

VERNON WINS SMALL PRESS AWARD

The winner of the 2017 Washington Science Fiction Association (WSFA) Small Press Award for Short Fiction was announced October 7, 2017. Bubonicon 49 Toastmaster Ursula Vernon was named winner for "The Tomato Thief," which appeared in *Apex*, January 2016.

The award, recognizing the "best original short fiction" published by small presses in the previous year, was presented at Capclave in Gaithersburg, MD, at the Hilton Washington DC North/Gaithersburg, held October 6-8, 2017. The winner was chosen by members of WSFA. Vernon receives a \$500 cash prize, and both the author and publisher of the winning story receive certificates and trophies.

2017 Hugo & Campbell Winners

Winners for the Hugo Awards, the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer, and several others were announced August 11, 2017, at Worldcon 75, the 75th World Science Fiction Convention, held in Helsinki, Finland. Four Bubonicon-involved participants were among the winners, including Bubonicon 49's Toastmaster and Guest Artist.

BEST NOVEL: *The Obelisk Gate* by N.K. Jemisin, BEST NOVELLA: *Every Heart a Doorway* by Seanan McGuire, BEST NOVELETTE: "The Tomato Thief" by <u>Ursula Vernon</u>, BEST SHORT STORY: "Seasons of Glass and Iron" by Amal El-Mohtar, BEST RELATED WORK: *Words Are My Matter: Writings About Life and Books, 2000-2016* by Ursula K. Le Guin,

BEST GRAPHIC STORY: Monstress, Volume 1: Awakening by Marjorie Liu with art by Sana Takeda, BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION - LONG: Arrival, BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION - SHORT: The Expanse: "Leviathan Wakes" (Albuquerque's Daniel Abraham & Ty Franck are on the production team), BEST PROFESSIONAL EDITOR SHORT FORM: Ellen Datlow, BEST PROFESSIONAL EDITOR LONG FORM: Liz Gorinsky, BEST SERIES: The Vorkosigan Saga by Lois McMaster Bujold,

BEST PROFESSIONAL ARTIST: Julie Dillon, BEST

SEMIPROZINE: *Uncanny Magazine*, BEST FANZINE: *Lady Business*, BEST FANCAST: *Tea & Jeopardy*, BEST FAN WRITER: Abigail Nussbaum, BEST FAN ARTIST: <u>Elizabeth Leggett</u>, and JOHN W. CAMPBELL AWARD for Best New Writer [Not a Hugo Award]: Ada Palmer

THE BIG HEART AWARD was presented to Carolina Gomez. THE FIRST FANDOM HALL OF FAME AWARDS went to Les and Es Cole. Jim Harmon inducted into the FIRST FANDOM POSTHUMOUS HALL OF FAME.

WORLDCON NEWS FROM HELSINKI

Several amendments to the World Science Fiction Society constitution were ratified during Worldcon 75 in Helsinki. Finland:

"Best Series" makes the Best Series Hugo Award permanent. "Young Adult Award" creates a new award category for Best Young Adult Book. "December Is Good Enough" moves the deadline for Hugo nominations from January 31 of the current year to December 31 of the previous year. "Two Years Are Good Enough" limits nomination to members of the current or immediately preceding Worldcons (This amendment contains a grandfather clause which applies to members of the 2019 Worldcon). "Defining North America" creates a definition of "North America" for WSFS purposes. "Retrospective Improvement" replaces and adds text to the current "Retrospective Hugos" section of the WSFS constitution. "Universal Suffrage" extends WSFS voting rights to further membership levels. For the full text of the ratified amendments, see the 2017 WSFS Business Meeting Agenda.

The site selection for the 2019 Worldcon was also announced: Dublin 2019 – An Irish Worldcon, the 77th World Science Fiction convention, will be held at the

UPCOMING ASFS MEETINGS

- UFO Talk & Club Elections Tonight! Investigator Benjamin Radford is here to talk about "New Mexico UFO Conspiracies" with visual aids. And then, three Offices need to be filled for January-December 2018, and the "theme/challenge ingredient" for December chosen.
- November 10: Dr. Kathleen Kitts visits!
- **December 8:** The 13th ASFS Dessert Cook-Off, and short SF-oriented holiday films. Plus, the annual issue of *SITHFACTS* will be distributed (deadline Mon, Dec 4). Clean-up help wanted!
- **January 12, 2018:** Club round-table discussion of what members read in 2017...

