

readercon 22 thursday program

All items fill a 60 minute program slot unless otherwise noted.

All items begin 5 minutes after the nominal time, but attendees are urged to arrive as promptly as possible. Panels end 5 minutes before the hour.

| Location Key | | | |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| E | Grand Ballroom Salon E (Bookshop) | ME | Maine/Connecticut |
| F | Grand Ballroom Salon F | NH | New Hampshire/Massachusetts |
| G | Grand Ballroom Salons G, H, I & J | VT | Vermont |
| Vin | Vineyard | RI | Rhode Island |

| Time | Panels | | Readings | | Special Panels, Discussions, Talks, Etc. | |
|---------|---|---|----------|--------|--|--|
| | Salon F | Salon G | NH / MA | VT | ME / CT | RI |
| 8:00 PM | Mastering the Puppets Amundsen, Clare, Crowley, Kowal, Malzberg | We All Produce, We All Consume Di Filippo, Files, Laity, Killheffer, Rubin | Longyear | Gunn | How to Write for a Living Isaak, Jablovkov, Krasnoff, Lawson, McGarry | How Body Structure Shapes Mind Collins |
| 8:30 PM | | | | Dubé | | |
| 9:00 PM | The Scott Meredith Literary Agency Hartwell, Malzberg, Van, Van Gelder | | Edelman | Kessel | Bookaholics Anonymous Dirda, Hunt, Pelland | Speculative Poetry Workshop Allen |
| 9:30 PM | | | Cooney | Cisco | | |

8:00 PM F **Mastering the Puppets.** Erik Amundsen, Gwendolyn Clare, John Crowley, Mary Robinette Kowal (leader), Barry N. Malzberg. Catherynne M. Valente uses the phrase “touching the puppets” as critical shorthand for protagonists—and, by extension, stories—interacting with fantastical elements rather than merely coexisting with them. Copious puppet-touching creates an inherently speculative story (e.g. *City of Saints and Madmen*), but plenty of stories with speculative settings succeed despite leaving the puppets relatively untouched (e.g. *Star Wars*, in which the droids could be people and the lightsabers could be swords without changing the story at all). What makes those stories work for speculative fiction audiences? What are the advantages and disadvantages to touching the puppets, and what drives an author to go one way or the other?

8:00 PM G **We All Produce, We All Consume.** Paul Di Filippo, Gemma Files, Robert Killheffer, K.A. Laity (leader), Jamie Todd Rubin. In a 2008 blog post, Leah Bobet connected the dots of increasing media interactivity and increasing independent authorship. Both trends have only escalated in the years since. When every blogger is an author, every commenter is a reviewer, and every work is assumed to be the start of a conversation, how does that change the experience and culture of reading? Was it ever possible to be a passive reader, or are we simply bringing our marginalia and book-flinging out into the light?

8:00 PM ME **How to Write for a Living When You Can't Live Off Your Fiction.** Elaine Isaak, Alexander Jablovkov, Barbara Krasnoff (leader), John Edward Lawson, Terry McGarry. You've just been laid off from your staff job, you can't live on the royalties from your fiction writing, and your significant other has taken a cut in pay. How do you pay the rent? Well, you can find freelance work writing articles, white papers, reviews, blogs, and other non-SFnal stuff. Despite today's lean journalistic market, it's still possible to make a living writing, editing, and/or publishing. Let's talk about where and how you can sell yourself as a professional writer, whether blogging can be done for a living, and how else you can use your talent to keep the wolf from the door. Bring whatever ideas, sources, and contacts you have.

8:00 PM RI **Animal or Alien: How Body Structure Shapes Mind.** *Helen Collins.* At Helen Collins's talk "Matter Over Mind" at Readercon 20, she contended that cognition is an effect of the physical structure of the host that embodies it. This talk will expand on that idea, focusing on anatomy and physiology rather than genes. Collins's approach melds hard science and anthropology, specifically the structure of the physical "body" in relation to the particular intelligence/consciousness that it generates. She will also discuss ways that the body/mind connection is treated by SF authors such as Slonczewski, Emshwiller, Miéville, Benford, and Kafka.

8:00 PM NH **Reading.** *Barry B. Longyear.* Longyear reads from *The Night*, the first book in the Confessions of a Confederate Vampire series.

8:00 PM VT **Reading.** *Eileen Gunn.* Gunn reads an untitled story about Samuel Clemens.

8:30 PM VT **Reading.** *Peter Dubé.* Dubé reads from a work not yet selected.

9:00 PM F **The Influence of the Scott Meredith Literary Agency.** *David G. Hartwell (leader), Barry N. Malzberg, Eric M. Van, Gordon Van Gelder.* Scott Meredith (1923-1993) founded a literary agency which is arguably one of the most influential—and controversial—in all of modern SF. Russell Galen, Barry Malzberg, and Richard Curtis among many others worked there, and clients at one time or another included Poul Anderson, J.G. Ballard, Marion Zimmer Bradley, Arthur C. Clarke, Philip K. Dick, Robert Silverberg, and Timothy Zahn. Can a literary agency really shape the development of a genre? What is the actual effect of the Meredith agency on the last half-century or so of science fiction and fantasy?

9:00 PM ME **Bookaholics Anonymous.** *Michael Dirda, Walter H. Hunt (leader), Jennifer Pelland.* The most controversial of all 12-step groups. Despite the appearance of self-approbation, despite the formal public proclamations by members that they find their behavior humiliating and intend to change it, this group, in fact, is alleged to secretly encourage its members to succumb to their addictions. The shame, in other words, is a sham. Within the subtext of the members' pathetic testimony, it is claimed, all the worst vices are covertly endorsed: book-buying, book-hoarding, book-stacking, book-sniffing, even book-reading. Could this be true? Come testify yourself! We especially encourage anyone new to Readercon to attend.

9:00 PM RI **Speculative Poetry Workshop.** *Mike Allen.* This is a basic workshop that challenges participants to write and share poems in various forms dealing with SF, fantasy, horror, and related topics.

9:00 PM NH **Reading.** *Scott Edelman.* Edelman reads "Things That Never Happened," a short story to be published in *Postscripts* magazine.

9:00 PM VT **Reading.** *John Kessel.* Kessel reads from a new novel tentatively entitled *Sunlight or Rock*, set in the same universe as the Lunar Quartet stories about the Society of Cousins.

9:30 PM NH **Reading.** *C.S.E. Cooney.* Cooney reads from *Jack o' the Hills*.

9:30 PM VT **Reading.** *Michael Cisco.* Cisco reads from a work not yet selected.