



ON  
THE **Shoulders**  
OF **GIANTS**

**MYTH  
CON  
49**

**49th Annual Mythopoeic Society Conference**  
**July 20 – 23, 2018 · Atlanta, GA**  
Ritz-Carlton · 181 Peachtree St NE, Atlanta GA 30303

**PROGRESS REPORT**



## Conference Theme On the Shoulders of Giants

The Mythopoeic Society has launched into a series of 50th anniversaries: the founding of the Society in 2017, the conception and launch of our scholarly journal *Mythlore* in 2018, and the establishment of our mythopoeic conference in 2019. Our theme is suggested by the ways in which Inklings scholarship has built on such good foundations.

We will celebrate these foundations and fifty years of building “On the Shoulders of Giants” at Mythcon 49.

The Mythopoeic Society’s annual conference, informally known as “Mythcon,” is a Tolkien and Inklings-focused conference held over an extended weekend; this year July 20-23 at the Ritz Carlton in downtown Atlanta, Georgia. Mythcon 49 features two guests of honor: Dr. Robin Reid, scholar guest of honor, and Donato Giancola, artist guest of honor. Papers, panel discussions, readings, entertainment, and other activities fill the four-day event, which also boasts an art show and dealers room. A highlight of Mythcon is our annual banquet after which the annual Mythopoeic Awards are presented. The Mythopoeic Society has always encouraged scholarship in mythopoeic and Inklings studies by hosting Mythcon, a venue in which scholars, new and old, may present papers; publishing a peer-reviewed journal, *Mythlore*; assisting scholars in need of financial aid to attend Mythcon via the Glen GoodKnight Starving Scholars Fund; and in recognizing student scholars with the Alexei Kondratiev Award.

# Guests of Honor



Scholar Guest of Honor

**Dr. Robin Anne Reid**

Robin Anne Reid, Ph.D., is a Professor in the Department of Literature and Languages at Texas A&M University–Commerce. Her teaching areas are creative writing, critical theory, and marginalized literatures. She edited the two-volume *Women in Science Fiction and Fantasy*, published in 2009 by Greenwood Press. She co-directed two N.E.H. Tolkien Institutes for School Teachers on Teaching Tolkien (2004, 2009) with Dr. Judy Ann Ford, History, A&M–Commerce. She and Dr. Ford team-taught a series of undergraduate and graduate courses on Tolkien’s *The Lord of the Rings*, both face to face and online. Their collaborative essay, ‘...things that were, and things that are, and things that yet may be:’ *Teaching Tolkien’s The Lord of the Rings On-Line*, is included in *Approaches to Teaching Tolkien’s The Lord of the Rings and Other Works*, edited by Dr. Leslie Donovan, published by The Modern Language Association of America in 2015.

Dr. Reid and Dr. Ford have also published on Peter Jackson’s *The Lord of the Rings*. Recent Tolkien publications are an essay on female bodies and femininities in *The Lord of the Rings in The Body in Tolkien’s Legendarium*, edited by Christopher Vaccaro, a bibliographic essay on the history of scholarship on female characters in Tolkien’s work in *Perilous and Fair*, edited by Janet Brennan Croft and Leslie Donovan, and a bibliographic essay on race and Tolkien studies in *Tolkien and Alterity*, edited by Christopher Vaccaro and Yvette Kisor. Besides her work on Tolkien and feminist science fiction, she has also published on fan productions and fan activism in online media fandom. She is a regular contributor to “The Year’s Work in Tolkien Studies” in the annual journal, *Tolkien Studies*.

## Guests of Honor (cont.)



Artist Guest of Honor  
**Donato Giancola**

As one of the world's most recognized and awarded Imaginative Realist artists, Donato Giancola shares his passion of figurative arts not only through his unique body of oil paintings and drawings, but also teaching inspired future generations of creators at the Illustration Master Class, the School of Visual Arts, online through the SmArt School, as well as lecturing and exhibiting at various institutions, seminars, and conventions worldwide.

