

Time	Main Room – Salon E	Salon A-D	Cimarron/Las Cruces	Carlsbad	Santa Fe (has screen)
2:30 pm	Artist Check-In open		SCREEN up All Weekend		
3:00 pm	Registration & Dealers Room open				
4:00 pm	Panel # 1 – IT WAS THE SUMMER OF '69: THE SPROUTING OF BUBONICON Steven Gould, John Maddox Roberts, Allen Steele, Walter Jon Williams. MOD: Robert E. Vardeman			4:00 PM: ART SHOW OPEN	
5:00 pm	Panel # 2 – SPY-FI: SCIENCE FICTION THRILLERS Reese Hogan, J. Barton Mitchell, JM Roberts, Ian Tregillis MOD: Lauren Teffeau	55 MINUTES WITH Jane Lindskold	55 MINUTES WITH Steven Gould	Fan Writing Workshop “THE FUTURE IS NOW: BEYOND THE BINARY & INTO TOMORROW” Julian A. Wolf	5:00 PM: CON SUITE AND GAMING OPEN
5:30 pm					
6:00 pm	OPENING CEREMONIES Your Co-Chairs & Toastmaster				
6:30 pm	SCIENCE TALK: “APOLLO'S ROCK HAMMERS, ROCK BOXES AND CORE TUBES” DR. HARRISON SCHMITT Apollo 17 astronaut & geologist <i>ENDS BY 7:52 PM</i>	Panel # 3 – ART FOR FUN & PROFIT Aaron Campbell, Chaz Kemp, Jeremy Montoya, Jon Sanchez, Greg Spalenka. MOD: Peri Charlifu		6:30 PM 55 MINUTES WITH Scott S. Phillips	6:45-8:15 PM Fan Demonstration “WORKING WITH PLASTICS IN COSTUMING” Charles & Tauni Orndorff
7:00 pm					
7:30 pm		Panel # 4 – ALTERNATE HISTORIES OF THE 1900'S BEGINNINGS John Barnes, John Maddox Roberts, SM Stirling, Sarena Ulibarri MOD: Susan Matthews	7:30 PM 55 MINUTES WITH Walter Jon Williams ----- 8:00 PM Greg Spalenka Docent Tour in Art Show	7:30 PM 55 MINUTES WITH Ian Tregillis	
8:00 pm	Panel # 5 – THE SITUATION IS HOPELESS, BUT NOT SERIOUS C. Felice, B. James, MT Reiten, U. Vernon MOD: Darynda Jones	Panel # 6 – FOR THE LOVE OF CHEESE: STILL MORE OF THE CHEESE MAGNET'S SON Adam J. Brown, Peri Charlifu, Chaz Kemp, Gail Gerstner-Miller, J. Barton Mitchell, Scott Phillips, Jim Sorenson MOD: John Jos. Miller <i>ENDS BY 10:25 PM</i>	8:30 PM BROWNCOATS SET UP 9:00 PM Fan Charity Film Screening “DR. HORRIBLE'S SING-A-LONG BLOG” Film, Raffles, Prizes! <u>CSTS Charity Event</u> Suggested Donation \$2-5 Presented by Albuquerque Browncoats <i>ENDS BY 10:45 PM</i>		15 MINUTE TEARDOWN
8:30 pm				8:30 PM 55 MINUTES WITH S.M. Stirling	8:30 PM Solo Presentation “MYSTERY OF THE CRYSTAL SKULLS” Benjamin Radford <i>ENDS BY 9:45 PM</i>
9:00 pm	Panel # 7 THE FUTURE YOU IMAGINE IS THE FUTURE YOU GET Stephen Antczak, Carolyn Kay, Lauren C. Teffeau, Sarena Ulibarri MOD: Ben Bova			9:30 PM Fan Game Show “SCIFI MATCH GAME” Eric Klammer and Mark Gillespie <i>ENDS BY 10:55 PM</i>	
9:30 pm					
10:00 pm	AUCTION SET UP <i>(Room closed 25 minutes, please)</i>				
10:25 pm to 12:40 am (or later)	LATE NIGHT CHARITY AUCTION “WILL THEY HAVE A THEME?” Benefiting ENMU Williamson Library & Roadrunner Food Bank Auctioneers: Craig C, Patricia R, Geneva S, Gordon G. Plus Mandy S, Jessica C, Caitlin O.				11:00 PM-ISH CON SUITE CLOSSES FOR DAY

