

# ConNotations NewsZine

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**FREE**

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

## SF TUBE TALK: It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like the Holidays

by Lee Whiteside

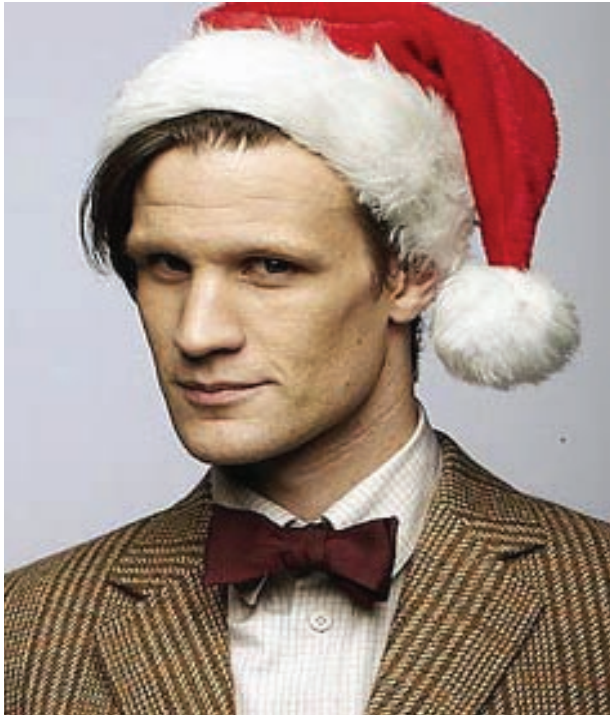
It's the end of the year and that leaves us with a few new things leading up to the holidays including Christmas episodes from Doctor Who, Eureka, Warehouse 13 and Haven.

First of all, this year's Doctor Who Christmas special reportedly is set during the World War II era and is inspired by C. S. Lewis' The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe. Guest stars including comedian Bill Bailey, Alexander Armstrong (who voices Mr. Smith on the Sarah Jane Adventures), comedienne Arabella Weir, and Claire Skinner as widower Madge Arwell. According to The Daily Star, "The special sees the Time Lord (Matt Smith, 28) crash land in war-torn England. Posing as the caretaker of a creepy old house in Dorset he embarks on a magical mystery adventure with Madge Arwell and her two children, Lily and Cyril. The three have been evacuated from London as the capital comes under attack during World War Two. And there's plenty of surprises as the Doctor leads them into a new world." A preview clip was screened during the annual Children in Need telethon on the BBC on November 18th, which should have been made available online shortly after it aired. The

episode will air on the BBC on Christmas Day and more than likely will also air on BBC America the same day as they did last year.

Beyond the Christmas Special, fans may have to wait until the fall for more Doctor Who. The BBC has commissioned fourteen episodes for series 7, with the first half airing in the fall with an assumed Christmas Special airing at the usual time. The remainder of the season will likely air in the spring of 2013. This change of airing schedule follows on from splitting the season in 2011 into two parts and also likely sets things up to lead into the fall of 2013 and whatever is being planned to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Doctor Who. Doctor Who spinoff The Sarah Jane Adventures aired its final episode on the BBC this fall with a likely DVD release coming soon. It has ended due to the death of Elisabeth Sladen earlier in the year. Torchwood concluded the Torchwood: Miracle Day series on Starz and BBC with fairly decent ratings for both the BBC and Starz. There's been no word on what is being planned, if anything, to continue that series.

Coming up in early December on Syfy is their Countdown to Christmas week, feature Christmas



episodes of Eureka, Warehouse 13, Haven, Ghost Hunters, their new miniseries Neverland, and a snow themed Saturday movie. Sunday and Monday, December 4 & 5, sees the debut of the miniseries Neverland, which is a prequel to author J.M. Barrie's classic Peter Pan. It takes the viewer from the turbulent

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## CASFS Business Report

(Covering July 12 to October 14)

By Gary Swaty CASFS Secretary

CASFS Board of Directors-- Chairman: Mark Boniece, Vice Chair: Jeff Jennings, Secretary: Jeff Jennings, Corporate Treasurer: Tina Batt, Board Members: Kevin McAlonan, Gary Swaty, Susan Uttke, Mike Willmoth.

CASFS Procedural Officers: President: Randall Whitlock, Vice President: Gary Swaty, Secretary: Gary Swaty, Treasurer: Tina Batt.

Additonal Officers: Historian/Archivist: Jim Strait, Quartermaster: Bob Beckwith, Webmaster: Craig L Dyer, Keeper of the Databases: Donald Jacques, ConNotations Editor: Patti Hultstrand

CASFS Convention Officers -- CopperCon 31 Chair: Mark Boniece (Acting for the Board), Banker: Stephanie L Bannon. CopperCon 32 Chair: Bob LaPierre, Banker: Stephanie L Bannon.

Attendance at the CASFS Bookclub and Social is increasing with a minimum of eight at our recent discussions. Our discussions were July 19, 2011 - A Princess of Mars by Edgar Rice Burroughs, August 16, 2011 - The Left Hand of Darkness by Ursula Le Guin, September 20, 2011 - Signal to Noise by Eric Nyland and October 18, 2011 - The Man with the Golden Torc by Simon Green. Next we discuss on November 15, 2011 - Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep by Philip K Dick and on December 20. 2011 - Mystic and Rider by Sharon Shinn. The November book social will be at Bookman's 19th & Northern at 7:00 P.M., but December onward will be at a new venue to be announced.

CopperCon 31 was held. Our Guests of Honor were Author Carrie Vaughn, Local Author Janni Lee Simner and M.R "Hilde" Hildebrandt. The convention was very popular with the attendees. The Hotel loved the Convention and our attendees. We had 275 members when we needed 283 to break even. We needed 75 rooms to reduce our function costs to zero, we had 53. CopperCon 31 will not pay for those passed through to CopperCon 32. The hotel was good to us charging us only \$500 for Function space when a strict enforcement of the contract would have required a \$1000 charge. Thus a portion of the seed money will be repaid. Things are not looking good, but we are in rebuilding mode and there may be hope.

CopperCon 32 - (Bob LaPierre Chairman) Our Author GoH is Ari Marmel, Author of Gehenna: The Final Night (2004), Agents of Artifice (2009), The Conqueror's Shadow (2010), The Warlord's Legacy (2011), The Goblin Corps (2011), and Household Gods (Coming in 2012). Check him out on his website at www.mouseferatu.com. He has also worked as a developer of role playing games. Other Guests are in negotiation. The development of the Convention Committee continues with appointment of the experienced Alice Massoglia as Programming Person. Most recently she ran programming for LosCon three years ago. Most Committee positions are filled, but we still need some experienced people to fill spots on the committee. Neophytes who want Committee positions are encouraged to work as staff in the areas they are interested in.

New Officers - In July Tina "Nyki" Robertson was elected President of CASFS and as a member of the Board. In September after CopperCon 31, she suffered health and personal issues and resigned as Boardmember, Board Secretary, President and CopperCon 31 Chairman. October 14th we held a Special Election and she was replaced by Randall Whitlock as President(through December 2011) and Mike Willmoth as Board Member( through June 2012). The Board Chairman, Mark Boniece, will hold the Chairmanship of CopperCon 31 during the closeout. Jeff Jennings is the new Board Secretary. Tina Batt was elected Treasurer in July. Stephanie Bannon stepped down as editor of ConNotations and Patti Hultstrand was appointed. Craig Dyer has stepped down as Database Administrator and Postmaster. The new Postmaster is Tina Batt. The new Database Administrator is Donald Jacques.





seas of the pirates of the Caribbean and the back alleys of Dickensian London to a world of pure imagination. The miniseries stars Rhys Ifans as James Hook, Keira Knightley as the voice of Tinker Bell, Anna Friel as Captain Elizabeth Bonny, Bob Hoskins as Smee (who previously played the character in Steven Spielberg's feature Hook), Raoul Trujillo and Charlie Rowe as Peter Pan. On Tuesday, December 6th, the night kicks off with Eureka's animated Christmas episode Do You See What I See? Sheriff Carter and Allison Blake are planning a holiday surprise for their kids when a mysterious kaleidoscopic wave of color hits Eureka, leaving the entire town and its inhabitants animated. They will use several different animation styles including stop motion animation popular with many classic Christmas specials. Guest star voices include Jim Parsons (as Sheriff Carter's Jeep), Edward James Olmos (as the leader of a pack of sled dogs), Chris Parnell, and Matt Frewer. Warehouse 13's homage to It's a Wonderful Life, The Greatest Gift, Pete Lattimer is hit on the head by an artifact and wakes up in a reality where he was never born. Pete must hunt down the members of the Warehouse 13 team and convince them to join him on a mission that will set things right. Haven's Silent Night Audrey Parker (Emily Rose) begins seeing Christmas decorations mysteriously popping up all over Haven in the middle of July yet nobody else, including Nathan (Lucas

Bryant), seem to feel anything is unusual. Yet, when Haven residents start disappearing into thin air, Audrey convinces Nathan they must find a way to stop it. Wednesday December 7 sees Ghost Hunters look for the ghosts of Christmas Past and the Saturday original movie is Snowmageddon with Michael Hogan, David Cubit and Magda Apanowicz starring in a story about a mystical snow globe that when shaken, makes very bad things happen in the real world.

In January, Syfy sees the return of Being Human on Monday, January 16. The second season of Syfy's hit drama picks up where the explosive season finale left off. Aidan tries to steer a leaderless Boston while resisting his deadlier vampire instincts, as he finds himself tempted and tormented by a figure from his past. Sally must face the consequences of missing her door, while figuring out how to navigate life on earth as a ghost. Werewolf Josh searches for a cure for his condition while struggling to maintain his relationship with Nora and, like the rest of his roommates, trying to build a future for himself beyond simply being a monster Also debuting on January 16

is the Canadian series Lost Girl, starring Anna Silk as supernatural seductress Bo, a Succubus who feeds off sexual energy. Raised by human parents, Bo had no reason to believe she was anything other than the girl next door -- until she "drained" her first boyfriend to death. Bo discovers she is one of the Fae, creatures of legend and folklore, who pass as humans while feeding off them in secret. Bo decides to take the middle path between humans and the Fae while embarking on a personal mission to unlock the secrets of her origin, protecting humans along the way. Zoie Lamber co-stars as Lauren and Emmanuelle Vaugie guest stars as The Morrigan, the leader of the Dark Fae.

BBC's Merlin is currently in its fourth series airing on the BBC in the UK with Syfy starting to air it on January 6th. A fifth has been ordered by the BBC. Series Four sees Arthur beginning to lead the Knights of the Round Table and take on the mantle of King as Morganna ramps up her plans to take over Camelot The two part opener The Darkest Hour sees Morganna summoning the Callieach to rip open the veil between worlds, unleashing a horde of Hellish creatures. It falls to Arthur and his loyal knights, including Lancelot, to protect the kingdom. Merlin realizes that it will take more than just swords to restore the barrier and it will require a "a sacrifice of unimaginable proportions". Next up is The Wicked Day, which sees Camelot ready to celebrate Prince Arthur's birthday, but in the midst of the celebration, Odin has arranged for an assassin, leaving Camelot devastated. In Aithusa, a mysterious stranger arrives with news of a magical secret that threatens to change the kingdom forever. He claims



## ConNotations NewsZine NEW Staff

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Layout & Design: Patti Hultstrand

**SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING IN THIS TRANSITION PERIOD:** Cathy Book, Mark Boniece, Lee Whiteside, Jason Youngdale, Craig Porter, and to all the new advertisers.

