



Progress Report 2

Westercon 61

Las Vegas

July 3 - 6, 2008

JW Marriott Resort
221 N Rampart Blvd.
Las Vegas, NV 89145

[HTTP://WWW.WESTERCON61.ORG/](http://www.westercon61.org/)

Guests of Honor

Writer Guest of Honor:

Kage Baker

Artist Guest of Honor:

Lubov

Fan Guest of Honor:

Milt Stevens

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Convention Rate Cutoff

Our convention Hotel is the JW Marriott Las Vegas Resort & Spa. We are pleased to offer one of the most premier properties ever offered for a convention, but the hotel will only guarantee the convention room rates until

June 3, 2008.

We strongly advise making your room reservations as soon as possible. The rooms are a spacious 560 square feet. Big enough for several friendly fans, or one or two fans who enjoy space and luxury.



Travel Discounts

For those of you flying to/from Las Vegas between July 1st and July 9th a discount of up to 15% can be obtained courtesy of Denvention. This is available only though **United Airlines** and their affiliates.

To take advantage of the United Airlines discount, book your flight through *united.com* or call 800-521-4041 - promotion code: **576ZE**

For auto rental, Hertz is also offering discounts of up to 20% through this arrangement. Book your rental through *hertz.com* or call 888-444-1074 -

Discount Number: **CV 02R30006**

Roommates & Ridesharing

Westercon 61 Las Vegas has a presence on Events under *facebook.com*. You can set up a free account at *facebook.com*. This was set up for use as a bulletin board for those seeking roommates and ride sharing.

Travel Directions

Travel directions from planetary starting points will be available on the web site, *www.westercon61.org*. For those coming in from outside the solar system, please land at Area 51 and take a transporter.

Dealer's Room

Yes, Westercon 61 Las Vegas will have a Dealers Room catering to a wide variety of fan related interests. Those wishing to set up dealers tables should contact Liz Mortenson at *dealers@westercon 61.org*.

Art Show

Yes, we will have a Science Fiction and Fantasy Art Show featuring works from artists who view reality as a rather flexible concept and invite you to live in their world for awhile.

Those wishing to show art in the art show should contact Jerome Scott or Elizabeth Klein-Lebbink at artshow@westercon61.org.

Site Selection

Pasadena is campaigning to hold the Westercon in 2010. If you can not attend the convention and wish to vote you can find the ballot on the web site. You must be an Attending or Supporting member of this convention to vote for Site Selection.

Excursions

There are restaurants in Las Vegas for every palate, shopping for every budget (or lack thereof), and entertainment for every taste (or lack thereof). So how do you plan your trip to Vegas?

Some folks prefer the “Synchronicity” method, or the “*I will end up where I am supposed to be*” method. You folks are in for some treats that you may never have imagined. Our advice is to hang around the Volunteers Desk and see what turns up.

Others are genetically pre-disposed to the “*I have a Plan*” method of travel. For you, we will have the internet. Simply log on to our convention website for the Convention programming, and www.vegas.com/attractions/ for everything else. Just be sure to allow for the occasional shower and sleep.

Then there is the “*I Get By With a Little Help From My Friends*” method. Our Convention Info Desk can help with what is going at the convention. For outside the convention, if you are a Hotel Guest, simply contact the Hotel Personal Planner (702)869-7774 and they can get you show tickets, and reservations.

Finally there are the “*Tourist Destination? I just Came for the Convention*” folks. My advice is to hang around the Synchronicity crowd. You are in for a wonderful time.

Masquerade

If you are thinking about enter the convention Masquerade, please let the Masquerade Coordinator know in advance, so we can better plan the event. Masquerade rules are available online.



Parties

Las Vegas is a Party Town. If you wish to throw a party contact the Party Maven, and we will see to it that you are on the party floor.

Hall Costumes

Ribbons will be given for the best Hall Costumes. If your costume involves a weapon, facsimile weapon, or something might be construed as a weapon, it will need to be Peace Bonded by Convention Con Ops. Hall costumes are welcome and encouraged in the Convention areas, but be advised that even though going through the Casino is often the coolest path from your hotel room to the convention areas, the Casino Security does not allow weapons (even peace bonded) or masks, hoods, or items that disguise facial features. If you want to show off your Imperial Storm Trooper outfit, take an alternate route.

Smoking

The Hotel and the Convention space is non-smoking. The Casino and adjoining areas are smoking areas.

Programming

We are proud to offer panels and presentations from the fields most interesting authors, artists, experts and science fiction aficionados. Some of our program highlights include:

Match Game

Gambling in Science Fiction

Prostitution in Science Fiction and Fantasy

All you need is love cash.

Last Minute Hugo Voting

Here is a panel for all you Hugo Voting procrastinators. The voting closes on July 7th at midnight, so it is not too late to read 35 books, stories, and fanzines this weekend, plus a few dramatic presentations and see a bit of

art work. Or at least you can hear the experts ~~confer~~ argue about what really last was years best Science fiction and fantasy.

Writers' Workshop

Westercon 61 Las Vegas will be offering a writer's critique and discussion session. Please see our website for more details.



Volunteering

We expect you all to have a good time at this convention, but we would like to offer a little tip on how to make this a fabulous one. Volunteer. This convention is run by fans for fans. We find that when we attend a convention, it is *their* convention, but when we help run it, it is *our* convention. We have had some interesting conventions where we were just attendees, but have never had a great one where we did not help out. Trust us, we could use some people just like you. Drop us a line and tell us you're willing to help. Fabulous.

Memberships

Memberships are non-refundable, but you may transfer them to another person.

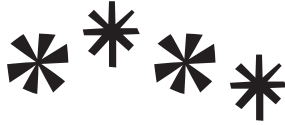
Supporting memberships grant you publications and voting rights, but not the right to attend the convention. If you have a supporting membership, you may upgrade to Attending for \$35.

Membership is currently \$65. After July 27, it will be \$75 at the door. There will be a \$5 at the door Child Membership for children under the age of twelve. Infants do not need a membership.

Gaming

We have to be careful about this term in Nevada, where the term applies to the various forms of legalized gambling. We will have a room available for Fan Gaming (where no money changes hands) as a part of the convention.

But, if you are interested in Nevada Gaming, the Ramparts Casino is also available under the same roof as Westercon 61. Be advised that the Convention takes no responsibility for any gaming losses, but if you should win, you might want to check out the Dealer's Room, the Art Show, or the Con Suite tip jar.



Fireworks

This Fourth of July more fireworks will explode over Las Vegas than anywhere else on the planet.



Filking

Yes. There will be filking, and perhaps even some special concerts.



Fanzine Lounge

Fans have ideas. Ideas for many centuries have been expressed on paper. Paper comes from trees. Trees need roots. To experience the roots, and branches, and pulp [we wonder how far we can push this metaphor] of Fandom head down to the Fanzine Lounge, hosted by the indomitable Christopher J. Garcia.

**Our Extraordinary
Room Block Rate
at the JW Marriott
ends**

JUNE 3, 2008

**Make your reservations
for this fabulous
resort today!**