From J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* to Botticelli's *La Primavera*, Donato balances modern concepts with historical inspirations to bridge the worlds of contemporary and historical figurative arts in his work. Influences encompass strolls of New York City streets as well as pilgrimages to museums and art institutions — including the Uffizzi, Prado, Louvre, and Hermitage. Donato recognizes the significant cultural role played by visual art and makes personal efforts to contribute to the expansion and appreciation of the narrative genre that extend beyond the commissions of his clients.

Since beginning his professional career in 1993, Donato's list of clients has grown to include major book publishers in New York to concept design firms on the West Coast: notables include The United Nations, LucasArts, *National Geographic*, *Scientific American*, CNN, DC Comics, Microsoft, *The Village Voice*, *Playboy Magazine*, US Postal Service, Wizards of the Coast, Scholastic, Simon&Schuster, Tor Books, Random House, Time/Warner, The Scifi Channel, Milton-Bradley, and Hasbro. Merits range from the Hamilton King Award from the Society of Illustrators to twenty-three Chesley Awards from the Association of Science Fiction and Fantasy Artists, three Artist Hugo Awards for outstanding professional work from the World Science Fiction Society, notable awards from the Art Renewal Center, and six silver and two gold medals from the juried annual Spectrum: The Best of Contemporary Fantastic Art.

Donato is currently engaged with series works on the themes of empathetic robots, astronauts, commercial cover commissions, and continued explorations within Middle-earth and other inspired worlds. You can learn more about Donato's art and techniques at [www.donatoart.com](http://www.donatoart.com) and be sure to cruise through his wonderful gallery.

Donato lives with his wife and two daughters in Brooklyn, New York.



# Call for Papers

The Mythopoeic Society has launched into a series of 50th anniversaries: the founding of the Society in 2017, the conception and launch of our scholarly journal *Mythlore* in 2018, and the establishment of our mythopoeic conference in 2019. Our theme is suggested by the ways in which Inklings scholarship has built on such good foundations. We will celebrate these foundations and fifty years of building “On the Shoulders of Giants” at Mythcon 49. Papers exploring this theme might include, but are not limited to any of the following:

- The past, present, and future of mythopoeic scholarship and independent journals
- Academic, audience, and critical reception of mythopoeic literature
- The history of fandom, fan communities, and fanfiction
- Adaptations of mythopoeic literature — film, music, gaming, and more
- The mythopoeic giants who inspired the Inklings — including Homer, Dante, Milton, George MacDonald, William Morris, G.K. Chesterton, and the most prolific of them all, Anon.
- Giants as literary figures in myth, fairy tale, and mythopoeic literature — Atlas, Goliath, the Norse Giants, Grendel, Gogmagog, Tolkien’s Trolls, and the Giants and Ettins of Narnia

Papers dealing with the conference theme are especially encouraged. We also welcome papers focusing on the work and interests of the Inklings (especially J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, and Charles Williams), on our Guests of Honor, and on other mythopoeic authors and themes. Papers from a variety of critical perspectives and disciplines are likewise welcome. Each paper is generally given a one-hour time slot, but papers should be timed for oral presentation in 40–45 minutes to allow time for questions. Two shorter papers can also be accommodated in a single one-hour time slot. We also welcome proposals for panels consisting of several shorter papers on related topics or for open panel discussions on subjects appropriate to Mythcon. All presenters must register for the full conference; please see the Mythcon 49 web page, [mythcon.org](http://mythcon.org), for information and rates.

Participants are encouraged to submit papers chosen for presentation at the conference to *Mythlore*, the refereed journal of the Mythopoeic Society ([mythlore.org](http://mythlore.org)). All papers should conform to the 8th edition of the MLA Style Manual. Presenters who are full-time undergraduate or graduate students are encouraged to submit their completed conference papers in advance for consideration for the Alexei Kondratiev Student Paper Award. Please see [www.mythsoc.org/mythcon/alexei.htm](http://www.mythsoc.org/mythcon/alexei.htm) for more information.

