



ASFACTS 2019

APRIL "BACK & FORTH WEATHER" ISSUE

53RD NEBULA FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

The Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America (SFWA) announced the nominees in late February for the 53rd Annual Nebula Awards, the Ray Bradbury Award for Outstanding Dramatic Presentation, and the Andre Norton Award for Outstanding Young Adult Science Fiction or Fantasy Book, reports Locus Online. The nominees include New Mexico's Rebecca Roanhorse and Bubonicon friend Mary Robinette Kowal. A full list follows:

Novel: *The Calculating Stars* by Mary Robinette Kowal, *The Poppy War* by R.F. Kuang, *Blackfish City* by Sam J. Miller, *Spinning Silver* by Naomi Novik, *Witchmark* by C.L. Polk, and *Trail of Lightning* by Rebecca Roanhorse. **Novella:** *Fire Ant* by Jonathan P. Brazee, *The Black God's Drums* by P. Djèlí Clark, *The Tea Master and the Detective* by Aliette de Bodard, *Alice Payne Arrives* by Kate Heartfield, *Gods, Monsters, and the Lucky Peach* by Kelly Robson, and *Artificial Condition* by Martha Wells.

Novelette: *The Only Harmless Great Thing* by Brooke Bolander, "The Last Banquet of Temporal Confections" by Tina Connolly, "An Agent of Utopia" by Andy Duncan, "The Substance of My Lives, the Accidents of Our Births" by José Pablo Iriarte, "The Rule of Three" by Lawrence M. Schoen, and "Messenger" by Yudhanjaya Wijeratne & R.R. Virdi. **Short Story:** "Interview for the End of the World" by Rhett Bruno, "The Secret Lives of the Nine Negro Teeth of George Washington" by Phenderson Djèlí Clark, "Going Dark" by Richard Fox, "And Yet" by A.T. Greenblatt, "A Witch's Guide to Escape: A Practical Compendium of Portal Fantasies" by Alix E. Harrow, and "The Court Magician" by Sarah Pinsker.

Game Writing: *Black Mirror: Bandersnatch* by Charlie Brooker, *God of War* by Matt Sophos, Richard Zangrande Gaubert and Cory Barlog, *The Martian Job* by M. Darusha Wehm, *Rent-A-Vice* by Natalia Theodoridou, and *The Road to Canterbury* by Kate Heartfield. **Bradbury:** *Black Panther*, *Dirty Computer*, *The Good Place*: "Jeremy Bearimy," *Sorry to Bother You*, *Spider-*

Man: Into the Spider-Verse, and *A Quiet Place*.

Norton: *Children of Blood and Bone* by Tomi Adeyemi, *Aru Shah and the End of Time* by Roshani Chokshi, *A Light in the Dark* by A.K. DuBoff, *Tess of the Road* by Rachel Hartman, *Dread Nation* by Justina Ireland, and *Peasprout Chen: Future Legend of Skate and Sword* by Henry Lien.

Winners will be announced at the 53rd Annual Nebula Banquet on Saturday, May 18, during the Nebula Awards Weekend (May 16-19) at the Marriott Warner Center, Woodland Hills, CA.

2019 HUGO FINALISTS NAMED

Finalists for the Hugo Awards and for the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer were announced April 2 by Dublin 2019, the 77th Worldcon, to be held August 15-19 in Dublin, Ireland. 1,800 valid nominating ballots were received and counted from members of Dublin 2019 and Worldcon 76.

Nominees include Bubonicon friends Mary Robinette Kowal, Rebecca Roanhorse (of New Mexico), Catherynne M. Valente, Ursula Vernon (as T. Kingfisher), James SA Corey (of New Mexico), and John Picacio. A full list of nominees follows:

Best Novel: *Record of a Spaceborn Few* by Becky Chambers, *The Calculating Stars* by Mary Robinette Kowal, *Revenant Gun* by Yoon Ha Lee, *Spinning Silver* by Naomi Novik, *Trail of Lightning* by Rebecca Roan-

UPCOMING ASFS MEETINGS

- **Tonight:** Santa Fe's Rebecca Roanhorse visits to talk about her *Sixth World* novels, and what's next.
- **May 10:** Devin O'Leary of the *Weekly Alibi* presents his 7TH SCI-FI TRAILER PARK with a look at forthcoming genre movies.
- **June 14:** Hopefully an artist visit.
- **July 12:** Probably our fun Summer Film. Plus summer's issue of *ASFACTS* (deadline July 8).
- **August 9:** Bubonicon 51 preview & something else completely different.
- **August 16:** Bubonicon 51 Gofer Meeting.
- **September 13:** Reports on Bubonicon 50, the Irish Worldcon, and DragonCon.
- **October 11:** Unknown program... *ASFACTS*!

