

# ASFACTS 2014

## JULY "WE ACTUALLY HAD RAIN" ISSUE

### 2013 NEBULA WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The 2013 Nebula Awards were presented May 17, 2014 in a ceremony at SFWA's 49th Annual Nebula Awards Weekend, held in San Jose CA. Samuel R. Delany was honored with the 2013 Damon Knight Grand Master Award for his lifetime contributions in the field.

Novel: *Ancillary Justice* by Ann Leckie, Novella: "The Weight of the Sunrise" by Vylar Kaftan, Novelette: "The Waiting Stars" by Aliette de Bodard, Short Story: "If You Were a Dinosaur, My Love" by Rachel Swirsky, Ray Bradbury Award for Outstanding Dramatic Presentation: *Gravity*, and the Andre Norton Award for Young Adult Science Fiction and Fantasy Book: *Sister Mine* by Nalo Hopkinson.

Michael Armstrong was given the Kevin O'Donnell Jr. Service to SFWA Award. Frank M. Robinson was slated to receive the Special Honoree award. Due to an error at the ceremony, the presentation didn't happen. The award will be presented posthumously next year.

### ROGERS & DENNING HOSTING PRE-CON PARTY

Patricia Rogers and Scott Denning will uphold a local fannish tradition when they host the Bubonicon 46 Pre-Con Party 7:30-10:30 pm Thursday, July 31, 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 and Mile Marker 9. The house is on the west side of the road, with parking on the shoulder.

In addition to socializing, attendees can help assemble the membership packets, & check out the 2014 t-shirt with artwork by Darla Hallmark.

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!

### 2014 LOCUS AWARDS WINNERS

Winners of this year's Locus Awards were announced June 28 during the Locus Awards Weekend in Seattle, WA. Among the winners are New Mexico authors and Bubonicon friends! A list of winners follows:

Science Fiction Novel: *ABADDON'S GATE* BY JAMES



S.A. COREY, Fantasy Novel: *The Ocean at the End of the Lane* by Neil Gaiman, Young Adult Book: *THE GIRL WHO SOARED OVER FAIRYLAND AND CUT THE MOON IN TWO* BY CATHERYNN M. VALENTE, First Novel: *Ancillary Justice* by Ann Leckie, Novella: *SIX-GUN SNOW WHITE* BY CATHERYNN M. VALENTE, Novelette: "The Sleeper and the Spindle" by Neil Gaiman, Short Story: "The Road of Needles" by Caitlin R. Kiernan, Anthology: *OLD MARS* EDITED BY GEORGE R.R. MARTIN & GARDNER DOZOIS, and Collection: *THE BEST OF CONNIE WILLIS* BY CONNIE WILLIS.

Non-Fiction: *Wonderbook: The Illustrated Guide to Creating Imaginative Fiction* by Jeff VanderMeer, Art Book: *Spectrum 20: The Best in Contemporary Fantastic Art* edited by Cathy Fenner & Arnie Fenner, Magazine: *Asimov's*, Publisher: Tor, Editor: Ellen Datlow, Artist: Michael Whelan.

### FRANK M. ROBINSON DEAD

Author, editor, and pulp magazine scholar Frank M. Robinson, 87, died June 30. Robinson lived in San Francisco and had suffered from health problems in recent

### UPCOMING ASFS MEETINGS

- **August 15, 2014:** A fun film screening - attendees will choose between 2 fabulous 1950s movies. Meeting is one week late!
- **September 12:** It's All About the Cons! Bubonicon 46, London Worldcon & DragonCon reports. Also, election of the Bubonicon 47 chair if necessary (voting rules would apply if so).
- **October 10:** Election of three club officers & something else fun. Plus the Halloween issue of *ASFACTS* (deadline Sunday, October 5).
- **November 14:** An interesting talk, we hope.
- **December 12:** 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 5. Club Officers: Kevin Hewett & Craig Chrissinger, co-Zec Secs (505) 266-8905. Rebecca Hewett, Moderator. Harriet Engle, Alternator. HAL 9000, Advisor. Bubonicon Chairs: Caci Cooper (505) 559-0931 & Craig Chrissinger. www.bubonicon.com

years, reported Locus Online in late June.

Frank Malcolm Robinson was born August 9, 1926, in Chicago. After graduating from high school in 1943, he worked as a copy boy at the *Chicago Herald-American*, then as an office boy at Ziff-Davis and *Amazing*, until he was drafted into the Navy (where he served as a radar technician in WWII, 1944-45, returning for the Korean War in 1950-51). He worked at a number of magazines, serving as assistant editor at *Family Weekly* (1955-56), then at *Science Digest* (1956-59). He was managing editor at *Rogue* (1959-65) and *Cavalier* (1965-66), had a brief stint as editor of *Censorship Today* (1967), and was a staff writer for *Playboy* 1969-1973, after which he became a freelance writer.

