Things You Need to Know

About CONFERENCE REGISTRATION
Presenters of papers must register by **July 15** or we will assume you won’t be attending the conference and your paper will not be scheduled or listed in the program. Mythcon 50 Registration. We will have at-the-door full conference and day rates posted on our website in mid July but **presenters must preregister by July 15**.

**Mythcon 50 Registration**

About ROOM & BOARD
**IF YOU ARE STAYING ON CAMPUS** you will be given both a “tap card” and a key—there is a $50 fee for not returning either one at checkout ($100 if you don’t return both of them). THEREFORE you must bring a check for $100 made out to the Mythopoeic Society to cover the potential loss of both tap card and key. We will hold your check and hand it back when you turn in your tap card and key (can you tell we’ve had problems with this in the past?). If you don’t have a checking account, inquire of a friend who does—otherwise we’ll have to take a deposit via PayPal or Square and that takes more time at registration.  

**Do you know where your towel is?** The dorms include sheets, pillow & pillow case, and a towel (no soap, shampoo, etc.—those amenities aren’t included at SDSU but can be purchased at Trader Joe’s, in case you forget yours) but don’t expect a fluffy deluxe towel. It’s likely to be on the thin side, so if you want a fluffy towel or need more than one, please consider bringing your own supplemental towel(s).  

**Do you have food allergies?** If so, please email specifics to mythcon@mythsoc.org as soon as possible (and certainly by July 15th).  

**DEADLINE** for purchasing room & board is **July 15**—we can’t guarantee that any room & board, meals, banquet, parking permits, etc., can be sold or changed after that date.

**Mythcon 50 Room & Board options**

About PARKING PERMITS
**IF YOU HAVE BOUGHT A PARKING PERMIT** and there is more than one person in the vehicle, SDSU recommends one person remain in the car while the other picks up the parking pass. **DO NOT LEAVE THE CAR UNATTENDED OR YOU MAY BE CITED.** If there is only one person in the vehicle, SDSU recommends purchasing a temporary permit from the kiosk on the first (lowest) floor in lot 3. The cost for a temporary pass is $3
for one hour—please note, the kiosk only accepts exact cash or credit card. For those who have purchased parking permits through our website, we will try to have a “Parking Pass Runner” available Friday afternoon—look for a special phone number that you’ll be able to call from the parking garage. **THERE IS NO FREE PARKING ON CAMPUS**, not even for those with disabled placards.

*Mythcon 50 SDSU Parking Permits*

**About the DEALERS ROOM**
We will have a Dealers' Room but, due to the State of California regulating vendors on state-owned college and university campuses, sales will be limited to Saturday and Sunday only. If you're interested in having (or sharing) a dealer's table, contact *J'nae Spano* by email.

**About the ART SHOW**
We will have an Art Show and a display of historic Mythcon items as well as items for the Sunday afternoon Auction. After dinner on Friday the Stewards invite you to meet and mingle with your fellow Mythies in the Art Show/Dealers Room. For more information about the Art Show, please contact *Sue Dawe* by email.

**About CHECKING IN at SDSU**
On Friday August 2nd registration will be in the Cuicacalli Residence Hall Lobby. We expect to open about 12:30 p.m. and both Mythcon 50 and SDSU Room & Board registration will be side-by-side. On Saturday and Sunday, conference registration will be in the Aztec Student Union.

**About HOSPITALITY at Mythcon 50**
SDSU requires that all food and beverage served *by Mythcon 50* be purchased through SDSU, including an evening “hospitality suite”—and their prices are prohibitive. Therefore we won’t be able to have the kind of evening hospitality suite which has become common in the last 10–15 years.

Instead, we're going “old school” and we encourage folks to cooperate as suite-mates—and also consider whether they want to share snacks & beverages with other Mythies outside of their suite. *Trader Joe's*, located at the corner of College Avenue and Lindo Paseo, is open from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. and carries a wide variety of highly snackable foods and beverages. You are welcome to put out “tip jars” so other Mythies can help offset your munificence.
About SAN DIEGO WEATHER
Despite being on the Pacific Ocean, San Diego is not humid, and the average August daytime temperature is 78 degrees. If Mythcon 50 coincides with a heat wave, it could be in the 90s, but evenings are still cool and the Aztec Student Union and the dorms are air conditioned, so you may want a light wrap or jacket—please plan and pack accordingly. By the way, there is a swimming pool at Cuicacalli and we anticipate being able to use it.

