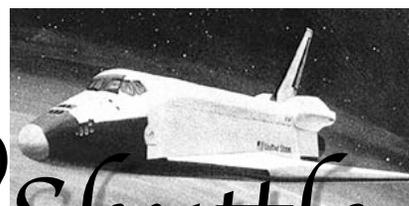
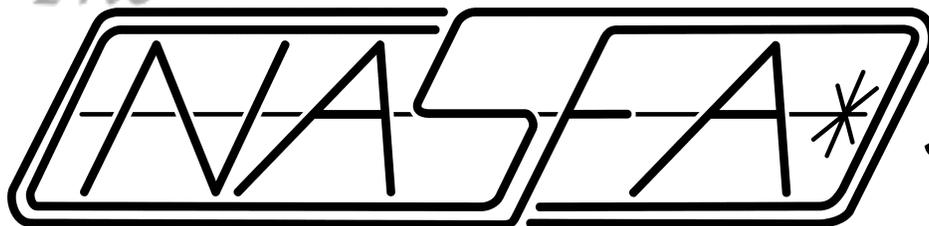


The



Shuttle

July 2010

# The Next NASFA Meeting is 17 July 2010 at the Regular Time and Location

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

## ¡ Oyez, Oyez ¡

The next NASFA Meeting is Saturday 17 July 2010 at the regular time (6P) and the regular location. Meetings are at the Renasant Bank's Community Room, 4245 Balmoral Drive in south Huntsville. Exit the Parkway at Airport Road; head east one short block to Balmoral Drive; turn left (north) for less than a block. The bank is on the right, just past Logan's Roadhouse restaurant. Enter at the front door of the bank; turn right to the end of a short hallway.

### JULY PROGRAM

The July program will be the musical episode "Once More, with Feeling" from the 6th season of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*.

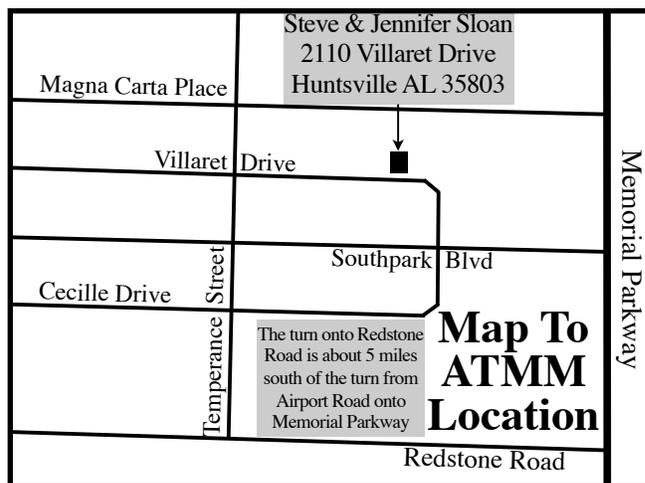
### AUGUST PROGRAM (AUCTION)

The August program will be the more-or-less-annual NASFA Auction. Start gathering your junk, or white elephants, or donations to the auction. Genre books and DVDs are always popular, of course but most anything that will raise a few bucks is welcome.

### CONCOM MEETINGS

The next Constellation XXIX concom meeting will be

Saturday 17 July at 3P, at the Renasant Bank meeting room. It will be preceded by a 1P splinter meeting to discuss programming for the convention and followed by a dinner break before the club meeting.



## Continuing Our 30<sup>th</sup> Year of Publication!

### Inside this issue...

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Deadline for the August issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Friday 6 August 2010

We're getting very close to the con so all department heads and staff/volunteers are *strongly* encouraged to come to the concom itself. Anyone interested in programming for the con is welcome at that meeting.

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

#### ATMMs

The July After-The-Meeting Meeting will be at Jennifer and Steve Sloan's house at 2110 Villaret Drive SW in south Huntsville. See the map on the front page for directions.

We need ATMM volunteers for August and all (well, most) months beyond.

#### SHUTTLE TRANSITION—RE-REDUX

As of earlier this year, production of the *Shuttle* is undergoing another transition to new hardware and updated software. Things may be uneven for a while; please bear with us.

