



ASFACTS 2013

FEBRUARY "INSERT QUIP HERE" VALENTINE'S ISSUE

ENMU WILLIAMSON LECTURESHIP SCHEDULED FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 12

The 37th annual Jack Williamson Lectureship will be held Friday, April 12, at Eastern New Mexico University in Portales, NM. Special guests are Joe & Gay Haldeman, with Connie Willis serving as Mistress of Ceremonies. Friday events include informal Q&A sessions, a luncheon and various panel discussions.

A campus tradition since 1977, the Lectureship annually draws well-known authors to visit the ENMU campus 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.

The Lectureship starts informally on April 11 when Guest of Honor Joe Haldeman reads at 6:00 pm in the Jack Williamson Liberal Arts Building (room 112).

On Friday, informal readings by participants are scheduled 9:30-11:15 am at the Campus Union. The luncheon takes place 11:45 am in the Union Ballroom, and costs \$10.00 (payable at the door). Reservations are needed by Monday, April 8. Call Patrice Caldwell at (505) 562-2315 or email her at Patrice.Caldwell@enmu.edu.

Panel discussions happen 3:00-6:00 pm in the Williamson Special Collections area of Golden Library, and are free of charge.

Any plans for Saturday, April 13, have not been announced. In the past, activities have included readings and/or workshops at the Portales Public Library, and sometimes a trip out to the Williamson Ranch south of Portales.

Stay tuned for more details, and check out this Eastern NM University website for the 2013 Lectureship: www.enmu.edu/academics/williamson/lectureship.shtml

WOLFE TO BE SFWA GRAND MASTER

The Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers of America named Gene Wolfe in mid-January as the recipient of the 2012 Damon Knight Memorial Grand Master Award. Wolfe's fiction first saw publication in the 1960s. He is best known for the novels *The Book of the New Sun*,

Peace, and *The Fifth Head of Cerberus*, and received such awards, as the Nebula, World Fantasy and Locus.

The award, given for "lifetime achievement in science fiction and/or fantasy," will be presented at the 48th Annual Nebula Awards Weekend in San Jose, CA, May 16-19. Previous recipients of the award include such luminaries as Ursula K. Le Guin, Isaac Asimov, Ray Bradbury, Anne McCaffrey, Connie Willis, Robert Silverberg and Joe Haldeman.

Borderland Books will host the mass autograph session Friday, May 17, at the San Jose Hilton. This autograph session is open to the public and books by the authors in attendance will be available for purchase.

BOOK GROUP KEEPS READING

The Droids & Dragons SF Book Group meets at 7:30 pm Monday, February 18, in the gift area of Page One to discuss *The Difference Engine* (often cited as early steampunk) by William Gibson & Bruce Sterling. The group then focuses on *Feed* by Mira Grant (Sean McGuire) on Monday, March 18.

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 ymcpietbald@gmail.com or Craig at 266-8905.

UPCOMING ASFS MEETINGS

- **Tonight:** A visit from local author Steven Gould, plus the release of this *ASFacts*...
- **March 8:** Time for the traditional ASFS Auction with author Robert Vardeman at the helm. Please look for 2-6 items to donate to the club's cause, and some cash (esp. quarters & dollar bills) to spend.
- **April 5:** Devin O'Leary of the *Weekly Alibi* looks at trailers for this summer's genre releases! Also, the Spring issue of *ASFacts* will be out (deadline Sun, March 31). MEETING IS A WEEK EARLY!
- **May 3:** Unknown. AGAIN, A WEEK EARLY!
- **June 14:** Possibly an ACE 3 preview, and maybe a film screening.
- **July 12:** A visit from Portales author Darynda Jones. And the Summer issue of *ASFacts*.

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 cwcraig@nmia.com. *ASFacts* published February, April, July & October for the Albuquerque SF Society. *SITHFACTS* out each December. NEXT DEADLINE: Sun, March 31. **Club Officers:** Kevin Hewett & Craig Chrissinger, co-Zec Secs (505) 266-8905. Harriet Engle, Moderator. Kennard Wilson, Alternator. Cupid, Holiday Host. **Bubonicon Co-Chairs:** Kristen Dorland (505) 459-8734 & Craig Chrissinger.

