

NEW MEXICANS BRING HOME Two Hugo Awards

Two Albuquerqueans are among the winners for the Hugo Awards and for the John W. Campbell Award announced at Sasquan, the 73rd WorldCon, in Spokane, WA, on August 22, 2015. SF writer/Bubonicon friend Laura J. Mixon took home the award for Best Fan Writer, while local artist/Bubonicon exhibitor Elizabeth Leggett collected the award for Best Fan Artist.

Some categories saw "No Award" as a reaction voters had against slate nominations from groups calling themselves the Sick Puppies and the Rabid Puppies. A Full List of Winners follows:

Best Novel: The Three Body Problem by Cixin Liu, Best Novella: No Award, Best Novelette: "The Day the World Turned Upside Down" by Thomas Olde Heuvelt, Best Short Story: No Award, Best Related Award: No Award, Best Graphic Story: Ms. Marvel, Volume 1: No Normal written by G. Willow Wilson with art by Adrian Alphona & Jake Wyatt, Best Professional Editor – Long Form: No Award, Best Professional Editor - Short Form: No Award.

Best Dramatic Presentation – Long: Guardians of the Galaxy, Best Dramatic Presentation – Short: Orphan Black: "By Means Which Have Never Yet Been Tried," Best Professional Artist: Julie Dillon, Best Semiprozine: Lightspeed, Best Fanzine: Journey Planet, Best Fancast: Galactic Suburbia Podcast, BEST FAN WRITER: LAURA J. MIXON, BEST FAN ARTIST: ELIZABETH LEG-GETT, John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer [Not a Hugo Award]: Wesley Chu.

There were 2,122 nominating ballots received from members of LonCon 3, Sasquan and MidAmeriCon II.

Several awards for services to SF fandom were presented during Sasquan: First Fandom Hall of Fame Award: Julian May, First Fandom Posthumous Hall of Fame Awards: Margaret Brundage, Bruce Pelz and F. Orlin Tremaine, Sam Moskowitz Archive Award: David Aronovitz, Forrest J Ackerman Big Heart Award: Ben Yalow, Special Committee Award (chosen by the Sasquan committee): Jay Lake.

Word has come to us that Bird Song Books will be closing in December, with a target final date of December 24. Morwyn, the proprietor, says that she is retiring at the end of the year, and thus the bookstore will close a week earlier. ("I plan on using the last week of the year to clear out whatever is left," she notes.)

"The first stage of the retirement sale is underway, with everything 25% off," Morwyn reports. "In November it will be 35% off, then in December 50% off! And if anyone would like some legendary bookcases, they're going to go for super cheap in December – probably like \$5.00 each."

For more information, check out Bird Song's Facebook page. Bird Song is located at 526-A Washington NE, just south of Lomas Blvd. It is open 11:00 am-5:00 pm Tuesday-Saturday.

In a related matter, Witch's Brew, the coffeehouse that was in the old Blue Dragon location on Girard NE, closed its doors at the end of September. Its owner did not want to invest any more money into the business.

Both establishments will be missed, and we wish good luck to their owners and staff on future endeavors.

UPCOMING ASFS MEETINGS

- Chupacabra Talk & Club Elections Tonight! Investigator Benjamin Radford is here to talk about "Slaying the Vampire: Solving the Chupacabra Mystery" with visual aids. And then, three Offices need to be filled for January-December 2016, and the "theme/challenge ingredient" for December chosen (see below).
- **November 13:** Albuquerque artist Elizabeth Leggett, who just won a Hugo Award, visits.
- **December 11:** The 11th ASFS Dessert Cook-Off, and short SF-oriented holiday films. Plus, the annual issue of SITHFACTS will be distributed (deadline Sunday, Dec 6). Please help us clean up our room at the end of the evening!
- January 8, 2016: Club round-table discussion of what members read in 2015...
- February 12: 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 Albuq SF Society. SITHFACTS out each December. NEXT DEADLINE: Sun, Dec 6. 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

GRRM CREATES ALFIES AWARDS

Following the Hugo Awards ceremony on August 22, George RR Martin held his own ceremony after midnight at his Hugo Losers Party at the Glover Mansion in Spokane, WA, featuring an award created especially for the occasion: the Alfies, named in honor of Alfred Bester (whose *The Demolished Man* was the first ever novel Hugo Award winner), with trophies created using '50s hood ornaments. Martin explained, "This year all of us were losers."

He gave trophies to authors who would have been nominated if works from the Sad Puppy/Rabid Puppy slates hadn't filled the ballots, including John Joseph Adams, Liz Gorinsky, Patrick Rothfuss, Ursula Vernon and Jo Walton.

Martin presented special Alfie Awards to Marko Kloos and Annie Bellet, who were nominated due to the slates but withdrew their works from consideration; to Eric Flint for his "eloquence and rationality" in writing about the controversy; and to Robert Silverberg, who has attended every Hugo Awards ceremony.

2015 SIDEWISE WINNERS

The 2015 Sidewise Awards winners for the best alternate history stories and books of 2014 were announced August 17, reported Locus Online in late August. Winners are Short Form: "The Long Haul From the ANNALS OF TRANSPORTATION, The Pacific Monthly, May 2009" by Ken Liu, and Long Form: *The Enemy Within* by Kristine Kathryn Rusch.

Winners were announced in conjunction with Sasquan, the 73rd Worldcon, August 19-23, in Spokane WA. For more information, see the Sidewise Awards for Alternate History website.

HELSINKI GETS 2017 WORLDCON

Helsinki in 2017 has won the bid to host the 2017 Worldcon. Worldcon 75 will be held August 9-13, 2017, in Helsinki, Finland. Guests of Honor are John-Henri Holmberg, Nalo Hopkinson, Johanna Sinisalo, Claire Wendling, and Albuquerque's WALTER JON WILLIAMS.

For more, see the official Worldcon 75 website - http://www.worldcon.fi

DIRECTOR WES CRAVEN DIES

Director and writer Wes Craven died August 30 of brain cancer at home in Los Angeles. He was 76 years old, reported Locus Online.

