



ASFACTS 2019

FEBRUARY "MAYBE WARM, MAYBE COLD" VALENTINE ISSUE



ENMU WILLIAMSON LECTURESHIP SCHEDULED FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 5

The 43rd annual Jack Williamson Lectureship will be held Friday, April 5, at Eastern New Mexico University in Portales. Special guest is Alex Rivera, a digital media artist and filmmaker, with Colorado's Connie Willis as Mistress of Ceremonies. Friday events include a talk by Rivera, a luncheon, a tour of the updated Williamson Special Collections, and various afternoon panel discussions.

A campus tradition since 1977, the Lectureship annually draws well-known authors to visit ENMU and discuss the interactions of science and the humanities.

Williamson, long-time SF author and professor of English passed away in 2006. Williamson's novella, "The Ultimate Earth," won a 2001 Hugo Award, and his last novel, *The Stonehenge Gate*, was released in 2005.

Filmmaker Rivera, for the past twenty years, has been telling new, urgent and visually adventurous Latino stories. His first feature film, *Sleep Dealer*, a science-fiction feature set on the U.S./Mexico border, won awards at the Sundance Film Festival and the Berlin International Film Festival, was screened at the Museum of Modern Art, and had a commercial release in the U.S., France, Japan and other countries. Rivera's current project, *The Infiltrators*, will premiere at Sundance Film Festival later this month.

Rivera's work always skews towards discussing the surreal elements of political realities, and it always strives to be both accessible and critical. His work demonstrates that complex arguments can be made clear and simple through the audio/visual medium.

The Lectureship formally opens 5:00 pm Thursday, April 4, with a screening of *Sleep Dealer* with Q&A at ENMU's University Theatre Center. Cordelia Willis, a forensic scientist in California, also should be talking with students that Thursday.

On Friday, April 5, Rivera gives his Guest of Honor address and answers questions 10:00-11:15 am in the Zia Room of the Campus Union Building. The luncheon,

hosted by Willis with comments from Rivera and others, takes place 11:45 am in the Campus Union Ballroom. The Luncheon cost is \$10.00 (payable at the door). Books will be available for purchase and autographing by writers in attendance. Reservations (and any dietary restrictions) are needed by Monday, April 1. Call Patrice Caldwell at (575) 562-2315 or email planning.analysis@enmu.edu.

An afternoon tour of the Williamson Special Collections happens at 1:00 pm. There also will be a tabletop gaming session in the afternoon. SF/Fantasy panel discussions happen 3:00-6:15 pm in the Golden Student Success Center and Library, and are free of charge. These panels are sure to provide a wide range of topics and free-wheeling discussion and debate between panelists and audience.

So far, we've heard that Darynda Jones, Emily Mah, Joan S. Saberhagen, Lauren C. Teffeau, Sarena Ulibarri and Walter Jon Williams plan to participate (as of press time).

Plans for Saturday, April 6, have not been announced yet. In years past, there has been a Writers Workshop for aspiring young writers at the Portales Public Library, 218 South Avenue B, in Portales and/or a film festival on the ENMU campus.

For Lectureship updates, visit enmu.edu/williamson-lectureship/2019 or call Patrice at (575) 562-2315.

UPCOMING ASFS MEETINGS

- **Tonight:** It's the traditional ASFS Auction with Bob Vardeman & Patricia Rogers at the helm. Mandi Self, Geneva Schult & Jessica Coyle keep track of bids and tabs. Remember: Cash/Check only!
- **March 8:** UNM assistant professor Russell Morton talks on "The Neurobiology of Zombies: Does the Zombie Brain Explain Their Behavior."
- **Fri, March 29:** Bubonicon 52 guest nominations meeting. Must be present to vote on 2020 guests...
- **April 12:** Either Devin O'Leary will look at film trailers for this summer's genre releases, or a NM author will visit! Definitely, the Spring issue of *ASFACTS* (deadline 7:00 pm Monday, April 8).
- **May 10:** Either an author visit or O'Leary's film trailer presentation. Depends on April...

Craig Chrissinger, normal editor. **Darth Vader**, guest editor each December. Please Send All Correspondence to — PO Box 37257, Albuquerque, NM 87176-7257. Contact: (505) 266-8905 or via cwcraig@nmia.com. *ASFACTS* published February, April, July & October for the Albuquerque SF Society. *SITHFACTS* out each December. NEXT DEADLINE: Mon, April 8.
Club Officers: Craig Chrissinger & Jessica Coyle, co-Zec Secs (505) 266-8905. Harriet Engle, Moderator. Heather Hay & Patricia Rogers, co-Alternators. Cupid, holiday host. **B'con Co-Chairs:** Caci Cooper & Craig Chrissinger (505) 559-0931.

GIBSON NAMED SFWA GRAND MASTER

The Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers of America (SFWA) has named William Gibson the 35th recipient of the Damon Knight Memorial Grand Master Award, reported Locus Online in early January.

SFWA president Cat Rambo said Gibson “forged a body of work that has played a major part in the coalescing of the cyberpunk movement, influencing dozens of writers of cinema, fiction, and games, among other creatives... Gibson continues to produce taut, evocative works that reflect the despair and hope of the 21st century.”

The award, given for “lifetime achievement in science fiction and/or fantasy,” will be presented at the SFWA Nebula Conference in May.

CLARKE & SHAWL RECEIVE SOLSTICE AWARD

The Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America (SFWA) announced at the beginning of February that Neil Clarke and Nisi Shawl are recipients of the Kate Wilhelm Solstice Award “for distinguished contributions to the science fiction and fantasy community.”

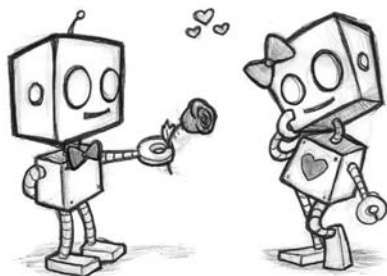
The Solstice Award, created in 2008 and given at the discretion of the SFWA president with the majority approval of the Board of Directors, is for individuals, living or dead, who have had “a significant impact on the science fiction or fantasy landscape, and is particularly intended for those who have consistently made a major, positive difference within the speculative fiction field.”

