



# ASFACTS 2012

## APRIL "LET IT RAIN" SPRING ISSUE

### NM AUTHORS & BUBONICON FRIENDS AMONG 2012 HUGO NOMINEES

Nominees for the Hugo Awards and for the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer were announced the first weekend of April at Eastercon by Chicon 7. Among the nominees are three NM authors for best novel (and George RR Martin's HBO series of *Game of Thrones* for dramatic presentation). Of other interest are nominations for 2011 visitors to Albuquerque – Catherynne M. Valente, Paul Cornell and John Picacio – and Bubonicon 44 guests Brandon Sanderson and Ursula Vernon. The 70th World Science Fiction Convention will be held in Chicago, Ill, August 30-September 3, 2012. The Hugo Awards ceremony will take place September 2. A list follows:

NOVEL: *LEVIATHAN WAKES* BY JAMES S.A. COREY (Daniel Abraham and Ty Franck, of Albuquerque), *Deadline* by Mira Grant, *A DANCE WITH DRAGONS* BY GEORGE R.R. MARTIN (of Santa Fe), *Embassytown* by China Miéville, and *Among Others* by Jo Walton. NOVELLA: "The Ice Owl" by Carolyn Ives Gilman, "Countdown" by Mira Grant, "The Man Who Bridged the Mist" by Kij Johnson, "Kiss Me Twice" by Mary Robinette Kowal, "The Man Who Ended History: A Documentary" by Ken Liu, and *Silently and Very Fast* by Catherynne M. Valente.

NOVELETTE: "Six Months, Three Days" by Charlie Jane Anders, "The Copenhagen Interpretation" by Paul Cornell, "What We Found" by Geoff Ryman, "Fields of Gold" by Rachel Swirsky, and "Ray of Light" by Brad R. Torgersen. SHORT STORY: "Movement" by Nancy Fulda, "The Paper Menagerie" by Ken Liu, "The Homecoming" by Mike Resnick, "Shadow War of the Night Dragons, Book One: The Dead City (Prologue)" by John Scalzi, and "The Cartographer Wasps and the Anarchist Bees" by E. Lily Yu.

RELATED WORK: *The Encyclopedia of Science*

*Fiction, Third Edition* edited by John Clute, David Langford, Peter Nicholls & Graham Sleight, *Jar Jar Binks Must Die... and Other Observations about Science Fiction Movies* by Daniel M. Kimmel, *Wicked Girls* by Seanan McGuire, *WRITING EXCUSES, SEASON 6* BY BRANDON SANDERSON, Dan Wells, Howard Tayler, Mary Robinette Kowal, & Jordan Sanderson, and *The Steampunk Bible* by Jeff VanderMeer & S.J. Chambers. GRAPHIC STORY: *The Unwritten, Vol. 2: Leviathan* by Mike Carey, *Locke & Key, Vol. 4: Keys To The Kingdom* by Joe Hill, *Schlock Mercenary: Force Multiplication* by Howard Tayler, *DIGGER* BY URSULA VERNON, and *Fables, Vol. 15: Rose Red* by Bill Willingham & Mark Buckingham.

DRAMATIC PRESENTATION – LONG: *Captain America: The First Avenger*, *GAME OF THRONES: SEASON 1*, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2*, *Hugo* and *Source Code*. DRAMATIC PRESENTATION – SHORT: *Community*: "Remedial Chaos Theory," "The Drink Tank's Hugo Acceptance Speech," *Doctor Who*: "The Doctor's Wife," *Doctor Who*: "The Girl Who Waited," and *Doctor Who*: "A Good Man Goes to War."

PROFESSIONAL EDITOR - LONG FORM: Lou Anders, Liz Gorinsky, Anne Lesley Groell, Patrick Nielsen Hayden, and Betsy Wollheim. PROFESSIONAL EDITOR - SHORT FORM: John Joseph Adams, Neil Clarke, Stanley Schmidt, Jonathan Strahan, and Sheila

### UPCOMING ASFS MEETINGS

- **Tonight:** Bob Vardeman hosts the annual ASFS Auction.
- **May 11:** Unknown programming - perhaps a movie screening or a gaming night.
- **June 1:** Visits from author Richard E. Peck, and Albq Comic Expo (ACE) coordinators Greg Derrick & Craig Butler. Meeting is a week early!
- **July 13:** A visit from Ian Tregillis. Plus the summer issue of *ASFacts* (deadline July 8).
- **August 10:** Bubonicon 44 preview and some other fun bit. Plus nominations for Bubonicon 45's chair.
- **August 17:** Bubonicon 44 Gofer Meeting.
- **September 21:** Bubonicon 44 & Worldcon reports. Meeting is a week late (3rd Friday).
- **October 12:** Club officer elections, some other bit and the Halloween issue of *ASFacts*.

**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: cwrcraig@nmia.com. *ASFACTS* published February, April, July & October for the Albuquerque SF Society. *SITHFACTS* out each December. NEXT DEADLINE: Sun, July 8. **Club Officers:** Kevin Hewett & Craig Chrissinger, co-Zec Secs (505) 266-8905. Jessica Coyle, Moderator. Randi Hewett, Alternator. **Bubonicon Chairs:** Craig Chrissinger & Kristen Dorland (505) 459-8734. [www.bubonicon.com](http://www.bubonicon.com)

Williams. PROFESSIONAL ARTIST: Daniel Dos Santos, Bob Eggleton, Michael Komarck, Stephan Martiniere, and John Picacio.

SEMI-PROZINE: *Apex Magazine*, *Interzone*, *Lightspeed*, *Locus*, and *The New York Review of Science Fiction*. FANZINE: *Banana Wings*, *The Drink Tank*, *File 770*, *Journey Planet*, and *SF Signal*. FANCAST: *The Cooe Street Podcast*, *Galactic Suburbia Podcast*, *SF Signal Podcast*, *SF Squeecast*, and *StarShipSofa*.

FAN WRITER: James Bacon, Claire Brialey, Christopher J Garcia, Jim C. Hines and Steven H Silver. FAN ARTIST: Brad W. Foster, Randall Munroe, Spring Schoenhuth, Maurine Starkey, Steve Stiles and Taral WayNe.

JOHN W. CAMPBELL AWARD FOR BEST NEW WRITER [NOT A HUGO AWARD]: Mur Lafferty, Stina Leicht, Karen Lord, Brad R. Torgersen, and E. Lily Yu.

There were 1,101 nominating ballots received from members of Chicon 7 and Renovation. The deadline for online ballots and the receipt of paper ballots is July 31.

## STAR WARS ARTIST DIES

Ralph McQuarrie, the legendary artist who helped bring to life *Star Wars*' unforgettable galaxy far, far away – died March 3 in Berkeley, CA, after battling Parkinson's, reported *Entertainment Weekly* in mid-March. He was 82 years old.

