

The



Shuttle

June 2010

The Next NASFA Meeting is 19 June 2010 at the Regular Time and Location

Upcoming Constellation XXIX ConCom Meetings are scheduled for 26 June; 17 & 31 July; 14 & 28 August; and 11 & 16 September—see the calendar for details

¡ Oyez, Oyez ¡

The next NASFA Meeting is Saturday 19 June 2010 at the regular time (6P) and the regular location. Meetings are at the Renasant Bank's Community Room, 4245 Balmoral Drive in south Huntsville. Exit the Parkway at Airport Road; head east one short block to Balmoral Drive; turn left (north) for less than a block. The bank is on the right, just past Logan's Roadhouse restaurant. Enter at the front door of the bank; turn right to the end of a short hallway.

JUNE PROGRAM

The June program is a slide show by Jack Lundy on "Southern Fandom Masqueraders."

ATMMs

The June After-The-Meeting Meeting will be at Maria and Adam Grim's house at 2117 Buckingham Drive SW in south Huntsville. See the map at right for directions.

Jennifer and Steve Sloan will host in the July ATMM. We need ATMM volunteers for August and all months beyond.

CONCOM MEETINGS

The next Constellation XXIX concom meeting will be

Map To ATMM Location

Adam & Maria Grim
4245 Balmoral Drive
Huntsville AL 35803

The turn onto English Drive is about 4 miles south of the turn from Airport Road onto Memorial Parkway



Continuing Our 30th Year of Publication!

Inside this issue...

Obituary: Jeanne Robinson	2
News and Info.....	2
Minutes of the May Meeting (Not)	2
NASFA Calendar	2
Review of DeepSouthCon 48	3

Nebula Awards Winners	5
Chesley Awards Nominations	5
Awards Roundup	6
No Need for a Ring—Chapter 31	7
Letter of Comment	8
Additional DSC 48 Photographs	9

Deadline for the July issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Friday 2 July 2010

Saturday 26 June at 7P, tentatively at the Renasant Bank meeting room. Stay tuned for further details. (There was an earlier June concom, on Wednesday the 9th.)

There is now a full list of all remaining Con+Stellation XXIX concom meetings in the NASFA Calendar; see elsewhere in this issue.

SHUTTLE TRANSITION—RE-REDUX

As of earlier this year, production of the *Shuttle* is undergoing a new transition—this time forced by the death of one computer and the acquisition of its replacement. Things may be uneven for a while; please bear with us.

NASFA CALENDAR ONLINE

NASFA has an online calendar on Google. Interested parties can check the calendar online, but you can also subscribe to the calendar and have your Outlook, iCal, BlackBerry, or other calendar automatically updated as events (Club Meetings, Concom Meetings, local sf/f events) are added or changed.

She Dances in the Stars

Jeanne Robinson—dancer, choreographer, author, Soto Zen monk, and one of the sweetest people you could have met—died 30 May after a long struggle with biliary cancer. She had been in palliative care since early last April.

Jeanne (1948–2010) was co-author with husband Spider Robinson of the Stardance stories, the first novella of which (“Stardance,” 1977) won the Hugo, Nebula, and Locus Awards. Jeanne was well known on her own as a dancer and choreographer, having created more than 30 works in the latter capacity.

Many folks in Huntsville had a chance to get to know Jeanne at least a little as she accompanied Spider when he was GoH at Con+Stellation XIII, Musca, in 1994. She will be missed by all who knew her.



Jeanne and Spider Robinson

News and Info

HUGO PACKET RELEASED

Aussiecon 4, the 68th World Science Fiction Convention, has continued the still-fairly-new tradition of working with nominees and their publishers to compile many of the Hugo-nominated works for electronic distribution to voters. That packet is now available to members of the current Worldcon.

To be eligible to vote (and to get the Hugo Voter Packet), you must be a supporting or attending member of Aussiecon 4 before the voting deadline of 31 July 2010 23:59 PDT. For more information on the packet, email <hugoadmin@aussiecon4.org.au>.

SITE SELECTION HAS HUNTSVILLE CONNECTION

This year’s Worldcon Site Selection vote (for the 2012 site) has connection to Huntsville—the US address for mail-in votes is here in town.

Site Selection voting is only by mail and onsite at the convention. Voters can either print a ballot from the PDF online at <www.aussiecon4.org.au/files/234.pdf> or use one from the upcoming Progress Report 3. The deadline for receipt of mail-in ballots is 31 July 2010. Onsite votes can be hand-carried.

Chicago is the only committee to file paperwork in time to

be on the ballot and are very likely to win in a walk against any possible write-in candidate(s). Voting can still important, though, if for no other reason than it’s the least expensive way to get a membership in the 2010 Worldcon.

NASFiC TO HOST AWARDS

Heard around the web: Two of the award ceremonies normally held at Worldcon are to be at the NASFiC in Raleigh NC instead. With Worldcon in Australia this year, both the Golden Ducks (juried awards for children’s and young adult sf books) and the Chesleys (peer awards by the Association of Science Fiction and Fantasy Artists <www.asfa-art.org>) are said to be headed for ReConStruction <www.reconstructionsf.org>.

