DIVERSICON 28
“The Roaring 2020s”
August 7-9, 2020
Hotel:
Crowne Plaza Minneapolis West
3131 Campus Drive
Plymouth MN 55441
763-559-6600

Guest of Honor: Michael Merriam

Michael Merriam is an author, performer, poet, and playwright with ten books and over 90 pieces of short fiction and poetry published. His novel, Last Car to Annwn Station, was named a Top Book by Readings in Lesbian & Bisexual Women’s Fiction. His novella, Should We Drown in Feathered Sleep, was long-listed for the Nebula Award. His stories and essays have appeared in such places as the Hugo Award winning Uncanny Magazine: Disabled People Destroy Science Fiction issue, and the Ditmar Award winning magazine, Andromeda Spaceways Inflight Magazine. His scripts have been produced for stage and radio. Michael is a co-founder of the Minnesota Speculative Fiction Writers.

Special Guest: Abra Staffin-Wiebe

Abra Staffin-Wiebe loves optimistic science fiction, cheerful horror, and dark fantasy. Dozens of her short stories have appeared in publications including Tor.com, The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction, Escape Pod, and Odyssey Magazine. She lives in Minneapolis, where she wrangles her children, pets, and the mad scientist she keeps in the attic. When not writing or wrangling, she collects folk tales and photographs of whatever stands still long enough to allow it. Her most recent book, The Unkindness of Ravens, is an epic fantasy coming-of-age novella about trickster gods and favors owed. Enjoy an excerpt here: http://www.aswiebe.com/moreunkindness.html. Check out her website: http://www.aswiebe.com/ to read about fluffy pink murderbears, firebirds bearing gifts, and other things beautiful and bizarre.

Posthumous Guests:


Ray Bradbury (1920-2012) wrote The October Country, The Martian Chronicles, Fahrenheit 451, The Illustrated Man, Something Wicked This Way Comes, I Sing the Body Electric, the screenplay to Moby Dick, and Bradbury: 100 of His Most Celebrated Tales.

Check out the latest news at www.diversicon.org.
Message from the Chair: We are moving to a new hotel this year. It has a number of advantages over our previous space: bigger meeting rooms close together, cheaper sleeping rooms. It costs somewhat more than the previous hotel, so please help support us by telling people to join us for the con. We’ll also need you to support us by buying a lot at the auction. We’ll still have the same amazing programming featuring our two live guests and studying the works of our posthumous guests, along with lots of panels. Diversicon 28 will be a wonderful event. --Scott Lohman, D28 Chair

Flash Fiction, Round 13! The Flash Fiction Contest, suggested by Diversicon 16 Guest of Honor Ann Frasier, continues at D28 with Judge Michael Merriam. We want stories up to 250 words (firm), related to the Convention Theme, “The Roaring 2020s.” Entries will be judged on creative interpretation of the theme, the quality of the writing, and emotional/intellectual impact. The winner gets a cool certificate, the honor of winning, and the honor of reading your work out loud at our Auction Halftime Saturday night. Submit no later than 11:59 p.m. Central Standard Time, July 20, 2020, to diversicon@gmail.com. No entry fee, but only open to attending members of the convention. Writers of any experience level may submit. The Diversicon Chair and the Programming Director are ineligible. Authors retain all rights to their stories.

Programming: Programming will feature two to 2 ½ tracks (40-50 items), including Guest readings and/or presentations; our usual lively mix of panels and discussions on SF in literary media, film, TV, graphic arts, and pods; speculative science; alternative lifestyles; and multicultural SF. We will hold our 22nd annual Yugo Awards Book Review for Best SF works that should have been written, but haven’t. Other topics will be the work of the Guests, both living and posthumous; the announcement of the Rhysling Awards for Best Science Fiction and Fantasy Poetry of the year, with accompanying round robin readings; and the fabulous SF Minnesota Auction. Your Programming suggestions are welcome! Contact Eric M. Heideman, eheideman@dhzone.com, Scott Lohman, scottl2605@aol.com, and Conrad Zero, conradzero@gmail.com, and/or the Diversicon PO Box, and/or the Programming ideas Blue Sheet posted on our website, to submit ideas -- priority consideration will be given to ideas received by June 15, 2020 -- and/or to let Programming know of your interest in being on Program items.

SF Minnesota Auction: Featuring books, DVDs, artwork and miscellaneous items. It supports SF Minnesota and it’s great fun! To donate or consign items contact Eric (eheideman@dhzone.com) and /or Scott Lohman (scottl2605@aol.com).

