

ASFACTS 2013

JULY "HEAT WAVE & HUMIDITY" ISSUE

NEBULA WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The 2012 Nebula Awards were presented May 18, 2013, in a ceremony at SFWA's 48th Annual Nebula Awards Weekend in San Jose, CA. Gene Wolfe was honored with the 2012 Damon Knight Grand Master Award for his lifetime contributions and achievements in the field. A list of winners follows:

Novel: *2312* by Kim Stanley Robinson, Novella: *After the Fall, Before the Fall, During the Fall* by Nancy Kress, Novelette: "Close Encounters" by Andy Duncan, Short Story: "Immersion" by Aliette de Bodard, Ray Bradbury Award for Outstanding Dramatic Presentation: *Beasts of the Southern Wild*, and Andre Norton Award for Young Adult Science Fiction and Fantasy Book: *Fair Coin* by E.C. Myers.

Carl Sagan and Ginjer Buchanan received Solstice Awards, and Michael H. Payne was given the Kevin O'Donnell Jr. Service to SFWA Award.

ROGERS & DENNING HOSTING PRE-CON PARTY

Patricia Rogers and Scott Denning will uphold a local fannish tradition when they host the Bubonicon 45 Pre-Con Party 7:30-10:30 pm Thursday, August 22, at their home in Bernalillo – located at 909 Highway 313.

The easiest way to reach the house is north on I-25 to exit 242 east (Rio Rancho's backdoor and the road to Cuba). At Highway 313, turn right to head north. Look for the Country Store, a cow crossing sign and Mile Marker 9. Their house is on the west side of the road, with plenty of parking on the shoulder.

In addition to socializing, attendees can help assemble the membership packets, and check out the 2013 con t-shirt with artwork by Alan F. Beck.

Please bring snacks and drinks to share, plus plates, napkins, cups and some ice. As with any hosted party, please help keep the house clean and in good shape!

LOCUS AWARDS WINNERS

Winners of this year's Locus Awards were announced June 29 during the Locus Awards Weekend in Seattle, WA. A list of winners follows:

Science Fiction Novel: *Redshirts* by John Scalzi, Fantasy Novel: *The Apocalypse Codex* by Charles Stross,



First Novel: *Throne of the Crescent Moon* by Saladin Ahmed, Young Adult Book: *Railsea* by China Miéville, Novella: *After the Fall, Before the Fall, During the Fall* by Nancy Kress, Novelette: "The Girl-Thing Who Went Out for Sushi" by Pat Cadigan, Short Story: "Immersion" by Aliette de Bodard, Anthology: *Edge of Infinity* edited by Jonathan Strahan, and Collection: *Shoggoths in Bloom* by Elizabeth Bear.

Non-Fiction: *Distrust That Particular Flavor* by William Gibson, Art Book: *Spectrum 19: The Best in Contemporary Fantastic Art* edited by Cathy Fenner & Arnie Fenner, Artist: Michael Whelan, Editor: Ellen Datlow, Magazine: *Asimov's*, and Publisher: Tor.

RICHARD MATHESON DEAD

LOS ANGELES (Associated Press) -- Richard Matheson, the prolific sci-fi and fantasy writer whose *I Am Legend* and *The Shrinking Man* were transformed into films, died June 23. He was 87 years old.

A spokesman for the Academy of Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror Films said Matheson died June 23 in

UPCOMING ASFS MEETINGS

- **August 9, 2013:** Preview of Bubonicon 45 and various film shorts (checking new digital projector).
- **August 16:** Bubonicon 45 Gofer Gathering. Be on hand to pick your work hours & receive bribes.
- **September 20:** Bubonicon 45 & Chicago Worldcon reports. Also, election of the Bubonicon 46 chair if needed (voting rules will apply). Note: This meeting is a week later than usual.
- **October 11:** Election of 3 club officers & something fun. Plus the Halloween issue of *ASFACTS* (deadline Sunday, October 6).
- **November 8:** An interesting talk, we hope.
- **December 13:** Dessert Cook-Off and Holiday Film Shorts. Plus the annual issue of *SithFacts*.

Craig Chrissinger, normal editor. **Darth Vader**, guest editor each December. Please Send All Correspondence to — PO Box 37257, Albuquerque, NM 87176-7257. Phone: (505) 266-8905. E-mail: cwrcraig@nmia.com. *ASFACTS* published February, April, July & October for the Albuquerque SF Society. *SITHFACTS* out each December. NEXT DEADLINE: Sun, Oct 6. **Club Officers:** Kevin Hewett & Craig Chrissinger, co-Zec Secs (505) 266-8905. Harriet Engle, Moderator. Kennard Wilson, Alternator. HAL 9000, Advisor. **Bubonicon Co-Chairs:** Kristen Dorland (505) 459-8734 & Craig Chrissinger. Don't Panic!

