Interview with Jonathan Thomas
Author of Tempting Providence and Other Stories

Jonathan Thomas’s story “Tempting Providence” is included in Black Wings: New Tales of Lovecraftian Horror, edited by S.T. Joshi and nominated for the 2010 Shirley Jackson Edited Anthology Award. Jonathan and Joshi were among the dozens of professional Lovecraftians at MythosCon last January in Phoenix. Between panels and mass book signings, we managed to squeeze in this interview. Jonathan is also a musician who likes to hit things, percussive instruments by choice, but keyboards will do.

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

JT: Skipping around at random?

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CASFS Business Report
CopperCon 30 is now closed. It has paid all of its outstanding obligations and made some money over. CopperCon 31 - Carrie Vaughn has agreed to help with the Short Story Contest. Check the website for timeline, rules and other needed information. M.R. Hildebrant is now our Fan Guest replacing Adam Niswander who had to withdraw for health reasons. CopperCon 32 is now working on an author Guest. Things look good.

ConNotes received one paid subscription.

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

By Laws. At the March Meeting Bob La Pierre’s By-Law amendment submitted at the February Meeting was defeated It was decided to discuss the Office holding attendance requirements for Secretary and Treasurer from 4 out of the last 6 meetings to 2 out of the last 12 meetings and moved the Treasurer’s election to December. Jeff Jennings’ only slightly re-worded version of the amendment was passed at the April meeting. -- Gary Swaty

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About ConNotes: ConNotes is the fan published newsletter of the Central Arizona Speculative Fiction Society (CASFS) an IRS-recognized 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Circulation is estimated at 7,000 readers for this issue, including CASFS members and attendees of recent CASFS conventions.

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What is CASFS? What is really behind putting on a convention? What are the funds used for? Why not attend a meeting and find out? We’re the sponsor of ConNotes, CopperCons, SmarterCons and other conventions. We are a charitable, non-profit organization that exists to further science fiction, fantasy and science fields in Arizona. CASFS currently meets at the Denny’s Restaurant at 2360 W Northern Avenue in Phoenix. The meetings begin at 8PM and are held on the last Friday of the month Jan. through Sept. and on the last second Friday of the month Oct through Dec. Everyone is invited to attend two meetings as a guest (non-member). Membership rates are $12/year plus an initial $3 application fee and rates are pro-rated for the amount of the year remaining. For more info: Website: www.casfs.org E-mail: info@casfs.org
Almost People, the second half of a story begun in The Rebel Flesh in the Doctor Who and company come across a doppleganger/clone work force that starts to go awry. Ending the first block of the season is A Good Man Goes to War in which brings back River Song, Cybermen, Sontarans and likely the Silence. In the Radio Time series preview, Steven Moffat writers show the episodes. Want to find the most dangerous place in the universe? Easy. Harm a hair on Amy’s head and just wait. But as the fast of the Time Lords and the Links hoping galaxies to save the woman in both their lives, history is unfolding. In her cell, in Stormcage, River Song knows the time has come at last. She has a secret, and this is the day she tells it. The battle of Demons Run has begun. And the Doctor’s darkest hour is now.” Needless to say, after that episode, Who fans will be watching the return of the series in the fall.

But, it will be a shorter wait for more Whoniverse action, with Torchwood premiering on the BBC in the UK and on Starz in the US on July 8th. There’s not much specific information about the series released beyond the mainstream coverage of the story taking place on one on Earth dies, and it continues to be like that going forward. Returning in the starring roles are John Barrowman as Captain Jack Harkness and Eve Myles as Gwen Cooper along with Kai Owen as Rhys Williams and Tom Price as PC Andy. New to the series are Michael Pheifer as Rex Matheson, a CIA agent who is investigating the “Miracle” and associated conspiracy and tracks down information on Torchwood.

Bill Pullman is Oswald Danes, a former school teacher and child killer sentenced to death that, you guessed it, doesn’t die when he is executed, making him a celebrity. Alexia Havins is Esther Drummond, a deskbound CIA agent dreaming of active duty that gets more than she imagined when she runs into Jack Harkness and tries to keep him and Gwen. Other actors guest starring include Ernie Hudson, John de Lancie, Wayne Knight, C. Thomas Howell, Lauren Ambrose, Arlen Escarpeta and Lena Kaur. Writing episodes will be Russell T Davies, John Shiban, Doris Egan, Jane Espenson and John Fay. At the Gallifrey One convention in February, Espenson and Egan were both excited about working on the series and thought it was some of the best work they’ve done. After Doctor Who’s first half ends, BBC America will debut Outcasts as the next, new series in their Supernatural Saturdays. It focuses on a group of colonists who have started the colony of Forthaven on Carpathia as Earth has been abandoned by the human race. Led by President Tate (Liam Cunningham) and his core team of Scifi (Hermione Norris), Cass (Daniel Mays) and Fleur (Amy Manson), they’re determined to run the civilization in a democratic way, but some tough decisions in the past may prove divisive. The series opens as they’ve lost contact with Earth and the final transport arrives with Julius Berger (Eric Mabius) and Expeditionaries Mitchell (Jamie Bamber) and Jack (Ashley Walters) go on a mission to explore the new planet and find out what resources there are and if there is other life. BBC America will also start airing repeats of the Battlestar Galactica remake originally seen on SciFi (which BBC America definitely seems to be making a claim for best Science Fiction cable channel).

As of press time, the fall season plans for the broadcast networks have not yet been announced, but a few shows have been renewed in advance of the Up Fronts. FOX has picked up Fringe for a full season order of 22 episodes, while the CW has greenlit additional seasons of The Vampire Diaries and Supernatural. Up in the air are Chuck, The Event, No Ordinary Family and Nikita. New series hoping to be picked up include Wonder Woman (NBC) which is a modern take on the Wonder Woman mythos with David E. Kelley producing, 17th Precinct (NBC) about a precinct in an alternate San Francisco where magic rules over science (created by Ronald D. Moore), Grimm (NBC) where fairy tale creatures live among us, Locke and Key (FOX) based on the IDW comic created by Joe Hill (set in Maine), Charlie’s Angels (ABC) Once Upon a Time (ABC) about a small town in Maine where fairy tales may be real, Poe (ABC) which is a period drama with Edgar Allan Poe as a detective in 1840’s Boston, Secret Circle (CW) based on the books by L. J. Smith about a teen who moves to New Salem, Maine, and discovers she’s from a family of witches, and Awakening (CW) about two sisters who come of age during a Zombie uprising.

Debuting on TNT on Sunday June 19th is Falling Skies, a new series from Dreamworks and executive produced by Steven Spielberg. The series opens six months after a devastating alien attack that has decimated most of the world’s civilization. The few survivors have banded together in pockets of resistance to fight back against the invaders and protect the future. As Earth has been abandoned by the aliens. He is second in command of the 2nd Massachusetts regiment of freedom fighters, putting his knowledge of military history to use as they work to find a way to outsmart the invaders. Moon Bloodgood stars as Alice Glass, a pediatrician working with the surviving children, Will Patton is Weaver, Tom’s commanding officer. A Good Man Goes to War (NBC) about a precinct in San Francisco where fairy tale creatures live among us, Locke and Key (FOX) based on the IDW comic created by Joe Hill (set in Maine), Charlie’s Angels (ABC) Once Upon a Time (ABC) about a small town in Maine where fairy tales may be real, Poe (ABC) which is a period drama with Edgar Allan Poe as a detective in 1840’s Boston, Secret Circle (CW) based on the books by L. J. Smith about a teen who moves to New Salem, Maine, and discovers she’s from a family of witches, and Awakening (CW) about two sisters who come of age during a Zombie uprising. Debuting on TNT on Sunday June 19th is Falling Skies, a new series from Dreamworks and executive produced by Steven Spielberg. The series opens six months after a devastating alien attack that has decimated most of the world’s civilization. The few survivors have banded together in pockets of resistance to fight back against the invaders and protect the future. As Earth has been abandoned by the aliens. He is second in command of the 2nd Massachusetts regiment of freedom fighters, putting his knowledge of military history to use as they work to find a way to outsmart the invaders. Moon Bloodgood stars as Alice Glass, a pediatrician working with the surviving children, Will Patton is Weaver, Tom’s commanding officer.
**SF Tube Talk**

**Cont’d from page 3**

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

Over on Syfy, Monday nights have become the night for their supernatural drama series. *Warehouse 13* just ended its run and *Sanctuary* was moved from Fridays to Mondays at very short notice (and resulting ratings followed due to the earthquake). But do not bode well for the series.