Robinson's early SF sales began with "The Maze" (*Astounding* 1950) and "The Hunting Season" in 1951. His first novel, *The Power* (1956, filmed in 1967), was an extremely successful SF thriller – one of the first of that genre. In the '70s and '80s, he co-wrote a number of technothrillers (most with SFnal elements) with Thomas N. Scortia: *The Glass Inferno* (filmed as *The Towering Inferno*), *The Prometheus Crisis*, *The Nightmare Factor*, *The Gold Crew*, and *Blowout!* He also co-wrote political novel *The Great Divide* with John Levin and spy thriller *Death of a Marionette* with Paul Hull.

Robinson returned to SF, and solo writing, in *The Dark Beyond the Stars* (1991), SF thriller *Waiting*, and medical thriller *The Donor*. His short fiction has been collected in *A Life in the Day of ... and Other Short Stories*, *Through My Glasses Darkly*, and *The Worlds of Joe Shannon*.

Robinson was one of the foremost collectors of, and experts on, pulp magazines. His books on pulp magazines include illustrated histories *Pulp Culture: The Art of Fiction Magazines* (1998, with Lawrence Davidson), Hugo Award-winner *Science Fiction of the Twentieth Century: An Illustrated History*, British Fantasy Award-finalist *Art of Imagination* (with Randy Broecker and Robert Weinberg), and *The Incredible Pulps: A Gallery of Fiction Magazine Art*.

Robinson was inducted into the First Fandom Hall of Fame in 2001, and received a Moskowitz Archive Award in 2008. He won an Emperor Norton Award in 2004. Earlier this year, Robinson was named the recipient of the Special Honoree Award by SFWA.

## 2014 SF HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

The 2014 inductees to the Science Fiction Hall of Fame are Leigh Brackett, Frank Frazetta, Stanley Kubrick, Hayao Miyazaki and Olaf Stapledon, it was announced in late June.

The Science Fiction Hall of Fame was founded in 1996 and then relocated from the

Gunn Center for the Study of Science Fiction and Fantasy at the University of Kansas to its permanent

home at Seattle's EMP Museum in 2004.

Nominations are submitted by EMP members and the final inductees are chosen by a panel of award-winning authors, artists, editors, publishers, and film professionals.

## DANIEL KEYES PASSES AWAY

Author Daniel Keyes, 86, died June 15, reported Locus Online. Keyes is best known for his Hugo Award winning classic SF story "Flowers for Algernon" (F&SF, 1959), the Nebula Award winning and bestselling 1966 novel expansion, and the film version *Charly* in 1968.

Keyes was born August 9, 1927, in New York. He worked variously as an editor, comics writer, fashion photographer, and teacher before joining the faculty of Ohio University in 1966, where he taught as a professor of English and creative writing, becoming professor emeritus in 2000. He married Aurea Georgina Vaquez in 1952, who predeceased him in 2013; they had two daughters.

Keyes began working in SF as an associate editor at *Marvel Science Fiction* in 1951, and his first SF story was "Precedent" out in 1952. Other novels include *The Touch* (1968; as *The Contaminated Man*, 1977), *The Fifth Sally*, and *The Asylum Prophecies*. He had other books published in Japan, including novel *Until Death Do Us Part: The Sleeping Princess*, and wrote true crime volumes including Edgar Award-winner *The Minds of Billy Milligan*, sequel *The Milligan Wars: A True-Story Sequel* (1994 in Japan, forthcoming in the US), and *Unveiling Claudia: A True Story of Serial Murder*. His 2000 memoir *Algernon, Charlie and I: A Writer's Journey* discusses the experience of writing the story and its impact on his life. Keyes was honored as a SFWA Author Emeritus in 2000.

Keyes lived in south Florida, and is survived by his daughters.

## HELP NEEDED AT BUBONICON

It's true! Volunteers or "gofers" are needed to help out at Bubonicon 46 the weekend of August 1-3 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 gofers will not be handling money - that's for the Bubonicon staff. 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, July 25, 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 [volunteers@bubonicom.com](mailto:volunteers@bubonicom.com).

## GENRE BOOKS STILL DISCUSSED

The Droids & Dragons SF Book Group meets 7:30 pm Monday, July 21, at Spectator's Sports Bar & Grill to discuss *Beggars in Spain* by Nancy Kress. The group then recommends 2-4 books read in the last year but not discussed in group on August 18.

Meetings of D&D are open to all interested readers on the third Monday of each month. Books for discussion are chosen two months in advance, and group members receive a 20% discount on selected novels at Page One Bookstore. Spectator's is located in the Mountain Run Shopping Center, southeast corner of Eubank & Juan Tabo NE. For more information, contact Leah at [skycaptain1883@yahoo.com](mailto:skycaptain1883@yahoo.com) or Craig at 266-8905.

