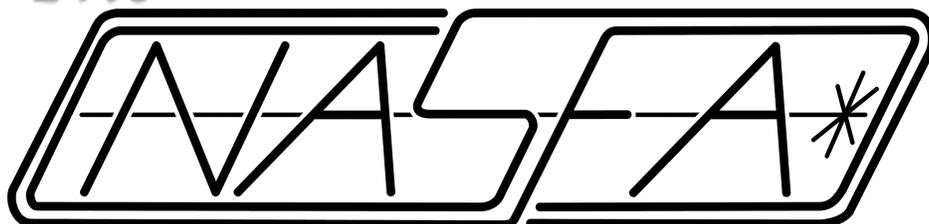


The



# Shuttle

January 2018

## The Next NASFA Meeting is 6P Saturday 13 January 2018 at the New Church Location

Please Note: This Meeting is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of January

### ▲ Oyez, Oyez ▲

The next **NASFA Meeting** will be **13 January 2018**, at the **NEW** regular meeting location and the **NEW** regular time (6P). **PLEASE NOTE** that this is the **2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday**—a week earlier than the usual date—in order to avoid the Chattacon weekend.

The Madison campus of Willowbrook Baptist Church, is at **446 Jeff Road**—about a mile from the former location. See the map at right for directions to the church. See the map on page 2 for a closeup of parking at the church as well as how to find the meeting room (“The Huddle”), which is close to one of the back doors toward the north end of the church. **Please do not try to come in the (locked) front door.**

#### JANUARY PROGRAM

The January program will be a science fiction/fantasy/horror/etc.-themed game of Pictionary, run by Randy Cleary. Attendees will be divided into two teams with volunteers from each team sought to take turns drawing while their team members guess the answers.

#### JANUARY ATMM

Mary and Doug Lampert will host the January After-The-Meeting Meeting at the church. The usual rules apply—that is, please bring food to share and your preferred 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.

#### FUTURE PROGRAMS

At this writing, none of the remaining programs for 2018 have been set. Judy and Sue are always looking for new program ideas, especially if you can run one yourself.

#### FUTURE ATMMs

We need hosts for all future months in 2018. Email <nasfa.shuttle@con-stellation.org> to volunteer or inquire.

#### FUTURE CLUB MEETING DATES/LOCATIONS

At present, all 2018 NASFA Meetings are expected to be at the normal meeting location. (Though, stay tuned as plans develop for Not-A-Con.) Most, but *not all*, of the remaining 2018 meetings are on the normal 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday. The dates are:

- 17 February — 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday
- 17 March — 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday
- 21 April — 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday
- 19 May — 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday



## Beginning Our 38<sup>th</sup> Year of Publication

#### Inside this issue...

|                                       |   |                          |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|---|
| News & Info .....                     | 2 | NASFA Calendar .....     | 3 |
| Minutes of the December Meeting ..... | 3 | Awards Roundup .....     | 4 |
|                                       |   | Letters of Comment ..... | 5 |

**Deadline for the February 2018 issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Monday 29 January 2018**

- 16 June—3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday
- 21 July—3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday
- 11 August—a week earlier (2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday) to avoid Worldcon
- 15 September—3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday
- 20 October—3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday
- 17 November—3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday
- 15 December—3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday

### CHANGING SHUTTLE DEADLINES

In general, the monthly *Shuttle* production schedule has been moved to the left a bit (versus prior practice). Though things are a bit squishy, the current intent is to put each issue to bed about 6–8 days before each month’s meeting.

Please check the deadline below the Table of Contents *each month* to submit news, reviews, LoCs, or other material.

### JOINING THE NASFA EMAIL LIST

All NASFAs who have email are urged to join our 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 NASFAs are both *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 Calendar. Interested parties can check the calendar online, but you can also subscribe to it and have your Outlook, iCal, or other calendar automatically updated as events (Club Meetings, local sf/f/h events, etc.) are added or changed. You can view the calendar online at <tinyurl.com/NASFACal>.



trying to help you decide how to vote (the deadline being midnight EDT 3 April 2018). The latest issue of *TAFF News* <taff.org.uk/news/TaffNews03.pdf> is composed mostly of candidate’s answers to a fannish questionnaire. This gives you, perhaps, more to go on than the short platform statements the three candidates (Johan Anglemark, Fia Karlsson, and Helena McCallum) are allowed on the ballot.

