



# ASFACTS 2013

## APRIL "DRY & WINDY" SPRING ISSUE

### NM AUTHORS & BUBONICON FRIENDS AMONG 2013 HUGO NOMINEES

Nominees, including friends of Bubonicon, for the Hugo Awards and for the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer have been announced March 30 by LoneStarCon3, the 71st World Science Fiction Convention, to be held in San Antonio, TX, August 29-September 2.

**BEST NOVEL:** *Throne of the Crescent Moon* by Saladin Ahmed, *Captain Vorpatril's Alliance* by Lois McMaster Bujold, *Blackout* by Mira Grant, *2312* by Kim Stanley Robinson, or *Redshirts* by John Scalzi. **BEST NOVELLA:** *On a Red Station*, *Drifting* by Aliette de Bodard, *San Diego 2014: The Last Stand of the California Browncoats* by Mira Grant, "The Stars Do Not Lie" by Jay Lake, *After the Fall*, *Before the Fall*, *During the Fall* by Nancy Kress, or *The Emperor's Soul* by BRANDON SANDERSON (Bubonicon 44 Guest of Honor).

**BEST NOVELETTE:** "The Girl-Thing Who Went Out for Sushi" by Pat Cadigan, "In Sea-Salt Tears" by Seanan McGuire, "Rat-Catcher" by Seanan McGuire, "The Boy Who Cast No Shadow" by Thomas Olde Heuvelt, or "Fade to White" by Catherynne M. Valente. **BEST SHORT STORY:** "Immersion" by Aliette de Bodard, "Mantis Wives" by Kij Johnson, or "Mono no Aware" by Ken Liu.

**BEST RELATED WORK:** "I Have an Idea for a Book: The Bibliography of Martin H. Greenberg" by John Helfers, *The Cambridge Companion to Fantasy Literature* by Edward James & Farah Mendlesohn, *Writing Excuses, Season Seven* by BRANDON SANDERSON, Dan Wells, Mary Robinette Kowal, Howard Tayler & Jordan Sanderson, *Chicks Unravel Time: Women Journey Through Every Season of Doctor Who* edited by Deborah Stanish & L.M. Myles, and *Chicks Dig Comics: A Celebration of Comic Books by the Women Who Love Them* edited by Lynne M. Thomas & Sigrid Ellis. **BEST GRAPHIC STORY:** *Saucer Country, Volume 1: Run* by PAUL CORNELL (Bubonicon 43 participant), *Locke &*

*Key*, Vol. 5: *Clockworks* by Joe Hill, *Grandville Bête Noire* by Bryan Talbot, *Schlock Mercenary: Random Access Memorabilia* by Howard Tayler, or *Saga, Volume One* by Brian K. Vaughn.

**BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION – LONG:** *The Avengers*, *The Cabin in the Woods*, *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey*, *The Hunger Games* or *Looper*. **BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION – SHORT:** *Doctor Who* "The Angels Take Manhattan," *Doctor Who* "Asylum of the Daleks," *Doctor Who* "The Snowman," *Fringe* "Letters of Transit," *Game of Thrones* "Blackwater" (written by GEORGE RR MARTIN, regular Bubonicon participant).

**BEST PROFESSIONAL EDITOR – LONG FORM:** Lou Anders, Sheila Gilbert, Liz Gorinsky, Patrick Nielsen Hayden or Toni Weisskopf. **BEST PROFESSIONAL EDITOR – SHORT FORM:** John Joseph Adams, Neil Clarke, Stanley Schmidt, Jonathan Strahan or Sheila Williams. **BEST PROFESSIONAL ARTIST:** Vincent Chong, Julie Dillon, Dan Dos Santos, Chris McGrath or JOHN PICACIO (Bubonicon 43 guest artist).

**BEST SEMIPROZINE:** *Apex Magazine*, *Beneath Ceaseless Skies*, *Clarkesworld*, *Lightspeed* or *Strange Horizons*. **BEST FANZINE:** *Banana Wings*, *The Drink Tank*, *Elitist Book Reviews*, *Journey Planet* or *SF Signal*. **BEST FANCAST:** *The Coode Street Podcast*, *Galactic Suburbia Podcast*, *SF Signal Podcast*, *SF Squeecast*

### UPCOMING ASFS MEETINGS

- **Tonight:** Devin O'Leary of the *Weekly Alibi* previews the Sci-Fi Trailers of Summer, and Carrie Vaughn of Colorado talks about werewolf Kitty.
- **May 3:** The screening of an entertaining genre film. Meeting is a week early - again!
- **June 14:** A visit from author Ian Tregillis, and a preview of the 3rd Albuquerque Comic Expo (ACE).
- **July 12:** A visit from Susan Krinard to talk about her new fantasy series. Plus the summer issue of *ASFACTS* (deadline July 7).
- **August 9:** Bubonicon 45 preview & some fun bit.
- **August 16:** Bubonicon 45 Gofer Meeting.
- **September 20:** Bubonicon 45 & Worldcon reports. Meeting is a week late (3rd Friday).
- **October 11:** Club officer elections, some other bit, and the Halloween 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. Phone: (505) 266-8905. E-mail: cwcraig@nmia.com. *ASFACTS* published February, April, July & October for the Albuquerque SF Society. *SITHFACTS* out each December. NEXT DEADLINE: Sun, July 7. **Club Officers:** Kevin Hewett & Craig Chrissinger, co-Zec Secs (505) 266-8905. Harriet Engle, Moderator. Kennard Wilson, Alternator. **Bubonicon Chairs:** Craig Chrissinger & Kristen Dorland (505) 459-8734. [www.bubonicon.com](http://www.bubonicon.com)

(PAUL CORNELL is a presenter) and *StarShipSofa*.

BEST FAN WRITER: James Bacon, Christopher J Garcia, Mark Oshiro, Tansy Rayner Roberts or Steven H. Silver. BEST FAN ARTIST: Galen Dara, Brad W. Foster, Spring Schoenhuth, Maurine Starkey or Steve Stiles.

JOHN W. CAMPBELL AWARD FOR BEST NEW WRITER [Not a Hugo Award]: Zen Cho, Max Gladstone, Mur Lafferty, Stina Leicht or Chuck Wendig.

There were 1,343 nominating ballots received from members of Chicon 7, LoneStarCon 3, and LonCon 3.

## ENMU WILLIAMSON LECTURESHIP CELEBRATES MARS APRIL 11-12

The 37th annual Jack Williamson Lectureship will be held Thursday-Friday, April 11 & 12, at Eastern New Mexico University in Portales, NM. This year's unofficial theme is "Return to Mars." 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.