Previous winners include Octavia E. Butler, Alice B. Sheldon (aka James Tiptree, Jr.), Tom Doherty, Carl Sagan, Stanley Schmidt, Michael Whelan, Kate Wilhelm, Terri Windling, Donald A. Wollheim, John Clute, Sir Terry Pratchett, and most recently, Toni Weiskopf, Gardner Dozois, and Sheila Williams.

Clarke and Shawl will be honored at the 2019 SFWA Nebula Conference and Awards, to be held May 16-19 in Woodland Hills, CA.

2019 ALA AWARDS ANNOUNCED

The American Library Association (ALA) announced the winners of several awards during their Midwinter Meeting in Seattle, WA, January 25-29, reports Locus Online.



The Poet X by Elizabeth Acevedo won the Michael L. Printz Award for “excellence in literature written for young adults” and the Pura Belpré Author Award for a

Latin writer whose “books best portray, affirm and celebrate the Latino cultural experience.” *Damsel* by Elana K. Arnold was named a Printz Award Honor Book.

The Collectors by Jacqueline West was named a Schneider Family Award Book for “books that embody an artistic expression of the disability experience.”

Several books of genre interest won Alex Awards, given to “the 10 best adult books that appeal to teen audiences”: *The Black God’s Drums* by P. Djèlí Clark, *How Long ’til Black Future Month?* by N.K. Jemisin, *Circe* by Madeline Miller, and *Spinning Silver* by Naomi Novik.

Walter Dean Myers received the Children’s Literature Legacy Award given for “a substantial and lasting contribution to literature for children through books that demonstrate integrity and respect for all children’s lives and experiences.”

M.T. Anderson won the Margaret A. Edwards Award “for lifetime achievement in writing for young adults.”

The 2020 May Hill Arbutnot Honor Lecture Award “recognizing an author, critic, librarian, historian or teacher of children’s literature” was given to Neil Gaiman.

Spooked!: How a Radio Broadcast and The War of the Worlds Sparked the 1938 Invasion of America by Gail Jarrow was named a Robert F. Sibert Award Honor Book “for most distinguished informational book for children.”

Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi Adeyemi is a William C. Morris Award Honor Book “for a debut book published by a first-time author writing for teens.”

Sweep: The Story of a Girl and Her Monster by Jonathan Auxier won the Sydney

Taylor Book Award in the Older Readers category for “outstanding books for children and teens that authentically portray the Jewish experience.”

YOLEN WINS GOLDEN KITE AWARD

Mapping the Bones by Jane Yolen (Philomel) won the 2019 Golden Kite award in the Young Adult Fiction category, given by the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI) for “excellence in children’s literature,” reported Locus Online mid-January.

The Poet X by Elizabeth Acevedo was named a Golden Kite honor book in the same category.

The Golden Kites are the first children’s literary award judged by a jury of peers. This year’s judges were Crystal Allen, Elana K. Arnold, Monica Brown, Jack Cheng, Carolyn Crimi, Karen Cushman, Susan Middleton Elya, Deborah Heiligman, Wendell Minor, LeUyen Pham, Anita Sanchez, Laura Vaccaro Seeger, Ray Shepard, Francisco X. Stork, and Liara Tamani. Winners will be honored during SCBWI’s New York Winter Conference, February 8 in New York, NY.

BOOK GROUP KEEPS READING

The Droids & Dragons SF Book Group meets at 7:30 pm Monday, February 18, at Jason's Deli (northwest corner of Louisiana & America's Parkway NE – across the street from Bubonicon's Marriott Hotel) to discuss *Alice* by Christina Henry. The group then focuses on *The Daedalus Incident* by Michael J. Martinez on Monday, March 18 – probably at Jason's Deli again.

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 Books in the Mountain Run Shopping Center. For more info, contact Leah at mrsransom@hotmail.com or Craig at 266-8905.

ACTOR DICK MILLER DIES

by Daniel E. Slotnik, New York Times - February 1

Dick Miller, a character actor whose reputation as a regular in dozens of low-budget movies produced or directed by Roger Corman led to parts in films by acolytes of Corman like Joe Dante, Martin Scorsese and James Cameron, died on January 30 in Burbank, CA, at the age of 90 years old.

His wife, Lainie Miller, said he died after a heart attack and had congestive heart failure and pneumonia.

Miller was a diminutive actor with an authentic Bronx accent and youthful good looks that later matured into craggier features. In a career that began in the mid-1950s, he appeared in nearly 200 films and television shows.

Corman cast Miller in his first film role, as an Indian in the 1955 western *Apache Woman*, and he soon became a stock player in Corman's relentless stream of horror, science fiction and crime movies.

Miller could imbue even meager parts with authenticity, making Corman's over-the-top films more believable or adding to their camp, depending on one's point of view. He played a door-to-door vacuum cleaner salesman in *Not of This Earth*, a leper in *The Undead*, and a scientist in *War of the Satellites*, among numerous roles.

Corman cast Miller in the lead in two films relatively early in his career. He played a nightclub patron who stands up to thugs in *Rock All Night*, and a would-be beatnik artist turned murderer in the 1959 horror comedy *A Bucket of Blood*.

"We made many movies together over many decades, but I will always think of him as the beat artist Walter Paisley in *A Bucket of Blood*," Corman wrote on Twitter after Miller's death. "Dick was able to take what was written and reach the deepest depths of the character while still injecting humor into each role."

A Bucket of Blood became a cult favorite, and Miller became identified with Corman's films. This was espe-

cially true among filmmakers whose early works were produced by Corman, like Dante, Scorsese and Cameron. Miller's acting career endured when this new generation added him to their roster.

Miller played a veteran terrorized by mischievous monsters in Dante's *Gremlins* in 1984, a nightclub owner in Scorsese's musical drama *New York, New York*, and a gun-shop clerk who helps outfit a murderous robot played by Arnold Schwarzenegger in Cameron's *The Terminator*.

In several later films Miller's character was named Walter Paisley, an inside joke and a homage to his best-known part. His last role was in the forthcoming horror movie *Hanukkah*, as Rabbi Walter Paisley.