Returning to the channel on Monday July 11th will be *Eureka* and *Warehouse 13* plus the debut of their new drama series, *Alphas*. *Alphas* follows a team of ordinary citizens with extraordinary mental and physical abilities. *Warehouse 13* and *Sanctuary* have not been able, or willing, to solve. These gifted individuals must balance their quirky personalities and disparate backgrounds with their natural, almost superhuman powers as they work to solve crimes, stop the ticking time bomb and catch the enemy. Also starring are *Azita Ghanizada as Rachel Myers, Laura Mennell as Nina Theroux, Malik Yoba as Bill Harken, Ryan Carnwright as Gary Bell, and Warren Christie as Christian Hicks*. *Eureka* returns for the second half of season four (technically season 4.5) and follows on from the first half of the season continuing to deal with the aftermath of the time-changes. Expect to see more of *Wil Wheaton* as Dr. Isaac Parrish, with *Felecia Day* appearing as Dr. Holly Marten and *Aaron Douglas* as Ray Darrow. Also expect to see an appearance by *Stan Lee* at some point.

On *Warehouse 13*, joining the cast will be *Aaron Ashmore* as Steve Jinks, an ATF agent with an incredible ability to detect when someone’s lying. Returning to Friday nights after Wrestling on July 15th will be *Haven*, for which in season two Audrey Parker (Emily Rose) “must not only stay on top of Haven’s many afflictions - which continue to be revealed in every episode - but also solve her most challenging case yet: the secret of her own lost past and its ties to Haven.”

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

**A Conversation**

*Cont’d from page 1*

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

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

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

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

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

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

**JT:** I think my folks unwittingly primed me for horror as a “career” choice. The first movies I can recall my mother taking me to were *Angry Red Planet* and *The Mysterious*, and she read me *The Island of Dr. Moreau* as a bedtime story. And before I was in first grade, my old man tried convincing me Dracula was hiding somewhere upstairs in our house. His idea of a joke, I guess. I don’t know what they were thinking; maybe they wanted to encourage my imagination. I did have some spectacular nightmares, a few of which I can still remember.

**CP:** Your stories are in the mythos, aren’t they? *Journey to Hell*, *The Raven*. The title story is a kind of sequel or riff on “Haunted of the Dark” by Lovecraft; it appeared in the first *Black Wings* volume initially. The others are not so much in the mythos; they stand alone, but after yesterday’s panel I have to think twice before I say whether something is Lovecraftian or not.

**CP:** How did you discover Lovecraft?

**JT:** Through a very common reason; I read *The Dunwich Horror*, *The Dagon*. *The Whisperer in Darkness*, and *The Shadow Over Innsmouth*.

**CP:** Sounds irresistible if you’re ten years old?

**JT:** Oh, yeah!

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

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

**CP:** What drew you to horror literature?

**JT:** Growing up in a haunted house.

**CP:** Are you serious?

**JT:** I’d say it was haunted, yeah.

**CP:** How did things manifest?

**JT:** In my college years, I was suspicious immediately. A lot of 1950s psychotronic trash. It’s not like anybody was using it. It never manifested itself again, but later I learned that my mother had been pregnant and right about that time that was the reason for the room change. One evening I was sitting on my mother’s lap one night, after my bath, and she was trimming my nails. She was around my head, a little more old, not long after the Dracula business. Suddenly I looked up and I saw what looked like a mass of little smoke trails, like feathers almost, kind of vaguely person-like. It was small but small, and slowly drifting into my bedroom. I didn’t panic or anything. I just said, “Look at that! Look at that!” My mother either didn’t see it or pretended not to see it. It never manifested itself again, but later I learned that my mother had been pregnant and right about that had a late miscarriage or my birth. But I was so young, my little brother would have gone to, and that’s why they were trying to put me in the spare room.

**CP:** What else shaped your writing of horror?

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

**CP:** Shows like The Twilight Zone?

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

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

**JT:** It depends on the story.
A Conversation
(Cont’d from page 4)
always try to soft-pedal the gore or violence, unless it really is integral. A certain amount of sex, which is also integral, if it’s something this character would actually be doing, or how the character was using sex. S. T. [Joshi] refers to it as cumulative horror. Though, going back to films, it is more a matter of cultivating atmosphere and actually leading you into something, not just chucking something in your face.

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

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

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

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

CP: What is one aspect of horror?

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

CP: How did you start getting published?

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

CP: What are your latest writings?

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

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

JT: Thank you!

24 Frames

by Jeffrey Lu

Comments:

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

In Production:


Date of release: unknown.

Three Stooges movie is in production. Farrelly Brothers are looking for Moe to cast. So far, Jane Lynch (“Glee”) will be playing Mother Superior in this film. Date of release: unknown.

“The Lone Ranger” by Disney is within reach.

Arnie Hammer and Frances eDORnand are in the film. Date: Summer 2012.

X-Men 4 and 5 are being developed.

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

“Tron 3” is in development.

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

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

“The Magician’s Nephew” is the next Narnia film.

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

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


“Child’s Play” remake by MGM. Release date: unknown.

Paramount Pictures developing Ray Bradbury’s “Martian Chronicles.”

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

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

“Dark Knight Rises” is being filmed in India.

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

June/July 2011 Schedule:

June 2011

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

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

Friday, June 17

Green Lantern [in 3D] (Action/Adventure) Warner Brothers
Mr. Popper’s Penguins (Family Comedy) Fox

Friday, June 24

Cars 2 (Animation) Buena Vista

Friday July 1

Transformers: Dark of the Moon (Sci-fi action) Paramount/Dreamworks

Friday, July 8

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

Friday, July 15

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows [Part Two in 3D] (Fantasy) Warner Brothers

Winnie the Pooh (Animation) Buena Vista

Friday, July 22

Captain America: The First Avenger (Action/Adventure) Paramount

Friday, July 29

Cowboys and Aliens (Sci-fi Action) Universal

The Smurfs [in 3D] (Animation) Sony/Columbia

Rumors:

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

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

Next Star Trek movie in 3D? Maybe.

Todd McFarlane is almost done with a “Spawn” movie script.

(Cont’d on page 6)
An Evening with Stephen Hawking, April 9, 2011, at A.S.U. Gammage Auditorium
by Jeffrey Lu

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

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

On the day of the event, I sat there in the balcony watching first Dr. Hawking at A.S.U. Gammage Auditorium. I would have been in the room with other reporters watching a big screen at A.S.U. Memorial Union in this event. But I declined. I thought I blew my chance in seeing this professor. I missed my chance. Oh, well. Maybe someone else like Steve Jobs.

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

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

I’ll start in my home state this month, Arizona where we have a plethora of local writers. Dennis McKiernan is pleased that since the last time he contributed, he’s finished a new MITHGAR novel, “Stolen Crown.” He sent it and two other manuscripts to his editor: “Shadow Peril” (which is the sequel to “Caverns of Socrates”) and “At the Edge of the Forest” (a paranormal mystery romance), and is awaiting word on which one or more of them. At the moment Dennis is between books and goofing off, mostly engaging in Xbox Live gaming. And Jennifer Roberson is pleased that the third volume in her KARAVANS series is scheduled for August 2012. She is currently writing the first of two new WORD-ANCER novels. It will be out in either late 2012, or early 2013. Then comes the second new WORD-ANCER book, followed by the fourth and final KARAVANS novel. The eight novels of the CHEYSULI and all six of the WORD-DANCER books are available in 2-volume omnibus editions. DAW is working on converting all of her fantasy into e-books for downloading by Kindle, Nook, etc. readers.