Other confirmed participants include Steven Gould, Darynda Jones, Stefan Kiesbye, Joan Saberhagen, Melinda Snodgrass, Ian Tregillis and Eleanor Wood.

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 Thursday, April 11, when Guest of Honor Haldeman reads at 6:00 pm in Williamson Liberal Arts Building Room 112.

On Friday the 12th, informal readings by participants are scheduled 9:30-11:30 am in the Sandia Room of 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](mailto: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. Expected panel topics include The Writing Process, SF/Fantasy in Film and TV, Short Attention Span panel, New Directions in SF/Fantasy, The Red Planet and What are "the" SF Classics.

On Saturday, April 13, Willis and Steven Gould will present a workshop for young writers (11-17 years of age) 10:00 am-Noon at the Portales Public Library. Parents and interested adults may lurk in the back "if they are quiet and good."

Haldeman is best known for his 1974 novel *The Forever War*. That novel, and others of his works – including *The Hemingway Hoax* and *Forever Peace* – have won major awards including the Hugo and Nebula. Many of his works were inspired by his experience serving in the Vietnam War, where he was wounded in combat. Recent novels include *Camouflage*, *Old Twentieth*, *The Accidental Time Machine*, and the trilogy *Marsbound*, *Starbound* and *Earthbound*. A poet (*Saul's Death and Other Poems*) as well as author, Haldeman was awarded the Damon Knight Memorial Grand Master Award in 2010.

Check out this ENMU website for more info: [www.enmu.edu/academics/williamson/lectureship.shtml](http://www.enmu.edu/academics/williamson/lectureship.shtml)

## BANKS ANNOUNCES CANCER THREAT

Iain Banks, Scottish author of *Fearsum Endjinn* and the *Culture* novels, announced online the first week of April that he has late-stage gall bladder cancer, and only has several months to live – a year at most.

In January, Banks was suffering from a sore back, which he thought was from crouching over his keyboard all day while writing. When it still ached in mid-February, he finally went to his doctor and jaundice was diagnosed. Tests – including blood, ultrasound and a CT scan – to determine the cause of the jaundice revealed the grisly truth.

"I am gradually recovering from jaundice caused by a blocked bile duct, but that – it turns out – is the least of my problems," he stated. "I have cancer. It started in my gall bladder, has infected both lobes of my liver and probably also my pancreas and some lymph nodes, plus one tumor is massed around a group of major blood vessels in the same volume, effectively ruling out any chance of surgery to remove the tumors either in the short or long term."

The bottom line, he notes, is that it's extremely unlikely he will live more than a year, so his latest novel, *The Quarry*, most likely will be his last.

"As a result, I've withdrawn from all planned public engagements and I've asked my partner Adele if she will do me the honor of becoming my widow (sorry – but we find ghoulish humor helps). By the time this goes out we'll be married and on a short honeymoon. We intend to spend however much quality time I have left seeing family and relations, and visiting places that have meant a lot to us."

Banks says there is a possibility that a course of chemotherapy may extend the amount of time he has to live, but they still are balancing the pros and cons of this course of action. Any possible chemo cannot begin until his jaundice is further reduced.

His publishers, whom he calls "heroic," are attempting to move up the publication of *The Quarry* by as

much as four months so that there's a better chance he will be around when it hit bookstores' shelves.

A website has been set up so family and fans can leave messages for Banks and check on his progress: [www.friends.banksophilia.com](http://www.friends.banksophilia.com).

## 2012 PK DICK AWARD ANNOUNCED

The winner of the 2012 Philip K. Dick Award was announced March 29 at Norwescon 36 in SeaTac WA, reports Locus Online. The winner for the distinguished original science fiction paperback published for the first time during 2012 in the US is *Lost Everything* by Brian Francis Slattery. Special citation was given to *Lovestar* by Andri Snær Magnason.

The Philip K. Dick Award is presented annually with the support of the Philip K. Dick Trust for distinguished science fiction published in paperback original form in the United States. The award is sponsored by the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society and the Philip K. Dick Trust and the award ceremony is sponsored by the NorthWest Science Fiction Society. The 2012 judges included Bruce Bethke, Sydney Duncan, Daryl Gregory, Bridget McKenna, and Paul Witcover. Next year's judges have been announced as Elizabeth Bear, Siobhan Carroll, Michael Kandel, Jamil Nasir, and Tim Sullivan.

## BUCHANAN & SAGAN WIN SOLSTICE AWARDS

SFWA announced mid-March that Carl Sagan and Ginjer Buchanan are the recipients of the 2013 Solstice Awards, reports Locus Online. The awards will be presented during the Nebula Awards Weekend, May 16-19 in San Jose, CA.

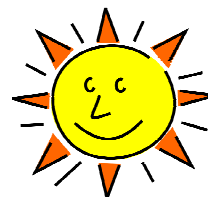
The award, created in 2008 and given at the discretion of the SFWA president with the majority approval of the Board of Directors, is for individuals, living or dead, who have had "a significant impact on the science fiction or fantasy landscape, and is particularly intended for those who have consistently made a major, positive difference within the speculative fiction field." Previous winners are Alice B. Sheldon (AKA James Tiptree, Jr.), Michael Whelan, Kate Wilhelm, Tom Doherty, Terri Windling, Donald A. Wollheim, Octavia Butler and John Clute.

## BOOK GROUP STILL READING

The Droids & Dragons SF Book Group meets at 7:30 pm Monday, April 15, in the gift area of Page One Bookstore to discuss *Reaper Man (Discworld)* by Terry Pratchett. The group then focuses on *Count to a Trillion* by John C. Wright on Tuesday, May 21 (a day later than normal).

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 [ymcpie-bald@gmail.com](mailto:ymcpie-bald@gmail.com) or Craig at 266-8905.



## NEBULA NOMINEES ANNOUNCED

The Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America announced in late February the nominees for the 2012 Nebula Awards, the nominees for the Ray Bradbury Award for Outstanding Dramatic Presentation, and the nominees for the Andre Norton Award for Young Adult Science Fiction and Fantasy Book.

NOVEL: *Throne of the Crescent Moon* by Saladin Ahmed, *Ironskin* by Tina Connolly, *The Killing Moon* by N.K. Jemisin, *The Drowning Girl* by Caitlín R. Kiernan, *Glamour in Glass* by Mary Robinette Kowal, or *2312* by Kim Stanley Robinson. NOVELLA: *On a Red Station, Drifting* by Aliette de Bodard, *After the Fall, Before the Fall, During the Fall* by Nancy Kress, "The Stars Do Not Lie" by Jay Lake, "All the Flavors" by Ken Liu, "Katabasis" by Robert Reed, or "Barry's Tale" by Lawrence M. Schoen.

