

WisCon 28

World's Only Feminist Science Fiction Convention

Memorial Day Weekend
May 28–31, 2004

WELCOME!

Welcome, and thanks for registering for WisCon. This progress report should help answer some of your questions. See you soon.

Registration

If this progress report is addressed to you, don't worry, you are already registered. But if you know anyone who has yet to register, urge them to register at the door. All mail-in registrations must have been postmarked no later than April 30.

Schedule of Events

Thursday. Events will get started the day before WisCon's official opening ceremonies. Volunteers are encouraged to lend a hand at the packet stuffing (5:00 P.M. Thursday, 2nd floor, Concourse Hotel).

Madison's feminist bookstore, A Room of One's Own, will host its annual **reception** honoring authors attending WisCon (6:30 P.M. Thursday, 307 W. Johnson St.). Both Guests of Honor, **Eleanor Arnason** and **Patricia A. McKillip**, will give readings at the reception.

Afterward, you are welcome to join many WisCon **concom** members and attendees gathering for supper across the street at the Angelic Brew Pub. Or gather your own group together and sample one of the many fine nearby restaurants.

Friday. Pre-registered writers will divide into small groups and critique one another's manuscripts during the Friday morning **writers' workshop**. Sorry, the workshop is already filled this year.

Registration will open at 1:00 P.M. Pick up your packets. Look inside and you will find **two free tickets** for use at the Gathering, as well as your dessert tickets if you purchased them.

Once again, we'll kick off WisCon with a fun event on Friday afternoon from 2:00–5:30 P.M. The **Gathering** gives us a chance to recover from our travels, catch up with our farflung friends with coffee, tea, and cookies and lots of fun activities. Booths and refreshments will cost a nominal fee as a fundraiser for Broad Universe (www.broaduniverse.org) and the Carl Brandon Society (www.carlbrandon.org). This year, proceeds from the makeover booth will be donated to the **Laurie J. Marks Emergency Medical Fund**. If you have kicky hand-me-downs you'd like to donate, bring them on Friday.

Opening ceremonies will be held at 7:30 P.M. Friday night. The ceremonies will be fun and lively in the best fannish tradition, welcoming the guests of honor and officially kicking off the weekend with laughter and bad acting.

Parties will open their doors on the sixth floor at this time. It should be a fun evening! Don't stay up too late though! Programming starts up again at 8:30 A.M. Saturday morning.

Saturday. Baked goodies will be available for \$1 a plate at the **Tiptree bakesale** Saturday afternoon, with all proceeds donated to the Tiptree Award. Ellen Klages will entertain and raise money for the Tiptree Award at Saturday night's **Tiptree auction** (7:30 P.M.). Parties on the sixth floor will also be open at this time.

Sunday. Sunday night will feature speeches by Guests of Honor **Patricia A. McKillip** and **Eleanor Arnason**. Following the speeches, Matt Ruff will accept his Tiptree Award and be serenaded by the Tips' rendition of this year's Tiptree song.

A **dessert salon** will precede both the **GoH speeches** and the **Tiptree ceremony**. It is too late to purchase dessert tickets via mail or PayPal, but there may be a very few tickets for sale at registration on Friday. If you're interested, be sure to ask about them when you pick up your registration packet. The GoH speeches and Tiptree ceremony are open to everyone; you do not need to purchase dessert salon tickets in order to attend. (Tickets will guarantee a better seat however.)

Monday. Expect a light program schedule and a new WisCon program: the **Sign Out**. Authors will be available at the Sign Out to sign your books; you can also collect signatures from friends in your pocket program book, souvenir book, or the memory book you made at the Gathering, and say goodbye to one another for the year. We hope you will enjoy this new event. Please let us know what you think about it when you fill out your feedback form after the convention.

Finally, you are welcome to stay for the traditional **dead dog party** late in the afternoon. Details will be announced at the convention.

