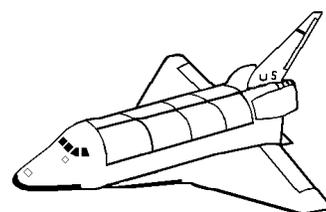


The



SHUTTLE
December 2004

The Next NASFA Meeting is 18 December 2004 at the Regular Time and Location

🔔 Oyez, Oyez 🔔

The next NASFA meeting will be **18 December 2004** at the **regular time** and **location**.

The **December program** will be a random gift exchange. Bring one (or a few) inexpensive gifts to participate. (Program Director Karen Hopkins asks that in order to keep the exchange reasonably short, people *not* bring large numbers of gifts. Just call her Scrooge.)

The **December after-the-meeting meeting** (aka **Christmas Party**) will be at Nancy Cucci and Ray Pietruszka house. There will *also* be a **New Year's Eve Party** at Ray and Nancy's house. The usual rules for both apply — bring your favorite drink and a dish to share. Check with Nancy and Ray to confirm the start time of the New Year's Eve Party, but I'd guess 9-ish.

NASFA Calendar

DECEMBER

- 02–05 SMOFCon 22 — Washington DC.
- 03–05 East Meets South (Anime) — Anniston AL.
- 08 First day of Chanukah.
- 09 BD: Mia West-Smith.
- 12 BD: Toni Weisskopf.
- 15 Bill of Rights Day.
- 17 BD: Robin Ray.
- 18* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at BookMark. Program: Gift Exchange. ATMM: Nancy Cucci and Ray Pietruszka's house.
- 19 BD: Yvonne Penney.

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Deadline for the January 2005 issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Friday, 31 December 2004.

Russell McNutt mentioned that whenever he buys the DVD version of something he has on VHS, he donates his used tapes to the library — they like that.

It was also mentioned that the recent *Exploring and Privateering Space* conference here in Huntsville included Burt Rutan as a speaker, and included talks on Friday on space propulsion systems. (The local HAL5 society was the principal sponsor of the conference, which was chaired by Ronnie Lajoie. NASFA was, among others, a co-sponsor of the conference.)

NEW BUSINESS

Randy Cleary reported that *Fans and Freaks: The Culture of Comics and Conventions* was showing that night at the Flying Monkey Art Center, and that he was planning to go — anybody else interested in going too?

We have received a free \$10 Staples gift card, which was passed along to Randy.

Sam Smith passed around a hard copy of his proposed revised NASFA web site for review and critique (which has since been posted online — check it out at <www.constellation.org/nasfa>).

Sam Smith brought along a hard copy of the NASFA links page, listing the dates of known conventions in our area for the coming year, with an eye towards determining if we needed to plan to move any of next year's NASFA meeting dates. After examining the list, it was decided to not move any meeting dates at this time (but once the dates for next year's Con†Stellation are determined, this may change).

Nominations: The following people were nominated for club officers for 2005. Additional nominations (yikes!) and voting will occur at the December NASFA meeting.

President Mary Ortwerth
Vice-President Mike Kennedy
Secretary Steve Sloan
Treasurer Sam Smith
Program Director Karen Hopkins
Publicity Mia Smith
Candy Bringer Lady Doug Lampert
(Note: Candy Bringer Lady is not an official NASFA office!)

We have received an e-mail from Jonathan Bjork of DG Associates (a.k.a. DGA Games). They are looking for promotional opportunities and a local Tournament Coordinator. Sam Smith was tasked with drafting a reply to Jonathan, and with suggesting Craig Goodrick (who was not present at the meeting) as a possible TC.

CONVENTION BUSINESS

Mike Kennedy: The treasurer has been given the bills for the 2004 convention. Hopefully they are now paid. There is still some question about the accuracy of the hotel bill, however.

Anita Eisenberg: Potential guests for 2005 have been contacted, we are now awaiting a reply.

Sam Smith was finally able to coax some hit count information out of our hosting service down in Florida. For September, we had 1025 visitors to the main Con†Stellation web site, and 157 to the NASFA web site. For October, 1287 visitors to the Con†Stellation web site, and 141 visitors to the NASFA web site.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:01:18P. The program was the annual NASFA auction, which raised \$40.36 for the club. The After-The-Meeting Meeting was at Marie McCormack and Mike Cothran's house.

