

Madison four square

95

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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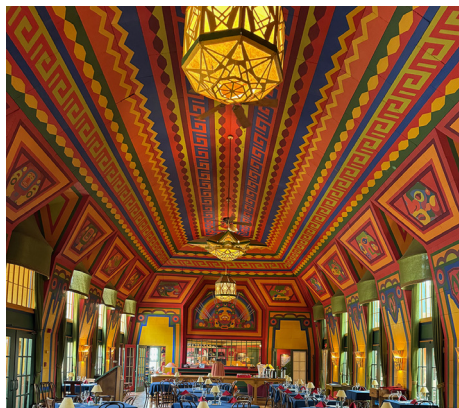
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North Shore trip report with maps and photos

[JG] Scott and I spent some relaxing time in Minnesota last week, mostly along Lake Superior's North Shore. Calling it a "vacation" when we are already retired doesn't seem quite accurate, but **Georgie** assures me (in Facebook) that it is OK: "I figure 'vacation' merely suggests you pack up and 'vacate' – go somewhere other than where you live." OK, then. Scott and I vacated first to Duluth where we stayed for two nights and took a pleasant harbor cruise one beautiful afternoon. I'm a little grumpy, I know, but I would enjoy doing cruises more if I could find some without stand-up wanna-be comedians narrating the trip. Ah well, it was a lovely day anyway.

The next day we headed up to Gooseberry Falls State Park. Gooseberry Falls is one of dozens of waterfalls that plunge over the escarpment running parallel to Lake Superior's North Shore. During the 1600s and 1700s, when voyageurs canoed into the northern Canadian wilderness to trade for beaver pelts with natives, each of them was required to carry several enormous, 90-pound packs, in addition to their canoes, on their backs up this slippery, steep escarpment before they could begin paddling northward via the many rivers and connected lakes into the wilderness. I wonder if they thought the waterfalls were pretty. I think I would have been cursing the whole way. Scott and I were burdened with no heavy packs and in fact enjoyed an accessible, asphalt pathway to Gooseberry Falls. After a few hours we headed northeast again, past Grand Marais, up to Naniboujou Lodge.

We stayed at Naniboujou Lodge for a few days. Our first visit, during the 1980s, was inspired by an ad announcing that Naniboujou served high tea. That's no longer on offer, but the place has become one of my



Naniboujou Dining Hall

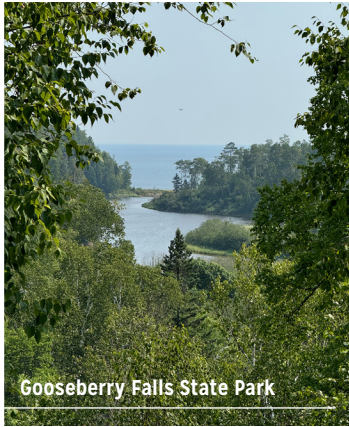


Vacation route

Naniboujou ceiling detail



Duluth Harbor



Gooseberry Falls State Park



JG & SC at Gooseberry Falls State Park



Naniboujou ceiling detail



Floating Island



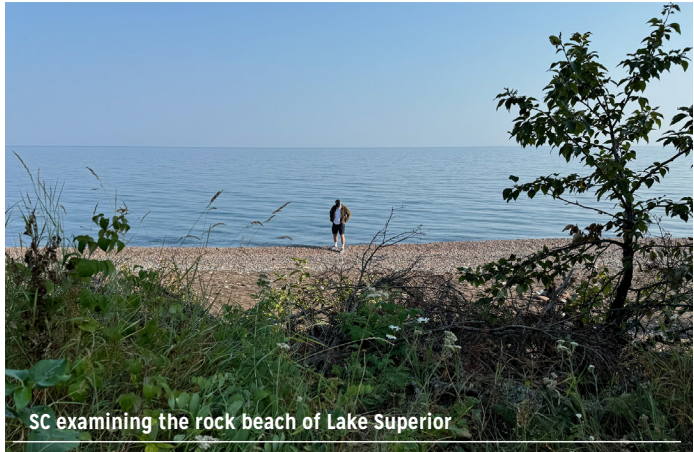
JG at Naniboujou



SC waiting for breakfast in Naniboujou dining hall



Naniboujou Lodge. You can see the Brule River emptying into Lake Superior behind Naniboujou.



SC examining the rock beach of Lake Superior



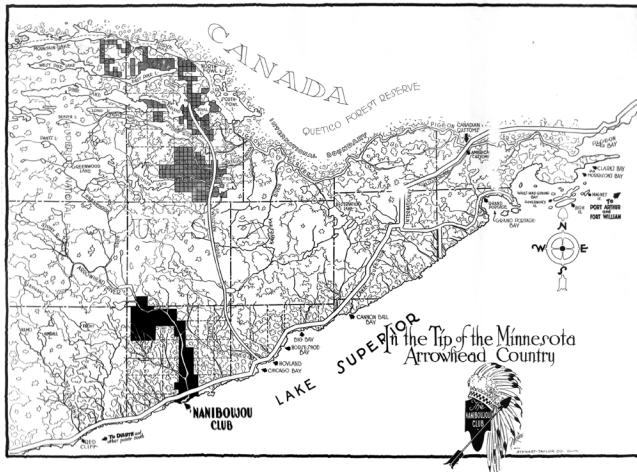
View through Naniboujou window



Naniboujou sconce



Audrey 2 on stage, Little Shop of Horrors



favorite “vacation” spots, and praise be, they still serve the same delicious white chocolate scones. Naniboujou was built a few miles northeast of Grand Marais, Minnesota in the 1920s as an ultra-exclusive private sporting club. The original owners planned to purchase a huge swath of land between the lake and the Canadian border and envisaged further development: an enormous hunting lodge close to the border. But those plans were short circuited by the stock market crash, and much of the land (the Brule River, and the stunning Devil’s Kettle waterfall) was sold to the state of Minnesota which designated it as Judge CR Magney State Park. Nevertheless, before they lost their fortunes, the investors did manage to build a really fabulous lodge on the shore of Lake Superior, whose design always mesmerizes me, at least when I’m not mesmerized by the view of Lake Superior. I will never get tired of looking at the amazing and gaudy colors in the dining room – featuring Cree Indian ornaments flavored (heavily) with Art Deco design. That’s where many of the photos you see page 2 were taken.

Naniboujou Lodge rents its rooms and provides meals (breakfast and dinner) in two- or three-day packages. We chose a 3-day package. Despite the fact that Lake Superior’s shore was visible through the dining hall’s windows, I ignored the lake view and spent mealtimes gazing upward and around at the walls. Triangulador would love the vibrant colors in this place.

