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*Sailing the Seas of Imagination*

Mythcon 40

Progress Report No. 1

## SAILING THE SEAS OF IMAGINATION

Welcome to the 40<sup>th</sup> annual Mythopoeic Conference of the Mythopoeic Society.

As I returned home from Mythcon 38 in Berkeley, I thought about how the Society had not had a Southern California Mythcon for several years. For this special anniversary conference it seemed important that we return to the territory where the Society began. One thing led to another, and I ended up volunteering to chair this conference.

When it came to selecting the theme for the conference, I sat down with a list of the past Mythcons. As I looked through the themes, I realized we had not had one with a “sea motif”. And because the novels of the intended Author Guest of Honor involve voyages to an archipelago, it seemed an ideal theme.

From ancient times, stories of voyages of exploration have led to wonderful and strange places, real and imagined. From the Arabian Tales, we get stories of Sinbad. From Ireland, there are the voyages of St. Brendan to the Isles of the West. Atlantis, Tir na nOg, Hy-Brazil, all fabulous lands found across, or even under, the sea.

We humans find something mesmerizing and fascinating about the ceaseless motion of the waves. We wonder about what might be on the other side of the shoreless sea, or under the cresting waves. Aphrodite was born of the sea-foam, Davy Jones haunts the deeps of the ocean, and the Flying Dutchman sails forever far from land, never to come to port again.

As the Chair for this conference, I invite you to look forward to the exciting time we will be having at UCLA in July! ~~~ Sarah Beach

## CALL FOR PAPERS FOR MYTHCON 40

As always, the works of our Guests of Honor are welcome subjects for papers and presentations. Professor Glycer’s work on the Inklings as a creative and collaborative group can open doors for discussion of similar situations. The fantasy novels and independent comic work of our Author Guest of Honor deal with themes of what it means to be a storyteller. Of special interest this year are examinations of all aspects of the creative process in the works of the Inklings, as well as the concept of artistic community. In addition to presentations on the works of our Guests of Honor, we encourage papers on young adult fantasy and science fiction, on artists and writers in community, and in any other aspect of the conference theme. Seaborne imagery is important to much mythopoeic fantasy, especially in the motif of sailing to unknown lands.

Each paper will be given a one-hour slot to allow time for questions, but individual papers should be timed for oral presentation in 40 minutes maximum. Two presenters who wish to give short, related papers may also share a one-hour slot.

We encourage presenters to submit papers chosen for the conference to *Mythlore*, the refereed journal of the Mythopoeic Society. Papers should conform to the MLA Style Manual (2<sup>nd</sup> edition). All presenters must register for the full conference; please see the Mythcon 40 web page [www.mythsoc.org/mythcon40.html](http://www.mythsoc.org/mythcon40.html), for information and rates.

Paper abstracts (250 words maximum), & your contact information to: Sherwood Smith / 5072 Kingscross Rd / Westminster CA 92683  
Sherwood@sff.net (Be sure to put Mythcon 40 in subject header).

Scholar Guest of Honor - Diana Pavlac Glyer, Ph.D.



Born in Maryland, raised in Cleveland, Ohio, Diana received her Ph.D. from the University of Illinois in Chicago. She has long been active in science fiction fandom, and it was in those circles that she met her husband, multi-Hugo winning fan editor, Mike Glyer. They live with their daughter Sierra in the Los Angeles area, and Diana teaches at Azusa Pacific University. Diana herself earned a Hugo nomination for *The Company They Keep: C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien as Writers in Community*. That landmark study did win the Mythopoeic Scholarship Award (Inklings Studies).

(Her website is [www.theplaceofthelion.com](http://www.theplaceofthelion.com))

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**MYTHCON 40 COMMITTEE**

- Sarah Beach, Chair
- Sherwood Smith, Papers and Programming
- Lisa Harrigan, Treasurer
- Gavin Claypool, Registrar
- Lisa Cowan & Nancy Martsch, Publicity
- Bonnie & Tim Callahan, Art Show

If you would like to volunteer to assist the committee, either in advance work or at the conference itself (room monitors, for instance), please contact the Chair at [Sarah@scribblerworks.us](mailto:Sarah@scribblerworks.us). Thank you.

