

MINICON 50



ARTIST

MICHAEL WHELAN

AUTHOR

BRANDON SANDERSON

AUTHOR

JANE YOLEN

MUSICIAN

ADAM STEMPLER

PUBLISHER

TOM DOHERTY

AUTHOR

LARRY NIVEN

CATS LAUGHING

with SisterTree



ADAM STEMPLER *GUITAR, VOCALS*

EMMA BULL *VOCALS*

STEVEN BRUST *DRUMS, VOCALS*

LOJO RUSSO *BASS, VOCALS*

SCOTT KEEVER *GUITAR, MANDOLIN, KEYBOARDS*



FRIDAY, GRAND BALLROOM
DOORS OPEN AT 8PM



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to Minicon 50! This is my sixth and final year as chair of Minicon. Two years ago when I started planning out this guest list I never actually thought I would get every one. I am very excited about this convention and have been for quite some time.

We have a great convention set up for your enjoyment. Our Guests of Honor each have connections of a sort with one or more of the other Guests. For example Tom publishes Brandon's books, Michael's art has been on both Brandon and Larry's covers, Adam is Jane's son and they've written books together and Tom and Michael have been friends for years. Did you know four have previously been Guests at Minicon, with Jane the year before and the year after Larry was Guest, also Adam met his wife here. If you want to have a more intimate setting with one of our Guests there is limited seating for kaffeeklatschen, bierklatschen and a literary tea, so make sure you sign up at Registration.

When a convention reaches 50 it must have some history, so be sure to stop by the dealers room and check out the tables of memorabilia from previous conventions. While you're there, check out the Art Show where there will be painting demos all day Saturday. You just don't get a better chance than this to watch an artist at work.

If you've brought your kids, there's children's programming in the Rumpus Room and a Teen Lounge for the older set. The Gaming area will have lots of activities including a Friday Night Magic Draft with Brandon Sanderson.

If you haven't heard—and I don't know how you could have missed it—Cats Laughing is having a reunion concert Friday evening. We expect high attendance and seating is first-come, first-served. I have to thank Corwin Brust for leading the charge of this reunion and its Kickstarter campaign, with David Dyer-Bennet acting as communication liaison with the Convention Committee.

Speaking of the Convention Committee, there is no way this convention happens without the commitment of those people. The hours they put in all year was astounding. There are so many people who went above and beyond dealing with anything that came their way. I thank them now for all their hard work. They have really put together an excellent convention.

I also want to thank *you* for coming to Minicon 50 and making this the largest Minicon in 15 years! I hope you find the time to do all you want to do this weekend and enjoy it to the fullest. If you have any questions or concerns, please stop by the Registration table where they can send you in the right direction. After hours, the Consuite or the Bar can provide information as well.

Sincerely,
Joel Phillips, Minicon 50 Chair

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REGISTRATION

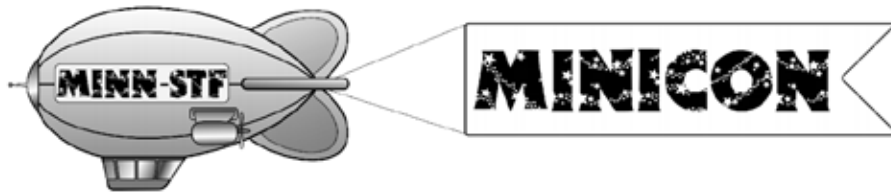
Registration is located in the second floor Grand Ballroom foyer during the following hours:

Thursday 10:00am - 10:00pm
 Friday 10:00am - 10:00pm
 Saturday 9:30am - 8:00pm
 Sunday 9:30am - 4:00pm

Outside of these hours and after Closing Ceremonies, registration can be found in the Con Bar (Room 218).

Everyone attending Minicon must register and must wear a badge for admission into convention functions.

If you lose your badge, you can get a replacement for \$1 at the registration table. If the table isn't open, find a staff member (anyone wearing a distinctive concom badge) and ask them to call the Registration folks.



CODE OF CONDUCT

Principles: Minn-stf acknowledges that interpersonal relationships in social settings are complex. Not everyone likes everyone else, and not everyone agrees with everyone else. Disagreements, friction, and vigorous debate are expected. However, interactions that become hostile or coercive do not have any part in a healthy social environment and Minn-stf commits to addressing problem behaviors.

Harassment is difficult to define, and attempts at an exact definition are subject to rules-lawyering, so we won't attempt to do that. However, repeated unwelcome behaviors are mostly likely to be construed as harassment. If someone asks you not to touch them, not to talk to them, or not to refer to them in a way that they find objectionable, and you persist in doing so, you may be harassing them. Actions that are sufficiently egregious (assault, truly hateful language, and comparable actions) fall under this policy, even if only one occurrence has been noted. In the end, harassment is judged primarily by the person who feels harassed, and actions are more important than intent.

Action: If someone tells you to stop something they perceive as harassing behavior, stop right away. If you tell someone to stop something you see as harassing behavior and they don't, you may tell us. If you don't feel comfortable telling someone to stop harassing behaviour, you may also tell us. We want to make sure everyone is heard so that together we can make Minicon a healthy, fun, enjoyable experience for everyone.

Reporting: To report violations of this code, whether or not action is desired, go to the registration desk and ask the staff there to call a designated responder. If the registration desk is closed, call the number posted on the desk. During the hours posted on this sign, we will answer calls immediately. Outside these hours, you may leave a voicemail and we will respond when registration opens the next day.

POLICIES

Reality: Minicon occurs in a hotel, which is part of a city, county, state, and country. All rules and laws imposed by these larger entities apply, even though being at a con may make you feel out of this world.

Weapons: Prop weapons or costume pieces must be secured and pose no danger to others. We reserve the right to prohibit any such items from our function rooms. And remember: You kill it, you eat it.

Smoking: FYI for out-of-towners, Minnesota is smoke free in all public places, but there are designated smoking areas outside. Please direct further questions to the hotel.

Emergencies: In case of emergency threatening life or limb, please call 911!

Minicon is entirely volunteer-run. No one is paid for helping; even the convention chairs and all the department heads pay full price for their memberships. This keeps our membership rates down, but also means that we need your help. Think of Minicon like a big party: some of us are hosting the party, but we're all in it together.

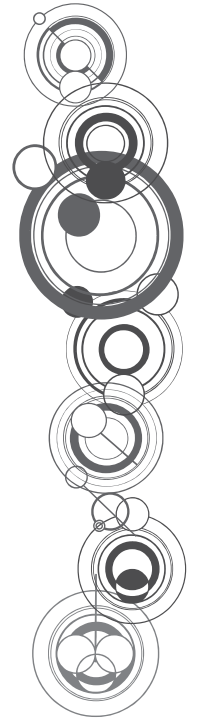
How to help out? Well, we're a pretty informal bunch. If you see something that needs doing—perhaps a bowl of chips is empty, or a programming room doesn't have enough chairs—see if you can get it done. If you're not sure how, ask the department head or nearest person who seems to know what's going on.

If everyone pitches in just a little bit like this, the convention will run very smoothly. We also have some more formalized volunteering with scheduled shifts for art show, checking badges at the consuite, and possibly a few other areas. There will be a sign-up sheet at the registration desk.

Would you like to get more involved in Minicon? Minicon is organized by the Minicon concom (convention committee) over the course of the year.

How do you get to be on the concom? Well, if you start showing up to meetings, you're a concom member. Or, to put it another way, we don't really know who's on the concom, but when forced to make a list, we write down whoever we remember being at concom meetings.

Check the *Einblatt* newsletter at www.mnstf.org/einblatt for meeting announcements.



JOFCon

Minneapolis-Saint Paul
<http://jofconmsp2015.blogspot.com>

**A Convention for
Geeky Convention Organizers
BYOF (Bring your own fez)**

**October 9-11, 2015
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel
Minneapolis - Park Place**



BY RICK SNYDER

Dark gods, grand heroes, supervillains, shapeshifters and evil librarians lurk in the corners of his imagination. Entire worlds of epic science fiction and fantasy roll through his mind like a normal person would consider a recipe for meatloaf. Great powers clash and roil in his head while he waits at spotlights.



These things drive him to great feats of storytelling and wonder. So great are these powers that he has topped *The New York Times* Hardcover Best Seller list six times with his efforts. He has been lauded numerous times by prestigious science fiction and fantasy bodies with nominations and awards like the David Gemmell Legend Award, the Hugo Award, and the World Fantasy Award (in no particular order). All of this from a man who was functionally illiterate until he was thirteen years old!

Well, that's not technically accurate. Growing up in Lincoln, Nebraska, Brandon's early affection for reading waned through his childhood until, by junior high, he would lose interest in nearly any title suggested to him. Ultimately, he wouldn't crack a book unless it was absolutely necessary. It was a dark time. Luckily for Brandon, an astute saint of a teacher, Mrs. Reader (true story!) introduced him to the book *Dragonsbane* by Barbara Hamby and LO! the vile curse of unreading was lifted!

Having rediscovered his love of reading, Brandon sought out similar authors and avidly devoured the works of David Eddings, Melanie Rawn, Robert Jordan, Anne McCaffrey, Orson Scott Card and others. So much was his enthusiasm for these flights of epic fantasy, he decided to try the craft out for himself. According to the author, the efforts were enjoyable but the results were "dreadful".

Putting away his writer's hat, he decided to focus on more scholarly endeavors and enrolled at Brigham Young University in 1994 as a Biochemistry major. Unfortunately for Brandon's mother, who was looking forward to Dr. Brandon Sanderson, Ph.D., his missionary work abroad in South Korea for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints brought him to the realization that he did not miss his science but he did miss his writing.

He graduated with a BA English having written and submitted seven novels which had accumulated a truly impressive amount of rejection letters.

Still he pressed on with his writing.

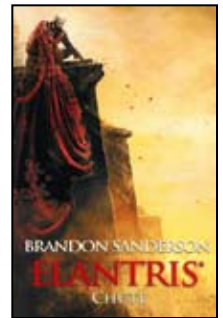
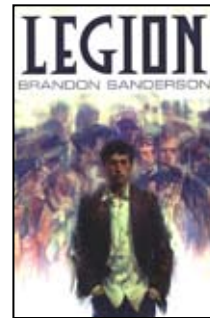
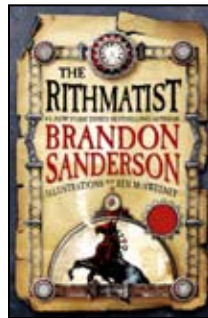
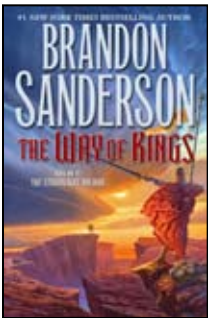
On advice during a class from *Runeworlds* author David Farland, Brandon decided to start attending conventions such as WorldCon and World Fantasy to get exposed to industry professionals and learn more about the trade. Here, Brandon met both his current agent and one of his editors, as well as many soon to be colleagues and lifelong friends.

While in his graduate program in 2003 at BYU, he got a call from an editor at Tor who wanted to buy a book that Brandon had submitted over a year and a half before. Like all the best success stories, Brandon was down to his last penny, having just bought a bus ticket home to take a job in his father's shoe store where he would waste away in humiliation before he was spared in the final seconds! Actually, that's not true at all, but he really was getting bummed about the rejections so this was quite a nice surprise.

In 2005, he held his first published novel, *Elantris*, in his hands. Tor also released his *Mistborn* trilogy, as well as many of his other works. The first *Mistborn* book, *The Final Empire*, so impressed Robert Jordan's widow, Harriet McDougal Rigney, that in 2007 she asked Brandon to finish *The Wheel of Time* series from Robert's notes.

He was obviously the right choice for the job as his first *Wheel of Time* book, *The Gathering Storm* unseated Dan Brown from the #1 spot on *The New York Times* Hardcover Fiction Best Seller list in 2009 and his second, *Towers of Midnight* toppled John Grisham from #1 in 2010. In 2013, the final chapter, *A Memory of Light* unseated the seemingly unstoppable *Gone Girl* by Gillian Flynn.

When Brandon's not somewhere like here being overwhelmingly humble, he lives in Provo, Utah, with his wife Emily and their son Joel. He also hosts a popular podcast called *Writing Excuses* ("fifteen minutes long because you're in a hurry, and we're not that smart!") with his author friends and many interesting guests. His works have been converted into audiobooks, video games, RPGs, and many other platforms as well as translated into over twenty languages including Klingon (maybe not Klingon).



BY RICHARD MUELLER

Michael Whelan is one of the finest and most important science fiction and fantasy artists, and the only living artist inducted into the Science Fiction Hall of Fame.

For over 30 years, his art has been on the covers of countless books and record albums, and his style is credited as the driving force that moved popular science fiction and fantasy art toward realism after the surrealist period of the 1950s and 1960s.

In 1974 he discovered science fiction and fantasy fandom, and entered a collection of his art at the San Diego Comic Con. By the end of the weekend, all of his pieces were sold. That gave him the confidence to show his work to DAW Books in New York, who responded enthusiastically. A few weeks later he entered the art show of the World Science Fiction Convention in Washington, D.C., where his art won first place. A German literary agent saw his work and purchased foreign rights to his art.

Buoyed by his whirlwind success, he moved to the East Coast and quickly established himself as a powerhouse, selling work to Marvel Comics, DAW, Del Rey, and Ace Books. He soon began to show his art in galleries as well.

Among his many well-deserved accolades are fifteen Hugo Awards (winning Best Professional Artist every year from 1980-86 and more total than any other painter), three World Fantasy Awards, twelve Chesley Awards, and a Spectrum Lifetime Achievement Award.



When he was inducted to the Science Fiction Hall of Fame in 2009, he was the first living artist to be inducted. Few other science fiction and fantasy artists have been as prolific or influential.

Many authors have praised his dedication to capturing the essence of the characters and stories and many wait years to get him to do the cover. His hyper-realist style incorporates bold primary colors, contrasting gradients and fractal patterns. He weaves foreground and background into dramatic and dynamic compositions that convey vast amounts of space while maintaining startling clarity and detail in their subjects.

His work is the face of many popular and well-loved books including Brandon Sanderson's *The Stormlight Archive* series, Arthur C. Clarke's *2010* and *2061*, Stephen King's *The Dark Tower* series, Anne McCaffrey's *Dragonflight* series, Isaac Asimov's *Foundation* series, Michael Moorcock's *Elric* books, and many others.

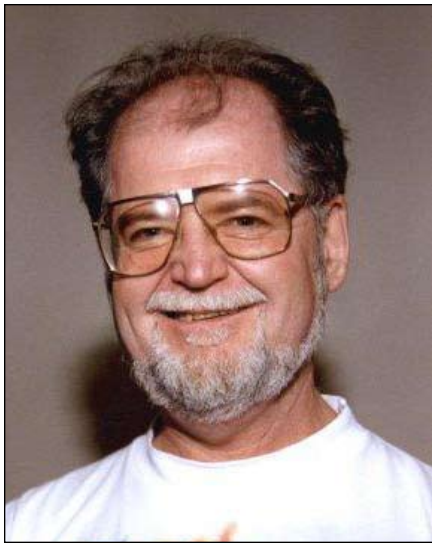
Michael has said he doesn't have one style, but he has narrowed it down to about eight approaches. He has joked that he forgets how between each painting, which is why they can look so different. That may also explain why he has pieces in art galleries, book covers, magazine covers, comics, and album covers.

Michael and his wife Audrey have been attempting to make art more accessible for many years. They started Glass Onion Graphics in 1979 to sell prints which has now been incorporated into The Shop at www.michaelwhelan.com.



BY BRIAN HAGEN

Larry Niven is an American novelist and native Californian. Mr. Niven is a Robert A. Heinlein, Nebula and multiple Hugo Award winner. Much of the science fiction that he has written over his 50+ year career has had an emphasis on hard science. In fact, he is one of the pioneers and visionaries of the genre, having contributed dozens of original stories to the hard science catalog. Many contemporaries owe Mr. Niven for blazing a trail for hard science fiction writers across the decades.



Mr. Niven's writing has delighted readers through the second half of the 20th century and the infancy of the 21st. Since 1964, when he sold his first short story, "The Coldest Place," readers of Mr. Niven's prose have been transported to worlds of imagination and wonder. Mr. Niven's gift for being able to nurture that sense of wonder in his readers' minds is perhaps one of his greatest gifts as an author. Another aspect of the writing craft that Mr. Niven has proven especially adept at is making stories based on high-level scientific concepts accessible and entertaining to a throng of readers. His deft touch at grounding science fiction in known science, but allowing the worlds and universe to have their own fantastical spark is what helps his works to be so beloved.

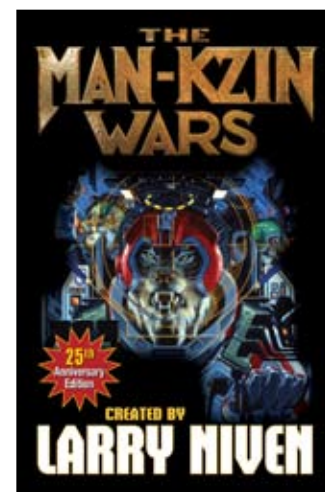
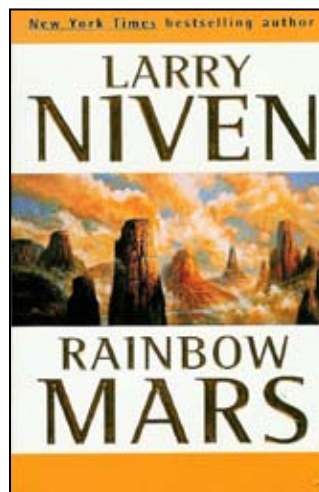
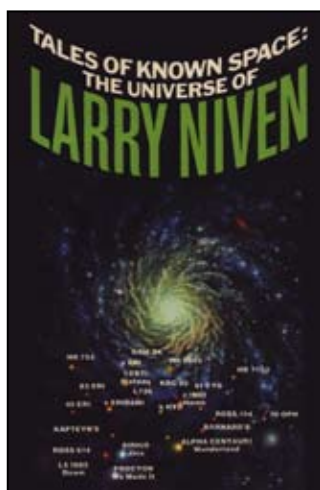
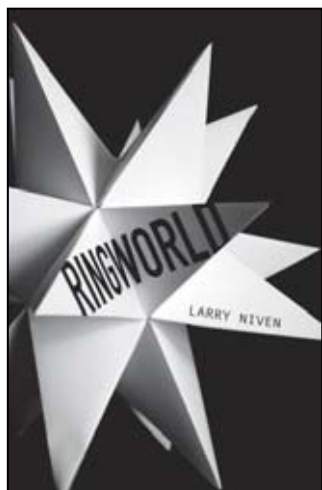
Throughout the mid to late 1960s, Mr. Niven wrote over twenty stories that would help develop the Known Space setting, and bring readers some beloved characters such as Beowulf Shaeffer. These stories would build towards what is perhaps Mr. Niven's best known novel, *Ringworld*, which won the 1970 Nebula Award, as well as both the Hugo and Locus Awards the following year. *Ringworld* itself spawned four sequels (*The Ringworld Engineers*, *The Ringworld Throne*, *Ringworld's Children*, and *Fate of Worlds: Return from the Ringworld*). The legacy of *Ringworld* has also been explored in other mediums like computer games, a tabletop role-playing game, graphic novel, manga and an homage in *Magic: The Gathering* in the form of the card "Nevinyrral's Disk."

Of course, *Ringworld* is not Mr. Niven's only genre-influencing series. The *Man-Kzin Wars* span 14 anthologies. The Kzinti first appeared as part of the Known Space series and the *Man-Kzin Wars* collected short stories from many prominent authors, all writing in Mr. Niven's Known Space universe. Mr. Niven continued to contribute short stories to the series and appears in many of the anthologies.

Mr. Niven has won numerous awards for other works as well, including *The Borderland of Sol*, *The Integral Trees*, and short stories such as "Neutron Star," "The Jigsaw Man," "All the Myriad Ways," "Not Long Before the End," "Inconstant Moon," "The Hole Man," and "The Return of William Proxmire." He also writes in collaboration with others, giving us books like *The Mote in God's Eye* (with Jerry Pournelle), *Dream Park* (with Steven Barnes), and the *Ringworld* prequels with Edward M. Lerner, *Fleet of Worlds*, *Juggler of Worlds*, *Destroyer of Worlds*, and *Betrayer of Worlds*.

Larry will be our guest of honor for the third time, returning after being the guest of honor at Minicons 7 and 19.

For more information visit www.larryniven.net.



GUEST OF HONOR JANE YOLEN

MINICON 50

BY SARI HAGEN &
EMILY STEWART

In preschool, Jane Yolen wrote the following poem:

*Bus, bus, wait for us. We
are going to school, and
we know the rule.
We were going to zoo,
but the teacher got sick.
Boo-hoo.
So, instead we went to
pick berries, but could
only find cherries.*

She often shares this poem with very young writers to help them understand the importance of starting, and continuing to write.

She continued as a writer and a few short years later, she and her brother wrote a newspaper for their New York City apartment building. The young children interviewed their neighbors and wrote all of the articles, which their mother typed and made carbon copies of. The children's newspaper sold for five cents each to the same neighbors they had interviewed, which provided an ample supply of income for candy and comics.

On her twenty-second birthday, she sold her first book. Since then, Jane Yolen has been called the Hans Christian Andersen of America, and the Aesop of the twentieth century. She is the author or editor of more than three hundred books, including around two hundred books for children and young adults, and several dozen for adults, as well as poetry, criticism, contributions to anthology collections, books on the art of writing, pedagogical works, and music. Several of Yolen's books have been published



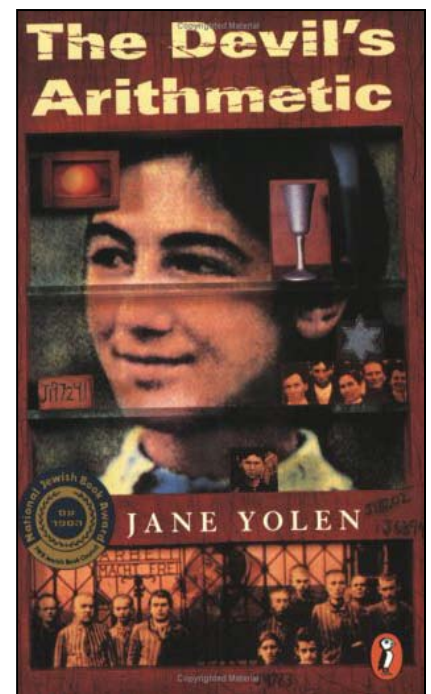
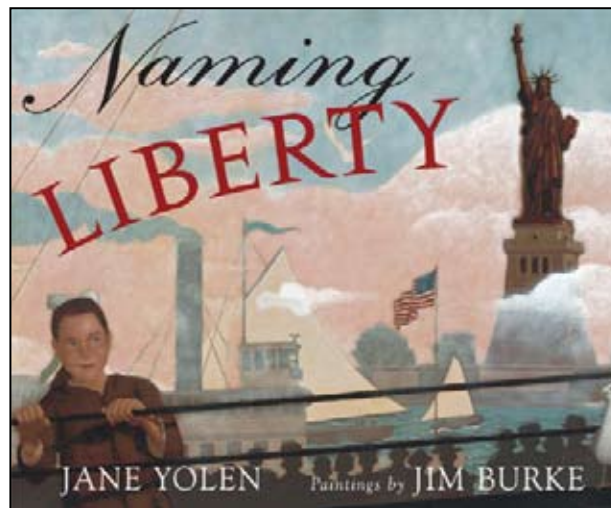
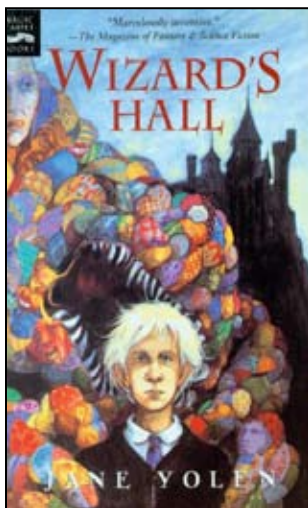
in series, and she is particularly well known for *The Devil's Arithmetic*, the *Pit Dragon* series of young adult fantasy novels, and her *Commander Toad* series.