We met three women heading out onto the lake to look for agates on the last day of our stay. Lake Superior’s water temperature averages in the mid-60s during the summer, so even though the women were only planning to wade knee-deep into the water, they had equipped themselves with heavy rubber gators, as well as canes to keep them balanced in the waves whenever they bent down to pick up a stone. They seemed to be having a great time and told us that

they’d been meeting at Naniboujou annually for many years to hunt agates.

After a few days we headed south to Minneapolis where we visited with my niece, Sara, and her fiancé Casey, toured their new house, ate a dinner made from vegies from their garden, and had a great, wide-ranging conversation. We discovered that Sara’s mom (Betsy, my brother Steve’s first wife) was planning to attend a play at the Guthrie Theater the next night which was an amazing coincidence, because Scott and I also had Guthrie tickets that very same night. Only we were going to see *Little Shop of Horrors* while Betsy and her partner, Bobby, were going to see a different play. So, we met Betsy and Bobby for drinks and conversation before the shows.

We enjoyed vacating.

Comments

Cover

[JG] I had so much fun making the cover for *Turbo* #458, that I wrote a note to Gerri Sullivan and asked her if she would like me to do a cover for her fanzine, *Idea*, in the same style. I’m working on that now.

Lisa Freitag

[SC] Welcome back. I’ve missed you. Speaking as a former Iowa boy who has been to New York City a few times, I love visiting there. I doubt I would ever choose to live there, even if money were no object. To be honest, as Iowa marches steadfastly into a MAGA political quagmire, I doubt I would ever live there again either.

[JG] We saw the photo of the great pile of boxes holding the books that Greg and you brought home from New York. Yikes. Nearly everyone I know is talking about downsizing, but you guys are bringing in more books to your lives! Phew. It’s a lucky thing you own a bookstore.

I visited the Cloisters many years ago. The Unicorn Tapestry has always fascinated me. Are those wounds in the unicorn’s flesh or pomegranate drippings from the overhanging tree? The chain doesn’t look very secure, but why is the unicorn chained in the first place? I should read up on it someday, though I admit that I sort of like letting it be a mystery.

I checked out “The Word of Your Body” on YouTube (sung by Miranda/Miranda). *Spring Awakening* sounds like a really interesting play.



I strongly disagree with your opinion that we no longer need a Tiptree/Otherwise Award or conventions like WisCon. The lack of celebration of feminist and gender-bending fiction won't help our culture's tendency to disrespect and forget the authors of that kind of fiction. While I disparage some of the actions of the Motherboard and WisCon's concom have taken, I mourn the valuable service they have provided in the past and which I think we still need.

Greg Rihn

[SC] It seems you guys are encountering a rash of way-too-loud experiences. It's sad that your otherwise fine day at German Fest was interrupted. We saw the musical *Little Shop of Horrors* at the Guthrie in Minneapolis on vacation. We had great seats about three rows from the front. It was not painfully loud, but it was loud enough to obscure some of the song lyrics. We looked at each other and wished we had subtitles, which we frequently use at home.

Thanks for the *Coup* review.

[JG] *Little Shop of Horrors* inspired Scott and I to remember **Georgie's** and your comments about the booming volume of so many staged musicals these days. I could really have used earplugs during the performance and it definitely decreased my enjoyment of the play. (The sound level made me more uncomfortable than Scott felt.) And then, not too long after we got back home, we read a review of the 2024 season of American Players Theater, published in *The New York Times*. (The NYT reporter loved APT, in case you wondered.) I was fascinated by the reporter's comments on APT's extremely unusual choice *not* to provide microphones for the actors, and instead to train them to project their voices into the crowd and enunciate clearly. I didn't realize that APT's choice was unusual and so I suppose that I've gotten used to un-miked

performances, which explains my distaste for musical plays produced as if they were raucous rock concerts. Maybe the goal of blasting us from stages is to get us all used to F-16 jets roaring overhead at low altitudes.

Georgie Schnobrich

[SC] I think "I have always had an affinity for pointy, edged tools" is something I will store in my Things-to-Keep-in-Mind-About-Georgie file. Also, "battle-axe" is not meant to be a metaphor in Georgie-world.

It has been fun lately watching the MAGA dreadnought take on water and begin to sink into the sea, but my personal hope is that we are able to pull off a surprise victory in Florida, Ohio or Texas to counter post-election shenanigans I believe the Trumpers are counting on in the battleground states. I have already heard a story that an internal Trump campaign email was uncovered that advised removing assets from (contested state) New Hampshire and sending them elsewhere because the campaign is already lost there.

[JG] I fully support the idea of transforming insulting words and metaphors into positive banners. I remember David Brin's confused reaction when the Tiptree Motherboard gleefully thanked him for his characterization of us as a "feminist cabal." We published several books under the name, "Cabal Press." But I find it even more delightful that you were able to convert a derogatory phrase, battle axe, into a much-prized physical object.

I love how the MAGA folks seem to be floundering, unable to react to Harris/Walz's unconventional attacks. Republicans don't seem to know how to fight effectively against humor.

I also came home from vacation with some weird insect bites that itched for weeks and still haven't healed a month later. But I do know which insects

bit me: they were *flies*. While we were sitting in lawn chairs gazing out onto Lake Superior, several vicious flies found us and began biting my ankles furiously—right through my compression stockings. Blood was drawn. And soon afterward, the itching commenced. I'm used to this happening with mosquito bites and it's bad enough that mosquito bites itch for several days, but these fly bites drove me crazy for two weeks. Maybe that's what bit you.

Jim Brooks

[SC] It is so good to have you back with us again, welcome. Elegant zine! I think your writing “muscles” have not gotten out of shape.

Re your Journey of a Thousand Steps, I'm no fan of flying but I have never had a trip go so far sideways in so many ways as this misbegotten adventure.

[JG] Your therapist prescribed writing for the apa, truly? Will your therapist read your zines? Perhaps they'd like to join the apa. I'd love to see a psychologist's mailing comments. Joking, just joking.

What a frustrating travel experience! Wow. I hope you got a refund.

Elizabeth once shared an article with me that she had written about stories told about the origins of the Tiptree Award. She did enough research about what actually happened to cause me to blush about my tendency to “bend” the truth. And at least one-co-founder of WisCon (Hank Luttrell) has objected to my telling of WisCon's origin story because my story has proliferated in fannish mythology, while he remembers the event from a different perspective. So, yeah, good advice about listening carefully to re-told stories; much can be learned.

Thanks for your comments (and Luther B. Beebee's amusing interruption) on *Monsieur Spade*. I don't think I've actually read anything by Hammett. I relied mostly on movie versions to appreciate this latest Spade variation, just as I did when I read another Hammett take-off, this one of Nick and Nora Charles stories – Mary Robinette Kowal's *The Spare Man*. Did you read that novel?