NASFA Receivables

by Randy B. Cleary

Here are the items received by NASFA since last time.

Author Services, Inc. Magazine, Volume 6, Issue 1; 7051 Hollywood Boulevard, Hollywood CA 90020; 800-624-7907; <www.authorservicesinc.com> — Large format promotional magazine of L. Ron Hubbard's works.

Challenger, Number 20, Summer 2004; Guy H. Lillian III, P. O. Box 53092, New Orleans LA 70153-3092; <GHLIII@yahoo.com>; 504-821-2362; <www.challzine.net> — Hugo nominated genzine with lots of interesting essays and LoCs from many pros and fans.

ConNotations, Volume 14, Issues 4-5, August/September-October/November 2004; Editor Stephanie L. Bannon; Central Arizona Speculative Fiction Society, P. O. Box 62613, Phoenix AZ 85082; <Editors@casfs.org> — These news zines had 24 newsprint pages each of SF media news, reviews, and club and convention listings.

De Profundis 379-381, August-October 2004; Editor Marty Cantor; c/o The Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, 11513 Burbank Boulevard, North Hollywood CA 91601; <www.lasfs.org> — These club zines have club minutes, event calendars, and info.

File 770 #143; Mike Glyer, 705 Valley View Avenue, Monrovia CA 91016; 626-305-1004; <MikeGlyer@cs.com> — 42 pages of news for and about fandom with essays, con reports, and more.

FOSFAX 210, September 2004; Timothy Lane and Elizabeth Garrott, The Falls of the Ohio Science Fiction and Fantasy Association, P. O. Box 37281, Louisville KY 40233-7281 — This genzine has 58 pages of articles, features, con and trip reports, reviews, and letters of comments with a political bent.

Nice Distinctions 7; Editor Arthur D. Hlavaty, 206 Valentine Street, Yonkers NY 10704-1814; 914-965-4861; <hlavaty@panix.com> — This personal zine had six pages of discussion and essay-style writing.

OASFiS Event Horizon, Volume 17, Number 1, Issues 205-208, August-November 2004; Editor Leslie R. Hammes, The Orlando Area Science-Fiction Society, P. O. Box 592905, Orlando FL 32859-2905; <lhammes@cfl.rr.com>; 407-263-5822 — These four small club zines have club minutes, events, and info.

SFSFS Shuttle, November 2004; Editors George Peterson and Chris Negelein, South Florida Science Fiction Society, P. O. Box 70143, Fort Lauderdale FL 33307-0143; <chairman@sfsfs.org>; <sfsfs.org> — This club zine has six pages with cover illos, club news, and media/book reviews.

Southern Fandom Confederation Bulletin, Volume 8, Number 6; Editor R. B. Cleary; 138 Bibb Drive, Madison AL 35758-1064; <rbcleary@bellsouth.net>; <www.southernfandom.com> — This 26 page organization zine has essays, convention reports, reviews, minutes, fanzine listings, news, convention listings, club listings, and letters of comment.

"Yngvi is a Louse" and Other Graffitos, Issue #91; T. K. F. Weisskopf Reinhardt, 196 Alps Road, Suite 2-385, Athens GA 30606; 706-316-9182; <tweisskopf@mindspring.com> — This 22 page APA zine contains essays, letters of comment, and election predictions.

A Tale of Two Books

Who Needs Originality?

book reviews by Doug Lampert

Tinker, by Wen Spencer, Baen, hardback, 1 November 2003, ISBN 0743471652, 352pp, \$21.95 (paperback, 1 December 2004, ISBN 0743498712, 448pp, \$6.99)

Sunshine, by Robin McKinley, Berkley, hardback, 1 September 2003, ISBN 0425191788, 400pp, \$23.95 (paperback, 4 December 2004, ISBN 0515138819, 405pp, \$7.99) (*Sunshine* was the winner of the 2004 Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for Adult Literature)

Two books; both with authors whose names let many people think they are men; both with main characters who are gainfully employed young women, who almost always go by nicknames, and the book's name is the protagonist's nickname; both books involve magic in a world with modern tech; I waited for the paperback in both cases; either book could stand alone or start a series. (McKinley claims there will be more books if she comes up with more; Spencer has written a sequel, which is forthcoming.)

