



DRAGON TALK



Dragon Con Membership Newsletter
September 4–September 7, 2015

Volume 4, Issue 1
Atlanta, Georgia

Dragon Con is Thankful for You

To Our Members, Vendors, Guests, Performers, Sponsors, and Volunteers:

Thanks For Being Fun, Welcoming, Engaging, Enthusiastic, Entertaining, Curious, Passionate, Colorful, Considerate, Knowledgeable, Committed, Patient, Appreciative, Caring, Supportive, Open, Creative, Artistic, Intelligent, Intrepid, Interesting, Helpful, Inventive, and so much more!



YOU are what makes Dragon Con so special. We appreciate everything you do and are.
From our families to yours, we wish you a Happy Holiday Season!

You Made a Difference! Our 2014 Charity Results



Thanks to you, Dragon Con raised over **\$115,000** for the **Atlanta Community Food Bank** and collected **535 pounds of food** which will provide an additional 445 meals for the food bank.

Each year we select a different Georgia-based non-profit or local chapter, and then raise money through our auctions, fan track activities and other events, including partnerships with the Atlanta Braves and Hard Rock Café. Dragon Con then adds a dollar-for-dollar match of up to \$50,000. Since 2011, Dragon Con has raised more than half a million dollars for its official charities.

According to the Food Bank, every \$1 raised in

donations will provide four meals to food pantry clients across the Atlanta metro area. This means your monetary contributions will provide **over 450,000 individual meals** for people in need!

In addition, Dragon Con and its members contributed nearly **900 hours of community service** in the months leading up to Dragon Con. Projects included packing and sorting food items for the Atlanta Community Food Bank, maintaining trails at Sweetwater Creek State Park, and working the Walk to End Lupus Now. In all, about 160 Dragon Con fans and their family members worked on the three projects. Stay tuned for details on this year's upcoming projects.

Record Turnout at Robert A. Heinlein "Pay It Forward" Blood Drive



Dragon Con's annual Robert A. Heinlein "Pay It Forward" blood drive attracted a record turnout, with **3,893 attendees** registering to donate more than **3,292 units of blood** and blood products this year. The annual drive—consistently ranked as the largest convention-based blood drive—benefits LifeSouth, which serves more than 40 hospitals in the Atlanta area and 110 hospitals in the Southeast.

Going Once, Going Twice...

A big thank you to everyone who donated items to and made purchases from our Charity Auctions.

If you have not received a receipt for your donation, please email the office at dragoncon@dragon.org or call 404 669-0773.

You Came, We Saw, You Blew Us Away: 2014 Contest Results

Masquerade Costume Contest



Best in Show: Scott Millican and Sherri Millican as Maleficent and Tree Warrior

From Page to Stage Comic Book Pageant



First Place: Brema Ebbing, Dom Williams, Denzel Wright, Chris Gunn, Erika Williams, Snia Williams, Lauryn Roberts, Weadell Smith, Jeana Espisito, Milinda Williams, Verne Williams, and Seane Sawyer as the Black Panther Wedding

Friday Night Costuming Contest



Best in Show: Jeff Leininger

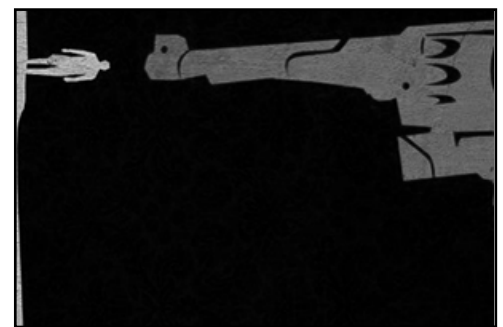
Miss Star Trek Universe Pageant



Winner: Jamie Higgins as Mother Horta

Check out additional contest results and photos at the [Daily Dragon](#) and the [2014 Contest Slide Show](#) on our website.

