



ASFACTS 2023

MAY "SPRINGTIME FIRE SEASON" ISSUE

WESTERCON 75 CANCELED

Arlene Busby, chair of Westercon 75, announced in early May that Westercon 75 is canceled, according to Locusmag.com.

"The Westercon 75 staff and I regret that we cannot fulfill our plans to hold the event which had been scheduled for June 30-July 3 in Anaheim, CA. It saddens us to do this, but a cascade of circumstances won't allow it to happen," stated Busby.

"Instead, Loscon 49, scheduled for November 24-26, at the Marriott Los Angeles Airport Hotel, will assume the mantle of Westercon 75, and will honor the memberships of those members of Westercon 75 who do not request a refund from the Anaheim committee. The 2023 Westercon Business Meeting will thus be held at Loscon 49, during which the election to choose the site of the 2025 Westercon (Westercon 77) will occur.

"The Chair of Loscon 49 has agreed to accept members of Westercon 75 as members with the transfer of money. They are honoring the spirit of the convention. Loscon 49's chair, along with the LASFS Board of Directors will honor the memberships in good faith and to support potential increased participation in the vote for Westercon 77 (for which a separate voting fee is required)."

Members can have their memberships transferred to Loscon 49, donate their memberships to Westercon 75 to help defray costs, or ask for a refund.

LOCUS AWARD 2023 FINALISTS NAMED

The Locus Science Fiction Foundation announced on April 28 the top ten finalists in each category of the 2023 Locus Awards. These results are from the February 1 to April 15 voting, done by readers on an open public ballot.

The Locus Awards winners will be announced June 24 during the in-person Locus Awards Ceremony, held in the historic Nile Hall at Preservation Park in downtown Oakland, CA. Maggie Tokuda-Hall is the MC for the awards ceremony with special guest Connie Willis. Nominees with connections to New Mexico and/or Bubonicon include:

SCIENCE FICTION NOVEL: *The Spare Man* by Mary Robinette Kowal, and *The Kaiju Preservation Society* by John Scalzi, FANTASY NOVEL: *Nettle & Bone* by T. Kingfisher, and *Fevered Star* by Rebecca Roanhorse. HORROR NOVEL: *What Moves the Dead* by T. Kingfisher.

NOVELLA: *A Prayer for the Crown-Shy* by Becky

Chambers, and *Tread of Angels* by Rebecca Roanhorse. NOVELETTE: "The Difference Between Love and Time" by Catherynne M. Valente. ANTHOLOGY: *The Best American Science Fiction and Fantasy 2022* edited by Rebecca Roanhorse & John Joseph Adams.

COLLECTION: *Memory's Legion: The Complete Expansion Story Collection* by James S.A. Corey. ARTIST: Bob Eggleton, John Picacio, and Charles Vess.

MICHAEL REAVES PASSES AWAY

Michael Reaves died March 20 in Los Angeles, CA. He had Parkinson's, and was 72 years old, announced Locusmag.com.

James Michael Reaves was born September 14, 1950, in San Francisco, CA. He attended the Clarion Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers' Workshop in 1972, and his first SF story was "The Breath of Dragons" in 1973's *Clarion 3*. Some early work appeared under the name J. Michael Reaves. Debut novel *I, Alien* appeared in 1978, and other novels include *Dragonworld* (1979) with Byron Preiss, *The Shattered World* (1984) and sequel *The Burning Realm* (1988), *Hell on Earth* (2001) and sequel *Mr. Twilight* (2013) with Maya Kaathryn Bohnhoff, *Street Magic* (1991), *Night Hunter* (1995), and *Voodoo Child* (1998). He collaborated with Steve Perry on *Hellstar* (1984), *Dome* (1987), *The Omega Cage* (1988), *Thong the Barbarian Meets the Cycle Sluts of Saturn* (1998), and *The Dreadnaught* (2011). He co-wrote YA fantasy *InterWorld* (2007) with Neil Gaiman; later installments in the series were written in collaboration with daughter Mallory Reaves.

Darkworld Detective (1982) is a collection of linked stories that mingle SF, fantasy, and mystery elements.