Tinker is techno-elves, and any plot outline and description of the background would sound like a Mercedes Lackey book. *Sunshine* is vampires, and any plot outline would sound like *Buffy*; while any description of the background would sound like



Laura K. Hamilton. In point of fact I can't come up with a single element of either book that hasn't been done before. But both are well done and the combination of elements does not seem old to me. Who needs originality? There are only 3 (or 7 or 11 or maybe more depending on who you ask) plots out there anyway.

In point of fact both books are coming-of-age stories, despite starting with nominally adult characters. That's why I think neither really needs a sequel, a coming-of-age story never needs a sequel

no matter how many problems are left open, because problems external to the character aren't the main driver anyway. It's a bit odd to have coming-of-age stories with main characters who are already responsible adults, but both protagonists have special abilities that their worlds need and that they do their best to ignore.

I do hope for sequels in both cases, not because I much care how the "main" problems are resolved, but because I think in both worlds someone needs to take the rest of the "good guys" out back of the barn and hit them over the head with a clue by four – five or ten times. In both cases there are more than enough major problems for our heroines to keep them busy until they get a clue by four. (Actually that may be the original

element in both books. In *Tinker* the elves are far from perfect, and many of the elves know it; in *Sunshine* the society has real problems dealing with some of its members, including legally sanctioned discrimination on bogus grounds. It isn't actually original to give the good guys warts, but all too often I get the feeling that either the author or all of the characters are blind to the warts.)

But even without sequels these are fine books. Buy them.

Mini Movie Review

by David K. Robinson

Alexander; R; Starring Colin Farrell, Rosario Dawson, Anthony Hopkins, Angelina Jolie, Val Kilmer, et al.; Directed by Oliver Stone; Written by Oliver Stone, Christopher Kyle, and Laeta Kalogridis; Produced by Moritz Borman, Thomas Schuhly, Oliver Stone, Jon Kilik, Iain Smit, et al.; Distributed by Warner Bros., Intermedia Films, et al.; 173 minutes

I recently saw not once but twice the movie *Alexander*! I saw it both times in Birmingham. I rather liked it; I am a history buff, being a life member of The History Channel Club! The acting was average — at times a little hokey, but still good — and the story was good. It was rated R for strong language, sex, and some violence; it's *not* for the kids! It ran 2:55 which is a little too long for me unless it's really really good.

Overall if you like movies about Greece and/or history you will like this film. Otherwise, wait for the DVD. Grade 3 out of 4 stars.

Awards Roundup

Two familiar names were recently awarded medals by President Bush. On 17 November a ceremony was held for the recipients of the 2004 National Medals of Arts and National Medals of Humanities. Ray Bradbury was awarded a Medal of Arts while Madeleine L'Engle was awarded a Medal of Humanities (accepted by granddaughter Charlotte Jones). A total of 8 each of the Arts Medals (2 posthumously) and Humanities Medals were awarded.

For more information on the National Medal of Arts online see <www.arts.gov/honors/medals>.

SESFA WINNERS ANNOUNCED

On 5 October 2004 the winners of the Southeastern Science Fiction Achievement Awards were announced. The winners are:

Lifetime Achievement **Joe Haldeman**
Best Novel ***Hyperthought***,
M. M. Buckner (Ace Books)

Best Short Fiction **"The Door Gunner,"** Michael Bishop (*The Silver Gryphon*, Golden Gryphon Press)

This is the third year for the SESFA Awards <www.sesfa.com>. They are intended to honor accomplishment in science fiction, fantasy, or horror by individuals born or living in the Southern United States. The awards are selected by participating fans who pay a small membership fee and administered by the online science fiction magazine *scifidimensions* <www.scifidimensions.com>.

The SESFA Awards are sponsored by Biting Dog Press <www.bitingdogpress.com> and artist Dan Henderson

<www.mindspring.com/~hendall>.

