

The



Shuttle
April 2011

The Next NASFA Meeting is 16 April 2011 at the Regular Time and Location

Con†Stellation XXX ConCom Meeting 3P, 16 April

¡ Oyez, Oyez ¡

The next NASFA Meeting will be Saturday 16 April 2011 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 the light at 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.

APRIL PROGRAM

NASFA's April program will be "New and Upcoming at Steve Jackson Games" presented by Robert Hood (aka Reverend Bob). Steve Jackson Games <www.sjgames.com> publishes, among other things, GURPS and the popular line of Munchkin games <www.worldofmunchkin.com>.



CONCOM MEETINGS

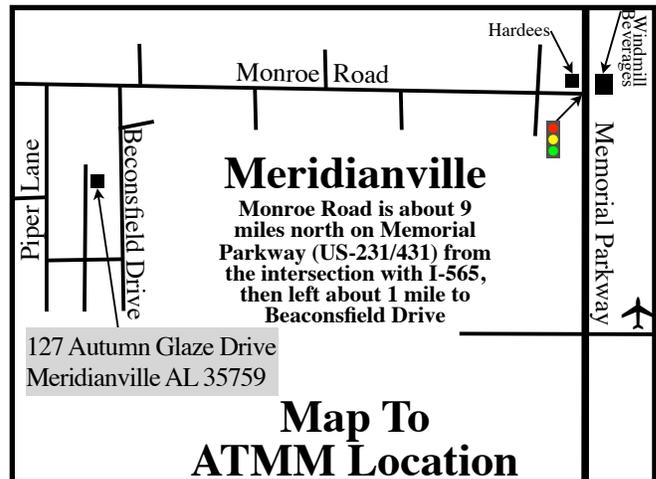
The next Con†Stellation XXX con-com meeting will be this month, at 3P on the same day as the club meeting (the 16th). The meeting will be at the Renasant Bank's Community Room—the same room used for the club meeting. There will be a dinner break between the con-com meeting and the club meeting.

The likely plan going forward will be to continue to have

concom meetings the same day as club meetings. As we near the con and need to go to more than one con-com meeting a month, the con-com schedule will have to adjust.

ATMM

The April After-The-Meeting Meeting will be at Doug and Mary Lampert's house—127 Autumn Glaze Drive in Meridianville (that's the far north part of the Huntsville metro area—see the map below). The usual NASFA rules apply, to wit, please bring your preferred drink plus a food item to share.



Continuing Our 31st Year of Publication

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Deadline for the May 2011 issue of The NASFA Shuttle is Friday 6 May 2011

FUTURE PROGRAMS AND ATMMs

The April Meeting, Program, and ATMM will all be subsumed in the More-or-Less Annual NASFA Cookout/Picnic, which will be at Sam and Judy Smith's house in Madison. By the way, that will begin at 1P.

The ATMM for June will be at Russell McNutt's house. We are seeking ATMM volunteers for July and most months beyond.

Programs for June and further months are being developed.

FUTURE CLUB MEETINGS

2011 NASFA meetings are scheduled to be the usual 3rd Saturday *except* for July, August, and September. In each of those months the meeting will be moved to the 2nd Saturday to avoid conflicts with various conventions (including Con†Stellation).

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.

Mike Glicksohn, RIP

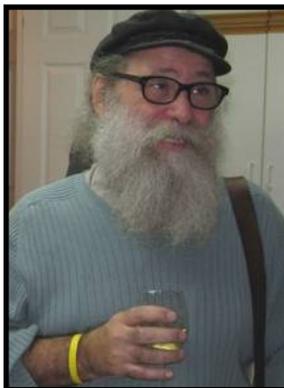
by Mike Kennedy

Fannish legend Mike Glicksohn died 18 March 2011 at age 64. He died after a stroke, which came after several years of treatment for cancer. He is survived by Susan Manchester, his wife of almost 18 years.

