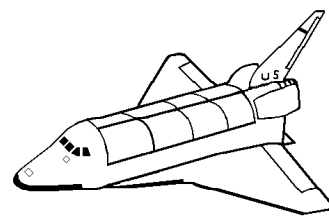


The



SHUTTLE  
May 1999

*The Next NASFA Meeting will be 15 May  
1999 at the Regular Time and Location*

*Concom Meeting set for 20 May, 6:30P at the Ray's*  
**Note that this is the Thursday after the NASFA meeting**

### Oyez, Oyez

The next **NASFA meeting** will be **15 May 1999** at the **regular time** (6P) and the **regular location** (room 130 of the Madison City Municipal Building).

The May program is undetermined at press time.

The May after-the-meeting meeting will be at Mike Kennedy's house.

### Concom Meeting Set

The May Con†Stellation XVIII concom meeting will be held at Robin and Mike Ray's house at 6:30P on Thursday 20 May 1999. This is an eating meeting. The "monstrous" food theme for this month is "Frankenstein."

### Food Like Mummy Used to Make

Welcome to the first food quiz of 1999. The April food theme was "Mummy" and you're invited to try to match the descriptions below to the actual food items. The answers are hidden elsewhere in this issue. You can also find some Mummy food pictures on pages 2 and 4.

1. Mummified, er, parts left over from the March food theme (cannibals).
2. Diced parts floating in embalming fluid.
3. Her Mummy made these (matches 2 items).
4. This dessert honors the star-faring visitors to ancient Egypt.
5. A circular crypt holding a sweet surprise.

*(continued on page 2)*

#### Inside this issue...

NASFA Calendar .....	2
Mintues of the April Meeting .....	2
Book Review .....	3

Partheon Review .....	3
Hugo Nominees Announced .....	4
Special <i>Star Wars</i> Book Review .....	5
1998 Nebula Awards .....	6

**Deadline for the June 1999 issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Friday, 4 June 1999.**

(Continued from page 1)

6. This is his Mummy's favorite crunchy biscuit.
7. These topped treats were made by her Mummy's recipe.
8. Meaty treats, these concoctions are wrapped up Mummy style.
  - a. Jello.                                        d. Pigs in Blankets.
  - b. Star Crunch.                                        e. Pecan Pie.
  - c. Rolled sandwiches.                                        f. Green Bean Casserole.
- g. Homemade cookies decorated with Mummy faces and the Eye of Horus.
- h. Oreo cookies.                                        i. Beanie Weenies.

## NASFA Calendar

### MAY

- 07–09 Marcon 34 — Columbus OH.  
 08–09 Tennessee Renaissance Festival (TRF) opens.  
 09 Mother's Day.  
 14 BD: Debbie Hughes.  
 14–16 OASIS 12 — Orlando FL.  
 15\* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at the Madison City Municipal Building. ATMM at Mike Kennedy's house.  
 15–16 TRF second weekend.  
 16 BD: Linda Bolgeo  
 19 BD: David O. Miller.  
 20 Con†Stellation concom meeting — Mike and Robin Ray's house. Food theme is "Frankenstein."  
 20 BD: Mike Glicksohn.  
 22–23 TRF third weekend.  
 27 BD: Kathy Paulk.  
 28–30 LibertyCon 13 — Chattanooga TN.  
 29–31 TRF final weekend.  
 31 Memorial Day.

### JUNE

- 01 BD: Glenn Valentine.  
 02–06 SFRA 1999 — Mobile AL.  
 11 BD: Rhett Mitchell.  
 14 Flag Day.  
 19\* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at the Madison City Municipal Building. ATMM TBD.  
 20 Father's Day.  
 24–27 MidWestCon 50 — Cincinnati OH.

### JULY

- 01–04 Dragon\*Con 1999 — Atlanta GA.  
 02 BD: Deb Stone.  
 04 Independence Day.  
 10–11 1999 J. W. Campbell Conference — University of Kansas, Lawrence KS.  
 17\* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at the Madison City Municipal Building. ATMM TBD.  
 24 BD: Jay Johns.  
 29 BD: Mark Paulk.  
 30–01 Rivercon XXIV — the penultimate Rivercon — Louisville KY.