If your name has been deleted from this list, it is because you had not contacted us about whether you wish to stay in your position or not, or we had heard you were leaving the position. If this is not correct, please contact Patti at [editor@casfs.org](mailto:editor@casfs.org)

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to have the key to the tomb of Ashkanar, which contains the last dragon egg. Merlin is both excited by this news, but also suspicious of the stranger and his intentions for the egg.

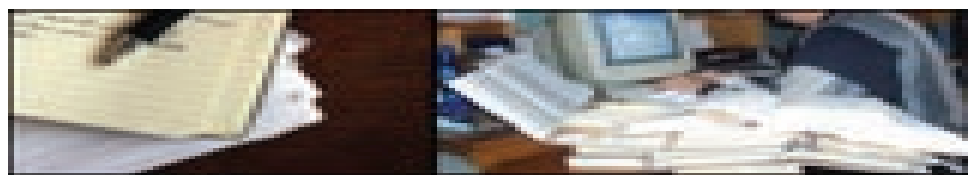
Back in the UK, the fourth series of *Being Human* is expected to start on BBC 3 sometime in January, with it to air on BBC America in the US sometime in the spring. There's not much information on the new season aside from Toby Whithouse indicating that part of what is planned for series four is to re-establish the premise of a vampire, werewolf and ghost sharing a flat together. Joining the cast will be Damien Molony as very English upper class vampire Hal, who they have developed an extensive back story for.

Over on the broadcast networks, the new genre series have done fairly well for themselves, with other dramas taking the hit in the ratings. *Terra Nova* debuted with decent, but not outstanding ratings, but has held steady for the most part although it did take a hit on Halloween. What will likely determine if it continues is how the overall ratings hold up versus the cost of making the show. *Grimm* debuted with decent ratings for a Friday NBC show, almost doubling the ratings of *Chuck*, which makes it a good bet that NBC will keep it on the air unless ratings drop significantly. Over on ABC, *Once Upon a Time* debuted very strongly and overall ratings held up in the second and third weeks, even increasing in some demographics. Returning series *Chuck* saw a series low in its return and it is already intended to end after this final run of 13 episodes. The question now is if NBC will keep it on the air for the full run. *Fringe* has had fair ratings and chances for it to continue past this season look to be slim unless it picks up steam. On the CW, *Supernatural* has

been doing fair so far this season in the ratings. *Vampire Diaries* has been holding up in the ratings while new series *Secret Circle* has been holding on to about 60% of the *Vampire* audience. All of the CW series return with new episodes the first week of January.

Elsewhere on cable, FX's *American Horror Story* has performed well for the network and a second series of 13 episodes has been ordered for it. In announcing the renewal, FX President and General Manager John Landgraf indicated "It's one thing to have the ambition and guts to reinvent a genre in a way that makes it captivatingly fresh for a broad audience - it's something else entirely to have the craft to back that ambition up. Ryan Murphy and Brad Falchuk have hit the trifecta with *Nip/Tuck*, *Glee* and now *American Horror Story*, which will be scaring FX's viewers to death for many years to come." AMC has been happy with the second season of *The Walking Dead*, ordering a third season already. The series has been setting records for adult demographics on basic cable and has also performed exceptionally well outside of the US. The series will take a break during December and January and will return with the second half of season two in February.

On the animated DC side of things, Cartoon Network ended the run of *Batman: The Brave and the Bold* in November and debuted The animated *Green Lantern* series with a one hour special. It is not clear when regular airings will commence on *Green Lantern*, though. They continue to slowly roll out new episodes of *Young Justice*, having started new episodes in November after about a nine month stretch. They have ordered a second season of the series, which will start up at some point in 2012. CoN



#### FROM THE DESK OF THE MANAGING EDITOR:

There are many things I could write about, but since the holidays are fast approaching, I will focus on being thankful. Thankful for WHAT? In this time when people are losing their homes, their jobs, and/or their businesses, how can anyone be thankful for the times we now live in?

I don't know about you, but the number of friends who are being diagnosed with different forms of cancer, has increased. Is this simply because I am getting older, with my life edging towards my fifty year mark? Or are there some other underlying health issues that we don't know about now, that we find out about in another ten or twenty years, when science confirms that the preservatives we eat every day, will indeed kill us all eventually? Or maybe it's environmental, with the track from those who believe in the decline of the ozone layer? Or perhaps that there are just too many people in the world now, with some 7 billion people, and living like sardines in the inner cities is what's going to lead to humanities demise.

If you are a science-fiction enthusiast, like I have been since reading "Martian Chronicles" by Ray Bradbury, you will know that these vintage sci-fi authors have been toting doom and gloom when it comes to the human condition for decades now. We don't just spread our dirty laundry across our Earth, but if we get the chance, we would likely spread it across the cosmos.

I had wondered whether cancer is more prevalent now then in centuries before this one. Will more of us be ailing from this insidious killer in the centuries ahead? Of course, we have no answer to this, really.

So, as I tell my friends and relatives who are currently fighting all the different varieties of cancer; we can take some small comfort knowing that we have more answers now then decades before us. More women are surviving breast cancer and I am personally happy to know that my Aunt (she knows who she is) is a colon cancer survivor.

But, no matter how optimistic I try to sound to these people who are living in the trenches of this disease right now, I am not in there with them, so WTH do I know? While I have not gotten cancer (yet - and pray I die in my sleep instead), I have already come so close to death from an infection, that I surprised death when I didn't check out of this world about nine years ago. So, you see, I do know something about fighting an illness and fighting for my life. There are many things that came out of that experience, but the main ones were: We must live life as if tomorrow is the end for us, and be thankful for what little we may have right now.

We are all where we need to be right now -- even if that is fighting for our lives from illness or from the economic conditions of our families. Take stock in your blessings while they are still your blessings. I wish you and yours a wonderful holiday season and a very happy new year. See you in 2012.

---- And that's all I have to say about that.

Patti Hultstrand -- Managing Editor, ConNotations NewsZine

#### WHICH CHEST WOULD YOU RATHER HAVE ?

1. The chest that is closed so there is a mystery of what it contains.
2. Or the chest that is open and has what appears to be a full content of coins, but you can't be sure unless you dig in there to check.



"The Year of the Dragon"  
Aug 31st - Sept 3rd, 2012



The author's responsibilities have continued up all the works he has done, and several chapters from his books. He has a regular column in several magazines including *The World and I* as well as an active *The New York Times* and *Forbes*.



The first book in the Chronicles of the Imaginarium Trilogica, "Here There Be Dragons", was published by Simon & Schuster in the fall of 2006, followed by "The Search for the Red Dragon", "The Shadow King", "The Shadow Dragon" and "The Dragon's Apprentice". All four new books take up in the plotting stage, as well as a few revised volumes.

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JANUARY 12<sup>TH</sup> - 15<sup>TH</sup> 2012

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**THE DARKNESS APPROACHES**



# EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS

## EVENT REVIEW: PIRATES FEAST

Ever wonder what the glory days of Tortuga might have been like? The DREAD Fleet offered a glimpse on the evening of October 16th.

Welcomed into Clan Everheart's port of call thanks to the good word of the Fireland Faerie Nation, the pirates created a desert isle. Guests sipped homemade lemonade (a fine non-alcoholic grog), beer and wine while the Fleet served up a bountiful buffet of tender, savory roast pork, honeyed baby carrots, seasoned potatoes and buttery biscuits. Dessert was sinfully sweet bread pudding topped with berry sauces and a bit of rum! Not a soul had excuse to leave the table hungry!

But, the meal was only the appetizer to this eventful night, the main course, a clash of steel sure to be the talk of many a pirate. Rapier fighters of all levels faced off for a chance at a cash purse of \$50.00 in gold coins. Members of the DREAD Fleet, Empire of Chivalry and Steel and people who had never touched a blade outside of the kitchen before, displayed valor and sportsmanship but it was a pirate who ultimately won the day. In a spectacular display of swordsmanship, Theodoric Brandywine, Master at Arms of Despair, disarmed Lord Sir Kheldar of the ECS and won the day! Perhaps, the most notable confrontations of the evening included two Go Daddy employees with no experience with the sword holding their own against pirates even besting Maxmillion, Captain of Despair.

Even the wee ones took up arms - foam ones but they still looked very cool - and joined in the festivities with their own tournament. Everyone



knew who the pirate child was when, at the start of her duel, the lass drew a diminutive replica pistol. Children are so adorable.

Finally, the real sweet treats of the evening, a stunningly choreographed stunt fight between Captain Red Cap of Delirium and her First mate Calico that wowed attendees with a flurry of blades, fists and Red Cap's signature elbow drop. The night closed with an intimate dance circle lead by AdeebA Korsana and Sumomo of bint Hazine. The shimmying duo even taught some of the pirates a few moves!

This Inaugural Feast is just one of many exciting events the DREAD Fleet Ships concoct. We are always looking for talented desert pirates wanting to learn rapier fighting, belly dance, or choreographed stunt performance.

Join the adventure!

Inaugural DREAD Feast

Gilbert, Arizona -- October 16th, 2011

[www.piratefeast.info](http://www.piratefeast.info) -- [www.azcorsair.ning.com](http://www.azcorsair.ning.com)



Retail shop for Artwork, Jewelry, Books, Specialty Gifts, T-shirts, and much more.

7223 E. First Street - Scottsdale, Az 85251

Phone: 480-822-0279

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Friend us on Facebook: <http://facebook.com/tomesandtreasures>

Located in Old Town Scottsdale since November 2010

**BOOK 4 IN THIS INSPIRATIONAL SERIES**

**"Warning!**  
This book will  
make you think!"  
-- Ruthann Bilkey,  
Unity Minister

*Following in the Footsteps of God*

Following in the Footsteps of God - Developing a closer, more meaningful relationship with God seems to be essential for our very existence. Robb's quest to find Oneness with God is an inspiring and deeply heartfelt journey. Prepare to have some of your most inner beliefs challenged! Thus is the power of this book!

**TAKING PRE-ORDERS**  
Release Date November 2011

Available in soft cover, eBook and Kindle formats.  
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Enrich your Journey Through Life!