NOVELETTE: "The Pyre of New Day" by Catharine Asaro, "Close Encounters" by Andy Duncan, "The Waves" by Ken Liu, "The Finite Canvas" by Brit Mandelo, "Swift, Brutal Retaliation" by Meghan McCarron, "Portrait of Lisane da Patagnia" by Rachel Swirsky, or "Fade to White" by Catherynne M. Valente. SHORT STORY: "Robot" by Helena Bell, "Immersion" by Aliette de Bodard, "Fragmentation, or Ten Thousand Goodbyes" by Tom Crosshill, "Nanny's Day" by Leah Cypess, "Give Her Honey When You Hear Her Scream" by Maria Dahvana Headley, "The Bookmaking Habits of Select Species" by Ken Liu, or "Five Ways to Fall in Love on Planet Porcelain" by Cat Rambo.

RAY BRADBURY AWARD for Outstanding Dramatic Presentation: *The Avengers, Beasts of the Southern Wild, The Cabin in the Woods, The Hunger Games, John Carter (of Mars)*, or *Looper*.

ANDRE NORTON AWARD for Young Adult Science Fiction and Fantasy Book: *Iron Hearted Violet* by Kelly Barnhill, *Black Heart* by Holly Black, *Above* by Leah Bobet, *The Diviners* by Libba Bray, *Vessel* by Sarah Beth Durst, *Seraphina* by Rachel Hartman, *Enchanted* by Alethea Kontis, *Every Day* by David Levithan, *Summer of the Mariposas* by Guadalupe Garcia McCall, *Railsea* by China Miéville, *Fair Coin* by E.C. Myers, or *Above World* by Jenn Reese.

The winners will be announced at SFWA's 48th Annual Nebula Awards Weekend, to be held May 16-19, 2013 at the San Jose Hilton in San Jose, CA. Gene Wolfe will be honored with the 2012 Damon Knight

Grand Master Award for his lifetime contributions and achievements in the field.

## **SIMPSONS, MOVIE WRITER DIES**

Don Payne, an award-winning writer and producer of *The Simpsons* and screenwriter of the 2011 blockbuster *Thor* as well as *My Super Ex-Girlfriend* and *Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer*, died March 26 at his home in Los Angeles, said his friend and former writing partner John Frink. He was 48 years old and had bone cancer.

Payne was most recently a consulting producer on *The Simpsons*, Fox's long-running animated series. Two episodes he wrote are in production and will air in the fall: "Labor Pains" and the Christmas installment, "White Christmas Blues."

Payne won four Emmys for his work on the series and also received the Writers Guild of America's prestigious Paul Selvin Award in 2005 for the "Fraudcast News" episode.

He made the transition to screenwriting with *My Super Ex-Girlfriend*, the 2006 comedy starring Uma Thurman and Luke Wilson about a bachelor who discovers his girlfriend is a superhero.

"Much to my wife's chagrin, I am a superhero geek," Payne told the *Los Angeles Times* that year. "Definitely growing up I was into comics and became a comedy writer as an adult, so I put the two things together."

Payne was born in 1964 in Wilmington, NC.

## **KIERNAN & SALAAM WIN TIPTREES, NM'S LOCKE ON HONOR LIST**

Caitlin R. Kiernan's novel *The Drowning Girl* and Kiini Ibura Salaam's collection *Ancient, Ancient* are the winners of the 2012 James Tiptree, Jr. Award, given annually to works of science fiction or fantasy that explore and expand gender roles, reports Locus Online. Each author will receive \$1,000 in prize money, original artwork created to honor the winning works, and chocolate. They will be honored at a ceremony at WisCon 37, being held May 24-27 in Madison, WI.

The Tiptree jury released an "honor list" recognizing other noteworthy works: *Range of Ghosts* by Elizabeth Bear, *Rituals* by Roz Kaveney, *Up Against It* by M.J. Locke of New Mexico, *2312* by Kim Stanley Robinson, *Jagannath* by Karin Tidbeck, *Firebrand* by Ankaret Wells, and "The Receptionist" by Lesley Wheeler.

Jurors were Joan Gordon (chair), Andrea Hairston, Lesley Hall, Karen Lord and Gary K. Wolfe.

The 2013 jurors are chair Ellen Klages, Christopher Barzak, Jayna Brown, Nene Oremes and Gretchen Treu.

## **HORROR WRITER HAUTALA DIES**

Writer Rick Hautala died March 21 of a heart attack, reports Locus Online. He was 64 years old.

Hautala wrote more than 30 novels (most horror) and scores of short stories, and is best known for the internationally-bestselling 1986 novel *Night Stone*. Always a prolific writer, his novels *The Demon's Wife*, *Mockingbird Bay* and *Star Road* (with Matthew Costello) are all forthcoming. He also published several books under the name A.J. Matthews, co-wrote five novels in the *Body of Evidence* series with Christopher Golden, and authored screenplays.

He published several standalone novellas, and some of his short work has been collected in *Bedbugs*, *Four Octobers*, *Untcigahunk* and *Occasional Demons* (2010), and the forthcoming *Glimpses: The Best Short Stories of Rick Hautala*. Hautala was active in the Horror Writers Association, where he served terms as vice president and trustee.

Richard Henry Hautala was born February 3, 1949, in Rockport, MA, and graduated from the University of Maine in 1974 with a Masters in English, focusing on Renaissance and Medieval literature. He lived in southern Maine, and is survived by his wife, writer Holly Newstein, and their three adult sons.

## **"THE WOMBAT" PASSES AWAY**

Editor, author and fan Jan Howard Finder, aka "The Wombat," died February 25 in an Albany, NY hospital of complications related to cancer, reported Locus Online. He was 73 years old.

Finder was active in SF fandom and was well known as an expert on J.R.R. Tolkien, organizing the "First Conference on Middle-earth" in 1969, a second conference in 1971, and a third in 2011. He also organized tours of sites related to SF literature, most notably "Middle-earth" tours of New Zealand, where the *Lord of the Rings* films were made. He was a frequent guest at conventions, a co-founder of Albacon, and served as chair for Albacon in 1996 and the SFRA conference in 2001. He edited fanzine *The Spang Blah* and anthology *Alien Encounters* (1982). He also wrote occasional short fiction.

