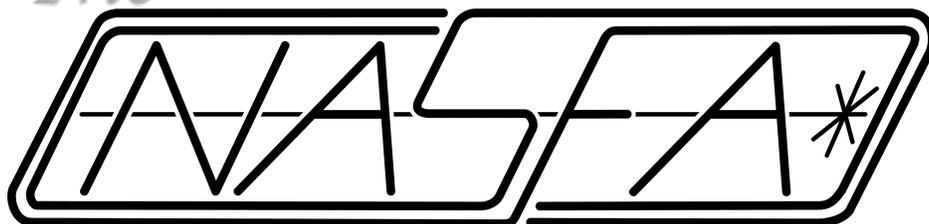


The



Shuttle April 2014

The Next NASFA Meeting is Saturday 19 April 2014 at the Regular Location

▲ Oyez, Oyez ▲

The next NASFA Meeting will be **6P Saturday 19 April 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.

APRIL PROGRAM

SPC Mark Silverberg talks about his experiences as LT Kraul for several episodes of Star Trek: Enterprise. Silverberg joined the US Army after his time in Hollywood. You can read more about his background at <tinyurl.com/SPCSilverberg>.



APRIL ATMM

Mary and Doug Lampert will host this month's After-The-Meeting Meeting, 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 future Con+Stellation XXXIII concom meetings is unknown at press time, but will likely be approximately monthly. Con chair Craig Goodrick has favored Sundays. In any case, stay tuned to email and the grapevine for updates.

CHANGING SHUTTLE DEADLINES

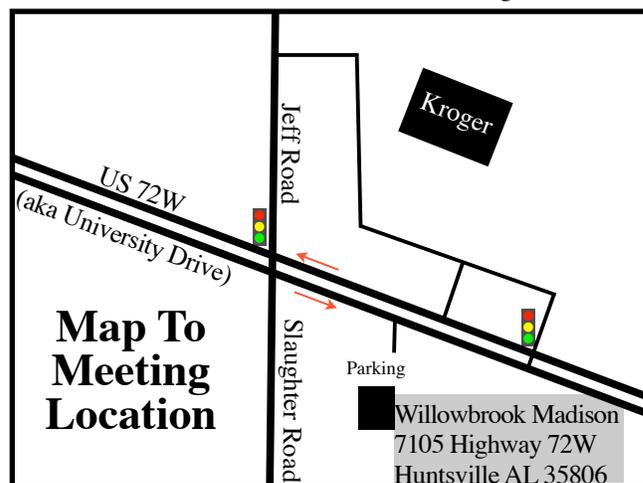
The latest tweak to the *NASFA Shuttle* schedule shifted the usual repro date somewhat to the right (roughly the weekend before each meeting) but much of each issue will need to be put to bed as much as two weeks before the monthly meeting.

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:

- May: More-or-less Annual Club Auction. Please start putting aside items to donate. Genre books, movies, games, etc. are



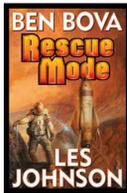
Continuing Our 34th Year of Publication

Inside this issue...

News & Info	2	<i>No Need for a Questing Beast</i> —Chapter 5	6
NASFA Calendar	2	Letters of Comment	7
Minutes of the March Meeting	3	Breaking News: MTV Movie Awards	8
Awards Roundup	4	Art by The Concentrium	9

Deadline for the May 2014 issue of The NASFA Shuttle is Monday 28 April 2014

- good, but general-interest items are fine, too.
- June: More-or-less Annual Club Picnic/Cookout, at Sam and Judy's house. This will presumably subsume both the club meeting and the ATMM that month. Stay tuned for the start time and other info.



- July: TBD.
- August: Les Johnson mixes science fact and science fiction with Mars Exploration and *Rescue Mode* <tinyurl.com/RMBBLJ>.

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

FUTURE CLUB MEETING DATES

The NASFA meeting date for one future meeting in 2014 has been shifted away from the normal 3rd Saturday.

- 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

CUFF NOMS OPEN

The Canadian Unity Fan Fund <cometdust.ca/CUFF/Welcome.html> has opened nominations for the year. Candidates need to be from Eastern Canada. The winner will travel to Convention (the Canadian natcon) to be held this year in conjunction with V-Con 39 <www.vcon.ca>, to be held 3–5 October 2014 at the Sheraton Vancouver Guildford in Surrey (Vancouver area) BC. Nominators should contact fund administrators Debra Yeung or Kent Pollard at <2013.cuff@gmail.com> or write to CUFF 2014, c/o 250 Jarvis Street, Toronto ON M5B 2L2.



Nominations close 27 April 2014. Voting will take place 1–21 May 2014.

AMAZING (FREE) STORIES

Amazing Stories—an old-line name in genre publications that relaunched last year as a multi-author blog—is now spinning up an online-magazine format. The 88th Anniversary Issue <www.amazingstoriesmag.com/magazine/?issue=610> is being posted this month and is (for now at least) free to read online.

