



ASFACTS 2014

MAY "DRY & WINDY" SPRING ISSUE

NEW MEXICAN WRITERS AMONG 2014 LOCUS AWARDS FINALISTS

The Locus Science Fiction Foundation have announced the top five finalists in each category of the 2014 Locus Awards, according to a May 7 report on Locus Online. Among the nominees are New Mexico writers James S.A. Corey, George RR Martin and Connie Willis (honorary New Mexican).

Winners will be announced during the Locus Awards Weekend in Seattle June 27-29, 2014. Connie Willis will MC the awards ceremony and judge the annual Hawaiian shirt contest. Additional weekend events include author readings; panels with leading authors; an autograph session, and a lunch banquet, all followed by a Locus party Saturday night celebrating Lucius Shepard.

Here are a few selected categories (go to locus-mag.com for the complete list):

SCIENCE FICTION NOVEL: *MaddAddam* by Margaret Atwood, *ABADDON'S GATE* BY JAMES S.A. COREY, *The Best of All Possible Worlds* by Karen Lord, *Shaman* by Kim Stanley Robinson, and *Neptune's Brood* by Charles Stross.

FANTASY NOVEL: *The Ocean at the End of the Lane* by Neil Gaiman, *NOS4A2* by Joe Hill, *River of Stars* by Guy Gavriel Kay, *Doctor Sleep* by Stephen King, and *The Republic of Thieves* by Scott Lynch.

YOUNG ADULT BOOK: *Zombie Baseball Beatdown* by Paolo Bacigalupi, *The Coldest Girl in Coldtown* by Holly Black, *Homeland* by Cory Doctorow, *The Summer Prince* by Alaya Dawn Johnson, and *The Girl Who Soared Over Fairyland and Cut the Moon in Two* by Catherynne M. Valente.

FIRST NOVEL: *The Thinking Woman's Guide to Real Magic* by Emily Croy Barker, *The Golden City* by J. Kathleen Cheney, *Ancillary Justice* by Ann Leckie, *A Stranger in Olondria* by Sofia Samatar, and *The Golem and the Jinni* by Helene Wecker.

NOVELLA: "Wakulla Springs" by Andy Duncan & Ellen Klages, *Black Helicopters* by Caitlin R. Kiernan,

"THE PRINCESS AND THE QUEEN" BY GEORGE RR MARTIN (in *Dangerous Women*), "Precious Mental" by Robert Reed, and *Six-Gun Snow White* by Catherynne M. Valente.

ANTHOLOGY: *Queen Victoria's Book of Spells* edited by Ellen Datlow & Terri Windling, *The Year's Best Science Fiction: Thirtieth Annual Collection* edited by Gardner Dozois, *Unnatural Creatures* edited by Neil Gaiman & Maria Dahvana Headley, *OLD MARS* EDITED BY GEORGE R.R. MARTIN & GARDNER DOZOIS, and *The Best Science Fiction and Fantasy of the Year Volume Seven* edited by Jonathan Strahan.

COLLECTION: *The Best of Joe Haldeman* by Joe Haldeman, *The Ape's Wife and Other Stories* by Caitlin R. Kiernan, *Kabu Kabu* by Nnedi Okorafor, *The Bread We Eat in Dreams* by Catherynne M. Valente, and *THE BEST OF CONNIE WILLIS* BY CONNIE WILLIS.

ARTIST: Bob Eggleton, John Picacio, Shaun Tan, Charles Vess, and Michael Whelan.

SYFY ORDERS *THE EXPANSE* TO SERIES

by Andy Swift, tvline.com (April 11, 2014)

Syfy is looking to the stars – and the bookshelf – for its latest original series. The network has ordered 10 episodes of *The Expanse*, a space opera based on James S.A. Corey's *Expanse* novels. Corey, of course, is a pen-name for New Mexican writers Daniel Abraham and Ty Franck.

