

ASFACTS 2018

JULY "HOT & DRY IN THE CITY" SUMMER ISSUE

2017 NEBULA AWARDS WINNERS

The Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America (SFWA) announced the winners of the 2017 Nebula Awards at an awards banquet during the 52nd Annual Nebula Conference held May 19 at the Pittsburgh Marriott Center in Pittsburgh PA. Among the winners is New Mexico author Rebecca Roanhorse!

NOVEL: *The Stone Sky* by N.K. Jemisin, NOVELLA: *All Systems Red* by Martha Wells, NOVELETTE: "A Human Stain" by Kelly Robson, SHORT STORY: "Welcome to Your Authentic Indian Experience™" by Rebecca Roanhorse, THE RAY BRADBURY AWARD FOR DRAMATIC PRESENTATION: *Get Out*, and THE ANDRE NORTON AWARD FOR YOUNG ADULT SCIENCE FICTION OR FANTASY BOOK: *The Art of Starving* by Sam J. Miller.

The Kevin O'Donnell Jr Award for Service to SFWA went to Bud Sparhawk. The Kate Wilhelm Solstice Award went to Gardner Dozois and Sheila Williams. The Damon Knight Memorial Grand Master Award went to Peter Beagle.

ROGERS & DENNING HOSTING PRE-CON PARTY

Patricia Rogers and Scott Denning will uphold a local fannish tradition when they host the Bubonicon 50 Pre-Con Party 7:30-10:30 pm Thursday, August 23, at their home in Bernalillo – located at 909 Highway 313.

The easiest way to get there 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 car on the shoulder of Highway 313.

In addition to socializing, attendees can help assemble the membership packets, & check out the 2018 t-shirt with artwork by Eric Velhagen.

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

PROVOCATIVE ELLISON DIES AT 84

Variety – Speculative-fiction writer Harlan Ellison – who penned short stories, novellas and criticism; contributed to TV series including *The Outer Limits*, *Star Trek*



and *Babylon 5*; and won a notable copyright infringement suit against ABC and Paramount; and a settlement in a similar suit over *The Terminator* – died June 28. He was 84.

Christine Valada tweeted that Ellison's wife, Susan, had asked her to announce that he died in his sleep Thursday. Valada wrote, "Susan Ellison has asked me to announce the passing of writer Harlan Ellison, in his sleep, earlier today. 'For a brief time I was here, and for a brief time, I mattered.' – HE, 1934-2018. Arrangements for a celebration of his life are pending."

The prolific but cantankerous author famously penned the *Star Trek* episode "City on the Edge of Forever," in which Kirk and Spock must go back in time to Depression-era America to put Earth history back on its rightful course, a goal that for Kirk means sacrificing the woman he loves (played by Joan Collins). The final script was rewritten by *Star Trek* staffers, leaving Ellison unhappy.

His 1995 book, *The City on the Edge of Forever: The Original Teleplay That Became the Classic Star Trek Episode*, contained two drafts by Ellison.

The author was still steaming over his experience more than four decades after the episode aired: In 2009

UPCOMING ASFS MEETINGS

- **Tonight:** Summer Film Fun with a giant desert monster, teens & music, and a few cartoon shorts...
- **August 10:** Bubonicon 50 preview, and local author Lauren C. Tefteau on her debut book.
- **September 14:** It's All About the Cons! Bubonicon 50, San Jose Worldcon & DragonCon reports.
- **October 12:** Election of 3 club officers, and local skeptic Benjamin Radford talks on ghosts! And Halloween's *ASFACTS* (deadline Mon, October 8).
- **November 9:** An interesting talk, we hope.
- **December 14:** 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: Mon, Oct 8. **Club Officers:** Jessica Coyle & Craig Chrissinger, co-Zec Secs (505) 266-8905. Kevin Zander, Moderator. Mike McCommas, Alternator. HAL 9000, Advisor. **Bubonicon Chairs:** Caci Cooper (505) 559-0931 & Craig Chrissinger.

Ellison sued CBS Paramount Television seeking revenue from merchandising and other sources from the episode; a settlement was reached six months later.

The author of a 1980 *L.A. Times* profile declared, "Ellison is fiercely independent, proudly elitist, frequently angry, tenacious and downright vengeful."

Talking about the Hollywood establishment, Ellison told the *Times*, "They've got to know that everybody isn't frightened and won't back down... These people are not creators; they belong to the AAA – agents, attorneys and accountants. They aren't comfortable dealing with writers – they think we're madmen. They're really only comfortable dealing with numbers."

In a separate case, Ellison won \$337,000 (later reduced a bit in a settlement) from ABC and Paramount Studios in 1980 for copyright infringement on a short story the author had penned with Ben Bova, "Brillo." Ellison and Bova had been asked to develop it at ABC, but the option there had lapsed; Ellison then showed it to Paramount execs, who said they weren't interested. ABC aired a Paramount-produced telepic called *Future Cop* in May 1976 and later a brief series of the same name. The premise, about the first android policeman, was identical to that in "Brillo."

In the litigious writer's third victory against Hollywood, Ellison sued James Cameron and others behind 1984's *The Terminator*, claiming that the film drew from material in two episodes of the original *The Outer Limits* series, "Soldier" and "Demon With a Glass Hand," that he had penned and had aired in 1964. Production company Hemdale and distributor Orion Pictures settled out of court and were required under the terms of the settlement to acknowledge Ellison's work in the film's end credits. Cameron, however, labelled Ellison "a parasite."

Curiously, Ellison had little sympathy for others who brought copyright-infringement suits against the studios, telling the *L.A. Times*, "You've got to realize that there are hundreds of these claims and most of them aren't valid. This is a town of amateurs.... You have to separate these people and their complaints from the professionals who really work at writing and have viable ideas."

Born in Painesville, Ohio, Ellison grew up in the only Jewish family in a small town where he said he had to defend himself in physical altercations on a daily basis. During the 1950s Ellison attended Ohio State University for 18 months, served in the Army and began to sell sci-fi stories to pulp mags. He moved to California in 1962.

Ellison was famously fired on his first day of employment as a writer at Walt Disney Studios after making highly irreverent suggestions about the company's beloved characters.

