



Spooky "It's Fall & Cooler - COVID STILL IS HERE" OCTOBER EDITION

ASFACTS 2022



GREEN SLIME AWARDS ANNOUNCED

In a ceremony August 27 during Bubonicon 53, Green Slime Mistress Jessica L. Coyle (with assistance from the Slime Time Puppets) presented the following with recognition of their wretchedness in the last 12 months:

FOOD: *Hostess \$TWINKcoin* (they should consult an urban dictionary, bad timing on Bitcoin reference), and Marshmello's Limited Edition Coca-Cola (gross idea - watermelon-strawberry flavored Coke.)

TOYS: *Marvel Heroes of Goo Jit Zu* - Incredible Hulk & Captain Marvel (Dumb, break easily, some filled with toxic things though they are for kids. "Contains bead filling/metallic goo filling.")

TELEVISION: *Tom Swift* (Acting & dialogue atrocious. Story is silly. Writing is bad and spfx can't hide that. Comes across as just another CW night-time soap opera.)

STUDIO: *Warner Brothers* (Making odd decisions like cancelling Latina *Batgirl* film, but going forward with marketing around problematic cast of *The Flash*.)

HORROR MOVIE: *Firestarter* ("Four-alarm disaster," plays like a failed SyFy Channel pilot, not a lot really happens, boring, Zac Efron's daddish efforts are hilarious, effects dodgy & unconvincing.)

SCI-FI MOVIE: *Moonfall* (Quite possibly the dumbest thing ever created by human beings, Repeats lots of beats from other films, script poorly written & stupid, laughable dialogue, atrocious acting from a good cast.)

DISHONORABLE MENTION: *Morbius* (Not the worst Marvel film, but not the best. Jared Leto too subdued.)

2022 HUGO, ASTOUNDING AND LODESTAR AWARDS ANNOUNCED

Winners for the Hugo Awards, the Astounding Award for Best New Writer, and the Lodestar Award for Best Young Adult Book were announced by Chicon, the 80th World Science Fiction Convention on September 4 in Chicago. Winners included three New Mexico authors, a Bubonicon author guest of honor, and a Bubonicon guest artist/toastmaster.

BEST NOVEL: *A Desolation Called Peace* by Arkady Martine, **BEST NOVELLA:** *A Psalm for the Wild-Built* by Becky Chambers, **BEST NOVELETTE:** "Bots of the Lost Ark" by Suzanne Palmer, **BEST SHORT STORY:** "Where Oaken Hearts Do Gather" by Sarah Pinsker, **BEST SERIES:**

Wayward Children by Seanan McGuire, **BEST RELATED WORK:** *Never Say You Can't Survive* by Charlie Jane Anders,

BEST GRAPHIC STORY OR COMIC: *Far Sector* by N.K. Jemisin and art by Jamal Campbell, **BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION, LONG FORM:** *Dune*, **BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION, SHORT FORM:** *The Expanse: "Nemesis Games,"* **BEST EDITOR, SHORT FORM:** Neil Clarke, **BEST EDITOR, LONG FORM:** Ruoxi Chen, **BEST PROFESSIONAL ARTIST:** Rovina Cai,

BEST SEMIPROZINE: *Uncanny*, **BEST FANZINE:** *Small Gods*, **BEST FANCAST:** *Our Opinions Are Correct*, **BEST FAN WRITER:** Cora Buhkert, **BEST FAN ARTIST:** Lee Moyer, **LODESTAR AWARD FOR BEST YOUNG ADULT BOOK (NOT A HUGO):** *The Last Graduate* by Naomi Novik, and **ASTOUNDING AWARD FOR BEST NEW WRITER (NOT A HUGO):** Shelley Parker-Chan.

2022 DRAGON AWARDS ANNOUNCED

Dragon Con announced the winners for the 2022 Dragon Awards during Labor Day weekend in Atlanta. They include a New Mexico writer duo and a TV show partially shot in Albuquerque this past year.

BEST SCIENCE FICTION NOVEL: *Leviathan Falls: The Expanse 9* by James S.A. Corey, **BEST FANTASY NOVEL (INCLUDING PARANORMAL):** *Book of Night* by Holly

UPCOMING ASFS MEETINGS

- **October 14 (Tonight):** Dr. Larry S. Crumpler talks about his 2021 book, the Mars Rovers, and what's new on the Red Planet. Plus club officer elections & Holiday Cook-Off discussion...
- **November 11:** Former NASA engineer Christopher Marsh presents a program on *X Minus One*.
- **December 9:** Our Holiday Social, with food treats & video amusements. How do we want to handle food in epidemic times? Plus, the annual issue of *SITHFACTS* (deadline 6 pm Mon, Dec 5).
- **January 13, 2023:** Club reports/discussion on what members read in 2022...
- **February 10, 2023:** Unknown! The Valentine's *ASFACTS* will be published (deadline Feb 6).
- **March 20, 2023:** Again unknown! Maybe the annual Club Auction?

