



ASFACTS 2010

WISHING FOR APRIL SHOWERS, BUT NO WIND ISSUE



NEBULA FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

Neal Barrett, Jr., author of *The Hereafter Gang*, named “one of the great American novels” by the *Washington Post*, will be honored as Author Emeritus at the 2010 Nebula Awards Weekend in Coco Beach, Fla.

“I am very pleased and proud to be a part of the upcoming Nebula Awards ceremonies, and have the chance to talk to the people I respect the most—the writers who do the job every day that I’ve done since I could hold that blue crayon up straight,” Barrett said.

The Nebula Awards are voted on, and presented by, active members of SFWA. The awards will be announced at the Nebula Awards Banquet May 15. Other awards to be presented are the Andre Norton Award for Excellence in Science Fiction or Fantasy for Young Adults, the Bradbury Award for screenwriting and the Solstice Award for outstanding contribution to the field.

SHORT STORY: “Hooves and the Hovel of Abdel Jameela” by Saladin Ahmed, “I Remember the Future” by Michael A. Burstein, “Non-Zero Probabilities” by N. K. Jemisin, “Spar” by Kij Johnson, “Going Deep” by James Patrick Kelly, and “Bridesicle” by Will McIntosh.

NOVELETTE: “The Gambler” by Paolo Bacigalupi, “Vinegar Peace, or the Wrong-Way Used-Adult Orphanage” by Michael Bishop, “I Needs Must Part, the Policeman Said” by Richard Bowes, “Sinner, Baker, Fabulist, Priest; Red Mask, Black Mask, Gentleman, Beast” by Eugie Foster, “Divining Light” by Ted Kosmatka, and “A Memory of Wind” by Rachel Swirsky.

NOVELLA: *The Women of Nell Gwynne’s* by Kage Baker, “Arkfall” by Carolyn Ives Gilman, “Act One” by Nancy Kress, *Shambling Towards Hiroshima* by James Morrow, “Sublimation Angels” by Jason Sanford, and *The God Engines* by John Scalzi.

NOVEL: *The Windup Girl* by Paolo Bacigalupi, *The Love We Share Without Knowing* by Christopher Barzak, *Flesh and Fire* by Laura Anne Gilman, *The City & The City* by China Miéville, *Boneshaker* by Cherie Priest,

and *Finch* by Jeff VanderMeer.

THE RAY BRADBURY AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING DRAMATIC PRESENTATION: *Star Trek, District 9, Avatar, Moon, Up, and Coraline*. ANDRE NORTON AWARD FOR YOUNG ADULT SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY: *Hotel Under the Sand* by Kage Baker, *Ice* by Sarah Beth Durst, *Ash* by Malinda Lo, *Eyes Like Stars* by Lisa Mantchev, *Zoe’s Tale* by John Scalzi, *When You Reach Me* by Rebecca Stead, *The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland in a Ship of Her Own Making* by Catherynne M. Valente, and *Leviathan* by Scott Westerfeld.

The SFWA was founded in 1965 by the late Damon Knight, and brings together approximately 1,500 writers of speculative fiction throughout the world.

SF SIGNINGS SET IN ALBUQUERQUE

Several signings by New Mexico authors have been set up for April and May right here in Albuquerque. So, please stop by these events and say howdy to your favorite writer – you might even purchase a book while you’re at it! Signings coming up include:

+ SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 1:30 pm: Santa Fe authors Melinda Snodgrass and Ian Tregillis will talk about and sign their new solo novels, *The Edge of Ruin* and *Bitter Seeds*, at Barnes & Noble in Coronado Shopping Center (southwest corner of Menaul and Louisiana NE).

+ SATURDAY, MAY 8, 3:00 pm: Santa Fe author S.M. Stirling will discuss and sign his new urban fan-

UPCOMING ASFS MEETINGS

- **May 14, 2010:** Local cover & comic artist Aaron Campbell will talk and show off his artwork.
- **June 11:** Local author Susan Krinard talks about her writing career of fantasy, werewolves & paranormal romance.
- **July 16:** SF Outburst returns! Be ready for fun! Plus the summer issue of *ASFACTS* (deadline July 11). Note this is the third Friday of the July!
- **August 13:** Bubonicon 42 preview, plus the t-shirt artwork. Also Announcements of candidacies for the Bubonicon 43 chairperson(s)... And a film...
- **September 17:** Con reports & B43 chair election. Note it’s on the third Friday of September...

Craig Chrissinger, normal editor. Darth Vader, guest editor each December. Please Send All Correspondence to — PO Box 37257, Albuquerque, NM 87176-7257. Phone: (505) 266-8905. E-mail: cwraig@nmia.com. *ASFACTS* published February, April, July & October for the Albuquerque SF Society. *SITHFACTS* out each December. NEXT DEADLINE: Sun, July 11.
Club Officers: Kevin Hewett & Craig Chrissinger, co-Zec Secs (505) 266-8905. Kathy K. Kubica, Moderator. Jessica Coyle, Alternator. **Bubonicon Chairs:** Craig Chrissinger & Kristen Dorland (505) 459-8734. www.bubonicon.com

tasy, *A Taint in the Blood*, at Page One Bookstore (southwest corner of Montgomery and Juan Tabo NE).

+ SUNDAY, MAY 16, 2:00 pm: Albuquerque author Jane Lindskold talks about and signs the third book in her "Breaking the Wall" series, *Five Odd Honors*, at Page One Bookstore on Montgomery NE.

+ SATURDAY, MAY 22, 3:00 pm: Santa Fe authors Ian Tregillis and Melinda Snodgrass will discuss and sign their science fantasy novels, *Bitter Seeds* and *The Edge of Ruin*, at Bookworks, 4022 Rio Grande Blvd NE (just north of Griegos – next to Flying Star Café).

2010 HALL OF FAMERS ANNOUNCED

The Science Fiction Museum and SF Hall of Fame announced in early March that this year's Hall of Fame inductees will be Octavia E. Butler, Roger Zelazny, Douglas Trumbull and Richard Matheson.

The Hall of Fame induction ceremony will take place June 26 at the Experience Music Project/Science Fiction Museum in Seattle as part of the Science Fiction Awards Weekend.

Octavia E. Butler, author of *Kindred* and *Parable of the Sower*, was the winner of both Hugo and Nebula awards, and in 1995 was the first science fiction writer to receive a "genius" grant from the MacArthur Foundation.

Roger Zelazny won the Nebula award three times and the Hugo award six times for such stories and novels as "The Doors of His Face, the Lamps of His Mouth" and *Lord of Light*. His classic short story "A Rose for Ecclesiastes" has already gotten him into a hall of fame, as it was reprinted in the anthology *The Science Fiction Hall of Fame Volume One*.

Douglas Trumbull directed the film *Silent Running* and was responsible for the special effects on such films as *2001: A Space Odyssey*, *Blade Runner* and *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*. Trumbull has also received a lifetime achievement Oscar.

Richard Matheson's novels, short stories and screenplays have chilled on both page and screen. Many of his novels have been adapted into movies, including *I Am Legend*, *What Dreams May Come* and *Somewhere in Time*. He also wrote many *Twilight Zone* episodes, including the famous "Nightmare at 20,000 Feet."

HBO APPROVES GAME OF THRONES SERIES

It's official: HBO gave a green light in early March to a 10-episode series based on George R.R. Martin's fantasy series *Game of Thrones* and released the first image from the show. Production begins in June; no premiere date was announced.

Cast members include Lena Headey as Cersei Lan-

nister, a woman of royal blood, Peter Dinklage as Cersei's brother Tyrion, Nikolaj Coster-Waldau as Cersei's twin, Jaime, Sean Bean as aristocrat Ned Stark, Jennifer Ehle as his wife, Catelyn Stark, and Mark Addy as King Robert.

The official announcement, with partial details, is below:

Game Of Thrones Series Pick Up - HBO Entertainment

Series commitment is pilot plus nine episodes. Production is set to begin in Belfast, Northern Ireland in June 2010.

Log Line: Based on the series of books by George R.R. Martin, *Game of Thrones* is an epic struggle for power set in a vast and violent fantasy kingdom.

Pilot Credits: David Benioff, Executive Producer; D.B. Weiss, Executive Producer; Tom McCarthy, Director; George R.R. Martin, Co-Executive Producer; Joanna Burn, Mark Huffam and Frank Doelger, Producers.

Pilot Script: Written by David Benioff and D.B. Weiss. Based on the series of books *A Song of Ice and Fire* by George R.R. Martin.

PICARD MEETS THE DOCTOR

The Great Performances edition of *Hamlet* this month features Sir Patrick Stewart (Captain, *Star Trek: Next Generation*) and David Tennant (The Doctor, *Dr. Who*) reprising their roles in a television adaptation of the Royal Shakespeare Company's 2008 stage production. Stewart plays Claudius, while Tennant portrays the titular Dane.

Stewart earned a Laurence Olivier Award for his turn as Claudius on stage. The entire six-month run of the production was sold out in 2008, both in Stratford-Upon-Avon and in London, and was considered the hottest theatre ticket in Britain at the time.

