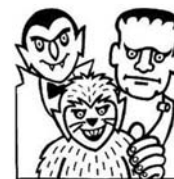




Spooky & Warm Weather OCTOBER EDITION

ASFACTS 2019



2019 HUGO WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Winners for the Hugo Awards and for the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer were announced August 18 by Dublin 2019, the 77th Worldcon, in Dublin, Ireland. They include a couple of Bubonicon friends – Mary Robinette Kowal, Charles Vess, Gardner Dozois, and Becky Chambers. The list follows:

BEST NOVEL: *The Calculating Stars* by Mary Robinette Kowal, **BEST NOVELLA:** *Artificial Condition* by Martha Wells, **BEST NOVELETTE:** “If at First You Don’t Succeed, Try, Try Again” by Zen Cho, **BEST SHORT STORY:** “A Witch’s Guide to Escape: A Practical Compendium of Portal Fantasies” by Alix E. Harrow, **BEST SERIES:** *Wayfarers* by Becky Chambers, **BEST GRAPHIC STORY:** *Monstress, Vol 3: Haven* by Marjorie Liu and illustrated by Sana Takeda,

BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION, LONG FORM: *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*, **BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION, SHORT FORM:** *The Good Place: “Janet (s),”* **BEST RELATED WORK:** *Archive of Our Own (The Organization for Transformative Works)*, **BEST PROFESSIONAL EDITOR, SHORT FORM:** Gardner Dozois, **BEST PROFESSIONAL EDITOR, LONG FORM:** Navah Wolfe, **BEST PROFESSIONAL ARTIST:** Charles Vess,

BEST SEMIPROZINE: *Uncanny*, **BEST FANZINE:** *Lady Business*, **BEST FANCAST:** *Our Opinions Are Correct*, **BEST FAN WRITER:** Foz Meadows, **BEST FAN ARTIST:** Likhain (Mia Sereno), **BEST ART BOOK:** *The Books of Earthsea: The Complete Illustrated Edition* by Ursula K. Le Guin and illustrated by Charles Vess, **JOHN W. CAMPBELL AWARD FOR BEST NEW WRITER** (not a Hugo): Jeannette Ng, and **LODESTAR AWARD FOR BEST YOUNG ADULT BOOK:** *Children of Blood and Bone* by Tomi Adeyemi.

TERRANCE DICKS PASSES AWAY

SF writer Terrance Dicks died August 29, at the age of 84 years old, reported Locus Online.

Dicks was a prolific and celebrated writer for the British TV program *Doctor Who*, serving as script editor from 1968-74 and writing various episodes. He also produced more than 50 tie-in novels and non-fiction books about the series, beginning with *Doctor Who and the Auton Invasion* in 1974 and ending with *Revenge of the Ju-*

doon in 2008. His final story, “Save Yourself,” will be published by BBC Books later this year. SF writers including Charlie Jane Anders, Paul Cornell, and Neil Gaiman have cited his books as an important influence. Dicks also wrote over 150 titles for children, including the *Star Quest* trilogy, *The Baker Street Irregulars* series, and *The Unexplained* series, plus children’s non-fiction.

Terrance William Dicks was born April 14, 1935, in East Ham, London. He studied at Downing College, Cambridge and joined the Royal Fusiliers after graduation. He worked as an advertising copywriter until his mentor Malcolm Hulke brought him in to write for *The Avengers* in the ’60s, and he wrote for radio and TV before joining the *Doctor Who* team in the late ’60s. He also worked as a producer on various BBC programs. He is survived by wife Elsa Germaney (married 1963), three sons, and two granddaughters.

1944 RETRO HUGO WINNERS NAMED

Winners for the 1944 Retro Hugo Awards, honoring work from 1943, were announced August 15 by Dublin 2019, the 77th Worldcon, during a ceremony in Ireland.

BEST NOVEL: *Conjure Wife* by Fritz Leiber, Jr, **BEST NOVELLA:** *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, **BEST NOVELETTE:** “Mimsy Were the Borogoves” by Lewis Padgett (C.L. Moore & Henry Kuttner), **BEST SHORT STORY:** “King of the Gray Spac-

UPCOMING ASFS MEETINGS

- **Crystal Skulls Talk & Club Elections Tonight!** Investigator Benjamin Radford is here to talk about mysterious crystal skulls with visual aids. And then, 3 Offices need to be filled for January-December 2020, and the “theme/challenge ingredient” for December chosen.
- **November 8:** Engineer Chris Marsh talks on the original NASA Control Center.
- **December 13:** The 15th ASFS Dessert Cook-Off, and short SF-oriented holiday films. Plus, the annual issue of *SITHFACTS* will be distributed (deadline Mon, Dec 9). Clean-up help wanted!
- **January 10, 2020:** Club round-table discussion of what members read in 2019...

