

A Momentary Taste of **WisCon₂₇** +

Strategies for Getting the Most out of Wiscon

by Kristina Solheim

My first Wiscon. I remember excitement at the idea of having hundreds of people together in one place, all interested in feminist speculative fiction. I felt hope at the possibility of finding someplace where I fit in. And I remember being afraid that I wouldn't be accepted or that I wasn't cool enough/smart enough/cute enough to be a part of it. This is my third Wiscon and I still feel all of these emotions. Even if this is your tenth time, I thought you'd enjoy reading some strategies that other con-goers use when preparing for Wiscon. I asked some questions of the Broaduniverse and WisCon email lists. Here's what they had to say.

It's easy to schedule yourself to attend so many panels that you miss lunch

When asked what their primary reason was for attending Wiscon, most people said celebrating the feminist speculative fiction community or attending the Respite/motivating their writing.

Other popular reasons were connecting with friends, academic programming, meeting authors and parties or networking.

An exciting moment for me is the day the schedule of programming goes online (it usually does before the printed Mother-of-All-Pocket-Programs arrives in the mail). I print out the PDF and begin scouring the

program, line by line. So many panels and events to choose from! It's easy to schedule yourself to attend so many panels that you miss lunch or dinner (or sleep!). I

asked con-goers what strategies they use when deciding which panels to attend. Quite a few said they concentrate on panels about writing (I'm among them!). Others said they go to panels their friends will be at and scan the panelists for names they recognize- either friends or authors they're interested in hearing. Others commented on the catchy titles which conferences are famous for.

Several said they guess or take the weekend moment-by-moment, not deciding on which panel to attend until the time arrives.

Faced with such a busy weekend and trying your best to fit in everything you want to do can be daunting. I asked con-goers what they did first after registering. Many reported bodily needs such as eating and napping. Others said they go to the Con Suite or roam the hotel to see who's arrived.

Trying to fit everything in can be daunting

NEW PROGRAM EVENT!!!

(79A) Judging the Tiptree Award
634 Saturday, 4:00-5:15 p.m. (Events)

The Tiptree Award was born at WisCon, and has evolved into one of the field's most pretigious awards. Come listen to this year's jury discuss what goes into selecting the winner.

M: Matthew H. Austern, Jae Leslie Adams, Molly Gloss, Mary Anne Mohanraj, Pat Murphy, Farah Mendlesohn

(continued on page 3)

Be a volunteer

There's a deep dark secret about volunteering, and that is: it's fun. So you not only help build the community and take the load off the organizers, you also get very personal benefits. Plus, you get a \$20 refund after the convention. Please register at the regular rate and check the volunteer box on the registration form.



Is It All About the Writing?

17% of WisCon's 164 panels are focused on the craft of writing. Visit a few of these panels to see the business side of the literature we know and love, or go to build and grow as a writer yourself. Hear from published authors, editors and beginners. Please note that attendance is limited for Living Rooms (LR). There will be a sign-up sheet by the room's door.

Panel #, Title, Room, Day, Time

1, The World(s) We Write and the World(s) We Live In (LR), 629, Fri, 1:00-2:15
8, Solo Session 1: Vector Theory: Plot Construction and Story Revision; Ask Me Anything, Senate B, Fri, 8:45-10:00 pm
14, Solo Session 2: Writers Teaching Writing- The Blind Leading The Blind?, Caucus Room, Fri, 10:15-11:30 pm
15, Short Fiction and Novel Contracts, Senate B, Fri, 10:15-11:30 pm
22, Solo Session 3: Self-Publishing and Marketing, University A, Sat, 8:30-9:45 am
26, Self-Promotion 102 w/ Suzette Haden Elgin (LR), 623, Sat, 8:30-9:45 am
30, Is it the Hook, the Line, or the Sinkers?, Senate B, Sat, 10:00-11:15 am
34, Solo Session 4: Plotting a Story, University A, Sat, 10:00-11:15 am
46, Diving Deeper, Capitol A, Sat, 1:00-2:15
47, Keeping the Dream Alive, Capitol B, Sat, 1:00-2:15

54, The 5th Annual Endicott Studio Living Room: Magical Realism, Imbuing the World with Magic (LR), 629, Sat, 1:00-2:15
65, The Waters of the Slipstream, Conference Room 5, Sat, 2:30-3:45
71, Confessions of a Slow Writer, Capitol A, Sat, 4:00-5:15
96, Meet the Copyeditor (LR), 623, Sun, 8:30-9:45 am
101, Interstitial Arts: An Idea Whose Time Has Come!, Wisconsin, Sun, 10:00-11:15 am
106, Politics and Writing (LR), 629, Sun, 10:00-11:15 am
119, Take Your Characters to Dinner (LR), 623, Sun, 1:00-2:15
120, Eeek! There's a Writer in the House!, 634, Sun, 1:00-2:15
122, Writing Combat, Caucus Room, Sun, 2:30-3:45
123, I Finally Made It!, Senate A, Sun, 2:30-3:45
135, Small Press/Electronic Press: Path to Riches and Fame?, Senate A, Sun, 4:00-5:15
144, Marketing Your Work on the Cheap (LR), 623, Sun, 4:00-5:15
147, Exquisite Corpses and Other Literary Amusements, Senate A, Sun, 10:00-11:15 pm
152, Gender Bias Among Editors of SF Magazines, Capitol A, Mon, 10:00-11:15 am
156, Discussion for Writers in Mid-Career (LR), 623, Mon, 10:00-11:15 am
158, Broad Universe General Meeting, Caucus Room, Mon, 11:30-1:00 pm
159, When You're Over the Top, Go for Altitude, Senate A, Mon, 11:30-1:00 pm

Announcements

Message Board- Don't forget to check off your name on the WisCon Message Board in the lobby, near the registration table. It lets others know you have arrived. Then, prepare to receive messages! Of course, in order to get mail, you have to check the mailbox.

Memberships for WisCon 28 will be on sale all weekend at the Registration Table in the lobby. We will announce the Guests of Honor for next year in the Sunday edition of the newsletter and on our website.

Panel Changes- the newsletter will announce program changes starting Saturday. Be sure to pick up a copy each morning so that you get the low-down on the

classifieds

WANTED: Roommate, ride to Chicago, childcare, whatever it is... if you want it, you can get it! Just submit a classified to the newsletter. You'll reach hundreds of eager con-goers. Drop your classified in the drop-box for the newsletter at the Registration Table.

WisCon Issue of Extrapolation Debuts at WisCon 27

Beginning in May, Extrapolation will publish an annual special WisCon issue edited by Justine Larbalestier and Javier Martinez. The first issue featuring essays by L. Timmel Duchamp, Wendy Pearson and others will be launched at WisCon 27. (\$10 each, \$8 for students). Get your copy in the Dealer's Room!

Strategies for Getting the Most out of WisCon

(continued from page 1)

I also asked folks to tell the rest of us about a memorable experience or something they wish they had made time for at last year's WisCon.

Stand-Out Events

It was the informal discussions... hanging out at night until 3 AM at parties discussing the nature of horror... in the morning in the hotel lobby, talking about the state of publishing... breakfast in the hotel restaurant on Monday morning, so exhausted I couldn't see straight but still rattling ideas back and forth at a table with a dozen people I had barely known when the weekend began. The thinking never stops, the exchange. And it's so marvelously friendly and fun. – Rob Gates

This is the best convention I've been to when it comes to writing programming. I like to tell all my friends who are trying to make it as SF writers that they really should check out WisCon. – Jennifer Pelland

The Broad Universe [events] and meeting people I had met online! – Lou Hoffman

Meeting Suzy McKee Charnas at one of her panels and handing her a stack of books to sign. I think I gushed like a schoolgirl with a crush. She was so gracious and bemused. – Kristina Solheim

I was very pleased with the jam-packed panel "Speaking in Alien Tongues" that I shared with Amy Thomson and Mary Doria Russell. – Elizabeth Barrette

Other Advice

WisCon differs from other F&SF cons in some important ways. It's a little more serious than many, but not stuffy. Women outnumber men by a substantial margin. Gues who come to WisCon are worth getting to know. There are lots of attendees who have an alternative gender, sex, sexual orientation, or other identity feature. So whatever or whoever you are, be yourself; you probably won't be the only one there. People seem even more willing than usual for the F&SF community to accept unusual ideas and to ask challenging questions. Don't leave your brain in your other pants when you come to this con. – Elizabeth Barrette

