



ASFACTS 2016



SPOOKTACULAR OCTOBER EDITION

2016 HUGO AWARDS ANNOUNCED

Winners for the Hugo Awards and for the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer were announced August 20, 2016, at MidAmericon II, the 74th World Science Fiction Convention, held in Kansas City, MO.

BEST NOVEL: *The Fifth Season* by N.K. Jemisin, BEST NOVELLA: *Binti* by Nnedi Okorafor, BEST NOVELETTE: "Folding Beijing" by Hao Jingfang, BEST SHORT STORY: "Cat Pictures Please" by Naomi Kritzer, BEST RELATED WORK: No Award,

BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION- LONG: *The Martian*, BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION- SHORT: *Jessica Jones*: "AKA Smile," BEST GRAPHIC STORY: *The Sandman: Overture* by Neil Gaiman & JH Williams III, BEST PROFESSIONAL EDITOR LONG FORM: Sheila E. Gilbert, BEST PROFESSIONAL EDITOR SHORT FORM: Ellen Datlow, BEST PROFESSIONAL ARTIST: Abigail Larson,

BEST SEMIPROZINE: *Uncanny*, BEST FANZINE: *File 770*, BEST FANCAST: No Award, BEST FAN WRITER: Mike Glycer, BEST FAN ARTIST: Steve Stiles, and JOHN W. CAMPBELL AWARD for Best New Writer [Not a Hugo Award]: Andy Weir.

The original ballot was revised May 6, 2016 when nominees Thomas A. Mays (short story) and Black Gate (fanzine) withdrew themselves from consideration. They were replaced by "Cat Pictures Please" by Naomi Kritzer, and *Lady Business*, respectively. There were 4,032 nominating ballots received from members of Sasquan, MidAmeriCon II, and Worldcon 75.

Several awards for services to SF fandom were also presented. FIRST FANDOM HALL OF FAME AWARD: Ben Bova and Joseph Wrzos, FIRST FANDOM POSTHUMOUS HALL OF FAME AWARDS: Olon F. Wiggins, Lew Martin and Roy V. Hunt, SAM MOSKOWITZ ARCHIVE AWARD: Stephen D. Korshak & Ned Brooks, and FORREST J ACKERMAN BIG HEART AWARD: Edie Stern & Joe Siclari.

1941 RETRO HUGO AWARDS WINNERS

Winners of the 1941 Retro Hugo Awards, honoring work from 1940, were announced August 18, 2016, at a ceremony at MidAmericon II, the 74th World Science

Fiction Convention in Kansas City, MO.

The Retro Hugos are awarded 50, 75, or 100 years after a Worldcon in which the Hugos were not previously awarded.

BEST NOVEL: *Slan* by A.E. Van Vogt, BEST NOVELLA: "If This Goes On..." by Robert A. Heinlein, BEST NOVELETTE: "The Roads Must Roll" by Robert A. Heinlein, BEST SHORT STORY: "Robbie" by Isaac Asimov, BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION - SHORT: *Pinocchio*, BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION - LONG: *Fantasia*, BEST GRAPHIC STORY: *Batman #1 (Detective Comics)*, BEST PROFESSIONAL EDITOR SHORT FORM: John W. Campbell, BEST PROFESSIONAL ARTIST: Virgil Finlay, BEST FANZINE: FUTURIA FANTASIA, and BEST FAN WRITER: Ray Bradbury.

New Mexico pioneer author Jack Williamson was nominated in two categories, but failed to win either one.

There were 481 nominating ballots received from members of Sasquan, MidAmericonII, and Worldcon 75.

WORLDCON & NASFIC SITES SELECTED

San Jose CA won the bid to host the 76th World Science Fiction Convention in 2018, beating a bid from New Orleans, LA, by a vote of 675 to 594. The convention will be held in the McEnery Convention Center in

UPCOMING ASFS MEETINGS

- **Séances Talk & Club Elections Tonight!** Investigator Benjamin Radford is here to talk about "Contacting the Dead: Séances from the Victorian Era to Modern Times" with visual aids. And then, three Offices need to be filled for January-December 2017, and the "theme/challenge ingredient" for December chosen (see below).
- **November 11:** Author Jane Lindskold visits.
- **December 9:** The 12th ASFS Dessert Cook-Off, and short SF-oriented holiday films. Plus, the annual issue of *SITHFACTS* will be distributed (deadline Mon, Dec 5). Clean-up help wanted!
- **January 13, 2017:** Club round-table discussion of what members read in 2016...
- **February 10:** A Talk of some sort, & *ASFACTS*.
- **March 10:** Perhaps the Annual Club Auction?

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: Mon, Dec 5.** **Club Officers:** Craig Chrissinger & Jessica Coyle, 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

San Jose, CA, on August 16-20, 2018. Guests of honor will include Chelsea Quinn Yarbro and Spider Robinson.

San Juan, Puerto Rico, has won the bid to host the 12th North American Science Fiction Convention (NASFiC) in 2017, beating a bid from Valley Forge, PA, by a vote of 233 to 182. NASFiC happens whenever a Worldcon occurs outside of North America. The convention will be called NorthAmeriCon '17, and will be held at the Sheraton Puerto Rico Hotel and Casino in San Juan, PR, on July 6-9, 2017. Guests of honor will include Daina Chaviano, Tobias S. Buckell, Brother Guy Consolmagno S.J., Javier Grillo-Marxuach, George Pérez, and Paula Smith.

2016 ALFIE AWARDS GIVEN OUT

For the second year, the Alfie Awards were presented during George R.R. Martin's Hugo Losers Party. They were held at midnight on August 20, 2016, at the Midland Theatre in Kansas City, MO. The awards, named in honor of Alfred Bester (whose *The Demolished Man* was the first ever novel Hugo Award winner), with trophies created using '50s hood ornaments, went to the top runner-up pushed off various categories of the Hugo Awards ballot by the Rabid Puppy slate, as well as several committee choices.

BEST SHORT STORY: "Hungry Daughters of Starving Mothers" by Alyssa Wong, **BEST RELATED WORK:** *Letters to Tiptree* edited by Alisa Krasnostein & Alexandra Pierce, **BEST GRAPHIC NOVEL:** *Bitch Planet Vol 1: Extraordinary Machine* by Kelly Sue DeConnick, Valentine De Landro, Taki Soma & Robert Wilson, **BEST ARTIST:** Julie Dillon, **BEST FANZINE:** *Journey Planet*, **BEST FANCAST:** *Tea and Jeopardy* by Emma & Peter Newman, **BEST FAN WRITER:** Alexandra Erin, **SPECIAL COMMITTEE AWARD:** *Black Gate*, and **SPECIAL COMMITTEE AWARD:** *Locus Magazine*.