Born in Gary, Ind, McQuarrie moved to California to work as a technical illustrator for Boeing before breaking into Hollywood as a movie-poster designer. He'd later contribute concept art for *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, the original *Battlestar Galactica* TV series, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial*, *Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home* and *Cocoon*, which won him an Academy Award for Best Visual Effects in 1986.

But it's his now-iconic designs of Darth Vader, Chewbacca, R2-D2 and C-3PO that will be McQuarrie's most cherished legacy.

Anthony Daniels, who played C-3PO in all six *Star Wars* films, tweeted, "Without his inspirational art I would not be C-3PO. I once said to him, 'This is all YOUR fault!' Then I thanked him."

In fact, there might be no *Star Wars* at all without McQuarrie. George Lucas used his designs to help sell the space opera to a still-skeptical 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox in 1975. As Lucas said in a statement, "Ralph McQuarrie was the first person I hired to help me envision *Star Wars*... When words could not convey my ideas, I could always point to one of Ralph's fabulous illustrations and say, 'Do it like this.'"

He illustrated numerous *Star Wars*-related books, including *The Illustrated Star Wars Universe*, written by Kevin J. Anderson. McQuarrie is survived by his wife.

## 2011 NEBULA NOMINEES ANNOUNCED

The Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America announced the nominees for the 2011 Nebula Awards (presented 2012) in mid-February, plus the nominees for the Ray Bradbury Award for Outstanding Dramatic Presentation, and the nominees for the Andre Norton Award for Young Adult Science Fiction and Fantasy Book.

NOVEL: *God's War* by Kameron Hurley, *The Kingdom of Gods* by N.K. Jemisin, *Firebird* by Jack McDevitt, *Embassytown* by China Miéville, *Mechanique: A Tale of the Circus Tresaulti* by Genevieve Valentine, and *Among Others* by Jo Walton. NOVELLA: "With Unclean Hands" by Adam-Troy Castro, "The Ice Owl" by Carolyn Ives Gilman, "The Man Who Bridged the Mist" by Kij Johnson, "Kiss Me Twice" by Mary Robinette Kowal, "The Man Who Ended History: A Documentary" by Ken Liu, and *Silently and Very Fast* by Catherynne M. Valente.

NOVELETTE: "Six Months, Three Days" by Charlie Jane Anders, "The Old Equations" by Jake Kerr, "What We Found" by Geoff Ryman, "The Migratory Pattern of Dancers" by Katherine Sparrow, "Sauerkraut Station" by Ferrett Steinmetz, "Fields of Gold" by Rachel Swirsky, and "Ray of Light" by Brad R. Torgersen. SHORT STORY: "Her Husband's Hands" by Adam-Troy Castro, "Mama, We Are Zhenya, Your Son" by Tom Crosshill, "Shipbirth" by Aliette de Bodard, "Movement" by Nancy Fulda, "The Axiom of Choice" by David W. Goldman, "The Paper Menagerie" by Ken Liu, and "The Cartographer Wasps and the Anarchist Bees" by E. Lily Yu.

RAY BRADBURY AWARD for Outstanding Dramatic Presentation: *The Adjustment Bureau*, *Attack the Block*, *Captain America: The First Avenger*, *Doctor Who*: "The Doctor's Wife," *Hugo*, *Midnight in Paris* and *Source Code*.

ANDRE NORTON AWARD for Young Adult Science Fiction and Fantasy Book: *Ultraviolet* by R.J. Anderson, *Chime* by Franny Billingsley, *The Girl of Fire and Thorns* by Rae Carson, *The Boy at the End of the World* by Greg van Eekhout, *Everybody Sees the Ants* by A.S. King, *Akata Witch* by Nnedi Okorafor, *The Freedom Maze* by Delia Sherman, and *Daughter of Smoke & Bone* by Laini Taylor.

The SFWA announced the recipients of the 2012 Solstice Awards in mid-March: Octavia Butler and John Clute. The award, created in 2008 and given at the discretion of the SFWA president with the majority approval of the Board of Directors, is for individuals, living or dead, who have had "a significant impact on the science fiction or fantasy landscape, and is particularly intended for those who have consistently made a major, positive difference within the speculative fiction field." Previous winners are Alice B. Sheldon (aka James Tip-

tree, Jr.), Michael Whelan, Kate Wilhelm, Tom Doherty, Terri Windling, and Donald A. Wollheim.

All winners will be announced at SFWA's 47th Annual Nebula Awards Weekend, to be held May 17-20, 2012, at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City in Arlington, VA. Connie Willis will be the honored with the 2011 Damon Knight Grand Master Award for her lifetime contributions and achievements in the field. Walter Jon Williams will preside as toastmaster, with Astronaut Michael Fincke as keynote speaker.

## 2012 PK DICK AWARD ANNOUNCED

The winner of the Philip K. Dick award was announced on Friday, April 6, 2012, at Norwescon 35, in SeaTac, WA, for distinguished original science fiction paperback published for the first time during 2011 in the US – *The Samuil Petrovitch Trilogy* by Simon Morden. Special citation was given to *The Company Man* by Robert Jackson Bennett.

The Philip K. Dick Award is presented annually with the support of the Philip K. Dick Trust for distinguished science fiction published in paperback original form in the United States. The award is sponsored by the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society and the Philip K. Dick Trust and the award ceremony is sponsored by the NorthWest Science Fiction Society.

This year's judges are Bruce Bethke, Sydney Duncan, Daryl Gregory, Bridget McKenna & Paul Witcover.

## BOOK GROUP STILL READING

The Droids & Dragons SF Book Group meets at 7:30 pm Monday, April 16, in the gift area of Page One Bookstore to discuss *Among Others* by Jo Walton (Nebula & Hugo nominee). The group then focuses on *This Is Not a Game* by NM author Walter Jon Williams on May 21.

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.

## GENE DEWEESE PASSES AWAY

Writer Gene DeWeese died March 19 in Milwaukee WI after suffering from Lewy body dementia. He was 78 years old, reported Locus Online in early April. DeWeese is best known for his *Star Trek* novels, and also wrote original SF, Gothic fiction, mysteries, and young-adult work, along with several noteworthy collaborations, producing more than 40 books in all.

Thomas Eugene DeWeese was born January 31, 1934, in Rochester, IN. He worked primarily as a technical writer (including for the Apollo space program) until 1974, when he became a full-time freelance writer.