Keep the Mother-of-All-Pocket-Programs with you at all times. – Martin Quam

People are WisCon's strength. Open yourself up to meeting people and don't be afraid to walk up to strangers to say hi. No one I met at WisCon ever responded to a stranger with anything less than a welcoming smile. I heard from friends for years how amazing WisCon was, and when I finally got a chance to go, most of the people I counted as friends didn't actually make it that year. I was worried I'd be a little lost and alone. I ended up making dozens of tremendous new friends, and had an amazing time. I think I ended

up being first in line the morning they started selling memberships for the next year. There was no doubt in my mind that I was coming back. – Rob Gates

Don't be shy about using the con suite or the other amenities provided. – Lou Hoffman

Go to what calls to you and always have a "back-up" session (or two, if you're as obsessive as me!) picked out in each time slot in case the panel you are attending doesn't end up being what you thought. – Kristina Solheim

Don't be shy. Most of us still suffer from the odd-kid-in-school mentality where we think we don't fit in, but WisCon is filled with bizarre and loving people who can't wait to meet you. Volunteering is the best way for newbies to make lots of friends fast. – Melodie Bolt

What I Wish I'd Done

Allow time to browse the *several* excellent used bookstores around town, all within walking distance of the hotel. These days I pack an extra bag just for this purpose. And don't you dare miss the Farmer's Market! – Lori S.

I wish I [hadn't been] so intimidated by people's credentials, I would have talked to more people. – Martin Quam

I really wish I had bid higher on the knitted uterus during the action. I think I deserve one since I always seem pregnant or traveling with a baby to WisCon. – Melodie Bolt



WisCon 27 Art Show and Tiptree Auction

The WisCon 27 art show and Tiptree Award sale items will be displayed together, and you will be able to make written bids on everything that is for sale from Friday through Sunday. Most items will be sold by written bid and available for "pick up and pay" on Sunday evening and Monday morning.

The most contested items, and some others specially selected by the auctioneer, Ellen Klages, will be auctioned during the convention. You won't want to miss another in the amazingly

entertaining series of Ellen Klages Live Auction Performances. The Tiptree Award will receive all proceeds from donated items and a commission on art show items. For art show information, please check the "Art Show" box on the registration form.

Convention members will have the opportunity to vote on the art show awards again this year. WisCon 27's art show will continue to focus on feminist art, art by women, and art by Midwestern artists.

List of Artists in the Art Show

Jae Leslie Adams
Barry Bryant
Katie Clapham
Nancy Conroy
Amy Edgington
Suzette Haden Elgin
Beth Hansen
Jorjet Harper
M Hogarth

Chris Klingbiel
Mary Anne Mohanraj
Betsy Mott
Grace Palmer
Mary Prince
Mark Rich
Diantha Sprouse
Sonya Tellison-Foster
Ruth Thompson

JG Thomson & PC Hodgell
Connie Toebe
Charles Vess
Gail Vick
LA Williams
Terri Windling
Laurel Winter
Raelinda Woad
AB Word

Parties

Most parties start at 9:00 pm. Check your Pocket Program for schedule and this newsletter throughout the weekend for changes.

Friday

Rm 623, LA in '06
Rm 629, Carl Brandon Society Dance
Rm 634, Ratbastards
Rm 607, Cutter/Kritzer Book Launch
Rm 611, Odyssey Con

Saturday

Rm 623, Xena Warrior Princess
Rm 629, Tor
Rm 634, KC in '06
Rm 607, Club Vampire
Rm 611, Haiku Earring

Sunday

Rm 623, Attebery Book Launch
Rm 627, Live Journal
Rm 629, Fancy Dress Party
Rm 632, Diversicon/WisCon 1st Fandom
Rm 634, The Wyrdsmiths
Rm 607, Calgary in '05 Westercon
Rm 611, Small Beer Press Book Launch

Dealers in the Dealer's Room

You can find books, toys, poster, artwork, magazines, cards, jewelry, and all sorts of science fiction and fantasy related merchandise in the Dealers' Room. It's a great place to look for books by WisCon authors. Take them to the book signing events and get them signed by the authors! If you've never attended an SF convention, think of it as a very big museum gift shop in with dozens of merchants.

Dealers

A Room of One's Own
Alice Bentley
Darlene P. Coltrain
DreamHaven (Greg Ketter)
George Elgin
Eye of Horus (Thraicie Hawkner)
Fantanimals (Judith S. Peterson)

Galaxy Gigs (Patricia Gross)
Gavin Grant
Jorjet Harper
HedgeHog & Otter (Philip Kaveny)
Steven V. Johnson
Timothy A. Kozinski
Kelly Link
Lioness (Elise Matthesen)
Kathleen Madigan
Jodi Napiorkowski
Odyssey Con (Jerome Van Epps)
Omega Artworks (Gary Zahradka)
Emily Pohl-Weary
Purple Pegasus (Peggy Tomberlin)
Rainbow Bookstore Cooperative
Nonie Rider
James P. Roberts
20th Century Books (Hank Luttrell)

Everything Tiptree!

Winners of the 2002 James Tiptree, Jr. Memorial Award

M. John Harrison, *Light*, Victor Gollancz (U.K.), 2002 and John Kessel, "Stories for Men," *Isaac Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine*, Oct/Nov. 2002

John Kessel Honored at Unprecedented Tiptree Ceremony!

The James Tiptree, Jr. Award will present \$1000 in prize money to John Kessel on Sunday night following the Guest of Honor speeches. Kessel won the 2002 award with M. John Harrison, whose novel *Light* has already been honored at the first 2003 Tiptree Ceremony at Seacon in Hinckley, England, on April 18. Since John Kessel was unable to attend that ceremony, he will receive the award in an unprecedented second Tiptree ceremony.

Prevented from attending the April 18 ceremony in England by his teaching schedule, John Kessel missed receiving his award there. He also missed the amazing spectacle of Mike Harrison transformed into a mythic king

when he was crowned with the Tiptree tiara and his stunned-but-dighted expression as he was serenaded by the Tiptree chorus. The Tiptree motherboard decided to produce another ceremony at this year's WisCon in order that John Kessel too could be crowned, serenaded, and feted for his Tiptree-winning work.

SHORT LIST

Note: This is not the list from which the judges picked the winners. Rather, it is a list of books that the judges found relevant to the award, and worthy of note.

Tiptree Bakesale

"World Domination through Bake Sales!" That's one of our slogans at Tiptree Juggernaut Headquarters. We support gender-bending SF/F, we publish, we auction, and we do love our chocolate chip cookies! A wide variety of cookies, breads, cakes, pies, and delectables have been baked and donated by Tiptree supporters and can be purchased by-the-plate at the Tiptree Bake Sale on Saturday, starting at 11:30 am (during the lunch break) and continuing through the afternoon or until we run

Isaac Asimov's *Science Fiction Magazine*, May 2002

Ted Chiang, "Liking What You See: A Documentary," *Stories of Your Life and Others*, Tor Books, 2002

John Clute, *APPLESEED*, Tor Books, 2002

Karen Joy Fowler, "What I Didn't See", http://www.scifi.com/scifi.com/originals/originals_archive/fowler/

Gregory Frost, "Madonna of the Maquiladora,"

http://members.dca.net/gregory_frost/Pages/madonna.html

Shelley Jackson, *THE MELANCHOLY OF ANATOMY*, Anchor Books, 2002

Larissa Lai, *SALT FISH GIRL*, Thomas Allen & Son, Ltd., 2002

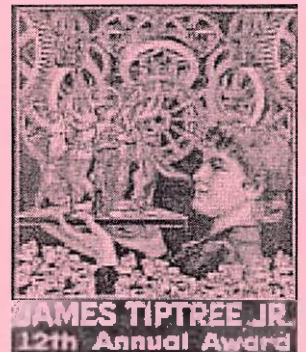
Peter Straub (ed.), *Conjunctions 39: The New Wave Fabulists*, see [conjunctions.com http://www.conjunctions.com/joidx.htm](http://www.conjunctions.com/joidx.htm)

Tiptree Auction

Items for the Tiptree Auction will be on display at the gathering on Friday afternoon and all day Saturday in the art room. Anything that has at least one bid will be in the auction. Many other Tiptree items can be purchased directly.