Craig Chrissinger, normal editor. Darth Vader, guest editor each December. Please Send All Correspondence to — 2018 Cardenas Dr NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110. 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, Dec 5.** **Club Officers:** Jessica Coyle & Craig Chrissinger, co-Zec Secs (505) 266-8905. Harriet Engle, Moderator. Mike McCommas, Alternator. HAL 9000, Advisor. Jack Skellington, Pumpkin King. **Bubonicon Chair:** Craig Chrissinger, google voice (505) 559-0931. www.bubonicon.com

Black, BEST YOUNG ADULT/MIDDLE GRADE NOVEL: *A Dark and Starless Forest* by Sarah Hollowell, BEST MILITARY SCIENCE FICTION OR FANTASY NOVEL: *A Call to Insurrection* by David Weber, Timothy Zahn, & Thomas Pope, BEST ALTERNATE HISTORY NOVEL: *The Silver Bullets of Annie Oakley* by Mercedes Lackey,

BEST MEDIA TIE-IN NOVEL: *Star Wars: Thrawn Ascendancy: Lesser Evil* by Timothy Zahn, BEST HORROR NOVEL: *The Book of Accidents* by Chuck Wendig, BEST COMIC BOOK: *Immortal X-Men* by Kieron Gillen & Mark Brooks, BEST GRAPHIC NOVEL: *Dune: House Atreides Volume 2* by Brian Herbert, Kevin J. Anderson, & Dev Pramanik, BEST SCIENCE FICTION OR FANTASY TV SERIES: *Stranger Things*, and BEST SCIENCE FICTION OR FANTASY MOVIE: *Dune*.

Jim Starlin received the Julie Award. Winners in various gaming-related categories were also announced. Winners were announced on September 4 at Dragon Con.

ANGELA LANSBURY DIES

Angela Lansbury, the dignified stage and screen actress who played devious dames on Broadway and in the movies, and starred on the long-running TV mystery series *Murder, She Wrote*, died October 11 at her home in Los Angeles, reports ew.com. She was 96 years old.

Lansbury's family announced the news and said she died peacefully in her sleep, just five days shy of her 97th birthday.

"I have two audiences, actually," Lansbury once said, "the people who love to see me play bitches and the ones who want to see me sing and dance." Ironically, she made that comment before she took on the role for which millions of fans will remember her: Jessica Fletcher, the kindly Maine mystery writer who solved 264 homicides in 12 years on *Murder, She Wrote*. Although the hit CBS series brought Lansbury fame and wealth, it overshadowed a long, versatile career in films and on Broadway.

Born in London, Lansbury fled for the United States with her family after the Blitz. They settled in Los Angeles, where she briefly worked as a shopgirl before being hired by MGM at 17 to play the saucy maid in *Gaslight* opposite Charles Boyer and Ingrid Bergman. She wound up with an Oscar nomination for Best Supporting Actress, as she did the next year, for *The Picture of Dorian Gray*.

Early on she showed the qualities of icy elegance and controlled scorn that allowed her to excel as characters who were unsympathetic or amoral – and often older than she was. Although the series of ignoble women that MGM foisted on her eventually led to a departure from the studio, she later admitted, "Any actress will tell you that evil roles to play are the best. You can go to town." And she did just that in 1962's *The Manchurian Candidate*. Her impact as Laurence Harvey's heinous mother made the role indelibly hers and it brought her a third Oscar nomination. As it happened, she was only three years older than Harvey and hadn't even used makeup to age.

A smash run in *Mame* helped make Lansbury the toast of Broadway in the '60s and '70s, a stretch during which she won four Tonys for Best Actress in a Musical. The run hit its peak when she teamed with Stephen Sondheim for her greatest triumph: Nellie Lovett in the operatic *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* (1979). As the demented pie maker who uses the homicidal Todd's victims as filling, she scuttled across the stage like a wide-eyed, aging kewpie doll, helping audiences swallow the gruesome plot.

But television beckoned. In the early '80s Lansbury was offered a half-hour Norman Lear sitcom at the same time as a CBS hour-long series about a mystery writer. Her agent advised her against the latter. "In the history of television, there hasn't been a dramatic show with a woman lead that has been successful," he told her. Undeterred, she accepted *Murder, She Wrote*, which premiered in 1984.

Another Lansbury signature role was Mrs. Potts in the 1991 animated film *Beauty and the Beast*. She and Jerry Orbach sang the Oscar-nominated song "Be Our Guest."

She was also known for her roles in other classic children's films such as *Bedknobs and Broomsticks* (1971, as the middle-aged English witch Eglantine Price), *The Last Unicorn* (1982), *Beauty and the Beast* (1991), *Anastasia* (1997), *Fantasia 2000* (2000), *Nanny McPhee* (2005), and *The Grinch* (2018).

Lansbury continued to make guest television and film appearances, with recent credits including the 2017 miniseries *Little Women* and the 2018 movie *Mary Poppins Returns*, and earlier this year she received a special Tony Award for lifetime achievement.

Lansbury is survived by three children, Anthony, Deirdre, and David; three grandchildren, Peter, Katherine, and Ian; five great-grandchildren; and her brother, producer Edgar Lansbury. She was preceded in death by her husband of 53 years, Peter Shaw.



SF BOOK GROUP READS ON

The Droids & Dragons SF Book Group meets 7:30 pm Monday, October 17, inside Jason's Deli (northwest corner of Louisiana & America's Parkway NE) to discuss *The Mechanical: Alchemy Wars Book 1* by Ian Tregillis. The group then meets November 21 to discuss *Questland* by Carrie Vaughn. And on December 19, the group discusses *Mapping the Interior* by Stephen Graham Jones.

