

# Mythcon 52: The Mythic, the Fantastic, and the Alien

Albuquerque, New Mexico

July 29 - August 1, 2022

(in-person and virtual attendance options)

## Registration

remains open for Mythcon 52,  
July 29-August 1, 2022

Registration prices will  
increase after April 30!

## **REVISED**

Call for Papers now available

(updated with extended deadline and virtual presentation options!)



**NEW VENUE!** Book your hotel reservations now!

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## Notes from Mythcon 52 Organizing Committee Co-Chairs

Megan Abrahamson and Leslie Donovan

*Global pandemic, social and political unrest, day-jobs, family needs, planning and running the first virtual Mythcon, and unexpected changes in the local Albuquerque conference provider scene have delayed this year's Mythcon Progress Report way too long. We as Co-Chairs are painfully aware of this. But, as a post shared with Leslie by a friend not too long ago said, "instead of writing 'sorry for the delayed response' say 'darkness took me and I strayed out of thought and time,' as it's more exciting and suggests that you recently had a rumble with a Balrog, or Morgoth." So, we will acknowledge darkness, time straying, and won't apologize!*

*Instead, we will say that planning this year's Mythcon has been as molten and ever flowing as Mount Doom's lava. Despite this, we are striving to plan an event that will be welcoming, warm, and full of the best kinds of fellowship. Although we compromised and retrenched often, we have put together plans we feel good about and hope you will enjoy.*

*Although you may not agree with us on some of its details—as is true at any Mythcon—we invite you to attend to help us rebuild and reconnect with each other in the best and most healing ways possible. Join us as we start the process of recovery from all the challenges so many of us have faced these last few years. Help us work toward a new and renewed future for our beloved society and conference that is as vibrant and beautiful as each person reading this message. Please read on!*

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## Theme: The Mythic, the Fantastic, and the Alien

Mythcon 52's theme provides multiple opportunities to explore the Other in fantasy and mythopoeic literature. Tolkien spoke in "On Fairy-stories" of "the desire to visit, free as a fish, the deep sea; or the longing for the noiseless, gracious, economical flight of a bird." We invite discussion about the types of fantasy that are more likely to put us into contact with the alien, such as time portal fantasy and space travel fantasy. In addition to Inklings, some writers dealing particularly well with the truly alien who might be discussed include Lovecraft, Gaiman, Le Guin, Tepper, and others. Other topics that might be fruitfully explored are: depictions of the alien Other in film and television (*Dune*, *Loki*, etc.); developing constructed languages truly different from those of Earth-based humans; fantastical Others in indigenous myths (such as Coyote and Spider Woman from Native American mythology); and American folklore about the alien (flying saucers, alien abduction, Area 51, Roswell).

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## Conference Registration

Registration rates through May 30, 2022, are as follows. On June 1, rates will increase by \$25 in all categories. Registration payments for Mythcon 52 (in-person and virtual) and banquet tickets may be made through PayPal from the [Mythcon 52 registration page](#).

### In-Person Conference Registration

Mythopoeic Society Members - \$75

Nonmembers - \$90

Students\* - \$65

*\* 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.*

*Please note:* Join the Mythopoeic Society and then register for Mythcon 52 at the Society Members rate to save money and receive other member advantages. See the [Mythopoeic Society's website](#) for details. If you are uncertain of your membership status, please contact our Membership Secretary, Lynne Darga, at [membership@mythsoc.org](mailto:membership@mythsoc.org).

### New Virtual Option

Those who cannot or do not wish to attend Mythcon in person are invited to participate remotely in our virtual option. Our virtual option (via Zoom and Discord, as with Online Midwinter Seminar 1 and Mythcon 51) will include livestreaming Guests of Honor speeches from David Bratman and Rivera Sun and one track of paper and panel presentations on Saturday and Sunday. The cost of "attending" Mythcon 52's virtual option is \$20.

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## **REVISED Call for Papers/Panels – Deadline Extended!**

Because we have had to delay updating MythSoc members about our plans for Mythcon 52, we are extending our deadline for paper and panel proposals to May 15, 2022. A printable and shareable [CFP available here](#).

