



# ASFACTS 2017

## APRIL "WHY IS IT HOT SO EARLY?" ISSUE

### 51ST NEBULA FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

The Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America announced the nominees mid-March for the 51st Annual Nebula Awards, the Ray Bradbury Award for Outstanding Dramatic Presentation, and the Andre Norton Award for Outstanding Young Adult Science Fiction or Fantasy Book.

**Novel:** *All the Birds in the Sky* by Charlie Jane Anders, *Borderline* by Mishell Baker, *The Obelisk Gate* by N.K. Jemisin, *Ninefox Gambit* by Yoon Ha Lee, and *Everfair* by Nisi Shawl.

**Novella:** *Runtime* by S.B. Divya, *The Dream-Quest of Vellitt Boe* by Kij Johnson, *The Ballad of Black Tom* by Victor LaValle, *Every Heart a Doorway* by Seanan McGuire, "The Liar" by John P. Murphy, and *A Taste of Honey* by Kai Ashante Wilson.

**Novelette:** "The Long Fall Up" by William Ledbetter, "Sooner or Later Everything Falls Into the Sea" by Sarah Pinsker, "Blood Grains Speak Through Memories" by Jason Sanford, "The Orangery" by Bonnie Jo Stufflebeam, *The Jewel and Her Lapidary* by Fran Wilde, and "You'll Surely Drown Here If You Stay" by Alyssa Wong.

**Short Story:** "Our Talons Can Crush Galaxies" by Brooke Bolander, "Seasons of Glass and Iron" by Amal El-Mohtar, "Sabbath Wine" by Barbara Krasnoff, "Things With Beards" by Sam J. Miller, "This Is Not a Wardrobe Door" by A. Merc Rustad, "A Fist of Permutations in Lightning and Wildflowers" by Alyssa Wong, and "Welcome to the Medical Clinic at the Interplanetary Relay Station&#9474;Hours Since the Last Patient Death: 0" by Caroline M. Yoachim.

**Ray Bradbury Award:** *Arrival*, *Doctor Strange, Kubo and the Two Strings*, *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*, *Westworld*: "The Bicameral Mind," and *Zootopia*.

**Andre Norton Award:** *The Girl Who Drank the Moon* by Kelly Barnhill, *The Star-Touched Queen* by Roshani Chokshi, *The Lie Tree* by Frances Hardinge, *Arabella of Mars* by David D. Levine, *Railhead* by Philip Reeve, *Rocks Fall, Everyone Dies* by Lindsay Ribar, and *The Evil Wizard Smallbone* by Delia Sherman.

The Nebula Awards recognize the best works of science fiction and fantasy published in the United States as selected by members of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America, membership in which is open to all professional science fiction and fantasy authors. The first Nebula Awards were presented in 1966.

In addition to the Nebula Awards, SFWA will present the Kate Wilhelm Solstice Award, the Kevin O'Donnell, Jr. Service to SFWA Award, and the Damon Knight Memorial Grand Master Award.

Jim Fiscus has been awarded the 2017 Kevin O'Donnell, Jr. Service to SFWA Award for "his outstanding work on behalf of the organization." Fiscus has been involved with the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America since he began volunteering in 1990.

Dr. Kjell Lindgren, the astronaut who "flew to the International Space Station on Soyuz TMA-17M in 2015 to serve as part of ISS Expedition 44 and 45," will be Toastmaster at the 2017 SFWA Nebula Awards.

All awards will be presented during the annual Nebula Conference, to run May 18th-21<sup>st</sup> in Pittsburgh, PA, and feature seminars and panel discussions on the craft and business of writing, SFWA's annual business meeting, a mass autograph session, and receptions.

### ED BRYANT PASSES AWAY

Edward Bryant, 71, died in his sleep after a long illness. He was found February 10 at home in Denver, CO.

Bryant was an accomplished SF writer, mostly of

### UPCOMING ASFS MEETINGS

- **Tonight:** Devin O'Leary of the *Weekly Alibi* presents his 5TH SCI-FI TRAILER PARK with a look at forthcoming genre movies. We're a week late!
- **May 12:** Tara Oakes shows off her Robots!
- **June 9:** Walter Jon Williams talks about new novel *Quillifer*, and other upcoming projects.
- **July 14:** Summer Film - something fun & light. Plus summer's issue of *ASFACTS* (deadline July 10).
- **August 11:** Bubonicon 49 preview & something fun (possibly an author visit).
- **August 18:** Bubonicon 49 Gofer Meeting.
- **September 15:** Bubonicon 49, Helsinki Worldcon, and DragonCon reports. Meeting is a week late.

**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, July 10. **Club Officers:** Jessica Coyle & Craig Chrissinger, co-Zec Secs (505) 266-8905. Kevin Zander, Moderator. Mike McCommas, Alternator. **Bubonicon Chairs:** Craig Chrissinger & Caci Cooper (505) 559-0931.

short stories. He began publishing SF work with “They Come Only in Dreams” and “Sending the Very Best,” both in January 1970. For the next two decades he was a frequent contributor to magazines and anthologies, and though his fictional output slowed in the '90s, he was still active as a critic. He was a familiar figure at conventions, especially in Colorado fandom. He was a frequent guest at the World Horror Convention, and chaired the 2000 convention in Denver. He also was Guest of Honor at Bubonicon 7 in 1975.

Bryant won Nebula Awards for “Stone” in 1978 and “giANTS” the next year, and both were also Hugo Award finalists. Other stories include Hugo and Nebula Award finalist “The Thermals of August,” Nebula Award nominees “Shark” in 1973, “The Hibakusha Gallery,” “Particle Theory,” and “Strata,” World Fantasy and Stoker Award finalist “A Sad Last Love at the Diner of the Damned” in 1989, Stoker nominee “The Loneliest Number,” and Sturgeon Memorial Award nominee “The Fire that Scours.”

His debut collection *Among the Dead and Other Events Leading up to the Apocalypse* appeared in 1973, followed by *Cinnabar*, a collection of linked far-future stories. Other collections include *Wyoming Sun*, *Particle Theory*, *Neon Twilight*, *Darker Passions*, *The Baku: Tales of the Nuclear Age*, *Trilobyte*, and 2014’s *Predators and Other Stories*. With Harlan Ellison he wrote *Phoenix without Ashes* in 1978, and solo short novel *Fetish* appeared in 1991. He also edited *2076: The American Tricentennial*, was an editor for Wormhole Books, and contributed to the *Wild Cards* series. He wrote screenplays and occasionally appeared in films.

Upon hearing the news, George RR Martin wrote, “Ed has been a friend of mine since the early ‘70s, and of course was one of our original Wild Carders, a part of the series since the very beginning. His health has not been good for a long time, but even so, this comes as a shock. He will be missed.”

