

The Shuttle

February 2013



The Next NASFA Meeting is Saturday 16 February 2013 at the Regular Location

ConCom Meeting 16 February, 3P; see below for details

▲ Oyez, Oyez ▲

The next **NASFA Meeting** will be at 6P, **Saturday 16 February 2013** at the Madison campus of Willowbrook Baptist Church (old Wilson Lumber Company building) at **7105 Highway 72W** (aka University Drive). This is our new regular location Please see the map at right if you need help finding this location.

FEBRUARY PROGRAM

The February program will be UAH professor Jason Cassibry talking about his research into nuclear fusion for rocket propulsion.

FEBRUARY ATMM

The February After-the-Meeting Meeting will be at the church, hosted by Maria and Adam Grim. 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 the church at least as clean as we found it.

CONCOM MEETINGS

The first Con+Stellation XXXII concom meeting will be 3P Saturday 16 February 2013—the same day as the club meeting. At press time the plan is to meet at the church, but that's subject to confirmation that the building will be available at that time. Please stay tuned to email, etc., for possible updates.

CHANGING SHUTTLE DEADLINES

The latest tweak to the *NASFA Shuttle* schedule shifted the

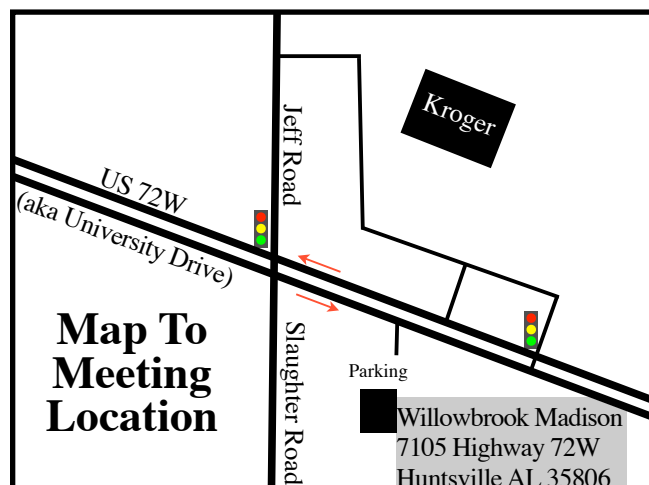
usual repro date somewhat to the right (roughly the weekend before each meeting) but much of each issue will need to be put to bed as much as two weeks before the monthly meeting.

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:

- March and forward: TBD.



Continuing Our 33rd Year of Publication

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Deadline for the March 2013 issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Monday 25 February 2013

We need ATMM volunteers for March and almost all future months. (November is tentatively spoken for, but otherwise it's wide open.)

FUTURE CLUB MEETING DATES

Scheduled meeting dates for 2013 are all the normal 3rd Saturday *except* for April. That meeting will be the second Saturday (13 April 2013) to avoid a conflict with JordanCon/DSC.

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 welcome to join the list, but please only do so if you're interested in the above restricted topics—posts unrelated to the those purposes are strongly discouraged and could result in you being asked to leave the list.

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 events) are added or changed. You can view the calendar online at <tinyurl.com/NASFACal>.

News & Info

AMAZING STORIES BLOG GOES LIVE

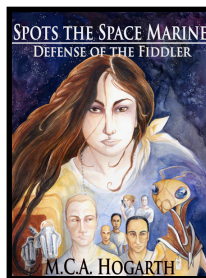
Amazing Stories, one of the grand old names in sf/f magazine history, has been revived as a website/blog <www.amazingstoriesmag.com>. Steve Davidson (aka The Crotchety Old Fan) flipped the virtual switch on 21 January 2013 to make all contents open to the public.



A fairly lengthy list of writers and fans—including some big names—were active on day one. Content is free to view, but membership in the site (also free) is required to fully participate.

SEND IN THE (SPACE) MARINES

M.C.A. Hogarth's novel *Spots the Space Marine* came under attack by Games Workshop (Warhammer 40K, etc.) when they asserted—to Amazon—that it violated their trademark on the term “space marine.” This prompted the Big A to strike the e-book version of *Spots* off their website, a crippling blow to sales in this day and age. It is, of course, absurd for GW to claim a trademark broad enough to rule out the use of the idea of Space Marines as that concept started many decades before GW was founded.



Unable to fight off Amazon and GW, Hogarth called in the Electronic Frontier Foundation <www.eff.org>. Also joining the fight were many big names in sf/f and pop culture including Wil Wheaton, Popehat, Cory Doctorow, website io9.com, and many more. The Marines and their reinforcements have (at least for now) taken back the ground conquered by GW—the e-book version of *Spots* is once again for sale at Amazon.

Games Workshop has not relented on their clam and may, of course, press the matter further.

