reach that pinnacle again?

Van Allen Plexico(M), Walt Jaschek, Mike Phoenix, R.J. Carter

Salon 6 - Gateway Center
10:00 AM

Drawing From Imagination

Artist

Cursed by the blank page? Having trouble making your drawings look awesome and/or convincing? Find out what fundamental techniques artists commonly use to create something from nothing

Snail Scott(M), Rodney Eaton, Mike Cole, Rachael Mayo, John Sies

Illini A - Gateway Center
10:00 AM

Sunday

I Had This Great Story...

Author - Craft

Where do you go when a story just won't go anywhere? Are there some tricks to making it to the end?

Cole Lanahan(M), Pierre Pettinger, Gracie York, Wyatt Weed, David Benem

Marquette A - Gateway Center
10:00 AM

Autograph Session with Ray Tabler & Brian Katcher

Reading / Signing / Art Demo

Ray Tabler, Brian Katcher

Fishbowl - Gateway Center
10:00 AM

Enjoying Fandom While Aging

Fandom

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

Esme Symes-Smith, John Radke, Betsy Britt, Nancy Hathaway(M), JD Streett

St. Clair A & B - DoubleTree -
Collinsville
10:00 AM

11:00

Filk Panel: We Doth Protest!

Filk, GOH

Has Filk become the home of the protest song in the 21st Century?

Gary Hanak(M), Cat Greenberg, Mark Ewbank

Mississippian - Gateway Center
11:00 AM

St. Louis Costumers' Guild Open Meeting

Costuming

Annual open meeting - everyone welcome! Meet & greet (plus a tiny bit of business). (2 hours)
Host: St. Louis Costumers Guild

Salon 2 - Gateway Center
11:00 AM

Cybersecurity with AI

Science

Can AI be paired with cybersecurity? Would that potentially create new methods

Sunday

to exploit cybersecurity? Could AI placed in charge of cybersecurity eventually take over and hold us hostage?

Bryce Meyer(M), Zi Teng Wang, Jack Glassman

Salon 1 - Gateway Center
11:00 AM

Conversation with the Con Chairs & Staff Sunday Session

General

Have some suggestions? Want to share a great idea? Hated everything? Want to know how to connect with those in charge? Now's your chance to share your thoughts.

Scott Corwin(M), Patricia McFadden, Erin McFadden, Rhiannon Gonzalez

Salon 4 - Gateway Center
11:00 AM

Has Marvel Lost their Magic?

Media

Marvel has been struggling over the last year. Is it because they flooded the market? Moved away from too many recognizable heroes? Can other comic book movies fill the gap left by Marvel?

David VonAllmen(M), Jim Yelton, Jimmy D. Gillentine, Mike Phoenix

Salon 6 - Gateway Center
11:00 AM

Unison! Idol Fest

The Unison! Idol Fest is Archon's premiere stage for Midwestern idols and dance groups alike! Love of performance and music drives the core of the festival: our dancers! Show up and show out for our fantastic cast of all-around super stars and cheer them on as they take the stage! Longtime mainstays of Japanese cultural festivals and anime conventions, Archon is pleased to present our first Idol Fest!

Lasalle - Gateway Center
11:00 AM

Protecting Your Local Library

General

When the orcs are at the door, it's good to have a plan. Share ideas to keep the freedom to read alive.

Diana Morgan(M), Elizabeth Donald, Codi Coleman

Illini A - Gateway Center
11:00 AM

Sunday

Non-Denominational Worship Service

Marquette B - Gateway Center
11:00 AM

Research, Research, Research!

Author - Craft,GOH

Research can be one of the most important aspects of writing. How do you find good sources? What actually needs to be researched and what can be left up to imagination?

*Dana Fredsti(M),Kathryn
Sullivan,Steven H Silver,Mark
Tiedemann,Kathy Bailey*

Marquette A - Gateway Center
11:00 AM

Author Reading with R.J. Carter & Thomas Stratman

Reading / Signing / Art Demo

Thomas Stratman,R.J. Carter

Fishbowl - Gateway Center
11:00 AM

Make-n-Take Leather Workshop - Leather Drawstring Pouch

Learn how to work with Leather!
This is an introductory level workshop where you will learn how to make a drawstring pouch. There is a \$25 material fee, but you will take home a usable, finished product. In the 2 hour session, everyone will cut out real leather, punch holes, and lace. The material fee is paid when supplies are handed out. Limited to 20 people. (Cash/Credit/Venmo.)

