

# WisCon 21 Progress Report

May 23-26, 1997

Madison Wisconsin

Concourse Hotel

## Welcome!

So you're planning to attend WisCon 21, you've sent your registration, and now all that's left is to show up and enjoy the weekend, right?

We expect that you may have some questions about the convention, about Madison, about transportation, about lots of things. Here is the information we think you need (but if you need information we haven't anticipated, please contact us for answers)! See you at WisCon.

Contacting WisCon:

phone: 608-233-8550  
e-mail: wiscon.concom@lists.best.com  
web: <http://www.sf3.org/wiscon/>  
mail: WisCon, Box 1624, Madison WI 53701

## Joining the Convention

You can pre-register to join WisCon 21 for \$40 up to May 1, 1997 by writing to the WisCon address. Memberships at the door are \$50; \$30 for youths (age 6-12), and free for kids-in-tow, who will be accompany their parents (child care memberships are not available at the door). Daily memberships will be \$15 for Friday, \$25 for Saturday or Sunday, and free on Monday. We do not expect to reach our membership cap of 850; attendance should be somewhere around 700 this year.

## Volunteering

WisCon, like any other volunteer-run non-profit event, is chronically short of staff. We will *always* try to provide more than we can reasonably manage. So if you want the convention to keep going and keep improving, please volunteer. There's a lot you can do at the convention, and even more opportunities to contribute to future years once you start. If you work more than 6 hours, you'll also get a \$20 membership refund mailed to you after the convention. We look forward to working with you. If you are arriving early, we could especially use help at the hotel on Thursday evening and Friday during the day.

## Dessert Banquet

On Sunday evening, we will be having a dessert banquet at 8:00pm between the dinner break and the Tiptree Re-Enactment and Guest of Honor speeches. You will get your choice of 2 of the following 4 desserts for \$7.00:

- All-American Apple Pie
- Chocolate Torte, two layers of chocolate devils food cake with chocolate buttercream frosting
- Chocolate Chip Cheesecake, white chocolate cheesecake with chocolate chips and an Oreo crust
- Strawberry Shortcake, fresh strawberries over pound cake

We've tested these desserts (it was *so hard to choose* which ones we wanted) and we recommend them. If you haven't already signed up for the banquet, send in the registration/order form as soon as possible. We need to give the hotel a final count of desserts before the start of the convention, so please try to send in your money by May 15.

And if you don't want to participate in the desserts, don't worry: seating will be available for the Tiptree Re-Enactment and Guest of Honor speeches whether or not you're having dessert.

## Tiptree Award: Auction, Bake Sale, Winners, etc.

The Tiptree Award raises funds through both auctions and bake sales. You can help support the awards before the convention by donating items for sale. Of course, you can also bid on auction items.

The **Tiptree bake sale** will be during the lunch break on Saturday, 12:30 -2:00pm, and will be on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor of the Concourse near the Con Suite and party rooms. Please prepare some **baked goods** and come ready to munch or buy one of the Tiptree cookbooks.

The **Tiptree Auction** will be the last program item of the convention, starting at 2:00pm on Monday in the main programming area. We expect to have lots of great material. Unfortunately, we can't take credit cards, but we do take checks, traveler's checks, and cash.

Donations for the auction can be mailed to Scott Custis, 2825 Union St., Madison, WI 53704 to arrive at least one week before the convention. If you wish to bring the auction item to the convention with you, then please let Scott know as soon as possible what you are bringing. You can notify us via the WisCon phone number or email. If you don't let us know in advance, we may not have room for it at the auction and may need to offer it for sale at the Tiptree sales table. We still need auction items, so we are looking forward to hearing from you.

Since many of us weren't able to get to the Tiptree ceremony this year, we will have a **Tiptree Award Ceremony Re-Enactment** on Sunday, between the Dessert Banquet and Guest of Honor speeches. Pat Murphy, Karen Joy Fowler, Mary Doria Russell, and others will re-enact the Tiptree Award ceremony from the Florida conference, complete with a rousing rendition of Tom Lehrer's "The Vatican Rag."

The winners of the 1996 James Tiptree Jr. Award are "Mountain Ways" by Ursula K. Le Guin (*Asimov's*, August 1996) and *The Sparrow* by Mary Doria Russell (who will be at WisCon). In addition, Angela Carter received a special award.