Edward Winslow Bryant, Jr. was born August 27, 1945, in White Plains, NY, and was raised on a cattle ranch in Wyoming. He attended the University of Wyoming, where he earned a Master’s in English in 1968 and ’69. He went to the Clarion Writers’ Workshop in 1968. In 1972 he moved to Denver, where he founded the Northern Colorado Writers Workshop, which over the years included Steve Rasnic Tem & Melanie Tem, Wil McCarthy, Bruce Holland Rogers, Dan Simmons, Connie Willis, and other writers. He helped found and run many other workshops and classes as well, including the Colorado Springs Writers Workshop. And for many years Bryant wrote reviews and convention reports for *Locus Magazine*. He will be greatly missed by many people in the Southwest and beyond.



## 2017 HUGO FINALISTS NAMED

Finalists for the Hugo Awards and for the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer were announced in early April by Worldcon 75, the 75th World Science Fiction Convention, to be held in Helsinki, Finland, August 9-13. They counted 2,464 valid nominating ballots (2,458 electronic and six paper) from the members of Mid-AmeriCon II, Worldcon 75, and ConJose.

Friends of Bubonicon up for awards include James S.A. Corey, George RR Martin, John Picacio, Carrie Vaughn, and Ursula Vernon (B49’s toastmaster).

**Best Novel:** *All the Birds in the Sky* by Charlie Jane Anders, *A Closed and Common Orbit* by Becky Chambers, *The Obelisk Gate* by N.K. Jemisin, *Ninefox Gambit* by Yoon Ha Lee, *Death’s End* by Cixin Liu, and *Too Like the Lightning* by Ada Palmer.

**Best Novella:** *Penric and the Shaman* by Lois McMaster Bujold, *The Dream-Quest of Vellitt Boe* by Kij Johnson, *The Ballad of Black Tom* by Victor LaValle, *Every Heart a Doorway* by Seanan McGuire, *This Census-Taker* by China Miéville, and *A Taste of Honey* by Kai Ashante Wilson.

**Best Novelette:** “The Art of Space Travel” by Nina Allan, “Touring with the Alien” by Carolyn Ives Gilman, *Alien Stripper Boned from Behind by the T-Rex* by Stix Hiscock, “THE TOMATO THIEF” BY URSULA VERNON, *The Jewel and Her Lapidary* by Fran Wilde, and “You’ll Surely Drown Here If You Stay” by Alyssa Wong.

**Best Short Story:** “Our Talons Can Crush Galaxies” by Brooke Bolander, “Seasons of Glass and Iron” by Amal El-Mohtar, “The City Born Great” by N.K. Jemisin, “THAT GAME WE PLAYED DURING THE WAR” BY CARRIE VAUGHN, “A Fist of Permutations in Lightning and Wildflowers” by Alyssa Wong, and “An Unimaginable Light” by John C. Wright.

**Best Related Work:** *The Princess Diarist* by Carrie Fisher, *Women of Harry Potter* series of posts by Sarah Gailey, *The View from the Cheap Seats* by Neil Gaiman, *The Geek Feminist Revolution* by Kameron Hurley, *Words Are My Matter: Writings About Life and Books, 2000-2016* by Ursula K. Le Guin, and *Traveler of Worlds: Conversations with Robert Silverberg* by Robert Silverberg & Alvaro Zinos-Amaro.

**Best Graphic Story:** *Black Panther, Volume 1: A Nation Under Our Feet* by Ta-Nehisi Coates, *The Vision, Volume 1: Little Worse Than A Man* by Tom King, *Monstress, Volume 1: Awakening* by Marjorie Liu, *Paper Girls, Volume 1* by Brian K. Vaughan, *Saga, Volume 6* by Brian K. Vaughan, and *Ms. Marvel, Volume 5: Super Famous* by G. Willow Wilson.

**Best Dramatic Presentation - Long:** *Arrival*, *Deadpool*, *Ghostbusters*, *Hidden Figures*, *Rogue One*, and *Stranger Things, Season One*. **Best Dramatic Presentation - Short:** *Black Mirror: “San Junipero,” Doctor Who: “The Return of Doctor Mysterio,” THE EXPANSE:*

“LEVIATHAN WAKES,” *GAME OF THRONES*: “BATTLE OF THE BASTARDS,” *GAME OF THRONES*: “THE DOOR,” and *Splendor & Misery*.

**Best Professional Editor Short Form:** John Joseph Adams, Neil Clarke, Ellen Datlow, Jonathan Strahan, Lynne M. Thomas & Michael Damian Thomas, and Sheila Williams. **Best Professional Editor Long Form:** Vox Day, Sheila E. Gilbert, Liz Gorinsky, Devi Pillai, Miriam Weinberg, and Navah Wolfe. **Best Professional Artist:** Galen Dara, Julie Dillon, Chris McGrath, Victo Ngai, JOHN PICACIO, and Sana Takeda.

**Best Semiprozine:** *Beneath Ceaseless Skies*, *Cirsova Heroic Fantasy and Science Fiction Magazine*, *GigaNotoSaurus*, *Strange Horizons*, *Uncanny Magazine*, and *The Book Smugglers*. **Best Fanzine:** *Castalia House Blog*, *Journey Planet*, *Lady Business*, *nerds of a feather*, *flock together*, *Rocket Stack Rank*, and *SF Bluestocking*. **Best Fancast:** *The Coode Street Podcast*, *Ditch Diggers*, *Fangirl Happy Hour*, *Galactic Suburbia*, *The Rageaholic*, and *Tea & Jeopardy*.

**Best Fan Writer:** Mike Glycer, Jeffro Johnson, Natalie Luhrs, Foz Meadows, Abigail Nussbaum, and Chuck Tingle. **Best Fan Artist:** Ninni Aalto, Alex Garner, Vesa Lehtimäki, Likhain (M. Sereno), Spring Schoenhuth, and Mansik Yang.

**Best Series:** *The Craft Sequence* by Max Gladstone, *THE EXPANSE* BY JAMES S.A. COREY, *The October Daye Books* by Seanan McGuire, *The Peter Grant/Rivers of London* series by Ben Aaronovitch, *The Temeraire series* by Naomi Novik, and *The Vorkosigan Saga* by Lois McMaster Bujold.

**John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer** [Not a Hugo Award]: Sarah Gailey, J. Mulrooney, Malka Older, Ada Palmer, Laurie Penny, and Kelly Robson.

Final voting for the Hugo Awards closes on July 15.

## THE EXPANSE RENEWED FOR SEASON 3

Syfy's *The Expanse* has been renewed for season three, *Variety* learned in mid-March. The sci-fi series will get another 13-episode season, to premiere in 2018. Season two, currently airing on Wednesdays on the NBC/Universal-owned cable net, has drawn reasonable critical praise, if not necessarily a massive linear audience. Its current season average is a 0.2 rating in the 18-49 demographic and 600,000 viewers in Nielsen's Live+Same Day Ratings.

