



ASFACTS 2017

FEBRUARY "STARTLING STORIES" VALENTINE ISSUE



ENMU WILLIAMSON LECTURESHIP SCHEDULED FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 7

The 41st annual Jack Williamson Lectureship with a "Wild Cards" theme will be held Friday, April 7, at Eastern New Mexico University in Portales. Special guests are Santa Fe's Melinda Snodgrass and California's Michael Cassutt, with Colorado's Connie Willis as Mistress of Ceremonies. Friday events include a reading from Snodgrass, a luncheon and various panel discussions.

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

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

Snodgrass is a novelist and screenwriter. Last July, *The High Ground*, first book of a new space opera, was released. She also is executive producer on a forthcoming *Wild Cards* TV series. In 2015, *The Edge of Dawn*, the long-awaited third *Edge* book, was released. She also is in the newest *Wild Cards* book, *High Stakes*, and has turned in the script for a *Wild Cards* graphic novel. She served as story editor for two years on *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, and has written various TV scripts.

Cassutt also is a novelist and screenwriter. His novels include *Tango Midnight*, *Red Moon*, *Heaven's Shadow* (with David S. Goyer) and *Missing Man*. He also is very knowledgeable about NASA and the space program's history, having written a biography of Deke Slayton and also the encyclopedic *Who's Who In Space*. As a screenwriter and producer, he has worked for *Twilight Zone*, *Andromeda*, *The Dead Zone*, *Odyssey Five*, *Farscape*, *Stargate SG-1*, *The Outer Limits*, *Max Headroom*, *Seven Days*, *Eerie, Indiana*, and *Z Nation*.

The Lectureship formally opens Thursday, April 6, with a tribute to Jack Williamson of some kind. It should start at 5:30 pm, but exact details had not been released as of press time.

On Friday, Snodgrass reads and answers questions 10:00-11:15 am in the Jack Williamson Liberal Arts Building. The luncheon, hosted by Willis with a keynote addresses from Snodgrass and Cassutt, takes place 11:30

am in the Campus Union Ballroom. The Luncheon cost is \$10.00 (payable at the door). Books will be available for purchase and autographing by writers in attendance. Reservations (and any dietary restrictions) are needed by Monday, April 3. Call Patrice Caldwell at (575) 562-2315 or email planning.analysis@enmu.edu.

Panel discussions happen 3:00-6:00 pm in the JWLA Building, and are free of charge. These panels are sure to provide a wide range of topics and free-wheeling discussion and debate between panelists and audience. Authors who have said they plan to participate include Darynda Jones, Joan Saberhagen and Walter Jon Williams.

Plans for Saturday, April 8, have not been announced yet. In years past, there has been a Writers Workshop for aspiring young writers at the Portales Public Library, 218 S Avenue B, in Portales and/or a film festival on the ENMU campus.

2016 LOCUS RECOMMENDED READING LIST

Locus Magazine posted their Annual Recommended Reading List online at the end of January, and it includes several New Mexico authors and Bubonicon guests.

A full list is published in *Locus Magazine's* February 2017 issue, and is a consensus by *Locus* editors, reviewers, and other professionals. Following are just NM authors and Bubonicon friends –

NOVELS – SCIENCE FICTION: *Visitor* by C.J. Cherryh, *Babylon's Ashes* by James S.A. Corey, and *Impersona-*

UPCOMING ASFS MEETINGS

- **Tonight:** Local author Jane Lindsfold reads from a sequel to the adventure she shared last November.
- **March 10:** Time for the traditional ASFS Auction with Bob Vardeman & Patricia Rogers at the helm. Start looking for 2-6 items to donate to the club's cause, and cash to spend.
- **Fri, March 31:** Bubonicon 50 guest nominations meeting. Must be present to vote on 2018 guests...
- **April 21:** Meeting 1 Week Late - Possibly Devin O'Leary of the *Weekly Alibi* will look at film trailers for this summer's genre releases! Also, the Spring issue of *ASFACTS* (deadline Mon, April 17).
- **May 12:** Program not confirmed at this time.

Craig Chrissinger, normal editor. Darth Vader, guest editor each December. Please Send All Correspondence to — PO Box 37257, Albuquerque, NM 87176-7257. Contact: (505) 266-8905 or via cwraig@nmia.com. *ASFACTS* published February, April, July & October for the Albuq SF Society. *SITHFACTS* out each December. NEXT DEADLINE: Mon, April 17.
Club Officers: Craig Chrissinger & Jessica Coyle, co-Zec Secs (505) 266-8905. Kevin Zander, Moderator. Mike McCommas, Alternator. Cupid, Holiday Host. **B'con Co-Chairs:** Caci Cooper & Craig Chrissinger (505) 559-0931.

tions by Walter Jon Williams.

NOVELS – FANTASY: *The Spider's War* by Daniel Abraham, *Roadsouls* by Betsy James, *Medusa's Web* by Tim Powers, and *The Liberation* by Ian Tregillis.

NOVELS – HORROR: *The Family Plot* by Cherie Priest.

COLLECTIONS: *Amaryllis and Other Stories* by Carrie Vaughn.

ART BOOKS: *Walking Through the Landscape of Faerie* by Charles Vess.

NOVELETTES: "The Future is Blue" by Catherynne M. Valente, and "The Mind Is Its Own Place" by Carrie Vaughn.

SHORT STORIES: "That Game We Played During the War" by Carrie Vaughn.

STAR WARS' CARRIE FISHER DEAD AT 60

Carrie Fisher, the iconic actress who portrayed Princess Leia in the *Star Wars* series, died December 27 following a massive heart attack last week. She was 60 years old.

Fisher suffered a heart attack the week before aboard a Los Angeles-bound flight 15 minutes prior to landing. A medic onboard performed CPR on the actress until paramedics arrived to take her to UCLA Medical Center, where she was placed on a ventilator.

The daughter of screen legend Debbie Reynolds and singer Eddie Fisher, the actress made her Broadway debut as a teenager in *Irene*, which starred her mother. After making her big screen debut in 1975's *Shampoo* and briefly enrolling in London's Central School of Speech and Drama and then St. Lawrence College, Fisher dropped out at the age of 19, after landing the role of Princess Leia in the 1977 space epic *Star Wars*.

"She has no friends, no family; her planet was blown up in seconds – along with her hairdresser – so all she has is a cause," Fisher told *Rolling Stone* in 1983 of the role. "From the first film [*A New Hope*], she was just a soldier, front line and center. The only way they knew to make the character strong was to make her angry. In *Return of the Jedi*, she gets to be more feminine, more supportive, more affectionate. But let's not forget that these movies are basically boys' fantasies. So the other way they made her more female in this one was to have her take off her clothes."

Fisher also saw parallels between Princess Leia, the lost daughter of the series' villain Darth Vader, and her own unique childhood as the daughter of two Fifties superstars; Fisher endured both her mother's highly publicized divorces as well as her father's own issues with substance abuse ("He's a little shell-shocked from 13 years of doing speed, but he's real friendly," she said in 1980 of Eddie Fisher, who died in 2010.)

"Leia's real father left her mother when she was pregnant, so her mother married this King Organa. I was

adopted and grew up set apart from other people because I was a princess," Fisher said. "A lot of parallels, me and Leia. Dad goes off to the dark side, and Mom marries a millionaire. My brother and I went in different directions on the Debbie and Eddie issue. He's gotten involved with Jesus, and I do active work on myself, trying to make myself better and better. It's funny."

