



# ASFACTS 2011

## APRIL "WE NEED RAIN / BURN IT UP" SPRING ISSUE

### ASFS MOVING TO NEW HOME

by **Craig Chrissinger, co-executive secretary**

Welcome to the last meeting of the Albuquerque SF Society at the Sheraton Airport Hotel. We've been meeting here since October 2009, but it's time to move. Starting in May 2011, we will meet at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church on Ponderosa Ave NE.

The move is being made in order to keep club dues at current levels. While the Airport Hotel would be happy to host ASFS meetings, becoming a Sheraton has forced a rent increase of \$20 or more a month.

Meeting in the activity room of St. Andrew will cost the club \$40 a month through 2011 and into 2012. We also will have access through a glass door directly into the activity room from an enclosed courtyard on the west side of the church.

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church has a large parking lot, with additional parking on Ponderosa Ave next to Montgomery Park. The activity room is a large space with a built-in counter, its own bathrooms, round tables, and chairs for at least 60 people.

Because we will be unlocking the church and doing set-up ourselves, doors will not open until 7:15 pm. Please do not arrive before this time each month!

ASFS, started in June 1965 at Roy Tackett's house, was fortunate not to pay any rent for more than 44 years. Up to this month, meetings have been held in members' homes, bank community rooms (gone, especially post-9/11), Oddfellows Hall, the downtown PNM Building, Sirloin Stockade, the UNM Law School, the Lovelace Education Building, Irysh Mac's, Grant Middle School, Huff Studio, and the Albuquerque Grand Airport Hotel.

It was after February's meeting that St. Andrew approved ASFS to meet at the church at a reduced rate. Once officers visited the church and asked questions, a decision was made to keep the March and April meetings at the Sheraton – and to move the club in May.

Important: NO OUTSIDE FOOD IS ALLOWED in the

Church – other than the engagement party for Kevin & Randi, and the annual Dessert Cook-Off in December. This condition is part of the reason we received a discounted rent. As it is now, please be discreet with candy!

Water bottles and lidded drink containers will be allowed – at least until we have to clean up a messy spill.

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church is located at 5301 Ponderosa Ave NE, the street directly north of Erna Ferguson Library (south of Montgomery Blvd). Ponderosa is accessible via either San Mateo or San Pedro. Also, it can be reached via Alvarado from Comanche.

Membership dues will remain at Singles \$2.50 per meeting or \$25.00 a year; while Households are \$3.50 a month or \$35.00 annually (please make checks to Craig Chrissinger so he can cash them for the club). And first-time attendees are asked to contribute \$1.00 toward rent.

### BUBONICON FRIENDS AMONG NOMINEES FOR 2010 NEBULA AWARDS

The Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America released the final ballot for the 2010 Nebula Awards in late February. Among the nominees are two Bubonicon past guests of honor (Jack McDevitt and Connie

### UPCOMING ASFS MEETINGS

- **Tonight:** Authors Daniel Abraham & Ty Franck talk about James S.A. Corey's *Leviathan Wakes*.
- **May 13:** Engagement Party for Kevin Hewett and Randi Tinkham. Cake, punch & vegetable tray. First meeting at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church. Doors open at 7:15 pm - not before!
- **June 10:** Visits from author Doranna Durgin and Albq Comic Expo (ACE) coordinator Greg Derrick.
- **July 8:** Time for a Game Show! Most likely we'll play Transwarp Trivia with 3 teams of three. Plus the summer *ASFacts* (deadline July 3).
- **August 5:** Bubonicon 43 preview and a *Dinosaur Lords* update from Victor Milan. Plus nominations for the Bubonicon 44 chair. Meeting a week early!
- **August 12:** B'con 43 Gofer Meeting. Location TBD.
- **September 16:** Bubonicon 43 & Worldcon reports. Meeting is a week late (3rd Friday).
- **October 14:** Club officer elections, *ASFacts*, more.

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**Club Officers:** Kevin Hewett & Craig Chrissinger, co-Zec Secs (505) 266-8905. Jessica Coyle, Moderator. Harriet Engle, Alternator. **Bubonicon Chairs:** Craig Chrissinger & Kristen Dorland (505) 459-8734. [www.bubonicon.com](http://www.bubonicon.com)

Willis) and a rising star (Paolo Bacigalupi) from Colorado. A full list follows:

**Novel:** *The Native Star* by M.K. Hobson, *The Hundred Thousand Kingdoms* by N.K. Jemisin, *Shades of Milk and Honey* by Mary Robinette Kowal, *ECHO* BY JACK McDEVITT, *Who Fears Death* by Nnedi Okorafor, and *BLACKOUT/ALL CLEAR* BY CONNIE WILLIS.

**Novella:** *THE ALCHEMIST* BY PAOLO BACIGALUPI, “Iron Shoes” by J. Kathleen Cheney, *The Lifecycle of Software Objects* by Ted Chiang, “The Sultan of the Clouds” by Geoffrey A. Landis, “Ghosts Doing the Orange Dance” by Paul Park, and “The Lady Who Plucked Red Flowers beneath the Queen’s Window” by Rachel Swirsky.

**Novelette:** “Map of Seventeen” by Christopher Barzak, “The Jaguar House, in Shadow” by Aliette de Bodard, “The Fortuitous Meeting of Gerard van Oost and Oludara” by Christopher Kastensmidt, “Plus or Minus” by James Patrick Kelly, “Pishaach” by Shweta Narayan, “That Leviathan, Whom Thou Hast Made” by Eric James Stone, and “Stone Wall Truth” by Caroline M. Yoachim.

**Short Story:** “Arvies” by Adam-Troy Castro, “How Interesting: A Tiny Man” by Harlan Ellison, “Ponies” by Kij Johnson, “I’m Alive, I Love You, I’ll See You in Reno” by Vylar Kaftan, “The Green Book” by Amal El-Mohtar, “Ghosts of New York” by Jennifer Pelland, and “Conditional Love” by Felicity Shoulders.

**Ray Bradbury Award (Script):** *Despicable Me*, *Doctor Who*: “Vincent and the Doctor,” *How to Train Your Dragon*, *Inception*, *Scott Pilgrim vs. the World*, and *Toy Story 3*.

**Andre Norton Award:** *SHIP BREAKER* BY PAOLO BACIGALUPI, *White Cat* by Holly Black, *Mockingjay* by Suzanne Collins, *Hereville: How Mirka Got Her Sword* by Barry Deutsch, *The Boy from Ilysies* by Pearl North, *I Shall Wear Midnight* by Terry Pratchett, *A Conspiracy of Kings* by Megan Whalen Turner, and *Behemoth* by Scott Westerfeld.