Emily Devenport (formerly Lee Hogan, Emily Hogan, and Ma) likes to tell us that she’s writing exclusively as Emily Devenport again. For the full story of why she ended up with triple the name Disorder, check out “And While We’re On The Subject”: http://www.emsjoedeweedr.com/2009/07/and-while-were-on-subject.html. Her new book “Night Shifters,” is now available for Kindle on amazon.com (just look for Emily Devenport).

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

There are several other projects in the wings. If you’re interested in learning more, you should check out her Wednesday Wanderings blog, easily linked to from www. jellyfishskold.com.

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

Hmmmm…which comes next? Illinois or Arkansas? Pretty close to my memory. I guess we’ll stop in Arkansas first to hear from Charline Harris, she of TRUE BLOOD fame. Charline is on tour for the 11th Sookie Stackhouse novel, “Dead Reckoning.” August will see the publication of the fourth anthology she and Toni L.P. Kelner have put together, HOME IMPROVEMENT: UNDEAD EDITION. In September, THE SOOKIE COMPANION will be released. And, she and Christopher Golden going to collaborate on a graphic novel, “Cemetery Girl.” “Why fun? Two of my favorite writers!!!” she said, and then, of course, comes Jody Lynn Nye in Illinois: “Myth-Quoted,” the next in the MYTH-ADVENTURES series, turned in last February. (Skeeve and Bunny are trying to get two candidates in the dimension of Tipicano to agree on a date for Voting Day, even though the election has been in operation for five long years. They need a catalyst to get things going -- and who better than Aahz?) At the moment, Jody is working on the fourth book in Robert Asprin’s DRAGON’S series, for Ace Books. “Dragons Deal” came out in December 2010. After that she goes in another direction to work on the next MYTH-ADVENTURES. Her latest novel,
Donato was the lucky artist who designed and painted both stamps, celebrating the 50th anniversary of Alan Shepard’s flight as the first American in space back on May 5, 1961. A bit of press has followed this event, with mentions in the NY Times Blogs, an article in the Daily News, and a short interview on the local TV station, NY1. As you can imagine, Donato was thrilled and honored to be a part of this, the first issue of USPS space related stamps in nearly a decade. More info at: http://www.donatoart.com/news.html

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

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

A sidestep over to Minnesota to see MaryJanice Davidson who just finished another round of edits for the second in her FBI-agent-with-multiple-personality-disorder heroine (yes, she describes her just like that, and it takes for-EVER). So boy-oh-boy is MaryJanice sick of writing about government employees under psychiatric care who carry sidearms. “Normally the thought of something so silly, yet intriguing, would bring a smile to my face and a guffaw to my lungs...no, wait, my lips. But normally I’m not so jaded on a book that I’ve gotta go through this whole mess inside from all the necessary edits. Yep; “Yours, Mine and Ours” is as technically perfect as my editor and I can make it, and I’m definitely dead inside now. But! When it hits shelves this winter I should be able to bear the sight of it once again (it helps that I really, really love the cover). A good thing, too, since my publisher is sending me on the road to sing for my supper. Yes: not only am I tooting more books on unsuspecting readers this year, I’m also gonna be coming to (some of) your cities and yakking about said books until you’re sorry you wasted even a fifth of a tank of gas to come to my book signing. Ha! Let that be a lesson to you: if you insist on buying my book there’s always the chance my publisher will send me to the city in which you reside. So never, ever say you weren’t warned. “All this to say the next BOFFO (Bureau of False Flag Ops) book will be out in a few months, preceded by “Undead and Undermined” (July 2011), and “Evangelia Scales” (August 2011), the werewoman series she writes with her husband. Sample chapters can be found on her Facebook page. But if you’d rather plunk down $21.99 for the whole thing, she has no objection. At all! And she apologizes in advance for the gas you’re going to waste.

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

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

~ Catherine Book ~

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

CONSERVATION

BOOK DISCUSSION

Bookmans Phoenix
8034 North 19th Ave., Phoenix
3rd Tuesdays, 7pm,
in the Community Room
Sponsored by Central Arizona Speculative Fiction Society (CASFS)
email questions to book@casfs.org

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

June 21 - Neuromancer by William Gibson
July 19 - Nebula Award Showcase 2003 edited by Nancy Kress
August 16 - The Late offHeaven by Ursula K Le Guin
September 20 - Signal to Noise by Eric Nylund
October 18 - The Man with the Golden Tore by Simon Green
November 15 - Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep by Philip K Dick

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUPS

Science Fiction Book Club
Borders in Glendale
4th Wednesdays
Maricopa County Library Northwest
Regional Branch
16089 N Bullard
Surprise AZ
4th Tuesday at 6:30pm
June 28 - Minority Report by Philip K Dick

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

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

HUGO AWARD NOMINATIONS

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

Some of the nominees are:
Best Novel
Blackout/All Clear by Connie Willis
Cryoburn by Lois McMaster Bujold
The Dervish House by Ian McDonald
Feed by Mira Grant
The Hundred Thousand Kingdoms by N.K. Jemisin

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

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

Best Professional Artist
Daniel Dos Santos
Bob Eggleston
Stephan Martiniere
John Picacio
Bob Eggleton
Daniel Dos Santos

AUTHOR SIGNINGS

Aprillyne Pike
Poisoned Pen Bookstore
June 15, 7pm
James Rollins
Poisoned Pen Bookstore
June 29, 7pm
Diana Gabaldon
Poisoned Pen Bookstore July 11, 7pm (20th Anniversary of “Outlander”)
Douglas Preston
Poisoned Pen Bookstore Aug 6, 7p,pm

SPECIAL BOOK RELEASES

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

Cemetery Dance Publications
“Winged Things” by Thomas Tessier.
“The Mailman” by Bentley Little.
“Brides of the Impaler” by Edward Lee.

Edge SF & F Publishing/Tesseract Books
“Those Who Fight Monsters” ed. Justin Gustainis
“The Demon Left Behind” by Marie Jakober

PS Publishing
“Gravity Dreams” by Stephen Baxter
“Terra Damnata” by James Cooper
“One Who Disappeared” by James Herter

PYR Publishing
“The Goblin Corps” by Ari Marmell
“Fucking the War” by George Mann
“The Falling Machine” by Andrew P. Mayer

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

GAMING & COMIC EVENTS

DRAWN TO COMICS

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

GAME DEPT

HeroClix. Wed. 5:45pm-8pm
D&D Encounters. Wed. 6pm-9pm
Magic, The Gathering. Thurs. 6pm.
Open Game Day. Fridays all day
Magic Game Day June 11 at noon
Warhammer Fantasy Tournament June 25, 11am

GAMER'S INN

Magic Game Day June 11
WarMachine Wrath tournament (call for details) June 25, 2pm
War Machine Wrath Release Event June 25, 6pm
Magic the Gathering M12 pre-release July 9, 10am
Magic the Gathering M12 release event July 15, 6pm
Check website for upcoming events

IMPERIAL OUTPOST GAMES

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

SAMURAI COMICS

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

BOOKMARKS - ISA ROAD TUCSON
Week of Games with 9 Queens and ODDMAU plus others
June 7-11 at 10am

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

A Settlers of Catan Night. Thurs 6pm

SCIENCE EVENTS

ARIZONA SCIENCE CENTER

Summer Camps: Discover & Invention (ages 6-11). All Star Science (ages 10-12) Saturday Science program. Loads of topics from nanotechnology to dissection of human organs to astronomy
BioBuzz Family Series, family friendly short talks in bioscience. 3rd Saturdays, 1:45pm
Science Café informal discussions with ASU Professors, see webpage for topics and dates. 5:30pm
BioTech Talks. 2nd Wed, 5:45pm
September – March.
Ongoing Exhibits:
The Walton Optimal Neurological Discovery Education & Research Center
All About Me Gallery, interactive exhibit on human body
Dorrance Planetarium
Evans Family Skyelope
My Digital Worlds
Forces of Nature
Rock Wall for climbers aged 8 and above
Solarirov– solar energy
Adults Night Out, 1st Fridays, check website for topics & time.

