

# NorthAmeriCon'17

JULY 6-9, 2017 · SAN JUAN, PR

## Thursday

THURSDAY 4:00 PM - San Cristobal

### **The Future of Education**

Technology has taken us to the point where almost everything we want to learn can be found on the internet or on an app. Can we eliminate the physical buildings in favor of virtual classrooms? If so, how would it work? (bilingual)

*Brother Guy Consolmagno SJ, Marie Guthrie (m), Matthew David Goodwin, Helen Gbala, Sandra Manning*

THURSDAY 4:00 PM - Sol

### **Hugo Voting Chat**

There are just a few more days left to vote for the Hugo Awards. Chat with other attendees about what you've been reading and what you'd like to see win!

THURSDAY 5:00 PM - Bahia 1

### **Doctor Who Companions**

Who are our favorites and why?

*Bob J. Koester (m), Ctein, Mel White, Sandra Manning*

THURSDAY 5:00 PM - San Cristobal

### **Who is Mary Sue?**

What makes a character a Mary Sue? Is being a Mary Sue a bad thing?

*Jan S. Gephardt, Paula Smith (m), Mike Substelny, Jonathan Brazee*

THURSDAY 5:00 PM - Registration

### **Con Tour - Thursday**

New to NASFiCs or fan-run conventions? Just want to get oriented to our space? Take a guided tour with an experienced fan.

*Leane Verhulst*

THURSDAY 6:00 PM - San Cristobal

### **Military Realities and Science Fiction**

What series in SFF portray military life and decision making with the most accuracy?

*Kevin McLaughlin, Jonathan Brazee (m), Chris Gerrib*

THURSDAY 6:00 PM - Bahia 1

### **Social Justice and SFF: It's Been There From the Beginning.**

Social Justice Warriors are destroying SFF with these new-fangled ideas! Um, no. SFF has always been used as a tool to examine social and political issues. Come discuss how works like 1984, Brave New World, Animal Farm, and the Handmaid's Tale explore oppressive regimes, and what, if any, hope SFF can give us. (bilingual)

*Shaun Duke, Marie Guthrie (m), Isabel Schechter, Javier Grillo-Marxuach*

THURSDAY 6:00 PM - Sol

### **Reading - Bob J. Koester**

Bob J. Koester reads from *Insistent Oracles*, a novel. Two astronomy grad students discover an unobtrusive light in the sky which, on closer examination, seems to be an alien spacecraft, and form an unexpected relationship with it, each other, and the world.

THURSDAY 6:00 PM - San Geronimo

### **Learn Some Games**

Are you a novice at playing any games beyond checkers and Monopoly? Or are you interested in learning something new? Well then, come learn and play some board and card games. We'll have Exploding Kittens! Splendor! Kill Doctor Lucky! and as many others as will be allowed by airplane weight limits and suitcase space. *Leane Verhulst*

THURSDAY 7:00 PM - San Cristobal

### **Off-World Vacation Hot Spots**

You're the travel agent - sell us your best vacation package to the stars.

*Chris Gerrib, Brother Guy Consolmagno SJ, Tyrell Gephardt, Jan S. Gephardt, W. A. (Bill) Thomasson (m)*

THURSDAY 7:00 PM - Bahia 1

### **Working toward Social Equity in Speculative Fiction**

In fiction, publishing, and fandom, there is a push to include new voices and underrepresented people. There's also resistance. How can we work toward a more inclusive spec fic community?

*Tobias S. Buckell (m), David Manfre, Diana Pho*

# NorthAmeriCon'17

JULY 6-9, 2017 · SAN JUAN, PR

THURSDAY 8:00 PM - Laguna

## Opening Ceremonies and the Meet the GoHs Ice Cream Social

Join us as conchair Pablo Vazquez officially kicks off the convention and introduces our amazing Guests of Honor. An Ice Cream Social will follow. (Thanks to DC in 2021 for financial support towards the Ice Cream Social!) (bilingual)

*Brother Guy Consolmagno SJ, Daína Chaviano, Javier Grillo-Marxuach, Pablo Vazquez, Paula Smith, Tobias S. Buckell*

THURSDAY 9:00 PM - San Cristobal

## Open Filk

Filkers and other musicians are invited to jam.

