

ASFACTS 2016

JULY "HOT IN THE CITY" SUMMER ISSUE

ROGERS & DENNING HOSTING PRE-CON PARTY

Patricia Rogers and Scott Denning will uphold a local fannish tradition when they host the Bubonicon 48 Pre-Con Party 7:30-10:30 pm Thursday, August 25, at their home in Bernalillo – located at 909 Highway 313.

The easiest way to reach the house is north on I-25 to exit 242 east (Rio Rancho's backdoor and the road to Cuba). At Highway 313, turn right to head north. Look for a cow crossing sign and Mile Marker 9. The house – with a mummy on the gate – is on the west side of the road. Please park your vehicle *on the shoulder* of Highway 313.

In addition to socializing, attendees can help assemble the membership packets, & check out the 2016 t-shirt with artwork by Lee Moyer.

Please bring snacks and drinks to share. Also welcome: plates, napkins, cups and some ice. As with any hosted party, please help keep the house clean and in good shape!



Thomas A. Mays declined the Hugo Award nomination for his short story, and John O'Neill at Black Gate declined the magazine's Hugo Award nomination for best fanzine - both citing desires not to be associated with the Rabid Puppy Slate, organized by Vox Day. They were replaced by "Cat Pictures Please" by Naomi Kritzer and *Lady Business*.

Day's Rabid Puppies slate initially placed 64 of its 81 recommendations on the final ballot before two slated items withdrew after the finalists were announced.

BEST NOVEL: *The Aeronaut's Windlass* by Jim Butcher, *The Fifth Season* by N.K. Jemisin, *Ancillary Mercy* by Ann Leckie, *Uprooted* by Naomi Novik, and *Seveneves* by Neal Stephenson.

BEST NOVELLA: *Penric's Demon* by Lois McMaster Bujold, *Binti* by Nnedi Okorafor, *The Builders* by Daniel Polansky, *Slow Bullets* by Alastair Reynolds, and *Perfect State* by Brandon Sanderson.

BEST NOVELETTE: "And You Shall Know Her by the Trail of Dead" by Brooke Bolander, "Folding Beijing" by Hao Jingfang, "Obits" by Stephen King, "What Price Humanity?" by David VanDyke, and "Flashpoint: Titan" by Cheah Kai Wai.

BEST SHORT STORY: "Asymmetrical Warfare" by S.

2015 NEBULA AWARDS WINNERS

The Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America announced the winners of the 2015 Nebula Awards on May 14, reports Locus Online. The winners are:

NOVEL: *Uprooted* by Naomi Novik, **NOVELLA:** *Binti* by Nnedi Okorafor, **NOVELETTE:** "Our Lady of the Open Road" by Sarah Pinsker, **SHORT STORY:** "Hungry Daughters of Starving Mothers" by Alyssa Wong, **ANDRE NORTON AWARD:** *Updraft* by Fran Wilde, and the **RAY BRADBURY AWARD:** *Mad Max: Fury Road* written by George Miller, Brendan McCarthy and Nick Lathouris.

The Awards were presented at a ceremony held in the Palmer House Hilton in Chicago on evening of May 14, emceed by the very entertaining John Hodgman.

2016 HUGO NOMINEES REVISED AFTER PUPPIES STRIKE AGAIN

Finalists for the Hugo Awards and for the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer were announced in late April by MidAmerican II, the 74th World Science Fiction Convention, to be held in Kansas City MO, August 17-21, 2016. Soon after, two substitutes had to be announced.

UPCOMING ASFS MEETINGS

- **Tonight:** Summer Film Fun with 1957's *Monster That Challenged The World* and cartoon shorts...
- **August 12:** Bubonicon 48 preview, possible B'con 49 action, and Game Night (bring a game to play).
- **September 16 (a week late):** It's All About the Cons! Bubonicon 48, Kansas City Worldcon & DragonCon reports.
- **October 14:** Election of three club officers & a Séance Talk from Benjamin Radford. Plus the Halloween issue of *ASFACTS* (deadline Sun, Oct 9).
- **November 11:** An interesting talk, we hope.
- **December 9:** Dessert Cook-Off and Holiday Film Shorts. Plus the annual issue of *SithFacts*.

Craig Chrissinger, normal editor. Darth Vader, guest editor each December. Please Send All Correspondence to — PO Box 37257, Albuquerque, NM 87176-7257. Phone: (505) 266-8905. E-mail: cwraig@nmia.com. *ASFACTS* published February, April, July & October for the Albuquerque SF Society. *SITHFACTS* out each December. **NEXT DEADLINE:** Sun, Oct 9. **Club Officers:** Jessica Coyle & Craig Chrissinger, co-Zec Secs (505) 266-8905. Geneva Schult, Moderator. Julie Heffernan, Alternator. HAL 9000, Advisor. **Bubonicon Chairs:** Caci Cooper (505) 559-0931 & Craig Chrissinger. www.bubonicon.com

R. Algernon, "Cat Pictures Please" by Naomi Kritzer, "Seven Kill Tiger" by Charles Shao, "If You Were an Award, My Love" by Juan Tabo & S. Harris, and *Space Raptor Butt Invasion* by Chuck Tingle.

BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION – LONG: *Avengers: Age of Ultron*, *Ex Machina*, *Mad Max: Fury Road*, *The Martian*, and *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*.

BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION – SHORT: *Doctor Who*: "Heaven Sent," *Grimm*: "Headache," *Jessica Jones*: "AKA Smile," *My Little Pony: Friendship Is Magic*: "The Cutie Map: Parts 1 and 2," and *Supernatural*: "Just My Imagination."

BEST RELATED WORK: *Between Light and Shadow: An Exploration of the Fiction of Gene Wolfe, 1951 to 1986* by Marc Aramini, *SJWs Always Lie: Taking Down the Thought Police* by Vox Day, "Safe Space as Rape Room" by Daniel Eness, "The Story of Moira Greyland" by Moira Greyland, and "The First Draft of My Appendix N Book" by Jeffro Johnson.

BEST GRAPHIC STORY: *Invisible Republic Vol 1: Hardman*, *Erin Dies Alone*, *The Sandman: Overture*, *The Divine*, and *Full Frontal Nerdy*.

BEST PROFESSIONAL EDITOR LONG FORM: Vox Day, Sheila E. Gilbert, Liz Gorinsky, Jim Minz, and Toni Weisskopf.

BEST PROFESSIONAL EDITOR SHORT FORM: John Joseph Adams, Neil Clarke, Ellen Datlow, Jerry Pournelle, and Sheila Williams.

BEST PROFESSIONAL ARTIST: Lars Braad Andersen, Larry Elmore, Michal Karcz, Abigail Larson, and Larry Rostant.

BEST SEMIPROZINE: *Beneath Ceaseless Skies*, *Daily Science Fiction*, *Sci Phi Journal*, *Strange Horizons*, and *Uncanny*.

BEST FANZINE: *Castalia House Blog*, *File 770*, *Lady Business*, *Superversive SF*, and *Tangent Online*.

BEST FANCAST: *Play*, *Cane and Rinse*, *HelloGreedo*, *The Rageaholic*, and *Tales to Terrify*.

BEST FAN WRITER: Douglas Ernst, Mike Glycer, Morgan Holmes, Jeffro Johnson, and Shamus Young.

BEST FAN ARTIST: Matthew Callahan, disse86, Kukuruyo, Christian Quinot, and Steve Stiles.

JOHN W. CAMPBELL AWARD FOR BEST NEW WRITER [Not a Hugo Award]: Pierce Brown, Sebastien de Castell, Brian Niemeier, Andy Weir, and Alyssa Wong.

There were 4,032 nominating ballots received from members of Sasquan, MidAmeriCon II, and Worldcon 75.

KING WINS EDGAR

"Obits" by Stephen King (included in *The Bazaar of Bad Dreams*) won the Edgar Award for Best Short Story, reported Locus Online in early May.

The 2016 Edgar Awards were presented by the

Mystery Writers of America in a ceremony held April 28 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in New York City.

As previously announced, Walter Mosley was named the 2016 Grand Master.

1941 RETRO HUGO BALLOT ANNOUNCED

Finalists for the 1941 Retro Hugo Awards, honoring work from 1940, were announced in late April by Mid-American II, the 74th World Science Fiction Convention, to be held in Kansas City MO, August 17-21. Among the nominees is New Mexico's own Jack Williamson!

BEST NOVEL: *Kallocain* by Karin Boye, *Gray Lensman* by E.E. Doc Smith, *Slan* by A.E. Van Vogt, *The Ill-Made Knight* by T.H. White, and *The Reign of Wizardry* by Jack Williamson.



BEST NOVELLA: "The Mathematics of Magic" by L. Sprague de Camp & Fletcher Pratt, "The Roaring Trumpet" by L. Sprague de Camp & Fletcher Pratt, "Coventry" by Robert A. Heinlein, "If This Goes On..." by Robert A. Heinlein, and "Magic, Inc." by Robert A. Heinlein.

BEST NOVELETTE: "Farewell to the Master" by Harry Bates, "Blowups Happen" by Robert A. Heinlein, "The Roads Must Roll" by Robert A. Heinlein, "It!" by Theodore Sturgeon, and "Vault of the Beast" by A.E. Van Vogt.

BEST SHORT STORY: "Robbie" by Isaac Asimov, "Tlön, Uqbar, Orbis Tertius" by Jorge Luis Borges, "Martian Quest" by Leigh Brackett, "The Stellar Legion" by Leigh Brackett, and "Requiem" by Robert A. Heinlein.

BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION – SHORT: *The Adventures of Superman*: "The Baby from Krypton," *The Invisible Man Returns*, *Looney Tunes*: "You Ought to Be in Pictures," *Merrie Melodies*: "A Wild Hare," and *Pi-nocchio*.

BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION – LONG: *Dr. Cyclops*, *Fantasia*, *Flash Gordon Conquers the Universe*, *One Million B.C.*, and *The Thief of Bagdad*.

