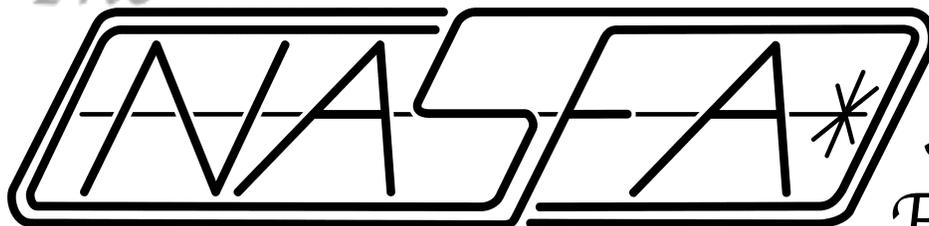


The



Shuttle

February 2014

The Next NASFA Meeting is Saturday 8 February 2014 at the Regular Location This is one week earlier than usual due to a church conflict

Con†Stellation Town Hall 5P Sat. 22 February at The DeeP Concom Meeting Sunday 23 February; Time & Place TBD

¡ Oyez, Oyez ¡

The next NASFA Meeting will be 6P Saturday 8 February 2014 at the regular meeting location—the Madison campus of Willowbrook Baptist Church (old Wilson Lumber Company building) at 7105 Highway 72W (aka University Drive). Please see the map at right if you need help finding it.

Note that this is one week earlier than usual, to avoid a church conflict.

FEBRUARY PROGRAM

The February program will be a talk by Stephanie Osborne <www.sff.net/people/steph-osborn> on “Wibbly Wobbly Timey Wimey Stuff, or Time Travel in the Real World.”

Book five in Stephanie’s Displaced Detective series—A Case of Spontaneous Combustion—is due out later this year. Books six and seven are said to be in work <shinybookreview.com/2013/11/14/interview-stephanie-osborn>, while the eighth book is finished but won’t be published until after 5–7.

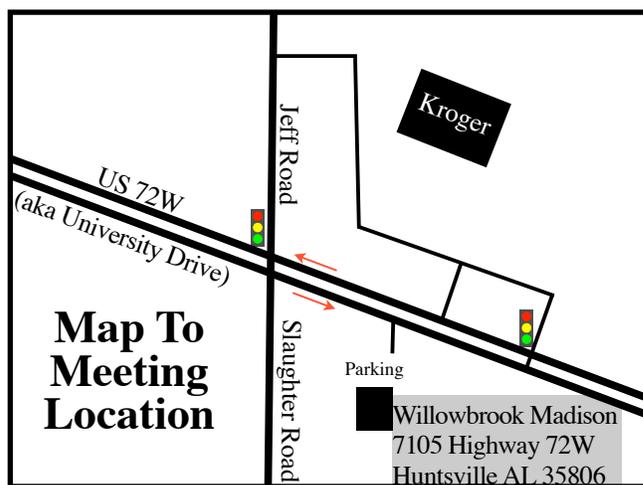
FEBRUARY ATMM

The February After-The-Meeting Meeting will be hosted by Maria and Adam Grim, at the church. The usual rules apply—that is, please bring food to share and your favorite drink.

Also, please stay to help clean up. We need to be good guests and leave things at least as clean as we found them.

CONCOM MEETINGS

The schedule for Con†Stellation XXXIII concom meetings is still flexing a bit but the next full meeting will be Sunday 23



Continuing Our 34th Year of Publication

Inside this issue...

Table with 2 columns: Content and Page Number. Includes News & Info, Minutes of the January Meeting, NASFA Calendar, Awards Roundup, No Need for a Questing Beast—Chapter 4, Letters of Comment, and Art by The Concentrium.

Deadline for the March 2014 issue of The NASFA Shuttle is Monday 17 February 2014

February 2013. Stay tuned for the exact time and the location.

Con chair Craig Goodrick has already held one "Town Hall" meeting (at The DeeP Comics and Games) to open communications with the wider fannish community, including people who came to Con†Stellation in the past but no longer do. The second Town Hall will be 5P Saturday 22 February. It will again be held at The DeeP—in the upper floor of their new location (the former Mock Electronics building). Further such meetings will be held approximately monthly until sometime this spring. Please encourage any friends who have questions about the con to go to one of these.



#### CHANGING SHUTTLE DEADLINES

The latest tweak to the *NASFA Shuttle* schedule shifted the usual repro date somewhat to the right (roughly the weekend before each meeting) but much of each issue will need to be put to bed as much as two weeks before the monthly meeting.

Please check the deadline below the Table of Contents *each month* to submit news, reviews, LoCs, or other material. We will generally need to enforce that deadline strictly.

#### FUTURE PROGRAMS AND ATMMs

Future programs include:

- March and forward: TBD.

We need ATMM volunteers for all future months in 2014 except (possibly) November.

#### FUTURE CLUB MEETING DATES

NASFA meeting dates for three months in 2014 have been shifted away from the normal 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday.

- This month (February 2014) the meeting was moved one week earlier to 8 February to avoid a church conflict.
- The March 2014 meeting was moved one week earlier to 8 March to avoid Tennessee Game Days.
- The May 2014 meeting was moved one week later to 24 May to avoid DSC 52.

