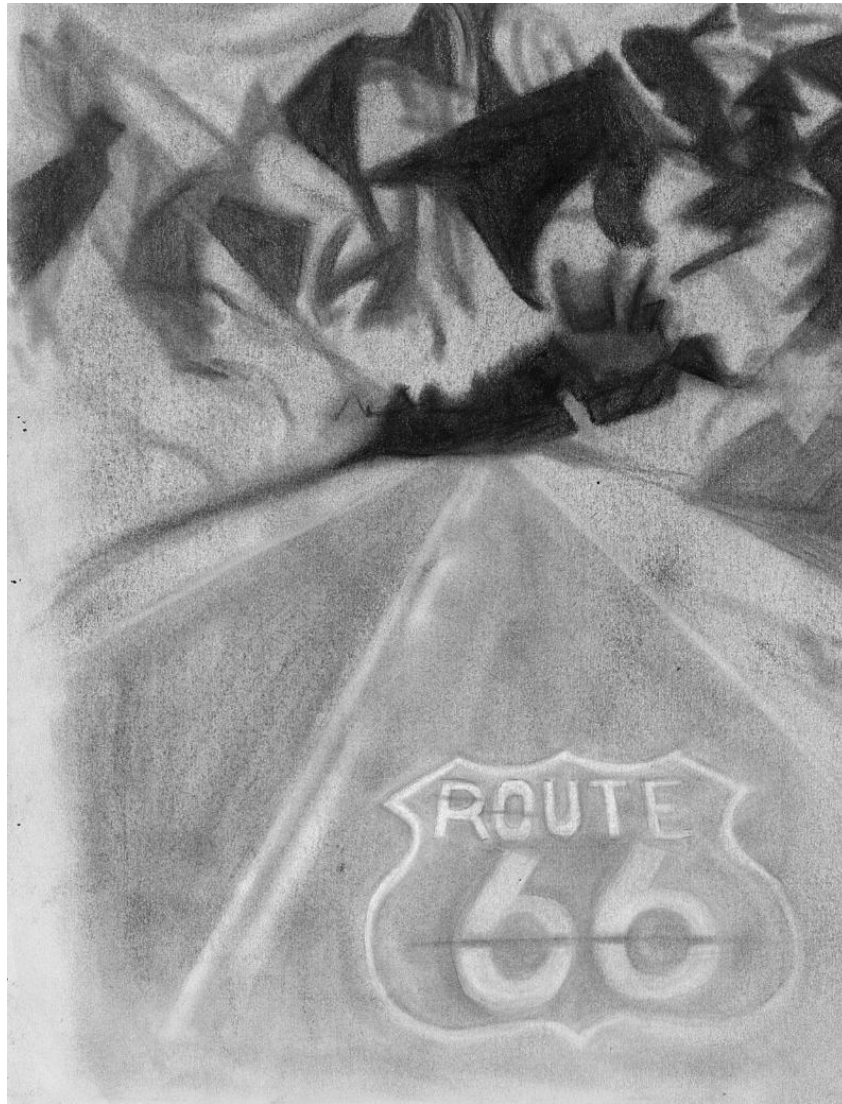


mothprint



**Quarterly Bulletin of the Mythopoeic Society with Book Reviews,
Short Articles, Event Information, and More!**

vol. 63 no. 3 Fall 2026 whole no. 418

mythprint

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Mythprint is the quarterly bulletin of the Mythopoeic Society, a nonprofit educational organization devoted to the study, discussion, and enjoyment of mythic, mythopoeic, and fantasy literature, especially the works of J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, Charles Williams, and other Inklings. To promote these interests, the Society maintains a website, social media, and digital archives, sponsors annual conferences (Mythcon and OMS), grants annual awards for fiction and scholarship, sponsors discussion groups, and issues three publications: *Mythlore*, our scholarly journal, *The Mythic Circle*, our literary magazine, and *Mythprint*, our newsletter.

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NEWS AND UPDATES

NEW OMS ANNOUNCEMENT

Think a year is too long to wait for your next MythCon? Then it is with great excitement we can also announce a new Online Mythopoeic Seminar coming March 6th and 7th, 2027! Come join us for “Exploring Imaginary Worlds: Engaging with Myth and Fantasy.” This OMS will explore the ways we connect to myth and fantasy in our daily lives such as retellings of stories, fandom, interactive entertainment such as video games and tabletop games, and bringing fantasy and myth into the classroom through gamification and other pedagogical techniques. “Exploring Imaginary Worlds” will be co-chaired by Hayden Bilbrey, Atiyana Ringling, and Dr. Gregg Fields.

mythcon wrap-up

Mythcon 54 was held Weatherford, Oklahoma with the theme “Get Your Fantasy Kicks on Route 66.”