DISNEY NIXES STAR WARS RIDES

After 20 years, the *Star Wars*-themed Star Tours motion-simulator rides at both Disneyland and Disney World are slated to be shut down. The Disneyland version closes 27 July 2010 and the Disney World version shuts on 8 September.

By May 2011 Disney plans to open in their places... drum roll please... *Star Wars*-themed motion-simulator rides. In 3-D.

The existing rides take one in a simulated space ship that strays from it’s appointed rounds (to the Moon of Endor) into the middle of a battle between the Rebel Alliance and the Death Star. The new version will strap you into a pod race on Tatooine.

If you have a yen to celebrate the existing ride before its voice is suddenly silenced you could consider heading to Orlando during the 12-15 August media con Star Wars Celebration V <www.starwarscelebration.com>. They are hooked up with Disney World to help the latter sell tickets to a “Last Tour to Endor party” on Saturday evening 14 August. Click through the con website at <www.starwarscelebration.com/Disney> to get to the Disney website where you can pay your \$75 (plus tax) for the 5-hour party. Note that this does not include admission to the con itself (adult day rates \$48-\$54; 4-day ticket \$128) or autographs (\$20-\$50).

E-BOOK SALES REPORTED UP

The American Association of Publishers <www.publishers.org> has reported surging e-book sales for 2009 and the first quarter of 2010.

In 2009, e-book sales were up by over 175% year-over-year (in total dollars of sales) and, for the first time, surpassed audiobooks in sales volume. Total book sales were off a calculated 1.8% for that year.

For the first quarter of 2010, e-books were up more than 250% over the same period a year ago. Total book sales saw something of a rebound, up 8% over the year-ago quarter.

May Minutes

These are not the minutes you’re looking for... Since the May meeting was the More-or-Less Annual Cookout/Picnic there are no minutes.

NASFA Calendar

JUNE

- 02 BD: Lloyd Penney.
- 03 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *Creatures of Light and Darkness*, Roger Zelazny; 6P.
- 04–06 DeepSouthCon 48/ConCarolinas—Charlotte NC.
- 04–06 HeroesCon—Charlotte NC.

menu, exact same marginal service, at least at first. Initially we were seated at a booth where water was dripping down from the ceiling (air conditioning condensation). We moved ourselves, which may have confused them. Once the waitress took our order, however, the food arrived swiftly. I ordered one of their skillet cookies (which is cooked fresh when you order it), so as to have it ready when I had finished eating the main meal. I finished eating the main meal. No cookie. A few minutes into wondering what had happened a manager came over to apologize—they had burned the cookie! Judy and Sue started laughing as I told him to “Bring it on! I like burned food.” He left, brought it back, I sampled it and pronounced it fine, so he took it back and dressed it (ice cream and whipped cream), and Judy, Sue, and I enjoyed it.

Once we got back to the hotel, we started locating stuff. The bulk of the hotel’s function space is in the basement. My initial impression on going downstairs was that half the function space was given over to gaming. Upon later reflection, it probably wasn’t half, but it was a lot.

The consuite, however, was up one floor on the main lobby level. The consuite was, well, lame is the best face I can think of to put on it. 3-liter generic sodas, generic cookies, napkins, and a big box of plastic forks was what you would find there most of the time. Occasionally there would be pasta. Just pasta. No sauce, no cheese, just plain cooked pasta. I was told later that this was the first time ConCarolinas had even had a consuite, so I guess I’ll credit them with a good first effort. If they plan to continue having a consuite, however, I would certainly recommend that they check out the consuites of conventions with a reputation for good consuiteage. Like LibertyCon, or our own Con†Stellation. At least the consuite was a good place to gather to play Spades.

We attended Opening Ceremonies Friday evening. Opening Ceremonies solidified my initial impression that ConCarolinas is heavily media and gaming oriented (not that there’s anything wrong with that, mind you, it’s just not my usual taste). The house band, “This is Not the Band You Are Looking For,” played. At Opening Ceremonies Richard Hatch was introduced, along with Bill Blair. John Ringo was in attendance, and was also introduced. There were some other introductions. I don’t think Jerry Pournelle, the Writer Guest of Honor, was in attendance yet.



Looking at it, the 80-odd page program book is about half filled with guest bios, broken down into categories: Guests of Honor, Special Media Guests, Special Writer Guest, Special Paranormal Guests, Master of Ceremonies, Musical Guests, Dance Performers, Literary Guests, Film/Media Guests, Gaming Guests, Paranormal Guests, Fandom Guests, Comic/Graphic Novel Guests, Art Guests, Filk Guests. Wow!

The dealers room was large and contained pretty much “the usual”: Gaming dealers, T-Shirt dealers, book dealers, costumers, etc. There were also tables where the various media guests could set up their promotions. The first time I wandered through I found four things I considered buying. On Sunday I remembered what one of them was, so that’s the one I bought.

