



ASFACTS 2018

FEBRUARY "IT'S DRY & WARM OUT THERE" VALENTINE ISSUE



ENMU WILLIAMSON LECTURESHIP SCHEDULED FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 6

The 42nd annual Jack Williamson Lectureship will be held Friday, April 6, at Eastern New Mexico University in Portales. Special guest is Santa Fe's S.M. Stirling, with Colorado's Connie Willis as Mistress of Ceremonies. Friday events include a reading from Stirling, a luncheon and various panel discussions.

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

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

Stirling is the author of the *Emberverse* and *Shadowspawn* series, as well as new alternate history novel, *Black Chamber*, out in July. He also is the author of the *Lords of Creation* series and a number of alternate history novels. His interests include history, anthropology, archaeology and martial arts. He lives in Santa Fe with his wife.

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

On Friday, April 6, Stirling reads and answers questions 10:00-11:30 am in the Zia Room of the Campus Union Building. The luncheon, hosted by Willis with a keynote address from Stirling, takes place 11:45 am in the Campus Union Ballroom. The Luncheon cost is \$10.00 (payable at the door). Books will be available for purchase and autographing by writers in attendance. Reservations (and any dietary restrictions) are needed by Monday, April 2. Call Patrice Caldwell at (575) 562-2315 or email planning.analysis@enmu.edu.

Panel discussions happen 3:00-6:15 pm in the JWLA Building, and are free of charge. These panels are sure to provide a wide range of topics and free-wheeling discussion and debate between panelists and audience. So far, we've heard that Darynda Jones and Walter Jon Williams plan to participate (as of press time).

Plans for Saturday, April 7, have not been announced

yet. In years past, there has been a Writers Workshop for aspiring young writers at the Portales Public Library, 218 S Avenue B, in Portales and/or a film festival on the ENMU campus.

URSULA K. LE GUIN DIES

by Gerald Jonas, NY Times

Ursula K. Le Guin, the immensely popular author who brought literary depth and a tough-minded feminist sensibility to science fiction and fantasy with books like *The Left Hand of Darkness*, *The Lathe of Heaven*, and the *Earthsea* series, died January 22 at her home in Portland, OR. She was 88.

Her son, Theo Downes-Le Guin, confirmed the death. He did not specify a cause but said she had been in poor health for several months.

Le Guin embraced the standard themes of her chosen genres: sorcery and dragons, spaceships and planetary conflict. But even when her protagonists are male, they avoid the macho posturing of so many science fiction and fantasy heroes. The conflicts they face are typically rooted in a clash of cultures and resolved more by conciliation and self-sacrifice than by swordplay or space battles.

Her books have been translated into more than 40 languages and have sold millions of copies worldwide. Several, including *The Left Hand of Darkness* – set on a

UPCOMING ASFS MEETINGS

- **Tonight:** Club member Geneva Schult shows off her photos from New Zealand, including *Lord of the Rings* sites, the WETA Workshop, and more.
- **March 9:** Time for the traditional ASFS Auction with Bob Vardeman & Patricia Rogers at the helm. Start looking for 2-6 items to donate to the club's cause. REMEMBER: Cash/Check only!
- **Fri, March 23:** Bubonicon 51 guest nominations meeting. Must be present to vote on 2019 guests...
- **April 13:** Possibly Devin O'Leary of the *Weekly Alibi* will look at film trailers for this summer's genre releases! Also, the Spring issue of *ASFacts* (deadline 7:00 pm Monday, April 9).
- **May 11:** Either O'Leary's presentation, or Bubonicon 50 Guest Artist Eric Velhagen shows his art.

Craig Chrissinger, normal editor. Darth Vader, guest editor each December. Please Send All Correspondence to — PO Box 37257, Albuquerque, NM 87176-7257. Contact: (505) 266-8905 or via cwraig@nmia.com. *ASFACTS* published February, April, July & October for the Albuq SF Society. *SITHFACTS* out each December. NEXT DEADLINE: Mon, April 9.
Club Officers: Craig Chrissinger & Jessica Coyle, co-Zec Secs (505) 266-8905. Kevin Zander, Moderator. Mike McCommas, Alternator. Cupid, Holiday Host. **B'con Co-Chairs:** Caci Cooper & Craig Chrissinger (505) 559-0931.

planet where the customary gender distinctions do not apply – have been in print for almost 50 years. The critic Harold Bloom lauded Le Guin as “a superbly imaginative creator and major stylist” who “has raised fantasy into high literature for our time.”

In addition to more than 20 novels, she was the author of a dozen books of poetry, more than 100 short stories (collected in multiple volumes), seven collections of essays, 13 books for children and five volumes of translation, including the *Tao Te Ching of Lao Tzu* and selected poems by the Chilean Nobel Prize winner Gabriela Mistral. She also wrote a guide for writers.

Le Guin’s fictions range from young-adult adventures to wry philosophical fables. They combine compelling stories, rigorous narrative logic and a lean but lyrical style to draw readers into what she called the “inner lands” of the imagination. Such writing, she believed, could be a moral force.

“If you cannot or will not imagine the results of your actions, there’s no way you can act morally or responsibly,” she told *The Guardian* in an interview in 2005. “Little kids can’t do it; babies are morally monsters – completely greedy. Their imagination has to be trained into foresight and empathy.”

The writer’s “pleasant duty,” she said, is to ply the reader’s imagination with “the best and purest nourishment that it can absorb.”

She was born Ursula Kroeber in Berkeley, CA, on October 21, 1929, the youngest of four children and the only daughter of two anthropologists, Alfred L. Kroeber and Theodora Quinn Kroeber. Her father was an expert on the Native Americans of California, and her mother wrote an acclaimed book, *Ishi in Two Worlds* (1960), about the life and death of California’s “last wild Indian.”

At a young age, Le Guin immersed herself in books about mythology, among them James Frazier’s *The Golden Bough*, classic fantasies like Lord Dunsany’s *A Dreamer’s Tales*, and the science-fiction magazines of the day. But in early adolescence she lost interest in science fiction, because, she recalled, the stories “seemed to be all about hardware and soldiers: White men go forth and conquer the universe.”

