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*This is what a feminist
science fiction
convention looks like!*

Official newsletter of WisCon 35
Editor: Karen Moore

Submissions welcome (editing
rights reserved): hardcopy deadline
6 pm, electronic file deadline 8 pm.
newsletter35@wiscon.info

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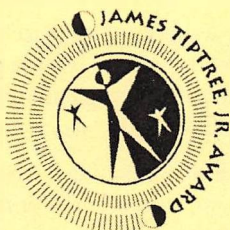
Welcome to WisCon 35!

Welcome to the 35th iteration of the
World's Leading Feminist Science Fiction
Convention! We are delighted you're here,
and we hope you find ample fodder for
thought, discovery, laughter, empathy,
learning, sharing, and excitement in this
weekend's events.

We'd like to extend a special welcome to
Nisi Shawl, our Guest of Honor, and to her
mom, June Cotton, sister, Gina Rickman,
and nieces and nephew Brittany, Daniel and
Aaliyah, who are all attending WisCon to
help us celebrate this beloved member of
our community. We're all thrilled to have a
chance to shine a spotlight on Nisi and her
works, recognizing her for her writing, her
enthusiasm, her compassion and her humor
– and just because she's our Nisi.

What a weekend it'll be!

Our fearless Program Committee, headed
by the duo of Cat Hanna and Deb Caldwell-
Stone, have put together another four days
chock-full of amazing program events, in-
cluding a discussion about horrible deaths
for fictional characters, a panel on the Wis-
consin protests, and a whole slew of events
celebrating the Tiptree Award's twentieth
anniversary.



And speaking of the
Tiptree Award, can
you believe that it has
been TWO DECADES
since Pat Murphy and
Karen Joy Fowler con-
cocted the radical idea
of an award for science
fiction that focuses on exploring and under-



Nisi Shawl, WisCon 35 Guest of Honor
Photo by Caren Corley

standing gender? It is a special joy this year
to help the Tiptree Award celebrate its twen-
tieth birthday, and we are honored to wel-
come so many past winners and honorees
back to WisCon to join in the fun. Be sure to
check out the article on page 2 listing the
prior years' Tiptree winners in attendance
this year, as well as all the special Tiptree
celebrations that are planned; you won't want
to miss a minute of the fun.

So put on that name badge, pick up your
Pocket Program Book and Souvenir Book,
and dive on into the maelstrom of laughter,
learning, growth and discovery that is Wis-
Con!

The James Tiptree Award – 20 Years!

By Jeanne Gomoll

It's the Tiptree Award's twentieth birthday and many past winners of the award have joined us here at WisCon to help celebrate:

Eleanor Arnason, 1991 (A Woman of the Iron People)

Suzy McKee Charnas, 1995 Retrospective Award (Walk to the End of the World and Motherlines) and 1999 (The Conqueror's Child)

Mary Doria Russell, 1996 (The Sparrow)

Hiroshi Goto, 2001 (The Kappa Child)

Geoff Ryman, 2005 (Air: Or, Have Not Have)

Catherynne Valente, 2006 (The Orphan's Tales: In the Night Garden)

Nisi Shawl, 2008 (Filter House)

Of course the entire Tiptree Award Motherboard is in attendance too, including founding mothers Pat Murphy and Karen Joy Fowler. Sadly, the winner of the 2010 Tiptree Award is not able to accept her award in person at this year's ceremony. Dubravka Ugresic, who lives in Amsterdam, won the award for her novel "Baba Yaga Laid an Egg."

There are many Tiptree-related panels and discussions scheduled. Plus, you are invited to a Tiptree birthday party on Friday night! Don't forget the bake sale on Saturday afternoon, or the rollicking, fabulous auction on Saturday night, and the Tiptree ceremony (of course) on Sunday night. And make sure you take a peek at Freddie Baer's gorgeous t-shirt design, created in honor of the Tiptree Award's anniversary! These will probably sell out quickly; sales begin at 9 am Saturday morning in the Art Show room, University BCD.

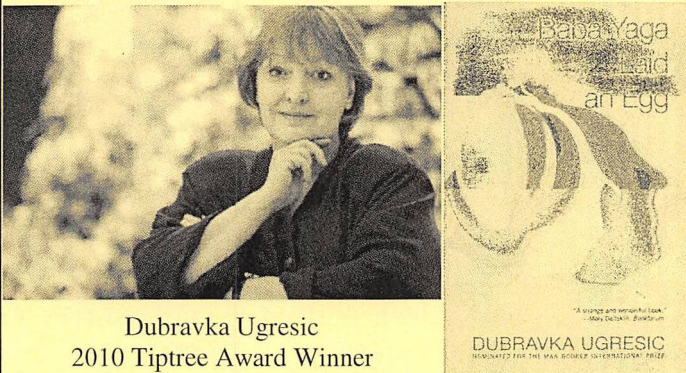


The Tiptree Motherboard is extraordinarily pleased at the amazing honor bestowed upon it by the SFRA, which selected the Tiptree Motherboard as the recipient of the 2011 Clareson Award. Each year, the Thomas D. Clareson Award for Distinguished Service is presented for outstanding service activities--promotion of SF teaching and study, editing, reviewing, editorial writing, publishing, organizing meetings, mentoring, and leadership in SF/fantasy organizations.

The Tiptree Award has got a lot to celebrate: 20 years of awards, 35 Tiptree winners, many Fairy Godmother Awards (mini-mini McArthur Awards), 4 books, and more to come!

The enthusiasm and amazing generosity of Tiptree Award supporters have enabled the award to do truly remarkable things. Thank you so much, all of you WisCon attendees who provide financial support through the bake sales, t-shirt sales, and annual auction. The Tiptree Award wouldn't exist without you.

If you would like to get involved in Tiptree Award projects, please talk to one of the Motherboard members (Pat Murphy, Karen Joy Fowler, Debbie Notkin, Ellen Klages, Jeff Smith, and Jeanne Gomoll) at the convention or send an email to info@tiptree.org.



Dubravka Ugresic
2010 Tiptree Award Winner

How to Request a Volunteer Refund

Want a refund for being a program participant or for volunteering for six hours or more? You can let us know online!

Log into your account on WisCon.info, select "Edit Preferences," and check the preference for a refund. If you're a volunteer, pick up a timesheet at Registration or from the Volunteer Coordinator and get it signed when you work. Then turn it in at Registration when you've done your six hours (but please keep helping anyway!).

New mailing address? **Please** update your information in your account at WisCon.info!

Autograph Etiquette

Please limit requests for autographs to the end of an author's scheduled reading, or at Monday morning's SignOut event.

Many writers attend WisCon to enjoy the convention, socialize with friends and discuss the genre with their many fans. Interrupting them to request an autograph can make the convention much less enjoyable for them, and we don't want that to happen.

In addition, stopping a writer in the middle of a crowd to ask for an autograph creates major roadblocks for others trying to negotiate the convention.

Thank you for your courtesy and understanding, and we'll see you at SignOut.

Please Wear Your Name Badge!

I know, I know.... Nobody really likes wearing name badges. Many of us put up with them at work, looking forward to tossing them in the backpack the moment we walk out the door, and it's just annoying to be asked to wear them at a place like WisCon.

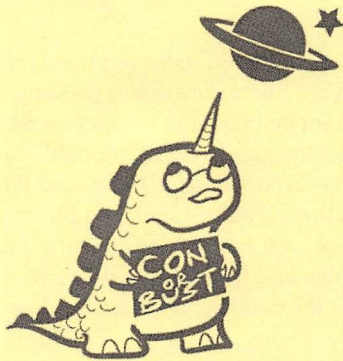
But in a hotel full of nearly 1,000 convention members, those name badges are the only way we can tell you've bought a membership. And if we don't see you wearing your name badge, you'll be asked politely to either go retrieve it and put it back on, or else to limit yourself to the public areas of the hotel like the lobby and restaurant.