Though best known for the horror films he wrote and directed, he published one novel, SF thriller Foun-

tain Society in 1999, about a scientist who has his brain transplanted into a cloned body. Craven's directorial debut was *The Last House on the Left* in 1972, and he wrote or directed other horror films including *A Nightmare on Elm Street* in 1984, *Scream* — both of which spawned long-running popular franchises — *The Serpent and the Rainbow, The People Under the Stairs*, and many others. Earlier this year it was announced that Craven planned to write and direct a pilot for a series based on Daryl Gregory's *We Are All Completely Fine*.

Wesley Earl Craven was born August 2, 1939, in Cleveland, OH. He studied English and psychology at Wheaton College in Illinois, and earned a master's in philosophy and writing at Johns Hopkins. He briefly taught college before turning to cinema, and he worked on more than 50 features as a writer, director or producer. With writer Steve Niles he created comic book mini-series *Coming of Rage* in 2014.

SF BOOK GROUP READS ON

The Droids & Dragons SF Book Group meets 7:30 pm Monday, October 19, at Pacific Paradise (northeast corner of San Pedro & Candelaria NE) to discuss *The Night Circus* by Erin Morgenstern. The group then meets November 16 to talk about *Eifelheim* by Michael Flynn.

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 29 at Bubonicon 47 at the Albuquerque Marriott Uptown Hotel in Albuquerque, NM, Green Slime Mistress Jessica L. Coyle (with assistance from the Slime Players) presented the following with recognition of their wretchedness in the last 12 months:

SF Adult Novel: *The Galaxy Game* by Karen Lord (Odd structure & viewpoints, no explanations, all world-building with no action or intrigue.)

SF YA Novel: *Seeker* by Arwen Elys Dayton (Characters are dull, confusing setting & plot)

Regular TV: *The Messengers* on The CW (Secondrate, cheesy, a jumble & not compelling – even though it was shot in New Mexico)

SyFy Movie: *Sharktopus vs Whalewolf* (Absurd story, horrible cartoony FX, female scientist with terrible German accent)

SF Film: *Pixels* (*Ghostbusters* wannabe but without the talent; dimwitted & lazy, brain-dead & inane script)

Collectibles/Toys: *Spider-Man Balloon* (prominent "webshooter" valve between legs), *Punch It! Invincible*

Iron Man Bop Ball (disturbing), and *Yoda Cat Headpiece* (sad cat torture, potential danger to humans).

H.O. Morris Has Gallery Show At Jean Cocteau In Santa Fe

Bubonicon's first Perry Rodent illustrator and Gauntlet Press cover artist Harry O. Morris will have a Gallery Show of his "macabre, delightful and fascinat-

ing" art prints October 15-November 14 at the Jean Cocteau Cinema in Santa Fe.

The Opening Night Reception at George RR Martin's theater is 5:00-7:00 pm Thursday, October 15, with Morris on hand to sign copies of *Harry O. Morris: Artist's Portfolio* (released April 7 from Centipede Press).

Be sure to stop by the Jean Cocteau Cinema October 15-November 14 to see Morris' work on display!

The Jean Cocteau Cinema is located at 418 Montezuma Avenue, north end of the Rail Yard District, in Santa Fe. For more info: 505-466-5528 or www.JeanCocteauCinema.com.



KING WINS NATIONAL MEDAL OF ARTS

Stephen King is one of the ten recipients of the 2015 National Medal of Arts, "the highest award given to artists and arts patrons by the United States government." President Obama presented the award September 10 in the East Room of the White House, reported Locus Online.

The White House announcement read, in part, "One of the most popular and prolific writers of our time, King combines his remarkable storytelling with his sharp analysis of human nature." King tweeted, "I'm amazed and grateful."

Prior recipients of genre interest include Ray Bradbury in 2004.

TV'S BATGIRL PASSES AWAY

by Mike Barnes, Hollywood Reporter

Yvonne Craig, the actress who originated the role as the high-kicking crime fighter Batgirl on the iconic 1960s ABC series *Batman*, died August 17. She was 78 years old.

A former ballerina, Craig died at her home in Pacific Palisades, her nephew, Christopher Carson, announced. The cause was breast cancer that had metastasized to her liver.

Craig also was known for playing Marta, an insane

green Orion Slave Girl who wanted to kill Captain Kirk (William Shatner) in a 1969, third-season *Star Trek* episode, "Whom Gods Destroy."

Craig joined *Batman* for its third and final season (1967-68) as Batgirl/librarian Barbara Gordon, the daughter of Gotham City Police Commissioner James Gordon (Neil Hamilton).

Batman producer William Dozier, for whom she had done an unsold sitcom pilot years earlier, called and asked her if she would come in for an interview, she once recalled.

"When I got there, he said, 'We're thinking of adding a new character to the *Batman* series — Batgirl. Would you be interested in doing it?' I said, 'Very!'"

Craig did all of her own stunts and all of her motorcycle riding on the show. Her leatherette-clad character accessed her sleek Batgirl Cycle from an old, unused elevator that was hidden behind a revolving wall in her apartment and led to the street below.

Batman was an immediate sensation when it debuted in January 1966, but had run out of steam by the time Craig joined the series for its final 26 episodes.

The dark-haired beauty, a native of Taylorville, Ill., began her theatrical career at age 17 as the youngest member of the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo. She traveled the U.S. and was with the troupe for three years when she was discovered by director John Ford's agent son Patrick and cast for the lead in the movie *The Young Land* in 1959.

She then starred opposite Elvis Presley in the films *It Happened at the World's Fair* and *Kissin' Cousins*. The two dated for a spell.

Her film résumé also included *The Gene Krupa Story, John Sturges' By Love Possessed, 7 Women From Hell* — with future Joker villain Cesar Romero — *Ski Party* and *Mars Needs Women*.

On television, she appeared on *The Many Loves of Dobie Gillis, The Man From UNCLE, Fantasy Island, The Six Million Dollar Man, Kojak, Land of the Giants, Mod Squad, The Wild Wild West, Emergency!* and many other shows.

Most recently, she provided the voice of Grandma in the 2009 cartoon series *Olivia* for Nickelodeon, served as executive producer for the documentary feature *BIRTH* and worked as a real estate broker.