She graduated from Radcliffe College in 1951, earned a master’s degree in romance literature of the Middle Ages and Renaissance from Columbia University in 1952, and won a Fulbright fellowship to study in Paris. There she met and married another Fulbright scholar, Charles Le Guin, who survives her.

On their return to the United States, she abandoned her graduate studies to raise a family; the Le Guins eventually settled in Portland, where Charles Le Guin taught history at Portland State University.

Besides her husband, Le Guin is survived by a son and two daughters, two brothers, and four grandchildren.



ENMU SPECIAL COLLECTIONS FLOODED; SEVERAL SF BOOKS & MAGS DAMAGED

PORTALES (Eastern New Mexico News) – A treasured collection of literature is facing an uncertain future after sustaining damage from flooding over the winter holiday.

On December 29, a pipe in a restroom of the Eastern New Mexico University Campus Union Building froze and burst, flooding the first floor of the building with up to an inch of water.

That led to flooding in the floor below, which temporarily is housing the Golden Library’s special collections, according to Librarian Gene Bundy.

The collection contains the entire body of work of late NM science fiction author Jack Williamson, as well as an extensive collection of rare science fiction, history, and university-related materials. It is being stored there while the Golden Library undergoes renovations.

Many of these items were damaged by the flooding, said ENMU Vice President of Business Affairs Scott Smart.

“(The pipe that burst) was a three-quarter inch line ... that snapped and just was flowing wide open for probably – it’s hard to tell – five or six hours before someone discovered it,” he said. “I would say 99 percent of the damage was in (special collections).”

After the water was removed, according to Smart, 200 boxes of damaged materials were collected and placed in cold storage by an outside company that will attempt to restore them through a flash-freezing process.

“When stuff gets wet, it absorbs, and then whatever’s wet, it kind of expands because of the water in it. With a flash freeze right away, it stops that type of thing from happening, and they just sort of brush the ice crystals off to preserve the books,” Smart said.

Smart estimated \$100,000 in damage between the CUB and special collections.

Bundy listed the myriad items affected. “A lot of the science fiction, fantasy magazines, a whole section in the Jack Williamson science fiction library, all of the old authors and some of the new authors (were damaged). We had a small section on science, stuff about outer space, UFOs, stuff written by some of the famous science fiction authors on science,” he said.

One of the most painful losses, Bundy said, was a complete collection of ENMU’s student newspaper, *The Chase*.

“The rare books, they’re possibly replaceable; possibly, they will be able to be restored. We had the only full set (from 1934 through fall of 2017) of *The Chase*, and a soaking wet ceiling tile fell and sat on them for I don’t know how long,” he said.

About 85 to 95 percent of the Jack Williamson collection was unscathed, Bundy said, but he still considers

damage to the collection a blow to the community.

"There's not much of anything else like it anywhere around," he said. "We have 170 boxes of science fiction/fantasy books and 60 boxes of magazines and fanzines in that freeze-dry storage area."

In early 2016, Golden Library began a serious remodel to update electrical, plumbing, heating and cooling. NM Governor Susana Martinez would only approve the needed changes if the building was redesigned – she would not sign off on anything with the word "library" in it. ENMU's administration was told that in order to receive the funding the library would have to be replaced with a "Student Success Center." And to meet her goals, library holdings and materials were ultimately reduced by about 80 percent.

The question became where to house the remnants after the massive purge, including special collections. Apparently, ENMU administrators did not want to spend the money required for a new building, so government documents were put in a warehouse on the north side of campus; library offices, functions and University archives were relocated to Bernalillo Hall on the south side of campus; and all books and magazines – both the General collection and Special Collections – were placed in the basement of the Campus Union Building. Most of the librarians were opposed to that basement idea, but it was the reality.

Bundy says that he also discovered last November that architects seem to have had little concern about the needs and operation of the special collections area. Bundy's office will now be at the very back of the area because that's where "they had a bit of room." Also, all rare books will be shelved together with no division between New Mexico history and Science Fiction titles. To the architects, it appears that "Books are books," no matter whether just ¾ of an inch wide or coming in at 26 pounds. No provision has been made for such differences.

"It is apparent that the past administration was not really concerned with the preservation of Eastern's history, wasn't concerned with the legacy of Jack Williamson and showed little regard for the history of New Mexico," Bundy has publicly stated.

2017 LOCUS RECOMMENDED READING LIST

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

A full list is published in *Locus Magazine*'s February 2018 issue, and is a consensus by *Locus* editors, reviewers, and other professionals. Following are just NM authors and Bubonicon friends –

NOVELS – SCIENCE FICTION: *Persepolis Rising* by James S.A. Corey, *The Collapsing Empire* by John Scalzi, and *Bannerless* by Carrie Vaughn. NOVELS – FANTASY: *Quillifer* by Walter Jon Williams. COLLECTIONS: *Down*

and *Out in Purgatory: The Collected Stories of Tim Powers* by Tim Powers, and *The Refrigerator Monologues* by Catherynne M. Valente.

ANTHOLOGIES – ORIGINAL: *The Book of Swords* edited by Gardner Dozois. ANTHOLOGIES – REPRINTS/BESTS: *The Year's Best Science Fiction: Thirty-Fourth Annual Collection* edited by Gardner Dozois. NON-FICTION: *Don't Live for Your Obituary* by John Scalzi.

NOVELETTES: "The Mocking Tower" by Daniel Abraham, and "The Worshipful Society of Glovers" by Mary Robinette Kowal. SHORT STORIES: "Welcome to Your Authentic Indian Experience™" by Rebecca Roanhorse, and "I Have Been Drowned in Rain" by Carrie Vaughn.

BEAGLE NAMED SFWA GRAND MASTER

The Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers of America (SFWA) named Peter S. Beagle the 34th recipient of the Damon Knight Memorial Grand Master Award in late January, reports *Locus*. SFWA president Cat Rambo said, "Beagle's work has been the gateway for multitudes of fantasy readers, but also writers as well, including myself. His work shines a light on the human heart and its beauties even when that heart is flawed and wanting, showing how that beauty arises from such imperfect conditions."