Also, apologies to anyone inconvenienced by the very late mailing of the June issue of the *Shuttle*. There may be some delay in mailing this issue, but if things go well it will only be a day or two.

#### 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.

## News & Info

#### HUGO VOTING DEADLINE

The deadline for voting for this year's Hugo Awards (and John W. Campbell Award) is Saturday 31 July 2010, 23:59 PDT. You must be a Supporting or Attending Member of this year's Worldcon (Aussiecon 4) to vote. (That membership also entitles one to download electronic versions of many of the nominated works).

Voting can be done by mail or online (a PIN is needed for the latter). Details of both methods—and links to both US letter and A4 PDF ballots—can be found online at <[www.aussiecon4.org.au/index.php?page=66](http://www.aussiecon4.org.au/index.php?page=66)>.

#### WORLDCON SITE SELECTION MAIL-IN DEADLINE

The site of the 2012 Worldcon will be selected by members (including Supporting Members) of this year's Worldcon. Due to requirements of the World Science Fiction Society constitution, Site Section voting must be by mail or at the con itself (though ballots can be hand delivered at the con by other than the voter). Details—including links to A4 and US letter ballots—can be found online at <[www.aussiecon4.org.au/index.php?page=50](http://www.aussiecon4.org.au/index.php?page=50)>. The deadline for mail-in ballots is 31 July 2010. Voting at the con will close at 6P local time, 4 September 2010.

Ballots must be accompanied by a fee that will buy a Supporting Membership in the winning 2012 convention. The only bidder who filed required paperwork to be listed on the ballot is Chicago <[www.chicagoin2012.org](http://www.chicagoin2012.org)>. Other bids could theoretically run a write-in campaign.

#### MURRAY LEINSTER INFO SOUGHT

This is a little indirect, so follow closely...

Michael Swanwick has circulated an announcement seeking oral history of, early fanzine articles about, and pre-existing statements regarding the importance of Murray Leinster (the pen name of William Fitzgerald Jenkins (1896–1975)).

Two of Leinster's/Jenkins' daughters are writing a biography of him and are looking for more information about his influence on the field.

If you have such info, or know someone who might, the *Shuttle* can put you in touch with Mr. Swanwick who in turn can put you in touch with Billee Stallings (one of the aforementioned daughters).

I told you it was indirect.

## June Minutes

by Steve Sloan, Secretary

The June meeting of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association was called to order on Saturday, June 19, 2010 in the Renasant Bank meeting room at 6:22:15P by Vice President Mike Kennedy. The traditional crickets were away with Mary.

#### OLD BUSINESS

None.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Wyman may hold an auction for the July meeting's program. He has feelers out for other programming.

Sue suggested holding the "auction in August" because it's alliterative. [You'll see elsewhere that it will be in August. -ED]

#### CONVENTION BUSINESS

The next concom (convention committee meeting) will be held Saturday, June 26, at 3P at the Renasant Bank meeting room where we usually hold NASFA meetings.

There will be a full list of concons in this month's *Shuttle*.

If you want special size and color orders for Con†Stellation XXIX: Leo T-shirts, ask Anita.

It will be at least a couple of months before we see the final Leo T-shirt design.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

LibertyCon will be held July 9–11 near Chattanooga TN, CrisisCon is coming up August 6–8 here in Huntsville, and this year's NASFIC will be held August 5–8 in Raleigh, North Carolina.

A Con†Stellation flyer is available for download on the website <[con-stellation.org](http://con-stellation.org)>, to print and leave at any conventions NASFA members may be attending.

The meeting adjourned at 6:29:27P.

For the program, Jack Lundy presented a selection of the photos he's taken of Masquerade costumes over the years. Adam and Maria Grimm hosted the After-the-Meeting Meeting at their house.