SF BOOK GROUP READS ON

The Droids & Dragons SF Book Group meets 7:30 pm Monday, October 17, at Jason's Deli (northwest corner of Louisiana & America's Parkway NE) to discuss *Lock In* by John Scalzi. The group then meets November 21 to talk about *Foreigner* by C.J. Cherryh.

Meetings of D&D are open to all interested readers

on the 3rd Monday each month. Books for discussion are chosen two months in advance, and group members receive a 20% discount on them. For more info: Leah at skycaptain1883@yahoo.com or Craig at 266-8905.



GUNN RECEIVES TEACHING AWARD

SFWA Grand Master James Gunn received an award from the Western Colorado State University, Locus Online reported in August. Gunn is Emeritus Professor of English at the University of Kansas, where he also created the Center for the Study of Science Fiction.

The Writing the Rockies Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in the Teaching of Creative Writing goes each year to a committed, accomplished teacher and writer who demonstrates decades of devotion to students.

The award was presented on July 20, 2016, in the University Center Ballroom in Gunnison, CO.

GREEN SLIME AWARDS HANDED OUT

In a ceremony August 27 at Bubonicon 48 at the Albuquerque Marriott Uptown Hotel in Albuquerque, NM, Green Slime Mistress Jessica L. Coyle (with assistance from the Slime Time Puppets) presented the following with recognition of their wretchedness in the last 12 months:

SF Novel: *Finches of Mars* by Brian W. Aldiss (Bunch of scraps thrown together with inane ideas; narrative lacks cohesion and there is no plot; characters talk like sophomore philosophy majors; misogynistic & sexist misconceptions.)

Comics: Fan reaction to *Steve Rogers: Captain America #1* (Rogers secretly a Hydra deep cover agent – It's not the end of an icon, folks, so chill out. Let's see where the story goes.)

Television: *Containment* on The CW (Uninspired; no interesting characters, story or a modicum of tension; lackadaisical and plods forward with no vitality or spark.)

Direct To Video: *Cell* (Draggy & disorganized; a point seems to be made, but what is it; ho-hum zombie picture; cheap-looking, poorly lit & with erratic shaky-cam; bare-boned Stephen King story with lack of clarity; John Cusack sports a Nic Cage-level bad haircut.)

YA Movie: *Jem & the Holograms* (Corny, teen angst; cynical & confused, mediocre; often resembles a mockbuster of itself, with little of the original cartoon's premise left intact.)

Fantasy Movie: *Gods of Egypt* (One of the worst costume epics imaginable; CGI looks cheap and sometimes shoddy; it falls flat and is outlandish; never quite embraces its potential lunacy; a lot of white people for ancient Egypt; Gerald Butler looks & sounds very out of place.)

Superhero Movie: *Batman v Superman* (Too dark & serious, ponderous & smothering; sense-numbing, joy-bludgeoning and soul-deadening 152-minute over-

plotted mayhem; simply no fun and drained of joy; no real reason for the two DC superheroes to fight; Jesse Eisenberg's twerpy take on Lex Luthor is almost unwatchable.)

2016 MYTHOPOEIC AWARDS WINNERS

The Mythopoeic Society announced the 2016 Mythopoeic Awards winners at Mythcon 47, August 7, 2016, in San Antonio, TX. Among the winners was Bubonicon 49 Toastmistress Ursula Vernon.

MYTHOPOEIC FANTASY AWARD FOR ADULT LITERATURE: *Uprooted* by Naomi Novik, MYTHOPOEIC FANTASY AWARD FOR CHILDREN'S LITERATURE: *Castle Hangnail* by Ursula Vernon, MYTHOPOEIC SCHOLARSHIP AWARD IN INKLINGS STUDIES: *Charles Williams: The Third Inkling* by Grevel Lindop, and MYTHOPOEIC SCHOLARSHIP AWARD IN MYTH AND FANTASY STUDIES: *The Evolution of Modern Fantasy: From Antiquarianism to the Ballatine Adult Fantasy Series* by Jamie Williamson.

2016 DRAGON AWARDS WINNERS

Winners of the inaugural Dragon Awards were announced at Dragon Con, held September 2-5, 2016, in Atlanta, GA, reports Locus Online. Among the winners were several nominees put up by the Sad or Rabid Puppies for possible Hugo Award consideration.

BEST SCIENCE FICTION NOVEL: *Somewhither: A Tale of the Unwithering Realm* by John C. Wright, BEST FANTASY NOVEL: *Son of the Black Sword* by Larry Correia, BEST YOUNG ADULT/MIDDLE GRADE NOVEL: *The Shepherd's Crown* by Terry Pratchett, BEST MILITARY SCIENCE FICTION OR FANTASY NOVEL: *Hell's Foundations Quiver* by David Weber, BEST ALTERNATE HISTORY NOVEL: *League of Dragons* by Naomi Novik, BEST APOCALYPTIC NOVEL: *Ctrl Alt Revolt!* by Nick Cole, BEST HORROR NOVEL: *Souldancer* by Brian Niemeier,

BEST COMIC BOOK: *Ms. Marvel*, BEST GRAPHIC NOVEL: *The Sandman: Overture* by Neil Gaiman & J.H. Williams III, BEST SCIENCE FICTION OR FANTASY TV SERIES: *Game of Thrones*, and BEST SCIENCE FICTION OR FANTASY MOVIE: *The Martian*.

Voting was open to the public at the Dragon Awards website. Winners in various gaming-related categories were also announced.

VALENTE WINS EUGIE AWARD

"The Long Goodnight of Violet Wild" by Bubonicon 47 co-Guest of Honor Catherynne M. Valente won the inaugural Eugie Foster Memorial Award for Short Fiction (the Eugie Award), which "honors stories that

are irreplaceable, that inspire, enlighten, and entertain."

The announcement was made at Dragon Con, held September 2-5, 2016 in Atlanta, GA. The award celebrates "the best in innovative fiction" and honors writer and editor Eugie Foster, who died in 2014.

Other finalists were: "Three Cups of Grief, by Starlight" by Aliette De Bodard, "The Deepwater Bride" by Tamsyn Muir, "Pocosin" by Ursula Vernon, and "Hungry Daughters of Starving Mothers" by Alyssa Wong.

Speculative short stories published in 2015 were eligible for the award, with nominations made by a panel of editors, reviewers, and select readers, and the winner chosen by a jury.

2016 PROMETHEUS AWARD WINNERS

The Libertarian Futurist Society announced in mid-July the winner of the 2016 Prometheus Award for Best Novel, honoring works published in 2015 that "examine the meaning of freedom." Best Novel went to *Sevneves* by Neal Stephenson.