Los Angeles. No other details were provided.

With a career spanning more than 60 years, Matheson crafted stories that deftly transitioned from the page to both the big and small screens. Several of his works were adapted into films, including 1953's *Hell House*, 1956's *The Shrinking Man*, 1958's *A Stir of Echoes* and 1978's *What Dreams May Come*.

Matheson's 1954 sci-fi vampire novel *I Am Legend* inspired three different film adaptations: 1964's *The Last Man on Earth* starring Vincent Price, 1971's *Omega Man* starring Charlton Heston, and 2007's *I Am Legend* starring Will Smith.

Matheson was also responsible for writing several episodes of *The Twilight Zone*, as well as editions of *The Alfred Hitchcock Hour*, *Rod Serling's Night Gallery*, *The Martian Chronicles* and *Amazing Stories*. His *Twilight Zone* installments included "Nightmare at 20,000 Feet," which featured William Shatner as an airplane passenger who spots a creature on a plane's wing, as well as "Steel," which inspired 2011's *Real Steel* starring Hugh Jackman.

"I loved Richard Matheson's writing, and it was a huge honor getting to adapt his story 'Button, Button' into a film," posted *Donnie Darko* and *The Box* director Richard Kelly on Twitter June 24.

Matheson influenced several generations of storytellers. Among them were Stephen King, who dedicated his 2006 novel *Cell* to Matheson, and Steven Spielberg, whose first feature-length film was the made-for-TV movie *Duel*, based on the Matheson short story.

"Richard Matheson's ironic and iconic imagination created seminal science-fiction stories and gave me my first break when he wrote the short story and screenplay for *Duel*," said Spielberg in a statement. "His *Twilight Zones* were among my favorites, and he recently worked with us on *Real Steel*. For me, he is in the same category as (Ray) Bradbury and (Isaac) Asimov."

Matheson was scheduled to receive the visionary award at the Academy of Science Fiction, Horror and Fantasy Films' Saturn Awards June 26. The organization said the award will be presented posthumously and the 39th annual ceremony would be dedicated to Matheson.

"We are heartbroken to lose a writer of towering talent, unlimited imagination and unparalleled inspiration," said Robert Holguin, the academy's president. "Richard was a genius whose visions helped bring legitimacy and critical acclaim to science fiction and fantasy. He was also a longtime supporter of the academy, and everyone associated with the Saturn Awards feels emptier today to learn of this enormous loss."

Matheson is survived by his wife and four children.

B'CON 19's GO! GODWIN DIES

Author Parke Godwin died June 19 in Auburn CA. Godwin's novella "The Fire When it Comes" (1981) was nominated for both Hugo and Nebula Awards and won a

World Fantasy Award. He was 84 years old, according to Locus Online.

Some of Godwin's stories were collected in World Fantasy Award finalist *The Fire When It Comes* (1984). His story "Influencing the Hell Out of Time and Teresa Golowitz" was adapted as an episode of *The Twilight Zone* TV series in 1985. On his own, Godwin wrote the Snake Oil Wars series: *Waiting for the Galactic Bus* and *The Snake Oil Wars, or Scheherazade Ginsberg Strikes Again*; the Firelord sequence: World Fantasy Award nominee *Firelord* and *Beloved Exile*; and two books reimagining the Robin Hood legend: *Sherwood* and *Robin and the King*.

He also wrote numerous standalone novels, beginning with debut *Darker Places* in 1973 and including *The Last Rainbow* in 1985. His last two novels were written under the name Kate Hawks: *The Lovers: The Legend of Trystan & Yseult* in 1999 and *Watch By Moonlight* in 2001.

With Marvin Kaye he wrote the Masters of Solitude sequence: *Masters of Solitude* and *Wintermind*. He also wrote *A Cold Blue Light* with Kaye.

Harold Parke Godwin was born January 28, 1929, in New York. He served in the Army during the Korean war, and after leaving the service worked as a touring actor. He was guest of honor at the 2011 World Fantasy Convention. In 2012, he entered a care facility after suffering declines in both short- and long-term memory.

In 1987, Godwin was Guest of Honor at Bubonicon 19 in Albuquerque. That year also featured Bubonicon's first Artist Guest.

His literary executor, Connor Cochran, says Godwin completed three more novels which will be released posthumously, along with a comprehensive story collection.

HELP NEEDED AT BUBONICON

It's true! Volunteers or "gofers" are needed to help out at Bubonicon 45 the weekend of August 23-25 at the Albuquerque Marriott Uptown. We're looking for people who can donate three, five or even 10 hours of their time during the con to help things run smoothly and give committee workers much needed breaks from time to time.

