

**Luton Napalmed!
Piranha Brothers
Suspected**



Today's Winning Numbers:

**1,1,2,3,5,8,13,21,34,
55,89,144,233,477**

The Possum Trot *Le* Zombie-Picayune

Extra Edition

MidAmeriCon II Progress Report Zed*

August 17, 2014

**(Because Sometimes, the Last Shall Be First)*

You Really Like Us! Finally! Kansas City Wins 2016 Worldcon! Headlines of Unusual Size Deployed! *Save the dates: August 17-21, 2016*



Xerps, Peggy Rae's Lawn demand recount.

London, England, UK (Intergalactic Press Association) The membership of Loncon 3 has voted to award the Kansas City, Missouri, bid the right to hold the 74th World Science Fiction Convention in 2016.

Bid and convention chairs Ruth Lichtwardt, Jeff Orth, and Diane Lacey (known as Team LOL), announced that

the convention will be called MidAmeriCon II, in honor of the previous Kansas City Worldcon, held in 1976. Convention dates are August 17-21, 2016. The convention will be based in the Kansas City Convention Center and Bartle Hall. The anchor hotel is the Downtown Marriott and attached Muehlebach Hotel, home of the first MidAmeriCon.

Also announced were the Guests of Honor for MidAmeriCon II. They are Kinuko Y. Craft, Patrick and Teresa Nielsen Hayden, Tamora Pierce, and Michael Swanwick. The Toastmaster will be Pat Cadigan.

For more information, see the convention website, midamericon2.org.

A Message From the Chairs

We finally really did it! You maniacs! <Charlton Heston dragged offstage>

It has been an incredible journey from standing up at the Raleigh NASFiC to announce Kansas City's intention to bid for a Worldcon to this moment. The support and encouragement we have received from fans across the United States and around the world has been nothing short of breathtaking.

The bid committee has put in incredible amounts of work on the bid, attending countless conventions, sitting bid tables all day and throwing parties (almost) all night, then repeating weekend after weekend. We would not be here today without your sacrifices and efforts.

We also want to thank the membership of Loncon 3 for voting to allow us the privilege of hosting the 74th World Science Fiction Convention, MidAmeriCon II. Thank you for your trust; we will work hard to live up to it.

During the bid process, we were regularly told by people that the previous Kansas City Worldcon, MidAmeriCon, was their first Worldcon, or even their first con of any kind. MidAmeriCon introduced a number of innovations to the Worldcon, and helped create an explosion of fan groups and conventions throughout the Midwest. It is our hope that MidAmeriCon II will serve to energize people in the same way.

Now that the bid is over, the real work begins. If you want to help make MidAmeriCon II the best convention it can be, please go to our website, midamericon2.org, and sign up on the volunteer page. We couldn't have gotten here without you, and we'll need your help to put on the Worldcon. We look forward to seeing you in Kansas City!

Team LOL
Ruth Lichtwardt, Jeff Orth,
Diane Lacey

Our Guests of Honor

Kinuko Y. Craft



Photo courtesy Sabine Vollmer Von-Falken Photography

KINUKO Y. CRAFT IS one of the most widely respected and versatile woman artists in the United States. Her past commissions have included editorial art for major national magazines such as *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Forbes*, *National Geographic*, and many others; book jacket art for many well-known authors; opera poster designs; and illustrated picture books. During her career she has become known for meticulous attention to detail, a passionate love of fine art and a deep knowledge of art history. Craft's work has been widely exhibited in the US as well as in Europe and Japan. Her work is in private collections in several major US cities and in Italy, The Netherlands, Japan, and Greece. It can also be found public collections at The National Portrait Gallery at the Smithsonian, The Museum of American Illustration in New York City, The National Geographic Society, and other corporate collections. Her illustrated

books have been distributed in the US, other English-language countries, Europe, Greece, China, and Korea.