- Chair: Phillip Fitzsimmons (chair@mythcon.org)
- Papers Coordinator: Cami Agan (papers@mythcon.org)
- Additional committee members: Khrystyna Melnychuk, Victoria Gaydosik, Conner Kirk, Robert Williams
- Mythopoeic Society Steward for Conferences: Tim Lenz (mythcon@mythsoc.org)
- Guest of Honor: Joe Christopher

GUEST WRITER OF HONOR LECTURE

“Three Coincidences in a Trenchcoat” by David R. Slayton

First, I want to thank you. There’s a little anxiety in speaking to you like this as I am not an academic. I like to say that I am the world’s most over-educated high school dropout. I’m a working writer with a GED and three college degrees, and I am genuinely honored to be here.

This morning one of you was wearing a t-shirt that said “drink coffee, read books, and dismantle systems of oppression.” I wish I had one of those to wear for this talk because I think that pretty much sums up what I want to speak about.

I am David R. Slayton. I grew up about an hour from here (Weatherford, Oklahoma), in Guthrie. More specifically, I spent



my childhood in a trailer in the woods outside of town back before we had trash service or even paved roads.

Growing up where and when I did, I can say that books are one of the things that saved my life. They provided me with escape. They provided me with windows into other lives. They provided me with imaginary friends. I am evidence of their power and impact, which is why I am so concerned about the current crisis we find ourselves in.

The fact that a number of you probably just asked yourself which crisis “does he mean?” only makes my point, because we are in several, existential, environmental, etc. but I don’t believe they aren’t interrelated or that they don’t necessarily spring from one fixable source, which is the literacy crisis.

The Atlantic recently published an article titled *The End of Reading is Here* by Rose Horowitz who states that:

According to the National Endowment for the Arts, which conducts the most comprehensive survey of the nation’s reading habits, fewer than half of all adults reported having read a book of any kind in 2022. Only 38 percent read a novel or short story. A study analyzing 236,000 responses to the American Time Use Survey found that the proportion of Americans who read for pleasure on any given day fell from 28 percent in 2004 to 16 percent in 2023. (The study looked at people who had read a book, magazine, or newspaper; listened to an audiobook; or read an e-book.) Gambling has become a more common leisure activity than reading... (Horowitz)

This is hardly the only such article on the topic. James Mariott wrote in his article *The dawn of the post literate society and the end of civilization*, a real upper of a title:

As power, wealth and knowledge concentrate at the top of society, an angry, divided and uninformed public lacks a way [to] understand or analyse or criticise or change what is going on. Instead more and more people are impressed by the kinds of highly emotional charismatic and mystical appeals that were the foundation of power in the age before widespread literacy.

Just as the advent of print dealt the final death blow to the decaying world of feudalism, so the screen is destroying the world of liberal democracy.

As tech companies wipe out literacy and middle class jobs, we may find ourselves [in] a second feudal age. Or it may be that we are entering a political era beyond our imagining.

One of my biggest worries about this, which Marriott is touching on, is that educators are reporting how students are unable to parse meaning from what they read. Horowitch continues by saying:

In 2024, in a national test, [just 35 percent of high-school seniors](#) were “proficient” at skills such as analyzing complex fictional themes and evaluating the effectiveness of an author’s argument. About the same number scored below “basic,” meaning that they may struggle to draw conclusions from concepts explicitly included in a text, or to use context clues to determine the meaning of an unknown word. Adult-literacy scores have also dropped: Nearly 30 percent of American adults [cannot paraphrase or make inferences from a multipage text](#). In 2017, that number was less than 20 percent. (Horowitch)

Don’t worry, I don’t have many more block quotes and this talk won’t be a complete downer and I do have some good news for you. I also know that advocating to the Mythopoeic society for the importance of literacy and fantasy is more than preaching to the choir, but I’m hoping I can inspire you to help spread your love of reading and the genre to anyone who will listen.

When I said that our growing illiteracy is tied to other crises, I have two specific ones in mind. The first is the environmental impact of AI as our techno oligarchs override the will of communities to install data centers at the cost of dwindling

resources vital for survival. Larger in my view is the threat AI poses to objective, authentic reality.

I’ll be honest, I wasn’t sure what to talk to you about when I was invited here, but I have often thought of Eleanor Arnason’s speech at MythCon 53 and I’ve wondered in the years since what she’d have to say about the rise of alternative facts flooding the internet and our information ecosystem.