BEST GRAPHIC STORY: *Batman #1* (Detective Comics), "The Origin of the Spirit" by Will Eisner, *Captain Marvel*: "Introducing Captain Marvel" by Bill Parker & C.C. Beck, *Flash Gordon*: "The Ice Kingdom of Mongo" by Alex Raymond & Don Moore, and *The Spectre*: "The Spectre"/"The Spectre Strikes!" by Jerry Siegel & Bernard Baily.

BEST PROFESSIONAL EDITOR SHORT FORM: John W. Campbell, Dorothy McIlwraith, Raymond A. Palmer, Frederik Pohl, and Mort Weisinger.

BEST PROFESSIONAL ARTIST: Hannes Bok, Margaret Brundage, Edd Cartier, Virgil Finlay, Frank R. Paul, and Hubert Rogers.

BEST FANZINE: *Futura Fantasia*, *Le Zombie*, *Nova-cious*, *Spaceways*, and *Voice of the Imagi-Nation*.

BEST FAN WRITER: Forrest J Ackerman, Ray Bradbury, H.P. Lovecraft, Arthur Wilson "Bob" Tucker, and Harry Warner.

There were 481 nominating ballots received from members of Sasquan, MidAmericon II, and Worldcon 75. The Best Professional Artist category has six finalists due to a tie for fifth place.

HELP NEEDED AT BUBONICON

It's true! Volunteers or "gofers" are needed to help out at Bubonicon 48 the weekend of August 26-28 at the Albuquerque Marriott Uptown. We're looking for people who can donate four, seven or even 12 hours of their time during the con to help things run smoothly and give committee workers much needed breaks from time to time.

It should be noted that gofers will not be handling money - that's for the Bubonicon staff. We especially need people to check badges/wristbands at doors to meeting rooms, the gaming space and the con suite this year.

Volunteer workers will be in a drawing on Sunday of the convention for various goodies liked signed books, toys, genre t-shirts, Guild Cinema passes and more!

The Volunteers (Gofers) Organizational Meeting will take place 7:30 pm Friday, August 19, at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, 5301 Ponderosa Ave NE (between San Mateo and San Pedro, south of Montgomery – enter through the North Door on the backside of the building). All attending volunteer workers at this meeting will receive some kind of promotional goods.

If you're willing to help us out, please email Angela Nybakke at volunteers@bubonicon.com.

GENRE BOOKS STILL DISCUSSED

The Droids & Dragons SF Book Group meets 7:30 pm Monday, July 18, at Pacific Paradise to discuss Uprooted by Naomi Novik. The group then recommends 2-4 books read in the last year but not discussed in group on August 15.

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 Bookstore in the Mountain Run Shopping Center.

Pacific Paradise Restaurant is located at the northeast corner of San Pedro and Candelaria NE. The group meets in the side room to the left once in the front door. For info, contact Leah at skycaptain1883@yahoo.com or Craig at 266-8905.

KATHERINE DUNN DIES

Writer Katherine Dunn died May 11 in Portland, OR, of complications from lung cancer, it was reported on Locus Online. She was 70 years old.

Dunn is best known for 1989's *Geek Love*, her influential literary horror novel about a family of circus sideshow performers (with touches of the paranormal). The novel was a bestseller and is an enduring cult classic, and was a finalist for both the National Book Award and the Bram Stoker Award. Earlier novels *Attic* and *Truck* are more mainstream.

Katherine Karen Dunn was born October 24, 1945, in Garden City, KS, and grew up in Oregon. She attended Portland State University and Reed College, and spent time traveling in Europe in the early '70s, where her first two novels were written – and her only son was born. She returned to Portland in the late '70s and held various jobs while also working as a reporter and columnist. A respected journalist, Dunn wrote for *The New York Times*, *Playboy*, *Vogue*, *The Los Angeles Times*, and many other publications, and was an acclaimed boxing reporter.

Other books include *Death Scenes: A Homicide Detective's Scrapbook*, a 1995 book of photography for which she wrote the text; *The Slice: Information with an Attitude*, collecting installments of a column she wrote for Willamette Week; and two books on boxing. A portion of her unfinished fourth novel *The Cut Man* (first announced in 1989) was published in *The Paris Review* in 2010.

Dunn is survived by son Eli Dapolonia and husband Paul Pomerantz, whom she married in 2012.

WORLDCON & NASFiC SITE BIDS

Two bids have been formally filed to host the 76th World Science Fiction Convention, to be held in 2018: New Orleans, LA, and San Jose, CA, Locus Online reported in early June.

Louisiana fan organization the Tricentennial Science Fiction Convention Fandom proposes to hold the Worldcon at the Hyatt Regency in New Orleans August 23-27, 2018.

San Francisco Science Fiction Conventions, Inc. (doing business as "San Jose in 2018") proposes to host the Worldcon at the McEnery Convention Center in San Jose August 16-20, 2018.

If New Orleans wins the 2018 bid election, then Bubonicon 50 will have to change weekend dates.

Two bids also have been filed to host the 2017 North American Science Fiction Convention (NASFiC). NASFiC happens whenever a Worldcon occurs outside of North America (as in the case of Worldcon 75, which will be held in Helsinki, Finland). The bids for the 2017 NASFiC are San Juan, PR, and Valley Forge, PA.