As a folksinger and storyteller, Yolen has created works that reflect her love of music and oral folklore, including compilations of international songs, rhymes, and stories. Several of her books are autobiographical or incorporate elements from her life or the lives of her family, and her three children all contribute to her works. "I consider myself a poet and a storyteller," she once reflected. "I just want to go on writing and discovering my stories for the rest of my life because I know that in my tales I make public what is private, transforming my own joy and sadness into tales for the people."

A multi-award winning author, recipient of the Nebula, World Fantasy Award, and The World Fantasy Award for Life Achievement, Jane Yolen has also received Lewis Carroll Shelf Awards for *The Emperor and the Kite* and *The Girl Who Loved the Wind*, and a Golden Kite Award for *The Girl Who Cried Flowers and Other Tales*.

Her other noteworthy achievements for which there are no awards include giving her readers an opportunity to know our shared history from a vantage point that is broader than that which is available through mainstream media, custom tailoring her storytelling to enthralled audiences, offering helpful resources for teachers and writers through her website, and introducing first graders to the word "lavalier."

For more information visit www.JaneYolen.com.



GUEST OF HONOR
ADAM STEMPL

BY JORY PHILLIPS
 & AARON VANDER
 GIESSEN

Adam Stemple is a man who wears many hats. In his own words, he is an author, musician, poker player, and web designer... in no particular order.



According to at least one long-time Minicon attendee, Adam Stemple moved to Minneapolis to join the band Cats Laughing. Through an excellent combination of proximity and camaraderie, Minicon has benefitted greatly over the years and is delighted to have him as a Guest of Honor this year.

Adam's music is influenced by the rich musical heritage that the Twin Cities fosters. He's been a part of many influential bands over the years, including Cats Laughing, a folk-rock band most active in the late 1980s and early 1990s. He's also been the lead singer/guitarist for Boiled in Lead, a "rock 'n reel, punk-folk, country-music-from-many-countries" band.

He's been a member and producer of The Tim Malloys, worked with The Flash Girls, Folk Underground, Lorraine a' Malena and Neil Gaiman and co-written nine songs with Steven Brust for an enhanced Boiled in Lead album/novel *Songs from The Gypsy*, which also featured the full text of the novel *The Gypsy* by Steven Brust and Megan Lindholm.

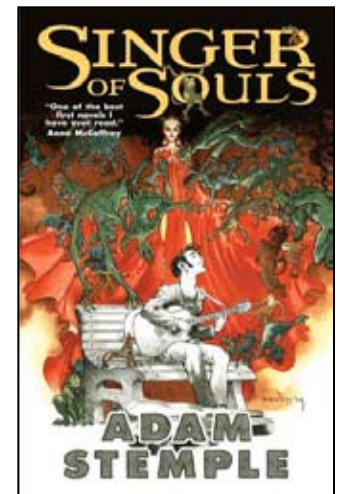
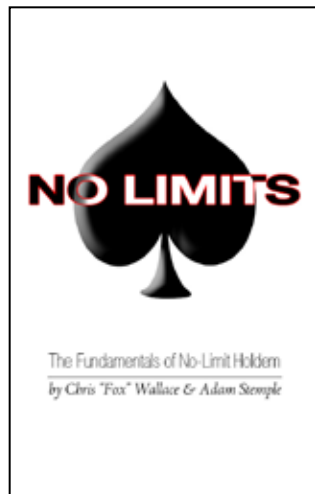
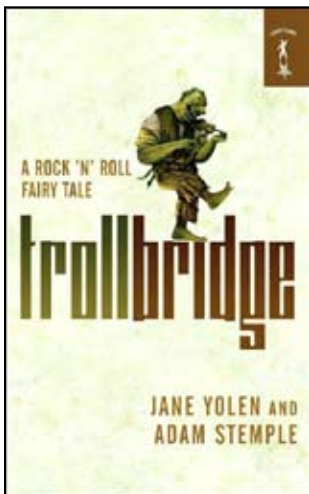
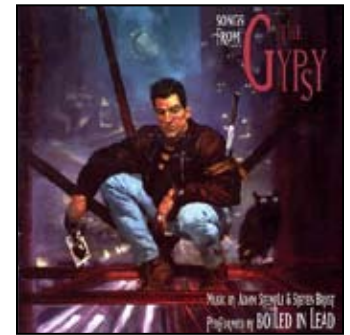
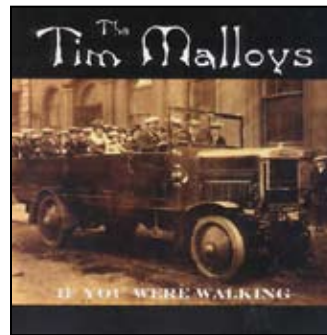
In addition to his music, Adam has written the novels *Singer of Souls* and *Steward of Song* (both published by Tor) as well

as many short stories, the first of which to sell was "Robin Hood v.1.5.3," which became the predecessor to *Sherwood: Original Stories from the World of Robin Hood*. His works have been featured in several anthologies, including multiple times in *Paradox*. Not only has he collaborated in songwriting, he has also collaborated with Jane Yolen (his mother and also a Guest of Honor) to produce *Pay the Piper* and *Troll Bridge* and several other works. In fact, his work has had him weaving between the worlds of music and books quite a bit, including the previously mentioned collaborations.

If all that did not keep him busy, Adam is a founding member of PokerFox.net and a current instructor at PokerXFactor. He is an experienced poker coach specializing in Texas Hold'em and alternate games such as Omaha, Stud, and Razz. He also teaches tournament strategy and tilt control, has published two books (with fellow PokerFox guru Chris Wallace), and is featured in *Full House: 10 Stories About Poker*.

To keep himself well-rounded, Adam also does web design, drawing, poetry and photography.

For more information visit www.adamstemple.com.



BY JODY WURL

Tom Doherty of Tor Books not only publishes great stories, he tells some great ones himself. Unlike his authors' fantastic tales, his are grounded in the reality of the publishing industry and the history of science fiction, fantasy and horror literature. He can tell tales about many great writers as well as the history of fandom, and how the two intersect to generate the energy that keeps the genres we love alive and relevant. Attend one of his panels this weekend, or say "Hi" if you run into him, and you are bound to be treated to a great anecdote. Doherty has been a part of fandom for a long time.



After a few years working in the publishing industry, he founded Tor Books in 1980, "to publish better science fiction than anybody else in the country." *Locus Magazine*, the professional journal for the science fiction and fantasy field, has awarded him Best Publisher 27 times, and his editorial staff and authors have won or been nominated for too many awards to easily count.

Patrick Nielsen Hayden, a senior editor at Tor, once said, "One of Tom's strengths has been his willingness to work with an array of editors who represent very diverse tastes, even within particular genres." Tor has published authors such as Brandon Sanderson, Jane Yolen, Larry Niven, Andre Norton, Gene Wolfe, Pat Murphy, Ben Bova, Maureen F. McHugh, Orson Scott Card, Gwyneth Jones, Bruce Sterling, and Harry Harrison. Authors with a Minnesota connection include Poul Anderson, Gordon R. Dickson, Emma Bull, Will Shetterly, Steven Brust, and Pamela Dean.

Doherty and his company watch publishing trends carefully, often positioning Tor on the bleeding edge of what's coming next. In 2008 they started the website tor.com, sharing stories, book reviews, and interviews, and becoming one of the first sites to build an online community around science fiction and fantasy. In 2014 tor.com launched its own imprint, focusing on publishing "stories at their right length," which means readers have a wonderful new source of novellas, short novels, and serial works, formats that were immensely popular during the Golden Age of science fiction. I, for one, am excited to have a new place to discover authors and fast reads I can consume during the all too brief gaps in my schedule.

Tor/Forge was an early adopter when it came to e-publishing and Doherty kept his ear to the ground. In 2012 Tor was one of the first publishers to start offering e-book titles DRM-free. "Our authors and readers have been asking for this for a long time," said president and publisher Tom Doherty in a press release. "They're a technically sophisticated bunch, and DRM is a constant annoyance to them. It prevents them from using legitimately purchased e-books in perfectly legal ways, like moving them from one kind of e-reader to another."

Tom Doherty Associates actually encompasses a number of different imprints, including Tor which launched in 1980 and focuses on science fiction and fantasy; Forge which launched in 1993 and focuses on nonfiction as well as thrillers, suspense, mysteries, historicals, westerns, romances and horror; and Orb which launched in 1992 to pay homage to genre classics by bringing them back into print. I especially appreciate Orb's efforts to keep some of the best award-winning and notable books in science fiction, fantasy, and horror available to readers like me.

Recognizing that the best way to keep our favorite genres viable and relevant is by bringing in new readers and potential writers, Doherty also works hard to publish books for young readers. The Starscape imprint publishes genre books for ages 10 and up (grades 5 and up) and the Tor Teen imprint publishes for ages 13 and up (grades 8 and up). Tor even partnered with NASA in 2011 to pair authors with NASA scientists and engineers so that authors get the details right in stories that could inspire a life-long love affair with both science and science fiction.

Doherty builds and manages his team carefully, and makes it very clear where the credit for Tor's success lies. "It's the sum of the talent of the people who work here... Publishing doesn't need plants and equipment the way you do in some other industries. You need the right people." Luckily for Tor and its imprints, Doherty has a keen eye for talent and a vast reservoir of knowledge to pull from. He's the right person to lead the work of this publishing powerhouse.

Tor is an old Anglo-Saxon word that means summit or peak. It's a great choice of logo for this company that has been a guiding landmark in the publishing landscape for 35 years. May they continue to produce even more work that will stand the test of time.



If we had a music theme for Minicon 50 it would seem to be “Welcome Back.” Beginning with the Cats Laughing reunion Friday night and Saturday’s concert schedule we have musicians returning to Minicon from recent years to days long past. Minicon music is special. Whether you are new here, a regular member or returning, you are in for a treat. Concert schedules will be posted outside the music room.

FEATURED MUSICIANS

ADAM STEMPLER, Minneapolis, MN

In addition to his performance in the Cats Laughing Reunion Concert, Adam will be gracing the Minicon music stage with a solo concert. Much is said about him elsewhere in this program book.

A long-time Minicon musician and friend. Welcome back to Minicon 50 Music Guest of Honor, Adam Stemple.

GRAHAM LEATHERS, Minneapolis, MN

Graham Leathers will make you smile; more likely than not he will make you laugh out loud. He collects and writes fun and clever songs, often with an odd twist. “Don’t Swear at Machinery” and “Chocolate Is a Vegetable” will creep into your head days from now. This is not to say he can’t come up with serious and poignant as well; “Guest Room” and “Isolation,” are fine examples.

A longtime resident of Winnipeg, he is one of us now, making his home in Minneapolis.

Welcome back Graham Leathers.

CHESHIRE MOON, Ames, IA

Cheshire Moon is a fanciful melding of trickster bird Lizzie Crowe and mad hatter Eric Coleman. They are part of the growing music genre known as MythPunk, bringing old gods and folk tales into modern day, and bringing faerie tale princesses into the light of dark magic. They weave journeys of song and story, bringing their listeners along for the ride. Care to come along?

It’s been a few years since they were last here. Welcome back Pegasus Award winners, Eric and Lizzie.

DAVE CLEMENT, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Minneapolis fandom helped draw Dave out of “musical retirement,” in the 1980s. He has had a strong connection to Minicon ever since. Few singers involve an audience or music circle as completely as Dave does with his characteristic deep warm baritone voice and eclectic repertoire. Dave has called himself an ambassador for Canadian folk and fiddle music. Performing and recording on his own, with Dandelion Wine and with countless other musicians Dave Clement has become one of the most well-known names in fiddle music worldwide. He has won both the Pegasus and Aurora awards.

We welcome back Fiddle Hall of Famer, Dave Clement.

DAVID PERRY, Chicago Il

While discovering Minneapolis fandom and its related music scene, David Perry performed in Twin Cities bands including Borderlands and Tramps and Hawkens. Since his move to Chicago several years ago he has continued performing on his own and in The Tooles. The Tooles first CD will be released later his April.

Welcome back to Minicon, David Perry.

THE NATE BUCKLIN BAND, Twin Cities Area

The Nate Bucklin Band formed in late 2014 to record Nate’s 6th album, titled *My Favorite Whirlwind*. They plan to release the album at Minicon 50, along with re-releases of Nate’s previous albums, including *The First Overnight Guest*, *Resolutions*, and *Butter Side Down*. These three were previously released on cassette tapes. The band consists of Nate Bucklin, guitar and vocals, David Emerson, keyboards and vocals, Jason Becker, bass, Felicia Herman, vocals, and Jeff Schalles, drums.

Appearing for the first time as a band, but familiar individually to Minicon music, welcome (back) to The Nate Bucklin Band.

RIVERFOLK, Minneapolis, MN

Featuring the vocal and guitar harmonies of Becca Leathers and Chas Somdahl, Riverfolk plays a mix of folk-flavored tunes old and new. This includes songs that are familiar, songs that are less than familiar and originals. They bring in a little blues, country and even a couple of show tunes. The fun they have playing together seems to be contagious and is shared by their audiences.

Minicon 50 marks Riverfolk’s thirteenth consecutive appearance at Minicon. They must know somebody.

TERESA CHANDLER, Hudson, WI

Teresa Chandler is an American singer/songwriter of the 1990’s. She continues her deeply personal studies of the effects of time and gravity on the human body, humor and output. The Minicon stage will once again be used to collect data. She is seeking participants to act as “audience” – there are no exclusion criteria.

First joining us at Minicon 44, we welcome back Teresa Chandler.

ART SHOW

The Minicon art show is a non-juried show open to all artists who'd like to submit artwork in a science fiction and/or fantasy theme. You can also see original work by Artist GoH Michael Whelan. Most art is for sale, although some may be just for show. Art can be bid upon or, if the artist chooses, be immediately purchased at a set price.

See the programming schedule for special artist events and demonstrations taking place in the Art Show area.

Art Show Hours:

Thursday 3:00 - 7:00pm
Friday 10:00am - 7:00pm
Saturday 10:00am - 7:00pm
Sunday 11:00am - 3:00pm



SHOCKWAVE RADIO THEATER

Shockwave Radio Theater was born in the summer of 1979 by programmers at KFAI-FM Minneapolis, Fresh Air Radio. Two of them, Chris Dronen and Everett Forte, came to the Fallcon that autumn and asked if anyone wanted to help out on their science fiction show. We did, and took over. The broadcast show lasted for 27½ years, until 2007, and continues today as a digital archive and the occasional Live Stage Show or YouTube Video.

Shockwave Radio performed Live Stage Shows at conventions from the 1980 MN-StF Fallcon to the 2004 Marscon, but mostly at Minicons. For nearly two decades, we were an integral part of Minicon Opening Ceremonies. For Minicon 50, we plan on doing something special. We don't have the Great Hall Stage of years past, and the technology has changed, so what we do will be different... and yet similar. And there will be a part for YOU. Yeah, we're just that good.

The writers and performers on Shockwave Radio are known as Shockwave Riders, and are too many to acknowledge here, but a special shoutout goes to GoH Jane Yolen who has trod the audio boards as Abbott Ann Costello and Captain Audio, to name but a few.

THE NEXT GENERATION

The Next Generation is a place for teens to play board games, watch movies, and just hang out with other teens at Minicon. We have a lot of different board games, movies, and fun events at night for everyone.

Some events are a movie marathon Friday afternoon and a Super Smash Brothers Melee tournament Friday night. Please see the whiteboard with schedules of events in other areas (like gaming and rumpus room).

RUMPUS ROOM

The Rumpus Room is our place for kids programming, craftiness and other fun stuff. There will be puzzles, games, toys and art materials always available to play with. There are structured kids activities all four days of Minicon 50, as you can see on our schedule on page 23.

COSTUMING

We would like to invite everyone to join the Minicon Costume Revel this year. We will be gathering at 7:00pm on Saturday in the Edina room. Forms will be available for entry at the event or can be printed from the website. Trophies will be given to the top scores in each experience level along with judges' favorites. No performances required, just a fun chance to show off and talk about your costumes. We want YOU!

SCIENCE ROOM

Come see how to transform Science FICTION into Science FACT and try your hand at landing the space shuttle. Visit the Minicon Science room in the Grand Ballroom and view hard science exhibits from many groups.

DEALERS

Dealers are located in the Grand Ballroom along with the art show and science room. Here you will a variety of books, collectibles, jewelry, clothing and more.

Dealer Room Hours:

Thursday 3:00 - 7:00pm
Friday 10:00am - 7:00pm
Saturday 10:00am - 7:00pm
Sunday 11:00am - 3:00pm

THURSDAY			
3:30pm	<p>What's New for Middle Grade Readers The focus of youth fiction has been on Young Adult for years now, but there are great things happening in Middle Grade fiction too. What's new, what's hot, and what kind of books do we hope to see in the coming years?</p>	Jane Yolen Laura Krents Will Alexander	Krushenko's
5:00pm	<p>Rock Fantasy! Minnesota fantasy writers <i>love</i> rock and roll! This panel discusses the influence of rock on their writing.</p>	David Lenander Elizabeth Bear Emma Bull Steven Brust	Krushenko's
	<p>Fool's Gold: When Adaptations Go Bad The <i>D&D</i> movie—what was Jeremy Irons thinking? <i>Battleship</i>—need we say more? And just because the result of an adaptation isn't a great work doesn't mean it isn't enjoyable—a book need not be great literature to be a great read.</p>	John Stanfield Scott Lynch	Veranda 5/6
6:00pm	<p>Brandon Sanderson Creative Writing Lecture (6:00-7:20pm) Watch Brandon distance-teach his Brigham Young University course entitled "How to Write Science Fiction and Fantasy" over the Internet. The course is focused on the nuts and bolts of having a writing career. Characterization, worldbuilding, plotting and publication will be presented to you and to his class simultaneously via telepresence.</p>	Brandon Sanderson	Ballroom East
6:30pm	<p>Cats Laughing Panel</p>	Adam Stemple Emma Bull Steven Brust Lojo Russo Scott Keever	Krushenko's
	<p>Speculative Fiction Poetry Open Mic Come one, come all. Bring your poetry to share with the group—everyone who wants will get a few minutes to read until we run out of time.</p>	Terry A. Garey	Veranda 3/4
	<p>The Lure of Ages Past Bronze age mysticism, Edwardian pomp, Civil War relived—what draws us to historical fiction (real or alternate)? Which authors are we reading? What makes the past such an alluring playground?</p>	Aimee Kuzenski Dana M. Baird Magenta Griffith Ozgur K. Sahin	Veranda 5/6
8:00pm	<p>Opening Ceremonies</p>	Adam Stemple Brandon Sanderson Dave Romm Jane Yolen Joel Phillips Larry Niven Matt Strait Michael Whelan Tom Doherty	Ballroom East
9:30pm	<p>Baron Dave Romm Presents Shockwave Radio Theater</p>	Dave Romm	Ballroom East
	<p>Sex with Aliens Writers talk about their stories (safe for work and non-) about sex and romance with other sorts of creatures. Bonus: How much will Eleanor and Naomi blush?</p>	Adam Stemple Eleanor A. Arnason Naomi K. Kritzer	Krushenko's
	<p>Pushing Society's Boundaries Without Losing Your Own Let's be honest—many portrayals of women in fantasy/anime/comics/etc are overtly sexualized, but just because you make a costume like that doesn't mean you're "open for business." Cosplaying with confidence, tips for deflecting bad behavior.</p>	Aimee Kuzenski Jessica Guggenheim John Stanfield Lee C. Hillman Ozgur K. Sahin	Veranda 5/6
	<p>Bierklatsch with Michael Whelan</p>	Michael Whelan	Bar

FRIDAY			
11:30am	<p>The Scribbles Interview with GoH Jane Yolen</p>	<p>Emma Bull Jane Yolen Nate Bucklin Pamela Dean Patricia C. Wrede Steven Brust</p>	Krushenko's
	<p>Making a Game from Scratch Talking through the start-to-finish art of self-publishing your games, from getting people involved, making the right art, to designing the right format and getting it printed.</p>	<p>Chris Hajny Jason Glaser Lindsay Nohl</p>	Veranda 3/4
	<p>Crafting in Spaaaaaace Archaeology has determined that explorers had a tradition of crafting (e.g. nautical crews used needles and scissors for repair). It seems logical to assume that crafting will be used in the space frontier as well. What type of crafting will appear in space travel and colonization? What are the best skills to learn and teach in establishing a new colony? Why isn't crafting seen in media SF?</p>	<p>Bonnie Somdahl Elise A. Matthesen Jessica Guggenheim Teresa Nielsen Hayden</p>	Veranda 5/6
1:00pm	<p>Second Foundation Meeting: The Works of Larry Niven Back in 1983, in the very first Krushenko's, the then-new speculative fiction book club Second Foundation held a discussion of the works of Author Guest of Honor Larry Niven with Mr. Niven present and participating. We'd love to repeat the magic.</p>	<p>Eric M. Heideman Larry Niven</p>	Krushenko's
	<p>Anime and Manga for Speculative Fiction Fans From the days of Osamu Tezuka's <i>Astro Boy</i> and its intelligent robots, manga and anime with science fiction and fantasy themes have been popular. Let's discuss some of the most interesting ones for speculative fiction fans, current and vintage.</p>	<p>Scott K. Jamison Alec Austin John Stanfield Ozgur K. Sahin</p>	Veranda 3/4
	<p>Techniques in Science Fiction and Fantasy Art From traditional means to digital—is one technique better than the other? How do you choose? How does technique affect your end result?</p>	<p>Christine Mitzuk Spenn Laramie K. Sasseville Michael Whelan</p>	Veranda 5/6
2:00pm	<p>Literary Tea with Jane Yolen</p>	<p>Jane Yolen</p>	Bar/Consuite
2:30pm	<p>GoH Interview: Tom Doherty</p>	<p>Tom Doherty</p>	Edina
	<p>Cinematic Gold A quest for the best fantastic (science fiction, fantasy, horror, and unclassifiable) films released since Minicon 1 in January 1968. Prepare to brainstorm!</p>	<p>David Christenson Eric M. Heideman</p>	Krushenko's
	<p>The Art & Business of Gaming There are many manufacturers of games, small and large. What are their art directors looking for, and how do they choose the art for their products?</p>	<p>Christine Mitzuk Lindsay Nohl Rachel Kronick</p>	Veranda 3/4
	<p>...and Magrathea Ground to a Halt Worldbuilding can be hard—what is the biggest thing that caused you to stop? What was that major obstacle, and how did you overcome it?</p>	<p>Blake Hausladen Brandon Sanderson Donna Munro Larry Niven</p>	Veranda 5/6
3:00pm	<p>Lee Aarons Reading Lee will read from <i>The Realmwalker Chronicles</i>.</p>	<p>Lee Aarons</p>	Veranda 1/2
4:00pm	<p>Making Your Pitch So you've made this thing—maybe it's a book, maybe it's a piece of art. What is the best way to approach a professional in your industry? And once you've got them in front of you, how do you sell them your work?</p>	<p>Aimee Kuzenski Lindsay Nohl Tom Doherty Tyler Tork</p>	Krushenko's

