



ASFACTS 2014

SPOOKTACULAR OCTOBER EDITION



Neil Gaiman at the National Book Awards ceremony in New York.

BUBONICON WRITERS AMONG LONDON HUGO WINNERS

Winners for the Hugo Awards and for the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer were announced August 17 at Loncon 3, the 72nd World Science Fiction Convention, held in London, England. Among those receiving awards were Bubonicon 47 toastmistress Mary Robinette Kowal and Santa Fe author George RR Martin (as producer).

Best Novel: *Ancillary Justice* by Ann Leckie, Best Novella: "Equoid" by Charles Stross, BEST NOVELETTE: "THE LADY ASTRONAUT OF MARS" BY MARY ROBINETTE KOWAL, Best Short Story: "The Water That Falls on You from Nowhere" by John Chu, Best Graphic Story: "Time" by Randall Munroe, Best Related Work: "We Have Always Fought: Challenging the Women, Cattle and Slaves Narrative" by Kameron Hurley,

Best Dramatic Presentation – Long: *Gravity*, BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION – SHORT: *GAME OF THRONES: "THE RAINS OF CASTAMERE"* (GRRM, PRODUCER), Best Professional Editor Long Form: Ginjer Buchanan, Best Professional Editor Short Form: Ellen Datlow, Best Professional Artist: Julie Dillon, Best Semiprozine: *Lightspeed*,

Best Fanzine: *A Dribble of Ink*, Best Fancast: *SF Signal Podcast*, Best Fan Writer: Kameron Hurley, Best Fan Artist: Sarah Webb, and John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer [Not a Hugo Award]: Sofia Samatar.

There were 1,923 nominating ballots received from members of LoneStarCon 3, Loncon 3, and Sasquan.

LE GUIN WINS NBF MEDAL

Ursula K. Le Guin, 84, will receive the National Book Foundation's Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters, Locus Online reported in early September. The medal is presented annually to "a person who has enriched our literary heritage over a life of service, or a corpus of work," and includes a \$10,000 cash prize. The medal will be presented November 19 by

GRAHAM JOYCE PASSES AWAY

Author Graham Joyce died September 9, at the age of 59, Locus Online reported in early September. He was diagnosed with aggressive lymphoma in 2013 and had been undergoing treatment. Joyce is best known for his acclaimed award-winning novels, which cross the borderlines of fantasy, horror, dark fantasy, and the paranormal.

Graham William Joyce was born October 22, 1954, in Keresley, England, a mining village near Coventry, and grew up there. He received a BEd from Bishop Lonsdale College in 1977, an MA in Modern English and American Literature from Leicester University in 1980, and a PhD from Nottingham University. (He wrote his Masters dissertation on Thomas Pynchon.) He married Suzanne Johnsen in 1988 and left England to spend a year on the Greek isle of Lesbos while writing first novel *Dreamside* (1991).

It was followed by British Fantasy Award winner *Dark Sister* in 1992; *House of Lost Dreams*, set in Greece; British Fantasy Award winner *Requiem*, set in

UPCOMING ASFS MEETINGS

- **Monsters in Comics Talk & Club Elections Tonight!** Artist Jeff Benham is here to talk about "Monsters in Comics" with visual aids. And then, three Offices need to be filled for January-December 2014, and the "challenge ingredient" for December chosen (see below).
- **November 14:** NM historian Loretta Hall talks about "Space Pioneers: In Their Own Words."
- **December 12:** The 10th ASFS Dessert Cook-Off, and short SF-oriented holiday films. Plus, the annual issue of *SITHFACTS* will be distributed (deadline Sunday, Dec 7). Please help us clean up our room at the end of the evening!
- **January 9, 2015:** Club round-table discussion of what members read in 2014...
- **February 13:** Some kind of Talk. Plus the Valentine 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, Dec 7.** **Club Officers:** Kevin Hewett & Craig Chrissinger, co-Zec Secs (505) 266-8905. Rebecca Hewett, Moderator. Harriet Engle, Alternator. Jack Skeleton, Halloween Advisor. **Bubonicon Co-Chairs:** Craig Chrissinger & Caci Cooper - bubonicon@gmail.com.

Jerusalem; British Fantasy Award winner *The Tooth Fairy* (1996); British Fantasy Award winner *The Stormwatcher*; *Indigo*; *Smoking Poppy*; World Fantasy Award winner *The Facts of Life*; *The Limits of Enchantment*; British Fantasy Award winner *Memoirs of a Master Forger*, published in the UK under the pseudonym William Heaney (the book's narrator), and under his own name in the US as *How To Make Friends With Demons*; *The Silent Land*; British Fantasy Award winner *Some Kind of Fairy Tale*; and *The Year of the Ladybird* (in the US as *The Ghost in the Electric Blue Suit*).