About LUNCH OPTIONS
Though lunches are not included in the pre-paid meal plan, there’s an easy and inexpensive way to get it: there are several fast-casual vendors in the Student Union itself, just downstairs from our conference rooms, primarily Oggi’s Pizza, The Habit, and Chipotle. Immediately behind The Habit and Chipotle is an indoor patio area with long tables where we may dine together, as we do in the cafeteria. If none of these options appeals to you, there are many other off-campus food vendors within very short walking distance. We will have the list online and printed too.
About Mythcon

For more than fifty years The Mythopoeic Society has encouraged scholarship in mythopoeic and Inklings studies and, in 1969, the Society started hosting an annual conference, informally known as “Mythcon,” held over an extended weekend. The Fiftieth annual Mythopoeic Conference will be held at San Diego State University in San Diego, California, August 2–5, 2019. Papers, panel discussions, readings, entertainment, and other activities fill the four-day event (from 1 p.m. Friday through Monday noon), and features our Sunday evening banquet, at which the annual Mythopoeic Awards are presented.

This year’s conference is the third in a series of golden anniversaries for the Society, this time celebrating the 50th year of our Mythopoeic conferences. We are indeed looking back and moving forward.

Ch-ch-ch-changes

Our Author Guest of Honor, John Crowley, had to cancel his appearance in San Diego this summer for personal reasons. We hope, however, that he’ll be able to make a brief pretaped video appearance at Mythcon 50, and perhaps join us at a future Mythopoeic conference as well. In the meantime we’ve asked long-time friend of the Mythopoeic Society Tim Powers to come help us celebrate 50 Mythcons.
Guests of Honor

Verlyn Flieger, Scholar Guest of Honor: One of the most prolific and beloved scholars in our field, Flieger won Mythopoeic Scholarship Awards for *A Question of Time: J.R.R. Tolkien's Road to Faerie* (1998), *Tolkien's Legendarium: Essays on The History of Middle-earth*, co-edited with Carl Hostetter (2002), and *Green Suns and Faërie: Essays on J.R.R. Tolkien* (2013). She is co-editor of the journal *Tolkien Studies* and has written fiction as well. Retired from the University of Maryland in 2012, she continues to teach courses online through Signum University.

We are very pleased to announce that **Tim Powers** has agreed to be our GOH Emeritus. Tim has been Author Guest of Honor at Mythcon twice: in Berkeley at *Mythcon 26* and at *Mythcon 41* in Dallas. Powers has won three World Fantasy Awards, for his novels *Last Call* (1992) and *Declare* (2000), and his story collection *The Bible Repairman and Other Stories* (2012). He is a five-time nominee for the Mythopoeic Fantasy Award, winning in 1990 for *The Stress of Her Regard*.

The Mythcon “Buddy System”

Frodo didn’t do it alone, so neither should we! Our buddy system pairs up conference attendees who are newer to the Society or to Mythcon with more seasoned Mythies, because it’s nice to sit with someone you know at meals.

Veteran Buddies would primarily be responsible for making sure their Newbie doesn’t dine alone; they might also attend panels with them, invite them to Bardic Circle, or peer pressure them into trying their hand at Golfimbul. Such camaraderie between fans and scholars of mythopoeia, modeled on the friendship among the Inklings themselves, is an important cornerstone of our society—and keeps Mythcon attendance and Society membership up! We did this last year in Atlanta and it was helpful and effective, check it out this year: email Buddy Organizer Megan Abraham-
son at mythprint@mythsoc.org and include your preferred method of contact for your buddy.

If you are new (or new-ish) to the Society and/or Mythcon, please contact Megan and ask to be paired with a veteran Mythie.

**Conference Schedule**

We anticipate that Mythcon 50 registration will open about 12:30 p.m. on Friday, August 2, and there will be program items starting at 2 p.m. Friday afternoon until dinner. After dinner we will have our casual meet-and-greet Reception hosted by the Society’s Stewards and some other entertainments and activities.