Throughout her career, Fisher was open about her struggles with mental illness – the actress was diagnosed with bipolar disorder – and drug use, admitting that she had abused cocaine throughout the filming of *The Empire Strikes Back*, as well as prescription drugs. "Drugs made me feel normal," Fisher said in 2001.

Her one-woman play and memoir *Wishful Drinking* also tackled her battle with addiction.

In addition to playing Leia in the original *Star Wars* trilogy and 2015's *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, Fisher also appeared in films like *The Blues Brothers*, *When Harry Met Sally*, *The 'Burbs* and Woody Allen's *Hannah and Her Sisters*. Fisher was also slated to reprise the role in *Star Wars*' upcoming Episode VIII and Episode IX.

"I was very nervous, had a lot of memory problems initially – just horrific – and then it got better," Fisher told *Rolling Stone* in 2015 about returning to the legendary role. "I settled in. You know, think about it, what it would be to make three of these movies a million years ago, and now, 'Let's do it again, only you're 40 years older and there's a lot to live up to or down – take your pick.' People want it to be the same but better ... I don't know. So there's pressure on it, more than most films. But then you get over yourself and say, 'By the way, it's the younger people doing it.' You have to sort of like get over yourself fast."

In 1990, Fisher turned her semi-autobiographical memoir *Postcards From the Edge*, which detailed her drug addiction and rehab experiences as well as her relationship with Reynolds, into a feature film starring Meryl Streep. Fisher was nominated for a Best Screenplay BAFTA for the film, while Streep earned a Best Actress Academy Award nomination for playing Fisher's alter ego "Suzanne" in the film.

Fisher was also the writer of four novels and the ex-wife of singer-songwriter Paul Simon, who she was married to for a year in 1983. Fisher was also in a long-term relationship with talent agent Bryan Lourd, with whom she had her only child, Billie Lourd.

Just one day later, Reynolds, her mother, passed away as the result of a stroke.

SUPERGIRL MARCHES ON WASHINGTON

by Leigh Bickley, *The Huffington Post* 1/23/17

Melissa Benoist was a real-life superhero on Saturday, January 21, when she joined the thousands of women, men and children who headed to Washington, DC, for the Women's March.

The *Supergirl* star opened up about the “incredible” day during an interview with *The Huffington Post* on Build Series Monday, saying, “I don’t think I’ll ever forget it.”

“My favorite point was when we reached the White House, and everywhere you turned, whichever street you were looking down, it was just a sea of people. A sea of people with the best energy,” she continued. “The most positive place you could be. Everyone was supportive, everyone was loving each other. It was pretty amazing.”

Benoist’s protest sign was pretty amazing, too, as she used her *Supergirl* status to send President Donald Trump a message: “Hey Donald, Don’t Try To Grab My Pussy - It’s Made of Steel”

Benoist said that she tries to embrace her character Kara Danvers in her own life, pushing to be the best possible version of herself every day.

“[Supergirl] and Superman are truth, justice, and the American way,” the 28-year-old actress said. “She sets some really high standards to live up to and, playing the role, it has definitely infused itself into my life and helped me to be a stronger, braver person than I ever have been. It’s been one of the most difficult things I’ve ever done. Definitely the most difficult job, but really rewarding in that way. I love it. I love Supergirl.”

Other genre actors at rallies included Scarlet Johansson, Jessica Chastain, Charlize Theron, Janelle Monae, Emma Watson, Benjamin Bratt, Jessica Biel, Mary Steenburgen, Natalie Portman, and Jamie Lee Curtis.

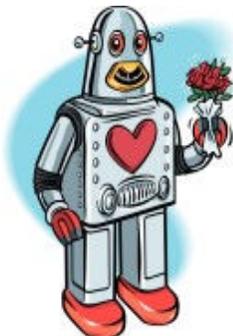
WEISSKOPF & SAPIENZA TO RECEIVE SOLSTICE AWARD

The Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America (SFWA) announced in late January and early February that Toni Weiskopf and the late Peggy Rae Sapienza are recipients of the 2017 Kate Wilhelm Solstice Award.

The Solstice Award, created in 2008 and given at the discretion of the SFWA president with the majority approval of the Board of Directors, is for individuals, living or dead, who have had “a significant impact on the science fiction or fantasy landscape, and is particularly intended for those who have consistently made a major, positive difference within the speculative fiction field.”

Previous winners include Octavia E. Butler, Alice B. Sheldon (AKA James Tiptree, Jr.), Tom Doherty, Carl Sagan, Stanley Schmidt, Michael Whelan, Kate Wilhelm, Terri Windling, Donald A. Wollheim, John Clute, and most recently, Sir Terry Pratchett (in 2016).

Weiskopf and Sapienza will be honored at the SFWA Nebula Conference and Awards, to be held May 18-21 in Pittsburgh, PA.



ASTRONAUT JOHN GLENN DIES

(CNN) John Glenn, the first American to orbit the Earth and a longtime US senator, died December 8, according to the Ohio State University. He was 95 years old.

It was announced the day before that Glenn had been hospitalized “more than a week ago,” according to Ohio State University spokesman Hank Wilson. He was at the James Cancer Hospital at the Ohio State University, but his illness was not disclosed. Glenn had heart valve replacement surgery in 2014.

Then-President Barack Obama released a statement paying tribute to Glenn. “With John’s passing, our nation has lost an icon and Michelle and I have lost a friend,” Obama said. “John spent his life breaking barriers, from defending our freedom as a decorated Marine Corps fighter pilot in World War II and Korea, to setting a transcontinental speed record, to becoming, at age 77, the oldest human to touch the stars. John always had the right stuff, inspiring generations of scientists, engineers and astronauts who will take us to Mars and beyond – not just to visit, but to stay...”

Former Apollo astronaut Buzz Aldrin said he was saddened by the loss of a “space pioneer and world icon. I am very sorry that he has departed us with his wisdom.”

John Herschel Glenn Jr. made history in 1962 when he completed a three-orbit flight in a cramped space capsule dubbed Friendship 7. He later served for nearly a quarter century as a US senator. In 1998, he returned to space at 77, becoming the oldest person to ever do so.

Born in the small eastern Ohio town of Cambridge on July 18, 1921, Glenn recounted an idyllic childhood where “patriotism filled the air.”

Glenn developed a fascination with flying at an early age. When he was eight years old, he and his father went for a ride in an open-cockpit biplane, two years after Charles Lindbergh made his transatlantic flight. That adventure sealed his destiny as a pilot.

Glenn flew 149 combat missions in World War II and the Korean War. His military service earned him numerous awards, including six Distinguished Flying Crosses. After Korea, Glenn became a test pilot for naval and Marine aircraft and, in 1957, set the transcontinental air speed record.

He eagerly volunteered when NASA requested pilots for its suborbital and orbital programs, and in 1959 he and six others – Alan Shepard, Gus Grissom, Scott Carpenter, Wally Schirra, Gordon Cooper and Deke Slayton – were selected as the first astronauts, known as the “Mercury 7.” Glenn was the last living member of the group. The men instantly became national heroes and media sensations.

On February 20, 1962, Glenn rode an Atlas rocket into history as the first American to orbit the Earth. He was the third American in space, behind Shepard and Grissom – whose missions aboard smaller Redstone rock-

ets were short suborbital flights. The Soviet Union by that time had sent two cosmonauts, Yuri Gagarin and Gherman Titov, on orbital flights.