ASU
Science lectures and newshttp://beyondasu.edu/Events/about events.php

CHALLENGER SPACE CENTER, PHOENIX

Stargazing. Starlab Planetarium. Check website for dates and times
Space Place events for Future Astronauts. Check website for event dates & times. Understanding the Nature of Light, 1st Saturdays.
Columbia Shuttle Memorial Display
ASU Meteorite Exhibit
Iridium Satellite Model
Atlantis Space Shuttle Model
Journey Through Space Program
Lowell Observatory Display

MOON SOCIETY MEETING

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

PIMA AIR & SPACE MUSEUM, TUCSON

Rockets: Science of Energy & Motion. Jun 11, Jul 9, Aug 13, 1pm Volunteer Presentation Series. Sep 17, 10am
Model Airplane. For kids. Jun 4, Jul 2, Aug 6, 1pm Volunteer Orientation. Jun 11, Jul 9, 9:30am
Nightwings. Jun 25, Jul 23, Aug 27, 5pm Space Gallery exhibit. See an Apollo space capsule, meet a space shuttle, Phoenix Mars Mission...

SETI INSTITUTE

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

CONT'D ON PAGE 9
FYI (Cont’d from page 8)

TITAN MISSILE MUSEUM

Titan Missile Museum Tours.
Reservations only. One hour guided tours. Top-to-bottom tours (5 hours) The only publicly accessible Titan II missile site in the nation. Tour the underground missile site. See the 3-ton blast doors, 8’ thick silo walls and an actual Titan II missile in the launch duct. Visit the launch control center, experience a simulated launch, and more. Top to Bottom Tours: check website for dates in 2011 Titan Overnight Experience – spend the night in the crew quarters. Check website for details.

Moonlight Madness tours
Field trips to Titan II’s missile site ruins

OTHER GENRE-RELATED EVENTS

BOOKMARKS, PHOENIX

Zombie Research Society Public Meeting. Jun 18, 11am
Summer kids event – Star Wars storyline & events. Jun 23, 1pm
Summer kids event – Pirate Party! Jul 21, 1pm-230pm

BOOKMARKS, MESA

Summer kids event – Outer Space theme. June 22, 1pm
Summer kids event – Comic Booked! Special surprise guest July 13, 1pm

BOOKMARKS, INA ROAD, TUCSON

Superhero week – training, costumes & photos. Jun 26-30, 10am

DEVASTATION 2011 – Gaming Tournament & Convention

October 7-9, Phoenix Convention Center

LOFT THEATRE, TUCSON

Screenings of movies, many SF genre. Check website for times and listings.

MACDAP THEATRE

Check website for listing.

4th ANNUAL TUCSON COMIC-CON

Nov 5 & 6 at the Bookmarks Event Center

Check web sites or contact stores for more info.

Game Depot, 480-966-4727
http://www.aazchallenger.org
http://www.gaszscience.org
http://www.bookmans.com
http://www.borders.com/storelocator/storelocator.aspx?
http://www.cemeterrydance.com
http://www.devastationevent.com/
http://www.draftcomicon.com
http://www.edgewebsite.com
http://www.gamersmaniaz.com
http://www.imperialoutpost.com
http://www.illusionbeer.com
http://www.loflicinema.com/showtimes
http://madcaptheaters.com/
http://www.pirata.com
http://www.poisonedpen.com
http://www.epubworld.com
http://www.psyx.com/catalog.html
http://www.titanmissilemuseum.org/
http://tucsoncomic-con.com/

ConClusion

Con Nichiwa
March 25-27, 2011
Tucson AZ

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

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

Being An April Fool: A Wonderful Way To Walk at the 25th anniversary of WonderCon

April 1-3, 2011

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

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

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

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

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

I had gone to see a panel “Behind the Music with C3WP: Sci-Fi, Horror and Fantasy Film TV Composers. They had composers from Pushing Daises, True Blood, Glee, V, Scream 4, and 24. To sum it up, they were all amazing in how they got into their music business.

After, I planned to see some comic book artists. But no. Not going to happen. Why? Two friends of mine convinced me to wait in line for the new Green Lantern movie. I had to be there two hours and a half early...

I swallowed my pride and waited in a line around the convention center. In retrospect, I will find this a bonus: this will be my first time going to see movie/TV previews. I later will also find that bone had meat.

Within a half hour, the line moved into a large ballroom. There was a showing of new T.V. series, Falling Skies. Later, a new episode of Nikita. At first, I was not a big fan but after the episode, I was pretty much hooked. I can’t wait to see this new version. Really good.

Now, the main event. Saturday Ryan Reynolds (Hal Jordon) and Blake Lively (Carol Ferris) were there answering questions from the audience. Interestingly to note that Ryan Reynolds (Hal Jordon) and Blake Lively was all computerized. Cool stuff.

Mental note to self: Will need to go to these events from now on. After the event, I noticed I still had a short time to get to one artist/one writer panel of that April 1st day.


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

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

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

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

After, I went around the market. Picked up a few things. One was Hellboy Mask with one eye blind. Another was a fan of Logan Lerman. The Charity Auction was entertainingly of his life and career

ConNichiwa. ~~

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http://www.cemeterrydance.com
http://www.devastationevent.com/
http://www.draftcomicon.com
http://www.edgewebsite.com
http://www.gamersmaniaz.com
http://www.imperialoutpost.com
http://www.illusionbeer.com
http://www.loflicinema.com/showtimes
http://madcaptheaters.com/
http://www.pirata.com
http://www.poisonedpen.com
http://www.epubworld.com
http://www.psyx.com/catalog.html
http://www.titanmissilemuseum.org/
http://tucsoncomic-con.com/
Rocky and his Friends had a long history of conflict with censors. No, let me amend that, Jay Ward had a long history of conflict with censors. He conflicts with the sponsors, the sponsors advertising agency, the television networks, and sometimes with so-called “Guardians of Morality” but seldom did he have any conflicts with his viewers.

General Mills and their ad agency had issues with the foreign accents and historical figures in “Peabody’s Improbable History”, and “Fractured Fairy Tales.” An early example was the “FFT” episode entitled “Beauty and the Beast.” The ad agency objected that the Beast was licentious and using subterfuge to ensnare women into kissing him in order to transform him back into a handsome prince. The agency’s primary problem was with the episodes payoff, the beast was neither once handsome nor was his history. The ad agency felt the material was far too adult for a cartoon. After many conversations, Ward won out. An early Rocky show had a title which worried the ad agency, “Canoe’s Who,” or “Look Before You Leak” as the narrator spoke the title, with the second title being the one the agency wanted changed. Initially capitulating with the title changed to “The Vulgar Boatman,” Ward decided to embarrass the agency by questioning their dirty minds, pointing out that the opening titles clearly showed a leaking canoe. A compromise was reached when the complete original title was restored with the audio fading out on the second figure.

The ad agency was often concerned about how Ward poked fun at other nations. In one note to Ward concerning the “Peabody” script about “Louis Pasteur” they said, “Episodes like this one and Alfred Nobel scare the living hell out of us. Over the years these guys have been built up as prestige figures and national heroes. We can hear the phone ringing right now from the French Embassy complaining about our making a comic strip figure of their boy Pasture.” The agency feared action by the NAACP when Africa was involved in a script and worried about a diaper tie-in to the Spanish flag. The “Red Riding Hood” episode of “Fractured Fairy Tales” elicited this response: “Red’s Greek accent . . . might offend people of Greek nationality.” However, the ad agency was not the group gets lost until Natasha says, “Great Spirit say we go this way,” where they then fall down the mountain-side. Miffed at Natasha, Boris says, “Great Spirit goofed!” That line offends the conservative, religious leader of General Mills, sparking a heated discussion between the sponsor, the ad-agency, and Jay Ward. Feeling that Ward was mocking the Native American’s “highest deity,” Ward was put on notice and the ad-agency scanned future scripts with greater scrutiny. When the “Peabody” script for “Robinson Crusoe” spoke of “fish on Friday,” the agency feared offending Catholic viewers.