FRIDAY: Registration Hours 3:00-8:30 pm

Art Show Hours 4:00-9:00

Dealer Room Hours 3:00-8:30

Time	Main Room – Salon E	Salon A-D	Cimarron/Las Cruces	Carlsbad	Santa Fe (has screen)
8:00 am	KAFEEKLATSCH IN CON SUITE Various Breakfast Items and Hot Coffee				
10:00 am	Panel # 8 – DREAMFORGE WANTS YOU TO FORGE DREAMS OF A BETTER FUTURE Elizabeth Leggett, Jane Lindsfold, Scot Noel, Lauren C. Tefteau, Sarena Ulibarri MOD: Emily Mah	55 MINUTES WITH Caroline Spector	55 MINUTES WITH Ursula Vernon	Fan Panel “SO, YOU WANNA ENTER THE COSTUME CONTEST” MOD: Geneva Schult	Fan Panel “BETWEEN THE PANELS: TEACHING, LEARNING, AND MAKING COMICS” MOD: Jeff Benham 7000 BC
10:30 am					
11:00 am	Panel # 9 – SPACE COWBOYS: WHERE WESTERNS & SPACE OPERAS COLLIDE Craig Butler, Susan Matthews, Allen Steele, Robert E. Vardeman. MOD: David Lee Summers	Panel # 10 – ORDINARY PEOPLE IN FICTION Yvonne Coats, Brenda Drake, Reese Hogan, Ian Tregillis. MOD: Caroline Spector	11:00 AM 55 MINUTES WITH Darynda Jones	Fan Panel “REGARDING KLINGON COSTUMING” MOD: John Halvorson Klingon Assault Group	11:00 AM 55 MINUTES WITH Stephen R. Donaldson
12 Noon	Panel # 11 – 50 YEARS TO THE MOON AND BACK John Barnes, Ben Bova, Loretta Hall, Kathy Kitts, Christopher Marsh MOD: Cathy S. Plesko	Panel # 12 – ARTIST CHAT Aaron Campbell, Chaz Kemp, Elizabeth Leggett, Jeremy Montoya, Jon Sanchez, Greg Spalenka, Ursula Vernon MOD: Peri Charlifu	12 NOON 55 MINUTES WITH Allen Steele	12 NOON Fan Program “KLINGON ASSAULT GROUP GATHERING” MOD: John Halvorson <i>ENDS BY 1:05 PM</i>	12 NOON 55 MINUTES WITH Emily Mah & Scot Noel (Readings & Advice on Magazines & eBooks)
12:45 pm					
1:00 pm	Panel # 13 – FROM UHURA TO LADY ASTRONAUT: WOMEN OF SCI-FI Stephen Donaldson, Sally Gwylan, Emily Mah, SM Stirling. MOD: Steven Gould	Panel # 14 – ARE WE HEADED FOR DYSTOPIA OR SOMETHING WORSE? Cynthia Felice, John Maddox Roberts, Joan Saberhagen, Ursula Vernon. MOD: Craig Butler	1:00 PM 40 MINUTES WITH Reese Hogan	15 MINUTE BREAK	1 pm Kids Program Set-Up
1:15 pm					
1:45 pm					
2:00 pm	Panel # 15 – THE SMITTEN WORD: ROMANCING THE READER Brenda Drake, Darynda Jones, Chaz Kemp, Emily Mah. MOD: Lauren C. Tefteau	Panel # 16 – WILD CARDS: ONGOING & NOW ON TV John Jos. Miller, Gail Gerstner-Miller, Jon Sanchez, Ian Tregillis, Walter Jon Williams MOD: Caroline Spector	1:45 PM 40 MINUTES WITH J. Barton Mitchell Premiere of <i>Derelict</i> , a high-concept podcast.	1:15 PM 55 MINUTES WITH Susan Matthews	1:15 PM <i>FUN FOR KIDS – CHILDREN’S SCIENCE & CRAFTS</i> Jessica Coyle with assistance from Mandy S, Caitlin O, Alexis K, and Gracie C. - Accompanying parent required -
2:15 pm					
2:30 pm					
2:45 pm					
3:00 pm	Panel # 17 – TOMORROW IS HERE TODAY: 2019 IS HISTORY Craig A. Butler, Steven Gould, John Jos. Miller, SM Stirling. MOD: Allen Steele	Panel # 18 – SNACKWRITES: WRITING EXERCISES Stephen Antczak, Jane Lindsfold, Robert Vardeman MOD: Josh Gentry	2:30 PM Solo Talk “THE FUTURE WAS 50 YEARS AGO: HISTORY OF THE ORIGINAL NASA MISSION CONTROL CENTER” Christopher Marsh <i>ENDS BY 3:35 PM</i>	2:30 PM Fan Program “DROID HUNT FOR KIDS”	2:45 PM Kids Program Clean Up
3:30 pm					
			3:35 PM Chapa'ai Game Show Set-Up	501st Dewback Ridge Garrison <i>ROOM EMPTIED BY 4:10 PM</i>	3:00 PM 55 MINUTES WITH John Maddox Roberts