## Friday

FRIDAY 10:00 AM - Bahia 1

### Genre Blending

SF? Fantasy? Steampunk? Horror? Alternate History? With so many new authors entering the field, it's difficult to place a work in a strict category. Let's discuss why that's a good thing. (bilingual)

*Daína Chaviano, Kevin McLaughlin (m), James Dorr, Mike Substelny*

FRIDAY 10:00 AM - San Cristobal

### Judging a Book by Page 119

They say that you can't judge a book by its cover. Can you judge it by what's on Page 119?

*Helen Montgomery (m), Mel White, Tyrell Gephardt, Chris Rose*

FRIDAY 10:00 AM - Sol

### Companions

In the far future, Earth's power supply relies on solitary space station commanders, scattered across the stars. These isolated men and women turn to technology to ease their loneliness, and discover a man-made threat to the future of humanity. Along the way, everyone involved confronts the dangers and rewards of opening up to other beings. This science fiction love story is presented as a full-cast audio drama, accompanied by abstract computer animation. Companions received 4 stars from Audio Drama Reviews and is an Official

Selection of the Hear Now Audio Fiction Festival. (62 minutes + Q&A with the writer/director.)

*Bob J. Koester*

FRIDAY 10:00 AM - Laguna

### Reading - Tobias S. Buckell

Tobias S. Buckell will read from *The Tangled Lands*, a book project coming out in 2018 from Saga Press, and a small snippet of a new fantasy novel in progress.

FRIDAY 10:00 AM - San Geronimo

### KIDS - Make it in Clay!

We'll use a clean, air-dry clay (Crayola Model Magic (TM)), water-soluble markers, and our imagination to create all sorts of things. Ages 3+.

*Lisa Hertel*

FRIDAY 10:30 AM - Laguna

### Reading - Brother Guy Consolmagno SJ

Brother Guy reads from "A Nimitz for the Empress: Paintings," with book by Michael Carroll and Guy Consolmagno. The aliens from *Cygnus 47* have arrived, and they're looking for an aircraft carrier...

FRIDAY 11:00 AM - San Cristobal

### Social Media and SFF: Symbiotic or Antagonistic Relationship?

A Twitter scandal can make or break a con. Authors can use blogs to expand their audience and build a legion of dedicated fans. Our panelists discuss the complex interactions of social media and SFF communities. (bilingual)

*Berto Melendez, Tanya Washburn (m), Marah Searle-Kovacevic, Javier Grillo-Marxuach*

FRIDAY 11:00 AM - Bahia 1

### A Chat with Tobias S. Buckell

Shaun Duke interviews GoH Tobias S. Buckell  
*Tobias S. Buckell, Shaun Duke*

FRIDAY 11:00 AM - Laguna

### Reading - Daína Chaviano

Daína Chaviano reads *Accursed Lineage*, from her short story book *Strange Testimonies*, recently published in Spain. This story was translated into English, and included in *Latin@ Rising: An Anthology of Latin@ SF & Fantasy*, edited by Matthew David Goodwin. An unusual

# NorthAmeriCon'17

JULY 6-9, 2017 · SAN JUAN, PR

family lives in a neighborhood where strange things are continually happening.

FRIDAY 12:00 PM - Bahia 1

## How Fandoms Evolve (or Don't)

How do they grow? How do they die?

*Chris Gerrib, Paula Smith, Isabel Schechter, Diana Pho (m), Tyrell Gephardt*

FRIDAY 12:00 PM - San Cristobal

## Imagining the Impossible

How do you take the unknown and render it in art?

