

ASFACTS 2015

JULY "RAIN LOWERS TEMPERATURES" ISSUE

2014 NEBULA WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The 2014 Nebula Awards were presented June 6, 2015 in a ceremony at SFWA's 50th Annual Nebula Awards Weekend, held in Chicago, IL. Larry Niven was honored with the 2014 Damon Knight Grand Master Award for his lifetime contributions and achievements in the field. A full list of winners, including Bubonicon 44 Artist Guest Ursula Vernon, follows:

NOVEL: *Annihilation* by Jeff VanderMeer, NOVELLA: *Yesterday's Kin* by Nancy Kress, NOVELETTE: "A Guide to the Fruits of Hawai'i" by Alaya Dawn Johnson, SHORT STORY: "JACKALOPE WIVES" BY URSULA VERNON, RAY BRADBURY AWARD: *Guardians of the Galaxy* written by James Gunn and Nicole Perlman, and the ANDRE NORTON AWARD: *Love Is the Drug* by Alaya Dawn Johnson.

The Solstice Award was given to Joanna Russ posthumously, and to Stanley Schmidt. Jeffry Dwight received the Kevin O' Donnell Jr. Service to SFWA Award.

Winners were announced during the Nebula Awards Weekend June 4-7 at the Palmer House Hilton, Chicago IL. The Nebula Awards are voted on, and presented by, active members of SFWA.

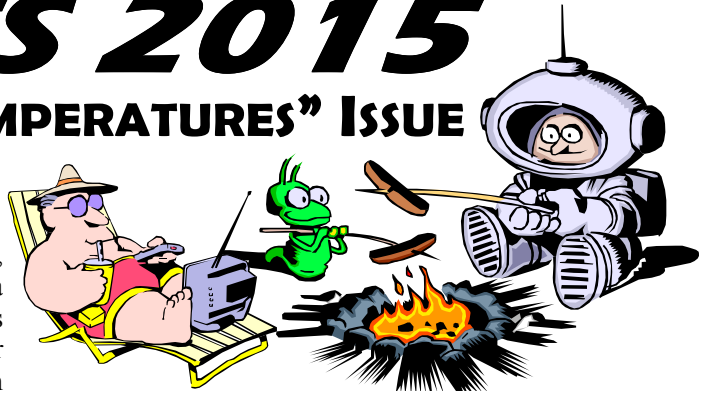
ROGERS & DENNING HOSTING PRE-CON PARTY

Patricia Rogers and Scott Denning will uphold a local fannish tradition when they host the Bubonicon 47 Pre-Con Party 7:30-10:30 pm Thursday, August 27, 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 a cow crossing sign and Mile Marker 9. The house – with a mummy on the gate – is on the west side of the road. Please park your vehicle on the shoulder of Highway 313.

In addition to socializing, attendees can help assemble the membership packets, & check out the 2015 t-shirt with artwork by Ruth Sanderson.

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



2015 LOCUS WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The Locus Science Fiction Foundation announced the winners of the 2015 Locus Awards on Saturday, June 27, during the Locus Awards Weekend in Seattle, WA. Among the winners are Santa Fe author George RR Martin and Bubonicon 43 Artist Guest John Picacio.

SCIENCE FICTION NOVEL: *Ancillary Sword* by Ann Leckie, FANTASY NOVEL: *The Goblin Emperor* by Katherine Addison, FIRST NOVEL: *The Memory Garden* by Mary Rickert, YOUNG ADULT BOOK: *Half a King* by Joe Abercrombie, NOVELLA: *Yesterday's Kin* by Nancy Kress, NOVELETTE: "Tough Times All Over" by Joe Abercrombie, SHORT STORY: "The Truth About Owls" by Amal El-Mohtar.

ANTHOLOGY: *ROGUES* EDITED BY GEORGE R.R. MARTIN & GARDNER DOZOIS, COLLECTION: *Last Plane to Heaven* by Jay Lake, NON-FICTION: *What Makes This Book So Great* by Jo Walton, ART BOOK: *Spectrum 21: The Best in Contemporary Fantastic Art* edited by John Fleskes.

ARTIST: JOHN PICACIO, EDITOR: Ellen Datlow,

UPCOMING ASF\$ MEETINGS

- **Tonight:** Summer Film Fun with 1957's *Attack of the Crab Monsters* and cartoon shorts...
- **August 14:** Bubonicon 47 preview and a visit from Santa Fe author Melinda Snodgrass.
- **September 18 (a week late):** It's All About the Cons! Bubonicon 47, Spokane Worldcon & DragonCon reports. Also, election of the Bubonicon 48 chair if necessary (voting rules apply).
- **October 9:** Election of three club officers & something else fun. Plus the Halloween issue of *AS-FACTS* (deadline Sunday, October 4).
- **November 13:** An interesting talk, we hope.
- **December 11:** 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: cwcraig@nmia.com. *ASFACTS* published February, April, July & October for the Albuquerque SF Society. *SITHFACTS* out each December. NEXT DEADLINE: Sun, Oct 4. **Club Officers:** Kevin Hewett & Craig Chrissinger, co-Zec Secs (505) 266-8905. Geneva Schult, Moderator. Patricia Rogers, Alternator. HAL 9000, Advisor. **Bubonicon Chairs:** Caci Cooper (505) 559-0931 & Craig Chrissinger. www.bubonicon.com

MAGAZINE: Tor.com, and PUBLISHER: Tor.

Connie Willis was MC for the awards ceremony. Weekend events included author readings with Willis and Daryl Gregory; a kickoff Clarion West party honoring first week instructor Andy Duncan; panels with leading authors; an autograph session; and a lunch banquet with the annual Hawaiian shirt contest, all followed by a Locus party Saturday night.

FORMER ASFS MEMBER DIES

Former ASFS member Michael Wernig died June 3 of complications from cancer. He was 61 years old.

Wernig was born in Morocco, and grew up traveling the world with his family. Eventually, they settled in Albuquerque, where he graduated from Sandia High School. He attended New Mexico Tech, the University of New Mexico and TVI before graduating from the University of Phoenix with a Bachelors degree in Computer Science. He began working at Sandia National Labs in the late 1970s.