BUBONICON 51

“FINAL” E2 – 08/09/19

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 2019 CONT

Time	Main Room – Salon E	Salon A-D	Cimarron/Las Cruces	Carlsbad	Santa Fe (has screen)
4:00 pm	Panel # 19– SUPERSTITIONS OF WRITERS & ARTISTS Ben Bova, Brenda Drake, Yvonne Coats, Chaz Kemp, Elizabeth Leggett MOD: Benjamin Radford	Panel # 20 – SURVEYING THE UNIVERSE John Barnes, Loretta Hall, Kathy Kitts, Cathy Plesko MOD: David Lee Summers	Fan Game Show “CHAPA’AI OF FORTUNE” Charles & Tauni Orndorff MCs: Gordon Garb and Kevin Sonney	<i>DROID HUNT ENDS 4:10 PM</i>	4:00 PM Artist Guest Slide Show “THE INTERIOR CATHEDRAL” Greg Spalenka
4:15 pm				4:15-5:10 PM 55 MINUTES WITH Lauren C. Tefreau	
4:30 pm					
5:00 pm	5:00-5:25 PM OPEN AIRWALL (Room Closed)		5:15 PM	5:10 PM Room Clear	<i>ENDS 5:20 PM AT LATEST</i>
5:25 pm	5:25-6:40 PM MASS AUTOGRAPHING SESSION – 75 MINUTES Bubonicon Guests Sign Their Wares <i><u>GENERAL POLICY:</u> 3 signatures from an author at a time, please. And then you can get back in their line for up to 3 more, etc...</i>		Game Show Teardown		
5:30 pm					
6:00 pm					
6:40 pm	COSTUME PREP TIME (Room Emptied & Closed – Reset Stage)		6:45 PM 50 MINUTES WITH Robert E. Vardeman <i>Ends by 7:35 PM</i>	6:45 PM COSTUME GREEN ROOM AND STAGING	7:00 PM <i>REGISTRATION AND FLEA MARKET CLOSE</i>
7:00 pm				Costumers Only! Geneva Schult, Jessica Coyle, and other assigned volunteers...	8:00 PM
7:35 pm	Approximately 7:35 PM DOORS OPENED FOR AUDIENCE SEATING				
8:00 pm	COSTUME CONTEST Master of Ceremonies: Kevin Sonney Organizer: Geneva Schult Judges: J. Barton Mitchell, Joan Saberhagen, Jan Stirling			8:45-9:45 PM “SCI-FI & FANTASY TRIVIA WITH THE TIPSY NERDS” Hosts: Natalie Wright & Robyn Dabney	9:00 PM <i>ART SHOW CLOSSES</i> (Silent Auction Over)
8:30 pm					
8:45 pm					
9:05 pm?	Half-Time Entertainment 2019 GREEN SLIME AWARDS Hosted by Jessica L. Coyle with the Slime Time Players				
9:45 pm?	COSTUME CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED Master of Ceremonies: Kevin Sonney Judges: J. Barton Mitchell, Joan Saberhagen, Jan Stirling				
10:10 pm			10:10 PM OR SO...	10:10 PM Or So...	
10:30 pm	Approximately 10:30 PM Room Closed For Day		Adam J. Brown presents SATURDAY-NITE CINEMA SHORT FILMS directed by Various Folks of the Southwest & More <i>[For Mature Audiences Only! Not-Rated...]</i>	COSTUME PHOTOGRAPHY Costumers pose for photos against backdrop <i>Ends by 11:15 PM</i>	
11:00 pm				11:15 PM Room Closed For Day	11:30 PM-ISH <i>CON SUITE CLOSSES</i>
Midnight					

