

DIVERSICON 16

"Diversicon is a great convention for the unconventional."
—Karen Joy Fowler

August 1–3, 2008 ~ "Oh, Sweet Mystery . . ."

Holiday Inn Metrodome, 1500 Washington Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55454; 612-333-4646; www.metrodome.com

Guest of Honor:

Anne Frasier



Anne Frasier's nineteen novels have spanned the genres of romance, mystery, science fiction, and horror, often combining elements of more than one genre and always featuring strong female protagonists as well as compelling characters across the human spectrum. *Garden of Darkness* (December 2007), continues the tale started in *Pale Immortal* (2006) of a spooky Wisconsin town, an ancient vampire mummy, and all-too-human fallibility—and evil. In *Before I Wake* (2005), a secret government medical experiment goes wrong. *Play Dead* (2004) plays out amid the voodoo scene in Savannah, Georgia. Her work has been recognized with the RITA and Daphne du Maurier awards for romantic suspense. After living in the Twin Cities for eight years, she recently moved into an old, abandoned church in rural Wisconsin.

In her blog, she describes her current project this way:

"Whenever editors discover I lived on a farm, they always ask for a farm story But they all wanted the romanticized view of a farm, not a dark portrayal of farm life. . . . So maybe it's

"How wonderful to attend a con where the diversity of culture in speculative literature is considered a strength, not a liability!"

—Bryan Thao Worra

time for the real thing. Here's my little pitch for the farm story: Who knew life on the farm could be so evil? Bohemian drug addict meets Midwestern farm boy and marries into a rural life of death, repression, mental decay, and environmental destruction."

Come hear Anne Frasier discuss her views of farm life, the writing life, and life in general.



WWW.DIVERSICON.ORG

Diversicon on the Web! Check out the latest Diversicon news at the **Diversicon blog!** Also, payment by **PayPal** is now available! It's easy! Go to PayPal.com and send registration info and fee to Diversicon@gmail.com. Complete instructions available at the Web site.

Special Guest:

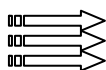
Nnedi Okorafor-Mbachu, PhD

Author, journalist, and professor Nnedi Okorafor-Mbachu uses both her Nigerian (Igbo) and American backgrounds in her fiction: the novels *Zahrah the Windseeker* (Houghton Mifflin, 2005) and *The Shadow Speaker* (Hyperion, October 2007), the play *Full Moon*, as well as stories in the anthologies *The Witching Hour*, *Mojo Conjure Stories* (Nalo Hopkinson, ed.), *Writers of the Future Volume 18*, and *So Long Been Dreaming: Postcolonial Science Fiction* (Nalo Hopkinson & Uppinder Mehan, eds.) and the professional online magazine *Strange Horizons*. Her essay on author Virginia Hamilton appeared in *Dark Matter II: Reading the Bones* (Sheree R. Thomas, ed.).



She holds a PhD in English (emphasis on creative writing) from the University of Illinois—Chicago; an MA in English, also from UI Chicago (thesis: "The Legend of Arro-yo"); and an MA in journalism from Michigan State University—East Lansing (thesis: "Virtual Women: Female Characters in Video Games"). She is also a graduate of the Clarion Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers Workshop.

"People like to put labels on things. Diversicon is a convention for people who are comfortable with ambiguity."
—Martha A. Hood



New this year:

Flash Fiction Contest!

Our Guest of Honor, professional writer Anne Frasier, has volunteered to judge a Diversicon 16 Flash Fiction Contest. Short stories up to 250 words (firm) on the convention theme of "Oh, Sweet Mystery . . ." Entries will be judged on the creative interpretation of the theme, the quality of the writing, and emotional/intellectual impact. Top prize is a cool certificate, the honor of winning, a round of applause, the opportunity to read your work to the assembled convention, and maybe something else if we think of it. Submit no later than **11:59 p.m. Central Time July 14, 2008**, to diversicon16flash@gmail.com. No entry fee, but open only to attending members of the convention. Writers of any experience level are welcome to submit. Diversicon chairs and SF Minnesota board members are not eligible. Authors retain all rights to their stories.

Posthumous Guests of Honor:

Sir Alfred Hitchcock (1899–1980): Director of many films over five decades in Great Britain and the United States, including the haunting *Rebecca* (1940), *Vertigo* (1958), *Psycho* (1960), and the SFnal *The Birds* (1963), Hitchcock worked repeatedly with interlocking themes of sex and death. He featured female characters who were both glamorous and strong personalities with their own agendas, and he dealt obliquely with homosexuality despite the Hollywood Production Code.



Scheherazade (ca 800): Legendary Persian narrator of *The Book of One Thousand and One Nights*, a compilation of Persian, Arabic, Indian, and other folktales, including “Aladdin and the Lamp,” “The Seven Voyages of Sinbad,” and “The Thief of Baghdad.” A highly educated woman, Scheherazade distracted her misogynist husband from killing her by telling captivating stories. The various translations of these tales have influenced artists, composers, and screenwriters around the world.