After making three orbits in four hours and 55 minutes, Glenn landed in the waters off Grand Turk Island in the Atlantic Ocean, 800 miles southeast of Bermuda, where he and his Friendship 7 were retrieved by the destroyer USS Noa.

Glenn's mission was more than just a round-the-world space journey. It was a psychological boost to a nation worried about the Soviet Union's early lead in the space race.

Shortly after landing, Glenn was honored with an enormous ticker tape parade in New York City on March 1, 1962. An estimated 4 million people turned out.

His success bolstered America's spirit and gave credence to President John Kennedy's 1961 pledge to put men on the moon. But Glenn would not be one of them.

Kennedy reportedly ordered NASA not to fly Glenn again because he was too valuable as a national figure. Glenn resigned from the space agency in January 1964.

Glenn's fame made him a natural candidate for political office, and shortly after his resignation from NASA, he announced he would run for the Democratic ticket for a US Senate seat in 1964. But his political career was sidelined for a few years when an injury forced him to withdraw from the campaign.

After a failed bid for a US Senate seat in 1970, Glenn won in 1974, beginning a 24-year career representing Ohio on Capitol Hill. He was widely regarded as an effective legislator and moderate Democrat. He played a key role in weapons control, authoring the Nuclear Nonproliferation Act of 1978, which prohibited the sale of nuclear equipment to nations that currently have none.

At age 77, a year after retiring from the Senate, Glenn accepted an invitation from NASA to rejoin the space program as a member of space shuttle Discovery on a nine-day mission to study the aging process, which mirrors what astronauts experience during long durations in space.

On October 29, 1998, Glenn became the oldest human ever to venture into space, and his flight proved once again that he was a man who embraced a challenge.

Glenn is survived by his wife of 73 years, Annie; his two children; and two grandchildren.

BOOK GROUP KEEPS READING

The Droids & Dragons SF Book Group meets at 7:30 pm Monday, February 20, at Jason's Deli (northwest corner of Louisiana & America's Parkway NE – across the street from Bubonicon's Marriott Hotel) to discuss *The Ocean at the End of the Lane* by Neil Gaiman. The group then focuses on *Beacon 23* by Hugh Howey on Monday, March 20 – probably at Jason's Deli again.

Meetings of D&D are open to all interested readers

on the third Monday of each month. Books for discussion are chosen two months in advance, and group members receive a 20% discount on selected novels at Page One Books in the Mountain Run Shopping Center. For more info, contact Leah at skycaptain1883@yahoo.com or Craig at 266-8905.

WILLIAM PETER BLATTY DIES

Writer William Peter Blatty, 89, died of cancer on January 12 in New York. Blatty is best known for horror classic *The Exorcist* (1971). He wrote the screenplay for the Academy Award-winning film adaptation (1973), as well as the sequel *The Exorcist III*, which he also directed. Other genre books of interest were *Legion* (basis for *Exorcist III*) and *Demons Five, Exorcists Nothing: A Fable*.

Blatty was born January 7, 1928, in New York City. He attended Georgetown on a scholarship and got his master's in English literature from George Washington University. He worked various jobs, including as a vacuum cleaner salesman, truck driver, and airline ticket agent before joining the US Air Force, where he helped run the psychological warfare division. He joined the United State Information Agency and worked for a time as an editor in Beirut, and later worked in the states in public relations.

In the '50s he contributed to the *Saturday Evening Post*, ghostwrote bestseller *Dear Teenager* for advice columnist Abigail "Dear Abby" van Buren, and published memoir *Which Way to Mecca, Jack?*, about his time in Lebanon in 1959.

His novels *John Godlfarb, Please Come Home* (1962), *I, Billy Shakespeare*, and *Twinkle, Twinkle, "Killer" Kane!* were humor. He began writing screenplays for comedy films, first with director Black Edwards, including *A Shot in the Dark* (1964) and *What Did You Do in the War, Daddy?*, and was soon working regularly in Hollywood.

He continued to write prose, and *The Exorcist* was his breakout success there, spending 57 weeks in a row on the *New York Times* bestseller list. He continued to work in film and write books for the remainder of his life, producing memoir *I'll Tell Them I'll Remember You* and novels *Elsewhere*, *Dimiter* and *Crazy*, among other works. He won a Stoker Award for Life Achievement in 1998.

Blatty was predeceased by his son Peter (2006) and is survived by wife Julia Alicia Witbrodt

BRADBURY INDUCTED INTO CALIF LIBRARY HALL OF FAME

The California Library Association (CLA) inducted Ray Bradbury into the California Library Hall of Fame, reported Locus Online mid-January. The award honors "the historical significance and lifetime achievements of

the many librarians, library workers and supporters who have helped promote and improve library services in California.”

Bradbury’s feature on the CLA website recognizes his lifelong advocacy for California libraries. A ceremony will take place at the annual CLA Awards and Conference in the fourth quarter 2017 to honor all of the Hall of Fame inductees.

WATERSHIP'S RICHARD ADAMS DIES

Richard Adams died December 24, 2016, at the age of 96 years old. Adams is best known for his classic animal fantasy *Watership Down* (1972), about the secret (and magical) lives of rabbits. His other titles of genre interest include *Shardik*, *The Plague Dogs*, and collection *Tales from Watership Down*.

Richard George Adams was born May 9, 1920, in Newbury, Berkshire, England. He studied at Worcester College, Oxford, graduating with a BA in modern history in 1948, and a master’s in 1953; his college career was interrupted by a stint in the British Army from 1940-45. He married Barbara Elizabeth Acland in 1949, and they had two daughters.

He worked for the government in various capacities until becoming a full-time writer in 1974. He won both a Carnegie Medal and a Guardian Children’s Fiction Prize for *Watership Down*, was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in 1975, and received an honorary doctorate from the University of Winchester in 2015. He is survived by his wife, daughters, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

TWIN PEAKS' MIGUEL FERRER DIES

(USA TODAY) Miguel Ferrer, who brought stern authority to his featured role on CBS’ hit drama *NCIS: Los Angeles* and, before that, to *Crossing Jordan*, died January 19 of throat cancer at his Los Angeles home. He was 61 years old.

Ferrer had played assistant director Owen Granger on *NCIS: Los Angeles* since 2012. Before that, he played the chief medical examiner and boss to series star Jill Hennessy for the six seasons of NBC’s *Crossing Jordan*.

"Can't believe this gut-punch...just heard @Miguel_J_Ferrer passed..loved that hilarious, brilliant dude. So much luv 2 his family. Unreal," Hennessy started out a series of tweets.

Ferrer also was known as George Clooney’s first cousin, as the son of actor Jose Ferrer and singer-actress Rosemary Clooney, George’s paternal aunt.

Ferrer, a veteran of a host of TV dramas and movies, began his career in the early 1980s with guest shots on TV series, such as *Trapper John M.D.* and *Miami Vice*. In 1990 he scored a signature role as FBI Agent Albert Rosenfield, a forensic pathologist, on David Lynch’s

smash *Twin Peaks*. Ferrer reprised the role of Rosenfield in the 1992 movie *Twin Peaks: Fire Walk with Me*.

The week before his death, he was supposed to appear at the Television Critics Association panel for the upcoming revival of *Twin Peaks*, but was not in attendance.

The character of Rosenfield was originally brought to *Twin Peaks* to examine the body of Laura Palmer after her murder. An acerbic and sarcastic character, Albert quickly makes no friends within the *Twin Peaks* Sheriff’s Office, despite being highly recommended by Dale Cooper, and this is shown when he is finally punched by Sheriff Truman, who has reached the end of his tether. Albert is shown to respect only fellow FBI agents at the start of *Twin Peaks*.

