

Note from the Co-Chairs

Tom Whitmore and Kevin Standlee

chairman@conjose.org

This is the last publication you'll see before the convention. We're glad you're coming! Thanks for your early support.

As of the time we're writing this, ConJosé is shaping up to be a smaller, more intimate Worldcon. We're about 1000 members below where we expected to be at this point, and memberships are coming in more slowly than we'd hoped. We've got huge fixed costs—the convention center, the decorator, our facilities and publications. We're likely not to have some amenities that you may be used to at a Worldcon. We're not pleased about this. We'll have most of what you expect from a Worldcon—a great dealer's room, an exciting art show, and lots of wonderful panels in the program. Some of them may seem smaller than you're used to, though. Our ability to provide services is directly related to how many members we have.

You can do something about this. You can talk to your friends. If they're interested in coming, have them buy memberships now.

Every membership bought at this point means more money for the ConSuite, for the newsletter, for microphones for program. It's not like we're being profligate—the chairs are paying for their own sleeping rooms, and have paid significantly more for memberships than almost anyone else (bidding dues of \$300, voting fees of \$30). There are very few people getting free memberships for this convention, and we're doing our best to make sure you can know exactly where your money goes. If you'd like a copy of the full budget, or an executive summary of where the money is going, send a note to *chairman@conjose.org* and we'll pass it on.

Money we get at the door can't be counted on. Our creditors don't believe in blue-sky numbers, and won't be happy with hearing that we didn't get as many new members as we planned.

We're going to give you the best Worldcon we can. We're planning for the real world. Please help us by joining as early as possible.

WSFS Business Meeting

The WSFS Business Meetings will be held on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and, if required, Monday, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM in the San José Convention Center, rooms B3/B4. The deadline to submit new business to the WSFS Business Meeting is 6:00 PM local time on Thursday, August 29. You must submit 200 identical copies of the proposal, with the original signed by the maker and at least one seconder, both of whom must be ConJosé members. To submit business at the convention, take it to the ConJosé Office and ask them to put it in the Business Meeting mailbox. We may be able to waive the 200-copy rule if you submit business sufficiently far in advance; see the ConJosé web site at http://www.conjose.org/wsfs/wsfs_submit.html for more details. If you have any questions about the Business Meeting, email businessmeeting@conjose.org.

Discount Transit Passes

We have negotiated a special \$3.50 rate for day passes (regular price \$4.00) on the San José Light Rail system. This clean, modern transit system links downtown San José with many points throughout the Silicon Valley, including San José International Airport (a free bus connects SJC Airport with the Metro/Airport light rail stop).

As of this writing, passes will be available for purchase only at the ConJosé Sales to Members booth in the McEnery Convention Center and only during the days of the convention. The Wyndham and other ConJosé overflow hotels are located close to stops along the light rail line along North 1st Street. Travel time between the Wyndham and the Convention Center is less than 15 minutes, and light rail runs every 15 minutes most of the day (but only once an hour between midnight and 5:00 AM). The discount passes are date stamped for day of use and will be in limited supply.

Make Sure to Visit the ConSuite

Sandra Childress

The ConSuite will be open starting Thursday afternoon at 4:00 PM and will stay open until the Dead Dog Party starts at about 8:00 PM Monday evening. Of course this is all subject to change based on the needs of our staff and special parties. (For those who dislike math, that's 100 consecutive hours open).

In honor of Terry Pratchett, Friday night will find the Seamstress Guild hostessing from 7:00 to 10:00 PM. At various other times, there will be special food and drink, silliness, and surprises. Early information can be found in this Offline; for later information keep an eye on the at-Con newsletter. We will keep you posted to all the festivities and "fun-de-mentals" on the 20th floor.

As a special charity donation, many of the beach towels seen at the ConSuite will be given to C.A.R.E., a no-kill animal rescue of San José (<http://www.carepets.org>). If you have a beach towel that is ready for a new home, we would love to accept it for donation anytime at the ConSuite. Thank you in advance for helping make a scared animal feel a little safer in his/her time of need.