Saturday morning, August 3, the Procession and Opening Ceremonies will start at 9:00 a.m., including our first plenary Guest of Honor address, followed by more papers and panels throughout the day, breaking for lunch and dinner. After dinner: entertainments including the Masquerade and post-programming activities (e.g., Bardic Circle).

Programming continues Sunday, including the Society Auction in the afternoon, and the Banquet, second Guest of Honor address, and Awards presentations on Sunday evening.

Final program items will start Monday morning at 9:00 a.m., followed by the Annual Mythopoeic Society Members Meeting (all are welcome) and closing ceremonies, concluding at noon.

The conference schedule will be posted on the website as soon as it is finalized. Printed schedules will be available at registration.

**Conference Programming**

We’re still in the process of choosing panelists, so rather than presenting a partial list of personnel, here’s a list of some topics we’re developing for panel discussions at Mythcon 50:

*If you could ask the Inklings*—Experts representing each of the major Inklings speak on their subjects’ artistic goals and legacies.

*Are there any women here today?*—How do you do research on important topics like women in fantasy? How do you find out what’s already been written, and how do you get the material if you’re not affiliated with a university? The masters of research provide the answers.

*All this and World War One*—How did the war affect the Inklings? What’s been written about it? And what about the new Tolkien bio-pic and Peter Jackson’s *They Shall Not Grow Old*, then?
The future of the Mythopoeic Awards—How have the Society’s awards in fantasy and scholarship been doing? What can we do to improve them and to face future changes in the field?

The Inklings and the Matter of Britain reconsidered—After last year’s Mythopoeic Scholarship Award winning anthology, *The Inklings and King Arthur*, what else is there to say on this topic?

Protecting the Shire: a hobbit society’s journey at the University of New Mexico—members share stories about community, fellowship, and their personal journeys.

Remembering when: the first wave of Tolkien fans and scholars—what was it like studying Tolkien when not everyone had heard of him? When there were no New Line movies? No *Silmarillion*?

Mythlore: preserving the past and moving into the future with the SWOSU digital and physical archive—the keepers of the flame present what they’ve been doing with their historical files.

**Conference Registration**

Current registration rates are as follows. Rates are likely to rise and will be higher “at the door.”

- Full Conference Registration for Mythopoeic Society Members $80
- Full Conference Registration for Nonmembers $95
- Full Conference Registration for Students* $65

**Please note:** We are now including one year of Mythopoeic Society membership when nonmembers join Mythcon.

*Full-time students are those taking 12 or more credit hours per semester/quarter at an accredited college or university. Must present a current, active student ID at check-in. For children attending with parent(s) or legal guardian(s), 12 and under are free, 12 to 18 pay the student rate.

**Conference Venue**

We decided San Diego State University provides better programming space than we were able to find in local hotels. Housing is similar to suites we’ve recently occupied in Illinois, Massachusetts, and Berkeley Myth-cons. Programming will be located in the Aztec Student Union, approximately 800 feet from Cuicacalli (across the Aztec Walk East “sky-bridge”—fun for the Procession!).
The **Primary Room & Board package** for Mythcon 50 will start with dinner at The Garden cafeteria in the Cuicacalli Residence Hall and housing Friday night through Sunday night in one of the two Cuicacalli towers (either Tepeyac or Tacuba, basically identical). Cuicacalli ("kweeka-cal-ee") is arranged in suites which include a small central common area as well as a full sized refrigerator, microwave, and sink as a “kitchenette.” There are two hallways with three bedrooms and a large-sized bathroom each; one bathroom in each suite is ADA-compliant. Bedrooms have 1, 2, or 3 extra-long single beds. The 3-bed room is generally laid out with two upper bunks (!!), there’s only one per suite, and we will use them as larger singles, barring actual need for a triple.

The **Secondary Room & Board option** for Mythcon 50 includes the same meals... but there are a few people who strongly prefer or even need a private bathroom. This is, in fact, possible. We can arrange for you to stay at the South Campus Plaza (again, there are two towers, both the same distance from meals at Cuicacalli). You must be willing to walk approximately 0.2 miles (about 800 feet, a bit more than two football fields in length) to Cuicacalli for breakfast and dinner and post-evening programming hanging-out, and pay the additional cost. **N.B.:** The beds in the South Campus Plaza are higher than standard bed height. You must be able to get in and out of bed without hurting yourself!