### **Now 2 Format Options for Presentations!**

- **IN-PERSON PAPER and PANELS:** Mythcon 52's schedule will include regular, live, in-person presentations at the conference in Albuquerque with in-person audiences on Friday afternoon, all day Saturday and Sunday, and perhaps 1-2 on Monday morning.
- **VIRTUAL PAPERS and PANELS:** In addition to regular, in-person presentations, Mythcon 52's schedule will include one track of virtual presentations/panels offered through Zoom on Saturday and Sunday. The number of virtual presentations/panels will be limited and preference or those spots will be given to international speakers as well as those unable to travel for other reasons. Audiences may view and ask questions at our virtual offerings either in-person in Albuquerque or remotely.

All presenters and panelists must register for either the full conference or the virtual option; see the [Mythcon 52 Registration page](#) for information and rates.

### **To Submit Proposals**

- *Paper Abstracts for In-Person Presentations* (200-500 words) must be emailed by May 15, 2022, to Cami Agan (In-Person Papers Coordinator) at [papers@mythcon.org](mailto:papers@mythcon.org). Include length of presentation (long or short, see below) and any AV requests.
- *Paper Abstracts for Virtual Presentations* (200-500 words) must be emailed by May 15, 2022, to Megan Abrahamson (Co-Chair and Virtual Papers Coordinator) at [co-chair@mythcon.org](mailto:co-chair@mythcon.org). Include length of presentation (long or short, see below). Since virtual presentation spots are limited, please briefly describe reasons or considerations for requesting virtual time slots (such as international travel, time zones, accessibility challenges, etc.).
- *Panel Abstracts* (50-150 words) for both in-person and virtual presentations must be emailed by May 15, 2022, to Leslie Donovan (Co-Chair and Panels Coordinator) at [chair@mythcon.org](mailto:chair@mythcon.org). Include format (in-person or virtual) and any AV requests for in-person only. Since virtual presentation spots are limited, please briefly describe reasons or considerations for requesting virtual time slots (such as international travel, time zones, accessibility challenges, etc.).

### *AV Requests*

We will make every effort to accommodate A/V requests for in-person paper and panel presentations, but resources are limited and cannot be guaranteed.

### *Paper/Panel Time Lengths*

Time slots will be scheduled for 60 minutes (long) and 30 minutes (short). Long papers and all panels will be scheduled for 60-minute time slots, in which papers/panels are expected to last no longer than 40 minutes with at least 10 minutes for questions and discussion, followed by 10 minutes for travel time between sessions. Short papers will be scheduled for 30-minute time slots, in which papers are expected to last no longer than 10 minutes, with at least 10 minutes for questions and discussion, followed by 10 minutes for travel time between sessions.

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## **Alexei Kondratiev Award (Student Paper)**

At Mythcon 41, the Society introduced an award for the best paper presented at Mythcon by an undergraduate or graduate student. This award was named in honor of Alexei Kondratiev, long-time Society member and a scholar of wide-ranging interests in mythopoeic and related studies, who passed away in 2010. The winner of the award receives a certificate, a one-year subscription to *Mythlore*, and half-off registration for the next Mythcon he or she attends. The winner will be announced at the Mythcon banquet, on the Society's website and in *Mythprint*. Winners are strongly encouraged to submit their paper to *Mythlore* for publication. More information, a list of past winners, and the award application can be found [on our website](#).

To be considered for the award, the application form must be submitted to the committee chair, Janet Croft, at [mythlore@mythsoc.org](mailto:mythlore@mythsoc.org) no later than July 1, 2022, and the finished paper must be submitted electronically by July 22, 2022. The paper must follow [Mythlore submission and style guidelines](#) and should be 4000–9000 words long. Applicants must be accepted in or currently enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program at the time their abstract is submitted. Applicants must attend Mythcon and present the paper to qualify for the award.

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## Glen GoodKnight Starving Scholars Fund

The Starving Scholars Fund was renamed in honor of our founder, Glen GoodKnight, upon his passing in November 2010. Glen always emphasized the importance of encouraging scholarship in Inklings studies and was happy to see this fund come into existence in 1993. The Fund supports attendance at Mythcon for scholars and other participants. Preference is given to persons presenting a paper or participating on a panel, though others are not automatically excluded from consideration.