The award, given for "lifetime achievement in science fiction and/or fantasy," will be presented at the SFWA Nebula Conference held May 17-20 at the Pittsburgh Marriott Center in Pittsburgh, PA.

ATWOOD, DÍAZ AND MARTIN TO BE FEATURED ON PBS

Margaret Atwood, Junot Díaz, and George R.R. Martin are among a list of notables who will "lend their voices and passion" and "share their personal stories and connections to their favorite titles" as featured authors on PBS's *The Great American Read*. The official announcement from late January says:

"*The Great American Read*, a new eight-part television competition and nationwide campaign created in partnership with the production company Nutopia, explores the power of books and the joy of reading through the lens of America's 100 best-loved novels, as voted on by the public."

The event begins with a two-hour premiere May 22 on PBS



stations. The show promises to “journey across America to uncover illuminating details and new reflections, sometimes from unlikely sources, about some of the titles on the top 100 book list, revealing the story behind the story from multiple perspectives.”

Voting opens with the launch of the premiere. For full details, see the PBS website - www.pbs.org.

2017 ROMANTIC TIMES REVIEWERS' CHOICE NOMINEES

In mid-January, Romantic Times Book Reviews announced the nominees for their 2017 Reviewers' Choice Awards. There are over a dozen categories of SF/Fantasy/Horror interest – including nominations for past Bubonicon participants Diana Rowland and Robin D. Owens.

The Book of the Year category includes *The Prey of Gods* by Nicky Drayden.

URBAN FANTASY NOVEL: *Hungry Ghosts* by Stephen Blackmoore, *Silence Fallen* by Patricia Briggs, *All Those Explosions Were Someone Else's Fault* by James Alan Gardner, *Heroine Worship* by Sarah Kuhn, *White Trash Zombie Unchained* by Diana Rowland, and *The Ghoul Vendetta* by Lisa Shearin. URBAN FANTASY WORLD-BUILDING: *Etched in Bone* by Anne Bishop, *Snared* by Jennifer Estep, *Bound* by Benedict Jacka, *Blade Bound* by Chloe Neill, and *Battle Hill Bolero* by Daniel José Older.

PARANORMAL ROMANCE: *Wildfire* by Ilona Andrews, *Red Wolf* by Jennifer Ashley, *Bound Together* by Christine Feehan, *Thirst* by Jacquelyn Frank, *Into the Fire* by Jeaniene Frost, and *Booke of the Hidden* by Jeri Westerson. PARANORMAL WORLDBUILDING: *The Demon Prince* by Ann Aguirre, *Wicked Abyss* by Kresley Cole, *The Unyielding* by Shelly Laurenston, and *Silver Silence* by Nalini Singh.

FANTASY ROMANCE: *Breath of Fire* by Amanda Bouchet, *The Kingpin of Camelot* by Cassandra Gannon, *Heart Sight* by Robin D. Owens, *Wardance* by Elizabeth Vaughan, and *The Sea King* by C.L. Wilson. FUTURISTIC ROMANCE: *One Fell Sweep* by Ilona Andrews, *Sky Raiders* by Michelle Diener, and *Born of Vengeance* by Sherrilyn Kenyon.

YOUNG ADULT FANTASY: *Flame in the Mist* by Renee Ahdieh, *One Dark Throne* by Kendare Blake, *Caraval* by Stephanie Garber, *A Court of Wings and Ruin* by Sarah J. Maas, *Akata Warrior* by Nnedi Okorafor, and *Shimmer and Burn* by Mary Taranta. YOUNG ADULT PARANORMAL/SF: *Loved* by P.C. Cast & Kristin Cast, *Freeks* by Amanda Hocking, *The Mortician's Daughter: One Foot in the Grave* by C.C. Hunter, *Body Parts* by Jessica Kapp, and *Our Dark Duet* by Victoria Schwab.

SCI-FI NOVEL: *Sea of Rust* by C. Robert Cargill, *A Closed and Common Orbit* by Becky Chambers, *The Prey of Gods* by Nicky Drayden, *Tomorrow's Kin* by Nancy Kress, *The Will to Battle* by Ada Palmer, and *All Systems Red* by Martha Wells. FANTASY NOVEL: *Within the Sanc-*

tuary of Wings by Marie Brennan, *Winter Tide* by Ruthanna Emrys, *The Long Past & Other Stories* by Ginn Hale, and *Dusk or Dark or Dawn or Day* by Seanan McGuire.

EPIC FANTASY NOVEL: *The Queen of Swords* by R.S. Belcher, *Death's Mistress* by Terry Goodkind, *The Stone Sky* by N.K. Jemisin, and *The Witchwood Crown* by Tad Williams. FANTASY ADVENTURE: *The Sapphire Manticores* by Marie Andreas, *The Dreamer's Song* by Lynn Kurland, *Ruins & Revenge* by Lisa Shearin, and *Heartstone* by Elle Katharine White.

Winners will be honored at the RT Awards Ceremony on May 18, during the 2018 RT Booklovers Convention at the Peppermill Resort in Reno, NV.

BOOK GROUP KEEPS READING

The Droids & Dragons SF Book Group meets at 7:30 pm Monday, February 19, at Jason's Deli (northwest corner of Louisiana & America's Parkway NE – across the street from Bubonicon's Marriott Hotel) to discuss *The Hanged Man* by P. N. Elrod. The group then focuses on *The Wrong Stars* by Tim Pratt on Monday, March 19 – 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 mrsansom@hotmail.com or Craig at 266-8905.

MARTIN FUNDS CLARION WEST SCHOLARSHIP

George R.R. Martin announced in late January that he will fund a new scholarship for the Clarion West writing workshop in Seattle WA. The “Worldbuilder Scholarship” will be given “to an applicant who demonstrates both financial need and a talent for worldbuilding and the creation of secondary universes” and will cover all tuition, fees, and lodging for one student per year. The scholarship will be decided via blind judging.