UPCOMING ASFS MEETINGS

- **Tonight:** ABQ authors Lauren C. Teffeu & Sarena Ulibarri read and discuss their latest works.
- **June 9:** Devin O'Leary of *The Paper* talks about writing scripts for low-budget films and his pulp-style online sci-fi stories.
- **July 14:** Time for our fun Summer Film. Plus summer's issue of *ASFACTS* (deadline July 10).
- **August 11:** Bubonicon 54 preview & something else completely different.
- **August 18:** Bubonicon 54 Gofer Meeting.
- **September 15 (One Week Late):** Reports on Bubonicon 54, and possibly DragonCon.
- **October 13:** Unknown program, plus club elections... And the Halloween issue of *ASFACTS*!

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: cwcraig@nmia.com. *ASFACTS* published February, April, July & October for the Albuquerque SF Society. *SITHFACTS* out each December. **NEXT DEADLINE:** Mon, July 10. **Club Officers:** Craig Chrissinger & Jessica Coyle, co-Zec Secs (505) 266-8905. Troy Stull, Moderator. Mike McCommas, Alternator. Pollen, Spring pest. Perry Rodent, rat mascot. **Bubonicon Chair:** Craig Chrissinger (505) 559-0931.

Some of his short fiction was collected in *The Night People* (2005). He co-edited anthology *Shadows Over Baker Street* (2003) with John Pelan of New Mexico.

Reaves also wrote numerous tie-in books and stories (for *Star Wars*, DC Comics, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, and other properties) and contributed to shared world series including *Time Machine*. He was a writer and story editor for animated television series in the '80s and '90s, including *Gargoyles* and *Batman: The Animated Series*, and won an Emmy Award for his writing on the latter in 1993.

GRR MARTIN & GENRE SHOWS IMPACTED BY THE WGA WRITERS STRIKE (SO FAR)

by Kelli Boyle, tvinsider.com 5/9/2023

Several genre productions, including shows from New Mexico's George RR Martin, are being affected by the WGA Writers Strike which began May 2. Among genre shows, the following are known:

A Knight Of The Seven Kingdoms: The Hedge Knight: George RR Martin confirmed in a May 7 blog post that the writers room on *A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms: The Hedge Knight* had been closed. HBO ordered the latest *Game of Thrones* spinoff in April. "The writers room on GoT spinoff *A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms: The Hedge Knight* has closed for the duration," he wrote in a show of solidarity with the WGA.

"There are pickets in front of every studio lot and sound stage in LA, and many in other cities as well," he went on. "Get used to them. I expect they will be there for a long time. I am not in L.A., so I cannot walk a picket line as I did in 1988, but I want to go on the record with my full and complete and unequivocal support of my Guild."

House of the Dragon Season 2: *House of the Dragon*, a prequel to Martin's *Game of Thrones*, will continue production with Season 2, as the scripts were locked in before the strike began. The show will continue without the writers being involved. But writers are utilized throughout the filming process as things get tweaked and improved on set.

Scripts from union members cannot be changed whatsoever while a work stoppage is in place, so the series will have to go on without making any alterations to the script. Unless the production pauses and resumes when the strike is over, we'll never really know if the second season could have been better than whatever it ends up being.

Blade: Pre-production on *Blade* has been stopped in response to the writers strike, per *The Hollywood Reporter*. The Marvel series is set to star Mahershala Ali as the eponymous vampire hunter. It was to begin filming in Atlanta in June.

Daredevil: Born Again: Marvel's upcoming revival of *Daredevil* was a picket line target on May 8 in New York City. Picketers successfully shut down production around 1 pm, but the show is expected to commence filming on May 9, according to showrunner and strike captain Warren Leight, who is part of the WGA and is taking an active part in the strike by tweeting picket line updates. Leight said SAG-AFTRA and IATSE members have joined their picketing efforts.

Evil Season 4: Picketing on May 5 shut down production on *Evil* Season 4. Shortly after the picketing (which saw support from IATSE members on the crew who refused to cross the picket line, per Warren Leight), production on

Season 4 wrapped early. The early shutdown was reportedly due to a cast member having to leave to focus on a family issue, per *Variety* and the picketing.

