

## Friday (Writer's Workshop )

**9:00 AM Building Characters Troy**

How do you create memorable characters? What techniques and tricks do you use? — *Ciaffone, Gannon, Chowdhury, Belilovsky, Hammond\**

**10:00 AM What Publishers -- and Readers -- Want. Troy**

A look into what makes a story appealing — *Spoor\*, Ventrella, Ollerman, Gannon*

**11:00 AM Making it Believable Troy**

What makes a work believable? What ruins the suspension of disbelief? — *Altabef\*, Beall, Arthen, Connolly, Rothman*

**12:00 PM Lunch Break (\$15 for optional lunch)****1:00 PM Writing Techniques -- Revising, Troy Editing, Outlining**

Some tips on how to work better. The panel will answer questions from the audience about issues that they have problems with. — *Spoor\*, Ventrella, Ollerman, Silverman, Gannon, Mead*

**2:00 PM Self-Publishing vs. Traditional Troy**

Pros and cons of taking each path — *Altabef\*, Spoor, Lee, Willis*

**3:00 PM Business and Promotion Troy**

Dealing with business issues and discussing ways to promote your work — *Arthen\*, Willis, Huston, Burroughs, Burnside, Silverman*

**4:00 PM Critiquing Panel Troy**

Workshop participants will bring their work. The panel will read it and then make suggestions. — *Spoor, Ventrella, Rothman\*, Cambias, Belilovsky, Connolly*

**6:00 PM Lost SF Themes Troy**

Psyonics was a common SF theme in the 50s. What other themes of the genre have become dated -- but might come back in the right hands. — *Ollerman\*, Huston, Cambias, Connolly, Benedict*

**7:00 PM The Golden Age of SF TV Troy**

Are we living it? Is the trend for SF-based stories at a peak? Why now? What makes it successful? — *Silverman\*, Calkins, Lieven, Fludd, Lee, Shvartsman*

**8:00 PM Ice Cream Social Colonie****9:00 PM Art Show Reception Latham****10:00 PM Improvisational Storytelling Troy**

An old Albacon favorite! Authors create stories from suggestions from the audience. — *Spoor, Strock, Ventrella,\* Sakers, Chepaitis, Burroughs*

## Saturday

**10:00 AM Has military SF taken over the genre? Colonie**

The bookshelves in your local Barnes & Noble are stuffed with military SF. What is the appeal of the subgenre? Will it continue to remain strong? Who are the authors to watch in the genre? — *Ciaffone, Lee\*, Macdonald, Hickman*

**10:00 AM Fantasy from different cultures Troy**

Move beyond the medieval model. What other cultures can be used? Is it an issue if people write about a culture not their own? — *Benedict, Mead, Sargent, Palmatier, Altabef\**

**11:00 AM The Berlantiverse: DC done right? Colonie**

What makes the shows (Supergirl, Flash, Arrow, Legends of Tomorrow) work while DC is struggling to make satisfying movies? — *Sakers\*, Fludd, Hammond, Vajra, Lieven*

**11:00 AM Costuming/Cosplay 101 Troy**

What is the difference? Are the two groups at odds, or do they complement each other? — *Hooper, Arrow, BConnell\*, TConnell, Chowdhury, Atkinson*

**12:00 PM Consolidated Terran Republic: Tech Briefing — 2120 Colonie**

The science and background behind the Caine Riordan series — *Gannon*

**12:00 PM We're Off to See L. Frank Baum Troy**

An appreciation of the Oz in books, movies, and TV. — *Spoor\*, Huston, Cambias, Rothman, Burroughs*

**1:00 PM How NOT to get published Colonie**

Mistakes to avoid. — *Shvartsman, Cohen, Reeve, Hammond\*, Strock, Hansen*

**1:00 PM Diversity in fantasy & SF Troy**

How can we show more diversity in the genre? — *Vajra, Fludd, Mead, Sakers, Chowdhury, Palmatier\**

**2:00 PM Guest of Honor Reading Colonie**  
Gannon**2:00 PM Great but Forgotten SF Troy**

SF and fantasy works that deserve to be rediscovered. — *Vajra, Finegold, Cohen, Rothman\*, Hickman*

**Workshops (Breakfast Rm) — Saturday**

(May have a materials fee)

12:00 PM Hat making  
Makeup

1:00 PM Masks/Headbands

2:00 PM Phone Wire Tree

4:00 PM Sari draping

See program grid for descriptions



## Saturday (continued)

**3:00 PM Guest of Honor: Fantasy Art of Stephen Hickman** **Colonie**

**3:00 PM Games into fiction** **Troy**

How does one format enhance the other? — *Calkins, Spoor, Ventrella\*, Gannon, Waters*