## NASFA Calendar

#### JULY

- 01 Canada Day.
- 01 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *The Voyage of the Space Beagle*, A.E. van Vogt; 6P.
- 02 BD: Deb Stone.
- 04 Independence Day.
- 05 Independence Day (Observed).
- 08–11 Play On Con—Birmingham AL.
- 09–11 LibertyCon 23—Chattanooga TN.
- 17\* Con†Stellation concom meeting—3P at Renasant Bank. (1P Programming Meeting before the concom. Dinner break between concom meeting and club meeting.)
- 17\* NASFA Meeting—6P Business, 7P Program, at Re-



has a good con suite (which supplied many meals to many fans through the con) but in their current hotel the setup has no sitting space at all. A key social area (not counting parties and such) is the hotel breakfast area. Fans sit and talk or pull out the cards for spades or draw tables together for *ad hoc* gaming tables.

Speaking of gaming, Liberty has that covered on several fronts. Nearest to my heart is the Killer Cutthroat Spades tourney, though I opted not to enter this year because getting in a first-round game on Friday afternoon/evening would have been very difficult with the amount of party prep I had to do. Then they have a small room (really a storage area that's been cleaned out) with 4–5 tables for scheduled tabletop games—though that didn't seem to be very busy this year. There's another small room (this one an actual function room) with computer gaming; that seemed to be pretty popular. Finally, there was a standup arcade game set on free play; there wasn't *always* someone in front of that but it did see a fair amount of action.

I was up too late Friday night to make the hotel breakfast. Instead, I nibbled a little on left-over party food while I woke up enough that I could get ready to face the day without drowning in the shower. Lunch was split that day between the con suite (chili) and the now-traditional Saturday afternoon Chat-tacon party (where I had an oversized hot dog). My luck at spades improved a little that early afternoon—I had crappy cards (bidding 2 about 80% of the time) but still made a decent showing.

Oh, and speaking of the Chat-tacon party, their room was one of the poolside “patio rooms.” The pool area is another major social nexus for Liberty, whether there's a party going on or not. (Then again, there was almost always a party *of sorts* going on as the Baen Barflies room was also poolside.) Personally I find it just too hot and humid to stay outside for any length of time in Chattanooga in July (even in the evening), but lot of people loved it.

The middle of Saturday afternoon saw my second bout of working at the con (and believe me, throwing a party is work). I was one of maybe 15 committee members crowded into a parlor in one of the non-patio suites to discuss the upcoming DSC 50 in Huntsville (in 2012). The updated website <[www.dsc50huntsville.com](http://www.dsc50huntsville.com)> should go online soon; meanwhile watch the Facebook page <[tinyurl.com/lpjanf](http://tinyurl.com/lpjanf)>.

I also spent some time working for Libertycon in an indirect way on Saturday. AGoH Darrell K. Sweet had brought slides for a Sunday morning show. You know, bits of film in holders? While a slide projector was located, I (offhand) mentioned that if it would probably be easy to convert them to a digital show if that would be easier to project. Sue ran with the idea, but after the slides had been turned into individual files by a local branch of Wolf Camera there was still the matter of building the actual show. While not my fave application, I built it in PowerPoint since that works cross platform and is widely available. (I created the file on my MacBook; Sue supplied a PC laptop to drive the projector on the day.) While I didn't make it to the program I did get a private preview when Sue brought Darrell K. (and his son Darrell R.) by to check out the progress.

Saturday evening at the con saw several parties for Reconstruction (NASFiC), a Steampunk event, OutsideCon, and possibly more. I spent a good bit of time at the first of these but sadly didn't make it to the others. Judging by the noise, the Steampunk party was the most active.

Sometime during the day Saturday I made my one and only pass through dealer's alley. The Comfort Inn doesn't have enough function space to fit a dealers room in with all the con's

other needs so the dealers sell out of a series of hotel rooms. In my perusal I saw books, books, more books, collectables, weapons, art, knitwear and knit-tchotchkes, and a good bit more.

After being up late (again) Saturday I barely got up in time for the hotel breakfast Sunday, I ended up (almost) scraping the bottom of the proverbial barrel as the hotel staff was taking down the buffet as I was making a hasty plate of biscuits and gravy.

Sunday afternoon also saw the only actual program event I attended, making in to the end of a Tom Smith folk performance. As usual he was a hit with the audience and a queue formed after his encore to buy CDs.