### Upcoming Signings / Events at The Poisoned Pen

**November 19 – A Study in Sherlock Anthology Event with editors Leslie Klinger and Laurie R. King and other contributors - 6 pm**

**November 29 – Diana Gabaldon launches *The Scottish Prisoner* at the Arizona Biltmore – 7 pm**

**December 11 – Yuletide Universe - Holiday SF/F Authors Event with Kevin Hearne (*The Iron Druid Chronicles*), Lisa McMann (*The Unwanteds*), Joseph Nassise (*Eyes to See*), Janni Lee Simner (*Faerie Winter*), David Lee Summers (*The Solar Sea*), and Sam Sykes (*Black Halo*) - 2 pm**

**Stop by the store or visit the web site for a large selection of signed mystery and Science fiction and fantasy books.**

**The Poisoned Pen**

**4014 N Goldwater Blvd. Suite 101**

**Scottsdale, AZ 85251**

**[www.poisonedpen.com](http://www.poisonedpen.com) 1-888-560-9919**

**In order to participate in the signing, we ask that customers purchase the author's new book from the Poisoned Pen.**





## 24 Frames: by Jeffrey Lu

Seasons greetings. A few sequels. Few remakes coming. A season of new stuff. A present to behold from all months old.

### IN THE PRODUCTION NEWS:

There will be a Smurfs sequel. Release Date: August 2, 2013

Dreamworks has acquired rights to Roald Dah's book, "The BFG." Release Date: Unknown.

Tron 3 script in works. Release Date: Unknown.

Steven Spielberg plan to film, "Robopocalypse," next year. Release Date: 2013?

Scream 5 in works. Release Date: Unknown.

Clash of Titans 3- "Wraith of the Titans," Warner Brothers. Release Date: Spring 2012

X-Men: First Class sequel in works. Release Date: Unknown.

Dirty Dancing remake. Liongate. Release Date: July 26, 2013

Bill Murry as FDR in "Hyde Park on the Hudson." Release: 2012.

Andy Serkis will return for "Rise of the Planet of the Apes" sequel. Release Date: Unknown.

Expendable 2 actors list: Sylvester Stallone, Jason Statham, Jet Li, Dolph Lundgren, Chuck Norris, Randy Couture, Liam Hensworth, Jean-Claude Van Damme, Bruce Willis, and Arnold Schwarzenegger. Release Date: August 17, 2012.

### **December 2011/January 2012 Schedule:**

#### **Friday, December 9, 2011**

***Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked*** (Family Comedy) Fox, Not Yet Rated, Writers- Jonathan Aibel, Glenn Berger

***Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows*** (Adventure) Warner Brothers, Not Yet Rated, Actors: Robert Downey, Jr., Jude Law

***The Iron Lady*** (Drama) Weinstein Company, PG-13, Actors: Jim Broadbent, Meryl Streep

***Carnage*** (2011) (Drama) Sony Classics, R, Director- Roman Polanski, Actors: Jodie Foster, Kate Winslet

#### **Wednesday, December 21, 2011**

***The Adventures of Tintin*** (Animation) Paramount, PG, Director: Steven Spielberg, Voice Actors- Daniel Craig, Simon Pegg, Producers: Peter Jackson, Steven Spielberg

***The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo*** (2011) (Thriller) Sony/Columbia, Not Yet Rated, Actors- Daniel Craig, Rooney Mara, Christopher Plummer

***Mission Impossible- Ghost Protocol*** (Action) Paramount, Not Yet Rated, Director: Brad Bird, Actors: Tom Cruise, Simon Pegg, Paula Patton, Jeremy Renner

#### **Friday, December 23, 2011 -**

***We Bought a Zoo*** (Comedy/Drama) Fox, Not Yet Rated, Actors- Matt Damon, Scarlett Johansson

#### **Sunday, December 25, 2011 -**

***The Darkest Hour*** (Sci-fi Thriller) Summit Entertainment, PG-13, Director- Chris Garak, Actors- Emile Hirsch, Olivia Thirlby, Rachel Taylor

***Warhorse*** (War) Buena Vista, PG-13, Producer and Director- Steven Spielberg, Actors- Tom Hiddleston, David Thewlis, Emily Watson

#### **Friday, January 6, 2012**

***The Devil Inside*** (Horror) Paramount, Not Yet Rated

***The Possession*** (Horror) Lionsgate, R, Actors- Jeffrey Dean Morgan, Kyra Sedgwick, Producer- Sam Raimi

#### **Friday, January 13, 2012**

***Beauty and the Beast*** (3D)

(Animation) Buena Vista, Not Yet Rated

***Contraband*** (Thriller) Universal, R, Director: Baltasar Kormakur, Actors- Mark Wahiberg, Kate Beckinsale, Ben Foster

***Joyful Noise*** (Music Drama) Warner Brothers, PG-13, Actors- Queen Latifah, Dolly Parton

#### **Friday, January 20, 2012**

***Haywire*** (Action) Relativity, R, Actors: Ewan McGregor, Michael Douglas, Antonio Banderas

***Red Tails*** (Action/Adventure) Fox, Not Yet Rated, Producer- George Lucas (Executive), Actors- Bryan Cranston, Cuba Gooding, Jr.

***Underworld Awakening*** (Action Horror) Sony/Screen Gem, Not Yet Rated, Actors- Kate Beckinsale, Michael Ealy

#### **Friday, January 27, 2012**

***The Grey*** (Action Drama) Open Road Films, Not Yet Rated, Actor: Liam Neeson, Dermut Mulroney

***Man on a Ledge*** (Thriller) Summit Entertainment, PG-13, Actors: Sam Worthington, Elizabeth Banks, Ed Harris

***One For the Money*** (Action Comedy) Liongate, PG-13, Actor- Katherine Heigel, Producer- Sidney Kimmel

### **Rumors:**

Who will have the leading role in the movie, "Pride and Prejudice and Zombies?" Blake Lively, Emma Stone, Natalie Portman, Mia Wasikowska, or Scarlett Johanson?

Kung Fu- T.V. Series into a movie? (Warner Brothers)

Reboot Popeye movie? (Sony)

Gary Oldman- Warner Brothers wants him in two movies: The Colonel in "Akira," and Merlin in "Arthur & Lancelot." Only he will decide.

Jennifer Lopez might star in "Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego?" Only she will know.

### **Parting Shots:**

Bill Murry as FDR? Not a Ghostbuster? Wish him well and hope he gets an Oscar in his Xmas stocking, next year.

Happy New Year, X-mas, and/or other holidays!

CoN

[www.leprecon.org/lep38](http://www.leprecon.org/lep38)

## **LepreCon 38**

**April 6-8, 2012**

**Tempe Mission Palms, Tempe, AZ**

**Artist Guest of Honor Franchesco!**

**Author Guest of Honor Joe Haldeman**

**Music Guests Jeff and Maya Bohnhoff**

**Gaming Guest Todd Van Hooser**

**Local Artist Guest Mark Greenawalt**



LepreCon 38 will have an art show, charity auction, expanded gaming, hospitality suite, filk & music, and more.

We'll be at the Tempe Mission Palms in downtown Tempe with many nearby restaurants and easy access via Light Rail.

### **Membership Rates**

**\$35 thru 12/31/11**

**\$40 thru 3/15/11, more later**

Kids 7-12 - \$15\*,

Kids 6 and under Free\*

\*with Adult Membership

**Tempe Mission Palms Hotel**  
60 E. Fifth St., Tempe, Arizona

**Room Rates:** \$125.00 per night  
S/D/T/Q + tax (including hospitality fee)  
Hotel Booking Code 2TQ83F  
Call 800-547-8705 or 480-894-1400

### **LepreCon 38 Contact Information**

**Write:** LepreCon 38, PO Box 26665, Tempe, AZ 85285

**Phone:** (480) 945-6890

**Email:** lep38@leprecon.org



# Science Exploration

## A Primer on Stem Cells

By Michael Bradley

For the last several years there has been much discussion and controversy around stem cell research but few have taken the time to explain the issue in layman's terms. This topic is too critical to the future for the majority of us to remain unaware. Each of us began life as an egg from our mother fertilized by a sperm cell from our father. That fertilized egg contains one deoxyribonucleic acid string (DNA) from the mother and one from the father. Early on, these cells multiply by dividing into more cells. At this early stage, all the cells are alike, but later, they will become a wide variety of cells, including blood, bone, brain, nerves, and muscles. Before they split into this variety, they are called "stem cells", because they can stem off to become any kind of cell in the whole cell family.

For this reason, stem cell research has been funded to replace the cells of those lost in people with paralysis, brain injuries, burns, organ loss, Alzheimer's and many other conditions. The thought is if we can grow those tissues and restore them, these conditions can be reversed and cured. Two problems arise however; first, getting the DNA from the patient into the cell; and second, getting the cell to become the proper type of cell. Research using adult cells has been easier to show results, as it takes the actual type of cell from the host and attempts to replicate them, eliminating these two roadblocks.

At this point many may wonder why this practice of stem cell research is controversial. Other than a few lines of stem cells in use by the scientific community, new stem cells for research primarily come from aborted fetuses. Pro-life advocates view using this material will encourage more abortions and that using the remains of a fetus is unethical. If life begins at conception, they believe this to be murder. If life begins at live birth, as some others believe, then it is simply using tissue.

There is additional controversy because if a stem cell can be successfully implanted with DNA from another human and grown, it makes human

cloning possible. It would be possible for instance for a wealthy individual to grow copies of themselves and harvest organs and other parts as necessary to sustain their lives. These topics are rife with moral and ethical discussions and consequences.

Master stem cells can be removed from six cell embryos but still have rejection issues. You can also attempt to re-program an adult cell to a stem cell state, or you can de-nucleate a cell by removing its DNA and replacing it with the desired DNA.

There have been verified cloning of animals using stem cells, including the famous sheep Dolly. In that case, a skin cell's DNA was placed into an egg cell that had been "de-nucleated" by having its own DNA removed. This "reset" the egg to the new DNA and after being replaced in the uterus, a clone was delivered. A human ear has been grown through a grafting process onto a mouse. Other animal experiments have also been successful.

However, attempts with humans have not been successful so far. In 2004, a Korean team claimed to have accomplished the feat of human cloning, but it was later proven to be fraudulent. Recently, researchers reported they were able to place DNA into donated human eggs from women and create stem cells. In this research, over 270 eggs thus treated produced only two viable stem cells. The method also involved adding a third set of DNA, instead of the two sets needed for continued growth. It is not known how difficult it will be to use this method and then remove the third set of DNA.

In any case, it appears that future will hold more research into stem cells and the push to produce a human clone continues. This research could change everything as we know it in healthcare and will likely lead to increasing legislation by politicians who only vaguely discern the possibilities such breakthroughs present.

CoN

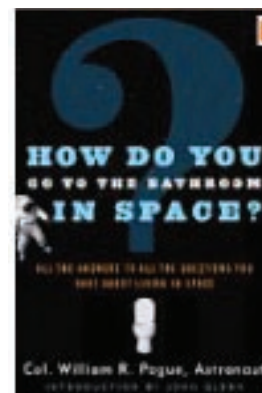
*Michael Bradley has appeared as an expert witness on health finance on several occasions and lectured on several occasions regarding the pharmacoeconomic impacts of third generation psychotropic medications, the benefits of self-funded trusts, health savings accounts, consumerism, legislation updates, and cutting edge wellness initiatives.*

## Science Book Review: How do you go to the Bathroom in Space?

by William R. Pogue, astronaut Tor 1999

The title draws one to satisfy your curiosity, though it takes a few pages to get to the answer. The answers are both enlightening, and entertaining. Most of the questions and their answers are timeless, a few are dated. The charm of this volume is the sense of adventure, and curiosity it inspires in the reader. It is difficult to put down once your interest is aroused. There are bonus sections in the rear that provide additional references for further study, and even groups to join and share space experiences with.