In 2000, she wrote a memoir, From Ballet to the Batcave and Beyond.

In addition to her sister and nephew, survivors include her husband, Kenneth, and another nephew, Todd.

GUILD CINEMA GOES HALLOWEEN CRAZY

This Halloween season, the Guild Cinema is going crazy with seasonal films and a few other movies of note. If you get a chance, go over to 3405 Central Ave

NE in the Nob Hill area (across from Flying Star) to check out one of these flicks from a big Bubonicon supporter:

- 200 MOTELS 1971, directed by Frank Zappa. 5:30 & 9:45 pm Monday-Wednesday, October 19-21. An outrageous, psychedelic precursor to modern rock videos from legendary avant rock musician Frank Zappa and the Mothers of Invention. With cameos from Keith Moon and Ringo Starr. Being shown in celebration of the new National Lampoon documentary.
- ANIMAL HOUSE 1978, directed by John Landis. 5:30 pm only, Friday-Sunday, October 23-25. This raunchy, screwball comedy of the Delta fraternity made John Belushi a star! Being shown in celebration of the new National Lampoon documentary, Drunk, Stoned, Brilliant, Dead: The Story of the National Lampoon, being shown 3:30 & 7:45 pm October 19-21 & October 23-25.
- ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW 1975, directed by Jim Sharman. 10:30 pm only, Friday-Saturday, October 23 & 24. Celebrate the cult film's 40th anniversary (Let's do the Time Warp again) with a full shadow cast and props. Tickets are \$20.00 (\$5.00 is for the prop bag).
- BEETLEJUICE 1988, directed by Tim Burton. The horror comedy of the Ghost-with-the-Most (Michael Keaton) screens 12 Noon only, Saturday-Sunday, October 24 & 25. It's a Mom's Matinee for the Halloween Season, so all seats are \$5.00.
- *CRUMBS* 2015, directed by Miguel Llanso. This Ethiopian post-apocalyptic surreal sci-fi feature screens 7:00 pm only, Monday-Thursday, October 26-29. In Amharic and Afrikaans with English subtitles.
- EXTRAORDINARY TALES 2015, directed by Raul Garcia. 5:15 & 8:45 pm, Monday-Thursday, October 26-29. An animated film anthology of five of Edgar Allen Poe's best-known stories with introductions by Roger Corman and Guillermo Del Toro. Also, featuring the voices of Sir Christopher Lee (in one of his final film performances), Bela Lugosi, Julian Sands, Roger Corman and Guillermo Del Toro.
- NOSFERATU 1922 (silent with English titles), directed by F.W. Murnau. With live music provided by the Invincible Czars. Max Schreck plays the vampire in this Bram Stoker story 7:00 pm only, Friday, October 30. The infamous 1922 ultra spook blood-sucking classic gets a royal soundtrackin' treatment. All seats \$8.00.
- TALES OF HALLOWEEN 2015, directed by 11 directors. 10:30 pm only, Friday-Saturday, October 30 & 31. Ten short films are woven together by a shared theme of Halloween night in an American suburb, where ghouls, imps, aliens and axe murderers appear for one night only to terrorize unsuspecting residents. An Alibi Midnight Movie Madness presentation, all seats \$8.00.
- ABBOTT & COSTELLO MEET FRANKENSTEIN 1948, directed by Charles Barton. 1:00 pm only, Saturday-Sunday, October 31 & November 1. Comedy meets horror when Bud Abbott and Lou Costello encounter Uni-

versal's classic monsters – Frankenstein (Glenn Strange), Dracula (Bela Lugosi) and the Wolf Man (Lon Chaney Jr). An Albuquerque Film Club co-sponsored event, all seats \$5.00.

• THREE "LOST" FILMS OF BELA LUGOSI - PHANTOM SHIP (aka, The Mystery of the Marie Celeste) 1935 Denison Clift; WHITE ZOMBIE, 1932 Victor Halperin; and THE APE MAN, 1943, William Beaudine. 5:45 pm Phantom, 7:15 pm Zombie, 8:45 pm Ape - Saturday-Sunday, October 31 and November 1. White Zombie is considered to be the first true zombie film, thought to be a lost pre-code film until it was unearthed in the 1960s. Phantom Ship is one of the early Hammer Films. All three films will be projected from 16mm & 35mm prints! An Albuquerque Film Club co-sponsored event, all seats are \$7.00 for all three films (or \$7.00 for just one, so enjoy the triple feature).

More information is available at www.guildcinema.com or 255-1848.

SCOTT PREPS Prometheus Sequel

Between *The Martian, Blade Runner 2* and the upcoming *Prometheus* sequel, Ridley Scott is one extremely busy 77-year-old. So what's he cooking up for *Alien: Paradise Lost?*

The film, which (despite bearing the Alien moniker) is technically the sequel to *Prometheus*, is in development and could head into production in the relatively near future. Blastr.com assumed the film would follow up on the cliffhanger ending of the first *Prometheus*, though, this being Scott, site reporters were left wondering in exactly which direction he'd take it.

In a new interview with *Yahoo!* in late September, Scott talked about the follow up and why he opted to subtitle it *Paradise Lost*. He also confirmed they'll definitely be heading off to the alien world of the Engineers to figure out why they'd create these insane creatures.

"Have you ever read *Paradise Lost* by Milton?" he asked in the interview. "In a funny kind of way, it's an interesting basis for the darkness of [Prometheus 2]. Where the good-looking guy, who is evil as s-t, gets all the girls and goes to the nightclubs. The other guy, who is not quite as good-looking, is boring as hell and stays home. So in a funny kind of way, we used that as the basis for it, it'll be Alien: Paradise Lost. Which is very spooky, because it continues after the last one, where Elizabeth Shaw [Noomi Rapace] says, 'I wanna go where they came from.' And you've got Michael Fassbender in two parts, so she'll slowly put him back together. They will go to the world of the Engineer... That's where they're going to go. They will find out who would design such an awful bio-mechanoid creature, like a massive piece of bacteria."

