



ASFACTS 2016

FEBRUARY "SPACE ODDITY" VALENTINE ISSUE

ENMU WILLIAMSON LECTURESHIP SCHEDULED FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 8

The 40th annual Jack Williamson Lectureship will be held Friday, April 8, at Eastern New Mexico University in Portales, NM. Special guests are Albuquerque's Victor Milán and Mistress of Ceremonies Connie Willis (of Colorado). Friday events include Milan's reading, a luncheon and various panel discussions.

A campus tradition since 1977, the Lectureship annually draws well-known authors to visit the ENMU campus and discuss the interactions of science and the humanities.

Williamson, long-time SF author and professor of English passed away in 2006. Williamson's novella, "The Ultimate Earth," won a 2001 Hugo Award, and his last novel, *The Stonehenge Gate*, was released in 2005.

Milán is the author of more than 60 novels, including last year's *The Dinosaur Lords* and this year's sequel, *The Dinosaur Knights* (to be released in July). He also wrote technothriller *Red Sands*, the award-winning *The Cybernetic Samurai*, *Star Trek* novel *From the Depths*, *Wild Cards* 1993 solo novel *Turn of the Cards*, and *Battletech* novels; and co-authored *Runespear* with Melinda Snodgrass. He is a charter member of the NM-based *Wild Cards* "mafia," and also has written novels under pseudonyms in the *Rogue Angel*, *Guardians*, *Stormrider* and *Donovan Steele* universes. The *Washington Post* calls Milán a "contender for major stardom" in science fiction.

The Lectureship formally opens Thursday, April 7, with a tribute to Jack, in which friends and colleagues read from their own or favorite excerpts of Jack Williamson's 5:30 pm in room 112 of the Jack Williamson Liberal Arts Building on the ENMU campus.

On Friday, Milán reads and answers questions 10:00-11:30 am in Room 112 of the JWLA Building. The luncheon, hosted by Willis with a keynote address from Milán, takes place 11:45 am in the Campus Union Ballroom. The Luncheon cost is \$10.00 (payable at the door). Books will be available for purchase and autographing by writers in attendance. Reservations (and any dietary restrictions) are needed by Monday, April 4. Call Patrice Caldwell at (575) 562-2315 or email planning.analysis@enmu.edu.

Panel discussions happen 3:00-6:15 pm in the Williamson Special Collections area of Golden Library, and

are free of charge. These panels are sure to provide a wide range of topics and free-wheeling discussion and debate between panelists and audience.

On Saturday, April 9, a Writers Workshop for aspiring young writers is planned 10:00 am-Noon at the Portales Public Library with Connie Willis and Steven Gould. Interested participants can contact the Portales Library, 218 S Avenue B, in Portales, at (575) 356-3940.

For more information, contact Caldwell by phone or email her at patrice.caldwell@enmu.edu.

EXPANSE GETS 2ND SEASON

Syfy has given a second season to *The Expanse* and is increasing the episode order from 10 to 13 for the futuristic mystery's sophomore turn, Variety.com posted at the end of December.

The Alcon Television Group series gained traction from an online debut last November that brought in 4.5 million viewers before its official premiere on December 14 on Syfy. The first three episodes that have aired on Syfy have brought in an average 1.6 million P2+ linear viewers (L3).

"*The Expanse* is firing on all cylinders creatively, building a passionate fan base among viewers and critics alike, and delivering on Syfy's promise of smart, provocative science fiction entertainment. We can't wait to see where the story takes us in season two," said Dave Howe, president of Syfy and Chiller.

Set 200 years in the future, *The Expanse* stars Thomas Jane and Steven Strait as a hardened detective and a

UPCOMING ASFS MEETINGS

- **Tonight:** Film journalist Jeff Berg talks on *New Mexico Filmmaking*, especially SF/horror flicks...
- **March 11:** Time for the traditional ASFS Auction with Bob Vardeman at the helm. Look for 2-6 items to donate to the club's cause, and cash to spend.
- **Wed, March 30:** Bubonicon 49 guest nominations meeting. Must be present to vote on 2017 guests...
- **April 15:** Meeting 1 Week Late - Devin O'Leary of the *Weekly Alibi* looks at film trailers for this summer's genre releases! Also, the Spring issue of *ASFACTS* will be out (deadline Sun, April 10).
- **May 13:** Program not confirmed at this time.

Craig Chrissinger, normal editor. Darth Vader, guest editor each December. Please Send All Correspondence to — PO Box 37257, Albuquerque, NM 87176-7257. Contact: (505) 266-8905 or via cwraig@nmia.com. ASFACTS published February, April, July & October for the Albuq SF Society. SITHFACTS out each December. NEXT DEADLINE: Sun, April 10.
Club Officers: Craig Chrissinger & Jessica Coyle, co-Zec Secs (505) 266-8905. Geneva Schult, Moderator. Julie Hefernan, Alternator. Cupid, Holiday Host. **Bubonicon Co-Chairs:** Caci Cooper & Craig Chrissinger (505) 559-0931.

rogue ship captain whose unlikely alliance may end up exposing the greatest conspiracy in human history. In her review of the series, *Variety* critic Maureen Ryan credited the show for being “openly political, and tak[ing] on issues of class, representation and exploitation.”

