

Dispatches from DeeCee

Issue 1 December 2019



Meet DeeCee

DeeCee is our mascot. They were inspired by the robot Gort from the 1951 film, **The Day the Earth Stood Still**, which was based on a short story "Farewell to the Master" by Hiram Gilmore Bates III (writing as Harry Bates) in the October 1940 issue of *Astounding Science Fiction*.

We gave our original concept and ideas to Maya Hahto and she created DeeCee. Maya (mayahahto.net) is the Hugo-nominated graphic designer and illustrator that refined Major Ursa, the polar bear mascot created for Worldcon 75 in Helsinki, Finland. She also created many of the other outstanding illustrations used in their publications.

DeeCee will be communicating to DisCon III members and the wider community about what we have planned and will be doing as we get closer to the convention. Please send any questions about DisCon III to DeeCee@discon3.org.

Happy Holiday Season to All!

We are hard at work preparing to host a wonderful Worldcon in Washington, DC. We're building our team, and there are plans forming across the convention which we are extremely pleased about. We're working on implementing an upgraded registration system in the next few months, and you'll probably have noticed our upgraded website.

In the spirit of the holiday season, our gift to all is a delay in any price increase to **June 1, 2020**. By then, our registration system will have in place both family and installment plan options and we will send a follow-up email to make sure we have all of your preferences for publications.

There will be many events, activities and displays at DisCon III and we need your help. What kind of help? Help planning, organizing, and setting up all of these things! If you are interested in helping, let us know at volunteers@discon3.org.

Thank you all for your support so far — 2019 was the year for winning the bid to bring the Worldcon to Washington, DC! In the coming months look forward to more announcements and information as we prepare for CoNZealand, the 78th Worldcon in Wellington, New Zealand, and our own convention.

– **Bill and Colette, Co-Chairs, and the rest of the DisCon III Team**

International Travel Fact Sheet

DisCon III has posted a fact sheet at discon3.org to give some basic guidance and information for traveling to the United States from a foreign country. In January 2020, we will have a form on our website for requesting a visa invitation letter.

Program Division

Lisa Adler-Golden

The Program division is looking for staff for creative, administrative, and technical roles. Please email program@discon3.org for further information.

Publications Division

Michael Nelson

While **discon3.org** and social media (**Worldcon2021** on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram) are our primary means of communicating with our members and the general public, our Publications Division will be distributing this *Dispatches from DeeCee* newsletter leading up to DisCon III and publishing a daily newsletter during our Worldcon. Please contact registration@discon3.org if you choose not to receive emails with links to this newsletter or other DisCon III related information.

We will post information on advertising in our souvenir book, pocket convention guide, and other at-con publications in 2020.

If you would be interested in editing our pocket convention guide, restaurant guide, event program booklets, or joining the newsletter team or other teams, contact us at publications@discon3.org.

Member and Staff Services Division

Brian Nisbet

Our Member and Staff Services Division will be managing our Accessibility, Childcare, Listener Team, Volunteers, Registration, Teen Lounge, and other services. Details will be posted to our website as they are established.

DisCon III Code of Conduct

Our Code of Conduct (CoC) is posted on our website. This CoC applies to all DisCon III attendees — including committee, staff, volunteers, members, and all others trading, exhibiting and otherwise participating. We will also expect those working for the hotels where our activities are taking place to act, and to be treated, in line with the principles of this CoC.

The Listener Team is a group of people whose mandate is to receive reports on potential violations of the CoC. This team can escalate issues as needed, discuss them in a totally confidential manner, and/or act as mediators, according to the wishes of the person raising the issue.

The CoC may expand slightly in the run-up to DisCon III. More details will be added, particularly around how to identify our Listener Team, where to find them during the convention, and how to overall identify DisCon III staff and volunteers.

Upcoming Convention Appearances

- 17 - 20 January Arisia Boston, Massachusetts
- 13 - 17 February Capricon Wheeling, Illinois
- 14 - 16 February Boskone Boston, Massachusetts
- 21 - 23 February Farpoint Hunt Valley, Maryland

Come by our fan table and see us to say “Hi,” check your registration status, and give us some of your ideas for what you’d like to see at DisCon III.

Neighborhoods of Washington, DC

The city of Washington in the District of Columbia — the federal district for the seat of the United States government — is comprised of eight wards. The DC Office of Planning has unofficially defined 131 neighborhoods in these eight wards.