Winners will be announced at the Nebula Awards Banquet on May 21, during the Nebula Awards Weekend at the Washington Hilton, Washington DC.

## BRITISH FANTASIST JONES PASSES AWAY

British fantasy author Diana Wynne Jones died March 26 from cancer. She was 76 years old. Jones was a respected and prolific author of fantasy novels, many for children and young adults. She published more than 40 books, including the *Chrestomanci* series (1977-2006), *Howl’s Moving Castle* (1986), and satirical non-fiction work *The Tough Guide to Fantasyland* (1996).

Born August 16, 1934 in London, Jones studied at St. Anne’s College, Oxford, 1953-56 (where she attended lectures given by C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien),

graduating with an English degree. She started her writing career as a playwright, and three of her plays were produced in London between 1967 and 1970.

First novel *Changeover* (1970) was adult humor, but afterward she shifted her focus to fantasy for younger readers. *Archer’s Goon* was nominated for a World Fantasy Award, and adapted into a six-part BBC TV series in 1992. *Howl’s Moving Castle* was animated by Hayao Miyazaki and nominated for an Academy Award for Best Animated Feature in 2005. She won the World Fantasy Life Achievement Award in 2007, and her books won Mythopoeic Awards in 1996 and 1999. She received multiple Carnegie commendations.

Forthcoming works include short novel *Earwig and the Witch* and a collection of non-fiction.

Jones was diagnosed with lung cancer in 2009. After more than a year of treatment, she announced that she was discontinuing chemotherapy, which was making her feel ill in her final months. She is survived by her husband, Chaucerian scholar John A. Burrow, and their three sons and five grandchildren.

*The Guardian* in its obituary stated, “Her intelligent and beautifully written fantasies are of seminal importance for their bridging of the gap between ‘traditional’ children’s fantasy, as written by C.S. Lewis or E. Nesbit, and the more politically and socially aware children’s literature of the modern period, where authors such as Jacqueline Wilson or Melvyn Burgess explicitly confront problems of divorce, drugs and delinquency.”

A complete obituary and appreciations will appear in the May issue of *Locus Magazine*.

## ALBUQ SF SIGNINGS/EVENTS SET FOR APRIL AND BEYOND

Several signings by New Mexico authors and SF-related events have been set up for April through July right here in Albuquerque. So, please stop by these events and say howdy to your favorite writer or film presenter – you might even purchase something while you’re at it! Events coming up include:

+ **SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 2:30 PM:** Six New Mexico authors will talk about and sign the anthology *A Career Guide to Your Job in Hell* and the solo novel *The Dragon’s Path*. Participating are fantasy novelist Daniel Abraham, anthology editors Robert E. Vardeman and Scott S. Phillips, plus contributors Scott Denning, Victor Milan and John Jos. Miller. This mass event takes place at Page One Bookstore at the southwest corner of Montgomery and Juan Tabo NE.

+ **FRIDAY & SATURDAY, APRIL 29-30:** Alibi Midnight Movie Madness presents *Rubber*, the tale of an evil-infested tire! This French film, a tribute to the cinematic concept of “no reason,” has a tire wrecking havoc on

human kind once it discovers it has psychic powers. *Rubber* plays at 10:00 pm and Midnight both days. As usual, cash only – all seats \$7.00. The Guild Cinema is located on Central Avenue NE in the Nob Hill area.

+ **FRIDAY-THURSDAY, APRIL 29-MAY 5:** Superhero parody *Super* from director James “Slither” Gunn comes to the Guild Cinema. An average guy (Rainn Wilson) takes on the pseudo-superhero alter ego of The Crimson Bolt after watching his wife (Liv Tyler) fall under the spell of a charming drug dealer (Kevin Bacon). It also features Nathan Fillion, Ellen Page and Gregg Henry. *Super* screens at 3:45, 5:45 and 8:00 pm daily. The Guild Cinema is located in the Nob Hill area on Central Avenue NE.

+ **SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 8:00 & 10:00 PM:** ALBUQ SF SOCIETY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES! Let’s see how many of us can pack the Guild Cinema for *Super* and then *Rubber*. Come support a local independent theater that helps promote Bubonicon.

+ **SATURDAY, MAY 7, 11:00 AM-6:00 PM:** 2011 SubPop Culture Expo at Marketplace New Mexico, 800 Louisiana NE (at Lomas). Presented by Sugar Zombies, the show focuses on “where the worlds of Sub & Pop Culture collide.” The event promises comic artists, alternative artists, comic & toy vendors, a costume contest, Cosplay, live local music, a punk fashion show, and a film festival. For more info, check out [sugarzombies.net](http://sugarzombies.net).

+ **FRIDAY-SUNDAY, JUNE 24-26:** Albuquerque Comic Expo (ACE) at the Albuquerque Convention Center downtown. Guests announced so far include GoH Stan “the Man” Lee, *Trek*’s Marina Sirtis, artist Gene Ha, Peter Mayhew and Dave Prowse from the *Star Wars* films, Ernie Hudson (of *Ghostbusters*), *Battlestar*’s Richard Hatch, local filmmakers Scott Phillips and Kurly Tlapoyawa, Jim Kelly, Doug Jones, Ben Templesmith (comics guest of honor), local artists Andy Kuhn and Aaron Campbell, James O’Barr, Joe Jusko and others. New Mexico *Wild Cards* authors Melinda Snodgrass, Victor Milan, John Jos. Miller and Walter Jon Williams also plan to attend. Tromadance New Mexico Film Festival, organized by Burning Paradise’s Tlapoyawa, will take place at ACE. A Costume Contest also has been announced.

The show floor will be open 10 am-9 pm Friday and Saturday, and 10 am-6 pm Sunday of the event. A three-day ticket is \$50.00 through June 23, and \$55.00 at the door. Dailies \$30.00 Friday or Saturday, and \$25.00 Sunday. Info at <http://abqcomicexpo.com>. You also can write to the ACE folks at: Albuquerque Comic Expo, PO Box 27504, Albuquerque, NM 87125-7504.

+ **SATURDAY, JULY 9:** *Fort Freak: Wild Cards & Leviathan Wakes* signing tentatively set to take place at Page One. Stay tuned for confirmation and details.

+ **FRIDAY-SUNDAY, JULY 15-18:** Mythcon 42 at the MCM Elegante, 2020 Menaul NE (near University). This year’s theme is “Monsters, Marvels, and Minstrels:

The Rise of Modern Medievalism.” Guests of Honor are Catherynne M. Valente, author, and Michael D.C. Drout, professor of English. Valente’s *The Orphan Tales* won the 2008 Mythopoeic Fantasy Award, and her urban fantasy *Palimpsest* was nominated in 2010. Other confirmed guests include Ty Franck, Jane Lindskold, Ian Tregillis, Daniel Abraham and Carrie Vaughn.