DUFF SEEKS CANDIDATES

The Down Under Fan Fund is looking for a few good fen. Nominations are open for this year's race (it's a northbound year—from Australasia to North America). The winner will be expected to go to the 2013 Worldcon (LoneStarCon, Austin TX) as well as possibly other cons and fannish events. Potential candidates should contact David Cake, 6 Florence Rd, Nedlands, WA 6009, Australia <dave@difference.com.au> for further details. The nom deadline is 31 March 2013. The final voting round is expected to run through 31 May 2013.



CLARION & CLARION WEST ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

The Clarion Writers' Workshop at UC San Diego <tinyurl.com/Clrn2013App> and Clarion West Writers Workshop (Seattle) <tinyurl.com/ClrnW2013App> are each accepting applications through 1 March 2013. The workshops will be 23 June–3 August and 23 June–2 August respectively.

Clarion San Diego will include writers in residence Robert Crais, Cory Doctorow, Andy Duncan, Karen Joy Fowler, Nalo Hopkinson, and Kelly Link. Clarion West instructors are Ellen Datlow, Samuel R. Delany (the 2013 Susan C. Petrey Fellow), Neil Gaiman, Elizabeth Hand, Joe Hill, and Margo Lanagan.

NASFA Calendar

FEBRUARY

- 02 Groundhog Day.
- 02 Día de la Candelaria.
- 03 Atlanta Comic Convention—Atlanta GA.
- 04 Día festivo en conmemoración de la Constitución.
- 07 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *The Wave*, Walter Mosley; 6P.
- 08 BD: Lin Cochran.
- 09 BD: Jack Lundy.
- 09–10 Pellicon—Knoxville TN.
- 10 BD: Marcia Illingworth.
- 12 BD Abraham Lincoln.
- 13 Ash Wednesday.
- 14 Valentine's Day.
- 15–17 Kami Con 5—Birmingham AL.
- 15–17 Dead Winter Con—London KY.
- 16* Con+Stellation XXXII Concom Meeting—3P, at Willowbrook Madison. **NOTE:** Location is subject to confirmation; please stay tuned to email.
- 16* NASFA Meeting—6P Business, 7P Program, at Willowbrook Madison. Program: Dr. Cassibry on nuclear fusion rocket propulsion. ATMM: At the church, hosted by Adam and Maria Grim.
- 16 OnyxCon: Sankofa—Atlanta GA.
- 17 BD: Nancy A. Cucci.
- 18 President's Day.
- 22 BD: George Washington.
- 22–24 Concave—Bowling Green KY.
- 22–24 AnachroCon—Atlanta GA.
- 24 Día de la Bandera.

MARCH

- 01–03 ConNooga—Chattanooga TN.
- 01–03 Days of the Dead V—Atlanta GA.

- 01–03 Stellarcon 37—Greensboro NC.
01–03 AggieCon 44—College Station TX.
02 BD: Ronnie Lajoie.
02–03 Anime and Comic Con—Clarksville TN.
07 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *The Year of the Flood*, Margaret Atwood; 6P.
08 BD: Bill Payne.
08–10 MomoCon—Atlanta GA.
08–10 Game Days VIII—Franklin TN.
09 BD: Tracey Kennedy.
10 Daylight Savings Time Begins.
10 BD: Kerry Gilley.
13 BD: Anita Eisenberg.
14–17 Furry Weekend Atlanta—Atlanta GA.
15–17 CoastCon 36—Biloxi MS.
15–17 EyeCon: Vampire Diaries—Atlanta GA.
16* NASFA Meeting—6P Business, 7P Program, at Willowbrook Madison. Program: TBD. ATMM: TBD.
17 St. Patrick's Day.
18 BD: Benito Juárez (observed).
20 Vernal Equinox.
20–24 International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts 34—Orlando FL.
21 BD: Benito Juárez.
22 BD: Jayson Woosley.
22–24 MidSouthCon 31—Memphis TN.
22–24 FantaSciCon—Dalton GA.
24 Palm Sunday.
26 Pesach.
28–31 Frolicon—Atlanta GA.
29–31 MTAC Devil's Dozen—Nashville TN.
29–31 Full Moon Festival—Nashville TN.
29 Good Friday.
30 BD: Maurine Dorris.
31 Easter.