FRIDAY			
4:00pm	Jane Yolen & Adam Stemple GoH Reading (4:00-5:30pm)	Adam Stemple Jane Yolen	Veranda 1/2
	Drones They're here! What will you do when Amazon drops your bowling ball through your roof?	Chris Beskar John Stanfield Neil Rest	Veranda 3/4
	Publishing After the Door Slams What do you do when you discover you can't sell to the big New York publishers? Writers talk about self-publishing, small press, Kickstarters, short stories, and more.	Blake Hausladen Christa Yelich-Koth Eleanor A. Arnason Jason Glaser Naomi K. Kritzer	Veranda 5/6
	Larry Niven on the Small Screen (4:00-6:00pm) Screenings of "Inconstant Moon" from <i>The Outer Limits</i> (1996) and "The Slaver Weapon" from <i>Star Trek: The Animated Series</i> (1973).	Larry Niven	Cinema Obscura
5:30pm	GoH Interview: Brandon Sanderson	Brandon Sanderson Joel Phillips	Edina
	The Space Program in the Obama Years, Year Six Continuing a long-term series about the challenges facing space science and exploration under the cash-strapped Obama administration.	Eric M. Heideman Ben Huset Michael Kauper Dave Buth	Krushenko's
	Elizabeth Bear & Scott Lynch Reading	Elizabeth Bear Scott Lynch	Veranda 1/2
	Beginnings in SF Everyone has their own origin stories—how we found SF and how we found fandom. How have these paths into speculative fiction and its communities changed with the new generation? What effect has the Internet had on the finding of fandom?	Jerry Stearns John W. Taylor Lee C. Hillman Ozgur K. Sahin	Veranda 3/4
	Gaming While Parenting Can you keep up your weekly game night after having a baby? How do you play Smallworld with little hands trying to grab stuff off the table? How to still have fun gaming while taking care of your kids.	Beth Kinderman Jason Glaser Kelly Strait Matt McMillan Matt Strait	Veranda 5/6
6:00pm	Art Show Reception: Meet the Artists Art, wine, cheese and a minimal amount of snootiness*.	Alec Phillips Michael Whelan	Art Show
6:30pm	Tyler Tork Reading (6:30-7:00pm) Tyler is the writing alias of local long-time fan Andre Guirard.	Tyler Tork	Veranda 1/2
7:00pm	Terry Pratchett Memorial Terry Pratchett, Minicon 40 Guest of Honor, passed away this March. Let's discuss Discworld, his satire, his humor, his anger, his work regarding assisted suicide and his legacy as a whole.	Cheri Rice Fred Leonard Greg Ketter Matthew Gress Steve Hubbard	Edina
	Laurel Winter Reading Laurel will read from various and sundry delights and de-darks.	Laurel Winter	Veranda 1/2
	The Zombie Connection Why are there so many tales about zombies, and why do they eat our brains? Vampires and werewolves are out—what is it about this specific time in history that gives zombies such a powerful symbolism, particularly in YA? Why are we so compelled?	Aimee Kuzenski Donna Munro John Stanfield Lee C. Hillman	Veranda 3/4

FRIDAY			
7:00pm	The Business of Brandon What it's like working with/for this GoH.	Brandon Sanderson Michael Whelan Peter Ahlstrom Tom Doherty	Veranda 5/6
8:00pm	Cats Laughing Reunion Concert: A Long Time Gone (8:00-Midnight) SisterTree will open with a short set. Note: This event is being recorded (video and audio) for distribution and display on television, the Internet, and other channels. By attending this concert, you are giving your consent to be videotaped, and waiving any claims regarding the use of your image.	Adam Stemple Emma Bull Steven Brust Lojo Russo Scott Keever Richard Tatge	Ballroom East
8:30pm	Inappropriate (Mis)uses of Astrophysical Matter Forget about using the universe for good—that's not the human way of doing things! Murder by black hole was used as a plot device by Larry Niven in his Hugo-winning "The Borderland of Sol." Dominic Green postulated using a Penrose accelerator as a waste management "solution" in his Hugo-nominated story, "The Clockwork Atom Bomb." A discussion of the Pandora's Box aspect of particle physics and astrophysics within SF.	Bill Higgins Chris Beskar Larry Niven Michael Kingsley	Krushenko's
	Geeks Like Beer You may not be a home-brewer (yet), but it's still cool. What is it? How does it work? We'll talk styles, breweries, books of beer. Maybe even a home-brew tasting.	Deanna Sjolander Jacqueline Stoner Jessica Guggenheim Kathleen Cullhane	Veranda 3/4
	Why Are We Still Having This Panel? There are panels that have been done a thousand times (you know the ones we mean)—which ones are still necessary? Which will we all gouge our eyes out if we have to see again?	Jeanne M. Mealy John W. Taylor Leane Verhulst Michael Merriam Michael Whelan	Veranda 5/6
9:00pm	Magic Draft with Brandon	Brandon Sanderson	Gaming
11:59pm	SF Pub Quiz! Assemble your team—or play alone if you're cocky—and compete for prizes.	Brian	Bar

SATURDAY			
10:00am	Golden Age of SF When is the best age to find sf? When do we have the best "sense of wonder"?	John Stanfield Lee C. Hillman Ozgur K. Sahin	Veranda 3/4
	All About Coffee During the American Revolution, terrorists dumped tea into Boston Harbor and tea became symbolic of British overlords. Thus began our love affair with coffee, arguably America's favorite legal drug delivery system. Let's talk about the history of coffee, coffee in fiction, coffee in fandom, coffee in pseudo-science, great recipes containing coffee, how to make the perfect cup, and the chemical process that causes run-on sentences. Note: A special cupping will take place. Supplies are limited.	Aimee Kuzenski Emma Bull Magenta Griffith Ryan Guggenheim Sharon Allsup Tyler Tork	Veranda 5/6
	Carleton SFA Meet-Up		Garden Court
11:00am	Jason Glaser Reading	Jason Glaser	Veranda 1/2
	Artist Live! with Spenn (11:00am-1:00pm) Drawing	Spenn	Art Show

SATURDAY			
11:30am	Kaffeeklatsch with Michael Whelan	Michael Whelan	Bar/Consuite
	GoH Interview Larry Niven	Larry Niven Rebecca Lovatt	Edina
	Recreating the Fairy Tale Fairy tales, in their own quirky way, are more prominent now than in past years. They are simply everywhere—they have infiltrated poetry, novels, musicals, TV, advertising, movies, music... and there seems no stopping them. They are imagined, re-imagined, stood on their heads, flung into outer space, moved into the 21st century and beyond. What is it about the fairy tale that makes it so compelling? Where will we take them—or they take us—next?	Adam Stemple Elise A. Matthesen Emma Bull Jane Yolen Pamela Dean Will Alexander	Krushenko's
	Hobbies As Research When reading about something isn't enough—sometimes you have to <i>do</i> it to really know what it's all about. When does this investigation go beyond just research and start to take over? Or, how do you turn your hobby into an excuse to write a novel?	Aimee Kuzenski John Stanfield Lee C. Hillman Ozgur K. Sahin	Veranda 3/4
	Designing a Cover from Concept - and Contract - to Page Watch as artist David Lee Pancake live-renders a cover art concept after working with author Blake Hausladen to suss out the contract and cover design for one of his upcoming novels.	Blake Hausladen David Lee Pancake	Veranda 5/6
12:00pm	Lois McMaster Bujold Q&A and Reading Lois will be reading from the first chapter of her new Cordelia Vorkosigan novel, <i>Gentleman Jole and the Red Queen</i> .	Lois McMaster Bujold	Veranda 1/2
1:00pm	Designing a Cover: The Rendering (1:00-3:00pm) Watch as David Lee Pancake live renders cover art for Blake Hausladen's book following contract negotiation and panel discussion.	Blake Hausladen David Lee Pancake	Art Show
	Adventures in Collaboration Many of our attending authors have co-authored narrative works with other writers. How did such collaborations come about? How do authors with distinct voices come together to create a cohesive tale? What affect (or benefit) does collaborating have for an author at the beginning of his/her career versus when it is well-developed?	Adam Stemple Ctein Heidi Stemple Jane Yolen Jerry Stearns Larry Niven Marissa Lingen	Krushenko's
	Mary Petrie Reading (1:00-1:30 pm) Also a chance to learn a bit about self-publishing, character development, and making the paranormal real.	Mary Petrie	Veranda 1/2
	Is This the Golden Age of Board Games? It's been claimed, but is it true? Is this really the best time to be a tabletop gamer? How do you keep up with all the new stuff? How do you find the ones you'll like and make the best of the new era?	John Stanfield Matt McMillan Ozgur K. Sahin Thorin Tatge	Veranda 3/4
	Dude, Where's my Worldcon? Can Minneapolis host a worldcon? SMOFs from across the country will engage in the debate. Will we make it for 2073?	Bill Thomasson Leane Verhulst Mark Olson Michael Kingsley Michael Lee Neil Rest	Veranda 5/6
1:30pm	Steven Brust & Skyler White Reading	Skyler White Steven Brust	Veranda 1/2
2:00pm	Hugo Announcements	Joel Phillips	Cinema Obscura

SATURDAY			
2:00pm	Kaffeeklatsch with Larry Niven	Larry Niven	Bar/Consuite
2:30pm	Will SF be destroyed by its own success? What do we do now that the walls are down? The <i>Guardian</i> has an SF columnist, and the boundary between SF and literary fiction is becoming increasingly blurred. The SF ghetto may have been intended to keep our sort from contaminating literary fiction, but it also made it easier to find our community. Now that nerds have become mainstream, do we still have a future or will we dissolve into the greater society like Jello in the ocean?	Eleanor A. Arnason Eric M. Heideman Naomi K. Kritzer	Krushenko's
	Brandon Sanderson GoH Reading	Brandon Sanderson	Veranda 1/2
	Artistic Bravery Releasing your work into the wild can be the scariest step in the artistic process. If you want people to see your work, you have to take the first step and share it. Hear stories from writers and artists detailing the good, bad, and ugly when it comes to sharing.	Christa Yelich-Koth Elizabeth Bear Lindsay Nohl Michael Merriam Michael Whelan Spenn	Veranda 3/4
	Social Pressure in Fandom Social standards in fandom often operate on a pendulum, swinging from very laid back (<i>anything goes/don't be such a prude</i>) to very cautious (<i>you can't say that!</i>). We have yet to find a happy medium. How do we, as a community, deal with that tension and find the acceptable range of acceptable? How do we draw boundaries without tightening the noose?	Aimee Kuzenski Jessica Guggenheim Michael Lee Tyler Tork	Veranda 5/6
3:30pm	Mass Signing (3:30-6:00pm)		Garden Court
	Artist Live! with Christine Mitzuk Oil painting - Live model demonstration (3:30-5:30pm)	Christine Mitzuk	Art Show
	Marissa Lingen & Alec Austin Reading	Alec Austin Marissa Lingen	Veranda 1/2
4:00pm	Kaffeeklatsch with Tom Doherty	Tom Doherty	Bar/Consuite
	Women in YA While the adult bestseller author list can often be described as a sausage-fest, the best sellers in YA are overwhelmingly written by women. Popular series like <i>Hunger Games</i> , <i>Harry Potter</i> , <i>Twilight</i> , and <i>Divergent</i> are just a few examples. YA is arguably dominated by women authors and most often marketed to young women and girls. Are the portrayals of women and girls in YA fiction positive portrayals?	Dana M. Baird Donna Munro Jane Yolen Laura Krentz Lee C. Hillman	Krushenko's
	Almost There So, we don't have flying cars. What "technology of the future" is actually right around the corner? A discussion of technologies that we almost have licked, including nuclear fusion, anti-gravity, cloaking devices, and teleportation.	Bill Higgins Bill Thomasson Chris Beskar Ctein Neil Rest Tyler Tork	Veranda 3/4
	Writing <i>The Gypsy</i> It was a suite of songs that became a novel that became a CD. GoH Adam Stemple and Steven Brust discuss the germination of the idea and how it grew.	Adam Stemple Steven Brust	Veranda 5/6
4:30pm	Pamela Dean Reading	Pamela Dean	Veranda 1/2

SATURDAY

5:30pm	Artist Live! with Jeff Lee Johnson Digital	Jeff Lee Johnson	Art Show
	The Merging of Media & Literature in Fandom Maybe you're a Star Trek fan, but you're really interested in the tie-in books, more than the movies. Let's discuss crossover pathways (media franchise that became books, books that became video games, and so on) into fandom. Are they compatible or at war?	Jason Glaser John Stanfield Lee C. Hillman	Krushenko's
	Naomi Kritzer Reading (5:30-6:00 pm)	Naomi K. Kritzer	Veranda 1/2
	My First Time Many of us (obviously) were not at Minicon 1, but we all have our "first" Minicon—when was yours? What was it like? How has the con changed, how is it still the same?	Jeanne M. Mealy John W. Taylor Jon Singer Michael Lee Neil Rest Rachel Kronick	Veranda 3/4
	The Evolving Business of Books Some of our guests have been involved with the publishing industry in one way or another for fifty years. How have things changed? What has stayed the same? How has the proliferation of small press and self-publication changed the field?	Blake Hausladen Laramie K. Sasseville Lee Aarons Mary Petrie Michael Whelan Tom Doherty	Veranda 5/6
6:00pm	Michael Merriam Reading Michael will read from his latest novel and from a forthcoming work.	Michael Merriam	Veranda 1/2
6:30pm	Art Auction	Alec Phillips	Art Show
7:00pm	The Year in SF Our annual review of the best (or, at least, some of the most interesting) works released in the past year.	David Lenander Greg L. Johnson Patrick Marsh Russell Letson	Krushenko's
	MinnSpec Rapid-Fire Readings		Veranda 1/2
	Deviance in Fiction A partner commits adultery, someone is murdered, or a tyrant takes the throne. How does wicked behavior increase story tension?	Aimee Kuzenski Jessica Guggenheim Lee Aarons Tyler Tork	Veranda 3/4
	Battlefields of Tomorrow Powered and unpowered—a discussion of the various battle armors in SF and the corresponding reality of what is being fielded, under development, and what is to come. Also, find out about the real world development and deployment of lasers, particle beam weapons, rail guns and other directed energy weapons.	Bill Higgins Chris Beskar John Stanfield	Veranda 5/6
	Costume Revel!		Edina
8:30pm	Adam Stemple Concert	Adam Stemple	Ballroom East
	Minicon 1 What was it like at the very first Minicon? Come listen to some of the original members talk about their experiences.	Jon Singer Liza Furr Mark Olson	Krushenko's

SATURDAY

8:30pm	Costuming Skivvies Do historically accurate undergarments make a costume better, or just more uncomfortable? Where do we compromise between accuracy and modern materials and technology? We'll discuss undergarments through the ages and how to bring a new dimension to your costume.	Aimee Kuzenski Dana M. Baird Deanna Sjolander	Veranda 3/4
	I'm a Cover Shopper How does cover design impact sales of a book and placement on book shelf displays? With the popularity of ebooks, does cover design even matter anymore?	Jason Glaser Jessica Guggenheim Joy Dawn Johnson Lee Aarons Tom Doherty	Veranda 5/6
10:00pm	Build a World! Starting with some general categories (atmosphere, geography, economics, etc) we'll take our ideas—loopy or logical—then brainstorm an amazing world together, in just 75 minutes. Come see what materializes!	Rachel Kronick	Veranda 3/4
	The Brandon Sanderson Social Hour Brandon talks about things! And stuff! And you get to ask him questions... about things... and stuff!	Brandon Sanderson Peter Ahlstrom	Edina
11:59pm	SF Pub Quiz II: The Quizzening	Brian	Bar

SUNDAY

10:00am	Rivendell Discussion Group We'll discuss the recent novels by GoHs Jane Yolen and Adam Stemple, <i>The Seelie Wars: Book One, The Hostage Prince</i> , and <i>Book Two, The Last Changeling</i> , and try to squeeze in some discussion of their sorely under-appreciated <i>B.U.G. Big Ugly Guy</i> , with its theme of SF rock music.	David Lenander	Krushenko's
	Linked Short Stories and Modular Novels The fix-up novel is a novel pieced together out of short stories. What are the advantages of writing this way? What are the problems?	Eleanor A. Arnason Naomi K. Kritzer Ruth Berman	Veranda 3/4
11:00am	Donna Munro Reading (11:00-11:30am) Ellie, 15 year old heir of the poppet empire, struggles to meet the expectations of Santelouisian society. She knows it isn't proper for her to care about her poppet Thom so deeply seeing as he's only a reanimated corpse following the programming he is given. Why does she get the feeling that there is so much more to him than circuits, muscles and meat?	Donna Munro	Veranda 1/2
11:30am	When is a Cyborg? Assistive technology for people with disabilities is getting better by the year. We can't yet rebuild Steve Austin better, faster, stronger, but we've already seen serious debate about whether Oscar Pistorius' spring-loaded feet gave him an unfair advantage in the Olympic sprints. How much longer before assistive technology is so good that everybody will want it? Certainly some of us envy Manny (<i>The Moon is a Harsh Mistress</i>) his wonderful prosthetic arm.	Bill Thomasson Elizabeth Bear John Stanfield Neil Rest Tyler Tork	Krushenko's
	Lee C. Hillman Reading (11:30am-12:00pm) Lee, one of the authors and editors of the <i>Bad-Ass Faeries</i> series, will read from her contributions to those volumes, as well as her anthology <i>TV Gods</i> .	Lee C. Hillman	Veranda 1/2
	Collaborative Creative Projects How to start them, how to find the right team, and how to keep everyone happy. Discussing the best practices for working with other creatives on collaborative projects and how to manage the details so your project is a success.	Chris Hajny Jenny Bookler Lindsay Nohl	Veranda 3/4

SUNDAY			
11:30am	Who'da Thunk? Our GoHs sit together and interview each other—who knows what stories they have about each other?	Brandon Sanderson Larry Niven Michael Whelan Tom Doherty	Veranda 5/6
12:00pm	Aimee Kuzenski Reading (12:00-12:30pm) Aimee will read from her second novel, <i>To Break My Enemies</i> , which is being released at Minicon.	Aimee Kuzenski	Veranda 1/2
12:30pm	Christa Yelich-Koth Reading (12:30-1:00pm) Christa will read from <i>The Eornix Galaxy Books: ILLUSION</i> , a science fantasy novel where a father reaches out from the past, a disciple desires to control the present, and a woman's choices will determine the future.	Christa Yelich-Koth	Veranda 1/2
1:00pm	Dawn of the Asteroid Belt: Exploring Vesta and Ceres Asteroids are relics of the ancient Solar System. NASA's Dawn spacecraft orbited Vesta for a year. Now its ion thruster has propelled it to Ceres, the largest asteroid. Join Bill Higgins to explore Dawn's findings at Vesta and its plans for doing science at Ceres.	Bill Higgins	Edina
	Iain [M] Banks Need we say more? An appreciation of the under-appreciated British writer we lost last year.	Greg L. Johnson Rachel Kronick	Krushenko's
	Ozgur K. Sahin Reading Ozgur will read from <i>The Wrath of Brotherhood</i> , as well as from his weekly column for Calamities Press, "Elitism For All."	Ozgur K. Sahin	Veranda 1/2
	Minneapolis in 2073 Open Concom Meeting and Q&A session! The Minnesota Science Fiction Society (MN-Stf) is bidding to host the 2073 Worldcon in Minneapolis. Wait, that's a joke, right? Or is it? And why 2073? Come find out about this bid and help shape its future!	Clay Harris Joe Pregracke Kelly Strait Matt Strait	Veranda 3/4
	Lady Poetesses from Hell Lady Poetesses From Hell is a poetry performance group. They dress very nicely and have wicked senses of humor.	Eleanor A. Arnason Elise A. Matthesen Jane Yolen John C. Rezmerski K.C. O'Malley Laurel Winter Rebecca Korvo Ruth Berman Terry A. Garey	Veranda 5/6
2:00pm	Joy Dawn Johnson Reading (2:00-2:30pm) Joy will read from her YA speculative fiction.	Joy Dawn Johnson	Veranda 1/2
2:30pm	Middle Grade Optimism vs YA Dystopia Magical wonder abounds in middle grade literature but seems to disappear once stories make the jump to the next age bracket. Does pessimism go hand in hand with the advent of hormones? Is middle grade more than it appears?	Adam Stemple Alec Austin Brandon Sanderson Donna Munro Jane Yolen Marissa Lingen	Krushenko's
2:30pm	Naomi Stone Reading (2:30-3:00pm) Naomi is the author of <i>Wonder Guy</i> , <i>Spirited</i> , and the <i>Team Guardian Adventures</i> .	Laramie K. Sasseville	Veranda 1/2
2:30pm	Ask a Scientist What is the most ill-informed science question you've ever been asked? Ask a Scientist about anything.	Bill Thomasson Chas Somdahl Ctein Mary Bertelson Pat Scaramuzza	Veranda 3/4

PROGRAMMING

MINICON 50

SUNDAY			
2:30pm	Trivia for Chocolate!	Mark Olson Priscilla Olson	Veranda 5/6
3:00pm	John C. Rezmerski Reading (3:00-3:30pm)	John C. Rezmerski	Veranda 1/2
4:00pm	Closing Ceremonies	Adam Stemple Brandon Sanderson Dave Romm Jane Yolen Joel Phillips Larry Niven Matt Strait Michael Whelan Tom Doherty	Ballroom East

GAMING

TIME	MAGIC: THE GATHERING	BOARD GAMES
THURSDAY		
5:00pm	MtG: Archenemy (4)	Red Dragon Inn (8)
6:00pm	MtG: Chaos Draft (16)	Battlestar Galactica (6)
7:00pm		
8:00pm		
9:00pm		
10:00pm	MtG: Quantum Leap (6)	Quarriors!!! (4)
11:00pm		
FRIDAY		
10:00am	MtG: Modern (16)	Tsuro (8)
11:00am		Lords of Waterdeep (5)
12:00pm		
1:00pm	MtG: Chaos Draft (16)	Resident Evil Deck Building Game (4)
2:00pm		
3:00pm		
4:00pm		
5:00pm	MtG: Quantum Leap (6)	Munchkin (6)
6:00pm		
7:00pm		
8:00pm	MtG: Legacy (16)	Legendary (8)
9:00pm		
10:00pm		
10:00pm		
11:00pm		

TIME	MAGIC: THE GATHERING	BOARD GAMES
SATURDAY		
10:00am	MtG: Commander (8) 2 pods of 4	Betrayal at House on the Hill (6)
11:00am		
12:00pm		7 Wonders (7)
1:00pm		
2:00pm	MtG: Standard (16)	Elder Sign (6)
3:00pm		
4:00pm		
5:00pm		
6:00pm	MtG: Archenemy (4)	Pandemic (4)
7:00pm	Special Magic: The Gathering Event w/Brandon Sanderson	
8:00pm		
9:00pm		
10:00pm		Vegas Showdown (5)
11:00pm		
SUNDAY		
10:00am	MtG: Chaos Draft (16)	7 Wonders (7)
11:00am		Whack a Cat Girl (4)
12:00pm		
1:00pm		Tsuro (8)



Welcome to Krushenko's!