Outsourcing our critical thinking and creativity to machines while oligarchs push to sell us back our own intelligence as a subscription service, puts us at risk of not being able to discern fact from fiction. It threatens our access to knowledge and if we

look at the neuroscience behind reading and writing, it also threatens us with cognitive decline.

MIT recently published a study titled *Your Brain on ChatGPT: Accumulation of Cognitive Debt when Using an AI Assistant for Essay Writing Task*.

The abstract for their study found that:

While LLMs offer immediate convenience, our findings highlight potential cognitive costs. Over four months, LLM users consistently

underperformed at neural, linguistic, and behavioral levels. These results raise concerns about the long-term educational implications of LLM reliance and underscore the need for deeper inquiry into AI’s role in learning (Kosmyrna, et al)

Ownership over their own writing, their own voice, thoughts, and intellect is the cost of using this tool.

I don’t believe any of this is a coincidence. When we couple the rise of AI with the drop in literacy I think of Ray Bradbury, who famously wrote “you don’t have to burn books to destroy a culture. Just get people to stop reading them.”

I promised you some good news so here’s a little more. I believe that fantasy and reading can be tools for both resistance and resilience. Let’s start with resilience.

Dr. Juliette Han, a neuroscientist, notes that “sustained reading fires the same brain circuitry you use to guess what someone else is thinking and feeling, building your ability to empathize.” There’s that word, empathy, which Elon Musk has said is a fundamental weakness. I couldn’t disagree more.



When I mentioned that books saved my life, I should have been more specific. In my teenage years my mother became hyper religious. She didn't want me reading fantasy or anything to do with magic. That way lay Satan and we were in the height of the Satanic Panic of the 1980s. Don't even get me started on Dungeons and Dragons. Weirdly, she had a soft spot for Star Trek and let me read Star Trek novels, which I did by the stack. These were the days when they were published once or even twice a month. This might have been a mistake on mom's part because Star Trek introduced me to IDIC, the Vulcan philosophy of Infinite Diversity in Infinite Combinations. This gave me the rather dangerous notion that there's room in the universe for everyone and that maybe, just maybe, everything I was being told from the pulpit and the limited media I was allowed to consume wasn't entirely accurate. For the first time in my life, I started to form the idea that maybe there was a place for me in this world.

This is also around the time that I started reading Tolkien on the sly, after everyone else had gone to bed. I saw hobbits, little people, underpowered, underestimated, and almost wholly without resources, stand up to a great evil and defeat it. I read about fellowship, finding allies and community in places wholly unlike home. I was given an example of people who should have been enemies becoming the fastest of friends.

So no, I don't think empathy is a weakness. In fact I think it's essential to a functioning society and democracy. The way of the unempathetic is the road to a solitary might makes right approach, and that is the path of the uninteresting villain. Just ask Disney, who lately seems obsessed with live action remakes that give their classic villains sympathetic backstories.

Had I stayed where I started, nerdy, intelligent, and gay, I wouldn't have survived. My existence was incompatible with my environment. So reading, first Star Trek novels and then fantasy, opened an entire universe of possibilities. It allowed me to empathize with people completely different than me. It humanized the alien and the foreign—the different. It gave me a way out, first, mentally and then, physically. It gave me a heroic model I could follow and taught me the resilience needed to start my adventure by leaving Oklahoma.

If you were here for my reading of *Dark Moon, Shallow Sea* last night, you got a taste of the twenty-year journey I went on to get that book published. When it finally came out, an old friend emailed to say that he was shocked I'd never given up. That is what reading fantasy gave me, the super power of persistence.

Let's go back to Doctor Han, who also said that "reading fires up your occipital lobe, AKA the visual cortex, exercising your ability to bring your imagination to life, create, and visualize." The resilience that reading gives us goes beyond the spiritual or psychic. Regular reading and hand-writing helps to deter cognitive decline, something that's on my mind with a birthday coming up in a few weeks.

Reading builds resilience, both psychological and neurological.

Now let's talk about resistance.

Part of the literacy crisis are the book bans being enacted across the country, which are a calculated effort to hide information from young people. My second Bachelor's degree is in History, where I focused on the ancient, the medieval, and the transition between the two. Like many people who have studied that period, I mourn the loss of the library at Alexandria. Horowitz references its destruction in her article:

By 400 C.E., the library had disappeared. Many scholars regard its destruction as the greatest loss of knowledge in history and the beginning of the Dark Ages. Historians have spent centuries parsing fragments of papyrus in an effort to understand what went wrong.

