

READERCON 35

Program Guide

Guests of Honor:

P. Djèlí Clark and David Gerrold

Memorial Guest of Honor:

Mike Resnick

July 9-12, 2026

Boston Marriott Burlington

Burlington, MA

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Readercon is pleased to offer several audio support services this year.



Captioning will be offered on Friday through Sunday in Salon E, Salon A/B, Salon C/D, and Create/Collaborate.

The Neighborhood Developers of Chelsea, MA are donating the use of 15 assistive listening headsets that will be configured for Salon E for Friday through Sunday programs including the Guest of Honor Interviews, the Cordwainer Smith Rediscovery Award, and the Shirley Jackson Awards.



Arisia is donating the use of assistive listening headsets for the entire weekend.

These units will be configured to Salon A/B or Salon C/D for Friday through Sunday.

Ira Grollman is donating the use of a complete Listen WiFi system for the entire weekend. This system works with your cell phone, or you may borrow a receiver to go with your cochlear implant or hearing aid.



For detailed information about these systems or to arrange to borrow headsets and/or receivers, please e-mail accessibility@readercon.org or stop by the Accessibility Desk at-con .

READERCON35 • Burlington MA • July 9-12 2026

Thursday night programming is a free event!

Registration, Information, Accessibility, Con Suite, and Bookshop open on Friday.

Thu 8:00 PM 30 minutes

Envision / Enliven • **Reading: Richard Butner** •

Richard Butner

Solo Reading with Richard Butner

Thu 8:00 PM 30 minutes

Empower / Embrace • **Reading: Allan Dyen-Shapiro** •

Allan Dyen-Shapiro

Solo Reading with Allan Dyen-Shapiro

Thu 8:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon A/B • **Writing Horror in Horrifying Times** •

Terence Taylor (M), Gillian Daniels, Ian Muneshwar, Mike Allen, F. Brett Cox, Scott Edelman

From its opening in 1897 to its closing in 1962, the Théâtre du Grand-Guignol in Paris specialized in horror shows. In an interview conducted after its closure, its last director explained, "We could never compete with Buchenwald. Before the war, everyone believed that what happened on stage was purely imaginary; now we know that these things--and worse--are possible." How does one produce meaningful horror fiction when the tools feel blunted by reality? What elements of horror have retained their effectiveness in the face of daily headlines?

Thu 8:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon C/D • **Centering Arts & Culture in Alternate Histories** •

Alexander Jablovkov (M), R.W.W. Greene, Catt Kingsgrave, Greer Gilman, Rebecca Fraimow

Many alternate histories examine the ripple effects of worlds changed by a single shift in military fortune or the fate of an individual political figure, but the influence of our greatest authors, artists, and composers is no less compelling. What alternate timelines emerge when culture and the arts change course? What other realities are possible when we do not lose certain brilliant artists so young? How historically powerful could shifts in cultural tastes be, and how can the arts contribute to secret histories?

READERCON35 • Burlington MA • July 9-12 2026

Thu 8:30 PM 30 minutes

Envision / Enliven • **Reading: A. T. Greenblatt •**

A. T. Greenblatt

Solo Reading with A. T. Greenblatt

Thu 8:30 PM 30 minutes

Empower / Embrace • **Reading: Susan Stinson •**

Susan Stinson

Solo Reading with Susan Stinson

Thu 9:00 PM 60 minutes

Create / Collaborate • **The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas - Live! •**

Beto O'Byrne

Beto O'Byrne, theatremaker, spec fic writer, and cofounder of Radical Evolution's Street Theatre Crew, will present a staged reading and an in-process performance of their adaptation of the classic short story "The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas" by Ursula K. Le Guin. Following the performance will be brief feedback and discussion with the audience about the performance and its applicability in the modern moment.

Thu 9:00 PM 30 minutes

Empower / Embrace • **Reading: Ellen Kushner •**

Ellen Kushner

Solo Reading with Ellen Kushner

Thu 9:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon A/B • **Defining the Monstrous •**

Kit Sedia, Catt Kingsgrave, Mike Allen (M), F. Brett Cox, Gillian Daniels

From Grendel to the cultured medieval werewolf tales of Marie de France to the contemporary novels of John Wiswell, defining and understanding the monstrous has always been a task we set ourselves, alongside defining humanity itself. Who gets to decide what a monster is? How have these definitions changed and shifted? And what does it mean when the boundary between human and monster disappears entirely?

READERCON35 • Burlington MA • July 9-12 2026

Thu 9:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon C/D • **Spi-Fi: Secret Agents and Speculative Fiction** •

Tom Doyle (M), Elizabeth Bear, Kenneth Schneyer, Laurence Raphael Brothers, Marianna Martin

Spy fiction has long pushed the boundaries of the possible. From mind-control devices to flying and submersible cars, super computers to secret volcano lairs, spy-fi stories abound with elements of science fiction and fantasy. Panelists will discuss the many intersections between espionage fiction and SFF, from the sublime to the ridiculous. Where, if anywhere, is the dividing line?

Thu 9:30 PM 30 minutes

Envision / Enliven • **Reading: Caitlin Rozakis** •

Caitlin Rozakis

Solo Reading with Caitlin Rozakis

Thu 9:30 PM 30 minutes

Empower / Embrace • **Reading: LJ Cohen** •

LJ Cohen

Solo reading with LJ Cohen

Fri 10:00 AM Registration, Information, & Con Suite open

Fri 10:45 AM Accessibility opens

Fri 11:00 AM Quiet Room Opens

Fri 11:00 AM 30 minutes

Envision / Enliven • **Reading: Greer Gilman** •

Greer Gilman

Solo Reading with Greer Gilman

READERCON35 • Burlington MA • July 9-12 2026

Fri 11:00 AM 60 minutes

Create / Collaborate • **The Works of P. Djèlí Clark** •

Andrea Hairston, Tom Doyle, Victoria Janssen, Rob Cameron (M)

Our Guest of Honor P. Djèlí Clark rounded out his first decade as a published author with a Nebula and a Locus for his first fantasy police procedural novel, *The Master of Djinn*, and both of those awards plus a British Fantasy Award for his monster-hunting novella, *Ring Shout*. His short story "How to Raise a Kraken in Your Bathtub" took the Locus award. As a history professor at the University of Connecticut, he investigates the pathways leading from West African storyteller/poets (griots, aka djèlí) to the American abolitionist movement. Help us celebrate the works of our honored guest!

Fri 11:00 AM 30 minutes

Empower / Embrace • **Reading: Sunny Moraine** •

Sunny Moraine

Solo Reading with Sunny Moraine

Fri 11:00 AM 60 minutes

Salon A/B • **A Wake for the Paperback** •

Barbara Krasnoff, Karen Heuler, Paul Magnan, Gregory Feeley, F. Brett Cox (M)

Recently, one of the largest book distributors announced that they will no longer distribute mass market paperbacks. Covered in the *New York Times*, including a video interview with Stephen King, this development was immediately seen as the beginning of the end for the most prevalent publishing format in the world. Let's discuss the mass market paperback's history and influence, and wonder if, like the titular character of the song "Finnigan's Wake," it might rise from its deathbed and surprise us all.

Fri 11:00 AM 60 minutes

Salon C/D • **Finding Your Writing Posse** •

Rachel Gutin (M), E. C. Ambrose, Scott Edelman, A. T. Greenblatt, Bethany Powell

From your local critique group that meets in a coffee shop to national (and international) organizations like SFWA and RWA, there are writing peer communities and professional organizations on many scales offering many things to prospective members. But how do you find the right one(s) for you? What if you write in multiple genres or have just switched genres? This panel will discuss how to discover what's available and find your best fit.

READERCON35 • Burlington MA • July 9-12 2026

Fri 11:00 AM 60 minutes

Salon E • **AI Imaginarium In The Age of the Cybernetic Hot Mess** •

Lettie Prell, T.X. Watson, Marianna Martin (M), Benjamin Rosenbaum, David Gerrold

SF has often imagined computer intelligence as cool and rational, constrained by reason, and unable to grasp messy human emotion, evoking a dream of clean, perfected, comprehensible cognition. But deep learning has given us tools that act more like disinhibited, emotionally labile drunken bullshitters than cold lucid logicians. They are hot messes in various senses: overheated, seductive, porny, unreliable, algorithmically opaque, stochastically unpredictable. How will new fictions reimagine "computer people" when the computers we use most often have strayed so far from the hyper-rational?

Fri 11:30 AM 30 minutes

Envision / Enliven • **Reading: Kathleen Jennings** •

Kathleen Jennings

Kathleen Jennings reads short selections, including from a forthcoming novella.

Fri 11:30 AM 30 minutes

Empower / Embrace • **Reading: Scott Lynch** •

Scott Lynch

Solo Reading with Scott Lynch

Fri 12:00 – 1:00PM 60 minutes Bookshop is mask optional during dealer lunch break

Fri 12:00 PM 30 minutes

Envision / Enliven • **Reading: Gwynne Garfinkle** •

Gwynne Garfinkle

Solo Reading with Gwynne Garfinkle

READERCON35 • Burlington MA • July 9-12 2026

Fri 12:00 PM 60 minutes

Create / Collaborate • **Humorous Speculative Fiction Workshop** •

Sonja Ryst

Many authors live in fear of being unintentionally funny; humor writers live in fear of prose that is unfunny no matter how hard they try. This workshop will discuss strategies for telling jokes in speculative fiction, as well as ideas of markets where one can publish short humor pieces.