Craig Chrissinger, normal editor. **Darth Vader**, guest editor each December. Please Send All Correspondence to — PO Box 37257, Albuquerque, NM 87176-7257. Phone: (505) 266-8905. E-mail: cwccraig@nmia.com. *ASFACTS* published February, April, July & October for the Albuquerque SF Society. *SITHFACTS* out each December. NEXT DEADLINE: Mon, July 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.

horse, and *Space Opera* by Catherynne M. Valente. **Best Novella:** *The Black God's Drums* by P. Djèlí Clark, *The Tea Master and the Detective* by Aliette de Bodard, *Beneath the Sugar Sky* by Seanan McGuire, *Binti: The Night Masquerade* by Nnedi Okorafor, *Gods, Monsters, and the Lucky Peach* by Kelly Robson, and *Artificial Condition* by Martha Wells.

Best Novelette: *The Only Harmless Great Thing* by Brooke Bolander, "If at First You Don't Succeed, Try, Try Again" by Zen Cho, "The Last Banquet of Temporal Confections" by Tina Connolly, "Nine Last Days on Planet Earth" by Daryl Gregory, "When We Were Starless" by Simone Heller, and "The Thing About Ghost Stories" by Naomi Kritzer. **Best Short Story:** "The Tale of the Three Beautiful Raptor Sisters, and the Prince Who Was Made of Meat" by Brooke Bolander, "The Secret Lives of the Nine Negro Teeth of George Washington" by Phenderson Djèlí Clark, "STET" by Sarah Gailey, "A Witch's Guide to Escape: A Practical Compendium of Portal Fantasies" by Alix E. Harrow, "The Rose MacGregor Drinking and Admiration Society" by T. Kingfisher (Ursula Vernon), and "The Court Magician" by Sarah Pinsker.

Best Series: *Wayfarers* by Becky Chambers, *The Universe of Xuya* by Aliette de Bodard, *Machineries of Empire* by Yoon Ha Lee, *The October Daye* series by Seanan McGuire, *The Centenal Cycle* by Malka Older, and *The Laundry Files* by Charles Stross. **Best Graphic Story:** *Abbott* by Saladin Ahmed, *Monstress, Vol 3: Haven* by Marjorie Liu, *Black Panther: Long Live the King* by Nnedi Okorafor & Aaron Covington, *Mario Del Penino* by Tana Ford, *Paper Girls, Volume 4* by Brian K. Vaughan, *Saga, Volume 9* by Brian K. Vaughan, and *On a Sunbeam* by Tillie Walden. **Best Related Work:** *Archive of Our Own (The Organization for Transformative Works)* *The Hobbit Duology* by Lindsay Ellis & Angelina Meehan, *Ursula K. Le Guin: Conversations on Writing* by Ursula K. Le Guin & David Naimon, *Astounding: John W. Campbell, Isaac Asimov, Robert A. Heinlein, L. Ron Hubbard, and the Golden Age of Science Fiction* by Alec Nevala-Lee, www.mexicanxinitiative.com/TheMexicanxInitiativeExperienceatWorldcon76 by Julia Rios, Libia Brenda, Pablo Defendini, and John Picacio, and *An Informal History of the Hugos: A Personal Look Back at the Hugo Awards, 1953-2000* by Jo Walton.

Best Dramatic Presentation, Long Form: *Annihilation*, *Avengers: Infinity War*, *Black Panther*, *A Quiet Place*, *Sorry to Bother You*, and *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*. **Best Dramatic Presentation, Short Form:** *Doctor Who: "Demons of the Punjab," Doctor Who: "Rosa," Dirty Computer: "Janelle Monáe," The Expanse: "Abaddon's Gate," The Good Place: "Janet (s)," and The Good Place: "Jeremy Bearimy."*

Best Professional Editor, Short Form: Neil Clarke, Gardner Dozois, Lee Harris, Julia Rios, Lynne M. Thomas & Michael Damian Thomas, and E. Cathe-

rine Tobler. **Best Professional Editor, Long Form:** Sheila E. Gilbert, Anne Lesley Groell, Beth Meacham, Diana Pho, Gillian Redfearn, and Navah Wolfe. **Best Professional Artist:** Galen Dara, Jaime Jones, Victo Ngai, John Picacio, Yuko Shimizu, and Charles Vess. **Best Art Book:** *Daydreamer's Journey: The Art of Julie Dillon* by Julie Dillon, *Spectrum 25: The Best in Contemporary Fantastic Art* edited by John Fleskes, *The Books of Earthsea: The Complete Illustrated Edition* by Ursula K. Le Guin, and illustrated by Charles Vess, *Tolkien: Maker of Middle-earth* edited by Catherine McIlwaine, *Dungeons & Dragons Art and Arcana: A Visual History* by Michael Witwer, Kyle Newman, Jon Peterson, & Sam Witwer, and *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse: The Art of the Movie* by Ramin Zahed.

Best Semiprozine: *Beneath Ceaseless Skies*, *Fire-side*, *Fiyah*, *Shimmer*, *Strange Horizons*, and *Uncanny*. **Best Fanzine:** *Galactic Journey*, *Journey Planet*, *Lady Business*, *nerds of a feather*, *flock together*, *Quick Sip Reviews*, and *Rocket Stack Rank*. **Best Fancast:** *Be The Serpent*, *The Coode Street Podcast*, *Fangirl Happy Hour*, *Galactic Suburbia*, *Our Opinions Are Correct*, and *The Skiffy and Fanty Show*.