## 2014 MYTHOPOEIC AWARDS FINALISTS

The Mythopoeic Society announced the 2014 Mythopoeic Awards finalists in mid-June. Winners will be announced at Mythcon 45, August 8-11, 2014, at Wheaton College in Norton MA.

Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for Adult Literature: *The Ghost Bride* by Yangsze Choo, *The Ocean at the End of the Lane* by Neil Gaiman, *Three Parts Dead* by Max Gladstone, *Sleepless Knights* by Mark H. Williams, and *The Golem and the Jinni* by Helene Wecker.

Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for Children's Literature: *Ghouliah Song* by William Alexander, *Doll Bones* by Holly Black, *Killer of Enemies* by Joseph Bruchac, *Conjured* by Sara Beth Durst, and *Shadows* by Robin McKinley.

Mythopoeic Scholarship Award in Inklings Studies: *There and Back Again: J.R.R. Tolkien and the Origins of the Hobbit* by Mark Atherton, *C.S. Lewis and the Middle Ages* by Robert Boenig, *Tolkien and the Study of His Sources: Critical Essays* edited by Jason Fisher, *C.S. Lewis – A Life: Eccentric Genius, Reluctant Prophet* by Alistair McGrath, and *Exploring J.R.R. Tolkien's The Hobbit* by Corey Olsen.

Mythopoeic Scholarship Award in Myth and Fantasy Studies: *The Book of Legendary Lands* by Umberto Eco and translated by Alastair McEwan, *Dancing the Tao: Le Guin and Moral Development* by Sandra J. Lindow, *Tree of Salvation: Yggdrasil and the Cross in the North* by G. Ronald Murphy, *As If: Modern Enchantment and the Literary Prehistory of Virtual Reality* by Michael Saler, and *Critical Discourses of the Fantastic, 1712-1831* by David Sandner.

## NEW IMPRINT NAMED: TOR.COM

Tor.com will now be an imprint of Tor Books devoted to novellas, short novels, and serializations, to be published as e-books, print-on-demand volumes, and audiobooks, it was announced in late May. Unlike the free short fiction on Tor.com, these works will be available for purchase only. Authors will be offered the choice of being paid a traditional advance against net earnings, or no advance and higher royalty rates. Tor.com will also continue to publish free fiction, non-fiction and news, as before.

Fritz Foy and Irene Gallo will be publisher and associate publisher respectively, with Carl Engle-Laird joining as editorial assistant. The imprint currently has positions open for a senior editor, publicity manager, marketing manager, and designer.

## MARY STEWART DIES

Author Mary Stewart, 97, died May 9, at home in Loch Awe, Scotland.

Stewart is best known for her Merlin series of Arthurian fantasy novels: Mythopoeic Award winners *The Crystal Cave* (1970) and *The Hollow Hills*, and *The Last Enchantment*. Related Arthurian novels include *The Wicked Day* and *The Prince and the Pilgrim*; and other novels with speculative elements include *Touch Not the Cat*, *A Walk in Wolf Wood*, and *Thornyhold*. She was also well known for her suspenseful romance novels, publishing more than 20 books in all. Her last novel was *Rose Cottage*.

Mary Florence Elinor Rainbow was born September 17, 1916, in Sunderland, England, and attended Durham University, graduating in 1938 with a bachelors, and earning a MA in 1941. She went on to teach English there through 1956. She was predeceased by husband Sir Frederick H. Stewart in 2001.

## H.R. GIGER PASSES AWAY

Swiss artist H.R. Giger, 74, died May 12, in a Zurich hospital after being injured in a fall. Giger is best known for his work on the film *Alien* (1979), particularly his iconic, grotesque aliens; he was part of the team that won an Academy Award for best visual effects. Giger's style had a huge influence on SF films in following decades. He published numerous art books and contributed covers to *Omni* and *Twilight Zone*, among others.

Hansruedi Giger was born February 5, 1940, in Chur, Switzerland. He studied at the School of Applied Arts in Zurich from 1962-70, with a focus on industrial design and architecture.

Giger's work combined the organic and the mechanical, often to surreal and disturbing effect. His work

was first collected in *A Rh+* (1971) and *H.R. Giger*, but his breakthrough work was *H.R. Giger's Necronomicon* (1977), which brought him to the attention of American and British readers, including the *Alien* producers. His work was collected in numerous volumes, and he created designs for other films, did artwork for album covers, and designed furniture and did interior design.

Giger was nominated for a Chesley Award for artistic achievement in 1993, and a World Fantasy Award for best artist in 1997. He was named a Spectrum Grandmaster in 2005, and was inducted into the Science Fiction Hall of Fame in 2013. He is survived by his wife Carmen Maria Scheifele, director of the H.R. Giger Museum in Gruyères, Switzerland.