STATE OF SHORT GENRE FICTION

The Baltimore Science Fiction Society recently hosted a

“State of Short Fiction” roundtable with a number of notable genre writers, editors, bloggers, and others. Video from the event (well over 90 minutes in length) is posted at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=1hx29ZfGKPg>.

CLOAK PROMO RECEIVED

The *Shuttle* received a promo announcement for web series Cloak <www.cloaktheseries.com>. At press time all that's online is the trailer, which runs just under a minute and a half. The premise is “two awkward teen techies strive to uncover the truth that our world is merely a cosmic experiment created by an ominous force whose followers will stop at nothing to keep it secret.” Check it out if that sounds interesting to you.

NASFA Calendar

APRIL

- 01 April Fool's Day.
- 03 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *Declare*, Tim Powers; 6P.
- 04–06 221B Con—Atlanta GA.
- 04–06 AggieCon 45—College Station TX.
- 04–06 Wizard World—St. Louis MO.
- 06 Toy & Hobby Show—Gray TN.
- 07 BD: Mary Lampert.
- 11–13 Conglomeration—Louisville KY.
- 11–13 JordanCon 6—Atlanta GA.
- 11–13 Anime St. Louis—St. Louis MO.
- 11–13 EyeCon: Teen Wolf—Atlanta GA.
- 11–13 Gnome Con 3—Savannah GA.
- 11–13 Marble City Comicon—Knoxville TN.
- 13 Palm Sunday.
- 15 Tax Day.
- 15 BD: “Uncle Timmy.”
- 15 BD: Manda Freeman.
- 15 First day of Passover.
- 17–20 Frolicon—Atlanta GA.
- 18 Good Friday.
- 18 Orthodox Good Friday.
- 18–20 Gateway FurMeet—St. Louis MO.
- 18–20 MTAC in Love—Nashville TN.
- 18–20 Full Moon Festival—Nashville TN.
- 19* NASFA Meeting—6P Business, 7P Program, at Willowbrook Madison. Program: Mark Silverberg addresses his time as Kraul (*Star Trek: Enterprise*). ATMM: Mary and Doug Lampert, at the church.
- 19–20 Awesome Con—Washington DC.
- 19–20 NashiCon—Columbia SC.
- 20 Easter Sunday.
- 20 Orthodox Easter.
- 21 BD: Randy B. Cleary.
- 22 Last day of Passover.
- 22 Earth Day/Fête de la Terre.
- 23 Administrative Professionals Day.
- 25–27 Science Fiction Film Festival—Baton Rouge LA.
- 25–27 Trek Trax—Atlanta GA.
- 25 Arbor Day.
- 26 BD: Chloe Airoidi.
- 26–27 Comic & Anime Con—Knoxville TN.
- 26–27 USA Science & Engineering Festival—Washington DC.
- 28 Yom HaShoah.
- 30 BD: Mark Maxwell.
- 30 Día del Niño.

Awards Roundup

ASSORTED AWARD WINNERS

- PEN/Faulkner Finalist for Fiction****Karen Joy Fowler**,
We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves (Putnam)
- Story Prize** (short fiction).....**George Saunders**,
Tenth of December (collection) (Random House)
- Windham Campbell Prize****Jim Crace**
- Ken Kesey Award for Fiction****Ursula K. Le Guin**,
The Unreal and The Real: Collected Stories: Volume 1 and 2
(Small Beer Press)
- Leslie Bradshaw Award for Young Adult Literature**.....**Kari Luna**,
The Theory of Everything (Philomel Books)
- World Horror Grand Master**.....**Brian Keene**
- Hans Christian Andersen Author Award**.....**Nahoko Uehashi**
- Hans Christian Andersen Illustrator Award**.....**Roger Mello**
- DETCON1 YA/MIDDLE GRADE AWARDS NOMS**
Nominees for the Detcon1 (NASFiC) Awards for YA and Middle Grade Speculative Fiction <detcon1.org/award> have been announced.



These awards were formed explicitly as a popular-choice companion to the juried Golden Duck Awards. Implicitly, they're an experiment in YA-type awards sponsored by a WSFS event (which comprise both NASFiCs and Worldcons). There has been much agitation in the last few years for Worldcons to add a YA and/or children's fiction award to the Hugos. By category, Detcon1's nominees are:

Detcon1 Young Adult Award Noms

- Allegiant*, Veronica Roth (Katherine Tegen Books)
- The Coldest Girl in Coldtown*, Holly Black (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers)
- The Dream Thieves*, Maggie Stiefvater (Scholastic Press)
- The Summer Prince*, Alaya Dawn Johnson (Arthur A Levine Books)

Detcon1 Middle Grade Award Noms

- Handbook for Dragon Slayers*, Merrie Haskell (HarperCollins)
- House of Hades*, Rick Riordan (Disney-Hyperion)
- Zombie Baseball Beatdown*, Paolo Bacigalupi (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers)

