

ASFACTS 2017

JULY "WAY TOO HOT IN THE CITY" SUMMER ISSUE

ROGERS & DENNING HOSTING PRE-CON PARTY

Patricia Rogers and Scott Denning will uphold a local fannish tradition when they host the Bubonicon 49 Pre-Con Party 7:30-10:30 pm Thursday, August 24, at their home in Bernalillo – located at 909 Highway 313.

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

In addition to socializing, attendees can help assemble the membership packets, & check out the 2017 t-shirt with artwork by Elizabeth Leggett.

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



ders, NOVELLA: *Every Heart a Doorway* by Seanan McGuire, NOVELETTE: "The Long Fall Up" by William Ledbetter, SHORT STORY: "Seasons of Glass and Iron" by Amal El-Mohtar, BRADBURY (SCREENPLAY): *Arrival*, and the NORTON (YOUNG ADULT): *Arabella of Mars* by David D. Levine.

The Kate Wilhelm Solstice Award was given to two recipients: Toni Weisskopf and Peggy Rae Sapienza.

The Awards were presented at a ceremony held in Pittsburgh, PA, on the evening of May 20, 2017.

LEGGETT ADDED TO 2017 HUGO BALLOT

The Hugo Awards ballot entry for best fan artist was revised May 17, due to nominee Mansik Yang being disqualified. He was replaced by NM's Elizabeth Leggett.

In a statement released May 17, Worldcon 75 administrators said: "As the packet was being assembled, Mansik Yang, who had been previously announced as a finalist in the Best Fan Artist category, informed the Hugo administrators that in fact he had published no non-commercial work in 2016 and does not qualify for the category. We appreciate his bringing the matter to our attention, and regret that we were not able to clarify the situation sooner."

The revised Hugo Awards Ballot for Fan Artist, as announced by the 75th World Science Fiction Convention, to be held in Helsinki, Finland, August 9-13, 2017, now is – Ninni Aalto, Elizabeth Leggett, Vesa Lehtimäki, Likhain (M. Sereno), Spring Schoenhuth, and Steve Stiles.

2016 NEBULA AWARDS WINNERS

The Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America announced the winners of the 2016 Nebula Awards on May 20. The winners are:

NOVEL: *All the Birds in the Sky* by Charlie Jane An-

2016 RT AWARDS ANNOUNCED

Several titles and authors of genre interest – including Bubonicon's Darynda Jones – were among the 2016 Romantic Times (RT) Reviewers' Choice and Career Achievement Awards winners given out in early May.

For Career Achievement, Sherrilyn Kenyon won in the Paranormal category, Ilona Andrews won for Urban Fantasy, and Guy Gavriel Kay won for SF/Fantasy.

The Paranormal winners were: PARANORMAL ROMANCE: *The Beast* by J.R. Ward, PARANORMAL WORLD-BUILDING: *The Undoing* by Shelly Laurenston, FANTASY

UPCOMING ASFS MEETINGS

- **Tonight:** Summer Film Fun with a water-dwelling monster movie and a few cartoon shorts...
- **August 11:** Bubonicon 49 preview, and hopefully a guest speaker on the upcoming Solar Eclipse.
- **September 15 (a week late):** It's All About the Cons! Bubonicon 49, Helsinki Worldcon & DragonCon reports.
- **October 13:** Election of three club officers & a guest speaker. Plus the Halloween issue of *ASFACTS* (deadline Mon, October 9).
- **November 10:** An interesting talk, we hope.
- **December 8:** Dessert Cook-Off and Holiday Film Shorts. Plus the annual issue of *SithFacts*.

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

ROMANCE: *Eidolon* by Grace Draven, and FUTURISTIC ROMANCE: *Born of Legend* by Sherrilyn Kenyon.

The Urban Fantasy winners were: URBAN FANTASY NOVEL: *Marked in Flesh* by Anne Bishop, URBAN FANTASY WORLDBUILDING: *THE DIRT ON NINTH GRAVE* BY DARYNDA JONES, and DIGITAL OR SELF-PUBLISHED URBAN FANTASY: *No Good Dragon Goes Unpunished* by Rachel Aaron.

In the Romantic Suspense category, Rebecca Zanetti's *Deadly Silence* won for Paranormal Romantic Suspense.

In Young Adult/New Adult, *Stealing Snow* by Danielle Paige won for Young Adult Paranormal/Fantasy.

Winners in Science Fiction/Fantasy were: SCIENCE FICTION: *Long Way to a Small, Angry Planet* by Becky Chambers, FANTASY: *A Gathering of Shadows* by V.E. Schwab, and HIGH FANTASY: *The Obelisk Gate* by N.K. Jemisin (Orbit)

The awards ceremony took place at the RT Book-lovers Convention May 2-7 in Atlanta GA.