Tanya Freedman

St. Clair A & B - DoubleTree -
Collinsville
11:00 AM

12:00

Subverting Fan Expectations

Media

The Hollywood writing trend ruining movies and TV shows, why it was latched onto, and when do we think these writers will move on?

Matt Davids

Salon 1 - Gateway Center
12:00 PM

Sunday

Through the Magic Door: The Appeal of Portal Fantasies

General

Who isn't intrigued by opening a door and stepping into a new world? Reincarnation into a new world and "heroes summoned" to a new world is popular in anime right now, as well. Why do we always want to find a secret fantastical world?

Kathryn Sullivan(M), Nick Butcher, Van Allen Plexico, Rich Horton

Salon 4 - Gateway Center
12:00 PM

New Trek, Who Dis?

Media

Paramount was very ambitious just a few years ago in their Star Trek expansions. What's even still happening? What has worked, didn't work, and should've worked if anyone actually had any taste?

Luke Smith(M), Mike Cole, Patrick Jones, Paul Hahn

Salon 6 - Gateway Center
12:00 PM

What Makes Artwork "SF"? or "Fantasy"?

Artist

Must it be illustrative, or can abstraction carry alternate realities, too? What keeps it out of the 'contemporary art' world? Is there a hard line? If so, is it based on content or style? Is the line softening? Is there 'mainstream' art which we ought to claim?

Jeremy Shipley(M), John Kaufmann, Jan Gephardt, Lucy Synk, Brent Chumley

Illini A - Gateway Center
12:00 PM

Questions from a Hat

Author - Fan

Attention attendees! Submit your burning questions for one of the writers on this panel at Con HQ! The moderator will ask these questions during the panel, along with along with taking supplemental audience questions.

Cole Lanahan(M), Brian Katcher, Esme Symes-Smith

Marquette B - Gateway Center
12:00 PM

Sunday

Facts in Fantasy

Author - Craft

Fantasy may permit nearly everything, but suspension of disbelief only goes so far. How do we make settings and phenomena seem real to the reader or viewer? What details can anchor an idea, and make the implausible seem more real?

Kasey Mackenzie(M), John Hornor Jacobs, Steven H Silver, Thomas Stratman

Marquette A - Gateway Center
12:00 PM

Art Demo with Snail Scott

Reading / Signing / Art Demo

Snail Scott

Fishbowl - Gateway Center
12:00 PM

1:00

Tin Filker Song Contest

Filk

Subject: Let Freedom Sing!
(The subject was announced 1 month before the con.)
Guidelines: Minimum 2 verses and a chorus or the equivalent

thereof. Entries may be performed by the songwriter or someone else, but the song's author must be present. Judged by the audience.

Mississippian - Gateway Center
1:00 PM

Slash Game Master Prep Time

General, Gaming

How to cut down the time needed to prepare tabletop role-playing game sessions.

Matt Davids

Salon 1 - Gateway Center
1:00 PM

Beyond Dungeons & Dragons

General

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

Nick Butcher(M), Zi Teng Wang, Douglas Ferguson

Salon 4 - Gateway Center
1:00 PM

Sunday

Accessorize and Personalize!

Costuming

What little elements do you include to make your costume your own or to make it stand out? Do you prefer to buy or make? What skills have you learned to improve elements that others might not even notice at first?

Pierre Pettinger, Sandy Pettinger, Snail Scott, Abigail Motl

Marquette B - Gateway Center
1:00 PM

2:00

Dead Dog Open Filk

Filk

Mississippian - Gateway Center
2:00 PM

Just Do It! A Guide to Getting Off Your Butt and Creating Something

General

We've all been there where you can't seem to get up and do anything. What can you do to turn this around and begin creating again? What if you still can't "just do it"?

Esme Symes-Smith(M), Jack Snyder, Michales Joy, Kasey Mackenzie, Abigail Motl

Salon 4 - Gateway Center
2:00 PM

The New Life of Doctor Who

Media

Let's talk about all things new Whovian. How is the new Doctor doing? What does the Fourteenth Doctor really mean to the series? The Thirteenth Doctor had a lot of criticism. Is the Fifteenth Doctor avoiding this?

Kathryn Sullivan(M), Douglas Ferguson, Mike Cole, Paul Hahn

Salon 6 - Gateway Center
2:00 PM

Attention Spans: Short and Easily Distracted

General

Due to heavy internet usage and the popularity of micro forms of entertainment, attentions spans have been getting shorter and shorter. How can this be turned around? What does this mean for those in the writing and entertainment industries?