It should be noted that some positions require the handling of money, so make sure you let the con-com know if you are uncomfortable with that. We especially need people to check badges/wristbands at doors to meeting rooms, the gaming space and the con suite this year.

Volunteer workers will receive some sort of promo swag, and be in a drawing for additional goodies!

The Volunteers (Gofers) Organizational Meeting will take place 7:30 pm Friday, August 16, at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, 5301 Ponderosa Ave NE (between San Mateo and San Pedro, south of Montgomery). All attending volunteer workers at this meeting will receive some kind of goodies, be it chocolate, a t-shirt or other

promotional materials.

If you're willing to help us out, please email Julie Pascal at julie@pascal.org.

NM AUTHOR ELECTED SFWA PRESIDENT

In early May, the results of the SFWA officers' election were announced, with Albuquerque author Steven Gould selected to be president.

The new SFWA board took office on July 1 including Steven Gould as president, Rachel Swirsky as vice president, Susan Forest as secretary, Bud Sparhawk as treasurer, Lee Martindale as South/Central Regional Director, and Tansy Rayner Roberts as Overseas Regional Director.

Right after assuming office, Gould had to deal with controversies surrounding the organization's official publication, the SFWA Bulletin.

There were 516 ballots cast by the April 26, 2013, deadline, up from 395 last year. Of those, 23 were discarded as invalid due to lack of the required cover sheets, down from 87 invalid ballots last year.

GENRE BOOKS STILL DISCUSSED

The Droids & Dragons SF Book Group meets 7:30 pm Monday, July 15, in the greeting cards area of Page One to discuss *Earth* by David Brin. The group then focuses on *Phoenix Rising: A Ministry of Peculiar Occurrences Novel* by Pip Ballantine & Tee Morris on August 19.

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 Leah at skycaptain1883@yahoo.com or Craig at 266-8905.

IAIN BANKS DIES OF CANCER AGED 59

BBC NEWS -- Author Iain Banks died June 9 at the age of 59, two months after announcing he had terminal cancer, his family has said.

Banks, who was born in Dunfermline, Fife, revealed in April 2013 he had gall bladder cancer and was unlikely to live for more than a year.

He was best known for his novels *The Wasp Factory*, *The Crow Road* and *Complicity*.

In a statement, his publisher said he was "an irreplaceable part of the literary world".

A message posted on Banksophilia, a website set up to provide fans with updates on the author, quoted his wife Adele saying: "Iain died in the early hours this morning. His death was calm and without pain."

Publisher Little, Brown Book Group said the author

was "one of the country's best-loved novelists" for both his mainstream and science fiction books.

"Iain Banks' ability to combine the most fertile of imaginations with his own highly distinctive brand of gothic humor made him unique," it said.

After announcing his illness in April, Banks asked his publishers to bring forward the release date of his latest novel, *The Quarry*, so he could see it on the shelves.

On Sunday, it was revealed the book - to be released on 20 June - would detail the physical and emotional strain of cancer.

It describes the final weeks of the life of a man in his 40s who has terminal cancer.

Speaking to the BBC's Kirsty Wark, Banks said he was some 87,000 words into writing the book when he was diagnosed with his own illness.

"I had no inkling. So it wasn't as though this is a response to the disease or anything, the book had been kind of ready to go," he said.

"And then 10,000 words from the end, as it turned out, I suddenly discovered that I had cancer."

Little, Brown said the author was presented with finished copies of his last novel three weeks ago.

Banks' first novel, *The Wasp Factory*, was published in 1984 and was ranked as one of the best 100 books of the 20th Century in a 1997 poll conducted by book chain Waterstones and Channel 4.

In 2008 he was named one of the 50 greatest British writers since 1945 in a list compiled by *The Times*.

The writer also penned sci-fi titles under the name Iain M Banks. His most recent book, *The Hydrogen Sonata*, was released last year.

Fellow Scottish author Ken MacLeod paid tribute to Banks, saying he had "left a large gap in the Scottish literary scene as well as the wider speaking English world. He brought a wonderful combination of the dark and the light side of life and he explored them both without flinching.

"He brought the same degree of craft and skill and commitment to his science fiction," continued MacLeod, "as he did to his mainstream fiction and he never drew any distinction in terms of his pride in what he was doing."

Another contemporary, Iain Rankin, told the BBC that Banks was "fascinating, curious and full of life. He didn't take things too seriously, and in a way I'm happy that he refused to take death too seriously - he could still joke about it. I think we all thought he would have a bit longer than he got.

"What made him a great writer was that he was childlike," noted Rankin. "He had a curiosity about the world. He was restless, he wanted to transmit that in his work, and he treated the cancer with a certain amount of levity, the same that made him a great writer."