In the mid-1980s, Wernig helped ASFS and other clubs obtain meeting space for several years in Oddfellows Hall off Menaul Boulevard when he worked in the computer department of the credit union that then owned the building. His wife, Denise, and he attended most Bubonicons and also traveled to Denver for Milehicon – supporting the art shows of both conventions.

He had a soft spot for animals and charity volunteer work; and enjoyed participating in karate and music.

A Celebration of Life was held June 12 at French Mortuary on Lomas NE. Memorial contributions may be made to Nusenda Credit Union, attn: Michael Wernig account, 7801 Juan Tabo Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87112.

He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Denise, and many other family and friends.

2015 CAMPBELL & STURGEON WINNERS

The First Fifteen Lives of Harry August by Claire North won this year's John W. Campbell Memorial Award for the best science fiction novel published in 2014, and Cory Doctorow's "The Man Who Sold the Moon" is the winner of the Theodore Sturgeon Memorial Award for the best short fiction of 2014, Locus Online reported mid-June.

The awards will be presented during the Campbell Conference Awards Banquet, June 11-14 at the University of Kansas in Lawrence KS.

TANITH LEE PASSES AWAY

Author Tanith Lee died peacefully in her sleep May 24 after a long illness, Locus Online reports. She was 67 years old.

Lee was born September 19, 1947, in London and

studied at Prendergast Grammar School, Catford, London, and at an art college in the city. After working for a while as a library assistant in London, she became a freelance writer in 1975. Her first published books were children's fantasies *The Dragon Hoard* in 1971 and *Animal Castle* the year after. Her first adult fantasy, *The Birthgrave* in 1975, launched a prolific career in adult fantasy, SF, and horror encompassing numerous series, among them *Birthgrave*, *Blood Opera*, *Tales from the Flat Earth*, *Secret Books of Paradys*, *Unicorn*, *War of Vis*, *Claidi Journals*, *Lionwolf*, and children's series *Piratica*.

She received the British Fantasy Society's August Derleth Award in 1980 for *Death's Master*. Notable standalone works include YA fantasy *Gold Unicorn*, SF novel *Eva Fairdeath*, horror novel *Vivia*, alternate history Victorian fantasy *Reigning Cats and Dogs*, contemporary fantasy *When the Lights Go Out*, historical novel *The Gods Are Thirsty*, fairytale novel *White as Snow*, epic fantasy *Mortal Suns*, and YA *Indigara; Or, Jet and Otis Conquer the World*. In all, she produced more than 90 books.

Lee was also an adept short fiction writer, who won World Fantasy Awards for "The Gorgon" and "Elle es Trois (La Mort)." Some of her short work has been collected in *Red as Blood*, *Dreams of Dark and Light*, *Night's Sorceries*, *The Book of the Damned*, *Nightshades*, *Tempting the Gods*, *Animate Objects*, and *Space Is Just a Starry Night* (2014), among others.

Lee was named a World Horror Grandmaster in 2009, was presented with the World Fantasy Award for life achievement in 2013, and won the Bram Stoker Award for life achievement in 2015.

She is survived by her husband, the writer and artist John Kaiine, whom she married in 1992.

HELP NEEDED AT BUBONICON

It's true! Volunteers or "gofers" are needed to help out at Bubonicon 47 the weekend of August 28-30 at the Albuquerque Marriott Uptown. We're looking for people who can donate four, seven or even 12 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 be in a drawing on Sunday of the convention for various goodies liked signed books, toys, genre t-shirts, Guild Cinema passes and more!

The Volunteers (Gofers) Organizational Meeting will take place 7:30 pm Friday, August 21, at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, 5301 Ponderosa Ave NE (between San Mateo and San Pedro, south of Montgomery – enter through the North Door on the backside of the building). All attending volunteer workers at this meeting will re-

ceive a genre-related t-shirt and possibly other promotional goods. We also will be giving away passes for a science-fiction double feature at the Guild Cinema to at least a dozen gofers who are free to attend that weekend.

If you're willing to help us out, please email Angela Nybakke at volunteers@bubonicom.com.

GENRE BOOKS STILL DISCUSSED

The Droids & Dragons SF Book Group meets 7:30 pm Monday, July 20, at Pacific Paradise to discuss *The Mechanical* by Ian Tregillis. The group then recommends 2-4 books read in the last year but not discussed in group on August 17.

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 in the Mountain Run Shopping Center.

Pacific Paradise Restaurant is located at the northeast corner of San Pedro and Candelaria NE. The group meets in the side room to the left once in the front door. For info, contact Leah at skycaptain1883@yahoo.com or Craig at 266-8905.

SFWA ELECTION RESULTS

The results of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America officers' election were announced in late May according to Locus Online. Current president Steven Gould and director-at-large Jim Fiscus are stepping down on June 30, 2015. As of July 1, 2015, the new board will be: president: Cat Rambo; vice-president: M.C.A. Hogarth; secretary: Susan Forest; chief financial officer: Bud Sparhawk; directors-at-large: Jennifer Brozek, Matthew Johnson, Lee Martindale, Tansy Rayner Roberts, and Sarah Pinsker.

All elections are for two-year terms, except vice president and CFO, which are one-year terms. Starting next year, elections will alternate, with vice president and CFO elections held on even years (along with a subset of directors-at-large), and elections for other positions held in odd years, with all terms lasting for two years.

CHRISTOPHER LEE DIES AT 93

(LA Times) Christopher Lee, the English actor who emerged as a British horror movie icon in the 1950s with his memorable portrayal of Count Dracula and later appeared in the blockbuster *Star Wars* and *The Lord of the Rings* films, died June 7. He was 93 years old.

Lee died in London of undisclosed causes, according to an official with the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea in London, who spoke on condition of anonymity in keeping with the policies of the borough.

In a career that spanned more than 60 years, beginning with bit parts in England in the late 1940s, Lee was known by the mid-'60s as "one of the screen's foremost purveyors of evil and terror," having played roles such as Frankenstein's monster, the Mummy and Rasputin, the Mad Monk.

Lee was still a relatively unknown character actor in Britain when he played his first horror role for Hammer Film Productions: the gruesome creature in *The Curse of Frankenstein*, a 1957 film starring Peter Cushing, who would become Lee's frequent co-star.

A year later, the towering 6-foot-4 actor with a voice that has been described as a "solemn, aristocratic baritone" gained international fame as the blood-sucking vampire in Hammer Films' *Horror of Dracula*.