DeWeese's earliest professional publications were *Man from U.N.C.L.E.* tie-ins *The Invisibility Affair* (1967) and *The Mind-Twisters Affair* (1967), both co-written with Robert Coulson under pseudonym Thomas Stratton. In addition to his several *Star Trek* novels, he also produced tie-in works in the universes of *Ravenloft*, *Dinotopia*, and *Lost in Space*. His original work includes the Joe Karns series and the Calvin Willeford series, both co-written with Robert Coulson, and *The Adventures of a Two-Minute Werewolf* (1983, adapted as a TV movie in 1985), along with numerous other standalones. He wrote nine Gothic novels as Jean DeWeese, and co-wrote a romance novel with Connie Kugi under pseudonym Victoria Thomas.

He is survived by wife Beverly Amers, whom he married in 1955. See the May issue of *Locus* for a complete obituary.

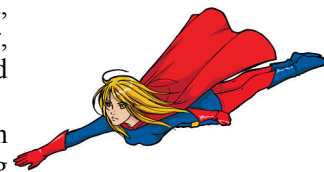
## LONDON 2014 BID UNOPPOSED

London has been confirmed as the sole bidder to host the 2014 WorldCon, Locus Online has reported. The official documents were filed with Chicon 7, the 2012 WorldCon, shortly before the deadline of March 2, 2012. The bid was jointly chaired by Steve Cooper and Mike Scott, and the proposed dates of the convention are August 14-18, 2014.

## ACE 2 ADDS MORE GUESTS, INFORMATION DETAILS

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Albuquerque Comic Expo (ACE), to be held June 8-10 at the Albuq Convention Center downtown, has added even more guests! New Guests – in addition to Stan Lee, Kevin Smith, Jason Mewes, Adam Baldwin, Jewel Staite, Kevin Sorbo and Peter Mayhew – include Len Wein, Billy Dee Williams, James O'Barr, Lloyd Kaufman, Melinda Snodgrass, Aaron Campbell, Vic Milan, Joe Jusko, Andy Kuhn, Scott Phillips, Bob Vardeman, Ben Templesmith, John Jos. Miller, Larry Welz, Julie Caitlin Brown, Jim Kelly, Tom Kane, Kurly Tlapoyawa, Bill Garberina, Mike Grell, Phil Hester, Matt Haley, Ric Meyers, and many more.

Kevin Smith and Jason Mewes will be podcasting *Jay and Silent Bob Get Old* live from the Kiva Auditorium on Saturday, June 9th at 8pm. This event is going to be ticketed separately from ACE, but will be a part of



the show. Seating for this event is on a first come, first served basis (based on ticket sales!).

The 9<sup>th</sup> Tromadance New Mexico Film Festival, organized by Burning Paradise's Tlapoyawa, again will take place at ACE over three days. A Costume Contest also has been announced with cash prizes and prize packs donated by exhibitors & sponsors for the winners.

The show floor will be open 2 pm-8 pm Friday, 10 am-7 pm Saturday, and 10 am-6 pm Sunday of the event. A three-day ticket currently is \$35.00 (\$45 at the door), and a three-day Jay and Silent Bob Combo Pass is \$60.00. Dailies currently are \$15.00 each (\$20 at the door). A Kids 3-day pass (ages 6-12) is \$20.00 right now (and \$25 at the door).

Volunteer workers are very much needed and appreciated! Joining the ACE Army gets a person a free entry to the con the day he/she volunteers, up to all three days; a volunteer t-shirt; entries into volunteer-only drawings; and "tons of satisfaction and pride." Important ACE Army days are Thursday, May 24, after 5:00 pm (Volunteer Meet & Greet), Thursday, May 31, after 5:00 pm for Orientation, and Thursday, June 7, after 5:00 pm for Training.

Info at <http://abqcomicexpo.com>. You also can email the ACE folks at: [sales@abqcomicexpo.com](mailto:sales@abqcomicexpo.com).

## ARTIST MOEBIUS DIES

Legendary French artist Jean Henri Gaston Giraud, aka Moebius, died on March 10, reportedly after a long bout with cancer. He was 73 years old.

Giraud's work can be found in films, comics, books, and more. Over his 50-plus year career, he won a large number of awards, and in 2011 was inducted into the SF Hall of Fame. His most well-known comic creation was the Western anti-hero Blueberry, first appearing in 1963 in France. He and Stan Lee scripted a two-part miniseries *Silver Surfer*, winning an Eisner Award in 1989. Giraud was also instrumental in concept art and design for multiple SF films, including *Alien*, *Tron*, *The Abyss*, and *The Fifth Element*. He was one of the creators of the film *Time Masters*.

Giraud was born in the Paris suburb of Nogent-sur-Marne in 1938.

## GAME OF THRONES WINS PEABODY

In the past 30 years, only a handful of genre shows have been given Peabody Awards, which recognize excellence in television and this year, HBO's first season of an epic adaptation of George R.R. Martin's sweeping novels has scored, reported SyFy's Blastr website.

*Game of Thrones* joins such hallowed company as *Battlestar Galactica*, *Lost*, *The Simpsons*, *The X-Files*, *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, *Animaniacs*, *Avatar*:

*The Last Airbender* and *Twin Peaks* on the list of sci-fi and fantasy shows that, in the words of the Peabody website, qualify as excellent: "Because submissions are accepted from a wide variety of sources and styles, deliberations seek 'Excellence On Its Own Terms.' Each entry is evaluated on the achievement of standards it establishes within its own contexts. Entries are self-selected by those making submissions and as a result the quality of competing works is extraordinarily high. The Peabody Awards are then presented only to 'the best of the best.'"

In the announcement of the awards, the Peabody Board said, "Adapted from dark-age fantasy books by George R.R. Martin, the series immerses viewers in a multilayered, distinctly imagined world of mysticism and earthiness, fidelity and deceit, wonder and mayhem."

## KING MUSICAL TO DEBUT

According to the April 13 issue of *Entertainment Weekly*, Stephen King is tackling a challenge even more fraught with danger than killer clowns or undead pets – musical theater. The best-selling horror author has written the book for a new musical, *Ghost Brothers of Darkland County*, due to premiere on April 11 at Atlanta's Alliance Theater.

The Southern Gothic tale – featuring songs by rocker John Mellencamp and musical production by T. Bone Burnett – explores the legacy of a lethal tragedy in small-town Mississippi.

Though the play stars Broadway vets Shuler Hensley, Emily Skinner and American Idol runner-up Justin Guarini, fans shouldn't expect any typical show tunes. "We wanted to do a musical that was homey, folksy, with a bluesy roots feel," King told *EW* via email. "The last thing we wanted was a *Phantom of the Opera* or *Cats* vibe."

## BACK TO THE FUTURE REMAKE?

Everyone has those movies that they love from their sepia-toned childhoods. And if you grow up to be a filmmaker, you might find yourself in a position to demonstrate that love by remaking that beloved flick. For the *Harold & Kumar* guys, that film is Robert Zemeckis' *Back to the Future*, reported SyFy's Blastr in late March.