APRIL

- 01 Easter Monday.
01 April Fool's Day.
04 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *Among the Hidden*, Margaret Peterson Haddix; 6P.
05–07 Conglomeration—Louisville KY.
06 Fluke—Athens GA.
07 BD: Mary Lampert.
13* NASFA Meeting—6P Business, 7P Program, at Willowbrook Madison. Program: TBD. ATMM: TBD.
NOTE: This is one week earlier than the usual date due to a conflict with JordanCon/DSC.
13–14 221B Con—Atlanta GA.
15 BD: “Uncle Timmy.”
15 BD: Amanda Freeman.
19–21 DSC 51/JordanCon V—Roswell GA.
19–21 Trek Trax—Atlanta GA.
19–21 GnomeCon—Savannah GA.
21 BD: Randy B. Cleary.
22 Earth Day.
26 BD: Chloe Airoldi.
30 Día del Niño.
30 BD: Mark Maxwell.

MAY

- 01 Día del Trabajo.
01 BD: Russell McNutt.
02 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *Falling Free*,
Lois McMaster Bujold; 6P.
03–05 Outlantacon/Gaylaxicon — Atlanta GA.
05 Cinco de Mayo.

- 05 Easter (Orthodox).
06 May Day.
10 Día de la Madre.
12 Mother's Day.
14 BD: Nancy Whittle.
16 BD: Linda Bolgeo.
17–19 MOBICON XVI—Mobile AL.
18* NASFA Meeting—6P Business, 7P Program, at Wil-
lowbrook Madison. Program: TBD. ATMM: TBD.
19 BD: David O. Miller.
20 Victoria Day.
24–26 Timegate—Atlanta GA.
24–26 Oasis 25—Orlando FL.
24–26 NashCon—Franklin TN.
24–26 Phoenix Festival—Birmingham AL.
25 JABECon—Lebanon TN.
27 BD: Kathy Paulk.
27 Memorial Day.
31–02 ConCarolinas—Charlotte NC.
31–02 Hamacon—Huntsville AL.
31–02 Fanboy Expo—Knoxville TN.

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 often move the meeting to the second or fourth weekend.) The regular meeting location is the Madison campus of Willowbrook Baptist Church, (old Wilson Lumber Company building)—7105 Highway 72W. The Executive Committee meeting (if scheduled) is at 5P. The business meeting is at 6P. The program is 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.

January Minutes

by Doug Lampert, the one we normally stick as
Stand-In Secretary when necessary

The quite nearly definitive, mostly truthful, and accurate in spirit, minutes of the inaugural 2013 NASFA Meeting. Doug Lampert acting for Steve Sloan.

Watches crosschecked, my watch matches Sam's geek watch. This is very bad, since I was off by 1.5 minutes last month this means the US standard atomic clock is drifting by roughly 3 seconds a day. Someone tell the National Institute of Standards and Naval Observatory that their time standard is off.

In the absence of newly elected president Thane Grim at approximately 18:20:07 CST Mike Kennedy stands the plinth on edge and hits it with the gavel. The plinth falls on its side landing on Jar Jar. There was much rejoicing.

YE OLDE TIMEY BUSINESS

None, other than electing a Con Chair for 2014. Mike defers this to later in the meeting, but doesn't take any motions or use the word "tabled" thus avoiding the otherwise inevitable and unavoidable discussion of the difference in the meaning of "tabled" between English Parliamentary usage and American Robert's Rules of Order usage.

THE NEW TIMEY BUSINESS

Spanish snail mail included a bunch of coupons for a sandwich place most of us had never heard of. Tracey got a bunch at her business, which is close by, and they are appreciated there. Coupons were sent to Tracey.

Someone sent us a vaguely threatening piece of poetry in the mail.

Long and varied diversion set off by this, Jim asks if there is a meeting going on.

Tracy is not unknitting, she is uncrocheting.

RETURN OF YE OLDE TIMEY BUSINESS

Craig is still nominated for 2014 chief sucker (aka Con Chair).

JudySue are nominated (Doug) and seconded (Anita). Being on an aircraft over Utah at the time, they are unable to decline.

Sam nominates Anita. Anita says “No!” and “You have a death wish.”

Sam seconds nomination of Anita. Anita claims to have learned better last time, an obvious falsehood, if anyone in this group were capable of learning from experience you wouldn’t let me take minutes.

Mike calls for votes, he maintains that the candidates are Craig and JudySue since he maintains that “No!” constitutes the equivalent of saying “I decline the nomination.”

Final tally is Craig (many) to JudySue (one).

Sam reports that the club was up \$230 last year. This is exclusive of the convention.

CONVENTION BUSINESS

The convention will be Constellation XXXII: Columba:

- 11–13 October 2013
- Columba is “The Dove”
- Guests [to date] are Larry Correia and Stephanie Osborn
- Hotel is the same as the last decade or so
- Current ConCom:
- Doug and Mary: Chairs
- Sam: Treasurer
- Judy: ConSuite
- Randy: Art Show
- Craig: Games
- MikeC: Pubs
- MikeK: web
- Anita: T-shirts

Anita wants us to remember to contact David about getting art early so she can sell Pre-order only [this] year.