Instructors for the 2018 summer session, to be held June 17-July 27, include Daniel Abraham, Ellen Datlow, Karen Joy Fowler, Yoon Ha Lee, Karen Lord, and Ken MacLeod. Application deadline is March 1. For more information, see the Clarion West website.

Martin has also provided funding for scholarships to other writing workshops, including Taos Toolbox and Odyssey.

JACK KETCHUM DIES

Dallas Mayr, who wrote horror as Jack Ketchum, died January 24 of cancer in New York. He was 71 years old. Ketchum was named a World Horror Grand Master

in 2011, and won a Bram Stoker Award for Life Achievement in 2015.

Dallas William Mayr was born November 10, 1946, in Livingston, NJ. He attended Emerson College in Boston, earning a BA in English, and taught high school for two years. He also worked as an actor, a literary agent (briefly representing Henry Miller), a lumber salesman, and a soda jerk, among other occupations. As a teenager, he made contact with Robert Bloch, who acted as his mentor for many years. Early in his career he also wrote as Jerzy Livingston. He wrote about his life in 2008's memoir *Book of Souls*.

His debut novel *Off Season* appeared in 1980, and he went on to publish more than 20 books, among them *Hide and Seek*, *The Girl Next Door*, *Offspring*, *Road Kill*, Stoker Award finalist *The Lost*, *Red*, and *The Secret Life of Souls* (2016, with Lucky McKee). Several of his novels formed the basis for films, including *The Lost* in 2006, *The Girl Next Door*, *Red*, *Offspring*, and 2011's *The Woman*.

He authored scores of short stories, including Stoker Award winners "Closing Time" in 2003, "Gone," and "The Box;" and finalists *Right to Life* and "The Haunt." Novella *I'm Not Sam* (2012, with Lucky McKee) was a finalist for Stoker and Shirley Jackson Awards. His short work was collected in numerous volumes, including Stoker Award-winner *Peaceable Kingdom*.

2018 PHILIP K. DICK AWARD NOMINEES

The 2018 Philip K. Dick Award nominees were announced mid-January, reports Locus. They include a book by Bubonicon friend Carrie Vaughn:

The Book of Etta by Meg Elison, *Six Wakes* by Mur Lafferty, *After the Flare* by Deji Bryce Olukotun, *The Wrong Stars* by Tim Pratt, *Revenger* by Alastair Reynolds, *Bannerless* by Carrie Vaughn, and *All Systems Red* by Martha Wells.

The award is presented annually to a distinguished work of science fiction originally published in paperback form in the United States. The award is sponsored by the Philip K. Dick Trust and the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society, and the award ceremony is sponsored by the Northwest Science Fiction Society. The judges are Robert Onopa, Deborah J. Ross (chair), James Stoddard, Amy Thomson, and Rick Wilber.

The winner and any special citations will be announced on Friday, March 30, at Norwescon 41 in SeaTac, WA. For more, see www.philipkdickaward.org.

MORE RETRO HUGO AWARDS COMING

In a joint mid-December statement during SMOFCon 35, both Worldcon 76 in San Jose and Dublin 2019 (Worldcon 77) announced that they will present Retropective Hugo Awards for 1943 and 1944 respectively.

The 1943 Retro Hugos for works first published in 1942 will be awarded in a ceremony to be held on August 16 at the San Jose McEnery Convention Center in San Jose, CA. The 1944 Retro Hugos for works first published in 1943 will be awarded in a ceremony to be held on August 15, 2019, at the Convention Centre Dublin in Dublin, Ireland.

Members of the 2017, 2018, and 2019 Worldcons will be eligible to vote for the 1943 Retro Hugos. Members of the 2018 and 2019 Worldcons will be eligible to vote for the 1944 Retro Hugos. According to the Hugo Awards website: "As the result of a rule change ratified at Worldcon 75 in Helsinki, members of the following Worldcon will no longer be eligible to nominate on the current Worldcon's Hugo Awards effective as of the 2019 Worldcon."

For more information, see the official Hugo Awards website - www.thehugoawards.org.

CARRIE FISHER WINS GRAMMY

On January 28, Carrie Fisher won a posthumous Best Spoken Word Album Grammy Award for her narration of her 2016 memoir, *The Princess Diarist*, published by Penguin Audio. Fisher beat out Bruce Springsteen, Bernie Sanders, and Neil deGrasse Tyson to earn her first Grammy win (she was previously nominated for 2009's *Wishful Drinking*). Fisher recorded *The Princess Diarist* shortly before her death. Her daughter, Billie Lourd, narrated the diary entries featured in the book.

BUBONICON 50 WANTS INPUT

by Craig Chrissinger, con co-chair

We're six weeks into 2018 now, believe it or not, and Bubonicon 50 is slightly more than six months away! Three-Day Passes currently are \$35.00, and they go up April 8 to \$40 each, remaining so through August 4. They can be purchased in person at club meetings – or by mailing payment (with the PDF pre-registration form from the website) to "Bubonicon Inc" at 933 San Mateo Blvd NE, Suite 500-208, Albuquerque, NM 87108; or by paying online with a credit card.

Bubonicon 50 takes place August 24-26 (our traditional weekend) at the Albuquerque Marriott Uptown, 2101 Louisiana Blvd NE, just north of I-40 – enter from the America's Parkway loop road. This year, we are just four days after the San Jose Worldcon, which may affect some of our participants. For the 7th year, the Marriott is offering sleeping rooms at \$99 single-quad occupancy, with free WiFi in sleeping rooms. Reservations are needed by August 13. That's 1-800-228-9290. Remember to tell them you're with Bubonicon.

And just like in the past, we're keeping all Room Parties on one designated floor – this year it's the 3rd Floor – with the hotel and your con chairs (Caci Cooper

and myself) being informed of such at least four days in advance. You can request the “party” floor, a quiet floor, or state you have no preference.