#### JOINING THE NASFA EMAIL LIST

All NASFANS who have email are urged to join the NASFA email list, which you can do online at <tinyurl.com/NASFAEmail>. The list is usually low traffic, though the rate is rather variable. Generally the list is limited to announcements about club activities plus the occasional message of general interest to north-Alabama sf/f/h/etc. fans. Non NASFANS are encouraged and welcomed to join the list, but please only do so if you're interested in the above restricted topics.

#### NASFA CALENDAR ONLINE

NASFA has an online calendar on Google. Interested parties can check the calendar online, but you can also subscribe to it and have your Outlook, iCal, BlackBerry, or other calendar automatically updated as events (Club Meetings, Concom Meetings, local sf/f/h/etc. events) are added or changed. You can view the calendar online at <tinyurl.com/NASFACal>.

## News & Info

### BELJING WORLDCON BID

News has surfaced of a 2016 Worldcon bid <www.guokr.

com/zone/worldcon>. The deadline for filing a bid with this year's Worldcon (Loncon 3 <loncon3.org>) is 11.59P EST, Saturday 15 February 2014 (4.59A GMT, Sunday 16 February) so until then all bidders are unofficial. That said, a long-anticipated bid is also expected from Kansas City <www.kcin2016.org> so it might appear Beijing would be a long shot.

#### DUFF VOTING OPENS

Voting for the 2014 Down Under Fan Fund is open. The Down Under Fan Fund is in a North-to-South year; the winner will represent North America while attending the 53<sup>rd</sup> Australian natcon (Continuum X <continuum.org.au/c10>, to be held 6–9 June 2014 at the InterContinental Melbourne The Rialto in Melbourne Australia) and visiting elsewhere in Australia and/or New Zealand.

The candidates are Aurora Celeste and Juanita Coulson. Votes are due by midnight PST 31 March 2014 and can be sent by postal mail or PayPal; the somewhat complex details are explained on the ballot at <file770.com/wp-content/uploads/1401\_DUFF\_ballot.pdf>. To vote you do have to make a donation (\$5 AUS/CAD/US or \$7 NZ or more) and have been an active fan by or before the beginning of 2014.

#### WORLDCON PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Loncon 3 has announced a science fiction-themed photography competition open to both amateur and professional photographers. There is an entry fee separate from any Worldcon membership. There are cash prizes and any winner who is not a Worldcon member will also be given a one-day admission. The categories are Alien Earth, Future Cities Today, and Junior (ages 15 and under, on any science fiction or fantasy theme).

The entry fees are £10 (senior categories) and £2 (junior category). First through third prizes are £100/50/25 (senior categories) and £50/30/20 (junior category).

#### YET ANOTHER IMPRINT

Simon & Schuster recently announced a new adult sf/f imprint, Simon451. There's a clear digital bent in their charter, though print books will also be part of the mix. The focus is said to be on e-book originals and digital-first projects plus reissuing backlist titles as e-books. The imprint name is, of course, homage to Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*.

## January Minutes

by Steve Sloan

The January meeting of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association was called to order on Saturday, January 18, 2014, in the Madison satellite location of Willowbrook Baptist Church at 6:18:27P by Vice President Mike Kennedy. President Mary Lampert was in class, and she had the gavel with her, so Mike downloaded a gavel sound for his iPad. He also downloaded virtual crickets.

#### OLD BUSINESS

None.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Sam's "got crap."

Dues are due.

The next meeting is February 8. Sam and Judy will be returning from a trip that afternoon and should be back in time to open the church, but just in case, the key should be left with someone else. Shelley volunteered.

New club credit cards have been ordered for a few of the officers, but the cards haven't arrived yet.

The church will be putting in a new stage, so we will have to work around the construction when we meet next time.

Sam needs to update the software for the portable credit card reader some time before the next Con†Stellation.

As 2014 Con†Stellation con chair, Craig brought up a topic for discussion. He initially thought it was an issue for the NASFA Board of Directors, but it was actually an issue for the club to decide. Craig wants us to make the office of Con†Stellation convention chair a two year position. He said that switching the con chair every year is not good general business practice. Doug gave one reason: there is a problem with hotel contracts. Mike K. suggested that we could appoint someone to deal with hotels on a continuing basis.

Craig continued to argue for two year terms. He said that departments run better with the same people running them year after year. For example, the Con Suite gets better each year. He noted that other successful local conventions don't change their con chairs every year.

Mike K. noted that we're unusual in being a club that also owns a con, not just a con by itself.

Someone suggested that potential con chairs might be more reluctant to volunteer if it becomes a two year commitment.

Tracey suggested that we could have a con chair and a con chair elect, so the con chair elect would learn from the previous con chair.

Mike K. reminded us that he hadn't heard anything phrased as a motion.

Craig moved that we change Con†Stellation convention chair to a two year position.

Mike K. suggested that the club form a committee, which could be a committee of one, to come up with exact wording.

Sam consulted the election section of the Bylaws. It does not restrict us from having something like a two year term for con chair. It says a con chair is elected "for each convention," but nothing prevents the same person from being elected twice.

Mike K. as meeting chair ruled Craig's motion moot because it is already allowed by the Bylaws.

Doug moved that we table this issue for one month. The motion was seconded and carried. (We must have been really serious about this issue by the way, because no one even mentioned the US versus British meanings of "table.")