The 1996 short list includes "The Silent Woman" by Fred Chappell; "Beauty and the Opera, or The Phantom Beast" by Suzy McKee Charnas; "Welcome, Kid, to the Real World" by L. Timmel DuChamp; *A History Maker* by Alasdair Gray; "Five Fucks" by Jonathan Lethem; *Nadya* by Pat Murphy; *Godmother Night* by Rachel Pollack; *The Pillow Friend* by Lisa Tuttle; "And She Was the Word" by Tess Williams; and *Leaning Towards Infinity* by Sue Woolfe.

WisCon 21 will have some 1996 **Tiptree t-shirts**. Because the number will be limited, we plan to have a lottery. So if you are interested in buying a 1996 Tiptree t-shirt, put your name in the box by Registration. We'll draw names and post the list on Sunday, along with information on when and where you can pay for and pick up your shirt. Of course, there are also likely to be a few *special* shirts in the auction.

## Programming

### When will there be Programming?

Programming will start with a few items at 5pm on Friday. All program events will be 1½ hours long, and we'll have lunch and dinner breaks from 12:30-2pm and 6:30-8pm all days. Programming will start at 9:30am on Saturday-Monday, and end on Monday with the "Dead Dog" party at 5pm. The hours for other activities (dealers, art show, child care, films, etc.) will be synchronized with programming as much as possible.

### Major Events

- Pre-WisCon reception at *A Room of One's Own* feminist bookstore (see map), Thursday probably 6-8:00pm (608-257-7888)
- Opening ceremonies, hosted by Eileen Gunn, Ellen Klages, and Ellen Kushner, Friday 8-9:30pm
- Tiptree bake sale, Saturday 12:30-2pm (during the lunch break)
- *The Man Who Walked Home*, Saturday 8-9:30pm
- Dessert Banquet, 1996 Tiptree Award re-enactment, and Guest of Honor event, Sunday 8-11pm
- Tiptree Auction, Monday starting at 2pm
- Dead Dog Party, Monday starting at 5pm

### Who's Coming

Along with Guest of Honor Melissa Scott and Special Guest Susanna Sturgis, the list includes: Toni Armstrong, Eleanor Armason, Lisa A. Barnett, Suzy McKee Charnas, Richard Chwedyk, Darlene Coltrain, Buck and Juanita Coulson, Pamela Dean, Beverly DeWeese, Suzanne Feldman, Karen Joy Fowler, Jim Frenkel, Terry Garey, Eileen Gunn, Jorjet Harper, Anne Harris, David Hartwell, Rachel Holmen, Pam Keeseey, Ellen Klages, Ellen Kushner, Sandra Lindow, Laurie J. Marks, Elise Matthesen, Patricia Monahan, Elizabeth Moon, Pat Murphy, Debbie Notkin, Lyn Paleo, Mary Doria Russell, Delia Sherman, Josepha Sherman, Susan Schwartz, Jennifer Stevenson, Amy Thomson, Jennifer Thomson, and Pat York.

### What to Read

Program items that are based on books include:

- 12-step meeting for Patrick O'Brian junkies
- Karen Joy Fowler's *Sweetheart Season*
- Kelley Eskridge's "And Salome Danced"
- Marge Piercy's *City of Darkness, City of Light*
- Mary Doria Russell's *The Sparrow*
- Melissa Scott's *Night Sky Mine* and *Shadow Man*
- Pat Murphy's *Nadya*
- Sean Stewart's *Cloud's End*
- Starhawk's *The Fifth Sacred Thing*
- *The Horns of Elfland*
- Ursula K. Le Guin's "Mountain Ways"
- The fantasy and SF of Angela Carter

### Films

The films and film-related program items at WisCon 21 include:

- Frankenstein movies: women, ethics, and science (with film discussion): *Young Frankenstein*, *Bride of Frankenstein*, *Mary Shelley's Frankenstein*, *Indian in the Cupboard*
- Movies from Children's stories (with film discussion): *Matilda*, *Harriet the Spy*, *James and the Giant Peach*, *Indian in the Cupboard*
- Women and Cybertech (with film discussion): *Strange Days*, *Hackers*, *Jumping Jack Flash*
- *Metropolis* (with film discussion)
- Other films: *Orlando*, *Antonia's Line*
- Discussion on Alladin's insipid princess and anorexic mermaid.