About 10 years ago he began writing books for teens, including *TWOC* (2005 winner of the Angus Award), *Do the Creepy Thing* (in the US as *The Exchange*), *Three Ways to Snog an Alien*, and *The Devil's Ladder* in 2009.

Joyce wrote several notable short stories, including British fantasy finalist "Black Dust"; Tiptree Award finalists "Eat Reecebread" (with Peter F. Hamilton) and "Pinkland"; British Fantasy and International Horror Guild Award finalist "Leningrad Nights"; International Horror Guild Award nominee "Candia"; and O. Henry prize winner "An Ordinary Soldier of the Queen." Some of his short fiction was collected in *Partial Eclipse and Other Stories* in 2003.

Joyce taught creative writing to graduate students at Nottingham Trent University. He lived in Leicester with his wife Suzanne Johnsen and their two children, who survive him.

SF BOOK GROUP READS ON

The Droids & Dragons SF Book Group meets 7:30 pm Monday, October 20, at Pacific Paradise (northeast corner of San Pedro & Candelaria NE) to discuss *Ancillary Justice* by Ann Leckie. The group then meets November 17 to talk about *Redshirts* by John Scalzi (probably at Pacific Paradise again).

Meetings of D&D are open to all interested readers on the 3rd Monday each month. Books for discussion are chosen two months in advance, and group members receive a 20% discount on them. For more info: Leah at skycaptain1883@yahoo.com or Craig at 266-8905.

GREEN SLIME AWARDS HANDED OUT

In a ceremony August 2 at Bubonicon 46 at the Albuquerque Marriott Uptown Hotel in Albuquerque, NM, Green Slime Mistress Jessica L. Coyle (with assistance from sock puppets) presented the following with recognition of their wretchedness in the last 12 months:

Film: *I, Frankenstein* (Pretentious with convoluted plot and no sense of humor)

Regular Television: *Star-Crossed* on The CW (Dopey, tries to be Romeo & Juliet but without the po-

etry and drama)

Cable Television: *Dominion* on Syfy (Way too much talking, terrible acting)

Syfy Movie: *Bermuda Tentacles* (Disappointing monster movie with a tired-looking Linda Hamilton)

Novel: Rebels: *City of Indra: The Story of Lex & Livia* by Kendally & Kylie Jenner (even with two other writers helping, it's still terrible fan-fiction)

Toy: *McDonald's Spider-Man Toys for Girls* (Not really toys – they're purses, bracelets and such. Sends a bad message: Girls can like superheroes, but only boys can BE superheroes)

1939 RETRO HUGO AWARDS WINNERS

Winners of the 1939 Retro Hugo Awards were presented August 14 in a ceremony at Loncon 3, the 72nd WorldCon, held August 14-18, 2014 in London. Locus Online reported mid-August. Mary Robinette Kowal (Bubonicon 47 toastmistress) and Robert Shearman were the hosts.

Best Novel: *The Sword in the Stone* by T.H. White, Best Novella: "Who Goes There?" by John W. Campbell writing as Don A. Stuart, Best Novelette: "Rule 18" by Clifford D. Simak, Best Short Story: "How We Went to Mars" by Arthur C. Clarke, Best Dramatic Presentation – Short: *The War of the Worlds*, Best Professional Editor Short Form: John W. Campbell, Best Professional Artist: Virgil Finlay, Best Fanzine: *Imagination!*, and Best Fan Writer: Ray Bradbury.

1,307 valid ballots were received. Full statistics are available at the Loncon 3 website.

ROBIN WILLIAMS PASSES AWAY

Actor & comedian Robin Williams died on August 11 in his home in Paradise Cay, CA, of an apparent suicide. He was 63 years old. While known mostly as a fast-talking, energetic comedian with dazzling improvisational skills, he also had several ties to science fiction – starting with his role as an alien visiting Earth in the TV comedy *Mork & Mindy*.

In mid-2014, Williams admitted himself into the Hazelden Foundation Addiction Treatment Center in Lindstrom, Minnesota, for treatment related to his alcoholism. During the 1970s and early 1980s, Williams was addicted to cocaine. He was a casual friend of comedian John Belushi, and the sudden death of Belushi, with the birth of his son Zak, prompted him to quit drugs and alcohol. But he started drinking again in 2003 while working on a film in Alaska, and checked himself into a substance-abuse rehabilitation center in 2006.

His film debut was as the title character in *Popeye* in 1980. He also appeared in *The World According to Garp* (based on John Irving's novel), *Hook*, *Jumanji*,

What Dreams May Come, *The Fisher King*, *The Adventures of Baron Munchausen*, *Jack*, *Flubber*, *Bicentennial Man*, the *Night at the Museum* trilogy, *The Zero Theorem*, *The Final Cut*, *Faerie Tale Theatre*, and TV's *The Crazy Ones*. As a voice actor, he was the Genie in Disney's animated *Aladdin*; and also provided voices in *FernGully: The Last Rainforest*, *Aladdin and the King of Thieves*, *Robots*, *Happy Feet*, and *A.I. Artificial Intelligence*.

