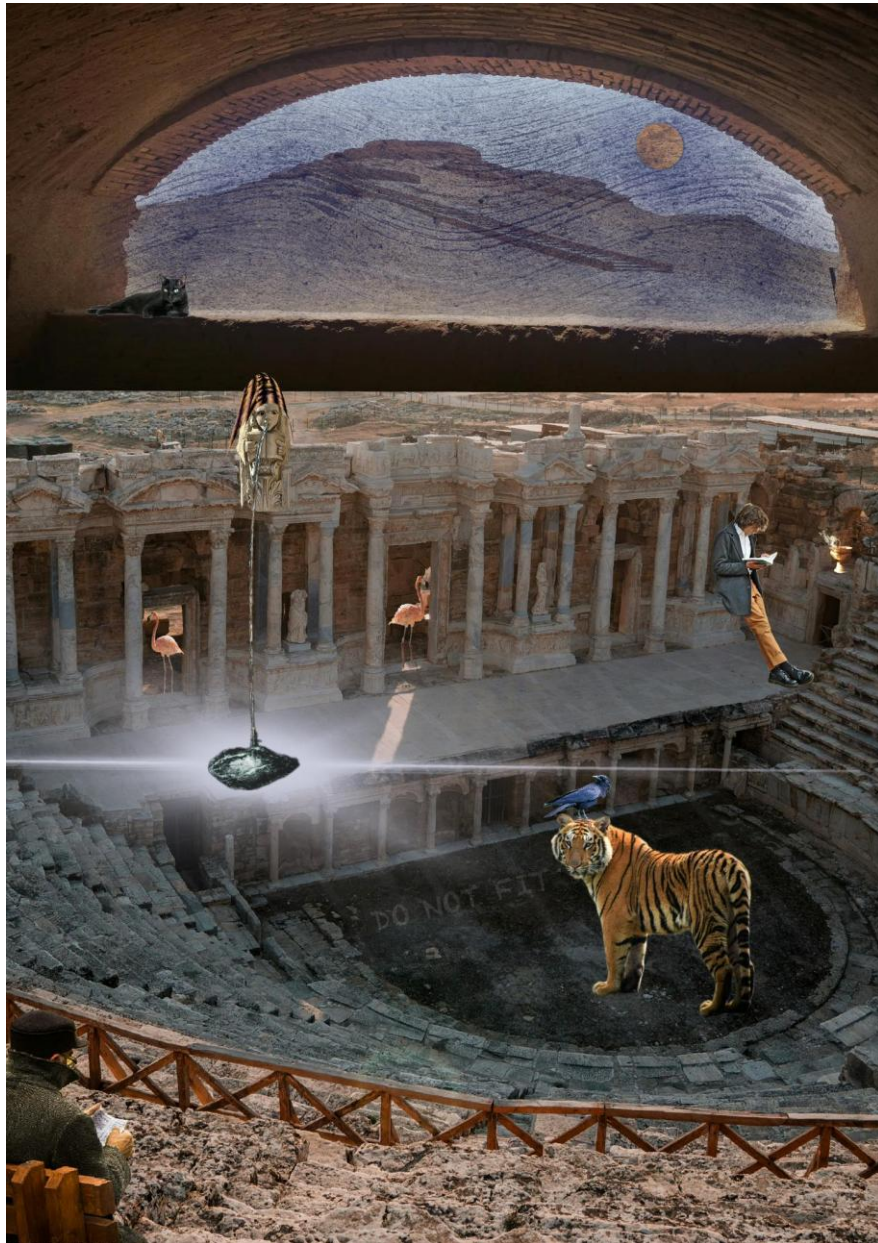


mythPRINT



**Quarterly Bulletin of the Mythopoeic Society with Book Reviews,
Short Articles, Event Information, and More!**

vol. 63 no. 1 Spring 2026 whole no. 416

mythprint

Quarterly Bulletin of the Mythopoeic Society

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Mythprint is the quarterly bulletin of the Mythopoeic Society, a nonprofit educational organization devoted to the study, discussion, and enjoyment of mythic, mythopoeic, and fantasy literature, especially the works of J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, Charles Williams, and other Inklings. To promote these interests, the Society maintains a website, social media, and digital archives, sponsors annual conferences (Mythcon and OMS), grants annual awards for fiction and scholarship, sponsors discussion groups, and issues three publications: *Mythlore*, our scholarly journal, *The Mythic Circle*, our literary magazine, and *Mythprint*, our newsletter.

