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# WisCon<sup>21</sup> +

*The Gathering of the Feminist  
Science Fiction Community*

**Melissa Scott**      **Susanna Sturgis**

*Guest of Honor*

*Special Guest*

**May 23-26, 1997  
Memorial Day Weekend**

**Concourse Hotel  
Madison, Wisconsin**

WisCon 21 will gather together guest of honor Melissa Scott, Special Guest Susanna Sturgis, and many other invited writers and editors, publishers and scholars, women and men from around the world to discuss feminism and gender issues in science fiction and fantasy. We'll be building on the success of WisCon 20, so you can expect:

- ▼ intensive and wide-ranging programming
- ▼ lots of parties
- ▼ lovely springtime weather in "America's #1 City"
- ▼ great people, with some of the best conversations anywhere
- ▼ a friendly, well-organized, and no-hassle convention

*Some of the luminaries who will be attending WisCon are: Toni Armstrong, Eleanor Arnason, Lisa A. Barnett, Terry Garey, David Hartwell, Ellen Kushner, Elizabeth Moon, Pat Murphy, Debbie Notkin, Lyn Paleo, Delta Sherman, and Pat York. This list will grow — check out our Web site for the latest information, and send in the registration form so we'll know you will be attending.*

—Jim Hudson and Diane Martin, WisCon 21 Coordinators

## *Here is what people said about last year's WisCon:*

**Karen Joy Fowler:** *I thought it was absolute magic. To say it was the best convention I've been to would be to sadly understate it. It was one of the best weekends of my life.*

**Nicola Griffith:** *Marvelous, wonderful, and I'm too tired to think of the one hundred and one superlatives deserved.*

**Terry Garey:** *All you WisCon people out there deserve a monument in your honor. Every year, little children should dance around it and throw flowers and chocolate chip cookies at its base, singing folk songs and chanting out passages from the works of Ursula K. Le Guin, Suzy Charnas, Suzette Haden Elgin, Pat Murphy and Karen Joy Fowler, etc. ... Women should build pyramids of themselves and sing the praises of the hard-working, determined, inspired, brilliant bunch of people who gave us this wonderful 20 years of WisCon.*

**Ellen Kushner:** *A transcendent experience, which still brings a glow of pleasure...*

**David Hartwell:** *...the premier feminist SF convention... It was a wonderful gathering of the clans with attendees from all over the world. It rivaled the finest regional conventions of the last two decades (in The New York Review of Science Fiction)*

**An anonymous member:** *Best conference of any type I've ever attended.*

**Suzy McKee Charnas:** *Now, can we do it all over again?*

*Yes. We can do it again. Come to WisCon 21, and you can write your own superlatives.*

## **Guest of Honor . . .**

WisCon is pleased to present **Melissa Scott** as our Guest of Honor for this year's convention. She is the author of *Trouble and Her Friends* and *Shadow Man*, which both won the Lambda Literary Award for Gay/Lesbian Science Fiction. *Trouble and Her Friends* was also on the Tiptree short list. Her most recent works are *Night Sky Mine* and, with Lisa A. Barnett, *Point of Hopes*. Her earlier novels include *Dreamships*, *Mighty Good Road*, *Burning Bright*, *Five-Twelfths of Heaven*, *Silence in Solitude* and (also with Lisa A. Barnett) *The Armor of Light*. She won the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer in 1986).

Scott is an ideal WisCon guest of honor because her works focus on gender, sexuality, class, and social and personal change. They're wonderful entertainment, and they'll generate lots of discussion and great convention programming. If you haven't read her books, buy them and do so. Then come to WisCon and let's talk.

