

Readercon 14

Progress Report #1

July 12–14, 2002

Boston Marriott Burlington

Burlington, Massachusetts 781-229-6565

Hotel rooms: \$97 plus tax; reserve by July 1

Guests of Honor

Octavia E. Butler Gwyneth Jones

Memorial Guest of Honor

John Brunner

Memberships: \$30 until end of February, \$35 until end of June
More at the door

Greetings from the Readercon Committee

We are looking forward to Readercon 14 for a couple of reasons—our Guests of Honor and the James Tiptree Jr. Award. This year our Guests of Honor are Octavia E. Butler and Gwyneth Jones, and our Past Master is John Brunner. Our program, which is the heart and soul of Readercon, will be built around our Guests and their work, and will include the Tiptree Award ceremony, a short Tiptree auction, and Tiptree-related programming. This promises to be an exciting Readercon, and we hope that you can join us.

For those of you who have never been to a Readercon, Readercon was envisioned as something different: A serious (but by no means stuffy!) weekend conference on imaginative/speculative literature that brings readers together with those who write, edit, publish, illustrate, critique, and market it. Our Guests of Honor pursue a highly personal vision of the

possibilities of speculative literature, and our program participants cover the spectrum of imaginative literature. Our programming is some of the most engaging, challenging, and entertaining to be found.

Readercon is a labor of love and a minor miracle carried out by a small cadre of Boston-area fans each year. Without their hard work and dedication, it would never happen. We hope you can join us this year for a weekend of brain-tingling fun.

Amy West and Karl Wurst
Readercon 14 Chairs

Programming

The Program is the motive for Readercon, as well as the means and opportunity. We try to make it original, interesting, and thought-provoking. There will be a preliminary list of panels in our second Progress Report. Past programs are available on-line at our Web site.

Special Events

Special Events at the convention include the Meet the Pros(e) Party on Friday night (where you can create recombinant literature) and the latest edition of the Kirk Poland Memorial Bad Prose Competition on Saturday night.

Tiptree Bake Sale

To go along with our hosting of the Tiptree Memorial Awards, there will also be a Tiptree Bake Sale. Much of the money funding the award is raised at bake sales at conventions around the country, and for the past few years we have had one of the most productive. Come prepared with baked goods and/or healthy appetites! This year look for the bake sale in the Bookshop.

Writers' Workshop

David Alexander Smith will once again lead a writers' workshop for amateurs and new pros on Sunday morning. To enroll, submit up to 7,500 words of fiction (a self-contained short story, chapters from a novel, or an outline) by June 30 directly to David at: 112 Avon Hill St., Cambridge, MA 02140 (USA). For more information, e-mail <dsmith@recapadvisors.com>, or write to him at the above address.

Bookshop

The Bookshop is our dealers' room. Expect a varied selection of new and used books and magazines from small and large publishers. We'll also have a Readercon Café set up in the Bookshop for the Tiptree Bake Sale. All our tables are currently booked, but if you're interested in getting Bookshop information for future Readercons, contact us at <dealers@readercon.org> or our PO box.

Some Policies

- No smoking in programming areas or the Bookshop.
- Only service animals in convention areas.
- No weapons in convention areas.
- Young children who are always with an adult are admitted free; others need a membership.

Children at Readercon

Last year, we offered child care for children ages 4-10. We plan to offer it again this year.

We also plan to designate a room for a family area, where you can take care of your babies and toddlers. Watch for Progress Report #2, which will have all the details about hours, costs, and how many children can participate.

Publications

Our Program Guide runs to 30 or 40 pages. In it you'll find the full conference schedule with panel précis and an index of each participant's appearances. In the back are the patented Readercon bio-bibs: complete mini-bibliographies of every participant. For those who prefer to travel light, we provide a simple pocket schedule in table form.

We will also publish a professionally bound Readercon 14 Souvenir Book that will feature original and reprint material by and about this year's guests. If you would like to place an ad in the Souvenir Book, please contact us at <ads@readercon.org> for rates and details.