Recently, we added a SPECIAL “MEDIA” GUEST in celebration of our 50th convention – director and screenwriter Mick Garris (*The Stand*, *batteries not included, *Amazing Stories*, *Desperation*, and a couple of novels) will be joining our other special guests John Scalzi, Mary Robinette Kowal, Lee Moyer, and artist Eric Velhagen. Garris’ participation is dependent on any production schedule conflicts, of course. In addition, we’re expecting such con regulars as Robert Vardeman, Peri Charlifou, Darla Hallmark, Darynda Jones, Jane Lindskold, Pari L. Noskin, Melinda Snodgrass, Gabi Stevens, S.M. Stirling, David Lee Summers, Carrie Vaughn, and Connie Willis, among others. All subject to change and travel plans...

The con-com has to come up with at least 32 possible panel topics at the end of this month, and then we will send out invitations to potential participants in mid-March. We’re asking for all Fan Programming proposals and preliminary requests for time/space to be submitted by Saturday, April 28, so we have time for any questions or clarifications before we build the tentative schedule.

Some planned programming includes the Green Slime Awards, the mass autographing session, the usual two auctions, filking, a game show, the costume contest, films, fan/video programming, and hopefully, the continuation of Kids programming (Jessica can use volunteer assistants). Plans for the Sunday Afternoon Tea also are up in the air at the moment.

The theme for Bubonicon 50 is “THE GOLDEN AGE OF SF” since it is our golden anniversary. The Golden Age is generally considered by historians to be 1939-1961, which includes works by Isaac Asimov, Leigh Brackett, Ray Bradbury, Arthur C. Clarke, Philip K. Dick, Robert A. Heinlein, C.L. Moore, and NM’s Jack Williamson (plus films like *The Day the Earth Stood Still*, *It Came from Outer Space*, *Them!*, *This Island Earth*, *Conquest of Space*, and more).

And in keeping with tradition and to honor the memory of NM’s own Pioneer Author, we plan to make a financial donation to the (Jack) Williamson SF Library Collection at Eastern NM University, and also to the Roadrunner Food Bank, at least.

Dealers’ spaces will go on sale the 1st of March! The rates are \$85 with a weekend pass, and \$120 with two. Since we only have 29 total spaces for sale, there is a maximum of two spaces per dealer, and spaces are not considered sold until payment and a signed contract are received. For more Dealer info, please email Dan Cooper at dealers@bubonicon.com.

Meanwhile, Roslee Orndorff & Kristen Dorland and their staff are gearing up for the 2018 Art Show. As usual, art show packets will be available online late May. We don’t plan to mail out packets, but if you don’t have internet access we can take care of you. If that’s the case, please send a two-ounce paid SASE to the San Mateo

address. Info is available from artshow@bubonicon.com.

More general info is available from the website: www.bubonicon.com, by writing to the San Mateo address, by calling our Google Phone (voicemail) at 559-0931, and by emailing us at bubonicon@gmail.com.

BOOK REVIEW CORNER

***Tempests and Slaughter: The Numair Chronicles Book 1* by Tamora Pierce, 2018 Random House Books for Young Readers, hc \$18.99, 480 pages.**

Review by Jessica Coyle

Tempests and Slaughter, the new book from Young Adult bestseller Tamora Pierce, tells the back story of Numair Salmalín, aka Arram Draper, a popular secondary character from her *Immortals* series of books. The novel starts as Arram is studying magic at the Imperial University of Carthak. As one of the youngest students to study advanced magic at the school, Arram has a hard time fitting in and making friends. It is only after he starts to share a room with Ozorne, a young royal who is known as Carthaki’s “leftover prince,” that he begins to make friends and learn how to navigate the world in which he now lives.

As Arram progresses in his magical studies and grows in power, he begins to grasp that things in Carthak are not as simple as they seem, especially because of his connections with the royal family. As his world grows more complicated, Arram realizes he will have to make hard decisions about where is loyalty and his future lie.

Fans of Tamora Pierce have been waiting with baited breath for the latest book set in her fantasy realm of Tortall, and *Tempests and Slaughter* does not disappoint. At first I was disappointed to hear that Pierce was going to write the back story of Numair, whose never been one of my favorite characters from the series, but I ended up really enjoying this novel. Having the story follow Numair through his school days gives the reader a lot of interesting information in how Tortall’s magic systems work and a chance to discover the decisions that lead Arram Draper to become one of this world’s most powerful magicians. I highly recommend this book.

***Child of a Mad God* by R.A. Salvatore, 2018 Tor Books, hc \$25.99, 496 pages.**

Review by Luke DeProst

Child of a Mad God is a well-written, fast-paced fantasy novel that focuses around Aoleyn, a young heroine in a fierce and brutal mountain tribe. Her story arc begins at a very young age and allows the reader to accompany her as she comes of age, begins to question her people’s customs, and learns the powers of magic.

R.A. Salvatore’s latest is the first book in a brand-new series, and does a fairly good job world building and introducing the reader to the mountainous region of the seven tribes. However there certainly seems to still be plenty of areas for the series to expand upon.

This book does have a few fairly graphic parts that deal with torture, rape, and killing, certainly no worse than

George R. R. Martin's *A Song of Fire and Ice*. However, readers who find those topics off-putting should probably avoid this story.

Overall, *Child of a Mad God* is worth a read from anyone that enjoys fantasy, and it is on par with many of Salvatore's other books.

***Batman: Nightwalker* by Marie Lu, 2018 Random House Books for Young Readers, hc \$18.99, 288 pages.**

Review by Craig W. Chrissinger

Batman: Nightwalker is the second DC Icons book being done for young adult readers (Wonder Woman gets bragging rights of being first), and its story takes place before Bruce Wayne put on the cowl and cape to become Batman. In fact, in Marie Lu's novel, Bruce has just turned 18 years old and is about to graduate from high school. His life changes when inventor Lucius Fox of WayneTech asks him to drive a custom Austin Martin to a benefit.

Escaping from the red-carpet party, Bruce ends up in a car chase with a fleeing criminal. He's able to stop the man, but is charged with interfering in police business. And thus he gets community service - janitorial work at Arkham Asylum under the supervision of Detective Draccon and Warden James. While cleaning in the Intensive Treatment section in Arkham's basement, he meets Madeleine, a mesmerizing and quiet young woman who is associated with the Nightwalkers. The Nightwalkers are a network of thieves and killers who are systematically terrorizing Gotham City's rich and elite.