Based on Albuquerque authors Daniel Abraham and Ty Franck’s series of books written under the pen name James S.A. Corey, *The Expanse* has Mark Fergus and Hawk Ostby (*Children of Men, Iron Man*) serving as writers, executive producers and showrunners. Executive producer Naren Shankar (*CSI, Farscape*) also is showrunning.

The Expanse is reportedly Syfy’s most expensive series to date. Ahead of its debut, Howe told *Variety* this was necessary. “[Once they see it,] people will realize that not many networks are investing as much as we are in this quality content,” he said then. “This is not just big. This is premium network scale.”

Season two of *The Expanse* is expected to air in 2017.

GOLDEN GLOBES INCLUDE SCI-FI

The 73rd Golden Globe Awards honored the best in film and American television of 2015 and was broadcast live on January 10, from The Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills, CA.

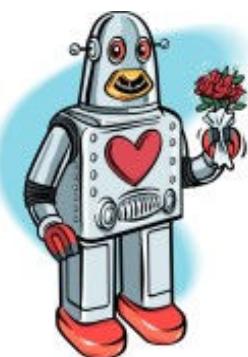
Among the winners from the Hollywood Foreign Press Association were some science fiction and horror projects such as *The Martian* as Best Comedy Film, Matt Damon as Best Actor in a Musical or Comedy Motion Picture for *The Martian*, “The Writing’s on the Wall” sung by Adele from *Spectre* as Best Original Song, *Inside Out* as Best Animated Feature Film, and Lady Gaga as Best Actress in a Miniseries or TV Film for *American Horror Story: Hotel*.

MARTIN MISSES DEADLINE, “ASTONISHED” BY FAN REACTION

by Alison Flood, *The Guardian*, 01-04-2016

After Santa Fe author George RR Martin author confessed January 2 that he would not finish the sixth *Game of Thrones* book, *The Winds of Winter*, before the sixth season of the TV series airs in spring, his blog was deluged with comments saying, “Don’t sweat it, George.”

He revealed on his website that, although he had been given an extended deadline of the end of 2015 to complete the long-awaited novel – the sixth in his fantasy series *A Song of Ice and Fire* – he had not been able to meet it, meaning the source material will come out after the TV



adaptation is broadcast.

“Yes, there’s a lot written,” he wrote. “Hundreds of pages. Dozens of chapters. But there’s also a lot still left to write. I am months away still...and that’s if the writing goes well.”

Martin and his publishers had wanted *The Winds of Winter* to be published before the sixth series of the hit HBO television series airs, but this will now not be possible, he told fans, adding, “There are no excuses. No one else is to blame... It’s on me. I tried, and I am still trying.”

The fantasy author has been criticized by fans in the past over the speed of his writing; in 2009, it reached such levels that Neil Gaiman was moved to pledge his support, telling a demanding reader that “George RR Martin is not your bitch.”

This time, though, his readers were quick to encourage him, with more than 1,000 comments on his blog ranging from “Love your work, George! Get it done when it’s done. I’ll be there” to “Don’t sweat it, George” and “Take as long as you need to, sir.”

“That couldn’t have been fun to write,” wrote one reader in response to Martin’s blog. “But fact is in 50 years readers will judge on the book’s quality and not if they met some arbitrary deadline and beat the TV adaptation. As much as I’d like to see it released soon, I ultimately approve of the priority on quality.”

Martin later responded to his fans, saying that “the outpouring of support in response to my post on *The Winds of Winter* has been astonishing. Thank you all, so very much. There were 40 pages of screened comments on the post by the time I logged on this morning. I haven’t even been able to read half of them as yet. I cannot tell you how much I appreciate all the kind words and good wishes.”

The fifth novel, *A Dance With Dragons*, was published in 2011, shortly after the first season of the HBO series *Game of Thrones* began to air.

Addressing fans concerned that the new TV series, which airs in April, might “spoil” the books, Martin admitted, “Given where we are, inevitably, there will be certain plot twists and reveals in season six of *Game of Thrones* that have not yet happened in the books.”

But he added, “Some of the ‘spoilers’ you may encounter in season six may not be spoilers at all...because the show and the books have diverged, and will continue to do so.”

Some characters, he said, are dead in the show and alive in the books, while others have never been part of the show and are major players in the books.

“*Game of Thrones* is the most popular television series in the world right now,” wrote Martin. “It’s an incredible production with an incredible cast and crew. *The Winds of Winter* should be pretty good too, when it comes out. As good as I can make it, anyway... Enjoy the show. Enjoy the books. Meanwhile, I’ll keep writing. Chapter at a time. Page at a time. Word at a time. That’s all I know how to do.”