The BBC broadcast *Hamlet* on Dec. 26, 2009, with more than 900,000 viewers. Gregory Doran directed the televised film, recreating his stage direction, on location at St. Joseph's College in Mill Hill, London.

Hamlet airs 7:00-10:30 pm Wednesday, April 28, on KNME-TV, channel 5 (our Albuquerque's PBS affiliate).



AUSSIECON 4 ANNOUNCES HUGO NOMINEES

The Aussiecon 4 con committee announced the 2010 Hugo Award nominees on Sunday, April 4. The Awards will be presented in Melbourne, Australia during the 68th World Science Fiction Convention, with the Hugo Awards Ceremony on Sunday, September 5.

The Hugo Awards are awards for excellence in the field of science fiction and fantasy. They were first awarded in 1953, and have been awarded every year since 1955.

NOVEL: *Boneshaker* by Cherie Priest, *City & The City* by China Miéville, *Julian Comstock: A Story of 22nd-Century America* by Robert Charles Wilson, *Palimpsest* by Catherynne M. Valente, *Wake* by Robert J. Sawyer, and *The Windup Girl* by Paolo Bacigalupi.

NOVELLA: "Act One" by Nancy Kress, *The God Engines* by John Scalzi, "Palimpsest" by Charles Stross, *Shambling Towards Hiroshima* by James Morrow, "Vishnu at the Cat Circus" by Ian McDonald, and *The Women of Nell Gwynne's* by Kage Baker.

NOVELETTE: "Eros, Philia, Agape" by Rachel Swirsky, "The Island" by Peter Watts, "It Takes Two" by Nicola Griffith, "One of Our Bastards is Missing" by Paul Cornell, "Overtime" by Charles Stross, and "Sinner, Baker, Fabulist, Priest; Red Mask, Black Mask, Gentleman, Beast" by Eugie Foster.

SHORT STORY: "The Bride of Frankenstein" by Mike Resnick, "Bridesicle" by Will McIntosh, "The Moment" by Lawrence M. Schoen, "Non-Zero Probabilities" by N.K. Jemisin, and "Spar" by Kij Johnson.

RELATED WORK: *Canary Fever: Reviews* by John Clute, *Hope-In-The-Mist: The Extraordinary Career and Mysterious Life of Hope Mirrlees* by Michael Swanwick, *The Inter-Galactic Playground: A Critical Study of Children's and Teens' Science Fiction* by Farah Mendlesohn, *On Joanna Russ* edited by Farah Mendlesohn, *The Secret Feminist Cabal: A Cultural History of SF Feminisms* by Helen Merrick, and *This is Me, Jack Vance!* (*Or, More Properly, This is "I"*) by Jack Vance.

GRAPHIC STORY: *Batman: Whatever Happened to the Caped Crusader?*, *Captain Britain And MI13. Volume 3: Vampire State*, *Fables Vol 12: The Dark Ages*, *Girl Genius, Volume 9: Agatha Heterodyne and the Heirs of the Storm*, and *Schlock Mercenary: The Longshoreman of the Apocalypse*.

DRAMATIC PRESENTATION – LONG FORM: *Avatar*, *District 9*, *Moon*, *Star Trek*, and *Up*. DRAMATIC PRESENTATION – SHORT FORM: *Doctor Who*: "The Next Doctor," *Doctor Who*: "Planet of the Dead," *Doctor Who*: "The Waters of Mars," *Dollhouse*: "Epitaph 1," and *FlashForward*: "No More Good Days."

EDITOR – LONG FORM: Lou Anders, Ginjer Buchanan, Liz Gorinsky, Patrick Nielsen Hayden, and Juliet Ulman. EDITOR – SHORT FORM: Ellen Datlow,

Stanley Schmidt, Jonathan Strahan, Gordon Van Gelder, and Sheila Williams.

PROFESSIONAL ARTIST: Bob Eggleton, Stephan Martiniere, John Picacio, Daniel Dos Santos, and Shaun Tan.

SEMIPROZINE: *Ansible*, *Clarkesworld*, *Interzone*, *Locus*, and *Weird Tales*. FANZINE: *Argentus*, *Banana Wings*, *Challenger*, *Drink Tank*, *File 770*, and *StarShip-Sofa*.

FAN WRITER: Claire Brialey, Christopher J Garcia, James Nicoll, Lloyd Penney, and Frederik Pohl. FAN ARTIST: Brad W. Foster, Dave Howell, Sue Mason, Steve Stiles, and Taral Wayne.

JOHN W. CAMPBELL AWARD FOR BEST NEW WRITER: Saladin Ahmed, Gail Carriger, Felix Gilman, Seanan McGuire, and Lezli Robyn.

BOOK GROUP STILL READING

The Droids & Dragons SF Book Group meets at 7:30 pm Monday, April 19, in the DVD/gift area of Page One to discuss *The Eyre Affair* by Jasper Fforde (Penguin 2003), his first Thursday Next novel. The group then focuses on *Little Brother*, 2009 Nebula nominee, by Cory Doctorow (2010 Tor Teen softcover) on May 17.

Meetings of D&D are open to all interested readers on the third Monday of each month. Books for discussion are chosen two months in advance, and group members receive a 20% discount on selected novels. For more information, contact Yvonne at piebald@juno.com or Craig at 266-8905.

M:I's PETER GRAVES DIES

by Bob Thomas, Associated Press

Peter Graves, the tall, stalwart actor best known for his portrayal of Jim Phelps, leader of a gang of special agents who battled evil conspirators in the long-running television series *Mission: Impossible*, died March 14. Graves died of an apparent heart attack outside his Los Angeles home. He would have turned 84 that week.

Graves had just returned from brunch with his wife and kids and collapsed before he made it into the house, publicist Sandy Brokaw said. One of his daughters administered CPR but was unable to revive him.

Although Graves never achieved the stardom his older brother, James Arness, enjoyed as Marshal Matt Dillon on TV's *Gunsmoke*, he had a number of memorable roles in both films and television.

Normally cast as a hero, he turned in an unforgettable performance early in his career as the treacherous Nazi spy in Billy Wilder's 1953 prisoner-of-war drama *Stalag 17*.

He also masterfully lampooned his straight-arrow image when he portrayed bumbling airline pilot Clarence Oveur in the 1980 disaster movie spoof *Airplane!*

Graves appeared in dozens of films and a handful of television shows in a career of nearly 60 years.

Graves' career began with cheaply made SF exploitation films like *It Conquered the World*, in which he battled a carrot-shaped monster from Venus; *Beginning of the End*, in which he fought giant grasshoppers; and *Killers from Space*, in which he fought big-eyed aliens out to conquer the Earth (using giant insects and reptiles).

He later took on equally formidable human villains each week on *Mission: Impossible*.

Every show began with Graves, as agent Phelps, listening to a tape of instructions outlining his team's latest mission and explaining that if he or any of his agents were killed or captured "the secretary will disavow any knowledge of your actions."

The tape always self-destructed within seconds of being played.

The show ran on CBS from 1967 to 1973 and was revived on ABC from 1988 to 1990 with Graves back as the only original cast member.

The actor credited clever writing for the show's success. "It made you think a little bit and kept you on the edge of your seat because you never knew what was going to happen next," he once said.

He noted during an interview in 2000 that he made his foray into comedy somewhat reluctantly. *Airplane!* became a box-office smash, and Graves returned for *Airplane II, The Sequel*.

Born Peter Aurness in Minneapolis, Graves adopted his grandfather's last name to avoid confusion with his older brother, James, who had dropped the "U" from the family name.

FORD IN *COWBOYS & ALIENS!*

Say what??

Iron Man 2 director Jon Favreau, who's prepping the upcoming sci-fi western *Cowboys & Aliens*, confirmed widespread rumors via Twitter that *Indiana Jones* himself, Harrison Ford, will be in the movie!

In the tweet, Favreau said, "Please stop asking if Harrison Ford is in *Cowboys & Aliens*. Okay? He is. Please don't tell anybody."

The tweet appears to confirm a rumor first reported by Sci Fi Wire buddies *Latino Review*.

Ford joins *Tron Legacy*'s Olivia Wilde and *James Bond*'s Daniel Craig in a movie written by *Transformers* and *Star Trek* writers Roberto Orci and Alex Kurtzman, with *Lost* co-creator Damon Lindelof, based on the comic-book series.

As you may have guessed, it's about cowboys team-

ing up with Indians in the Old West to fight off an invasion by aliens.

ROWLING PROMISES NEW *POTTER* IN 10 YEARS

Hoping for a new *Harry Potter* novel? So is Sci Fi Wire. And the online news site has learned how long we'll have to wait to read it. J.K. Rowling revealed April 5 when she could return to her boy wizard once more at the annual White House Easter Egg Roll, the *Washington Post* reported.

Rowling, who was among the guests as thousands of egg hunters descended on the White House, read to a small group of children and answered their questions.

Asked whether she was planning on writing a new *Potter* novel, she said she doesn't intend to write any offshoots of the *Potter* series now—but she didn't rule it out "maybe 10 years from now," depending on how she feels.

But she told one child she does want to write more books—so we won't have to wait quite that long for another *Rowling* novel, though it won't be in the *Potter* universe.

"Yes, I do, and I am," Rowling said. "I'm quite sure in the not-too-distant future I will bring out another book."