Sunday evening Sue and I went to dinner at Olive Garden with the Sweets plus Mary and Doug Lampert, Greg Matloff, and his wife the artist C Bangs. The food was OK, the conversation most pleasant.

Not all went perfectly during the convention. The main elevator went out, was repaired, and went out again. Fortunately the hotel has a second elevator near the back of the hotel and is only three stories so the inconvenience was mitigated. There were also two medical emergencies that I know of during the con. I'll spare you the details (and provide a modicum of privacy for the folks involved). Neither turned out nearly as badly as it could have but one will probably have some moderate ongoing repercussions.

On the good side, over the course of the weekend I had time to catch up with several friends including a long talk with Mel Boros Thursday night and another with Warren Buff in the lull shortly before our party on Friday. Barring mischance, I'll very likely be back at Libertycon next year for more such interludes.

## Awards Roundup

### JIM BAEN MEMORIAL CONTEST WINNERS

The winner and runners up for the 2010 Jim Baen Memorial Writing Contest have been announced. The contest is named for Baen Book founder Jim Baen. The contest “seeks to provide incentives for new authors to write short speculative fiction” about “near future... manned space exploration.” This year's judges were Baen Books Senior Editors, Hank Davis and Jim Minz, plus author David Weber.

The announcement was made at the 29<sup>th</sup> International Space Development Conference (National Space Society <[www.nss.com](http://www.nss.com)>, held 27–31 May 2010 at the InterContinental Chicago O'Hare, Chicago IL. All awardees received NSS memberships and both Baen and NSS merchandise. The winner will have his story bought at “standard professional payment rates” and published on the Baen Book website <[www.baen.com](http://www.baen.com)>. The awardees are:

**Winner** .....“**Space Hero**,” Patrick Lundrigan  
**First Runner Up** .....“**Citizen-Astronaut**,” David Levine  
**Second Runner Up** .....“**High Ground**,” Stuart Gibbon

### GEMMELL AWARD WINNERS

Winners of the David Gemmell Legend Awards for Fantasy have been announced <[gemmellaward.com/profiles/blogs/and-the-winners-are](http://gemmellaward.com/profiles/blogs/and-the-winners-are)>. Voting is open (in two rounds) each year on the awards' website. The winners are:

**Legend** (fantasy novel) .....**Empire**, Graham McNeill  
**Morningstar** (debut fantasy) .....**The Cardinal's Blades**, Pierre Pevél  
**Ravenheart** (fantasy cover).....**Best Served Cold**, Didier Graffet (sword), Dave Senior (map), and Laura Brett

(art director); novel by Joe Abercrombie

#### LOCUS AWARD WINNERS

Winners of the 2010 Locus Awards were announced 26 June 2010 in a ceremony at the Science Fiction Museum and Hall of Fame in Seattle WA. The awards are sponsored by *Locus Magazine* <www.locusmag.com> and voted for online, nominally by readers of *Locus* but in practice by any interested parties. A list of “Finalists” is published before the awards ceremony; these comprising the top five finishers in each category of the single voting round. The winners are:

**Science Fiction Novel** .....*Boneshaker*, Cherie Priest  
**Fantasy Novel** .....*The City & The City*, China Miéville  
**First Novel** .....*The Windup Girl*, Paolo Bacigalupi  
**Young Adult Novel** .....*Leviathan*, Scott Westerfeld  
**Novella** .....*The Women of Nell Gwynne’s*, Kage Baker  
**Novellette** .....*“By Moonlight,”* Peter S. Beagle  
(*We Never Talk About My Brother*)  
**Short Story** .....*“An Invocation of Incuriosity,”*  
Neil Gaiman (*Songs of the Dying Earth*)  
**Magazine** .....*F&SF*  
**Publisher** .....**Tor**  
**Anthology** .....*The New Space Opera 2*,  
Gardner Dozois & Jonathan Strahan, eds.  
**Collection** .....*The Best of Gene Wolfe*, Gene Wolfe;  
also as *The Very Best of Gene Wolfe*  
**Editor** .....**Ellen Datlow**  
**Artist** .....**Michael Whelan**  
**Non-Fiction/Art Book** .....*Cheek by Jowl*, Ursula K. Le Guin

#### SLF OLDER WRITERS GRANT

The Speculative Literature Foundation <www.speculativeliterature.org> has announced the winner of their Older Writers Grant has been awarded to Mario Milosevic.

