

Madison Foursquare

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This issue of *Madison Foursquare* is brought to you by Scott Custis and Jeanne Gomoll (layout/design and occasional contributor), who live at 2825 Union Street, Madison, WI 53704. Scott@unionstreetdesign.com
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This is *Madison Foursquare* #2, created using a Mac Pro with InDesign, Illustrator and Photoshop, all CC 2014, and printed on a Ricoh Aficio CL7200 color printer. All contents ©2015 by Scott Custis and Jeanne Gomoll, August 2015 for *Turbo-Charged Party Animal* #350.

NEWS?

Not a lot of news this summer. No big trips or developments. Not even much time off, in fact. Most of our travelling will be in the Fall as we take a short vacation to Door County next month, a similarly short trip to Colorado in October for my cousin Chad's wedding and, finally, in early December, a trip to Eugene, OR for the transfer of Alice Sheldon's (James Tiptree, Jr.) papers and the Tiptree quilt to the University of Oregon.

Starting next Saturday, August 22, we will be going to American Players Theater shows every Saturday for five of the next six weeks. Sometimes it just works out that way. Fall is my favorite time of year for many reasons and this year is looking to be one of the best.

HUGO AWARDS

Jeanne and I stayed up late Saturday night to watch the streaming broadcast of the Hugo Awards. I thought it was one of the most entertaining Hugo award ceremonies I have seen, despite of all the drama surrounding the event. The Hosts did an okay job considering the fact that they were recruited late in the game, but seemed very disorganized which I had less patience with. The bright spots were mostly from some good choices of presenters, some great acceptance speeches as well as an entertaining bit by Connie Willis and a typically classy appearance by Robert Silverberg.

It seems clear to me that the Sad Puppies' agenda was soundly defeated. Jeanne showed me how some of the Puppy supporters were pathetically trying to spin a devastating defeat into a victory of sorts on Twitter. Sorry guys, but you can't engineer a scenario where you win no matter how the voting turns out. Even Fox News fails at that game.

At the time of the announcement, I was happy with the "No award" votes in several categories, each time summarily rejecting the entire Puppy slate. Later I had to wonder what it must have felt like to be an author on the slate getting the news that night. A vote of 5000+ people was that they chose not give out an award at all rather give it to you or any of your peers. In one instance, an author had three pieces up for the same award, and all were rejected. Wow. I wondered if he travelled to Spokane, hung out at the pre-ceremony reception with all the other nominees and sat in the audience when he got the news followed by the audience breaking out in huge cheers. How would that feel? I bet the reality of that rejection felt a lot more personal than it might have seemed when discussed as a merely theoretical outcome in an online discussion. I don't feel sorry for these characters, really. But the reality of all those "No award" decisions coming down to thunderous applause sounded harsh to me, even as an observer.

Some comments on the June issue...

Joe Leslie Adams

Nice work! Your neighbors are lucky to have you in the area. I have always liked temporary, "you just had to be there" art. It's the thing that makes live music and theater so special.

Your diagnoses are certainly troubling. I wish to send you my best wishes on playing a difficult hand. Getting old sucks in many ways and one of the ways is that the problems are often not our fault.

Kim and Kathi

A cat cover, shocking.

Although we missed your July 4th party this year, we can completely understand your need or desire to stop doing it, even if only temporarily. Did you have anyone stop by anyway? The first New Years Eve after Jeanne and I threw our last N.Y.E. party, I was so worried that people would not get the message we weren't doing it anymore, that I suggested we vacate the premises completely and we spent New Years at the Concourse Hotel. Which turned out to be fun and we have done it twice more since then. Still, July 4th fell on a Saturday this year, so I did not get any extra time off work and, without your party or other plans for the day, it felt like a fairly ordinary weekend to me. I'll understand if you decide to stop for good, but I'll be happy if you decide to bring it back.

We saw your basement after you moved in, so I have some idea of the real scale of your book culling project. Awesome.