As Bruce slowly earns Madeleine's trust - or is manipulated by her - we get glimpses of bendable personal armor that will become the Batsuit in the future, and even early versions of an armored car that will be the Batmobile one day.

Overall, as Bruce faces down the Nightwalkers in a hostage situation, we get fun nods and small hints at the Batman that he will one day become. And we see Harvey Dent as his teenage friend, years before a tragic accident will turn him into Two-Face. The characters are definitely Young Adults, slightly undisciplined, and not yet who they will become. But then, it's important to remember that Bruce Wayne is just 18 years old in *Nightwalker*.

Lu presents an easy-to-follow story that is fast-paced, and an interesting look at a superhero in his early beginnings. I enjoyed the novel, and think it works well for both adult and teenage readers.

***Neogenesis* by Sharon Lee & Steve Miller, 2018 Baen Books, hc \$25.00, 435 pages.**

Review by Roberta Johnson

Let me just admit that I have been reading the Liaden Universe novels of Sharon Lee and Steve Miller for a very long time. I am a diehard fan of their romance/science fiction/fantastic adventures and the people, human and otherwise, heroes, villains and monsters who live in them. Miller and Lee have introduced so many characters over the years that I'm having trouble keeping up. I doubt that anyone who hasn't followed the previous novels will have a chance.

Neogenesis, the newest Liaden Universe adventure, continues the battle of artificial intelligences (beginning with Jeeves, Clan Korval's intelligent butler) to attain legal status and the right to exist, while charging our heroes with finding the last Old Machine from a lost universe and rehabilitating or destroying it. Tinsori Light, AI lighthouse between universes, is so old and his systems are so decrepit that he is mostly mad. The lighthouse is trapped between the old universe, long since conquered by evil, and ours. When Tinsori Light finally suicides or his systems finally fail, there's a very real danger that he'll take both universes out with him. The Lyre Institute is sending multiple representatives (villains) to take control; our heroes must beat the villains and save our universe. So what else is new? In the Liaden Universe that's practically business as usual!

Heroes in this newest wide-ranging adventure include Tocoht, Jeeves' daughter, who was born (built?) previously in *The Gathering Edge* and became a daughter of Korval; Miri and Val Con, who date from the beginning of the series and now entertain themselves administering their part of the planet Surebreak and Clan Korval; Tolly Jones, highly illegal clone and Mentor to newborn AI's; Yxtrang from old and new universes (and not enough of them!), the clan's sentient tree; and numerous cats. And that's just a sampling.

Neogenesis seems more like an extension of the previous novel, *The Gathering Edge*, than a separate novel. Some of my favorite heroes, including those we met previously in *The Gathering Edge*, barely have room to turn around. Many of these heroes are having their own adventures on different fronts, keeping the action going nonstop. Universes are saved, universes are destroyed, battles are fought, won or lost. Two major characters are suddenly disposed of, I suspect for lack of room. One may presumably turn up in a future episode, one dies heroically in battle - but not everyone in the Liaden universe who dies actually dies. Sometimes they're not really dead, and sometimes they're dead but it's not permanent.

All in all, I'm going to have to go back and reread *Plan B*. I need to reconnect with my favorite Xtrang, from a time when Clan Koval was a lot simpler.

***Penelope March is Melting* by Jeffrey Michael Ruby, 2017 Delacorte Books for Young Readers, hc \$16.99, 320 pages.**

Review by Jessica Coyle

Penelope March is Melting is the debut middle-grade novel by *Chicago Magazine* dining critic Jeffrey Michael Ruby. Set in the imaginary world of Glacier Cove, a town built on top of an iceberg, the book follows 12-year-old Penelope March, a bookworm outcast who lives in a falling down house with her brother, Miles, and father. Penelope's life takes a dramatic turn when she makes friends with Ore9n Buzzardstock, the man whom all the neighborhood kids call crazy. He's an ice sculptor who offers to teach Penelope, and, much to the concern of Penelope's father and brother, he quickly becomes her only friend.

Penelope discovers that Ore9n has another secret, which is that their iceberg is melting because of a stolen

talisman that he was supposed to protect. Suddenly, in order to save Glacier Cove, Penelope finds herself and her brother and a team of Special Forces penguins on an adventure to save the talisman and defeat the evil force that has stolen it.

Penelope March is Melting is a fun and quirky story in the vein of Lemony Snickett and Pseudonymous Bosch. I enjoyed the books humor (especially the Special Forces penguins, of course!), and thought that Penelope March was a well-rounded heroine that kids will enjoy. There are a couple of times that the book strays a little for the sake of humor and quirk, but overall I liked it and would recommend it, especially for kids.

***It Devours!: A Welcome To Night Vale Novel* by Joseph Fink and Jeffery Cranor, 2017 Harper Perennial, hc \$21.99, 368 pages. Review by Fred Aiken**

The original novel *Welcome to Night Vale* was a *New York Times* bestselling novel. I am nominating *It Devours!* for this year's prestigious Bubonicon Green Slime Award.

The initial chapter contains 171 lines of narration and not a single line of dialog. The only character in this chapter is Larry LeRoy, who appears to be a cardboard character. No external conflict, except for a sink hole, is hinted at. To its credit, there was a slight hook at the chapter's end that gave promise of something to come later.

Chapter 2 introduces what appears to be a central character, Nilanjana Sikdar and her sidekick Luisa. The mix of narration and dialog is better, about 55% narration and 45% dialog. The dialog did not contain evidence of a plot. No hook was present to lead the reader into the next chapter.

It appears that Nilanjana is the main character in Chapter 3, which also introduces Carlos (no last name) and his husband, Cecil Palmer. Both of these characters are not described. Like Chapter 2, there is nothing that pulls the reader into the story and there is no hook to convince the reader to continue reading the next chapter.

A quick glance of Chapter 4's first page changes the character into a hither know person. There was nothing to entice me to continue reading, so I stopped at this point. I was disappointed that the material that I did read did not mention the fate of Larry LeRoy from the first chapter.