ICON DAVID BOWIE DEAD AT 69

(AP) NEW YORK -- David Bowie, the otherworldly musician who broke pop and rock boundaries with his creative musicianship, nonconformity, striking visuals and a genre-spanning persona he christened Ziggy Stardust, died of cancer January 10. He was 69 and had just released a new album.

Bowie, whose hits included "Fame," "Heroes" and "Let's Dance," died peacefully surrounded by family, representative Steve Martin said early January 11. The singer had fought cancer for 18 months.

Long before alter egos and wild outfits became commonplace in pop, Bowie turned the music world upside down with the release of the 1972 album, *The Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars*, which introduced one of music's most famous personas. *Ziggy Stardust* was a concept album that imagined a rock star from outer space trying to make his way in the music world. The persona - the red-headed, eyeliner wearing Stardust - would become an enduring part of his legacy, and a touchstone for the way entertainers packaged themselves for years to come.

Bowie turned 69 on January 8, the same day he released a new album, *Blackstar*.

The singer, who was born David Jones in London, came of age in the glam rock era of the early 1970s. He had a striking androgynous look in his early days and was known for changing his appearance and sounds. After *Ziggy Stardust*, the stuttering rock sound of "Changes" gave way to the disco soul of "Fame" co-written with John Lennon, to a droning collaboration with Brian Eno in Berlin that produced "Heroes."

He had some of his biggest successes in the early 1980s with the bombastic "Let's Dance," and a massive American tour. Another one of his definitive songs was "Under Pressure," which he recorded with Queen.

"My entire career, I've only really worked with the same subject matter," Bowie told The Associated Press in a 2002 interview. "The trousers may change, but the actual words and subjects I've always chosen to write with are things to do with isolation, abandonment, fear and anxiety - all of the high points of one's life."

As an actor, Bowie played Jareth, the Goblin King, in *Labyrinth*, was Phillip Jeffries in *Twin Peaks: Fire Walk with Me*, starred in *The Man Who Fell to Earth* (shot in New Mexico), appeared as John Blaylock in *The Hunger* and was the Host for *The Hunger* TV series, played Nikola Tesla in *The Prestige*, voiced Lord Royal Highness for *SpongeBob SquarePants*, and appeared as himself in *Zoolander* and an episode of *Extras*.

Bowie lived in West Berlin in the late 1970s and Mayor Michael Mueller said that "Heroes" became "the hymn of our then-divided city and its longing for freedom." Bowie's performance of "Heroes" was also a highlight at a concert for rescue workers after the 2001 World

Trade Center attacks.

"What I'm most proud of is that I can't help but notice that I've affected the vocabulary of pop music. For me, frankly, as an artist, that's the most satisfying thing for the ego," Bowie said.

He released a music video on January 8 for the new song "Lazarus," which shows a frail Bowie lying in bed and singing the track's lyrics. The song begins with the line: "Look up here, I'm in heaven."

Tributes poured in for the singer after the announcement of his death. British astronaut Tim Peake tweeted about his sadness from outer space aboard the International Space Station, saying, "His music was an inspiration to many."

The Rolling Stones wrote they were "shocked and deeply saddened to hear of the death of our dear friend David Bowie. As well as being a wonderful and kind man, he was an extraordinary artist, and a true original."

LANSDALE RECEIVES CHANDLER AWARD

Joe R. Lansdale, Bubonicon 48 Toastmaster, is the 2015 recipient of the Raymond Chandler lifetime achievement award, "Italy's top lifetime achievement honor" for noir and thriller writers, Locus Online announced in early December. He was honored at the Courmayeur Noir in Festival in Italy, held December 8-13. Prior winners include J.G. Ballard, P.D. James, and Donald Westlake.

EDITOR DAVID HARTWELL DIES

Editor David G. Hartwell died January 20, at the age of 74. He suffered head trauma in a fall, was hospitalized, and did not recover from a massive brain bleed. Hartwell was one of the genre's most accomplished editors, and was equally known for his encyclopedic knowledge of the field and his memorable personal style.

David Geddes Hartwell was born July 10, 1941, in Salem, MA. He attended Williams College, graduating with a bachelor's degree in 1963, then went on to earn a master's from Colgate University in 1965 and a doctorate in Comparative Medieval Literature from Columbia University in 1973. Hartwell married Patricia Lee Wolcott in 1969, and they had two children before divorcing in 1992. He married Kathryn Cramer in 1997, and they had two children.

Hartwell's publishing career began in 1971 as a consulting SF editor for Signet. He joined Berkley in 1973, later rising to editor-in-chief of science fiction there. After moving to Pocket books in 1978, he launched the influential Timescape imprint, which ran until 1983. In 1985 he joined Arbor House (later merged into Avon/Morrow). He began working as a consulting editor for Tor Books in 1983, and became a full-time senior editor at Tor/Forge in 1995.