Other authors to pay tribute included Irvine Welsh,

who tweeted: "RIP Iain Banks. One of the finest writers and greatest imaginations ever."

Scotland's First Minister Alex Salmond said: "Iain was an incredibly talented writer whose work, across all genres, has brought pleasure to readers for over 30 years. His determination not just to complete his final novel but also to reflect his illness in the pages of his work, will make that work all the more poignant and all the more significant."

After announcing his illness, Banks had described being "hugely moved" by the public support for him through his website.

"Still knocked out by the love and the depth of feeling coming from so many people; thank you, all of you," he wrote on Banksophilia in May.

GRAND MASTER VANCE DIES

SF Grand Master Jack Vance died May 26 in Oakland, CA. He was 96 years old, reports Locus Online.

Vance was one of the most influential SF authors of the postwar period, and his visionary imagination and sophisticated, often playful use of language inspired countless SF writers, including Avram Davidson, Harlan Ellison, Matthew Hughes, George R.R. Martin, Michael Moorcock, and Gene Wolfe. His landmark *Dying Earth* sequence, set in the far future, began with collection *The Dying Earth* in 1950 and continued with novel *The Eyes of the Overworld*, *Cugel's Saga*, *Rhialto the Marvelous*, and several related stories. Vance redefined the nature of planetary romance with his *Big Planet* in 1952, and continued exploring that universe in sequel *Showboat World*.

John Holbrook Vance was born August 28, 1916, in San Francisco, CA. He worked as a bellhop, in a cannery, and on a gold dredge before attending the University of California, Berkeley, where he studied engineering, physics, and journalism, though he never graduated. A life-long musician and music lover, Vance's first published works were jazz reviews for *The Daily Californian*.

Vance worked as an electrician at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, leaving the area a month before the December 1941 attack that brought the US into WWII. His poor eyesight made it impossible for him to serve in the military, but he memorized an eye chart and joined the Merchant Marine. He wrote his first published story, "The World-Thinker" in 1945, while at sea. Before becoming a full-time writer in the 1970s, he worked as a seaman, surveyor, and carpenter, among other occupations. He married Norma Genevieve Ingold in 1946; she died in 2008. Vance traveled the world extensively, living and writing in Tahiti, South Africa, Italy and Kashmir, among other locales.

He published short fiction prolifically in the pulps in the late '40s and early '50s, contributing regularly to *Startling Stories* and *Thrilling Wonder Stories*. Notable short works include "Telek," "The Moon Moth," and

Hugo- and Nebula-award winning novella "The Last Castle" in 1966.

Most of Vance's novels take place in series. In addition to the *Dying Earth*, major works include the *Demon Princes* sequence, the *Planet of Adventure* series, the *Durdane* trilogy, the *Alastor Cluster* sequence, the *Lyonesse* fantasy series, the *Cadwal Chronicles*, and the *Ports of Call* series. He also published numerous standalone SF/F novels and mysteries. His autobiography, *This Is Me, Jack Vance!*, won a Hugo for Best Related Book.

Vance won the World Fantasy Award for lifetime achievement in 1984; the SFWA Grand Master Award in 1997; and he was inducted into the Science Fiction Hall of Fame in 2001.

RAY HARRYHAUSEN DIES AT 92

by Adam B. Vary, EW.com

Ray Harryhausen, whose dazzling and innovative visual effects work on fantasy adventure films like *The Seventh Voyage of Sinbad* (1958) and *Jason and the Argonauts* (1963) augured the explosion of effects-driven cinema over the last 30 years, died in London on May 7 at the age of 92, according to his Facebook page.

Born in Los Angeles in 1920, Harryhausen began his love affair with stop-motion animation early after watching the seminal effects 1933 movie *King Kong*. He started making his own stop-motion films in his family's garage while connecting with a burgeoning science-fiction fan community in L.A., including life-long friend Ray Bradbury, who would become one of the pre-eminent sci-fi authors of the 20th century. Harryhausen, meanwhile, won work under a succession of filmmaking pioneers, including visual effects guru George Pal on Pal's popular *Puppetoons* shorts, director Frank Capra on the Army Motion Picture Unit during World War II, and finally *Kong* animator Willis O'Brien on the 1949 giant gorilla film *Mighty Joe Young*, which won an Oscar for its special effects.

Harryhausen quickly became a sought-after effects artist in his own right, working on studio adventure films that culminated with *The Seventh Voyage of Sinbad* in 1958. Filled with expertly rendered and designed visual wonders, the film climaxed with an iconic fight sequence between the title hero and a sword-wielding skeleton, a spectacle that Harryhausen topped five years later with a whole horde of warring skeletons in *Jason and the Argonauts*. The sequences revolutionized how actors could interact with stop-motion effects, a process Harryhausen called "Dynamation."