The grant of \$750 is for a writer who is “fifty years of age or older at the time of the grant application, and [...] just starting to work at a professional level.” Milosevic—who has published poems, articles, short stories, and one novel (*Terrastina and Mazolli*)—submitted post-apocalyptic story “The Untied States of America.” Honorable Mentions went to Michele Cashmore, April Grey, Lynne MacLean, Ada Milenkovic Brown, and J.A. Huets.

#### CARNEGIE MEDAL ANNOUNCED

Neil Gaiman’s runaway hit, *The Graveyard Book*, has gathered yet another award. On 24 June 2010 the book took Carnegie Medal, making it the first book ever to win what is arguably the UK’s most important prize for children’s literature and the what is also arguably the US’s similar prize (the Newbery Medal). Gaiman’s fiancée, Amanda Palmer, picked up the new hardware for him.

#### EDGE HILL PRIZE

The winner of the third Edge Hill Prize for the Short Story was announced recently. The juried prize is for “excellence in a published single author short story collection” and is limited to British and Irish authors. The award is administered by Edge Hill University in in West Lancashire UK and the prize itself is sponsored by “book services” company Blackwell.

For the second year in a row, a genre work was selected as winner. Rob Shearman will take home the £5,000 prize for *Love Songs for the Shy and Cynical* (Big Finish). The award also includes an original piece of artwork specially commissioned by Blackwell.

#### CORDWAINER SMITH AWARD

The winner of this year’s Cordwainer Smith Rediscovery Award <www.cordwainer-smith.com/award.htm> was announced at Readercon <www.readercon.org>. The selectee was Mark Clifton who is perhaps best known for his 1955 Hugo-

winning novel (co-authored with Frank Riley) *They’d Rather Be Right*. Clifton’s bibliography at <www.fantasticfiction.co.uk/c/mark-clifton> covers works in the 50’s and 60’s.

#### BULWER-LYTTON WINNERS

The annual Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest (for really bad writing) <www.bulwer-lytton.com> has announced their 2010 winners. The BLFC “challenges entrants to compose the opening sentence to the worst of all possible novels.” It is named for Edward George Bulwer-Lytton who, in his novel *Paul Clifford*, first penned the opening line “It was a dark and stormy night.”

This year’s overall winner was crafted by Molly Ringle for some twisted Romance novel. However, sf/f genre works were not neglected, with winners announced in both Fantasy Fiction and Science Fiction categories.

#### BLFC Fantasy Fiction Winner

Rick Cheeseman of Waconia MN gives us this gem in the Fantasy Fiction category:

The wood nymph fairies blissfully pranced in the morning light past the glistening dewdrops on the meadow thistles by the Old Mill, ignorant of the daily slaughter that occurred just behind its lichen-encrusted walls, twin 20-ton mill stones savagely ripping apart the husks of wheat seed, gleefully smearing the starchy entrails across their dower granite faces in unspeakable botanical horror and carnage—but that’s not our story; ours is about fairies!

#### BLFC Science Fiction Winner

Tustin CA son Bryan Olive favored the sf category with the skillful entry:

t’Bleen and Golxxm squelched their way romantically along the slough beach beneath the three Sommodian moons, their eye-stalks occasionally touching, and tenderly belched sweet nothings like, “I don’t think I’ve ever had such a charming evening,” and, “Say, would you like to gnaw that hunk of suppurating tissue off my dorsal appendage—it really itches.”

#### CAMPBELL MEMORIAL AWARD FINALISTS

Finalists for this year’s John W. Campbell Memorial Award <www2.ku.edu/~sfcenter/campbell.htm> have been announced. The juried award (for the best science-fiction novel of the year) is presented by the J. Wayne and Elsie M. Gunn Center for the Study of Science Fiction <www2.ku.edu/~sfcenter> at the University of Kansas. The current jury is Gregory Benford, Paul Di Filippo, Sheila Finch, James Gunn, Elizabeth Anne Hull, Paul Kincaid, Christopher McKitterick, Pamela Sargent, and T.A. Shippey.