Membership and Subscriptions

Mythopoeic Society membership:
- \$15/year includes Society membership and an electronic subscription to *Mythprint*
- \$30/year includes Society membership and a paper subscription to *Mythprint*

Either entitles you to members' rates on publications and other benefits. For institutions and our non-U.S. subscribers, complete & updated price lists can always be found on our website. We also have a lifetime membership option.

The easiest way to join the Mythopoeic Society and subscribe to our publications or join our annual conferences

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New CFP
Stewards Meetings

is to visit our website. We take PayPal and personal checks. Back issues of *Mythprint* are available on our digital archives. Reviews of mythopoeic media, discussion group reports, news items, letters, artwork, notes or short articles, and other submissions for *Mythprint* are always welcome. In return for printed pieces, contributors who are not already subscribers will receive an electronic copy of the issue in which the item appears. Please contact the editor for details on format, or send materials to:

Brice Odom
Editor, *Mythprint*
mythprint@mythsoc.org

The Mythopoeic Society also publishes two other magazines: *Mythlore* (subscription \$30/year for U.S. Society members) and *The Mythic Circle*, an annual magazine publishing fiction, poems, etc. (\$8/issue for U.S. addresses). Subscriptions and back issues of Society publications may be purchased directly through our web site, or you may contact:

The Mythopoeic Society
PO Box 28427
San Jose, CA 95159

Visit The Mythopoeic Society online at www.mythsoc.org.
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MYTHCON UPDATES

Dates: July 24-27, 2026

Join us in Weatherford, Oklahoma for the 54th Mythcon: Get Your Fantasy Kicks on Route 66.

- Chair: Phillip Fitzsimmons (chair@mythcon.org)

- Papers Coordinator: Cami Agan (papers@mythcon.org)

- Additional committee members: Khrystyna Melnychuk, Victoria Gaydosik, Conner Kirk, Robert Williams

- Mythopoeic Society Steward for Conferences: Tim Lenz (mythcon@mythsoc.org)

Keep an eye on our social media and website for the most up-to-date information on the conference: www.mythcon.org.

Conference Theme

Join us in Weatherford OK, where Mythcon 54 will celebrate the 100th anniversary of “The Mother Road,” Route 66.

A.I. Policy

The Mythopoeic Society has instituted a policy on AI-generated content for our events and publications. It can be viewed at https://dc.svwsu.edu/mythsoc/MythSoc_AI_Policy.pdf Please review and consider this policy when preparing your submission.

Alexi Kondratiev Student Paper Award

Presenters who are full-time undergraduate or graduate students are encouraged to submit their completed conference papers in advance for consideration for the Alexei Kondratiev Student Paper Award. Please see www.mythsoc.org/mythcon/alexei.htm for more information.

Glen Goodnight Starving Scholars Fund



The Mythopoeic Society’s 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 & board costs or, very rarely, other conference expenses such as travel costs. The Mythcon Papers Coordinator, in consultation with the Mythopoeic Society Council of Stewards and the Conference Committee, makes the final decision as to award recipients, amounts, and application of funds. No more than half of the Fund’s balance may be used in any given year. Contact papers@mythcon.org for more information.

Registrations & Reservations

Vendor Space Reservation

Full 8’ tables or half-tables (shared with another vendor) are available in our Dealers room for \$50 or \$30. If you are interested in bringing your wares to sell, please contact Robert Williams by email at dealers@mythcon.org, and he will provide more details. You can also reserve a table online on the Mythopoeic Society website, <https://www.mythsoc.org/mythcon/mythcon-54.htm#dealers>. Tables are 8 feet long by 30 inches wide. Vendors who will only be staffing their table do not have to purchase memberships, but any vendor who also

wants to attend any of the conference. Activities must purchase a full conference membership.

Attendee Registration

Mythcon 54 registration is now open. Current rates for Mythcon 54 are as follows. Rates for attending memberships will increase on June 1, so register early if you can. – Full Conference Registration (Mythsoc member*) \$110.00 – Full Conference Registration (non member) \$125.00 – Full Conference Registration (student**) \$100.00 – Virtual Conference Registration (Mythsoc member) \$20.00 – Virtual Conference Registration (non member) \$25.00

Full-time students; must present current, active student ID at check-in to get this rate. Note: to register at the member rate, you must be a member of the Mythopoeic Society, and you need to log on to our members area first.