The story unfolds across a colonized galaxy 200 years in the future, when two strangers become unwittingly swept up in a vast conspiracy. Based on the New York Times bestselling book series collectively known as *The Expanse*, written by Daniel Abraham and Ty Franck (under the pen name James S. A. Corey), *The Expanse* stars Steven Strait, Shohreh Aghdashloo, Dominique Tipper, Cas Anvar, Wes Chatham and Frankie Adams.

“*The Expanse* is a gorgeous, thrilling, emotional se-

ries that has quite simply raised the bar for science fiction on television,” said Chris McCumber, president, entertainment networks for NBCUniversal Cable Entertainment. “We, along with the fans, are looking forward to continuing the journey with our partners at Alcon Television Group and the series’ brilliant cast and crew.”

*The Expanse* hails from Alcon Television Group, a division of Alcon Entertainment. Screenwriting duo Mark Fergus and Hawk Ostby (*Children of Men*, *Iron Man*) serve as executive producers and showrunners, alongside Naren Shankar (*CSI*, *Farscape*).

## BOOK GROUP STILL READING

The Droids & Dragons SF Book Group meets at 7:30 pm Monday, April 24 (a week late), at Jason's Deli (northwest corner of Louisiana & America's Parkway NE – across the street from Bubonicon's Marriott Hotel) to discuss *Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel. The group then focuses on *Impersonations: A Story of the Praxis* by Walter Jon Williams on Monday, May 15 – 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](mailto:skycaptain1883@yahoo.com) or Craig at 266-8905.

## ACTOR BILL PAXTON, 61, DIES

Bill Paxton – the versatile actor who appeared in films including *Aliens*, *Apollo 13* and *Titanic*, and played a polygamist on HBO's *Big Love* – died February 25 from complications following heart surgery. He was 61 years old.

It was later learned that while "complications from surgery" technically was correct, Paxton suffered a stroke stemming from surgery a week earlier. On February 14, he had undergone a valve replacement and aortic aneurysm repair. According to the official death certificate, the actor later experienced an aortic aneurysm that led to his deadly stroke. The husband and father died at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles.

A representative for his family released a statement shortly after his death saying, “Bill’s passion for the arts was felt by all who knew him, and his warmth and tireless energy were undeniable.”

With a Texas twang and grizzled visage, Paxton often found himself playing military men and cowboys. He was closely associated with James Cameron, playing a punk leader in *The Terminator*, as well as an ill-fated soldier in *Aliens*, a venal car dealer in *True Lies*, and a treasure hunter in *Titanic*.

Paxton earned an Emmy nomination for the 2012

miniseries *Hatfields & McCoys*, and was starring as a morally ambiguous detective in the CBS series *Training Day* at the time of his death. Production on the show wrapped back in December, and all 13 episodes of the midseason show's order had been filmed. He also has a role in the upcoming film, *The Circle*, based on the novel by Dave Eggers.

In a statement, CBS said, "We are shocked and deeply saddened by the news of Bill Paxton's passing. Bill was, of course, a gifted and popular actor with so many memorable roles on film and television. His colleagues at CBS and Warner Bros. Television will also remember a guy who lit up every room with infectious charm, energy and warmth, and as a great storyteller who loved to share entertaining anecdotes and stories about his work. All of us here offer our deepest sympathy to his wife, Louise, and his two children."

Paxton anchored a few films, portraying a tornado-chasing scientist in the box office smash *Twister* in 1996, and a wildlife refuge director in the flop, *Mighty Joe Young*. In most movies, Paxton cut a morally upright figure, the character actor equivalent of a Kevin Costner or Gary Cooper. But he earned the best reviews of his career for roles that upended his persona. He was gripping as a family man trying to hide stolen money in Sam Raimi's *A Simple Plan*, and similarly effective playing against type as an ethically compromised lawman in his first major role, Carl Franklin's *One False Move* (1992).

He's also remembered for his roles as an astronaut in *Apollo 13*, a vampire in *Near Dark*, one of the Earps in *Tombstone*, and as older brother Chet in *Weird Science*. He also appeared in *Predator 2*, *Pass the Ammo*, *Edge of Tomorrow*, *Thunderbirds*, *Spy Kids 3-D*, *Commando*, and *Streets of Fire*.

On the small screen, Paxton played a wife-juggling entrepreneur on *Big Love*, who is haunted by his upbringing in a polygamist Mormon family, and as a HYDRA agent on *Agents of SHIELD*.

HBO released a statement, saying "We are extremely saddened to hear of the passing of Bill Paxton. *Big Love* was a seminal series for HBO for many years due to Bill's extraordinary talent and grace. Offscreen, he was as warm, smart and fun as one could be. A true friend to so many at HBO. He will be greatly missed."

*Big Love* lasted five seasons, earning three Golden Globe nominations for Paxton. In blunt fashion, Paxton publicly disagreed with the violent way the show ended, decrying its lack of ambiguity.

"It was a great show, it was a landmark show, and it ran its course," he said in a 2012 interview with Screen Anarchy. "Five years was a great run, and it had to end somehow, and it ended with a bang, instead of a whimper."

[Author Joe R. Lansdale – during his March 13 appearance at the Jean Cocteau Cinema in Santa Fe – revealed that Paxton was considered for the role of Hap

Collins in the Sundance Channel's adaptation of Lansdale's *Hap and Leonard*. The author and the actor were friends, both coming from an East Texas background.]



Paxton earned critical acclaim for *Frailty*, a horror film in which he made his directorial debut and starred in as a father beset by demonic visions. In a four-star review, Roger Ebert wrote, "Perhaps only a first-time director, an actor who does not depend on directing for his next job, would have had the nerve to make this movie. It is uncompromised."

Born in Fort Worth, Texas, Paxton went to Hollywood when he was 18, and found work as a set dresser for Roger Corman's New World Pictures, working on films like *Big Bad Mama* and *Eat My Dust*. His first acting role was a small part in Jonathan Demme's *Crazy Mama* for Corman. Paxton then studied acting in New York under Stella Adler, and made films for *Saturday Night Live* like "Fish Heads," based on the popular novelty song.

Paxton was known as "Wild Bill" for his on-set pranks. He is survived by his two children, James and Lydia Paxton, and his wife, Louise Newbury.

## DÍAZ & LE GUIN NAMED TO AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS

Junot Díaz and Ursula K. Le Guin are among 14 individuals named in late February to the American Academy of Arts and Letters, one of the most prestigious honors in the arts. New members are elected only after the death of existing members, with total membership limited to 250 people. New members will be welcomed at an annual induction and award ceremony in mid-May, where academy member Joyce Carol Oates will deliver the centennial Blashfield Foundation keynote address. An exhibition of art, architecture, books, and manuscripts by new members and recipients of awards will be on view in the galleries from May 18 to June 11.