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: cwraig@nmia.com. *ASFACTS* published February, April, July & October for the Albuq SF Society. *SITHFACTS* out each December. **NEXT DEADLINE: Mon, Dec 9.** **Club Officers:** Jessica Coyle & Craig Chrissinger, co-Zec Secs (505) 266-8905. Harriet Engle, Moderator. Heather Hay & Patricia Rogers, co-Alternators. HAL 9000, Advisor. **Bubonicon Chair:** Craig Chrissinger, google voice (505) 559-0931. www.bubonicon.com

es” (AKA “R is for Rocket”) by Ray Bradbury, BEST GRAPHIC STORY: *Wonder Woman* #5: “Battle for Womanhood” by William Marsden & Harry G. Peter,

BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION, LONG FORM: *Heaven Can Wait*, BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION, SHORT FORM: *Frankenstein Meets the Wolfman*, BEST PROFESSIONAL EDITOR, SHORT FORM: John W. Campbell, BEST PROFESSIONAL ARTIST: Virgil Finlay, BEST FANZINE: *Le Zombie*, and BEST FAN WRITER: Forrest J Ackerman. [The late Jack Speer of Albuquerque was nominated in this category.]

CAMPBELL AWARD RENAMED AFTER WINNER CRITICIZES HIM

Science fiction is largely concerned with the future, but the genre’s past, dominated as it was by white men, is increasingly up for debate among a new generation of writers. The latest episode occurred the week after Worldcon, when the magazine *Analog Science Fiction and Fact* said it would drop John W. Campbell’s name from its annual prize for best new writer because of racist sentiments he had expressed.

Campbell ran the magazine under its previous name, *Astounding Science Fiction*, from the late 1930s until his death in 1971, and was one of the genre’s most influential editors, working with such writers as Isaac Asimov, Arthur C. Clarke and Robert A. Heinlein. He was the author of sci-fi under his own name and as Don A. Stuart.

He also wrote in support of segregation, called slavery “a useful educational system” and claimed black writers did not or could not “write in open competition,” in addition to making derogatory comments about women and homosexuality. In a 1998 essay, “Racism and Science Fiction,” the award-winning author Samuel R. Delany recalled Campbell rejecting a submission of his, saying the editor “didn’t feel his readership would be able to relate to a black main character.”

The decision to remove Campbell’s name from the award came after this year’s winner, Jeannette Ng, criticized him in her acceptance speech at Worldcon. “He is responsible for setting a tone for science fiction that haunts this genre to this very day,” she said. “Stale, sterile, male, white, exalting in the ambitions of imperialists, colonialists, settlers and industrialists.”

On August 27, *Analog Science Fiction and Fact* said it was changing the prize’s name from the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer to the Astounding Award for Best New Writer. In a blog post explaining the decision, the magazine’s editor, Trevor Quachri, wrote: “Campbell’s provocative editorials and opinions on race, slavery, and other matters often reflected positions that went beyond just the mores of his time and are today at odds with modern values, including those held by the award’s many nominees, winners and supporters.”

Ng, who wrote the fantasy novel *Under the Pendulum Sun*, said in an interview on August 28 that she was delighted by the decision. “It’s a good move away from honoring a completely obnoxious man who kept a lot of people out of the genre, who kept a lot of people from writing, who shaped the genre to his own image.” Thanks to the change, she added, “we’re now celebrating a little more neutrally a piece of history that’s not attached to his name.”

Alec Nevala-Lee, whose book *Astounding: John W. Campbell, Isaac Asimov, Robert A. Heinlein, L. Ron Hubbard, and the Golden Age of Science Fiction* examines Campbell’s contributions to science fiction, also supported the change. “It was clearly the right call,” he said. “At this point, the contrast between Campbell’s racism and the diversity of the writers who have recently received the award was really just too glaring to ignore.”

Quachri credited Nevala-Lee’s book and Ng’s speech for pushing his publication, which is owned by Dell Magazines, to act. “Reading an early draft of Alec’s book is when I realized that the name change would need to happen eventually,” he said. Ng’s speech, he added, “really gave me a wonderful opportunity.”

For Nevala-Lee, it’s unavoidable that, as a creator of science fiction, Campbell would be judged by how well he anticipated societal changes. “He asked to be judged by the highest possible standard, as a man of the future,” Nevala-Lee said, “and I think he really fell short.”

SF BOOK GROUP READS ON

The Droids & Dragons SF Book Group meets 7:30 pm Monday, October 14, at Jason’s Deli (northwest corner of Louisiana & America’s Parkway NE) to discuss *All Systems Red: The Murderbot Diaries 1* by Martha Wells. The group then meets November 18 to talk about *To Be Taught, If Fortunate* by Becky Chambers.

Meetings of D&D are open to all interested readers on the 3rd Monday each month. Books for discussion are chosen two months in advance, and group members receive a 20% discount on them. For more info: Leah at msransom@hotmail.com or Craig at 266-8905.

WORLDCON 2021 SITE SELECTED

Washington, DC’s unopposed bid to host the 2021 Worldcon was successful, with 798 votes received in favor out of 878 votes total, Locus reported in mid-August. (Other votes included “none of the above,” “no preference,” and various write-in choices.)

DisCon III, the 79th World Science Fiction Convention, will be held at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, DC, August 25-29, 2021. Guests of Honor include Nancy Kress, Malka Older, Sherée Renee Thomas, Toni Weisskopf, and Ben Yalow. For more information, see <https://www.discon3.org>.

