LI PopCon2015 will be held on APRIL 16th, 2015 at the St. John’s University OAKDALE Campus.

Below is the list of tentative programs for the Long Island Libraries and Pop Culture Conference. Programming is subject to change.

Be a Summer Reading Club Hero!
9:45 AM – 10:45 AM
Speakers: Marie Drucker, Malverne Public Library; Ron Schachter, Westbury Memorial Public Library; Lissetty Thomas-Johnson, Brentwood Public Library

It’s a bird! It’s a plane! It’s…the 2015 Summer Reading Clubs! This time around the themes that are incredibly pop culture-friendly — “Every Hero Has a Story” (Children), “Unmask!” (Teens), and “Escape the Ordinary” (Adults). That means there’s a lot that librarians can work with, from superheroes to hero protagonists in fantasy/dystopian/sci fi literature. This program will help attendees start planning for SRCs by highlighting appropriate pop culture materials and/or programs.

Gaming at Your Library
9:45 AM – 10:45 AM
Speakers: Pam Cora, New York Public Library; Josh Firer, Bellmore Memorial Library; James Hutter, Westbury Memorial Public Library; Samantha Marker, Mt. Laurel Library

Board games, video games, live action role-playing games, card games, online games...there is a game out there for every interest and age group! A panel of gaming experts and enthusiasts will explain different gaming genres, discuss the latest and greatest games and how they can be used in an educational/library setting, as well as ponder the continued popularity of gaming that has resulted in such recent developments as Will Wheaton’s successful crowdfunded web series, Table Top.

Indie Comics, Web Comics, the Library, and You!
9:45 AM – 10:45 AM
Speakers: Alex Chautin, writer; Tim Ferrara, artist/writer; Sophie Goldstein, artist; Jenny McKeon, artist; Annie Stoll, writer

Web and Independent comics have grown in both number and importance over the past decade. How can libraries connect to patrons through these materials? What methods and technologies are available to help libraries offer such materials to patrons? How can libraries foster potential web or independent creators in their communities?

Legitimizing Fan Comics and Fanfiction: The Transition from Fan Work to Traditional Publication
9:45 AM – 10:45 AM
Speakers: Bill Burns, Suffolk County Community College; Andrea Graham, Northport-East Northport Public Library; Marissa Lieberman, East Orange Public Library; Nola Thacker, Westhampton Free Library; Clive Young, author

Fanfiction and fan comics have many forms: from traditionally published fanfic, such as Pride and Prejudice and Zombies, to fairy tale adaptations found in Vertigo’s Fables and Zenescope’s Grimm Fairy Tales comic book series to comic book continuations of fan-favorite television series, such as Buffy and
Angel, to the arrival of Fifty Shades of Grey via fanfic. Panelists will examine the role of fanfiction and fan comics and how they are making the transition from fan stories to legitimized published works.

**Visual Literacy & Comics: Turning Kids and Teens into Eager Readers**
9:45 AM – 10:45 AM
Speaker: William “Brimstone” Kucmierowski, Hound Comics

As librarians and teachers, it’s easy to forget that not everyone loves reading the way we do. In fact the road to reading proficiency and enjoyment is not always a smooth one for many young people. Join this book talk and discussion that focuses on comics as a transition tool for reluctant readers and kids who think they don’t have the time for books.

**Accessing Anime and Managing Manga in Libraries and Classrooms**
11:00 AM – 12:00 Noon
Speakers: Mike Buono, Patchogue-Medford Library; Josh Firer, Bellmore Memorial Library; Claudia McGivney, Dowling College; Laura Pope Robbins, Dowling College; Gloria Romano, Elmont Memorial Library

There’s a lot of anime and manga out there. But how do we know what’s appropriate, what to teach with, what people would like? How can librarians purchase manga and anime using patron requests, professional resources, and fandom websites, just to name a few? Let’s have a discussion on the many anime and manga series out there and how to incorporate them into the classroom (K-12 and higher education), as well as promote/recommend them for library patrons!

**Celebrating Fandoms (with Limited Resources)**
11:00 AM – 12:00 Noon
Speakers: N.C. Chris Couch, University of Massachusetts, Amherst; Andrea Graham, Northport-East Northport Public Library; Marissa Lieberman, East Orange Public Library; Samantha Marker, Mt. Laurel Library

Think your library, school, or business is too small, underfunded, or understaffed to make supporting pop culture possible? Think again! Learn how you can meet the educational and/or information needs of fans, while having fun and being frugal.