It's not about a power trip – it's about safety. As part of your WisCon membership, you agreed to abide by the convention's policies, which are designed to protect people, privacy and property. Non-members have made no such agreement, which means that we cannot safely allow them access to convention activities.

So please, people, wear your name badge. Seriously.

Con or Bust: T-Shirts, Assistance for Upcoming Conventions

Con or Bust, which helps fans of color/non-white fans attend SFF conventions, is selling T-shirts with this logo right here at WisCon 35!



Regular T-shirts are available in red or green for \$15; a limited number of purple "babydoll-style" shirts are also available for \$20.

Look for these T-shirts at the Aqueduct Press table in the Dealers' Room and at the Carl Brandon Society party on Friday night. Proceeds will be used to help fans of color attend SFF conventions between now and the next online auction, tentatively scheduled for February 2012.

Speaking of which: right at this very moment and through May 31, Con or Bust is taking requests for assistance to attend SFF cons in July, August and September! Please visit con-or-bust.livejournal.com for details, or if you happen to run into Kate Nepveu, feel free to ask her about it.

Tiptree Auction

By Jeanne Gomoll

Have you got an item you want to donate to the James Tiptree, Jr. Auction? First of all: thank you! Second: here's what we need you to do.

Please drop off the item BEFORE the Gathering (Friday afternoon), We need all auction items AND information about them by Thursday afternoon or Friday morning so we can add them to the auction database and fill out the bid sheets. Auction items that do not get seen at the Gathering are unlikely to be bid upon, which means that they are unlikely to be go to the auction on Saturday night.

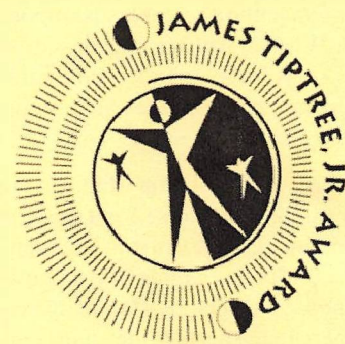
On FRIDAY MORNING, please drop off your item in the Ballrooms on the second floor of the Concourse Hotel, where we will be setting up for the Gathering and the Tiptree Auction display.

We need this information for each auction item: Donor (your) name, Artist or creator's name if it is different than yours, market value (estimate), minimum bid. The minimum bid is the lowest price you would find acceptable.

Thank you!

Make sure you stop by the Tiptree Auction Display at Friday's Gathering and bid on an item or two. If you miss the Gathering, auction items will be on display (in a crowded sort of way) in the back of the Art Show Room all day Saturday. Bids will be accepted all day. Then, Saturday night, don't miss Ellen Klage's rollicking auction! Ellen is a talented stand-up comedian, and her performance at the Tiptree Auctions is hugely entertaining. You don't want to miss it! This year, one of the most sought after items is bound to be a hardcover, full color, coffee table book, titled "The Secret Feminist Cabal, an Unauthorized History."

All proceeds support the James Tiptree, Jr. Award.



Is This Your First WisCon?

There are many ways to shape your WisCon experience, and we'll talk about them TONIGHT from 9 to 10:15. Look for us in conference 4 on the second floor, down the hall, away from the ballrooms. Our panelists have a combined total of more than 75 years of WisCon experience — Julie Hayes, Karen Babich, Jesse the K, Michael J. "Orange Mike" Lowrey, and Margie Peterson

A Momentary Taste Invites You to Share Your Journalistic Skills

We hope that you'll take the time to peruse each day's newsletter, as it will contain announcements you won't want to miss. We also plan to report on program items, including showcasing daily tweets about program items in our brand-new section called "Gleaned From the Tweet-Fields."

We also encourage members to submit articles—this is your newsletter, after all, and your experience at WisCon frames the contents of this publication to a significant extent. Whether you have a panel report, a restaurant review, a gleeful tale of meeting your favorite writer for the first time or just a snippet heard in passing, we want to hear about it!



If at all possible, please submit articles by email to newsletter35@wiscon.info. There is a box by the convention registration desk for hardcopy submissions, but do remember that submissions in that format must be typeset by the newsletter staff (all one of me). For that reason, please limit hardcopy submissions to shorter blurbs like announcements or comments heard in passing.

The deadline for hardcopy newsletter submissions is 5:00 p.m. each day for the following day's edition. The email deadline is 8:00 p.m. for the following day's edition.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Karen Moore, Editor

Late Night Safety

The safety of our convention members is important to us, and for that reason, WisCon has again arranged for Union Cab to provide taxi rides for members needing transportation late at night after the free hotel shuttles have stopped operating.

Cab vouchers to destinations within Madison city limits may be obtained from the Concourse front desk, and are valid between 10:30 pm and 4:30 am on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday nights of the convention. You will need to show your membership badge to get a cab voucher, and we encourage sharing rides with other WisCon members whenever possible.

Call 608-242-2000 to request a cab, and be sure to let the dispatcher know that you have a voucher. There may be Union Cabs waiting for fares either in front of the hotel (if Dayton Street is back to two lanes) or along Wisconsin Avenue as well; ask at the front desk where cabs are picking up.

And remember: WisCon subsidizes the cabfare, but a gratuity for the driver is not included. Please tip your (union member) cab driver!



Important Reminder

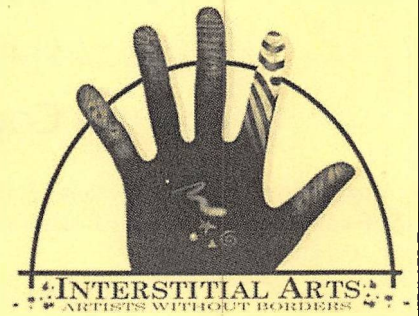
Only masking tape may be used to attach posters and signs to the walls of the hotel. Signs adhered with other types of adhesive will be removed, as they damage the wall surfaces.

Also, signs may not be posted inside the elevators. Remember, all WisCon parties happen on the sixth floor, so you don't need to put signs inside elevators to help people find your party. Signs found in the elevators will be removed.

WisCon and the Concourse Hotel have a very positive relationship, in large part thanks to the exemplary manners displayed by our members. Please help us continue to foster this good relationship by cooperating with these guidelines for posting signs.

Interstitial Arts Foundation

Some of the most exciting art doesn't fit tidily into a familiar, marketable category, but rather hovers somewhat indescribably between the borders of established media or genres. For the artist, this can lead both to creative heights and tremendous logistical frustrations. If you're composing a performance, say, that isn't quite a play and isn't quite a concert and isn't quite a sculpture installation, how do you go about convincing anyone they should invest in hosting it—or attending? If you're writing a book that isn't exactly a novel or a memoir, and it's not exactly clear whether its fantasy elements are literal, metaphorical, or hallucinogenic, how does the bookstore know where to shelve it?



The Interstitial Arts Foundation seeks to provide a language with which to discuss such art, and a network of resources to help cultivate its dissemination. We invite people to interact on the IAF blog, Twitter, and Flickr pages. In 2007, we published the original anthology *Interfictions* (Tiptree Honor Book) and have since seen the publication of *Interfictions 2*, edited by Delia Sherman and Christopher Barzak, and *Interfictions Zero*, a virtual anthology edited by Delia Sherman and Helen Pilinovsky. We host Interstitial Art Salons throughout the country, and have held two Interstitial Art Auctions.

WisCon itself is interstitial! And WisCon has nourished the IAF from the beginning. Our very first tottering steps in public came when WisCon gave us panel space to test our theories in an open, intellectually curious environment. Of course, being WisCon, one memorable panel became a revival meeting, with authors throwing greenbacks and volunteers offering help on the spot—and another panel let folks air discontent with our notions (in a warm and supportive atmosphere, natch).