Billed as "THE TERRIFYING LOVER WHO DIED... YET LIVED!" the film presented Dracula as a sex symbol, a nocturnal predator who awakened his female victims' sexual desires.

Lee once credited three films "for bringing me to the fore" as an actor, all of them remakes of classic films: *A Tale of Two Cities* (1958), in which he played the villainous marquis; *The Curse of Frankenstein* and *Horror of Dracula*.

But *Horror of Dracula*, titled *Dracula* in Britain, was "the one that made the difference. It brought me a name, a fan club and a secondhand car [a Mercedes-Benz], for all of which I was grateful," he wrote in *Tall, Dark and Gruesome*, his 1977 autobiography. "It also, if I may be forgiven for saying so, brought me the blessing of Lucifer, the third and final nail in my coffin. Count Dracula might escape, but not the actors who play him."

Lee went on to co-star with Boris Karloff in *Corridors of Blood* in 1958 and to star in films such as *The Mummy*, *The Face of Fu Manchu*, *Castle of the Living Dead*, *Crypt of the Vampire* and *I, Monster*.

He also played the 1962 title role in *Sherlock Holmes and the Deadly Necklace*.

But he remained closely identified with Dracula, a character he reprised in 1966 with *Dracula: Prince of Darkness*, and in a string of other films, including *Taste the Blood of Dracula* (1970) and *The Satanic Rites of Dracula* (1973).

He credited director Billy Wilder with opening the door to other roles when Wilder cast him as Sherlock Holmes' brother, Mycroft, in the 1970 film *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes*.

Lee played the leader of a pagan community in his most frequently cited favorite film, *The Wicker Man*, an offbeat 1973 thriller set on a remote Scottish island.

A role as a one-eyed villain in director Richard Lester's *The Three Musketeers* (1973) led to his being cast as the ruthless assassin Francisco Scaramanga in the 1974 James Bond movie *The Man with the Golden Gun*.

Lee, who spent 10 years living in Los Angeles in the 1970s and early '80s, appeared in *Airport '77* and played

a gay biker in *Serial*, a 1980 New Age comedy set in Marin County. Hosting *Saturday Night Live* in 1978 was a professional turning point.

Lee's legion of fans included directors who cast him in their films, including Joe Dante (*Gremlins II*), Steven Spielberg (*1941*), and Tim Burton (*Sleepy Hollow*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Alice in Wonderland* — as the voice of the Jabberwocky — and *Dark Shadows*.)

Lee made one film in Albuquerque for the revived Hammer Films in 2009 — *The Resident*, in which he played August, grandfather to Jeffrey Dean Morgan's creepy landlord.

The son of a lieutenant colonel in the 60th King's Royal Rifle Corps and an Italian countess, he was born in London on May 27, 1922.

His parents separated when he was four and divorced two years later. His mother later married a banker, who went bankrupt when Lee was a teenager. At 10, he became a boarder at Summer Fields prep school in Oxford, where he acted in school productions with Patrick Macnee, who later gained fame as the star of the British TV series *The Avengers*.

A classical scholar in Greek and Latin at Wellington College, Lee worked as a shipping company office boy and messenger in London before serving in the Royal Air Force and spending time as an intelligence officer during World War II. Back home after the war, he followed the suggestion of his mother's second cousin that he become an actor.

Lee made his film debut in 1948 with a one-line bit part in director Terence Young's *Corridor of Mirrors*.

Over the decades, he amassed more than 275 film and TV credits. After being knighted by Prince Charles at a ceremony in Buckingham Palace in 2009, Lee told Britain's *The Telegraph* that a "whole new career opened" for him in the new century when he appeared as the wizard Saruman in director Peter Jackson's *The Lord of the Rings* and as Count Dooku in George Lucas' *Star Wars* prequel films.

In 1961, Lee married Danish model Birgit "Gitte" Kroencke, with whom he had a daughter, Christina.

2014 BRAM STOKER WINNERS

The 2014 Bram Stoker Awards winners were announced May 9 by the Horror Writers Association. They were presented during a banquet ceremony at the 25th annual World Horror Convention in Atlanta, GA.

SUPERIOR ACHIEVEMENT IN A NOVEL: *Blood Kin* by Steve Rasnic Tem, FIRST NOVEL: *Mr. Wicker* by Maria Alexander, YA NOVEL: *Phoenix Island* by John Dixon, LONG FICTION: "Fishing for Dinosaurs" by Joe R. Lansdale, SHORT FICTION (tie): "The Vaporization Enthalpy of a Peculiar Pakistani Family" by Usman T. Malik and "Ruminations" by Rena Mason.

ANTHOLOGY: *Fearful Symmetries* edited by Ellen

Datlow, COLLECTION: *Soft Apocalypses* by Lucy Snyder, NON-FICTION: *Shooting Yourself in the Head For Fun and Profit: A Writer's Survival Guide* by Lucy Snyder, POETRY COLLECTION: *Forgiving Judas* by Tom Piccirilli, GRAPHIC NOVEL: *Bad Blood* by Jonathan Maberry & Tyler Crook, and SCREENPLAY: *The Babadook*.

Jack Ketchum and Tanith Lee were the recipients of the Horror Writer's Association Life Achievement Awards. ChiZine Publications won the Specialty Press Award, and the Silver Hammer Award, presented for outstanding service to HWA, went to Rena Mason. The President's Richard Laymon Service Award was given to Tom Calen, Brock Cooper, and Doug Murano.

HWA introduced the Mentor Award "honoring writers who, thru the Mentoring Program, provide excellent support to their mentees." Mentor of the Year went to Kathy Ptacek.

COMPOSER JAMES HORNER DIES

James Horner, composer of critically acclaimed, well-loved scores like *Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan* and *Aliens* — for which he received his first Oscar nomination — died in a plane crash on June 22. He was 61 years old.

According to *Variety*, "The two-seater single-engine S312 Tucano crashed north of Santa Barbara about 9:30 Monday morning and sparked a brush fire that was extinguished by country fire crews. Horner, a trained pilot, was alone in the plane, which was completely destroyed."