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

HOPKINSON WINS STURGEON

The winner for the Theodore Sturgeon Memorial Award for the best short science fiction story was announced in late September by the Gunn Center for the Study of Science Fiction, reports *Locusmag.com*.

The Winner is “Broad Dutt Water: A Sunken Story” by Nalo Hopkinson.

The Theodore Sturgeon Memorial Award recognizes the best science fiction short story of each year. Established in 1987 by James Gunn and the heirs of Theodore Sturgeon, including his partner Jayne Engelhart Tannehill and Sturgeon’s children, it is “a memorial to one of the great short-story writers in a field distinguished by its short fiction.”

The winner will receive a cash prize as guest of honor at the first Sturgeon Symposium. CSSF will presented the trophy and monetary prize to Hopkinson at the Sturgeon Award Ceremony on September 29 in Lawrence, KS. The ceremony featured a reading by Hopkinson, a Q&A session, recognition of special guests, and a presentation by Spencer Libraries Curator Elspeth Healey on the Theodore Sturgeon papers in the KU archives. For more information, see the Gunn Center’s website.

PETER STRAUB PASSES AWAY

Author Peter Straub died September 4 at the age of 79 years old after a long illness, reported *Locusmag.com*. Straub was a celebrated, influential, and bestselling author of literary horror, dark fantasy, and psychological thrillers.

Peter Francis Straub was born March 2, 1943, in Milwaukee, WI. He earned a BA in English from the University of Wisconsin in 1965, an MA from Columbia University in 1966, then returned to Wisconsin to teach English at his former prep school for three years. In 1969 he moved to Ireland and began work on a PhD at University College in Dublin, but did not finish. He published two books of poetry in 1972, and his first mainstream novel, *Marriages*, in 1973.

At the suggestion of his agent, Straub decided to give “gothic fiction” a try: first horror novel *Julia* appeared in 1975 and was later filmed as *The Haunting of Julia*. *If You Could See Me Now* (1977) followed, but his breakout novel was 1979’s bestselling *Ghost Story*, later a film. His next supernatural novels were *Shadowland* in 1980 and British Fantasy Award-winner *Floating Dragon* (1983), followed by a few linked works that were mostly non-supernatural: novella *Blue Rose* (1985), World Fantasy Award winner *Koko* (1988), *Mystery* (1990), and Stoker winner *The Throat* (1993). 1997’s *The Hellfire Club* was a thriller, and Stoker winner *Mr. X* (1999) was a return to the supernatural. 2003’s *lost boy lost girl* won a Stoker and a World Fantasy Award, and sequel *In the Night Room* (2004) won a Stoker.

A Dark Matter (2010) won a Stoker, and *The Skylark* (2010) is “an earlier state” of that novel, described by

Straub as “a much looser, sloppier, more wild-eyed version of the book.” Novellas *A Special Place* (2010) and *The Process (Is a Process All Its Own)* (2017) concern some of the same characters.

Straub’s collaboration with Stephen King on 1984’s *The Talisman* landed on the bestseller list and was followed up 17 years later with sequel *Black House* in 2001.

Notable stories include World Fantasy Award-winning novella “The Ghost Village” (1992), Stoker and International Horror Guild Award winner “Mr. Clubb and Mr. Cuff” (1998), and Stoker winner “The Ballad of Ballard and Sandrine” (2011). His short fiction has been collected in *Houses Without Doors* (1990), Stoker winner *Magic Terror* (1997), *5 Stories* (2007), *The Juniper Tree and Other Stories* (2010), and retrospective collections *Interior Darkness* (2016) and *The Complete Short Fiction of Peter Straub Volumes 1 and 2* (2021). Some of his non-fiction was collected in 2006’s *Sides*.

He edited HWA anthology *Peter Straub’s Ghosts* (1995), *Conjunctions 39: The New Wave Fabulists* (2002), the Library of America’s *H.P. Lovecraft: Tales* (2005), *Poe’s Children* (2008), and two volumes of *American Fantastic Tales* for the Library of America; the latter won a World Fantasy Award. An occasional actor, he appeared on episodes of soap opera *One Life to Live* 2006-2009.

In all, Straub’s books and stories were nominated for a dozen World Fantasy Awards, winning four, and 14 Bram Stoker Awards, with 10 wins, among many other award nominations. He was named a World Horror Grandmaster in 1997, won a Stoker award for life achievement in 2006, was named an International Horror Guild living legend in 2008, and received a life achievement World Fantasy Award in 2010.

Straub married Susan Bitker in 1966. He is survived by Susan and their two children, Ben and bestselling author Emma Straub.

B&N OBSCENITY CASE DISMISSED

Book Riot reported in late August that an obscenity case brought against Barnes & Noble in Virginia has been dismissed, with the judge saying neither of the books named met the legal definition of obscenity.

As previously reported by *Locus Magazine*, the suit was brought by Virginia state delegate and lawyer Tim Anderson and Republican Congressional candidate Tommy Altman, who sued Barnes & Noble in Virginia Beach Circuit Court to stop sales of fantasy *A Court of Mist and Fury* by Sarah J. Maas and *Gender Queer: A Memoir* by Maia Kobabe, calling passages that include sexual language “obscene.”



2022 MYTHOPOEIC WINNERS NAMED

The Mythopoeic Society announced the 2022 Mythopoeic Awards Winners during Mythcon 52, held July 29-August 1 in Albuquerque, reports [Locusmag.com](#).