Registration rates through April 30 for the full conference are \$75 for Mythopoeic Society members, \$85 for non-members, \$55 for students (with ID), and Free for children (under age 12). For more information: [www.mythsoc.org/mythcon/42](http://www.mythsoc.org/mythcon/42) or contact Leslie Donovan of UNM’s Honors Program at (505) 277-4313 / [ldonovan@unm.edu](mailto:ldonovan@unm.edu). Leslie needs volunteers – especially to help with writing and artist tracks!

The Mythopoeic Society is a non-profit organization devoted to the study of mythopoeic literature, particularly the works of members of the informal Oxford literary circle known as the “Inklings.”

+ **FRIDAY-SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21-23:** Milehicon 43 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Denver’s Tech Center. Guests of Honor are Vernor Vinge & Glen Cook, Editor Guest is Gardner Dozois, Toastmaster is Mario Acevedo. Memberships \$40 to May 31, then \$42 through Oct 10. Hotel: 303-779-1234, Con Info: [www.milehicon.org](http://www.milehicon.org).

## GEORGE RR MARTIN NEWS BITS

George R.R. Martin & Parris McBride, his partner of 30 years, were married on February 15 at their home in Santa Fe, NM, among a small group of friends and loved ones.

There are pictures from the wedding and the celebration afterward at Martin’s website.

Several websites have announced that *A Dance with Dragons*, the fifth installment of the *Song of Ice and Fire* epic fantasy series, will be released on Tuesday, July 12. Seven books are projected in all from Martin’s pen.

Meanwhile, the HBO mini-series of *Game of Thrones*, the first book, debuts on Sunday, April 17. *Entertainment Weekly* for April 8 has a multiple-page article on the production, and *TV Guide* for April 11 has a two-page article on the show’s story and the production.

## BOOK GROUP STILL READING

The Droids & Dragons SF Book Group meets at 7:30 pm Monday, April 18, in the DVD/gift area of Page One to discuss *The Nymphs of Rocky Flats* (the first Felix Gomez book) by Mario Acevedo. The group then focuses on *The Sorcerer’s House* by Gene Wolfe on May 16.



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. For more information, contact Yvonne at [piebald@juno.com](mailto:piebald@juno.com) or Craig at 266-8905.

## 2011 PROMETHEUS NOVEL FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

The Libertarian Futurist Society has announced to Locus Online the Prometheus Award finalists in the Best Novel category:

*For the Win* by Cory Doctorow, *Darkship Thieves* by Sarah Hoyt, *The Last Trumpet Project* by Kevin Mac-Ardry, *Live Free or Die* by John Ringo, and *Ceres* by L. Neil Smith.

The Prometheus Awards will be presented at Reno-vention, the 69th annual World Science Fiction Convention, in mid-August in Reno, Nevada.

## NALO HOPKINSON APPOINTED ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Nalo Hopkinson has been appointed associate professor specializing in science fiction and fantasy at the Creative Writing Department of the University of California Riverside starting in Fall 2011, Locus Online reported in mid-February.

Dean Stephen Cullenberg announced the appointment during the 2011 Eaton Science Fiction Conference, where Eaton Awards for Lifetime Achievement were presented to Samuel R. Delany and Harlan Ellison. The professorship was originally offered to Hopkinson in Fall 2009 and was placed on hold due to budget cuts. According to Hopkinson's blog, "the professorship is set up in such a way that I'll have lots of time to write. The current plan is to split my time between Toronto and the Riverside/Los Angeles area."

## TIE-IN NOVELS NOMINATED

The International Association of Media Tie-in Writers has announced the 2011 Scribe Award nominees for excellence in licensed tie-in writing – novels based on TV shows, movies, and games – and this year's Grandmaster, honoring career achievement in the field. Among the nominees are three Bubonicon participants – Robert Vardeman, Nancy Holder and Nathan Long.

This year's Grandmaster is Peter David, who has worked in television, film, books (fiction, non-fiction and audio), short stories, and comic books. He's the ac-

claimed author of over 50 novels, many of them *New York Times* bestsellers. His extraordinarily prolific output of consistently excellent books includes two dozen original *Star Trek* novels, three *Babylon 5* novels and novelizations of such major motion pictures as *Spider-man*, *Iron Man*, *Fantastic Four*, and *The Hulk*.

David is also one of the most successful and acclaimed comic book scripters in the business with popular runs on such titles as *Supergirl*, *Star Trek*, *Wolverine* and, in particular, his work on *The Incredible Hulk* franchise (in comics as well as books). His many awards include the prestigious Will Eisner Comic Industry Award. He lives in New York with his wife Kathleen and their three children.

2011 Scribe Nominees are:

**General Original:** *CSI: Shock Treatment* by Greg Cox, *Burn Notice: The Giveaway* by Tod Goldberg, *Mike Hammer: The Big Bang* by Max Allan Collins and Mickey Spillane, *Murder She Wrote: The Queen's Jewels* by Donald Bain, *Psych: The Call of the Mild* by William Rabkin, and *SAVING GRACE: TOUGH LOVE* BY NANCY HOLDER.

**Speculative Original:** *Guild Wars: Ghosts of Ascalon* by Matt Forbeck and Jeff Grubb, *Star Trek: Mirror Universe: The Sorrows of the Empire* by David Mack, *Star Wars: Force Unleashed II* by Sean Williams, *Supernatural: Heart of the Dragon* by Keith R. A. DeCandido, and *WARHAMMER: BLOODBORN: ULRICA THE VAMPIRE* BY NATHAN LONG.

**Best Adaptation:** *Final Crisis* by Greg Cox, *GOD OF WAR* BY MATTHEW STOVER & ROBERT E. VARDEMAN, and *The Wolfman* by Jonathan Maberry.

**Best Young Adult:** *Alpha & Omega: The Junior Novel* by Aaron Rosenberg, *Dungeons & Dragons: Aldwyns Academy* by Nathan Meyer, and *Thunderbirds: Situation Critical* by Joan Marie Yerba.

The Fifth Annual Scribe Awards will be given at a ceremony and panel discussion held during Comic Con International in San Diego in July 2011. Details will be announced soon.

## SUPERMAN'S LOIS LANE ANNOUNCED

On March 27, Warner Brothers announced that Amy Adams will play feisty Daily Planet reporter Lois Lane in its franchise reboot of *Superman*, to be directed by Zack Snyder (*Watchmen*, *300*, *Sucker Punch*).

Adams joins new Man of Steel Henry Cavill, plus Kevin Costner and Diane Lane as Superman's adoptive parents – the Kents of Smallville.