Here is a 6-minute YouTube video explaining how Mythsoc members can log in to the members area, and then proceed to the registration process for Mythcon 54. <https://youtu.be/lwKo4H-hNcs>

To register for Mythcon 54, go to <https://www.mythsoc.org/members/events.htm#!event/register/2026/8/7/mythcon-54>

Venue: Stafford Air & Space Museum, 3000 Logan Rd, Weatherford, OK 73096

The Stafford Air & Space Museum, named in honor of Weatherford native, astronaut Thomas P. Stafford, is considered one of the finest and most comprehensive air and space museums in the central United States and is an Affiliate of the Smithsonian. Weatherford OK is also the home of the Mythopoeic Society Archives at Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU).

Hotel: Lucille's Hotel, Weatherford

The Mythcon 54 official hotel is Lucille's Hotel in Weatherford. Mythcon attendees will receive a special rate of \$99.99 (+ taxes) per night, using the group code MYTHCON54.

The contact information for the hotel is: Lucille's Hotel, Restaurant, & Bar 3825 E Main St, Weatherford, Oklahoma, 73096. Phone 580-774-0400 To reserve a room at the conference rate, guests may either: – Call the hotel at 580-774-0400 and reference the group code MYTHCON54, or – Email the front desk at frontdesk@lucilleshotel.com and include the group code MYTHCON54 in their reservation request.

Here is a link to the [Hotel's Web Site](#) for information purposes. (Do not use this site to try to reserve a room.)

Getting to Wetherford, OK: Not as Tough as Going to Mount Doom

Weatherford, OK is accessible only to those with wheels! As we approach the event, the organizing committee will provide resources to help coordinate rides between Oklahoma City and Weatherford and also around Weatherford during Mythcon.

Plane: Don't be turned off by flying to an airport named for Oklahoma's most beloved native son, who died in a plane crash. After arriving at Will Rogers International Airport (recently upgraded from Will Rogers World Airport!), you will need ground transportation to Weatherford. Car rental and shuttle options at OKC airport can be found here. We recommend coordinating shared rides with other Mythcon attendees.

Automobile: Oklahoma City (the nearest semi-major metropolitan area) lies at the intersection of not one!-not two!-but three! major interstate highways: east-west I-40, north-south I-35, and northeast-to-southwest I-44. Once in Oklahoma City, take I-40 west to Weatherford at Exit 84. For local transportation between the conference hotel and venue, we strongly recommend that you either have a car of your own, or coordinate carpooling with another attendee.

Special Events

Masquerade: Mythcon 54 will have a masquerade as part of one of our Saturday evening entertainments. A Mythcon masquerade is a staged costume presentation that ranges from the sublime to the silly; its focus is fun

and entertainment. Everyone is invited to participate; sign-up forms will be provided at the registration desk.

The Not Very Annual Mary Stolzenbach Memorial: Clerihew Contest

What's a Mythcon without whimsical verse and possibly doubtful veracity? So, polish up your skills for our Not Very Annual Clerihew Contest, named in honor of the late Mary Stolzenbach, who used to sweep the awards regularly. Each attendee may submit one entry into each of three categories: Before Tolkien (pre-1892), During Tolkien (1892-1973), and After Tolkien (post-1973). A distinguished panel of judges, They Who Must Never Be Named, will evaluate each entry based on the HOC criteria of Humor, Originality, and Clerihewness. Winners will be rewarded with the traditional prize of a jeroboam of Chateau de Porteur d'Anneau invisible champagne, and we'll all toast the memory of beloved clerihew enthusiast Mike Foster.

Volunteer Opportunities

Organizing Committee Volunteer Opportunities include positions for Promotions (preferably someone from Wetherford or the surrounding area), Programming, and Art Show Coordinator.

Non-Committee Opportunities include positions related to Registration, Technical Moderators, and the Mythopoeic Society Dealers Table.

If interested, please email Tim Lenz at mythcon@mythsoc.org

500th MYTHPRINT CANCELLED

Physical Run to be Refunded

Subscriptions Steward Grace Moone and outgoing *Mythprint* Editor Megan Abrahamson regret to announce that we must cancel and refund the printing run of the special issue 500th *Mythprint* (61.4 #411). We had big plans to do this run through a professional printer for perhaps an embossed or foiled cover and a higher quality paper. Due to changing markets during

these continually unprecedented economic times, the small business printers we tried couldn't get back to us, and larger printers ultimately couldn't do what we wanted at cost. Therefore, we regret that we cannot fulfill the special printed issue. For those who purchased the special issue above and beyond their *Mythprint* subscriptions, refunds will be issued via PayPal soon, but by July, 2026, at the latest. If you do not receive a notification about your refund by then, please reach out to Dusty Brooks (Assistant Treasurer who will be handling the refunds, at treasurer@mythsoc.org). We appreciate your patience with us as we gave this project its best shot before canceling. We hope to have some physical (though not fancy) copies of the special issue for viewing and purchase at the Mythsoc table during Mythcon.