Harryhausen's effects work continued through the 1960s and '70s on films like the 1967 Raquel Welch movie *One Million Years B.C.* and *The Golden Voyage of Sinbad* in 1974, ending with the 1981 mythological epic *Clash of the Titans*.

In 1992, he received the Gordon E. Sawyer Award

for Technical Achievement at the Scientific and Technical Achievement portion of the Academy Awards. At the event, host Tom Hanks said, "Some say *Citizen Kane* is the greatest motion picture of all time. Others say it's *Casablanca*. For me, the greatest picture of all time is *Jason and the Argonauts*."

HELEN MIRREN HAS *WHO* SUGGESTION

Even though she was on everyone's short list to be the first female Doctor on *Doctor Who*, Dame Helen Mirren has shot down rumors that she might become the Twelfth Doctor, reported Blastr.com on July 3.

However, the actress has revealed just who she'd like to see step into the beloved Time Lord's bigger-on-the-inside shoes.

In an interview on ITV's *Daybreak*, Mirren has said that she was "absolutely not" in line to replace Matt Smith, who'll step down as the Eleventh Doctor during this year's upcoming Christmas episode. But she knows who should.

"I'm not going to be the first female Doctor Who - no, no, no. I absolutely wouldn't contemplate that," she remarked. "I do think it's well over-time to have a female Doctor Who. I think a gay, black female Doctor Who would be the best of all."

ON THE CONVENTION FRONT:

BUBONICON 45 JUST SIX WEEKS AWAY

by Craig Chrissinger, co-chair

Bubonicon, New Mexico's annual science fiction convention, celebrates its 45th edition August 23-25 at the Albuquerque Marriott Uptown, 2101 Louisiana Blvd NE (at I-40). More than 50 authors, artists, scientists, filmmakers & fans will be participating in programming.

This year's convention features special guest talent from the East and West Coasts and the South. Guests of Honor for Bubonicon 45 are Oregon novelist Brent Weeks and California writer Tim Powers; Guest Artist is Alan F. Beck of New York; and Toastmistress is Louisiana resident Diana Rowland.

Other participants come from New Mexico, Colorado, California, Texas and Australia. The participating newcomers to Bubonicon this year are authors Carol Berg, Josh Gentry, John Hornor Jacobs, Joel Shepherd, Warren Spector; editor Claire Eddy; and scientist Catherine Pleško. And we're proud to have

Suzy M. Charnas, Diana Gabaldon, Debbie Lynn Smith and Sam Sykes back after absences.

Proceeds from the Friday charity auction and a portion of any Bubonicon 45 profits will benefit the (Jack) Williamson Library Collection at Eastern NM University, and the local Roadrunner Food Bank.

Bubonicon 45 opens with registration at 3:00 pm Friday the 23rd and goes almost nonstop through 5 pm that Sunday. The first programming is at 4 pm, while the Art Show, Con Suite and Gaming open at 5 pm.

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

Two Programming Notes - The Green Slime Awards, hosted by slime mistress Jessica Coyle, remain at halftime of Saturday's Costume Contest; and the Afternoon Tea on Sunday will be split into three 50-minute sessions with 35 people at a time starting at 12:30 pm.

Of course, there's Gaming in three rooms at the west end of the event space, an even larger Dealers Room, and the large Art Show space! And don't forget about the hospitality suite - located on the 14th floor in the Concierge Lounge. This is a different location than last year, and we should have a capacity in the lounge of about 50 people at a time.

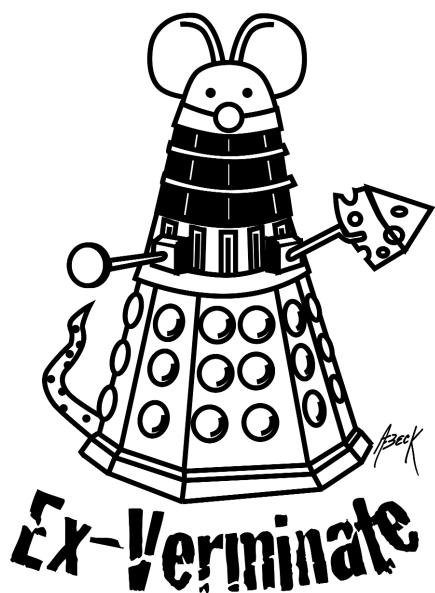
We really are in need of volunteer workers (gofers) to help us throughout the weekend (see separate blurb earlier in this newsletter). If you can help, please email Julie Pascal at julie@pascal.org, or come to the meeting Friday, August 16, at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church on Ponderosa NE (home of ASFS).