So, are you ready to line up at midnight for another new *Rowling* novel?

DR. HORRIBLE 2 COULD BE MOVIE

That long-awaited sequel to Joss Whedon's Emmy-winning Web series *Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog* may end up in movie theaters rather than a computer screen, reported Sci Fi Wire in mid-March and mid-April.

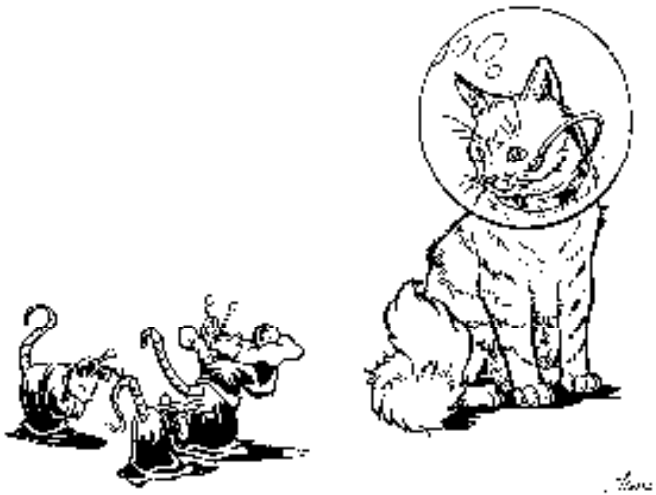
That's according to star Neil Patrick Harris, who gave the news to MTV.com.

"Apparently they're making a *Dr. Horrible* sequel—a feature film, I hope," laughed Harris. "I hope they cast me in it – we'll see."

"That's their plan," he reiterated when asked whether a feature-film was indeed the preferred format for the sequel. "I don't know of what scale. They're talking all options, because they made the first *Dr. Horrible* in five days on no budget at all – that was its intention."

We have a lot of hopes for a sequel to *Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog*. Could it be a theatrical movie, as Neil Patrick Harris has said? Can we just hear some more Joss Whedon songs? Most importantly, is there any way to bring the lovely Penny (Felicia Day) back from the dead?

Fans know that Day's character perished at the end of *Dr. Horrible*. But Day confirmed to us that she is still



in touch with the team that created *Dr. Horrible*, including Joss Whedon, Jed Whedon and Maurissa Tancher, and she says they haven't forgotten about Penny.

"You know, I'm always socially involved with the Whedon clan, because they're awesome and they love to have soirees," Day said April 11 in Los Angeles on the red carpet for the Streamy Awards. "I e-mail back and forth all the time."

Penny's tragic fate provided a heartbreaking emotional climax to the musical Web comedy. As a writer herself of the Web series *The Guild*, even Day has a hard time imagining a way to resurrect Penny. She'll leave that to the Whedons.

"I'm a writer as well," she said. "I know how hard it is to fall in love with a character and want to bring them back, but maybe not have the right moment for it. Listen, if they bring me back, I will do anything, but other than that, I know that they'll do a best effort for bringing me back and including me."

Perhaps plans for *Dr. Horrible 2* aren't as far along as Harris suggested. "I know that they are definitely working on it," Day said. "I feel like every time I talk about it, it's like, 'Give me something new,' and I don't have anything new to say other than I know that it's a priority."

Many people loved *Dr. Horrible*, thinking it represented something awesome and new, particularly for a Web-based project. Will a sequel as a movie work? People will have to put their trust in Whedon and company to come up with something equally awesome.

WRINKLE IN TIME TO BECOME MOVIE

Sci-fi fans of a certain age probably recall Madeleine L'Engle's classic time-travel young-adult novel *A Wrinkle in Time*, and on March 19 came news that it's being adapted (again) for the screen.

Newbie writer Jeff Stockwell has been hired to adapt the book for producer Cary Granat (*Journey to the*

Center of the Earth) and his Bedrock Studios, *The Hollywood Reporter* said.

L'Engle's 1962 Newbery Medal-winning sci-fi novel revolves around teenager Meg Murry, her genius brother Charles Wallace and classmate Calvin O'Keefe as they launch an interplanetary mission to rescue the siblings' missing scientist father. They are counseled along the way by the mysterious trio of Mrs. Whatsit, Mrs. Who and Mrs. Which.

The BBC made a film of the young-adult novel, and Dimension produced a telefilm for ABC in 2004. Disney carried remake rights from that deal and is developing the new feature iteration with Bedrock, which had negotiated rights to the property from the L'Engle estate. Catherine Hand also is producing, and L'Engle's granddaughter, Charlotte Voilkis, is executive producing.

How One Author Forms Her Story

WILLIS TALKS ABOUT *BLACKOUT*

by J.C. Speck, *UCD Advocate*, posted March 9, 2010

Sci-fi fans, rejoice! Colorado author Connie Willis is back with a new book after an eight-year absence from the bookshelves.

Science Fiction Hall of Famer Connie Willis delivers hard-core fun in *Blackout*, the first in a series of two novels. In it, she returns to her *Doomsday Book* universe where historians travel back in time to study the past.

Willis weaves snappy dialog and beautiful imagery with a deep understanding of World War II in a truly interesting read.

Three young historians, Eileen, Polly, and Mike travel from 2060 London to the travails of WWII England to study "contemps" (contemporaries) of the time.

Eileen has been sent to interact with child evacuees from London to wait out the war and must contend with a measles outbreak among her young charges. Polly has gone back to work as a shop girl during the blitz. And Mike works to study the phenomenon of everyday heroes in times of conflict.

"The hardest thing about writing about the past isn't the details – the clothes or the language or the food," said Willis via email. "Those things can all be looked up. The hardest thing is getting into the heads of the people who lived in that era."

English contemps didn't know they were going to win the war, explained Willis. "For all they knew, they'd emerge from their shelters after a raid to find London ablaze – or German tanks rolling down their streets. And getting that part right took me longer than anything else.

"I had to keep constantly reminding myself, 'They don't know what's going to happen,'" she continued. "Just like we don't know what's going to happen to us tomorrow."

Willis traveled to England several times to research *Blackout* and its sequel *All Clear*. She said that research is the fun part. "I love doing research," she said. "It's absolutely my favorite thing – much easier than the actual writing."

And who can blame her? Let's all jet off to London and be writers!

The only problem, she said, is that research turns up all sorts of wonderful nuggets of information that she just doesn't have room for in her books.

"Did you know that Beatle Paul McCartney's mother was a nurse and his father a volunteer fireman during the raids on Liverpool?" she asks. "Or that the bandleader Glenn Miller was killed by friendly fire?"

Willis didn't have room for these tidbits, but said they may turn up in a future novel.

Blackout may be even better than Willis' *Doomsday Book*, which has always been a fan favorite, winning multiple awards including a Hugo and a Nebula Award for best novel (the Hugos and Nebulas are like the Academy Awards and Golden Globes of sci-fi).

Fans of *Doomsday Book*, armchair historians, and readers of any ilk will not be disappointed by Willis's latest offering. The action-packed World War II scenes are exciting and have little to do with science fiction. And the language will draw you in and not let you go.

TWILIGHT BOOKS ON BANNED LIST

Not everyone loves Stephenie Meyer's mega-best-selling *Twilight* series of books, and not for the usual reasons: The series ranks fifth on the annual report of "challenged books" released April 14 by the American Library Association.

The Associated Press says that Meyer's in good company: J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* books are also high on that list, which represents concerns by people who don't want children to see them.

Meyer's stories of vampires and teen romance have been criticized for sexual content; a library association official also thinks that the *Twilight* series reflects general unease about supernatural stories.

"Vampire novels have been a target for years and the *Twilight* books are so immensely popular that a lot of the concerns people have had about vampires are focused on her books," says Barbara Jones, director of the association's Office for Intellectual Freedom.

Christian groups for years have protested the themes of wizardry in Rowling's books, which don't appear on the current top 10.

The number-one most challenged series in 2009 was Lauren Myracle's *IM* series, which are told through instant messages, which have been criticized for nudity, language and drug references.

The ALA recorded 460 challenges in 2009, a drop

from 513 the year before, and 81 books actually being removed.

CRITICS TRASH *ADDAMS* MUSICAL

Sci Fi Wire reported on April 14 that *The Washington Post* called the new *Addams Family* musical "this year's answer to the question, How many talented people does it take to screw up a concept?"

The New York Times was even less kind: "A tepid goulash of vaudeville song-and-dance routines, Borscht Belt jokes, stingless sitcom zingers and homey romantic plotlines that were mossy in the age of *Father Knows Best*, *The Addams Family* is most distinctive for its wholesale inability to hold on to a consistent tone or an internal logic."

And *Variety* wrote that "it's a bad idea to have Fester wonder at intermission if the audience will 'leave in an hour feeling vaguely depressed,' and a worse one to start the show with 15 seconds' worth of that finger-snap theme from the sitcom, which turns out to be the evening's catchiest musical moment."

In fact, the site Stagegrade.com—which is the theatrical version of Rotten Tomatoes—gave the show a grade of D+.