He penned scripts for *Route 66*, *Burke's Law*, *Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea*, *The Man from UNCLE* and even *The Flying Nun*. For a 1964 episode of The Alfred Hitchcock Hour, "Memo from Purgatory," he adapted his

own nonfiction memoir about having joined a street gang in Brooklyn.

Ellison also penned the screenplay to tepidly trashy Hollywood melodrama *The Oscar*; and the post-apocalyptic cult classic *A Boy and His Dog* (1975), starring a young Don Johnson, was based on an Ellison novella.

Ellison was also editor of the very influential sci-fi anthologies *Dangerous Visions* and *Again Dangerous Visions*.

When he dealt with Hollywood, he fearlessly said exactly what he thought again and again – often causing fallout as a result. In the wake of the 1977 release of *Star Wars*, a Warner Bros. executive asked Ellison to adapt Isaac Asimov's short story collection *I, Robot* for the big screen.

Ellison penned a script and met with studio chief Robert Shapiro to discuss it; when the author concluded that the executive was commenting on his work without having read it, Ellison claimed to have said to Shapiro that he had "the intellectual capacity of an artichoke." Needless to say, Ellison was dropped from the project. Ellison's work was ultimately published with permission of the studio, but the 2004 Will Smith film *I, Robot* was not based on the material Ellison wrote.

Perhaps Ellison's most famous story not adapted for the screen was 1965's "Repent, Harlequin! Said the Ticktockman," which celebrates civil disobedience against a repressive establishment. "Repent" is one of the most reprinted stories ever.

In September 2011, however, Ellison sued to block the release of New Regency's thriller *In Time*, starring Justin Timberlake, claiming that the film hews too closely to "Repent," then dropped the suit. In the early 1970s, Ellison created his only TV series, the Canada-produced *The Starlost*. He was so unhappy with the changes made by producers, however, that he took his name off the skein, which aired in 1973.

Ellison was a creative consultant for the 1980s edition of *The Twilight Zone*, for which he wrote several episodes, and was conceptual consultant for the 1990s sci-fi series *Babylon 5*. He also appeared in several episodes.

In 1995 Ellison adapted his story "I Have No Mouth, and I Must Scream" for the videogame of that name. He was also credited with design of the game and voiced the main character.

Dreams with Sharp Teeth, a documentary centering on Ellison and his work, received a theatrical release in 2008. Interviewees included Ellison and Robin Williams. Ellison also appeared in other documentaries, including *The Masters of Comic Book Art*, *Shadows in the Dark: The Val Lewton Legacy*, *Brother Theodore* (2007) and *With Great Power: The Stan Lee Story* (2010).

In addition to numerous genre awards – including multiple Hugos, Nebulas and Edgars – Ellison received

four WGA Awards for his TV work and the Silver Pen for Journalism, conferred by international writers union PEN, for his “An Edge in My Voice” column in the *L.A. Weekly* in defense of First Amendment rights.

Despite the kudos he amassed, however, Ellison penned a guest column for *Variety* in November 2013 in which he declared: “I do not merely hate all awards shows, I wish to see them beheaded, stakes driven through their black and corrupted widdle hearts, and to see the decapitated remains buried at a crossroads come midnight.”

Ellison was married five times, with at least two of those marriages lasting only weeks or months. Survivors include his fifth wife, Susan Ann Toth.

2018 LOCUS WINNERS NAMED

The Locus Science Fiction Foundation announced the winners of the 2018 Locus Awards on June 23 during the Locus Awards Weekend in Seattle WA (June 22-24):

SCIENCE FICTION NOVEL: *The Collapsing Empire* by John Scalzi, FANTASY NOVEL: *The Stone Sky* by N.K. Jemisin, HORROR NOVEL: *The Changeling* by Victor La-Valle, YOUNG ADULT BOOK: *Akata Warrior* by Nnedi Okorafor, FIRST NOVEL: *The Strange Case of the Alchemist's Daughter* by Theodora Goss.

NOVELLA: *All Systems Red* by Martha Wells, NOVELLETTE: “The Hermit of Houston” by Samuel R. Delany, SHORT STORY: “The Martian Obelisk” by Linda Nagata, ANTHOLOGY: *The Book of Swords* edited by Gardner Dozois, COLLECTION: *Ursula K. Le Guin: The Hainish Novels and Stories* by Ursula K. Le Guin, MAGAZINE: *Tor.com*.

PUBLISHER: Tor, EDITOR: Ellen Datlow, ARTIST: Julie Dillon, NON-FICTION: *Luminescent Threads: Connections to Octavia E. Butler* edited by Alexandra Pierce & Mimi Mondal, ART BOOK: *The Art of the Pulps: An Illustrated History* edited by Douglas Ellis Hulse & Robert Weinberg, and SPECIAL AWARD 2018: COMMUNITY BUILDING & INCLUSIVITY: Clarion West.

The Locus Awards are chosen by a survey of readers in an open online poll.

HELP NEEDED AT BUBONICON

It's true! Volunteers or “gofers” are needed to help out at Bubonicon 50 the weekend of August 24-26 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 drawings for various

goodies liked bookstore gift certificates, restaurant gift certificates, Guild Cinema passes, signed books, toys, genre t-shirts, and more!

The Volunteers (Gofers) Organizational Meeting will take place 7:30 pm Friday, August 17, 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 receive some kind of promotional goods.

If you're willing to help us out, please email co-coordinators Cat Corva & Suzanne Busch at volunteers@bubonicon.com.

GENRE BOOKS STILL DISCUSSED

The Droids & Dragons SF Book Group meets 7:30 pm Monday, July 16, at Jason's Deli (northwest corner of Louisiana & America's Parkway NE – across the street from Bubonicon's Marriott Hotel) to discuss *Ghost Talkers* by Mary Robinette Kowal. The group then recommends 2-4 books read in the last year but not discussed in group on August 20.

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. For more info, contact Leah at msransom@hotmail.com or Craig at 266-8905.

COMIC ARTIST DITKO DIES

NPR – Steve Ditko, the comic-book artist best known for his role in creating Spider-Man, has died at the age of 90. His body was found on June 29.

