

MINNESOTA
SCIENCE
FICTION
SOCIETY

MINNESOTA SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY PRESENTS

minicon 38

\$35
Until
Oct. 31

18
April
2003

It's Coming...

Easter weekend,
18-20 April 2003,
to the Millennium
Hotel Minneapolis!

PR2

www.minicon.org

Writer Guests of Honor:
**Robert J. Sawyer
and Carolyn Clink**

Musician Guest of Honor:
Steve Macdonald

Fan Guest of Honour:
Sue Mason

From the Chairs

Minicon 38 is moving to a new hotel, the Millennium Hotel, in downtown Minneapolis. It's on the skyway. It also offers an inspiring view of Nicollet Avenue...and the entire downtown skyline. While new to many of us, Minicon was held there once in the long ago, when the hotel was under different ownership.

The Millennium has a spectacular space that's going to make an incredible consuite — so incredible you'll be too busy to walk across the street to the Oceanaire for fresh seafood, down the street for sushi, or up the street to Brit's Pub, The Local, or Keys, or to the \$10 lunches at Aquavit and, new this year, Goodfellow's.

Not that all we ever think about is food, mind you. We've been meeting through the long hot summer planning what we can do to make Minicon 38 a great convention. To keep informed, check our website, www.minicon.org, sign up for the Minicon-announce mailing list, and remember to register early and often.

Laura Jean & Larry



Membership Rates

Rates:	Adult	Child	Supporting
Until October 31, 2002	\$35	\$15	\$15
Until March 17, 2003	\$45	\$15	\$15
At the Door	\$70	\$30	

Registration

by Fred A Levy Haskell

Register Now!

Register for Minicon 38 now! It's easy! It's fun! It saves you money! It helps us plan for a great convention!

While it's true you'll qualify for the \$35 rate as late as Halloween, why not register today? That way you'll avoid the last-minute rush... not to mention the always-irritating scabble through the pile of important papers to find the registration form. You have the form right here right now; what could be easier than filling it out and mailing it to us with your check or money order? Then it will be all taken care of.

Cash-flow crunch? Buy a supporting membership now for \$15 and then pay only \$30 at the door. That way, we'll print up a badge for you and everything!

By registering now, you're helping us get an idea of how many people to expect; this allows us to plan how much blog we'll need to make, how many bags of pretzels and chips to order, and how many copies of the Program Book to print.

Dr. Zyx W. Vuts says: "Registering now sure beats paying \$70 at the door!"

Already Registered?

Thank you!

There are letters on your mailing label in the top right corner that indicate your membership status:

ATND = Attending Membership

SUPP = Supporting Membership

CHLD = Child Membership

If more than one membership is associated with your name and address, the main notation will be followed by a plus sign, a number, and the letter "A" or "S" to indicate whether the additional memberships are Attending or Supporting.

Badges

A fannish use-name is OK so long as it only contains ASCII characters. Yes, your badge name can be Galadriel; but, no, it can't be Galadriel in Elvish.

Child Memberships

Child rates are for those 12 and under who use con services; babes in arms staying with their parents are free.

Live Outside the US?

To avoid extra charges and difficulties with currency exchange or international money orders, members living in countries other than the United States may register ahead of time without enclosing payment, and then pay the registration fee current at the time they registered, in US funds at the door. (If you are not preregistered, you will be required to pay the standard \$70 at-the-door fee, regardless of country of residence.)

Web List

This year we're offering our members the opportunity to be included on our Web page listing of those planning to attend. Along with your name, we can include a link to your home page. Be sure to let us know if you want to be included, so your friends will know you'll be at Minicon 38!

The list may be found at:

<http://www.mnstf.org/minicon/minicon38/members/members.shtml>

Fine Print

Memberships are transferable but not refundable.

Our deadlines are based on postmarks, not on receipt of registration forms. So if it's the last minute, please don't spend any extra money for overnight delivery — just make sure the postmark beats the deadline!

Questions?

Still have questions? Email registration@minicon.mnstf.org, or write us at the Minicon postal address (with Attn: Registration on the envelope).

Hotel

by Susan B. Levy Haskell

Minicon is moving this year to the Millennium Hotel Minneapolis, 1313 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55403-2697.

The Millennium is a beautiful, newly remodeled hotel at the south end of the Nicollet Mall. It's on the skyway system - convenient if the weather is bad. There are plenty of excellent restaurants just down the block, as well as a good one in the hotel. It also has 10baseT Ethernet in the bar and in many of its rooms, a lovely pool, and wonderful views of the Minneapolis skyline and Loring Park. The Millennium has a spectacular suite—it's even got its own geodesic dome!

Room rate are:

\$79 for a standard room, single/double/triple/quad, double-double or king;

\$199 for a suite.

You can reserve your room either by telephone or on the World Wide Web.



To register by phone, call the hotel at (612) 332-6000 or (866) 866-8086 and mention Minicon or give them our group code, 1677, to make sure you're getting the right rate.