Heading into the 1983 Minicon, Eleanor Arnason suggested to Programming that Minicon ought to have an SF coffee house—a place where people were not only welcome, but actively encouraged, to talk about science fiction and fantasy. I volunteered to run the place. Programming Director Michael Smith suggested that its name should come from the works of that year's Author Guest of Honor, Larry Niven.

Somebody—David Lenander says it was me—found Krushenko's, a Manhattan bistro, in Niven's now-classic novel *Ringworld*. It was in Krushenko's that Louis Wu met, and challenged, Speaker to Animals, a diplomat among the warrior Kzinti. In the novel, one of the staff remarked, "Krushenko's is accustomed to serving alien guests." Some of my homies and I made a poster reading, "Krushenko's—Since 1983—Krushenko's is accustomed to serving Alien Guests!" And we made a bunch of little signs with arrows on them, reading, "This way to Krushenko's." That year Krushenko's had several programmed items, including a discussion of the works of Larry Niven with Mr. Niven present and participating.

People were encouraged to have their own SF discussions and conversations when the space wasn't scheduled. Conversation was fueled by a water station and a few canisters of coffee—due to corkage rules, refreshments in that space needed to be served by the hotel.

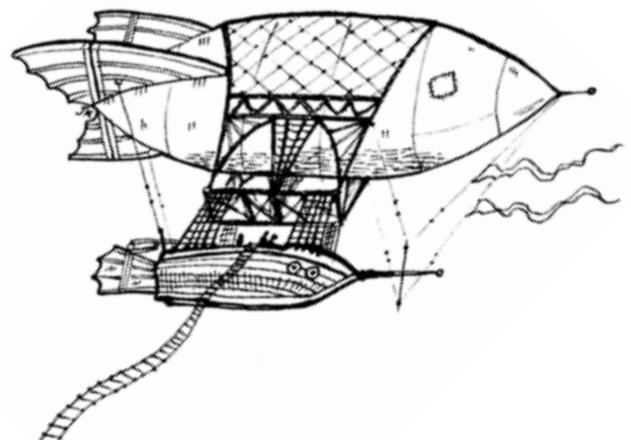
For the third year of Krushenko's—the first of many at the Radishtree—Krushenko's expanded to two adjoining rooms, Krushenko's for programmed items and Krushenko's II for freeform discussions. In the '90s the concept spread out geographically, with Krushenko's, the programming room, in function space with a water station; and Krushenko's Annex, a space for conversational parties sponsored by SF-related groups. The Annex was in a space where corkage didn't apply, so we were able to serve our own refreshments. Krushenko's Annex fell out of the habit of including coffee among the supplies so it wasn't, strictly speaking, a coffee house, but it remained a space where SFnal conversation was actively welcomed.

For a while around the turn of the millennium, when Krushenko's wasn't among the items selected for Minicon, I received invitations from a couple of upcoming conventions, MarsCon and CONvergence, to sign up and run Krushenko's for them. Eventually Krushenko's got invited back to Minicon, making three local venues for a space that some people found friendly, stimulating but relaxed, and safe. There are now also Krushenko's at Diversicon, Arcana, Con-Sarnit, and WisCon—the latter wherever they let me host a party. I hear rumor that Oddcon has a spaced called "Moo-Shenko's."

This year Minicon is continuing the model of recent years—Krushenko's in Veranda 7/8 has panels and discussions—mostly literary, but with SF in other media and speculative science stirred in—items selected from the general ideas list for reasons of tone. Krushenko's Annex, located in a Poolside cabana, will host SF-conversational parties Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings.

Krushenko's remains accustomed to serving alien guests.

—Eric M. Heideman



SCHEDULE

THURSDAY

4:00-5:00pm	Sugar Cube Castles	Sticky construction fun. With Ann Totusek.
5:30-6:30pm	Stuffed Animal Zoo	Come help build a zoo for all our little homeless beanie babies. With Josh More.

FRIDAY

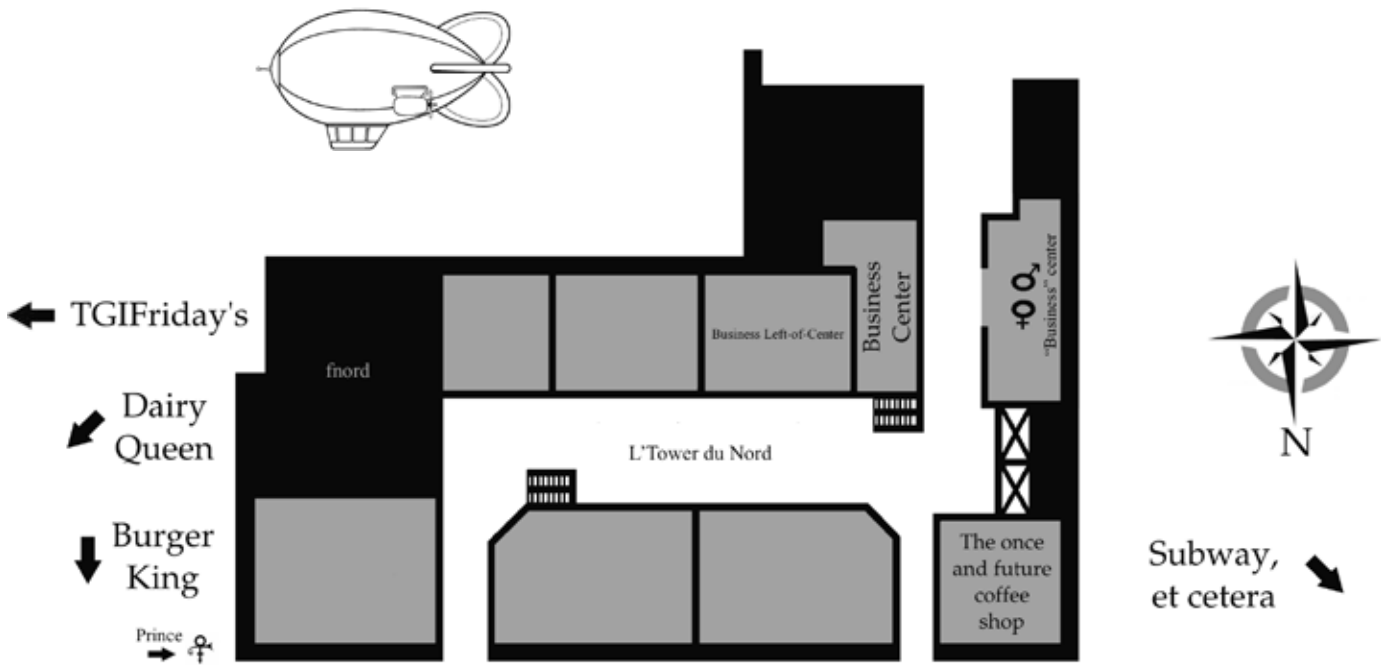
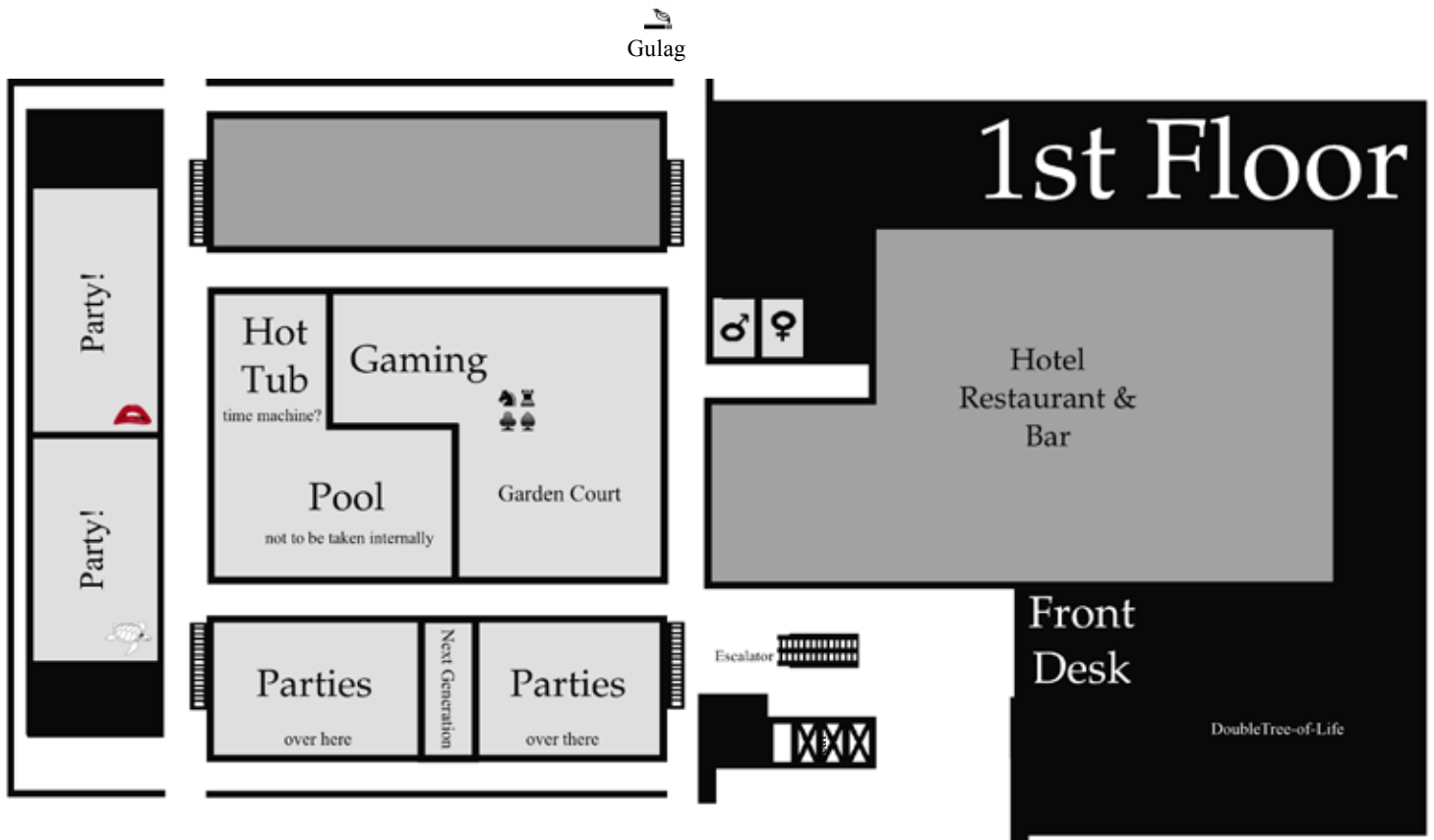
10:00-10:30am	Shrinky-Dinks	Color a zeppelin then shrink into a badge charm. With Bonnie Somdahl.
10:30-11:00am	Cardboard Castles	Form packing crates into huge building blocks. With Graham Leathers.
11:30am-12:30pm	Drawing Aliens Game	A quirky drawing game with Graham Leathers.
1:00-1:30pm	Tsuro with Matt	Tsuro is a great game for all ages. Lead by Matt McMillan.
1:30-2:00pm	Badge Making Fun	Learn to use a button making machine with Graham Leathers & Bonnie Somdahl.
2:30-3:00pm	Sock Puppet Workshop	Create your own puppet.
3:00-3:30pm	Puppet Show	Laura Krentz will perform a puppet show, after which the kids will put on their own.
4:00-4:30pm	Building Instruments	Armed with boxes, tins, straws, combs and other bric-a-brac, kids can construct musical instruments/noise makers.
4:30-5:00pm	Kid's Concert	Graham & Becca Leathers and Peggy O'Neil perform with the kids on their newly constructed instruments.
5:30-6:00pm	Games with Thorin	Thorin Tatge will lead the kids in various board games.
6:00-6:30pm	Braiding Workshop	John Wardale of Renaissance Festival fame will teach a variety of braids. All ages welcome.

SATURDAY

10:00-10:30am	Fun Noodle Light Sabers	We take fun noodles and with various colors of duct tape, transform them into light sabers.
10:30-11:00am	Paper Airplanes	Graham Leathers will be leading this fold and fly fun.
11:30am-12:00pm	Monsters & S'more Monsters	Led by Josh More. We construct sticky monsters out of marshmallows, candy and frosting.
12:00-12:30pm	Monster Inhalation	Then we set them on fire or zap them in a microwave!
1:00-1:30pm	Games with Richard	Richard Tatge will bring games suitable for all ages of kids. He has LOTS of games!
1:30-2:00pm	Rubber-Band Loom Art	Cecilia Lazarchic will demonstrate working on rubber band looms.
2:30-3:00pm	Bears in Space	
3:00-3:30pm	Microwave Magic	Josh More will demonstrate experiments and fun things to zap (in someone else's microwave).
4:00-5:00pm	Robo Rally with Matt	Robo Rally is a great board game to play with Matt McMillan!
5:00-5:30pm	Balloon Animals	John Wardale and Graham Leathers will construct toys and costume accessories out of balloons.
5:30-6:00pm	Costume Workshop	We dive into our bins of materials and help the kids create costumes that they can then wear in the Costume Contest. Andra St Arnauld will be on hand with her sewing machine.
6:00-6:30pm	Hair Braiding	John Wardale will braid hair for those desiring a fancy 'do to go with their costume.

SUNDAY

10:00-10:30am	Deconstructing T-Shirts	We have donated t-shirts that we will snip, stretch and tie to transform into wearable art. No sewing needed!
10:30-11:00am	Catapults	Graham Leathers will lead the kids in constructing catapults for launching marshmallows.
11:30am-12:00pm	Bubbles	Richard Tatge will bring his amazing bubble machine for wet & wild fun. Wear your socks to slip-slide, or just blow bubbles.
12:00-12:30pm	Paper Sculptures	We have printed animals to cut out and glue together into 3-D creatures. With Bonnie Somdahl.
1:00-1:30pm	Bottle-Cap Robots	Assemble unsophisticated materials into robots, spaceships, ray guns, aliens or whatever you like.
1:30-2:00pm	Tool Time for Kids	Michael Kauper will bring lots of tools and various toys, machines and devices for great dismantling fun! Please bring anything you would like to donate for demolition!
2:30-3:30pm	Make a Balloon Dog	John Wardale will demonstrate creating your own balloon pup.
3:30-4:00pm	Light Stick Sabers	Transform a light stick into your own mini glowing light saber. With Bonnie Somdahl.





THURSDAY

9:00-10:40pm	The Monster of Phantom Lake (2006) A mutated monster terrorizes campers in the woods of 1950's Wisconsin. This black-and-white homage to the B-movie flicks of the 1950s was the first film from local filmmaker Christopher R. Mihm and the winner of several film festival awards. Mr. Mihm will be present for comments and questions. (97 minutes)
10:40pm-12:00am	Audience Choice Want to see something that you missed or might not be able to see according to your schedule? Screenings shown by audience request.

FRIDAY

12:00-2:00pm	The Search for Simon (2013) 30 years ago, David's younger brother Simon disappeared without a trace and has never been seen since. David is still looking, and the search for Simon has become his life. Fans of British television will recognize many of the thespians in this film, such as Sophie Aldred (<i>Doctor Who</i>), Simon Jones (<i>Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy</i>), and Carol Cleveland (<i>Monty Python</i>). (97 minutes)
2:00-4:00pm	Sense of Scale (2011) A documentary about the art of model making in film, featuring interviews with 32 model makers and behind-the-scenes views from films they have worked on, such as <i>Star Trek</i> , <i>Close Encounters</i> , <i>Moon</i> , <i>City of Lost Children</i> , and <i>Godzilla</i> . (105 minutes)
4:00-6:00pm	Larry Niven on the Small Screen It isn't often that television producers adapt existing stories for teleplays and it's even more rare that such teleplays actually get produced. Larry Niven's "The Slaver Weapon" adaptation for 1973's <i>Star Trek: The Animated Series</i> and "Inconstant Moon" for 1996's <i>Outer Limits</i> reboot are two such examples. You'll get to see both, with perhaps a few words from Mr. Niven himself!
6:00pm-12:00am	To be announced Check your pocket program or the <i>Bozo Bus Tribune</i> for updates.

SATURDAY

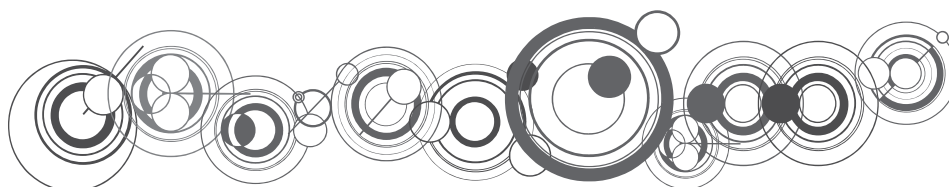
12:00-2:00pm	It Came from Another World! (2007) A scouting party stumbles upon an enigmatic meteorite while searching for a missing scientist. Will the intrepid heroes unlock the secrets of the mysterious "rock from outer space" before its otherworldly power threatens not only the fate of the entire universe, but Professor Jackson's wedding plans as well? Local filmmaker Christopher R. Mihm will be present for comments and questions.(93 minutes)
2:00-2:30pm	Hugo Awards The nominees for the 2015 Hugo Awards will be announced from the administrators for Sasquan, the 73rd World Science Fiction Convention to be held in Spokane, Washington, in August 2015.
2:30-4:00pm	Bill the Galactic Hero (2014) Based on Harry Harrison's classic satirical SF novel, this student film written and directed by Alex Cox (<i>Repo Man</i> , <i>Sid and Nancy</i>) tells the story of Bill, a pizza delivery boy, who is coerced into joining the intergalactic military to fight the Chingers. (90 minutes)

FAN FILM BLOCK

4:00-5:00pm	Captain America: Theater of War (2014) Animated fan film based on the Marvel comic book series. (10:27 minutes) This fan film project is a non-profit, non-commercial fiction and is not endorsed by or affiliated with Marvel Comics
	Trickster (2014) Fan film from Bogata, Columbia, based on <i>The Matrix</i> . (3:39 minutes) This fan film project is a non-profit, non-commercial fiction and is not endorsed by or affiliated with Warner Bros. Pictures
	Star Wars Downunder (2013) What would happen if you crossed Star Wars with an Australian beer commercial? Answer: the fan film <i>Star Wars Downunder</i> , an epic tale of the good, the bad and the thirsty. (30:48 minutes) This fan film project is a non-profit, non-commercial fiction and is not endorsed by or affiliated with 20th Century Fox
	Little Man of Steel (2013) A raunchy, romantic comedy based on the Superman comic book series. Fans of the essay "Man of Steel, Woman of Kleenex" by Guest of Honor Larry Niven will appreciate this short film. (10 minutes) This fan film project is a non-profit, non-commercial fiction and is not endorsed by or affiliated with DC Comics

SATURDAY (cont'd)

SHORT FILM BLOCK	
5:00-7:00pm	<p><i>I Remember the Future (2014)</i> This Australian short film is based on Michael Burstein's Nebula-nominated short story. During a visit from his estranged daughter, an elderly writer struggles with his fading mind and the future. (26 minutes)</p>
	<p><i>The Wars of Other Men (2013)</i> Set in a 1920s-like world at war, a Lieutenant is ordered to lead a squad through a war torn city to capture the scientist responsible for the creation of a terrible weapon. With the lives of his men and the fate of the war hanging in the balance, the Lieutenant must make a choice - will he be a good soldier or will he be a good man? (26 minutes)</p>
	<p><i>Parallel Man: Infinite Pursuit (2015)</i> Take a thrilling ride across the Multiverse with Agent Nick Morgan, a super-soldier gone rogue, as he fights to prevent the evil Ascendancy from enslaving alternate Earths! For over 40 years, the Ascendancy has pillaged other worlds – now its sights are set on us! The <i>Parallel Man</i> universe will also include a 7-issue comic book mini-series and mobile device video game. (13 minutes)</p>
	<p><i>Oceanus (2015)</i> In the near future, a visionary trillionaire entrepreneur has created an underwater research habitat in the Pacific Ocean. After a devastating global disaster cuts the Oceanus Base off from the surface, the research team must fight to survive and establish a new society at the bottom of the sea. (30 minutes)</p>
7:00-8:20pm	<p><i>Cave Women on Mars (2008)</i> Great scientific advances have allowed mankind to achieve that which previously only existed in speculative fiction – space travel. But, on the eve of humanity's first manned mission to the red planet, no amount of speculation could adequately prepare humans for the unexpected discovery of... CAVE WOMEN ON MARS! Local filmmaker Christopher R. Mihm will be present for comments and questions. (73 minutes)</p>
8:20-9:00pm	<p><i>Living with Frankenstein (2012)</i> Mary Shelley, PB Shelley, Lord Byron and Frankenstein's Monster are alive and living in Los Angeles. <i>Living with Frankenstein</i> explores what they've been up to for the past 180 years in this dark comedy web series. (39 minutes)</p>
9:00-10:20pm	<p><i>The Mechanical Bride (2012)</i> The fantasy of creating the perfect woman is as old as Pygmalion, but how close is it to becoming a reality? This provocative documentary reveals the state of the art in artificial companions - from life-sized silicone sex dolls to gynoids (humanoid female robots) - and offers a surprisingly human, at times humorous, look at the men who build, animate, and love them. "...arguably the most terrifying film I have seen in a long time." -twitchfilm.com. This film is intended for mature viewers. (76 minutes)</p>
10:40pm-12:00am	<p>Audience Choice Want to see something that you missed or might not be able to see according to your schedule? Screenings shown by audience request.</p>
SUNDAY	
12:00-2:00pm	<p><i>Sense of Scale (2011)</i> A documentary about the art of model making in film, featuring interviews with 32 model makers and behind-the-scenes views from films they have worked on, such as <i>Star Trek</i>, <i>Close Encounters</i>, <i>Moon</i>, <i>City of Lost Children</i>, and <i>Godzilla</i>. (105 minutes)</p>
2:00-4:00pm	<p><i>The Search for Simon (2013)</i> 30 years ago, David's younger brother Simon disappeared without a trace and has never been seen since. David is still looking, and the search for Simon has become his life. Fans of British television will recognize many of the thespians in this film, such as Sophie Aldred (<i>Doctor Who</i>), Simon Jones (<i>Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy</i>), and Carol Cleveland (<i>Monty Python</i>). (97 minutes)</p>



Inspiring view of Minneapolis in '73, isn't it?