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

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

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

Children weren’t the only concern of the censors. McKenna of ABC had this to say about the “Peabody” episode about “George Armstrong Custer”: “There are an awful lot of arrows protruding from the back and an awful lot of soldiers in this episode. Though the bit is intended for laughs, don’t forget how many parents feel about unnecessary violence in children’s shows.”

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

Come back next time for “Up, Upsisaidusium and Away.”

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

Screening Room

Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides
Starring: Johnny Depp, Ian McShane, Penelope Cruz
Director: Rob Marshall
Rated: PG-13
Running Time: 137 minutes
Jerry Bruckheimer Films, Walt Disney Pictures
Distributed by: Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures
Release Date: May 20th, 2011
Reviewed by Bob Lapierre, ConNotes Film Critic

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

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

Sparrow is checking out rumors that “Jack Sparrow” is recruiting a crew for a ship and finds Angelica (Penelope Cruz) impersonating him. He is quicky shanghaied and wakes to find himself on de Leon’s ship, a ship lost 200 years ago. That sends them looking. The English want it if for no other reason than to deny it to the Spanish. Blackbeard (Ian McShane) is looking for it because he has been told he will die soon. And Jack Sparrow (Johnny Depp) has been looking for it for years.

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**The Avengers**

Tom Hiddleston, Natalie Portman, Stan Lee, Kenneth Branagh, for the movie review.

**Director:** Kenneth Branagh  
**Open Date:** May 6, 2011

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

In this movie, Thor (Chris Hemsworth) has banished to Earth by Odin All-Father, god and king of Asgard, to temper Thor’s arrogance, aggressiveness, and cockiness into qualities more worthy of a future king. Natalie Portman plays Jane Foster, the scientist who keeps slamming into Thor’s character as impulsive, self-centered, and careless, as his sensibilities. She is one of several related Marvel Comics films being released this summer that follow up the groundwork of the Iron Man movie. Thor of the Iron Man II, Captain America, and possibly The Green Lantern are all building up to The Avengers.

When all her equipment and records are confiscated by S.H.I.E.L.D., a pissed-off Jane agrees to help Thor penetrate the perimeter S.H.I.E.L.D. has erected with her research gear-laden van. (Tom Hiddleston) is the subdued, stone-like, as a test and a device.

Michael Straszinski wrote the story for the film (not the script), which probably explains the ambiguity and passion of Loki’s character. Nobody renders ostensible villains sympathetic so well as The Man behind Babyilon 5. In reward, Straszinski wangled a cameo role for himself as a hopeful youngster who tries to lift Mjolnir. Stan Lee’s cameo is in the same scene, and he looks positively gleeful. It’s moments like these that make Marvel movies fun.

Kenneth Branagh did an outstanding job directing, showing his skill with ensemble, character-based acting, and visually appealing. His directing is a young man’s directorial debut. This one is a must-see. The 3-D option is nice, but not part of essential viewing. ~ Chris Paige

**HOP**

**Starring:** James Marsden, Russell Brand, Gary Cole, David Hasselhoff  
**Running Time:** 89 minutes  
**Rated:** PG  
**Director:** Tim Hill  
**Open Date:** April 1, 2011

In the non-European realm of film-making, parallel story lines intersect in Hop as E.B., the Easter Bunny-in-training is a disappointment to his dad, the Easter Bunny, because he’d rather play drums than supervise the rainbow colored operations of producing and delivering confections for Easter. At the same time, Fred Ohare is a disappointment to his dad, and his entire family, because at age 28 he still lives at home and does nothing to contribute to the family coffers or social prestige. And his slacker status is actually the Easter Bunny’s fault, for ever since age eight, when he caught a glimpse of the magic of Easter, Fred has longed for something more glorious than the mundane world has to offer.

E.B. runs away to LA in search of glory and freedom, only to find that freedom entails tired feet, an empty stomach, and a complete absence of shelter. When Hugh Hefner refuses to admit him as their drummer, Mr. E.B. is too disparited to avoid being hit by a car, and so he enters Fred’s life.

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

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

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

In reward, Straszinski wangled a cameo role for himself as a cheerful-faced trucker who tries to put it out of its misery, he ran over beyond an initial attempt to put it out of its misery, but Fred too is essentially kind, and the importunate E.B. prevails upon his sensibilities.

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

**The Costume Closet**

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

**How to Make an American Tribal Style Hip Scarf** by Nyki Robertson

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

**STEP ONE: Choose Fabric**

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

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

**STEP TWO: Measurements**

A.) Measure side-to-side across back and add seam allowance.  
B.) Measure side to center front on each side, add seam allowance. (If lacing on each side of center front for closure, measure up to where lacing is to be.)

**STEP THREE: Choose Shape/Style**

A.) The “V”, fold material for back in half, use fold for center back, which is the bottom (Cont’d on page 13)
ConNotations

Of the “V”. Cut the “V” as dramatic or shallow as desired. Cut while material is folded so that each side is equal.

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

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

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

E.) Use your imagination for other shapes.

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

STEP FOUR: Construct and Fit
A.) Embroidery
1.) Use regular floss, fancy floss, metallics, heavier weight flosses up to, yes, even yarn. Use separately or mix different weights for texture effects.

2.) Pattern: Remember, in Islam, they used mostly geometrics and florals since the depiction of human or even animal forms would be considered idolatry. A.) Pick a pattern off the fabric and follow it. B.) Do a geometric design. C.) Draw on a floral pattern.

D.) Do some Celtic Knot work.
E.) Mix-n-match, again, your imagination is your limit.

B.) Beads and Coins
1.) Use different size beads for effect. Same pattern ideas as for embroidery.

2.) Coins:
A.) Buy the cheapie metal ones (yucky!) B.) Buy foreign coins and punch holes in them (keep in mind; it is a violation of Federal Law to deface American money-so don’t go punching holes in them!) C.) Use misc. metal pieces that will “jingle” together in a way you like when they knock together.

C.) Sequins
1.) Flat actually period and somewhere in my house I DO have documentation for them! 2.) Faceted Not “period” (for S.C.A., Inc) but still, very pretty and shiny!

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

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

F.) FRINGE!! (Trust me on this one: if you are going to use fringe, attach the lining BEFORE you do the fringe!) 2.) Beaded: either buy it pre-beaded (usually in Home Decor area) or make your own (prove your insanity! It's possible, but requires much patience!)

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

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

1.) Tassels come in various colors, sizes and styles in the Home Decor section, but can be fairly pricey. 2.) Make your own! Quite easy, actually: A.) Cut a piece of card board the length you want your tassel. B.) Wrap your yarn or floss around the cardboard until it is the thickness you desire. C.) Insert a length of string through one end and tie tightly. This is the top of the tassel. D.) Cut through the loops at the bottom of the tassel to release them. E.) Wrap a section 1 or 2" from the top. Wrap with either the same string used to make tassel body or use a complimentary (or even contrasting) color.

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

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

STEP SIX: Finishing
A.) If lining has not been attached yet, please do so now. B.) Attach hooks and eyes, or grommets if lacing.

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

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

And yes, folks, it really is that easy!

Created by Nyki Robertson, Updated on April 28, 2011

In Our Book

A Discovery of Witches by Deborah Harkness

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

(Cont’d on page 14)
are intriguing. She finds herself increasingly attracted to one debonair vampire and begins a relationship. The other witches are horrified and attempt to control her. She’s warned repeatedly that the relationship won’t be tolerated but she doesn’t believe they can affect her.