The winner receives a trophy and an expenses paid trip to the Campbell Conference, to be held 16–18 July 2010 in Lawrence KS. This year’s topic is “Theodore Sturgeon and the Science-Fiction Short Story.” The nominees are:

*The Year of the Flood*, Margaret Atwood (Talese)

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

*Transition*, Iain M. Banks (Orbit)

*Makers*, Cory Doctorow (Tor)

*Steal Across the Sky*, Nancy Kress (Tor)

*Gardens of the Sun*, Paul McAuley (Pyr)

*The City & The City*, China Miéville (Del Rey)

*Yellow Blue Tibia*, Adam Roberts (Gollancz)

*Galileo’s Dream*, Kim Stanley Robinson (Ballantine Spectra)

*WWW: Wake*, Robert J. Sawyer (Ace; Gollancz)

*The Caryatids*, Bruce Sterling (Del Rey)

*Julian Comstock: A Story of 22<sup>nd</sup>-Century America*, Robert Charles Wilson (Tor)

#### CAMPBELL AND STURGEON WINNERS

Winners of the John W. Campbell and Theodore Sturgeon Memorial Awards <www2.ku.edu/~sfcenter/Awards.htm> have

in the past been announced at the annual Campbell Conference and Awards Ceremony (to be held 16–18 July at the University of Kansas. In a break with tradition, the winners were announced this year at Readercon.

The Sturgeon (for Best Short Science Fiction) went to *Shambling Towards Hiroshima*, James Morrow (Tachyon). The Campbell (for Best Science Fiction Novel) went to *The Windup Girl*, Paolo Bacigalupi (Night Shade).

The juried awards are presented by the J. Wayne and Elsie M. Gunn Center for the Study of Science Fiction and are limited to English-language sf.

#### 2010 MYTHOPOEIC AWARDS

The results of the 2010 Mythopoeic Society Awards <www.mythsoc.org/awards> were announced at Mythcon 41, held 9–12 July at the Crowne Plaza Suites-Dallas in Dallas TX. The awards are chosen using a nomination phase (by members of the society) and a selection phase (by a committee). The winners are:

**Fantasy Award, Adult Literature** .....**Jo Walton**, *Lifelode* (NESFA Press)

**Fantasy Award, Children's Literature** .....**Grace Lin**, *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* (Little, Brown)

**Scholarship Award, Inklings Studies** .....**Dimitra Fimi**, *Tolkien, Race, and Cultural History: From Fairies to Hobbits* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2009)

**Scholarship Award, Myth and Fantasy Studies** .....**Marek Oziwicz**, *One Earth, One People: The Mythopoeic Fantasy Series of Ursula K. Le Guin, Lloyd Alexander, Madeleine L'Engle and Orson Scott Card* (McFarland, 2008)

#### RHYSLING AWARDS

The Science Fiction Poetry Association has announced the results of this year's Rhysling Awards <www.sfpoetry.com/rhyslingarchive/pages/rhyswin.html> for, well, science fiction poetry. The winners and runners-up are:

##### Rhysling Long Form

Winner....."In the Astronaut Asylum,"  
Kendall Evans and Samantha Henderson  
Second Place ..... "Rattlebox III" Mike Allen,  
Kendall Evans, and David C. Kopaska-Merkel  
Third Place..... "The First Story" Lana Hechtman Ayers

##### Rhysling Short Form

Winner ..... "To Theia," Ann K. Schwader  
Second Place ..... "The Changeling Always Wins,"  
Nicole Kornher-Stage  
Third Place ..... "Nine Views of the Oracle,"  
Rachel Manija Brown

##### Rhysling Grand Master

Jane Yolen

#### SUNBURST AWARD FINALISTS

The Sunburst Award <www.sunburstaward.org> Administration Committee has announced the finalists for their 2010 awards. The two awards are for Adult and Young Adult novels and book-length collections of English language speculative fiction published by Canadian writers (the works do not have to be published in Canada).