-- Reviewed by Donald Jacques



## Fiction Book Review:

### I Am Diving

Published by Joseph Valentinetti,  
Upland California, USA

"I AM DIVING" is a novel that shows the connection between Josel a husband and wife through the worst of times. It shows the desperate need to be loved and to love. The need to be there to support one another. The couple are beset by what appears to be a Post Traumatic Syndrome that threatens the husband's sanity and challenges the wife's ability to deal with circumstances. The husband has been removed from the Naval Service due to an event that ended in a Dishonorable Discharge that he has tried to get set aside. Because of the mental problems that are a part of the husband's life he has a tendency to disappear from his home for periods of time that are unexplained.

Early on in the story Jack, the husband, and Teri, the wife, meet a newly wed couple in the bar and restaurant, young and on a quicky honey moon before he has to sail. His assignment is aboard the USS Thresher, a Nuclear Submarine under going Sea Trials.

The USS Thresher has weaknesses in its design and manufacture that have doomed the boat to an early demise, to lie on the Atlantic Floor with its crew. When the problems with the Sub are submitted to the Navy, no action is taken and the boat sails into a disaster that shakes the country. When Jack learns of this, his mental problems

increasingly manifest themselves. He and his wife visit what they believe a memorial for the crew of the Thresher to find that it is more than a memorial, it is a call to action to avenge the death of the crew. Shortly after this Jack finds himself in Dallas Texas on the day in November 1963 that President Kennedy is assassinated and the Governor Texas, John Connolly is wounded. Shortly thereafter Jack returns home and finds Teri asleep on their sofa with the TV broadcasting the news from Dallas.

This Novel is based on a letter received by Governor Connolly in August of 1963. It is a good story and it does have a few faults in spelling and word usage that a good proofreader would have quickly corrected to make the story more appealing.

-- Reviewed by Craig D. Porter





# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## SCIENCE GROUPS

### ARIZONA SCIENCE CENTER

#### FAMILY EVENTS

URL: <http://www.azscience.org/>

November:

Body Depot Workshops every Saturday and Sunday:

11:30 am Monster Manual or Venom  
1:00 pm Busy Bones

### ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

URL: [http://iho.asu.edu/events\\_lectures](http://iho.asu.edu/events_lectures)

#### BECOMING HUMAN:

#### 30th ANNIVERSARY LECTURE SERIES

(for additional information on lecture series go to [iho.asu.edu/30thlectures](http://iho.asu.edu/30thlectures))

All lectures will take place at 5:30 pm at the Carson Ballroom, Old Main. The Museum of Anthropology will be open from 7:00 to 8:00 immediately after each lecture.

Origin of the Genus Homo

Thursday October 6 5:30 - 7:00 pm.

### CHALLENGER SPACE CENTER ARIZONA

URL: <http://azchallenger.org/calendar-of-events>

21170 N. 83rd Avenue, Peoria, AZ 85382; phone: 623-322-2001

October:

Saturday October 1st

10:30 am Special Viewing  
(Legends of Flight)

10:30 am Simulated Space Mission  
(Reservations Required)

11:30 am Properties of Liquid Nitrogen

12:30 am Properties of Flight  
(Whirlybirds)

1:00 pm Simulated Space Mission  
(Reservations Required)

1:30 pm Properties of Liquid Nitrogen

2:30 pm Properties of Flight  
(Paper Airplanes)

Sunday October 2nd

10:30 am Special Viewing  
(Legends of Flight)

10:30 am Simulated Space Mission  
(Reservations Required)

11:30 am StarLab Planetarium

#### Program

1:00 pm Simulated Space Mission  
(Reservations Required)

1:30 pm Nature of Light Presentation

2:30 pm Properties of Flight  
(Whirlybirds)

### SETI INSTITUTE

URL: <http://www.seti.org/>

There are no scheduled events available at this time.

Info for Media - Fact Sheets Available

SETI Institute at a glance

SETI History

The Future of SETI Research

### TITAN MISSILE MUSEUM

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

1580 West Duval Mine Road,  
Sahuarita, AZ

Open hours Monday thru Sunday from 8:45 am - 5:00 pm.

The Titan Missile Museum south of Tucson must surely be considered unique and a chilly reminder of the Cold War. Go underground and see one of the old Titan ballistic missiles watch the roll-back silo door open, follow operations at the launch control center, and watch demonstrations of countdown procedures. Tours begin every half hour.

To reach the Museum go south on I 19 and take exit 69 to the Duval Mine Road and follow the signs.

### THE MOON SOCIETY PHOENIX

URL: <http://www.msphx.org/>

Meets the third Saturday of each month at Denny's on the month at 3:00 pm. Denny's is located on the Southeast corner of US 60 and Rural Road.

Saturday November 19th we will be reviewing the ongoing Chapter's ongoing projects, Lunar Agriculture, Lunar Homesteading, Lunar Ground Transportation, Lunar Industrialization and others.

### PIMA AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM - TUCSON

URL: [HTTP://WWW.PIMAAIR.ORG/](http://WWW.PIMAAIR.ORG/)

6000 E. Valencia Road

Tucson, AZ 85756

Open 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Last admittance at 4:00 pm

520-574-0462

The Pima Air & Space Museum is one

of the largest aviation Museums ion the world, and the largest non-government funded aviation museum in the United States. The Museum maintains a collection of more than 300 aircraft and spacecraft from around the globe, including many rare and one-of-a-kind, and more than 125,000 artifacts.

October

1st 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Model Airplane Make and Take (Children 5 and older and their adult companions.)

Program free with paid or member admission.

Reservations are suggested - Contact Mina Staffod e-mail [mstafford@pimaair.org](mailto:mstafford@pimaair.org)

8th 9:30 am - 10:30 am

NEW VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION  
(Every second Saturday of the month.)

8th 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

IMAGINE ROCKETS (Children 8 years and older bring an adult to experience the power of rockets. Reservations are recommended - Contact Mina Staffod e-mail [mstaffordpimaair.org](mailto:mstaffordpimaair.org)  
22nd 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

#### YOUNG FLYERS FUN

(For children 4 - 7 years old and their adult companions).

Reservations are required - Contact Mina Staffod e-mail [mstafford@pimaair.org](mailto:mstafford@pimaair.org)

28th 5:00 pm - 9:pm

NIGHT OF FRIGHT (Family friendly safe Halloween event).

Old fashion carnival games and a Costume Contest.

Admission for this night is free for children under 12 and \$12.00 for children over 12 and adults.

Contact Meghan Marum e-mail [mmarum@pimaair.org](mailto:mmarum@pimaair.org)

November 5th 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

### TUCSON RC CLUB MODEL AIR PLANE DISPLAY

Join members of the Tucson Radio control Club as they show off their aircraft in Hanger 4.

Free with paid or member admission. Contact Mina Staffod e-mail [mstafford@pimaair.org](mailto:mstafford@pimaair.org)

5th 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

WINGS AND WHEELS

A show case of historic military vehicles, aircraft, jeeps, trucks and motorcycles.

Regular admission applies. Contact Meghan Marum e-mail [mmarum@pimaair.org](mailto:mmarum@pimaair.org)

5th 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Model Airplane Make and Take (Children 5 and older and their adult companions.)

Program free with paid or member admission.

Reservations are suggested - Contact Mina Staffod e-mail [mstafford@pimaair.org](mailto:mstafford@pimaair.org)

12th 9:30 am - 10:30 am

NEW VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION  
(Every second Saturday of the month.)

12th 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

IMAGINE ROCKETS (Children 8 years and older bring an adult to experience the power of rockets.

Reservations are recommended - Contact Mina Staffod e-mail [mstafford@pimaair.org](mailto:mstafford@pimaair.org)

26th 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

YOUNG FLYERS FUN (For children 4 - 7 years old and their adult companions).

Reservations are required - Contact Mina Staffod e-mail [mstafford@pimaair.org](mailto:mstafford@pimaair.org)

## AUTHOR SIGNINGS

Upcoming Signings / Events at

The Poisoned Pen

4014 N Goldwater Blvd. Suite 101

Scottsdale, AZ 85251

[www.poisonedpen.com](http://www.poisonedpen.com)

1-888-560-9919

November 4 – John Connolly signs

The Burning Soul and Infernals – 7 pm - Poisoned Pen

November 19 – A Study in Sherlock

Anthology Event with editors Leslie Klinger and Laurie R. King with other contributors - 6 pm - Poisoned Pen

November 29 – Diana Gabaldon

launches The Scottish Prisoner at the Arizona Biltmore – 7 pm - Details via Poisoned Pen

December 3 – Holiday SF/F Authors

Event with many local science fiction and fantasy authors appearing. Details TBA at the Poisoned Pen

Sunday, December 11 - Yuletide

Universe - Holiday SF/F Authors

Event with Kevin Hearne (The Iron Druid Chronicles), Lisa McMann (The Unwanteds), Joseph Nassise (Eyes to See), Janni Lee Simner (Faerie Winter), David Lee Summers (The Solar Sea), and Sam Sykes (Black Halo) - 2 pm



## AUTHOR SIGNINGS

Changing Hands Bookstore  
6428 S McClintock Dr., Tempe  
[www.changinghands.com](http://www.changinghands.com)

Saturday, December 3 - Christopher Paolini signs *Inheritance* - 2 pm at Burton Barr Central Library, 1221 N. Central Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85004

Contact Changing Hands bookstore for details on signing limitations. (480.730.0205)  
[www.changinghands.com](http://www.changinghands.com)

B&Ns locations can be found at [BN.com](http://BN.com)

## AUTHOR EVENTS

### MEET UP WRITING WORKSHOPS OR CRITIQUE GROUPS:

East Valley Writing Workshop  
Wednesdays, 6:00 PM  
at Village Inn in Mesa, AZ

East Valley Writing Workshop  
Every Sunday 1:00 PM at Shadow Mountain Village - Main Clubhouse in Scottsdale, AZ

Publishing, Networking, and Marketing Meetup -- FIRST Saturdays, monthly, except in December.  
Shadow Mountain Village - Main Clubhouse - 1pm - 3pm  
8780 E McKellips Road, Scottsdale, AZ

## READING GROUPS

**The CASFS Book Discussion** is held at: Bookmans - 8034 North 19th Avenue in Phoenix (NWC 19th Avenue & Northern). Community Room in the back of the store.

November 15, 2011 - Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep by Philip K Dick

## WHAT THE HAY??

Competition in the mid-west with ideas from farm boys with too much time on their hands.



## BID FOR LONDON IN 2014 FOR WORLDCON

As taken from the website:  
<http://www.londonin2014.org/>  
London in 2014 - for the bid to bring the 72nd World Science Fiction Convention, or Worldcon, to London in August 2014. The site for 2014 will be selected by vote of members of the Chicon 7, 2012 Worldcon. Between now and 2012, the bid committee will be publicizing and promoting the bid to science fiction fans all around the world.