COMPTON CROOK AWARD NOMS

The finalists for the 2014 Compton Crook/Stephen Tall Award <www.bsfs.org/CCA/bsfscenu2012.htm> (for the best first sf/f/h novel of the year written by an individual author) have been announced. The award includes \$1000 and a guest slot at Balticon for two years. Voting is by members of the Baltimore Science Fiction Society. The winner will be announced at Balticon 48 <www.balticon.org>, to be held 23–26 May 2014 at the Hunt Valley Inn in Hunt Valley (Baltimore area) MD. The nominees are:

- Glyphbinder*, T. Eric Bakutis
- In the House upon the Dirt between the Lake and the Woods*,
Matt Bell
- The Enchanted Skean*, Vonnie Winslow Crist
- City of a Thousand Dolls*, Miriam Forster
- Fire With Fire*, Charles E. Gannon
- The Darwin Elevator*, Jason M. Hough
- The Summer Prince*, Alaya Dawn Johnson
- Shh! It's a Secret: A novel about Aliens, Hollywood, and the*

Bartenders Guide, Daniel Kimmel

Ancillary Justice, Ann Leckie

CLARKE AWARD NOMS

The shortlist for the 2014 Arthur C. Clarke Award <www.clarkeaward.com> (for best sf novel receiving first UK publication in 2013) has been announced. The award includes a £2014 prize. The winner will be announced 1 May 2014 at a ceremony held at the Royal Society in London. The nominees are:

God's War, Kameron Hurley (Del Rey UK)

Ancillary Justice, Anne Leckie (Orbit)

The Disestablishment of Paradise, Phillip Mann (Gollancz)

Nexus, Ramez Naam (Angry Robot)

The Adjacent, Christopher Priest (Gollancz)

The Machine, James Smythe (Blue Door)

CARNEGIE AND GREENAWAY NOMS

The shortlists for the Carnegie Medal (for best children's book) and the Kate Greenaway Medal (for best illustrations in a children's book) <www.carnegiegreenaway.org.uk> have been announced. Several of the nominees are of genre interest; such items getting blog notice include:

Carnegie Noms (Selected)

- Julie Berry, *All the Truth That's in Me* (Templar)
- Susan Cooper, *Ghost Hawk* (Bodley Head)

Greenaway Noms (Selected)

- Jon Klassen for *The Dark*, Lemony Snicket (Orchard)
- Dave McKean for *Mouse, Bird, Snake, Wolf*, David Almond (Walker)

RHYSLING AWARD NOMS

Nominees for the Science Fiction Poetry Association's 2013 Rhysling Award <www.sfpoetry.com/ra/rhyscand.html> have been announced. There are two categories, with the Long/Short Poem division occurring at 50 lines or 500 words. The rather lengthy lists of nominated works (over 75 poems between the two categories) can be found at the SFPA website.



LAMBDA AWARDS NOMS

The Lambda Literary Foundation <www.lambdaliterary.org/lambdaliterary-foundation> has announced finalists for the 26th Annual Lambda Literary Awards (for LGBT fiction and nonfiction). In addition to the nominees in the sf/f/horror category (listed below) a number of other items of genre interest can be found on the full list on their website.

Winners will be announced at a ceremony to be held 2 June 2014 in New York City. The aforementioned sf/f/h nominees are:

- Dust Devil on a Quiet Street*, Richard Bowes (Lethe)
- Light*, Nathan Burgoine (Bold Strokes Books)
- Dragon Slayer*, Isabella Carter (Less Than Three)
- Hell's Belle*, Marie Castle (Bella)
- Invisible Soft Return*, Roberta Degnore (Digital Fabulists)
- Deprivation; or, Benedetto furioso: an oneiromancy*, Alex Jeffers (Lethe)
- The Stars Change*, Mary Anne Mohanraj (Circler)
- Death by Silver*, Melissa Scott and Amy Griswold (Lethe)
- Like Light for Flies*, Lee Thomas (Lethe)
- Collaborators*, Deborah Wheeler (Dragon Moon)

SCRIBE AWARDS NOMS

Nominees for the 2014 Scribe Awards <iamtw.org/the-scribe-awards> (for media tie-in writing) have been announced. The awards are given by the International Association of Media Tie-In Writers. Winners will be announced at Comic-Con International: San Diego, to be held 24–27 July 2014 at venues practically blanketing downtown San Diego. Nominees are listed by category below. Media tie-ins are often, but by no

means always, sf/f/h—the *Shuttle* has omitted the General Novel (Original) category as having no obvious genre ties.