Traditionally, the answer was believed to be war. During the Siege of Alexandria, in 48 B.C.E., Julius Caesar started a fire that incinerated at least 40,000 scrolls. The library survived in diminished form until the fourth century C.E., when followers of the archbishop of Alexandria sacked the pagan temple that housed the remaining manuscripts. But contemporary historians tend to dismiss the importance of these dramatic incidents in favor of a more mundane cause of death: negligence.

Maintaining the collection was an enormous expense. Humidity, mice, and insects slowly ate away at the papyrus scrolls. Scribes had to continually copy old texts before they deteriorated and became illegible. Eventually, the challenges of maintaining the library became greater than the will to preserve it. "It is not that the disappearance of a library led to a dark age, nor that its survival would have improved those ages," the classics scholar Roger Bagnall has written. The fact that the library was allowed to die showed that the dark age had already arrived. (Horowitz)

It's that final line that chills me. The library was allowed to die. Phillip Fitzsimmons and I were speaking about his work with the society's archives and my thoughts turned to the history that is lost when living people pass. I recently learned that my grandmother, who never wished to speak of bad things dictated a book to my aunt before she died. It's an extraordinary artifact, an irreplaceable piece of family history, left by someone who did not like to dwell on the past. Without it, so much of her life, which she did not like talking about, would be forever lost. Her silence nearly erased her.

To Bradbury's point, what does the library matter if no one accesses it or worse, no longer possesses the vital skill of literacy to understand its contents?

If you've never read *The Swerve: How the World Became Modern* by Stephen Greenblatt, I highly recommend it. In it, he describes how close we came to never having the Renaissance, how we almost never emerged from that dark age because the vital texts that enabled it were nearly lost, left moldering in an old collection. One thing I constantly warn people is that it wasn't the first. The ancient Greeks had theirs, when writing and literary were wholly lost. I fear we're on the verge of another.

One of the most frustrating things about being an author is that I must be online. It is required that I have a social media presence to reach my audience and market my books. My publishers expect it. My agents require it, and in truth there are times when it is very rewarding. I hear constantly from people who grew up like I did and who have found my books and appreciate them. At the same time I am bedeviled anytime I look at the political discourse and confront the feeling that so few of us understand how our government works, where power lies, and who can do what within the system. I also don't think this is a coincidence, that our education system no longer provides us with an understanding of how things operate because with that knowledge comes the skill to change and repair them.

It is often said that if your vote didn't matter they wouldn't try so hard to take it away. The greatest trick they've managed is to get us to not care or to not vote at all.

I think the same can be said of book bans. If the books weren't important, if they didn't pose a threat to someone's power, then

they wouldn't be banned, but does it matter if no one is reading them anyway?

Reading, especially something they don't want you to, something that might challenge your preconceived notions or taught beliefs, is an act of resistance. In fantasy and speculative fiction, we are given models of rebellion and resistance. I like to imagine an army of little Katniss Everdeens somewhere out there sharpening their arrowheads and practicing their aim.

That's not to say you won't find reading uncomfortable.

I love the quote by librarian Jo Godwin: "A truly great library contains something in it to offend everyone." We are becoming terrified of causing offense, of being recorded and having an embarrassing moment immortalized. I recently saw an excellent video by a voice actor who talked about how "cringe" voice acting is. It's silly. You look ridiculous doing it, and the fear of that, embarrassing yourself, is causing younger people to not enter the field, which just happens to be another creative area that AI is trying to destroy.

A quick sidenote to my fellow writers: AI is not your friend. Not for your cover art. Not for your editing, and not for your audiobook narration, and absolutely never for your writing. Eliminating one of us is the first step to eliminating us all and to go back to Dungeons and Dragons, when one of us is attacked, the whole party rolls for initiative. Support your fellow artists.

Walking the Stafford Air and Space Museum today I saw the quote by Jules Verne on a poster "Anything one man can imagine, other men can make real." The danger to me is if we stop imagining, if we outsource that oh so human element, creativity, to a slot machine that will require us to keep swiping our cards to access it that we lose that element, the critical component. The

creative process requires work, resilience, and persistence.

Beyond the potential loss of creative careers, outsourcing our thinking, our intelligence to a machine, is allowing whoever controls it to tell us what is true, what is real. Already we're dealing with an internet flooded with convincing videos of public figures falling down or cute animals playing on trampolines, all of them fabricated. Even when something does



Karla Powell taking a selfie while on the Archive Tour at MythCon 54 at SWOSU with Stewards Janet Brennan Croft and Victoria Gaydosik

happen the accusation that it is AI and not real can be levied to sow doubt. We are losing objective reality.