Alien: Paradise Lost is tentatively set to open in

2017. Original stars Noomi Rapace and Michael Fassbender will also (apparently) be back in action.

LOG LADY PASSES AWAY

Catherine Coulson, the actress who so perfectly played Margaret Lanterman, the seriously strange Log Lady on David Lynch's *Twin Peaks*, died September 28, in Ashland, OR, after a battle with cancer. She was 71 years old, reports Blastr.com.

Mostly remembered for her bizarre appearances on 12 episodes of *Twin Peaks* in the '90s, always cradling her favorite hunk of firewood and delivering dire premonitions, Coulson also assisted director David Lynch on his *Eraserhead* and was an assistant camera operator on *Star Trek: The Wrath of Khan*.

Despite reprising her Log Lady role in 1992's feature film *Twin Peaks: Fire Walk With Me*, Coulson had mostly retired from acting other than an occasional role in regional stage plays. She was scheduled to appear in nine episodes of Lynch's new *Twin Peaks* revival series on Showtime in 2017.

"Today I lost one of my dearest friends. Catherine was solid gold," Lynch told *Deadline* upon her passing. "She was always there for her friends. She was filled with love for all people — for her family, for her work. She was a tireless worker. She had a great sense of humor; she loved to laugh and make people laugh. She was a spiritual person, a longtime TM meditator. She was the Log Lady."

LOVECRAFT CLASSIC TO SCREEN?

One of the master of cosmic horror's greatest tales is being made into a film – with an interesting directorial choice, reported Blastr.com in late September.

According to EW (via Empire), H.P. Lovecraft's "The Colour Out of Space" is being adapted for the screen as *Color Out of Space* by writer/director Richard Stanley, whose last directorial effort, *Dust Devil*, came out all the way back in 1992. Backing the production is SpectreVision, an independent company (co-founded by *The Lord of the Rings* star Elijah Wood).

SpectreVision co-founder Daniel Noah said in a statement, "H.P. Lovecraft is the undisputed father of literary horror, and yet, bafflingly, there has yet to be a cinematic treatment that captures the dark beauty of the man's oeuvre. Richard Stanley's note perfect adaptation of 'The Colour Out of Space' represents an epiphany for me, as it no doubt will be for legions of Lovecraft devotees around the world."

"The Colour Out of Space," first published in 1927, remains one of the most acclaimed works of Lovecraft's career. It was his personal favorite of all his stories and is considered the first of his tales to overtly blend horror

and science fiction. The story deals with a meteorite that crashes on a remote farm and unleashes an alien entity in the form of colors that are unrecognizable within the visible spectrum. The colors mutate the plant and animal life on the farm while slowly driving the farmer and his family insane. The story has been adapted for the screen twice before, as *Die, Monster, Die!* (starring Boris Karloff) in 1965 and as the little-seen *The Curse* in 1987.

Stanley first arrived on the scene in in 1990 with the cult sci-fi movie *Hardware*, moving on to the troubled *Dust*

Devil two years later. In 1996, he began filming an adaptation of *The Island of Dr. Moreau* starring Marlon Brandon and Val Kilmer, but was removed from the project after just a few days. The story of that disastrous production is chronicled in the recently released documentary *Lost Soul: The Doomed Journey of Richard Stanley's Island of Dr. Moreau*.

Stanley has not directed another feature since then, focusing on documentaries and short films instead, but he has been working on a script for *Color Out of Space* for a while, saying last year, "There needs to be a scary Lovecraft movie. I want to make a bad trip film and 'The Colour Out of Space' definitely has what it takes to be a very, very bad trip indeed ..."

It's true that while there have been a number of adaptations of Lovecraft's work, only the rare exception like *Re-Animator* has been both successful and good. Many adaptations have been either short films or indie features that have not gotten much exposure, while Guillermo del Toro's attempt to create an epic version of the author's *At the Mountains of Madness* was scrapped over budget issues with the studio, Universal Pictures.

BUBONICON 47 BACK TO NORMAL WEEKEND, GOOD ATTENDANCE 4TH YEAR AT MARRIOTT

With 935 attendees, Bubonicon 47 saw a recovery from the low turnout in 2014 when the con was three weeks early. The weekend of "Women of Wonder" was very successful, with money added to the nest egg and some targeted for various capital improvements.

In the end, Bubonicon 47 donated a record \$6,000 to non-profit organizations. The Williamson Library Collection at Eastern NM University and the local Roadrunner Food Bank were given \$2,400 each, while \$800 was donated to the Albuquerque Public Library Foundation and \$400 was given to New Mexico PBS.

Bubonicon 47 saw four new programming participants – Zachary Gallegos, Christine MacKenzie, Jon Sanchez and Sarena Ulibarri; plus the return of John

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Barnes, Richard Berthold, Ben Bova, Larry S. Crumpler, Loretta Hall, George RR Martin, Pari Noskin, John Picacio, Cathy Plesko, Melinda Snodgrass and Carrie Vaughn.

Well-received programming included the 12th Annual Afternoon Tea, Benjamin Radford's science talk, George RR Martin's reading, Mary Robinette Kowal's talk on puppetry, Steven Gould's Japanese Sword demo, the "Warrior Women" panel, the "NM as Mars Analog" panel, Professor Richard Berthold's Alternate History Talk, the "Curse of the Strong Female" panel, Droid Hunt, Children's Programming, John Picacio's Loteria, the Fencing Demonstration, the Costume Contest and Green Slime Awards, Opening & Closing Ceremonies, and the Co-Guests of Honor presentation.

The Art Show had 53 artists displaying their wares with sales of \$12,900 – 43.2 percent of all artwork entered was sold. The Sunday Auction was down a tad from 2014 with sales of \$1,815 (Froomb went for just \$35). Of that, 54.7 percent went to Bubonicon. Friday's Charity Auction was down from 2014, raising just \$952.

Bubonicon 47 marked the 4th year at the Albuquerque Marriott Uptown, and all went very well, with no issues to report. More than ever before, it's true that a large percentage of the hotel staff are closet fans!