There were three room parties that I made it to Friday night.

(The Con†Stellation room party had to be canceled, since our main party organizer had to drop out at the literal last minute.) I’m trying to remember who had parties that night. I know the DSC 50 bid had a party. There was another party on that floor and another one floor up. The DSC 50 party had really good food, and lots of it, so that made an impression. (Sorry about that, guys, maybe I should have picked up a flier.) I saw the next morning that somebody had tried to have a room party up on the 8th floor, but it had been shut down. I guess they take “party floor” seriously at this hotel.

I made it to the Doctor Who panel, where the topic was “The New Doctor Will See You Now!” This



panel was lots of fun. Lots of geeking out about the new Doctor. Lots of “Did you notice such-and-such in this episode?” (During such discussions, several members of the audience, and one member of the panel, would pull up the episode in question on their laptop and look up what it was we were talking about. After I got home, I also had to look a couple of things up that had been discussed. DVRs are a lovely invention.)

After the Doctor Who panel were the Phoenix and Rebel awards. It was also at this panel that we found out the total attendance of the convention was around 1300, which is apparently a major increase over their usual attendance.

The winner of the Phoenix award was Dr. Jerry Pournelle. The winner of the Rebel award was Albin Johnson, one of the



founders of the 501st Legion. The Rubble was awarded to Uncle Timmy, either because “He’s been runner-up so often we finally had to give it to him” or because “It’s all Uncle Timmy’s fault!”



While we were waiting for the Phoenix and Rebel awards ceremony to begin, there was a photo-op with a pink RT unit that I had seen wandering around the convention. I found out later that this was R2-KT, a droid commissioned after Albin Johnson’s daughter Katie passed away from brain cancer in 2005.

Once the Phoenix and Rebel award ceremonies were over, we went in search of lunch (passing by the Carolina Ghostbusters and ECTO-3A on our way out). Lunch was at the Texas Land & Cattle Steak House, where they have an excellent peach bread pudding, and an interesting policy that if you can’t make up your mind about a cut of meat they will cook you up a sample and bring it to you!

The charity auction overran its time slot Saturday night. I didn’t see anything I was interested in, since most of what was on offer appeared to be stuff people had donated that had been lying around their house. The few gems, however, did go for high prices.

There was a Masquerade. It had 30 or so entries. Most were very good. The Carolina Ghostbusters entered, and performed the entire classic “We’re ready to believe you!” speech from the movie. For me the most memorable entrant was a group that had a credible David Tennant Doctor, a credible Donna in a

wedding dress, a credible Rory in his bachelor party getup, and a random catgirl. The skit revolved around Rory being confused by a redhead in a wedding dress traveling with the Doctor. (If you don't get BBC America, or have access to the new Matt Smith Doctor Who episodes, you have no idea what I'm talking about, do you?)

Three more room parties Saturday Night, including an encore by the DSC 50 bid. One of the other parties was by Fen-Con in Texas, promoting their paring with DSC 49 next year. I believe the third was a StellarCon party.

Sunday morning, Way Too Early, was the SFC meeting. Here I believe the ConCarolinas folks were just a bit confused, like so many others. The program book just listed one meeting, two hours long, under the title "DeepSouthCon Meeting." The Southern Fandom Confederation is a separate organization. (I also noticed that the ConCarolinas program book did not include a copy of the DSC Bylaws, which is incorrect, according to the Bylaws.)

At the SFC meeting, there was some actual business discussed. I'll not attempt to reproduce anything remotely resembling minutes here, I'll just record the highlights:

- There had been no real action on the part of the T-Shirt committee. (I didn't remember that there was a T-Shirt committee.) Rather than drag things out by trying to have a T-Shirt design contest, which was their original intent, Warren Buff opined that we should change the plan to "pick an artist and run."
- For the new edition of the SFC Handbook, Mike Rogers reported that he had made some progress, and that he wanted to turn it into an e-project instead of a paper one. He considered a Wiki, but ultimately rejected the idea. The current plan is for him to get with Sam Smith (since Sam is hosting the current web-based edition of the 1997 SFC Handbook) and see about setting up a new site for a new handbook. (Which will then turn into sort of an ongoing project, if my impression is correct.)
- Reports: There was a report from Tom Feller (SFC Secretary). There was no report from Janet Hopkins (SFC Treasurer).
- Elections: Lacking a report from the Treasurer, there was some discussion about replacing Janet, which ultimately resulted in G. Patrick Molloy being "convinced" to take on the job on at least an interim basis. The SFC officers are now: President Warren Buff, Vice-President Mike Rogers, Secretary Tom Feller, and Treasurer G. Patrick Molloy.



The DSC meeting was sort and sweet, though since the Moon Princesses' DSC 50 bid was running unopposed I did threaten to throw together a last minute rival Huntsville bid, "just to confuse things." Toni Weisskopf put the kibosh on that idea real quick, though, by telling me "You do that, and you'll be running a DeepSouthCon!" No thanks Toni. Been there, done that.