Assuming the bid is successful, the convention will be held from Thursday 14 to Monday 18 August 2014 in the new International Convention Centre, which is part of the ExCeL exhibition centre complex in London's Docklands.

## Under the Laughing Moon

LaughingMoonCon is an opportunity for veteran sci-fi/fantasy/comic book/and gaming fans to introduce their favorite hobbies to a new generation. Now more than ever we need kids to discover the world of comics, art & literature and the incredible stories they hold within their pages. Geared toward a high-school aged audience, the event has something for everyone. Guests include comic book artists, authors, paranormal experts, and a burnout with K.I.T.T. from Knight Rider. Attendees will have an opportunity to sample a wide variety of tabletop games, including author Todd VanHooser's "Adventures Under the Laughing Moon." With only a \$5 entry fee, the event is easily affordable, and all proceeds go towards school extra-curricular clubs. Held on December 17th, Laughing Moon Con will be held at Desert Edge High School, 15778 W. Yuma Road in Goodyear, AZ. More information can be found on [www.laughingmooncon.com](http://www.laughingmooncon.com).

## GAMERS CALENDAR:

**GAME DAZE:**  
**ALL EVENT CAN BE FOUND**  
**ONLINE AT: <http://www.gamedaze.com/GameDaze-Whats-Happening.aspx>**

**GAME DAZE CORPORATE**  
1407 W. 10th Place, Suite #A-105  
Tempe, AZ 85281

**ARIZONA MILLS**  
5000 Arizona Mills Circle #530  
Tempe, AZ 85282

**ARROWHEAD TOWNE CENTRE**  
7700 W. Arrowhead Towne Center #2256  
Glendale, AZ 85308

**CHANDLER FASHION CENTER**  
3111 W Chandler Blvd #2416  
Chandler, AZ 85226

**PARADISE VALLEY MALL**  
4550 E. Cactus Road #302  
Phoenix, AZ 85032

**SUPERSTITION SPRINGS CENTER**  
6555 E. Southern Ave. #2026  
Mesa, AZ 85206

**TUCSON MALL**  
4500 N. Oracle Road #166  
Tucson, AZ 85705

**PARK PLACE MALL**  
5870 E Broadway Blvd # 258  
Tucson, AZ 85711

**POP CULTURE PARADISE**  
707 S. Forest Ave. #A, on ASU Campus  
Tempe, AZ 85281 (480) 557-6640  
Calendar: [morethancomics@yahoo.com](mailto:morethancomics@yahoo.com)  
or get calendar online at <http://www.popculture-comics.com/>

**EMPIRE GAMES**  
1766 S Greenfield Rd #102, Mesa, AZ 85206 - 480-813-1525  
<http://www.empiregamesaz.com/pmwiki.php?n=Main.Calendar>

**GAMING & COMIC EVENTS**  
**DRAWN TO COMICS**  
Marvel vs Capcom 1st Fridays 6pm  
HeroClix. Sat 1pm  
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  
Flames of War Fridays 2pm  
30th Store Anniv, lots of events Aug 6  
L5R cardgame Aug 20 noon  
WarHammer 40K 2-day NOVA tournament Sept 3-4  
Magic the Gathering Celebration  
Sept 10 noon

**GAMER'S INN**  
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)

Check web sites or contact stores for more info:

Game Depot, 480-966-4727  
<http://www.azscience.org>  
<http://store-locator.barnesandnoble.com/storelocator/stores.aspx?x=y&>  
<http://beyond.asu.edu>  
<http://www.bookmans.com>  
<http://www.borders.com/online/store/LocatorView>  
<http://www.cemeterydance.com>  
<http://www.contact-conference.org/>  
<http://www.devastationevent.com/>  
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<http://www.titanmissilemuseum.org/>  
<http://tucsoncomic-con.com/>  
<http://tucsonfestivalofbooks.org/>



# MOVIE/VIDEO REVIEW:

## The Three Musketeers

By PJ Hultstrand



When I saw the movie teasers, I stated to a friend of mine, “Now this is taking the old classic that has been redone more than any other movie I know, and finally gave it some kick.” When I saw the movie, I was not disappointed by any lack of action, fun or new moves. You really need to leave the original novel by Alexandre Dumas at the door though, and just let yourself have fun with this adaptation. Otherwise, you will probably think they have gone over the top to make this a STEAM PUNK movie, (like DUH) with its interesting gadgets and the da Vinci airship secrets.

The swordplay is top notch and as always with The Three Musketeers, this is one of the main reasons I watch the movies. Some scenes

were completely over the top with a long sequenced fight on the rooftops of the palace. COME ON -- but then again, didn't we love those sort of light saber fight scenes in Star Wars. Does it really need to stay in a closer reality just because the story was based on historical rivalries between the French and the English?

Even though most sequences were so over the top that they may as well have called it a historical fantasy; I think the movie works as long as you don't take it or yourselves too seriously. And for the women viewers; there was enough eye candy to keep us all happy. Every woman has “their type” of man they love, and we are lucky to get a smorgasbord of delectable sweethearts in this one. Huzzah!

CoN



# FAN FICTION: A Cthulu Christmas

Story By Jeffrey Lu



Artwork By Jason Youngdale

crustaceans, and echinoderms in any form. But he wondered why his grandfather, a businessman, brought him here to a corner with a small table only for two.

Whipple nodded and whispered, “My doctor told me to go on a seafood diet. So, when I see food, I eat.”

Howie's eyes looked upward. It was going to be one of those days. Even on Christmas.

The old man grinned for awhile. He shrugged, “Okay, grandson, bad joke. One reason I'm here is to try the sushi.”

The nine-year-old stared at him. “Squishy?”

“Close but no cigar, young one” said Whipple. “It's eating raw fish.”

Little Howie stared and turned a little shade of green.

“Don't worry. This is an acquired taste. Your mom and your aunt would

The pale boy made a face. Seafood was not his favorite.

The elderly Whipple chuckled and said, “Howie, it's not so bad. It's the only restaurant open on Christmas Day. Especially lunch time!”

Howie looked around the Asian diner - tanks of live fish lined up in front of the shop. Inside, he looked around to see endless plates of seaweed, fish, and prawns moving to different size of tables. The smell was revolting to his stomach. He did not care for the cooked molluscs,

not approve of us being here but it's one of my vices,” Grandfather said. He patted his fat stomach, “I like to eat.”

With a conspiracy quiet tone, he continued, “Speaking of vices, your mom and aunts would have a fit if they knew what I have here,” said Whipple.

Grandfather suddenly produced a small paper sack from his coat. He added, “This is for you. Merry Christmas, Howie.”

Early that day, Howie received the usual presents from his mom and two aunts- knitted sweaters, socks, homemade fudge, and shoes. He had wondered where his grandfather was. When Whipple appeared later that morning, Howie wondered if the elder forgot this important day besides his birthday. Instead, his grandfather asked him to help with his business around town. Howie agreed and now opened the brown paper bag.

Howie whistled. He looked at a book of poetry- a rare and forbidden one.

The title said, “Tamerlane and Other Poems.” It was by “a Bostonian”

Grandpa Whipple said, “Child, this will not give you nightmares. Hopefully, your mom and aunts won't know who this ‘Bostonian’ is. Otherwise, they'll throw this out to the trash cans like ‘The Raven’ and other horror stories.”

“I know you're sick most of the time but I know you love his work. Maybe one day you can write something worthwhile. Be a Poe or poet? Or both?”

Howie thanked his grandfather for this wonderful Christmas present. He began to read while his grandfather enjoyed his lunch.

Afterward, Howie finished the book before dinner. A few he memorized for life. He decided he will be like Poe. He will love this craft.

Howie's full name is Howard Phillips Lovecraft.

Later that night, Howie did not dream of sugar plum fairies but an odd large octopus with wings...



## FEATURED



## FICTION

### Awakening

By Craig D. Porter

Many years ago, as I sat beside my campfire, watching the bright tongues of flame, the brightly shining sparks emitted by popping embers of the fire and listening to the sounds of the night with its whispering breeze as it caressed the trees caused the fire to dance in its playfulness. As I sat there, in that surrealistic place, I felt myself drawn to this never-never land; the land that never was, but might have been or could be in the future.

As the time slipped by, I began to feel



the presence of the forest spirits draw nearer and nearer bringing with them the comfort of their presence. Then the touch of my Scout uniform seemed to change into the feel of soft buckskin breeches, moccasins, vest, and there was even a medicine bag about my neck. At my side, I could sense the light touch of a blow gun and the thistle darts for it. Off to the right of the fire, I saw a light glistening off the eyes of my brother, the wolf. Then off to my left I could hear my brother the owl, softly calling me from the shadows to come hunt with him. Then he was gone, off with a soft flutter of his wings in the cool evening breeze.

This night was becoming one of those special nights when the past, present

and the future all came together for those special events that could change lives and define experiences. As I bided my time, waiting for the events to unfold, the sounds of the forest began to beckon me to come and join them; all my brothers, on this magical night.

The wind began to softly sing its love song in the branches of the trees with tunes that brought forth the ancestral memories of other nights long ago. Above the treetops, the full moon of Indian Summer shown in its graceful beauty, as small puffy clouds scudded by on the night wind's breath. Slowly the moon mounted higher into the starry night sky and the forest began to call me again to come and join my brothers and the people of the forest.

Off in the shadows, brother wolf called again for me to come join him in the hunt. Finally the urge to join my brothers became more than I could resist. We padded quietly through the forest along the time worn paths, listening to the calls of our other brothers as they softly followed the many rituals of the hunt on this magical night.

We tracked our brother, the hare, until he ducked into his burrow and then we followed brother squirrel to his tree den, as he safely scampered up its side and into his home. We met brother Bobcat this night also, hunting for his family and passed him quietly by. We ran after our sister, the Doe, until she safely returned to her family and the protection of brother Stag.

Gasping heartily, we stopped to drink from a stream that meandered through the forest. Quietly following the stream toward the center of the forest, we surprised brother Possum and ran him up a tree.

Oh, what a grand night this was, exhilarating and full of light-hearted fun. Brother Wolf and I sat and reveled in each other's company, contemplating this night's fun. It was one of those nights that you never wanted to end.

Then, off in the distance, we sensed a strangeness in the night air, an uneasiness, as if calling us to a place of importance for some unknown reason. As we silently neared the place that had beckoned us, we moved warily, cautious of each and every step and sound that came to us; ready at a seconds notice to take to our heels if need be.

Finally we came to a small clearing in the forest, where there stood a Spirit of the forest softly speaking to a stranger who sat there. We looked around and seeing others who had come before us, that were quietly sitting, we also sat as quietly as possible.

We began to hear and to listen with the rest of our brothers, as the Spirit explained the forest to the stranger. We

heard how the forest came to be and we heard how it is home to many of our brother creatures. We learned how it provides the food and shelter for those that live within its boundaries. We heard the Spirit tell how the forest's effects go far beyond itself, how it helps to warm, shelter and feed the strangers beyond itself. And how it helps to clean the air and cause the rain to fall in other places.