The new 2003 Tiptree t-shirt by Freddie Baer will go on sale Sat.

morning at 9:30 am. Copies of the Tiptree cookbooks will also be sold, and there will be a table in the Dealers' Room with fixed-price books for sale. Proceeds from all of these sales all fund the Tiptree Award. Any money you spend over the actual fair price of the item you buy is tax deductible.



convention committee (concom)

Coordinator	Scott Custis
Art Show	Jim Hudson
Child Care	Karen Meisner (pre-con); Dan Dexter (at con)
Con Suite	David Devereaux-Weber
Dealers	Hank Luttrell
Doctor-on-Call	Lisa Freitag
GoH Liaisons	China Miéville-Kathi Nash Carol Emshwiller-Justine Larbalestier & Jeanne Gomoll
Hotel Liaison	Scott Custis
Internet Access	Bill Humphries, Par Winzell
Operations	Jennifer White & Heidi Oliverson
Parties	Scott Custis
Phone Management	Hope Kiefer
Programming	Jane Hawkins
Academic Programming	Justine Larbalestier
Book Signings	Amy Hanson
Gathering	Amy Hanson, Jeanne Gomoll, Par Winzell
Green Room	Luke McGuff
Kids Programming & Teen Room	Tom Porter
Night Owl Programming	Steven Schwartz
Parlors	Lori Selke
Programming Staff	Debbie Notkin, Jeanne Gomoll, Maureen Kincaid Speller, Paul Kincaid, Betsy Lundsten
Readings	Justine Larbalestier & Scott Westerfeld
Scheduling tech®	Jane Hawkins
Speakers to Moderators	Maureen Kincaid Speller & Paul Kincaid
Survey Page	Jane Hawkins
Writers' Respite & Living Rooms	Melodie Bolt
Publications	Jeanne Gomoll
At-con newsletter	Kristina Solheim
eCube	Jeanne Gomoll
Pocket Program	Jeanne Gomoll
Progress Reports	Jeanne Gomoll
Restaurant Guide	Richard Russell
Signs	Jeanne Gomoll
Souvenir Book	Beth Plutchak
Souvenir Book ads	Beth Plutchak
Publicity	Carrie Ferguson and Karen Meisner
Registration (at con)	Richard Russell and Barb Gilligan
Registration (pre-con)	Ben Schilling
Safety	Victor Raymond
Special Events	
Opening Ceremonies:	Greg Rihn and Georgie Schnobrich
Dessert Salon	Diane Martin
Dead Dog Party	Scott Custis
Room of One's Own Reception	Karen Meisner
Tiptree Auction	Ellen Klages, Scott Custis, Jeanne Gomoll, Jim Hudson, Diane Martin
Tiptree Bake Sale	Juliebata Humphries
Tiptree Ceremony	Pat Murphy, Ellen Klages
Treasurer	Jim Hudson
Volunteers	Debbie Notkin
Webmistress	Tracy Benton

Author Signings

Need to find out when your favorite author is signing? Use this handy-dandy cheat sheet. Authors are listed alphabetically, followed by the panel number, day, time and room. Most signings will happen in the lobby near the registration table.

Name, Panel #, Day, Time, Place

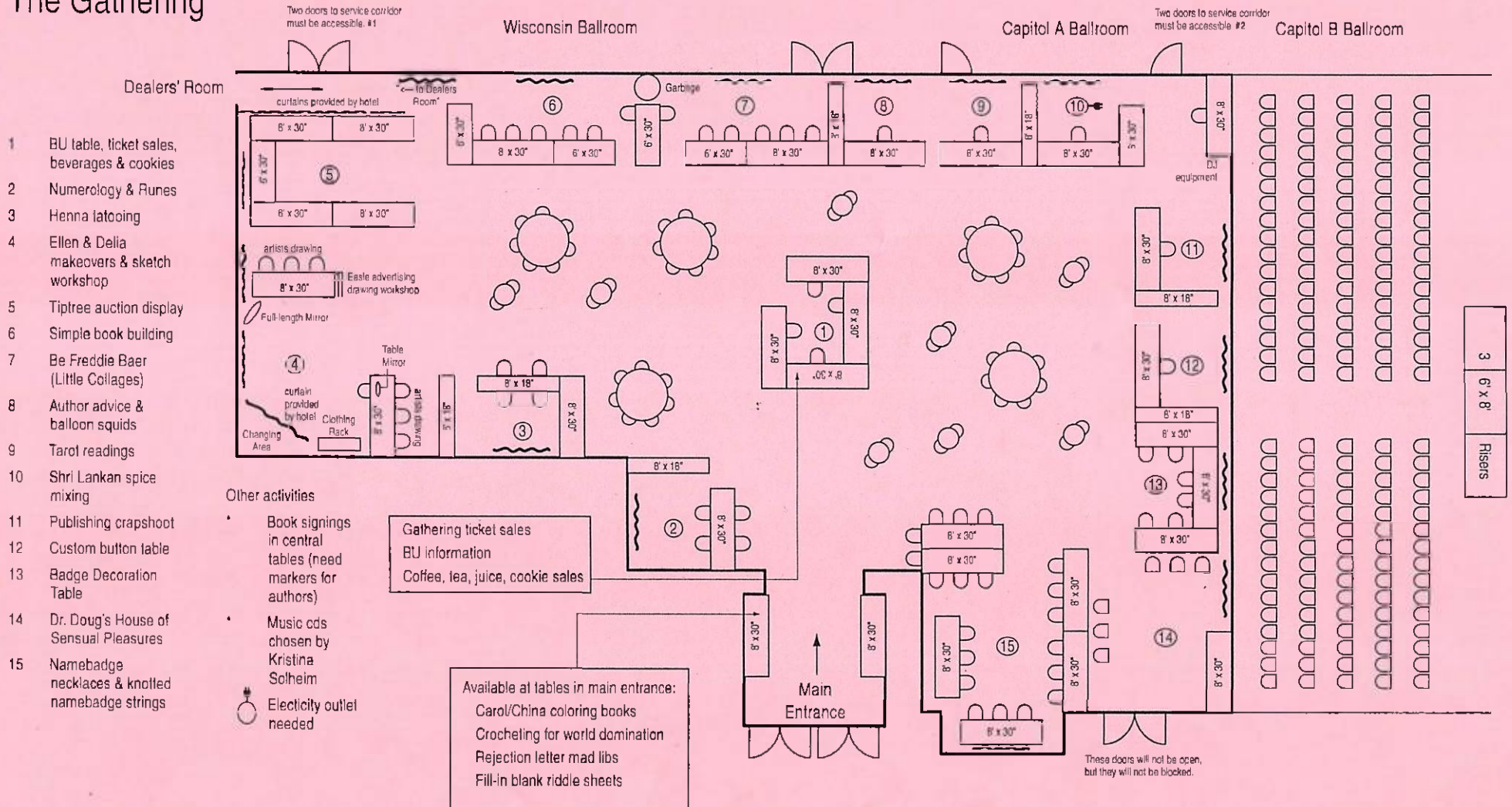
Cutter, Leah Rose, 67, Sat, 2:30-3:45, 638
 Dorsey, Candace Jane, 67, Sat, 2:30-3:45, 638
 Dunn, Carolyn, 67, Sat, 2:30-3:45, 638
 Emshwiller, Carol, 73, Sat, 4:00-5:15, Wisconsin
 Frost, Gregory, 2, Fri, 2:30-5:15, CapWis
 Gomoll, Jeanne, 73, Sat, 4:00-5:15, Wisconsin
 Haden Elgin, Suzette, 102, Sun, 10:00-11:15, Lobby
 Harper Piziks, Steven, 67, Sat, 2:30-3:45, 638
 Harper, Jorjet, 2, Fri, 2:30-5:15, CapWis
 Kerr, Peg, 2, Fri, 2:30-5:15, CapWis
 Kritzer, Naomi, 132, Sun, 2:30-3:45, 638
 Kushner, Ellen, 35, Sat, 10:00-11:15, Lobby
 Marks, Laurie J., 67, Sat, 2:30-3:45, 638
 Marley, Louise, 2, Fri, 2:30-5:15, CapWis
 Matthews, Susan R., 2, Fri, 2:30-5:15, CapWis
 McMaster Bujold, Lois, 35, Sat, 10:00-11:15, Lobby
 Mieville, China, 73, Sat, 4:00-5:15, Wisconsin
 Miller Gearhart, Sally, 35, Sat, 10:00-11:15, Lobby
 Mohanrag, Mary Anne, 102, Sun, 10:00-11:15, Lobby
 Murphy, Pat, 102, Sun, 10:00-11:15, Lobby
 Reimann, Katya, 2, Fri, 2:30-5:15, CapWis
 Rigdon, Mary Lou, 2, Fri, 2:30-5:15, CapWis
 Rivers, Diana, 132, Sun, 2:30-3:45, 638
 Sherman, Delia, 67, Sat, 2:30-3:45, 638
 Smith, Kristine C., 132, Sun, 2:30-3:45, 638
 Sullivan, Kathryn Ann, 2, Fri, 2:30-5:15, CapWis
 Tonsor Zeddies, Ann, 132, Sun, 2:30-3:45, 638
 Vinge, Joan D., 102, Sun, 10:00-11:15, Lobby

Spontaneous Program Room

It's hard to believe that the multi-tracked programs available this weekend won't satisfy everyone, but it's true. There are people at this convention *right now* who want to talk about things that are not officially scheduled in the pocket program book! Check out the Spontaneous Program schedule posted outside Conference room 1 and see what programs have been scheduled by renegade, freelance panelists.