### AUGUST

- 05–07 DeepSouthCon 37/Crescent City Con XIV — Metairie LA.  
 08 BD: Jim Woosley.

- 14 BD: Edward Kenny.  
 19 BD: Arianne Mitchell.  
 21\* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at the Madison City Municipal Building. ATMM TBD.  
 21 BD: Deborah Denton.  
 26–29 Conucopia/NASFiC '99 — Anaheim CA.

Oo

The North Alabama Science Fiction Association meets on the third Saturday of each month. (Unless there is a large nearby convention being held that weekend — in which case we usually hold the meeting on the second or fourth weekend.) The regular meeting location is room 130 of the Madison City Municipal Building. The Executive Committee meeting (if scheduled) is held at 5P. The business meeting is held at 6P. The program begins at 7P. Anyone is welcome to attend any of the meetings. There is usually an after-the-meeting meeting with directions available at the program.

## April Minutes

by Samuel A. Smith, showered

The April meeting of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association was called to order on Saturday, April 17, 1999 in Room 130 in the Madison City Municipal Building at 6:15P by President Anita Eisenberg. Barney was once again the smashee of honor.

### OLD BUSINESS

Randy Cleary: *Matrix* is great: guns, action, and an actual plot.

### NEW BUSINESS

We have received a letter from Julie Wall, Southern Fandom Confederation president, requesting that clubs/conventions that can afford it remember to buy their club/convention SFC memberships. Such memberships are \$50 per year. Ads in the *SFC Bulletin* are also available, at \$25 each.

Mike Kennedy moved that we purchase an SFC club/convention membership for NASFA/Con†Stellation. The motion was seconded, voted, and passed.

Randy Cleary noted that the Tennessee Renaissance Festival starts May 3<sup>rd</sup>. There was some discussion of where and travel time.

Jack Lundy announced that an excellent *Dracula* ballet would be performed at Panoply (now past).

### CONVENTION BUSINESS

The Con†Stellation home page got 336 hits last month (< [>](http://www.hsv.tis.net/~constell/constell/)). The second most popular page on the Con†Stellation web site was the Fannish Family Feud results page with 125 hits, and the third most popular was the convention flyer page at 74.

The next Con Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30P at Mike and Robin Ray's home. This will be an eating meeting, and the food theme will be "Frankenstein."

There was some discussion of the convention hotel.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:37P. The After-The-Meeting Meeting was held at Mike and Robin Ray's home.



# Now Where Did I Place That?

A Book Review

by Pat Brooks

*Dictionary of Science Fiction Places*, Brian Stableford, Wonderland Press, 1999, Oversize Paperback, 384 pages, ISBN 0684849585, \$19.95.

So, on what planet did Joan Vinge set *The Snow Queen*? Where in the galaxy do you go to find Sector General, James White's Galactic Hospital? And who created the living nightmare called the Shrike who dwelled on the planet Hyperion? These answers and more can be found in Brian Stableford's *The Dictionary of Science Fiction Places*. Formatted into an 11" x 8 1/2" softcover, the dictionary's three-column pages offer a generous type print and numerous pen and ink drawings by Jeff White. It is divided into three major sections: the dictionary itself, works cited, and an entry list.

Let's take a look at the first entry I looked up — Frank Herbert's *Dune*. I saw "see Arrakis." Well, OK. What I read was two columns of a very precise, cut to the bone summary for the whole series. But the real gem was at the end where Stableford lists the novel or short story, the author, the date of publication, and one other interesting bit of info. For Arrakis (on page 25) it was: "other locations which became uniquely significant by virtue of being host to life-forms

producing longevity sera include Mutare, Old North Australia, and Tiamat." At the bottom of the Mutare entry (from *Downtime*, Cynthia Felice, 1985, page 209) you will find: "other locations harboring enigmatic winged indigenes include Cuckoo, Damiem, and Pia 2." On and on it goes. Each entry has at least three references and very few of them overlap.