They also announced the winner of the Hall of Fame Award, "given in recognition of a classic work of science fiction or fantasy with libertarian themes" - *Courtship Rite* by Donald M. Kingsbury, published in 1982.

A Special Award was given to *Alex + Ada* by Jonathan Luna and Sarah Vaughn (Image Comics).

The awards actually were presented in a ceremony during MidAmeriCon II, the 74th Worldcon, August 17-21, in Kansas City, MO.

BENFORD WINS FORRY AWARD

The Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society (LASFS) has selected Gregory Benford as this year's recipient of the Forry Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Field of Science Fiction, reported Locus Online in October.

The award, named for Forrest J Ackerman, has been presented annually since 1966. Past winners include Ray Bradbury, Andre Norton, Roger Zelazny and Connie Willis.

DAVID A. KYLE DIES

Author, illustrator and fan David A. Kyle died September 18 of complications from an endoscopy, Locus Online has reported. He was 97 years old.

Kyle was a member of First Fandom, active in SF since 1933, and a founding member of the Futurians. He chaired NYCon II, the 14th Worldcon in 1956, and was fan guest of honor ConStellation, the 41st Worldcon, in 1983. Kyle published countless essays and letters in fanzines, and illustrated covers & interiors for many books. He received the Big Heart Award in 1973, and was in-

ducted into the First Fandom Hall of Fame in 1988.

Kyle co-founded Gnome Press with Martin Greenberg in 1948, one of the premier small presses of the era, and designed many of the dust jackets for their publications. The press closed in 1962. He wrote the text for two extensively illustrated books on SF: BSFA Award winner: *A Pictorial History of Science Fiction* in 1976, and *The Illustrated Book of Science Fiction Ideas and Dreams* the next year. He was an occasional fiction writer, with first story “Golden Nemesis” appearing in *Stirring Science Stories* in 1941; he also illustrated the piece. He wrote three books set in his friend E.E. “Doc” Smith’s *Lensman* series: *The Dragon Lensman*, *Lensman from Rigel* and *Z-Lensman*.

David Ackerman Kyle was born February 14, 1919, in Monticello, NY. He married fellow fan Ruth Evelyn Landis in 1957 (they met at a convention), and they went to the Worldcon in England for their honeymoon on a specially chartered flight with friends and family. She predeceased him in 2011. Kyle is survived by a son, a daughter and grandchildren.

2016 WORLD FANTASY FINALISTS

The World Fantasy Awards Ballot for works published in 2015 were announced in mid-July. The awards will be presented during the World Fantasy Convention, October 27-30, 2016, in Columbus, OH. The Lifetime Achievement Awards, presented annually to individuals who have demonstrated outstanding service to the fantasy field, will go to David G. Hartwell and Andrzej Sapkowski.

The World Fantasy Awards finalists are:

Novels: *The Buried Giant* by Kazuo Ishiguro, *The Fifth Season* by N.K. Jemisin, *Uprooted* by Naomi Novik, *Savages* by K.J. Parker, *The Chimes* by Anna Smaill, and *A Head Full of Ghosts* by Paul Tremblay.

Long Fiction: *The Unlicensed Magician* by Kelly Barnhill, “The Pauper Prince and the Eucalyptus Jinn” by Usman T. Malik, “Guignol” by Kim Newman, “Waters of Versailles” by Kelly Robson, and “Farewell Blues” by Bud Webster.

Short Fiction: “The Neurastheniac” by Selena Chambers, “Pockets” by Amal El-Mohtar, “The Heat of Us: Notes Toward an Oral History” by Sam J. Miller, “The Deepwater Bride” by Tamsyn Muir, and “Hungry Daughters of Starving Mothers” by Alyssa Wong.

Anthology: *The Doll Collection* edited by Ellen Datlow, *Black Wings IV* edited by S.T. Joshi, *She Walks in Shadows* edited by Silvia Moreno-Garcia & Paula R. Stiles, *Cassilda’s Song* edited by Joseph S. Pulver, and *Aickman’s Heirs* edited by Simon Strantzas.

Collection: *Bone Swans* by C.S.E. Cooney, *Leena Krohn: Collected Fiction* by Leena Krohn, *Skein and Bone* by V.H. Leslie, *Get in Trouble* by Kelly Link, *Reality by Other Means: The Best Short Fiction of James*

Morrow by James Morrow, and *You Have Never Been Here* by Mary Rickert.

Artist: Richard Anderson, Galen Dara, Julie Dillon, Kathleen Jennings, and Thomas S. Kuebler.

Special Award, Professional: Neil Gaiman, Dave Stewart, & J.H. Williams III for *The Sandman: Overture*, Stephen Jones for *The Art of Horror*, Robert Jordan, Harriet McDougal, Alan Romanczuk, & Maria Simons for *The Wheel of Time Companion*, Joe Monti for contributions to the genre, and Heather J. Wood for *Gods, Memes and Monsters: A 21st Century Bestiary*.

Special Award, Nonprofessional: Scott H. Andrews for *Beneath Ceaseless Skies*, Jedediah Berry & Eben Kling for *The Family Arcana: A Story in Cards*, John O’Neill for *Black Gate*, Alexandra Pierce & Alisa Krasnostein for *Letters to Tiptree*, Lynne M. Thomas & Michael Damian Thomas for *Uncanny*, and Helen Young for Tales After Tolkien Society.

WONDER WOMAN BECOMING OFFICIAL UN AMBASSADOR

by James Whitbrook, io9.com, 10-11-16

Not Gal Gadot, or Lynda Carter, or the multitude of voice actors, writers and artists that have lent their talents to DC’s premier female hero over the last 75 years. The actual fictional character – Wonder Woman – is becoming an honorary leader in the UN’s efforts to bring gender equality to the world.

Announced October 11 by the United Nations, Wonder Woman will be officially “sworn in” as the UN Honorary Ambassador for the Empowerment of Women and Girls at an event at the UN Headquarters on October 21st, attended by Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, DC Entertainment President Diane Nelson, and a host of other guests.

The event, part of DC’s ongoing celebration of Diana Prince’s 75th anniversary, will launch a new UN initiative (presumably spearheaded by Wonder Woman in her new “role”) to support the UN’s fifth sustainable development goal, the equal treatment and empowerment of women and girls across the world. A champion of love, truth, and justice like Diana seems like the perfect woman for the job, really.

2017 HUGOS TO TEST BEST SERIES

Worldcon in Helsinki, the 75th World Science Fiction Convention, will include a special trial Hugo Award category for Best Series, Locus Online has reported.