Dues are still due.

At 18:43:13 Mike again whacks the plinth, this time it falls on the Demon Bunnies, there was much rejoicing.

Awards Roundup

HEINLEIN AWARD WINNERS

The winners of the 2013 Robert A. Heinlein Award <www.bsfs.org/bsfsheinlein.htm> (for “science fiction and technical writings that inspire the human exploration of space”) are **Allen Steele** and **Yoji Kondo**.

The award, formerly given by the Heinlein Society, is now a function of the Baltimore Science Fiction Society. As winners Steele and Kondo will receive a plaque, a sterling silver medalion, and lapel pins, each with the likeness of Robert A. Heinlein. The awards will be made at Balticon 47 <www.balticon.org>, to be held 24–27 May 2013 at the Hunt Valley Inn in Hunt Valley MD.

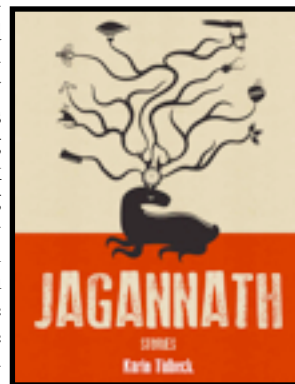
HWA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

The Horror Writers Association <www.horror.org> has announced that **Clive Barker** and **Robert McCammon** will each receive the HWA Lifetime Achievement Award. The awards will be presented at the World Horror Convention <www.stokers2013.org>, to be held 13–16 June 2013 at the Hotel

Monteleone in New Orleans LA. The also announced that McCammon plans to be there to accept in person while Mark Miller is slated to accept for Barker.

CRAWFORD AWARD ANNOUNCED

The winner of the 2013 William L. Crawford Fantasy Award is **Karin Tidbeck** for her collection **Jagannath: Stories** (Cheeky Frawg Books). The award honors “an exceptionally promising writer whose first fantasy book was published the preceding year.” The Crawford will be presented at the 34th International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts <www.iafa.org>, to be held 20–24 March 2013 at the Orlando Airport Marriott in Orlando FL.



Rachel Hartman was noted in the press release as a close runner-up for *Seraphina*. Other nominees were Saladin Ahmed (*Throne of the Crescent Moon*), Roz Kaveney (*Rituals*), and Kiini Ibura Salaam (*Ancient, Ancient*).

ALA AWARDS GIVEN

Several genre works figured in the annual American Library Association awards for youth media <tinyurl.com/ALA2013YMA>. The **John Newbery Medal** (for “the most outstanding contribution to children’s literature”) went to fantasy *The One and Only Ivan*, by Katherine Applegate (HarperCollins Children’s Books). The **Randolph Caldecott Medal** (for “the most distinguished American picture book for children”) went to *This Is Not My Hat*, illustrated and written by Jon Klassen (Candlewick Press). The **William C. Morris Award** (for “a debut book published by a first-time author writing for teens”) went to *Seraphina*, by Rachel Hartman (Random House Children’s Books).

The Michael L. Printz Award winner (for “excellence in literature written for young adults”)—*In Darkness*, Nick Lake—appears on its surface to be non-genre, though some online sources have claimed it is at least related. A goodly number of runners up (Honors Books) in the Printz and other categories are genre or genre-related.

GENRE WORKS AT THE SAG AND DGA AWARDS

Genre and related works got at least a little love at this year’s Screen Actor’s Guild Awards, held 18 January 2013. The Outstanding Performance by a Cast in a Motion Picture category



went to *Argo*—which of course is clearly not genre but does have a key connection as the fictional film inside the real story

was genre.

On the TV side, the Female Actor in a Drama Series nod went to **Claire Danes** for *Homeland*—again not genre but somewhat related as a spy fantasy.



The two Stunt Ensemble honors went to *Skyfall* (movie) and *Game of Thrones* (TV). The former is probably as related as most Bond films are and the latter is of course unambiguously genre.

The Director's Guild mostly ignored genre works when they did their thing on 2 February 2013; the sole exception being tagging **Ben Affleck** for his work on *Argo*.