Mike was a fan of many parts. In convention fandom he was on several concons including the second Toronto Worldcon and was a frequent art auctioneer. He was also Fan GoH (with ex-wife Susan Wood) at Aussiecon (Worldcon 33, Melbourne Australia, 1975) and numerous other cons. He co-chaired the bid that became the third Toronto Worldcon. In the fanzine world, he won (again with Susan Wood) the Best Fanzine Hugo 1973. His zines included *Energumen*, *Xenium*, and participation in various apazines. He was also a contributor of renown to letter columns, recognized three times with the FAAN Award for Best Letterhack. In the club world, Mike was a founding member of the Ontario Science Fiction Club.

It was in his letterhack incarnation that Mike may have been best known to NASFANs. He was a frequent contributor to the *Shuttle* for a decade or two and, even after he mostly retired from letter columns, he would still send an occasional short missive to us. NASFANs of a certain age will also remember when Mike was FGoH at Con†Stellation XI, Scorpio, back in November 1992. (Hint, other guests included Kristine Kathryn Rusch, Dean Wesley Smith, Michael Flynn, and Stephen Hickman.)

On a personal note, Mike was a long-standing, albeit predominantly long-distance, friend. I followed his battle with cancer via his occasional emails. It had many turns, but he seemed to take them in stride as best anyone could and it seemed like he had a chance to beat it. His death was a blow to me, but of course a much larger one to his family and those of his friends who had the good fortune to know him better than I.



News & Info

HAVE ANY MYTHS THAT NEED BUSTING?

OK, it's not exactly genre and it's not exactly science, but many fans may be interested to know that Grant Imahara, of the Discovery Channel's *Mythbusters* <dsc.discovery.com/tv/mythbusters> will be speaking at the University of Alabama in Huntsville on 18 April 2011.

UAH students will be admitted free. Tickets for the general public went on sale 11 April.

COURT SAY NO TO GOOGLE

Genre fans may be aware that Google Books has a proposed lawsuit settlement pending whereby any author (or other rights holder) who did not object in time could have his/her out-of-print work scanned and sold electronically.

Judge Denny Chin (US District Court, NY) says, er, nope.

This is the latest turn in a lawsuit by the Authors Guild and the Association of American Publishers against Google's announced program to scan and digitize every book in the world. Google proposed a settlement in late 2008 with the aforementioned Opt Out clause. The Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America <www.sfw.org> is one of many groups that had objected to the settlement. Judge Chin's ruling <www.nysd.uscourts.gov/cases/show.php?db=special&id=115> apparently indicates that if the clause were Opt In instead, he might be differently disposed.

2011 SF HOF INDUCTEES

The 2011 class of inductees to the Science Fiction Hall of Fame has been announced. Gardner Dozois, Harlan Ellison, Vincent Di Fate, and Moe-bius will join the luminaries already enshrined there.

The ceremony will be held Saturday 25 June 2011 at the Experience Music Project/Science Fiction Museum <www.empsfm.org> in Seattle WA as part

of the Science Fiction Awards Weekend and in conjunction with both the Locus Awards and NW Media Arts writing workshops. For more information (and tickets) see the Locus website <www.locusmag.com/Magazine/2011LocusAwardsAd.html>.

2011 DUFF NOMINEES ANNOUNCED

The Down Under Fan Fund has announced the nominees for the 2011 race. This is a north-to-south year so either David Cake or Paula McGrath will travel from Australasia to North America to attend the Reno Worldcon.

To vote you must have been "active in fandom" by 1 January 2011. Ballots <www.file770.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/DUFF-ballot-2011.pdf> must be received by 31 May and accompanied by a donation of at least \$5 Australian/Canadian/US, or \$6 New Zealand. Payment and voting may be done via PayPal or by snail mail. If you think you may not be known to an Administrator, you can provide the name and contact information of a fan who knows you and who will be known.



March Minutes

by Steve Sloan, Secretary

The March meeting of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association was called to order on Saturday, March 19, 2011 in the Renasant Bank meeting room at 6:20:01P by President

Mary Lampert and the crickets. Steve was running late, so Doug took minutes for the first 26 seconds until he finally showed up. Sam checked the list twice (of NASFA members who have paid their club dues).

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Wyman discussed upcoming NASFA meeting programs. April's guest will be "Reverend Bob," aka Bob Hood, webmaster for Steve Jackson games. The good Reverend was planning to go to the Space and Rocket Center the Saturday of the meeting. E-mail Wyman if you would like to join him.