Williams was an enthusiast of both pen-and-paper role-playing games and video games. His daughter Zelda was named based on the title character from *The Legend of Zelda*, one of Williams' favorite video game series. In a 2013 online interview with Reddit, Williams stated it was his son, Zachary, who came up with the idea to name his sister after the video game character. Both Williams and daughter Zelda appeared together in a series of ads for Nintendo in 2011. Williams performed at large trade shows for consumer entertainment, and participated in the 2007 Worldwide Dungeons & Dragons Game Day in London.

Williams' favorite books were the *Foundation* trilogy by Isaac Asimov; the actor expressed enthusiasm at the idea of playing the character Hari Seldon in an adaptation. His favorite book growing up as a child was *The Lion*, *The Witch* and *The Wardrobe*, which he later shared with his children.

Williams is survived by his third wife, Susan Schnieder; two sons and a daughter.

FULLER TEASES GAIMAN'S *AMERICAN GODS*

Aside from the fact that it's happening, we haven't heard much about Bryan Fuller's *American Gods* series over at Starz since it was announced. Now Fuller is starting to drop some hints, reported Blstr in late August.

Fuller (*Pushing Daisies*) chatted with Crave Online about the Neil Gaiman adaptation and likened the project to another big hit that made the jump from page to screen at fellow pay cable network HBO – George R.R. Martin's *Game of Thrones*.

Gaiman's Hugo- and Nebula Award-winning novel about gods and mythological creatures is an ambitious pitch, and in lesser hands it might falter. But Fuller has proven time and time again he can take both his own (*Pushing Daisies*) and existing (*Hannibal*) properties and turn them into something altogether new and awesome.

As for *American Gods*, here's what Fuller had to say about his approach: "It's basically following the events of the books but expanding those events, and expanding the point of view to go above and beyond Shadow and Wednesday. In that way, as with *Game of Thrones*, there are dozens of characters that you're tracking through the events and that's probably the biggest

similarities between the worlds, in that there's a wide variety of characters at play."

Fuller also hinted that characters from the book's 2005 quasi-sequel *Anansi Boys* could also appear, especially considering Gaiman is signed on as a producer. Fuller also said he "damn well better" be writing some episodes once they get ramped up.

2014 SCRIBE WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The International Association of Media Tie-In Writers announced the winners of the 8th Annual Scribe Awards, for the best in tie-in fiction of 2013, at Comic-Con International in San Diego, July 24-27, 2014, Locus Online reported in late July.

General Novel Original: *Mr. Monk Helps Himself* by Hy Conrad, Speculative Novel Original: *Star Wars: Kenobi* by John Jackson Miller, Novel Adapted: *Pacific Rim* by Alex Irvine, Young Adult: *Kevin* by Paul Kupperberg, Short Stories: "So Long, Chief" by Max Allan Collins & Mickey Spillane, and Audio: *Blake's 7: The Armageddon Storm* by Cavan Scott & Mark Wright.

PERN SERIES OPTIONED BY WARNER

The late Anne McCaffrey's *Pern* series has been optioned for film by Warner Bros., which has been said to want to develop it into a franchise film series, reported Locus Online in early August.

The SF saga began with story "Weyr Search" in 1967, and novel *Dragonflight* the following year. The *Pern* series has continued for 21 more novels and many short stories.

WORLD FANTASY BALLOT ANNOUNCED

The World Fantasy Awards Ballot for works published in 2013 was announced in early July, Locus Online reported. Nominees include Bubonicon 47 special guest Catherynne M. Valente, Santa Fe author George RR Martin, and past Bubonicon Artist Guests John Picacio and Charles Vess.

The awards will be presented during the World Fantasy Convention, November 6-9, in Washington, DC. The Lifetime Achievement Awards, presented annually to individuals who have demonstrated outstanding service to the fantasy field, will go to Ellen Datlow and Chelsea Quinn Yarbro, it was announced at the beginning of July.

The World Fantasy Awards finalists are:

Novel: *Dust Devil on a Quiet Street* by Richard Bowes, *A Natural History of Dragons: A Memoir* by Lady Trent by Marie Brennan, *The Ocean at the End of the Lane* by Neil Gaiman, *A Stranger in Olondria* by

Sofia Samatar, *The Golem and the Jinni* by Helene Wecker, and *The Land Across* by Gene Wolfe.

Novella: “Wakulla Springs” by Andy Duncan & Ellen Klages, *Black Helicopters* by Caitlin R. Kiernan, “The Sun and I” by K.J. Parker, “Burning Girls” by Veronica Schanoes, and *SIX-GUN SNOW WHITE* BY CATHERYNNE M. VALENTE.