Richard Miller was born in the Bronx on Dec. 25, 1928, to Ira Miller, a printer, and Rita (Blucher) Miller, an opera singer, who encouraged him to sing before an audience in the Catskills as a boy. After graduating from high school, he served in the Navy. He then returned to New York, where – even though he later said he had no great acting ambitions – he studied theater.

Miller moved to Hollywood in the early 1950s to try writing scripts, without much success. He met Lainie Halpern there in 1959, and they married that year.

In addition to his wife, with whom he lived in Los Angeles, he is survived by a brother, William Miller, a State Supreme Court judge in Brooklyn; a daughter, Barbara Ann Levandoski; and a granddaughter.

Miller's other roles include a police chief who calls the Ramones "ugly, ugly people" in Allan Arkush's *Rock 'n' Roll High School* in 1979 and an eccentric flower-shop customer in Corman's *The Little Shop of Horrors* (1960), which also featured Jack Nicholson in a bit part. Miller had a recurring role as the proprietor of a bowling alley on the 1980s television show *Fame*, based on the 1980 movie about a performing arts high school.

Other genre films for Miller include *Gremlins 2: The New Batch*, *Explorers*, *Piranha*, *The Howling*, *Chopping Mall*, *Night of the Creeps*, *The 'Burbs*, *It Conquered the World*, *Demon Knight*, *Pulp Fiction*, and *Small Soldiers*.

His television credits include *Police Squad!*, *V: The Final Battle*, *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*, *Soap*, and animated feature film *Batman: Mask of the Phantasm*.

He was also credited with the stories for two 1970 movies, the western *Four Rode Out* and the Jerry Lewis comedy *Which Way to the Front?* He was the subject of a documentary released in 2014, *That Guy Dick Miller*.

BENFORD WINS 2019 HEINLEIN AWARD

Gregory Benford is the winner of the 2019 Robert A. Heinlein Award, given for "outstanding published works in science fiction and technical writings that inspire the human exploration of space," recognizing his body of work, including 22 novels, more than 180 short stories,

and many non-fiction articles, reported Locus Online in early January.

The winner was chosen by a committee of SF authors chaired by Michael F. Flynn, and will receive a plaque, a sterling silver medallion, and two lapel pins, all featuring the likeness of Robert A. Heinlein. The award will be presented May 24 during the opening ceremonies of Balticon 53 in Baltimore, MD.

GAIMAN WINS WRITERS FOR WRITERS AWARD

Neil Gaiman will be presented with the Barnes & Noble Writers for Writers Award at the Poets & Writers annual dinner, March 7 in New York, NY, reported Locus Online in early January. The award “celebrates authors who have given generously to other writers or to the broader literary community.” Gaiman is being recognized “for advocating for freedom of expression worldwide and inspiring countless writers.”

For more info, see the Poets & Writers website.

ROWLAND IN NATIONAL NEWS FOR INFLATABLE DRAGONS

by Ashley May, USA Today – December 18, 2018

A Louisiana woman's inflatable dragon decorations were deemed “totally inappropriate” this holiday season by an apparent neighbor who accused her of belonging to a “demonic cult.”

Author Diana Rowland, Bubonicon 45 Toastmistress and *Wild Cards* contributor, has since added to her dragon display and garnered an army of fans online – even J.K. Rowling.

On December 14, she tweeted a photo of a note she received that read, in all capital letters: “Neighbor, Your dragon display is only marginally acceptable at Halloween. It is totally inappropriate at Christmas. It makes your neighbors wonder if you are involved in a demonic cult. Please consider removing the dragons. May God bless you and help you know the true meaning of Christmas.”

At the time, Rowland said the “judgmental” note was about her three lighted, inflatable dragons on her front lawn around a pit of holiday lights. Thousands of dragon lovers retweeted her, and even more shared her similar post on Facebook. She said even J.K. Rowling liked her tweet.

Since the posts exploded, she updated her dragon display with halos on her dragons and the addition of two red and green holiday dragons bearing gifts, which she thanks her sister for.

“In the spirit of neighborhood harmony, I have placed halos on the dragons. They are now angels,” Rowland said on December 15, citing Bible verse Ezekiel 1:1-28.

With her newfound fame, Rowland said she's been

receiving thousands of messages of social media and even donation offers. But, she doesn't want any money for her display. Instead, she's encouraging people to give to charity.

On twitter, she wrote, “Hi, everyone! I've been getting a lot of messages about fundraisers/collections to buy me MORE DRAGONS, but I would much rather any Dragon Army money be donated to a worthy charity of your choice. Let's make this holiday season about joy and charity for all. Thanks!! Dec 16, 2018”

BLACK HISTORY LUNCH: DIVERSIFYING WRITERS' MEALS

by Rebecca Sun, Hollywood Reporter – February 5

To celebrate Black History Month, one Hollywood writers room is putting its money where its mouth is – literally.

The scribes behind Hulu's upcoming *Wild Cards*, a two-series adaptation of *Game of Thrones* author George RR Martin's post-apocalyptic, alien-virus-destroys-Earth book series, have committed to ordering their staff lunches exclusively from black-owned restaurants throughout February. (Melinda Snodgrass of NM and Michael Cassutt of CA are among the staff.)

“Each weekday, more than 300 Hollywood writers rooms order group lunch from a limited list of culinary outlets,” says story editor Calaya Michelle Stallworth, who came up with the idea. “You have lots of small business owners in Los Angeles that aren't getting any of the money that constantly floods into Hollywood.”

Stallworth proposed the concept to *Wild Cards* showrunner Andrew Miller, who was immediately all in. “Rooms can't [make change] without leadership from the top,” notes Stallworth. When the writers and assistants began researching options, they were stunned to discover a cornucopia of culinary choices within reach. “It's been incredibly easy to find black-owned restaurants that look amazing and that we've never heard [of] nor been to,” Miller says. “Black History Month seems like a really good opportunity to appreciate the efforts of people who started a small business to [share] part of their culture.”

The challenge began Friday, Feb. 1, with Little Ethiopia on Fairfax, followed Monday by Janga by Derrick's, a Jamaican restaurant in Culver City. The Hollywood-based *Wild Cards* writers room is chronicling each day's meal on social media, and Miller says they hope to begin tweeting stories about the restaurant owners as well. Meanwhile, Stallworth has posted a long list of black-owned eateries serving up cuisines as diverse and delectable as soul food, barbecue, Mexican, Belizean and vegan, in hopes that other writers rooms will also take up the #BlackHistoryLunch and #DiversifyHollywoodLunch challenge. So far, friends at shows such as Disney Channel's *Raven's Home* and The CW's *Arrow* have indicated

their interest.