Ms. Craft was born in Japan and is a graduate of The Kanazawa Municipal College of Fine and Industrial Art (presently known in Japan as the Kanazawa College of Art). She came to the United States in the early 1960s as a graduate student where she continued studies in design and illustration at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Subsequently, she worked for several years in well-known Chicago art studios. Her first commission was for *Playboy Magazine* while still a studio artist. By the late 1960s, her work was in wide demand and she had begun a long and successful career that continues to this day. Her original art can be seen at Borsini-Burr Gallery in Montara, CA.

Patrick & Teresa Nielsen Hayden

AS FANS AND PROFESSIONALS, Patrick and Teresa Nielsen Hayden have been involved in the science fiction world for nearly 40 years. Together, they edited and published many fanzines (including the Hugo-nominated *Izzard*), helped organize many conventions (including the legendary Iguanacon, the 1978 Worldcon in Phoenix), served as the TransAtlantic Fan Fund delegates in 1985, co-founded the *New York Review of Science Fiction* in 1989, and in 2003 were awarded the Edward E. Smith Memorial Award (the "Skylark") by the New England Science Fiction and Fantasy Association for service to fantasy and SF. They have also both been associated with Tor Books for over a quarter of a century.

Patrick is a senior editor at Tor and the manager of its fantasy and SF lines. Over the years he has worked editorially with authors ranging from Arthur C. Clarke, David Weber, and Damon Knight, to Emma Bull, Ken MacLeod, and Charles de Lint. He has been responsible for publishing the first novels of many of today's most notable writers, including Maureen F. McHugh, Susan Palwick, Jonathan Lethem, Cory Doctorow, Jo Walton, and John Scalzi, and he has won three Hugo Awards for Best Editor (Long Form). A one-time managing editor of Tor, Teresa is now a consulting editor there, in which capacity she

has edited books by authors including Avram Davidson, Harry Turtledove, Jane Lindskold, Poul Anderson, and Steven Brust. In 2006, Robert Charles Wilson's *Spin*, which Teresa edited, won the Hugo Award for Best Novel. And in 2012, Jo Walton's novel *Among Others*, acquired by Patrick and edited by both him and Teresa, won both the Nebula and Hugo awards. Other award-winning books edited by Patrick include Jo Walton's earlier novel *Tooth and Claw*, winner of the World Fantasy Award, and John Scalzi's *Redshirts*, winner of the 2013 Hugo Award for Best Novel.

Patrick has edited several original and reprint anthologies. His original anthology *Starlight 1* won a World Fantasy Award, and his most recent anthology is the massive reprint collection *Twenty-First Century Science Fiction* (2013), co-edited with David G. Hartwell. He and Hartwell are now at work on a companion volume, *Twenty-First Century Fantasy*. Since 2008, Patrick has also



Photo courtesy Erika Barber

been acquiring and editing original short fiction for the Macmillan site Tor.com.

Teresa has been celebrated as an essayist since the late 1970s when she began to write for fanzines, both her own and those of others. She was a finalist for the Best Fan Writer Hugo in 1984 and 1991, and her 1994 essay collection *Making Book* was a finalist for the Hugo Award for Best Nonfiction Book. Although essays by Teresa have appeared in venues ranging from the *Observer* to the *Mississippi Review*, most of her published writing appears on *Making Light* (nielsenhayden.com/makinglight), founded by Teresa in 2002 and now maintained by Teresa and Patrick with the help of Abi Sutherland and Avram Grumer.

Patrick and Teresa are both permanent faculty at the SF-and-fantasy writing workshop Viable Paradise, held annually on Martha's Vineyard. Together and separately they have also taught at various other writing workshops, inside and outside the SF world. They live in Brooklyn, New York, where they pursue obsessive historical interests, make music, spend too much time on the internet, and keep hamsters (one hamster at a time).