MYTHOPOEIC FANTASY AWARD FOR ADULT LITERATURE: *Or What You Will* by Jo Walton, MYTHOPOEIC FANTASY AWARD FOR CHILDREN'S LITERATURE (TIE): *Pahua and the Soul Stealer* by Lori M. Lee and *Root Magic* by Eden Royce, MYTHOPOEIC SCHOLARSHIP AWARD IN INKLINGS STUDIES: *Tolkien's Modern Reading: Middle-earth Beyond the Middle Ages* by Holly Ordway, and MYTHOPOEIC SCHOLARSHIP AWARD IN MYTH AND FANTASY STUDIES: *The Modern Myths: Adventures in the Machinery of the Popular Imagination* by Philip Ball.

LOUISE FLETCHER DIES

Louise Fletcher, who won a best actress Oscar for her role as Jack Nicholson's cruel screen nemesis Nurse Ratched in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, died September 23 in her sleep surrounded by family at her home in Montdurausse, France. She was 88 years old.

The classic 1975 film *Cuckoo's Nest* followed the patients and staff of an Oregon psychiatric hospital. The Milos Foreman-directed film won five Oscars in 1976, including best actress, best picture and best director. Jack Nicholson won the best actor Oscar for his indelible performance as patient Randle P. McMurphy, who flouts the tyrannical rule of Nurse Ratched in the ward.

Fletcher's role became regarded as one of film history's greatest villains, No. 5 on an all-time list compiled by the American Film Institute.

Born in Alabama to deaf parents – Fletcher made one of the most touching acceptance speeches in Oscar history after her win in 1976. The character was so memorable she would become the basis for a Ryan Murphy Netflix series, *Ratched*, 45 years later, starring Sarah Paulson as Nurse Mildred Ratched.

Fletcher also starred as a soft-spoken psychiatrist in 1977's *Exorcist II: The Heretic*. Star Linda Blair paid tribute to her co-star on Twitter. "Louise was always a sweetheart," wrote Blair. "Working with her on the 'Exorcist II' was one of the highlights along with Richard Burton. She paved a beautiful golden road of hard work and accolades. God bless you my sweet friend."

On TV, Fletcher portrayed cunning and ambitious religious leader Kai Winn Adami who frequently fought with Captain Sisko and his crew on *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* throughout the show's seven-season run.

"Her contributions to the *Star Trek* universe will never be forgotten," the official *Star Trek* Twitter page tweeted.

Fletcher more recently played William H. Macy's meth-dealing, foul-mouthed mother on Showtime's *Shameless*, appeared in the Liev Schreiber 2013's film *A Perfect Man*, and on two episodes of Netflix series *Girlboss* starring Britt Robertson.

WORLDCON 2024 & NASFiC 2023 SELECTED

Glasgow 2024 won the bid to host the 2024 Worldcon. The 82 World Science Fiction Convention will be held August 8-12, 2024 in Glasgow, Scotland. Guests of honor announced so far include Chris Baker, Claire Brialey & Mark Plummer, Ken MacLeod, Nnedi Okorafor, and Terri Windling.

Voting on the 2024 Worldcon took place at the Chicago Worldcon this past Labor Day weekend. For more information, go to the Glasgow 2024 website.

Meanwhile, Winnipeg in 2023 has won the bid to host the next North American Science Fiction Convention (NASFiC), reported [Locusmag.com](#) in late September. Pemmi-con 2023, the 15th NASFiC, will be held July 20-23, 2023, in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Winnipeg ran unopposed after the Orlando, FL bid withdrew in August.

Confirmed guests of honor include Julie Czerneda, Waubgeshig Rice, and Nisi Shawl, John Mansfield, Philip John Currie, Lorna Toolis, Katherine Vermette, and Toastmaster Tanya Huff.

NASFiC takes place whenever a Worldcon is held outside of North America. For more information, see the NASFiC website.

2022 SCRIBE AWARDS ANNOUNCED

The International Association of Media Tie-in Writers (IAMTW) announced the winners of the 2022 Scribe Awards in late July, honoring excellence in licensed tie-in writing. Winners of genre interest follow.

ORIGINAL NOVEL - SPECULATIVE: *Star Trek Picard: Rogue Elements* by John Jackson Miller, ORIGINAL NOVEL - GENERAL: *Patient Zero (Pandemic)* by Amanda Bridgeman, ADAPTED NOVEL: *Alien 3* by Pat Cadigan, GRAPHIC NOVEL: *Life Is Strange: Coming Home* by Emma Vieceli,

AUDIO DRAMA: *Doctor Who: The Curse of Lady Macbeth* by Lizzie Hopley, YOUNG ADULT/MIDDLE GRADE: *First Team (Xavier Institute)* by Robbie MacNiven, and SHORT STORY: "Bon Temps" (*Tales of Wakanda*) by Harlan James.

LOCAL BOOKSELLER DIES

by Alaina Mencinger, *Albuquerque Journal* – and *ASFACTS* sources

Book Stop owner Jerry Lane died on September 23 after a year of declining health. He was 78 years old, and often had a stack of books that weren't for sale. When the Albuquerque bookseller came across a book that he thought someone would like, he'd set it aside and, often-times, gift it to them for free.