**English Language Learners and Adult Emergent Readers: Using Comics to Promote Literacy**
11:00 AM – 12:00 Noon
Speakers: Ralph Guiteau, Syosset Public Library, Ron Schachter, Westbury Memorial Public Library; Lissetty Thomas-Johnson, Brentwood Public Library; Dawn Wing, Suffolk County Community College

Graphic novels are not ‘light’ reading. On the contrary, they require and can enable readers to develop critical visual and verbal literacy skills. They are simply another format that provide enriching opportunities in many areas of learning. This presentation will show you just how and why. Librarians will discuss how graphic novel collections and programming can be used for outreach to new adult readers and English language learners at their libraries as a way to promote literacy.

**More Than Mary Sue: Female Populations in Pop Culture**
11:00 AM – 12:00 Noon
Market research indicates almost 50% of comic book readers are female (and the increased lines at women’s bathrooms the comic cons seem to bear this out.) As women take on the roles of creators and heroines, libraries need to know how to keep up and part of that is knowing the who and what of this fan base. This panel will be a look at female characters, creators, and readers, as it tackles the past, present, and future of role of women in pop culture.

Reading Beyond the Panels:
Using Graphic Narratives to Discuss Social Justice Issues
11:00 AM – 12:00 Noon
Speaker: Caroline Fuchs, St. John’s University

Looking for a new way to engage your patrons and book-club members in an active dialogue on social justice issues? Learn how one academic librarian uses graphic novels to help inform discussions of “big picture” issues such as poverty, struggles with identity, racism, the immigrant experience, prejudice, and the effects of warfare. Ideas presented will be easily adaptable to various groups in a variety of settings. Attendees will be provided with a suggested graphic novel reading list, and some practical “how to” tips.

Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation in Fanfiction:
The Good, the Bad, and the Not-So-Ugly
2:45 PM – 3:45 PM
Speakers: Leanna Ladouceur, St. John’s University; Gabby Lee, St. John’s University; Kimberly Meyer, St. John’s University; Alison Mirabella, St. John’s University; Rachel Sferlazza, St. John’s University

This panel of active creators and consumers of fanfiction will discuss the prevalence of young people using fanfiction to explore gender identity and sexual orientation. Panelists will also share ideas on how library staff can make libraries safe(r) spaces for young adults using fanfiction to explore these aspects of their lives.

Graphic Novels: They ARE Real Books!
2:45 PM – 3:45 PM
Speakers: Alex Chautin, writer; N.C. Chris Couch, University of Massachusetts, Amherst; Caroline Fuchs, St. John’s University; Raina Telgemeier, writer/artist

Every librarian has had that parent who refuses to let his or her child pick up a comic or graphic novel. Or the adult who refuses to consider graphic novels because they are not proper literature. How do we change their minds and show them how fun, educational, and important this format can be? In this panel we will talk about how the comic format is more widely accepted in other counties, the ways this format is beneficial to reluctant readers or those with learning disabilities and what series can help encourage parents and adult readers to accept them.

The Image of Librarians and the Librarian’s Image
2:45 PM – 3:45 PM
Speakers: Rosemary Kiladitis, Queens Library; Natalie Korsavidis, Farmingdale Public Library; Emily
Librarians are often portrayed in very interesting ways in books, comics, anime and popular culture. From Discworld to Batgirl to Giles, Read or Die and Fullmetal Alchemist to The Mummy to It’s a Wonderful Life, librarians are subject to a number of stereotypes and interpretations. Preconceived notions by our patrons can also have an impact on their approach to librarians and library services. Is this a positive image for librarians? How do we combat this, encourage it, influence it, take advantage of it? This will also be a chance to add some more materials that feature librarians to your collection!

Let’s Create Comics: Drawing/Writing Basics for Librarians and Educators
2:45 PM – 3:45 PM
Speakers: Marguerite Dabaie, New York University; Dawn Wing, Suffolk County Community College

A hands-on workshop for librarians and educators who’d like to learn how to draw comics, plan out a comics project and maybe even facilitate a comics drawing workshop at your library/school! Pass on the fun and skills of visual storytelling to patrons/students, too! Inspiration and techniques from Lynda Barry’s book and course “What it is: Manually Shifting the Image” will be demonstrated among others!

The Perks of Being a Cosplayer
2:45 PM – 3:45 PM
Speakers: Pam Cora, New York Public Library; Walter Hillegas, Empire Saber Guild; Marissa Lieberman, East Orange Public Library; Jenny McKeon, artist

Cosplay promotes creativity, camaraderie, and can even evolve into community service and philanthropic pursuits. Come learn about this facet of fandom from local cosplayers, librarians, and educators, and find out how you can reach out to current cosplayers/costumers, as well as how to use cosplay to reach new patrons or engage students.
Featured Guests 2015

Keynote Speaker: Raina Telgemeier

Raina Telgemeier grew up in San Francisco and moved to New York City, where she earned an illustration degree at the School of Visual Arts. She is the creator of Smile, a #1 New York Times bestselling graphic memoir based on her childhood. It won a Will Eisner Award for Best Publication for Teens, received a Boston Globe-Horn Book Honor, and has appeared on many state reading lists. She is also the creator of Drama, a #1 New York Times bestseller and the recipient of a Stonewall Book Award Honor. Raina also adapted and illustrated The Baby-sitters Club graphic novels. Her latest graphic novel is Sisters, which is her second autobiographical memoir based on her childhood.