2019 DRAGON AWARDS WINNERS

Winners of the 2019 Dragon Awards were announced September 1 at DragonCon in Atlanta, GA. The list, which includes a New Mexico author, follows --

BEST SCIENCE FICTION NOVEL: *A Star-Wheeled Sky* by Brad R. Torgersen, BEST FANTASY NOVEL (INCLUDING PARANORMAL): *House of Assassins* by Larry Correia, BEST YOUNG ADULT/MIDDLE GRADE NOVEL: *Bloodwitch* by Susan Dennard, BEST MILITARY SCIENCE FICTION OR FANTASY NOVEL: *Uncompromising Honor* by David Weber, BEST ALTERNATE HISTORY NOVEL: *Black Chamber* by S.M. Stirling, BEST MEDIA TIE-IN NOVEL: *Star Wars: Thrawn: Alliances* by Timothy Zahn, BEST HORROR NOVEL: *Little Darlings* by Melanie Golding,

BEST COMIC BOOK: *Saga* by Brian K. Vaughan & Fiona Staples, BEST GRAPHIC NOVEL: *X-Men: Grand Design: Second Genesis* by Ed Piskor, BEST SCIENCE FICTION/FANTASY TV SERIES: *Good Omens*, and BEST SCIENCE FICTION/FANTASY MOVIE: *Avengers: Endgame*.

Winners in various gaming-related categories were also announced. For more information, visit the Dragon Awards website.

GREEN SLIME AWARDS HANDED OUT

In a ceremony August 24 at Bubonicon 51 at the Albuquerque Marriott Uptown Hotel, Green Slime Mistress Jessica L. Coyle (with assistance from the Slime Time Puppets) presented the following with recognition of their wretchedness in the last 12 months:

NOVEL: *Epidemic of the Dead* by John Russo (All tell and very little show, clumsy and clunky wording, cardboard cutout characters, little to no actual zombies, poor dialog.)

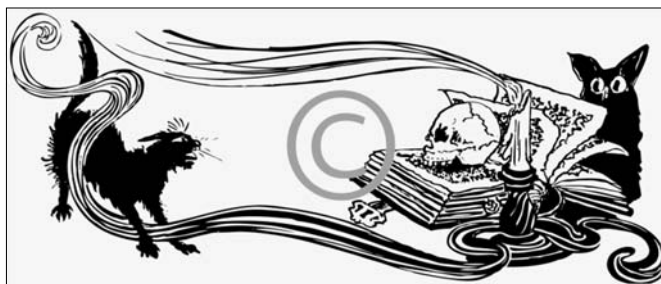
SYFY MOVIE: *Zombie Tidal Wave* (Deliberate bad acting, writing and makeup, generic characters so basic it's difficult to remember their names, goofy action sequences, and a sometimes difficult to follow plot.)

REGULAR TELEVISION: *Pandora* (Scattered genres and plotlines, everyone has a secret, Star Fleet Academy with multiple conspiracies, The CW probably shouldn't have made it.)

SUPERHERO MOVIE: *Dark Phoenix* (Cast flails about and looks like they don't want to be there, poorly written, film strips Jean Grey of her story and power, focuses on Charles Xavier instead.)

FANTASY MOVIE: *Robin Hood* (Big snores, no redeeming features, very bleak, Nottingham seems to be a mining town, listless action scenes, overwrought performances, over-the-top pyrotechnics.)

TOYS: *The Poop Trend* – Play-Doh Troop Poop, Poopsie Sparkly Critters, and Oh Poop! Candy Dispenser (Enough already, *The Emoji Movie* was enough punishment, poop ain't a toy.)



TONI MORRISON DIES

Nobel laureate Toni Morrison died August 5 in the Bronx, of complications from pneumonia. She was 88 years old. Morrison was celebrated for her complex and emotionally rich novels about womanhood and the black experience in America. She often used supernatural and magical realist elements in her work, notably in National Book Critics Circle Award winner *Song of Solomon* in 1976, Pulitzer Prize winner *Beloved* (1987; adapted as a feature film in 1998), and *God Help the Child* in 2015.

Chloe Ardelia Wofford was born February 18, 1931, in Lorain, OH. She joined the Catholic Church when she was 12, taking on the baptismal name Anthony; she began going by Toni during her undergrad years at Howard University. She graduated with a degree in English in 1953, and got her Master's at Cornell in 1955. She taught English at Texas Southern University for two years before joining the faculty at Howard. While there she enrolled in a fiction workshop and started writing what would become her first novel. She married Harold

Morrison in 1958; they divorced in 1964. Afterward she moved to Syracuse, NY, with her children and began editing textbooks at Random House, and then relocated to New York City to edit trade books, where her authors included Angela Davis and Muhammad Ali. As an editor, she strove to bring black literature to greater prominence, working on groundbreaking titles including *Contemporary African Literature* in 1972, and *The Black Book* in 1974. From 1989 until her retirement in 2006 she was on the creative writing faculty at Princeton University.