As the Spirit finished talking to the one sitting by the fire, we could feel the empathy of the other. Then we heard the other one say to the Spirit of the forest, "My Brother, I will honor that which has been told to me and I will honor that which is yours, and I will teach the others of my kind what they must know. To keep faith with you for what you have given to them."

As the stranger stood and turned to the others gathered around the clearing, he repeated the promise to me and each of my brothers that were gathered there.

Then as he faced me, I realized that the stranger was in fact, me. And in that instant, there appeared in front of me, a Spirit of the people in the shape of an old woman, dressed in beads, a white buckskin dress, buckskin leggings and moccasins. Her hair constrained only by a fur headband.

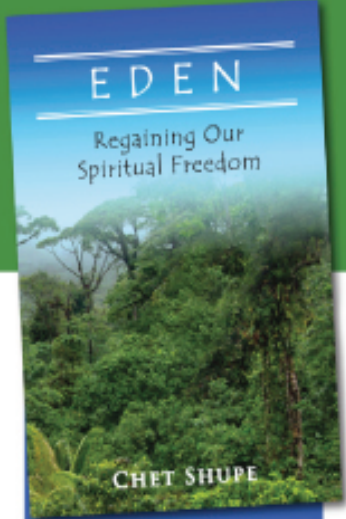
She stood watching me for what seemed an eternity; her legs slightly spread and her arms crossed in front of her, and then slowly began to speak to me. "My child, take from here tonight,

the love for and the understanding of the forest, and the love of our people for the forest. Remember that without it the forest will die and so shall all die. You are entrusted with this message for the strangers. You are to remind those of the 'blood' to listen to the forest again." She began to fade away, to become part of the environment surrounding us. I called after her and said, "Why me, Spirit of the people?"

Her reply came softly on the breeze. "Because, my grandson, you are of the 'Blood'." Suddenly, I was back at the camp fire, shivering in the cool breeze and feeling at home at last.

*This was first written approximately fifteen years ago as an assignment for a writing class. It was and is meant to be a tribute to my Great, Great, Great Grandmother, White Crane, English name Patience Crane, a young Indian maiden that married an American Revolutionary soldier and bore him three children. In the early 1800s she and thousands of Cherokee were ripped from their home in North Carolina and sent West to Indian Territory, today North Eastern Oklahoma. But, she did not complete that journey, she died in Eastern Tennessee at the beginning of the trip. Her children survived the trip and one became my Great, Great, Grandfather on my father's mother's side of the family.*

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# MOVIE/VIDEO REVIEW:

## Real Steel

By PJ Hultstrand

I must admit up front that I would have gone to see this movie just to enjoy another Hugh Jackman flick, but I was very surprised at how great it was and how much the entire theater got into the action. Yes, there was plenty of action, especially the rip roaring ending that left us all cheering for the underdog, made winner. But, this movie also had a REAL story that was set with STEEL performances by not only Jackman as Charlie Kenton, but from his co-actor, Dakota Goyo, (the preteen son Max).



is set In 2020, where humans have been replaced by robots in boxing. Definitely a science-fiction story line, but the father-son kindled relationship set with the underdog “Rocky” boxing story, greatly overshadows the fantastical idea of the movie. These factors, along with the action packed ending would even make my father happy to see this one in the theater. That is, as long as I don’t tell him that REAL STEEL is really a sci-fi movie.

The story line really isn’t new, but what it offers the movie goers is a refreshing change to the usual foray of horror movies or over-done sequels. Would this one have done as well in the prime-time movie seasons, along side the summer blockbusters

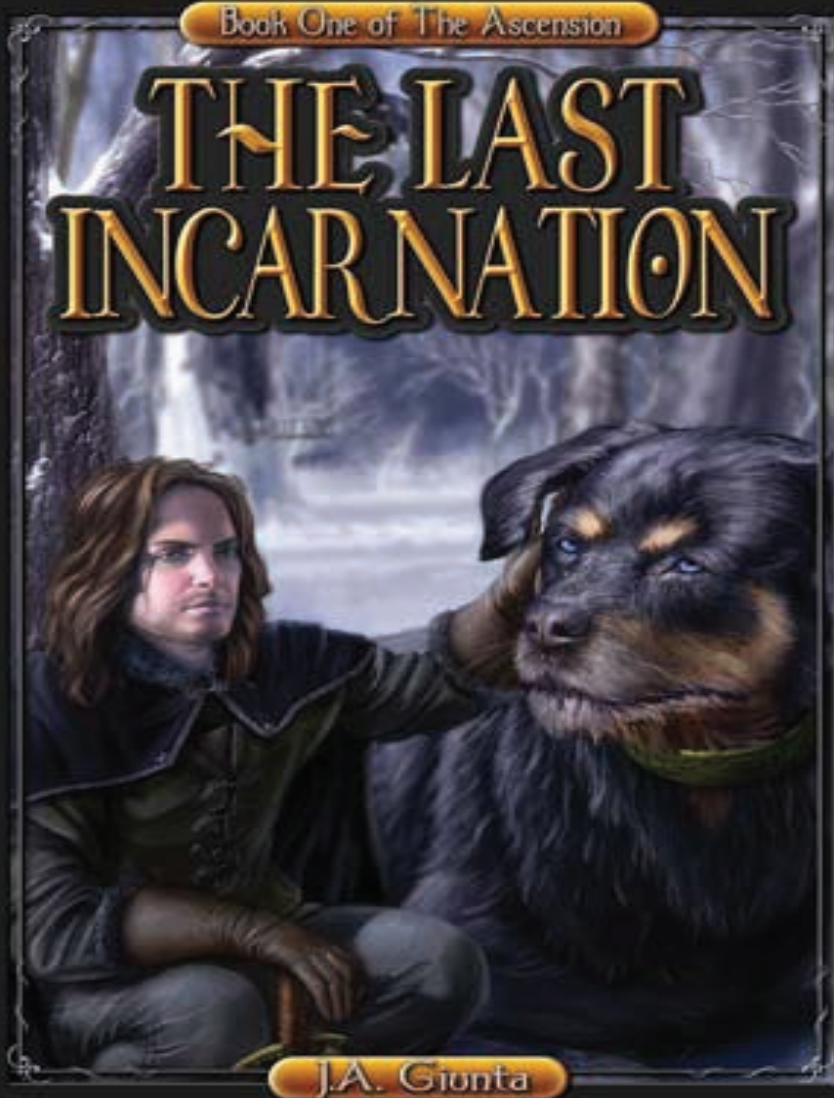


and holiday offerings? It probably is doing better than expected because of its timeliness in October and into November, well before the holiday movies take center screen. However, this is a feel good, family oriented



movie with a box office favorite, with Hugh Jackman, which I think would have done well, no matter what the season.

For those who didn’t get enough of this movie and its kick-butt robots, there is a viral website with simulated fights from Zeus and others. You can even build your own fighting robot online at <http://www.wrb.com/>



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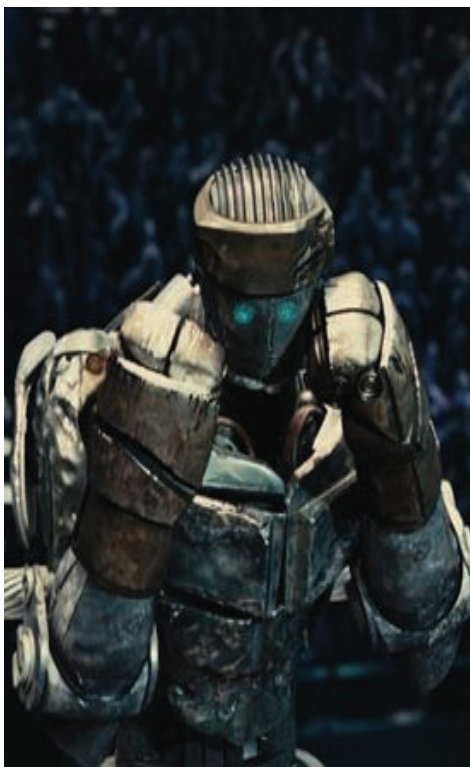
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# CONVENTION REVIEWS:

## SPOOKY EMPIRE'S ULTIMATE HORROR WEEKEND: October 7-9, 2011 at Wyndham Orlando Resort

By Michael D' Ambrosio

Spookie Empire is a full-scale horror convention held in Orlando the first weekend in October at the Wyndham Resort Center. They also host a convention over the Memorial Day weekend called Mayhem. They host a star-studded lineup that included Clive Barker, Sam Trammel and Kirsten Bauer from True Blood, as well as Lance Henrickson and an assortment of actors, producers and authors.

The dealers hall is very unique compared to dealers areas at many conventions. There were horror dolls, horror-themed housewares, costumes, masks, tattoo artists, and many of the more familiar items. The evening entertainment was highlighted with bands playing into the wee hours of the morning and parties, parties, parties!

In another area, authors manned tables and hosted discussion panels on a variety of topics. The amazing thing about the convention is how accessible the guests and participants were. When attending this convention, it is recommended that you stay at the Wyndham to maximize your exposure to the activities both day and night. At a rate of \$69.00/night, one can hardly go wrong.

The Wyndham is located in an ideal location at Sand Lake and International streets just beyond the convention center where most restaurants and shops are within walking distance.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## SPECULATIVE LITERATURE FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES GULLIVER TRAVEL GRANT WINNER

SPECULATIVE LITERATURE FOUNDATION  
PO Box 1693  
Dubuque, IA 52004-1693

info@speculativeliterature.org -  
<http://www.speculativeliterature.org/>

For Immediate Release: Nov 1, 2011

The Speculative Literature Foundation is delighted to announce that Ibi Zoboi is the winner of the 2011 Gulliver Travel Grant.

Zoboi will use the \$800 grant to travel to Haiti and the Dominican Republic to research her YA dystopian novel set in both countries. She was born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and had always loved the magical aspects of the Haitian literary tradition. She has been published in Crossed Genres, Haiti Noir, and Dark Matter: Reading the Bones, among others.

The Travel Grant judges said of Zoboi's entry, "The sample story was provocative and haunting, and stayed with us for weeks after reading it. This, combined with the knowledgeable treatment of the subject and the compelling project idea, made it a clear winner."

Also shortlisted were: Tiffani Angus, Lillian Cohen-Moore, Hunter Liguore, Kirsty Logan, Valya Dudycz Lupescu, Sandra McDonald, Kate Milford, Trina Phillips, and Hilary Smith, for their unique and thought-provoking submissions, which made the selection of the eventual winner a difficult but enjoyable process.