*Jan S. Gephardt (m), Lisa Hertel, Thomas Lamkin Jr*

FRIDAY 12:00 PM - Laguna

## Really Weird Science

Or, an introduction to Quantum Computing. IBM Research scientist Kevin Roche will guide you on a general-audience tour into the baffling world of qubits and entanglement, including IBM's new Q division and it's Quantum Experience, where you can actually write and run a program on a real quantum computer via the web (or a Raspberry Pi!). Kevin promises no complicated math (it makes him dizzy).

*Kevin Roche*

FRIDAY 12:30 PM - Sol

## Reading - Lawrence M. Schoen

Lawrence M. Schoen will read a bit from the sequel to Barsk, specifically a scene set on an island. Seems appropriate.

FRIDAY 1:00 PM - Sol

## Eclipse!

Planning to watch it? What should you know as you plan your trip? What do you need for the best viewing?

*Ctein, Jan S. Gephardt, Brother Guy Consolmagno SJ (m), Douglas Drummond*

FRIDAY 1:00 PM - Bahia 1

## Suburban Settings

Many science fiction stories set on Earth take place in big cities. However, genre defining series like Twin Peaks, Donnie Darko, and Buffy the Vampire Slayer all take place in suburbia. What can a suburban setting offer to SFF worlds, stories of first contact, and horror?

*Kevin McLaughlin, Amanda Lamkin, Margaret Ronald, David Manfre (m)*

FRIDAY 1:00 PM - San Cristobal

## Whitewashing and White Savior Fail: How did Benedict, Tilda, and ScarJo become People of Color?

Avatar, the James Cameron version and the Last Airbender one. The new Star Trek 2nd movie. Doctor Strange. Ghost in the Shell. Iron Fist. These and more feature POC characters, yet when they are made into movies and tv, the actors cast are always white. Let's discuss why this is and why representation matters. (bilingual)

*Shaun Duke, Isabel Schechter (m), Javier Grillo-Marxuach, Pablo Vazquez*

FRIDAY 1:00 PM - Registration

## Con Tour - Friday

New to NASFiCs or fan-run conventions? Just want to get oriented to our space? Take a guided tour with an experienced fan.

*Leane Verhulst*

FRIDAY 1:00 PM - Laguna

## Science Fiction, eSports, and Super Powers

Considered by many to be the "Father of eSports," Walter Day discusses how today's eSports empires were inspired by the science fiction industry as science fiction becomes science fact ...and super powers could be just around the corner.

*Walter Day*

FRIDAY 2:00 PM - San Cristobal

## The Future of Local/National/Planetary Government in the Information Age

Our current government structures arose in the age of face-to-face communication. With individuals able to "talk" instantly to people anywhere on the globe and governments able to share information effortlessly, does either representative to geographically defined government fit the emerging paradigm? How long before things change. Or will they? (bilingual)

*Chris Gerrib, W. A. (Bill) Thomasson, David Manfre (m), Tanya Washburn, Pablo Vazquez*

FRIDAY 2:00 PM - Bahia 1

## We Need Diverse Books

You've been reading white authors all your life. Maybe you don't even think about it. But you need to get your hands on these great and diverse stories. (bilingual)

# NorthAmeriCon'17

JULY 6-9, 2017 · SAN JUAN, PR

*Shaun Duke (m), Helen Gbala, Daina Chaviano*

FRIDAY 2:00 PM - Laguna

## **Life and Work in a Real (Benevolent) Monarchy**

Brother Guy describes his day-to-day life in the Vatican, with an eye to how that compares to the ways that such places are depicted in fantasy novels.

*Brother Guy Consolmagno SJ*

FRIDAY 2:00 PM - San Geronimo

## **Learn Some Games**

Are you a novice at playing any games beyond checkers and Monopoly? Or are you interested in learning something new? Well then, come learn and play some board and card games. We'll have Exploding Kittens! Splendor! Kill Doctor Lucky! and as many others as will be allowed by airplane weight limits and suitcase space.