Passes for the whole weekend are \$40 if purchased by August 3. After that, you'll have to wait to pay \$45 at the door. Daily memberships are \$15 Friday, \$25 Saturday and \$15 Sunday. Youths 14-17 years old are \$23 for the whole weekend. Children under 14 years are free when accompanied by an adult (or \$555 if left alone and a babysitter needed).

There are two ways to pay now! You can send payments with the registration form by August 3 to Bubonicon Inc at PO Box 37257, Albuquerque, NM 87176; or you can use your PayPal account/Credit Card on our website (make sure to include the names for all passes purchased).

The Bubonicon 45 special \$99 room rate (single-double occupancy) is only guaranteed through Monday, August 12, so get your reservation in now! 800-228-9290 to make your reservation.

Info is available from Craig at (505) 266-8905, Kristen at (505) 459-8734, by email at bubonicon@gmail.com, or through the website maintained by Mike McCommas at www.bubonicon.com.



BOOK REVIEW ROUND-UP

***Fifth Grave Past the Light* by Darynda Jones, 2013 St. Martin's Press, hc \$24.99, 352 pages.**

Review by Jessica Coyle

Fifth Grave Past the Light is Portales author Darynda Jones' latest book in her long-running Charley Davidson series. Charley Davidson's problems only seem to be growing. Reyes, the Son of Satan and her on-again, off-again lover, is her new neighbor; her assistant, Cookie, almost starts a gun fight in a bar; and her apartment is mysteriously filling up with the ghosts of dead mute women. While Charley learns how to function with Reyes living next door, she tries to discover the mystery behind her new ghosts and all of the other supernatural things that are happening in her life.

Fifth Grave has all of the fun and humor that regular readers have come to expect from the series, while still taking a slightly darker turn than previous books. Jones is obviously using parts of this book to build upon story arcs that are intended to come to fruition in the next several books in the series, so I would not recommend it as a place to start the series. However, I really enjoy each of the Charley Davidson books, and recommend that anyone who enjoys fast-paced and funny paranormal mysteries pick up the first book.

***Ghost Spin* by Chris Moriarty, 2013 Bantam Spectra, tp \$16.00, 576 pages.**

Review by Becky C. Davis

Hiram/Hyacinth/Ada Lovlace Cohen has committed suicide in the Crucible on New Allegheny. This is a mining world near the strange Cosmic Drift. A 400-year old Emergent (self-aware) AI, Cohen was a huge set of linked networks across the U.N.'s interstellar empire. Now his AI "pieces", some sane, some insane, have been sold off in a merciless computer "yard sale." His cybernetically enhanced wife/lover, Catherine Li, has come to New Allegheny in search of any sane Cohen pieces that are left.

Others are searching for the rational kernel of Cohen. Astrid Avery, captain of the UN Peacekeeper starship Ada. Avery's first mate, Sheila Holmes. Helen Nguyen, a chief strategy officer in the U.N. high command (kept to a spectral minimum during most of this book). Router/Decomposer, a schism sentient AI and former part of Cohen. William Llewellyn, a pirate ship's captain with part of Cohen's base program implanted in his head.

Ghost Spin is the third volume of a larger arc being crafted by Chris Moriarty. She is be turns diabolical, humorous and coldly analytical in the plot complications and character interactions. Characters, large and small, are well-crafted, flawed and emotional. The reader can almost smell as well as see the city and ship environments that Moriarty has crafted.

The story weaves its way to a rendezvous with a huge Datatrap world out in the chaotic Drift, which could hold all of Cohen's scattered systems, and a special, terrible data set still buried deeply in original Cohen's programming. But the story does not stay there. Helen Nguyen is killed (some readers may cheer at that scene). Catherine Li (already having been a cloned twin) gets "scattercast" (read about it) into two clones who each interact with the other characters. These elements, and others, allow Moriarty to craft her next volume in the *Spin* series.

I needed to go back to school to learn about elements described in the book: Fermat spirals, Julian sets, Cantor dust, Lorenz attractors, quantum entanglement. Moriarty is one smart cookie who makes her characters speak in their own, special voices. And she makes her readers work as hard as her characters to understand the complex, damaged universe in which they try to stay alive. This book is worth reading more than one time.

***The Six-Gun Tarot* by R.S. Belcher, 2013 Tor Books, hc \$25.99, 368 pages.**

Review by Geneva Schult

This debut novel from R.S. Belcher is a Steampunk Western that mixes blood, magic, deities, and demons. There are pirates, Armageddon, fallen angels, talking coyotes, and two entirely different cults. The author has mixed the birth of the universe, mysticism from the Orient, Mormon theology, Native American legends, and Lovecraftian horror elements.