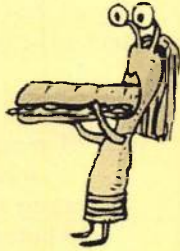
Past GoHs Ellen Kushner and Delia Sherman are IAF co-founders, WisCon Coordinator alumnus Victor Raymond has been a past Board President, and Shira Lipkin and K. Tempest Bradford are devoted members of our Working Group. WisCon and the IAF continue to cross-pollinate ... come join us and let us know how to break down the boundaries and find the sweet space between!

Food Discounts!

This year again, the Concourse is offering their 20% food discount voucher for just \$10 per person. Just think – you can graze that amazing lunch salad bar (which will be available on both Saturday and Sunday this year) and get 20% off your bill!

The 20% discount only applies to your own food/drink orders; it does not apply to the entire group, unless each person in the group has a discount voucher.

Stop by the Front Desk and get your discount voucher today!



Last Call: Lost & Found Items from Prior Years to be Discarded

Did you lose a pen at WisCon 34? How about a book at WisCon 33? Maybe a jacket at WisCon 32?

If you lost something at a previous WisCon, and if it was turned in at the convention registration desk, chances are pretty good that we still have it. But that will no longer be the case after Monday, May 30.

For reasons of space, logistics and storage, any unclaimed items from WisCon 34 and prior will be discarded at the end of WisCon 35. Useable items will be donated; anything not in good enough shape to be used by others will be discarded.

We would love to restore these lost treasures to their owners rather than discarding them, so if you last saw your favorite book when you were in town for WisCon 33, please stop by the convention registration desk and see if we can locate it for you.

Photography and a Reminder About WisCon's Privacy Policy

Think of taking a picture as analogous to asking for an autograph. There are times when such attention is welcomed, and times when it's just plain rude.

Please be polite. We're not paparazzi. Ask before taking anyone's picture in the hallways or at parties. And before asking, remember that sometimes someone just wants to get from Point A to Point B, or browse the Dealers' Room with their friends.



Video and audio recording and photography for personal archival use only is generally okay, unless individuals make it clear that they do not wish to be photographed or filmed, in which case any photography or recording of them is expressly forbidden. Also, no photography in the Art Show.

At smaller events and readings, ask before the event begins. And before asking, remember that a flash going off or a noisy camera could be very distracting in a small, quiet room.

At larger events, remember that the flow of the event and the audience participation are more important than your picture. And last, but not least, no photography in the art show.

Please ask permission of those who are the subjects of your photos before posting the photos to any generally available web sites, including unlocked Flickr, Facebook, or LiveJournal accounts.

If you take photos or make recordings, you agree to be solely responsible for clearing any and all rights and permissions for any use(s) you might make of the photographs, recordings, transcripts, and similar material you take from the convention. Such material may not be posted to any commercial website or commercially operated streaming server, including but not limited to YouTube, nor used for any commercial purpose whatsoever.

Complete information about WisCon's policies concerning privacy and photography can be found on the WisCon website at <http://www.wiscon.info/rules.php>

Concourse Key Cards Necessary for Elevators, Stairs

For a variety of reasons not related to WisCon, the Concourse Hotel has upgraded their security procedures this past year. It is now necessary to use a key-card (the plastic card you use to open your hotel room) to operate the elevators when going to any floor in the Concourse except the parking levels and the first, second and sixth floors.

WisCon members who have stayed on the Governor's Club level before are familiar with this, of course, as Governor's Club access is restricted to those holding room keys for a room on the 11th through 14th floors. This has not changed; the top floors of the hotel are still accessible only to guests with rooms on those floors.

What is different this year is that with the exception of the sixth floor, no matter which floor your room is on, you will need your room key to operate the elevator on that floor.

In addition, the stairwell in the center of the hotel (near the convention registration desk on the second floor) will require the use of a key card to gain access to any floor of the hotel except the second and sixth floors.

The fire escape stairwells at the far ends of the hallways on each floor can now only be exited at the ground floor. You can enter those stairwells from any floor, but you will not be able to exit the stairwell again until you reach street level.

If you are staying at the Concourse for WisCon 35, please remember to keep your room key with you at all times so that you can return to the floor where your room is located.

If you are not a guest at the Concourse but are visiting a friend who is, be sure to arrange ahead of time to meet your friend on either the first, second or sixth floor rather than expecting to go directly to their room.

Programming Changes

The following changes to programming were recorded after the Pocket Program Book went to press. The Green Room staff will always have the latest changes, but we'll list them in *A Momentary Taste* each day as well.

24. Romance and SFF, Friday 4-5:15 pm. Michelle Kendall was unable to attend WisCon.
27. Broad Universe Rapid Fire Reading, Friday 4-5:15 pm. Elaine Bergstrom will be joining the reading.
35. 5 Writers, 5 Girls, 5 Worlds, Friday 4-5:15 pm. Julia Karr was unable to attend WisCon.
46. Where Are Your Gods?, Friday 9-10:15 pm. Valya Dudycz Lupescu was unable to attend WisCon.
49. How We Feminist Fans Conquered the Science Fiction Conference, Friday 9-10:15 pm. Akira Kondo will be interpreting for the panelists.
54. Paranormal/Sci-fi Erotica: More Room for Feminist and Anti-Racist Discourse?, Friday 10:30-11:45 pm. Elaine Bergstrom will be joining the panel.
57. What's There to Look Forward To?: Dystopia and Anti-Scientific Attitudes in YA SF, Saturday 8:30-9:45 am. Julia Karr was unable to attend WisCon.
65. Class Issues in Science Fiction and Fantasy, Saturday 10-11:15 am. Chris Wrdrnd is no longer a panelist. Alexis Lothian added to panel.
68. Smut & Nothing But Make a Baby, Saturday 10-11:15 am. Candis Jane Dorsey was unable to attend WisCon.
87. Vigorous Debate, or Verbal Harassment?, Saturday 1-2:15 pm. Michelle Kendall was unable to attend WisCon.
91. Assimilation and the Immigrant Grandchild, Saturday 1-2:15 pm, Neesha Meminger added to panel.
107. 11up, Saturday 2:30-3:45 pm. Valya Dudycz Lupescu was unable to attend WisCon.
109. Mysterious Nexus: Science Fiction and Detective Fiction, Saturday 4-5:15 pm. Julia/Sparkymonster is no longer a panelist.
110. Happy 90th Birthday, Carol Emshwiller!, Saturday 4-5:15 pm. Margie Peterson is no longer a panelist. Karen Joy Fowler added to panel.
113. Class in SF: Who Gets It Right?, Saturday 4-5:15 pm. Chris Wrdrnd is no longer a panelist. Liz Henry added as moderator.
152. It's a Broad Universe, Sunday 10-11:15 am. Lyda Morehouse was unable to attend WisCon.
155. Due to access issues, Living with Invisible Disabilities, Sunday 1-2:15 pm, will be located in Capitol A and No. 160 Whedonistas: Feminists Engage in the Worlds of Joss Whedon will be located in Assembly.

Concourse Announces WisCon 35 Drink Specials

Brian, the world-famous Concourse Hotel bartender, has again dreamed up a list of unique SF-themed drink specials just for WisCon! Stop by The Bar and try one of these fabulous concoctions:

Inception

*A dream within a dream within a dream
within a dream within a dream...*

A creamy blend of Godiva chocolate, amaretto, butterscotch, and Irish Whisky \$9

Green Hornet

A refreshing little buzz

Midori melon liqueur with
Stoli raspberry vodka and mixers \$6

The Tiptree

Everyone's a winner with this

Blue and orange curacao
topped with sparkling wine \$8

Sunset On Saturn

Enjoy the view

Malibu coconut rum with orange juice
and sweet and sour mixers \$6

Writer's Block

The cause and solution for...