Ditko is credited with helping to popularize the Marvel Comics universe, whose characters today can be found everywhere from blockbuster films, to television shows, to theme park rides, to merchandise. Working alongside artists Stan Lee and Jack Kirby, Ditko was a creative force behind characters like Dr. Strange, the Incredible Hulk and Iron Man.

As NPR's Renee Montagne reported in 2015, their most famous creation was Spider-Man. In an interview with Montagne, Spider-Man co-creator Stan Lee described their creative process.

“Jack [Kirby] made him look very heroic and strong, but that isn't the way I wanted him – I wanted him to look like a typical, thin high school kid. He doesn't get all of the girls because of his athletic prowess. He's just kind of a shy high school kid who's a science major. And it was no big deal. I said, ‘Jack, forget it. I'll give it to someone else.’ And he was busy with a dozen other books, he didn't care. So I called Steve Ditko, and Steve gave him just the right look. And that's how Spidey was born.”

Detective Sophia Mason with the New York Police Department confirmed to NPR that Ditko was found dead in his home in Manhattan on June 29, after a friend hadn't seen him in a number of days and went to check on him. Mason said it isn't known exactly when Ditko died, but there were no signs of trauma.

In a statement on July 7, Marvel Comics Chief Creative Officer Joe Quesada wrote: "Only a small group of individuals can claim that they have effected and redefined not just an industry, but popular culture worldwide. Steve Ditko was one of those few who dared to break molds every time his pencil and pen hit a blank sheet of paper. In his lifetime he blessed us with gorgeous art, fantastical stories, heroic characters and a mystical persona worthy of some of his greatest creations. And much like his greatest co-creation, Steve Ditko's legend and influence will outlive us all."

Unlike his collaborator Lee, Ditko did not publish memoirs and he rarely sat for interviews with journalists. Lee described him as a "private person." Others have called him a "mystery man."

Ditko worked with DC Comics later in his career, creating characters including the Question, the Creeper, and Hawk and Dove.

Jim Lee, publisher of DC Entertainment, said that Ditko was "polite and unassuming. He never sought attention or the limelight but in many ways represented the hidden hero he saw in all of us."

NZ IN 2020 CHANGES DATES

Locus Online announced in early July that the 2020 Worldcon bid – NZ in 2020 – has changed their proposed dates to July 29-August 2, 2020, in Wellington, New Zealand, due to a lack of facility availability for their original dates (August 12-16, 2020). The event would still be held at the TSB Bank Arena and Michael Fowler Centre in Wellington.

Chair Norman Cates said, "We appreciate that this date change would make our Worldcon early compared to previous Worldcons. We did a lot of debating about this, and moving the date was the best overall option to preserve our best possible Worldcon."

The site selection vote will be held at Worldcon 76, this August 16-20, in San Jose, CA. The New Zealand bid is unopposed. For more information, visit the NZ in 2020 site.

CHRISTOPHER STASHEFF DIES

by Susan Macdonald, Krypton Radio
with additional reporting by Craig Chrissinger

Fantasy and science fiction author Christopher Stasheff died June 10 of Parkinson's disease. He was 74.

His son, Edward Stasheff, posted on Facebook that evening: "Christopher Stasheff died at 6:45 PM on June

10th, 2018, surrounded by his wife and two of his children. The other two were able to phone in and say goodbye before he passed. Thank you all for your heartfelt goodbyes."

Stasheff was born in Mt. Vernon, NY, on January 15, 1944. He grew up in Ann Arbor, MI. After earning a Ph.D. in Theater from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, he taught Communication at Montclair State College in NJ.

He later taught in the Department of Communication at Eastern New Mexico University in Portales, NM, from August 2001 to May 2009. At ENMU, Stasheff taught production courses in radio and television, and worked closely with ENMU's public broadcast station, KENW, overseeing students in production activities. He was a loyal member of the Williamson Lectureship Committee, a friend of Jack Williamson's, and was honored as a guest of the Lectureship in the early 2000s.

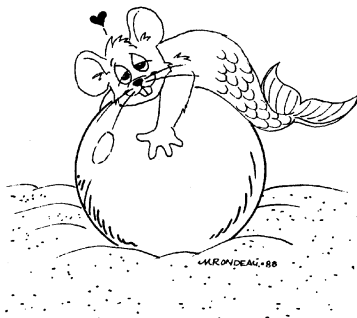
Gene Bundy, ENMU librarian, remembers, "The Chinese students really were attached to Chris. Geni was teaching ESL at the same time and had mostly Chinese students. They cooked a meal for Chris and Geni (and I snuck in) one evening. Chris really had a great rapport with them. I could tell they really liked him. So did Geni and I. He came to dinner at our house a couple of times. What a nice guy he was. He had a bit of writers block and took Jack's SF class, and maybe the creative writing class, trying to gain some momentum."

Upon retirement from teaching in 2009, he re-settled in Champaign, IL, where he devoted himself to writing. He spent his final days in hospice.

Stasheff was a prolific author, with 45 novels to his credit, as well as 29 short stories. He edited seven anthologies. His first novel, *The Warlock in Spite of Himself*, was published in 1969. It was the first of 13 books in the *Warlock of Gramayre* series, which combined science fiction and fantasy as deftly as they combined action and humor.

Stasheff wrote the *Wizard in Rhyme* series (eight books), the *Starship Troupers* trilogy, the *Rogue Wizard* series (10 books), the *Wizard's Heirs* quartet, and the *St. Vidicon* trilogy. He collaborated with L. Sprague de Camp on the *Harold Shea* books, with Bill Fawcett on the *Crafters* books, and with Chelsea Quinn Yarbro, Gordon R. Dickson, and David Drake on the *Harriers* series. He also wrote standalone books, short stories, novellas, and essays, and was a frequent guest at Chabon and other conventions.

He is survived by his wife Mary, their four children Edward, Eleanor, Genevieve, and Isobel, and four grandchildren.



2018 CAMPBELL & STURGEON WINNERS

The Genius Plague by David Walton is this year's John W. Campbell Memorial Award winner for the best science fiction novel published in 2017, and "Don't Press Charges and I Won't Sue" by Charlie Jane Anders is the winner of the Theodore Sturgeon Memorial Award for the best short fiction of 2017.