The Latin American Literary Society proposes to hold the NASFiC at the Sheraton Puerto Rico Hotel and Casino in San Juan July 6-9, 2017. And Valley Forge 2017 proposes to hold the NASFiC at the Valley Forge Convention Center August 17-20, 2017.

All attending and supporting members of MidAmeriCon II who have paid the Advanced Supporting Membership fee are eligible to take part in the site selection process. Ballots may be submitted by mail or in person at the convention. More details can be found at the MidAmeriCon II website.

BUBBA HO-TEP VISITS GUILD CINEMA

Bubba Ho-Tep, the 2002 horror comedy from writer Joe R. Lansdale (B48 Toastmaster) and director Don Coscarelli, will be screened 10:30 pm Friday, August 5 (only), at the Guild Cinema, 3405 Central Ave NE. Door prizes are being provided by Bubonicon 48 and Lobo Comics!

The film stars Bruce Campbell as an elderly Elvis who wakes up in an East Texas nursing home, where he befriends Jack (Ossie Davis), an African-American senior who claims to be President John F. Kennedy. After residents of their quiet retirement community start dying of dubiously unnatural causes, Elvis and Jack discover that the perpetrator is Bubba Ho-Tep, an Egyptian mummy with murderous intentions.

It's a hoot, and at just 92 minutes long, worth the visit to the Guild Cinema! All seats \$8.00. More info at www.guildcinema.com.

2016 LOCUS AWARDS WINNERS

The Locus Science Fiction Foundation announced the winners of the 2016 Locus Awards. on Saturday, June 25, 2016 during the Locus Awards Weekend in Seattle, WA. Among the winners was New Mexico's own George R.R. Martin for an anthology.

SCIENCE FICTION NOVEL: *Ancillary Mercy* by Ann Leckie, FANTASY NOVEL: *Uprooted* by Naomi Novik, YOUNG ADULT BOOK: *The Shepherd's Crown* by Terry Pratchett, FIRST NOVEL: *The Grace of Kings* by Ken Liu, NOVELLA: *Slow Bullets* by Alastair Reynolds, NOVELLETTE: "Black Dog" by Neil Gaiman, SHORT STORY: "Cat Pictures Please" by Naomi Kritzer,

ANTHOLOGY: *Old Venus* edited by George R.R. Martin & Gardner Dozois, COLLECTION: *Trigger Warning: Short Fictions and Disturbances* by Neil Gaiman, MAGAZINE: *Asimov's*, PUBLISHER: Tor, EDITOR: David G. Hartwell, ARTIST: Michael Whelan, NON-FICTION: *Letters to Tiptree* edited by Alisa Krasnostein & Alexandra Pierce, and ART BOOK: *Julie Dillon's Imagined Realms, Book 2: Earth and Sky* by Julie Dillon.

The Locus Awards are chosen by a survey of readers in an open online poll that runs from February 1 to April 15. All were welcome and everyone was invited to vote in the poll.

Connie Willis was MC for the awards ceremony. Weekend events included author readings with Willis and Stephen Graham Jones; a kickoff Clarion West party

honoring first week instructor Paul Park, Clarion West supporters, awards weekend ticket holders, and special guests; panels with leading authors; an autograph session with books available for sale courtesy of University Book Store; and a lunch banquet with the annual Hawai'ian shirt contest, all followed by a Locus party on Saturday night.

SAWYER RECEIVES CANADIAN HONOR

Robert J. Sawyer, Bubonicon 30 co-Guest of Honor, has been appointed to the Order of Canada, one of that country's highest civilian honors, in recognition of a lifetime of outstanding achievement, dedication to the community, and service to the nation. Sawyer was invested as a Member of the Order "for his accomplishments as a science-fiction writer and mentor and for his contributions as a futurist." The full list of recipients was released by Governor-General David Johnston on June 30.

STAR TREK'S ANTON YELCHIN DIES

(CNN) Actor Anton Yelchin, 27, who played Chekov in recent *Star Trek* movies, was killed in a freak accident early morning June 19, police told CNN. Yelchin, who also acted in *Like Crazy*, *Alpha Dog* and the remake of *Fright Night* (shot in New Mexico), died outside his home in Los Angeles, according to law enforcement.

Yelchin stepped out of his car in the driveway of his Studio City home at around 1:10 am when the car slid backwards and pinned him against a brick pillar and a security fence, causing trauma that led to his death, said Jennifer Houser with the Los Angeles Police Department.

"The victim was on his way to meet his friends for a rehearsal and when he didn't show up, his friends went to his house where they found him deceased by his car," Houser told CNN. "It appears that he momentarily left his car, leaving it in the driveway. He was behind the vehicle when it rolled backward and pinned him to the brick pillar causing the trauma that led to his death."

Houser said Yelchin's family was notified by the friends that found him. She did not know whether the car was running when he was found.

J.J. Abrams, whose Bad Robot Productions produced recent *Star Trek* features, took to twitter to voice dismay about Yelchin's death, saying: "Anton, you were brilliant. You were kind. You were funny as hell, and supremely talented. And you weren't here nearly long enough. Missing you..."