In announcing Adams' casting, Snyder stated, "Amy has the talent to capture all of the qualities we love about Lois: smart, tough, funny, warm, ambitious and, of course, beautiful."

Although there were some rumors that Lois Lane

would not even appear in the movie, Snyder called the character a "linchpin" to the film even while avoiding discussion of how Lois will factor into the movie's plot, reported SyFy's blastr in late March.

He did say, however, that the character – previously played on the big screen by Margot Kidder (*Superman*, *Superman II* and *Superman IV: The Quest for Peace*) and Kate Bosworth (*Superman Returns*)—would be updated along the same lines as Superman himself. Snyder explained, "What's important to us is making [Superman] relevant and real and making him empathetic to today's audience so that we understand the decisions he makes. That applies to Lois as well. She has to be in the same universe as him [in tone and substance]."

## BATMAN'S ALFRED DEAD AT 94

Michael Gough, best known to American audiences as Alfred in *Batman* films by Tim Burton and Joel Schumacher, died March 17. He was 94 years old.

The BBC reported that Gough had not been well for about a year and died at home. He was surrounded by family. No cause was released.

Gough appeared as Alfred Pennyworth in four *Batman* films, from Burton's 1989 *Batman* to Schumacher's regrettable *Batman and Robin* in 1997. In that film, Alfred suffers from the same disease that afflicts villain Mr. Freeze's wife. Gough played Alfred opposite Michael Keaton, Val Kilmer and George Clooney, who starred as Batman and Bruce Wayne in the series.

Gough continued to work with Burton after the filmmaker quit making *Batman* movies, appearing in *Sleepy Hollow*, and doing voice work on *Corpse Bride* and *Alice in Wonderland*.

He guest-starred in several episodes of the long-running Doctor Who series, and acted in notable Hammer horror films, including *Horror of Dracula* with Christopher Lee and Peter Cushing and *The Phantom of the Opera* with Herbert Lom as the Phantom. Gough had roles in Hollywood productions, too, including *Out of Africa*, *The Age of Innocence* and *The Serpent and the Rainbow*.

## BUBONICON 43 HERE IN 4 MONTHS

Bubonicon 43 memberships go from \$38 to \$40 on May 15, but either price still is less than the at-the-door price of \$45 – not to mention the potential savings for youths 14-17 years of age or gamemasters. So, take advantage of the \$7 savings before this month's club meeting is over (the aforementioned \$38 vs. \$45)! Otherwise, mail your payment to the "NMSF Conference" at PO Box 37257, Albuquerque, NM 87176.

Bubonicon 43 takes place August 26-28 (the weekend after the Reno Worldcon) at the Sheraton Albuquerque

port Hotel on Yale SE, south of Gibson (and not far east from I-25). Single-Double rooms are \$99 a night this year when reserved by August 15, and triple-quad occupancy is \$109. Please make all reservations at 505-843-7000 ext 135, and let them know if you want to be on the events floor, a quiet floor or whether you have no preference.

In addition to Guest of Honor Stephen Leigh (also S.L. Farrell), Toastmaster Ian Tregillis, and Guest Artist John Picacio, we have confirmed the following participants so far: Richard Berthold, Ben Bova, Doranna Durgin, Ty Franck, Steven Gould, Betsy James, Jane Lindskold, Victor Milan, Laura J. Mixon, Pati Nagle, Charles & Tauni Orndorff, Scott S. Phillips, Joan S. Saberhagen, Debbie Lynn Smith, Melinda Snodgrass, Jan & S.M. Stirling, David Lee Summers, Robert E. Varde-man, Walter Jon Williams, and Connie Willis. Several others are expected, of course.

The con-com will be working on the tentative schedule next month, and then sending it out for approval of the participants. Some of the planned programming includes a slide show by Picacio, the filking session, a "Steampunk in Film/TV" talk, the costume contest, a game show from the Orndorffs, late-night film mayhem, fan programming, the Authors Afternoon Tea and the Green Slime Awards.

In fact, 2011 Green Slime Mistress Jessica Coyle is now taking nominations for "wretched things that should be recognized." (Movies mentioned so far are *Skyline*, *Red Riding Hood* and *My Soul To Take*. There are no TV nominees at present, but there might be a book!)

The 2011 convention will benefit the Williamson Library Collection at Eastern NM University and the Roadrunner Food Bank through the Friday night auction and a portion of the con's proceeds (if any).

No tables remain in the Dealers Room - yes, all 23 tables have been sold. To be put on a waiting list, email Caci Gallop at [bubonicon@gmail.com](mailto:bubonicon@gmail.com).

Meanwhile, Roslee Orndorff and crew plan to have the art show rules and forms available online in a PDF format around May 16. We will only mail out packets that are requested (a 61-cent #10 SASE is appreciated).

As always, volunteers are appreciated! We need help on site to run this beast. "Gofers," as con volunteers are known, will receive movie promotional swag and other prizes, and be invited to a pizza party after Bubonicon 43 ends (usually late September).

More general information is available from Kristen 459-8734, Craig 266-8905, the PO Box, email to [bubonicon@gmail.com](mailto:bubonicon@gmail.com) or at the fabulous Mike McCommas-maintained Perry Rodent website: [www.bubonicon.com](http://www.bubonicon.com).



Art: Darla Hallmark

## Conference Reports

### WILLIAMSON LECTURESHIP 2010

by Craig Chrissinger

It seems appropriate, just a week after being in Portales, to finally write up some notes on the 34<sup>th</sup> Williamson Lectureship. After all, it was held April 9, 2010, and there's a funny blog note from Ian Tregillis on this year's Lectureship that he's given permission to reprint in these pages. So...

About 60-70 people attended the 2010 Lectureship luncheon. After an introduction from Mistress of Ceremonies Connie Willis, Sean Shepherd talked about his proposal for removing space debris from Earth orbit. Shepherd was invited by NASA to talk at the International Conference on Orbital Debris Removal in December 2009 because of his unique idea on the subject.

Next up, Guest of Honor Ian Tregillis spoke about a science fantasy future – and the dangers of fantasy overcoming science. His examples included the anti-vaccination movement despite there being no proof of a connection between childhood vaccinations and autism, and possibility of cryogenic freezing of people's heads to be brought back in the future. On the other hand, Tregillis noted, a future without worrying about plausibility is inspiring.

The *Portales News-Tribune* quoted Tregillis, "Speculative fiction writers have a very long history in predicting the future. We have an equally long history of getting it wrong. This isn't to say that speculative fiction will always be wrong because that is untrue, but it is hard to predict certain trends in a future reality." That sounds really smart, but we already knew that about Ian!