Sunday

*Luke Smith, Sela Carsen, Mark
Tiedemann, Kathy Bailey (M)*

Marquette B - Gateway Center
2:00 PM

Art Demo with William Hodgson

Reading / Signing / Art Demo

William Hodgson

Fishbowl - Gateway Center
2:00 PM

3:00

Closing Ceremonies

GOH

Lasalle - Gateway Center
3:00 PM

Children's Programming

FRIDAY

Cardboard Minecraft Armor Contest

Children's Programming

Do you like MineCraft? Do you think you can craft that diamond armor in real life? Come make and show off your best armor, or even make yourself into a Creeper! (No real diamonds, just cardboard and your skills!)

Salon 5 - Gateway Center
3:00 PM

Live Action Duck Hunt

Children's Programming

Are you an expert marksman? Come show off your skills with a nerf gun and try and shoot as many ducks as you can. Be careful though, our dog will judge your shots.

Salon 5 - Gateway Center
4:00 PM

Live Action Angry Birds

Children's Programming

Come help vanquish the pigs and get the birds' eggs back.

Salon 5 - Gateway Center
5:00 PM

Rocket Time!

Children's Programming

Come build your own rocket and launch it!

Salon 5 - Gateway Center
6:00 PM

SATURDAY

Duct Tape Armor and Instant Costuming (Children's)

Children's Programming

Join us to make your own costume! Have fun bringing your own character to life by using your creativity.

Salon 5 - Gateway Center
10:00 AM

Cape and Mask Making

Children's Programming

Want to show off your super hero style? Come join us to make a cape or a mask!

Salon 5 - Gateway Center
11:00 AM

Boffer Sword Making & Fighting (Children's)

Children's Programming

Children's Programming

Join Children's Programming to make your own Boffer Sword (foam)! After making your own Boffer Sword, learn some real skills to use it!

Salon 5 - Gateway Center
12:00 PM

The Fourth Annual Greater Archon Children's Costume Extravaganza!!! (Trademark Pending) & Teen's Cosplay Contest

Children's Programming, Teen

Come show off your costume! PLEASE NOTE: Directly after the Children's costume extravaganza, the Teen's Cosplay Contest (ages 13 - 17) will be held. Please come sign up by 12:00 PM on Saturday for the Teen's Cosplay Contest, so we can have your name and costume information.

Salon 5 - Gateway Center
1:00 PM

Children's Programming Closed for Lunch

Children's Programming

Salon 5 - Gateway Center
2:00 PM

Choose Your Fighter!

Children's Programming

Come paint a miniature monster so you can join for a game later showing off your monster's looks and powers!

Salon 5 - Gateway Center
3:00 PM

Monster Battle Tower

Children's Programming

Come play a twist on Jenga! Each player will select a monster and battle other trainers trying to control a giant tower!

Salon 5 - Gateway Center
4:00 PM

Battle of the Beasts

Children's Programming

Bring your newly painted monster in for a game to show off their skills!

Salon 5 - Gateway Center
5:00 PM

The Case Files of the Mystery Monsters

Children's Programming

Calling all detectives! We need your help in identifying monsters

Children's Programming

that are running amok! Join us for this game where you use your artistic skills to sketch out the monster described to file a case report! (Come join us to play and learn to play MonsDRAWsity)

Salon 5 - Gateway Center
6:00 PM

One Night Ultimate Werewolf (Teens)

Children's Programming, Teen

Come play or learn to play Ultimate Werewolf! (13+) Please note, while adults are welcome to join, please keep the game PG-13!!!

Salon 5 - Gateway Center
6:00 PM

SUNDAY

Lego My Monster

Children's Programming

Are you good with Legos? Come show your skill and build monsters, towers, or people, oh my!

Salon 5 - Gateway Center
10:00 AM

Storytime with Debbie and Jessica

Children's Programming

Listen to stories & solve some puzzles with Debbie Manber Kupfer and Jessica Mathews.

Debbie Manber Kupfer, Jessica Mathews

Salon 5 - Gateway Center
11:00 AM

Honey I Shrank the Art!

Children's Programming

Come make your own shrink art!

Salon 5 - Gateway Center
12:00 PM

Gaming Hour

Children's Programming

Join us to play games from our selection, or bring your own to play with friends!

Salon 5 - Gateway Center
1:00 PM