Written with humor and intrigue, *The Six-Gun Tarot* sucks you in and makes you want to find out what happens next. It does start off a little slow laying out all the character arcs, but boy does it pay off later! The sheriff of Golgotha is a dead man who cannot be killed. His deputy is the half-human shape-shifting son of Coyote. A boy comes to town bringing his dead pa's jade eye, an artifact of such immense power it calls to those you don't want to come a-callin.' Together these three are the only ones to stand between an ancient evil and the fate of the entire world.

Six-Gun Tarot is the first novel in a planned series. Each chapter is named after a different Tarot card. The story arc is new and unusual; I didn't find it derivative at all. I look forward to the next book in this series!

ASFS MEETING REPORTS — FEBRUARY 2013: STEVEN GOULD VISITS

A large audience of 46 people came to listen to local author Steven Gould talk about his latest novel and future plans. Gould began with some background information. "*Jumper* was written in 1992. I was an overnight success in 2008 when the movie came out. And my first story was published in 1980."

Addressing the physics in his series, he stated, "One of the things in *Jumper* is people jump from here to here

on the Earth. In each book, I've tried to expand on the Jumping Theory and possibilities. The Earth spins faster at the equator than at the poles, but when people jump they don't carry their accumulated velocity with them. That extra energy is displaced somewhere - Laura likes to say it goes to a different universe where it causes great damage. Maybe even flaming bunnies.

"In *Reflex*," he continued, "Davy discovers he can jump back and forth to the point where he 'twins' - he exists in both spots at the same time."

Gould then read from chapter seven of *Impulse*, the newest novel, in which Cent is exploring her jumping abilities in a Texas desert location. She drops from a cliff toward a pit and then jumps in an attempt to change her velocity. "Davey was tortured and had a device implanted so he can't Jump," he said. "He has PTSD and worries the same things could happen to his daughter."

Asked about how Jumping works, he replied, "It is similar to 'jaunting' in *The Stars My Destination* by Alfred Bester," he commented. "I've thought about whether a person gets exercise from jumping, but I haven't decided. Does it burn calories?"

The next book out from Gould will be *Exo*, a sequel to *Impulse*. "If you can jump and add velocity, what would you do?" he teased. "A large part of the book takes place in near-Earth orbit."

Gould also hopes to write a sequel to *7th Sigma*. "I have the stuff, but no contract yet," he said. "We'll have to see how *Impulse* sells first. There would be more about the Bugs and the world. The U.S. shot itself in the foot, and the Bugs are extraterrestrial. The government wants to control them, but doesn't want anyone else in. The Bugs keep themselves in a limited territory."

Gould said there are parallels between Kipling's *Kim* and his *7th Sigma*. "Everyone should read *Kim*. The first scene in it directly parallels the first scene of *7th Sigma*. There are many similarities between the two. There are a lot of characters and scenes in *7th Sigma* that mirror *Kim*, like the student/teacher relationship."

To finish the evening, Gould told several publishing-related "light bulb" jokes, such as "How many editors does it take to change a light bulb? We don't change the light bulb, we jump to some place with light."

MARCH 2013: AUCTION W/VARDEMAN

Forty-two people were on hand for the annual club auction, led by local author Robert E. Vardeman. Approximately \$330 was raised to help with the club's rent on the church, printing of the newsletter, and the dessert cook-off plates, napkins and such.

Some of the more unusual items and higher bids include 26 filking cassette tapes \$3.00, Real Hot Stuff Sauce \$9.00, *Twilight Zone* DVD set 11.00, Flying Saucer necklace \$3.00, Tolkien bookends \$25.00, USB Microscope \$35.00, *Godzilla* shirt & bag of buttons \$8.00,

Game of Thrones book jacket signed by GRR Martin \$15.00, Twaddle Word Game \$3.50, Barbie & Ken *Star Trek* set \$30.00, *Star Wars* pancake molds and Looney Toons spoons \$7.00, *Nightmare Before Christmas* mug \$6.00, Whole Lot o' Skull fun pack \$20.00, Misc Gaming Manuals in a bag \$45.00, Atomic clock \$7.00, Fridge Poetry magnets \$3.50, and a Box of magazines \$5.00.

APRIL 2013: MOVIE TRAILER PARK & A VISIT FROM CARRIE VAUGHN

It was a full night for the 40 people who came to listen to *Weekly Alibi* film reviewer Devin O'Leary present movie trailers for summer films and hear Colorado's Carrie Vaughn talk about her newest *Kitty Norville* novel.

O'Leary mentioned he also was working on the Dark Matters Film Festival for May while a DVD of film trailers was being loaded up. First up was a trailer for the *Evil Dead* remake. "It's insanely bloody, and there's not a lot to build on from the original film," he commented. "It's a decent horror film overall."