The cover blurb says, "Nilanjana Sikdar is an outsider to the town of Night Vale. Working for Carlos, the town's hip scientist, she relies on fact and logic as her guiding principles. But all that is put into question when Carlos gives her a special assignment investigating a mysterious rumbling in the desert wasteland outside of town..."

But *It Devours*, as written by Joseph Fink and Jeffrey Cranor, is definitely not to my taste. Of course, I never listened to the original podcast either.

***Gunslinger Girl* by Lyndsay Ely, 2018 Jimmy Patterson Books, hc \$17.99, 432 pages. Review by Jessica Coyle**

Gunslinger Girl is YA author Lyndsay Ely's debut novel. It is released through Jimmy Patterson Books, which is an initiative between James Patterson and Hachette Books to publish middle grade and YA books with the proceeds going towards young literacy programs and initia-

tives throughout the US. I will admit that I was a little dubious about this novel as it was personally selected by James Patterson for publishing, and my previous experience with James Patterson (aka 2017's Green Slime winner *Humans, Bow Down*) was unpleasant at best. So, when *Gunslinger Girl* showed up in the mail, I read the plot synopsis and was intrigued, and then I looked at the giant JAMES PATTERSON PRESENTS stamp across the front and thought, "Well, maybe it'll be good or maybe I'll get a Green Slime nominee out of it...."

I was pleasantly surprised to discover that *Gunslinger Girl* is definitely not a Green Slime Awards candidate. Set in a dystopic future where people live within government-run Communes where a woman's future is determined by her breeding potential, Serendipity "Pity" Jones is a girl who wants to pave her own way. When she decides to run away from an arranged marriage, she ends up in Cessation, a decadent city outside of government control where lawlessness is a way of life.

Luckily for Pity, she ends up at Casimir, a hotel/gambling house/entertainment den run by the closest thing Cessation has to a Mayor. While there, Pity's talents as a sharpshooter are discovered, and she becomes a member of the famed Circus, which is made up of a series of performers who put on vaudeville-style shows for adoring crowds. It all seems to be too good to be true, and the more time Pity spends in the Circus at Casimir the more she learns about and finds herself pulled into Cessation's dark underbelly with less and less of a way to escape.

I absolutely loved this book from beginning to end. Lyndsay Eli builds an interesting world with a dark mystery at its core that keeps the reader craving more. I flew through this book, and I am eagerly waiting to see what the author does next.

***Sleeping Beauties* by Stephen King and Owen King, 2017 Scribner, hc \$32.50, 704 pages.**

Review by Craig W. Chrissinger

For his latest effort, Stephen King combines forces with son Owen King to produce a story that is part horror and part fantasy. In *Sleeping Beauties*, one day women who fall asleep start to form gauze-like cocoons around their inert forms, and woe be to those who would try to interrupt their sleep - whether trying to cut the webbing off as a rescue attempt or trying a sexual assault. The sleeping beauty becomes vicious and feral with her only goal to destroy the person responsible before calmly going back to sleep. And in their supernatural sleep, women go to another place, possibly a better one with no men.

The few women left in the world - and thus characters in the book - are using various methods to stay awake, whether stimulants (legal and illegal) or not fighting natural insomnia. Most of the book takes place in Dooling, a small Appalachian town whose primary employer is a women's prison. Among the main characters are the female town sheriff, the female warden of the Dooling Correctional Facility, the sheriff's psychiatrist husband who works at the prison, a mentally unstable animal control

officer, a drugged-out plastic surgeon, and a couple of notable female prisoners.

Suddenly appearing in Dooling with unusual strength is the mysterious “Eve Black.” She seems to be connected to the sleeping disease, but no one is sure how. She appears to be mentally unstable, but she also has insights into the people she meets - and more importantly, when she goes to sleep she is able to wake up normally. Is she a curse or the cure for the disease? Soon, the men divide into warring factions, some wanting to kill Eve, some to save her.

While the tale seems to be focused on women, it really is a study of what might happen to a near-future world where men are alone with no balance. And the real horror of *Sleeping Beauties* is man-made. Literally.

It’s an odd mix of potential real-life horror and an odd fantasy (the women’s “Our Place” world), but also full of complex characters and also a fast read. Stephen and Owen’s styles may not mix perfectly, but the overall result is entertaining and worth reading.

ASFS MEETING REPORTS — NOVEMBER 2017: KITTS TALKS SPACE

Thirty-seven people listened to Dr. Kathleen Kitts, Bubonicon 49’s science guest, give an encore of her convention presentation on solar system formation. She introduced her talk with a young reader’s story of the Big Bang and shortly after. Naming the planets in our system, she remarked, “Pluto was in there, people. Bite me. You can tell which side of the argument I’m on.”

Kitts said that stars produce energy by fusion of hydrogen into helium. During their late state of stellar evolution, massive stars burn helium to carbon. Eventually really massive stars get to an iron stage and have no capability of producing energy. At that point, a star can implode (collapse) in a supernova.

Some of the evidence astronomers have of stellar evolution comes from isotopes, especially oxygen, in meteorites. Those isotopes help determine where meteorites come from (“Who’s your daddy?”)

Kitts said that low-mass stars return much of their mass to the Interstellar Medium, while high-mass stars return almost all of their mass to the galaxy via stellar “superwinds” and through supernovae. Eventually those dust grains and spelled gassed are gravitationally attracted to each other to form giant molecular clouds. When something disturbs the clouds, they collapse. And those can form solar systems.

Kitts said our solar system probably took two to four million years to form. Most likely, our system was starting to form slowly and then a nearby supernova “goosed” our system.

Asked how many possible planets there are that possibly can sustain life, Kitts said 22 “life-zone” planets have been found so far.

Since retiring from teaching geology, she has been writing science fiction under her own name. “I got tired of

writing what is, and wanted to write about what if,” she explained. “I have a lot of ideas based on my background. As a scientist, I realize the more I know, the more I don’t know. There are things that I will never know or experience in my life. By writing, I get to do things that I will not do in my actual life.”