A black raspberry flavored Margarita on the rocks
featuring Milagro Tequila and Chambord \$9

The FanBoy

Always there for you

Water served over ice n/c
Add a garnish no additional charge

160. Due to access issues, Whedonistas: Feminists Engage in the Worlds of Joss Whedon, Sunday 1-2:15 pm, will be located in Assembly, and No. 155, Living with Invisible Disabilities, will be located in Capitol A. Lyda Morehouse was unable to attend WisCon.

175. SIBLING OF REVENGE OF NOT ANOTHER F*CKING RACE PANEL, Sunday 2:30-3:45 pm. Michelle Kendall was unable to attend WisCon.

196. Science Fiction That Saved My Life, Sunday 4-5:15 pm. Lyda Morehouse was unable to attend WisCon.

206. Mad Norwegian Press party, Sunday 8:45 pm-Monday 3 am. Lyda Morehouse was unable to attend WisCon.

209. Wyrdsmiths party, Sunday 8:45 pm-Monday 3 am. Lyda Morehouse was unable to attend WisCon.

219. Being a Resilient Writer, Monday 10-11:15 am. Julia Karr was unable to attend WisCon.

224. The SignOut, Monday 11:30 am-12:45 pm. Julia Karr and Valya Dudycz Lupescu were unable to attend WisCon.

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We would like to apologize to our members from Japan for not flying your flag among those of the nations represented at this year's WisCon. We lent it out for a May Day parade and unfortunately it was not returned. We will do better next year, we promise.

Heard in passing...

"Oh, my - I seem to have a chocolate kiss in my brassiere!"

Official newsletter of WisCon 35
Editor: Karen Moore

Submissions welcome (editing rights reserved): hardcopy deadline 6 pm, electronic file deadline 8 pm.
newsletter35@wiscon.info

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Tell Me What a Feminist Science Fiction Convention Looks Like!

With that iconic phrase borrowed (and slightly modified) from the Madison protest movement, convention Coordinators Joanna Lowenstein and Piglet kicked off the Opening Ceremonies of WisCon 35. And the audience of some 400 eager convention members roared back "This is what a feminist science fiction convention looks like," setting the tone for what is shaping up to be another fabulous convention.

ThinkGalacticon provided the entertainment in the form of a WisCon quiz show, with volunteer panelists Orange Mike Lowrey, Diantha Sprouse and Ian Hageman testing their knowledge of WisCon trivia against the audience. The unanimous decision of the panel of judges was that the audience won the contest hands down, although the panelists' contributions were memorable.

Then a flash mob of sparkle-gloved dancers stormed the stage, bringing with them Guest

of Honor Nisi Shawl, and the audience was treated to a joyful and energetic musical and dance routine.

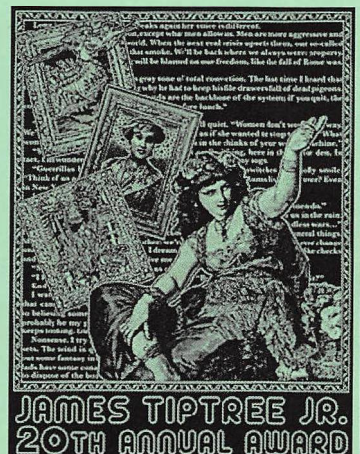
Piglet and Joanna returned to the stage with announcements, including the information that CART (Computer Assisted Realtime Transcription) services will be available for the first time ever at the Sunday night Guest of Honor speech and award ceremony. They also announced that longtime registration desk stalwart Richard Russell is retiring as at-con registration manager after this convention, and that next year he'll actually get to have fun and enjoy himself at WisCon.

Then the stage was struck and the ballroom ceded to the karaoke party, where happy convention members could be heard warbling their hearts out until the wee hours of Saturday morning.

Tiptree T-Shirt Goes on Sale Today at 9:00 a.m.!

Freddie Baer always designs stunning images for the Tiptree t-shirt, of course. But for the special 20 birthday celebration of the Tiptree Award, she really came up with a spectacular image. And you can get one of these beautiful shirts in the Art Show starting at 9:00 a.m. today!

The Tiptree Award t-shirts are produced in a limited quantity. They always sell out in a hurry, and in a special year like this one, we expect to see this limited edition get snapped up in record time. Be sure to go by and get yours before they all disappear - if you wait until Ellen Klages auctions one of them off in another decade or so, the price is likely to be considerably higher than it is this weekend.



Hotel Reservations for WisCon 36

Our two convention hotels, The Concourse Hotel and Inn on the Park, will again start accepting reservations for next year's event on Sunday morning.

We are delighted to announce that the Concourse has again scheduled extra Reservations Agents for Sunday morning, May 29! Whether you prefer to make your hotel reservation in person with a friendly face, on the phone with a friendly voice, or online, you can secure your room for the 2012 convention starting at 9:00 a.m. Sunday morning, May 29.

Check <http://wiscon.info/> for the link to WisCon's room block on the Concourse's online reservation system, which will be activated at 9:00 a.m. Central Time on the 29th. Or if you prefer a more personal interaction, either stop by the concierge desk in the hotel lobby to make your reservation in person or call the friendly folks in the Concourse's reservations department.

Room rates at the Concourse Hotel for WisCon 36 will be \$98/\$108 single/double for a Concourse-level room, and \$170/\$180 single/double for Governor's Club rooms. If you make your reservation in person or by phone, be sure to tell them you want a room in the WisCon 36 room block to get these rates.

Inn on the Park has kept our convention room rates the same for the *fourth* year in a row: regular rooms with one bed are \$124 and rooms with two beds are \$134. Two-room suites are \$154. The Inn's online reservation system does not accommodate our discounted room rate, so reservations there need to be made either by phone or in person. Be sure to tell them that you are reserving a room in the WisCon 2012 block to get our special rates!

After you get your hotel reservation lined up for 2012, stop by WisCon's Registration/Information desk in the second floor lobby area to get your membership for the 36th annual iteration of the World's Leading Feminist Science Fiction Convention! The committee is already in the planning phases of what will be yet another fabulous four-day marathon of spirited dialog, thought-provoking readings, and just plain fun, so take a moment to be sure you have your membership secured.

Volunteers: WisCon's Lifeblood!

WisCon is organized and run by volunteers, and there are still many ways to help out this year. We hope you will give a little bit of your time to help make WisCon the best it can be!

Volunteers receive a special WisCon thank you gift. This year's gift is a tote bag with the WisCon 35 solidarity logo by our own Jeanne Gommoll!

Volunteer six hours or more and you will be eligible for a refund of \$20 if finances permit at the end of the convention. Please see the volunteer table near registration on the second floor for more information throughout the convention.



What is the Quiet Place?

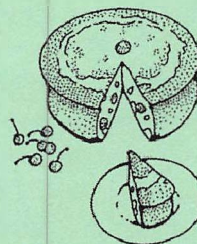
We at WisCon know that not everyone can afford to (or wants to) stay at the hotel. Yet everyone can use a quiet place to get away from the crowds of the convention. The QP is a small, dimly lit room on the 2nd floor between conference 1 and 2, with room for up to six members, furnished with comfy chairs, padded benches, footstools and a toilet.

It's a good place to catch your breath, listen to your heartbeat, ruminate, and contemplate. The Quiet Place works when we respect its boundaries: please, no talking within. If there's someone waiting for a space, yield yours after 30 minutes. The registration desk holds the key for the QP.



A Few Dessert Salon Tickets Still Available!