Hartwell edited thousands of SF books starting in the

1970s, and edited or co-edited over 40 anthologies, among them *The Dark Descent* and *Foundations of Fear*, surveys of horror; *Masterpieces of Fantasy & Enchantment*; *The World Treasury of Science Fiction*; and *The Science Fiction Century*. He co-edited numerous books with Kathryn Cramer, including *The Ascent of Wonder*, *The Hard SF Renaissance*, *The Space Opera Renaissance*, and many volumes in the *Year's Best SF* and *Year's Best Fantasy* series. His 1984 non-fiction book *Age of Wonders* examined the history and culture of SF.

Hartwell published and edited literary journal *The Little Magazine* 1965-88, and was co-founder and reviews editor of *The New York Review of Science Fiction* in 1988, published by his own Dragon Press. He was also a bookseller.

He was nominated for Hugo Awards 41 times, with nominations for professional editing (long and short forms) and for *The New York Review of Science Fiction*. He won for Professional Editor in 2006, and for Best Editor, Long Form in 2008 and 2009. He won the World Fantasy Award twice in 1988, the Milford Award for Life Achievement in 1990, and the Skylark Award for his contributions to SF in 2006. He taught at Harvard University, NYU, Clarion West, and Clarion South. He chaired the board of the directors of the World Fantasy Convention, and administered the Philip K. Dick Award with Gordon Van Gelder.

Hartwell lived in Pleasantville NY, and is survived by his wife and children.

BOOK GROUP KEEPS READING

The Droids & Dragons SF Book Group meets at 7:30 pm Monday, February 15, in the side room of Pacific Paradise, northeast corner of San Pedro & Candelaria NE, to discuss *Gateway* by Frederik Pohl. The group then focuses on *Dark Intelligence: Transformation Book 1* by Neal Asher on Monday, March 21 – probably at Pacific Paradise again.

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 at Page One Books in the Mountain Run Shopping Center. For more information, contact Leah at skycaptain1883@yahoo.com or Craig at 266-8905.

APOLLO ASTRONAUT DIES

(CNN) Edgar Mitchell, who had a New Mexico connection and was one of just 12 human beings who walked on the moon, died February 4, according to his ex-wife, Anita Mitchell. He was 85.

"On behalf of the entire NASA family, I would like to express my condolences to the family and friends of NASA astronaut Edgar Mitchell," NASA Administrator

Charles Bolden said in a statement. "He believed in exploration, having been drawn to NASA by President Kennedy's call to send humans to the moon. He is one of the pioneers in space exploration on whose shoulders we now stand."

Mitchell died in West Palm Beach, FL, according to NASA. His death occurred on the eve of the 45th anniversary of his lunar landing, which took place on February 5, 1971.

Mitchell, Alan Shepard and Stuart Roosa were the crew of Apollo 14, which launched on January 31, 1971. Mitchell became the sixth man to walk on the lunar surface.

He and Shepard set foot on the moon two separate times during their mission, spending more than nine hours collecting rocks, taking measurements and (in Shepard's case) hitting a pair of golf balls. Mitchell also took a famous photograph of Shepard standing next to an American flag. All told, the two spent 33 hours on the moon.

Mitchell, who was the lunar module pilot, found the trip to be a profound experience.

"Looking at Earth from space and seeing it was a planet in isolation... that was an experience of ecstasy, realizing that every molecule in our bodies is a system of matter created from a star hanging in space," Mitchell told the *UK Telegraph* in 2014. "The experience I had was called Samadhi in the ancient Sanskrit, a feeling of overwhelming joy at seeing the Earth from that perspective."

Fascinated and frustrated by the relationship between religion and science, he was very public about seeking links between the known and unknown. He said he had conducted ESP experiments on the mission. He was also a believer in extraterrestrial activity, and was convinced UFOs had visited Earth.

In one interview, he told *Bloomberg Business* that the 1947 Roswell incident, which to some people is evidence of an extraterrestrial crash landing, was covered up. (The U.S. government has said the incident involved the crash of a high-altitude balloon.)

"It's not just military. It's a cabal of organizations primarily for a profit motive," he told the publication.

Mitchell also created the Institute of Noetic Sciences to research paranormal phenomena and consciousness. In addition, he was co-founder of the Association of Space Explorers, an organization for space travelers.

The astronaut was born in Hereford, TX, in 1930. He came from a ranching family that moved to New Mexico during the Depression and considered Artesia, NM (near Roswell) as his hometown. He graduated from Artesia High School in 1948. A Navy pilot, he joined NASA in 1966 as part of the agency's astronaut corps. He was well-qualified: besides having served as a test pilot and college instructor, he earned a doctorate from MIT in aeronautics and astronautics.

Mitchell was part of the support crew for the Apollo 9 and Apollo 10 missions. A year after Apollo 14, in 1972, he left NASA to embark on his other activities.

ROBINSON WINS 2016 HEINLEIN

Kim Stanley Robinson is the winner of the 2016 Robert A. Heinlein Award, given for “outstanding published works in science fiction and technical writings that inspire the human exploration of space,” Locus Online reported in early January. The award recognizes his body of work including 19 novels (including the *Mars* series) and more than 40 short stories.