He also was noted for his breakthrough role as villainous OCP Vice President Bob Morton, the designer of the title character in 1987’s *RoboCop*, and as Vice President Rodriguez in *Iron Man 3*.

Off screen, he voiced characters in 1998’s *Mulan*, *Rio 2*, *Robot Chicken* and more. Earlier the day of his death, it had been announced that Ferrer would lend his voice to *Teen Titans: The Judas Contract*, the DC Universe animated original movie. He had completed voice work on the movie prior to his death.

2016 SF&F HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

The Museum of Pop Culture (MoPOP) announced the 2016 inductees to the Science Fiction and Fantasy Hall of Fame in mid-January, Locus Online reported. Eligibility has been expanded “to recognize the genre’s most impactful creations,” and the 2016 inductees are authors Terry Pratchett and Douglas Adams, along with *Star Trek* and *Blade Runner*.

In honor of the museum’s 20th anniversary, 20 additional creators and works were inducted as well:

Creators: Margaret Atwood, Keith David, Guillermo del Toro, Terry Gilliam, Jim Henson, Jack Kirby, Madeleine L’Engle, C.S. Lewis, H.P. Lovecraft, Leonard Nimoy, George Orwell, Rumiko Takahashi, and John Williams.

Works: *2001: A Space Odyssey*, *Dungeons & Dragons*, *The Matrix*, *Myst*, *The Princess Bride*, *Wonder Woman*, and *The X-Files*.

Nominations are submitted by MoPOP members and the final inductees are chosen by a panel of award-winning authors, artists, editors, publishers, and film professionals. A new Hall of Fame exhibit at MoPOP will celebrate current and past inductees in an opening event March 4, 2017.

The Science Fiction Hall of Fame was founded in 1996 and then relocated from the Gunn Center for the Study of Science Fiction and Fantasy at the University of Kansas to its permanent home at MoPOP (formerly EMP) in 2004.

EUGENE CERNAN, LAST MAN ON MOON, DIES

(CNN) Eugene A. Cernan, the last astronaut to leave his footprints on the surface of the Moon, died January 16, NASA said. The retired U.S. Navy captain was 82. His family confirmed the news in a statement the next day, saying he died following "ongoing health issues."

Cernan earned several distinctions in his 13 years with NASA. He was the second American to walk in space and one of three to have flown twice to the Moon. But he's best remembered as commander of Apollo 17, the last mission to the Moon in December 1972.

"Apollo 17 built upon all of the other missions scientifically," Cernan said in 2008. "We had a lunar rover, we were able to cover more ground than most of the other missions. We stayed there a little bit longer. We went to a more challenging unique area in the mountains, to learn something about the history and the origin of the Moon itself."

Up until his death he was passionate about space exploration and hoped America's leaders would not let him remain the last man to walk on the Moon, his family said.

In his last conversation with NASA Administrator Charles Bolden, Cernan spoke of his "lingering desire" to inspire America's youth to study science, technology, engineering and mathematics "and to dare to dream and explore," NASA said.

Cernan was born in Chicago, IL, on March 14, 1934. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering in 1956 from Purdue University, where he received his commission through the Navy ROTC Program. He entered flight training upon graduation and went on to earn a Master of Science degree in Aeronautical Engineering from the US Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA.

He was one of 14 astronauts selected by NASA in October 1963 for the Apollo program, created to send humans to the Moon.

Like others in the program, Cernan also participated in Gemini missions, NASA's second human spaceflight program, developed to support subsequent Apollo missions. On his first space flight, Cernan became the second American to walk in space during the Gemini IX mission in 1966, led by command pilot Thomas Stafford.

On his second sojourn in May 1969, he was pilot of Apollo 10's lunar module, the first comprehensive lunar-orbital qualification and verification flight test of an Apollo lunar module.

He made his third space flight as spacecraft commander of Apollo 17, the last scheduled manned mission to the Moon, in December 1972.

With the support of lunar pilot Harrison H. Schmitt, Cernan established a base of operations in the Moon's Taurus-Littrow valley and made a mission home there for three days. From the landing base, they completed three excursions to nearby craters and the Taurus Mountains.

The mission launched on December 6, 1972, and returned two weeks later. It established several new records for manned space flight, including longest manned lunar landing flight (301 hours, 51 mins), and longest lunar surface extravehicular activities (22 hours, 6 mins).

Leaving the Moon in 1972, Cernan said, "As I take these last steps from the surface for some time into the future to come, I'd just like to record that America's challenge of today has forged man's destiny of tomorrow."

Cernan retired from the Navy after 20 years in 1976 and ended his NASA career. He went into private business and served as television commentator for early flights of the space shuttle.

Cernan is survived by his wife, Jan Nanna Cernan, three daughters and nine grandchildren. His family said his experience as an Apollo astronaut had humbled him.

"I was just a young kid in America growing up with a dream. Today what's most important to me is my desire to inspire the passion in the hearts and minds of future generations of young men and women to see their own impossible dreams become a reality," the family quoted him as recently saying.

BATTLESTAR'S RICHARD HATCH DIES

Richard Hatch, star of the original *Battlestar Galactica*, passed away February 7 after a battle with pancreatic cancer, *Variety* has reported. He was 71 years old.

Hatch died at his home in Santa Clarita, CA, with his son by his side.

Hatch was best known as Captain Apollo on *Battlestar*. Hatch led an effort to revive *Battlestar*, but his vision was ultimately passed over in favor of Ronald D. Moore's re-imagined version. Hatch later appeared on the 2003 *Battlestar Galactica* reboot as Tom Zarek.

Born in May 1945, Hatch began his career as a stage actor, before moving on to television work in the 1970s. He appeared on shows like *All My Children*, *Hawaii Five-O*, *CHiPs*, *The Love Boat* and more.

In 1976, Hatch gained his first major television role as Inspector Dan Robbins on the detective series *The Streets of San Francisco*, a replacement for Michael Douglas (who played Insp. Steve Keller) who had left the series that year. Following this, he had a recurring role on the series *Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman*, also for one season.

BUBONICON 49 WANTS INPUT

by Craig Chrissinger, con co-chair

We're six weeks into 2017 now, believe it or not, and Bubonicon 49 is slightly more than six months away! Three-Day Passes currently are \$35.00, and they go up March 26 to \$40 each, remaining so through August 5. They can be purchased in person at club meetings – or by

mailing payment (with the PDF pre-registration form from the website) to “Bubonicon Inc” at 933 San Mateo Blvd NE, Suite 500-208, Albuquerque, NM 87108; or by paying online with a credit card.

Bubonicon 49 takes place August 25-27 (our traditional weekend) at the Albuquerque Marriott Uptown, 2101 Louisiana Blvd NE, just north of I-40 – enter from the America’s Parkway loop road. This year, we are just 12 days after the Helsinki Worldcon, which may affect some of our participants. For the 6th year, the Marriott is offering sleeping rooms at \$99 single-quad occupancy, with free WiFi in sleeping rooms. Reservations are needed by August 14. That’s 1-800-228-9290. Remember to tell them you’re with Bubonicon.

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

In addition to special guests C.J. Cherryh, Sherwood Smith, Ursula Vernon and artist Elizabeth Leggett, we’re expecting such con regulars as Robert Vardeman, Jane Lindskold, Darynda Jones, Victor Milan, S.M. Stirling, David Lee Summers and Connie Willis, among others. All subject to change and travel plans, of course.