Paper abstracts of no more than 300 words, along with contact information, should be sent to the Papers Coordinator at the address below by May 15, 2018. Please include the anticipated duration of your presentation and any A/V requirements you feel are essential. We will make every effort to accommodate your A/V requests, but this cannot be guaranteed. You will be notified after the deadline if your paper or panel proposal has been accepted.

Jason Fisher

Mythcon 49 Papers Coordinator

[visualweasel@yahoo.com](mailto:visualweasel@yahoo.com)

# Alexei Kondratiev Award

In 2010, the society introduced an award for the best paper presented at Mythcon by an undergraduate or graduate student. This award, first presented at Mythcon 41, was named in honor of Alexei Kondratiev, long time Society member and a scholar of wide-ranging interests in mythopoeic and related studies, who passed away in 2010. The winners of the award receive a certificate, a one-year subscription to *Mythlore*, and half-off registration for the next Mythcon they attend.

They are also strongly encouraged to submit the paper to *Mythlore* for consideration. The winner will be announced at the Mythcon banquet and on the Society's website, as well as in *Mythlore* and *Mythprint*.

The application can be found at [mythsoc.org/mythcon/alexei.htm](http://mythsoc.org/mythcon/alexei.htm)

To be considered for the award, the application form must be submitted to the committee chair, Janet Croft at [mythlore@mythsoc.org](mailto:mythlore@mythsoc.org) by June 20.

The finished paper must be submitted electronically to the chair at least ten days before the first day of Mythcon.

The paper must follow *Mythlore* style guidelines and should be between 4000 and 9000 words long. [mythsoc.org/assets/Alexei-Kondratiev-Award-Application.pdf](http://mythsoc.org/assets/Alexei-Kondratiev-Award-Application.pdf)

Applicants must be accepted by or currently enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program at the time their abstract was submitted.

Applicants must attend Mythcon and present the paper to qualify for the award.

## Glen GoodKnight Starving Scholars Fund

The Glen GoodKnight Starving Scholars Fund supports attendance at Mythcon for scholars and other participants. Preference is given to persons presenting a paper or participating on a panel, though others are not automatically excluded from consideration.

Awards generally consist of a contribution toward room and board costs or, very rarely, other conference expenses such as travel. The Mythcon Papers Coordinator, in consultation with the Mythopoeic Society Council of Stewards and the Conference Committee, makes the final decision in regard to award recipients, amounts, and application of funds.

No more than half of the Fund's balance may be used in any given year.

The Starving Scholars Fund was conceived by Jane Yolen at the end of Mythcon 24, where she had been our Scholar Guest of Honor; she was so impressed with the focus on scholarship which the Society encourages that she said, "you need a 'starving scholars' fund, to help more scholars attend Mythcon" — and then she put her money where her mouth was and gave us our first contribution to the Starving Scholars Fund. The fund was renamed in honor of our founder, Glen GoodKnight, upon his passing in November 2010. Glen always emphasized the importance of encouraging scholarship in Inklings studies and was happy to see this fund come into existence. We believe he would be pleased to have his name associated with the Starving Scholars Fund. Those interested in donating to the Glen GoodKnight Starving Scholars Fund may do so here: [mythsoc.org/donation-GGSSF.htm](http://mythsoc.org/donation-GGSSF.htm)

# Call for Dealers

## DEALER'S ROOM

Vendor tables are available in the Dealers Room, located in the Grand Ballroom, adjacent to the plenary room and banquet, from approximately 3pm Friday until 12pm Monday, with setup between 12 and 3pm Friday and tear-down between 12 and 3pm Monday. The price is \$50 per table for the whole conference.

A single table is 3'x8'. Electrical outlets are available and extension cords will be provided. wireless internet is also available. Nothing can be affixed to the walls, and all dealer displays are confined to the table(s) and the area immediately behind.

Hotel-adjacent parking is available for \$15 per day. Each dealer is responsible for all necessary and appropriate city, state, and federal licenses and taxes, including any license required by copyright owners of any material being sold or displayed. The hotel has security; however, the event management and venue assume no liability for theft or damage to displays and merchandise.