With their *American Reunion* in theaters – and *A Very Harold & Kumar Christmas* enshrined in the holiday movie hall of fame – writer-directors Jon Hurwitz and Hayden Schlossberg have just signed a deal with Universal, and when asked by Moviehole what gems from Universal's catalog they'd like to polish, they eventually came clean about their *Back to the Future* dream.

After being goaded into naming the Michael J. Fox

time-travel classic, Schlossberg was quick to clarify his intentions: "I wouldn't want to do it now because people would be like, 'Oh, there's no way it will be as good as the original.' But 30 years from now when Spielberg's, like, 90 and those guys are kind of on their way out, and those movies just look really old because we're watching movies that are old, literally in two dimensions or something, it would be great to have all these classics that you're able to remake."

On the one hand, it's good these guys realize that there's nothing to be gained from making a new *Back to the Future* film now. It can't possibly be as good, and, even 27 years after its release, it still feels vibrant and fresh. There's just not enough distance between us and it. But still, some classics are just that – classic – and resist any attempts at reboots. One could hope that Universal would've learned that lesson with Gus van Sant's *Psycho*.

## BUBONICON 44 HERE IN 4 MONTHS

Bubonicon 44 passes go from \$38 to \$40 on May 13, but either price still is less than the at-the-door price of \$45 – not to mention the potential savings for youths 14-17 years of age or gamemasters. So, take advantage of the \$7 savings before this month's club meeting is over (the aforementioned \$38 vs. \$45)! Otherwise, mail your payment to "Bubonicon" with the PDF registration form online to PO Box 37257, Albuquerque, NM 87176.

Bubonicon 44 takes place August 24-26 (the weekend before the Chicago Worldcon) at the Albuquerque Marriott Uptown, 2101 Louisiana Blvd NE (at I-40). Single-Double rooms are \$99 a night this year when reserved by August 13, and triple-quad occupancy is \$109. Please make all reservations at 800-228-9290, and make sure to tell them you're with Bubonicon! Also let them know if you want to be on the events floor, a quiet floor or whether you have no preference.

In addition to Guest of Honor Brandon Sanderson, Toastmaster Michael Cassutt, and Guest Artist Ursula Vernon, we have confirmed the following participants so far: Daniel Abraham, Richard Berthold, Gordon Garb, Steven Gould, Darynda Jones, Susan Krinard, Jane Lindskold, George RR Martin, Victor Milan, John Jos. Miller, Pati Nagle, Charles & Tauni Orndorff, Scott S. Phillips, John Maddox Roberts, Joan S. Saberhagen,

Melinda Snodgrass, Jan & S.M. Stirling, Ian Tregillis, Robert E. Vardeman, Walter Jon Williams and Connie Willis. Several others are expected, of course.

The con-com will be working on the tentative schedule at the end of



May, and then sending it out for approval of the participants. Some of the planned programming includes a slide show by Vernon, the filking session, a Magic: The Gathering game with Sanderson, the costume contest, a game show from the Orndorffs, late-night film mayhem, fan programming, some sort of Authors Afternoon Tea (being modified because of space challenges at the Marriott) and the Green Slime Awards.

In fact, 2012 Green Slime Mistress Jessica Coyle is now taking nominations for "wretched things that should be recognized" and preparing to entertain the masses while the Costume Contest judges are out of the room Saturday evening. (Some movies/SyFy films mentioned so far are *Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance*, *The Darkest Hour*, *Snowmageddon* and *Immortals*. And there might even be a book!)

The 2012 convention will benefit the Williamson Library Collection at Eastern NM University and the Roadrunner Food Bank through the Friday night auction and a portion of the con's proceeds (if any).

No tables remain in the Dealers Room - yes, all 29 spaces have been sold. To be put on a waiting list, email Caci Gallop at [bubonicon@gmail.com](mailto:bubonicon@gmail.com).

Meanwhile, Roslee Orndorff and crew plan to have the art show rules & forms available online in PDF format around May 13. We will only mail out packets that are requested (a 2-ounce stamped #10 SASE is needed).

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 44 ends (usually late September).

More general information is available from Kristen 459-8734, Craig 266-8905, the PO Box, email to [bubonicon@gmail.com](mailto:bubonicon@gmail.com) or at the fabulous Mike Mc-Commas-maintained Perry Rodent website: [www.bubonicon.com](http://www.bubonicon.com).

## Solar Occultations for May & June

### ASTRONOMICAL ALBUQ OBSERVATIONS

#### by Fred Ream

Astronomically, an occultation occurs when one celestial body passes in front of another. Two interesting occultations of the sun will occur in the next two months. On May 20, the moon will pass in front. This is an eclipse of the sun, and in June it will be Venus - called a transit.

#### May 20's Annular Eclipse of the Sun

On May 20, the moon will be near apogee or farthest from the earth. Its angular diameter won't be large enough to completely cover the sun. As a result the sun will take on the appearance of a ring. This is called an annular eclipse. Albuquerque is near the center of the eclipse path.

In Albuquerque, the partial phase begins at 6:28:24 MDT as the moon begins to pass in front of the sun. The annular phase begins at 7:33:39 MDT and ends at 7:38:05 MDT. The sun will set before the moon moves com-



pletely away.

The March 25 *Albuquerque Journal* story covering the eclipse states that the south valley will be the best place to see the eclipse. Weather may be an issue and plans should be made to allow moving to alternative sites. The

May 2012 *Sky and Telescope* estimates 55% cloudiness for May in Albuquerque. Eclipses repeat in roughly 18-year periods. The last time “this” annular eclipse occurred the centerline went through Roswell. My trip there was rewarded with a beautiful view of the bottom of the solid cloud deck. Santa Fe to the north and Socorro to the south are inside the limits of the annular eclipse. The centerline roughly follows I-40 west of Albuquerque toward Gallup. Both the February and the May *Sky and Telescope* magazines have a map for the eclipse. More information is also available at <http://www.skypub.com> (search for Annular Eclipse).

### **June’s Transit of Venus**

Venus passes in front of the sun infrequently. Two pairs of transits occur about eight years apart, and the next pair doesn’t repeat until over 100 years have passed. The second of the pair will occur this June 6. The transit will begin at 4:05 pm MDT. There is the possibility of seeing a black drop effect then using optical aid. Venus will be completely inside the sun’s disc at 4:23 pm MDT. The sun will set before Venus begins to leave the sun’s disc.

This is likely to be an event that will need optical aid. The January 2012 *Sky and Telescope* gives the following test: Draw a 2 millimeter solid dot on white paper and place it 23 feet away. View the paper in good light.