Winners are chosen by a committee of SF authors chaired by Michael F. Flynn, and receive a plaque, a sterling silver medallion, and two lapel pins, all featuring the likeness of Robert A. Heinlein. The award will be presented May 27, during the opening ceremonies of Balticon 50.

ALAN RICKMAN PASSES AWAY

Veteran actor Alan Rickman died January 14 of cancer at the age of 69.

The Briton shot to global fame starring in films including *Die Hard*, *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves*, *Galaxy Quest*, *Love Actually* and *Harry Potter*.

The Guardian reported that his death was confirmed by his family. A statement from his family said: “The actor and director Alan Rickman has died from cancer at the age of 69. He was surrounded by family and friends,” the BBC reported.

Born February 21, 1946, in West London, he studied graphic design at the Chelsea College of Art and Design, which led to work at the *Notting Hill Herald* newspaper, while trying to remain sensible and resist the unstable career prospects of a life as an actor.

But he couldn't resist his true calling and began his acting career with the Royal Shakespeare Company in 1978. His American breakthrough came with a 1987 Tony Award-nominated performance as Valmont in *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, a role later played by John Malkovich in the 1988 film. He made his movie mark in 1988's *Diehard* as Hans Gruber, the German terrorist who matched wits with Bruce Willis' vacationing cop.

In the 1990s, Rickman's roles ranged from the Sheriff of Nottingham in *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves* to

Rasputin, picking up awards and acclaim along the way.

Rickman's iconic voice next will be heard in *Alice Through the Looking Glass* out May 27, where he plays the Blue Caterpillar.

"You've been gone too long, Alice," Rickman's voice intones with the dire gravitas only he could ever fully embody in a new trailer released during the



Super Bowl. “There are matters which cannot be neglected.”

But to younger audiences, he will always be Severus Snape, Harry Potter's teacher at Hogwarts who morphed from villain to hero by the end of the eight-film saga. But not even Rickman was entirely in on the transformation plan. “She gave me one tiny, little, left of field piece of information that helped me think that he was more complicated and that the story was not going to be as straight down the line as everybody thought,” he told the movie site HitFix.com in 2011.

Upon learning of the actor's death, Potter author J.K. Rowling tweeted, “There are no words to express how shocked and devastated I am to hear of Alan Rickman's death. He was a magnificent actor and a wonderful man.”

NINTH PLANET MAY BE DISCOVERED

(CNN) You might have a replacement, Pluto. There could be another planet in our solar system, it was reported in late January. Researchers at the California Institute of Technology have found evidence in the outer solar system of an object that could be a real ninth planet.

Nicknamed Planet Nine, it “has a mass about 10 times that of Earth and orbits about 20 times farther from the sun” than Neptune. That means “it would take this new planet between 10,000 and 20,000 years to make just one full orbit around the sun,” according to Caltech.

Researchers Konstantin Batygin and Mike Brown haven't actually seen the planet, but other research helped lead them to conclude that there is one. Basically, they found that certain objects in the Kuiper Belt – the field of icy objects and debris beyond Neptune – had orbits that peculiarly pointed in the same direction.

Over time, mathematical modeling and computer simulation led them to the conclusion that a planet was exerting the gravity necessary to shape these orbits.

Brown says, “There have only been two true planets discovered since ancient times, and this would be a third. It's a pretty substantial chunk of our solar system that's still out there to be found, which is pretty exciting.”

Already, Caltech is pretty confident Planet Nine is large enough to rule out any debate about whether it's a true planet – unlike Pluto, which got the boot in 2006.

Brown, who played a role in Pluto's demotion to a dwarf planet, says “all those people who are mad that Pluto is no longer a planet can be thrilled to know that there is a real planet out there still to be found. Now we can go and find this planet and make the solar system have nine planets once again.”

Depending on where Planet Nine is in its “bizarre, highly elongated orbit,” many telescopes have a shot at finding it. Brown would love to find a planet he helped discover, “but I'd also be perfectly happy if someone else found it. We hope that other people are going to get inspired and start searching.”

GEORGE CLAYTON JOHNSON DIES

Writer George Clayton Johnson died December 25, at the age of 86, reported Locus Online that day. Johnson is best known in the genre for co-writing *Logan's Run* – released in 1967 – with William F. Nolan, and for his work as a screenwriter. He wrote several episodes of *The Twilight Zone* as well as the debut episode of *Star Trek*, "The Man Trap."

Johnson was born July 10, 1929 in Cheyenne, WY. He served the Army before enrolling at the Alabama Polytechnic Institute under the GI bill, later dropping out to travel and work as a draftsman before becoming a writer. His first publication of genre interest was "All of Us Are Dying" in 1961, and some of his short work is collected in *All of Us Are Dying and Other Stories*.

The collection *Scripts and Stories Written for The Twilight Zone* appeared in 1977, and a collection of scripts and commentary, *Writing for The Twilight Zone*, in 1981. He also wrote the short story that formed the basis of the 1960 film *Ocean's 11*, and contributed scripts to *Alfred Hitchcock Presents* and other TV programs.