UPCOMING ASFS MEETINGS

- **Tonight:** Devin O'Leary of the *Weekly Alibi* previews the Sci-Fi Film Trailers of Summer.
- **June 13:** A visit from author Jane Lindskold on her new novel, *Artemis Awakening*.
- **July 11:** Bubonicon 46 preview, and possibly a visit from a local artist. Plus the summer issue of *ASFacts* (deadline July 6).
- **July 25:** Bubonicon Gofers Planning Meeting!
- **August 15:** A fun Film Screening (meeting is a week later than usual due to the early con).
- **September 12:** Bubonicon 46 & London Worldcon reports.
- **October 10:** 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 6.
Club Officers: Kevin Hewett & Craig Chrissinger, co-Zec Secs (505) 266-8905. Rebecca Hewett, Moderator. Harriet Engle, Alternator. **Bubonicon Chairs:** Craig Chrissinger & Caci Cooper (505) 559-0931. www.bubonicon.com

Set 200 years in the future, *The Expanse* follows a detective and a ship captain who team up to find a missing young woman and expose one of history's greatest conspiracies.

"*The Expanse* is epic in scale and scope and promises to be Syfy's most ambitious series to date," says Syfy president Dave Howe. "Bringing this coveted book franchise to television with our partners at Alcon and the Sean Daniel Company is a giant win for Syfy, reinforcing our overall strategy to produce bold, provocative and compelling sci-fi fantasy stories."

In fact, Syfy is describing it as "*Game of Thrones* in space." Here's a synopsis of how the TV show will capture their story, via Entertainment Weekly: A thriller set two hundred years in the future, *The Expanse* follows the case of a missing young woman who brings a hardened detective and a rogue ship's captain together in a race across the solar system to expose the greatest conspiracy in human history.

Mark Fergus and Hawk Ostby (*Children of Men* and *Iron Man*) will serve as writers and executive producers.

WRITER VINGE TO RECEIVE SPECIAL PROMETHEUS AWARD

The Libertarian Futurist Society has announced that Bubonicon 39 Guest of Honor Vernor Vinge will receive a Special Prometheus Award for lifetime achievement in 2014, reported Locus Online early May.

Vinge has received four previous Prometheus Awards, two in the Best Novel category (in 1987 for *Marooned in Realtime* and in 2000 for *A Deepness in the Sky*) and two Hall of Fame Awards (in 2004 for "The Ungoverned" and in 2007 for "True Names"). The LFS has only presented one previous Special Prometheus Award for lifetime achievement, to Poul Anderson in 2001.

Vinge will join F. Paul Wilson and L. Neil Smith, both also multiple Prometheus Award winners, as guests at Marcon, May 8-10, 2015, at the Hyatt Regency Columbus and Convention Center in Columbus, Ohio.

LUCIUS SHEPARD DIES

Writer Lucius Shepard died March 18 in Portland, OR. Shepard had suffered health complications during the last year including a stroke and a spinal infection, reported Locus Online in late March.

Lucius Taylor Shepard was born on August 21, 1943, in Lynchburg, VA and grew up in Florida. He spent years in his teens and twenties traveling, and recounted stories of living and traveling in North and Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia, North Africa, and the Middle East. After residing in California, New York, and

Nantucket, Shepard relocated to the Pacific Northwest in the '90s, living in Seattle and Vancouver, WA, and finally Portland, OR.

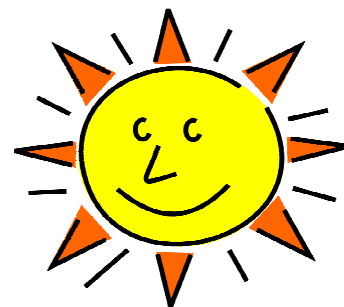
His first pro genre sale was "The Taylorsville Reconstruction" for *Universe 13* in 1983. His work typically incorporated SF, fantasy, and horror, often in the same piece. First novel *Green Eyes*, released in 1984, was SF with voodoo and zombies, and helped earn him the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer in 1985. 1986 novella "R&R" won a Nebula Award, and became part of his second novel, *Life During Wartime*. After a period during which he stopped writing long fiction for years, several appeared after the turn of the century: *Valentine* in 2002, *Colonel Rutherford's Colt*, *Floater*, *Viator*, *A Handbook of American Prayer* in 2004, and *Softspoken* in 2007, which won an International Horror Guild Award.