Scribe Awards Novel (Adapted) Noms

Man of Steel, Greg Cox
Pacific Rim, Alex Irvine
47 Ronin, Joan D. Vinge

Scribe Awards Speculative Novel (Original) Noms

Fringe: The Zodiac Paradox, Christa Faust (Titan)
Supernatural: Fresh Meat, Alice Henderson (Titan)
Star Wars: Kenobi, John Jackson Miller (Del Rey)
Supernatural: The Roads Not Taken, Tim Waggoner (Insight Editions)
Star Trek: From History's Shadow, Dayton Ward (Pocket Books)

Scribe Awards Short Story Noms

"The Dark Hollows of Memory," David Annandale
"Locks and Keys," Jennifer Brozek
"So Long, Chief," Max Allan Collins and Mickey Spillane
"Savior," Michael Jan Friedman
"Redemption," Robert Greenberger
"Mirror Image," Christine M. Thompson

Scribe Awards Young Adult Noms

Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2, Stacia Deutsch
Kevin, Paul Kupperberg
The Croods, Tracey West

Scribe Awards Audio Noms

Dark Shadows 33, The Phantom Bride, Mark Thomas Passmore
Dark Shadows 37, The Flip Side, Cody Quijano-Schell
Blake's 7 The Armageddon Storm, Cavan Scott and Mark Wright

SPECTRUM AWARDS NOMS

So-called finalists for the 21st Spectrum Awards <www.spectrumfantasticart.com> (for genre art) have been announced. Judging took place 1 March 2014 from submissions by artists. As the *Shuttle* understands the process, a Gold and Silver winner, along with 3 attentional worthy works, were selected in each category. Those 5 works then are announced as finalists.

Judges for this year were Cory Godbey, J. Anthony Kosar, George Pratt, Shelly Wan, and Allen Williams. Winners will be announced at Spectrum Fantastic Art Live, to be held 9–11 May 2014 in Kansas City MO. By category, the nominees are:

Spectrum Awards Advertising Art Noms

Anita Kunz, *Little Monsters*
Victo Ngai, *A Tiger Beer Chinese New Year*
Gabriel Verdon, *Hiversaires*
Kent Williams, The Criterion Collection, *Lord of the Flies*
Shu Yan, *Go Into the Gate*

Spectrum Awards Book Art Noms

Nicolas Delort, *The End of the Road*
Scott Gustafson, *Little Sambha and the Tiger with the Beautiful Purple Shoes with Crimson Soles*
John Harris, *Fire: the Road Beside the Wall*
Petar Meseldzija, *The Golden Apple Tree 1*
Kirsti Wakelin, *Dreamboats, Lilies, Koi and Chang Kuo-lao*

Spectrum Awards Comics Art Noms

He Jie Mona, *All Corners of the Country: The Lost Buildings #4*
David Palumbo, *Aliens #1 cover*
Thomas Campi, *The Red Door*
Mark A. Nelson, *Seasons*, page 1
Goni Montes, Clive Barker's *Next Testament #6*

Spectrum Awards Concept Art Noms

Jamie Jones, *Black Zero Interior*
Vance Kovacs, *John Carter Punches a Thark*
Brian Matyas, *Messenger Girl*
Theo Prins, *Kite City 2*

Theo Prins, *Refugees*

Spectrum Awards Dimensional Art Noms

Jessica Dalvo, *Don't Mind Me*
Colin and Kristine Poole, *Hot Diggety Dog*
Forest Rogers, *Goblin Spider*
The Shiflett Bros., *Vertical Man-Tank, 1892*
Shaun Tan, *Grimm Tales: Thousandfurs*

Spectrum Awards Editorial Art Noms

Nicolas Delort, *Rumor of Angels*
Bill Mayer, *Fragile Planet*
Tran Nguyen, *The Insects of Love*
Yuko Shimizu, *Hair Tree*
Luo Xin, *Recall*

Spectrum Awards Institutional Art Noms

Ed Binkley, *The Hag Griselle Pays a Visit*
Bill Carman, *Shared Eyewear*
Donato Giancola, *Huor and Hurin Approach Gondolin*
Justin Sweet, *Blacksea*
Rebecca Yanovskaya, *Ascent of Man*

Spectrum Awards Unpublished Art Noms

Audrey Benjaminsen, *Lady of Light*
Yukari Masuike, *Riding Horse on the Freezing Day*
Jean-Baptiste Monge, *Ode to the Moon*
Omar Rayyan, *The Long Walk Home*
Annie Stegg, *Lilaia the Naiad*

RONDO VOTING OPENS

The Rondo Hatton Classic Horror Awards are voted on by the public, via the award website. Voting for the 12th annual awards has begun <rondoaward.com/rondoaward.com/blog/?p=32>. The full list (35 categories; 26 of which are populated with up to 2 dozen plus entries each) is too long to print in the *Shuttle*, but can be seen on the website.



GEMMELL AWARDS DEADLINES

The end of voting to select the shortlist for the 2014 David Gemmell Awards <www.gemmellaward.com> (for fantasy) falls during production of this month's *Shuttle*. Longlists for the Legend Award (fantasy novel), Morningstar Award (fantasy debut novel), and Ravenheart Award (fantasy cover art) are put together based on nominations from publishers. The shortlists are voted on by the public via the Gemmell website.

Voting for the winners will also be on the website, through the end of April 2014. Winners will be announced at a ceremony to be held 13 June 2014 at the Magic Circle in London.