Or sign up for a time slot with your own program idea and become a renegade, freelance panelist yourself! (Warning: program ideas may be stolen by next year's programming committee.) Advertise your spontaneous program here in this newsletter. Drop off an announcement in the drop-box for the newsletter at the registration table.

The Gathering



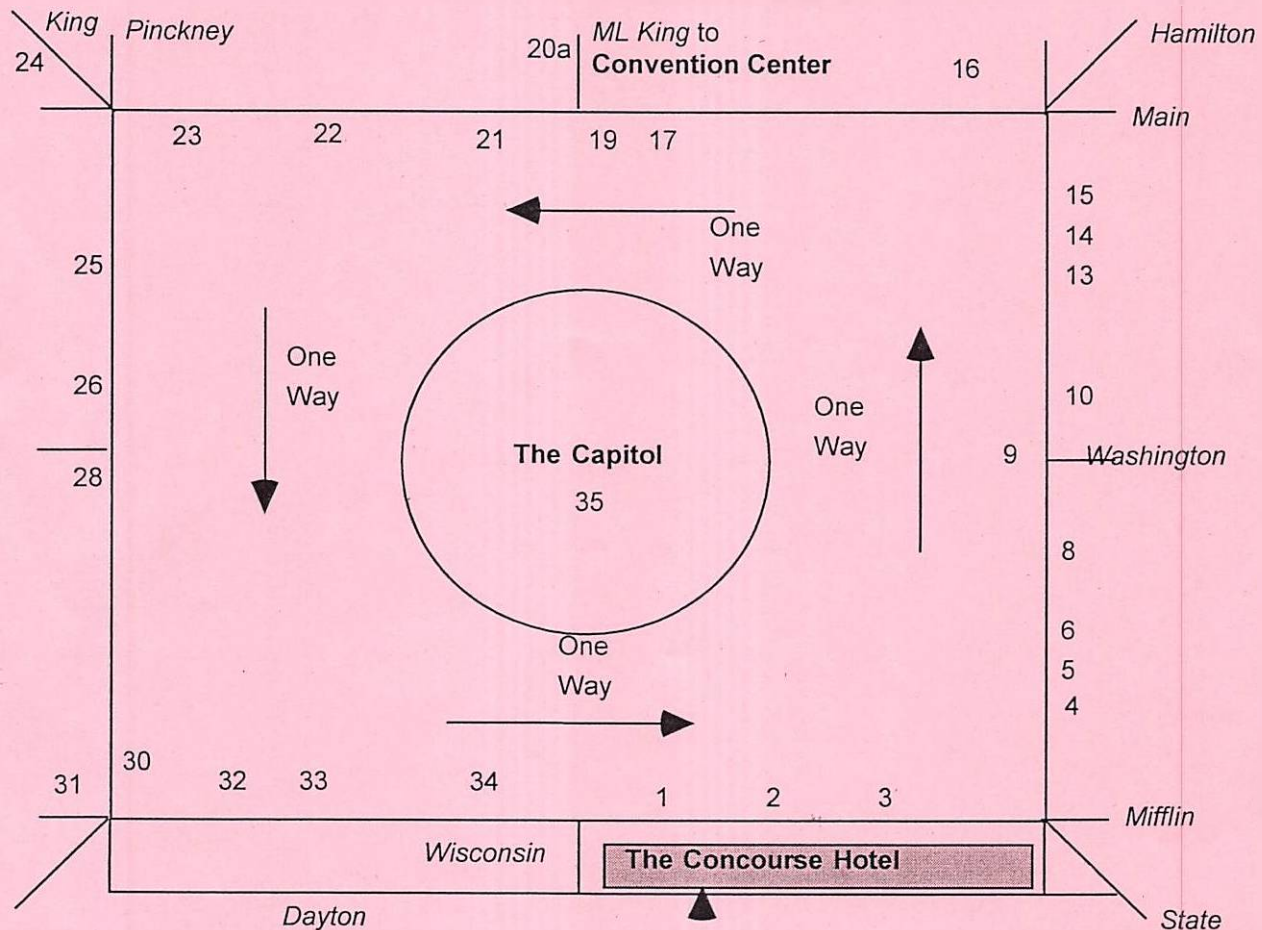
- 1 BU table, ticket sales, beverages & cookies
- 2 Numerology & Runes
- 3 Henna tattooing
- 4 Ellen & Delia makeovers & sketch workshop
- 5 Tiptree auction display
- 6 Simple book building
- 7 Be Freddie Baer (Little Collages)
- 8 Author advice & balloon squids
- 9 Tarot readings
- 10 Shri Lankan spice mixing
- 11 Publishing crapshoot
- 12 Custom button table
- 13 Badge Decoration Table
- 14 Dr. Doug's House of Sensual Pleasures
- 15 Namebadge necklaces & knotted namebadge strings

Gathering ticket sales
 BU information
 Coffee, tea, juice, cookie sales

Available at tables in main entrance:
 Carol/China coloring books
 Crocheting for world domination
 Rejection letter mad libs
 Fill-in blank riddle sheets

3
 6' x 8'
 Risers

Olivia Muriae Orca - Guide to the Farmer's Market



It's been a cool spring so you may see ramps, morels, and lilacs. If you want baked goods and a chance to see abundant greenery, you'll have a great time. Vendors open about 6:30, and most are around until past noon. It will be crowded by 8:00. Here are some interesting vendors, with most of our favorites marked in **boldface**. Some vendors move from week to week. *Salvete omnes! Convention goes -- enjoy the market! Amore, Olivia.*

1. Tom's Handmade Candy. Try the Coffee Toffee.
2. Cress Farms organic bread.
3. **Stella's Bakery**. Try a spicy cheese empanada or a rhubarb turnover, or just talk like a duck.
4. **Renaissance Farm** – pesto, and cinnamon rolls
5. **Bleu Mont dairy**, our favorite cheeses
6. Homemade doughnuts and our favorite **smoked trout** vendor
8. Incense and medicinal herbs
9. Our second favorite Honey (and a real beehive). Also the best maple syrup and the best deal on morels last week
10. Sugar River Bakery. Macaroons.
13. Abundance Acres, **great cut flowers**
14. Fantome **goat cheeses** and spreads
15. Out of our Gourd -- **peppers and chili oil**. Hot!!!
16. Oak House Bakery. More sugar than taste.

17. Summer Kitchen **jams & jellies**. Alphabetical order. They also may have fresh grape juice.
19. Forgotten Valley. 2nd best cheese (brother of best)
- 20A. Starbucks. Same as everywhere. You probably don't need to get anything there.
21. **Honey**, our favorite
22. Cut flowers – brighten up the convention
23. **RP's Pasta**. There are lots of yummy kinds.
24. **Ancora Coffee Roasters**. A few doors down the block, but the best coffee at the market
24. Also the **Turtle** for grits, fried potatoes, etc.
25. **Real Popcorn**. Try some of the black.
26. **Mark David** bread. Great bread, muffins, cookies, (though he's always a little perky).
28. Cow cookies.
30. **Buffalo. Sausage, meats, jerky**. The best. There are pickled hot peppers nearby.
31. **L'Etoile's croissants**. Our pick of the market for baked goods. More than worth crossing the street.
32. Fruit syrups
33. **Harmony Valley Farm**. We get 37 boxes/year of organic vegetables from them. Garlic braids.
34. The third best cheese, brother in law to the best.
35. The Capitol dome. Great for a visit.