Short Fiction: “The Ink Readers of Doi Saket” by Thomas Olde Heuvelt, “The Prayer of Ninety Cats” by Caitlin R. Kiernan, “Effigy Nights” by Yoon Ha Lee, “Selkie Stories Are for Losers” by Sofia Samatar, and “If You Were a Dinosaur, My Love” by Rachel Swirsky.

Anthology: *xo Orpheus: Fifty New Myths* edited by Kate Bernheimer, *Queen Victoria’s Book of Spells* edited by Ellen Datlow & Terri Windling, *Flotsam Fantastique: The Souvenir Book of World Fantasy Convention 2013* edited by Stephen Jones, *DANGEROUS WOMEN* EDITED BY GEORGE R.R. MARTIN & GARDNER DOZOIS, *End of the Road* edited by Jonathan Oliver, and *Fear-some Journeys: The New Solaris Book of Fantasy* edited by Jonathan Strahan.

Collection: *North American Lake Monsters* by Nathan Ballingrud, *The Beautiful Thing That Awaits Us All and Other Stories* by Laird Barron, *The Ape’s Wife and Other Stories* by Caitlin R. Kiernan, *Flowers of the Sea* by Reggie Oliver, and *How the World Became Quiet* by Rachel Swirsky.

Artist: Galen Dara, Zelda Devon, Julie Dillon, JOHN PICACIO and CHARLES VESS.

Special Award – Professional: John Joseph Adams, for magazine and anthology editing; Ginjer Buchanan, for editing at Ace Books; Irene Gallo, for art direction of Tor.com; William K. Schafer, for Subterranean Press; Jeff VanderMeer & Jeremy Zerfoss, for *Wonderbook: The Illustrated Guide to Creating Imaginative Fiction*; and Jerad Walters, for Centipede Press.

Special Award – Nonprofessional: Scott H. Andrews, for *Beneath Ceaseless Skies*; Marc Aplin, for *Fantasy-Faction*; Kate Baker, Neil Clarke & Sean Wallace, for *Clarkesworld*; Leslie Howle, for Clarion West administration; and Mienieke van der Salm, for *A Fantastical Librarian*.

BUBONICON 46 EARLY, LESS ATTENDANCE IN 3RD YEAR AT MARRIOTT UPTOWN

With 660 attendees, Bubonicon 46 was down one-third from 2013, which was not a real shocker since our fan-run NM convention was three weeks earlier than usual. Despite the lower attendance, this year’s frugal spending added to the nest egg and is financing various improvements. So, it still was a success! People brought their “sidekicks and minions” for a good time.

In the end, Bubonicon 46 donated a record \$5,000 to non-profit organizations. The Williamson Library

Collection at Eastern NM University and the local Roadrunner Food Bank were given \$2,000 each, while \$700 was donated to the Albuquerque Public Library Foundation and \$300 was given to New Mexico PBS.

Bubonicon 46 saw five new programming participants – Livia Blackburne, Ernest Cline, Jeffe Kennedy, Robin Owens and Lauren C. Teffeau; plus the return of Yvonne Coats, Stephen R. Donaldson and Emily Mah.

Well-received programming included the 11th Annual Afternoon Tea, Courtney Willis’ science talk and his Dr. Science demo, the Robin & Tonto Sidekicks panel, Jack Campbell’s talk on Quantum Physics, the Pop! Culture panel, Stephen R. Donaldson’s talk, Steven Gould’s Japanese Sword demo, Darynda Jones’ writing workshop, Connie Willis’ talk, the Costume Contest and Green Slime Awards, SF Name That Tune, Opening Ceremonies, and the Co-Guests of Honor presentation.

The Art Show had 45 artists displaying their wares with sales of \$9,067 – 40 percent of all artwork entered was sold. The Sunday Auction was down a tad from 2013 with sales of \$2,111 (*Froomb* went for \$55). Of that, 45.2 percent went to Bubonicon. Friday’s Charity Auction was about the same as 2012, raising \$1,500.

So, Bubonicon 46 was a success overall. The 3rd year at the Albuquerque Marriott Uptown went pretty well, even with a couple of misunderstandings and changes in the convention’s room usage. It’s still true that a large percentage of the hotel staff are closet fans!

COSTUME CONTEST AWARDS: Best of Show went to Steampunk Elepheba & her Minion, the Clockwork Monkey (Geneva Schult & Leah Ransom), Best Use of Theme (Sidekicks & Meme-ions) was Spielberg & the Redshirts (Brian Grossman, Stina Branson, Caitlin Grabarek & Tony Cramer), Best R.U.R.: Material Girl was Robot Girl (Diane Gray), Best “Who’s That Girl?” went to Idris’ Stray (Harriet Engle), Best Judges’ Bribe was Wicked LuLu and Pix (Anna & Arya McKibben), and Best Youth Costume (Things We Love) was awarded to Thing One & Thing Two (Jennifer & Angela Balulis).