TWO NEW AWARDS ESTABLISHED

Publisher Pan Macmillan has announced a new award to be named after the late James Herbert. The first James Herbert Award for Horror Writing <tinyurl.com/PMJHA2014> will carry a £2,000 prize and is open to horror novels written in English and published in the UK in 2014.

Publisher Scholastic and pen-maker Montegrappa have announced the Montegrappa Scholastic Prize for New Children's Writing <www.scholastic.co.uk/montegrappa>. They are looking for "a dazzling new talent writing novel-length fiction for children aged 7–12 years." Authors must be unpublished, over age 18, and from the UK or Ireland. Submissions must include the first 5000 words, a synopsis of the novel, and a biography. There are a number of secondary sponsors including literary agency LBA Books, The London Book Fair, and newspaper The Independent.

The Professors Call IX I I

No Need for a Questing Beast—Chapter 5

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 Trelawney takes a great gasp from her tangle on the floor, and groans aloud at the pain in her leg.

Luna: Please keep still, Professor; I'll get help for you.

Sibyll: Oww! What happened?

Luna: I think you must have fallen, Professor. That's what it looks like. Your leg looks badly broken. I'll have to get Professor McGonagall since Madame Pomfrey won't be back for a month!

Sibyll: I was just talking to her... I thought. I was warning her about... about... *Leviathan*!

Luna: What's that, Professor?

Sibyll: Death, and change, and the vast unknown!

(A cat bounds up the stairs and turns into Professor McGonagall; who leans against the wall and gasps for breath.)

Luna: Oh, there you are, Professor. Professor Trelawney has fallen and broken her leg.

Minerva: (huff) So... (huff) I... (huff) see. (She gestures with her wand and a stretcher appears on the floor.) You'll... have to... pull her... onto that. I'll do... my best... Sibyll.

Sibyll: Ugh! Ow! But, we have to...

Minerva: Get you to hospital. Your leg needs attention.

Luna: (Handing the retrieved glasses to Professor Trelawney) I'm done here, Professor.

Minerva: (points wand, and the stretcher, with Professor Trelawney, rises a few feet) Luna, guide her down to my office.

Luna: Yes, professor.

— O — O — O —

(Fred makes it to a still-life of library shelves, and a snide, drawling voice challenges) What are you doing up here, Weasley?

Fred: (Uh, oh!) My duty to the school, P... professor Snape Sir.

Snape: (Looking around from a comfy chair) Told a joke and no one laughed, is that it?

Fred: No, sir. Hogwarts has been, ah, breached.

Snape: How's that, Weasley?

Fred: I really don't know *how*, Professor, but I woke up and Peeves was talking to this dragon. I think it was a dragon.

Snape: Didn't you learn enough about dragons to know one if you saw one... and survived?

Fred: Sir, I only saw a head and a neck. I *think* it was most like that of a Chinese Fireball; but green, not red.

Snape: (Stands up and sighs) Follow me, then. If this is a prank, we'll have you dipped in spirits of turpentine!

— O — O — O —

Professor McGonagall: Take her over to the fireplace, Luna. (Pointing her wand at the door, it repairs itself.) Get some Floo powder, and take her to St Mungo's. Stay with her until they have her stabilized, then come back and tell me whether she can be expected to be able to teach when classes start back. I'll inform the Headmaster.

Luna: I will, Professor (taking a handful of powder from a bowl on the mantle, she tosses it into the fireplace) Saint Mungo's! (Luna, Professor Trelawney and the stretcher disappear.)

— O — O — O —

(When Professor McGonagall arrives in the Headmaster's

office, there appears to be a conclave in progress)

Professor Black: It is unthinkable. Yet, we must make sure.

Professor Dippet: I quite agree.

Professor Dumbledore: And with the repairs to the walls going so slowly the past eight years! At least progress is being made, even though the sections damaged by dark magic are having to be physically removed to permit placement of new stonework. We must get someone to set up Professor Moody's foe glass and... *Ah!* Just in time, Minerva.

Professor McGonagall: Professors, Professor Trelawney has suffered a serious fall. Miss Lovegood was available, so I've had her transport Professor Trelawney to St. Mungo's. I believe she, temporarily, died.

Professor Snape: (Shifting his attention from the red-haired young man at his side) What happened?

Professor McGonagall: She apparently read of some terrible, imminent calamity in her tea leaves and Tarot cards.

Professor Snape: She does that nearly every day.

Professor McGonagall: But this time she saw that some sort of monster was bearing down upon us, and that someone here was going to die. She apparently slipped coming down her ladder and landed... very badly. So badly that her ghost got up and hurried on to my office. She appeared there, transparent, without opening my door. She warned of something called *Leviathan* [two of the older headmasters came fully alert at this]. She went a bit... fuzzy... a couple of times during this. Then she suddenly vanished. I ran out and went as quickly as possible up to the tower landing under her classroom. She was lying in a heap on the floor, with a badly broken leg. Miss Lovegood was trying to calm her. Luna apparently found her right away. She said she tried several times to revive her, and finally succeeded.