Morrison's debut *The Bluest Eye* appeared in 1970. She followed it with *Sula* in 1973, but *Song of Solomon* was her breakthrough title, chosen as a main selection by the Book-of-the-Month Club (the first novel by a black author chosen since Richard Wright's *Native Son* 37 years earlier. Other novels include *Tar Baby*, *Jazz*, *Paradise*, *Love, A Mercy*, and *Home* (2012). Her non-fiction books include *Playing in the Dark: Whiteness and the Literary Imagination* and *What Moves at the Margin: Selected Nonfiction*. She wrote books for younger children with her son, artist Slade Morrison, who predeceased her in 2010. She also wrote the libretto for opera *Margaret Garner*, and worked on opera *Desdemona*.

Morrison was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1993 – the first black woman ever so honored. She

received a Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2012, and the Pen/Saul Bellow Award for Achievement in American Fiction in 2016.

She is survived by her son Harold Ford Morrison, and three grandchildren.

TIPTREE AWARD TO BE RENAMED

The Tiptree Motherboard, the seven-member committee in charge of the James Tiptree, Jr. Literary Award for books “encouraging the exploration and expansion of gender,” has announced plans to change the name of the award in the future, reported Locus in early October. In a post titled “Alice Sheldon and the name of the Tiptree Award” updated on September 11, 2019, the committee wrote:

“We said we would be listening and we have. We’ve read your thoughtful and pain-filled emails, tweets, and Facebook posts. We are sorry for the harm that’s been done, especially to some of the most marginalized members of our community.

“We recognize that the award is necessary to the community, but can’t go on under its existing name. Now we need to figure out what to do next and how to do it. We’re working on it. And we’ll say more within a month.”

An earlier version of the post discussed “questions raised on social media about whether the name of the Tiptree Award should be reconsidered. The Award was named after James Tiptree, Jr., the persona under which Alice Sheldon published. The questions relate to Alice Sheldon’s actions at the end of her life. On May 19, 1987, she shot first her husband, Huntington Sheldon, and then herself.” The post explained that “friends and family – and the science fiction community at the time – viewed this tragedy as resulting from a suicide pact” but acknowledged that there are different interpretations: “The story can also be seen as an act of caregiver murder: where a disabled person is killed by the person, usually a close family member, who is responsible for their support.”

The post went on to include detailed discussion of the known facts and informed speculations about the matter.

At the time of the initial post, the members of the Motherboard did not “believe that a change to the name of the Tiptree Award is warranted now. But we believe that this is a very important discussion, and we do not think it is over. The community that has grown up around this award since its founding in 1991 deserves to have its voice heard in any conversation as significant as renaming.” After soliciting and receiving more feedback, they made their later decision.

This is the latest in a series of conversations about the sometimes problematic legacy of major figures in the field (and the appropriateness of using their names and

images in award materials) that have unfolded in recent years, with results including the retirement of the bust of H.P. Lovecraft from the World Fantasy Award trophies and the renaming of the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer, the Campbell Conference, and the John W. Campbell Memorial Award for Best Science Fiction Novel.

For the full statement, see <https://tiptree.org/2019/09/alice-sheldon-and-the-name-of-the-tiptree-award>.

2019 MYTHOPOEIC AWARDS WINNERS

The Mythopoeic Society announced the 2019 Mythopoeic Awards winners on August 4 during Mythcon 50, held in San Diego, CA. A list of winners follows --

MYTHOPOEIC FANTASY AWARD FOR ADULT LITERATURE: *Spinning Silver* by Naomi Novik, MYTHOPOEIC FANTASY AWARD FOR CHILDREN’S LITERATURE: *Bob* by Wendy Mass & Rebecca Stead, MYTHOPOEIC SCHOLARSHIP AWARD IN INKLINGS STUDIES: *There Would Always Be a Fairy Tale: More Essays on Tolkien* by Verlyn Flieger, MYTHOPOEIC SCHOLARSHIP AWARD IN MYTH AND FANTASY STUDIES: *Celtic Myth in Contemporary Children’s Fantasy: Idealization, Identity, Ideology* by Dimitra Fimi, and ALEXEI KONDRATIEV AWARD (STUDENT PAPER): “An Unexpected Poet: The Creative Works of Dr. Robert E. Havard” by Sarah O’Dell.

2020 CARNEGIE MEDALS LONGLIST

The American Library Association (ALA) announced the longlist for the 2020 Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence on October 1 for “the best fiction and nonfiction books for adult readers published in the U.S. in the previous year,” including the following titles and authors of genre interest:

Fiction: *The Water Dancer* by Ta-Nehisi Coates, *The World That We Knew* by Alice Hoffman, *Inland* by Téa Obreht, *Lanny* by Max Porter, *Quichotte* by Salman Rushdie, and *The Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead.

Nonfiction: *American Moonshot: John F. Kennedy and the Great Space Race* by Douglas Brinkley, *In the Dream House: A Memoir* by Carmen Maria Machado, and *The Source of Self-Regard: Selected Essays, Speeches, and Meditations* by Toni Morrison (Knopf)

The finalists will be announced on November 4, and the two medal winners will be announced on January 26, 2020, at the Reference and User Services Association’s Book and Media Awards (BMAs) event during the American Library Association (ALA) Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia, PA. Winners receive \$5,000 and a medal. Judges for 2020 are Hilary Albert, Barbara Bibel, Carol Haggas, Stacey J. Hayman, Sarah Godwin, Donna Seaman (chair), and Patrick J. Wall.

For more information, including the entire longlist, see the ALA website.