ART SHOW AWARDS: Professional to Jim Elizabeth Leggett, Amateur to Donna Stevenson, Student to Locke Pascal, and Beast of Show (theme) to Donna Stevenson.

All in all, the con went very well thanks to every individual who pitched in! So, a tip of the con-com’s hats to everyone who contributed their time & efforts!

BUBONICON 47 will be held August 28-30, 2015 – back to the normal weekend – at the Albuquerque Marriott Uptown (Louisiana & I-40), with Guests of Honor Tamora Pierce & Catherynne M. Valente, Toastmistress Mary Robinette Kowal, and Guest Artist Ruth Sander-son. Rooms are \$99 single-quad with free WiFi in sleeping rooms. Con chairs are Craig Chrissinger and Caci Cooper once again.

Good luck to the 2015 team during their fourth year at the Marriott (suggestions/program ideas are being taken now at bubonicon@gmail.com).

An Event Report

KIM HARRISON VISITS SANTA FE SEPTEMBER 30, 2014, AT JCC

by Caci L. Cooper

Kim Harrison's funny and freaky supernatural *Hollows* series has gained popularity with each installment, but the writer is voluntarily ending the series with volume 13, *The Witch with No Name*. As such, Harrison came to George RR Martin's Jean Cocteau Cinema on September 30 for a signing and Q&A session.

Kim Harrison is the pen name for Dawn Cook, however Harrison is the name she'll be keeping as she continues her writing. She said her original short story for the *Hollows* sat in a drawer for seven years before it was published. The story is set up with a worldwide disaster before the beginning of the first book and stems from a genetically mutated tomato. This tomato catastrophe wipes out much of the human population, however, it brought to light the fact that there are other species living day-to-day lives such as vampires, witches, werewolves and other demons of the night. It also left these newly exposed species in a much more powerful position, with humans at such low population levels. When asked to explain "why tomatoes?" Harrison replied that it was an easy choice since tomatoes were one of the first GMO products.

There were approximately 50 attendees at the Jean Cocteau. Many with canned tomatoes in hand as a nod to the catastrophe from the books. All canned tomatoes were then donated by Harrison to the local food bank after the talk. The hardback copies of *The Witch with No Name* sold out at the Cocteau, and the staff was pulling down the last few copies from displays and out of Harrison's own bag to ensure everyone who wanted one was able to take one home.

George RR Martin facilitated the Q&A session, and spent much of the time asking rapid fire questions regarding how she got started writing (telling her children bedtime stories), how she was published for the first time (chance meeting of her agent at a party) and why she chose to use a pen name (her editor chose the name to put her next to Charlaine Harris and Laurel K Hamilton on the shelf).

GRRM also discussed writing styles of various authors equating them to a "planner" – one who outlines and has set steps and places they want to go in the story, or a "gardener" – one who has a general idea but lets the writing take the story wherever it will. Harrison was convinced she was a planner by outlining her stories, but throughout the evening she revealed she had to follow where her characters took her even if it was against her original outline. At this point GRRM piped in, "Then, of course, you're a gardener, if you're writing along and

suddenly your beautifully cultivated tomato turns into an onion, which then a few chapters later transforms into a rutabaga, you're definitely a gardener!"

At the end of the evening after audience questions and answers, and when the signing line had finally dwindled down, there was a raffle for tote bags with *The Witch with No Name* cover art screen printed on the side. Harrison's husband also did a handful of trivia questions for Kim Harrison t-shirts. Those who won or wore their previously acquired t-shirts got to take a picture with Harrison.

Harrison ended the night by thanking all the attendees for the support for the *Hollows* throughout the years and letting them know that while the series itself might be done, there are still a couple of short stories coming out to wrap up some of the little things she was just not able to get to in the books.

BOOK REVIEW ROUND-UP

***Clariel: The Lost Abhorsen* by Garth Nix, HarperCollins 2014, hc \$18.99, 384 pages.**

Review by Jessica Coyle

Clariel: The Lost Abhorsen is the fourth book in Garth Nix's *Old Kingdom* series. The story is a prequel to the adventures of the Abhorsen Trilogy. Clariel is a girl with a simple dream: to become a Borderer and live in and protect the Great Forest. Unfortunately, she is the daughter of the kingdom's best goldsmith and a relative of the King and the Abhorsen, the kingdom's greatest magician. Her parents move the family to the city of Belisaere so that her mother can start working more closely with the Goldsmith's Guild. Clariel is sent to finishing school, and it becomes obvious that her parents are trying to marry her off in an attempt to gain more prestige within the kingdom.

