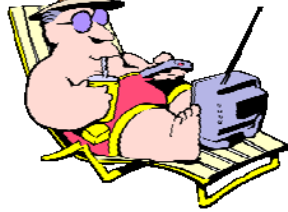




ASFACTS 2021

JULY "WORLD OPENING" SUMMER ISSUE



2019 NEBULA AWARDS WINNERS

The Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America (SFWA) has announced winners of the 2020 Nebula Awards at the 56th Annual Nebula Banquet held June 5 during the Virtual SFWA Nebula Conference.

Nalo Hopkinson became the 37th Damon Knight Grand Master, for her contributions to the literature of science fiction and fantasy. The Kevin O'Donnell, Jr. Service to SFWA Award was presented to Connie Willis. The Kate Wilhelm Solstice Award was presented to Ben Bova, Rachel Caine, and Jarvis Sheffield.

NOVEL: *Network Effect* by Martha Wells, NOVELLA: *Ring Shout* by P. Djèlí Clark, NOVELETTE: "Two Truths and a Lie" by Sarah Pinsker, SHORT STORY: "Open House on Haunted Hill" by John Wiswell, GAME WRITING: *Hades* by Greg Kasavin, RAY BRADBURY AWARD: *The Good Place*: "Whenever You're Ready," and ANDRE NORTON AWARD: *A Wizard's Guide to Defensive Baking* by T. Kingfisher (Ursula Vernon).

BUBONICON IS VIRTUAL FOR 2021

On May 9, the Board of Bubonicon Inc voted unanimously to cancel an in-person Bubonicon for August 2021 due to the then-uncertainty of New Mexico's COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, and concerns about whether a physical Bubonicon 52: Take Two could draw enough attendees to make it financially feasible. One other factor was that the ABQ Marriott Uptown had stated there would be no cancellation fee if Bubonicon declared a decision before Memorial Day.

Instead, Bubonicon 52: Take Two will be virtual online Friday-Saturday, August 20-21 this year with special guests Keith R.A. DeCandido, A. Lee Martinez and Chaz Kemp. And Bubonicon 53 will be held next year – August 26-28, 2022, at the Marriott, and is in the process of confirming the usual four Special Guests.

On May 12, Bubonicon Inc posted on the convention's website: "It is with a heavy heart again that we

officially announce that this year's convention will be Virtual on Facebook and YouTube due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic concerns, and questions about whether a physical con would make financial sense. So, we'd rather err on the side of caution this year...

"For Bubonicon Inc, canceling the in-person 2021 convention was not an easy decision, and it was put off as long as possible to acquire more information and forecasts for the pandemic in 2021 – We will be *accepting financial donations* to help cover monthly expenses (Zoom, storage unit, mailbox, etc) through PayPal (bubonicon@gmail.com) or by mailed-in checks... As a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization, your donations are potentially tax deductible (consult a tax accountant)..."

Everyone who had purchased a pass and/or dealers space for Bubonicon 2020 was directly contacted by email in early May with the options to request a refund, transfer their payment to Bubonicon 2022, or help cover 2021 expenses. All feedback and refund requests were due by the end of June 18.

Bubonicon 52: Take Two will be held August 20-21 with panels, readings, a science talk, an art demo, Green Slime Awards, a limited auction done via Facebook, and

UPCOMING ASFS MEETINGS

- **Friday, July 9:** We had a Science Talk on Black Holes from AFRL astronomer Tanya Tavenner...
- **August 13:** Our first in-person gathering since February 2020! A social gathering, spreading out into St. Andrew's courtyard. Bring a card or board game to play (90 mins max). Masks recommended.
- **September 10:** Hoping for a presentation, and maybe a DragonCon report (if Mandy is up to it).
- **October 8:** Benjamin Radford talks on "The Psychic and the Serial Killer." Plus the Election of 3 club officers for 2022. And Halloween's *ASFACTS* (deadline 6 pm Mon, October 4).
- **November 12:** Unknown! We're working on it.
- **December 10:** Dessert Cook-Off and Holiday Film Shorts. Plus the annual issue of *SithFacts*.

Craig Chrissinger, normal editor. Darth Vader, guest editor each December. Please Send All Correspondence to — PO Box 37257, Albuquerque, NM 87176-7257. Phone: (505) 266-8905. E-mail: cwrcraig@nmia.com. *ASFACTS* published February, April, July & October for the Albuquerque SF Society. *SITHFACTS* out each December. NEXT DEADLINE: Mon, October 4.
Club Officers: Craig Chrissinger & Jessica Coyle, co-Zec Secs (505) 266-8905. Harriet Engle, Moderator. Grant Kuck, Alternator. Coronavirus, stupid interloper. **B'con Con Chair:** Craig Chrissinger (505) 559-0931.

possibly a dramatic reading of *FROOMB*. Exact details and the schedule are being worked on. A total of 14-17 hours of programming will be presented online, free of charge!

Green Slime nominations are needed by the end of Saturday, July 31. Watched a bad TV show and/or movie via streaming since September 2020? Read a terrible book released since the virtual 2021 Bubonicon? Slime Mistress Jessica Coyle needs your award suggestions at green_slimes@bubonicon.com.

Weekend passes for Bubonicon 53 will go on sale mid-December 2021. The 2022 Bubonicon will be held on our normal weekend – a week before the Chicago Worldcon. For more information and updates, check out www.bubonicon.com.

JAN STIRLING PASSES AWAY

From Locusmag.com and Staff Reports

Writer and fan Jan Stirling of Santa Fe died May 8, after a brief and quite sudden illness. She was 71 years old. She was best known for her Terion & Feric stories done for Esther Friesner anthologies.

Janet Cathryn Moore was born April 6, 1950, in Milford, MA. Her debut story “Were-Wench” appeared in 1995’s *Chicks in Chainmail*, a collection of stories featuring feisty female heroines edited by Friesner. She went on to publish stories in two additional volumes of the series – *Chicks n’ Chained Males*, and *Turn the Other Chick*. Two other stories on her own appeared in *Young Warriors* and *Black Gate* #14. She wrote another half-dozen stories in collaboration with husband S.M. Stirling in such anthologies as *In Celebration of Lammas Night*, *Did You Say Chicks?!*, *Witch Way to the Mall*, and *Space, Inc.*

Jan and S.M. Stirling married in April 1988, after meeting each other at a World Fantasy convention in the mid-1980s.

Stirling was a fixture at many conventions where she was known for her kindness and compassion. She was a frequent Bubonicon Sunday Tea participant, and the Queen of Chocolate for the Albuquerque convention. She was widely beloved in the community.

ASFS RETURNS TO IN-PERSON TENTATIVELY ON AUGUST 13

Good news everyone! St. Andrew Presbyterian Church is starting to allow outside groups to rent space again, and tentatively has approved the return of the Albuquerque Science Fiction Society to the Activity Room on Friday, August 13. The August gathering is planned as a social gathering with attendees invited to bring games to play (in a 90-minute time period). We may bring some cold sodas and bottled waters for people to enjoy. With

this anticipated extra expense, any financial donations will be welcome.

To promote social distancing, we may spill out into the church’s enclosed courtyard. We also will wipe down tables and counters before and after the meeting. And we encourage and appreciate the wearing of facial masks by attendees as much as possible.

Dues will be collected. Those who pay annually will be contacted about what month they need to start paying again.

Be sure to check your August club email for confirmation and more details.

ROSLEE ORNDORFF PASSES AWAY

Registered Nurse and fan Roslee Orndorff of Albuquerque died the evening of July 8 at UNM Hospital – surrounded by friends – after an infection and two sudden strokes. She was just days short of turning 63 years old. Within New Mexico fandom, she was best known as the coordinator of the Bubonicon art show. Starting in 2001, she either was in charge of the convention art show or co-ran it.

She also produced a restaurant guide with a map for many years, based on where Bubonicon was being held. In the Albuquerque Science Fiction Society, she served as co-executive secretary for six years; and she also contributed book reviews to ASFACTS.

She had gone into the UNM Hospital system on June 30 and appeared to be responding well to antibiotics for an infection. But overnight July 3 to Independence Day, she suffered a stroke. A blood clot was removed that day from the base of her skull, and she was able to follow directions from her doctor to wiggle her toes and such. At the time, it appeared that the initial stroke had affected her speech center but that she would recover. Unfortunately, a second stroke followed a day or two later. She was placed on a ventilator to assist with breathing, and never gained consciousness.

Roslee Orndorff was born July 11, 1958, in Rocky Ford, CO, and attended Northglenn High School. After studying at Otero Junior College, she became a Registered Nurse. In Albuquerque, she worked at Presbyterian Hospital, UNM Hospital, Lovelace Women’s Hospital and most recently at Casa Angelica.

Orndorff was a patron of the arts, often buying pieces at Bubonicon and also providing candy to art show volunteers and staff; enjoyed the music



ASFACTS, July 2021

of Stevie Ray Vaughan and Billy Idol (among others); was a fan of actor Hugh Jackman; enjoyed many different cuisines of the world; delighted in reading; and was happy to spend time with friends.

Per her wishes, Orndorff is being cremated. Memorial plans have not been finalized.

2021 LOCUS AWARDS WINNERS

The Locus Science Fiction Foundation announced the winners in each category of the 2021 Locus Awards on June 26 during the virtual Locus Awards Weekend. Connie Willis MCed the awards ceremony. Additional weekend events included readings and panels with leading authors.

Among the winners were Bubonicon 43's Artist Guest John Picacio and Bubonicon 51 co-GoH Ursula Vernon. A list of winners follows:

SCIENCE FICTION NOVEL: *Network Effect* by Martha Wells, FANTASY NOVEL: *The City We Became* by N.K. Jemisin, HORROR NOVEL: *Mexican Gothic* by Silvia Moreno-Garcia, YOUNG ADULT NOVEL: *A Wizard's Guide to Defensive Baking* by T. Kingfisher (Ursula Vernon), FIRST NOVEL: *Elatsoe* by Darcie Little Badger.

NOVELLA: *Ring Shout* by P. Djèlí Clark, NOVELLETTE: "The Pill" by Meg Elison, SHORT STORY: "Little Free Library" by Naomi Kritzer, ANTHOLOGY: *The Book of Dragons* edited by Jonathan Strahan, COLLECTION: *The Hidden Girl and Other Stories* by Ken Liu.