Many of his novellas and collections garnered awards nominations and several wins. His fantasy stories set in the world of Griaule, novelette "The Man Who Painted the Dragon Griaule" and novellas *The Scalehunter's Beautiful Daughter*, *The Father of Stones*, *Liar's House*, and *The Skull* (2012) were nominated for numerous awards. Shepard has always excelled at novella length. Other important novellas include fantasy *Kalimantan* in 1990, horror *The Last Time*, SF "Barnacle Bill the Spacer," which won a Hugo, and *The Dragon Griaule*. "Crocodile Rock" won an International Horror Guild Award, as did *Louisiana Breakdown*; "Radiant Green Star" won a Hugo and a Locus Award; "Over Yonder" won a Sturgeon award, and "Vacancy" won a Shirley Jackson Award.

BOOK GROUP STILL READING

The Droids & Dragons SF Book Group meets at 7:30 pm Monday, May 12 (a week early), at Spectator's Bar & Grill in the Mountain Run Shopping Center, southeast corner of Eubank and Juan Tabo NE (between Page One Bookstore and Smith's Grocery), to discuss *Red Planet Blues* by Robert J. Sawyer. The group then focuses on *The Atrocity Archives* by Charles Stross on Monday, June 16.

Meetings of D&D are open to all interested readers on the third Monday of each month. Books for discussion are chosen two months in advance, and group members receive a 20% discount on selected novels at Page One Bookstore (open 9-7 Mon-Thurs, 9-8 Fri-Sat, and 10-6 Sun). For more information, contact Leah at skycaptain1883@yahoo.com or Craig at 266-8905.



HARPERCOLLINS BUYS HARLEQUIN

News Corp (which own HarperCollins) will purchase romance publisher Harlequin from its parent Torstar for \$415 million. The sale is expected to be completed by September 2014, pending government approval in the US and Canada, and Torstar shareholder approval, reported Locus Online in early May.

Harlequin headquarters will remain in Toronto, with its CEO Craig Swinwood reporting to HarperCollins CEO Brian Murray. Swinwood says Harlequin will "continue to operate as a distinct and successful brand within a larger publishing company. We're excited to be able to take full advantage of HarperCollins' robust resources, scale and capabilities to expand the reach of our books and growing business."

STAR WARS VII CAST ANNOUNCED

The cast of the new *Star Wars* film was announced on April 29, including the release of a photo of the cast and director J.J. Abrams during a casual reading. In addition to the original stars, a slew of newcomers will appear in *Star Wars: Episode VII*.

According to starwars.com, *Girls* star Adam Driver, John Boyeta, Daisy Ridley, Oscar Isaac, Andy Serkis, Domhnall Gleeson and Oscar nominee Max von Sydow will join Harrison Ford, Carrie Fisher, Mark Hamill, Anthony Daniels, Peter Mayhew and Kenny Baker in the film.

The movie is slated to be released on December 18, 2015.

"We are so excited to finally share the cast of *Star Wars: Episode VII*," Abrams said. "It is both thrilling and surreal to watch the beloved original cast and these brilliant new performers come together to bring this world to life, once again. We start shooting in a couple of weeks, and everyone is doing their best to make the fans proud."

While descriptions of characters were left out of the release, sources confirm to *Variety* that Driver will play a Darth Vader-like main villain, Isaac's character will have a Han Solo look to him, and Boyega will be a Jedi.