A Momentary Taste of WisCon²⁷+

ISSUE #

2

A Whole Lotta Raffle-in' Gein' On

By now, most con-goers know that the Broad Universe is an organization that celebrates and supports women writers of science fiction and fantasy. BU put on The Gathering Friday afternoon to do some serious fundraising. Most of us know that the James Tiptree, Jr. Award also does fundraising at WisCon. Well, all the better! There are two raffles going on that you will want to get in on!

Broad Universe is raffling off the following: a wall-hanging quilt made by Melodie Bolt, three chapbooks by Ursula K. Le Guin, a bag of fun items "China... Space Babe? Oo la la!" for adults and another one for kids. Tickets are \$1 each, available at the BU table in the Lobby. The drawing for the BU raffle will be at 5:30 pm on Saturday, after the BU rapid-fire reading in Room 629.

YOU WANT IT.



The James Tiptree, Jr. Award also seeks your support. Not only are there terrific items being auctioned off at the famous Tiptree Auction (Saturday night at 7:30 pm in Capitol A/B), but for the price of a dollar a ticket, you can buy a chance at the lovely suede jacket shown here. Yeah, you know you want it! So, get out your wallets and get a little piece of WisCon history. (A big thank you to our wonderful models!)

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Overheard @ WisCon

"We want to have flying cats."
-John Kessel

...YEAH, YOU KNOW YOU WANT IT.



Modeled here by Justine and Ellen.

Q: What's the wierdest thing that happened on the way to con?

A: A dresser fell off the truck right in front of our car and we ran into it, impaling part of one drawer on the front bumper. No injuries, only cosmetic damage to the car... but bedroom furniture really should not play in traffic. - Elizabeth Barrette

classifieds

PANEL CHANGES

Panel 69: A Participatory Erotic Reading will be at midnight on Saturday, not the previously published time of 10:45.

Panel 73: Guests of Honor Reading and Signing will feature our current GoHs and Jeanne Gomell will moderate.

Ursula K. Le Guin will be signing from 9:00-9:45 am, Saturday in front of the Dealers' Room.

Spontaneous Programming continues! Clothing Freebies from 11:15-5:00 Saturday in Conference Room 1. Bring some, take some!

NEW PANEL:

"Wow, That Was Nifty!" Join in (re)-viewing "Chosen," the final Buffy episode, Saturday, 10:15 pm in Senate B M: Deb Stone

NEW PANEL:

"Judging the Tiptree Award" with Matthew H. Austern, Jae Leslie Adams, Molly Gloss, Mary Anne Mohanraj, Pat Murphy, Farah Mendlesoh. The Tiptree Award was born at WisCon, and has evolved into one of the field's most pretigious awards. Come listen to this year's jury discuss what goes into selecting the winner. Room 634. Saturday, 4:00-5:15 p.m.

Overheard @ WisCon

"The future is conveniently empty."
-Ursula K. Le Guin

Roommate wanted! Space available in room 424 for one additional roommate. Contact Amy Hanson.

Found! Black Gap dress with white flowers left after the Gathering. May have been paid for. If so, contact Amy Hanson in room 424.

DiversiCon 11 offers "WisCon 27 Special." This weekend only... you can register for this Twin Cities, multi-cultural SF convention (held August 8-10 with Guest of Honor Melissa Scott) for \$25 Adult/\$20 Child (\$5 off the usual rates). See Eric M. Heidenar, room 632 or come to the DiversiCon/WisCon First Fandom Party Sunday at 9:00 pm in room 632.

WisCon Issue of *Extrapolation* Debuts at WisCon 27

Beginning in May, *Extrapolation* will publish an annual special WisCon issue edited by Justine Larbalestier and Javier Martinez. The first issue featuring essays by L. Timmel Duchamp, Wendy Pearson and others will be launched at WisCon 27. (\$10 each, \$8 for students). Get your copy in the Dealer's Room at the Dream Haven booth!

The many-fold reasons for being here at WisCon! Meeting old friends. Making new friends. Serving as a useful conduit between people and books. Passing out catalogs. - Alice Bentley, *The Stars Our Destination*.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The International Space Station will be visible (weather permitting): 10:11-10:18 Friday, 9:13-9:22 pm Saturday (in front of the hotel), and 8:16-8:25 Sunday pm (behind the hotel). See the path via the NASA site (set up as "JPass 2.5 Beta" under Favorites on the Dell system outside University C); or look for someone outside the hotel with maps at the above times. - Chip Hitchcock

Panel Changes- the newsletter will announce program changes all through the weekend. Please submit info by way of the newsletter submission box near the Registration Table in the Lobby.

Radio Free Meredith Bogs WisCon. Thanks to the free wireless access in Laptop Alley (on the 2nd floor), the weblog Radio Free Meredith (<http://maradydd.livejournal.com>) will be posting panel notes and summaries throughout the convention weekend- a sort of "live update" and con archive all in one. Meredith can't be at every panel, though, so if you've got notes you'd like to contribute to the archive project, feel free to drop them off at room 1408 or just give them to Meredith L. Patterson. (Contributions will be acknowledged with a link to your site if you want.)

Memberships for WisCon 28 will be on sale all weekend at the Registration Table in the lobby. We will announce the Guests of Honor for next year in the Sunday edition of the newsletter and on our website.

Don't forget to vote for your favorites in the Art Show!

WHERE TO FIND STUFF

Free Internet Access

There are three computers; one Windows, one iMac (System 9), and one Linux; for WisCon members to use in the hall on the 2nd Floor of the Concourse, just outside the Art Show (University A, B, and C). You can use these computers to check email, and the web. Please be considerate of others and limit your use to ten minutes or so if others are waiting.

If you brought a laptop computer, we have ethernet connections on the table with the iMac. There is also an 802.11b (also known as WiFi or Airport) network which laptops with a wireless LAN card may connect to.

Tech Note: Please set your computer's network preferences to "DHCP" or "Assign My Computer an IP Address" when connecting to the local network. The SSID for the network is "WisCon". See your manufacturer's instructions for information on connecting to a wireless network.

It goes without saying (but we will anyway) to be conscientious when using the computers. What you may consider appropriate material may not be for someone else. Don't leave your brain in your other suit coat.

In case of problems with the network, contact a concomm member who will be able to contact Bill Humphries for you.

Note: Guests staying at the Concourse Hotel may also take advantage of the business center on the first floor. Be prepared for pretty slow connection speeds though!

Tiptree Bakesale

"World Domination through Bake Sales!" That's one of our slogans at Tiptree Juggernaut Headquarters. We support gender-bending SF/F, we publish, we auction, and we do love our chocolate chip cookies! A wide variety of cookies, breads, cakes, pies, and delectables have been baked and donated by Tiptree supporters and can be purchased by-the-plate at the Tiptree Bake Sale on Saturday, starting at 11:30 am (during the lunch break) and continuing through the afternoon or until we run out of goodies.

What You'll Find In The Dealers' Room

A Room of One's Own

Alice Bentley

Darlene P. Coltrain

DreamHaven (Greg Ketter)- One of the oldest and most reliable SF/F/H dealers.

George Elgin- Features the work of Suzette Haden Elgin: art prints, "PeaceTalk 101," and best-selling books on "The Gentle Art of Verbal Self-Defense."

Eye of Horus, Inc. (Thraicie Hawkner)- Purveyors of magickal supplies and books.

Fantanimals (Judith S. Peterson)

Galaxy Gigs (Patricia Gross)- wide variety of notecards, mugs, jigsaw puzzles, etc.

Gavin Grant

Jorjet Harper- Fine, fan and fantasy prints and notecards of her original art.

HedgeHog & Otter (Philip Kaveny)- SF/F books, esp. Tolkien. Non-fiction resources for writers and readers.

Steven V. Johnson

Kelly Link

Lioness (Elise Matthesen)

Kathleen Madigan

Jodi Napiorkowski

Odyssey Con (Jerome Van Epps)

Omega Artworks (Gary Zahradka)

Emily Pohl-Weary

Purple Pegasus (Peggy Tomberlin)

Rainbow Bookstore Cooperative

Nonie Rider- Barbies, G.I. Joes, and adventure accessories.

20th Century Books (Hank Luttrell)- SF books and comics + a specialist in small press comics by and for women.