If you haven't yet gotten your ticket to the Sunday night Dessert Salon, be sure to stop by the registration desk on the second floor to pick one up. Only \$15, each ticket entitles you to not one but TWO mouthwatering delights created by the Concourse Hotel's master chef, plus coffee, tea or milk. This year's selection includes:



- New York Cheesecake with Mixed Berry Couli
- Maple Pecan Tart
- Oatmeal Stout Cake with Caramel Cognac Mousse and toasted hazelnuts
- Chocolate Cheesecake with salted caramel sauce
- Lemon Panna cotta with blackberry compote (gf)
- Chocolate Decadence Cake with Raspberry Coulis (gf)
- Mango Mousse with Whipped Cream & White Chocolate Curls (gf)
- Dark Chocolate Mousse with dark chocolate curls (gf)
- Fresh Fruit Cups with strawberries, blueberries, Mandarin oranges, and melon (gf)
- Chocolate dipped Strawberries (2 per plate) (gf)
- Strawberry Rhubarb Crisp with Almonds (gf)
- Vegan Carrot Cake with Vegan Vanilla Icing
- Vegan Tofu Cheesecakes with Chocolate Swirl
- Vegan Chocolate cake with chocolate icing
- Milk chocolate Bailey's chocolate coffee cups (2 per plate) (gf)
- Pumpkin Cream Cheese Roulade
- Key lime pie with whipped cream
- Mini Chocolate Eclairs (2 per plate)
- Strawberry Cream Puffs (2 per plate)

You won't want to miss these amazing desserts! And remember, if you need a gluten-free or Vegan dessert, be sure to ask one of the volunteers standing by to point those out.

Tiptree Bake Sale Today!



Come early, come often! The Bake Sale (in room 627, across from con suite) starts at 11:15am and goes until the last sweets are gone! At a recommended minimum donation of \$1/plate, these home-baked goodies (made by your fellow con-goers) are a steal! Limited amounts of gluten-free and/or vegan items will be available. There will, of course, be CHOCOLATE. See you there!

Call for Interviews at WisCon

Dear Wiscon 2011 Attendees and Feminist Sci-Fi Authors/Fans/Critics,

I am a first year PhD student at the University of Southern California, and I recently began a research project on the history of feminist science fiction. I am excited to be attending Wiscon this summer for the first time! In addition to more generally acquainting myself with community, I am interested in taking this opportunity to conduct interviews with those with first-hand experience of this history. I am fascinated by the works of science fiction produced in the seventies by those such as James Tiptree Jr., Joanna Russ, Octavia Butler, Ursula Le Guin and Suzy McKee Charnas; however, I am even more interested in their relationship to the period and politics from which they arose. I am curious as to the sort of work reading, analyzing and discussing these novels and short stories did as well as what sort of public was constituted through such work.

While I have already read many of the publications from this period in which such formal conversations took place, this summer I would like to begin research into the more private and personal discourse on the subject, which is where you all come in! If you were writing or reading such texts in the late seventies or early eighties and would like to share your experiences with me, it would be more than greatly appreciated! How did you discover feminist science fiction? Where were you reading these novels and short stories? Did you keep them to yourself or were you sharing them with others? How did you engage with them personally? What sort of conversations did reading them collectively generate? In looking to texts depicting women-only worlds, such as Russ' *The Female Man* and Tiptree's "Houston, Houston, Do You Read?," I am more specifically curious as to how women-loving women read and engaged with such texts. What significance, if any, did such texts hold for the lesbians reading them at this time? Were they read as "queer"? Were they discussed as such? What sort of possibilities did they offer?

If you are interested in participating in such an interview or cannot attend Wiscon but would like to be involved with the project in any case, please email me ASAP at samer@usc.edu, so that we can set something up. Thank you so much for your help.

Sincerely,

Roxanne Samer

From the Concourse Hotel:

Dream Greener™

At The Madison Concourse Hotel and Governor's Club, we constantly evaluate hotel operations and study best practices to continue to lesson our carbon footprint. Our Dream Greener™ program is led by a team of eco-passionate employees from various areas of the hotel, ensuring strides in sustainability from our kitchen to our banquet facilities to our executive offices.

2011 Mpower Business ChAmpions

We are one of the 18 local businesses chosen by Sustain Dane to be part of their 2011 green program.

Ozone Laundry System

In 2011 we installed a new Ozone laundry system and new high efficiency hot water heaters. These new systems will save over 400,000 gallons of water per year and reduce our carbon footprint by over 200,000 pounds of CO2 per year. It will also significantly reduce chemical usage in the hotel's laundry.

Guest Room Linen Conservation

A card is placed on each bed informing the guest we will make their bed daily but linens will be changed only when the card is placed on top of the bed each morning.

Guest Room Towel Conservation

Guests are instructed to leave towels they wish to reuse hung up or on the rack in the bathroom. Only towels left on the floor will be replaced.

Energy Conservation

- Energy efficient fluorescent lighting throughout the hotel
- Programmable thermostats in public areas
- We are a charter wind power participant
- Our guest rooms use reusable glass cups instead of plastic
- Complimentary newspapers are provided only upon request and are delivered in reusable bags

Recycling

- Glass, bottle and can recycling containers are located on each guest room floor
- Glass, bottle and can recycle bag is available in each guest room
- Paper, glass, bottle and can recycling containers are located in all offices
- Glass and can recycling containers are located on each level of the parking garage

Responsible Dining

- We support local, sustainable farming by using local meats, cheeses and vegetables
- We are active members of REAP Food Group, committed to shortening the distance from farm to table

ASL lunch

Are you an ASL (American Sign Language) user? Do you know some ASL and want to meet others at WisCon who also use this language? Why not come to the ASL lunch on Sunday at Hawk's Bar and Grill! Meet us in the hotel lobby (look for Julie holding a sign), or at Hawk's on State Street. The menu is online: <http://www.hawksbar.com/>

Worldcon Discounts!

Have you bought *your* membership yet for Worldcon? If not, this is the weekend to do it! Renovation, the 2011 World Science Fiction Convention, is having an online 24 hour sale on Adult Attending Memberships on Memorial Day, May 30! Adult Attending rates will be reduced to \$180, a discount of \$15, plus a discount on family memberships. Full details at <http://www.renovationsf.org/pressrel35.php>. Please help us by passing this news on to anyone you know who may be considering attending!

We will also be offering the discount throughout the weekend at BayCon, ConQuest, WisCon, Marcon and Balticon - just stop by our table for more information or to take advantage of this one time offer!

Competing brat-fests broke out in Madison in the wake of this spring's political protests. The closest (and most politically correct :-)) to WisCon is Saturday across capital square on Martin-Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

Opt In Message Board

WisCon has traditionally had a message board that members could use to contact each other AT the con. It always sat next to the Arts & Crafts table opposite the dealers' room on 2nd floor. We'd print out the names of everyone pre-registered for the con, leaving spaces between the names for walk-in registrants to print theirs.

The idea was that, if you were AT the con and willing to check the board for messages to you, you'd put a check mark by your name. Then anyone who wanted to LEAVE a message for you would put a pushpin next to your name and leave your message in a little box beneath the name list. The board also contains places where people could put broadcast messages about their special interest groups, asking for rooms or roommates, or soliciting rides or riders for after the con.

This year we are trying something a little different. In order to protect people's privacy, we are NOT printing out everyone's name. Instead, we're only printing out the names of people who have opted to have us do it. Unfortunately, we didn't publicize this very well, so we have quite a paltry list at this point. We'd like to beef it up to make it a more effective means of communication.

So, if YOU would like YOUR name to be listed on the WisCon message board, you have 2 options available. The cheap, sleazy, short-term workaround is to just go over and hand-print your name on the existing list. The much better, long-term, once-and-done option is to go to our website and opt in to having your name printed this year and for all future years (revocable at will, of course).

To do this, go to the WisCon website (<http://wiscon.piglet.org/>), click on "My Account", and then click on "Edit Preferences". From this location, you can also sign up to receive specialized mailings (such as art show and dealers' room), abjure the use of printed brochures, volunteer to work at the con, request access accommodations, and many other fun things.

Saturday Program Changes

Green Room closing time on Saturday is 10:30 p.m., not midnight.

57. What's There to Look Forward To?: Dystopia and Anti-Scientific Attitudes in YA SF, Saturday 8:30-9:45 am. Julia Karr was unable to attend WisCon.