But guess what? When it came time to buy tickets, none of those opinions mattered. In the face of withering reviews, *The Addams Family* has turned out to be a critic-proof smash, selling \$851,000 in tickets last weekend alone in addition to the \$15 million advance sales, according to *The New York Times*. Most of the credit for this seems to go to Tony -award-winning Nathan Lane, who's something of a Broadway insurance policy.

So what do you think? Would you willing to, as the *Wall Street Journal* put it in one of the more positive reviews, go see "a goodish musical whose tickets are so expensive that you can buy an iPad for less than the price of four orchestra seats"?

BUBONICON 42 HERE IN 4 MONTHS

The Bubonicon 42 membership rate will go from \$35 to \$38 on May 16, but either price still is less than the at-the-door price of \$42 – not to mention the potential savings for youths 14-17 years of age or those serving as gamemasters. So, take advantage of the \$7 savings before this month's club meeting is over (the aforementioned \$35 vs. \$42)! Otherwise, mail your payment to the "NMSF Conference" at PO Box 37257, Albuquerque, NM 87176.

Bubonicon 42 takes place, of course, August 27-29 (the weekend before the Australian Worldcon) at the Albuquerque Grand (Sheraton) Airport Hotel on Yale SE, south of Gibson (and not far east from I-25). Single-Double

rooms are \$97 a night this year when reserved by August 16, and triple-quad occupancy is \$107. Locally you can call 843-7000 for a reservation.

In addition to Guest of Honor Peter David, Toastmaster Mario Acevedo, and Guest Artist Sarah Clemens, we have confirmed the following participants so far: Ben Bova, Aaron Campbell, Sally Gwylan, Jane Lindskold, Victor Milan, Pati Nagle, Charles & Tauni Orndorff, Joan Saberhagen, Debbie Lynn Smith, Melinda Snodgrass, Jeanne Stein, S.M. Stirling, Ian Tregillis, Robert Vardeman, Carrie Vaughn, Walter Jon Williams, and Connie Willis. Several others are expected, of course.

The con-com will be working on the tentative schedule next month, and then sending it out for approval of the participants. Some of the planned programming includes a slide show by Clemens, a filking session, a Vogon Poetry contest, the costume contest, a game show from the Orndorffs, late-night film mayhem, fan programming, the Authors Afternoon Tea and the Green Slime Awards.

In fact, Kathy K. Kubica is now taking nominations for “wretched things that should be recognized.” (Movies mentioned so far are *2012*, *New Moon*, *Gamer* and *Pandorum*. TV nominees include *Caprica* and *Dollhouse* at the moment.)

The 2010 convention will benefit the Williamson Library Collection at Eastern NM University, the Roadrunner Food Bank, and the Watermelon Ranch Animal Rescue through the Friday night auction and a portion of the con’s proceeds (if any).

Only a few tables remain in the Dealers Room at \$80 each, including one membership (the room holds 23 tables total). Anyone who wants more information should call Kennard Wilson at 550-6704. Act quick!

Meanwhile, Roslee Orndorff and crew plan to have the art show rules and forms available online in a PDF format around May 16. We hope to only mail out packets to those who request them (a 61-cent #10 SASE is appreciated).

As always, volunteers are appreciated! We need help on site to run this beast. “Gofers,” as con volunteers are known, will receive movie promotional swag and other prizes, and be invited to a pizza party after Bubonicon 42 ends (usually late September).

More general information is available from 459-8734 Kristen, 266-8905 Craig, the PO Box, or at the fabulous Mike McCommas-maintained website: www.bubonicon.com.

BUBONICON 43 IMPORTANT MEETING: Don’t forget that we’ll have an open meeting 7:30 pm Friday, April 23, to select our top choices for special guests at the August 2011 convention. While we’ll accept nominations from anyone, you must be physically present to vote! Gathering takes place in the Vista Norte Room of the

Albuq Grand Airport Hotel. Nominee samples, background info, and city/state of residence appreciated by all.

Con Report

NO SNOW FOR BOSKONE 47

by Ian Tregillis

The weekend of February 12-14 marked the 47th Boskone, but only my second trip to this terrific convention in Boston. I'm glad that it's firmly on my radar now – just as with last year's trip, this was well worth the time and effort.

Our trip began with a lot of trepidation about the weather. Melinda Snodgrass and I were scheduled to fly from Albuquerque to Boston, via Chicago, on Thursday the 11th. But on Wednesday, all of the weather forecasts had East Coast Winter Superstorm #58 pummeling Boston with something a bit north of 6 inches of snow. By Wednesday afternoon, hundreds of flights to and from Boston had been cancelled for the following day. But we decided to bite the bullet and go for it (in spite of the danger of getting stranded at O'Hare, a fate worse than death).

Everything was on time. No delays. And when we landed in Boston... no snow. In fact, much of what I saw from the airplane on the landing approach was bare earth without any snow cover at all. The weather forecasts severely over-predicted the storm's effect on Boston. It did drop a lot of snow in New York and points south, but Boston was almost untouched. I don't know what happened, or why the forecasts for Beantown were so apocalyptic, but I'm glad they didn't pan out.

Boskone is held at the Westin Waterfront Hotel, which isn't more than a 10-minute taxi ride from the airport. Which, on top of our utterly unexpected on-time arrival, meant we had plenty of time before dinner to slink downstairs and help the concom with some of the setup work. In fact, we got down to the loading docks just as they started unloading two (large) trucks worth of furniture (several sofas, armchairs, and a refrigerator), AV equipment (very heavy AV equipment), books (probably close to 100 boxes), special carpeting for the kids' area, pallets and stands for the art show, and just about everything else I might have imagined. I half expected to see a burro and a few chickens come out of these trucks. Boskone is a major operation, and it was very impressive to see how smoothly NESFA makes it happen. (Did I mention the refrigerator?) A few others had found their way downstairs to help with setup, including Charlie Stross, although he was a lot smarter than we were—he managed to find a job stapling pocket programs rather than moving furniture. I suppose that's why he's Charlie Stross and I'm just sweaty.

Another person who chipped in with the behind-the

-scenes work was the weekend's musical Guest of Honor, Mary Crowell. I met her and her husband very briefly during the flurry of activity down at the loading docks, and they were both very personable. I thought it was extraordinarily cool of a Guest of Honor to get her hands dirty like that. I would have liked a chance to speak with them a little more. I didn't get a chance to hear Mary's concert, though I wish I had.

After the third or fourth time that I crushed my ankle on an overloaded cart, we decided it was time for dinner. We chose a restaurant for the evening. Melinda took me to an Italian restaurant in the shadow of Paul Revere's house (or so the tourist maps say). She had been there a few years earlier with Sam Butler and Daniel Abraham. I'm glad she was willing to return to a restaurant she'd already explored. After all, not every restaurant serves stuffed pork chops.

On the way back to the hotel, our taxi driver decided it was easier to drive backwards up a major thoroughfare than to go around the block. "Yeah, this right here is a special move," he said. "Ya can't do this unless ya been to taxi driver school." Who was I to argue with that?

By late Friday morning, much of the setup was underway and in good hands, so we decided to head over to the New England Aquarium, which is about a 20-minute walk from the hotel. Penguins rule. So do jellyfish, and seals, and 60-year-old sea turtles. There was an octopus exhibit, too, although nobody could figure out where the octopus was hiding in the tank. I figure it was in plain sight and watching us the entire time. I'm just glad I made it out alive.

After the aquarium, and my brush with eight-armed death, it was time to prepare for the convention. By which I mean it was time to hang out in the lobby and greet old friends. Sam Butler made it up from Brooklyn, and seemed to spend half the weekend running outside to move his car to a different parking meter. (You can take the man out of New York, but...) Leo Korogodski stopped by to say hello, and he was kind enough to present me with a signed copy of his diamond-hard SF novella *Pink Noise*, which will be released on Bubonicon weekend. I've known Leo since my OWW days, so it's exciting to see his work in print. Sam also introduced me to David "New Guy Dave" Fortier, whose name I've seen popping up on the OWW mailing list during the past year or so. Dave is a very warm, very friendly guy, and impressively serious about getting his writing career off to a strong start.

We had just enough time to grab some pub food for dinner before we all went off to our various evening panels. Melinda, Sam, Leo, and I managed to get the last table in the Westin's faux-Irish faux-pub, which was filling up quickly with con attendees. I mentioned to Leo that my upcoming panel was a discussion of faster-than-light travel in physics and science fiction, and he gave

me all sorts of terrific suggestions for topics of discussion. When he's not writing diamond-hard SF about the human brain and the plasma universe, Leo is a mathematician and physicist. So that's the second year in a row that I kicked off Boskone with a great physics discussion over dinner in the "Irish pub." (Last year it was Corry Lee and her thesis research on CP symmetry violation.)

The FTL panel was a great deal of fun. Our charmingly self-effacing moderator, Chuck Gannon, challenged the rest of us—Jordin Kare, Geoff Landis, and (gulp) me—to tunnel beneath the bedrock of modern physics understanding and come up with an FTL concept on the fly. Geoff Landis was the MVP on this panel, no question. Jordin did explain how it's possible to exceed the speed of light by strapping a turtle to one's head, however.