Fri 12:00 PM 30 minutes

Empower / Embrace • **Reading: Sonya Taaffe** •

Sonya Taaffe

Solo Reading with Sonya Taaffe

Fri 12:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon A/B • **Books that Fear the Reader** •

Kit Sedia, P. Djèlí Clark, W.B.J. Williams, Robert V.S. Redick, P. H. Low, Lark Morgan Lu (M)

More and more authors are tying themselves into knots trying to avoid writing anything that could get them deemed #problematic on social media. This is particularly common among marginalized authors, who are often more concerned with inclusivity than their counterparts—and also more likely to be harassed online. But a book that is afraid of offending the reader is also a book afraid of nuance. How has this trend affected storytelling, and how do we balance the desire to minimize harm with the responsibility to write honest stories?

Fri 12:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon C/D • **Alternate Apollo: The Fictional Space Race Goes On** •

Matthew Kressel, Tom Doyle (M), Romie Stott, R.W.W. Greene

Many writers have explored alternate visions of the Space Race, from the show "For All Mankind", where the Soviets beat the U.S. to the moon, to Mary Robinette Kowal's "Lady Astronaut" series, where the race starts a decade earlier out of planet-wide desperation. What attracts us to these (and other) reimagined Space Races, and what themes are they uniquely situated to explore?

FRADERCON35 • Burlington MA • July 9-12 2026

Fri 12:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon E • **How to Give a Great Reading** •

James Patrick Kelly, Catt Kingsgrave, Naseem Jamnia, Ellen Kushner, Laura Lee Bahr (M)

Many writers view public readings as nothing less than terrifying, but giving a dynamic and entertaining reading is a skill that can be learned. In this panel, we'll discuss how to think less about "reading" and more about "performance," and share other useful tips and stories. We'll discuss venue, audience, and some basic skills for bringing down the house at your next dramatic reading.

Fri 12:30 PM 30 minutes

Envision / Enliven • **Reading: Kenneth Schneyer** •

Kenneth Schneyer

Solo Reading with Kenneth Schneyer

Fri 12:30 PM 30 minutes

Empower / Embrace • **Reading: Elizabeth Bear** •

Elizabeth Bear

Solo Reading with Elizabeth Bear

Fri 1:00 PM 30 minutes

Envision / Enliven • **Reading: A.C. Wise** •

A.C. Wise

Solo Reading with A.C. Wise

Fri 1:00 PM 60 minutes

Create / Collaborate • **A Screening of Ugandan SFF Film Shorts** •

A screening of short SFF films by Ugandan author and filmmaker Dilman Dila, who will host a Q&A over Discord after the screening.

Fri 1:00 PM 60 minutes

Empower / Embrace • **Group Reading: Interdimensional Investigations** •

Sophia Babai, Benjamin Rosenbaum, Andrea Hairston

This group reading features a doggy detective investigating inter-dimensional murder, a grieving journalist investigating a village between life and death, and more.

READERCON35 • Burlington MA • July 9-12 2026

Fri 1:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon A/B • **Faux-Victorian Scientists in Fantasyland** •

Fran Wilde, Courtney Floyd, Elizabeth Porter Birdsall (M), David DeGraff, Shariann Lewitt

In a review of *A Letter From the Lonesome Shore* by Sylvie Cathrall, Abigail Nussbaum notes that it is part of a "recent trend for tales about cod-Victorian scientists in fantasyland (a group that includes Heather Fawcett's *Emily Wilde* series and Malka Older's *Mossa and Pleiti* novellas)." What's behind this trend and how does it approach the complicated legacy of the Victorian Era?

Fri 1:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon C/D • **Sports in Speculative Fiction** •

Claire Houck, Ian Strock, Victoria Janssen, Marianna Martin (M), Bethany Powell

Whether they feature as a minor world building detail or as the main attraction, sports can reveal a lot about the fictional worlds they inhabit...and about how well the author understands sports. Which fantasy and science-fictional sports feel the most and least plausible? Which sound like the most fun, either for the participants or for spectators? When you come across sports in a piece of speculative fiction, does it fill you with excitement or with dread?

Fri 1:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon E • **Beyond Treevenge: Environmental Justice Stories of Hope and Resistance** •

Romie Stott, Michael J. DeLuca, Marissa Lingen (M), Rob Cameron, A. T. Greenblatt

Fiyah, Reckoning, Solarpunk Magazine, Stelliform Press, Tractor Beam, SIEZE the Press, DreamForge, the new Eco24 anthology from Apex; the list goes on. New markets for ecological and progressive speculative fiction and poetry keep appearing, and given the state of the world and people's growing desperation for positive change, it's not hard to see why. Let's explore what drives this exploding field. How is art rebuilding our capacity to imagine optimistic futures?

Fri 1:30 PM 30 minutes

Envision / Enliven • **Reading: Ann LeBlanc** •

Ann LeBlanc

Solo Reading with Ann LeBlanc

READERCON35 • Burlington MA • July 9-12 2026

Fri 2:00 PM 30 minutes

Envision / Enliven • **Reading: John P Murphy** •

John P Murphy

Solo Reading with John P Murphy

Fri 2:00 PM 60 minutes

Hallway • **Autographs: David Gerrold** •

David Gerrold

Autograph session with Guest of Honor David Gerrold

Fri 2:00 PM 60 minutes

Hallway • **Autographs: Ellen Datlow** •

Ellen Datlow

Ellen Datlow signs autographs

Fri 2:00 PM 60 minutes

Create / Collaborate • **100 Years of Lud-in-the-Mist** •

Graham Sleight, Lila Garrott (M), The joey Zone, Sonya Taaffe, Greer Gilman, Casella Brookins

Lud-in-the-Mist was published 100 years ago, the last of three novels Hope Mirrlees would write. Reprinted without authorization in 1970 in the Ballantine fantasy series, Lud-in-the-Mist influenced many contemporary writers, such as Michael Swanwick and Elizabeth Hand. What power does this novel still hold today, and how did a once-forgotten work come to be so well-remembered?

Fri 2:00 PM 30 minutes

Empower / Embrace • **Reading: Anne E.G. Nydam** •

Anne E.G. Nydam

Anne E.G. Nydam reads from "Beyond Pomegranate & Thorns" her enchanting new collection of short stories, poems, and art inspired by and reimagining traditional fairy tales, classical myths, and other legends and folklore.

READERCON35 • Burlington MA • July 9-12 2026

Fri 2:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon A/B • **Secretly Brilliant Strategists** •

Caitlin Rozakis (M), Ian Strock, Elizabeth Porter Birdsall, Marissa Lingen, Julie C. Day

Ivan Vorpatril of Lois McMaster Bujold's Vorkosigan Saga is handsome and vacuous: a himbo. And yet, despite his seemingly unimpressive mental faculties, Ivan repeatedly makes good strategic choices—even when they don't initially appear to be. What do we love (or hate!) about characters whose intelligence is camouflaged? What do they do for their narratives that more obviously clever characters can't?

Fri 2:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon C/D • **Delany's "Trouble on Triton" at 50** •

Victoria Janssen (M), Elizabeth Bear, Gregory Feeley, Benjamin Rosenbaum

Samuel R. Delany's final SF novel "Trouble on Triton: an Ambiguous Heterotopia" was published in 1976, and remains a continued source of critical and popular discussion. Jo Walton noted that it is at heart a "personal is political" novel: interstellar war rages, but it is lives, not worlds, that are shaken. Very different from "Dhalgren" (published the year before) or the Nevèrÿon fantasy novels that came after, it takes direct aim at Ursula Le Guin's "The Dispossessed" ("an Ambiguous Utopia") in depicting a future full of possibilities and pitfalls.

Fri 2:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon E • **Fealty, Knights, and Imperialism** •

E. C. Ambrose, T.J. Wooldridge, Jessica Levai, Scott H. Andrews (M), Rebecca Fraimow

The fantasy of fealty, of the valiant swearing their allegiance to worthy rulers, seems diametrically opposed to the anti-imperialism that pervades modern SFF. As Alix E. Harrow put it last year, "What is a knight, other than the fiction that there's a throne worth kneeling to and a state worth killing for? What is a lady-knight, other than a sort of cringe lean-in feminism??" Is there more to the fantasy of knighthood, and of loyalty to one's rulers, than meets the skeptical eye?

Fri 2:00 PM 60 minutes

Suite 830 • **Kaffeeklatsch: Fran Wilde** •

Fran Wilde

Kaffeeklatsch with Fran Wilde

masking optional

FRADERCON35 • Burlington MA • July 9-12 2026

Fri 2:00 PM 60 minutes

masking optional

Suite 830 • **Kaffeeklatsch: Katherine Crighton** •

Katherine Crighton

Kaffeeklatsch with Katherine Crighton

Fri 2:30 PM 30 minutes

Envision / Enliven • **Reading: Karen Heuler** •

Karen Heuler

Solo Reading with Karen Heuler

Fri 2:30 PM 30 minutes

Empower / Embrace • **Reading: Tom Doyle** •

Tom Doyle

Solo Reading with Tom Doyle

Fri 3:00 PM Bookshop opens

Fri 3:00 PM 30 minutes

Envision / Enliven • **Reading: Jeff Hecht** •

Jeff Hecht

Solo Reading with Jeff Hecht

Fri 3:00 PM 60 minutes

Hallway • **Autographs: Cecilia Tan** •

Cecilia Tan

Cecilia Tan signs autographs

READERCON35 • Burlington MA • July 9-12 2026

Fri 3:00 PM 60 minutes

Create / Collaborate • **Writing from a POV that Hates You** •

Susan Stinson, Alexander Jablov (M), Andrea Hairston, Sally Wiener Grotta, Benjamin Rosenbaum

There can be a specific thrill in seeing the world through the eyes of a protagonist, antagonist or narrator who would recoil from someone like ourselves. It's also where some works fail: indulging in punching at a straw-man adversary can leave the reader dissatisfied. How do we navigate this arguably masochistic corner of the writer's toolbox?