Horner's many other compositions includes *Avatar*, *Krull*, *Star Trek III: The Search for Spock* and even two episodes of *Star Trek: Phase II*. His non-genre work includes *Titanic*, *Patriot Games*, *Apollo 13* and *Braveheart*.

According to his Wikipedia page, "'Horner won two Academy Awards, for Best Original Dramatic Score (*Titanic*) and Best Original Song ('My Heart Will Go On') in 1998, and was nominated for an additional eight Oscars. He also won two Golden Globe Awards, three Satellite Awards, three Saturn Awards, and has been nominated for three British Academy Film Awards."

STAR TREK'S YEOMAN RAND DIES

(CNN) Grace Lee Whitney, who played Yeoman Janice Rand in the original *Star Trek* series and a handful of movies based on the series, died May 1. She was 85.

Whitney died in her home in Coarsegold, CA, her son, Jonathan Dweck, confirmed. Despite only appearing in eight episodes of the original series, Whitney officially reprised her role in *Star Trek: The Motion Picture*, *Star Trek III: The Search for Spock*, *Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home*, *Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country*, and *Star Trek: Voyager*. She reprised the role in the unofficial *Star Trek* fan projects *Star Trek: Of Gods and Men* and *Star*

Trek New Voyages: Phase II.

In her later years, Whitney worked as an advocate for people struggling with substance abuse. She credited her own recovery in some part to the *Star Trek* fans who supported her:

“When I told the fans I was an alcoholic, they all applauded. When I told them I had given myself to a higher power, they cheered again,” Whitney told *The Bee*’s Rick Bentley in 2013. “I’m in a great place because I’ve gone full circle.”

Outside of *Star Trek*, the Ann Arbor, MI. native was in the Broadway musical *Top Banana*, and appeared in the 1954 movie version of the show. She also was a band member in Marilyn Monroe’s *Some Like It Hot*. Her TV career included roles on *The Life and Legend of Wyatt Earp*, *The Real McCoys*, *The Outer Limits*, *Batman*, and *Bewitched*. She also served as the inspiration for the Chicken of the Sea mermaid.

RED DWARF RETURNS WITH CRAIG CHARLES

He’s spent a decade in Weatherfield but now Craig Charles is walking off the cobbles heading back into outer space as he leaves the soap, it was reported May 3.

What will be a loss to soap stalwarts is a gain for sci-fi fans as Charles reprises his role as the self-confessed “bum” Dave Lister on *Red Dwarf*.

The 50-year-old actor from Liverpool has played the role of the philandering Lloyd Mullaney, the owner of a cab firm on *Coronation Street* since 2005.

Charles issued a statement in which he said, “I will be very sad to leave. Lloyd has become a huge part of my life and I have made some amazing friends.

“But I feel I owe it to my colleagues on *Red Dwarf* to join them in filming the new series and finding out what is in store for Lister and the others.”

Actors Chris Barrie, Danny John-Jules and Robert Llewellyn will also be returning to their roles as Lister’s hapless fellow crew members on board the *Red Dwarf*.

The show followed the exploits of Lister, Rimmer, Cat and Kryten as they travelled through space and time.

The cult comedy sci-fi series originally ran from 1988-1993, and then 1997-1999 before a 10-year hiatus.

The sci-fi program has been broadcast in 25 different countries and has won Emmy and British Comedy Awards. *Red Dwarf* briefly returned for a mini-series in 2009 called *Back to Earth*. The three-episode special saw the characters return to Earth only to discover they are part of a TV show called *Red Dwarf*.

Things got even more post-modern and meta-fictional when the *Red Dwarf* crew actually visited the set of *Coronation Street* to find actor Craig Charles and track down their creator.

Back to Earth ended up drawing in an audience of around 2.6 million. It was a combination of the success of *Back to Earth* and endless repeats of *Red Dwarf* on

Dave that a new series was commissioned by the channel. *Red Dwarf X* was broadcast in 2012 and proved a hit with fans and led to a revival of the show.

Production on the new series will start this autumn.

AGENT CARTER MOVES ACTION TO CA

When word broke that Season 2 of ABC’s *Agent Carter* would trade New York for California, fans wondered what that meant for supporting characters around Hayley Atwell. Turns out they’re also tagging along.

Entertainment Weekly reported in early July that James D’Arcy (Edwin Jarvis) and Enver Gjokaj (Agent Daniel Sousa) have closed deals to co-star in the period-set Marvel series. Even better? Agreements to bring back Chad Michael Murray (Agent Jack Thompson), Bridget Regan (Dottie Underwood) and Lyndsy Fonseca (Angie Martinelli) are reportedly “forthcoming.” It looks like Peggy will be getting the gang back together in Cali, or at least keeping in touch with her New York pals.

Aside from the fact that Season 2 will be set in California, and apparently star several players from year one, we don’t know much about the plot. Here’s Marvel’s official description for the series’ return at midseason:

“Dedicated to the fight against new atomic age threats in the wake of World War II, Peggy must now journey from New York City to Los Angeles for her most dangerous assignment yet. But even as she discovers new friends, a new home — and perhaps even a new love — she’s about to find out that the bright lights of the post-war Hollywood mask a more sinister threat to everyone she is sworn to protect.”

No premiere date has been set for *Agent Carter* Season 2, though it’s expected to fill *Agents of SHIELD*’s mid-season gap once again

COMMUNITY MOVIE MORE LIKELY THAN A SEVENTH SEASON

Considering how close the show has been to cancellation all these years, its hard to believe we’ve finally made it through the sixth season of cult hit *Community*. So what comes next?

There’s nothing definitive, though Yahoo! seems to still be excited about the property and interested in doing something new. Series star Joel McHale chatted with *Esquire* about the sitcom, and said he’d expect a movie follow-up to come at some point. Considering the mantra of #sixseasonsandamovie, that’s not much of a surprise.

But, since *Community*’s sixth season was seemingly a solid hit for Yahoo!, they asked McHale if he thought another full-fledged season could be in the works. Sadly, it doesn’t sound likely. The big reason: The cast contracts only ran through a sixth year, so they’d need brand new deals for everyone to make a seventh season possible.

Considering a lot of these folks are bigger names now than they were when the show started (not to mention some have moved on to other projects) that could be a much more expensive proposition than Season 6.