65. Class Issues in Science Fiction and Fantasy, Saturday 10-11:15 am. Chris Wrdrnd is no longer a panelist. Alexis Lothian added to panel.

68. Smut & Nothing But Make a Baby, Saturday 10-11:15 am. Candas Jane Dorsey was unable to attend WisCon.

87. Vigorous Debate, or Verbal Harassment?, Saturday 1-2:15 pm. Michelle Kendall was unable to attend WisCon.

91. Assimilation and the Immigrant Grandchild, Saturday 1-2:15 pm, Neesha Meminger added to panel.

107. 11up, Saturday 2:30-3:45 pm. Valya Dudycz Lupescu was unable to attend WisCon.

109. Mysterious Nexus: Science Fiction and Detective Fiction, Saturday 4-5:15 pm. Julia/Sparkymonster is no longer a panelist.

110. Happy 90th Birthday, Carol Emshwiller!, Saturday 4-5:15 pm. Margie Peterson is no longer a panelist. Karen Joy Fowler added to panel.

113. Class in SF: Who Gets It Right?, Saturday 4-5:15 pm. Chris Wrdrnd is no longer a panelist. Liz Henry added as moderator.

NEWSFLASH!

Shipping Service Returns!

Late-breaking news! Send It Now is returning to WisCon on Monday, May 30! Now you don't need to schlep your Art Show and Dealers' Room purchases through the airport or bus station - you can ship them safely home, and save your arms and back the load.

Send It Now will be in Conference I on Monday, May 30 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. They can box your treasures for you, or if you already have them packed, they'll be happy to ship them in your container. They can ship via UPS and Postal Service and shipping insurance is available (and highly recommended for items of value).

Stop by Conference I on Monday to send all those books home the easy way!

Con or Bust Mini-Auction at Haiku Earring Party

Con or Bust, which helps fans of color/non-white fans attend SFF conventions, will be holding a mini-auction at the Haiku Earring Party on Saturday in room 607 (9:00 p.m. on).

Items include a garnet and quartz choker; a ring scarf in shades of bronze and gold; and rayon yarn in shades of purple, blue, and green.

Other donations are gratefully accepted; contact Kate Nepveu through messageboard or e-mail (knepveu@steelypips.org) or just come to the party.

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Tracey Callison, Bake Sale Fairy, announced that this year's Tiptree Bake Sale tally was \$566! She also told the newsletter editor that there's a lemon bar woman looking for her...

Only at WisCon...

At one point in the "Northerness" panel, the audience and panel were chanting a saga in unison, *in the original Icelandic!*

Official newsletter of WisCon 35
Editor: Karen Moore

Submissions welcome (editing rights reserved): hardcopy deadline 6 pm, electronic file deadline 8 pm. newsletter35@wiscon.info

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Tiptree Auction

Many convention attendees view the Tiptree Auction as one of the highlights of the entire weekend, and this year's Auction provided an excellent demonstration of why. Auctioneer Ellen Klages, wearing a bathrobe, likened the Tiptree Award to the Green Bay Packers, because it is owned by the community, not one individual. By the time everyone in the room who had won the award, been on the honors list, been a juror, donated to the auction, purchased from the auction or purchased from the bake sale was standing, it was pretty clear why.

Then Ellen announced that she had made a bet with Founding Mother Karen Joy Fowler about how long the Tiptree would last, and with the 20th anniversary this year, she had lost that bet. And she took off her bathrobe to reveal the outcome: Ellen Klages was wearing a dress. Yes, folks, if you missed the auction this year, you missed what is probably the

only opportunity you will ever have to witness that particular vision.

And things only got better from that point on.

Some of the highlights included a hand-knit nipple scarf, which Ellen described as the perfect mother-in-law gift, a bar of Filthy Farmgirl Galactic Ginger Soap, and a protest sock-monkey in an Ian's Pizza box. The evening featured spontaneous outbursts of song, including the Lydia Pinkham song and the Vatican Rag, the latter directed (and sung) by Ellen.

The hat was passed for a gift that our Guest of Honor had yearned for, and over \$300 was raised to give Nisi Shawl a lovely hand-woven shawl in shades of burnished gold. It was, in fact, a shawl for Shawl, or one could say that it was Nisi squared.

Geoff Ryman brought plenty of entertainment value to the evening, between serving

Continued on Page 3

Photo Booth: How It Works

It's pretty simple, really. When you come in, you'll be given a white index card. On one side of it write your name or how you would like to be identified online.

In the lower right hand corner, put a Y or an N. Y= Yes, you can post my picture online. N=No, please do not post my picture. Either way, I'm happy to take your picture.

On the other side, please put your email address. That way I'll be able to send you your picture.

The first picture we take will be a close-up of the white card. That way, I can tell who you are, and it's easy to separate one set of pictures from another. Then I'll take a couple pictures of you, posing however you wish.

If you put a Y on your card, I'll post one of

your pictures to Facebook and Flickr. If you put an N, I won't post them anywhere. In any case, you'll get a couple pictures for you to use as you wish – icon or avatar, Wikipedia page, book jacket, billboard, whatever.

It may take as long as a week to process all the pictures, but I'll post updates to the LiveJournal and DreamWidth communities.

The Photo Booth will be located in room 611. Hours of operation are 7:00 pm until ?? – which is defined as the point when the photographer succumbs to exhaustion.

Thanks! I look forward to seeing you there!

Luke McGuff

SignOut – Come One, Come All!

SignOut, WisCon's fantastic autograph party, will once again be held on Monday (11:30 am—12:45 pm. in the Capitol/Wisconsin Ballrooms). If you have published in any format and want to meet your fans, if you're a fan and want to get some autographs or say hello, or if you just want to see your friends once more near the end of the Con, then SignOut is for you!

If you plan to participate, and haven't signed up so already, please let Lou, Kafryn or Julie know by emailing signout35@wiscon.info. Your fans can purchase your works in the Dealers' Room during the Con and bring them for signing.

We will serve light snacks and beverages to signers during SignOut. If you have particular dietary needs and desires, we'll do our best to accommodate them.

We look forward to seeing the signers and the fans on Monday!

Get Well Cards

The registration desk is gathering signatures on get-well cards for Isabel Guzman-Barron, who had emergency surgery two weeks ago, and MJ Hardman, who has chronic health problems. Both would have loved to be here, and we know that many of their friends have missed seeing them this weekend. Please stop by the reg desk and sign the cards, and we'll see to it that they get the greetings from WisCon.

Sharing the Concourse

Orange Mike Lowrey

While the hotel is booked solid, WisCon members are not the only guests staying here. For example, I met three airline crew members checking in on Friday evening. If your room is on any floor other than six, please be respectful of the non-convention attendees staying here, particularly late at night.

Pete Hudson Memorial

Friends of Pete Hudson are invited to a small memorial on Sunday during the lunch break in room 807. If you need help getting to the 8th floor, call us at 608-698-2806.

CART Comes to WisCon

For the first time, WisCon will have CART services at the Guest of Honor event. CART (Communications Access Real time Translation) is a system that provides live captioning on screen while someone speaks.

This service was requested by some of our members and we hope that it increases accessibility of the event for everyone. Please provide us feedback by filling out the member survey online at the end of WisCon35.

Report From Childcare

"More Good and Fun"

Betsy Lundsten, Childcare Manager, interviewed some of the youngsters in her care about their experience at WisCon. Most were unwilling to comment on the record, but 4 ½ year old E. was willing to share the following observation:

"I have a fun time at WisCon. I have been to WisCon a lot, really a lot of times. It's more good and fun."

Why Microphones?

Karen Babich

Mics are not decoration. They are in all but the smallest program rooms TO BE USED. Even if you have a loud voice. Even if using a mic feels odd. Even if using a mic is something you'd rather not do.

Helpful hints: leave the stand on the table, pass the mic around, speak clearly INTO the mic (as opposed to over the top of it), and don't hold the mic in front of your mouth.