VAUGHN WINS COLO BOOK AWARD

Author Carrie Vaughn won the Colorado Book Award in the Genre Fiction category for her collection *Amaryllis and Other Stories*, reported Locus Online in late May. Winners of the 2017 Colorado Book Awards were announced May 21 at the Parker Arts, Culture & Events Center in Parker, CO. *Found: Short Stories* by Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers, edited by Mario Acevedo won in the Anthology category and has some speculative content.

GEORGE RR MARTIN FUNDS ODYSSEY HORROR SCHOLARSHIP

Santa Fe's George RR Martin announced on April 26 that he will fund a horror-writing scholarship for the Odyssey Writing Workshop, held every summer at Saint Anselm College in Manchester NH. The "Miskatonic Scholarship" will be awarded once a year to a writer of Lovecraftian fiction and will cover tuition, fees, and lodging. Winners will be selected "solely on the basis of their story samples" by a panel of three judges. The first Miskatonic Scholarship will be given in 2018.

In a LiveJournal post, Martin wrote: "A long, long time ago, in the projects of Bayonne, New Jersey, I fell in love. I fell in love with comic books and superheroes, thanks to Stan Lee and Julie Schwartz. I fell in love with science fiction, thanks to Robert A. Heinlein, Andre Norton, and Eric Frank Russell. I fell in love with fantasy, thanks to Robert E. Howard, Fritz Leiber, and J.R.R. Tolkien. And I fell in love with monsters and scary stories (later in life, I'd learn to call them 'horror' or weird fiction, but as a kid, they were just monster stories to

me)... thanks to a gentleman out of Providence who had died before I was born.

"I first encountered the work of H.P. Lovecraft in a paperback anthology entitled *Boris Karloff's Favorite Horror Stories*. I knew Boris from his *Frankenstein* movies and from TV's *Thriller*, the scariest show on television at the time, but I had never heard of HPL until I read "The Haunter of the Dark" in that volume. I had never read a story that scared me more... so of course I sought out more Lovecraft wherever I could find it (not an easy task in those days). No werewolf, no vampire, no thing going bump in the night could give me chills to equal those provided by the cosmic horrors that Lovecraft evoked in tales like "The Whisperer in Darkness," "The Colour Out of Space," "The Shadow Out of Time," "The Rats In the Walls," "The Strange High House in the Mist," and so many more. I have read a lot of horror since, some good, some bad, some indifferent... but only the best work of Stephen King has ever equaled Lovecraft, and that in a very different way.

"Our world of imaginative fiction is fortunate in having several terrific writer's workshops specializing in science fiction and fantasy, where aspiring authors can hone their talents and learn from established professionals... but New Hampshire's Odyssey workshop is one of the few that gives equal emphasis to horror, to the monsters and scary stories."

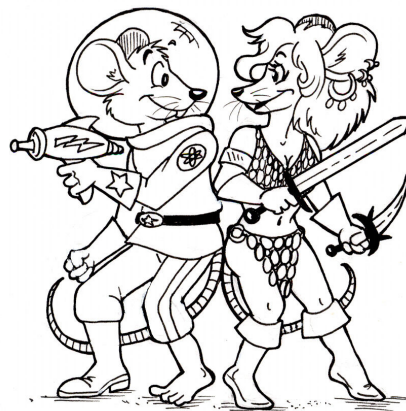
HELP NEEDED AT BUBONICON

It's true! Volunteers or "gofers" are needed to help out at Bubonicon 49 the weekend of August 25-27 at the Albuquerque Marriott Uptown. We're looking for people who can donate four, seven or even 12 hours of their time during the con to help things run smoothly and give committed workers much needed breaks from time to time.

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

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

The Volunteers (Gofers) Organizational Meeting will take place 7:30 pm Friday, August 18, at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, 5301 Ponderosa Ave NE (between San Mateo and San Pedro, south of



Montgomery – enter through the North Door on the backside of the building). All attending volunteer workers at this meeting will receive some kind of promotional goods.

If you're willing to help us out, please email Julie Pascal at volunteers@bubonicom.com.

GENRE BOOKS STILL DISCUSSED

The Droids & Dragons SF Book Group meets 7:30 pm Monday, July 17, at Jason's Deli (northwest corner of Louisiana & America's Parkway NE – across the street from Bubonicon's Marriott Hotel) to discuss *A Darker Shade of Magic* by V.E. Schwab. The group then recommends 2-4 books read in the last year but not discussed in group on August 21.

Meetings of D&D are open to all interested readers on the third Monday of each month. Books for discussion are chosen two months in advance, and group members receive a 20% discount on selected novels at Page One Bookstore in the Mountain Run Shopping Center. For more info, contact Leah at mrsransom@hotmail.com or Craig at 266-8905.

