

Madison FOURSQUARE

31

This issue of *Madison Foursquare* is brought to you by Scott Custis and Jeanne Gomoll, who live at 2825 Union Street, Madison, WI 53704.

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Scott Custis [SC] and Jeanne Gomoll [JG]

May 2019 for *Turbo-Charged Party Animal* #395.

Official Business

[SC] Our proposal to move to a fluctuating deadline failed, as I expected it would without the support of the OE. Had we known early on that Hope and Karl did not support the proposal, we would have withdrawn it. After all, fully half the purpose of making such a change was to benefit the OE. Instead, it seems, we have convinced Hope and Karl to quit after serving the apa as OE for the last 20 years. Well, fuck!

We probably should have made plain much earlier that we have had no issue with Hope and Karl's leadership or management of the apa since we rejoined. We have no desire to see them leave. We value the work they do for us. What I had intended to write after the proposal failed was to say that Jeanne and I would simply adjust the way we do our zine. Since we prefer to submit every month if we can, we would stop trying to read, make comments and write our own material in time for the next deadline if we were short on time. Instead, we'd do a minac zine and, if we felt compelled to write a couple comments after we finished reading the new issue, we'd put them in the following month. We would stop waiting for the apa to be finished before starting to prepare our next zine, and just deal with it whenever it became available. That is still an acceptable strategy for us.

We do not volunteer to replace Hope and Karl as OE.

Cover

[SC] Very nice, Jae. Jeanne and I were noticing that you must have hand-cut the "turbo apa" lettering for each cover. Cool.

Greg Rihn

[JG] I didn't enjoy *Dumbo* much as a kid, and we took a pass on it when the new version came to town. Your review made me feel we'd made the right decision.

[SC] I think Jeanne and I have seen a production of *The Rivals* at some point in the past because the plot, and especially your description of Mrs. Malaprop, sound very familiar. Maybe it will come around our way again. I also appreciated your sharing the details of General Joseph Bailey's contribution to the Red River campaign, which I had never read about before.

Georgie Schnobrich

[JG] I love the fact that one of your first reactions to the Tibetan mandalas was to imagine creating one as a cake design. And I immediately saw where you were going with your musing, that your cakes are your own transitory art. Nevertheless, I'd love to see a book of your cake images published some day, making them available to view for your many fans.

My brother, Steve, got to visit Tibet last year and reports sadly that the erasure of Tibetan culture is practically complete, in Tibet at least. China sent in enormous numbers of Chinese nationals to settle the region, and now native Tibetans are vastly outnumbered by immigrants.

Thank you for your lovely comment on our trip report and the Byron quote.

Re Notre Dame Cathedral -- I am actually rather excited about one of the proposed re-building plans involving a glass roof that would allow natural light to illuminate the space below and a new crystal spire. The new attic would retain the original proportions and all the lines of the original roof, but would be constructed out of steel and glass, and the space would be filled with greenery. Much less of a fire hazard, AND it would look spectacular at night.

[SC] I want to make a connection between the comments you made at the end of your zine, about the value of photographs in helping us preserve our past, to your observations at the beginning of your zine about art that is impermanent. At least in modern times, Tibetan mandalas and decorative cakes can be preserved in some sense in photographs. Does it somehow soften the impact of transient art after the mandala is swept away and the cake is devoured if they can still be partially preserved, possibly forever, in pictures?

Marilyn Holt

[JG] Thanks for the lovely tribute to your friendship with Vonda.

[SC] I also want to express my appreciation for your heartfelt memorial to your friend, Vonda.

Steve Johnson

[JG] From what I read, most of *Lost* was filmed on Oahu. Scott and I visited Oahu on our previous trip to Hawaii, but only for a couple days. We saw the World War II Memorial, spent a day in the very cosmopolitan and crowded city of Honolulu, and visited a wacky cultural center operated by Mormons. I don't think we were aware that there were *Lost* film locations nearby. I remember hoping to watch the surfers on the famous North Shore beaches, but the weather didn't cooperate. If we'd managed to get up there, however, we might have walked on the same beach on which the initial *Lost* crash survivors gathered. As for other film locations, I understand that many are owned privately.