Best Fan Writer: Foz Meadows, James Davis Nicoll, Charles Payseur, Elsa Sjunneson-Henry, Alasdair Stuart, and Bogi Takács. **Best Fan Artist:** Sara Felix, Grace P. Fong, Meg Frank, Ariela Housman, Likhain (Mia Sereno), and Spring Schoenhuth.

John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer (not a Hugo): Katherine Arden, S.A. Chakraborty, R.F. Kuang, Jeannette Ng, Vina Jie-Min Prasad, and RIVERS Solomon.

Lodestar Award for Best Young Adult Book: *Children of Blood and Bone* by Tomi Adeyemi, *The Cruel Prince* by Holly Black, *The Belles* by Dhonielle Clayton, *The Invasion* by Peadar Ó Guilín, *Tess of the Road* by Rachel Hartman, and *Dread Nation* by Justina Ireland.

The final ballot to select this year's winners is open in April, and open to all members of Dublin 2019. The winners will be announced at a ceremony at the convention Sunday evening, August 18.

VONDA N. MCINTYRE DIES

Author Vonda N. McIntyre died April 1 of cancer. She was 70 years old. She is best known for her groundbreaking feminist SF.

McIntyre began publishing SF with "Breaking Point" in 1970, the same year she attended the Clarion Workshop. Her novelette "Of Mist, and Grass, and Sand" (1973) won a Nebula Award, and formed part of her classic novel *Dreamsnake* (1978), winner of Hugo, Locus, and Nebula Awards. Other notable stories include Hugo and Nebula Award finalists "Wings" and "Aztecs;" Nebula Award finalist "Transit;" Hugo Award finalist "Fireflood;" and Sturgeon, Tiptree, and Nebula Award

finalist “Little Faces” in 2005. Some of her short work was collected in 1979’s *Fireflood and Other Stories*.

First novel *The Exile Waiting* appeared in 1975. Other novels include *Superluminal*, *Barbary*, and Nebula Award winner *The Moon and the Sun*. Her space opera *Starfarers* series is *Starfarers*, *Transition*, *Metaphase* and *Nautilus* (1989-1994).

She co-edited feminist SF anthology *Aurora: Beyond Equality* in 1976 with Susan J. Anderson, and edited Nebula Awards Showcase 2004. She also wrote numerous *Star Trek* tie-ins in the 1980s, and one *Star Wars* novel in the ’90s.

Vonda Neel McIntyre was born August 28, 1948, in Louisville, KY. She lived on the east coast and in the Netherlands before her family settled in Seattle in the 1960s. She attended the University of Washington, graduating with a BS in biology in 1970, and studied genetics in graduate school there. She helped found the Clarion West Writers Workshop in Seattle in 1971, and remained involved with the workshop in various capacities throughout her life. More recently she founded ebook publishing collective Book View Café.

McIntyre was diagnosed with metastatic pancreatic cancer in February and entered hospice care soon after.

2019 WRITERS GUILD AWARDS WINNERS

Winners of the 2019 Writers Guild Awards were announced February 17, 2019, reports Locus Online, during a ceremony at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, CA.

Winners of genre interest include *Castle Rock* in the Original Long Form category, *The Walking Dead: “Red Machete”* in Adapted Short Form New Media, and *A Series of Unfortunate Events: “The Ersatz Elevator: Part One”* in Children’s Episodic and Specials.

For more information, including a complete list of winners and nominees, see the Writers Guild website.

BOOK GROUP STILL READING

The Droids & Dragons SF Book Group meets at 7:30 pm Monday, April 15, at Jason’s Deli (northwest corner of Louisiana & America’s Parkway NE - across the street from Bubonicon’s Marriott Hotel) to discuss Hugo-nominated *Space Opera* by Catherynne M. Valente. The group then focuses on *The Stars Now Unclaimed* by Drew Williams on Monday, May 20 – 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.

2019 SKYLARK & GAUGHAN AWARDS ANNOUNCED

Melinda Snodgrass of New Mexico is the recipient of the 2019 Edward E. Smith Memorial Award for Imaginative Fiction (AKA the Skylark Award). The award was presented by the New England Science Fiction Association (NESFA) at Boskone 56, held February 15-17 at the Westin Boston Waterfront.

The Skylark is given to “some person, who, in the opinion of the membership, has contributed significantly to science fiction, both through work in the field and by exemplifying the personal qualities which made the late ‘Doc’ Smith well-loved by those who knew him.”

The Jack Gaughan Award for Best Emerging Artist, also presented by NESFA, went to Nicolas Delort.