Needless to say, the Moon Princesses won, and DSC 50 will be in Huntsville Alabama. Hotel TBD.

We then played more Spades, and left for home. Nine hours later, we were back. Overall, a good trip, and a good con. Now I'm going to go find a cookie.

Nebula Awards

The 2009 Nebula Awards were announced and presented at the Nebula Awards Banquet held at the Hilton Cocoa Beach Oceanfront 15 May 2010. (Unlike many awards, the Nebulas are dated for the eligibility year, not the year of presentation.) The Nebulas—among the most prestigious peer genre awards—are voted on by active members of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America <www.sfwaworld.org>. The winners are:

Novel*The Windup Girl*, Paolo Bacigalupi (Night Shade Books)

Novella*The Women of Nell Gwynne's*, Kage Baker (Subterranean Press)

Novellette*"Sinner, Baker, Fabulist, Priest; Red Mask, Black Mask, Gentleman, Beast,"* Eugie Foster (*Interzone*, February 2009)

Short Story*"Spar,"* Kij Johnson (*Clarkesworld*, October 2009)

The next two awards, while not technically Nebulas, are administered by SFWA in the same way.

The Ray Bradbury Award for Outstanding Dramatic Presentation*District 9*, Neill Blomkamp and Terri Tatchell

Andre Norton Award*The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland in a Ship of Her Own Making*, Catherynne M. Valente

In addition to the Nebulas (and Nebula-like objects), a number of other previously announced awards were presented:

Damon Knight Grand Master**Joe Haldeman**

Author Emeritus**Neal Barrett, Jr.**

SFWA Service Award(s)**Vonda N. McIntyre and Keith Stokes**

SFWA Solstice Award(s)**Tom Doherty, Terri Windling, and Donald A. Wollheim** (posthumous)

The *Shuttle* (or at least its editor) wishes to commend SFWA for live-streaming the awards ceremony online. Your editor was one of the 158 people watching—at least when my low-bandwidth connection would allow and occasional technical gremlins on their end did not interfere. The acceptance speech from Grand Master recipient Joe Haldeman was especially welcome.

Chesley Nominations

The Chesley Awards are peer awards given by the Association of Science Fiction and Fantasy Artists <www.asfa-art.org> recognizing individual sf/f works and achievements associated with sf/f art. 2010 is the 25th anniversary of the Chesleys.

This year's awards will be announced and presented at Re-ConStruction <www.reconstructionsf.org>, the 10th Occasional North American Science Fiction Convention (NASFiC), to be held 5–8 August 2010 in Raleigh NC. At press time, nominees had been announced for all categories except Lifetime Artistic Achievement. The nominees (for works in 2009) are:

COVER ILLUSTRATION—HARDBACK BOOKS

Bob Eggleton, cover of *Dragon's Ring*

Todd Lockwood, cover of *A Magic of Nightfall*

John Picacio, cover of *Drood*

Omar Rayyan, cover of *Magic Mirrors*

Rohb Ruppel, cover of *Visions of Never*

Dan Dos Santos, cover of *Green*

Matt Stewart, cover of *Valley of Shadows*

Sam Weber, cover of *Prospero Lost*

COVER ILLUSTRATION—PAPERBACK BOOKS

Scott Altmann, cover of *The Mysterious Mr. Spines Flight*

Volkan Baga, cover of *Blutnacht Die Orc*

Jon Foster, cover of *Boneshaker*

David Palumbo, cover of *Stalking the Dragon*

John Picacio, cover of *World's End*

Dan Dos Santos, cover of *Hunting Ground*

Dave Seeley, cover of *Young Flandry*

COVER ILLUSTRATIONS—MAGAZINE

Les Edwards, cover of *Cemetery Dance*, #62

Bob Eggleton, cover of *Analog*, October 2009

David A. Hardy, cover of *F & SF*, October/November 2009

Kazuhiko Nakamura, cover of *Clarkesworld*, #38

David Palumbo, cover of *Heavy Metal*, November 2009

John Picacio, cover of *Asimov's*, September 2009

Adam Tredowski, cover of *Interzone*, February 2009

INTERIOR ILLUSTRATION

Brom, *The Child Thief*

Gary Lippincott, *Come to the Fairies Ball*

Gregory Manchess, *Conan of Cimnera*, Volume 3

John Picacio, *Knowing Darkness*, "Salem's Lot"