However, on our first trip to Hawaii, we DID see one of the location shots from *Jurassic Park*, in Allerton Garden on Kaua'i.

Darlene Coltrain

[SC] Nice photos. Looking forward to visiting with you and Steve at WisCon

Jim Hudson and Diane Martin

[JG] I'm glad to hear that your basement work is nearly done and that you are pleased with how it has turned out!

Wow, you got to see Glenda Jackson's *Lear*! Envy.

Thanks again for giving us your tickets to the Leo Kottke show at the Stoughton Opera House. Kottke's guitar work was of course amazing and wonderful. He's gotten older as have we all, and I was amused by (and entirely sympathetic with) his introduction to the last song: "That was the last song, and now let's call this song the encore and dispense with all that silly walking off and back onto stage, so we can all go home and get to bed."

We enjoyed the Quebe Sisters concert at the Stoughton Opera House with you too.

[SC] Jeanne and I went out for sushi with Karen and Allan before the Leo Kottke show, which worked very well. Kottke was very good and his monologues between songs were interesting and amusing, but he showed some flashes of crankiness at times. Guess we're all getting a little older.

We have been watching *Les Miserables* (non-musical) on PBS. It's very good. I appreciate how this version helps to explain some of the plot leaps and gaps in the musical, but my favorite parts are the intensity Dominic West brings to the role of Jean Valjean and the interesting casting of a black actor, David Oyelowo, as Javert.

Kim and Kathi Nash

[SC] I was amused by your Mr. Grump vs. Ms. Positive personas this month. Kim, regarding WisCon, it feels like we could almost form a secret society within the convention

of old radicals with dangerous ideas. I am looking forward to seeing Pat Murphy and the Tiptree crowd, meeting the Tiptree winner, slipping into a few of GoH Charlie Jane Anders' events (I really liked her novel) and seeing the dwindling number of old friends brave enough to come back. Oh, and I may make time for a couple cold beers in the Bar.

Andy Hooper

[JG] Sounds like you are having fun filling in your family tree. The process rather reminds me of doing crosswords, where success with figuring out one word makes it easier to figure out neighboring clues.

Funny that you should mention waiting for the disaster to happen as you read our trip report. Foreshadowing doom and comical portrayal of said doom is one of the most common, and is one of my favorite, kind of fannish storytelling. Certainly I have indulged in it more than a few times. I could have written a very different trip report, focusing on too many hours spent in planes, or on how Mauna Kea continues to rebuff our efforts to see its peak and the observatory, or even my malicious knee. But then, because of how powerfully the writing of events affects my memory of those events, I would tend to remember that stuff rather than the thrilling and happy parts of our vacation.

Thanks for posting Ginger Buchanan's funny piece, which is another kind of fannish storytelling, often posing as a conreport, involving the journey to (or in this case *from*) the convention.

[SC] I find myself drawn into your genealogical digressions partly because of the rather amazing level of detail you are able to find via online sources. It's tempting to do some genealogical research of my own family tree to see what turns up. I'm always pulled in by your engaging storytelling.

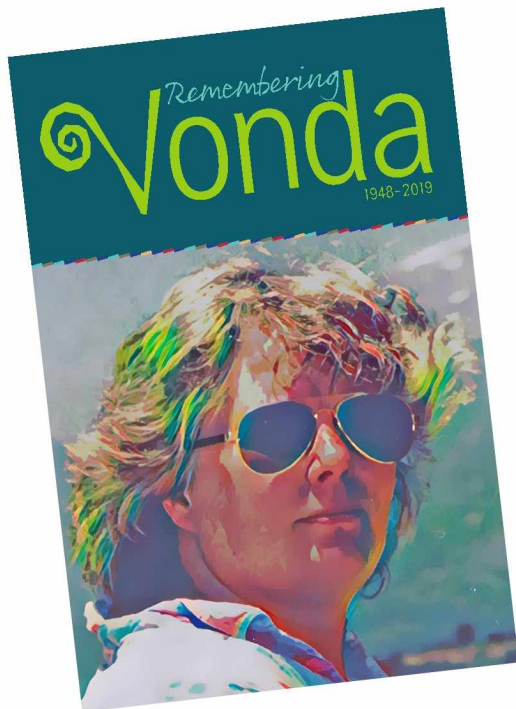
Thanks also for including the very amusing Ginger Buchanan piece.