ENDEAVOUR AWARD

The winner of this year's Endeavour Award (for an sf/f book written by a Pacific Northwest author) is John Varley's *RedThunder*. The announcement was made 5 November 2004 at OryCon in Portland OR. Judges were Gardner Dozois, Sheila Finch, and Jennifer Heddle. The award is accompanied by a grant of \$1,000 and an etched glass plaque produced by Kent WA artist Ashley J. Harper.

No Need For Weapons of Mass Destruction (We've Got A Dragon)!

No Need for Doctor Drake (aka The Lizard of Oz) —
Chapter 2
by PieEyedDragon

(A sound like rapid hoofbeats approaching, comes to my ears. I point.)

PED: Someone is coming.

Boq: So *that's* why he came gliding in, booming like a thunderstorm. He was trying to *hear* his way *here*.

(A carpenter's wooden saw-horse canters up to the witch and stops. A heavily-breathing passenger dismounts.)

Witch: Greetings, Your Majesty.

Ozma: And also to you, Good Witch. What do you think of my dragon?

Witch: *Your* dragon? He seems much the worse for wear; positively dragging.

Ozma: We searched far and wide. The Oracles claimed that *he* can cure Dorothy.

Witch: That *is* good news. He has already accidentally destroyed her house. A traveler, Ozama Ben Loden, had been trying to buy it. He was very upset at it's destruction.

Boq: Excuse me, Your Majesty. He was more upset at the destruction of the broomstick of the Wicked Witch of the East. The dragon had found it buried under the house, and sneezed flame upon it.

Ozma: Where is this "Ben Loden" now?

Boq: He ran off down the yellow brick road; the way you came.

Ozma: We passed a man, one that I recognized. It was Ruggedo; the former Nome King. If he wanted the broomstick, it was for no good reason. I heard it was originally a Wizard's Staff, and very powerful as a weapon of mass destruction.

Boq: It's nothing but charred cinders, now.

(I've been keeping my mouth shut, and ears open. You can learn a lot of things by doing this.)

Ozma: Come down, Sir Dragon. You are under our protection. We must see to your injuries and comfort.

— O — O — O —

(I clamber down, and face the speakers.)

PED: Water and food will help some, too. From the smell of the air and the sound of the bucket brigade, there is a river nearby.

Ozma: And what do you... eat?

PED: Fish, ordinarily, raw fish; also spicy herbs. I am omnivorous.

(I thought it wiser not to add that a very rare delicacy of another kind was standing in front of me.)

Medicine Man: Your Majesty, we have a problem.

Ozma: What is it?

Medicine Man: We have medicine for these injuries, but he is too big. It won't be enough.

PED: Too big, you say? But size is relative. (I shrink down until I am the size of a pony.) Is that better?

Medicine Man: Yes, and I can reach everywhere now, too. What shall I work on first?

PED: The wings, please; and then the body. Leave the eyes for last. I've been blind before. Once even for an entire year.

(Potent ointments are carefully applied. The healing begins immediately. Meanwhile, a basket of sharp-smelling herbs had been brought. Also, some other baskets with a strong fishy smell. I grow larger again, and eat of the offerings.)

Ozma: We need to get back to Emerald City as soon as possible. I wondered how to get you there. That size trick; can you become even smaller?

PED: Yes, I could be the size of a small dog, or even smaller.

Ozma: Then perhaps you can ride on the neck of the Saw Horse, in front of me.

PED: That is practicable. I can stay still enough to assist internal healing.

Ozma: It is getting late, and we all need rest. Tomorrow morning, then.

— O — O — O —

(The Do Drop Inn provides a free room for the Princess. I sleep deeply; curled-up under her bed. The next morning, as we leave; we go aside to see the famous House. I sniff around; find and swallow all the dead embers of the broomstick. Then I grow, and grow, and grow. I stretch myself over the scattered pile of rotten timbers and rusty roofing, and concentrate mightily. The planks and timbers fly back together as the house rebuilds itself. It continues further to straighten-up, somewhat, as the rotten wood un-rots. It is still slightly crooked, but it *did* fall from the sky. A great cheer goes up all around. Painters, and sign painters, are very busy as we leave. One sign says "with the Time Dragon" and another reads "Princess Ozma Slept Here." I wonder if they will post *both* of those at her room in the Inn.