**3:00 PM Graphic Novel Speed Dating** **Breakfast**

Find new graphic novel favorites — *Moon*

**4:00 PM The Marvel Comics Universe** **Colonie**

What are you looking forward to? Is the universe still working, or does it create problems of its own? — *Silverman, Ollerman\*, Vajra, Calkins*

**4:00 PM Beyond The Boob Window:** **Troy**

Practical and stylish fighting clothes for your intrepid heroine—*Fludd, Arrow, Ciaffone\* Mead, Atkinson, Lee*

**5:00 PM Costume Contest** **Colonie**

Winners announced, and a discussion of the costumes.

**5:00 PM Hard science vs. Science Fiction** **Troy**

How close does SF have to hew to science fact? — *Belilovsky, Gannon, Frederick\*, Benedict, Lieven*

**6:00 PM The Most Influential Games of All Time** **Colonie**

What games influenced gaming and even movies? As an author, what influenced you? — *Cambias\*, Lee, Spoor, Waters, Burnside*

**6:00 PM Case Studies in Handwavium** **Troy**

Traces the interplay between scientific discoveries/inventions and science fiction from Electric through Atomic and onto the Alcubierre FTL drive, with over 50 slides and videos. — *Beall*

**8:00 Saturday Night Extravaganza** **Colonie**

**Charles Gannon Roast**

*Schoen\*, Burnside, Shvartsman, Gannon, Vandenberg*

**100 Years of Dead Magicians**

Sometimes it's not an illusion... — *Macdonald*

**Illustrated Eye of Argon**

The worst story ever, as you've never seen it before! — *Strock, Silverman, Ventrella, et al.*

### Autographing (Saturday in Lobby)

11 am	Lee/Chepaitis
Noon	Ventrella/Delmater
1 pm	Gannon/Cambias
2 pm	Ollerman/Shvartsman
3 pm	Sargent/Burroughs
4 pm	Spoor/Schoen
5 pm	Altabef/Sakers

## Sunday

**10:00 AM Tales of the Less-than-Consolidated Terran Republic** **Colonie**

Contributors to the forthcoming Consolidated Tech Republic Anthology will discuss working in Charles Gannon's world — *Gannon\*, Waters, Shvartsman, Schoen, Vandenberg*

**10:00 AM Psionics and Other Lost Arts** **Troy**

What science fiction ideas have become passé? Which should be brought back? — *Ollerman\*, Sakers, Lee, Hansen*

**11:00 AM 199 Years of Science Fiction: An Appreciation of Mary Shelley** **Colonie**

2018 is the 200th anniversary of "Frankenstein," often cited as the first SF: Is it still relevant today? — *Kauderer\*, Cohen, Silverman, Fludd, Doyle, Hickman*

**11:00 AM Twisted History** **Troy**

Writing about alternate history and changing the meaning of historical events. — *Hammond,\* Beall, Rothman, Shvartsman, Hansen*

**12:00 PM The Ethics Behind the Story** **Colonie**

Moral dilemmas in SF & Fantasy — *Gannon, Delmater\*, Burroughs, Kauderer, Vajra*

**12:00 PM Mixing SF and Literary Fiction** **Troy**

Making SF more literary: Good idea? How do you do it well? — *Benedict, Sargent, Ciaffone, Fredrick, Doyle\*Hickman*

**1:00 PM Medicine in SFF** **Colonie**

How do we depict the future of medicine? — *Vajra, Huston, Belilovsky, Lee\*, Altabef, Finegold*

**1:00 PM Saving the World After Fifty** **Troy**

Are SF/Fantasy adventures a young hero's game? — *Delmater\*, Fredrick, Calkins, Burroughs*

**2:00 PM Albacon 2018 Planning Session** **Colonie**

### Readings

(In hotel bar except where noted)

Saturday		Sunday	
Arthen	10:00 AM	Silverman	10:00 AM
Cambias	10:30 AM	Ventrella	10:30 AM
Finegold	11:00 AM	Burroughs	11:00 AM
Spoor	11:30 AM	Delmater	11:30 AM
Belilovsky	12:00 PM	Altabef	12:00 PM
Ollerman	12:30 PM	Huston	12:30 PM
Lee	1:00 PM	Rothman	1:00 PM
Hammond	1:30 PM		
Sakers	2:00 PM		
Burnside	2:30 PM		
Schoen	3:00 PM		
Shvartsman	3:30 PM		
Willis	7:00 PM (Troy Room)		
Waters	7:30 PM (Troy Room)		