COSTUME CONTEST AWARDS: Best of Show was Marie & Pierre Curie: Radioactive Scientists (Jackie & Ken Coombes), Best of Theme was Murasaki Shikibu & Attendant (Lilia & David Limbert), Best Craftsmanship was Thresh from League of Legends (Ricardo Gonzales), Best Group was The Royal Tortall Delegation (Kristan Bishop, Melissa Jackson, Cale Mims, Rowan Derrick, Dominique Price, Tori Hansen, Christopher Lino, Elizabeth Hoffeins and Katie Schroder), Best Youth was the Tailless Ninja Cat (Eliza Serna), Most Adorable was The Absinthe Coyote (Absinthe Coyote), Most Beautiful Design was Fairy Godmother (Jo Buddrius), Best Reimagining was Victoria Von Doom (Caitlin O'Sullivan), and Perry's Choice was Harry Dresden, Wizard (Fletcher Wallace).

ART SHOW AWARDS: Professional to Peri Charlifu, Amateur to Lance Beaton, Student to Rosalinda Pacheco, and Beast of Show (theme) to Jon Sanchez.

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 48 will be held August 26-28, 2016 – normal weekend – at the Albuquerque Marriott Uptown (Louisiana & I-40), with Guests of Honor Rachel Caine & David Gerrold, Toastmaster Joe R. Lansdale, and Guest Artist Lee Moyer. 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 2016 team during their fifth year at the Marriott (suggestions/program ideas are being taken now at bubonicon@gmail.com).

An Event Report

FELICIA DAY VISITS SANTA FE SEPTEMBER 13, 2015, AT JCC

by Craig W. Chrissinger

Felicia Day is sometimes known as "Queen of the Geeks" because of her online presence, creating *The Guild* web series, being in Joss Whedon's internet musical, *Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog*, and for appearing on such TV shows as *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and *Supernatural*. While she's been on a book tour promoting her memoir, *You're Never Weird on the Internet (almost)*, it was a pleasant surprise when Day added an appearance at Santa Fe's Jean Cocteau Cinema on September 13 for a signing and Q&A session - sharing the stage with author George RR Martin, whom she admires.

During an almost two-hour conversation, Day showed that while she may have become famous, she still is a true fan - one of us. And it's that connection that makes her so popular.

Comparing notes with Martin, Day said that she has played five characters in her career that have been killed off. Martin said he has now died twice on film - in *Sharknado 3* and in a soon-to-be-aired episode of *Z-Nation*. "Well, I'm already dead in *Z-Nation*," he admitted. "You'll see me as a zombie. It was fun."

Day excitedly suggested that before the evening was over Martin needed a pad of paper and a pen so he could kill her off, and she would pose like she was dead. "And then you all can send out the photo and poke people online," she joked. (At the end of their conversation before Day went to sign books, Harriet Engle loaned Martin a pad and paper and Day posed while several dozen camera flashes went off.)

Day and Martin also discussed the fact that a *Game of Thrones*-themed burlesque show was coming to the Jean Cocteau the next night. Day said that she did attempt to pole dance for her video blog, *The Flog*, and then stood and deliberately did a clumsy move. "No one wants to see this," she said and laughed.

Taking a note from her book, Day encouraged everyone to find something they love and pursue it, and to not be discouraged. "Of course, I wouldn't advise just moving to Hollywood without a plan like I did," she noted. "At least I had saved up money from playing violin professionally in college before I moved!"

Asked how she got involved with *Supernatural* and whether she would do more episodes, Day said, "You know, they had me come in during the show's seventh season, so I thought it was probably just a one-episode thing. I mean, it was their seventh season. But who knew? Now they're doing their tenth season, and my character still is alive."

She said that at dinner with Martin, she had her first sopaipilla. Asked whether she had red or green, Day re-

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plied, "Green. Is that the right answer? I learned about Christmas, too."

Charlie Fitch of the ABQ Browncoats asked all the Browncoats in the room to stand up, and Day was visually impressed by the display. "I always support Browncoat charity efforts and what you all do," she stated. "In the early days when we were trying to sell *The Guild* DVDs and other stuff, Browncoats were always willing to share their booths at conventions."

Day also said she had just been to DragonCon and had had a good time. (Martin introduced me to Day beforehand in the theater's bar/snack area and said nice things about Bubonicon. She and I talked about conventions and the book tour for a few minutes before it was time for Martin and her to start the show.)

Speaking of conventions and fans, Day said while she's a little nervous about mentioning GamerGate ("It's like saying Beetlejuice three times"), it was important to talk in her book about her experience and having her personal information posted online by trolls. She also had heard about the Hugo Award controversy this year, and Martin explained a little about the Sad Puppies and the after-Hugos party he held to lighten the mood.

Talking about founding and recently selling Geek & Sundry, Day said that she wanted to do the creative things but had to figure out how to do payroll and finances when she started the digital channel. She still serves as CEO, but now gets to concentrate on content.

One fan thanked her for writing about her fights with anxiety and depression. Day replied that it is important to seek help when facing such important issues, and admitted it was difficult for her at first.

About 8:00 pm, Day went into the theater's bar area, and Martin released people in small groups. He talked and answered questions while people waited, and revealed that he might be doing a project with Day.

Day signed *You're Never Weird on the Internet* and other books, comics and DVDs, and posed for photos for about 100 minutes. And the whole time she was nice, pleasant and engaging - continuing to earn the title of "Queen of the Geeks." Long may she reign and live.

BOOK REVIEW ROUND-UP

Son of the Black Sword: Saga of the Forgotten Warrior 01 by Larry Correia, 2015 Baen, hc \$25.00, 432 pages. Review by Marlon Clark

Larry Correia delves into swords-and-horses fantasy with his new novel *Son of the Black Sword*. He stands several tropes on their heads though, giving the reader an original and interesting story.

It begins with the main character Protector Ashok Vadal running towards a demon incursion on a coastal village. The battle showcases the superhero-like abilities of Protectors and also introduces various facets of the world. The background is shown with numerous

flashbacks, and the plot builds from the interaction between past and present.