Mike K. suggested that the 2015 con chairs be consulted, then we will bring up this issue next month.

Mike K. opened a "thank you" letter from SciQuest.

Mike K. mentioned that we received a novel from Randy H. Martin from Gadsden. Will someone review it for the *Shuttle*?

### CON BUSINESS

2014 Con†Stellation con chair Craig reported that there will be a convention. He is still looking at hotels and other venues. He has looked at the Von Braun Center. It is quite expensive, but its event space is still cheaper than most hotels. He will speak to the Holiday Inn at Madison Square Mall.

Craig may also speak to Madison Square Mall about using the empty space that previously held a Belk. Doug doesn't think they will be able to commit that much space that far in advance. Craig knows the mall administrator, so he has a connection to ask.

The next concom (Con†Stellation convention committee meeting) will be held January 26 at 2P at Sam and Judy's house. [Due to a family emergency, the place was later moved. -ED]

Doug believes that the Holiday Inn at Madison Square Mall would not have had enough event space for the last couple of Con†Stellations, but it does have enough space for a typical Con†Stellation, so it could work if they give us a decent price.

Craig is taking volunteers for con positions. Email him if you would like to volunteer.

Craig says that Con†Stellation will have a LARP (live action roleplaying game) this year.

Craig will be holding a town hall meeting at The DeeP February 1 at 4P to get in touch with our lost membership. He is also holding a concom after the next NASFA meeting on February 8 to see who wants to be where. Those people who haven't already volunteered for positions by that time can see what slots are still open at that meeting. [Stay tuned, the meeting dates for upcoming concoms meetings are somewhat in flux. -ED]

Craig really wants the hotel and dates cemented, because he wants to bring Huntsville to the convention with a lot of advertising.

Craig wanted everyone to know that concom meetings are not closed. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Doug moved to adjourn at 7:01:28P.

The January program was "Trivia for Chocolate." Dave Watson hosted the After-the-Meeting Meeting at the meeting location at Willowbrook Madison.

## NASFA Calendar

### FEBRUARY

- 01 Con†Stellation XXXIII "Town Hall" meeting—4P, at The DeeP Comics and Games. **NOTE:** This is a Saturday.
- 01 National Freedom Day.
- 02 Groundhog Day.
- 02 Día de la Candelaria.
- 03 Día festivo en conmemoración de la Constitución.
- 05 Constitución.
- 06 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *The Demolished Man*, Alfred Bester; 6P.
- 07–09 Days of the Dead—Atlanta GA.
- 08 BD: Lin Cochran.
- 08\* NASFA Meeting—6P Business, 7P Program, at Willowbrook Madison. Program: Stephanie Osborne: "Wibbly Wobbly Timey Wimey Stuff, or Time Travel in the Real World." ATMM: Maria and Adam Grim, hosting at the church. **NOTE:** This is one week earlier than usual to avoid a church conflict.
- 09 BD: Jack Lundy.
- 09 Nashville Anime Day—Murfreesboro TN.
- 10 BD: Marcia Illingworth.
- 12 BD: Abraham Lincoln.
- 14–16 Kami Con 6—Birmingham AL.
- 14–16 AnachroCon—Atlanta GA.
- 14 Valentine's Day.
- 16 Comic Con—Warner Robbins GA.
- 17 BD: Nancy A. Cucci.
- 17 Presidents' Day.
- 21–23 Concave—Bowling Green KY.
- 21–23 ConNooga—Chattanooga TN.
- 21–23 ConDFW—Addison TX.
- 22 BD: George Washington.
- 22 Con†Stellation XXXIII "Town Hall" meeting—5P, at The DeeP Comics and Games. **NOTE:** This is a Saturday.
- 23 Con†Stellation XXXIII Concom Meeting—time and location TBD. **NOTE:** This is a Sunday.
- 24 Día de la Bandera.
- 25 BD: David Paulk.

### MARCH

- 01 Cardboard\*Con—Atlanta GA.
- 01 OnyxCon Sankofa—Atlanta GA.



can be found online at <[www.ala.org/alsc/2014-alsc-media-awards](http://www.ala.org/alsc/2014-alsc-media-awards)>. The Newbery winner (**Kate DiCamillo** for *Flora & Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures* [Candlewick]) has garnered perhaps the most attention since that Medal is styled as for “the author of the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children.”

#### CRAWFORD AWARD WINNER

The International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts <[iafa.highpoint.edu](http://iafa.highpoint.edu)> has announced the winner of their 2014 Crawford Memorial Award (a juried award for an outstanding first fantasy book). The winner is *A Stranger in Olondria*, Sofia Samatar (Small Beer Press). The award will be presented at the 35<sup>th</sup> International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, to be held 19–23 March 2014 at the Marriott Orlando Airport Hotel in Orlando FL.

#### HEINLEIN AWARD

Geoffrey A. Landis has been chosen as the winner of the 2014 Robert A. Heinlein Award <[www.bsfs.org/bsfshheinlein.htm](http://www.bsfs.org/bsfshheinlein.htm)> (for “outstanding published works in science fiction and technical writings that inspire the human exploration of space”). The juried award will be presented at Balticon 48 <[www.balticon.org](http://www.balticon.org)>, to be held 23–26 May 2014 at the Hunt Valley Inn in Hunt Valley (Baltimore area) MD.