The transit can give a sense of our place in space. Venus has a diameter slightly smaller than the earth. The sun’s disc is 100 times larger. In round numbers, Venus will be 30 million miles away from us, and the sun 90 million miles. During the transit we watch an earth-size object cross the sun.

More information is available in the January 2012 *Sky and Telescope* or at [Skypub.com](http://Skypub.com) (Search for June Transit).

### **Safe Viewing of the Sun**

Do NOT look directly at the sun. For visual observations: Use Two cards – one punched with a pin hole and allowing the shadow of this card to fall on the second card will give an image of the sun. During the eclipse, leaves form multiples of these pinhole cameras so be sure to look at the shadows of trees. The March 25 *Albuquerque Journal* lists No. 14 welder’s glasses or eclipse watching glasses as available at [astronomerswithoutborders.org](http://astronomerswithoutborders.org). For optical viewing there are filters that will fit over the front end of a lens or telescope. See [Skypub.com](http://Skypub.com) (Search Safe Viewing of Sun Safely). Alternatively, a white sheet of paper held where the light exits can be used for indirect viewing. Cutting a circle just large enough to fit into the sun end of the lens or telescope and then cutting out a

smaller circle will cut down the light and keep the lens or telescope cooler. I don’t have information of solar viewing using a digital camera. When using an optical device, set it up on a support such as a tripod and, then, watching its shadow move it until the shadow has been minimized. Looking up at the sun along the axis of the device leads too quickly to staring at the sun.

Happy and Successful Viewing!

## **BOOK REVIEW ROUND-UP**

***Timeless* by Gail Carriger, 2012 Orbit, mmpb \$7.99, 404 pages. Review by Jessica Coyle**

*Timeless* is the fifth and last book in Gail Carriger’s popular Parasol Protectorate series of steampunk novels. The story follows heroine Alexia Tarabotti as she is summoned to Egypt with her daughter to meet the world’s oldest vampire. As Alexia’s cover for traveling abroad, her friend Ivy Tunstell’s acting troupe comes along to give touring performances of their latest play. While in Egypt, Alexia and Lord Conal Maccon, her werewolf husband, also work to discover the origins of the God-Breaker curse that was introduced in an earlier book.

The novel also follows the rest of the werewolf pack back in London, where Professor Lyall tries to cope with fallout when a werewolf from another pack is murdered in a train station. There is also an well-done secondary plot in which Biffy, the werewolf who was converted after a horrible accident, comes to terms with his unexpectedly rising powers and abilities.

All in all, *Timeless* is an enjoyable romp that fans of the previous books in the series will devour. Carriger’s usual wit and dry sense of humor run throughout the novel. However, I do feel that, for the last book in a series, *Timeless* leaves some old questions unanswered in addition to generating some new mysteries as well. As it appears Carriger’s new series of novels are going to be set around 15 years in the future of the same world, hopefully those questions will be eventually addressed.

***Tribulations* by Ken Shufeldt, 2012 Tor Books, mmpb \$7.99, 384 pages. Review by Becky C. Davis**

Reading *Tribulations*, I soon discovered that I had stepped into Mr. Peabody and Sherman’s “Wayback Machine” (remember the *Rocky and Bullwinkle Show?*). Only there were no good puns, nor any wisecracking Significant Historical Figures to enliven my visit. This machine, er, book, transported me to the *bad* 1950s pulp sci-fi wherein heroic figures perform amazing feats of science and engineering with little more than rock dust and rubber bands.

This is a second volume following a first, *Genesis*, which explores how a select group of Brilliant Minds construct a legion of space arks to escape a large meteor which destroys Earth (play music from *When Worlds Collide*, Maestro). The motivator for the Brilliant Minds is a twenty-year-old named Billy West (not Bill, William or Arnold) who has “special talents.” Among his talents, he is smarter than anyone (but humble), can telepathically link and communicate with his special love/wife, Linda

Lou, who is also “special,” and he (and she) can heal faster from wounds than anyone else.

Billy endeavors to engineer his space ark, *Genesis*, to transcend light speed in order to take it and the legion to a habitable planet in another galaxy. Through miscalculations by a Lesser Mind, though egotistical, physicist, the ship’s contained fusion reactors go “boom,” and only about 20 people die, not everyone. The explosion has propelled the hobbled ship into another dimension, near a habitable planet, Midgard. Billy and the Brilliant Minds endeavor to reach Midgard for raw materials (including processed plutonium), with which to repair their ship.

Sinking into a stationary orbit over the planet, Billy builds and launches unmanned observation drones in just a few weeks (riiight!). The northern hemisphere is populated by a medieval-age metalworking society Billy calls “Norse.” They have language patterns much like “Old Norse.” The southern hemisphere has a larger agrarian population, also medieval in culture, whom Billy labels “Nubian,” and the people are mostly “dark skinned” (are you cringing yet, dear reader?).

The major portion of the book is devoted to pointless battles among Billy and the Brilliant Minds, the “Norse” and the “Nubians.” Hint: the Norse king is benevolent, but stubborn, the Nubian queen is heartless and bloodthirsty. Thousands die, irreplaceable space vehicles and armaments are destroyed, or fall into the wrong hands. Reason finally triumphs after the bad leaders are all killed.

Billy and Linda Lou are (humbly) triumphant, but now must go on to save the planet from a deadly meteor strike (maybe it followed them from the other dimension?). Inventive Billy and the Brilliant Minds must build a replacement space ship (because *Genesis* was destroyed) to fly out to nudge the meteor out of impact trajectory with Midgard. The planet is saved by a self-sacrificing member of Billy’s Brilliant Minds team.

But wait! Now Billy and Linda Lou are having premonition dreams about the leader of their lost space ark fleet. The flotilla is, of course, still in the Earthly dimension from which *Genesis* was ejected. Billy and Linda have had these premonition dreams throughout the book to help advance some plot lines. So, book three of this series will no doubt have Billy, Linda Lou and their loyal Brilliant Minds outwitting the evil machinations of the leader of the ark fleet and his servile minions. After they go back, superluminally, to the fleet, of course.

There are too many instances of bad dialog or improbable scenarios to list. Forget throwing the book across the room. I want to strangle the author and his editor at Tor for creating this horror. Here is one real corker. The Nubian queen consults her priestess about the probability of the meteor strike. All dialog and descriptions through nearly all the book are written at least up to freshman college level. The priestess says none of her other priestesses have had visions about the event. The Nubian queen responds, “Oh, give me a break; you don’t really believe your own crap, do you?” My double-take response nearly put me in a cervical neck brace.

The final reason to drive good SF readers away from this Frankenstein monster is that the author applies a

rather heavy hand of God throughout the book. God is responsible for Billy and Linda’s talents; their tribulations on Midgard; and their successes. God protects them and continues to tell them what to do.