The *Wild Cards* writers aren't stopping with February. Next month, they intend to repeat the challenge for female-owned restaurants during Women's History Month, but Stallworth says that it already has proved difficult to identify as many candidates. She's hoping that if #DiversifyHollywoodLunch catches on, more people can help crowd-source a directory of dining options.

The ultimate objective is not just a tradition restricted to designated months, but a lasting impact that will see new eateries added to the go-to rotation. "Hollywood's goal of being diverse needs to move beyond writers, producers, [et cetera]," says Stallworth. "What about vendors and contracts that grow businesses? Our goal is diversity for our [lunch] list and long-term impact."

On February 1, @WildRoom tweeted, "In honor of Black History Month, the WILD CARDS writers' room will be ordering EXCLUSIVELY from local, Black-owned restaurants. We want to encourage other rooms to join us, & #putyourmoneywhereyourmouthis as we #diversifyhollywoodlunch!"

DREAMFORGE MAGAZINE LAUNCHES

DreamForge Magazine, a new quarterly magazine of science fiction and fantasy, is launching this month with both online and a glossy print version. Local author Jane Lindskold is serving as senior advisor, and the first two issues feature several New Mexican authors and artists.

Scot Noel, editor, worked with Lindskold and Santa Fe author Roger Zelazny on the *Chronomaster* computer game in the early 1990s. He has started a Kickstarter campaign to support the magazine, but currently is funding it himself so it isn't a "contingent on the Kickstarter" sort of thing.

A press release states the magazine, which currently is subscriber-only, "features imaginative stories, columns, and essays and boasts full color art, including our cover and interior illustrations. The goal of *DreamForge Magazine* is to publish fiction and commentary that embody these essential principles: integrity and decency, compassion and creativity, intelligence and inventiveness, the rule of law and liberty under the law, the dignity of the individual, and the power of synergy to unleash the potential of disparate individuals and communities for the betterment of all."

"In all worlds and times, our tales revolve around those individuals and groups who bring meaning and value to the world, whose actions are of consequence, and whose dreams are the vanguard of things to come," the statement continues. "Instead of heroes whose trials save the world, we prefer tales where individuals struggle for the ascendancy of humane values and communities work together to overcome dire challenges."

The first issue of DreamForge, scheduled for release on Valentine's Day, features a reprint of a story by Lind-

skold, along with new stories from New Mexican authors (and Bubonicon friends) Lauren C. Teffeau and Sarena Ulibarri. Local artist Elizabeth Leggett has done the illustration for Teffeau's story. It also features authors Steven Brust and Tom Sheehan, and poet Mary Soon Lee.

Lindskold reports that the second issue will include a story by Santa Fe author Emily Mah, along with a reprint from David Weber.

For more information or to subscribe, visit www.DreamForgeMagazine.com.

KING'S *THE STAND* GETTING TV REBOOT

After a number of projects on both the big and small screen have stalled out over the years, a reboot of Stephen King's *The Stand* is now finally, officially happening, reported CometTV.com in early February.

CBS All Access has ordered all 10 episodes of a new television adaptation of *The Stand* to be produced, written, and directed by Josh Boone. Boone, who wrote and directed *The Fault in Our Stars* and the upcoming X-Men horror film *The New Mutants*, has been trying to get a *Stand* adaptation made for some time. In a statement, the filmmaker – a massive fan of the novel – seemed pretty psyched about finally getting the opportunity to adapt the story:

"I read *The Stand* under my bed when I was 12, and my Baptist parents burned it in our fireplace upon discovery," said Boone. "Incensed, I stole my Dad's FedEx account number and mailed King a letter professing my love for his work. Several weeks later, I came home to find a box had arrived from Maine, and inside were several books, each inscribed with a beautiful note from god himself, who encouraged me in my writing and thanked me for being a fan. My parents, genuinely moved by King's kindness and generosity, lifted the ban on his books that very day. I wrote King a cameo as himself in my first film and have been working to bring *The Stand* to the screen for five years. I've found incredible partners in CBS All Access and (fellow producer) Ben Cavell. Together with Stephen King, Owen King, my longtime producing partners Knate Lee and Jill Killington, we plan to bring you the ultimate version of King's masterwork."

The Stand is a tale about a looming battle between the survivors in a post-apocalyptic American wasteland as they respectively flock to leaders representing the opposing forces of good and evil. With a large cast of characters and no clear protagonist, the massive book seems like a much more natural fit for a limited television series than a feature film. Naturally, the work was adapted to TV once before in a 1994 four-part ABC miniseries. That version, which starred Gary Sinise and Molly Ringwald and was directed by Mick Garris, received generally favorable reviews at the time but is largely considered dated today, with fans long clamoring for a more modern update. Now, they're finally getting their wish.

CLUES TO NEW *TERMINATOR* REVEALED IN PROMO FOOTAGE

The upcoming *Terminator* movie, which sees the return of James Cameron and Linda Hamilton to the franchise, will be a semi-reboot of the series as well as a sequel, reported CometTV.com in late January. The new film is expected to scrub the last three films from the timeline while acting as a proper sequel to the most successful film in the franchise, *Terminator 2: Judgement Day*. And if you're curious as to just what that will look like, we're now getting a better idea as the first behind the scenes footage from the film has been unveiled.

The new video was released by the Hungarian National Film Fund to promote filming in Hungary, since the film shot a number of scenes in the European nation. There aren't a whole lot of details revealed, but we do catch a few intriguing glimpses. There's a group scene with an older, bearded, flannel-wearing T-800 (Arnold Schwarzenegger) hanging out in front of a log cabin while petting a dog and drinking a beer. It's a super weird spot to see the killer robot in – he seriously looks like a retiree enjoying his golden years – and we can't wait to see how it fits into the film. Also glimpsed is a very sci-fi-looking set, as well as a battle-worn Sarah Connor (Hamilton) alongside fellow butt-kickers and new characters Grace (Mackenzie Davis) and Dani Ramos (Natalia Reyes). A Hummer also figures prominently in the footage, and we're willing to bet that Arnold drives it at some point in the film given the actor's real-life affinity for the vehicles.