## Writers Workshop

*Attention Writers!* Does this sound familiar to you? "I am in a SF writers group – it's mostly male – and I'm finding that it's hard to get a useful critique of 'female' stories. The guys keep harping on me for Action and Conflict and Great Struggles."

A WisCon manuscript critique workshop is now being organized. Manuscripts will be critiqued by a small group of peers, and by one or more established writers. Get Feedback! Meet other writers!

To participate, you need one short story or book chapter, typed, double-spaced, in standard manuscript format with your name and address at the top. Send six (6) copies plus a return address manuscript envelope with \$3 postage on it to

Amy Axt Hanson  
165 N. Garden Way  
Eugene, OR 97401  
541-686-2605 or 74634.2056@compuserve.com

Manuscripts must be received by May 14, 1997. The week before the convention, all participants will receive 5 manuscripts to critique. The session will be held on Sunday, and will be Clarion-style, in that all participants will critique every story in their group.

## Other Programming Information

There will be a drumming event. Bring your instruments, and extra instruments to share if you have them.

Musician Juanita Coulson is willing to compose music for people/panels. If you're interested, please contact her at least 3 weeks in advance (**now!**) at 2677 W. 500 N., Hartford City, IN 47348-9575.

## Parties

WisCon will assign free party suites on a first-come, first-serve basis to individuals or groups that are willing to host and stock an open party for one night. All of the Concourse hotel's party suites are located on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor and WisCon "owns" them all: there are no other suites anywhere else in the hotel. If you'd like to throw an open party and need a larger space than your hotel room, contact us right away.

## Art Show

Expect an exciting Art Show this year at WisCon 21. A large group of artists will be showing their work, and we think you'll find plenty of interesting pieces to view, fall in love with, and buy. The art show will be open for viewing and bidding on Saturday and Sunday, with "pick up and pay" on Monday morning, and the most contested pieces going into the Tiptree Auction on Monday afternoon.

You'll get to vote for the **art show awards** on Saturday. We're giving 4 awards based on your votes: Best of Show, Most Feminist, Most Politically Incorrect, and Best of Media. And the awards themselves are works of art, or maybe popular culture; they have to be seen to be believed.

Another reason to buy art at WisCon: 25% of all bids above the artist's minimum will be donated to the Tiptree Award. So if you buy art, you'll be getting the piece, helping the artist, and supporting the Tiptree Award.

## Membership Badges

Sounds like a boring topic, right? Except this year, where you have some options for personalizing your own. GoH Melissa Scott's *Shadow Man* involves humans who, because of the effects of space travel, now have 5 genders and a wide array of orientations. We'll have stickers near registration so you can *choose* your gender for the convention (including the human choices, man, woman, fem, hem, and herm, and other options such as MYOB, alien, and child). If you wish, you can also list your orientation from among the dozen or so choices in the books and some others that have been requested, like "guitarist". We'll have full information available at the convention, but read the book and feel free to be creative and playful and see what it might be like to live in a society where many genders are recognized and accepted.

## Child Care

WisCon 21 will have professional child care available, at no extra cost, during the daytime programming hours. But to use this service, your child will need a child care membership, and those memberships must be purchased in advance so we can provide sufficient staff. We'll be mailing a separate information sheet to all child care members (and their parents) in early May, providing the hours and rules.

## Teachers, Please Read This

WisCon has been authorized by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction to offer 24 clock hours for attendance at the convention and its programming. You'll need to attend an Orientation session at 5pm on Friday of the convention and follow certain procedures as you attend WisCon. Space is limited, so please contact the committee.

## Hotel and Dining Information

The **Concourse** (1 W. Dayton, Madison, WI 53703; 1-800-356-8293 or 608-257-6000) is the convention hotel. The room rate is \$80 for up to four people. Check-in time is 3pm, check-out is 12 noon. The room block is filling fast, so please make your reservations as soon as possible. **Please mention "WisCon 1997" when you call.** The hotel

block will be closed on May 1, though there may be some rooms available at the convention rate after that date.

The Concourse has a swimming pool, which will be open until 1:00am Friday - Sunday, so bring your suit. There is also a whirlpool, steam room, massage/tanning room, games arcade, and fitness center.