We make excellent time through corn fields, and into a woodland. We stop at a shack labeled "Hiker's Rest by Nick Chopper." No one is around as the Princess unpacks her lunch. As she finishes, a hoarse screaming can be heard. Rushing outside we see a grove of apple trees waving their branches wildly in the smoky air. There are fires all around us.

The sawhorse tries digging a hole. I return to full size and walk out into the nearest fire. Inhaling, I draw all the flames within me and proceed around to all the other fires.)

Ozma: The trees are usually of sour disposition, but they have promised *we* can pick their apples, *any* day. It was a strange coincidence that several fires started here just now.

PED: It was no coincidence. I smelled naphtha and found several broken bottles. Those fires were set deliberately.

Ozma: I must try to find out the culprit, but later. Dorothy is the most important consideration right now. We must hurry on now to Emerald City. I see that you are, in a very *literal* sense, a fire-breathing dragon. Thank you.

Horse: Yeah, thanks.

(We eventually leave the forest, and see a horizon of glittering walls and towers.)

Ozma: The Emerald City waits for us.

[Some of the above beings and situations have been suggested by the works of L. F. Baum.]

Letters of Comment

POC-POC-POC-POC-POC-POC-POC-POC-POC

Sheryl Birkhead
25509 Jonnie Court
Gaithersburg MD 20882

19 November 2004

Yeah — my congrats to the Fisher-Molloy household for their addition.

It was nice to read the Con+Stellation con report from the South African GoH's point of view. If you get their fanzine — *Probe* — it is interesting to follow the evolution of a possible Worldcon bid. I only wish you had run a picture of some artwork by Kinuko Y. Craft.

Go for it PED — any house in your flight path is fair game.

Thanks to Lloyd for the Aurora Award recipients — wish I was more (heck, at *all*) familiar with the names! At the very least, I should know the fannish ones!

[You set a pretty high standard for yourself, Sheryl, if you try to know the names of most fans on all awards lists. I'd gladly settle for remembering the names of fans I've actually met! It was of course just a tad self-indulgent to run a review of "my" con by our Fan GoH, but then I've never been above a bit of shameless self-promotion. Taking pictures of artwork of course poses some concerns RE rights. You can, however, see many of Ms Craft's works online at her official site <www.kyrcraft.com>. -ED]

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

PieEyedDragon
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20 November 2004

Hello fans,

I went out for a swim, down at the rim of Europe's largest glacier. This is also part of my new kingdom around mount Vatna (aka Jotunheim).

Dragon scales... oh, please. After a disagreeable incident early in life, I am very careful about leaving pieces of me where they might fall into the Wrong Hands. I did make an exception recently, for honor and gratitude, and gave one scale to an old American. He uses it to pull music from his silver guitar strings. I'll retrieve it when he finally goes into the ground.

Gojira being a relative is largely a matter of opinion and interpretation. Unlike Mom and I, he is a true Ancient. However, the Atlantean records of the Gamera project reveal that 21 percent of Mom's (and my) DNA are a digitally-resequenced direct copy of an archived sample taken from an unnamed, hibernating specimen. I'm pretty sure that the sleeping donor actually was "Big G." In one movie, he was seen blasting flame downward with sufficient force to lift himself into the air and drift sideways: Flying, but just barely. Gojira is almost as bad-tempered and territorial as he is portrayed. He's not a friend but I still like to give him lots of room. I ran into him a few thousand years ago (semi-accidentally) and spent the next year pursuing my Prime Directive by swimming in the deep ocean waters, where being blind was scarcely an inconvenience. A very long lifespan means that you have additional chances for Really Bad Stuff to happen to you.