### GUFF SEEKS CANDIDATES

The Going Under (or Get Up and Over) Fan Fund is seeking candidates for the 2018 race. In this southbound year, the winning candidate will be expected to travel from Europe to Australia and attend Continuum 14 <www.continuum.org.au>, to be held in Melbourne 8–11 June 2018. (Normally the con attended would be a natcon, but “due to special circumstances the Continuum convention has been selected for 2018.”) Interested parties can find more at <ozfanfunds.com/?page\_id=92>.

### NATIONAL FILM REGISTRY 2017 SELECTIONS

The Library of Congress added four genre films to the National Film Registry among the 25 selected for 2017: *Dumbo* (1941), *Field of Dreams* (1989), *The Goonies* (1985), and *Superman* (1978). [Your editor also notes that Christmas classic *Die Hard* (1988) made the list. -ED] You can see the full list at <www.loc.gov/item/prn-17-178>.

### ODYSSEY WRITING WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

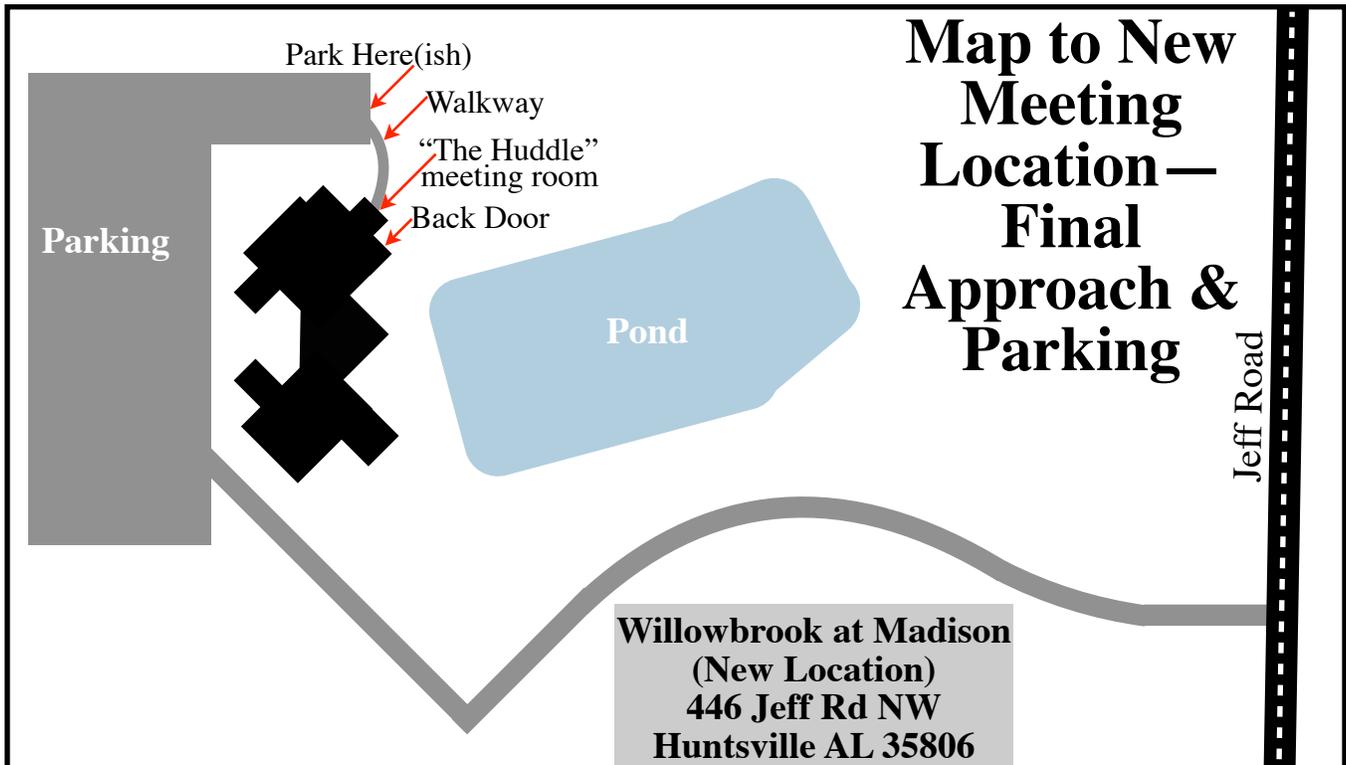
The Odyssey Writing Workshop <www.odysseyworkshop.org> (held at Saint Anselm College in Manchester NH) has announced their upcoming schedule. The six-week summer program will run 4 June–13 July 2018. Classes meet for 4+ hours a day, five days a week. In total, students spend about eight hours a day writing and critiquing each other’s work.