Finder was a participant at Bubonicon 39 in 2007, and was planning to attend Bubonicon 43 in 2011 before he became ill at the Reno, NV, Worldcon.

Finder, known as "The Wombat" to friends, was born March 2, 1939, and grew up in Chicago. He attended Roosevelt University and the University of Chicago, studied academic administration at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and worked as a college administrator before retiring. In 2011, he was diagnosed with prostate cancer.

## **BUBONICON 45 THEME SET, CON HERE IN 4 1/2 MONTHS**

Bubonicon 45's theme has been set! Because it's 2013, we will be focusing on "Superstitions." How do superstitions and urban legends begin? What superstitions exist for writers and fans? And is it true that Perry & Terri Rodent are afraid of black cats?

Convention passes go from \$38 to \$40 on May 12, 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 "Bubonicon" with the PDF registration form online to PO Box 37257, Albuquerque, NM 87176.

Bubonicon 45 takes place August 23-25 (the weekend before the San Antonio Worldcon) at the Albuquerque Marriott Uptown, 2101 Louisiana Blvd NE (at I-40). Single-Double rooms are \$99 a night when reserved by August 12, and triple-quad occupancy is \$109. Please make all reservations at 800-228-9290, and make sure to tell them you're with Bubonicon! Also let them know if you want to be on the party floor (3<sup>rd</sup>), a quiet floor or whether you have no preference.

In addition to Co-Guests of Honor Brent Weeks & Tim Powers, Toastmistress Diana Rowland, and Guest Artist Alan F. Beck, we have confirmed the following participants so far: Mario Acevedo, Carol Berg, Adam Jarmon Brown, Peri Charlifou, Steven Gould, Darynda Jones, Jane Lindskold, M.J. Locke, George RR Martin, Victor Milan, Pati Nagle, Scott Phillips, Melinda Snodgrass, Gabi Stevens, Sam Sykes, Ian Tregillis, Robert E. Vardeman, Walter Jon Williams and Connie Willis. Several others are expected, of course.

Green Slime Mistress Jessica Coyle is now taking nominations for "wretched things that should be recognized" and preparing to entertain the masses while the Costume Contest judges are out of the room Saturday evening. (Some movies/SyFy films mentioned so far are *Escape from Planet Earth* and *Zero Hour*. And there might even be a book!)

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

All requests for space & time for Fan Programming are requested by Monday, April 22 (Earth Day). That way we can ask questions if needed before the tentative schedule is designed.

No tables remain in the Dealers Room - yes, all 32 spaces have been sold. To be put on a waiting list, email Caci (Gallop) Cooper at [bubonicon@gmail.com](mailto:bubonicon@gmail.com).

Meanwhile, Roslee Orndorff and crew plan to have

the art show rules & forms available online in PDF format around May 15. We will only mail out packets that are requested (a 2-ounce stamped #10 SASE is needed).

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 45 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 website: [www.bubonicon.com](http://www.bubonicon.com).

## **A Year Later Report** **LECTURESHIP 2012 ROCKS PORTALES**

**by Craig Chrissinger**

The 36<sup>th</sup> annual Williamson Lectureship (joined by the High Plains Film Festival) was held March 29-31, 2012, in Portales, New Mexico, around the campus of Eastern NM University. Daniel Abraham and Carrie Vaughn were the special guests, with Connie Willis as toastmistress. The theme for 2012 was "Urban Fantasy."

SF personalities attending included authors Audra Brown, Courtney Floyd, Ty Franck, Steven Gould, Jennifer Jodell, Darynda Jones, Patricia Shaw Mathews, Joan Saberhagen, Melinda Snodgrass, Ian Tregillis, and Walter Jon Williams; illustrator Brad Hamann; and publisher Stephen Haffner. Jack Williamson's sister-in-law, Nancy Williamson; Jack's niece, Betty Williamson, her husband Milz Bickley, and daughter Katie, attended, too. Also present were Bubonicon organizers Kristen Dorland, Craig Chrissinger, Jessica Coyle, Danielle Pollock and Patricia Rogers; booksellers Nina & Ron Else from Denver; librarians Gene Bundy and Debbie Lang; and more family and fans.

The Lectureship began Thursday, March 29, with readings from Daniel Abraham and Carrie Vaughn, followed by a large dinner gathering. Friday morning's breakfast buffet was followed by several authors taking part in readings and Q&A sessions with students and others at ENMU's student union. A smaller group remained at the breakfast restaurant, holding a free-flowing discussion on health care, the Watson computer, Sandra Fluke and Rush Limbaugh, the Turing test, Trayvon Martin, Asperger's syndrome, racism and sexual harassment, Republican candidates and the Nebula Awards.

Lectureship organizer Patrice Caldwell opened Friday's luncheon after 100 people went through a buffet line and found seats. Connie Willis said she was excited to be in Portales again, and entertained everyone with her list of hot spots to see in the small college town. She called the local Dairy Queen "the intellectual and social center of the Lectureship," remarked that Mark's, the



usual breakfast destination, should advertise itself as “where all the SFWA Grand Masters eat breakfast,” and also mentioned two WPA project buildings and the Peanut Factory.

Talking about Jack Williamson, Willis said he was “the heart and soul of Portales and the Lectureship. The most significant element of having younger writers this year is that Jack taught many writing classes, he gave out advice and encouragement to all, and he was kind to hundreds of aspiring writers.”

Carrie Vaughn and Daniel Abraham addressed the “urban fantasy” theme from different perspectives. Vaughn remarked that genre isn’t as new as people think, and read a short passage from Jane Austen’s *Northanger Abbey*, where 17-year-old Gothic novel aficionado Catherine Morland is talking with Isabella Thorpe. She pegged 2007 as the year in which “urban fantasy” became a term to describe “kick-ass females in paranormal adventures,” but stated that “it is older, wide and deep and rich” and should include novels like Williamson’s 1948 *Darker Than You Think*. Vaughn concluded, “Anything I can do to spread the urban fantasy umbrella beyond the trappings of a weaponized woman in a corset with a tramp stamp, I will do. The definition should be widened. It is rich and old, and it should have room for all sorts of adventures.”

Abraham noted that genres have expectations, but that a book isn’t a genre by itself. “Genres are the kinds of stories we want to read and come back to,” he said. “Children go back to things to discover and understand more. I’m middle-aged and go back for comfort, escapism or catharsis. My urban fantasy (written as M.L.N. Hanover) is escapism. Genre and escapism can be a social clash, but we need an escape – not just lofty literature. I believe that urban fantasy, in its narrow definition, says something about who we are right now.”