The Rings of Power Season 2: *The Rings of Power* has opted to finish the final weeks of Season 2 production without showrunners J.D. Payne and Patrick McKay and the writers on set, per *Variety*. Decisions for the final 14 days of production (they're reportedly set to wrap on May 23) will be made by non-writing executive producers, directors, and crew working on set in the U.K.

Stranger Things Final Season: The strike has halted all production on *Stranger Things* Season 5, the final season of Netflix's hit sci-fi drama. The Duffer brothers, the creators of the series, announced the production delay on Twitter on May 6.

"Duffers here," they wrote. "Writing does not stop when filming begins. While we're excited to start production with our amazing cast and crew, it is not possible during this strike. We hope a fair deal is reached soon so we can all get back to work. Until then — over and out. #wgastrong."

BOOK GROUP STILL READING

The Droids & Dragons SF Book Group meets at 7:30 pm Monday, May 15, at Jason's Deli (northwest corner of Louisiana & America's Parkway NE - across the street from Bubonicon's Marriott Hotel) to discuss *A Master of Djinn* by P. Djeli Clark. The group then focuses on *Replay* by Ken Grimwood on Monday, June 19, at Jason's Deli.

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.

BUTLER AWARDED 1ST INFINITY AWARD

Octavia E. Butler has been named the recipient of the Inaugural Infinity Award, reported Locusmag.com in late April. The award is presented by the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers Association (SFWA) to "posthumously honor acclaimed creators who passed away before they could be considered for a Damon Knight Memorial Grand Master Award. This new award aims to recognize that even though those celebrated worldbuilders, storytellers, and weavers of words are no longer with us, their legacies will continue to inspire."

According to SFWA President Jeffe Kennedy, "Establishing this new award is very important to me. Over the years, so many creators have been passed over for the Grand Master nod, for one reason or another. Some died tragically early. Others were not recognized for their work during their lifetimes because of cultural prejudices and blind spots. Others were simply ahead of their time. When we look back at the nearly sixty years of SFWA celebrating SFF creators, there are some who stand out as ones we deeply wish had been given our highest awards. Being able to recognize Octavia E. Butler as our first recipient of the Infinity Award is an inspiring and gratifying first step toward correcting past omissions."

The award will be presented during the Nebula Awards Ceremony being held May 12-14, and the directing manag-

er of the Octavia E. Butler Estate will receive it. Instead of a physical award, the SFWA will make a donation to a cause the honoree supported. This year, the donation will go to the Clarion West workshop.

ANNE PERRY DIES

Anne Perry died April 10 in Los Angeles, CA. She was 84 years old, announced Locusmag.com.

Though best known for mystery novels (notably the Thomas Pitt and William Monk series), she also did occasional genre work, including *Tathea* (1999) and sequel *Come Armageddon* (2001), the Timepiece sequence, and anthology *Death by Horoscope* (2001).

Perry was born Juliet Marion Hulme on October 28, 1938, in London, and spent time in the Caribbean, South Africa, and New Zealand while growing up. In 1954, at age 15, she and her 16-year-old best friend Pauline Parker plotted and carried out the murder of Parker's mother, Honorah Rieper, in Christchurch, New Zealand. After five years in prison, Perry changed her name and went back to the UK. Her identity was not widely known until the 1990s, when the truth emerged following the release of director Peter Jackson's 1994 film about the crime, *Heavenly Creatures*.

Perry worked as a flight attendant and lived in the US for a time before settling in Scotland for most of her life. In 2017, Perry relocated to Los Angeles. Debut novel *The Cater Street Hangman* appeared in 1979, and in all, she wrote over 100 books. Her final book *The Fourth Enemy* appeared shortly before her death.

BUBONICON 54 MOVES ALONG

Bubonicon 54 is just a little more than three months away, and work is progressing on confirming participants and starting to visualize the programming schedule.

Weekend passes for the August 25-27 Albuquerque convention are now \$48.00 for adults through the end of August 11. Youths, 13-19 year of age, are \$28.00. Passes can be purchased on the Registration page of the Bubonicon website or at meetings of ASFS.