It's unclear whom Ridley who will play, but sources have always said the children of Solo and Princess Leia would play a part in the film. Ridley could possibly play their daughter.

In a recent speech, Disney chief Bob Iger said this latest installment will be set 30 years after 1983's *Return of the Jedi* and will feature new and familiar faces.

Abrams and partner Bryan Burk are producing this film through their Bad Robot banner with Kathleen Kennedy producing for Lucasfilm. Abrams and Lawrence Kasdan did a recent rewrite to the script.

BUBONICON 46 HERE IN 2 3/4 MONTHS

With its early dates, Bubonicon 46's passes are already at \$40.00 through July 12. After that, they must be purchased at the convention itself for \$45.00. You can purchase your weekend pass at May, June and July's club meetings – or mail your payment to "Bubonicon" with the PDF registration form online to 933 San Mateo Blvd NE, Suite 500-208, Albuquerque, NM 87108.

Bubonicon 46, with its "Sidekicks & Minions" theme, takes place August 1-3 (before the London Worldcon) at the Albuquerque Marriott Uptown, 2101 Louisiana Blvd NE (at I-40). Single-Double rooms are \$99 a night when reserved by July 21, 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 (3rd), a quiet floor or whether you have no preference.

In addition to Co-Guests of Jack Campbell & Cherie Priest, Toastmaster Steven Gould, and Guest Artist Darla Hallmark, we have confirmed the following participants: Daniel Abraham, GS Anderson, John Barnes, Jeff Benham, Carol Berg, Livia Blackburne, Adam Jarmon Brown, Craig A. Butler, Aaron Campbell, Peri Charlifu, Ernest Cline, James S.A. Corey, Stephen R. Donaldson (Saturday afternoon only), Doranna Durgin, Claire Eddy, Ty Franck, Gordon Garb, Josh Gentry, Sally Gwylan, Betsy James, Darynda Jones, Jeffe Kennedy, T. Jackson King, Susan Krinard, Andy Kuhn, Jane Lindskold, Victor Milan, Gail Gerstner-Miller, John Jos. Miller, Pati Nagle, Charles & Tauni Orndorff, Robin Owens, Scott Phillips, M.T. Reiten, John Maddox Roberts, Joan S. Saberhagen, Melinda Snodgrass, Jim Sorenson, Caroline and Warren Spector, S.M. Stirling, David Lee Summers, Lauren Teffeau, Emily Mah Tippetts, Ian Tregillis, Robert Vardeman, Walter Jon Williams, Connie Willis and Courtney Willis.

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 mentioned so far are *I, Frankenstein*, *Legend of Hercules*, *47 Ronin* and *Transcendence*. 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.

No tables remain in the Dealers Room - yes, all 32 spaces have been sold. To be put on a waiting list, email Dan Cooper at dealers@bubonicon.com.

Meanwhile, Roslee Orndorff and crew had their art show rules & forms posted online May 5. We will only mail out packets that are requested (a 2-ounce stamped

#10 SASE is needed). And Artists can mail in artwork with paperwork June 16-July 31 (not before).

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 46 ends (usually late September).

More general information is available from 266-8905 (Craig), 559-0931 (Google voice), the UPS Store box 500-208, email to bubonicon@gmail.com or at the fabulous Mike McCommas-maintained website: www.bubonicon.com.

BOOK REVIEW ROUND-UP

***The Serpent of Venice* by Christopher Moore, 2014 William Morrow, hc \$26.99, 336 pages.**

Review by Rebecca "Randi" Hewett

In his latest work, Christopher Moore revisits the worlds of his motley crew from *Fool* (2009), and *The Bard*. This time the fool Pocket, his puppet Jones, monkey Jeff, and apprentice Drool are in Venice in the middle of a mash-up of Shakespeare's plays *Othello* and *The Merchant of Venice* with a little of Poe's "The Cask of Amontillado" (and I think, *The Count of Monte Cristo*) thrown in.