MAGAZINE: Tor.com, PUBLISHER: Tor, EDITOR: Ellen Datlow, ARTIST: John Picacio, NON-FICTION: *The Magic of Terry Pratchett* by Marc Burrows, ILLUSTRATED AND ART BOOK: *The Art of NASA: The Illustrations that Sold the Missions* by Piers Bizony, and SPECIAL AWARD 2021: AMPLIFYING DIVERSE VOICES: Bill Campbell & Rosarium Publishing.

KOWAL TO CHAIR WORLDCON

The Baltimore-Washington Area Worldcon Association (BWAWA) announced July 1 that Mary Robinette Kowal is the new chairperson of DisCon III, the 79th World Science Fiction Convention, following Bill Lawhorn's resignation in June, according to Locusmag.com.

"Because Kowal is a finalist in two categories, DisCon III intends to keep a full firewall between the chair (and any other Hugo finalists working on the convention) and the voting and administration of the 2021 Hugo Awards. One of her conditions for considering the role was that the longstanding practice of an Independent Hugo subcommittee remain in place to isolate the Chair and other staff from Hugo Awards decisions. This separation will be further reinforced by the appointment of a vice-chair with independent authority to manage any needs of the division. Any questions about the Hugo Awards should be addressed to hugoadmin@discon3.org."

Lawhorn resigned on June 25 following the resignation of the whole Hugo Administration team on June 22.

DisCon III will be held December 15-19, 2021 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC. For more information, see the convention's website.

GENRE BOOKS STILL DISCUSSED

The Droids & Dragons SF Book Group is discussing *Aurora* by Kim Stanley Robinson is a Zoom session 7:30 pm Monday, July 19.

The group then meets in-person 7:30 pm Monday, August 16, outside on the front patio of Flying Star Café on Juan Tabo Blvd NE, just north of Montgomery. At the August gathering, attendees will recommend 2-4 books read in the last year but not discussed in group.

The group plans to meet outside again at Flying Star on September 20, and after that may return to their normal indoor haunt – Jason's Deli at Louisiana & America's Parkway NE (across the street from Bubonicon's Marriott Hotel).

Meetings of D&D are open to all interested readers on the third Monday of each month. Books for discussion are chosen two months in advance, and group members receive a 20% discount on selected novels at Page One Bookstore in the Mountain Run Shopping Center. For more info, contact Leah at msransom@hotmail.com or Craig at 266-8905.

2021 SCRIBE AWARD WINNERS

The International Association of Media Tie-in Writers (IAMTW) announced the winners for the 2021 Scribe Awards on July 2. These awards honor excellence in licensed tie-in writing. Winners of genre interest follow:

GRANDMASTER: Max Allan Collins (Faust Award winner), AUDIO DRAMA (TIE): *Out of Time* by Matt Fitton and *Tropical Beach Sounds and Other Relaxing Seascapes #4* by Tim Foley, GENERAL ORIGINAL NOVEL AND ADAPTED NOVEL: *Day Zero (Watch Dogs Legion)* by James Swallow & Josh Reynolds, GRAPHIC NOVEL: *Blade Runner* by Michael Green and Mike Johnson, ORIGINAL NOVEL - SPECULATIVE: *Star Trek Discovery: Die Standing* by John Jackson Miller, SHORT STORY (TIE): "Stone by Stone" by Christie Golden and "Useful Parasites" by M. K. Hutchins, and YOUNG ADULT/MIDDLE GRADE: *The Rise of Skywalker* by Michael Kogge.

Current IAMTW president Jonathan Maberry also presented the first IAMTW Service Award to Executive Vice President D. J. Stevenson.



NEW ANTHOLOGY CONTAINS SEVERAL NM AUTHORS

by Jane Lindskold

Worlds of Light & Darkness: The Best of Dream-Forge and Space & Time was released by Uproar Books in late May 2021. The anthology is edited by Angela Yuriko Smith & Scot Noel. This “hopepunk” anthology is of special interest to New Mexico fans as it features gorgeous cover art by our own Elizabeth Leggett.

Featured stories include ones by John Jos. Miller, Sarena Ulibarri, Lauren C. Tefteau, Jane Lindskold, and L. Deni Colter, all of whom have appeared at one or more Bubonicons. Jane Lindskold provides the introduction, “The Challenge of Inspiring,” which begins with a Bubonicon panel and goes on to persuasively argue that writing hopepunk is far more difficult than just about any other type of fiction.

Worlds of Light & Darkness already has been praised for containing some “real gems” by *Publishers Weekly* and as “Genius” by *Booklist*. This widely varied anthology includes something for every SF/F reader, including Fantasy, Science Fiction, and Horror.

2020 STOKER AWARDS WINNERS

On May 24, the Horror Writers Association (HWA) announced the winners for the 2020 Bram Stoker Awards, reports *Locusmag.com*:

NOVEL: *The Only Good Indians* by Stephen Graham Jones, FIRST NOVEL: *The Fourth Whore* by EV Knight, YOUNG ADULT NOVEL: *Clown in a Cornfield* by Adam Cesare, LONG FICTION: *Night of the Mannequins* by Stephen Graham Jones, SHORT FICTION: “One Last Transformation” by Josh Malerman.

FICTION COLLECTION: *Grotesque: Monster Stories* by Lee Murray, ANTHOLOGY: *Black Cranes: Tales of Unquiet Women* edited by Geneve Flynn & Lee Murray, NON-FICTION: *Writing in the Dark* by Tim Waggoner, SHORT NON-FICTION: “Speaking of Horror” by Tim Waggoner.

POETRY COLLECTION: *A Collection of Dreamscapes* by Christina Sng, GRAPHIC NOVEL: *Mary Shelley Presents* by Nancy Holder, Chiara Di Francia & Amelia Woo, and SCREENPLAY: *The Invisible Man*.

Several additional awards were presented by the Horror Writers Association (HWA), including the Lifetime Achievement Award to Carol J. Clover, Jewelle Gomez and Marge Simon; and the Silver



Hammer Award to Carina Bissett and Brian W. Matthews.

MARVIN KAYE DIES

Writer and editor Marvin Kaye died May 13, 2021 in hospice care in New York. He was 83 years old. Kaye was best known as a prolific editor and anthologist, and was also an accomplished fiction writer and playwright, reports *Locusmag.com*.

Marvin Nathan Kaye was born March 10, 1938, in Philadelphia, PA. He attended Penn State, graduating with a BA in 1960 and a master’s in English literature and theater in 1962. He worked as a journalist 1963-65 and began editing in 1965, becoming senior editor at Harcourt Brace Jovanovich from 1966 to 1970, when he went freelance. He occasionally taught, including at the New School for Social Research, NYU, and Mercy College. In 1975 he co-founded “reader’s theater” The Open Book in New York City, which staged his play *The Last Christmas of Ebenezer Scrooge*, among others.

Kaye edited many anthologies, mostly SF, fantasy, and horror, but also mystery/crime and volumes of plays. *The Fair Folk* (2005) won a World Fantasy Award. Other anthologies include *Brother Theodore’s Chamber of Horrors* (1975); *Fiends and Creatures* (1975); *A Classic Collection of Haunting Ghost Stories* (1993, with Saralee Kaye); *Devils and Demons* (1987, with Saralee Kaye); *Weird Tales: The Magazine that Never Dies* (1988, with Saralee Kaye); *13 Plays of Ghosts and the Supernatural* (1990); *Witches and Warlocks* (1989); *Haunted America: Star-Spangled Supernatural Stories* (1991); *Angels of Darkness* (1995); *The Best of Weird Tales: 1923 (The First Year)* (1997); *Don’t Open This Book!* (1997); *The Vampire Sextette* (2000); *The Ultimate Halloween* (2001); *The Dragon Quintet* (2003); *A Book of Wizards* (2008); and *The Ghost Quartet* (2008).

He also edited magazines, including *H.P. Lovecraft’s Magazine of Horror* (2004-2009), *Sherlock Holmes Mystery Magazine* (2008-13), and *Weird Tales* (2011-14).

As a fiction writer, Kaye was known for his Umbrella series, *The Incredible Umbrella* (1979) and *The Amorous Umbrella* (1981), playing with literary works and characters from Flatland to Sherlock Holmes. Some of his stories were collected in *The Possession of Immanuel Wolf and Other Improbable Tales* (1981). He co-wrote the postapocalyptic series *Masters of Solitude* with Parke Godwin: *The Masters of Solitude* (1978) and *Wintermind* (1984). They also collaborated on *A Cold Blue Light* (1983), first in the Aubrey House series, with Kaye alone writing sequel *Ghosts of Night and Morning* (1987). His most recent book is *The Quest for the Pastried Peach* (2020), with illustrations by Marc Bilgrey.

His wife and collaborator, Saralee Kaye (née Bransdorf), predeceased him in 2006. Their daughter Terry survives him.

2021 EDGAR AWARDS WINNERS

Authors and works of genre interest are among the winners of the Mystery Writers of America (MWA) 2021 Edgar Awards announced on April 29. The Edgar Awards “honor the best in mystery fiction, non-fiction and television,” reports Locusmag.com. Works of note are:

The Companion by Katie Alender won in the Best Young Adult category, and *Phantom Lady: Hollywood Producer Joan Harrison, the Forgotten Woman Behind Hitchcock* by Christina Lane won for Best Critical/Biographical.

As previously reported, Jeffery Deaver and Charlaine Harris were named MWA Grand Masters.

MARGARET WANDER BONANNO DIES

SF writer Margaret Wander Bonanno died unexpectedly of natural causes on April 8, reported Locusmag.com. She was 71 years old and lived near Los Angeles. Bonanno wrote original SF as well as a number of *Star Trek* tie-ins, along with work in other genres.

Bonanno was born February 7, 1950, in New York City. Her original SF includes The Others series of *The Others* (1990), *Otherwhere* (1991), and *Otherwise* (1993) and the Preternatural series of *Preternatural* (1996), *Preternatural Too: Gyre* (2000), and *Preternatural³* (2002). Her most recent book is alternate historical fantasy *Ailuranth* (2018). She wrote seven *Star Trek* novels, beginning with *Star Trek: Dwellers in the Crucible* in 1985 and most recently 2010's *Star Trek: Unspoken Truth*. She also co-wrote novel *Saturn's Child* in 1995 with actress Nichelle Nichols. Under the house name Rick North she contributed to the YA series *Young Astronauts*. Outside the genre, she wrote four literary novels and a biography of actor Angela Lansbury, among other works.

