

ConNotations

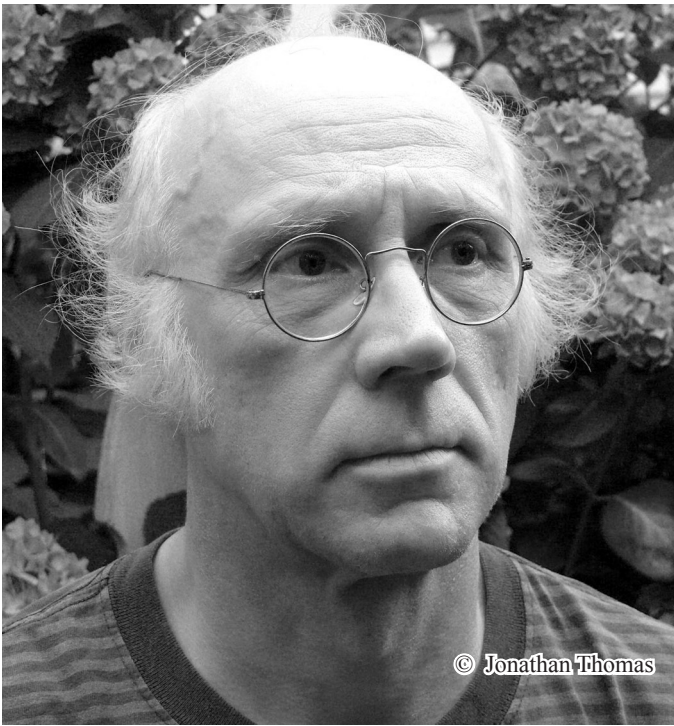
Volume 21, Issue 3
June / July 2011
FREE

The Bi-Monthly Science Fiction, Fantasy & Convention Newszine of the Central Arizona Speculative Fiction Society

A Conversation with Jonathan Thomas by Chris Paige

Interview with
Jonathan Thomas
Author of *Tempting
Providence* and
Other Stories

Jonathan Thomas's story "Tempting Providence" is included in *Black Wings: New Tales of Lovecraftian Horror*, edited by S.T. Joshi and nominated for the 2010 Shirley Jackson Edited Anthology Award. Jonathan and Joshi were among the dozens of professional Lovecraftians at MythosCon last January in Phoenix. Between panels and mass book



signings, we managed to squeeze in this interview. Jonathan is also a musician who likes to hit things, percussive instruments by choice, but keyboards will do.

CP: What are some of the titles on your bookshelves?

JT: Skipping around at random? *The Best of Myles* by Flann O'Brien, *Madman's Drum* by Lynd Ward, *The House on the Borderland* by William Hope Hodgson, *The Lady in the Lake* by Raymond Chandler, *Dunt Esk*

by Milt Gross, *A Is for Alien* by Caitlin R. Kiernan, *Stealing God's Thunder* by Philip Dray, *Mariah of the Spirits* by Sherry Austin, *The Big Town* by Ring Lardner, *The Weird Tale* by S.T. Joshi, *The Adventures and Misadventures of Maqroll* by Alvaro Mutis, *The Lottery and Other Stories* by Shirley Jackson, *Egil's Saga* translated by Hermann Pálsson and Paul Edwards, *Greeks, Romans and Barbarians* by Barry Cunliffe,

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by Jeffrey Lu

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For current movie reviews on opening day and additional original online content in between print issues including additional BOOK and VIDEO reviews posted on the 15th of February, April, June, August, October and December

Special Features

**A Conversation with
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It's the very nearly 50th
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**Rocky the Flying Squirrel and
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**An Evening with
Stephen Hawking**
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Plus

FYI
News and tidbits of interest to fans

CASFS Business Report

**Club Listings
Convention List &
Generic Registration Form**

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CASFS Business Report

CopperCon 30 is now closed. It has paid all of it outside obligations and made some money over. **CopperCon 31** -- **Carrie Vaughn** has agreed to help with the Short Story Contest. Check the web site for timeline, rules and other needed information. M.R. Hildebrandt is now Our Fan Guest replacing Adam Niswander who had to withdraw for health reasons.

CopperCon 32 is now working on an author Guest. Things look good. **ConNotations** received one paid subscription.

CASFS Book Social has been moved to the Community Room at Bookman's on the Northwest corner of 19th Ave and Northern in Phoenix. On March 15th we discussed *His Majesty's Dragon* by Naomi Novik. We liked it. On March 19th we discussed *Off Armageddon Reef* by David Weber. The book discussed at length with opinion about it divided. Next on May 17, we will discuss *American Gods* by Neil Gaiman. The new list of books for the second half of the year is available on the web.

By Laws. At the March Meeting Bob La Pierre' By-Law amendment submitted at the February Meeting was defeated. It would have changed the Office holding attendance requirements for Secretary and Treasurer from 4 out of the last 6 meetings to 9 out of the last 12 meetings and moved the Treasurer's election to December. Jeff Jennings' only slightly re-worded version of the amendment was passed at the April meeting. -- **Gary Swaty**

What is CASFS?

What is really behind putting on a convention? What are the funds raised by a convention used for? Why not attend a meeting and find out? We're the sponsor of ConNotations, CopperCons, HexaCons, SmerfCons and other conventions. We are a charitable, non-profit organization that exists to further science fiction, fantasy and science fields in Arizona. CASFS currently meets at the Denny's Restaurant at 2360 W Northern Ave in Phoenix. The meetings begin at 8PM and are held on the last Friday of the month Jan. through Sept. and on the second Friday of the month Oct through Dec. Everyone is invited to attend two meetings as a guest (non-member). Membership rates are \$12/year plus an initial \$3 application fee and rates are pro-rated for the amount of the year remaining. For more info: Webpage: www.casfs.org Email: info@casfs.org

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SF Tube Talk

TV News & Previews
By Lee Whiteside

First of all, I'd like to say a few words about **Elisabeth Sladen**, Sarah Jane Smith on *Doctor Who*, who passed away from cancer on April 19 at the age of 65. As many have noted elsewhere, she was the companion that was most remembered from the early years of *Doctor Who* and when the show was revived in 2005, she was also the first classic companion to be seen in the new series, appearing with **David Tennant** in the *School Reunion* episode in 2006. When I last saw **Elisabeth** in person, it was at Gallifrey One in 2005, shortly before the new series debuted. When the subject came up about whether the new series might bring back some of the companions from the earlier years, she was very appreciative that fans would want to see her in the role of Sarah Jane Smith again, but didn't think they'd ask her. Of course, she may have already known she was coming back, but she didn't let on if she knew anything. And come back she did! Not only did old and new fans respond to the return of her character, but the Children's BBC commissioned a series of *The Sarah Jane Adventures* which became the highest rated children's show for the BBC. It ended up having Sarah Jane meet up with the Tenth Doctor one more time as well as **Matt Smith's** Eleventh Doctor. We also got to see The Brigadier one last time (**Nicholas Courtney** passed away in February at the age of 81) as well as the return of Jo Grant (**Katie Manning**). The series is a fun series, that holds up well for older viewers and harkens back to the early days of *Doctor Who*. Four series have been aired so far with six unaired episodes filmed for series five before **Sladen's** death that will be aired by the BBC later in the year. The first series was broadcast in the US on SciFi, but the later series are only available via DVD in the US. Her *Doctor Who* stories with **Jon Pertwee** and **Tom Baker**, in combination with her appearances in the new series and *The Sarah Jane Adventures*, has left old and new fans with plenty of adventures to remember her by.

The return of *Doctor Who* to television screens in the UK, US and Canada on the same day has led to record ratings on this side of the pond, leaving a lot of fans wondering about what's to come in the rest of the season. As mentioned previously, this year's season is being split into two parts, with seven episodes airing in the spring, and the remaining six airing in the fall with a game changing cliffhanger promised for episode seven, which will air in the UK on June 4 and in the US June 11 (BBC America is skipping Memorial Day weekend, thus putting the US a week behind the UK). The first weekend in June will see *The*

Almost People, the second half of a story begun in *The Rebel Flesh* in which the Doctor and company come across a doppelganger/clone work force that starts to go awry. Ending the first block of the season is *A Good Man Goes to War* which brings back River Song, Cybermen, Sontarans and likely the Silence. In the Radio Time series preview, Steven Moffat wrote this about the episode "Want to find the most dangerous place in the universe? Easy. Harm a hair on Amy's head and just wait. But as the last of the Time Lords and the Lone Centurion blaze across galaxies to save the woman in both their lives, history is unfolding. In her cell, in Stormcage, River Song knows the time has come at last. She has a secret, and this is the day she tells it. The battle of Demons Run has begun. And the Doctor's darkest hour is now." Needless to say, after that episode, Who fans will be eagerly anticipating the return of the series in the fall.

But, it will be a shorter wait for more Whoniverse action, with *Torchwood: Miracle Day* debuting on the BBC in the UK and on Starz in the US on July 8th. There's not been much specific information about the series released beyond the main premise: One day, no one on Earth dies, and it continues to be like that going forward. Returning in the starring roles are **John Barrowman** as Captain Jack Harkness and **Eve Myles** as Gwen Cooper along with **Kai Owen** as Rhys Williams and **Tom Price** as PC Andy. New to the series are **Mekhi Phifer** as Rex Matheson, a CIA agent who is investigating the "Miracle" and associated conspiracy and tracks down information on Torchwood. **Bill Pullman** is Oswald Danes, a former school teacher and child killer sentenced to death that, you guessed it, doesn't die when he is executed, making him a celebrity. **Alexa Havins** is Esther Drummond, a deskbound CIA agent dreaming of active duty that gets more than she imagined when she runs into Jack Harkness and tries to keep up with him and Gwen. Other actors guest starring include **Ernie Hudson**, **John de Lancie**, **Wayne Knight**, **C. Thomas Howell**, **Lauren Ambrose**, **Arlene Tur**, and **Lena Kaur**. Writing episodes will be **Russell T Davies**, **John Shiban**, **Doris Egan**, **Jane Espenson** and **John Fay**. At the Gallifrey One convention in February, **Espenson** and **Egan** were both excited about working on the series and thought it was some of the best work they've done. After *Doctor Who's* first half ends, BBC America will debut *Outcasts* as the next new series in their Supernatural Saturdays. It focuses on a group of colonists who have started the colony of Forthaven on Carpathia as Earth has been abandoned by the human race. Led by President Tate (**Liam Cunningham**) and his core team of Stella (**Hermione Norris**), Cass (**Daniel Mays**) and Fleur (**Amy Manson**), they're

determined to run the civilization in a democratic way, but some tough decisions in the past may prove divisive. The series opens as they've lost contact with Earth and the final transport arrives with Julius Berger (**Eric Mabius**) and Expeditionaries Mitchell (**Jamie Bamber**) and Jack (**Ashley Walters**) go on a mission to explore the new planet and find what resources there are and if there is other life. BBC America will also start airing repeats of the *Battlestar Galactica* remake originally seen on SciFi (which BBC America definitely seems to be making a claim for best Science Fiction cable channel).

As of press time, the fall season plans for the broadcast networks have not yet been announced, but a few shows have been renewed in advance of the Up Fronts. FOX has picked up *Fringe* for a full season order of 22 episodes, while the CW has green lighted additional seasons of *The Vampire Diaries* and *Supernatural*. Up in the air are *Chuck*, *The Event*, *No Ordinary Family*, *V*, and *Nikita*. New series hoping to be picked up include *Wonder Woman* (NBC) which is a modern take on the Wonder Woman mythos with **David E. Kelley** producing, *17th Precinct* (NBC) about a precinct in an alternate San Francisco where magic rules over science (created by **Ronald D. Moore**), *Grimm* (NBC) where fairy tale creatures live among us, *Locke and Key*

(FOX) based on the IDW comic created by **Joe Hill** (set in Maine), *Charlie's Angels* (ABC), *Once Upon a Time* (ABC) about a small town in Maine where fairy tales may be real, *Poe* (ABC) which is a period drama with Edgar Allen Poe as a detective in 1840's Boston, *Secret Circle* (CW) based on the books by **L. J. Smith** about a teen who moves to New Salem, Maine, and discovers she's from a family of witches, and *Awakening* (CW) about two sisters who come of age during a Zombie uprising.

Debuting on TNT on Sunday June 19th is *Falling Skies*, a new series from Dreamworks and executive produced by **Steven Spielberg**. The series opens six months after a devastating alien attack that has decimated most of the world's civilization. The few survivors have banded together in pockets of resistance to fight back against the invaders and protect the survivors. It stars **Noah Wyle** as Tom Mason, a Boston history professor who lost his wife in the initial attack and has one of his three sons taken captive by the aliens. He is second in command of the 2nd Massachusetts regiment of freedom fighters, putting his knowledge of military history to use as they work to find a way to outsmart the invaders. **Moon Bloodgood** stars as Alice Glass, a pediatrician working with the surviving children, **Will Patton** is Weaver, Tom's commanding

(Cont'd on page 4)



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Patricia Briggs

Author of

Mercy Thompson, Alpha and Omega, Sianim Series
and Others

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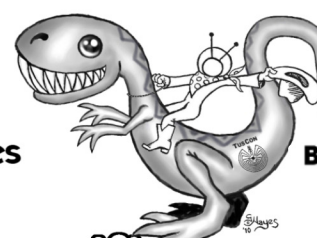
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SF Tube Talk (Cont'd from page 3)

officer, **Drew Ray** is Hal, Tom's oldest son, **Connor Jessup** is Ben, Tom's captured son, **Seychelle Gabriel** is Lourdes, an orphaned teen who helps Alice in her makeshift clinic. TNT's press release describes the show as "a tale of endurance, commitment and courage in which everyday people are called upon to become heroes. The series focuses on the resilience of the survivors and their determination to maintain their humanity when all else has been destroyed. It also explores the ties that bind people together in the most difficult of circumstances, as well as the potential for humans to turn on each other when the struggle to survive threatens to give way to desperation. Through it all, there are moments of joy and happiness, including birthdays, births, humor, romance and friendship. The survivors may be outmatched, outnumbered and outgunned, but nothing can beat the human spirit."

Over on Syfy, Monday nights have become the night for their surviving drama series. **Stargate Universe** just ended its run and **Sanctuary** was moved from Fridays to Mondays at very short notice (and resulting ratings following **Stargate Universe** do not bode well for the series). Returning to the channel on Monday July 11th will be **Eureka** and **Warehouse 13** plus the debut of their new drama series, **Alphas**. **Alphas** follows a team of ordinary citizens with extraordinary mental and physical abilities. Taking the law into their own hands, the unlikely team, led by Dr. Lee Rosen (**David Strathairn**) investigates cases that suggest other Alpha activity to uncover what the CIA, FBI and Pentagon have not been able, or willing, to solve. These gifted individuals must balance their quirky personalities and disparate backgrounds with their not always visible powers as they work to solve crimes, stop the ticking time bomb and catch the enemy. Also starring are **Azita Ghanizada** as Rachel Myers, **Laura Mennell** as Nina Theroux, **Malik Yoba** as Bill Harken, **Ryan Cartwright** as Gary Bell, and **Warren Christie** as Christian Hicks. **Eureka** returns for the back half of season four (technically season 4.5) and follows on from the first half of the season continuing to deal with the after effects of the timeline changes. Expect to see more of **Wil Wheaton** as Dr. Isaac Parrish, with **Felecia Day** appearing as Dr. Holly Marten and **Aaron Douglas** as Ray Darlton. Also expect to see an appearance by **Stan Lee** at some point. On **Warehouse 13**, joining the cast will be **Aaron Ashmore** as Steve Jinks, an ATF agent with an innate ability to detect when someone's lying. Returning to Friday nights after **Wrestling** on July 15th will be **Haven**, for which in season two Audrey Parker

(**Emily Rose**) "must not only stay on top of Haven's many afflictions -which continue to be revealed in every episode - but also solve her most challenging case yet: the secret of her own lost past and its ties to Haven."

Syfy will also have more Saturday night movies, including **Red Faction: Origins** (June 4) with **Robert Partick, Brian J. Smith,** and **Kate Vernon, Ice Road Terror** (June 11) with **Michael Hogan** and **Brea Grant, Swamp Shark** (June 25) with **Kristy Swanson, D.B. Sweeney** and **Robert Davi, Age of Dragons** (July) starring **Danny Glover** in a reimagining of *Moby Dick* with dragons, and **Super Eruption** (July) with **Juliet Aubrey** and **Richard Burgi**. Reality series include more **Ghost Hunters International, Hollywood Treasure**, and the debut of **Haunted Collector** and **Legend Quest**.

A Conversation

(Cont'd from page 1)

Lectures in America by Gertrude Stein, *The Banquet Years* by Roger Shattuck, *Collected Ghost Stories* by M.R. James, *The Invention of Clouds* by Richard Hamblyn, *Food for the Dead* by Michael E. Bell...

CP: I'm holding your book, *Tempting Providence and Other Stories*. As in Providence, Rhode Island?

JT: Yes, which is where I'm from. I was born in Providence at The Lying In, which is same hospital Lovecraft was born in, many, many decades earlier. The official name was the Providence Lying-In Hospital (now the rather less interesting Women & Infants Hospital). "Lying In" had been a term for maternity hospitals since the mid-1700s at least, but seems to have fallen into disuse. But for some reason I'll never quite understand I had to grow up in some place called Woonsocket. By college age I was back in Providence.

CP: You attended Brown University. What did you do after graduating?

JT: I worked in Providence for a while. Then I got married, quit my secure job, and moved to New York, because that's where my wife, Angel, was. As soon as I got there, she began remarking how she really wanted to get out - she'd been there too long. We finally tried to let the cat decide our destination. We dropped the cat on a map; the cat seemed to be picking Winston-Salem. "Oh, no, we can't move there; it's too hot." So we ended up back in Providence.

CP: Why write horror? Is it anger management, lurid imagination, some other lure?

JT: I think my folks unwittingly primed me for horror as a "career" choice. The first movies I can recall my mother taking me to

were *Angry Red Planet* and *The Mysterians*, and she read me *The Island of Dr. Moreau* as a bedtime story. And before I was in first grade, my old man tried convincing me Dracula was hiding somewhere upstairs in our house. His idea of a joke, I guess. I don't know what they were thinking; maybe they wanted to encourage my imagination. I did have some spectacular nightmares, a few of which I can still remember.

CP: Your stories are in the mythos, aren't they?