TV'S BATMAN DEAD AT 88

(HOLLYWOOD REPORTER) Adam West, the ardent actor who managed to keep his tongue in cheek while wearing the iconic cowl of the Caped Crusader on the classic 1960s series *Batman*, died June 9. He was 88 years old.

West, who was at the pinnacle of pop culture after *Batman* debuted Wednesday, January 12, 1966, only to see his career fall victim to typecasting after the ABC show flamed out, died in Los Angeles after a short battle with leukemia, a family spokesperson said.

West died peacefully surrounded by his family and is survived by his wife Marcelle, six children, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

"Our dad always saw himself as The Bright Knight and aspired to make a positive impact on his fans' lives. He was and always will be our hero," his family said in a statement.

After struggling for years without a steady job, the good-natured actor reached a new level of fame when he accepted an offer to voice the mayor of Quahog – named Adam West; what a coincidence! – on Seth MacFarlane's long-running Fox animated hit *Family Guy*.

On the big screen, West played a wealthy Main Line husband who meets an early end in Paul Newman's *The Young Philadelphians* (1959), was one of the first two humans on the Red Planet in *Robinson Crusoe on Mars* (1964) and contributed his velvety voice to the animated *Redux Riding Hood* (1997), which received an Oscar nomination for best short film.

Raised on a ranch outside Walla Walla, Wash.,

West caught the attention of *Batman* producer William Dozier when he played Captain Quik, a James Bond-type character with a sailor's cap, in commercials for Nestle's Quik.

West, who had appeared in many Warner Bros. television series as a studio contract player, was filming the spaghetti Western *The Relentless Four* (1965) in Europe at the time. He returned to the States to meet with Dozier, "read the pilot script and knew after 20 pages that it was the kind of comedy I wanted to do," he said in a 2006 interview with the Archive of American Television.

He signed a contract on the spot, only asking that he be given the chance to approve who would play his sidekick, Robin, the Boy Wonder. (He would OK the casting of Burt Ward, who had a brown belt in karate but zero acting experience).

"The tone of our first show, by Lorenzo Semple Jr., was one of absurdity and tongue in cheek to the point that I found it irresistible," West said. "I think they recognized that in me from what they'd seen me do before. I understood the material and brought something to it. You can't play Batman in a serious, square-jawed, straight-ahead way without giving the audience the sense that there's something behind that mask waiting to get out, that he's a little crazed, he's strange."

The cliffhanger Wednesday episode would be resolved the very next night – Same Bat-time! Same Bat-channel! The show was originally intended to last an hour, but ABC split it up when it had two time slots available on its primetime schedule.

The series, filmed in eye-popping bright colors in an era of black-and-white, and featuring a revolving set of villains like the Riddler (Frank Gorshin), Joker (Cesar Romero), Penguin (Burgess Meredith) and Catwoman (Julie Newmar), was an immediate hit; the Thursday installment was No. 5 in the Nielsen ratings for the 1965-66 season, and the Wednesday edition was No. 10.

"Stellar, exemplar, a king to the end," Newmar said of West. "He was bright, witty and fun to work with. I will miss him in the physical world and savor him always in the world of imagination and creativity. He meant so much to people."

Batman was nominated for the Emmy Award for outstanding comedy series in its first year, losing out to CBS' *The Dick Van Dyke Show*. A 20th Century Fox movie was rushed into production and played in theaters in the summer before season two kicked off in September 1966.

However, the popularity of the show soon plummeted, and *Batman* – despite the addition of Yvonne Craig as Batgirl – was canceled in March 1968 after its third season.

West quickly struggled to find work, forced to make appearances in his cape and cowl at car shows and carni-



vals, and in such obscure films as *The Marriage of a Young Stockbroker* (1971), written by Semple, and *The Happy Hooker Goes Hollywood* (1980).

West returned to voice his iconic character in such cartoons as *The New Adventures of Batman*, *Legends of the Superheroes*, *SuperFriends: The Legendary Super Powers Show* and *The Simpsons*, and Warner Bros.' long-awaited DVD release of ABC's *Batman* in 2014 brought him back into the Bat Signal's spotlight.

He was born William West Anderson in Seattle on Sept. 19, 1928, the second of two sons. His father, Otto, was a wheat farmer; his mother, Audrey, was a pianist and opera singer.

West attended an all-boys high school, then graduated with a major in English literature from Whitman College. During his senior year, he worked for a local radio station, doing everything from Sunday morning religion shows to the news.

He also starred in a couple of plays at the local theater. "I found that I could move an audience and I was appreciated," he said.

He got his first regular TV role when he played Det. Sgt. Steve Nelson under the command of Robert Taylor on the 1959-62 ABC/NBC series *The Detectives*, coming aboard when that show expanded to one hour in color.