BSFA AWARDS SHORTLIST

Nominees for the 2012 British Science Fiction Association Awards <www.bsfa.co.uk/bsfa-awards> have been announced. The awards are voted on by members of BSFA and the British natcon (Eastercon). Winners will be announced during the 2013 Eastercon <www.eightsquaredcon.org>, to be held 29 March–1 April at the Cedar Court Hotel, Bradford. By category the nominees are:

BSFA Novel Noms

Dark Eden, Chris Beckett (Corvus)
Empty Space: a Haunting, M. John Harrison (Gollancz)
Intrusion, Ken Macleod (Orbit)
Jack Glass, Adam Roberts (Gollancz)
2312, Kim Stanley-Robinson (Orbit)

BAFA Short Fiction Noms

"Immersion," Aliette de Bodard (*Clarkesworld* #69)
The Flight of the Ravens, Chris Butler (Immersion)
"Song of the body Cartographer," Rochita Loenen-Ruiz (*Philippines Genre Stories*)
"Limited Edition," Tim Maughan (*Arc Magazine* 1.3)
"Three Moments of an Explosion," China Miéville (*Rejectamentalist Manifesto*)
Adrift on the Sea of Rains, Ian Sales (Whipplefield)

BSFA Non-Fiction Noms

"The Complexity of the Humble Space Suit," Karen Burnham (*Rocket Science*)
The Cambridge Companion to Fantasy Literature, Edward James and Farah Mendlesohn (Cambridge University Press)
"The Widening Gyre," Paul Kincaid (*Los Angeles Review of Books*)
The Shortlist Project, Maureen Kincaid Speller
The World SF Blog, Lavie Tidhar (chief editor)

BSFA Artwork Noms

Ben Baldwin for cover of *Dark Currents* (Newcon)
Blacksheep for cover of Adam Roberts's *Jack Glass* (Gollancz)
Dominic Harman for cover of Eric Brown's *Helix Wars* (Rebellion)
Joey Hifi for cover of Simon Morden's *Thy Kingdom Come* (Jurassic London)
Si Scott for cover artwork of Chris Beckett's *Dark Eden* (Corvus)

LOCUS POLL OPENS

Locus Magazine has opened their annual poll of the best in sf/f/etc. Voting can be done via their website <tinyurl.com/LocusPoll2012> or by mail (using the ballot in their February 2013 issue). In related news, *Locus* has published their Recommended Reading list for 2012. That's available at <tinyurl.com/LocusRRL2012>.

KITSCHIES NOMS

Finalists have been announced for the 2012 Kitschies <www.thekitschies.com> (for "the year's most progressive, intelligent, and entertaining works of genre literature published in the UK") have been announced. The novel category winner will receive £1000. Winners of the other two categories will win £500 each. All finalists will receive a trophy and a bottle of rum from sponsor The Kraken Rum.

Winners will be announced in a ceremony to be held 26 February at the Free Word Centre, London. By category the nominees are:

Red Tentacle (Novel) Noms

The Folly of the World, Jesse Bullington (Orbit)
A Face Like Glass, Frances Hardinge (Macmillan)
Angelmaker, Nick Harkaway (William Heinemann)
Jack Glass, Adam Roberts (Gollancz)
The Method, Juli Zeh, translated by Sally-Ann Spencer (Harvill Secker)

Golden Tentacle (Debut Novel) Noms

vN, Madeline Ashby (Angry Robot)
The Panopticon, Jenni Fagan (William Heinemann)
Seraphina, Rachel Hartman (Doubleday)
Redemption in Indigo, Karen Lord (Jo Fletcher)
The City's Son, Tom Pollock (Jo Fletcher)

Inky Tentacle (Cover Art) Noms

La Boca for Ned Beauman's *The Teleportation Accident* (Sceptre)
Tom Gauld for Matthew Hughes's *Costume Not Included* (Angry Robot)
Oliver Jeffers for John Boyne's *The Terrible Thing that Happened to Barnaby Rickett* (Doubleday)
Peter Mendelsund for Ben Marcus's *Flame Alphabet* (Granta)
Dave Shelton for his own *A Boy and a Bear in a Boat* (David Fickling)

STOKER AWARDS PRELIM BALLOT

The Horror Writers Association <www.horror.org> has announced the preliminary ballot for the 2012 Bram Stoker Awards (for "Superior Achievement" in horror). They note on their website that these are not "nominees"—that honorific is reserved for the final ballot, which will be released 23 February. By category, the balloteers are:

Stoker Novel Preliminary Ballot

The Trouble With Hairy, Hal Bodner (Phantom Hollow)
14, Peter Clines (Permuted Press)
Bottled Abyss, Benjamin Kane Ethridge (Redrum Horror)
NightWhere, John Everson (Samhain)
Cemetery Club, J.G. Faherty (JournalStone)
Coronation, Lee F. Jordan (Black Rose Writing)
The Drowning Girl, Caitlín R. Kiernan (Roc)
The Haunted, Bentley Little (Signet)
Inheritance, Joe McKinney (Evil Jester)