The world building is excellent. The society uses a rigid caste system, which gives the book a different flavor than most fantasy novels. The Protector order stands above the feuds of the noble houses, enforcing the peace. They also hunt down users of illegal magic and fight demons. An Inquisition exists as a spy agency to enforce the laws and suppress any interest in religion. This book takes a different tack than many fantasy novels, in that the controlling philosophy is atheism, and any belief in gods is relegated to the lowest members of society.

Much of the society derives from a catastrophic event over a thousand years previously where demons fell into the world. The humans banded together to fight the demons, eventually driving them into the sea. This has the effect of banning all sea travel and making water a source of evil – another example of the superb world building.

The book has some flaws. Correia's prose is solid but I wish he would "show" more than "tell." Ashok's backstory is told in many flashbacks that hold clues to the history of the world, but the main plot slows during these scenes. The ending could be considered a cliffhanger.

Son of the Black Sword draws the reader in and keeps them turning pages. I recommend it as an entertaining fantasy novel with several twists and intriguing departures from standard tropes.

Solar Express by L.E. Modesitt, 2015 Tor, hc \$27.99, 464 pages. [To be released November 3] Review by Becky Davis

L. E. Modesitt, Jr. is the most prolific writer I had never heard about. Some 63 books (Wiki counted him at 56) as of writing *Solar Express*. He has created five fantasy series, three spacer sci-fi series and 16 stand-alone books (unconfirmed). So the man can write, and imagine things. Minor quibble: Why did he choose an idea which other writers are thrashing out (i.e. *Saturn Run* by John Sandford and Ctein. Near-future, massive object spotted near Saturn, America races against China to reach it first.)

It's 2114, and it is still hard to get a date out in space. Shuttle pilot (think space taxi) Chris Tavoian met astrophysicist Alyana Wong-Grant once, and thinks she is keen! Wong-Grant, assigned herself to the moon Farside research station to earn post-doc research credits. They send e-mails to each other.

Life is hard with China (here called the Sinese Republic) and the North American Consortium rattling sabers and proclamations at each other while dodging behind the Indian alliance to disguise their movements. Resources wither, the climate heats, and politicos blow hot air non-solutions at each other.

Enter the Artifact. It tumbles out of the Oort cloud at about 25 kps, an inert assemblage of silica, silver and other compounds, and looks like a 1/5th piece of a golf ball. It has hexagonal green rooms inside instead of wound rubber band innards. It is discovered by Wong-Grant during a research stint. And it is headed toward the Sun.

The Sinese send a robot probe and a large manned fusion jet out Jupiter-way to take possession of the Artifact. NORAM (I kept thinking NORAD), sends Chris Tavoian out in a tricked-up fusion jet taxi to try to examine the Artifact and pull in samples. Modesitt explains all the political intrigue through chatty news bloggers.

Tavoian arrives first and spends days measuring and testing the Artifact. The Sinese robo-ship arrives and sends out small seeker probes. Heat lasers blow back on themselves. Some probes just disappear inside the 'rooms' of the Artifact. Tools cannot scratch or cut the cool green interior. Meanwhile, the Artifact is accelerating toward the Sun at up to 80kps.

The author builds the suspense well. His superior characters become more engaged with each other. His chatty bloggers help elevate ambient tensions incrementally. Will humans crack the Artifact enigma? Will Something Out There cause the two warring parties to mute their aggression? Will Alyana and Chris meet and kiss for the first time? When the Artifact enters the sun's chromosphere, you will learn everything.

The Drafter: The Peri Reed Chronicles 01 by Kim Harrison, 2015 Gallery Books, hc \$26.99, 432 pages. Review by Caci Cooper

Did you enjoy *The Hollows*? Given thought about giving a new Kim Harrison adventure a shot? Here's your spoiler-y review to determine which course of action is right for you!

Peri Reed is a Drafter. She works for a big organization called Opti. Drafters can, more or less, re-write time. When Peri "drafts," she loses her memory of the time she drafted. The Drafter's Anchor (the Drafter's partner, a person who goes on missions with the Drafter) can recall those memories and replace them for her, psychically.

I wanted to like Peri Reed, but I just couldn't. This story was just "ok". The writing itself was great - Kim Harrison is an excellent author, she can certainly make you "feel" a story. While Kim Harrison has written the general idea of Peri Reed's character to be certainly interesting, the other characters are a bit flat. And the storyline felt very forced to me. The odd style of third person viewpoint used for this novel felt annoying and extremely disjointed. I was very captured by the premise of "drafting" and I was even mildly interested in the Drafter/Anchor team relationship with tones of psychic requirements. The thing that really started to bother me was the multiple times the main character "drafted" and was "scrubbed" back into compliance by erasing even more memories for longer and longer periods of time before the draft.

I was ok with the first reset, it gave us an idea of what she was going through and set up the corruption storyline. I was really annoyed with the second one, but hopeful for a twist. However the final straw was after the third reset. Each time Peri would say to herself, "I won't forget this," and then in the next chapter, Peri forgets! The book goes in a never-ending circle of discovering betrayal, escaping, being caught, and forgetting, to start all over again. If the

book had been from another perspective character, to have the continuity of story and the continued management of Peri's growing awareness that would make for a suspenseful story with a beginning, middle and end. A progressive storyline and I think I would have been more interested. Unfortunately at the end it was just too convoluted to make any sense.

The first big issue I have with this story is that drafting is never explained. Neither is anchoring. Not even a glossed over general idea of how you figure out if a person is or is not a drafter or what special characteristics they need to have to be one.

Also, throughout the entire book, we meet no other Drafters. We meet no other Drafter/Anchor teams. We don't meet any other people from Opti other than her boss and a couple of counselors who are trying to kill Peri. She very well might be the only drafter as far as the story tells us. Maybe that's why she's so important? Even that's not foreshadowed enough to be a serious consideration.

Overall, I don't know that I would recommend this book. I find the story clunky and not well fleshed out from a reader's perspective. You don't know much more in the end than you did in the beginning, and mild interest in a new magic system isn't enough to ensure I'll pick up the second book, if there is one.