Ganesh's Treasures- Importers of Fine Indian Clothing

Studio K- Women's plus-size art-to-wear creations and other ready-to-wear. Jewelry featuring Indonesian sterling silver and semi-precious stones.

White Hawk Press (James P. Roberts) - publishes limited edition books of science fiction/ fantasy/ horror, poetry and literary non-fiction and baseball history. Also books and items related to Wisconsin author August W. Derleth.



Panel In A Nutshell: (5) American Politics as Science Fiction

SPECIAL EVENTS
AT WISCON 27

M: Alan Bostick, China Mieville, Chip Hitchcock, Kaiya L. Iverson, Louise Gabriella Reed, & Vicki Rosenzweig. In a room bursting at the seams, the panel quickly threw out the science fiction aspect of the discussion and let loose with commentary on politics, primarily American. You can imagine what followed. Discussion covered topics from voting results, current British and American politics, activism, standardized testing, and the fall of the empire (well, all the empires). At one point, Kaiya attempted to bring discussion back to science fiction by asking the room what they might postulate (in a science fiction story) if aliens were to make first contact right now, given the current state of our world's governments. China announced that he'd be embarrassed. "It's like friends coming over when your house is a mess. You say s%*&t, hold on." The crowd agreed that "cleaning house" is foremost on their agendas and moved on to discuss the Patriot Act and ways we can make a difference in politics. Overheard @ WisCon in response to having a panel on American Politics as science fiction, Kij Johnson said, "It's, like, Carrie 3: The Republicans."



Ursula K. Le Guin signing autographs at The Gathering

WISCON 27 DESSERT SALON MENU

CAKES

Chocolate with Caramel icing
Black Forest with Chocolate buttercream
Carrot w/ Cream Cheese buttercream
Almond Poppyseed w/ Lemon filling & Vanilla buttercream

PIES

Cherry
Apple
Strawberry-Rhubarb
Key Lime

CHEESECAKE

Oreo Cookie
Pumpkin
Raspberry Swirl
Turtle

PASTRIES, ETC.

Flourless Chocolate Truffle Torte
Chocolate Mousse
Chocolate "Sushi"
Mini Eclairs
Pistachio Baklava
Chocolate-Dipped Strawberries
Fresh Fruit Cups

BEVERAGES

Coffee, Tea, Milk

Panel Review: (1) The World(s) We Write and the World(s) We Live In

by Kristina Solheim

This Living Room with Ursula K. Le Guin and Molly Gloss kicked off the WisCon weekend with a full house of eager writers fresh from their morning writing workshops. Ursula and Molly shared the books that started them on the roads to writing SF/F- *The Dreamer's Tale* and *Dr. Doolittle*, respectively. They talked for a few minutes about these books and then did away with "lecturing" and began facilitating a discussion with the 30+ writers about why we write SF/F.

The audience shared insights such as writing SF/F is "a thought experiment," "vicarious revenge," that "emotions seem to be truer in fantasy," and John Kessel said "[I write SF because] I have desires that are not in accord with the status quo." An audience member said writing SF/F is a way to challenge societal standards and Ursula agreed, saying "it's the only way to talk about a lot of things." Sally Miller Gearhart commented that it is important to write fantasy because it creates

the future. Others claimed they wrote SF/F to have fun.

When reality catches up to science fiction, the stories are not invalidated, we all agreed. Then discussion moved on to differences between science fiction and fantasy such as: why is most fantasy written in the past or at least in pre-industrial settings? People talked about the American assumption that fantasy is for kids, and that fantasy writing is more conservative, looking backwards and setting things in the past in a safe or childish world. In most fantasy stories, change is a bad thing and the plot is about returning to a Golden Age. In science fiction, the Golden Age is in the future. Risks are run in visionary fantasy. Rather than a battle between Good and Evil, you test ethics. The point is to discover what is good.

The Living Room was videotaped and will be shown again. Check the Official Notices board next to the Registration Table in the lobby for details.

A Momentary Taste of **WisCon²⁷** ♀

ISSUE #

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This, Too, Can Happen to You



The James Tiptree, Jr. Award will present \$1000 in prize money to John Kessel (pictured at left) on Sunday night following the Guest of Honor speeches. Kessel won the 2002 award with M. John Harrison (pictured at right and below), whose novel *Light* has already been honored at the first 2003 Tiptree



Ceremony at Seacon in Hinckley, England, on April 18. Since John Kessel was unable to attend that ceremony, he will receive the award in an unprecedented second Tiptree ceremony.

Prevented from attending the April 18 ceremony in England by his teaching schedule, John Kessel missed receiving his award there. He also missed the amazing spectacle of Mike Harrison transformed into a mythic king when he was crowned with the Tiptree tiara and his stunned-but-dighted expression as he was serenaded by the Tiptree chorus (see below). The Tiptree motherboard decided to produce another ceremony at this year's WisCon in order that John Kessel too could be crowned, serenaded, and feted for his Tiptree-winning work.



The Tiptree Chorus serenading M. John Harrison at Seacon '03.

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From the Editor:

Thanks to everyone for contributing to this year's at-con newsletter! Printing your thoughts and ideas makes the late nights all worthwhile!

We will have a Monday issue, so please continue to drop me your panel notes and announcements through Sunday evening.

yours, Kristina Solheim

Overheard @ WisCon

Candas Jane Dorsey: My novel is 1 ½ years late.

Ellen Klages: That's Canadian time, so it's only 6 months American!

Panel In A Nutshell

(70) Engraving the Glass Ceiling: Writing about Social Barriers
Reviewed by Elizabeth Barrette

Despite tendencies among audience and panelists alike to talk more about barriers and politics, moderator Lyn Paleo kept us circling back to the writing part. Differences in opinion led to lively discussion. We explored internalized vs. externalized and visible vs. invisible barriers. Best quote: "Integrity is not a subject to be taught, it is a contagion to be caught- you can only get it from someone who already has it." - Lois McMaster Bujold

Announcements

Recommended restaurants on State Street: Chin (Asian), Kabul (Afghanistan), Myles Teddy Wedgers Cornish Pastry, Chocolate Coyote (ice cream). - Elizabeth Barrette

Help Make WisCon 28 Better: As you get set to leave WisCon 27, remember to drop off your completed survey forms in the "Return Surveys Here" box at the registration table. And while you're there, why not return your plastic name-badge holder so we can reuse it next year?

Volunteers Needed! Broad Universe needs volunteers to staff its information table. Please stop by the table (near the dealer's room) to sign up for a one-hour shift.

The Registration Table will be open on Sunday for Westercon 2005 Bid from 10-1:00 pm, and World Con Bids 2006 (Los Angeles, Kansas City) from 1-6:00 pm.

Memberships for WisCon 28 will be on sale all weekend at the Registration Table in the lobby. We will announce the Guests of Honor for next year in the Sunday edition of the newsletter and on our website.

Calgary, Alberta is bidding to host the **2005 Westercon**.

Westercon is an annual traveling convention held in Western North American. They are hosting a party on Sunday night in room 607 from 9:00 pm and representatives of the bid will be at an information table next to Registration on Sunday morning 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. - Kevin Standlee

Cryptic Codes Cracked, Redux! Wondering what those cryptic codes are on the bottom of some name badges? Our crack team of NSA PhDs reveals this:

GoH = Guest of Honor at indicated WisCon
CC = Con committee member
WW = Writer's Workshop Participant
Little Smiley Faces = Writers who are attending Living Rooms

CONGRATULATIONS TO CHINA MIÉVILLE FOR HUGO NOMINATION

WisCon 27 Guest of Honor China Miéville received a Hugo Nomination for his novel, *THE SCAR*. Congratulations China!

Other regular WisCon attendees received Hugo nominations as well:

Novella: Richard Chwedyk, "Bronte's Egg"
Novelette: Ursula Le Guin, "The Wild Girls"
Short Story: Molly Gloss, "Lambing Season"
Related Book: Justine Larbalestier, *THE BATTLE OF THE SEXES IN SCIENCE FICTION*
Related Book: Judith Merrill and Emily Pohl-Weary, *BETTER TO HAVE LOVED: THE LIFE OF JUDITH MERRILL*
Fanzine: Cheryl Morgan, *EMERALD CITY*
John W. Campbell Award: David Levine (first year of eligibility)

Panel Changes

The Living Room: The World(s) We Create and the World(s) We Live In with Molly Gloss and Ursula K. Le Guin (see panel review in Issue 2 of this newsletter) will be replayed on Sunday at 5:30 pm in the Caucus Room.