As for what it'd take to make the movie a reality? McHale told *Esquire* he thinks the cast would return for one last hoorah, but only if series creator Dan Harmon writes the script: "I think what has to happen is that Dan [Harmon] needs to write the script. It's a tall order for someone. 'Go write a brilliant movie script on a beloved show that you've been writing for six years. Go! Just go ahead and do that!' I don't think that is something that's like, 'Let me just have a long weekend.' The cast would do it. We would all do it. It might be false optimism, but I really think there will be a [*Community*] movie. The more people read and talk about it, the more it gets stirred up. I think it'll be bigger than *Pitch Perfect 2*."

RAMPAGE GAME TO BECOME MOVIE?

Retro arcade games of the '80s are hot properties right now, and with the renaissance of interest in the quarter-gobbling electronic entertainments of yesteryear and the success of movies like *Pacific Rim* and *Godzilla*, it's no surprise the mutant monster shoot-em-up *Rampage* is getting a big-screen adaptation starring Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, reported *Blastr.com* in late June.

Though this amusing property had been eyed for the past few years, no solid casting choices or director had stepped up to the joystick until now.

New Line Pictures is teaming up with producer Beau Flynn (*San Andreas*, *Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters*) to convert Bally Midway's monster-mashing adventure game into a live-action feature film that hopes to begin production later this year for a possible summer 2016 release date. While no director is yet attached, the screenplay will be written by *Non-Stop*'s Ryan Engle.

Rampage's gameplay involved a trio of transformed humans named Ralph, Lizzie and George, who wreak havoc upon various American cities in the form of a giant werewolf, lizard and gorilla. Players control the freakish creatures, destroying buildings while attempting to avoid police forces and the military. It first debuted in 1986 as an arcade game, then moved to home game console systems.

It's unclear what role The Rock will ultimately play in the storyline, but rest assured it'll have something to do with him saving humanity from the ensuing rubble.



ON THE CONVENTION FRONT:

BUBONICON 47 JUST SEVEN WEEKS AWAY

by Craig Chrissinger, co-chair

Bubonicon, New Mexico's annual science fiction convention, celebrates its 47th edition August 28-30 at the Albuquerque Marriott Uptown, 2101 Louisiana Blvd NE (at I-40). More than 55 authors, artists, scientists, filmmakers & fans will be participating in programming.

This year's convention features special guest talent from the East Coast and the Midwest. Guests of Honor for Bubonicon 47 are New York novelist Tamora Pierce and Maine writer Catherynne M. Valente; Guest Artist is Darla Hallmark of Massachusetts; and Toastmistress is Chicago resident Mary Robinette Kowal.

Other participants come from NM, Colorado and Texas. The participating newcomers to Bubonicon this year are scientist Zachary Gallegos, artists Raya Golden and Jon Sanchez, and authors Christine MacKenzie, Benjamin Radford and Sarena Ulibarri. Back after absences are John Barnes, Ben Bova, Suzy M. Charnas, Dr. Larry Crumpler, Loretta Hall, John Picacio, C.S. Plesko, Melinda Snodgrass, Pari Noskin and Carrie Vaughn.

Proceeds from the Friday charity auction and a portion of any Bubonicon 47 profits will benefit the (Jack) Williamson Library Collection at Eastern NM University, and the local Roadrunner Food Bank.

Bubonicon 47 opens with Pre-Registered check-in 1:00-2:30 pm Friday the 28th, 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 "Women of Wonder." 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 Costume Contest starts 30 minutes later than in the past – at 8:00 pm – with Jessica Coyle's Green Slime Awards remaining at halftime; and the Afternoon Tea on Sunday will be split into three 45-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 with two adjoining sleeping rooms.

We need volunteer workers (gofers in con speak) to help us throughout the weekend (see separate blurb earlier in this newsletter). If you can help, please email Angela Nybakke at volunteers@bubonicon.com, or come to the meeting Friday, August 21, at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church on Ponderosa NE (home of ASFS).

Passes for the whole weekend are \$40 if purchased by August 9. 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 August 9 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 47 special \$99 room rate (single-quad occupancy) is only guaranteed through Monday, August 17, so get your reservation in now! 800-228-9290 to make your reservation.

Info is available from our Google voicemail at (505) 559-0931, Craig at (505) 266-8905, by email at bubonicon@gmail.com, or through the website at www.bubonicon.com.

BOOK REVIEW ROUND-UP

***I Am Princess X* by Cherie Priest, 2015 Arthur A. Levine Books, hc \$18.99, 240 pages.**

Review by Jessica Coyle

Cherie Priest's first venture into Young Adult novels is an action-packed hybrid of novel and graphic novel that leaves the reader longing for more. Sixteen-year-old May is spending the summer with her father in Seattle when she discovers the existence of the web-comic *IAmPrincessX.com*. The series is eerily similar to one created by May and her best friend Libby before Libby was killed in a car accident. The more May reads, the more she becomes convinced that Libby isn't dead and that she must be the mystery author behind *IAmPrincessX.com*.

May's hunt for the creator of the web-comic and the truth behind what happened to Libby leads her on a search through the underground of both the internet and Seattle. The closer she gets to the truth, the more dangerous it becomes, leaving the reader wondering about May's fate.

Priest does an excellent job of ratcheting up the tension as the story goes along, and of keeping the reader guessing. Kali Ciesemier does an excellent job with the book's illustrations, and the *IAmPrincessX* web-comics and other drawings are used very effectively throughout. *I Am Princess X* is definitely a book that I would recommend to fans of Cherie Priest's other works and to those who like YA novels.

***The Edge of Dawn: Edge Book 3* by Melinda Snodgrass, 2015 Tor Books, hc \$27.99, 352 pages. [To be released August 4.]**

Review by Craig W. Chrissinger

The wait is over. After five long years, the third book in Melinda Snodgrass' *Edge* series is almost out. And to understand the latest adventure for Albuquerque cop Richard Oort as he faces the Old Ones, I had to go back and skim read book two (*The Edge of Ruin*). It's been too long to remember every detail, which is part of the reason Tor Books has re-issued the first two books with new artwork.

Anyway, cop-turned-paladin Oort has fallen into retreat with his otherworldly mentor in some kind of stupor and a former human villain now serving as consultant in his Albuquerque stronghold. He's having a difficult time trying to run Lumina Enterprises successfully and also stop minor incursions by the malign entities that feed on the suffering of mankind when they enter our dimension.