Author Guest of Honor - James A. Owen



An Arizona resident of long standing, James' work as a comic book creator and novelist has taken him far afield in the world, from the Pacific Northwest to Ireland and France. Inspired by *The Chronicles of Prydain* by Lloyd Alexander, he became a 16-year-old entrepreneur, and launched his first professional comic book. Eventually, he began his acclaimed independent comic book, *Starchild* (about a family of storytellers). In 2006, he entered the ranks of fantasy novelists with *Here, There Be Dragons*, the first volume of *The Chronicles of the Imaginarium Geographica*, for which he also does the illustrations.

(His website is [www.coppervaleinternational.com](http://www.coppervaleinternational.com). He can also be found at [coppervale.livejournal.com](http://coppervale.livejournal.com).)

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**ART SHOW**

The Mythcon 40 Committee is pleased to announce that, after an absence of several years, there will be an Art Show at Mythcon. Our Author Guest of Honor will be bringing several of his original pieces (and the Time Machine featured in *The Indigo King!*), which will serve as the heart of the Art Show.

If you have artwork you want to show (or even sell), please contact Bonnie & Tim Callahan at [bonolatm@pacbell.net](mailto:bonolatm@pacbell.net) for panel rates. They will also be able to receive art by mail before the conference, but please contact them ahead of time (we expect the artists to be attendees of the conference).

## MYTHCON 40 ROOM AND BOARD PACKAGES

PLEASE NOTE: room and board packages must be purchased by **July 6**.

### MEALS AND LODGING

Full room and board packages include lodging for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday night, along with the following meals: Friday dinner; Saturday breakfast, lunch, and dinner; Sunday breakfast, lunch and banquet ticket; and Monday breakfast and lunch. Additional nights with breakfast are available on Thursday night and Monday night.

#### Friday, Saturday, Sunday with meals

Single occupancy	\$446
Double occupancy (per person)	\$302

#### Additional Night before or after conference (Includes breakfast)

Single occupancy	\$132
Double occupancy (per person)	\$84

### MEALS ONLY

Those who will not be staying on campus can purchase a package with meals only: includes Friday dinner, Saturday lunch & dinner, Sunday lunch & banquet ticket, and Monday lunch

Adult	\$111.50
Youth (under 18)	\$103.00

### BANQUET ONLY

Per person \$50

Packages may be purchased online at  
[www.mythsoc.org/mythcon/40/room/](http://www.mythsoc.org/mythcon/40/room/)

## MYTHCON 40 REGISTERED MEMBERS (as of March 18, 2009)

Edward Alexander	Mary Hodge
Daniel Baird	Rosamund Hodge
Sarah Beach	Carl Hostetter
Berni Phillips Bratman	Zak Jarvis
David Bratman	Mary Jo Kapsalis
Bonnie Callahan	Carol M. Kalescky
Tim Callahan	Chris Lowell
Fernando Careaga-Sanchez	Nancy Martsch
Anne Osborn Coopersmith	Lynn Maudlin
Lisa Cowan	Ginger McElwee
Robert Cowan	Sharon Mock
Edith Crowe	Susan Morris
Paula DiSante	Peter Oas
Linda Dunlap	Cindy Owen (w. Sophie & Nathaniel)
David Emerson	James A. Owen
Eleanor Farrell	Doris Robin
Kyle Ferstead	Hope Shaffer
Joanne Foster	Ron Siskind
Mike Foster	Arden Smith
Gwynne Garfinkle	Daniel Smith
Christopher Gilson	Dolores Speth
Glen GoodKnight	Lee Speth
Diana Pavlac Glyer	William H. Stoddard
Mike Glyer (w. Sierra)	Marion VanLoo
Ronnica Hagy	Wendell Wagner
Harold Harrigan	Amy Wisniewski
Lisa Harrigan	