Later in the evening we did a reprise of the "Business of Writing" panel that Sam, Melinda, and I did last year. Elaine Isaak joined us this time around, and I'm glad she did. Elaine is very smart, very on the ball, and full of terrific information about self-promotion for writers. (The bane of our lives.) This was another well-attended panel.

My reading on Saturday morning wasn't heavily attended, but that's about what I expected. I only hope that more people start coming after my book has appeared in the wild. I read a scene from *Bitter Seeds* that I had never used for a reading before because I've read the prologue too many times to be anything other than sick to death of it. The new selection seemed to go over well, and I'm happy about that. One of the attendees was Scott Andrews, editor of *Beneath Ceaseless Skies*, a webzine/podcast site that has been getting a lot of great buzz since its launch a couple of years ago. I recognized Scott's name from (where else?) the OWW, though we'd never met in person, so it was good to meet him in person. He's a very nice guy and clearly dedicated to giving short fiction a good home.

My panel on Saturday afternoon ("The Fermi Failure") had almost the same cast of characters as the FTL panel the previous day, but with Mark Olson in Jordin Kare's place. Mark is a chemist in his life outside developing programming for Boskone, and he was a terrific moderator. Once again, Geoff Landis was the MVP. But I like to think I added something special to the discussion: when asked to explain quantum entanglement, I yelled, "Oh my God, look!" while pointing behind the (sizeable) audience. And then I ducked under the table.

As a matter of fact, no, I am not making that up.

After the panel, I had a nice, long conversation with Chuck Gannon, with whom I had crossed paths on one of the writing-related email lists where I lurk but whom I had never met in person. Or even spoken to directly prior to last weekend. He's a very interesting guy, thoughtful, and good company. And – small world – he's an old friend of New Mexico's own Jane Lindskold.

Sam arranged a terrific dinner outing on Saturday. Sam, Melinda, and I joined superstar Tor editors Stacy Hague-Hill and Susan Chang plus Stacy's incredibly cool husband Tom at Helmand, an Afghani restaurant in East Cambridge. The food was out of this world. My appetizer, for instance, was candied pumpkin served with a red meat sauce. I don't know what kind of mad genius ever thought of pouring meat sauce on candied pumpkin, but I am grateful for that person's insanity. Tom writes software for financial services, which made for some entertaining dinner conversation with Sam, who is a retired (reformed?) bond trader.

After dinner (and a brief taxi ride where conversation mostly centered on *The Tick*) we returned to the hotel, where we caught up with Dave and Leo and watched some Winter Olympics action over drinks. (I now owe Sam more drinks than I am capable of counting.)

On Sunday morning, I had breakfast and lively conversation with my editor, Patrick Nielsen Hayden. We discussed famous writers who may or may not have been hopped up on goofballs while they wrote (Robert A. Heinlein, Ayn Rand, Georgette Heyer); finalized cover art for *Bitter Seeds*; publication schedules; neurology; and other things. I came out of that meeting feeling more excited than ever about the prospects for 2010.

Late morning and early afternoon, I spent perusing the art show and the dealers' room. The art was incredible! The Official Artist of Boskone 47 was John Picacio, and the NESFA Press Artist Guest was Michael Whalen. Both jaw-droppingly talented. I especially enjoyed the long retrospective exhibit on Whalen's career, which contained examples of his work from the '70s to the present. It's likely I would have come out of there with a stack of prints under my arm if I hadn't had to worry about getting them back to New Mexico safely.

Sadly, Vernor Vinge couldn't stick around for our time travel panel on Sunday afternoon. I would have liked to have a chance to talk with him, because the last time I met him (for about three minutes at the LA Worldcon a few years ago) I hadn't yet read *A Fire Upon the Deep*, which is a masterpiece. But we managed to soldier on without Vinge's insights, though the panel certainly would have gained from his presence. I think we managed to put together a decent discussion of the various (hypothetical) methods of time travel, ranging from the plausible to the magical. We had a lot of audience participation, with people tossing out stories and novels that made use of these various methods. My own contribution to the panel (I didn't hide under the table this time) was this thesis, which I tossed out completely off the top of my head with no forethought whatsoever: *If character truly is the heart of story, then the best time travel stories succeed because they illuminate human nature in a way that other stories can't. They form a literature of human longing.*

I have no idea whether that's true or not, but it

sounded good at the time. My fellow panelists seemed to think so.

After that, it was already early Sunday afternoon and time to say our goodbyes to old and new friends and to Boston for another year. Then Melinda and I hitched a ride with Sam Butler back to his palatial brownstone in Brooklyn, where we had a terrific dinner with Sam and his wife, Susan Jett. Two of my favorite people in the world.

On Monday, Melinda suggested we make an outing for dim sum in Chinatown. She and Moshe Feder had been corresponding on Facebook about possible get-togethers while we were in town, and Moshe had been interested in trying out some of the Brooklyn dim sum places featured on *Chowhounds*. Pacificana in Chinatown wasn't more than a 15-minute drive from Sam and Susan's home, so we piled into the car and headed over. But it wasn't until we arrived that we realized that we had just stumbled into the middle of the Chinese New Year celebrations! Long story short, we spent two hours in a very crowded line waiting for a table at Pacificana. Our wait might have been a bit shorter if not for the three – count them, three – dragons that wandered in from the street to dance and drum through the entire restaurant. It was worth it for the photos. And for the chance to chat with Moshe, whom I'd met very briefly a few years ago, and who, in addition to being an SF editor of long standing, is also a hardcore science buff.

We did eventually get seated, and it was worth the wait. Terrific dim sum. Then it was back to Brooklyn for a quick rest, and then the subway into Manhattan for dinner and drinks with our super-fantabulous agent, Kay McCauley. I wish we could have had more than a few hours with Kay. She's one of my favorite people, even aside from the fact that she's a brilliant agent who sells my books. I came out of that dinner feeling even more excited about 2010 than I had been the previous day.

Back at Susan and Sam's house, it was time to pack and wrap up another wonderful trip to Boston and New York. By 8 am Tuesday, Feb. 16, we were already through security at LaGuardia and on our way back to New Mexico.

BOOK REVIEW ROUND-UP

Able One by Ben Bova, Tor 2010, hc 400 pages.

Review by Kevin Hewett

The underlying premise behind *Able One*, the new techno-thriller from Ben Bova, is what recourse the United States has when a rogue state with nuclear weapons demonstrates their willingness to use them – while at the same time hiding behind the security of a superpower's nuclear arsenal.

This situation haunts the young United States president when North Korea launches a “communications sat-

ellite” into geosynchronous orbit. This satellite turns out to be a nuclear warhead that eliminates most commercial communications satellites. Furthermore, North Korea has two more rockets on the launch pad, each assumed to contain a nuclear warhead.

The president, unwilling to launch an attack against North Korea in the face of Chinese opposition, decides to activate the U.S. Missile Defense System – an unproven system that he opposed during his presidential campaign. It consists of land-based interceptor rockets in Alaska, specially equipped Ticonderoga class cruisers and Arleigh Burke class destroyers, and the Airborne Laser (ABL), currently undergoing foul weather testing.

Preventing a global war without sacrificing American power or prestige – to say nothing of a city or two – is the highest priority of the military and diplomatic establishment since this crisis has all the earmarks of a “Sarajevo scenario.” as described on pages 48-49:

“It’s how World War I started. Some Austrian archduke got assassinated in Sarajevo, in Serbia. The Austro-Hungarian Empire declared war on Serbia. Russia had a treaty with Serbia, so they declared war on Austria-Hungary. Germany had an alliance with Austria-Hungary so they declared war on Russia, England and France had an alliance with Russia so...” Jamil spread his hands. “World War I.”

Higgins shook his head ponderously. “I don’t see how that connects with what we’ve got here.”

His brows knitting slightly, Jamil explained, “North Korea hurts us. We hit back at North Korea. The Chinese don’t like that, so they attack us. We counterattack China. Russia comes in, and once that happens NATO gets involved.”

“Full-scale nuclear war,” Higgins’ civilian aide breathed in an awed voice.

The ABL turns out to be the best hope for preventing global war since it theoretically can destroy the missiles during launch while remaining in international airspace. The ABL is not ready for deployment, but it must work or the world could be consumed in Nuclear Fire.

Containing an untested laser and operated by a skeleton crew, the modified Boeing 747 aircraft races to the Sea of Japan and readies its megawatt class laser for active operations – this despite the fact that the aircraft is a sitting duck for North Korean fighters.

Coupled with industrial espionage/sabotage, political constraints on firing the laser, and a weak president unwilling to risk starting a war, *Able One* postulates a real-world scenario where a U.S. President may have no choice but to let the North Koreans get away with nuking an American city – unless the ABL is successful in its suicide mission over the Sea of Japan. A great read and highly recommended for military fiction fans.

***Muse and Reverie* by Charles de Lint, Tor 2009, 350 pages. Review by Danielle Pollock**

Muse and Reverie is the fifth collection of short stories set in Charles de Lint’s fictional city of Newford, a

place where the mundane and magical live side-by-side.

On its surface, Newford could be just about any city in North America, but those who live there know it’s the sort of place where strange things happen. Where, for example, a comic book creator can come face-to-face with one of her own characters, a refinery fairy with some very definite opinions about where the plot went wrong (“Refinerytown”).