Needs more milk cartons.

HOTEL DYKEMAN

CURTIS HOTEL

Leamington Hotel

Andrew's Hotel

And the winner of the last note contest is still...

...Adam Stemple!

So that's where all the spoons went!

But you know and I know there never was reason to hurt

When all of our lives were entwined to begin with here in Spoon River

First, he put 100# of cornstarch in the bathtub...

I heard it was pleasantly disgusting, and thick and white and wet.

100# is dry weight; when water is added, considerably more oobleck results.

I just want you to know that we kept on dancing.

FIAWOL

FIJAGHI!

Didn't we meet at the Uptown Theatre?

Arthur Leo Who, I presume?

My hovercraft is full of eels.

Like eating homemade bread, spread with cinnamon jam.

Congratulations, Minicon!

What a long, strange trip it's been...

Where was I, Jon?

FYI, Geri Sullivan digitized fragments of the Minicon soundtrack. If you'd like mp3s of music parties and related events from the 1980s, please write to:

MiniconMusic@toad-hall.com

Yes, I wanna see your smiling face 45 years from now...

CONSUIITE

The consuite is a place to hang out between panels, after hours, or when you don't feel like doing anything else. It features a wide assortment of snacks, drinks and comfortable seating. Please volunteer to help in the consuite.

The consuite will be open Thursday through Sunday. We plan to be open 24 hours for the entire convention until Sunday at 5pm, at which point it collapses into the bar for the Dead Dog Party. We'll have Food Events on and off throughout the convention (including late at night) and plan on always having soda, coffee, sandwiches and snack food available. Please volunteer to help in the consuite.

MidAmeriCon II is providing a smoked bbq pork sandwich & sides lunch in the consuite on Saturday. The D.C. 2017 bid is providing a specialty dessert on either Friday or Saturday evening (TBD) in the consuite.

The consuite staff would also like to thank the following businesses for their contributions:

Z's Smokin' Bonez BBQ
 Bruegger's Bagels
 Philia Foods
 Holy Land Deli



BAR: THE DRACO TAVERN

The bar is the companion to the consuite* and this year we honor Larry Niven by dubbing it The Draco Tavern.

The bar will open at 4:59 pm on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, and will stay open until we fall down.**

Beer & cider will be on tap in a range of home-brew and commercial varieties. There will also be some wine for the fancy people, and of course we'll be serving Blog in both regular and St. Paul flavors. We will endeavor to have some table space available for your alcohol-fueled gaming needs, delicately balanced with some quieter side-room space for alcohol-fueled conversation.

For Minicon 50, the annual SF Pub Quiz expands to two nights, Friday and Saturday at 11:59 pm. Assemble your team and compete for fantastic prizes. Well... for prizes, anyway. And a fleeting sense of accomplishment.

On Sunday evening, we will be dismantled and re-mantled for the Dead Dog Party, but not until the rest of the convention has been taken down and put away.

*Please volunteer to help in the consuite.

**Once is an accident, twice is coincidence, three times is tradition.

PARTIES

Minicon is known for our hospitality and has a long and storied history of excellent room parties! This year, the following groups invite you to come and share in the fun they have planned:

Party in the Wizarding World Room 102
 hosted by Lee Hillman & Amy Vezza

SFA/Carleton Reunion Room 103/104
 hosted by Nathanael Nerode

Realmwalker Publishing Party Room 105
 hosted by James Drake

A Writer's Tears Party Room 107
 hosted by Aimee Kuzenski

Rook Creek Books & Beer Room 108
 hosted by Blake Hausladen & Deanna Sjolander

Helsinki in 2017/JOFcon Party Room 109
 hosted by Michael Lee

Krushenko's Annex Room 110
 hosted by Eric Heideman

Terry Pratchett's Seamstresses Room 116
 hosted by Matthew Gress & Missy Hayes

Transvestite Soup (aka: Rocky Horror) Room 119
 hosted by Sarah Richard

Marscon Party Room 203
 hosted by Jessie Berg

Sewing Circle Room 205
 hosted by Scott & Irene Raun

LiveJournal Party Room 206
 hosted by Dean Gahlon & Laura Krentz

Ethel's Meet-n-Greet Room 207
 hosted by Ethel Romm

MidAmeriCon II Party Room 208
 hosted by Ruth Lichtwardt

GPS: Geek Partnership Society Room 209
 hosted by Ange Straatmeyer

Karaoke & Desserts Party Room 210
 hosted by John Garner

MINICONS PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

	Dates	Members	Location	Guests of Honor	Theme/slogan/etc.
1	6 Jan 1968, 12:30-5:00pm	60	Coffman Union, U of M (Mpls)	Gordon R. Dickson, Charles DeVet & Clifford Simak	<i>A Strange New World of Science Fiction</i>
2	4-6 Apr 1969	48 prereg 115 total	Andrews (Mpls)	Gordon R. Dickson, Charles DeVet & Clifford Simak	—
3	3-5 Apr 1970	130	Dyckman (Mpls)	Poul Anderson, Gordon R. Dickson & Clifford Simak	<i>The Mpls in '73 Convention!</i>
4	17-19 Jun 1971	150	Curtis (Mpls)	Lin Carter	<i>The Mpls in '73 Convention!</i>
5*	15-17 Oct 1971	100	Andrews (Mpls)	Volsted Gridban†	<i>The Genghiscon!</i>
6	7-9 Apr 1972	175	Hyatt Lodge (Mpls)	Ruth Berman	<i>The Stereo-opticon!</i>
7	20-22 Apr 1973	220		Larry Niven (pro); Rusty Hevelin (fan)	<i>The Mpls in '73 Con!</i>
8	12-14 Apr 1974	350	Dyckman (Mpls)	Kelly Freas (pro); Bob Tucker (fan)	—
9*	11-13 Oct 1974	190	Mpls Public Library & Dyckman	Judy Lynn & Lester del Rey	<i>Made possible by a grant from Dayton!</i> ‡
10	18-20 Apr 1975	510	Holiday Inn (Mpls)	Poul Anderson (pro); Gordy Dickson (fan)	—
11	16-18 Apr 1976	500	Leamington (Mpls)	Edmond Hamilton & Leigh Brackett (pros); Leigh & Norb Couch (fans)	—
12	8-10 Apr 1977	500		Ben Bova (pro); Buck & Juanita Coulson (fans)	<i>The Dododecacon</i>
13	24-26 Mar 1978	800		Samuel R. Delany (pro); Spider Robinson (fan); Bob Tucker (artist)	<i>Nothing is as it seems</i>
15	13-15 Apr 1979	A little over 1000	Radisson (Mpls)	Theodore Sturgeon (pro); Tom Digby (fan); Rick Sternbach (artist)	<i>The other 10%</i>
16	4-6 Apr 1980	—?—		C.J. Cherryh (pro); Jon Singer (fan); Ken Fletcher (artist); Nate Bucklin (music)	<i>Déjà Vu</i>
17	17-19 Apr 1981	—?—		Jack Vance (pro); Jerry Boyajian (fan); Kathy Marschall (artist); Reed Waller (music)	—
14	9-11 Apr 1982	—?—	Radisson (St. Paul)	John Varley (pro); Cliff Simak (fan); Spider Robinson (music)	<i>Forward, Into the Past</i>
19	1-3 Apr 1983	—?—		Larry Niven (pro); Dave Sim (artist); Spider John Koerner (music); Pamela Dean & David Dyer-Bennet (fans); Nostradamus (proxy)	<i>Backward, Into the Future</i>
18	20-22 Apr 1984	1450	Leamington (Mpls)	Chelsea Quinn Yarboro (pro); Dave Wixon (fan); Steve Hickman (artist); Somtow Sucharitkul (music); Bob Tucker (smooth)	<i>We know what we're doing and you don't. Trust us.</i>
20	5-7 Apr 1985	1525	Radisson South & environs (Bloomington)	James P Hogan (pro); Permanent Floating Riot Club (fans); Stu Shiffman (artist); Bob Berlien & the White Women (music)	<i>Let's you and I get normal for a change</i>
21	28-30 Mar 1986	1600		Damon Knight & Kate Wilhelm (pros); Denny Lien (fan); Ken Fletcher (artist); Ann Passovoy (music)	<i>Now we're just immoral & fattening</i>
22	17-19 Apr 1987	1950		David Brin (pro); Fred Haskell (fan); Erin McKee (artist); Jerry Stearns (music)	<i>Still Crazy After All These Years</i>
23	1-3 Apr 1988	≥1745 prereg		Eleanor Arnason (author); Eric Heideman (fan); Fred Pohl (editor); Crystal Marvig (artist); Richard Feynman (science, posthumous)	<i>Spring Forward, Fall Over</i>
24	24-26 Mar 1989	—?—		Harry Harrison; George "Lan" Laskowski; Fritz Leiber; Barry Longyear	<i>Zen and the Art of Fan Maintenance</i>
25	13-15 Apr 1990	—?—		Jane Yolen (GoH); Kim Stanley Robinson (author); Patrick Price ("Arthur"); David Thayer a.k.a. Teddy Harvia (artist); David E Romm (fan); Earl Joseph (science)	<i>The Silver Edition</i>
26	29-31 Mar 1991	—?—		George A Effinger (author); David Cherry (artist); Al Kuhfeld (science); Suzanne Tompkins & Jerry Kaufman (fans); Jon Singer (lunch)	<i>Think of it as Evolution in Action</i>
27	17-19 Apr 1992	2648 total 2502 warm		Lois McMaster Bujold (writer); Ctein (artist); Dave Van Ronk (music)	<i>Don't Ever Be A Dodo</i>
28	9-11 Apr 1993	3100		Susan Allison (editor); Diane Duane & Peter Morwood (authors); Kathy Mar (music); Don Fitch (bless his sweet heart); John M Ford (interesting person)	<i>Suite, Savage Minicon</i>
29	1-3 Apr 1994	3300		Tom Doherty (publisher); Jack Williamson (author); Rusty Hevelin (fan); Phil Foglio (artist)	<i>It seemed like a good idea at the time</i>
30	14-16 Apr 1995	3500		Vernor Vinge (author); Dr. Robert Forward (science); Jody Lee (artist); The Bhigg House (fans)	<i>Some assembly required or "Would you like fries with that?"</i>
31	5-7 Apr 1996	2957 pre 3619 total 3564 warm		Suzette Haden Elgin (GoH); Ed Emshwiller (memorial artist); Joe Siclari & Edie Stern (fans); David Ossman (audio); James P Hogan (science)	<i>Coming to a Galaxy Near You</i>
32	28-30 Mar 1997	Over 3500		Algis Budrys (author); CJ Cherryh (author); Michael Swanwick (author); Tom Doherty (publisher); Tom Lopez (audio); Patrick & Teresa Nielsen Hayden (editors)	<i>Even Chaos has a Pattern</i>
33	10-12 Apr 1998	3431 total		Gardner Dozois (pro); Dave Langford (fan)	<i>Heisenberg Probably Slept Here</i>

MINICONS PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

34	2-4 Apr 1999	1360 pre 1525 total	Hilton Towers & Hotel (Mpls)	Octavia E Butler (writer); Mark & Priscilla Olson (fans); Dave Nee (bookseller)	—
35	21-23 Apr 2000	736 pre 844 total		Maureen F McHugh (writer); Lenny Bailes (fan); John Berkey (artist)	—
36	13-15 Apr 2001	457 pre 548 total		Ken MacLeod (writer); Jo Walton (fan); Leslie Fish (music)	—
37	29-31 Mar 2002	637		Will Shetterly (writer); Emma Bull (writer); Arthur Hlavaty (fan); Rick Berry (artist)	—
38	18-20 Apr 2003	519	Millennium (Mpls)	Robert J Sawyer (author); Carolyn Clink (poet); Sue Mason (fan); Steve Maconald (music)	—
39	9-11 Apr 2004	417 pre ≥ 453 total ≥ 396 warm		Walter John Williams (writer); Sharyn November (editor); Deb Geisler (fan)	—
40	25-27 Apr 2005	460 pre 630 total	Sheraton Bloomington (née Radisson South)	Terry Pratchett (writer); Fastner & Larson (artists); James Young (fan)	<i>Minicon Fortean</i>
41	14-16 Apr 2006	381 pre 527 total		Harlan Ellison (writer); John Picacio (artist); Doug Friauf (fan)	<i>XLi, Robot</i>
42	6-8 Apr 2007	310 pre 430 total 402 warm		Charles de Lint (writer); Charles Vess (artist)	<i>And the question was...?</i>
43	21-23 Mar 2008	321 pre 432 total 385 warm		Alastair Reynolds (author); Shawna McCarthy (editor); Nate Bucklin (fan); Wayne Barlowe (artist <i>in absentia</i>)	<i>Digging up the future</i>
44	10-12 Apr 2009	317 pre 422 total 395 warm		Karl Schroeder (author); Seth Shostak (scientist) Stephen Martinere (artist <i>in absentia</i>)	—
45	2-4 Apr 2010	366 pre 450 total 434 warm		Brandon Sanderson (author); Dan Dos Santos (artist)	—
46	22-24 Apr 2011	372 pre 448 total 425 warm		Charles Stross (author <i>in absentia</i>), John Scalzi, Chas Somdahl (music)	<i>Not yet dead from the neck up</i>
47	6-8 Apr 2012	363 pre 463 total 452 warm	DoubleTree Bloomington (née Sheraton Bloomington)	Ted Chiang (author), Christopher J Garcia (fanzine), Frank Wu (artist)	<i>The minions are coming...</i>
48	29-31 Mar 2013	382 pre 515 total 503 warm		Julie Czerneda (author), Richard Tatge (fan)	<i>The Game of Life</i>
49	17½-20 Apr 2014	418 pre 561 total 538 warm	(née Radisson South)	Catherynne Valente (author), Janny Wurts (author), Don Maitz (artist)	<i>Pirates and Airships*</i>
50	2-5 Apr 2015	<i>You!</i>	(aka RadiShTree)	Larry Niven (author), Jane Yolen (author), Brandon Sanderson (author), Michael Whelan (artist), Tom Doherty (publisher), Adam Stemple (music)	<i>The Gold Edition</i>
51	25-27 Mar 2016				
52	14-16 Apr 2017				

* There were two years we had two Minicons, 1971 and 1974. Minnstf fallcons after these took names other than "Minicon". Also on the subject of dates, all Minicons other than these two fallcons, plus Minicons 1, 3, 4, 6 and 10 have been on Easter.

† For those not in the know, this is code—dating back to at least the Minicon 10 program book—for "we didn't have a guest of honor."

‡ That's what it says on the cover of the program book, anyway. No, we don't remember why.

|| Minicon 14 originally got skipped since the number had been reserved for a fallcon (like 5 and 9) that didn't happen. Hilarity ensued.

(the one for Minicon 49) The theme was "Pirates and Airships", with each "*" leading to a footnote with an attempt at humor.

Locations are hotels unless otherwise specified. "Theme/slogan/etc." is the closest we could find, with some no doubt being just one-offs on a flyer or the program book cover. If in doubt, something is listed rather than nothing. As a further historical note, Minnstf itself was founded in the latter half of 1966, a little over a year before the first Minicon. Its first official recognition was as a University of Minnesota student organization, but soon thereafter converted to a Minnesota non-profit corporation.

This list by Matthew Strait, Minnstf archivist, based on his previous list in the Minicon 45 program book, which was based on a list by Fred A Levy Haskell in the Minicon 36 program book, based on a list by Fred in the Minicon 34 program book, which certainly derives in part from a list in the Minicon 10 program book. Relative to the last one by me, you may notice a good number of boxes are filled in that used to be blank and there are some miscellaneous corrections, including the dates of Minicon 14. Some details remain murky, so please send us corrections and/or additions! For lots more historical data, including scans of old program books that might help explain some of the odd things in the above table, see minnstf.org/minicon

OTHER MNSTF CONS PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

Although not nearly as well-known as, and not quite as regular as, the series of spring Minicons, Minn-stf has usually held a con in the fall as well. The name doesn't stay the same, but usually changes when the chair changes. (People often can't keep track and just call it "the fallcon", but it has never been named "Fallcon".) They have ranged from being really just a weekend party in a hotel, to being pretty serious little cons like the ReinCONations with programming, publications, guests of honor and all that. Minn-stf also ran the first two Supercons, making three cons in each of those years.

Given all these, Minicon 50 is the 85th**††† convention held by Mn-stf!

Name	Dates	Members	Location	Guests of Honor, etc.	Comments
Minicon 5	15-17 Oct 1971	100 total	Andrews Hotel, Minneapolis	None	The first Minicon fallcon, tagline " <i>The Genghiscon!</i> "
Minicon 9	11-13 Oct 1974	190 total	Minneapolis Public Library & the Dyckman Hotel, Minneapolis	GoH: Judy-Lynn & Lester del Rey	The second and last Minicon fallcon. " <i>Made possible by a grant from Dayton's,</i> " it said, for some reason.
Anokon 1	22-24 Sept 1978		Holiday Inn, Anoka	Bob Tucker & Rusty Hevelin (?)	Originally intended to be called Minicon 14, causing Minicon to skip from 13 to 15.
Anokon 2	14-16 Sept 1979		Holiday Inn, Anoka		
Not-Anokon 1	12-14 Sept 1980		Kelly Inn, St. Paul (?)	GoH: Gordon R. Dickson	It was not in Anoka, you see.
Not-Anokon 2	25-27 Sept 1981		Kelly Inn, St. Paul (?)		
Plergbcon	10-12 Sept 1982		Bandana Square Hotel	GoH: Bob Shaw	
Maxicon 1	23-25 Sept 1983		Midway Motor Inn, St. Paul		
Maxicon 2	14-16 Sept 1984		Minneapolis Plaza		
Not-Anokon '85	4-6 Oct 1985		Ramada Inn, St. Paul	GoH: Pamela Dean	Advertised itself as just "Not-Anokon". Possibly also known as Not-Anokon 3.
Not-Anokon 8	5-7 Sept 1986		Bandana Square Hotel	GoH: Bob Shaw	Yes, 8. We're as confused as you are, no one remembers.
C'ntraction	13-15 Nov 1987		Days Inn, Roseville	GoH: Patrick Lucien Price	
Consensus*	21-23 Oct 1988		Hotel Seville, Bloomington		The name of this one presents typesetting difficulties.
Confection	29 Sept – 1 Oct 1989		Normandy Inn, Minneapolis	GoH: John M. Ford	
Conscription	2-4 Nov 1990		Bradbury Suites	GoH: Richard Tatge	
ReinCONation 1	6-8 Sept 1991	186 total	Radisson South (a.k.a. RadishTree)	GoH: Geri Sullivan & Bob Tucker	The ReinCONations have been the most serious series of Mn-stf fallcons so far.
Supercon 1	24-26 Jan 1992		Radisson, Duluth	Seems unlikely	Not a fallcon, obviously.
ReinCONation 2	11-13 Sept 1992	210 total 199 warm	Radisson South	Honored guests/GoH: James White & Jeanne Gomoll	Or "ReinConation 2", but who's obsessing over detail?
Supercon 2	22-24 Jan 1993		Park Inn, Duluth	GoH: Martin Shaffer	Supercons are still going, but only the first two were Mnstf cons.
ReinCONation 3	20-22 Aug 1993		Radisson South	GoH: Debbie Notkin	
ReinCONation 4	9-11 Sept 1994		Regency Plaza, Minneapolis	GoH: Alexei & Cory Panshin	
ReinCONation 5	13-15 Oct 1995		Regency Plaza, Minneapolis	Honored guests/GoH: Judith Merrill & Andy Hooper	
ReinCONation 6	18-20 Oct 1996		Radisson South	Honored guests/GoH: Jan Bogstad, Spider & Jeanne Robinson	
Not-A-ReinCONation	24-26 Oct 1997		Various		This was a roving house party, but we decided it counted.
Flashback!	30 Oct – 1 Nov 1998	104 warm	Best Western Northwest Inn, Brooklyn Park	GoH: Steven Brust, GoH Emeritus: Gordon R. Dickson	
Millenium Fallcon / ditto 12	29-31 Oct 1999	87 pre-reg	Radisson Metrodome, Minneapolis		Spelled like that, yes, although whether this was on purpose is unclear. This was a joint con with the roving fanzine con, ditto.

OTHER MNSTF CONS PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

CONsume / Relaxacon 2002	25-27 Oct 2002		Ramada Inn Northwest, Brooklyn Park	Posthumous GoH: Scott Imes	This was part of a series of 6 cons starting with Consume 2000 and going through Consume/Relaxacon 2005. We were being pretty sloppy at the time about what was and wasn't under the auspices of MinnStf. This one was. The previous and following might also have been. The others weren't.
Convivial 1	20-22 Oct 2006	43 pre-reg	Holiday Inn Select, Bloomington		
Convivial 2	19-21 Oct, 2007		Holiday Inn Select, Bloomington		
Convivial 3	17-19 Oct 2008	38 pre-reg	Holiday Inn Select, Bloomington		
Convivial 4	16-18 Oct 2009	37 pre-reg	Holiday Inn Select, Bloomington		
Conjecture 1	15-17 Oct 2010	~50 total	Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites (formerly the Holiday Inn Select)		Tagline for all Conjectures: "I <i>think</i> it's a relaxacon."
Conjecture 2	14-16 Oct 2011	51 total	Crowne Plaza Hotel (formerly Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, sheesh)		
Conjecture 3	19-21 Oct 2012	56 total	Crowne Plaza Hotel		
METHOD Con 1	18-20 Oct 2013	56 total (again)	SpringHill Suites Marriott		Short for "MnStf's Excuse to have October Diversions."
METHOD Con 2	10-12 Oct 2014	77 total	Ramada MSP Airport at the Mall	Featured artist: Tim Cooper, featured authors: Emma Bull & Will Shetterly.	

This list by Matthew Strait, Minn-stf archivist, and is the first such as far as he knows. You can learn more at mnstf.org/falcon. More information for this table, or to adorn the falcon webpages, is very welcome.

For GoH-like people, I have tried to note what they were called by the con at the time. Trouble is, sometimes the distinction between "GoH" and "honored guest", or whatever, is fraught with deep meaning, and sometimes they are just synonyms. It's often hard to tell from a flyer decades later, so I hope I have not horribly misrepresented anyone.

We currently have no fallcons (or other non-Minicon cons) confirmed for the future. The Minn-stf board is always willing to hear proposals. We don't have any required schedule or format for conventions. Be creative!

* with Don abstaining.

** Counting Not-A-ReinCONation.

† Counting Consume/Relaxacon 2001 and 2003 as an average of one.

‡ Not counting the picnic back when people called it Picnicon, or any other not-really-con that got the suffix *-con* tacked on for fun.

¶ And only counting Minicons 5 and 9 once, I think, but you can check me.



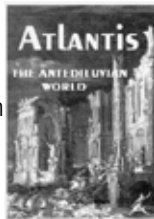
FROM ATLANTIS TO THE STARS BY ZEPPELIN: THE MINNESOTA SF COMMUNITY, 1882-2015

by Eric M. Heideman

Ignatius Donnelly (1831-1901), champion of the farmer and laborer and advocate of many progressive reforms, had a tempestuous 40-year political career, including service as Minnesota lieutenant governor, a Congressman and member of both houses of the state legislature. Basically an independent, he was variously nominated for office by the Republicans, the Democrats, and several other parties, ending his career as the People's Party nominee for vice president in 1900. He was a spellbinding speaker, popular on the educational lecture circuit.