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: Mon, Dec 4. Club Officers: Craig Chrissinger & Jessica Coyle, co-Zec Secs (505) 266-8905. Kevin Zander, Moderator. Mike McCommas, Alternator. HAL 9000, Advisor. Bubonicon Chairs: Caci Cooper (505) 559-0931 & Craig Chrissinger. www.bubonicon.com

Convention Centre Dublin in Dublin, Ireland, August 15-19, 2019. Guests of Honor include Ginjer Buchanan, Jocelyn Bell Burnell, Bill & Mary Burns, Diane Duane, Steve Jackson, and Ian McDonald.

MARTIN RECEIVES PASTWORDS AWARD

George R.R. Martin received one of five inaugural PastWords awards, presented by the Historical Writers of America September 23 to recognize "creators who have produced an outstanding body of work." Recipients were honored at the organization's annual conference, September 21-24, at the Hyatt Tamaya Resort in Santa Ana Pueblo, NM. Executive Director Theresa Guzman Stokes said, "Martin creates a world rich and complex; good and bad are carefully drawn sides, until you turn the page." Melinda Snodgrass served as keynote speaker at the event.

SF BOOK GROUP READS ON

The Droids & Dragons SF Book Group meets 7:30 pm Monday, October 16, at Jason's Deli (northwest corner of Louisiana & America's Parkway NE) to discuss *The Long Way to a Small, Angry Planet* by Becky Chambers. The group then meets November 20 to talk about *Too Like the Lightning* by Ada Palmer.

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 msransom@hotmail.com or Craig at 266-8905.

JERRY POURNELLE DIES

SF writer Jerry Pournelle died September 8 at his home in Studio City, CA, after a sudden illness. He was 84 years old, reported Locus Online.

Jerry Eugene Pournelle was born August 7, 1933, in Shreveport, LA. He served in the US Army from 1950-52, and attended the University of Iowa from 1953-54. He earned his bachelor's at the University of Washington in Seattle in 1955, where he also took a master's in statistics and systems engineering, a PhD in psychology, and a PhD in political science (1964). He worked in politics and in the aerospace field until becoming a freelance writer in 1970. He remained active in politics for much of his life.

His first SF publication, "Peace with Honor" in *Analog* (1971), launched the sprawling CoDominium universe: *A Spaceship for the King* (1973), *West of Honor, The Mercenary, Prince of Mercenaries,* and *Prince of Sparta* (with S.M. Stirling). Notable short works include Hugo Award finalists "The Mercenary" in 1972, "He Fell Into a Dark Hole," and "Tinker."

Pournelle did a great deal of work in collaboration, most notably with Larry Niven. They wrote Hugo and Nebula Award-finalist *The Mote in God's Eye* (1974) and *The Gripping Hand*, also in the CoDominium universe. They also wrote Nebula Award finalist *Inferno* and sequel *Escape from Hell; Lucifer's Hammer; Oath of Fealty; Footfall;* and *The Burning City* and *Burning Tower*. With Larry Niven and Steven Barnes he wrote *The Legacy of Heorot* and *The Dragons of Heorot*. With Niven and Michael Flynn he wrote Prometheus Hall of Fame Award winner *Fallen Angels*.

Pournelle was the first ever winner of the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer in 1973. He served as president of SFWA in 1973, and was a long-time judge for the Writers of the Future competition.

Pournelle is survived by wife Roberta Jane Isdell, and their five children.

GREEN SLIME AWARDS HANDED OUT

In a ceremony August 26 at Bubonicon 49 at the Albuquerque Marriott Uptown Hotel, Green Slime Mistress Jessica L. Coyle (with assistance from the Slime Time Puppets) presented the following with recognition of their wretchedness in the last 12 months:

SF Novel: *Humans, Bow Down* by James Patterson and Emily Raymond, with Jill Dembowski (Unreadable – has robots and dystopia, but no original ideas; Leaves only 15 or so pages for big fight at the end, so too much build-up without payoff; "a bad one-night stand that lasted for months.")