The early action application deadline is 31 January 2018, with a regular deadline of 7 April 2018. Tuition is \$2,025. Housing in a campus apartment is \$892/\$1,784 for a double or single room respectively. Various forms and amounts of financial aid are available. See the URL above for more details.

## News & Info

### TAFF UPDATE

The 2018 Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund <www.taff.org.uk> is



## SALLY RIDE, DRAGONS TO GET STAMPS

The USPS has announced some of their new stamps for 2018, including a memorial stamp for astronaut Sally Ride (1951–2012) and a set of four dragon stamps.



Ride's partner of many years, Tam O'Shaughnessy, was quoted as saying Ride had collected stamps as a child and would "be so honored" to appear on one. She was America's first woman in space (1983) and the third woman overall after cosmonauts Valentina Tereshkova (1963) and Svetlana Savitskaya (1982). Ride still holds the record for the youngest American astronaut to make it to space (at age 32).



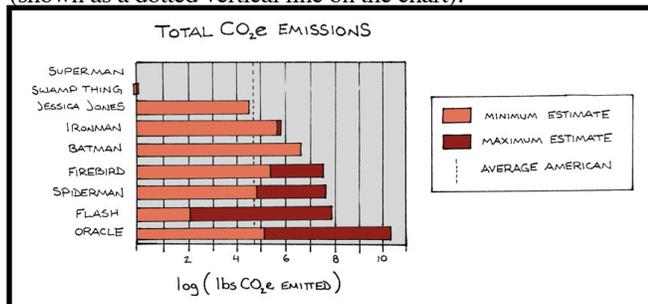
### ARIZONA STATE ISSUES FREE SPACE E-BOOK

*Visions, Ventures, Escape Velocities: A Collection of Space Futures* <[csi.asu.edu/books/vvev](http://csi.asu.edu/books/vvev)>—available as a free e-book from Arizona State University's Center for Science and the Imagination—examines the question, "Why should we go to space?" The book contains short fiction from Madeline Ashby, Steven Barnes, Eileen Gunn, Ramez Naam, Carter Scholz, Karl Schroeder, and Vandana Singh; essays by Jim Bell, Lawrence Drietas, Linda T. Elkins-Tanton, Emma Frow, Roland Lehoucq, Andrew D. Maynard, Clark A. Miller, Deji Bryce Olukotun, Steve Ruff, William K. Storey, Sara Imari Walker, and G. Pascal Zachary; and an interview with Kim Stanley Robinson.

The e-book is free in several formats. There is also a print-on-demand softcover book available for \$20.09 plus tax and shipping. The project was supported by a NASA grant.

### THE CARBON FOOTPRINT OF SUPERHEROES

Stanford's Miles Traer <[milestraer.com](http://milestraer.com)> (a geological data scientist) has made some estimates of the carbon footprint (in CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent units) of superheroes <[milestraer.com/category/portfolio/carbon-footprint-of-superheroes](http://milestraer.com/category/portfolio/carbon-footprint-of-superheroes)>. The average American citizen's annual CO<sub>2</sub>-e load is a bit over 44,000 pounds (shown as a dotted vertical line on the chart).



The estimates (minimum and maximum shown) range from slightly negative (for Swamp Thing) to over 10<sup>10</sup> pounds. Superman shows up as zero CO<sub>2</sub>-e since he's solar powered. (Though Clark Kent isn't.) Note that the scale is logarithmic, so every full step to the right is 10 times as much as the previous

step—meaning it would take between 100,000 and 1,000,000 average Americans to equal the max estimate for Oracle (née Barbara Gordon).

Note for graphical purists: Yes, yes, yes, you can't show zero or negative numbers on a logarithmic plot. Get over it.