Professor Snape: An out of body experience? How curious. Dilys, would you please go to St. Mungo's and keep a lookout.

Professor Dilys Derwent: Certainly. Are there any further requests for Miss Lovegood?

Professor Fortescue: Maybe you should ask her to go over to the Ministry when she leaves St. Mungo's; and ask the Dragon Research and Restraint Bureau to... discretely... send someone out here to answer a question.

Professor Derwent: What question?

Professor Dumbledore: Unknown, but I expect we shall have several ready, by that time.

Professor Derwent: Very well (she moves to the edge of her frame, and is gone).

Professor Dumbledore: Minerva, would you kindly roll that broad cabinet over here and open it? (She does so and several small, mainly silver instruments, click into place and start spinning. Almost immediately, a small whistle starts tooting and a small ornate weathervane points toward the window. A very indistinct blob half-appears in the old foe glass.)

Professor Dumbledore: Something seems to be out there, something powerful. But, not poised for an attack. Do you see anything untoward out there?

Professor McGonagall: (Looking out the windows) Nothing seems out of the ordinary.

Professor Snape: Headmaster Record must be recalled.

Professor Dumbledore: I think we need also to prepare to send urgent requests to the Ministry of Magic. Certain representatives of the Departments of Mysteries and International Magical Cooperation may need to be contacted. For now, we must keep watch on the area. Minerva, when Hagrid comes in, please ask him to keep a lookout, too.

Professor Snape: And caution him to not let himself get eaten before reporting any trouble.

Professor McGonagall: Right away, Headmasters. Miss Lovegood can do the same when she returns. Do you... *know* something?

Professor Dumbledore: We know many things; but it would be premature to claim knowledge of what is happening today.

Professor Black: Perhaps I shouldn't have so strongly resisted the suggestion of placing my other portrait somewhere... more useful. But, home *is* home, after all.

Professor Snape: No one blames you, Phineas. Hindsight is only good for shaving the back of your neck, after all.

— O — O — O —

Luna Lovegood used the "exit" fireplace at St. Mungo's to transport herself to the Ministry of Magic. (The healer's staff preferred to keep the main fireplace reserved for incoming emergency patients.) She made her way across the Atrium to the lifts, in order to carry the new request from Hogwarts. Just as she entered to go up, a small flying beetle landed stealthily in her hair.

— O — O — O —

The beast makes diplomatic noises in an upper cetacean dialect, interspersed with more usual greetings in slightly accented Mermish. It is guided toward the town center and waits, while outlying folk put down their tools and pick up their children; or their weapons. Visitors of *this* caliber were very few and far between, but always bore news of the wider world. Once the populace gathers, the envoy begins speaking in very ornate, formal grunts, groans, moans, squeaks, and whistles in Bardic mode cetacean.

— 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

6 March 2014

I have yet to figure out how to get the software to accept the indent except for the greeting. I cannot (yet?) come up with a way around it. This is progress, at least I have now found the hyphenation set-up, but have to remember to change to active on each letter—can't find any way to make it the default.

I know I have a February issue around somewhere and here is January—no comments written on it, so I will start with it, unearth February and be back on track! (With any luck.)

I got my first paper copies of PRs from a worldcon in several years, just don't have time to read them and sort out the Hugo nominations right now. Agh, concom must be in receipt by the end of March—can't let it go much longer...

I did remember to vote for TAFF, so that aspect of my fan-nish responsibilities has been tended to.

(Hmm—I see mention again of t-shirts, so perhaps I already did... ah well, never hurts to loc twice.)

Seeing the latest PED episode reminds me (you'll see this is quite a stretch) I am getting electronic notices from the Book Depository UK that I can sign up for a pre-publication copy of J.K. Rowling's next work (15% off and free delivery worldwide). It is nice to see the Weasleys mentioned again—been a long time.

Yeah, I am now more convinced I already located, but what the heck?!

Okay—I give up. Just finished a nice 2 page loc and saved it—only, apparently I didn't—despite the right keystrokes I am right back to where I was almost a week ago.

I cannot figure out any way to recover it—well, I located a version on Time Machine, not much more than this one, but cannot figure out how to copy it—so I guess this is as good as it is going to get.

So, I wished Lloyd and Yvonne a trip to Loncon 3 and wondered what it is they sell at the steampunk fairs?

I thought about the China bid and think it is a nifty idea, but would be unsettling for me—(aide from never going to happen—\$\$) feeling insecure and unable to communicate—so if it would be a realistic possibility, I might take classes—but since it is not going to happen...

Liked the Pottering tale. Seeing the word scone reminds me I have not made blueberry lemon scones in a while. I like them waay too much.

I have not seen most of the Oscar items mentioned. I did manage to locate *Mr. Hublot* online, finally, every site seemed to have it taken down as a copyright infringement. Then I found one that seemed to be in cyrillic and it had the whole thing. Luckily there was not much in the way of dialog!

