

# Norwescon 48 Program Schedule

This PDF version of the Norwescon 48 program schedule was generated on **March 5, 2026 at noon**. There may have been changes since that time. Please consult [the website](#) and Guidebook for the most current versions of the schedule.

## Thursday, April 2

### 2 p.m.

#### Reading: Emily Smiley

##### Readings

Cascade 3, Thu. 2 to 2:30 p.m.

*Treading Water.* Dallas London's brother is presumed dead after going missing off the coast of Maui. Now back home in San Francisco, Dallas does denial in style: no sleep and a steady diet of stale pizza, cigarettes, and intrusive thoughts about her brother's decaying body. But when a philanthropist's son disappears under eerily similar circumstances and Dallas starts seeing demons lurking in the shadows of her apartment, even she can't pretend she's fine. Enter: Death. In the form of a snarky, sexy young woman, Death is drawn to Dallas's issues just as much as Dallas is drawn to Death's mysterious magnetism. Desperate, Dallas makes a deal with Death: Dallas will find out who is stealing the souls of the drowned in exchange for protection from the demon hunting her. The cost? Dallas must come to terms with her incredible loss, even though it makes her wish she'd been the one to sink in the Pacific abyss. Rated PG.

Emily Smiley (M)

#### Teen & Tween: Hang Out Time

##### Teen/Tween

Cascade 5, Thu. 2 to 3 p.m.

Relax in the teen room and listen to authors read from their books while you craft, color, build, or just zone out. Bring some age-appropriate tunes to share and show off your creations on the display table.

#### Reading: Jonathan JD Davenport

##### Readings

Cascade 6, Thu. 2 to 2:30 p.m.

*Frog vs Trog.* A late scene from book 3 of the initial Metaerie trilogy. Every era has to end to earn its name. Sometimes it just happens; sometimes it is intentional.

When endings are catastrophic, they almost always require sacrifice. Rated PG.

Jonathan JD Davenport (M)

#### Traditional Crafts in a Digital World

##### Costume

Cascade 7 & 8, Thu. 2 to 3 p.m.

With the demise of home ec and shop class in schools and the necessity of double-income households, kids have fewer opportunities to learn basic skills and crafts. Panelists ask: How do we keep crafts and skills alive in a fast-paced world of disposable products and digital entertainment?

Melissa Quinn (M), Scotty McIntosh, Crystal Taggart, Caitlin Jacques, Grace Amundsen Barnkow

#### Best Mad Scientist Plans

Science Fiction; Guest of Honor; Streaming  
Cascade 9, Thu. 2 to 3 p.m.

With this invention, I shall take over the world! What are the best fiendish plans from fictional sources, and can the panelists and audience do better?

Summer Ash (M), Michael Brugger, Diana Fedorak, Kaitlyn Casimo, PhD, MEd, Torrey Stenmark

#### Space Propulsion Systems (Real and Imagined)

##### Science Fiction

Cascade 10, Thu. 2 to 3 p.m.

Space flight in science fiction has been managed by innumerable different methods, from the realistic to the next-step to the potentially impossible to the downright ridiculous. Panelists will look at the spectrum of propulsion systems, their advantages and disadvantages, and how each shaped their particular universe.

Elsie Raymond (M), Phil L. Swan, Tyler Clark, Ian Shaw

## Fantasy as a Unifying Understanding

Fantasy

Cascade 11, Thu. 2 to 3 p.m.

Panelists will discuss how fantasy stories from different parts of the world unify readers, provide a common experience through escapism, and celebrate the subtle differences that unite us.

Christina Boekeloo (M), Remy Nakamura, Gabriella Buba, Tom Whitmore, Ryan James

## Villains: Deconstruct, Diversify, Decolonize

Writing

Cascade 12, Thu. 2 to 3 p.m.

This panel challenges the status quo of villains and cultural toxicity in second-world fantasy/sci-fi. This panel will tackle problems with existing tropes (such as oppressed mages or the “othered” or coded villain) and present novel ways to world-build societal toxicity separate from existing phenomena (i.e. racism, misogyny, Judeo-Christian or Eurocentric biases). The panel will seek to provide a framework for deconstructing, rethinking, and building diverse villains without being insensitive to current vulnerable populations or readership.

Alexandra Nica (M), S.C. Mills, Talulah J. Sullivan, Diana Ma, Shiv Ramdas

## Speculative Film Festival Block A

Special Events

Evergreen 1 & 2, Thu. 2 to 3 p.m.

Start the festival off with some dark fantasy from foreign lands: *TLSM* (North Macedonia), *Work from Home* (Netherlands), *The Screenwriter* (Italy), and *The Minotaur* (Spain).

Shawn Marier (M)

## How to Critique

Art; Guest of Honor

Evergreen 3 & 4, Thu. 2 to 3 p.m.

Has your friend ever shown you their artwork/book/costume, and you had no idea what to say? Our panelists are here to help you! They will guide you through giving feedback that uplifts, encourages, and helps our friends to improve their work. Panelists will also look at when to give critique and how to do so with no hurt feelings.

Ivy Gilliam (M), Dutch Bihary ContoursFx, Alex Crawley, Taylor Tomblin, Meghan D. Lancaster

## Artemis Spaceship Bridge Simulator

Special Events; Scheduled Games

Tower Salon, Thu. 2 to 10 p.m.

*Artemis* is a spaceship bridge simulator where players assume the jobs of captain, helm, science, communication, engineering, and weapons and work together to defeat alien enemies.

## Reading: Megan Lee Bees

Readings

Cascade 3, Thu. 2:30 to 3 p.m.

*One Hundred Thousand Lives After Death*. A dead woman lives on with her consciousness stored in a hundred thousand spiders, but when her sister returns years after her death, the threads that held her together begin to break. Rated PG.

Megan Lee Bees (M)

## 3 p.m.

## Reading: A. W. McCollough

Readings

Cascade 3, Thu. 3 to 3:30 p.m.

“The Animatronics.” Purps the Octopurps has gone missing, and Big Bear has to find her. He fears the worst, that Little One, the 4-year-old human child he belongs to, has taken her for play time. Little One tends to be hard on her toys. Can Big Bear save Purps from Little One? Are the Programmers real? Is there truly an Outside? Listen and find out. Rated PG.

A. W. McCollough (M)

## Reading: GregRobin Smith

Readings

Cascade 6, Thu. 3 to 3:30 p.m.

*A Whisper without Words—Adding to the Canon of Shakespeare*. New works in a Shakespearean style. One of the pieces is a new epilogue for *Romeo and Juliet* spoken by Nurse. Other poems and short scripts. Rated G.

GregRobin Smith (M)

## Sell Your Work—Not Yourself

Gaming

Cascade 7 & 8, Thu. 3 to 4 p.m.

Panelists present a guide to self-marketing for independent publishers of games or fiction, ranging from crowdfunding as a marketing tool to influencer marketing, digital advertising, audience building, and more.

Erica Angeline Solano (M), Rue Dickey, Brigitte Winter, Libby Schultz, Ron Leota

## Finding Your Authenticity

Writing; Streaming

Cascade 9, Thu. 3 to 4 p.m.

While learning to craft stories, it can often feel like you're just sounding like the authors and stories that inspire you. As part of the journey, you begin to find your own voice, style, and confidence to branch away from known paths into projects that are your own. Panelists will discuss not only the importance of authenticity, but ways to help you find your own.

M. Shedric Simpson (M), Brenda Cooper, Shiv Ramdas, Tegan Moore, Tom Wright

## Castles and Fortifications

History

Cascade 10, Thu. 3 to 4 p.m.

Not just a big, fancy house, a castle serves many purposes: defensive, economic, political, and more. How do castles and fortifications affect local economies and politics? What changed over the years or varied by culture and geographical regions?

Randy Hayes (M), Jonny, D.L. Solum, Ann Shilling, Jonathan JD Davenport

## An Introvert's Guide to Cons

Community

Cascade 11, Thu. 3 to 4 p.m.

Cons are full of people and hyperstimulation. As an introvert, how do you make the most of a con? Do you just put on your "extrovert mask" and collapse when the con is over? Learn how to get the most out of a con without burning out.

D. Scott Thayer (M), Andrew Williams, Gloria Jackson-Nefertiti, Ian Shaw, Oz Norberg

## L4 Space Habitat Society

Space

Cascade 12, Thu. 3 to 4 p.m.

Make it so. This is a follow-up to discussions generated by recent Gravity Wells panels. Our group is setting up as a nonprofit to promote research and development for small, private-venture habitats, which could be built perhaps three to four decades from now. It turns out that artificial gravity using tether-spinning of asteroids is feasible, and "shirtsleeves" environments could be built and sustainably maintained inside them. Commercial launches, robotic construction, and all the necessities are coming along, so let's stimulate serious planning now.

Judy R. Johnson (M), Eric Taney, Dr. Sean Robinson, Phil L. Swan

## Speculative Film Festival Block B

Special Events

Evergreen 1 & 2, Thu. 3 to 4 p.m.

This block features speculative fiction from student filmmakers. *Uncertainty Principle* (Spain), *Unknown User* (USA), *Daybreak* (Israel), *Lavenza* (Canada), and *Dealing with Time* (U.S.).

Shawn Marier (M)

## Lord of the Rings as a Horror Story

Horror

Evergreen 3 & 4, Thu. 3 to 4 p.m.

You may think you don't like horror, but if you like *The Lord of the Rings*, try re-reading (or watching) the series, paying close attention to Frodo and Sam's journey. With the Nazgûl hunting them, Smeagol's evil corruption arc, the Dead Marshes, and Shelob's lair, one of your favorite fantasy novels might actually be a horror novel in disguise.

Clay Vermulm (M), Rosemary Jones, Dustin Campbell, J.B. Kish, Kris 'Pepper' Hambrick

## Qigong (Movement Meditation Class)

Community; Hands-On Workshop

Grand 2, Thu. 3 to 4 p.m.

Qigong is a form of movement meditation that cultivates skill with qi (the body's subtle energy, or life force) to promote robust health, martial prowess, and spiritual insight. These gentle yet profound movements are a perfect way to relax and invigorate both body and mind.

Wear flat, comfortable shoes and clothes that allow for ease of movement. Practice is performed standing but can be modified to allow for seated practice. No experience necessary.

Corry L. Lee (M)

### Teen & Tween & Youth: Badge Decorating

Teen/Tween; Youth  
Olympic 1, Thu. 3 to 4 p.m.

Bring your new convention badge and jazz it up with trimmings and crafted ribbons.

L.J. Melvin (M), Oliver Huskey

### Reading: Cozy Joe

Readings  
Cascade 3, Thu. 3:30 to 4 p.m.

*A Wasted Death.* While renovating her grandmother Ruby's spa, a woman discovers a skeleton under a jacuzzi that had been installed in the late '60s. When it turns out to be her grandfather, Cristal Chanda Leare decides she needs to figure out who the real murderer is, in order to save Ruby from going to jail. Rated PG.

Cozy Joe (M)

### Reading: Dr. Mark Rounds

Readings  
Cascade 6, Thu. 3:30 to 4 p.m.

*This Fine and Pyrrhic Beauty.* In the year 1884, Sean O'Herlihy and his comrade, Micheal Flynn, plant a bomb at the Headquarters of the Irish Special Branch of Scotland Yard. The explosion seriously injures Lord Mowbray, Chief Inspector of the Irish Special Branch, and kills his friend, Inspector Ainsley Richland. Follow Sean's adventures as he and his wife Bridget find a new home among the sands of Mars. Rated G.

Dr. Mark Rounds (M)

## 4 p.m.

### Reading: David Tucker, Ph.D.

Readings  
Cascade 3, Thu. 4 to 4:30 p.m.

*Infamous Chronicles: Scar-Faced Princess of Kivu.* An Imperial general with an opportunity, an infamous traitor masquerading as an Imperial lord, and a grotesquely scarred princess at the center of a hidden rebellion. Rated PG.

David Tucker, Ph.D. (M)

### Teen & Tween & Youth: Easter Pinata Decorating

Teen/Tween  
Cascade 5, Thu. 4 to 6 p.m.

Decorate an Easter-themed pinata. All materials provided.

L.J. Melvin (M), Oliver Huskey

### Why Won't Zombies Die? The Answer Is in the Question

Horror  
Cascade 6, Thu. 4 to 5 p.m.

From *Night of the Living Dead* to *The Last of Us*, zombies have evolved from shambling corpses to complex metaphors. The panelists explore how they represent consumerism, disease, and social decay, and why they just won't die.

Timothy W. Long (M), A. W. McCollough, Natalie Leif, Dustin Campbell, Gwen Callahan

### Wit and Witticisms

Writing  
Cascade 7 & 8, Thu. 4 to 5 p.m.

Come discuss the intricacies of humor writing, how it works, and the powerful usefulness of comedians as truth tellers in narrative that both amuse and inform readers.

Curtis C. Chen (M), Randy Henderson, Shiv Ramdas, Tara Campbell, Tori Sharp

### Myths as a Structure

Fantasy; Streaming  
Cascade 9, Thu. 4 to 5 p.m.

Panelists discuss the structure of myths that make them resonate throughout the ages and what tools authors can take from them that will enable them to deepen this mythic quality in their own work.

Kate Ristau (M), Peter Adrian Behravesh, Ben Thompson, Remy Nakamura, Erin M. Evans

### Artificial Intelligence and Economics

Technology  
Cascade 10, Thu. 4 to 5 p.m.

Remember when the AI promised to change the world, take over the mundane tasks, and free people to reach new heights of creativity and productivity? How is that working out? Come help our panelists scrape the last few years to find trends for the next few.

Dr. Corey Frazier (M), Andrew Williams, VA7LON, Libby Schultz, Luis E. Torres

## High School Is Hell: High School Heroes and Villains

YA

Cascade 11, Thu. 4 to 5 p.m.

High school is featured in many YA stories. What are the common heroes and villains of these schools? How do you accurately write them?

Camden Rose (M), Larina Warnock, Lily Meade, Miranda Levi, Terra Caldwell

## Human Parasitology vs. Mutualism

Biology

Cascade 13, Thu. 4 to 5 p.m.

Bug fu, gonna put it on you, bathing won't help, no matter how hard you scrub.... Panelists discuss your biome and why you need it...and when it goes bad.

Marnee Chua (M), Rue Dickey, Alan Andrist, Darren McKinty, RVT

## What Did They Just Say?

Military; Audio

Cascade 12, Thu. 4 to 5 p.m.

Terms and how to say them: military edition. Audiobooks are great until a term is mispronounced and jolts the listener out of the story. Learn about military terms, abbreviations, and acronyms.

D. Scott Thayer (M), Travis Partington, Sam Stark, Diana Fedorak, Russell Ervin

## Speculative Film Fest Block C

Special Events

Evergreen 1 & 2, Thu. 4 to 5 p.m.

This block features dystopian science fiction in settings too close to our own. *Furnaces* (U.S.), *Afterlife* (U.S.), *Les Autres* (France).

Shawn Marier (M)

## Firearms in Film and Television

Popular Culture & Media

Evergreen 3 & 4, Thu. 4 to 5 p.m.

This panel examines how firearms are portrayed on screen, contrasting cinematic tropes with real-world use. Panelists will discuss accuracy, symbolism, and the impact of these portrayals on storytelling and audience perceptions across film and television.

Emily C. Skaftun (M), Alan Paulsen, John Lovett, Brian D. Oberquell, Dr. Mark Rounds

## Regency Era Dance Workshop

Hands-On Workshop

Grand 2, Thu. 4 to 6 p.m.

Ever wanted to learn to dance like Elizabeth and Darcy? Now's your chance. Try some historical English country dancing! The workshop is very beginner-friendly; no experience needed. Most dances use a walking step so it's not too strenuous, and accommodations for those with mobility issues are available. Come as you are, costume not required. This workshop is hosted by South Sound English Country Dance.

Theresa Barker (M), Taylor Tomblin

## Youth: Fun with Fabric

Youth

Olympic 1, Thu. 4 to 5 p.m.

Bring an old shirt or pillowcase and give it new life with tie-dye and fabric paint. Bandanas will be available for those without.

Jenny Shafer (M), Grace Amundsen Barnkow

## Speed Friending

Special Events

Olympic 2, Thu. 4 to 5 p.m.

Want to get to know other congoers, but the idea of striking up a conversation with a stranger has you thinking about running the other way? One, welcome! You're in a lot of good company when it comes to meeting new people. Two, we have a solution to feeling alone in a crowd. Similar to speed dating, you will sit down with someone and talk for up to two minutes about easy topics, such as: Have you been to Norwescon before? What events sound interesting this year? What are your fandoms? If the two of you want to talk further, you can exchange info. Otherwise, hey, you still met someone! And every few minutes, you both

switch to someone new and start again. Find some of your future friends here.

Tabby Rose (M)

## Meetup: Northwest Science Fiction Society (NWSFS) Cookies in Hyperspace

Wild Card

Presidential Suite 1360, Thu. 4 to 5 p.m.

Members and prospective members of Northwest Science Fiction Society (NWSFS) will be gathering to socialize, network, and maybe do a bit of event planning. Bring cookies!

## Lakeside Open Gaming

Special Events; Scheduled Games

Rotunda 1 & 2, Thu. 4 p.m. to midnight

Lakeside Gaming will be open all day Thursday starting at 2 p.m. Feel free to bring your own game or check one out from Dragonflight's lending library. As a reminder, Lakeside Gaming is only accessible by way of the second-floor skybridge via the first or second concourse.

## How to Pattern the Weird Stuff

Hands-On Workshop

Tower Ballroom, Thu. 4 to 6 p.m.

Making patterns for stuffies, cosplay accessories, or decor pieces doesn't have to be daunting. In this workshop, the panelists will make a pattern for a set of cosplay horns and teach the general principles to pattern all kinds of things. Whether you're ultimately working in leather, foam, metal, fabric, or some other material, these general techniques will get you started on the road to the finished product you're looking for. Limit 10 participants. Signup is at the info table.

SunnyJim Morgan (M)

## Concert: Cathy McManamon

Concerts

Tower Lounge, Thu. 4 to 5 p.m.

Cathy is a professional musician and multiple Pegasus Award-winner with a slim Ovation guitar and a warm, expressive voice who will take you on a journey about the road and runes, featuring real-life songs from her most recent album, *Gemini*.

Cathy McManamon (M)

## Reading: Josef B. Wilke

Readings

Cascade 3, Thu. 4:30 to 5 p.m.

"I Don't Want to be A Writer Any More." A wannabe writer takes a trip to the Stanley Hotel for inspiration only to find the hotel is run by ghosts of former writers, all none too happy to find out he uses ChatGPT to write his fiction. Rated R.

Josef B. Wilke (M)

## 5 p.m.

### Reading: Alexander James Adams

Readings

Cascade 3, Thu. 5 to 5:30 p.m.

The first or second short story in a series of eight, featuring the author's personal perspective of the Turning of the Seasons and the yearly Wheel of Life. Rated G.

Alexander James Adams (M)

## Literary Agents in the Modern Publishing Landscape

Editing and Publishing

Cascade 6, Thu. 5 to 6 p.m.

Literary agents have traditionally been the first gate toward publication for authors. But in a world where so many authors self-publish, where small presses are making more of an impression, and trad publishers seem more out of reach for writers than ever before, what is an agent's role today? What do they bring to the table, and how do they make a difference to a writer's career? Is finding and acquiring an agent the right move for you?

Kate Ristau (M), Erik Grove, Tori Sharp, Gabrielle Harbowy, Jack Skillingstead

## Wiggin' Out

Costume

Cascade 7 & 8, Thu. 5 to 6 p.m.

Top off that costume with a customized wig. Bring your questions and get ready to discuss historical, traditional, and modern wig styling techniques.

Melissa Quinn (M), Caitlin Jacques

## Getting Started Writing Horror

Horror; Guest of Honor; Streaming  
Cascade 9, Thu. 5 to 6 p.m.

What scares you? How do you turn that into something that will scare everyone else—or at least compel them to read to the end? Join experienced short- and long-fiction writers in a discussion of how to navigate tropes, set the right pace for the emotional beats of a scary story, seed your narrative with subtle unease, and dig into your own deep fears to write the best horror fiction you can.

Tegan Moore (M), Clay Vermulm, Bradley Englert / Orbit Books, J.B. Kish, Thomas Ha

## Presented by BritCon: The Discworld books of Terry Pratchett

Popular Culture & Media  
Cascade 10, Thu. 5 to 6 p.m.

What is it about the books that so many love? Is it the satire, the great characters, the inventive world-building? What motivates his readers to read them over and over? So many fans use their time, energy, and creativity to run conventions; create music, films, costumes; and create their own written works, when so few other authors have the same kind of dedicated readers.

Dawn Shaw (M), Judy R. Johnson, Berlynn Wohl, Richard Stephens, Matt Youngmark

## Modern Tools

Writing  
Cascade 11, Thu. 5 to 6 p.m.

In an age of increasing programs and resources, panelists discuss the current ones available to us that can be good resources. Conversely, what tools are distractions and how to minimize those. This is not a panel on AI and utilizing AI into one's toolset.

Josh Storey, Sandra Rosner, Richard Flores IV, Cyrus Amelia Fisher

## Different Views: Storytelling 301

Writing  
Cascade 13, Thu. 5 to 6 p.m.

Managing multiple perspectives is a complicated, nuanced skillset that can either elevate or derail a story quickly. Join panelists as they approach why selecting specific POVs are important and how to weave them

together to deepen the reader's experience without causing confusion.

G.R. Theron (M), Randy Henderson, Curtis C. Chen, Terra Caldwell, Corry L. Lee

## The Realities of Consumer Space Travel Today

Space  
Cascade 12, Thu. 5 to 6 p.m.

What are the potential consumer-based space tourism options anticipated in the future? What's up with Virgin Galactic, specifically? Is Delta really going to fly in time to generate revenue before funds run out? Are we close to glory, or close to a two-decade-long pipe dream finally ending?

Hugh S. Gregory (M), Dr. Sean Robinson, Dr. Corey Frazier, Eric Taney, Phil L. Swan

## Speculative Film Festival Block D

Special Events  
Evergreen 1 & 2, Thu. 5 to 6 p.m.

End the afternoon with a mixture of martial arts and animation. *Spirit Slayer: Rise of the Apprentice* (Singapore), *Fathoming Dinner* (Lithuania), *My Lovely Beast* (Ukraine), *Back to You* (Chile), *Burnout* (U.S.).

Shawn Marier (M)

## The Psychology of Dueling

History  
Evergreen 3 & 4, Thu. 5 to 6 p.m.

Fighting as a spectator sport dates back to at least 700 BCE and has been popular throughout Europe ever since. In some places and eras, it was the only way to enforce consequences on criminals or other miscreants and hooligans. Today, many one-on-one sports could be considered dueling, from MMA to pool, bowling, and NHRA drag racing, to name a few. Elite duelers compete as much with their minds as weapons, fists, or bodies. How can thoughts change an outcome for the winner? These and other questions will be explored.

Ann Shilling (M), D.L. Solum, Carmen Beaudry, Brian D. Oberquell, S.C. Mills

## Youth: Make a Lantern

Youth  
Olympic 1, Thu. 5 to 6 p.m.

Make a rip-and-stick lantern out of a recycled container and an electric candle.

Jenny Shafer (M), Susie Fox

### *Daggerheart*

Special Events  
Olympic 2, Thu. 5 to 10 p.m.

Want to learn to play the *Daggerheart* tabletop role-playing game by *Critical Role*? GMs are hosting a special event for you to learn to play this wildly popular system. Up to 25 players can participate in this night of adventure and fun with this narrative tabletop game.

### Concert: Andrew Ross

Concerts  
Tower Lounge, Thu. 5 to 6 p.m.

A master of parody, satire, and wit who has been cranking out new songs almost daily since 1997, Andrew is a delightful performer with a well-deserved best composer Pegasus Award to his credit.

Andrew Ross (M)

### Doors Open for Opening Ceremonies

Special Events  
Grand 3, Thu. 5:30 to 6 p.m.

Come in and grab a seat for opening ceremonies.

### 6 p.m.

#### Opening Ceremonies

Guest of Honor; Special Events; Streaming  
Grand 3, Thu. 6 to 7 p.m.

Join us for the grand kickoff of Norwescon 48! Our opening ceremonies feature interviews with our esteemed guests of honor and set the stage for an exciting weekend.

Lydia K. Valentine (M), T. Kingfisher, Geneva Bowers, Summer Ash, Bradley Englert / Orbit Books, Dutch Bihary ContoursFx

### 7 p.m.

#### Reading: Dean Wells

Readings  
Cascade 3, Thu. 7 to 7:30 p.m.

*The Quantum Mechanicals*. When a mad goddess deems the human race a stain upon mechanized perfection, a disparate collective of humans and non-humans alike race to save mankind from oblivion. Rated PG.

Dean Wells (M)

### Teen & Tween: LARPing Scavenger Hunt

Teen/Tween  
Cascade 5, Thu. 7 to 9 p.m.

Explore the far reaches of DoubleTree, meet other teens, and complete the hero's journey as you return to your own teen programming room (Cascade 5) with treasure. Led by a LARPing pro and teen track volunteers.

Lydia Randall (M), Oliver Huskey

### What Would a Future Military System Look Like?

Military  
Cascade 6, Thu. 7 to 8 p.m.

Our modern military systems have their genesis in 17–18th century models. Most European and North American systems are similar, but what would a future military system—integrating alien allies and influenced by differing cultures—look like?

Teresa Drag (M), Russell Ervin, Mike Brennan, Travis Partington, Clayton Mann

### Small Fries

Writing  
Cascade 7 & 8, Thu. 7 to 8 p.m.

Not all stories are long—some are bite-size. Panelists talk about the shorter side of stories, and how they can be just as satisfying as their longer counterparts (for both the writer and readers!).

M. Shedric Simpson (M), Cyrus Amelia Fisher, Emily C. Skaftun, Thomas Ha, Koji A. Dae

### The Ultimate Superpower for Your Main Character: Giving Them Agency

YA; Streaming  
Cascade 9, Thu. 7 to 8 p.m.

How do you give your YA characters agency when so many big life decisions are controlled by the adults in their lives? Listen to panelists discuss the agency of YA characters.

L.J. Melvin (M), Lish McBride, Karen Eisenbrey, Amy Sundberg, Tori Sharp

## Disability and Body Horror

Community

Cascade 10, Thu. 7 to 8 p.m.

More authors than ever have been finding ways of using body horror to explore and express their disabilities.

Evan J. Peterson (M), Megan Lee Bees, Natalie Leif, Rue Dickey, Laura Cranehill

## Professional IP Writing vs. Fanfic

Fanfic

Cascade 11, Thu. 7 to 8 p.m.

Professional IP work both is and is not like getting paid to write fic. What are the differences, and how does experience in one area translate to the other?