"He was as nice a guy as any of us have ever met," Nick Potter, who owns a bookstore in Santa Fe, told the *Journal*. "He was generous of heart and spirit on so many levels."

Lane knew many of New Mexico's authors and supported the science-fiction community, often inquiring on how various people were getting along when someone from ASFS or Bubonicon visited him.

Danielle Foster of Bookworks told *ASFacts*, "Jerry was awesome! He was Nancy Rutland's first boss when she started bookselling here in ABQ, and he was always cheering us on. He will be missed."

And Ollie Reed, who now writes for the *ABQ Journal* after working at Bookworks for a time, told *ASFacts*, "I knew him of course. Not well, just as a book lover who stopped at his store in its various locations over the years. I once wrote an item about his bookstore cat when it died."

Lane was born February 8, 1944, in San Diego, CA. Before becoming a bookstore owner, Lane served in the Air Force for several years. Later, said friend Ed Ripp, a private bookseller, Lane owned a coffee shop in Haight-Ashbury in San Francisco before becoming a traveling gift-card salesman. In 1973, Lane moved to Tucson, AZ, where he was introduced to the book trade by Laurie Allen, who owned a Book Stop location. She helped Lane open his own store in Albuquerque in 1979.

Although Lane originally opened the Book Stop in Nob Hill, the bookstore had many homes over the years. Each time, Lane carried his books on his own to the new location. Its last open-to-the-public location was on Washington NE, just south of Lomas. He closed the brick-and-mortar in 2015, and then sold books online and by inquiry. About a year ago, Lane reopened a store on Girard NE near Indian School Road, with a sign that read "Open by appointment or chance."

Potter told the *Journal* that the essence of the store never changed. "I think the change was more the address than the business. I think Jerry was consistent in the books he wanted to handle: good books with fair prices."

Every few months, Lane would haul a truck full of unsold books to donate to a library in California – not an easy feat, Ripp told the *Journal*.

"He was a great storyteller, joke teller – such a positive person," Potter said to the *Journal*. "He just stood for good things as far as I was concerned."

Lane is survived by a sister in California. A private memorial is planned for late October.

"The bookselling world in Albuquerque and the world at large are much smaller places with Jerry's passing," Ripp told the *Journal*. "He was a beloved man, and I'm gonna miss him terribly."

HOUSE OF THE DRAGON HAS FOUR SEASON PLAN

by James Whitbrook, gizmodo.com, 10-12-22

House of the Dragon's first season is racing towards an inevitable climax: the breakout of civil war between the myriad factions of the titular House Targaryen. But where does it go from here? Well, the good news is that George

RR Martin knows exactly where, and how long it'll take.

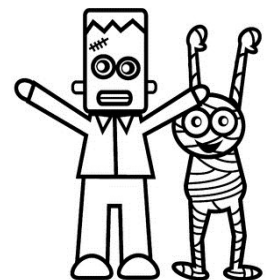
Discussing *House of the Dragon*'s myriad time jumps in its debut season on his Not A Blog personal site, Martin pondered the time need to cover the story of this fateful period of Westerosi history. Acknowledging that there were things that the series had already chose not to cover from the loose details of history we knew from Martin's writing in *Fire & Blood* – like Alicent and Viserys' fourth child, Daeron, who is "down in Oldtown, we just did not have the time to work him in this season," according to the writer – Martin also reflected on the shortening of TV seasons in his long tenure as a writer for the small screen.

"When I was a boy, shows had 39 episodes a season. By the time I was writing for *Beauty and the Beast*, it was down to 22. Cable shrunk that even further. *The Sopranos* had 13 episodes per season, but just a few years later, *Game of Thrones* had only 10 (and not even that, those last two seasons)," Martin mused. "If *House of the Dragon* had 13 episodes per season, maybe we could have shown all the things we had to 'time jump' over... though that would have risked having some viewers complain that the show was too 'slow,' that 'nothing happened.' As it is, I am thrilled that we still have 10 hours every season to tell our tale."

As such, Martin also confirmed that *House of the Dragon* will continue to tell that tale for another three seasons, should HBO continue to renew it. "It is going to take four full seasons of 10 episodes each to do justice to the *House of the Dragon*, from start to finish," Martin concluded, before adding, should anyone be ready to ask him about pages, "but right now, Ryan Condal's focus is on *HOT D* season two, and mine is on *The Winds of Winter*."

Aside from the fact that it is utterly delightful that Martin also calls the show "Hot D," because secretly deep inside we're all children, it's a good and refreshing thing from the get-go that it seems the creator and the creative team behind *House of the Dragon* actually have an agreement on just how long this show could, and should, play out. That's something that clearly became a sticking point on *Game of Thrones* as it drew towards its divisive conclusion, and why Martin has spent his time since its end either asking us to shut up about *The Winds of Winter*'s release date or letting us know that his books will do things differently.

It's hard to say if this plan for *House of the Dragon* may persist. A lot could happen in the time it takes to make another three seasons, the show has already made a grand job of expounding on the details Martin shared of this period in Westeros in *Fire & Blood*, and it's clearly been incredibly popular so far. HBO want might more, who's to say. But for now, it's relieving that *House of the Dragon* is seemingly building to something its predecessor struggled with: an end point it knows well in advance.