LAKE, HARMAN AND PIERCE WIN ALA AWARDS

In Darkness by Nick Lake won the 2013 Michael L. Printz Award. The award was announced at the annual American Library Association midwinter conference, January 25-29, in Seattle, WA. The Printz Award is given to a book that exemplifies literary excellence in young adult literature. Also of genre interest among the four Printz Honor books was *Dodger* by Terry Pratchett.

Meanwhile, Rachel Hartman's *Seraphina* won the 2012 William C. Morris Award for best debut fiction, announced January 28, and Tamora Pierce received the Margaret A. Edwards Award for lifetime contribution in writing for young adults.

3RD THRONES STARTS IN MARCH

HBO has announced that third season of the Emmy-winning *Game of Thrones* will start on Sunday, March 31, 2013. Like the other two seasons, this third season will consist of 10 episodes. It will be based roughly on the first half of *A Storm of Swords*, the third of the *A Song of Ice and Fire* novels by Santa Fe's George RR Martin.

The epic fantasy series was renewed by HBO on April 10, 2012, just nine days after the second season's premiere. Production began in July 2012. The ten episodes of the third season are to be longer than the previous season's, about 56 minutes as opposed to about 52.

Showrunner David Benioff had previously said that *A Storm of Swords* would need to be adapted in two seasons on account of its length. Benioff and D.B. Weiss also noted that they thought of *Game of Thrones* as an adaptation of the novel series as a whole, rather than of individual books, which gave them the liberty to move scenes back and forth across books according to the requirements of the screen adaptation. According to Benioff, the third season will contain a particularly memorable scene from *A Storm of Swords*, the prospect of filming which was part of their motivation to adapt the novels for television in the first place.

Game of Thrones rapidly became a critical and commercial success after it started airing in April 2011. The second season's premiere, "The North Remembers," hit a series high of 8.3 million viewers.

2013 CRAWFORD AWARD ANNOUNCED

Karin Tidbeck was named winner of the 2013 William L. Crawford Fantasy Award for her 2012 collection *Jaganath: Stories*, reported Locus Online in early February.

The award, which includes a cash prize, is presented annually at the International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, and is designated for an exceptionally promising

writer whose first fantasy book was published the preceding year. Prior winners include Jonathan Lethem, Charles de Lint, Greer Gilman, Judith Tarr, Kij Johnson, Joe Hill, M. Rickert, Daryl Gregory, Christopher Barzak, Jedediah Berry, Karen Lord and, last year, Genevieve Valentine.

The final decision was a difficult one for the nominating committee, with Rachel Hartman a close runner-up with her novel *Seraphina*. The other shortlisted nominees for this year's award were Saladin Ahmed for *Throne of the Crescent Moon*, Roz Kaveney for *Rituals*, and Kiini Ibura Salaam for *Ancient, Ancient*. Those participating in the selection included Karen Burnham, Stacie Hanes, Niall Harrison, Ellen Klages, Cheryl Morgan, Graham Sleight, Jonathan Strahan, and Liza Groen Trombi.

The 2013 International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts will take place March 21-25 in Orlando, FL.

WHEDON STILL CONSIDERS FIREFLY

Joss Whedon is going to be busy the next few years overseeing phase two of Marvel's master movie plan. But after *Avengers 2*, he still says he'd like to bring his favorite pet project back to life – *Firefly*.

Most of the cast has all moved on to find success elsewhere, but they all have a soft spot for Whedon's short-lived 2002 space cowboy series, which launched careers and still inspires ardent fan love. At just 14 episodes and a stand-alone movie, no one could dispute that the series was cut down in its prime.

Recently, Whedon said, "I'll never really accept it and I always, in the back of my head, think, 'What if I could get the old gang back together?'" Well, you know, it's something I would love to do... Part of me is like, 'God, it would be great when I finish *Avengers 2* to do that.' I suspect very strongly that after *Avengers 2* the next thing I do will be a one-man show, possibly one monkey."