## 2013 STOKER AWARDS WINNERS

The 2013 Bram Stoker Award winners were announced May 10 at the 27th annual Bram Stoker Awards banquet during the World Horror Convention 2014 in Portland OR. They are:

Superior Achievement in a Novel: *Doctor Sleep* by Stephen King, Superior Achievement in a First Novel: *The Evolutionist* by Rena Mason, Superior Achievement in a YA Novel: *Dog Days* by Joe McKinney, Superior Achievement Long Fiction: "The Great Pity" by Gary Braunbeck, Superior Achievement in Short Fiction: "Night Train to Paris" by David Gerrold, Superior Achievement in an Anthology: *After Death...* edited by Eric J. Guignard, Superior Achievement in a Collection: *The Beautiful Thing That Awaits Us All and Other Stories* by Laird Barron.

Superior Achievement in Non-Fiction: *Nolan on Bradbury: Sixty Years of Writing about the Master of Science Fiction* by William F. Nolan, Superior Achievement in a Poetry Collection: *Four Elements* by Marge Simon, Rain Graves, Charlee Jacob & Linda Addison, Superior Achievement in a Graphic Novel: *Alabaster: Wolves* by Caitlin R. Kiernan, Superior Achievement in a Screenplay: *The Walking Dead: "Welcome to the Tombs"* by Glen Mazzara.

R.L. Stine and Stephen Jones were the recipients of the Horror Writer's Association Life Achievement Awards, as previously announced. Gray Friar Press won the Specialty Press Award, and the Silver Hammer Award, presented for outstanding service to HWA, went to Norman Rubenstein. The President's Richard Laymon Service Award was given to J.G. Faherty.

## CLARK GREGG TALKS SEASON 2'S COULSON

Marvel's small-screen spinoff *Agents of SHIELD* dropped some major bombshells in that season-one finale, and now Agent Coulson himself has opened up about what's coming next.

Clark Gregg, who plays the resurrected-agent-

turned-SHIELD-director, chatted with IGN in early July about where the series might go when it returns this fall. With all the Hydra fallout and post-*Winter Soldier* insanity, the season ended on a great setup for a bolder, more ambitious year two.

Gregg seems to agree, and had this to say when asked if we'll see a more "off-the-grid" take on SHIELD now that it's essentially an unaffiliated rogue agency being rebuilt from the ground up: "That's a really interesting point just because what's been clear to me is that the Agent Coulson who's running this team post-*Captain America: The Winter Soldier*, post-Hydra, post-being killed and brought back to life with something in him he doesn't understand... He's a very different Coulson than the guy who everyone knew. A lot of people who knew him in the old days say, 'He's different.' I think you would have to be different having gone through that stuff. So I think he's reinventing himself and re-understanding himself as a person anyway, which is probably really necessary to taking in the new environment and figuring out what SHIELD ought to be in a way that it doesn't get rotten again ...

"Well, Coulson got to watch himself pre-memory wipe describing why he thought the whole Tahiti Project was a bad idea," he continued. "He was talking about all the things that were happening to the people they were using on it and why he suggested they can the whole thing - and looked pretty shaken while he was saying it. So I've got to suspect that some of the stuff he saw and some of those patients have some version of the stuff that's going to happen to him. So we go from having no SHIELD at all, with a director on the run, to a tiny Guerilla SHIELD with Agent Coulson at its head, and maybe not in his own right head. That sounds fun. That sounds like an interesting Season 2."

Gregg also touched on the network's plan to finally keep the series running consecutively week to week (as opposed to a week on, two weeks off), except for a mid-season break that will make room for the new prequel series *Agent Carter*. Here's his take on the new scheduling plan:

"I think it's a great idea. I think in the present age of TV, nobody wants to go down two weeks here, three weeks there. I don't like it. I don't think our fans liked it. It didn't let us keep the momentum going with the story. It's been amazing to watch how much the show clicked into gear, first of all, after the events of *Winter Soldier*, but when we got to run 10 episodes without a break. You can download the season of so many shows on Netflix in one day - who wants to take a two-week pause? I don't!"

## AMERICAN GODS FINDS TV HOME

In 2011, HBO announced that it was interested in producing a show based on Neil Gaiman's *American Gods*. And then ... nothing. No word, except that HBO

was no longer involved (HBO president of programming Michael Lombardo later said that a script could not be agreed upon). But now, finally, after all this time, *American Gods* will see the light of day. And it will be brought to us by Starz.

Starz, which gave us *Spartacus*, will be developing the TV series, about an ex-con named Shadow. Shadow is released from prison when his wife dies in a "car crash." Then a stranger named Mr. Wednesday offers him a job – a job to help recruit old gods in a war against the new American gods. It gets more strange from there.