The Edward E. Smith Memorial Award consists of a trophy with a large lens. The winner of the award is chosen by vote of the Regular members of the New England Science Fiction Association, Inc. Past winners include Ellen Asher in 2001, Patrick & Teresa Nielsen Hayden in 2003, George RR Martin in 2004, Tamora Pierce in 2005, Charlie Stross in 2008, Sir Terry Pratchett in 2009, Lois McMaster Bujold in 2011, Robert J. Sawyer in 2014, Gardner Dozois in 2015, and Jo Walton in 2017.

2019 COLORADO BOOK AWARDS FINALISTS

Finalists for the 2019 Colorado Book Awards include the following titles of genre interest, reported Locus Online in late March:

Science Fiction/Fantasy: *Murder on the Titania and Other Steam-Powered Adventures* by Alex Acks, *While Gods Sleep* by L.D. Colter, and *Denver Moon: The Minds of Mars* by Warren Hammond & Joshua Viola.
General Nonfiction: *Strange Stars: David Bowie, Pop Music, and the Decade Sci-Fi Exploded* by Jason Heller.
Juvenile Literature: *The Lighthouse Between the Worlds* by Melanie Crowder, *Del Toro Moon* by Darby Karchut, and *Nadya Skylung and the Cloudship Rescue* by Jeff Seymour.

Winners will be announced May 18 at the Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities in Arvada, CO.

2019 COMPTON CROOK AWARD FINALISTS

The Baltimore Science Fiction Society (BSFS) announced in mid-February the finalists for the 2019 Compton Crook/Stephen Tall Award, reported Locus Online. Nominees include Rebecca Roanhorse and Lauren C. Teffeau of New Mexico:

The City of Brass by S.A. Chakraborty, *The Poppy War* by R.F. Kuang, *Trail of Lightning* by Rebecca Roanhorse, *Sisters of the Winter Wood* by Rena Rossner, *Implanted* by Lauren C. Teffeau, and *The Feed* by Nick Clark.

The award honors the best first SF/fantasy/horror

novel of the year, and “includes a framed award document and, for the novel’s author, a check for \$1,000 and an invitation to be the Compton Crook Guest at Balticon 53, to be held May 24-27 in Baltimore MD. The winner will be announced on April 15. Selection is by vote of the BSFS membership.

BETTY BALLANTINE DIES

Legendary editor and publisher Betty Ballantine died February 12 at home in Bearsville, NY, reports Locus Online. She was 99 years old. Her career in publishing began in the 1930s, and she was instrumental in the rise of mass-market paperbacks and helped found both Bantam Books and Ballantine Books.

Elizabeth Norah Jones was born September 25, 1919, in India to a colonial family. At 12, she moved with her family to Jersey in the Channel Islands, where she met Ian Ballantine in 1938. By New Year’s they were engaged and in June 1939 were married and on their way to New York, where they began importing mass-market paperbacks to the US through Penguin Books in the UK. During their 56 years of marriage and publishing, they shared business duties, though Betty did most of the editing and Ian acted primarily as publisher.

The quality of Penguin USA’s imported books was poor during WWII because of paper rationing, so the Ballantines began to publish their own books for the US Armed Services, including “instant” books they produced rapidly on their kitchen table. Reprints from that era included some H.G. Wells titles and *Out of this World*, an anthology of early SF edited by Julius Fast.

They left Penguin in 1945 to form Bantam Books with a consortium of publishers and other companies. They diversified rapidly, reprinting classics like *The Great Gatsby* and *The Grapes of Wrath*. They also published more SF, including Judith Merrill’s anthology *Shot in the Dark* (1950) and reprints of Ray Bradbury and Fredric Brown books.

Though the Ballantines were in charge at Bantam, they still had to report to a board, and eventually decided to start their own firm instead. They launched Ballantine Books in November 1952, becoming the first house to publish hardcover and paperback lines at the same time, and offering unusually generous royalties. They began publishing original SF in 1953 and became the world’s premier paperback SF publisher; most SF appeared exclusively in magazines at the time. SF writers lined up to write for them, including Arthur C. Clarke, their close friend Frederik Pohl, Ray Bradbury, Poul Anderson, C.M. Kornbluth, James Blish, Theodore Sturgeon, Philip José Farmer, and John Wyndham. In the ’60s writers including Robert Silverberg, Larry Niven, James White, and Anne McCaffrey joined in.

Ballantine was also instrumental in making J.R.R.

Tolkien popular in the US in the 1960s (producing the first authorized US editions), sparking a fantasy literature revolution that saw the publication of authors like Mervyn Peake and E.R. Eddison. The Ballantines launched the Ballantine Adult Fantasy Series (1969-74), with help from Lin Carter, reprinting classic works by H.P. Lovecraft, Clark Ashton Smith, H. Rider Haggard, Lord Dunsany, Evangeline Walton, and more.

They attempted to sell Ballantine Books in 1972 to InTEXT, but the deal fell through, and they sold instead to Random House in 1973. The Ballantines stayed on to run the paperback division of Random House until 1974, when they “retired” – becoming freelance consulting publishers and editors, mostly – but not exclusively – for Bantam.