Confirmed participants so far are Lynn Barker, Lou J. Berger, Jon Black, Peri Charlifou, J.L. Doty, Gordon Garb, Josh Gentry, Brian D. Hinson, Betsy James, Darynda Jones, Carolyn Kay, Chaz Kemp, Jeffe Kennedy, Elizabeth Leggett, Jane Lindskold, Wil McCarthy, Kelly Robson, Joan Spicci Sabherhagen, Melinda M. Snodgrass, Jim Sorenson, S.M. Stirling, David Lee Summers, Lauren C. Tefteau, Ian Tregillis, Sarena Ulibarri, Walter Jon Williams, and Connie & Courtney Willis.

The con committee still is awaiting proposals from individual fans and groups who would like to run fan programs during the weekend. The deadline for these time/space requests is Monday, May 29.

The Art Show, headed up by Kathy Kubica, is moving back to the silent auction bidding method for sales of pieces – so be sure to check your bidding status often!

The Con Suite, managed by Stormy Tuttle, plans to mostly have individually wrapped items again to cut down on the handling of food by multiple people. They also are planning to use the “Across the Multiverse” convention theme to decorate all three of their rooms differently.

And Jessica Coyle, slime mistress, is waiting on your

nominations for the Green Slime Awards. Nominees must have been released between Bubonicon 53 and August 11, 2023. You can send nominations to bubonicon@gmail.com.

The convention that looks at “Across the Multiverse” takes place at the Albuquerque Marriott Uptown, 2101 Louisiana Blvd NE (at I-40). Single-Quad rooms are \$149 a night when reserved by Monday, August 4.

MASKING? Most likely, we will encourage masking indoors to help cut down on the spread of “con crud,” but there won't be any mandate. Please stay safe...

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

More info available at 505-559-0931 (Google voice), by emailing bubonicon@gmail.com, or at bubonicon.com.

BOOK REVIEW ROUND-UP

Some Desperate Glory by Emily Tesh, 2023 Tordotcom, hc \$28.99, 448 pages. Review by Jessica Coyle

Emily Tesh, winner of the World Fantasy Award for Best Novella for *Silver in the Wood* and the Astounding Award for Best New Writer in 2021, has definitely proven herself as a short fiction writer. *Some Desperate Glory* is her much anticipated debut novel, and Tesh does not let the reader down. The story follows Kyr, a young woman who has been raised by the last scraps of humanity on Gaea Station. Her entire life has trained her to be a weapon to avenge the death of Earth, but when she is assigned to bear children instead of fight, Kyr escapes with her brother's friend and a captive alien to follow her destiny. She soon discovers that the universe is larger and much more complicated than she ever imagined.

Tesh's novel is a sprawling space opera that is anchored in a very flawed but compelling character. At first, I was mildly annoyed by Kyr's single-minded devotion to Gaea Station, but her journey allows her to grow in change in such magnificent ways that I was quickly sucked in. The main supporting characters are equally complex, and Tesh has worked to create a complex and interesting world. I highly recommend *Some Desperate Glory* to those who enjoy space opera and coming-of-age stories.

ASFS MEETING REPORTS — JAN 2023: BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

The beginning of 2023 saw 28 people gather to discuss books read in 2021, whether good or bad. A book title mentioned by more than one person is indicated by an asterisk.

Among reading materials named were *The Lost World* by Michael Crichton, the *Harry Potter* series, *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings** by JRR Tolkien, *Of Dice and Men: The Story of Dungeons & Dragons* and *the People Who Play It* by David M. Ewalt, *It Couldn't Happen Here* by Sinclair Lewis, *Her Majesty's Wizard* by Christopher Stasheff, *Ink & Sigil* by Kevin Hearne, *Earth* by David Brin, *Darwin's Radio* by Greg Bear, *Now We Are Six* by A.A. Milne, *Spelunking Through Hell* by Seanan McGuire, *Project Hail Mary** by Andy Weir, *Ocean's Echo* by Everina Maxwell, *The City We Became* by N. K. Jemisin, *Friends, Lovers, and the Big Terrible Thing: A Memoir* by Matthew