Antonio, Iago, and senator Brabanito want another Crusade for profit and power, but Pocket, sent as ambassador by his English Queen Cordelia is in their way. They poison Cordelia and wall Pocket up in a dungeon after drugging him with Amontillado wine in order to remove them as obstacles to their plotting. Saved and aided by what he believes to be a mermaid, Pocket sets out to get revenge against the interwoven story lines of Shakespeare's *Othello* and *The Merchant of Venice*.

The Serpent of Venice is a fun read full of bawdy, irreverent humor and a satisfying, bone-crunching, ending.

***Red Rising* by Pierce Brown, 2014 Del Rey, hc \$25.00, 382 pages.**

Review by Jessica Coyle

Red Rising is Pierce Brown's first novel, and the first in a planned trilogy. The protagonist, Darrow, is a young miner living on Mars. He is a Red, or the lowest member of society on Mars, the descendant of the individuals sent to prep the planet for habitation. Darrow is respected among the Reds for his daring and intelligence, and, through a series of events, he becomes a member of the revolution trying to free them from slavery.

The revolutionaries want to transform Darrow into a Gold, the leaders of society on Mars; this means Darrow must leave everyone and everything he knows behind. He is trained to enter the Institute, where the Golds send their children to prepare them for leadership. Darrow soon discovers that the students are pitted against each other in many different ways, and the only way to suc-

ceed is to come out on top.

Brown's debut novel has been getting a lot of attention. It's been compared to other Young Adult dystopic novels, such as *The Hunger Games* and *Ender's Game*, so I was very interested in reading the book when it arrived in the mail. The book is fast paced, genuinely intriguing, and I enjoyed it immensely. There has been some critique that it is derivative of the many YA dystopias that have gained popularity in recent years, but I feel that Brown used the tropes of the genre while creating something new and unique. *Red Rising* is one of the best first novels I've read in awhile.

***V-S Day* by Allen Steele, 2014 Ace, hc \$26.95, 308 pages.**

Review by Craig Chrissinger

V-S Day is an alternate history novel that postulates that the Space Race actually began during World War II, and only now are the details coming to light as a journalist interviews the last living members of the American team.

It's 1941, and Adolf Hitler has decided that Wernher von Braun should abandon the V-2 rocket and instead focus on the construction of a manned orbital spacecraft to attack New York City and hopefully dissuade the United States from becoming more involved in the European war. While the plan is top secret, of course, British undercover spies manage to sneak out enough information to concern President Franklin Roosevelt. There is just one logical response: Robert Goddard, inventor of the liquid-fuel rocket, and a small team must build a spaceship that is capable of intercepting and destroying the German *Silbervogel*. And so begins a deadly race against time.

Allen Steele's exciting novel jumps between present-day recollections by Goddard's team, and what is happening on key days in 1940s Germany and America (including some scenes in New Mexico, where Goddard did much of his rocket testing in the real world). It is a gripping and tense story that moves along quickly, but still finds time for character development. While some of the characters are based on historical real figures, even the created people feel real.

With *V-S Day*, Steele has created a WWII world that feels real to the point where you might wonder whether there was a secret space program at the time. That's quite the accomplishment. Well done and very recommended.

***Blood Pact: Kirk McGarvey Book 17* by David Hagberg, 2014 Tor Books, hc \$25.99, 336 pages.**

Review by Maree Olsen

Action-thriller *Blood Pact* promises a treasure hunt spanning centuries, from the deserts of New Mexico to Malta to Spain. A journal holding the key to finding the plunder of the Conquistadors is being sought by numerous parties, including a mysterious group called the Voltaire Society.