"Supernaturalists" from Montgomery have asked to be meeting guests, but Wyman will say no. [Does a supernaturalist observe and study werewolf, dragon, and unicorn behavior in the wild? -SEC]

For May, the NASFA picnic will also be the program.

Wyman would like guest suggestions beyond April and May, so if you have any ideas, please email him.

Maria resigned as Publicity Director, because she is now pregnant, so she will be much too busy to serve in the near future.

Anita nominated Jack to become the new Publicity Director, and Wyman seconded.

The President had something to say first, about the procedures for filling a vacant office, but railroading could begin before she approved. Doug led a digression about building railroad tracks while Sam consulted the bylaws.

Doug moved to open a special election for Publicity Director, and Anita seconded. Anita nominated Jack Lundy, and Wyman seconded. Mike S. moved that nominations be closed, and Doug seconded.

Jack Lundy is now NASFA Publicity Director.

Everybody was very emphatic that "we didn't know" where the spammish emails were, so they couldn't be read at the meeting.

Sam reserved the Renasant Bank meeting room for April's NASFA meeting, but not for May, since the NASFA picnic will be held instead.

CON BUSINESS

According to Con†Stellation XXX con chair Anita, we have a hotel. She noted an email from Steve as Guest Liaison about Also Attending guests. At the time, the following invitees had agreed to be Also Attending guests: Chris Berman, Allan Gilbreath, Les Johnson, Kimberly Richardson, and Toni Weisskopf. Lou Anders and David Drake may also attend if their schedules permit.

In summary, Anita assured us that "there will be a convention."

Adam read a "thank you" letter from the folks who ran the Cthulhu Munchkin game at last year's Con†Stellation.

Con†Stellation XXXI con chair Mike K. has only asked a few people to fill chair positions so far. They will get together to brainstorm about possible hotels to use in 2012. He should know more by next month.

On the subject of con hotels, people discussed a particularly bad hotel (now gone) where a Kubla Con was held.

Sam moved to adjourn at 6:39:03P.

The program featured local author Stephanie Osborn. She gave the first-ever public reading from *Extraction Point*, the new novel she had recently co-written with Travis Taylor. She had to leave early to be on an interview with a Salt Lake City radio program, where she had been asked to be their space science expert. Adam and Maria hosted the After-the-Meeting Meeting at their house.

NASFA Calendar

APRIL

- 01 April Fool's Day.
- 07 BD: Mary Lampert.
- 07 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *Burnout*, Stephanie Osborne; 6P.
- 09 Sukoshi Con: Anniston—Oxford AL.
- 15 BD: "Uncle Timmy".
- 15 BD: Manda Freeman.
- 15–17 JordanCon—Atlanta GA.
- 15–17 KampingKon—Cochran GA.
- 16* Con†Stellation XXX Concom Meeting—3P; at Renasant Bank.
- 16* NASFA Meeting—6P Business, 7P Program, at Renasant Bank. Program: TBD. ATMM: Mary and Doug Lampert's house.
- 18 Federal Income Taxes due. (Yes, it's delayed from the 15th. You can thank Abraham Lincoln and the District of Columbia.)
- 21 BD: Randy B. Cleary.
- 21–24 Frolicon--Atlanta GA.
- 22 Earth Day.
- 22–24 Conglomeration—Louisville KY.
- 22–24 MTAC Odyssey—Nashville TN.
- 26 BD: Chloe Airoidi.
- 27 Administrative Professionals' Day.
- 29 Arbor Day.
- 30 BD: Mark Maxwell.