A list of programming participants—or what we like to call our **luminaries**—is available on the WisCon webpage, www.sf3.org/wiscon/programming.html. This list will also include biographic and bibliographic information where you learn about the books and short stories written, books edited, and artwork created by WisCon 28 luminaries.

A **schedule of programming** will be available on the WisCon website sometime in mid-May. Its posting will be announced in *eCube*. Excel files, readable with a Palm Pilot, will be available at the convention.

Matt Ruff will be honored at Tiptree Award ceremony at WisCon!

The James Tiptree, Jr. Award will present \$1000 in prize money to Matt Ruff for his novel, *Set This House in Order*. Ruff will also receive a painting created by artist Georgie Schnobrich. For more information about the Tiptree Award go to www.tiptree.org

Contacting WisCon

concom@sf3.org

www.sf3.org/wiscon

WisCon, PO Box 1624 Madison, WI
53701-1624

eCube: www.sf3.org/wiscon/news.htm

Programming

Programming is scheduled to run from

Friday, 2:30 P.M. to 1:00 A.M.

Saturday and Sunday, 8:30 A.M. to 1:00 A.M.

Monday, 8:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M.

Lunch breaks: 11:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

Dinner breaks: 5:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M.

Programs will last 75 minutes, followed by a 15-minute hiatus between programs.

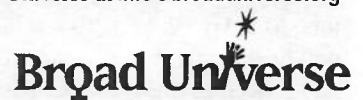
Why Does Broad Universe Sponsor the Gathering?

Broad Universe is excited to again sponsor this event at WisCon. It's a natural fit for us, since Broad Universe aims to get more visibility for women's writing in SF/F/H, and the proceeds will help us get more visibility in our genre.

Many of our activities are based on the web at www.broaduniverse.org. We have an online newsletter with articles about writing and writers, a statistics page detailing the award and review status of women, an online book catalog, an online short fiction listing, and a separate email list for conversations during the week. Last year, our members held group readings at SF/F conventions and staffed an information table at Worldcon in Toronto.

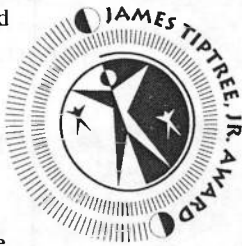
Proceeds from the Gathering will help us with an exciting new venture this year: holding a table in the dealer's room at Worldcon in Boston. Previous Worldcon tables were in the fan area, which had only about 10 percent pass-through. Everyone goes into the Dealer's Room, though, and we feel that being there will give us a much higher visibility for our authors. In addition to having sample books and free flyers, we'll organize booksigning events and let our members sell their own books, whether remaindered or new.

The Carl Brandon Society will be part of the Gathering too, as their goals of helping support minority writers in SF/F/H are closely allied with our own. The Tiptree Award will have an auction preview table, but will have its bake sale and auction later in the con. Questions about the Gathering can be directed to Broad Universe at info@broaduniverse.org

**Broad Universe**

Tiptree Auction, Bake Sale & T-Shirts

The Tiptree Award raises funds through auctions, bake sales and t-shirt sales. You can help support the awards before the convention by donating items for sale at the **auction**. Of course, you can also participate by bidding on auction items.



Things get rather chaotic at the convention, so if you intend to donate something to the Tiptree auction, we ask that you send it ahead, or send us an email at auction@sf3.org. Let us know how to reach you and please include a short description of the item and your best estimate of its market value.

What better way to sponsor the Tiptree than through a **bake sale**? If you'd like to prepare some baked goods or other treats for the bake sale, please send a message to the WisCon email address and we will tell you where to bring your goodies. And come to WisCon ready to munch!

Tiptree t-shirts (year 13), designed by silk-screen collage artist Freddie Baer, will be on sale again this year at WisCon in the Art Show/Tiptree Display room. They often sell out, so be sure to look for them early!