The showrunners for *American Gods* are Michael Green (*Smallville*, *Heroes*) and Bryan Fuller (*Hannibal*, *Pushing Daisies*). They're co-writing the first episode together, while Neil Gaiman will share in their executive producer role.

Neil Gaiman wrote in a Starz press release, "When you create something like *American Gods*, which attracts fans and obsessives and people who tattoo quotes from it on themselves or each other, and who all, tattooed or not, just care about it deeply, it's really important to pick your team carefully: you don't want to let the fans down, or the people who care and have been casting it online since the dawn of recorded history. What I love most about the team who I trust to take it out to the world, is that they are the same kind of fanatics that *American Gods* has attracted since the start. I haven't actually checked Bryan Fuller or Michael Green for quote tattoos, but I would not be surprised if they have them. ...I can't wait to see what they do to bring the story to the widest possible audience able to cope with it."

There's no word on whether the plot or the characters of the sequel, *Anansi Boys*, will work their way into the show. There's no word on the potential stars of the series. And there's also no announced premiere date.

Starz is also developing a TV series based on *Outlander*, a well-regarded fantasy romance series written by Diana Gabaldon.

## **GREENDALE IS SAVED!**

### **COMMUNITY WILL BE BACK**

It's not the darkest timeline, after all: We're getting more *Community*, it was announced in late June.

Ever since NBC cancelled the super-nerdy cult hit sitcom in early May after five ratings-light, but praise-heavy, seasons, fans have been hoping someone would save the series and give us that "six seasons and a movie" promise that's been the show's battle cry for years, now. For a while, it looked like the show might find a new home at Hulu, and series creator Dan Harmon even confirmed there was interest in reviving the show via that streaming service. Hopes rose just a little bit, until news hit mid-June that the talks with Hulu were over. Now, another streaming service has swooped in.

News hit the internet in late June that Yahoo has struck a deal with Sony Pictures Television to pick up *Community* for a 13-episode sixth season, which will reportedly air in the fall on the company's Yahoo Screen streaming platform. Harmon's returning as showrunner, and Chris McKenna, Russ Krasnoff and Gary Foster are back on board as executive producers. And yes, the entire cast is back, too.

"I am very pleased that *Community* will be returning for its predestined sixth season on Yahoo," Harmon said in a statement. "I look forward to bringing our beloved NBC sitcom to a larger audience by moving it online. I vow to dominate our new competition. Rest easy, *Big Bang Theory*. Look out, *Bang Bus*!"

Yahoo's been looking to join the original online programming game for a while now, alongside the likes of Netflix, Hulu and Amazon, and a show with a built-in fanbase like *Community* is certainly a good place to start.

"Six Seasons And a Movie is real," star Joel McHale said. "Thank you Sony. Thank you Yahoo. Thank you Dan Harmon. And thank you to the greatest f%\$ing fans in the history of the human race. It's the internet. We can swear now."

## **ON THE CONVENTION FRONT:**

### **BUBONICON 46 JUST THREE WEEKS AWAY**

by Craig Chrissinger, co-chair

Bubonicon, New Mexico's annual science fiction convention, celebrates its 46th edition August 1-3 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 Coast, the South and here at home. Guests of Honor for Bubonicon 46 are Maryland novelist John Henry/Jack Campbell and Tennessee writer Cherie Priest; Guest Artist is Darla Hallmark of Albuquerque; and Toastmaster is Albuquerque resident Steven Gould.

Other participants come from New Mexico, Colorado, California and Texas. The participating newcomers to Bubonicon this year are authors Livia Blackburne, Ernest Cline, Jeffe Kennedy, Robin Owens, M.T. Reiten, Jim Sorenson, and Lauren Teffeau. Back after absences are John Barnes, Stephen R. Donaldson (Saturday afternoon only), and Emily Mah.

Proceeds from the Friday charity auction and a portion of any Bubonicon 46 profits will benefit the (Jack) Williamson Library Collection at Eastern NM University, and the local Roadrunner Food Bank.

Bubonicon 46 opens with Pre-Registered check-in 1:00-2:00 pm Friday the 1st, with regular registration open at 3:00 pm; 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 "Sidekicks and Minions." 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 two rooms by the Art Show and also on the 2nd Floor, the usual Dealers Room, and the large Art Show space! And don't forget about the hospitality suite - located on the 16th floor in a Suite plus two adjoining rooms.

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 [volunteers@bubonicon.com](mailto:volunteers@bubonicon.com), or come to the meeting Friday, July 25, at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church on Ponderosa NE (home of ASFS).

Passes for the whole weekend are \$40 if purchased by July 12. 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 - of course, we'll call CYFD).