JT: Actually, no. The title story is a kind of sequel or riff on "Haunter of the Dark" by Lovecraft; it appeared in the first *Black Wings* volume initially. The others are not so much in the mythos; they stand alone, but after yesterday's panel I have to think twice before I say whether something is Lovecraftian or not.

CP: How did you discover Lovecraft?

JT: Through a very common route, shared by many people at this convention, of being twelve or thirteen and finding the Lancer paperback edition of *The Colour Out of Space and Other Stories*, with a flaming skull on the cover, which is a perfect lodestone.

CP: Sounds irresistible if you're a twelve year old.

JT: Oh, yeah!

CP: After the Lancer paperback, what was your next encounter with Lovecraft?

JT: When I was a senior at Woonsocket High School, I was reading science fiction and not much else. Mrs. O'Brien, who lived next door, was friends with Barton Levi St. *Armand*, who was teaching at Brown. She introduced us, he helped me get into Brown, and I took a lot of different classes with him. He was one of the earlier Lovecraft scholars. He taught a wonderful course in Gothic Fiction. It was about that time that I began rereading Lovecraft's stories. There was kind of a schizy relationship between Brown and Lovecraft at that point. I would stand in line to enroll in a writing class and hear people behind me just bad-mouthing Lovecraft no end.

CP: What drew you to horror literature?

JT: Growing up in a haunted house.

CP: Are you serious?

JT: I'd say it was haunted, yeah.

CP: How did things manifest?

JT: Lot of the usual "haunted Yankee" business. Lights coming on when nobody was near the switch. And I remember hearing piano music from the cellar once, and there was no piano in the cellar.

CP: Any likely explanation?

JT: There had been a funeral in

the house, in the 1940s I guess, for the last surviving veteran of the Spanish-American War in the area. I was 8 or 9 at the time, and I recall being suspicious immediately. A little weirded out. Other things had already happened before.

CP: Such as?

JT: Well, this is turning into Chinese boxes. As I said, my dad told me about Dracula when I was very little, like 3 years old: "You're okay during the day but vampires come out at night." And then he'd let me stay up to watch *Thriller*, so I'd be watching an old guy with a rooster claw attack people, just before it was time to go to bed. My mother had an awful time dragging me upstairs, and it complicated matters when they tried to get me to move into the spare room up there. I was sure that's where Dracula had to be - process of elimination. That was the spookiest room with the old four-poster bed, funny angles in the ceiling, and closets. It turned out my mother was pregnant again, although I didn't know at the time that was the reason for the room change. One evening I was sitting on my mother's lap one night, after my bath, and she was trimming my nails. I was around 3 or 4 years old, not long after the Dracula business. Suddenly I looked up and I saw what looked like a mass of little smoke trails, like feathers almost, kind of vaguely person-shaped, but small, and slowly drifting into my bedroom. I didn't panic or anything. I just said, "Look at that! Look at that!" My mother either didn't see it or pretended not to see it. It never manifested itself again, but later I learned that my mother had been pregnant and right about then had had a late miscarriage or a stillbirth. And *that's* the room my little brother would have gone to, and that's why they were trying to put me in the spare room.

CP: What else shaped your writing of horror?

JT: Television. Back then there were only a few channels, and network shows were on mostly in the early evening; they had to fill up a lot of hours somehow.

CP: Shows like *The Twilight Zone*?

JT: Not only that but old movies - I watched a lot of silent films, black-and-white films. Vincent Price, all that stuff. And there was a lot of 1950s psychotronic trash. It's not like anybody was that particular. You were just as likely to see *Teenagers from Outer Space* as *The Raven*. But critical standards at that age aren't really up to preferring one over the other, so it was fine.

CP: When you write horror, what are you trying to convey? There was that discussion earlier about the sense of awe versus slasher violence.

JT: It depends on the story. I

(Cont'd on page 5)

A Conversation

(Cont'd from page 4)

always try to soft-pedal the gore or violence, unless it really is integral. A certain amount of sex, which is also integral, if it's something this character would actually be doing, or how the character was using sex. S.T. [Joshi] refers to it as cumulative horror. Though, going back to films, it is more a matter of cultivating atmosphere and actually leading you into something, not just chucking something in your face.

CP: The brain chemistry of excitement is similar, whether it's terror, arousal, or laughter. Do you deliberately use humor to ratchet up the readers' energy level before hitting them with the horror?

JT: I think I use it more as a wild card before playing up the horror.

CP: What is the most horrific scenario you will NOT use in a story?

JT: No animal cruelty. To the wrong kind of people, it comes across as tacit permission.

CP: What is one aspect of horror?

JT: It seems that the worst things we do, there's no malicious intent when we're doing them, but they end up causing the most trouble, hurting the most feelings; and it seems to be the labor of a lifetime to figure out how *not* to do that!

CP: How did you start getting published?

JT: I really owe it to S. T., whom I met at a lecture at Brown in 2007 during a cult seminar weekend. I was actually pretty daunted. A friend told me he was going to be there, and I thought, "Well, I'll definitely go hear him. Do I want to bring stories too? That's such a fan-boy thing to do." I looked at my stories, and thought, "Nah, don't be a jerk." Then I thought, "What the f_ k." Then of course, the printer wouldn't work. But I eventually got some stuff together. I almost flaked out at the last second. After the lecture there was this *huge* posse speaking with him, he was absolutely surrounded. Nobody was talking with his wife, Leslie. I thought, "Eh, I should be nice and say 'Hi' to her. Maybe she'll have some of his business cards and I can send him something." But when I suggested this she said, "No, you should come meet him!" She introduced me, and he said he'd be *happy* to have a look at them. I was on tenterhooks for a few days. Then he e-mailed me back and said he really liked the first thing he'd read and he'd be looking at another. I kept sending him individual stories and eventually it turned into a collection.

CP: What's your own favorite story in this collection?

JT: I guess it would be "Power of Midnight," which was an idea I had been kicking around for ages and ages about a "Necronomicon of vinyl" – so that is Lovecraftian! – an album only rumored to exist,

one of these really weird and obscure recordings. It's also about the fall of a civilization, the end of a more socially responsible era.

CP: In your stories, in your stand alones, do you have any favorite characters?

JT: I actually haven't recycled any characters yet. Although I just finished a novel in Lovecraftian vein that contains a minor character from Lovecraft that I think one could do a whole lot more with, so I'm bringing this character back in a short story.

CP: What are your latest writings?

JT: I'm very happy to say that I just finished a novel, *The Color Over Occam*, which will be published by Bloodletting Press. The short story is called "The King of Cat Swamp" and will be included in *Black Wings 2*. And I'm writing a novella, titled "Pictures of Lily," after the song by The Who.

CP: We look forward to reading more of your work. Thank you for talking with us.

JT: Thank you!

24 Frames

by Jeffrey Lu

Comments:

Busy. Busy as a bee. Boy, there are a lot of remakes. But there are some interesting developments in production.

In Production:

"Man of Steel"- Official title for next Superman movie. Michael Shannon cast as General Zod, Amy Adams cast as Lois Lane, and Kevin Costner cast as Jonathan Kent.

Date of release: unknown.

Three Stooges movie is in production. Farrelly Brothers are looking for Moe to cast. So far, Jane Lynch ("Glee") will be playing Mother Superior in this film.

Date of release: unknown.

"The Lone Ranger" by Disney is within reach.

Armie Hammer and Frances McDormand are in the film. Date: Summer 2012.

X-Men 4 and 5 are being developed.

"Monsters, Inc 2" will be pushed back to date of release in June 21, 2013.

"Tron 3" is in development.

"Bill and Ted 3" script is finished. Date of release: unknown.

Peter Jackson will be directing "The Hobbit." He is using 48 frames per second in order to make the film more clear and smooth.

"The Magician's Nephew" is the next Narnia film.

"The Crow" remake will be by Juan Carlos Fresnadollos as director. Relative Media plans to have this out in March 30, 2012.

"Jack the Giant Killer" in 3D on June 15, 2012.

"Clash of the Titans 2" in 3D on March 30, 2012.

"Child's Play" remake by MGM. Release date: unknown.

Paramount Pictures developing Ray Bradbury's "Martian Chronicles."

"Logan's Run" remake. Warner Brothers hired Nicolas Winding Refn. Will Beall might be working on this movie script.

Joss Whedon is directing a superhero team movie, "The Avengers" (Hulk, Thor, and Captain America) at Albuquerque, New Mexico.

"Dark Knight Rises" is being filmed in India.

"Ender's Game" has Summit Entertainment. The producers are many including Alex Kurtzman and Roberto Orci (Star Trek). The director and maybe adaptation script writer will be Gavin Hood (X-Men Origins: Wolverine).

June/July 2011 Schedule:

June 2001

Friday, June 3
X-Men: First Class (Action/Adventure) Fox
Friday, June 10

Judy Moody and the Not Bummer Summer (Comedy) Relativity
Super-8 (Sci-fi) Paramount

Friday, June 17
Green Lantern [in 3D] (Action/Adventure) Warner Brothers
Mr. Popper's Penguins (Family Comedy) Fox

Friday, June 24
Cars 2 (Animation) Buena Vista

Friday, July 1
Transformers: Dark of the Moon (Sci-fi action) Paramount/Dreamworks

Friday, July 8
Zookeeper (Family- Talking Animal, Live Action) Sony/Columbia

Friday, July 15
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows [Part Two in 3D] (Fantasy) Warner Brothers
Winnie the Pooh (Animation) Buena Vista

Friday, July 22
Captain America: The First Avenger (Action/Adventure) Paramount

Friday, July 29
Cowboys and Aliens (Sci-fi Action) Universal
The Smurfs [in 3D] (Animation) Sony/Columbia

Rumors:

Patrick Dempsey ("Grey Anatomy") wants to play Doctor Strange.

DC and Warner Brothers are developing a superhero team movie, Justice League, that will have no connection with the upcoming Superman or Batman movie.

Next Star Trek movie in 3D? Maybe.

Todd McFarlane is almost done with a "Spawn" movie script.

(Cont'd on page 6)



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24 Frames

(Cont'd from page 5)

Parting Shots:

To 3D or not to 3D, that is the question. (Again? Sigh. Oh, well...) A Three Stooges movie? Hey, how about the Marx Brothers?

The Lone Ranger? Wow. Disney has Marvel, Tarzan, and Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. Now, this?

Anyway, enjoy the summer, folks!

An Evening with Stephen Hawking, April 9, 2011, at A.S.U. Gammage Auditorium

by Jeffrey Lu

One time, I had planned to see Dr. Hawking at A.S.U. Gammage Auditorium. I would have been in the room with other reporters watching a big screen at A.S.U. Memorial Union in this event. But I declined. I thought I blew my chance in seeing this professor.

I missed my chance. Oh, well. Maybe someone else like Steve Jobs...

But Bob, my co-columnist for Gamers' Corner, told me online that Stephen Hawking will be back, this year. So, I checked it out and found it to be true. Quickly, I bought a ticket.

On the day of the event, I sat there in the balcony watching first the up-to-date video of the planets with the music by Gustav Holst's "The Planets." The narrator was Lawrence Krauss (author of "The Physics of Star Trek"). Overall, it was entertaining.

Afterwards, the main event. There was a young lady pushing someone in a wheelchair at center stage. The audience applauded and then died down. There were sounds of clicks for a few minutes.

Then, there was an electronic voice that said, "Can you hear me?"

"Yes!" replied the audience.

The show began in earnest.

To be brief, Dr. Hawking was talking about his family and his past. His insights and humor made the lecture bearable. Afterward, he pointed how he found his formula for a black hole that would later bring in the big bang theory. Very interesting.

When it ended, I was ready for more. I was curious about the recent news dealing with black holes. I thought there will be a question and answer session. But sadly, the same young lady before the show whisked Dr. Hawking away.

Well, back to reading Dr. Stephen Hawking's stuff. I have a black hole in science to fill...

An American on the Iberian Peninsula Part Three: A Cautionary Tale in Germany

by Jeffrey Lu

When I was back in the States, I promptly bought three pretzels and a soda. I was hungry. I was generally poor (Forgot to exchange euros for U.S. dollars) but had a few dollars. I did not have enough time to spend at the airport. Within a few minutes, I scarfed down one pretzel and guzzled down a diet Pepsi. I had less than fifteen minutes to go to my gate to get back home.

With two of the pretzels left, I had planned to eat them in leisure. Instead, a friend showed up. He looked rather beat.

Curious, I promptly asked him what happened. What I did not expect was to hear a travel horror story...

His stopover was in Germany. He made a lot of mistakes. First, he did not buy a ticket in America from Italy to Germany. Second, he asked friends for cash in order to pay for a plane ticket from Italy to Germany. Third, the German airport security had dealt with European terrorists in the past. They thought he looked like one. (I kid you not!) Fourth, he was stopped to be searched and checked not only once but twice. The second time he had to go to the bathroom... Last, he did not have any cash except Euros. He was hungry.

I stared at my friend for a moment. Sucks to be him. Sad story but boy, ouch! I promptly gave him my two last pretzels. He won. I thought I had it bad due to a nightmare stopover in Rome. (More on that, later.)

He looked at me puzzled as I gave him my last two pretzels. I let him know that he's a friend and wished him safe travel back home. I waved goodbye and exited to a flight home.

I looked forward to getting back home but there were other things to remember...like a Star Trek themed cruise. Next: An American in Iberian Peninsula Part Four: Cruising with Star Trek

Pro Notes

By Catherine Book

Hi, Everyone! Thanks for reading ConNotations and my column. No new faces but some old favorites are back. LepreCon37 is behind me now and it's waaay past time to clean my house...

I'll start in my home state this month, Arizona where we have a plethora of local writers. **Dennis McKiernan** mentioned that since the last time he contributed, he's finished a new MITHGAR novel, "Stolen Crown." He sent it and two other manuscripts to his editor: "Shadow Peril" (which is the sequel to "Caverns of Socrates") and "At the Edge of the Forest" (a paranormal mystery romance), and is awaiting word on whether she likes one or more of them. At the moment Dennis is between books and goofing off, mostly engaging in Xbox Live gaming. And **Jennifer Roberson** reports that the third volume in her KARAVANS series is scheduled for August 2012. She is currently writing the first of two new SWORD-DANCER novels. It will be out in either late 2012, or early 2013. Then comes the second new SWORD-DANCER book, followed by the fourth and final KARAVANS novel. The eight novels of the CHEYSULI series and all six of the SWORD-DANCER books are available in 2-volume omnibus editions. DAW is working on converting all of her fantasy into e-books for downloading by Kindle, Nook, etc. readers. **Emily Devenport** (formerly Lee Hogan, Emily Hogan and Maggy Thomas) tell us that she's writing exclusively as Emily Devenport again. For the full story of why she ended up with Multiple Pen Name Disorder, check out "And While We're On The Subject": <http://www.emsjoiedeweird.com/2009/07/and-while-were-on-subject.html> Her new novel, "The Night Shifters," is now available for Kindle on amazon.com (just look for Emily Devenport).

Moving east to New Mexico, lives one of my perennial favorites: **Jane Lindskold**. Jane is happy to report that she and David Weber are collaborating on a YA SF project. The STAR KINGDOM series will focus on Stephanie Harrington, Honor's ancestor and the person who (as a child of eleven) made first contact with the treecats of Sphinx. David Weber is writing the first book solo. "A Beautiful Friendship" is a serious expansion of his novella of the same title. Jane Lindskold joins the fun with the second book in the series. Right now the title is likely to be either "Crown Fire" or "Fire Weather," but that's still under consideration. Her novel "Five Odd Honors," which was released about this time last year to glowing reviews, is now available in paperback. Jane has also made time to work on some short fiction. Her story "Hunting the Unicorn"

will be featured in "Courts of the Fey," edited by Russell Davis. There are several other projects in the wings. If you're interested in learning more, you should check out her Wednesday Wanderings blog, easily linked to from www.janelindskold.com.

But before we leave the west coast, we'll hie ourselves up to Washington, the home of **Ann Scarborough**. In Christmas of 2010, "Catacombs" came out in hardback, "Catalyst" in paperback. Ann says she wasn't done writing about cats yet though so she did her first-ever independent book release—"Spam Vs. The Vampire" that's sort of a purranormal mystery about a cat named Spam whose human disappears, having been snatched by a vampire, leaving Spam and his 14 housemates without a two legged friend with a pair of opposable thumbs to feed them and all of those other handy things people do for cats. Spam escapes the house where the others are trapped and sets out to find both his Darcy and the vampire he, as her office cat, knows she had met online. It's a very fun story along the lines of "Thomasina and The Abandoned" and other animal stories. It is already available as an e-book and is in the process of becoming a print on demand book. Ann has also released the rest of her 16 solo book backlist, all of the ones not done by the publishers or e-Reads. She says she has great covers thanks to artist Karen Gillmore of Victoria, BC. And... working on another proposal right now.

Hmmmm...which comes next....Illinois or Arkansas? Pretty close to my memory. I guess we'll stop in Arkansas first to hear from **Charlaine Harris**, she of TRUE BLOOD fame. Charlaine is on tour for the 11th Sookie Stackhouse novel, "Dead Reckoning." August will see the publication of the fourth anthology she and Toni L.P. Kelner have put together, HOME IMPROVEMENT; UNDEAD EDITION. In September, THE SOOKIE COMPANION will be on the shelves. And, she and Christopher Golden going to collaborate on a graphic novel, "Cemetery Girl." *{What fun! Two of my favorite writers!!}* And then, of course, comes **Jody Lynn Nye** in Illinois — "Myth-Quoted," the next in the MYTH-ADVENTURES series was turned in last February. {Skeevy and Bunny are trying to get two candidates in the dimension of Tipicanoo to agree on a date for Voting Day, even though the election has been dragging on for five long years. They need a catalyst to get things going -- and who better than Aahz?} At the moment, Jody is working on the fourth book in Robert Asprin's DRAGONS series, for Ace Books. "Dragons Deal" came out in December 2010. After that goes in, she starts work on the next MYTH-ADVENTURES. Her latest novel,

(Cont'd on page 7)

Pro Notes

(Cont'd from page 6)

“View From the Imperium” (Baen Books), was on Publishers Weekly Top Ten Science Fiction and Fantasy Books in January. The book, published in April 2011, might be described as Jeeves and Wooster in space. She and John Ringo have just turned in a novella for “Exiled: The Clan of the Claw” (Baen Books). The anthology, which includes Harry Turtledove, SM Stirling and Mike Williamson, as well, was also featured in the Publishers Weekly article.