The con-com has to come up with at least 32 possible panel topics at the end of this month, and then we will send out invitations to potential participants in mid-March. We’re asking for all Fan Programming proposals and preliminary requests for time/space to be submitted by Saturday, April 29, so we have time for any questions or clarifications before we build the tentative schedule.

Some planned programming includes the Green Slime Awards, the mass autographing session, the usual two auctions, filking, a game show, the costume contest, films, fan/video programming, and hopefully, the continuation of Kids programming (Jessica can use volunteer assistants). And Victor Milan probably will be, once again, the Master of Ceremonies for the Costume Contest on Saturday.

The theme for Bubonicon 49 is “Back In Time,” with a look at time travel and its complications and consequences. In keeping with tradition and to honor the memory of NM’s own Pioneer Author, we plan to make a financial donation to the (Jack) Williamson SF Library Collection at Eastern NM University, and also to the Roadrunner Food Bank, at least.

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

Meanwhile, Roslee Orndorff & Kristen Dorland and their staff are gearing up for the 2017 Art Show. As usual,

art show packets will be available online late May. We don’t plan to mail out packets, but if you don’t have internet access we can take care of you. If that’s the case, please send a two-ounce paid SASE to the San Mateo address. Info is available from artshow@bubonicon.com.

More general info is available from Craig at 266-8905, our Google Phone at 559-0931, the San Mateo address, at Charlie Fitch’s maintained website: www.bubonicon.com, and at bubonicon@gmail.com.

Trip Report

STAR WARS COSTUMES IN DENVER

An Exhibit Review by Rebecca Hewett

“*Star Wars* and the Power of Costume” is a traveling exhibit organized by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service and the Lucasfilm Museum of Narrative Art. For its time in Colorado, the Denver Art Museum (DAM) has been able to add several pieces not seen at any of the other venues.

The exhibit focuses on explaining how costumes are designed to help contribute and reinforce the story the movie is trying to tell. Conceptual drawings, fabric swatches, and behind-the-scenes photos and film are used in conjunction with the costumes to illustrate the thought process behind costuming decisions. There are also areas of the exhibit where first and second trilogy costumes are displayed side-by-side to show how differences in design help subtly reinforce differences in the *Star Wars* universe before and after the rise of the Empire.

Most of the costumes come from *Star Wars* I, II, and III with a good number of those designed for Natalie Portman as Queen/Senator Amidala. Also included are various Jedi and Sith costumes and props, Jango Fett’s armor, and costumes from various races seen in the Senate scenes from *Star Wars: Attack of the Clones*.

Never fear – also included are costumes from the original trilogy. No matter who your favorite character was, you’ll find him/her there (except Jawas): an original Chewbacca costume, Han Solo’s original costume, C3PO and R2D2, Stormtroopers, a Yoda puppet and, yes, gentlemen, they have Princess Leia’s iconic “slave girl” bikini costume.

The mounting and display of the objects is very dynamic. Much to this costume geek’s delight, a significant portion of the costumes are viewable from front and back or even 360 degrees. Text is, in general, clearly written and easy to read. Sometimes, though, descriptions waiver back and forth between actual fabrics/techniques used in the costume and a more “fantasy” description of what the various parts are “supposed” to be in the *Star Wars* universe.

An audio tour is included with the admission price with separate tracks for adults and children. The adult track is well written. There are one or two tracks for each room of the exhibit allowing you to not get bogged down with audio track, but to get good information on what the

exhibit is trying to show you (and leaving further interpretation to you). I tried to listen to part of the children's track, but found it way too juvenile.

At the end of the exhibit is a large souvenir shop. Be warned: The exhibit book is sold out. Totally. Completely. DAM also has set up a large costume design workshop for you to explore with activities focusing on the different steps in design. Most are geared to children, but the staff is fully willing to help everyone enjoy.

Non-flash photography is allowed. Costumes are allowed WITHOUT masks, helmets or anything that hide your face. I'm not sure about facial make-up.

Cost of the exhibit at \$28.00 for adults is not cheap, but it does include the audio tour and general admission to the DAM for the day. It can easily be (and I think most people) viewed it in about an hour. Kevin and I spent a little over two hours. And seeing the rest of the DAM is well worth the rest of your day. It is absolutely a weekend trip with Denver being about a six-hour drive. Even with the drive and expense, I highly recommend you get your butt to Denver to see this exhibit before it ends on April 2.

Con Report

COSINE 2017 WITH JO WALTON

by Kevin Hewett

COSine, Colorado Spring's science fiction convention, was held January 20-22, 2017. The Guest of Honor was author Jo Walton, the Science Guest was "Magic Laser Man" Jon Singer, and Special Guests were Connie and Courtney Willis. The convention is small – maybe 250 people attended – with only two tracks of programming and no costume contest.

Highlights included the interview of Walton by the head of programming and the demonstration by the Science Guest on how to build a working laser in less than 20 minutes.

During her interview, Walton answered questions such as why she moved to Montreal from Wales (the food and books are much better), and how autobiographical was her novel *Among Others* (Nebula, Hugo, British Fantasy Award). She said it is not truly autobiographical but was based in part on memories of her childhood. When the interviewer asked Jo Walton what question she is never asked, her response was "pacing." Different genres have different pacing and failure to meet the reader's expectation on pacing can make or break a genre novel.



Singer, the Science Guest, is a man of many talents, but foremost among them is his love for building lasers. He makes lasers out of the most unusual materials sometimes, but the results are amazing. During the convention he assembled a nitrogen laser and

demonstrated its capabilities during one panel. A cool demonstration for those in attendance.

COSine was a fun weekend – well worth the drive if the weather in late January cooperates. I recommend that others check out this convention that reminds me of Bubonicon 15 years ago.

Book Events

THREE AUTHORS IN TWO DAYS

by Craig Chrissinger

During the weekend of January 28-29, two book signings with three Bubonicon friends were held in Albuquerque and Santa Fe. On Saturday the 28th, Darynda Jones and Jeffe Kennedy joined forces at Page One Books to talk about *Eleventh Grave in Moonlight* and *The Edge of the Blade: The Uncharted Realms Book 2*, respectively. And on Sunday the 29th, Carrie Vaughn conversed with George RR Martin at the Jean Cocteau Cinema about *Martians Abroad*.

Following are some news bits and various quotes gained from the two events:

Darynda Jones revealed that the 13th Grave novel will wrap up the current series. That book should be out in 2018 and has no working title at the moment. Jones presently is finishing up the 12th Charley Davidson book, currently titled *The Trouble with Twelfth Grave*. *Twelfth Grave* is set to be released at Halloween this year.

Jones is planning a spin-off series around the characters of Osh and Beep. She also is working on *Bitterdust*, a Young Adult tale in an alternate reality 1930s dust bowl.

Jones is moving back to Portales soon so her husband can return to running his body shop after their manager developed health problems. "We have no idea how long this will continue, and it was easier to just move back for now. We did the driving back and forth for seven years. And Danny's body shop is the best in the area!"

Jeffe Kennedy revealed that *Edge of the Blade* is the last *Uncharted Realms* novel that Kensington will publish. She's planning to self-publish at least one more series book – *The Shift of the Tide* – and then possibly two more, "depending on how the story plays."

"Kensington declined doing more of these books," she said. "They asked me to do a different series, and I declined that offer. They are being strange lately."

She also plans to finish her *Sorcerous Moons* series, and has a new Fantasy Romance out on submission.