Our two hotels, the Washington Marriott Wardman Park and Omni Shoreham Hotel, are located in the Woodley Park neighborhood of Ward 3 in the Northwest quadrant of DC. It is bounded on the north by Woodley Road and Klinge Road, on the east by the Smithsonian Zoo and Rock Creek National Park, on the south by Calvert Street, on the southwest by Cleveland Avenue, and on the west by 34th Street.

Adjoining neighborhoods are Cleveland Park to the north, Mount Pleasant and Adams Morgan to the east, Kalorama to the south, Woodland-Normanstone Terrace to the southwest, and Massachusetts Heights to the west. There will not be a quiz later.

What's in Woodley Park?

Many of our members may know Washington, DC is home to great museums and that the Smithsonian National Zoological Park is blocks away from our hotels, but what else does the city, and, more specifically, the neighborhood around the Marriott Wardman Park — Woodley Park — hold?

There are many restaurants, shops, and bars, along with historic sites and Rock Creek Park, the United States Naval Observatory, Washington National Cathedral, and Embassy Row (the area in which embassies and other diplomatic representations are concentrated) within a few blocks of our hotels.

Throughout our communications with you, we'll be highlighting one or two spots in the area so that you can get the lay of the land before attending DisCon III. Our first such site is a favorite restaurant of our WSFS Division Head, Jared Dashoff: **Open City**. Located just over 1,000 feet (305 meters) from the hotel at the corner of Calvert and 24th Streets, this funky diner has great local coffee, pastries to-go, all day breakfast, sandwiches, burgers, pizza, a good happy hour, and more. They even have an extensive list of vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free options. Jared's favorite part — the coffee comes with animal crackers! Open City does not take reservations and there can be a bit of a wait on the weekends, so be warned. Check out more information, and learn about their sister restaurants — Tryst and The Coupe — at opencity.com.

Some Online Resources for Planning Your DC Visit

- Destination DC's **Washington.org** is the official tourism site for Washington, DC.
- The *Washingtonian Magazine* site at **Washingtonian.com** has popular annual "Top 100 Picks" lists such as "The 100 Very Best Restaurants in Washington."
- Brightest Young Things DC at **brightestyoungthings.com** has "Best Bets" for DC events.
- DC Beer at **dcbeer.com** has an event calendar and a craft beer directory.
- *The Washington Post's* Going Out Guide for DC-area nightlife, events, and dining in their Arts & Entertainment section is a useful resource limited by their paywall to a few free views per month. You can get unlimited access by registering with a .edu, .mil, or .gov email address.
- The Smithsonian Institution homepage at **si.edu** has links for exploring all their world-class museums, research centers, and zoo. The Quick Links sidebar on the Visit page has useful maps such as a Visitor Guide and Map, National Mall Museum Map, and DC Parking Map.

DC Metro News

Washington, DC public transportation is managed by the Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority (WMATA) (wmata.com). SmarTrip fare cards may be used for WMATA Metrorail and Metrobus; DC Circulator; Maryland Transit Administration Local Bus, Light Rail and Metro Subway; Alexandria DASH; Fairfax Connector; Fairfax CUE; Arlington ART; Loudoun County Transit; PRTC OmniRide; Prince George's County TheBus; Montgomery County Ride On; and registered van pools.

Starting in 2020, riders will be able to use a virtual SmarTrip card stored in their Apple Wallet. The feature will initially be available for iPhones, but an Android version is being developed.

The Metrorail Silver Line to Dulles Airport will be completed in July of 2020. DisCon III members flying into Dulles will be able to take a Silver Line train to the Metro Center station and change to a Red Line train to the Woodley Park-Zoo/Adams Morgan station next to the Washington Marriott Wardman Park.

New DC Attractions

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, DC's most recent monument, was dedicated to the clergyman and civil-rights activist in 2011. Located in the West Potomac Park section of the Tidal Basin and near the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, it bears King's likeness carved into one of three giant rocks, evoking a line from his "I Have a Dream" speech: "Out of the mountain of despair, a stone of hope."



The newest Smithsonian Institution museum opened in 2016. The National Museum of African American History and Culture on the National Mall, next to the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, is the only national museum devoted exclusively to the documentation of African American life, art, history and culture. At this time, timed-entry passes are generally required for certain peak times when visitation is highest. More information at nmaahc.si.edu.

Future Issues of *Dispatches from DeeCee*

We plan to release four quarterly issues in 2020 and then more frequently leading up to DisCon III. What topics would you like to see covered in future issues? Let us know at newsletter@discon3.org.