The works-cited section is an author index. Poul Anderson has the most entries with 21 worlds. Jack Vance was second with 15 worlds. The entry list is an alphabetical listing of worlds which include the novel or short story they were from, the author, and usually a date associated with the work. The range spans Edward E. Hale's "The Brick Moon" and "Life on the Brick Moon" published in 1869–1870 to Mesh-Matrix Krystal found in Alexander Jablovkov's *Deepdrive* in 1998.

While I don't consider this book a "must have," I do recommend you check it out at a local bookstore. Oh, the answers to the questions are the planet Tiamat, "...beyond the galactic rim, between the parent galaxy and the heavily-populated Greater Magellanic Cloud" (page 274), and Dan Simmons.

## Parthecon XXVII — A Review

by Mike Kennedy

Parthecon XXVII took place at the Days Inn - Airport in Nashville TN 23–25 April 1999. Guests included GoH David Weber, FGoH Michael Sinclair, and TM Richard T. "Uncle Timmy" Bolgeo. UT was actually a list-minutes substitution for Sharon Green who in turn was a substitute for Andrew J. Offutt. Offutt had a heart attack earlier this year and, though he's doing fine in recovery, was obviously not up to doing cons yet. Green suffered a cat bite which put her in the hospital (!) just a day or so before the con.

Though this was Parthecon XXVII, most of you reading this are probably aware it was actually the second Parthecon, since they continued the numbering scheme from Nashville's former annual con, Kubla, which ended its run at 25 just two years ago.

Parthecon was pretty small this year — I'd estimate no more than 125 people attended. The con attempted to have many of the trappings of a full general sf con and were more successful in some areas than others.

The dealers room was smallish, but of an appropriate size for this con. The 6–8 dealers covered books (new and used), gaming merchandise, jewelry, comics, t-shirts, and more. It was hard to tell just how busy the dealers were, but there were always at least a few potential buyers milling about inside.

The art show was in a rather small room, but it turned out to be noticeably bigger than needed. There were about 10–12 panels used and about 2 tables of 3-D art. What was there was all professional and of high quality, but there just wasn't enough of it to draw me back for a second visit.

The con suite is important at any con and particularly so at a small con — Parthecon did an OK job there. There was always food though the serving area was cramped and often disorganized. The selection of soft drinks was limited, but

covered the basics. Beer was available somewhat over half the day and (fortunately) few people seemed to overindulge.

Programming was extremely sparse. The most popular item was either a talk/reading/autograph session by David Weber or the performance by the Celto-eclectic band Secret Commonwealth. (Unfortunately, I couldn't attend the latter due to a commitment to run the combined Con+Stellation room party/Huntsville DSC bid party Saturday evening.) A couple of dozen people attended the banquet in the hotel restaurant starting 5P Saturday. Con chair Charles Dickens thoughtfully arranged to have meatloaf on the buffet (one of Kubla maven Khen Moore's favorite foods). Khen seemed less than fully thankful, though, since the chef included "toadstools" in the gravy.

Parthecon also had a game room, but it seemed to be sparsely used. The schedule hinted at live-action role playing, but I don't think a LARP, or any other organized gaming, ever took place. Well, that's not quite true. There was a spades tournament with eight entries. In fact, spades predominated my entire weekend. I managed to win two pickup games, though I was eliminated in the first round of the tournament. I also never quite managed to win when David Weber was at the table.

Small cons are what you make of them and I, for one, had a ball. But, as you may have intuited from all I said above, that good time had little to do with the con. They were lacking in organization — starting at registration and continuing through most areas of the con. It seems apparent that if Parthecon is to survive in the long run some type of change must be made. Parthecon has announced that they will be back next year. I wish them well, but I'm afraid they need to do something to convince me to come back.

# Hugo Nominees Announced

A total of 425 ballots were received from members of Aussiecon Three and Bucconeer (last year's Worldcon). As often happens, there are several categories with more than five nominees due to two- and three-way ties for fifth place. No nominees withdrew anything from nomination or declined any nomination this year. You must be a member of Aussiecon Three (either supporting or attending) to participate in the final vote. Ballots will be distributed with Progress Report 4 and are available on-line at < <http://www.aussiecon3.worldcon.org> >. Email about the Hugo Awards can be sent to < [hugos@aussiecon3.worldcon.org](mailto:hugos@aussiecon3.worldcon.org) >.