The jurors for 2010 are Don Bassingthwaite, Gemma Files, Susie Moloney, Ursula Pflug and Ed Willett. Winners (who will receive CAD\$1000 and a medallion incorporating the "sunburst" logo, designed by Marcel Gagné) will be announced in the fall. The nominees are:

##### Adult Novel Sunburst Noms

Charles de Lint, *The Mystery of Grace* (Tor)  
A.M. Dellamonica, *Indigo Springs* (Tor)  
Cory Doctorow, *Makers* (Tor)  
Karl Schroeder, *The Sunless Countries* (Tor)

Robert Charles Wilson, *Julian Comstock* (Tor)

##### Young Adult Novel Sunburst Noms

Megan Crewe, *Give Up the Ghost* (Henry Holt)  
Maureen Garvie, *Amy By Any Other Name* (Key Porter)  
Hiromi Goto, *Half World* (Penguin)  
Lesley Livingston, *Wondrous Strange* (HarperTeen)  
Arthur Slade, *The Hunchback Assignment* (HarperCollins)

#### ENDEAVOUR AWARD NOMS

Nominees for the 2010 Endeavour Award have been announced. The adjudicated award (for a distinguished sf/f book written by a Pacific Northwest author or authors and published in the previous year) includes a \$1,000 grant. The current judges are Robin Wayne Bailey, Laura Anne Gilman, and Madeleine Robins.

The winner will be announced at Orycon 32 <www.orycon.org/orycon32>, to be held 12–14 November 2010 at the Portland Doubletree Hotel in Portland OR. The nominees are:

*Push of the Sky*, Camille Alexa  
*Hunting Ground*, Patricia Briggs  
*City Without End*, Kay Kenyon  
*Mind Over Ship*, David Marusek  
*Eyes Like Sky and Coal and Moonlight*, Cat Rambo

## Letters of Comment

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

Sheryl Birkhead  
25509 Jonnie Court  
Gaithersburg MD 20882

10 June 2010

Ah yes, the human condition to never be satisfied... just paid to get this laptop back and now I'm irked because I can't find the disc I had of the letterheads and copies of old locs. The next irritation is to get some sort of wireless capability—remember *old Mac*. At this point the repairs cost half again as much as I paid for it four years ago. To go wireless I will need to buy a router, a card that will work, and maybe even the drivers that will work with this old system (I have seen articles about trying to do this and some of the cards will only use very specific drivers—which start at \$20). I am trying to remind myself I am just overjoyed at having it back.

Looks as if I won't be able to do the drawing I intended to do months ago—at least not in time to get anything put together for the Worldcon.

I just got a plea to locate someone willing to foster a dog. The owner was deployed and had made arrangements for care—that fell through after he left. The dog was turned over to a shelter and, apparently, not eligible for adoption (guess he is not actually a give-up since the owner is known). A plea went out to all the vets on a shelter serve and I tried to help locate any groups involved in just this area. In the meantime, a friend, who just retired from the Army said she would check at the Bethesda Naval Hospital to see if anything along that line is listed on their bulletin board. She got that look that may mean she is willing to take the dog so I checked—well, might be a quick road trip in somebody's future.

Fingers crossed for Lloyd and Yvonne on getting across the Pond in 2014. I used the money I had saved to replace my passport—to pay for the computer repair since it does not appear I will have enough money to actually go anywhere needing one in the "near" future.

I have the printer and a desk in the bedroom—and a TV.

Um—remember my digital TV conversion problems? Well... now that TV is showing signs of serious problems. Oh joy. The new TVs (small by comparison) don't have DVD players and VCRs are getting tough to locate. On top of that the new TV utilize HDMI (I think that is the right acronym) mainly. I will need to actually see any model I am interested in so I can check the connections and maybe—just maybe—I'll luck out and the (currently functioning) VCR can be connected. I intended to use that TV to tape the long Sunday afternoon/evening of *Lost* programming. Um... er... I checked the weather forecast before leaving for work that morning. I forgot to change eh channel back for *Lost*. Thinking I was safe, I never checked when I got home until over halfway through the show and wondered what eh heck I was seeing. Ah, the Internet comes through—I spent the next morning locating the episode. After a few false tarts I managed to watch it, managing to wast only four hours.