Fans voted in August 2016 to trial a new Hugo award for “Best Series,” which could be added in 2018. Each Worldcon Committee has the authority to introduce a special category Hugo award, and Worldcon 75 has

decided to test “Best Series” in 2017. This follows the precedent of the 2009 Worldcon, which trialed “Best Graphic Story” before it became a regular Hugo the following year. Fans at Worldcon 75 will be able to decide whether to ratify the “Best Series” for future years and suggest revisions to the award definition at the World Science Fiction Society Business Meeting held in Helsinki during the convention.

For eligibility, a series is defined as “a multi-volume sci-fi or fantasy story, unified by elements such as plot, characters, setting, and presentation, which has appeared in at least three volumes consisting of a total of at least 240,000 words by the close of the calendar year 2016, at least one volume of which was published in 2016.”

Worldcon 75 will be held August 9-13, 2017, in Helsinki, Finland. Guests of Honor are John-Henri Holmberg, Nalo Hopkinson, Johanna Sinisalo, Claire Wendling, and Walter Jon Williams.

ATWELL TO RETURN AS AGENT CARTER

by James Whitbrook, io9.com, 10-10-16

Good news, everyone! Hayley Atwell officially has more Agent Carter in her future. However, it’s perhaps not in the form that you were hoping for.

First revealed at Marvel’s animation panel at New York Comic Con October 6-9, Atwell will reprise her beloved role as Peggy Carter, but not in a surprise return of her own show, or in an upcoming movie: she’ll lend her voice to the animated version of Peggy in an upcoming episode of *Avengers Assemble*’s next season, *Avengers: Secret Wars*.

The episode, which will also feature Howard Stark (however, unlike Atwell, Dominic Cooper was not confirmed to reprise his role), sees Peggy team up with Captain America and Iron Man through the wonders of time travel, in order to stop a deadly threat from Kang the Conqueror. It might not be the return to the role fans really want — but hey, we’ll take more Agent Carter when we can get it.

BUBONICON 48 HELD ON NORMAL WEEKEND, LOWER ATTENDANCE 5TH YEAR AT MARRIOTT

With 751 attendees, Bubonicon 48 saw a lower-than-normal turnout after historic attendance in 2015 and 2013. Still, the weekend of “Rockets, Robots & Rayguns” was very successful, with some money targeted for various capital improvements.

In the end, Bubonicon 48 donated \$6,000 to non-profit organizations. The Williamson Library Collection at Eastern NM University received \$2,300, the local Roadrunner Food Bank was given \$2,200, the Albuquerque Public Library Foundation received \$1,000, and

\$500 was given to New Mexico PBS.

Bubonicon 48 saw seven new programming participants – Jayne C. Aubele, Jeremy Brett, Vincent Docherty, Sid Gutierrez, Dianna Sanchez, Steve Stiles and Corie Weaver; plus the return of Stephen R. Donaldson, Andy Kuhn, Laura J. Mixon, Warren Spector, and Connie & Courtney Willis.

Well-received programming included the 13th Annual Afternoon Tea, Sid Gutierrez’s science talk, George RR Martin and Stephen R. Donaldson’s readings, the “Soylent Green” panel, Benjamin Radford’s “Séances” talk, Friday’s Charity Auction with the staff dressed up, Connie Willis & Melinda Snodgrass’ “Razzle Dazzle” workshop, “When Hollywood Comes Knocking” panel, Lee Moyer’s slide show, Darynda Jones’ “Sex Talk” workshop, the “Ask a Scientist” panel, the “Con Connections” panel, the Costume Contest and Green Slime Awards, Opening & Closing Ceremonies, and the Co-Guests of Honor presentation.

The Art Show had 54 artists displaying their wares with sales of \$12,829 – 30.7 percent of all artwork entered was sold. The Sunday Auction was down a tad from 2015 with sales of \$1,571 (*Froomb* went for just \$30). Of that, 59.1 percent went to Bubonicon. Friday’s Charity Auction was up from 2015, raising an impressive \$1,399.

Bubonicon 48 marked the 5th year at the Albuquerque Marriott Uptown, and all went very well, with no issues to report – other than the new cooling units are very, very efficient (a note has been made for the future). More than ever before, it’s true that a large percentage of the hotel staff are closet fans!

COSTUME CONTEST AWARDS: Best of Show was Duct Tape Gender Bender (Geneva Schult), Best of Theme was Saturn Five (Julie Heffernan), Best Workmanship was Dr. Who and K-9 (Karen Lopez), Best Presentation was Space Marshals and “The Beast from Dimension X” (Jacqueline Ortega, John Sumrow & Steve Riley), and Best Villains were Ming the Merciless and General Kala (Ken & Jackie Coombes).

ART SHOW AWARDS: Professional to Peri Charlifu, Amateur to Kaade Roberts, Student to Jonathan Hernandez, and Beast of Show (theme) to Maia Saunders.

All in all, the con went very well thanks to every individual who pitched in! So, a tip of the con-com’s hats to everyone who contributed their time & efforts!

BUBONICON 49 will be held August 25-27, 2017 – normal weekend – at the Albuquerque Marriott Uptown (Louisiana & I-40), with Guests of Honor C.J. Cherryh & Sherwood Smith, Toastmistress Ursula Vernon, and Guest Artist Elizabeth Leggett. Rooms are \$99 single-quad with free WiFi in sleeping rooms. Con chairs are Craig Chrissinger and Caci Cooper once again.

Good luck to the 2017 team during their sixth year at the Marriott (suggestions/program ideas are being taken now at bubonicon@gmail.com).

BOOK REVIEW ROUND-UP

***Ghost Talkers* by Mary Robinette Kowal, 2016 Tor Books, hc \$24.99, 304 pages.**

Review by Jessica Coyle

I was very excited to receive the new stand-alone novel by Mary Robinette Kowal, author of the *Glamourist Histories* and one of my favorite writers. *Ghost Talkers* is set during World War One, and it follows Ginger Stuyvesant, a Medium for the top-secret Spirit Corps, a part of British Intelligence. Each British soldier heading for the front is conditioned to report to the mediums of the Spirit Corps when they die so the Corps can pass instant information about troop movements to military intelligence.

When Ginger receives a report from her fiancé, Captain Benjamin Harford, she discovers that there is a traitor in their midst that is revealing information about the Spirit Corps to the Germans. Ginger struggles to reveal the traitor while trying to figure out who she can trust and how to stay one step ahead of danger.

Ghost Talkers is a great read. Fast-paced and action-packed, it also gives a lot of great historical information about World War One and about Spiritualism in the early 20th century. I highly recommend it.