It reads very much like something by Clive Cussler,

beginning with a glimpse of past intrigue and joining the present with an introduction to our hero and how he becomes involved in the plot. However, *Blood Pact* shares Cussler's lamentable tendency to info-dump. It remains to be seen whether the resemblance continues with incredible coincidences that move the plot along, or an authorial weakness for self-insert. In truth, I couldn't make it past the introduction of the Gary-Stu protagonist, who was soliloquizing to himself about his CIA past.

On paper, *Blood Pact* sounds like it should be an entertaining read (no pun intended). Perhaps my expectations for the literary quality of adventure fiction is too high. David Hagberg has more than 20 other published novels to his credit, which argues that there's an audience for what he writes. Unfortunately, on the basis of *Blood Pact*, it doesn't include me.

***Magnificent Vibrations* by Rick Springfield, 2014 Touchstone, hc \$24.99, 288 pages.**

Review by Rebecca "Randi" Hewett

Magnificent Vibrations is 1980s rocker Rich Springfield's first work of fiction.

Horatio (Bobby) Cotton has just stolen the book *Magnificent Vibrations* and discovered a phone number for God inside the front cover. After his first conversation with God, he quickly meets up with two unlikely companions: Alice, a nun and Lexington Vargus, a school janitor. All three recently acquired copies of the same book. Flashbacks tell the life story of Cotton while the three embark on a mysterious journey.

Springfield starts badly, reversing the psychology of Cotton at ages 7 and 12. A seven-year-old believes monsters are real and a 12-year-old has an erection caused by seeing a pretty girl at church, not the other way around. The ultimate goal/resolution surrounding the character's quest has the potential to be powerfully thought provoking on the nature of right and wrong, morality, and what it would take to save life on Earth. But the potential to explore those issues is completely missed since what the characters are asked to do isn't revealed until the last 16 pages.

Springfield makes an attempt at quirky, haunted characters, odd supernatural occurrences, and dark humor which reminds me of Christopher Moore (*Sacré Bleu, Bite Me*). However, *Magnificent Vibrations* is not nearly as well written nor as funny.

I was constantly thrown out of the story by awkward sentences which (arguments over use of the Oxford comma aside) are plagued with questionable to downright incorrect punctuation. Springfield shows lack of confidence about the flashbacks, having Cotton break the "fourth wall" pleading with the reader to please have a little more patience.

The book itself has an amateurish, self-published look, using seven typefaces to differentiate between past, present, location, and POV, something most good authors can do through other means.

This makes me believe Springfield (or his editor/publisher) had no confidence in his writing ability and/or his readers. It had me asking two questions: "Was this book really the product of a professional publisher?" and "Where the hell was his editor?"

If you are a fan of Rick Springfield, by all means support him financially; buy the book. But that doesn't mean that you should take it home, actually download it, or for whatever reason, read it.

***Honor Among Thieves: Star Wars Empire and Rebellion* by James S.A. Corey, 2014 Del Rey, hc \$25.00, 260 pages.**

Review by Craig Chrissinger

Trying to write a *Star Wars* novel that fits between *A New Hope* and *The Empire Strikes Back* is a tall order. Some things are not known yet, like Luke and Leia being brother and sister; and Han Solo slowly falling in love with Leia by the time of the original second movie. Luckily, James S.A. Corey (Daniel Abraham and Ty Franck) are able to fulfill the challenge.

In *Honor Among Thieves*, the Rebels are looking for a new home base (no one really wants to go to Hoth, though it is on the short list), while the message comes in that a Rebel spy needs extraction from under the nose of the Empire. Who better to go, especially at the right price? Han Solo and Chewbacca, of course.

Rescuing the brash spy, Scarlet Hark, is only the beginning of this Han Solo/Chewbacca-centered wild adventure. She wants to stay behind enemy lines to catch a pirate willing to sell a cache of stolen secrets that the Empire would destroy entire worlds to protect. The chase will take Scarlet, Han, Chewbacca and the *Millennium Falcon* from teeming city streets to a deadly jungle to a trap-filled alien temple (possibly a nod of the head to Indiana Jones).