Fri 3:00 PM 30 minutes

Empower / Embrace • **Reading: F. Brett Cox** •

F. Brett Cox

Solo Reading with F. Brett Cox

Fri 3:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon A/B • **The Power of Assigned Reading** •

A.C. Wise, Gregory Wilson, Rich Horton (M), Ian Muneshwar, Rebecca Fraimow

Whether in school or as the result of a friendship or a romance, most of us have found ourselves at one point or another reading a book (or a dozen) that we never would have picked up on our own, and being inspired in an entirely new way. What books never appealed to you, but left their marks anyway? Are there any you hated, but wish you could force everyone to read anyway? What can the act of assigning reading do for our adult relationships?

Fri 3:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon C/D • **Writing Cyberpunk Futures in Our Cyberpunk Present** •

Scott Lynch, Ann LeBlanc, Victor Manibo, R.W.W. Greene, Marianna Martin (M)

More than 40 years since the formulation of cyberpunk, many of the predictions that the genre made have come to pass. We now live, for all intents and purposes, in a cyberpunk dystopia. How has recently published cyberpunk reformulated the subgenre to respond to the present moment, how have marginalized authors updated its definition of itself, and where is cyberpunk going next?

FRADERCON35 • Burlington MA • July 9-12 2026

Fri 3:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon E • **The Fine Art of Short Story Editing** •

Neil Clarke, Claire Houck, Ellen Datlow, T.J. Wooldridge (M), Scott H. Andrews

From acquisition of original fiction, to working with authors on structural issues, to line editing, a short story editor has many roles in developing and publishing short stories. What are the secrets of giving truly useful feedback? What can you expect when you work with---or as---a short story editor? Is editing short stories as different from editing novels as the differences between writing the two? This panel will discuss such questions, and likely acquire, hone, ask, and answer even more.

Fri 3:00 PM 60 minutes

Suite 830 • **Kaffeeklatsch: Caitlin Rozakis** •

Caitlin Rozakis

Kaffeeklatsch with Caitlin Rozakis

masking optional

Fri 3:00 PM 60 minutes

Suite 830 • **Kaffeeklatsch: A. T. Greenblatt** •

A. T. Greenblatt

Kaffeeklatsch with A. T. Greenblatt

masking optional

Fri 3:30 PM 30 minutes

Envision / Enliven • **Reading: James Patrick Kelly** •

James Patrick Kelly

Solo Reading with James Patrick Kelly

Fri 3:30 PM 30 minutes

Empower / Embrace • **Reading: Corey Farrenkopf** •

Corey Farrenkopf

Solo Reading with Corey Farrenkopf

Fri 4:00 PM 30 minutes

Envision / Enliven • **Reading: Courtney Floyd** •

Courtney Floyd

Solo Reading with Courtney Floyd

READERCON35 • Burlington MA • July 9-12 2026

Fri 4:00 PM 60 minutes

Hallway • **Autographs: John Kessel** •

John Kessel

John Kessel signs autographs

Fri 4:00 PM 60 minutes

Hallway • **Autographs: Jessica Levai** •

Jessica Levai

Jessica Levai signs autographs

Fri 4:00 PM 60 minutes

Create / Collaborate • **Worlds with Recently Dead Gods** •

Rebecca Fraimow, Andrea Martinez Corbin (M), Gregory Wilson, Lyndsay Ely, Charles Allison

There has been a great proliferation in fantasy books where one, some, or all the gods have quite recently died, leaving everyone to reckon with the shape of the world they left behind. Is this subgenre a reaction to trends in society, or is its emergence at a time of growing secularization mere coincidence? How do such narratives allow us to explore faith, loss, authority, and the vertigo of having authority suddenly vanish?

Fri 4:00 PM 30 minutes

Empower / Embrace • **Reading: E. C. Ambrose** •

E. C. Ambrose

Solo Reading with E. C. Ambrose

Fri 4:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon A/B • **Classical Reception in Contemporary SFF** •

Alexander Jablokov, Tom Doyle, Sonja Ryst (M), Lila Garrott, Sonya Taaffe

Greco-Roman and especially classical Roman culture are alive and well in recent and current SFF, from the seemingly ubiquitous Imperium to the pastiche of Pliny the Younger that opens Kai Ashante Wilson's "The Sorcerer of the Wildeeps". Why do we keep reaching not only for the classics but for the classical? And why does it all feel so current?

READERCON35 • Burlington MA • July 9-12 2026

Fri 4:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon C/D • **The Influence of Alice in Wonderland on Speculative Fiction** •

W.B.J. Williams, The Joey Zone, Rachel Gutin (M), Anne E.G. Nydam, Greer Gilman

Lewis Carroll's Alice in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass have been a major influence and inspiration to generations of SFF authors and fans. They introduced us to logic, song parodies, puns and jokes, and, through Martin Gardner's "The Annotated Alice", to looking beneath and behind the text for old and new words, historical context, and other hidden treats. Join the panelists down the rabbit hole as they discuss Alice's influence, both personally, and on the wider body of SFF work.

Fri 4:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon E • **Fantasy Noir** •

Scott Lynch, Kathleen Jennings, Victoria Janssen, A.C. Wise (M), Laurence Raphael Brothers

Fantasy noir. We've all been relishing hopepunk in the past decade, and cozy is all the rage, but what keeps some of us reaching for the dark themes and frequent hopelessness that are the hallmarks of noir? There's plenty of great fantasy detectives if what you want is a good mystery—which are the standouts and hidden gems of fantasy noir, and who's defying expectations with some little rays of hope amidst their noir trappings?

Fri 4:00 PM 60 minutes

masking optional

Suite 830 • **Kaffeeklatsch: Daniel José Older** •

Daniel José Older

Kaffeeklatsch with Daniel José Older

Fri 4:00 PM 60 minutes

masking optional

Suite 830 • **Kaffeeklatsch: Arley Sorg** •

Arley Sorg

Kaffeeklatsch with Arley Sorg

Fri 4:30 PM 30 minutes

Envision / Enliven • **Reading: Fran Wilde** •

Fran Wilde

Solo Reading with Fran Wilde

FRADERCON35 • Burlington MA • July 9-12 2026

Fri 4:30 PM 30 minutes

Empower / Embrace • **Reading: John McNeil** •

John McNeil

Solo Reading with John McNeil

Fri 5:00 PM 30 minutes

Envision / Enliven • **Reading: Suzanne Palmer** •

Suzanne Palmer

Solo Reading with Suzanne Palmer

Fri 5:00 PM – 9:00PM 240 minutes

Create / Collaborate • **CLOSED FOR PRIVATE EVENT** •

Fri 5:00 PM 30 minutes

Empower / Embrace • **Reading: W.B.J. Williams** •

W.B.J. Williams

Solo Reading with W.B.J. Williams

Fri 5:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon A/B • **Writing Big Ideas Without Being Preachy** •

Andrea Martinez Corbin (M), Victor Manibo, P. Djèlí Clark, Michael J. DeLuca, Matthew Kressel

Science fiction is well-equipped to explore ethics, morals, and consequences not by telling readers what to think, but by letting them experience consequences with the characters. But the temptation to install a soapbox in the setting can be hard to resist. This panel will look at how writers can build stories that explore big questions about power, responsibility, identity, justice, and harm without being either prescriptive or sanctimonious, and share some of our favorite examples.

FRADERCON35 • Burlington MA • July 9-12 2026

Fri 5:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon C/D • **Converting Games to Stories** •

T.J. Wooldridge, Caitlin Rozakis, Lyndsay Ely, Benjamin Rosenbaum, Noah Beit-Aharon (M)

From IP work to the GM-to-author pipeline, there is no shortage of novels and novelists turning games into novels and series. What are the joys and challenges of adapting a game to print? Who are the masters of this art, and what can they teach us about turning gameplay into narrative?

Fri 5:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon E • **Writing in Conversation with our Ancestors & Heritage** •

Naseem Jamnia, Rob Cameron, Catt Kingsgrave, Sally Wiener Grotta (M), Andrea Hairston

Most authors write works inspired or influenced in some way by their cultural heritages. What are the joys and perils of writing in conversation with one's ancestors? Surely, we can misunderstand our forebears as badly as they would have misunderstood us; how does one contend with that reality? Do our ancestors and their stories belong to us, or we to them?

Fri 5:00 PM 60 minutes

masking optional

Suite 830 • **Kaffeeklatsch: Elizabeth Bear** •

Elizabeth Bear

Kaffeeklatsch with Elizabeth Bear

Fri 5:00 PM 60 minutes

masking optional

Suite 830 • **Kaffeeklatsch: Ellen Datlow** •

Ellen Datlow

Kaffeeklatsch with Ellen Datlow

Fri 5:30 PM 30 minutes

Envision / Enliven • **Reading: T.X. Watson** •

T.X. Watson

Solo Reading with T.X. Watson

READERCON35 • Burlington MA • July 9-12 2026

Fri 5:30 PM 30 minutes

Empower / Embrace • **Reading: Shariann Lewitt** •

Shariann Lewitt

Solo reading with Shariann Lewitt

Fri 6:00 PM Registration and Information close

Fri 6:00 PM – 9:00PM Con Suite sponsored by House of Toast

Fri 6:00 PM 30 minutes

Envision / Enliven • **Reading: Laurence Raphael Brothers** •

Laurence Raphael Brothers

Solo Reading with Laurence Raphael Brothers

Fri 6:00 PM 30 minutes

Empower / Embrace • **Reading: Daniel José Older** •

Daniel José Older

Solo Reading with Daniel José Older

Fri 6:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon A/B • **Lois, Megan, and Tammy; Miles, Gen, and Alanna** •

Victoria Janssen, Kate Nepveu (M), Bethany Powell, Sophia Babai, Marissa Lingen

Fans of Lois McMaster Bujold often speak of both Megan Whalen Turner and Tamora Pierce in the same breath, saying their writing and characterization feel the same, that these women are writing in the same vein, scratching the same itch for their readers. Why are these writers being grouped together by fans? How are their works in conversation with each other? Are there additional authors and series that belong on the same list?