So how do we fix it other than by joining the Amish or going fully analog? We start by reading, for ourselves and consciously. Read diversely. Read books that challenge you, both morally and intellectually, even if they offend you.

Set an example where you can. If you have children in your life, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, or nibblings, give them books. Take them to the library. Read with them. Children model behavior. Model reading for them by doing it with them or beside them. My parents did a lot of things wrong, but we read. We had books. We had access to books.

One of the things that bothers me the most about book bans is how libraries are removing titles before they can be challenged or cause offense, self or shadow-banning and reducing the access their patrons have to materials they may need to understand themselves and the world.

One more thing I don't think is a coincidence is that we're seeing these attacks on literacy after raising a generation on stories like the *Hunger Games*, models of resistance against evil and fascism. Every act of reading that you encourage is an act of resistance. There has never been a time in history when the people burning the books were the good guys.

About ten years ago I began an initiative in Denver called Trick or Read. It's the easiest thing in the world. Buy new or gently used books for kids, middle grade, and young adult. Give them out on Halloween. We still give out candy and we include the young adult books along with some full sized bars to help keep the egging to a minimum, but I cannot tell you how amazing it is to see a child run back to their parents shrieking "I got a book!" At its height before the pandemic we gave out about 600 books across Colorado. If you get trick or treaters please consider joining us.

It doesn't have to cost very much. We hit our local thrift store throughout the year, looking for sales, sift carefully, and spend some time with Goo Gone to clean off stickers, etc. If that is still too much, support your local library. They buy what is requested and what is used by their patrons. My grandmother

Slayton, who was long on a fixed income due to my grandfather's disability, took me to her branch of the Oklahoma City library once and it changed my world.

Again, I suspect many of you already know these things: that reading is important and modeling it for kids is important. I am encouraging you to spread it beyond this group and society, to anyone who will listen.

Some more good news: One place we're seeing that's a positive in the literary landscape is that independent bookstores are thriving. People who are reading, are reading a lot. After the pandemic forced us all onto our screens, people long for community and third spaces. The Guardian reports "About 422 new indie bookshops opened in 2025, according to the American Booksellers Association, a 31% rise from 2024." I am overjoyed that Guthrie has one now, a Novel Idea Bookshop. Sadly they're closed tomorrow if you're driving home, but if you pass by on Tuesday drop by and tell them I sent you.

Support the bookstores in your community. Along with librarians and teachers, booksellers are some of the most passionate people I've met and some of the passionate advocates for literacy.

Speaking of teachers, I'm happy to see resistance to AI in the classroom. Teachers like Chanae Bond, who teaches American Lit in Fort Worth, Texas told NPR:

"A lot of people say to me: 'Aren't you afraid that they're going to get behind?' And my response is: 'I know that when my students leave my class that they know how to think and they know how to write.'"

"Where are those skills going to be built, if not here?"

I didn't come here today to be political but I'm writer, and all art is political, even when it tries not to be.

I mentioned this story the last I was in Weatherford, to speak at SWOSU. I was told a few years ago that my book, *White Trash Warlock* had an agenda, and at the time my reaction was visceral, almost violent when the man wouldn't let it go, because my only agenda in writing that book was to share my experience, to tell a good story, Adam's story, but I'd infused it with elements of my upbringing. It took me a while to realize that was why I reacted the way that I did because those things are so personal.



Stewards Phillip Fitzsimmons (our Conference Chair), Janet Brennan Croft, Victoria Gaydosik, and others at the Archive Tour at MythCon 54

There is too much of me in Adam to not feel attacked when he is. I don't have the privilege of pretending that my work doesn't have an ideology or that art is not political.

I see our society slipping away from the things that I love the most about it. I see the infinite diversity in infinite combinations being erased as we try to say that we're not a melting pot or a nation of immigrants that stands atop stolen land.

I see literacy dying and I am sounding the alarm, asking that all of us do whatever we can to save and expand it. Books saved my life. Saving them in turn could save us all and along the way you never know what adventure they might inspire or set someone on.

Thank you.