CONCEPT ART ASSOCIATION LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Concept Art Association has announced five recipients of its inaugural lifetime achievement award: Ron Cobb, H.R. Giger, Jean "Moebius" Giraud, Ralph McQuarrie, and Syd Mead. The award, which includes a trophy created by Legacy Effects, was presented at the first annual Concept Art Awards, held September 7, 2019 during LightBox Expo at the Pasadena Convention Center in Pasadena, CA.

For more information, including a complete list of finalists, see the Concept Art Association website.

LUCIFER PHOTO SHARED DAY BEFORE SEASON 5 FILMING

by Charlie Ridgely - comicbook.com

The beginning of the end of *Lucifer* is finally upon us. The fan-favorite series has been through quite the ringer over the last couple of years – being cancelled by FOX and thought dead in the water, only to get renewed by Netflix some time later – but will now finally get the chance to end the way the producers and creative team see fit. After a successful Season 4 launch on Netflix, *Lucifer* was renewed for a fifth and final season on the streaming service, and production on this last batch of episodes officially started September 6.

On the evening of September 5, Netflix tweeted a behind-the-scenes photo of the *Lucifer* cast and creative team at the table read for Season 5 from the See What's Next Twitter account. The tweet also confirmed that cameras would start rolling on the final season the next morning. "*Lucifer* Season 5 starts filming tomorrow! Can't wait," reads the tweet.

Not much is known about the storyline of *Lucifer* Season 5, but it will mostly include the arc that was designed for the second half of Season 4 back when the show was airing on FOX. The network structure required seasons to run for 22 episodes, which would've been enough for the producers to fit two full story ideas. Netflix offers more freedom with the episode count, allowing *Lucifer* to split up into two distinct seasons. So even before Season 5 was officially ordered by Netflix, the creators had an idea of where they wanted to go.

"We did spend some time digging into what we think can be Season 5," showrunner Joe Henderson explained in an interview earlier this year. "We even have the first scene



[of Season 5], which is one of my favorite things we've ever come up with."

"We really try to ping it in a completely different direction," showrunner Ildy Modrovich added. "If everybody is speculating on one thing, we just try to think as batshit as we can, as outside of the box as possible, so that people don't get bored, so we don't get bored. We do have an idea. It's an idea that when it came up in the room, we went, 'Oh god, that's crazy.' Ten the more we talked about it, the more we went, 'and brilliant.'"

Lucifer may be ending, but it's getting a hell of a sendoff! On July 26, Netflix announced that the series' fifth and final season has been extended; instead of the previously revealed 10 episodes, season five will conclude with 16 episodes. While it doesn't rank up to the supernatural crime drama's final season on Fox – which concluded with 26 episodes – it's six more hours for fans to enjoy the crime-solving adventures of Lucifer Morningstar (Tom Ellis) and LAPD detective Chloe Decker (Lauren German). Who wouldn't want more of that?

STRANGER THINGS 4 TEASER PROMISES HAWKINS DEPARTURE

by Charles Pulliam-Moore - io9.com

Following the Duffer Brothers hinting at the promise of more *Stranger Things*, Netflix dropped the first teaser trailer September 30 for the series' next season. And things are looking grim.

While the teaser doesn't feature any of *Stranger Things*' human heroes, villains, or interdimensional monstrosities, its focus on the Upside Down and its statement about leaving Hawkins are telling. After three seasons of centering Eleven and company's lives in the small Indiana town, *Stranger Things* has just become a much larger, more fantastical show that needs more space to flex its muscles, and from the looks of things, that's exactly what season four is about to provide.

There's no word yet on when *Stranger Things* season four will drop, but September 30, Netflix announced that Matt and Ross Duffer (The Duffer Brothers) have signed a multi-year deal to produce an unknown number of new series and films for the studio, meaning that we can expect many more things to come from the duo in the not-too-distant future.

In an earlier interview with *Vulture*, Ross Duffer suggested the series would be "a four-season thing and then out." And, we certainly can't imagine Netflix pulling the plug early – though in response, series producer Shawn Levy clarified that "The truth is we're definitely going four seasons and there's very much the possibility of a fifth. Beyond that, it becomes I think very unlikely" (via *Entertainment Weekly*). Levy has also confirmed again that work is underway on new episodes.

While the mega-hit sci-fi/horror/adventure show was

originally intended as an anthology series, much in the vein of *American Horror Story*, the popularity of its adorable child actors ensured that Netflix fans would get more than just one helping of the cast.

Immediately following *Stranger Things* Season 3, the Duffer Brothers spoke to *EW* about their plans for a potential season 4. Ross Duffer said, "We don't want to write ourselves in a corner so we try to have these early discussions with the writers just to make sure that we're setting ourselves up to go in the right direction. We don't know a lot, but we do know a lot of the big broad strokes. At the end of season two, we knew about Billy. We knew that the Russians were going to come in. We didn't know the mall and stuff, but again, we know these big broad strokes. That's sort of where we are in season four. We have the big broad strokes. It's just now about filling in those lines in the details. We're pretty excited about where it's potentially going to go. Again, like we said, it's going to feel very different than this season. But I think that's the right thing to do and I think it'll be exciting."