There are two ways to pay now! You can send payments with the registration form by July 12 to Bubonicon Inc at 933 San Mateo Blvd NE, Suite 500-208, Albuquerque, NM 87108; or you can use your PayPal account/Credit Card on our website (make sure to include the names for all passes purchased).

The Bubonicon 46 special \$99 room rate (single-double occupancy) is only guaranteed through Monday, July 21, so get your reservation in now! 800-228-9290 to make your reservation.

Info is available from Craig at (505) 266-8905, our google voicemail at (505) 559-0931, by email at [bubonicon@gmail.com](mailto:bubonicon@gmail.com), or through the website maintained by Mike McCommas at [www.bubonicon.com](http://www.bubonicon.com).



and living in a nursing home. Part of Patricia's confusion stems from the fact that many of the things she remembers don't seem possible; while she clearly remembers her childhood and college years, she remembers two different versions of her adult life. Did she marry Mark and have four children with him, or did she eventually end up with Bea and their three children?

Most of *My Real Children* is written in alternating chapters that follow Patricia's two different lives. In the life where she marries Mark, she becomes Trish, an unhappy housewife who eventually divorces her husband and comes into herself later in life. In her other life, she becomes a successful travel writer who lives partially in Italy with her partner Bea and their children.

Walton's premise for this book allows her to explore the up-close, mundane details of everyday life from two very different points of view. While both timelines are definitely alternative Earth histories, these details are given more as background information than integral story parts. Walton's goal seems to be to draw the reader into Patricia's lives, and to show how the seemingly simple actions of one individual can radically change both the person's life, but the course of the whole world. I loved this book. It is a wonderful character study, and Walton's prose is beautiful. If you are a fan of her work, or enjoy character explorations, then *My Real Children* is a must read.

**Half a King by Joe Abercrombie, Del Rey 2014, hc \$26.00, 273 pages. Review by Roberta Johnson**

In Joe Abercrombie's latest novel, Yarvi was born a prince in a hard- kingdom that lives by fighting and raiding. Yarvi, however, was born at a serious disadvantage due to a birth defect - his sword arm is deformed and weak, and has only half a hand. He will never be able to fight like his father the King, and thus he can never earn his relatives' respect, or his own. Fortunately his older brother, heir to the throne, possesses all the strength and fighting skill that Yarvi lacks.

Since Yarvi will never be king, he entered the equivalent of a priesthood, where he has been educated in the all the proper things a priest should know (including poisons). His training is aimed at making him Father Yarvi, advisor to kings. He will have no wife or family. He feels only relief at the thought.

By the second chapter, Yarvi's father and brother have been killed by treachery. A journey in the unlikely name of peace ended in death. And thus Yarvi's life is turned upside down, and he will be King. Whether he likes it or not. The first thing expected of the new king is that he swear vengeance on those who killed his father. And so he swears a mighty oath - for, as he says way too many times, even half a man can swear a whole oath.

Being king might not be all bad. The next thing Yarvi is expected to do is betroth himself to his late

## BOOK REVIEW ROUND-UP

***My Real Children* by Jo Walton, Tor Books 2014, hc \$25.99, 320 pages. Review by Jessica Coyle**

*My Real Children* is the latest effort from Jo Walton, the Nebula and Hugo Award-winning author of *Among Others*. The book follows the life of Patricia Cowan, who at the beginning of the book is suffering from dementia



brother's former fiancé, and she seems like a reasonable woman who would make him a fine wife. He's looking forward to the marriage. But first he must survive the raid on his father's killers. Treachery is still afoot, however, and the next thing you know he's been sold into slavery. And then things really get interesting, because Yarvi may not be a mighty warrior, but there's nothing wrong with his wits or his courage, or for that matter, his ability to make friends and influence people. He's also patient and determined, and not only will he survive, he will keep his oath, and he will have his vengeance.

The adventures are mighty, the hero is stalwart and steadfast, and things never turn out quite the way you expect. The pace was fast and kept my attention, the action was believable, the characters interesting, well written and sometimes even likable, and the plot twists just enough, all the way to a surprise ending. I enjoyed *Half a King*. I predict that you will, too.

***Artemis Awakening* by Jane Lindskold, 2014 Tor Books, hc \$24.99, 304 pages.**

**Review by Craig Chrissinger**

New Mexico author Jane Lindskold kicks off a new series with an entertaining and fast-paced read in *Artemis Awakening*. Artemis was once a pleasure planet for the rich and privileged in a mighty human empire. To help guests feel like they were challenging the environment and living off the land, all tech was concealed, and animals and humans brought to serve there were bioengineered to assist in the experience – but with a possibility of danger.

And then horrific war broke out, most of the incredible technology was lost, and Artemis became a distant myth.