Progress Report 2

PR2 will have an updated guest list, a more detailed description of the program, and more information on getting to the con. It will be sent to members in May. If you won't know by then whether you can attend but would like to receive a copy, check the box on the reply form.

Hotel

The Boston Marriott Burlington is on Route 128 northwest of Boston, off exit 33B ("Route 3A"). There are about 600 parking spots, with 300 in an overflow lot downhill. For those of you who are not driving, the MBTA #350 bus stops outside the hotel, and runs on Sundays! Detailed directions will be in PR 2.

Guest rooms are \$97 per night (plus tax) for single to quad. Call 781-229-6565 by July 1 to reserve your room. Be sure to mention Readercon so that you get the discounted rate.

The hotel offers two swimming pools, a whirlpool, a dry sauna, and exercise equipment. A renovated pub-style bar and a restaurant are on the same floor as the convention space.

The hotel is located less than a mile from the Burlington Mall, a major regional shopping center. The Marriott offers all hotel guests free

shuttle service to locations within a one-mile radius. The excellent Readercon Restaurant Guide will cover the local area and tell you which places are within the service area. However, if you have your own car you will find even more dining choices, most of which have plenty of parking.

Parties

If you are planning to host a party at Readercon, please contact us so that we may book your room in the party block. If you are interested in using a suite for a party Friday or Saturday night, please contact us. Open parties (parties with an open invitation to all attendees and with an open door) may not serve alcohol. Closed parties (parties by invitation only and with a closed door) must make corkage arrangements with the hotel.

Con Suite

The Con Suite is Readercon's own party, where you'll find munchies both nutritious and non-, and people to talk to (there is a causal relation-

ship here). We try to keep it open during all convention hours (with a little help from volunteers). And speaking of volunteers...

Volunteers

Readercon is run entirely by volunteers. We can always use more help, in every area. If you're new to conventions, volunteering is a great and time-tested way to meet people. Let us know you're interested by e-mailing <volunteer@readercon.org> or on the reply form, and we'll contact you about scheduling you in the areas you'd like to work—or you can just volunteer at the con (although the most interesting jobs may be taken by then). Work 8 hours and you'll earn a free membership to next year's con.

How to Contact Us

You can e-mail us at <info@readercon.org> or write to us at PO Box 38-1246, Cambridge, MA 02238-1246. For updates and more details, such as past programs, check our Web site at <<http://www.readercon.org>>.

READERCON 14 MEMBERSHIP/INFO REPLY FORM

Enclosed is \$_____ for the following:

- ___ Attending membership(s) @ \$30 / \$35 if past February (circle one)
___ Supporting membership(s) @ \$10, includes all publications [this is an *alternative* to an Attending membership, for expressing support and getting publications while not actually attending the convention]
- () I'm not ready to join yet, but send me Progress Report 2.
 - () I'm interested in volunteering (or e-mail <volunteer@readercon.org>).
 - () Please send me Bookshop information for next year (or e-mail <dealers@readercon.org>).
 - () Please send me Souvenir Book ad information (or e-mail <ads@readercon.org>).
 - () I'm thinking of hosting a party. Please let me know what's available for me.

Name(s) _____

E-mail: _____

Address _____

Check or money order in US dollars only, payable to "Readercon". Memberships are non-refundable but fully transferable. Please don't send cash through the mail. Unfortunately we are not able to accept credit cards or to process payments by e-mail. **CANADIANS** please note: a Canada Post money order in US\$ is optimal: we can cash those for no fee, so your membership rate is the same as in the USA. If you instead send a check or money order drawn on a Canadian bank, add US\$5 to the rate above. Our bank charges us that to collect such items even though they're denominated in US\$.

.Mail to: READERCON / PO BOX 38-1246 / CAMBRIDGE MA 02238-1246 (USA)

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