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MYTHOPOEIC AWARDS WINNERS

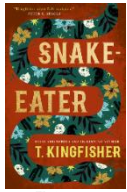
The **Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for Adult Literature** is given to the fantasy novel, multi-volume, or single-author story collection for adults published during 2024-2025 that best exemplifies the spirit of the Inklings. Books are eligible for two years after publication if not selected as a finalist during the first year of eligibility. Books from a series are eligible if they stand on their own; otherwise, the series becomes eligible the year its final volume appears. The **Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for Young Adult Literature** honors books for Young Adult readers (ages 13-18), and the **Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for Children's Literature** honors books for younger readers (ages 12 or younger). Rules for eligibility are otherwise the same as for the Adult literature award. The category of borderline books will be determined by their intended audience as named by the publisher and author.

The **Mythopoeic Scholarship Award in Inklings Studies** is given to books on Tolkien, Lewis, and/or Williams that make significant contributions to Inklings scholarship. For this award, books first published during the last three years (2023–2025) are eligible, including finalists for previous years. The **Mythopoeic Scholarship Award in Myth and Fantasy Studies** is given to scholarly books on other specific authors in the Inklings tradition, or to more general works on the genres of myth and fantasy. The period of eligibility is three years, as for the Inklings Studies award.

The winners of this year's awards were announced at Mythcon 54, "Get Your Fantasy Kicks on Route 66!" which was held on July 24-27, 2026, in Weatherford, Oklahoma. A complete list of Mythopoeic Award winners is available on the Society web site: www.mythsoc.org/awards.htm. The finalists for the literature awards, text of recent acceptance speeches, and



selected book reviews are also listed in this on-line section. For more information about the Mythopoeic Awards, please contact the Awards Administrator: Dennis Wise, awards@mythsoc.org.

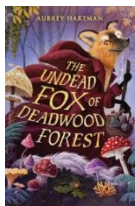


2026 Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for Adult Literature

T. Kingfisher, *Snake-Eater* (47North, 2025)

2026 Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for Young Adult Literature

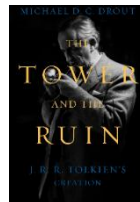
K. Ancrum, *The Corruption of Hollis Brown* (HarperCollins, 2025)



2026 Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for Children's Literature

Aubrey Hartman, *The Undead Fox of Deadwood Forest* (Little, Brown, 2025)

2026 Mythopoeic Scholarship Award in Inklings Studies
Michael D.C. Drout, *The Tower and the Ruin: J.R.R. Tolkien's Creation* (Norton, 2025)



2026 Mythopoeic Scholarship Award in Myth & Fantasy Studies
Adam Roberts, *Fantasy: A Short History* (Bloomsbury Academic, 2025)

CLERIHUE WINNERS

Reported by David Emerson

The Umpteenth (i.e. we've lost count) Not Very Annual Mary M. Stolzenbach Memorial Clerihew Contest was held at Mythcon 54 in Weatherford OK this year, and was judged, as always, by They Who Must Not Be Named, who ranked clerihews on a 1–10 scale in three categories: Humor, Originality, and Clerihewness. The traditional sorting of entries into time periods of Before, During, and After Tolkien was altered this year due to the complete lack of any Before Tolkien submissions, but those that did come through were good enough to compensate. The Honorable Mentions received only a round of applause, but the Winners were awarded the traditional prize of a jeroam of Chateau de Porteur d'Anneau invisible champagne. The winning Clerihews (published exactly as written) were:

During Tolkien:

Lord Peter Wimsey:
His sleuthing skills weren't flimsy.
For many years he taxed his brain
By wooing Harriet in Vane.
— Don Williams

After Tolkien:

Gary Hunnewell
Stocks a con suite well!
The we BASH HIS HEAD
(It's okay — it's a doll and it's dead).
— Tim Lenz

Honorable Mentions:

Tim Lenz
Drives our electronic Mercedes Benz.
He's our wizard connection
To Mythcon perfection.
— Karla Powell

Janet Brennan Croft
Will send your prose aloft.
She was not to be missed in her
Reading from Joe Christopher.
— Merlin DeTardo

GOLFIMBUL WINNERS

The traditional competition inspired by the famous passage from *The Hobbit* was played underneath a full moon right next to Route 66 (as seen in the picture)! The competition was organized by Gary Hunnewell. It was a fun time (Editor's Note: I am biased. . . I got a silver medal. . . but it was a fun time!)

Distance:

Gold: Ryan Shug Evans
Silver: J Brice Odom
Bronze: Donald T Williams

Accuracy:

Gold: Sean Marlow
Silver: Connor Salter
Bronze: Donald T Williams

Golfimbowling:

Gold: Donald T Williams

Silver: Megan Abrahamson
Bronze: Christine Pooh Evans

Linguist:

Lisa Deutsch Harrigan

mythCON 55 IN TORONTO!!!

