

WisCon 29

World's Leading Feminist Science Fiction Convention

Memorial Day Weekend
May 27–30, 2005

WELCOME!

So you're planning to attend WisCon 29, you've sent in your registration, and now all that's left is to show up and enjoy the weekend, right? No? You've still got questions? This should help. See you at WisCon!

Registration

If this progress report is addressed to you, don't worry, you are 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 post-marked no later than April 30, after which we will no longer take them by mail or over the website.

Schedule of Events

Wednesday. Volunteers are encouraged to lend a hand at the stickering party (6:00 P.M. Wednesday, Concourse Hotel, room number will be posted).

Thursday. Volunteers can help again, at the packet stuffing (4:30 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, **Gwyneth Jones** and **Robin McKinley**, will give readings at the reception. This year, we're expanding the reception to include connected space in the Madison Center for the Creative and Cultural Arts, which will give us better seating for the readings and mean much less of a crush.

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.

Con **Registration** will open at 1:00 P.M.

WisCon 29 officially starts 2:00–5:30 P.M. The **Gathering** gives us a chance to recover from our travels, catch up with our far-flung friends, and get into the groove that is Wiscon. You bring the friends, we'll bring coffee, tea and snacks. This year the Gathering will feature family games. We're asking folks—especially those who drive and have a little extra room in the car—to bring a favorite game. They can be board games, card games, or exotics played with oddly shaped bits of glass. It doesn't matter what it is as long as it can be learned in a few minutes and is tons of fun. If you're not a game player, bring your knitting! You'll also find a

rubber-stamp table. Anyone with fun crafts ideas are similarly welcome. Just contact the concom so we can be sure to prepare appropriate tables. Similarly, anyone who has a pamper-fest talent they'd like to offer, (massage, hair braiding, or the like), should contact the concom to arrange space.

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 6th floor at this time. 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 6th floor will also be open at this time.

Sunday. Sunday night will feature speeches by Guests of Honor **Robin McKinley** and **Gwyneth Jones**.

A **dessert salon** will precede the **GoH speeches**. It is too late to purchase dessert tickets via mail or PayPal, but there may be a very few tickets for sale on Friday. Check the information screen at the registration desk. The GoH speeches are open to everyone; you do not need to purchase dessert salon tickets in order to attend. (Tickets will guarantee a better seat however.) Parties on the 6th floor will open after the speeches.

Monday. The last day of WisCon 29 will feature a light program schedule as well as the **Sign Out**. Authors will be available at the Sign Out to sign books; you will also be able to collect signatures from friends in your pocket program book, and say goodbye to one another for the year. Or you could stay for the traditional **dead dog party** late in the afternoon. Details will be announced at the convention.

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/news.html.

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

A list of programming participants is available on the WisCon website, <http://sf3.org/wiscon/programming.html>. This list will also include biographic and bibliographic information where you can learn about the books and short stories written, books edited, and artwork created by WisCon 29 attendees. 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 for downloading at the convention.



Schedule

Programming is scheduled to run from

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

8:30 A.M. to 1:00 A.M. Saturday & Sunday

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

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.

GUESTS OF HONOR

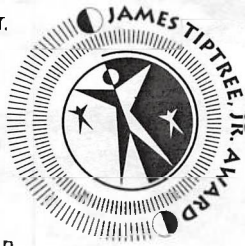
We're extremely happy to have Gwyneth Jones and Robin McKinley as our guests. To help them (and all of us) have the best possible WisCon, we have two requests.

First, Robin prefers not to be photographed or videotaped by anyone. (You'll note that her book jackets don't include photos). While cameras are almost ubiquitous these days, please keep yours under control and do not photograph her.

Second, the program schedule will provide opportunities for autographing on Saturday and on Monday at the Sign-Out. So please don't mob the guests to get your books signed; there will be plenty of opportunities.

Tiptree Auction, Bake Sale & T-Shirts

The James Tiptree, Jr. Award raises funds through auctions, bake sales, t-shirt sales, and through sales of the *James Tiptree Award Anthology 1* (Tachyon Press). Get your copy in the Dealer's Room!



A display of Tiptree auction items may be viewed in the Gathering on Friday afternoon and in the Art Show Display room, Saturday morning and afternoon. Ellen Klages will entertain us and auction these items on Saturday night. If you intend to donate something to the **Tiptree auction**, please send it ahead, or at least notify us: please include a short description of the item, a minimum price, 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 14), designed by silk-screen collage artist Freddie Baer, will be on sale again this year at WisCon in the Art Show Display room. They often sell out, so be sure to look for them early!