The folks at Syfy's Blastr wonder whether *Firefly* might come back like beloved series *Arrested Development* via alternate means with limits runs (via Netflix, etc.).

BUBONICON 45 WANTS INPUT, RATES GO UP THIS MONTH

by Craig Chrissinger, con co-chair

We're a month and some odd days into 2013 now, believe it or not, and the Bubonicon 45 train is warming up! Three-Day Passes are \$35 each through Saturday, Feb 16, and then they go up to \$38 Feb 17-May 11. 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 PO Box 37257, Albuquerque, NM 87176.

Bubonicon 45 takes place August 23-25 (before the San Antonio Worldcon) at the Albuquerque Marriott Uptown, 2101 Louisiana Blvd NE, just north of I-40 – enter

from the America's Parkway loop road. For the 2nd year, the Marriott is offering sleeping rooms at \$99 single-double occupancy, \$109 for triple-quad. Reservations are needed by August 12. 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 Dawn Ross at the hotel and your con chairs being informed of such at least four days in advance. You can request the “party” floor, a quiet floor, or state you have no preference.

In addition to special guests Tim Powers, Brent Weeks, Diana Rowland and artist Alan F. Beck, we're expecting such con regulars as Robert Vardeman, Jane Lindskold, Pati Nagle, Walter Jon Williams, Victor Milan, Scott Phillips, M.J. Locke, George RR Martin, Darynda Jones, Sam Sykes and Ben Bova, among others. All subject to change and travel plans, of course.

The con-com is working on panel topics right now (panel topics, event ideas and proposals are welcome by Thursday, Feb 21), and sending out invitations to potential participants late March/early April. We're asking for all Fan Programming proposals and preliminary requests for time/space to be submitted by Monday, April 22 (Earth Day) 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).

The Tea Society is planning to have another Sunday Afternoon Tea, to be held in three limited-attendance sessions similar to last year. Stay tuned for more details. And Victor Milan probably will be, once again, the Master of Ceremonies for the Costume Contest on Saturday.

The theme for Bubonicon 45 will be determined soon. 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 at least to the Roadrunner Food Bank as well.

Dealers' spaces are \$85 with one weekend pass, and \$120 with two. Since we only have 27 total spaces for sale, there is a maximum of two spaces per dealer. Also, spaces are not considered sold until payment is received and a contract is signed. For more Dealer info, please email Caci Gallop at bubonicon@gmail.com. A countdown of tables remaining will be posted on the website.

Meanwhile, Roslee Orndorff and Meg Malins are gearing up for the 2013 Art Show. As usual, art show packets will be available online mid-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 PO Box. Info is available from Roslee at BubonicRose@hotmail.com.

More general info is available from Kristen at 459-8734 (prefers text), Craig at 266-8905, the PO Box, Mike McCommas' maintained website: www.bubonicon.com, and via email at bubonicon@gmail.com.

ACE INVADES ALBUQUERQUE AGAIN

The 3rd Albuquerque Comic Expo (ACE) takes place June 21-23, 2013, at the Albuquerque Convention Center downtown. Special Guests are Giancarlo Esposito and Joseph Gatt. They also have announced participants Andy Kuhn, Matt Frank, Phil Hester, Katie Cook, Aaron Campbell, Joe Jusko, Renee Witterstaetter, Scott Phillips & more.

Just like last year, a relationship between Bubonicon and ACE exists with links to each other's websites and a planned exchange of program book advertisements. We also encourage ASFS members to volunteer at ACE for a half-day shift.

Their website notes: “We're Back...and better than ever! The 2013 Albuquerque Comic Expo is coming to the Albuquerque Convention Center, June 21st-23rd, 2013! ACE is New Mexico's premier comic book, pop culture, and entertainment convention, and our third year is going to knock your socks off! We've got a guest lineup full of comic creators from all around the world, including John McCrear, John Layman, Jim Calafiore, Katie Cook, and a cadre of other amazing comic book talent! We're going to be adding creators to the guest list right up until show time! Giancarlo Esposito, from AMC's *Breaking Bad*, ABC's *Once Upon a Time* and NBC's *Revolution*, is our first confirmed celebrity guest! We're very, very excited to have Giancarlo at ACE 2013! We'll be adding more celebrity guests as we get closer to show-time, so keep checking back for more updates.”