#### RUSA READING LIST WINNERS

The Reference and User Services Association, part of the American Library Association, has announced the winners and runners-up for their 2014 Reading List Book Council Awards. In the sf/f/h categories, the winners are:

**Fantasy** ..... *Vicious*, V.E. Schwab (Tor Books)  
**Horror** ..... *Last Days*, Adam Nevill (St. Martin’s Griffin)  
**Science Fiction** ..... *Love Minus Eighty*, Will MacIntosh (Orbit Books)

The full list, including a short list in each of the above categories and other categories that may be of interest to some readers, can be found online at <[tinyurl.com/RUSARRL2014](http://tinyurl.com/RUSARRL2014)>.

#### SAG, PGA, DGA, AND WG AWARDS

In the lead-up to the Oscars, many of Hollywood’s specialty Guilds announce their own winners.

The 20<sup>th</sup> Screen Actors Guild Awards were presented 18 January 2014 at the Shrine Auditorium & Exposition Center in Los Angeles CA. There were no genre winners in either the movie or TV categories.

The headline award for the Producers Guild of America—The Darryl F. Zanuck Award for Outstanding Producer of Theatrical Motion Pictures—was a tie this year between genre *Gravity* and non-genre *12 Years a Slave*. Other genre works receiving recognition for their producers were *Sesame Street* (Children’s [TV] Program) and *Frozen* (Animated Theatrical Motion Pictures).

The top honor in the 66<sup>th</sup> Directors Guild of America Awards also went to *Gravity* (director Alfonso Cuarón); in this case with nothing tying. No other obvious genre works received DGA wins.

Of the two top Writer’s Guild awards, a genre work (*Her*) took the Original Screenplay award. (The Adapted Screenplay went to non-genre *Captain Phillips*. Depending on how you count them, 2–3 other genre works took writing awards, including *The Last of Us* in the Videogame category.

#### APEX MAGAZINE AWARD

*Apex Magazine* <[www.apex-magazine.com](http://www.apex-magazine.com)> has announced the winner of their Story of the Year award as selected by their “fans and readers.” Brian Trent’s winning story, “A Matter of Shapespace” (issue 51, August 2013) can be read online at

<[www.apex-magazine.com/a-matter-of-shapespace](http://www.apex-magazine.com/a-matter-of-shapespace)>.

#### BSFA AWARDS NOMS ANNOUNCED

The British Science Fiction Awards <[www.bsfa.co.uk](http://www.bsfa.co.uk)> has announced the shortlist for their 2013 Awards. Nominations are by the BSFA membership. The final voting round is open to members of the annual Eastercon. Winners will be announced at that convention, this year named Satellite 4 <[satellite4.org.uk](http://satellite4.org.uk)>, to be held 18–21 April 2014 at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Glasgow, Scotland. The novel category is only open to UK publications. By category, the nominees are:

#### BSFA Awards Novel Noms

*God’s War*, Kameron Hurley (Del Rey)  
*Ancillary Justice*, Ann Leckie (Orbit)  
*Evening’s Empires*, Paul McAuley (Gollancz)  
*Ack-Ack Macaque*, Gareth L. Powell (Solaris)  
*The Adjacent*, Christopher Priest (Gollancz)

#### BSFA Awards Short Fiction Noms

*Spin*, Nina Allan (TTA Press)  
“Selkie Stories are for Losers,” Sofia Samatar (*Strange Horizons*)  
“Saga’s Children,” E.J. Swift (*The Lowest Heaven*, Pandemonium)  
“Boat in the Shadows Crossing,” Tori Truslow (*Beneath Ceaseless Skies*)

#### BSFA Awards Artwork Noms

Joey Hi-fi for the cover for *Dream London*, Tony Ballantyne (Solaris)  
Kevin Tong <[tragicssunshine.com](http://tragicssunshine.com)> for a poster for *Metropolis*  
Richard Wagner for “The Angel at the Heart of the Rain” (*Interzone* #246)

#### BSFA Awards Non-Fiction Noms

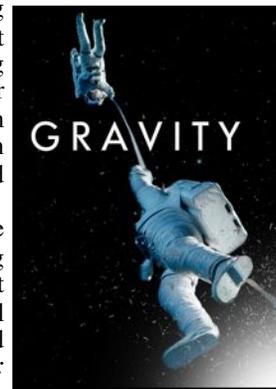
*Wonderbook*, Jeff VanderMeer (Abrams Image)  
“Going Forth, Night,” John J. Johnston (*Unearthed*, Jurassic)  
“Sleeps with Monsters,” Liz Bourke (Tor.com)

#### ACADEMY AWARDS NOMS

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences <[www.oscars.org](http://www.oscars.org)> has announced the nominees for the 86<sup>th</sup> Academy Awards. Genre films did well—mostly in the “technical” categories but they also picked up several of the top-line noms.

*Gravity* picked up a whopping ten nominations, including for Best Picture, Directing, and Leading Actress. Other nods were for Cinematography, Directing, Film Editing, Original Score, Production Design, Sound Editing, Sound Mixing, and Visual Effects.