And then Oort finds a new source of motivation and drive - a young Navajo girl named Mosi who survived her family being killed near Shiprock. Just nine years old, she is the only person besides himself who can wield a powerful and mysterious sword that seals dimensional gates and threatens the Old Ones.

With death threats against Oort and Mosi, business associates turned against them, and a threat from an Old One and its human minion, a Lumina team is forced to run for their lives to Turkey, where they will make a stand.

The Edge of Dawn is fast-paced and exciting the whole length of the book. And just when I thought it was going to end on a major cliffhanger because I couldn't see how Snodgrass could wrap everything up, she uses her skill and writing talent to bring it all together in a satisfying conclusion. It's an ending that serves well for this specific story, but also leaves the way wide open for future adventures. I can hardly wait!

***The Dinosaur Lords* by Victor Milán, 2015 Tor Books, hc \$26.99, 448 pages. [To be released July 28.]**

Review by Geneva Schult

Chivalric codes of honor. Horrifying betrayals. Nobles and peasants. Knights on horseback. Knights on... dinosaur-back??? Tasty tidbits of languages that evoke English, French and Spanish etymology. Just enough similarity to our planet that it seems familiar, but different enough that you know it ain't Earth.

Our protagonist, the inscrutable Karyl, rides a terrifying mount - a carnivorous FREAKING DINOSAUR!!! On this world, the humans and their five Friends (dogs, cats, ferrets, horses and goats) live and thrive amongst dinosaurs. The Book of True Names, excerpted at the beginning of many a chapter - underneath the most amazing pen-and-ink illustrations of the denizens of the Book - details the animals. Dinosaurs take the place of many fowl and mammals, providing eggs and leather as well as performing as beast of burden and as dangerous steeds of the mounted soldiers and knights. It is fascinating to read how all the details of this world are woven into the story.

The Dinosaur Lords is the first in a series which is

obvious as you get near the end of the book, because there are many loose ends, including a supernatural plotline. To be honest, I struggled a bit during the first two chapters of Victor Milan's novel, including starting over after waiting a couple of weeks between efforts. SO MUCH happened to SO MANY characters in the first pages of the book, I literally could not absorb it all. The second read went smoothly and I voraciously read the book straight through in a short period of time.

I can't wait for the next book, and THIS one technically is not even out yet! (I have an advance reading copy). George RR Martin's blurb on the cover is spot-on: "It's like a cross between *Jurassic Park* and *Game of Thrones*." Densely complicated politics and story but oh-so-worth-it after you've made the effort.

***Fable: Blood of Heroes* by Jim C. Hines, 2015 Del Rey, tp \$16.00, 336 pages. [To be released August 4.]
Review by Julie Heffernan**

As a fan of the *Fable* video games, I knew about the upcoming *Fable Legends* game and was eager to read its new tie-in novel *Fable: Blood of Heroes*. Reading this book, felt like playing a classic RPG tabletop game. First, a loose fellowship is formed to go on a quest. Next, the bands fight battles with monsters bandits. They then regroup in town to learn new information and new skills. Finally they fight more battles and the cycle continues. The Will (imagine the FORCE) gives our heroes their ability to cast magic spells, skillfully fight with swords, and gain high accuracy and power in archery.

This book perfectly captures the sense of humor that is present throughout each *Fable* incarnation. This includes the opportunistic ("If the poison does end up killing you, would you mind if I kept your liver? For study, of course"), the logical ("Try not to kill them? What kind of suicidal, bleeding-heart nonsense is that? A man comes at you with a weapon...intent on killing you...you kill him first. Then you leave his body on the ground as a warning to others. In fact you could argue that by killing the first fellow, you were saving the lives of all cowards that ran away when they saw the corpse."), and the honest ("Dogs are better than people. They were much more honest. If the dog liked you, it wagged its tail. If not, it growled and tried to bite you"). Also, the author reveled a lot of history and back story about the creatures and world, Albion, that has not been told before.

I highly recommend this book if you like the video games and want more Albion, heroes, witches, and skulls with candles in them.

***Uprooted* by Naomi Novik, 2015 Del Rey, hc \$24.00, 448 pages.
Review by Jessica Coyle**

Having never read any of Naomi Novik's work, I was unsure what to expect from *Uprooted*, her first stand-alone fantasy novel. I was thankfully surprised with a wonderful and engaging fairytale that is set in a fantasy world with Polish origins. Our heroine Agnieszka is a simple girl from a small village on the edge of an ancient Woods. Her whole life has revolved around the fact that

every ten years the lord of their village, known as the Dragon, chooses a girl from the villages to serve him for 10 years. Everyone from the villages is sure that Agnieszka's best friend Kasia will be chosen, and they are all shocked when the Dragon picks Agnieszka instead.

Suddenly Agnieszka is thrust into a world of magic, danger, and intrigue that is hugely beyond anything she has known. The job that she shares with the Dragon is to learn how to keep the malevolent spirits that live in the Woods at bay in order to protect the villages, the kingdom as a whole, and herself.

Uprooted is a marvelous fairytale that reads almost as a retelling of an existing story. Novik is able to create a fully-realized world with a layer of Polish names and traditions that really enrich the story. While I wasn't sure what I was going to get when I started, Novik's new novel ended up being one of the best books I've read in 2015.

***Pete Has Risen From the Grave: Pete Book 2* by Scott S. Phillips, 2015 Penultimate Ditch Efforts, Kindle \$3.99. [Paperback out in July 2015.]
Review by Geneva Schult**

So when is a bowling ball NOT a bowling ball? When is "greasy magic" NOT sex magic? And what do you know about Led Zeppelin? Pete, that lovable schlub of a goat-blood-sucking vampire, is back in *Pete Has Risen From the Grave*, the second book in the series (do yourself a favor and check out *Pete, Drinker of Blood*). Also returning are his hot bartender girlfriend, the is-she-or-isn't-she-gay muscular bouncer at the EmoGlobo vampire-wannabe club, two flouncy male vampires with more velvet pants than Liberace, and the now-empty-but-still-scary home of Pete's sire (deceased).

This laugh-out-loud story by Scott S. Phillips contains an astonishing number of references to seventies-era culture including music. The author is a veritable font of names of bands, members of bands, and so much info about bands there isn't room here to write it all down! I had no idea how much I didn't know about the '70s until I read this book.

