



ASFACTS 2022

MAY "It's WARM. Is COVID DONE?" ISSUE

ABQ's ROBERT C. CORNETT DIES

by Craig W. Chrissinger

New Mexico author and Bubonicon 25 co-Guest of Honor Robert C. (Bob) Cornett died April 1 at home in Albuquerque. He was 69 years old.

Under his own name, he co-wrote (with Kevin D. Randle) the *Fifty Million Years War* trilogy, consisting of *Seeds of War* (1986), *The Aldebaran Campaign* (1988), and *The Aquarian Attack* (1989). Cornett and Randle also co-wrote the *Time Mercenaries* trilogy in which a Platoon of Vietnam Vets change the course of history – *Remember the Alamo!* (1986), *Remember Gettysburg!* (1988), and *Remember the Little Bighorn!* (1990).

In addition, he co-wrote many adventure works – including the four-book *Scorpion Squad* series for Pinnacle Books, and the *Vietnam: Ground Zero* 26-book series for Gold Eagle – under the pseudonym of "Eric Helm" with co-author Randle. As explained in Bubonicon 25's program book, Cornett was "Eric" while Randle was "Helm."

Body Count: The Scorpion Squad 1 and *The Nhu Ky Sting: Scorpion Squad 2* were both released in 1984. *Chopper Command: Scorpion Squad 3* and *River Raid: Scorpion Squad 4* both came out in 1985. *Vietnam: Ground Zero 1* was released in 1986, while *Spike: Vietnam: Ground Zero 26* was released in 1990.

During his life, Cornett served in the military, and as a paramedic, firefighter and rural letter carrier. He also was a private investigator, college professor, Boy Scout troop leader, ham radio operator, and museum volunteer.

In 1990, he married Mary Ann at Bubonicon 22. Jack Williamson served as the best man for the ceremony.

In his Bubonicon 25 introduction, Wilson "Bob" Tucker noted Cornett won the Award for Excellence in Science Fiction Convention Party (or Tucker Award) as a SF Professional at St Louis' Archon 15 in July 1991.

Cornett enjoyed playing pool, military history, science-related topics, watching wildlife, firearms, and hunting.

He was born November 18, 1952, in Centerville, Iowa, and grew up in the small southeast Iowa town of Moulton. Cornett was a very curious child. He was a proficient reader and enjoyed writing. He loved science and

could often be found experimenting with chemistry sets and working on model rocket kits.

In his school years, Bob excelled in academics. He graduated with honors, and received his diploma from Moulton-Udell High School in 1971. Bob furthered his education at the University of Iowa, where he took Air Force ROTC (and also studied Soviet and Eastern European Studies), and graduated in 1975. During his college years, Bob met his first wife, Debbie, and they were married in 1974. A daughter, Shannon, resulted from that union. Also, during this time, Bob met future writing partner, Kevin D. Randle.

In a blog post on Sapere Books' website, Randle wrote, "Bob was popular on the science fiction circuit. I think it was a combination of things, including some of the stories that he wrote. He would do readings periodically, and I noticed that the fans sat quietly listening to his stories... He was an imaginative writer, with a keen ear for human speech."

He lived in Iowa City after graduation, eventually returning to his hometown of Moulton. He continued to write books and worked as a newspaper columnist for the *Ottumwa Courier*. He began a career in emergency medical services, and went on to become an instructor, where he met his second wife, Mary Ann, who was also a paramedic. She joined the family with her two children, Kathy and Brian. Cornett was a rural letter carrier in Iowa until he moved to Albuquerque in 2007.

In Albuquerque, he enjoyed being close to his mother-in-law, Lois, and brother-in-law, Fred (Ream). Cornett

UPCOMING ASFS MEETINGS

- **Tonight:** ABQ author Brian Jay Jones & local puppeteer Michael McCormick discuss Jim Henson, George Lucas, *The Dark Crystal*, *Labyrinth*, and *Star Wars: Return of the Jedi*.
- **June 10:** Devin O'Leary of *The Paper* presents his 8TH SCI-FI TRAILER PARK with a look at forthcoming genre movies.
- **July 8:** Time for our fun Summer Film. Plus summer's issue of *ASFACTS* (deadline July 4).
- **August 12:** Bubonicon 53 preview & something else completely different.
- **August 19:** Bubonicon 53 Gofer Meeting.
- **September 16:** Reports on Bubonicon 53, and possibly the Chicago Worldcon and DragonCon.

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

kept active in retirement, serving as a museum docent, engaging as a Ham radio operator, helping with volunteer opportunities, and spending hours at the shooting range. Even when his health declined, Bob delighted in connecting with friends, traveling when able, and being near his beloved New Mexico mountains.

Randle, again in his blog post, noted, “He was a very good friend, and I wish that I had been a better friend to him. I knew that his health had been poor these last few years. I had him on the radio version of *A Different Perspective*, and I was saddened by what I heard as we talked about UFOs. He just wasn’t as sharp as he had been when he was younger. In the last several years, maybe the last couple of decades, he had lost his fire for writing. Bob Tucker, who turned out to be a good friend, had said in his later years that he had retired from writing. Neither Bob nor I could understand that attitude ... but sometimes writing is a very difficult task. I think Bob retired from it without really saying that he was retired.”

Cornett is survived by his wife, Mary Ann; his daughter, Shannon; stepdaughter, Kathy, and stepson, Brian; seven grandchildren; brother-in-law Fred Ream; sister, Mary Beth; five nieces and nephews; and many extended friends and family members.

In lieu of flowers, the family is encouraging donations in his memory to your local rescue department, animal shelter, or favorite museum.

SAWYER WINS MIFRE MEDIA AWARD

Robert J. Sawyer’s WWW trilogy – *Wake, Watch, and Wonder* (published 2009-2011) – won the Machine Intelligence Foundation for Rights and Ethics 2021 Media Award, presented by AI research foundation MIFRE in “recognition of the representation of human and Machine Intelligence forming and thriving in a cooperative peer relationship, Locusmag.com reported in late April.

“With this award, the Foundation intends to recognize, and encourage, works of fiction that portray a future in which humans and conscious machines reach a state of respectful coexistence such as the one for which we strive,” MIFRE continued. “While fiction rarely predicts the future, it has often helped shape it, and we believe that stories that portray a positive future can help cement that goal in the minds of researchers and the public.”

Nominations were open to the public, with the winner chosen by committee.

2022 HUGO, ETC FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

Finalists for the Hugo Awards, the Astounding Award for Best New Writer, and the Lodestar Award for Best Young Adult Book were announced April 7 by Chicon, the 80th World Science Fiction Convention. There were 1,368 valid nominating ballots (1,366 electronic and 2 paper) received and counted from the members of the

2021 and 2022 World Science Fiction Conventions for the 2022 Hugo Awards, reports Locusmag.com.

Voting on the final ballot will open later in May. For more details see the Chicon site. Among the nominees are several people of note from New Mexico and/or Bubonicon history: Becky Chambers, James S.A. Corey, T. Kingfisher (Ursula Vernon), Arkady Martine, Lee Moyer, Catherynne M. Valente.

BEST NOVEL: *Light From Uncommon Stars* by Ryka Aoki, *The Galaxy, and the Ground Within* by Becky Chambers, *A Master of Djinn* by P. Djèlí Clark, *A Desolation Called Peace* by Arkady Martine, *She Who Became the Sun* by Shelley Parker-Chan, and *Project Hail Mary* by Andy Weir. BEST NOVELLA: *A Psalm for the Wild-Built* by Becky Chambers, *Fireheart Tiger* by Aliette de Bodard, *A Spindle Splintered* by Alix E. Harrow, *Across the Green Grass Fields* by Seanan McGuire, *Elder Race* by Adrian Tchaikovsky, and *The Past Is Red* by Catherynne M. Valente.

BEST NOVELETTE: “O2 Arena” by Oghenechovwe Donald Ekpeki, “Bots of the Lost Ark” by Suzanne Palmer, “L’Esprit de L’Escalier” by Catherynne M. Valente, “Unseelie Brothers, Ltd.” by Fran Wilde, “That Story Isn’t the Story” by John Wiswell, and “Colors of the Immortal Palette” by Caroline M. Yoachim. BEST SHORT STORY: “Mr. Death” by Alix E. Harrow, “Proof by Induction” by José Pablo Iriarte, “Tangles” by Seanan McGuire, “Unknown Number” by Blue Neustifter, “Where Oaken Hearts Do Gather” by Sarah Pinsker, and “The Sin of America” by Catherynne M. Valente.

BEST SERIES: *The World of the White Rat* by Kingfisher (Ursula Vernon), *The Green Bone Saga* by Fonda Lee, *Wayward Children* by Seanan McGuire, *Terra Ignota* by Ada Palmer, *The Kingston Cycle* by C.L. Polk, and *Merchant Princes* by Charles Stross. BEST GRAPHIC STORY OR COMIC: *Die, Volume 4: Bleed* by Kieron Gillen, *Once & Future, Volume 3: The Parliament of Magpies* by Kieron Gillen, *Far Sector* by N.K. Jemisin, *Strange Adventures* by Tom King, *Monstress, Volume 6: The Vow* by Marjorie Liu, and *Lore Olympus, Volume 1* by Rachel Smythe. BEST RELATED WORK: *Never Say You Can’t Survive* by Charlie Jane Anders, *The Complete Debarkle: Saga of a Culture War* by Camestros Felapton, *Dangerous Visions and New Worlds: Radical Science Fiction, 1950-1985* by Andrew Nette & Iain McIntyre, *True Believer: The Rise and Fall of Stan Lee* by Abraham Riesman, *Being Seen: One Deafblind Woman’s Fight to End Ableism* by Elsa Sjunneson, and “How Twitter can ruin a life” by Emily St. James.

BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION, LONG FORM: *Dune*, *Encanto*, *The Green Knight*, *Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings*, *Space Sweepers*, and *WandaVision*. Best Dramatic Presentation, Short Form: *Arcane*: “The Monster You Created,” *The Expanse*: “Nemesis Games,” *For All Mankind*: “The Grey,” *Loki*: “The Nexus Event,” *Star Trek: Lower Decks*: “wej Duj,” and *The Wheel of Time*: “The Flame of Tar Valon.”

BEST EDITOR, SHORT FORM: Neil Clarke, Oghe-
nechovwe Donald Ekpeki, Mur Lafferty & S.B. Divya,
Jonathan Strahan, Sheree Renée Thomas, and Sheila Wil-
liams. **Best Editor, Long Form:** Ruoxi Chen, Nivia Evans,
Sarah T. Guan, Patrick Nielsen Hayden, Brit Hvide, and
Navah Wolfe. **Best Professional Artist:** Tommy Arnold,
Rovina Cai, Ashley Mackenzie, Maurizio Manzieri, Will
Staehle, and Alyssa Winans.

BEST SEMIPROZINE: *Beneath Ceaseless Skies*, *Escape
Pod*, *FIYAH*, *PodCastle*, *Strange Horizons*, and *Uncanny*.
BEST FANZINE: *The Full Lid*, *Galactic Journey*, *Journey
Planet*, *Quick Sip Reviews*, *Small Gods*, and *Unofficial
Hugo Book Club Blog*. **Best Fancast:** *Be The Serpent*, *The
Coode Street Podcast*, *Hugo*, *Girl!*, *Octothorpe*, *Our
Opinions Are Correct*, and *Worldbuilding* for Masochists.

BEST FAN WRITER: Chris M. Barkley, Bitter Karella,
Alex Brown, Cora Buhler, Jason Sanford, and Paul Wei-
mer. **BEST FAN ARTIST:** Iain J. Clark, Lorelei Esther, Sara
Felix, Ariela Housman, Nilah Magruder, and Lee Moyer.

LODESTAR AWARD FOR BEST YOUNG ADULT BOOK
[NOT A HUGO]: *Victories Greater Than Death* by Charlie
Jane Anders, *A Snake Falls to Earth* by Darcie Little
Badger, *Redemptor* by Jordan Ifueko, *Chaos on CatNet*
by Naomi Kritzer, *The Last Graduate* by Naomi Novik,
and *Iron Widow* by Xiran Jay Zhao.

ASTOUNDING AWARD FOR BEST NEW WRITER [NOT
A HUGO AWARD]: Tracy Deonn, Micaiah Johnson, A.K.
Larkwood, Everina Maxwell, Shelley Parker-Chan, and
Xiran Jay Zhao.

GAIMAN & WILLIS HOSTING NEBULA AWARDS

The Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers Association
(SFWA) announced in early May that Neil Gaiman and
Connie Willis will be Toastmasters at the 2021 SFWA
Nebula Awards, to be presented in an online ceremony on
May 21.

President Jeffe Kennedy says, “I’m delighted that
Connie and Neil have so graciously taken time from their
busy schedules to lend their voices and dynamic
presences to the Nebula Awards ceremony. I’ve caught a
glimpse in my crystal ball of what they’re up to and I
can’t wait for everyone to join
in the fun!”

In addition to the Nebula
Awards, SFWA will present
the Bradbury Award for Out-
standing Dramatic Presenta-
tion, the Andre Norton Award
for Outstanding Young Adult
Science Fiction or Fantasy
Book, the Kate Wilhelm Sol-
stice Award, the Kevin O’Don-
nell, Jr. Service to SFWA
Award, and the Damon Knight
Memorial Grand Master Award
– announced last November as



going to Mercedes Lackey. Lackey will be the 38th recipi-
ent of the prestigious award.

PATRICIA A. MCKILLIP DIES

Author Patricia A. McKillip died May 6. She was 74
years old. She was best known for her fantasy novels for
children and young adults, including the Riddle-Master
trilogy.

Patricia Anne McKillip was born February 29, 1948,
in Salem, OR. She attended the College of Notre Dame,
Belmont, and San Jose State University in California,
receiving a BA in 1971 and an MA in English in 1972.

Her first publications were short children’s books *The
Throne of the Erril of Sherill* and *The House on Parch-
ment Street* (both 1973). Her first longer novel, *The For-
gotten Beasts of Eld* (1974), won a World Fantasy Award.

Other SF/fantasy novels include the Riddle-Master
trilogy: *The Riddle-Master of Hed* in 1976, *Heir of Sea
and Fire* (1977), and Locus Award winner and Hugo and
World Fantasy Award finalist *Harpist in the Wind* (1979);
duology *Moon-Flash* (1984) and *The Moon and the Face*
(1985); adult SF *Foo’s Run* (1987); *The Changeling Sea*
(1991); duology *The Sorceress and the Cygnet* (1991) and
The Cygnet and the Firebird (1993); *The Book of Atrix
Wolf* (1995); Nebula Award finalist *Winter Rose* (1996);
Song for the Basilisk (1998); Nebula Award nominee *The
Tower at Stony Wood* (2000); World Fantasy and Mytho-
poeic Award winner *Ombria in Shadow* (2002); *In the
Forests of Serre* (2003); *Alphabet of Thorn* (2004); World
Fantasy Award finalist *Od Magic* (2005); Mythopoeic
Award winner *Solstice Wood* (2006); *The Bell at Sealey
Head* (2008); *The Bards of Bone Plain* (2010); and Myth-
opoeic Award winner *Kingfisher* (2016).

Other books include non-SF children’s book *The
Night Gift* (1976); adult contemporary novel *Stepping
from the Shadows* (1982); shared-world novel *Brian
Froud’s Faerielands: Something Rich and Strange* in
1994, a Mythopoeic Award winner; and collections *Har-
rowing the Dragon* (2005), *Wonders of the Invisible
World* (2012), and Endeavour Award winner *Dreams of
Distant Shores* (2016).

McKillip received a World Fantasy life achievement
award in 2008. She lived in Oregon with husband David
Lunde, who survives her.

MAH JOINS SFWA STAFF

Santa Fe’s Emily Mah is taking over as interim edito-
rial director at the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers
Association, replacing Kevin Wabaunsee, it was an-
nounced in early April.

Wabaunsee stated, “It has been an honor and a privi-
lege to work with SFWA’s dedicated team of staff and
volunteers over the past two years. I’m proud to have
worked under two inspiring SFWA presidents, Mary
Robinette Kowal and Jeffe Kennedy, and just as proud to

leave the work of producing SFWA's publications to the amazing and talented Emily Mah, Rebecca Gomez Farrell, Lauren Raye Snow, and the dynamic team of publications volunteers. I have no doubt that SFWA's publications will be better than ever under their leadership."

For more information on SFWA, see their website.

BOOK GROUP STILL READING

The Droids & Dragons SF Book Group meets at 7:30 pm Monday, May 16, at Jason's Deli (northwest corner of Louisiana & America's Parkway NE - across the street from Bubonicon's Marriott Hotel) to discuss the classic *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson. The group then focuses on *The House in the Cerulean Sea* by TJ Klune on Monday, June 20, at Jason's Deli again.

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

ARTIST GEORGE PEREZ DIES

Best known for his well-populated crossover books, George Pérez died May 6 from complications of pancreatic cancer. He was 67 years old.

Pérez's work defined superhero comics in the 1980s and 1990s, and his impact on the genre still echoes through superhero media today. Over the course of the artist's prolific comic book career, he did his best to draw every iconic DC and Marvel superhero, preferably all at once in the span of an epic double-page spread.

George Pérez was born in the South Bronx, New York, in 1954, the son of a Puerto Rican couple who had recently moved to the city. He discovered superheroes at a young age, and comic books helped him learn English. The colorful adventures also offered a respite from the violence of his rough neighborhood, and by the time he was 5, he knew he wanted to be an artist.

He was 19 when he got his start in the comics business, landing a job as artist Rich Buckler's assistant in 1973. His first published work appeared the following year, a two-page Deathlok story in Marvel's *Astonishing Tales* #25. More Marvel gigs soon followed, and in 1975 he co-created *White Tiger*, the first Puerto Rican superhero, with writer Bill Mantlo.

That same year, Pérez began his much-lauded tenure drawing the Earth's mightiest heroes starting with *Avengers* #141. Team books weren't popular with artists at the time; compensation was minimal, and a large cast of characters meant a lot more work. But Pérez happily embraced the chance to draw so many of his childhood

idols, and channeled his artistic heroes, like Sal Buscema and Curt Swan, to create a distinctive and realistic take on the Avengers.

In 1980, writer Marv Wolfman offered Pérez a job at DC Comics on *The New Teen Titans*, a contemporary update of the young team. Pérez wasn't particularly interested in the project, but the offer came with the opportunity to draw *Justice League of America* as well, so he agreed. Then, a few months into working on *The New Teen Titans*, he fell in love with the gig. Wolfman was a generous collaborator, and Pérez felt a sense of ownership of the team as they worked together to revamp existing characters like Beast Boy and Robin, as well as introduce new ones like Cyborg, Raven, and Starfire.

The book focused as much on the characters' civilian identities as their superhero antics, and this combination of drama and action proved to be a surprise success for DC, which was in need of a hit after a disastrous run of cancellations. Pérez and Wolfman won scores of industry and fan awards for classic storylines that still remain popular today, most notably *The Judas Contract*. In the sort of creative-team consistency that's all but gone in modern comics, Pérez stayed with the *Teen Titans* for the entire decade, and returned for another run in the mid-1990s.

Pérez developed a reputation as a master of team books, but one of his most beloved projects was a solo venture. When DC prepared to reboot *Wonder Woman* in the late 1980s, all of the pitches the publisher received were violent and hypersexualized, an approach that didn't sit well with Pérez's feminist sensibilities. He offered himself as an alternative, despite the series' perennial poor sales: *Wonder Woman* had been a book DC had to assign, not one that creators clamored for. Pérez traded in all the cachet he'd built up at the publisher to do a different take on Wonder Woman, one rooted in mythology and female power.

The relaunch debuted in 1987, and was an instant hit. Pérez wrote and drew the book, bringing dignity and excitement to the long-floundering title. He rebuilt Wonder Woman's mythos from the ground up, honoring her feminist origins while updating the character and her rogues' gallery for the present day. His five-year run brought female creators into the fold as well, including co-writer Mindy Newell and artists Colleen Doran and Jill Thompson. (Doran and Thompson went on to Eisner Award-winning careers, with Doran winning for Neil Gaiman's *Snow, Glass, Apples* and Thompson for her *Scary Godmother*.) Today, Pérez's revitalization of Wonder Woman is widely regarded as the definitive take on the character, and his time on the book has remained an inspiration to everyone who has written or drawn her since.

Beyond his long-term character work, Pérez was also the master of epic event books. In 1985, he re-teamed with Wolfman for *Crisis on Infinite Earths*, a 12-issue maxi-series that allowed him to draw every character in the DC Comics universe against the backdrop of multi-versal destruction. He returned to Marvel in 1991 for the

Infinity Gauntlet miniseries with Jim Starlin and Ron Lim that saw Thanos destroy half of all life in the universe. Then he brought both universes together in 2003 with *JLA/Avengers*, a massive crossover written by Kurt Busiek.

Pérez threw himself wholeheartedly into these projects, and his boundless enthusiasm for the characters was evident on every page. Uniting all of DC and Marvel's heroes was especially exciting for Pérez, who tackled *JLA/Avengers* with such passion that he developed tendonitis while drawing a cover featuring over 200 different superheroes.

The artist slowed down in his later years, trading long-term jobs for special appearances. After a series of medical issues over the course of the 2010s, he officially announced his retirement in 2019. In December 2021, he announced that he'd been diagnosed with inoperable pancreatic cancer and would not pursue treatment. Over the months since, colleagues and fans have paid tribute to his remarkable career and his enduring kindness, a fitting send-off for the beloved icon.

Pérez is survived by his wife of over 40 years, Carol Flynn; his parents, Jorge and Luz; and his brother David.

2021 NEBULA AWARDS BALLOT

The Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America (SFWA) released the final ballot in early March for the 2021 Nebula Awards –

NOVEL: *The Unbroken* by C.L. Clark, *A Master of Djinn* by P. Djèlí Clark, *Machinehood* by S.B. Divya, *A Desolation Called Peace* by Arkady Martine, and *Plague Birds* by Jason Sanford. NOVELLA: *A Psalm for the Wild-Built* by Becky Chambers, *Fireheart Tiger* by Aliette de Bodard, *And What Can We Offer You Tonight* by Premee Mohamed, *Sun-Daughters*, *Sea-Daughters* by Aimee Ogden, *Flowers for the Sea* by Zin E. Rocklyn, *The Necessity of Stars* by E. Catherine Tobler, and “The Giants of the Violet Sea” by Eugenia Triantafyllou.

NOVELETTE: “O2 Arena” by Oghenechovwe Donald Ekpeki, “Just Enough Rain” by PH Lee, “(emet)” by Lauren Ring, “That Story Isn’t the Story” by John Wiswell, and “Colors of the Immortal Palette” by Caroline M. Yoachim. SHORT STORY: “Mr. Death” by Alix E. Harrow, “Proof by Induction” by José Pablo Iriarte, “Let All the Children Boogie” by Sam J. Miller, “Laughter Among the Trees” by Suzan Palumbo, “Where Oaken Hearts Do Gather” by Sarah Pinsker, and “For Lack of a Bed” by John Wiswell.

ANDRE NORTON AWARD: *Victories Greater Than Death* by Charlie Jane Anders, *Thornwood* by Leah Cypess, *Redemptor* by Jordan Ifueko, *A Snake Falls to Earth* by Darcie Little Badger, *Root Magic* by Eden Royce, and *Iron Widow* by Xiran Jay Zhao. RAY BRADBURY AWARD: *Encanto*, *The Green Knight*, *Loki*, *Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings*, *Space Sweepers*, *WandaVision*, and *What We Do in the Shadows*: Season 3.

GAME WRITING: *Coyote & Crow*, *Granma’s Hand*, *Thirsty Sword Lesbians*, *Wanderhome*, and *Wilderness*.

The administrators note: “Author Martha Wells graciously declined her nomination as a novella finalist this year for *Fugitive Telemetry: Murderbot Diaries Book 6*, published by Tordotcom. Wells felt that the Murderbot Diaries series has already received incredible praise from her industry peers and wanted to open the floor to high-light other works within the community.”

Winners will be announced during the virtual 2022 Nebula Conference, to be held online May 19-22.

PRISCILLA TOLKIEN DIES

Priscilla Tolkien died February 28 after a brief illness. She was 92 years old. She was the youngest, and last surviving, child of author J.R.R. Tolkien’s, and was vice president of the Tolkien Society from 1986.

Priscilla Mary Anne Reuel Tolkien was born June 18, 1929, in Oxford, England, where her father taught. She had a stuffed teddy bear named Bingo as a child, and in early drafts of *The Lord of the Rings*, the hobbit Frodo Baggins was named Bingo Baggins. As a teenager, she typed some of her father’s longhand manuscripts. She attended Lady Margaret Hall College at Oxford, where she studied English. After working briefly as a secretary, she studied social services at the London School of Economics, and went on to a long career as a social worker. She later taught social work at the University of Oxford and High Wycombe College, and taught English at Beechlawn Tutorial College.

After her father’s death, she served as a representative of the family, and was a trustee of the Tolkien Estate and Tolkien Trust. With brother John Tolkien she wrote and compiled *The Tolkien Family Album* (1992), a biographical photo book.

CLARK WINS 2022 C. CROOK AWARD

The Baltimore Science Fiction Society (BSFS) announced the winner for the 2022 Compton Crook Award in mid-April: *A Master of Djinn* by P. Djèlí Clark.

Other nominees were *Assassin’s Orbit* by John Appel, *The Councillor* by E.J. Beaton, *The Witch’s Heart* by Genevieve Gornichec, *We Have Always Been Here* by Lena Nguyen, and *Nucleation* by Kimberly Unger.

The award honors the best first SF/fantasy/horror novel of the year, and “includes a framed award document and, for the novel’s author, a check for \$1,000 and an invitation to be the Compton Crook Guest at Balticon for two years.”

The award will be presented at Balticon 56, to be held May 27-30 in Baltimore, MD. Selection is by vote of the BSFS membership.



ASFACTS, May 2022

2022 LOCUS FINALISTS NAMED

The Locus Science Fiction Foundation announced the top ten finalists in each category of the 2022 Locus Awards on May 10. These results are from February 1-April 15 voting, done by readers on an open public ballot.

The Locus Awards winners will be announced June 25, during the virtual Locus Awards Weekend. Connie Willis will MC the awards ceremony. Additional weekend events include author readings, panels with leading authors, and all memberships come with a 2022 Locus Awards t-shirt.

SCIENCE FICTION NOVEL: *The Galaxy, and the Ground Within* by Becky Chambers, *Leviathan Falls: The Expanse Book 9* by James S.A. Corey, *The Echo Wife* by Sarah Gailey, *Klara and the Sun* by Kazuo Ishiguro, *A Desolation Called Peace* by Arkady Martine, *Noor* by Nnedi Okorafor, *We Are Satellites* by Sarah Pinsker, *You Sexy Thing* by Cat Rambo, *Shards of Earth* by Adrian Tchaikovsky, and *Hummingbird Salamander* by Jeff VanderMeer. FANTASY NOVEL: *Light From Uncommon Stars* by Ryka Aoki, *The Witness for the Dead* by Katherine Addison, *Black Water Sister* by Zen Cho, *Paladin's Strength* by T. Kingfisher (Ursula Vernon), *Under the Whispering Door* by TJ Klune, *Jade Legacy* by Fonda Lee, *The Last Graduate* by Naomi Novik, *Soulstar* by C.L. Polk, *The Jasmine Throne* by Tasha Suri, and *No Gods, No Monsters* by Cadwell Turnbull.

HORROR NOVEL: *Revelator* by Daryl Gregory, *The Final Girl Support Group* by Grady Hendrix, *My Heart Is a Chainsaw* by Stephen Graham Jones, *Billy Summers* by Stephen King, *Later* by Stephen King, *Moon Lake* by Joe R. Lansdale, *A Broken Darkness* by Premee Mohamed, *Sorrowland* by Rivers Solomon, *The Death of Jane Lawrence* by Caitlin Starling, and *The Book of Accidents* by Chuck Wendig. YOUNG ADULT NOVEL: *Victories Greater Than Death* by Charlie Jane Anders, *This Poison Heart* by Kalynn Bayron, *The Infinity Courts* by Akemi Dawn Bowman, *The Gilded Ones* by Namina Forna, *A Dark and Starless Forest* by Sarah Hollowell, *Redemptor* by Jordan Ifueko, *Chaos on CatNet* by Naomi Kritzer, *A Snake Falls to Earth* by Darcie Little Badger, *Terciel & Elinor* by Garth Nix, and *Iron Widow* by Xiran Jay Zhao.

FIRST NOVEL: *The Unbroken* by C.L. Clark, *A Master of Djinn* by P. Djèlí Clark, *Machinehood* by S.B. Divya, *The All-Consuming World* by Cassandra Khaw, *A Marvellous Light* by Freya Marske, *Winter's Orbit* by Everina Maxwell, *She Who Became the Sun* by Shelley Parker-Chan, *The Chosen and the Beautiful* by Nghi Vo, *Wendy, Darling* by A.C. Wise, and *Iron Widow* by Xiran Jay Zhao. NOVELLA: *A Blessing of Unicorns* by Elizabeth Bear, *A Psalm for the Wild-Built* by Becky Chambers, *Defekt* by Nino Cipri, *Fireheart Tiger* by Aliette de Bodard, *A Spindle Splintered* by Alix E. Harrow, *The Return of the Sorceress* by Silvia Moreno-Garcia, *Remote Control* by Nnedi Okorafor, *Comfort Me With Apples* by Catherynne M. Valente, *The Past is Red* by Catherynne

M. Valente, and *Fugitive Telemetry* by Martha Wells.

NOVELETTE: "The Red Mother" by Elizabeth Bear, "Mulberry and Owl" by Aliette de Bodard, "Broad Duddy Water: A Sunken Story" by Nalo Hopkinson, "Skinder's Veil" by Kelly Link, "The Black Pages" by Nnedi Okorafor, "Bots of the Lost Ark" by Suzanne Palmer, "L'Esprit de L'Escalier" by Catherynne M. Valente, "Unseelie Brothers, Ltd." by Fran Wilde, "That Story Isn't the Story" by John Wiswell, and "Small Monsters" by E. Lily Yu. SHORT STORY: "If the Martians Have Magic" by P. Djèlí Clark, "Mr. Death" by Alix E. Harrow, "Proof by Induction" by José Pablo Iriarte, "Let All the Children Boogie" by Sam J. Miller, "Where Oaken Hearts Do Gather" by Sarah Pinsker, "Crazy Beautiful" by Cat Rambo, "Huginn and Muninn – and What Came After" by Michael Swanwick, "An Arc of Electric Skin" by Wole Talabi, "The Sin of America" by Catherynne M. Valente, and "For Lack of a Bed" by John Wiswell.

ANTHOLOGY: *We're Here: The Best Queer Speculative Fiction 2020* edited by C.L. Clark & Charles Payseur, *The Best Horror of the Year: Volume 13* edited by Ellen Datlow, *When Things Get Dark: Stories Inspired by Shirley Jackson* edited by Ellen Datlow, *Year's Best African Speculative Fiction* edited by Oghenechovwe Donald Ekpeki, *Speculative Fiction for Dreamers: A Latinx Anthology* edited by Alex Hernandez, Matthew David Goodwin, & Sarah Rafael García, *Sword Stone Table: Old Legends, New Voices* edited by Swapna Krishna & Jenn Northington, *Unfettered Hexes: Queer Tales of Insatiable Darkness* edited by dave ring, *The Best American Science Fiction and Fantasy 2021* edited by Veronica Roth & John Joseph Adams, *The Year's Best Science Fiction Volume 2* edited by Jonathan Strahan, and *The Best of World SF: Volume 1* edited by Lavie Tidhar. COLLECTION: *Even Greater Mistakes* by Charlie Jane Anders, *Shoggoths in Traffic and Other Stories* by Tobias S. Buckell, *Spirits Abroad* by Zen Cho, *Big Dark Hole* by Jeffrey Ford, *The Best of Elizabeth Hand* by Elizabeth Hand, *Midnight Doorways: Fables from Pakistan* by Usman T. Malik, *Belladonna Nights and Other Stories* by Alastair Reynolds, *Alias Space and Other Stories* by Kelly Robson, *The Ghost Sequences* by A.C. Wise, and *Never Have I Ever* by Isabel Yap.

MAGAZINE: *Analog*, *Asimov's*, *Beneath Ceaseless Skies*, *Clarkesworld*, *F&SF*, *FIYAH*, *Lightspeed*, *Strange Horizons*, *Tor.com*, and *Uncanny*. PUBLISHER: Angry Robot, Baen, DAW, Gollancz, Neon Hemlock, Orbit, Small Beer, Subterranean, Tor, and Tordotcom.

EDITOR: Neil Clarke, Ellen Datlow, Oghenechovwe Donald Ekpeki, Silvia Moreno-Garcia, Arley Sorg & Christie Yant, Jonathan Strahan, Lynne M. Thomas & Michael Damian Thomas, Sheree Renée Thomas, Ann & Jeff VanderMeer, and Sheila Williams. ARTIST: Tommy Arnold, Kinuko Y. Craft, Rovina Cai, Galen Dara, Bob Eggleton, Victo Ngai, John Picacio, Shaun Tan, Charles Vess, and Michael Whelan.

NON-FICTION: *Yesterday's Tomorrows* by Mike Ash-

ley, *After Human: A Critical History of the Human in Science Fiction from Shelley to Le Guin* by Thomas Conolly, *Roger Zelazny* by F. Brett Cox, *Jewish Science Fiction and Fantasy Through 1945: Immigrants in the Golden Age* by Valerie Estelle Frankel, *Chinese Science Fiction during the Post-Mao Cultural Thaw* by Hua Li, *Gothic: An Illustrated History* by Roger Luckhurst, *Dangerous Visions and New Worlds: Radical Science Fiction, 1950–1985* edited by Andrew Nette & Iain McIntyre, *Diverse Futures: Science Fiction and Authors of Color* by Joy Sanchez-Taylor, *You Are Not Your Writing & Other Sage Advice* by Angela Slatter, and *The Young H.G. Wells: Changing the World* by Claire Tomalin. ILLUSTRATED AND ART BOOK: *Clockwork Curandera Volume 1: The Witch Owl Parliament* by David Bowles, *Monstrous Mythologies* by Michael Bukowski, *Medusa* by Jessie Burton, *Norse Tales: Stories from Across the Rainbow Bridge* by Kevin Crossley-Holland, *Spectrum Fantastic Art Quarterly Volume One* edited by Cathy Fenner & Arnie Fenner, *After the Rain* by Nnedi Okorafor, *1984: The Graphic Novel* by George Orwell, *The Labyrinth* by Simon Stålenhag, *Squad* by Maggie Tokuda-Hall, and *The Art of Neil Gaiman & Charles Vess's Stardust* by Charles Vess.

Visit the 2022 Locus Awards Information page for more details and to register.

COMICS ARTIST NEAL ADAMS DIES

Iconic comic book artist Neal Adams died April 28 in New York, according to his daughter Zeea Adams Moss and daughter-in-law Saori Adams. He was 80 years old.

Adams worked with both DC and Marvel comics in the 1960s and 1970s, drawing characters like Batman, Superman, the Avengers and the X-Men. He was one of the creative forces behind the *Green Lantern/Green Arrow* series of the early 1970s, taking on social issues such as drug addiction and racism.

His son, Josh Adams, said in a Facebook post his father passed away at 2 am April 28. "His career was defined by unparalleled artistic talent and an unwavering character that drove him to constantly fight for his peers and those in need. He would become known in the comics industry as one of the most influential creators of all time and champion social and creator's rights."

His daughter, Zeea Adams Moss, told CNN her father's death was unexpected.

In a statement, DC Comics called Neal Adams "one of the most acclaimed artists to have contributed to the comic book industry."

Adams was born June 5, 1941, and received his art training at the School of Industrial Arts in New York City, according to the statement.

At the age of 21, he started drawing the *Ben Casey* syndicated newspaper strip and in 1967 he went to DC Comics, where he drew covers for war comics and contributed stories to *The Adventures of Jerry Lewis* and *The*

Adventures of Bob Hope.

"His big break came one year later when he started drawing Batman. The artist showed a natural affinity for the Dark Knight, and in 1970, DC editor Julius Schwartz assigned the *Batman* comics to Neal and writer Dennis O'Neil," the DC statement said.

O'Neil and Adams also co-created John Stewart, the first Black Green Lantern and one of the first Black superheroes in DC period.

Adams didn't just tackle politics in his comics, though. He also worked for years to change the nature of the comic industry to benefit the workers who made the books. Although his efforts to organize a union of comic writers and artists were unsuccessful, his advocacy for Superman creators Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster was. The reason that every *Superman* TV show, movie, comic, cartoon, or other content features an unmissable "created by Siegel and Shuster" credit is a result of Adams' work, as was the pension that the two creators received from DC through the end of their lives. Adams also convinced comic publishers like DC and Marvel to return original comic art to the artists, allowing them to autograph and/or auction their pieces for supplemental income.

Jim Lee, DC Publisher and chief creative officer, praised Adams' illustrations of the Dark Knight.

"Neal Adams was an amazing illustrator, he changed comics. I loved his take on Batman. It was lithe, acrobatic, and dynamic. Neal's work continues to inspire me. This is a huge loss for the entire industry," Lee said in a statement.

Adams also mentored other comic artists like Frank Miller (who further revitalized Batman with his 1986 masterpiece *The Dark Knight Returns*) and Bill Sienkiewicz (whose unique style profoundly impacted Marvel heroes like Moon Knight and the New Mutants). Adams was also a constant presence at comic conventions, drawing art commissions for fans and regaling others with stories of his time in the industry.

Adams is thus well-remembered by the comics community, many of whom offered heartfelt tributes to his work and legacy. He is survived by Marilyn Adams, his wife of 45 years; his three sons, Josh, Jason, and Joel; his two daughters, Kris and Zeea; and his many grandchildren.

COYOTE VS ACME FILMING IN ABQ

Warner Bros' Looney Tunes live-action/animated hybrid film, *Coyote vs Acme*, began shooting in Albuquerque April 1, with the animation to be done in London.

Currently, filming is taking place in the far Northeast Heights with the film-world law firm of Avery, Jones & Maltese taking over a storefront near one of Albuquerque's comic book stores.

The adaptation, starring John Cena, is based on the Looney Tunes cartoon characters Wile E. Coyote and Road Runner, as well as Ian Frazier's New Yorker article

Coyote v. Acme, which follows an age-old rivalry between the Road Runner nemesis and his preferred mail-order supplier.

After Acme products fail him several times in his dogged pursuit of the Roadrunner, Wile E. Coyote decides to hire a billboard lawyer (Will Forte) to sue the Acme Corporation. Forte discovers that his former intimidating boss, played by Cena, is representing Acme. In determination to win the case, Forte and Coyote gradually develop an unexpected friendship.

Dave Green (*Earth to Echo*, *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Out of the Shadows*) is directing from a screenplay by Samy Burch.

Joining Cena and Forte is Lana Condor, best known for her hit Netflix YA movie franchise *To All the Boys I've Loved Before*. She also can be seen in the New Line pic *Moonshot* and the Netflix limited series *Boo Bitch*.

James Gunn is producing under his banner Two Monkeys, A Goat and Another, Dead, Monkey, alongside Christopher DeFaria, with Casten H.W. Lorenz serving as executive producer.

Forte has been on a hot streak as of late not only reprising his *Saturday Night Live* character MacGruber in the Peacock series of the same name but also returning to host *SNL*, marking his first hosting job on the show since he left the show in 2010. He has strong ties with Warner Bros Animation Group, having recently voiced Shaggy in their Scooby-Doo pic *Scooby-Doo: A New Universe*.

Cena, of course, previously collaborated with Gunn on the DC Extended Universe projects *The Suicide Squad* (2021) and *Peacemaker* (2022).

The film was originally scheduled to be theatrically released in the United States on July 21, 2023, by Warner Bros. Pictures. On April 26, it was taken off the release schedule, with *Barbie* taking over its original release date.

NEXT DOCTOR WHO NAMED

by Samantha Lear, tvinsider.com 5/8/22

After months of speculation, *Doctor Who* fans now know who will succeed Jodie Whittaker as the 14th Time Lord of the sci-fi series: Ncuti Gatwa.

BBC announced on May 8 that the *Sex Education* star will be the next Doctor on the long-running show. The 29-year-old Scottish actor will be the first non-white person to take on the role.

Reacting to the news, Gatwa said he is “deeply honoured, beyond excited and of course a little bit scared.

“This role and show means so much to so many around the world, including myself, and each one of my incredibly talented predecessors has handled that unique responsibility and privilege with the utmost care,” he continued. “I will endeavor my utmost to do the same.”

Sharing a behind-the-scenes look at the casting process, showrunner Russell T Davies said Gatwa “dazzled us” in his audition.

“The future is here and it’s Ncuti!” he said.

“Sometimes talent walks through the door and it’s so bright and bold and brilliant, I just stand back in awe and thank my lucky stars. Ncuti dazzled us, seized hold of the Doctor and owned those TARDIS keys in seconds... I’m sure you’re dying to know more, but we’re rationing ourselves for now, with the wonderful Jodie’s epic finale yet to come. But I promise you, 2023 will be spectacular!”

The news came just hours before the 2022 BAFTA Television Awards, at which Gatwa is nominated for the third year in a row for his role as Eric in Netflix’s *Sex Education*. The actor comes in as Whittaker, the first female Doctor, exits the role after three seasons. Her final appearance will be in the final of three feature-length specials airing later this year.

Former showrunner Chris Chibnall also announced he would be departing with Whittaker, and Davies – who served as showrunner in 2005 – will return at the helm for Season 14.

BUBONICON 53 HAS SOME UPDATES

Bubonicon 53 planning still is in the early stages with potential participants responding with programming choices, and fan groups writing in to request space & time. Weekend passes now are \$42.00 through August 12, and then \$48 at the Door. You can purchase your weekend pass at ASFS meetings with cash/check, mail your payment to “Bubonicon” with the PDF registration form to 933 San Mateo Blvd NE, Suite 500-208, Albuquerque, NM 87108, or pay online with a credit card.

The convention that recognizes “After the Plague Years (Plagues and Pandemics in SF/F)” takes place August 26-28 (one week before the 80th Worldcon in Chicago, Sept 1-5) at the Albuquerque Marriott Uptown, 2101 Louisiana Blvd NE (at I-40). Single-Quad rooms are \$105 a night when reserved by August 15.

COVID WARNING: Depending on what is going on with any new variant, there is a possibility that we will have a Mask Mandate and/or Require Proof of Vaccination/Negative Test at the con. We hope to make a decision by Thursday, July 20 (Space Day), if possible. Please plan accordingly and stay tuned...

Any solo or fan group requests for time & space are needed by THURS, MAY 26, at bubonicon@gmail.com. We just need basic info on what you’d like to do, the person/group requesting time, and how much time is needed.

In addition to Co-Guests of Honor Rae Carson & Keith R.A. DeCandido, Toastmaster A. Lee Martinez, and Guest Artist Chaz Kemp, those confirmed so far include: Lou J. Berger, Yvonne Coats, Sheila Finch, Reese Hogan, Darynda Jones, Jane Lindskold, Christopher Marsh, George RR Martin, Susan R. Matthews, Joan S. Saberhagen, Melinda M. Snodgrass, S.M. Stirling, David Lee Summers, Ian Tregillis, Sarena Ulibarri, Carrie Vaughn, and Connie Willis. More will be added, of course.

Green Slime Mistress Jessica Coyle is taking nominations for “wretched things that should be recognized” and

preparing to entertain the masses Saturday night.

While the programming schedule still is wide open, we have some news updates – We will be having both the Friday Night Charity Auction and the Saturday Costume Contest an hour earlier this year as an experiment. Geneva Schult once again is organizing the Costume Contest.

The con will benefit the Williamson Library Collection at Eastern NM University, the Roadrunner Food Bank, and World Central Kitchen/Red Cross through the Friday night auction and a portion of con proceeds.

Of the 27 available spots in the Dealers Room, about 2/3 have been sold. We still are taking applications through a Google form in order to guarantee a wide variety of items for sale by vendors at Bubonicon 53. Meanwhile, the Art Show will have rules & forms posted on the con's website in early July. Stay tuned.

As always, volunteers are appreciated! "Gofers," as con volunteers are known, receive movie promotional swag and other prizes, and are invited to a pizza party after Bubonicon 53 ends (usually late September).

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

BOOK REVIEW ROUND-UP

***Akata Woman: The Nsibidi Scripts Book 3* by Nnedi Okorafor, 2022 Viking Books for Young Readers, hc \$18.99, 416 pages.** Review by Jessica Coyle

Akata Woman is the third book in Nnedi Okorafor's young adult fantasy series that follows the adventures of Nigerian-American Sunny. Sunny is a Leopard person, or a person with magical abilities, whose family is unaware of her magical abilities. Sunny learns about her magic with her friends Saha, Chichi, and Orlu under the tutelage of her mentor Sugar Cream. This novel follows Sunny and her friends on an adventure through parallel Earth dimensions as they search for a magical object that they need to return to the giant spider spirit Uhide.

As someone who has enjoyed Okorafor's work, I have been eagerly awaiting the release of *Akata Woman*, and the book does not disappoint. Okorafor's use of Nigerian mythology and culture in conjunction with the magical world of the Leopard people creates an ever interesting canvas for her characters. In addition to the friends' adventure, the novel explores more of Sunny's difficult relationship with her non-magical family, especially with her father. This aspect of the novel adds even more layers to an already complex character and story that really help to flesh out the story.

I recommend *Akata Woman* to those who enjoy well-written and creative young adult fantasy.

***The Bone Orchard* by Sara A. Mueller, 2022 Tor Books, hc \$26.99, 418 pages.** Review by Roberta Johnson

Charm is a witch/scientist/madam and political hostess. Her chief lover is the dying emperor who rescued her from her war-ravaged country (the one he conquered), and

then enslaved her using an implanted device called a mindlock. His last order to her is to find which of his psychotic sons poisoned him, and make sure none of the kids inherit the throne. Her reward will be her freedom – if she survives. She is aided by the family she's created for herself, and by the friends she's made in unexpected places, both high and low.

Charm's chief family, employees and friends are bone-ghosts, grown using matrices from the bone orchard. The bodies she constructs are peopled by aspects of herself, transferred from her own mind. She still shares her body with one other personality, known only as the Lady, though that one, thankfully, spends most of her time sleeping. The bone-ghosts include Pride, Desire, Pain, Shame and Justice. They're real people, alive and capable of love, loyalty, bravery and sacrifice, all of which Charm will need in her quest to find the killer and defend their home, and maybe even save Charm's country in the process. The villains are pretty real too – including the emperor's psychotic sons, as well as the man who seduced her at 16, abandoned her and their baby, and can't believe she doesn't consider him the love of her life.

The Bone Orchard is the debut novel from award-winning short-story author Sara A. Mueller. This delicious Gothic fantasy features a cast of vivid characters, action driven by murder, politics, mystery and war. The plot is twisty and challenging. What's not to love?

***Siren Queen* by Nghi Vo, 2022 Tordotcom, hc \$26.99, 288 pages.** Review by Jessica Coyle

Siren Queen is the second stand-alone novel by Hugo and Crawford Award-winning author Nghi Vo. The story follows a young Chinese-American girl who is determined to become a movie star in the late 1920s and early 30s. In this world, the Hollywood movie studios are run by ancient creatures that use magic and blood sacrifices to control everything about their performers. As an actress, she is forced to give the studio everything from her face to her name for a chance to become a star. She is given the name Luli Wei, and she works to outsmart the system that sacrifices many young women to the monsters in charge and that would have her work on the fringes as a background character or a maid. Luli decides she would rather play a monster than a maid, and she has to decide what she is willing to sacrifice to the studio to make it happen.

This novel is by far the most beautifully written and engaging book I have read in recent memory. Vo creates a fantasy world that is based in the Hollywood studio system of the 20s and 30s, yet entirely original and new. Readers sympathize with the character of Luli as she tries to hang onto the core of herself while chasing her dream to be in the movies. Even as the people who run the studio try to change every aspect that makes Luli original and herself, she finds ways to maintain her identity and to get ahead in this world.

I highly recommend *Siren Queen* to those that enjoy historically-based fantasy, and I predict it will be nominated for a slew of awards when it is eligible next year.

ASFS MEETING REPORTS —

MARCH 2022: CLUB AUCTION

Patricia Rogers, Scott Denning and Craig Chrissinger auctioned off various items to 25 people at this annual club fundraiser. Assisting with money, tab piles and showing items to the audience were Geneva Schult, Jessica Coyle, and Roberta Johnson. More than \$300.00 was raised to assist with church rental, this newsletter, and the December holiday party.

Items of higher interest/bidding include: Alien Autopsy game \$2, Robot nesting dolls \$6, Sewing machine \$20, *Dr. Who* lunchbox with stuff \$10, signed copy of Daniel Abraham's *Age of Ash* \$15, Victor Milan's *Dinosaur Lords* trilogy and pin \$10, signed copy of James S.A. Corey's *Memory's Legion: The Complete Expanse Story Collection* \$25, *Star Wars* R2D2 backpack & DVDs \$5, Box of Space Opera books \$8, Classical music CDs \$6, Press book for *The Expanse* signed by James S.A. Corey \$30, 12 copies of *Renaissance Magazine* \$15, *Realms of Fantasy* magazines \$10, Rubber mallet \$3, *ShadowRun* game books \$6, *Strong Female Protagonist* graphic novels \$2, Witch's Oracle notebooks \$2, Fractal art by Kaade \$6, *Doc Savage* books \$3, and a box of random crap \$2.

APRIL 2022: LINDSKOLD VISIT

Twenty-seven people were on hand a week early and in a different room at the church to hear author Jane Lindskold talk about her two new fantasy novels from Baen.

"These books were started by cheerful enthusiasm," Lindskold said. "Five or so years ago, there was a rush of portal fantasy books, some really good like Seanan McGuire's *Wayward Children* series. Most of the protagonists are children are young teens. I thought what if adults got to travel through a portal? And I wondered how it might be that someone has to become a mentor. What happens to create the need."

In Lindskold's two *Over Where* novels, three older women - Meg, Peg and Teg - travel through a portal after being summoned, and decide to help three youngsters.

"*Library of the Sapphire Wind* had its genesis in 2017, and I wrote a good chunk in a few months," she said. "And then I got the rights back to the *Firekeeper* books, so I wrote two more sequels - *Wolf's Search* and *Wolf's Soul*. And then David Weber had time to work on *A New Clan* (*Star Kingdom 4*) in 2020. Weber had COVID, which slowed down the process so now the book finally is coming out this June.

"I dug out what I had written of *Library* as a rough draft," she continued. "I realized that it would be better as two books. The first book finishes an arc and doesn't end on a cliffhanger, but you need both books for the whole story. Tom Kidd's cover art captures the fun of the story."

Lindskold then read a *Library* action sequence in which the heroes face a "giant bathroom rug" with teeth.

She told the audience she was "really determined this would not be another world of another Europe in drag or what Americans think of Europe. This is its own world."

Asked about what's next, Lindskold said Weber and she have another contract for three books in the *Star Kingdom* universe. They'd like to take Stephanie Harrington to the point where she grows up and her parents are killed...

EDITOR NOTES TO FILL THIS SPACE

• **IT'S STILL A WEIRD WORLD** with doing dances around COVID and figuring out how to be safe moment to moment. Jessica and I went to the first in-person (Jack) Williamson Lectureship in Portales since 2019. It took place April 7-9 with Walter Jon Williams as Guest of Honor. It was a smaller affair with fewer participants, and it felt a little different. We all wandered from event to meal to event, deciding at each stop whether to mask or not. But it was great to see folks like Connie & Courtney Willis, Darynda Jones, Jeffe Kennedy, Ian Tregillis, Emily Mah. Reese Hogan, and the fine folks of ENMU and Portales. At one point, Walter revealed that he would like to get out a book about Benjamin Franklin. "It's a hard sale," he said. "It has science fiction elements, fantasy elements and such. Franklin was a player with lots of lady friends during his life. But publishers don't seem to want the Founding Fathers having sex." Walter and Connie gave good luncheon speeches, Jessica found a new Green Slime dress at the thrift store, and we had good drives coming and going.

Representing Bubonicon this time were Patricia Rogers, Kristen Dorland & Kennard Wilson (our roommates), Jessica and myself. My report and photo(s) on the Lectureship for *Locus Magazine* were turned in weeks ago, and the coverage should be in the May issue.

• **PART OF THAT COVID ODDITY** is sure to show up at Bubonicon 53 in August. It's a rebuilding year after two years of doing the con virtually, and we're not sure what to expect. How many people will come? How many participants? Will we have to have a mask mandate or ask for proof of vaccination? Only time will tell. Crossing fingers, for sure.

• **JESSICA & I** went to see Colin Hay in concert this past Tuesday at the Hispanic Cultural Center. Colin, best known for being the lead singer of Men at Work, did a great show. He was solo on stage for almost two hours, alternating between telling stories and sharing origins of songs; and singing new songs, a couple of covers, and some of his biggest hits. It was a great performance, the acoustics were very good, and somehow I feel refreshed from the experience.

• **NOT SURE WHAT IS GOING ON** with the world and our country right now. People seem to have lost their minds while some folks seem to want to control everything we think, do and believe. And let's not get started on Russia's illegal and bloody invasion of Ukraine. We stand with Ukraine.

• **REALLY ENJOYED Everything Everywhere All At Once** (lots to think about, well done), *Let the Wrong One In* (fun vampire comedy), and rewatching *Scott Pilgrim* and *Army of Darkness* - all at the Guild Cinema. Really want to go to one of the movie theater chains to see *Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness*. Also have enjoyed the first 3 new episodes of *Mystery Science Theater 3000* (especially the "Mother Crabber" rap at end of *Beyond Atlantis*), The Mads livestream riffings, and *The Mary Jo Pehl Show*. *Moon Knight* was very interesting and a surprise as we didn't know the character that well, and we've enjoyed both the American and British versions of *Ghosts* (both sweet, funny and very good).

• **THANKS TO** Roberta & Jessica for book reviews, and to everyone who had info for the Bob Cornett obit. See you in July! - Craig C