READERCON35 • Burlington MA • July 9-12 2026

Fri 6:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon C/D • **How to Create a Compelling Audio Drama** •

Courtney Floyd (M), Beto O'Byrne, Sunny Moraine

Radio dramas have seen a resurgence in popularity in recent years, and since podcast and audio technology have only improved, there seems to be no slowing down. Speculative fiction has a grand history with radio dramas, so how do we go about creating new dramas? Why does the BBC seem to have mastered this art form? What kind of mics and recording software do you use? Join us as we discuss every element that goes into making your own radio drama: writing, sound, casting, directing, editing, and distribution.

Fri 6:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon E • **Comfort Reads: Not Always Cozy** •

Sacha Lamb, Sam Wilket (M), Rachel Gutin, P. H. Low, A. T. Greenblatt

Comfort reads are very personal, as one person's comfort read may keep another up at night, but what are some hallmarks of a comfort read, and how can we recognize when we need one? The panel will discuss re-reading for comfort and pleasure, both of individual books and of entire series, what else we derive from such reading besides comfort, and how to find a personal comfort read.

Fri 6:00 PM 60 minutes

Suite 830 • **Kaffeeklatsch: Anne E.G. Nydam** •

Anne E.G. Nydam

Kaffeeklatsch with Anne E.G. Nydam

masking optional

Fri 6:00 PM 60 minutes

Suite 830 • **Kaffeeklatsch: Robert V.S. Redick** •

Robert V.S. Redick

Mask-optional kaffeeklatsch with Robert V.S. Redick

masking optional

Fri 6:30 PM 30 minutes

Envision / Enliven • **Reading: Terence Taylor** •

Terence Taylor

Solo Reading with Terence Taylor

READERCON35 • Burlington MA • July 9-12 2026

Fri 6:30 PM 30 minutes

Empower / Embrace • **Reading: Paul Magnan** •

Paul Magnan

Solo Reading with Paul Magnan

Fri 7:00 PM Bookshop Closes

Fri 7:00 PM 30 minutes

Envision / Enliven • **Reading: Robert V.S. Redick** •

Robert V.S. Redick

Solo reading with Robert V.S. Redick

Fri 7:00 PM 60 minutes

Empower / Embrace • **We Demand Stories on U.S. Policy** •

Rob Cameron

We Demand Stories is Brooklyn Speculative Fiction Writers' limited series salon. AI, eco-fiction, near future space exploration, post-Tolkien (postcolonial) world building, and death: BSFW takes on these topics and more with writers and academics who can broaden our understanding beyond the fear-driven news feed. After very brief readings from panelists, this salon invites the audience to join in a uniquely formatted conversation about U.S. policy, and the stories we want to tell that take us beyond the fear and into the speculative.

Fri 7:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon A/B • **Building Inclusive Worlds** •

Naseem Jamnia

While all genres must build out the worlds of their stories, "worldbuilding" is often considered in the wheelhouse of speculative fiction. Because speculative fiction gives us opportunities to build worlds from scratch, writers have the chance to create something more than a carbon-copy of our world — which means we can challenge the values and assumptions that govern our world by creating not only a different one, but a better one. Inclusive worldbuilding thinks through the history and role of power structures within that world to challenge the assumptions we may be importing from our world. This talk discusses primary and secondary worlds both and is friendly for beginner and seasoned writers alike; attendees will be given a handout with exercises and questions to challenge and expand their own worldbuilding.

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Fri 7:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon C/D • **Generative vs Depressive Criticism** •

Lila Garrott, Gregory Wilson, Katherine Karch, E. C. Ambrose (M), T.J. Wooldridge

Sometimes, criticism can drive a creative urge: to answer, clarify, do better, or show the critics just how wrong they are. Other times, criticism has pushed authors to quit, retreat, shift to other media, or otherwise escape. How much of the difference is accounted for by the differences between authors and how much by the differences between critiques? Is there a way to become the kind of author who rises to a challenge?

Fri 7:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon E • **Why "Morally Gray" Characters Get All the Love** •

Sunny Moraine, P. Djèlí Clark, Sonya Taaffe, Elizabeth Bear, Melissa Caruso (M)

Why is everyone so in love with "morally gray" characters now? Are we seeking to understand the complexity of the human soul, escape hero/villain stereotyping, or is it something else? Are morally gray characters really more interesting to write and read, or has moral clarity simply gone out of vogue? Is a morally gray character just a villain with a redemption arc?

Fri 7:30 PM 30 minutes

Envision / Enliven • **Reading: Will McMahon** •

Will McMahon

Solo Reading with Will McMahon

Fri 8:00 PM 30 minutes

Envision / Enliven • **Reading: Michael J. DeLuca** •

Michael J. DeLuca

Solo Reading with Michael J. DeLuca

FRADERCON35 • Burlington MA • July 9-12 2026

Fri 8:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon A/B • **"I Have This Nifty Idea," 25 Years Later** •

W.B.J. Williams (M), LJ Cohen, Sarah Smith, Jeff Hecht

This panel will take a fresh look at Mike Resnick's 2001 anthology of advice to authors, "I Have This Nifty Idea...Now What Do I Do with It?" on how to go from idea to published story. What's no longer relevant? What has stood the test of time? What new advice needs to be added, and how have works published this century changed our ideas about writing?

Fri 8:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon C/D • **Very Good Dogs In Speculative Fiction** •

Caitlin Rozakis, Graham Sleight (M), Melissa Caruso, Andrea Hairston

Let's celebrate the many very good dogs in speculative fiction, and the roles they play: companion, conscience, comic relief, and hero. Which authors need more training, which are Best in Show, and what does it take these days to get rated a fourteen-out-of-ten?

Fri 8:15 PM Accessibility closes

Fri 8:30 PM 30 minutes

Envision / Enliven • **Reading: Amy L. Bernstein** •

Amy L. Bernstein

Solo reading with Amy L. Bernstein

Fri 8:30 PM 30 minutes

Empower / Embrace • **Reading: Barbara Krasnoff** •

Barbara Krasnoff

Solo Reading with Barbara Krasnoff

Fri 9:45PM Accessibility re-opens

Fri 10:00 PM Quiet Room Closes

READERCON35 • Burlington MA • July 9-12 2026

Fri 10:00 PM 15 minutes

Salon E • **Cordwainer Smith Rediscovery Award** •

The *Cordwainer Smith Rediscovery Award* honors underread science fiction and fantasy authors, with the intention of drawing renewed attention to the winners.

Fri 10:15 PM 60 minutes

masking optional

Salon E • **Meet the Pros(e) Party** •

The Friday night Meet the Pros(e) party is an annual event where attendees are seated at tables with equal numbers of program participants (pros) and regular attendees and get to chat and meet new people, until the tables rotate and you meet a new crowd. It's like low pressure small-group speed dating, and it's a great way to meet your fellow conference-goers without being put on the spot.

Fri 10:30 PM Accessibility closes

Fri MIDNIGHT Con Suite closes

Sat 8:30 AM Con Suite opens

Sat 9:00 AM Registration and Information open

Sat 9:45 AM Accessibility opens

Sat 10:00 AM Bookshop and Quiet Room open

Sat 10:00 AM 120 minutes

Envision / Enliven • **Speculative Poetry Open Mic** •

Romie Stott (M)

An open mic for speculative poetry, hosted by Strange Horizons senior poetry editor Romie Stott.

READERCON35 • Burlington MA • July 9-12 2026

Sat 10:00 AM 60 minutes

Create / Collaborate • **The Saga of Blood Marmalade: Why (and How!) to Do Weird Research** •

Katherine Crichton

Advice for finding and referencing primary source materials is typically reserved for academics, journalists, and the occasional historical fiction author. But it's a skill that every reader should consider cultivating, if only to combat an over-reliance on the "first page of Google" and to avoid AI-slop-filled sites when fact-checking news, education, or entertainment. This slideshow presentation provides a real-life example of a search for a 17th-century recipe for "blood marmalade", how it was done, and what was revealed about trusting sources in the digital age.

Sat 10:00 AM 60 minutes

Empower / Embrace • **Reading: David Gerrold** •

David Gerrold

Guest of Honor David Gerrold reads a selection of his works.

Sat 10:00 AM 60 minutes

Salon A/B • **The Rise of Cozy Fiction** •

A.C. Wise (M), John P Murphy, Rachel Gutin, Victoria Janssen, Meredith Schwartz

Cozy fiction, like romantasy, is developing as a genre niche, but also like romantasy, not without controversy and debate. But what makes fiction cozy? Is it a lack of plot?

Quirky characters? Is cozy expanding beyond its traditional home in mystery? If so, is that OK? There are some who claim that a cozy book will read the same whether or not the reader has encountered spoilers. Are cozy books the equivalent of comfort reads?

And who are cozy fiction readers, anyway?

Sat 10:00 AM 60 minutes

Salon C/D • **Keeping Your Love Alive to the Nth Draft** •

Caitlin Rozakis, Naseem Jamnia, Sally Wiener Grotta (M), Claire Houck, Delia Sherman

You've finished your novel, but it needs at least one more edit to make sure your characters, plot, and dialog are dynamic, and your prose sings. However, catching your own writing tics, plot holes, trite descriptions, or other problems requires forcing yourself to see your work anew – or maybe hiring an editor to help you do so. Our panel of prose-hardened pros discuss what they do when tackling a manuscript for the nth time so they can edit it with fresh eyes and make it the best it can be.

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Sat 10:00 AM 60 minutes

Salon E • **Is "Science" Fiction Just a Metaphor?** •

Andrea Kriz, Kenneth Schneyer, Casella Brookins (M), Will McMahon, Lettie Prell

Early science fiction writers promoted the genre as rational projection, extrapolating from science and history to consider what the future might be like. But all along there were stories that used spaceships, time travel, and other planets simply to produce interesting settings and premises without regard for science or plausibility. Much of contemporary SF seems to take the latter approach — is this a problem, or an opportunity? Has science fiction become simply a set of tropes that writers can use for any purpose? Is this any different than it has ever been?