***Age of Myth: Legends of the First Empire 1* by Michael J. Sullivan, 2016 Del Rey, hc \$26.00, 432 pages.**

Review by Geneva Schult

Michael J. Sullivan has a popular, best-selling series online at riyria.com. *Age of Myth* is a prequel to that series, set thousands of years in the past of the world of Elan. For readers new to Sullivan's work, this would be an excellent starting point. If you want fun, action-filled adventures, you really can't go wrong with his books. While not always groundbreaking, they do frequently offer fresh twists on the old-school heroic fantasy tradition. This epic fantasy, likened to the works of Brent Weeks and Brandon Sanderson online, features, among other races, humans and a god-like, seemingly-immortal race called Fhrey.

When a man sees his father struck down before him, he attacks and inconceivably (yes, that word means what you think it means) kills the Fhrey responsible. Once I became enmeshed in the story, I had a hard time putting it down. The world-building is very well done. I also enjoyed a plethora of strong female characters, which are possible since this is NOT Earth's medieval period. Sullivan completely finishes his series before publishing them, so this is book One of Five, all of which have been written already (I have seen online rumors of Book Six). It's exciting to know that the entire series has already been written, but also aggravating that I can't get my hands on the sequel until next year.

The story is told with three distinct voices. The three story-lines meet towards the middle and the end of this

book. If you enjoy epic fantasy, and are perhaps hungering for something with timeless appeal, then I highly recommend picking up *Age of Myth*. NOTE: While classified as "Fantasy," this book reads like "YA" since the author began writing the stories for his teenage daughter.

***The High Ground: Imperials 1* by Melinda Snodgrass, 2016 Titan Books, tp \$14.95, 356 pages.**

Review by Craig W. Chrissinger

In *The High Ground*, NM author Snodgrass takes her shot at writing a space opera book and largely succeeds. *High Ground* is the first book in a planned five-book series, and it reads like the first season of a TV show. We get to see the main characters – Princess Mercedes and Tracy – as cadets at the elite training academy of the Solar League's Star Command. They obviously are young adults – acting as such in their relationships, their flirtations, how they feel about their parents and instructors, and how they learn.

In this universe, humans have spread through the universe with Fold technology and Earth has mostly been forgotten. The politics are very class-based and women are seen as second-class citizens to be protected. They certainly should not be in the military! At least until the Emperor only has daughters, none of which can inherit his crown under the current rules. In order to become his successor, she must prove herself by getting through training at the High Ground. On the other hand, Tracy is lower-class, the son of a tailor. He only gets into the High Ground because of a scholarship program. A program that most of his classmates do not feel should exist.

Mercedes and Tracy's paths cross, of course, and there is a mutual attraction. They don't act inappropriately, but their relationship is frowned upon and must be hidden as much as possible.

Unfortunately for them, Mercedes needs to find an appropriate consort – young love be damned – and there are elements that don't want her to graduate from the High Ground. If she succeeds, it challenges the status quo and opens closed doors for young women. At the same time, Tracy has been given a covert assignment to investigate the disappearance of Solar League spaceships. What can it mean? And among the alien races that humans have conquered, resentment is growing.

A civil war is brewing in the background, and by the time Mercedes, Tracy and friends have to fight for survival at their academy, it is very clear that civil war will become the focus of future books in the Imperials series. Our characters will be tested.

The High Ground is a beginning, and an introduction to a well-developed world filled with characters that are bound to grow even more interesting as the story moves forward. It is well written and a fast read. It's a space journey worth taking.



ASFS MEETING REPORTS —

OCT 2015: BENJAMIN RADFORD TALKS

Twenty-six people were on hand to hear local skeptical reporter Benjamin Radford talk about “Slaying the Vampire.” Radford said that the Chupacabra legend is unique. Unlike Bigfoot or Nessie, it’s a vampire and it sucks blood. Which means it should leave bloodless victims. And, Radford commented, he lives in New Mexico.

Chupacabra means “goat sucker” in Spanish, and it is the world’s third best known monster. It is known for what it leaves behind, said Radford – dead animals. Descriptions depend on which book or eyewitness you believe. Sometimes it has wings, sometimes not. Its height varies. The most common features are wide, wrap-around eyes and spikes down the spine.

Radford said there seem to be three types of Chupacabra – the bipedal alien of Puerto Rico (first seen in 1995), American hairless dogs/canine-types that showed up about 2000, and grab bag – basically any hairless, weird dead thing.

While it’s not that hard to find fictional Chupacabra in films, cheap models and fetus on eBay, and in sideshows, there only are tracks and dead animals when looking for the real thing. Radford spent five years investigating the world-wide phenomena. He interviewed dozens of eyewitnesses, and experts in blood pathology and wildlife. By 2009, he had answered most of the main questions about the Chupacabra except for its origin.

“Where the hell did it come from, and why did it suddenly appear in Puerto Rico in August 1995?” he questioned. “What was unique about 1995 Puerto Rico? There was a Dengue Fever outbreak and a hurricane in 1995. And AIDS was a big issue in the Caribbean at the time.”

Radford believes he found the exact creature inspiration, and covers that in *Tracking the Chupacabra: The Vampire Beast in Fact, Fiction and Folklore*.

CLUB BUSINESS: 2016 Club Officers elected were Co-Executive Secretaries Craig Chrissinger & Jessica Coyle, Moderator Geneva Schult, and Alternator Julie Heffernan. The Challenge Ingredient chosen for December was “Apple.”

Nov 2015: ELIZABETH LEGGETT

Attendance was 26 people to listen to a talk by local artist Elizabeth Leggett, who showed off many of her works. She first showed the process of creating “Vigil,” including the oxygenation of metal, New Mexico skies, and the ocean off Hawaii. She also brought the Hugo Award that she won for Best Fan Artist at the Spokane Worldcon in August 2015.

Her piece, “The Drowning,” seen in *Infected By Art, Volume 3*, was inspired by S.J. Tucker’s song. And she submitted “Nightmare” for Hugo Award consideration.

“Three years ago, I created a tarot deck,” she said. “It

took me almost a year. I did 78 paintings for the *Portico Tarot*.” She then showed several of the paintings.

“One of my favorite artists is Stephanie Law,” Leggett remarked. “She does watercolors that will melt your brain. And I love playing with fables. They’re complicated and hard, but fun. I also like exploring different skin tones.”

She originally worked in oils and acrylics, and switched to digital in 1996. “I had just started my first teaching gig, and soon discovered I was not such a good teacher,” she commented. For Lethe Press, Leggett is working on an anthology of strong women stories set in ‘70s noir. She also has done a cover for “Bitter Waters.”

DECEMBER 2015: DESSERTS & FILMS

Forty people came to watch comedic holiday film shorts, and to judge the 11th ASFS Dessert Cook-Off by tasting many delightful food samples.