### PATREON BACKS IT UP

Close readers of the *Shuttle* will recall that sponsorship site Patreon.com had come under criticism for changes to their fee structure that many believed (with some mathematical backing) would result in less money going to the sponsored authors and other creators. Well, Patreon pulled back from the changes (<[blog.patreon.com/not-rolling-out-fees-change](http://blog.patreon.com/not-rolling-out-fees-change)>) and apologized. They do say, however, that there are issues that need to be addressed and fee structure changes made, but they'll work with the Patreon community "to come up with the specifics."

## December Minutes

The December 2017 meeting of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association was subsumed within the annual NASFA Christmas Party—which is to say there was no formal meeting and thus no Minutes thereof.

## NASFA Calendar

### JANUARY

- 01 New Year's Day/Año Nuevo.
- 01 Last Day of Kwanzaa.
- 03 BD: Jim Kennedy.
- 03 BD: Karen Hopkins.
- 05–07 GaFilk—Atlanta GA.
- 05–11 Star Trek Cruise: Voyage 1—Miami FL.
- 06 BD: Rich Garber.
- 07 Orthodox Christmas Day.
- 07 BD: Douglas E. Lampert.
- 11–17 Star Trek Cruise: Voyage 2—Miami FL.
- 12–14 IllugiCon VII—Cary NC.
- 12–15 HauntCon—Nashville TN.
- 13\* NASFA Meeting—6P Business, 6:30P Program, at Willowbrook Madison. **NOTE:** This meeting is one week earlier than usual to avoid a conflict with Chattacon. **Program:** Randy Cleary will run sf/f/h/etc.-themed Pictionary. **ATMM:** Hosted by Doug and Mary Lampert at the church.
- 14 Orthodox New Year's Day.
- 15 BD: Martin Luther King, Jr. (Observed).
- 16 BD: Bruce Butler.
- 19–21 Chattacon 42—Chattanooga TN.
- 20 BD: Larry Montgomery.
- 26–28 Kami-Con—Birmingham AL.
- 26–28 Secret Mission Con—Atlanta GA.
- 26–30 Walker Stalker Cruise—New Orleans LA.
- 27 Hair Of The Dragon VII—Atlanta GA.

### FEBRUARY

- 01 National Freedom Day.
- 01–04 Game-O-Rama—Atlanta GA.
- 02 Groundhog Day.
- 02 National Wear Red Day (women's heart health).
- 02–04 Days of the Dead—Atlanta GA.
- 03–04 BrickFair—Birmingham AL.
- 04 BD: Rosa Parks.



leneuve were chosen as Officers of the Order of Canada with the announcement coming at the end of 2017. Shatner’s genre connections presumably need no explanation to *Shuttle* readers. Villeneuve directed both *Blade Runner 2049* (2017) and *Arrival* (2016); those appear to be his only genre movies.

**PARSEC AWARDS WINNERS**

Winners of the 2017 Parsec Awards <www.parsecawards.com> (“for podcasts centered around speculative fiction”) have been announced. By category, the winners are:

- SF Comedy/Parody Podcast**.....**Star Wars Best in Galaxy Season 3 Podcast About SF Content Creation** .....**Calliope Writing Coach Podcast**
- SF Fan or News Podcast (Specific)**.....**Aggressive Negotiations: A Star Wars Podcast**
- SF Fan or News Podcast (General)** .....**The Faculty of Horror SF Magazine or Anthology Podcast**.....**The Theatre of Tomorrow**
- Fact Behind the Fiction Podcast**.....**Talk Nerdy with Cara Santa Maria**
- SF Video Story** .....**The Uncle Interloper Show**
- New SF Podcaster/Team**.....**MarsCorp**
- SF Audio Drama (Long Form)**.....**Uncanny County, Alison Crane, Todd Faulkner, William Franke, and Nicole Greevy**
- SF Audio Drama (Short Form)**.....**“Woods Ferry,” John Ballentine** (Campfire Radio Theater)
- SF Story: Large Cast (Short Form)**.....**“Genie,” Maia Brown-Jackson** (Return Home)
- SF Story: Small Cast (Long Form)**.....**Things Unseen, Chris Lester** (The Raven and the Writing Desk)
- SF Story: Small Cast (Short Form)**.....**“Shadows,” K.B. Goddard** (The Wicked Library)
- SF Story: Small Cast (Novella Form)**.....**Six Stories, Told at Night, KT Bryski**

**GOLDEN GLOBE NOMS**

[Note that the January issue of the *Shuttle* often carries news of genre Golden Globe winners. Because the schedule of this year’s ish is earlier than usual (due to the timing of the NASFA meeting) we can only carry nominations for the Globes. -ED]

Nominees for the 75<sup>th</sup> Golden Globe Awards (given by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association) were announced in early December 2017. Genre films and TV shows received several nods.