Pete's neighborhood and lifestyle is threatened when the queen of a donut empire back east sends her henchmen (wielding that greasy magic) to retrieve the not-bowling-ball from Pete's girlfriend's petty-criminal father, whose unexpected arrival drags them all into the thickening plot. Summoned monsters (Cthulhu reference!), the power of our own urine, and magic-spiced blood sampled by a vampire all add up to an adventure you don't want to miss. The subplot of the recurring scatological difficulties of a minor character had me snorting milk out of my nose.

Don't wait! Kindle & Nook copies are available now. Buy the paperback, too. Support this fantastic local author.



***Eighth Grave After Dark* by Darynda Jones, 2015 St. Martin's Press, hc \$25.99, 304 pages.**

Review by Jessica Coyle

Eighth Grave After Dark is local author Darynda Jones' latest novel in her Charley Davidson series. The book finds Charley hugely pregnant and in hiding on the consecrated soil of an abandoned convent in an attempt to protect her child from the Twelve and other demons that want to destroy the baby. At the same time, she is working to solve the mystery of a young nun that was murdered at the Convent many years ago and whose ghost is still lurking, and investigating the death of her father from afar.

The book still bears Jones' trademark humor, but, as with the more recent books in the series, Charley's story has definitely taken a darker turn. Also, because Charley is trapped in one locale, the novel allows her to be a little more introspective than usual. Jones uses that opportunity to delve into some of the issues with Charley's family that have only been glossed over before.

If you haven't read the rest of this series, this book is not the place to start. I highly recommend returning to *First Grave on the Right* and starting this worthwhile series from the beginning.

***The Mechanical: The Alchemy Wars Book 1* by Ian Tregillis, 2015 Orbit, tp \$17.00, 480 pages.**

Review by Craig W. Chrissinger

New Mexico author Ian Tregillis kicks off a new series with an entertaining and interesting twist on clockwork technology in an alternate history. Simply put, *The Mechanical* shows again how this author can take an intricate, detailed premise with a complex plot, and make it accessible and enjoyable for the reader, much like he did in *Bitter Seeds*.

In this alternate history SF tome, the Dutch have conquered all of Europe and colonized much of America because they created mechanical wind-up slaves (known as Clakkers) with magical geas that prevent them from disobeying any commands or rebelling. The Catholic Church pretty much has been destroyed, and the French exiled to a section of what we know as Canada. A shaky ceasefire has been negotiated, but the more scientifically driven French know they cannot hold off the approach of the Dutch Empire very much longer.

The Clakkers are thinking beings and not just simple man-made tools, though they are treated as such by their masters. Above all, they desire freedom. And if the French can figure out how to destroy the magic that binds these mechanical men, then perhaps they can save themselves.

Against this background, we follow three different viewpoint characters, including Jax the Clakker. Due to an accident, he discovers he has free will. But if caught, rogue Clakkers are melted down. Jax must hide his true nature and escape to New France if he is to survive.

Tregillis juggles the three main characters with skill, while also touching on philosophical concepts like what it means to be free, and what it means to be human. And against all that, there still is plenty of action, drama and intrigue. Will Jax make it? Will the lapsed Catholic priest

be discovered? Will the French find a way to stop invading Clakker soldiers?

The Mechanical is dense with substance and a fascinating backdrop, but still a page-turner. It is gripping, fun and well-written read. Highly recommended, and Tregillis' sequels can't arrive on the shelves fast enough.

***The Affinities* by Robert Charles Wilson, 2015 Tor Books, hc \$25.99, 304 pages.**

Review by Craig W. Chrissinger

In Robert Charles Wilson's latest book, the Canadian author is trying to deal with issues raised by small, elite groups; networking and connections, and how our world has become obsessed with social media. In the near-future of *The Affinities*, people are even more able to sort themselves into social groups with common goals and needs all because of a new analytic technology that tracks genetics and maps brains of anyone who takes a series of tests.

Science fiction takes a backseat here as Wilson is more focused on the protagonist's relationships within his Tau affinity, and Adam's changing relationship with the outside world once in this exclusive group. The characters are well-drawn and interesting, but most of the action is slow-building. Wilson cautiously reveals that there is a dangerous rivalry building between the two largest affinities, Tau and Het. And the Het are not afraid to use violence to gain political and financial advantages.

It's an enjoyable read, but perhaps not one of Wilson's best efforts. He just isn't doing full justice to an intriguing premise. He often keeps the SF element in the background, but here, that backdrop is sort of weak. We've already had the Enneagram around for quite a while, breaking people down into personality types, and the machine initially used to test Adam and others might remind readers of the odd device used by Scientologists. Still, it is worth reading for Wilson fans and those interested in a postulation of where we might be headed.

ASFS MEETING REPORTS — **JANUARY 2015: BOOK DISCUSSION**

We started the New Year with 28 people participating in a discussion of books read in 2014, whether good or bad. Among them were *Ancillary Justice* by Anne Leckie (mentioned by 3 people), *V-S Day* by Allen Steele, *As You Wish* by Cary Elwes, *Anansi Boys* by Neil Gaiman, *Red Rising* by Pierce Brown, *Secret History of Wonder Woman* by Jill Lepore, *Mark of the Tala* by Jeffe Kennedy (mentioned by 2 people), *Tears of the Rose* by Jeffe Kennedy, *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle, *2nd Contact* by G. Harry Stine, *Atrocity Archives* by Charles Stross, *Beggars in Spain* by Nancy Kress, *Proxies* by Laura J. Mixon, *White Trash Zombie* series by Diana Rowland, *Maplecroft* by Cherie Priest (mentioned by 2 people), the entire Sherlock Holmes series on audiobooks, *A Slip of the Keyboard* by Terry Pratchett, *Farthing* by Jo Walton, *Out of the Blackland* by Kerry Greenwood, *Cas-*