As has become the norm, St. Andrew’s space was split between the movie area and dessert tables. Shown during the evening were music videos (*Shopping with Stormtroopers*, the Muppets’ *Flowers on the Wall & Jungle Bungle*, Jimmy Fallon’s *Hawkeye Sings & Jagged Little Chicks*, Epic Rap Battles – *Artists vs Turtles & Stan Lee vs Jim Henson*, *Comic Con The Musical*, *George RR Martin’s Blank Page* and *Star Wars: Let It Flow*), a *Penguins of Madagascar* episode (“Popcorn Panic”), a three *Simon’s Cat* episodes (“April Showers,” “Catnip: A Christmas Special” and “Pizza Cat”), a *Glove & Boots* episode (“Muppets are Pod People”), two segments of *Merry Christmas Mr. Bean* (Part 2 & 3), the Disney short *Tangled After Ever*, a *Jimmy Kimmel* segment (“Harrison Ford settles his feud with Chewbacca”), *RiffTrax: Dining Together*, and trailers for *Captain America: Civil War* and *Zootopia*.

In the Dessert Cook-Off with “Apples” as the Challenge Ingredient, there were 14 entries from 16 people – Al Kulp, Roberta Johnson, Jessica Coyle & Craig Chrissinger, Grant Kuck, Harriet Engle, Geneva Schult, Julie Heffernan, Amy Mathis, Kathy Kubica, Celeste Bradley, Kevin & Randi Hewett, Patricia Rogers, Leah Ransom, and Anonymous.

BEST OVERALL went to Celeste Bradley’s Flying Albuquerque, the RUNNER-UP to Grant Kuck’s Carmel Apple Bars, and HONORABLE MENTION to Kathy Kubica’s Gluten-Free Apple-Spice Mini-Cupcakes. In the “APPLE” CATEGORY, Patricia Rogers took the prize for her Christmas Quesadillas.

JANUARY 2016: BOOK DISCUSSION

We started the New Year with 24 people participating in a discussion of books read in 2015, whether good or bad. Among them were *Infinite Worlds* by Vincent Di Fate, *Scientific American* magazine, *You’re Never Weird on the Internet* by Felicia Day, *Donald Duck and His*

Nephews, Uncle Scrooge McDuck: His Life and Times by Carl Barks, *The Martian* by Andy Weir (mentioned by 3 people), *Armada* by Ernest Cline (mentioned by 2 people), *Cave Minerals of the World*, *MAD Spoofs Sci-Fi*, *White Trash Zombie Gone Wild* by Diana Rowland, Robert A. Heinlein's two-volume biography, *Hounded* by Kevin Hearne, *Gentleman Jole and the Red Queen* by Lois McMaster Bujold (mentioned by 2 people), *The Shepherd's Crown* by Terry Pratchett, *Raising Steam: Discworld 40* by Terry Pratchett, *Devoted in Death* by J.D. Robb (a stinker), *Nemesis Games: The Expanse 5* by James SA Corey (mentioned by 5 people), *The Lost Stars: Imperfect Sword* by Jack Campbell, *The Bone Flower Queen* by TL Morganfield, *Harry Dresden* books by Jim Butcher including *Storm Front*, *India Black: A Madam of Espionage* by Carol K. Carr, *Tracking the Chupacabra: The Vampire Beast in Fact, Fiction and Folklore* by Benjamin Radford, *Stolen: Women of the Otherworld* by Kelley Armstrong, *Let's Count Goats* by Mem Fox and Jan Thomas, *Dalek I Loved You: Doctor Who 50th Anniversary Special* by Nick Griffiths, *Illegal Alien: Doctor Who* by Mike Tucker, *Time Trap: Red Moon 1* by Micah Caida, *Usagi Yojimbo Saga* by Stan Sakai, *Transmetropolitan* by Warren Ellis, *With a Little Help* by Cory Doctorow, magazines, *Black Elk Speaks* by John G. Neihardt, *Black Sun's Daughter* by MLN Hanover, *Shadowspawn* by S.M. Stirling, the *Lost Fleet* series by Jack Campbell, *Black Ice: Midgard 2* by Susan Krinard, the *Kitty* books by Carrie Vaughn, *Warhammer 40k* novels, *The Name of the Wind* by Patrick Rothfuss, *Galaxy 666* by Pel Torro (awful), *Agent to the Stars* by John Scalzi, *Lock In* by John Scalzi, *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep* by Philip K. Dick, *Indexing* by Seanan McGuire (mentioned by 2 people), *Ancillary Mercy* by Ann Leckie, *3001: The Final Odyssey* by Arthur C. Clarke, the *Man-Kzin Wars* series by Larry Niven and others, *The Dragon's Nine Sons* by Chris Roberson, *The Abyss Beyond Dreams* by Peter F. Hamilton, *Under the Green Star* by Lin Carter, *Cruel Zinc Melodies: Garrett, P.I. 12* by Glen Cook, *Ready Player One* by Ernest Cline, *The End of All Things: Old Man's War 6* by John Scalzi, *Earth Awakens* by Orson Scott Card, *Live Free or Die: Troy Rising 1* by John Ringo, *Saturn Run* by John Sandford and Ctein, *It Takes a Witch: Wishcraft Mystery 1* by Heather Blake, *Chapelwood* by Cherie Priest, *Prudence: The Custard Protocol 1* by Gail Carriger, and *Diableries: Stereoscopic Adventures in Hell* by Brian May, Denis Pellerin & Paula Fleming.

CLUB BUSINESS:

Due to our monthly rent increasing at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, there was discussion of what members wanted to do (stay vs find a new location). The majority of those present



decided they wanted to stay at the church. As such, dues were set to increase as of the February meeting to \$3.00 for an individual, \$4.50 for a household monthly, and to \$30.00 individual, \$45.00 household annually.

FEBRUARY 2016: BERG ON NM FILMS

Jeff Berg, a long-time film fan and researcher, visited to tell 35 people about various genre-oriented movies shot in New Mexico – many of them fairly obscure. Berg said his research showed the first science fiction film shot in the state was around 1951. Many of the films he researched were shot in southern NM. As of February, about 810 productions of one hour or more have shot in the state. And David Bowie's *The Man Who Fell To Earth* was the only film shot in Artesia.

For the evening, Berg decided to focus on 14 films, showing a range of budgets and subject matters. The first film he presented was *Unknown World* from 1951, in which a team is drilling to the center of the Earth. It also has been released as *Night Without Stars*.

In 1959, the Jules Verne story *Journey to the Center of the Earth* with Pat Boone shot in New Mexico, including at Carlsbad Caverns. Apparently Boone didn't want to make the film, but his agent talked him into it.