On the TV side, *The Handmaid’s Tale* led the charge with three nominations, for TV Series—Drama, Actress in a TV Series—Drama (Elisabeth Moss), and Supporting Actress—TV (Ann Dowd). Right behind was *Stranger Things* with two nods, for TV Series—Drama and Supporting Actor—TV (David Harbour).

Four additional genre TV shows got a single honor each—*Game of Thrones* (TV Series—Drama), *Outlander* (Actress in a TV Series—Drama; Caitriona Balfe), *Twin Peaks* (Actor in a Limited Series or Motion Picture Made for TV; Kyle MacLachlan), and *Mr. Robot* (Supporting Actor—TV; Christian Slater).

On the movie side, *The Shape of Water* was the clear genre leader with seven nominations, for Motion Picture—Drama, Actress in a Motion Picture—Drama (Sally Hawkins), Supporting Actor in a Motion Picture (Richard Jenkins), Supporting Actress in a Motion Picture (Octavia Spencer), Director—Motion Picture (Guillermo del Toro), Screenplay—Motion Picture (Guillermo del Toro and Vanessa Taylor), and Original Score—Motion Picture.

Three genre films received two nods apiece. *Get Out* was recognized in the Motion Picture—Comedy or Musical and Actor in

a Motion Picture—Musical or Comedy (Daniel Kaluuya) categories. Both *Coco* and *Ferdinand* were recognized in the Animated Film and Original Song—Motion Picture categories.

Four additional genre films got a single nom apiece. Downsizing was honored in the Supporting Actress in a Motion Picture (Hong Chau) category. The trio *The Boss Baby*, *The Breadwinner*, and *Loving Vincent* were each nominated in the Animated Film category.

**CYBILS AWARDS NOMS**

Finalists for the 2017 Children’s and Young Adults Bloggers’ Literary Awards <www.cybils.com> (for “children’s and young adult authors and illustrators whose books combine the highest literary merit and popular appeal”) have been announced. They include a number of items with genre ties—including in non-obvious categories. Interested readers can see all the lists linked at <www.cybils.com/2018/01/2017-cybils-finalists.html>.

**BSFA AWARDS LONGLISTS**

The longlists for the 2017 British Science Fiction Association Awards <www.bsfa.co.uk/bsfa-awards> have been announced. The lists in each category (Novel, Shorter Fiction, Non-Fiction, and Artwork) are too long (137 items in all) for the *Shuttle* to run, but can be seen at <www.bsfa.co.uk/bsfa-awards-stage-2>. That same page includes a link for BSFA members to participate in the next step—whittling the nominees down to shortlists. The deadline for that is 31 January 2018.

**PEN AMERICA LONGLISTS**

Longlists for the 2018 PEN America Literary Awards <pen.org> were announced in December 2017 and include several genre works. Three such works made the initial cut for the PEN/Robert W. Bingham Prize for Debut Fiction: *Sonora*, Hannah Lillith Assadi (Soho); *Black Jesus and Other Superheroes*, Venita Blackburn (University of Nebraska Press); and *Her Body and Other Parties*, Carmen Maria Machado (Graywolf).

One genre or related work appeared on the longlists for each of the PEN Translation Prize (*Out in the Open*, Jesus Carrasco, Riverhead), the PEN/Diamonstein-Spielvogel Award for the Art of the Essay (*No Time to Spare: Thinking about What Matters*, Ursula K. Le Guin, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt), and the PEN/E.O. Wilson Prize for Literary Science Writing (*American Eclipse: A Nation’s Epic Race to Catch the Shadow of the Moon and Win the Glory of the World*, David Baron, Liveright).

Finalists will be announced this month. The winners will be announced at a ceremony to be held 20 February 2018 at the NYU Skirball Center in New York NY.