So, for now everything is on an even keel. I *do* need to hunt for the ballot for the Worldcon since things have been in such a mess for months.

I hope things are going smoothly for all of you. I seems as if the oil mess “in” Louisiana will manage to reach out and touch all of us. Ironically, I got an email in my Spam box from BP—job hunting. Admittedly I never even opened it, so I don't know if it was some sort of a hoax. A few days earlier I found a link to a BP image—with the motto “Bringing oil to the American shore” and below it the comment “True to their word.”

Gee, seems as if there really is not a whole lot to pass along., I am just happy that I will be able to print this out. Last night I used the printer for the first time since January and had forgotten how to set it up for the manual tray. As a result the page was (to be charitable) slightly skewed, but it *was* legible and that is progress.

Happy Summer to all...

[I was on a trip to Slidell LA at the time of the Deepwater Horizon explosion. The financial and environmental damage is all very frustrating for the entire nation, of course, but I still remember the televised voices of the relatives—hopeful for the 11 crewmen that were never coming back. Well, after that bumper I'll move on. Good luck finding a home for the dog; it's a tough situation all around but there's hope for a good outcome. -ED]

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4 July 2010

Happy Fourth! We hope you're having as good a party as we did on July 1. While you are out partying, I imagine the dead-

line is a little elastic, so here goes with some comments on the June *Shuttle*.

Looks like DSC 48 was a lot of fun. Good to see continuing, with serious attendance numbers. I had heard that the NASFiC lost a co-chairman, so with Warren Buff in charge of the SFC and the NASFiC, I hope he doesn't burn out with all this responsibility. Warren, ask for help if you need it! You've got quite the load on. I am sure there's lots of people who would happily help if asked.

Still lots of awards this season... as you can see, I didn't win the Aurora I was nominated for, and I have had exactly one person tell me they thought I was going to win the Hugo, so it looks like I'm SOL for this year. People keep telling it's Fred Pohl's rocket. Oh, well, there's always next year. Just the fact I got nominated and on the ballot has been a real thrill. I know there's many who think the fan Hugos are broken and worthless; I am not so cynical, and few would turn it down if nominated.

Hello, PieEyed! I've been indulging myself Tolkien-wise by reading *The Children of Húrin*. No “happily ever after” in that book, hm? Still healing from earlier travails, hope to see more the next time around.

My loc... we figured that part of being a good conrunn[er] was knowing when to say no thank you, pack up your tent and go home. The chairman felt he was doing something bad, and we told him he wasn't. He made a tough decision, and based on what the Montréal hotel was doing to screw him around, he made the right decision.

We did the steampunk costuming at Anime North... looked great. Have a look at them via my Facebook page. We are also still gearing up to help with the London in 2014 bid, and now, we are also assisting with a new convention in the Toronto area, titled the Canadian National Steampunk Exhibition. Should be a lot of fun.

Guess I'm done; it's been a long day already. As the weekend dies down, hope you've all recovered for work in the morning! (Auggghhh...) Take care, see you next issue.

[There was no work for me on the 5<sup>th</sup>, Lloyd. While I didn't do much to celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July it *is* a national holiday and—with the day itself falling on Sunday—most of us wage slaves had the Monday off in lieu. I'd certainly *like* to think that DSC contributed at least a bit to the size of this year's host con, ConCarolinas... but it's a young convention and was already growing so there's no certain way to know how much of the size was DSC and how many people would have been there without it. Good luck with the Hugo nom, and given the many reasons that people vote the way they do there's always a chance. But yeah, one would guess it's Fred Pohl's to lose (and that he's not terribly likely to do so). Steampunk, hmm... There was even a steampunk-themed party at Libertycon this year, not the con that one would guess as a likely venue for such. Unfortunately I missed it when inertia overcame me. -ED]



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