Both options allow folks to come in early and/or stay later. Two meals per day are required to stay on campus, so early and late arrivals will include breakfast and lunch in the Garden cafeteria (the least expensive meal combination).

**Full Conference at Cuicacalli (primary option):**

- **DOUBLE occupancy, three nights, six meals***: $350 per person
- **SINGLE occupancy, three nights, six meals***: $430

**EXTRA night(s) w/breakfast & lunch:**

- **DOUBLE occupancy, per night**: $90 per person
- **SINGLE occupancy, per night**: $120

**Full Conference at South Campus Plaza (secondary option):**

- **DOUBLE occupancy, three nights, six meals***: $400 per person
- **SINGLE occupancy, three nights, six meals***: $480

**EXTRA night(s) w/breakfast & lunch:**

- **DOUBLE occupancy, per night**: $105 per person
- **SINGLE occupancy, per night**: $135

*Meals included are Friday night dinner, Saturday breakfast and dinner, Sunday breakfast and banquet, and Monday breakfast. Lunches are not included.*
**Note:** The Garden cafeteria sells individual meals, so if you are staying off-campus you may buy a meal ticket at the desk as you enter.

*If you are staying off campus,* you can buy a **Commuter Dinner Package**, which includes Friday & Saturday dinner with us in The Garden cafeteria *and* the Sunday night banquet, for $100. You can also purchase the Sunday night banquet by itself for $65. It may also be possible to buy single meals at The Garden using credit cards (they don’t take cash). See the web site for more information, maps, and R&B registration.

**About roommates-suite-mates:** We place people in double rooms (two beds/one bedroom) according to your roommate requests; we will try to put people into suite groupings according to your requests but we cannot guarantee it. If you book a double room without specifying your roommate, we will assign you a suitable roommate and suite-mates.

**Parking** will be available in P3 or P4 (parking garages across Campus Drive from Cuicacalli); we recommend buying a one-week parking pass, available on our website until July 15th. It's also possible to buy parking from the machines located within the garages; *please note* it will cost more, if you're coming for the full conference.

For those who cannot or don't wish to stay onsite, there are many hotel options, but the easiest commute via the Green Line Trolley is the **Double-Tree by Hilton Hotel San Diego-Mission Valley**, on Hazard Center Drive; it is across the street from the Hazard Center Station and only 15 minutes (7 stops) from the SDSU Transit Center. **Town & Country** hotel is also a short walk from the Fashion Valley Transit Center, one stop further along the Green Line. Other hotels along the Green Line include the **San Diego Marriott Mission Valley** and, a bit further, **Springhill Suites San Diego Mission Valley**, both within walking distance of the Rio Vista Station, which is even closer to SDSU. You can search Google maps for other hotels along the Green Line but please bear in mind there are some freeways and large roads—make sure you look at directions for trolley/public transport. You can check out the **Green Line trolley schedule** online.

**For those who want to attend a CHURCH SERVICE:**
We anticipate having a “Mere Christian” service Sunday morning in Cuicacalli, location TBD (probably one of the lounges). There are a number of Roman Catholic churches nearby: **Blessed Sacrament, St Therese Parish, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart**, and **St Martin of Tours**, listed in rough order of proximity to the SDSU campus. If you are using public transport and getting directions online, using “SDSU Transit Center” as your starting location may be helpful.
Getting to San Diego:
San Diego is a beautiful city to visit and you can easily drive, fly, or take the train. If driving, use **SDSU Visitor Parking Lot 3** as your destination (this will open a Google map).

*Pictures of relevant parts of the campus*

Once in San Diego, there is a very good public transportation system of buses and trolleys and, with the addition of ridesharing services, you don’t need to rent a car in order to visit any of the wonderful destinations that may pique your interest.