In 1972, Betty formed her own company, Rufus Publications, and the couple worked on numerous projects from that position, including the Peacock Press imprint for Bantam, focusing on illustrated books of fantasy art. Betty edited authors including actress Shirley MacClaine and astronaut Chuck Yeager for Bantam, and worked on SF/F projects including the art books *Gnomes* (1977) and *Fairies* (1981), and James Gurney’s *Dinotopia* (1992).

Ian & Betty Ballantine were honored with two special professional World Fantasy Awards in 1975 and 1984, a special SFWA Award for their pioneering contributions to SF/F publishing in 1985, and the Literary Marketplace Lifetime Achievement Award in 1995. Betty won a special SFWA President’s Award in 2002, and a World Fantasy Life Achievement Award in 2007. The Ballantines were inducted in the Science Fiction Hall of Fame in 2008.

Betty Ballantine was predeceased by Ian in 1995. She is survived by three grandchildren.

1944 RETRO HUGO AWARDS BALLOT

Finalists for the 1944 Retro Hugo Awards, honoring work from 1943, were announced April 2 by Dublin 2019, the 77th Worldcon, to be held August 15-19 in Dublin, Ireland. They counted 217 valid nominating ballots from the members of Dublin 2019 and Worldcon 76.

Best Novel: *Das Glasperlenspiel* [*The Glass Bead Game*] by Hermann Hesse, *Conjure Wife* by Fritz Leiber, Jr, *Gather, Darkness!* by Fritz Leiber, Jr, *Perelandra* by C.S. Lewis, *Earth’s Last Citadel* by C.L. Moore & Henry Kuttner, and *The Weapon Makers* by A.E. van Vogt.

Best Novella: “We Print the Truth” by Anthony Boucher, “Attitude” by Hal Clement, *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, “The Dream-Quest of Unknown Kadath” by H.P. Lovecraft, *The Magic Bed-Knob; or, How to Become a Witch in Ten Easy Lessons* by Mary Norton, and “Clash by Night” by Lawrence O’Donnell (C.L. Moore & Henry Kuttner).

Best Novelette: “Citadel of Lost Ships” by Leigh Brackett, “The Halfling” by Leigh Brackett, “Thieves”

House” by Fritz Leiber, Jr, “Mimsy Were the Borogoves” by Lewis Padgett (C.L. Moore & Henry Kuttner), “The Proud Robot” by Lewis Padgett (Henry Kuttner), and “Symbiotica” by Eric Frank Russell.

Best Short Story: “Death Sentence” by Isaac Asimov, “Yours Truly – Jack the Ripper” by Robert Bloch, “King of the Gray Spaces” (AKA “R is for Rocket”) by Ray Bradbury, “Exile” by Edmond Hamilton, “Q.U.R.” by H.H. Holmes, and “Doorway into Time” by C.L. Moore. **Best Graphic Story:** *Plastic Man #1*: “The Game of Death” by Jack Cole, *Garth* by Steve Dowling, *Le Secret de la Licorne [The Secret of the Unicorn]* by Hergé, *Wonder Woman #5*: “Battle for Womanhood” by William Marsden & Harry G. Peter, *Buck Rogers*: “Martians Invade Jupiter” by Philip Nowlan & Dick Calkins, and *Flash Gordon*: “Fiery Desert of Mongo” by Alex Raymond.

Best Dramatic Presentation, Long Form: *Batman*, *Cabin in the Sky*, *A Guy Named Joe*, *Heaven Can Wait*, *Münchhausen*, and *Phantom of the Opera*. **Best Dramatic Presentation, Short Form:** *The Ape Man*, *Frankenstein Meets the Wolfman*, *Der Fuehrer’s Face*, *I Walked with a Zombie*, *The Seventh Victim*, and *Super-Rabbit*.

Best Professional Editor, Short Form: John W. Campbell, Oscar J. Friend, Mary Gnaedinger, Dorothy McIlwraith, Raymond A. Palmer, and Donald A. Wollheim. **Best Professional Artist:** Hannes Bok, Margaret Brundage, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, Virgil Finlay, J. Allen St. John, and William Timmins.

Best Fanzine: *Fantasy News*, *Futurian War Digest*, *The Phantagraph*, *Voice of the Imagi-Nation*, *YHOS*, and *Le Zombie*. **Best Fan Writer:** Forrest J Ackerman, Morojo (Myrtle Douglas), Jack Speer, Wilson “Bob” Tucker, Art Widner, and Donald A. Wollheim.

The final ballot to select this year’s winners is open in April to all members of Dublin 2019. The winners will be announced at a ceremony at the convention Thursday evening, August 15.

JANET ASIMOV PASSES AWAY

Author Janet Asimov died February 25. She was 92 years old.

Her first book was SF novel *The Second Experiment* (1974, as by Janet Jeppson). Other works under the Jeppson name include *The Last Immortal* and collection *The Mysterious Cure, and Other Stories of Pshinks Anonymous*. SF novel *Mind Transfer* (1988) was bylined Janet Jeppson Asimov, and *Murder at the Galactic Writers’ Society* (1994), an installment of the *Isaac’s Universe* series, was written as Janet Asimov.