2020 BRADBURY PRIZE WINNER

The Only Good Indians by Stephen Graham Jones won the 2020 Ray Bradbury Prize for Science Fiction, Fantasy & Speculative Fiction, announced as part of the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prizes in a virtual ceremony on April 16.

Other finalists were: *Piranesi* by Susanna Clarke, *Lakewood* by Megan Giddings, *The City We Became* by N.K. Jemisin, and *Where the Wild Ladies Are* by Aoko Matsuda, translated by Polly Barton.

The prize is sponsored by the Ray Bradbury Literary Works and “honors and extends Bradbury's literary legacy by celebrating and elevating the writers working in his field today.” The jurors were Tananarive Due, Kelly Link, and Tim Pratt.

For more information, see the *LA Times* website.

2021 HUGO AWARDS FINALISTS

Finalists for the Hugo Awards, the Astounding Award for Best New Writer, and the Lodestar Award for Best Young Adult Book were announced on April 13 by DisCon III, the 79th World Science Fiction Convention. There were 1,249 valid nominating ballots received (1,246 electronic and 3 paper).

Voting on the final ballot will close November 19. The winners will be announced at a ceremony at DisCon III, which will be held December 15-19 in Washington, DC.

Among the nominees are several people with connections to New Mexico and/or Bubonicon: James S.A. Corey, T. Kingfisher (Ursula Vernon), Mary Robinette Kowal, John Picacio, Rebecca Roanhorse and John Scalzi.

BEST NOVEL: *Piranesi* by Susanna Clarke, *The City We Became* by N.K. Jemisin, *The Relentless Moon* by Mary Robinette Kowal, *Harrow the Ninth* by Tamsyn Muir, *Black Sun* by Rebecca Roanhorse, and *Network Effect* by Martha Wells.

BEST NOVELLA: *Finna* by Nino Cipri, *Ring Shout* by P. Djèlí Clark, *Upright Women Wanted* by Sarah Gailey, *Come Tumbling Down* by Seanan McGuire, *Riot Baby* by Tochi Onyebuchi, and *The Empress of Salt and Fortune* by Nghi Vo.

BEST NOVELETTE: “The Inaccessibility of Heaven” by Aliette de Bodard, “The Pill” by Meg Elison, “Helicopter Story” by Isabel Fall, “Burn or The Episodic Life of Sam Wells as a Super” by A.T. Greenblatt, “Monster” by Naomi Kritzer, and “Two Truths and a Lie” by Sarah Pinsker.

BEST SHORT STORY: “Badass Moms in the Zombie Apocalypse” by Rae Carson, “Metal Like Blood in the Dark” by T. Kingfisher, “Little Free Library” by Naomi Kritzer, “The Mermaid Astronaut” by Yoon Ha Lee, “A Guide for Working Breeds” by Vina Jie-Min Prasad, and “Open House on Haunted Hill” by John Wiswell.

BEST SERIES: *The Daevabad Trilogy* by S.A. Chakraborty, *The Lady Astronaut Universe* by Mary Robinette Kowal, *The Poppy War* by R.F. Kuang, *October Daye* by Seanan McGuire, *The Interdependency* by John Scalzi, and *The Murderbot Diaries* by Martha Wells.

BEST RELATED WORK: *A Handful of Earth, A Handful of Sky: The World of Octavia E. Butler* by Lynell George, *Beowulf* by Maria Dahvana Headley, *FI-YAHCON* by L.D. Lewis, Brent Lambert, Iori Kusano & Vida Cruz, “George R.R. Martin Can Fuck Off Into the Sun, or: The 2020 Hugo Awards Ceremony (Rageblog Edition)” by Natalie Luhrs, *The Last Bronycon: a fandom autopsy* by Jenny Nicholson, and *CoNZeland Fringe* by Claire Rousseau, C. Cassie Hart, Adri Joy, Marguerite Kenner, Cheryl Morgan & Alasdair Stuart.

BEST GRAPHIC STORY OR COMIC: *Parable of the*

Sower: A Graphic Novel Adaptation by Octavia E. Butler, adapted by Damian Duffy, *DIE, Volume 2: Split the Party* by Kieron Gillen, *Once & Future, Volume 1: The King Is Undead* by Kieron Gillen, *Monstress, Volume 5: Warchild* by Marjorie Liu, *Ghost-Spider, Volume 1: Dog Days Are Over* by Seanan McGuire, and *Invisible Kingdom, Volume 2: Edge of Everything* by G. Willow Wilson.

BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION- LONG FORM: *Birds of Prey (And the Fantabulous Emancipation of One Harley Quinn)*, *Eurovision Song Contest: The Story of Fire Saga*, *The Old Guard*, *Palm Springs*, *Soul*, and *Tenet*.

BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION- SHORT FORM: *Doctor Who: "Fugitive of the Judoon," The Expanse: "Gaugamela," The Good Place: "Whenever You're Ready," The Mandalorian: "The Jedi," The Mandalorian: "The Rescue,"* and *She-Ra and the Princesses of Power: "Heart"* (parts 1 and 2).

BEST EDITOR- SHORT FORM: Neil Clarke, Ellen Datlow, C.C. Finlay, Mur Lafferty & S.B. Divya, Jonathan Strahan, and Sheila Williams.

BEST EDITOR- LONG FORM: Nivia Evans, Sheila E. Gilbert, Sarah Guan, Brit Hvide, Diana M. Pho, and Navah Wolfe.

BEST PROFESSIONAL ARTIST: Tommy Arnold, Rovina Cai, Galen Dara, Maurizio Manzieri, John Picacio, and Alyssa Winans.

BEST SEMIPROZINE: *Beneath Ceaseless Skies*, *Escape Pod*, *FIYAH*, *PodCastle*, *Strange Horizons*, and *Uncanny*.

BEST FANZINE: *The Full Lid*, *Journey Planet*, *Lady Business*, *nerds of a feather flock together*, *Quick Sip Reviews*, and *Unofficial Hugo Book Club Blog*.

BEST FANCAST: *Be The Serpent*, *The Coode Street Podcast*, *Kalanadi*, *Claire Rousseau's YouTube channel*, *The Skiffy and Fanty Show*, and *Worldbuilding for Masochists*.

BEST FAN WRITER: Cora Buhlert, Charles Payseur, Jason Sanford, Elsa Sjunneson, Alasdair Stuart, and Paul Weimer.

BEST FAN ARTIST: Iain J. Clark, Cyan Daly, Sara Felix, Grace P. Fong, Maya Hahto, and Laya Rose.

BEST VIDEO GAME: *Animal Crossing: New Horizons*, *Blaseball*, *Final Fantasy VII Remake*, *Hades*, *The Last of Us: Part II*, and *Spiritfarer*.

LODESTAR AWARD FOR BEST YOUNG ADULT BOOK (NOT A HUGO): *Legendborn* by Tracy Deonn, *Elatsoe* by Darcie Little Badger, *Raybearer* by Jordan Ifueko, *A Wizard's Guide to Defensive Baking* by T. Kingfisher, *A Deadly Education* by Naomi Novik, and *Cemetery Boys* by Aiden Thomas.

ASTOUNDING AWARD FOR BEST NEW WRITER (NOT A HUGO): Lindsay Ellis, Simon Jimenez, Micaiah Johnson, A.K. Larkwood, Jenn Lyons, and Emily Tesh.

For a complete ballot listing, see the Hugo Awards website.



NM's JOHN PELAN DIES

Author, editor, and publisher John C. Pelan died April 12 in Albuquerque of an apparent heart attack. He was 63 years old and lived in Gallup. Pelan was a significant figure in the dark fantasy and horror field, best known for founding numerous small presses and editing anthologies.

Pelan was born July 19, 1957, in Seattle, WA. In 1986, he founded Axolotl Press, publishing work by James P. Blaylock, Charles de Lint, Tim Powers, Kristine Kathryn Rusch, Michael Shea, and more. In the '90s he began Darkside Press, bringing classics of genre fiction back to print, and Silver Salamander, an imprint devoted to modern horror that produced work by Brian Hodge, Thomas Ligotti, Elisabeth Massie, and more. He co-founded Midnight House in the '90s as well. While those publishers stopped operating in the early 2000s, in more recent years he ran the Dancing Tuatara imprint at Ramble House.

Pelan was a well-known anthologist, beginning with *Axolotl Special 1* in 1989 and continuing with International Horror Guild Award winner *Darkside: Horror for the Next Millennium* (1996), *The Last Continent: New Tales of Zothique* (1999), *The Children of Cthulhu: Chilling New Tales Inspired by H.P. Lovecraft* (2002, with Benjamin Adams), Stoker Award Winner *The Darker Side: Generations of Horror* (2002), *Shadows Over Baker Street* (2003, with Michael Reaves), *A Walk on the Darkside: Visions of Horror* (2004), *Lost on the Darkside: Voices from the Edge of Horror* (2005), *Alone on the Darkside: Echoes from the Shadows of Horror* (2006), *The Century's Best Horror Fiction 1901-1950* (2012), *The Century's Best Horror Fiction 1951-2000* (2012), and *Tales of Terror and Torment: Stories from the Pulp*, Volume 1 (2013). He also edited the Fall 2019 issue of *Weird Fiction Review* for Centipede Press.

As an author, Pelan published more than 30 stories, including some in collaboration with Edward Lee. Some of his short fiction was collected in 2016's *Darkness, My Old Friend*. His longer works include *The Colour out of Darkness* (1998) and two collaborations with Lee: *Shifters* in 1998 and *Family Tradition* in 2002. He was also a prolific essayist and reviewer. He is survived by his wife, Kathy Pelan.

CANADA JOINS 2023 WORLDCON BIDS

The Winnipeg in 2023 committee announced June 15 its intention to bid for the 81st World Science Fiction Convention, reports Locusmag.com. If selected, this would be the first Worldcon in Winnipeg since 1994.