Margaret Owen (M), Sandra Rosner, Amanda Cherry, Atlin Merrick, Janna Silverstein

## aUI: The Language of Space Workshop

Space

Cascade 13, Thu. 7 to 9 p.m.

aUI, the Language of Space, will be introduced and described: its background, purpose, and unique characteristics that set it apart from other created languages. Secondly, the basics of aUI will be taught. The audience will be challenged to memorize its 31 symbols, sounds, and meanings within the time it takes to briefly describe them. Then basic words and phrases will be practiced in an interactive session. aUI is built on a set of proposed universal semantic primes that all cultures, including extraterrestrial, might have in common.

Andrea Weiltgart (M)

## Reading Other People's Poetry

Poetry

Cascade 12, Thu. 7 to 8 p.m.

Panelists and interested audience members are invited to bring their favorite poems by other writers (ideally speculative, but not a requirement!) to introduce to everyone else (audience members are welcome to read their contributions or have a panelist do it!). Please plan on sharing between one and five minutes (with possibility for more depending on number of participants).

Thursday (M), GregRobin Smith, Brian U. Garrison, Larina Warnock, Brianna Malotke, Sierra Branham

## Speculative Film Festival Block E

Special Events

Evergreen 1 & 2, Thu. 7 to 8 p.m.

This block includes movies made in the Pacific Northwest. *Firecrow* (Canada); *Sticky Buns, Ravioli, and White Cake* (U.S.); *The 2400* (Canada); *Earwig* (U.S.); *Before the Sky Took Him* (U.S.); and *We Look Like You* (U.S.).

Shawn Marier (M)

## The World as a Character

Fantasy

Evergreen 3 & 4, Thu. 7 to 8 p.m.

In a fantasy setting the reader not only joins the characters, but is drawn into a world other than their own. What is the importance of the story world and its themes? How does the setting in fantasy inform the reader of what to expect?

Elsie Raymond (M), Randy Henderson, Leah R Cutter, Carol Berg, Peter Adrian Behravesh, Gregory Amato

## Thursday Lazer Tag

Special Events; Scheduled Games

Grand 2, Thu. 7 to 10 p.m.

Come on down and have a blast playing open Lazer Tag/Nerf. This event is Lazer Tag with a twist: BYON (bring your own Nerf). Voting will determine whether the 20-minute games will be Nerf or Lazer Tag. Eye protection must be worn during Nerf and Blaster.

## Figure Drawing Class

Art; Artists Workshop

Tower Ballroom, Thu. 7 to 8 p.m.

Panelists have some costumed models, tables, and a timer. Sprinkle in some people with drawing materials and voilà! A figure-drawing class!

Larry Lewis (M), Richard Stephens, Eric L Vargas, Camille Meehan, Melissa Quinn, Gloria Jackson-Nefertiti

## Reading: Ryan James

Readings

Cascade 3, Thu. 7:30 to 8 p.m.

*The Last Galaxy*. Ryan James will read a selection from his novel. Rated PG.

Ryan James (M)

## 8 p.m.

### Reading: Leigh Harlen

Readings

Cascade 3, Thu. 8 to 8:30 p.m.

Join Leigh Harlen for a reading from their work. Rated G.

Leigh Harlen (M)

### The Audiobook Production Pipeline

Audio

Cascade 6, Thu. 8 to 9 p.m.

Turning a book into a polished audiobook involves more than just reading aloud—it's a carefully coordinated process from manuscript to finished product. Authors and narrators walk through each step of the audiobook production process, including preparing the manuscript, working with narrators and producers, recording, editing, mastering, and distribution. Panelists will share best practices for collaboration, common pitfalls to avoid, and tips to ensure your audiobook meets professional standards. Looking to improve your workflow? Learn how to bring your story to life in audio.

Sam Stark (M), Gary Bennett, Megan Lee Bees, Diana Fedorak

### 20 Years of Bending

Popular Culture & Media

Cascade 7 & 8, Thu. 8 to 9 p.m.

*Avatar: The Last Airbender* debuted in 2005, and since then bending has shown up on the big screen, in comics, and live action reboots. Come discuss why this world and its characters have quietly stood the test of time.

Jack Samm (M), Gina Saucier, Nicole Glover, Matt Youngmark, Gabriella Buba

### Power Blowing in the Wind

Technology; Streaming

Cascade 9, Thu. 8 to 9 p.m.

The tech for using the wind to do work is both very old, and not yet mature. Whenever it looks like we have it nailed down, we change the work we want done, or the technology, or both. Join our panelists as they talk about wind power past, present, and future, in reality and fiction.

Mike Brennan (M), Dr. Mark Rounds, Jay Donnaway, David Tucker, Ph.D., Jonny

### Extinction vs. Survival

Biology

Cascade 10, Thu. 8 to 9 p.m.

Bad luck or bad genes? If you are at the touchdown point of a large asteroid, none of it matters!

Charlotte Lewis Brown (M), Shiv Ramdas, Darren McKinty, RVT, Dr. Ricky

### Putting Your Fanfic Online

Fanfic

Cascade 11, Thu. 8 to 9 p.m.

So you've written your first epic fanfic, and now you want to share it with the rest of fandom. What platforms exist and what are the guidelines (tagging systems, etc.) to keep in mind? Geared towards beginning writers, teens, and tweens.

Scotty McIntosh (M), Berlynn Wohl, Anne Stewart, Kathy

### Return of Scifaiku Showdown

Poetry

Cascade 12, Thu. 8 to 9 p.m.

Bring your best 17-syllable brain and go head-to-head with panelists and audience members constructing haiku around randomly pulled prompts—you might take home a fabulous prize!

Ann Shilling (M), Larina Warnock, Ellis Bray, Cecilia Eng

### Speculative Film Festival Block F

Special Events

Evergreen 1 & 2, Thu. 8 to 9 p.m.

Time to cross the toxic wastelands! Enjoy *Ignis Oppidum* (U.S.), *New Human* (U.S.), and *Ekelbrode* (France).

Shawn Marier (M)

### Artists vs. Writers

Art

Evergreen 3 & 4, Thu. 8 to 9 p.m.

Watch writers read a description from their books and artists bring those descriptions to life.

Tara Campbell (M), Natalie Leif, Eric L Vargas, Brianna Malotke, Josef B. Wilke, Larry Lewis

## Introduction to Fandom Dancing

Hands-On Workshop; Community  
Grand 3, Thu. 8 to 9 p.m.

Ever wondered how to do the Time Warp? The unspoken etiquette behind Rasputin? Just how do you do the Macarena? Come join this class where teachers go over the basics of dances you'll see at most fandom conventions. They'll end with a dance party!

Michelle Morrell (M), Michael Hanscom, Wm Salt Hale

## Stitch & Bitch and Costume 911

Costume  
Tower Ballroom, Thu. 8 to 11 p.m.

Still working on something to wear in the halls, in the masquerade, or just for a project? This is your place! Bring your items to work on, and enjoy good company and the opportunity to get help if needed.

## Dave O'Neill's SF&F Pub Triva Extravaganza

Special Events  
Tower Lounge, Thu. 8 to 10 p.m.

The definitive SF&F trivia pub quiz experience! Dave provides multiple rounds of classic SF&F trivia from the worlds of media, fantasy, SF, and more, including a sound round, a picture round, and other surprises. Exciting and not-so-exciting prizes will be on offer! Teams of four are preferred. Use of electronic devices, external brains, or telepathy is strictly forbidden. A no-host bar is available.

Dave O'Neill (M)

## 9 p.m.

### Friends of Bill W.

Wild Card  
Cascade 3, Thu. 9 to 10 p.m.

## Intro to BDSM

Community  
Cascade 11, Thu. 9 to 10 p.m.

BDSM is an umbrella term for a wide range of sexual practices. Many people enjoy building trust and intimacy with their partner through intentional power exchange. The kink community has its own traditions and cultural norms, but at the core it focuses on communication and consent. Come learn more!

Hazel (M), Susie Fox, Sar Surmick, Gloria Jackson-Nefertiti, Ian K. Hagemann, MSW

## Speculative Film Festival Q&A

Special Events  
Evergreen 1 & 2, Thu. 9 to 10 p.m.

This is a time to ask attending filmmakers whose work is in the festival any burning questions you might have about their films. If you have ever wanted to run a festival, the festival director will also answer questions about the process.

Shawn Marier (M)

## Open Filk Circle: Thursday Night

Music  
Evergreen 3 & 4, Thu. 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Filk's origins come from folk circles at conventions, which mutated because of a typo and the sort of people who must enshrine a joke. The rules were simple: Everything was filk—an original song, a filk song, a popular song, or an interpretive dance. Everyone who chose to was allowed to perform and shown respect. Otherwise, simple civility ruled the day. Bring your instruments and voices to share your songs! Everyone and every type of music are welcome.

Cathy McManamon (M), Eric Distad, Paul Kwinn

## Thursday Night Dance: First Contact Galactic Gala with DJ Wüdi

Special Events  
Grand 3, Thu. 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Leap into the cosmos and celebrate the thrill of discovery! Dress stellar, dance interstellar. You can even [send in your song suggestions](#) now!

DJ Wüdi (M)

## 10 p.m.

### Advanced BDSM 18+

Community  
Cascade 11, Thu. 10 to 11 p.m.

So you've explored some kinks and have a better idea of what you like—what next? Whether your fantasies include edge play, consensual non-consent, intoxication, or something else, there are probably others who can provide guidance. Come explore the nuances of new scenes, spaces, and partners with our panelists. Restricted to 18 years of age and older.

Sar Surmick (M), Izzy G, Sam Stark, Hazel, Gloria Jackson-Nefertiti, Ian K. Hagemann, MSW

## Free the Goblin City

Special Events; Scheduled Games  
Grand 2, Thu. 10 p.m. to midnight

This is a high-energy, live-action quest with swordplay and sorcery set in the realm of Jim Henson's *Labyrinth*. For teens and adults.

## Midnight

### Lakeside Open Gaming

Special Events; Scheduled Games  
Rotunda 1 & 2, Thu. midnight to 2 a.m.

Lakeside Gaming will be open Thursday night starting at midnight. Feel free to bring your own game or check one out from Dragonflight's lending library. As a reminder, Lakeside Gaming is only accessible by way of the second-floor skybridge via the first or second concourse.

## Friday, April 3

### 7 a.m.

#### Friday Lazer Tag

Special Events; Scheduled Games  
Grand 2, Fri. 7 to 9 a.m.

Free play will open with Lazer Tag. Rules for each session will be posted. Underage players must have a parent present to play. Equipment is provided at the play area.

### 9 a.m.

#### Reading: Elsie Raymond

Readings  
Cascade 3, Fri. 9 to 9:30 a.m.

*Hollow Pines*. A woman moves to the suburbs and enters into an involuntary and unholy agreement with the haunted forest behind her house in order to carry a child to term. Rated PG.

Elsie Raymond (M)

#### Action Scenes: Storytelling 302

Writing  
Cascade 13, Fri. 9 to 10 a.m.

Panelists discuss how to write action scenes more interesting than a technical readout of blow-by-blow fight scenes, or battles that leave the reader skimming pages instead of feeling the importance of the moment.

Alexandra Nica (M), Erik Grove, Gregory Amato, Sebastien de Castell, D.L. Solum

## Youth: Friday Cartoons and Coloring

Youth  
Olympic 1, Fri. 9 to 10 a.m.

Start your day with some coloring sheets and cartoons.

Jenny Shafer (M)

#### Reading: Jennifer Brozek

Readings  
Cascade 3, Fri. 9:30 to 10 a.m.

"Citizen, Scion, Savior, Singularity." After following a mysterious signal into the Void, Citizen Sophia Nyland discovers her world is much larger than she could have ever imagined. Now she is needed to save not only this new place, but the entire world. Rated G.

Jennifer Brozek (M)

### 10 a.m.

#### Reading: Liz Argall

Readings  
Cascade 3, Fri. 10 to 10:30 a.m.

Mad art and safety in fandom! Liz explores the intersection of madness and fandom and how our fandoms create safer spaces. Rated PG.

Liz Argall (M)

## Teen & Tween: Hangout Time

Teen/Tween  
Cascade 5, Fri. 10 to 11 a.m.

Relax in the teen room and listen to authors read from their books while you craft, color, build, or just zone out. Bring some age-appropriate tunes to share and show off your creations on our display table.

## Teen & Tween: Podcast Setup

Audio; Teen/Tween  
Cascade 6, Fri. 10 to 11 a.m.

Everyone talks about the importance of "equipment" and "room tone," but what does that actually mean?

Learn how to create a home recording setup that actually sounds professional—without emptying your wallet. In this hands-on workshop, you'll learn how to choose gear, optimize your space, and use basic recording software. Equipment will be provided for live demonstration, so you can see and hear exactly how it all comes together. For teens and tweens only!

Sam Stark, Elizabeth Guizzetti/Elizabeth Greyrose, John Godek

## Let's Make a Movie: Plan It!

Filmmaking Workshop  
Cascade 7 & 8, Fri. 10 to noon

Norwescon's original movie-making workshop (begun in 2000) will show you how to make a movie on a shoestring in just a few hours! But first, the basics: What equipment do you need to make a movie (hint: it might already be in your pocket!), and how can you make it look better? Learn tips 'n' tricks our pros have picked up over the years. Then, the audience will come up with an idea, develop it into something doable at a con, plan the shoot, do some quick casting, and do pretty much anything else our pros can think of. This is your chance to be a part of this unique workshop and learn how to make a movie on a budget so tiny that calling it "tiny" makes people who are tiny feel insulted. The key to making a movie, of course, is good planning. If you want to get in on the action tomorrow, you'll want to be here.

Ryan K. Johnson (M), Edward Martin III, Brian D. Oberquell, dQ Kaufman

## Fanfic—Not Just Training for Going Pro

Fanfic; Streaming  
Cascade 9, Fri. 10 to 11 a.m.

While many professional authors built their skills writing fanfiction, not everyone has to—or wants to—go pro. There are pro writers who still write fanfiction as well as their original fiction. What is fanfiction good for? What does it do better than original fiction, even beyond the obvious value of getting to play with someone else's characters (which pro-fic also does, in its own way). This can range from giving space for queer fiction and stories that are "unmarketable" for whatever reason (too dark, too fluffy, not enough plot). Fanfic exists in a different community space than original fic.

Anne Stewart (M), Julia Laurel, Berlynn Wohl, Janna Silverstein, Amanda Cherry

## Laser Weapons, Reality or Myth

Technology  
Cascade 10, Fri. 10 to 11 a.m.

Where are the laser weapons? They work nicely in science fiction, but why don't we hear about them on the modern battlefield? Do the science fiction writers even get it right? Our panelists will talk about lasers, their history, how they're made, and why they sometimes catastrophically self-destruct, very much like a bad launch at Cape Canaveral. Panelists will also explain how to build a laser; it's not as difficult as one might think. No equations!

J. L. Doty (M)

## Terraforming vs. Adaptation: Changing Worlds or Changing Ourselves?

Space  
Cascade 11, Fri. 10 to 11 a.m.

Should we try to reshape alien worlds to suit human biology, or use genetic engineering and cybernetics to adapt ourselves to new environments? What are the technical, ethical, and evolutionary implications of those choices? And what happens when we have to broaden the definitions of what it means to be "human?"

Bryana Bean (M), Hugh S. Gregory, Diana Fedorak, Jonny, Phil L. Swan

## Micro and Flash Fiction: The Art of Brevity

Writing; Writing Classes  
Cascade 13, Fri. 10 to 11 a.m.

Micro fiction, or flash fiction, is the craft of telling a complete story in (usually) less than 500 words, or sometimes as few as 100. You'll learn how to take a story with both an internal and external arc—complete with setting, character, voice, conflict, plot, resolution, and even world-building—and distill it down as much as possible, but no further. Attendees may leave with a tightly crafted opening sentence for their own micro fic, an outline for the rest, and maybe even a complete story. Open to anyone from novice writers to published authors.

S.C. Mills (M), Kaitlin Schmidt

## Masquerade 101

Costume  
Cascade 12, Fri. 10 to 11 a.m.

Come receive tips and guidance from seasoned competitors about making your participation in a masquerade or cosplay competition a positive and fun experience.

Richard Stephens (M), Meghan D. Lancaster, Rue Dickey, Melissa Quinn, Melissa Nichols

### Ursula Vernon, aka T. Kingfisher, on Retellings, Adaptations, and *What Moves the Dead* (Live Recording with the *Ink to Film* Podcast)

Audio; Guest of Honor  
Evergreen 1 & 2, Fri. 10 to 11 a.m.

Author Ursula Vernon, aka T. Kingfisher, joins the *Ink to Film* podcast for a live episode recording to discuss her novel *What Moves the Dead*, its connection to *The Fall of the House of Usher*, and what makes for an effective and entertaining retelling. They'll also talk about favorite film adaptations and thoughts on her novels making the transition to the screen, and they'll finish by taking questions from the audience.

Luke Elliott (M), T. Kingfisher, James Bailey

### World-building Series 201: Geography

Fantasy  
Evergreen 3 & 4, Fri. 10 to 11 a.m.

The foundation of world-building is in terrain, places, cities, weather, and landscapes through which characters travel or are placed. Explore the techniques to establish these things clearly for the reader.

Dean Wells (M), Mir Plemmons, Leah R Cutter, Larry Lewis, Peter Adrian Behravesh

### Art in Action: Lizzy D. Hill

Artists Workshop  
Grand 1, Fri. 10 to 11 a.m.

Lizzy D will paint whimsical mushrooms and night creatures while you watch, using gouache on black paper.

Lizzy D. Hill (M)

### Fantastic 80s

Popular Culture & Media  
Grand 2, Fri. 10 to 11 a.m.

From *Legend* to *Ladyhawke*, there is no disputing that the 1980s were a truly glorious decade for fans of magical adventures on the big screen. Come discuss

your favorites or learn about hidden gems you may have missed.

Marnee Chua (M), Leslie Lutz, Jack Samm, Andy Quinn, Sean K. Reynolds

### Interview and Art with Geneva Bowers, Artist Guest of Honor

Guest of Honor; Streaming  
Grand 3, Fri. 10 to 11 a.m.

Come join an interview with Norwescon 48's artist guest of honor, Geneva Bowers. Ask your own questions during the Q&A!

Geneva Bowers (M)

### Youth: Fun Grown-Up Jobs

Youth  
Olympic 1, Fri. 10 to 11 a.m.

Some grown-ups get to do cool things for a living: making video games, art, books, and so on. Come learn how they do it and what you can do now to get started.

Jenny Shafer (M), K.G. Anderson, David Tucker, Ph.D.

### Speed Friending

Special Events  
Olympic 2, Fri. 10 to 11 a.m.

Want to get to know other congoers, but the idea of striking up a conversation with a stranger has you thinking about running the other way? One, welcome! You're in a lot of good company when it comes to meeting new people. Two, we have a solution to feeling alone in a crowd. Similar to speed dating, you will sit down with someone and talk for up to two minutes about easy topics, such as: Have you been to Norwescon before? What events sound interesting this year? What are your fandoms? If the two of you want to talk further, you can exchange info. Otherwise, hey, you still met someone! And every few minutes, you both switch to someone new and start again. Find some of your future friends here.

Tabby Rose (M)

### Lakeside Gaming: All-Ages Scheduled Games

Special Events; Scheduled Games  
Rotunda 2, Fri. 10 a.m. to midnight

Come sign up for a game! You can play *Pathfinder Society*, other role-playing games, card games, and more. After gaming closes, this area is available for open

games. Lakeside Gaming is accessible by way of the second-floor skybridge via the first or second concourse.

## Hello Shodo—Your First Brush with Japanese Calligraphy

Hands-On Workshop  
Tower Ballroom, Fri. 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Shodo artist Shoryu (A.W. McCollough) presents an introduction to an exciting and meditative Japanese art. A form of meditative writing, Shodo is an art form that was practiced by scribe and samurai alike, and brings benefits of meditation, discipline, and artistic expression. In this one-and-a-half-hour workshop, you will learn about the Four Treasures, practice the Eight Principal Strokes, decide on a kanji (character) to practice, and make a piece of art to take home with you. If you have ever wondered about Japanese calligraphy, or if you just want to write Blue Sun 藍日, this is your chance to experience a brush with Shodo. Limited to 20 participants. Cost \$25 each, cash only. Sign-up will open at the Info Table the day before the panel.

A. W. McCollough (M)

## Concert: Gary Davis

Concerts  
Tower Lounge, Fri. 10 to 11 a.m.

Gary is a professional guitarist, vocalist, and pillar of the Norwescon music community who performs a wondrous variety of songs. He is also a Navy veteran and active in the Society for Creative Anachronism.

Gareth Davis (M)

## Artemis Spaceship Bridge Simulator

Special Events; Scheduled Games  
Tower Salon, Fri. 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

*Artemis* is a spaceship bridge simulator where players assume the jobs of captain, helm, science, communication, engineering, and weapons and work together to defeat alien enemies.

## Reading: Thomas Ha

Readings  
Cascade 3, Fri. 10:30 to 11 a.m.

Join Thomas Ha for a reading of his works. Rated R.

Thomas Ha (M)

## 11 a.m.

### Reading: Lauren C. Johnson

Readings  
Cascade 3, Fri. 11 to 11:30 a.m.

*The West Façade*. In Paris, at the dawn of the bubonic plague, the statues that guard Notre Dame Cathedral are forbidden from experiencing human pleasures, even during the wakenings—the one night of life they receive each month on the new moon in exchange for protecting the cathedral. The statue of Sainte Geneviève’s quiet existence changes irrevocably when a grieving woman places a citrus fruit in her hands as an offering—an offering Geneviève can’t resist eating. Eating awakens Geneviève to her desires: To climb down the wall, explore Paris, understand her human makers, and to love. Geneviève wants to be more than an object on a cathedral wall. She wants to live for herself. But when Geneviève gets what she wants, she must choose between accepting mortality or returning to the cathedral, where she will become a statue again and spend eternity watching others live. Rated G.

Lauren C. Johnson (M)

## Teen & Tween: Keeping it Fun for Everyone

Teen/Tween  
Cascade 5, Fri. 11 to noon

How do you make sure your role-playing or combat game inspires a good time for all? Learn negotiating and communication skills to align everyone’s expectations before you start your awesome quests and adventures.

Lydia Randall (M), Oliver Huskey

## Recording Booth Setup

Audio  
Cascade 6, Fri. 11 to noon

Everyone talks about the importance of “equipment” and “room tone,” but what does that actually mean? Learn how to create a home recording setup that actually sounds professional—without emptying your wallet. In this hands-on workshop, you’ll learn how to choose gear, optimize your space, and use basic recording software. Equipment will be provided for live demonstration so you can see and hear exactly how it all comes together. Perfect for beginners ready to start recording with confidence.

Travis Partington (M), Sam Stark, Cool Nerd Mark

## Imposter Syndrome and Progress

Writing; Streaming  
Cascade 9, Fri. 11 to noon

Explore the nature of imposter syndrome as a necessary part of progress. Our panelists provide perspectives on how to utilize this emotion as a strength instead of an anchor that holds you back.

Amy Sundberg (M), Alex Crawley, Sandra Rosner, Randy Henderson, J.P. Barnett

## Using TTRPGs to Enhance Your Novels

Gaming  
Cascade 10, Fri. 11 to noon

For years, authors have been inspired by tabletop role-playing games, used game rules to determine the outcomes of fights, or even written novels inspired by the game worlds they create as gamemasters. These days there's a whole subgenre for this: LitRPG. What's the secret sauce that makes role-playing games a useful tool for an author? Join our panelists and level up!

Randy Hayes (M), Jeff Grubb, Erin M. Evans, Erik Scott de Bie, Shanna Germain

## Mercenaries and Contractors

Military  
Cascade 11, Fri. 11 to noon

A look at who fights for whom and why, including historical and present examples as well as future extrapolation. How do mercenaries and contractors—or could they—fit into story telling? Do sci-fi examples use mercenaries as a comment on society, or as a way to sidestep the complexity of a full-blown military?

Teresa Drag (M), Clayton Mann, Susan R. Matthews, Russell Ervin, Morgan Smathers

## Romantasy: YA or Nah?

YA  
Cascade 13, Fri. 11 to noon

There is a lot of confusion between romantasy and romance in teen speculative fiction books. How are they different and similar? Engage with our panelists discussing romantasy and romance in YA, then stay for the YA Romantasy Workshop: YAH!

Camden Rose (M), Kendare Blake, Marta Murvosh, Miranda Levi, James L. Sutter

## Do Your Damn Job

Horror  
Cascade 12, Fri. 11 to noon

Writers have all worked a few day jobs, whether that be kitchen work, customer service, construction, medicine, therapy, archaeology, or whatever else. That means many writers have experienced the sensation of reading a drastic misrepresentation of their craft or profession in a work of fiction. Panelists discuss the good, the bad, and the ugly in terms of representations of real-world jobs. Panelists will also break down ways to represent real-world professions well in your writing.

M. Shedric Simpson (M), Rosemary Jones, Kaitlyn Casimo, PhD, MEd, Clay Vermulm, Timothy W. Long

## The Art of Moonlighting

Art  
Evergreen 3 & 4, Fri. 11 to noon

The art industry can be fickle, so many artists supplement their income from other sources. For others, their art is their “hobby job” and they have professions completely removed from the arts. How can you balance life and multiple career paths? What job skills overlap, help, and hinder each other? Come listen to artists and other creatives with multiple professions talk about their experiences and the transition to creating art full time.

LA Wildsun Bradley (M), Julia Laurel, andyvanoverberghe, Michael Brugger, Ellis Bray

## Romance in Fantasy and Why It Resonates

Fantasy; Guest of Honor  
Grand 2, Fri. 11 to noon

The rise of romantasy, as a recent term, has roots dating back to the themes of romance in the very first fantasy stories. Come discuss how romance and themes of love remain as powerful today as ever for audiences.

Claire E. Jones (M), Rhiannon/R.Z. Held, Gabriella Buba, Corry L. Lee, Rashida J Smith

## Interview and Q&A With Spotlight Publisher Orbit, Featuring Bradley Englert

Guest of Honor; Streaming  
Grand 3, Fri. 11 to noon

Come join an interview with Norwescon 48's spotlight publisher Orbit, featuring Bradley Englert, and get a chance to ask your own questions during the Q&A.

Bradley Englert / Orbit Books (M)

## Tour of Norwescon

Wild Card

Lobby Photo Area, Fri. 11 to noon

New to Norwescon? Having a hard time finding something? Norwescon Chair Rob Stewart and Vice Chair Shawna Batty will take you on a tour of the convention. After the tour, you'll know how to find the Tower Ballroom, Lounge, and Salon; Lakeside Gaming; the Oasis Lounge and Convention Lounge; and a few special locations you might not find otherwise.