SATURDAY: Registration Hours 9:30-7:00

Art Show Hours 9:30 am-9:00 pm

Dealers Room Hours 9:30-7:00

Time	Main Room – Salon E	Salons A-D	Cimarron/Las Cruces	Carlsbad	Santa Fe (has screen)
8:00 am	GRANOLA BARS & SUCH IN CON SUITE				
10:00 am	Panel # 21 – HUMAN REPRODUCTION IN SCI-FI Craig Butler, Cynthia Felice, Susan Matthews, Jim Sorenson MOD: Carolyn Kay	Trio Discussion “URSULA L & VONDA MC DRINK JIM BEAM IN HEAVEN” Betsy James, Jane Lindskold, and Suzy McKee Charnas	40 MINUTES WITH Kathy Kitts 10:45 AM 40 MINUTES WITH M.T. Reiten	Fan Presentation “GAMING: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE” Craig Fox	Solo Presentation ARTIST SLIDE SHOW Elizabeth Leggett <u>10:30 AM</u> CON SUITE CLOSES!
10:30 am					
10:45 am					
11:00 am	CO-GUESTS OF HONOR PRESENTATION <i>Allen Steele & Ursula Vernon</i> Introduced by Darynda Jones, Toastmaster <i>ENDS BY 12:20...</i>		12 NOON-12:40 PM AUCTION PREPARATIONS (Room Closed, Please – NO ENTRY Before 12:40)	11:30 AM Fan Panel “ROAD TO FANDOM: WITH (AND WITHOUT) A ‘NET” MODs: C.J. Jury-Kiser & Danielle Pollock	11:00 AM Fan Program “KRIS’ KLINGON RAFFLE” MOD: John Halvorson Klingon Assault Group <i>ENDS BY 12:07 PM</i>
11:15 am					
11:30 am					
12:00 pm					
12:15 pm					
12:30 pm	Panel # 22 – THE ROLE OF SECRETS IN SPECULATIVE FICTION John Barnes, Stephen Donaldson, Betsy James, Lauren C. Teffeau. MOD: Ian Tregillis	12:30 PM 40 MINUTES WITH John Jos. Miller	12:40 PM AUCTION ITEMS ACCEPTED 1:00-3:40 PM FUN AND CON AUCTION Auctioneers: Robert Vardeman, Patricia Rogers, Gordon Garb, Craig Chrissinger Money Takers: Mandy S, Caitlin O, Jessica C, Geneva S, Roberta J. <i>Want to use a credit card? \$10.00 minimum +2% fee</i> (Items benefit Bubonicon and Individuals)	12:30 PM Fan Panel “VERUM VITAE: A 7000 BC NEW MEXICAN GENRE COMICS ANTHOLOGY” MOD: Jeff Benham 7000 BC	12:15 PM Solo Presentation “WHAT CAN GO WRONG (THE APOLLO VERSION)” Loretta Hall <i>ENDS BY 1:20 PM</i>
12:40 pm					
1:00 pm					
1:15 pm					
1:30 pm	Panel # 23 – MAN IN THE MOON: HOW THE MOON LANDING CHANGED SF Ben Bova, Steven Gould, Christopher Marsh, M.T. Reiten. MOD: Allen Steele	1:15 PM 40 MINUTES WITH Yvonne Coats		1:30 PM Fan Panel “MAKING DOCTOR WHO HERSTORY” Eric Klammer and Mark Gillespie	1:30-3:00 PM Fan Podcast “PRODUCTIVITY ALCHEMY LIVE” Host: Kevin Sonney (Authors and/or Fans invited to be interviewed)
2:00 pm					
2:30 pm					
2:45 pm	Panel # 24 – MIRROR, MIRROR ON THE WALL: FROM WHENCE COME MONSTERS THAT SCARE US ALL P. Charlifu, C. Kay, J. B. Mitchell, S.Ulibarri. MOD: Yvonne Coats	2:00 PM 40 MINUTES WITH Betsy James		2:30 PM 55 MINUTES WITH John Barnes	(Room Closed at 3:00)
3:00 pm					
3:30 pm	Panel # 25 – IN FOR THE LONG HAUL: UPS & DOWNS OF WRITING A LONG SERIES Darynda Jones, Jane Lindskold, Allen Steele, S.M. Stirling, Ursula Vernon MOD: Walter Jon Williams	(Room Closed at 3:30)	3:45 PM CLEAN UP! <i>DONE, DONE, DONE!</i>	3:30-5:00 PM ART SHOW OPEN For Pick Ups Only	1:00-2:00 PM and 2:30-3:30 PM SUNDAY AFTERNOON TEA in Con Suite Upstairs [35 people per session – you must sign up to attend!]
3:45 pm					
4:00 pm					
4:30 pm	CLOSING CEREMONIES Co-Chairs + the 2019 Con-Com				
5:05 pm?	B51 IS OVER! Clean up hotel, pack up cars...				