Before the luncheon, authors answered questions from Eastern NM University students and other attendees in three separate sessions – Willis and Tregillis each solo, and a group talk from Melinda Snodgrass, Steven Gould and Walter Jon Williams. The group presentation drew 30 students and such at one point.

The later afternoon saw three panel discussions with about 45 people in attendance just outside the Williamson Special Library Collection on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Golden Library.

The first panel – consisting of Snodgrass, Williams, Gould and Willis – discussed *Avatar*, the movie and its influences. Willis said she dislikes *Avatar* quite a bit, feeling that "it is a horrible story." On the other hand, Snodgrass felt it really transported her to an alien planet.

When asked if the *Avatar* panel was given the power to make a giant SF blockbuster, what that film would be, the first unanimous answer was Anne McCaffrey's *Dragonflight*. Another possibility, some felt, would be an invasion of Earth as in Niven and Pournelle's *Footfall* or Scalzi's *Old Man's War*. The panel considered *Ringworld* and *The Mote in God's Eye*

"too brainy" to be successful.

The second panel – consisting of Tregillis, Snodgrass and myself – addressed *Wild Cards* and shared universes. I mostly served as moderator, asking about the characters both authors had created, and how Tregillis got involved with the relaunch of the series. We also briefly talked about the next volume, *Fort Freak*, and the character I helped create – Ratboy.

The final panel of April 9, 2010, consisted of Williams, agent Eleanor Wood, and publisher Stephen Haffner talking about new directions in SF & Fantasy. Unfortunately, I got sleepy from our earlier visit to Portales' Dairy Queen, for I wrote no notes about this third panel.

The panels were followed by dinner at Gene Bundy and Geni Flores' house, with plenty of food, wine, sodas and good company. And the next day, Saturday, April 10, 2010, many of us drove out to the Williamson Ranch after breakfast to see the writing shack Jack Williamson built with his brother as a young man, and to eat a fine lunch of beef brisket and to chat.

It's not for nothing that the Williamson Lectureship is becoming known as "chomp and chat" for all the eating and conversation that goes on!

And now I'll turn over the word usage to Ian Tregillis about the 35<sup>th</sup> Lectureship, held April 1, 2011...

## MY SCIENCE FICTION LEGACY

by Ian Tregillis (posted on [www.iantregillis.com](http://www.iantregillis.com) Friday, April 1, 2011, 07:46 pm)

Today, in her lunchtime address as the Mistress of Ceremonies at the 35th Annual Jack Williamson Lectureship, Connie Willis referred to me as "leadfoot" (without good cause, I should add).

People in the audience thought she had said "webfoot".

So now it is generally believed that I am descended from the fish people of Innsmouth.\*

This is what happens when somebody as powerful as Connie Willis uses her tremendous clout *in the service of evil instead of good*.

Let this be a lesson to us all.

\* See Wikipedia for the entry on "The Shadow Over Innsmouth," a novella by H. P. Lovecraft. Written in November-December 1931, the story describes a strange hybrid race, half-human and half an unknown creature that resembles a cross between a fish and a frog, that dwells in the seaside village of Innsmouth (formerly a large town, but lately fallen into disrepair).

## BOOK REVIEW ROUND-UP

*The Wise Man's Fear (Kingkiller Chronicles, Day 2)* by Patrick Rothfuss, DAW 2011, hc \$29.95, 1008 pages.  
Review by Caci Gallop

Patrick Rothfuss' debut novel, *The Name of the Wind*, was extraordinary. So it goes to follow that I greatly anticipated the release of *The Wise Man's Fear*, the long-awaited

second book of the Kingkiller Chronicles. Kvothe, a legendary hero turned innkeeper, with a story to tell and the wit to tell it is our point of view. Both *The Name of the Wind* and *The Wise Man's Fear* are largely told from his perspective as he relates the beginnings of his life story, how he was orphaned and how he subsequently journeys down a path to become one of the most powerful men of his age.

Granted there are weaknesses, but they are one of the reasons these books have grabbed me so completely. The writing is solid but generally unremarkable, descriptive phrases often are made from comforting clichés. Given the powerful pull of its story, the words don't need to be particularly striking; they only need to tell the story. And what a story it is. Of course many titles in the fantasy genre are built on using very recognizable jumping off points; just in a myriad of different ways. *The Wise Man's Fear* tends to exploit tradition without being buried underneath it.

Overall, Rothfuss has found the secret to great storytelling. This sequel continues Kvothe's story with a sincerity that is truly compelling, one might think that if this world and story were true you'd be singing the songs of Kvothe the Bloodless, Kvothe the Arcane and Kvothe the Kingkiller, too.

***First Grave on the Right* by Darynda Jones, St. Martin's Press 2011, hc \$22.99, 320 pages.**

**Review by Jessica Coyle**

Charley Davidson's work as a Private Investigator and Police Consultant is helped by the fact she has a special gift. She is the Grim Reaper, which means that she can see and hear those that have departed, as well as ask them about their killers. Charley's latest clients are three lawyers, all murdered by the same person at nearly the same time. She works throughout the book to solve these murders, while also trying to discover the identity of her mysterious paranormal lover.

This is the first in a Paranormal Romance series for new writer and Portales, NM, native Darynda Jones, and it is an enjoyable read. Charley is an engaging and humorous character, and I particularly enjoyed the interactions she shares with her Uncle Bob, a detective in the Albuquerque Police Department, and Cookie, her kooky office assistant. The mostly Albuquerque setting is handled in a way that gives the reader a real sense of the city.

Jones' work is already drawing comparisons to big names in the Paranormal Romance and Romance field, such as Janet Evanovich, Sherrilyn Kenyon, and Casey Daniels, which bodes well for her future career. Her next book, *Second Grave on the Left*, comes out August 16, 2011.

***After the Golden Age* by Carrie Vaughn, Tor 2011, hc \$24.99, 304 pages. [To be released April 12, 2011]**

**Review by Craig W. Chrissinger**

Carrie Vaughn's latest stand-alone fantasy is a loving tribute to the Golden Age of comic-book superheroes, but with that certain Vaughn spin, angle of perspective and not-the-norm plot twists. *After the Golden Age* centers on Celia West, the only daughter of Commerce City's top superheroes – a daughter without any powers or extraordinary strengths.

Celia has spent several years estranged from her parents and their heroic lifestyle, trying to prove herself by earning a college degree and getting a job on her own. She just wants a nice, quiet life out from under the shadow of her rich and

famous parents, Captain Olympus and Spark, and the rest of the Olympiad team (Dr. Arthur Mentis and the Bullet).