That is, until rogue archeologist Griffin Dane follows clues and small hints to find Artemis, where he crashes in a mountainous area after his shuttle malfunctions. Soon, he encounters the Huntress Adara and her psych-linked puma, Sand Shadow. With their help, Griffin hopes to find a way off Artemis or to at least send a signal for help. Along the way, he begins to discover some of the planet's secrets – and encounters what will probably be the first of many obstacles.

*Artemis Awakening* has a conclusion for its specific problem, but also sets the stage for Griffin and Adara to face more adventures in further volumes. While some of the setting, animals and people may seem like fantasy tropes, Lindskold provides science fiction reasons for their existence. This primitive-seeming paradise provides for a fun read, the characters are engaging, and it will be interesting to see what happens next on Artemis. Enjoyable.

***The Quick* by Lauren Owen, 2014 Random House, hc \$27.00, 544 pages.**

**Review by Jessica Coyle**

Brother and sister James and Charlotte Norbury have an odd life. The children of an impoverished minor aristocrat, they grow up in a crumbling country estate where they are left to their own devices with very little supervi-

sion. As they grow older, James is sent to boarding school and then Oxford, while Charlotte is left behind to take care of their elderly great-aunt.

James moves to London after he graduates from Oxford. Charlotte becomes concerned about him as his letters become erratic, and then stop entirely. Charlotte travels to London only to discover that James has vanished entirely. Charlotte's search for James leads her into a dark underworld that she never knew existed, and changes her life forever.

*The Quick* is Lauren Owen's debut novel. It is a throwback to the Victorian gothic horror novels of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and fans of those works will enjoy this novel. Owen manages to both seduce and terrify her readers, all the while spinning a masterful tale of mystery and woe. I quite look forward to seeing what she writes next.

***Sixth Grave on the Edge* by Darynda Jones, 2014 St. Martin's Press, hc \$24.99, 326 pages.**

**Review by Fred Aiken**

*Sixth Grave* is the sixth book in Darynda Jones' Charley Davidson paranormal romance series, which is a unique and wonderful blend of fantasy, mystery and romance. This is a transitional book that ties up several threads in the series to date, and identifies new but interesting threads to be explored in subsequent books. I was pleased to see that Jones did not torture her viewpoint character to near death as usually happens in her books. I can share with you that Charley turns matchmaker in trying to get the romance between her assistance, Cookie, and her Uncle Bob to kindle into true love with disastrous results. In another plot thread, Charley finds herself the victim of a blackmail attempt by the police Captain to whom Uncle Bob reports.

Another sub-plot involves a man who had lost his own soul to a demon in an unsuccessful wager and who wants to hire Charley to get back his soul. And the book would not belong in the series without the romance with Reyes, the dark and sultry son of evil, her boy toy, her love slave, her 24/7 booty call. Charley also learns that owning an apartment building, given to her by Reyes in book five, carries responsibilities which she needs to learn.

Of course, no Charley Davison book would be complete without the ghosts. We start off with an elderly naked 90-year-old ghost sitting in her jeep's front passenger seat with a large eternal hard on. And Mr. Wong, the floating ghost facing the corner of her living room, begins a transformation towards being an interesting character to appear in a future story. Angel, a key ghost in prior stories, resolves his relationship with his mother and helps Charley in the development of new powers that she did not know that she possessed. We see how two living characters who had been the bane of her existence change. If this change is for good or bad will be the subject of future books in the series.

This book has a great surprise ending that impacts Charley Davison's life in a big way, and that turn of events is related to her romance with Reyes. It is a great hook for Book Seven. While the book transitions between the first part of the series to the second part yet to be written, it is a great story to be enjoyed on its own merits.

***Sparrow Hill Road* by Seanan McGuire, 2014 DAW, tp \$16.00, 320 pages. Review by Jessica Coyle**

*Sparrow Hill Road* is written as a series of short stories that follow the adventures of Rose Marshall, who is killed in 1952 while driving to her prom. Because of how she died, she spends over 60 years haunting roads as a hitchhiking ghost with the special ability to save some drivers from untimely deaths and right the wrongs of the road. Rose is also set on avenging her own death so many years ago at the hands of Bobby Cross, a man who sold his soul so he can live forever.

Seanan McGuire is a prolific author under both her own name and pen name of Mira Grant. *Sparrow Hill Road* is very similar to her *Velveteen* vs. series, which also is written in the short-story format. I quite enjoyed *Sparrow Hill Road*; McGuire creates an interesting world by playing on the ghosts and related mythology of different cultures to create something new and different. Some of the stories are uplifting and fun, while others are creepy or even downright terrifying. If you enjoy a good ghost story, I highly recommend this book.

## **ASFS MEETING REPORTS — MARCH 2014: AUCTION W/VARDEMAN**

Thirty-eight people were on hand for the annual club auction, led by local author Robert E. Vardeman. Approximately \$280 was raised to help with the club's rent on the church, ASFacts printing, and cook-off plates and such.