## **Special Guest . . .**

**Susanna Sturgis** has been a bridge between the SF and feminist communities and, even before coming to WisCon, an embodiment of what WisCon stands for. As a book buyer, she—along with Karen Axness in Madison and others—brought SF and fantasy titles into the feminist bookstores. She wrote on SF and Fantasy for *Feminist Bookstore News* from 1984 to 1996. She's

edited original anthologies of feminist SF and she chaired the 1994 Tiptree judging. She's also an author of poems, short stories, and plays, both within and outside the SF arena. (There's a possibility one or more of her works will be performed at WisCon). We're proud to have her as our Special Guest, as a friend of WisCon, and as an agent of change in the field.

## **Programming . . .**

WisCon's programming will focus on feminism and gender issues in science fiction and fantasy, and will be the centerpiece of the convention. We plan complete tracks of readings, academic papers, single-person presentations, and discussions. There will also be plenty of not-so-serious events. We have already collected many ideas but would like to hear yours.

Contact program coordinators Jeanne Gomoll or Debbie Notkin if you have ideas for programming or if you're interested in signing up as a panelist.

We will once again offer free nighttime party suites to individuals and groups who would like to throw an open party. Contact us soon, if you are interested.

## **Teachers—Read This . . .**

WisCon may soon be certified by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction to offer up to 24 continuing education "hours" for teachers who attend programming. There will be some limitations, and space is limited, so please write or e-mail if you are interested.

**WisCon 21**

PO Box 1624  
Madison, WI 53701-1624

Address Correction Requested

**Film programming.** . . The WisCon video program will focus on woman-centered themes. We also invite participants for panel discussions about the films and suggestions of films we should include.

**Kids programming.** . . The kid-oriented programming will be aimed at ages 6-12, and will include fantasy games, arts and crafts, musical activities, discussions with authors and of favorite books, and other items developed by and for kids.

**Special Events.** . . In addition to opening ceremonies on Friday evening, there will be a guest of honor speech and a dessert buffet, as well as a relaxing, outdoor "dead dog" party on Monday (weather permitting).

The James Tiptree, Jr. Award will not be presented at WisCon 21. Instead, it will be presented at the International Conference on the Fantastic, which will be held March 19-23, 1997, in Fort Lauderdale, FL. We do plan, though, to have a Tiptree auction and bake sale and Tiptree-related programming.

Finally, if you're interested in throwing an open party in the hotel, please contact the WisCon staff about the free party parlors, which will be assigned to publishers, bid committees, and fan groups.

**Dessert Banquet** . . . On Sunday evening, we will be having a dessert banquet—your choice of any two desserts (from five delicious selections), plus beverages. It will cost \$7.00, and advance reservations are required, so please complete the order form. We've had experience with the Concourse's desserts in the past; these will be well worth the price.

**Hotel** . . . The Concourse Hotel is located at 1 West Dayton Street, Madison, WI 53703; phone 800-356-8293. Room rates are \$80 per night for up to four people. We expect a large attendance at this year's con, so please book your rooms early, and mention "WisCon 1997" when you call.

The Concourse is a handicapped-accessible hotel: call for specific information about accessibility. Smoke-free rooms are available upon request. The hotel is located in the heart of Madison, so there are plenty of restaurants, shops, and interesting people and places within easy walking. The Saturday Farmers' Market on the Capitol Square is a popular choice for breakfast browsing.

**Dealers Room.** . . Tables are \$25 for one table, \$30 for the second, and \$35 for the third. All dealers must be WisCon members, and convention registration is not included in the table fee. Please contact Hank Luttrell (608-251-6226) during business hours for information about reserving dealers space, equipment availability, and other details.

**Child Care** . . . WisCon 21 will hire professional child-care providers and offer daytime child care for attendees with child care memberships, which are available at the same cost as regular adult attending memberships. Please note: Your child *must* have a child-care membership to use child care, and child-care memberships *must* be purchased in advance.

**Volunteers** . . . You can save \$20 by working for six hours or more at the convention. Register at the regular rate, and a refund will be mailed to you after the convention. Consider helping with setting or cleaning up, security, the con suite, or other areas. The volunteer coordinator will contact you to set up your schedule.