Read this book at risk to your sanity and intellect. Don’t take this “Wayback Machine” trip. Go re-read Arthur C. Clark’s *Childhood’s End* instead.

***The Alloy of Law: A Mistborn Novel* by Brandon Sanderson, 2011 Tor Books, hc \$24.99, 332 pages.**

**Review by Caci Gallop**

I greatly enjoyed the *Mistborn* Trilogy, as previously reviewed, so when I received a copy of *The Alloy of Law*, set in the Mistborn universe, I was all in.

*The Alloy of Law* is set 300 years after the end of *The Hero of Ages*. The city of Elendel is in the midst of an industrial revolution, and the characters of the past Mistborn novels are now all religious icons to be whispered about reverently. The story follows Waxillium Ladrian as he goes from being a cowboy/lawman of sorts in the Roughts to a Lord over a house in the city – think equal parts Bruce Wayne and Wyatt Earp.

*Alloy* is a stand-alone novel. Of course, being set 300 years after the end of the Mistborn Trilogy, the setting has evolved considerably. Sanderson does an excellent job showing how this world has morphed from the city, to the religion, to the culture. It felt like the Mistborn world changed organically rather than just being painted over with a vague, western facade.

The setting wasn’t the only thing that changed; there was evolution in the magic too. Waxillium is a Twinborn. He can use both Allomancy and Feruchemy. Not identical to previous characters, but touching on the familiar magical system, it seems remolded almost.

The side characters feel like just that: side characters. They are fleshed out enough to give the story weight, and to make the reader like them. But they’re nothing special. *The Alloy of Law* is a short novel, but it accomplished the goal of telling the story.

But this book isn’t quite up to the same level as the other Mistborn novels. I think this is due to it feeling more like a long novella that was able to sneak into novel-form when they padded the word count. If you’re looking for a light western, steampunky novel set in the Mistborn universe, look no further. Even if you’re not, it’s a fast easy read, why not give it a shot. The long and short of it is fans of Brandon’s work will love this novel.

***Discount Armageddon: An InCryptid Novel* by Seanan McGuire, 2012 DAW, mmpb \$7.99, 365 pages.**

**Review by Serge Mailloux**

“I really don’t think you should put your hand inside the manticores, dear. You don’t know where it’s been.”

Thus begins *Discount Armageddon*, first in a new series by Seanan McGuire, author of the *October Daye* urban-fantasy novels.

Back in the 19th Century, Verity Price’s family used to belong with the Covenant of St George, whose holy mission it was to destroy the monsters that threatened Humanity. Except that, one day, great, great grandpapa

started asking questions about the need for extermination and, with a few rude words to the Covenant, he quit. His family has been in hiding in Oregon since then, what with the Covenant not taking no for an answer.

This is why Verity keeps a secret identity as she juggles the pursuit of a career as a ballroom dancer in the Big Apple while protecting the monsters who live hidden among us, some of whom also work as waitresses with her at a strip club owned by an actual bogeyman. Did I mention that she sublets a sasquatch's Greenwich Village apartment? Did I also mention the talking mice that share the place with her and see her as a religious figure?

Things start getting really interesting when Verity gets literally snared by one of the Covenant's hunters. She doesn't take too kindly to Dominic having killed non-sentient monsters who were minding their own business and keeping the pigeon population down, but she most strenuously object to his planned slaying of her friends who also happen to be monsters. He firmly denies he has anything to do with the recent disappearance of more and more female monsters, and they eventually realize that a snake cult is behind this, obviously a bunch of idiots, in Verity's opinion, if they think that the currently sleeping big lizard will care if their offerings are virgins or not.

Recommended.

***The Buntline Special: A Weird West Tale* by Mike Resnick, 2010 Pry, tp \$16.00, 321 pages.**

**Review by Craig Chrissinger**

A couple of years ago, Mike Resnick picked up the steampunk reins and mixed this alternative Victorian technology with the western novel to create *The Buntline Special*. The result is a light-hearted, easy-to-read tome with nods to the OK Corral, Thomas Edison, Wyatt Earp and Manifest Destiny.

The main viewpoint character is Doc Holliday, hired to come to Tombstone and help the Earp brothers keep inventors Edison and Ned Buntline. In this alternate reality, Holliday still suffers from "consumption," and likes his liquor and gambling. He soon learns that Edison and Buntline may be threatened by Native American medicine men who want to keep the United States east of the Mississippi River, the Clanton gang who make their living as horse thieves, and the reanimated gunslinger Johnny Ringo. Worse still, Bat Masterson is literally turned into a giant bat each night by a curse from Apache chief Geronimo. How can Edison and Buntline's science stand up against such wizardry?

Resnick offers just enough description of the surroundings to give a picture of the Arizona town, but

mostly fills the book with interesting dialogue. You have to admire him in this first *Weird West* novel for here he is combining an adventure story with steampunk, robot call girls, special guns and brass-derived armor, magic, a giant bat (and



later a vampire), a zombie cowboy, and a twisted showdown at the OK Corral.

It all mostly adds up to pure fluff. But it's fun fluff with a nice mixture of western, fantasy and steampunk. And don't we all need a light escape now and then?

***Secrets of the Fire Sea* by Stephen Hunt, 2012 Tor Books, hc \$27.99, 445 pages.**

**Review by Julieanne Heffernan**

*Secrets of the Fire Sea* starts slow, but soon spirals into unexpected awesomeness. The novel blew away any preconceived notions that I had about a Steampunk novel. I was surprised and pleased with the mystery, action, war, friendship, and faith. The setting is an ice covered island surrounded by a magma ocean. The island's harsh environment and abandoned cities (with radiation-deformed people) would keep most people away but it is the only place in the world where electricity works. Aliens and humans both play a part in the politics of this strange island. While it is Stephen Hunt's fourth book set in this universe, the book truly stands alone.

***Cold Cereal* by Adam Rex, 2012 Balzer + Bray, hc \$16.99, 432 pages.**

**Review by Jessica Coyle**

Mostly known for his work in picture books, such as *Frankenstein Makes a Sandwich* and *Frankenstein Takes the Cake*, Adam Rex has recently begun to write books geared at middle readers. *Cold Cereal* is Rex's second full-length book, and it is a crazy, silly, funny, and rewarding read. The book starts off as Scottish Plat "Scott" Doe starts his first day of school in Goodborough, NJ. Scott moved to Goodborough because his mother got a job at the Goodco Cereal Company. Scott quickly becomes friends with the oddest girl in his class, Emily Utz, and her twin brother Erno.

When, Emily and Erno's father mysteriously disappears, it becomes apparent that everything is not what it seems at Goodco. Scott, Emily, and Erno discover that Goodco is kidnapping "magical" creatures from an alternate dimension and using them to create their cereal. With the help of Emily and Erno's "nanny," they attempt to rescue Goodco's prisoners and take the company down.