Six Reasons to Volunteer for WisCon

- 1) By volunteering, you can meet and get a chance to know a wide variety of the really interesting people who help make WisCon happen.
- 2) If you like to know how things work or why things are done the way they are, volunteering is the way to find out.
- 3) If you like gossip, backstory, and the inside scoop, volunteers hear it first.
- 4) If you like WisCon, you're keeping it going; if you have peevies, you're in the best place to help fix them.
- 5) If you work six hours, and let us know you care about this, you get a \$20 rebate on your membership after the convention.
- 6) It's The Only Neat Thing to Do.

To volunteer to help before, during, or after the convention, email volunteer@sf3.org. If you checked off "volunteer" on your registration form, you'll be hearing from us very shortly.

Sign-Out

Come celebrate the autograph at WisCon's first free-for-all signing party! Authors, musicians, visual artists—anyone with something to sign; meet, greet and say good-bye to each other, fans and collectors. Monday between 10 A.M. and noon will be the **only** time set aside for giving and collecting autographs at WisCon.

Tiptree Anthology

Starting in 2004, Tachyon Press will be publishing annual Tiptree Award volumes, containing all winning and short-listed short fiction from the year, an excerpt from the winning novel, and a variety of other material including short fiction from previous years, and essays on Tiptree-related subjects. This year's volume will be released in September 2004, and will include an excerpt from *Set This House in Order* by Matt Ruff, as well as original essays by all three Retrospective Tiptree Award winners: Suzy McKee Charnas, Ursula K. LeGuin, and Joanna Russ, and founding mother Karen Joy Fowler's Nebula-award winning "What I Didn't See." Pre-sale orders will be taken at WisCon.

Need a Ride / Roommate?

As a service to the community we have set up an electronic bulletin board to provide a way for people looking for rides to/from WisCon or for roommates at the convention to contact one another. Use this message board to contact other WisCon attendees at your own risk. WisCon takes no responsibility for agreements made between individuals who contact one another using this message board and does not vouch for anyone who posts to it. <http://sf3.org/wwwboard>

Late-Breaking News & Tips

Subscribe to *eCube*, an electronic newsletter available free to all WisCon members. To sign up, go to: www.sf3.org/wiscon/hotel.html#ride

We'll let you know when the program schedule gets posted and any other last-minute details about the convention.

Hotel Information

The Concourse Hotel has already filled up, although it is possible that a few rooms may be made available through cancellations. Unreserved rooms from a few small non-WisCon room blocks will be released in early May. Reservations made before the official close of WisCon's block on May 5 will be at the WisCon rate. Room prices will increase after that date.

The Concourse (1 W. Dayton, Madison, WI 53703; 1-800-356-8293 or 608-257-6000; www.concoursehotel.com) is the main convention hotel. The room rate is \$89 per night for up to four people; \$114 for Governor's Club rooms. Check-in time is 3:00 P.M.; check-out time is 12 noon. Be sure to mention "WisCon 28" when you reserve your room.

You may register on-line using the Concourse Hotel's Internet reservation system. You will need WisCon's group/event ID code in order to take advantage of WisCon's special room rates. To register on-line, just go to the Madison Concourse website, click on "Reserve a Room," and type in the code, **9742**.

The Concourse has a swimming pool (open till 1:00 A.M.) so bring your suit. There is also a whirlpool, steam room and exercise equipment.

The hotel has one bar (called "The Bar") and one restaurant. The Dayton Street Café /Bistro

Child Care

We are pleased to have been able to hire professional child-care providers for daytime child care for infants and toddlers (ages 0-6 years). This service is fully subsidized by WisCon. No extra fee will be charged for child-care services for any child in the care of a registered WisCon member. However, parents or guardians **must** have registered for child care by **April 30**. Child care will be open during all daytime programming hours, from 9:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. Friday through Sunday, and 9:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. on Monday. Parents will be responsible for providing bottles and diapers for infants. The child-care room will close for a lunchtime break each day, so parents must pick up their children and provide that meal. Snacks will be provided by child care.