For more, see his entry in the Encyclopedia of Science Fiction.

PREACHER TV SERIES TO FILM IN NM

(AP) ALBUQUERQUE – The New Mexico Film Office reported in late January that production of the television series *Preacher* will begin February in Albuquerque.

Produced by AMC Studios and Sony Pictures Television, the series was developed for television by Seth Rogen, Evan Goldberg and Sam Catlin. It's based on the cult comic book of the same name published by Vertigo, an imprint of DC Comics. The series was created by writer Garth Ennis and artist Steve Dillon.

The comic book series consists of 75 issues in total – 66 regular, monthly issues, five one-shot specials and a four-issue *Preacher: Saint of Killers* limited series. The entire run has been collected in nine trade paperback editions. The final monthly issue, number 66, was published in October 2000.

Preacher is a supernatural, twisted and darkly comedic drama that follows a West Texas preacher named Jesse Custer, who is inhabited by a mysterious entity that causes him to develop a highly unusual power. Jesse, his badass ex-girlfriend Tulip and an Irish vagabond (vampire) named Cassidy come together and when they do, they are thrust into a crazy world populated by a cast of characters from heaven, hell and everywhere in between. Driven by a strong sense of right and wrong, Custer journeys across the United States attempting to literally find God, who has abandoned Heaven. He also begins to discover the truth about his new powers.

Dominic Cooper of *Captain America: The First*

Avenger will star as Custer. He'll be joined by Ruth Negga as Tulip, Joseph Gilgun as Cassidy, Lucy Griffiths as Emily, Ian Colletti as Eugene and Earl W. Brown as Sheriff Root.

The New Mexico Film Office says the production will employ at least 175 local crew members. "Albuquerque welcomes Preacher to our city. We support the movie industry, and the movie industry supports our economy; it's a great thing for everyone," said Mayor Richard J. Berry.

AMC has ordered 10 one-hour episodes. The series is expected to premiere later this year.

BUBONICON 48 WANTS INPUT

by Craig Chrissinger, con co-chair

We're a month and a half into 2016 now, believe it or not, and Bubonicon 48 is slightly more than six months away! Three-Day Passes go up February 14 to \$38 each, and remain so through May 14 (and then \$40 May 15-August 6). They can be purchased in person at club meetings – or by mailing payment (with the PDF pre-registration form from the website) to "Bubonicon Inc" at 933 San Mateo Blvd NE, Suite 500-208, Albuquerque, NM 87108; or by paying online with a credit card.

Bubonicon 48 takes place August 26-28 (our traditional weekend) after the Kansas City Worldcon at the Albuquerque Marriott Uptown, 2101 Louisiana Blvd NE, just north of I-40 – enter from the America's Parkway loop road. For the 5th year, the Marriott is offering sleeping rooms at \$99 single-quad occupancy, with free WiFi in sleeping rooms. Reservations are needed by August 15. That's 1-800-228-9290. Remember to tell them you're with Bubonicon.

And just like in the past, we're keeping all Room Parties on one designated floor – this year it's the 3rd Floor – with Jasmin Noorullah-Wright at the hotel and your con chairs (Caci Cooper and myself) being informed of such at least four days in advance. You can request the "party" floor, a quiet floor, or state you have no preference.

In addition to special guests Rachel Caine, David Gerrold, Joe R. Lansdale and artist Lee Moyer, we're expecting such con regulars as Robert Vardeman, Jane Lindskold, Darynda Jones, Victor Milan, S.M. Stirling, David Lee Summers and Walter Jon Williams, among others. All subject to change and travel plans, of course.

The con-com has to come up with at least 32 possible panel topics this month, and then we will send out invitations to potential participants in mid-March. We're asking for all Fan Programming proposals and preliminary requests for time/space to be submitted by Friday, April 22, so we have time for any questions or clarifications before we build the tentative schedule.

Some planned programming includes the Green Slime Awards, the mass autographing session, the usual two auctions, filking, a game show, the costume contest,

films, fan/video programming, and hopefully, the continuation of Kids programming (Jessica can use volunteer assistants). And Victor Milan probably will be, once again, the Master of Ceremonies for the Costume Contest on Saturday.

The theme for Bubonicon 48 is “Rockets, Robots & Rayguns,” with a look at their place in fiction and the real world. In keeping with tradition and to honor the memory of NM’s own Pioneer Author, we plan to make a financial donation to the (Jack) Williamson SF Library Collection at Eastern NM University, and also to the Roadrunner Food Bank, at least.

Dealers’ spaces will go on sale in early March! The rates are \$85 with a weekend pass, and \$120 with two. Since we only have 29 total spaces for sale, there is a maximum of two spaces per dealer, and spaces are not considered sold until payment and a signed contract are received. For more Dealer info, please email Dan Cooper at dealers@bubonicon.com (or bubonicon@gmail.com).

Meanwhile, Roslee Orndorff and staff are gearing up for the 2016 Art Show. As usual, art show packets will be available online mid- to late May. We don’t plan to mail out packets, but if you don’t have internet access we can take care of you. If that’s the case, please send a two-ounce paid SASE to the PO Box. Info is available from Roslee at artshow@bubonicon.com.