Michael Whelan, *The Little Sisters of Eluria*

Mark Zug, *Bugs in the Arroyo*

COLOR WORK—UNPUBLISHED

Eric Fortune, *Allure*

Rebecca Guay, *Gwenevere*

Patrick Jones, *Death of Diana*

Raoul Vitale, *Unrequited*

Michael Whelan, *Lumen 5*

Mark Zug, *Helium*

MONOCHROME WORK—UNPUBLISHED

Jim Burns, *Pod Shift*

Eric Fortune, *Hollowed*

Justin Gerard, *Steampunk Wizard of Oz*

Shelia Rayyan, *Faces of You*

L.A. Williams, *Lost Love*

THREE-DIMENSIONAL ART

Tom Kuebler, *Grandma Hoodoo & Zombie John*

Kris Kuksi, *Anglo-Parisian Barnstormer*

David Meng, *Satyr's Head*

Charles Vess, *Titania*

Vincent Villafranca, *The Switching Hour*

GAMING-RELATED ILLUSTRATION

Daren Bader, *Boarguts the Impaler*

Volkan Baga, *Joraga Bard*

Lucas Graciano, *Silverwing*

Kekai Kotaki, *Lorthos the Tidemaker*

Todd Lockwood, *Kalitas, Bloodchief of Ghet*

Matthew Stewart, *Serendib Efreed*

PRODUCT ILLUSTRATION

Scott Gustafson, *A Confabulation of Dragons*

Kokai Kotaki, *Guild Wars 2* concept art

Gregory Manchess, *Above the Timberline* card

Ian Miller, *Cthulhu Temple*

Jordu Schell, *Avatar Na'vi* character design

Matthew Stewart, *Battle Under the Mountain*

Awards Roundup

AWARDS AT CONGRÈS BORÉAL

It's awards time for some of our neighbors to the north (some of whom might be happy to live in the 5th département d'outre-mer).

The **Prix Boréal** is an official part of the Congrès Boréal (<www.congresboreal.ca>, a French-language sf/f convention in Montréal). Winners this year were:

Novel*Suprématie*, Laurent McAllistair (Bragelonne)

Short story or novella“*Ors blancs*,” Alain Bergeron, *Solaris* 171

Nonfiction “Les carnets du Futurible,” Mario Tessier, *Solaris Fanzine**Brins d'éternité*

Another award (apparently not officially associated with the con) was also given. The 2010 **Prix Jacques-Broussard**, with an attendant prize of \$2500CAD, went to **Martine Desjardins** for her novel, *Maleficium*.

PRIX AURORA AWARDS

Winners of the 2010 The Prix Aurora Awards <www.prix-aurora-awards.ca> were announced at Canvention 30 (the Canadian natcon) on Sunday 23 May 2010. This year's Canvention was held in conjunction with Keycon 27 <www.keycon.org> in Winnipeg MB. The winners were:

Novel in English*Wake*, Robert J. Sawyer

Meilleur Roman en Français (Novel In French)*Suprématie*, Laurent McAllister

Short-Form Work In English“*Pawns Dreaming of Roses*,” Eileen Bell, *Women of the Apocalypse*

Meilleure Nouvelle en Français (Short-Form In French) «*Ors blancs*» Alain Bergeron (*Solaris* 171)

Other Work in English*Women of the Apocalypse*, the Apocalyptic Four, eds.

Meilleur Ouvrage en Français (Autre) (Other Work in French)*Solaris*, Joel Champetier, éd.

Artistic Achievement**Dan O'Driscoll**, Cover of *Steel Whispers*

Fan Accomplishment (Fanzine)**Richard Graeme Cameron**, *WCFSAZine*

Fan Accomplishment (Organization)**David Hayman**, organization Filk Hall of Fame

Fan Accomplishment (Other)**Ray Badgerow**, Astronomy Lecture at USS *Hudson Bay*

COMPTON CROOK WINNER

The Compton Crook Award <www.bsfs.org/bsfsccew.htm> is presented by the Baltimore Science Fiction Society for the best debut sf/f/h novel of the year. The winner is announced at each year's Balticon <www.balticon.org> where he or she receives an award plaque and a \$1,000 prize. This year's winner is *The Windup Girl* by Paulo Bacigalupi (*Night Shade*).

AUDIES ANNOUNCED

Winners of this year's Audie Awards <www.TheAudies.com>, for audio books, were announced Tuesday 25 May. The awards are presented by the Audio Publishers Association <www.audiopub.org>. For genre works, the relevant winners are:

Science Fiction*Bellwether*, Connie Willis, narrated by Kate Reading

Narration by the Author or Authors*Odd and the Frost Giants*, Neil Gaiman, narrated by Neil Gaiman

LAMMY WINNER(S)

The Lambda Literary Awards <www.lambdaliterary.org/awards> honor lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans literature. Winners (in over 20 categories) were announced at the 22nd Annual Lammy Awards on Thursday 27 May 2010 in New York. In the sf/f/h category the winner was *Palimpsest*, Catherynne M. Valente (Bantam/Spectra Books).