Alongside the 14 new members are foreign honorary members Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Kaija Saariaho, and Zadie Smith.

## WALTON WINS SKYLARK

Jo Walton is the recipient of the 2017 Edward E. Smith Memorial Award for Imaginative Fiction (aka, the Skylark Award), presented by the New England Science Fiction Association announced at Boskone 54, held at the Westin Boston Waterfront, February 17-19.

The Skylark is given to "some person, who, in the opinion of the membership, has contributed significantly to science fiction, both through work in the field and by exemplifying the personal qualities which made the late 'Doc' Smith well-loved by those who knew him."

## ARTIST BERNIE WRIGHTSON DIES

Artist Bernie Wrightson died March 18, 2017 in Austin, TX, of brain cancer. He was 68 years old. Wrightson is best known for his comics, including the creation of DC Comics character *Swamp Thing* (1971, with writer Len Wein), and for his horror illustrations.

Bernard Albert Wrightson was born October 27, 1948, in Dundalk, MD. He started work as a newspaper illustrator in 1966, and in 1968 began freelancing for DC Comics. His first professional comic story, "The Man Who Murdered Himself", appeared in 1969 in DC's *House of Mystery*, and he went on to work for Marvel, DC, and other comics companies throughout his career. In 1975 he joined artists' collective "The Studio" with Jeffrey Jones, Michael Kaluta, and Barry Windsor-Smith. He extensively illustrated Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, culminating in landmark book *Bernie Wrightson's Frankenstein* in 1983.

He illustrated the comic book adaptation of Stephen King's *Creepshow* in 1983 and later did illustrations for King's books *Cycle of the Werewolf*, *The Stand*, and *Wolves of the Calla*. He also illustrated work by L. Sprague de Camp and David J. Schow, among others, and did conceptual art for numerous films. He was twice nominated for Chesley Awards (in 1998 and 2003), and his illustrated narrative "Spuds" (2000) was a Bram Stoker Award finalist.

Wrightson was diagnosed with brain cancer and underwent multiple surgeries before announcing his retirement in late January 2017, when he could no longer travel or produce new art. Wrightson was predeceased by first wife Michele Wrightson in 2015, and is survived by second wife Liz Wrightson, two sons from his first marriage, and a stepson.

## FREE COMIC BOOK DAY COMING, PLUS A NEW ABQ COMIC CON

Saturday, May 6, is the day this year for Free Comic Book Day in the United States. Several stores in the Albuquerque and Santa Fe areas are taking part in this yearly comics event.

Free Comic Book Day, taking place on the first Saturday of May, is an annual promotional effort by the North American comic book industry to help bring new readers into independent comic book stores. Retailer Joe Field of Flying Colors Comics in Concord, California brainstormed the event in his "Big Picture" column in the August 2001 issue of *Comics & Games Retailer* magazine. Free Comic Book Day started in 2002 and is coordinated by the industry's single large distributor, Diamond Comic Distributors.

In Albuquerque, Don's Paperback Books, 1013 San Mateo Blvd SE, will have its warehouse open 10:00-5:00

with special deals free comics, and face painting. A taco truck and CGC representatives will be onsite. Inside Don's, hardback books will be half off.

Over at Astro-Zombies, 3100 Central Ave SE, the store opens at 11:00 am with a huge in-store sale, the annual sidewalk sale, and the giving away of thousands of free comics.

And at Lobo Comics, 1016 Juan Tabo Blvd NE, doors open at 10:00 am with special sales, a sidewalk sale and the obligatory free comics.

Other stores participating include Age of Comics on Osuna NE, Comic Warehouse at Menaul & Eubank NE, Old West Comics on Lomas NE, Twin Sun Comics on Coors NW, Shared Universe on Louisiana SE, and Big Adventure Comics in Santa Fe (around the corner from George RR Martin's Jean Cocteau Cinema).

MEANWHILE, word on the street is that there's a new comic convention in town. The **Duke City Comic Con** is taking place May 12-14, 2017, at the Embassy Suites, 1000 Woodward Place (off Lomas Blvd, west of I-25).

Guests include actors Nicholas Brendon, Angus MacInnes, David Yost, Walter Jones, and Martin Klebba; wrestler Diamond Dallas Page; and artists Franchesco, ABQ's Andy Kuhn, and David Brohawk Williams.

The Duke City Comic Con is open 4:00-8:00 pm Friday, 10:00 am-6:00 pm Saturday and 11:00 am-5:00 pm Sunday. Single Day Tickets are \$10 Friday, \$20 Saturday, and \$15 Sunday. Children 6-13 years are \$5. And a Three-Day pass is \$35.00.

Tickets are being sold in advance at Astro-Zombies, Age of Comics, Lobo Comics, Twin Suns Comics, Just Cos Cosplay, and online. The Embassy Suites is offering a \$109 rate during the comic-con weekend.

For more information, go to [dukecitycomiccon.com](http://dukecitycomiccon.com).

## 31ST ASIMOV'S AWARDS FINALISTS

The finalists for the 31st annual Asimov's Readers' Awards were announced in early March. All are available to be read online.

**Novellas:** "Choose Poison, Choose Life" by Michael Blumlein, "Where There Is Nothing, There Is God" by David Erik Nelson, "What We Hold Onto" by Jay O'Connell, "Lazy Dog Out" by Suzanne Palmer, and "Einstein's Shadow" by Allen M. Steele.

**Novellettes:** "I Married a Monster from Outer Space" by Dale Bailey, "They Have All One Breath" by Karl Bunker, "President John F. Kennedy, Astronaut" by Sandra McDonald, "Ten Poems for the Mosses, One for the Man" by Suzanne Palmer, and "Matilda" by Kristine Kathryn Rusch.

**Short Stories:** "The Mutants Men Don't See" by James Alan Gardner, "White Dust" by Nathan Hillstrom, "All That Robot. . ." by Rich Larson, "Exceptional Forces" by Sean McMullen, and "Dome on the Prairie" by Robert Reed.

**Poetry:** “The Ambassador’s Daughter” by Megan Arkenberg, “Your Clone Excels at You” by Robert Frazier, “After” by Herb Kauderer, “Attack of the Fifty-Foot Woman” by Ron Koertge, “The Robot Grows Old” by Geoffrey A. Landis, “Long Argument, the Longest” by Jane Yolen, “Nice Touch” by Jane Yolen, and “Old Women of the Wood” by Jane Yolen.

Winners will be announced during a breakfast ceremony at the 2017 SFWA Nebula Conference, to be held at the Pittsburgh Marriott City Center May 18-21.

## **SAWYER WINS 2017 HEINLEIN AWARD**

Robert J. Sawyer was announced in February as the winner of the 2017 Robert A. Heinlein Award, given for “outstanding published works in science fiction and technical writings that inspire the human exploration of space,” recognizing his work, including 23 novels.

The winner was chosen by a committee of SF authors chaired by Michael F. Flynn, and will receive a plaque, a sterling silver medallion, and two lapel pins, all featuring the likeness of Robert A. Heinlein. The award will be presented May 26 at the Renaissance Harborplace Hotel in Baltimore, MD, during the opening ceremonies of Balticon 51.

## **GUNN WILL RETURN FOR *GUARDIANS 3***

Filmmaker James Gunn says the third installment will “help catapult both old and new Marvel characters into the next ten years and beyond” for the MCU. On April 17, he dropped some news of galactic proportions, reports the *Hollywood Reporter*. Gunn will return to write and direct *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3*, he announced on Facebook.

Gunn said that the question he gets asked the most is if he would return to helm a third installment of the franchise, and wrote it is only “after many months of ruminations and discussions” that he now knows the answer.

“I could save this answer for the first, random interviewer to ask me during the press junket but instead I thought I’d share it with the most important people in the Guardiansverse — you, the fans, who have been so incredibly supportive and enthusiastic over the past five years, it has moved me to tears on a regular basis,” Gunn wrote. “So, yes, I’m returning to write and direct *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3*. In the end, my love for Rocket, Groot, Gamora, Star-Lord, Yondu, Mantis, Drax, and Nebula — and some of the other forthcoming heroes — goes deeper than you guys can possibly imagine, and I feel they have more adventures to go on and things to learn about themselves and the wonderful and sometimes terrifying universe we all inhabit. And, like in both Vol. 1 and Vol. 2, we will work on creating the story that goes beyond what you expect.”

Gunn noted that while a decade of Marvel Cinematic

Universe storytelling has been leading to 2018’s *Avengers: Infinity War*, *Guardians 3* will help set up the next 10 years of storytelling for the MCU.

“It will conclude the story of this iteration of the *Guardians of the Galaxy*, and help catapult both old and new Marvel characters into the next ten years and beyond,” he wrote. “I will be working side-by-side with Kevin Feige and the gang to help design where these stories go, and make sure the future of the Marvel Cosmic Universe is as special and authentic and magical as what we have created so far.”

The news comes just weeks ahead of the release of *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2*, which features Star-Lord (Chris Pratt), Gamora (Zoe Saldana), Drax (Dave Bautista), Rocket (Bradley Cooper) and Baby Groot (Vin Diesel). The film also stars Michael Rooker, Sean Gunn and Kurt Russell as Star-Lord’s father, Ego.

*Guardians 2* earned an extremely rare 100 percent at a test screening in February. *Guardians 2* is tracking for a massive \$150 million debut. The 2014 first installment was a surprise hit that opened to \$94.3 million on its way to a \$733 million global haul.

*Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2* opens May 5.

## **BUBONICON 49 HAS UPDATES**

Bubonicon 49 planning still is in the early stages with potential participants responding with programming choices and fan groups writing in to request space & time. Weekend passes now are \$40.00 through August 5, and then \$45 at the Door. You can purchase your weekend pass at ASFS meetings with cash/check, mail your payment to “Bubonicon” with the PDF registration form to 933 San Mateo Blvd NE, Suite 500-208, Albuquerque, NM 87108, or pay online with a credit card.

The convention of “Back In Time (Time Travel)” takes place August 25-27 (12 days after the 75th Worldcon in Helsinki, Finland) at the Albuquerque Marriott Uptown, 2101 Louisiana Blvd NE (at I-40). Single-Quad rooms are \$99 a night when reserved by August 14.

Any solo or fan group requests for time & space are needed by Sun, April 30, at [bubonicon@gmail.com](mailto:bubonicon@gmail.com). We just need basic info on what you’d like to do, the person/group requesting time, and whether it’s 60 or 90 minutes.

In addition to Co-Guests of Honor C.J. Cherryh & Sherwood Smith, Toastmaster Ursula Vernon, and Guest Artist Elizabeth Leggett, those confirmed to participate so far include: Craig A. Butler, Karen Chance, Peri Charlifu, Steven Gould, Sally Gwylan, Betsy James, Darynda Jones, Jeffe Kennedy, T. Jackson King, Kathy Kitts, Jane Lindsfold, Susan R. Matthews, Victor Milan, John Jos. Miller, Pati Nagle, Yvonne Navarro, Weston Ochse, Scott S. Phillips, Cathy Plesko, M.T. Reiten, Joan S. Sauerhagen, Melinda Snodgrass (tentative), S.M. Stirling, David Lee Summers, Sage Walker, and Corie Weaver. More will be added, of course.

Green Slime Mistress Jessica Coyle is taking nominations for “wretched things that should be recognized” and preparing to entertain the masses Saturday night of the con.

The con will benefit the Williamson Library Collection at Eastern NM University and the Roadrunner Food Bank through the Friday night auction and a portion of con proceeds.

No Dealer Spaces remain - all 30 spaces were sold in one week! To be put on a waiting list, email Dan Cooper at [dealers@bubonicon.com](mailto:dealers@bubonicon.com). Meanwhile, the Art Show will have rules & forms posted in late June. Stay tuned.

As always, volunteers are appreciated! “Gofers,” as con volunteers are known, receive movie promotional swag and other prizes, and are invited to a pizza party after Bubonicon 49 ends (usually late September).

More info is available from 559-0931 (Google voice), 266-8905 (Craig), the San Mateo address, email to [bubonicon@gmail.com](mailto:bubonicon@gmail.com) or at [bubonicon.com](http://bubonicon.com).

## **Author Event Report**

### **AN EVENING WITH SCALZI IN SANTA FE**

by Craig W. Chrissinger

On the evening of April 17, John Scalzi joined George RR Martin at the Jean Cocteau Cinema for one of the first stops on his *Collapsing Empire* signing tour. Scalzi and Martin entertained an almost-full house with their conversation and humor.

After being introduced, Scalzi said that this stop is actually his second time in New Mexico. "But this is the first time I have a memory of the state," he explained. "I was here when I was six months old, and my mother lived in Albuquerque for about four months."

The first time Scalzi met Martin was at a Boskone, the annual science fiction convention in Boston, when they were seated next to each other for signings. Scalzi said that George's line went outside the convention center and made a loop around Rhode Island while his had two people in it as *Old Man's War* had just been released. "It was not as humiliating as it could have been," noted Scalzi. "In fact, it was kind of inspiring."

Scalzi asked Martin whether he remembered the first thing he said when they met. "I said, 'George RR Martin?'," said Scalzi to his host. "'I love your book! There was a big spider, and I needed to kill it. Your book did the job!' Yeah, I was being a smart ass."

Comparing how they broke into the business, Martin said he wrote a lot of short stories and novelettes before trying his hand at a novel. Scalzi said his start was the "power of positive laziness. I wrote *Old Man's War* and put it in an electronic drawer. In December 2002, I started to serialize it on my website, and if people didn't want to wait for the next installment they could give me a donation to see it early." Scalzi said *Old Man's War* is "*Starship Troopers* with old dudes."

Eventually, Patrick Nielsen Hayden came to Scalzi and wanted to buy two books. Scalzi sold *Old Man's War* and what would become *The Android's Dream*. "It was like being hit by lightning, and I'm the first to admit I was absurdly lucky," he said.

Scalzi said that what helped his first sale was that in 1998 he was one of the first people to have a blog. "Of course, we called them online diaries," he remarked. "I was one of a few, so I had two or three thousand people checking my blog every day or weekly. In fact, I was the first person to tape bacon to a cat! It was the most viewed thing on the internet for a time."

Scalzi said that *Old Man's War* is an open-ended series, and that another book will happen when he has a good idea and feels motivated. Meanwhile, he's started a new series with *The Collapsing Empire*. "I can't tease it forever," he said. "It will end. I'm contracted for two books, but it probably could be three. I think three will be good."

"Does it have to end?" Martin asked. "After all, Winter Has Been Coming for a while now."

"Yes, and people are saying, 'What a long Autumn,'" Scalzi joked back. "But the empire is collapsing, so it will end."

Scalzi used the comparison between the two author's book series to make an observation on readers and fans. "There is a difference between written science fiction and epic fantasy for readers. People visit the *Collapsing Empire* but they live in Westeros. Epic fantasy as more of a deep-bone identification, and people want to know how the story ends!"

Talking about media adaptations of his works, Scalzi said that *Old Man's War* has been in development for several years, while *Redshirts* is at FX and *The Collapsing Empire* is in the works. *Lock In* also is in development. The Ohio author said he always makes sure his contracts list him as an executive producer so he can be "in the room where things happen."

Both authors said that they've faced rejection and failure in their lifetimes, and it has shaped them. "I've dealt with failure enough to know it's not there to crush you, but to make you see it's work and you have to persist," Scalzi said. "You almost need failure, and it can make a difference in your career. As long as you persist, you get another chance."

Related to that, Scalzi and Martin talked about being on the Hugo ballot and the honor that entails, even if they lost to someone else. "Awards are nice, and I like looking at my Hugos," Scalzi said. "But at the end of the day, awards don't mean that much. Even if I didn't win, I got to write the kind of books that I wanted to write. And it's possible that in a hundred years, I will be obscure. No one might remember me. And how will I feel about that? Well, I won't care - I'll be dead."

Scalzi finished up his time on stage by borrowing a ukulele and telling the story of how he met his wife at a

dance. "Learn to dance," he advised the men in the audience, and then proceeded to sing the first few lines of the Cure's "Friday I'm in Love" - the song that was playing when wife Krissy and he first danced.

## BOOK REVIEW ROUND-UP

***Caraval* by Stephanie Garber, 2017 Flatiron Books, hc \$18.99, 416 pages.** Review by Jessica Coyle

Sisters Scarlett and Tella live on a small, remote island where their abusive father keeps them hidden away practically as prisoners. Scarlett's life-long dream is to attend Caraval, a once-a-year event that is part performance and part scavenger hunt in which the audience participates as part of the story. She writes to Legend, Caraval's organizer, for years with the hope of being invited. Scarlett's father arranges her marriage to a rich Duke she has never met, and, with this means of escape at hand, she gives up her dreams of Caraval only to have an invitation arrive at her door.

Scarlett and Tella enlist the help of a mysterious sailor whose ship is visiting their island to escape to Caraval. Once there, Tella is kidnapped by Legend, and it is revealed that the winner of this year's Caraval will be whoever finds Tella first. Scarlett must decide who she can trust and who is out to destroy her as she searches for her sister. She has always been told that what happens at Caraval is not real, but Scarlett begins to doubt this more and more as the game progresses. She must find Tella before the game is over, a dangerous domino effect of consequences is set off, and her sister disappears forever.

*Caraval* is Stephanie Garber's debut novel. It is fast-paced and designed to keep the reader engaged, and, for the most part it succeeds, especially when Scarlett is enmeshed in the mysteries of Caraval. Where I feel the book is more uneven is when it focuses on the relationship between the two sisters. Scarlett is devoutly devoted to Tella, but Tella does not treat her particularly well at any point in the book. As a reader, I was occasionally left wondering why Scarlett was putting herself through all of this for someone who didn't seem to appreciate it or her. That said, the book definitely has promise, and I enjoyed it enough to keep my eye on Stephanie Garber to see what she does in the future.

***League of Dragons: Temeraire Book 9* by Naomi Novik, Del Rey 2016, mmpb reprint (Nov 2016) \$7.99, 448 pages.** Review by Al Kulp

What can I say? *League of Dragons* is an older book that I finally got around to reading. This is the last of the Napoleonic dragon wars, at least for a while. Like the rest, it's very well done, and as good as McCaffrey's dragons. For new readers: Yes, you can read this book, but why not read the other books in the series first? You can read the last few pages if you want to know how it ends, yet I still recommend starting at the beginning.

There is no guarantee Naomi Novik won't come back

to the critters again (*Dolphins of Pern* springs to mind). Even better, Peter Jackson may be bringing the series to the big screen at some point in time. Read, watch or listen to Novik's series.

***Shadow Run* by Adrienne Strickland and Michael Miller, 2017 Delacorte Press, hc \$17.99, 400 pages.**

Review by Geneva Schult

Plot: A rag-tag crew fishes for Shadow material in space near their planet of Alaxak. Undercover hot prince Nev from one of the dueling royal families tries to entice the attractive female captain to travel to his planet so her ability to "use" Shadow as weapon and energy can be studied and replicated (without killing the user, which is what is currently happening) for the benefit of the captain's sanity and health, and the royal family's coffers. Mayhem ensues. Betrayals. Action-packed fights. Surprisingly large body count for a YA novel. Long *Twilight*-esque looks of longing and desire pass between our two leads. Story ends well enough for a stand-alone, but this is book one of a series (Kaitan Chronicles).

"*Firefly* meets *Dune*," says the cover. Not quite - not bad, but lacking in originality and the world-building is kind of weak. I immediately pegged the frozen planet of Alaxak, from which our heroine hails, as modeled on Alaska. Yes, one of the authors grew up there, and the other author spends her summers there. There were times when I felt parts were cliché, and some of the conversation seemed stilted and very YA. Oh, and the hundreds-of-years-in-future spaceship has a med kit that is a white box with a red cross on it. Seriously. Yet I was engaged by the main characters (the crew of the ship) and will probably read a sequel just to see if the space energy "Shadow" (controlled by the ship's captain through genetic affinity) manages to open a long-dead star portal, re-linking local space to the rest of the galaxy. This functions as a nice stand-alone space opera novel.

If you want more information on the world, check in at [www.kaitanchronicles.com](http://www.kaitanchronicles.com), where they will be adding more and more nerdy tidbits as time goes on.

***Gilded Cage* by Vic James, 2017 Del Ray, hc \$20.00, 368 pages.** Review by Jessica Coyle

*Gilded Cage* explores an alternative reality England which is ruled by the Equals, who are essentially aristocrats born with the Skill (magical ability). The law of the land is that all commoners are required to spend ten years in slavery to the Equals, which can be done by either working in one of the brutal slave factory towns that create all of England's manufactured goods, or on one of the estates of the Equals where they work as house servants or keeping up the land of the estate.

Abi Hadley thinks she has arranged for her whole family (mother, father, and two siblings) to serve their slavery as house servants to the Jardines, one of Britain's most powerful Equal families. When the day arrives for them to leave their home, her brother Luke is separated from the rest of the family and sent to Millmoor, one of



England's worst factory towns, while the rest of the family heads off to Kyneston, the Jardines' estate.

Abi's plan to get her family safely through their ten years of slavery goes quickly off the rails. Luke's life at Millmoor quickly becomes one of misery. He is forced to decide whether to keep his head down and just try to make it through the next ten years, or to join with a group of activists within Millmoor who are working to try and overthrow the Slave Days tradition. The Hadleys also quickly realize that Kyneston may not be as safe as it first appeared. Abi is put to work as the assistant to the middle Jardine son, Jenner, and she begins to develop a close working relationship with him that could lead her down a dangerous path. The youngest daughter, Daisy, is put to work caring for oldest son Gavar Jardine's infant daughter, and she quickly begins to worship Gavar in a way that seems unhealthy and possibly even unsafe. And the Jardine's youngest son, Silyen, is quickly showing himself to be the most powerful Equal ever born, and possibly a danger to both Equal and commoner alike.

I really, really enjoyed Vic James' debut novel. The characters are all intriguing if not always likeable, and the story takes some interesting and unexpected twists. I thought it was going to be much more of a romance from the description on the book, and was pleasantly surprised by the engaging world that James' creates. I highly recommend it to those who enjoy Young Adult fantasy set in alternative modern day time.

***Waking Gods: The Themis Files Book 2* by Sylvain Neuvel, 2017 Del Rey, hc \$28.00, 336 pages.**

**Review by David Drezner**

*Waking Gods* is a 50's pulp sci-fi novel with modern elements, written in the style of an epistolary novel, made up of a series of interviews and a few conversations recorded by some being on high. It is the second in a series, and does not have a good recap. If you are interested in this book, I heartily recommend you read the first book or be prepared to be a bit confused.

It is uneven in tone and intention. It reads as an adult novel with adolescent tones. Almost all the characters seem stuck on the adolescent plane of emotions if they have any at all. The epistolary technique starts out being interesting, but progresses to being slightly annoying. This book is mostly limited to dialogue that provides the description. Sometimes it is less than adequate.

As far as plot goes, it's fairly simple. In a previous book, a giant robot was found and then assembled piece by piece. It is a humanoid robot in the form of a female warrior more than 260 feet tall, made of a super-metal, and nigh indestructible. It carries energy type weapons of incredible power. Somehow they get it working. Naturally the pilots are young and fresh thinking. Yes – it sounds a lot like some Manga, but it isn't a typical Manga plot.

Jump forward ten years. The world thinks everything is good, until yet another robot shows up. It takes some pretty clear advice and background from an alien friend

and some guesswork to save the world. Humans don't do a lot of problem solving in this book. Usually they just react to events, and do it badly. Along the way there is death, tragedy, and redemption. We get some very interesting theories, but none of them make much scientific sense.

As it is it is a good picture of how humans handle an alien invasion badly and almost go extinct, save for the actions of a pair of near-genius robot pilots and a half-crazy scientist, aided by a knowledgeable friend. Didn't I say it reminded me of a 50's pulp fiction novel?

## **ASFS MEETING REPORTS —**

### **JANUARY 2017: BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS**

We started the New Year with 36 people participating in a discussion of books read in 2016, whether good or bad.

Among them were *Foreigner* by C.J. Cherryh, the *Faded Sun* trilogy by C.J. Cherryh, the *Iron Druid Chronicles* by Kevin Hearne, *Lock In* by John Scalzi, *Conversation In Blood: Egil and Nix* by Paul S. Kemp (avoid it), *Star Trek: I'm Working On That* by William Shatner, *The View from the Cheap Seats* by Neil Gaiman, *Crosstalk* by Connie Willis, *Word Puppets* by Mary Robinette Kowal, *Every Heart a Doorway* by Seanan McGuire [mentioned by 2 people], *Chapelwood* by Cherie Priest, *Uprooted* by Naomi Novik [mentioned by 3 people], *Stormhaven Rising* by Eric M. Craig, *The Moon is a Harsh Mistress* by Robert A. Heinlein, *Ancillary Justice* by Ann Leckie (mediocre), *Star Fall* by Dean Wesley Smith, *Pay It Forward* by Catherine Ryan Hyde, the *Lightbringer* series by Brent Weeks, *Touch* by Claire North, *Asimov On Numbers* by Isaac Asimov, *Make Magazine*, *Skunk Works: A Personal Memoir of My Years at Lockheed* by Ben R. Rich [mentioned by 2 people], *Spy Planes Magazine*, Southwestern Cavers newsletter, *We Are Legion (We Are Bob)* audiobook by Dennis Taylor, *Neverwhere* audiobook by Neil Gaiman, *Babylon's Ashes* audiobook by James S.A. Corey, *1945* by Robert Conway,

*Bombs Away* by Harry Turtledove, *Imager* by L.E. Modesitt, *The Last President* by John Barnes, *The High Ground* by Melinda Snodgrass, *The Lost Fleet* books by Jack Campbell, *The Secret History of Wonder Woman* by Jill Lepore, *The Ocean at the End of the Lane* by Neil Gaiman, *Batman Year 100* by Paul Pope, *The Wicked and the Divine Vol 1* by Kieron Gillen, *Live of Pi* by Yann Martel (lofty goal not reached), *Year of No Sugar: A Memoir* by Eve Schaub (stinker), *Horrorstor* by Grady Hendrix, *Babylon's Ashes: The Expanse Book 6* by James S.A. Corey, *Ghost Talkers* by Mary Robinette Kowal [mentioned by 2 people], *Moon Girl and Devil Dinosaur* comics by Amy Reeder & Brandon Montclare, *The Lost Stars: Shattered Spear* by Jack Campbell, *Alien Hunters* by Daniel Arenson, *The Fifth Season* by N.K. Jemisin [mentioned by 2 people], *Color Blind* by Shiela Sobel, Tony Hillerman mysteries, Hindu literature, Aztec mythology, *Unincorporated Man* series by Dani and Eytan Kollin, the *MythAdventures* series by Robert Asprin, *Chaos Choreography: InCryptid Book 5* by Seanan McGuire, *Made To Kill* by Adam Christopher,

*Longmire* mystery books by Craig Johnson, *Mr. Mercedes* by Stephen King, *Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card, *Dead Wake* by Erik Larson, *The Desert and the Blade: The Change Book 9* by S.M. Stirling, *Retribution: The Battle for Japan, 1944-45* by Max Hastings, *The Minority Report* by Philip K. Dick, *Super* by Matthew Cody, *Perry Rhodan* double books, "The Final Question" story by Isaac Asimov,

*Leonard: My Fifty Year Friendship with a Remarkable Man* by William Shatner, *Front Lawn Funerals and Cemeteries* by Cameron Jamie, *Something in the Blood: The Untold Story of Bram Stoker, the Man Who Wrote Dracula* by David Skal, *Severed: A History of Heads Lost and Heads Found* by Frances Larson, *Beyond the Dark Veil: Post Mortem & Mourning Photography from the Thanatos Archive* by Jack Mord, *Abandoned in Place: Preserving America's Space History* by Roland Miller, *Memento Mori: The Dead Among Us* by Paul Koudounaris, *Dr. Mutter's Marvels: A True Tale of Intrigue and Innovation at the Dawn of Modern Medicine* by Cristin O'Keefe Aptowicz, *Paul of Dune* by Brian Herbert & Kevin J. Anderson (good info, not great writing), *The Martian Race* by Gregory Benford, Stanislaw Lem books, *The Cinder Spires: The Aeronaut's Windlass* by Jim Butcher [mentioned by 2 people], *Harry Potter* audiobooks, history books, *A Blink of the Screen: Collected Shorter Fiction* by Terry Pratchett, *Anansi Boys* by Neil Gaiman, *The Dagger and the Coin* series by Daniel Abraham, the *Artemis* books by Jane Lindskold, *Dr. George: My Life in Weather* by George Fishbeck, *A Criminal Magic* by Lee Kelly, *Burning Midnight* by Will McIntosh, *All the Birds in the Sky* by Charlie Jane Anders, *Forest of Memory* by Mary Robinette Kowal, *Imprudence: Custard Protocol 2* by Gail Carriger, and *Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel.

## FEBRUARY 2017: LINDSKOLD RETURNS

Local author Jane Lindskold returned to read a new story to 49 people in attendance. The story, "Too Easy," is a sequel to a story she read to the club last November. In the new tale, told again in first-person perspective from a Familiar's point of view, we learn that magic rings easily get lost and often are difficult to re-obtain. Our heroes are tasked with retrieving a magic ring from a sorcerer.

Lindskold said that she is a Guest of Honor at Milehicon in Denver this October, along with Eric Flint. Asked about her dragon familiar, she said its colors are modeled after a stuffed toy she got at her first convention, LunaCon.

Lindskold has a new short story in the *Guns* anthology, edited by Gerald Hausman. The anthology came out last November – and Jane's story features Prudence the Wild West Werewolf, who appeared before in "The Drifter."

## MARCH 2017: CLUB AUCTION

Local author Robert Vardeman and club member Patricia Rogers were at the helm of the Annual Club Auction, bartering off items to 46 people in attendance. The Auction raised a little more than \$300 total for club expenses, including the newsletter and supplies for the Holiday party.

Vardeman remarked that he had applied for Social Security last year, and finally got his first check in February. "So, I'm retired, right?" he retorted. "Which means I'm cutting back... I wrote four westerns in two different series under house names, and then I sold seven Karl Lassiter novels under my real name this time." He also wrote a weird western short story recently, and went to a steampunk convention in Tucson where he heard a heavy metal bagpipe band. Vardeman also is working on a steampunk magazine with artist Martin Cameron.

Various items and bids that were interesting or unusual included a hollow brass "steampunk" skull \$2.50, fanzines & magazines \$1.50, a light in a circular cage \$10, *My Little Pony* messenger bag \$5, Black & Decker juicer with booklet \$3, the *Ultimate Star Wars Book* \$10, an alien poodle skirt with petticoat \$13, *Watchmen* prints signed by Alan Moore \$30, *Dinotopia* and plastic dinosaurs \$10, Box of books \$16, *Star Trek* model and small shirt \$10, Robot ornaments and *Tom Swift* book \$5, and *Iron Man* pillowcase and *Hellboy* animated movie on Blu-Ray \$5.

## EDITOR NOTES TO FILL THIS SPACE

- **TWO DEATHS** since the last *ASFACTS* really saddened me. I've known Ed Bryant a long time through Bubonicon, Milehicon & the Williamson Lectureship. He was always kind and thoughtful, with a sparkle of humor and some cool insights. It's going to be weird not having him around. And Bill Paxton - he had the best lines in *Aliens*, and was wonderful in whatever he did. He had a Texas appeal, and certainly did a great deal of genre films including *The Terminator* as a punk.

- **BACK FROM THE WILLIAMSON LECTURESHIP** in Portales, which took place April 6-8. It was a good time with Melinda Snodgrass & Michael Cassutt as Special Guests and Connie Willis as Toastmaster. We didn't have Golden Library this year (renovations), but the event was still full of the usual chatting & eating. Bubonicon and Albuquerque were well represented between con-com members and professional writers. Good to see Vic, Walter, Steven, Emily, Darynda, and Joan there. My report on the Lectureship for *Locus Magazine* went in April 10 with photos, so it all should be in the May issue.

- **SEEING JOE R. LANSDALE & JOHN SCALZI** at the Jean Cocteau Cinema in Santa Fe also was great. Jessica and I enjoyed both their visits, and George RR Martin did a good job playing host. Next up for us: *Max Headroom* in May!

- **THE STAR WARS COSTUMES** at the Denver Art Museum also were very cool. Good exhibit, took a lot of photos during our short trip. Thanks to Tim & Kaia for putting us up.

- **HAVE YOU HEARD** the music in the *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol 2* trailers? I'm pumped by the inclusion of Sweet's "Fox on the Run," Fleetwood Mac's "The Chain," and now David Bowie's "Suffragette City." Looking to be awesome!

- **I'VE ENJOYED *Riverdale*** so far on TV, and *Powerless* is cute. Need to catch up on *iZombie*. And really enjoyed reading Seanan McGuire's *Dusk or Dark or Dawn or Day*, and Joe R. Lansdale's *Savage Season* (the first Hap & Leonard novel).

- **NOW IF WE** can just avoid a Nuclear War, and keep culture & art alive in Today's America... Well, then Bubonicon 49 is just four months off! Working on programming now.

- **THANKS TO GENEVA, JESSICA, AL & DAVID** for contributions. Submissions welcome. See you in July! –Craig C.