Rex's quirky writing style is not for everyone. He includes many asides throughout the book, including commercials, flashbacks, and fake excerpts from other texts. *Cold Cereal* is very reminiscent in tone to Lemony Snicket's *A Series of Unfortunate Events*, and, if you enjoyed that series, I would definitely recommend this book as well.

***Road of Danger (RCN #9)* by David Drake, 2012 Tor Books, hc \$25.00, 365 pages.**

**Review by Roberta Johnson**

*Road of Danger* is the latest release in David Drake's series featuring swashbuckling Captain Daniel Leary and the stalwart crew of the *Princess Cecile*, a small spacefaring frigate of the Royal Cinnabar Navy. The story opens as Leary and his vessel have just ended their latest mission by delivering vital military orders to the Macotta Regional Command on the planet Kronstadt, and are anticipating well-earned leave. Leary delivers orders to Regional Com-



mander Cox to mobilize his battleships to a place called Tattersall to prevent an invasion which would restart the long, expensive war between Cinnabar and its enemy, the Alliance, only recently ended after forty years.

In the RCN, intrigue is the order of the day and it's not what or even who you know, it's who your family is. Advancement tends to be by family "interest" rather than ability. Captain Leary is the son of a powerful man to whom he has not spoken since the age of 16. Since the rest of the world assumes Leary obtained his position due to family preference, this has its downside.

Admiral Cox's assumptions and hostility prompt him to send Leary and his crew on what he considers a wild-good chase – capturing a rebel on distant planet Sunbright. The rebel, called Freedom is a rumored Cinnabar citizen who's leading a revolt against Alliance forces. It's plain that Cox is paying lip service to the Alliance by sending a Cinnabar representative, but in fact considers the mission unwinnable and unnecessary, and doesn't even really want it accomplished. However, Captain Leary is not capable to playing by those rules – if he's given an assignment, he will do his best to win it, and he and his crew are quite capable of winning the unwinnable, without necessarily using standard military procedures. In fact, the *Princess Cecile*, Captain Leary and his best bud, Signals Officer Adele Mundy, spend much of the mission undercover, which is a bit hard to enforce on the well-meaning but not always-intelligent crew.

While Drake's readers are bound to welcome this newest adventure, this novel does not stand alone, leading the new reader (me) into confusion on a regular basis. Drake's narrative can be disjointed due to a tendency to expound on either the science or the background information at exactly the wrong times. The history is extremely necessary. That said, however, Drake writes memorable, fully developed, hard-drinking, hard-fighting, sometimes villainous but usually heroic, characters and shoot-em-up space opera on a grand scale, complete with battles in space and on land. Leary and his crew are so engaging, in fact, that I had to look up the first novel in the series to find out more about their origins. That first novel, *With the Lightning*, helped a great deal in that respect. Which leads me to the best thing about *Road of Danger* – I now have the rest of the series to read and enjoy. And for a compulsive reader, it just can't get any better.

***The Fourth Wall* by Walter Jon Williams, 2012 Orbit, tp \$13.99, 402 pages. Review by Craig Chrissinger**

Walter Jon Williams dips into the Dagmar Shaw universe – with a twist – a third time with *The Fourth Wall*, and the book is just as entertaining as its two predecessors – *This Is Not a Game* and *Deep State*. One of the joys of Williams' latest book is that it is told first-person by Sean Makin, a former child actor now down on his luck, and Sean knows very little of what we readers of Dagmar know. Here's a guy who had a successful career as a child on a long-lasting TV series, but it turns out his parents stole his money and his one possible hit slasher movie (*Mister Baby Head*) is sitting in litigation limbo.

Sean has sunk so low that he's appearing in a odd

reality-type show called *Celebrity Pitfighter*, where he dukes it out with other has-beens in a wrestling ring with odd challenges (like several inches of cottage cheese, as the book opens). On top of that, he holds a secret about the death of a director friend's wife.

Almost out of nowhere, Sean is hired by Dagmar to play a central character in a serialized, multi-plotline, semi-participatory narrative adventure about an alien stranded on Earth. And as often happens around Dagmar, people start dying. Yes, Williams has cooked up a creative techno-thriller showbiz mystery! Why are people being killed? Is it because of Sean's dark secret, Dagmar's adventurous past, Sean's anti-religious blog posts about his mother, or just over-zealous fans wanting to know what happens next in the serial?

While *The Fourth Wall* is a Dagmar novel, it really is Sean's story – and his emails and blog posts add to the reader's understanding of this six-foot-two man with pedomorphosis (meaning he has a really huge head) and a stalled career. The setting is near-future with its Google-perfected glasses and such, but it's also an accurate picture of behind-the-scenes Hollywood production.

Williams has produced another entertaining and well-detailed novel. Good job!

***Glamour in Glass* by Mary Robinette Kowal, 2012 Tor Books, hc \$24.99, 332 pages.**

**Review by Serge Mailloux**

What happens to a Jane Austen heroine after the tale has been told of how she met the Love of her Life?

Scientific inquiry, of course.

In 2010 we first met Jane Ellsworth in Mary Robinette Kowal's novel *Shades of Milk and Honey*, which is best described as Jane Austen with magic. The heroine was the Ellsworths' eldest daughter, who saw herself as plain, compared to her younger sister who was their mother's only hope of marriage. All that Jane had in her favor was her intelligence, and her mastery of glamour, a form of magic involving the manipulation of light. That didn't prevent her discovery of Love, in the person of Mister Vincent, glamour artist to England's High Society.

Coming out in April is Kowal's follow-up, *Glamour in Glass*. Jane and Vincent live in a state of bliss both marital and professional. They have just completed a commission for the Prince Regent and are at last free to go on their much-delayed honeymoon. With Bonaparte now exiled in Elba, things are quieter on the Continent so off they go to Belgium, to stay at the school of another glamourist, where they'll combine romance with scientific research into the mechanisms of their magic. Or so it should be. Jane makes an important breakthrough, but finds her husband becoming secretive and distant. To complicate matters even more, Bonaparte has come back, and Vincent has been taken prisoner by the French military, and Jane of course will stop at nothing to rescue him. As Vincent later tells the Prince Regent: "I have learned that it is to my folly to do anything without my wife."

Recommended.



## ASFS MEETING REPORTS —

### DECEMBER 2011: SHORT FILMS & DESSERTS

Thirty-nine people came out to watch comedic holiday film shorts, and to help judge the 7th ASFS Dessert Cook-Off by tasting many delightful food samples.