All their lives come crashing back together when Celia is assigned to help with the prosecution of notorious supervillain, the Destructor, in her position as a top forensic accountant. While the Olympiad has failed to have the Destructor locked away permanently, it's possible Celia can get him convicted of tax fraud. That job pressure is enough on Celia without her also having to deal with being rescued by the Olympiad several times from kidnapping attempts.

During the course of the story, Celia's troubled past comes to light, family and old secrets are revealed, and a lot more psychology is tackled than usual in a comic book story. Here is the Vaughn spin at work – showing the reader the conflicts of loyalty and love, resentment, guilt and forgiveness all tumbling inside one normal human being who was born to superhero parents.

*After the Golden Age* is a fun, but deeper-than-expected romp in the superhero world. It is not without its minor flaws, and the ending seems slightly rushed (although appropriate at the same time). The superhero world is certainly richer for this tale.

Overall, Vaughn here shows a continuation of her growth as a writer that has been evident in her *Kitty Norville* books and fantasy novel *Discord's Apple*. She always brings an enjoyable story to the table, and *After the Golden Age* certainly joins the wonderful banquet Vaughn keeps serving up. A good read and easily recommended.

***The Rise of the Iron Moon* by Stephen Hunt, Tor 2010, hc \$26.00, 464 pages.**

**Review by Danielle Pollock**

Purity Drake is a captive in the Royal Breeding House of the Kingdom of Jackals. Molly Templar is a writer of celestial fiction and one-time operator of the powerful god-machine known as the Hexmachina. Aliquot Coppertracks is a Steamman and scientist who believes he may have discovered life on Earth's closest neighbor, the red planet Kaliban. Kyorin is a stranger to Jackals, one with an astonishing secret.

Together, these characters and others will have to join together to battle a seemingly unstoppable army from beyond the stars in Stephen Hunt's latest novel set in the fantasy/steampunk world of *The Court of Air* and *The Kingdom Beyond the Waves*.

Though readers of Hunt's previous work will enjoy encountering familiar settings and characters, *The Rise of the Iron Moon* can be read as a stand-alone action-adventure by those visiting the world for the first time. New readers as well as old, however, might get easily lost in the sheer number of characters, alliances, battles, and plot twists as the book charges forward toward its conclusion. This is a giant, sprawling novel that doesn't take time to pause for breath between epic action sequences and astonishing revelations.

Still, it's a fun ride, and Hunt writes with a fine sense of humor. Fans of fantasy & steampunk should check it out.

***Enigmatic Pilot (A Tall Tale Too True)* by Kris Saksunussem, Del Rey 2011, tp \$16.00, 362 pages.**

**Review by Joe Walters**

Well, while *Enigmatic Pilot* may have been skillfully written, the act of reading it was an unpleasant experience.



An event at the end is something of a fantasy element; there is little or nothing I'd call science fiction here. There are a couple of secret societies that appear to possess some technology that doesn't belong in that era, but that's about it. Other than that, it's just a novel, and not a very good one.

A prologue takes place a few years after the Civil War; the rest of Kris Saknussemm's book takes place well before that, in the 1840s. They never connect. The prologue does not seem to have anything whatsoever to do with anything else that is in the book. A person seen at a distance may be a grown-up version of the young boy we follow through the rest of the book, but that's never really established. Indeed, it apparently can't be the same person, because at the very end of the book, that character is abruptly replaced by... well, we never really know what replaced him, just that something did. We'll get to that.

Yes, there are spoilers ahead. Don't worry – you're not going to read this thing anyway.

The main character we follow through this story is Lloyd Sitturd, a name which contains some very real foreshadowing of what you're about to experience. Lloyd is five years old at the beginning – if he aged significantly during the story, that eluded me. Certainly he is still a pre-teen when his family sets out on the journey that comprises the bulk of the story. It seems unlikely that he's still five at that time, as he becomes quite sexually active during the journey, taking on at least two lovers at different times.

Lloyd is a genius, a major prodigy with a brilliant mind far ahead of its time. Unfortunately, as a mixed-breed child of a mixed-breed family in utter poverty in an intolerant world, there is no path available to the child to fully develop his intellect. He makes do as he can.

At one point, he actually builds a working flying machine (in the 1840s!), perhaps the inspiration for the book's title. It doesn't work very well, and attempting to land the thing results in disaster, but, the point is the kid built a working airplane 60 years before Kitty Hawk!

Lloyd also encounters members of a secret society (and possibly a second one), which seems to have access to some advanced – for the time – technology, and this group is quite interested in young Lloyd and his potential. It would have been nice if this development had actually gone somewhere, but no. They just exist, and fulfill some convenient needs (like spiriting the family out of town quickly after the aircraft disaster before they're lynched by angry villagers).

Now, we all know that there were no modern plumbing or sewage treatment available in those days. The author seems compelled to remind the reader of this on a near-continuous basis, literally rubbing our faces into it. Every possible experience of excretion (in all three states of matter), encountering the by-products of this process, and related effects are quite literally shoved into the reader's face over and over, to such an extent that this appears to be the real focus of the book. Lloyd actually gets anally raped at one point, during which his face is shoved into the contents of a loaded dung cart. He tries to rest on a bed of straw, but notes it has been soaked in urine. Once he awakens lying in a pile of excrement. And on and on and on. It never seems to end.

If it were somehow relevant to the story, it might make sense for it to be in there, but it isn't – the story wouldn't

have suffered at all had it been reduced to, say, two or three instances. Or perhaps none. Who wants to read about this? I'm guessing few writers' manuals suggest holding readers' interest by maximizing ongoing interaction with sewage.

Perhaps the most irritating aspect of the book is what happens at the end; the entire book is told in the third person, but five pages before the end, we learn it was in the first person all along, as the narrator suddenly speaks to us and even enters the story, somehow displacing Lloyd from his own body and replacing him; Lloyd's spirit is tossed into some sort of limbo, and the narrator continues living Lloyd's life.

It then abruptly stops; it doesn't end, as "end" implies some sort of conclusion. There isn't one. It feels like someone tore out the last few chapters, leaving the reader hanging.

Is this story to be continued? No clue. Doesn't matter; I'm not likely to read anything else by this author, and recommend you do likewise.

***Invasion: Book One of the Secret World Chronicles* by Mercedes Lackey, Steve Libbey, Cody Martin and Dennis Lee, Baen 2011, hc \$26.00, 416 pages.**

**Review by Kevin Hewett**

*Invasion* begins as an alternate history in which "metahumans" emerge during World War II, first on the side of the Nazis and later on the Allied side. These metahumans possess superhuman powers and after the war it is necessary to create a police-like organization, Echo, to prevent metahumans from preying on normal humans.