Your description of dialysis treatment was terrifying. I had no idea.

Catie Pfeifer

[SC] Doing comments on two issues of the apa is not a trivial effort, Catie. I appreciate it. Can we look forward to another con report on Fan Expo, and photos? Please?

Steven Vincent Johnson

[SC] Re your hernia girdle, I hope you appreciate that I was expressing the exact same sentiment as Bill Bodden, I just did it with a theatrical flair.

[JG] I'm looking forward to seeing your video at TurboCon, Steve!

Marilyn Holt

[SC] It's always good to hear from you, Marilyn. Don't fret about comments. Comments are not required. I liked your story about rounding up cattle. I grew up on a farm and my dad raised sheep. Dad had good fences, but on rare occasions some sheep would get out on the road that ran past our property. We had to hustle to respond because our road carried trucks from a stone quarry and they drove like maniacs. Fortunately, the sheep were trained to come to eat when called by clapping hands so rounding them up did not require a lot of running around. Cattle are probably more work to corral.

I like the photo of your house with barn swallows.

[JG] Who will eventually inherit your farm? Will the property continue to be handed down within your family?

Carrie Root

[SC] It's too bad **Andy** had a “shitty” birthday, but that's looking at it the wrong way. Successful home repairs/improvements should be celebrated. Stick a candle in a slice of pizza for Andy and go admire your new porcelain throne.

Re your comment to **Kim & Kathi**, I also don't understand old people moving to live in the heat. Heat can kill. Wet bulb temperature die-offs are coming and old people are especially susceptible. August has been typically hot and dry here in Madison and I'm tired of it. We managed to escape the extreme heatwaves much of the country is experiencing so it's hard for me to complain, but I'm ready for fall.

Years ago, Jeanne and I read and enjoyed Barbara Kingsolver's superb *The Poisonwood Bible*. As I write this I'm halfway through her sublime 2009 novel, *The Lacuna*, involving a journey through Mexico and America in the first half of the 20th century featuring historical figures like Diego Rivera, Frida Kahlo, Leon Trotsky and others. It had been sitting on Jeanne's to-read shelf for years. When she decided to let go of her to-read paper



books in favor of ebooks, I grabbed it. I wanted to read it before Kingsolver's newest novel, Pulitzer Prize winner *Demon Copperhead*, came out in trade paperback this month. Today I picked up a copy and look forward to reading it soon.

[JG] The picture of Jonah wearing a Harris t-shirt reminds me of the year (2004) that Hurricane Jeanne ripped through the eastern US. I collected photos of signs for a couple days ("Go Away Jeanne!"), thinking they'd eventually become an amusing souvenir. I don't know where they are anymore. But I hope you keep a few souvenirs for Jonah of the year his namesake ran for president!

Andy Hooper

[SC] Cool story of Paul C. Reynolds/Shock Armstrong. A rebellious teenage ghoulish character would not have occurred to me as a horror host.

Re your comment to [Elizabeth](#) on moving to Madison to retire, I don't tend to think of Madison as a retirement destination. Still, a significant number of us in the local fan group have quietly chosen not to flee to somewhere else in retirement. I think in most cases, we have made large long-term investments in our homes over the years and don't want to start over somewhere else, but there is also a lot to like in Madison as an older person. Access to excellent healthcare being one thing. Better than average mass transit (for a city our size) being another. If we've managed to pay off our homes, the cost of living here is do-able. Winters have been getting milder (although the likelihood of getting pummeled by a monster snowfall has increased in my opinion). Madison looks nice, is not too big, and the student population keeps the city from feeling too sleepy. The Pacific Northwest, Minnesota, and maybe a few places in New England might attract me, but overall, I don't see anywhere else in the U.S. I'd rather live in retirement than right here.

[JG] ...in addition to Scott's list of Madison's positive points for retirees, I expect things will improve when Republicans no longer hold a majority in both legislative houses. Right now, MAGA legislative types see Madison as a punching bag and do everything they can to penalize our progressive city and university. But Wisconsin's districts are getting un-gerrymandered and things are going to change significantly over the next couple state-wide elections.

I thought of you, Andy, when Scott I toured The Great Wisconsin Quilt Show at the Alliant Energy Center, Sunday, September 6. We saw some great quilts, and so much color! I was of course thinking about how Triangulador can finish one of his paintings within hours – compared to the hundreds of hours that are required to make a quilt. Nevertheless, I saw many quilts that use color in ways that Triangulador might duplicate on a mattress. And then we got to a quilt that inspired both Scott and I to say, "Hooper should see this." I don't know if my photo will do it justice because there is not much color variation in this quilt. The quilt stitching on this one followed elevation lines on a map of the Gettysburg battlefield. It is titled, "Second Day of the Battle of Gettysburg" by Neil Anderson of Humble, Texas.



Jae Leslie Adams

[SC] Re your comment to me for #457, *Future Shock* was written by Alvin Toffler. Toffler was a magazine editor and businessman. Eric Hoffer was a drifter with a sketchy past who became prominent after he wrote *The True Believer* and nine other books.

Thank you for the postcard with the funny Mader's restaurant ad from 1939. Surprisingly Mader's in Milwaukee is still serving good German food.

Re your comment to me for #458, a new Mustang convertible would have definitely stretched my allowance as a 9-year-old in 1965, but I found it much more affordable when I actually bought a used one ten years later. I remember seeing, and being bowled over by, *Who Killed the Electric Car*. I like your dog talking strategy of seeming to be speaking to the dog while indirectly complimenting the owner.

[JG] I remember writing about women's diaries in early issues of my first apazine, *Obsessions*. But women's diaries did not survive as one of my actual obsessions, maybe because I lost interest when I failed to identify themes or motifs that carried through enough of those diaries to allow me to pounce on a pattern or a theory. And now feminist scholars are collecting material from the lives of feminist fan writers of the 70s and 80s. What will they conclude? Will they find patterns and come up with theories? I'd love to know if the stuff we wrote and drew and organized back in the day will be of interest to folks in the future. But I remember Brook Street, for sure: a nice little house, a quiet but very convenient neighborhood for a person who got around town exclusively with a bike. When I think of *Obsessions*, it is always with a visual backdrop of my attic office in my Brook Street house.

Jim Hudson & Diane Martin

[SC] I'm so sorry to you both on the passing of Maxine.

Thanks for mentioning the Raz Mobility phone option. I can think of someone in my family back in Iowa who may eventually find that sort of phone a useful option.