The Possum Trot *Le Zombie-Picayune* is Progress Report Zed of MidAmeriCon II, the 74th World Science Fiction Convention. All material is © 2014 by Mid American Science Fiction and Fantasy Conventions, Inc., and all rights are hereby returned to their holders. "Possum Trot" was one of the earliest names for the area that became Kansas City, Missouri. "Le Zombie" is used with the express permission of Wilson "Bob" Tucker. "Picayune" is used because why not.

This has been yet another production of the LAST SECOND PRESS, Inc., James J. Murray, Immanent Editorial Avatar.

"World Science Fiction Society," "WSFS," "World Science Fiction Convention," "Worldcon," "NASFiC," "Hugo Award," and the distinctive design of the Hugo Award Rocket are service marks of the World Science Fiction Society, an unincorporated literary society.

A Brief Introduction

Tamora Pierce



TAMORA PIERCE SPENT most of her childhood in Pennsylvania. Her father introduced her to writing science fiction, and adventure fiction. By the time she was in the seventh grade, she was writing her own fiction. She attended the University of Pennsylvania and graduated with a BA in liberal arts in 1977. In her junior year of college, Tamora published her first short story. After college she worked at various jobs, including as a housemother in a group home for teenaged girls, before she moved to Manhattan to pursue a publishing career. There her agent convinced her to turn a novel she had written into four books for teenagers.

Tamora's fantasy novels for young readers are noted for their strong female protagonists and their imaginative, well-drawn plots. She actively tries to create more and varied female role models for teenagers. She points out that research has shown that "guy heroes" still greatly outnumber "girl heroes."

Although she has nothing against males and boys often play strong, positive roles in her books, she wants girls know that they "too can get out there and DO things right along with guys."

A woman with wide-ranging interests, Tamora continues to focus her research in specific areas, many of which eventually become incorporated into her fantasy novels for teens. For instance, she is interested in medieval customs and she studies Japanese, Central Asian, and Arabic history and culture, the American Civil War, the Middle Ages, and the Renaissance. She visits schools as often as she can in order to meet her readers, and reading remains her own favorite pastime. She belongs to the Society for Children's Book Writers and Illustrators and the Authors Guild. At the present time she has 29 published books.

Tamora and her husband Tim live with their (at present) nine rescued indoor cats as well as the feral cats and other animals they feed in their back yard.

Michael Swanwick

MICHAEL SWANWICK published his first story in 1980, making him one of a generation of new writers that included Pat Cadigan, William Gibson, Connie Willis, and Kim Stanley Robinson. In the third of a century since, he has been honored with the Nebula, Theodore Sturgeon, and World Fantasy awards and received a Hugo Award for fiction in an unprecedented five out of six years. He also has the pleasant distinction of having lost more major awards than any other science fiction writer.

Well over a hundred stories have appeared in *Amazing*, *Analog*, *Asimov's*, *Clarkesworld*, *High Times*, *New Dimensions*, *Eclipse*, *Fantasy & Science Fiction*, *Interzone*, *Omni*, *Penthouse*, *Postscripts*, *Realms of Fantasy*, *Tor.com*, *TriQuarterly*, *Universe*, and elsewhere. Many have been reprinted in Best of the Year anthologies, and translated into Japanese, Croatian, Dutch, Finnish, German, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Swedish, Chinese, Czech, and French. Several hundred works of flash fiction have been published as well.

A prolific writer of non-fiction, Swanwick has published book-length studies of Hope Mirrlees and James Branch Cabell as well as a book-length interview with Gardner Dozois. He has taught at Clarion, Clarion West, and Clarion South.

Swanwick is the author of eight novels, including *In the Drift* (an Ace Special), *Vacuum Flowers*, *Stations of the Tide*, *The Iron Dragon's Daughter*, *Jack Faust*, *Bones of the Earth*, *The Dragons of Babel*, and *Dancing With Bears*. His short fiction has been collected in *Gravity's Angels*, *A Geography of Imaginary Lands*, *Moon Dogs*, *Tales of Old Earth*, *Cigar Box Faust* and *Other Miniatures*, *The Dog Said Bow Wow*, and *The Best of Michael Swanwick*. *Chasing the Phoenix*, a novel chronicling the adventures of confidence artists Darger and Surplus in post-Utopian China, is forthcoming from Tor Books. He is currently at work on a third and final novel set in Industrialized Faerie.