It’s a place where a chance encounter in a bar (“That Was Radio Clash”) or a key turned in the ignition of an old Impala (“Riding Shotgun”) can give someone a chance to change the past, where a painting box found in the woods might lead to an encounter with magic and a difficult choice (“Somewhere in My Mind There is a Painting Box”), and where a purchase at the local antique mall might just contain “The World in a Box.”

It’s a city where not even the girls dressed as Santa’s elves at the local mall are quite what they seem, which might turn out to be bad news for Santa’s candy cane supply (“A Crow Girls’ Christmas”).

Readers who’ve visited Newford before will love these reunions with old friends, while those exploring this literary city for the first time will find 13 fantastic stories that stand well on their own. Either way, the trip is well worth the cover price.

***Blackout* by Connie Willis, Spectra 2010, hc 493 pages. Review by Craig W. Chrissinger**

It’s been a long wait since Greeley, Colo., author Connie Willis’ last novel. Happily, *Blackout* marks the end of her eight-year absence and the return of her Oxford-based time traveling historians.

In *Blackout*, three researchers from 2060 go back in time to observe how various British people lived through the London Blitz and the Dunkirk evacuation of World War II.

Polly Churchill works as a London shop girl while studying people’s behavior during the Blitz. Michael Davies masquerades as an American reporter to see how everyday people turn into heroes at Dunkirk. And Eileen Ward works at a remote manor where she researches the evacuation of children to the country.

In Willis’ time traveling books, historians can go back in time without theoretically altering the history they’re studying. However, there are clues in *Blackout* that all may not be well. Assignments are being changed at the last minute, the wardrobe department can’t supply the correct costumes, and Mr. Dunworthy, in charge of the time travel lab, is concerned about something.

When their “drops” or doorways to the future refuse to open, Polly, Mike and Eileen are trapped in the past with little idea of how each moment is supposed to occur in World War II’s timeline. They must somehow find each other and figure out how to survive until they are rescued.

Willis’ award-winning strengths have always been her characters and her storytelling. She does not disap-

point here, creating fully developed main and secondary characters, and fully immersing the reader into the world of World War II. Luckily, readers only have to wait until this fall to see how Willis' numerous cliffhangers are resolved when *All Clear* is released.

***Oath of Fealty* by Elizabeth Moon, Del Rey 2010, hc 471 pages. Review by Roberta Johnson**

I can't call myself a longtime Elizabeth Moon fan. She began her career with fantasy, but I only discovered this excellent writer after she'd branched into SF, writing space opera that ranks with Bujold and Weber. *Oath of Fealty* is my first foray into the world of Paksenarrion, the heroine whose adventures began in *Sheepfarmer's Daughter* and continued through the trilogy called *The Deed of Paksenarrion*.

Oath of Fealty picks up where *Oath of Gold*, the last in the series about Paksenarrion, left off nearly 20 years ago. The Author's Note in the beginning assures new readers that this novel can stand alone. And it's true that eventually I became just as engrossed in Paks' world as any of her fantasy fans. But I certainly floundered for a few chapters while I tried to sort friend from foe. I highly recommend a review of the *Dramatis Personae* Moon obligingly included. Too bad I didn't notice it before I read the book!

When *Oath of Gold* ended, Paks, now a paladin who serves the gods for a living, had just located Kieri Phelan, a mercenary captain who is also half-elven heir to the throne of Lyonya, a country peopled by both elves and humans. Kieri must now leave his old life while he learns new responsibilities and powers to take his rightful place. This leaves the mercenary cohort he formerly commanded leaderless and wondering about their future. A new captain must be appointed and a contract found to keep them employed and eating.

In Tsaia, the country that employed the mercenaries, Prince Mikeli prepares for his coronation but nearly doesn't survive long enough. The Verrakai, a powerfully evil family of magelords, attempt to assassinate him. Mikeli must arrest all the members of the family but one: Dorrin Verrakai, a mercenary who long ago fled her family rather than participate in the killings that fuelled their magic. The only Verrakai left Mikeli can trust, the crown needs her now to administer the family holdings and try to undo some of its evil.

Exciting as battles magical and otherwise are (and Moon's military background certainly fits her to write them!), personally I think Moon really shines at the details – such as the emotions a young man feels after killing another man for the first time, even though he's just saved the life of his prince. Or the negotiations of a mercenary cohort that's just lost its captain and must find a way to support itself (all these promotions certainly leave opportunities for advancement).

Fans of the series will want to know what happened to Paksenarrion, who survived torture in *Oath of Gold* to

bring Kieri to his throne, and was miraculously healed by the gods. While she turns up in the role of *deus ex machine* now and then, she's not a central figure in this story. That might disappoint fans of the Paksenarrion series, but not having read it I didn't find Paks to be all that real. I did enjoy getting to know these characters and their adventures. If I go back to read the *Deed of Paksenarrion*, it will be to find out more about their backstories.

***Silver Borne* by Patricia Briggs, Ace 2010, hc 352 pages. Review by Kevin Hewett**

Silver Borne is the fifth installment of Patricia Briggs' books starring Mercy Thompson, VW mechanic and coyote shapeshifter. The main plot of this novel concerns how dangerous it is to owe the Fae a favor. In order to avoid this obligation, Mercy must return a book she borrowed from Phineas Brewster, a part-Fae bookseller. This book, a handwritten tome about the different types of Fae, was a key plot element in the third Mercy book (*Iron Kissed*, Ace 2008).

Unfortunately, Phineas turns up missing and a mysterious Fae tries to steal the book. In order to discharge her obligation, Mercy must discover what has happened to Phineas and why this old tome is valuable enough to kill.

Intertwined with the main plot are two subplots. Mercy's housemate, Samuel, the son of the Marrok, is having difficulty living as a lone-wolf. He has become so depressed that he is considering suicide. Discovering the source of Samuel's issues and providing him a reason to live are integral to the story.

The second subplot is the difficulty that Mercy is finding in integrating into the Tri-Cities pack as a coyote. As mate to the alpha Adam Hauptman, Mercy is supposed to be the highest ranking female in the pack. But as a coyote, she is looked down upon by the wolves. Finding her place in the pack is a constant distraction to Mercy and provides moments of comic relief.

Silver Borne is fast paced and an enjoyable read. Highly recommended for all fans of urban fantasy.

***Doppelgangster* by Laura Resnick, DAW 2010, 386 pages. Review by Danielle Pollock**

First, a word of caution: Those meeting Laura Resnick's protagonist Esther Diamond for the first time might be puzzled by the opening of *Doppelgangster*, which involves a lightning-fast summary of Esther's previous magical adventure. It makes sense from a pacing and plotting perspective only when you realize that this is actually the sequel to the first Esther Diamond novel, *Disappearing Nightly*, published by an entirely different publisher years ago (a fact that is mentioned nowhere on this book).

I say this in hopes that the opening doesn't confuse or turn off new readers, because otherwise *Doppelgangster* stands quite well on its own and is a delight of an urban fantasy.

This novel finds Esther "resting" between acting jobs

by working as a singing waitress in a restaurant with known mob connections. It turns out to be dangerous work, but not exactly in the way Esther or her sort-of boyfriend, police detective Connor Lopez, expect.

It seems certain gangsters are encountering their exact doubles, or "doppelgangsters." Worse, those who meet these new versions of themselves are subsequently being killed off in increasingly improbable ways. After Esther witnesses just such a hit, she goes to her friend Max the Magician for help.

To further complicate things, the planet Mercury is retrograde, a time of maximum confusion when things get garbled, messages get lost, and communication is misinterpreted. It's an added headache for our heroes, but added fun for the reader as the wackiness that ensues when characters miss connections and misunderstand each other is often laugh-out-loud hilarious.

Add a semi-retired hitman named Lucky, a familiar in the earthly form of a large dog, an entirely too attractive Catholic priest, and a whole cast of nervous gangsters on the verge of a mob war, and you've got a paranormal mystery that's as entertaining as it is intriguing.

It's Resnick's humor that makes the whole thing work, and sets this series apart from others in the genre. Esther is a spunky heroine with a unique personality and, best of all, is able to stand against the supernatural despite having no obvious powers of her own.

It looks like at least two more sequels are planned, so while this isn't Esther's first adventure, it won't be her last, either. Well worth checking out.

***Galileo's Dream* by Kim Stanley Robinson, Ballantine 2009, hc 544 pages. Review by Kevin Hewett**

Galileo's Dream postulates a future civilization in 3020 CE that achieves the ability to travel in time. This ability is the result of the maturation of physics which proves that time is not the single linear concept that those living in the 17th century or even the 21st century believe – rather it is like the braided stream which separates, crosses and rejoins itself with the many braids being the strands of the infinite possible time streams. These possible past times result in the ensemble average of time – the most probable outcome being that which is experienced by men. One man from the future – Ganymede – views the past with horror due to the untold millions of deaths brought about by what he believes is the failure of science to triumph over religion.

In order to reduce the deaths and hasten the rise of science, Ganymede begins a project to have the scientific revolution occur much earlier in time than it does in most streams. His first attempt to change the ensemble average of time is with Archimedes. This attempt, while not technically a failure, does not achieve his goals. Archimedes does not usher in a scientific revolution but his life is changed – changed so that it ends in the sack of Syracuse with Archimedes pierced by a Roman spear.