SyFy Channel: *Toxic Shark* (Shark has whale blowhole on top of head that spews toxic green slime; acting not good and plot has many holes; CGI effects look bad; simply beyond terrible.)

Regular Television: *Emerald City* ("The road to reinvention hits a brick wall"; looks great but no thought given to scripts so they are "half-baked"; plot is frustratingly vague and overly elaborate; even Vincent D'Onofrio's take on the wizard wears thin, and many of the other actors seem to be competing to see who can pout the most ripely; borrows too heavily from *Game of Thrones, The Lord of the Rings*, and *Once Upon a Time*; it's a snooze.)

Kids Movie: *The Emoji Movie* (Presumes we're all a bunch of idiots; like staring into an existential abyss; characters have few dimensions; there's a justifiable self-loathing running through movie; animation is terrible; glorified commercial promotion for smartphone games and apps; actors go through dialog with lack of enthusiasm; As Poop, Sir Patrick Stewart is in one of his less dignified gigs; completely joyless and disenchanted.)

Adult Movie: *The Mummy* (Resurrects a franchise that should have stayed dead – it should have stayed buried; script is cobbled together by six credited writers, and

the tone veers wildly from scene to scene; director Alex Kurtzman can't make sense of this banal script; movie suffers from old-school sexism in its two female characters; Russell Crowe seems to have gone to seed and probably self-loathing in the late Brando mode; Universal's "Dark Universe" might want to have a backup plan as this film already shows a black hole of creativity.)

Toy: *Playdoh's Can Heads* (Now that Disney owns *Star Wars* and *Marvel*, they're making dumb decisions in terms of licensing just to make more money; these toys are cheesy and not designed well; the AT-AT looks likes it is puking Playdoh and is impossible to clean out; and when the cans are empty, they don't stay upright well or ride on play vehicles well.)

2017 Dragon Awards Winners

Winners of the second annual Dragon Awards were announced September 3 during Dragon Con, held in Atlanta, GA. Winners from a revised ballot are below. Voting was extended by two days, to midnight on September 1. The Dragon Awards nominations were fraught in this sophomore year, with three authors withdrawing work from the ballot (and one later withdrawing his withdrawal), the administrators changing their minds about whether to honor withdrawals or not, and a certain amount of sturm und drang online.

BEST SCIENCE FICTION NOVEL: Babylon's Ashes: The Expanse Book 6 by James S.A. Corey, BEST FANTASY NOVEL: Monster Hunter Memoirs: Grunge by Larry Correia & John Ringo, BEST YOUNG ADULT/ MIDDLE GRADE NOVEL: The Hammer of Thor by Rick Riordan, BEST MILITARY SCIENCE FICTION OR FANTASY NOVEL: Iron Dragoons by Richard Fox, BEST ALTERNATE HISTORY NOVEL: Fallout: The Hot War by Harry Turtledove, BEST APOCALYPTIC NOVEL: Walkaway by Cory Doctorow, BEST HORROR NOVEL: The Changeling by Victor LaValle,

BEST COMIC BOOK: The Dresden Files: Dog Men, BEST GRAPHIC NOVEL: Jim Butcher's The Dresden Files: Wild Card by Jim Butcher, BEST SCIENCE FICTION OR FANTASY TV SERIES: Stranger Things, and BEST SCIENCE FICTION OR FANTASY MOVIE: Wonder Woman. Winners in various gaming-related categories were also announced.

COMIC WRITER LEN WEIN DIES

by Steve Marble, LA Times

Len Wein, prolific and influential comic book writer who gave life to fan-favorite characters such as Swamp Thing and Wolverine, died September 10 while hospitalized in Los Angeles. He was 69 years old.

Wein had been struggling with poor health for months, a battle he chronicled - sometimes with a touch of humor, sometimes with resignation - on Twitter.

During a decades-long career, Wein was a mainstay of the comic industry, laying hands on classic good vs, evil characters like Batman and Superman, but more often introducing or reviving characters who struggled with human frailties and the complexities of life.