WisCon child care is collecting good stuff for our child-care room! If you would like to **donate** old (or new) toys, books, and cribs/bassinets for children six years and younger, they'll be most welcome! Contact childcare@sf3.org, or just bring your donations up to the child-care room.

Restaurants

There are dozens of fine places to eat within walking distance of the Concourse Hotel, but if you wish to dine at one of the fanciest restaurants in Madison, you should probably make reservations before arriving at WisCon. You can check the dining websites, but some of the restaurants that might fill up early are: L'Etoile (608-251-0500), Harvest (255-6075), Blue Marlin (255-2255), Tornado Club Steak House (256-3570), and Restaurant Magnus (258-8787).

is open from 6:30 A.M. to 10 P.M. A breakfast buffet will be offered to WisCon attendees in The Bar on Sunday.

Here is a list of nearby alternative hotels (See downtown map, p. 4.):

▼ **The Inn on the Park** is the closest—only 2 blocks from Concourse. (22 S. Carroll St.; 800-279-8811 or 608-257-8811; www.innonthepark.net).

▼ **The Edgewater** (666 Wisconsin Ave.; 800-922-5512 or 608-256-9071; www.theedgewater.com)

▼ **The Hilton Madison Monona Terrace** (9 E. Wilson St.; 800-445-8667 or 608-255-5100; www.hiltonmadison.com)

▼ **Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel** (525 W. Johnson St., 800-446.4656 or 608-251-5511; www.hjplazamadison.com).

▼ **Hotel Ruby Marie** (524 E. Wilson St.; toll-free: 877-690-7829 or 608-327-7829; www.rubymarie.com)

▼ **The Madison Hostel** is the best bargain—\$20/night shared, \$40 single room, less for Hostel International members (141 S. Butler St.; madisonhostel@yahoo.com; 608-441-0144; www.madisonhostel.org)

▼ **The Madison Inn** (601 Langdon St.; 800-589-6285 or 608-257-4391; www.thecampusinn.com)

▼ **University Inn** (441 N. Frances St.; 800-279-4881 or 608-285-8040; www.universityinn.org)

Getting to the Concourse

By Air

Dane County Regional (MSN, www.co.dane.wi.us/airport) has over 50 flights arriving daily on Northwest, Midwest, American, United, Delta, Continental, ATA and their various airline companies like Comair and American Connection. There's no special discount for air travel to WisCon.

The airport's 2 baggage-claim carousels are right next to each other; nearby are booths for Avis, Enterprise, Hertz, and National rent-a-cars; and outside Door #7 is the taxi rank. (See "Getting Around Madison: Cabs.")

If you're staying at the Concourse, use the courtesy phone in the baggage-claim area to call the **hotel shuttle van**, which runs from 5:00 A.M. to 11:00 P.M.; meet it outside Door #6.

Madison Metro Bus #24 stops outside Door #6 on weekdays only, 6:39 A.M. to 9:39 P.M. Pay \$1.50, ask for a transfer, and exit the bus at the North Transfer Point to Bus #2, 4, or 57 to get to Capitol Square, 1 block from the Concourse. (See "Getting around Madison: Metro Buses.")

Flights into Milwaukee Mitchell (MKE, 90 miles away) or Chicago O'Hare (ORD, 150 miles away) are often cheaper and sometimes faster, but you'll need to take a bus (see below) to Madison.

By Bus

Greyhound (greyhound.com, 800-229-9424) has 13 busses arriving daily at the Madison Bus Depot, 2 S. Bedford St.

Van Galder (www.vangalderbus.com, 800-747-0994) runs regular service from Chicago's O'Hare (\$22) and Midway (\$24) Airports and from the Chicago Amtrak station (\$22) to UW Memorial Union, 800 Langdon St. Buy tickets at the terminal or from the driver.

Badger (www.badgerbus.com, 608-255-1511) runs regular service from Milwaukee Mitchell (\$18) to both the Madison Bus Depot and Memorial Union.

Once in Madison you may call the Concourse (257-6000) to summon its shuttle van; walk the mile to the hotel (see map next page); or grab one of the cabs hovering nearby.