Joe Haldeman, who lives in Florida, tells us that he finished “Earthbound,” the sequel to “Marsbound,” and “Starbound.” It will be out in December, if all goes well. Joe advises to “Buy the whole set as a Christmas present for somebody! I’ll be glad to autograph them, though I won’t sign “Love, Santa.”” Gay Haldeman handles the autographed editions at <http://home.earthlink.net/~haldeman/catalog.pdf> In non-genre news, Joe was on NPR’s “Talk of the Nation” on April 14. His segment is the one called “The Impact of War: Answering the Call to Serve Changes Lives.” <http://www.npr.org/player/v2/mediaPlayer.html?action=1&t=3&islist=true&id=5&d=04-14-2011>

Moving northward to N. Carolina, I was happy to hear from **David Drake** again. David is towards the end of “The Road of Danger,” the next RCN space opera for Baen. The hardcover of “Out of the Waters,” the second of his Rome-based fantasies for Tor will be out in July; with the paperback of “The Legions of Fire” (the first of the series) out in May and the paperback of “What Distant Deep” (the most recent space opera) out in June. And in September, “Into the Hinterlands” (using the early life of George Washington as a template for an SF adventure novel) will be out from Baen in hardcover. David wrote the outline, which John Lamshead expanded into the novel. It worked so well that David’s agreed to outline the remainder of the trilogy in his copious free time... And finally, he tells us: “For fun-believe me, this isn’t for the money--I’ve agreed to do intros to a number of classic (1950s) Galaxy novelets and novellas for republication as Kindle editions. These are the stories that were new and earthshaking when I was growing up and learning about SF, and they still provide some of the finest short fiction in the field. SF has given me a great deal; these intros are a chance for me to give back.”

I don’t get much chance to check in with the artists in our genre so I was really happy to get a response from **Donato** who lives in New York. His big news is that two new First Class Forever stamps have just been released by the US Postal Service of the Astronaut Alan Shepard and the Messenger space craft. And

Donato was the lucky artist who designed and painted both stamps, celebrating the 50th anniversary of Alan Shepard’s flight as the first American in space back on May 5, 1961. A bit of press has followed this event, with mentions in the NY Times Blogs, an article in the Daily News, and a short interview on the local TV station, NY1. As you can imagine, Donato was thrilled and honored to be a part of this, the first issue of USPS space related stamps in nearly a decade. More info at: <http://www.donatoart.com/news.html>

From a gray winter to a gray alleged-spring up in Maine, **James Hetley** has completed “Powers” (contemporary fantasy) and shipped it off to his agent. A publisher has expressed interest, but no signed contract yet. If it does go through, it will probably have a different title by the time it sees print. {Good luck with that, I’ll be waiting...}

Now he’s pecking away at a sequel, with no working title beyond “Placeholder” because of needing to tie in with whatever title change occurs. Hey, a writer friend is calling her current manuscript “George”...

A sidestep over to Minnesota to see **MaryJanice Davidson** who just finished another round of edits for the second in her FBI-agent-with-multiple-personality-disorder heroine (yes, she describes her just like that, and it takes for-EVER). So boy-oh-boy is MaryJanice sick of writing about government employees under psychiatric care who carry sidearms. “Normally the thought of something so silly, yet intriguing, would bring a smile to my face and a guffaw to my lungs...no, wait, my lips. But normally I’m not so jaded on a book that I’ve pretty much gone dead inside from all the necessary edits. Yep: “Yours, Mine and Ours” is as technically perfect as my editor and I can make it, and I’m definitely dead inside

now. But! When it hits shelves this winter I should be able to bear the sight of it once again (it helps that I really, really love the cover). A good thing, too, since my publisher is sending me on the road to sing for my supper. Yes: not only am I foisting more books on unsuspecting readers this year, I’m also gonna be coming to (some of) your cities and yakking about said books until you’re sorry you wasted even a fifth of a tank of gas to come to my book signing. Ha! Let that be a lesson to you: if you insist on buying my book there’s always the chance my publisher will send me to the city in which you reside. So never, ever say you weren’t warned.” All this to say the next BOFFO (Bureau of False Flag Ops) book will be out in a few months, preceded by “Undead and Undermined” (July 2011), and “Evangelina Scales” (August 2011), the weredragon series she writes with my husband. Sample chapters can be found on her Facebook page. But if you’d rather plunk down \$21.99 for the whole thing, she has no objection. At all! And she apologizes in advance for the gas you’re going to waste.

And we’ll finish up our tour in Canada with the ever-gracious **Nancy Kilpatrick** whose follow-up anthology to “Evolve: Vampire Stories of the New Undead” will be out August 2011. “Evolve Two: Vampire Stories of the Future Undead” features stories by Kelley Armstrong, Tanith Lee, John Shirley, Thomas Roche and others. From Edge SF & F Publishing. And for you fellow writers out there - Nancy is also editing a new anthology for Edge SF&F Publishing. Danse Macabre: “Close Encounters with the Reaper” has GLs for writers that appear here: <http://www.edgewebsite.com/> Please read the GLs carefully as this anthology is very specific and the first of two deadlines is June 1, 2011. {Whoops...a little late for this

publication but go check out the next deadline.}

That’s it for this month. I hope you enjoyed yourselves. And, as always - if anyone wants to contribute or knows someone who knows someone...please write to ConNotations or email me at Editor@casfs.org Enjoy your spring; see you in August.

~ **Catherine Book** ~

Previous ProNotes columns and book reviews are posted on our website at: <http://www.casfs.org/ConNotations/>



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Come do some face-to-face interaction with your fellow readers and SF/Fantasy fans! Haven't read the book? Don't worry, there's no quiz or anything. You can use the rest of us as your personal book reviewers to see if it's something you'd like. We start out with the book discussion, but the conversation can go anywhere. The get-together is held in the coffee shop of Bent Cover Books near 28th Drive and Cactus Road in Phoenix. We welcome potential new friends.

June 21 - Neuromancer by William Gibson

July 19 - Nebula Award Showcase 2003
edited by Nancy Kress

August 16 - The Lathe of Heaven by Ursula K Le Guin

September 20 - Signal to Noise by Eric Nyland

October 18 - The Man with the Golden Torc by Simon Green

November 15 - Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep by Philip K Dick

December 20 - Mystic and Rider by Sharon Shinn

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUPS

Science Fiction Book Club
Borders in Glendale
4th Wednesdays

Maricopa County Library Northwest
Regional Branch
16089 N Bullard
Surprise AZ
4th Tuesday at 6:30pm
June 28 - Minority Report by Philip K Dick

Oro Valley Library, Tucson
Science Fiction Book Club,
4th Tuesdays
June - Fall of Neskaya by Marion Zimmer Bradley

SciFi Book Group
Barnes & Noble, Eastside, Tucson. At 7:30p
June 14 - Roma Eterna by Robert Silverberg

HUGO AWARD NOMINATIONS

The nominations for the 2011 Hugo Awards were announced on April 24, 2011 at a joint ceremony held at Norwescon and Eastercon. All Supporting, Attending and Young Adult members of Renovation, the 2011 World Science Fiction Convention are eligible to vote in the finals. Details at: <http://www.renovationsf.org/> Winners will be announced on Saturday, August 20, 2011 at Renovation. Some of the nominees are:

Best Novel

Blackout/All Clear by Connie Willis
Cryoburn by Lois McMaster Bujold
The Dervish House by Ian McDonald
Feed by Mira Grant
The Hundred Thousand Kingdoms by N.K. Jemisin

Best Dramatic Presentation, Long Form

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1, screenplay by Steve Kloves; directed by David Yates
How to Train Your Dragon, screenplay by William Davies, Dean DeBlois & Chris Sanders; directed by Dean DeBlois & Chris Sanders
Inception, written and directed by Christopher Nolan
Scott Pilgrim vs. the World, screenplay by Michael Bacall & Edgar Wright; directed by Edgar Wright
Toy Story 3, screenplay by Michael Arndt; story by John Lasseter, Andrew Stanton & Lee Unkrich; directed by Lee Unkrich

Best Dramatic Presentation, Short Form

Doctor Who: "A Christmas Carol," written by Steven Moffat; directed by Toby Haynes (BBC Wales)
Doctor Who: "The Pandorica Opens/The Big Bang," written by Steven Moffat; directed by Toby Haynes (BBC Wales)
Doctor Who: "Vincent and the Doctor," written by Richard Curtis; directed by Jonny Campbell (BBC Wales)
Fuck Me, Ray Bradbury, written by Rachel Bloom; directed by Paul Briganti – (watch on UTube) *{which everyone should watch at least once unless you are easily offended}*
The Lost Thing, written by Shaun Tan; directed by Andrew Ruhemann and Shaun Tan (Passion Pictures)

Best Professional Artist

Daniel Dos Santos
Bob Eggleton
Stephan Martiniere
John Picacio
Shaun Tan

Best Fan Writer

James Bacon
Claire Briailey
Christopher J Garcia
James Nicoll
Steven H Silver

AUTHOR SIGNINGS

Aprilynne Pike Poisoned Pen Bookstore
June 15, 7pm

James Rollins - Poisoned Pen Bookstore
June 28, 7pm

Diana Gabaldon - Poisoned Pen Bookstore
July 11, 7pm (20th Anniversary of "Outlander")

Douglas Preston - Poisoned Pen Bookstore
Aug 6, 7p,m

SPECIAL BOOK RELEASES

This listing is to introduce you to smaller publishing houses that offer exclusive or limited edition books that you wouldn't be able to find at your local chain bookstore.

Cemetery Dance Publications

"Wicked Things" by Thomas Tessier.
"The Mailman" by Bentley Little.
"Brides of the Impaler" by Edward Lee.

Edge SF & F Publishing/Tesseract Books

"Those Who Fight Monsters" ed. Justin Gustainis
"The Demon Left Behind" by Marie Jakober

PS Publishing

"Gravity Dreams" by Stephen Baxter
"Terra Damna" by James Cooper
"One Who Disappeared" by James Herter

PYR Publishing

"The Goblin Corps" by Ari Marmell

"Ghosts of War" by George Mann
"The Falling Machine" by Andrew P. Mayer

Subterranean Press

"The Affair of the Chalk Cliffs" by James Blaylock
"Palimpsest" by Charles Stross
"Becoming" by Kelley Armstrong
"Summer Knight" by Jim Butcher
"Adjustment Team" by Philip K. Dick
And too many more to mention....

GAMING & COMIC EVENTS

DRAWN TO COMICS

HeroClix. Sat 2pm
Sit-and-Sketch with local artists. 3rd Saturday, 6pm-8pm
Check FaceBook for other events

GAME DEPOT

HeroClix. Wed, 5:45pm-8pm
D&D Encounters. Wed, 6pm-8pm
Magic, The Gathering. Thurs, 6pm.
Open Game Day. Fridays all day
Magic Game Day June 11 at noon
Warhammer Fantasy Tournament June 25, 11am

GAMER'S INN

Magic Game Day June 11
WarMachine Wrath tournament (call for details) June 25, 2pm

War Machine Wrtah Release Event June 25, 6pm
Magic the Gathering M12 pre-release July 9, 10am
Magic the Gathering M12 release event July 15, 6pm
Check website for upcoming events

IMPERIAL OUTPOST GAMES

Federation Commander. 2nd Saturdays, noon
RPGA. 1st Sundays
Monday Night Magic Standard Format. Mon, 7pm.
Boardgames & Demo Nite. Mondays & Thursdays, 6pm.
Magic Drafts. Tues, 7pm
War Machine. Wednesdays, 4pm
Hammerhead 40K Club Meeting. Wed & Thurs, noon
Hammerhead Club 40k tournament. 1st Wed, noon
Magic The Gathering League. Wed, 6pm
Friday Night Magic. Fridays, 7pm

SAMURAI COMICS

(check website for correct store location)
Yugioh Tournament. Sundays, noon (Cmlbk) & Sat, noon (west valley)
Anime Club. Sundays, noon (west valley)
Pokemon. Sundays, 2pm (west valley), Wed 5pm (Cmlbk)
D&D Encounters. Wed, 6pm (Cmlbk)
Magic, The Gathering. Friday, 6p (both stores), Tues, 6pm (west valley), Sat 1pm (Cmlbk), Mon 6pm (Cmlbk)

BOOKMANS - INA ROAD TUCSON

Week of Games with 9 Queens and DDMAU plus others
June 7-11 at 10am

BOOKMANS - GRANT TUCSON
Geek Out Game Night! Tues 6:30pm

SCIENCE EVENTS

ARIZONA SCIENCE CENTER

Summer Camps: Discover & Invention (ages 6-11). All Star Science (ages 10-12)
Saturday Science program. Loads of topics from nanotechnology to dissection of human organs to astronomy
BioBuzz Family Series, family friendly short talks in bioscience. 3rd Saturdays, 1:45pm
Science Café informal discussions with ASU Professors, see webpage for topics and dates. 530pm
BioTech Talks, 2nd Wed, 545pm.
September – March.
Ongoing Exhibits:

The Walton Optimal Neurological
Discovery Education & Research Center
All About Me Gallery, interactive exhibit on human body
Dorrance Planetarium
Evans Family Skycycle
My Digital Worlds
Forces of Nature
Rock Wall for climbers aged 8 and above
Solarville – solar energy
Adults Night Out, 1st Fridays, check website for topics & time..

ASU

Science lectures and news
http://beyondasu.edu/Events/about_events.php

CHALLENGER SPACE CENTER, PEORIA

Stargazing. Starlab Planetarium. Check website for dates and times
Space Place events for Future Astronauts. Check website for event dates & times.
Understanding the Nature of Light, Fridays 2pm
Columbia Shuttle Memorial Display
ASU Meteorite Exhibit
Iridium Satellite Model
Atlantis Space Shuttle Model
Journey Thru the Space Program
Lowell Observatory Display

MOON SOCIETY MEETING

3:00 PM on the third Saturday at Denny's on the Southeast corner of US60 and Rural Road in Mesa. For more info contact Craig Porter at portercd@msn.com

PIMA AIR & SPACE MUSEUM, TUCSON

Rockets: Science of Energy & Motion. Jun 11, Jul 9, Aug 13, 1pm
Volunteer Presentation Series. Sep 17, 10am
Model Airplane. For kids. Jun 4, Jul 2, Aug 6, 1pm
Volunteer Orientation. Jun 11, Jul 9, 930am
Nightwings. Jun 25, Jul 23, Aug 27, 5pm
Space Gallery exhibit. See an Apollo space capsule, moon rock, Phoenix Mars Mission.

SETI INSTITUTE

Calendar of events on the website.
Mondays podcast shows
<http://radio.seti.org>
<http://podcast.seti.org>
<http://beyondasu.edu/seti>

(Contd on page 9)

TITAN MISSILE MUSEUM

Titan Missile Museum Tours.

Reservations only. One hour guided tours.

Top-to-bottom tours (5 hours) The only publicly accessible Titan II missile site in the nation. Tour the underground missile site. See the 3-ton blast doors, 8' thick silo walls and an actual Titan II missile in the launch duct. Visit the launch control center, experience a simulated launch, and more. Top to Bottom Tours: check website for dates in 2011

Titan Overnight Experience – spend the night in the crew quarters. Check website for details.

Moonlight Madness tours

Field trips to Titan II's missile site ruins

OTHER GENRE-RELATED EVENTS

BOOKMANS, PHOENIX

Zombie Research Society Public Meeting.

Jun 18, 11am

Summer kids event – Star Wars storytime & activities. Jun 23, 1pm

Summer kids event – Pirate Party! Jul 21, 1pm-230pm

BOOKMANS, MESA

Summer kids event – Outer Space theme. June 22, 1pm

Summer kids event – Comic Booked!

Special surprise guest July 13, 1pm

BOOKMANS, INA ROAD, TUCSON

SuperHero week – training, costumes & photos. Jun 28-30, 10am

DEVASTATION 2011 – Gaming Tournament & Convention

October 7-9, Phoenix Convention Center
rprise guest. Jul 13, 1pm

LOFT THEATRE, TUCSON

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<http://www.borders.com/online/store/LocatorView>

<http://www.cemeterydance.com>

<http://www.devastationevent.com/>

<http://www.drawntocomics.com>

<http://www.edgewebsite.com>

<http://www.gamersinnaz.com/>

<http://www.imperialoutpost.com>

<http://www.library.pima.gov>

<http://www.loftcinema.com/showtimes>

<http://madcaptheaters.com/>

<http://www.pimaair.org>

<http://www.poisonedpen.com>

<http://www.pspublishing.co.uk>

<http://www.pyrsf.com/catalog.html>

<http://www.samuraiacomics.com>

<http://www.seti.org>

<http://beyond.asu.edu/seti/>

<http://www.subterraneanpress.com/>

<http://www.titanmissilemuseum.org/>

<http://tucsoncomic-con.com/>

ConClusion

Con Nichiwa
March 25-27, 2011
Tucson AZ

ConNichiwa was overflowing with energy, costumes, Japanese snacks, anime merchandise and excited fen. Vic Mignona packed the big tent and spoke entertainingly of his life and career for about 2 hours, and then did it again on a smaller scale during a signing session the next day. All the guests of honor were great – they signed virtually anything you brought to them, including portions of anatomy, and swapped anecdotes of voice-over acting and ad-libbing on the sets. The panels ranged from Lost Treasures of anime to Tea House concerts. One hugely popular event was the photographing of fans in costume. All weekend long, fen lined up to get snapped professionally, and the results are on line at pichaus.com/+con+connichiwa/ for your viewing pleasure.

Fortunately, large chunks of the convention were also recorded and can be visited at www.tradercurrencies.com/currency-trading-videos/index.php?key=Con-Nichiwa. Just because you missed the weekend is no excuse for missing the experience. See you at the next ConNichiwa. ~ Chris Paige

Being An April Fool: A
Wonderful Way To Walk at
the 25th anniversary of
WonderCon
April 1 -3, 2011

Sometimes life throws you a bone. Sometimes, you just have to grab it and run...

In this case, I was planning to go to this year's San Diego ComicCon. Silly me. All the regular memberships were sold out in a day. I thought I would not be able to go, any time soon.

But, I had friends who told me about another convention by the same people, Comic-Con International- WonderCon. And boy, this was a wonder.