## BEST NOVEL (332 ballots cast)

*Children of God* by Mary Doria Russell (Villard)  
*Factoring Humanity* by Robert J. Sawyer (Tor)  
*Distraction* by Bruce Sterling (Bantam Spectra)  
*To Say Nothing of the Dog* by Connie Willis (Bantam Spectra)  
*Darwinia* by Robert Charles Wilson (Tor)

## BEST NOVELLA (187 ballots cast)

*"Aurora in Four Voices"* by Catherine Asaro (*Analog* December 1998)  
*"Get Me to the Church on Time"* by Terry Bisson (*Asimov's* May 1998)  
*"Story of Your Life"* by Ted Chiang (*Starlight 2*)  
*"Oceanic"* by Greg Egan (*Asimov's* August 1998)  
*"The Summer Isles"* by Ian R. MacLeod (*Asimov's* October–November 1998)

## BEST NOVELETTE (222 ballots cast)

*"The Planck Dive"* by Greg Egan (*Asimov's* February 1998)  
*"Time Gypsy"* by Ellen Klages (*Bending the Landscape: Science Fiction*)  
*"Steamship Soldier on the Information Front"* by Nancy Kress (*Future Histories; Asimov's* April 1998)  
*"Echea"* by Kristine Kathryn Rusch (*Asimov's* July 1998)  
*"Zwarte Piet's Tale"* by Allen Steele (*Analog* December 1998)  
*"Taklamakan"* by Bruce Sterling (*Asimov's* October–November 1998)  
*"Divided By Infinity"* by Robert Charles Wilson (*Starlight 2*)



## BEST SHORT STORY (240 ballots cast)

*"Cosmic Corkscrew"* by Michael A. Burstein (*Analog* June 1998)  
*"Whiptail"* by Robert Reed (*Asimov's* October–November 1998)  
*"Maneki Neko"* by Bruce Sterling (*F&SF* May 1998)  
*"Radiant Doors"* by Michael Swanwick (*Asimov's* September 1998)  
*"The Very Pulse of the Machine"* by Michael Swanwick (*Asimov's* February 1998)  
*"Wild Minds"* by Michael Swanwick (*Asimov's* May 1998)

## BEST RELATED BOOK (159 ballots cast)

*Science-Fiction: The Gernsback Years* by Everett F. Bleiler (Kent State University Press)  
*Hugo, Nebula and World Fantasy Awards* by Howard DeVore (Advent:Publishers)  
*The Dreams Our Stuff Is Made Of* by Thomas M. Disch (Free Press)  
*Spectrum 5: The Best in Contemporary Fantastic Art* edited by Cathy Fenner and Arnie Fenner (Underwood Books)  
*The Work of Jack Williamson: An Annotated Bibliography and Guide* by Richard A. Hauptmann (NESFA Press)

## BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION (261 ballots cast)

*"Sleeping in Light"* — *Babylon 5* (Warner Bros)  
*Dark City* (New Line Cinema)  
*Pleasantville* (New Line Cinema)  
*Star Trek: Insurrection* (Paramount)  
*The Truman Show* (Paramount)

## BEST PROFESSIONAL EDITOR (244 ballots cast)

**Gardner Dozois** (*Asimov's; Year's Best Science Fiction*)  
**Scott Edelman** (*SF Age*)  
**David G. Hartwell** (Tor Books; *Year's Best SF*)  
**Stanley Schmidt** (*Analog*)  
**Patrick Nielsen Hayden** (Tor Books; *Starlight*)  
**Gordon Van Gelder** (*F&SF; St Martins Press*)

