

# PARALLEL PRESS

MONDAY | JULY 7, 2025

In this official issue: Farewell to BayCon 2025, Hello BayCon 2026

## A Word from Slimer


“BLEARRGHGHGH GRRAAAHHH”

For those who traversed the hallway of cities, you may have become accustomed to a certain iconic specter who lit up as one drew near. He'll miss you.




As we arrive at the final day of the convention, thank you all for stepping into this conveniently parallel dimension with us. Though BayCon/Westercon cannot be held responsible for anyone slipping into an inconveniently perpendicular plane. Rules and conditions also apply to any quantum entanglements.

Hopefully we all depart from this place mostly intact, and if you do happen to leave something behind, may it be something edifying for your future journey. Before we move forward into our so called “normal” routines, let's spend one last day trapped behind the veil, with all the other spirits, haunts, and ghosts. See you in 2026!



You may have noticed M.A. Carrick's Pattern Deck, as featured in the Rook & Rose series, that is now a physical reality thanks to crowdfunding. You can preorder your own copy of the deck. Scan the QR code and enjoy!



## Card of the Day (Page of Pentacles)

Art by Abigail Larson, from the Dark Wood Tarot

Reading by SallyRose Robinson



The Page of Pentacles beckons us to invest in the knowledge we have acquired this weekend. Keep the connections and build our resources as we traverse the last day of convention. Cherish what we have gained in the people we have met, the music we have heard, the sites we have seen, and rejoice in the knowledge we have gained by being with like minded people from all over fandom in this place.

We can take this experience and share it with others. We can create new visions from what we have learned this weekend and turn it into more as we head home after spending a good weekend around amazing people in a place unlike any other.

## spSF Annual Business Meeting

The Society for Promotion of Speculative Fiction (spSF) board is meeting for their annual business meeting. On the agenda for Monday morning the most notable item is the election of new board members. If you joined or renewed your spSF membership prior to this weekend you had a chance to vote for the five candidates who are up to join three spots on the board. We'll announce the results and discuss other important business related to the Society for the next year.



The Annual Business Meeting is open to the public and will be held on Main Stage from 10:00AM to 12:45PM. Printed copies of the agenda will be available at the meeting.

## BayCon's First Afrofuturism Lounge

BayCon's first Afrofuturism Lounge, the brainchild of Guest of Honor Dr. LaWana Richmond, was a fantastic success! The lounge, beautifully decorated, created a warm and inviting atmosphere and featured open mic poetry, interactive stations, and a space for meditation and healing work. Some of our panels and presentations this weekend:

"The Harlem Renaissance and the Roots of AfroSurrealistic Poetry", "Drumming up Resistance - Afro-Diasporic Rhythms and Speculative Survival", "AfroArcadia: Gaming", and "Cosmic CausePlay Chi Circle".

We heard great feedback all weekend from BayCon's community about the inclusion of the Lounge. BayCon and spSF look forward to its continued presence and diverse programming to affirm BayCon's commitment to the distinctiveness of its community.

– Dr. Wanda Kurtçu

## BayCon 2026/Westercon 78

We want you back! And the best time to get your badge(s) at the best price for BayCon 2026 is now. Check Registration in the Ballroom walkway for pre-registration.

Full Weekend: \$65

Teen: \$30

Youth: \$30

VIP: \$350

We'll see you at **BayCon 2026/Westercon 78**.

## On Poetry with Audrey T. Williams

During her Main Stage interview on Sunday, Guest of Honor Audrey T. Williams orated an original poem, "Under the Gravity of Earthen Blankets". Other topics of discussion were her love of haiku, dream project of a coastal Carolinas based historical fiction and fantasy with black magic, poetry for healing, poetry being like a strong shot of tequila, the ways she connected to the recent hit film *Sinners*, her definition of Afrofuturism, and so much more.

Williams is also the Co-Chair of World Fantasy Convention 2026 which will be in Oakland, CA!

## Bring Home Supernatural Merch

Registration still has lanyards and challenge coins to commemorate BayCon 2025: A Convenient Parallel Dimension and Westercon 77/ Stop by to claim yours. They're limited edition—once they sell out, they'll be gone, disappearing just like that apparition behind you!



## Slide Show: Noir and Mode in Genre Fiction

In Matt Maxwell's Sunday slide show *Noir and Mode in Genre Fiction*, the ever-deepening influence of film noir is shown in dozens of post-Hays Code pictures, ranging from *Blue Velvet* ("David Lynch watched 'Touch of Evil' a lot," Maxwell said) and *Chinatown* ("an unofficial history of Los Angeles") to the animated "Garfield's Babes and Bullets".

"How much of noir's feel and style is just what we expect in film today?" said Maxwell. "Everything from 'Moonlighting' to Bugs Bunny has taken a direction from noir."

I mostly attended to hear what Maxwell had to say about 1988's "Who Framed Roger Rabbit?".

When *Who Framed Roger Rabbit?* was new, film writers looked back at 1945's "Anchors Aweigh" — in which Jerry Mouse dances with Gene Kelly — for such seamless interaction between cel-animated critter and live actor.

"Roger" put characters from rival animation studios in the same scene. Maxwell showed a slide of Disney's Mickey Mouse plus Warner's Bugs Bunny dropping through space— with parachutes— alongside detective Eddie Valiant— without. "In those days, this was unheard of," he said.

"Roger" was a hard-boiled detective yarn set in 1947 Hollywood, with fatale torch singers in smoky nightclubs, and gun barrels glinting in dark alleys. When I a kid, *Who Framed Roger Rabbit* was noir.

According to Maxwell— who described *The Dude* in *The Big Lebowski* as a sort of parody of noir detective wandering through Los Angeles— "Roger" was both a parody and pastiche of detective noir: "It made fun of it, but made fun of it in a loving way."

Eddie Valiant wasn't the typical film noir detective, said Maxwell. "Film detectives are the way they are because they're broken. At the end of 'Who Framed Roger Rabbit?', [Valiant is] not broken". — FDR

## Charity Auction

There is still some really great stuff for you to bid on at the Charity Auction on Monday. Come join us at 2:15 PM on Main Stage for the final auction of the weekend. All proceeds go to support the spSF General Fund and future initiatives.

---

---

### Parallel Press Staff

Editor-in-Chief: Chris Castro

Newsletter Staff, Contributing Editor:  
Ashley Fakava

Newsletter Staff: Frisco Del Rosario

Social Media: Brie Galindo

Head of Marketing/IT: Eric Sayle