But perhaps the most intriguing reveal in the video may be the film's title. The movie is still unofficially titled, and though it's colloquially referred to as *Terminator 6*, it's not actually the sixth film chronologically. The video refers to the movie simply as *Terminator* in the opening credits; a title also referenced by the late producer Andy Vajna, so does this mean the film will just be called *Terminator*? It sure seems likely!

Terminator – or whatever this movie is called – arrives in theaters on Nov 1, 2019.

ZOMBIELAND 2's OFFICIAL TITLE REVEALED

The upcoming *Zombieland* sequel has unveiled its first poster, and with it, has appeared to reveal the film's official title. And we have to say, it could not be more perfect, reported CometTV.com in early February.

According to the poster, the movie will be called *Zombieland: Double Tap*. This, of course, is a reference to the second rule of survival from the first movie where, after shooting a zombie, one must shoot them again to make sure they're dead. The poster features returning stars Woody Harrelson, Jesse Eisenberg, Emma Stone, and Abigail Breslin recreating their poses from the origi-

nal poster. The new broadside was released side-by-side with the 2009 original on social media as part of the viral "10 Year Challenge."

@Zombieland posted on January 29: "#10YearChallenge? Challenge Accepted."

The poster gives us our first look at the reunited cast, and with the obvious exception of the obviously older Breslin, not much appears to have changed. Original writers Rhett Reese and Paul Wernick are also returning for the sequel, as is director Ruben Fleischer. It was recently announced that Rosario Dawson will be joining the cast of the sequel, though no details were given on her role. Oh, and Bill Murray is rumored to be returning for another cameo, too. The film will feature the continued struggle for survival in "Zombieland" against a new strain of zombies that has evolved in the past ten years since the previous film, according to Deadline.

Zombieland: Double Tap is scheduled to hit theaters on October 11.

PRATT SAYS *GUARDIANS 3* WILL HAPPEN

by Julie Muncy, io9.com - February 3

Chris Pratt is the latest actor to insist that *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3* is definitely still happening, reported io9.com in early February.

Just no one's really sure when or how.

Ever since James Gunn left Marvel, the fate of the third *Guardians* movie, once a sure thing, has been in limbo. We know the film is on hold, officially, but we don't know if or when it's going to move forward, or if, without Gunn's touch, the vision for Marvel's cosmic side is going to change significantly.

February 2 though, Chris Pratt joined some of his fellow actors, notably Karen Gillan, in insisting that, yes, it's still absolutely the plan: *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3* will happen.

"I promise there'll be a third movie," Pratt told *Variety* at the *Lego Movie 2* premiere. "I don't know exactly what that's going to look like, but I know everyone on board is just eager to give the fans what they want and wrap up a trilogy in a meaningful way."

If/when the movie happens, it will be interesting to see how it diverges from the past work, and what sort of role it will play in the MCU going forward. It wouldn't be surprising to see the franchise play a role that's minimized somewhat, in the wake of its driving creative backing leaving. But, still, says Pratt: it'll happen.

"We're still circling the city of Jericho, I like to say," Pratt told *Variety*.

ELVIRA MAY FINALLY HAVE FILM SEQUEL

Although she's never gone away completely, Elvira isn't nearly as present on the pop culture scene as she was during her '80s heyday. But that could soon change

in a big way, as the Mistress of the Dark is reportedly planning a comeback on the big and small screens, reported CometTV.com in early January.

Per MovieWeb, Elvira (or rather her alter ego, Cassandra Peterson) recently took part in a fan Q&A on her Instagram page where she revealed what projects she has in the works, and she gave just about the best news fans could hope for. First and foremost, she revealed that she is giving serious consideration to finally making a sequel to her 1988 film *Elvira: Mistress of the Dark*, saying, “I’m giving this some serious thought. A LOT of people ask this question, so I’m thinking one more... we’ll see!” The comedy is regarded as a cult classic, and fans have been clamoring for a second installment for three decades now. If all goes well, it appears they may finally get their wish.

In addition to the movie news, Peterson also revealed that Elvira may soon return to TV as well. She claimed to be “working on” bringing her horror hostess series *Elvira’s Movie Macabre* to Netflix after a fan asked about the possibility. And while she didn’t get into any further details, based on Netflix’s penchant for rebooting cult classic series (see: *MST3K*) there’s a good chance that any Netflix deal could include new episodes of the series.

Nothing is confirmed as of yet on either the movie or TV fronts, but it looks like the gothic gears are in motion, meaning 2019 could end up being a very good year for Elvira fans.

BUBONICON 51 WANTS INPUT

by Craig Chrissinger, con co-chair

We’re six weeks into 2019 now, believe it or not, and Bubonicon 51 is slightly more than six months away! Three-Day Passes currently are \$35.00, and they go up April 7 to \$40 each, remaining so through August 3. They can be purchased in person at club meetings – or by mailing payment (with the PDF pre-registration form from the website) to “Bubonicon Inc” at 933 San Mateo Blvd NE, Suite 500-208, Albuquerque, NM 87108; or by paying online with a credit card.

Bubonicon 51 takes place August 23-25 (our traditional weekend) at the Albuquerque Marriott Uptown, 2101 Louisiana Blvd NE, just north of I-40 – enter from the America’s Parkway loop road. This year, we are just four days after the Irish Worldcon, which will affect some of our participants. For the 8th year, the Marriott is offering sleeping rooms at \$99 single-quad occupancy, with free WiFi in sleeping rooms. Reservations are needed by August 12. That’s 1-800-228-9290. Remember to tell them you’re with Bubonicon.

And just like in the past, we’re keeping all Room Parties on one designated floor – this year it’s the 3rd Floor – with the hotel and your con chairs (Caci Cooper and myself) being informed of such at least four days in advance. You can request the “party” floor, a quiet floor,

or state you have no preference.

Our special guests this year are Allen Steele, Ursula Vernon, Darynda Jones, and artist Greg Spalenka. We’re expecting many con regulars, of course. So far, Betsy James, Jane Lindskold, Emily Mah, Susan R. Matthews, S.M. Stirling, David Lee Summers, Robert Vardeman, Walter Jon Williams, and Connie & Courtney Willis have said they will be with us.