## BEST PROFESSIONAL ARTIST (214 ballots cast)

**Jim Burns**  
**Bob Eggleton**  
**Donato Giancola**  
**Don Maitz**  
**Nick Stathopoulos**  
**Michael Whelan**

## BEST SEMIPROZINE (214 ballots cast)

*Interzone* edited by David Pringle  
*Locus* edited by Charles N. Brown  
*The New York Review of Science Fiction* edited by Kathryn Cramer, Ariel Hameon, David G. Hartwell, and Kevin Maroney  
*Science Fiction Chronicle* edited by Andrew I. Porter  
*Speculations* edited by Denise Lee

## BEST FANZINE (208 ballots cast)

*Ansible* edited by Dave Langford  
*File 770* edited by Mike Glyer  
*Mimosa* edited by Richard and Nicki Lynch

1-b.  
 5-1-  
 3-9&f.  
 4-p.  
 2-e.  
 0-h.  
 1-g.  
 8-c.  
 4

*Plokta* edited by Alison Scott and Steve Davies  
*Tangent* edited by David Truesdale  
*Thyme* edited by Alan Stewart

**BEST FAN WRITER (199 ballots cast)**

**Bob Devney** **Dave Langford**  
**Mike Glycer** **Evelyn C. Leeper**  
**Maureen Kincaid Speller**

**BEST FAN ARTIST (174 ballots cast)**

**Freddie Baer** **Teddy Harvia**  
**Brad Foster** **Joe Mayhew**  
**Ian Gunn** **D. West**

**JOHN W. CAMPBELL AWARD for Best New Writer  
of 1997 or 1998 (180 ballots cast)**

**Not a Hugo (sponsored by Dell Magazines)**

**Kage Baker** (2<sup>nd</sup> year of eligibility)  
**Julie E. Czerneda** (2<sup>nd</sup> year of eligibility)  
**Nalo Hopkinson** (2<sup>nd</sup> year of eligibility)  
**Susan R. Matthews** (2<sup>nd</sup> year of eligibility)  
**James Van Pelt** (2<sup>nd</sup> year of eligibility)

“World Science Fiction Society,” “WSFS,” “World Science Fiction Convention,” “Worldcon,” “NASFiC,” and “Hugo Award” are service marks of the World Science Fiction Society, an unincorporated literary society.

## Forceful Reading

A Book Review by Jim Woosley

*Star Wars™ Episode 1: The Phantom Menace™*, by Terry Brooks (based on the screenplay and story by George Lucas), Ballantine/Del Rey, 1999, ISBN 0-345-42765-3, \$25.00.

A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away...

Well, actually, about twenty-two years ago and three states over, a little known film that had made an unanticipated splash finally made it to Bowling Green, and I got there on opening night. For months, the buzz (this was actually before “buzz” meant anything except the sound of a flying bee) had been about *Star Wars*, a marvelous story that wove traditional legends with stock science fiction themes — galactic empires, robots, faster-than-light travel — and a touch of both Ivanhoe and Louis L’Amour (both in the barroom sequence, for example) into a whole that captured the hearts and mind of the nation. And that changed the face of SF, particularly visual SF, forever.

Almost as soon as *Star Wars* hit, it became known that the movie was really the fourth in what was to be a series of 9, or 11, or 6 (depending on who and when the telling was done) movies detailing the overall structure of the end of the “Old Republic,” the transitional period of Empire, and the beginning of the “New Republic.” *The Empire Strikes Back*, then *Return of the Jedi*, rounded out the sequence of stories dealing with Luke Skywalker, his sister Leia, their friends and acquaintances, and of course their father, Anakin Skywalker, who, as Darth Vader, Dark Lord of the Sith, kidnapped them, fought them, and eventually was redeemed by them in time to save their lives and their dreams of Republic. I’ll note that this review presumes that the reader is familiar with the story — and if not, shame on you!

I remember adding things up at the time. Nine movies. Three years between movies. In twenty-four years, the whole series will be finished.

Then, of course, George Lucas decided to “do other things” for a while.

Well, the waiting is over, and the first movie of the series — now quoted as being only six movies long — is finally due to hit theaters in about a week. As such things are now done, the novelization (by Terry Brooks, best known for *The Sword of Shanarra* and its many sequels) has come out a couple of weeks early to help “stir the pot” on the most anxiously awaited movie release in history.