Ganymede's second attempt to alter the average out-

come of the streams begins with a meeting in the 1600s where he tells Galileo Galili about a new Dutch invention – the telescope. This encounter leads Galileo to begin his famous series of experiments with Astronomy – experiments that led to his book *Dialogue Concerning the Two Chief World Systems*.

Unfortunately, Ganymede is not satisfied to start the scientific revolution in the 17th century. What he truly wants is a martyr for science – he wants Galileo to be burned at the stake by the Holy Office of the Inquisition. This leads other time travelers to attempt to stop – or at least ameliorate the consequences of Ganymede's actions upon Galileo.

Kim Stanley Robinson has written a fascinating book which chronicles the life of the first true scientist, Galileo. Interwoven in the text are many of Galileo's own writings translated into English. This provides the reader with a fascinating insight into the life and time of Galileo, seeing how he developed the scientific method, conducted his astronomical observations, and wrote his most famous book. The reader is also provided with an insider's view of his trial for heresy. The personalities and politics of 17th century Europe are intimately intertwined with the trial and the compromise verdict which ultimately spares Galileo from being burned as a heretic. The final years of Galileo's life are spent under house arrest during which time his fame and renown spread throughout Europe – ensuring that the rise of science does indeed occur.

Galileo's Dream's proposition that history was shaped by time travelers who encouraged and subtly changed the past is interesting. The result of this alteration is that Galileo became the fulcrum upon which history was altered. Highly recommended for all who want to see how science and reason overcome ignorance and superstition.

***Bitter Seeds* by Ian Tregillis, Tor 2010, hc 352 pages. Review by Craig W. Chrissinger**

Nazis make good enemies. That concept proves true once again, this time in Santa Fe author Ian Tregillis' first novel, *Bitter Seeds*, a supernatural alternate history tale set during the early days of World War II.

In the late 1930s, an unorthodox Nazi scientist creates a team of "supermen" whose unnatural powers are enhanced by electrical pulses to their brains from batteries carried around their waists. They include a man who can pass through walls like a ghost, a man who controls and creates fire at will, a woman who can turn invisible, a super-strong man who can tear apart tanks with his bare hands, and a woman who can see the future.

Against them, British intelligence officer Raybould Marsh and the secret "Milkweed" division recruit warlocks to hold back the impending German invasion. These warlocks can communicate and negotiate with omnipresent supernatural entities, but the "Eidolons" exact blood prices for their cooperation. Unfortunately, that price goes up as more is asked of them. Just how long will the bene-

fit of the Eidolons' assistance outweigh the demanded sacrifices?

Bitter Seeds is full of espionage, intrigue, and insights into characters on both sides of the war. The initial Nazi super-powered agents are drafted against their wills, and full of flaws. At the same time, Marsh and his commanding officer, Admiral Stephenson, are so single-minded that they often miss the implications of using warlocks for defense and military applications.

Tregillis has succeeded in creating a satisfying and thrilling alternate world – one that readers happily will return to in the rest of his planned trilogy.

***Voices of Dragons* by Carrie Vaughn, HarperTeen 2010, hc 320 pages. Review by Kevin Hewett**

Voices of Dragons is the first YA book by Carrie Vaughn, acclaimed author of the *Kitty Norville* books. The novel is a typical coming-of-age story which stars a young woman, Kay Wyatt, and a young dragon, Artegal. Their friendship is forbidden by the Silver River treaty between humanity and dragons.

This treaty ceded large tracts of land in North America and Siberia to the dragons and guaranteed that both races would not interfere in each other's affairs. The treaty grew out of the chaos of the dragon war – a war which was sparked by the detonation of the first atomic bombs in 1945.

Unfortunately, humanity is unwilling to abide by the terms of the treaty and the military is instigating provocations in the hopes of causing a new human-dragon war – one that can be clearly won by the humans this time. As conflict spreads, Kay and Artegal are the only hope of opening a line of communication between the races to prevent a full-scale war from breaking out.

The major criticism of this novel is the contrived feel of the ending. The climatic scene rings hollow since a military establishment which is creating a pretext for war is unlikely to listen to the entreaties of a young student. This reviewer wonders if the YA genre imposed a page limit on Vaughn that prevented a fuller explanation of the novel's finale.

Despite this major flaw, the novel was an enjoyable read and YA audiences should look forward to more novels from Vaughn.

***Red Inferno* by Robert Conroy, Ballantine 2010, 353 pages. Review by Amy Mathis**

August 6, 1945. Colonel Paul Tibbetts takes off in the Enola Gay to drop the world's first nuclear bomb on....Germany?!

Did we miss something in history class? No...*Red Inferno* is a thrilling "what-if" tale about the last days of WW2. Robert Conroy starts with the facts: April 1945, Nazi Germany is on the verge of collapse. US and Soviet troops are both preparing to march into Berlin. The US decides to wait.

Now, Robert Conroy's alternative history begins:

Josef Stalin decides to turn against his former allies, with the goal of taking over Europe. Russia therefore makes a surprise attack on US troops in Germany. This offensive is called the Red Inferno. Suddenly, the Soviets are the enemy and Germans are the new allies.

Conroy is an excellent writer, from what I can tell (*Red Inferno* is the first book of his that I've read). He doesn't flinch from describing the horrors of war, both for soldiers and innocent civilians caught up in the destruction. I guess my only bone to pick was a scene where President Truman decides not to retaliate against Russian-Americans. He says that America has not done that type of ethnic profiling before. It's as if the internment of Japanese-Americans hadn't happened at all.

Most of the Russians are portrayed as sympathetic figures. With the obvious exception of the megalomaniac Stalin, and some of the more sadistic generals, the Russian characters are motivated both by terror of Stalin and an understandable thirst for revenge against Nazi Germany.

Conroy expertly describes a chaotic scenario where your friends suddenly become your enemies almost overnight, and your enemies become your friends.

***Ashes: Book One of the Dai Arati Story* by Britt Gallagher, Tate Publishing & Enterprises 2009, 181 pages. Mini-Review by Danielle Pollock**

An ambitious work of worldbuilding, *Ashes*, Britt Gallagher's first tale of the Dai Arati gives readers a look at a fascinating new alien society, and a monster mystery where nothing is quite as it seems. Fans will warm to Gallagher's protagonist, the scout Cetyo, and will eagerly await her further adventures in Book Two.

***Kitty's House of Horrors* by Carrie Vaughn, Grand Central Publishing 2009, 292 pages. Review by Craig W. Chrissinger**

It might be surprising to find a series of horror/urban fantasy novels starring werewolf named Kitty on the *New York Times* bestseller list.

But it clearly shows that Boulder, Colo., author Carrie Vaughn knows her audience well and connects with them.

In *Kitty's House of Horrors*, the seventh book in the *Kitty* series, Vaughn takes the action to a remote Montana mountain lodge, away from her husband (lawyer-turned-werewolf) Ben, and her werewolf pack in Denver. Kitty, a radio DJ-turned-werewolf, is in very unfamiliar territory.



Kitty – along with two psychics, a pro-wrestling werewolf, a were-seal from Alaska, a competing radio talk show host, a mysterious magician and a vampire trio – has agreed to appear on a TV reality show. She’s expecting the show’s producers to create silly competitions and manufactured drama by manipulating the cast while they try to prove their supernatural existence to a skeptical best-selling author.

However, it quickly becomes clear that having the show in an isolated locale is part of a nefarious plot. As cameras roll, deadly traps are sprung and cast members die. Stranded with no power and no contact to the outside world, Kitty must lead her band in a life-or-death struggle against those hunting them down.

New readers to Kitty’s world will find that Vaughn gives enough background on returning characters (Tina McCannon of TV’s *Paradox PI*, Vegas magician Odysseus Grant) and ongoing series’ plot threads to make it understandable and enjoyable. Those who’ve encountered Vaughn’s world before will doubly enjoy the fast action, tense situations, and Kitty’s sarcastic wit.

With each book, Vaughn’s writing strength and Kitty’s leadership abilities have grown. Kitty the werewolf has developed immensely over seven books, and has become a real person. While her world may be imaginary, Vaughn knows Kitty well and brings her fully to life.

Kitty’s House of Horrors is a satisfying and entertaining addition to the urban fantasy/horror series.

(Note: A variation of this review appeared in the February 14 Sunday Journal.)

ASFS MEETING REPORTS — JANUARY 2010: CONSERVATION TALK

Thirty people were on hand as Randi Tinkham of the New Mexico History Museum talked about conservation, especially of textiles.

“Conservation only came into being about 100 years ago,” she started. “Until recently, most conservators were craft-trained. Now there are professional programs. We have one lab for the whole state, located in a basement. There are eight of us. We serve five museums and eight state monuments. We’re about to get a second lab, located on the second floor of the History Museum.”

Tinkham entitled her talk “Dangers To Your Collection,” which includes entropy and his minions - Light, Water, Vermin (pests), Poor Packing/Storage, and Inherent Vice.