And then in 1966, *The Devil's Mistress*, a vampire film, was shot in the Las Cruces area. It was written by a NM State University professor, and screened in New York for a few days. The late 1960s and early '70s was a big time for films in NM. Under Governor David Cargo, the NM Film Office was started.

In 1972, *The Brotherhood of Satan* was shot near Hillsboro. L.Q. Jones, the director of *A Boy and His Dog*, plays the sheriff. It also shot in ABQ and Uranium Springs. In the film, a bunch of Satan worshippers in a small town want new converts, so they kidnap children of visitors. *Gargoyles*, a 1972 made-for-TV movie, shot for 18 days around Carlsbad with one camera. It stars a young Scott Glenn, and was nominated for an Emmy for make-up.

Shortly after was 1976's *Track of the Moon Beast*, ranked 54 in the Worst Films Ever Made on IMDB. It shot around Albuquerque, and features a man turning into a giant lizard during the full moon after he's hit by part of a meteorite.

Part of the earthquake sequence in 1978's *Superman* was shot in the Gallup area, when Lois is buried in her car. The same year *Monster* was shot near Santa Cruz Lake, and also in Abiquiu and ABQ. There's a monster in the lake, and NM is supposed to be part of Columbia.

1979's *Nightwing*, shot around Laguna Pueblo, features killer bats. Filming also took place at the Bonanza Creek Ranch and in ABQ. And 1989's *Curse II: The Bite* features Jamie Farr of *MASH*, and was shot around White Sands and in Las Cruces. In this film, a man is bitten by a snake, and then his arm turns into a serpent.

In 1995, outdoor scenes for *Tank Girl* were shot at

White Sands. Lori Petty had 18 costumes and hair styles in the film, and it was one of the first films shot in NM by a female director. In 1998, John Carpenter made *Vampires*, based on the John Steakley novel. James Woods headed the cast, which saw action at Cerrillos, Las Vegas, and the Greer Garson Studios in Santa Fe.

In 2006, *The Astronaut Farmer* with Billy Bob Thornton saw NM playing Texas. The film, in which a man build his own rocket and orbits Earth, was shot in ABQ, White Sands, the Bonanza Creek Ranch, etc. And in 2011, *Cowboys & Aliens*, based on a graphic novel, took Harrison Ford and Daniel Craig to Abiquiu, Santa Fe, and the Bonanza Creek Ranch.

Berg finished the evening by saying that 200-300 productions have been made in NM since Governor Richardson started the Tax Incentive Program.

MARCH 2016: AUCTION W/VARDEMAN

Thirty-nine people were on hand for the annual club auction, led by local author Robert E. Vardeman. Approximately \$320 was raised to help with the club's rent on the church, *ASFACTS* printing, and cook-off plates and such.

Vardeman said he recently had gone to WildWestCon, a steampunk-inspired convention in Old Tucson, AZ, and he just finished a story for a Baen Books anthology.

Some of the more unusual items and higher bids included Bag of Mercedes Lackey books \$20, Dragon sculpture \$10, Styrofoam cooler of books \$9, Sonic Screwdriver pizza cutter and spork \$10, Bunch of Terry Pratchett books \$25, *Star Wars* Pez and Vader voice changer \$7, *Spider's War* signed by Daniel Abraham \$27, Green feathered skull hairclip \$7, Framed magazine covers \$50, *Harry Potter* Pez set \$2, Martian warship LED light \$8, *Star Trek* poster by Jon Sanchez \$30, Robot earrings \$6, Tiger stuffed animal & YA ARCs \$5, Box of rocks \$15, Loot crate pack \$11, Old computer thing ("primitive") \$5, Movie party pack \$5, Outburst II & Movie Mania \$15, Larry Niven books \$2.50, Dragon candleholder \$5, Science books \$5, and Halloween stuff \$1.

APRIL 2016: SUMMER MOVIE PREVIEWS

Thirty-five people came to listen to *Weekly Alibi* film critic Devin O'Leary as he presented the 4th "Summer Movie Trailer Park" to ASFS with commentary.

First up was *The Jungle Book*, which he said is to be the first of three films from the Kipling books since it just slipped into public domain. "It's more of a live-action version of Disney's animated film," O'Leary remarked. "It's good, and it looks amazing. Two songs still are in



there. It's fun."

Next up was *The Huntsman: Winter's War*. "Snow White has been ditched, but they kept the Huntsman," he said. "It's kind of like they redid *Frozen*, which is Disney. So, we get the Snow Queen here. It's a weird mix, but the costumes look great. They've jumped up the fantasy element." The third trailer of the evening was *Ratchet and Clank*, based on a videogame. "There are a lot of videogame movies this summer, and this is the first out. It's a fairly inexpensive Canadian production. It's aimed at fans of the game series."

Other movie trailers covered by O'Leary were *Alice Through the Looking Glass* ("I wasn't a fan of the last film, but some people liked its look"), *The Angry Birds Movie* ("Weird inspiration for a movie – how do you get a storyline out of slingshot birds?"), *The BFG* directed by Steven Spielberg, *Captain America: Civil War* ("Early reviews are already good. I'm super excited for this one"), *Fantastic Beasts and Where To Find Them* ("No Harry Potter in it, but should be a big hit"), *Finding Dory* ("Looks cute, should be fun"), *Ghostbusters* with a funny female cast ("No one's quite sure about this – is it a remake or have they moved on? A lot of fingers are crossed on this one"), *Independence Day: Resurgence* ("Partially shot in NM, and they brought back a chunk of characters – it's been 15 years since the last film, so we'll how it pans out"), *The Legend of Tarzan* ("Kind of came out of nowhere, but looks exciting. I'm a big fan of Burroughs, and the trailer has me excited"), *Pete's Dragon* ("Disney is not slowing down this summer – looks quite changed from the 1977 original film, no expectations yet"), *The Secret Life of Pets* ("From the French studio that did *Despicable Me*, and they've hired a lot of good comedians for the voice talent"), *Star Trek Beyond* ("People are calling it the crazy-action *Star Trek* film because of the *Fast & Furious* director, Simon Pegg worked on the script. He's a good writer and a *Trek* fan"), *Suicide Squad* ("Bunch of super villains in jail are recruited to go into dangerous, bad situations. Rumor is that it was dark and grim, so reshoots supposedly were done to add more humor"), *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Out of the Shadows* ("Rebooted film series has proven to be less chaotic than Michael Bay's *Transformers* – so if you're a big fan of the cartoon, this could be exciting and entertaining"), *Warcraft* ("Based on the massively popular multiple-player online game, which is past its peak. Directed by Duncan Jones, son of Bowie, so that excites me"), *X-Men: Apocalypse* ("The series has been rebooted so many times, it can get confusing – still Bryan Singer directing, and the cast is kind of crowded"), and 2017's *The LEGO Batman Movie* ("*The LEGO Movie* was one of my faves – This looks frickin' hilarious").