NICHELLE NICHOLS PASSES AWAY

Actor and author Nichelle Nichols died July 30 in Silver City, NM, of heart failure. She was 89 years old. Nichols was best known for her portrayal of communications officer Lieutenant Uhura in the original series of *Star Trek* (1966-69) and subsequent film projects. She was one of the first Black women to have a major role on a network television program, and had a profound influence on US culture. She was also an occasional author, co-writing *Star Trek* story "Surprise!" (1978, with Myrna Culbreath & Sondra Marshak), collaborating on SF novels *Saturn's Child* (1995, with Margaret Wander Bonanno) and *Saturna's Quest* (2002, with Jim Meehan), and writing memoir *Beyond Uhura: Star Trek and Other Memories* in 1994.

Grace Dell Nichols was born December 28, 1932, in Robbins, IL, and grew up in Chicago. She began using the name Nichelle as a teenager. She studied ballet and got her start as a singer and dancer at a nightclub during high school, where Duke Ellington saw her, and subsequently hired her to perform with his orchestra on tour. She went on to perform in musical theater in the '50s, had small film roles, and first appeared on TV in 1963, appearing on several programs before her breakthrough *Star Trek* role.

Nichols often told the story of attending an event where she met Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr., who described himself as her "biggest fan" and urged her to continue her role on *Star Trek*, because having a Black character treated with dignity and occupying a position of power was important; she quoted him as saying, "For the first time, we will be seen on television the way we should be seen every day." In 1977, Nichols began working with NASA to help recruit women and minority people for training in spaceflight, and was widely credited with furthering the cause of diversity in space exploration.

Nichols was married and divorced twice. She is survived by her son.

NEW SVENGOLIE COMIC BOOKS IN 2023

by MeTV Staff, 10-7-22

Svengoolie and MeTV have announced development, with Frank Miller Presents, on full-length comic books starring the iconic horror host himself, Svengoolie. Two comics are set to release in 2023. As if Svengoolie's Halloween *BOOnanza* couldn't get any better, the big announcement was given to fans attending the *Svengoolie* panel at New York Comic Con.

Svengoolie previously starred in 2019's *Svengoolie Meets the DC Universe*, written by Dan DiDio, which featured Svengoolie alongside DC Comics super-heroes Superman, Wonder Woman, as well as Gotham nemesis, The Joker.

Mark your calendars for 2023, and be some of the first to get your hands on the new *Svengoolie* comic books!

DISNEY SHUFFLES MOVIE RELEASES

by James Whitbrook, gizmodo.com 10-11-22

Disney has announced a major overhaul of its upcoming release schedule, including big delays for Marvel's future – including the pushing of the launch of the MCU's Phase 6 to 2025.

On October 11, Disney announced that *Blade*, the untitled third *Deadpool* film (recently revealed as starring Hugh Jackman as Wolverine alongside Ryan Reynolds' titular anti-hero), as well as Phase 6 openers *Fantastic Four* and *Avengers: Secret Wars* would receive new, later release dates. Another currently untitled Marvel film, previously dated for May 1, 2026, was removed from the schedule entirely.

Here's the run-down of the new Marvel changes:

Blade previously dated on November 3, 2023, moves to September 6, 2024.

Untitled *Deadpool* movie previously dated on September 6, 2024, moves to November 8, 2024.

Fantastic Four previously dated on November 8, 2024, moves to February 14, 2025.

Untitled Marvel Movie previously dated on February 14, 2025, moves to November 7, 2025.

Avengers: Secret Wars previously dated on November 7, 2025, moves to May 1, 2026.

Untitled Marvel Movie dated on May 1, 2026, is removed from schedule.

The *Blade* change is no surprise given the news earlier October 12 that the movie was going on pause following the departure of director Bassim Tariq. Still, the other changes have major ramifications for the far-reaching plans Marvel head honcho Kevin Feige recently laid out at San Diego Comic-Con in an all-star panel for the studio. *Blade* was originally an early harbinger of the next, fifth phase of the MCU, and will now likely close that chapter off ahead of *Fantastic Four* beginning phase 6 in 2025.

Although unmentioned in the shuffle, *Secret Wars* now sits well after the launch of its predecessor *Avengers: Kang Dynasty*, which still retains its May 2, 2025, release date – less than three months after the new arrival of *Fantastic Four*.

Marvel was not the only subsidiary at Disney affected

by the new schedule modifications. The recently revealed *Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes* was confirmed as the previously untitled project from 20th Century Studios due to release May 24, 2024, while the third Kenneth Branagh Hercule Poirot film, *A Haunting in Venice*, was confirmed for a release on September 15, 2023. More information on Disney's plans will be coming.



Bubonicon 53 Happened: **ATTENDANCE DOWN, MASKS UP**

by Craig Chrissinger, con chair

After being virtual for two years, Bubonicon returned to being in-person this August but with less attendance than in previous pre-pandemic years and with a financial loss. Bubonicon 53 took place August 26-28 at the ABQ Marriott Uptown with Author co-Guests of Honor Rae Carson and Keith R.A. DeCandido, Toastmaster A. Lee Martinez, Guest Artist Chaz Kemp, and Science Speaker Courtney Willis.

With just 538 attendees, Bubonicon 53 was one of the smallest in years, and many attendees were one-day only. Along with a hotel bill of about \$13,700, finances were stretched thin. As a result, Bubonicon 53 went into the red close to \$5,600 – going into the convention’s nest egg to make ends meet.