“All light causes damage, UV the most,” she noted. “Light damage is cumulative and irreversible. The damage includes colors fading, dyes changing color, fabrics yellowing or turning brown, stains becoming more pronounced, and fabrics becoming ‘tender’ and shattering.”

Water problems can include pipe leaks, flooding, leaky roofs and windows, accidents, and high humidity environments. Water can make dyes bleed or transfer, create tide lines of impurities (dirt and debris), and cause

mold and mildew.

“Insects and mice think textiles are food or for nesting,” she said, talking about vermin. “Wool and silk fibers are food sources for insects, and other fibers will be eaten if they have food stuff on them. Chewed-up textiles are nesting materials.”

She noted the three top culprits in New Mexico are clothes moths, carpet beetles and mice.

In choosing the method for storage, Tinkham stated, “Hanging is good for garments with no damage in the shoulder area or waistband. Flat textiles with no 3-D elements can be rolled. And anything you can’t hang or roll should be boxed or folded. And do not vacuum-pack textiles for long periods of time as it can cause damage.”

And she explained that “Inherent Vice is when the materials which make up a textile or any object contribute to the deterioration of the piece. Such as unstable dyes, plasticizers in plastics, heavy embellishments in light fabrics, cellulose nitrate plastic and manufacturing defects.”

Finally, Tinkham talked briefly about using a XRF scanner (X-ray Fluorescence) and FTIR (Fournier Transformation Infrared Spectroscopy) to examine “cheap plastic crap from china.” She explained the XRF looks for elemental peaks, while the FTIR produces a spectrum of material samples - the chemical compositions.

“I couldn’t get a good scan off Dr. Bunson Honeydew,” she admitted.

FEBRUARY: ATTENDEE STORIES

S.M. Stirling was scheduled to talk to the 33 people in attendance, but he was unable to do so due to his father’s declining health and eventual death.

Instead, members took turns telling interesting stories or revealing their fannish backgrounds.

Nate Joy talked about his experience, as a senior college project, designing a test for the “vomit comet” in reduced gravity. His group built a space toilet to test.

Patricia Rogers talked about her most recent visit to Los Angeles, where she attended *Wisdom 2116*, Ray Bradbury’s new play. “I got to sit next to Ray,” she said. “The play is a musical, and it was charming. Ray’s good. He looks 89, which he is. Ray told me he remembers Jack Speer, and he knew who I was talking about right off the bat. I also found out while I was there that Gahan Wilson has a three-book set of 50 years of Playboy cartoons coming out.”

Vic Milan talked about turning in a book manuscript the day before the meeting. “I tend to go bat-crazy when I’m finishing a big project,” he noted. “I haven’t slept much, but I’m also wired.”

“I’ve been writing for the *Deathlands* series, which is about six characters in a post-apocalyptic setting,” Milan continued. “I had asked whether they had ever done zombies. They said I could do it, and I called it *Bloody Oasis*. A village of rival factions have to join forces to fight off a zombie horde. I don’t call them zombies, of course. They’re the ‘changed.’”

Milan also mentioned that he needed to work on a

rewrite of his story for *Fort Freak*, the next *Wild Cards* novel. It will be a collection of police stories set in the 5th Precinct - Jokertown.

Duke McMullan told of an adventure of two caver friends.

Bandit talked about seeing Algis Budrys singing opera with random women at a Worldcon.

Finally, newer members of the club - Charlie Fitch, Julie Hefferman, Michael Bernstein, Janole Marchant, Grant Kuck and Randi Tinkham - were asked how they first got into SF fandom.

MARCH: ANNUAL AUCTION FUN

Robert Vardeman entertained 40 people while raising about \$625 for ASFS, Vic Milan's medical fund (he was in the hospital a total of 21 days for pneumonia and complications), and Bubonicon 42's petty cash.

Vardeman said that he wrote five books in four months in the last year and that, "It killed me." The books are a *After the Spell Wars 1: Ogre Castle*; a chap book, *A Time for Steel*, for the Arizona Renaissance Faire; *Alien Death Fleet: Book 1 of the Star Frontier Trilogy*; *The Genetic Menace: Star Frontier 2*; and the novelization of *God of War 1*, based on a computer game. He also wrote a story for the *Timeshares* anthology.

"I'm now doing two westerns and *God of War 2* in the next three months," he revealed. "And with Joan Saberhagen, I'm doing *Golden Reflections*, an anthology of stories based on Fred Saberhagen's *Mask of the Sun*."

Interesting items/bids included Vampire Hunter and AdMania games \$12, a *Star Trek* package \$48, an *Iron Man* wacky wobbler & *Toy Story* lego man \$5.50, Atomic food containers with four Wonka candy bars \$9, a Skull chip 'n dip set & skull platter \$25, a Collection of Interesting Stuff \$12, a Small Color TV \$2, Toys and T-shirt \$30, six Hallmark *Trek* ornaments \$69, Marshmallow eggs with Mac & Cheese \$1, a Bast plush cat & Tweety Bird \$45, an art piece of a Saturn 5 Rocket Launch \$4, four DVD sets \$30, a Vampire pack \$26, a Bubonicon 2009 photo CD & computer game \$5, and a Big Pile of Stuff on a Table \$25.

BAKSHI AT SW ANIMATION CONFERENCE

On August 1, 2009, legendary animator and director Ralph Bakshi was the keynote speaker for the 1st South-West Animation Conference and Expo, which took place in the Bubonicon space at the Albuq Grand Airport Hotel.

Asked for advice about creating, Bakshi told the audience, "You've got to trust what you write."

On his animated version of *The Lord of the Rings*, Bakshi noted, "The studio recut my version, and put Frodo and Gollum heading toward Mordor. It's actually a pretty simple story - it should end with them winning the battle at Helm's Deep. People were disappointed in the film because they ruined it. I wanted them to put 'Part 1' on the marquee but they wouldn't. It broke my heart so I didn't do part two. I didn't want to work with them again."

Bakshi partly created *Wizards* as a reaction to what he

saw as the Disney formula. "They had a formula, even during World War II," he declared. "You can't tell the world was blowing itself up in their films, and that's bullshit. *Lord of the Rings* got me excited and I hated Disney, so *Wizards* was a way to show what a fantasy film could be."

Asked what has kept *Wizards* a cult classic, Bakshi at first redirected the question to the audience.

"Well, the narration is great and so is the music," he eventually explained. "The themes are haunting. It used fantasy to talk about the real world. It's a very personal film about being Jewish and the atomic bomb and ecology. It even opens with terrorists. Basically, *Wizards* still talks the truth. It's 33 years old, and it still has some resonance because of the world's problems today."

EDITOR NOTES TO FILL THIS SPACE

• **I WAS AT THE WILLIAMSON LECTURESHIP** in Portales last Thursday-Saturday, which was the usual good time of gabbing, eating, listening to short speeches and panel discussions, visiting the Williamson Library Collection at ENMU, and more chatting. I even sat on the *Wild Cards* panel with Melinda Snodgrass and Ian Tregillis to discuss the co-creation of Ratboy and to give a reader's perspective on the 20 *Wild Cards* anthologies & mosaic novels to date. It was sad to see that Portales' used book store and two-screen movie theater have closed, but fun to see old friends, meet new ones, and visit the Williamson Ranch (and Jack's writing shack). Ian Tregillis gave a wonderful GoH speech on science fantasy's future at the Friday, April 9, luncheon. And Steven Gould showed off his iPad to everyone! A great toy...

• **IN ENTERTAINMENT**, *LOST* continues to intrigue & entice, *Big Bang Theory* still entertains, *V* is fine viewing, and the remake of *Clash of the Titans* is not that good. Like Tim Burton's *Alice in Wonderland*, the 3-D in *Clash* is worthless. I'm looking forward to *Iron Man 2*, *How to Train Your Dragon* and *Kick-Ass*. The three books I've most recently read are reviewed in this issue - and I'm still hoping to have the Tregillis review in the *Albuquerque Journal*.

• **SPEAKING OF WRITING**, I have a short article on the future of Hammer Films in the March 23 *Fangoria*. They still owe me more than 1,000 bucks. Sigh. There's a new editor with the April issue, so not sure how much longer I'll be writing for them. Hoping for more book reviews, too...

• **AND THUS I STARTED WORKING** part-time at Page One Bookstore on Feb. 16. Just 25 hours a week, Monday-Thursday, so still time to work on my writing and Bubonicon and such. (Thanks to those of you who showed up for Connie Willis' appearance on Wed, April 7 - it was phenomenal! Her talk was entertaining, and we sold out of *Blackout*.)

• **TRAVEL**: Kevin Hewett and I are going to Denver April 29-May 2 to help Who Else Books dig through their stored inventory. We should see Colorado folks at the DASFA Alternate, taking place at Rose Beetem's house. Of course, Jessica and I also will be up there in October for Milehicon 42. And we hope to attend Worldcons in Reno 2011, Chicago in 2012, Texas in 2013, and London in 2014. Crossing our fingers & saving our pennies! (Fango, pay me!)

• **THANKS TO IAN, KEVIN, AMY, DANIELLE, JESSICA & ROBERTA** for contributions. Submissions welcome! Have a nice spring & Memorial Day! See you in July. --Craig C.