Other Campbell Memorial Award finalists were: *The Rift* by Nina Allan, *Tropic of Kansas* by Christopher Brown, *Future Home of the Living God* by Louise Erdrich, *The Stars Are Legion* by Kameron Hurley, *The Moon and the Other* by John Kessel, *The Stargazer's Embassy* by Eleanor Lerman, *Austral* by Paul McAuley, *Autonomous* by Annalee Newitz, *After the Flare* by Deji Bryce Olukotun, *New York 2140* by Kim Stanley Robinson, *The People's Police* by Norman Spinrad, and *Borne* by Jeff VanderMeer.

For the Sturgeon Award, other finalists were: "Zen and the Art of Starship Maintenance" by Tobias S. Buckell, "The Discrete Charm of the Turing Machine" by Greg Egan, "Sidewalks" by Maureen McHugh, "The Martian Obelisk" by Linda Nagata, "The Secret Life of Bots" by Suzanne Palmer, "And Then There Were (N‑One)" by Sarah Pinsker, "Fandom for Robots" by Vina Jie-Min Prasad, "A Series of Steaks" by Vina Jie-Min Prasad, "Welcome to Your Authentic Indian Experience™" by Rebecca Roanhorse, and "We Who Live in the Heart" by Kelly Robson.

The awards were presented during the Campbell Conference Awards Banquet, held June 22-24 at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, KS.

ACCLAIMED EDITOR DOZOIS DIES

by Kristen A. Graham, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*

Gardner R. Dozois, one of the most important science-fiction editors of his time, died May 27, at Pennsylvania Hospital of multiple system failure. He was 70 years old.

Dozois, a member of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Hall of Fame, was the founding editor of *The Year's Best Science Fiction* anthologies and a longtime editor of *Asimov's Science Fiction* magazine. He earned dozens of awards for his work, both as a writer and an editor.

What drove Dozois was a desire to find and publish the best of the genre, said friend Michael Swanwick. "He loves science fiction with an intensity that very few can match," Swanwick wrote about Dozois in 1997.

Born in Beverly, Mass., Dozois became an avid fiction reader in part, he told friends, as a way to escape small-town life. Even as a young child, he was focused on fantasy, interested in becoming a writer someday. After graduating from high school in 1965, he served in the Army, working as a journalist for *Stars and Stripes*, the military newspaper, from 1966 to 1969. He received no

further formal education beyond high school, but was a voracious reader and once landed on a *Philadelphia Magazine* list of the 100 smartest people in the city.

Dozois moved to New York when he left the military, launching a career he would pursue for the rest of his life. At first, he was a celebrated young writer of short stories, but then he began to get work as an editor, and quickly got a reputation as a very strong one.

He moved to Philadelphia in 1970 when he fell in love with Susan Casper, whom he would go on to marry. Casper was his collaborator in life and often in writing; she was also a science-fiction author. He lived in the city for the rest of his life.

In the 1970s, Dozois worked on a number of science-fiction magazines. From 1988 to 2004, he edited *Asimov's Science Fiction*; during that time, he won the Hugo Award for Best Professional Editor.

He considered himself a writer's editor: "Rather than telling my writers what to write about or giving them ideas, I prefer to stay as receptive as I can to the areas they're interested in exploring," Dozois said in a 1999 interview. He was a careful and generous mentor, friends said, and loved widening the genre by finding new voices.

Dozois was also an anthologist, choosing the best science-fiction work annually for *The Year's Best Science Fiction*, a work published for the last 35 years. The stories he chose were acclaimed, winning a legion of prizes on the national and international stages.

He frequently worked with others in the industry – from Swanwick and Casper, to George RR Martin.

Though Dozois spent most of his time reading other writers' work, he still managed to write his own, including "The Peacemaker" and "Morning Child," which each won Nebula Prizes as best short stories; the novel *Strangers*; and *Hunter's Run* – a novel written in collaboration with Martin and Daniel Abraham. After his wife died in 2017, Dozois used writing as a way to cope with his grief; he produced five new stories after her death, said his son, Christopher Casper.

Dozois came across as larger-than-life, gregarious, and colorful. But he was layered, his son said. He was accomplished – Christopher Casper accepted a lifetime achievement award on his father's behalf from the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America this month – but uncomfortable with praise.

"He used humor as his own personal shield to help put people at ease," said his son. "Considering all he had done, he was a shy and humble man."

Despite his prominence in the industry, Dozois was never wealthy. But he was generous, always.

"Even when he turned down stories, it was always with a kind heart – it was never just, 'No.' He gave writers feedback to make their work better. And if he passed a homeless gentleman on the street, he would always give them a dollar if he had it in his pocket," said Casper. "He always thought to give."

Asked once what inspired him as a writer, Dozois in a 2010 interview said that he “wanted to write the stories I wanted to read. Everybody has a unique view of the universe, a view that can be seen only through their eyes, and nothing quite matched the view from my own eyes.”

Survivors include his son, two grandchildren, and a sister, Gail Fennessey.

SF AUCTIONS YIELD RESULTS

Half a dozen letters from J.R.R. Tolkien sold at auction in May 2018 for a total of \$36,000, with individual letters selling from \$2,700 to \$13,000. Two of the letters were sent to artist Mary Fairburn in 1968, praising illustrations of *The Lord of the Rings* she’d sent him, and including a signed original sketch by Fairburn. The other letters were to Oscar Morland (a British ambassador), Baronne A. Baeyens, K.F. Mawson, and a reply to a “Mr. Mitchell” who’d sent him a fan letter.

In another May auction, Frank Frazetta’s “Death Dealer 6” sold for \$1,792,500, far exceeding the expected price of \$600,000; the seller bought it for \$50,000 15 years ago.

2017 SF&F HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

The Museum of Pop Culture (MoPOP) announced in mid-June the 2017 inductees to the Science Fiction and Fantasy Hall of Fame: comic book writer and publisher Stan Lee, author J.K. Rowling, the *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* TV series, and *The Legend of Zelda* video game series. The inductees will be included in the SF&F Hall of Fame display later this year.