Originally, I had planned out my three-days with interviews and research.

But like San Diego ComicCon, one must be flexible and throw those plans out the window. Sometimes, something better might come your way and one has seconds to decide...

First day, I had gone to see a panel "Behind the Music with CW3PR: Sci-Fi, Horror and Fantasy Film/TV Composers. They had composers from *Pushing Daisies*, *True Blood*, *Glee*, *V*, *Scream 4*, and *24*. To sum it up, they were all amazing in how they got into the music business.

After, I planned to see some comic book artists. But no. Not going to happen. Why?

Two friends of mine convinced me to wait in line for the new *Green Lantern* movie. I had to be there two hours and a half early...

I swallowed my pride and waited in a line around the convention center. In retrospect, I

will find this a bonus: this will be my first time going to see movie/TV previews.

I later will also find that bone had meat.

In about a half hour, the line moved into a large ballroom. There was a showing of new T.V. series, *Falling Skies*. Later, a new episode of *Nikita*. At first, I was not a big fan. I found myself wanting to see this new version. Really good. Now, the main event.

In *Green Lantern*, Ryan Reynolds (Hal Jordan) and Blake Lively (Carol Ferris) were there answering questions from the audience. Interesting to note that Ryan Reynold's costume was all computerized. Cool stuff.

Mental note to self: Will need to go to these events from now on.

After the event, I noticed I still had a short time to get to one artist/one writer panel of that April 1st day. I ran.

Why? *Elfquest*. I always wanted to meet creators, Richard and Wendy Pini. Finally, here's my chance.

Saw them and this sums up what happened: Wendy Pini has finished "The Masque of The Red Death" in her illustrating with Edgar Allen Poe's short story. Another is a web *Elfquest* mini movie by Stephanie Thorpe and another actress. Last, Richard and Wendy are on the final *Elfquest* arc. Truly awesome to end the day.

Second day, I had seen the preview of both movies, *Cowboys and Aliens* and *Three Musketeers*. To say the least, both movies look good. In *Cowboys and Aliens*, there is a hostile alien that the cowboys and Indians unite. Daniel Craig is Jake Longergan. Also, Harrison Ford is Colonel Woodrow Dolarhyde. Robi Orci (Star Trek 2009) and Jon Favreau (Iron Man series) were there to answer questions for *Cowboys and Aliens*. On the other hand, Luke Evans and Logan Lerman were there to answer questions from the audience. In *Three Musketeers* trailer, Milla Jovovic (Resident Evil) plays the evil lady but does her own stunts. Also, Buckingham (Orlando Bloom) will be battling the three musketeers (Matthew MacFadyen, Luke Evans, and Ray Stevenson) and young D'Artagnan (Logan Lerman).

The rest of the day were two legal workshops: creator rights and comic book law school.

Third and final day, I went to the *Doctor Who* panel. Did not expect to see Neil Gaiman. He was one of the writers for the fourth episode. What was also interesting was seeing a cartoon of himself in a *The Simpson's* episode. Moe, the bartender, was holding a knife against Neil's throat. Have no idea what that was about...

After, I walked around the market. Picked up a few things. One was Hellboy Mask with one eye blind. Another was a fan with information on cool science manga- www.nostarch.com.

Also, saw throughout the convention- Berkeley Breathed, Robert Kirkman, Jason Aaron, Adam Hughes, Frank Quitely, Marv Wolfman, and Phil and Kaja Foglio.

Went to a Covers on Comic Book panel. Interesting in what these artists do to make a buck.

My last panel to see was "Geek Slant: Pop Culture from an Asian American Perspective." There were topics from the live action movie *Akira* to other recent projects. The panelist were National Book Award winner Gene Yang (American Born Chinese), podcaster Eugene Ahn (aka Adam Warrock, War Rocket Ajax), journalist Diana Nguyen and Jen Wang (Disgrasian), indie filmmaker and producer Steve Nguyen (Channel APA), publicist Moye Rhea Ishimoto, and Asian-Americans showcase and information web promoter Nelson Wong (AArising).

Loved this convention. I found this WonderCon is smaller than San Diego ComicCon. Despite this disadvantage, this had heart and information before the Summer. I am a fool but I want to come back. This WonderCon was awesome. Hopefully, next year, I will be back. ~ Jeffrey Lu

Post Con Perspective of
LepreCon 37
May 6-8, 2011
Tempe AZ

Well, another LepreCon bites the dust. But the dust hadn't even settled when a couple of our Guests were quick to send us a big Thank-You; apparently having had an exceptional time. All our Guests: John Picacio, Elizabeth Bear, Sarah Monette, Seanan McGuire and the incomparable Darrell K. Sweet were wonderful guests; very approachable and friendly to all the attendees. The Art Show may have been small but it had some fabulous original art from our two Art Guests, Darrell K. Sweet won the 'Best in Show' Award plus 1st Place in the categories of SciFi and Fantasy. Sarah Clemens enjoyed 1st Place in the Humor category and the same piece took 2nd place in Fantasy. 1st Place for Textiles went to David Perrine and to Nancy Strowger for 3-D category. The Author and Artist Reception were very successful and everyone who attended really enjoyed the ambiance, drinks and conversation. Much fun was had at the Eye of Argon reading which we really must reprise as we couldn't read the whole thing in an hour. The kids loved the Pirate Treasure Hunt and the Arizona Corsairs obliged them with much fun; they also brought great costumes to show off. The Charity Auction was lightly attended but that meant that everyone who came, left with loads of goodies and the Literacy Volunteers of Maricopa County will benefit. And Mark Greenawalt, our local body-painting artist, did an amazing, eye-popping painting of Sif, Thor's wife on his lovely blonde model.

Next year's LepreCon will host Joe Haldeman as Author GoH and Franchesco! as the Artist GoH. Dates will be April 6-8, 2012; still working on the hotel. ~ Catherine Book

“I Can’t Believe You Just Said That, Or Would You Mind Repeating What You’ve Just Said?” It’s the 50th Anniversary of Rocky and Bullwinkle, Lucky Part 13

By Shane Shellenbarger

Rocky and his Friends had a long history of conflict with censors. No, let me amend that, Jay Ward had a long history of conflict with censors. He conflicted with the sponsors, the sponsors advertising agency, the television networks, and sometimes with so-called “Guardians of Morality” but seldom did he have any conflicts with his viewers.

General Mills and their ad agency had issues with the foreign accents and historical figures in “Peabody’s Improbable History” and “Fractured Fairy Tales.” An early example was the “FFT” episode entitled “Beauty and the Beast.” The ad agency objected that the Beast was licentious and using subterfuge to ensnare

being the one the agency wanted changed. Initially capitulating with the title changed to “The Vulgar Boatman,” Ward decided to embarrass the agency by questioning their dirty minds, pointing out that the opening titles clearly showed a leaking canoe. A compromise was reached when the complete original title was restored with the audio fading out on the second title.

The ad agency was often concerned about how Ward poked fun at other nations. In one note to Ward concerning the “Peabody” script about “Louis Pasteur” they said, “Episodes like this one and Alfred Nobel scare the living hell out of us. Over the years these guys have been built up as prestige figures and national heroes. We can hear the phone ringing right now from the French Embassy complaining about our making a comic strip figure of their boy Pasteur.” The agency feared action by the NAACP when Africa was involved in a script and worried about a diaper tie-in to the Spanish flag. The “Red Riding Hood” episode of “Fractured Fairy Tales” elicited this response: “Red’s Greek accent . . . might offend people of Greek nationality.” However, the ad agency was not

the group gets lost until Natasha says, “Great Spirit say we go this way,” whereupon they fall down the mountain-side. Miffed at Natasha, Boris says, “Great Spirit goofed!” That line offends the conservative, religious leader of General Mills, sparking a heated discussion between the sponsor, the ad-agency, and Jay Ward. Feeling that Ward was mocking the Native American’s “highest deity,” Ward was put on notice and the ad-agency scanned future scripts with greater scrutiny. When the “Peabody” script for “Robinson Crusoe” spoke of “fish on Friday,” the agency feared offending Catholic viewers.

The “Sleeping Beauty” show with its references to Sleeping Beauty Land resembling a Coney Island sideshow, coupon books, and the covetous counting of coinage in three scenes, rose fear in the minds of the ad agency executives that a lawsuit from Disney for defamation would soon be in hand, but their fears were groundless.

Another minefield was making fun of sponsors. After a saltwater taffy joke was made in the “Mr. Peabody” episode concerning “Sir Walter Raleigh,” the co-sponsor, Sweets Company of America, pounced on any future mentions of candy. Watching out for the ad revenue bottom-line for other shows, Bernardine McKenna of ABC Continuity Acceptance pointed out “Rocky” episode #29: “The satire on hair oil TV commercials is rather unfair.” Nothing quite matched the tempestuousness caused when the “Rocky and Bullwinkle” counterfeit box tops storyline aired. General Mills was a bit concerned about the satire of box tops, but the ad agency, Dancer-Fitzgerald-Sample, was apoplectic over the ridicule Bill Scott heaped on the cereal premiums: a combination atomic whistle and poison ring. D-F-S suggested this be changed to “atomic roller skates.” Another suggestion made by the ad agency was well received by Jay Ward and used word for word: “An English yo-yo that whistles ‘On the Road to Mandalay.’”

Sometimes the concern was for the children. General Mills felt that the use of the word “darn” in the “Fractured Fairy Tale” episode concerning “Aladdin’s Lamp” could entice kids down the path to swearing. McKenna of ABC Continuity Acceptance took issue with the “FFT” script for “Tom Thumb”: “I find the whole tenor of this episode objectionable. Juvenile delinquency is not something to be treated flippantly. Please have Tom become something other than a mixed-up JD with a souped up butterfly, leading a juvenile gang on ‘candy heists.’ THIS EPISODE IS REJECTED.” The episode aired as written.

Children weren’t the only concern of the censors. McKenna of ABC had this to say about the “Peabody” episode about “George Armstrong Custer”: “There are

an awful lot of arrows protruding fore and aft from an awful lot of soldiers in this episode. Though the bit is intended for laughs, don’t forget how many parents feel about unnecessary violence in children’s shows.”

By 1960 the ratings had risen as the show caught on with the public. This seems to have mollified the concerns of both the ad agency and the sponsors.

Come back next time for “Up, Upsidaisium and Away or Maybe Tom, Maybe Dick, or Maybe Harry, Who Knows?”

For more info go to:
<http://tinyurl.com/Shane-Info-Blog>

Screening Room

**Pirates of the Caribbean:
On Stranger Tides**

**Starring: Johnny Depp, Ian
McShane, Penelope Cruz**

Director: Rob Marshall

Rated: PG-13

Running Time: 137 minutes
**Jerry Bruckheimer Films, Walt
Disney Pictures**

**Distributed by: Walt Disney
Studios Motion Pictures**

Release Date: May 20th, 2011

**Reviewed by Bob LaPierre,
ConNotations Film Critic**

This is a good return to the series. I liked this more than the second and third in the series but not as much as “The Black Pearl”. Depp seems a little more focused and a little less Jack Sparrow than he has in the past. And a large problem at least in 3-D is it is too dark, not in content but in lighting.

The movie is basically a race between several groups looking for the fountain of youth. The Spanish find a sailor from Ponce de Leon’s ship, a ship lost 200 years ago. That sends them looking. The English want it if for no other reason than to deny it to the Spaniards. Blackbeard (Ian McShane) is looking for it because he has been told he will die soon. And Jack Sparrow (Johnny Depp) has been looking for it for years.

Sparrow is checking out rumors that “Jack Sparrow” is recruiting a crew for a ship and finds Angelica (Penelope Cruz) impersonating him. He is quickly shanghaied and wakes to find himself on the “Queen Anne’s Revenge”, Blackbeard’s ship. The interplay between Depp and Cruz is great, they fence with words, swords, and even looks, all of which would slay a lesser opponent.

There is a requirement for the tear of a mermaid for the waters of the fountain to work. The capture of the mermaid is the culmination of the best battle in the movie. And the subsequent interplay between Syrena (Astrid Berges-Frisbey) and Phillip (Sam Claflin) makes a much more traditional love story than the one between Depp and Cruz.

(Cont’d on page 12)



women into kissing him in order to transform him back into a handsome prince. The agency’s primary problem was with the episodes payoff, the beast was neither once handsome nor was he a prince. He was never was anything other than a beast. The beast tells the narrator, “Look, Bud, you get kissed your way and I’ll get kissed my way!” The ad agency felt the material was far too adult for a cartoon. After many conversations, Ward won out.

An early Rocky show had a title which worried the ad agency. “Canoe’s Who,” or “Look Before You Leak” as the narrator spoke the title, with the second title

alone in their concerns about how Jay Ward was portraying our international neighbors. The network had issues with the “Mr. Peabody” episode concerning “Confucius.” They said, “In this one ABC objects to the Chinese pidgin English which contributes to a stereotype of the Chinese race offensive to people of Oriental origin.”

Closer to home, the 32nd episode of “Rocky” caused the boss of General Mills to flip his lid. The plot goes something like this: Disguised as an Indian princess, Natasha leads Boris, Rocky, and Bullwinkle in a climb up a snowy mountain. Tethered by a rope,

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Screening

(Cont'd from page 10)

The ending is predictable but enjoyable. It is far from a masterwork of film-making but it is an enjoyable two plus hours of movie magic.

Three and a half stars out of five.

Thor

Starring Chris Hemsworth, Anthony Hopkins, Tom Hiddleston, Natalie Portman, Stellan Skarsgard, Kat Dennings
Running Time: 130 minutes
Rated: PG-13
Directed by Kenneth Branagh
Opened May 6, 2011

Thor is one of several related Marvel Comics films being released this summer that follow up the groundwork of the *Iron Man* movies. The story arc of *Iron Man II*, *Thor*, *Captain America*, and possibly *The Green Lantern* are all building up to *The Avengers*.

In this movie, Thor (Chris Hemsworth) is banished to Earth by Odin All-Father, god and king of Asgard, to temper Thor's arrogance, aggressiveness, and cockiness into qualities more worthy of a future king. Natalie Portman plays Jane Foster, the scientist who keeps slamming into a dazed and weakened, mortal Thor with her research gear-laden van.

Thor is in trouble because he defied his father by leading 4 friends and his brother Loki in an unauthorized strike on the Jotuns in their ice-realm of Jotunheim. Besides almost getting his friends killed, this attack breaks the long-standing truce between the two realms. This is one of the best sequences, because it clearly establishes Thor's character as impulsive, self-centered, and careless, as well as *easily manipulated*. Loki (Tom Hiddleston) is the subdued, overlooked brother, who uses words as levers, and who makes a terrible discovery in the midst of battle.

When all her equipment and records are confiscated by S.H.E.I.L.D., a pissed-off Jane agrees to help Thor penetrate the perimeter S.H.E.I.L.D. has erected around a mysterious artifact that has also fallen from the sky – a Hammer. It is, of course, Thor's Hammer, Mjolnir, consigned by Odin to Earth, sword-in-the-stone-like, as a test and a *deus-ex-machina* device.

Thor wants Mjolnir, back. As he buffets his way through guards, the Green Arrow is deployed to a sniper position, but is told to hold his fire. What does Thor expect to accomplish, when no one else has been able to budge this thing? Inquiring masterminds of a covert government agency want to know.

What happens next breaks Thor's mighty pride.

Jane's mentor, very well-played by Stellan Skarsgard, eventually orients Jane to the true nature of this mysterious guy from the sky. He also helps establish a human

identity for the fallen god.

Meanwhile, back in Asgard, Odin has fallen into a coma-like sleep, and Loki has declared himself king. Alarmed by this usurpation, Thor's friends sneak down to Midgard/Earth, abetted by Heimdall, Guardian of the Ways, who mistrusts Loki, to rescue their banished companion. This leads to another great scene, as New Mexico residents are bewildered by the strangely garbed newcomers. Way to go, script writers!

To tell any more would be spoiler.

I grew up reading the D'Aulaires' *Book of Norse Myths*, not *Thor* comics, so the backstory of Thor and Loki being brothers took getting used to. I guess sibling rivalry is an easier concept to put over than the complex relationship of Loki as Odin's blood brother and Asgard's Trickster. After all, by that premise, Loki is Thor's elder and uncle, (as in, who's your uncle?) and that would give Loki authority and an edge that a mere brother lacks. Rival brothers, on the other hand, have lots of good, heavy archetypal resonance. And in a very nice nod to the paternal archetype, a certain similarity between Odin and Nick Fury is underscored.

J. Michael Strazinski wrote the story for the film (not the script), which probably explains the ambiguity and passion of Loki's character – nobody renders ostensible villains sympathetic so well as The Man behind *Babylon 5*. In reward, Strazinski wangled a cameo role for himself as a cheerful-faced trucker who tries to lift Mjolnir. Stan Lee's cameo is in the same scene, and he looks positively gleeful. It's moments like these that make Marvel movies fun.

Kenneth Branagh did an outstanding job directing, showing his skill with ensemble, character-based action. He gives every single actor his or her moments, with haunting nuances in several cases. It's kinda interesting that Chris Hemsworth resembles a young Branagh.

This one is a must-see. The 3-D option is nice, but not part of essential viewing. ~ **Chris Paige**

Hop

Starring James Marsden, Russell Brand, Gary Cole, David Hasselhoff
Running Time: 95 minutes
Rated: PG
Director: Tim Hill
Opened April 1, 2011

In the non-Euclidean realm of film-making, parallel story lines intersect in *Hop* as E.B., the Easter Bunny-in-training is a disappointment to his dad, the Easter Bunny, because he'd rather play drums than supervise the rainbow colored operations of producing and delivering confections for Easter. At the same time, Fred Ohare is a disappointment to his dad, and his entire family, because at age

28 he still lives at home and does nothing to contribute to the family coffers or social prestige. And his slacker status is actually the Easter Bunny's fault, for ever since age eight, when he caught a glimpse of the magic of Easter, Fred has longed for something more glorious than the mundane world has to offer.

E.B. runs away to LA in search of fame, fortune, and freedom, only to find that freedom entails tired feet, an empty stomach, and a complete absence of shelter. When Hugh Hefner refuses to admit him to the Playboy Mansion, E.B. is too dispirited to avoid being hit by a car, and so he enters Fred's life.