MAY

- 01 BD: Russell McNutt.
- 01 May Day (traditional).
- 02 May Day (observed).
- 03 BD: Martha Knowles.
- 05 Cinco de Mayo.
- 05 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *Abarat*, Clive Barker; 6P.
- 08 Mothers' Day.
- 13-15 Gaylaxicon—Atlanta GA
- 13-15 Tiger Con—Memphis TN
- 13-15 Full Moon Horror Festival—Nashville TN
- 14 BD: Debbie Hughes.
- 16 BD: Linda Bolgeo.
- 19 BD: David O. Miller.
- 19-22 Nebula Awards Weekend—Washington DC.
- 20 BD: Mike Glicksohn.
- 20-22 Dicehead SIEGE—Chattanooga TN.
- 20-22 Mobicon—Mobile AL.
- 20-22 ImagiCon—Birmingham AL.
- 21* Con†Stellation XXX Concom Meeting—Probably canceled for May.
- 21* NASFA Meeting—More-or-Less Annual NASFA Picnic/Cookout at Judy and Sam Smith's house. Starts at 1P.
- 21 Armed Forces Day.
- 23 Victoria Day (Fête de la Reine) (Canada).
- 27 BD: Kathy Paulk.
- 27-29 Rocket City Furmeet 9—Huntsville AL.
- 27-29 Oasis 24—Orlando FL.
- 27-29 TimeGate—Atlanta GA.
- 30 Memorial Day.

JUNE

- 02 BD: Lloyd Penney.
- 02 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *The Languages of Pao*, Jack Vance; 6P.

Monsters and Lost Skeleton Returns Again/Dark and Stormy Night
Best Short Film*United Monster Talent Agency*, Greg Nicotero
Book of the Year*The Art of Hammer: Posters from the Archive of Hammer Films*, Marcus Hearn
Best Magazine (Mass Market)*Rue Morgue*
Best Magazine (Fan Market)*Monsters From the Vault*
Best Article.....“*The Wolf Man: 69 Years of Terror,*” Robert Aragon, *Horror Hound* #21
Best Interview (for interviewer)*James Burrell Interviews Christopher Lee*, *Rue Morgue* #100/Filmland #251, Basil Gogos
Best Cover *Famous Monsters of Filmland* #251, Basil Gogos
Best Website*Dread Central*
Best Blog*Frankensteinia*
Best Convention*Horror Hound Weekend* (Indianapolis, featuring horror host salute to Vampira)
Best Fan Event*February as “Women in Horror Month”* (Conceived by Hannah Neurotica of *Ax Wound Magazine*)
Favorite Horror Host.....*Penny Dreadful*
Best Horror Audio Site.....*Rue Morgue Radio*
Best CD*Dark Shadows: The Night Whispers* (Big Finish Productions)
Best Horror Comic Book*The Walking Dead*, Robert Kirkman and Charles Adlard
Best Toy, Model, or Collectible*Creature and Julie* (Diamond Select)
Rondo Award Special Recognition“*The Tutor*” Project (Online Collaborative Multipart Horror Film)
Film Most in Need of DVD Release or Restoration*Island of Lost Souls* (1932)
Writer of the Year*Bruce G. Hallenbeck*
Artist of the Year*Daniel Horne*
Fan Artist of the Year.....*Shana Bilbrey* (Belle Dee)
DVD Reviewer of the Year*Kim Newman*
Monster Kids of the Year*Gary Gerani* and *Marc Scott Zicree*
Monster Kid Hall of Fame (Six Inductees)*Ron Borst*, *Verne Langdon* (Posthumous), *Donna Lucas*, *Tim Lucas*, *George A. Romero*, *William Stout*, and *Tom Weaver*

DARRELL AWARDS ANNOUNCED

The 2011 Darrell Awards <www.tinyurl.com/DrlAwr> were presented 26 March 2011 at MidSouthCon in Memphis TN. These awards are for sf/f/h works either written by an author living in the greater Memphis area when the work is published or that has at least one significant scene set in that area. By category, the winners are:

Best Novel*The Banshee’s Walk*, Frank Tuttle (Samhain Publishing)
Best Novella*The Cadaver Client*, Frank Tuttle (Samhain Publishing)
Best Short Story“*Bobbie Sue Almost Got Married,*” vicky malone kennedy (*A Bubba in Time Saves None*, Yard Dog Press)
Best Other Media*Daylight Fades*, screenplay by Allen Gardner (Old School Pictures)
Dal Coger Memorial Hall of Fame Award .*Katherine Allred*
MAINSTREAM REPORT: CARNEGIE MEDAL NOTICES SF/F, AGAIN

The Carnegie Medal, for children/YA fiction, has once again recognized that genre fiction exists. (Last year’s award was won by Neil Gaiman’s juggernaut *The Graveyard Book*.) Their recently-announced shortlist includes fantasy *Monsters of Men*, Patrick Ness’ final volume in his Chaos Walking series. An-

other nominee (*White Crow*, Marcus Sedgwick) is billed as a modern gothic mystery and may also have genre elements