*Leane Verhulst*

FRIDAY 2:00 - Sol

## **Reading - Margaret Ronald**

Margaret Ronald will be reading from "And Then, One Day, the Air Was Full of Voices," a first and last contact story.

FRIDAY 3:00 PM - San Cristobal

## **Alternate Histories Outside the West**

Go beyond America and the UK, to other civilizations and their alternate pasts. (bilingual)

*Evelyn Chimelis Leeper (m), Mel White, Pablo Vazquez, Sandra Manning*

FRIDAY 3:00 PM - Bahia 1

## **Introduction to English Language Caribbean SF**

Tobias S. Buckell talks about the history, present and future of English language SFF in the Caribbean.

*Tobias S. Buckell*

FRIDAY 3:00 PM - Laguna

## **Habitable Worlds**

This is one-hour presentation from Arecibo astronomer Abel Mendez on astronomers' current search and understanding of potentially habitable planets. The presentation also includes the biological context to understand the possibility of extraterrestrial life in the Solar System and extrasolar planets. (bilingual)

*Abel Mendez*

FRIDAY 3:00 PM - Sol

## **Reading - Kevin McLaughlin**

Kevin McLaughlin reads from his work.

FRIDAY 3:30 PM - Sol

## **Reading - Chris Gerrib**

Pirates, Mars, cookies. One of these things is not like the others. Come hear Chris Gerrib read from his newest pirate epic *The Night Watch* and snag a cookie.

FRIDAY 4:00 PM - San Cristobal

## **Science For World Progress**

Where do you want to be in 10 years? 20? What if our efforts were poured into solving world problems through science, and how are we doing that now?

*Kevin Roche, Jan S. Gephardt, Mike Substelny (m), Mel White, Douglas Drummond*

FRIDAY 4:00 PM - Bahia 1

## **The Critical Eye**

Criticism can be elevated to a higher art form or devolve to base insults. Our panelists discuss how to be a better critic, and deal with the critics while you aspire to the stars.

*Amanda Lamkin, Jonathan Brazee, James Dorr (m), Lee French*

FRIDAY 4:00 PM - Sol

## **Wonder Woman Roundtable**

Finally, a superHEROINE movie! How'd it turn out? Chat with fellow fans in a roundtable discussion.

FRIDAY 4:00 PM - Laguna

## **SF Trading Card Ceremony & Guinness Book of World Records to Honor SFF**

Walter Day presents trading cards to this year's GoHs and then introduces Guinness' plans to create a "science fiction spread" in a forthcoming world record book. Audience input on what should be included will be sought!

*Walter Day, Brother Guy Consolmagno SJ, Daina Chaviano, Javier Grillo-Marxuach, Paula Smith, Tobias S. Buckell*

# NorthAmeriCon'17

JULY 6-9, 2017 · SAN JUAN, PR

FRIDAY 5:00 PM - San Cristobal

## **"Earth-like" Exoplanets: What Do They Mean for Alien Life?**

We're discovering new planets at a rapid pace, and some of them seem like they might look an awful lot like home. What could we expect from life in the great unknown? (bilingual)

*Abel Mendez, Ctein (m), W. A. (Bill) Thomasson*

FRIDAY 5:00 PM - Sol

## **FANZINES!**

SF Fandom started with fanzines, and while our attentions have shifted elsewhere, they are still alive and kicking. Our panelists discuss the fanzines they write and read, and why you should be doing it too. (bilingual)

*Paula Smith, Juan Sanmiguel, Evelyn Chimelis Leeper, Helen Montgomery (m)*

FRIDAY 5:00 PM - Bahia 1

## **The Making of a Hero**

Are all heroes lacking self preservation instinct? Why don't they just call the police instead of leaping into danger? Why is it so easy or important for us to believe in superhumans? (bilingual)

*Kevin McLaughlin, Javier Grillo-Marxuach (m), Lee French, Lee Billings*

FRIDAY 5:00 PM - San Cristobal

## **What's So Funny?**

Humor is a coping mechanism, but it's also a vital mechanic of fiction. Our panelists talk about humor, and it's sure to be a lark.