They want to hold the convention August 24-28, 2023 at the RBC Convention Centre in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. The committee is headed by experienced conrunner Terry Fong and includes John Mansfield, who

chaired the 1994 convention, as a senior advisor. For more details: winnipegIn2023.ca, or email Minfo@WinnipegIn2023.ca.

According to a statement issued by DisCon III, the 2021 Worldcon (which is administering the 2023 Worldcon Site Selection election), the deadline for filing a bid to host the 2023 Worldcon was February 26, 2021; however, they subsequently admitted the bid from Winnipeg that was filed before June 18, 2021 (180 days before the first day of DisCon III). The filing deadline to be eligible to win the election (not necessarily to be on the ballot) is the close of site selection voting at DisCon III.

Winnipeg joins bids for 2023 from Memphis, TN (August 23-27) with mascot Xelvis, and Chengdu, China (no exact dates given – “August or September 2023”).

LINVILLE, *STAR TREK* ROMULAN, DIES

Joanne Linville, a character actress who had memorable guest-starring turns on episodes of *Star Trek* and *The Twilight Zone* in the 1960s, died June 20 in Los Angeles, CAA announced. She was 93 years old, reports the Hollywood Reporter.

Linville appeared on dozens of TV shows during her career, from *Studio One*, *Alfred Hitchcock Presents*, *The United States Steel Hour* and *Have Gun - Will Travel* to *Dr. Kildare*, *Route 66*, *Naked City*, *I Spy*, *Hawaii Five-O*, *Gunsmoke*, *Columbo* and *L.A. Law*.

On the big screen, she worked in such films as *The Goddess* (1958) with Kim Stanley, *Scorpio* (1973) with Burt Lancaster and *A Star Is Born* (1976) with Barbra Streisand and Kris Kristofferson.

Linville also played gossip columnist Hedda Hopper for her ex-husband, director Mark Rydell, in the 2001 TNT telefilm *James Dean*, starring James Franco.

On the original *Star Trek* third-season episode “The Enterprise Incident,” which premiered in September 1968, Linville portrayed an iron-willed Romulan commander who tangles with William Shatner’s Kirk and is romanced by Leonard Nimoy’s Spock.

Television and film producer Mark A. Altman (*Pandora*, *The Librarians*), who worked on the 2016 documentary *50 Years of Star Trek*, saluted her portrayal on social media, calling it “perhaps the best thing about #StarTrek’s third season.”

Earlier, she sparkled as a widowed Southern belle opposite James Gregory on the Civil War-set *Twilight Zone* installment “The Passersby,” which debuted in October 1961.

In 1959, Linville appeared on the long-running CBS daytime drama *The Guiding Light* as Amy Sinclair, a runaway drug ad-

dict whose daughter was nearly taken from her as part of an illegal adoption scam ring. Linville starred in two television presentations of *One Step Beyond* – as Aunt Mina in the episode “The Dead Part of the House” (1959), and as Karen Wadsworth in the episode “A Moment of Hate” (1960).

In the late ’80s, Linville and her teacher Stella Adler started an acting conservatory under Adler’s name. She then wrote *Seven Steps to an Acting Craft*, published in 2011.

She was born Beverly Joanne Linville on January 15, 1928, in Bakersfield, CA, and raised in Venice, CA.

Survivors include her ex-husband, Oscar-nominated director Rydell (*On Golden Pond*) – they were married from 1962 until their 1973 divorce – and their children, Christopher and Amy, both actors; grandchildren Austen, Ruby and Ginger; and great-grandson Kingston.

FEDERAL WRITERS’ PROJECT

Congressional Democrats Ted Lieu (California) and TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ (New Mexico) introduced a new bill, “The 21st Century Federal Writers’ Project,” on June 6 which proposes \$60 million in funding to non-profit organizations, libraries, news organizations, and writing-related unions to support writers who lost income during the pandemic. The proposed legislation is inspired by the Federal Writers’ Project from 1935, which employed thousands of writers during the Great Depression. One goal of the legislation is to “create a nationally administered and searchable repository that archives the stories of America’s history,” and it would also “document the pandemic’s impact on American life, honor the lives lost to COVID-19, employ struggling writers and academics and create a national archive of work from our time, just as the original FWP left us with a rich collection of guide-books and oral histories, including the first-person Slave Narratives.”

David Kipen, former director of literature at the NEA, first suggested the idea in an *LA Times* article in May 2020, and began to gather support from legislators and writing organizations. The Authors Guild helped craft the bill and says, “Like its predecessor launched during the Great Depression, the new Federal Writers Project will serve the twofold objectives of supporting talented unemployed and underemployed writers, while also creating an important written record of the many ways that the COVID-19 pandemic has and will continue to impact our country.”

Other supporters include Jonathan Letham, who said, “The first Federal Writer’s Project helped illuminate our diverse and harmonic national identity in the form of the state Guides, while inscribing an essential record of remembrance in the form of the Slave Narrative collection. Out of that era of hardship came lasting contributions to our literature. There could be no more splendid and ap-



appropriate time to reenact such an enlightened gesture of American self-reflection and kinship.” For more, see Lieu’s website.

ACTOR JOHN PARAGON DIES

Actor John Paragon, who brought Jambi the Genie to life on *Pee-Wee’s Playhouse*, has died at age 66, the *Los Angeles Times* reported on June 18.

The *Times* confirmed with the Riverside County Coroner that Paragon died April 3 in Palm Springs from heart disease and chronic alcohol abuse. News of the actor’s death was not made public until June.

Also a writer, director and close collaborator with Paul “Pee-Wee Herman” Reubens and Cassandra “Elvira, Mistress of the Dark” Peterson, Paragon greatly shaped the roles of those two comedy cult favorites.

The Alaska native was part of the comedy improv troupe at the Groundlings Theater in Los Angeles. His background at the theater helped connect him with two future friends and collaborators, Reubens and Peterson, who sought Paragon’s help in developing their characters’ earliest roles.

“Lost someone that meant the world to me and was such a huge part of ‘Elvira’ and my life that it’s impossible to express how sad I feel,” Peterson tweeted June 18. “John Paragon, my writing partner of 27 years...my friend, my brother, my soul-mate. I will miss you and love you forever, Johnny #RIPJohnParagon”

Paragon helped write some of Pee-Wee Herman’s first stage performances, back when the character was developed for a midnight show at the Groundlings. The genie Jambi’s catchy incantation — “Mekka lekka hi, mekka hiney ho!” — riffed off of one of Paragon’s earlier sketch characters, a waiter at a hokey luau-themed restaurant.

“I was trying to speak, like ... tourist-guide Hawaiian,” Paragon recalled in a 2017 interview.

When CBS picked up the show, and “Pee-Wee” shed the winking innuendos of its original incarnation to become the kid-friendly hit *Pee-Wee’s Playhouse*, the kitschy show proved to be a laborious effort that required the ingenuity of all those involved.

Paragon played along in the deceptively DIY production, doing things like donning black gloves to covertly push open the spring-loaded doors of Jambi’s genie box. As director, he worked closely with Reubens to find the right camera angles needed to pull off a particular illusion or sketch. Paragon also wrote many of the show’s episodes and voiced Pterri, the talking pterodactyl.

Pee-Wee’s Playhouse Christmas Special, a 1988 production Paragon co-wrote, was nominated for an Emmy for writing in a children’s special.

Paragon also had a long creative partnership with Peterson, playing an integral role in the creation of her signature character, Elvira. He landed a role on Peter-

son’s first television series, *Movie Macabre*, as an irksome caller named “The Breather.” He later co-wrote her 1988 feature film, *Elvira: Mistress of the Dark*, along with many other projects where she reprised the horror hostess.

Paragon’s other on-screen appearances included a role as *Seinfeld*’s Cedric, one-half of a couple who often gives Kramer (Michael Richards) grief. Yul Vazquez, Paragon’s other half on the show, told AV Club that he was a “huge John Paragon fan” before landing the part.

He was also in the movie *UHF*, where he played Richard Fletcher; 1986’s *The Frog Prince*, where he voiced the title character; and *Eating Raoul*, where he was a sex shop attendant; as well as smaller roles in *Airplane II: The Sequel*, *Honey, I Blew Up the Kid*, and *Cheech & Chong’s Next Movie*.

On TV, he appeared in *Cheers*, *Sledge Hammer*, *Saturday Night Live*, *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*, and *Mega Babies*. He directed 20 episodes of *Pee-Wee’s Playhouse*, 10 episodes of *Silk Stalkings*, and the TV film *Ring of the Musketeers*.

The *Elvira* and *Pee-Wee* TV writer also co-wrote four books with Peterson, including *Bad Dog*, *Andy*, *Elvira: The Boy Who Cried Werewolf*, and *Elvira: Transylvania 90210*.

Paragon recently worked with Walt Disney Imagineering for the company’s theme parks, where he helped develop improv routines for park performances. In this capacity, he performed as the keeper of Lucky the Dinosaur during test runs of the animatronic figure.

ACTRESS BILLIE HAYES DIES

Billie Hayes, who portrayed the flamboyantly and comically wicked witch Witchiepoo on the 1969-70 Saturday morning live-action children’s classic *H.R. Pufnstuf*, died of natural causes April 29 at Cedar’s Hospital in Los Angeles. She was 96 years old.

Her death was announced by her family.

A Broadway veteran by the time she reached national fame as the flute-stealing nemesis to a psychedelic dragon, Hayes had starred as Mammy Yokum in both the Broadway and film versions of the popular late-1950s musical *Lil’ Abner*. She’d made her Broadway debut in *New Faces of 1956* along with an ensemble that included actress Maggie Smith.

Following a couple of guest appearances on episodic TV in 1967 – including a Mammy Yokum-type matriarch in the “Hillbilly Honeymoon” episode of *The Monkees* – Hayes endeared herself to a generation of glued-to-the-tube Saturday morning viewers in 1969 as the eccentrically costumed, ever-cackling and always bumbling Witchiepoo (full name: Wilhelmina W. Witchiepoo).

With a performance panache that was over-the-top even by the wacky standards of the Sid and Marty Krofft universe of costumed creatures, Hayes was an immediate

scene-stealer. Series-stealer, actually: Though Witchiepoo was the *H.R. Pufnstuf* villain, intent on stealing the magical, talking Freddy the Flute as if he were a pair of ruby slippers, Hayes' wildly entertaining vaudeville, slapstick style had legions of young viewers rooting her on to a victory that never came. "Why me?" she'd whine or sob after the inevitable backfiring of her latest evil scheme.