To register on the Web, go to <http://www.millenniumhotels.com>. Select the hotel name "Millennium Hotel Minneapolis" then click on "Using a USA Rate Code? CLICK HERE for Access." Don't click "Go" or it will attempt to search world-wide for a code it won't find. Once you have selected "US Rate Code," you'll see a form asking for dates and numbers of people, with a box to the right that says "Group/Event ID"; into that box type 1677; then click on "Begin Search." This will bring up the Minicon members' welcome page with directions to the hotel and other details. At the bottom of the page click on "View Rates." Next to the 79USD in the middle of the page, click on "Select." This will produce a page with your room and rate information and details about the guarantee and cancellation

policies; once you have read it over, check the box next to “Accept Guarantee/Deposit & Cancellation Policy, then click “Enter Guest Info.” The next form will allow you to complete your reservation, including any special needs or preferences. If you register on the Web, your printed confirmation will include a coupon for a discount on dinner or Sunday brunch at Nic’s, the hotel restaurant.

There are a limited number of suites available, and we will try to locate parties in the same area. If you would like to have a suite or you’re interested in hosting a room party please let us know at hotel@minicon.mnsthf.org (or by mailing to Minicon 38, PO Box 8297, Lake Street Station, Minneapolis, MN 55408, attn: Hotel).

Parking

If you’re registered in Minicon’s group with the hotel, the Millennium is offering a \$6.50/day rate with unlimited in/out privileges. If you are not staying in the hotel, the rate is \$13.00/day; no provision for in/out privileges is made for those not staying at the Millennium. There is additional ramp parking two blocks away in the convention center ramp at similar prices to the undiscounted price, and there is limited metered parking on the street. Meters are not enforced on Easter Sunday, but are enforced otherwise.

Directions

The hotel is located at the corner of 14th Street and the Nicollet Mall. Directions are available on the Web using your favorite map site or from the Millennium site, or you can call the hotel at the numbers above.

Come to Minicon, Stay for Corflu

This year brings us an extremely rare conjunction of fannish conventions. The 20th incarnation of Corflu, a convention for fanzine fans, is happening one week after Minicon, and less than 300 miles away. Yes, Corflu 20 will be held April 25 - 27 in Madison, Wisconsin.

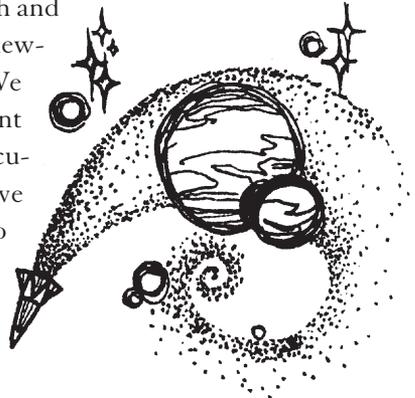
More information about Corflu 20 can be found at <http://www.mailbag.com/users/billzilla/corflu.html>.

Let the Programming Fit the Time — and Space

By Beth Friedman & Lydia Nickerson

The Minicon 38 Programming Team, following in the noble tradition of the last few years, will bring you a carefully tailored program, designed specifically to enhance the finest qualities of Minicon 38. We will be working to bring harmony to the spaces and topics and participants in the program and to make the experience exciting and new, or at least fascinating. Programming will overflow the rooms, eddy in the hallways, and pool in the consuite.

Well, that's the intent, anyway. The problem is, we're only two people. For a program to have breadth and depth, it needs to encompass many viewpoints. That's where you can help. We are soliciting ideas. What do you want to see at Minicon 38? Are you particularly interested in something that we've done before, like kaffeeklatsches? Do you have an idea for a panel you've never seen and really want to? We'd especially like to hear ideas about unusual types of events, something other than panels or speeches. Have you seen something elsewhere that you think we could do well? Tell us, we promise to only steal from the best.



We've even made it easy for you to give us ideas. You can send us e-mail at programming@minicon.mnsthf.org (how easy is that?). You can also send snail-mail to Programming at the usual address.

But in addition to those two incredibly easy options, we will be having an open meeting to brainstorm programming ideas. The details have not yet been determined, but as soon as they have they will be published on the Web site: <http://www.mnsthf.org/minicon/minicon38/>.

It will also be announced on the Minn-stf hotline, 612-824-5559.

Remember, conventions don't program themselves. They need your help.

Children's Programming and Childcare

by Laura J. Fish

Parent and Kids: Due to a steadily decreasing use of childcare we are only focusing on Children's Programming. We will still have a paid professional to guide and assist the kids but they will not be solely responsible for your child at any time. Please let us know who you are, the ages of your children, and their interests, so we can work to create program items they will enjoy. If you are interested in volunteering for Children's Programming, contact us at childrensprogramming@minicon.org.

Volunteering

by Bill Christ

It's two days before the deadline for articles for PR2 and David has reminded me that I've yet to submit mine. When Larry asked me if I would be willing to become Volunteer Coordinator for Minicon 38 I just nodded my head like a bobblehead doll. I didn't realize I'd have to do any writing, need to *convince* you to become a Minicon volunteer. I thought you'd all come running, that you couldn't wait to volunteer. We'd have so many volunteers we'd have to turn them away at the door. Trantor wouldn't have anything on us. (Looks around at the empty horizon, hearing the moaning of the wind as a tumbleweed blows by). Yep, a bobblehead.