He lives in Philadelphia with his wife, Marianne Porter.



Photo courtesy Beth Gwinn

Toastmaster: Pat Cadigan

PAT CADIGAN WAS born in New York, grew up in Massachusetts, and spent most of her adult life in the Kansas City area until she emigrated to the UK.

Her first professional sale appeared in 1980, in *New Dimensions 11* edited by Marta Randall and Robert Silverberg. After 10 years as a writer for Hallmark Cards (yes, she wrote the cards, in verse), she became a full-time writer in 1987. She is the author of 15 books, including two nonfiction books on the making of *Lost in Space* and *The Mummy*, one young adult novel, and two Arthur C. Clarke Award-winning novels *Synners* and *Fools*. She also won the Hugo Award for her novelette, "The Girl-Thing Who Went Out For Sushi," which serves as the jumping-off point for her novel *See You When You Get There*.

Cadigan is a popular guest lecturer and has talked on many different subjects at universities, literary

festivals, and cultural gatherings around the world, including MIT in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Pop!Tech in Camden, Maine, Utopiales in France, and Argonauts of the Noosphere in Rimini, Italy.

Kansas City, however, has a very special place in her heart, because it was there that she first made contact with science fiction fandom. She was at the University of Kansas when she saw a flyer for MidAmeriCon ("Big Mac") in a bookstore. She wrote the committee begging to help out and ended up being the liaison between the committee and GOH Robert A. Heinlein. They remained friends for the rest of his life.

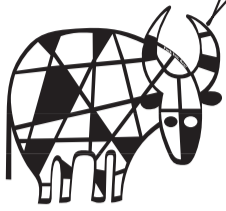
While she was always going to be a science fiction writer, Big Mac changed the course of her life completely, and very much for the better. She loves living in London with her husband, the Original Chris Fowler, but KC is also home.



The Conversion Tango

with Moojibul and Steerajul

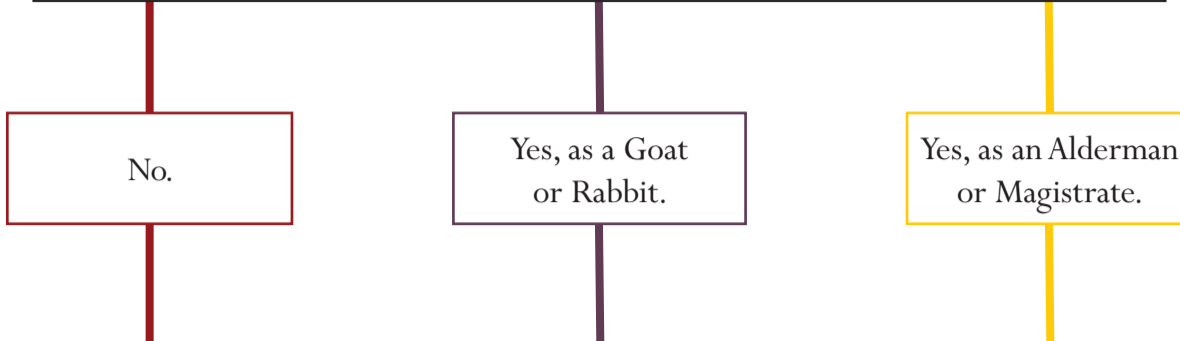
I want to go to MidAmeriCon II! How much does it cost?



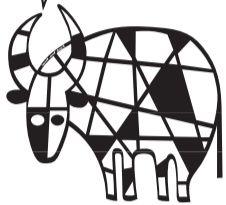
Just answer a couple of simple questions, follow the lines, and we'll find out.