Born in Du Quoin, IL, Hayes began her show business career at age 9, dancing professionally in local nightclubs. While still in high school, she joined the fourteen-piece regional orchestra of Vince Genovese, and performed solo in her teens in Chicago and throughout the Midwest.

After moving to New York, Hayes performed selections from her nightclub singing-and-dancing routine in an audition for famed theater impresario J.J. Shubert, who was so taken with her comic and musical talents he cast her in principal roles of three roadshow operettas: *Student Prince*, *The Merry Widow* and *Blossom Time*.

Soon enough she was co-starring with fellow newcomer Paul Lynde in the New York revue *What's New*, which led to her Broadway debut in Leonard Sillman's *New Faces* show. She then took over the role of *Lil' Abner*'s Mammy Yokum from the original cast's Charlotte Rae, finding herself alongside another up-and-comer in the replacement cast named Valerie Harper.

Hayes, with old-age make-up, a white wig and a long-stemmed pipe, would reprise the role in Paramount's 1959 film version and, in 1971, a TV-movie adaptation. She'd return to the stage in the late 1960s as the character Minnie Fay in the national touring company of *Hello, Dolly!* starring Betty Grable.

After her 1969 arrival in the destined-for-cult-classic Sid and Marty Krofft series, which also starred Jack Wild (*Oliver!*) as the on-the-run Dorothy Gale-stand-in Jimmy and, providing the voice of Pufnstuf the dragon, Lennie Weinrib (actor Roberto Gamonet was inside the puffy, full-body green-and-yellow costume), Hayes had found what would be her signature role. She returned as the character in the 1970 feature film adaptation *Pufnstuf*, along with Wild, Martha Raye and, in her sole feature role, "Mama" Cass Elliot (as Witch Hazel).

Hayes even reprised the role in 1976 on the ABC Halloween special of her old friend Paul Lynde, appearing with *The Wizard of Oz*'s Margaret Hamilton in a comedy sketch that revealed the sisterly bond between the two famous witches.

The cancellation of *H.R. Pufnstuf* in 1970 led to yet another Krofft casting, this time in the dual role of Witchiepoo and the kindlier Weenie the Genie in *Lidsville* (1971-72), with Charles Nelson Reilly taking the show's chief villain spot as magician Horatio J. Hoodoo.

Hayes had a long and busy subsequent TV career in voice roles – *The New Scooby-Doo Mysteries*, *The Flintstones Comedy Show*, *Trollkins*, *The Real Ghostbusters*,

Rugrats, *Transformers: Rescue Bots*, among many others – and she appeared in a recurring role on *General Hospital* in the early 1980s as a street-wise international spy named Agent Brighton O'Reilly.

Offscreen, Hayes founded the Los Angeles-based animal rescue nonprofit organization Pet Hope, a cause she had championed since adopting a puppy abandoned in the basement of Broadway's St. James Theatre during the run of *Lil' Abner*.

Hayes is survived by niece Nancy Powers, nephews Tom Brosch, Louie Brosch and Guy Brosch; their spouses; and several great-nieces and -nephews. The family requests donations in lieu of flowers to Pet Hope.

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT PRATT'S *TOMORROW WAR*

Amazon original film *The Tomorrow War* is now streaming on Prime Video, and Gizmodo.com recently talked to director Chris McKay. The time travel science fiction film stars Chris Pratt, Yvonne Strahovski, Betty Gilpin, J.K. Simmons, Sam Richardson and Edwin Hodges. The film is directed by Chris McKay, written by Zack Dean with executive producers Chris Pratt, Rob Cowan, Brian Oliver, and Bradley J. Fischer.

The Tomorrow War is about Dan Forester, a science teacher, Army Veteran and family man who is drafted to fight a war that takes place 30 years into the future to fight a deadly alien invasion that's wiped out most of the human population. It's a war story, but also a deeply human story with a lot of heart and some very cool action sequences.

Now Chris McKay is known for his monumental contribution of directing and producing animated content like *Moral Orel*, *The Lego Movie*, *The Batman Lego Movie*, and *Robot Chicken*. *The Tomorrow War* is McKay's first live-action feature.

When Gizmodo briefly spoke with McKay about the film, he wasn't concerned with what critics would think, but what viewers would get out of the viewing experience. He had this to say, "I hope they have a great time watching the movie - laughing, getting scared, getting thrilled - with family and friends. I hope they fall in love with Yvonne, Sam, JK, Ryan, Edwin, Jasmine, Keith, Mary-Lynn, Mike and the entire cast. And I hope they see another side of what Chris Pratt can do as an actor."

It's always commendable when an artist wants to branch out and try something. McKay seems comfortable with live action and knows how to create engaging visuals – which his animation experience helped with. But this doesn't mean McKay is done with animation as his next project is a sequel to *The Batman Lego Movie* set to release in 2022.



LOVECRAFT COUNTRY NOT RENEWED

HBO said in a statement to Deadline that the network isn't moving forward with the second season of *Lovecraft Country*, reported Gizmodo.com on July 3.

The strong viewership and dedicated fans didn't guarantee a renewal, but so many were certain a season two was coming. Even showrunner Misha Green (co-creator of WGN's *Underground*) was convinced she had it in the bag because she's expressed her vision for what a second season would look like. "I envision a second season that carries on the spirit of Matt Ruff's novel by continuing to reclaim the genre storytelling space that people of color have typically been left out of."

The first season follows Atticus Freeman (Johnathan Majors) as he, his childhood friend Letitia (Jurnee Smollett), and his uncle George (Courtney B. Vance) go on a road trip from Chicago to the sundown towns of the 1950's Jim Crow South to find his missing father Montrose (Michael K. Williams). Their rescue mission is marred by racist White America and creatures from other dimensions that are right out of an H.P. Lovecraft novel.

Ultimately, the streaming network decided not to move on with a second season.

"We will not be moving forward with a second season of *Lovecraft Country*," said the network. "We are grateful for the dedication and artistry of the gifted cast and crew and to Misha Green, who crafted this groundbreaking series. And to the fans, thank you for joining us on this journey." *Lovecraft Country* is a genre blend of horror, period, and science fiction, with a Lovecraftian edge. The series is adapted from Matt Ruff's book by the same name, which is used as a reference.

It's not exactly clear why *Lovecraft Country* is getting canceled or if another channel or service will pick this up, but this is the end of the line for now. Green took to Twitter to thank fans for engaging with the series. "A taste of the Season 2 Bible. Wish we could have brought you #LovecraftCountry: Supremacy. Thank you to everyone who watched and engaged. #noconfederate"

DIRECTOR RICHARD DONNER DIES

(CNN) - Richard Donner, an accomplished Hollywood producer and director known for his work on the *Lethal Weapon* franchise and *The Goonies*, died July 5, according to multiple reports, citing his wife and their production company. He was 91. No cause of death was shared.

Donner and his wife, producer Lauren Shuler Donner, together ran The Donners' Company, where they launched films including *Free Willy*, *X-Men* and *Deadpool*.

Donner's career in film and television spanned six decades. Among his notable directing projects were 1978's *Superman*, 1976's horror film *The Omen* with

Gregory Peck, 1985's *Ladyhawke* with Rutger Hauer and Michelle Pfeiffer, 1988's *Scrooged* starring Bill Murray and the 1985 film *The Goonies*, which was produced by Steven Spielberg.

Spielberg, through his company Amblin Entertainment, issued a statement posted to Twitter Monday.

"Dick had such a powerful command of his movies and was so gifted across so many genres," Spielberg said. "Being in his circle was akin to hanging out with your favorite coach, smartest professor, fiercest motivator, most endearing friend, staunchest ally, and — of course — the greatest *Goonie* of all. He was all kid. All heart. All the time. I can't believe he's gone, but his husky, hearty laugh will stay with me always."

Sean Astin, who starred in *The Goonies* as a child with Josh Brolin, shared his memories of Donner on social media.

"Richard Donner had the biggest, boomiest voice you could imagine," Astin wrote in a tweet. "He commanded attention and he laughed like no man ever laughed before. Dick was so much fun. What I perceived in him, as a 12 year old kid, is that he cared. I love how much he cared. Goonies Never Say Die."

Mel Gibson, who Donner directed in all four *Lethal Weapon* films, remembered Donner in a statement to Variety.

"Donner! My friend, my mentor," Gibson said. "Oh, the things I learned from him! He undercut his own talent and greatness with a huge chunk of humility referring to himself as 'merely a traffic cop.' He left his ego at the door and required that of others. He was magnanimous of heart and soul, which he liberally gave to all who knew him. If we piled up all the good deeds he did, it would stretch to some uncharted place in the firmament. I will sorely miss him, with all his mischievous wit and wisdom."

In his early career, he directed such TV shows as *Wanted Dead or Alive*, *The Rifleman*, *Have Gun-Will Travel*, *The Fugitive*, *Get Smart*, *The Man from UNCLE*, *Gilligan's Island*, *Kojak*, *Tales from the Crypt* and *The Twilight Zone* (such as the episodes *Nightmare at 20,000 Feet* starring William Shatner and *From Agnes-With Love* starring Wally Cox), as well as the serial *Danger Island* from the children's program *The Banana Splits*.

Richard Donald Schwartzberg was born in the Bronx to Jewish parents, Hattie and Fred Schwartzberg. His father owned a small furniture manufacturing business. He had a sister, Joan.

In 2000, he received the President's Award from the Academy of Science Fiction, Fantasy & Horror Films. Film historian Michael Barson writes that Donner was "one of Hollywood's most reliable makers of action blockbusters."

One of Donner's assistants in the late 1990s was comic book writer Geoff Johns. In October 2006, Donner, Johns and artist Adam Kubert became the new creative team on *Action Comics*, the publisher's most time-

ASFACTS, July 2021

honored publication and one of DC Comics' two main Superman titles. Together, Johns and Donner collaborated on the stories *Last Son* and *Escape from Bizarro World*, both of which have been released in collected book form. Donner and Johns also co-wrote a story for *Action Comics* #1000, released in April 2018.