The show floor will be open 2:00-8:00 pm on Friday, 10:00 am-7:00 pm Saturday, and 10:00 am-6:00 pm Sunday. They also plan panels and other events running the entire time, and some that go on after hours, too. A three-day ticket currently is \$35.00 and up. Dailies are \$15.00 for either Friday, Saturday or Sunday. Info at www.abqcomicexpo.com. You also can write to the ACE folks at: Albuquerque Comic Expo, PO Box 27504, Albuquerque, NM 87125-7504.

ASFS MEETING REPORTS — SEPTEMBER 2012: CON REPORTS

Forty-two people attended to hear how Bubonicon 44 went, and to listen to tales of Chicon, the 2012 Chicago Worldcon. Kristen Dorland and Craig Chrissinger reported 834 people attended, setting another record, and that \$3,500 was given to charities/non-profits. Sales in the Art Show and both Auctions were up (though *Froomb* went for a mere \$35 on Sunday), and things at the new hotel - the Marriott Up-

town - seemed to go very well overall.

Kevin & Randi Hewett, and Serge Mailloux then talked about their time at Chicon, with on-site attendance of 5,000.

Kevin reported, "The con suite was excellent. They had sushi." And Randi added, "And a midnight pajama party with pizza. Plus chocolate tastings by a Chicago professor."

Both agree there were programming problems. "There were scheduling conflicts throughout the con," Randi said. "What really confused me was that two Hugo-nominated authors weren't scheduled for readings until Monday - after the Hugo Ceremony. It was no surprise that they both cancelled. The Hugo Awards themselves were beautiful, and the stand they stood on was built by Serge! Skynet did kill the internet feed during Neil Gaiman's acceptance speech as its robot saw a *Community* clip as copyright infringement. But the live ceremony was quick and entertaining."

Serge noted, "I helped Neil Gaiman look for an electrical outlet to charge his phone to tweet during the Hugos."

The Costume Contest "seemed to go very well," said Randi. "There were a lot of good entries. Before it started, they showed clips of other costume contests - including several ArcCons with Vic Milan.

"The first panel I went to was one I suggested on 'How To Moderate,' she continued. "Janice Gelb was on the panel and brought several Bubonicon examples with her. People were enthusiastic about Bubonicon and many talked to us of trying to come next year. Ursula Vernon was glad to see us, and said she had a lot of fun in Albuquerque."

Kevin stated, "One interesting thing announced at Chicon was that Dublin plans to have EuroCon one week after the London Worldcon."

Serge added, "One odd thing was that all the readings were only 30 minutes long - all of them."

Kevin summed up the experience, "Chicago is a nice town for a Worldcon. We enjoyed ourselves. The most memorable moment was sitting down at the Hugo Ceremony and seeing a thank you to Randi and me on the back of the program for transporting Serge's Hugo stand to the con."

During the Bubonicon 2013 chair vote counting, Joe and Linda Walters gave a short report on summer's large *Star Trek* con in Las Vegas. The con was at a new hotel this year. Most *Next Generation* actors were there except for Patrick Stewart for *TNG*'s 25th anniversary. There were four captains on stage at one point - Shatner, Bakula, Mulgrew and Brooks.

CON NEWS: In the election for 2013 con chair, Kristen Dorland and Craig Chrissinger were re-elected. Before the vote, Harriet Engle and Dorland/Chrissinger made short statements and answered questions from attendees.

OCTOBER 2012: LINDSKOLD VISITS

ASFS saw 39 people on hand to listen to local author Jane Lindsfold talk about her latest novel, *Fire Season*, a collaboration with David Weber, and read from the book.

Lindsfold reminded the audience of her background, noting, "I first came to New Mexico in 1994, and I liked it. And I met my husband here. Before I came to New Mexico, I taught college classes as an English professor. I've had 22 novels published so far, and many short stories."