For the first time, the Lectureship held two-track panels Friday afternoon in ENMU’s Golden Library, home of the Williamson Special Collections. Approximately 55-70 attendees watched panel discussions on 1) SF/Fantasy in Film & TV with Abraham, Snodgrass and film technicians Dusty Deen and Tyler Green, where Abraham commented, “Great scripts are fun to watch”;

2) New Readers: Trends in Young Adult SF with Katie Bickley, Gould and Vaughn; 3) New Writers: Tips for Starting Out with Abraham, Brown, Floyd and Jones; 4) New Directions in SF/Fantasy with Gould, Tregillis and Vaughn, in which Vaughn wondered whether writers like Michael Chabon, Junot Díaz and Justin Cronin are making it okay to like SF; 5) Short Attention Span (covering many

topics in short bursts) with Abraham, Williams and Willis; and 6) What Are The SF Classics with Bundy, Haffner and Saberhagen.

Saturday started with another group breakfast, after which many guests and fans departed Portales. For those who stayed, the rest of the final day included a Young Writers Workshop with Connie Willis and Steven Gould at the Portales Public Library; the High Plains Film Festival in the afternoon; and a visit by a small group to the Williamson Ranch. While Jack Williamson’s writing shed still stands a short distance from the main house, time and the weather have made marks on the structure.

Also held in conjunction with the 36<sup>th</sup> Lectureship was a book sale to benefit the Williamson Collection. Books sold were extras and duplicates culled from library donations.

## BOOK REVIEW ROUND-UP

***Red Moon* by Benjamin Percy, 2013 Grand Central Publishing, hc \$25.99, 530 pages. [To be released May 7.]**  
**Review by Geneva Schult**

*Red Moon* is a violent, visceral tale of a minority group’s struggle against a government terrified of universal human infection by a wolf-originated prion (similar to mad cow disease). In an attempt to contain the infection to the current five percent of the population, the government drugs and registers the known afflicted.

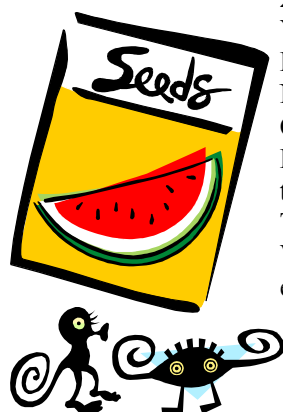
The story concentrates on two main protagonists, male and female teenagers, one human, one lycan. The many fast-paced subplots serve to advance the story. While Patrick searches for a medical cure lost in the upheaval after the Pacific Northwest devolves into irradiated chaos after the successful lycan destruction of a nuclear power plant, Claire comes to grips with what being infected means to her personal identity.

One twist Benjamin Percy uses that is particularly enjoyable is the adaptation of many American historical events into lycan-rights events. The main difference between lycans and other minorities is that most others cannot convert you into “one of them” through transmission of a pathogen.

To further complicate the political issues, some humans show animalistic, cruel behaviors as they kill every lycan they can discover, while some lycans show altruistic, socialized behaviors of compassion and mercy to humans. What it means to be human and lycan is explored at length.

Percy writes well and the reader is never jolted into awareness of reading through bad narrative or execrable dialogue. However, there were several editing errors in the book. For example, the much-sought-for “vaccine” in the book should really be labeled a “cure” as one cannot be “vaccinated” against a disease after contracting it.

I recommend this book to anyone who enjoys the paranormal with a scientific rationale, and who can stom-



ach the violence inherent in a story that features both werewolves and humans perpetrating physical savagery upon each other.

***Etiquette and Espionage: Finishing School 1* by Gail Carriger, 2013 Little, Brown and Company, hc \$17.99, 307 pages.** **Review by Jessica Coyle**

*Etiquette and Espionage* is the first book in Gail Carriger's Young Adult *Finishing School* series, which is set in the same world as her *Parasol Protectorate* books. The protagonist, Sophronia Temminnick, is the youngest daughter of a large aristocratic family. She is much more interested in dismantling machines and climbing things than she is in manners and clothes. Unsure of how to tame her daughter's wild ways, Sophronia's mother decides to send her to Mademoiselle Geraldine's Finishing Academy for Young Ladies of Quality.

Sophronia soon realizes that Mademoiselle Geraldine's is not at all what she expected. The girls learn about dress, dancing, and etiquette for every occasion, but they are also instructed in espionage, diversion, weaponry, and death. Sophronia quickly excels in these areas of her studies, while spending her free time trying to discover who recommended her to the school. She also involves herself in the secondary mystery of a missing prototype that may or may not have been stolen by one of her fellow students.

Those who enjoy the *Parasol Protectorate* series will find a lot to like in *Etiquette and Espionage*. Carriger's sense of fun and humor are back in full force, and Sophronia seems as if she will develop into a leading lady very much in the vein of Alexia Tarabotti. I'm quite looking forward to the release of the second book, *Curtsies and Conspiracies*, in November of 2013.

***The Queen is Dead: Immortal Empire 2* by Kate Locke, 2013 Orbit, hc \$16.99, 352 pages.**

**Review by Geneva Schult**

I reviewed Kate Locke's first book (*God Save the Queen*) in her *Immortal Empire* steampunk alternative-history series orally at our January 2013 ASFS meeting. The concept for the series is: "Queen Victoria rules with an immortal fist: the undead matriarch of a Britain where the Aristocracy is made up of werewolves and vampires, where goblins live underground and mothers know better than to let their children out after dark. A world where being nobility means being infected with the Plague (side-effects include undeath), hysteria is the popular affliction of the day, and leeches are considered a delicacy. And a world where technology lives side by side with magic. The year is 2012."

Our female protagonist, Xandra Vardan, finds out that she is not a "halvie" – a vampire/human hybrid as she had thought all her life – but due to a genetic mutation caused by her mother being turned into a werewolf during pregnancy, she is actually a goblin. Goblins typically are considered quasi-intelligent furry beasts that eat humans and cannot control their violent natures.

As Xandra discovers to her horror and delight in *The*

*Queen is Dead*, goblins are as smart as all the other races, can shapeshift into incredibly powerful forms, and only eat humans stupid enough to invade their underworld domain. Xandra is one of them – and they want her to be their Queen. Queen Victoria is not happy about sharing her kingdom – and takes action against Xandra's family. Xandra's brother goes missing and she discovers a huge conspiracy designed to genetically enhance all vampires. They will stop at nothing to sample her genetic material...