She attempts to discover the significance of the book and while doing so, learns more about the other two species. There is more Plot ideas than are pulled off, but vampires do genetic research, and many creative geniuses have been daemons. There is little resolved in this book which may make you curious about this trilogy. The writing is technically proficient, the plot could use a bit more tightening up. The main characters are pretty well-defined but the supporting characters are shallow. Overall, the plot ideas have grabbed my imagination and I think I’ll have to see how they are resolved.

--- Catherine Book

**Dead Reckoning**
by Charlaine Harris
Ace, $27.95, 325pp

A new Sookie Stackhouse novel! Oh yeah!!

And of course, more fun than a coffin full of lusty vampires like to be turned.

Sookie’s one-eighth fairy heritage is the consistent plot point in this tale. She finds out a lot about her fae relations. Fairies Claude and Dermot are in and out of her desire; constant Eric (owner of Fangtasia) is still her lover/husband. At least for half of the novel. And Bill Compton is still out there in the woods (along with our dear Bubba). And to really stir things up, she finds a hidden and revealing letter from her grandmother and a fairy love token called a cluelor dor hidden in an old desk. She’s about to sell to antique store.

Buff Viking Eric (and just about every other vampire in Louisiana) have had it with the high-handed Victor who runs vampire life as the King of Nevada’s regent. Victor really hates Eric and his vampires, even though Eric is officially Victor’s Sheriff. He’s made life miserable for everyone, including Sam, the owner of Merlotte’s. Victor has set up competition in the form of his own bar, Vic’s Redneck Roadhouse and it’s sucking the life out of Merlotte’s, as it were. What adds to the problem is that the were-wolves (were panthers, were bears, etc) who are two-natured like Sookie’s friends Alcide and his clan and even Sookie’s brother Jason have come out of the woods and told the world about their existence. They were hoping that the human population would accept them grudgingly as they sort of have the vampires. But one more group of supernaturals added to the vampire population has made a lot of the locals in Bon Temps really uneasy. The crowds at Merlotte’s are thin and Sam is losing money.

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

Sookie, as you can imagine, really wants her life to quiet down. But of course—it’s still entertainingly frantic and curious world where vampires do make. And fending off attacks set up by Pelt. There’s also a climatic confrontation with Victor and his crew at Vic’s Roadhouse and bodies everywhere. Sookie also gets an unexpected visit from the demon lawyer Desmond Cataliades near the end who reveals to Sookie some very interesting facts about her family.

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

Why wait for it to come out in paperback?

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

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

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

This story takes place in the middle of the 13th century in the Kingdom of Bohemia. Racozgy, the Count Saint-Gemain has been exiled from his home country because the ruling King, Bela of Hungary, fears replacement of his ruling party from Saint-Germain’s subjects. Racozgy is under severe restrictions while in King Bela’s granddaughter’s court in Bohemia. He is ordered to keep Kunigunde supplied with precious gems while enduring the scrutiny of the Church and the many spies in his own household. While this isn’t that glamorous of a task, his worst danger comes from a woman of the court who desires him and will not accept no for any answer. Her threats of crying efficiency would make the Count into doing her bidding. Unfortunately for him, what she gains from their sexual trysts is not sufficient for his sustenance. He is also blackmailed by a young woman desperate to experience physical love before she is married off to an unpleasant man.

Fortunately, these encounters are much more satisfying for Saint-Germain. But over all the events, the burning question for Raccozy, and his lifelong friend, Rographer, is how can Rographer himself break dangerous court and leave without putting his countrymen at risk for his actions.

As I’d said before, it’s just another chapter in his life with little difference from many of her other stories. I was bothered by the idea that both of these women had lain with Saint-Germain enough to be turned. But I remain a perennial optimist when it comes to our Count. --- Catherine Book.

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

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

Andrew Harlan is a technician, one of the few men in eternity that actually makes the changes to keep humanity safe. He has no friends as his job is considered distasteful by everyone else. His hobby is ancient history (pre-2300). Harlan is sent to observe the 482nd century (48,200 AD) and meets a woman that changes his world and challenges his perceptions of the world and eternity. The story is well-written and keeps the reader entranced. The bluffs on the book call it his best, I wouldn’t go that far but it is one of his top ten.

Highly Recommended --- Bob LaPierre

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( Cont’d on page 15 )
**In Our Book**

(Cont’d from page 14)

**Central Park Knight**

by C. J. Henderson

Tor Book, $15.99, 350 pp

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

We get to see our future hero in action. All around New York City and its environs, groups of** young people** and their mounts are protecting society from the threat of **greatly enhanced** dragons, and the option of an alliance rivals the threat of mutual dominance, and the option of an alliance rivals the threat of mutual destruction. But C. J. Henderson, a director at the Brooklyn Museum, has prepared his own creative weapon of defense against this consuming horror, based on some words by Balzac. I guess you’d have to say, this guy’s got Balz.

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

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

**Seduce Me in Dreams**

by Jacqulyn Frank

Ballantine Books, $7.99, 342pp

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

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

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

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

While recuperating, Trick inadvertently discovers that their team was sent on a false mission and the trail points to the Interplanetary Militia’s Admiral Juluren.

But why has this admiral has it out for their’s team, none of them know. And before they can do much digging, they are sent back out to Tari again on an urgent mission. A mission they are sure is another threat to their communications man, Trick.

While dealing with the raid they make on a desert outpost, Bronse finds himself in underground caverns where he discovers a cave of his dreams.

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

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

Before the bad guys can confront them the ETF team escapes the mission and finds the hidden outpost at the Interplanetary Militia space station where Bronse and his team hope to convince the good guys to save the Chosen Ones. Can the team rescue them? Or will the destination be too tedious, and enough description of the horrific creatures of the island to keep me awake at night, there was also enough exposition. Where was the interesting and the characters sufficiently fleshed-out.

The author spent a great deal of the book describing this ecosystem and its inhabitants – to the story’s usual, is excellent. The dramatic problems that writers fall into when they become enamored with an idea, is that they forget they need to tell the story, as well. Where was the interesting and the characters sufficiently fleshed-out. The author spent a great deal of the book describing this ecosystem and its inhabitants – to the story’s usual, is excellent. The dramatic problems that writers fall into when they become enamored with an idea, is that they forget they need to tell the story, as well. Where was the interesting and the characters sufficiently fleshed-out.

The conclusion is to re-examine the book describing this ecosystem and its inhabitants – to the story’s usual, is excellent. The dramatic problems that writers fall into when they become enamored with an idea, is that they forget they need to tell the story, as well. Where was the interesting and the characters sufficiently fleshed-out. The author spent a great deal of the book describing this ecosystem and its inhabitants – to the story’s usual, is excellent. The dramatic problems that writers fall into when they become enamored with an idea, is that they forget they need to tell the story, as well. Where was the interesting and the characters sufficiently fleshed-out.

This is a very good debut book. It holds the fascinating premise that an entirely different ecosystem could have evolved on Earth without interacting with any other ecosystem. A small island somewhere in the center of the Pacific Ocean, a thousand miles from anything, is the setting for this story.

A splinter of an extinct ecosystem of crustaceans survived on this island and continues to evolve without the interference of mammals, birds or insects. What would such an ecosystem look like after millions of years? Would it be possible for intelligent life to have arisen? These were obviously the questions that intrigued the author.

The story begins with a reality TV show crew answering a distress call to an uncharted island. Their enthusiasm to explore the island, with no caution, results in a massacre. The military shows up, proves it’s them with their protagonist, a botanist from the TV show crew, try to understand what this island means to our own existence. And the conclusion is: disaster and extinction of all life and mysterious disappearance of Nairn. As he goes half-heartedly digging into the documents of the past, he begins to see alarming evidence that suggests something is present. Long ago, events and confrontations culminated in a disastrous contest between bards; now a charismatic musician is rising to disrupt the old life and calling for a contest, open to all, to determine who shall be the next royal bard.

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

Some of the characterizations are a delight, especially that of Prince Beatrice, a reclusive archeological digs to court parties, and tends to thrudge through gala events in mud-spattered dungarees en route to her room. The irate TV show crew back her off to more genteel surroundings; fortunately, her father is sympathetic, and enthuses over her discovery.