*Lawrence M. Schoen (m), Mike Substelny, Mel White*

FRIDAY 6:00 PM - Lobby

## **POC Dinner Outing**

Dinner meet up for People of Color. Meet in the lobby at 6:00 pm. Everyone is responsible for the cost of their own meal.

FRIDAY 7:00 PM - Art Show

## **Chesley Awards Reception**

All are welcome to a pre-Awards reception in the art show. Light snacks provided, cash bar available.

FRIDAY 7:00 PM - San Cristobal

## **Fandom in Puerto Rico**

Fans from the island talk about their organizations and Puerto Rico fannish culture. (bilingual)

*George Mustafa, Marcos Rodriguez, Berto Melendez, Pablo Vazquez (m)*

FRIDAY 8:00 PM - Laguna

## **Chesley Awards Ceremony**

The Chesley Awards are given by the Association of Science Fiction and Fantasy Artists (ASFA) and recognize individual artistic works and achievements in eleven categories related to the fantastical arts. The Chesley Award winners are nominated and then voted on by ASFA members. This year's awards are for works first published or shown in 2016. This is the 32nd year for the awards, the first being held in 1985.

FRIDAY 8:00 PM - Sol

## **Guardians of the Galaxy Roundtable**

Talk about what you loved/hated in the next installment in this roundtable discussion.

FRIDAY 8:00 PM - San Cristobal

## **Open Filk**

Filkers and other musicians are invited to jam.

FRIDAY 9:00 PM - Laguna

## **Salsa Dance**

Come out and move your body to some island beats.

# Saturday

SATURDAY 10:00 AM - San Cristobal

## **Latinx Themes in Movies and Television**

Our panelists and audience talk about their favorite characters and stories, and take a look at the positives and negatives of how Latinx characters are portrayed. (bilingual)

*Isabel Schechter (m), Javier Grillo-Marxuach, Marcos Rodriguez*

SATURDAY 10:00 AM - Bahia 1

## **The Realities of Living in an Extreme Climate**

What is it really like when you live in a climate which gets down to -40C or F, or above 100F/35C? What does it take to start engines, keep your battery alive, etc?



# NorthAmeriCon'17

JULY 6-9, 2017 · SAN JUAN, PR

*Tobias S. Buckell, Brother Guy Consolmagno SJ (m),  
Sandra Manning, Mike Substelny*

SATURDAY 10:00 AM - Registration

## **Con Tour - Saturday**

New to NASFiCs or fan-run conventions? Just want to get oriented to our space? Take a guided tour with an experienced fan.

*Leane Verhulst*

SATURDAY 10:00 AM - Sol

## **Pitch a Publisher**

The owner of Line by Lion Publications will give a half hour talk about what it means to be "pitch ready," as well as what the differences are between being self-published and traditional publication. This includes what the author should expect and what will be expected of them when dealing with the various entities involved. At the end, those who have completed manuscripts and feel they are "pitch ready" will have the opportunity to pitch their book, and possibly be considered for publication with Line by Lion.

*Amanda Lamkin*

SATURDAY 10:00 AM - Laguna

## **George Perez Q&A**

George Perez answers questions and chats with fans in an informal remote presentation. (bilingual)

*George Perez, James Bacon (M)*

SATURDAY 11:00 AM - San Cristobal

## **Making the International Move**

What do you need to know if you're serious about fleeing the country?

*Paula Smith, Emma England (m), Kevin McLaughlin,  
Marie Guthrie*

SATURDAY 11:00 AM - Laguna

## **Writing Diverse Characters of Impact**

Women, LGBTQ characters and people of color are often the objects in fiction - the person who gets rescued or killed at the whim of the hero or villain. How can we create diverse characters who create their own destiny?