LAMBDA LITERARY AWARDS NOMS

Finalists for the 23rd annual Lambda Literary Awards <www.lambdaliterary.org> (aka the Lammys) have been announced. The nominees in the sf/f/h category are:

Diana Comet and Other Improbable Stories, Sandra MacDonald (Lethe Press)
Disturbed By Her Song, Tanith Lee (Lethe Press)
Flowers of Edo: A Ghost Story, Nene Adams (Black Car Publishing)
Wilde Stories 2010, Steve Berman, ed. (Lethe Press)
Wolfsbane Winter, Jane Fletcher (Bold Strokes Books)

Two nominees in other categories also have some genre connections. *Alcestis*, Katharine Beutner (Soho Press) is a finalist in Lesbian Debut Fiction. *Glamazonia*, Justin Hall, et al. (Northwest Press) is a finalist in Transgender Fiction.

The awards will be presented at the a ceremony to be held 26 May 2011, in New York City.

PROMETHEUS AWARDS NOVEL NOMS

The Libertarian Futurist Society <www.lfs.org> has announced the finalists in the Best Novel category in their Prometheus Awards. The nominees are:

For the Win, Cory Doctorow (TOR Books)
Darkship Thieves, Sarah Hoyt (Baen Books)
The Last Trumpet Project, Kevin MacArdry (www.lasttrumpetproject.com)
Live Free or Die, John Ringo (Baen Books)
Ceres, L. Neil Smith (Big Head Press)

Winners will be announced and the awards presented for both this and the Best Classic Fiction (Hall of Fame) category at a ceremony to be at the 69th World Science Fiction Convention, Renovation, to be held on 17–21 August 2011 in Reno NV.

PREMIER PRATCHETT AWARD ANNOUNCES NOMS

The new Terry Pratchett Anywhere But Here, Anywhen But Now First Novel Prize <www.terrypratchett.co.uk/assets/pdf/TerryPratchettPrizeShortlist.pdf> has announced its shortlist. Pratchett said that over 500 entries were received. The winner will get £20,000 as an advance on a publishing contract. The nominees are:

Postponing Armageddon, Adele Abbott
The Platinum Ticket, Dave Beynon
Half Sick of Shadows, David Logan
Apocalypse Cow, Michael Logan
Lun, Andrew Salomon
The Coven at Callington, Shereen Vedam

Judges for the final round will be Sir Terry Pratchett, Tony Robinson, Michael Rowley (Waterstone’s), Simon Taylor, (Transworld Publishers), and Marianne Velmans, (Doubleday). The winner will be announced on 31 May 2011.

CONSTELLATION AWARD NOMS

The Constellation Awards are given to “actors, producers, and technical teams behind the best science fiction film and television productions of the year.” The list of nominees is fairly extensive (with up to seven nominees in each of nine categories). The list can be found online at their website <constellations.tcon.ca>. The winners will be announced 16 July 2011 at Polaris 25 <www.tcon.ca/polaris>, to be held at the Sheraton Parkway Toronto North in Toronto ON.

WILL EISNER NOMINEES

Comic-Con International has announced the very extensive list of nominations for the 2011 Will Eisner Comic Industry Awards <www.comic-con.org/cci/cci_eisners_main.php>. The winners in almost 30 categories will be announced Friday 22 July 2011 at Comic-Con in San Diego.

Interview With The... Vampire?

No Need for a Ring—Chapter 36

by PieEyedDragon

[Editor's Note: This is the ninth chapter in the third part of the NNFA series—*The Thing Goes South*—and is thus numbered as Chapter 9 in some places. The *Shuttle* is serializing the entire tale and chooses to use the alternate sequential chapter numbering system.]

I enter the room. Everything is dusty. There is a rough stone chair, almost a throne. A small stream of water runs from under the throne and out a small hole into the tunnel outside. A very small woman sits, quite still, on the throne. She seems almost petrified. Slowly, her eyes open.

Woman: What... are... you? (she croaks)

PED: Out of the starless void there comes... an Emissary.