Your trip to Chicago sounds very pleasant. Think how nice it would be if we could just jump on a train to Chicago or Minneapolis from Madison. Wouldn't that be lovely and sensible? Once again, why can't we have nice things in this state?

I picked up a copy of *Some Desperate Glory* by Emily Tesh. I did not think it was one of your favorites, Jim, but it sounded interesting to me.

Nice photos once again.

[JG] We stopped by to see you guys after Diane's surgery and completely missed seeing the new couch; nor did I look up and inspect your new roof! I will pay better attention the next time we visit. I'm glad that you enjoyed a nice weekend in Chicago before Diane's surgery and the travails of care and recovery. What a good idea that was!

Lovely photos.

Elizabeth Matson

[SC] I am so sorry for your loss of Nick the Greyhound. He was a good dog and a good friend. It's sad that you could not be with him at the end, but there was no way you could have known and it's not reasonable to put your life on hold just in case. You did the best you could and you were a good friend, too.

Otherwise, your trip to Guelph sounded wonderful. You must seize every chance to see your 90-year-old mom, of course, but you did a bunch of other cool things, too. I enjoyed reading about it all. Special thanks for sharing your discovery of a "pie flight." That idea just rocks! Congrats on the sale of your yurt. Time to make new plans, which could be fun.

[JG] I'm so sorry you weren't able to be with Nick when he died. That must have been heartbreaking for you ... and him, too. But I agree with Scott that you should not feel guilty. I'm so glad that you two had each other for as long as you did.

I like how the word "storytelling" has been shortened to "telling," and how that word somehow says more for being shorn of a syllable, maybe because its ambiguity suggests a larger idea. I don't know exactly why this pleases me, but every time you use the word, I mentally stop short and smile.

I'm glad to hear that your mom is still doing well and that you were able to share so many memory-making experiences with her during your visit.

Steve Swartz

[SC] The *Little, Big* discussion has drawn some interesting comments. I again enjoyed your deep insights into the story. I know I'm probably taking it too literally, but I'm trying to leave myself open to the larger themes moving through the narrative.

Thanks for the Hugo book reviews. *The Saint of Bright Doors* and *Some Desperate Glory* sounded the most attractive to me. Are you thinking of any of them as book discussion group possibilities? Sounds like the family trip was a good relaxing time except for bringing home the virus. I was a little appalled at your story of getting eight buyers for the condo furniture, but seven of them were scammers. Wow. I hope the rest of your plan to get the condo rented worked out okay despite the crud you were suffering.

Re your comment to me on APT, yes, I saw the positive piece in the *NYT*. For a long time, the late *Wall Street Journal* reviewer, Terry Teachout, was a big APT fan and once praised it as the best classical theater company in America. When he passed away, I figured APT likely lost their only nationally known theater advocate, so it's nice to see some love from the *NYT*.

Your car story was way more interesting than what I remember of the Mustang's fate from almost 50 years ago. I lost control and went into a ditch late at night on a quiet road. I bent or broke an axle, which totaled my \$500 car. The only interesting part was that I knew a tow truck guy back then who was willing to bend the rules. He pulled out my car and junked it for me. No cops, insurance issues, and very little paperwork. I borrowed a car for a week or so before buying my next vehicle.

[JG] Thanks for the mini-reviews of the books you've been reading. And congratulations on getting to so many of the Hugo nominated works.

I agree with you about David Levine's writing. I enjoyed *The Kuiper Belt Job* in much the same way as I might enjoy a sitcom series. *Kuiper* is actually the second of his books I've read. The first was *Arabella of Mars*, which didn't inspire me to read the rest of the series, so *Kuiper* confirmed my opinion.

As I've probably mentioned before, *Catch-22* is one of my favorite novels of all time and one of the few books I have read multiple times. I am also impressed by its structure and in fact think that its structure visually mirrors the paradoxical nature of the catch-22 idea. I wrote a paper in college about the idea. When asked, I usually summarize the novel as Yossarian's quest for and experimentation with various forms of escape from an insane world.

Sorry to hear that you and Allison caught a plague back from your family visit. And what a hassle to deal with Marketplace scammers. I've encountered a couple of



those. But our most recent Marketplace experience – during our quest to sell a snake tongue plant that has grown so gigantic and root-bound, that we began to fear it would kill Scott the next time it had to be moved – we just encountered way too many people who began to negotiate and then ghosted us. So rude.

Edle Oliverson died just one year before Scott and I bought our house from the Oliverson family. I imagine her death was an important factor in the family's decision to sell their house.

In addition to the black monolith house, we can now look across our backyard and see a SECOND, chip-off-the-old-block, black monolith house. (Photo, above) Tim, the owner of the bigger house, is the father of John, who lives in the house next door. The smaller, ranch-style house has been in dire need of new siding for several years, and it looks to us like Tim stepped up to make repairs for his kid. Perhaps Tim offered John some left-over black panels from his house. Or perhaps, he got a good deal on black siding when he built his house and ordered extra panels. I am bummed. I had been really hoping to see more COLOR in the view across our backyard. Scott suggested we ask Triangulador to stage an artistic intervention.

Luke McGuff

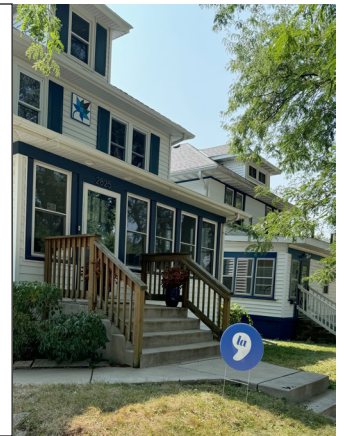
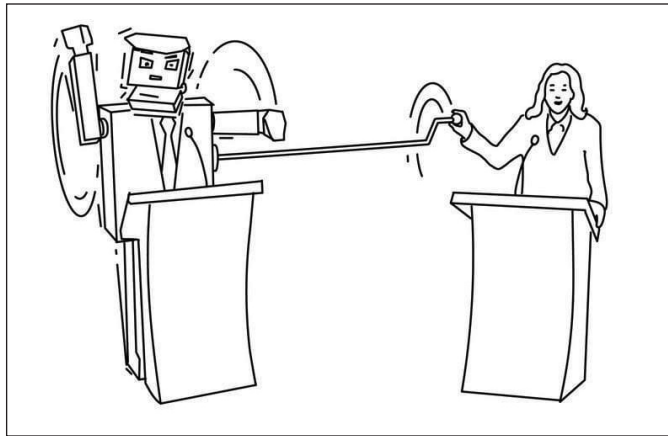
[SC] Congratulations on a successful year as purple martin landlords. Onward and upward to next season.