Minicon is a fan-organized, fan-run convention. Without fan participation, it just won't happen. Your registration form has a list of departments that need your help. Would you like to get involved with running the convention? The Minicon 38 Web site has a list of open meetings and work parties that you can attend. Volunteering is fun. You get to interact with your fellow fans and participate in setting the direction of your convention. So would you like to volunteer? Just nod your head. It's easy.

Dealers Room

If you've had a table in the Dealers Room in the past, you should be receiving a letter from Lisa Freitag shortly. If you don't hear anything from us soon, or are concerned that you aren't on our list, contact hucksters@minicon.mnsthf.org or send mail to the Minicon postal address (Attn: Dealers Room).

Art Show

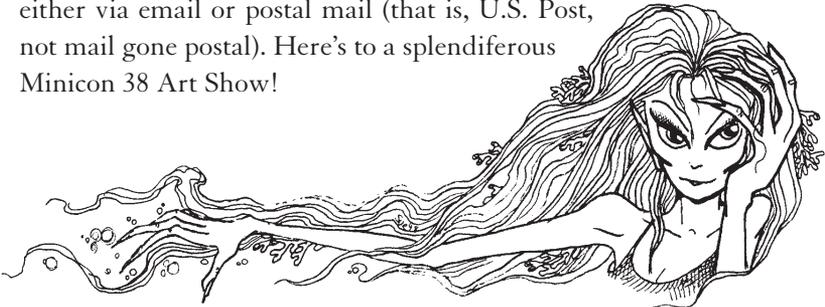
by Peer Dudda

Yes, there will be an Art Show at Minicon 38. We hope to have the works of many artists on display! Interested in displaying your art at the Minicon 38 Art Show? You may very well receive a letter from Art Show department head Peer Dudda within the next few weeks. If you don't hear from him, or fear you aren't on our artists mailing list, you can contact Peer at artshow@minicon.mnsthf.org, or by sending snail-mail to the Minicon postal address (Attn: Art Show).

Peer has already identified the following needs:

- Setup volunteers
- Coat-check/badgers
- Volunteer cashiers for print shop and Sunday
- Auctioneer (for live auction - "He's deaf, ya' know...")
- Advice (he's not an artist)
- More Volunteers (there's only one of him)

If you want to help out in any or all of these areas, again, contact him either via email or postal mail (that is, U.S. Post, not mail gone postal). Here's to a splendiferous Minicon 38 Art Show!



Author Guest of Honor

by Bob Webber

Robert J. Sawyer has been deeply involved with science fiction as a fan in his local science fiction clubs and conventions and as a professional science fiction writer for over twenty years. His writing has garnered a Nebula for best novel (*The Terminal Experiment*) as well as five Hugo nominations. Rob's active, intelligent, and whole-hearted participation always leads him to quickly rise to the top, and we hope to show him some competition in word wrangling and storytelling on the program. Rob really throws all of himself into whatever he turns himself to, and is sure to be a lot of fun in panels, parties, and dinner expeditions as we give him a warm Minicon welcome and show him our favorite city.

Poet Guest of Honor

Carolyn Clink has published poetry in *Analog*, *Tales of the Unanticipated*, *Tesseract*, *On Spec*, *TransVersions*, and many mainstream venues; she recently sold two poems to CBC Radio as well. Her poems are collected in the chapbooks *Changing Planes* and *Much Slower Than Light*. We anticipate that the Lady Poetesses from Hell will be extending a very warm Minicon welcome to our poet Guest of Honor.

You can find more information about Rob and Carolyn at www.sfwriter.com.



Fan Guest of Honour

by Rachael Lininger

Fan Guest of Honour Sue Mason is a shy, retiring flower of fannish delicacy from Cheshire, England. There, she is a member of the sinister tomato-eating, fanzine-producing Plokta Cabal. Best known to fandom as an artist, Sue has two Hugo nominations and three Novae. She won the 2000 Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund by promising to spread illustrations far and wide across the deprived shores of North America. Her beautiful pyrography and other artwork can be found at <http://www.plokta.com/woodlore/> and in fannish homes everywhere. She's been a gamer, filker, costumer, dealer, and apahack; more importantly, she is lovely and charming, and draws fetching elf-boys.



Wanted

Elf-boys for Fan Guest of Honour. Must be able to read aloud, peel grapes, and perform other duties as required. For further information, please contact guestliaison@minicon.mnssf.org.

Musician Guest of Honor

Steve Macdonald is a systems engineer for a large telco that recently declared bankruptcy (do we really have to tell you who that was?).

Steve is an award-winning singer/songwriter who has been a mainstay at Midwest SF cons for over a decade. He has five albums, and has recently begun doing performances outside of SF conventions.

Steve has been a guest at conventions all across the country— from Orycon in Portland, Oregon to Contata in New Jersey.

You can find more information about Steve at his Web site: www.smacdonald.com.

Minicon

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Lake Street Station

Minneapolis, MN 55408