[http://www.sdmts.com](http://www.sdmts.com)

For San Diego International Airport (SAN, Lindbergh Field):
[https://www.san.org/](https://www.san.org/)
and their list of ground transportation options:
[https://www.san.org/to-from](https://www.san.org/to-from)
For Amtrak (SAN): [https://www.amtrak.com/stations/san](https://www.amtrak.com/stations/san)

Getting to SDSU from the Airport

No need to rent a car: in addition to the usual taxi, shuttle, and rideshare options there is an inexpensive and very convenient public transportation system—and the trolley has a stop right at our conference site. There are two ways to get to the SDSU Transit Center from the airport using the trolley: both are detailed here:

[https://www.san.org/to-from/Public-Transportation#117819-trolley-service](https://www.san.org/to-from/Public-Transportation#117819-trolley-service)

**Option 1:** Take City Bus Route 992 to the Broadway and Kettner bus stop, then cross the street to the NW corner of Broadway and Kettner where you’ll see the Santa Fe Depot (Amtrak station)—the trolley station is actually outside the Amtrak Station on the west (bay) side of the building, about a block further north. Take the Sycuan Green Line Trolley Line north to the SDSU Transit Center (14 stops). The trolley direction will be indicated as “to Santee.”

**Option 2:** You can also access the Sycuan Green Trolley Line by taking the Rental Car Shuttles at the transit islands at Terminals 1 and 2. When the driver is notified, the shuttle drops passengers off on the north end of the airport, just one block from the Middletown Station (12 stops, closer to the SDSU Transit Center). You will need to cross Pacific Highway and walk one block northeast on W. Palm Street to the station on the left. Take the Sycuan Green Line Trolley Line north to the SDSU Transit Center stop. The trolley direction you want will be indicated as “to Santee.”

**NOTE:** there is an incline to Palm Street and the sidewalk may not be in
great shape—it may be a shorter trip but maybe also more of a hassle, so please consider your fitness and the quantity of your luggage! If you don't mind paying a taxi for a short ride, you could ask to be taken to Middle-town Station, at the corner of W Palm Street and California Street (essentially Caliber Collision, at 1411 W Palm St, San Diego, CA 92101).

Once you arrive at the SDSU Transit Center just take the elevator or stairs up to the ground level. The Aztec Student Union ("Aztec Center") is right there as you emerge, and the "sky-bridge" immediately next to it. Then go left (east); the Cuicacalli Residence Hall and The Garden (cafeteria) will be on your left as you head east. **Pictures of relevant parts of the campus**

A single trolley ticket is $2.50 ($1.25 for senior/disabled/Medicare) and is good for two hours from the time of purchase; a bus ticket is $2.25 ($1.10), exact fare required on buses.

A one-day pass on the SDMTS covers trolleys and buses, is just $5, and can be bought at the airport or on your smartphone. You can buy a four-day pass for $17 (includes $2 for a refillable "Compass Card"). There are signs and ticket vending machines in the airport, and machines at every trolley stop. Details here: [https://www.sdmts.com/fares-passes](https://www.sdmts.com/fares-passes)

PLEASE don’t be confused by the sponsorship “branding” of the various trolley lines. For example, the UC San Diego Blue Line does NOT take you to UCSD (that’s in La Jolla, considerably north of anywhere the Blue Line goes), and the Sycuan Green Line doesn’t take you to the Sycuan Casino, although there are buses which connect to that trolley line which do.

In addition, the trolley can take you to Old Town, Little Italy, the Gaslamp District, and many other places that would otherwise require a car. Combined with the bus system, it will get you almost anywhere you may want to visit (the San Diego Zoo Safari Park, formerly known as the Wild Animal Park, is a notable exception, although perhaps worth combining public transport with a rideshare option to avoid the $15 parking fee!).

**Things to do in San Diego:**

San Diego is a city on the water, with miles of beautiful beaches, harbors, and bays. The **San Diego Zoo** is very large and impressive and, 30–some miles north east, their sister **Safari Park** is even larger and in many ways more impressive—so, if you enjoy seeing animals (the Safari Park gives the illusion of “not in captivity” but the Zoo itself has been improving its displays over the decades, too). **Balboa Park**, “the nation’s largest urban cultural park,” is beautiful and well worth visiting, as of course is Sea World. The **Maritime Museum of San Diego** and the **USS Midway Museum** are fascinating.
San Diego County is home to more than 150 craft breweries (as well as wineries and ciderhouses). Among them are some of the best-known and top-rated breweries in the country, including **Stone** (their **Liberty Station** location is very close to the airport), **AleSmith, Ballast Point** (their **Little Italy** location is also close to the airport), **Port Brewing/Lost Abbey, Modern Times** (their **Point Loma** location is also close to the airport), **Horus Aged Ales, Abnormal** (brewery not open Mondays), and the **Hop Concept**. Although San Diego doesn't have the same longevity in brewing as some cities, especially on the east coast, it has made up for it since! California is the birthplace of the American West Coast IPA, which reached its zenith in San Diego, typified by the bitter palate wreckers of Stone and **Green Flash**—we mean bitter in a good way!! This new style blossomed in the 1980s and '90s as American brewers sought to redefine traditional European styles and make them their own.