With a very respectable five honors, *Her* came in second among genre films. Noms were for Best Picture, Original Score, Original Screenplay, Original Song, and Production Design. *The Hobbit: The Desolation Of Smaug* was recognized in 3 categories: Sound Editing, Sound Mixing, and Visual Effects. Two additional genre works took two noms, *Despicable Me 2* and *Frozen*, both for Animated Feature Film and Original Song.



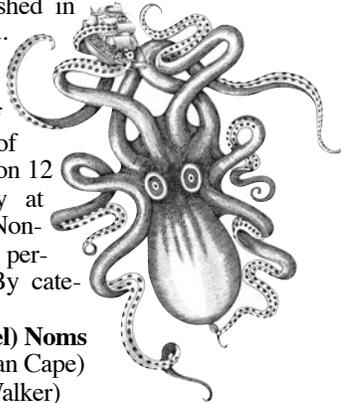
An additional 10 sfnal movies were recognized in a single Oscar category: *The Croods* (Animated Feature Film), *Ernest & Celestine* (Animated Feature Film), *Feral* (Animated Short Film), *Get a Horse!* (Animated Short Film), *Helium* (Live Action Short Film), *Iron Man 3* (Visual Effects), *Mr. Hublot* (Animated Short Film), *Possessions* (Animated Short Film), *Room on the Broom* (Animated Short Film), and *Star Trek Into*

*Darkness* (Visual Effects). One additional film which probably garnered some interest from genre fans—*The Lone Ranger*—took noms for Makeup and Hairstyling and for Visual Effects.

### KITSCHIES NOMS

Nominees for the 2013 Kitschies <[www.thekitschies.com](http://www.thekitschies.com)> (for “the year’s most progressive, intelligent, and entertaining works of genre literature published in the U.K.”) have been announced.

The awards are sponsored by Kraken Rum and include a cash award (reported as a total of £2000), a trophy, and a bottle of rum. Winners will be announced on 12 February 2014 at a ceremony at London’s Seven Dials Club. Non-winners will also get the rum; perhaps to drown their sorrows. By category, the nominees are:



#### Kitschies Red Tentacle (Novel) Noms

*Red Doc*, Anne Carson (Jonathan Cape)

*More Than This*, Patrick Ness (Walker)

*A Tale for the Time Being*, Ruth Ozeki (Canongate)

*Bleeding Edge*, Thomas Pynchon (Jonathan Cape)

*The Machine*, James Smythe (HarperCollins/Blue Door)

#### Kitschies Golden Tentacle (Debut Novel) Noms

*A Calculated Life*, Anne Charnock (47 North)

*Stray*, Monica Hesse (Hot Key)

*Ancillary Justice*, Ann Leckie (Orbit)

*Nexus*, Ramez Naam (Angry Robot)

*Mr Penumbra’s 24-Hour Bookstore*, Robin Sloan (Atlantic)

#### Kitschies Inky Tentacle (Cover Art) Noms

*Homeland and Pirate Cinema*, Cory Doctorow, design by Amazing15 (Titan)

*Dreams and Shadows*, C. Robert Cargill, design and illustration by Sinem Erkas (Gollancz)

*Apocalypse Now Now*, Charlie Human, art by Joey Hi-Fi (Century)

*Stray*, Monica Hesse, art by Gianmarco Magnani (Hot Key)

*The Age Atomic*, Adam Christopher, art by Will Staehle (Angry Robot)

### STOKER LONG LIST RELEASED

The Horror Writers Association <[www.horror.org](http://www.horror.org)> has released the Preliminary Ballot for the 2013 Bram Stoker



Awards. HWA members will select finalists from this list; those selections to be released in late February 2014. The long list contains the better part of 100 works in 11 categories. Check the HWA website at <[www.horror.org/stokers2014/stokers.html](http://www.horror.org/stokers2014/stokers.html)> for the full list.

### FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

*Locus Magazine* has published their annual Recommended Reading List (for 2013) in their February 2014 issue. This is one resource people sometimes consult in making award nominations or just choosing reading material. Fortunately for non-subscribers the list is available on their website at <[tinyurl.com/LocusRRL2013](http://tinyurl.com/LocusRRL2013)>.

In a somewhat similar vein, website writertopia maintains a list of writers eligible for the John W. Campbell Award (for a new science fiction or fantasy writer whose first genre work was published in a professional publication in the previous two years). The 2014 list is up at <[www.writertopia.com/awards/campbell](http://www.writertopia.com/awards/campbell)>. These aren’t recommendations *per se*, but might help if you’re researching Campbell noms for your Hugo ballot.

## Deathly Struggle—Panic Spreads Like a Burning Fuse

### No Need for a Questing Beast—Chapter 4

by PieEyedDragon

[Editor’s Note: PieEyedDragon’s adventures in Middle-Earth will resume in these pages later. In the meantime, we take you to another time and location. PED spends less time “on camera” as this adventure develops, but still plays a part.]

Professor S.P. Trelawney wakes before dawn out of a disturbing dream... just like most mornings. She puts a kettle on the fire and takes care of the normal things in the loo. Emerging, she grabs two of the new cups and takes them to her favorite table, along with the kettle. She strokes the silver moon candle stand until the light is bright enough. Reaching onto the nearby shelf, she grasps a tin of tea. She gives it a little shake and decides it is empty. Grabbing another at random (which says Wulong) she breaks the seal and measures some into the cups. She pours the hot water and waits, humming a little tune.