Harriet the Invincible: Hamster Princess 01 by Ursula Vernon, 2015 Dial Books, hc \$12.99, 256 pages. Review by Jessica Coyle

Hugo and Nebula-award winning author and artist Ursula Vernon's newest graphic novel for young readers takes the basic concept of Sleeping Beauty and turns it on its ear. Harriet Hamsterbone is not your typical princess, and she finds having to do princess-y things very boring. When her parents tell her that she was cursed at birth by an evil rat witch, and that she will prick her paw on a hamster wheel on her 12th birthday and fall into a deep sleep, Harriet decides that this is the greatest news ever! It means that she is invincible until her twelfth birthday, and that she can do whatever she wants until then.

Harriet takes off on a series of adventures that involve doing very un-princessy things like riding quails, fighting monsters, and feats of strength. As her 12th birthday approaches, she goes in search of her own prince to break the rat's curse. Unfortunately, nothing ends up going as Harriet envisions. Will she be able to save herself and her kingdom from the curse?

Harriet the Invincible is a delight from beginning to end. Her anthropomorphic art is pleasing as always, and the story is so delightfully absurd that children young and old are sure to enjoy.

Kitty Saves the World by Carrie Vaughn, 2015 Tor, mmpb \$7.99, 326 pages.

Review by Craig W. Chrissinger

The final Kitty Norville book is here, and while it's a satisfying ending to the series, it also is sad and not quite fulfilling. Mostly because there is room for more Kitty tales, and a lot of Big Stuff has to happen in its pages.

With some magic discoveries Cormac made in *Low Midnight*, Kitty and her allies decide it's time to confront and destroy the ancient vampire Roman. His apocalyptic Long Game has become too dangerous to allow to continue, and no one is sure where he will strike. Denver is unsafe, and Kitty's family and her pack are endangered.

The final showdown will require some of Kitty's allies, old and new, to join her in facing true evil.

As with previous Kitty novels, this book continues to show Carrie Vaughn's growth as a writer. She knows her characters and handles them well. I just wish this final book had been a bit longer. I wouldn't have minded a bit. Spending time with Kitty is always worth it.

A Call to Arms: Manticore Ascendant 02 by David Weber, Timothy Zahn and Thomas Pope, 2015 Baen, hc \$26.00, 368 pages.

Review by Marlon Clark

Co-written by Timothy Zahn and Thomas Pope, David Weber's newest book *A Call to Arms* offers a second installment in the prequel series *Manticore Ascendant*. Taking place 400 years before the adventures of Honor Harrington, the series focuses on a time when the Star Kingdom was an unknown galactic backwater – without the wormholes, huge navy, or tremendous wealth and technological superiority.

The Royal Manticoran Navy is still fighting for its life against members of Parliament that favor a defensive "Coast Guard"-like service. The protagonist Travis Long from *A Call to Duty* returns. Now a Lieutenant (jg), he faces the trials of a young officer with both characteristics that annoy his fellow shipmates and political family that hinders his career.

I enjoyed the return to the Honorverse, and the prequel setting gives the series a newness that the main novels have lost. Although the story takes place centuries earlier, it seemed fresh as Star Kingdom struggles to survive during a difficult time period. The main characters in the Honor sequence are all now Admirals and Lords, with many of the scenes taking place in a conference room. In the prequels, the authors are free to focus on more of the 'lower decks' characters that actually do more than talk. The last third of the novel was well done and exciting.

The story does take some time to unfold, and the first hundred pages the plot seems to crawl, although others may enjoy the behind-the-scenes machinations of the villains. The characters are new and more interesting- and the authors are not afraid to take a toll on them. On the other hand, being an Honorverse novel, the characters are stiffly drawn, with the heroes on one side and the villains on the other.

As a part of prequel series, the general outcome of the series is known. Obviously the Star Kingdom will not be destroyed and some readers may not be able to immerse themselves in the story. For those that can, they will enjoy an entertaining and suspenseful tale set in the early days of Manticore.

Station Eleven by Emily St. John Mandel, 2015 Vintage (reprint), tp \$15.95, 352 pages.

Review by Caci Cooper

The Georgia flu, carried by airplane to all corners of the globe, wipes out 99% of the world's population in mere days. Welcome to the end of the world. The story jumps around between the time before and after "the collapse," and the narration cycles through the characters' points of view. While the premise of "apocalypse" sounds sci-fi, Station Eleven is absent the science and heavy handed on the humanity aspect. It is certainly more about people and how the apocalypse affects civilization than it is about the details of the apocalypse. If you're familiar with survivalist stories like S.M. Stirling's Emberverse series, this is basically the other side of the coin from that universe. There isn't much concern with where people are getting their food and drinkable water in the 20 years post-apocalypse. The author is more into the tragic beauty of a fleet of jumbo jets that haven't flown in decades lined up neatly on a runway in the falling snow.

That brings us to one of the main themes of this tale, "survival is insufficient." Taken from a *Star Trek* episode, the phrase is the motto of the Traveling Symphony, a random band of musicians and actors who roam the various small town-like settlements, playing classical music and performing Shakespeare. The ability to create and appreciate art, they believe, is essential to our humanity. It's what takes us beyond mere survival and makes us something more than animals. There are little settlements of people living in Walmarts and gas stations and they would rush out to hear the music, and just have tears streaming down their faces. It speaks to the overarching power of art and the ways in which it can connect us all.

Beyond the Beethoven and the Shakespeare, there's a comic book called *Station Eleven* that is featured prominently. It was written by the first wife of a very famous Hollywood actor. She wrote the comic for herself and published only two copies, which end up in the hands of two of the main characters post-apocalypse. The comics have a profound impact on both characters... essentially the random art of the ex-wife of someone famous endures because art is timeless, while the famous Hollywood actor is forgotten because no one cares about Hollywood after the end of the world. The stories of the two characters in possession of the comics are mostly separate, though absolutely intertwined – as we find out that all the characters' stories are connected.

One of the most amazing aspects of this novel is how all of the characters are connected, both pre- and postcollapse. They mostly don't even realize it. We're all a part of a larger picture but we can't see the individual brush strokes that make it so.