On November 10, 2010, Donner's authorized biography *You're the Director... You Figure It Out: The Life and Films of Richard Donner* by James Christie was published by BearManor Media. The book features a foreword by actor Mel Gibson.

NEW OLD GUARD PLANNED

Netflix's adaptation of *The Old Guard*, one of its most-watched genre action movies, is getting a sequel, reported Syfy.com in late June. Charlize Theron, who starred in the first film, broke the news today to *Variety* that the script for the sequel is complete, and production will start in early 2022.

The Old Guard is based on the 2017 graphic novel by writer Greg Rucka and artist Leandro Fernandez. The story follows a group of almost-immortal warriors who get outted in contemporary times and have to face the aftermath. Rucka had adapted the first graphic novel into a script for Netflix and Gina Prince-Bythewood directed the film, which had over 78 million views in its first four weeks on the streamer.

After the unambiguous success of the first film, it's not surprising that Netflix is pursuing an *Old Guard* sequel. Granted, nothing was confirmed back in July of 2020, right after the movie dropped, when Rucka told Syfy Wire that "there will be discussions of a sequel, I'm sure," if the film did well.

Well, the film did incredibly well, and Rucka and Fernandez have two more *Old Guard* graphic novels in the wings ready for adaptation. It's possible the Netflix sequel will be based on the second novel, wherein, according to the Goodreads synopsis, Theron's character, Andy, must "confront the sins of the past" while near-immortal Nile (played by KiKi Lane in the Netflix film) tries to patch things up with her new warrior family.

That's all speculation, however, though Theron did share with *Variety* that the sequel will see at least two other characters besides hers come back: the immortal couple played by Marwan Kenzari and Luca Marinell.

With production starting in the first quarter of 2022, we'll see a new *Old Guard* movie sometime in the not-so-distant future.

GOOD OMENS TO CONTINUE

The end of the world was only just the beginning... Amazon announced June 29 that it has officially placed a second season order for hit fantasy dramedy *Good Omens*, reported Syfy.com.

The six-part sophomore outing will move beyond the 1990 source novel penned by Neil Gaiman and Terry Pratchett and pick up in modern day London, where angel Aziraphale (Michael Sheen) and demon Crowley (David Tennant) are living among mortals in Soho. Their comfortable existence is suddenly disrupted by the arrival of an unexpected messenger who presents the duo with a surprising mystery.

"It's thirty-one years since *Good Omens* was published, which means it's thirty-two years since Terry Pratchett and I lay in our respective beds in a Seattle hotel room at a World Fantasy Convention, and plotted the sequel," Gaiman said in a statement. "I got to use bits of the sequel in *Good Omens* — that's where our angels came from. Terry's not here any longer, but when he was, we had talked about what we wanted to do with *Good Omens*, and where the story went next. And now, thanks to BBC Studios and Amazon, I get to take it there. I have enlisted some wonderful collaborators, and John Finnemore has come on board to carry the torch with me. There are so many questions people have asked about what happened next (and also, what happened before) to our favorite Angel and Demon. Here are the answers you've been hoping for. We are back in Soho, and all through time and space, solving a mystery, which starts with an angel wandering through Soho, with no memory."

Gaiman, who has an overall deal with Amazon Studios, is returning to the dual roles of co-showrunner and executive producer alongside Douglas Mackinnon, who is also locked in as returning director. Rob Wilkins, John Finnemore, and Josh Cole are executive producers as well, with Finnemore and Gaiman sharing co-writing duties. Production is expected to kick off in Scotland later this year.

"Taking *Good Omens* to my home country of Scotland to film a second season is an exciting dream come true for me," Mackinnon said. "And with Michael Sheen and David Tennant returning as Aziraphale and Crowley, we really have an angel and a demon on our side."

"Terry and Neil always knew that Crowley and Aziraphale wouldn't remain content to appear in only one story, and long harbored plans to expand upon their adventures," added Wilkins. "David and Michael's stellar performances made this an absolute necessity. Terry would have been delighted with how they brought their characters to life, and just as delighted as I am that a second season is now underway."

And what do our heavenly and hellish protagonists think of the news?

"Personally I'm against it, but the world isn't going to just save itself, is it?" Sheen said. "If David and I can manage to not fall out too badly this time it may even have a chance of getting finished."

"The return of *Good Omens* is great news for me, personally," Tennant continued. "As I get to work with Michael again, and I get to say Neil's wonderful words

once more. It's probably less good for the universe as it almost certainly means there will be some fresh existential threat to its existence to deal with, but, you know – swings and roundabouts..."

The first season of *Good Omens* currently holds a fresh 84 percent on Rotten Tomatoes.

MARTIN HELPING PRODUCE HILLERMAN TV SHOW

by Molly Templeton, *Tor.com* 07-09-2021

George R.R. Martin is co-executive producing another TV show – and this time, it's not one based on his own books. Martin is part of the team behind *Dark Winds*, a series adaptation of Tony Hillerman's Leaphorn & Chee series. The show is set to star Kiowa Gordon (*Roswell, New Mexico*) and Zahn McClarnon (*Westworld*), with McClarnon also producing. AMC has already ordered a six-episode first season.

Dark Winds takes its title from the fifth book in the Leaphorn and Chee series, *The Dark Wind*, though according to a statement from Martin, the primary source material is *Listening Woman*, the third book in the series. The show, according to *Variety*, is "a psychological thriller that follows two Navajo police officers in the 1970s Southwest, as their search for clues in a grisly double murder case forces them to challenge their own spiritual beliefs and come to terms with the trauma of their pasts." *Variety* also quotes AMC president Dan McDermott, who says the series' writers' room is staffed entirely with Native American writers, and the show will be filmed partly on the Navajo Nation, with their support.

Showrunner Vine Calandra has a resume full of adaptations, including *Sharp Objects* and *Castle Rock*; one of the writers, Graham Roland, has worked on *Fringe*, *Lost*, and *Almost Human*. The executive producers also include Vince Gerardis (*Game of Thrones*) and Robert Redford.

Chris Eyre (*Smoke Signals*) will direct the pilot. Interestingly, it's not his first time working with these characters: Eyre also directed *Skinwalkers* and *A Thief of Time*, two TV movies based on Hillerman's Leaphorn and Chee novels. (The two films, along with Coyote Waits, directed by Jan Egelson, were collected and repackaged as *Skinwalkers: The Navajo Mysteries*.)

Dark Winds should premiere on AMC in 2022.

BOOK REVIEW ROUND-UP

***Drowned Country: The Greenhollow Duology Book 2* by Emily Tesh, 2020 (August) Tordotcom, tp \$14.99, 160 pages.**

Review by Jessica Coyle

Emily Tesh's *Drowned Country* is a sequel to her World Fantasy Award-winning novella *Silver in the Wood*. The story follows Henry Silver, the Wild Man of

Greenhollow, whose mother, folklorist Adela Silver, summons him from his solitary exile to help find a young woman who has gone missing under mysterious circumstances. Henry travels to the seaside town of Rothport, where his ancient wood once existed before it was drowned beneath the sea. There he must discover the extent of his magical powers and confront his relationship with Greenhollow's former Wild Man Tobias Finch.

Tesh, a nominee for this year's Astounding Award for Best New Writer, is one of the most exciting new writers working today. I loved both *Silver in the Wood* and *Drowned Country*; Tesh's handling of the wild man myth is interesting and has a new feel to it even while being rooted in tradition. The relationship between Henry Silver and Tobias Fincher is wonderfully complex, and the secondary characters, especially Adela and the missing Maud Lindhurst, are fleshed out and interesting. I highly recommend both novellas, and I cannot wait to see what Tesh does in the future.

***The Album of Dr. Moreau* by Daryl Gregory, 2021 Tordotcom, tp \$14.99, 176 pages.**

Review by Craig W. Chrissinger

Borrowing from H.G. Wells' theme of genetically engineered human/beast hybrids, Daryl Gregory turns them into the hottest boy band of 2001, WyldBoyZ, in *The Album of Dr. Moreau*. They're partying hard in Las Vegas when their producer, Dr. M, is found murdered in his lavish hotel room. The "boyz" seem to be the prime suspects.

Once Vegas Detective Luce Delgado is on the scene, it becomes clear that this novella is a locked-room murder mystery with an odd and unique cast of characters. There's Bobby the ocelot, considered to be the cute one, who has very sharp claws – found covered in Dr. M's blood. Matt the megabat is considered to be the funny one, Tim the pangolin is shy, Devin the bonobo is the romantic, and Tusk the elephant is the smartest member of the band.

Gregory keeps the action, sly humor and motivations moving quickly, while also displaying empathy for his man-beasts, Detective Delgado, and even Kat, primary roadie for WyldBoyZ. The feel of the story is light and engaging, yet below the surface are questions about what makes someone human. Are WyldBoyZ men or animals? Are they free individuals or can they be owned? It's thought-provoking but much like in his *Pandemonium*, Gregory balances seriousness with mystery intrigue and comic notes. It's a visit to a Wells world that is well worth taking.

***Juniper Wiles* by Charles de Lint, 2021 Triskell Press, tp \$14.99, 206 pages.**

Review by Jane Lindskold

For long-time fans of Charles de Lint's work, the greatest excitement will be that *Juniper Wiles* is his first novel in many years to be set in his most popular setting: the fictional town of Newford. The good news is that *Juniper Wiles* is also a great entry point into the world of

urban fantasy as written by an author who is credited with helping to originate the sub-genre.

Title character Juniper Wiles has returned to Newford after several seasons playing the lead character in the cult hit series *Nora Constantine*. (Think *Veronica Mars* crossed with just a touch of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*.) She reconnects with various people from her pre-TV star days, including Jilly Coppercorn and, through her, Jilly's extensive circle of friends.

Juniper is trying to decide in what direction she wants to take her life when a young man asks her for help. The problem is, he seems to think she's Nora Constantine, and so, quite reasonably, she puts him off. Then she finds out that he's dead. Worse. He was already dead when she spoke with him.

When Juniper confides in Jilly, Jilly takes it for granted that a ghost might ask for help. Her only question is what Juniper is going to do next. To say more would be to enter the spoiler zone, but both Jim and I enjoyed where the story took us and are looking forward to Juniper's next adventure.