Soon enough she starts sipping and drinking from one cup, taking bites from a fresh scone in between. When nearly empty, she swirls the cup and carefully upends it. Then, she pauses to closely examine the tea leaves remaining. They go all the way around the cup, in a formation that is not immediately familiar. Puzzled, she studies them for markers and pulls down a couple of reference books. The first book is discarded. The second, likewise. Frowning, she pulls a much older and heavier volume from its place and consults the index. Keeping one finger on the index, she opens the book and turns to the first reference. Wrong. She checks the second, third and fourth. Still wrong. One more to go.

She turns toward the end of the book and finds the right reference. Adjusting her huge glasses, she reads the thin handwriting with growing alarm. Turning the page, she sees an ornate illustration of a frightful, scaly beast. It stands upon land and water. There is a nimbus of flame and swirling clouds around its head. One



hand holds an orb, or crystal ball. The other gestures toward a dark doorway opening in the air beside it. There are stars within the darkness. The caption reads: *The Leviathan’s Answer*.

Taking the Tarots, she arranges several in a specific pattern, face down. Then turns them over one by one. The High Priestess, the Page of Cups, and a sideways Death are the first three: Death or Change is near, and a young seeker of knowledge... a student?... stands between it and someone who is probably herself. More cards reveal the Moon, the Fool, the Cosmos, and finally... the Page of Wands? A young man of action?

One more card, to determine how soon these things will come together. She turns it and gasps. *Now!*

Professor Trelawney stumbles away from the table, flings open the hatchway to the lower corridor, and starts down the ladder in a panic. The Headmaster was away, she had to get to Professor McGonagall *Immediately!* A waxy deposit on the rungs causes her feet to slip partway down, and she tumbles to the floor. Disentangling herself from her long shawl and beads,

she pulls herself up and runs down the stairs. Behind her on the floor lies a tumble of scarves, chains and strings of beads. Extending outward from them are a long thin arm and hand, which trembles slightly; also a pair of legs, one bent at an angle and oozing blood; and some thick-lensed spectacles.

— O — O — O —

Luna Lovegood, budding wizarding naturalist, was staying in her old Ravenclaw bed while spending a few days at Hogwarts; looking up some details and observations of rare creatures that she had not come across in her formal studies. The Library here had been opened for her use; as it often was for many others who needed to do research among scarce tomes not generally available. She had risen early in order to spend some time with Professor Trelawney. She shivered with a freezing sensation as something very cold passed her. Probably just a ghost. This was July after all. Luna rounds the last curve in the stairway and sees the jumble of scarves on the floor. Then, she sees an arm and hand.

*Professor!* She cries, rushing over. She takes the wrist and cannot tell if there is a pulse or not, since she herself is trembling. Drawing her wand, she points it at her teacher and cries “Enervate!”

Nothing.

Again, “Enervate!”

The skin is turning gray and clammy.

What to do, what to do? When her mother died, there was nothing she could do. Not even what they had learned from Grandmama. Her muggle Grandma Jane had insisted they learn some new Muggle lifesaving practices, “just in case.” It went against her nature to strike anyone, but that seemed to be the next step. She set down her wand, balled her hands tightly together, raised them taking a deep breath, and brought them down hard on the center of Professor Trelawney’s chest as she shouted “*Seepiyar!*”

— O — O — O —

Professor Minerva McGonagall had just sat down at her desk. She had sent out all the notices to the new first-year students yesterday. Now she had to start sending out the class assignments and shopping lists for all the others. Consulting her notes on the new seventh-years, she dipped her quill and started writing “Abaylan, Joseph” when a shrill voice disturbed her. Professor Trelawney is standing before her, looking very pale and... transparent! The door behind her is still closed.

Sibyll: Professor McGonagall! Something terrible is coming, or may already be here. The tea leaves! The cards! *Leviathan!* Had to tell you! Someone may die here today! You must believe me (she goes blurry for an instant)!

Minerva: Yes, Sibyll, you have my full attention. I believe you.

Sibyll: It’s coming! Had to warn you (she goes blurry for another instant)!

Minerva: Where, Sibyll, what?

Sibyll: *Leviathan!* (she cries, and vanishes).

Professor McGonagall hobbles to the door, blasting it open on the way. She looks at her canes and shakes her head. Turning her wand, she transforms into an old tabby cat and, on four legs, runs toward the nearest stairway and starts climbing.

— O — O — O —

Fred: Professor? Blimey, *she* was sure in a hurry. Guess I’ll have to trouble the Headmasters after all. I hope it’s Professor Dumbledore on duty this morning.

— O — O — O —

[Some of the above beings and situations have been suggested by the works of J.K. Rowling. (But you already knew that, didn’t you?)]

## Letters of Comment

LOC-LOC-LOC-LOC-LOC-LOC-LOC-LOC-LOC-LOC

Sheryl Birkhead  
25509 Jonnie Court  
Gaithersburg MD 20882

4-7 January 2014

With any luck (Hah!) I can get the two issues that I located in the short stack reread, think of a few comments, and get this mailed in time to be... ahem... timely. I’ll give it a real try!

Before actually getting started:

### *Happy New Year*

Okay, now that is out of the way...