By Car (Highlighter pen recommended):

From NW, US 12. After entering Middleton, take Exit 251 (US 14/University Av.) and turn left, under the viaduct. Go to (A).

From W, US 14. After entering Middleton and approaching US 12, US 14 exits left, but you go straight, under the viaduct. Go to (A).

From SW, US 18/151. After entering Madison, stay in the right lane and follow 18/151 onto the Beltline (US 12/14 eastbound). Go 3.2 miles and take Exit 261B onto Park St. northbound. Go to (B).

From S, US 14. Enter Madison by passing under the Beltline (US 12/18) and continue straight ahead. Go to (B).

From S, US 51. Enter Madison by passing under the Beltline (US 12/18). Take an immediate left exit to get onto the Beltline westbound and go 3.1 miles. Go to (D).

From S, I-39/90. Approaching Madison, get in the left lane. Take Exit 142A onto the Beltline (US 12/18) westbound and go 4.8 miles. Go to (D).

From SE, US 12/18. Enter Madison by passing under I-39/90 and continue straight ahead 4.6 miles. Go to (D).

From E, I-94. Approaching Madison, stay in the middle lane. I-94 veers right to join I-39/90, but you go straight, under the overpass. The road becomes Wis. 30. Go 2.7 miles and take the State Capitol exit onto E. Washington Av. Go to (G).

From NE, US 151. Enter Madison by passing under I-39/90/94. You're now on E. Washington Av. Go 3.0 miles. Go to (G).

From N, US 51. Enter Madison by passing under I-39/90/94. Go to (F).

From N, I-39/90/94. Take Exit 132 onto US 51 southbound. Go to (F).

Parking

Free underground parking is available to all registered guests. You can unload in the hotel parking garage and take the elevators up to the lobby. Clearance in this ramp is low! Just 5' 6". Additional parking for vans and other vehicles is available in the public parking ramp a half block down Dayton St. at Carroll St.

By Train

The nearest station for Amtrak (800-USA-RAIL, www.amtrak.com) is in Columbus, 25 miles northeast of Madison on US 151. There is no direct transportation from there, so have someone pick you up in Columbus. You can also take Amtrak to Chicago and catch the Van Galder Bus (see above) from there.

(A) You're at the 7700 block of University Av. You'll essentially stay on the same road (though its name changes) until you get to the 000 block. Stay in the middle lane and take Campus Dr. at the 2600 block. It turns into W. Johnson St. at the 1200 block. You'll pass Park St. at the 900 block. Go to (C).

(B) You're at the 2600 block of South Park St. Go 2.5 miles to the 200 block of North Park St. (in the middle of dormland). Turn right onto W. Johnson St. Go to (C).