Wein wrote for both DC Comics and Marvel, and was part of new wave of artists and writers who'd been weaned on comics as children.

"My generation, we were the first generation that grew up reading comics," he said during a comic fan fest in Phoenix in 2007. "We grew up loving the characters and it was more than just a paycheck — it was a dream."

Diane Nelson, president of DC Entertainment, said Wein was regarded as a legend. "He wrote or edited almost every major DC character — there's hardly a facet of DC's world that Len didn't touch."

Hugh Jackman, who played the role of Wolverine in the *X-Men* film series, tweeted: "I first met him in 2008. I told him — from his heart, mind & hands came the greatest character in comics."

Born in New York City on June 12, 1948, Wein grew up with a general interest in becoming an artist and an overriding obsession with comic books. He leaned toward the darkness and grit of Batman and spent free time with his friend - and eventual artistic partner - Marv Wolfman taking the weekly tours offered at the DC Comics offices. Occasionally he landed freelance work.

Wein was riding the subway to Queens when the idea for *Swamp Thing* seemingly rose from the jungle muck, a hulking blob of vegetation that would defend the environment - as uninviting as it might look - against invaders, supernatural forces and other agents of evil.

"Swamp Thing was a lucky accident. It was a character born out of desperation," he said in the 2007 interview. "The character got named accidentally - I kept referring to 'that swamp thing I'm working on.' The 'thing' meant the story, not the character. But the name stuck."

Wein provided some rough sketches of a humanoid beast of plant matter for artist Bernie Wrightson to work from. The comic was a quick success for DC and eventually was made into a Wes Craven movie that drew lukewarm reviews from Wein.

At Marvel, Wein revived the superhero team the *X-Men*, helping create new characters like Colossus, Storm, Nightcrawler and Wolverine. At DC, he was one of the editors on the '80s *Watchman* series. And throughout, he wrote or edited the industry standard-bearers — *Superman*, *Batman*, *Spider-Man*, the Incredible Hulk.

In the mid-1970s he was editor-in-chief at Marvel, and in the early 90s, editor-in-chief of Disney Comics. He continued to write for DC as recently as last year.

Wein is survived by his wife, Christine Valada, and a stepson, Michael Bieniewicz-Valada.

2017 RITA & GOLDEN HEART WINNERS

The RITA and Golden Heart Awards were presented by the Romance Writers of America at their annual convention in Orlando, FL, on July 27. The RITA is presented for best novel, and the Golden Heart is a contest for the best novel by an unpublished novelist. Winners of genre interest follow.

RITA for Paranormal Romance: *The Pages of the Mind* by Jeffe Kennedy (Bubonicon participant from Santa Fe), and Golden Heart for Paranormal Romance: *Constant Craving* by Kari W. Cole.

BRIAN ALDISS DIES

SF Grand Master Brian Aldiss died August 19 at home in Oxford, England, shortly after celebrating his 92nd birthday with friends and family. Aldiss was a towering figure in the genre. Critic John Clute called him "one of the SF field's two or three most prolific authors of substance, and perhaps its most exploratory." Aldiss' influence as an editor was also profound, and his insights as a critic and historian were justly renowned.

Brian Wilson Aldiss was born August 18, 1925, in East Dereham, Norfolk, England, and educated at Framingham College and West Buckland School. He was drafted in 1943, and served in the Royal Signals in Burma and Sumatra until 1947. After the war he worked as a bookseller in Oxford until 1956, when he became a full-time writer. He was literary editor at the Oxford Mail 1958-'69, and SF editor for Penguin 1961-'69.

Aldiss' first SF story was "Criminal Record" in *Science Fantasy* in 1954, and over the next few years he became well known for his short fiction.

His debut SF novel Non-Stop (1958; as Starship in the US) is now recognized as a classic. He won a short fiction Hugo in 1962 for "Hothouse," also known by its book title The Long Afternoon of Earth. Other early works of note include The Dark Light Years and Starswarm (1964). In the latter half of the '60s, he became identified with the British New Wave, and published downbeat social satire. He wrote groundbreaking works like the French Surrealist-inspired Report on Probability A (1968) and the Acid-Head War stories, which combined Joycean and psychedelic elements and were collected in Barefoot in the Head in 1969. Novella "The Saliva Tree" blended H.G. Wells and H.P. Lovecraft, won a Nebula Award, and was the title story in *The* Saliva Tree and Other Strange Growths. "Supertoys Last All Summer Long" from 1969 formed the basis of the film AI Artificial Intelligence in 2001.