As Janet Asimov, she also co-wrote 10 volumes of children’s SF series – the Norby Chronicles – with her husband, SF writer Isaac Asimov, beginning with *Norby*, *the Mixed-Up Robot* in 1983 and ending with *Norby and the Court Jester* in 1991. She wrote final volume *Norby*

and the Terrified Taxi (1997) alone. They co-edited anthology *Laughing Space* and co-wrote non-fiction *How to Enjoy Writing: A Book of Aid and Comfort* in 1987. She also edited a collection of her late husband’s letters, *It’s Been a Good Life: Isaac Asimov*, and wrote *Notes for a Memoir: On Isaac Asimov, Life, and Writing* (2006). She also wrote a syndicated science column and many articles and essays. Her last novel was historical fiction *The House Where Isadora Danced* in 2009 as J.O. Jeppson.

Janet Opal Jeppson was born August 6, 1926, in Ashland, PA. She attended Wellesley College and graduated with a BA from Stanford, earned her MD from New York University Medical School, and completed a psychiatric residency at Bellevue Hospital. She studied psychoanalysis at the William Alanson White Institute, graduating in 1960, and worked there until 1986, including serving as director of training. She married Isaac Asimov in 1973; he predeceased her in 1992.

GAUNTLET PRESS PUBLISHER PRAISES ABQ’S HARRY MORRIS

On March 6, Gauntlet Press publisher Barry Hoffman sent out an email to Gauntlet subscribers that praised local artist Harry O. Morris. The content of that message follows (courtesy of Patricia Rogers for passing it along):

“I could sing the praises of Harry O. Morris, who last week turned in the cover art for *The Last Christmas* upon approval by F. Paul Wilson, but the authors who have utilized his services for Gauntlet Press books do it far better than I can.

“Richard Matheson didn’t want any cover art for his first few books (he was displeased with mass market cover art for his novels). With the publication of *Hunger and Thirst*, he knew he needed cover art. This was the first novel he’d written, but never published (a mainstream novel, had it been published his career would have drastically altered).

“When we published the book (still the only edition available) he grudgingly admitted cover art was required. I suggested several artists and he chose Harry O. Morris. For a good fifteen or more years Matheson insisted that Harry do the cover art for his specialty press books (not just Gauntlet books but those from other publishers, as well). Could there be a better endorsement?

“But there’s more. When we contracted to publish the first *Repairman Jack* novel we asked F. Paul Wilson to look at our website to see if any of the art appealed to him. Not only did he choose Harry but all of our *Repairman Jack* novels had cover art by Harry O. Morris, including *The Last Christmas*.

“Harry consults with the authors to get an idea what the author desires. If changes are required he makes them without a whimper. And, unlike many horror artists, he’s

no one trick pony. Check out the Matheson titles and then the *Repairman Jack* novels on the Gauntlet website. The art is far different.

“Harry also provided the cover art for our ten volume *As Timeless As Infinity: The Complete Twilight Zone Scripts of Rod Serling* (plus *The Best of Rod Serling’s Twilight Zone Scripts* paperback and *The Twilight Zone Scripts of Charles Beaumont*). And he’s done the cover art for all of my novels, which are more visceral and erotic than the art he provided other artists.

“He also penned the cover art for Joe Lansdale’s *Hap and Leonard* novels, a number of Jack Ketchum titles, two short story collections by R.C. Matheson, and a number of other titles. Each author chose Harry, many multiple times.

“So, while I could go on about Harry’s work, his work itself and the authors who chose to use him speaks for itself. A phenomenal artist and a gentleman who gets no bigger thrill than when an author tells him he’s nailed it.

“Thanks, Harry for being an integral part of Gauntlet Press. Until next time, Barry Hoffman - Publisher, Gauntlet Press”

BUBONICON 51 HAS UPDATES

Bubonicon 51 planning still is in the early stages with potential participants responding with programming choices, and fan groups writing in to request space & time. Weekend passes now are \$40.00 through August 3, and then \$45 at the Door. You can purchase your weekend pass at ASFS meetings with cash/check, mail your payment to “Bubonicon” with the PDF registration form to 933 San Mateo Blvd NE, Suite 500-208, Albuquerque, NM 87108, or pay online with a credit card.

The convention that celebrates “The Future Is Now: 2019 Is History” takes place August 23-25 (just four days after the 77th Worldcon in Dublin, Ireland) at the Albuquerque Marriott Uptown, 2101 Louisiana Blvd NE (at I-40). Single-Quad rooms are \$99 a night when reserved by August 12.

Any solo or fan group requests for time & space are needed by TUES, APRIL 30, at bubonicon@gmail.com. We just need basic info on what you’d like to do, the person/group requesting time, and whether it’s 60 or 90 minutes.