I keep lists of books read partly to avoid accidentally re-reading something I did not intend to re-read. *Rough Trade* and *The Best Bad Things* are set in a period I like reading about, thanks for the suggestions. Like TV shows, I like to wait on book series until all the volumes are published to avoid having to wait for the next one (and either lose interest or have to re-read earlier installments.) I can think of at least two series I'm stuck finishing because I read the first volume years ago and now need to re-read it before finishing the series.

I like how the Harris/Walz ticket has energized the campaign. I'm still sad that Joe Biden has had to step out. He was very strong on foreign policy and brilliant at getting Congress to pass stuff. Kamala is no stranger to Congress, but I don't believe anyone will be as successful at passing legislation as another term of Scranton Joe. Your postcard work is a very cool way to volunteer with the time and energy constraints you have.

[JG] I began reading Patrick O'Brian's Aubrey/Maturin series soon after O'Brian died. For years I'd been hearing friends talk about how they loved that series, saying that if I liked Jane Austin's books, I'd also like O'Brian. And they were right. I hesitate around open-ended series, for reasons similar to yours. But when I heard that O'Brian had died, I thought – "OK!" (well, after I said, "How sad.") That meant I could read the series (containing 20 books) and not be forced to wait for the next book. Also, the publisher ran an on-line offer: the first book of the series was FREE! So, I read the series in 3- or 4-book gulps, which perfectly matched the length of the arc plots: each was resolved in the third or fourth book. I would read three or four O'Brian books and then take a break and read one or two or five books by other authors. Then I'd order the next set of O'Brian books and start in again. I became deeply enmeshed in maritime terminology, the state of natural philosophy, general science, and British Admiralty history of the early 1800s, and enjoyed the relationship between the two characters Aubrey and Maturin. However, when I finally got to the last book of the series,

I recognized the downside to reading a series by a deceased author: the last book of the series was not the last book of the plot arc. The book, in fact, ended with a cliff-hanger. I no longer remember any details about the dangling plot, but I can tell you that I was not happy.

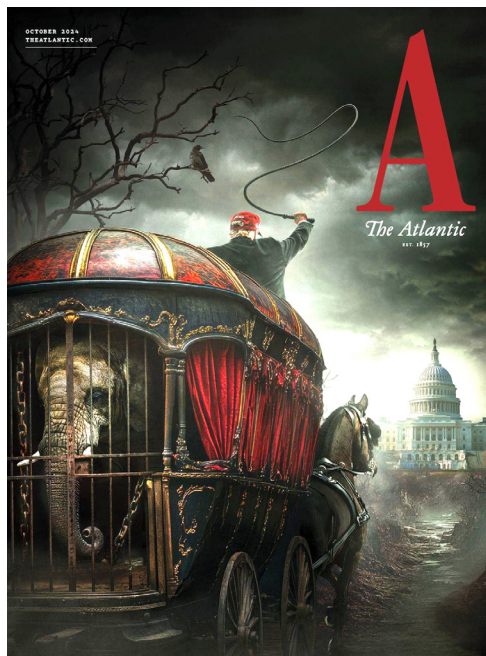


Oh my god, I had the same bad experience with a book that you had with Wells' *Witch King*. It's sooo frustrating to remember a chapter after you have read it, but still not be able to remember what comes next. The author of the book I read was an acquaintance and she was eager to hear what I thought of her book. I did come up with a good (and true) statement: "I read it twice!" She had no idea how NOT a compliment that statement was.

I hope you enjoy biking after dark. That was one of the most pleasurable parts of biking for me, especially along quiet, deserted city streets.

My mood has continued to improve as I watch the Harris/Walz team work. I am so hopeful that things will turn out well. We were also surprised that the Wisconsin referendums were soundly defeated. It portends good things about November's election. But the potential for disaster still looms: For *The Atlantic's* October cover, illustrator Justin Metz borrowed the visual language of old Ray Bradbury and Stephen King paperbacks to portray a circus wagon on its ominous approach to a defiled Capitol. Metz says that Ray Bradbury's *Something Wicked This Way Comes*, was a particular inspiration.

Good for you for doing the postcards for Harris/Walz!



Kim & Kathi Nash

[SC] Wow, that brake story was scary. My dealer is the Kia on Odana Road, is that the dealer you were talking about?

Kathi, good luck doing your workouts with a brace. Hope that helps over the long run.

[JG] I think you are right: the Kia dealership got off really easily. I'm glad you didn't have an accident as a result of the brakes issue.

Pat Hario

[SC] Re your comment to me on Siskel and Ebert, I agree with you about Siskel's opinions except for fantasy and SF movies where I felt Ebert was more of a true fan. Whenever either of them complained that a film's plot was "too complicated," Jeanne and I both treated that as a recommendation.

These days I think I rely too much on reviews in the *NYT* and the *Washington Post* because I see them every day. I used to regularly read reviews in the weekly *Isthmus* (which is monthly now and doesn't bother with movie reviews) and the A.V. Club in *The Onion* (they have since split up, you have to go to a website for A.V. Club reviews now, which I rarely remember to do.) I think fewer independent movies are making it to movie theaters and it seems that many interesting films are released on a wide range of streaming services instead. These days Jeanne and I will often go weeks between seeing a movie in a theater when we used to go almost every week.

I love that you are an "opinionated" person. In case you haven't noticed, you are very far from the only one in this apa. Re your comment to **Steve S., Andy's** advice is good advice that I often don't use. Meeting the apa deadline usually drives my writing more than having "something to say" and unfortunately, I think it shows. You are doing a much better job at apa-hacking than I am.

[JG] Ooo, ooo, I can be opinionated too. Thus...

I'm sorry if I sounded like I believed that bus shelters should be required to do double-duty – both as places to wait for buses, and also as homeless shelters. I don't think that. I meant my comment to be read as a sarcastic one – highlighting the way bus shelter design seems to prioritize discouraging street people from hanging out, over the shelters' actual purpose. We've ended up with shelter roofs with openings that allow rain through, walls that are hardly able to deflect strong winds, and uncomfortable (or no) seating. I remember listening to a couple city council hearings years ago when the bus hubs were introduced. That's when these design elements were specifically endorsed by neighborhood groups and business folks. People who testified before the city

council demanded that the hubs should be designed to be as uncomfortable as possible, because if they were too inviting, the hubs would act as magnets to street people looking for places to hang out. I noticed that few of the folks who testified used mass transit themselves. It was clear that they didn't care if people waiting for a bus in the middle of a rainstorm or blizzard were battered by the weather; in fact, it seemed to me that many of the folks testifying classified bus-riders in the same category as street people – both commuters and street people were undesirable in that few of them owned cars and therefore must belong to a suspiciously lower income bracket than the homeowners in the area, and were therefore untrustworthy, or maybe just unworthy.