***First, Become Ashes* by K.M. Szpara, 2021 Tordotcom, hc \$27.99, 302 pages. Review by Roberta Johnson**

First, Become Ashes is not an easy read. The obvious villain of the piece is a religious cult that abuses its members in various graphically depicted ways, from sadomasochism to rape. That being said, the writing is excellent, the action is fast and the heroes are believable and mostly sympathetic. The plot is thought-provoking with its themes of good versus evil, both in unusual guises, and the lengths to which people will go to find something to believe in and then to hold to those beliefs.

Recovery from any addiction sometimes cannot begin until the addict hits bottom and has nowhere left to go but up, and addiction to toxic thinking may be the same. Members of this cult will have to go through their own recovery.

Kane, Lark and Deryn were raised to believe in monsters and magic, having spent their childhoods isolated in a compound run by cult leader Nova. Kane and Lark are Anointed, friends and partners since childhood, pampered in some ways but horribly abused in others, destined to leave the compound when they come of age and fight the monsters that supposedly run amok in the outside world. Deryn is Lark's little sister, angry and resentful because she is not Anointed, and because her older brother, her only family, denies all kinship with her (because he is special and she's not). She's hard to like at first, but she is believable and very human.

Kane and Lark would be lovers, but Nova controls every aspect of their lives, including their bodies and their sexuality. The cult may have begun with good intentions, but Nova's become more corrupt as her power has grown (or more probably, she's just evil). The cult leaders now abuse the younger members physically and sexually, supposedly in the service of magic. Lark believes what he's

been told all his life, and doesn't question any of the abuse to which he is subjected. Kane is less credulous, and finds a way to escape, even though he must leave Lark behind for a while.

When the compound is raided and its members are rescued and/or arrested, Lark alone escapes. Hopelessly ignorant about the outside world and its real dangers, he's lucky enough to run across cosplayer Calvin and his friends, who are so desperate to believe in magic that they'll help him no matter what it takes. Meanwhile, Kane and Deryn are helping the government search for Lark, hoping to rescue him from his delusions. But Calvin and his friends see solid evidence that some of his magic is real. How much is real and how much delusion based on cult brainwashing and hope? Even Lark starts to wonder, and eventually he will experience his own crisis of belief. Even that won't stop him.

Lark must "hit bottom" and realize how much of his life and experiences are based on lies before he can recover and defeat his very own monster using the magic he still believes in. He seems to make that transition rather abruptly, and I couldn't quite follow his process. Nor did I ever understand the nature of the monster, whether mythic or real. It didn't seem to matter to the many fans Lark picked up along the way. I rooted for him right along with them.

***Forced Perspectives: Vickery and Castine Book 2* by Tim Powers, 2021 Baen Books, mmpb \$8.99, 544 pages (hardcover released March 2020).**

Review by Jane Lindskold

Vickery and Castine, from Power's earlier release, *Alternate Routes*, return in *Forced Perspectives*. A year or so has passed since the events in *Alternate Routes*. Although Sebastian Vickery and Ingrid Castine have tried to reclaim their lives, a phenomenon Vickery dubs "echo vision" provides lasting proof that driving off into unreality has altered them both, possibly forever.

Then the echo visions – which to that point had been generalized – start locking down to show one series of events. Who was murdered at the creepy house? Why are all those the odd people gathered there? What role does the biker gang play?

And why, suddenly, are people trying to kidnap both Vickery and Castine? Powers' protagonists hit the ground running and rarely pause, encountering on the way an Egyptian diplomat with secrets of his own, twin girls for whom seeing visions are the least of their problems, the remnants of an occult organization, and possibly the most pathetic obsessed lover in the history of fiction.

Less locked into "secret history" than many of Power's work, this novel still possesses that underlying sense that the reasons behind various historical events may be far stranger than you dare imagine. *Alternate Routes* is a fun read, quite likely to keep you up after bedtime while you make sure that Vickery and Castine can escape their latest crisis.

***A History of What Comes Next: Take Them to the Stars Book 1* by Sylvain Neuvel, 2021 Tordotcom, hc \$24.99, 304 pages.**

Review by Craig W. Chrissinger

Sylvain Neuvel's latest novel looks back at the story of rocket development 1930-1961, and postulates that multiple generations of a female alien have been shaping human history to eventually push them to the stars. The Kibsu pass on their knowledge to each successive generation through education and genetics. They know something eventually will make the Earth uninhabitable and humans must get off this third rock from the sun. Their influence seems subtle over the years, but they often have to make brutal, wrenching choices and sacrifice lives.

Sarah and Mia are the 99th generation, living by the rules of preserving the knowledge, surviving at all costs, not leaving a trace, and knowing there can never be three for long. Mia's mission is to lure Wernher von Braun away from the Nazi Party and sneak him out of Germany to the Americans (shades of Project Paperclip), thus securing the future of rocketry. And after World War II is over and done, Sarah and Mia are in the Soviet Union helping Russia to develop rockets that will push the USSR and the United States into a space race for the moon – and hopefully beyond.

Unfortunately, Mia's family is not the only group of aliens on Earth affecting the passage of history. They are hunted by the Radi Kibsi, ruthless enemy trackers who are overly violent and who want to stop the Kibsu.

A History of What Comes Next is a fast-paced first-contact thriller. Sarah and Mia are kick-ass heroines, the story is enthralling and the historical references are clever. From the beginning of this book, the action and the engaging Kibsu rocket forward to a satisfying ending in 1961. It will be quite interesting to see what Neuvel does with the next book as Mankind heads to the Moon. Recommended.

***The Grave Digger's Son: A Charley Davidson Novella* by Darynda Jones, 2021 Evil Eye Concepts, Inc., tp \$9.99, 115 pages.**

Review by Jessica Coyle

Darynda Jones' *The Grave Digger's Son*, set in the world of her bestselling Charley Davidson series, follows the characters of Amber Kowalski, the now-grown daughter of Charley's assistant Cookie, and Quentin Rutherford, demon hunter and Amber's ex-boyfriend. The two, who have not seen each other in years, cross paths when they are both investigating a series of strange murders in the small New Mexico town of Madrid. It turns out that a demon has been summoned to kill people, and Quentin and Amber must band together to figure out who summoned it and how to send it back to where it came from.

The Grave Digger's Son is the second novella Jones has written highlighting secondary characters from her popular Charley Davidson books. I always enjoyed Amber and Quentin, and the novella does a good job of expanding on their characters and their relationship after the end of the series. The mystery at the center of the story is

interesting and well put together. If you are a fan of the Charley Davidson series, you will enjoy this novella.

***The Relentless Moon: Lady Astronaut Book 3* by Mary Robinette Kowal, 2020 (July) Tor Books, tp \$17.99, 544 pages.**

Review by Craig W. Chrissinger

Mary Robinette Kowal returns to her Hugo and Nebula award-winning Lady Astronaut series, but this time she's following a different character and telling a different type of story. Both factors make *The Relentless Moon* a perfect place for new readers to jump on (if they can't find the two previous novels). Kowal subtly weaves enough background for the book to stand alone, and she nicely includes references to absent characters currently elsewhere.

In *The Calculating Stars*, a large Meteor struck the Earth off the East Coast of the United States. The resulting climate disaster has been becoming clearer and clearer, and yet the political situation is reaching a boiling point.

The Earth is coming to the boiling point as the climate disaster of the Meteor strike becomes more and more clear, but the political situation is already overheated. The International Aerospace Coalition's goal of getting as many people as possible off Earth before it becomes uninhabitable is being threatened. Food shortages are becoming more frequent, while riots and sabotage plague the space program.

While original Lady Astronaut Elma York is on her way to Mars, the Moon colony still is being established and expanded. York's friend and fellow Lady Astronaut Nicole Wargin is thrilled to be flying supply missions while using her considerable flight and political skills to keep the program on track. But she is less happy that her husband, the Governor of Kansas, is considering a run for President – especially since he would rather she stay at home and support his political aspirations.

But when Wargin heads back to the Moon after opposition group Icarus has attacked the IAC in Kansas, her translunar shuttle has to crash land near Artemis Base. It soon becomes apparent that a saboteur has come to the Moon. There are power failures, ventilation problems and more. With all the suspects inside Artemis Base, the book becomes somewhat of a closed-room thriller. Kowal builds the tension and ramps up the feel of potential disaster with flair.

It's a real page-turner that makes it difficult to put the book down at times. And against this thrilling intrigue and spy adventure, Kowal also makes her characters into real people with flaws, difficulties and personal issues. Wargin suffers from her own private demons, but she still keeps a cool head and is definitely a hero.

I loved *The Relentless Moon*, and think the Lady Astronaut series is a love letter to the kind of astronomical program we wish existed – establishing a Moon colony and going to Mars, all in the 1960s. It's a wonderful book, a great read, and highly recommended.

ASFS MEETING REPORTS —

APRIL 2021: CARRIE VAUGHN VISITS

For the first Spring meeting, 24 people were on Zoom to hear from Colorado author Carrie Vaughn as she read from her upcoming novel, *Questland*, and discussed various projects and hobbies. Vaughn describes *Questland* as being “about a high-tech LARP that goes horribly, horribly wrong, and it’s set on a tropical island.” She then read from chapters 6-8, where the story is told by the narrator.

“Right now it’s just a stand-alone,” she said. “But I’ve left the door open for a sequel. I wrote a novella version of this story quite a while ago, probably in the early 2000s. I originally called it *Tolkien Park*, and I realized I needed a crazy villain – kind of like a Lex Luthor. The novel only has one piece of tech that’s not in existence now. There have been comparisons to *Dream Park*, but mine is more self-aware.”

Questland (released June 22 by Mariner Books) also is full of science-fiction references. “There are so many *Labyrinth* references in this book that I should be embarrassed,” Vaughn said. “But I’m not embarrassed because I love *Labyrinth*. There also are references to *Star Wars*, Tolkien, *Legend*, *Army of Darkness*, *Harry Potter*, and even *Bedknobs and Broomsticks*. I kind of compare it to *Ready Player One* because of all the references.”

Vaughn’s most recent story is “The Book of the Kraken” in *Uncanny Magazine* #39 (March/April 2021), which started with a girl and her squid story. She also has a Norman Conquest with superheroes story coming out in the near future. That story is “The Burning Girl” and will appear in *Beneath Ceaseless Skies*.