Even with a mask mandate inside the ABQ Marriott Uptown, attendees said they were glad to see the convention back in-person and happy to see everyone. So, the 2022 convention was a success in that it happened, people were happy to be here, and as far as we can determine no one became ill with COVID during the weekend.

Because of a successful Friday night Charity Auction, Bubonicon 53 is able to donate \$1,450 to non-profit organizations. The Williamson Library Collection at Eastern NM University is receiving \$375, the Roadrunner Food Bank is receiving \$420, World Central Kitchen is getting \$375, New Mexico PBS is receiving \$110, and the American Red Cross of NM is receiving \$170.

Bubonicon 53 saw four new programming participants – Lou J. Berger, Sheila Finch, C.C. Finlay, and John Sumrow; plus the return of George RR Martin, Wil McCarthy, Melinda Snodgrass, Carrie Vaughn, Connie Willis and Courtney Willis.

The Art Show had 35 artists (down from the average 48-52) displaying their wares with sales of \$9,576 – 42.7 percent of all artwork entered was sold. The Sunday Auction was down with sales of \$1,155 (*Froomb* went for \$50). Of that, 78.6 percent went to Bubonicon.

Bubonicon 53 marked the 9th year at the Albuquerque Marriott Uptown, and all went as well as possible with their staff shortage, too. Unfortunately, lighting panels in rooms still don’t work properly after the building was hit at least twice by lightning in storms that happened right before the 2018 con. Crossing fingers that an electrician can fix the issue before August 2023. And it remains true that a large percentage of the hotel staff are closet fans!

COSTUME CONTEST AWARDS: Best of Show was “Tok” the Kenku (John Frazier), Best Youth was Robin Hood (Kaleb Train), Best Beginner was Doctor Crow, Plague Doctor (Chloe Gass), Best Intermediate was The Tick (David Kubica), and Best Master was Ember the Dragon Queen (Karen Lopez), and Best Use of Theme went to Death Goes On Holiday (Ken & Jackie Coombes).

ART SHOW AWARDS: Professional to Lucy A. Synk,

Amateur to Victor Saenz, Student to Meara Ensminger, and Beast of Show (theme) to Sarah Clemens.

All in all, while the con staff was rusty after two years off, Bubonicon 53 went very well thanks to every individual who pitched in! So, a tip of the con-com’s hats to everyone who contributed their time & efforts!

BUBONICON 54 will be held August 25-27, 2023 – normal weekend – hopefully at the Albuquerque Marriott Uptown (Louisiana & I-40), with Guests of Honor Rebecca Roanhorse & Carrie Vaughn, Toastmaster Duo Ursula Vernon & Kevin Sonney, and Guest Artist Rachael Mayo. Rooms most likely will be \$149 single-quad with free WiFi in sleeping rooms. Con chair is Craig Chrissinger, with Jessica Coyle & Mandy Self as assistant chairs. It will take place two weeks after the 3rd NM Comic Expo and just five days after the Chendgu, China Worldcon.

Suggestions and program ideas for 2023 are being taken at bubonicon@gmail.com.

REVIEWS ROUND-UP

***Noor* by Nnedi Okorafor, 2022 DAW (reissue), tp \$18.00, 224 pages.**

Review by Jessica Coyle

Author Nnedi Okorafor is considered one of the premiere African-futurist authors working today. Her latest novel, *Noor* focuses on a Nigerian woman named AO. She was born with birth defects, and a later accident leaves her disabled enough that she requires major mechanical body augmentations to survive. She is given these life-saving augmentations by the government and the all-powerful Amazon-like corporation that runs all private sector business in this world. AO earns her living using her augmentations to work as a mechanic, even as a large part of society ostracizes her because of them. Then she is accused of a horrible crime and is forced to go on the run, where she teams up with a Fulani herdsman named DNA who is also falsely accused. Together they decide to hide in the Nigerian desert where few people go due to terrible storms that kill almost all who enter. There they find information that will change their society forever as long as they are able to survive to reveal them to the world.

Noor is an engrossing story from one of the most interesting authors writing now. AO is a fascinating woman, whose only desire is to be viewed and treated like everyone else in spite of her differences, even as these differences become more pronounced as the story goes on. Okorafor creates a fascinating future Africa that explores the idea of how a corporation can become so powerful that citizens will ignore its travesties in order to maintain their comfortable society. I recommend this book for those who enjoy near-future thrillers and Okorafor’s other works.

***‘Til Death: A Witch City Mystery 12* by Carol J. Perry, 2022 Kensington, mmpb \$8.99, 320 pages.**

Review by Jessica Coyle

Carol J. Perry’s *A Witch City Mystery* series follows Lee Barrett, former reporter and current programming director of Salem, Massachusetts’ WICH-TV. Lee is also a

psychic who sees visions that help her solve mysteries. In *'Til Death*, Lee and long-time boyfriend Detective Lee Mondelo are finally getting married. Their honeymoon leads them to an island off of the coast of Maine, which also happens to be the site of Lee's parents long-ago death in a plane crash. While the crash was said to be pilot error, the behavior of islanders leads Lee and Pete to suspect that her parents may have been murdered. Will their investigation lead them to discover new information in this case?