The Science Fiction Hall of Fame was founded in 1996 and then relocated from the Gunn Center for the Study of Science Fiction and Fantasy at the University of Kansas to its permanent home at MoPOP (formerly EMP) in 2004.

4TH WALKER ON MOON DIES

by Andrew Liptak, *The Verge*

Astronaut Alan Bean died May 26 at the age of 86. As the lunar module pilot for the Apollo 12 mission, Bean was part of the second crew that landed on the Moon, and he became the fourth man to walk on the lunar surface. He later commanded the second crewed mission to America’s first space station, Skylab.

Bean was the last surviving member of the Apollo 12 mission, and following his death, only four Moonwalkers remain: Buzz Aldrin (Apollo 11), David Scott (Apollo 15), Charles Duke (Apollo 16), and Harrison Schmitt (Apollo 17).

Born in 1932 in Wheeler, TX, he attended the University of Texas at Austin in 1955 and joined the US Navy, where he trained to become a pilot. The Navy later

assigned him to the US Naval Test Pilot School in Maryland, where he trained under his future Apollo 12 commander Pete Conrad, an instructor at the school. Bean would later be selected as part of Astronaut Group 3 in 1963, which included Buzz Aldrin, Eugene Cernan (Apollo 10 and 17, and Michael Collins (Apollo 11).

Apollo 12’s commander, Conrad, specifically requested Bean for his crew. Along with Command Module Pilot Richard F. Gordon Jr., the mission launched on November 14th, 1969, and was struck by lightning seconds into the launch. Aided by ground control, Bean recalled a procedure that saved the mission from an early abort, and successfully landed on the Moon’s Ocean of Storms on November 19, 1969.

Upon landing, Bean and Conrad performed a pair of treks, where they collected rocks and set up instruments that would collect data about the Moon’s seismic activity, solar wind, and magnetic field. They also landed within walking distance of the Surveyor 3 probe, which had landed two years earlier in 1967. It was the first and only time that astronauts have rendezvoused with such a probe on another celestial body. The crew successfully returned to Earth on November 24, 1969. Upon splashdown, a camera in the capsule came loose and hit Bean in the head, knocking him out.

The Apollo 12 mission wasn’t Bean’s last in space. He was later selected to command the second crewed mission to the Skylab space station on July 18th, 1973. The crew, which included astronauts Owen K. Garriott and Jack R. Lousma, spent a total of 58 days in space. Bean conducted a variety of medical and biological experiments, installed equipment, and took part in one of the mission’s three spacewalks, testing a prototype propulsion backpack that allowed astronauts to maneuver in space without being tethered to a spacecraft. After returning to Earth, he was assigned to the backup crew for the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project. He retired from the US Navy in 1975 and from NASA in 1981.

After his retirement from NASA, he took up painting as an occupation, creating vivid depictions of lunar missions, texturing his works with lunar boot prints and even samples of lunar dust. He later noted that he felt “in the long run it was more important for me to try to create the paintings than it was to try to mass them together and put them in a book.”

LUCIFER REBORN ON NETFLIX

by Isaac Feldberg, *EW.com*

Talk about sympathy for the devil.

Netflix made a deal mid-June to revive *Lucifer*, the comic-book drama that Fox axed back in March after three seasons. A now-greenlit fourth season will officially welcome the series into the streaming giant’s ever-expanding stable of originals; an episode count has yet to be announced.

The eleventh-hour call came as options on *Lucifer*'s main cast members were about to expire and follows a lengthy, fan-led #SaveLucifer campaign that's kept support for the series strong across the past three months.

The show stars Tom Ellis as the titular Lord of Hell, who abdicates his throne in order to become a civilian consultant for the Los Angeles Police Department, while also running his own nightclub called Lux. Lauren German costars as his detective partner, who is mysteriously immune to his supernatural powers.

This isn't the first canceled Fox series to find a new home this year, of course; *Brooklyn Nine-Nine* was picked up by NBC after that beloved comedy got the ax and fans rallied on Twitter. It's also not the first Warner Bros. Television series to live on at Netflix; A&E's *Longmire* came to the streaming service post-cancellation and went for three additional seasons.

Netflix announced the news (fittingly) on Twitter: "#Lucifer fans, rejoice: Netflix has picked up the show up for a fourth season!"

Creator Joe Henderson was quick to credit fans with the series' rescue, as was Ellis. Henderson wrote: "Thank you thank you THANK YOU to all the #Lucifer fans. You brought us back. YOU did this. So relax, take a breath, put some ice on those fingers that have been hashtagging up a storm... and get ready for more devil-time."

And Ellis tweeted: "WE DID IT!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Thank you to everyone for your continued support and love for #Lucifer I am so happy for all our fans I'm going to burst."

Lucifer was never a huge ratings performer for Fox, but its small fanbase proved atypically vocal after the cancellation. Netflix – which didn't even initially have SVOD rights to the series (those were over at Hulu) – is betting that fans will follow Lucifer onto the platform.

EXPANSE RESCUED BY AMAZON

From TVLine and the Hollywood Reporter

The Expanse is getting a second chance at life at Amazon.

In late May, the streaming service picked up a fourth season of the cancelled Syfy drama, Variety reported. The announcement was made by Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos at the National Space Society's International Space Development Conference in Los Angeles on May 25.

Syfy's decision to end *The Expanse* was primarily ratings-driven. Starring Steven Strait and based on James S.A. Corey's best-selling book series of the same name, in the series written by Daniel Abraham and Ty Franck, Syfy only had the rights to the first-run linear episodes in the U.S. That limited the upside for the cable network, making live and linear viewership imperative.

Opening to promising reviews and a strong collection of loyal viewers, its first season averaged 581,000

viewers in the advertiser-coveted adults 18-49 demographic, and 1.4 million total viewers with three days of DVR.

Season two, which returned more than a year later with a significant marketing push and a solid lead-in, was down 24 percent among total viewers and averaged 457,000 total viewers. That compares more to similar returns for Syfy's inexpensive co-productions like *Dark Matter* and *Killjoys*, than to the cabler's original scripted series like *The Magicians* and *Happy*.