At the start of his Sunday conversation with Vaughn in Santa Fe, Martin commented that she can write a book in the time it takes him to write a page. Vaughn replied, "But my books are a quarter to a fifth the size of yours."

Vaughn said that she does borrow titles at times. "I either know the title immediately and it sticks, or I have no idea. *Martians Abroad* was one of the latter. It had a working title but I knew it wouldn't fly. So, the editors, the marketing folks and I brainstormed."

She said the book is kind of her take on Robert

Heinlein's *Podkayne of Mars*. "But it's my memory of that book – there's more action and less ideology," Vaughn commented. "I corrected what I didn't like about Heinlein. It's a book about New Mars with what we know about Mars now. It's not the Old Mars of Burroughs, Bradbury, Clarke, Heinlein and such."

Thinking about various probes of the Red Planet, Vaughn quipped, "Mars is the only planet we know of that is totally inhabited by robots!"

Vaughn said she did not set her novel in a specific year so she could fudge a little bit. Polly and her brother are third-generation colonists, living underground in the first established colony on Mars. And she envisioned the novel as a Young Adult with "young protagonists that hopefully appeal to teenage readers."

A possible sequel will depend on how well *Martians Abroad* (her 20th novel) sells and whether the publisher is interested, but she does have ideas for it.

Asked about ending the *Kitty Norville* werewolf series, Vaughn said there were several factors in her decision. "Urban fantasy seemed to become very popular when *Buffy* went off the air," she noted. "But the genre is not doing so well now. I knew how I wanted the series to end, and I wanted to do it before it fizzled out. I might have been able to do more books, but I did get to do the ending of the series the way I wanted."

On joining the *Wild Cards* team, Vaughn stated that some of her favorite characters are "young women trying to find themselves and their places in the world. And in *Wild Cards*, I wanted to create powerful female characters that are not just supporting characters."

Asked about her writing style, Vaughn replied, "I'd love to be an architect, and I do outlines. I have to know my ending because that makes it easier. But a lot of times, in my outline there literally will be a place where I wrote, 'Something awesome happens.' When I'm doing the outline, that seems brilliant. But when I'm actually writing, I get to that and I suddenly have to stop to noodle over it."

Vaughn next has *Bannerless* coming out in July, which is a post-apocalyptic murder mystery set in the same universe as two short stories she's done. She is working on a sequel now.

BOOK REVIEW CORNER

***The Malice: The Vagrant Trilogy Book 2* by Peter Newman, 2017 Harper Voyager, tp \$16.99, 464 pages. On sale March 7, 2017.**

Review by Becky C. Davis

The Malice is the second fantasy/post-apocalypse book by Peter Newman, following *The Vagrant* in what I am calling his "Blasted World" series.

In *The Vagrant*, a troubled knight in service to the Six Seraph Knights battles and vanquishes terrible evils which have flowed across a denuded, post-apocalyptic world. At the end of that book, the unnamed knight, his adopted girl-child, his companion Harm and a ragged surly goat retreat to a small farm outside the great Shining City.

In *The Malice*, Vesper is now about 14 years old. She tires of the quiet life as a farmhand and goatherd to the progeny of the Goat. She finds her father's battle tokens – his boots, long coat and the vanquishing sword, *The Malice*. This magical sword belonged to Gamma of the Seraph Knights, but Gamma was killed by infernals who crept out of the Breach, far to the south. The Breach has opened wider to spew infernals and plagues out into what is left of the cleaner land. Within the Breach lies the greater evil, *The Yearning*, waiting to rise out into the land.

Genner, a commander of a support army loyal to the Seraph Knights, pleads with *The Vagrant* to don *The Malice* to fight the infernals from the Breach. He refuses. Through small innocent mistakes, Vesper follows after Genner with the sword, her father's battle tokens and a young goat she has saved. Genner presumes that Vesper is now the one to save his world, and takes her with him.

Then Vesper and the Kid are off for many terrifying adventures. She acquires a damaged companion, *Duet*, one-half of a Harmonized pair of guardians for *The Malice*. She and *Duet* battle infernal leaders: *The First*, *The Usurper*, *Hangnail*, the *Backwards Child*, *Gutterface* and the *Dogspawn* toward the Breach and the goal of saving the "untainted" world.

A second tale of the origin of "essences" and infernals is woven through Vesper and *Duet*'s battles. This is a tale of *Massassi*, a young factory worker of 1,137 years previous to Vesper's era. She suffers a terrible amputation of one arm in a factory accident, but can see the "true" essence of her arm after surgery. Soon, she can see "true" essences of more people around her. She builds essence power and begins to exploit her world, gradually destroying it in the process. Thus, she is the source of "essences" and "infernals" loose upon the later, blasted world.

Throughout the story Vesper continues to be innocent and hopeful. She always tries to help untainted, tainted and damaged people and creatures. I found that to be a stretched fantasy. The infernals all continue to be selfish, cunning and savage. The regions through which Vesper, *Duet* and the Kid travel are uniformly devastated, starved and utterly depressing. I'd slit my throat in that world.

Vesper reluctantly wields *The Malice* to vanquish evil infernals, and eventually, *The Yearning* in *The Breach*. She finally accepts that she has been chosen by *The Malice* to be its messenger for good. But she does so with an innocence at odds with the gruesome qualities of the battles.

Once again I had difficulty with Newman's writing style. Despite the back story of *Massassi*, the origins of essences and infernals felt forced. The contrasts between a blasted new feudal world with magical elements in it skittering up against environments with plastic and high tensile steel were incongruous. If I were 15, I might accept and roll with the plot incongruities and unremitting violence. But I'm not. I want my fantasy tropes and my post-apocalyptic tropes to stay in their own worlds. Or be combined in a more logical manner. This book may have maidens and mayhem, but it does not penetrate the barrier of my disbelief in Newman's world.

***Martians Abroad* by Carrie Vaughn, 2017 Tor Books, hc \$24.99, 288 pages.**

Review by Jessica Coyle

Martians Abroad is the latest Young Adult novel from Colorado author Carrie Vaughn, who is probably best known for her Kitty Norville series of werewolf urban fantasy novels. This novel follows 16-year-old Polly Newton and her twin brother Charles as they leave their home on Mars to attend an elite boarding school on Earth. Polly's very against leaving Mars, where she has been working on an internship to reach her goal of becoming a starship captain.

Galileo Academy ends up being worse than Polly expected. Unused to life on Earth, from the higher gravity to the strange food and customs, she struggles to fit in with her other classmates. Then her classmates start being thrown into unexplained dangerous situations, and Polly begins to suspect that there is more happening at Galileo Academy than meets the eye. With the help of her brother Charles, Polly begins an investigation to discover the truth behind the strange accidents.

Martians Abroad is a quick, enjoyable read. Definitely written in the vein of Vaughn's other YA novels such as *Steel* and *Voices of Dragons*, it is an enjoyable romp with a likeable main character and an interesting mystery at its core. I would definitely recommend it to fans of Young Adult novels and to those who enjoy Vaughn's other works.

***The Jurassic Chronicles (The Future Chronicles Book 15)* presented by Samuel Peralta and edited by Crystal Watanabe, 2017 Windrift Books, Kindle (no dead tree version available) \$0.99, 273 pages.**

Review by Rebecca Hewett

Fifteenth in a series of themed anthologies organized by Samuel Peralta, *The Jurassic Chronicles* is a collection of 13 dinosaur-related stories. Authors approach the subject in a myriad of different ways including, but not limited to: genetic manipulation, travel and travails in time and space, high fantasy, detective noir, and magazine pulp.