He was also Minnesota's first author of speculative fiction (SF).

At the same time that Jules Verne was flourishing in France, Donnelly produced the pre-New Age book *Atlantis: The Antediluvian World* (1882), arguing that Atlantis had existed and had spawned the ancient world's high cultures. He followed this with *Ragnarok: The Age of Fire and Gravel* (1883), in which he argued, long before von Däniken, that a great comet might have struck the Earth, a cataclysm recalled in the world's myths, and in which he urged Americans to lead more spiritual lives in a universe where such catastrophes were possible. In *The Great Cryptogram* (1887), he searched Shakespeare's plays for cryptographic clues that the plays and poems had been written by Sir Francis Bacon.



Turning from speculative non-fiction to SF proper, Donnelly produced *Caesar's Column* (1890), in which the oppression of the working class by the rich leads to a second American Revolution in 1988. Donnelly biographer Martin Ridge writes of the book, "As a seer of the technological wonders of the future, Donnelly rivaled Jules Verne in anticipating airships, great metropolitan centers with incredible communication and transport systems, and a world of abundant physical comforts. His story was as melodramatic as a Dumas novel." *Doctor Huguet* (1891), a novel in which a white man and a black man exchange bodies, is sharply critical of the mistreatment of Southern blacks. And in *The Golden Bottle* (1892), a man uses a liquid that changes base metals into gold to combat the corrupt business practices Donnelly felt were oppressing farmers and urban laborers.

In England in the 1890s and early 1900s H.G. Wells produced his major stories, setting a new standard of quality for SF. Beginning in 1911, the Californian Edgar Rice Burroughs turned out his wild science fantasy adventures. And, early in the 20th century, Amateur Press Association publications (APAs) later led to SF fandom. Around 1915 Ray Nixon, a young Minneapolis APA enthusiast, began a correspondence with a Rhode Island enthusiast named H.P. Lovecraft.

Gertrude Barrows was born in Minneapolis in 1884, moving to Philadelphia on her marriage in 1910. When her husband was lost at sea, leaving her with an infant daughter to support, Barrows turned to writing, as Francis Stevens. Between about 1917 and 1923, Stevens produced several science fiction and fantasy stories for the pulp magazines, notably the lost world tale, *The Citadel of Fear* (1918), and the dystopian novel, *The Heads of Cerberus* (1919). In a profile of pulp adventure writer A. Merritt, Sam Moskowitz writes, "*Citadel of Fear* was the work of Francis Stevens, a woman whose stories displayed such beauty of style and narrative skill that for years it was thought that Merritt had written them under a pen name." Stevens' later years are lost in mystery. In 1939, after not hearing from Stevens for several years, Stevens' daughter received a letter from her with a California postmark, but her daughter's subsequent effort to locate her were unsuccessful. Perhaps Francis Stevens lives on an island with Ambrose Bierce and Amelia Earhart.

Early in their careers noted Minnesotans Sinclair Lewis (1885-1951) and F. Scott Fitzgerald (1896-1940) dabbled in supernatural writing, Lewis in short stories and Fitzgerald in stories and plays. Lester Del Rey (1915-1993) spent much of his childhood until age 16 in several small Minnesota towns. He went on to be an influential SF writer, editor, and critic, and to found Del Rey Books with his wife, Judy-Lynn Del Rey. The stunningly original fantasy artist Hannes Bok (1914-1964) attended Duluth High School. C.C. Beck (1910-1989), who was born in Zumbrota, MN, and attended the University of Minnesota (U of M), went on to become the chief artist and de facto story editor of the original *Captain* (Shazam!) *Marvel* comic books.

On the macro scale, in SF the pulp supernatural horror magazine *Weird Tales* appeared in 1923. In 1926, electrical inventor Hugo Gernsback launched *Amazing Stories*, a pulp magazine specializing in what Gernsback initially called "scientifiction" (hence the StF in MN-StF). Then in 1929, in an editorial in *Science Wonder Stories*, Gernsback coined the term "science fiction." He also began printing the addresses of readers who wrote, in his letter columns, thinking they'd write one another, and help promote his magazines. They did indeed start corresponding with each other, giving birth to SF fandom.

Mabel Seeley (1903-1991) was born in Herman, MN, and graduated from the U of M in 1926. She wrote stories for *Terror Tales* magazine, and published novels with such evocative titles as *The Whistling Shadow*, *The Whispering Cup*, *The Beckoning Door*, *The Crying Sisters*, and *The*

Chuckling Fingers. Though labeled as mystery or romance novels, these tales, often set in Minnesota, had strong elements of horror and terror.

Between about 1926 and 1933 a remarkable bunch of people attended the U of M and worked together, in various combinations, on the *Minnesota Quarterly*, the *Minnesota Daily*, the humor magazine *Ski-U-Mah*, and a self-published book, *Broken Mirrors*. The group included Harrison Salisbury (1908-1993), who went on to become a distinguished journalist, and three budding fantasy writers: Carl Jacobi, Donald Wandrei, and Howard Wandrei.

Carl Jacobi (1908-1997), who spent his life in Minnesota, wrote elegantly crafted, atmospheric fantasy and science fiction stories for *Weird Tales* and other pulps, including many stories set in the Carver-Chanhassen area of Minnesota. Donald Wandrei (1908-1987), who divided his time among Minnesota, New York, and California, wrote grand stories of cosmic gloom for such markets as *Astounding Stories*, *Unknown*, and *Weird Tales*. His brother Howard (1909-1956) wrote ironic, spicy, character-centered fantasy and detective stories, and was also an excellent, original fantasy artist, although only a few of his drawings saw print during his lifetime. In 1939 Donald Wandrei and August Derleth of Wisconsin co-founded Arkham House, a distinguished small press dedicated to publishing the works of Lovecraft and of other writers in his tradition. In more recent years the Twin Cities small-press publisher Fedogan & Bremer (published by Minnesotan Philip Rahman, 1952-2011, and Idahoan Dennis Weiler) produced a Donald Wandrei collection, *Colossus* (1989), a Carl Jacobi collection, *Smoke of the Snake* (1994), and two Howard Wandrei collections, *Time Burial* (1995) and *The Last Pin* (1996), among other books.

Meanwhile, in the opinion of some though not all fan historians, the first science fiction convention occurred in 1936, when a few New York fans took a trip to meet a few Philadelphia fans. The first World Science Fiction Convention—Worldcon—happened in New York City in 1939. Gernsback, in his ongoing efforts to promote interest in SF and in his magazines, began chartering “Science Fiction Leagues” in the ‘30s. At least one of those, the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society (LASFS), is still going strong. Around 1937 a few people met to charter the Minneapolis Fantasy Society. The Society didn’t meet again for almost three years.

Clifford Donald Simak was born in southwestern Wisconsin 1904 on a hill farm overlooking the confluence of the Wisconsin and Mississippi rivers. There he had an enchanting boyhood of meaningful chores alternating with swimming, fishing, exploring caves, and roaming the woods. The enchantment settled into his pores and grew in his imagination. After a brief foray into teaching, Simak turned to journalism. Between 1929 and 1939 he worked as a reporter or editor for

small-town papers in Michigan, Iowa, North Dakota, Missouri, and Worthington and Brainerd, Minnesota. Meanwhile, he published half a dozen stories in the SF magazines beginning with “World of the Red Sun” in 1931. He quit fiction writing a couple of years later when the SF markets appeared to have dried up.

Then in 1937 noted space opera writer John W. Campbell Jr. assumed the editorship of *Astounding Stories*. Between 1938 and 1949, Campbell would transform American science fiction (and American fantasy, in his shorter-lived magazine, *Unknown*), by insisting on high technical standards and by discovering or developing such superstars as Theodore Sturgeon, Robert A. Heinlein, Fritz Leiber, and Isaac Asimov.

Simak, believing that Campbell would take more innovative work, reentered the field in 1938. Over the next several years the “Simak story” gradually took shape, as Simak wrote naturalistic, increasingly well-crafted tales about ordinary, down home people touched by cosmic events.

In 1939 Simak joined the copy desk of the *Minneapolis Star*. He would work for the *Star* and for the *Minneapolis Tribune* for 37 years in several positions, including news editor, and as one of the finest science editors ever to work for an American newspaper. In November 1940, Simak and his wife Kay hosted the second meeting of the Minneapolis Fantasy Society. This time the group jelled. The Minneapolis Fantasy Society soon had about two dozen active members. The Wandreis, Jacobi, and Derleth dropped in occasionally. A teenage fan recently arrived from Canada named Gordon R. Dickson (1923-2001) joined early on. Another teenager named Poul Anderson (1926-2001) joined a few years later. Fantasy artist Morris Scott Dollenz was another active member. The Society was, at once, a writing group, a readers' group, and a fan group. At meetings people would talk about the SF they were reading. Simak would read his latest stories out loud. (Gordon R. Dickson has recalled that when the Simaks hosted Kay would fuel the discussion with big plates of sandwiches.) The Society's Hastings contingent brought out nine issues of a splendid fanzine, *The Fantasite*, from 1940-1942, including reminiscences and advice about the craft of writing by Simak and Donald Wandrei. The first issue included a short story by a 20-year-old Los Angeles fan named Ray Bradbury.



The group became less active during WWII. After a revival in the mid-to-late '40s, the Society decided to stop having formal meetings, but it never disbanded, and they continued to socialize when two or more of them were in a room together, so in a sense it continued well into the '90s.

In the '40s, Gordon R. Dickson and Poul Anderson shared a room while attending graduate school at the U of M. Both were trying to become SF professionals; they had many productive sessions at Coffman Union at the U of M and at a local bistro, hanging out and exchanging ideas. Anderson published his first story in 1947. By the early '50s, he'd moved to California. In a more-than-half-century career, he produced an enormous body of high quality science fiction and fantasy short stories and novels. After making some story sales in other fields, Dickson broke into SF in 1950, and soon was making his living as a full-time writer of SF short stories and, beginning in 1956, of SF novels.

In the late '40s and early '50s, a small circle of SF writers and fans hung out in the Mankato area. The Polish-born Mordecai Roshwald (1921-), author of the dystopian novel *Level 7* (1959) lived in Minnesota during this period. In the Twin Cities, beginning in 1950, Charles V. De Vet (1911-1997) became an active contributor to the SF magazines. He also produced a couple of novels, including *Special Feature* (1958). After a hiatus, he returned to the field in the '80s.

In later years Simak would feel that he found his voice with the "City" stories that began to appear in the SF magazines in 1944 and were collected in book form as *City* (1952). Through the '50s he produced many stories and a few novels of increasing craftsmanship. With his sensual landscapes, inspired by southwestern Wisconsin even when they were set on another planet, he was becoming the pastoralist of science fiction. In his thematic concerns and his down-to-Earth characterizations he was becoming American SF's pioneer humanist. In a field often characterized by crashing suns and galaxy-spanning wars, Simak wrote about common human decency.

On the macro scale, the '50s marked SF's coming of age. Dozens of SF magazines appeared during this decade, most notably Anthony Boucher's literate *The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction* and H.L. Gold's bright, sassy *Galaxy*. Specialty SF small presses flourished, and such mass market paperback houses as Ballantine and Ace produced SF lines. Film and television saw their first boom, notably including the TV anthology series *Science Fiction Theater* and the films *The Day the Earth Stood Still* (1951) and *Forbidden Planet* (1956). A 60-something Oxford don named John Tolkien finally found a publisher for his impossibly uncommercial 1,300 page novel about elves and a magic ring. Cons began springing up in the US and elsewhere with increasing frequency. The Worldcon began presenting its "Hugo" Award (named after Gernsback). In 1959 Simak won one for his novelette, "The Big Front Yard."

But for fans, the '50s were a lonely time in Minnesota. No organization sprang up to replace the Minneapolis Fantasy Society. Nevertheless, there were isolated pockets of fan activity (or "fanac"). Ruth Berman (1942-) recalls that University of Minnesota High School had four SF fans:

herself, Eleanor Arnason (1942-), Ron White, and Barry Hansen (1941-), who later became radio's Doctor Demento. On learning about fanzines in a review column by Robert Bloch, Berman persuaded a teacher to help publish a "literary magazine" which was, in fact, a fanzine, beginning in 1957. In 1961 the zine published the opening installments of a history of Minnesota SF fandom written by Red Boggs. Berman recalls that about 1961 a teenager named John Anderson came to Boggs and her, saying, "'We've got to have a science fiction club.' So we put an ad in the paper and we met in an enormous room—a vast, enormous room with blue lights. And it looked so cold, and so empty with just the three of us there, because nobody else did come. And I'm sorry to say that John Anderson gave up at that point."

In the early '60s Al—later Ellen—Kuhfeld and Richard Tatge began a lifelong friendship when they noticed that each of them was buying two copies of the latest *Hawkman* comic at Shinders bookstore in downtown Minneapolis. (In those pre-specialty bookstore days, Shinders was a point of entry to the SF community for many fans. I, myself, was reeled in by a flyer at Shinders promoting *Minicon 7*, 1973.) Kuhfeld went on to be an active participant in the dawn of comix fandom, to found the Spiderist religion, obtain a Ph.D. in physics, serve as curator of the Bakken medical museum, and occasionally collaborate on mystery short stories with wife Mary Monica Pulver. Tatge became a friendly mentor to generations of people in the Twin Cities gaming community.

Julius Schwartz, a member of SF's pre-1939 "First Fandom," was at the time editing a classy line of science fiction comics for DC, including *The Flash*, *Green Lantern*, *Hawkman*, and *Strange Adventures*.

In 1961 a Minneapolis teen named Frank Stodolka learned about SF fandom in general and fanzines in particular through a letter from Canadian fan Art Hayes in *Strange Adventures* #143. Stodolka recalls that he wrote Hayes, "And on my 15th birthday, July 15, I received my first fanzine in the mail. And right then and there I knew two things. Number one, I had to become a fanzine publisher myself, and number two, there had to be a science fiction club here in Minnesota. So I immediately started publishing this little thing called , published on a poster-sized mimeograph—4" x 6" format, with about 100 pages per issue. But I deliberately did not send out all my copies. I saved some. I had this long-term plan, you see. Every so often when I was over at Shinders and someone checked out with a foot-tall stack of science fiction books or what not, I told 'em about this strange new phenomenon called science fiction fandom." In July 1964 Stodolka, Fred Haskell, John Kusske, and Gil Lamont held what was billed as the "first annual" Paincon at Haskell's house. Alas, there was no Paincon 2.

Stodolka started attending the University of Minnesota,

where he “thought I saw some science fictional themes in the artwork of Ken Fletcher, noted cartoonist for the *Minnesota Daily* and the *Minnesota Technologist*, and started, through those publications, making contact with him.”

During the summer of 1966, Frank Stodolka, Al Kuhfeld, and Ken Fletcher often talked about forming a science fiction group. In September or October, Stodolka, Kuhfeld, and Fletcher decided to throw a party to welcome teenage fan Nate Bucklin to the Twin Cities. (“I don't know if Frank realized that his calling to invite me to Paincon had a lot to do with me relocating to the Twin Cities,” Bucklin says.) Stodolka and Bucklin decided on the *Technologist* office (which Stodolka thinks was then located in Mechanical Engineering, Room 2) as the place to meet and 1:00 p.m. Saturday as the time. Bucklin recalls that, “About quarter to five, Frank said to the departing guests, ‘Hey, this was fun. Let's do it again in two weeks.’” A science fiction club later named the Minnesota Science Fiction Society (MN-StF) has been meeting about every couple of weeks ever since.

Other early members included high schoolers Fred Haskell and Jim Young. Beginning in the mid-’70s it became traditional to refer to Frank Stodolka, Ken Fletcher, Nate Bucklin, Jim Young, and Fred Haskell as the five “Floundering Fathers” of MN-StF. Specifically, it became traditional in the mid-’70s to say that MN-StF didn't really “begin” until the name was coined on or about November 25, 1966; but this reasoning is as quaint as it would be to suggest that *Amazing Stories* wasn't really a science fiction magazine until Gernsback coined the term “science fiction.” Clearly, Dr. Kuhfeld belongs among the six founders. Other near-founders, active in the first year of the club, include Richard Tatge and Anthony Tollin.

Stodolka was elected the first MN-StF President. Haskell suggested that, while officers were well and good, it was also important to have people who simply showed up to hang out. He volunteered to be Happy Deadwood and was duly appointed.

Almost immediately the club began making plans for Minicon 1. The consensus among early MN-StFers is that Jim Young (1951-2012) was the firebrand behind making Minicon a reality. Stodolka says, “Jim was really a fannish go-getter with a great deal of energy. He was the person that did a lot of the correspondence and the necessary footwork for making it click.” Stodolka says, “We had, in that time, a vision of gradual growth. We wanted MN-StF to grow with people that were really interested in science fiction. But we emphasized relationships, and we did not want to put on a big media blitz and get a whole bunch of strangers together in one room. We wanted something that would grow on a more gradual basis.”

Minicon 1 occurred at the Coffman Union Men's Lounge on Saturday, January 6, 1968. Admission was 50 cents. Anthony Tollin, who served as registrar (and who went on to be an authority on old-time radio, comic-book colorist, including a long stint on *Green Lantern*, and who is publishing the re-issue of all the *Doc Savage* and *The Shadow* pulp novels) thinks 57 people showed up. Stodolka thinks it was more like 35. Simak, Dickson, and DeVet were Guests of Honor; there were a few programmed items, and people hung out, had fun, and made plans for Minicon 2. Minicon 2 happened at the Andrews Hotel in Minneapolis on April 4-6, 1969. Admission was \$2; about 100 people attended (again, memories vary). Stodolka recalls that Minicon 2 “was really a fantastic convention. We all had a great time, and it kept growing from there, oddly enough.”



When MN-StF outgrew the *Technologist* office the club met at Golub's Bookstore on Washington Avenue in Minneapolis for a while; then met at the Pillsbury-Waite Cultural Center. When that setting proved too impersonal, the decision was made to meet in people's homes. In those early years dinner was routinely served at MN-StF meetings, and at various times the hosts asked for a contribution to the meal since there were sometimes 19 or 20 people present. This is the closest MN-StF has come to charging dues.

On the macro scale, notable SF novels of the '60s included *The Man in the High Castle* (1962) by Philip K. Dick, *Dune* (1965) by Frank Herbert, and *The Left Hand of Darkness* (1969) by Ursula K. Le Guin. Some notable films were director Stanley Kubrick's *Dr. Strangelove* (1963) and *2001: A Space Odyssey* (1968). The most important TV shows were *The Twilight Zone* (1959-1964), *The Outer Limits* (1963-1965), and *Star Trek* (1966-1969); at the time, only *Twilight Zone* appeared to be a commercial success. The “New Wave” of experimental SF spearheaded by Michael Moorcock's British magazine *New Worlds* led to an entertaining brawl over what was or wasn't real SF. When the dust cleared they all won, since everybody became free to use SF to say more different things in more different ways. The paperback reissue of Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* in the mid-'60s led to the growth of fantasy as a distinct marketing category.

John Sladek (1937-2000), born in Iowa, attended St. Thomas College in 1955-1956 and the University of Minnesota in 1956-1959. Thomas M. Disch (1940-2008) grew up in Minnesota. After respective periods in New York in the '60s, these two friends found themselves in London, where they became important figures in the New Wave. Disch was a master of dry, ironic wit, and a remarkably versatile writer whose books range from the SF novel *Camp Concentration* (1968) to several volumes of poetry, several fine short story collections,

the novel *The MD: A Horror Story* (1991), and the children's books *The Brave Little Toaster* (1986) and *The Brave Little Toaster Goes to Mars* (1989). Disch's vision of life was very dark, witness *The Genocides* (1965), in which aliens wipe out humanity. His Minnesota roots show up occasionally, as in the essay, "Pyramids for Minnesota."

Sladek's worldview was nearly as dark as Disch's, but he was also wonderfully funny, even silly. He often wrote about the blurring lines between machine-like humans and human-like machines in such books as *The Reproductive System* (1968), *Tik-Tok* (1983), *Roderick: The Education of a Young Machine* (1980), and *Roderick at Random* (1983). Roderick is created at the "University of Minnetonka," Minnesota. Sladek returned to the Twin Cities around 1984. His novel *Bugs* (1989) dealt with an Englishman trying to adjust to life in Minnesota.

Simak, not content to rest on his laurels, continued to refine his craft, producing much of his best work in the 1960s, including the novel *The Goblin Reservation* (1968) and the Hugo-winning *Way Station* (1963), arguably the finest novel of science fiction or fantasy produced by a Minnesota writer. He continued attending cons until 1981, as long as health permitted, and continued publishing until 1986, (producing the first-rate novelette "Grotto of the Dancing Deer" as late as 1980). Simak was a gracious and gentle man, loved by those who were privileged to meet him. The Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America (SFWA) awarded him the Grandmaster Award for Lifetime Achievement in 1986. He died in 1988.

Gordon R. Dickson came into his prime in the '60s, beginning his Childe Cycle of novels about a fragmented humanity trying to reunite itself, including the novels *Dorsai!* (1960, aka *The Genetic General*) and *Necromancer* (1962). Besides that series he continued to produce a wide range of fantasy and science fiction, including the Dragon series commencing with *The Dragon and the George* (1976). He continued to occasionally delight when he showed up to make thoughtful comments at SF conventions. He died in 2001.

Beginning about 1968 three Twin Cities fanciers of the H.P. Lovecraft/*Weird Tales*/Arkham House tradition in supernatural horror began hanging out on a regular basis, including John J. Koblas (1942-2013), who went on to be a literary "and regional historian who wrote books about F. Scott Fitzgerald and Sinclair Lewis, and several books about the Dakota Conflict of 1862 and the 1876 Northfield, MN, raid by the James-Younger gang" as well as poetry, memoirs, and a book of ghost stories. When Duluth fan Eric Carlson (1944-1996) was coming down to visit the group for the weekend they decided to dub their gathering a "Minn-Con." Whenever several of the fellowship gathered for some activity—usually, though not always, dark fantasy-related—they called it a Minn-Con. There would eventually be over 150 Minn-Cons,

as well as some out-of-town activities, including a couple of Spooncons in Spooner, Wisconsin. In the fall of 1971 they held the first annual weekend in members' houses, which they called Oktoberfests. Over the years these Minn-Cons and Oktoberfests attracted horror, fantasy, and science fiction authors, artists, scholars, musicians, and fans.

Attendees included humorist/cartoonist Joe West, who became the group's performance artist; Ray Nixon, who'd corresponded with Lovecraft so long before; fantastical painter Jon Arfstrom; fantasy writer Richard L. Tierney; and, as Koblas put it, "A guy by the name of Kirby McCauley [1920-2014] who sold insurance and was working at Lancer Books. He was a small-time literary agent with Carl Jacobi, and then he signed an obscure newcomer named Stephen King and things began to happen for him." Jacobi, Donald Wandrei, and De Vet showed up. Koblas later recalled that De Vet "helped a lot of younger writers in the group." A young fellow named Greg Ketter joined somewhere along the line. Fantasy artist Rodger Gerberding joined the group around 1986. Meeting at various members' houses, Koblas said, "A lot of people would stay over from the Friday-Saturday Minn-Con, and then we'd go off on these expeditions. It didn't really become a convention till [1987], when it was too big to go on being held at people's houses and we had to move into a hotel. We had said we would never do that, it would never become a convention, it was a fellowship. But out of necessity and out of growth, it was something we had to do."