Eventually came the gig on MacFarlane's *Family Guy*. "I had done a pilot with Seth that he had written for me. It turned out we had the same kind of comic sensibilities and got along well," he said in a 2012 interview. "When *Family Guy* came around, Seth asked if I would like to come aboard as the mayor, and I thought it would be neat to do something sort of absurd and fun."

The documentary *Starring Adam West* culminates with him receiving a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 2012.

When *Batman* was canceled, "The only thing I thought is that it would be the end of me, and it was for a bit," West told an audience at Comic-Con in 2014. "But then I realized that what we created in the show ... we created this zany, lovable world.

"I look around and I see the adults — I see you grew up with me, and you believe in the adventure. I never believed this would happen, that I would be up here with illustrious people like yourselves. I'm so grateful! I'm the luckiest actor in the world, folks, to have you still hanging around."

GAIMAN TO READ FOOD MENU FOR REFUGEE CHARITY

As part of a fundraising campaign organized by writer and comedian Sara Benincasa to benefit world refugees, bestselling author Neil Gaiman agreed in late May to do a live reading of the entire Cheesecake Factory menu if fans raised \$500,000 for the United Nations

Refugee Agency (UNHCR). Benincasa hoped to reach the funding goal by World Refugee Day on June 20, 2017 and notes, "According to UNHCR, an unprecedented 65.3 million people around the world have been forced from home. Among them are nearly 21.3 million refugees, over half of whom are under the age of 18." Refugees are often denied basic rights such as education, healthcare, employment and freedom of movement. Neil's been active on behalf of world refugees for years."



GAME WRITING NEBULA BEING ADDED

Beginning with the 2018 Nebula Awards (for works published in 2017), there will be a new award category: Best Game Writing, reported Locus Online in late May.

SFWA President Cat Rambo says "all forms of game writing will be eligible." SFWA expected to have the game writing versions of their suggested reading list and new release newsletter available by the end of May.

LIT CIRCLE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you enjoy reading and discussing literature?

Would you like to help students become "literary citizens of the world"?

You can volunteer to spend one hour a week at Amy Biehl High School in a book club-style literature circle with five 10th or 11th graders discussing a novel. You can model a love of reading, critical thinking, and discussion skills. All you have to do is complete the reading for the week and come with questions and insights about the novel.

"The beauty of the Lit Circle program is that we can come together to share insights, discuss ideas, ideals, and have fun," states George Weir, volunteer 2006-2013. "I look at these kids differently than I did when I first walked in the classroom. I see their depth, passion, and enthusiasm and I also see their youth, innocence and (sometimes) folly. Hopefully, when they see me they see that there is more to being an adult than wearing a suit and going to work five days a week. Hopefully."

Literature Circles begin in August. Contact Christina Herrera Furst at CHFurst@abhs.k12.nm.us if you are interested.

For more information about Amy Biehl High School, please contact Aldis Philipbar, advancement coordinator, at (505) 468-0611 or aphilipbar@abhs.k12.nm.us. Amy Biehl High School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to designated youth groups.

ON THE CONVENTION FRONT: **BUBONICON 49 JUST SIX WEEKS AWAY**

by Craig Chrissinger, co-chair

Bubonicon, New Mexico's annual science fiction convention, celebrates its 49th edition August 25-27 at the Albuquerque Marriott Uptown, 2101 Louisiana Blvd NE (at I-40). More than 45 authors, artists, scientists, filmmakers & fans will be participating in programming.

This year's convention features special guest talent from the East and West Coasts. Guests of Honor for Bubonicon 49 are Washington novelist C.J. Cherryh (raised in Oklahoma) and California writer Sherwood Smith; Guest Artist is Elizabeth Leggett of Albuquerque; and Toastmaster is North Carolina resident Ursula Vernon. And former NASA scientist Dr. Kathleen Kitts is the Science Speaker. We also are blessed to have Stephen R. Donaldson, Diana Gabaldon and Susan R. Matthews with us throughout the weekend.

Proceeds from the Friday charity auction and a portion of any Bubonicon 49 profits will benefit the (Jack) Williamson Library Collection at Eastern NM University, and the local Roadrunner Food Bank.

Bubonicon 49 opens with Pre-Registered check-in 1:00-2:30 pm Friday the 25th, with regular registration open at 3:00 pm; and goes almost nonstop through 5 pm that Sunday. The first programming is at 4 pm, the same time the Art Show opens. The Con Suite and Gaming open at 5 pm.

The theme for the weekend is "Back In Time" (Time Travel). The five tracks of programming at the Marriott are really full, so don't be surprised if you're torn between attending two or three panels/readings at a time!

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

Of course, there's Gaming in two rooms by the Art Show and also on the 2nd Floor, the usual Dealers Room, and the large Art Show space! And don't forget about the hospitality suite– located on the 16th floor in a Suite with two adjoining sleeping rooms. One difference – the Con Suite will close at 7:30 pm Saturday in time for the Costume Contest, and will not re-open until 8:00 am Sunday.