CONCERNING CONFERENCES

by Tim Lenz, Mythopoeic Steward

Since 2021, the Mythopoeic Society has been offering fully- or partially-online events, necessitated of course by the COVID-19 pandemic. Public Health restrictions caused many historically in-person activities to shift to a virtual model instead, using platforms such as Zoom. Ultimately, this led to the birth of the Mythopoeic Society's online seminar series, which due to a mixture of practicality and intention has a distinctly different identity than the long-running in-person Mythcon events that long-time Mythies know and love. This has generated some confusion at times, so as your Steward of Mythopoeic Conferences, I am here to help clarify what constitutes an OMS versus a Mythcon.

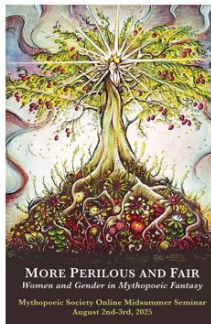
But before we get into the differences, I would like to highlight what our online and in-person/hybrid events share. Regardless of whether you are attending an OMS or a Mythcon, you can expect our distinctive mix of academic and fannish programming covering Mythopoeia of all sorts: From more traditional mediums (i.e. Literature, film, episodic series) to newer formats (games of all sorts, comic books/graphic novels, etc.). We

have also been able to host Bardic Circles at both online and in-person events, during which members rotate sharing of a creative work (reading, song, poetry, etc.). The Mythopoeic Awards Ceremony may take place at either type of event, depending on what time of year the event is being held. Both Mythcon and OMS events are entirely volunteer-organized, and we are always looking for proposals from future potential event chairs (hint hint). Interested parties may email me at mythcon@mythsoc.org for more information on what is involved with chairing a Mythcon or OMS.

Mythcons have a long-standing history that stretches back over 50 years to 1970, when the first ever Mythcon was held in Claremont, CA, with Clyde S. Kilby, one of the earliest scholars of Tolkien and the other Inklings, as the Guest of Honor. Aside from the first 2 Mythcons, which were held in early September, Mythcon has always taken place in July or August. What exactly constitutes a Mythcon (short for “Mythopoeic Society Conference”) has evolved over the decades, but the current iteration has settled into a distinctive collection of traditional content and events. While Mythcons will typically have some sort of theme, it is not required that submissions for academic papers, panels, etc. fit perfectly into that theme; any submissions related to the Inklings or the wider umbrella of Mythopoeia are welcomed. Mythcons usually have two Guests of Honor – a Scholar and an Author, who each give keynotes during the event. Some of the programming items or traditions distinct to a Mythcon are difficult to replicate in an ‘online-only’ event, including a procession of Mythies in academic garb or costumes leading into the Opening Ceremonies, live music performances, a masquerade, Golfimbul, and a banquet with food sculptures and hastily prepared performances.



VS



Up until Mythcon 50 in 2019, Mythcons were ‘in-person only’ events, but COVID-era public health concerns and restrictions necessitated a pivot to a completely online format. Mythcon 51, which was held in summer 2021, was described as a “Virtual Halfling Mythcon,” since the organizers realized that an online-only event could not fully replicate all the in-person elements that traditionally occur at Mythcon. But a silver lining to pandemic isolation was the realization that we could successfully manage fully-online events, even if they would need to be different than a traditional Mythcon. We also determined that we could hold Mythcon as a ‘hybrid’ event with both in-person and online components, including virtual presenters and attendees. But if we were going to continue running fully virtual events, they would need their own name and identity; hence, the “OMS” was born.

I would like to take a moment here to address that acronym. Astute readers may have noted that I specifically avoided spelling out the full meaning of the OMS acronym thus far, and for good reason. The definition of “OMS” has had to be a bit malleable over the last few years: “OMS” originally stood for “Online Midwinter Seminar,” since our first totally online event took place in February 22, with a theme of “The Inklings and Horror.” But the following year, that acronym was strained since the “Fantasy Goes to Hell” seminar took place in summer 2023, not winter, so we called it an “Online Midsummer Seminar” to preserve the acronym, and since then “Midwinter” and “Midsummer” have been interchangeable. Recently, the Council of Stewards voted to adopt a more universal, season-agnostic definition of the OMS acronym, and so, henceforth, these events will all be known as “Online Mythopoeic Seminars.”