Stoker First Novel Preliminary Ballot

Charlotte Markham and the House of Darklings, Michael Boccacino (William Morrow)
Wide Open, Deborah Coates (Tor)
The Legend of the Pumpkin Thief, Charles Day (Noble YA)
A Requiem for Dead Flies, Peter Dudar (Nightscape)
Bad Glass, Richard Gropp (Del Rey)
Resurrection X: Zombie Evolution, Dane Hatchell (Post Mortem)
Dead Harvest, Chris Holm (Angry Robot)
The Sinner, K. Trap Jones (Blood Bound)
Life Rage, L.L. Soares (Nightscape)
City Under the Moon, Hugh Sterbakov (Ben & Derek Ink)

Stoker YA Novel Preliminary Ballot

The Hallowed Ones, Laura Bickle (Graphia)
The Diviners, Libba Bray (Little Brown)
FreeK Show, Steve Burt (Burt Creations)
Hooked: A True Faerie Tale, Michaelbrent Collings (self-published)
I Hunt Killers, Barry Lyga (Little Brown)
Flesh & Bone, Jonathan Maberry (Simon & Schuster)
I Kissed a Ghoul, Michael McCarty (Noble Romance)
The Raven Boys, Maggie Stiefvater (Scholastic)
A Bad Day for Voodoo, Jeff Strand (Sourcebooks)
Break My Heart 1,000 Times, Daniel Waters (Hyperion)
The Color of Evil, Connie Corcoran Wilson (Quad Cities)

Stoker Long Fiction Preliminary Ballot

Thirty Miles South of Dry County, Kealan Patrick Burke (Delirium)
The Cold Spot, J.G. Faherty (Delirium)
Sunfall Manor, Peter Giglio (Nightscape)
I'm Not Sam, Jack Ketchum and Lucky McKee (Sinister Grin)
The Mourning House, Ronald Malfi (Delirium Books)
Lost Girl of the Lake, Joe McKinney and Michael McCarty (Bad Moon)
Delphine Dodd, S.P. Miskowski (Omnium Gatherum Media)
The Fleshless Man, Norman Prentiss (Delirium)
The Blue Heron, Gene O'Neill (Dark Regions)
When We Join Jesus in Hell, Lee Thompson (Darkfuse)

Stoker Short Fiction Preliminary Ballot

"Bootstrap," Michael Bailey (*Zippered Flesh: Tales of Body Enhancements Gone Bad*)
"Surrounded by the Mutant Rain Forest," Bruce Boston (*Daily Science Fiction*)
"The Journal of USS Indianapolis Survivor: Stefanos 'Stevie' Georgiou," Kevin James Breau (*Zombie Jesus & Other True Stories*)
"A Catechism for Aspiring Amnesiacs," Nicole Cushing (*Lovecraft eZine*, March 2012)
"The Cancer Catechism," Jay Lake (*Dark Faith: Invocations*)
"Bury My Heart at Marvin Gardens," Joe McKinney (*Best of Dark Moon Digest*)
"Righteous," Weston Ochse (*Psychos*)
"Available Light," John Palisano (*Lovecraft eZine*, March 2012)
"Magdala Amygdala," Lucy Snyder (*Dark Faith: Invocations*)

Stoker Anthology Preliminary Ballot

Fear the Abyss, Eric Beebe (Post Mortem)
Shadow Show, Mort Castle and Sam Weller (HarperCollins)
Tales from the Yellow Rose Diner and Fill Station, Gallows Press (Gallows)
Dark Tales of Lost Civilizations, Eric J. Guignard (Dark Moon)
Hell Comes to Hollywood, Eric Miller (Big Time)
World's Collider, Richard Salter (Nightscape)
The Ghost IS the Machine, Patrick Scalisi (Post Mortem)
Horror for Good: A Charitable Anthology, Mark C. Scioneaux, R.J. Cavender, and Robert S. Wilson (Cutting Block)
Slices of Flesh, Stan Swanson (Dark Moon)

Stoker Swanson Preliminary Ballot

These Old Tales: The Complete Collection, Kenneth W. Cain (Distressed Press)
Woman Who Married a Cloud: Collected Stories, Jonathan Carroll (Subterranean)
New Moon on the Water, Mort Castle (Dark Regions)
Valentines for the Dead, Corrine De Winter (Shadowfall)
Errantry: Strange Stories, Elizabeth Hand (Small Beer)
The Janus Tree, Glen Hirshberg (Subterranean)
Where Furnaces Burn, Joel Lane (PS Publishing)

Ad Nauseam, C.W. LaSart (Dark Moon)

Black Dahlia and White Rose: Stories, Joyce Carol Oates (Ecco)

Christmas Ghost Stories, Mark Onspaugh (self-published)

Beautiful Sorrows, Mercedes M. Yardley (Shock Totem)