*Lee French, Mel White, Jonathan Brazee, Diana Pho (m)*

SATURDAY 11:00 AM - Sol

## **Reading - Jan S. Gephardt**

Jan S. Gephardt reads from a novel-in-progress in her "XK9 Series." Recent studies have shown today's dogs are self-aware and capable of amazing verbal-linguistic achievements. What if future genetic engineering made some of them fully sapient beings? Meet Rex, a young police XK9 with aspirations that go far beyond life as a forensic tool.

SATURDAY 11:00 AM - Bahia 1

## **Speed Drawing**

Run through our gambit of artists as they complete 30-second-sketches (like speed dating but better) for each person who rotates through.

*Mel White, Lisa Hertel (m), Thomas Lamkin Jr*

SATURDAY 11:30 AM - Laguna

## **Golden Duck Award Ceremony**

The Golden Ducks are an annual award recognizing excellence in science fiction for children and teens.

*Douglas Drummond, Helen Gbala*

SATURDAY 11:30 AM - Sol

## **Reading - Matthew David Goodwin**

Matthew David Goodwin will give a performative reading of the short story "Code 51" by Pablo Brescia, and discuss the process of translation for its inclusion in *Latin@ Rising: An Anthology of Latin@ Science Fiction and Fantasy* (Ed. Matthew David Goodwin, Wings Press, 2017).

SATURDAY 12:00 PM - Bahia 1

## **Fandom and Geek Myths and Fallacies Can Be Exclusive**

He's a nice guy in person. He's just socially awkward. She's a fake geek girl. People of color aren't interested in SFF. Let's examine how these and other geek and fandom myths contribute to an unwelcoming fannish culture and what we can do to combat them.

*Isabel Schechter, Chris Rose, Tanya Washburn (m), Kevin Roche*

SATURDAY 12:00 PM - San Cristobal

## **Practicalities of Crowdfunding**

Famous last words "I'll just throw up a GoFundMe page..." Learn what it really takes.

*Bob J. Koester, Ctein, Tobias S. Buckell (m)*

# NorthAmeriCon'17

JULY 6-9, 2017 · SAN JUAN, PR

SATURDAY 12:00 PM - Sol

## Reading - Amanda Lamkin

The improbable has become the inevitable. Amanda Lamkin reads from her lovingly written sci-fi homage to "Flowers for Algernon" which follows Charlotte Gordon after she elects to be the recipient of the world's first cybernetic brain. Can she face the challenges coming from both within and without, or will she become just another victim of the War of Unification?

SATURDAY 12:00 PM - Laguna

## The Legacy of Star Trek

Representatives from Starfleet Puerto Rico present on the technological advances in use today that were born out of Star Trek as well as the social changes inspired by Star Trek. The presentations closes with an outlook of the future based on ST concepts and actual R&D being done globally. (bilingual)

*George Mustafa, Marcos Rodriguez*

SATURDAY 12:00 PM - San Geronimo

## Learn Some Games

Are you a novice at playing any games beyond checkers and Monopoly? Or are you interested in learning something new? Well then, come learn and play some board and card games. We'll have Exploding Kittens! Splendor! Kill Doctor Lucky! and as many others as will be allowed by airplane weight limits and suitcase space.

*Leane Verhulst*

SATURDAY 1:00 PM - Bahia 1

## How to Make Religions in Fantasy/SF Stories Real

What is likely to change with culture, what is likely not to change? How do you make an invented religion "believable" not only for the reader but also for the story characters?