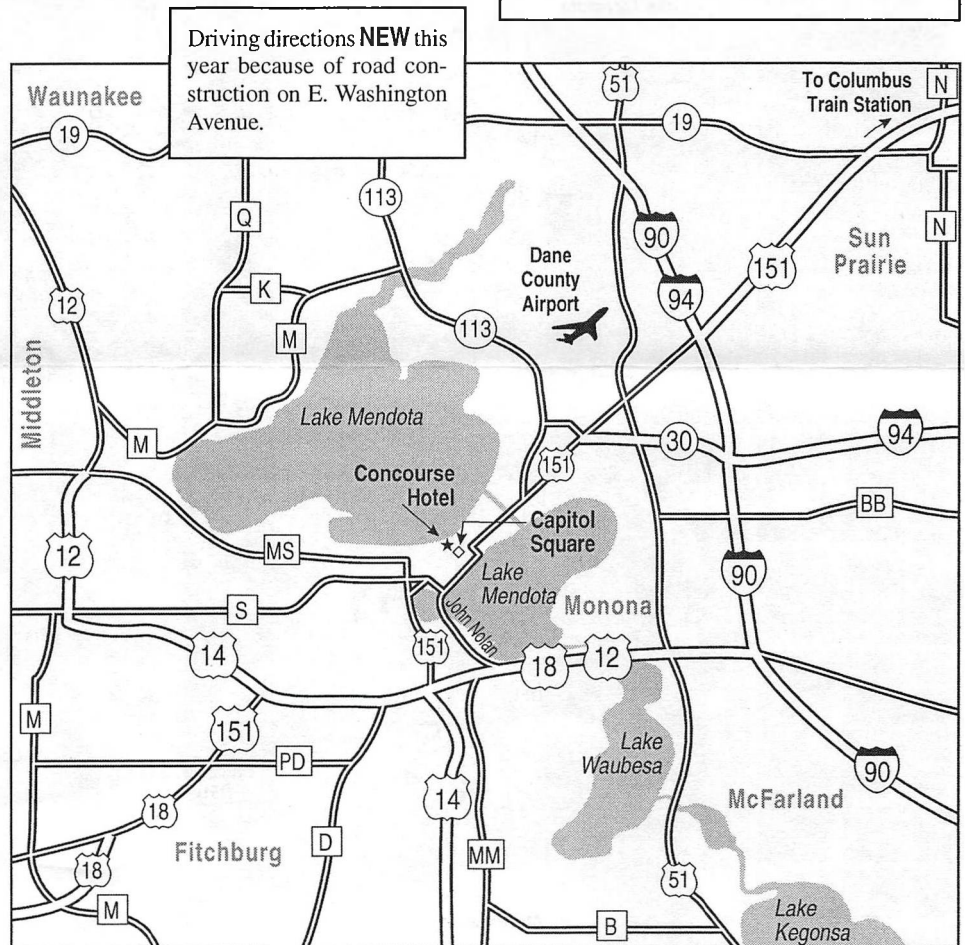
(C) In a few blocks, the road will bend left. Stay in the middle lane. Go to (E).

(D) Take Exit 263 onto John Nolen Dr. Go 2.1 miles and exit left onto Broom St. Go 7 blocks and turn right onto W. Johnson St. Go to (E).

(E) Pass A Room of One's Own and State St. At the 000 block, turn right onto Wisconsin Av. Go 1 block to the hotel, then turn right on Dayton and immediately left into the garage.

(F) Go 4.5 miles on US 51 and turn right onto E. Washington Av. (US 151 southbound). Go 1.0 miles. Go to (G).

(G) You're now crossing over Aberg Av./Wis. 30. In the next 4 blocks, get in the right lane. At the carousel outside Ella's Deli, turn right onto E. Johnson St. You're at the 2800 block. You'll essentially stay on the same road (though its name changes to E. Gorham St. in the 1200 block) until you get to the 000 block. Turn left onto Wisconsin Av. Go 2 blocks to the hotel.



After your name on your mailing label is a code for the type of membership you have. The categories are:

A = Adult
Y = Youth
C = Child care
K = Kid-in-tow
G = Former Guest of Honor
S = Supporting
N = Haven't joined yet
D:# = number of dessert salon tickets ordered

These data include registrations received by April 29 If you sent in your registration shortly before that date, it's probably not included.

Getting around Madison

There are plenty of restaurants near the hotel (www.thedailypage.com/going-out/eats/) (www.madison.com/rhythm/restaurant). The downtown area has plenty of shops, including drugstores for necessities. Generally speaking, you won't need to rely on extra transportation unless you are planning to sightsee or need to shop for an evening party.

Cabs

Cabs from the airport to the Concourse will cost \$10 to \$15.

- Badger Cab 608-256-5566
- Madison Taxi 608-257-8294
- Union Cab 608-242-2000

Metro Buses

The Madison bus system channels most of its routes within a few blocks of the Concourse. Bus fare is \$1.50. Exact change is required. One-day VisiTour passes cost \$3.00. For routes and schedule contact Madison Metro: 608-266-4466, TDD 608-267-1143, www.ci.madison.wi.us/metro.