Oh yeah, talked about tea (hot and cold) and cocoa—far too lazy to go baack and try to re-create it. I have no idea where the file went. It just seems to be gone with only the copy from a week ago.

Sigh—I am just going to capitulate and stop while I am not too far behind. Really irritating and I have no idea why the changes as I typed were not saved.

Sheesh—now up to March 21—every time I was going to print, another snow incident happened. This time I'm going to finish and if I lose the new information (again) sobeit.

March ish reminds me that the deadline for (Hugo) nominations is looming—I will get to it RSN.

By the way, I like the Forever stamp—first time I have seen the flag/fireworks bursts stamps—also seems the font on the address labels has changed—bigger (and therefore more legible at a glance).

I see that there are t-shirts on the Loncon 3 site—so I may try to sort out getting one Not sure since I hate to go through it and find out the picture doesn't match the item and I don't like it—ah well, decisions, decisions.

Sigh—I want to get this mailed, Hopefully no more snow—but some accumulation is tentatively in the forecast for next Tuesday. The snowmover (I need to look up the difference between that and a snowblower—look the same to me) is still sitting in the garage. Being electric, it is light enough that I can move it down into the basement and leave it there for storage... but not just yet.

So, I fought the ghoud fight, but can't recreate the text... hopefully ghoud intentions count!

[I can never swear that I didn't miss a LoC, Sheryl, so a suspicion that you may be double-tapping us could be correct at almost any time. Lately the odds of losing a letter are even higher as I'm juggling more chainsaws than usual. An email is (slightly) less likely to get lost than a physical letter. Speaking of the latter, I tried using OCR on your missive this month, with mixed success. I think it was (marginally) faster than re-typing it from scratch, but it introduced a number of interesting errors, not all of which I may have caught in proofing. The address labels are being created with a different piece of software (Contacts) than before (AppleWorks) so, yeah, the font is

different. However, whether it's larger or not depends on the content—Contacts scales the font size to make the text fit the space. If I did the mailing, the stamps you commented on may be from a print-on-demand USPS self-serve kiosk. They change up the printed image on those from time to time so you may or may not ever see the same version again. Alternately, it could be an issue the Lamperts printed and mailed for me, so you can thank them for the stamp choice. RE Loncon 3's tees, the Offworld Designs' website has other con-logo merchandise <www.offworlddesigns.com/loncon-3> including denim shirts. They offer large sizes in their various shirts, but unfortunately for me no tall, so their long-sleeve shirts would come down to my mid forearms (at best). -ED]

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29 March 2014

The March *Shuttle* is here, the strict deadline is nigh, and I am finally getting some time to catch up with a ton of writing. Here goes.

Looks like it is getting tougher to schedule regular meetings because of convention conflicts. It may get to the point where meetings will be held in spite of the conflicts. I expect that all are too busy to go to a meeting on a Wednesday night, for example. We have some conflicts with our Pubnites list, but the main events are on the First Thursday and Third Monday of the month, so it rarely happens.

Awards season... as I said in my last letter, we have sent in

our FAAn Award nominations. We will see which nominees the final Hugo and Aurora ballots bring to us, and decide if we are competent voters. In all the final lists of nominees elsewhere in the issue, it is a pleasure to see at least a few familiar names.

I remember subscribing to *Starlog Magazine*, and buying them at the stores afterwards, and I think I stopped not long after their 120th issue. I had no idea that they gotten to 224 issues, but good to see that if I really wanted to see the issues I never saw, I could access them. I should tuck that link away for reference.

Ah, there's my birthday on the calendar again. This year, I shall be turning a questionable 55 years old. Sometimes, I feel much younger, and sometimes, much, much older.

My loc... we did well at the Artisans of the Metropolis show, and we will be appearing at two local conventions this spring. CostumeCon 32 is in Toronto in April, and Anime North 2014 is in May, and we have a table at each. Both should be enormous, and both should be a lot of fun, fingers crossed.

Done for now, and thanks for continuing to send me the *Shuttle*. Spring's almost here, enjoy it!

[There's a con of some sort essentially every weekend; even when restricting the area of interest to nearby states. So, yeah, we can't avoid all conflicts for club meetings—and we don't try. Basically we poll the membership near the beginning of each year to see if a large number of folks might be going to a con on any of the normal club meeting weekends, and change a few of them if we can reasonably do so. I wouldn't particularly complain about being 55 again, other than being further from retirement. On the other hand, I seem to be busier now that I'm semiretired than I was when working full time. I might not be able to stand retirement (though I'll be happy to try when the time comes). —ED]

Breaking News: MTV Movie Awards

The MTV Movie Awards <www.mtv.com/ontv/movieawards> were presented Sunday 13 April 2014. Perhaps unsurprisingly, a significant majority of the winners in these pop-culture-oriented awards were genre movies.