In addition to Co-Guests of Honor Allen Steele & Ursula Vernon, Toastmaster Darynda Jones, and Guest Artist Greg Spalenka, those confirmed so far include: Ben Bova, Peri Charlifou, Brenda Drake, Betsy James, Elizabeth Leggett, Jane Lindskold, Emily Mah, Susan R. Matthews, J. Barton Mitchell, Benjamin Radford, Joan S. Saberhagen, Melinda Snodgrass, S.M. Stirling, David Lee Summers, Lauren C. Teffeau, Sarena Ulibarri, Robert E. Vardeman, Walter Jon Williams, Connie & Courtney Willis. More will be added, of course.

Green Slime Mistress Jessica Coyle is taking nominations for “wretched things that should be recognized” and preparing to entertain the masses Saturday night.

While the programming schedule still is wide open, we have some news updates – Kevin Sonney will be serving as the Costume Contest Master of Ceremonies while Geneva Schult will be organizing it. And con suite manager Terri Verrette is hoping to revive the Sunday Afternoon Tea.

The con will benefit the Williamson Library Collection at Eastern NM University and the Roadrunner Food Bank through the Friday night auction and a portion of con proceeds.

No Dealer Spaces remain - all 30 spaces have been filled (there were 51 applications for spaces). Meanwhile, the Art Show will have rules & forms posted on the con’s website in late June/early July. Stay tuned.

As always, volunteers are appreciated! “Gofers,” as con volunteers are known, receive movie promotional swag and other prizes, and are invited to a pizza party after Bubonicon 51 ends (usually late September).

More info is available at 559-0931 (Google voice), by email to bubonicon@gmail.com or at bubonicon.com.

BOOK REVIEW ROUND-UP

Tiamat’s Wrath: The Expanse Book 8 by James S.A. Corey, 2019 Orbit Books, hc \$30.00, 608 pages.

Review by J. Spenser Lotz

James S.A. Corey’s *Tiamat’s Wrath*, the latest installment of the *Expanse* series, is a space opera about why you shouldn’t poke a sleeping bear with a stick. Continuing from the previous books, the Laconian Empire has further grown in power – and arrogance. Believing themselves capable of negotiating with the bear, they proceed to poke it with a stick made out of bombs. Calamity ensues.

The book primarily serves to set up the Book 9 series finale, where we presume that James Holden will challenge the metaphorical bear to fisticuffs. Not much happens in terms of character or plot development this time. But although it doesn’t go anywhere, it’s still a really fun ride.

ASFS MEETING REPORTS — JANUARY 2019: BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

We started the New Year with 29 people participating in a discussion of books read in 2018, whether good or bad. A book title mentioned by more than one person is indicated by an asterisk.

Among reading materials named were *The City on the Edge of Forever* graphic novel by Harlan Ellison, *The Wild Dead* by Carrie Vaughn, *The Calculating Stars** by Mary Robinette Kowal, *Implanted* by Lauren C. Teffeau, *Trick for Free: An InCryptid Novel** by Seanan McGuire, *Odd Thomas* by Dean Koontz, Max Collins mysteries, *Mr.*

Mercedes by Stephen King, *The Outsider* by Stephen King, *The Princess Diarist* by Carrie Fisher, *Six Wakes* by Mur Lafferty, *Man-Eaters* comic books by Chelsea Cain, *The Fated Sky* by Mary Robinette Kowal, *Anathem* by Neal Stephenson, *Persepolis Raising** by James S.A. Corey, *The Utterly, Uninteresting and Unadventurous Tales of Fred the Vampire Accountant* by Drew Hayes, *Where the Hell is Tesla* by Rob Dircks, *Lathe of Heaven* by Ursula K. Le Guin, *First Man in the Moon* by H.G. Wells, *Leap Year* by Helen Russell, *Ministry Protocol: Thrilling Tales* by Tee Morris & Leanna Renee Hieber, *The Punch Escrow* by Tal M. Klein, *The Long Way to a Small, Angry Planet* by Becky Chambers, *Ninefox Gambit* by Yoon Ha Lee, *The Merchants War* by Charles Stross, *Albuquerque, Its Mountains, Valley, Water and Volcanoes* by Vincent C. Kelley, *National Speleological Society Magazine*, *Guns, Germs and Steel* by Jared Diamond, *Artemis* by Andy Weir, *Empire of the Atom* by A.E. Van Vogt, *The Dark Forest* by Cixin Liu, *A Spell for Chameleon* by Piers Anthony, *Misery* by Stephen King, *Impersonations* by Walter Jon Williams, *The Accidental War** by Walter Jon Williams, *A Game of Thrones* by George RR Martin, *The Triumph of the Dwarves* by Markus Heitz, *Arrows of the Queen: Heralds of Valdamar Book 1* by Mercedes Lackey, mythology and geology books, *Spellsinger* by Sebastian de Castell, *An Easy Death: Gunnie Rose Book 1* by Charla Harris, *The Six-Gun Tarot* by R.S. Belcher, *Big Little Lies* by Liane Moriarty, *The Dinosaur Princess* by Victor Milan, *In Evil Times** by Melinda Snodgrass, *Asphodel* by Jane Lindskold, *Prisoner of the Crown* by Jeffe Kennedy, *Medieval Warfare Magazine*, *Ready Player One* by Ernie Cline, *The Hundred Year Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared* by Jonas Jonasson, *Salvation* by Peter F. Hamilton, *Daybreak 2250 AD* by Andre Norton, *The Defiant Agents* by Andre Norton, *Women, Food and God: An Unexpected Path* by Geneen Roth, *Supernatural* by Graham Hancock, *Stranger Things: Worlds Turned Upside Down* by Gina McIntyre, *The Haunted Bookshop* mysteries by Christopher Morley, *Aunt Dimity* mysteries by Nancy Atherton, *The Haunted Yarn Shop* mysteries by Molly MacRae, *The Magical Cats* mysteries by Sofie Kelly, *Wishcraft* mysteries by Heather Blake, *The Golden Age: Chicago 1896* by Kenneth Grahame, *Witch City* mysteries by Carol J. Perry, *Spinning Silver* by Naomi Novik, *Trail of Lightning** by Rebecca Roanhorse, and *Head On* by John Scalzi.