Regarding your comment to us, I have never been much of a swimmer, partly because I am a sinker. Whenever I'm in a pool or lake, I have to move constantly to keep from sinking. Jeanne can lay out flat in the water and even doze off. Finally, in the ocean, I got to feel that sensation. I could lay in the water, arms and legs spread out as if I were laying on a beach towel, not move at all and float easily. It was great, I could have stayed out there for hours.

Patrick Ijima-Washburn

[SC] I hope the rest of your trip to the U.S. went smoothly. You made a great effort to put your time in L.A. to good use. I think if it was me, I'd just want to look for a quiet place to hide out and sleep for 10 hours. I loved the photos. I hope to hear how the rest of the trip went at some point.

What's new



[JG] I got permission to use a much better photo of Vonda and made a new cover for the book that is now titled, *Remembering Vonda*. The deadline for submissions was May 11 and Stephanie Ann Smith and I hope to publish the book sometime in the early summer as a print-on-demand book.

Spending so much time working on the book and thinking about Vonda, I also made a St. Vonda candle for the Tiptree auction that I like a lot. But other than that, I haven't been doing a lot of work in preparation for the auction and I need to get a move on. I haven't been enjoying doing the auction for the last few years, and that's a sign, for sure, that it's time for me to step back from it. Pat Murphy is also ready to retire from the auction. We are hoping that someone takes it over in 2020, but if they don't, that will be it, I think. Sumana is still interested in auctioning, but there is a lot more work involved than what happens on stage Saturday night. So, if no one steps up, I will probably suggest that the Tiptree Motherboard offer the auction to WisCon as a fund-raiser for themselves and daughter groups.

Diane Martin and I continue to work on the new edition of Suzette Haden Elgin's *Láadan Dictionary*. We had a lovely lunch the other day and mapped out a strategy, but we don't have a publication date in mind yet.



Scott and I will be going to Seattle for Vonda's Memorial gathering on June 9. We'll be there just for the weekend.

It's MOREL season! And it's going to be a very good season. We've had perfect weather: wet, not hot. Scott actually found a handful of morels in our back yard a few days ago and we ate them with perch for supper. But of course the hunting is best up around the capitol square, Saturday mornings during the farmers' market.

[SC] Life goes on. No big exciting adventures to report beyond enjoying a frequently cool, wet spring interrupted occasionally with strikingly beautiful days. When possible I have been trying to take a long walk or bike ride on the nice days. For our size, Madison has an excellent bike trail network and I have been gradually exploring it this year. I have nailed down preferred routes around Lake Monona and through the U.W. Arboretum as I begin to explore farther and farther out the west side of town. No rush, I have all summer.

We have also begun to look at cars. Our Lincoln Continental is 20 years old and, if we are hoping to take some long cross-country drives in the next few years, we need something newer. Trouble is, we don't quite know what we want. We are a one car couple, so that car has to be able to do most of what we both want and need in a car. We know we want something smaller and more gas-efficient than the old Lincoln, but a lot has changed in the car industry over the years and we were not paying much attention. Recently on a trip to Iowa, we rented a new Toyota Rav4 to see what we thought. It seemed to be a good size. I liked the all-wheel drive, rear camera and the smart cruise control that would not let me rear-end someone in my traffic lane when the cruise was engaged. Jeanne thought getting in and out of the Rav4 was better than the somewhat low seats of the Lincoln, but the seats themselves were significantly less comfortable than our car. I thought the Rav4 sounded a little tinny compared to the solid-sounding Lincoln. We may look at some other cars in the Rav4 vehicle class, but we are far from sold on anything yet.

Jeanne and Scott
May 2019