***Bloods Pride: Shattered Kingdoms 1* by Evie Manieri, 2013 Tor Books, hc \$24.99, 528 pages.**

**Review by Julie Heffernan**

While I loved the world mythology, I felt the characters and plot of Evie Manieri's *Bloods Pride* were lacking, and so the book left me feeling frustrated.

The highlight of the book were the cultural elements and politics surrounding the races; the Shadari "slaves," the Norlander "masters," and the carpetbagging "Nomas." The Norlanders are a race from the far north, and basically burn in the sun or if a Shadari touches them. This rather vampire-ish quality is an interesting weakness that Manieri exploits quite well. Another example is the king of the Nomas, who is only king because he can weld fire. Mix in elements from ancient Greek, Rome and medieval knights wielding swords (on dragons instead of horses of course), and you get a fun world.

The characters are very stereotypical and have been seen before in many epic fantasy stories – from the warring, ruling family to the pair of star-crossed lovers. Many of the events and battles never seem to end as they are repeated by multiple characters in multiple chapters. Simply, the characters felt boring and flat, and I saw how the book was going to end about 50 pages in.

*Bloods Pride* is the first in a trilogy. It is not a cliffhanger, but there are a lot of unanswered questions. I will never know the answers, however, as I do not plan to read the sequels.

***Kitty Rocks the House* by Carrie Vaughn, 2013 Tor Books, mmpb \$7.99, 336 pages.**

**Review by Craig Chrissinger**

In the 11<sup>th</sup> novel of radio-deejay-turned-werewolf Kitty Norville, the alpha female of Denver is facing threats to her position and to her friends. One threat is from a challenger to her leadership of the pack and the other is in the form of temptation for Denver master vampire Rick.

Kitty has just returned from London (*Kitty Steals the Show*) and is settling back into routine when a new male werewolf shows up. He seems innocent and friendly, but also is raising red flags by challenging her authority at every turn. Is he trying to split up the Denver pack so that Kitty cannot be as involved in the vampiric Long Game that's been building for the past several novels?

Meanwhile Rick is visited by a European vampire who claims to be part of a hidden order of the Catholic Church. Everyone is intrigued by the idea of a religious vampire, but they're not sure whether his story is true. He

invites Rick to join him in the Order, and to challenge the ancient and evil vampire Roman in a different manner. Very soon, bounty hunter Cormac is investigating the new vampire with mixed and sometimes dangerous results.

In *Kitty Rocks the House*, Carrie Vaughn is digging more into the Long Game and how some vampires plan to rule the world with humans as servants and slaves. Sides are being drawn while allies and enemies are becoming clearer. A war is brewing.

The other themes running through the book are of Kitty finding a home of her pack – a house with open range as opposed to an apartment – and strengthening her as a character and as a leader with loyal followers.

It may not be the best book for new readers of the Kitty Norville series, but fans of Vaughn's female werewolf will be satisfied with this 11<sup>th</sup> tale. It is an enjoyable and worthwhile continuation of the overall series and the dramatic Long Game arc. Vaughn continues to do well.

***Cinder: Lunar Chronicles 1* by Marissa Meyer, 2013 Square Fish, tp \$9.99, 448 pages. [Released January 2012 in hardcover.]**

**Review by Geneva Schult**

Marissa Meyer's story is of the cyborg Cinder in this first book of the *Lunar Chronicles*, a series based on different fairy tales. This story is of course Cinderella – the protagonist is the adopted cyborg girl Cinder. Cyborgs are disgusting chattel, not human, in this version of the story, and her stepmother and one stepsister treat her as such. Cinder is a talented mechanic and meets charismatic Prince Kai, incognito, when he brings his android to her for servicing.

After years of a deadly plague, what is left of humanity is teetering on hysteria – and the evil Lunar ruler on the moon has a cure. Her price? The hand of the newly crowned teenaged Emperor Kai in marriage.

Cinder discovers through information encoded in Kai's android – and from a teenaged Lunar girl – that the Lunar Queen, once crowned Empress, has plans to kill Kai and take over the Earth with her mutant army. Cinder also discovers, while volunteering for a medical study to help find an Earth cure for the plague, that her organic parts are not human – yet she feels compelled to stop the Queen and save the Earthers who despise her cyborg nature.

*Cinder* is a fast-paced, engaging story that is different enough from the original tale to be interesting. It has a lot of technology and cyborg storylines that keep things from getting dull. It is a cliff-hanger, immediately resumed in *Scarlet*, which was released February 2013. *Scarlet* is the story of Little Red Riding Hood. Scarlet and Wolf help Cinder try to defeat the Lunar Queen Levana!

***Crown of Vengeance: Dragon Prophecy 1* by Mercedes Lackey and James Mallory, 2012 Tor Books, hc \$27.99, 608 pages.**

**Review by Grant Kuck**

When my brother was little he hated to eat fish. Well, actually he loved fish. He just hated having to pick out all the bones before he could eat it. Consequently he was not too happy to hear that we were having fried fish for din-

ner. That's the way I feel about *Crown of Vengeance*. If you can get by the bones, you are in for a tasty meal.

Bone One: The story contains perhaps the dumbest prologue I have ever read. The first sentence begins, "Before time itself came to be, "He Who Is," had been: changeless, eternal, perfect." As you read further you discover that Lackey and Mallory are talking not about the God of the universe, but rather a vain, Satan-like being who is anything but perfect. "He Who Is" is not a creator nor does "He" in any way make "Light" but somehow "Light" just happens. It pops out of nowhere bringing with it things like music, time, and life. "But the Light was not perfection," nor was it changeless.

In Lackey and Mallory's world, evil is changeless, eternal, and perfect, while Light is not. Kind of makes you wonder if you really should be rooting for the home team.

If I ever go to a motel and find the rooms seedy, unclean, and occupied by cockroaches, I will look elsewhere for a room. And if I don't like the world that the authors create I won't read the book. In the case of *Crown of Vengeance*, I almost quit reading it because of the god and the world that Lackey and Mallory made. No, the world doesn't have to be perfect. Unfortunately it isn't really believable either. When its god is perfect, does everything imperfectly, and doesn't know the difference and evil is the norm; well I say it's time to check into a motel elsewhere.

Bone Two: I do not like anything that pulls me out of the story and unfortunately most of the names in the book do exactly just that. Some of the characters are named Veliessar, Nataranweiya, Runacarendalur, Amrethion Aradrinel, Hamphuliadiel, Rithdeliel, Thoromarth, Bolecthindial and Glorthiachiel. These are not the exceptions to the case, but the norm. Eventually I just gave up trying to pronounce most of them.