Kitts said she mostly has written short stories because she had time for them. Currently, she is finishing a novel and starting to peddle it around.

Summing up her writing experience, Kitts said, “You may have heard there are only seven plots, but that’s not what’s important. It’s what you do with it, and the kind of characters you use.”

DECEMBER 2017: DESSERTS & FILMS

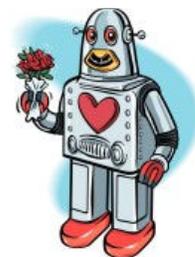
Thirty-six people came to watch comedic holiday film shorts, and to judge the 13th ASFS Dessert Cook-Off by tasting many delightful food samples.

As is the norm, St. Andrew’s space was split between the movie area and dessert tables. Shown during the evening were music videos (*MST3K*’s Jonah “Kaiju” song, Jimmy Fallon with Lindsey Buckingham and Christine McVie doing “Don’t Stop”), a *Shaun the Sheep* short (“Fireside Favorite”), a *Teen Titans Go* episode (“Second Christmas”), three *Simon’s Cat* episodes (“Copy Cat,” “Dinner Date, Just Desserts” and “Hambush/Trash Cat”), “Sharing” from *Sesame Street* and “Happy Halloween” from the Muppets, a *Big Bang Theory* episode (“The Santa Simulation”), the *Incredibles 2* early trailer, two *Jimmy Fallon Tonight Show* segments (“Will It Hot Dog?” and “Will It S’More?”), four *Bugs Bunny* and *Looney Tunes* cartoons (“Rabbit Fire,” “Hypo-Chondri-Cat,” “Baton Bunny” and “Scent-imental Reasons”), the *Deadpool 2* “Wet on Wet” trailer, and trailers for *Avengers: Infinity War* and *Rampage*.

In the Dessert Cook-Off with “Lovecraft” as the Theme, there were 12 entries from 12 people – Roberta Johnson, Amy Mathis, Harriet Engle, Al Kulp, Tanley McMullan, Julie Heffernan, Kevin & Rebecca Hewett, George Bates, Patricia Rogers, Geneva Schult, and Leah Ransom.

BEST OVERALL went to Kevin & Rebecca Hewett’s The Rats in the Walls - 1924, the RUNNER-UP to Patricia Rogers’ Cthulhu’d Eggs, and HONORABLE MENTION to Julie Heffernan’s Monster Strawberries. In the LOVECRAFT THEME CATEGORY, Geneva Schult took the prize for The Eyes of Yog-Sothoth.

THANK YOU RECOGNITION for assistance in setting up/cleaning up goes to Becky Davis, Heather & Daniel Hay, Roberta Johnson, Mike McCommas, Geneva Schult, Leah Ransom, Steve Kubica (for burning the DVD), and Patricia Rogers. Thank you also to Jessica Coyle for finding the online videos before she went for a family visit on the East Coast (thus not actually being present at the holiday gathering).



♥ EDITOR'S NOTES TO FILL THIS SPACE ON THE LAST PAGE ♥

• LE GUIN'S DEATH is probably not that unexpected, but it's hard on SF readers. It should be noted that in this interesting time of real-life politics, there's been renewed interest in her dystopian novel, *The Left Hand of Darkness*.

• CONTINUED WELL WISHES to local author Victor Milan, who has been hospitalized since December 11 (initially with pneumonia). He's in a rehab center now and hopefully getting the treatment he needs to make a full recovery. This winter season

(what winter, New Mexicans say) has seen one of the worst Flu epidemics in decades. It's so dangerous that it reminds me of an end-of-the-world tale! Jessica was attacked by the Flu the week after the January ASFS meeting, and she was down for the count for about two weeks. It's nasty stuff. So, wash your hands, sneeze and cough into your elbow, eat healthy, and get your sleep. Let's not have anyone else catching this crud!

• MEANWHILE, BUBONICON 50 is coming along. We did door prizes at *Better Watch Out*, *The Neverending Story*, *The Fifth Element* and *Mom & Dad* at the Guild Cinema the last two months, and should be working others soon (like *This Giant Papier Mache Boulder...* and *Flash Gordon*). We also have had fliers at a couple of signing events at Page One Books. The 50th convention is a little more than six months off, believe it or not...

• GREEN SLIME RESEARCH: Jessica & I are looking at what films we need to see in the next couple of months. Of course, Devin O'Leary's ASFS visit with film trailers in either April or May should provide more possibilities.

• I CAN SAY THAT *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* was worth seeing. Maybe not my favorite of the series, but entertaining. And everyone can debate the awesomeness of the Porgs vs. the Crystal Foxes! We finally saw *The Shape of Water* from Guillermo del Toro, and it is beautiful. It really is his love letter to the Creature from the Black Lagoon. Sally Hawkins gives a great performance as a mute cleaning lady at a government research facility. And we're excited to see Marvel's *Black Panther* next week.

• ON TV, we've really enjoyed *Lucifer*, *The Big Bang Theory*, and the recently completed 2nd season of *The Good Place*. We're behind on *The X-Files*, but at least have seen the first two episodes. Those were filmed very darkly, and somewhat confusing. I prefer the stand-alone "monster" episodes over the complex conspiracy episodes. Many people feel the same, I understand.

• I WILL BE covering the Williamson Lectureship in April again for *Locus*

Magazine. And I've been tracking the bad news about the flooding of Eastern NM University's special library collections. It's not a good thing, and it makes me feel both sad and frustrated. Bubonicon has donated a lot of money over the years to the Williamson SF collection, and ENMU administration should care more.

• THANKS TO Luke D, Roberta J, Fred A and Jessica for book reviews! See you all in two months (deadline Monday, April 9). Happy Valentine's Day & St. Patrick's Day!
- Craig C.

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GAME OF THRONES 2018 CALENDAR, MAGIC: THE GATHERING

MEDIA GUEST: MICK GARRIS

*DIRECTOR, SCREENWRITER, NOVELIST (THE STAND, DEVELOPMENT HELL, *BATTERIES NOT INCLUDED)*

OTHER PARTICIPANTS: TO BE ANNOUNCED AS CONFIRMED

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