The Hunger Games: Catching Fire grabbed the most awards of any flick, taking home 3 "Golden Popcorn" trophies—Movie of the Year, Best Female Performance (Jennifer Lawrence as Katniss Everdeen), and Best Male Performance (Josh Hutcherson as Peeta Mellark).

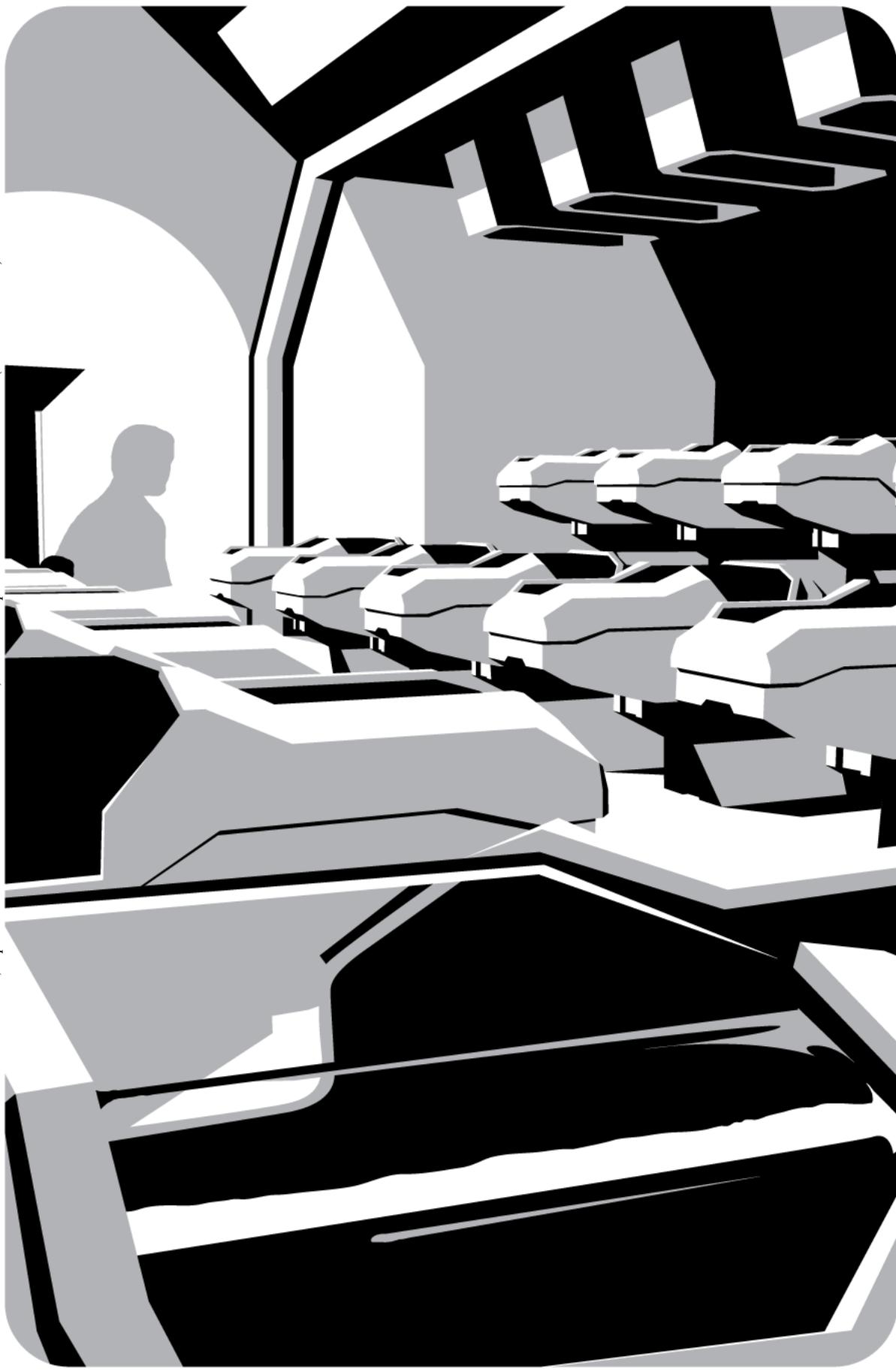
Number two in the genre list was Biblical apocalypse com-

edy (words seldom seen together) *This Is the End* which copped 2 prizes—Best Musical Moment (Backstreet Boys, Jay Baruchel, Seth Rogen, and Craig Robinson) and Best Cameo (Rihanna).

Several other sf/f/h films won in a single category each:

- *Divergent*—Favorite Character (Shailene Woodley as Tris)
- *The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug*—Best Fight (Orlando Bloom as Legolas and Evangeline Lilly as Tauriel vs. assorted Orcs)
- *Man of Steel*—Best Hero (Henry Cavill as Clark Kent/Kal-El)
- *Oz the Great and Powerful*—Best Villain (Mila Kunis as Theodora/Wicked Witch of the West)
- *World War Z*—Best Scared-as-S**t Performance (Brad Pitt as Gerry Lane)

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