Next up were trailers for *Oblivion* with Tom Cruise, *Star Trek Into Darkness*, and *Epic*. "The first *Trek* made a ton of money," O'Leary said. "They're actually talking *Trek* on TV again, but there's not a lot of buzz. In interviews, all the *Trek* filmmakers lie, so we don't know much about the film. But it's an awesome trailer."

O'Leary said *Iron Man 3* is a "no-brainer. Marvel has done a great job, and is building toward a second *Avengers*. Obviously, this will be a big hit."

For *Man of Steel*, he said, "They are desperately trying to reboot their series. This film is really trying to do what Marvel did—starting to aim toward a Justice League movie. Zack Snyder of *Watchmen* directed it."

Next up were *Monsters University*, *World War Z* and *The Lone Ranger*. "It looks like *World War Z* has little to do with Max Brooks' novel, but it does have Brad Pitt and a giant budget," he said. "*The Lone Ranger* was shot in New Mexico, and we're hoping it's better than the last *Lone Ranger* film shot here in the 1980s."

On *Pacific Rim*, O'Leary commented, "It's from the guy who did *Hellboy*. It's a giant monster movie and one of Del Toro's dream projects. It's got giant robots fighting giant monsters."

Finishing up his time were trailers for *City of Bones*, *The Wolverine* (though the DVD had problems) and *Red 2*. O'Leary finished by saying *Wolverine* is "based on solo books, and he's described as a samurai. And in *Red 2* they brought back everyone they could. The first one, based on a graphic novel, was fun. This one is a totally original story."

After a short break, Carrie Vaughn talked about *Kitty's* adventure over the years. "I was just thinking it was 10 years ago that I was shopping around the first book. And now I'm promoting the 11th book. I wouldn't

have believed that 10 years ago. *Kitty in the Underworld*, the 12th book, will be out in July. And I'm working on the 13th novel, told from Cormac's perspective, now. This book, *Kitty Rocks the House*, is debuting at number 18 on the *New York Times* Bestseller list."

Vaughn read a scene from *Kitty Rocks* in which a vampire stranger shows up at Full Moon Café to talk to Kitty and Rick, master vampire of Denver.

Asked about other projects, Vaughn said, "I have a whole slew of short stories coming out. And I'm finishing up a sequel, *Dreams of the Golden Age*. Plus I'm in *Lowball*, the forthcoming Wild Cards novel, and I will have a story in the re-release of *Wild Cards 4: Aces Abroad*."

Vaughn says she does have the future for Kitty mapped out. "Yes, there is an endgame for Kitty," she said. "We are building toward a big battle. I don't want to say exactly how many more books there will be or exactly how it will finish up because things change - and I don't want to create expectations that I might not be able to meet. I'd really like to spin off Cormac into his own supernatural series, for instance."

She finished the evening by discussing her Steampunk efforts. "I started writing Steampunk by accident a couple of years ago," she said. "I love the Steampunk esthetic. I've done three short stories so far for Harry and Marlowe, and I have a fourth in mind."

EDITOR NOTES THAT FIT THIS SPACE

Another late night on newsletter deadline. Went to a sneak of *Red 2* this evening, and it was worth seeing. But now it's past midnight and I still have another day of work to go this week. But the copy shop calls for printing this, so here I am...

Last month's Albuquerque Comic Expo wore Jessica and me out. We had some time to walk the showroom on Sunday, but Saturday was a blur. Jessica ran the Costume Contest again, which was time intensive. Thanks to Patricia R, Geneva S, Charles & Tauni O, and Mandy P for pitching in. Friday we did a lot of trouble-shooting & also put together prize bags.

ACE still is having growing pains but since it has local support to be successful, it should be around for years to come.

Last week's Can't Stop the *Serenity* 8 evening shindig and Daniel Abraham/Ty Franck's signing at Page One were very successful. Thank you to everyone who were at either event.

Six weeks 'til Bubonicon. That's August 23-25 at the Albuquerque Marriott Uptown. Lots to do, probably a few really stressful moments to come, and the heat will continue to beat down on us. Maybe some rain? Same as it ever was. We will survive.

Been watching *Under the Dome* after reading Stephen King's novel. They are different in odd ways from each other. Also read the first two Diana Rowland *White Trash Zombie* books. Lots of fun, very enjoyable. And while *Monsters University* was good, *Despicable Me 2* is funnier. *After Earth*? Boring!

Thanks this time to Jessica Coyle, Geneva Schult & Becky Davis. Submissions always appreciated, hint hint. Con report? Book review? *NEXT DEADLINE SUN, OCTOBER 6...* —Craig C

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