Fred has been ousted from the family nest, but his kind sister has set him up with a house-sitting gig. He is reluctant to take any responsibility for the talking rabbit he ran over beyond an initial attempt to put it out of its misery, but Fred too is essentially kind, and the importunate E.B. prevails upon his sensibilities.

The distraught senior Easter Bunny summons his elite trio, the Pink Berets, to find, extract, and retrieve E.B., all the while oblivious to the incipient danger of an ambitious Second in Command who would love to take E.B.'s place in line for succession.

While evading the Pink Beret, E.B. encounters a band of blind blues brothers and plays a session as their drummer. Impressed by his stickwork, they urge the ecstatic E.B. to audition for the scout show *Hoff Knows Talent*. And it goes merrily on from there.

The dialogue and direction are amusing enough to keep young-at-heart adults engaged while kids enjoy the slapstick and animation. A scene wherein E.B. pretends to be a plushy doll and makes moves on Fred's sister is cute; and the Pink Beret team, modeled after *Charlie's Angels*, are a fun element. Geek factors: Marsden, aka Cyclops, hams it up; Hasselhoff refers to his best friend, a talking car; and Gary Cole plays a less sinister role than Sheriff Buck or the Devil.

Visually, *Hop* derives from the *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* movies as well as candy-production segments of *How Its Made*, and the yellow chicks are reminiscent of the minions in *Despicable Me*; even so, there is merit and much beauty in the graphics. In an animation rich year, *Hop* is worth seeing. ~ **Chris Paige**

The Costume Closet



How to Make an American Tribal Style Hip Scarf

by Nyki Robertson

Middleeastern dancers have become a popular fixture at conventions, leading classes or performing in the courtyard or masquerade halftime. Here, guest columnist Nyki shows us how to make a hip scarf, which is a wide belt or sash, often embellished with jangly coins or beadwork. The article is based on a class she has often taught at cons and SCA events. Editor.

Before you start, a lot of people like to make a pattern from the following directions, fit the pattern THEN cut the fabric and lining from the fitted pattern. This is great if your fitting didn't curve the piece so that it doesn't lay flat! I personally don't have the patience to make a pattern first, so I just go with my fabric and lining.

STEP ONE: Choose Fabric

A.) Velvets, mid to heavy weight cottons, twill, lighter weight upholstery material, etc. etc. for the outer/top piece Broadcloth, etc is great for the lining.

B.) WARNING: 1.) Very light weight cottons and silks must be stabilized and don't generally lend themselves to much embellishment. 2.) Slippery materials (satins, jacquards, etc.), especially if used to line, will tend to "shimmy" off you as you move &/or dance!

STEP TWO: Measurements

A.) Measure side-to-side across back and add seam allowance.

B.) Measure side to center front on each side, add seam allowance. (If lacing on each side of center front for closure, measure side to where lacing on each side and then measure distance between lacing across front, add seam allowances for each piece)

- 1.) Add at least 10" to each side on front if tying it closed
- 2.) Allow for slight overlap, if using hook-n-eyes.
- 3.) Can be an inch or so less if lacing it.

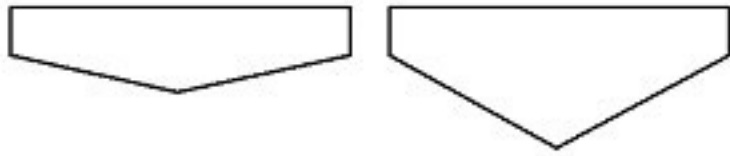
STEP THREE: Choose shape/style

A.) The "V": fold material for back in half. Use fold for center back, which is the bottom

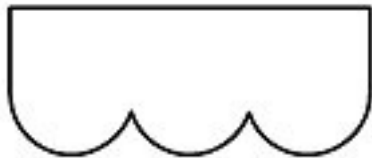
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Costume (Cont'd from page 12)

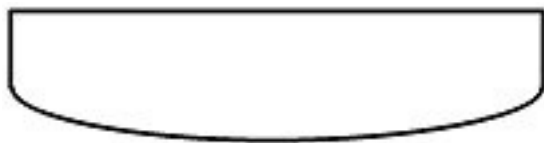
of the "V". Cut the "V" as dramatic or shallow as desired. Cut while material is folded so that each side is equal.



B.) The "wave" This time, center back is the mid-point of the middle wave. Place on fold and cut.



C.) "Rounded": Same handling and cutting of fabric as above.



D.) "Gothic" or "Bat-wing": same handling and cutting of material.



E.) Use your imagination for other shapes.

F.) Cut lining at same time as fabric, that way they match!

STEP FOUR: Construct and Fit

A.) Sew back piece to front pieces of fabric (do same with lining). Put on and fit:

1.) Darts: 1 in center back, or 2-one on either side of center back, or 3-one in each

previously mentioned place! Whatever it takes to look nice!

2.) Elastic: Learned this one from Ren: Run a channel along top of back piece, insert elastic (sewing down edge) and run it through to the other side, sewing the end down there to anchor it. Attach lining (no need to put elastic on both fabric AND lining).

STEP FIVE: Embellishments! YAY, the fun stuff!

A.) Embroidery

1.) Use regular floss, fancy floss, metallics, heavier weight flosses up to, yes, even yarn. Use separately or mix different weights for texture effects.

2.) Pattern: Remember, in Islam, they used mostly geometrics and florals since the depiction of human or even animal forms would be considered idolatry.

A.) Pick a pattern off the fabric and follow it.

B.) Do a geometric design.

C.) Draw on a floral pattern.

D.) Do some Celtic Knot work.

E.) Mix-n-match, again, your imagination is your limit.

B.) Beads and Coins

1.) Use different size beads for effect. Same pattern ideas as for embroidery.

2.) Coins:

A.) Buy the cheapie metal ones (yucky!)

B.) Buy foreign coins and punch holes in them (keep in mind; it is a violation of Federal Law to deface American money-so don't go punching holes in them!)

C.) Use misc. metal pieces that will "jingle" together in a way you like when they knock together.

C.) Sequins

1.) Flat actually period and somewhere in my house I DO have documentation for them!

2.) Faceted Not "period" (for S.C.A., Inc) but still, very pretty and shiny!

D.) Trim: there are all kinds and styles of trim out there. Mix several different ones together for a unique look!

E.) Iron-on Emblems: These can be really fun and are pretty, to boot! AND they are a much faster way to add embellishment to your scarf/belt!

F.) FRINGE!! (Trust me on this one: if you are going to use fringe, attach the lining BEFORE you do the fringe!)

1.) Beaded: either buy it pre-beaded (usually in Home Decor area) or make your own (prove your insanity! It's possible, but requires much patience!)

2.) Poly Fringe: comes in a variety of colors and lengths, from 1" to over 25" long (keep in mind: the longer the fringe, the higher the price tag!)

G.) Tassels: quick note-tassels are an item specific to ATS. I have found absolutely no evidence that tassels were worn by any beings other than animals (camels, horses, etc) during festival times. If you have documentation that can prove me wrong PLEASE send it to me!!

1.) Tassels come in various colors, sizes and styles in the Home Decor section, but can be fairly pricey.

2.) Make your own! Quite easy, actually:

A.) Cut a piece of card board the length you want your tassel.

B.) Wrap your yarn or floss around the cardboard until it is the thickness you desire.

C.) Insert a length of string through one end and tie tightly. This is the top of the tassel.

D.) Cut through the loops at the bottom of the tassel to release them.

E.) Wrap a section 1 or 2" from the top. Wrap with either the same string used to make tassel body or use a complimentary (or even contrasting) color.

CONGRATULATIONS!! You've just made a tassel!! Yes, folks, it IS that easy!

* Different yarns (floss, string, whatever) make for different looking tassels. The "fluffier" the yarn, the "Fluffier" the tassel will be. Don't be shy about experimenting around to find the look that's just right for your project!*

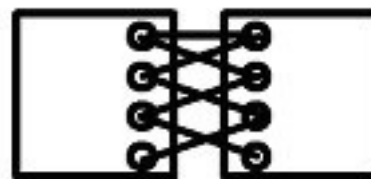
STEP SIX: Finishing

A.) If lining has not been attached yet, please do so now.

B.) Attach hooks and eyes, or grommets if lacing.

YAY! Now you have a hip scarf/belt for your costume! Best of all, it is unique to you! Congratulations!

Afterword: on lacing the front: you can either lace up the center or on either side:



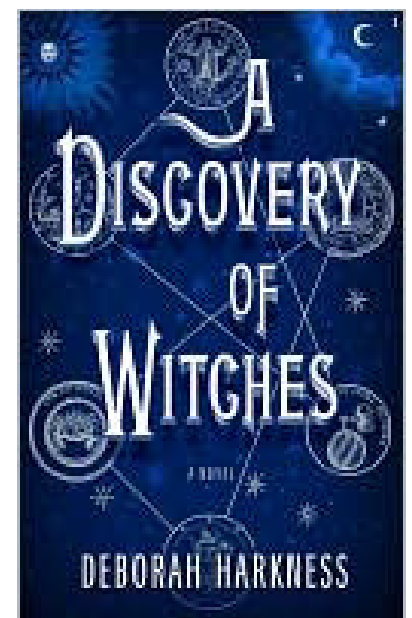
And yes, folks, it really is that easy!

Created by Nyki Robertson,
Updated on April 28, 2011

In Our Book

A Discovery of Witches
by Deborah Harkness
Viking, \$28.95, 579 pp

A hefty debut novel but maybe worth your time. The world is populated by witches, vampires, daemons and humans. The humans, of course, are all-unknowing. One of the more interesting perspectives of this story is that the humans play no part in it. The witches are mortal but have all sorts of interesting powers/skills; however, their power is declining with each generation. The vampires are immortal and do still enjoy their blood; however, there are no fangs nor any other typical constraint like sunlight or garlic. Daemons are not as well described and I confess that I can't recall any good description of what they are. If there was a description, it was short and insignificant. All I know is that they are extremely creative but not what makes them daemons. This is a serious lack for me; I really wanted to know what the daemons are.



Each group tends to keep to themselves with some serious rivalry between the species. Our heroine, a witch named Diana, has rejected most aspects of her heritage throughout her life. She prefers the life of a scholar and makes much of her achievements accomplished without the use of witchcraft. One day, while doing research in a library, she finds a book that is obviously bespelled. She cares little for whatever is hidden by the spell and is only interested in it as a reference to her research. However, many others are very, very interested in the book as it has been lost for centuries. She attracts the attention of a host of vampires, other witches and daemons. The daemons are an annoyance, the witches are extremely hostile and threatening, and the vampires....

(Cont'd on page 14)

In Our Book

(Cont'd from page 13)

are intriguing. She finds herself increasingly attracted to one debonair vampire and begins a relationship. The other witches are horrified and attempt to control her. She's warned repeatedly that the relationship won't be tolerated but she doesn't believe they can affect her.

She attempts to discover the significance of the book and while doing so, learns more about the other two species. There is more intermingling than is publicly acknowledged or countenanced by the Congregation – a congress of the three species. The assumption is that the book will have an explanation of the origins of all four species and give insight into their different abilities. Here's where the logic breaks down for me. Witches and daemons are born but vampires are made. How can they be a species? Unclear by the author.

There are lots of interesting plot ideas – that Diana has the full pantheon of witch powers, that the vampires do genetic research, and many creative geniuses have been daemons. There is little resolved in this book which may make you crave the rest of this trilogy. The writing is technically proficient, the plot could use a bit more tightening up. The main characters are pretty well-defined but the supporting characters are shallow. Overall, the story doesn't zing along, it kind of plods. But the plot ideas have grabbed my imagination and I think I'll have to see how they are resolved. ~ Catherine Book.

Tiassa
by Steven Brust
TOR Books, \$24.99, 335 pp

Helpful hint for readers: Wikipedia's information on Steven Brust has an up-to-date timeline for the chronological order of the Vlad Taltos novels and indicates where the various parts of this novel fit.

A beautiful illustration of The Cycle shows the progression and the qualities of the 17 Great Houses of Dragaera, according to which, Tiassa represents Catalyst and Inspiration. The questions remain, who is inspired to do (or be) what? And what actions will have their threshold energies lowered?

In the hands of the annoyed Jhereg who REALLY want to put paid to Vlad, the silver figurine of a tiassa just might hasten his demise. In the hands of defenders of the Empire, it just might stop the Jenoine from invading. In the presence of an artist or writer, it activates their greatest creativity. In Vlad's keeping, it sparks the idea for a complex game of table-turning, rather like a poker LARP. In the process, a young prostitute's life is transformed. And what might it do in the hands of one who has endured soul-rending trauma?

Best of all, this *Tiassa* has inspired the author to bring back

and together many characters from previous novels. Piro and Ibronka, from *The Viscount of Adrilankha* trilogy, are key players in that poker LARP; Cawti and Norathar reunite for a mission as the Dagger and Sword of the Jhereg, with some surprising assistance from Daro. Khaavren has a very active role, and his friend from the days of *The Phoenix Guards*, the elusive Pel, appears briefly. Also, Brust gives the mysterious and as yet unborn Devera much more voice. There is even the scene of Devera's conception.

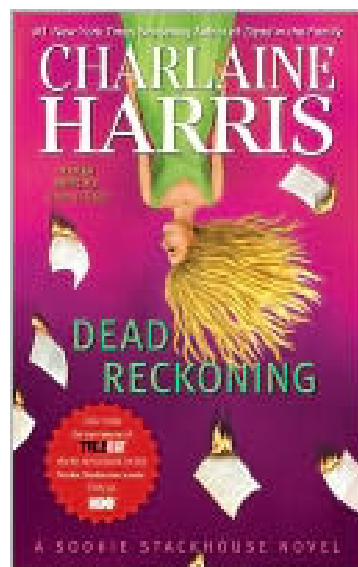
So in your mind's eye, imagine *you* are holding in *your* hands a silver tiassa: sapphire eyes, wings that ride on light. What next, for you? ~ Chris Paige

Dead Reckoning
by Charlaïne Harris
Ace, \$27.95, 325pp

A new Sookie Stackhouse novel! Oh yeah!!

And of course, more fun than a coffin full of lusty vampires IMHO.

Sookie's one-eighth fairy heritage is the consistent plot point in this tale. She finds out a



lot about her fae relations. Fairies Claude and Dermot are in and out of her house constantly. Eric (owner of Fangtasia) is still her lover/husband. At least for half of the novel. And Bill Compton is still out there in the woods (along with our dear Bubba). And to really stir things up, she finds a hidden and revealing letter from her grandmother and a fairy love token called a *cluvriel dor* hidden in an old desk she's about to sell to antique store.

Buff Viking Eric (and just about every other vampire in Louisiana) have had it with the high-handed Victor who runs vampire life as the King of Nevada's regent. Victor really hates Eric and his vampires, even though Eric is officially Victor's Sheriff. He's made life miserable for everyone, including Sam, the owner of Merlotte's. Victor has set up competition in the form of his own bar, Vic's Redneck Roadhouse and it's sucking the life out of Merlotte's, as it were. What adds to the problem is that the

weres (were panthers, were bears, etc)—those who are two-natured like Sookie's friends Alcide and his clan and even Sookie's brother Jason have come out of the woods and told the world about their existence. They were hoping that the human population would accept them grudgingly as they sort of have the vampires. But one more group of supernaturals added to the vampire population has made a lot of the locals in Bon Temps really uneasy. The crowds at Merlotte's are thin and Sam is losing money.

And remember Sandra Pelt? The woman that really, really had it out for Sookie? (because of past altercations in a previous novel). Oh well, she's out of prison and is completely focused on taking Sookie out.

Sookie, as you can imagine, really wants her life to quiet down.

But of course—it's still entertainingly frantic and furious with vampire dealings and fending off attacks set up by Pelt. There's also a climatic confrontation with Victor and his crew at Vic's Roadhouse with dead bodies everywhere. Sookie also gets an unexpected visit from the demon lawyer Desmond Cataliades near the end who reveals to Sookie some very interesting facts about her family.

As always this is a great rip-roaring read, as smooth as syrup on Saturday morning pancakes.

Why wait for it to come out in paperback?

Sookie Bon Temps and the vamps are waiting! ~ Sue Martin

An Embarrassment of Riches
by Chelsea Quinn Yarbro
Tor, \$29.99, 383 pp

The Comte Sanct-Germain has been in my life since 1978 and no other series has captured my interest as has this one. The interesting fact of this series is that the stories are not successive; one can dip into the Comte's life at any point. But it is, to some extent, its weakness. Our favorite vampire hasn't had much personal growth in the past few years; it was more interesting to read the earlier stories placed earlier in Sanct-Germain's unlife when he was experiencing changes. But, lately, it's just another chapter in a long, long life.

This story takes place in the middle of the 13th century in the Kingdom of Bohemia. Racogzy Ferancsi, the Count Saint-Germain has been exiled from his home country because the ruling King, Bela of Hungary, fears rebellion from Saint-Germain's subjects. Racogzy is under severe restrictions while in King Bela's granddaughter's court in Bohemia. He is ordered to keep Kunigunde supplied with precious gems while enduring the scrutiny of the Church and the many spies in his own household. While this isn't that out of the ordinary for the Count, his worst danger comes from a woman of the court who desires

him and will not accept no for any answer. Her threats of crying rape are sufficient to blackmail the Count into doing her bidding. Unfortunately for him, what she gains from their sexual trysts is not sufficient for his sustenance. He is also blackmailed by a young woman desperate to experience physical love before she is married off to an unpleasant man. Fortunately, these encounters are much more satisfying for Saint-Germain. But over all the events, the burning question for Racogzy and his lifelong friend, Rogerian, is how to disengage himself from this dangerous court and leave without putting his countrymen at risk for his actions.

As I'd said before, it's just another chapter in his life with little difference from many of her other stories. I was bothered by the idea that both of these women had lain with Saint-Germain enough times to be turned at the time of their death yet he did not prepare them for the event. He despairs at one point, with Rogerian, that he isn't able to tell the nasty blackmailing woman what to expect. But it wasn't clear to me if he was going to tell the younger woman. The advent of new vampires in his life who would be his family is of greater interest to me than another history lesson but Ms. Yarbro didn't take us down that road. It wasn't a bad book; the writing is as flawless as always, the characters dependable, but the story just wasn't that interesting. But I remain a perennial optimist when it comes to our Count. ~ Catherine Book.

