**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*

10:00 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, Editing, Outlining  Troy
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,Silverman, Connolly, Benedict*

7:00 PM  The Golden Age of SF TV  Troy

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*

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**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

3:00 PM Games into fiction — Troy
How does one format enhance the other? — Calkins, Spoor, Ventrelle*, 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, Ventrelle, et al.

Autographing (Saturday in Lobby)
11 am Lee/Chepaitis
Noon Ventrelle/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

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