The con-com has to come up with at least 32 possible panel topics by the end of the month, and then we will send out invitations to potential participants mid-March. We’re asking for all Fan Programming proposals and preliminary requests for time/space to be submitted by Sunday, April 28, so we have time for any questions or clarifications before we build the tentative schedule.

Some planned programming includes the Green Slime Awards, the mass autographing session, the usual two auctions, filking, a game show, the costume contest, films, fan/video programming, and hopefully, the continuation of Kids programming (Jessica can use volunteer assistants). And crossing fingers, the Sunday Afternoon Tea may return.

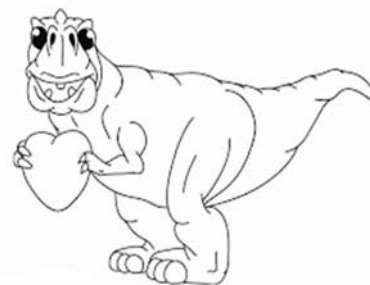
The theme for Bubonicon 51 is “THE FUTURE IS NOW (2019 IS HISTORY)” since many films and books are set in 2019 or a few years earlier (such as *Blade Runner*, *Akira*, *The Running Man*, and *The Sparrow*).

And in keeping with tradition and to honor the memory of NM’s own Pioneer Author, we plan to make financial donations to the (Jack) Williamson SF Library Collection at Eastern NM University and the Roadrunner Food Bank, at least.

Dealers’ spaces will go on sale the 1st of March with emails going out to past dealers and new folks who have expressed interest. The rates are \$85 with a weekend pass, and \$120 with two. There is a maximum of two spaces per dealer, and spaces are not considered sold until payment and a signed contract are received. For more Dealer info, please email Dan Cooper at dealers@bubonicon.com.

Meanwhile, Roslee Orndorff & Kathy K. Kubica and their staff are gearing up for the 2019 Art Show. As usual, art show packets will be available online late June. We don’t plan to mail out packets, but if you don’t have internet access we can take care of you. If that’s the case, please send a two-ounce paid SASE to the San Mateo address. Info is available from artshow@bubonicon.com.

More general info is available from the website: www.bubonicon.com, by writing to the San Mateo address, by calling our Google Phone (voicemail) at 559-0931, and by emailing us at bubonicon@gmail.com.



BOOK REVIEW CORNER

***The Women's War* by Jenna Glass, 2019 Del Rey, hc \$28.00, 560 pages [Available March 5, 2019]**

Review by Roberta Johnson

In the patriarchal kingdom of Aalwell, women are property of their male overlords. When the chattels fail to produce heirs for their husbands or disobey in other ways, they can be sent to become temple prostitutes, using their bodies and their magic to make money for the temple (ironically, this is the only instance in which women are allowed to use even their weaker magic). Men hold all the cards, and most of them take full advantage. While many of the characters in Jenna Glass' epic feminist fantasy are well realized, most of the male characters are abusive or worse, which is a common weakness in feminist fantasy.

Three generations of women use the magic of their own deaths to curse this country and give women control over their own fertility – a former queen, her daughter and granddaughter. Only women who sincerely desire children will be able to become pregnant. Obviously the witches believed this would enable to control their destinies and were willing not only to die, but to risk the unintended consequences that the survivors will have to suffer. Not only are women who cannot give their husbands heirs punished horribly, but it's not strictly under their control –for instance, a royal spouse who hates her husband but needs to produce an heir to maintain her place cannot be said to have much power. One side effect of the death curse, however, is a new and powerful kind of magic available to women.

Villainous Crown Prince Delnamal, husband and abuser of the aforementioned royal spouse, is aware at times that his actions are wrong – then he does them anyway, and isn't that almost axiomatically evil? Women are raped, hurt, killed in even greater numbers as the extent of the curse is revealed. The only choice witches and/or abused wives have is to flee, pursued always by vengeful, powerful men like Delnamal.

Several royal women are exiled to a barren wasteland with orders to settle it – but the men do not realize this wasteland contains powerful magic that only women can see. Our heroines must learn to exploit their newfound powers before their male relatives notice that the new settlement is thriving suspiciously and show up to take over. Much of the action involves the race to find defenses against Prince Delnamal and his vengeance.

Meanwhile, in a neighboring and less openly patriarchal kingdom, young Ellin has inherited the throne, but will be expected to find a spouse, marry and turn over the throne to him. Ellin has other ideas, and may in fact be willing to help the women of Aalwell.

There's plenty of action, as well as insights into the minds of its royal and plebeian characters, from discarded spouses and their heroic lovers to royalty in search of heirs (and good luck with that!). The climactic scene ends with a cliffhanger as Delnamal reveals the depth of his iniquity.

The Women's War is the first in a series, so there will be a sequel in which the villain will hopefully get his just desserts. I'm rooting for that anyway.

***Wild Life* by Molly Gloss, 2019 Saga Press (re-issue), tp \$15.99, 336 pages.**

Review by Jessica Coyle

Molly Gloss has long been a writer that other writers admire, but who has not necessarily found a wide reading base. Saga Press, at the urging of Ursula K. LeGuin, is hoping to re-introduce readers to Gloss' work by re-issuing three of her out-of-print novels before releasing a new short story collection this May.

Wild Life tells the story of Charlotte Bridger Drummond, a single mother living in the wilds of 1900s Oregon who supports her family by writing women's adventure stories. One day her family receives word that her housekeeper's granddaughter has been lost in the woods. Charlotte joins the search for the girl, and manages to become lost herself. She is quickly discovered and adopted into a family of Sasquatch who help her survive in the wild.

It's an interesting and thought-provoking read. Written as though it is an excerpt from Charlotte's personal journal, the book explores more than just the fantastic of the Oregon wilderness and Sasquatches. Here, Gloss delves deep into the role and expectations of women – especially smart, educated, independent women – at the turn of the 20th century. Charlotte is a fully fleshed-out character that the reader can sympathize with and root for even at her most contrarian. I highly recommend *Wild Life* to those who like literary speculative fiction. I am eagerly awaiting Saga Press's re-issues of her other works.