Her mother also insists that Clariel should start training in the magic of the Abhorsens, even though she has never shown the magical aptitude of the rest of her family. Then, when she is brought along by her magic tutor on the search for a dangerous Free Magic creature, she discovers that she has a strange form of sorcery that is different from anyone she knows. Will she be able to conquer this magic, or will it possess her and destroy everything she has ever known?

Garth Nix's return to the land of his Abhorsen Trilogy is well worth the wait. Clariel is a fully-developed character who seems to be constantly caught up in other people's machinations to the detriment of her own desires. It is interesting to see how she finally seizes control of her own life, and, as the reader, I was rooting for her up until the very end. Nix did a great job tying this prequel into his other Old Kingdom books while keeping the reader guessing as to how right up until the finish. I highly recommend this book to those who have read Garth Nix's other works.

***Cibola Burn: The Expanse Book 4* by James S.A. Corey, Orbit Books 2014, hc \$27.00, 584 pages.**

Review by Kat Bradley

Cibola Burn is a fantastic addition to James S.A. Corey's Expanse series (now estimated to finish in nine books).

Humans have made their way into space made up of factions with Earthers, Martians and Belters (folks living in the asteroid belt between Jupiter and the inner planets). While the advancements that enabled humans to leave Earth are impressive, the psychology of competition continues to drive conflicts between factions. In the first three novels in the Expanse series, the dangers faced by characters owed as much to traditional human issues as to the difficulties of life in space. Then the discovery of an alien proto-molecule that someone foolishly thought to militarize escaped the SAFE setting and was unleashed on a human settlement. Chaos ensued and life for all humanity has never been the same.

Cibola Burn picks up after the surprising developments of *Abaddon's Gate*, and is a rollercoaster ride through disaster after disaster. Belter settlers have staked a claim to the first planet found on the other side of the newly opened Rings. The UN has authorized a science mission to investigate the viability of humans living there. The first interaction between the two sides goes horribly wrong and Jim Holden has been asked by Fred Johnson and Secretary Avasarala to go out there and mediate between the two sides. Just as he arrives, everything falls apart. Suddenly, Naomi's been taken into custody and held from the Roci, Holden's trying to negotiate with a power crazed lunatic, Miller's asking for favors and not making a lot of sense while the planet they're on has apparently been altered by the proto-molecule and, worse, is waking, sending the whole mess into a tailspin. Skirting doom at every turn, Holden faces some of his toughest battles.

***Maplecroft: The Borden Dispatches* by Cherie Priest, Roc 2014, tp \$15.00, 448 pages.**

Review by Jessica Coyle

Maplecroft: The Borden Dispatches is the latest novel by Cherie Priest, author of the *Clockwork Century* series of books. It follows the infamous Lizzie Borden during the time after she is found innocent of murdering her parents. Lizzie fully admits to the killings, but not for the reasons one might suspect. Her town of Fall River, Massachusetts, is slowly being taken over by entities from the ocean that are able to seize control of a person's body and replace them. Lizzie and her sister Emma are the only two people who are aware of what is happening, although they soon bring the local doctor into their confidence.

Lizzie, Emma, and Dr. Seabury are soon in over their head as it becomes apparent they are fighting a losing battle against a force completely outside of their understanding. Will they be able to save Fall River, or will

they be forced to choose their own survival instead?

Cherie Priest weaves a masterful tale in her first full-length novel since the ending of her long-running *Clockwork Century* series. *Maplecroft* is a throwback to the old gothic tales of horror, and owes a lot of its technique and atmosphere to the tales of H.P. Lovecraft. If you are a fan of either Priest or Gothic Horror, this novel is a must-read.

***Exo: Jumper Book 4* by Steven Gould, Tor Books 2014, hc \$25.99, 463 pages.**

Review by Craig Chrissinger

Following on the heels of *Impulse*, which introduced Cent – daughter of Davy and Millie – Steven Gould's *Exo*, the latest in the *Jumper* series, follows the young woman as she tests her teleportation skills and range. Her goal is to go into space, but she faces challenges along the way. If nothing else, she needs a pressure or space suit with its own air supply and means of heating/cooling. And then there is the US Space Command, which might see her sudden appearance in orbit as a threat. Not to mention the perilous, shady people who have hunted the three jumpers over the years, always wanting just one small favor in exchange for their freedom and not harming them.

In Gould's hands, Cent also is a fairly typical 17-year-old female. She has friends and an ex-boyfriend, a desire to be in public school or college, and a yearning not to hide any more. She's smarter than she realizes, understanding orbital mechanics and such, but not always a master of social skills. All of which makes her an appealing character to follow as she becomes "Space Girl" and delivers satellites to orbit and brings down space debris.

Exo is a delightful, warm and fast read in which Gould delivers the goods. There is space action, intrigue, teenage angst, scientific ideas and family. Even without reading the previous books in the series, it is easy to understand and enjoy Cent's story. This book should appeal to both adult and teenage readers of science fiction.