Perry, newspapers, *How Mother Rat Invented The World* by William Stubblefield, *Alien Crossings* by Laura F. Sanchez, *The Illustrated Man* by Ray Bradbury, *Ringworld* by Larry Niven, *The Three Body Problem* by Cixin Liu, *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams, *Memory's Legion: The Complete Expanse Story Collection* by James S.A. Corey, *The Adventure of the Peculiar Protocols* by Nicholas Meyer, *The Lady from the Black Lagoon: Hollywood Monsters and the Lost Legacy of Milicent Patrick* by Mallory O'Meara, *Alternate Routes* by Tim Powers, *Zero History* by William Gibson, dinosaur non-fiction books, *The Civil War: A Narrative, Volume I, Fort Sumter to Perryville* by Shelby Foote, *The Case Files of Henri Davenport* by Honor Raconteur, *Nice Dragons Finish Last* by Rachel Aaron, *The Thorn of Dentonhill* by Marshall Ryan Maresca, *Harbinger: Tinker Series 6* by Wen Spencer, *Deadwood Humorous Mysteries* by Ann Charles, *Red Rising* series by Pierce Brown,

Amongst Our Weapons: Rivers of London 9 by Ben Aaronovitch, *Space: 1969* by Bill Oakley, *Backyard Starship* series by J.N. Chaney, *Roadkill* by Dennis E. Taylor, *Impact Winter* by Travis Beacham, *The Color of Magic* by Terry Pratchett, *Fairy Tale** by Stephen King, *Easy Street (the Hard Way): A Memoir* by Ron Perlman, *Star Trek* books, crime thrillers, *Lucifer's Hammer* by Larry Niven & Jerry Pournelle, *First and Only* by Dan Abnett, *If It Bleeds* by Stephen King, *Pet Sematary* by Stephen King, *The Sandman* by Neil Gaiman audiobook, *Star Man's Son* by Andre Norton, *The Hero's Journey* by Joseph Campbell, *The Mind in the Cave* by David Lewis-Williams, *Dragonriders of Pern* series by Anne McCaffrey, *Haunted Bookshop* mysteries by Cleo Coyle, *The Gravity of Us* by Phil Stamper, *Bone Silence* by

Alastair Reynolds, *The Arrows of Iron* by Sam Sykes, *20th Century Ghosts* by Joe Hill, *Dead Man's Hand* by James J. Butcher, *The Great Taos Bank Robbery and Other Indian Country Affairs* by Tony Hillerman, *A Time of Torment* by John Connolly, *Arch-Conspirator* by Veronica Roth, *The Vampire Knitting Club* by Nancy Warren, *Bait and Witch* by Angela M. Sanders, *Norylska Groans* by Michael R. Fletcher, *Wee Men of Ash and Shadow* by HL Tinsley, *Constance Verity Destroys the Universe* by A. Lee Martinez, *Legends & Lattes* by Travis Baldree, *Yours Cruelly, Elvira: Memoirs of the Mistress of the Dark* by Cassandra Peterson, *Bone Crossed* by Patricia Briggs, and *Murder on the House* by Juliet Blackwell. And one person warned against *Sea of Tranquility* by Emily St. John Mandel.

EDITOR NOTES TO FILL THIS SPACE

• **NOT MUCH ROOM AND THIS ISSUE IS A MONTH LATE...** In April the week before the ASFS meeting, Jessica had daytime abdominal surgery that kept her home for three weeks (she's much better now). Then our kitten, Gizmo, was neutered the next week. Finally, with ASFS this Friday, I had a colonoscopy on Tuesday. So, there have been lots of procedures in our house in the last four weeks! And lots of naps! At least we got to the Williamson Lectureship in Portales, which was nice, and we enjoyed meeting Arkady Martine & Vivian Shaw.

We saw *Renfield* on the big screen. We really enjoyed *The Last of Us* on HBO Max, and have watched the first episode of *The Muppets Mayhem*. And I enjoyed reading *What Makes Us Mighty: Firefly 7* by M.K. England, which came out last June.

• **THIS ISSUE IS SHORT** because we need more submissions! Thanks go to Jessica for the book review. See you in July! – Craig C

ASFACTS - MAY 2023

Albuquerque SF Society

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NEXT DEADLINE MON, JULY 10, 2023

DELIVER TO: