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


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

2019 Hugo Finalists Named

Finalists for the Hugo Awards and for the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer were announced April 2 by Dublin 2019, the 77th Worldcon, to be held August 15-19 in Dublin, Ireland. 1,800 valid nominating ballots were received and counted from members of Dublin 2019 and Worldcon 76. Nominees include Bubonicon friends Mary Robinette Kowal, Rebecca Roanhorse (of New Mexico), Catherynne M. Valente, Ursula Vernon (as T. Kingfisher), James SA Corey (of New Mexico), and John Picacio. A full list of nominees follows:

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


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

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

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

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

**Vonda N. McIntyre Dies**

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

McIntyre began publishing SF with “Breaking Point” in 1970, the same year she attended the Clarion Workshop. Her novelette “Of Mist, and Grass, and Sand” (1973) won a Nebula Award, and formed part of her classic novel *Dreamsnake* (1978), winner of Hugo, Locus, and Nebula Awards. Other notable stories include Hugo and Nebula Award finalists “Wings” and “Aztecs;” Nebula Award finalist “Transit;” Hugo Award finalist “Fireflood;” and Sturgeon, Tiptree, and Nebula Award...
finalist “Little Faces” in 2005. Some of her short work was collected in 1979’s *Fireflood and Other Stories*. 


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

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

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

**2019 Writers Guild Awards Winners**

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


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

**Book Group Still Reading**

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

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

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**2019 Skylark & Gaughan Awards Announced**

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

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

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


**2019 Colorado Book Awards Finalists**

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

**Science Fiction/Fantasy:** *Murder on the Titania and Other Steam-Powered Adventures* by Alex Acks, *While Gods Sleep* by L.D. Colter, and *Denver Moon: The Minds of Mars* by Warren Hammond & Joshua Viola.

**General Nonfiction:** *Strange Stars: David Bowie, Pop Music, and the Decade Sci-Fi Exploded* by Jason Heller.

**Juvenile Literature:** *The Lighthouse Between the Worlds* by Melanie Crowder, *Del Toro Moon* by Darby Karchut, and *Nadya Skylung and the Cloudship Rescue* by Jeff Seymour.

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

**2019 Compton Crook Award Finalists**

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


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 53, to be held May 24-27 in Baltimore MD. The winner will be announced on April 15. Selection is by vote of the BSFS membership.

**Betty Ballantine Dies**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**1944 Retro Hugo Awards Ballot**

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


**Best Novelette:** “Citadel of Lost Ships” by Leigh Brackett, “The Halfling” by Leigh Brackett, “Thieves’
Janet Asimov Passes Away

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

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

As Janet Asimov, she also co-wrote 10 volumes of children’s SF series – the Norby Chronicles – with her husband, SF writer Isaac Asimov, beginning with Norby, the Mixed-Up Robot in 1983 and ending with Norby and the Court Jester in 1991. She wrote final volume Norby and the Terrified Taxi (1997) alone. They co-edited anthology Laughing Space and co-wrote non-fiction How to Enjoy Writing: A Book of Aid and Comfort in 1987. She also edited a collection of her late husband’s letters, It’s Been a Good Life: Isaac Asimov, and wrote Notes for a Memoir: On Isaac Asimov, Life, and Writing (2006). She also wrote a syndicated science column and many articles and essays. Her last novel was historical fiction The House Where Isadora Danced in 2009 as J.O. Jeppson.

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

Gauntlet Press Publisher Praises ABQ’s Harry Morris

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

“As Janet Asimov, she also co-wrote 10 volumes of children’s SF series – the Norby Chronicles – with her husband, SF writer Isaac Asimov, beginning with Norby, the Mixed-Up Robot in 1983 and ending with Norby and the Court Jester in 1991. She wrote final volume Norby and the Terrified Taxi (1997) alone. They co-edited anthology Laughing Space and co-wrote non-fiction How to Enjoy Writing: A Book of Aid and Comfort in 1987. She also edited a collection of her late husband’s letters, It’s Been a Good Life: Isaac Asimov, and wrote Notes for a Memoir: On Isaac Asimov, Life, and Writing (2006). She also wrote a syndicated science column and many articles and essays. Her last novel was historical fiction The House Where Isadora Danced in 2009 as J.O. Jeppson.

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

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

“When we published the book (still the only edition available) he grudgingly admitted cover art was required. I suggested several artists and he chose Harry O. Morris. For a good fifteen or more years Matheson insisted that Harry do the cover art for his novels. With the publication of Hunger and Thirst, he knew he needed cover art. This was the first novel he’d written, but never published (a mainstream novel, had it been published his career would have drastically altered).

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

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

“Harry consults with the authors to get an idea what the author desires. If changes are required he makes them without a whimper. And, unlike many horror artists, he’s
no one trick pony. Check out the Matheson titles and then the Repairman Jack novels on the Gauntlet website. The art is far different.

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

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

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

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

Book Review Round-Up


Review by J. Spenser Lotz

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

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

ASFS Meeting Reports — January 2019: Book Recommendations

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

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

February 2019: Club Auction

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

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

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

Editor Notes To Fill This Space

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

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

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

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

• Now if we can continue to avoid a Nuclear War, we’ll have Bubonic 51 in just four months! Work has started...

• Thanks to my co-worker, Spencer, for his book review, and to Patricia R for the HOM bit! See you in July! – Craig C