Awards consist of a contribution toward room and board costs or, very rarely, other conference expenses such as travel costs. The Mythopoeic Society Council of Stewards, in consultation with the Mythcon Conference Committee, determines the award recipients, amounts, and application of funds. No more than half of the Fund's balance may be used in any given year. This year's deadline to apply for the fund is May 30, 2022. More information and the application form are [available here](#).

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## Guests of Honor

### *Rivera Sun - Author Guest of Honor*

Rivera Sun is a change-maker, a cultural creative, a protest novelist, and an advocate for nonviolence and social justice. Her young adult fantasy series, the Ari Ara Series, has been widely acclaimed by teachers, parents, and peace activists for its blending of fantasy and adventure with social justice issues. Going beyond dragon-slayers and sword-swingers, heroes and sheroes in Ari Ara's world stop wars and wage peace. In all her works, Rivera Sun advocates that if we want to build a culture of peace, we have to tell new stories that still appreciate, but go beyond the old myths, epics, and legends that rehash outdated war and violence narratives. *The Way Between*, the first book in the Ari Ara Series, has been read by numerous groups of all ages, while the second book in the series, *The Lost Heir*, won the 2019 Nautilus Award Silver Medal. Rivera Sun's essays have been published in hundreds of journals nationwide. She is a frequent speaker and presenter at schools, colleges and universities, where her novel *The Dandelion Insurrection* has been taught in literature and political science courses. Rivera Sun is also the editor of *Nonviolence News*, an activist, and a trainer in making change with nonviolence. Her essays and writings are syndicated by Peace Voice and have appeared in journals nationwide. She lives in an Earthship house in New Mexico. For more about Rivera Sun, visit her website at [www.riverasun.com](http://www.riverasun.com).



### *David Bratman - Scholar Guest of Honor*



David Bratman has been reading Tolkien for over 50 years and has been writing Tolkien scholarship for nearly as long. His earliest contribution to the field was the first-ever published Tale of Years for the First Age, right after *The Silmarillion* was published. Since then he's published articles with titles like "Top Ten Rejected Plot Twists from *The Lord of the Rings*," "Hobbit Names Aren't from Kentucky," and "Liquid Tolkien" (on Tolkien and music). He's been co-editor of *Tolkien Studies: An Annual Scholarly Review* since 2013, and has written or edited its annual "Year's Work in Tolkien Studies" since 2004. David edited *The Masques of Amen House* by Charles Williams and contributed the bio-bibliographical appendix on the Inklings to Diana Pavlac Glyer's *The Company They Keep*. He has also written on C.S. Lewis, Ursula Le Guin, Mervyn Peake, Neil Gaiman, and others.

For the Mythopoeic Society he was editor of the monthly bulletin *Mythprint* for fifteen years, and has worked on many Mythopoeic Conferences, including serving twice as chair. He's a retired academic librarian and an active classical music reviewer who lives with his wife, Berni (a soprano and violinist), and two cats in a house they call Minnipin Cottage.

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## Hotel

The Mythcon 52 planning committee is delighted to welcome you back to Albuquerque, New Mexico, and back to conferencing in person! During the pandemic, many businesses and business models have changed, so we were forced to change venues at a late date—thus many of the delays! However, you can rest assured that Mythcon 52 is happening, the dates are set, and we have sleeping and conference locations confirmed.

Mythcon 52 sleeping arrangements will be at the [Hampton Inn University/Midtown](#). The room options of two queens or one king can currently be reserved through this link at a special rate of \$88 per night (plus tax currently at 13.25%). To get this special rate, [go to this link](#). (If you have trouble getting the correct rate, [go to this link](#), click on the Special Rate button and insert CHHMYT into the Group Code box.) Connecting rooms are also available. Amenities include: Free hot breakfast, free parking, free WiFi, outdoor pool, and fitness center. Located in Albuquerque's midtown, it allows easy access to the I-40 freeway and is a 14-minute drive, taxi, or rideshare from the airport.