***Robot Uprisings* edited by Daniel H. Wilson and John Joseph Adams, Vintage Books 2014, tp \$15.95, 478 pages.**

Review by Craig Chrissinger

Robots rising up against their human creators/masters is a staple of science-fiction movies and TV stories. Now in the *Robot Uprisings* anthology, editors Daniel H. Wilson and John Joseph Adams let various authors explore their take on what the increasing presence of robots in our lives might mean. These robot stories explore everything from a Roomba vacuum cleaner becoming self-aware to a robot caring for a child even though it is forbidden. And, as with any anthology, it is a mixed bag. Not every story will appeal to every reader, but there are some interesting and entertaining efforts here.

In “The Omnibot Incident,” Ernest Cline creates a childhood memory of a toy robot that seems to talk and possibly wants to kill humans. Hugh Howey’s “Executable” explores the self-aware Roomba. Alan Dean Foster’s “Seasoning” has one of the subtlest robot takeovers – they control humans with food ingredients. And in Seanan McGuire’s “We Are All Misfit Toys in the Aftermath of the Velveteen War” explores a post-war scenario where self-learning toys have taken all the world’s children as hostages to love and care for – unless adults try to interfere.

Maybe one day self-driving cars will drive us off bridges, and our love androids will refuse to provide companionship until the house is cleaned. Or maybe not. But it’s great material for speculative fiction. *Robot Uprisings* is a fun collection, and worth the time for a story or two.

ASFS MEETING REPORTS — MAY 2014: SUMMER MOVIE PREVIEWS

Forty-one people came to listen to *Weekly Alibi* film critic Devin O’Leary as he presented the 2nd “Summer Movie Trailer Park” to ASFS with commentary.

First up was *Captain America: The Winter Soldier*, already in theaters. “I love this film a hell of a lot,” O’Leary said. “Chris Evans is signed up for one more *Captain America* and next summer’s *Avengers 2*.”

He also showed trailers for *Jinn* (“a real dark fantasy already released in England”), *Godzilla* (“I couldn’t be more excited. The trailers look great.”), *X-Men: Days of Future Past*, *Maleficent*, *Edge of Tomorrow* (“I’m intrigued by it. Kind of *Independence Day* meets *Groundhog Day*. Tom Cruise likes sci-fi.”), *The Signal* (“Very mysterious trailer. They partially shot in here in New Mexico.”), *Transformers: Age of Extinction* (“Lots of explosions and very loud. It’s half an hour too long.”), *Earth To Echo* (“A throwback to 80s style family sci-fi, kind of like *Explorers* meets *E.T.*”), *Dawn of the Planet of the Apes*, *Jupiter Ascending* (“This one sounds very strange. It’s pretty wild.”), *Guardians of the Galaxy* (“This could be one of my favorite trailers ever. It’s a pretty obscure comic. It looks fantastic, and it takes us into the next phase of Marvel films.”), *Lucy* (“Looks crazy, so I gotta see how it plays out.”), *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* (“It’s a complete reboot with Michael Bay producing.”), *The Expendables 3* (“Basically a straight 80s action flick.”), *Sin City: A Dame To Kill For*, and *Amazing Spider-Man 2* (“I’m not a big fan of the reboot. There is some good drama and acting, but too many action scenes just thrown in.”).

Finishing up, O’Leary responded to an inquiry, “Why can’t Hollywood do Wonder Woman? The real reason is because DC Comics doesn’t have a great relationship with Warner. Warner controls the movies, not DC. A bunch of superheroes should be introduced at the end of *Batman vs. Superman* to go into the Justice League and spin-offs. But Wonder Woman is not one of them right now.”

JUNE: A VISIT FROM JANE LINDSKOLD

For the first ASFS of summer, 36 people were present for a visit from local author Jane Lindskold, promoting *Artemis Awakening*, the start of a new series.

“This book should appeal to fans of both SF and fantasy,” she remarked. “And it’s been getting pretty good reviews. The cover is based on a sketch by a local fan after I sent out my ideas and asked for art interpretations.”

Lindskold then read chapter one, in which a shuttle crashes on Artemis and is witnessed by an inhabitant. The book is part of a two-book contract, with the second already written. Book two’s tentative title is *Artemis Invaded* and it is scheduled for June 2015. *Artemis Awakening* also will be coming out as an audio book, she noted.

Lindskold said the planet is named Artemis after the Goddess of the Hunt, and that it was created as a pleasure planet where the privileged could test themselves against the forces of nature.

She also has done a piece for SM Stirling’s *Change* universe anthology that will be out next year. “I proved to myself that I can’t write cozy disaster that well, but I ended up liking it.” In addition, she is doing some print-on-demand and e-book versions of older books (such as *Changer*) with Pati Nagle assisting on the formatting.