***The Accidental War: A Novel of the Praxis* by Walter Jon Williams, 2018 Harper Voyager, tp \$16.99, 496 pages.**

Review by Steve Henrichs

In Walter Jon Williams' first installment in his second series of books of the Praxis, itself a continuation of the *Praxis/Dream Empire's Fall* series, Captain Gareth Martinez finds himself caught within a whirlwind of economic, political, military and personal conflict. Williams skillfully weaves together several subplots, including the financial maneuverings of the patrician Martinez clan; power struggles within the Convocate, the current ruling intergalactic aristocracy; and Martinez' ambiguous relationship with his ex-lover, the fierce and beautiful Lady Caroline Sula, who also appeared in *Impersonations*, the final installment of the first Praxis series.

The economic recession around which the action revolves shows numerous parallels to our own 2008 financial crisis, and Williams clearly did his homework in his descriptions of exotic derivatives and the buildup to first a financial recession and then an all-out war. The intricate plotting at times makes for some dense reading, but I found it worth the effort. The descriptions of the power struggles between the various clans reminded me at times of *Game of Thrones*, and indeed reviews of *The Accidental War* include some hearty praise from George R. R. Martin.

Lady Sula plays more of a supporting role here than she did in *Impersonations*, although she leads a shipboard attack in the second half of the book which showcases her talents as a tough, shrewd and often ruthless fighter.

The key characters are all portrayed as complex, flawed and real individuals, and the constantly looming presence of the Praxis and its die-hard adherents provide

numerous scenarios in which both Martinez and Sula must reconcile themselves with less-than-perfect moral choices and their implications.

I enjoyed the additional flavoring from the minor characters, including the shadowy gangster Lamey (he reminded me of Varys in *GOT*); Sula's male assistant MacNamara, a former Secret Army and Action Team member; and Captain Nikki Severin, who pilots a ship in the Exploration Service and plays a key role at a certain point in the military action.

Altogether the book shows off Williams' excellent plot sense and attention to detail - I enjoyed it enough that I'm planning to go back and do some more reading in the first Praxis series to catch up on everything that's happened so far.

***Superman: Dawnbreaker* by Matt de la Pena, 2019 Random House, hc \$18.99, 336 pages. [Available March 5] Review by Craig W. Chrissinger**

Superman: Dawnbreaker is the latest entry in the DC Icons series, which have brought coming-of-age stories for familiar superheroes to teenage readers. In this volume, Clark Kent is a high school student in Smallville, and not yet aware that he is an alien from another world. Every day, he seems a little stronger, a little faster, and to have better hearing/eyesight. Jonathan and Martha are waiting for just the right moment to tell him the truth of his past, and to show him the spaceship that carried him to Earth.

Clark is having difficulty holding back and keeping his heroics in the shadows, especially when he follows the sound of a high school girl crying. Gloria Alvarez tells him of a dark secret growing in Smallville - Hispanic people in the community are disappearing. At the same time, a mysterious scientist and corporation are examining craters and buying up farmland. Is there a connection?

Teaming up with best friend, aspiring journalist Lana Lang, Clark decides to pursue the truth and find out whether an evil plan is being hatched under the surface of his small home town. Lex Luther makes an appearance, too, but he's just a young hotshot and not quite the villain he will become.

Matt de la Pena is a Newbery Medal-winning author and in this early Man of Steel adventure, he works hard to bring Superman's themes into the modern world. Facing contemporary issues such as racism and immigration is laudable, but the author sometimes is heavy-handed in the narrative.

Despite standing on a probably unnecessary soapbox, de la Pena does a good job with the aches of growing up especially when you can't reveal your true self. *Superman: Dawnbreaker* is a satisfactory story, and worth reading.

ASFS MEETING REPORTS — NOVEMBER 2018: RADFORD SEES GHOSTS

There were 44 people in attendance when skeptic Benjamin Radford came to talk about his experience on a television ghost-hunters show. "It was one of my stranger appearances," he stated.

"I got a call from a TV producer, and they liked that I approached things from a scientific angle. They said they were doing a show on the true story behind the Amityville Horror, and they wanted me as the token skeptic - the one who talks for one minute at the end after 52 minutes of people hearing noises and freaking out. They wanted me to team up with a demonologist. Of course, as an investigator, I'm looking for testable claims."

The group ended up at Wolfe Manor in Clovis, California, which was built in the 1920s as a family home by Italian immigrants. In 1942, it was purchased and converted into the Clovis Sanitarium. And in 2008, *TAPS/"Ghost Hunters"* taped Radford's episode there. On the show, he was identified as "Benjamin Radford, journalist."

Radford said he did as much research as possible before going to California. The main claims for the house being haunted were a ghost named Mary who opens and shuts doors, batteries mysteriously being drained of power, a ghost appearing in a photo taken in the kitchen, "Hell" being unleashed if Mary's room is disturbed, and EVPs/ghost voices recorded.

"The producer didn't want to test EVPs on the ghost hunters because they didn't 'want to make them look stupid,'" said Radford. "The demonologist and his crew were concerned for my well being since a demon accidentally could be summoned."

There were no real results from the investigation. "An infrared camera did show a warm spot on a wall. Maybe it was an interdimensional vortex, bees in the wall, or some varmint in the wall."

Everyone was then moved to a warehouse in Carson, Calif, where a haunted chair supposedly rotated 45 degrees, and an office partition mysteriously fell down on its own.

"Well, the partition had material fatigue, and the screws into the drywall were very shallow and loose," Radford reported. "I examined the haunted chair, and then had to diplomatically tell folks that someone had hoaxed it."

He summed up his experience, saying he investigated about a dozen ghostly events at two separate locations, and found nothing. "But I did find people who sincerely believe that ghosts and demons are behind every door, and people who will apparently fake ghost evidence. And I gained insight into the conflicting motives of TV shows."

He also said his latest book, *Investigating Ghosts*, is a finalist for a New Mexico/Arizona Book Award.

CLUB BUSINESS: In the annual club officer elections, Craig Chrissinger & Jessica Coyle were retained as co-executive secretaries, Harriet Engle was chosen as moderator, and Heather Hay & Patricia Rogers were selected to share duties as alternator. And for the December holiday party/cook-off, a "Vampire's Feast" theme was chosen.