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# Convention Listings

November 19-20, 2011 - 5th Annual Phoenix Fireland Faerie Festival at Estrella Mountain Park, Goodyear AZ. <http://www.westerngatesfaerierealms.com/PhoenixFaerieFestival.htm>

December 3, 2011, 7-930 PM - Fiesta of Light Electric Light Parade in Phoenix, Central Ave from Montebello to Camelback to 7th St. then Indian School This year's theme is "Silver Bells." <http://phoenix.gov/parks/calendar/index.html>

December, 2011 (date and time TBD) - Mainly on the Train\* SWCG Road Trip. Take a ride on the Arizona Eastern Railroad's "Copper Spike" train from Globe, Arizona. Costume encouraged. <http://www.copperspike.com/>

DarkCon (January 12-15, 2012) Steampunk - Fantasy - Gaming Convention. At the Phoenix Marriott Mesa 200 North Centennial Way, Mesa AZ 85201. Guests of Honor: Author Jacqueline Carey; Actors Doug Jones, Meg Foster; Makeup Guru Bill Myer; Artist Ruth Thompson and Game Designers John Wick & Ken St. Andre. Membership \$40 thru 12/31/11, \$50 at the door. Paypal available, Room rates \$109 S/D/T/Q. Hotel phone: 800-835-9873. Website: [www.darkcon.org](http://www.darkcon.org). email: [darkcon@darkcon.org](mailto:darkcon@darkcon.org). Workshops, Gaming, Demos, Merchant Room, themed Social Events, much more.

February 25-26, 2012 - Vul-Con gaming convention at the Phoenix Convention Center. <http://www.vul-con.com/>

Con-Nichiwa 2012 - March, 2012

<http://www.con-nichiwa.com/>

Holiday Inn Palo Verde - Tucson, AZ

This is primarily an Anime convention but will also have some additional programming tracks.

April 6-8, 2011 - LepreCon 38 at the Tempe Mission Palms Hotel in Tempe, Arizona features guests Franchesco and Joe Haldeman. <http://www.leprecon.org/>.

May 11-13, 2012 - Costume-Con 30\* "Sands of Time" at the Tempe Mission Palms Hotel in Tempe, Arizona. [http://www.costumecon30.org/CC30 News](http://www.costumecon30.org/CC30%20News)

KimeraCon 2012 - May 11th - 13th, 2012 <http://www.kimeracon.com/Kimeracon/Home.html> -- Phoenix Mesa Marriot - Mesa, AZ

This is a new con for 2012 and advertises that it is a con for many genres': Fantasy, Gaming, Science Fiction, Anime/Manga, J-Fashion, Music, and Pop Culture.



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# In Our Books

## GATEWAYS

ed. by Elizabeth Anne Hull  
Tor, \$15.99, 416pp



Fred Pohl's wife, Elizabeth Anne Hull, assembled this book as a birthday present for Fred. She gathered together an amazing assembly of writers who were influenced by or loved Fred. I can only imagine the lineup she might have gotten even 20 years earlier. The list is a veritable who's who which, of itself, says quite a bit about Fred Pohl's existence. Some are short, some long, all are extraordinarily professional.

David Brin has quite a long piece that was fascinating to contemplate. The Eisensteins' was quite amusing. Joe Haldeman's was a bit disturbing. James Gunn's left me a bit dry, I didn't finish it. I was a bit disappointed in Gregory Benford's & Elisabeth Malartre's offering - it was way too reminiscent of Jean Auel's stories. Vernor Vinge was typically brilliant. While I enjoyed the piece from Greg Bear, I was at a loss to connect it to our genre. The long short story from Frank Robinson was chilling and ugly and oh-so-well-written. "King Rat" by Gene Wolfe was just ....charming although that might not be the way anyone else would characterize it. Although Harry Harrison's Stainless Steel Rat stories are some of my favorites, I would have wished for something new rather than the first chapter of his last book.

Jody Lynn Nye wrote the most human of all the stories, a perfect delight. While I like Brian Aldiss, I didn't really care for his story at all, couldn't see the point. Ben Bova had a lovely laugh-out-loud final line and his story was, I think, the only one that had a direct relationship with his Afterword. The second best laugh-out-loud final line came from Sheri Tepper. I could feel the frustration of Mike Resnick's characters - caught in the vacation of a lifetime... and no way out. Cory Doctorow's made me feel simple. Not sure I really got it.

Anthologies are not always that

satisfying for me, I'd rather read a novel. But this has got to be the most enjoyable anthology I've ever had the pure pleasure of reading.

Each author contributed an Afterword with their anecdotes of Fred Pohl, his influence on their work/life, and/or an homage to his accomplishments. Interspersed between the stories are Appreciations from several writers who weren't able to send a contributing piece. All of those memories add up to a very affectionate portrait of this man who has had an enormous effect on our favorite genre. I wish I had had the chance to know him. ~ Catherine Book. - **Catherine Book**

## GALAXY OF THE DAMNED

by Michael D'Ambrosio  
Helm Publishing; 2012



Galaxy of the Damned was a surprising ending for the Space Frontiers Series. As Will and Shanna struggle against seemingly insurmountable obstacles in their efforts to defeat the

Weevil, their plans are jeopardized as an unexpected alien race, the Calamaari, joins in the hunt to destroy them. Their love for each other and their determination to end the alien war once and for all leads them to a plan that has the potential to end the war. When Shanna becomes infected by the blood of the new Calamaari leader after a raid on their base, she suffers through a mutation that threatens to make her more hideous than the Calamaari themselves. Will incorporates new allies to help stop and reverse the mutation before it's too late. The action continues at a feverish pace as they approach the end with a plan that looks to end the Weevil threat once and for all until someone from the past turns up seeking revenge against them.

Will and Shanna's relationship is not only inspirational but leaves one rooting for them every step of the way. With the loss of several friends, they are driven to finally achieve peace and lead a normal life with their barely seen daughter, Marina. As a parent, one can sympathize with their plight, while as a

young adult one can feel their emotions as they try everything against all odds to finish the Weevil once and for all.

This series has proven to be a classic that I feel rivals Star Trek and Star Wars for originality, imagination, character uniqueness and credibility. I really felt as though the events in the series, especially in Galaxy of the Damned, were really occurring. This is a series you need to read for yourself to feel the adventure.

The most striking part of the series was, without a doubt, the ending. Several things happened earlier in the series that were stunning but the ending nearly brought tears to my eyes. It is a shame that this series had to end. Each and every adventure left me on the edge of my seat wanting to know if Will, Shanna and their friends survive. Their adventures were far from a walk in the park as their lives were quite indicative of how difficult things would really be in an interspecies environment flooded with mistrust and delicate treaties.

I highly recommend Galaxy of the Damned, but after reading the first three books in the series: The Eye of Icarus, Dangerous Liaisons, and The Devil's Playground. Perhaps one day, we'll see these in a movie format - one can only hope.

- **Jessie Timmins (Akron, Ohio)**

## ENEMIES AND ALLIES

by Kevin J. Anderson  
William Morrow/HarperCollins, New York, N.Y., 2009. Hard Cover; 326, \$26.99.



This is a book for those who love the old Superman and Batman comics of the 1950's. Batman and Superman verses Lex Luthor. It is an homage to the Superman and Batman

of yesteryear. Batman as the ultimate vigilante and Superman with his faith in Law, Truth, Justice and The American Way. There is a certain disharmony in their views of how things should be done - idealism verses grim stark reality. Light and Darkness coming to terms and working together.

As villains we have Lex Luthor with his self-centered mad passion for wealth and power and the Russian General, Anatoly Cerdov, with ambitions to rule the Soviet Union. To complicate matters for Superman the general is mining a strange green substance from a 1938 meteor strike in Siberia. Luthor and the general wants to create immediate nuclear danger to increase the number of defense contracts Luthor has and

to destabilize the Soviet Union so the general can seize power.

In the supporting we have Lois Lane as the serious, dedicated girl reporter we all knew and way back in the fifties. She has endless energy for her work, is heedless of danger and has a soft spot for Superman. She even likes Clark, but only as a distant second to the caped hero. Jimmy Olsen remains the brash, enthusiastic and eager photographer. He idolises Clark and Lois and especially Superman.

In the secret identity department Bruce Wayne is retaking control of Wayne enterprises from board members subverted by Luthor. Clark Kent is busy falling in love with Lois and is always strangely absent when important events occur.

The plot revolves around an engineered nuclear strike, a death ray, a secret island laboratory and a fake invasion from space. Lois is rescued repeatedly. Jimmy takes pictures. Batman saves Superman. Superman returns the favor. Much turmoil ensues and all ends as it should and always did for fifties Super Heroes.

Kevin J. Anderson has brought back an era of Comic Book wonder that I had forgotten. I would recommend this book to anyone. It is still available as a new book.

- **Gary L. Swaty**

## TESSERACTS 14

Strange Canadian Stories. Edited by John Robert Colombo and Brett Alexander Savory. Edge Publishing, 287 pages TPB, \$17.95



Oh those wacky Canadians. Once again we have an anthology of some of their best science fiction, fantasy and horror stories with some poetry thrown in. Overall, the editors called the

stories dark fantasy, and you may take that to mean that they don't necessarily have a happy ending. For example, Matthew Moore's very realistic 'The Machinery of Government' describes the chaos of a military invasion of Canada by an unknown Army. Not that I am any expert on the old pulp magazine Weird Tales, but I get the impression that if you like that then you will like this.

- **Mike Griffin**



# Graphic Novels/Manga/Others:

by Jeffrey Lu

## GRAPHIC NOVELS and MANGA:

1) *Chew Volume Four: Flambe* by John Layman and Rob Guillory, Image, \$12.99



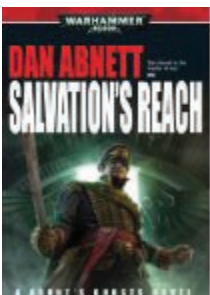
This is the further adventures of psychic eater Tony Chu, the cibopathic federal agent of FDA. He will not only find his cases strange but also a no win situation that might cost him his job. Need to read volumes one to three to understand what is happening. Winner of Harvey Award and continuing Will Eisner Comic Industry Awards. Rated M-Mature. Extreme cartoon violence. Sick and twisted. Irony. Dark. Good stuff. Recommended to fans of Chew.

2 ) *Hellsing Vol. 10, Kohta Hirano, Dark Horse and DMP, \$13.99, 190 pp.*



This is the monster "war" conclusion of series Hellsing. What seems to end is only the beginning and a beginning of an end... For Readers 13+- Violence, Mild language. Need to read first nine to know what is going on. Dark. Plot twist. Interesting aftermath. Comical but sad. Recommended to horror action graphic novel fans.

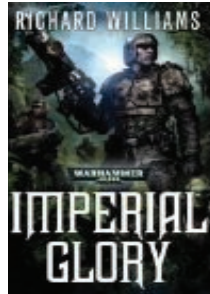
3) *Warhammer 40,000 Salvation's Reach* by Dan Abnett, Black Library, \$24.99, 314 pp.



Gaunt and his team are going for broke to raid Salvation's Reach for some intelligence on their enemy. This may be the turning point for the Sabbat World Crusade. This is the thirteenth book of the Gaunt's Ghosts series. It is also the second book of the Victory section. Need to read the first twelve to know what is going on. Excellent. There are a lot of surprises. Realistic. Dan Abnett is the epic master of future war. Looking forward to his other books. Recommended to dark sci-

fi readers and/or Warhammer 40,000 fans.

4) *Warhammer 40,000 Imperial Glory* by Richard Williams, Black Library, \$8.99, 410 pp.