Sat 10:00 AM 60 minutes

masking optional

Suite 830 • **Kaffeeklatsch: Kathleen Jennings** •

Kathleen Jennings

Kaffeeklatsch with Kathleen Jennings.

Sat 10:00 AM 60 minutes

masking optional

Suite 830 • **Kaffeeklatsch: Mike Allen** •

Mike Allen

Kaffeeklatsch with Mike Allen

Sat 11:00 AM 60 minutes

Create / Collaborate • **SFF Spanning Cycles of History** •

Elizabeth Porter Birdsall, Rich Horton, Kenneth Schneyer (M), Graham Sleight, Sarah Smith

There was a time when SFF narratives spanning whole historical cycles, such as *Foundation*, *A Canticle for Leibowitz*, and the *Dragonriders of Pern*, allowed readers to follow whole civilizations as characters, watching as situations go from current and urgent to historicized and mythologized and become the cultural context for new urgent problems and events. Has this style of storytelling become less popular, and if so, why? What challenges and opportunities do such longitudinal narratives offer?

READERCON35 • Burlington MA • July 9-12 2026

Sat 11:00 AM 30 minutes

Empower / Embrace • **Reading: Gregory Wilson** •

Gregory Wilson

Solo Reading with Gregory Wilson

Sat 11:00 AM 60 minutes

Salon A/B • **With Glowing Hearts: Canada in SFF** •

Sam Wilket (M), Dave Ring, A.C. Wise, Marianna Martin

A discussion of distinctly Canadian tropes, locations, and themes in SFF works by both Canadian authors and others. From the reality of the Space Shuttle's robotic Canadarm to the fictional Vancouver shipping yards of Gibson's Spook Country, and on to purely speculative realms, what do Canadian landscapes and identities inspire in and contribute to genre fiction?

Sat 11:00 AM 60 minutes

Salon C/D • **Clarkesworld Turns 20!** •

Neil Clarke, Suzanne Palmer, James Patrick Kelly, Lettie Prell, A. T. Greenblatt (M)

Clarkesworld Magazine turns 20 this year, and its story began right here at Readercon, at a Meet the Pros(e) party! An early innovator in digital distribution, Clarkesworld is still shaping and influencing the field today. Help us celebrate Clarkesworld and the many authors it has published!

Sat 11:00 AM 60 minutes

Salon E • **Beyond Coming of Age: Cultural Narratives Around Aging & Surviving** •

P. H. Low (M), Melissa Caruso, Susan Stinson, Ellen Kushner, Meredith Schwartz

In *Old Enough to Become the Villain: Contemporary Narratives Around Growing Up*, P.H. Low talks about the harms resulting from the sharp cultural divide between "child" and "grown-up", especially for marginalized kids: "You age straight out of shame into villainy, and the gates of the story clang shut behind you, and you know in your bones you'll never be allowed back in". What stories allow their adult characters the kind of play and freedom traditionally reserved to children? What stories celebrate their adult characters for growing into middle age?

FRADERCON35 • Burlington MA • July 9-12 2026

Sat 11:00 AM 60 minutes

masking optional

Suite 830 • **Kaffeeklatsch: John Kessel** •

John Kessel

Kaffeeklatsch with John Kessel

Sat 11:00 AM 60 minutes

masking optional

Suite 830 • **Kaffeeklatsch: Jessica Levai** •

Jessica Levai

Kaffeeklatsch with Jessica Levai

Sat 11:30 AM 30 minutes

Empower / Embrace • **Reading: Mike Allen** •

Mike Allen

Solo Reading with Mike Allen

Sat 12:00 – 1:00PM 60 minutes Bookshop is mask optional during dealer lunch break

Sat 12:00 PM 60 minutes

Envision / Enliven • **Group Reading: Ayala, Granades, Huang, Low, Veohongs** •

K.M. Veohongs, Ash Huang, Stephen Granade, V. M. Ayala, P. H. Low

Group reading with authors V.M. Ayala, Stephen Granade, Ash Huang, P.H. Low, and K.M. Veohongs.

Sat 12:00 PM 60 minutes

Create / Collaborate • **Building a Seven Stories Mountain** •

Kate Nepveu, Rich Horton, R.W.W. Greene (M), Katherine Karch, Graham Sleight

Powerful, literary aliens, flattered by our interest in worlds not our own, show up in Earth orbit and demand we choose seven spec-fic books that represent honestly the pros and cons of humans as a species. Lies, omissions, and puffery will be met with extermination. What list of essential (existential!) reading will this panel generate, and what will that list say about how we see ourselves?

READERCON35 • Burlington MA • July 9-12 2026

Sat 12:00 PM 30 minutes

Empower / Embrace • **Reading: Sally Wiener Grotta** •

Sally Wiener Grotta

Sally Wiener Grotta reads from her new non-linear novel-in-progress. In this generational magical-realist work, a family of women, based on biblical women who traditionally had little or no voice, learn to speak out during key moments in U.S. sociopolitical history 1868-1999, guided by a rug woven by Eve.

Sat 12:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon A/B • **Scientific Breakthroughs and Science Fiction** •

Katherine Crichton, Andrea Kriz, Laurence Raphael Brothers (M), David DeGraff, Arula Ratnakar

How does science and engineering progress actually work? What kinds of breakthroughs lead to paradigm shifts, and how do they transform society? From Thomas Kuhn and "The Structure of Scientific Revolutions" to the seemingly inevitable tragedy of enshittification, this panel will explore what makes sense in science fiction futurism as well as what's fun to read and write about.

Sat 12:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon C/D • **Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Sex Writing But Were Afraid to Ask** •

Kit Sedia, Marianna Martin (M), Victoria Janssen, Claire Houck, Meredith Schwartz

Is it difficult to write about sex, or are we just overthinking it? Do you balk at writing (or reading?) sex scenes, and skip over them entirely? Why or why not? There is an annual "Bad Sex Writing" list, that nobody wants to find themselves on - why is it so easy to get one of our basic needs so wrong, and how do we get it right? How do we avoid being cheesy or salacious? Or are those the qualities we need to lean into? Don't be embarrassed. Join us for a frank, adult discussion on a vital subject.

FRADERCON35 • Burlington MA • July 9-12 2026

Sat 12:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon E • **Writing Horror in Horrifying Times (2)** •

Michael Cisco, Corey Farrenkopf (M), Sophia Babai, Victor Manibo, Julie C. Day, Sunny Moraine

From its opening in 1897 to its closing in 1962, the Théâtre du Grand-Guignol in Paris specialized in horror shows. In an interview conducted after its closure, its last director explained, "We could never compete with Buchenwald. Before the war, everyone believed that what happened on stage was purely imaginary; now we know that these things--and worse--are possible." How does one produce meaningful horror fiction when the tools feel blunted by reality? What elements of horror have retained their effectiveness in the face of daily headlines?

Sat 12:00 PM 60 minutes

masking optional

Suite 830 • **Kaffeeklatsch: T.J. Wooldridge** •

T.J. Wooldridge

Kaffeeklatsch with T.J. Wooldridge

Sat 12:00 PM 60 minutes

masking optional

Suite 830 • **Kaffeeklatsch: Marissa Lingen** •

Marissa Lingen

Kaffeeklatsch with Marissa Lingen

Sat 12:30 PM 30 minutes

Empower / Embrace • **Reading: Andrew Hudson** •

Andrew Hudson

Andrew Hudson reads from his speculative detective novel, "Absence".

Sat 1:00 PM 30 minutes

Envision / Enliven • **Reading: Matthew Kressel** •

Matthew Kressel

Solo Reading with Matthew Kressel

READERCON35 • Burlington MA • July 9-12 2026

Sat 1:00 PM 60 minutes

Create / Collaborate • **Rules Were Made to be Broken** •

Ian Strock, Gregory Wilson, Robert V.S. Redick, Kathleen Jennings, Bethany Powell (M), Serena Straus

Social and legal structures are an essential part of world-building: neither authors nor characters can break the rules until they've been made. Societies need a legal foundation, and creating a plausible one can be a key component of writing compelling and credible stories. Panelists will discuss how to create social and legal structures, how much of this is on the page (and why), and how breaking the rules can create story beats that keep readers turning pages.

Sat 1:00 PM 120 minutes

Empower / Embrace • **Flash Fiction Open Mic** •

Terence Taylor (M)

An open mic for fiction under 1,000 words. Come to read your own work, or to hear others read theirs!

Sat 1:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon A/B • **Newer Venues for Speculative Criticism** •

Will McMahon, Michael J. DeLuca, Sonja Ryst (M), John McNeil, Casella Brookins

In last year's panel, "Nice Review You've Got There..." panelists discussed the dangers of publishing negative reviews and even balanced criticism, as ill-behaved authors and rabid fans create powerful disincentives to discuss flaws in new works. Nonetheless, there are numerous great venues for honest reviews, including many newer ones you may not have heard of! Let's talk about these younger venues, what makes them great, and what they say about speculative fiction's continued commitment to cultural criticism.

Sat 1:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon C/D • **The Bog Body Motif in Trans SFF** •

dave ring (M), Ann LeBlanc, Sonya Taaffe

Izzy Wasserstein's poem, "Come Back Wrong" (Strange Horizons, May 5, 2025), examines medical transition, drawing parallels with the transformation of sacrificial bodies tossed into acidic bog soils and left there for centuries to tan to leather. The bog body motif seems to pop up again and again in queer and especially trans SFF stories, songs, and games. Why? What is so appealing about the bog body as a metaphor, and what does the repeated use of this imagery indicate about the times we live in?