Its third season, which returned in April, tumbled another 5 percent among total viewers and 12 percent in the demo from season two.

The decision to bring *The Expanse* to its end at Syfy comes as the basic-cable network has a packed scripted roster that also includes the upcoming George R.R. Martin drama *Nightflyers*, *The Purge*, *Deadly Class*, *Krypton*, *The Magicians*, anthology *Channel Zero*, *Van Helsing*, *Wynonna Earp* and *Killjoys* (which will end in 2019).

Starring Strait, Shohreh Aghdashloo and Dominique Tipper, *The Expanse* is set in a future where humanity has colonized the solar system. Mark Fergus and Hawk Ostby (*Children of Men*) served as showrunners and executive produced the Alcon Television Group drama alongside Naren Shankar.

At the time of its cancellation, Alcon announced it would try to find the series a new home. Amazon was always seen as the most likely destination, which currently retains the streaming rights for Seasons 1 and 2.

"We couldn't be more excited that *The Expanse* is going to continue on Amazon Prime," Alcon Entertainment CEOs Andrew Kosove and Broderick Johnson said in a statement. "We are deeply grateful that Jeff Bezos, Jen Salke, and their team at Amazon have shown such faith in our show. We also want to thank Laura Lancaster, head of Alcon Television for her tireless efforts. We are fully aware that this wouldn't have been possible if it wasn't for the staggering outpouring of support from the most creative, hardest working sci-fi fans around the world. From Reddit campaigns to airplanes, we say thank you. It worked!"

The Expanse concluded its run on Syfy in early July.

ON THE CONVENTION FRONT:

BUBONICON 50 JUST SIX WEEKS AWAY

by Craig Chrissinger, co-chair

Bubonicon, New Mexico's annual science fiction convention, celebrates its 50th edition August 24-26 at the Albuquerque Marriott Uptown, 2101 Louisiana Blvd NE (at I-40). More than 45 authors, artists, scientists, filmmakers & fans will be participating in programming.

This year's convention features special guest talent from the Midwest and West Coast. Guests of Honor for Bubonicon 50 are Ohio novelist John Scalzi and Chicago writer Mary Robinette Kowal; Guest Artist is Eric Vel-

hagen of Albuquerque; and Toastmaster is Oregon resident Lee Moyer. And Assistant Professor Russell Morton of the Neurosciences Department at UNM is the Science Speaker. We also are blessed to have Venetia Charles, David Anthony Durham, Gordon Garb, and Ian Tregillis with us throughout the weekend.

Sadly, film director Mick Garris, NM author Sage Walker, Colorado author Connie Willis and Colorado scientist Courtney Willis have had to cancel their appearances at the con.

Proceeds from the Friday charity auction and a portion of any Bubonicon 50 profits will benefit the (Jack) Williamson Library Collection at Eastern NM University, and the local Roadrunner Food Bank.

Bubonicon 50 opens with Pre-Registered check-in 1:00-2:30 pm Friday the 24th, with regular registration open at 3:00 pm; and goes almost nonstop through 5 pm that Sunday. The first programming is at 4 pm, the same time the Art Show opens. The Con Suite and Gaming open at 5 pm.

The theme for the weekend is "The Golden Age of Science Fiction." 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 Victor Milan Memorial is 11:00 am-12:30 pm Saturday with a panel of six friends/colleagues and then time for anyone to speak; and the Costume Contest is staying at 8:00 pm with Lee Moyer as the Master of Ceremonies – and with Jessica Coyle's Green Slime Awards remaining at halftime.

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. The Con Suite will be open during Saturday's Costume Contest! And on Sunday, it will be open 8:00-10:30 am.

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 Cat Corva & Suzanne Busch at volunteers@bubonicon.com, or come to the meeting Friday, August 17, at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church on Ponderosa NE (home of ASFS).

Passes for the whole weekend are \$40 if purchased by August 4. 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.

There are two ways to pay now! You can send payments with the registration form by August 4 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 50 special \$99 room rate (single-quad

occupancy) is only guaranteed through Monday, August 13, 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

***Though Hell Should Bar the Way: RCN Book 12* by David Drake, 2018 Baen Books, hc \$25.00, 416 pages.**

Review by Bill Pletsch

I have a quick rule of thumb for how exciting a book is – not how good, but how exciting it is. If I read it overnight, it is brain burning exciting. Dostoyevsky's *The Idiot* and *Rosemary's Baby* by Ira Levin are worlds apart in overall quality but very fast paced. *Though Hell Should Bar the Way* by David Drake has a 100-page blob that took me six weeks to read.

What we have here is a failure of the editor to edit. Drake is taking a stand on slavery. Slavery is bad. And yet the characters on the slave planet are so venal and corrupt they would be in jail anywhere here on earth. These folk are better off as slaves. This whole episode ought to have been finessed into maybe 20 pages.

And so it goes.

Drake, his work, and this series have never been for everyone. This particular book, call it *Hell*, is one of the RCN – Republic of Cinnabar Navy – series featuring Daniel Leary, RCN officer, and Lady Adele Mundy, IT wizard. Refreshingly, they are just friends and are not lovers. They are an engaging pair. This book will disappoint those looking for more Daniel and Adele. There is little. It is a coming-of-age novel for one Roy Olfetrie instead.

As I said, Drake is not for everyone. *Hell* is not for anyone. It is possible I was just in a bad mood. The characters seemed thin, the situations trite and contrived, and the plotting unlikely. More likely, it seemed Roy would have been blown to atoms early on. Roy was more jejune than cutely callow, thus good riddance.

I am very fond of the RCN series as a whole. Adele and Daniel try to survive in a universe of realpolitik with savage justice waiting just beneath a veneer of civility. *Hell* is a strange diversion into fairy tale. Roy sounds like a spacer telling his tale at a bar after some stiff drinks. He is about as believable. Skip this blarney and hope the next RCN book gets back to Adele and Daniel.

***The Point* by John Dixon, 2018 Del Rey, hc \$27.00, 305 pages.**

Review by Heather Hay

The Point's title refers to West Point, as in the New York military academy. Scarlett, a military family teen, is coerced into joining in order to become a government weapon because she can absorb energies. You might think the book is the next YA novel to take advantage of the superhuman trope, but it reads like an adult action novel with more emphasis on government regulation and medical experimentation.