One last battle is needed for this Brimlocks' imperial army to retire and colonize a new world in peace. Not only do the men have issues, but the enemy is brutal and unending - orks. Will there be any survivors after the war is done? Dark. Tragic. Well done. Recommended to dark sci-fi military readers and/or Warhammer's 40,000 fans.

5) *The Iron Druid Chronicles: Hammered* by Kevin Hearne, Del Rey, \$7.99, 326 pp



After a few adventures, Atticus is now committed to pay off a debt with friends and allies: hunting Thor, killer of innocents. What will be hard will not be finding Thor but the aftermath - someone or some thing is hunting him back on Earth. This is the third book of the series. Need to read the other two books to understand what is going on. There are some comical moments. Overall, good. Surprise ending on one of Atticus' friend. Creepy. Recommended to urban fantasy fans and/or The Iron Druid Chronicles followers.

6) *Warhammer 40,000 Dawn of War: Blood Ravens- The Dawn of War Omnibus* by C S Goto, Black Library, \$11.99, 767 pp.



Here are the stories of Blood Ravens Space Marines led by Captain Gabriel Angelos to battle orks, eldars, and other enemies of the Empire. This tome includes the novels, Dawn of War, Dawn of War: Ascension, and Dawn of War: Tempest. This also includes

the short story, "The Trials of Isador." A different kind of Space Marine that has a shadowy past. Interesting concept. Recommended to dark sci-fi war readers and/or Warhammer 40,000 fans.

7) *The World According To Groucho Marx* by David Brown, Michael O'Mara Books Limited, \$12.95, 160 pp.



Dr. Doom and Loki are plotting to take out Thor. Will friends of Thor be able to counter this threat before Thor is seriously damaged? This is volume three and final with J. Michael Straczynski. Need to read the other two to know what is happening. Good story. Recommended to Marvel Thor graphic novel fans.

the Slayers will be the new enemy. And oh yes, Buffy's sister, Dawn, changes again.

This is volume five. Helps to read the last four to know what's going on. Recommended for mature audience. Violence. Liked it. Definitely different in vampire TV reality show. Entertaining. Recommended to Buffy The Vampire Slayer fans.

## OTHER BOOKS:

1) *Flashforward* by Robert J. Sawyer, Tor, \$7.99, 319 pp.



In a time of less than three minutes, the people of Earth blacks out. Millions die from plane crashes, car accidents, and accidents. But some are able to see one's future in six months time. This is a story of a few scientists at CERN's Large Hadron Collider and how they live through these strange times. Enjoyable. A possibility even though it's fiction. Recommended to fans of Robert J. Sawyer and/or futuristic what-ifs.



## FEATURED FICTION:

### Let E.T. Ride

by Dwayne Albert Bearup

"Mister Wilson? I'm Doctor Peterson. The nurse tells me you believe you may have contracted a parasite of some kind?"

"Of some kind? What are you, blind? Look at me!"

"There's no call for rudeness Sir, nor for ventriloquism. I can only help you if you can tell me what's wrong... though I must say I see no outward signs of any parasite. Is it under the Johnny?"

"Under the... look Doc, that's not my name but I guess you could say it's under me. It won't let me do anything, go anywhere I want to go. I'm only here because it wouldn't go where I told it too. And I can hear it trying to think--a task for which it is tremendously ill-equipped I might add."

"I... I don't follow you, Mister Wilson. Why don't you just lay down and let me take a look at you, hmm?"

"Listen, Doc, I'm trying to tell you, it won't obey my commands. I've been trying to get this lummoX to turn around and walk me back to my ship for days but it won't cooperate. When I realized it had brought me to this primitive medical facility I was terrified--I've seen your species' movies--but now I understand it may be my only hope of getting free of this body and going home."

"What is... Mr. Wilson, what is wrong with your hair?" He stepped back in alarm, reaching behind his back for the door knob. Unable to lay his questing fingers upon it he tried to turn his head, but found he was unable to move.

"Don't bother trying to run, Doc," the parasite said, pulling itself to the front of Mr. Wilson's skull, its tendrils pulling out of his brain with a wet slurp. "I can control you from here."

As Wilson's now lifeless body pitched forward, the parasite projected one last, ecstatic thought: "The boys on Tau Ceti were right... the smart ones are definitely easier to tame." (Add the parasite jumping.)

Submit to Weird Tales...

Or Brevity.



# An American in Iberian Peninsula Part Six: An Aquarium in Genoa

By Jeffrey Lu

My first stop before going to my Iberian Peninsula was to go to the birth place of Christopher Columbus, Genoa. When I was there, I met a few old friends and talked about old times and about this area.

Some has mentioned an aquarium. So, I decided to research this and found this on the web:

The Aquarium of Genoa (in Italian: Acquario di Genova) is the largest aquarium in Italy and the second largest in Europe. Built for Genoa Expo '92, the Aquarium of Genoa is an educational, scientific and cultural centre. Its mission is to educate and raise public awareness as regards conservation, management and responsible use of aquatic environments. It welcomes over 1.2 million visitors a year. Control of the entire environment, including the temperature, filtration, and lighting of the tanks was provided by local Automation Supplier Orsi Automazione, acquired in 2001 by Siemens. The Aquarium of Genoa is co-ordinating the AquaRing EU project. It also provides scientific expertise and a great deal of content for AquaRing, including documents, images, academic content and interactive online courses, via its Online Resource Centre.[40]" (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genoa>)

Later, I tried to find anyone to join me for this sightseeing tour. A lady friend of mine told me others have already gone but she would like to come along. So, we went to find this aquarium.

At first, I thought this was a mistake. No big buildings. No large arenas. Just imagine the outside had hodgepodge truck trailers connected up-and-down with side-to-side near the port. The place is suppose to look like a cruise ship. But my English lady friend insisted this was Europe's best aquarium. With great reluctance, I went in and paid the admission.

Within, there were different climate controls for a vast number of animals from penguins to manatees. Some of the tanks had the usual stuff- sharks, dolphins, and penguins. But there were a few things that surprised me.

One seemed to be a tank with a school of contented fish. They stood there with mouths opening and closing. My lady friend ran by the exhibit not knowing what this was. I looked carefully at the exhibit. All of them had a red bottom. With one of my eyebrow lifted, I looked up at the sign near the exhibit. My English companion told me this was

nothing. I stared at her for a moment. I then pointed at one sign, "Amazon." She had a frown on her face. I then pointed the top sign on the window above the tank. Her mouth opened and her eyes were like saucers. The sign said, "Piranha." I later found out the management feed these creatures at night.

Another was a petting pool. Yes, one can pet a fish. Stranger than fiction. To me, the feel of the fish was slimy but it was alive and moving. My lady friend petted hers but this fish seems to be taken by her. It followed her to the rim of the pool.

Next, we went to a small theater. There was a 3-D movie in Italian about fifteen minutes. Not exactly sure what it

was about but there were turtles talking about the ecology systems.

Fourth, there was a hummingbird exhibit that one had to pay extra. Sadly, these birds were afraid of visitors and tried to flee to the deepest box/nest they could find. Being a hummingbird fan, I was disappointed but hope they were not mistreated.

Last, there was a "Finding Nemo" exhibit. This had all the fishes from clowning fish to regal tang. Amazing how small these creatures were.

Overall, I liked it. The different tanks had different waters from Mediterranean to the Caribbeans. I look forward to seeing more aquariums.

*Coming Soon: An American in Iberian Peninsula Part Seven: Malaga, Spain*



## Convention Listings:

**DarkCon** (January 12th-15th) at the Hotel Marriott of Mesa on Centennial Way. Guest of Honor: find the list on DarkCon ad page 8, Cost \$40 or \$50 at the door. Room rates \$109 and hotel sells out fast. Website: <http://www.DarkCon.org>

**LepreCon 38** (April 6-8, 2012) Artist Guest of Honor; Franchesco! Author Guest of Honor, Joe Haldeman; Local Artist GoH, Mark Greenwalt; Gaming GoH, Todd VanHooser; Music Artists GoH, Jeff & Maya Bohnhoff. Website: [www.leprecon.org/lep38](http://www.leprecon.org/lep38) eMail: [lepreconprogramming@yahoo.com](mailto:lepreconprogramming@yahoo.com)

**CopperCon 32** (Aug. 31 - Sept. 3, 2012) Author Guest of Honor; Ari Marmell, Local Author Guest James A. Owen. Cost: \$40 thru August 15, 2012 - More at the door. No checks or credit cards will be accepted at con. Website: [www.coppercon.org](http://www.coppercon.org) eMail: [info@coppercon.org](mailto:info@coppercon.org)

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# 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](mailto: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** - Meet Wednesday, 7:30-10 PM. Encanto Park, 14th Avenue, south of Encanto. Elliot Goldstein, 602-266-4391, e-mail [jugglearts@aol.com](mailto:jugglearts@aol.com), 5535 N. Eleventh Street, Phoenix, AZ 85014; or Timmie Ann Schramm, 602-585-7623, 2326 E. Electra Lane, Phoenix, AZ 85024.

**ARIZONA BROWNGCOATS** - 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/](http://www.lanparty.com/all/)

**AZ 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](mailto:info@arizonaparanormalinvestigations.com) or visit our website at: <http://www.arizonaparanormalinvestigations.com/>

**AZ Corsairs** - "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 Captaim Max - Ambassador, [AZCorsairscptmax@myway.com](mailto:AZCorsairscptmax@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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:info@casfs.org) Web [www.casfs.org](http://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.

**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](http://www.darkones.org)

**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/>.

**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 see what we have coming up. If you have any questions email us at [agatheringofplayers@gmail.com](mailto:agatheringofplayers@gmail.com).

**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 determined. For more information, write PO Box 26665, Tempe, AZ 85285; call Mike Willmoth, 480-945-6890, Email [mwillmoth@earthlink.net](mailto:mwillmoth@earthlink.net) Webpage: [www.leprecon.org](http://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](http://www.mvdghostchasers.com) or [Nazanaza@aol.com](mailto: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.ocsf.org](http://www.ocsf.org) or email [info@ocsf.org](mailto:info@ocsf.org).

**PAReX** - is a non profit organization dedicated to building and promoting Autonomous robotics. The club has been in existence 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](mailto: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.

**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](http://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/](http://games.groups.yahoo.com/group/AZ_RPG/) or you can sign up for games at [www.nyrond.org](http://www.nyrond.org) Or you can just stop by the 1st Sunday of the month. Meeting starts at 10am. Hope to see you there.

**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](mailto:seneschal@atenveldt.com) Web [www.atenveldt.com](http://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](mailto:costumers@casfs.org) or [www.southwestcostumersguild.org](http://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](mailto:Space.Access@Space-Access.org) Web page: [www.space-access.org](http://www.space-access.org).



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**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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:them@themonline.org) Web [www.themonline.org](http://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-FP.org](mailto:Info@U-FP.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](http://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](mailto:feslerbutts22@msn.com).

**WESTERN SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION** - (WesternSFA) A nonprofit corporation that sponsors AniZona, RandomCon, 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](mailto:info@westernsfa.org) Webpage: [www.westernsfa.org](http://www.westernsfa.org).





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