The next chapter of the book takes place decades later as an unknown enemy suddenly appears, wearing powered armor, and attacks and destroy all of the Echo centers around the world, decimating their personnel. It slowly becomes clear that the enemy, Thulians, are fanatical members of a Nazi mystical society thought to have been destroyed by Adolph Hitler since they were beyond even his control.

Since this book is the start of a series, few of the major plot elements are resolved and the reader is left with more questions than answers. Unfortunately, the book reads much like a role-playing game with major plot points being resolved by rolling dice. Definitely not recommended.

***Catacombs: A Tale of the Barque Cats* by Anne McCaffrey and Elizabeth Ann Scarborough, Del Rey 2010, hc \$26.00, 256 pages.**

**Review by Roslee Orndorff**

Once again, I am doing a book "report" on a book in a series, without the benefit of having read the opening gambit in the particular universe. From interior notes, I understand that the opening book in the "series" is *Catalyst*. I think this book is a fun read, especially for fans who enjoy cat literature and particularly stories from the feline's perspective. The level of the read is likely to appeal to those folks enjoying YA and this might even be a book that younger teens will enjoy. For an adult reader, this was a very light read...but it was about cats with cat heroes and pseudo-villains and a light romp about the place with some delightful cats.

In this universe, cats have been taken to the stars with humans and perform pest-control jobs on interstellar ships. Over the years, these cats have evolved Main Coon-like physiques often with engaging personalities. Apparently in the first book there was a scare about an epidemic and the species was nearly wiped out, causing many problems with vermin



both in the ships as well as in all the agricultural areas supplying human foodstuffs. Now, it has been proven that the whole mess was a mistake and the cats have regained their status and are in high demand – especially the Barque Cats that were so efficient in the interstellar ships.

Along the way in the first book, a feline character was introduced. Pshaw-Ra is a very old, wise and mysterious cat with a ship and advanced technology that the humans know nothing of. He has convinced the other cats to seek refuge on the world where his felines are living – a world where they are worshipped as divine, and he is the Grand Vizier (rather reminiscent of Old Earth Egypt here). Pshaw-Ra has many ulterior motives for bringing the Barque Cats to this world. He plans to create a super-race of felines to literally take over the universe! Unfortunately, there are many obstacles for him to overcome before accomplishing his ultimate goal.

As the cats are regaining their numbers, after mixing rather enthusiastically with the felines of Pshaw-Ra's "homeworld", a new threat takes place: an entity that consumes suns! Pshaw-Ra explains it's a manifestation of Apep, the eternal enemy of Bast and her children. With Apep devouring suns, all lives in those solar systems are at risk! Can the cats all unite and utilize the advanced technology that Pshaw-Ra has? Will the human leaders and military be willing to listen and work with the cats? Is this all a part of the plans that Pshaw-Ra has to take over control of the universe? Can humankind and felines really work together to save the worlds? Who will end up emptying all those litter boxes!

***The Remembering: Book Three of the Meq* by Steven Cash, Del Rey 2011, tp \$15.00, 304 pages.**

**Review by Julie Heffernan**

Fans of the *Highlander* series will enjoy Steven Cash's story of immortal 12-year-olds (calling themselves Meq) in a quest to discover their origins. The final in a trilogy, *The Remembering* tells the story of the immortal Zianno "Z" Zezen as he and his companions search for the key "sixth stone" which will lead them to a time and place where their destiny will be revealed (or so they hope).

Even though the group finds themselves at the center of events such as the Hungarian revolution, Nagasaki bombing, and JFK assassination, they seem to go unnoticed by society. Overcoming and joining with their enemy, the Fleur du Mal, all Meq find they need to make a choice on how their future will play out.

Be prepared for a story where a paragraph can cover a decade of time, meetings with unusual characters (i.e., an autistic chess player), overseeing historic events and a little romance on the side.

***One of Our Thursdays is Missing* by Jasper Fforde, Viking 2011, hc \$25.95, 384 pages.**

**Review by Jessica Coyle**

Jasper Fforde's return to BookWorld opens to great unrest. A genre war is rumbling between Racy Novels and Women's Literature, and the BookWorld desperately needs Thursday Next. But when the real Thursday disappears, the Council of Genres turns to the written Thursday. The Council wants her to pretend to be the real Thursday and travel as part of a group to negotiate a treaty between the warring factions. Instead, the written Thursday embarks upon a quest to dis-

cover what has happened to the real Thursday before it is too late.

*One of Our Thursdays is Missing* is Fforde's latest addition to his popular Thursday Next series, which includes *The Eyre Affair* and *The Well of Lost Plots*. While fans of the series will enjoy this latest installment, it is by far the weakest book in the series. The action starts off very slowly, and the plot really does not pick up until at least 100 pages into the book. Also, Fforde feels the need to give a lot of background on BookWorld, its set-up, and how it operates – this information is somewhat repetitive to fans of the series, and it becomes a little tedious as the story goes on.

However, it does possess a lot of the same wackiness that made the rest of the series so enjoyable, and it is worth reading if you truly like Fforde and his style of humor.

***Hounded: The Iron Druid Chronicles* by Kevin Hearne, Del Rey 2011, mmpb \$7.99, 320 pages. [To be released May 3, 2011]**

**Review by Caci Gallop**

Druids, magic, Celtic gods, an unstoppable sword and an Irish wolfhound sidekick. *Hounded*, the first book of the Iron Druid trilogy, features the comic and exciting adventures of Atticus O'Sullivan, last of the druids. Twenty-one centuries old with the body of a 20-year-old, Atticus lives a peaceful life in Arizona. Preferring this area of the world for its "low god density," Atticus runs the local New Age bookshop and health store, using his magic and herb-lore to brew "medicinal" tea for the old, the lovelorn, and the occasional witch. But one doesn't become 21 centuries old without making some enemies. Many centuries back, Atticus took a sword from a god, Aenghus Óg, and the Celtic love god wants it back. Protected by the Morrigan, Celtic goddess of war, Atticus has been able to hide thus far, but when a coven of vain witches, the local werewolf clan (of lawyers), the police, and the goddess of the hunt get involved, Atticus can't hide for long. What results is a hilarious romp of an action story that is a blend of the modern and the mythic.

Anyone who would write a dedication that says "Look Mom, I made this! Can we put it on the fridge?" has a great sense of humor. Add in a quote that literally made me laugh out loud, and quote it on my Facebook for others to laugh at too and you have a winner, "Monty Python is like catnip for nerds. Once you get them started quoting it, they are constitutionally incapable of feeling depressed."

The story is self-contained, and while it is part of a trilogy that is being released over three months starting in May, it does not leave the reader on any sort of cliffhanger. Kevin Hearne is banking on your fascination with his characters to keep you reading. I think he's succeeded.