Six Reasons to Volunteer for WisCon

1) The very best folks at WisCon volunteer, so if you volunteer you'll be one of the best folks, and get to hang out with the others. 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 peeves, 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.

Child Care

We are pleased to have been able to hire professional childcare providers for daytime child care for infants and toddlers (ages 0–6 years). This service is fully subsidized by WisCon. We charge just \$1 for childcare 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**. Childcare 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 childcare 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 childcare.

Art Show

This year, we're making it easier to buy art. If you see something you like, you can buy it.

No waiting for "bid sheet closing," no auction, no checking to see if you've been outbid, no confusion or worries—just art that you can buy, starting when we open Saturday morning.

When you see a piece that you want, take the paperwork up to the art show desk and pay for it. We'll give you a receipt. Then you can pick up the art on Sunday evening or Monday (or sooner if you need to leave before then). We'll take MC and Visa, checks, and cash to make it easy.

Looking for a Ride or a Roommate?



As a service to the community we have set up a Yahoo discussion list to provide a way for people looking for rides to/from WisCon or for roommates at the convention to contact one another:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wiscon_open/

Hotel Information

WisCon's main hotel is the Concourse, 1 W. Dayton, Madison, WI 53703; 1-800-356-8293 or 608-257-6000; www.concoursehotel.com. The Concourse has already filled up, although it is possible that a few rooms may be made available through cancellations. At this point we recommend calling the hotel and working with their reservations staff, rather than using the web site. Reservations made before the official close of WisCon's block on May 1 will be at the WisCon rate. Room prices will increase after that date to the hotel's rack rate.

The room rate is \$90 per night for up to four people; \$115 for Governor's Club rooms. Check-in time is 3:00 P.M.; check-out time is 12 noon. Be sure to mention "WisCon 29" when you reserve your room.

The Concourse does have a swimming pool (open till 1:00 A.M.!) so bring your suit. There is also a whirlpool, sauna and exercise equipment.

The hotel has one bar (called "The Bar") and one restaurant. The Dayton Street Café and Bakery is open from 6:30 A.M. to 2 P.M. Ovarions, the hotel's newly designed, upscale restaurant is open for dinner from 5 P.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.). Please tell them you're from WisCon. Thanks!

- ▼ **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; 608-255-5100; www.hiltonmadison.com)
- ▼ **Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel** (525 W. Johnson, 608-251-5511; www.hjplazamadison.com).
- ▼ **Hotel Ruby Marie** (524 E. Wilson; 608-327-7829; www.rubymarie.com)
- ▼ **The Madison Hostel** is the best bargain—\$21/night shared, \$44 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)
- ▼ **University Inn** (441 N. Francis St.; 800-279-4881)

6th Floor Nighttime Parties

Friday:

Odyssey Con
Tachyon Press/Aqueduct Press
Culturegutter.com
Small Beer Press
Think Galactic

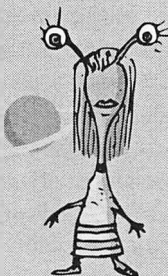
Saturday:

TOR
Ratbastards
Haiku Earring
WorldCon 2008
Book launch, Lis Carrey/Davey Snyder



Sunday:

Fancy Dress
ConFusion
Wyrdsmith
LiveJournal
Broad Universe
Diversicon
Carl Brandon Society



This list is subject to change.

Getting to the Concourse By Air



Dane County Regional (MSN, www.co.dane.wi.us/airport) has over 50 flights arriving daily on Northwestern/Mesaba/Pinnacle, United/United Express, American/American Eagle, Midwest Airlines/Midwest Connection, Continental Express, Delta/Comair, and Allegiant Air. There's no special discount for air travel to WisCon.

The airport's 4 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 A.M. to 11 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 and transfer 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 (800+229-9424, greyhound.com) has 13 busses arriving daily at the Madison Bus Depot, 2 S. Bedford St.

Van Galder (800+747-0994, www.vangalderbus.com) runs regular service from Chicago's O'Hare (\$24) and Midway (\$26) 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 (608+255-1511, www.badgerbus.com) 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); or grab one of the cabs hovering nearby.

By Car

Use the regional map on this page to plan out your route to WisCon.

From Chicago: north on Hwy 90 to Hwy 12/18 West (also called the "Beltline"). Take the John Nolan Drive exit north—you'll get a nice view of the skyline and eventually pass underneath the Monona Terrace Convention Center. At the first traffic light after the Center, continue straight through the light onto Blair (look at the downtown map). After two blocks, turn left onto East Washington Ave....

From Minneapolis: south on Hwy 90/94 to Hwy 151 South, which becomes East Washington Ave....