MAY 2016: RADFORD RETURNS!

Benjamin Radford talked to 37 people about his latest non-fiction book, *Bad Clowns*. "When UNM Press asked me what's next, I said I had a book on clowns," he said.

"They said huh? I said it was on bad clowns. And they said they could probably work with that."

Radford focused his club talk Phantom Clowns and associated panics. Two of the earliest "evil" clowns were Mr. Punch (of "Punch and Judy"), first performed in 1662, and the Harlequin. There have been many scary clowns over the years, including a cover illustration in 1962 for *Official Detective Stories*. Of course, Radford said, some evil clowns are real - such as John Wayne Gacy (who was not a clown by trade), and the clown that murdered the head of a Mexican Mafia in 2015. And many clowns are unintentionally frightening, such as Willard Scott's early version of Ronald McDonald.

He also said that there is another category of evil clown, somewhere between fiction and reality - the Phantom Clown. The first report of a phantom clown was in Massachusetts in May 1981. Supposedly a van full of clowns was trying to lure children with candy. The next day, Boston had a similar report, but nothing was found.

The popular explanations for these Phantom Clowns are rogue, child-abducting, serial-killing pedophile cannibal clowns; imaginative children; fictional characters somehow brought to life (through ostension or magic such as Slenderman); or paranormal/inter-dimensional entities.

In most cases, no evidence of the phantom clowns could be found - not even a size 60 clown shoe print. Mostly, they appeared to be urban myths, along with smiley gangs. Newspapers in the 1980s and early '90s were the primary source of information with warnings circulating through informal local groups such as school warnings. In these sightings, police followed up but no leads developed. No hard evidence was found and no children were abducted.

Contributing factors in these cases, said Radford, were scary clowns in media such as *Killer Klowns from Outer Space*; moral panic gripping America in the form of sensationalism - connected with Satanic ritual abuse; and child serial killers - there were a least two dozen high-profile child murders in the 1980s.

Phantom Clowns as Phantom Attackers have been represented by Spring-Heeled Jack, The Mad Gasser of Mattoon, The Phantom Slasher of Taiwan, and the Monkey Man Panic in New Delhi, India, in 2001.

Radford then predicted, "I'm sure the Phantom Clowns will return because they're in the public consciousness and in the media." Back in May, no one could have known how right he would be come Fall 2016 (including three stoned kids with a toy gun in ABQ)..

EDITOR NOTES TO FILL THIS SPACE

THE BALLOON FIESTA is done, and temperatures finally are coming down for the most part. I like the crisp morning air. Of course, it's about time for the annual question of when the swamp cooler gets turned off and the furnace comes on.

MILEHICON 48 is two weeks off (Oct 28-30). Looking forward to it, although I need to find out about my swollen/aching ankle first. I saw a doctor last week & had an x-ray. No

answer yet - I'm a medical mystery (as of press time). It supports my weight, but standing at work makes it sore and more swollen. Lots of ice, sitting with my leg elevated, and taking Aleve for now. Plus a change in my blood pressure medicine, drinking more water and eating red berries (in case it's gout).

ANYWAY, IF WE GET TO DENVER, it's always fun. Bubonic is hosting the con suite for two hours - plus Jessica and I are helping with SF Name That Tune, the Turkey Read-Off, part of the Literacy Auction, and a couple of panels. It will be good to see Connie & Courtney Willis, Carrie Vaughn, Jeanne C. Stein, Rose Beetem, Nina & Ron Else, and various Colorado fan friends. Go to www.milehicon.org if interested.

WE WENT TO DENVER the last weekend of July to see Trace Beaulieu and Frank Conniff (the Mad Scientists of *Mystery Science Theater 3000*) do a live riffing of *Walk the Dark Street*, a 1956 B&W thriller with *The Rifleman*'s Chuck Connors (pretty much a low-budget urban version of "The Most Dangerous Game"), at a comedy club. It was a lot of fun, they were very funny, and said they like doing live shows where they can interact with an audience. Afterward, they hung out in the club's lobby to shake hands, and to sign posters, books and DVD inserts for folks. It was a quick trip, definitely worth it.

THE NEW TV SEASON IS HERE and we have some early favorites in our house. We're pretty much hooked on *Designated Survivor* with Kiefer Sutherland becoming President after a horrific terrorist attack on the Capitol Building. Sutherland is convincing, Kal Penn is a treat as a White House speechwriter, and the politics and events are involving. It's certainly a lot more fun than Real World Politics this election season (though the presidential debates could qualify as horror shows so far, and a male candidate scares the crap out of me).

OTHER FUN NEW SHOWS are *Timeless*, with the fascinating change in the Hindenburg crash in the first episode, and *The Good Place* with great chemistry between Kristen Bell and Ted Danson. Sadly, fan fave Hayley Atwell can't save *Conviction*. Also enjoying the returns of *Lucifer*, *The Goldbergs*, *The Middle*, *The Big Bang Theory* and *Agents of SHIELD*. Still need to watch the season opener of *Supergirl*, and am hoping to catch *Westworld* at some point. At least I've gotten to see the first episode of *Preacher*, which was shot in New Mexico.

MOVIES: GOTTA SAY that *Slash*, co-sponsored by Bubonic 49 at the SW Gay & Lesbian Film Festival was cute, sweet, and had a good cast. Nice story about two teens who discover they both write slash fiction (which started with *Star Trek*'s Kirk/Spock back in the day). Pretty bizarre was John Waters' *Multiple Maniacs*. I always forget how experimental and "shocking" his early films are. *For the Love of Spock* was a touching tribute to Leonard Nimoy, and a nice acknowledgment of *Trek*'s 50th anniversary. We'll be doing *Galaxy Quest* with *NM Entertainment Magazine* in January. Sadly, we'll miss *The Monster Squad* and *The Fearless Vampire Killers* Halloween weekend at the Guild Cinema.

AT THE BIG MOVIE HOUSES, we saw *The Magnificent Seven*, which is gorgeous and has a great cast, though fairly brutal. Oh, and the 15-minute IMAX sneak of *Doctor Strange*, which looks great. Captures the sometimes bizarre images of the comic, and also demonstrates a sense of humor (and fun).

THANKS TO Jessica Coyle & Geneva Schult for reviews. I can't believe how behind I got with club meeting reports. Sigh. Anyway, contributions needed for *SithFacts*. Deadline Monday, December 5. Happy Halloween & Thanksgiving! -Craig