Hotel: Crowne Plaza Minneapolis West. After our “adventure” of 2019, we’re checking out new space. The Crowne Plaza Minneapolis West is a con friendly hotel. It’s bigger than the previous facility, we’ve bigger meeting spaces and cheaper sleeping room rates. The hotel is in Plymouth just north of 55 at 494. Room rates are $95 a night plus tax. Contact the hotel at the phone on the first page.

Hospitality: Rich Brown will serve gourmet coffee and latte Saturday and Sunday mornings. Our Hospitality staff will offer light refreshments and genial conversation. Hosts are eagerly sought.

Krushenko’s: Inspired by a Manhattan bistro in Larry Niven’s Ringworld, this space is for people who like to spend some time at SF conventions talking about SF. It started at the 1983 Minicon, and now also materializes at MarsCon, WisCon, Con-Sarnit, and DeCongestant (including Diversicon-hosted parties at MarsCon and WisCon). Stop by for a mix of panels, readings, discussions, and conversational parties hosted by SF groups.

Parties: We like parties! If you and/or your SF-related group are interested in holding a party at D28, contact Eric (eheideman@dhzone.com).
Diversicon 28 Registration

Name________________________________________________________________________

Address______________________________________________________________________

City, State/Province, Postal Code________________________________________________

Email_________________________________ Website_______________________________

Phone/s______________________________________________________________________

I’d like information on the following: Program Participation___ Dealer Table___   Art Display___
PartyHosting___   General Volunteering___

Enclose check or money order and mail to: Diversicon 28, PO Box 8036, Lake Street Station, Minneapolis
MN 55408. Do not mail cash. Or you may pay via PayPal to diverscon@gmail.com. Complete instructions
available at www.diversicon.org.

Rates: Now until the Ides of March (15 March) 2020: Adult $30; Student (ages 12-25) $20; Supporting
$10
Through Bastille Day: (14 July) 2020: Adult $35; Student $25; Supporting $10
At the Door: Adult $45; Student $35; Converting $30; Child (ages 5-11) $5 anytime

Dealers: Our Dealers will get our $30 membership rate for each person working the table, plus $20 for
the first table, $15 for the second table, if available. Space is tight. To get on the waiting list, contact Eric
(eheideman@dhzone.com.)

Art Display: Attending Artists get our $30 membership in return for agreeing to hang out in the Vendor
Room for an hour on Saturday and talking about their work. The Attending Artists display rate is $1 per
bid sheet (per piece). Walk-in art will be accepted from a non-attending artist or agent at the rate of $2 per
bid sheet. Items that receive two or more Silent Auction bids will be included in the SF Minnesota Auction
Saturday night. Contact Eric (eheideman@dhzone.com)

Program Book Ads: Advertise your event, service, or cause in the Diversicon Program Book. Ads are
$50 full page (8 ½ “ x 11 “ --7 1/2 x 10 “ screen); $35 half page; $25 quarter page. Contact Scott
(Scottl2605@aol.com)

Supporting Organizations: SF Minnesota thanks the speculative fiction book discussion group Second
Foundation for its donation. Your group’s Supporting Organization grant of $25 or more helps support
such SF Minnesota projects as the monthly Speculations Readings Series at DreamHaven Books; our
annual Classic Horror Films Party; Diversicon parties at other conventions; and Tales of the
Unanticipated. In return your organization will receive a thank you write-up in Progress Report Two, our
website, and in the Diversicon 28 Program Book in August.
"Diversicon is a convention for the unconventional." --Karen Joy Fowler

“Those who like this sort of thing will find it the sort of thing they like.“ -- Abraham Lincoln

Diversicon is a project of SF MINNESOTA, a multicultural, multimedia organization dedicated to improving contacts among groups and individuals interested in speculative fiction, in and out of the traditional SF community. Our continuing mission: to provide the most thoughtful Programming and the mellowest, most welcoming Parties of any Minnesota SF convention, and to making our state’s SF community more closely reflect the cultural diversity of Minnesota in the Third Millennium.

For Further Information:
Diversicon 28, PO Box 8036, Lake Street Station, Minneapolis MN 55408
Web: www.diversicon.org. Email: diversicon@gmail.com
Facebook: Diversicon
Scott Lohman: Diversicon 28 Chair, scottl2605@aol.com
Eric M. Heideman: Programming Director, eheideman@dhzone.com