The End of Eternity
Isaac Asimov
Orb Trade, \$15.99, 256pp

In another reprint of a classic, Asimov's time traveling novel of the far future gets the chance to entrance a new generation of readers. This 1955 story has held up surprisingly well, much of the current technology is either here or missing due to having been removed from the timeline as part of keeping humanity safe.

Andrew Harlan is a technician, one of the few men in eternity that actually makes the changes to keep humanity safe. He has no friends as his job is considered distasteful by everyone else. His hobby is ancient history (pre-2300).

Harlan is sent to observe the 482nd century (48,200 AD) and meets a woman that changes his world and challenges his perceptions of the world and eternity.

The story is well-written and keeps the reader entranced. The blurbs on the book call it his best, I wouldn't go that far but it is one of his top ten.

Highly Recommended ~ Bob LaPierre

(Cont'd on page 15)

In Our Book

(Cont'd from page 14)

Central Park Knight by C. J. Henderson Tor Book, \$15.99, 350 pp

Henderson begins this novel with a humorously erudite summary of dragons from historical sources, effectively establishing the dual theme of *dragons as teachers* and *dragons as menace* that will shape the rest of the story. This introduction ends with the ominous words, "... what exactly will constitute the agenda of these beasts, on that day when the dragons return?"

Then we get to see our future hero in action. All around New York City and its environs, groups of performing artists gather. Presaged by a super-storm, SOMETHING is coming, an evil, hungry, extra-dimensional shambler, foretold by many prophets, and Professor Pier Knight, a director at the Brooklyn Museum, has prepared his own creative weapon of defense against this consuming horror, based on some words by Balzac. I guess you'd have to say, this guy's got Balz.

Unfortunately, once the storm starts, so do errors. I went from cringing at bad syntax to banging my head on the table as the author ignored the laws of physics. If seismic activity is strong enough, for there to be "lawns swallowed" (page 38) and "magma in New York City" (page 47) I'm thinking there'd be nothing left of NYC but a wasteland of rubble, and a tsunami would probably have taken out most of the eastern seaboard. Another problem I had was with dialogue. At times, the characters represent fantastic range and diversity. You can tell Henderson has a great deal of admiration for humanity's capacity for self-expression. Other times, however, characters time-warp to 1950s stereotypes, like an old episode of *Flash Gordon*, or the *Foxtrot* sequence when Roger is writing *His Codename Was THE FOX*.

No lesser writers than Mike Resnick and William Shatner endorsed this book, and if you don't get hung up on these glitches, you can enjoy *Central Park Knight* in good spirit. The story is full of action and really good ideas, as dragons and humans vie for dominance, and the option of an alliance rivals the threat of mutual destruction. But C. J. Henderson, for all his [?] writing talent, (I cannot believe a woman would describe the assistant Bridget with such phrases as are by Henderson employed), seriously needs to add a science nerd to his list of A-readers, and a grammarian wouldn't be amiss. ~ C. Paige

Seduce Me in Dreams by Jacquelyn Frank Ballantine Books, \$7.99, 342pp

As paranormal romances go this is a pretty sweet one. This is no surprise as Frank's "Nightwalkers" series is very hot.

In this universe, Frank has created a new set of heroes. Tough, buff and handsome, Bronse Chapel leads an elite team of Interplanetary Militia. They patrol the three worlds; Ebbany, Ulrike and Tari and keep touchy events from escalating into major confrontations.

Recently, Bronse has been dogged by some very realistic dreams involving a beautiful woman he has never met. Though strongly fascinated by her, he worries about his sanity, so he tells no one of these, not even his tight crew: Justice, Lasher, Ender, Trick and Jet.

Members of the ETF (Extreme Tactics Force), these five have just barely survived a confrontation on the desert planet Tari. They return to their base with their communications man, Trick, severely injured.

While recuperating, Trick inadvertently discovers that their team was set up on their last mission and the trail points to the Interplanetary Militia's Admiral JuJuren.

But why this admiral has it out for Bronse's team, none of them know. And before they can do much digging, they are sent back out to Tari again on an urgent mission. A mission they are sure is another attempt to take them out.

While dealing with the raid they make on a desert outpost, Bronse finds himself in underground caverns where he discovers a couple of Tari prisoners.

And one of them is the compelling woman of his dreams! And of course, once he finds her, there is an instant attraction and he is hopeless captivated by Ravenna.

Ravenna and her brother Kith are Chosen Ones and have been stolen by a tribe in a power play. Ravenna has the ability to sense the future and Kith has a heightened sense of empathy. Bronse and his team rescue the two. Bronse is convinced by Ravenna to go to an isolated sanctuary and rescue the other Chosen Ones, most of whom are youngsters.

Before the bad guys can confront them the ETF team escapes on their ship. They end up at the Interplanetary Militia space station where Bronse and his team hope to convince the good guys there that the Chosen Ones can help the Militia with their various abilities. AND that Admiral JuJuren is scum and needs to be taken out.

Events escalate until there is a tense stand-off between Bronse's crew and Admiral JuJuren---with Ravenna tossed in the middle.

As I said at the beginning, this is ultimately a sweet intense romance between a very alpha male and an enchanting woman

with powers.

A great read for the weekend. And there'll be more. ~ Sue Martin

Fragment by Warren Fahy Dell, \$7.99, 501 pp

This is a very good debut book. It holds the fascinating premise that an entirely different ecosystem could have evolved on Earth without interacting with any other ecosystem. A small island smack-dab in the center of the Pacific Ocean, a thousand miles from anything, is the setting for this story. A splinter of an extinct ecosystem of crustaceans survived on this island and continued to evolve without the interference of mammals, birds or insects. What would such an ecosystem look like after millions of years? Would it be possible for intelligent life to have arisen? These were obviously the questions that intrigued the author.

The story begins with a reality TV show ship answering a distress call to an uncharted island. Their enthusiasm to explore the island, with no caution, results in a massacre. The military shows up, predictably, and with our protagonist, a botanist from the TV show crew, try to understand what this island means to our own existence. And the conclusion is: disaster and extinction of all we know. These new species are violent and unstoppable; if loosed anywhere else in the world they would decimate all species they encountered.

So, I figured this would be a predictable conclusion – simply the answer to the question: what happens if one of the species escapes the island? I was pleasantly surprised when the author took a right turn and did something unexpected. The plot was interesting and the characters sufficiently fleshed-out. The author spent a great deal of the book describing this ecosystem and its inhabitants – to the story's detriment, I think. One of the problems that writers fall into when they become enamored with an idea, is that they forget they need to tell the story, as well. While there was enough exposition to be tedious, and enough description of the horrific creatures of the island to keep me awake at night, there was also enough story to keep me interested. But it didn't get really good until near the end so you'll have to have a little patience. I'll be looking for the sequel. ~ Catherine Book.

The Bards of Bone Plain by Patricia McKillip Ace Books, \$25.95, 329pp

This is one of McKillip's quiet, slow-moving books, even though there's a war of conquest early on. The word-smithing, as usual, is excellent. The dramatic centerpiece of the story is a bardic contest in which magical powers

alter the landscape and inner-scapes of audience members and participants.

Intermittently, the narrative follows the life of a bard who, in his day, was a spectacular failure. Nairn had the innate talent to be the greatest bard of his generation, but singing to pigs and wandering along the coast to hear the songs sung in every village do not adequately prepare one for contests against court-trained bards who are magicians as well.

The frame story is like a counterpoint to the legend of Nairn. Now the central plain is where a school for bards trains hundreds of students to be adequate. Their experiences are the opposite of Nairn's: they are comfortable, busy, organized, prosperous, social. Phelan has to write a thesis paper to graduate, and decides the easiest route to completion is to re-examine the life and mysterious disappearance of Nairn. As he goes half-heartedly digging into the documents of the past, he begins to see alarming similarities between past and present. Long ago, events and confrontations culminated in a disastrous contest between bards; now a charismatic musician is disrupting court life and calling for a contest, open to all, to determine who shall be the next royal bard.

Some of the characterizations are a delight, especially that of Princess Beatrice, who prefers archeological digs to court parties, and tends to trudge through gala events in mud-spattered dungarees en route to her room. The irate queen mother threatens to pack her off to more genteel surroundings; fortunately, her father is sympathetic, and enthuses over her discoveries.

This is an exquisite book if you want poetic transportation to Once Upon a Time for a while. Bonus: fabulous cover art by Kinuko Y. Craft. ~ Chris Paige

Trolls in the Hamptons by Celia Jerome DAW, \$7.99, 320pp

Willow "Willy" Tate is a writer/illustrator of graphic novels who worries about and is afraid of almost everything, though she makes herself forge ahead with life anyway. On a typical afternoon she is planning a new story and draws out the story board for her new idea - a hero troll. Things take a turn towards the unusual when the troll she drew for her story comes walking down the street outside her Manhattan apartment, only no one but Willy can see him. Soon she finds herself deeply involved in all sorts of paranormal adventures as she meets a dashing British agent from a mysterious agency, the Department of Unexplained Events or DUE, becomes involved in the search for a stolen child from another world and finds out the people of her hometown are much more than they seem.

(Cont'd on page 16)

In Our Book

(Cont'd from page 15)

This was a delightful start to a series. I could not put it down until I had finished. Luckily I have the second book, *Night Mares in the Hamptons*, on my to-read pile. Highly recommended! ~
Stephanie L Bannon

Tempting Providence
by Jonathan Thomas
Hippocampus Press, \$20.00, 261 pp

These 12 “strange stories” explore the sideways, psychological avenues of horror and the supernatural. Some of them, like “Gumball Man” and “A Different Kind of Heartworm” are akin to Steven King stories, but with a higher vocabulary threshold. Others are more like *Twilight Zone* episodes: eerie, unsettling, or wistful. Almost all the titles involve puns or wordplay, deriving dimensions from the story that follows.

The title story, for example, is about a photographer named Justin, who takes pictures of places and buildings just in time, before they are demolished or zoned for destruction. He ekes out a precarious living, having turned his back on the 40-hour work week route, thus tempting providence in one sense. When he returns to Providence to display some of his work at his alma mater’s art gallery, he finds himself lured by recollections of the past, his own college years, and then, inexplicably, by glimpses of Lovecraft himself. Now a dream-Providence is tempting him. Gradually, he deduces the presence of a Lovecraftian, otherworldly intrusion... a hungry one!

“The Men at the Mound” is a story of haunts. Raedwald, king of East Anglia, is trying to keep peace between his people who honor Wotan and the old gods, and the Christians in their midst. Peace-bribes are expensive, but wars are costly too. A timewarp allows him to glimpse a piece of the future that is sadly, poignantly, relevant to him, but not in a way he can understand, and he seems to the one future witness no more than a revenant himself.

“Into Your Tenement I’ll Creep” is horror with a side of irony. “Power of Midnight” is about a record, “the vinyl Necronomicon,” that alters the world for the worse every time it is played. That sure explains a lot about the last 33 years, doesn’t it? “Passenger Bastion” is the hard SF contribution, set in a what if? future where planes are fueled by “enriched” coal, and are kept aloft only so long as someone keeps shoveling. In this story, it is people’s attitudes, and their indifference, that are horrific.

This collection is varied in its themes and narrative voices as if Robert Browning had switched from *persona* poems to writing short fiction. And the cover art by

Barbara Briggs Silbert is great. ~
Chris Paige

Fangs for the Mammaries
Edited by Esther Friesner
Baen Books, \$7.99, 393 pp

Here is the toothsome sequel of sorts to *Witch Way to the Mall* and *Strip Mauled*, two of the funniest anthologies in recent years. The first focused on spell-casters in modern settings, specifically suburbia; the second shone the spotlight on werewolves in the midst; now we get the low down on life in the ‘burbs for the undead.

Each author was allowed/encouraged to reset the parameters of vampiric reality afresh, so do not look or hope for consistency in details. Some are born vamps, some are made vamps, and some have vampness thrust upon them, to paraphrase *Twelfth Night*. Some authors take the laws of physics seriously; others are more concerned with social dynamics. Narrative styles and themes change, but one thing is constant: it’s all about laughing your way to a happy ending. Puns and allusions abound, and several authors continue with characters introduced in the previous anthologies. 20 stories here, well worth your dollars. Here are some highlights:

“Overbite” by Jody Lynn Nye concerns the unlikely friendship between Delilah, a teen vampire with new braces and Jim, the human son of a dentist who caters to the special needs of the nightfolk. “If Music Be the Food of Love ...” by Dave Freer describes how difficult it can be to be the undead father of a permanent teenager. Let me tell you, it’s tough, even if your best friend is a mad scientist named Hellsing with a troubling teen of his own. Julia S. Mandala’s “Soccer Mom Smackdown” is about one of the unwillingly turned – as a vampire, Louise cannot properly engage in the suburban lifestyle, but when her young son is being bullied, well, she has to do something! Unfortunately, the bully’s mom models her life after Buffy the Vampire-Slayer. The funniest part of this story is the bit about popular names for suburban kids. Similarly, K.D. Wentworth parodies mall shop names in “Miss White Hands’s Class Goes Shopping” in which well-bred teen vamps elude their private school instructor and variously enthrall or terrorize the denizens of day at a Midnight Madness Sale and start a free-for-all frenzy at *Goth Topics*.

In “Sarah Bailey and the Texas Beauty Queen” Lee Martindale confirms our suspicions that successful real estate agents really are heartless, soul-sucking predators running on a blend of malice and greed who delight in toying with their victims. Timely, this one. David D. Levine contributes the very well-written “Family Matters,” in which young Julian tries to protect a refugee vampire from his own coven

when a bunch of jocks come down with anemia. His difficulties are compounded by first love, cultural mores, and an irate, neglected best friend.

In “Sappy Meals” Hildy Silverman scripts the darkly humorous monologue of Lord Dravyn defending the actions of his progeny before a judge of the Superior Court of Piscataway, New Jersey. Daniel M. Hoyt gratifies us with a Halloween romantic-comedy called “Stick or Treat” in which the friendship between mortal Jenny and vampire Jan crosses the barrier of subdivisions and opens the door to new experiences for a recently divorced suburban mom. Then there’s the adult-themed pulp fiction “Trampire,” by Robin Wayne Bailey, which opens with “She had legs like the horns of a Texas steer ...” and goes merrily and profanely on from there.

Sarah Settel goes right for the jugular of the “vampirism as a metaphor for sex” motif with “Vampless,” in which Valley girls just want to date vampires, ordinary boys are out of luck, and a vampstinance counter-movement is underway. Linda Donahue stakes a claim to the obvious solution to suburban crime with “The Goth Girl Next Door.”

Friesner’s own offering is “Long in the Tooth,” about Billy, who likes older women, and an older woman who knows how to hold her own, even when competition presents itself in the form of a well-enhanced gold-digger. After the regional tonalities from LA to Yonkers, Laura J. Underwood writes in a more aristocratic vein, with the true imbibers’ elegance and scorn for all that is déclassé in “Bella and the Flying Lugosi.”

Finally, Steven Pizics presents “Bait and Switch” featuring Wanda Silver, a sassy, savvy Erin Brockovich-ish heroine with huge medical bills to pay. Usually she gets hired by desperate daddies who want their delusional daughters disillusioned and weaned away from an addiction to vampire love storylines. Wanda listens sympathetically to each star-crossed maiden’s raptures, then shows her the true age of her vampire paramour in a magic mirror. Since they typically look like the portrait of Dorian Gray, next day she collects from a well-pleased papa. But now the one vampire she hates most in all the world wants to hire her – to save him from a determined female. I especially love how Pizics’ title works on five levels: first with his own students, then four times within the plot. Good stories here, heartily recommended. ~ **Chris Paige**

Department Nineteen
by Will Hill
Razorbill Books, \$17.99, 440pp

This is the first book in a trilogy. The various departments are in the U.K. government and are listed in

the preface.

Jamie sees something when his father comes home very agitated. Creatures are all around the house and he is sure they mean to harm them. When his father is killed by government agents and the official story comes out he becomes sullen and withdrawn. He is seen by others as an object of scorn and ridicule and is involved in almost constant fighting.

Then he discovers the truth: monsters are real and his dad was killed because of them. His mom is captured by the vampires and he attempts to find her. He is allied by the mysterious department nineteen and by Frankenstein. Frankenstein has been involved with the department for a long time and knew members of Jamie’s family in the past.

The story is a fairly straightforward young adult mystery with fantasy/horror elements. Jamie being sixteen there is the usual teenage angst and naiveté. I am interested in where the story goes but it does drag in places.

Recommended ~ **Bob LaPierre**

Nightmares in the Hamptons
by Celia Jerome
DAW, \$7.99, 320pp

Night Mares in the Hamptons takes place almost immediately following the events in *Trolls in the Hamptons*.

Willy is trying to get back to normal but it is hard considering she is still staying in her mother’s house in Paumanok Harbor while trying to figure out if she really should marry Grant, the dashing British agent, who turned out to not only be rich but a British Lord with an estate and title! Compounding her problems is the violence sweeping the town, depression, anger, fights and insomnia. People describe seeing white mares that bring a wave of sadness and rage and then disappear from sight. Willy contacts Grant for help but he is about to go off on an expedition to send a Yeti back to the other dimension where he belongs so Grant will not be coming to help. Instead he says a famous horse whisperer from the Department of Unexplained Events or DUE will be coming to take care of the problem. As they bicker a bit on the phone, Willy breaks her engagement to Grant feeling she doesn’t really know him; after all, they got engaged within days of meeting each other.

Soon the cowboy comes to town to help contact the magical mares and help them return to their dimension. And what a cowboy Ty Farraday turns out to be! Willy is immediately attracted to Ty but has problems convincing him that their focus should be the lost colt the mares are searching for instead of trying to find the mares. As her link with the hurt and frightened colt strengthens the search for both

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the mares and the colt, it becomes more intense as the need to save the colt in order to save the gifted residents of Paumanok Harbor becomes more desperate; because, if the colt dies, who knows what havoc the night mares will wreak.

Willy is delightful, her odd ball family and the town and fascinating. This is a delightful series. I read the first two books in two days and I can hardly wait for book three, *Fireworks in the Hamptons*, due out this November. Highly recommended. ~

Stephanie L Bannon

Falling Under
by Gwen Hayes
New American Library, \$9.99,
324pp

This YA novel has a terrific opening line and the rest of the book that follows is just as good.