Jack Williamson, PhD (1908–2006): Author of *Darker Than You Think* (1948), *The Humanoids* (1949), and the autobiography *Wonder's Child: My Life in Science Fiction* (1984, rev. 2005), Williamson traveled west by covered wagon in 1915, then went on to write imaginative science fiction over many decades. He first saw his work published in an SF magazine in 1928, cowrote the first story of revolution on the Moon, coined the word *terraforming*, and saw his last novel published in 2005. Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America (SFWA) honored him with its second-ever Grand Master award in 1976 (the first recipient was Robert Heinlein). In 2001, he became by far the oldest author to have won the Nebula and Hugo awards.



Also Attending: Cezarija Abartis, Eleanor Arnason, Ruth Berman, Janice Bogstad, Martha Borchardt, Paula L. Fleming, Philip Kaveny, Ellen Kuhfeld, Russell Letson, Catherine Lundoff, Richard K. Lyon, Mark Rich, Joan Marie Verba

Message from the Chair

Diversicon celebrates diversity in speculative fiction, including diversity in media, of SF fan and professional groups, and cultural diversity. We value both our commonalities and the things that make us different, and we strive to help the local SF community reflect the cultural range of Minnesota in the Third Millennium. Given our size (100–125 persons), we're the most panel- and discussion-intensive SF con that Minnesota has had. We're a remarkably participatory convention: half our attendees formally participate in at least one Program item.



Hi folks, I'm Rick Gellman, the chairman of D16. The above was written by Eric Heideman, a former chair. It is still true and I couldn't say it any better. I just want to add that this doesn't convey how much FUN! Diversicon is. It's not wild and crazy fun, but it is intelligent and thoughtful fun. This year we intend to leaven our recipe for an outstanding con with a dash of silly fun. Most of it, in keeping with our focus, will be fun with language in some program items. Contrary to a misimpression in some circulation, we are NOT stuffy and overly serious.

Our ConSuite will provide a variety of food and snacks, still with a variety of tastes in drinkables, for the ediblection of our attendees, while you take a break or continue that discussion you were having. I believe a successful convention is one where people have an enjoyable time and are pleased that they came.

I want to emphasize that Diversicon supports the Gordon R. Dickson Fund that honors Dickson, local author and fan, and raises money for a scholarship given to aspiring writers. 2008 will be the fifth year in a row the fund will award \$1,000 to someone picked by Clarion West on the basis of merit and need. One year's winner wrote to say that if not for the scholarship, she would have been unable to attend the workshop. The fund helps to "pay forward" to the next generation of science fiction and fantasy writers.

—Rick Gellman

"The Diversicon Crew certainly know how to make you feel like a DIVA in Minneapolis! This was an exciting convention: great conversations, a lot of fun-loving folk with the gift of gab who think about how to be active in the science fiction and fantasy of our lives. DIVERSICON is a trip worth taking!"
—Andrea Hairston

Programming

D16 will have 3 tracks of Programming (about 60 items), including Guest readings; our usual lively mix of panels and discussions on SF in literary media, films, TV, anime/manga, and graphic arts; speculative science; alternative lifestyles; and—especially—multi-cultural SF. We'll hold our 9th annual Yugo Awards Book Review for “Best SF Books That Should Have Been Written” and screen several films closely related to the live Programming. Other topics will include the work of our Guests, both living and posthumous; a panel on “Movie Thrillers;” opportunities for readings and storytelling; and the fabulous SF Minnesota Auction. While we've received a lot of neat ideas, your further suggestions are welcome (the sooner the better, though). Contact **Eric M. Heideman, Rebecca Marjesdatter, & Scott Lohman via eheideman@dhzone.com, page_of_pentacles@juno.com, and scott12605@aol.com**, or 612-721-5959 or the Diversicon PO Box, to submit ideas and/or to let Programming know of your interest in being on panels.

"Your Programming is better than a lot I've seen at much larger cons. I really enjoyed the way people actually *discussed* subjects rather than making unrelated statements. It was great fun!"
—Melissa Scott



Diversicon 16 Registration

Name _____

Address _____

City, State/Province, Postal Code _____

E-mail _____ Phone: (_____) _____

I'd like information on the following:

- Program Participation
 Art Show
 Dealer Tables
 Party Hosting
 Volunteering

Enclose check or money order and mail to: **DIVERSICON 16, PO Box 8036, Lake Street Station, Minneapolis, MN 55408-0036**

Make checks payable to Diversicon 16. Do not mail cash.

Or pay via PayPal to: **diversicon@gmail.com**. Complete instructions available at www.diversicon.org.