Woman: (Dark fires begin to kindle behind her eyes) The Dark Power stirs? Is my waiting ended? I have faithfully obeyed my orders, though the Men who worshipped us have all died, and now even their shades have departed. The Dark Lord is not merciful, but he returned my stolen vampire's wings to me, for his own purposes. I do not know you. What is your name?

PED: (And for *this* at least, I took on a new name when I arrived.) I see all the world in a shadow of horror. My name is *Palantiri Eä Daedeloth!*

Woman: Then we are akin in service? I am the Woman of Secret Shadow—Thuringwethil; message-bearer between the Dark Power and his vassal, Sauron! What news of the world?

PED: Sauron is fallen beyond any strengthening. The Goblins prepare for the advent of his master. They spread news of the Emissary, me.

Thuringwethil: Then I am prepared to take Sauron's place, until the Dark Power Himself does return. For now, I need to feed. (Large, iron-clawed batlike wings spread out from behind her back. Her eyes begin to glow brighter.) Give me of your strength!

PED: (Standing firm) No.

Thuringwethil: You refuse the Dark Power's agent!

PED: You would weaken the same?

Thuringwethil: Needs must... *give!*

(Our eyes lock in struggle. There being no immediate progress, I call upon another power. Water gushes more forcefully from the floor and back from the wall. The level rises and closes the door behind me. Higher and higher, the dusty water rises above our heads. It begins to swirl, faster and faster. A vortex of water and grit surrounds Thuringwethil and scratches at her with increasing force. Traces of blood begin to stain the vortex. She struggles to shield herself with her wings, but the water tears them to shreds. Thuringwethil becomes shreds, and then is flushed out the hole in the wall and down the river.

Perhaps she should have feared running water!

I am alone in the room now. The walls and throne are scoured clean. But, a small green stone remains under the edge of the throne!

PED: (Looking up at the chamber ceiling) And *how* am I going to get concentrated sunlight in here to help destroy this one?

— O — O — O —

PED: (Back out in the tunnel) Baldor?

Baldor: The monster... is destroyed... I can... finally... rest.

PED: Actually, I need a favor. Will you carry a small stone

back to the outside world? I mustn't touch it.

Baldor: How can a dead man carry... anything?

PED: I can lend strength to your bones and give them movement, for a time. It will be a service to Gondor, and all the Free Peoples.

Baldor: But... I am ready to rest.

PED: Here in this lonesome place? Do this, and I promise to bear your bones back to rest beside your father. I will also tell your people this tale of your long bravery.

Baldor: Only let me rest... beside my father... and I will rest... in... peace.

— O — O — O —

I initiate the reassembly of a dead man's bones. They move together of their own accord into their proper relationships. I stow the arms and armor, and remnants of clothing, into the tinder bag. The skeleton walks awkwardly into the room, picks up the stone after three tries, and begins to march at a soldier's pace on toward the Harrowdale end of this haunted tunnel. I follow close behind. It is not too long before a pale outdoorsy light appears before us. We march out through the arched entranceway in the wall of rock at the base of the Dwimorberg, the Haunted Mountain. There is a glen between the door and the Dimholt wood. In the center of the glen, we come to a halt. I direct Baldor to step his bones into the bag with his gear; and I close it as best I can.

The stone is lying now on the path. It is mid-afternoon. I invoke my wings and draw down an intense beam of concentrated light onto the stone. After a while, I breathe my hottest flame on the stone and it vaporizes like the earlier ones. The liquified earth glows redly and dims as it hardens into black glass. I take up the bag in my teeth and begin a slow funeral march west down the stony road toward Dunharrow, south of Edoras. I hear distant hoofbeats from time to time, but see no men. I am not surprised. Dusk brings me only near Dunharrow. I decide to wait here tonight and continue tomorrow. I keep watch over the dead.

[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?)]

Letters of Comment

PCOC-PCOC-PCOC-PCOC-PCOC-PCOC-PCOC-PCOC

Sheryl Birkhead
25509 Jonnie Court
Gaithersburg MD 20882

1 April 2011

Around here there is news of what Borders store is closing but so far the one closest to me still is in business. I *like* bookstores, but have to admit that when it boils down to forking over hard cash I have to be sure I get the best deal.