FEBRUARY 2019: CLUB AUCTION

Robert E. Vardeman and Patricia Rogers auctioned off various items to 46 people at this annual club fundraiser. Assisting with money, tab piles and showing items to the audience were Mandy Self, Geneva Schult, Jessica Coyle, Craig Chrissinger, and Daniel & Heather Hay. More than \$600.00 was raised to assist with church rental, this newsletter, and the December holiday party.

Vardeman said that he recently had heard from a wom-

an in England via the internet. She was asking questions about his first novel, *The Sandcats of Rhyl*, because there is a small town in Wales with that name. Vardeman also said he has a steampunk story coming up in an anthology.

Items of higher interest/bidding include: *Online Kill Zone* ARC by Vardeman \$60, *Minions* banks, DVD & gummies \$1, Box of SM Stirling books \$10, Browncoat t-shirt \$22, Short box of comics \$21, *Metropolis* framed poster \$10, Wicked Witch statue \$30, Tan dragon ornament \$10, Dinner for two with Elizabeth Leggett \$60, *Alien* facehugger mask & vinyl figure \$5, *Harry Potter* bookends \$1, Andy Weir books & button \$20, *Game of Thrones* calendar & gold dragon \$10, Purple dragon ornament \$15, *DC Art of Alex Ross* book \$2, *Minions* Pops & Dorbz \$6, Loop of purple wire \$1, Box of Christmas stuff \$1, Two pop-up books \$11, "Shiny" Firefly Calvin & Hobbes shirt \$21, Box of Alan Moore comic books \$7, and Donation of \$21.

EDITOR NOTES TO FILL THIS SPACE

• **BACK FROM THE WILLIAMSON LECTURESHIP** in Portales, which took place April 4-6. Filmmaker Alex Rivera was a unique & different Guest of Honor, but he was friendly, knowledgeable about SF, modest, and a good speaker. His film, *Sleep Dealer*, is an interesting look at a possible future where companies dam rivers to sell water for profit, and Mexicans/Central Americans can only work in the United States via remote-controlled robots. It's not only about walls, but "the alienation that would come to exist from working remotely," said Rivera. "We're living in a duality of connectivity and division. We're connected by technology and the internet, but divided by walls, countries, cultures and such."

It was good to see Connie, Courtney and Cordelia Willis, Gene Bundy & Geni Flores, Debbie Lang, Patrice Caldwell, Emily Mah, Lauren C. Tefteau, Sarena Ulibarri, Darynda Jones, Walter Jon Williams, Kristen Dorland & Kennard Wilson, Joan Saberhagen, Patricia Rogers, Betty Williamson, and more. We all got to see the renovated Williamson Special Collections space, which is smaller and full of boxes that librarians are trying to store away. It's not what we all wanted, but at least there still is a good repository in New Mexico for science fiction, fantasy & horror books, anthologies, magazines, pulps, fanzines, Williamson memorabilia and awards. My report and photos on the Lectureship for *Locus Magazine* have been turned in, and should be in the May issue.

• **JESSICA IS GETTING READY** to head to New York City for a museum workshop over the weekend, so there's packing going on in our house. Some of the gained knowledge hopefully will come of use when the Jim Henson Exhibition comes to the ABQ Museum in November. (Wave hands like Kermit.)

• **REALLY ENJOYED** *How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World*, *Fighting With My Family*, *Captain Marvel* (so good, fun & a nice story), *Level 16*, *Dumbo*, *Longshot*, and *Shazam* (yes, DC can be fun) in the last 2 months. Also enjoying the 2nd season of *The Orville*, Fillion's *The Rookie*, and the new spy shenanigans show, *Whiskey Cavalier*, on TV.

• **NOW IF WE** can continue to avoid a Nuclear War, we'll have Bubonicon 51 in just four months! Work has started...

• **THANKS TO MY CO-WORKER, SPENSER**, for his book review, and to Patricia R for the HOM bit! See you in July! – Craig C