St. Andrew's space was big enough to allow a split between the movie area and dessert tables. Shown during the evening were *The Sith Who Stole Christmas*, RiffTrax's *Making Sense with Sentences*, OK Go (and the Muppets) doing the *Muppet Show* theme, several parody trailers for *The Muppets*' new movie, two episodes of *Look Around You*, *Futurama*'s "A Tale of Two Santas," host segments with Mike & the 'bots from MST3K's *Santa Claus*, and *Community*'s claymation Christmas episode.

In the Dessert Cook-Off, there were 17 entries from 15 people - Dawn Barela, Jessica Coyle, Becky Davis, Randi Hewett, Joe Lane, Vic Milan, Michelle Foley, Christie Jury, Danielle Pollock, Patricia Rogers, Pat Mathews, Julie Heffernan, Amy Mathis, Harriet Engle and Tom Sittler (plus food from Keebler, Kirkland & Hershey).

Best Overall went to Christie Jury's Fever Fudge, the Runner-Up to Danielle Pollock's Double Chocolate Peppermint Doom Cookies, and Honorable Mention to Patricia Rogers' Chocolate Mint Brownies. In the Mint Category, Julie Heffernan won for her Peppermint Bark.

### JANUARY 2012: BOOK DISCUSSION

We started the New Year with 30 people participating in a discussion of books read in 2011, whether good or bad. Before going around a circle for reviews, Fred Ream announced there will be a Solar Eclipse in May in Albuquerque.

Books read in 2011 by folks include *Through Wolf's Eyes & Child of a Rainless Year* by Jane Lindskold, *Leviathan Wakes* by James S.A. Corey (mentioned by 7 people), *Dangerous Dames* by John Zakour, *Bloodshot & Hellbent* by Cherie Priest, *Outrageous Fortune* by Tim Scott, *Fort Freak* edited by George RR Martin & Melinda Snodgrass, *The Magic Engineer* by L.E. Modesitt, *An Armory of Swords* edited by Fred Saberhagen, *Notes to a Science Fiction Writer* by Ben Bova, *Ghost Story & Changes* by Jim Butcher, *11/22/63* by Stephen King, *A Game of Thrones* by George RR Martin, *The Price of Spring & The Dragon's Path* by Daniel Abraham, *The Algebraist* by Iain M. Banks, *The Dawn of Amber* by John Gregory Betancourt, *Kitty Takes a Holliday & Kitty Goes To War* by Carrie Vaughn, *Reflex & Blind Waves* by Steven Gould, *She Buried Me with Science* by David Boop, *Many Genres, One Craft* by Michael A. Arnzen (et al), *Atomic Robo & the Fightin Scientists of Tesladyne* by Brian Clevinger, *The Hidden Goddess* by M.K. Hobson, *Kitty's Big Trouble & After the Golden Age* by Carrie Vaughn (mentioned by 3 people), *The Uncertain Places* by Lisa Goldstein, *The Dinosaur Lords* by Victor Milan, *Blackout & All Clear* by Connie Willis, *The Old Man and the Wasteland* by Nick Cole, *Wild Cards I Deluxe* edited by Martin & Snodgrass, *Theatre of*

*the World* by Frances A. Yates, *Drood* by Dan Simmons, *Moon Called & Blood Bound* by Patricia Briggs, *The Betrayal* by Pati Nagle, *The Fourth Wall* by Walter Jon Williams, *1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus* by Charles C. Mann, *Solar* by Ian McEwan, *The Word for World is Forest* by Ursula K. Le Guin, *Packing for Mars* by Mary Roach, *Bless Me, Ultima* by Rudolfo Anaya, *Crossed* by Ally Condie, *The Future of Us* by Carolyn Mackler & Jay Asher, *The Last Werewolf* by Glen Duncan, *The Atrocity Archives* by Charles Stross, *Carmen Miranda's Ghost Is Haunting Space Station 3* edited by Don Sakers, *Power Play* by Ben Bova (kind of a stinker), *Chicks Dig Time Lords* edited by Tara O'Shea & Lynne M. Thomas, *Whedonistas* edited by Lynne M. Thomas & Deborah Stanish, *Second Grave on the Left & Third Grave Dead Ahead* by Darynda Jones, *Kraken* by China Mieville, *Palimpsest* by Catherynne M. Valente, *Daytripper* graphic novel, *How Much for Just the Planet (Star Trek)* by John M. Ford, *Astropilots* by Laura J. Mixon, *The 100 Thousand Kingdoms* by N.K. Jemisin, *Tears of the Sun* by S.M. Stirling, *Snuff* by Terry Pratchett, *1632* by Eric Flint, *Paladin of Souls* by Lois McMaster Bujold, *Diamond Age & Cryptonomicon* by Neal Stephenson, *Some Girls Bite* by Chloe Neill, *Steampunk Softies* by Sarah S. Keate & Nicola Tedman, and *Super Guinea Pig to the Rescue* by Udo Weigelt...

### EDITOR NOTES TO FILL THIS SPACE

• **THE WILLIAMSON LECTURESHIP** in Portales March 29-31 was entertaining as usual. Lots of food, lots of conversation, lots of good company. Daniel Abraham & Carrie Vaughn gave interesting talks on "urban fantasy" at the buffet-style luncheon, and the Lectureship ran two-track panel discussions for the first time - six topics covered in three hours! Kristen & Kennard, Danielle, Jessica and I stopped at the Ft. Sumner Museum (and "real" grave of Billy the Kid) & the Billy the Kid Museum on the way home. Some interesting items on display, and only half as cheesy as we anticipated. I've submitted a write-up to *Locus Magazine*, so I'm waiting to hear whether they will use it. Crossing my fingers because...

• **ON THE WRITING FRONT**, I haven't had anything professionally published since Fangoria coverage of *The Resident* last April (yes, they still owe me money), so I'm chomping at the bit. Hoping for a SF/horror film to be shot in New Mexico, or the chance to do a book review for the *Albuquerque Journal*.

• **CONGRATS TO ALL THE NM-CONNECTED HUGO NOMINEES!** Pretty darn amazing how many live here, visited in 2011-2012, or are coming to Bubonicon 44 in August.

• **IN ENTERTAINMENT**, *John Carter (of Mars)* wasn't the greatest SF movie ever, but it was way better than expected. Sorry, not Green Slime worthy. Hitting the funny bone in good ways were *21 Jump Street* & *American Reunion* (both very amusing). Looking forward to *The Avengers* in early May and Ridley Scott's SF flick. I miss *Chuck*, but *How I Met Your Mother*, *Raising Hope*, *The Middle*, *Happy Endings*, *The Big Bang Theory* & *Community* still entertain and make me smile.

• **THANKS TO FRED, BECKY, CACI, SERGE, JESSICA, JULIEANNE & ROBERTA** for contributions. Submissions are welcome! Not just book reviews! Have a nice spring & Memorial Day! See you in July after Albuquerque Comic Expo 2. --Craig C