Raina lives in Astoria, New York, with her husband and fellow cartoonist, Dave Roman. – (retrieved and adapted from http://www.scholastic.com/raina/)

For more information about Raina Telgemeier and her work, visit http://www.goraina.com.

Additional Featured Guests

Brimstone

Brimstone is a professional wrestler, actor, author, philanthropist and comic book/animated hero. He has had a successful and rewarding career participating in and administering numerous entertainment careers spanning well over two decades. As the co-founder and CEO of Hound Comics, Inc., Brimstone and his team of creators launched his comic book series, “Brimstone and The Borderhounds” on October 31, 2010 at Borders Books and as of January 11, 2011 went nation and world wide via Barnes & Noble, Book World, and Amazon. Bridging the gap of wrestling star and the corporate world, Brimstone has an extensive background in marketing, advertising, management, and branding. At Newsday, under Times Mirror and the Long Island Voice, he worked in Senior Management. He created and
directed one of the largest employment publications in the Tri-State Area, the Employment Journal, with distribution centers in Long Island, NYC, and NJ; and administered LI Career Fairs, Long Island’s top career fair company. Looking to train up and coming hopefuls in the art of professional wrestling, Brimstone launched Critical Mass Pro-Wrestling Corp, which was considered one of the biggest and best pro-wrestling training facilities in the North-East. Brimstone has also been a Head Trainer for Pro Wrestling Revolution and a guest trainer for FTW Wrestling and many other training facilities across the country.

For more information about Brimstone, visit http://www.brimstone.me.

For more information about Hound Comics, visit http://www.houndcomics.com.

Alex Chautin

Alex Chautin is the writer of the all-ages sci-fi adventure webcomic Eerie PD, as well as the creator of Gradually Yours and other autobiographical comics. He is currently pursuing a master’s degree in English education and is a strong advocate for the use of graphic novels as a teaching and literacy tool. Alex has also written comic reviews for sites such as Kabooooom and Comic Vine.

To learn more about Eerie PD, please visit http://www.eeriepd.com/.

To read Alex Chautin’s reviews on Kabooooom, please visit http://kabooooom.com/author/alexchautin/.

N. C. Christopher Couch

N. C. Christopher Couch holds a Ph.D. in art history from Columbia University and is a professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. He is the author of numerous books and articles on Latin American art and on graphic novels and comic art, including The Will Eisner Companion: The Pioneering Spirit of the Father of the Graphic Novel (with Stephen Weiner), Will Eisner: A Retrospective (with Peter Myer), Faces of Eternity: Masks of the Pre-Columbian Americas, and The Festival Cycle of the Aztec Codex Borbonicus. He curated exhibitions at the W.E.B. Du Bois Library American Museum of Natural History, the Americas Society, the Oklahoma Air and Space Museum and the Smith College Museum of Art. He was senior editor at Kitchen Sink Press (Northampton), editor in chief at CPM Manga (New York), and has taught at Amherst, Columbia, Hampshire, Haverford, Smith and Mount Holyoke Colleges, and the School of Visual Arts. Publications he edited won or were nominated for 17 Eisner and Harvey Awards, and he has held fellowships at the Institute for Advanced Study, Dumbarton Oaks of Harvard University, and the Newberry Library. Current publications include the edited volume Conversations with Harvey Kurtzman, and a book on Batman artist and editorial cartoonist Jerry Robinson called Jerry Robinson: Ambassador of Comics.

To learn more about N. C. Christopher Couch, please visit http://www.umass.edu/complit/people_fac.shtml#couch.

To view N. C. Christopher Couch’s Amazon page, please visit: http://www.amazon.com/N.-C.-Christopher-Couch/e/B001K8SJ9K/ref=dp_byline_cont_book_1.

Tim Ferrara
Tim Ferrara is an independent writer and fantasy magic enthusiast. Tim Ferrara’s recent independent work can actually be found in Hana Doki Kira. He is also the creator of the webcomic Honey and the Whirlwind as well as a co-creator of the web comic Ode with Annie Stoll. Though Tim Ferrara has been known to illustrate his own comics, he is primarily a writer.

To learn more about Ode, visit http://www.odecomic.com/.

To learn more about Tim Ferrara and his work on Honey and the Whirlwind, visit http://www.honeyandthewhirlwind.com/.