Rob Stewart (M), Shawna Batty

## Youth: Magical Mushroom Making

Youth

Olympic 1, Fri. 11 to noon

The con needs a magical mushroom landscape! Create glow-in-the-dark mushrooms and take a few home.

Jenny Shafer (M), Michelle Morrell, Alex Demboski

## Winning the Peace: Building Benevolent Society After Reform

Wild Card

Presidential Suite 1360, Fri. 11 to noon

In his Locus Award-nominated novel *The Ministry for the Future*, Kim Stanley Robinson defines "Plan A" as the status quo. If you want to portray a successful revolution or major reform, you need a "Plan B." At this meetup, you will discuss what a benevolent revolution that wins the peace could look like.

## Reading: Virginia Black

Readings

Cascade 3, Fri. 11:30 to noon

*Incendant*. War witch Joan Matthews uses spellcraft to fight against vampires. Leigh Matthews is hiding a dangerous secret. When the truth comes out, they'll need to forge new alliances to defeat the powers wanting to destroy their home. A sapphic paranormal romance. Rated PG.

Virginia Black (M)

## Art in Action: Sorrel Fields

Artists Workshop

Grand 1, Fri. 11:30 to 12:30 p.m.

Sorrel will sew a text block together while teaching you about bookbinding.

Sorrel Fields (M)

## Noon

### Reading: Jeff Sturgeon

Readings

Cascade 3, Fri. noon to 12:30 p.m.

"The Flying Dutchman." Jeff reads a short story from his anthology *Jeff Sturgeon's Last Cities of Earth* from Wordfire Press. Rated PG.

Jeff Sturgeon (M)

## Teen & Tween: Imagining Bright Futures

Teen/Tween

Cascade 5, Fri. noon to 1 p.m.

Panelists talk about using our imaginations and our hope muscles during hard times. What are some different ways to approach creating optimistic futures and exercise our capacity for hope and action? How can we find seeds of hope in the present day and develop them forward to a further flung future?

Amy Sundberg (M), Sonja Thomas, L.J. Melvin

## Editing Anthologies

Editing and Publishing

Cascade 7 & 8, Fri. noon to 1 p.m.

The best anthologies are journeys through places none of us have been before. But how are these volumes produced? From concept development to story solicitation, content selection to a final table of contents, and from finance and contracts to marketing and sales, this panel will help you understand how an editor shapes a successful anthology from start to finish.

Atlin Merrick (M), Jennifer Brozek, Peter Adrian Behravesh, Shannon Page, Lezli Robyn

## The Wheres, Hows, and Whats to Being a Vendor

Art; Streaming

Cascade 9, Fri. noon to 1 p.m.

Come learn the tricks and tips for working as a vendor, including where to look for shows, how to work with customers, and what to do to make a booth/table with a beautiful display and layout.

Li Harrison (M), Ellis Bray, Lizzy D. Hill, Elizabeth Guizzetti/Elizabeth Greyrose, Natalie Leif

## Stage Makeup

Costume; Guest of Honor  
Cascade 10, Fri. noon to 1 p.m.

Applying makeup for stage, screen, and photography can be very different from your daily makeup routine. Our panelists will discuss age and contour techniques, color theory, and much more.

Erica Angeline Solano (M), Dutch Bihary ContoursFx, Ben Honeycutt, Andrew Williams

## Presented by BritCon: Best Adaptations of Shakespeare's plays

Popular Culture & Media  
Cascade 11, Fri. noon to 1 p.m.

Many writers have adapted the plays of Shakespeare for film and television. Which adaptations are your favorites? What excites you most about them—the interpretation from the stage to film, the style of the director, the production values, or other reasons?

Dawn Shaw (M), Richard Stephens, Emily C. Skaftun, Marlow Weaver, Luke Elliott

## YA Romance Workshop: YAH!

YA  
Cascade 13, Fri. noon to 1 p.m.

In this interactive workshop, attendees build a YA romance story together. You'll focus on the YA protagonist, the romantic interest(s), and the world around them. Come to the a.m. Romantasy: YA or Nah? panel directly before this workshop to make it an immersive experience!

Camden Rose (M), Marta Murvosh

## Being Neurodivergent in School

Community  
Cascade 12, Fri. noon to 1 p.m.

We spend a huge chunk of our formative years in school. It shapes who we are for good or bad. How can neurodivergent students figure out their needs, advocate for themselves, and not feel so alone?

Caren GS (M), Thursday, Scotty McIntosh, Kit Vander Voort, Terra Caldwell

## Energy After the Apocalypse

Technology  
Evergreen 1 & 2, Fri. noon to 1 p.m.

Survivors will have to get creative. Multiuse devices may be key! Imagine a stored energy device that works all day before providing security by night. Whether it is a gravity storage gate, an electrified fence, or flywheels flinging flechettes, who wouldn't exchange a few hours of labor in the morning to repel an overnight attack? That thermal battery holding solar-heated oil could be great for cooking, warm showers, or repelling invaders. For more peaceful times, elevated water storage can generate power and irrigate crops, windmills repel birds, and how about worms eating garbage? Yum!

Jay Donnaway (M), Jonny, Crystal Lloyd, Morgan Smathers, David Tucker, Ph.D.

## Biology and Evolution of the Dog

Biology  
Evergreen 3 & 4, Fri. noon to 1 p.m.

Human's best friend, best companion, best creation... what was the path to becoming dogs, and are we the worst thing to happen to wolves?

Charlotte Lewis Brown (M), Melissa Nichols, Darren McKinty, RVT, Alan Andrist, Tegan Moore

## Shooting Things in Space Is Hard

Space  
Grand 2, Fri. noon to 1 p.m.

If a sci-fi story has more than one spaceship, it's a good bet that at some point they'll find a reason to shoot at each other. But at huge distances and tremendous speeds, shooting things is HARD! Come join our panelists as they draw a bead on the problems and opportunities presented by space combat.

J. L. Doty (M), John Lovett, Mike Brennan, Eric Taney, Luis E. Torres

## Interview and Q&A with Summer Ash, Science Guest of Honor

Guest of Honor; Streaming  
Grand 3, Fri. noon to 1 p.m.

Come join an interview with Norwescon 48's science guest of honor, Summer Ash, and take the chance to ask your own questions during the Q&A.

Summer Ash (M)

## Norwescon Little Free Library Silent Reading Meetup

Wild Card

Presidential Suite 1360, Fri. noon to 1 p.m.

Grab a book from the Norwescon Little Free Library book table or bring one of your own and join us for some silent reading time.

## Single Pattern Contest

Special Events

Tower Lounge, Fri. noon to 1 p.m.

It's Show & Share time for the single pattern contest, to showcase the participants' amazing entries. Learn directly from their talented creators and pick your favorite for the people's choice award. The winners will be announced during this panel.

## Reading: D.L. Solum

Readings

Cascade 3, Fri. 12:30 to 1 p.m.

*Peg O'My Heart*. A reading from his forthcoming novel about the life, times and struggles of a trollish barkeep in Seattle, as the unofficial mayor of Belltown. Rated PG.

D.L. Solum (M)

## 1 p.m.

## Reading: Brigitte Winter

Readings

Cascade 3, Fri. 1 to 1:30 p.m.

*The Normal Monster Club* is a cozy sapphic horror romance set in a cryptid-obsessed small town where two exes, a paranormal podcaster and a stubborn skeptic, must reunite to save a missing child as part of an investigation into an unsolved mystery from their childhood. Rated PG.

Brigitte Winter (M)

## Teen & Tween: aUI, the Language of Space Workshop

Space; Teen/Tween

Cascade 5, Fri. 1 to 3 p.m.

Come explore aUI, the Language of Space! Learn the theory and history of its symbols and practice sending and decoding messages in a workshop just for teens and tweens.

Andrea Weilgart (M)

## The Art of Sound Design

Audio

Cascade 6, Fri. 1 to 2 p.m.

Great sound design can elevate a podcast from good to unforgettable. In this panel, editors and sound designers break down how music, ambience, and sound effects (SFX) shape mood, clarify storytelling, and guide the listener's attention. Learn the fundamentals of selecting and layering SFX, creating smooth transitions, and using the most overpowered tool in the toolbox: silence. The panel will also explore practical/affordable equipment and debate the most effective digital audio workstation (DAW).

Sam Stark (M), Jake, Reilly, Ron Leota

## Creating Alternative History

History

Cascade 7 & 8, Fri. 1 to 2 p.m.

How, why, and when do you change history to tell your story? Verisimilitude isn't possible, but what makes the story believable?

Alex Crawley (M), Daphne Singingtree, V Whitlock, Lawrence Watt-Evans, Nick Fraser

## Everyone Should Write Poetry (Yes, You)

Poetry; Streaming

Cascade 9, Fri. 1 to 2 p.m.

Writing poetry can benefit literally anyone. Whether you're dealing with writer's block, scripting a scene, feeling anxious about living through yet another apocalypse, or just want to get out a silly idea, poetry is an invaluable tool. Come talk about the ways poetry can benefit you as a creative, a collaborator, and a human being.

Tara Campbell (M), Larina Warnock, GregRobin Smith, Laura Cranehill, Brenda Cooper

## Crowdfunding Projects for Creatives

Art; Guest of Honor

Cascade 10, Fri. 1 to 2 p.m.

How do you get a Kickstarter project going? Are you curious about the steps from beginning to end? Our panelists discuss crowdfunding projects and field your questions.

Geneva Bowers (M), Leah R Cutter, Erica Angeline Solano, Josef B. Wilke, Jeff Sturgeon

## An Hour of the Strange, Unusual, Creepy, and Downright Real

Biology  
Cascade 11, Fri. 1 to 2 p.m.

Ewww!!!! Gross!!!! WTF?!?!?!! Yep, all of this stuff is real. And some is common in your backyard...

Marnee Chua (M), Leigh Harlen, Darren McKinty, RVT, Shiv Ramdas, Dr. Ricky

## Write a Fairy Tale Fanfiction

Fanfic  
Cascade 13, Fri. 1 to 2 p.m.

What happens after a traditional fairy tale ends? Is it different from the standard “happily ever after?” Does Cinderella prefer to hang out in the palace kitchen rather than the great hall? Can Princess Kaguya return to Earth from the Moon to visit her friends? Does Sleeping Beauty go back to bed for another hundred years? Will the Bremen Town Musicians finally get an album deal? The possibilities are endless, and fun! Teens and Tweens only.

Virginia Black (M), Anne Stewart

## Other Forms of Intelligence

Science Fiction; Guest of Honor  
Cascade 12, Fri. 1 to 2 p.m.

Most aliens in SF, whatever their forms, think much like humans. But what other forms of intelligence might there be? Even on Earth, plants and microorganisms can react as a group via chemicals, and we’re programming machines to “think” in ways not matching ours. What possibilities has SF explored?

A.W. McCollough (M), Nancy Kress, Kaitlyn Casimo, PhD, MEd, Liz Coleman, Megan E. O’Keefe

## Food in History—The Impact of Spice

History  
Evergreen 1 & 2, Fri. 1 to 2 p.m.

The spice must flow! Trade routes have been established and wars fought over access to spices. Let’s talk about the use of spice in regional dishes, how they impacted trade between countries, and more.

Remy Nakamura (M), Wolfcat, Gabriella Buba, LA Wildsun Bradley, Dr. Mark Rounds

## Under the Boot: Explorations of Fascism

Science Fiction  
Evergreen 3 & 4, Fri. 1 to 2 p.m.

What has SF literature said about totalitarianism? (Aside from that it is bad?)

Erik Grove (M), Susan R. Matthews, Corry L. Lee, J. L. Doty, William Boulanger

## Art in Action: Belsac Leather Art

Artists Workshop  
Grand 1, Fri. 1 to 2 p.m.

Belsac will walk you through his process for leather carving, from start to finish.

Belsac (M)

## But Is It Romantasy?

Editing and Publishing  
Grand 2, Fri. 1 to 2 p.m.

Romantasy is a hot new buzz word in publishing but what, exactly, is it? Defining your work accurately and delivering what you promise can make the difference between selling your manuscript or staying unpublished. Break down this popular portmanteau with our pros, learn when to apply it to your own stories, and gain a better understanding of how the industry uses certain genre terms.

Amanda Cherry (M), Rashida J Smith, S.C. Mills, Kendare Blake, Shiromi Arserio

## Interview and Q&A with Dutch Bihary, Special Guest of Honor

Guest of Honor; Streaming  
Grand 3, Fri. 1 to 2 p.m.

Come join an interview with Norwescon 48’s special guest of honor, Dutch Bihary, and ask your own questions during the Q&A.

Dutch Bihary ContoursFx (M)

## Youth: Costume Prop Making

Youth  
Olympic 1, Fri. 1 to 2 p.m.

Costume craft hour! Let’s make tails, tiaras, belts, hats, and other accessories using techniques like gluing, simple sewing, and stapling. Small children will need assistance.

Jenny Shafer (M), Meghan D. Lancaster, Richard Stephens

## Bookdun Writer Group Mixer

Wild Card

Presidential Suite 1360, Fri. 1 to 2 p.m.

Want to find a writing group that helps you get your writing done? Bookdun is an on-topic writing community focused on helping our members not only write their novels but complete them! This group offers regular gamified writing events, workshops, and writing group mixers. They encourage writers of all flavors, from hobbyist to publication-bound. At the heart of their server is their Bookdun Writing Challenge, in which members join a team to compete against themselves and others to finish their novel in six months' time. Come meet some members of this community and join today!

## Kanzashi: Fabric Folded Flowers

Hands-On Workshop

Tower Ballroom, Fri. 1 to 3 p.m.

Originating in Japan, “Kanzashi” is typically used to refer to hair ornaments made from layers of folded cloth used to form flowers. In this workshop, participants will turn fabric scraps and remnants into a wearable brooch or hair clip. Basic hand sewing skill required. \$20 kit fee. Signup at the info table.

Janine (M)

## Reading: L.J. Melvin

Readings

Cascade 3, Fri. 1:30 to 2 p.m.

L.J. Melvin reads selections from the *Curd Immunity* series—cozy YA climate fiction. Rated G.

L.J. Melvin (M)

**2 p.m.**

## Reading: Brenda Cooper

Readings

Cascade 3, Fri. 2 to 2:30 p.m.

*When Mothers Dream*. Brenda will read selections from *When Mothers Dream*, a collection of work about our environmental crisis and how strong women might move through it, including science fiction, fantasy, and poetry. Rated G.

Brenda Cooper (M)

## Medieval Warfare Tactics

History

Cascade 6, Fri. 2 to 3 p.m.

How did different cultures in the Middle Ages conduct war? From single combatant challenges, to guerilla ambushes, knights, yeoman, and more—how did they view and wage war?

Randy Hayes (M), D.L. Solum, Alan Paulsen, Ann Shilling, Peter Fuller

## Cosplay Design for Accessibility and Inclusivity

Costume

Cascade 7 & 8, Fri. 2 to 3 p.m.

How can costumes be altered to make them easier to wear, whatever your personal circumstances?

Melissa Quinn (M), Grace Amundsen Barnkow, Rue Dickey, Li Harrison, Kit Vander Voort

## Spaceships, Colonists, and Castaways: Small Isolated Communities In SF

Science Fiction; Streaming

Cascade 9, Fri. 2 to 3 p.m.

Often one can achieve more insight into the human condition looking at small groups of humanity rather than at the scale of cities or entire civilizations.

Curtis C. Chen (M), Nancy Kress, Daniel H. Wilson, Susan R. Matthews, Clay Vermulm

## Intellectual Property and Nerd Art: A Primer

Wild Card

Cascade 10, Fri. 2 to 3 p.m.

Whether as a visual artist, writer, or developer, those who create their own IP almost always use others' IP in some way. This primer in intellectual property covers copyright, trademark, and patent rights, protection, registration, and enforcement in the United States. Whether you're new to creating or a seasoned veteran looking to brush up on America's intellectual property landscape, this presentation should have information relevant to your art. Presented by an intellectual property attorney who is not going to give legal advice but loves to provide legal education. So bring your q's!

Ethan Vodde (M)

## What is PNW Gothic?

Wild Card

Cascade 11, Fri. 2 to 3 p.m.

There's Southern gothic and Appalachian gothic, but what would a gothic genre anchored to the Pacific Northwest look like? What would the aesthetics be? What would distinguish it from other subgenres? Come join the panelists in outlining the hazy boundaries together!

Thursday (M), Michelle Morrell, Anne Stewart, Shannon Page, Leigh Harlen

## The Business of Writing Horror

Horror; Guest of Honor

Cascade 13, Fri. 2 to 3 p.m.

How do today's horror writers turn dark ideas into a thriving career? Horror isn't just about monsters and jump scares—it's a way to make a living. Small presses and self-publishing give today's horror writers more paths than ever. In this panel, experienced authors share what really sells, how to build a loyal audience, and how to balance creativity with the realities of making horror a sustainable career.

Emily Smiley (M), Bradley Englert / Orbit Books, Brianna Malotke, J.P. Barnett, Timothy W. Long

## When Your Social Life is All Online

Community

Cascade 12, Fri. 2 to 3 p.m.

For young and old alike, the internet has revolutionized how we interact. For some, this has expanded their social world for the better. How does the online world affect our ability to make deep and meaningful relationships?

Mona West (M), Dr. Kaylea Champion, Cecilia Eng, Andrew Ross, Wm Salt Hale

## So, You Got into a Sci-Fi /Fantasy Convention Art Show! What Now?

Art; Guest of Honor

Evergreen 1 & 2, Fri. 2 to 3 p.m.

Get tips and advice from experts on how to prepare for your first art show, what to expect, and other things like how to build a community by networking to make connections with other artists and potential clients. As well as how to take your art to the next level!

Michael Brugger (M), Geneva Bowers, Alex Demboski, Camille Meehan

## Strong Starts: Storytelling 201

Writing

Evergreen 3 & 4, Fri. 2 to 3 p.m.

Using a traditional three-act structure as a common starting point, our panelists will discuss the function of the first act. Join them as they identify crucial components to hook a reader, lay the foundation of a story, and guide you in applying these techniques to your own work.

Phoenix Bourgeois (M), G.R. Theron, Sebastien de Castell, Kate Ristau, Lezli Robyn

## Fantasy and Horror Sitting in a Tree

Fantasy

Grand 2, Fri. 2 to 3 p.m.

Fantasy and horror often sit on a sliding scale within speculative fiction, each finding its way into the base of how we understand the story. Join our authors as they discuss horror in fantasy and fantasy in horror. Why does this happen, and how can you effectively blend horror and fantasy in your own work?

Remy Nakamura (M), Rosemary Jones, Camden Rose, Kendare Blake, Cyrus Amelia Fisher

## Interview and Q&A with Ursula Vernon, aka T. Kingfisher, Writer Guest of Honor

Guest of Honor; Streaming

Grand 3, Fri. 2 to 3 p.m.

Join an interview with Norwescon 48's writer guest of honor, Ursula Vernon, aka T. Kingfisher. Ask your own questions during the Q&A!

T. Kingfisher (M)

## Youth: Slime!

Youth

Olympic 1, Fri. 2 to 3 p.m.

Everyone loves slime! Make some in a bag to take home.

Jenny Shafer (M), Cool Nerd Mark, Oz Norberg

## Submariners Assemble

Wild Card

Presidential Suite 1360, Fri. 2 to 3 p.m.

This meetup is an opportunity for submarine veterans to get together and share.

Mike Brennan (M)

### Concert: Paul Kwinn

Concerts

Tower Lounge, Fri. 2 to 3 p.m.

Paul Kwinn has been involved in filk for about 35 years. A significant portion of his repertoire is made up of songs written for various filk song writing contests, and he has won a Pegasus Award. When not filking, he's been working as a video game programmer for 40 years.

Paul Kwinn (M)

### Reading: Carol Berg

Readings

Cascade 3, Fri. 2:30 to 3 p.m.

*Extraordinary Assassination.* Hue de Paien, constable of Bardeu, has been convinced in most painful and explicit terms that he must never use the unsanctioned talent for magic that lies hidden inside him. But when his employer, a minor baron, summons him to solve a murder within the lord's own family, the evidence points explicitly to some serious magical wickedness. Rated G.

Carol Berg (M)

### Art in Action: andyvanoverberghe

Artists Workshop

Grand 1, Fri. 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Andy will demonstrate his unique "Art on Wood" style.

andyvanoverberghe (M)

### 3 p.m.

#### Reading: K.G. Anderson

Readings

Cascade 3, Fri. 3 to 3:30 p.m.

"The Dancer from Dark Waters." This New England dark fantasy story revisits the Cthulhu mythos—from another perspective. Rated PG.

K.G. Anderson (M)

### Teen & Tween: Teens Rule the World

Teen/Tween

Cascade 5, Fri. 3 to 4 p.m.

What books do it well? What books do it not-so-well? What ingredients make for a satisfying teen-igarchy?

Kate Ristau (M), Camden Rose, Leslie Lutz

### Best Indie Sci-Fi Fantasy Movies

Popular Culture & Media

Cascade 6, Fri. 3 to 4 p.m.

You don't always need a big budget to tell big stories! Let's talk about the best-of-the-best when it comes to sci-fi fantasy passion project films.

Nick Fraser (M), Matt Youngmark, Timothy W. Long, Andie Penn Romine, Jake Samm

### All About the Philip K. Dick Award

Science Fiction

Cascade 7 & 8, Fri. 3 to 4 p.m.

Presented annually at Norwescon, the Philip K. Dick Award recognizes distinguished science fiction published in paperback original form in the United States. The award is sponsored by the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society and the Philip K. Dick Trust, and the award ceremony is sponsored by Norwescon. Come and learn all about it.

Gordon Van Gelder (M), Koji A. Dae, William Alexander, Thomas Ha

### Breaking the Silence: How Do You Say Hello to Something That Might Not Even Recognize You as Alive?

Space; Guest of Honor; Streaming

Cascade 9, Fri. 3 to 4 p.m.

Establishing first contact assumes we can establish communication, and Star Trek convinces us that most alien life wouldn't just have the same sense organs we do, but be more-or-less human. But we don't actually know that yet. What if aliens operate on completely different sensory modalities, timescales, or concepts of existence? How do we prove our intelligence to beings that might perceive reality through magnetic fields, chemical gradients, or quantum states? Our panelists will explore mathematical universals, physical constants, and pattern recognition as potential bridges, and examine things like octopus cognition, generative AI, and Earth's other "alien" minds to see what they can teach us about this kind of challenge.

Summer Ash (M), David Tucker, Ph.D., Larry Lewis, Kaitlyn Casimo, PhD, MEd, John Jensen

## Queer/Trans Representation 101

### Writing

Cascade 10, Fri. 3 to 4 p.m.

Everything you want to know about queer and trans representation in speculative fiction, but are too afraid to ask. Do you want to include queer characters in your stories, but you aren't sure exactly how? What counts as "good" representation? What's up with pronouns? What does "queernorm" mean? What the heck is the "bury your gays" trope and is it always bad to kill off an LGBTQ+ character? Do you need a sensitivity reader? Is it okay to include characters—even main characters—who have identities that aren't yours? Let's talk representation, starting at the very basics!

Alex Crawley (M), Cyrus Amelia Fisher, Evan J. Peterson, Claire E. Jones, S.C. Mills

## Neurodiversity 101

### Community

Cascade 11, Fri. 3 to 4 p.m.

Autism, ADHD, dyslexia, and more! What does it mean to be neurodivergent or neurotypical? What could a neurodiverse society look like?

Liz Coleman (M), Liz Argall, Caren GS, Gloria Jackson-Nefertiti, Dr. Sean Robinson

## Critiques to Help You and Your Art Grow

### Art; Guest of Honor

Cascade 13, Fri. 3 to 4 p.m.

Showing your art, which you hold close to your heart, to a group of artists can be terrifying! In this panel you will have the chance to talk to one or two artists at a time—artists who are understanding and want nothing more than to see you gain confidence and grow your artistic abilities. You will also get to watch other artist reviews. Bring your sketchbook, portfolio, or even one particular piece you've been struggling with, and let these panelists help you grow!

Lizzy D. Hill (M), Camille Meehan, Michael Brugger, Dutch Bihary ContoursFx, Ivy Gilliam, Jeff Sturgeon, Belsac

## Quiet Horror: Unease to Terror Without Gore

### Horror

Cascade 12, Fri. 3 to 4 p.m.

Explore how to write quiet, unsettling horror that lingers, with stories built on dread, ambiguity, and emotional

tension. Panelists will discuss pacing, character-driven fear, and the importance of narrators, both reliable and unreliable. They'll touch on notable examples from literature, podcasts, and film, and offer practical tips for crafting slow-burn terror.

Elizabeth Guizzetti/Elizabeth Greyrose (M), Steven Barnes, Josef B. Wilke, Neena Viel, Gordon B. White

## Teen Engagement Root Beer Float Meet-n-Greet

### Wild Card

Convention Lounge, Fri. 3 to 4 p.m.

Calling all teens (13–18 years old) to come for root beer floats in the Convention Lounge (room 7106). Meet other teens and hear about this year's achievements in The Shire, our teen engagement program.

## From Campaigns to Contracts

### Editing and Publishing

Evergreen 1 & 2, Fri. 3 to 4 p.m.

You've waged your campaign, and written your story—but how do you break into the business of literary RPG fiction publishing? This panel brings together professional authors who've made the leap from the gaming table to the bookshelf, as well as the editors who acquire their work. Panelists will share insights on pitching, contracts, and the realities of working in licensed universes.

Amanda Cherry (M), Rosemary Jones, Shanna Germain, James L. Sutter, Monte Lin

## Service and Citizenship

### Military

Evergreen 3 & 4, Fri. 3 to 4 p.m.

How does the concept of voluntary service versus compulsion inform and affect a military and the society it comes from? Panelists discuss the merits of volunteer forces versus draft in the U.S., British Navy impress gangs, all-citizen service requirements such as in South Korea or Switzerland, or the "serve to be a citizen" mandate in *Starship Troopers*.

D. Scott Thayer (M), Ben Honeycutt, Alexandra Nica, Russell Ervin, Clayton Mann

## Youth: Map-Making

### Youth

Olympic 1, Fri. 3 to 4 p.m.

Come to this panel to learn a little geography and make a map for your own world.

Jenny Shafer (M), Mir Plemmons

### Norwescon's Bibliophiles Discussion of *Outlaw Planet* by M.R. Carey

Wild Card

Presidential Suite 1360, Fri. 3 to 4 p.m.

Join us for a lively discussion of the Philip K. Dick nominated *Outlaw Planet*, by M.R. Carey. This is a book club-style discussion and there will be spoilers as well as strong opinions. Whether you've finished the book or are just curious, all are welcome. Norwescon's Bibliophiles is Norwescon's official book club, open to all book lovers. It meets year-round for lively discussions of science fiction and fantasy books. Look for our group page on Facebook!

### Concert: The PDX Broadsides

Concerts

Tower Lounge, Fri. 3 to 4 p.m.

Nerd-pop powerhouse trio The PDX Broadsides sing about fandoms and feelings with great vigor and harmony! From nerdy love ballads to science songs to odes to fandoms and feelings, you will be laughing and singing along!

Christian Lipski, Dr. Jess Hebert, Hollyannam McCollom

### Reading: Talulah J. Sullivan

Readings

Cascade 3, Fri. 3:30 to 4 p.m.

Reading from *Raven Mocker*. When Jo Buchanan inherits her uncle's horse farm in the Scottish borderlands, it seems a dream come true. Her grandmother Caroline believes in dreams and moves with Jo to the borderlands. Both have reasons to uproot their lives on the Oklahoma reservation. Both are searching for answers within the cultural tangles of their past. That past will catch them up in ways they never would have guessed, as ancient and fearsome legends stalk their new home. Rated PG.

Talulah J. Sullivan (M)

### Feather Fascination

Costume; Hands-On Workshop

Tower Ballroom, Fri. 3:30 to 5 p.m.

Take home a feather arrangement to use as a costume accent (brooch, fascinator, etc.), learning feather working techniques along the way. Panelists will cover which feathers are suitable for which applications, how to shape and affix them, and where to source them from. Cost is \$10. Limit of 15. Sign up will be at the Info Table the day before.

Crystal Taggart (M)

### 4 p.m.

#### Reading: Daphne Singingtree

Readings

Cascade 3, Fri. 4 to 4:30 p.m.

*Expeditions: A Time Travel Journey*. In this sequel to *Circle for the Earth*, survivors of the 21st century struggle to build a new world after being cast back to 1792. Drawing from Indigenous knowledge, resilience, and community, *Expeditions* follows their journey down the Mississippi River as they seek allies, resources, and meaning in a transformed past. Join author Daphne Singingtree for a reading that blends speculative fiction, history, and the enduring hope of rebuilding in harmony with the Earth. Rated G.

Daphne Singingtree (M)

### Teen & Tween: Help Teens Rule the World

Teen/Tween

Cascade 5, Fri. 4 to 5 p.m.

Create your own kingdom or planet in this workshop. Learn from panelists about the basics of a society and how to make a protagonist that is ready to run it. Then, put pencil to paper and create your own world to rule.

L.J. Melvin (M), Leslie Lutz, A. L. Kaplan, Erin M. Evans, Liz Argall

### Shouldn't We Be Remaking BAD Movies?

Popular Culture & Media

Cascade 6, Fri. 4 to 5 p.m.

Rather than remaking classics, shouldn't we be remaking (and improving) failures? What remakes have improved the original? What "bad" things should be remade? (The panel title is a quote from John Huston, who knew a thing or two about remaking bad movies, such as the third version of *The Maltese Falcon*.)

Nick Fraser (M), Gareth Davis, James Bailey, Meghan D. Lancaster, Kris 'Pepper' Hambrick

## Representation in Young Adult (YA) Compositions

YA

Cascade 7 & 8, Fri. 4 to 5 p.m.

Listen to panelists discuss different kinds of representation in YA compositions and the representation they wished they saw more of.

Marta Murvosh (M), Sonja Thomas, Diana Ma, Miranda Levi, Lily Meade

## Star Wars and Marvel—Retire or Reinvent?

Popular Culture & Media; Streaming

Cascade 9, Fri. 4 to 5 p.m.

Sometimes when money talks fans want to walk. Come decide if these two staples of speculative storytelling need a break, a reboot, or maybe just an ending.

Jack Samm (M), Caitlin Jacques, Nicole Glover, Torrey Stenmark, Andie Penn Romine

## Space and Space Travel in Steampunk

Science Fiction

Cascade 10, Fri. 4 to 5 p.m.

When writing about space travel in steampunk literature, do you use the Victorian concepts of space or modern ones? What did the Victorians believe about space and other planets?

Dean Wells (M), Peter Adrian Behravesh, Dr. Mark Rounds, Phil L. Swan

## Freelancing 101

Gaming

Cascade 11, Fri. 4 to 5 p.m.

Our gaming industry professionals give their advice and tips on how to break into the gaming industry as freelance writers. What are the steps to becoming a role-playing game freelancer?

Rue Dickey (M), John Godek, James L. Sutter, Luis Loza, Sean K. Reynolds

## Writing as a Craft and Journey

Writing

Cascade 13, Fri. 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Progress as an author can feel stagnant and the advice confusing. In this workshop, you'll explore the creative process, hear context for the advice being given, and

learn how to define for yourself a useful structure for your own journey. Hosted by G.R. Theron.

G.R. Theron (M)

## Making it Gay, Trans, Neurodivergent, and More

Fanfic

Cascade 12, Fri. 4 to 5 p.m.

People with power tend to speak for those with less. In a media world that too often does not represent women, queer, BIPOC, neurodivergent, or disabled people, it's no wonder fanfic writers choose to represent themselves or their desires in the fanfic they write. This panel isn't about why we take cishet characters and make them gay, trans, or a dozen other things; it's about why we should and the freedom and joy that goes with knowing we can.

Sar Surmick (M), Scotty McIntosh, S.C. Mills, Virginia Black

## That's Not How This Works, That's Not How Any of This Works

Biology; Guest of Honor

Evergreen 1 & 2, Fri. 4 to 5 p.m.

Panelists discuss the worst misuses of science in both current and past science fiction and fantasy.

Summer Ash (M), T. Kingfisher, Dr. Ricky, Melissa Nichols, Shiv Ramdas

## Who Would Win?

Fantasy

Evergreen 3 & 4, Fri. 4 to 5 p.m.

There can be only one! Join a well-meaning, entertaining debate between characters chosen by the moderator and audience to see who would win in various contests.

Ryan James (M), Kit Vander Voort, Sandra Rosner, Natalie Leif, Erik Scott de Bie

## Art in Action: Crystal Smith

Artists Workshop

Grand 1, Fri. 4 to 5 p.m.

Crystal will discuss the ancient art of fore-edge painting onto books.

Crystal Smith (M)

## Youth: Make Some Noise!

Youth

Olympic 1, Fri. 4 to 5 p.m.

Make a music maker and have a jam session.

Jenny Shafer (M), Cool Nerd Mark

## Concert: Alexander James Adams

Concerts

Tower Lounge, Fri. 4 to 5 p.m.

The legendary Faerie Tale Minstrel (and heir to Heather Alexander) returns to Norwescon with new music, storytelling, and expert performance that will take you on a magical, musical journey of wonder.

Alexander James Adams (M)

## Reading: Tom D Wright

Readings

Cascade 3, Fri. 4:30 to 5 p.m.

*Fang, PI: A Scent of Malice.* A sci-fi detective story featuring an enhanced, artificially-intelligent canine private investigator, forced by a sequence of devastating events to partner with a young woman who has more potential than he realizes to solve a mystery. As their hunt leads to a threat of truly biblical proportions, they'll be pushed to their limits—and if they're lucky, they might even survive. Rated G.

Tom D Wright (M)

## 5 p.m.

### Reading: Ellis Bray

Readings

Cascade 3, Fri. 5 to 5:30 p.m.

“Elegy for the Nameless Man.” An obituary told entirely in footnotes. Rated PG.

Ellis Bray (M)

## Teen & Tween: Sewing Machine Basics

Teen/Tween

Cascade 5, Fri. 5 to 7 p.m.

Learn the basics of setting up and using a sewing machine and then make or begin a project with help from our panelists. Feel free to bring something you're working on. Teens and tweens only.

L.J. Melvin (M), Melissa Quinn, Grace Amundsen Barnkow, Karen Eisenbrey, Taylor Tomblin

## Predator/ Alien

Popular Culture & Media

Cascade 6, Fri. 5 to 6 p.m.

From cinemas to the small screen these extraterrestrial-led franchises have seen a recent resurgence in both quality and popularity. Come discuss your favorite (and least favorite) installments and explore the lore of these beloved baddies.

Curtis C. Chen (M), Luke Elliott, Neena Viel, Emily C. Skaftun, Shiromi Arserio

## Speculative Poetry: Every Universe in Your Pocket

Poetry

Cascade 7 & 8, Fri. 5 to 6 p.m.

Specpo 101! If you've never heard of speculative poetry, or if you think poetry is just for old white guys who like talking about clouds and flowers, come in and hear about the ever-expanding world of science fiction, fantasy, and nerd poetry, and the ways it's being led by a diverse collection of poets (even old white guys sometimes) writing on an infinity of topics (occasionally even clouds and flowers).

Brian U. Garrison (M), Kate Ristau, GregRobin Smith, Larina Warnock, Brianna Malotke

## Raising Steam

Technology; Streaming

Cascade 9, Fri. 5 to 6 p.m.

People have been using steam to turn heat into work for about 250 years, and those years have been exciting ones. Why has steam been so important, what is the future of steam, and how can it be used to make your writing more exciting?

Mike Brennan (M), Jonny, David Tucker, Ph.D., Alan Andrist, Morgan Smathers

## Veterinary Husbandry of Mythical Creatures

Biology

Cascade 10, Fri. 5 to 6 p.m.

What are some things you may need to know to care for your hippogryph? How do I treat an injured owlbear? Can someone PLEASE tell me how to get my displacer beast to stop stepping on the sofa! Our panelists

discuss the theoretical challenges and solutions to caring for mythical beasts.

Darren McKinty, RVT (M), Melissa Nichols, Jay Donnaway, Charlotte Lewis Brown

## Negotiating Contracts in Tabletop

Gaming

Cascade 11, Fri. 5 to 6 p.m.

Join freelancers in tabletop role-playing games and board games to discuss what to expect when discussing pay rates in the industry, including ceilings/floors, advances, and royalties.

Virginia Black (M), John Godek, Erin Roberts, Gabrielle Harbowy, Monte Lin

## Mutual Aid 101

Community

Cascade 12, Fri. 5 to 6 p.m.

So, you've got a casual community of friends. How do you turn that into a community that helps each other get through hard times?

Marnee Chua (M), Andrew Williams, Li Harrison, Susie Fox, Scotty McIntosh

## Hello. I Am C-3P0, Human Cyborg Relations

Science Fiction

Evergreen 1 & 2, Fri. 5 to 6 p.m.

Looking at the relationship between human and mechanical intelligences as explored in SF literature, ranging from robot "slavery" to equal status to machine domination.

Izzy G (M), Nicole Glover, Daniel H. Wilson, William Boulanger, Libby Schultz

## Humor and Horror: Not Such Strange Bedfellows

Horror

Evergreen 3 & 4, Fri. 5 to 6 p.m.

In *Tucker and Dale vs. Evil*, *Shaun of the Dead*, and *What We Do in the Shadows*, and books like David Wong's *John Dies at the End*, *You Suck* by Christopher Moore, and *My Best Friend's Exorcism* by Grady Hendrix, the line between horror and comedy can often be combined while nailing the tropes of both genres. Both rely on timing, tension, and knowing exactly when to let the audience breathe. Our panelists discuss why the two

genres are secretly siblings, and how humor can make horror hit even harder.

Perla X. Caballero (M), Lawrence Watt-Evans, Emily Smiley, Alexandra Nica, J.P. Barnett

## Labyrinth Featuring Shadow Cast!

Special Events

Grand 3, Fri. 5 to 7 p.m.

Come to a shadow cast screening of the cult-classic fantasy *Labyrinth*! The film will be shown on screen while live performers shadow the action, bringing the magic, music, and the Goblin King to life.

## Youth: Watercolor Paint-Along

Youth

Olympic 1, Fri. 5 to 6 p.m.

Paint a watercolor landscape.

Jenny Shafer (M)

## Learn to Play Magic: The Gathering

Special Events

Olympic 2, Fri. 5 to 6 p.m.

Join The Shire for an introductory session on *Magic: The Gathering* (MtG). Whether you've never heard of MtG, or want to meet some new friends to play with, this beginner's class will teach you how to play one of the most popular—and most complex—card games around. Cards and play mats will be provided, so come ready to learn and have fun!

## Esperanto Meetup

Wild Card

Presidential Suite 1360, Fri. 5 to 6 p.m.

Opportunity for people who are interested in Esperanto to gather and share. All levels of fluency are invited: from those just curious about Esperanto to advanced speakers.

## Reading: Laura Cranehill

Readings

Cascade 3, Fri. 5:30 to 6 p.m.

*Wife Shaped Bodies*. An excerpt from a weird mycological queer horror novel coming out from Saga Press on April 14th. Rated R.

Laura Cranehill (M)

## Art in Action: Camille Meehan

Artists Workshop  
Grand 1, Fri. 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Camille will enthusiastically tell (and show!) attendees how she creates digital art.

Camille Meehan (M)

## Crafting Music with Intention

Music  
Tower Lounge, Fri. 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

From initial inspiration to finished production, how does a songwriter craft mood, message, and arrangement to create an intentional effect on their listeners? Come hear how our panelists manage this feat, what does and doesn't work, and pick up some tools and tricks to use in your own songwriting and music composition.

Cathy McManamon (M), Alexander James Adams

## 6 p.m.

### Reading: Thursday

Readings  
Cascade 3, Fri. 6 to 6:30 p.m.

*Speculative Poetry and Prose.* A Norwescon baby brings some of their original writing to share. There will be laughs, potentially some cringes, and many superheroes, vampires, monsters, nerd references, and queerness! Rated G.

Thursday (M)

## Consulting, Sensitivity, and Culture

Gaming  
Cascade 6, Fri. 6 to 7 p.m.

How do you successfully include cultures that aren't your own in your games?

Luis E. Torres, Peter Adrian Behraves, Luis Loza, Rue Dickey

## Which Workshop Is Right for You?

Writing  
Cascade 7 & 8, Fri. 6 to 7 p.m.

Writing workshops and classes can be a good way to level up your writing, meet potential peers, work with writers you admire, and find writing or critique buddies. From MFAs to online classes: How do you decide which one is right for you? What makes them unique? What do

you look for and what can you avoid? Writers with experience at some of the major and local speculative workshops and educational programs discuss what what to look for, what to avoid and what makes each one unique. You'll leave with a better understanding of the role workshops can play in your writing.

Elsie Raymond (M), Rashida J Smith, Tara Campbell, Caren GS, Monte Lin

## R.I.P. Joann's: Now Where Do I Shop?

Costume; Streaming  
Cascade 9, Fri. 6 to 7 p.m.

Where can you shop for fabric and other materials now that Joann's has gone the way of the dodo? Panelists will offer their insights for sourcing materials online and in the real world.

Gina Saucier (M), Crystal Taggart, Taylor Tomblin, Richard Stephens, Caitlin Jacques

## Scams, Solicitations, and AI

Editing and Publishing  
Cascade 10, Fri. 6 to 7 p.m.

Is that agent in your email inbox for real? How about that publisher offering you professional publication for just a small fee? Scammers have always sniffed around authors seeking publication, but now, with AI, they're finding new ways to take advantage of writers who don't know any better. Learn how to recognize scams and how to keep your rights and your money in your own pocket.

Terra Caldwell (M), Shahid Mahmud, Gregory Amato, J. L. Doty, Josh Storey

## History Misuse in Media

History  
Cascade 11, Fri. 6 to 7 p.m.

Beyond anachronistic fashion choices, what do the movies and shows get most wrong about history? Bring your favorite examples to discuss.

Meghan D. Lancaster (M), Daphne Singingtree, Alan Paulsen, Nick Fraser, Rhiannon/R.Z. Held

## Generating Unique Ideas for Weird Horror Fiction

Horror  
Cascade 13, Fri. 6 to 7 p.m.

We all know how it feels to be struck by inspiration at the worst possible times: in the shower, at 3 a.m., or during

a teeth-grinding dinner with your in-laws! But how many of those brilliant ideas we envision make it to the page, a finished draft, or publication? Hopefully, with the tools discussed in this panel, you can start to change that tendency to finishing, shopping, and selling those ideas as completed stories! Led by talented, local horror author Gordon B. White, this panel will walk you through Gordon's brainstorming and idea generation techniques which have led to hundreds of short story publications in professional markets.

Gordon B. White (M)

## First Page Idol

Editing and Publishing  
Cascade 12, Fri. 6 to 7 p.m.

Does your hook grab your target readers? Are you sure? Try out your opening on a live audience with the help of professional voice actors. Our audiobook narrators will read a stack of first pages out loud. Audience members will raise their hands when they lose interest. As the author, you'll stay anonymous while getting feedback from readers. To submit work, email your first page with genre designation at the top to [idol@norwescon.org](mailto:idol@norwescon.org).

Rebecca H. Lee (M), Gary Bennett, Sam Stark, Shiromi Arserio, Evan J. Peterson

## Speculative Film Festival Block G

Special Events  
Evergreen 1 & 2, Fri. 6 to 7 p.m.

Start your evening off with a selection of science fiction films: *Star Crossed* (U.S.), *Emotional Anomaly* (Spain), *I Made The Invisible Man* (U.K.), and *Memoria Obscura* (U.S.).

Shawn Marier (M)

## Polyamorous Community

Community  
Evergreen 3 & 4, Fri. 6 to 7 p.m.

Our panelists discuss building a polyamorous community.

Sar Surmick (M), John Jensen, Jonathan, Hazel, Gloria Jackson-Nefertiti

## Friday Night *Magic*: Two Draft Events!

Special Events  
Olympic 2, Fri. 6 to 10 p.m.

1: With the Mystery Booster 2 *Magic* draft, you can let chaos reign! With its limited release and hard-to-find cards, this is a rare chance to experience a truly chaotic draft. Limited to eight players at \$50 per person. 2: With the Edge of Eternities *Magic* draft, blast off into *Magic*'s space-fantasy set! Chart a course through the Sothera system to explore distant planets, wield dazzling magic, and wage war with alien factions. Limited to 24 players at \$25 per person. Sign-ups for both are available on Warhorn pre-con and alongside general gaming registration in Lakeside Gaming.

## Book Edge Painting Party with Author Gabriella Buba

Hands-On Workshop  
Tower Ballroom, Fri. 6 to 8 p.m.

Customize your bookshelf! Attendees will be creating gorgeous custom copies of author Gabriella Buba's Stormbringer Saga books 1 or 2. No experience is needed; just bring your enthusiasm, and panelists will provide all the materials you need! Gabriella will guide you in creating your very own edge-painted copy of her Aldiss Award-nominated epic fantasy duology featuring *Saints of Storm and Sorrow* and *Daughters of Flood and Fury*. This workshop includes the purchase of one signed copy and two hours of step-by-step instruction on how to edge paint and customize your book. You will also receive a printout listing the basic supplies you'd need to continue your edge painting journey at home, and a step-by-step guide. The cost is \$35, cash only. Limited to 20 sign-ups at the info table.

Gabriella Buba (M)

## Reading: Corry L. Lee

Readings  
Cascade 3, Fri. 6:30 to 7 p.m.

*Weave the Lightning*. It has been decades since magical storms have been seen in Bourshkanya's skies. Their return should be Celka's greatest moment—giving the resistance the weapons they need to overthrow the tyrannical Stormhawk—but after a lifetime of hiding her gift from the State, she's had too little training. Hazy lessons from a father lost to the secret police aren't enough, and calling down magical lightning with no clue how to control it is too reckless, even for her.... Rated PG.

Corry L. Lee (M)

## 7 p.m.

### Reading: Larina Warnock

#### Readings

Cascade 3, Fri. 7 to 7:30 p.m.

*Monsters, Myths, and Mental Landscapes*. Fantastical poems exploring mental illness, trauma, and the search for meaning. Rated PG.

Larina Warnock (M)

### Teen & Tween: Table Read

#### Audio; Teen/Tween

Cascade 5, Fri. 7 to 8 p.m.

Are you interested in voice acting? Ever wondered what a table read is like? Want to find out? Come hang out with some professional voice actors and take turns playing parts in an original script! Panelists will select a small group to read together for 5 minutes guided by one of our voice actors, and then they will switch and choose another group. Reading time will vary on attendance. Bring all your best character voices! Teens and tweens only!

Sam Stark (M), Oz Norberg, Erica Angeline Solano

### You're Going to Sell Your Soul. What Would You Want for It?

#### Wild Card

Cascade 6, Fri. 7 to 8 p.m.

Maybe you figure you're already damned. Maybe the reward is worth it. This panel will ask the audience what their price is. (Norwescon is not responsible for any actual transactions.)

M. Shedric Simpson (M), Ben Honeycutt, Carlos Cabrera, Ethan Vodde, Jake McKinzie

### Where is the Foot Soldier?

#### Military

Cascade 7 & 8, Fri. 7 to 8 p.m.

With spaceships, drones, and AI-guided missiles, are foot soldiers still necessary in sci-fi battles? Do armies of the future still need ground troops? Would they become unnecessary with technological advances, or is there a cultural/societal need for ground fighters aside from technology? What are examples from sci-fi books and movies?

Randy Hayes (M), Jonathan JD Davenport, John Lovett, Peter Fuller, Dr. Mark Rounds

### Scare the Characters, Support the Players

#### Gaming; Streaming

Cascade 9, Fri. 7 to 8 p.m.

Join our panelists in a discussion about horror in tabletop role-playing games and how to limit information in a way that keeps the mystery alive but doesn't risk alienating or actually frightening players. How safety tools and lines/veils can actually expand the topics you explore in horror by setting guard rails and opening new avenues.

Rue Dickey (M), Shanna Germain, Sean K. Reynolds, Lydia Randall, Luis Loza

### Rocky Horror: Five Decades of Absolute Pleasure

#### Popular Culture & Media

Cascade 10, Fri. 7 to 8 p.m.

*The Rocky Horror Picture Show* turned 50 in 2025. Let's give ourselves over to this absolute pleasure and talk about what made RHPS stick: the DIY aesthetic, the punk sensibility, the adventure into taboo gender and sexuality. How did this tiny, bizarre, queer-as-hell stage play become the undisputed titan of interactive cinema? And what of the sequels, such as *Shock Treatment* or Magdalene Visaggio's new graphic novel? Let's do the "Time Warp" again (and again and again).

Richard Stephens (M), Amanda Cherry, Berlynn Wohl, Taylor Tomblin, Evan J. Peterson

### Thrifting for Costumes

#### Costume

Cascade 11, Fri. 7 to 8 p.m.

Thrifting and upcycling are terrific, budget-friendly ways to get started with costuming. Come learn where to shop and how to identify what you find.

Ms Purple Pearl (M), Grace Amundsen Barnkow, Gina Saucier, Caitlin Jacques, Melissa Nichols

### How to Get Started in Designing Your Own Graphic Novel

#### Art; Guest of Honor

Cascade 13, Fri. 7 to 8 p.m.

Always wanted to make your story into a graphic novel but don't know where to start? Come learn from our experienced artists and see how they approach making their stories into visual works of storytelling art.

Tori Sharp (M), Geneva Bowers, Eric L Vargas, Liz Argall, Larry Lewis

## Raising Them Right: Kids and Horror Media

Horror

Cascade 12, Fri. 7 to 8 p.m.

Horror isn't just about scares—it sparks imagination, resilience, and connection. But how can parents share their love of horror films and books in ways that respect children's ages and boundaries? This panel explores strategies for introducing young fans to spooky media, from early "gateway" stories to scarier content as they grow. Panelists discuss helping kids set their own limits, recognizing readiness for more intense material, and celebrating the genre together. Join them for insights on raising the next generation of horror lovers—without the nightmares.

Dustin Campbell (M), Josef B. Wilke, Kendare Blake, J.P. Barnett, Lish McBride

## Speculative Film Festival Block H

Special Events

Evergreen 1 & 2, Fri. 7 to 8 p.m.

With alien invasions, bug hunts, exploration of planets, and ghosts in the machine, this block has all the tropes of science fiction: *Invasion '53* (U.S.), *2042* (Italy), *Downsized* (U.K.), *Pale Blue Dot: A Tale of Two Stargazers* (Italy).

Shawn Marier (M)

## Radiation in Truth and Fiction

Technology

Evergreen 3 & 4, Fri. 7 to 8 p.m.

Many people learned about radiation from comic books, so what they know is wrong. Others learned about it from people with political agendas, and a lot of that is wrong, too. What is real about radiation? How has it affected your life? And how has it shaped the world you live in? How can it be used in that story you are writing?

Mike Brennan (M), Morgan Smathers, VA7LON, David Tucker, Ph.D., Michael Brugger

## Philip K. Dick Award Ceremony

Special Events; Streaming

Grand 2, Fri. 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Presented annually at Norwescon with the support of the Philip K. Dick Trust, this award recognizes distinguished science fiction published in paperback

original form in the United States. The award is sponsored by the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society and presented annually at Norwescon with the support of the Philip K. Dick Trust, this award recognizes distinguished science fiction published in paperback original form in the United States. The award is sponsored by the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society and the Philip K. Dick Trust, and the award ceremony itself is sponsored by Norwescon. Join us to nibble on light desserts, listen to readings of selections from the nominated works—some read by the authors themselves—and find out who wins this year's award! The Philip K. Dick Trust, and the award ceremony itself is sponsored by Norwescon.

Michael Hanscom (M), Gordon Van Gelder, Thomas Ha, Koji A. Dae, William Alexander

## Youth: Let's Go Camping!

Youth

Olympic 1, Fri. 7 to 8 p.m.

Enjoy a "camping trip" with campfire fun and activities.

Jenny Shafer (M)

## Reading: Laura Anne Gilman

Readings

Cascade 3, Fri. 7:30 to 8 p.m.

Untitled. Laura reads a selection from a fantasy work in progress. Rated PG.

Laura Anne Gilman (M)

## 8 p.m.

## Reading: Erik Scott de Bie

Readings

Cascade 3, Fri. 8 to 8:30 p.m.

*Inferno*. An excerpt from Erik Scott de Bie's superhero novel *Inferno*, book 4 of the Justice/Vengeance series. Rated R.

Erik Scott de Bie (M)

## Teen & Tween: Flashlight LARP

Teen/Tween

Cascade 5, Fri. 8 to 10 p.m.

Illuminate the way in an after-hours LARP quest led by a LARP-ing pro.

Lydia Randall (M), Oliver Huskey

## Pre-Masquerade Meeting

Special Events

Cascade 7 & 8, Fri. 8 to 9 p.m.

If you plan to enter the masquerade, you must come to one of the pre-masquerade meetings to get all the information you need to compete and turn over your music. If you have not already registered online, a computer will be available for you to do so. If you are just curious and have some questions, you can get answers here.

Doll (M)

## Northwest Speculative Reading: Norwescon 2026

Writing; Streaming

Cascade 9, Fri. 8 to 10 p.m.

Northwest Speculative returns again for this exciting reading event, featuring a wide-ranging group of authors reading excerpts from their newest work.

G.R. Theron (M), Kate Ristau, Phoenix Bourgeois, Dean Wells, Tara Campbell, Lauren C. Johnson, Megan Lee Bees, Richard Flores IV, Cyrus Amelia Fisher, Neena Viel, Remy Nakamura, A. L. Kaplan, Diana Ma, Libby Schultz

## You Say “Mad Scientist” and “Evil Plans” Like It’s a Bad Thing

Biology

Cascade 10, Fri. 8 to 9 p.m.

Interest leads to knowledge, knowledge leads to obsession, obsession leads to world domination.... Simple logic, Pinky.

Jake McKinzie (M), VA7LON, Jay Donnaway, Torrey Stenmark, Dr. Ricky

## So I’ve Got this Player...

Gaming

Cascade 11, Fri. 8 to 9 p.m.

Everyone comes to a con wanting to complain about “that player” in their game who is a problem, but for some reason, they can’t figure out what to do about them. Our panelists will discuss and commiserate with the audience about different types of “bad actors” at the game table and possible solutions.

Sean K. Reynolds (M), Ben Thompson, John Godek, Erin M. Evans, Scotty McIntosh

## Let’s Draw Space Pirates

Art; Hands-On Workshop

Cascade 13, Fri. 8 to 10 p.m.

YAAR!! As a group, the panelists will come up with designs for a space pirate crew and design their ship and other mecha if time allows. Audience participation expected, and be sure to bring your drawing pads!

Eric L Vargas (M)

## Sci-Fi Fantasy at the Oscars

Popular Culture & Media

Cascade 12, Fri. 8 to 9 p.m.

*The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King* stunned with its best picture win, but genre films have largely been shut out of Hollywood’s biggest night. Come discuss the exceptions and snubs from the vast canon of worthy sci-fi and fantasy movies.

Janna Silverstein, Gina Saucier, Luke Elliott, Brian D. Oberquell

## Speculative Film Festival Block I

Special Events

Evergreen 1 & 2, Fri. 8 to 9 p.m.

Time to get scared! From cosmic horrors to aliens to forest spirits, they’re all out to get you. This block includes *Amira* (Spain), *Leshy* (Poland), *Dead Air* (U.S.), *Hide* (U.S.), and *The Other* (France).

Shawn Marier (M)

## Presented by BritCon: The QI Game Show

Popular Culture & Media

Evergreen 3 & 4, Fri. 8 to 9 p.m.

This panel mimics the popular British Quiz show QI, which stands for Quite Interesting. In keeping with Norwescon’s theme, up to four panelists will attempt to answer questions related to illumination and light. Unlike standard quiz shows, scoring is arbitrary and it is generally more important for panelists to be humorous and entertaining in how they answer the questions.

Dawn Shaw (M), Andrew Williams, Liz Argall, Liz Coleman, Berlynn Wohl

## Stitch & Bitch and Costume 911

Costume

Tower Ballroom, Fri. 8 to 11 p.m.

Still working on something to wear in the halls, in the masquerade, or just for a project? This is your place! Bring your items to work on, and enjoy good company and the opportunity to get help if needed.

## Karaoke

Special Events  
Tower Lounge, Fri. 8 to midnight

Get ready to unleash your inner rock star, diva, or disco queen in Maxi's! Join for an unforgettable evening of karaoke, where the only rule is to have fun! Whether you're a seasoned performer or a shy shower singer, this stage is your playground.

DJ #CSharp (M)

## Reading: ELK

Readings  
Cascade 3, Fri. 8:30 to 9 p.m.

*The Book of Kings: Star-Crossed*. It wasn't how he imagined he'd become king, but in fairness, Gerick had never really thought about it. Even in the deepest depths of a mad crusade, King Ragnvaldr seemed timeless to the crown prince, yet in a flash, the great was no more. With large shoes to fill, Gerick soon finds there is perhaps more to Ragnvaldr's descent than meets the eye. Dragged into a prophecy of cosmic proportions, Gerick must see his people, his kingdom, and his love life succeed and survive. There's only one problem: Gerick is doomed to fail. Rated PG.

ELK (M)

## 9 p.m.

### Friends of Bill W.

Wild Card  
Cascade 3, Fri. 9 to 10 p.m.

## How to Flirt with Geeks

Community  
Cascade 11, Fri. 9 to 10 p.m.

What defines flirting, and how does it benefit the con community? How is flirting and meeting people different at con compared to out in the real world? Many geeky people have always felt awkward in other settings but find their place here. Panelists explore the many safe and consensual ways to flirt with your fellow geeks!

Hazel (M), John Jensen, Wm Salt Hale, Ian K. Hagemann, MSW

## Speculative Film Festival Block J

Special Events  
Evergreen 1 & 2, Fri. 9 to 10 p.m.

This block features movies to make your skin crawl, scary monsters, vampires, wendigos, and insects: *Hunger* (U.S.), *Are You There* (U.S.), *Necrosectos* (Spain), and *Roberta* (U.S.).

Shawn Marier (M)

## Filk Circle Etiquette

Music  
Evergreen 3 & 4, Fri. 9 to 9:30 p.m.

From the way chairs are arranged in a circle, to different types of filk circles and regional preferences, to anchoring skills and inviting everyone to participate (and preventing "filk hogging")—it all matters! Whether you break into any circle easily with your instrumental intros, struggle to be recognized as an a capella singer, or take on the lucky responsibility of managing a circle, learn how to make everyone feel welcome and included.

Cathy McManamon (M), Gareth Davis, Anne Stewart, Cecilia Eng

## Open Filk Circle: Friday Night

Music  
Evergreen 3 & 4, Fri. 9:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Filk's origins come from folk circles at conventions, which mutated because of a typo and the sort of people who must enshrine a joke. The rules were simple: Everything was filk—an original song, a filk song, a popular song, or an interpretive dance. Everyone who chose to was allowed to perform and shown respect. Otherwise, simple civility ruled the day. Bring your instruments and voices to share your songs! Everyone and every type of music are welcome.

Griff the Filker, Cecilia Eng, Andrew Ross

## Friday Night Dance: Black Light Rave With mc300baud

Special Events  
Grand 3, Fri. 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

Glow under the neon lights and dance wild through the night. You can even [send in your song suggestions](#) now!

mc300baud (M)

## Midnight

### Lakeside Open Gaming

Special Events; Scheduled Games  
Rotunda 1 & 2, Fri. midnight to 2 a.m.

Lakeside Gaming will be open Friday night starting at midnight. Feel free to bring your own game or check one out from Dragonflight's lending library. As a reminder, Lakeside Gaming is only accessible by way of the second-floor skybridge via the first or second concourse.

## Saturday, April 4

### 7 a.m.

#### Saturday Lazer Tag

Special Events; Scheduled Games  
Grand 2, Sat. 7 to 9 a.m.

Come on down and have a blast playing open Lazer Tag/Nerf. This event is Lazer Tag with a twist: BYON (bring your own Nerf). Voting will determine whether the 20-minute games will be Nerf or Lazer Tag. Eye protection must be worn during Nerf and Blaster.

### 9 a.m.

#### Reading: Gabriella Buba

Readings  
Cascade 3, Sat. 9 to 9:30 a.m.

*Saints of Storm and Sorrow*. In this fiercely imaginative Filipino-inspired fantasy debut, a bisexual nun hiding a goddess-given gift is unwillingly transformed into a lightning rod for her people's struggle against colonization. Perfect for fans of *The Poppy War* and *The Jasmine Throne*. Rated PG.

Gabriella Buba (M)

#### Tone and Absence: Storytelling 302

Writing  
Cascade 13, Sat. 9 to 10 a.m.

Together the panelists will explore the qualities of tone, how the negative space of what is left out is as important as what is kept in, and techniques for achieving your desired reader experience.

Christina Boekeloo (M), Erin M. Evans, Jack Skillingstead, Erik Grove, Cyrus Amelia Fisher

## Youth: Saturday Cartoons and Coloring

Youth  
Olympic 1, Sat. 9 to 10 a.m.

Start your day with some coloring sheets and cartoons.

Jenny Shafer (M)

#### Reading: Shannon Page

Readings  
Cascade 3, Sat. 9:30 to 10 a.m.

*Orcas Aliens*. The second book in the Tales from the Berry Farm series, set on Orcas Island, Washington. Rated G.

Shannon Page (M)

### 10 a.m.

#### Reading: Alexandra Nica

Readings  
Cascade 3, Sat. 10 to 10:30 a.m.

"Department of Reintegration." Welcome to the Department of Reintegration, where we help you come back to the mundane world after your cursed existence. Take a number and you will be called up shortly. Rated PG.

Alexandra Nica (M)

#### Found Items Costume and Props

Teen/Tween  
Cascade 5, Sat. 10 to noon

Bring a thrift store treasure you'd like to transform OR start something new with the help of our panelist pros and an assortment of recycled materials.

L.J. Melvin (M), Sam Stark, Crystal Taggart, Janine, Wolfcat

#### Superman and Good Guys Who Are Good

Popular Culture & Media  
Cascade 6, Sat. 10 to 11 a.m.

Antiheroes and moral grayness have their place, but sometimes the audience just wants superheroes to save the darn cat! Come discuss why the world needs some good good guys again.

Kris 'Pepper' Hambrick (M), Matt Youngmark, Randy Henderson, Scotty McIntosh, Jack Samm

## What Is a Mind, and More Importantly, How Do You Control It?

Biology

Cascade 7 & 8, Sat. 10 to 11 a.m.

You are getting sleepier, and sleepier—and you want to give the panelists your Social Security number, routing number, and the keys to your Prius.... Never mind, they'll walk.

Jake McKinzie (M), A. W. McCollough, Sar Surmick, Kaitlyn Casimo, PhD, MEd, Liz Coleman

## Plagues and Pestilences

History; Streaming

Cascade 9, Sat. 10 to 11 a.m.

Explore the famous Black Death, as well as lesser-known plagues, both ancient and modern. What were the short- and long-term effects?

V Whitlock (M), Ann Shilling, Terra Caldwell, Bryana Bean, Jonny

## What's Going on Here? The Weird in PNW History

Wild Card

Cascade 10, Sat. 10 to 11 a.m.

Cryptids! UFOs! Serial killers! Ghosts! Whatever flavor of spooky you're into, the PNW has got in its backyard (or woods). Come hear stories, explore causes, and consider the ways the local culture has been shaped by these shades and shadows.

Anne Stewart (M), Thursday, Berlynn Wohl, Kat Richardson, Jae Steinbacher

## Mobility Devices and Cosplay

Costume

Cascade 11, Sat. 10 to 11 a.m.

Panelists discuss ways to decorate and integrate mobility devices of all kinds into costumes.

Rue Dickey (M), Richard Stephens, Ms Purple Pearl

## Deep Impressions: Letterpress Printing Art and Craft

Wild Card

Cascade 13, Sat. 10 to 11 a.m.

The art and craft of letterpress printing was the standard method of printing text from its invention by Johannes

Gutenberg in the mid-15th century through the 19th century. It has survived until today as an art form, as well as a practical way to produce beautiful books, broadsides, and more. Get a glimpse into this art and craft through a presentation illustrating the experience of a new practitioner. You'll see different kinds of presses, get a look at the process, and hear about ways you can learn this storied art.

Janna Silverstein (M)

## How to Interview Guests of Honor

Wild Card

Cascade 12, Sat. 10 to 11 a.m.

Ever wished you were the person to interview the guest of honor at a convention? Well, this panel will help teach you how. Professionals with experience in interviewing will show you how to make the guest comfortable, ask the right questions, pivot when needed, and handle audience Q&A, among other things.

Marta Murvosh (M), John Godek, Jennifer Brozek, Dr. Jess Hebert, Tom Whitmore

## Artificial Intelligence, Artificial Integrity

Technology

Evergreen 1 & 2, Sat. 10 to 11 a.m.

Some people say that AI is not, perhaps, all that it could be. Some say that the way AI can lie, cheat, and steal is a problem. Others say it learns that by stealing from humans (and other AIs), and others say that doesn't make it better. Join our panelists as they sort out all the problems with AI.

VA7LON (M), Dr. Corey Frazier, Izzy G, Dr. Sean Robinson, Dr. Kaylea Champion

## Let's Make a Movie: Shoot It!

Filmmaking Workshop

Evergreen 3 & 4, Sat. 10 to noon

You were there for the previous part, right, where everyone figured out what was needed and planned this movie all out? Quick! Time travel! Or, drop in anyway and become a Valued Actor Person. Today, it's time to shoot like mad weasels, because there's not much time, and if you're going to make a movie at light speed, then you have to move like light! So, don't be late, or you'll just see redshifted versions of these pros. The key to making a movie, of course, is to get the footage in the can! Or, "box," actually, but you know what they mean. It's two hours of madness but always worth it in the end!

Ryan K. Johnson (M), Brian D. Oberquell, dQ Kaufman, Edward Martin III

## Art in Action: Brittany Otto

Artists Workshop  
Grand 1, Sat. 10 to 11 a.m.

Brittany will show the audience how she creates hand-cut layered paper artwork.

Brittany Otto (M)

## Autograph Session

Guest of Honor  
Grand 2, Sat. 10 to 11 a.m.

Guests of honor and attending professionals are available to sign autographs. PLEASE NOTE: So that as many fans as possible can participate, a three-items-at-a-time (or single-sketch) autograph limit will be enforced.

T. Kingfisher, Geneva Bowers, Summer Ash, Bradley Englert / Orbit Books, Dutch Bihary ContoursFx, Koji A. Dae, William Alexander, Thomas Ha, A. L. Kaplan, Alexander James Adams, Amanda Cherry, Andie Penn Romine, Andrea Weilgart, Brenda Cooper, Brianna Malotke, Carol Berg, Curtis C. Chen, Daniel H. Wilson, Daphne Singingtree, Dean Wells, Diana Ma, Dr. Mark Rounds, Erik Scott de Bie, Evan J. Peterson, Gabriella Buba, Gordon B. White, GregRobin Smith, J. L. Doty, Jack Skillingstead, Jeff Grubb, Jeff Sturgeon, Josef B. Wilke, K.I. Tolles, Kendare Blake, L.J. Melvin, Laura Anne Gilman, Lauren C. Johnson, Lawrence Watt-Evans, Leslie Lutz, Lily Meade, Lish McBride, Liz Argall, Lizzy D. Hill, Margaret Owen, Megan E. O'Keefe, Miranda Levi, Nancy Kress, Neena Viel, Nicole Glover, Perla X. Caballero, Remy Nakamura, Rhiannon/R.Z. Held, Rosemary Jones, Sandra Rosner, Sean K. Reynolds, Sebastien de Castell, Shanna Germain, Steven Barnes, Susan R. Matthews, Timothy W. Long, Tori Sharp, Virginia Black, William Boulanger, Diana Fedorak

## Pre-Masquerade Meeting

Special Events  
Grand 3, Sat. 10 to 11 a.m.

If you plan to enter the masquerade, you must come to one of the pre-masquerade meetings to get all the information you need to compete and turn over your music. If you have not already registered online, a computer will be available for you to do so. If you are just curious and have some questions, you can get answers here.

Doll (M), Donde Groovily

## Youth: Picture Book Storytime

Youth  
Olympic 1, Sat. 10 to 11 a.m.

Come get cozy and listen to stories. Coloring and quiet toys will be available.

Jenny Shafer (M), Kit Vander Voort, Mir Plemmons, Sonja Thomas

## CATAN Championship Qualifier

Special Events  
Olympic 2, Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Norwescon is hosting an official CATAN United States National Championship Qualifier tournament. We will have three preliminary rounds followed by a final round. There will be 28 seats available. The Qualifier winner will win a guaranteed seat at the 2026 CATAN United States National Championship tournament!

## Lakeside Gaming: All-Ages Scheduled Games

Special Events; Scheduled Games  
Rotunda 2, Sat. 10 a.m. to midnight

Come sign up for a game! You can play *Pathfinder Society*, other role-playing games, card games, and more. After gaming closes, this area is available for open games. Lakeside Gaming is accessible by way of the second-floor skybridge via the first or second concourse.

## Cosplay Photography Workshop

Costume  
Tower Ballroom, Sat. 10 to noon

Come work with a veteran photographer and a veteran cosplayer to learn tips and tricks for doing great cosplay photography in a hands-on environment! The panel will involve walking to a few different settings and learning how to take the best photos in each one, based on lighting, costume considerations, and more. Bring your phone, your camera, or your cosplay, and come ready to get some great photos! Cosplayers and photographers are all welcome, at any level of skill and equipment.

Andrew Williams (M), Torrey Stenmark

## But It's Not Mine

Music  
Tower Lounge, Sat. 10 to 11 a.m.

There are written—and unwritten—rules and etiquette about covering, performing, and recording other people’s music. Discover what you need to know about what you can and can’t do, what permissions you need (or not), and how to do it without ruffling feathers or incurring legal consequences.

Cathy McManamon (M), Cool Nerd Mark, Gareth Davis, Cecilia Eng, Ethan Vodde

## Artemis Spaceship Bridge Simulator

Special Events; Scheduled Games  
Tower Salon, Sat. 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

*Artemis* is a spaceship bridge simulator where players assume the jobs of captain, helm, science, communication, engineering, and weapons and work together to defeat alien enemies.

### Reading: Libby Schultz

Readings  
Cascade 3, Sat. 10:30 to 11 a.m.

*Win Condition.* Enter the world of Char, where everything has a price and power is a game. A global crypto token manipulated by wealthy magnates and sentient trading AI sort haves from have-nots, squeezing citizens and leaving them to fight over the remains. Anyone can challenge the world order by competing in Char’s lethal gaming tournament, but elites rigged the outcome so that the winners join them or die. When Arrow, a hacker and rags-to-riches gaming champion, and Sage, an exiled scion from the ruling class, are recruited by a disillusioned military general to claim the token for themselves, their victories bring turmoil and ruin to the citizens of Char. To preserve their humanity and their lives, they must find a new way to play war. Rated PG.

Libby Schultz (M)

## 11 a.m.

### Reading: Camden Rose

Readings  
Cascade 3, Sat. 11 to 11:30 a.m.

“What I’m Made Of.” Camden Rose will read a fantasy story about grief and mud familiars published in *Inner Worlds*. Rated PG.

Camden Rose (M)

### Inspiration in Art

Art  
Cascade 6, Sat. 11 to noon

Come feel inspiration as you hear what inspires the artists on the panel. Is it nature, music, an emotional moment, or the kitty that sleeps on their artwork as they work? Let’s find out!

M. Shedric Simpson (M), Ellis Bray, Brittany Otto, andyvanoverberghe, LA Wildsun Bradley

## Neurodivergent Families

Community  
Cascade 7 & 8, Sat. 11 to noon

What happens to family dynamics when one or more people are neurodivergent? How can people support their differently-brained family members? And what can families look like when we expand beyond the nuclear family?

Kit Vander Voort (M), Megan Lee Bees, Kathy, Tom D Wright, Richard Stephens

## The Little EV That Could

Technology; Streaming  
Cascade 9, Sat. 11 to noon

What if the path to the electric-powered transportation future isn’t replacing gasoline powered cars with electric cars, but replacing muscle-powered transportation with electric bikes, scooters, and other? What are the promises and problems? Panelists will help untangle the issues of small EVs.

Crystal Lloyd (M), Wm Salt Hale, Jay Donnaway, K.I. Tolles, VA7LON

## Zap: Lightning Science

Space  
Cascade 10, Sat. 11 to noon

Beautiful and deadly, lightning has long amazed, awed, and been an awesome superpower. But how does it work? What would happen if you were struck by lightning? Does lightning occur on other planets? Can you make your own lightning? In this interactive talk with a Ph.D. physicist, discover the science (and fiction) of lightning. No science background necessary!

Corry L. Lee (M)

## From Page to Podcast

Audio  
Cascade 11, Sat. 11 to noon

Writing for audio is its own art form—intimate, immersive, and driven by the power of voice. Come and

listen to how these podcast writers, hosts, and creators craft compelling narratives designed to be heard. Learn how to structure an episode, build tension, and shape character arcs, how to ask questions that spark genuine dialogue, or structure interviews so that they flow smoothly but are still engaging. Whether you're developing a fiction series, a documentary or interview-style show, or anything in between, you'll leave with practical insights to elevate your audio storytelling.

Luke Elliott (M), Steven Barnes, Ron Leota, Clay Vermulm, Sandra Rosner

## Crafters Meetup

Hands-On Workshop  
Cascade 13, Sat. 11 to noon

Join your fellow crafters for an hour of creativity. From sewing to embroidery, origami, and coloring, all crafts are welcome. Show off what you're working on or learn something from your fellow crafters. Bring your materials and your creativity. Please do not bring paints, glitter, or anything that needs cleanup.

Michelle Morrell (M), Carmen Beaudry, Belsac, Travis Partington

## Making Space at the Table

Gaming  
Cascade 12, Sat. 11 to noon

Join our panelists in a discussion about representation in TTRPGs from an intersectional perspective. How can you make your games more inclusive and welcoming to people of all ages, genders, ethnicities, and abilities?

Sar Surmick (M), Luis E. Torres, Rue Dickey, Brigitte Winter, Virginia Black

## World Building Series 202: What Isn't Seen

Fantasy  
Evergreen 1 & 2, Sat. 11 to noon

Beyond the visible world around characters, there exists the depths of myths, magic, and history that deepen the experience of the reader and provide richness to the conflicts of the story. Together, the panelists will explore how to interlace these together and provide continuity and depth while avoiding confusion and muddled lore.

Dean Wells (M), Laura Anne Gilman, Shanna Germain, Ryan James, Sierra Branham

## Youth: All About Unicorns

Youth  
Olympic 1, Sat. 11 to noon

Unicorns are amazing! Listen to unicorn stories and make a unicorn craft.

Jenny Shafer (M), Camille Meehan

## From Circle to Stage

Music  
Tower Lounge, Sat. 11 to noon

There's a big difference between playing in a casual music circle and performing on the stage. What do you need to know about making that transition? How do you get a concert at a con? Get the inside info from musicians who have performance experience and who have run concert tracks.

Erica Angeline Solano (M), Eric Distad, Dr. Jess Hebert, Gareth Davis, Greg Robin Smith

## Reading: Celeste Wakefield

Readings  
Cascade 3, Sat. 11:30 to noon

*Harriet, or, A True Account of the Death of Percy Bysshe Shelley.* An alternate history poem, in which the first Mrs. Shelley gets 186 lines to howl. Rated R.

Celeste Wakefield (M)

## Art in Action: Rob Carlos

Artists Workshop  
Grand 1, Sat. 11:30 to 12:30 p.m.

Rob Carlos will host an acrylic painting demo called "It's Dragon Time!"

Rob Carlos (M)

## Youngling Lightsaber Training

Hands-On Workshop  
Grand 2, Sat. 11:30 to 12:30 p.m.

Padawans, do you feel the call of the Force? Join the Jedi and Sith of Kamino Temple and learn how to use a lightsaber! Take your first steps into a larger world. Ages 4-12 with parental supervision.

Torrey Stenmark (M)

## Noon

### Reading: William Alexander

#### Readings

Cascade 3, Sat. noon to 12:30 p.m.

*Sunward*. A novel about the perils of raising young robots in a turbulent solar system. Rated G.

William Alexander (M)

### Teen & Tween: Author Readings

#### Teen/Tween

Cascade 5, Sat. noon to 1 p.m.

Teens and tweens are invited to come relax and listen to authors read just for them.

L.J. Melvin (M)

### YA Is for Everyone?

#### YA

Cascade 6, Sat. noon to 1 p.m.

The YA genre is technically for teens, but the profit comes from adults buying YA. How has this influenced the genre? What does this mean for what can and cannot be discussed in YA?

A. L. Kaplan (M), Margaret Owen, Kendare Blake, L.J. Melvin, Lish McBride

### 2D to 3D Design

#### Costume

Cascade 7 & 8, Sat. noon to 1 p.m.

How do you unravel that gorgeous illustration into a wearable work of art? Our panel of experts will share their strategies for breaking down what's in the resource image and making up what isn't to complete the look.

Melissa Quinn (M), Caitlin Jacques, Taylor Tomblin, Melissa Nichols, Grace Amundsen Barnkow

### Self-Publishing 101

#### Editing and Publishing; Streaming

Cascade 9, Sat. noon to 1 p.m.

You've written your book and you're ready to release it into the world. You want to go the indie publishing route but have no idea where to start or what to do next. These indie-published writers and editors walk you through the steps to self-publication—editing, cover art, book layout, marketing, and more—explaining the process and the costs, and warning you about the pitfalls.

Janna Silverstein (M), Shannon Page, K.G. Anderson, Jonathan JD Davenport, Gregory Amato

### Horrible Histories: A Way to Make Learning about History Fun

#### History

Cascade 10, Sat. noon to 1 p.m.

A discussion about shows, podcasts, and other media that help make learning about history fun—it isn't just lists of numbers and names! How do you take that dry text and make it engaging enough to reach an audience who isn't necessarily interested in history?

Erin M. Evans (M), Ben Thompson, Ann Shilling, Alan Andrist, Marta Murvosh

### Robots in Space

#### Space

Cascade 11, Sat. noon to 1 p.m.

Modern autonomous systems and extreme environments like space and space-launch seem like a perfect match. Are they? What could robotic factories and agents, or von Neumann probes do for humanity? Should we be trying to send these systems now to prepare the red carpet for humanity? Or should we be wary of creating a potentially hostile form of life?

Eric Taney (M), Dr. Sean Robinson, Daniel H. Wilson, David Tucker, Ph.D., Phil L. Swan

### The Poetry Workshop Panel

#### Poetry

Cascade 13, Sat. noon to 1 p.m.

Time to talk about all of it! How to gather inspiration; how to self-edit and how to collaborate with others; where to send your work, how to construct a good cover letter, and how to deal with (so many) rejections; copyright pitfalls to avoid, and more! Do you have questions about the poetry world? Bring them to this panel!

Thursday (M), Larina Warnock, Brianna Malotke, Brian U. Garrison, GregRobin Smith

### Presented by BritCon: Classic Doctor Who

#### Popular Culture & Media

Cascade 12, Sat. noon to 1 p.m.

What are people's favorite memories, characters, villains, stories, and of course, Doctors from Classic Who? Why does the original show still resonate with

today's audience? Even with its small budgets, production values, special effects, lack of refinement, and seasons before the advent of color, people still watch. With some contemporary viewers proclaiming that *New Who* is too "woke," which stories and situations from the classic show evoke valuable themes?

Dawn Shaw (M), Tim Sorensen, Kris 'Pepper' Hambrick, Marlow Weaver, William Boulanger

## Frankenstein Never Dies

Popular Culture & Media; Guest of Honor  
Evergreen 1 & 2, Sat. noon to 1 p.m.

After 200 years, directors like Maggie Gyllenhaal and Guillermo del Toro are keeping Mary Shelley's story alive with film after film, not to mention comics, games, and traditional print. What makes *Frankenstein* such an entrancing fable? Panelists will discuss the endless, eternal life of this genre-establishing story.

Summer Ash (M), Evan J. Peterson, Clay Vermulm, Sam Stark, Gina Saucier

## What Is Your Why

Writing  
Evergreen 3 & 4, Sat. noon to 1 p.m.

Join authors as they discuss the reasons they write and the importance of how to stay true to one's core motivation while navigating this discipline and industry.

Claire E. Jones (M), Laura Cranehill, Tegan Moore, J.B. Kish, Curtis C. Chen

## Audiobook Publishing Meetup

Wild Card  
Presidential Suite 1360, Sat. noon to 1 p.m.

Authors, narrators, producers, publishers, or anyone working in the audiobook industry: Meet other like-minded folks for networking and trading tips on audiobook production and marketing.

Rebecca H. Lee (M)

## Epic Movie Themes and Composers

Music  
Tower Lounge, Sat. noon to 1 p.m.

From the first notes behind the opening credits to the closing theme of a movie, we are moved by movie soundtracks—whether we realize it or not. This will be a healthy discussion of favorite movie and character

themes, favorite composers, and why the music grips us and stays with us long after the closing credits.

Crystal Lloyd (M), Sunnie Larsen, Alexander James Adams, Peter Adrian Behravesh, Cool Nerd Mark

## Reading: Karen Eisenbrey

Readings  
Cascade 3, Sat. 12:30 to 1 p.m.

*Tales from Deep River*. *Tales from Deep River* is a cozy fantasy adventure series full of magic, sweet romance, and personal stakes. The author will choose an excerpt from *A Quest for Hidden Things* (book 1), *Deep River Rising* (book 2), or *Promise Stones and Granny's Bones* (book 3). Rated G.

Karen Eisenbrey (M)

## Adult Lightsaber Choreography Class

Hands-On Workshop  
Grand 2, Sat. 12:30 to 2 p.m.

Kamino Temple of Saber Guild International welcomes all prospective Jedi and Sith! Come learn the basics of stage lightsaber combat and develop your first choreographed performance. Come dressed to move; loaner lightsabers will be provided. Ages 13+.

Torrey Stenmark (M)

## 1 p.m.

### Reading: Koji A. Dae

Readings  
Cascade 3, Sat. 1 to 1:30 p.m.

*Casual*. Valya's neural implant, CASUAL, has stabilized her mood and helped her get pregnant, but new laws forbid her from using the device when she's the sole caregiver for her infant. Her only options are to attempt solo parenting without CASUAL or install a minimally tested device in her vulnerable child. *Casual* is a glance at a near future that looks uncannily like our present, exploring themes of bodily autonomy and the struggle for mental health in a world increasingly divided. Rated R.

Koji A. Dae (M)

## Teen & Tween: Drawing Fantastic Creatures

Teen/Tween  
Cascade 5, Sat. 1 to 2 p.m.

Our artist pros will show you some techniques for designing and drawing sci-fi and fantasy creatures. Show off what you've been working on and get advice to overcome your barriers. We'll have drawing supplies. Bring a device if you wish. Teens and tweens only.

Erica Angeline Solano (M), Larry Lewis, Lizzy D. Hill, Camille Meehan

## Timeless or Nostalgic?

YA

Cascade 6, Sat. 1 to 2 p.m.

Culture moves fast, so how do you decide what to keep of the "trends"? Do you make a YA character who uses Instagram or TikTok? Do you invent something completely new? Learn from panelists how to make an authentic character while preserving a timeless or nostalgic approach.

Lish McBride (M), Lily Meade, Sonja Thomas, Gabrielle Harbowy, James L. Sutter

## Indigenous Fandom

Community

Cascade 7 & 8, Sat. 1 to 2 p.m.

Indigenous members of fandom talk about their experiences.

Mir Plemmons (M), Talulah J. Sullivan, Scotty McIntosh, Daphne Singingtree

## Clever Concepts with Small Budgets

Costume; Streaming

Cascade 9, Sat. 1 to 2 p.m.

Cosplay doesn't always need to be a budget buster. Sometimes a great idea and a couple of choice pieces can be just as fun.

Kit Vander Voort (M), Carmen Beaudry, Ben Honeycutt, Crystal Taggart

## Don't Train on Me

Editing and Publishing

Cascade 10, Sat. 1 to 2 p.m.

The publishing world is pushing back against the unlicensed use of copyrighted works to train large language models. As authors, publishers, and writers unions file lawsuits and change contracts to protect their work, the pace of technological evolution makes the fight more challenging than ever. What are the legal arguments in play, what's the scale of the alleged

damages to authors, and what can writers do to protect their interests? What would an AI licensing agreement that values copyrighted work look like?

Dr. Corey Frazier (M), Ethan Vodde, Gordon Van Gelder, Marta Murvosh, Russell Ervin

## All Dressed Up with Nowhere to Go: The Realities of Interstellar Travel

Space

Cascade 11, Sat. 1 to 2 p.m.

The reason many sci-fi authors posit wormholes, faster-than-light drives, and so on, is the staggering distance involved in travel between star systems, let alone galaxies. But then again, relativity "cuts both ways"—from the perspective of the space travelers, time and distance also contract. Where could we really get to within a single human lifespan? Can we hope that humans will be landing on the nearest habitable planets anytime soon?

Hugh S. Gregory (M), Phil L. Swan, David Tucker, Ph.D., Bryana Bean, Shiv Ramdas

## Workshop by Brittany Otto: Bound

Art; Artists Workshop

Cascade 13, Sat. 1 to 2 p.m.

Forcing limitation frees imagination. This workshop explores the topic of how creativity and inspiration can be found and fed through restriction or limited materials. Sometimes having too many options can create decision paralysis or a creative roadblock, but limitation can inspire creative solutions.

Brittany Otto (M)

## Women in Combat

Military

Cascade 12, Sat. 1 to 2 p.m.

Historical sources, legends, modern examples, and sci-fi examples—how do these portrayals of women characters reflect the culture being written about? Or do they inadvertently reflect the culture and assumptions of the author? How do we ground our women characters and make them believable without being tied to current conventions?

Teresa Drag (M), V Whitlock, Diana Fedorak, Alexandra Nica, Morgan Smathers

## Branches from a Fantasy Tree

Fantasy; Guest of Honor  
Evergreen 1 & 2, Sat. 1 to 2 p.m.

Fantasy boasts many subgenres, each with distinct tropes that make them stand out and allow the stories to find their target audience. We will explore what those subgenres are and how to use them to find your own audience.

Rhiannon/R.Z. Held (M), Rashida J Smith, T. Kingfisher, Lawrence Watt-Evans, Nicole Glover

## There and Back Again—Seriously?

History  
Evergreen 3 & 4, Sat. 1 to 2 p.m.

How believable should your rate of transportation be in a story? What impact is there in trying to force-march men or draft animals with heavy gear? Can they really keep up long hard journeys without stops for food, water, or other care? Just how fast or far could various historical means of travel go? From Hannibal's elephants, the Pony Express, Roman legionnaires, the Huns, and more, what could be learned to help keep jarring inaccuracies from happening in stories or shows?

Wolfcat (M), Judy R. Johnson, Susan R. Matthews, Darren McKinty, RVT, Clay Vermulm

## Art in Action: Jeff Sturgeon

Artists Workshop  
Grand 1, Sat. 1 to 2 p.m.

Jeff will paint an original piece, in acrylic on canvas.

Jeff Sturgeon (M)

## Youth: Codes and Ciphers

Youth  
Olympic 1, Sat. 1 to 2 p.m.

Secret codes are fun! The panelists will teach simple codes and ciphers and provide messages to decode.

Jenny Shafer (M), K.I. Tolles, Izzy G

## Endeavour Award Preliminary Readers

Wild Card  
Presidential Suite 1360, Sat. 1 to 2 p.m.

The Endeavour Award is a juried award given to books published by Pacific Northwest authors. This meetup is for our preliminary readers, either current volunteers or

anyone who might be interested in becoming a reader. Readers score books on criteria such as plot, characterization, theme, and setting, and the top five scoring books will be named as finalists. Interested in learning more? Come join this meetup.

## Dark Forest Pompom Mushrooms

Hands-On Workshop  
Tower Ballroom, Sat. 1 to 2 p.m.

Come learn how to make pompom mushrooms—the perfect accessory for the Saturday dance.

Peggy Stewart (M)

## Concert: Faerie Born

Concerts  
Tower Lounge, Sat. 1 to 2 p.m.

Faerie Born is a beloved and feared fantasy duo who recently released their debut album, *Morally Grey*. Come be enchanted by their exquisite vocals!

## Reading: Steven Barnes

Readings  
Cascade 3, Sat. 1:30 to 2 p.m.

*Sigil*. An outcast teen discovers a legacy left to him by the father he thought long dead: the secret of an almost magical fighting art that will transform him into something transhuman. Rated G.

Steven Barnes (M)

## 2 p.m.

## Reading: Daniel H. Wilson

Readings  
Cascade 3, Sat. 2 to 2:30 p.m.

*Hole in the Sky*. *Hole in the Sky* is a story of Native first contact with an alien entity. Rated G.

Daniel H. Wilson (M)

## Identity: Choosing and Defining Your Labels

Community  
Cascade 6, Sat. 2 to 3 p.m.

Have you ever used a nickname or changed your pronouns? Finding our own intersectional identity and communicating that to others shapes many of our interactions and connects us with niche communities. However, labels mean different things to different

people, and many choose not to use them at all. Join our panelists in a discussion about everything labels.

Liz Argall (M), Sar Surmick, Gloria Jackson-Nefertiti, Jonathan, Jae Steinbacher

## Where My Gargoyles At? Sidekicks in the Center

Popular Culture & Media  
Cascade 7 & 8, Sat. 2 to 3 p.m.

Gargoyles (and grotesques) have been a source of worldwide fascination for thousands of years. From foo dogs (or shishi) to cathedral gargoyles, stonemasons have been carving guardian statues for centuries. And yet, gargoyles in pop culture tend to be only side characters, playing bit parts in other heroes' stories (Disney's *Hunchback of Notre Dame*, talking statues in *Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell*). What does our enduring need for stone sentries reveal about our collective imagination and the stories we tell ourselves? And what tales would gargoyles tell if they were allowed to tell their own?

Tara Campbell (M), Lauren C. Johnson, Rosemary Jones, Mir Plemmons, Meghan D. Lancaster

## Where They Start

Fantasy; Guest of Honor; Streaming  
Cascade 9, Sat. 2 to 3 p.m.

The utility of commonly understood places, such as taverns, crossroads, and farms, are an often-utilized trope in fantasy. This panel will explore why they are used, what other options achieve the same broad appeal, and ideas for how to bring readers into a strange land without making them feel lost.

G.R. Theron (M), Bradley Englert / Orbit Books, K.G. Anderson, Dean Wells, Tom Whitmore

## Prop Design and Materials

Costume  
Cascade 10, Sat. 2 to 3 p.m.

Ever wonder how to build a six-foot-long sword that will fit in your checked luggage? Or how to take the wobble out of a wizard staff? Panelists will discuss some basic design concepts, tools, and materials.

Richard Stephens (M), Belsac, Ben Honeycutt, A. L. Kaplan, Melissa Nichols

## AI Versus Human Narrators

Audio  
Cascade 11, Sat. 2 to 3 p.m.

AI in narration is a touchy subject, but important to talk about. Panelists will discuss the ethical considerations in using AI voices, as well as how human creativity, emotion, and interpretation remain vital in connecting with listeners. Whether you are curious or cautious, love AI narration or hate it, this panel will offer some insight.

Sam Stark (M), Sebastien de Castell, Shiromi Arserio, Rebecca H. Lee, Gary Bennett

## Workshop by Ellis Bray: How to Use Procreate

Art; Artists Workshop  
Cascade 13, Sat. 2 to 3 p.m.

Want to try out the Procreate art app but feel overwhelmed by all the fancy bells and whistles? Come join Ellis Bray as he helps show how easy it can be to navigate Procreate. If you have been on it for a while, you might learn a new trick or two. Please feel free to bring your tablet to follow along, or come learn and observe. All are welcome!

Ellis Bray (M)

## Cozy Gaming

Gaming  
Cascade 12, Sat. 2 to 3 p.m.

Join our panelists for a discussion on why these lighter themes emphasizing nonviolence and relaxation have gained in popularity. You might pick up on some tips as to which ones—from video games to tabletop games and role-playing games—are worth checking out.

Scotty McIntosh (M), Shanna Germain, Megan E. O'Keefe, Sean K. Reynolds, Ron Leota

## Whose Science Is It Anyways?

Biology  
Evergreen 1 & 2, Sat. 2 to 3 p.m.

Play the game where the science doesn't matter, the points aren't real, and the theories are perfectly, absolutely hilarious... to the panelists at least.

Jake McKinzie (M), Dr. Jess Hebert, Dr. Ricky, Kaitlyn Casimo, PhD, MEd, Charlotte Lewis Brown, Darren McKinty, RVT

## 90s Horror: Screams and Slashers

Horror

Evergreen 3 & 4, Sat. 2 to 3 p.m.

Screams, Slashers, and CGI were part of the horror revolution of the 90s, the genre's awkward adolescence caught between the practical effects of the 80s and the digital scares of the 2000s. From *Scream*'s meta-commentary to *The Blair Witch Project*'s DIY realism, were the 90s the end of practical horror, or the birth of the modern era of computer-generated terror?

Timothy W. Long (M), Gwen Callahan, Dustin Campbell, Perla X. Caballero, J.B. Kish

## Broadsword Basics

History

Grand 2, Sat. 2 to 3 p.m.

This panel will teach you the very basics of how to swing a broadsword effectively, focusing on footwork, range, breathing, and finally, good form and power. Participants should wear comfortable shoes and are encouraged to bring their own not-sharp training swords. Some training weapons will be available.

D.L. Solum (M)

## Youth: LARP for Littles

Youth

Olympic 1, Sat. 2 to 3 p.m.

Interested in role-play? Let's act out a story together!

Jenny Shafer (M), Lydia Randall

## Norwescon Little Free Library Silent Reading Meetup

Wild Card

Presidential Suite 1360, Sat. 2 to 3 p.m.

Grab a book from the Norwescon Little Free Library book table or bring one of your own and join us for some silent reading time.

## Teen & Tween: Paper Airplane Derby

Guest of Honor; Teen/Tween

Tower Ballroom, Sat. 2 to 3 p.m.

Make a paper airplane and test it out while teens cheer you on. Which one goes farthest? Stays aloft longest? Does acrobatics? Looks the most awesome? Come to play or to cheer the aviators on. Enjoy fabulous prizes and the admiration of your friends.

L.J. Melvin (M), Summer Ash, Eric Taney, Oliver Huskey

## Concert: Cool Nerd Mark

Concerts

Tower Lounge, Sat. 2 to 3 p.m.

Cool Nerd Mark is a one-nerd band who performs original songs inspired by sci-fi, comics, classic movies, and geek culture. Blending catchy indie rock, storytelling, and elements drawn from several genres, he delivers high-energy solo shows with guitar, vocals, and sometimes full backing tracks.

Cool Nerd Mark (M)

## Reading: Nancy Kress

Readings

Cascade 3, Sat. 2:30 to 3 p.m.

"Silent Partner." Join Nancy Kress for a reading of her short story. Rated PG.

Nancy Kress (M)

## Art in Action: Wire Zoo

Artists Workshop

Grand 1, Sat. 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Elizabeth will show us how she weaves and twists her wire sculptures.

Elizabeth Berrian (M)

## 3 p.m.

## Reading: Gordon B. White

Readings

Cascade 3, Sat. 3 to 3:30 p.m.

Join Gordon B. White for a short story of horror or weird fiction. Rated G.

Gordon B. White (M)

## Realism as It Relates to Fear

Horror

Cascade 6, Sat. 3 to 4 p.m.

Join our panelists for a discussion on realism in dark fiction. How important is it for the speculative elements of your story to be believable? Do we put too much emphasis on this and lose track of entertainment value? Or can anything even be scary if we cannot believe it? How do you, as a creative, achieve a satisfactory balance between these crucial storytelling elements?

Clay Vermulm (M), Emily Smiley, Josef B. Wilke, Perla X. Caballero, Neena Viel

## Shining a Light on the Topic

Military

Cascade 7 & 8, Sat. 3 to 4 p.m.

How important is it for authors to engage with other people as part of any research done on their story? What is important “realism” when writing sci-fi? Where does one find a “subject matter expert”?

Randy Hayes (M), Jason Bond, Peter Fuller, Susan R. Matthews, Ann Shilling

## Subgenres of YA: Dystopian, Romantasy, and More!

YA; Streaming

Cascade 9, Sat. 3 to 4 p.m.

YA holds many different types of genres, such as dystopians, romantasies, and coming-of-age stories. What other genres does YA tend to explore? Where is the crossover between the genres within YA?

Miranda Levi (M), Karen Eisenbrey, Sonja Thomas, Kendare Blake

## The Importance of Navigation

History

Cascade 10, Sat. 3 to 4 p.m.

If you can't find the enemy, you can't conquer them or trade with them. How did improvements in maritime technology change trade between nations? What similarities are there, if any, between the Vikings and Phoenicians, Minoans, and other early sailors? Or the Pacific Islanders or the Asian and Indonesian sailors? How has navigation continued to change through the Industrial Age, and how might this affect exploration of the stars and galaxies beyond?

Jonny (M), Alan Andrist, Gina Saucier, Jonathan JD Davenport, Alon Newton

## Defining Success

Art; Guest of Honor

Cascade 11, Sat. 3 to 4 p.m.

When will you have “made it” as a creative? Is it making money? Critical acclaim? Personal artistic fulfillment? Our panelists will discuss different types of success and how the strategies for pursuing them vary.

Lizzy D. Hill (M), Brittany Otto, Geneva Bowers, Ivy Gilliam, Jeff Sturgeon

## Producing and Distributing Your Podcast

Audio

Cascade 13, Sat. 3 to 4 p.m.

Have a great podcast idea but unsure how to bring it to life or how to get it into listeners' ears? This panel brings together experienced podcasters and audio producers to walk you through the essentials: the basics of hosting platforms, distribution strategies, and how to grow and understand your audience. Whether you're launching your first podcast or improving an existing one, you'll walk away with practical tips, insider know-how, and a roadmap for getting your voice out into the world.

Travis Partington (M), Ron Leota, Tori Sharp, Luke Elliott, Kris 'Pepper' Hambrick

## Cool to Be a Gay Nerd

Popular Culture & Media

Cascade 12, Sat. 3 to 4 p.m.

Science fiction often gets credit for inspiring real-life scientists, but genre fiction is often ahead of its time on social issues too. Whether it's Willow's same-sex kiss on *Buffy*, *Elf Quest's* ethical nonmonogamy, or the dismantling of transphobia in *Dirty Pair*, the history of nerds is pretty freaking gay.

Jack Samm (M), Thursday, Emily C. Skaftun, Virginia Black, Anne Stewart

## Reading: Ursula Vernon, aka T. Kingfisher

Readings

Evergreen 1 & 2, Sat. 3 to 3:30 p.m.

*Angel & Devil*. A retired angel and a retired devil solve crime in a small town. Rated PG.

T. Kingfisher (M)

## Avoiding a Saggy Middle: Storytelling 202

Writing

Evergreen 3 & 4, Sat. 3 to 4 p.m.

Utilizing a traditional three-act structure as a basis, our authors will examine the second act, or middle act(s). Join our panelists as they move on from the foundations of strong starts and discuss the techniques and elements that make the middles of stories resonate with readers.

Phoenix Bourgeois (M), G.R. Theron, Carol Berg, Josh Storey, Nancy Kress

### **Dargarth: Full-Contact Fantasy Combat LARP** 16+

Wild Card  
Grand 2, Sat. 3 to 5 p.m.

Come try *Dargarth*! We are a combat-focused player-driven fantasy LARP. We engage in full-contact boffer fighting and have a lightweight class system that fits on an index card. Can you and your party survive our dungeon crawl? Come test your mettle. For more information, including our upcoming event schedule, visit [dargarth.org](http://dargarth.org). Ages 16 and over.

Wm Salt Hale (M)

### **Youth: Open Jewelry Making**

Youth  
Olympic 1, Sat. 3 to 4 p.m.

Let's make some jewelry! Guided projects are available or make up your own.

Jenny Shafer (M)

### **Writers Chat & Chill**

Meetup  
Presidential Suite 1360, Sat. 3 to 4 p.m.

If you're looking for a chill time hanging out with like-minded writers and readers, please come by! Cascade Writers holds an annual Milford-style weekend workshop for writers in Bremerton, Washington. Aside from the annual workshop, Cascade Writers has sponsored events throughout the years, including author readings and signings, one-day workshops on the craft of writing, and critique sessions at regional conferences. Over the years, hundreds of writers have participated, and many have gone on to become published or established professionals within the writing community. Learn more at [Cascade Writers](http://CascadeWriters.com).

### **Beginnings of Bookbinding**

Hands-On Workshop  
Tower Ballroom, Sat. 3 to 5 p.m.

Delve into the basics of bookbinding: folding, cutting, creating signatures, and putting your text block into a cover. This is a hands-on workshop in which you'll make a small sample-sized blank book, while learning about other non-adhesive based bookbinding techniques. Limited to 20 participants. Sign up at info table.

SunnyJim Morgan (M)

### **Reading: Tara Campbell**

Readings  
Cascade 3, Sat. 3:30 to 4 p.m.

*All the Wayward Angels: Dream Sestinas*. Readings from this poetry chapbook published through Bottlecap Features will dive into a world in which angels fall, stars snarl, candles sob, foxes build temples to unfathomable gods, and sailors follow the pull of golden keys toward treasures under the sea. Yes, there are rough and shining beasts, skeletons in dark barns, and ghosts swirling amidst dismal laughter, but there's also liberation through transformation, peaceful hands rejecting pistols in favor of flowers, and women "using hope to dowse for rain." Rated PG.

Tara Campbell (M)

### **Reading: Sebastien de Castell**

Readings  
Evergreen 1 & 2, Sat. 3:30 to 4 p.m.

*Our Lady of Blades*. Sebastien de Castell reads from a novel of sword duels, intrigue, and secret identities. Rated PG.

Sebastien de Castell (M)

### **4 p.m.**

### **Reading: Timothy W. Long**

Readings  
Cascade 3, Sat. 4 to 4:30 p.m.

*The Dark Lord's Guide to Hostile Corporate Takeover*. Moments from defeat, a Dark Lord flees into the body of an ordinary Seattle man. Now powerless, he must survive modern life: doctors, insurance, cubicles, and a CEO he's inconveniently falling for. As old powers flicker back at a painful cost, he realizes conquering Earth might be harder than ruling the Abyss. Rated G.

Timothy W. Long (M)

### **Teen & Tween: *The Light of the Te'h Fa'jin***

Teen/Tween  
Cascade 5, Sat. 4 to 6 p.m.

The city of Fallen Leaves has been plunged into a mystical darkness, and all signs point to the flooded crypts below the city. Follow clues and dive into the mystical depths to save the city before it's too late! 5th

Edition D&D adventure for up to six teen and tween players.

Lydia Randall (M)

## What Would You Really Do with Superpowers?

Science Fiction

Cascade 6, Sat. 4 to 5 p.m.

You develop powers beyond those of normal humans. Now what? Crime is illegal. So is vigilante justice (which also pays terribly). Our panelists discuss how best to combine the various super abilities in the comics with your imagination.

Evan J. Peterson (M), Nicole Glover, Steven Barnes, Diana Fedorak, Jonathan

## How Has Science Fiction Informed Your Politics

Community

Cascade 7 & 8, Sat. 4 to 5 p.m.

From the collective utopia of Star Trek to the self-contained settlers of Heinlein, science fiction societies take many forms. How does our fiction inspire us to make the best society possible?

Marnee Chua (M), Amy Sundberg, Daphne Singingtree, Kit Vander Voort, Dr. Kaylea Champion

## Freelancing 201

Gaming; Streaming

Cascade 9, Sat. 4 to 5 p.m.

So, you got that freelance gig. How do you work with a publisher, and how do you parlay that into future work with them or other publishers?

Jennifer Brozek (M), Luis Loza, John Godek, Shanna Germain, Erin Roberts

## Creating a DIY Demo

Audio

Cascade 10, Sat. 4 to 5 p.m.

Whether you're auditioning for audiobooks, commercials, or voiceover work, your demo is your calling card. But you don't need a professional studio to get started. In this panel, experienced narrators and voice actors share step-by-step guidance for creating a strong, effective DIY demo. Learn how to select material, record clean audio at home, edit for clarity, and highlight your unique vocal strengths. Panelists will also cover common mistakes to avoid and tips for

presenting your demo to voice acting agents and publishing companies.

Sam Stark (M), Erica Angeline Solano, Oz Norberg, Shiromi Arserio, Gary Bennett, Rebecca H. Lee

## Werewolf Torts and Undead Tax Liabilities

Wild Card

Cascade 11, Sat. 4 to 5 p.m.

It's that time again! Time to bring your wackiest legal hypotheticals to our panel of legal experts so that we can dole out advice and give you the lawyer's favorite answer: "It depends." Topics will likely range from "Can we set up courts for the undead?" to "Can I still collect my pension as a lich?"

Kathy (M), Ethan Vodde, Gina Saucier, Bryana Bean, Leigh Harlen

## Cosplay Brainstorming

Costume

Cascade 13, Sat. 4 to 5 p.m.

Are you stuck on your latest build? Do you have a concept rattling around in your brain and it's just not gelling? Bring your quandaries to our panel of experienced costumers.

Janine (M), Carmen Beaudry, Taylor Tomblin, Caitlin Jacques, Darren McKinty, RVT

## Animation across Generations

Popular Culture & Media

Cascade 12, Sat. 4 to 5 p.m.

Some of the most beloved genre works for all ages have come out of the world of animation, from DC's *Young Justice* to *The Clone Wars*, and even originals like *Avatar: The Last Airbender*. Come debate whether Kevin Conroy is history's greatest Batman or help make the case that *Arcane* is the best show on Netflix.

ELK (M), Andie Penn Romine, Andy Quinn, Matt Youngmark, andyvanoverberghe

## Dueling Artists and Scientists

Biology; Guest of Honor

Evergreen 1 & 2, Sat. 4 to 5 p.m.

Charades meet science meets art meets hilarity!

Jake McKinzie (M), Eric L Vargas, Larry Lewis, Summer Ash, John Jensen, Natalie Leif, LA Wildsun Bradley

## The Editorial Relationship

Editing and Publishing  
Evergreen 3 & 4, Sat. 4 to 5 p.m.

An editor can help make your stories shine or use the lightest touch, offering only grammatical and technical support. One way or another, every writer needs an editor, and every editor can offer insight, advice, and technical support in ways that not even the most skilled beta reader can (remember, beta readers are not editors). These editors shine a light on their training, their skills, their experience, and the kinds of editorial input an editor can provide.

Laura Anne Gilman (M), Gordon Van Gelder, K.G. Anderson, Lezli Robyn, Terra Caldwell

## Art in Action: Shanta Frisbee

Artists Workshop  
Grand 1, Sat. 4 to 5 p.m.

Shanta will paint an original acrylic art piece.

Shanta Frisbee (M)

## Youth: How to Draw a Dragon

Youth; Guest of Honor  
Olympic 1, Sat. 4 to 5 p.m.

Learn to draw dragons and other fantasy creatures with a real artist.

Jenny Shafer (M), Dutch Bihary ContoursFx, Lizzy D. Hill

## Concert: Ménagement à Trio

Concerts  
Tower Lounge, Sat. 4 to 5 p.m.

This amazingly fun and talented trio featuring cello, viola, and violin/fiddle creates music in the moment as the band improvises tunes based on audience prompts.

Sunnie Larsen, Betsy Tinney, Geli Wuerzner

## Reading: Brianna Malotke

Readings  
Cascade 3, Sat. 4:30 to 5 p.m.

*Fashion Trends, Deadly Ends.* Body horror poetry inspired by historical fashion trends. Think rib removals for smaller corseted waists, sewn eyelashes without anesthesia, radium poisoning for watch painters, and ballet tutus catching fire. Rated PG.

Brianna Malotke (M)

## 5 p.m.

### Reading: Curtis C. Chen

Readings  
Cascade 3, Sat. 5 to 5:30 p.m.

*Kangaroo Forward.* The fourth novel in the bestselling Kangaroo series of funny science fiction spy thrillers. Rated PG.

Curtis C. Chen (M)

## Children's Masquerade Pre-Meeting

Special Events  
Cascade 6, Sat. 5 to 6 p.m.

If you have a little one who wishes to enter the Children's Masquerade, please come to this panel. Panelists sign up your little one and lead you all down to the masquerade when the time is right. Children go on first to accommodate their early bedtimes.

## KidLit: Middle Grade, YA, and Children's Books

YA  
Cascade 7 & 8, Sat. 5 to 6 p.m.

What is KidLit? What are the distinct differences and things you should know? Listen to panelists discuss the aspects of the broader genre.

M. Shedric Simpson (M), Lily Meade, L.J. Melvin, Sonja Thomas, Tori Sharp

## The Power of Contrasting Perspectives

Writing; Streaming  
Cascade 9, Sat. 5 to 6 p.m.

Together, panelists discuss the dynamic of two characters being opposite sides of the same coin and how that can explore the depths of meaning, symbolism, and morality.

Ryan James (M), Kendare Blake, Brenda Cooper, Jeff Grubb, Erin M. Evans

## So, We've Made First Contact

Science Fiction; Guest of Honor  
Cascade 10, Sat. 5 to 6 p.m.

It finally happened. Beings from outside of Earth have finally made contact. We're not alone in the universe? Hell. What do we do now?

Teresa Drag (M), Russell Ervin, Nancy Kress, Daniel H. Wilson, Miranda Levi

## Nuclear Reactors in Space

Space

Cascade 11, Sat. 5 to 6 p.m.

With current space technology, getting to Mars and back will require a large amount of fuel. A rocket using nuclear reactor technology would be able to complete the mission with less fuel and spend less time in space. New nuclear technologies called small modular reactors, currently being tested, are a potentially safer alternative. Is this the way to complete a trip to Mars and back?

Dr. Sean Robinson (M), Hugh S. Gregory, Morgan Smathers, Mike Brennan, David Tucker, Ph.D.

## Digital Accessibility for Your Publications

Editing and Publishing

Cascade 13, Sat. 5 to 6 p.m.

Whether you're publishing your own work or someone else's, making sure your documents and promotional websites are accessible to people with disabilities is important. Get the basics of creating accessible documents with assistive technology and make sure that all your potential readers can read your publications. Also handy for anyone working in convention publications or marketing to make sure your convention is reaching all potential members. [Google Drive folder with presentation material.](#)

Michael Hanscom (M)

## Gen, Romance, and Erotica: Does Fanfic Need Sex? 18+

Fanfic

Cascade 12, Sat. 5 to 6 p.m.

Some writers can make a kiss last for five breathless chapters, while others enjoy writing the full gamut of the physical for their characters, including sex. Many want to write romance but don't know where to start. This panel discusses what makes a story hot (spoiler: just about everything) and asks, Does your story need sex? (Spoiler again: nope, not if it's not your jam... but there are ways to go there without going there). Restricted to 18+ years of age and older.

Atlin Merrick (M), Kathy, Berlynn Wohl, Susan R. Matthews, S.C. Mills

## Writing for the Ear

Audio

Evergreen 1 & 2, Sat. 5 to 6 p.m.

So, you've written a book. Congratulations! But will it survive being read aloud? In this panel, authors, narrators, and audio pros share both the joys and horrors of turning prose into performance. Learn why certain sentences make narrators weep, how some character names become tongue twisters, and what pacing works best when heard instead of read. Get ready for quick, practical tips for crafting dialogue that sparkles, descriptions that don't derail listeners, and stories that won't send your narrator to therapy!

Sam Stark (M), Sebastien de Castell, Shiromi Arserio, Gary Bennett, Ben Honeycutt

## Darkness Thrives Where the Evergreens Never Die

Horror; Guest of Honor

Evergreen 3 & 4, Sat. 5 to 6 p.m.

There's a reason horror feels right at home in the Pacific Northwest. The rain never stops, the forests go on forever, and every fog bank looks like it's hiding a secret. *Twin Peaks*, *The X-Files*, *The Ring*, *The Blair Witch Project*, and *The Cabin in the Woods*: the region has inspired a whole new flavor of fear—part folk horror, part cosmic dread, all Cascadia Gothic. Panelists discuss how rain-soaked streets, isolation, and environmental tension blend into a unique PNW vibe.

Neena Viel (M), T. Kingfisher, Jennifer Brozek, Clay Vermulm, Gwen Callahan, Josef B. Wilke

## Youth: Puppet Making

Youth

Olympic 1, Sat. 5 to 6 p.m.

Make and decorate your own puppet.

Jenny Shafer (M)

## Charades: The Star Trek Edition

Special Events

Olympic 2, Sat. 5 to 6 p.m.

Boldly go where no mime has gone before. In this fast paced, laughter filled game of Star Trek Charades, fans team up to act out iconic moments, characters, episodes, and technobabble from across the Trek universe—without saying a single word. Whether you're a seasoned Trek expert or just here for the fun, this interactive panel promises big laughs, friendly competition, and plenty of surprises.

Genevieve Faye (M)

## Robert Grieve Memorial

Wild Card

Presidential Suite 1360, Sat. 5 to 6 p.m.

Come celebrate the life of lifetime member Robert Grieve. Robert's favorite pastime was fishing. With that in mind, bring a fishing lure. We will be collecting them to build a tackle box in his name.

## Concert: Vixy & Tony

Concerts

Tower Lounge, Sat. 5 to 6 p.m.

Vixy and Tony have been performing together since 2005 and have multiple Pegasus Awards and nominations for songwriting and performance. They are polished, dynamic, and top-tier entertainers. We are thrilled to have them here at Norwescon.

Sunnie Larsen, Betsy Tinney

## Reading: Evan J. Peterson

Readings

Cascade 3, Sat. 5:30 to 6 p.m.

*Posthuman*. Evan J. Peterson's latest game, *Posthuman*, is an all-text, hybrid interactive fiction role-playing game about superhumans saving the world... again. In this reading, the author will narrate an excerpt while inviting the audience to choose what path the first- or second-person protagonist will take. Do you like your heroes to be pure and upstanding, or do you prefer gritty mercenaries who get the job done by any means necessary? And which of the 25 available superhuman powers will the hero possess? Rated PG.

Evan J. Peterson (M)

## Hat Rehab

Costume; Hands-On Workshop

Tower Ballroom, Sat. 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Hat making can be expensive and difficult, but if you start with a thrift store vintage hat, the hard part has already been done. Come learn how to choose a good hat for rehab, break it down, reblock it, and trim it to create the perfect accent for your sci-fi/fantasy costume. Includes a hands-on demo so you can try what you learn. Limit 20 people. Sign up at the info table the day before.

Crystal Taggart (M)

## 6 p.m.

### Reading: A.L. Kaplan

Readings

Cascade 3, Sat. 6 to 6:30 p.m.

*Star Touched*. Sometimes it's hard to be who you are meant to be, especially when your powers can get you killed. 18-year-old Tatiana is running from her past and her star-touched powers eight years after a meteor devastates earth's population. Rated G.

A. L. Kaplan (M)

## Artificial Intelligence and Intellectual Property

Wild Card

Cascade 7 & 8, Sat. 6 to 7 p.m.

As AI becomes a ubiquitous aspect of geek culture, creatives struggle with the balance between AI-authored and assisted works and their own (and others') intellectual property. This panel discusses the use of AI in science fiction and fantasy art, gaming, fiction, non-fiction, and media, all with a particular view as to how it affects IP rights and abilities to exploit IP.

Ethan Vodde (M), Sam Stark, Luis E. Torres, Dr. Corey Frazier, Izzy G

## Who Wants to Live Forever?

Biology; Streaming

Cascade 9, Sat. 6 to 7 p.m.

As we search for the fountain of youth, what would that mean? How would society survive? Brain in a jar or a 330-year-old who looks 30 (not sure which of those is creepier, really)?

Sar Surmick (M), A. W. McCollough, Kaitlyn Casimo, PhD, MEd, Diana Fedorak, Alan Andrist

## Market Research: The Surest Path to Sales

Editing and Publishing; Guest of Honor

Cascade 10, Sat. 6 to 7 p.m.

Writers want their work to find readers, yet many research the market only when they're ready to send a piece out. The ideal time is far sooner, many would say, before you've started drafting at all. Writers and editors representing different corners of the spec fic marketplace share tips on how to conduct efficient, effective market research.

Terra Caldwell (M), Leah R Cutter, Bradley Englert / Orbit Books, Celeste Wakefield, Shahid Mahmud

## Drizzling Dread

Writing

Cascade 11, Sat. 6 to 7 p.m.

The use of Gothic themes continues to find a place that resonates and draws in audiences. Join our panelists as they discuss the themes and tropes that differentiate Gothic stories from horror.

Ryan James (M), Laura Cranehill, Talulah J. Sullivan, Leigh Harlen, Megan E. O'Keefe

## How to Recognize and Avoid Burnout

Community

Cascade 13, Sat. 6 to 7 p.m.

Burnout happens when we get overwhelmed and just can't go on. Find out how to recognize the early warning signs and stop burnout from destroying your motivation.

Julia Laurel (M), Sierra Branham, Caren GS, Liz Argall, LA Wildsun Bradley

## Stephen King on Screen

Popular Culture & Media

Cascade 12, Sat. 6 to 7 p.m.

The master of horror has also been a master of Hollywood for decades. Come discuss the best and worst of his on-screen works.

Jack Samm (M), Neena Viel, Luke Elliott, Kris 'Pepper' Hambrick, James Bailey

## Who Controls Ceres, Controls the Inner Solar System

Space

Evergreen 1 & 2, Sat. 6 to 7 p.m.

The dwarf planet Ceres has lots of accessible water, and nowhere else even comes close. Who will control it? China is interested.

Dr. Sean Robinson (M), Hugh S. Gregory, Eric Taney, Shiv Ramdas, Bryana Bean

## Artist Pictionary

Art

Evergreen 3 & 4, Sat. 6 to 7 p.m.

Laugh and have fun as artists compete in the wonderful game of Pictionary.

Lizzy D. Hill (M), Eric L Vargas, Camille Meehan, Larry Lewis, Ellis Bray, Brittany Otto

## Doors Open for Masquerade

Special Events

Grand 3, Sat. 6 to 6:30 p.m.

Come on in and find a seat.

## Saturday Night *Magic*: Two Draft Events

Special Events

Olympic 2, Sat. 6 to 10 p.m.

1: The Bloomburrow draft is cute, cozy, and full of chaos. Set in a magical world inspired by *Redwall*, Bloomburrow brings new, powerful mice, frogs, bats, birds, and more woodland creatures to the table. Three-pack draft, 40-card deck. Limited to 24 players at \$20 per person. 2: With the Khans of Tarkir draft, travel back to a beloved 2014 *Magic* set filled with fierce clans, powerful synergies, and—of course—rampaging dragons. Four-pack draft, 40-card deck. Limited to 10 players at \$30 per person. Sign-ups for both are available on Warhorn pre-con and alongside general gaming registration in Lakeside Gaming.

## CSz Seattle: *B-Rated!*

Special Events

Tower Lounge, Sat. 6 to 7:30 p.m.

*B-Rated!* is two shows in one: an improvised original movie, acted out on stage and based on your suggestions; and an improvised live commentary track full of jokes and wisecracks. Our performers make fun of the movie while they're making it up! If you love the kind of unforgettable popcorn movies you watch and riff on with your friends, family, or robot pals, *B-Rated!* is the show for you. House opens at 6 p.m. Show starts at 6:15.

## Reading: Cyrus Amelia Fisher

Readings

Cascade 3, Sat. 6:30 to 7 p.m.

"P OV: I'm The Dead Wife In Your Flashback." Cyrus Amelia Fisher reads from her evocative story with passages like this one: "Being carved down to the purest distillation of someone else's desire is kind of my specialty. I'm just worried you don't appreciate how difficult it is to be your Smiling Dead Wife Under The White Bedsheets." Rated R.

Cyrus Amelia Fisher (M)

## Masquerade

Special Events

Grand 3, Sat. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Join us for the highlight event of Saturday evening at Norwescon 48: the masquerade! Witness our talented contestants showcase their incredible costumes and cosplays. Will your favorites win over the judges? Whether or not they do, you're guaranteed an unforgettable show. Doors open at 6 p.m., with the show starting promptly at 6:30. Don't miss out on this dazzling display of creativity and craftsmanship!

Donde Groovily (M)

**7 p.m.**

**Reading: Rashida J. Smith**

Readings

Cascade 3, Sat. 7 to 7:30 p.m.

Join Rashida Smith for a reading of her work. Rated G.

Rashida J Smith (M)

## Broad Universe Rapid-Fire Reading

Community

Cascade 7 & 8, Sat. 7 to 8 p.m.

Join Broad Universe for a fun, fast-paced group reading to showcase the work of women and nonbinary authors who will read a short snippet from a recent work. Discover new writers, enjoy chocolate, and enter a drawing for a book, all while you support women and nonbinary people working in speculative fiction. Broad Universe is a recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit that works to expand the awareness of and promote women and other underrepresented gender identities in science fiction, fantasy, and horror. Learn more at [Broad Universe](#). Broad Universe currently requires readers to mask during Broad Universe convention activities.

Marta Murvosh (M), K.G. Anderson, Megan Lee Bees, Tara Campbell, Andrea Weilgart, Brigitte Winter

## Applying Cross-Discipline Skills

Writing; Streaming

Cascade 9, Sat. 7 to 8 p.m.

Looking beyond the traditional writing discipline, our panelists explore storytelling techniques and standards in other mediums and trades that can be useful to add to one's proverbial toolkit.

Claire E. Jones (M), William Alexander, Atlin Merrick, Josh Storey, Monte Lin

## Fungi in Space: Science and Fiction

Biology; Popular Culture & Media

Cascade 10, Sat. 7 to 8 p.m.

From Eleanor Cameron's 1954 classic *The Wonderful Flight to the Mushroom Planet* to current research on the astronaut-protecting potential of radiation-resistant mycelium, fungi continue to fascinate scientists and SF writers. While fantastic authors have explored fungal implications here on Earth, our panelists want to talk about fungi in space: from the malfunction-causing infestation on Russia's Mir station to the spore drive and mycelial plane in *Star Trek Discovery*. Panelists explore the ways fungi have shown up in sci-fi: as provider, predator, protector, propulsion, plot twist, and more.

Teresa Drag (M), L.J. Melvin, Marnee Chua, Megan E. O'Keefe, Charlotte Lewis Brown

## What Makes a Good Game Designer?

Gaming

Cascade 11, Sat. 7 to 8 p.m.

You've run hundreds of games for your friends, created your own world, and even created a few custom magic items, monsters, or even subclasses for your gaming group. Now you want to take your design one step further and design for a wider audience. This panel will discuss best practices and the skills you should hone when you're considering designing games or game material, whether you plan to be an independent game designer or design for a game publisher.

Randy Hayes (M), Carlos Cabrera, Erin Roberts, John Godek, Luis Loza

## Self-Care Workshop

Community; Hands-On Workshop

Cascade 13, Sat. 7 to 8 p.m.

Self-care is more than just bubble baths. Our panelists will help you identify your needs and come out with a list and ways to work them into your routine.

Liz Coleman (M)

## Poetry Deathmatch

Poetry

Evergreen 1 & 2, Sat. 7 to 8 p.m.

Bringing back the fan favorite throw down of metaphors! Participants (panelists and interested audience)

members) will write poems based on randomly pulled prompts featuring various topics, styles, and lengths, all for bragging rights (and a magnificent trophy).

Thursday (M), Larina Warnock, Ellis Bray, Jonathan

## What Goes Around

Technology

Evergreen 3 & 4, Sat. 7 to 8 p.m.

From ancient slings to future space stations, the art and science of making things go around fast has lots of present-day applications. Join our panelists as they spin some things around, spin some other things around, and talk about spinning things around (almost certainly without letting any of them go flying off).

Mike Brennan (M), Phil L. Swan, Jay Donnaway, John Jensen, Jonny

## Youth: Movie Night!

Youth

Olympic 1, Sat. 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Come to a “slumber party” (no slumber expected) to watch a movie, make friendship bracelets, and unwind from the day.

Jenny Shafer (M)

## Reading: S.C. Mills

Readings

Cascade 3, Sat. 7:30 to 8 p.m.

“The Lady Lynx of the Desert Sky.” Life changes forever for a lonely woman on a remote mining colony when a spaceship crashes outside town. Rated R.

S.C. Mills (M)

## Impossible Loves

Special Events

Tower Lounge, Sat. 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

This panel improvises a paranormal romance on the spot, using your suggestions. Want the fun and spice of romantasy, set in your own neighborhood? Come see these panelists! Originally developed by a bunch of geeks at Unexpected Productions. Rated PG-13.

## 8 p.m.

### Reading: Brian U. Garrison

Readings

Cascade 3, Sat. 8 to 8:30 p.m.

“Pessimisms and Anti-Pessimisms.” Robots are dead. / The sun is eclipsed. / Honey is sweet, / but there’s none to be found with Earth so thoroughly apocalypted. Rated PG.

Brian U. Garrison (M)

## Smashing History

Wild Card; Streaming

Cascade 9, Sat. 8 to 9 p.m.

One of the least expensive and most beloved souvenirs—from places as diverse as the Kennedy Space Center, the Washington State Fair, and landmarks around the world—is the smashed penny. Discover the technology that enabled its creation, how and when elongated coins began, where they’ve been, and where they’re going. See samples of rare and unusual smashed coins.

Janna Silverstein (M)

## The Reality of Steam Punk Technology

Technology

Cascade 10, Sat. 8 to 9 p.m.

The technology of the 1880s and the steam age is fascinating and far more capable than we realize. This panel will discuss the realities of steam punk technology, Charles Babbage’s difference engine, and other inventions of the golden age.

Dr. Mark Rounds (M), V Whitlock, William Boulanger, Mike Brennan, Phil L. Swan

## Best Franchises That Should be a TTRPG

Gaming

Cascade 11, Sat. 8 to 9 p.m.

Many of the tabletop gaming products out there are based on someone else’s IP, be it a popular movie or TV series, fictional book series, or even a video game series. Our panelists discuss some of the franchises that successfully made the jump to an RPG, as well as the ones they’d really like to see developed into the next great RPG.

Izzy G (M), Erik Scott de Bie, Carlos Cabrera, Luis Loza, Matt Youngmark

## Storyboarding/Thumbnails

Art

Cascade 13, Sat. 8 to 9 p.m.

Learn about the importance of planning in art. Panelists lay out ideas for illustrations, comics, and animations.

Ivy Gilliam (M), Tyler Clark, Michael Brugger, andyvanoverberghe, Eric L Vargas

### Consent Is Sexy 18+

Community  
Cascade 12, Sat. 8 to 9 p.m.

Negotiation and consent are so important, but these concepts don't have to be boring or dry. Talking about and asking for what you want is sexy, and saying no is just as sexy—then you know yes means yes. Being confident around consent enables mutual respect for new experiences. Join our panelists in a discussion around this crucial topic. Restricted to 18+ years of age and older.

Hazel (M), Sam Stark, Sar Surmick, Mir Plemmons, John Jensen

### Fighting in Fiction: Writing a Knockout Scene

Military  
Evergreen 1 & 2, Sat. 8 to 10 p.m.

This presentation uses live demonstrations to discuss the realities of fighting, including how and why people lose consciousness, surviving group attacks, weapons disarming, and errors often portrayed in Hollywood. With over 30 years in and out of dojos, and holding a formal rank in eight different fighting systems, Jason uses his experience and skill to break down the realistic expectations of what to expect in a real fight. A balance of expertise and humor keeps this presentation lively and fun!

Jason Bond (M)

### All Ages Drum Circle

Music  
Evergreen 3 & 4, Sat. 8 to 9 p.m.

Bring your drums, shakers, and other percussion makers for this very loosely facilitated, creative, collaborative drum circle. All ages and abilities are welcome. If you don't have your own instrument, there will be a few available to borrow.

Cathy McManamon (M), GregRobin Smith

### Monster Mash for Mature Mad Scientists

Hands-On Workshop  
Tower Ballroom, Sat. 8 to 10 p.m.

Don your best mad scientist outfit and come create marvelous monsters and chimera. Panelists take cute stuffed animals, hack them to pieces, then reassemble them in wholly unnatural ways. Warning: not for the easily distressed or children. Panelists will be using scissors and needles, so only mature mad scientists can participate. The only skills required are basic sewing skills (plush is very forgiving) and a sick sense of humor. Limited to 35 participants. \$5 per participant, cash-only materials fee to cover the cost of DNA splitters, splicers, and experimental specimens. Sign-up is available the day before the panel at the info table.

Travis Partington (M), Brianna Malotke, Natalie Leif

### Gaggle of Geeks: A Geeky Comedy Showcase

Special Events  
Tower Lounge, Sat. 8:30 to 10 p.m.

It's time to experience the funniest nerds in Seattle! Gaggle of Geeks is a comedy showcase celebrating voices often overlooked in both comedy and geek culture. This funny bunch of comics, who also happen to be nerds, will bring you their best jokes and deepest cuts. Brought to you by Geeky Comedy Seattle.

### 9 p.m.

#### Friends of Bill W.

Wild Card  
Cascade 3, Sat. 9 to 10 p.m.

#### Teen & Tween: Spooky Tales

Audio; Teen/Tween  
Cascade 5, Sat. 9 to 10 p.m.

Listen to some spooky tales told by professional podcasters, authors, and voice actors. Teens and tweens only, please.

Oz Norberg, Leslie Lutz

#### Elements of Slash 18+

Fanfic  
Cascade 7 & 8, Sat. 9 to 10 p.m.

Writing adult material is a skill, much the same as writing any other genre, and adult-oriented slash fanfiction is no exception. This panel examines what makes slash good—and fun! For writers and readers. Restricted to 18+ years of age and older.

Berlynn Wohl (M), Kris 'Pepper' Hambrick, Atlin Merrick, Megan Lee Bees, Virginia Black

## Horror Trivia Deathmatch

Horror

Cascade 10, Sat. 9 to 10 p.m.

Think you know your slashers from your specters? Prove it or perish! In this high-stakes horror movie trivia showdown, contestants will battle for survival one question at a time. Each player begins with a single life, and the clock is ticking. Answer the question correctly and live to see another round. Answer wrong and you're dead! If the timer runs out with no answer, fate will claim one random soul from the audience. Questions will crawl from all creepy corners of horror, from classic monster movies to folklore to video gaming frights.

## Beginning Bondage Workshop 18+

Community

Cascade 12, Sat. 9 to 10 p.m.

Maybe you've thought about trying out some recreational bondage or decorative Shibari but don't know where to start. Come learn some basic ties and safety tips so you can build a solid foundation. Restricted to 18+ years of age and older.

Hazel (M), Izzy G

## Open Filk Circle: Saturday Night

Music

Evergreen 3 & 4, Sat. 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Filk's origins come from folk circles at conventions, which mutated because of a typo and the sort of people who must enshrine a joke. The rules were simple: Everything was filk—an original song, a filk song, a popular song, or an interpretive dance. Everyone who chose to was allowed to perform and shown respect. Otherwise, simple civility ruled the day. Bring your instruments and voices to share your songs! Everyone and every type of music are welcome.

Gareth Davis, Griff the Filker, Cathy McManamon

## Saturday Night Dance: The Goblin Ball with DJ #Csharp

Special Events

Grand 2, Sat. 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

Enter the realm of fantasy and mischief where masks, magic, and music collide. You can even [send in your song suggestions](#) now!

DJ #CSharp (M)

## 10 p.m.

### DnDprov: Made Up Misadventures

Special Events

Tower Lounge, Sat. 10 to 11:30 p.m.

A live, in-person improv show inspired by Dungeons and Dragons, where you can influence the story. Enjoy this mix of narrative comedic improv with D&D. Player improvisers will have one character they play the whole show. Helper improvisers will be all the other characters in the story and help the host when needed. The host improviser will help guide the story to a satisfying ending. Affect the story by inspiring the quests, the villains, and the chaos. If you love laughter, fantasy, and improvised magical problem-solving, this is the show for you. Suitable for General Audiences. No host bar is available.

## Midnight

### Lakeside Open Gaming

Special Events; Scheduled Games

Rotunda 1 & 2, Sat. midnight to 2 a.m.

Lakeside Gaming will be open Saturday night starting at midnight. Feel free to bring your own game or check one out from Dragonflight's lending library. As a reminder, Lakeside Gaming is only accessible by way of the second-floor skybridge via the first or second concourse.

## Sunday, April 5

## 9 a.m.

### Reading: Erik Grove

Readings

Cascade 3, Sun. 9 to 9:30 a.m.

*The Long Red Tomorrow*. Reading a short selection from *The Long Red Tomorrow*, coming soon from Podium Publishing. Rated R.

Erik Grove (M)

### Youth: Easter Fun!

Youth

Olympic 1, Sun. 9 to 11 a.m.

Enjoy an Easter hunt and get some prizes! Divided by age group. Sign up in the youth room.

Jenny Shafer (M)

## Reading: William Boulanger

### Readings

Cascade 3, Sun. 9:30 to 10 a.m.

“Good Sushi.” William Boulanger reads the first short story in a collection of shorts, set in the same universe as the science fiction novel *The Odds Job*. The collection is planned for release by the end of summer 2026. Rated PG.

William Boulanger (M)

## 10 a.m.

### Reading: Miranda Levi

#### Readings

Cascade 3, Sun. 10 to 10:30 a.m.

*From A Youth A Fountain Did Flow*. Reborn and haunted by lives she can't remember, Scarlet discovers she's the source of eternal youth—a living myth cursed to be worshiped, weaponized, and destroyed. Some want her blood. Others want her soul. No one wants her free. Winner of the Page Turner Award for best horror novel—the acclaimed Fountain of Youth series begins here. Rated PG.

Miranda Levi (M)

### Teen & Tween: Black Out Poetry

Guest of Honor; Teen/Tween  
Cascade 5, Sun. 10 to 11 a.m.

Bring an old book or use a donated one and create a poem using the words within.

Summer Ash (M), Brian U. Garrison, Larina Warnock

### Masquerade Participants Debriefing

#### Special Events

Cascade 6, Sun. 10 to 11 a.m.

Masquerade participants are invited to this debriefing. Any lost and found items from the backstage area will be available at this panel. Any awards that weren't picked up will be here as well.

Doll (M), Donde Groovily

### What's About to Be New in Computers

#### Technology

Cascade 7 & 8, Sun. 10 to 11 a.m.

For the last half-century, the most consistent thing about computers is that there is something right around

the corner that will make whatever you have obsolete. What is it this time? Hardware? Software? Conceptual breakthrough? Join our panelists to talk about the Computer Age to come.

Wm Salt Hale (M), Dr. Corey Frazier, V Whitlock, Dr. Mark Rounds, VA7LON

### Publishing Dollars and Sense

#### Editing and Publishing; Streaming

Cascade 9, Sun. 10 to 11 a.m.

Authors have more options than ever when it comes to publishing their work: self-publication, small press, major publisher, e-books, audiobooks, and more. And while each method gets a writer's words to the public, the question of which is the most cost-effective or profitable for any given writer should also be weighed. What are the financial considerations for each method, and how will you find the kind of compensation that would satisfy you as an author?

Elsie Raymond (M), Laura Anne Gilman, Shahid Mahmud, Lily Meade, Gregory Amato

### Pour Your Heart Out: Expressing in Different Mediums

#### Poetry

Cascade 10, Sun. 10 to 11 a.m.

Poetry is (in)famous for a focus on emotion, but that may have more to do with the method. Come for a discussion on how different formats, from comics to video games to novels, and yes, to poetry, express or elicit emotion with different structures, and how crossing, braiding, or subverting those structures can improve your writing in any format!

Marnee Chua (M), Natalie Leif, Brianna Malotke, Thursday

### Favorite Parties and Why They Worked

#### Fantasy

Cascade 11, Sun. 10 to 11 a.m.

Come explore the different parties and ensemble casts that make up beloved works, why those dynamics are effective, and how to use those techniques in your own creations.

Jake, Reilly, Rhiannon/R.Z. Held, William Boulanger

## Waffle Syndicate Artist Round Table

Art

Cascade 13, Sun. 10 to 11 a.m.

A long time ago, at another convention, a group of artists met and started discussing art, drawing art, and, well, being artists. This get-together needed a name, and so the Waffle Syndicate was born! So come, with your drawing materials, your ideas, and maybe waffles, to mingle and relax with other artists.

Michael Brugger (M), Lizzy D. Hill, Eric L Vargas, Ellis Bray, Li Harrison, Ivy Gilliam, Tyler Clark, Camille Meehan, Belsac

## Queering Everything

Community

Cascade 12, Sun. 10 to 11 a.m.

To “queer” something means to apply queer theory to it. But what does that mean? Come learn to look at things—history, art, jelly beans, everything—beyond heteronormativity and the gender binary.

Liz Coleman (M), Alex Crawley, Laura Cranehill, Jae Steinbacher, Scotty McIntosh

## The Rest of the World in Space

Space

Evergreen 1 & 2, Sun. 10 to 11 a.m.

This panel will present news, pictures, and sometimes video from the non-U.S. space programs, including, but not limited to, Europe, Canada, China, Russia, India, and Japan. Each presentation is different from the previous one.

Hugh S. Gregory (M)

## World-building Series 203: Institutions in Society

Fantasy

Evergreen 3 & 4, Sun. 10 to 11 a.m.

In this last installment of the world-building series, panelists look at how the institutions of societies shape the narrative for readers and create a dynamic world through which characters navigate their goals. Panelists will investigate these institutions and provide techniques for capturing a complex world without getting mired in too many details.

Dean Wells (M), Carol Berg, Sebastien de Castell, Jeff Grubb, Kat Richardson

## You Remind Me of the Babe

Special Events; Scheduled Games

Grand 2, Sun. 10 to noon

Can dance moves really save the baby from the goblins? Puzzle it out in an interactive adventure with friends! For everyone.

## BattleTech Grinder: Learn to Play Event

Special Events; Games; Scheduled Games

Olympic 2, Sun. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Whether you're brand new to BattleTech or just looking to sharpen your skills, the BattleTech Grinder is the perfect way to jump into the Inner Sphere. Our instructors will guide you step by step, answer questions, and help you get comfortable with the flow of the game. It's a friendly, low pressure environment designed for absolute beginners and curious veterans alike. Plus: Giveaways!

Jason Watkins (M)

## Lakeside Gaming: All-Ages Scheduled Games

Special Events

Rotunda 2, Sun. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Come sign up for a game! You can play *Pathfinder Society*, other role-playing games, card games, and more. After gaming closes, this area is available for open games. Lakeside Gaming is accessible by way of the second-floor skybridge via the first or second concourse.

## Intro to Leather Tooling

Hands-On Workshop

Tower Ballroom, Sun. 10 to noon

Leather is an incredibly versatile material with huge potential for costuming and geeky crafting. Learn some basic leatherworking techniques on a small leather disc medallion that could be a pendant, hair clip, or belt buckle. Participants will be using very sharp knives, but younger fans are welcome at the discretion of their parents. Tools are provided. The workshop will be limited to 15 people. Sign up at Info Table.

SunnyJim Morgan (M)

## Artemis Spaceship Bridge Simulator

Special Events; Scheduled Games

Tower Salon, Sun. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

*Artemis* is a spaceship bridge simulator where players assume the jobs of captain, helm, science, communication, engineering, and weapons and work together to defeat alien enemies.

### Reading: Diana Fedorak

Readings

Cascade 3, Sun. 10:30 to 11 a.m.

*Celestial Children*. An excerpt from Diana Fedorak's new biopunk novel. If not released yet, she will choose a piece from an earlier book in the Children of Alpheios series. Rated PG.

Diana Fedorak (M)

### 11 a.m.

### Reading: Emily C. Skaftun

Readings

Cascade 3, Sun. 11 to 11:30 a.m.

"A Dirge for the Mirrorbirds." Maybe reincarnation has its downsides? Enjoy a teaser of Emily C. Skaftun's latest story to appear in *Beneath Ceaseless Skies*, plus a selection of her stupid, quirky, or otherwise cursed postcard microfiction. Rated PG.

Emily C. Skaftun (M)

### Teen & Tween: Humble Brag

Teen/Tween

Cascade 5, Sun. 11 to noon

Show off your costumes, crafts, writings, skits, constructions, book and movie reviews, or anything else you'd like to share with other teens.

L.J. Melvin (M)

### The Undiscovered Country: In Memoriam

Wild Card

Cascade 6, Sun. 11 to noon

A place of meditation and discussion, contemplation, and thought for those who have passed since the last Norwescon. Honor them with a thought, memory, or simple prayer to whatever you wish. Leave the name of someone you remember.

Tom Whitmore (M), K.G. Anderson

### Not Instagram Ready: YA Protagonists That Aren't Always Perfect

YA

Cascade 7 & 8, Sun. 11 to noon

Social media is a stressful part of teens' lives. How can you represent teens in a way that's accurate to the social media generation, including making sure they are all diverse? How do you feature characters who aren't always right or don't do the trending activities?

Lily Meade (M), Sonja Thomas, James L. Sutter, Margaret Owen, Gabrielle Harbowy

### What Would a Space Battle Look Like?

Military; Streaming

Cascade 9, Sun. 11 to noon

Cruisers, carriers, and capital ships: These naval terms are used to reference space transports, but how would they realistically battle in space? What about the space equivalent of jetfighters? Are dogfights in space possible? Necessary? What would they look like?

Randy Hayes (M), Dr. Mark Rounds, Mike Brennan, Jason Bond, Tyler Clark

### Here There Be Dragons

History

Cascade 10, Sun. 11 to noon

Why were medieval maps filled with dragons or other warnings? What might have inspired some of the sailors' tales?

ELK (M), Nick Fraser, Ann Shilling, Charlotte Lewis Brown, Kat Richardson

### Infusing Wonder

Fantasy

Cascade 11, Sun. 11 to noon

Sometimes a fantasy story feels flat and dull. How might infusing a sense of wonder into even the most mundane of everyday circumstances elevate events into a captivating story?

M. Shedric Simpson (M), Remy Nakamura, Alex Crawley, Sebastien de Castell, Gregory Amato

### Designing Introductory Games for Different Ages

Gaming

Cascade 13, Sun. 11 to noon

Gaming used to target the teenage years, but that's not true at all these days. Gaming panelists discuss the differences (and similarities) in designing games for kids versus teens versus adults versus all ages, and especially as an introduction to gaming for those differently aged audiences.

Thursday (M), Carlos Cabrera, Sean K. Reynolds, Lydia Randall

## You Ask, We Build

Biology

Cascade 12, Sun. 11 to noon

Yeah, this is on the audience: Set the scenario, and the panelists make the story work. There will be humor and sadness and silliness... whose idea was this anyways????

Jake McKinzie (M), Larry Lewis, Susie Fox, Jay Donnaway, Torrey Stenmark

## The Art of Geneva Bowers: GDBee, a Retrospective

Guest of Honor

Evergreen 1 & 2, Sun. 11 to noon

Geneva Bowers will be showing off works from her earlier days all the way up to her latest art. She will discuss themes and favorite pieces of hers, and she will delve into what inspires her. There will be some time for questions as well.

Geneva Bowers (M)

## Prejudice Analogies in SF&F

Science Fiction

Evergreen 3 & 4, Sun. 11 to noon

Science fiction is a genre rife with metaphors for the ills and foibles of the real world. How has it handled human prejudice through the lenses of relationships with aliens, machines, mutants, and others?

Perla X. Caballero (M), Virginia Black, Rue Dickey, Janna Silverstein, Ben Honeycutt

## Bards and Jesters and (Drag) Queens, Oh My!

Special Events

Grand 3, Sun. 11 to 12:30 p.m.

Kick off your last day of Norwescon with a dazzling variety show featuring spellbinding lip syncs, out-of-this-world comedy, enchanting dancing, and magical music. Brought to you by Geeky Comedy Seattle.

## Miss Jenny's Quiet Reading Birthday Bash

Youth

Olympic 1, Sun. 11 to noon

It's Miss Jenny's birthday! Join her for her favorite things: reading and eating snacks. BYOB (book) or try out one of the ones available.

Jenny Shafer (M)

## Textiles through Time: Historic Cloth for Clothes and Otherwise

Wild Card

Presidential Suite 1360, Sun. 11 to noon

An open discussion of textiles of the past and how they were made and used (in dress and otherwise) through history and before. Please bring books and samples (textile or object) you would like to share, along with your personal knowledge and any questions you have that someone else may already know the answer to. Let's see how many true fiber and fabric geeks there are at Norwescon!

Meghan D. Lancaster (M)

## The Faithful Sidekicks

Concerts

Tower Lounge, Sun. 11 to noon

This Pegasus Award-winning acoustic geek rock comedy duo brings you original songs about everything and anything, like sci-fi, board games, video games, Star Wars (actually "Star" anything!), and of course, famous sidekicks from many fandoms.

Eric Distad, Jen Distad

## Concert: Cecilia Eng

Concerts

Tower Lounge, Sun. 11 to noon

A singer/songwriter since 1984, Cecilia has performed in England, Canada, and across the U.S., including at the Northwest Folklife Festival at the Seattle Convention Center and at the Tumbleweed Music Festival in Richland, Washington. She is active in both the filk and folk communities and in the Portland FolkMusic Society, where she has introduced filk music and filkers to their events online and in person.

Cecilia Eng (M)

## Reading: Diana Ma

### Readings

Cascade 3, Sun. 11:30 to noon

*Force of Chaos* (Mighty Morphin Power Rangers Book 1). From the world of Hasbro's Mighty Morphin Power Rangers entertainment franchise comes an action-packed original YA novel from the point of view of Trini Kwan, the Yellow Ranger. Rated PG.

Diana Ma (M)

## Noon

### Reading: Matt Youngmark

### Readings

Cascade 3, Sun. noon to 12:30 p.m.

*The Pilot Episode*. Matt Youngmark reads from his upcoming near-future novel set 17 years in the future, when humanity has conquered the stars. Well, not so much conquered as spread throughout the galaxy by figuring out ways to do everything cheaper and worse. It features immigrant heroes and the horrors of late-stage capitalism and shamelessly borrows the plot of the 2000 film *Dude, Where's My Car?* Rated PG.

Matt Youngmark (M)

## Teen & Tween: Careers in Media

### Guest of Honor; Teen/Tween

Cascade 5, Sun. noon to 1 p.m.

So you think you might want to work in gaming, podcasting, voice work, or social media? Meet some pros who work in these fields, hear how they got into media (some even as teens!), and discover what you can do right now to get started or get ready.

Erica Angeline Solano (M), Bradley Englert / Orbit Books, Oz Norberg, James L. Sutter, Camille Meehan

## These Are the Droids You're Looking For

### Popular Culture & Media

Cascade 6, Sun. noon to 1 p.m.

Since the 1950s, mechanical stars have been delighting audiences around the world. Come discuss why robots so often win over audience members' frail human hearts.

Jack Samm (M), Gina Saucier, Emily C. Skaftun, Gloria Jackson-Nefertiti, Julia Laurel

## Under the Midday Sun

### Military

Cascade 7 & 8, Sun. noon to 1 p.m.

How to reflect fitness for military personnel and explorers in tropical climates in your stories? While panelists discuss how to make your characters' physical abilities (or challenges) come through, they will be moving their own bodies. There's no tropical sun in the con, but they can at least move themselves to inform themselves.

Teresa Drag (M), Alan Paulsen, V Whitlock

## Building Blocks for the Developing Narrator

### Audio; Streaming

Cascade 9, Sun. noon to 1 p.m.

Breaking into audiobook narration can feel daunting—but knowing the first steps makes all the difference. This beginner-focused panel guides aspiring narrators through the practical side of the audiobook industry. Learn how to set up a simple home studio, create a professional demo, find and approach clients, and navigate platforms that connect narrators with publishers. Panelists will also cover essential business basics, including rates, contracts, and building a reputation in the industry. Whether you're just testing the waters, ready to launch your first project, or you've already got a couple of audiobooks out in the wild, this session offers guidance to turn your narration skills into an amazing career.

Rebecca H. Lee (M), Gary Bennett, E.W. Lloyd, Sam Stark, Ron Leota

## Sailing, Then and Now

### Technology

Cascade 10, Sun. noon to 1 p.m.

Sailing's low tech, right? Some cloth on sticks, and let the wind do the work, right? Well, not so much. Sailing was the cutting edge of transportation tech until steam, and much of the math of flight came from figuring out sails. And now, with hydrofoils and vertical wings, a new Age of Sail could be blowing in. Join our panelists in discussing which way the wind will blow for sails.

Mike Brennan (M), John Godek, Jonny, John Jensen, Jay Donnaway

## Fanfic Genre Conventions and How to Use Them

Fanfic

Cascade 11, Sun. noon to 1 p.m.

Fanfiction has developed a genre language of its own, regardless of the fandom you're in. Things like the 5+1, the coffee shop, the fix-it fics, hurt/comfort, and many others can be found all across fandoms. Their enduring popularity is worth examining, as is the history of their development. Our panelists will also provide tips about how to use them to their best advantage—even outside the fanfic arena.

Berlynn Wohl (M), Anne Stewart, Megan Lee Bees, Amanda Cherry, Virginia Black

## Reenvisioning Divinity

Science Fiction

Cascade 13, Sun. noon to 1 p.m.

Humanity has invented a plethora of gods through history, but literature has invented far more. What kind of deities have authors come up with, and what insights do they give into humanity's actual relationship to divinity?

D. Scott Thayer (M), Susan R. Matthews, S.C. Mills, Steven Barnes, Miranda Levi

## Comfort in the Ruins: The Rise of Cozy Apocalypse Horror

Horror

Cascade 12, Sun. noon to 1 p.m.

As the real world grows more unpredictable, many readers are seeking out stories that mix end-times chaos with unexpected comfort. This panel looks at the growing appeal of "cozy apocalypse" fiction, tales where the world may be falling apart, but hope, community, and small moments of peace still shine through. Panelists will talk about how to balance fear with warmth, what makes soft horror so effective, and why these gentler takes on the end of the world feel more relevant than ever.

Perla X. Caballero (M), Remy Nakamura, Tara Campbell, Jae Steinbacher, Rosemary Jones

## Best of 2026 Speculative Film Festival

Filmmaking Workshop; Special Events

Evergreen 1 & 2, Sun. noon to 2 p.m.

See the award winners and some of the other best short films from this year's festival. As a bonus, the Let's Make a Movie final film for Norwescon 48 will be shown.

Shawn Marier (M), Ryan K. Johnson

## Author Low Points and Failing Forward

Writing

Evergreen 3 & 4, Sun. noon to 1 p.m.

Panelists discuss their low points and the times they thought they should have quit, why or how they continued, and where that led them.

Elsie Raymond (M), Rhiannon/R.Z. Held, Laura Anne Gilman, Erik Grove, Elizabeth Guizzetti/Elizabeth Greyrose, Richard Flores IV

## Ash, Moss, and Bone: The Dark Forest Molds Us Photoshoot

Wild Card

Lobby Photo Area, Sun. noon to 12:30 p.m.

In the forest we drift and fade to be remade of ash, moss, and bone, illuminating the wildwood as we awaken. Bound to the dark woods, we are kin to fungi, lichen, and the forgotten cryptids. This photoshoot is themed around dark forests, dark fairy tales, cryptids, and goblincore. It celebrates the speculative fiction of Ursula Vernon, aka T. Kingfisher, and the bright luminosity of Geneva Bower's artwork. Think forest meets rave... or not. The choice to luminate is yours. Meet at noon at the lobby photo area. Group photos will be taken at 12:15 p.m.

Peggy Stewart (M)

## Concert: Griff the Filker

Concerts

Tower Lounge, Sun. noon to 1 p.m.

Griff is newer to the filk scene and has already released an album of original songs. His beautifully expressive voice and stellar songwriting combine with his smooth guitar into a wonderful musical experience. Don't miss his show!

Griff the Filker (M)

## Reading: Erin Roberts

Readings

Cascade 3, Sun. 12:30 to 1 p.m.

Join Erin Roberts for a reading from her works. Rated R.

Erin Roberts (M)

## 1 p.m.

### Reading: Gloria Jackson-Nefertiti

Readings

Cascade 3, Sun. 1 to 1:30 p.m.

“I Need to Reread ‘The Velveteen Rabbit’ Now That My Circumstances Have Changed.” A poignant reflection on rereading *The Velveteen Rabbit* after a lifetime of change. As a Black, autistic, bisexual, polyamorous elder who has shed the religion she once followed, Gloria Jackson-Nefertiti returns to this story to ask what becoming “real” means now—after queerness, aging, loss, healing, and self-discovery have reshaped her. This piece explores how a childhood tale transforms when we finally become ourselves, revealing tender truths about love, authenticity, survival, and the courage to keep growing deeper! Rated G.

Gloria Jackson-Nefertiti (M)

### Teen & Tween: Costuming with Duct Tape

Teen/Tween

Cascade 5, Sun. 1 to 3 p.m.

Learn how to make costume patterns, corsets, and hats using duct tape!

Grace Amundsen Barnkow (M), L.J. Melvin

### Screaming into the Void: Metal, Mental Health, and Horror Storytelling

Horror; Guest of Honor

Cascade 6, Sun. 1 to 2 p.m.

Metal and horror both give people a way to confront fear, trauma, and grief. This panel explores why dark stories can be healing, how catharsis works, and why fans of horror and metal gravitate toward emotional honesty beneath all the noise.

Timothy W. Long (M), Dustin Campbell, Bradley Englert / Orbit Books, Josef B. Wilke, Gwen Callahan

### Indie Games vs. Traditional Role-Playing Games

Gaming

Cascade 7 & 8, Sun. 1 to 2 p.m.

Tabletop role-playing games have traditionally been shared storytelling with crunchy game mechanics and chance assisting in spinning the tale at your table. But on the flipside of that are gaming systems that

encourage players to improvise and depend less on the numbers and the dice. Panelists will look at both game styles, name some example games, and discuss what might work best for different types of players.

Josh Storey (M), Jeff Grubb, Luis E. Torres, Brigitte Winter, Monte Lin

### Artist Burnout, Recovery, and Support

Art; Guest of Honor; Streaming

Cascade 9, Sun. 1 to 2 p.m.

Tips and advice on how to recognize signs for, recover from, and avoid burnout.

Li Harrison (M), Dutch Bihary ContoursFx, T. Kingfisher, Tyler Clark, Tori Sharp

### Cohabiting with Your Hobbies

Costume

Cascade 10, Sun. 1 to 2 p.m.

Makers are like goldfish: Their stash and tools will grow to fill their environment. How do you stay organized AND still have enough space to live AND make whatever your heart desires?

Crystal Lloyd (M), Andrew Williams, Wolfcat, Ms Purple Pearl, Richard Stephens

### What About Fusion?

Space

Cascade 11, Sun. 1 to 2 p.m.

Humankind is at the beginning of the fusion era, and it promises to provide not just power, but propulsion, in quantities that could be enough for real practical space travel. How does the new tech really work? What are the best contenders? And how would this affect solar-system and extra-solar travel?

Dr. Sean Robinson (M), David Tucker, Ph.D., Mike Brennan, VA7LON, Phil L. Swan

### Table Read

Audio

Cascade 12, Sun. 1 to 2 p.m.

Are you interested in voice acting? Ever wondered what a table read is like? Want to find out? Come hang out with some professional voice actors and take turns playing parts in an original script! A small group will be selected to read together for five minutes, guided by one of the panel’s voice actors, and then they’ll switch and choose another group. Reading time will vary based on

attendance. Bring all your best character voices! Ages 18+ only.

Sam Stark (M), Oz Norberg, Carlos Cabrera, Ben Honeycutt, Ron Leota

## Sticking the Landing: Storytelling 203

Writing

Evergreen 3 & 4, Sun. 1 to 2 p.m.

Completing the story writing series, join panelists as they look at the final act of the three-act structure. They'll focus on how to tie all the threads together into a climactic conclusion that leaves readers thinking about the story long after the final page is read.

Phoenix Bourgeois (M), G.R. Theron, Dean Wells, Sebastien de Castell, Lezli Robyn

## Terrible Craft Club

Hands-On Workshop

Olympic 1, Sun. 1 to 2 p.m.

Make something terrible! Choose from projects like "participation trophy," "ugly picture frame," or "box to put stuff in." You will use mostly hot glue, plastic gems, glitter, and pom poms. This is a time to just make something, without the pressure of mastering a new skill or doing it perfectly the first time.

SunnyJim Morgan (M)

## Creating While Neurodivergent

Music

Tower Lounge, Sun. 1 to 2 p.m.

What are the unique obstacles, challenges, and advantages to being a creative being while neurodivergent? What strategies can you employ to smooth your creative process? Hear from authors and musicians who do it successfully.

Griff the Filker (M), Cozy Joe

## Reading: Susan R. Matthews

Readings

Cascade 3, Sun. 1:30 to 2 p.m.

*The Leylines of Kashgar*. Susan R. Matthews reads a scene from the cutting room floor of the sequel to *The Wild High Places* (by her alter ego Zarabeth Abbey). Fleeing a snowstorm, Jefferji Tamisen and Shikander Beg find sanctuary in a place out of time. Susan thought it was a great scene; pity it turned out to be wrong about basic horse behavior. Rated G.

Susan R. Matthews (M)

## 2 p.m.

### Reading: K.I. Tolles

Readings

Cascade 3, Sun. 2 to 2:30 p.m.

*A Gathering of Claws*. K.I. Tolles reads a chapter from her novel, *A Gathering of Claws*. When rogue wolf Arianne is captured by the Stormclaw Pack, she expects execution—not a glowing mate mark and a sentence to survive deadly trials. But no one matches her mark, not even Kael, the cold, scarred alpha forced to watch her. As secrets unravel and whatever it is that's between them deepens, Kael and Arianne are forced to confront the terrifying truth: Their bond shouldn't exist—but it just might change everything. Rated R.

K.I. Tolles (M)

## Project Management

Costume

Cascade 10, Sun. 2 to 3 p.m.

You've got a dream project, but you're feeling overwhelmed and unsure where to start. Our panel of experts will share their experience with organizing ideas and setting up a construction schedule.

Erica Angeline Solano (M), Ms Purple Pearl, Gabriella Buba, Taylor Tomblin, Caitlin Jacques

## Art or Craft?

Art

Cascade 13, Sun. 2 to 3 p.m.

How do you decide whether something is art or a craft? Is one worth more than the other? How does this distinction affect perceptions of artists and craftspeople?

Meghan D. Lancaster (M), Ivy Gilliam, SunnyJim Morgan, Larry Lewis, Belsac

## 3 p.m.

### Closing Ceremonies

Guest of Honor; Special Events  
Evergreen 3 & 4, Sun. 3 to 4 p.m.

Come send off Norwescon 48's guests of honor with fanfare. We've made it through another year, and we want to celebrate the good times we've had.

Rob Stewart (M), T. Kingfisher, Geneva Bowers, Summer  
Ash, Bradley Englert / Orbit Books, Dutch Bihary  
ContoursFx

## **4 p.m.**

### Onions and Roses

Wild Card

Evergreen 3 & 4, Sun. 4 to 5 p.m.

The convention is over. Here's your chance to weigh in on what went well, and what didn't. Tell us your favorite and least favorite parts of the convention, so we can try to make it better next year. After all—as a member of Norwescon, this is YOUR convention!