Stoker Non-Fiction Preliminary Ballot

Carrie: Studies in the Horror Film, Joe Aisenberg (Centipede)
Writing Darkness, Michael Collings (self-published)
The Annotated Sandman, Volume I, Les Klinger (Vertigo)
The Conversations with Kreskin, The Amazing Kreskin and Michael McCarty (Team Kreskin Productions)
Write of the Living Dead, Araminta Star Matthews, Rachel Lee, and Stan Swanson (Dark Moon)
Trick or Treat: A History of Halloween, Lisa Morton (Reaktion)
The Undead and Theology, Kim Paffenroth and John W. Morehead (Pickwick)
Adapting Poe: Re-Imaginations in Popular Culture, Dennis R. Perry and Carl H. Sederholm (Palgrave MacMillan)
Dark Directions: Romero, Craven, Carpenter, and the Modern Horror Film, Kendall R. Phillips (Southern Illinois University Press)

Stoker Poetry Collection Preliminary Ballot

Dark Duet, Linda Addison and Stephen M. Wilson (NECON eBooks)
Notes from the Shadow City, Bruce Boston and Gary William Crawford (Dark Regions)
A Verse to Horrors, Michael Collings (self-published)
The Monstrance, Bryan D. Dietrich (Needfire Poetry)
Grim Series, Kristine Ong Muslim (Popcorn)
Vampires, Zombies & Wanton Souls, Marge Simon (Elektrik Milk Bath)
Lovers & Killers, Mary A. Turzillo (Dark Regions)

Stoker Graphic Novel Preliminary Ballot

Because there are only five works in this category, they will all be finalists/nominees.
The Sixth Gun Volume 3: Bound, Cullen Bunn (Oni Press)
Rachel Rising Vol. 1: The Shadow of Death, Terry Moore (Abstract Studio)
The Tale of Brin and Bent and Minno Marylebone, Ravi Thornton (Jonathan Cape)
Behind These Eyes, Peter J. Wacks and Guy Anthony De Marco (Villainous Press)
Witch Hunts: A Graphic History of the Burning Times, Rocky Wood and Lisa Morton (McFarland)

Dialogues With Dwarves

No Need for a Ring—Chapter 41

by PieEyedDragon

[Editor's Note: This is the fourteenth chapter in the third part of the NNFA series—*The Thing Goes South*—and is thus numbered as Chapter 14 in some places. The *Shuttle* is serializing the entire tale and chooses to use the alternate sequential chapter numbering system.]

PED: Well, here we all are. I am certain you have many questions. Shall we proceed?

(The two male dwarves look toward Andat.)

Andat: What is your name, Wyrn?

PED: For this time and place; my name is Palantiri Eä Dae-deloith. I used another name, before, and my original name is... not relevant to the present situation. Call me "PED."

Andat: The Regent tells us that you met Lord Gimli. Do you

know “The Word”?

PED: (Gimli had arranged some secret signals before sailing west.) The Word is: “mellon.”

Andat: (Taken aback by the proper answer.) And what is “The Foreseeing”?

PED: “Your hands shall flow with gold, and yet over you gold shall have no dominion.” And now the Question for you, Queen Andat: (all three dwarves look startled) Are you still wearing the lock of hair that Lord Gimli gave to you?

Andat: (pulling out a necklace from her tunic, and displaying a crystal pendant) Yes. And this proves you have indeed met with Lord Gimli. What more says he?

PED: He, and significant Others, had several things to say. Some should not be spoken openly in the common speech; and other things *cannot* be spoken thusly. Furthermore, we are being watched, and listened to.

Handri: Of course we are.

PED: There are also a couple of children, hiding in an air shaft in the wall behind me. I think they belong to the Royal Family.

Handri: (Laughs) Those scamps! Her Majesty’s children harbor mischief, but no ill will.

PED: Hear, then, the message of Lord Gimli. (Switching from the Common Speech to Khuzdul) “Greetings, Rockbrothers...” (and continuing on for about two minutes).

There is silence for a time, as the Dwarves try to swallow something rather too large.

Lofar: Do you understand these words, or do you merely copy the sounds?

PED: I understand them.

Andat: The words are put together as Lord Gimli would have done, yet you speak with an accent he had not.

PED: Aulë, the Smith, taught this tongue to me himself. The intonations have changed slightly over the ages as used by those for whom Aulë crafted this tongue.

Handri: You... actually met the Smith! Our Creator?

PED: Yes. He taught me lore that you have lost, and some that you never knew. This is part of what He bade me to impart to you; when I got the opportunity. The opportunity has come: (speaking technical details for a quarter hour).

Lofar: This is beyond belief!

PED: Then, observe more; (coughing several times, then, spitting out a fearsome iron battle-mask and dousing it with water) I found this near an old coal mine in the Blue Mountains. There were names written inside... Gimli, Gloin, Oin, Groin, Farin, Borin, and others. The sign of Durin was outside. A new, swarthen tunnel was getting very close to one of the ancient Dwarven cities thought to be destroyed.