IT WAS THE SUMMER OF '69: THE SPROUTING OF BUBONICON

What was unique about 1969 that allowed Southwestern conventions Bubonicon and Milehicon to start that year? Was it the influence of Apollo 11 landing on the Moon or the final season of *Star Trek*? 1969 also marked Woodstock, The Who releasing the rock opera *Tommy*, films *The Computer Wore Tennis Shoes* (Kurt Russell), *Easy Rider* (shot in NM), *Marooned*, and *The Valley of Gwangi* (Harryhausen effects) being released, the Stonewall Riots (beginning of the gay liberation movement) occurring, Nixon and Charles Manson, the creation of *Vampirella*, the start of *The Brady Bunch*, and novels *Slaughterhouse Five*, *The Andromeda Strain*, and *The Left Hand of Darkness* being released... What was the vibe that year in SF and fandom? Where were you 50 years ago?

SPY-FI: SCIENCE FICTION THRILLERS

What happens when authors combine espionage themes with SF? What are the ins and outs of SF spy thrillers? What kinds of seemingly innocuous objects become super high-tech spy gear? How do characters become embroiled in a world of adventure & espionage in far-flung settings or in the cyberpunk near-future? And what makes a spy story satisfying as a SF crossover when the opposing force may be something as realistic as a foreign government or as fanciful as a diabolical mastermind?

ART FOR FUN & PROFIT

A panel devoted to those who want to get started making and selling their art, either as a job or to make just enough to finance their next project.

ALTERNATE HISTORIES OF THE 1900'S BEGINNINGS

WW1 is the crucial turning point of the 20th century -- it meant the demise of empires (the Ottoman, for example, whose fall gave us the modern Middle East), the Russian Revolution, WWII, and much else. WW1 also contained all sorts of highly unlikely events. Starting with its beginning, and the Black Hand assassins' comedic failures to take out Franz Ferdinand. And Adolph Hitler surviving four years of battle danger as a message carrier. So, can you make fiction stranger than fact? What potential events exist that are ripe for alternate history stories? What is the appeal of writing WW1 alternate fiction? World War I ended a century ago in 1918, so does nostalgia help with new tales of a different WW1 timeline?

THE SITUATION IS HOPELESS, BUT NOT SERIOUS

It's Armageddon – are you laughing? What's the place of humor in a dystopia? When things are dire, is howling with laughter totally inappropriate or a saving grace? “That's not funny” – are there beings or institutions we shouldn't laugh at? Or with?