My two personal favorites happen to be by the two New Mexican writers. "Cryptozology" by Emily Mah is about a biologist who has slipped down the slope from respected scientist to a laughable life of chasing cryptozologic "specimens." Called out to examine and authenticate a real dinosaur for a client, Daryl McPhie faces a couple of con artists, a missing physicist and his concerned sister. While this story doesn't give you all the answers, I found the ending highly satisfactory. It's more about examining the consequences of life choices. It's a one-off story, but I found I'd like to read more of Daryl's adventures.

In "A Spear for Allosaur," Victor Milán takes us to the world of Paradise from his high fantasy novel *The Dinosaur Lords*. Young Lord Karyl Bogomirskiy is believed to be neither intelligent nor competent by his father or any of his retainers. Left for a few days on his own and surrounded by advisors who give him anything but, he faces the difficult decision of following his father's orders to do nothing in his absence or the prospect of the loss of human

lives from a rampaging Allosaur in the nearby countryside. Milán gives us a little angst, a little action/adventure, and a little awww... in a story that you don't have to read *The Dinosaur Lords* to follow and enjoy.

Sometimes the dinosaurs in the stories are front and center and sometimes they have a more minor role in a wider story. In eight of the stories, the authors use this opportunity to dabble further in a world they have written in before. But since we live a post-*Jurassic Park* franchise world, all the authors had to face the T-Rex in the room, if you will. A couple of authors face it head on with mentions of the Crichton book/movie and others deal with it more obliquely or manage, successfully, to avoid it all together.

I think some of the stories could have been written tighter and some would have been better if the reader was familiar with other works in their world, but overall the book was a very enjoyable journey. This anthology gives readers a wide range of stories so there is likely to be at least one to your taste and maybe you'll find a new author or world of which you'll want to read more. I did.

***Take Back the Sky: War Dogs Book 3* by Greg Bear, 2016 Orbit, hc \$26.00, 296 pages.**

Review by Kevin Hewett

Take Back the Sky is the third installment in the *War Dogs* series. Unfortunately, the novel does not stand on its own. Readers are strongly encouraged to read the first two installments (*War Dogs*, 2015 and *Killing Titan*, 2016) before attempting this book. The book suffers from being the concluding volume of a trilogy – dropping the reader into a world with little explanation or understanding of the motivations of the major characters.

Briefly, the protagonists are a group of soldiers who have been marooned on Titan. They have been fighting in a war between the alien Gurus and the equally alien Antagonists. The war has been fought in a multitude of locations from the sands of Mars to the moons of Saturn. The war has led to a schism in Earth's military establishment – many continue to support the Gurus who have given so much knowledge and technology to Earth, and a rebellious few who no longer believe in the Gurus' benevolence.

In short – this novel is well-crafted and worth reading if one commits to reading its predecessors – otherwise I would recommend skipping it.

***The Edge of the Blade: The Uncharted Realms Book 2* by Jeffe Kennedy, 2017 Kensington, tp \$9.95, 344 pages.**

Review by Jessica Coyle

The Edge of the Blade is the fifth book in Santa Fe author Jeffe Kennedy's *Twelve Kingdoms* romance series (with the last two novels released as "The Uncharted Realms"). The books follow the women involved with the royal house of the Twelve Kingdoms, a fantasy realm which seems to loosely combine magic and Renaissance-style living. *The Edge of the Blade* follows the character of Jepp, the lead scout for High Queen Ursula's personal guard, on her diplomatic mission to Dasnaria, a neighboring kingdom.

Jepp is thrust into the position of ambassador due to

unforeseen circumstances, and she feels very unprepared for the task. Prince Kral of Dasnaria takes it upon himself to prepare her for the very different ways of the Dasnarian Court, and they quickly fall into lust with each other. Even though her only intention was to have some fun, Jepp finds herself becoming more and more entangled with Kral. Will she be able to complete her mission and survive to return to the Twelve Kingdoms without destroying Kral in the process?

Kennedy's *Twelve Kingdoms* series has been a consistently fun and well-written entry into the Fantasy Romance genre. I highly recommend them, but I do not know that *The Edge of the Blade* is a good place to start because its plot picks up almost precisely where *The Pages of the Mind*, the previous book in the series, left off. I feel that readers would do better starting at the beginning of the story. That said, I highly recommend the series to fantasy and romance readers, and suggest starting with *The Mark of the Tala*.

ASFS MEETING REPORTS — OCTOBER 2016: RADFORD RETURNS

A large Halloween crowd of 47 people were on hand as local skeptical investigator Benjamin Radford talked on "Contacting the Dead: Séances from the Victorian Era to Modern Times."

Asked what he has being published next, Radford said he is working on a book on scientific ghost investigations. "I'm hoping to finish it by the end of the year, and its unimaginative working title is *Scientific Ghost Investigation*. It's basically a culmination of 15 years of writing, researching, and investigating ghosts – and seeing the abysmal standards and results of modern ghost hunters."

Radford began his Séances presentation by saying about one out of every five Americans believes they have personally been in the presence of a ghost. "When we're talking about communicating with unseen entities, it's never been clear who - or what - you're presumably talking to," he said. "Angels, devils, fairies or spirits? How do you know? Mysterious actions would have been attributed to different entities at different times."

The ancient Egyptians believe it was possible to talk with spirits, Radford noted. It was usually a one-way communication, often assisted with shamans who usually talked with deities or ancestors. Talking to the ghost of a stranger is a NEWER idea.

The 1840s to 1920s saw the rise of Spiritualism – spirits rapping out messages dates to the mid-1800s, Radford said. The Fox Sisters became famous for their ability to communicate with spirits. Even after they admitted their deal was a hoax, self-proclaimed mediums continued for decades to say that raps and knocks were from spirits.

Next, ghosts graduated far beyond mere taps and raps with the advent of spirit writing, which also is called automatic writing. Ghosts often were said to use chalk and slates, or pencil and paper. Mostly these messages were of

love and such, Radford noted. There also were ghost-written books with spirits writing through mediums.

Inspired by Spiritualism, ghost investigators became a mainstream intellectual pursuit, and societies sprang up to access the evidence.

Then in the post-war 1940s came the Ouija Board era. The Ouija Board was only one of countless divination tools used for millennia. The Board was invented in the early 1890s by Elijah Bond, and it became a Parker Brothers (now Hasbro) property in 1966.

It was unrelated to the occult until Pearl Curran began touting it as a tool for contacting spirits, among other things. She is responsible for the Ouija Board's modern reputation as a "real" tool for prophecy and contacting spirits, Radford explained. And Thomas Edison was one of the Ouija Board's skeptics.

Since then, the Ouija Board has become the staple of horror films, such as *The Uninvited*, *The Exorcist*, *The Changeling*, *Witchboard*, *Paranormal Activity*, *White Noise* and *Ouija: Origin of Evil*.

The 1950s saw the origins of EVP (electronic voice phenomenon). And then through the 1970s there was a resurgence of interest in contacting the dead, but with a twist - former lives of a person in which the spirits contacted were their own!

The 1970s also saw a surge in spirit-dictated books for the New Age crowd, Radford noted. Psychic mediums were generating the messages – not spirits of the dead. Also, there were a lot of media depictions in film like *Amityville Horror*, *The Exorcist* and *Poltergeist*. The 1980s and '90s had a return of ghost busters - the *Ghostbusters* movie, *The Ghost Hunters* TV show and spin-offs.