There are a few major aspects that set an OMS apart from a Mythcon. The first and most obvious is the format – OMS events are primarily held on Zoom, with an optional component on the messaging and networking platform Discord. Online-only events offer both benefits and drawbacks. A major advantage of fully virtual events is a low barrier-to-entry; because the registration costs are lower and no travel is required to attend an OMS, we can reach a wider audience and hold events that are more broadly accessible to scholars, fans, and enthusiasts of the Inklings and mythopoeia. All that is needed is a Zoom-capable device. This increased accessibility has resulted in presenters and attendees from all over the world participating in our virtual events, including many first-time attendees and young or early career researchers who have never before experienced a Mythopoeic Society event. Also, with many of the Society's long-time members getting older and possibly less able to manage long-distance travel, virtual events afford an opportunity for those members to still attend Mythopoeic Society events in some capacity. The main downside of an online event, as mentioned earlier, is that certain traditional in-person Mythcon activities simply cannot easily translate to a virtual platform, though if anyone can come up with a way to play *Golfimbul* online, I am more than happy to entertain it! Instead, OMS has developed its own set of distinct activities and traditions, including hosted online gaming streams, late night games of “Cards Against Arda” (a Tolkien-themed version of the oft-raucous party game “Cards Against Humanity”), and *Mystery Science Theatre 3000*-style viewings of rare or unusual adaptations of fantasy works, where audience members are encouraged to playfully poke fun together at outlandish or unexpected elements.

Another major differentiation between OMS and Mythcon is adherence to the event theme; it was decided that OMS events would require that all submissions and accepted papers would have some tie to the theme, providing a more focused program. As there has been



some confusion surrounding this guideline, I want to stress that, even if an OMS is occurring in late July/early August, when a Mythcon would typically take place, we still require that your submission align with the theme of the OMS. If you have had a submission rejected from an OMS due to not matching the theme of the event, we certainly encourage you to resubmit that paper for the next Mythcon instead. Also related to academic programming, Guests of Honor and keynote addresses are an optional component of an OMS: Some have had one or more Guests of Honor, others have had none.

Whether it is a Mythcon or an OMS, Mythies will continue to convene to celebrate the stories and creators who inspire us! And that tradition will continue with this summer's Mythcon 54, a fully hybrid event taking place from Jul 24th-27th, 2026, with the in-person component taking place in Weatherford, OK, home to the Mythopoeic Society's archives. Registration for Mythcon 54 is open now. For more information, check out our website. We hope to see you there, either in the flesh or on a screen.

IN MEMORIAM FOR LEE SPETH, MYTHPOEIC SOCIETY STEWARD

Remembered by David Bratman

Lee Speth and I became friends about 50 years ago when we were both single and were regularly cast together as roommates at Mythcons.

Our friendship was not much about serious mythopoeic literature but centered on politics in which we were both interested, him professionally as an elections supervisor. In fantasy he liked some of the odder corners of the repertoire, particularly lighter children's literature. He wrote a column about his interests in Mythlore for quite a while. These tastes are why the annual west coast Oz conventions, Winkiecon (the Winkies lived in the west of Oz) were a regular part of his schedule. Lee enticed me, and later Berni, to attend these when, as was the case for many years, they were held at Asilomar not far from my home. Lee and Dolores, whom he had delightfully

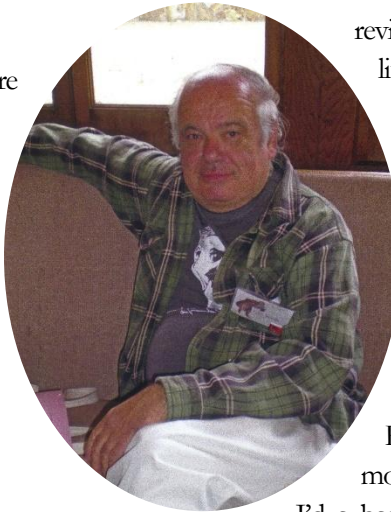
married, would fly from LA to San Jose or Monterey and I would pick them up. We'd have dinner at Fisherman's Wharf in Monterey and then proceed to the conference center.

I also visited Lee and Dolores regularly whenever I ventured south. Neither of them drove, not as much of a rarity in Angelenos as you might think, but having a driver at his disposal didn't alter Lee's invariable preference for eating at the same burger/pasta/salad place a block from their apartment, where he was an esteemed regular.

As he was also here in the Society, where he handled back issue orders for many years and spent Mythcons mostly sitting behind the Society sales table, until he would emerge at closing ceremonies to lead the singing of "What Shall We Do With a Drunken Hobbit?" I shall miss his acute intelligence and occasional wicked sense of humor.