Matt added that season 4 would "open up a little bit" by "allowing portals into areas outside of Hawkins."

Sounds like *Stranger Things* Season 4 could be a global affair. The post-credit scene of season 3's final episode was in Russia and the Chernobyl disaster happened in the Spring of 1986. Is this going to be a huge fight between Eleven and the Upside Down that'll be covered up by a story of a nuclear reactor? Maybe.

BUBONICON 51 SMALL, BUT SUCCESSFUL

With just 717 attendees, Bubonicon 51 was smaller than the past five years, but still larger than the 660 people at 2014's convention (held three weeks early). Overall, the weekend of "The Future Is Now" was successfully run and very smooth. B'con made various capital improvements, which helped to contribute to a financial loss for the year (but the con's nest egg still is intact).

Bubonicon 51 donated \$1,650 to non-profit organizations. The Williamson Library Collection at Eastern NM University received \$600, the Roadrunner Food Bank received \$600, Albuquerque Public Library Foundation received \$200, New Mexico PBS received \$175, and the American Red Cross of NM received \$75.

Bubonicon 51 saw eight new programming participants – Stephen Antczak, Reese Hogan, Carolyn Kay, Chaz Kemp, Chris Marsh, J. Barton Mitchell, Jeremy Montoya, and Scot Noel; plus the return of Ben Bova, Yvonne Coats, Susan R. Matthews, and Kevin Sonney.

The Art Show had 53 artists with sales of \$13,872 – 42 percent of all artwork entered was sold. The Sunday Auction was down from 2018, but better than 2017 and 2016 with sales of \$1,572 (*Froomb* went for just \$15). Of that, 64.6 percent went to Bubonicon. Friday's Charity Auction also was down, raising \$1,161.

Bubonicon 51 marked the 8th year at the Albuquerque Marriott Uptown, and all went very well with renovations in mid-stride. The only very small issue was that lighting panels in rooms still don't work properly after the building was hit at least twice by lightning in storms that happened right before the 2018 con. Hopefully the renovation will address this issue. And it remains true that a large percentage of the hotel staff are closet fans!

COSTUME CONTEST AWARDS: Best of Show was Valeria the Barbarian Dragon Slayer (Karen Lopez), Best Youth was The Nameless Sheep (Abby Tepool), Novice 1st Place was IDPD Grunt Cosplay (Isaac B.), Journeyman 1st Place was Year 2515 Field Medic MD-1 (William Sly), Masters 1st place was Coyote Dream (Kevin Hewett), and Judge's Choice Awards went to Guinan (Tasheka Gipson) and The Green Power Ranger (Ryan Holtom).

ART SHOW AWARDS: Professional to Chaz Kemp, Amateur to Ellis Bray, Student to Gracie Cooper, and Beast of Show (theme) to Lannie Pihajlic.

All in all, the con went very well thanks to every individual who pitched in! So, a tip of the con-com's hats to everyone who contributed their time & efforts!

Why it was smaller? There are several possible reasons – the first NM Comic Expo the weekend before, lots of personal happenings and conflicts, Worldcon being in Ireland the weekend before, and prior family commitments. It all combined against us for attendance, especially among 18- to 32-year olds.

BUBONICON 52 will be held August 28-30, 2020 – normal weekend – at the Albuquerque Marriott Uptown (Louisiana & I-40), with Guests of Honor Becky Chambers & Keith R.A. DeCandido, Toastmaster A. Lee Martinez, and Guest Artist Chaz Kemp. Rooms are \$99 single-quad with free WiFi in sleeping rooms. Con chair is Craig Chrissinger, doing the solo bit after several years of being on a co-team.

Good luck to the 2020 team! Next year's con-com has to find new staff for the Dealers Table/Room, and work with the 2nd NM Comic Expo being the weekend before B'con 52. Suggestions/program ideas are being taken at bubonicon@gmail.com.

BOOK REVIEW ROUND-UP

Wanderers by Chuck Wendig, 2019 Del Rey, hc \$28.99, 800 pages. **Review by Craig W. Chrissinger**

When I saw early blurbs comparing Chuck Wendig's new book to Stephen King's *The Stand*, I decided to check it out for myself. Well, *Wanderers* definitely has elements of King's opus with its end-of-the-world scenario, but this book is more subtle science fiction than horror. In Wendig's large tome, there are touches of politics, faith, science (including climate change), doomsday survival thinking and pandemic fears – and a (literal) *deus ex machina* in the form of an Artificial Intelligence entity.

The story starts when Shana wakes up one morning to discover her little sister, Nessie, appears to be sleepwalking outside. But it's more of a strange malady – Nessie can't be woken up, seems unaware of her surroundings, and won't talk or eat. She seems to have a destination in mind, and other sleepwalkers soon join her in walking across America. Joining the flock of sleepwalkers are Shana and other "shepherds" who follow their friends and family to protect them along the way.

During their mysterious journey, America will become convulsed with terror, fear and violence as a pandemic sweeps across the land (based on a real bat-related fungal disease) with devastating results. Some believe the sleepwalkers are the cause of the apocalyptic epidemic or a sign of End Times, and shun and fear them. But others, like members of an ultraviolent militia, believe the threat must be exterminated.