More general info is available from Craig at 266-8905, our Google Phone at 559-0931, the PO Box, at Charlie Fitch & Mike McCommas’ maintained website: www.bubonicon.com, and at bubonicon@gmail.com.

BOOK REVIEW CORNER

Radiance by Catherynne M. Valente, 2015 Tor Books, hc \$24.99, 432 pages.

Review by Jessica Coyle

Radiance is fantasy and children’s author Catherynne Valente’s first foray into science fiction. It is set in an alternative late 19th/early 20th century where people have populated all of the planets within our Solar System. It focuses on the film industry that has blossomed on the Moon, particularly the film maker Percival Unck and his daughter Severin. Percival makes popular silent films set on different planets, while Severin sets out to make true documentaries about big events on other worlds. While working on a documentary about a strange colony on Venus where all of the settlers have disappeared, Severin is killed and her crew returns in tatters. What happened to Severin Unck becomes an obsessive mystery for many people, and *Radiance* is an attempt to answer that question.

This book is a departure from Valente’s most recent works on the *Fairyland* series of books. The tale of Severin Unck’s life and disappearance is told in a very fractured manner, with the narrative skipping back and forth through time. While this makes it occasionally difficult to follow the story, Valente’s beautiful use of language and the intriguing world kept me reading. Valente’s solar system is a very fantastical, like something you’d find in the early science

fiction of Jules Verne or H.G. Wells; it is such a fascinating place that I found myself wishing that she’d been able to concentrate more on each of the places the novel visits.

Overall, *Radiance* is a challenging, fantastical, science fiction-esque book that is definitely worth the read for those looking for something different.

Staked: Iron Druid Chronicles Book 8 by Kevin Hearne, 2016 Del Rey, hc \$27.00, 310 pages.

Review by Caci Cooper

Staked, the eighth book in the *Iron Druid Chronicles*, focuses on three druids and their quest to preserve Gaia. Along with a couple talking Irish wolfhound sidekicks named Oberon and Orlaith. Oh, and a couple packs of were-wolves. And some Hammers of God with Cthulu-like beards that turn into tentacles. Don’t forget the vampires!

In this book, there really are three points of view: Atticus, Granualie and Owen, the three druids raising a ruckus and causing havoc while hoping from one part of the globe to the other. Disappointingly, for the vast part of the story the main characters spend all their time apart on their own adventures. Unfortunately I must contend that this book was much more of a play-by-play action event log than a romping comedy with action thrown in occasionally as in older books. This book has less spark and certainly less humor. Rumor has it that the ninth book will be the final book in the series, so I’m assuming that Kevin Hearne is attempting to wrap up some loose ends before having his druids walk off into the sunset.

Overall if you love reading the antics of Atticus and Oberon, Granualie and Orlaith, and Owen and Greta, then you’ll most likely enjoy this book. It has all your old favorites with at least an interesting storyline even if it felt fractured and very disjointed. I am interested in seeing how the story wraps up and what new baddie might lurk around the corner for our favorite druids.

Gentleman Jole and the Red Queen by Lois McMaster Bujold, 2016 Baen Books, hc \$27.00, 352 pages.

Review by Becky Davis

Lois McMaster Bujold books for me are like chocolate ice cream with toffee bits. *Gentleman Jole and the Red Queen* is labeled as “another Vorkosigan Saga.” Nope. Not a saga (if the definition is exploding star ships, rockets and valiant military heroes striving against impossible odds). It is a tale of maturation, recognition, old love, new love, and one or two small crises.

Cordelia Naismith, as Vicerine Vorkosigan, has returned to the planet she first mapped, and fought for with Aral Vorkosigan – Sergyar. Its original capital, Kareenburg, is “faulty” and inefficient. She wages battle against bureaucrats and encrusted planetary interests with an old friend, Admiral Oliver Jole of the Barryaran Imperial Fleet. Aral has died of an aneurism, and after three years, the great hole in Cordelia’s heart is finally beginning to heal. Jole had been right-hand-man (and lover) to Aral Vorkosigan during the long Regency and Viceroyalty. His love and deep loss are also beginning to heal.

The two old friends – she’s 72 (and Betan), he’s 50 (and Barryaran) – try to avoid their deep affection for each other. Until the middle of the book. Yes, readers, they slip

into love, and into the sack.

Meanwhile, Cordelia has a plan. Remember, Vorkosigans always have a plan. She and Aral had sequestered gametes at a reproduction clinic against the day they could gain a "normal" life to rear children. That never happened. Now, Cordelia can envision the day she resigns her Vicereine role to become a doting mama to two or three daughters. She even has a few spare "enucleated" eggs, which she offers to Jole. He can quicken them as sons on his own Barryaran bloodline, thus preventing contest with Miles and his own brood of five children. Who show up for an unannounced visit.