**Art Show** . . . Please write or email for Art Show information. (We'll also put current details on our Web site.) We're planning to have an innovative and exciting show, which will focus on the convention's themes and show feminist science fiction work, work by women artists, and work by Midwestern artists.

**Special bonus** . . . On the weekend immediately following WisCon, BookExpos America (formerly the ABA convention) will be held in Chicago. In case you want to attend both, the Concourse will offer the WisCon convention room rates through Thursday, May 28. Consider staying in Madison for the extra days, and then heading for Chicago and the ABA.

Contacting WisCon

For further information, contact us at:

web site [www.sf3.org/wiscon/](http://www.sf3.org/wiscon/)

e-mail [wiscon.concom@cs.wisc.edu](mailto:wiscon.concom@cs.wisc.edu)

phone 608-233-8850

mail SF<sup>3</sup>, Box 1624, Madison, WI 53701-1624

## Important...

WisCon 20 sold out; our limit for WisCon 21 is 850 people. We urge you to register as soon as possible. Registration will be closed if we reach our limit before the con.

## Financial Support of WisCon 21.

. . . Please consider making an additional contribution to help cover the costs of WisCon 21. There have already been a number of generous donations — your support will help make WisCon even more successful. WisCon is sponsored by SF<sup>3</sup> (the Society for the Furtherance and Study of Fantasy and Science Fiction, Inc.), a 501(c)(3) educational and literary society, and donations are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

## Registration Rates.

. . . The attending rate is \$30 before March 1, 1997, and \$40 before May 1, 1997 with a cut-off of 850 members. If available, at-the-door memberships will be \$50. Other rates: Youth (ages 7—12), \$20, \$25, or \$30 at the door. Supporting (non-attending, but publications will be mailed to you), \$15 anytime. Panelists and volunteers can qualify for a \$20 refund. Kids using child care register at the attending rate. Kids-in-tow (6 and under) in the company and care of an adult, get in free. One-day memberships will be available at the door for \$15 Friday, \$25 Saturday, and \$25 Sunday, if we do not reach our attendance limit.

please print • feel free to make photocopy duplicates of this form

Please complete the form and mail by April 30, 1997 to: WisCon, PO Box 1624, Madison, WI 53701-1624

<p><b>1</b> Name #1 _____ (optional: badge name)</p> <p>Name #2 _____ (optional: badge name)</p> <p>Name #3 _____ (optional: badge name)</p> <p>Address _____ Area Code &amp; Phone _____</p> <p>City/State/Postal Code _____ Email _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Please check here if you do not wish your name and address to be shared with other science fiction groups. Country if not U.S. _____</p>	<p><b>2</b> Person #1 _____ Person #2 _____ Person #3 _____</p> <p>Attending (age 13 &amp; over): \$30 before March 1, 1997; \$40 before May 1</p> <p>Supporting (any age): \$15</p> <p>Youth (age 7-12): \$20 before March 1, 1997; \$25 before May 1</p> <p>Child Care: \$80 before March 1, 1997; \$40 before May 1</p> <p>Kid-in-tow (age 6 and under): free</p> <p>Former guest of honor: free</p> <p><b>Total registration amount</b> \$ _____</p>	<p><b>3</b> Banquet tickets, \$7.00 each</p> <p>Number of tickets \$ _____</p> <p><b>4</b> Tax-deductible donation:</p> <p>Total donation \$ _____</p> <p><b>5</b> Please add together boxes 2, 3 and 4</p> <p>Total payment \$ _____</p> <p>Please make check payable to "WisCon."</p> <p>Check # _____ Check date _____</p>	<p><b>6</b> Please send me information on:</p> <p>Being a programming participant _____</p> <p>Exhibiting in dealers' room _____</p> <p>Hosting an open room party _____</p> <p>Advertising in program book _____</p> <p>Exhibiting in the Art Show _____</p> <p><b>7</b> Please contact me about volunteering _____</p> <p>I might be available to help setting up on Thursday or Friday before the con. _____</p>
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