He is survived by his four children and seven grandchildren.

BUBONICON 49 SUMMARIZED AS A SUCCESS

With 752 attendees, Bubonicon 49 was roughly the

same size as the 2016 convention, but smaller than the historic attendances in 2015 and 2013. Overall, the weekend of "Back In Time" was very successful, with some money targeted for various capital improvements.

Bubonicon 49 has donated \$4,000 to non-profit organizations. The Williamson Library Collection at Eastern NM University received \$1,250, the Roadrunner Food Bank received \$1,250, Albuquerque Public Library Foundation received \$500, New Mexico PBS received \$400, and the American Red Cross was given \$600.

Bubonicon 49 saw six new programming participants – Brenda Drake, Kathleen Kitts, Susan R. Matthews, Yvonne Navarro, Weston Ochse, and Sarena Ulibarri; plus the return of Yvonne Coats, Diana Gabaldon, and Lauren C. Teffeau.

The Art Show had 54 artists displaying their wares with sales of \$13,948 – 47.4 percent of all artwork entered was sold. The Sunday Auction was down from previous years with sales of \$1,391 (*Froomb* went for \$50). Of that, 54.3 percent went to Bubonicon. Friday's Charity Auction was down, raising just \$807.

Bubonicon 49 marked the 6th year at the Albuquerque Marriott Uptown, and all went very well, with only very small issues to report. It remains true that a large percentage of the hotel staff are closet fans!

COSTUME CONTEST AWARDS: Best of Show was Lady Resa Discovers "Empire Waist" (Theresa Halbert), Best of Theme was The Doctor & Questionable Companion (Steve Feidler & Lilian Holmes), Best Presentation was Time: Chaos vs. Order (Allie Wilder & Evie Lewis), and Best Design was Archangel in style of *Xena* show (Diana Loree).

ART SHOW AWARDS: Professional to Elizabeth Leggett, Amateur to Kaade Roberts, Student to Natalie Starry, and Beast of Show (theme) to Ursula Vernon.

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 50 will be held August 24-26, 2018 – normal weekend – at the Albuquerque Marriott Uptown (Louisiana & I-40), with Guests of Honor John Scalzi & Mary Robinette Kowal, Toastmaster Lee Moyer, and Guest Artist Eric Velhagen. 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 2018 team (suggestions/program ideas are being taken at bubonicon@gmail.com).

MEMORIES OF LEN WEIN

A Tribute by Patricia Rogers

During San Diego Comic Con 2008 my friend Melinda asked me if I would like to join her friend Christine, Christine's husband, and some friends for dinner. She mentioned that Christine's husband works in comics.

I said, "Sure." I didn't think a lot about "...husband

works in comics." Because at least 20% of Comic Con's attendees ...work in comics.

Dinner was in a nice seafood restaurant overlooking San Diego Bay. There were around a dozen of us for dinner and I ended up sitting next to Christine's husband.

After we got settled I introduced myself and said, "Melinda says you work in comics. What do you do?"

He smiled and said, "I created Swamp Thing."

I quickly said, "You did not!"

He smiled again and said, "And, Wolverine."

Again, I said, "You did not!" And looking at his youthful appearance I added, "What, were you 12?"

He laughed and I laughed. It was a great start to a lovely evening.

Here is the great irony of this story: *Swamp Thing* was the first comic series I ever collected. As a kid I was more into *Dark Shadows, Famous Monsters of Filmland*, Victorian horror fiction, HP Lovecraft and Harlan Ellison. From Harlan, I moved into Science Fiction. A friend gave me *Something Wicked This Way Comes* to read when I was 17. But that is another story.