*Amanda Lamkin (m), Jonathan Brazee, Brother Guy Consolmagno SJ, Lee French*

SATURDAY 1:00 PM - Laguna

## SFF on Television

SFF has taken over the small screen. With so many excellent shows to choose from, how does a fan decide what is worth the weekly wait, and what should you binge-watch to get ready for the next season? (bilingual)

*Javier Grillo-Marxuach, Emma England, Shaun Duke (m), Juan Sanmiguel*

SATURDAY 1:00 PM - San Cristobal

## Interview with Daina Chaiviano

Matthew David Goodwin interviews GoH Daina Chaiviano. (bilingual)

*Daína Chaviano, Matthew David Goodwin*

SATURDAY 2:00 PM - San Cristobal

## Is This a Kissing Book?

Romance in Science Fiction and Fantasy is a common theme, and some might argue that this makes those stories "women's books." Why is there a struggle to tell stories with the common theme of relationships and maintain a serious science fiction theme? When is this done well?

*Paula Smith, Helen Montgomery, Bob J. Koester, Emma England (m)*

SATURDAY 2:00 PM - Bahia 1

## Visual Storytelling

We've all heard that a picture is worth a thousand words... but can a picture tell an entire story? (bilingual)

*Jan S. Gephardt (m), Lisa Hertel, Thomas Lamkin Jr, Marcos Rodriguez*

SATURDAY 2:00 PM - Laguna

## Space Access via the Caribbean

The history of space travel and the Caribbean are more tightly linked than many might know. GoH Tobias S. Buckell takes us through the history of space launch and space research that has historically happened in the Caribbean and is happening today.

*Tobias S. Buckell*

SATURDAY 2:00 PM - Sol

## Reading - Ctein

Ctein will be reading from THE COLLAPSE, a disaster thriller he is co-authoring with David Gerrold.

SATURDAY 2:00 PM - Consuite

## Comics in the Consuite

Join comic book fans in the consuite for a chat about what you're reading and loving now.

*James Bacon (m), Jackie Kamlot*

SATURDAY 2:30 PM - Sol

## Reading - James Dorr

James Dorr will read from his just published (Elder Signs Press, June 2017) TOMBS: A CHRONICLE OF LATTER-DAY

# NorthAmeriCon'17

JULY 6-9, 2017 · SAN JUAN, PR

TIMES OF EARTH, a far-future dystopic novel-in-stories of life, death, and love on a dying planet.

SATURDAY 3:00 PM - Bahia 1

## **Cosplay as an Art Form**

Some have said that cosplay is just fanart with thread. Our panelists discuss the art of cosplay.

*Lee Billings, Kevin Roche (m), Debi Chowdury*

SATURDAY 3:00 PM - Laguna

## **Latin American SF**

Join our panelists for a conversation about Latin American SF and a discussion on authors or works that mix different country's traditions and customs within the genre. (bilingual)

*Shaun Duke (m), Berto Melendez, Daína Chaviano, Matthew David Goodwin*

SATURDAY 3:00 PM - San Cristobal

## **World Building as More than Background**

How does an author create a well developed world? Cultures, government, biospheres, religion, social equity, and more will be explored.

*Lee French, James Dorr, Ctein, Lawrence M. Schoen (m)*

SATURDAY 3:00 PM - Sol

## **Reading – Mike Substelny**

Mike Substelny, canon creator for the Artemis Spaceship Bridge Simulator universe, will read humorous stories and poetry. Expect fantasy, space adventures, and laughs. WARNING: Adult Themes will be explored as a kinky dominatrix teaches The Devil a lesson he'll never forget!

SATURDAY 4:00 PM - Bahia 1

## **Writing Kickass Characters Who Don't Look Like You**

Writers discuss reasons to represent characters outside of one's own experience and some of the writing and research process involved in that. (bilingual)

*Lee French, Jan S. Gephardt, Javier Grillo-Marxuach (m), Kevin McLaughlin*

SATURDAY 4:00 PM - San Cristobal

## **Translation in Space**

Understanding alien language is at the heart to the 2016 Hugo-nominated movie Arrival. Our panelists

discuss the challenges of talking with aliens in fiction and (potentially) reality.

*Chris Rose, Jonathan Brazee, Lawrence M. Schoen (m)*

SATURDAY 4:00 PM - Sol

## **Create-a-Costume!**

Didn't bring a costume for the masquerade party? Create one from our collection of supplies donated by Silicon Web Costumers Guild.