sandra: *A Delphic Women Mystery* by Kerry Greenwood, *Game Players of Zan* by M.A. Foster, *The Martian* by Andy Weir (mentioned by 2 people), National Speleological Society magazine, National Rifle Association magazine, *Lord of the Rings* by JRR Tolkien (mentioned by 2 people), *It's Up To Charlie Hardin* by Dean Ing, *What If? Vol 2* edited by Rabbi Moshe Sherrow, *Uncle Scrooge* by Carl Banks, *Off To Be The Wizard* by Scott Meyer, *The Name of the Wind* by Patrick Rothfuss, *Skin Game* by Jim Butcher, *The Bone Flower Throne* by T.L. Morganfield, *Imperfect Sword* by Jack Campbell, *The Widow's House* by Daniel Abraham, *The Galaxy Game* by Karen Lord (bad writing), *Seventh Grave and No Body* by Darynda Jones, *Ancillary Sword* by Ann Leckie, *The Quantum Thief* by Hannu Rajaniemi, *Hardwired* by Walter Jon Williams, *The Sword and the Drum* by Karl Lassister, *The Way of Shadows* by Brent Weeks, *Fool's Errand* by Robin Hobb, *Stardust* by Neil Gaiman, *The Better Mousetrap* by Tom Holt, *The Annotated H.P. Lovecraft*, *The Speed of Dark* by Elizabeth Moon, *Kitty Norville* books by Carrie Vaughn, *City of Bones* by Cassandra Clare (not that good), *Mist* by Susan Krinard, *Infinitesimal: How a Dangerous Mathematical Theory Shaped the Modern World* by Amir Alexander, *Honor Among Thieves: Star Wars* by James SA Corey, *It Takes a Witch* by Heather Blake, *Heat Rises* by Richard Castle, "schlocky" horror novels, *Dragon Haven* by Robin Hobb, and *Under a Graveyard Sky* by John Ringo.

FEBRUARY: DARYNDA JONES VISITS

Thirty-eight people were on hand to listen to NM author Darynda Jones talk about a class she had just taken in South Carolina, and about beginnings of stories.

"You want to introduce your character's world, but keep it interesting and open with action," she noted. "The first act - the introduction - is the first quarter of the story. If you know the goal of the introduction, it's easier to write. You want the introduction to seduce your reader. The intro also is called 'setting the stage.'"

Jones said the story's beginning also has to create "empathy with the main character. You can use sympathy, jeopardy, like-ability, power and humor to do that."

She said there are five types of openings, and it's important to pick what's appropriate - big action, an outside action scene, a prologue opening, a flashback or bookends, and the everyday hero.

The Portales author noted that she will be moving to Albuquerque this summer, and that she had sold books 9 through 11 in the *Charley Davidson* series. She also just signed a contract with Warner Brothers. "I don't know if something will happen, but I hope so," she remarked.

EDITOR NOTES THAT FIT THIS SPACE

• **OH MAN, I AM SO TIRED.** Another late night on newsletter deadline. Been a busy week, we lost our internet connection for about 20 hours, and suddenly ASFACTS

added two more pages. And thus I'm up late and tired.

• **AND THERE'S MORE BUSY DAYS TO COME!** Thursday night is *Rifftrax: Sharknado 2* (my reward for getting this issue done), Friday is the actual ASFS meeting, Saturday is Jane Lindskold's 4:00 pm signing at Page One, Sunday is a Bubonicon committee meeting. And then there's an *Ant-Man* advance screening next week, the ABQ Museum's Third Thursday, *The Last Summer on Earth* concert with Barenaked Ladies on Friday the 17th, the 1st BMG Fan Fest and Can't Stop the *Serenity* 10 on Saturday the 18th (Come be shiny 5:00 -11:30 pm at the KiMo for \$10.00 for charity), and the Droids & Dragons Book Group on Monday the 20th. I want to collapse into bed and sleep now! But these all should be fun!

• **MY REPORT ON THE WILLIAMSON LECTURESHIP** is in the May issue of *Locus Magazine* with 2 photos! It was nice weather in Portales the second week of April. Highlights included listening to Guest of Honor Paolo Bacigalupi read from *The Water Knife* and Connie Willis read from her forthcoming telepathy novel, hanging out with Connie & Courtney Willis and Darynda Jones, garage and thrift shopping with Patricia Rogers & Jessica, and having Victor Milan as a passenger in our car. And wait until you see the Green Slime gown we found in our Portales explorations. It is fabulous...

• **JUST GOT WORD I WILL BE REVIEWING BOOKS** again for the ABQ Journal - and getting paid to do so. It's been quite a while, so I am excited. Stay tuned.

• **DENVER COMIC CON WAS FUN** if a bit crazy over Memorial Day weekend. They say they broke 100,000 in attendance, and at times the dealers room was packed. A lot of cool stuff for sale, and we briefly visited with comic writers/artists Amanda Conner & Jimmy Palmiotti. Their line was insane, and we never saw them without a line. It was fun to hear Jewel Staite and Alan Tudyk speak, and we very much enjoyed seeing the *Animaniacs* voice cast in two events. And we managed to get books signed by Jim Butcher and Max Brooks. Of course, we also dropped in on Who Else Books, Second Spin, and Twist & Shout. And had a very nice dinner with Connie & Courtney Willis. Special thanks to Tim & Kaia for putting us up at their house, and sharing the adventure.

• **ON THE MEDIA FRONT**, Jessica and I just finished watching the 1st season of *Once Upon A Time*. Yes, yes, we're behind. But it is a fun soap opera with fairytale characters. AND WE'RE WATCHING MOVIES, looking for Green Slime nominees. *Terminator: Genisys* is "meh," kind of flat. Best parts are Arnie and JK Simmons. *Avengers: Age of Ultron* was fun, but not as good as the first one. *Mad Max: Fury Road* is very cool and looks great. *Tomorrowland* has its moments, but also gets up on a soapbox. *Spy* is a great espionage spoof. *Jurassic World* is big, goofy fun - the sequel we wanted all along. *Inside Out* is another great Pixar effort. *Ted 2* is crass and funny. *San Andreas* is a good action flick and The Rock is great. *Minions* has a lot of slapstick and humor, but isn't quite as good as *Despicable Me*. *Pitch Perfect 2* is fun but doesn't quite hit the first film's high note. And *Trainwreck* is very funny and pretty filthy, but also sweet and smartly written.

• **THANKS** to Julie, Geneva & Jessica for book reviews. This newsletter really needs more stuff! C'mon, folks - please.

NEXT DEADLINE IS SUN, OCTOBER 4... -Craig C