"Today, there are two primary ways people claim to communicate with ghosts – psychic mediums and EVP," said Radford. "Thousands of mediums claim to be sensitive to the spirit world."

The validity of EVP was widely accepted by ghost hunter enthusiasts by 2005. Either they set up a recorder in a room and leave it alone for a couple of hours, or a ghost hunter carries the recorder around and aims the microphone. Skeptics, of course, note that most EVP is created by the well-understood psychological process called *Apophenia*, which causes people to "hear" distinct sounds (or see faces in random patterns).

Radford ended his presentation with an 1866 quote from P.T. Barnum: "None of the ghosts that haunt houses are of the least possible use. They plague people, but do no good. They act like the spirits of departed monkeys."

CLUB BUSINESS: 2017 Club Officers elected were Co-Executive Secretaries Craig Chrissinger & Jessica Coyle, Moderator Kevin Zander, and Alternator Mike McComas. Theme chosen for December's party: "*Star Trek*."

NOVEMBER 2016: LINDSKOLD READS

Forty-two people listened to local author Jane Lindskold read a short story, "A Familiar's Predicament," told in first-person from a conjured familiar's perspective.

In the story, a familiar is conjured and manifests as a small dragon when the summoner is in danger. The familiar complains about being stuck in one shape (as opposed to being an energy form) and having to obey its master.

Lindskold commented, "I wrote this very fast, and just let whatever came out of my fingers onto the paper. I have a weird subconscious, and I just let it do what it wanted.

"This story was partly inspired by a roleplaying game I was running," she continued. "They were looking for a solution to communicating when separated. One option I gave them was attaching telepathic slugs to their necks. They rejected that. Instead, they went on a quest to find familiars. And that got me thinking about familiars."

She has four stories out that will be published whenever the editors get around to it. She also just finished a book on spec, which she enjoyed writing. She noted that it is unusual and very different, so it may not go out to any publishers. Instead, she might self-publish it.

Asked about doing a more Treecat books (set in David Weber's Honorverse), Lindskold noted that the two authors would like to do another one. At the moment, however, "Baen wants him to work on the stuff that makes them money. So, not right now – but David and I have ideas."

DECEMBER 2016: DESSERTS & FILMS

Forty-eight people came to watch comedic holiday film shorts, and to judge the 12th ASFS Dessert Cook-Off by tasting many delightful food samples.

As is the norm, St. Andrew's space was split between the movie area and dessert tables. Shown during the evening were music videos (Jimmy Fallon's *Lip Synch Battle* with Melissa McCarthy), a *Penguins of Madagascar* episode ("Popcorn Panic"), two *Simon's Cat* episodes ("Bed Sheets" and "Snow Cat"), a *Shaun the Sheep* episode ("We Wish Ewe a Merry Christmas"), a *Saturday Night Live* sketch ("David S. Pumpkins"), the *Team Thor* short, an ad for Temptations with cats facing holiday temptations, the official Sainsbury 2016 holiday ad, two *Bugs Bunny* cartoons ("Abominable Snow Rabbit" and "8 Ball Bunny"), a *Big Bang Theory* episode ("The Bath Item Gift Hypothesis"), an episode of *Star Trek: The Animated Series* ("More Tribbles, More Troubles"), a sketch from *Mystery Science Theater 3000* ("A Roadhouse Christmas"), and a segment from *Freakazoid* ("An Ode To Leonard Nimoy").

In the Dessert Cook-Off with "*Star Trek*" as the Theme, there were 20 entries from 19 people – Kevin Hewett, Becky Davis, Rebecca Hewett, Jessica Coyle, Heather & Daniel Hay, Julie Heffernan, Harriet Engle, Al Kulp, Grant Kuck, Geneva Schult, Linda Walters, Leah Ransom, Kevin Zander, Tanley McMullan, Patricia Rogers, Kathy K. Kubica, Amy Mathis, and Elizabeth Leggett.

BEST OVERALL went to Geneva Schult's Captain Koth's Minced Tribble Meat, the RUNNER-UP to Heather & Daniel Hay's Scott Bakula's Baklava, and HONORABLE MENTION to Harriet Engle's Hasperat Rolls (Bajoran Pickled Cabbage). In the *STAR TREK* THEME CATEGORY, Kevin

Hewett took the prize for Spock's Brains.

THANK YOU RECOGNITION for assistance in setting up/cleaning up goes to Grant Kuck, Heather & Daniel Hay, Becky Davis, Roberta Johnson, Dale Snider, Julie Heffernan (also for her *Star Trek* Christmas tree), Duke McMullan, George Bates, Steve Kubica (for burning the DVD), Kevin Zander, Mike McCommas and Cat Corva.

EDITOR NOTES TO FILL THIS SPACE

• TOO MANY DEATHS! The number of genre-related authors and actors dying since last issue is almost incomprehensible. So many. Add in musicians like George Michael and actors like Debbie Reynolds, and it gets bleak real fast. Especially hard on us all was the death of Carrie Fisher - our *Star Wars* princess. May the Force be with her always!

• REMEMBER LAST ISSUE when I was talking about trying to keep real-world politics out of the ASFS newsletter? Well, there's a reason that *1984* and *Animal Farm* by George Orwell, *It Can't Happen Here* by Sinclair Lewis, *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood and *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley are back on the Bestseller Lists.

With the press and religions under threat, each of us must stand up and make our voices heard. Some people of different political ideology may feel that radical change is needed in this country. Even if true, changes should be done with compassion, ethics and respect/thought for everyone affected.

Otherwise, some us wonder whether we are moving into a real-life dystopia. What else can we think when climate change is "fake news," double-speak exists ("alternative facts"), and Science is not real? I'm not trying to upset or anger anyone. I'm just saying we need unity. This widening division can only bring pain and suffering. None of that is wanted. By anyone.

• MEANWHILE, BUBONICON 49 is coming up. We did door prizes at *Galaxy Quest* and *Mad Max: Fury Road* in January at the Guild Cinema, and should be working others soon. We also were in Santa Fe twice for events at the Jean Cocteau Cinema for author Carrie Vaughn and artist Elizabeth Leggett (you have to see Leggett prints on metal - they are gorgeous). And are waiting for confirmation of a Joe Lansdale event in March. The con is a little more than six months off, believe it or not...

• GREEN SLIME RESEARCH: Jessica & I need to see at least *Monster Trucks* and *Assassin's Creed* based on trailers and reviews. Devin's ASFS visit should provide more possibilities.

• I CAN SAY THAT *The Lego Batman Movie*, *Rogue One* and *Hidden Figures* are worth seeing! *Hidden Figures* is especially interesting & moving. On TV, check out *Riverdale*, *Timeless*, *The Good Place*, *Lucifer* and *Supergirl*. Oh, and we finally watched the full 1st season of *Daredevil* - very good!

• SPEAKING OF TV shows, *The Expanse* from James S.A. Corey (local dudes Abraham & Franck) just started its 2nd season February 1. Congrats. And at a signing event at Page One Books on February 4, they announced that there will be a total of nine books in the written *Expanse* universe. Very cool.

• I'M WAITING NOW to find out whether I will be covering the Williamson Lectureship again for *Locus Magazine*. And I need to get back to doing book reviews for the *ABQ Journal*.

• THANKS TO Becky, Jessica, Kevin & Rebecca for trip reports & book reviews! *ASFacts* needs more contributions.

• SEE YOU ALL in these pages in two months (deadline for submissions is Mon. April 17). Happy Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day. Beware the Ides of March & such. – Craig C.