Other friends, actors and celebrities also took to social media with their condolences.

"Devastated to hear about the brilliant Anton Yelchin. He was thoughtful, kind, and gifted. My thoughts and prayers are with his family," posted Chris Evans.

The new *Star Trek* crew has been working together for the better part of a decade. They see each other as

more than colleagues or even friends – they are family. Zachary Quinto (Spock) was recently on *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert* to promote *Star Trek Beyond*, which comes out July 22, featuring a posthumous performance from Yelchin.

Colbert offered his condolences for this latest death in the family, just a year after the death of original Spock – Leonard Nimoy.

“Beautiful, beautiful guy,” Zachary commented. “I don’t even know how to talk about it. We already knew that this would be a really bittersweet experience because of the loss of Leonard last year, but this has just been absolutely devastating for all of us.”

Colbert noted that they had been working together since 2007 when they shot the first *Star Trek* movie.

“I think our goal has to be to just celebrate his incredible life and honor him as much as we can,” Zachary continued. “It’s a terrible loss, not just to us personally but to the industry and audiences. He was such a talent.”

TV's LOIS LANE DEAD AT 95

Noel Neill, best known for her role as Lois Lane in the 1950s series *Adventures of Superman*, died July 3 in Arizona after a long illness. She was 95 years old.

The actress’ friend, manager and biographer, Larry Ward, confirmed the news in a lengthy Facebook tribute.

Neill made her debut as TV’s Lois starting with Season 2, replacing Phyllis Coates in the role. She actually first played the icon reporter in the 1948 *Superman* film serial (opposite Kirk Alyn). She had cameos in the 1978 *Superman* film (which marked Christopher Reeve’s debut as the Man of Steel) as well as 2006’s *Superman Returns* (starring Brandon Routh).

“Her work in *The Adventures of Superman*... best defined and cemented her legacy as ‘the intrepid reporter.’” Ward wrote. “After years of playing bit parts in bad films and great roles in forgotten films, she finally found her niche. As a teenager she knew all about the newspaper business from her father and she had also actually written for *Women’s Wear Daily* in the late 1930s, so it was a role she believed she was born to play. And as she would admit in interviews later in life, she simply played herself.”

Ward added that Neill “maintained that bright, perky and engaging personality up until her death.”

ON THE CONVENTION FRONT:

BUBONICON 48 JUST SEVEN WEEKS AWAY

by Craig Chrissinger, co-chair

Bubonicon, New Mexico’s annual science fiction convention, celebrates its 48th edition August 26-28 at the Albuquerque Marriott Uptown, 2101 Louisiana Blvd NE (at I-40). More than 55 authors, artists, scientists,

filmmakers & fans will be participating in programming.

This year’s convention features special guest talent from the Old West and the West Coast. Guests of Honor for Bubonicon 48 are Texas novelist Rachel Caine (born in New Mexico) and California writer David Gerrold; Guest Artist is Lee Moyer of Oregon; and Toastmaster is Texas resident Joe R. Lansdale. And shuttle astronaut Sid Gutierrez recently was confirmed as the Science Speaker Guest. We also are blessed to have Stephen R. Donaldson with us throughout the weekend.

Proceeds from the Friday charity auction and a portion of any Bubonicon 48 profits will benefit the (Jack) Williamson Library Collection at Eastern NM University, and the local Roadrunner Food Bank.

Bubonicon 48 opens with Pre-Registered check-in 1:00-2:30 pm Friday the 26th, with regular registration open at 3:00 pm; and goes almost nonstop through 5 pm that Sunday. The first programming is at 4 pm, the same time the Art Show opens. The Con Suite and Gaming open at 5 pm.

The theme for the weekend is “Rockets, Robots and Rayguns.” The five tracks of programming at the Marriott are really full, so don’t be surprised if you’re torn between attending two or three panels/readings at a time!

Two Programming Notes – The Costume Contest is staying at 8:00 pm – with Jessica Coyle’s Green Slime Awards remaining at halftime; and the Afternoon Tea on Sunday will be split into two 60-minute sessions with 55 people at a time starting at 1:00 pm.

Of course, there’s Gaming in two rooms by the Art Show and also on the 2nd Floor, the usual Dealers Room, and the large Art Show space! And don’t forget about the hospitality suite – located on the 16th floor in a Suite with two adjoining sleeping rooms.

We need volunteer workers (gofers in con speak) to help us throughout the weekend (see separate blurb earlier in this newsletter). If you can help, please email Angela Nybakke at volunteers@bubonicon.com, or come to the meeting Friday, August 19, at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church on Ponderosa NE (home of ASFS).

Passes for the whole weekend are \$40 if purchased by August 6. After that, you’ll have to wait to pay \$45 at the door. Daily memberships are \$15 Friday, \$25 Saturday and \$15 Sunday. Youths 14-17 years old are \$23 for the whole weekend.



Children under 14 years are free when accompanied by an adult (or \$555 if left alone - of course, we'll call CYFD, too).