I would occasionally buy an *Eerie* or *Creepy* comic but never completely got on the comic train. One day I spotted a *Swamp Thing* on the stand of my favorite used bookstore/comic shop, picked it up and started reading... I was hooked. I bought them regularly from then on. I only have 2 small boxes of comics stored away. Half of that collection is *Swamp Thing*.

I never really paid attention to who wrote or drew the comic. I just read 'em. Later on, I grew to recognize Bernie Wrightson's name and even met him at Comic Con on several occasions.

Now, here I sat with Len Wein, creator of *Swamp Thing*, dumbfounded by my ignorance! Fortunately, Len was a real mensch and just laughed along with me at my cluelessness.

We had a lovely chat during dinner about all things "Swamp Thing."

By the end of dinner we even shared a dessert. I think it was a chocolate mousse pie.

Over the years since I saw Christine and Len on many occasions. I was really happy I could hook Christine up with some autographs she needed for some friends, and was pleased I was available to help clean up after their house fire. Christine invited me to join them one Sunday night for dinner and watching *The Amazing Race* on TV. Christine is a world class chief. And I loved, loved every one of their herd of Golden Retrievers. Sweetest dogs ever.

On several occasions when I saw Len I would take out one of my *Swamp Thing* comics, toss it down near him and say, "Hey, I hear you created this." He would laugh and sign it for me.

Once, when Len was attending a comic convention in Albuquerque, we hung out and I took him to dinner with some friends at the 66 Diner on Central. When we showed up, my friends, being much smarter than me, looked at us and said something on the lines of, "Holy cow, you brought THE Len Wein to dinner!" Sometime during that dinner, Len drew a silhouette of Batman for me on a napkin. He said he liked to draw Batman best and was never really good at drawing Swamp Thing.

My favorite memory of all was when I drove Len back to the hotel. I parked on a deserted downtown street across from the Hyatt and we just talked for a long time. The type of warm conversation friends have in a dark car late at night. About nothing and everything.

Rest in peace, Len. I will miss your Cheshire Cat smile and warm laugh.

Oh, and say, I hear you created Swamp Thing.

BOOK REVIEW SPOTLIGHT

The Shift of the Tide by Jeffe Kennedy, 2017 CreateSpace, tp \$15.99, 400 pgs. Review by Jessica Coyle

The Shift of the Tide is the third book in Santa Fe author Jeffe Kennedy's The Uncharted Realms romance series. The books follow the women involved with the royal house of the 13 Kingdoms, a fantasy realm which seems to loosely combine magic and Renaissance-style living. The Shift of the Tide follows the character of Zynda, a woman who is part of the Tala, a mysterious race of shapeshifters and magicians that lived separately until recently joining the 13 Kingdoms.

Zynda is the cousin of the 13 Kingdoms royal family, and, as one of the Tala's most powerful magicians, she has been sent to help Queen Ursula rid the 13 Kingdoms of the mysterious Deyrr, a religious/magical sect that is trying to conquer them. Unbeknownst to everyone else, Zynda has her own, separate agenda that is vital to the Tala and their survival. She is determined to not let anything get in her way, including her budding romance with Queen Ursula's personal guard Marskal.

Kennedy's *The Uncharted Realms* series has been a consistently fun and well-written entry into the Fantasy Romance genre. When her publisher was sold, Kennedy decided to keep printing the series on her own. The quality of the storytelling hasn't changed, and *The Shift of the Tide* lives up to its predecessors in every way. I still highly recommend this series to fantasy and romance readers, and suggest starting with *The Mark of the Tala*, which is the first book in *The Twelve Kingdoms* trilogy that started it all.

EDITOR NOTES TO FILL THIS SPACE

THAT'S ABOUT IT, FOLKS. Running late and out of time. Temps are cooling down, Balloon Fiesta is almost over, and Halloween is on the way. The new TV season has started, and there are plenty of genre offerings. *The Orville, The Gifted* and *Ghosted* show promise, *The Inhumans* not so much. And we still like Supergirl and Lucifer just fine. We shall see...

LOTS OF STUFF didn't get in here, but that's the way the cookie crumbles. Club reports, lots of obits & awards next time.

THANK YOU to Patricia Rogers and Jessica Coyle for their contributions. See you all in December for SithFacts! - Craig