Jim & Ruth Nichols

I was surprised at your choice to go to Fountain City for your writing getaway. I have never been there, and would not have thought of it, but it looks like it turned out well. Lovely pictures. I like Mississippi river towns. I have lived in Davenport and near Dubuque, both cities have an older feel to them, a lingering connection to the past. I also like what the bluffs and hills around the river require of the cities' architecture. Many Iowa towns and cities are built around rivers, but Mississippi river towns seem different. Their history is longer and they often feel faded in a genteel, almost Southern way, like their best days are behind them.

Condolences on the passing of your niece in WY. Very sad.

Tracy Benton

I would like to hear more about your trip to Las Vegas and Bill's trip to Columbus.

Re: I like to read. Jeanne and I have been enjoying reading aloud. We started doing it on car trips and just kept it up at home. It's a fun way to experience a book and talk about it together, and an efficient way of dispatching our monthly book discussion

book without buying a second copy. A few things we have enjoyed reading aloud lately, Mary Doria Russell's linked historical novels *Doc* about Doc Holliday, and *Epitaph* about Wyatt Earp and the shootout at the OK Corral. We are currently enjoying Nick Harkaway's new book *Tigerman*.

Re: cold brew coffee. Sounds good. Sounds powerful with one cup coffee to six cups of water. Still some summer left, I may have to try this.

Catie Pfeifer

I also liked *Mad Max: Fury Road*. It's one of my favorite movies of the summer. I have liked the Mad Max movies generally, some more than others, but it has been a long, long time since I've seen one. This one is a standout compared to what I remember of the earlier ones. I particularly liked the mix of female characters and their choice to stand together to fight against all odds. Not complicated, but well executed.

Jim Hudson and Diane Martin

Jeanne and I have been sort of saving up Orphan Black. It's a treat to look forward to. We know that once we start, we will be hooked to the end.

Thanks again for your very relaxing post-WisCon party. It was a nice mix of folks, good food and not a lot of negative energy. I have enjoyed my 9 years of retirement from WisCon, I look forward to more of you joining me.

Greg Rihn

Re: Spaces and Traces tour, thanks for the tour details. Jeanne and I have had breakfast a couple times at Engine Company No. 3 at 217 W. National Ave, which is not the same neighborhood you were talking about, but even walking around the neighborhood off National Avenue, you could see some remarkable restoration jobs on some very old mansions. Very exciting.

Re: WisCon. I enjoyed your detailed con report. I have not felt like writing much about WisCon, it's a sensitive topic even for someone who has been steadfastly on the sidelines for a number of years.

I had a good time, thanks in no small part to the time we got to spend with our friends from all over and Stan Robinson and Monica Byrne. I was also impressed with Alya Johnson. We are actively planning to go again next year.

Andy Hooper

Another amazing zine. I enjoyed it all. The adventures of Charles King were thrilling. But it was also hard to read about the sad fate of the Native Americans. I was also deeply drawn into your detailed account of the war with Spain, which I have not read much about since college. I don't remember that we spent much time on it then either, really. Much of this information seemed new to me. I don't know how you manage it every month, but please keep it coming.

Some comments on the July issue...

Greg Rihn

I have taken note of your excellent comments on the Paine Art Museum exhibit in Oshkosh (and read most of it to Jeanne). We have worked out a plan to go see it thanks to your piece. Our plan is to stop in to see it on our way to Door County next month. We should make it a week or so before it closes. Also, we would like to see the "Modern Rebels" exhibit in Milwaukee and maybe combine it with a long-overdue dim sum meal. There is almost no dim sum in Madison. (Do you know of any traditional dim sum available in Milwaukee? We'd appreciate an email from you if you can recommend a restaurant!) I enjoyed your commentary on the individual art pieces in the exhibit, did you take art classes in college? I have had almost no formal art instruction so a tour for me is almost completely a learning experience.

Julie Zachman:

I liked your fine, slightly sad, piece and pictures on Willow Run.

Andy Hooper

Nice job on the covers. Those old photos reproduced very well.

Also, congratulations on the five year unbroken record of monthly submissions to *Turbo*. Simply amazing! I'm starting to realize that trying to work in the kind of time I'd like to give to *Turbo*, or other types of writing, is going to be a significant challenge while I'm still working. You are probably correct in my case at least, retirement may result in a more regular contribution from me.