And a cyborg story, “An Easy Job,” will be on Tor.com story, but she doesn’t have a date for it yet. The first story in the series, “Sinew and Steel and What They Told,” appeared on Tor.com in February 2020.

Looking at her book series, she said there’s hope for a third *Bannerless* novel, “but the publisher isn’t behind it. It’s hard because I’d like to make money and keep a roof over my head. I try to remember that really good stories will survive time.”

Asked which of her books she’d like to see as a movie, Vaughn replied, “*Bannerless* would make a good mystery series because the elements are there. *After the Golden Age* would be fun, too.”

She also said she writes everything down. “I have dozens of notebooks of ideas and such. I usually have a million things going on.

Vaughn announced that she had received the one-shot Johnson & Johnson COVID vaccination on April 6, and had flu-like symptoms for 24 hours as a side effect.

And in answer to what hobbies she’s been doing during the pandemic, Vaughn said, “I’ve been noodling with various craft projects in the last year. I’m working on a cosplay costume from the *Tales of the Jedi* comic books, featuring female Jedi Nomi Sunrider.”

MAY 2021: MOVIE TIME AGAIN

Twenty-One people were on Zoom in May to watch *The Earth Dies Screaming*, the 1964 British B&W science-fiction film of alien invasion! We tried to share two shorts first and have the meeting up on Facebook, but technical issues prevented that. Luckily, Jessica Coyle was able to use an alternative media player to show the feature film on Zoom.

We had a lot of fun riffing the film on Zoom Chat, especially as the “bulletproof killer robots” looked like low-rent Cybermen (from Doctor Who). We noted that there never seemed to be more than one of the “robots” (yes, that’s how the British actor pronounced it) at a time threatening our group of survivors. And the ending of the film just kind of peters out. Not the best film, but at 62 minutes it was perfect for ASFS Riffers’ viewing pleasure (and amusement).

JUNE 2021: MELINDA SNODGRASS VISITS

A group of 27 people were on Zoom and Facebook to listen to a visit from Santa Fe author Melinda Snodgrass, and ask her questions about her various writing projects. She started off by talking about her day. “This afternoon I was working on the fourth *White Fang* novel, and this morning was the fourth *Edge* book – which now is called the *Carolingian* series,” she said. “I tend to alternate between projects. Tor had wanted me to wrap up the *White Fang* series with the third book, so now I get to finish the series the way I want with book four.”

Talking about the *Imperials* series, she said, “We have reissued the first three *Imperials* novels that had come out from Titan, and now book four – *Currency of War* – is out. The fifth book is written, and will come out next year. You follow Tracy and Mercedes from their late teens to their mid-fifties.”

The *Imperials* series started with “What if we are the invaders? We go out, meet aliens, conquer them all, and now we rule the galaxy. We have always feared ‘the Other.’ We’ve only been standing upright for a million years, which is a blink. So, we go out there and when we meet aliens – the Others – we’re afraid and beat the crap out of them. In the fourth book, Mercedes has become the Empress, and they are at war with mysterious aliens.”

Snodgrass read from a Mercedes section of *Currency of War*, and then from a Tracy section.

Looking to the future, she said, “Even after I finish the five *Imperials* books, I still want to play in this universe. I just have to figure out a story. I also have an idea for a fantasy novel, but I’m more a spaceship kind of person. My new publisher really wants me to write some short stories, so I’m considering some stories in the *Imperials* universe. I probably will put them on Amazon as pops into the world.”

Asked how she found science fiction, Snodgrass replied, “My father introduced me to science fiction. He

read aloud to me, and taught me to read. I remember him frequently reading *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*. He'd skip the boring fish stuff. The first book I read myself at seven years old was *A Princess of Mars* by Edgar Rice Burroughs. I read everything science fiction at the tiny Ernie Pyle Library in Albuquerque. And then *Star Trek* came on, and there was a spaceship on my TV.

"*The Secret of the Martian Moons* by Donald A. Wollheim was one of my faves," she continued. "I loved it. I liked all the Heinlein juveniles, but *Martian Moons* was great space opera where the moons actually were spaceships. Burroughs may seem trite now because the *Mars* series has been greatly mixed, but I really liked the adventure aspect. From there I moved to Andre Norton and Robert Heinlein and so on. And then *Miles Vorsokigan* by Lois McMaster Bujold."

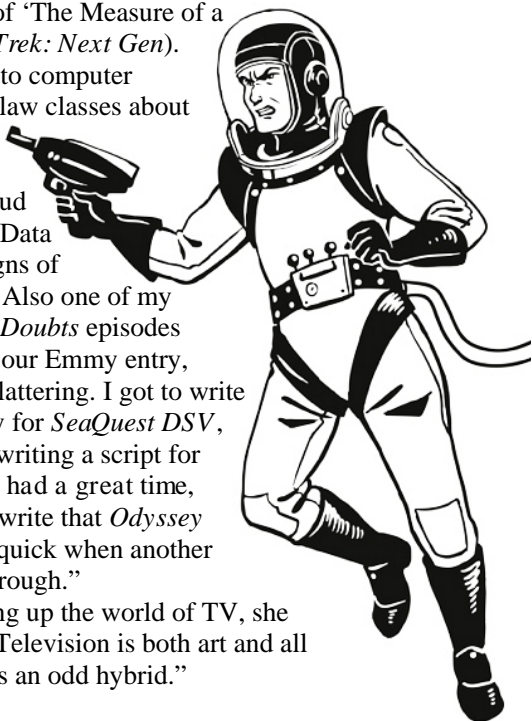
When asked what TV she is enjoying, Snodgrass said, "Disney+ is fantastic. I enjoyed *WandaVision*, *The Falcon and the Winter Soldier*, and now *Loki*. And I like all the *Star Wars* shows. *The Bad Batch*, the latest show, is fantastic. I finished watching *The Nevers* last night, and I kind of saw where it was going. I really liked *The Umbrella Academy*. I watched the first season of *The Boys*, but I refuse to watch the second season because it's vile.

"*Star Wars* saved my life," she continued. "I was really unhappy being a lawyer, and then I went to the premiere of *The Empire Strikes Back*. When Yoda, who is a puppet, said, 'Do or do not, there is no try,' it was a slap to my face. I knew what I had to do. So I became a writer with a lot of support from Victor Milan and then George RR Martin."

Mention of Martin brought up her TV writing and what she learned in Hollywood. "Characters need to have arcs," she said. "And, yes, the *Imperials* arc is inspired by *Horatio Hornblower* and *Master and Commander*. I'm very proud of 'The Measure of a Man' (*Star Trek: Next Gen*).

I've spoken to computer science and law classes about it, which was weird. I'm also proud of my other Data story, 'Ensigns of Command.' Also one of my *Reasonable Doubts* episodes was used as our Emmy entry, which was flattering. I got to write a ghost story for *SeaQuest DSV*, and I loved writing a script for *Odyssey 5*. I had a great time, but I had to write that *Odyssey* story really quick when another script fell through."

Summing up the world of TV, she remarked, "Television is both art and all business. It's an odd hybrid."



EDITOR NOTES THAT FIT THIS SPACE

• **APOLOGIES THIS ISSUE IS LATE.** I had all the writing done when we got word that Roslee Orndorff was in the hospital, and being taken off life support the next day. Priorities changed as we worked to find her will, and started packing her stuff to go into storage before August 1. It's been a lot of work, and I'm tired - physically & emotionally - and sore.

Roslee's death was a shock. I'm grieving but it's on top of the stress and slight depression of the pandemic. I had known Roslee more than 30 years, and it's sometimes difficult to think of our group of friends being older now. She also was important to NM fandom. Even before she started running the Bubonicon art show, Roslee was producing "Roslee's Ravenous Restaurant Reviews" list and map for the convention packet. She also wrote book reviews, and did her own pages for an odd, eclectic APA mailing several of us did. Bubonicon certainly will be different in 2022.

• **ALSO GOING TO MISS** Jan Stirling, who always was kind and sweet. She always made sure we had enough chocolate to last the weekend in the Bubonicon con suite. I enjoyed getting her to sign stories she had written in an anthologies.

• **THE WORLD MAY BE OPENING UP AGAIN**, but that doesn't mean COVID-19 has entirely disappeared. The Delta Variant is more contagious, and is attacking unvaccinated folks around the world. Just one more reason to Get Vaccinated! I personally think the CDC announcement was a little premature, and that we still need to wear masks indoors around strangers. More importantly, people aren't social distancing the way many of us would like. Maybe Sting was right when he sang, "Don't stand so close to me." Let's be smart out there - we don't need more diseases spreading easily just because our guard is down.

• **GOTTA SAY THE HOLLOW PLACES** by T. Kingfisher (Ursula Vernon- October 2020, Saga Press) is an incredibly gripping horror novel that grows increasingly creepy as the story goes along. It really shows that Vernon is quite efficient at writing horror and has a flair with a Southern gothic flavor; on top of her YA fantasy and her artwork. I really enjoyed it, and thus wanted to plug it here. Well done spookiness!

• **BEEN WATCHING** a lot of stuff on TV, but we've also been to the Guild Cinema to see *Willy's Wonderland* (with Nicolas Cage), *Werewolves Within*, and throwback screenings of *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* and *John Dies at the End*. We've enjoyed those ventures out, and have felt safe at the Guild Cinema. On TV, we've enjoyed *Loki* (which ended with a heck of a cliffhanger), *Monsters at Work* (fun cartoon), *Godzilla vs Kong*, Pixar's *Luca* (sweet, cute, funny), *Sven-goolie's* movies on Saturdays, *Lovecraft Country*, *Thunder Force* (superhero farce) and more. Starting to do Green Slime Award research, so I can report that *New Mutants* is lots of build-up with little bang, and *Fate: The Winx Saga* has lots of teen angst at a Harry Potter-like school for fairies...

OH OH! Bubonicon will be a co-sponsor for 35th anniversary screenings of Cameron's *ALIENS* Fri-Sat, Aug 13-14, at the Guild Cinema! Join us for some great SF action!

• **LOOKS LIKE** I'm just about out of room. Many thanks to Roberta J, Jane L, Jessica C, and Melody R for their contributions. ASFS should meet in-person in August, and the next *ASFacts* will be out in October - Submissions are needed!

• **STAY WELL**, be safe, and keep reading! - Craig C