**PULPFEST SEEKING MUNSEY AWARD NOMS**

PulpFest 2018—to be held 26–29 July 2018 at the Double-Tree Pittsburgh-Cranberry in Mars (Pittsburgh area) PA—is seeking nominees for the 2018 Munsey Award. The Munsey recognizes “the efforts of those who work to keep the pulps alive for this and future generations.” Members of “the pulp community” can send in a nomination. For more details see <www.pulpfest.com/2017/12/help-choose-2018-munsey-award>.

**Letters of Comment**

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

Sheryl Birkhead 10 November 2017  
25509 Jonnie Court  
Gaithersburg MD 20882

[It appears I misplaced Sheryl’s letter the first time she mailed it. Fortunately, she caught my omission and sent us another

copy in mid December. -ED]

Nah, you don't need to hear about the new/continuing and thrilling problems with the OS Sierra. I have no idea what I did or why Apple has now "given" me 5GB of iCloud storage and within several days announces I have used more than 50% of that and for only \$0.99/month... Huh—ah, but I digress. I am trying to ignore all the stuff I cannot understand. I am fairly certain I have no intention of now going on up to the newest OS High Sierra. I may be slow to learn, but I do learn.

I look forward to reading about the gheart white elephants you had to auction off—preferably accompanied by photos!

Do you happen to have a current snailmail address for Rose-Marie? Somewhere I have several, maybe I'll poke around the internet (now that I made all the desktop contents reappear—see note above about Sierra!) and see what I find. Ignore this—think I found a current one on Holly Avenue—I'll send something there.

The concept of e-book bundles is inviting. At the very least one should not have to worry about shelf space. Ah, but I have very badly missed the closing date—so I don't have to seriously consider doing anything.

Con reports! It would be nice if you can get together a photo history of the con! (Yeah, easy for me to say) Yeah, I procrastinated and lost out on the t-shirt—my loss. I had been hoping to see what the various color looked like—I know the official convention shirt (or polo) was the only one, but "you" did offer some nice colors...

Hmm—I am back at the car dealership on an emergency basis! There is no public transport out in my neck of the woods and when the car refused to do anything in a Walmart's parking lot—no dash lights or warnings, no grinding of starter—nothing. Then, miraculously it started right up—as I crept slowly toward the exit-it just died again. Great. I tried rattling the gear selector, and the key and—it started immediately. At that point I did not trust it and over the weekend I have to drive about 30 miles each way on back roads to get to the SPCA. I left plenty of space between me and the car ahead and headed home. Once in the garage, turned the car off and tried again—as expected—nothing. I called the dealership and they suggested jump starting—luckily I have the home starter kit—but could not get the key out of the ignition. They suggested putting the gear selector in neutral...whoa—already tried that and it is a no go—nothing works. He told me to go try again—tum the key as far as I could and try to get the selector to neutral. Well, I know Halloween is over, but when I tried to turn the key, the panel lights dimmed and there was a faint red glow... then a crack sort of like metal tearing... and it started right up. One last call to the dealership—should I even bother with trying to charge the battery or just head out. Head out it is. So, here I sit, very unplanned expenses loom. Ah well—I did take the time to haul out the laptop and some zines... proverbial cloud and silver lining scenario. About its age... I got it about 8 years ago with a verified 25,000 miles on it and a 2002 production date... meaning it probably hit the road in 2001—but based on the model year it is 15 years old. This is the first car I have had that I continue to take to the dealership (they are also good to me—and sponsor a lot of the SPCA stuff—with a lot of discounts, etc.). I also pay attention to the repairs they recommend. While it may take me a bit longer than they suggest to save up the money, I do get it all done. I figure there is no way I could ever afford a monthly car payment.

Emmy Awards—looks as if I may have to try to locate a way to view *The Handmaid's Tale*. I guess that one goes on the list of RSN items. I was watching *Stranger Things* season 2 on Netflix (via Roku so I could watch it on a TV) but did not pay

enough attention to the first episode so it looks as if I need to go back and take another run at it before getting so lost as things I don't quite understand pile up.