STURGEON FINALISTS

Finalists for this year's Theodore Sturgeon Memorial Award <www2.ku.edu/~sfcenter/sturgeon.htm>, for the best short science fiction of the year, have been announced. The award will be announced and presented at the Campbell Conference

<www2.ku.edu/~sfcenter/campbell-conference.htm>, to be held 16–18 July in Lawrence KS. The nominees are:
 “Things Undone,” John Barnes (*Jim Baen’s Universe*)
 “This Wind Blowing, and This Tide,” Damien Broderick (*Asimov’s*)
 “As Women Fight,” Sara Genge (*Asimov’s*)
 “Blood Dauber,” Ted Kosmatka and Michael Poore (*Asimov’s*)
 “Cockatrice,” Tanith Lee (*Fantasy Magazine*)
Shambling Towards Hiroshima, James Morrow (Tachyon Publications)
 “Her Voice in a Bottle,” Tim Pratt (*Subterranean*)
 “True Fame,” Robert Reed (*Asimov’s*)
 “The Death of Che Guevara,” Lewis Shiner (*Subterranean*)
 “Eros, Philia, Agape,” Rachel Swirsky (*Tor.com*)
 “The Island,” Peter Watts (*The New Space Opera 2*)

An additional nominee (“Spar,” Kij Johnson (*Clarkesworld*)) was withdrawn by the nominee as she is a member of the jury. This is the second year in a row that she has done this.

SEIUN NOMINATIONS

Nominations for this year’s Seiun Awards (sometimes known as the “Japanese Hugos”) have been announced. There is news <tinyurl.com/36zo4g9> at Anime News Network online about the dramatic presentation and graphic novel categories. Most of the text nominees are pretty inaccessible for *Shuttle* readers, but in the translated fiction categories, the nominees are:

Seiun Long Fiction Noms

The Yiddish Policeman’s Union, Michael Chabon
 Probability trilogy (*Probability Moon*, *Probability Sun*, and *Probability Space*), Nancy Kress
Perdido Street Station, China Mieville
 Old Man and Space trilogy (*Old Man’s War*, *The Ghost Brigades*, and *The Last Colony*), John Scalzi
Accelerando, Charles Stross
Rainbows End, Vernor Vinge

Seiun Short Fiction Noms

“The Fluted Girl,” Paolo Bacigalupi
 “A Crab Must Try,” Barrington J. Bayley
 “Dark Integers,” Greg Egan
 “Beggars in Spain,” Nancy Kress
 “Unsound Variation,” George R.R. Martin
 “Tryst in Time,” C.L. Moore

MYTHOPOEIC AWARDS FINALISTS

The Mythopoeic Society <www.mythsoc.org> promotes fantastic and mythic literature, with a concentration on The Inklings (J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, and Charles Williams). Their Mythopoeic Awards honor fantasy and scholarly literature on the same topics.

Mythopoeic Adult Literature Noms

Barbara Campbell, Trickster’s Game trilogy (*Heartwood*, *Bloodstone*, and *Foxfire*)
 Greer Gilman, *Cloud & Ashes: Three Winter’s Tales*
 Robert Holdstock, *Avilion*
 Catherynne M. Valente, *Palimpsest* (Spectra)
 Jo Walton, *Lifelode* (NESFA Press)

Mythopoeic Children’s Literature Noms

Kage Baker, *The Hotel Under the Sand*
 Shannon Hale, Books of Bayern series (*The Goose Girl*, *Enna Burning*, *River Secrets*, and *Forest Born*)
 Grace Lin, *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*
 Malinda Lo, *Ash*
 Lisa Mantchev, *Eyes Like Stars*

Inklings Studies Noms

Gavin Ashenden, *Charles Williams: Alchemy and Integration*
 Dimitra Fimi, *Tolkien, Race, and Cultural History: From Fairies to Hobbits*

Douglas Charles Kane, *Arda Reconstructed: The Creation of the Published Silmarillion*
 Michael Ward, *Planet Narnia: The Seven Heavens in the Imagination of C.S. Lewis*
 Elizabeth A. Whittingham, *The Evolution of Tolkien’s Mythology: A Study of the History of Middle-earth*
Mythopoeic Myth and Fantasy Studies Noms
 Lucas H. Harriman, *Lilith in a New Light: Essays on George MacDonald’s Fantasy Novel*
 Farah Mendlesohn, *Rhetorics of Fantasy*
 Marek Oziewicz, *One Earth, One People: The Mythopoeic Fantasy Series of Ursula K. Le Guin, Madeleine L’Engle and Orson Scott Card*
 Leslie A. Sconduto, *Metamorphoses of the Werewolf: A Literary Study from Antiquity through the Renaissance*
 Caroline Sumpter, *The Victorian Press and the Fairy Tale*

SIDEWISE AWARDS NOMS

The Sidewise Awards <www.uchronia.net/sidewise>, for alternate-history fiction, have released their lists of nominees for 2010. These are juried awards with the jury currently consisting of Stephen Baxter, Evelyn Leeper, Jim Rittenhouse, Stu Shiffman, Kurt Sidaway, and Steven H Silver. It’s probably worth noting that the single Long Form nominees this year is not assured of a win. The final round of voting automatically includes No Award as a selection. Winners will be announced at ReConStruction, this year’s NASFiC, to be held in Raleigh NC, 5–8 August 2010. The nominees are:

Short Form Sidewise Noms

“Yes, We Have No Bananas,” Paul Di Filippo, *Eclipse No. 3*
 “The Fixation,” Alastair Reynolds, *The Solaris Book of New Science Fiction*, Volume 3
 “Edison’s Frankenstein,” Chris Roberson, *Postscripts 20/21*
 “Black Swan,” Bruce Sterling, *Interzone* (April 2009)
 “The Persistence of Souls,” Sarah Zettel, *The Shadow Conspiracy*

Long Form Sidewise Nom

1942, Robert Conroy, Ballantine

In The Deep Woods

No Need for a Ring—Chapter 31
 by PieEyedDragon

[Editor’s Note: This is the fourth chapter in the third part of the NNFA series—*The Thing Goes South*—and is thus numbered as Chapter 4 in some places. The *Shuttle* is serializing the entire tale and chooses to use the alternate sequential chapter numbering system.]

It’s the twentieth of August; and the moon is full. I’m full of fire. I’m full of magic. I’m too full of cramps to fly; and bleeding like mad! I was going to leave three days ago; now this, again. Half of Durin’s Tower is stained dark red. Water still flows from the endless stair and out across the other half. The cold west wind on the heights at least dries these awkward fluids. Everything... stinks. I pity anything downwind.

After four more days, I finally launch. I glide easily around to the south side of this mountain. Down, down toward Dimrill Dale, below the sealed (by me) eastern door (and windows) of Khazad-dûm, and then onward to Kheled-zâram: the hallowed Mirrormere. I plunge into the water, and begin a very thorough bath.

Later, around noon, I climb out and look back into the water and see only stars. My golden star is there, too. I turn then and follow along the Silverlode southeast, until it turns more east as

Celebrant and toward the tall, golden Mallorn trees of Lothlórien; empty, and very tree-ish. The formerly resident Elves were Silvan Elves. They moved to southern Greenwood with Celeborn, or Ithilien with Legolas, or both. Following the memories of Galadriel, I turn north from the river, into the trees of the Naith; and find my way directly to the hill of Cerin Amroth. The sun has set, so I curl around the greener area at the top: the grave of Arwen. I sleep, and I dream.

— O — O — O —

After three days, I wake fully refreshed. I go deeper into the woods of Caras Galadhon until I go round a hill and descend into a clear, garden area. Relatively clear, that is. It seems a bit overgrown. Beside a very large tree there is a stream, a tarnished silver vase, and a tarnished “bird bath.” This, then, is the Mirror of Galadriel! The Stones can reveal what *is*, and what *was*. This artifact is more dangerous. It can show the *is* and the *was*, too; but with added uncertainty so that what *shall be*, or at least what *may be*, is also revealed. One can seldom tell whether what one sees is past, present, or “may be.” There was much philosophical conjecture along these lines back in Old Atlantis. Some held that you could not know *the* future without locking yourself into a state of predestination. Others contended that the future grew out of the present, and every decision point created at least two *possible* futures. I’ve always leaned toward the latter theory.

I’m going to look. I consider the risk to be justified. I fill the vase and then fill the basin. I breathe my misty breath upon it and wait for the waters to still. I see a mountain and a long lake. There are many boats. A Man surfaces near the boats, gasping, with a long black arrow clenched in his teeth. I see also dragons fighting. Many dragons, at least three, tearing each other to bits. None of them are me. I see the land as from a great height. In the same view are the local “sun” and “moon.” In a strong keep, surrounded by horses, I see a banner upon the wall. It is a red banner with a black serpent. As I look, I see that the red area is actually red sand. The serpent has stubby legs and vestigial wings. It is a dragon! I see now an elf with a worn face lined with sorrow and pain. He holds a harp in his scarred hand. The imprint of Galadriel recognizes her half-cousin: Maglor, the singer; the tenderhearted, the accursed second son of Fëanor. The brothers had made war upon anyone and everyone who stood between them and the Silmarils wrought by their father. Finally holding one in his hand, it had burned him for all his evil deeds. So he cast it into the sea and began wandering, the only one of the seven brothers to survive beyond the First Age. I behold a cave of treasures: all gems and silver and... silver? There is no sign of any smallest trace of gold. Again I see horses. They are bearing riders that pursue a herd of massive cattle. Fires leap up from the grass around them. I see... myself. Shadowed, I am curled around a large white tree. I see ships with black sails. They tilt and slide, stern first, into the deep.

At this point I am interrupted by an arrow. A real arrow strikes my neck... and bounces off.

I look up and around. I see no one. There are many tall trees around the garden. Nothing moves. I pick up the arrow and examine it. The broad metal blade’s point is blunted. Sniffing at the notched end and the fletching, I detect the scent of Man. A quick taste confirms this. This arrow was no threat to me, so I toss it aside.

I consider the arrow in the vision. I knew that arrow; and so does Smaug! I had meant to collect it later for... certain usages. Do I turn north right away and try to get it? No. I must keep to my original course. Someone here is watching me. Their arrows cannot harm me. I shall ignore them. I head back

to the Silverlode and enter the water. There is no taint here. I shall continue on down this until I reach the great river, Anduin.