READERCON35 • Burlington MA • July 9-12 2026

Sat 1:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon E • **Machine Learning and AI Stigma** •

Lark Morgan Lu, James Patrick Kelly, John P Murphy, Alexander Jablovkov (M)

Machine learning, the basis for most fictional artificial intelligence prior to this decade, has borne many fruits in diverse fields. What distinguishes this broader field from the more specific large models that we have come to identify with "AI?" What can authors disillusioned with the LLM version of AI still appreciate about machine learning, and perhaps incorporate in their fiction?

Sat 1:00 PM 60 minutes

Suite 830 • **Kaffeeklatsch: Suzanne Palmer** •

Suzanne Palmer

Kaffeeklatsch with Suzanne Palmer

masking optional

Sat 1:00 PM 60 minutes

Suite 830 • **Kaffeeklatsch: Neil Clarke** •

Neil Clarke

Kaffeeklatsch with Neil Clarke

masking optional

Sat 1:30 PM 30 minutes

Envision / Enliven • **Reading: John Kessel** •

John Kessel

Solo Reading with John Kessel

Sat 2:00 PM 30 minutes

Envision / Enliven • **Reading: Andrea Hairston** •

Andrea Hairston

Solo Reading with Andrea Hairston

READERCON35 • Burlington MA • July 9-12 2026

Sat 2:00 PM 60 minutes

Create / Collaborate • **The Sword of the Lyctor** •

Graham Sleight

Tamsyn Muir's Locked Tomb series has provoked much discussion, both online and here at Readercon. There are still many unanswered questions, though; in this solo talk, critic Graham Sleight will try to address some of them. What might happen in Alecto the Ninth? How many Homestuck references is too many? Is Muir critiquing The Book of the New Sun? Expect spoilers for the series so far, wild speculations, and, of course, dad-jokes.

Sat 2:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon A/B • **Subliminal Cultural Artifacts** •

Lila Garrett, Katherine Crichton, Naseem Jamnia (M), Will McMahon, Noah Beit-Aharon

It is said that the big three questions of media analysis are: 1) what did the creator(s) want to say, 2) what did they actually say, and 3) what didn't they know they were saying? While the latter question often focuses on things such as unintentional gay subtext, there is a broader conversation to be had about how societal norms, biases, ideals, and more slip unexamined onto the page. What are we missing?

Sat 2:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon C/D • **Literary Cannibalism** •

Charles Allison, Lark Morgan Lu (M), Sunny Moraine, Jessica Levai, Gillian Daniels

In Tender Is the Flesh-Eating: The Literary Cannibal as Exploitation and Desire, Wen-yi Lee asks, "What's up with all the cannibals right now?" and suggests that "cannibalism is the perfect mechanism to explore different wants to possess a body: be it wanting to exploit, wanting to enact revenge, or wanting as loving desire." Let's discuss the literary cannibal, and what stories about very literally consuming each other accomplish.

Sat 2:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon E • **Building a Writing Life With a Day Job and a Family** •

Gregory Wilson, Lyndsay Ely, Rob Cameron, Arley Sorg, A. T. Greenblatt (M)

Writing with a full-time job and a busy household requires planning. Your creative life must survive competing schedules, fatigue, and interruptions. What are some practical, sustainable strategies for keeping your writing life on track without burning out or turning writing into another source of guilt? Having a martyred spouse doesn't count!

READERCON35 • Burlington MA • July 9-12 2026

Sat 2:00 PM 60 minutes

masking optional

Suite 830 • **Kaffeeklatsch: R.W.W. Greene •**

R.W.W. Greene

Kaffeeklatsch with R.W.W. Greene

Sat 2:00 PM 60 minutes

masking optional

Suite 830 • **Kaffeeklatsch: Scott H. Andrews •**

Scott H. Andrews

Kaffeeklatsch with Scott H. Andrews

Sat 2:30 PM 90 minutes

Envision / Enliven • **Broad Universe Rapid-Fire Reading •**

Anne E.G. Nydam, Sarah Smith, T.J. Wooldridge, BrightFlame, E. C. Ambrose (M), Sarena Straus, Romie Stott, LJ Cohen, J.Z. Weston, Marianna Martin

Broad Universe creators read excerpts from their works. Broad Universe (broaduniverse.org) promotes, encourages, honors, and celebrates women and historically excluded and marginalized genders creating speculative fiction.

Sat 3:00 PM 60 minutes

Hallway • **Autographs: Suzanne Palmer •**

Suzanne Palmer

Suzanne Palmer signs autographs

Sat 3:00 PM 60 minutes

Hallway • **Autographs: Andrea Hairston •**

Andrea Hairston

Andrea Hairston signs autographs

READERCON35 • Burlington MA • July 9-12 2026

Sat 3:00 PM 60 minutes

Create / Collaborate • **Presentation Critique Session: "Welcome Our Robot Overlords"** •

James Patrick Kelly

Readercon 19 Guest of Honor James Patrick Kelly gives a shortened version of his presentation, "Welcome Our Robot Overlords: Living with AI," about how science fiction has shaped our view of robots and AI, with a hard look at the state of AI right now. Attendees are invited to comment on and critique this presentation, with an eye toward its improvement.

Sat 3:00 PM 30 minutes

Empower / Embrace • **Ask the Spirits!** •

Laura Lee Bahr

With a reading from her soon to be release Gothic Historical Fiction novel, "The Knocking", Laura Lee Bahr will break the veil between the world of literature and mediums.

Sat 3:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon A/B • **Bugs, Newts, and Robots: the Fiction of Karel Capek** •

John Kessel, Tom Doyle (M), Kit Sedia, F. Brett Cox

The Czech writer Karel Capek (1890-1938) is remembered today for his invention of the word "robot" from his play "R.U.R." (Rossum's Universal Robots). An outspoken anti-fascist, he was one of the most original and playful writers of speculative fiction of the 20th century, a precursor to the politically and socially engaged SF written by Kurt Vonnegut and Stanislaw Lem. This panel will look at Capek's career and works, and discuss his relevance to our current politically fraught times. What can today's writers learn from his approach?

READERCON35 • Burlington MA • July 9-12 2026

Sat 3:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon C/D • **Games as Historical Arguments** •

Katherine Crichton, Ann LeBlanc, Benjamin Rosenbaum, Charles Allison (M)

Through their mechanics, history-based games make arguments about which of the forces that drive world events are in some sense controllable, and to what extent the consequences are predictable. In Autumn Chen's Weimar-era sim "Social Democracy: An Alternate History", there's more than one strategy to keep Hitler from power, each with its own pitfalls. Which games make the most coherent historical arguments, which fall flat, and how do they inform the way we view both the past and our present moment?

Sat 3:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon E • **Fighting for the Freedom to Read** •

Bethany Powell, Allan Dyen-Shapiro, Naseem Jamnia (M), Deborah Caldwell-Stone, Jessica Levai

Continuing the conversation from last year's panel on book bans, this panel will discuss recent developments in the fight against censorious authoritarianism and in favor of freedom-to-read policies. Most banned books never benefit from the "Streisand Effect," no matter what people would like to believe. How can authors, publishers, and readers protect our schools, libraries, and each other from motivated bad actors?

Sat 3:00 PM 60 minutes

masking optional

Suite 830 • **Kaffeeklatsch: Scott Edelman** •

Scott Edelman

Kaffeeklatsch with Scott Edelman

Sat 3:00 PM 60 minutes

masking optional

Suite 830 • **Kaffeeklatsch: Michael J. DeLuca** •

Michael J. DeLuca

Kaffeeklatsch with Michael J. DeLuca

Sat 3:30 PM 30 minutes

Empower / Embrace • **Reading: Lettie Prell** •

Lettie Prell

Solo Reading with Lettie Prell

READERCON35 • Burlington MA • July 9-12 2026

Sat 4:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon E • **Interview: David Gerrold** •

David Gerrold

Sat 5:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon E • **Interview: P. Djèlí Clark** •

P. Djèlí Clark, Rob Cameron

Rob Cameron interviews Guest of Honor P. Djèlí Clark

Sat 6:00 PM 30 minutes

Envision / Enliven • **Reading: Scott Edelman** •

Scott Edelman

Solo Reading with Scott Edelman

Sat 6:00 PM 60 minutes

Create / Collaborate • **SFF and Queer Cultural Memory** •

Ian Muneshwar (M), Victor Manibo, Susan Stinson, Sonya Taaffe, David Gerrold

Much has been written about the losses to queer cultural memory wrought by both repression and AIDS. From Nazi burnings of research to yesteryear's censorship and today's book and social media bans, repressive movements have long tried to prevent queer narratives from emerging. What role has SFF played in preserving queer cultural knowledge? How have queer writers and readers changed SFF, and how has SFF changed us in return?

Sat 6:00 PM 30 minutes

Empower / Embrace • **Reading: Marissa Lingen** •

Marissa Lingen

Solo Reading with Marissa Lingen

FRADERCON35 • Burlington MA • July 9-12 2026

Sat 6:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon A/B • **Writing for Podcasts** •

Beto O'Byrne, Sonja Ryst (M), Courtney Floyd

Audiodrama in the form of the podcast is a lively and growing medium. Long-running podcasts such as Welcome to Nightvale and Old Gods of Appalachia have devoted fans, but there are many more with more starting every day. A great podcast starts with great writing. How does writing for podcasts differ from writing for other mediums? What are some tricks of the trade?

Sat 6:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon C/D • **Defining the Monstrous (2)** •

E. C. Ambrose (M), Sacha Lamb, Gwynne Garfinkle, Corey Farrenkopf, T.J. Wooldridge

From Grendel to the cultured medieval werewolf tales of Marie de France to the contemporary novels of John Wiswell, defining and understanding the monstrous has always been a task we set ourselves, alongside defining humanity itself. Who gets to decide what a monster is? How have these definitions changed and shifted? And what does it mean when the boundary between human and monster disappears entirely?