The story takes on the ramifications of terrorists with superpowers and how the government can adapt in a world

with unexpected superhumans. A few complex characters execute harsh punishments and violence so the threat to the world seems very real in contrast to the X-Men who break buildings that are rebuilt the next day while wearing spandex leotards.

Overall I liked Scarlett because she didn't try to pretend to be a perfect person once she realized her "rebellious" stage wasn't getting her anywhere. Scarlett didn't need to emphasize how bad-ass she was like most hero novels.

Each villainous character was written with layers, and the author keeps you guessing as to who is really playing whom. I found his writing style to allow for a quick read with short chapters and excitement peppered evenly. If this book should become a series, it would be fun to pick them up for a fun weekend read.

***Spinning Silver* by Naomi Novik, 2018 Del Rey, hc \$28.00, 480 pages.**

Review by Jessica Coyle

Naomi Novik, the author of *Uprooted* and the *Temeraire* series, creates another fairytale retelling with her latest book, *Spinning Silver*. Set in a historic Russia, the novel follows Miryem, the daughter and granddaughter of moneylenders. Miryem's father is terrible at his job, and his inability to collect money has left his family on the edge of poverty. Miryem takes it upon herself to collect what her father is owed; she manages to lift her family up while also alienating everyone who was once her friend.

She also draws the attention of the Stryk, a race of fairy people who have lived separate yet alongside the Russian people for many years. As Miryem pulls the attention of the Stryk, their land is drawn closer and closer in sync with Russia, which causes winter there to deepen. Will Miryem, with the help of her peasant maid and the daughter of the local lord, be able to save Russia from the attention of the Stryk and constant winter?

I really enjoy Novik's work, and *Spinning Silver* is a worthy follow-up to 2016's *Uprooted*. In this loose retelling of Rumpelstiltskin, Novik creates a very real-feeling and fascinating take on 17th century Russia. The main characters, especially Miryem and her maid Wanda, are well developed, and Novik has created both a terrifying villain and sympathetic ally in the Stryk. I thoroughly enjoyed *Spinning Silver*, and would recommend it to fans of Novik's work or of fairytale retellings.

***Red Waters Rising: The Devil's West Book 3* by Laura Anne Gilman, 2018 Saga Press, tp \$16.99, 368 pages.**

Review by Roberta Johnson

Isobel was born in the Western Territory, held by a man or entity – known as the Devil, or alternately, the boss. Legend says the boss was there to bar the conquistador De Soto from his lands, using the Mississippi, or the Big Mudwater, to enforce the edict, and the inhabitants know it to be truth. When Izzy was a baby her parents sold her to the devil, and she spent her childhood indentured to the boss, working in a saloon in the small town of Flood. On her 16th birthday, waking free for the first time in her life and contemplating her future, she signed a contract with her former master, and became the Devil's Left Hand. Any inhabitant of the boss' territory can call on her for justice, and she must find her own way to administer it.

Red Waters Rising concludes Laura Anne Gilman's *Devil's West* trilogy, begun with *Silver on the Road* and

continued in *Cold Eye*, wherein Isobel and her mentor/teacher Gideon, ride her territory to show its people the Devil's new Hand. During this journey, she has been discovering as much about herself as about her surroundings. Izzy has a powerful connection to the land, and it's not power the Devil gave her. Not quite 17, old enough to know how much she does not know, she's already a powerful woman, and she must learn to use this power before it kills her. Gideon, while teaching Izzy to survive, has his own difficulties due to his well-founded fear of his connection to the Big Muddy Water, which he must confront in the end.

In the meantime, they will encounter malice, injustice and even murder; and Isobel will be judge, jury and executioner, because she is the Left Hand and the Cold Eye.

The two of them will be aided by mystic forces along the way, as well by as an odd assortment of characters, including a Jack who played cards with the Devil and lost more than he could afford. In the end, the Big Muddy, the spirits, the people, and the land itself will aid her in finding justice for all the Devil's people, if she and Gideon and the people, can survive it.

This version of the Old West is Gilman's marvelous creation, and it's worth a read.

***The Skaar Invasion: The Fall of Shannara Book 2* by Terry Brooks, 2018 Del Rey, hc \$28.00, 384 pages.**

Review by Luke DeProst

Disclaimer: I have only read the original *Sword of Shannara* trilogy and *The Black Elfstone*, the first books in *The Fall of Shannara* quadrilogy, however there are roughly 30 *Shannara* books. I wouldn't recommend jumping right into *The Skaar Invasion* without at least first reading *The Black Elfstone* as a fair amount of the plot covered in this book was introduced in *The Black Elfstone*, though you shouldn't need to read any of the other *Shannara* books to be able to follow along.

This story takes place immediately after the events of *Black Elfstone* which ended with a cliffhanger involving the druid stronghold Paranor. Here we follow Tarsha, the young magic wielding heroine; Drisker, the powerful former leader of the druids; and several of their friends as they struggle to find a way to stop a mysterious army of foreign invaders known as the Skaar from conquering the Four Lands.

While the book is a little predictable in parts and falls into some of the fantasy genre tropes – especially with some of the main characters – overall it was surprisingly well written. I found myself genuinely liking some of the characters and felt like I was a part of the adventure with Terry Brooks' vivid descriptions and storytelling. The pace of the book is quick enough to keep you reading it all the way through. I thought that *The Skaar Invasion* really showed how much Terry Brooks writing has changed and improved since he wrote the original *Sword of Shannara* trilogy.

I'd recommend this book to someone who is looking to get started on another fantasy series that gives you what you'd expect for the genre, lots of magic, elves and faeries, big battles, and plot twists.

***Neverworld Wake* by Marisha Pessl, 2018 Delacorte Press, hc \$18.99, 336 pages.**

Review by Jessica Coyle

Beatrice Hartley and her five best friends were the popular crowd at Darrow-Harker School, but that all changed when Beatrice's boyfriend Jim was killed in a mysterious

accident their senior year of high school. Beatrice's friend group is shattered, and she doesn't see any of them for a year after their graduation.