There are two ways to pay now! You can send payments with the registration form by August 6 to Bubonicon Inc at 933 San Mateo Blvd NE, Suite 500-208, Albuquerque, NM 87108; or you can use your PayPal account/Credit Card on our website (make sure to include the names for all passes purchased).

The Bubonicon 48 special \$99 room rate (single-quad occupancy) is only guaranteed through Monday, August 15, so get your reservation in now! 800-228-9290 to make your reservation.

Info is available from our Google voicemail at (505) 559-0931, Craig at (505) 266-8905, by email at bubonicon@gmail.com, or through the website at www.bubonicon.com.

UP NORTH:

ERNIE CLINE VISITS JEAN COCTEAU CINEMA

by Craig Chrissinger

Ernie Cline, Texas author of *Ready Player One*, visited the Jean Cocteau Cinema in Santa Fe on April 17 as part of his *Armada* trade paperback book tour. Cline came with a prepared talk and visual aids.

Cline said he was born in Ashland, Ohio, which he described as "like the town in *Footloose*. We could dance, but there was no reason to. There was pretty much nothing going on there."

He thought he was the only nerd in town, and his best friend was his brother, Eric. The two played *Star Wars* together. "I'm a year older, so I made him be the Empire," Cline noted. "He started getting into it. And now he's a Major in the Army. So, *Star Wars* was my introduction to science fiction, and it made me want to tell stories and make movies. I became obsessed with screenplays."

Cline said the technology that changed his life was his game console and VCR. "I discovered *Buckaroo Banzai* through the VCR, and it spoke to me. I forced all my movie geek friends to watch it, but they didn't get it. I decided I would write the sequel as a writing exercise because I knew the promised sequel, *Against the World Crime League*, would never get made since the original film made like eight dollars."

To his surprise, Cline's *Buckaroo* script, posted online, started getting notice in magazines - and he even bought a copy of the script in a Seattle comic book store.

Once he moved to Austin, TX, Cline started thinking about what would have happened if he hadn't lived to see *Star Wars: The Phantom Menace* in 1999. "I thought it was kind of a stupid idea, but I talked to friends about it," he said. "A few of my friends got it. So, I came up with a hero's journey of friends going across the country to get to the holy grail - a print of *The Phantom Menace*.

That became *Fanboys*. I tried to make it myself at first. Well, seven years after I wrote it, actor Kevin Spacey ended up with the script, and he wanted to produce it. Spacey called George Lucas and told him about it. Lucas said we could do it, use *Star Wars* imagery and sounds, and even shoot at Skywalker Ranch.

"It was an amazing experience," he continued. "The spirit of the movie is all those people who loved *Star Wars* getting to make a movie about their love of *Star Wars*."

Fanboys then hit some snags and was re-edited by executives at the Weinstein Company to remove the cancer storyline. This move was protested, and in 2008 the Weinstein Company told Cline that they could have the film back to finish it. "We got to do the final mix and sound at Skywalker Ranch," he noted. "The movie did okay, but it has found its audience on DVD."

With the negative experience in mind, Cline decided to try writing a novel instead. "*Ready Player One* took years to finish," he said. "I worked at a computer company during the day and then came home to sit in front of a computer again. When I finished it, I wasn't sure whether I could sell it. My film agent helped me find a book agent, and there was a bidding war over the book. A couple of days later, there was a bidding war over the film rights! Part of the deal was that I got to do the first two drafts of the script. I went to Warner Brothers and worked on the script before the book even came out.

"And now they're getting ready to shoot *Ready Player One* this June in London," Cline continued. "It won't be out until 2018. Simon Pegg will be in it, and I should be meeting with Steven Spielberg in the next month."

Talking about his latest novel, *Armada*, Cline said it was inspired by such things as Army drones being used to get rid of bombs, Heinlein juveniles, Activision's patch program, *Star Wars*, Space Invaders, Battle zone, *The Last Starfighter*, Ender's Game and the resurgence of sci-fi design.

"What if *Star Wars* and videogames at the time were planned with a purpose in mind?" he wondered. "What if skills gained in video games had real-world applications? What if sci-fi films of alien invasion were helping to psychologically prepare us for real invasion?"

Cline said he already has sold a third novel to Crown, but that he is working on the screenplay for *Armada* right now. He was planning to start on the new novel this summer. "It won't involve videogames," he joked. "I don't want to get pigeon-holed - but it should be a fun adventure."

Asked about his writing process, Cline said he writes an outline, usually in three acts because of his experience with screenplays. "I do leave myself room for surprises," he told the sold-out audience. "Sometimes the end changes, and sometimes characters may not make it to the end."

MASTER OF HORROR VISITS:

GRR MARTIN CONVERSES WITH STEPHEN KING

by Craig Chrissinger

As part of his *End of Watch* book tour, Master of Horror Stephen King stopped in Albuquerque June 16. This New Mexico stop was extra special, thanks to King being joined in conversation by Santa Fe's George RR Martin.

King and Martin have known each other for years, though they do not see each other now as often as they used to do so when both were attending World Fantasy Con and other horror/fantasy conventions.