People are attending the panel because they are interested in hearing what you have to say. If you do not speak into a mic, they will not be able to do that.

JUST USE YOUR MICROPHONE. Please.

Restaurant Squee

Ann Burlingham reports that the Old Fashioned on the Square has FABULOUS home-made donuts and Wisconsin-sourced food for breakfast!

Dreamwidth Invite Codes

Hi! I'm a WisCon attendee and loving the convention so far. One of the co-founders of Dreamwidth informally sent me a message, saying he made an invite code for anyone who's interested: "wiscon11". A lot of WisCon users are interested in Dreamwidth, so I thought that people may find it helpful and I should pass that on.

Ted Prodromou

Traffic Alert

Those venturing away from Wiscon by car on Sunday should beware of the Madison Marathon, which will close or lane-restrict additional streets in the vicinity of the hotel until mid-afternoon.



Overheard at the Traveling Fates concert, during a happy birthday break: "I'm a slow hugger".

Gleaned From the Tweetfields

@EllenaLikesBooks

I've been here less than two hours and I already have seven books.

@daviddlevine

OH at wiscon35: "Star Trek promised me a computer I could talk to. Instead I got a phone I can type on."

@ThatKarenB

TigerB: "I don't know if I can have one more meta conversation this weekend." And it's only Saturday.

#WritingSansFail

@dynamicsymmetry

Readers trying to picture a character will generally assume that the character is white until told otherwise.

@antarciclust

Mary Doria Russell opened with a long list of words (amber, honey, caramel, etc. used to describe color...of liquor.

@nivairface

Sometimes, reading these descriptions, I forget that I'm not actually chocolate and I start gnawing on my own arm!

@antarciclust

Tempest: People seem afraid to just say "her skin was brown."

@nivairface

Someone is being exoticized, not just objectified, when she's compared to cinnamon or café au lait.

@nivairface

Reaching for poetry in physical description is not bad. Failing to think critically and contextually about it is.

The Secret Feminist Cabal has infiltrated local restaurants. Chautarra is currently sporting a chalk drawing of Space Babe outside their door. The Secret Feminist Cabal has infiltrated local restaurants. Chautarra is currently sporting a chalk drawing of Space Babe outside their door.



Continued from Page 1

as a model, auctioning off a Tuckerization (or more accurately, a Rymanization) opportunity in his next novel, and offering to draw naughty pictures in an ARC of his upcoming book for the winning bidder. Hats were passed on Geoff's behalf as well, one hat in favor of giving him a Space Babe tattoo on his butt cheek and the other hat opposed. The ayes won by over a two-to-one margin, and the crowd went wild at the prospect. Then Karen Joy Fowler and Pat Murphy offered an extra \$100 for the privilege of choosing which cheek to decorate – with the result that Geoff can now be found sporting Space Babe on the left side of his face.

Yes, this year's Tiptree Auction was truly one for the history books, and those in attendance left with our sides hurting from so much laughter. If you missed it this year, be sure to catch it next year!

Sustainability, WisCon Style

Claire Hintz

If you saw issue 2 of "A Momentary Taste of WisCon," you noticed the article about the efforts of the Concourse Hotel to improve its environmental footprint. Some of us discussed what sustainability means to WisCon on Friday night at the "Sustainable WisCon" panel. We brainstormed a number of tactics such as bringing our own water bottles and mugs and cloth bags, taking public transit when possible, and working on our food purchases. (Is that Tiptree chocolate purchased from Fair Trade sources?) These are great tactical ideas. There's also the level of paradigm change to address, which speaks to the heart of WisCon: there is still much room to explore the intersection of social justice, environmental integrity and economic vibrancy.

WisCon and feminist science fiction is about dealing with edges, surfacing the invisible, and embracing and beginning to understand "the other." How do we view sustainability through our unique WisCon lens? Our feminist traditions provide us with plenty of practice at changing mental models around gender, race, and class. What is our relationship to this actual physical place of oak savannas and lakes? How do we make visible that relationship by our being here, in Madison? How are the dynamics of environmental justice in this city influenced by our purchases and activities as con-goers?

Our science fiction roots also give us an opportunity to imagine sustainability in very creative ways. For example, what do the traditions of magic realism have to offer us as we write a "new story" of our relationship to the earth in this moment of dramatically shifting climate and increasing environmental degradation? How can we envision a sustainable future and model that at WisCon? Realism may not be enough to encompass the creativity needed at this moment in our species' history, but a literature of the imagination has much to offer!

How do we as writers and artists imagine the earth's voice that has not been very present so far in our discussions? How do we bring the presence of the Midwestern bioregion to the convention? What might the local watershed tell us about issues of access if it could speak a human language? And how can we make the work of sustainability celebratory just as we have created a positive and nurturing atmosphere in which to discuss issues of gender, race, and class?

The group on Friday night discussed the need for sustainability principles to the convention's statement of values, and the need for a team to coordinate sustainability efforts and paradigm change at WisCon. I'm particularly interested in two creative projects for next year: creatively surfacing the "other" of the earth in our conference activities, and collecting narratives from the WisCon community about our diverse and collective understanding of sustainability.

If you are an artist or a writer and are interested to expand the discussion of sustainability, or you are interested in working on developing best practices of sustainability for our conference, email me at 4midwesternabundance@gmail.com. (And perhaps the members of the ConCom can suggest to me how best to feed the ongoing dialogue back into services....)

Ed Note: a great way to start a dialog with the convention would be to email concom35@wiscon.info.

Sunday Program Changes

Dealers' Room opens at 10:00 a.m., not 9:00 as shown in the Pocket Program Book.

152. It's a Broad Universe, Sunday 10-11:15 am. Lyda Morehouse was unable to attend WisCon.

155. Due to access issues, Living with Invisible Disabilities, Sunday 1-2:15 pm, will be located in Capitol A and No. 160 Whedonistas: Feminists Engage in the Worlds of Joss Whedon will be located in Assembly.

160. Due to access issues, Whedonistas: Feminists Engage in the Worlds of Joss Whedon, Sunday 1-2:15 pm, will be located in Assembly, and No. 155, Living with Invisible Disabilities, will be located in Capitol A. Lyda Morehouse was unable to attend WisCon.

175. SIBLING OF REVENGE OF NOT ANOTHER F*CKING RACE PANEL, Sunday 2:30-3:45 pm. Michelle Kendall was unable to attend WisCon.

196. Science Fiction That Saved My Life, Sunday 4-5:15 pm. Lyda Morehouse was unable to attend WisCon.

206. Mad Norwegian Press party, Sunday 8:45 pm-Monday 3 am. Lyda Morehouse was unable to attend WisCon.

209. Wyrldsmiths party, Sunday 8:45 pm-Monday 3 am. Lyda Morehouse was unable to attend WisCon.

If you didn't hear how the Japanese feminists conquer Tokon10 last night, you missed the video where space geisha rescued robot goldfish.

WisCon Survey

The WisCon committee is always looking for ways to improve and evolve the convention, and one of the best methods we have for identifying opportunities to improve is through the annual survey.

Please take a moment and go to <http://www.wiscon.info/survey.php> and tell us how the convention went for you. There is one survey about the convention in general and a second one about the program items, and we encourage everyone to complete both.

The other highly effective way to help improve and evolve the convention is to become a part of the committee that makes it happen. Email concom36@wiscon.info if you are interested in taking on a role on the committee.

The best question an "Ask Me" badge holder was asked on Saturday....

"I'm bringing a human skeleton in for my Monday morning panel, and I was wondering if there's a secure place where I could lock it up overnight so we don't have to bring it in at 7:30 a.m."

At the "SF on TV" panel, Richard Russell shared two examples of how to know if your favorite show's demise is imminent: it's moved from earlier in the week to Friday night, and Summer Glau is added to the cast.

Congratulations to Jennie Devereaux-Weber for winning the SF Movie Charades contest!