FOR THE LOVE OF CHEESE: STILL MORE OF THE CHEESE MAGNET'S SON

What is the appeal of cheesy or schlocky movies? What are some of the panelists' favorites and guilty pleasures? Any from the past year or since last Bubonicon? What worked in them? What didn't? What is the fine line between entertaining cheese and just plain horrible?

THE FUTURE YOU IMAGINE IS THE FUTURE YOU GET

In the past, dystopian fiction has served as a kind of modern-day cautionary fable. But what's the other side of the coin? How do we tell tales of futures that we can aspire to, rather than ones that we warn against? What are we working towards, and how do we avoid the pitfalls of premature nostalgia and the tendency to excessively homogenize our utopias?

DREAMFORGE WANTS TO FORGE DREAMS OF A BETTER FUTURE

DreamForge Magazine is a new pro-market that wants positive fantasy and science fiction--stories where characters endure, overcome, and embrace that spirit of wonder and discovery through which sentient beings invest the universe with meaning and purpose. The magazine seeks to be faithful to those dreamers and makers who came before us to brave ages far darker than our own, supportive of present idealists who remain indomitable in the face of our time's apocalyptic fears, and hopeful that the principles of compassion, justice, and truth shall endure until the end of time. Meet some of the first authors and illustrators featured in this exciting new venue! (It just so happens that several of the authors and one of the illustrators for these first issues are from New Mexico.)

SPACE COWBOYS: WHERE WESTERNS & SPACE OPERAS COLLIDE

Malcolm Reynolds hauled cattle on his spaceship. Captain Harlock strode through batwing doors into a few dusty saloons. Captain Kirk's show was originally described as “Wagon Train to the Stars.” And then there's the animated *BraveStarr*. At what point does the hero of a space opera become a space cowboy? How "retro" can you make your space opera before it becomes fantasy or steampunk?

ORDINARY PEOPLE IN FICTION

Sometimes, main characters in a story are ordinary people – not everyone is extraordinary. Can such a focus make a story more powerful? What makes them appealing? How does such a story differ from a story of heroes and villains? What do you like about them, and what not? Also, is it difficult to write about ordinary people?

50 YEARS TO THE MOON AND BACK

Apollo 11 landed on the Moon 50 years ago, in July 1969. And Apollo 12 landed on the Moon in November 1969. What was so exciting about the possibility? How has science evolved since then and our understanding of the Moon? How has the Moon's use in SF/Fantasy changed in the last 50 years? Do we have the technology to get back to the Moon, and should we? Why was the adventure deserted in the first place? And what of the planned joint missions with China?

ARTIST CHAT (with as many artists as possible)

Ever wonder about your favorite artist? What to know more about their process? Are you just nosey and want to learn some juicy tidbits? Then come to the Artists Chat, and see what you can learn. This relaxed chat is designed to make the artists more accessible and have a little fun at the same time.

FROM UHURA TO LADY ASTRONAUT: THE WOMEN OF SCIENCE FICTION

How have changing portrayals of women in SF paralleled (or led) changing attitudes across American culture? How will the role of women in the stories of the future change or remain the same? And what of female superheroes finally getting their own comic titles, TV shows and movies? (Because the panel on “Radium Girls” from last Bubonicon was so well received.)

ARE WE HEADED FOR DYSTOPIA OR SOMETHING WORSE?

A lot of SF literature explores the possibility of a bleak future whether it's like *1984*, *Fahrenheit 451*, or *Brave New World*, where the reader recognizes the dystopia but the characters might not. On the other hand, the future might become a post-apocalyptic world involving artificial intelligence, disease, zombies, or a combination of causes. Are we headed down a path that leads to some kind of worldwide catastrophe? Is there some glimmer of hope that might save humanity from itself?

THE SMITTEN WORD: ROMANCING THE READER

Panelists discuss the power of romance, and the range and voice of the genre – including paranormal romance and its cousin, urban fantasy. What has worked in novels and on the screen? Does romance have a place in “mainstream” SF and Fantasy? It’s a potentially blush-inducing conversation, and potentially a hilarious battle over books, movies, TV shows and Hollywood’s hottest.