Remembered by Megan Abrahamson

Lee Speth has always been here. As a relatively recent member and steward of the Mythopoeic Society, I cannot imagine a Mythcon without Lee. He was the face of the Society, the face at the table, physically welcoming you to Mythsoc. Lots of things about Mythcon just automatically appeared and happened because Lee was there: the banner, the merch table, golfimbul, the closing ceremony songs--not to mention all the orders fulfilled! In between these feats, he was bright and funny, with a backlog of good stories to tell by the time I got to know him. He never failed to keep me on my toes with his wry wit. His presence will be missed at future Mythcons: we can replace a person sitting at the table, scoring golfimbul, or leading the closing ceremony songs (though not without shedding a tear, I think!) but we can never replace Lee Speth.



Remembered by Janet Brennan Croft

Mythcon will feel kind of thin and stretched, like too little butter scraped over too much bread, without Lee's presence. He was one of the best ambassadors the Society had; a few Mythcons ago I started noticing how good he was at making new attendees feel welcomed and comfortable, and he simply shone when he was paired up with someone new as a conference buddy. His "Cavalier Treatment" column, which ran in most issues of *Mythlore* from #19 through #46, was a delight; sometimes a review, sometimes an astute and insightful literary observation, but always in that unique voice that we will all miss so much.

Remembered by Lynn Maudlin

Lee Speth was the first person I met, associated with the Mythopoeic Society, back in spring of 1982. I'd seen Filthy Pierre's con listing in *Analog*, the monthly science fiction magazine to which I'd subscribed for 15 years. I was moving into freelance work and thought I might have time to attend a science fiction convention, so I looked for things in close proximity and there was Mythcon 13, with an address for queries. It looked intriguing, having grown up on the Greek and Roman myths more than on fairy tales, so I wrote and quite quickly received back an enthusiastic letter from Lee Speth, with lots of publicity materials about the MythSoc and the upcoming conference, and I sent back a check for membership in both the Society and the conference.

When I arrived at Chapman College in Orange, California, Lee was present at the registration table and greeted me like an old friend and clued me in to the ropes, such as they were. I'd been assigned a roommate, an older single woman, and was almost immediately plunged into the riches of the Mythopoeic Society and academic scholarship into authors I already loved, although Charles Williams was unknown to me, as is fairly common with folks new to the MythSoc.

Mythcons were more formal in structure at that point, with a lot of active oversight by our founder Glen GoodKnight, but it was still a tremendously fun and intellectually stimulating weekend, and I left knowing that there was a monthly Discussion Group meeting in Alhambra, not too far from my home in Altadena, so I joined Mydgard immediately. There was also a picnic at Barnsdall Park for Bilbo & Frodo's birthday coming up in September and I brought my twelve-year-old son with me.

Lee's unabashed enthusiasm combined with his prodigious memory and delightful sense of humor made him a favorite new friend immediately, and he shared his interests freely - I was always delighted to hear about Winkiecon, another fannish passion, but since my exposure to L. Frank Baum was limited to the film adaptation of *The Wizard of Oz*, I didn't follow him and his dear friend Dolores Espinosa down the yellow brick road. A few years later my son and I were honored to attend the wedding of Lee and Dolores.

Early in 1984 Lee asked if I might be willing to serve on the Council of Stewards, the board of directors of the Mythopoeic Society, a non-profit organization and I discussed it with my husband and decided yes, I was willing. Soon I was voted in and that started decades of interaction with Lee in our mutual capacity as Stewards. This was a place where Lee truly shined: he knew Roberts' Rules of Order well, he remembered the details of our Bylaws and incorporation - he remembered EVERYTHING!

Lee served on the Council of Stewards as Orders Manager for years before I came and continued, nonstop, when I took a break in the 1990s before I returned as SMC in 2005. In fact, it wasn't until late in 2025 when Lee announced to the Council that he would be retiring from service to the Society. My 30 years pales next to his nearly 50 years. And what a gaping hole we'll have at Mythcons, now Lee is absent from the Society table, meeting new friends, greeting old ones, sharing funny stories.

We don't yet understand what a massive blow to our history and knowledge of the Mythopoeic Society with

the loss of our friend and Steward, Lee Speth - and we will be a long time patching the hull of our ship.