Independent Film Festival



Best Short Film: *"Curio Shop: A Post Apocalyptic Acid Western"*



Best Animated Film: *"Lesson Learned"*

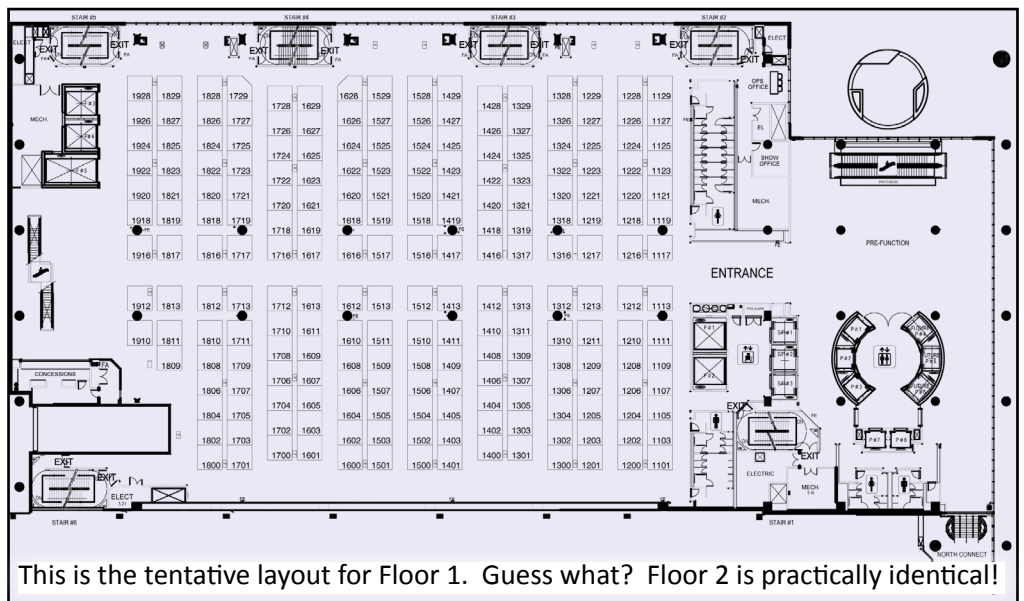
The Vendor Halls Have a Shiny New Space in the Mart!

If you visited the Vendor Halls in the AmericasMart this year, you know the place was hopping. There were witty tee shirts, costumes, weaponry, geek furniture, toys, dice, light sabers, books, DVDs, jewelry, leather goods, art, memorabilia, hats, and of course, corsets. The vendors did great business and our fans found all sorts of cool treasures to bring back home.

You also know that Building 1, home to the Vendor Halls for the last two years, was not the most "ideal" facility for our purposes. We thank you for being patient and fearless as you wound your way through the labyrinth that is Building 1.

So for 2015 we are moving over one block to a space that was made for the Dragon Con Vendor Halls; Building 2 of the AmericasMart. What makes it so great? Here are some of the features:

- ★ Main entrance at Spring Street and John Portman Boulevard that puts you right at the front of the venue.
- ★ Easy access to both floors from the front doors— Check out the photo of the beautiful escalators as soon as you walk in the doors.
- ★ More square footage for roomier aisles.
- ★ Look! Straight rows for easy navigation. No strange walls, pillars, or partitions, hiding what you're looking for.
- ★ High ceilings on both floors. Makes the space feel airier, less closed in, and easier to navigate.
- ★ More facilities (er, bathrooms).
- ★ Plus, for our vendors, additional loading docks available for both commercial trucks as well as passenger vans and vehicles.



This is the tentative layout for Floor 1. Guess what? Floor 2 is practically identical!

But Wait, There's More...

- ★ Buses to take you to and from the Vendor Halls from all host hotels and many overflow hotels.
- ★ Maps with vendors and their locations on the Dragon Con app.
- ★ Information booth ready to answer your questions.
- ★ Easy to see directional signs to important locations.
- ★ And now the main Blood Drive will be located in Building 2 as well. Do a little shopping and help a good cause at the same time.

Newest Membership Benefit: Discounted Tickets with **Six Flags** OVER GEORGIA



Dragon Con's newest member benefit is our partnership with Six Flags, which brings you substantial savings off the main gate price as well as discounted season passes. Come celebrate *"Holiday in the Park"* when Six Flags over Georgia is transformed into a winter wonderland with millions of twinkling lights, the opportunity to visit Santa, and of course all your favorite rides! The park will be open special holiday **hours** November 22— January 4.

You'll be able to "print and go" so you have your ticket in hand when you get to the park with no waiting in the line to purchase tickets. Click [here](#), then log into the site with the username and password below:

- ★ Username: dragonconog
- ★ Password: SixFlags10

For more information about Dragon Con's member benefit with Six Flags, click [here](#) to visit the membership benefits page on our website.

More membership benefits for you...

25% off merchandise purchases at the Dragon Con Stores at the show, and the **online store** year round.

15% off all e-books from **Event Horizon Publishing** with coupon code DCebook15. Plus, free shipping on trade paperbacks or hardbacks using coupon code DCFREESHIP.

Discounted prices on workshops given by award winning performers, writers, and artists.

Discounted rates to fun events like Dragon Con Night at Turner Field, the GA Aquarium, and Medieval Times.

Discounted rental car rates with **Enterprise and National Rental Car**. Click [here](#), or use Enterprise code: XZ03A67, pin: DRA or National code: XZ03A67 if not using the link.

10% off **Olympus Worldwide Chauffeured Services**. Show up to Dragon Con in style! Call 1-877-OLYMPUS, and mention the discount code Dragon Con.

Dragon Con members can now receive a 10% discount on any Scootaround rental taking place in Orlando, Florida or Las Vegas, Nevada. Just call toll free at 888-441-7575 and use the code Dragon14.