WILD CARDS: ONGOING & NOW ON TV

Who knew when *Wild Cards* started in 1987 that it would grow to more than 25 books and still be going strong more than 30 years later. And now it will be on TV! How did it start, and where it is going? What drives it forward? What is its place in a world of superhero comics, TV shows and movies?

TOMORROW IS HERE TODAY: 2019 IS HISTORY

According to SF Films, 2019 sees the fall of Neo-Tokyo, a Totalitarian Government that kills convicts on a game show, and androids & flying cars (and Australia fell into a post-apocalyptic fury road in 2015). In the real world, we almost have AI, plus there’s Bio-Medical innovation, DNA manipulation, smart phones, self-driving cars, and SMART houses. Are we living in the future now? How much fiction is left in the science? How accurate have SF writers & filmmakers and futurists been in their predictions? It’s virtually impossible to be objective if your emotions are involved, and particularly when there’s no real-world check on your wishful thinking, and then add in the inherent difficulty of predictions in a chaotic system like history.

SNACKWRITES: WRITING EXERCISES

Last year SnackReads launched SnackWrites, to help people whom life gives little time, to be able to learn some writing craft and keep the dream alive. The moderator and participants will lead attendees through some of the writing exercises, and offer suggestions for time-constrained writing.

SUPERSTITIONS OF WRITERS & ARTISTS

What superstitions do writers and artists respect as they work? Do many of them have a “lucky” item that has to be worn or kept near? Certain music or snacks/drinks? What about routines and rituals? Are writers/artists more or less superstitious than sports players? Who so? How did lucky items or rituals come to be for writers/artists on the panel?

SURVEYING THE UNIVERSE

Traditionally, astronomers made a hypothesis, applied for time on telescopes, took their data and examined it. That model is being replaced by large scale surveys being conducted by organizations such as the Department of Energy and NASA. What are the advantages and disadvantages of doing astronomy (science) by large scale survey as opposed to small teams working on their own questions?

HUMAN REPRODUCTION IN SCIENCE FICTION

Procreation is, naturally, crucial for the survival of humanity. How is it handled in SF, and what are the implications of the real world? Will the first artificial womb herald the next jump in human evolution? And what happens in a world where the birth rate critically declines? Would it become like Atwood’s *The Handmaid’s Tale* or Carrie Vaughn’s *Bannerless*?

THE ROLE OF SECRETS IN SPECULATIVE FICTION

Secrets are powerful things: secrets from a character’s past, secrets between characters, secret worlds, secret doorways, secret words, and secret abilities. How are secrets used in SF & F? Which are your favorites to use in plots and relationships?

MAN IN THE MOON: HOW THE MOON LANDING CHANGED SF

Before 1969, in early SF, space travel and colonization were based in speculation. Most assumed we would be able to live on other worlds (and some stories hoped there might be beautiful scantily clad Earth-like girls). But once Apollo 11 landed on the Moon, the difficulties of space travel and humans surviving on other worlds became apparent. Did we lose some of the energy in SF when speculation was replaced by facts? Or did the facts fuel a whole new realistic approach to planetary stories? And has Mars become the new Moon? Are we speculating about the Red Planet now?

MIRROR, MIRROR ON THE WALL: FROM WHENCE COME THE MONSTERS THAT SCARE US ALL

From Cthulhu to *Jurassic Park*, science fiction seems to have come pre-loaded with monsters of the biological variety. Will the things that scare us most in the future continue to be animal? Or is the focus transitioning to something else that will give us better (more terrifying) nightmares? Is the future as scary?

IN FOR THE LONG HAUL: UPS & DOWNS OF WRITING A LONG SERIES

Many authors have committed a significant part of their lives to writing SF or fantasy series. What particular demands does such a long-term project make on authors and readers? What gives a series “legs”? What can be done to deserve such devoted readers? What do these series do to personal and professional lives? Is there such a thing as a series being too long?