Remembered by Jason Fisher

I first met Lee in 2007, nearly 20 years ago, and saw him many times at Mythcon and talked with him on many phone calls when I was on the Council of Stewards. What a great guy, very fun, kind, life of the con suite some nights. Certainly I will always remember — and really miss — his leading the drunken hobbit song during the Members Meeting and Closing Ceremonies at Mythcon. In any case, many others knew him much, much better than I did. But maybe the duration of a friendship matters less than its quality; grief is catholic (meant in the lower-case sense).

Remembered by Phillip Fitzsimmons

“Mervyn Peake's *Titus Groan* is to fantasy literature as chicken livers are to the palate: each excludes neutrality. *Titus* is either treasured as an imaginative triumph or loathed as a diseased excrescence. Those who read it, or try to read it, will rarely, if ever, reshelve it as “just another book.” (p. 46)

These are the opening words of the very first column Lee Speth wrote under the title of *Cavalier Treatment* in *Mythlore*. The columns appeared from April 1979 through April 1986. These particularly captivating words were published in his article “A Connecticut Yankee in Gormenghast” in the new column.

It is no surprise to me that these quirky, funny, perceptive, and skillfully written sentences would come from the imagination and hand of our friend Lee Speth. Not only is the quote an interesting thought but promises more humor and literary engagement to the reader in the rest of the *Cavalier Treatment* columns.

I have been acquainted with Lee since I started attending Mythcon in 2013. Always a presence at the conferences, Lee was unfailingly pleasant and likeable. He managed and worked the dealer's room and table year after year, as well as filled orders by mail throughout the year. Other of my favorite memories of our friend was that Lee was

a fun and energetic part of our annual Golfimbul competitions in the evenings of each Mythcon and he led us in “What Do You Do with a Drunken Hobbit” each year to close the conference.

Lee was a Steward during all the years that I have participated in Stewards meetings or been a Steward myself. He has been the oldest Steward with the most institutional knowledge of the Mythopoeic Society for some time. Once, a few years ago, he gave an improvised Mythsoc history at the Mythcon of his memories of the founding and experience of being in the Mythopoeic Society from the beginning to the present up to that time. His stories were always interesting and often funny, and Lee always took time to get to know his fellow members.

I imagine that those of you who had the chance to spend time over the years with Lee, enough to really know him, will have deeper feelings and memories of him. As the introductory paragraph of his Cavalier Treatment column demonstrates, Lee had many positive qualities of person and depths of soul. He will be sorely missed by the people who loved and knew him well. I know that I will miss him at Stewards meetings and Mythcons.

I will end respectfully with words from the Lord of the Eagles, in *The Hobbit*, by J.R.R. Tolkien, "Farewell, wherever you fare till your eyries receive you at the journey's end!"

Remembered by Alicia Fox-Lenz

Lee Speth was a man who was unapologetically weird in a way that was utterly charming. It was impossible to not love him for it. His laughter was infectious and his lust for life came through in all that he did -- from conducting the closing ceremonies of Mythcon to refereeing Golfimbul. He selflessly gave his time to the society through manning the merch table, which everyone saw, but so many other tasks as well, from checking the society's mail to being an oral archive for society history that all the stewards leaned on from time to time.

I cannot express how much I will miss logging onto our stewards meetings and seeing Lee lounging in front of his absolute hoard of books like some decadent, pagan king.

I will miss him letting his hair down in the con suite and spilling some tea with his cheeky little smile. I will miss him writing my name down incorrectly on the Golfimbul score card every time (it had to have been on purpose after nearly 10 years). He was a hilarious man with a heart of gold, and I am richer for having known him. I do not know how we will continue on without his physical presence, but I know the spirit of Lee will live on in the shenanigans surrounding Mythcon and I hope we make him proud.

Remembered by Leslie Donovan

As important as the positions he held for the Mythopoeic Society Council of Stewards were, Lee Speth was more than his most recent roles as the Orders Dept and Steward Emeritus (i.e., Keeper of MythSoc History). He was an example of what many of us hold most dear about our Mythopoeic Society. Among his other qualities, Lee demonstrated an attention to detail that I deeply appreciated, whether that was in the correct way to manage Robert's rules of order for Stewards' meetings, or when and at what Mythcon some event of historical note occurred. He was also always kind and fair. Even when serious differences in personal or professional philosophies arose, Lee was always able to treat the individuals with respect, continuing to be warm and friendly to them, keeping whatever issue was at stake in its proper place, and never letting such disagreements interfere with making the most of Mythic times together. Although he never made a big deal of it, his knowledge of mythopoeic literature and related matters was extensive and matched or exceeded that of many of those who consider themselves professional scholars. The part of Lee I loved most was his ability not only to have extensive, well-reasoned discussions about the Inklings, but also, in the next minute, to turn around and have fun with whatever was being discussed. Funny and perspicacious-- what a combination! Whether it was awarding Golfimbul trophies, coming up with the perfect tongue-in-cheek title for a Mythpress collection, leading the Drunken Hobbit Song at Mythcon Closing Ceremonies, or simply visiting with people in the Dealers' room at Mythcons, Lee always reminded us that

as serious and scholarly as our subjects were, that really it was all about having fun, enjoying ourselves, and enjoying in our friendships with each other. I will remember and miss that joy more than anything else when I think of Lee in the days to come.