Sat 6:15 PM Accessibility closes

Sat 6:30 PM 30 minutes

Envision / Enliven • **Reading: Sarah Smith** •

Sarah Smith

Solo Reading with Sarah Smith

Sat 6:30 PM 30 minutes

Empower / Embrace • **Reading: Jessica Levai** •

Jessica Levai

Solo Reading with Jessica Levai

Sat 7:00 - 8:00 PM 60 minutes Con Suite Sponsored by Clarkesworld Birthday

Sat 7:00 PM 30 minutes

Envision / Enliven • **Reading: R.W.W. Greene** •

R.W.W. Greene

Solo Reading with R.W.W. Greene

READERCON35 • Burlington MA • July 9-12 2026

Sat 7:00 PM 60 minutes

Create / Collaborate • **The Fantastic Bestiary** •

Anne E.G. Nydam

From dragons to bonnacons, medieval bestiaries fascinated with their blend of art, mythology, science, philosophy, and moral lessons for their times. Join author/artist Anne Nydam as she leads a tour through bestiaries from classical Greece to her own bestiary alphabet, *On the Virtues of Beasts of the Realms of Imagination*. Spanning millennia, bestiaries share a quirky combination of odd facts, wonderful illustrations, and revealing perspectives, that not only informed the past, but can also inspire hope and perspective in the present.

Sat 7:00 PM 60 minutes

Empower / Embrace • **This Group Reading Will Eat You Now** •

Andrea Martinez Corbin, Gillian Daniels, Ian Muneshwar

A group reading featuring stories (not all involving cannibalism) by Andrea Martinez Corbin, Gillian Daniels, and Ian Muneshwar.

Sat 7:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon A/B • **Miles to Go: The Vorkosigan Saga at 40** •

Kate Nepveu (M), Katherine Crichton, Meredith Schwartz, Ian Strock

This year marks the 40th anniversary of Lois McMaster Bujold's Vorkosigan Saga! Miles Vorkosigan and his parents Cordelia and Aral have fascinated readers for four decades of compulsively readable books that offer lessons on biology, engineering, manners, shenanigans, and the argument that societies are shaped (and reshaped) by reproductive rights and control. What have we learned from the Vorkosigans, and what are we still learning? What dreams from the Saga are still on our horizon?

FRADERCON35 • Burlington MA • July 9-12 2026

Sat 7:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon C/D • **Will We Know Intelligent Life If We See It?** •

Will McMahon, John P Murphy, Katherine Karch (M), Andrea Hairston, Andrea Kriz

People like to speculate about why we have yet to discover evidence of intelligent life elsewhere in the universe, but we haven't exactly been good or consistent about recognizing it at home. How can a society that still actively argues about whether whole swathes of its own population should count be relied upon to even recognize extraterrestrial intelligence for what it is? How much intelligent life on our own planet might we be missing, and what might studying animal, plant, and/or fungal intelligence teach us about the search for alien intelligences?

Sat 7:00 PM 60 minutes

masking optional

Suite 830 • **Kaffeeklatsch: Kenneth Schneyer** •

Kenneth Schneyer

Kaffeeklatsch with Kenneth Schneyer

Sat 7:00 PM 60 minutes

masking optional

Suite 830 • **Kaffeeklatsch: Romie Stott** •

Romie Stott

Kaffeeklatsch with Romie Stott

Sat 7:30 PM 30 minutes

Envision / Enliven • **Reading: Ellen Brody** •

Ellen Brody

Ellen Brody reads from the works of Memorial Guest of Honor Mike Resnick.

Sat 7:45PM Accessibility opens

Sat 8:00 – 9:00 PM 60 minutes Con Suite closed for setup

Sat 8:00 PM 30 minutes

Envision / Enliven • **Reading: Charles Allison** •

Charles Allison

Solo reading with Charles Allison

READERCON35 • Burlington MA • July 9-12 2026

Sat 8:00 PM 60 minutes

Create / Collaborate • **Flora and the Fey** •

David Griffin

David Griffin presents on the legendary tropes surrounding trees and flowers in Classical mythology and European fairy-lore.

Sat 8:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon A/B • **We are Our Speculative Pets** •

Anne E.G. Nydam, Sacha Lamb, Shariann Lewitt, Catt Kingsgrave, Sarah Smith (M)

From the OG fantastic pets (witches' familiars) to the ubiquitous daemons in His Dark Materials to the cats in John Scalzi's recent Starter Villain, pets and human-friendly animals are often centered in speculative fiction almost as much as the people. Are they merely the result of pet owners being unable or unwilling to imagine worlds without them? What functions does the imaginary pet fulfill?

Sat 8:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon C/D • **Surviving the Query Trenches** •

Arley Sorg

Querying literary agents can be a long and dispiriting process, whether you're at the beginning of your authorial journey or back in the market after years of thinking querying was behind you. Join literary agent Arley Sorg of KT Literary for a brief presentation and long Q&A on the art of the query letter and how to find the right agent(s) for your work.

Sat 8:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon E • **The Shirley Jackson Awards** •

P. Djèlí Clark, David Gerrold

In recognition of the legacy of Shirley Jackson's writing, and with permission of the author's estate, The Shirley Jackson Awards, Inc. presents awards for outstanding achievement in the literature of psychological suspense, horror, and the dark fantastic.

Sat 9:00 PM – Midnight 180 minutes Con Suite sponsored by Boskone/Philcon

READERCON35 • Burlington MA • July 9-12 2026

Sat 9:00 PM 60 minutes

masking optional

Salon E • **BSFW Karaoke** •

A karaoke party hosted by the Brooklyn Speculative Fiction Writers

Sat 9:15 PM Accessibility closes

Sat MIDNIGHT Con Suite closes

Sun 8:30 AM Con Suite opens

Sun 9:00 AM Registration and Information open

Sun 9:45 AM Accessibility opens

Sun 10:00 AM Bookshop and Quiet Room open

Sun 10:00 AM 120 minutes

Envision / Enliven • **Pitch Session: Arley Sorg** •

Arley Sorg

If you are in search of a literary agent and have a great novel to pitch, sign up here for a slot pitching your book to Arley Sorg! Arley is a two-time World Fantasy Award Finalist and a three-time Locus Award Finalist for his work as co-Editor-in-Chief at "Fantasy Magazine". He is also a SFWA Solstice Award Recipient, a Space Cowboy Award Recipient, and a finalist for three Ignyte Awards: for his work as a critic, his creative nonfiction, and his contributions to genre. Arley is senior editor at "Locus Magazine", book reviewer at "Lightspeed", columnist for "The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction", and conducts interviews for "Clarke'sworld".

To sign up for a 10-minute time slot, please use the web form at <https://forms.gle/qHweLxd6CNsTqZ5p7>

A total of 12 slots are available, with a wait list in case of cancellations.

FRADERCON35 • Burlington MA • July 9-12 2026

Sun 10:00 AM 60 minutes

Create / Collaborate • **The Many Meanings of Immortality** •

Paul Magnan, Andrea Martinez Corbin (M), Steven Popkes, Charles Allison

Speculative fiction has treated immortality as a divine power; as a kind of theft or parasitism, the immortal draining youth and resources from others; as traumas of the past refusing to die—myriad meanings and countless themes emerging from one simple concept. How does immortality feature in our favorite works, and how do its many meanings interact with each other? Are the divine being and the undying parasite the same phenomenon, viewed from the other side?

Sun 10:00 AM 30 minutes

Empower / Embrace • **Reading: Melissa Burkart** •

Melissa Burkart

Solo reading with Melissa Burkart

Sun 10:00 AM 60 minutes

Salon A/B • **The Works of Mike Resnick** •

David Gerrold, Andrew Hudson (M)

Our Memorial Guest of Honor, Mike Resnick (1942 - 2020), planted his flag all through the speculative genres, not only winning five Hugos for fiction, but also, thanks to the costuming talents of his wife Carol, four Worldcon masquerade contests. Fascinated by frontiers, he wrote stories of galactic gunslingers and expansion that were inspired by the legends of the American West and the tragic history of African colonization. Come and help the panel explore the Resnick universe, from its sturdy boma homesteads on Kirinyaga to the interstellar pleasures of the Velvet Comet.

Sun 10:00 AM 60 minutes

Salon C/D • **The Limits of Hope: A Meditation on Fiction as an Activist Force** •

Daniel José Older, Michael J. DeLuca, Marissa Lingen, E. C. Ambrose (M), Gillian Daniels

In a keynote at the 2025 Locus Awards, Sarah Gailey challenged the focus on literature conferring hope on the reader, asking, "Are we here to provide comfort to the inert? Are we here to reassure people that experiencing a positive feeling is the end of their work?" They noted that hopelessness, fear, and despair all can be motivating, but regardless, "you are also powerful enough to act on your principles even when they oppose your emotions." How can we keep a clear eye about the practical effects of stories? How can we take lessons from fiction and writing and apply them to activism?

FRADERCON35 • Burlington MA • July 9-12 2026

Sun 10:00 AM 60 minutes

Salon E • **The Artificial Woman in Science Fiction** •

Barbara Krasnoff, Romie Stott (M), Gwynne Garfinkle, Ann LeBlanc, Laurence Raphael Brothers

In a Strange Horizons essay last May, William Shaw wrote, "The AI girlfriend, like womanhood itself, is an elusive, ever-changing thing. In marking the ways this fantasy has developed, we can better understand the impulse to recreate it in our own world." How have stories about artificial women evolved over time, and have real-world attempts at creating them really followed the same patterns?