SSS fanzine says generally available—maybe it is, just not to me.

Twitter—hmm... never having seen any—no opinion.

Wish I (and the library) still got *Linn's Stamp News*—I'd like to see [the] Royal Mail Magical stamps.

And the Awards information abounds.

Lloyd—enlighten me please about your comment on our eligibility for the Aurora—do you mean you cannot be nominated?

(Agh—there has been mention around here of *possibly* charging \$50–\$100 a year for a library card—*sigh*—but they

are trying to make up [their] shortfall anywhere they can.)

[Linn's does have a website <www.linns.com>, though at first blush I don't find anything there about the Royal Mail's Magical Realms stamps. I guess you could *technically* say the Borders books store nearest me is closing, but since that's almost a 2-hour drive away and in a different state I don't think it'll have a big effect on my lifestyle. As far as I can tell they pulled out of Alabama quite some time ago. -ED]

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

Lloyd Penney
<penneys@bell.net>
1706-24 Eva Road
Etobicoke ON
Canada M9C 2B2

3 April 2011

Thanks for the March *Shuttle*... I will make it quick and painless, down and dirty, and other adjectives that will get me to about two lines of type. Did it!

I sure hope I can get to the Reno Worldcon... Dr. Demento is always a great guest. I saw him at a convention outside of Detroit some years ago, and [he] was always well-dressed, in a tuxedo and matching top hat, and ready to play the strangest music anyone's ever heard.

I look at the calendar, and see a birthday that won't happen now. Our good friend Mike Glicksohn passed away on March 18. He is missed more than he would or we would guess, and his profession of being a math teacher influenced more young men and women. A fannish giant is gone.

More and more awards... any nominees you might see from ChiZine Press are from here! This new press has made quite an impression on the publishing worlds of horror and SF. (I've been told by so many fans that awards are unnecessary, that we do this for the love of the genre and for the participation. And then, I say, if SF awards are so unnecessary, how come there are so many of them?)

Hello to PieEyed! As always, the story has so much of the Tolkien technique about it. The lands you travel in are vast and bereft of any cheer, yet I would want to know what lies beyond them. Middle-Earth has that strange pull on so many of us. Would it be that we have the same strength of spirit and resolve as the Men of Middle-Earth.

My loc... Ad Astra is next weekend, and it should be a lot of fun, as well the steampunk convention three weeks afterwards. When those are done, we have decided to announce our retirement from convention running after 30 years. It's been a lot of fun, but we have noticed that our ideas about conventions and their management may be old-fashioned after all this time, and we're also not getting any younger. We will miss it... a little.

Mike, excellent comment to Sheryl re Hugos and publishing. I am somewhat concerned whether or a fanzine or a website wins, but I definitely do not like a website from out of the blue suddenly thinking that they can, with sheer numbers of subscribers, nominate and vote themselves a Hugo, as has been done the last couple of years. I am sure this happens with lots of awards.

There's another page of loc for you. Take care, and see you all with the next issue.

[I'd mailed the March issue of the *Shuttle* just days before hearing of Mike Glicksohn's death. It felt—and still feels as I type this—as if I'd been hit by the proverbial ton of bricks. It will take some time to fully mourn his passing, and this from someone who only met him in the flesh a very few times. It's hard to imagine what it must be like for family and truly close friends. Since Reno's selection, my plan has been to go to the Worldcon there, but lately I'm doubting that will happen. My life is getting in the way of my fannish activity. If I don't go, and you and Yvonne do, I may try to talk you into being my Fan On The Street reporter(s). Thirty years running conventions? We pretty much parallel. I've doing it for between 30 and 31 years and am signed up to chair next year's Con†Stellation. When will I call it quits on con running? I'm not sure but there have been times—of course—where it was very tempting. -ED]



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 April 2011 edition (Volume 31, Number 4). NASFA Officers for 2011: President Mary Lampert; Vice President Mike Kennedy; Secretary Steve Sloan; Treasurer Sam Smith; Program Director Wyman Cooke; Publicity Director Maria Grim. 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)
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 Huntsville AL 35815-4857 — OFFICIAL ADDRESS
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