The hotel has one bar and two restaurants, and there are lots of other places to eat within easy walking distance of the Concourse. We'll have a printed restaurant guide, or if you have web access you can look at <http://www.madison.com> for reviews, maps, and various other features.

Free underground parking is available to all registered hotel guests. You can unload in the hotel parking garage and take the elevators to the lobby or your room. Clearance in the ramp is low; minivans should be ok, but full sized vans and larger vehicles may not fit. Some additional parking is available in the public parking ramp a half block down Dayton St. at Carroll St., though it's currently under construction.

## Getting to Madison

### By Air

This is easy, since Madison has only one airport. Commercial airlines serving Madison are American, Delta/ComAir, Midwest Express, Northwest, TWA, and United. Ask your travel agent whether Midwest Express has flights from your airport – it's a smaller company that provides excellent, comfortable service.

Flights into Milwaukee or Chicago are often much cheaper, but you'll need to take a bus to Madison.

The airport is small, with only about 10 gates and one baggage claim area. Outside the side door of the baggage claim area is the taxi rank. Cabs from the airport to the Concourse will cost \$7-\$10. The standard rental car companies are in the airport at baggage claim.

The Concourse runs a shuttle from 7am to 11pm for arriving guests, with a courtesy phone in the baggage claim area. Allow 15-20 minutes for it to arrive, and meet it directly outside the baggage claim doors.

### By Train

The nearest Amtrak passenger train stop is in Portage, about 45 minutes car travel from the Concourse and with no public transportation into Madison. Unless you have a friend who's willing to drive out there, we recommend you use other methods to get to WisCon (but see "By Bus" for an alternative).

### By Bus

Van Galder (800-747-0994) runs regular service from Chicago's O'Hare Airport and from the Chicago Amtrak Station to the Memorial Union in Madison, which is about 10 blocks from the Concourse. The bus also stops in Rockford, IL, and Beloit and Janesville WI. Tickets can be purchased from the driver. These are big, comfortable busses.

Badger Coaches (608-255-6771) has service from the Milwaukee Airport to Madison, dropping off at both the Memorial Union and the Badger Bus Depot.

Once at the Memorial Union, you may call the Concourse to catch a ride on the hotel's shuttle (257-6000) if it's not making an airport trip, walk about a mile up State Street, or take a cab from Union cab, 242-2000, or Badger Cab, 256-5566.

### By Car

In Wisconsin, there are only two seasons: winter and road construction. Over Memorial Day weekend, we'll be in Road Construction.

From **Chicago**, go north on I-90 to Rte 30. If Rte 30 is open (as of this writing, we're not sure) then take Rte 30 west, to Rte 151 South/Capitol/Campus (it's a tight right-hand exit). Otherwise, go North on I-90 an exit further and exit directly to Rte 151 South. Either way, this becomes East Washington Ave....

From Minneapolis, go south on I-90/I-94 to Rte 151 South, which becomes East Washington Ave....

From Milwaukee, go west on I-94 to Rte 30. If Rte 30 is open (as of this writing, we're not sure) then take Rte 30 to Rte 151 South/Capitol/Campus (it's a tight right-hand exit). Otherwise, go North on I-94 an exit further and exit directly to Rte. 151 South. Either way, this becomes East Washington Ave....

From Iowa, go east on Rte. 151 to Rte 12/18 east (also called the Beltline). Take the John Nolan Drive exit north. Stay on John Nolan and pass underneath the new Frank Lloyd Wright Convention center. Continue through the first traffic light after the center, and turn left at the next light onto East Washington Ave....

...head down East Washington Ave toward the Capitol building. Look at the downtown map. Two blocks before the Capitol turn right onto Webster St., after 2 blocks follow the traffic and turn left at the traffic light onto Dayton St. (90 degree angle, don't take Hamilton). The Concourse is on your left after two blocks. Park under the hotel.

### And Getting Home Afterwards

If you're driving, the only trick is getting from the Concourse parking garage back to East Washington Ave. To do that, exit left from the garage (you have no choice of direction) and continue counterclockwise ¼ of the way around the Capitol on Dayton, Fairchild, Doty, and Webster streets to East Washington. Turn right on East Washington. Don't turn from Fairchild onto West Washington.