China Miéville will not be on #127 "The Ethics of Cultural Appropriation" Sunday at 2:30 pm.

Strange Horizons Tea Party! Hosts: Mary Anne Mohanraj, Susan Groppi, Jed Hartman. Room 537, Sunday 3-5 pm. Meet the editors! See the magazine!

Calling all members of the **Cult of Freddie Baer**- she of Divine Art. Meet at the main staircase at 5:15-5:30 pm for a group portrait wearing your Freddie shirt! Sunday. - Cynthia Gonsalves, rm 1138.

Overheard @ WisCon

Jim Minz wonders if China Miéville is stalking him. Every time Jim turns around, China's right behind him!

2002 Philip K. Dick Award Winner Announced

The Philadelphia Science Fiction Society was pleased to announce at Norwescon 26, in SeaTac, Washington, that the winner for the distinguished original science fiction paperback published for the first time during 2002 in the U.S.A. is: THE MOUNT by Carol Emshwiller (Small Beer Press)

The Philip K. Dick Award is presented annually for distinguished science fiction published in paperback original form in the United States. The award is sponsored by the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society. The 2002 judges were Shelley Rodrigo Blanchard, Michael Blumlein, Nalo Hopkinson (chair), Donna McMahon, Lois Tilton.

The 2003 judges are Stephen L. Burns, Suzy McKee Charnas, Craig Jacobsen, Richard Parks, Janine Ellen Young

THE MOUNT (256pp, 1931520038, \$16) was also chosen as a Best Book of the Year by THE VILLAGE VOICE, LOCUS, BOOK MAGAZINE, THE SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE and more.
<http://www.lcrw.net/carolemshwiller>

Description:

"Charley is an athlete. He wants to grow up to be the fastest runner in the world, like his

father. He wants to be painted crossing the finishing line, in his racing silks, with a medal around his neck. Charley lives in a stable. He isn't a runner, he's a mount. He belongs to a Hoot: The Hoots are alien invaders. Charley hasn't seen his mother for years, and his father is hiding out in the mountains somewhere, with the other Free Humans. The Hoots own the world, but the humans want it back. Charley knows how to be a good mount, but now he's

going to have to learn how to be a human being."

Special citation was given to: THE SCAR by China Miéville (Del Rey Books)

For more info:

Philadelphia Science Fiction Society
<http://www.psf.org/>
Norwescon:
<http://www.norwescon.org/>
Philip K. Dick Awards
www.philipkdickaward.org

panel review: (46) Diving Deeper

by Kristina Solheim

M: David D. Levine, Candas Jane Dorsey, China Miéville, Ellen Klages, Sarah Monette, Suzette Haden Elgin. The panel focused on how to make short stories denser, to dive more deeply into your short stories. After introducing themselves, most members said they tended to write more novels than short stories. They discussed the ideas of adding complexity to your stories.

China commented that you should write a short story with formal rules, add themes and stir. This brings about a deeper story. Ellen talked about different passes at her stories. On the first pass, an idea is either a character or a plot. You add a layer of complexity to one or the other,

by the end, she has about eight layers. On the last pass, she fine-tunes the language, likening it to the meringue on top of a cake, polish, and gloss.

Suzette said the mistake some people make when deciding to write short stories is that they think they are less work, but she literally writes biographies and draws maps for her short stories. She creates an entire world, even if it all doesn't get into the short story.

"Don't practice. Get right in there and take risks," Candas said, going on to say there are no right answers here, and that you need to know your own weaknesses as writers. Ellen uttered the quote "God is in the details" and revealed that some short stories

could have 4-5 months of work behind it.

China said that in short stories, he wants "a sense of touching the numinous," defined as the godhead in the every day. He said a good examples of this are stories by M. John Harrison who has "a vigorous screenwriter's sense of narrative and how it works." The panel began making jokes about China and numinousity, prompting China to take back having used the word.

Suzette suggested picking a dense short story that, after you read it, you say your life would have been poorer without it, and sit down and copy it out long-hand. Your body will learn. It was also suggested to read the story aloud. Recommended short story

(continued on page 3)

fundraising for world domination

JOIN Broad Universe - Become a Paid Member!

Broad Universe, conceived at Wiscon 24, is growing up: We're offering paid membership beginning with Wiscon 27. We're happy to sign you up at the con — get a sticker for your badge and a special Wiscon-27-only gold stamp on your Broad Universe membership card! You can also pay by PayPal at our website or mail in a paper form. Stop by the Broad Universe table near the dealers' room to join or ask questions.

WHAT DO YOU GET FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

A strong, committed organization promoting and celebrating women writers of sf/f/h. On our way to world domination are Broadsheets (our newsletter) and payments to authors who write for the Broadsheet, research on the state of the genre, information displays promoting BU authors, public readings, catalogs, resources to help you succeed and much more.

HOW MUCH DO MEMBERSHIPS COST?

We have two membership levels.

Level One : For \$30/year, you get access to all aspects of the organization, including participation in BU's group readings, listings in the book catalog, space on the information tables and in the advertisements, as well as access to BU's private PR database, Broadsheet archives, and any future members-only resources on our website. (NOTE: Anyone can become a Level One member, but because of BU's mission, only women may participate in the BU catalog, group readings, BU book- launch parties and similar marketing efforts. The rest of the Level One benefits are accessible to all Level One members.)

Level Two : For \$15/year, you receive access to all non-marketing offerings from BU, including access to the Broadsheet archives and any future members-only pages on the website.

Our email discussion list remains open to non-members, along with the current issue of The Broadsheet.

It's a Broad Universe!
<http://www.broaduniverse.org>
Heather Whipple,
motherboarder
web@
[broaduniverse.org](http://www.broaduniverse.org)

One-Liner Highlights from the Tiptree Auction

Picture a black-clad figure joyfully commanding the stage. Ellen Klages, yet again, became the consummate Tiptree auctioneer. What she didn't realize was the newsletter editor was in the audience, capturing a few of the funny moments in her notebook.

When auctioning off a collection of signed CDs and a 45 of "At 17" by Janice Ian, Ellen remarked that, with your turntable, "you could play 'at 17' at 33."

A baby blanket featuring Space Babe brought out some fierce competition. "We have three pregnant women [here]. I LOVE FEMINISM!"

"'Lemon Labia...' a flavor Baskin Robbins is so often out of..." Ellen commented with a crook of her eyebrows as she auctioned off a collection of lip balms for \$30.

Winners of the Raffles!

Well, what a day it was for some lucky people who got one-of-a-kind pieces of WisCon history for a mere dollar or two. With the total of approximately \$638 raised for the James Tiptree, Jr. Award, Saturday night at the Tiptree Auction, Bill Humphries (pictured below) became the proud owner of an Official Space Babe Suede Jacket. The Broad Universe Raffle was held earlier that day after the BU Rapid-Fire Reading. A bag of nifty toys was won by Anne Statton & a golden horse pin, tote-bag and mouse pad went to Leah Cutter (both bags donated by author Kathryn Stillman). Nancy Jane Moore won the quilt, hand-made by Melodie Bolt. And the chapbooks authored and autographed by Ursula K. Le Guin and Vonda McIntyre went to Jennifer Lackey. Congratulations lucky people! And a big thank you to everyone who took part in the raffles!



Wiscon Highlights So Far



Broad Universe's The Gathering.

By the time he's done, you won't care that you have to wait half an hour for an elevator.



"Want a balloon hat with that?"



authors were Tiptree and John Crowley.

A memorable moment was when Candas talked about stealing John Crowley's technique when using the colon. A memorable quote from Ellen: "When I'm in the process of writing, I write only to delight myself. I write a paragraph that just tickles me and I dance around the room with joy." David likened short stories to butterflies. The short story is the fluorescence, the flashy part of a thing that's been crawling around the author's brain for a long time.

In closing, Candas suggested reading John Clutes' definition of fantasy in the Encyclopedia of Fantasy. China asked the audience to focus on the story itself and remember "it's an artifact you're creating." Ellen likened deep short stories to an Easter egg hunt; building layers of complexity in short stories rewards careful readers with little prizes in the story.

Note from another panel attendee. Candas Jane Dorsey said "if you're a clothesline structuralist (you have a clothesline in your office with little cards pinned to it), the challenge is diving deeper and letting fly, letting go. If you're in it for the excitement of discovery, the challenge is learning structure."