After nearly dissolving due to a schism in 1987, Minn-Con renewed itself, holding fall gatherings in hotels, evolving from a large gathering to a small convention. In 1992 the convention settled into the hotel beside Bandana Square, St. Paul—the Sunwood Inn—Holiday Inn Express—Best Western—Best Western Plus—where it will happily reside this fall for its 45th consecutive year. In 1994, to avoid confusion with the slightly older and much bigger Minicon, the Minn-Con group changed the convention's name to Arcana, "a convention of the Dark Fantastic." Over the years the convention has drawn between 32 and 70 people, usually around 50, defining the compact edge of what is, in fact, a full-service convention. Minn-Con/Arcana has boasted a who's who of dark fantasy and horror writers as Guests, including Karl Edward Wagner, Robert Bloch, Dennis Etchison, Chelsea Quinn Yarbro, Neil Gaiman, Ramsey Campbell, Gahan Wilson, David G. Hartwell, F. Paul Wilson, Joe Lansdale, P.C. Hodgell, Kim Harrison, and more.

The Minn-Con group produced a one-shot semiprozine, *Etchings & Odysseys*, in 1972. In 1982-1987 it was revived for ten more issues under Koblas' editorship. In the late '80s group members Ed Shannon and Mike Odden brought out two issues of another semiprozine, *Minnesota Fantasy*

Review. Since the late '80s Minn-Con/Arcana has presented the annual Minnesota Fantasy Award, honoring the lifetime achievement of contributors to the fantastic by persons who have lived for a significant time in Minnesota.

By the '70s only a few SF magazines remained—*Asimov's Science Fiction* was the success story among the new ones—but book publication of SF had grown so diverse that no one reader could claim to know the whole field. James Tiptree, Jr. (Alice Sheldon, 1915-1986) and John Varley (1947-) were among the decade's most impressive writers. For the first time women began to enter SF as pros and fans in something approaching their percentage in the general population. Fantasy books burgeoned: in the wake of Stephen King, horror became another distinct marketing category. Notable films were the space opera *Star Wars* (1977) and the science fiction/horror film *Alien* (1979). *Star Trek* gained new life in syndicated reruns, spurring an enormous fandom and disseminating knowledge of the tropes of science fiction to much of humanity. The genie was out of the bottle.

In late 1973 or early 1974 several Twin Cities lovers of fantasy fiction in general and the fiction of J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis in particular started the Rivendell Group of the international Mythopoeic Society. By the summer of 1974 U of M student David Lenander had settled into the role of moderator for this fantasy-book discussion group, and continues moderating the group's mostly-monthly discussions 40+ years later, sometimes in Coffman Union, sometimes in people's homes, often more recently in Southeast Community Library. Rivendell publishes an occasional newsletter, *The Last Homely Hearth*, and hosts an annual "Readings from Rivendell" meeting in December in which members read their work out loud. In 1993 the Rivendell Group hosted the Mythopoeic Society's Mythcon XXIV at the U of M, chaired by Lenander.

In 1974 Eleanor Arnason returned to Minneapolis after several years in Detroit and suggested to Ruth Berman that they start a writers' critique group (Berman had sold the first of dozens of fantasy-related short stories, poems, and essays in 1969). Arnason's first story appeared in 1973, since which time she has published ten novels and collections. Al Kuhfeld was another founding member of the group. Over the decades other members of what would eventually become known as the Aardvark Writing Group included mystery novelist Mary Monica Pulver, and fantasy novelist P.C. Hodgell. With Berman continuing as a mainstay the group still meets monthly to listen to and critique each other's work, a remarkable record of longevity for any writing group.

Another highly successful SF writing group was The Scribbles, which formed in 1981 and lasted well into the '90s. Members at various times were Nate Bucklin, who has gone on to publish several short stories and to become a

central figure in the local SF music community; and Steven Brust, Patricia C. Wrede, Emma Bull, Will Shetterly, Kara Dalkey, and Pamela Dean, each of whom has published several novels of fantasy and/or science fiction.

The husband-wife team of Shetterly and Bull also ran SteelDragon Press, an SF small press, for several years, and edited the "Liavek" fantasy shared-world anthologies. Other notable small presses include Corroboree Press, Dwayne H. Olson's Jwindz Publishing, and Greg Ketter's DreamHaven Press.

Another Minnesota SF writer who flourished during the '70s and early '80s is the Hungarian-born novelist Arsen Darnay. The most influential and popular Minnesota fantasist has been the radio host, short story writer, and novelist Garrison Keillor (1942-), who is to the bright side of small-town life what Stephen King is to its dark side.

Minicon continued to grow through the '70s. The first several were chaired by the con's original guiding spirit, Jim Young, who published two novels and had a long career in the diplomatic corps, including postings in Botswana, Moscow, and London. After his retirement he played, with gusto, the head of Hitler attached to a mechanical body in the horror comedy *Nazis at the Center of the Earth* (2012). Another longtime Minicon chair was Don Blyly, who ran four Minicons in the mid-'70s.

MN-StF had probably its most active social period during the 1970s. While a fair amount of networking among writers went on informally, the group developed a strong flavor of playfulness generating what became known as "Crazy Minneapolis Fandom." The group had been seriously bidding to host the 1973 Worldcon, but the decision was made to drop out of the bidding shortly before a site was voted on in 1971. Soon after Toronto won the bid, MN-StF reopened its bid for the 1973 Worldcon, a bid which continued for many years at Minneapolis in '73 parties at Minicon, Worldcon, and elsewhere. It was, in the apt phrase of U of M reference librarian and longtime MN-StFer Denny Lien, "an idea whose time has come and gone and gotten silly." MN-StF iconographer Ken Fletcher designed the MN-StF zeppelin, a popular mode of transport in the alternate universe where the 1973 Worldcon is always being hosted in Minneapolis.



Early in its history MN-StF began publishing a clubzine (club fazine), *Rune* (named after Minnesota's Kensington Runestone). Fred Haskell put in a hitch as editor in the '70s, as did Ken Fletcher in the '90s. Despite an irregular publishing schedule, *Rune* has brought out an impressive ninety or so issues since the '60s.

Though not an official MN-StF publication, *Minneappa*, launched by Mike Wood in 1972 and edited by him for its first 11 years, drew regular contributions from many MN-StFers. *Minneappa* contributed to the growth of Minicon as out-of-town contributors attended the con to help with their correspondence, returning to their home cities with rave reports. Another longtime APA was St. Paul's *Stippleapa*.

Between about 1973 and 1981 a bunch of fans moved into the apartment building at 343 19th St. E in Minneapolis, dubbing it the "Bozo Bus Building" (a reference to Firesign Theatre's comedy album, *I Think We're All Bozos on This Bus*). For several years there was a MN-StF party in one of the building's apartments on Saturday night, whether or not there had been a MN-StF meeting there that afternoon.

In 1974 Don Blyly founded Uncle Hugo's Science Fiction Bookstore (named after Guess Who). Originally located on Franklin Avenue in Minneapolis, it now resides at 29th St. & Chicago Ave., along with its companion, Uncle Edgar's Mystery Bookstore (named after Poe). Employees have included the astonishingly talented bookfinder Scott Imes, (1949-2001), Ken Fletcher, and Elizabeth LaVelle, as knowledgeable a bookstore staff as you're likely to find. Greg Ketter ran a succession of SF/comic book/art-related stories beginning in 1977, culminating in DreamHaven Books in the '80s. DreamHaven at times had locations at Lake St. & Colfax Ave. and at 13th Ave. & 4th St. SE. DreamHaven currently resides at 2301 38th St. E in Minneapolis. Both DreamHaven and Uncle Hugo's rank comfortably among the world's best SF specialty bookstores. A number of other SF-related stores—The Source gaming store, Comic Book College, Big Brain Comics, etc.—have sprung up in the Twin Cities metro area since the '70s.

In 1979 KFAI radio in Minneapolis launched the weekly science fiction radio show *Shockwave*, under the direction of Jerry Stearns and David E. Romm, leading to a *Shockwave* SF comedy performance Friday nights at Minicon beginning a couple of years later and continuing for many years. Romm continued to run *Shockwave* weekly for many years, in what was probably one of the two or three longest runs of an SF radio show.

In the '80s and '90s SF continued to grow and diversify. On the macro scale, Gene Wolfe (1931-) and Octavia E. Butler (1947-2006) were two outstanding writers among dozens of fine ones. Science fiction became, for several years, the dominant category in American film. In 1982 *E.T.* evoked the hopeful side of SF and *Blade Runner* the cautionary side. On TV *Star Trek: The Next Generation* (1987-1994) inspired several outer space shows and *Twin Peaks* (1990-1991) spawned several about strangeness nearer home.

From the late '70s through the early '90s Minicon was run by an Executive Committee presiding over a large and opinion-

ated General Committee. During this time it is generally agreed that Don Bailey and Scott Imes provided especially strong leadership. Minicon grew from a middle-to-upper-middle-sized convention to, in the '90s, the largest non-floating literary SF convention in the world, provoking the rueful joke that until Minnesota fandom agreed to run a Worldcon, it would be condemned to run one each year.

MN-StF became less socially cohesive but also more project-oriented. From 1986 through 1990 the Minnesota Science Fiction Society Lecture Series brought in such authors as Frederik Pohl, C.J. Cherryh and Ben Bova to speak about SF themes (one year's theme was "Social Science Fiction: Beyond the Nuts and Bolts"). Under the imprint of Rune Press MN-StF has made several ventures into publishing. *Einblatt* (German for "one page"), a monthly calendar of events in the local SF community, has been appearing for many years, including a long run under the able—and funny—editorship of Denny Lien. In 1979 Rune Press published *Maturity*, a short-story collection and bibliography of Theodore Sturgeon, produced to commemorate his 1979 appearance as Minicon 15 Author Guest of Honor. *Time Gum* (1985), edited by Eleanor Arnason and Terry A. Garey, and *Time Frames* (1988), edited by Garey, are speculative poetry anthologies. Rune Press published the first 23 issues of *Tales of the Unanticipated* (1986-2002), a magazine/anthology publishing science fiction, fantasy, horror, and unclassifiable stories, poetry, and artwork. (Issues 23-30 were subsequently published by TOTU Ink, and #31 published in 2014 by SF Minnesota, with #32 planned for publication by SF Minnesota in early 2016.)

In January 1983 I started Second Foundation, a science fiction spin-off of the fantasy-book discussion Rivendell Group. The five persons attending the first meeting included Eleanor Arnason and later Minicon Programming Co-Director Marianne D. Hageman. Though discussion participants have changed frequently, Second Foundation, expanded to include both science fiction and speculative fiction, continues to meet about every six weeks to discuss the works of individual SF writers, and sometimes SF themes. Over the years Second Foundation has frequently sponsored discussions of the works of Guests of Honor at local cons, with the author present and participating—starting, as it happens, with Larry Niven in 1983.

That 1983 discussion of the works of Larry Niven was part of the bill of fare at Krushenko's, a space designed to encourage the discussion of science fiction and fantasy, premiering at Minicon 19 in 1983 and drawing its name from a Manhattan bistro in Niven's novel *Ringworld* (1970). Krushenko's continues as a space floating among several Minnesota and Wisconsin conventions, offering a mix of thoughtful panels and discussions and conversational parties.

The North Country Gaylaxians, a branch of the national Gaylaxian network, has met monthly in the Twin Cities since about 1989 to discuss current SF books, particularly exploring lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender themes, and to encourage contacts among gay SF fans and their straight friends. The North Country Gaylaxians ran the national Gaylaxicon in the Twin Cities in 2009 and 2012.

More SF groups kept popping up in the '80s and '90s, some of them quickly flashing out of existence, some of them workshopping each other's manuscripts for years. The Snippets, spun off in 1982 from a U of M class taught by author/agent Scott Edelstein, remained active for several years, and for several more years thereafter hosted a writers' Block Party at Minneapolis parks in the summer, a good opportunity for SF writers and their friends and families to hobnob. From the mid-'80s through the late '90s there were pretty consistently a half dozen active Minnesota SF writing groups at any given time, from Training Wheels to the Indy 500. Other power writing groups have included WW2, with Terry A. Garey, Rhysling Award-winning speculative poet John Calvin Rezmerski, and fiction writers Carolyn Ives Gilman, Peg Kerr, Kij Johnson (2012 Best Novella Hugo winner), and Philip C. Jennings; the Workshop, which included Arnason, Jennings, L.A. Taylor (1939-1996); an unnamed group that included Kerr, Patricia C. Wrede, Joel Rosenberg (1954-2011), Hugo-and-Nebula-winner Lois McMaster Bujold, Elise Matthesen, and Bruce Bethke, whose 1983 story "Cyberpunk" in *Amazing Stories* gave a cultural movement its name. The Wyrdsmiths, founded in 1994, still workshops regularly. Its members through the years have included Arnason, Douglas Hulick, Naomi Kritzer, Kelly McCullough, Lyda Morehouse, and Adam Stemple.

In May 1985 representatives of several SF writing groups decided to form the Minnesota Imaginative Fiction Writers' Alliance (MIFWA), a resource-sharing network of SF writing groups and individual writers. The group met quarterly through the late '90s to discuss writing-related topics, the most important being the annual evening meeting at, first, Minicon, later CONvergence, at which writers looking for groups have the opportunity to meet with groups looking for writers, and new groups have the opportunity to form. MIFWA dropped $\frac{3}{4}$ of its quarterly meetings around the turn of the millennium, continuing the annual how-to-join-or-form-an SF writing group meeting.

The size and solidity of the Minnesota SF community has itself become an inducement for noted writers to move here. Sladek, Rosenberg, and John M. Ford (1957-2006) came in the '80s. Bujold arrived in the early '90s. English-born novelist, short-story writer, and *Sandman* comics scripter Neil Gaiman, during his many years living in Wisconsin, appeared at Twin Cities events several times a year.

Also active since the '80s are the Minnesota Space Frontier Society (originally L5 Minnesota), a space exploration and development advocacy group, and Minnesota Futurists, a chapter of the World Future Society, both of which host a range of events, sometimes including SF discussions.

Minnesotans have been active in Star Trek fandom from the beginning, including Ruth Berman, who worked for Star Trek creator Gene Roddenberry for a year in the '60s, and Joan Marie Verba, who in 1996 published *Boldly Go*, a history of Trek fanzines. There was a Star Trek musical at Minicon 6 in 1972 and a different Star Trek musical at Minicon 9 in 1974. But the growth of Minnesota fan groups specializing in electro-celluloid media dates from the mid-'80s, starting with the U.S.S. Nokomis and the U.S.S. Czarak in 1984-1985. Since then dozens of E-C media clubs have flourished for short or long periods. Other longstanding groups include the U.S.S. Phoenix (1987-) and the Celestial Affiliation of Timelords (CAOTL, 1987-). Fandom of anime (Japanese animation) and manga (Japanese comics) get bigger all the time.

These groups, and the Trek groups in particular, have extended the geographic range of Minnesota SF fandom. There have been groups in (for example) Duluth and Montevideo. (The Montevideo group was for a time captained by K. John Jones, the city's mayor!) Glen F. Proechel of Red Lake Falls ran, for a long time, the Interstellar Language School, offering workshops and chapbooks related to the Trek languages Klingon and Vulcan.

Another aspect of Minnesota Trek fandom is their commitment to charitable work, inspired by Roddenberry's vision of a better future. Several Trek clubs have volunteered for public TV phone drives. Other club activities have included tree planting, recycling, food shelf donations, and fundraising events for various charities. Many of the groups publish clubzines. *Phyrbirde*, the U.S.S. Phoenix literary magazine, has been especially noteworthy. Several of the E-C media groups have hosted a very pleasant "All Ships" Holiday party. Long-time Nokomis and Phoenix member Art Johnson says the groups attract "people who like camaraderie with a common denominator of Star Trek's optimistic vision of the future. We're a social club. We do a lot of business and have a lot of fun at meetings and have a lot of inside jokes and silliness."

By the '80s the Minnesota SF community had grown large and diverse enough to support not only a mega-convention (Ken Fletcher dubbed Minicon "The Gathering of the Tribes"), but also a number of smaller, more focused conventions. Since the early '80s there's been a small general convention, ValleyCon, in Fargo-Moorhead. In 1986 Steven Brust and others started Fourth Street Fantasy Convention, a sercon (serious, constructive convention) that did for the discussion of high and heroic fantasy what Arcana does for

dark fantasy. Fourth Street ran annually through 1992. The group took a year off to host the World Fantasy Convention in Bloomington, Minnesota in 1993, under Chair Greg Ketter; then ran two more Fourth Streets in 1994-1995. After a several-year hiatus, Fourth Street came back to life in the early 21st century. ReinConation, another MN-StF convention seeking to recapture the flavor of old-time SF fandom in general and early Minicons in particular, ran for several years beginning in 1991, drawing 150-200 people. There were several attempts in the '80s to maintain a fan-run Minnesota E-C media convention, the most successful of which was Time, Space, & Fantasy's Inc's Polariscon, which met three times in 1989-1994.

SF Minnesota, founded in 1992, is a multicultural, multimedia organization dedicated to improving contacts among groups and individuals interested in speculative fiction, in and out of the traditional SF community, and to making our state's SF community more closely reflect the cultural diversity of Minnesota in the third millennium. SF Minnesota projects have included an annual booklet guide to Minnesota SF Fan Groups from 1993-2000; the Visions Lecture Series from 1993-1995; and, for nearly 20 years, the Speculations Readings Series, featuring monthly author readings, usually at DreamHaven. Originally partnered by the literary organization SASE: The Write Place, then by Intermedia Arts, the Speculations Readings Series has been partnered to DreamHaven for about half its history. SF Minnesota has held an annual Classic Horror Films party since 1992, celebrating horror cinema's history and themes. SF Minnesota's biggest project is Diversicon, a multicultural midsummer speculative fiction convention since 1993, whose Guest roster has included Joan Slonczewski, Maureen F. McHugh, Karen Joy Fowler, Nalo Hopkinson, Tananarive Due, Steven Barnes, S.P. Somtow, Sheree R. Thomas, Minister Faust, Nnedi Okorafor, David G. Hartwell, and Carolyn Ives Gilman. More recently, SF Minnesota has taken over and continues to publish *Tales of the Unanticipated*.

A by-no-means complete list of other Minnesota SF pros to emerge since the late '80s includes editor/literary executor David W. Wixon, horror anthologist Pan Keesey, editor-author Catherine Lundoff, Philip K. Dick biographer Lawrence Sutin, artist Eric McKee, "Omaha" *The Cat Dancer* comix creators Reed Waller & Kate Worley, comix artists Dan Jurgens, Zander Cannon, and Kevin Cannon, game designer and novelist M.A.R. Barker, novelists Caroline Stevermer, C.J. Mills, Donald Aamodt, Raphael Carter, Benjamin Percy, editor/poet/Lao folklorist Bryan Thao Worra, and National Book Award winner William Alexander. Their ranks grow every year.

A particularly Minnesota flavored writer-activity is the speculative poetry performance group Lady Poetesses from Hell,

who for many years have exhibited their quirky stylings at cons and other venues. Long-term members have included Terry A. Garey, Laurel Winter, Rebecca Marjesdatter, Elise Matthesen, East Coast author Jane Yolen, and John Calvin Rezmerski—the latter of whom channels the posthumous poems of Lovecraft contemporary Grace Lord Stoke.

Mention should be made of the work done by Joseph Agee, Sybil Marie Smith, Wayne R. McCloud, and Art Johnson to forge a broader Minnesota SF community out of the dozens of often unconnected groups. Agee and Smith have each been active in several literary and E-C media groups, helping those groups see a bigger picture. CAOTL founder McCloud in 1993-1997 hosted four annual Minnesota Fan Alliance meetings at which two dozen or more groups gathered to report about their groups and what they did. In 1990 Johnson started, and continued for many years, to run a Fan Faire at Minicon and, later, MarsCon, at which representatives of many groups sat at literature tables telling interested neo-fans how they could join the community.

Minicon continued to grow. Tension grew among people who considered Minicon's pluralism vital, those who felt that Minicon's size was a real problem, and those who wished to preserve Minicon's pluralism while controlling its size. In 1990 the General Committee voted by a substantial majority that the size of the convention was becoming a problem, pushing the till-then well-run convention toward its Peter Principle. A Short-Term Task Force was appointed to make recommendations for Minicon 26 in 1991, and a Long-Term Task Force to try to plan beyond the next bump in the road. The two Task Forces made recommendations, some of which were followed, some not. It became clear that nothing could be done—including doing nothing—that wouldn't injure some people who were clearly, by any reasonable definition, SF fans. The MN-StF Board began approving Minicon Leadership proposals that made Minicon a more top-down organization. The convention continued to forge along. In 1994 Minicon 29 pretty much tied that year's Winnipeg Worldcon at about 3,400 each. (Taking unregistered "ghosts" into account, Minicon 29 may have been a bit bigger.)

In December 1997 a group of people calling itself the High Resolution Council successfully submitted a proposal to the MN-StF Board to redefine the 1999 Minicon, Minicon 34. In preparing this essay, I asked High Resolution Council member David Dyer-Bennet (DD-B) for 200-300 words about the Council's philosophy and the way they implemented it. He replied with the preamble to the Council's proposal to the MN-StF Board, "Because it seemed more sensible to send that than to try to create something new, this many years later, to describe what we thought then." DD-B added, "Here's the proposal introduction from the big document we gave the Board (there's more detailed sections for different

topics under that, but this is the basic philosophical plan, then there's the reasons we think it's needed, which fills the first 80% of the document."

Proposal: We feel that Minn-StF needs to take control of Minicon, rather than letting Minicon control us. We volunteer to do that, starting with Minicon 34. Our basic philosophy is to focus in on the core of science fiction fandom, which is fandom itself and the written science fiction that spawned it. Thus, we will not deal with any science fiction presented at less than 300 DPI. We will emphasize quality over quantity. We will not exclude individuals or groups, but we will exercise editorial control over what goes on officially at the convention. We will not institute a membership cap, but will attempt to reduce size selectively, by editing the convention and encouraging self-selection among the members. We will arrange extensive, clear, and widespread publicity, starting at Minicon 33, saying that Minicon 34 will be different. There will be heavy publicity to best explain to all fans, from First Fandom to Middle School kids, from fans who have never attended Minicon to fans who have attended all of them, and from professional writers to Trekkies, just what it is that we are doing, so that they can make an informed decision whether or not they would enjoy our Minicon. To make this work we need a commitment from the Board. And we need the Minicon 34 Exec Selection Committee and the Board to choose us to run Minicon 34. We, in turn, commit to more than a single year of involvement ourselves.

DD-B said that the High Res Council ran the convention for three years, through Minicon 36, though some individual members continued to actively volunteer for the convention thereafter.

As the High Res Council (which eventually consisted of 14 persons) undertook the task of redefining Minicon, two other general SF fan organizations formed, whose goals included the formation of general SF cons with different definitions.