Jeannie Bergmann

[SC] Re your comment to **Andrea**, I like the idea of poison ivy as a ground cover. Talk about "get off my lawn"! I expect that a complaint from a neighbor would result in the city declaring it a noxious weed and order me to get rid of it, but I like the idea.

Re your comment to us, the only reason I would not want to be Elon Musk is because Elon Musk is an asshole, and he does nothing to hide that fact from the public.

I liked "Off the Main Sequence."

[JG] Me too!

WHAT'S NEW

WisCon news

[JG] From the newest newsletter (8/19/24) comes the announcement that WisCon 2025 lacks a chair. WisCon will not happen next year unless volunteers step forward to chair the convention. They say they need...

"...at least three (3) Co-Chairs by end of August. At least one of these people should have had some previous experience with WisCon/SF³ in a pre-con role, meaning that the person is current or former member of the ConCom, Personnel Committee, Comms, or the SF³ Board."

I'm guessing that the short deadline, less than two weeks after the newsletter was published, means that the SF³ Board is under pressure to make a commitment to the Concourse Hotel quickly as per their hotel contract. The Concourse charges rather scary penalties for canceling a contracted event; the penalties rise precipitously over time. Now it's past the end of August and so I assume that the concom has probably

made a decision, but I haven't received any additional announcements about the 2025 WisCon yet.

The Otherwise Award news

[JG] Jed Hartman posted the latest newsletter (8/16/24) from the Otherwise Motherboard and announced that, from now on, there will be no award winners; there will just be a published honor list, and possibly a long list. No ceremonies, no cash awards, no art prizes, and no chocolate will be presented to a winner or winners. The newsletter made no mention of the auction. The only thing that the Motherboard will produce is a recommended reading list. However, the Fellowship program will continue as is. The Motherboard plans to pay staff people to do infrastructure/support work, such as an administrative coordinator to support the jury, which I assume will be funded by the Award's savings.

It looks to me like the group has concluded that since no motherboard members are willing or able to do certain jobs, that those jobs must be eliminated in order to keep the Otherwise Award alive. I am confused about how the Otherwise Award can call itself that, however, if they don't honor an actual winner with, you know, an award.

Screen entertainments

[JG] Apparently, we saw no movies in theaters this past month. I didn't even realize it until I started typing out this list. That's unusual for us, but really there never seemed to be anything worthwhile showing and we have a list of series and movies available to stream that more than make up for the lack.

Civil War (Prime) I'd certainly classify this movie as science fiction. It takes place in a dystopian future America, and focuses on a team of military-embedded journalists who race against time to reach Washington, D.C., before rebel factions descend upon the White House. The rebel factions can't be identified as followers of either MAGA or left-wing groups. In fact, the rebel factions come from several regions—Colorado, Texas, and Florida. Nick Offerman plays the dictatorial president of the United States, and it's hard not to see

him as a Trump stand-in, but this movie is not about current politics so much as it is about journalism and journalists. I was more impressed than I thought I would be. When it came out in the theaters, Scott and I decided not to go see it, mostly because we assumed it might be a right-wing wet dream, which seems to have been supported by the previews we saw.

Hotel Portofino (Prime) The wife of a Count and daughter of a wealthy industrialist, who manages a quintessentially British hotel on the Italian Riviera during the 1920s — all while Benito Mussolini's brand of fascism threatened, American prohibition chased mob bosses to Europe to buy liquor, and the stock market crash changed everything. There is a lot of eye-popping scenery, gorgeous costumes, good acting, and engaging stories. It's a soap opera in the style of *Downton Abby*, *Belgravia*, and *The Gilded Age*. We had fun watching it.

In Treatment (Max) Based on an Israeli Academy Award-winning TV drama series, this series (premiered in 2008) features a psychologist confronting some uneasy personal truths while they treat their patients. Each season, in the course of six weeks, four patients visit the therapist once a week; with each visit comprising an episode. We watch the patient's progress and admire the psychologist's skills, but more to the point, we witness bravura performances by the actors who play the patients. For the first three seasons, the featured doctor was played by Gabriel Byrne. After more than a decade off the air, the series returned with Uzo Aduba ("Crazy Eyes" from *Orange is the New Black*) as the psychoanalyst. Her task: help her patients navigate a variety of modern concerns, including the global pandemic and shifts in the social and cultural landscapes. Both Byrne and Aduba's characters must deal with complications in their own lives while helping their patients with theirs. Byrne consulted with his own psychotherapist, while Aduba pulls off an amazing performance in which she imagines herself in treatment with her own alter-identity. The series officially ends with this fourth season. Too bad.

The Miracle Club (Netflix) The actors are what makes this movie worthwhile: Laura Linney, Maggie Smith,

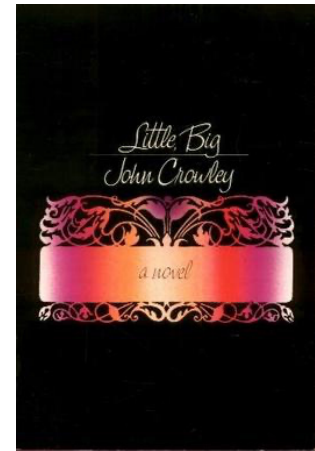


and Kathy Bates especially. A group of women in the small Irish town of Ballygarar who hope to win the prize of a pilgrimage to the sacred French town of Lourdes for the chance that their loved ones or themselves will be cured of physical ailments. They're also clearly attracted by the chance to escape family responsibilities for a few days and experience an exotic vacation. With a little benevolent interference from their local priest, a group of close friends get their ticket of a lifetime. Unsurprisingly, the Blessed Virgin Mary's waters cure none of the physical ailments. Nevertheless, long-standing feuds and misunderstandings are finally untangled as these women travel together. I wasn't surprised by any plot twists, but I loved seeing these actors working together.