Sun 10:30 AM 30 minutes

Empower / Embrace • **Reading: Michael Cisco** •

Michael Cisco

Solo reading with Michael Cisco

Sun 11:00 AM 60 minutes

Create / Collaborate • **Is Submitting for Writing and Film Awards Worth It?** •

Sarena Straus, Mikel Wisler

Mikel Wisler and Sarena Straus have won almost two dozen awards between them, Mikel for film and Sarena for writing. In this public conversation, the two will discuss the awards application process, and how they have—or have not—used awards to successfully promote their books and films. They will also talk about which awards are worth it, which aren't, and how to vet awards before submission.

Sun 11:00 AM 30 minutes

Empower / Embrace • **Reading: Noah Beit-Aharon** •

Noah Beit-Aharon

Solo Reading with Noah Beit-Aharon

READERCON35 • Burlington MA • July 9-12 2026

Sun 11:00 AM 60 minutes

Salon A/B • **The Odyssey in 2026** •

Kate Nepveu, Kenneth Schneyer, Charles Allison (M), Sonya Taaffe

Homer's Odyssey is having a moment: a new major translation by Daniel Mendelsohn (following other major ones by Emily Wilson and Peter Green), a recent movie starring Ralph Fiennes and Juliette Binoche (*The Return*), a musical adaptation that is a social media sensation (*Epic*), and a forthcoming blockbuster movie written and directed by Christopher Nolan. What aspects are these translations and adaptations highlighting compared to past versions, and what elements are ripe for more attention?

Sun 11:00 AM 60 minutes

Salon C/D • **The Heavy Issues and Light Touch of Discworld** •

Sarah Smith, Greer Gilman, Jeff Hecht, Delia Sherman, Graham Sleight (M)

Sir Terry Pratchett's stylistic and structural approaches to tackling challenging facets of life and society involved humor, sincerity, and empathy, making even the most dismal topic (economics!) amusing and memorable. Consider his discourse on boots, and the way rich people save money buying long-lasting quality items. What other deep topics get the lighter Discworld spin, and what makes Pratchett so eminently quotable?

Sun 11:00 AM 60 minutes

Salon E • **Tea and Colonialism** •

Courtney Floyd, Sophia Babai, Ellen Kushner, Julie C. Day, Casella Brookins (M)

In Teatime in Space: Culture and Colonialism in SFF, Olivia Waite looks at tea in *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* series and the *Imperial Radch* series, specifically how it relates to themes of resource extraction and isolation versus connection. Tea also makes notable appearances in works by Becky Chambers, C.J. Cherryh, and Aliette de Bodard, among others. What does tea—and its accompanying cultural associations - bring to those works? And what about space/fantasy coffee?

Sun 11:30 AM 30 minutes

Empower / Embrace • **Reading: Cecilia Tan** •

Cecilia Tan

Solo Reading by Cecilia Tan

READERCON35 • Burlington MA • July 9-12 2026

Sun 12:00 PM 60 minutes

Create / Collaborate • **Summers in Oz** •

Tom Doyle

Author Tom Doyle grew up in a land of Oz—or at least he spent summers there. His Oz was in Macatawa, a small beach resort community near Holland, Michigan, where L. Frank Baum had also spent his summers from 1899 until 1910. In this presentation, Doyle will discuss how the connections (both real and imagined) to Baum and Oz have generated stories, arguments, festivities, and cine-magic, and their continued meaning for those fascinated by how the real world generates the fictional and vice-versa.

Sun 12:00 PM 30 minutes

Empower / Embrace • **Reading: Andrea Kriz** •

Andrea Kriz

Andrea Kriz reads from her short story upcoming in Reactor, "My/Our Time in the AmericaX Re-Education Camp".

Sun 12:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon A/B • **The Robot Indifference Spectrum** •

Katherine Karch (M), James Patrick Kelly, Suzanne Palmer, Steven Popkes, Benjamin Rosenbaum

A New Yorker profile of Martha Wells suggests that stories about robots and artificial intelligence can be categorized in two ways: ones in which an AI "would want to join the human community or want to get rid of it," and ones in which it "regards us with utter indifference." What do stories at different points on the robot indifference spectrum tell us about the concerns of the era and the ways we conceive of non-human intelligences?

Sun 12:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon C/D • **Reckoning at 10** •

Corey Farrenkopf, Michael J. DeLuca (M), Sonya Taaffe, Marissa Lingen

Reckoning launched its first issue at Readercon 27, back in 2016. Join Reckoning contributors and staff in celebrating ten years of creative writing on environmental justice with readings of work from the new issue and highlights from the past.

READERCON35 • Burlington MA • July 9-12 2026

Sun 12:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon E • **The Black WWI Veteran in Speculative Settings** •

Terence Taylor, P. Djèlí Clark, Rob Cameron, Andrea Hairston (M)

Ring Shout, The Reformatory, Sinners: all three put Black veterans of the Great War up against the monsters of racism—a battle which, historically speaking, was tragically lost where it was waged at all. What are the effects of retelling the story of Black WWI veterans as commandos, rescuers, gangsters, and demon-hunters? Are writers simply reaching for the nearest badass in their chosen time period, or is there something much more intentional at play?

Sun 12:00 PM 60 minutes

masking optional

Suite 830 • **Kaffeeklatsch: Michael Cisco** •

Michael Cisco

Kaffeeklatsch with Michael Cisco

Sun 12:30 PM 30 minutes

Empower / Embrace • **Reading: David Ritter** •

David Ritter

Solo Reading with David Ritter

Sun 1:00 PM Registration and Information close

Sun 1:00 PM 60 minutes

Create / Collaborate • **Horror in Fine Art** •

David Griffin

David Griffin presents on the influence of Poe and Gothic/Horror literature on fine art from Goya to the present day.

Sun 1:00 PM 30 minutes

Empower / Embrace • **Reading: David DeGraff** •

David DeGraff

Solo Reading with David DeGraff

FRADERCON35 • Burlington MA • July 9-12 2026

Sun 1:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon C/D • **Unpredictably Topical Panel** •

W.B.J. Williams, T.J. Wooldridge, Laurence Raphael Brothers, Sophia Babai, Romie Stott (M)

Every year, there are developments in the world of speculative fiction that everyone needs to talk about, but which break long after our panel descriptions are set in stone. This panel is for those. Come here to discuss and hear about events so recent that, when this description was written, they hadn't even happened yet.

Sun 1:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon E • **Writers Who Influenced Us** •

David Gerrold, E. C. Ambrose (M), P. Djèlí Clark, Ellen Kushner, Delia Sherman

A panel celebrating the many writers who inspired and influenced us, from childhood idols to the pros we met along the way. What are the qualities in others' writing that found their way into our own work? Which authors have we secretly—or not so secretly—envied and emulated?

Sun 1:00 PM 60 minutes

masking optional

Suite 830 • **Kaffeeklatsch: Jeff Hecht** •

Jeff Hecht

Kaffeeklatsch with Jeff Hecht

Sun 1:00 PM 60 minutes

masking optional

Suite 830 • **Kaffeeklatsch: James Patrick Kelly** •

James Patrick Kelly

Kaffeeklatsch with James Patrick Kelly

Sun 1:30 PM 30 minutes

Empower / Embrace • **Reading: Lila Garrott** •

Lila Garrott

Solo Reading with Lila Garrott

Sun 2:00 PM Con Suite and Quiet Room close

READERCON35 • Burlington MA • July 9-12 2026

Sun 2:00 PM 60 minutes

Create / Collaborate • **Little Workshop of Horrors** •

Corey Farrenkopf

This one-hour workshop will help aspiring horror writers conceive of stories, plots, monsters, themes, and more. Run your ideas past other horror writers and see what sticks (ew) and what needs a major un-anaesthetized facelift.

Sun 2:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon A/B • **Tsundoku: the Unread Books Book Club** •

Romie Stott

Tsundoku (積ん読) is built from tsunde-oku (積んでおく "to pile things up ready for later and leave") and dokusho (読書; "reading books"), and as those words suggest, it means buying books but not reading them. Book club members, new and old, come with their unread books to explain what they are about and why they have been collected.

Sun 2:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon C/D • **The Works of David Gerrold** •

Amy L. Bernstein, Kenneth Schneyer (M), Jan Dumas, Lisa Goldstein, Bill Sherman

Spanning speculative genres from fantasy to space opera, "hard" SF, and beyond, David Gerrold's most loved contribution to science fiction may be those furry forces of Star Trek chaos, the Tribbles. Outside of Star Trek fame, Gerrold was also a pioneer in artificial intelligence fiction (When H.A.R.L.I.E. was One) and queer time travel SF (The Man Who Folded Himself), among other subgenres. In his Hugo, Nebula, and Locus award-winning semi-autobiographical novelette, "The Martian Child" (1994), he explored his experiences as an openly gay man with an adopted son. Come discuss and celebrate our Guest of Honor's works!

Sun 2:00 PM 60 minutes

Salon E • **Things Everyone Likes But You** •

Tracy Majka, Kate Nepveu (M), Katherine Karch, John Kessel, Casella Brookins

We all love talking about books we love, but you know what else is fun? Complaining about books everyone else loves. This curmudgeonly panel will discuss some of the most popular, beloved works that they just can't stand.

FRADERCON35 • Burlington MA • July 9-12 2026

Sun 2:00 PM 60 minutes

masking optional

Suite 830 • **Kaffeeklatsch: Ann LeBlanc** •

Ann LeBlanc

Kaffeeklatsch with Ann LeBlanc

Sun 2:00 PM 60 minutes

masking optional

Suite 830 • **Kaffeeklatsch: Andrea Hairston** •

Andrea Hairston

Kaffeeklatsch with Andrea Hairston

Sun 2:15 PM Accessibility closes

Sun 3:00 PM Bookshop closes

Sun 3:00 PM 60 minutes

Empower / Embrace • **Readercon 35 Feedback Session** •

Noah Beit-Aharon, Thom Jones-Low

Got a few minutes after Readercon ends before you need to head out? Stop by to tell our Con Chairs and Program Chair what went well, what didn't, and what you would especially love to see next year.