Seeing T-shirt comments reminds me that I ought to check them out this year—need to start replacing my old ones... Can they be purchased (i.e., are the “still” available) on-line? If so, image available to check the design? I had hoped to be able to buy one or two from the Worldcon online, but this year couldn’t locate any “store” from the convention. I poked around using Google, but none of the sites I found were from anyone I knew and I’d rather patronize *family*. Just thought I’d ask.

I guess I am more out of the fannish streak than I thought—congrats to all the Faned Awards winners. Lloyd and Taryl jump to mind, but I have also had contact with R. Graeme Cameron—but need much more online activity to take a look at his *Space Cadet*.

That is just the tip of the awards iceberg, but the ones that seem more close to home (um... ignore the WSFA and Conclave venue!)—at least heart. Now that the new Hugo nominating season is open—one and all—if you are qualified to nominate, please do so... and fill in as many of the blanks as you can—spread that egoboo around!

Puck seems to straddle technologies and “mythologies.” But, perhaps he will meld the disparate natures?!

Fingers crossed that you are back up to full operating speed. Obviously it is never fun to end up in the hospital, but it is even more the pits when you have to miss something that you have spent the better part of a year getting organized. At the very least I am glad you seem to be chugging right along.

Man, always the last to know—Brad and Cindy Foster running for TAFF—along with Curt Phillips! I took a second look at the nomination deadline—closed Dec. 31, 2014? I figured that was a typo but misread it twice—the third time I read it aright—yup a typo—closed Dec. 31, 2013 as I suspected. I need to go take another quick look and see if I can locate the complete slate...

Yeouch—being *this* close and not knowing DC will be running a Worldcon bid!

I would have to check my records (going way back—maybe on disc and maybe not—if not, well, I won’t have any records) but I *think* Jim Barker is one of the fanartists I contacted a long time ago for showcasing (first in *The Reluctant Famulus* and them a bit later in *Challenger*—haven’t had any new pieces in an awfully long time—as a talented group, fanartists are remarkably difficult to get to write about themselves). I was hoping to get information and samples of their work to save for posterity, sorta. Went back and looked—found a file from about 1997 but can’t actually “open” it due to obsolete software (ahem, sound familiar?). Then I found a “current” file from 2001—but only sent in 2007 or thereabouts—with two notes in it—saying Langford was willing to forward my

request to him—but no response. I congratulate him on the Rotsler Award win. Agh, sat—I looked at the long list of fanartists I was hoping to write something/send examples of their art—and pretty much all the files are grayed out—meaning obsolete—can't open (well, I sort of can open but what I see is meaningless). Agh, it has been quite a few years since I have thought about that project. Sigh, wish I had been able to get so many more.

Sheesh—hadn't realized that project was such a sore spot! (Just made a quick PO run and actually got some of the Harry Potter stamps—I am trying to get a purchase list together to buy Forever stamps before the *temporary* 3¢ increase.)

*Gravity* is on my Netflix list—but I have heard so many comments about it and the relative impossibility of suspending disbelief—I will go ahead and watch it when it comes out, knowing the disbelief aspect is, apparently, quite high.

Ah, so PED does not have dew claws... or maybe yes with the extra (right now) phantom digits.

Agh, it is supposed to be “well” (for us at least) into the negative digits temperature-wise tomorrow once the wind chill is factored in. I planned ahead. Sorta. I bought the 25 pound bag of salt and stored it until... I found out I now have a bag of solid salt (so to speak). I tried all the things I was later instructed to do (the “bouncing” on the ground, whacking with a shovel and so on) and all I accomplished was to tear the back and *still* have a solid lump... I went from congratulating myself on planning ahead to hitting every store in about 12 miles and finding out no one else planned ahead and they had all already purchased... but you get the idea. We shall see. Right now I am thinking all it will be is *cols* and not *snowy* and cold.

I think that about does it, need to go carry in a bit of firewood and I fully plan (hah) to stay home tomorrow and call it my day off since today was supposed to be my day off and I had to get work done (well it *sounds* good to me)!

I know it will be cold in your area too, bundle up!

[Yeah, North Alabama has had several shots of abnormally cold weather this year. We've mostly dodged the frozen precip though; flurries here but the nasty stuff was south and east of us. The national news covered the Atlanta gridlock—that's about 150 miles southeast of us as the crow flies. Birmingham—75 miles south—was affected nearly as much. Heck, there were closures all the way down to the gulf coast. Regarding past Con†Stellation T-shirts, those have all been claimed now. For this coming year the design will be on our website when it's available though that won't be until late summer or early fall. We do take orders, but alas not through the website. I was aware of the postage rate hike, though it slipped my mind long enough to miss the deadline for stocking up. I use very few stamps myself, but it might have been nice to save a few dollars for the *Shuttle* and Con†Stellation. After you letter I now have the image of an awards iceberg in my mind. I'm sure some of those who believe they've



An Iceberg Shape for Awards;  
Not an Awards Iceberg

been unjustly overlooked might be happy to cast themselves in the role of the *Titanic*. I should stop there—I don't want anyone slipping into analogies with Jack and Rose. -ED]

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

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

28 January 2014

Happy New Year, and thank you for the January *Shuttle*. I'm a few days past deadline, so let's hope I make it in. I'll make it fast, and see what I can produce.