And then there are the place names. With so many long names, the reading process was slowed down substantially. Even as I write this review, I had to look each name up to be sure I spelled them correctly. I read the Tolkien's *The Two Towers* long ago, but I still remember "Treebeard." Longer is not always better.

Yes, there are things I like in Lackey and Mallory's book. It is the story of Veliessar, an adopted girl who has every hope and plan for her life destroyed when she comes of age. Against her will, she is taken to serve in a Sanctuary where she discovers she has the potential to become a mage. Unfortunately a new leader takes control of the Sanctuary and believing her to be the child of prophecy, plots her demise.

Eventually she too believes the prophecy, but to follow it will pit her against almost everyone. The story follows her as she plans to become the High King which means the destruction of the hundred Houses. It is fun reading about her plans which lead to actions – and actions that sometimes end in victory. Always just a step or two from defeat, the book draws you in as you wonder whether she will succeed in her next endeavor or not.



It is unfortunate to have such a well-written book hamstrung by so many hard-to-pronounce, impossible-to-remember names. The world that Lackey and Mallory have created is like a very bad frame that doesn't enhance the picture but sadly detracts from it. The elfish characters (minus their names) are very believable while the perfect, unchangeless, eternal, evil god of the world is anything but perfect or believable.

Despite the long names; the unbelievable, evil god; and a world that just pops out of nowhere – there is a good story between the covers of *Crown of Vengeance*. The two authors have crafted an engaging story overall. If you don't mind the slow pace of navigating long names and can ignore "He who is," you will be rewarded by an enjoyable read. Just don't swallow any bones.

***Pandemonium* by Warren Fahy, 2013 Tor Books, hc \$24.99, 320 pages.**

**Review by Leah Ransom**

When an author writes a Sequel, the publisher needs to say so ON THE COVER. To give the miserable reader the impression that a book is a stand-alone that is simply set in the same world is just plain WRONG.

That said, *Pandemonium* is the sequel to Warren Fahy's *Fragment* – even though it's not real obvious until about page 75. The human protagonists are the same, but now they are married. And the non-human protagonists are the same. What?! You don't KNOW what the giant praying mantis-like creatures are? Then you better flip to the back of the book for some (very sketchy) details.

It is true. For those of us who wouldn't be able to stand another screen-script storyline and didn't read *Fragment*, this book has pictures in the back. Fully one half of the pictures are from *Fragment*. If the world of *Fragment* is so important now, then Fahy should have spent a few pages explaining how *Fragment* carries over to this book. Instead we are left guessing, wondering and flipping to the appendix to figure out what he's talking about.

The thriller scenes were thrilling – the first 10 times we encountered them. Apparently Fahy's publisher said he HAD to make a 315-page book, because for the last 70 pages our protagonists face one life-threatening dilemma after another. I felt like I was stuck in the worst parts of *Barbarella*.

At least the book has sex... Two of the mantis-like protagonists (called sels) are hermaphrodites and they make themselves pregnant so they can get out of a really BAD situation. And they suddenly develop psychic powers and can communicate telepathically. Whenever our heroes get into a really bad jam, Fahy makes up a new super-ability for the sels.

In both *Fragment* and *Pandemonium*, Fahy creates an interesting world with fantastic and HUGE creatures. The problem is, the areas these creatures live in are only about 1000 square miles each. And the living areas have no prey animals. With the exception of the sels, the carnivorous cannibalistic species breed out of control just so they can feed themselves. Literally, they breed unchecked simply so they can eat their young. I'm no biologist, but even I

know that's messed up.

Speaking of messed up, the sels are a super intelligent species that are past the human-genus level. In *Fragment* when their island began to sink into the ocean, they signaled for help using the distress beacon of a dingy that washed ashore and they were rescued by a reality show camera crew. Sels live for thousands of MILLENNIUM and there are only five of them left – on a small island surrounded by nothing but carnivores. You would THINK in all that time they just MIGHT breed just a bit to ensure propagation of the species. Just a bit maybe. Nope. Not these guys/gals. So much for a super-intelligent species.

Fahy has a movie deal for *Fragment*, yet another *Lost-World-Jurassic-Park* adrenaline dump. If *Fragment* was as bad as *Pandemonium*, then good luck with the ratings. Honestly, this book stunk so bad, I wanted to turn the pages with tongs.

***Sacrifices: Shadow Grail 3* by Mercedes Lackey and Rosemary Edghill, 2013 Tor Teen, tp \$10.99, 304 pages.**

**Review by Roberta Johnson**

Sixteen-year-old Spirit White and her friends Loch, Burke, Muirín and Addie are orphans, growing up at Oakhurst, an exclusive boarding school in rural Montana. Students at Oakhurst are told they each have a magical power, or Destiny, and they're all being trained to use their powers. Sound like Hogwarts? Spirit and her friends think so too, but this is a different sort of magic school.

In the beginning of the action-packed young adult *Shadow Grail* series, Spirit had just survived the car accident that killed her family. Then Oakhurst took control of her life, under the guise of educating her and helping her come into her future power. The school is run by silver-haired, distinguished Doctor Ambrosius, who is either Merlin or his archenemy Mordred, and no one is quite sure which one. Arthurian legend plays heavily in this story, but the knights of the Round Table aren't quite what – or who – they once were, and no one knows who to trust.

In case you missed the first two *Shadow Grail* novels, Spirit and her friends battled a sidhe-style Wild Hunt and numerous conspiracies, much of it described in the prologue to *Sacrifices*, this third novel. They have not, however, been able to breathe easier and get on with their education, as Oakhurst is now being run by a company called Breakthrough, which claims to be protecting them from Shadow Knights. By now, though, it's apparent that the people running the show are all Shadow Knights themselves. The educational curriculum is brutal and designed to winnow out the weak. And worst of all, Spirit is on the Dance Committee, trying to plan the Spring Fling, which seems to be important to someone (because this is, after all, high school).

Spirit, her boyfriend Burke, and the rest of the little group, have so far survived everything the Shadow Knights have thrown at them – but the atmosphere at Oakhurst is one of danger and fear. Students and sympathetic teachers disappear mysteriously, if they aren't killed outright; and there are magical accidents and attacks that are

never explained. Paranoia at this school is a sensible survival mechanism. And yet they are still trying to have normal social lives, even while being trained to be warriors in a system that insists that only the strong will survive. Spirit, for instance, is in love with Burke and worrying that her feelings for him will be used against her.