Mythcon 55 will take place in Toronto, Ontario, Canada in summer 2027! And it will be chaired by Tim Lenz, the [Mythopoeic Society](#)'s Steward of Mythopoeic Conferences. Stay tuned for dates, theme, CFP, and more!

And contact mythcon@mythsoc.org if you'd be interested in being part of the organizing committee.

mythsoc LEADERSHIP VOTING by Megan Abrahamson, SECRETARY

In accordance with our 501(c)(3) non-profit status, every three years the members of the Mythopoeic Society elect the Council of Stewards (board of directors) who must stand for election; 2026 is one such year. For more information about the revisions to the slate of officers and their roles, see *Mythprint* #417. No roles were contested this year. This year, the membership will be voting on the following persons for these positions.

- Communications Steward: Alicia Fox-Lenz
- Editor of Mythic Circle: Victoria Gaydosik
- Editor of Mythlore: Janet Brennan Croft
- Editor of Mythopoeic Press: Leslie A. Donovan
- Editor of Mythprint: Brice Odom
- Membership & Subscriptions Steward: Grace Moone
- Mythopoeic Awards Steward: Dennis Wise
- Recording Secretary: Megan Abrahamson
- Steward for Mythopoeic Conferences: Tim Lenz
- Steward for Society Archives: Phillip Fitzsimmons
- Treasurer: Lisa Deutsch Harrigan
- Webmaster: David Emerson

How to vote:

1. Online. The easiest way to vote is to [click here](#) or use the camera on your phone to scan this QR code. You may also copy/paste or type the following into your browser:

<https://forms.gle/dfgGiLVXWi6K4dUM6>

2. Post.



- a. On a piece of otherwise unmarked paper please include your name and the email associated with your Mythsoc account (if any). Please print. No signature verification is necessary.
- b. To indicate your voting choices, either:
 - ii. Write out "I wish to vote yes for the entire slate of the MythSoc Council of Stewards" (if you wish to abstain, you may write that instead, but in such a case you may just save yourself the postage!)
 - iii. Write out "Yes + [name of the Steward]" (listed above). Any skipped names will be recorded as an Abstention. You may vote for a write-in by indicating a position and the name.
- c. Send this paper in an envelope to Megan Abrahamson, 315 Richmond Dr. SE, Albuquerque, NM 87106. It must be received by November 30, 2026.

Either way you vote, you must be to the best of your knowledge up to date on your dues (or a Lifetime member). You must cast your own vote, and must only vote once.

This year, both mailed and online voting include the options to vote "Yes" or "Other: _____" where we hope you will write in an alternate name (you may write in your own). In the past, a vote of "No" for a Steward was an option. However, because it serves no actionable function if we have no alternates to fill the role, the Secretary decided to remove it in order to encourage write-in suggestions. Abstention will now function as a vote of no or uncertain confidence. Stewards shall be elected (or not) by a simple majority of total votes cast, to begin/continue their tenure on January 1, 2027. If you have any questions about voting please direct them to secretary@mythsoc.org.

ARTICLES AND REVIEWS

JANE YOLEN (1939-2026)

by Matt Fisher

Acclaimed author and poet Jane Yolen died on June 11, 2026, at the age of 87. Author of over 400 books for children and adults, Yolen's work was deeply grounded in fairy stories and folk tales. During her lifetime her writings were recognized with three Mythopoeic Fantasy Awards, two World Fantasy Awards, two Nebula Awards, and many other awards.

Jane Yolen was born in 1939 in New York City. Much of her childhood/adolescence was spent in either New York City or Westport CT. She began writing stories and poems in elementary and junior high school. After graduating from Smith College in 1960 with a B.A. in Russian and English literature, she returned to New York City where she worked as an editor and continued writing poetry and nonfiction outside of work. To her surprise, she became a children's author when her first book, *Pirates in Petticoats*, was sold to a publisher on her 22nd birthday. That began a 65 year career of writing, with over 400 books published during her lifetime. Roughly two-thirds of those books were for children and young adults. Her first novel for adults was *Cards of Grief*, which won the Mythopoeic Fantasy Award in 1985. *Briar Rose*, another novel for adults that brought together the Holocaust and the fairy story "Sleeping Beauty", won the Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for Adult Literature in 1993. The "Young Merlin" trilogy (*Passager*, *Hobby* and *Merlin*) won the Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for Children's Literature in 1998. As of summer 2026, she is one of only three fiction authors to have received three (or more) Mythopoeic Fantasy Awards for fiction. Four other works by Yolen – *Boots and the Seven Leaguers*, *Good Griselle*, *The Books of Great Alta*, and *Merlin's Booke* – were Mythopoeic Award finalists.