Some of the more unusual items and higher bids included *Lord of the Rings* figures \$10.00, 3 Soft Scrub cleaning bottles \$2.50, a giant 10-sided die \$5.00, *Dracula* pack on a table runner, knife & more \$35.00, *Hellboy* comics in a box \$10.00, Zombie Lawn Gnome \$15.00, Pez dispensers \$4.00, Large flower vase \$11.00, *Mr. Bill* talking doll \$8.00, Roger Zelazny *Amber* novels \$13.00, Halloween kit & bag \$3.00, *Doctor Who* sticky notes \$5.00, Spaceship decorations \$24.00, *Toy Story* alien t-shirt \$9.00, DVD movies & popcorn \$4.50, William Stout sketch books \$15.00, Scarf \$7.00, Stained glass star-shaped candle holder \$3.00, Christmas pack \$5.00, and a *Star Trek* Dr. McCoy mini-figure & *Big Bang Theory* Sheldon \$4.50.

## **APRIL: ABRAHAM & FRANCK VISIT**

An audience of 32 people showed up for a visit from ABQ authors Daniel Abraham and Ty Franck, who talked about their James S.A. Corey *Expanse* novels and *Star Wars* book, *Honor Among Thieves*.

The most exciting part of the evening was their announcement that the SyFy Channel has picked up *The Expanse* as a 10-episode series for September 2015. Abraham said, "It will start filming this autumn, and it may be the most expensive show ever on basic cable."

Franck noted that they are producers and writers on the show, so they will be on site.

"We've read the pilot script and it's brilliant," said Abraham. "The writers worked on the first *Iron Man* and

*Children of Men*. They will be our show runners."

Franck remarked that while the cable channel has optioned the books, they also can do different things such as have some characters show up earlier.

Abraham joked about their other Corey effort, "This was our big plan to make it big! Well, it was my plan. I won't blame Ty. I figured we write a *Star Wars* novel...and —"

Franck added, "It figures the *Star Wars* novel didn't sell as well as our *Expanse* novels. They hit the *New York Times* Bestseller List, and *Star Wars* didn't."

Asked about research for *Honor Among Thieves*, Abraham revealed, "We got to watch the first three films over and over, and break them down. We noticed Han Solo is always wrong when he makes a factual statement. And his plans usually go wrong. Luckily, he improvises very well."

Franck spoke about the 4th *Expanse* novel, *Cibola Burn*, scheduled for release in June. "*Publishers Weekly* has given it a starred review. It will be our first hardcover original release, and they're sending us on a major book tour. Orbit bought three more books from us, so we're under contract through book nine. If the TV show is successful, they may buy through book 1,000."

Abraham said the title of book five currently is *Nemesis Games*, and it is what they are writing at the moment. Abraham also is finishing up the final *Dagger and the Coin* novel, at the moment titled *Spider's War*.

Franck said he is project consultant for Tell-Tale Games, and that gaming is his thing. And he noted that they "got lucky with *Leviathan Wakes*. It had a great cover, and it came out shortly after Scalzi's *Old Man's War*. So, they liked that, and then here we showed up."

## **EDITOR NOTES THAT FIT THIS SPACE**

Another late night on newsletter deadline. Okay, a day earlier than normal. Need to get it done as there is a lot of Bubonicon 46 work left to do. Yep, just three weeks to this year's convention (which is early due to London Worldcon).

Went to a 17-minute IMAX 3-D sneak of *Guardians of the Galaxy* this past Monday, and it was awesome. The footage did exactly what Marvel was hoping - it left us wanting more!

Last month's Albuquerque Comic Expo was pleasant, if a bit unorganized. Patricia Rogers, Jessica and I had a blast hanging out and assisting Joel Hodgson of *Mystery Science Theater 3000*. It was cool talking with him about movies, horror hosts, conventions, Mexican food and more. Jessica made a *Mr. B. Natural* costume - which amused Joel. We also visited and talked with comic writers/artists Amanda Conner & Jimmy Palmiotti. Very nice people, and I love Amanda's artwork. We saw a lot of Bubonicon people either helping out as volunteers or just attending.

And last Saturday's *Can't Stop The Serenity 9* went very well, and had a good audience. Looks to have been very successful. I got to see the wild and entertaining *Snowpiercer* the night before at the Guild Cinema. Very cool post-apocalyptic effort.

I wanted to do an essay here that would essentially be a love note to Seattle, which we visited in May, but I don't have the space this time. Sigh. I liked the city a lot. We saw *Godzilla* in an old plush theater, visited the Sci-Fi collection at the EMP Museum, took a ferry across Puget Sound, and enjoyed the Pike Place Market's fresh fruit stands, bookstores & comic/toy store!

NEXT DEADLINE SUN, OCTOBER 5... See you then. -Craig C