Talking about the book's origins, she said, "I've known David Weber since I had one short story published, and he had one and a half novels in print. The half was because he wrote a novel with Stephen White. We met each other at a convention in Georgia, I think it was. In 2010, Weber called and asked if I'd like to work on a novel with him. When he said he wanted to expand the Honor universe and write about when humans first encountered tree-cats, I was hooked. Weber wanted to write an engaging and gripping non-dystopian YA novel. *Fire Season* was released October 2, and I just found out it debuted on the New York Times Bestseller List."

Lindsfold then read from chapter 2 of *Fire Season*, in which 14-year-old Stephanie Harrington, Carl and Climbs-Quickly (a tree-cat) are out looking for two other tree-cats trapped by a forest fire. Rescued, the two twin tree-cats require medical care.

"For this book, we wrote the proposal together," she stated. "I wrote the first draft, and Weber polished it. We had sent it in and then Weber wanted to re-do the ending. And we just turned in *Tree-Cat Wars* yesterday. These books were a tremendous amount of work for us."

Asked about co-writing a book, Lindsfold answered, "Collaboration stretches your brain as a writer. It makes you look at different viewpoints. You have to respect each other, even if you totally disagree. We brought strengths to the project together that wouldn't have been there if written solo."

Finally, she talked about upcoming projects. "I sold a new series to Tor of two books. That's a shorter series than I have previously written. The series is *Artemis Awakens*. Artemis is a planet and someone crashes there. The planet was created for hunting and fishing, and has been left alone for more than 500 years. So, what will we find there now?"

CLUB BUSINESS: In elections, Kevin Hewett & Craig Chrissinger were re-elected as co-executive secretaries, Harriet Engle was selected as moderator, and Kennard Wilson was chosen as alternator. Because of our contract with the church, office terms are now January-December (though we'll still vote in October). And for the December Cook-Off, cinnamon won the popular vote for challenge ingredient.

NOVEMBER 2012: NM SPACE TALK

Thirty-four people listened as science speaker Loretta Hall did an encore presentation of her talk from Bubonicon 44 on New Mexico's involvement in the space program.

Introducing her program, Hall said, "I'm briefly going to cover 80 years. It all began with science fiction. Robert Goddard read Jules Verne when he was 16. He launched his first rocket in 1926. His fourth rocket, launched in 1929, went up a whooping 90 feet. It started a fire and he was told no more rockets in Massachusetts. So, he looked all over, and decided that Roswell, NM, was the best place to go. In 1932, Goddard wrote a fan letter to H.G. Wells. H.G. Wells wrote a short thank you note back."

Her talk covered the U.S. Army's launches at White Sands in the mid-1940s and Von Braun's involvement. Ultimately, 67 launches of V-2 rockets were attempted.

Hall said the question in the 1950s was if manned space travel was possible. Human limits were tested for accelera-

tion, micro-gravity and cosmic radiation. At Holman Air Force Base, high-altitude balloons were used in Project Man-high and Project Excelsior. The task of checking the health of astronaut candidates fell to Albuquerque's Lovelace Clinic.

Hall revealed that Lovelace tested female candidates, too. "They figured that women were smaller, ate less food, and had better-protected reproductive organs," she said. "Thirteen women did as well or better than the men tested. But NASA wouldn't do anything with the ladies.."

During Apollo training, the astronauts had to learn geology in classroom learning and on field trips. Fifteen field trips were in New Mexico with one near the Rio Grande Gorge. And, of course, native New Mexican Harrison Schmidt was aboard the final Apollo mission to the moon.

From 1978 to 2011, White Sands was used for Space Shuttle training as a haven. One flight of the Columbia did land in NM. "After that, they found white sand in Columbia every mission for 10 years," Hall noted.

The 1990s and 2000s have seen the founding and building of Spaceport America, the X-Prize Cup, and the cancelled Delta Clipper project. At the moment, she said, Virgin Galactic's best estimate for their first commercial flight is the end of 2013 or early 2014. For the near-space experience, they've sold more than 500 (expensive) tickets so far. New Mexico will continue to be part of the U.S. space program!