Two works of short fiction – "Sister Emily's Lightship" and "Lost Girls" – received Nebula Awards; her collection *The Emerald City* received the World Fantasy Award for Best Collection in 2018. Yolen also received a World Fantasy Award in the "Special – Professional" category for her edited volume *Favorite Folktales from Around the World*. She was recognized as a Grand Master by both the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America and the Science Fiction and Fantasy Poetry Association and received a World Fantasy Award for Life Achievement.

An eloquent and passionate advocate for the importance of fairy stories and folk tales in children's literature, Yolen spent over 25 years on the Board of Directors for the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. Her collection of essays titled *Touch Magic: Fantasy, Faerie, and Folklore in the Literature of Childhood* will be of great interest to many Society members. Jane

Yolen often used the phrase "Touch magic. Pass it on." Her career embodied those words, and we are all richer for it.

Submit to Mythprint!

We are always accepting reviews of any mythopoeic media, but we also publish letters to the editor or society, short articles and notes on Inklings topics, art, meeting discussion reports, and more! We are especially interested in reviews of mythopoeic works by creators of color and other historically underrepresented perspectives. Submit to: mythprint@mythsoc.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW CFPs

There will be an official CFP to be released soon for the OMS announced earlier in this issue. Please keep an eye out for official posts on the website, social media, and official emails.

Mythprint would also like to invite undergrads to submit short articles in the 500-1000 word range on topics of Tolkien, Lewis, the Inklings, and general fantasy themes.

MythSoc Stewards Meetings

To ensure all Mythopoeic Society members are aware of the schedule of meetings, so that any member of the Society can propose a topic to be placed on the agenda of the

next Council meeting, the following is the tentative schedule of the Council of Stewards Meetings planned:

- November 7, 2026
- February 6, 2027
- May 1, 2027
- MythCon Date to be Determined

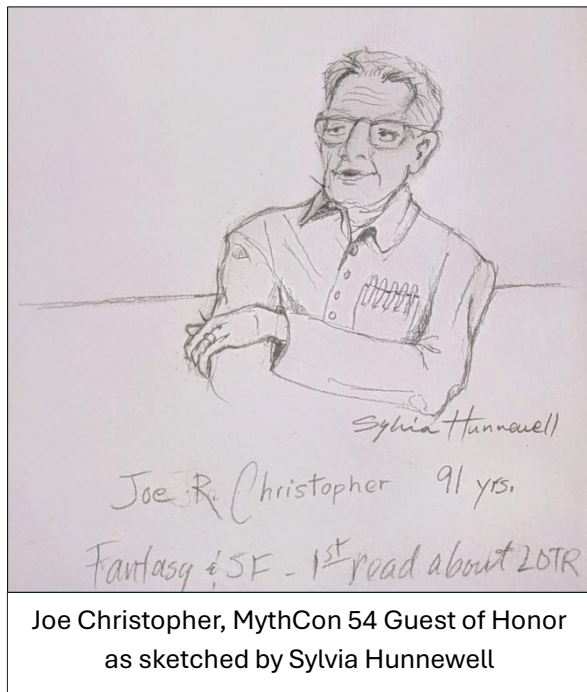
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Mythprint is a community newsletter, like a mobile bulletin board, and as such, the use of GenAI and LLMs is in direct opposition to the informal and jannish quality of this publication. If it wasn't written by a person, we don't want to read it. Further, all published materials, whether artwork, notes, or reviews, remain under the sole ownership of their creators, and are merely reprinted with permission by the Mythopoeic Society with full attribution. Material does not go through a formal review process (only minimal proofreading by the editor—without the use of AI), so by submitting to Mythprint you attest that the work is your own and take responsibility for it. The creator of any submitted content is ultimately responsible if there is any legal challenge to its publication.

The Mythopoeic Society

PO Box 121

Milwaukee, WI 53201



MYTHCON 54

**WE GOT OUR FANTASY KICKS
ON ROUTE 66! THANK YOU FOR
JOINING US IN WEATHERFORD, OK!**

**We will continue our wrap-up of the
Con in the next issue of Mythprint!
Please send us reports of your
experience!**

Be on the lookout for
Information on **Mythcon 55**
in Toronto, Ontario, Canada!

And keep an eye out for info on
the upcoming **OCS**

mythcon.org