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

**Trolls in the Hamptons**

by Celia Jerome

DAW, $7.99, 320pp

Willof “Willy” Tate is a writer/illustrator of graphic novels who worries about and is afraid of almost everything, though she does have a fantasy life anyway. On a typical afternoon she is planning a new story and draws out the story board for her new idea - a hero troll. Things take a wrong turn when the troll she drew for her story comes walking down the street outside her Manhattan apartment, only no one knows who Willy is or what she’s up to. Not even Willy knows what she’s up to. Not even Willy knows what she’s up to. Not even Willy knows what she’s up to.

The Department of Unexplained Events or D.E.U., becomes involved in the search for a stolen child from another world and finds out the people of her hometown are much more than they seem.

(Cont’d on page 16)
This was a delightful start to a series. I could not put it down until I had finished. Luckily I have the second book, Night Mares in the Hamptons, on my to-read pile. Highly recommended! ~~~

**Stephanie L Bannan**

### Teasing Providence

by Jonathan Thomas

**Hippocampus Press, $20.00, 261 PP**

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

The title story, for example, is about a photographer named Justin, who takes pictures of places and buildings just in time, before they are demolished or zoned for destruction. He lives out a precarious living, having turned his back on the 40-hour work week route, thus teasing Providence in one sense. When he returns to Providence to display some of his work at his alma mater’s art gallery, he finds himself lured by recollections of the nineties, and then, inexplicably, by glimpses of Lovecraft himself. Now a dream-Providence is teasing him. Gradually, he deduces the presence of a future witness no more than a revenant himself.

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

“Into Your Tenement I’ll Creep” is horror with a side of irony. “Power of Midnight” is about a photographer named Bailey, who is caught in a mirror. Since they typically look into the eyes of the vampire paramour in a magic mirror. When his young son is being bullied, or DUE will be coming to take care of both the other dimension where he belongs so Grant will not be coming to help. Instead he says a bunch of jocks come down to help contact the magical Department of Unexplained Events coming to help. Instead he says a cowboy dimension. And what a cowboy.

Willy is trying to get back to normal but it is hard considering she is still staying in her mother’s house in Paumanok Harbor while trying to figure out if she really should marry Grant, the dashing British agent, who turned out to not only be rich but also with an estate and title! Continuing her problems is the violence sweeping the town, depression, anger, fights and insomnia. People begin to go crazy about what they have bought and bring a wave of sadness and rage and then disappear from sight. Willy contacts Grant for help but he is about to go off on an expedition to see a Yeti back to the other dimension where he belongs so Grant will not be coming to help. Instead he says a famous horse whisperer from the town to help contacts the Department of Unexplained Events or DUE will be coming to take care of the problem. As they bicker a bit on the phone, Willy breaks her engagement to Grant feeling she doesn’t know who to trust. Meanwhile, the mares are searching for instead of trying to find the mares. As her link with the hurt and frightened Christine is captured by the vampires and he is sure they mean to harm them. When his father is killed by government agents and the official story comes to him he becomes shellen and withdrawn. He is seen by others as an object of scorn and ridicule and is involved in almost constant fighting.

Then he discovers the truth: monsters are real and his dad was killed because of them. His mom is captured by the vampires and he tries to find her. He is called by the mysterious department nineteen and by Frankenstein. Frankenstein has been involved with the department for a long time and house in Paumanok Harbor while trying to find the mares. As her link with the hurt and frightened Christine is captured by the vampires and he is sure they mean to harm them. When his father is killed by government agents and the official story comes to him he becomes shellen and withdrawn. He is seen by others as an object of scorn and ridicule and is involved in almost constant fighting.

Nightmares in the Hamptons

by Celia Jerome

**DAW, $7.99, 320pp**

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

Willy is trying to get back to normal but it is hard considering she is still staying in her mother’s house in Paumanok Harbor while trying to figure out if she really should marry Grant, the dashing British agent, who turned out to not only be rich but also with an estate and title! Continuing her problems is the violence sweeping the town, depression, anger, fights and insomnia. People begin to go crazy about what they have bought and bring a wave of sadness and rage and then disappear from sight. Willy contacts Grant for help but he is about to go off on an expedition to see a Yeti back to the other dimension where he belongs so Grant will not be coming to help. Instead he says a famous horse whisperer from the town to help contacts the Department of Unexplained Events or DUE will be coming to take care of the problem. As they bicker a bit on the phone, Willy breaks her engagement to Grant feeling she doesn’t know who to trust. Meanwhile, the mares are searching for instead of trying to find the mares. As her link with the hurt and frightened Christine is captured by the vampires and he is sure they mean to harm them. When his father is killed by government agents and the official story comes to him he becomes shellen and withdrawn. He is seen by others as an object of scorn and ridicule and is involved in almost constant fighting.

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In Our Book

(Cont’d from page 16)

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

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

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

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

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

Haden is struggling to find balance between two worlds. (Yes—just like Edward Cullen but better not be that he’s a vampire with glittery skin.)

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

So the struggle of these two to keep the other at arm’s length though burning to be together obviously adds a great deal of tension to the story.

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

And of course—all hell does break loose.

But the tale has a very satisfying ending... for a book which is likely to be just one of several between these two star-crossed lovers.

All of the novel’s characters are enough off-center to be engaging. I look forward to more. —Sue Martin

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

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

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

Jack Holloway is an independently contracted prospector on Zaracorp XXIII, a comet world with enough valuable raw materials to make a man rich if he is skilled, careful, and lucky; otherwise, he might wind up dead or just broke and path. After his latest.jupiter... and the source of all human nightmares.

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Connotations Volume 21 Issue 3

In Our Book

(Cont’d from page 17)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Highly Recommended. ~ Bob LaPierre

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

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

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

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

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

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

Satori is a prequel to Tranian Asterion, of which Moon Over Soho
by Ben Aaronovitch
Del Rey, $7.99, 288 pp

Moon Over Soho is by the author of Midnight Riot

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

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

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

The Sorcerer’s House by Gene Wolfe
Tor, $14.99, 297 pp

The author has written 40 books.

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

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

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

This is the concluding volume of The Nessantico Cycle.

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

This has more intrigue, both political and romantic, than the Renaissance. With vivid and memorable characters all painted in shades of grey in this well-drawn story, and the perfect assassin. He has experimented, and three years of training have set him up, but a bigger mystery is about to happen. Working for a crime lord, he finds and takes care of problems in his boss’s organization while smuggling relics on the side. His life is utterly transformed when his boss sends him to track down whoever has been leaching on his people, he finds that he has been set up, but a bigger mystery has appeared. The book that is a lot of deadly people want, as well as Drotte’s life. This book may bring down the emperors and shatter the Kin.

This is a boundary between history, magical quests, and the perfect assassin. He has experimented, and three years of training have set him up, but a bigger mystery is about to happen. Working for a crime lord, he finds and takes care of problems in his boss’s organization while smuggling relics on the side. His life is utterly transformed when his boss sends him to track down whoever has been leaching on his people, he finds that he has been set up, but a bigger mystery has appeared. The book that is a lot of deadly people want, as well as Drotte’s life. This book may bring down the emperors and shatter the Kin.

This is a book you have to read and enjoy. I am looking forward to what’s next. ~ Pam Allan

Moon Over Soho

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

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

Ten years beyond the Darkwar, the demon hordes are still at it. The defeat of the Demon King Maarg hasn’t dampened the tide, and the demon Dahun and the mad necromancer Belasco have joined forces that Midkemia may not be able to withstand. The Black Sorcerer Pug has formed an uneasy alliance with the Conclave of Shadows, Midkemia’s hidden protectors and they must hold back a plague that has overrun worlds. Where shadows hide deeper shadows, the battle will be joined. Can they survive, much less win? Raymond Feist writes a good fantasy. His rich world and well-drawn characters hold the reader to turn those pages. Time to get out the plastic and enjoy volume two. ~ Pam Allan

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

This is by the author of The Orphan’s Tales.