King talked about finding some books from his father in his family's attic. "I saw *The Thing from the Tomb* by H.P. Lovecraft, and thought, 'That's what I want do,'" King said.

Talking about the process of writing and how both of King's adult sons have become authors, King commented, "Creativity is a mystery."

Both King and Martin talked about Joe Hill and his recent visit to the Jean Cocteau Cinema in Santa Fe for *The Fireman*, where Martin interviewed him. Martin said that Hill told him a story about Steve and his wife Tabitha being old hippies who would occasionally announce to their kids, "Tomorrow is naked day." So, Martin said, the kids would have to advert their eyes. King responded, "Not true! That shows how he fantasizes about things."

Going through some of their stories and plots, King told the audience, "George and I have told some sick shit. But instead of going to a shrink and paying them, we write these stories and you pay us."

Both authors realized that rats played a role in some of their earliest writings, with King noting, "Rats have been good to George and Steve." King wrote a story about rats against mill workers, "The Graveyard Shift." And Martin was given an assignment in high school to rewrite the ending of Edgar Allen Poe's "The Pit and the Pendulum." The Santa Fe put angered rats into the story, which delighted his classmates.

With time running out, King playfully asked Martin whether there was one question he had always wanted to ask. Taking a deep breath, Martin asked, "How to you fucking write so many books so fast? I've written three chapters in the last six months, and you've probably written three books in that time?" Massive applause rose from the audience of more than 2,300 people.

King replied that he tries "to do six pages a day. Sometimes life interferes, but I still do my best to reach that."

They then shook hands and bowed to the audience, who gave them a standing ovation.



BOOK REVIEW ROUND-UP

The Vagrant by Peter Newman, 2016 HarperCollins, tp \$16.99, 400 pages.

Review by Becky Davis

The Reader elected to fall on her metaphorical pen so as to bring other Readers a review of *The Vagrant*. Some injuries did occur. The Writer plots his story mostly through scenes, rather than narrative, much as a Programmer might craft a quest or a role playing game. Does the Writer want that online universe for his book?

The Reader is often confused by the dark depths of this dystopian world created by the Writer. It is inhabited by tainted half-humans and near-humans with grafted parts, evil "essence" and unnatural powers. To counter these grotesque enemies, the Vagrant, unnamed, friendless, has a bright, singing sword from a "Seraph Knight" named Gamma, a goat and a small, precious girl baby, soon to be named Vesper.

The Vagrant travels slowly from the twisted, blasted land in the south toward a near-mythical "Shining City" in the north. The Writer has made that city whole, clean, untainted, just and safe for "untainted" humans. Along his journey, the Vagrant must fight foul minions of this world's new owners: the Uncivil, the Usurper and the Commander. These twisted master creatures do battle with each other as well as any remaining humans. They all fear the Singing Sword of Gamma with its silver wings and baleful, judgmental eye.

The Writer plots much of the Vagrant's saga in flashback scenes. There were two squires who sought to become Seraph Knights. They loved the same rural girl. They fought a great battle the foul Commander brought to the girl's village, leaving everything devastated except the girl's newborn daughter.

All the characters, along with two companions for the Vagrant, end up at a great battle near a sea which leads to the Shining City. Layers of character are peeled back, source identities are exposed in the epic combat scenes. Emotions: hatred, love, compassion, dispassion do battle alongside the human and unhuman forces which seek final dominion over the Writer's blasted world.

A moment while the Reader pulls out the purple prose pen.

If you, dear Reader, like role-playing games, the *Mad Max* franchise, *The Book of Eli* (as the publisher suggests) or epic dystopian fantasies, you will enjoy this tale. It straddles a made-up world somewhere between a post-apocalyptic real world (it has plastic and rubber) and a fantasy world where swords sing and scream, humans graft on dead body parts like clothing, and babies only need to eat or be changed once a day. If you prefer more reality, wait for the Writer's next book to see what new world he creates.

Alliance of Equals by Sharon Lee & Steve Miller, 2016 Baen, hc \$25.00, 344 pages. Review by Roberta Johnson

If you're a longtime fan of Sharon Lee and Steve Miller and their Liaden universe, you'll recognize these worlds and most of the characters – starting with Shan yos'Galán, Master Trader on the ship Dutiful Passage. If you haven't read any of the many novels and short stories set in this universe, you're missing out, and you'll miss a lot of the cultural references when you read *Alliance of Equals*. I've clearly missed a few

myself, but I managed to follow the action. This is the newest novel in a long and entertaining series.

Shan's powerful Liaden trading family, Clan Korval, is currently a bit distressed after being driven from its home-world by a sinister clandestine operation called The Department of the Interior. The clan has resettled on frontier world Surebleak and is now trying to reestablish its business and reputation, building new trade routes and rebuilding old ones. The evil DOI, however, has not given up its attempts to destroy Korval, or bring it to the dark side. Shan's clan finds itself attacked on every world it visits.