We need volunteer workers (gofers in con speak) to help us throughout the weekend (see separate blurb earlier in this newsletter). If you can help, please email Julie Pascal at volunteers@bubonicon.com, or come to the meeting Friday, August 18, at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church on Ponderosa NE (home of ASFS).

Passes for the whole weekend are \$40 if purchased by August 5. After that, you'll have to wait to pay \$45 at the door. Daily memberships are \$15 Friday, \$25 Saturday and \$15 Sunday. Youths 14-17 years old are \$23 for

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

There are two ways to pay now! You can send payments with the registration form by August 5 to Bubonicon Inc at 933 San Mateo Blvd NE, Suite 500-208, Albuquerque, NM 87108; or you can use your PayPal account/Credit Card on our website (make sure to include the names for all passes purchased).

The Bubonicon 49 special \$99 room rate (single-quad occupancy) is only guaranteed through Monday, August 14, so get your reservation in now! 800-228-9290 to make your reservation.

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

12 1/2 YEARS LATER:

MATT FREWER ON *MAX HEADROOM*

by Craig W. Chrissinger

When the Jean Cocteau Cinema in Santa Fe decided to celebrate the 30th anniversary of *Max Headroom*'s run on ABC-TV, a plan was hatched to hold a live reading of George RR Martin's unproduced "X-Mas" script. Producer/writer Michael Cassutt came to New Mexico from California for the whole run of screenings (two episodes per day, including the original British TV film), and he was joined the last two nights by producer/writer Steve Roberts and actor Matt Frewer.

On May 20, 2017, a group of local actors – with Frewer reprising his role of Max Headroom (another actor was Edison Carter) – performed Martin's Christmas script that was never filmed as the show had been cancelled. It was a fun evening, Martin's script sounded good, and many of the full-house audience stayed to socialize with Frewer, Cassutt, Roberts, Martin and others.

It reminded me that I first met Frewer in early December 2004 in the basement of the Tucson Convention Center, where interior sets for *Stephen King's Desperation*, directed by Mick Garris, were constructed. I was on assignment for *Fangoria Magazine*, and interviewed many of the cast and crew. Frewer and I talked about *Desperation* and his role in the TV film, but we also chatted about his time in Stephen King movies, *Monty Python*, *Max Headroom* and other matters.

What follows is part of that conversation which was not used in *Fangoria* –

CC: You've done five Stephen King projects so far, four of those with Mick Garris. Is King someone who appeals to you?

FREWER: I love his writing. I mean, everyone goes, "Oh god, he's the horror meister." But think of things like *Stand By Me* and *The Shawshank Redemption* and *The Green Mile*. I love the writing because he has

such a good ear for small-town characters and what goes on behind closed doors - all that stuff that happens in the deep Midwest in these small towns. You get a sense that something creepy is going on down the lane whenever you pick up one of his books. That's what I love about him more than anything. There's a sense of open up the box and let the creepiness out, or that there's something under the floorboards.

CC: What is it about Mick Garris that makes you want to do films with him?

FREWER: Well, visually, he's great. He is wonderful with actors. He manages to create such a wonderful atmosphere on the set, and I've never had a bad experience working with him. He's great, so smart and decisive about the script and everything - particularly with this Stephen King stuff. Mick is a writer, and he's pretty much on the same page as Stephen King. He understands how to translate that stuff to film.

CC: I hadn't realized until doing research that you were in *Monty Python's Meaning of Life*.

FREWER: Yeah, that was the very first thing I did. I got to yell, "Shit!" and jump out the window. That's all I did. I did my own stunt, though. It was cool, actually, and it was great fun for me to just be on the set with the Pythons. They were like a tight family, and it was really sweet to see how they treated each other.

CC: It's hard to believe that we're coming up on 20 years since the height of *Max Headroom* (the TV movie, *Max Headroom: 20 Minutes Into the Future*, was broadcast in 1985).

FREWER: That was such a short, sharp shock. There were only 14 episodes made of the ABC show, plus the British Channel 4 movie that started it off, and the HBO/Cinemax talk show. But only 14 episodes of the ABC show and I made the cover of *Newsweek*, and then it was pulled off the air. So, it was sort of like, "Uhm, what just happened?" It was like getting slapped in the face with a two by four.

CC: Do you ever hear anything about a revival or anniversary get-together?

FREWER: Well, we did go down to the Museum of Radio and Technology, and did a kind of reunion thing there. It was basically just to find out what everyone is doing now. There was some talk about that, and one of the original writers and I came up with an idea for a film. That was pitched around for a while, and then when I was doing *Taken* for the Sci-Fi Channel (now SyFy), they wanted to do *Max Headroom* there. It just kind of fizzled out because it got caught in a regime change, and it's never been picked up again. It would be easier and less expensive now. I wouldn't have to wear the rubber makeup, which would be great. It's not that I have an aversion to glue... Well, yes, yes I do. Who doesn't?