Thanks for the info on sites new to the Worldcon. I went with a tour group to Ireland—well, it is a local group that organizes cheaper fares so those of Irish heritage can make the trip back to the old sod more economically. As a result, people thought I was Irish—not so, even with a redheaded brother and sister. It is one place along with Australia and New Zealand that I would like to revisit... with a very slim to none likelihood that any of those things will occur. I went the last year I had a valid student ID—true it was not the first time around, but it was good enough to get cheaper ticket rates at most places and museums. I hope you can make the con—it is bound to be fun and interesting.

Well, looks as if I am done for this—and still have not gotten the damage report (i.e., what needs to be fixed and how much it will cost) yet for today. So, let me see what zine is next in the stack...

[I've upgraded my new laptop to High Sierra and I'm happy with it so far. Of course, it's the latest MacBook Pro so it darn well *should* run the latest MacOS without a glitch. Sadly, Sheryl, there were no photos taken at the NASFA Christmas party "white elephant" gift swap (or at least none I know of). I can, however, favor you with a pic of what I took home. There was a somewhat elaborate randomizing process so it was left to chance which gift I got, but let it be said my sister-in-law apologized to me before I opened it. Yep, Santa Dog "dances" and "sings." As for e-book bundles, they appear with some regularity now (though in a variety of genres not at all limited to sf/f/h/etc.). That is, in fact, the entire business model of HumbleBundle, StoryBundle, and probably others I'm unaware of. As I understand it, SFWA has used such bundles to raise money for their Emergency Medical Fund—twice in 2017 with three bundles planned for 2018. RE con history, there *is* a plan to morph the Con†Stellation website into a (mostly) history site, but that's a long-term thing and was stalled completely throughout the 2017 holiday season. Photos will probably be scarce since none of the current core members of the group are big picture takers. There is a possibility we can locate some from prior cons but I'm not going to hold my breath. Too bad about your car, darn it, and I hope the \$damage\$ wasn't too bad. -ED]



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

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

26 November 2017

[We're 2-for-2 in delayed LoCs this month. I can't find even a trace of Lloyd's email having arrived—possibly it was eaten by teh intertubes or possibly I mistakenly deleted it. Fortunately Lloyd keeps all his LoCs on his LiveJournal page <lloydpenney.livejournal.com> and just as fortunately I thought to check there when I realized we'd not heard from him in a while. -ED.]

My apologies for being out of touch for so long. I finally do have work(!), and it has eaten up so much time. As a result, I am so far behind in my fanzine correspondence, so here goes with comments on several issues, the September, October, and November issues. And it's the day before the deadline for the December issue, so I'd better get with it!

September... I guess you are breaking in the new meeting room. I find many clubs that I am in touch with have a difficult time with meeting rooms, as the costs for renting those rooms go up and up, or the rooms are reassigned to private use.

I remember the Marriott Marquis as the main hotel for the 1986 Worldcon in Atlanta. Little more than paper airplanes went off the edge into the atrium area that weekend, how have we gotten to the point where we throw chairs? This can't be the kind of audience Dragon Con attracts?

My last letter... well, the job hunt was eventually successful. In mid-September, I found myself a part-time job with a mystery shopper company, but I certainly have had full-time hours and a full-time workload. I also spend approximately three hours or more a day on public transit, getting there and coming back home, and all the things I would ordinarily do through the week are now shoveled into the weekend. My schedule is pretty full, which is why I am writing this multi-issue letter now.

October... we hope all had a fun Hallowe'en. More and more, Hallowe'en means a busy time, getting things done at home. We have the costumes to wear, but no parties to wear them at.

I always keep my ears and eyes open for conventions that shut down. I know you are shutting down your own convention... you have my sincere commiserations, for we've had to go through that here, too, but we are far from alone in having to do that. So many conventions are not being succeeded by anything, or if they are, it's by little comic cons in the local community centre, or in some cases, a church basement.

Hallowe'en was flat, but we did have a very good Thanksgiving. It was warm and pleasant. We hope your Thanksgiving this weekend has been equally so. It seems no matter the country, the day after Thanksgiving is Christmas, so the stores are full of expensive stuff no one really needs. (You can imagine what I might say about Black Friday...)

Thank you for listing the Aurora Award winners. I have left my position with the CSFFA... I was in charge of their Archives, but was never able to actually do the job. I am sure there are more qualified people out there with more time to devote to the job, and I wish them well. I will say that the fan awards are mostly voted on by the pros, and won by the friends of the pros which seems to be a common complaint these days.