SATURDAY 4:00 PM - Laguna

## **Worldcon & NASFiC Q&A Session**

Representatives from the seated Worldcons and upcoming Worldcon & NASFiC bids will make brief presentations and answer questions about their plans.

*Colette Fozard, Kevin Roche, James Bacon, David Gallaher*

SATURDAY 5:00 PM - San Cristobal

## **A Day in the Life of a SciFi Fan**

Discuss books, film, television, comics, and online places to feed your need to fan. What should you be reading, doing, and enjoying now-a-days? (bilingual)

*Berto Melendez, David Gallaher, David Manfre, Helen Montgomery (m)*

SATURDAY 5:00 PM - Bahia 1

## **The Singularity: Mechs or Shapers?**

Vernor Vinge has suggested the immanence of a Singularity, in which progress will be so fast ordinary humans will be unable to keep up. Bruce Sterling has written about a universe in which humans are divided between cyborgs (Mechs) and genetically engineered Shapers. That's two versions of the Singularity. Which will we see? Or will it be something else entirely?

*Tobias S. Buckell, W. A. (Bill) Thomasson (m), Paula Smith, Mel White*

SATURDAY 7:30 PM - Laguna

## **Alien Abduction Masquerade Party**

We'll kick things off with a live performance of "The Capture" - a 1976 Hugo-nominated slide show & reading with script by Robert Aspirin and art by Phil Foglio, featuring original cast member and GoH Paula Smith. What happens when aliens kidnap the attendees of a science fiction convention on a cruise liner? Find out, and then enjoy your alien abduction as much as



# NorthAmeriCon'17

JULY 6-9, 2017 · SAN JUAN, PR

they do, with a Masquerade party, costume showings, and dance. Food provided, cash bar available.

*Paula Smith*

SATURDAY 8:00 PM - San Cristobal

## **Open Filk**

Filkers and other musicians are invited to jam.

## Sunday

SUNDAY 10:00 AM - San Cristobal

### **Forgotten Books**

Panelists (and audience members) discuss the books they've loved that have gone out of circulation, and thus the merits of used bookstores. (bilingual)

*Evelyn Chimelis Leeper (m), Lee Billings, Daína Chaviano*

SUNDAY 10:00 AM - Sol

### **Lion in a World of Wolves**

The history of how Line by Lion Publications came to be, from its inception to the various stages of growth and how the adventures and challenges of running a publishing house lead the owner to have the confidence and financial stability to finally leave an abusive marriage. The talk will also focus on the three T's of creative success in a competitive market: Talent, Timing, and Tenacity.

*Amanda Lamkin*

SUNDAY 10:00 AM - Bahia 1

### **Zombies Over Time and Space**

In this panel, we talk zombies, their roots in Haitian folklore, George Romero's impact, and their changing meaning in popular culture.

*Chris Gerrib, James Dorr, Leane Verhulst*

SUNDAY 11:00 AM - Bahia 1

### **YA is Not Just for Kids Anymore**

Harry Potter and The Hunger Games are just the tip of the iceberg. Our panelists will share their favorite YA works that are suitable for adults.

*Helen Gbala (m), Brother Guy Consolmagno SJ, Douglas Drummond*

SUNDAY 11:00 AM - San Cristobal

### **FIAWOL (Fandom is a Way of Life)**

For some, fandom is not just a hobby - our panelists are SF fans, but also writers, editors, dealers, artists. Are there unique challenges and rewards to blending the fannish streams? (bilingual)

*Diana Pho, Lee Billings, Juan Sanmiguel (m), Tyrell Gephardt, Barb VanTilburg*

SUNDAY 12:30 PM - Pool

### **Closing Ceremonies and Wet Dog/Pool Party**

Grab your bathing suit and join us by the pool for an informal closing ceremonies followed by a pool party!