The piece that annoyed me most is the end. The story just stops. It takes a wonderfully interesting story and the author just stops writing. No wind down, no climax, just... ends. After initially being annoyed by this abrupt and unexpected non-ending, on further consideration I think it

was entirely planned to make the point about "humanity carrying on" and how these few characters really don't matter in the grand painting of life.

ASFS MEETING REPORTS — MARCH 2015: AUCTION W/VARDEMAN

Thirty-two people were on hand for the annual club auction, led by local author Robert E. Vardeman. Approximately \$220 was raised to help with the club's rent on the church, *ASFacts* printing, and cook-off plates and such.

Some of the more unusual items and higher bids included Tray of rats \$2.00, Avengers pack \$8.00, Hunger Games book pack \$10.00, Godzilla shirt \$5.00, Dragon teapot \$10.00, Ace doubles/singles \$13.00, Day of the Dead diorama \$5.00, Box of Analog magazines \$5.00, Bullwinkle figure \$2.50, Dinosaur Lords ARC signed by Milan \$20.00, Big bag of hats \$7.00, Octopus necklace \$3.00, Star Trek pack \$10.00, Celtic purse \$12.00, Marvel Encyclopedia \$7.00, Star Wars action figure \$1.00, Skull in top hat pin \$1.50, Brainteaser games \$2.00, Bag of Mageknight figures \$10.00, Stephen Jay Gould nonfiction book signed by ABQ's Steven Gould \$2.00, Buffy shirt \$2.00, and Origami pack \$2.00.

APRIL 2015: SUMMER MOVIE PREVIEWS

Thirty-five people came to listen to *Weekly Alibi* film critic Devin O'Leary as he presented the 3rd "Summer Movie Trailer Park" to ASFS with commentary.

First up was *The Expanse*, to be shown on SyFy late this Fall. "A couple of local boys done good," remarked O'Leary. "Late last year, the president at SyFy changed, and they are not doing this by any half-measure. The channel is totally behind it, and it's a big deal for them."

He also showed TV trailers for *Game of Thrones Season 5* ("Another NM guy done good - it's kind of the model for series TV now. George RR Martin also is doing *Captain Cosmos* for HBO with Michael Cassutt") and *Daredevil* ("This NetFlix series is pretty exciting deal for Marvel. It's darker and more serious than the movie attempts, definite adult material.")

Asked about the *Star Trek* universe, he replied, "They'd like to keep it alive. The hope is in movies. The third film has Simon Pegg on the writing team."

Turning to movie trailers, O'Leary showed off *Mad Max: Fury Road* ("I'm insanely excited for this film. The trailer is amazing"), *San Andreas* ("It wouldn't be summer without a disaster movie. Here the Rock fights earthquakes"), *The Avengers: Age of Ultron* ("There are all sorts of rumors, like whether the post-credits scene might have Spider-Man"), *Tomorrowland, Inside Out* ("Pixar doesn't seem to be capable of letting us down. Should be a lot of fun"), *Jurassic World, Ted 2, Absolutely Anything* ("Kind of planned as the final *Monty Python* film, and instead they got a huge cast. Robin Williams' final film"), *Ant-Man*

("Looks like they have some good stuff going on, and a good cast"), *Minions* ("Looks to be a ton of fun"), *Pan, Poltergeist, Terminator: Genisys, The Vatican Tapes* ("Could be one of the crazier Devil films we'll see"), *Fantastic Four* ("Rumors have been worrying. The trailers are starting to look stylish, but it's iffy"), *The Man from UN-CLE, Hotel Transylvania 2, The Little Prince/Le Petit Prince* ("Looks beautiful, the only trailer so far is in French"), *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2, The Martian* ("A teaser trailer, but it captures the spirit of the book"), and *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* ("Looks pretty exciting. J.J. Abrams has committed to physical effects, puppets and on-set action. Two forces are fighting for what's left of the Empire").

EDITOR NOTES TO FILL THIS SPACE

THE BALLOON FIESTA is here, so the temperatures finally are coming down and it has rained three or four days so far. The morning air is crisp, the way it should be. Of course, first we had to go through "50 days of August," as a friend likes to say. And, of course, it's time for the annual question of when the swamp cooler gets turned off and the furnace comes on.

MILEHICON 46 is two weeks off (Oct 23-25). 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 Jessica and I are helping with SF Name That Tune, two Turkey Read-Offs, part of the Literacy Auction, and a couple of panels. It will be good to see Connie & Courtney Willis, Carrie Vaughn, Jeanne C. Stein, Ursula Vernon, and various Colorado fan friends. Go to www.milehicon.org if you're interested.

ANDY WEIR OF *THE MARTIAN* is in Santa Fe Monday, October 19, but we can't go due to prior commitments. Sigh. Would have liked to have seen him. It will be a rare and special visit since he lives in northern California and doesn't fly. I am very happy that we got up to the Jean Cocteau Cinema to see Felicia Day in early September. She was so nice and fun.

HAVEN'T SEEN MANY FILMS since Bubonicon. Need to catch up. Should be seeing *Goosebumps* soon. Could be fun or could be really cheesy. On TV, I'm enjoying *Heroes Reborn* and *Quantico*, and the new seasons of *Agents of SHIELD*, *iZombie*, *The Big Bang Theory*, *The Goldbergs*, *Once Upon a Time*, *Last Man on Earth*, *Castle* and *The Muppets*. And I enjoyed reading Felicia Day's memoir quite a bit, *Armada* by Ernest Cline (though not quite as much as *Ready Player One*), and *The Night Circus* (so far) by Erin Morgenstern.

I'VE BEEN RELUCTANT to mention this news until it actually became real, but I am now reviewing some books by New Mexico SF authors for the *Albuquerque Journal* again. I submitted two reviews and an invoice last week. Not sure when they will run, but I'm happy to be in the newspaper again.

OCTOBER LOOKS to be busy with signing events, films, Milehicon and Halloween. Just like every Fall, hoping for one weekend with 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. Might not happen until November...

THANKS TO Jessica Coyle, Caci Cooper, Marlon Clark and Becky Davis for contributions. Much more needed in December, please! SithFacts deadline is Sunday, December 6.

Happy Halloween & Thanksgiving! -Craig C.

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