And even with the support of trainee Luke Skywalker's X-Wing squadron, the Alliance may be hopelessly outgunned in their battle to destroy a powerful weapon that could ensure the Empire's reign of darkness forever.

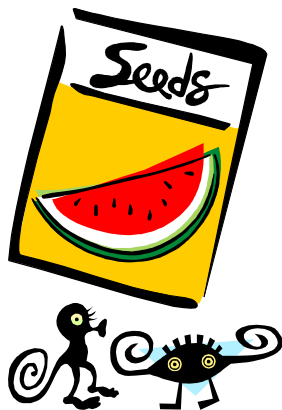
It's a quick read with that light, fun *Star Wars* flavor, and the novel easily can be imagined as fitting between the first two movies. Corey shows an excellent grasp of dialog between Han and Chewie, infusing their relationship with humor and a begrudging respect for each other. For people wanting to read a *Star Wars* novel without a lot of background, *Honor Among Thieves* is a very good choice. Recommended.

ASFS MEETING REPORTS — **JANUARY 2014: BOOK DISCUSSION**

We started the New Year with 35 people participating in a discussion of books read in 2013, whether good or bad.

Books read in 2013 by folks include *Under a Grave-*

yard Sky by John Ringo, *Necessary Evil* by Ian Tregillis (mentioned by 2 people), *Something More Than Night* by Ian Tregillis (mentioned by 2 people), *To Sail a Darkling Sea* by John Ringo, *Box Office Poison* by Philippa Bornikova (mentioned by 2 people), *Perdition* by Ann Aguire, *Ready Player One* by Ernest Cline (mentioned by 2 people), *Joyland* by Stephen King, *The Ocean at the End of the Lane* by Neil Gaiman (mentioned by 2 people), *Bowl of Heaven* by Gregory Benford and Larry Niven (mentioned by 2 people), *Kenobi: Star Wars* by John Jackson Miller, *Divergent* by Veronica Roth (*Allegiant* is not good), *The Circle* by Dave Eggers, Matt Reiten's unpublished novel, *Shadows of Falling Night* by SM Stirling, *Finding Arthur* by Adam Ardrey, *A Natural History of Dragons* by Marie Brennan, *Velveteen vs the Junior Super Patriots* by Seanan McGuire, *Curtisies and Conspiracies* by Gail Carriger, *Anvil of Stars* by Greg Bear, *Coyote* by Allen Steele, *The Long Earth* by Terry Pratchett and Stephen Baxter, *Feed* by Mira Grant (mentioned by 2 people), *This Case is Gonna Kill Me* by Philippa Bornikova, *The Strange Affair of Spring-Heeled Jack* by Mark Hodder, *Caliban's War* by James S.A. Corey, *Blackout* by Mira Grant, *Discount Armageddon* by Seanan McGuire, *Passage* by Connie Willis, *A Beautiful Friendship* by David Weber and Jane Lindskold, *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley, *Player Piano* by Kurt Vonnegut, *Guardian* by Jack Campbell, *Tyrant's Law* by Daniel Abraham, *Kitty Norville Books 5-12* by Carrie Vaughn, *Crown of Vengeance: The Dragon Prophecy* by Mercedes Lackey and James Mallory (not good), *Drifter* by Karl Lassiter, *Desert Bob's Reptile Ranch* by Robert Vardeman, *The Hobbit* by JRR Tolkien, *The Complete Enchanter* by L. Sprague De Camp, *Miracle and Other Christmas Stories* by Connie Willis, *The Honorable Barbarian* by L. Sprague De Camp, *Destroyer of Worlds* by Larry Niven and Edward M. Lerner, *1920: America's Great War* by Robert Conroy, *Elemental Wizard* series by Mercedes Lackey et al, fan fiction, *Kitty in the Underworld* by Carrie Vaughn, *Cold Days* by Jim Butcher, *Hondo* by Louis L'Amour, *Lucifer's Hammer* by Larry Niven and Jerry Pournelle, *Doctor Sleep* by Stephen King, *Old Mars* edited by George RR Martin and Gardner Dozois, *Heavenly Bodies* by Paul Koudounaris, *Forty Thousand in Gehenna* by C.J. Cherryh, *Cyteen* by C.J. Cherryh, *A Severed Wasp* by Madeleine L'Engle, *Fire: Graceling Realm* by Kristin Cashore, *JavaScript*, *Coin and the Dagger* series by Daniel Abraham, the *Magnificent Devices* series by Shelley Adina, Lovecraft short stories, books on Kaballah and abnormal psychology, and *Vader's Little Princess (Star Wars)* by Jeffrey Brown...