Beatrice goes to her friend Whitley's birthday party with the hope of finding out what happened the night Jim died. Instead, she spends a stilted evening realizing that she no longer has anything in common with her former friends, and she resolves herself to never discovering what happened to Jim. On the way home from a club, the group is almost in a car accident that they narrowly avoid. Just as Beatrice is about to leave Whitley's house, a mysterious man knocks on the door. He announces that the five of them are stuck in a time loop created by the car accident that they did not narrowly avoid, and he tells them that their only way for them to escape is to decide which person will be the one to survive. Beatrice takes this as her one last chance to find out what really happened to Jim.

Neverworld Wake is the third novel by Marisha Pessl, the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Special Topics in Calamity Physics*. The book is based on the interesting concept that a group of people have to keep living the same day over and over until they can all agree on which one of them will be the one who lives. Pessl pulls this concept off with varying degrees of success; the story wanders during the first third of the book as the characters all seem to go in different directions and meander incoherently through the story. The novel definitely picks up as the characters unite with the goal of solving the mysteries surrounding Jim's death.

Overall, the book is interesting enough for me to recommend it to those who enjoy YA mysteries with a bit of a paranormal bent.

Relic by Alan Dean Foster, 2018 Del Rey, hc \$27.00, 320 pages. TO BE RELEASED AUGUST 14.

Review by Becky C. Davis

Alan Dean Foster has a long reputation as a capable writer in both fantasy (*Spellsinger* series) and harder science fiction (*Humanx* series). He has crafted stories in the *Star Trek* and *Star Wars* universes and written numerous novelizations of movies. According to the Wikipedia article on him, the details of world-building are very important to him.

In *Relic*, ADF asks the question: "What would happen to the last human [anywhere]?" Ruslan (the only name he remembers) has wandered the planet Seraboth for many years after a terrible plague wiped out humanity all over the galaxy. An alien race, the trilateral Myssari, finds him, heals him, shelters him, and reveres him as a pampered, exotic pet. A relic. A specimen.

Then the author decides to make the story a quest. Ruslan lives a comfortable life as a revered specimen, but as he ages he wants to see ancestral Earth. The Myssari want to clone more humans for more study of this "alien" species. A deal is made. Find Earth for Ruslan, then the Myssari scientists get their cells from Ruslan to clone more humans.

After many novels crafting strange (but plausible) species, ADF had some fun with beasties in this one. The Myssari are trilateral (three arms and legs) and triangular. The Vrizan, encountered on planet Daribb, are globular. Beasties on Daribb (a mudball) are eight-foot predatory flatworms and friendly luminous micro-insects living in mud. On planet Treth, a super-sized "cougahar" has vertical eyes and a stabilizing bone-plated tail.

The Myssari expedition finds human children (plot wobble!) on Daribb: a young girl and a suspicious adolescent boy. The excited Myssari take the survivors back to Myssar to begin the cloning program. Ruslan, becoming parental, stalls the scientists for years so that the children can absorb Myssari ways and grow into socialized adults. Conflict is engineered and one human is eliminated.

This conflict, coincidentally, leads to the Myssari expeditions finding old Earth. Oh joy!

The inevitable next expedition explores Earth. Ruslan is highly pleased, the Myssari are ecstatic with this treasure house world. In the course of exploration, Ruslan and the human girl, Cherpa, find a Cheyenne Mountain-type fortress. Tension, anticipation and dread among the characters. Through several contrivances, the human characters "find" a whole city of humans who had survived the devastating plague. And all aliens and humans live happily ever after.

The characters are well-crafted, even if some are shallow. The multiple worlds and their indigenous life forms are thoughtfully built, and believable enough that you, mostly, don't want to go to most of them. As mentioned, the novel has tension, excitement, anticipation, depression, love, loss and redemption. This is a pretty good formula for a pleasant weekend's read. Enjoy the book.

EDITOR NOTES THAT FIT THIS SPACE

• **SO, THERE YOU HAVE IT.** A pretty packed issue, partially because of several deaths in the last three months. I met Harlan Ellison at a WesterCon, and he was perfectly nice. I had a book signed, and we talked about commentaries he did for the Sci-Fi Channel's news show at the time. I met Christopher Stasheff a couple of times in Portales during Williamson Lectureships - he was a nice guy. And, of course, Gardner Dozois was Toastmaster at Bubonicon 36 in 2004 (our first year at the airport hotel). I also saw Gardner at Milehicon a couple of years later. Both times he was charming and full of great stories. I'm glad I got to have a few moments with all three authors. They will be missed.

• **NO TRIP TO DENVER** this year for MST3K's Mads (Trace & Frank) live riffing at the Voodoo Comedy Playhouse - mostly because I am Fan Guest at ArmadilloCon 40 in Austin the first weekend of August. Looking forward to this new experience, and I am honored to be recognized. NM's Lauren C. Teffey also is going, and one of the special guests is Robert J. Sawyer, who was co-GoH for Bubonicon 30 in 1998.

• **OH, WE DID GO** to Denver to buy a car from friends (my Buick died), and we saw a movie at the Alamo Drafthouse. That was cool, and the 2008 Honda Fit is working very well. And we saw some of the MST3K crew in *RiffTrax Live: Space Mutiny* on the big screen here. What a horrible movie! Even Mike, Kevin & Bill's riffing can't save this one. We also rented *Winchester* as a possible Green Slime nominee. Incredibly boring!

• **WE DID ENJOY** *Avengers: Infinity War*, *Solo: A Star Wars Story*, *RBG*, *Deadpool 2*, *Incredibles 2*, *Tag*, *Life of the Party*, *Won't You Be My Neighbor?*, and *Ant-Man and the Wasp*.

• **GOOD LUCK & SPEEDY RECOVERY** to Connie Willis on her upcoming back surgery (which is why she will miss Bubonicon this year). Hoping this one does the trick!

• **OUTTA ROOM.** So, party on, dudes! Thanks to Heather, Becky, Roberta, Luke, Jessica & Bill for book reviews. Hope to see you all at *Planet of the Apes* (1968) at the Guild Cinema, then at Bubonicon 50, and in October's *ASFACTS*. - Craig C