The basic plot is very familiar YA territory: an awkward seventeen-year-old girl, Theia Alderson, moves to a northern California town. Her home life is cool and strict: mother died giving birth to her, her father is a constantly busy barrister (English lawyer) who has pots of money but not too much affection. At school, Theia has a couple of quirky girlfriends who don't like the "sneetches" the popular cheerleaders/jocks. Donny is way into boys and independent; Amelia is into all things metaphysical.

And into this nominally typical teenaged world falls an absolutely gorgeous guy, Haden Black. The kind of guy, whose looks make him a perfect match for a sneetch, but who, after meeting Theia under unusual circumstances, finds himself very attracted to the violin-playing introvert.

Of course, he is not all he appears to be. And lest you think this is a feeble rip off of "Twilight," it isn't. A character even comments that one of Haden's peculiarities better not be that he's "a vampire with glittery skin."

No. He is a half-human, half-demon teenage boy from Under (a euphemism for the Underworld). His father was human and his mother is Mara—demon queen of Under and the source of all human nightmares.

Haden is struggling to find balance between two worlds. (Yes—just like Edward Cullen but less confident. Haden is actually a lot older than Edward—he's 170 years old.)

Theia gradually becomes aware of Haden's true nature because he just can't keep his distance. And the two of them fall in love. But Haden doesn't want to touch Theia; afraid if he does he will eat her soul and drag her to Under to be the human bride his mother wants him to have. Because Hell needs an heir and Haden must produce one with a human.

So the struggle of these two

to keep the other at arm's length though burning to be together obviously adds a great deal of tension to the story.

There is no sex—but tons of angst because Haden doesn't want Theia to be a pawn of his mother (or his demon nature) and Theia, though desperately attracted to Haden, doesn't want Haden to be punished by the manipulative Mara.

And of course—all hell does break loose.

But the tale has a very satisfying ending...for a book which is likely to be just one of several about these two star-crossed lovers. All of the novel's characters are enough off-center to be engaging. I look forward to more. ~

Sue Martin

Fuzzy Nation
by John Scalzi
TOR Books, \$24.99, 301 pp

Jack Holloway is an independently contracted prospector on Zeracorp XXIII, a company-owned planet with enough valuable raw materials to make a man rich if he is skillful, careful, and lucky; otherwise, he might wind up dead or just broke and shipped back to Earth on the next beanpole launch. Jack likes to antagonize people – he used to be a lawyer – including his supervisor and ex-girlfriend; so Jack's something of a loner, except for his good dog, Carl, whom he has taught to detonate explosives. Jack is also the first human to meet the planet's most intelligent life form. Trouble is, he and the company Zaracorp lose all rights to and profits from the planet if a native sentient species is discovered, and Jack *just* found a deposit of sunstones that could net him billions. What's an anti-hero to do?

In his Author's Note, Scalzi explains, "*Fuzzy Nation* is a reimagining of the story and events in *Little Fuzzy*, the 1962 Hugo-nominated novel by H. Beam Piper. ... Think of this as a 'reboot' of the Fuzzy universe, not unlike the recent J.J. Abrams 'reboot' of the *Star Trek* film series, (but hopefully with better science)." John Scalzi packs more action and laughs in 17 pages than most writers can with 200. Furthermore, he abides by the laws of logic, physics, and foreshadowing.

Fuzzy Nation is about as close to perfect as a book can get. It's fast-paced, funny, part xeno-planet hard SF, part first contact, part courtroom dramedy, with scenes of *aaawww* cuteness contrasted with ones of adrenaline-laced tension. It has reversals, revelations, and a satisfying conclusion that leaves room for a sequel. Strongly recommended. ~

Chris Paige

Engineering Infinity
edited by Jonathan Strahan
Solaris Books, \$7.99, 390pp

This volume is a set of short science fiction stories. In the forward, Strahan tells us how it started as a hard SF volume and slowly, as with reality, it developed into the volume you see here. But what you see here is a beautiful testament to the constant refining and redefining that SF has undergone in the last few decades.

Some of these tales take place in the crushingly near future, so close you can see it happening this year. Others take place down a shadowy corridor of time we didn't explore. Still others are a glimpse of the possibilities of the far future. All of them are well-crafted and most of them require some thought afterwards. The thought afterwards is a sign of a good story, also one of the reasons I recommend reading this at your leisure, take a few days so that the messages sink in.

The authors that contributed to this volume reads like a who's who of current SF. Stross, Rusch, Baxter, and Benford are just the first to catch my eye on the cover. The stories are varied and range from finding ourselves on the sidelines as two races war among the solar system to downloaded psyches in robot bodies slowly deteriorating from radiation to the world facing destruction from the "angels" we created to help us.

Finding a favorite would be like finding a favorite food, it would depend on what you want at the time. I will look for some of the works of the authors I was unfamiliar with prior to reading this book. My mind is officially blown.

Very highly recommended ~
Bob LaPierre

Journal of a UFO Investigator
by David Halperin
Viking, 294pp

This is a first novel by Halperin, a professor emeritus of religious studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. It is all about alienation (and well, in a manner of speaking - Alien Nation!). It is the story of a thirteen-year-old Jewish boy growing up in 1966 near Philadelphia. Danny Shapiro is a geek. His mother is chronically ill and he and his father tip-toe around the house in their efforts to avoid agitating her. Danny knows if he hadn't been born, his mother would not be as ill as she is. Fundamentally Danny's father loves him, but resents the fact his birth ruined his mother's health. So what's a boy to do? He is an only child and his family life is vague and mostly loveless. He definitely needs something in his life.

And for Danny the void is filled by an obsession with UFOs, which he shares with his closest friends Jeff and Rosa. To put it all in a nutshell, Danny tells us: "I investigate UFOs because unlike

God, they are real and can be seen."

The book opens with a journal entry where Danny tells us about an encounter with a UFO while standing in his front yard late one night. And this encounter fires the boy's imagination and he and his friends become absorbed in UFO phenomena: the Men in Black, Area 51, any books they can find, any sighting they can find in library microfiche. The bulk of the novel is Danny's wildly imaginative journal—his "real life" - the life of adventure and danger in a world much more edgy and exciting than the one outside his mind. While pursuing information about UFOs at the downtown library, Danny meets with older teenagers Julian and Rochelle. The journal chronicles Danny's wild journey driving (at age 13!) with Julian all the way to Florida to meet up with Rochelle (who's been on a mysterious trip to New Mexico). He is convinced the infamous Men in Black are after them and tells us of a frightening meeting in the Miami airport while waiting for Rochelle's plane.

The story escalates and Danny is sucked into a subterranean world following a UFO that sinks into the earth. After wandering in an exceedingly gothic, bizarre landscape, he finds the space ship and gets trapped inside where he's subjected to alien probing which ends with him certain he has been used to impregnate an alien! Trust me, at this point, events for Danny are downright hallucinogenic. Then the real world intrudes when Danny wins the National Bible Contest with an essay titled "Passage of Time in the Book of Job." First prize: a trip to Israel.

But even there his fantasy life absorbs his visit and he meets up with Rochelle in Jerusalem—who apparently was the alien female he impregnated and their daughter, because of her manipulated genetic heritage, is not doing well.

A meeting with Julian (who's now in the Israeli Army) leads Danny to the Negev. There he is shown the flying saucer he'd been abducted to previously sitting on a tower in a desert crater. And to be honest—I got a bit lost as the story leaves Israel, Danny and his alien child get on the disc which flies to Roswell and crashes. Next chapter, Danny is suddenly getting ready for college.

At the end, Danny flings his journal on his old bed and leaves his father's house. UFOs don't have any place in his new college life.

But there's more to the UFOs in Danny's psyche than can be symbolically left behind. And a letter from Julian muddles it all even further!

A fascinating though sometimes confusing book from a mainstream publisher that does not usually publish science fiction or fantasy, this is a very weird odyssey and coming-of-age novel. Check out

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Halperin's lovely website at: davidhalperin.net. There's some lovely artwork there. ~ Sue Martin

The Good, The Bad, and The Uncanny **A Novel of the Nightside** **Simon R. Greene** **Ace Fantasy, \$7.99, 280pp**

John Taylor is back. The son of Lilith has a couple of odd jobs to complete and a job offer to consider. First he must transport an elf across the length of the Nightside. Of course there are complications; after all, elves are just below pathological liars on the trust scale. First he wants to pay in information, second he is an emissary between the two elfen factions, and third, Walker, the representative of the powers that be, wants to stop him.

John also gets a request from a fellow detective, Larry Oblivion, to help him find his brother that disappeared during the Lilith war. Of course that can't be as simple as it sounds. John also has an interesting bit of information dropped in his lap - Excalibur is coming to the Nightside.

Finally there is the job offer, Walker is dying and wants John to replace him.

Reading the previous Nightside novels will be a help but it's not necessary, Greene gives background where needed and his descriptive text puts you in the scene.

Highly Recommended. ~ Bob LaPierre

Other Kingdoms **by Richard Matheson** **Tor Book, \$24.99, 312 pp**

Richard Matheson has written extraordinary tales of love, longing, and loss across boundaries of time and death, as well as nightmarish stories that crisp the hair. He has given us memorable villains, such as Jack the Ripper in *Somewhere in Time*, and the abstraction of despair in *What Dreams May Come*. *Other Kingdoms* has romance, history, horror, the magic of Old England, and a powerful villainess.

In 1917, American Alexander White would rather enlist than endure his father's swinishness another day. In the trenches he meets Harold Lightfoot, of England. Before Harold is killed, he tells Alex about his home village, Gatford, and as a dying gift he makes it possible for Alex to emigrate to Gatford after his discharge.

Alex is warned by villagers never to stray from the path when he goes walking in the woods, which means he will do exactly that, sooner or later. As a result, fear, wonder, and enchantment enter his life, but also mortal danger. After certain adventures, Alex must make a choice between

two very different women, both magical, and what each has to offer.

Other Kingdoms has an unusual narrative style: Alex White is in his eighties when he narrates his adventures. Not only is there a remove of over sixty years, and the reflexive commentary of an older man describing his youthful actions, there are the parenthetical interjections of Alexander's literary alter-ego: Arthur Black, writer of sensational fiction. If you do not enjoy alliteration and purple prose, you may find these asides annoying, but just go with it; it's all part of the piece. Or you can blip over any parentheses you meet. Myself, I rather like them; they're a reminder that Alex has lived an entire other life in the years between. ~ Chris Paige

Satori **by Don Wilson** **Grand Central Publishing,** **\$25.99, 500 pp**

Satori is a prequel to Trevanian's *Shibumi*.

Nicholai Hel, genius, mystic and the perfect assassin. He has been held by the Americans after a horrendous beating, torture experimentation, and three years of solitary confinement.

Now the Americans need him for a suicide mission, offering freedom, money, and a passport. His handler may be honorable, but those above him are not.

Trevanian has been reincarnated. Wilson moves forward with a crisp style, great character development, and action that even dominates a formal tea ceremony. It's a keeper. I'd say more but I am going out Book shopping. Enjoy. ~ Pam Allan

Moon Over Soho **by Ben Aaronovitch** **Del Rey, \$7.99, 288 pp**

Moon Over Soho is by the author of *Midnight Riot*.

The corpse of Cyrus Wilkins is sending out an old jazz standard as he lies dead of a heart attack; a sure sign of a supernatural murder.

Body and Soul is also what Peter Grant risks as he investigates a pattern of similar deaths in and around Soho. With the help of his superior, Inspector Thomas Nightingale, Peter will discover a magical menace that leads to his own doorstep and his dear old dad.

The author has created an interesting hero and milieu for his supernatural police procedural/mysteries. I expect the series to continue to grow as his hero does. Meanwhile, here is a chance to get in on the ground floor while never being bored. Mr. Aaronovitch was the author of some classic Dr Who episodes. Get hold of *Midnight Riot* and enjoy both. ~ Pam Allan

The Sorcerer's House **by Gene Wolfe** **Tor, \$14.99, 297 pp**

The author has written 40 books.

In a contemporary town in the American Midwest where he has no connections, an educated man recently released from prison finds that he is heir to a huge old house long empty. He moves in though he is too broke to furnish it and is immediately confronted by the supernatural, fantastic creatures and events. His life is utterly transformed. We read on revising our opinions of him, magic and other worlds as well as the Sorcerer who originally lived there.

This is a complex spellbinding of other worldly sorcery and haunting. It is also about the nature of responsibility and family. This is Gene Wolfe at his best, a master of language and subtle fantasy. If you like Wolfe, you'll love this one. ~ Pam Allan

A Magic of Dawn **by S.L. Farrell** **Daw, \$7.99, 559 pp**

This is the concluding volume of *The Nessantico Cycle*

Both the city and the empire are diminished by the ravages of civil and religious war. Fifteen years have passed since the Empire nearly came to an end. Allesandra sits on the Sun Throne. Her son, Jan, is the opposition and negotiations have gone on for a long time to no avail. But as the stalemate continues, the Tehuantin have set sail to avenge their losses suffered long ago. Unless Allesandra and Jan work together, both may pay the price.

This has more intrigue, both political and religious, than the Renaissance. With vivid and memorable characters all painted in shades of grey in this well-drawn tempestuous world calling to mind George R.R. Martin in its complex plotting. This is a gotta-have-it novel even if you haven't read the cycle. ~ Pam Allan

At the Gates of Darkness **by Raymond E. Feist** **Harper, \$7.99, 309 pp**

At the Gates of Darkness is book two of the *Demonwar Saga*.

Ten years beyond the Darkwar, the demon hordes are still at it. The defeat of the Demon King Maarg hasn't stemmed the tide, and the demon Dahun and the mad necromancer Belasco have joined forces that Midkemia may not be able to withstand.

The Black Sorcerer Pug has formed an uneasy alliance with the Conclave of Shadows, Midkemia's hidden protectors and they must hold back a plague that has overrun worlds. Where shadows hide deeper shadows, the battle will be joined. Can they survive, much less win?

Raymond Feist writes a good fantasy. His rich world and well-drawn characters hold the reader to

turn those pages. Time to get out the plastic and enjoy volume two. ~ Pam Allan

Deathless **by Catherynne M. Valente** **Tor, \$24.99, 349 pp**

This is by the author of *The Orphan's Tales*.

Koschei the Deathless is to Russian folklore what devils, demons and wicked witches are to Western culture. This is no dry historical treatise. The young Marya Morevna grows from clever child to Koschei's bride to his undoing. Along the way we meet Stalinist house elves, magical quests, and Bureaucracy. A collision between history, magical history, revolution and mythos as well as love and death, which reincarnates a whole new mythos.

The author's new sub-genre is well written fun. I really loved the conflict between Bureaucracy and magic but you'll have to read it as it weaves its way. You may find a new world to visit. ~ Pam Allan

Among Thieves **by Douglas Hulick** **Roc, \$7.99, 414 pp**

Among Thieves is a tale of *The Kin*.

Ildrecca is a dangerous city if you know what you are doing. Fortunately, Drothe has been a member for years of the Kin. Working for a crime lord, he finds and takes care of problems in his boss's organization while smuggling relics on the side.

When his boss sends him to track down whoever has been leaning on his people, he finds that he has been set up, but a bigger mystery has appeared. The book that a lot of deadly people want, as well as Drothe's life. This book may bring down the emperors and shatter the Kin.

This is reading pleasure, a fast-moving, funny, plot-twisting book with a great world and even better characters. This is a book you have to read and enjoy. I am looking forward to what's next. ~ Pam Allan

The Shining City **by Fiona Patton** **Daw, \$15.00, 280 pp**

The Shining City is book three of the *Warriors of Estavia*.

Anavatan, the City of the Gods, rests on the shore of Gol-beyaz, the Silver Lake. The City and surrounding villages are protected by the God-Wall, a magical wall that protects the dwellers from the nomad invaders and the hungry spirits drawn to the energies. It is here that the Gods, the three children of prophecy, the seers, Spar and Graize, and the warrior Brax are all grown now, and with the young God, Hisar, ready to take his place, the time of chaos and change approaches. Spar and

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Graize are sworn enemies but must work together to help the young God survive.

Brax, the sworn champion of the Goddess Estavia may be forced to divide his allegiance to the Gods which could be disastrous and lead to the downfall of the Shining City.

This, like the first two, is well-written with interesting characters and a well-drawn world. It holds your interest and has you awaiting the next. ~ **Pam Allan**

Heart of the Exiled by Pati Nagle Del Rey, \$7.99, 420 pp

Heart of the Exiled is by the author of *The Betrayal*.

The Bitter Wars have left the world divided. While the savage Kobalen have been gathering in unheard of in huge numbers the Aelvan governors convene a council. Even though they are vastly outnumbered, the Aelven send barely trained guardians to confront the Kobalen. Eliani, a young female warrior, is sent to find out why the Fireshore governor did not respond. Bound by Mindspeech to her fiancé she feeds vital information to the council across vast distances, but she cannot see the dark forces behind the exiled clan of vampires.

We have a romantic adventure with lots of action, good characters and world building. I got drawn in to the people and story line and couldn't put it down. Nagle is one of the best kept secrets. I will be looking for the next volume. ~ **Pam Allan**

The Return of Ixtab by Robert Zitella Emerald Books, \$14.95, 268 pp

The Return of Ixtab is by the author of *Karma*.

In the weeks before December 21, 2012, most people dismiss the ancient Mayan prophesy of an end to the world. The rest look at as a reason to par-tay. Steve Soto doesn't think much about it until he becomes stronger and luckier than he had ever been. He finds himself a hero when he rescues a co-worker who becomes his girlfriend. Trying to find out why someone wanted to kill her, Steve finds that he has become involved with apocalyptic plans of his rich but unstable boss.

Intertwined is a parallel storyline in the far past that has a warrior prince grappling with a glowing rock and a neighboring clan with powerful destructive magic. The future of humanity seems tied to the Mayan prophesy, and the return of Ixtab.

We have a page turner, an epic that leaves the reader guessing to the last page. AND have you seen the billboards? ~ **Pam Allan**

Blackout by Rob Thurman Roc, \$7.99, 336 pp

Rob Thurman is the author of the *Cal Leandros* and *Trickster* series

Cal Leandros, half human P.I., has always walked a fine line between keeping his mortal soul free and clear and using the horror of his heritage. When he wakes up on a beach littered with remains of creatures, the slaughter doesn't bother him, what does bother him is not remembering who he is and not really caring. Why was he in an area where monsters hide "because Killers hide there, too?"