Special Rates for Local Attractions

The San José Convention & Visitors Bureau will be selling special rate tickets for local attractions to ConJosé members.

A combo ticket good for both the galleries and an IMAX show at the Tech Museum of Innovation will be available at \$14.95. Other attractions with special pricing are Paramount's Great America, Raging Waters (a local water park), Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk and the Winchester Mystery House.

All tickets will be available in the Convention Center at the San José Visitors Center office on Monday through Friday (including Labor day) from 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM and Saturday and Sunday from 11 AM to 5:00 PM.

Writers Workshop

By the time this issue of *Offline* reaches members' mailboxes, the deadline for submitting to the ConJosé writers workshop will have passed. The manuscripts that were accepted have been sorted, scheduled, and distributed. We are absolutely closed to any further submissions. At this stage, all participants should be receiving and evaluating their "assignments" for face-to-face criticism at ConJosé. Bandages and teddy bears will be available as required.

ConJosé at a Glance

Registration

Monday, August 26 through noon Wednesday, August 28: Pre-registered members **only** may pick up badges in the temporary Registration Office, probably located on the second floor of the Fairmont Hotel. Watch for signs. New at-the-door memberships can be purchased beginning at approximately 1:00 PM Wednesday when Registration opens in the Convention Center.

Wednesday through Monday: Registration will be in the San José McEnery Convention Center on the second floor. These are the expected hours, but they are subject to change at any time.

Wednesday: 1:00 PM–6:00 PM

Thursday: 9:00 AM–7:00 PM

Friday: 9:00 AM–8:30 PM

Saturday: 9:00 AM–8:30 PM

Sunday: 9:00 AM–8:30 PM

Monday: 9:00 AM–Noon

After Hours Registration: Preregistered members can pick up their badges in the Fairmont Hotel after Registration is closed. The exact location has not yet been determined. Check for signs near Registration or in the Fairmont, ask the ConJosé Convention Office located in the Hilton, or check our web site closer to the convention for an update. People who have not purchased a membership before the convention will need to wait until the next morning when Registration re-opens in the Convention Center to purchase their memberships. *You will be able to pick up your membership badge when main Registration is closed, but you will not be able to buy a new membership.*

Details: All members except dealers should start at Registration to pick up your badge and other materials. Registration will direct you to other locations as needed for program schedules, credentials, etc.

All badges must be signed for upon pickup, and we will be checking IDs. At a minimum, bring this mailing with your mailing label attached.

Spouses may pick up each other's badge if they have the same last name, or if somebody at Registration can verify that they are part of a couple. We're not responsible for mixed signals that might occur between individual parties.

Post July 31 Membership Purchase

Preregistration officially closes July 31. After that, you may still send in your membership form and money or financial details for memberships purchased at the at-the-door rate. We will make every effort to get them processed before the con, but we can't promise that all badges will be ready for immediate pickup.

Direct questions and data corrections/changes to reg@conjose.org.

Volunteers Desk

Worldcons are run entirely by volunteers, and we want your help! We begin moving in to our first space on Monday (August 26), and serious move-in begins on Tuesday. Sign up to help us put on a party for thousands of friends, many of whom you haven't met yet. The Volunteer Desk will be located near Registration (see above for location and hours). Please contact us either pre-convention at volunteers@conjose.org, when you pick up your badge for ConJosé, or at another time early in ConJosé. When Registration is closed go the Convention Office in the Hilton to see where we can use you.

Major Events and Awards Ceremonies

Opening Ceremonies: Thursday, 4:00 PM, Fairmont Hotel, Imperial Ballroom

"Meet-the-Guests": ConJosé has elected to not schedule a Meet-the-Guests/Participants/People-style Reception.

Chesley Awards Ceremony: Friday 7:30 PM, Convention Center A1/A8/A2/A7

Masquerade: Saturday, 8:00 PM, San José Civic Auditorium

Hugo Awards Ceremony: Sunday, 8:00 PM, San José Civic Auditorium

Closing Ceremonies: Monday, 4:00 PM, Fairmont Hotel, Imperial Ballroom

Art Show: Convention Center Hall 1

Thursday: Artist Setup from 10:00 AM;

Open to members 2:00 PM–7:00 PM

Friday: 10:00 AM–7:00 PM

Saturday: 10:00 AM–7:00 PM

Sunday: 10:00 AM–2:00 PM; 5:30 PM–7:00 PM

(Closed during Art Auction)

Art Auction: Sunday 2:30 PM, Convention Center A2/A7

Monday: 10:00 AM–2:00 PM

Commercial Exhibits, Fan Tables, Site Selection, Historical and Other Displays: Convention Center Hall 2

Thursday: Noon–7:00 PM

Friday: 10:00 AM–7:00 PM

Saturday: 10:00 AM–7:00 PM

(Site Selection voting ends 7:00 PM Saturday)

Sunday: 10:00 AM–7:00 PM

Monday: 10:00 AM–4:00 PM

Dealers' Room: Convention Center Hall 3

Thursday: 11:00 AM–6:00 PM

Friday: 11:00 AM–6:00 PM

Saturday: 11:00 AM–6:00 PM

Sunday: 11:00 AM–6:00 PM

Monday: 11:00 AM–3:00 PM

Main Programming: Convention Center

Thursday: 1:00 PM–7:00 PM

Friday: 10:00 AM–7:00 PM

Saturday: 10:00 AM–7:00 PM

Sunday: 10:00 AM–7:00 PM

Monday: 10:00 AM–4:00 PM

There will also be Children's, Anime, Morning, Evening, and Late Night Programming, and Filking at the Fairmont, Gaming at the Crowne Plaza, and Kaffeeklatches at the Hilton.

ConSuite: Fairmont 20th floor (2002-2003-2004)

The ConJosé Hospitality Suite opens around 4:00 PM Thursday afternoon, closes late Monday night, and runs as close to 24 hours/day as possible. (Part or all of the ConSuite may close for cleaning as needed during low-traffic times.)

Fan Lounge: Fairmont 20th floor (2005-2006)

Thursday: 4:00 PM–6:00 PM & 8:00 PM–Midnight

Friday: 10:00 AM–6:00 PM

Saturday: 10:00 AM–6:00 PM

Sunday: 10:00 AM–6:00 PM

Monday: 10:00 AM–2:00 PM

Evenings: open parties hosted by various groups

Internet Lounge: Fairmont, Empire Room

HOURS: Active throughout the convention.

The room may be temporarily inaccessible at some low traffic time for cleaning, but there will be wireless too. No food or drink at the computers; check it at the door. Express lane terminals are for 15 minutes use or less, only. Handicap accessible.

Childcare

A separate mailing is going out to the parents of all Child and Infant members. If you haven't received a copy and are interested in childcare please check the ConJosé web site or write childcare@conjose.org.

Accessibility

If you need wheels (a scooter or wheelchair), an interpreter, or other accommodation, please write to accessibility@conjose.org and we'll do our best to help. Some of the services available are detailed on our web site.

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Blow me up, Scotty!

Geri Sullivan

There's fun for inflatables as well as for fans at ConJosé. If you have spare inflatables, creatures, characters, or other oddities, please bring them with you.

The ConJosé collection of inflatables already includes sharks, a flock of quasi-coats, other dinosaurs, blimps, alien trees, robots, a helicopter, and a flamingo ring toss game. Minicon is sending its alien ambassadors along with their Mothership, which will be moored in the Convention Center Exhibit Hall. But the Worldcon is **big**—we need **more**!

We'll tag your inflatables and do our best to have them ready for you to pick up again at the end of the convention. If the inflatables you bring are ones you can't bear to part with, we ask that you keep them in tow rather than turning them loose to play with the other inflatables and fannish passersby to minimize the likelihood of their deciding to go walkabout.

We ask everyone coming to ConJosé to remember that the inflatables are **not** for the taking—they're there for all of us to play with, to share. They already have homes to return to when the convention ends.

Do-it-yourself inflatable check-in stations will be set up near Registration and Volunteers in the Convention Center as well as at the beach in the ConSuite (International Suite, 2003, Fairmont Hotel).

For more information about inflatables at ConJosé, or to tell us about the ones you're bringing, please write to hospitality@conjose.org. You can also volunteer to join Gary Agin and the rest of the inflation team at the same address.

Dealers' Room

With Larry Smith having been promoted to Exhibits Division Head, the Dealers' Room Managers are now Sally Kobee (pre-con) and Art & Becky Henderson (at-con). Located in Hall 3 of the McEnery Convention Center, the Dealers' Room will have some 258 tables with over 100 dealers offering the usual variety of SFnal merchandise. The room is officially sold out, but we are maintaining a waiting list in the event of cancellations. Prospective dealers may still submit applications to be placed on the waiting list: an application form can be downloaded as a PDF file from the ConJosé web site. Currently accepted and optimistic waitlisted dealers should remember to apply for a California Temporary Seller's Permit, the form for which is also available for download from the web site.

Dealer's Room correspondence should still be sent to:

ConJosé Dealers' Room Manager
3824 Patricia Drive
Upper Arlington, OH 43220-4913

ConJosé Blood Drive

Coming soon to a Worldcon near you: The ConJosé Blood Drive. On Saturday, August 31, the Stanford Memorial Blood Bank will park its bloodmobile outside the McEnery Convention Center, and they'll be looking for YOU for donations.

Science fiction conventions have a long tradition of participating in blood drives, ever since Robert A. Heinlein received a transfusion for his rare blood type and thereafter encouraged fans to donate blood. ConJosé is proud to continue this tradition, and we encourage you to give early and give often!

...well, maybe not more than once over the weekend... but give! Dig?

Discworld Fan Party

When: Friday, August 30th from 7:00–10:00 PM.

Where: ConJosé ConSuite (International Suite, 20th floor - Fairmont Hotel)

Given By: Snapdragon Gifts, in cooperation with ConJosé

Costume: Late Victorian (with bustles!) circa 1890 preferred for the ladies, mostly black clothing for the gentlemen. Street dress, however, will also do very well.

Theme: Early Hawaiian meets Late Victorian (with bustles!)

The Seamstress Guild (California Chapter) requests the pleasure of your company at a party in honor of their esteemed Patron, Mr. Terry Pratchett. Mr. Pratchett is the well regarded author of 28 Discworld novels. Included among them are *Thief of Time*, *The Truth, Guards, Wyrld Sisters* and *Small Gods*. Mr. Pratchett will be joining us for the evening. He will also bring some special Discworld items to be auctioned off during the party.

The theme is, well... mixed. Imagine that Rincewind never did get off his island but that the Seamstresses (bearing potato chips) were magically teleported to him. The password at the door is "Thieves Guild". It's a million-to-one chance that you'll be allowed in, but don't worry. Million-to-one chances crop up nine times out of ten.

Please note: Mr. Pratchett is there to enjoy himself. He will not be signing books or giving out autographs at the party. He prefers to have both hands free, the better to eat and drink with. At least that's what **he** says.

If you have any questions about the party, feel free to contact Denise Connell at Snapdragon Gifts (<http://www.snapdragongifts.com/> or info@snapdragongifts.com). For information on Terry and his books, visit <http://www.co.uk.lspace.org/>.

Exhibits

The Exhibits Departments are headed by Becky Thomson (Fan Tables) and Peter Popovich (Commercial Exhibits). Nothing is final yet, but we are working hard to bring informative and entertaining displays to the Exhibits Area located in Hall 2 of the McEnery Convention Center.

Housing Office Help Desk

The San José Convention and Visitors Bureau's Housing Office will have a help desk in the McEnery Convention Center. The help desk will be located near convention registration and will be available from Wednesday, August 28 to Friday, August 30. The help desk will assist ConJosé members without reservations in finding accommodations and will help resolve any problems with existing reservations.

Directions to the Wyndham Hotel

Directions to our main downtown hotels and the Convention Center were published in Progress Report 4 and are available from the ConJosé web site (http://www.conjose.org/Sanjose/transit_article.html).

The Wyndham Hotel is located at 1350 North 1st Street, about 2.5 miles from the McEnery Convention Center. Fortunately for us, the Light Rail runs down 1st street, and the Gish Light Rail station is right outside the front door of the Wyndham. The light rail also has stations at the back door of the Fairmont Hotel and at the McEnery Convention Center. The ride from the Wyndham to the Convention Center takes about 14 minutes and costs \$1.40 for adults and \$0.85 for youth ages 5 to 17. Day passes good on light rail and busses are available at lineside ticket vending machines for \$4.00 for adults and \$2.50 for youths. Also see our article on reduced-price transit passes on page 1. Trains run every 15 minutes during the day, every 30 minutes in the evening, and once an hour after midnight.

Locks of Love

Locks of Love (<http://www.locksoflove.com>) is a non-profit group of wig-makers and hair-dressers who make wigs for children who have lost their own hair through chemotherapy, severe burns, and other medical problems. Cut-down adult-sized wigs look stupid on children, and are also too clumsy for play, so a method was devised to make special child-sized wig bases. Volunteers from the hair professions collect cut hair and make these wigs, but to do that they need donated hair!

On Friday and Sunday of ConJosé, licensed cosmetologist Lora Boehm will cut **and shape** your hair free of charge. All she needs from you is at least 10" of newly-washed, but dry, hair. Remember, hair grows; change is GOOD! Lora doesn't plan to stalk the hallways with her scissors; she accepts only volunteers willing to help a child. If you simply cannot donate your tresses, then please donate money to the Guilty Locks jar (\$1.00 per inch is about right) to help cover wig-making expenses. In fact, cash donations are very welcome from anyone, with or without donations of hair.

Check the convention's daily newsletter for the location of Locks of Love.

Masquerade Photography Area

Due to very limited space, you must sign up beforehand for the masquerade photo area. The sign-up will be at the same place as the masquerade sign-in. If you have pre-registered you must still show up to check in and pick up your photo area pass. There will be only one photo station and it will be flash only.

ConJosé Fan Lounge—Talk Amongst Yourselves

Alan Rosenthal

The ConJosé Fan Lounge will be located in the Presidential Suite on the 20th floor of the Fairmont Hotel, just down the hall from the ConSuite, and will be open during the following hours:

Thursday, August 29th: 4:00 PM–6:00 PM and 8:00 PM–12:00 PM

Friday, August 30th: 10:00 AM–6:00 PM

Saturday, August 31st: 10:00 AM–6:00 PM

Sunday, September 1st: 10:00 AM–6:00 PM

Monday, September 2nd: 10:00 AM–2:00 PM

In addition, the Fan Lounge will be the site of evening parties hosted by associated groups. The rec.arts.sf.fandom party will be held in the Fan Lounge on Friday evening, and we plan to host a reception for the current Fan Fund winners, including TAFF-winner Tobes Valois and DUFF-winner Julian Warner, on Thursday evening. Additional details will be posted on the ConJosé web site as they emerge, and a party schedule will be posted in the Fan Lounge.

Volunteers are always welcome. If you would like to spend a couple of hours helping to make the Fan Lounge a great place for fans to hang out, or if you would like to bring any fanzines for sale in the Fan Lounge, please contact Alan Rosenthal and Janice Murray at hospitality@conjose.org.

<http://www.conjose.org>

Tad Williams - Toastmaster

Ferdinand Feghoot

Bjo & John Trimble

David Cherry

Vernor Vinge

Guests of Honor

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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ConJosé

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