Rates

NOW: Through Bastille Day, 14 July 2008 Adult \$30, Student (ages 5–21) \$20, Supporting \$5, Converting \$25

At the Door Adult \$40, Student (ages 5–21) \$30

Hotel The Holiday Inn Metrodome (www.metrodome.com), 1500 S. Washington Avenue, Minneapolis. Diversicon 16 attendees get a rate of \$119/night + tax; mention **Diversicon** when reserving your room by calling the hotel directly at **612-333-4646**. Deadline: **July 10, 2008** (Bahamian Independence Day).

We're pleased to announce new digs this year in the **eclectic West Bank neighborhood**, next door to the University of Minnesota. The Holiday Inn Metrodome is at the corner of Washington and Cedar Avenues (known locally as "Seven Corners"). It's **convenient** to bus lines and light rail as well as inexpensive/free public parking at the U, and it offers free shuttle service within a three-mile radius for guests. (We'll post more info on "how to get there" at www.diversicon.org.) The hotel features **newly renovated guest rooms** along with complimentary wireless access; business center; mezzanine bar overlooking the lobby; fitness center; and 14th-floor pool, sauna, and whirlpool with a view. **Dining options** include the hotel's restaurant as well as numerous and varied restaurants, coffee shops, and taverns within a few minutes' walk.

Shopping opportunities include the fair-trade Global Village and progressive nonprofit bookstore Mayday Books. **Cultural venues** include Theatre in the Round, Mixed Blood Theatre, Cedar Cultural Center, and The Southern Theater. **Pleasant strolls** can be taken across the U of M campus and along the Mississippi River.

Parties We like parties! If you and/or your SF-related group are interested in hosting a party at D16, contact Hotel Liaison **Paula Fleming** (paulafleming@comcast.net) and/or Co-Liaison and Chair **Rick Gellman** (sf@visi.com, 651-483-6290).



Dealers Dealers get our lowest adult membership rate (\$25 per person); tables are \$15 for the first table, \$10 for the second, if available. Contact **Eric** (eheideman@dhzone.com, 612-721-5959). Heads up: space is tight this year!



Hospitality Suite In the comfy SF Minnesota Hospitality Suite, hospitality veteran Sybil Smith will once again host a pleasant weekend of snacks (some of them multicultural) and good conversation.



Krushenko's Inspired by a Manhattan bistro in Larry Niven's *Ringworld*, this is a space for people who like to spend time at SF conventions talking about SF. Stop by for a mix of films, readings, discussions, and parties.

"What I liked about Diversicon is the quality of the participants. It's kind of a connoisseur's convention."
—Maureen F. McHugh

Art Show Attending Artists get our lowest adult membership rate (\$25) in return for volunteering for an hour on Saturday to hang out and talk with other D16 members about their work. The Attending Artists' rate is \$1 per bid sheet (per piece). Walk-in art will be accepted from a non-attending artist or their agent at the rate of \$1.50 per bid sheet. No mail-in art will be accepted. Items that receive two or more Silent Auction bids will be included in the SF Minnesota Auction. Contact **Eric** (eheideman@dhzone.com, 612-721-5959). Diversicon and its representatives are not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged items in the Art Show.



Supporting Organizations Diversicon and its Sponsoring Organization, **SF Minnesota**, wish to thank the following for their Supporting Organization Grants: **Second Foundation & Tales of the Unanticipated**. We would also welcome your group's Supporting Organization Grant of \$20 or more. Your grant (check to SF Minnesota) supports such SF Minnesota projects as our monthly **Speculations Readings Series**, co-sponsored by InterMedia Arts, at DreamHaven Books; our fall **Classic Horror Films Video Party**, and **Diversicon Parties** at several area cons. We also make contributions to other projects, including the **Gordon R. Dickson Fund**. Supporting Organizations will receive a one-paragraph write-up in the Diversicon Program Book as well as at the Web site (www.diversicon.org).

Diversicon 16

PO Box 8036

Lake Street Station

Minneapolis, MN 55408-0036

Progress Report Two

"Diversicon is an experience.
Great conversation, warm and welcoming,
with a broad range of ideas, interests, and offbeat humor.
I loved it! Had a great time! Will be back again!"
—Sheree R. Thomas

“Oh, Sweet Mystery . . .”

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⇒ August 1–3, 2008 ⇐

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Diversicon is a project of **SF MINNESOTA**, a multicultural, multimedia organization dedicated to improving contacts among groups and individuals interested in speculative fiction, within and outside of the traditional SF community. We are committed to making our state's SF community more closely reflect the cultural diversity of Minnesota in the third millennium.



For Further Information:

Diversicon 16
PO Box 8036
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Minneapolis, MN 55408

www.diversicon.org
Rick Gellman, sf@visi.com, 651-483-6290
Eric M. Heideman, eheideman@dhzone.com

“People who like this sort of thing will find this the sort of thing they like.”
—Abraham Lincoln