DECEMBER 2012: SHORT FILMS & DESSERTS

Forty people came out to watch comedic holiday film shorts, and to help judge the 8th ASFS Dessert Cook-Off by tasting many delightful food samples.

Again, St. Andrew's space was big enough to allow a split between the movie area and dessert tables. Shown during the evening were music videos (*Dumb Ways to Die*, Cookie Monster's *Share It, Maybe*), a *Penguins of Madagascar* episode, an animated steampunk short, a RiffTrax short, a Muppets short, & several episodes of *Simon's Cat*.

In the Dessert Cook-Off, there were 18 entries from 16 people - Becky Davis, Harriet Engle, Kevin & Randi Hewett, Robert Hoefer, Roberta Johnson, Grant Kuck, Al Kulp, Joe Lane, Danielle Pollock, Daisy Raimos, Leah Ransom, Patricia Rogers, Geneva Schult, and Joe & Linda Walters (plus food from Keebler, Kirkland & Hershey).

Best Overall went to Becky Davis' Cinnamon Tiramisu, the Runner-Up to Geneva Schult's Cinnamon Banana Ravioli, and Honorable Mention to Patricia Rogers' Cinnamon Apple Cake. In the Mint Category, Grant Kuck won for his Candied (Cinnamon) Nuts.

JESSICA'S BOOK REVIEWS

A Natural History of Dragons: A Memoir by Lady Trent by Marie Brennan, 2013 (February) Tor Books, hc \$25.99, 336 pages. Review by Jessica Coyle

Marie Brennan, the author of both the *Doppleganger* and *Onyx Court* fantasy series, has decided to take an entirely Victorian-esque bent in her latest fantasy novel. *A Natural History of Dragons* follows Isabella, a very un-

proper young lady who would rather study dragons than drawing rooms. Her behavior is looked down upon by her very proper mother, while her father secretly encourages her by providing natural history and anatomy books for her to explore. She very luckily marries a man who shares her interest in naturalist studies, and he allows her to join him on an expedition to the distant land of Vystrana to study dragons in the wild.

Brennan creates a delightful world in the first book of her new series. The story is written as if Isabella is looking back to the beginning of her long career as a dragon naturalist, and the format works well, mostly because Isabella is an engaging and delightful character. I would highly recommend this book for those who like Victorian-style fantasies.

Homeland by Cory Doctorow, 2013 (February) Tor Teen, hc \$17.99, 400 pages. Review by Jessica Coyle

Homeland is the sequel to Cory Doctorow's popular YA novel *Little Brother*. The story picks up about two years after *Little Brother* left off. Marcus Yallow, the tech-obsessed teen with a penchant for bending the rules, has become a disaffected college dropout in desperate need of a job to off-set his ballooning student loan payments. He finds a job as the computer tech and website manager for a local state senate campaign, but he is only hired with the understanding that he stay out of trouble with the law. This becomes increasingly difficult when one of Marcus' old contacts gives him access to documents from within the Department of Homeland Security that reveal wrongdoings on many levels. Marcus reunites with his old gaming and hacker friends to figure out how to release the documents and expose the Department of Homeland Security for the frauds that they have committed.

Homeland is an interesting read that explores the current problems facing young people in the United States (student debt, unemployment, the Occupy Movement, dissatisfaction with politics and government, etc). Marcus and his friends are interesting examples of the stereotypical tech-obsessed, disaffected youth that are discussed so much in today's news. The book's major downfall is Doctorow's obsession with all things technological; he spends so much time describing the tech that he sometimes forgets about his characters and their development. On the whole, *Homeland* is an engaging enough read, especially if you have an interest in technology and/or politics.

A COLUMN OF OPINIONS & SUCH TRUE STORIES & RIFFING

by Craig Chrissinger

It all comes full circle sometimes and the universe ties things together. At the beginning, it may not be obvious. But it all ties together in the end.

In December and January, I read three memoirs. When a person has an interesting life or has a good tale to tell, memoirs are just as involving and entertaining as a good space opera, a smart hard SF adventure, or a light urban fantasy.

Take for instance, Claudia Christian. Most fans know her from *Babylon 5*, and we've heard stories of her wildness at