***The Amazon Legion* by Tom Kratman, Baen 2011, hc \$24.00, 432 pages.**

**Review by Kevin Hewett**

*The Amazon Legion* is the fourth book in the series by Tom Kratman about the colonization of the planet Terra Nova and the wars fought on this planet by the settlers. Readers who have not read the earlier books (*A Desert Called Peace*, *Carnifex*, and *The Lotus Eaters*) will almost certainly miss much of the background and context in this new novel.

The story focuses on the creation of a new military unit consisting solely of women and their initiation into combat. Unfortunately, the book seems unfinished as most of it fo-

cuses on the training of the Amazon Legion and almost none on the war which is thrust upon these women. Further, the book ends just as the women might be about to play an important part in turning the tide of the war.

Fans of the series will certainly want to read this book, but others should probably give it a pass. Those whose politics are not on the conservative side of the spectrum should avoid this book as it contains much overt political discourse on the problems with society.

## **ASFS MEETING REPORTS — FEBRUARY: DIANA GABALDON VISITS**

A large crowd of 60 people was on hand as Diana Gabaldon visited to talk about her *Outlander* novels, graphic novel *The Exile*, and her novellas in anthologies. She started by explaining, "I've been a college professor for 12 years, so if I can keep students awake at 8:00 am, I can keep a crowd of SF fans awake at night. I'm often asked how I went from being a scientist to being a writer. 'Easy,' I answer, 'I wrote a book.'"

Gabaldon said she had wanted to write from an early age, but her conservative family background pushed her into science instead. "I married a nice guy and when we needed extra money because we had kids, I started freelancing for computer magazines. I almost made as much money writing for magazines as I did being on the staff in a science department."

Looking at the beginnings of *Outlander*, Gabaldon said she had decided to write a book for practice but couldn't decide when and where to set it. "I was attracted to Doctor Who and his Scottish companion," she admitted. "That inspired me to set *Outlander* in 18th century Scotland all because I liked the companion's kilt. I went to the library to do research, and found that there was plenty of conflict in 18th century Scotland. And then I added a woman - Claire. Her voice was more modern and smart-ass, so it's all her fault she's a time traveler. Since the book was supposed to be for practice, so I figured I could do anything I wanted to do."

Gabaldon recognizes that bookstores often don't know where to put her books since they cross genre lines. "In those days, most hardcover fiction went up front in bookstores. But my publisher decided to put the paperback in romance. I was shocked. I knew I hadn't written a romance, and was concerned I wouldn't get any reviews in literary journals. But it turns out that a bestseller in romance sells better than a bestseller in SF."

Asked about her writing process, Gabaldon said, "I don't write outlines, and I don't write in a straight line. I tend to write in chunks and bits - which is probably why my books tend to be 900 pages long. It took me 18 months to write *Outlander*. My books these days take two-three years to write because they're longer and more involved. Actually, the first scene I wrote didn't end up in the book. It was just a scene of my anonymous Scotsman arguing with his sister while chopping vegetables."

Finally, before signing books, Gabaldon talked about *The Exile*, her graphic novel that looks at the events of *Outlander* from a different perspective. "It has 800-plus panels in

it, so it took almost two years to produce. I had wanted to do a graphic novel and expressed interest to my agent. Then Betsy Mitchell, editor at Del Rey, contacted me and asked if I'd like to do one. Of course, I said yes."

## **MARCH: ANNUAL AUCTION FUN**

Robert Vardeman entertained 44 people while raising about \$295 for ASFS, and Bubonicon 42's petty cash. Scott Denning, Kevin Hewett and Caci Gallop assisted with pointing out bidders and organizing auction lots.

Vardeman pointed out that you can't rotate your right food clockwise and draw a "6" in the air at the same time. Vardeman has a new anthology out, *A Career Guide to Your Job in Hell*, and has stories in two steampunk collections.

Interesting items/bids included a Godzilla & Mothra toy pack \$3, *50 Greatest Sci-Fi Shows* DVD set \$7, *Star Trek* Trivia Game \$13, Grappling Robots set \$5.50, Egyptian blanket, scarab and Eye of Horus tile \$20, Trivial Pursuit: *Lord of the Rings* \$9, Praying Mantis toy \$3.50, Nessie sculpture and random dragon \$4, collection of filking cassettes \$10, Lee Seed print \$5, Atomic Arcade Pin Ball game \$8, two bags of chocolate-chip cookies \$7, *Harry Potter* pewter figure \$5, CDs and Co-Dependency: The Game \$10, Mini coffins with feltie zombies, alien figure and tube of rats \$20, *Blackout* signed by Connie Willis \$10, and a Box of VHS tapes \$2.

## **EDITOR NOTES TO FILL THIS SPACE**

• **THE WILLIAMSON LECTURESHIP** in Portales last Thursday-Saturday was fun as usual. Lots of food, lots of conversation, lots of good company. It was good to see Michael Cassutt of California again; and Ed Bryant made it down from Colorado in addition to Connie Willis, and Nina & Ron Else. Melinda Snodgrass and Cassutt's GoH speeches on SF and Film were interesting, and Willis gave a wonderful introductory talk (about her drive from Albuquerque with Cassutt, Snodgrass and Ian Tregillis). Since there was no visit to the Williamson Ranch this time, Kristen & Kennard, Jessica and I drove down to Roswell to visit the UFO "Museum" and the more legitimate Roswell Art Museum (including the Goddard Workshop). Had a nice lunch there, too. A good trip, all in all.

• **IN ENTERTAINMENT**, *Chuck* and *Big Bang Theory* still entertain, *How I Met Your Mother* and *Community* amuse, and *Source Code* shows that Duncan "Moon" Jones knows how to do smart SF with a human core. *Rango* is wonderful, with homages to Westerns and SF films, and impressive animation. *Red Riding Hood* looks beautiful, but it's stupid (and a Green Slime nominee). Looking forward to *Sucker Punch*, *Super, Rubber*, *Green Lantern*, *Thor*, *Cowboys & Aliens* and *Cars 2*.

• **ON THE WRITING FRONT**, I have a short article on *The Resident* (shot in Albuq in 2008) in the April *Fangoria*. They still owe me money, but it's a good credit. Looks like Dean Koontz' *Odd Thomas* might get shot in Santa Fe, and hopefully I'll be on set covering it for the horror magazine. Hoping for more book reviews in the *Albuq Journal*, too...

• **THANKS TO IAN, KEVIN, CACI, DANIELLE, JESSICA, ROSLEE, JULIE & JOE** for contributions. Submissions are welcome! Not only book reviews! Have a nice spring & Memorial Day! See you in July after the Albuq Comic Expo. --Craig C.