Lindskold said recent books she’s read are *The Stars My Destination* by Alfred Bester and *Way Station* by Clifford Simak. “Both still stand up very well,” she said.

She noted that she would like to write a third *Changer* novel, but there is no current interest from publishers. Also, they were written in present tense, and there is some reader resistance to that style.

UPCOMING FAN EVENTS

+ **MILEHICON 46** takes place Friday-Sunday, Oct 24-26, at the Hyatt Regency Tech Center in Denver. Special Guests Daniel Abraham, Ty Franck, Michael Swanwick, Jeanne C. Stein, and artists Phil & Kaja Foglio, plus folks such as Mario Acevedo, Paolo Bacigalupi, Carol Berg, Peri Charlifu, Warren Hammond, Tim Simpson, Susan Krinard, Carrie Vaughn, Connie and Courtney Willis and more. Panels, Readings, Art Show, Dealers Room, Dr. Science, Masquerade, Critter Crunch, Gaming, SF Name That Tune, Literacy Auction and more. Bubonicon sponsors the con suite Friday evening! \$46.00 at the door. Hotel 303-779-1234. www.milehicon.org.

+ **THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW**, the cult classic musical, screens 10:30 pm Fri-Sat, Oct 24 & 25, at the Guild Cinema, 3405 Central Ave NE. Special event \$20.00, with a prop bag provided. www.guildcinema.com.

+ **RIFFTRAX LIVE: ANACONDA**, with funny comments on the 1997 giant snake zombie film, is 7:00 pm Thursday, Oct 30, at the Century Rio, Century Downtown and Regal Cottonwood. www.fathomevents.com.

+ **DEAD SNOW 2: RED VS DEAD**, a 2014 horror comedy and sequel to 2009’s *Dead Snow*, screens 10:15 pm Fri-Sat, October 31 & November 1 at the Guild Cinema. Bubonicon 47 is the prize sponsor. www.guildcinema.com.

+ **DARYNDA JONES** of Portales and **Katie Lane** of ABQ talk about and sign their latest paranormal & romance efforts, *Seventh Grave* and *No Body & Ring in the Holidays* respectively, 3:00 pm Saturday, Nov 1, at Page One Books, Eubank & Juan Tabo NE. www.page1book.com.

+ **CONNIE WILLIS** of Colorado and **Melinda Snodgrass** will give a talk on "A Contract with the Reader" 7:00 pm Tuesday, Nov 25, at Page One Books. www.page1book.com.

+ **JOE R. LANSDALE'S** *Christmas with the Dead*, a zombie holiday film, should be screening in the 10 o'clock hour Fri-Sat, November 28 & 29. Bubonicon is the sponsor for these special screenings which will benefit the ABQ Public Library Foundation. Tickets will be \$8.00. Plan to attend! (The Guild Cinema also we showing a double-feature of *This Island Earth* and *Forbidden Planet* those days.) More information forthcoming as details are confirmed at www.guildcinema.com & www.bubonicon.com.

EDITOR NOTES TO FILL THIS SPACE

RAINING OUTSIDE right now, temperatures swinging between above average to below normal, and balloons in the sky - must be Fall in ABQ. Time for the annual question of when swamp coolers get turned off and furnaces come on.

MILEHICON 46 is two weeks off. Looking forward to it, and a little extra time in Denver. We'll be busy with Bubonicon hosting the con suite for two hours - plus I'm helping with SF Name That Tune, two Turkey Read-Offs & part of the Literacy

Auction. It will be good to see Connie & Courtney Willis, Carrie Vaughn, Jeanne C. Stein, and various Colorado fan friends.

SAW *DRACULA UNTOLD* this past Tuesday at an advance preview screening. Kind of an action-adventure film with lots of fighting and then Dracula. Or is that Vlad? Pretty much a cheesy, sometimes fun flick. We also saw *BoxTrolls* last week. It's a cute, sweet and fun film from the folks who did *ParaNorman*. Very nicely done. And it was good to see Terry Gilliam's *The Zero Theorem* at the Guild Cinema in September. Another visually captivating Gilliam movie that gives you something to think about. Looking forward to *Book of Life*, Christopher Nolan's *Interstellar* next month, and also Disney's *Big Hero 6*.

SEEMS LIKE time is zooming by as we head toward the Big Holiday Season - Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New

Year's. Just hoping for one weekend where we have nothing to do but watch movies, read comic books and eat complete junk if that's what we want. Oh, and leisurely naps. Ah, nice.

THANKS TO Jessica Coyle, Caci Cooper and Kat Bradley for contributions. Much more needed in December, please!

Happy Halloween & Thanksgiving!

Out of room... -Craig C.



Albuquerque SF Society

CLUB ADDRESS: PO Box 37257
Albuquerque, NM 87176-7257

Next Deadline: Sunday, December 7, 2014

EDITOR: CRAIG CHRISSINGER
cwcraig@nmia.com