Vendors wishing to attend conference events will need to register for the conference, but will receive a \$20 discount per table. Please note, the banquet where the Mythopoeic Award winners are announced is a separate fee. Registration and hotel information is available at [mythcon.org](http://mythcon.org).

An unstaffed "combined exhibits" table is available for publishers and other vendors who would like to send a sample book or item as well as order forms or other promotional material, but do not wish to send a representative to the conference. Space on this table is \$25 per item (or item stack in the case of forms, flyers, business cards, etc.) for the entire conference. We cannot guarantee the safe return of your item but we will do our best. If the sample need not be returned, it can be donated to the society (a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, auction donations are tax-deductible).

## REGISTRATION PACKET

Publishers and other vendors may include a flyer, brochure, coupon, business card, or other small item in the registration packet for \$25 per item. Please send 200 copies of your item. Any extras will be placed in the vendor room on the "combined exhibits" table. This fee is waived for publishers connected with attendees or guests of honor, calls for papers, and for information regarding other conferences.

## HOSPITALITY ROOM

Vendors who provide free food and drink for the hospitality suite, may display their promotional items alongside the provided item at no charge.

For further information:

Alicia Fox-Lenz

Mythcon 49 Chair

[aliciafoxlenz@gmail.com](mailto:aliciafoxlenz@gmail.com)

# Schedule and Programming

For travel planning purposes, you may assume that registration will open around 12pm on Friday and programming will begin no earlier than 2pm. Friday night will feature the Stewards' Reception.

Saturday morning will begin with the Procession and Opening Ceremonies, as is customary. Presentations and panels will take place throughout the day, and in the evening the post-programming activities will begin.

On Sunday, in addition to the presentations and panels, the Society auction will be held in the afternoon, and the Banquet and awards ceremony will be held in the evening.

Final program items will take place on Monday morning, followed by the Annual Mythopoeic Society Members Meeting (all are welcome) and Closing Ceremonies, concluding around 12pm.

## Conference Registration

The registration rates for Mythcon 49 for Mythopoeic Society members, the general public, and students are as follows (prices reflect the rates as of May 1, 2018—“at the door” rates will be higher):

Full Conference Registration for Mythopoeic Society Members	\$75
Full Conference Registration for Nonmembers	\$90
Full Conference Registration for Students*	\$60

PLEASE NOTE: You can save money if you join the Mythopoeic Society and then register for Mythcon 49 at the Society Members rate. There are other advantages to membership as well. See the Mythopoeic Society's website for details.

If you are uncertain of your membership status, please contact our Membership Secretary, Lynne Darga, at [membership@mythsoc.org](mailto:membership@mythsoc.org). To register or to make room and board payment (see below), PayPal registration is available at [mythcon.org](http://mythcon.org).

To pay by check, please make payable to the Mythopoeic Society and mail to:

The Mythopoeic Society  
PO Box 6707  
Altadena, CA 91003

\* Full-time students are those taking 12 or more credit hours per semester/quarter at an accredited college or university. Must present a current, active student ID at check-in.

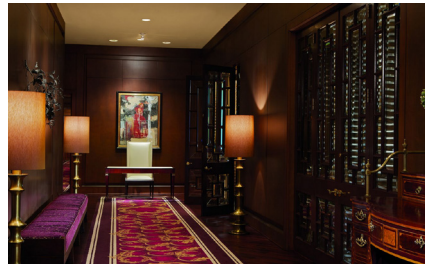


# Venue & Reservations

Mythcon49 will take place in the Ritz-Carlton Atlanta, a luxury hotel located in the heart of Downtown.