Conference attendees are encouraged to room with family or close friends and to plan room sharing according to vaccination status and comfort level. Because the planning committee cannot commit to pairing up people according to their safety preferences, first-time attendees or those who want to share rooms are encouraged to reach out on Discord, Facebook, and our Mailing list on Groups.io to solicit roommates. For those who want to pack a room tight, rollaway beds can also be reserved.

Attendees will want to reserve rooms for the night of Friday, July 29 (half-day programming), Saturday, July 30, and Sunday, July 31, with half-day programming on Monday, August 1. The Hampton Inn will honor the reduced room rate for anyone who arrives earlier or stays later.

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## Conference Venue

The Hampton Inn, unlike more expensive hotel options, does not have meeting space that fits our needs. So, we have reserved 21st Century Public Academy, a local charter school for our conference panels and presentations.

The school is .25 miles or a 5-minute walk from the hotel on a road with very little traffic. It's a flat, easy walk for the able-bodied, even in the summer (It's a dry heat!), but free transportation will be provided for those attendees who need or want assistance. Still, attendees are encouraged to consider their footwear and remember any needed assistive devices such as canes or braces when packing.

The school, whose mascot is a purple dragon, is a great fit for us, evoking past Mythcons held in university classrooms, but with the added perk of not sleeping in university dorm rooms!

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## Meals

The Hampton Inn includes free hot breakfast with their reservations. Although conference-organized communal meal options are still in the works, Mythcon 52 has not planned any communal meals at this point, apart from the Sunday banquet. Our reasons for this are to reduce cost to attendees, allow you full control of dietary needs, and encourage individual choice of comfort levels with COVID transmission risks. While we hope to offer some flavor of our usual gatherings, any such offerings we may add will certainly look different this year! Stay tuned for more information.

[Banquet tickets are now available](#) on our website at \$40 each. Our banquet will be held at the Daily Grind, a local favorite only .4 miles away (we will provide free transportation for any who wish it). The [Daily Grind](#) features a tasty and varied menu, lots of outdoor seating, and beer/wine offerings.

The Hampton Inn is conveniently located near many fantastic local food options for lunches and dinners. Across the street (not even .1 miles) is [Green Jeans Farmery](#), a local outdoor eatery, where Mythies are invited to take meals. In addition to having ample outdoor seating for safer, maskless interactions, Green Jeans has a wide variety of food options with counter service, including Burgers, Barbecue, Pizza, Pho, Smoothies, Coffee, Ice Cream, and Craft Beer (and local wine)!

A little further afield, determined walkers or those with cars can access even more options. In addition to the Daily Grind where we will hold our Sunday night banquet, local chains Rudy's Barbecue or Blake's Lotaburger are only .3 miles away (if across a busy street). A strip mall with Einstein Bagels, Chello Grill (Middle Eastern), Thai Vegan, and Juaní's Kitchen (Mexican) is .8 miles away. Ample time will be built into the schedule to allow for lunch travel.

Whole Foods (.3 miles) and Walmart Neighborhood Market (.7 miles) are also nearby to stock hotel rooms. For any material needs, a Walmart Supercenter is .6 miles away.

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## COVID Safety Policy

Our Organizing Committee has worked hard to ensure the safest possible environment for our presenters and attendees during this time when COVID variants are still a concern. Only in the event of an unavoidable circumstance (such as a state government ban of all gatherings over a certain number) would we consider canceling Mythcon 52. So, rest assured we are going forward. However, participating in any kind of gathering poses some risk of infection. With this in mind, and with input from members and the approval of the Council of Stewards, we have developed a COVID Policy for Mythcon 52 participants that requires:

- Proof of Vaccination or Negative COVID Tests;
- Masks that fully cover the mouth and nose worn indoors during all presentations and panels, unless actively eating or drinking.

Beyond these requirements and others outlined in our [full COVID Policy](#), participants are encouraged to follow their own risk/comfort level when choosing among events to attend. The Mythopoeic Society accepts no responsibility for any spread of COVID-19 as part of travel to, from, or participation in Mythcon 52.

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## For more information

If you have questions or ideas, please email [chair@mythcon.org](mailto:chair@mythcon.org) and [co-chair@mythcon.org](mailto:co-chair@mythcon.org).

***We look forward to seeing you in July!***

