



***FANTASIES
OF THE
MIDDLE
LANDS***

**Mythcon 53 with
Diversicon 31
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Double Tree by Hilton –
Park Place
August 2-5, 2024**

Progress Report #3

FINAL Pre-conference update!

PROGRESS REPORT #3

A short one, because it's almost time to start packing your bags! See [Progress Report #1](#) and [Progress Report #2](#) for more details on the Guests of Honor, the venue and surrounding area, and events. Here are some last-minute updates:

DRAFT SCHEDULE

While it's still being tweaked a bit here and there, we have a [LIVE draft schedule](#) you can use to start planning your weekend. This is where you will find the links for live-streamed and virtual/hybrid events once the conference starts. The full program with abstracts and bios and other information will be available for download shortly. In-person attendees will be provided with a printed pocket schedule and can purchase a printed program book at the registration desk.

- Pro tip #1: Highlight your local time zone! If you are attending in person, you will be in CENTRAL. Don't miss something you want to see because of time zone confusion!
- Pro tip #2: But remember, things may still change. So just treat this as a draft until we are closer to the actual date.

TECH STUFF

Here are other important pieces of tech information:

- [Livestreamed Presenter Instructions](#)
- [Virtual Presenter Instructions](#)
- [Tech Mod Instructions](#)
- Tech Check Hours: This is primarily so virtual presenters can check that they can stream their content over Zoom.
Sat, July 27th: 12-2pm CDT (link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88994922983>)
Sun, July 28th: 12-2pm CDT (link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88994922983>)

DEALERS AND AUCTION

Bring your wallets and pack an extra bag!

Dealers' room hours will be:

- Friday: 2:00 pm to 5:30 pm
- Saturday: 11:00 am to 5:30 pm
- Sunday: 9:00 am to 5:30 pm
- Monday: 9:00 am to 11:00 am

Here are the dealers confirmed to be attending MythCon this year – check out their websites, and if you’re attending virtually, do a bit of online shopping!

- **Michael Merriam/Queen of Swords Press** michaelmerriam.com, queenofswordspress.com
- **Dreamhaven Books** dreamhavenbooks.com
- **FTL Publications** ftlpublications.com
- **Lantern Hollow Press** donalddwilliams.com
- **The Gabbro Head Press LLC** gabbrohead.com
- **Furrowed Brow Books** furrowedbrowbooks.com
- and of course, **The Mythopoeic Society/Mythopoeic Press** mythsoc.org

At the Auction, we’ll have tons of material from both MythSoc and Diversicon contributors. (Your co-chairs have been weeding duplicates from their personal libraries of Inklings scholarship and knick-knacks, just to give you a taste of what to expect.) If you want to donate anything, be sure it’s in the Dealer’s Room well before 11:00 on Sunday, so people can make anonymous bids!

- How it works: You can sign up for your personal bidder number at the Society Table. If you see an item you like on the MythSoc or Diversicon tables, pick up an appropriate bid sheet and enter your bidder number and price. If no one outbids you on the bid sheet or at the auction, congratulations – you’ve won! Cash, check, or charge cards accepted.

COVID UPDATE

We are hearing reports of an upsurge in COVID cases at a number of conferences this summer, including local conferences in the Twin Cities. We **STRONGLY** urge daily self-testing, as well as wearing a mask if you feel the least bit unwell, are coughing or sneezing, or are particularly vulnerable. Please don’t hesitate to mask up if you just feel more comfortable doing so. We also **STRONGLY** urge that you be up to date on your boosters before attending. You have just enough time for them to be effective if you do this right away.

- And remember: **ALLERGENS: There must be NO NUTS, NO PEANUTS, and NO PETS in our function rooms due to potentially DEADLY allergy reactions. This is non-negotiable.** Foods prepared in the hotel **for our conference** will meet the “no nuts” and “no peanuts” requirements. Please wash your hands after eating nuts and peanuts outside the convention area before entering the function rooms. If you have a service animal who must be with you in public function spaces, please contact a conference committee member well in advance so we can plan how to handle this.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

There will be a registration desk in the conference hallway from 10:00 to 3:30 on Friday. If you come in after that, please check in at the Society Table in the Dealer's Room. This is separate from hotel check-in—we suggest you do that first.

Name Tags

We will have pre-printed name tags, badge holders, and lanyards at the registration desk. If you have your own lanyard and badge holder, please bring it! And we will collect lanyards and badge holders on Monday for use at the next Mythcon.

- If you want a different name on your tag than the one you used to register, or would like to add your pronouns, please contact Joan Marie Verba at verba001@umn.edu before Tuesday, July 30.

Banquet tickets

If you have purchased a banquet ticket, it will be in your packet at registration. The deadline for purchasing them online is **Sunday July 28. Sorry, there will be NO at-the-door banquet tickets**, but you can enter for the Guest of Honor address and Mythopoeic Society Awards after the banquet has been cleared.

Elevator keys

For events in the Murphy room on the top floor, you will need to use the elevator key we'll be providing you at check in. We suggest keeping it in your badge holder.

Masquerade and Clerihew entry forms

These will be in your registration packets and can be turned in at the Society table. The Masquerade will be Saturday night during the Entertainments, and Clerihew awards are given at the Banquet.

Volunteer needs & opportunities

At the Society Table, you can ask about opportunities to help with registration, auction set-up, ride sharing to local restaurants, or judging contests.

- You can also sign up for the Buddy System, either as an experienced MythCon attendee or as a newbie either at the conference or in advance here: <https://forms.gle/YiAtxubSUhMCjwoM9>.
- Here's another thing you can volunteer for in advance: Technical Moderator. The Mythopoeic Society's events rely in part on volunteer moderators to ensure that sessions proceed smoothly. We are in urgent need of additional volunteers to act as Technical Moderator for Mythcon 53/Diversicon to assist with streaming the in-person content to our online

attendees. This mostly involves 'babysitting' the laptop that will be streaming in-person content, and monitoring the Zoom room on that laptop (admitting attendees, etc.). A draft of the duties for a Tech Mod may be found [here](#). Tech Moderators will be able to choose which sessions they cover - they will not be automatically assigned. If you would be willing to serve as a Technical Moderator, please email the very appreciative Mythcon Steward, Tim Lenz, at mythcon@mythsoc.org.

Got questions?

If you want to talk to someone about the conference in general, David Lenander is hosting two casual chats via Zoom:

- Saturday, July 27, 1 PM CDT <https://umn.zoom.us/j/96083540733>
- Tuesday, July 30, 5 PM CDT <https://umn.zoom.us/j/98035139717>

Committee contact information:

Mythcon 53 Committee

- David Emerson, Chair: chair@mythcon.org
- Janet Brennan Croft, Vice Chair and Alexei Kondratiev Award coordinator: co-chair@mythcon.org, mythlore@mythsoc.org
- Melody Green, Paper Coordinator and Glen GoodKnight Award coordinator: papers@mythcon.org
- Joan Marie Verba, Dealer's Room, Author Readings, Publications: dealers@mythcon.org
- David Lenander, GoH Liaison and Local Publicity: david_lenander@icloud.com
- Megan Abrahamson, Buddy System Coordinator: mythprint@mythsoc.org
- Tim Lenz, Mythopoeic Society Steward for Conferences: mythcon@mythsoc.org

Diversicon 31 Committee

- Diversicon: diversicon@gmail.com
- Scott Lohman, D31 Chair: scottl2605@aol.com