MYTHOPOEIC SOCIETY STILL LOOKING FOR ORDERS STEWARD

Do you love Tolkien, Lewis, or the Inklings so much you wish you could do it as a job? (Well, a volunteer job.) Do you want to be part of a fifty-year legacy of mythopoeic fandom and scholarship? Have you ever wanted more of a say in an organization you love? Do you need (or want) non-profit board experience to add to your résumé or curriculum vitae? Then look no further! We are...*still* in need of volunteers!

ORDERS STEWARD

The job entails minding a storage unit and shipping purchased items to our membership. Though the storage unit is currently in California, anyone interested should feel free to apply, as we are willing to ship the items to a convenient storage unit near you (or your house, if that's for some reason more convenient). The Orders Steward would be responsible for inventory, and ordering new materials (such as T-shirts) when we run out.

Other elements of the job are attending quarterly meetings and voting as a Steward, and any small committee-type tasks that may grow from those meetings.

The benefits to the new steward are experience serving on the board of a non-profit organization, which can be billed differently to academic and corporate audiences—either way, it's a CV/résumé-builder!

The ideal Orders Steward:

- Is generally able-bodied and mobile, can move (and potentially ship) boxes of books

- Is comfortable shipping with USPS (or equivalent local carrier)

- Can learn how to use PayPal (where Orders come in, and how you will be reimbursed for shipping)

- Is interested in the mission of the Mythopoeic Society, which is simply to love and share the work of the Inklings and other fantasy creators

- Is already or is willing to become a dues-paying member of the Mythopoeic Society (currently the low low price of \$15/year)

If you are interested in the role, please reach out to chair@mythsoc.org (currently Janet Brennan Croft) with any questions. Applicants will be asked to submit a brief letter of interest in the position.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CFP: TARTALO 10th International Conference on Myth in the Arts, due May 8th

This hybrid online & in-person conference hosted by the University of the Basque Country is looking for papers in the following themes: Myth, Poetics, and Rewriting; Myth, Media, and Artistic Practice; Myth, Translation, and Cultural Circulation; Myth, Body, and Society; Myth, the Fantastic, and Aesthetic Traditions. Registration fee for authors of €99 (€49 for Online) by June 10th. Conference in English and Spanish on Nov. 17-20, 2026. For more info: <https://www.tartalogasteiz.com/en/congress>

MythSoc Stewards Meetings

To ensure all Mythopoeic Society members are aware of the schedule of meetings, so that any member of the Society can propose a topic to be placed on the agenda of the next Council meeting, the following is the tentative schedule of the Council of Stewards Meetings planned:

- May 2, 2026
- July 24, 2026 (at Mythcon)
- November 7, 2026
- February 8, 2027

The Mythopoeic Society

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Mythprint AI Policy

Mythprint is a community newsletter, like a mobile bulletin board, and as such, the use of GenAI and LLMs is in direct opposition to the informal and fanish quality of this publication. If it wasn't written by a person, we don't want to read it. Further, all published materials, whether artwork, notes, or reviews, remain under the sole ownership of their creators, and are merely reprinted with permission by the Mythopoeic Society with full attribution. Material does not go through a formal review process (only minimal proofreading by the editor—without the use of AI), so by submitting to Mythprint you attest that the work is your own and take responsibility for it. The creator of any submitted content is ultimately responsible if there is any legal challenge to its publication.

Submit to Mythprint!

We are always accepting reviews of any mythopoeic media, but we also publish letters to the editor or society, short articles and notes on Inklings topics, art, meeting discussion reports, and more! We are especially interested in reviews of mythopoeic works by creators of color and other historically underrepresented perspectives. Submit to:
mythprint@mythsoc.org



MYTHCON 54

GET YOUR FANTASY KICKS
ON ROUTE 66

July 24-27, 2026

Weatherford, OK
Near our MythSoc Archives!
Save the Date!

mythcon.org