'Til Death is the 12th installment in Perry's bestselling *A Witch City Mystery* series. The series is a fun ride with a likeable main character in Lee Barrett, and the supporting characters, like Lee's Aunt Ibby, their cat O'Ryan, and the employees at WICH-TV are all engaging in their own right. If you enjoy cozy mysteries with a magical twist, I definitely recommend this series.

ASFS MEETING REPORTS — JULY 2022: SUMMER MOVIE TIME

A group of 27 people were at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church for a summer movie night. First up, "Chariots of Fur," a cartoon with the Road Runner and Coyote, was shown. And the main feature was presented: *Dr. Goldfoot and the Bikini Machine*. One attendee commented, "It was very cheesy and very '60s, but fun."

AUGUST 2022: BUBONICON PREVIEW & RADFORD "GHOST SEX" TALK

Thirty-two people came for a preview of Bubonicon 53's schedule and t-shirts with Chaz Kemp artwork. After Craig Chrissinger gave the preview, skeptic Benjamin Radford gave a talk on "Ghost Sex: A Peek Beneath the Sheets, From Succubi to Kesha to 'Demon Sperm.'"

Radford noted that succubi sometimes are seen as Fae folk with many believing they are neither ghost or demon. In Irish legend, they are known as "lhiannon-shee." Succubi often are described as very sexual and feminine. They also often show up in roleplaying-game book cover art.

He said that ghost lovers show up in fiction, such as in *Ghost Sex #1: Taken by the Ghost* by M.J. Sexsmith; and on screen like in *Poltergeist*. "Ghosts often manifest through electronics including EVP and televisions," Radford said. "The interesting thing about the promotion was the image of a girl looking at static on TV."

Talking about visual ghost sex, Radford said that in 2011 an Ohio woman became concerned her house was haunted. She told her family to watch for anything unusual. And then one day her granddaughter captured an image on the TV of ghosts in sexual intercourse. "The image is blurry, and it doesn't look like much," he commented. And in 1984's *Ghostbusters*, Dan Aykroyd's character has an erotic dream of a sexy ghost.

Ghost lovers are more common than one might expect said Radford. A woman from Bristol in 2018 said she would never go back to men after having sex with 20 ghosts. And in a 2012 radio interview, singer Kesha said

"Supernatural" was inspired by a ghostly sexy encounter. Horror actress Natasha Blasick also claims to have had a ghostly sexual encounter - as well have Bobby Brown, Lucy Liu, and Anna Nicole Smith.

In cases of ghostly gropers and assaults, Radford said most claim the encounters were pleasurable, but some say the encounters were disturbing and violations. For instance, Doris Birch, a 73-year-old grandmother claimed a ghost groped her like an octopus, and that three ghosts raped her. Investigators say she was an alcoholic and a deeply troubled woman whose claims "were due in large part to extreme emotional distress coupled with an overactive imagination and libidinous fantasies."

And, of course, supernatural sex made news in 2020 when a doctor praised by President Trump announced that gynecological problems could be caused by demons having sex with women while they sleep: "demon sperm."

"It's impossible to know what people are talking about and what they experienced," said Radford in conclusion. "Hallucinations can seem real to people experiencing them, and be the result of misperceptions and illusions. There's nothing pathological or strange about these thoughts. Everyone has had strange thoughts at night."

EDITOR NOTES THAT FIT THIS SPACE

• **WHAT'S UP THIS MONTH?** Well, Albuquerque has cooled down about three weeks earlier than usual. One moment it was September and fairly warm, and then October came in with rain and cooler temps. I turned off the water to our swamp cooler this past Monday, and I doubt whether we'll even need the fan bringing in fresh nighttime air anymore this year. No trips planned for us this October, and we're not going to Milehicon 54 in Denver (though we are planning on COSine in January 2023). It's a busy month in Albuquerque, and we still need to get our 2nd COVID boosters and flu shots. Looks like the pandemic may officially become an "epidemic" by January 2023. COVID will kill a certain number of people each year, and annual vaccinations will be the new norm. Of course, for all I know, there could be nuclear-fueled WWII...

• **BUBONICON 53 WAS A VICTIM** of folks still being COVID concerned, and we couldn't make everyone happy. Some didn't come because of our mask mandate, while others stayed home because we didn't ask for proof of vaccination. As in all such gatherings, we all have to decide our own personal levels of comfort and safety. Jessica and I still wear masks in grocery & retail stores, but that precaution hasn't stopped us from going to concerts by Weird Al (great show at the Santa Fe Opera) and Colin Hay; to Popejoy to see Come From Away, Mean Girls and Hairspray on stage; and to movie theaters to see *Bullet Train*, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *Fright Night*, *Thor: Love and Thunder*, *Clue*, *They Live* and *Bros...*

• **NEW TV SEASON** has started (including *Ghosts*, *Quantum Leap* and *Young Sheldon*), plus streaming shows *She-Hulk*, *Star Wars: Andor*, *What We Do in the Shadows*, and *The Orville: New Horizons*. Read and enjoyed Becky Chambers' *A Prayer for the Crown-Shy*; *Monk & Robot 2*, A. Lee Martinez's *Constance Verity Destroys the Universe*, and T. Kingfisher's *Nettle & Bone*. Also reading the usual magazines & comics.

• THANKS to Jessica C & Ollie R for contributions. More stuff is needed for *SithFacts* in December! Have a **Happy Halloween & Thanksgiving**. Take care & stay strong! — Craig C.