And now, it can be revealed for the first time, the whole set of stories is simply a biography; a biography of a most

remarkable person: Anakin Skywalker. A 9-year-old slave on the desert planet of Tatooine. Already the second-best “pod-racer” pilot on the planet — and the only successful human at the sport ever. And the most sensitive person to the Force that connects all living beings ever born. (OK — admit it — you probably don’t believe *either* that sensitivity to the Force is something that can be determined by blood test, but there it is...)

But the story really starts on the planet Naboo, which is being held in blockade by the Trade Federation in protest of the Republic’s new taxes on trading. Why Naboo, a relatively off-the-beaten-path planet, should be blockaded is never explained. (Inferences can be drawn, particularly after you finish both book and movie, but I won’t spoil *that* much...). Nor is the fact that the Trade Federation is working with and for the Sith, a secret “society” of Jedi Knights who honor the Dark Side of the Force (if “society” really applies to an organization which has had a total living membership of two for over a thousand years; two — one master, one apprentice — being the largest number of Sith that can exist without getting into a fatal confrontation, for such is the nature of the Dark Side).

A delegation of Jedi Knights (Qui-Gon Jenn and Obi-Wan Kenobi) are sent by the Supreme Chancellor of the Republic, to whom the Jedi report, to investigate the blockade and attempt to negotiate its end. Instead, they are attacked by the Trade Federation at the instigation of Darth Sidious and his apprentice, Darth Maul, and forced to flee Naboo. In the process, they rescue the young Queen Amidala. Forced to land on Tatooine due to a malfunction in their hyperdrive, they encounter Anakin and win his freedom by betting on a pod race. From there, they travel to the Republic capital, Coruscant, where Naboo’s Senator Palpatine has been trying unsuccessfully to have the Senate give serious attention to the Trade Federation blockade. The Queen and Palpatine force a vote of no confidence on the Chancellor through the Senate, after which Amidala decides to return home to fight the Trade Federation directly.

Meanwhile, over Obi-Wan’s objections, Qui-Gon attempts to sponsor Anakin into the Jedi, an effort which is rejected due to the anger within Anakin because of his slave upbringing and his mother’s continued captivity. The three of them return home with Amidala, where they play a key role in the final confrontation with the Trade Federation and the defeat of

*(continued on back cover)*



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 May 1999 edition (Volume 19, Number 5). NASFA Officers for 1999: President Anita Eisenberg; Vice President Mike Kennedy; Secretary Sam Smith; Treasurer Ray Pietruszka; Program Director Mike Ray; Publicity Director Ron Lajoie. *Shuttle* Editor Mike Kennedy.  
 Comments, inquiries, and contributions of writing by email to: mike.kennedy@pobox.tbe.com — 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, © 1999. 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 = \$15/year (Family rates available) Subscription only = \$10/year Single copy = \$1.50 each.  
 \*\*\*\*\*

## 1998 SFWA Nebula Awards™ Winners

Novel .... Joe Haldeman: *Forever Peace* (Ace, October 1997)  
 Novella ..... Sheila Finch: "Reading the Bones" (*F&SF*,  
 January 1998)  
 Novelette ..... Jane Yolen: "Lost Girls" (*Realms of Fantasy*,  
 February 1998)  
 Short Story ..... Bruce Holland Rogers: "Thirteen Ways to  
 Water" (*Black Cats and Broken Mirrors*, edited by Martin  
 Greenberg and John Helfers, DAW, June 1998)  
 Grand Master ..... Hal Clement (Harry Stubbs)

(continued from page 5)

Darth Maul, but unintentionally leave the heart of the conspiracy against the Republic intact... and Palpatine as the new Chancellor.

The book was a marvelous fun read, and begins to answer many questions left behind by the original trilogy. I don't expect to wait hours on line on opening day... but I won't be too far behind.

---

Author Emeritus ..... William Tenn (Phil Klass)  
 Bradbury Award ..... J. Michael Straczynski

The Nebula Awards are voted on, and presented by, active members of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America, Inc.