FEBRUARY '14: GROUP GAME SHOW

Thirty people still showed up for this Valentine's Day meeting to play a group game of SF OUTBURST, in which teams try to name 10 things that might be listed in a given category. Two teams formed—the Wolverettes and June (Because We Are Busting Out All Over). Wolverette players were Roslee Orndorff, Randi Hewett, Danielle Pollock and Julie Heffernan. June players were Harriet Engle, Duke McMullan, Amy Mathis and Dawn Barela. Scorekeepers were Kevin Hewett and Michelle Foley, and Craig Chrissinger was the Game Show Host.

Categories played included such things as "Robots, Computers and Droids," "Discworld," "Novels by Jules Verne," "Wonder Woman," "Monty Python's Holy Grail" and "Dragons and Bunnies."

Eventually, June (Because We Are Busting Out All Over) won the game, 64 to 54.

And then there was socializing for a bit.

EDITOR NOTES TO FILL THIS SPACE

• **MY REPORT ON THE WILLIAMSON LECTURESHIP** is in the May issue of *Locus Magazine* with 5 photos! It was very blustery in Portales at the beginning of April! Highlights included having a real spacesuit on hand at the Luncheon and during the Panel Discussions, hanging out with Connie & Courtney Willis, garage and thrift shopping with Patricia Rogers, Danielle & Jessica, and visiting Roswell and the UFO Museum once again. The ironic bit? Jessica and I found the best alien dolls in Portales! One will show up at Bubonicon...

• **THIS HAS TURNED INTO ANOTHER LAST-MINUTE ASFACTS**, which was not the plan. Especially since I had to delay it a month. I cannot believe how busy April was, and May is looking about the same. This issue actually is being produced in four hours - including finding news items online and writing my two book reviews. So, I'm hoping it's at least entertaining. Just like in April, I wish I had more stuff for it...

• **IN ENTERTAINMENT**, *Muppets Most Wanted* was a lot of fun with some good songs and cameos. *Divergent* looks good, though I don't understand all the underlying politics and economics in this dystopian Chicago society. *Captain America: The Winter Soldier* is awesome. Very well done, great characters, and it rocks the Marvel universe. I think I like it just as much as *The Avengers*. And *Knights of Badassdom* turned out to be quite fun and definitely aimed at fans. Looking forward to seeing *The Amazing Spider-Man 2*, *Godzilla* and *A Million Ways To Die in the West*. And TV-wise, I have been enjoying how *Agents of SHIELD* is dealing with the *Captain America* after-effects (good to see Bill Paxton and Cobie Smulders). And if you haven't tried *The Goldbergs*, catch this comedy series in summer reruns. Set in the 1980s and it is fun.

• **I'M EXCITED** that Ernest Cline, author of *Ready Player One* and co-screenwriter on *Fanboys*, is coming to Bubonicon. Very cool. But I am nervous now that we're 2 3/4 months out!

• **THANKS TO RANDI, JESSICA & MAREE** for contributions. Submissions are welcome. Heck, they are begged for!

Have a nice spring & Memorial Day! See you in July after our trip to Seattle and the 4th Albuquerque Comic Expo. --Craig C