Rob Thurman rules in dark urban fantasy with both and differing series. *Blackout* throws in some twists you won't want to miss. This is collectable and readable. ~ **Pam Allan**

Spellcast by Barbara Ashford Daw, \$7.99, 433 pp

Spellcast will have a sequel.

Things were not going well for Maggie. First she lost her job, then the ceiling in her apartment collapsed. Time for a Vermont vacation. Spying a sign for Hillandale, she impulsively took the turn and found herself cast with a summer stock company. As it turned out she was the only one with theater background. However, nothing in her experience could prepare her for the magic about to happen or the theater's unorthodox staff.

Anyone who has worked summer stock will recognize the setting, but here is where the fantasy takes hold. You won't to put it down. Humorous, warm with great characters, world building, and mystery. This is a keeper for fantasy lover, and theater lovers. A new author has taken over a sub-genre and I can't wait for the sequel. ~ **Pam Allan**

Club Listings

ACROSS PLUS - So you live in North Phoenix and are interested in anime? Well there is a club out there available for you people. Across Plus is a social club that discusses anime, video games, manga, other animation, and the Japanese culture. We meet at Bookman's on 19th Ave and Northern on Sundays at 7:00pm until 9:00pm. In general, we explore anime, manga, and other styles of animation, creative educative demonstrations, participate in interactive discussions, attend local Arizona conventions, and make cosplay. We are willing to gain any new members out there who are interested. Our members are very friendly, respectful, and fun. We welcome any and all. For more information, contact Todd Miles at acrossplus@acrossplus.org

ADRIAN EMPIRE A medieval and renaissance recreationist club. Sword-fighting, arts, banquets, masquerades, dances. meets 3rd Saturday 10am at El Oso Park. Web: <http://www.kingdomofumbria.com/events.html> All are welcome. Free.

AERIAL MIRAGE JUGGLERS. Meets Wednesday, 7:30-10 PM. Encanto Park, 14th Avenue, south of Encanto. Elliot Goldstein, 602-266-4391, e-mail jugglearts@aol.com, 5535 N. Eleventh Street, Phoenix, AZ 85014; or Timmie Ann Schramm, 602-585-7623, 2326 E. Electra Lane, Phoenix, AZ 85024.

The **ARIZONA BROWNCOATS** are a social group and state non-profit devoted to continuing the spirit of Joss Whedon's inspired series *Firefly* through charity events, a presence at local conventions, and social events. We are all over Arizona with monthly shindigs in Phoenix and Tucson. In September, both cities will be hosting screenings of *Serenity* to benefit Equality Now. For more details, visit our website at <http://azbrowncoats.org> and follow our twitter @azbrowncoats

ARIZONA LANBASHERS LEAGUE A collaboration of computer gaming enthusiasts, the Arizona LANbashers League throws quarterly LANparty events. Between parties, support is given to local groups who wish to advertise their own gatherings. We have no set genre of games and play anything from strategy games to first-person shooters to driving/flying simulations. No annual membership is required and admission to an event ranges from \$5-\$15. See our webpage for current events. Web: www.lanparty.com/all/

ARIZONA PARANORMAL INVESTIGATIONS We are a highly trained, non-profit paranormal investigation group, registered with the state of Arizona, providing service to Arizona and the Southwest since 1994. Having served the public for 12 years, we are one of the oldest, most respected paranormal investigation groups in Arizona. We are primarily science based and don't go on an investigation looking for ghosts, we go looking for answers. There is never a charge for an investigation. Contact us at by e-mail at info@arizonaparanormalinvestigations.com or visit our website at: <http://www.arizonaparanormalinvestigations.com/>

AZCorsairs "Founded in 1971 as a branch of the Society for Creative Anachronisms, or SCA, our primary focus is 16th – 18th century European culture and the pirate lifestyle of the time. The Corsairs will extend pirate portrayals as far back as Phoenician, Roman Era or to future Space, Science Fiction genre, and more publicly recognizable Hollywood styled pirate. Corsair membership is largely volunteer-oriented, gathered together for fun and while helping others out.

Members of the Arizona Corsairs are, much like their historical counterparts, masters of their own destiny. Creation of characters, complete with backstory with correlation to history, period costume, and emulation of pirate traditions and arts, rests on each performer, creating varied storylines and deep,

interesting characters.

For more information, please contact Captain Max - Ambassador, AZCorsairs cptmax@myway.com 602-799-6184

AZ MIB The Men in Black is the official global organization of field operatives for Steve Jackson Games. The Arizona Cell attends local and regional conventions to demonstrate and promote products of Steve Jackson Games. We also schedule demos in local gaming stores as well as community service events. If you have a gaming store, convention, or community service that you would like to have official Steve Jackson Games representation at, please contact the MIB Arizona Cell Leader at MIB.6361@gmail.com. We are also recruiting new MIBs in some areas of Arizona. If you're interested, contact us. You can also find additional information about us on our Facebook group, Arizona Men in Black.

BASFA Local Tucson science fiction group that puts on TusCon. Contact us at PO Box 2528, Tucson AZ 85702-2528 or basfa@earthlink.net our website at <http://home.earthlink.net/~basfa/>

CENTRAL ARIZONA SPECULATIVE FICTION SOCIETY, INC. (CASFS) The non-profit corporation that puts on CopperCon conventions, SmurfCons, HexaCons, occasional regional cons, and publishes Con-Notations. Best described as SF/F generalists with a strong bent towards literary SF/F. Guests welcome - meets at 8pm on the last Friday of each month in January thru September and the second Friday in October, November and December at Denny's, 2360 W Northern Ave in Phoenix, AZ. For information: write PO Box 62613, Phoenix, AZ 85082-2613 or email info@casfs.org Web www.casfs.org

*******C.R.O.F.T.** Celtic Reenactment of Fellowship and Trades is Phoenix based Reenactment group specializing in the western European renaissance. We research lifestyles and trades concurrent with the Celtic Peoples from 400 BC until 1746 AD. We emphasize Scots, Irish or Welsh crafts and do Celtic re-enactment. We open participation to anyone with an interest in period crafting and entertainment. Demonstrations occur at the Highland Games, Scarborough Fair, and the Arizona Renaissance Festival. Web page <http://www.crofters.org> Gatherings are held at the Irish Cultural Center on the 2nd Saturday of every month. The center is located at 1106 North Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ, 85004, phone number 602-258-0109, across from the Burton Barr Library. The Board meeting will be at 12:00 Noon with the General meeting starting at 12:30 pm.

THE DARK ONES (Dark-wunz) n. 1) An organization formed for the expression and exploration of various cultural themes including, but not limited to, the Dark Ages and the Renaissance through forms of art including, but not limited to, painting, drawing, writing, photography, spoken word, and acts of characterization. 2) a member of this organization. 3) Information available at www.darkones.org

THE EMPIRE OF CHIVALRY AND STEEL, INC. The Empire of Chivalry and Steel specializes in the general recreation of the culture of the Middle Ages including all of the Art Forms, Events (Feasts, Tournaments, Ceremonies and Wars) and Combat Arts covering the years of 800AD up to 1650AD and any location within Europe or its explored territories. For more information Web: <http://www.ecs-galandor.org/>

A GATHERING OF PLAYERS- Find Your Adventure - Our club is running into our sixth year. Join us for games and adventure set in the Dungeons and Dragons realm. We offer Living Forgotten Realms and Pathfinder Society. We welcome both new and experienced players. Visit <http://www.warhorn.net/gathering>, to

(Cont'd on page 20)

Club Listings (Cont'd from page 19)
see what we have coming up. If you have any questions email us at agatheringofplayers@gmail.com

THE JEDI KNIGHTS (Founded 1977)
Meetings are the 3rd Sunday of each month. For more information call Carol Alves, Publicity, (760)244-9593 or write Jedi Knights, c/o Carol Alves 8038 “I” Street, Hesperia CA, 92345-7066.

LEPRECON, INC. One of the two Phoenix area corporations that put on yearly conventions. Best described as SF/F generalists with a main thrust into SF/F art. Guests are welcome. The meetings are quarterly on the second Saturday of February, May, August & November unless otherwise notified. August is the annual meeting where board positions are deter-mined. For more information, write PO Box 26665, Tempe, AZ 85285; call Mike Willmoth, 480-945-6890, Email mwillmoth@earthlink.net Webpage: www.leprecon.org

MVD GHOSTCHASERS—The MVD Ghostchasers are a paranormal team established in 1995. This band of ghost hunters conducts regular investigations of haunted, historical locations throughout Arizona. They also research and investigate “house call” hauntings for the public. The MVD Ghostchasers lead Spirit Photo Workshops/Tours to various haunted locations across Arizona. These workshops give ghost hunters, paranormal team members and folks wanting to learn the art of ghost hunting a chance to work and learn techniques together. The MVD Ghostchasers team are guest speakers at many venues and have appeared on TV news reports and the subject of several newspaper stories. For more information contact:
MVD Ghostchasers—Debe Branning, Director—480-969-4049 Web page: www.mvdghostchasers.com or Nazanaza@aol.com

ORANGE COUNTY SCIENCE FICTION CLUB meets last Wednesday of every month (except Dec.) in Fullerton. The meetings are built around guest speakers. We’ve had authors such as Octavia Butler and Greg Benford. Non-members are welcome. For details of current events and location see our website www.ocsfc.org or email info@ocsfc.org

PAReX is a non profit organization dedicated to building and promoting Autonomous robotics. The club has been in existance since 1998. Meetings are currently conducted twice a month at two different Phoenix, Arizona locations, <http://www.parex.org/meetings.shtml> Club dues are on an annual basis: Regular members \$20 Student members \$15 Of course visitors are always welcome because we know you will eventually become a member anyway Web page: <http://www.parex.org/> E-mail Contact: parexteam@cox.net

RAW GAMES (Role-players & Wargamers, Inc.) Role-players & Wargamers, Inc. is the Valley’s oldest role-playing and wargaming club. Currently meeting at 8159 W. Weldon in Phoenix every Sunday from 12noon-5pm (except during conventions and other special events). Open to new members - call (623) 849-9515.

THE SHIELD The Shield is a RPGA club located in the greater Phoenix area. If you are interested in Living Greyhawk catch one of our meetings the 1st Sunday of every month at Imperial Outpost Games (www.imperialoutpost.com) in Glendale. If you are interested in Living Arcanis or Living Spycraft catch us on the 3rd Sunday of every month also at Imperial Outpost Games. The Shield of Almor hosts RPGA events at the local Phoenix conventions. For more information visit us at games.groups.yahoo.com/group/AZ_RPG/ or you can sign up for games at www.nyronid.org Or you can just stop by the 1st Sunday of the month. Meeting starts at 10am. Hope to see you there.

THE SOCIETY FOR CREATIVE ANACHRONISM The Kingdom of Atenveldt is part of the Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA), a not-for-profit educational organization that studies western European history by recreating the “best” pastimes and crafts of the Middle Ages. The Atenveldt branch of the SCA encompasses all of Arizona and small parts of Utah and California. Within the fair kingdom can be found six Baronies: Atenveldt, Mons Tonitrus, Twin Moons, SunDragon, Tir Ysgithr and Ered Sul. For more information on any of these or for general information on contact the Kingdom Seneschal. Email: seneschal@atenveldt.com Web www.atenveldt.com

SOUTHWEST COSTUMER’S GUILD
The Southwest Costumers Guild is a loose organization of persons interested in all facets of historical, cultural, science fiction, fantasy, and humor costume. Members are often seen on stage and behind the scenes at local and regional Science Fiction Convention masquerades. They meet on the last Sunday of each month at various members’ homes in the greater Phoenix area. For details. Southwest Costumers Guild, PO Box 39504, Phoenix, AZ 85609 or Randall Whitlock at costumers@casfs.org or www.southwestcostumersguild.org

SPACE ACCESS SOCIETY Space Access Society’s sole purpose is to promote radically cheaper access to space, ASAP. We think it’s possible within ten years, with a little luck and a lot of hard work. Join us and help us make it happen! SAS membership is \$30 for one year, which gets you emailed Space Access Updates the instant they pass final edit, plus discounts on our annual conference on the technology, politics, and business of radically cheaper space transportation, featuring leading players in the field. Email us at: Space.Access@Space-Access.org Web page: www.space-access.org/

SUPERSTITION SPACEMODELING SOCIETY is Arizona’s club for builders of model and high-power rockets and those who love to see them fly. Launches are held on the second Saturday morning of each month in Rainbow Valley. SSS hosts the annual G. Harry Stine Memorial Rocket Launch every October. Visit www.sssrocketry.org for membership information, directions to the launches and meetings, and to read the monthly newsletter, “Newton’s Minutes.”

TARDIS is a Phoenix-based General SF/Fantasy Fan Club, specializing in International media SF/Fantasy since 1983. **TARDIS** meets every two weeks at different locations around the valley. Activities include watching videos, discussions, parties, games, and occasional outings with more to come now that Doctor Who is returning from hiatus. Many members maintain an active presence at conventions. You can contact us at 2243 W Wagon Wheel Dr, Phoenix, AZ 85021, Voice Mail at (602) 864-0901, E-mail TARDIS-Info@cox.net or visit us at <http://members.cox.net/tardisaz/tardis.html>

T.H.E.M. is ASU’s science fiction and fantasy club. Weekly meetings are held on the Arizona State University campus, with dates and places to be announced after the semester starts. For more information, Email them@themonline.org Web www.themonline.org

UNITED FEDERATION OF PHOENIX A Phoenix area Star Trek and general SciFi fan club. We are a social club that meets every two weeks at various locations around the Phoenix area. The UFP has been meeting for over 30 years of continuous activity. Dues are \$15/per year prorated when you join; no restrictions. Membership includes membership roster and monthly newsletter. Come to any two meetings at no obligation. For information, write the UFP at PO Box 37224, Phoenix, AZ 85069, or call Jim Strait at (602) 242-9203. Web page: <http://www.U-F-P.org> or Email to Info@U-F-P.org

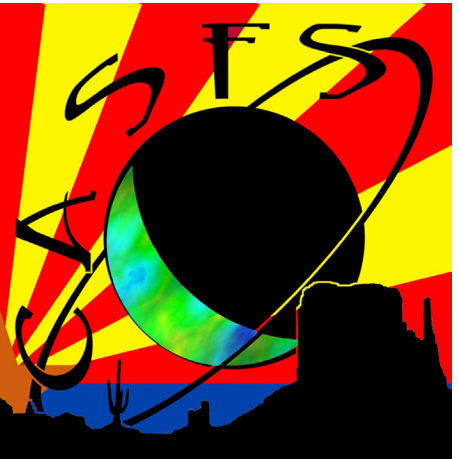
USS LEONIDAS The Leonidas is a member of Region IV of STARFLEET International. The chapter is an opportunity for those that share a love of Star Trek to have fun and help the community at the same time. The Leonidas stresses uniforms or other costumes to have the ability to participate actively in various events as they present themselves but they are not required. Membership with Starfleet International is required. www.sfi.org Upon joining STARFLEET a member is a Cadet. Upon passing the Officer’s Training School Exam at the Online Academy, the member becomes a Commissioned Officer aboard the Leonidas. The chapter does not have dues as of yet. The dues to be a member of STARFLEET International are \$15 a year. No newsletter, but members do receive an activities E-mail update. No web site yet. Contact : Arthur Fesler-Butts, Jr feslerbutts22@msn.com

WESTERN SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION (WesternSFA) A non-profit corporation that sponsors AniZona, the ConRunners seminars and sponsored the 2004 Westercon. Dedicated primarily to educational activities relating to literature, music, and visual and performing arts, especially in the genres of Anime, science fiction, fantasy, costuming, gaming and science. Applicants for membership in WesternSFA must be sponsored by a current active WesternSFA member. Dues are \$10 yearly plus a \$5 non-refundable application fee. General Meetings are held on the first Friday of February, May, August and November, check our website for meeting location Guests are welcome. For more info contact Craig Dyer at WesternSFA, PO Box 67457, Phoenix AZ 85082 Email: info@westernsfa.org Webpage: www.westernsfa.org

Convention Listings
BUBONICON 43 (Aug 26-28, 2011) Sheraton Albuquerque Airport Hotel, **Albuquerque, NM** (\$99/\$109, 505-843-7000 ext 135) Author Guest of Honor: Stephen Leigh (S.L. Farrell); Toastmaster: Ian Tregillis; Artist Guest: John Picacio; Auctioneer: Robert E. Vardeman. Other guests include Daniel Abraham, Mario Acevedo, Ben Bova, Aaron Campbell, Diana Gabaldon, Steven Gould, Darynda Jones, Jane Lindskold, M.J. Locke, George RR Martin, Victor Milan, Pati Nagle, Scott S. Phillips, Melinda Snodgrass, S.M. Stirling, Carrie Vaughn, Walter Jon Williams, Connie Willis. Steampunk theme! Panels, readings, Green Slime Awards, costume contest, art show, gaming, dealers room, science talk, films, presentations, etc. Website: www.bubonicon.com Call 505-266-8905 or 505-459-8734 for more information (10 am-10 pm MDT); email bubonicon@gmail.com “NMSF Conference,” PO Box 37257, Albuquerque, NM 87176 \$40 through August 5, \$45 at the Door. Check/money order/cash only. PDF registration form on our website.

CopperCon 31 (September 2-5, 2011) Hilton Garden Inn, 11460 West Hilton Way, **Avondale AZ** Guests: Carrie Vaughn Author Guest of Honor; Janni Lee simner, Local Author Guest and Special Guest Adam Niswander. Membership \$40 thru August 15, 2011 - More at the door. No checks or credit cards will be accepted at con. For more info email info@coppercon.org or visit the web site at www.copeprcon.org

TusCon 38 (November 11-13) at the Hotel Tucson City Center, 475 North Granada, **Tucson AZ** 85701. Guest of Honor: Patricia Briggs, Toastmaster: Ed Bryant. Room rates \$69 studio, \$79 suite, \$89 Jacuzzi suite. Hotel phone 520-622-3000. Memberships rates \$40 thru 6/30, \$45 thru 11/1 and \$50 thereafter and at the door. Paypal available, More info TusCon, PO Box 2528, Tucson AZ 85702-2528 or email: basfa@earthlink.net or web at <http://home.earthlink.net/~basfa/>



Generic Convention Registration Form

Name:

Badge Name:

Address:

City/State/ZIP:

Phone:

Email:

Enclosed is \$ for memberships for convention.

(See individual convention listing for mailing address)

More info on Masquerade Art Show Volunteer Other