CC: You've done comedic roles, including on *Doctor, Doctor*, and dramatic roles, and some combinations of both. Do you have a preference?

FREWER: Not really. I look at them all the same,

really. I went to a classical drama school in England, and I was brought up with the belief that you can do both. So, I always felt that I better be in a position to do both. Sometimes that meant turning down lots of money and all that stuff. I think when you're on your death bed, it's good to think that you did lots of different and interesting things - not about how you're taking X number of dollars to your grave. What does that do? Get you a better lining for your coffin?

CC: You also were in the remake of *Dawn of the Dead*. It seems like you've kind of ventured into the science fiction and horror genres a bit. Are those things that you're personally interested in?

FREWER: I've read some of it, but I can't honestly say that I'm a real nut on it. It tends to seek me out, and I like doing the stuff because it puts characters in extreme circumstances, and produces a broad range of emotions. I mean, how do you react to the Martian in the room? So, it's challenging to play, and it's fun.

BOOK REVIEW ROUND-UP

The Refrigerator Monologues by Catherynne M. Valente, 2017 Saga Press, hc \$19.99, 160 pages.

Review by Jessica Coyle

Catherynne Valente's *The Refrigerator Monologues* is an interesting experiment in writing. The novel is a series of six linked stories that combines the feminist comic book concept of "Women in Refrigerators" with Eve Ensler's groundbreaking play *The Vagina Monologues*. The concept of "Women in Refrigerators" was coined by comic book writer Gail Simone, and it is used to describe the comic book trope in which women are killed, raped, brainwashed, driven mad, disabled, or had their powers taken so that a male superhero's storyline will progress.

The Refrigerator Monologues tells the story of six different women who have all ended up in Deadtown (i.e. the afterlife) in some way as casualties of their superhero or super villain boyfriends. They attempt to take back their stories by creating a support group called The Hell Hath Club. Here the women take turns discussing their lives from their point of view with the male "heroes" as secondary background characters.

This book isn't for everyone; it is raw and sarcastic and very, very feminist. While fans of comic books will easily be able to tell which famous characters Valente is spoofing in her stories, it is not necessary for one to be hugely familiar with comics to enjoy Valente's biting wit and beautiful prose. I absolutely loved it, and highly recommend it to those who are fans of writing that turns tropes upside down.

Moon Beam by Travis S. Taylor and Jody Lynn Nye. Baen 2017, hc \$18.99, 320 pages.

Review by Kevin Hewett

Moon Beam is a young-adult novel featuring Barbara Winton, the teenage protagonist, who is selected to join the Bright Sparks - an elite group of students who study

under Dr. Keegan Bright. Her dreams come true when she receives the call to travel from her family farm in Iowa to the Moon.

Although she has been a lonely nerd growing up in Iowa, on the moon she becomes part of a larger group whose names and faces are known worldwide. She is tapped to become the leader of a four-person team to construct a radio telescope on the far side of the moon. While setting up the base camp, sunspot activity creates a dangerous radiation storm which forces Barbara and her crew to rapidly build a shelter under two meters of lunar rock. To complicate matters, the radiation cripples equipment and knocks out her communications with the main lunar base.

This coming of age story demonstrates that knowledge of math and science can be a critical survival skill as she leads her team through adversity to eventual triumph. Travis S. Taylor & Jody Lynn Nye's novel follows the traditions of the juvenile fiction of Isaac Asimov and Robert Heinlein, but for modern readers. It is highly recommended.

***Armistice: The Hot War Book 3* by Harry Turtledove, 2017 Del Rey, hc \$28.99, 448 pages.**

Review by Becky C. Davis

Harry Truman ordered a nuke attack against the Chinese in Manchuria in 1950 in *Bombs Away*, Turtledove's first of The Hot War series of alternate history books about the Korean War and a hypothetical aftermath, World War III. He and Stalin just about obliterate the urban, governing, centers of Europe, Asia and the U.S. in the second book, *Fallout*. In *Armistice*, Truman, alone now without Bess and Margaret, must negotiate a cessation of hostilities with Medvedev of Russia and other graduates of the KGB, after Stalin has been crisped in a reprisal nuclear bomb lobbed into Russia.

Turtledove follows the same narrative pattern as he established in *Fallout*; vignettes of various characters involved in this horrific war hurricane which sweeps from Manchuria, across the various eastern European buffer states (Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, etc.) and into, Oregon, California and Washington. This is a large cast of characters. Most of them are nuanced as individuals. But it is mind-boggling to read through their stories. Russians still fight Germans, Poles, Slavs, Chinese and Yanks. Germans fight Russians, Poles and Slavs. The Americans fight the Russians and some Chinese. The Chinese fight the Russians. The many place names and biographical figures will send the reader scrambling for his or her Wiki and other encyclopedic resources to fill in the details.

In this broader hurricane, Mr. T. focuses on particular smaller stories. From a woman and man released from a northern California refugee camp, to two German women slaving as conscripts in a far Russian forest gulag camp. From an American B-29 pilot to two Russian tank fighters fighting for their lives in Czechoslovakia and Poland, to a German Jew who is sent to a Glendale, California appliance store which survived the hot war. Turtledove is careful to include period bits from the early '50s: Cam-

els and Chesterfield cigarettes, Goren on bridge, Maytag washers, erythromycin, and Sheffield rifles. The novel ends with a party celebrating New Year's, 1953, in Glendale, California. But many lives across Eastern Europe beyond that celebration are still stranded, barren and hopeless. Much as they were after World War II. Does this give you any thoughts about the true effects of wars?

Enjoy the series as a cautionary tale about endless war and the endless ability of man to both brutalize and elevate his fellow man. The whole series is worth a thought or three.

***The Bear and the Nightingale* by Katherine Arden, 2016 Del Rey, tp re-issue (June 2017) \$16.00, 368 pages.**

Review by Jessica Coyle

The Bear and the Nightingale, Katherine Arden's debut novel, is an homage to Russian fairytales that is getting a lot of comparisons to similar fairytale-based fantasies like Naomi Novik's *Uprooted* and Erin Morgenstern's *The Night Circus*. *The Bear and the Nightingale* is set in 14th Century Siberia, and follows the story of Vasilisa Petrovna, known as Vasya, the daughter of a rich boyar, or aristocrat. She is also the granddaughter of a powerful witch who has inherited her grandmother's powers and abilities. She frightens her family and the townspeople with her ability to speak with and control the old spirits. When a new priest comes to town, he turns the village against Vasya by preaching that there is only one God and that any belief in the old spirits is evil. Will Vasya be able to overcome their prejudices and save her family and the village from the spirit of Winter that wishes to destroy them?

The Bear and the Nightingale is an interesting concept that is prettily written but ultimately weak. Arden will start down a path that seems interesting or important (Vasya's brother Sasha goes off to be a warrior-monk in a way that seems as if it will be important and then pretty much disappears; there is a necklace that plays prominently in the story, but is never really explained well or fully followed up on). I felt as if Arden had so many ideas, interesting facts about 14th century Russia or Russian fairytales, and other things that she wanted to cram in that she occasionally lost her way. This was particularly glaring at the end of the novel, which felt very rushed; it could have easily used another 40 pages to really successfully wrap up the story. Overall, while *The Bear and the Nightingale* certainly held my attention well enough to finish the book, I would be more likely to recommend Naomi Novik's *Uprooted* or Catherynne Valente's *Deathless* to those who are interested in this kind of story.

ASFS MEETING REPORTS —

APRIL 2017: SCI-FI TRAILER PARK

Devin O'Leary of the *Weekly Alibi* spoke to 33 attendees in his 5th "SF Trailer Park," covering genre films to be released Spring-Fall 2017.

O'Leary noted that *Alien: Covenant* is a follow-up to *Prometheus*, but "getting back toward an *Alien* feel. The

last one got a mixed reaction. Mostly a new cast, and going back to the formula of *Alien* - a spaceship finds a perfect planet, and the aliens are there. There's high hope for it."

Looking at *Blade Runner 2049*, he said there is just a teaser trailer right now, but it's "cool. The screenplay is by the same guy who did the first one, and the director did *Arrival*. So, I'm excited by it."

He said that *Guardians of the Galaxy Volume 2* "looks to continue the fun of the first one, which was awesome. I'm pretty excited by it. We add Mantis, and Kurt Russell is Peter's dad. This movie expands the universe, and James Gunn also will be doing *Guardians 3*."

King Arthur: Legend of the Sword is not the historical version, O'Leary said. "It's more fantasy oriented, and directed by Guy Ritchie. Big, giant action. It was pitched as a six-film series - Ritchie told the studio it's his *Lord of the Rings*. I can't tell where it's going, and it looks odd."

Looking at *Spider-Man: Homecoming*, he said, "Sony has the rights to Spider-Man, and they weren't doing it right. A deal was made to have Spider-Man in *Civil War*, and that introduced this new kid. In exchange Iron Man and such can show up in Spider-Man movies. The thrust here is that he's a kid in high school. Michael Keaton is the *Vulture*. I have faith in this."

The Mummy, a reboot from Universal, has Tom Cruise as the lead. "Universal looked at Marvel, and wants a Universal Monster universe. They want to do a series, and they say this is the lynch pin. They probably spent a ton of money on it, so it should be full of excitement."