Did you see the latest on *The Amazing Race*? The producers finally chose sites in Iceland. It is no accident that Iceland

was never before included. The former, ah, regime took pains to keep TV people away. This was implemented by our short Jotun agents still on the Network payrolls. I caused this policy to be somewhat relaxed. Some tricky goblins (off-camera) distracted a contestant at a filling station. She proceeded to pump Gasoline into her vehicle (clearly labeled Diesel) and lost hours on the race to the pit stop at Blue Lagoon. A friendly local siphoned out the tank so they could start with a fresh volume of the *proper* fuel. I won't say whether or not their benefactor might have had relatives in Jotunheim... or Asgard.

Speaking of Thor; he's still hanging around (with his Jotun cousins) in hopes of better luck at fishing. I overheard him practicing an angler-luck spell that Harlan Ellison wrote for "Riders of the Purple Wage." It went: "Call me Ahab, not Ishmael; for I have hooked the Leviathan!"

That's the news from lake Grænalón; where all the men are tall, all the women are strong, and all the children... can be real *monsters*!

PED, Rex
Jotunheim

[Um, at the risk of having to dodge dragon flame, I'll point out that Philip Jose Farmer wrote "Riders of the Purple Wage." So if approximately one quarter of Gamera's DNA is from Gojira that would make him (?) roughly Gamera's grandparent. Then he (?) would be your great-grandparent? But as I understand it you and Gamera share all your DNA. So now I'm confused. Shades of Jeff Foxworthy: "If your family tree doesn't fork, you could be a, um, monster!?" -ED]

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

Lloyd Penney
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25 November 2004

Many thanks for the November *Shuttle*. Thought I'd step out of character, and respond to it early. Don't get used to it, I sure won't...

Thanks for the list of World Fantasy Award winners. The fans in Ottawa are quite pleased with the winner for Novel... Jo Walton is living in Ottawa these days, and has been in regular contact with the Ottawa Science Fiction Society. I have heard about a bid to bring the WFC to Toronto for 2008, but given that it's up against Saratoga, New York, it may be a long shot.

Grant Kruger's trip report makes good reading... Grant, I never got any notice from SFSA to renew my membership to the club. I joined at Torcon 3. Being a GoH is a great honour, and Yvonne and I have been honoured in this way a number of times... I've always tried to make sure that if you're going to spend that kind of money on me, I'd better try to make sure you get your money's worth. One great thing about getting paper fanzines from all over the world is that you get the chance to collect marvelous stamps. I was a stamp collector before discovering fandom, so I have a large pile of beautiful stamps ready to steam should I ever return to that hobby.

Greetings again, PieEyed... I trust that no matter what happened in Oz, you paid no attention to the man behind the curtain. What's Dorothy sick with? Or will this be described in the next installment?

Worldcon sure did sound like a lot of fun. Noreascon 4

looked so good, and in some ways it might have been because Torcon 3 looked so bad. But, Boston fandom usually puts on a good show. Congrats to Patrick and Naomi!

I am writing this loc on American Thanksgiving, so I hope all of you enjoyed a good sit-down dinner with loved ones and friends. Friends are coming up from New Jersey to Toronto to gather for a big party and dinner this weekend, so we're getting a little Thanksgiving in November as well.

I start a new job in the new year! I'll be getting extensive training from Canada News Wire for the first three months, and will be editing press releases. However, that will be a night-shift job starting in March or April, so we'll see how that affects our lives here. That may be the extent of my good news, but to ensure that nothing untowards happens, I will continue to send out resumes, and try to make sure I can still land on my feet.

Some recent news... as of yesterday, Robert J. Sawyer won Spain's top SF award, the Premio UPC de Ciencia Ficción, for the third time. You can find out more details from <www.sfwriter.com/prupwi04.htm>.

That's all for now... see you next month, and Yvonne and I wish you all the best Christmas and New Year ever.

[When Richard Gilliam was a Huntsvillian (and NASFA member) he tried to talk up a World Fantasy Con bid for Huntsville. I don't recall for sure if he ever made a formal presentation to the WFC board — who selects the sites — but in any case he didn't have much of a shot. Richard eventually did co-chair the 1992 WFC, in Pine Mountain GA (at the Callaway Garden Resorts). For one I was just as happy that Huntsville was not the site. Congrats on the new job — and you seem eminently sensible still sending out resumes! -ED]



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