The Shadow Knights do indeed have an evil agenda, and the body count is growing. I did get a bit tired of the kids' wails, "It's not fair! We're just kids and shouldn't have to save the world!" Because it's up to Spirit and her friends to figure out who they can trust, and save the world, and on prom night no less.

Mercedes Lackey and Rosemary Edghill employ a wry, self-deprecating style – it's an enjoyable adventure for the reader, though rather hard on the likable young heroes. The ending is reminiscent of a *Harry Potter* movie (I won't say which one) but leaves room for sequels. That should come as good news to fans of the series.

## ASFS MEETING REPORTS — JANUARY 2013: BOOK DISCUSSION

We started the New Year with 35 people participating in a discussion of books read in 2012, whether good or bad.

Books read in 2012 by folks include *This Case Is Gonna Kill Me* by Phillipa Bornikova (mentioned by 4 people), *The Coldest War* by Ian Tregillis (mentioned by 5 people), *Babylon Confidential* by Claudia Christian, *7th Sigma* by Steven Gould (mentioned by 3 people), *A Taste of the Nightlife* by Sarah Zettel, *The Girl Who Fell Beneath Fairyland and Led the Revels There* by Catherynne M. Valente, *Blackout* by Mira Grant, *Lord of Mountains* by SM Stirling, *Captain Vorpatril's Alliance* by Lois McMaster Bujold, *Redoubt* by Mercedes Lackey, *Existence* by David Brin, *Invincible* by Jack Campbell, *The Dragon's Path* by Daniel Abraham, *Glamour in Glass* by Mary Robinette Kowal, *The Peculiar* by Stefan Bachmann, *The Strange Affair of Spring-Heeled Jack* by Mark Hodder, *Bowl of Heaven* by Gregory Benford and Larry Niven, *Anvil of Stars* by Greg Bear, *This is Not a Game* by Walter Jon Williams, *Origin* by Jessica Khoury, *The Passage* by Justin Cronin, *The Violinist's Thumb* by Sam Kean, *What Distant Deeps* by David Drake, *Soulless* by Gail Carriger, *Chicks Dig Comics* edited by Lynne M. Thomas and Sigrid Ellis, *Third Grave Dead Ahead* by Darynda Jones, *The Annotated Sandman* by Neil Gaiman, *Ganymede* by Cherie Priest, *Red Shirts* by John Scalzi (mentioned by 4 people), *Sacre Bleu* by Christopher Moore, *Les Misérables* by Victor Hugo, *Caliban's War* by James S.A. Corey, *A Rising Thunder* by David Weber, *Empire* by Oscar Scott Card, *Robopocalypse* by Daniel H. Wilson, *Blackout/All Clear* by Connie Willis, *Pulling Up Stakes* by Peter David (eBook), Louis L'Amour westerns, *Cold Days* by Jim Butcher (mentioned by 2 people), science-based periodicals, *The Blank Slate* by Steven Pinker, *Unfinished Tales* by JRR Tolkien, *Cryptonomicon* by Neal Stephenson, *Uncle Scrooge: Guardian of the Lost Library*, *Triumff: Her Majesty's Hero* by Dan Abnett, *Knit Your*

*Own Zombie* by Fiona Goble, *Hounded & Tricked* by Kevin Hearne, *Seraphina* by Rachel Hartman, *The Wheel of Time* 1-13 by Robert Jordan, *Dune* books, *Hyperion* books by Dan Simmons, *The Hitchhiker's Guide* series by Douglas Adams, *God Save the Queen* by Kate Locke, *Delusion in Death* by J.D. Robb, *A Fistful of Collars* by Spencer Quinn, *The Book of Cthulhu* edited by Ross E. Lockhart, the *Mistborn* trilogy by Brandon Sanderson, the *Night Angel* trilogy by Brent Weeks, *Through Wolf's Eyes* by Jane Lindskold, *Alcaez and the Evil Librarians* by Brandon Sanderson, *The Lost World* by Arthur Conan Doyle, *Eventide* by Tracy & Laura Hickman, textbooks, *The Angel's Kiss (Doctor Who)* by Justin Richards, *I Want it Now! A Memoir of Life on the Set of Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* by Julie Dawn Cole, *The Empire of Death* by Paul Koudounaris, *Haunted Air* by Ossian Brown, *Blaxploitation Cinema: The Essential Reference Guide* by Josiah Howard, *Science Fiction Theatre: A History* by Martin Grams Jr, books on the history of NASA, *UFOs in Wartime* by Mack Maloney, the *Chaos* trilogy by John C. Wright, *So You Want To Be a Wizard* by Diane Duane, *Snuff* by Terry Pratchett, books by Nina Kiriki Hoffman, *How Much For Just the Planet (Star Trek)* by John Ford, *Fifty Shades of Gray* by E.L. James, issues of *Scientific America* and *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* by Stieg Larsson...

TO BE AVOIDED (say our attendees): *A Madness of Angels* by Kate Griffin, *Shadow of Freedom* by David Weber, and *Lacy Little Knits* by Iris Schreier.

## EDITOR NOTES TO FILL THIS SPACE

• **GETTING READY FOR THE WILLIAMSON LECTURESHIP** in Portales next week. Looking forward to seeing Joe Haldeman, Connie Willis and everyone. Always fun with interesting conversations - and this time I might be covering it for *Locus Magazine*. As noted last time, I am finding my passion in writing again. Playing reporter is a big step in that direction.

• **A WISH FOR A SPEEDY RECOVERY** to Duke McMullan, who had triple bypass surgery March 21. I understand he's at home now and doing well. Thank goodness. Get well soon!

• **CONGRATS TO** Caci Gallop & Dan Cooper who are getting married this Sunday, April 7. Best wishes to them.

• **IN ENTERTAINMENT**, *Beautiful Creatures* turned out to be nowhere wretched enough for a Green Slime nomination. It's basically a teen southern gothic tale. It looks & sounds good, and has a decent cast. *John Dies at the End* was every bit as weird and enjoyable as we were hoping! *Oz: The Great & Powerful* is colorful, well directed and has tips of the hat to the 1939 MGM flick (it's really a prequel to the Baum novels). Finally, *The Croods* is much better than the trailers look - funny, cute and sweet. It's caveman goofiness with odd critters.

• **TAX DAY APPROACHES!** Yikes! Gotta get mine done before the Portales trip.

• **THANKS TO GENEVA, ROBERTA, JESSICA, JULIE, GRANT & LEAH** for contributions. Submissions are welcome.

Have a nice spring & Memorial Day! See you in July after Denver's CostumeCon and the 3rd Albuquerque Comic Expo. --Craig C