Of *War for the Planet of the Apes*, he commented, "Matt Reaves, who did the last film, is back. It's been a really solid series. It has themes from the old series, but it's modernized. They've done a good job of balancing sympathies between humans and apes. It's a good reboot."

O'Leary said that *Wonder Woman* has a "pretty interesting tone and a female director. It's set in World War One, not the WWII - and it even borrows some from the TV show. Gail Godot was the most exciting part of *Batman v. Superman*, even though she didn't get to do much. Chris Pine is Steve Trevor. I'm excited by it."

Looking ahead to the Christmas season, O'Leary said that he is definitely waiting to see where *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* goes. "*Rogue One* was well done. This is Luke's story, and he's the last Jedi."

Other film trailers covered included *A Ghost Story* ("Different - I'm curious about it"), *Atomic Blonde*, *Cars 3*, *Coco* ("Based on the Mexican Day of the Dead, and it's really Pixar's first musical - It looks great, and I have high hopes"), *Despicable Me 3* ("Should be a lot of fun, solid entertainment"), *Geostorm* ("In the future, we control weather but then the machines go crazy"), *It* ("New adaptation of Stephen King - studio is saying it will be two movies at least"), *Justice League*, *Sleight*, *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales* ("Looks cool, but the scripts don't always hold together"), *The Circle*, *The Emoji Movie*, *Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets* ("Crazy over-the-top sci-fi - looks fantastic"), and *Thor: Ragnarok* ("Has elements from several comic story lines - it's a buddy film with Thor and Hulk traveling.").

Summing up the film world, O'Leary said, "Hollywood has no prejudices, unless it doesn't make money."

MAY 2017: ROBOTS, CYBORGS & DROIDS

Club member Tara Oakes showed off her fannish collection of Robots, Cyborgs and Droids to 42 people, with plenty of photos of toys and collectibles. "My discovery of robots started with clocks, and the Time Museum," she noted.

Some of the robots she showed in slides were a C-3PO and R2-D2 moving-action bank, BayMax, a R2-D2 tethered robot, an Iron Giant with tethered remote, Robby the Robot, K-9 with a tail that wags as he rolls along, a Wall-E that dances and rolls his eyes, a Mecha-Godzilla with a cardboard village to drive him through, Robot B-9 from *Lost in Space* that talks and lights up, Bender from *Futurama*, BB8 from *The Force Awakens*, Gort, a Hexhead wind-up, a Conehead wind-up that has sparks behind the eyes, a Thunder Robot from Sharper Image, a real Soviet robot wind-up toy, a kung-fu robot with plastic nunchucks, a pair of love robots that light up, nesting robots, Bolt and Scoot robots with boxing gloves, acrobat robots that stack together, desk pets, robots as clocks, two robots that open up to be personal fans, a crumb vacuum robot, salt and pepper robots that wind up and walk slowly, robot-shaped pens, and a robot that is a calculator.

EDITOR NOTES THAT FIT THIS SPACE

- **NO DENVER COMIC CON** for us this year. Last year was too nuts, so this time we took a break! However, we will be headed to Colorado the last weekend of July to see Trace Beaulieu & Frank Conniff (*MST3K's Mads*) once again at the Voodoo Comedy Playhouse. Last year's riffing show was awesome, and once again we learned of the Denver show from a *RiffTrax Live* show- the *RiffTrax Summer Shorts Beach Party* (which was quite clever). Looking forward to the trip.

- **MY REPORT ON THE WILLIAMSON LECTURESHIP** again was in the May issue of *Locus Magazine* with 4 photos! Now to get some book reviews written for the *ABQ Journal*.

- **BOOKWISE, I JUST READ** a couple of novels by Joe Lansdale (*Deadman's Road* and *Flaming Zeppelins* - good pulp tales - and *Savage Season*, the first Hap & Leonard novel full of atmosphere and gore) and Cherie Priest (*Brimstone* and *The Family Plot* - both great gothic stories). Really liked *The Girl with All the Gifts* by M.R. Carey. And now finishing up V.E. Schwab's *A Darker Shade of Magic*. Good magician tale.

- **ON THE FILM FRONT**, *Wonder Woman* was fantastic; while *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol 2*, *Despicable Me 3*, *Cars 3*, and *Colossal* were entertaining. We enjoyed *The Pit's* cheesiness at the Guild Cinema. *The Mummy* is pretty cheesy and has lots of unintentional laughs, while *King Arthur: Legend of the Sword* is slow and not sure what it is. Green Slime contenders? Maybe. Still have to see the new *Transformers*...

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

- **LOOKS LIKE I'M** outta room. Remember to be excellent to each other, and party on, dudes! Hope to see you all at *Bu-bonicon 49*. **NEXT DEADLINE: MONDAY, OCTOBER 9**. -Craig C