NOVEMBER: WJ WILLIAMS TALKS

Thirty-six people listened to an encore presentation of Walter Jon Williams' talk from the 2017 Helsinki Worldcon, in which the NM author shares his family's past and growing up in Minnesota.

Williams showed a photo of himself at age six, wearing a helmet from *Men into Space*, which lasted one season. "I'm still waiting to go into space," he noted.

The author is Finnish-American, with all four of his grandparents coming to Minnesota from Finland. They were in search of utopia, and building a better place. His grandfather came to America with a Finnish last name, but a logging camp runner renamed him "Williams."

"The success of the Finnish utopia project allowed me to work in an insecure profession – as a writer," he said. "My family moved to New Mexico when I was 13, and it was a sudden move. My father told my mother in February that he wasn't sure he wanted to do another Minnesota winter – and we were in Albuquerque by June. It took me a couple of years to get over the shock."

Talking about his latest books, Williams said that *Quillifer* is out now in trade paperback. *The Accidental War*, the latest Praxis novel, came out in September 2018. "On the original trilogy, sales of the first book weren't spectacular to the publisher, so I knew when I was starting the second book that the third book would be it," he said. "It was depressing, and the third book is really long because I had to wrap up a lot of stuff."

The Accidental War is set six years after the conclusion of the first trilogy, and takes place in the far future in a galactic empire where humans are not in charge. Earth was conquered.

"I just finished writing *Quillifer 2*, so it should be out around this time in 2019," Williams stated. "I had a blast writing it, and I think it's some of my best plotting."

Finishing up, Williams talked about his first published novels. "They were historical fiction, sea-based adventures. There were five books in the *Privateers and Gentlemen* series, and I did quite a bit of research for them. There also is a roleplaying game based on the books, and a lot of local science fiction authors got to be game testers."

DECEMBER 2018: DESSERTS & FILMS

Forty-seven people came to watch comedic holiday film shorts, and to judge the 14th ASFS Dessert Cook-Off by tasting many delightful food samples.

As is the norm, St. Andrew's space was split between the movie area and dessert tables. At the beginning of the meeting it was announced that Albuquerque won the SMOFCon 2018 bid, and that the 2018 NASFiC/WesterCon needs volunteers.

Shown during the evening were *Muppets* videos ("Christmas Bells" and Cookie Monster's "Share It May-be"), three *Simon's Cat* episodes ("Icecapade," "Ready, Steady, Slow," and "Nut Again"), the animated steampunk short "A Gentlemen's Duel," a *Shaun the Sheep* short ("Blitzer's New Hat"), the classic *How the Grinch Stole*

Christmas, shorts "Dumb Ways To Die" and "Neil Patrick Harris' Dreams," a *Big Bang Theory* episode ("The Santa Simulation"), *Johnny Bravo's* "Twas the Night," and two cartoons (Tom & Jerry in "The Night Before Christmas" and Daffy Duck's "Duck Dodgers in the 24 ½ Century").

In the Dessert Cook-Off with "*A Vampire's Feast*" as the Theme, there were 19 entries from 17 people – Geneva Schult, Harriet Engle, Leah Ransom, Brenda Cole, Cricket Courtney, Tanley McMullan, Kevin Hewett, Rebecca Hewett, Patricia Rogers, Roberta Johnson, Heather & Daniel Hay, Tori Jones & Miles Geary, Miriam Amspaugh, Meg Olsen, and Anonymous (2).

BEST OVERALL went to Miriam Amspaugh's Staked Hearts of the Marquise, RUNNER-UP to Geneva Schult's Sanguine Sherbet, HONORABLE MENTION to Rebecca Hewett's Fruitcake, and a VLAD LIKES IT to Leah Ransom's Paprika Hendl. In the VAMPIRE'S FEAST THEME CATEGORY, Patricia Rogers took the prize for Vlad's Impaled Turkish Delight.

THANK YOU RECOGNITION for assistance in setting up/cleaning up goes to Becky Davis, Luke DeProst, Heather & Daniel Hay, Roberta Johnson, Grant Kuck, Mike McCommas, Geneva Schult, Leah Ransom, and Patricia Rogers.

EDITOR NOTES TO FILL THIS SPACE

- A LITTLE LESS SPACE than I thought I'd have for these notes, but so it goes. It's been an interesting/complicated couple of months since the December club meeting/*SithFacts*. Jessica had her car's driver's side window smashed out while she was in an orchestra rehearsal, I ended up needing four new tires for my car, our cat Malcolm got allergy drainage in one ear, we had to have our front door rekeyed, and our water heater has started leaking (probably being replaced ASFS Friday).

- ON THE OTHER HAND, we haven't been sick, we had quiet & nice holidays, out-of-state relatives helped us with car repair costs, I watched the snow come down New Year's Day while at work, and we saw *Lego Movie 2: The Second Part*, *Scrooged*, *Glass*, *Adventures in Babysitting* and *The Favourite*.

- WE WENT TO DENVER mid-January to see the Christian Dior exhibit at the Denver Art Museum and then to Colorado Springs for part of the final COSine convention. The drive up was challenging with near-whiteout blizzard conditions between Trinidad and Pueblo, and then a really slow crawl up Monument Hill and through Larkspur. Added a good two hours of "fun" time. (Glad I got those new tires!) We managed to get to Denver in time for the Dior exhibit, visited with our friends Tim & Kaia, and did some shopping. At COSine, we went to dinner at the Skirted Heifer (thanks for driving, Kevin), and had Sunday breakfast with Connie & Courtney Willis, Kristen Dorland & Kennard Wilson, and Kevin & Rebecca Hewett. On Saturday, got books signed by Carrie Vaughn and Connie Willis, and watched Courtney's presentation on telescopes. Sunday after breakfast, we briefly visited the art show and dealers Nina & Ron Else. And then drove home, smooth sailing all the way.

- ABOUT OUT OF ROOM. Thanks to Roberta Johnson, Steve Henrichs & Jessica Coyle for reviews. As always, more stuff needed next time (Mon, April 8 deadline). Maybe someone has a con report, or heard an interesting talk? Happy Valentine's Day! Stay Warm! I'm off to towel up water. — Craig C