WisCon



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Program Changes

218. Fatima and Mary: Iconic Women in Patriarchal Religions, Monday 10-11:15 am. Catherine Crowe will not be on this panel.
219. Being a Resilient Writer, Monday 10-11:15 am. Julia Karr was unable to attend WisCon.
224. The SignOut, Monday 11:30 am-12:45 pm. Julia Karr and Valya Dudycz Lupescu were unable to attend WisCon.

Heard in passing...

Upon seeing an abandoned pair of shoes in front of a chair and a backpack beside it, Guest of Honor Nisi Shawl remarked, "Looks like someone's been raptured."

Official newsletter of WisCon 35
Editor: Karen Moore

Submissions welcome (editing rights reserved): hardcopy deadline 6 pm, electronic file deadline 8 pm. newsletter35@wiscon.info

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We Are All Stories

The Sunday night keynote event always features celebration, often laughter, nearly always song, frequently magic, occasionally incredulity, and sometimes tears, but generally not ALL in the same evening. So this year's Sunday night events were a real roller coaster for the 400 or so convention attendees in the audience.

The evening opened with an homage to the late Joanna Russ, whose life and works had such a lasting and powerful influence on so many in the feminist SF community. Timmi DuChamp, Eileen Gunn, Amy Thompson, Geoff Ryman and Jeanne Gomoll each shared their memories and experiences with Joanna, in a moving and heartfelt tribute to one of the giants of the field.

Then Kate Schaeffer introduced Guest of Honor Nisi Shawl, and the magic began. Nisi began her remarks in song, shifting into a discourse about the genius of Octavia Butler and Michael Jackson, and the impacts that both brought to the world. She pointed out that while awards are a zero-sum game, with a loser for every winner, genius instead feeds others and continues to grow and mirror itself.

"We are all stories." With those words, Nisi mirrored her magic and her own genius back to all those in the room. She called on the audience to do three things. First, to admit genius, to recognize that it exists, that it is ambient, to admit it into our view. Second, to address genius, to take it seriously, to acknowledge the stories we all tell. And finally, to applaud genius, to name it and honor it and embrace it - in ourselves as well as in others.

And so we did: we leapt to our feet and applauded the genius in our beloved Nisi.



Guest of Honor Nisi Shawl

The Tiptree Motherboard then took the stage, recognizing each of the books on this year's honor list and explaining the deceptively simple story line in *Baba Yaga Lays an Egg* that hides the complex and thought-provoking concepts that underlie the surface. Unfortunately Dubravka Ugresic was unable to travel to the US to accept her award in person, but she sent a lovely email of thanks. And of course the world-famous Tippettes took the stage to hail Dubravka and her work in song, accompanied on electric piano and joined by most of the assembled.

The Carl Brandon Society announced that they had awarded the 2008 Parallax Award to Vandana Singh for her novella *Distances*, and the 2008 Kindred Award to Tananarive Due for her story "Ghost Summer." The 2009 winner of the Parallax Award is Hiromi Goto for her novel *Half World*, while Justine Larbalestier won the 2009 Kindred Award for her novel *Liar*.

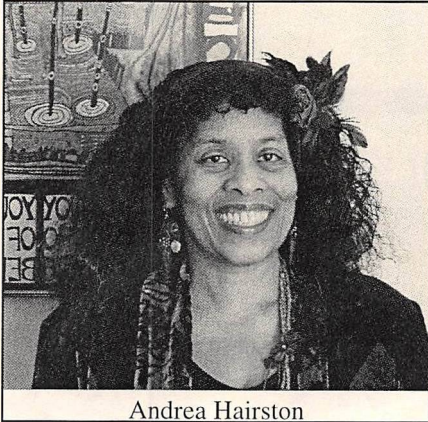
The Guests of Honor for WisCon 36 were then announced (see page 2), as well as the names of the WisCon 36 Co-Coordinator. Deb Stone, Lou Hoffman and Victor Raymond will co-chair next year's convention.

Jeanne Mealy says: Hi to "Betty" and "Dessert # 13" from "I Don't Know Why I'm on This Panel."

Hairston and Notkin Named WisCon 36 Guests of Honor

The announcement of the identities of the next year's Guests of Honor is always anticipated with great interest, and this year was no exception. The Wisconsin and Capitol ballrooms at the Concourse Hotel erupted in wild cheers and applause at the end of Sunday night's festivities when it was announced that WisCon 36 will honor Andrea Hairston and Debbie Notkin.

A Momentary Taste invited our future Honored Guests to comment on their thoughts at this exciting moment.



Andrea Hairston

Wiscon is my/our home planet
A moment in great time
A celebration
A revel
Where we dream and scheme, sing and shout
Unravel our torment
Renew our sense of wonder
Burst into the future

It's one thing to stand on the shoulders of giants; it's another experience altogether to be invited to stand next to them. The list of past WisCon guests of honor reads like a list of practically everyone that I respect and admire in a field in which I have spent so much of my life. The experience is akin, I think, to walking through the National Portrait Gallery in London and finding your own portrait there; I find it extremely surreal.

I've known about this for a little less than a month; I've already drafted the openings of at least ten speeches in my head. Why so many?

Because I want to say everything, without being didactic, or boring, or predictable. Not to mention knowing that my companion guest of honor is a theater professional and a brilliant speaker.

I don't want it to "go without saying" that I am honored and delighted. WisCon always recharges my batteries, makes me feel like a stronger and better person, and feeds so many aspects of me --it's hard to imagine how a WisCon as guest of honor could be better than an "ordinary" WisCon. I'm looking forward to finding out!

Debbie and Andrea, thank you for taking the time to share your comments here. We're already looking forward to a spectacular convention next year with you as our Honored Guests!

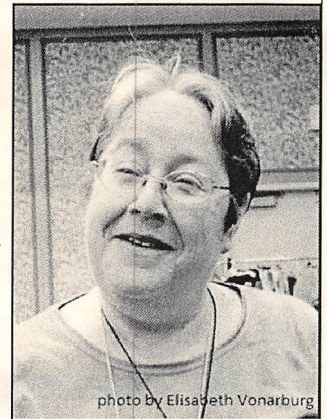


photo by Elisabeth Vonarburg

Debbie Notkin
Photo courtesy of
Elisabeth Vonarburg

Gleaned From the Tweetfields

#Sciency Fiction

- @antarcticlust Most kids will not grow up to be scientists- for some, SciencyFiction is their interaction with fascinating science
- @antarcticlust For others, SciencyFiction is about scientists as fascinating, geeky people!
- @antarcticlust In SciencyFiction, the science has got to be "real." Good science grounds the fiction and makes it more believable.
- @antarcticlust Science is the manual for the world that was left out of the box. -Ellen Klages
- @antarcticlust Many adults lose their sense of childhood wonder and curiosity; SciencyFiction can recapture that.
- @antarcticlust Science fiction and science are both literatures of "what if?"

Donations for Japan Earthquake

The Japanese Association for
Gender Fantasy & Science Fiction

We tried to raise funds for the victims of the March Earthquake and Tsunami during the convention. Thanks to your generosity, we could raise \$1022.

In addition, Laurie Toby Edison donated photos, Elise Mathesen a brooch, and Ay-leen a dozen buttons for sale.

100% of the funds raised will be sent to a non-profit organization in the affected area. The name of the organization will be reported on our website.

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to all who have attended WisCon 35.

The Japanese Association for Gender Fantasy & Science Fiction (Japanese Tiptree award community) <http://gender-sf.com/>.

TOKON10 (Japanese National Convention)
<http://tokon10.net/>

Recording Get-Well Greetings for MJ and Dimas

I'm hoping to record some video greetings for MJ & Dimas as they could not attend WisCon this year. If you'd like to record a message for them, email me at candrakgill+mj@gmail.com (be sure to include the +mj part).

Candra Gill