Features include:

- 444 elegantly appointed hotel accommodations, including suites overlooking the Atlanta skyline
- AG modern steakhouse and Lumen Bar with live entertainment, cocktails and small plates.
- More than 17,000 square feet of meeting and event space
- On-property and offsite fitness facilities
- Prime downtown location near the Georgia Aquarium, Mercedes-Benz Stadium, Philips Arena, Centennial Olympic Park, Georgia World Congress Center and AmericasMart
- Easy MARTA mass transit access



We have arranged with the Ritz-Carlton a preferred guest rate of \$159 per room per night. When booking, you will need to identify yourself as an attendee of Mythcon 49. We recommend staying at the Ritz, not only to be in the middle of things and avoid a long, late-night walk to another hotel from the hospitality suite, but also so the conference will be credited to help meet room night and food & beverage minimums.

Guests may reserve at the Ritz-Carlton call center (1-800-241-3333), confirm they are coming to The Ritz-Carlton, Atlanta (Downtown) for Mythcon July 2018, and provide the agent with their requested dates of stay; the agent will confirm the group rate of \$159.

Guests may also reserve online at [ritzcarlton.com/en/Properties/Atlanta/Default.htm](http://ritzcarlton.com/en/Properties/Atlanta/Default.htm) — enter their desired dates of stay, the seven letter Group/Promotion code **MCJMCJA**, and click “find” to complete the reservation process. Conference rates are valid until June 20th.

We will not be doing a full Room & Board package this year, only the Sunday-night banquet, but are arranging some options for dining with fellow Mythies at nearby restaurants.

## Transportation

Air travelers are advised to fly into Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport (ATL). As one of the major airline hubs, it's serviced by nearly every major airline. Public transit is the cheapest and most convenient option. The MARTA train is \$2.50 per trip and runs directly from the airport to the hotel (Peachtree Center station) on both North/South lines ([itsmarta.com](http://itsmarta.com)). There is also the option of a taxi, or Uber or Lift from the airport, though the Uber/Lift pickup area is very far from the terminal. There is no specific hotel shuttle, but generic shuttle services service the Ritz-Carlton, some can be found at [airportshuttles.com](http://airportshuttles.com).

If you are driving, cars may be self-parked or valeted at the hotel. There is a per-night fee of \$45 for valet service or \$15 to self-park in the adjacent deck on Ellis Street. Atlanta is also served by Amtrak and major bus lines, including Greyhound and Megabus. The hotel is located at 181 Peachtree St, Atlanta, GA 30303.

# Mythcon 49 Members

*As of April 29, 2018*

Megan Abrahamson  
Edward Alexander  
Marcia Bigger  
Maurice Boehm  
Berni Bratman  
David Bratman  
Bonn S. Callahan  
Anne Osborn Coopersmith  
Janet Brennan Croft  
Edith Crowe  
Lynne Darga  
Margaret Dean  
Paula DiSante  
Leslie Donovan  
David Emerson  
Ellie Farrell

Jason Fisher  
Alicia Fox-Lenz  
Chris Gilson  
Elizabeth Grady  
Carl Hostetter  
John Wm. Houghton  
Gary Hunnewell  
Sylvia Hunnewell  
Linda B. James  
Mary Jo Kapsalis  
Stephanie Katz  
Bruce Leonard  
William Linn, PhD.  
Nancy Martsch  
Lynn Maudlin  
Elise McKenna

Maria "Mab" Morris  
Jewell J.M. Morrow  
Susan Nease  
Barbara Oas  
Peter Oas  
Jeanell Pelsor  
John Rosegrant  
Luke Baugher Shelton  
Lee Speth  
Aidan Van Loo  
David Van Loo  
Marion Van Loo  
Constance G.J. Wagner  
Elizabeth Waites

## Mythcon 49 Committee

Alicia Fox-Lenz      *Mythcon 49 Chair*  
Lynn Maudlin      *Mythcon Steward*  
Jason Fisher      *Papers Coordinator*  
Tim Lenz      *Hospitality*  
Rebecca Perry  
Celia Sullivan  
Becky Dillon  
Megan Abrahamson

Are you interested in helping out? There's always room for more on the committee!

Please contact Alicia Fox-Lenz at [aliciafoxlenz@gmail.com](mailto:aliciafoxlenz@gmail.com) to join.