The FenSF website says, "FenSF [The Fans Educational Network for Science Fiction] is a nonprofit organization devoted to teaching individuals how to promote and run amateur science fiction and gaming conventions. In furtherance of our educational goals, we sponsor a yearly amateur science fiction/fantasy convention called MarsCon, conduct training sessions, provide outreach and assistance to other fan-run conventions, and engage in fund raising activities to raise money for convention efforts and increase public awareness of amateur science fiction and gaming conventions in general." The first edition of MarsCon, FenSF's largest project, took place end of February in 1999. It has sought to be a full service SF convention, with attention given to literature, films, anime, wide-ranging music, science, and more. It is a good-natured convention that, over time, has grown to an upper-middle sized, 900+ person convention.

The Minnesota Society for Interest in Science Fiction and Fantasy (MISFITS) started around spring 1998, with a multitude of projects in mind, the biggest of which would be a

very wide-ranging general interest speculative fiction convention, CONvergence. Where Minicon had unintentionally gotten really big by being a pleasant, well-run convention, CONvergence was planned to be a large convention from the very beginning. After a great deal of publicity, Minicon 34 and the first CONvergence essentially tied at about 1,500 warm bodies. For the next 15 years, CONvergence continued to grow. Wikipedia reports that the registered attendee count at CONvergence 2014 was 6,389. MISFITS' other projects have included an annual writing contest, a writing group, a Read-the-Book-See-the-Movie club, and a trivia contest. In 2010 MISFITS and CONvergence became independent of each other, though still close. MISFITS became the Geek Partnership Society (GPS). In 2010, GPS acquired Event Horizon, a community center in the Waterbury Building in Northeast Minneapolis, at 1121 Jackson St. NE (at the intersection of Central and Broadway). The GPS uses a Main Hall, classroom (room 106A), and Living Room for a wide variety of SF community events. Among the many people who deserve credit for making MISFITS, CONvergence, and GPS a success, special mention should be made of comic book artist Christopher Jones, who did for the iconography of CONvergence (especially Connie) what Ken Fletcher had done for the iconography of MN-StF and Minicon 30 years earlier.

Elsewhere... Minnesota comic book conventions go back to the early '70s. The Minnesota Comic Book Association (MCBA), founded in 1988, currently runs a spring convention, MSP Comicon, and a fall convention, Fallcon. Anime Detour (2004-) is a March-April convention celebrating Anime (Japanese animation) and manga (Japanese comic books). It has a four-figure membership cap. There have been several Twin Cities gaming conventions. Con of the North launched in 2004. Con-Sarnit, "A celebration of the American West in film, fiction, television, radio, music, artwork, comics, folklore, and historical fact," premiered at, appropriately, the Best Western Bandana Square, in 2008. In recent years, Diversicon, Arcana, and Con-Sarnit have been hosting Bandana Square Cons parties at several area conventions, calling attention to the fact that all three cons now meet annually at the same hotel. Brit Con, a convention celebrating British science fiction, fantasy, and folklore held two editions in 2013 and 2014.

Minicon continued to drop in attendance, getting down to about 400. Greg Ketter and his wife Lisa Freitag co-chaired Minicon 40 and 41 in 2005-06, hosting many Minicon parties at other cons, and booking Terry Pratchett and Harlan Ellison, respectively, as Guests of Honor, getting membership back to 600. Minicon has been hovering around 500 more recently. For obvious reasons Minicon 50 is likely to be significantly larger.

A few years after The Minnesota Imaginative Fiction Writers' Alliance lost much of its steam, a new SF writing network more than filled the gap. Michael Merriam wrote: "Founded in 2004 as the Twin Cities Speculative Fiction Writers Network by a handful of local authors seeking mutual support and encouragement, the Minnesota Speculative Fiction Writers (MinnSpec) is now a 400-strong organization of working writers. MinnSpec provides members with monthly meetings to discuss topics of interest to writers. We sponsor two different monthly workshop groups. MinnSpec offers its members a chance to share writing goals, discuss market news, keep each other on task, and provides a place for general networking and chat about writing speculative fiction, both in person and on our message boards. MinnSpec organizes periodic Kaffee Klatch chats with well-known local authors, promotes the Speculations Readings Series, and is active at many Twin Cities science fiction conventions, working with local and regional conventions to help provide programming, readings, and book signings for both the group as a whole and individual members. Our mission is to nurture emerging talent, provide support for established authors, and promote the field of speculative literature."

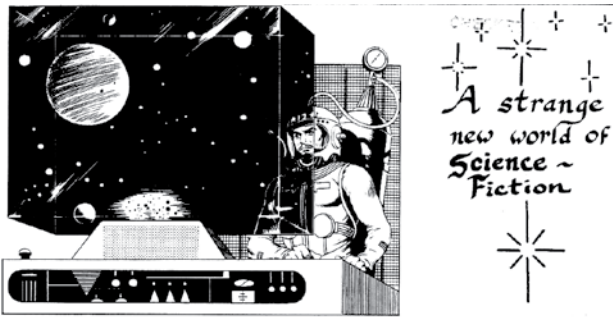
When I asked MinnSpec founder Hilary Moon Murphy if she founded the group as a local speculative fiction charter of the national Meetup organization, she replied, "Yes and no. It is a club on Meetup, but the writers' clubs on Meetups are all independent. I did help both Boston and San Antonio get started, though as Meetup clubs, but that was me helping their first meetups from afar. Meetup is more a tool than an overarching organization!"

Right around the turn of the Millennium the Minnesota SF community went through "The Troubles," as people quarreled over its desirable size, shape, and nature. Now the dust has cleared, and we find ourselves in an SF community of unparalleled diversity. And, where MN-StF once bid to retroactively host the 1973 Worldcon, it now bids to host the Worldcon of 2073.

For 133 years, the Minnesota SF community has played an interesting and sometimes central role in the development of the international speculative fiction community. That rich heritage belongs to all of us. It isn't a private party. It is, to borrow a phrase from H.G. Wells, an "open conspiracy" in which we can stretch our minds, work and play together, meet and mate with kindred spirits, and, just maybe, help save the world.

Sources/Acknowledgements: Britt Aamodt, *Superheroes, Strip Artists, & Talking Animals: Minnesota's Contemporary Cartoonists*, 2010; Brian W. Aldiss & David Wingrove, *Trillion Year Spree: The History of Science Fiction*, 1986; John Clute & Peter Nicholls, *The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction*, 1995; Eric M. Heideman, ed.,

Minnesota Science Fiction and Fantasy Groups, 1993-2000; Heideman, an earlier version of "From Atlantis to the Stars: The Minnesota SF Community 1882-1997, for the Minicon 32 Program Book, 1997; Maurice Horn, *The World Encyclopedia of Comics*, 1985; Fred A. Levy Haskell, *Robert A. Timeline* (autobiographical pamphlet), 1996; Sam Moskowitz, *Explorers of the Infinite: Shapers of Modern Science Fiction*, 1963; and *Seekers of Tomorrow: Makers of Modern Science Fiction*, 1967; Martin Ridge, *Ignatius Donnelly, Portrait of a Politician*, 1991; David W. Wixon, "Out of the Woods: Clifford D. Simak and His Work," *Tales of the Unanticipated* #5, Spring/Summer 1989; audiotape supplied by Jerry Stearns of fall 1990 Minnesota Science Fiction Society Lecture Series panel on "The Minnesota SF Community: The Past," moderated by Eric M. Heideman and featuring Ruth Berman, John J. Koblas, and Frank Stodolka, plus conversations with hundreds of SF fans and pros over the past 42 years. For their help in the direct preparation of the 1997 version of this essay I'm especially indebted to Eleanor Arnason, Nate Bucklin, Ken Fletcher, Carolyn Ives Gilman, Art Johnson, Dwayne H. Olson, and Laurel Winter; for help with the 2015 edition, I am indebted for several 2008-2013 conversations with Koblas, and for information from David Dyer-Bennet, Greg Larsen, Michael Merriam, Hilary Moon Murphy, and Anthony Tollin—but any errors in fact are mine. Last but not least, thanks to Thomas Juntunen, whose idea the original 1997 essay was, and to Matthew Strait, who nudged me into writing this updated essay.



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bid: A campaign to have a particular city selected as the site of a future edition of an established convention.

blimp: An airship without a structural framework or keel, relying on the pressure of the lifting gas to maintain its shape.

concom: Convention committee. The people responsible for organizing a convention.

consuite: A hotel suite provided by the convention where con-goers may interact socially; generally includes some form of food and beverage.

dead dog party: A party held for anyone still around after the official closing of a convention; traditionally a subdued event as fans recuperate and prepare to return to the mundane world.

E-C: Electro-celluloid media, i.e. TV and movies.

egoboo: Praise or positive feedback; a boost to one's ego.

fan: A member of fandom. A mere reader of sf is not a 'fan' in this sense.

fanac: Fan activity. Producing a fanzine, going to conventions, etc.

fanspeak: Jargon used by fans. (After "newspeak" in 1984.)

fen: Plural form of fan.

filk: *n.* A fannish folksong, often a parody of standard folksongs. *v.* To sing filksongs.

fillos: Illustrations used in zines to fill up the space at the end of an article or page.

filthy pro: A fan who becomes a successful professional sf writer. Not an insult.

GoH: Guest of Honor at a convention.

hall party: A spontaneous gathering of convention attendees in a hotel hallway.

huckster: Anyone who rents a table at a convention to sell goods.
Huckster room: Function space at a convention devoted to huckster tables.

illo: Illustration in a fanzine.

lavalier: An item of jewelry consisting of a pendant, sometimes with one stone, suspended from a necklace.

mainstream: Non-genre literature.

mundane: *n.* A non-fan. *adj.* Not pertaining to fandom or sf.

neo: A person new to fandom. *Also:* neofan.

post-con depression: Feeling commonly experienced by fans returning to their mundane lives following the emotional high of a successful convention.

PR: Progress Report. An informational flyer distributed to fans planning to attend a convention.

Radishtree (or RadiShTree): The Radisson-South Sheraton Bloomington DoubleTree By Hilton Bloomington South.

relaxicon: A party-oriented convention with little or no formal programming.

scientifiction: Original term for science fiction coined by Hugo Gernsback, from "scientific fiction", now obsolete.

sci-fi: An early abbreviation of science fiction, still used by the popular press, but strongly out of favor with fans.

sercon: Serious and constructive. A focus on serious literary criticism or the like. Occasionally has connotations of "pretentious" or "boring."

sf: The polite abbreviation for "science fiction" (as opposed to "sci-fi"), it connotes a wider spectrum, including speculative fiction, etc.

SFnal: *adj.* Science-fictional.

SMOF: *n.* Secret Master of Fandom. Someone deeply involved in fan politics. *v.* To make backroom deals or otherwise engage in activities related to fan politics.

stf: Archaic abbreviation for scientifiction. *Adj:* stfnal.

tilt control: In poker, the ability to keep your emotions in check when the cards aren't falling your way.

tor: A hill or rocky peak.

Zeppelin: A rigid airship in which the envelope is supported by an internal framework.

zine: A self-published magazine.

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WHAT IS MNSTF?

It's the Minnesota Science Fiction Society, variously abbreviated MnStf, Minn-STF, MN-STF, and other variants. It's the non-profit group that brings you Minicon. Each year, the MNStF board of directors approves the next Minicon chairperson and looks after the continuing needs of the convention.

Mnstf does more than just Minicon. It also runs a small convention each year in the fall, mainly for the purpose of having something like Minicon, but without all that pesky programming and stress. This sort of convention is known in fannish circles as a relaxicon or a fallcon. Ours changes name frequently.

Besides running conventions, Minnstf's major activity is holding two parties (officially known as "meetings") per month, generally at members' homes. It's possible that you find the idea of showing up at a new person's home uninvited a little intimidating, but guess what? ... You're invited!

These meetings involve copious conversation, food, dinner expeditions, games, music, knitting, or all of the above. Meeting locations are published in MnstF's monthly newsletter, *Einblatt*, available at mnstf.org/einblatt. You can also sign up for our events and discussion mailing lists at mnstf.org.

We usually also have a couple of special meetings: the picnic and the pool party. The pool party is held in the winter, usually at the Doubletree; the picnic is in July. Check *Einblatt* for details.

How do you become a member of MnStF, you ask? It's easy! If you ever attend a meeting, you're a member. If you sign in at seven meetings in a year, you become a voting member for that year and can help choose the Minn-Stf board.



THE MNSTF PICNIC

Enjoyed the convention and want more? Meet new friends that you'd like to see again? Join us for our annual picnic on Saturday, July 18, at Minnehaha Falls in Minneapolis. We will be at Picnic Area #2, north of Godfrey Road. X marks the spot on the map. Don't use the park map for driving directions! The roads don't connect like that—Ford Parkway goes over West River Road, but it looks like an intersection on their map.

Join us for an afternoon cookout filled with gaming, socializing, and fun. There will be a grill going throughout the day, so bring something for the grill, or a dish to pass, or a game to play. The picnic will start around noon and last until dark. Hope to see you there!



JUDIE ANN CARGO CILCAIN

August 18, 1943 – September 21, 2014



Last year Minn-StF lost one of its wise old hippies, Judie Cilcain. I had the honor of being her husband, although we were only married about half the years we were together. (I'm slow. I'm a snail. What can you expect?)

Judie was born in Madison, Wisconsin, and moved to the Twin Cities for a major change in scenery and life circumstance. Her spiritual path led through many byways and what would become major interests later in life. I'm not sure what year she discovered Minn-StF, but I know she first met me when I had to go feed my snake, Arrow. That was probably sometime in the late '70s. She started coming to Minn-StF meetings regularly. I don't have the records handy, but I believed she served a year as President, and also spent time on the Minn-StF board.

She helped found Stipple-Apa, and contributed zines for every issue from #1 through #286. We went to Minicon together every year but one while we were together. Minicon 26 is the oldest badge of hers that I could find. There are also badges for ReinCONation, CONvergence, and Ditto 12. We were in the fannish mobile home that went to NorthAmeriCon in Louisville.

She used to dress up in costume for midnight showings of *Rocky Horror*. Aside from all that light-hearted stuff, she was an energetic and able worker. She retired from the University of Minnesota about five years ago, after working there for 29 years.

In retirement she continued her hobbies (reading mysteries, knitting), her volunteer work (Feline Rescue, Friends of the Parks and Trails of Saint Paul and Ramsey County, lots of charity knitting), and her religious vocation (becoming ordained as a priest in the Liberal Catholic Church, which had been her spiritual home since the early '70s).

In her retirement, she also got to be a doting grandmother. Her daughter, Kashia (who still attends CONvergence), had two daughters and a son. For Christmas was the time for overabundance.

She had planned to live a long life. Both her parents lived into their mid-80s. Instead, she had problems with different types of cancer. About ten years ago she had surgery as a treatment for endometrial cancer. About four years ago, she started needing treatment for skin cancer. (She would say that as a freckled, red-headed child, nobody told her to stay out of the sun, that sunburn would be bad for her.)

In late March 2014, she developed jaundice and went in for outpatient surgery. After that, she was told that she had an appointment with an oncologist. At that meeting, we were told that biopsies done while having a stent put in to clear up the jaundice had revealed that she had pancreatic cancer.

The cancer was advanced; it did not respond well to chemotherapy. It eventually broke her collar bone (for which she had some radiation treatments). She had complications, including lymphedema in her left leg (because her lymph system was clogged with cancer cells), and then *Clostridium difficile* in her legs, which required hospital stays and even home antibiotic infusions.

Eventually we discovered that she had an untreatable tumor in her throat, which caused her esophagus to collapse, so that she couldn't eat or drink. At that point, there were no viable treatment options, and she came home for hospice care. Eventually she was so weak that I couldn't take care of her by myself any more, so she went to a hospice facility for her last three days.

During her last week she worked with her daughter to get her eulogy written. Early on at home she had more energy, and received a few visitors. Later she was too tired to see many people, but she did say goodbyes with her family.

In accordance with her wishes, we had a "rousing and boisterous" memorial service for her at her church, the Church of Saint Francis in Minneapolis, followed by a huge pot luck including live music from a piano and upright bass (half of the Medicinal Jazz Band).

Memorial donations were received for Feline Rescue and Friends of the Parks and Trails. The Friends will be planting a memorial grove of eight trees in a Saint Paul Park this summer.

—David S. Cargo

THE CONCOM

Chair	Joel Phillips	Hotel & Party Liaison	Matt Weiser
Assistant Chair	Matt Strait	Insurance	Lisa Freitag
Art Show	Alec Phillips	Light Show Master	Richard Tatge
Badges & Registration	Bill Christ	Medallion Hunt	Thorin Tatge
Bar	Susan Philbrook (head) & Brian Lundgren	Move in/Move out	Jim Porter (head) & Matt Whitman
Bozo Bus Tribune	Thorin Tatge	Music	Chas Somdahl
Ceremonies	Baron Dave Romm & Toni Brust	Next Generation	Rhi McConnell (head)
Code of Conduct Committee	Lydy Nickerson (head)		Jackie Schneider
	Rachel Kronick		Delia Ihinger
	Eric Forste	Photo Collector	David Dyer-Bennet
	Beth Friedman	Pocket Program	Rachel Kronick
	Ann Totusek	Program Book	Brian Lundgren, OCA*
Consuite	Kelly James (head) & Ann Totusek		Susan Philbrook**
Costume Revel	Amy Mills	Programming	Deanna Sjolander (head)
Dealer Dollars	Pat Scaramuzza		Kelly Strait (readings)
Dealers' Room	Lisa Freitag		Eric Heideman (Krushenko's)
Electronic PR Delivery	David Dyer-Bennet		Sharon Kahn (database)
Fan Assistance Fund	Matt Eppelheimer	Progress Reports	Matt Strait
Films/Cinema Obscura	Michael Kingsley	Printing	Andra St. Arnaud
Games	Matt McMillan	Progress Report 2	Andra St. Arnaud
Graphic Design	Pat Scaramuzza & Susan Philbrook	Registration	Clay Harris (pre-con)
Green Room	Karen Cooper		Carol Kennedy (at-con)
Guest of Honor Liaisons	Aaron Vander Giessen (head)	Ride share/Carpooling	Laramie Sasseville
	Michael Whelan	Rumpus Room	Bonnie Somdahl & Graham Leathers
	Richard Mueller	Science Room	Ben Huset
	Larry Niven	Treasurer	Matt Strait
	Brian Hagen	Volunteers	Ann Totusek (pre-con)
	Tom Doherty		Eric Forste (at-con)
	Jody Wurl	Webmaster	Joe Pregracke
	Adam Stemple		
	Jory Phillips		
	Brandon Sanderson		
	Rick Snyder		
	Jane Yolen		
	Sari Hagen		

SPECIAL THANKS

Thanks to everyone who contributed an extra \$10 to their membership fee. Your generosity has allowed six deserving fans to attend Minicon 50 this year who would otherwise not have been able to attend. Your support has also helped us keep our standard rates low.

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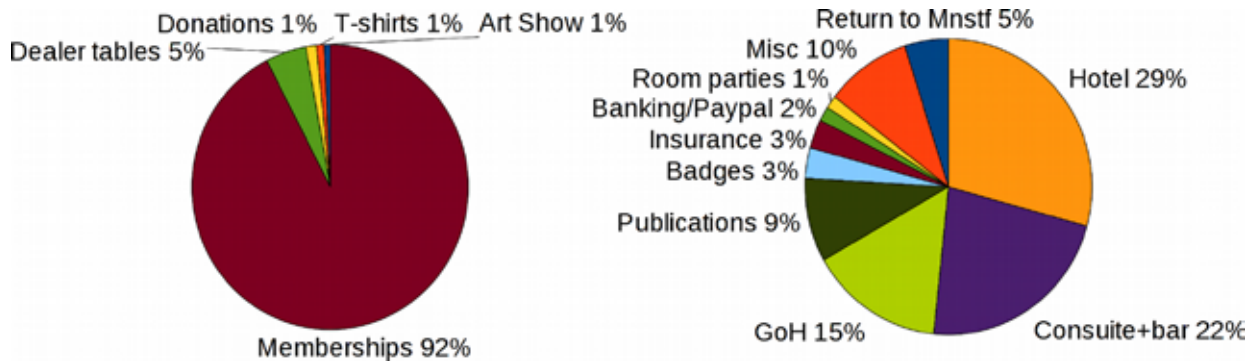
*Oxford Comma Apologist
 **Not that picky

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

Minicon is a members-driven non-profit con. Our goal is to bring the community together for an enjoyable and possibly even educational experience. It *isn't* to collect the most money or even to get the most people, although we take more people showing up as a good sign. We all chip in our membership fees so that there's enough money to run this thing and to support our parent organization, Minnstf, throughout the year.

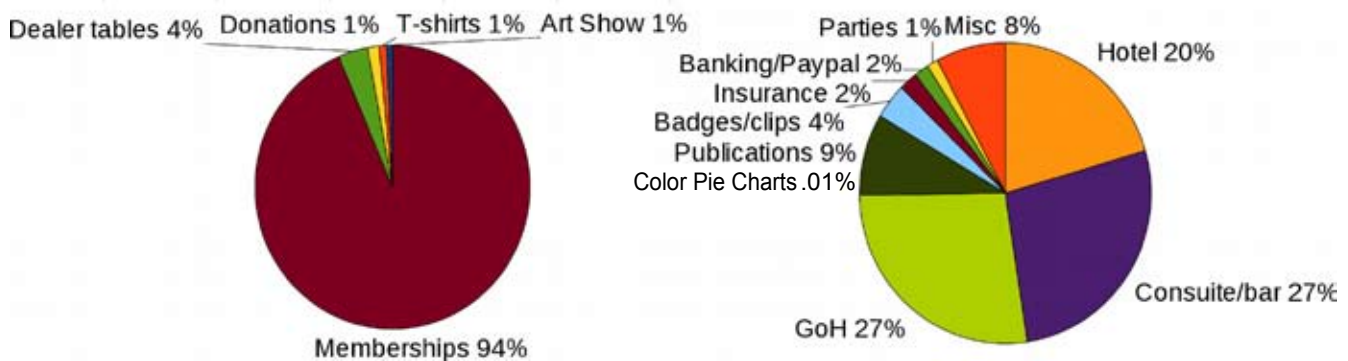
In our opinion, if we end up with a profit after that, it means we overcharged. We have made a concerted effort in the last few years to hold the rates low and run a frugal con, while still having great guests of honor and plenty of food. We want you to know where your money is going, and we want to hear whether you think it's being spent well.

MINICON 49 FINANCES



MINICON 50 PROJECTED FINANCES

For Minicon 50, we have dipped into Minn-stf's savings to extend the con to four days and six Guests of Honor, with no change in the pre-reg rate and only a modest increase in the at-the-door rate. So it's a bit of an exception, and you can expect Minicon 51 to be more like Minicon 49 financially.



FEEDBACK

You can contact the Minicon 50 chairs for a little while longer at chair@minicon50.mnstf.org. You can always contact the Mnstf board at board@mnstf.org. And you are welcome to come chat at Minn-stf meetings/parties. See mnstf.org for times and locations.

HAPPY 50TH, MINICON!

- Your friends at MIDAMERICON II -



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