With very little apparent effort, Bujold has offered up Cordelia as planetary manager, as a "cougar," a younger lover [Jole], embryo children who will be younger than Miles' own children, Jole's children who might have a military career (and time in Miles' special army), an old bisexual love triangle, and one or two small crises to enliven the plot [they are yours to find, dear reader].

The book is more placid and domestic than *Captain Vorpatril's Alliance* and not as twisty and deep as *Cryoburn*. Miles Vorkosigan is a secondary character: father to his children; watching, but not (much) with Cordelia's choices and actions. (My feeling is that there are one or two books in Bujold's head about Aral's demise and how the Barryarans will deal with Cordelia and Jole's children, but they are not fully plotted). But right now, the steam has gone out of the "Vorkosigan Saga." A fine read. It reads like chocolate tastes. But it does not have the toffee bits.

Into the Dim by Janet B. Taylor, 2016 HMH Books for Young Readers, hc \$17.99, 432 pages. (To be published March 1.)

Review by Tanley McMullan

In Janet B. Taylor's novel, a fragile young girl goes to look for her mother, whom she thought was dead. It's the 12th century, in the age of Eleanor of Aquitaine. She finds out that she is a member of a secret society of time travelers. It is romantic, and rich with historical detail.

I noticed something about adult books. They meander. They will have great big chunks of chapters that don't have anything to do with the story. There was one book I read not long ago that spent a half a chapter on what the dog was thinking. He wanted to be fed and petted for half a chapter. There was another that spent the whole chapter on whatever, and the last paragraph in each had something to do with the story.

That's why I like Young Adult fiction. YA novels don't get off topic. When a dyslexic person wants to read a story but it takes three times as long as the average bear... well, we need it to be on topic.

Into the Dim took 15 chapters to get to the meat of the story. Fifteen *long* chapters. It would appear that gone are the days when the YA book gets to the story and to the point.

Having said that, getting past the extraneous dialog and descriptions of stuff, and getting down to the meat of the story, (if you can find it), it's a good book. It is full of history and excitement. Taylor paints an exciting picture of time travel. There is no magic, or sorcery, no UFOs – just time travel.

Now, I want to be a writer, but writing book reviews is

not my forte – but I will leave you with a spoiler. At the end, she wrote and I quote, "the end." So, this is the end.

ASFS MEETING REPORTS —

JUNE 2015: JON SANCHEZ SHOWS ART

Thirty-two people were on hand as local artist Jon Sanchez talked about his artwork and process. He started by showing time-lapse videos of his *Alien 3* poster and the whales from his *Star Trek IV* poster.

Then he showed off some of his rock band concert posters. "I designed a poster for a Fleetwood Mac concert contest, and I won," he said. "Mick Fleetwood signed a copy for me, and I got two tickets to see them in Las Vegas. That was very exciting."

He then showed slides of several pieces of poster art and color passes through the press for *Star Trek IV*, *Aliens*, a Raven design from *Game of Thrones*, *Arrow*, *Escape from New York* and *Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure*.

JULY 2015: SUMMER MOVIE NIGHT

Twenty-nine people came out for a Summer Movie Night of cartoon shorts and a cheesy feature film. Screened were *Tom & Jerry*'s "Down and Outing," the *Minions*' "Banana," and *Droopy Dog*'s "Deputy Droopy." The main feature was the 1957 Roger Corman flick, *Attack of the Crab Monsters*. Our favorite line of dialog? On the edge of a deep pit, Jim asks, "What could be down there besides earth, air, water and land crabs?" Good amusing silliness.

EDITOR NOTES TO FILL THIS SPACE

JUST GOT BACK from a couple of trips out of New Mexico. First a family reunion in Phoenix in January. I enjoyed our visits to the Desert Botanical Garden and the Musical Instrument Museum. Then the first weekend of February, we were in Estes Park, CO, for birthday celebrations. The view from our group cabin was beautiful, though the wind coming off the Rockies was cold. We saw four Elk near the cabin, played a lot of card games, walked around downtown Estes Park, and popped into the lobby of the Stanley Hotel, inspiration for Stephen King's *The Shining*. I want to go back there.

I'M WAITING NOW to find out whether I will be covering the Williamson Lectureship again for *Locus Magazine*. And I have two more book reviews to write for the *ABQ Journal*.

MEANWHILE, BUBONICON 48 is coming up. We're doing door prizes for *Lost Boys* Feb 19-20 at the Guild Cinema, and are co-sponsoring *Labyrinth Sun*, Feb 21 & Sat the 27th. Jon Sanchez is rushing to get a special poster done for these David Bowie tribute screenings! Please come join us...

GREEN SLIME RESEARCH time. Jessica & I need to see at least *Gods of Egypt* and *World of Warcraft* based on trailers. We're sure Devin's ASFS visit will provide more possibilities.

THANKS TO Caci, Becky, Jessica & Tanley for the book reviews! This newsletter needs more contributions. Please.

SEE YOU ALL in these pages in two months (deadline for submissions is Sun, April 10). Happy Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day. Beware the Ides of March & such. – Craig C.