Still not a certainty about attending Loncon 3, but we have been very lucky so far, and have confirmed that we are in the closest hotel, the Aloft. The more I read about what's planned for Worldcon, the more I want to be there. We will be making a firm decision on May 1, and if the answer is no, then we decide on what Plan B is. May or may not be Detcon1.

Once again, greetings to PieEyed! I have not yet had the chance to see the second *Hobbit* movie, I hope I can before it leaves. Ah, you've moved to the Hogwarts universe. That's right, Fred Weasley died in the last HP movie. I would think that a dragon inside Hogwarts would not be unheard-of in its past. I look forward to seeing if there's anything else you do around that prestigious school.

My loc... interesting! You got the spine of the older version of Henry Stephen's book. Yvonne is about a hundred pages into the book, and is finding it fascinating. The version I got was edited and abridged by Alex Langlands, one of the archaeologists in the various *Farm* series.

In some ways, Yvonne and I are reinventing ourselves yet again... we've been steampunk vendors occasionally over the past couple of years, but we plan to do more of it in 2014, and will be at three shows or conventions at least over the next few months. It should be fun, and will also give us an indication of the depth of the steampunk market in Toronto.

Time to go, hope I got this done in time!

[I'm surprised in some ways that Steampunk seems to still be a growing thing... or if not growing at least easily sustaining. That surprise is probably based in part on lack of direct personal interest in it—the costumes, mannerisms, and such are interesting but *way* beyond my desire to participate. Yeah, PED has wormed her way well into the Potterverse, though is missing from the stage in this month's episode and, if I understand correctly, could be missing a lot as many events spin along without her actual presence. Then again, even a rumor of a dragon could well excite folks. -ED]

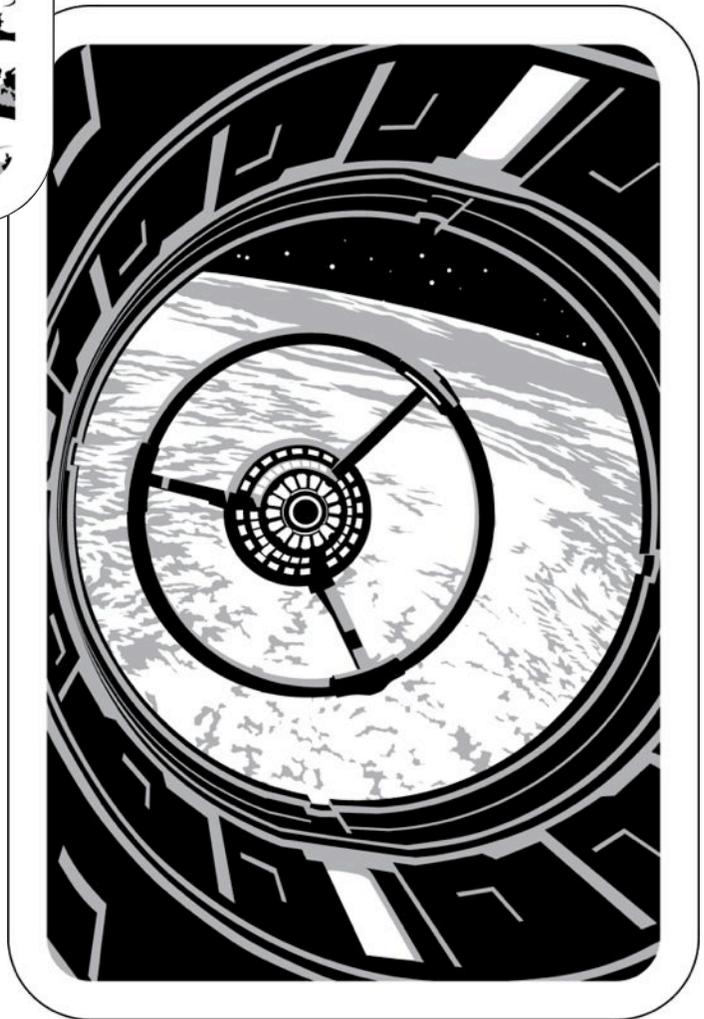
**LATE BREAKING NEWS:  
FREE “CAMPBELL” FICTION**

Website Stupefying Stories has collected “representative works” of many of the writers eligible for the Campbell Award (that is, having their first sf/f pro work published in 2012–2013) into one volume. That's “111 authors” and over “860,000 words of fiction”; and it's all free. And, it's DRM-free.

The collection is available in Mobi or Epub format. Check the SS website at <<http://stupefyingstories.blogspot.co.uk/2014/01/announcing-2014-campbellian-anthology.html>> for links to the download site(s). This is a limited time offer.



©The Concentrium <http://www.behance.net/theconcentrium>,  
use herein per Creative Commons license (CC BY-NC 3.0);  
no substantive changes made;  
images cropped to eliminate whitespace outside the border





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 February 2014 edition (Volume 34, Number 2). NASFA Officers for 2014: President Mary Lampert; Vice President Mike Kennedy; Secretary Steve Sloan; Treasurer Sam Smith; Program Director "JudySue Thornsmythe"; Publicity Director Jenna Stone. Shuttle Editor Mike Kennedy.

Comments, inquiries, and contributions of writing by email to: [nasfa.shuttle@con-stellation.org](mailto: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, © 2014. 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.

\*\*\*\*\*