Of course, the secret cause behind the sleepwalker syndrome will either cause a violent ending for the group, or possibly bring survivors of the pandemic together to try to remake a shattered world. And, for SF readers, the question is how the A.I. ties in to it all. Is it a threat, too, or does it want to help Homo sapiens survive?

In Wendig's book, the devil is us since there are no supernatural elements. The author keeps us guessing as to exactly who will survive to the end of the story - and exactly what is happening in a world falling apart.

Wanderers is quite the brick of a book at 800 pages, but it reads fairly quickly and the characters are interesting enough to keep the reader involved. Every once in a while, it's good to try something new - and *Wanderers* was that for me. I'm probably still more of a fan of *The Stand* and evil's Randall Flagg, but *Wanderers* was worth reading.

***The Testaments* by Margaret Atwood, 2019 Doubleday, hc \$28.95, 422 pages.**

Review by Jessica Coyle

Margaret Atwood's latest book, *The Testaments*, is the long-awaited sequel to her 1985 near-future classic *The Handmaid's Tale*. The book follows the stories of three different women: Aunt Lydia, the de facto leader of the Aunts (Gilead's female leadership); Agnes, a young woman who was raised in Gilead; and Daisy, a young woman who was smuggled out of Gilead as an infant and is now living in Canada.

Aunt Lydia's portion of the book is the tale of the beginning of Gilead, its inner workings, and its corruption; and Lydia writes her story in secret and hides it in the Aunts' restricted library with the hopes that it will survive the regime. Agnes's story describes what it is like to be a woman who was raised in Gilead and truly believes in its teachings and the restricted role of women in its society. Even when Agnes starts to become disillusioned with Gilead, she is unable to imagine living outside of it. Daisy gives the reader an idea of what it is like to look at Gilead and its restrictions as someone who was raised on the outside. As the novel goes on, it becomes clear that Daisy has more of a connection to Gilead than even she knows.

Atwood's book is a fascinating study in corrupt government and what the removal of freedoms for half of the population does to a community as a whole. In particular, Aunt Lydia's portions of the book really explore how even the most educated and enlightened people can go along with – and come to believe in – things that seem to diverge greatly with their original beliefs. The other two characters are not always as well fleshed out as Aunt Lydia; Daisy in particular occasionally comes across as a foil to move the story forward instead of a fully formed person. That said, I found *The Testaments* to be a compelling read, and I recommend it to those who liked *The Handmaid's Tale* and Atwood's other works.

ASFS MEETING REPORTS — JULY 2019: CLIMATE FICTION

Local authors Lauren C. Teffeau and Sarena Ulibarri visited the club to talk to 41 people about Climate Fiction, and to read examples from their works. Ulibarri said that Climate Fiction is "fiction that involves environmental issues mixed with speculative fiction. One of the earliest examples is *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson. Climate fiction often goes with a 'if this goes on' trajectory. A sub-genre is Solarpunk, which more focuses on 'what if.' Solarpunk is more positive. Kim Stanley Robinson has done climate fiction for a couple of decades now."

Teffeau added, "Solarpunk is an aesthetic and a mood. And then there's the punk element."

Ulibarri remarked that news about climate change is horrifying, so people sometimes shy away from it. "Solarpunk tries not to make you feel guilty about not recycling, but to be positive about alternate power and such," she said.

Ulibarri then read from part of her story, "The Spiral Ranch," from the first issue of *DreamForge*.

The first person to use the term "solarpunk" was a Brazilian editor doing an anthology. Apparently, Ulibarri said, "green-punk" didn't sound good in Portuguese.

"*Implanted* which came out last year, was called cyberpunk mixed with spy-fi and espionage," Teffeau reported. "But it's also solarpunk with people living in domes as the environment outside recovers."

Teffeau then read from *Implanted*'s second chapter.

Asked whether Frank Herbert's *Dune* is an early novel of climate fiction, Ulibarri answered, "That's not its main point, but it certainly has environmental concerns. Another sub-genre is 'ecopunk,' and I'd put *The Monkey Wrench Gang* by Edward Abbey in that."

Both authors had stories in the first issue of *DreamForge*, so they talked about the new publication for a few



minutes. “It’s edited by Scot Noel, and Jane Lindskold has helped with it,” said Teffeau. “It’s optimistic fiction. I did a sword and sorcery story that’s somehow optimistic. It’s fantasy, which is rare for me.”

Ulibarri spoke about the optimism of the magazine, “An optimistic ending is more about the characters than the other factors. You can have a love story with everyone living happily ever after at the end of the world – if it’s done right.”

In conclusion of the climate fiction discussion, Ulibarri stated, “There are two competing worldviews right now about climate change. There seems to be a conspiracy, but whose? There’s the billionaires, politicians and oil executives. And then there’s the scientists, engineers, and Sierra Club members.”

AUGUST 2019: B51 PREVIEW & HOGAN

Thirty-eight people were in attendance to see a preview of Bubonicon 51’s schedule and such; and then listen to local author Reese Hogan talk about her first traditionally published science fiction novel, *Shrouded Loyalties*.

First up, Caci Cooper and Craig Chrissinger went through the highlights of the Bubonicon 51 program schedule, and showed off the color t-shirt artwork by Greg Spalenka.