Caroline Fuchs

Caroline Fuchs is an Associate Professor and Outreach Librarian at St. John’s University in New York. In addition to an M.L.S, she holds an M.A. in English and an M.A. in history. She is an active member of the library community. She is the Immediate Past President of the Greater New York Chapter of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL/NY), the ACRL/NY Legislative Liaison, and the co-chair and founder of the ACRL/NY First Year Experience Discussion Group. Caroline Fuchs is a 2012 Vincentian Research Fellow at St. John’s University. In 2011 she was awarded the Writing Across the Curriculum Faculty Fellowship, and in 2009 she received the Center for Teaching and Learning Teaching with Technology Faculty Fellowship. At St. John’s, Caroline Fuchs created and teaches the Discover New York course “Exploring New York through Comics.”

For more information on Caroline Fuchs, visit http://stjohns.academia.edu/CarolineFuchs.

For the St. John’s University’s research guide to graphic novels and graphic novels in education, which was created by Caroline Fuchs, please visit http://campusguides.stjohns.edu/content.php?pid=189225&sid=1588170.

Sophie Goldstein

Sophie Goldstein is a 2013 graduate of the Center for Cartoon Studies. In 2014 she won an Ignatz Award for her mini-comic, House of Women, Part I. Her work has appeared in various publications including Best American Comics 2013, The Pitchfork Review, Maple Key Comics, Sleep of Reason, Symbolia, Trip 8 and Irene 3.

To learn more about Sophie Goldstein and her work, visit her website here: http://www.redinkradio.com/

Walter Hillegas of the Empire Saber Guild

Empire Saber Guild is the New York Temple of Saber Guild, an international Star Wars lightsaber performance and costuming organization. The organization is a Lucasfilm-recognized, not-for-profit fan group who performs at fan conventions, charity events, sporting events and official Star Wars events around the world. Its members are choreographers, dancers, actors, artists, costumers, filmmakers and photographers, all who volunteer their time to share their love of Star Wars with the community. The organization’s focus is on lightsaber performance for stage and film.

For more information about the Empire Saber Guild, visit their website at http://www.empiresaberguild.com.
For more information about the Empire Saber Guild’s parent organization, the Saber Guild, visit [http://www.saberguild.com](http://www.saberguild.com).

For the Empire Saber Guild’s Facebook page, visit [http://www.facebook.com/EmpireSaberGuild/](http://www.facebook.com/EmpireSaberGuild/).

Jenny McKeon

**Jenny McKeon** is an artist based in Western MA. She draws the webcomic *Eerie PD* and her book *ABC: Anime Boston Confidential* is debuting in spring 2015.

To learn more about Jenny McKeon, please visit [http://cargocollective.com/jchannel/](http://cargocollective.com/jchannel/).

To learn more about *Eerie PD*, please visit [http://www.eeriepd.com/](http://www.eeriepd.com/).

Annie Stoll

**Annie Stoll** is a freelance graphic designer for companies like Lucasfilm, an art director at Sony Music, and a comic illustrator. Annie Stoll creates comics and watercolor tutorials on her site, squidsalad.net. She is also the co-creator of the web comic *Ode* with Tim Ferrara. As a member of the Year 85 Group, she has also art directed a collaborative project called *Hana Doki Kira*, which is a shojo anthology with 26 different artists influenced by the shojo comic genre. Recently she was nominated for a Grammy in “Best Album Packaging” for her design work on the album *Automatic Music Can be Fun*.

To learn more about *Ode*, visit [http://www.odecomic.com/](http://www.odecomic.com/).

To learn more about Annie Stoll and her work, visit [http://www.anniestoll.com/news/](http://www.anniestoll.com/news/).

Clive Young

**Clive Young** is a writer/editor based in New York. His latest book, *Homemade Hollywood: Fans Behind The Camera*, melds together the histories of pop-culture fandom, amateur filmmaking and copyright theory, and has received stellar reviews around the globe. He is also the author of *Crank It Up: Live Sound Secrets of the Top Tour Engineers*.

Clive Young is also Managing Editor of *Pro Sound News*, *Pro Audio Review*, and *ProSoundNetwork.com*. Additionally, he has presented more than 150 historical pop-culture programs at universities, museums, libraries and other venues around the U.S.

Clive Young has also written for a variety of mainstream print. Some of these include *MTV To Go*, *Gig*, *American Songwriter*, *Icon*, *Thoughtstyle*, *Music Business International* (UK), *Goldmine*, *Videography*, *DVDWorks*, *EQ En Espanol*, *Medialine*, *Long Island Voice*, *VH1.Com*, *Musicplayer.com*, *Sonicnet.com*, *iPodlounge.com*, and many others.

To learn more about Clive Young, please visit [http://www.cliveyoung.com](http://www.cliveyoung.com).