"That'll cost you 2 tickets," Rob Gates says with authority.



more photo ops



Ellen Klages as Carol Emshwiller; Ellen Klages as China Miéville at Tiptree Auction.



Former GoH Jeanne Gomell and Concom Coordinator Scott Custis at the Gathering.

Skit at Opening Ceremonies: the Information Highway Patrolmen.



A Momentary Taste of **WisCon²⁷** +

ISSUE #

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Tiptree Motherboard Crowns John Kessel

Tiptree Motherboard's Serenade for John Kessel

By Ellen Klages

Oh, Johnny's been writing
prose again,
Hurrah! Hurrah!
We'll give him some Tiptree chocolate then,
Hurrah! Hurrah!
The men will cheer and the boys will shout,
The ladies they have all turned out,
And he's won the prize,
'Cause Johnny's been writing prose.



2002 winner, John Kessel, and 2001 winner, Hiromi Goto.



Goto crowns Kessel

His story appeared in Asimov's
Hurrah! Hurrah!
It's read by folks both coarse and suave
Hurrah! Hurrah!
(slowly)
Oh, it's gender-bending fiction that (pause)
Won John a pearl-encrusted hat.
And we're all so glad that
Johnny's been writing prose!

Oh, Johnny he wrote about the moon,
Hurrah! Hurrah!
A colony there will be soon,
Hurrah! Hurrah!
The men and boys play, by and large,
For the ladies there are all in charge,
And it gets quite strange when
Johnny's been writing prose.



Karen Joy Fowler,
John Kessel and Pat
Murphy

Overheard @ WisCon

"I find the movie is better if you ignore the two main characters." - audience member in Dick Russel's SF movies in review.

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PANEL IN A NUTSHELL: LADIES AND GENTLEBEINGS

by Elizabeth Barrette

This panel turned into a discussion of how authors need to justify extra or unusual sexes/genders in characters. We touched on examples from real-world cultures and fiction in describing what other sexes/genders could exist, like neuters. Panelist Mary Anne Mohanraj noted that she likes to see character-driven stories about sex/gender for "Strange Horizons." She also put out my favorite quote: "Humans bow to their whims, not to biology."

Panel In A Nutshell (106)

POLITICS AND WRITING

China started out by saying "I write the fiction I write because I love monsters." He went on to discuss issues that he went into greater detail about in his Guest of Honor speech Sunday night such as whether art and propaganda can mix. Suggestion was that if you don't love the fantastic when you're writing it, you won't write a fantastical novel. He talked about the politics of content and the relationship between the politics of the story and the politics of the real world. He talked about the politics of *Perdido Street Station*. The Garuda in PSS are the "supposed antagonism of the individual by society." He also admitted he wrote PSS without giving the Remade a voice and rectified that in *The Scar*. He suggested some books to read and many are listed on his website.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Spontaneous Program- Former employee of city cemetery will tell you more than you need to know about historic Madison, Indian mounds, the northernmost Confederate cemetery, monument design, etc. Join us (small group) for a two-mile walk Monday at 1:15 pm. Meet at the Forest Hill Cemetery.

Janis Ian Tiptree Items- If you would like to buy any of the autographed CDs that were auctioned Saturday night, please contact Lise Eisenberg in room 1119 or at 212-837-8186. I bought the lot for the letter alone.

Kudos

The HoYay panel was like a revival meeting! Great fun! And some new insights too.

Janis Kidder's presentation was incredible- sad and inspiring and cool and thought-provoking. Bravo.

Overheard @ WisCon

"Sorry I was late. It was an elevator thing." - China Miéville

OUR GUESTS OF HONOR FOR WISCON 28-

Patricia McKillip
<http://www.evan.org/McKillip.html>

and

Eleanor Arnason
http://www.fantasticfiction.co.uk/authors/Eleanor_Arnason.htm



Saturday Night Party Reviews

By Elizabeth Barrette

I made a brief stop at the excellent Kansas City in '06 party, hosted by the ever-entertaining Redheads from Hell. Then I went to the Haiku Earring Party hosted by Elise Matthesen. Rules: Pick a pair of earrings, get a title from Elise, write a haiku, keep the earrings! This may be the most fun I ever had at a party. I spent most of the evening here, using my wordsmithing skills to pad my own jewelry box and to do some early midwinter shopping. If you missed this must-catch event, no need to jump off the edge of the Earth in despair- Elise plans to do it again someday. Hopefully a chapbook will also come from this, which many of us discussed. If you did take the Haiku Earring Challenge, let Elise know if she has your permission to reprint your haiku. I finished my party circuit with a quick trip through the Tor Party (best decorated, with walls full of book covers) and then back to the Kansas City party, which I helped pack up. Vote for Kansas City in '06, rah rah rah!

WISCON 27 ART SHOW AWARDS

Best of Show-

First Place: A. B. Word, *Listen to the Night*
 Honorable Mention: Amy Edgington, *Second Sight*

Best Media-Related Art: No Award

Most Feminist-

First Place: A. B. Word, *Buzzing of the Hive*
 Honorable Mention: Mary Anne Mohanraj, *Fraying Edges*

Most Politically Incorrect-

First Place: Amy Edgington, *Moon Pies*
 Honorable Mention: Ruth Thompson, *Dark Fury*

PANEL REVIEW #33

Brave Rabbits: the Carol Emshwiller and Ursula Le Guin Show

By Justine Larbalestier

Saturday's conversation between Carol Emshwiller and Ursula Le Guin was fabulous and moving and for me the highlight of this year's WisCon. Eileen Gunn fed them the occasional question, but mostly they chatted amongst themselves, covering writing about the recent war (Ursula needs to stew on things for a while, so hasn't yet; for Carol the process is more immediate—she's already sold a number of stories on the subject, at least one of which is already in print), teaching the craft of writing (Ursula loves to steer her students towards contemplating the fine art of comma placement), raising children while trying to write (apparently the trick is to get them to go to bed by 7:30pm) and a great deal more about the road they've had to hoe as writers. It was glorious witnessing such a warm and easy friendship between two very different women. Ursula's path has been for the most part golden (does anyone truly have an easy path?) with supportive parents and spouse, while Carol came to writing later, with little support and a certain amount of hindrance from her spouse. Her discussion of the difficulties of stealing time to write while raising her children ("I felt like I couldn't breathe," she said at one point, smiling) elicited hisses for her late husband from the audience, and yet there was no condemnation in her words nor even the faintest whiff of bitterness. Ursula claimed to be a rabbit in comparison to Carol's bravery. Carol claimed that she too was a rabbit. John Kessel dryly pointed out from the audience that, if so, she was a very brave rabbit. The audience laughed a great deal, and I know that I was not the only one whose eyes filled with tears.

As everyone here must know, Carol is in her eighties and Ursula in her seventies. The average life expectancy of a woman in the USA is 80, so they're doing well, but have hardly reached Guinness Book of World Records age. So why the big deal? Carol and Ursula—at any age—are extraordinary people. Warm, witty, compassionate brilliant writers. Part of the big deal is that they are doing some of the best writing of their careers *right now*. They show that the life of a writer can just keep on going. If you're healthy and still sparking on all cylinders—though both Carol and Ursula seem to have way more cylinders than most of us—you can write, and more importantly, you can keep getting better. Who doesn't want to hear that message?

But what filled my eyes with tears as I listened to those two white-haired, sharp-witted, funny, funny women was that not only are they unbelievably cool folk that everyone here would give their eyeteeth to hang out with—I've now heard four different people boasting in the elevator that they got to hang with Carol—but they run counter to

the predominate images of old women we get in the west. Most of us under fifty have never seen anyone remotely like them on television, or on film. We have been given no expectations as we grew up that old age for a woman is anything other than a time of horror, ugliness and stupidity. You'll lose your looks (someone must've forgotten to tell Carol and Ursula about that one), your mind (ditto) and will either turn into a mean, screeching witch who eats children or a gentle, silver-haired Stepford grandma with an endless supply of home-baked cookies and homilies and little interest in anything other than her grandchildren.

Most of us in the west are afraid of old age. On Saturday, watching Carol and Ursula talk and laugh about their writing lives, for the first time in my life, I wasn't remotely afraid.

MADISON HIGHLIGHTS



Little girl dancing with huxters.



Goodbye, Madison! 'Till next year.