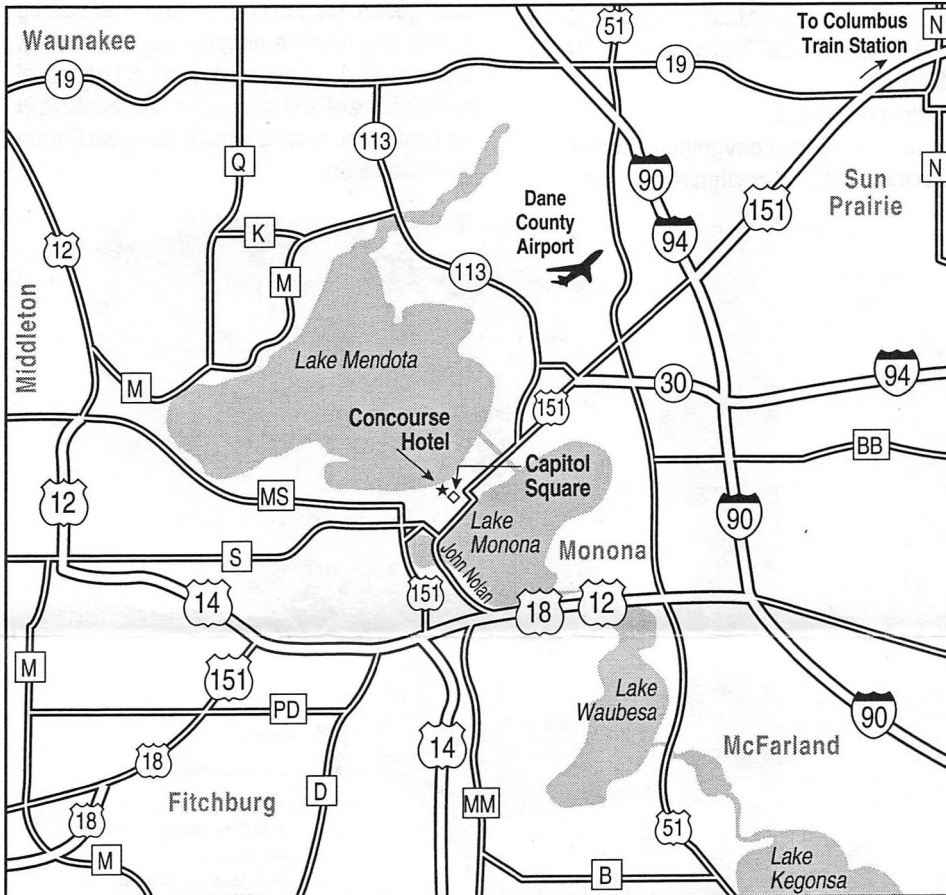
From Milwaukee: west on Hwy 94 to Hwy 30 West. Follow signs for Hwy 151 South/Capitol/Campus (it's a tight right-hand exit off Hwy 30). Hwy 151 South becomes East Washington Avenue....

From Iowa: East on Hwy 151 to Hwy 12/18 East (also called the "Beltline"). Take the John Nolan Drive exit north—you'll get a nice view of the skyline and eventually pass underneath the new Monona Terrace Convention Center. At the first traffic light after the Center, continue straight through the light onto Blair (look at the downtown map). After two blocks, turn left onto East Washington Ave....

...head down East Washington Ave. toward the Capitol building. (See downtown map on next page.) Admire the skyline. Two blocks before the Capitol turn right onto Webster St. (almost everyone will; two lanes go right and one goes straight); after two blocks turn left at traffic light onto Dayton St. (90° angle to Dayton; don't take Hamilton which is a 45° angle to Capitol Square); the Concourse is on your left after two blocks between Wisconsin Ave. and 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.



Getting around Madison

Cabs

All Madison cabs run 24 hours a day. Cabs from the airport to the Concourse will cost \$10 to \$15.

Badger Cab	608-256-5566 www.badgercab.com
Madison Taxi	608-257-8294 www.madtaxi.com
Union Cab	608-242-2000 www.unioncab.com

Metro Buses

Metro 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 Visi-Tour passes cost \$3.00. For routes and schedule contact Madison Metro: 608-266-4466, TDD 608-267-1143, www.mymetrobus.com

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.

h o t o c s h

Restaurants

There are over a hundred fine places to eat within walking distance of the Concourse Hotel. Look for a restaurant guide on the freebie table. 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).

Other references:
www.thedailypage.com/going-out/eats/
www.madison.com/rhythm/restaurant

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.