Discounted* airfares with Delta Airlines. If originating within United States/Canada, please [click here](#) and enter **NMKL6** under Meeting Event Code. For ALL other, please [click here](#) and enter **NMKL7** under Meeting Event Code. *(some restrictions apply)

Informative publications such as *Dragon Talk*, the *Progress Report*, and our convention *Program Book*.

Teamwork, fun, and community service through involvement with the **Dragon Con Superheroes!**

\$2.00 Shipping Special in the Dragon Con Store!



2014 Event Shirt



2014 Superfan Shirt



2014 Space Shirt



2014 Plush Dragon

Now through Saturday, December 21 all US shipping in the **Dragon Con Store** is only \$2.00. It's a perfect time to pick up gifts and stocking stuffers like tees, hats, stickers, luggage tags, shot glasses, flasks, tumblers, tote bags, plush baby dragons, and more.

Did you miss out on getting an official Event Shirt by Justin Gerard or a Superfan Shirt by Derek Yaniger while you were at the show? Snatch one up while they're still in stock. In addition, we are bringing back the Space Shirt in sizes XS through 4XL. This was a hot item that sold out in two days at the con.

As always, members get 25% off their purchase. Don't miss out on this opportunity. [store.dragoncon.org](#)

Our Featured Short Story:

“The Big Exit”

by

Bill Fawcett

Originally appeared in 2008 in the **Imaginary Friends** anthology, edited by John Marco and Martin H. Greenberg, DAW Books.

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The bullet whined off the sand colored wall, but I did not bother to duck. I did look around to make sure that it didn't mean that Jeremy had been seen. But the shooter was already out of sight and so he was safe, for now. There was a lot of random shots being fired around Sadr City that day. A few were actually aimed at the American patrols, but most were what my Jeremy referred to as poor weapon control. I think he just meant that the Iraqis tend to waste a lot of ammunition by firing their AK47s just to hear the bang. The stone dust that had been chipped away when the bullet hit high on the wall above him settled on my boy's uniform. The dust passed right through me, course, since I was not real.

Once, a long time ago, we both had liked big noises. Even when little he was never afraid of fire crackers or sirens. In those days we enjoyed just banging the garbage can lids together to hear them clang. They made a wonderfully silly sound that was almost music and all loud.

Jeremy forced himself lower, staying where he was crouched down behind a large full garbage container of the type you need a special truck to empty. It was pretty obvious that he did not like loud noises as much anymore. I wanted to tell him I was proud because he was afraid and he wasn't crying. Jeremy was being a big boy. But about then I realized just how long it had been and that he really was all grown up.

I had been gone a very long time. I know I was somewhere when I was not with Jeremy, but it's a funny thing. It had always been this way. When you were with your child that other life seems far away and hard to remember. It had no meaning then and it wasn't that I could not remember it, but that I didn't care to bother. What mattered to me was that I was here and that was because my special boy needed me again. And that felt right, because just maybe I still needed him as well. The important thing was that he had needed me and I came. Jeremy always called me Thumper and so Thumper is who I was. If you could have seen me you might have laughed. I had hoped Jeremy would when I first appeared again, but he didn't. His laugh used to be such music. When I made him laugh everything seemed right.

You'd have laughed at me mostly because of the uniform. The metallic red coat and tricorn white and yellow hat are both garish and as silly as only the imagination of a two year old boy can conjure. I suspect more than anything else from my red and white striped pants and thick gold lapels that my image was deeply influenced by some cartoon version of George Washington or Uncle Sam. A picture on a cereal box seems the likely culprit. *Continue reading...*

The Postcards are Coming, The Postcards are Coming!

It's that time of year again, time for the inaugural mailing of the blue postcards!

Because we process so many memberships this time of year, we do a bulk run of postcards and postage instead of processing the postcards one at a time. So now that all the aisles are full of postcards and we can't see out the windows, we're ready to mail them out.

On Monday November 24, we gave Santa (the postman) our giant box of blue postcards, so your postcard proof of membership should arrive soon.

Should you not receive your postcard by December 5, or if you have any questions about your membership, please email us at dragoncon@dragoncon.org. Or you can call 404-669-0773, and ask for Chip, master of horror and seer of membership data, or Tony his faithful zombie partner. They will be happy to answer your questions, provide solutions, and quote lines from their favorite movies.

Are you an eternal member? Your postcard will go out in December, as will our annual postcards to our volunteers.

Stay In Touch

You can now stay connected with Dragon Con year round through our app. We'll be providing information about hotel availability, guests, due dates, member events, and other news. The app is available for [Apple](#), [Android](#), and [web browsers](#).

Membership Price Break Schedule

\$95 through	02/13/2015
\$110 through	05/15/2015
\$120 through	07/17/2015
\$130 through	08/21/2015