Did You Presupport the Bid?



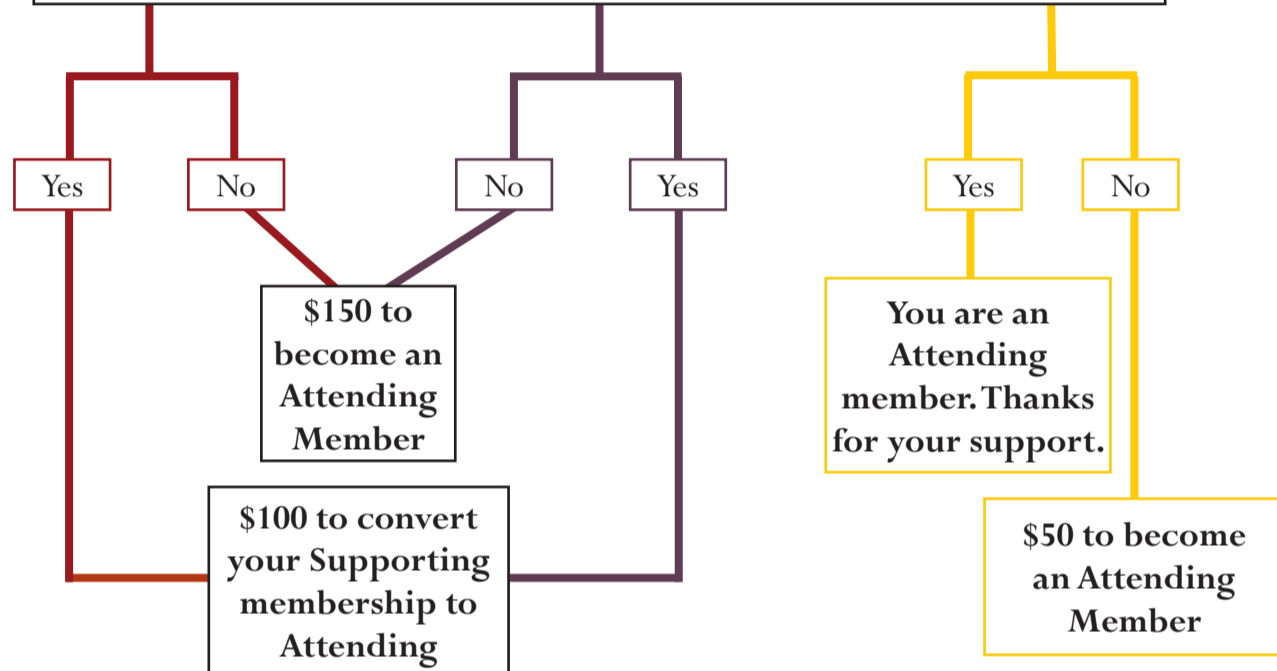
It's just a jump to the left...



C'mon, everyone join in!



Did You Vote in Site Selection?
(If you did, congratulations! You are a Supporting Member of MidAmeriCon II)



If this were a GIF, I'd be breakdancing!



And this is why we can't have nice things



To find rates for other membership categories, see our website, midamericon2.org. Prices valid through 12/31/2014.

Facilities: Let Us Show You Them



Photos courtesy Visit KC

WE ARE THRILLED TO be using the Kansas City Convention Center and Bartle Hall for MidAmeriCon II in 2016, shown in the photo at left spanning the highway with the largest column-free function space in the country, supported by the pillars in the center, topped by the world-renowned Sky Stations. The convention center is fully ADA compliant and a leader in green policies (LEED Silver certified). All of our hotel space will be within two blocks of the convention center. Our main hotel is the Kansas City Marriott Downtown (which is also home to ConQuest 46) and is connected to the convention center. The area of the city we will be occupying is the Power & Light District and contains numerous restaurants and entertainment. And, of course, no matter where you go, you will find the best barbecue in the known universe.