Koschei the Deathless is to Russian folklore what devils, demons and wicked witches are to Western culture. This is no dry historical treatise. The young Marya Morevna grows from a child in love to a woman with nothing to lose but her undoing. Along the way we meet Stalinist house elves, magical quests, and Bureaucracy. A collision between history, magical history, revolution and myths as well as love and death, which reincarnates a whole new mythos.

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

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

Among Thieves is a tale of The Kin.

Ildreecca is a dangerous city if you know what you are doing. Fortunately, Drothe has been a member for years and is about to get his chance. Working for a crime lord, he finds and takes care of problems in his boss’s organization while smuggling relics on the side. His life is utterly transformed when his boss sends him to track down whoever has been leaching on his people, he finds that he has been set up, but a bigger mystery has appeared. The book that is a lot of deadly people want, as well as Drotte’s life. This book may bring down the emperors and shatter the Kin.

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This is a book you have to read and enjoy. I am looking forward to what’s next. ~ Pam Allan

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

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

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

Brax, the sworn champion of the Goddess Estavia may be forced to divide his allegiance to the Gods which could be disastrous and lead to the downfall of the Shining City. This, like the first two, is well-written with interesting characters

I have to sign off. Interested your interest and has you awaiting the next. ~ Pam Allan

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

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

The Bitter Wars have left the world divided. While the savage Kobaleni have been gathering in unheard of in huge numbers to declare their war on the world. The future of humanity hangs in the balance.

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

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

Spellcast
by Barbara Ashford Daw, $7.99, 433 pp

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

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

Blackout
by Rob Thurman Roc, $7.99, 336 pp

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

In Our Book
(Cont’d from page 18)

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

Blackout is a club that does anime, video games, manga, other styles of animation, creative educative demonstrations, participate in interactive discussions, attend local 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 acrosplus/acrosplus.org

ARIZONA LANBASHERS LEAGUE A computer gaming enthusiasts, the Arizonan LANbasher 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 is $5. See our webpage for current events. Web: www.lanparty.com/all

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

AZCorsairs “Founded in 1971 as a branch of the Society for Creative Anachronisms, or SCA, our primary focus is 16th – 18th century European culture and the pirate lifestyle of the time. The Corsairs will extend pirate portrayals as far as Phoenician Era to futuristic 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 the historical counterparts, masters of their own destiny. Creation of characters, complete with backstory with correlation to history, period costume, and emulation of pirate traditions and arts, rests on each performer, creating varied storylines and deep, interesting characters. For more information, please contact Captain Max - Ambassador, AZCorsairs captcha@anyway.com 602-799-6184

Unlimited is a social group and state non-profit devoted to continuing the spirit of John W. Ward’s inspired series Firefly through charity events, a presence at local conventions, and social events. We are also active in Arizona with monthly shindigs in Phoenix and Tucson. In September, both cities will be hosting screenings of Serenity to benefit Equality. Now, to make it all happen, visit our website at http://azbrowncocks.org and follow our twitter @azbrowncocks

Our Book
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Club Listings (Cont’d from page 19)

see what we have coming up. If you have any questions email us at spatheringofplayers@gmail.com.

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

LEPRECON, INC. One of the two Phoenix area conventions 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 decided upon. Join us! Contact: Web page: http://www.parex.org

MVD Ghostchasers—Debe Branning, contact: MVD Ghostchasers.co.

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ANACHRONISM
The Kingdom of Atenveldt is part of the Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA), a not-for-profit historical reenactment organization that studies western European history by recreating the “past” 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 Ysgirth and Ered Sul. For more information on any of these or for general information on contact the Kingdom Senechal. Email: senechal@atenveldt.com Web: www.atenveldt.com

SOUTH WEST COSTUMES CULTURAL
The Southwest Costumers Guild is a loose organization of persons interested in all facets of historical, cultural, secular 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, call: 602-964-6818 or visit the web site 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: SpaceAccess@Space-Access.org Web page: www.space-access.org

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

TARDIS is a Phoenix-based General SF/Fantasy Fan Club, specializing in International media SF/Fantasy since 1983. TARDIS meets every two weeks at different locations around the valley. Activities include watching videos, discussions, parties, games, and occasional conventions. You must be a club member to attend most meetings. Write to Who is returning from hiatus. Many members

THE SOCIETY FOR CREATIVE ANACHRONISM
The Kingdom of Atenveldt is part of the Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA), a not-for-profit historical reenactment organization that studies western European history by recreating the “past” 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 Ysgirth and Ered Sul. For more information on any of these or for general information on contact the Kingdom Senechal. Email: senechal@atenveldt.com Web: www.atenveldt.com

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

UNITED FEDERATION OF PHOENIX
Phoenix chapter of STARFLEET International. 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/yr per year you join; no restrictions. Membership includes membership roster and monthly newsletter. Come to any two meetings at no obligation. For information, write the UFP at PO Box 37224, Phoenix, AZ 85069, or call Jim Strait at (602) 242-9203. Web page: http://www.U-F-P.org or Email to Info@U-F-P.org

US 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.sf.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 Feaster-Butts, Jr feasterbutts22@msn.com

WESTERN SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION (WesternSFA) A non-profit corporation that sponsors AniZona, the ConRunners seminars and sponsored the 2004 Westercon. Dedicated primarily to educational activities relating to literature, music, and visual and performing arts, especially in the genres of Anime, science fiction, fantasy, costuming, gaming and science. Applicants for membership in WesternSFA must be sponsored by a current active WesternSFA member. Dues are $10 yearly plus a $5 non-refundable application fee. General Meetings are held on the first Friday of February, May, August and November, check our website for meeting location. Guests are welcome. For more information contact Craig Dyer at WesternSFA, PO Box 67457, Phoenix AZ 85028 Email: info@westernsfa.org Webpage: www.westernsfa.org

Convention Listings

BUBONICON 43 (Aug 26-28, 2011) Sheraton Albuquerque Airport Hotel, Albuquerque, NM ($99/$109, 505-843-7000 ext 135) Author Guest of Honor: Stephen Leigh (S.L. Farrell); Toastmaster: Ian Tregillis; Artist Guest: John Picacio; Auctioneer: Robert E. Vardeman. Other guests include Daniel Abraham, Marie Arcovedo, Ben Bova, Aaron Campbell, Diana Gabaldon, Steven Gould, Darynda Jones, Jane Lindskold, M.J. Locke, George RR Martin, Victor Milian, Pat Nagle, Scott S. Phillips, Melinda Snodgrass, S.M. Stirling, Carrie Vaughn, Walter Jon Williams, Connie Willis. Steampunk theme! Panels, readings, Green Slime Awards, costume contest, art show, gaming, dealer room, science talk, films, presentations, etc. Website: www.bubonicon.com Call 505-266-8905 or 505-459-8734 for more information (10 am-10 pm MDT); email bubonicon@gmail.com “NM SF Conference,” PO Box 7257, Albuquerque, NM 87176 $40 through August 5, $45 at the Door. Check/money order/cash only. For information on any of these or for general information on contact the website at www.bubonicon.com

TusCon 38 (November 11-13) at the Hotel Tucson City Center, 475 North Granada, Tucson AZ. 85701. Guest of Honor: Patricia Briggs, Toastmaster: Ed Bryant. Room rates $69 studio, $79 suite, $89 Jacuzzi suite. Hotel phone 520-622-3001. Dues are $40 through 11/1 and $50 thereafter and at the door. No checks or credit cards will be accepted at con. For more info email info@tuscon.org or visit the web site at www.tusconcon.org

CopperCon 31 (September 2-5, 2011) Hilton Garden Inn, 11460 West Hilton Way, Avondale AZ. Guests: Carrie Vaughn Author Guest of Honor; Janni Lee Simmer, Local Author Guest and Special Guest Adam Nwamso. Membership $50 thru August 15, $60 thereafter and at the door. No checks or credit cards will be accepted at con. For more info email info@coppercon.org or visit the web site at www.coppercon.org.

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