A traditional English IPA—where the style originated—would barely pass as an ordinary pale ale on the West Coast, and I shudder to think what our friends across the Pond would make of Stone's aptly named Ruination Double IPA, with two or three times the IBUs (International Bitterness Units) of their own English ales. But these West Coast IPAs aren't all bitterness. Among the 80 or so different varieties of hops are as many different tasting and aroma notes as a sommelier will find in the most nuanced bottle of wine. Mint, grass, pine, papaya, grapefruit, dill, pepper, melon—you name it, there's a hop for it! And southern California isn't exclusively IPA country either. Some amazing stouts, saisons, barley-wines, and sour ales are being made here, ranging from **Belching Beaver’s Peanut Butter Milk Stout** to Lost Abbey’s sophisticated **Cuvée de Tomme**, a tart brown ale fermented with sour cherries and then aged in bourbon barrels inoculated with wild yeast.

There are a slew (yes, an entire slew) of breweries in **Miramar** (Google map highlighting Ballast Point and area breweries), and in **“North County”** (Google map showing many breweries, including some in
Escondido, San Marcos, Vista, Oceanside, etc.); check out *San Diego Breweries* for a nearly-complete list and a map at the bottom of their page.

If you're interested in the beer scene in San Diego, be sure to talk to Jason Fisher, our resident zymologist at Mythcon.

Why do we mention beer? Perhaps because Tolkien and Lewis and the Inklings all enjoyed a pint—we do, however, encourage adults to be responsible in their appreciation (and observe that rideshares are a great way to visit a slew of breweries) and remind you that the Mythopoeic Society does not tolerate underage drinking.
Mythcon 50 Members

(as of 6/30/19)

Bethany Abrahamson
Megan Abrahamson
Cami Agan
Edward Alexander
Moses Allen
Marcia Bigger
Jan Bogstad
Bernadette Bosky
Berni Phillips Bratman
David Bratman
Matthew Breth
Molly Bronstein
Nancy Bunting
Camille Butera
Bg Callahan
Tim Callahan
Joe Christopher
Sarah Collins
Anne Osborn Coopersmith
Karen Cosner
Roy-Charles Coulombe
Chip Crane
Christopher Crane
Janet Brennan Croft
Edith Crowe
Margaret Dean
Willow DiPasquale
Paula DiSante
Leslie Donovan
Ben Dressler
David Emerson
Dolores Espinosa
Cassidy Estes
James Faris
Eleanor Farrell
Jason Fisher
Phillip Fitzsimmons
Verlyn Flieger
Alicia Fox-Lenz
Stephen Gaddis
Victoria Gaydosik
Christopher Gilson
Diana Glyer
Sierra Glyer
Melody Green
Robert Guyker
Greg Hansford
Lisa Harrigan
Katherine Hatzfeld
Mary Ann Hodge
Rosamund Hodge
Carl Hostetter
Gary Hunnewell
Shasta Hunnewell
Sylvia Hunnewell
Tristan Hunnewell
Joel Hunter
Lenore Jackson
Linda James
John James
Richard Johnson
Mary Jo Kapsalis
Carol King
Branton Lachman
David Lenander
Bruce Leonard
Stephanie MacNeil
Nancy Martsch
Lynn Maudlin
Milo Mazanec
Rebecca McCurdy
Elise McKenna
Rita McVey
Colin Moll
 Mythcon 50 Committee

Lynn Maudlin – Chair
Janet Brennan Croft – Papers Coordinator
David Bratman – Programming
Sue Dawe – Art Show
Lisa Deutsch Harrigan – Treasurer
Eleanor Farrell – Publications
J’nae Spano – Dealers’ Room
Marion VanLoo – Registration & Masquerade
Josiah Riojas – Parking Runner & assistant to the Chair
Jason Fisher – Zymology