I drank up your "Journeys of Company G" once again. My favorite sections this time were the terrific history of the Mexican Revolution, which I don't recall ever reading much about before. We should learn more about this in school. Not only because names like Pancho Villa and Emiliano Zapata and General Pershing are still familiar to us today, but we should all know a great deal more about America's history of invading other countries and how those adventures ultimately worked out. Maybe we'd make better decisions about military adventures today if we remembered more about our own past. I also really liked the delightful newspaper dispatches on life with the Company on deployment.

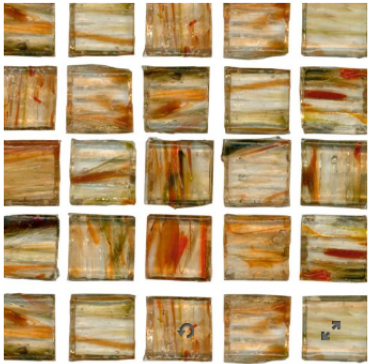
Marilyn Holt

Nice pictures. We are also watching *Mr. Robot*. The acting has been good, and the story has been hooking us in, but it's fast approaching that point where the series has to decide whether it's going to start to come together into a sensible storyline, or fly off into *Twin Peaks'* style bizarre-ness for its own sake. There comes a point where the story starts to feel like it's being written episode-by-episode instead of following a well thought out arc-story plan. If it starts to feel to us like it's lurching ahead with no idea where it will end up, we will drop it.

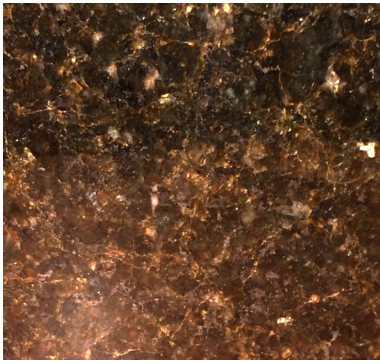
Jeanne and I have subscribed to a CSA for the first time this year. We get a box of vegetables every other week. We're really liking it. The freshness and consistent quality of the produce is great. Even though there are only two of us in our household, we have little trouble getting through a box every other week in terms of sheer quantity. It can be a challenge coming up with a plan to use all the different items in the box. But that can be fun, too.

—Scott

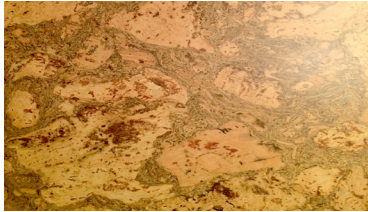
Kitchen Renovation



tile backsplash



granite countertops



cork floor

Text and photos by Jeanne

It's a new world: dishes cleaned by a machine!



butcher-block Island

We had been thinking about what we wanted in a kitchen for many years before we were finally able to afford to start the work. Jeanne wanted an expansive place to store spices and the contractors came up with a brilliant solution once they began to take her seriously when she referred to "a LOT of spices."

But it was the old kitchen's inconvenient corner spaces, especially those below the countertops that we wanted to make more accessible. Ideally, Jeanne kept toying around with an idea that could make use of that space to hold big, heavy kitchen appliances like the KitchenAid, Cuisinart, etc. So she invented what we are calling the "Smart Waiter:" an elevator shaft housed within a corner cabinet, extending from ceiling to floor, containing 4 shelves and a motor (in basement) that moves them up and down within the shaft. Shelves can be stopped so that appliances can be removed through a door level with the countertop.

The idea stunned our cabinet builders, and they were initially hesitant. But our wonderful contractor made it work beautifully!

Our old kitchen was gutted in January 2015 and the new one finished in May 2015. We cooked out of our "kitchen-in-exile" for 5 months. We were warned that it was going to take a long time to build the cabinets because construction couldn't even begin until the kitchen was stripped bare and measurements taken. Nothing in it is exactly level or square in our old house, despite its being a so-called Foursquare house. But the biggest delay was caused by the "smart waiter," which added another month onto the project. The cabinetmakers had never made anything like it and it took a while for them to figure out how to do it.

lazy susan under shelves



"Smart Waiter" with doors closed



"Smart Waiter" with doors open



pantry/+ spice shelves



To front of house

pantry + spice shelves