Uncut Gems (Max) Scott and I had this fantastic, wide-ranging conversation with my niece and her fiancé, Casey, when we visited them toward the end of our vacation a few weeks ago. It's so exhilarating when you get together with someone(s) you don't know very well, and are surprised to find out that your interests and opinions mesh easily with one another. It's energizing to learn about someone else's very different life experiences that somehow still leave you and them with overlapping points-of-view on political and aesthetic ideas, book and movie faves.... We found it hard to call it a night and end the conversation. So, when Sara and Casey enthusiastically mentioned a movie that they'd seen recently and had both loved, I dutifully wrote down the title and anticipated that Scott and I would also find it interesting. In fact, we decided to watch *Uncut Gems* only a few days after we returned home. Oh boy. We definitely discovered a point of NON-overlap. Sheesh. *Uncut Gems* stars Adam Sandler in a very uncharacteristic (not funny) role as a charismatic jeweler who makes a high-stakes bet that could lead either to the windfall of a lifetime, or utterly ruin himself, his family, and everyone he knows. In a precarious high-wire act, he must balance and endanger business, family and adversaries on all sides in pursuit of the ultimate win. And that high-wire act seems to consist almost entirely of shouting expletives at the top of his lungs at everyone. I bet that the word "fuck," and variations thereof make up at least two-thirds of Sandler's script. I found this movie utterly exhausting to watch. I was impressed by Sandler's performance for the first, oh, ten minutes or so, but then I began muttering to myself, "enough already." You are warned. It will be interesting to talk to Sara and Casey about this movie the next time we see them.

Little, Big

[SC] **Steve** covered Book 4, Chapters 3 and 4 last month with many interesting insights, so I'm not going to go back over that territory. I was most struck by his views of George and Sylvie as mentors for Smoky and Auberon and that humans can learn from the past and try to change the future while faeries learn from the future to try to change the past/present. I also noted Steve's point that Russell Eigenblick, Frederick Barbarossa and, later, the general of the cloud army are all the same character operating in different realities (but why the choice of Barbarossa, a real person from the past?)



Book 5, Chapter 1

[SC] Chapter one takes place one year after events in Book 4. It begins with a meeting between Ariel Hawksquill and her employer the Noisy Bridge Rod and Gun Club. Hawksquill has summoned them to her home to share some news, that she has determined who Russell Eigenblick really is. She identifies him as Frederick Barbarossa, once Emperor Francis II of the Holy Roman Empire. Historically, his rule was not especially successful and he supposedly drowned when he fell off his horse into a river but he actually slept for 800 years until reawakened to resume his rule in this modern age. Hawksquill knows who he is, but not why he's now returned or what his plans might be.

The Gun Club responded to this news by ending their contract with Hawksquill and deciding instead to "co-opt" Eigenblick for their own purposes. His presumably short time in power could be useful to them. They felt they could control him (much like the Republican establishment felt they could control a "useful" Donald Trump.) Hawksquill lets them go but decides she needs to know for herself what side she should be on in these turbulent times.

The next day Hawksquill walks across the street to a small private park where she meets Auberon, but does not know who he is yet. She lets him into the park (which was created by Auberon's great, great grandfather and partners) with her and they talk.

He is obviously in distress due to his loss of Sylvie. Eventually Hawksquill learns who he is and extracts from him the location of the magic cards currently in the care of his aunt Sophie. In exchange for the information she gives him her key to the park to visit when he wishes.

The next scene is the story of Auberon's life in the year since Sylvie suddenly disappeared. He has slowly slid into confusion, despair and bitterness. He has no idea where she has gone or why and no apparent means to find out. His misery is one of the cruelest effects of the Tale, I think. He finally starts to have hallucinations of seeing her with other men. In the last scene of the chapter, Hawksquill climbs into her lush car to begin her journey to find Edgewood and to recover the magic cards.

Chapter 2

Auberon is continuing to suffer from the sudden disappearance of Sylvie has been hanging out in the little park. He is trying to use Hawksquill's Art of Memory technique to memorize the details of the park in an attempt to "yield up the secret of her whereabouts."

In the next scene, Auberon has given up on his quest in the park and is getting slowly drunk in the Seventh Saint bar. A huge, raucous parade passes the bar that someone says has to do with Eigenblick, but Auberon cannot make out whether it's opposed or in support of him. People pour into the bar in various states of agitation. In time a storm breaks outside followed by violence in the street. More people enter, some injured. Auberon witnesses without understanding what is happening. A young woman enters who looks like Sylvie, she hands him a slip



Scene along SC's bike route



Impatiens doing well in a pot



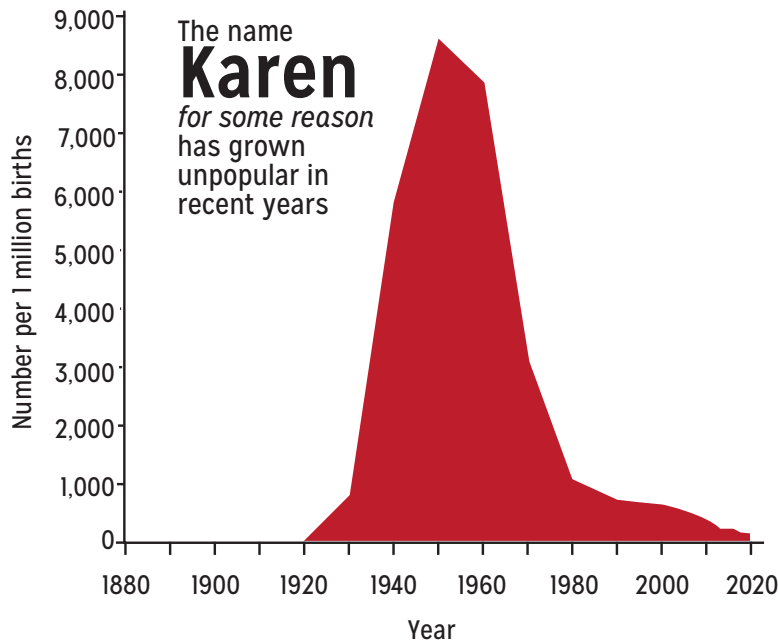
Naniboujou wall detail

of paper that says "No fault of your own" which is part of the magic card prediction for Auberon of his meeting and losing Sylvie.

She looks like Sylvie (this being the Tale, perhaps she is) and he tries drunkenly to talk to her without blowing up the illusion (if that's what it is.) The next thing he knows he is waking up in the Folding Bedroom in bed with a man named Bruno who resembles Sylvie.

Auberon gathers his belongings and moves out to the street and begins a long descent into wretchedness. At one point possibly traveling to Florida and back. Eventually he ends up in the Terminus where he comes to a crossroads in the hallways and a narrow doorway. Here he finally speaks to Sylvie who tells him she is pursuing her Destiny before leaving him again. Auberon makes his way back to the little park as Winter turns to Spring and he encounters Lilac, who left him when he was 8 years old. Lilac tells him it's time to go home, so he picks her up and they depart together (to Edgewood?)