Behind me, a cloaked figure drops from the trees and picks up the blunted arrow, then begins to follow.

[Some of the above beings and situations have been suggested by the works of J.R.R. Tolkien. (But you already knew that, didn’t you?) Thanks also to *Tarzan and the Amazons*.]

Letter of Comment

EMOC-EMOC-EMOC-EMOC-EMOC-EMOC-EMOC

Lloyd Penney
<penneys@allstream.net>
1706-24 Eva Road
Etobicoke ON
Canada M9’C 2B2

15 May 2010

I fell so far behind in correspondence, but I am gradually catching up. Next up for response is the May *Shuttle*, and here goes with some commentary.

Today is picnic day!, so I hope everyone had a grand time today. I know the folks who were forced to cancel Gaylaxicon 2010; we were among their advisors, and Yvonne was assisting with the paperwork. No one likes having to make this kind of decision, but the hotel was not negotiating in good faith, and a good organizer knows when to cut their losses and return to run a con another day. Many of the 2010 organizers are from Toronto, so if Montreal is not a friendly venue, perhaps another Toronto Gaylaxicon bid would work.

We’ll see what happens with the Constellation Awards at Polaris 24 this year. Again, I did not vote because I hadn’t seen any of the TV series and most of the movies. I am not an informed voter, so I made that decision. I have been told, though, that more and more of the actors see the award as a great gift from the Canadian fans, and appreciate the award that much more.

Response to my loc... I don’t think there’s any bad blood between CUFF and the Klingons. A number of people said that being a poor sport about such things was without honour, and that seems to have concluded the whole event. We don’t want to remind the Klingons about honour, but once we did, it’s all done. I’d like to go back to Chicago for 2012 (some of the bidders live here) and San Antonio in 2013, but skipping them will be the only way we’ll be able to make it to London in 2014... assuming all these bids win, of course.

On our plates coming up... in a couple of weeks is Anime North, and we will be taking part in this year’s steampunk event, called Steampunk Hetalia. Part of it is historical, some of it science fictional, and some of it based on Alice in Wonderland. I’m in the historical part, and I get to play North Italy. Confused? I am a little, too, but given that the producer is a professional television producer, it should be a sight to see.

I think I’m done... I find out in a week about the Auroras, and I am hoping for support for the Hugos, so wish me luck, and let’s see if I get anything silvery to put on my shelf. Take care, and see you in June.

[Thank you Lloyd, the picnic cum cookout did go well. As it has been for many years, it was held at a club member’s house. Perhaps one of these days we’ll do it at a park or other outdoor venue again, but it is so lovely—even for those folks who relish

the outdoor experience—to have an air-conditioned space to retreat into. I had to leave early, but as I did a sizable portion of the group was playing a game of Apples to Apples <www.boardgamegeek.com/boardgame/74/apples-to-apples> while most of the rest were watching some sf show on TV (the name of which escapes me). Con†Stellation has mostly been lucky in negotiations with hotels. (There’s one notable exception of which we Do Not Speak In Public, after all we may end up back there for some reason in the future.) It is probably easier

to make negotiations work for a con with a fixed city than for a traveling con where every committee is a one-off. I’m glad that honor/honour, and perhaps a sprinkling of plain good sense, seems to have prevailed in the CUFF/Klingon divide. My con schedule is not be as crowded as yours. I’d planned to go to DeepSouthCon the first weekend in June, but was sidetracked by an illness. That reduced my con plans for the year to LibertyCon (July), NASFiC (August) and our own Con†Stellation (September). -ED]



Additional DSC photos courtesy of Sam Smith



P. O. Box 4857
Huntsville AL 35815-4857

The NASFA Shuttle is the newsletter of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association, Inc. This is the June 2010 edition (Volume 30, Number 6). NASFA Officers for 2010: President Mary Lampert; Vice President Mike Kennedy; Secretary Steve Sloan; Treasurer Sam Smith; Program Director Wyman Cooke; Publicity Director Peggy Patrick. Shuttle Editor Mike Kennedy.

Comments, inquiries, and contributions of writing by email to: nasfa.shuttle@con-stellation.org — EDITORIAL ADDRESS (EMAIL)

Comments, inquiries, and contributions of writing by snailmail to: Mike Kennedy, 7907 Charlotte Drive SW,

Huntsville AL 35802-2841 — EDITORIAL ADDRESS (SNAILMAIL)

Dues (\$), subscriptions (\$), and Official Mail to: NASFA, Inc., P. O. Box 4857,

Huntsville AL 35815-4857 — OFFICIAL ADDRESS

Contents Copyright, © 2010. All rights revert to contributors. All opinions are those of the individual authors and do not reflect club policies other than by coincidence. LoCs subject to edited printing.

NASFA Dues = \$25/year (Family rates available) Subscription only = \$15/year Single copy = \$2 each.