This novel is mostly the coming-of-age story of Shan's daughter/heir/apprentice Padi, 16 and learning to be a trader like her father. I will admit my initial impression of Padi was of an arrogant little twit, but I came to quite like her. She's bright, impatient, does not suffer fools gladly, and is convinced that she is always, always right – pretty much your typical teenager. Additionally, besides undergoing the hormonal storms of puberty (thankfully not much described), she is coming into dangerous wizardly powers – which she is trying her best to deny and suppress. She's built an impressive personal wall against her own powers. We all know how that's going to work out – because, as everyone knows, it's dangerous to deny wizardly powers.

Her elders have their own magic with which they can help to some extent, but for the most part they can only watch, worry and try to guide her. All indications are that Padi will be an impressive power – if she survives.

Subplots, however, abound involving the many characters introduced earlier in the Liaden universe, such as the ancient Uncle who's rebuilding a couple of Liadens into new bodies, somewhat hindered by the machinations of a sapient tree with its own mysterious agenda; the education of a newborn artificial intelligence with too little information and too much power to be allowed loose; and an artificial human and his Yxtrang partner.

The action hopscoches around among the many characters, making it somewhat confusing at times. But the characters are sympathetic and strongly drawn, the action is exciting, and it's all drawn together by the Liaden concept of melant'i, which could be described as their Code of Ethics combined with rules of etiquette. Lee and Miller write wonderfully well-realized romantic science fiction/fantasy, and *Alliance of Equals* is well worth a read.

***Company Town* by Madeline Ashby, 2016 Tor Books, hc \$24.99, 288 pages.**

Review by Jessica Coyle

Madeline Ashby's *Company Town* is a stand-alone novel that creates an interesting dystopic future set in New Arcadia, a city-sized oil rig off of the coast of Canada. Her main character, Hwa, is an outcast in this society, one of the few people in New Arcadia living without bio-engineered enhancements. She has spent her whole life as an outcast from society because of a rare medical disorder, and she has turned this to her advantage by becoming an elite fighter and bodyguard. Hwa is hired by Lynch, Ltd., the family-run company that owns the oil rig, to become the personal bodyguard and self-defense instructor for the youngest son in the Lynch family. This new position sends her down a dark path of murder and corruption

as those close to her start to turn up dead. It also puts her in the path of Daniel, the Lynches' personal assistant with a mysterious path, and her possible love interest.

This is Ashby's first novel from a major publisher (she has two books in the *Machine Dynasty Trilogy* from Angry Robot), and it establishes her as an author to watch. The world that she creates is really nuanced and gritty, and the characters are fascinating. She does a particularly good job with Hwa, who manages to live in a world and know all about it while still seeming to be an outsider. I loved Hwa's interactions with the other characters, particularly her relationships with the Lynch son she has to protect, and with personal assistant Daniel. It is obvious from the beginning that Ashby intends Daniel and Hwa to have a romantic relationship, but I like that it happens without being a main focus of the book or even the only focus of the relationship.

The murder mystery plot drives the book forward interestingly, and it is well done enough that it isn't particularly obvious what is happening until the very end. Overall, I really enjoyed *Company Town* and would recommend it as a stand-alone read for those who like gritty dystopian futures or murder mysteries.

EDITOR NOTES THAT FIT THIS SPACE

- **DENVER COMIC CON** was so crazy that we only went one day. That was enough with the giant crowds. We did get to listen to Hayley (*Agent Carter*) Atwell and Cary (*Princess Bride*) Elwes. Both were charming, funny and very smart with their answers to questions. We also said hello to artist Rick Sternbach and author Peter David in the author/artist alley area. And Jessica's Batwoman costume (from DC Bombshells) looked great - several people asked to take her photo.

- **IF YOU GET A CHANCE**, go see the *RiffTrax MST3K Reunion Show* encore on Tuesday, July 12. It was so great to see the whole crew back together, and they did some funny riffing. During the show, Trace Beaulieu & Frank Conniff mentioned they would be in Denver at the end of July! So, we're headed back to Denver to see their live riffing show on July 30 at the Voodoo Comedy Playhouse! Should be great!

- **MY REPORT ON THE WILLIAMSON LECTURESHIP** was in the May issue of *Locus Magazine* with 2 photos! And apparently one of my photos from the Stephen King/George RR Martin conversation will be in the July issue... Now to get some more book reviews written for the *ABQ Journal*.

- **AT THE MOVIES**, we just saw *Independence Day: Resurgence*. Not bad enough for a Green Slime, but not nearly as good as the original. It is good to see Brent Spiner back again, along with Jeff Goldberg, Bill Pullman and Judd Hirsch. A tad of cheesy/clichéd dialog, but the special effects are very good. And *Finding Dory* and *The Secret Life of Pets* are both funny, cute, touching, and good. *Captain America: Civil War* is awesome! And another film not as horrible as feared? *Warcraft*, believe it or not! Looking forward to *Star Trek Beyond*, *Jason Bourne* and *Bubba Ho-Tep* (at the Guild Cinema Fri, Aug 5)...

- **THANKS** to Becky, Roberta & Jessica for book reviews. This newsletter really needs more stuff! Please, please.

- **LOOKS LIKE I'M** almost outta room. Guess that's it!

NEXT DEADLINE IS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9... -Craig C