*Star Trek: Discovery*... I have enjoyed all episodes to date, and have PVRed them to go back to and see again, if need be. I

tried an episode of *The Orville*, and it just didn't appeal. I am lucky in that all episodes of *Discovery* are seen on Space, our national SF channel, which is a part of regular cable here. Hello, Sheryl, thank you for thinking of us. We always take the time for ourselves, and have fun, and as of this coming May, we will celebrate our 35<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Also, next month, Yvonne celebrates her 65<sup>th</sup> birthday, and the best present for that birthday is her retirement.

November... Good to see already Christmas and New Year's celebrations. We hope to find some similar celebrations here.

I saw the results of the Robby the Robot auction... no idea who the successful bidder was, and we may never know, but the winning bid was US\$5.38 million. I am hopeful for the fourth *Twilight Zone* series, but as long as Jordan Peele remembers what a TZ story is all about (shiver up your spine, cautionary tale, etc.), it should succeed. Fingers crossed.

And I am caught up. Again, apologies for letting it go for so long, but time is at a premium. It is good to be making some money and paying my share of the bills again. Yvonne and I wish you all a wonderful Christmas/Kwanzaa/Hanukkah/Festivus/whatever you like to celebrate in December, and a marvelous 2018. 2017 is off, going back to the manufacturers for defects... too many wonderful people passing away, too many bad news headlines, too many mad politicians destroying the good fabric of life. May 2018 be a year of recovery and prosperity for all of us. Make it so!, and see you then.

[No apology is necessary, Lloyd. Life takes precedence over franc for all of us, or should. Even for those whose rallying cry is FIAWOL, the yang to that yin—FIJAGDH—is also true. The meeting space at the church we're using is great in that it's free—and in most other respects is working out quite well. The general negatives are that the meeting room is overly echoey and that we have to be out of there earlier than we might prefer. But did I say *free*? (For me, there's another negative in that it's on the far end of nowhere in relation to my house... but prior meeting spaces over the decades have been just as inconveniently located for others in the group, while mostly being pretty close to my house.) I've been cutting back on Christmas gifts over the last decade (or more) and more recently have shifted the money formerly spent on gifts for friends to making a charitable donation in their honor. Most of those friends already have all the "stuff" they want in their lives whereas there are many people who don't even have what they need. I'm *by no means* a major donor, but sending money to a Puerto Rico food bank (this year) or Toys for Tots (last year) makes a lot more sense to me than giving someone another gadget. I've not seen any of the (fairly) recent TV series that you or Sheryl mention. I watch too much television but don't subscribe to any of the premium channels or services. I keep telling myself I need to update the wifi in my house (*and* likely the internet download speed I'm paying for), drop cable TV altogether, and go streaming-only. Should I ever take that plunge it might make more sense to add one or more premium streaming services, Meanwhile I don't seem to lack for things to fill time. -ED]



P. O. Box 4857  
Huntsville AL 35815-4857

\*\*\*\*\*

*The NASFA Shuttle* is the newsletter of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association, Inc. This is the January 2018 edition (Volume 38, Number 1). NASFA Officers for 2018: President Mary Lampert; Vice President Mike Kennedy; Secretary Steve Sloan; Treasurer Sam Smith; Program Director “JudySue Thornsmythe”; Publicity Director Sam Smith. *Shuttle* Editor Mike Kennedy. Comments, inquiries, and contributions of writing by email to: [nasfa.shuttle@con-stellation.org](mailto:nasfa.shuttle@con-stellation.org)—EDITORIAL ADDRESS (EMAIL)  
Comments, inquiries, and contributions of writing by snailmail to: Mike Kennedy, 7907 Charlotte Drive SW,  
Huntsville AL 35802-2841—EDITORIAL ADDRESS (SNAILMAIL)  
Dues (\$), subscriptions (\$), and Official Mail to: NASFA, Inc., P. O. Box 4857,  
Huntsville AL 35815-4857—OFFICIAL ADDRESS

Contents Copyright, © 2017. All rights revert to contributors. All opinions are those of the individual authors and do not reflect club policies other than by coincidence. LoCs subject to edited printing.

NASFA Dues = \$25/year (Family rates available) Subscription only = \$15/year Single copy = \$2 each.

\*\*\*\*\*