And then Hogan talked about how she got into writing, and about the novel. “The book is Military SF and also diesel-punk. It’s set on another world, and it has a nautical theme. There is a submarine with ‘shrouding’ technology, which allows the vessel to travel through a warp quickly across the planet. Shrouding technology is dangerous because there are creatures who live in the Shrouding Realm. A couple members of a sub crew are marked by symbols after one shrouded mission.”

Hogan then read from chapter nine of *Shrouded Loyalties*, in which the capital is bombed.

There are three viewpoint characters in the book, and Hogan said it took her about two years to write it, and “seven rewrites to figure it all out.”

“I would like it to be the start of a series, but I don’t have a contract for more yet,” she said. “So, I tried to finish character arcs. I’ll be pitching the sequel soon, so I’m working on that now. I have some other novels I want to write, but I’m not ready yet to talk about them.”

Asked about whether she is a plotter or a pantsier when writing, Hogan replied, “I wish I had a process of writing. I come up with complicated ideas, and then I start pulling the threads out. I have a couple of hours a day where I write, and then I have a couple of hours theoretically after my kids go to bed.”

Hogan said her first book was self-published, and the second is a “post-apocalyptic horror novel. It’s a hybrid project because we were given a world to work in. I wrote about a rock god in L.A.”

To finish her visit, Hogan raffled off two copies of *Shrouded Loyalties*. Those went to Charlie Fitch and Fred Aiken.

EDITOR NOTES TO FILL THIS SPACE

▪ IT IS POSSIBLE TO DISCUSS POLITICS & DIFFERENT VIEWPOINTS without yelling, being dismissive, or becoming reactionary - and still be respectful and actively listening. But that seems less and less likely in our national government or when ideologies collide - even scientific facts (hello, climate change) are seen as falsehoods by some. In such times, it is easy to think we are more likely to end up in a dystopia or apocalyptic future than in a place of hope. We used to ask, “Where’s my flying car?” But now we might ask, “What happened to my bright future?”

In Science Fiction and in Fandom, we also are having debates and trying to come to acceptable outcomes with the realities of our past and our “founding fathers,” gender identity, and calls for diversity. And just like we’d like to have happen on the national stage, it’s important to be respectful and actively listen to all viewpoints. And then do the best we can, be kind to each other, and hang in there in these troubled, changing times.

▪ IT’S BEEN A BUSY PERIOD since Bubonicon 51, with three rock concerts in five weeks, and a quick visit to Santa Fe to see Joe Lansdale & George RR Martin at the Jean Cocteau Cinema. We saw Heart and Joan Jett the Sunday evening of Bubonicon (both in great form), Sting in Taos on Labor Day (nice park venue, wonderful performance), and Pat Benatar at Isleta Casino’s Showroom (her voice was great, but the sound was very muddy). And then we ran up to the Santa Fe after last weekend’s signing event for Jeffe Kennedy and Jane Lindskold at Page One to see the Lansdale clan. As we arrived, country-western singer (and author) Kasey Lansdale was getting ready to drive back down to ABQ, George sat outside, kindly signing books (for Bubonicon & ourselves) and talking about a planned bookstore expansion; and then we chatted with Joe and Karen for a few minutes as he signed some books before a screening of *Bubba Ho-Tep* began.

▪ TEMPS ARE FINALLY COOLING DOWN, we’ve had some rain, the Balloon Fiesta is almost done, and Milehicon 51 & Halloween are on the way. Jessica took artist Lee Moyer and assistant Venetia Charles to the Balloon Fiesta early one morning, and everyone enjoyed the experience (though they were tired). Lee & Venetia are in NM for Elizabeth Leggett’s gallery show (based on Tarot art) at Keep Contemporary in Santa Fe. The show opens October 11 and runs through November 10. And while in Denver, we’re going to the Monet exhibit at DAM.

▪ SEEMS LIKE THERE ARE a lot of SF films coming up that we want to see. I keep hoping that *Ad Astra* might be an early Green Slime contender, but the reviews have been decent. Looking forward to *Gemini Man*, *Frozen 2*, the next *Star Wars* film, *Doctor Sleep*, and *Maleficent 2: Mistress of Evil*. Still need to see *IT Chapter 2* since I liked the first part of the story.

▪ NEW TV SEASON has started, and we’ve enjoyed new shows *Batwoman*, *Evil*, and *Emergence*. Happy for the returns of *The Good Place*, *Supergirl*, *The Goldbergs*, *Young Sheldon*, and *The Rookie*. And we’re glad to have been able to see the 4th season of *Lucifer*, the *Good Omens* mini-series, the very cool 3rd season of *Stranger Things*, and *Ken Burns’ Country Music* PBS documentary. Turns out I know way more early country, folk & swing music than I knew - and it was intriguing to see the common roots of different music styles. I learned a lot & was absorbed by it. Same goes for the various Apollo 11 anniversary & Woodstock documentaries on PBS. Very cool 50th coverage.

▪ THANK YOU to Heather & Daniel Hay for their assistance at ASFS & Bubonicon. They will be missed, and we hope they can visit from North Carolina at some point. And thanks to Jessica for her book contribution. See everyone for *SithFacts!* - Craig