Little, Big reading schedule		
Book One: <i>Edgewood</i>	Book Three: <i>Old Law Firm</i>	September: Chaps 1, 2
January: Chaps 1, 2, 3	May: Chaps 1, 2	October: Chaps 3, 4
February: Chaps 4, 5	June: Chaps 3, 4	Book Six: <i>The Fairies' Parliament</i>
Book Two: <i>Brother North: Wind's Secret</i>	July: Chaps 1, 2	November: Chaps 1, 2, 3
March: Chaps 1, 2	August: Chaps 3, 4	December: Chaps 4, 5
April: Chaps 3, 4	Book Five: <i>The Art of Memory</i>	



TurboCon

Friday, October 11 – Sunday, October 13, 2024

INVITATION ONLY

You should find a brochure tucked into the apazine this month. It is the first draft of a pocket program for TurboCon. We will publish another, finalized version for TurboCon weekend. If you notice any errors in the schedule or want to suggest any changes, please contact us.

We will distribute copies of this brochure to some local, former Turbo members that we hope will join us. If you would like us to send a copy to a former member outside the Madison area, give us their contact information. But please remember: if you do mention TurboCon to anyone, please emphasize that TurboCon is **INVITE-ONLY**.

TurboCon's expenses are being shouldered by local fans who will host events in their homes or in rented spaces. We hope that attendees (especially local fans) will consider making a dessert or a side dish to contribute to one of the dinner parties. Let us know if you need to drop off a dish when you get in town.

We are planning to purchase some snacks and all the soda and beer needed for the weekend events and will gladly accept donations to cover this expense.

– Jeanne 608-246-8857
 jg@unionstreetdesign.com
 – Scott 608-228-0186
 sec@unionstreetdesign.com

Why TurboCon?

TurboCon will be a gathering, a weekend-long party...and all right...it will be a sort-of convention. But it will be a convention without a hotel, panels, or concomm meetings. *Turbo-Charged Party Animal* Apa members have been having such a good time talking to one another in the apa, that we have decided we'd like to get together in person. So that's what will happen here in Madison, October 11-13, 2024. In fact, it may happen again in 2025, in Seattle, in conjunction with the Seattle Worldcon.

We've got activities and a rather loose schedule, but... Here's what Andy Hooper wrote: "The main motive for inventing TurboCon, as with almost all science fiction conventions, is to provide a place for friends to meet and hang out together."

We've got an additional agenda. All of us in *Turboapa* have long enjoyed seeing our fellow apa-members' essays, mailing comments, stories, poetry, photographs, and artwork. But at TurboCon, we hope to share some of our work *in person*. We've got readings, performances, plays, and music scheduled during three "Live Apazines" on each of the three TurboCon nights. We welcome everyone to take part.

Please bring something of yours (or something by someone you admire) that you'd like to read aloud or perform! You don't need to tell us ahead of time if you want to take part, although those folks who declare their intentions to participate early will be placed on the schedule first. We invite you to join us in the "Live Apazine."



General Info about TurboCon

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If you receive an invitation to attend TurboCon as a former Turbo member, please make sure to RSVP. We need to know how many people will be joining us, and which meals you plan to attend.

Friday

Memorial Union Terrace, 800 Langdon

In case of rain: Memorial Union Rathskeller

11 am Lunch

- ◆ Potential guests of honor nominated. Winner of fannish spelling bee will receive a special GoH nametag. Master of Ceremonies: Andy Hooper

Jeannie Bergmann's home

27 Anniversary Ct., 608-566-9087

2–6 pm

- ◆ Croquet game. Officiator: Steve Swartz
- ◆ SF/F/H Book-Swap. Bring books!

6 pm **Dinner:** Burgers, brats, and side dishes
In case of bad weather: stew and board games

- ◆ **Live Apazine #1:** Readings /performances

Saturday

Dane County Farmers Market

Collectivo Coffee On The Square, 25 S. Pinckney

9 am reconnoiter *before* Farmers Market

11 am reconnoiter *after* Farmers Market

Luke & Julie's apartment building community room 1859 Aberg Ave.

Luke: 206-715-9135; Julie: 206-715-9175

2–6 pm Hang out, Converse, Sip on a beverage. Snack. Fill out your order form for a Beef Butter BBQ dinner. Pay Luke or Julie.

- ◆ "Bringing Kepler's Orbits into the 21st Century" A video presentation by Steve Vincent Johnson

6 pm **Dinner:** Beef Butter BBQ

- ◆ **Live Apazine #2:** Readings /performances

Sunday

Forest Hill Cemetery

1 Speedway Rd, 608-266-4720

8:30 am Luke McGuff will act as guide on a stroll around Forest Hill Cemetery. There may also be bird watching and fall-color admiring.

Hope & Karl's home

2717 Stevens St., 608-293-3431

10 am Coffee, tea, and coffee cake

Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Atrium

3330 Atwood Ave., 608-246-4550

11 am–4 pm

Hang out, Converse, Sip on a beverage. Snack. Do some crafts. Go out and explore Olbrich Gardens

- ◆ Making Stuff with Interesting Stuff
Hosted by Jeanne Bowman
- ◆ Handmade Cover Creation
Hosted by Elizabeth Matson
- ◆ Interim TurboApa collation. Any material collated during TurboCon will be included as a "supplement" for the regular October issue.
- ◆ Poetry Reading
Hosted by Jeannie Bergmann
- ◆ GoH Tribute
Master of Ceremonies: Andy Hooper

Other things to do

Garden tours/Parade of Cats

Make arrangements with: Diane Martin & Jim Hudson (Garden + cats); 608-698-2806; **Kathi & Kim Nash** (cats) 608-217-7771; **Pat Hario** (cats) 608-440-4688

Epic campus self-guided tour 1979 Milky Way, Verona, 2-3 hours,

10 am–3 pm 608-271-9000

Incredible art, architecture and landscaping. Bring your walking shoes! Once on campus, follow the signs for visitors, and park in the visitor lot (under the solar panels).

Old Sugar Distillery

931 E Main St., 608-260-0812

4pm Hang out, Converse,
Buy a drink at the cash bar. Snack.

6 pm **Dinner:** Pizza and salad
Hosts: Jeanne and Scott

- ◆ **Dessert** – Pie Palooza.
So many pies, so little time
- ◆ **Live Apazine #3:** Readings/performances

Jeanne & Scott's home

2825 Union St.

Jeanne: 608-246-8857; Scott: 608-228-0186

9 pm Help Jeanne & Scott celebrate their 40th anniversary. Beverages and yet more pie

- ◆ Lisa Freitag will perform a keyboard cap to the weekend (possibly, *Moonlight Sonata*)

Gleam: Art in a New Light

Olbrich Gardens, 3330 Atwood Ave.,
608-246-4550

Light installation artists transform the Gardens into an illuminated adventure.
<https://www.olbrichgleam.org>

6:30 pm Wednesday through Saturday
Admission fee