Handri: Which city?

PED: Tumunzahar, also called Nogrod or Naugrod.

Lofar: The ancient home of my people, the Firebeards! Weren’t there Orcs nearby?

PED: Yes, and they believe I am an envoy of their ancient dark Master.

Lofar: How can we be sure you are *not*? How can we trust your words?

Andat: I am convinced he *has* met Lord Gimli.

Lofar: ...and did not eat him, after wringing the information out of him?

PED: Trusting me is not necessary.

Handri: How was it that you came to meet Lord Gimli?

PED: He resides in the far west, aged and declining; the last mortal member of the Fellowship. Seeing the ship of Eärendil descending he conceived a mighty *idea*! Eärendil the Mariner had gone to those lands to seek aid for Elves and Men against

their dark foes. The Powers had been waiting for such a messenger. They would not permit him to leave, but granted the aid. The face of this land was changed forever, but the Dark Lord was overthrown... as were many other things. Though, not *all* of His works were completely undone. Goblins and trolls and...

Andat: Dragons.

PED: Exactly. Lord Gimli begged Gandalf for some aid for the Naugrim against the remaining dragons. The wizard was not permitted to return, but he took counsel with Elrond and Galadriel—and Elrond’s father, Eärendil, a dragon-slayer. These dragons are few, but calamities nevertheless. They are a lesser foe than the Dark Lord was, or even Sauron. There was no need to destroy the land in order to purge it. A lesser force was deemed desirable. They took the request to the throne of Manwë: Voice of Ilúvatar the *one*. Manwë Spoke the Will of Ilúvatar and directed Eärendil the Mariner to set sail in a direction never dared before. Rising up above the clouds of this world once more, into the regions of the ilmen, he set his stern to his home and made for a small, yellow star beyond the Starless Void. Finding a blue world there he made inquiry of the Name he was sent for. The people there knew he meant me. And so, to further my education, I took ship with Eärendil to return... here. Well, to the Undying Lands at first. I was guested, and received all manner of knowledge of this place from Gandalf, Elrond, Galadriel, Lord Gimli, Legolas the elf, Oromë the Smith, others of the Valar, and even the Ringwinner: Bilbo Baggins.

Handri: Bilbo Baggins? Oh, surely not! Perhaps you mean Frodo?

PED: No, Frodo had passed years earlier and been buried. Samwise, also, was laid down beside his master. Yet, apparently for some great Purpose, Bilbo continued on. But, no more. He once lamented that “Adventures never *end*!” He told me his tale of meeting Smaug down under Erebor, lying on a great heap of treasure. He related all the conversations and impressions... and a few things he was not actually aware of, himself.

Then, he smiled... and gently died.

Never complain of having a dull life. Adventures are entertaining... if they are happening to someone else! They are tedious, inconvenient, and downright scary if *you* are in the middle of one. It seems that the adventure goes on, and on... and that it’s *my* turn, now.

Handri: And, what are you trying to do?

PED: My primary mission is to destroy the Seven Other Dragons. I am the Sickle of the Valar, Calamity to Calamities, the Anti-Dragon Dragon! And... a few other things along the way.

Lofar: Anti-Dragon Dragon? And, what things?

PED: Set a thief to catch a thief, right? Restore the missing or damaged Palantíri to the Reunited Kingdom, reopen the rivers and streams to the Lord of Waters, break up the stumbling stones and plow under the choking weeds, so that this land can breathe and grow. Clean out places like Khazad-dûm, guide the free peoples... and then go home.

Andat: Taking the Adventure with you?

PED: Probably. Does anyone here want to take it up? It’s an heirloom of great Antiquity!

Handri: *No*! Ah; no, thank you.

PED: Then I guess I’m stuck with it, unless there are some Hobbits around? No? Oh, poo!

[Some of the above beings and situations have been suggested by the works of J.R.R. Tolkien. (But you already knew that, didn’t you?)]

Letter of Comment

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

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1 February 2012

A little late, but I hope that's okay... here's some comments on the January *NASFA Shuttle*, with something of substance to say, fingers crossed.

The Hugos... I didn't think I'd be able to nominate for the Hugos this year, seeing I'm not going to San Antonio, but we do have memberships for London next year, so if they will take my nominations, I'll send them in. Keep me in mind, folks... :) Also, it is time for the Aurora Awards and the FAAn Awards, and I've got to start making a few choices, and getting my nominations and \$\$ in.

More *Twilight Zone*? I will happily watch, but those who produce this fourth edition of *TZ* will have to heed what happened to the second and third editions. The second edition was great, I thought, while I found the third dull. For the newest edition, make Mr. Serling proud, folks.

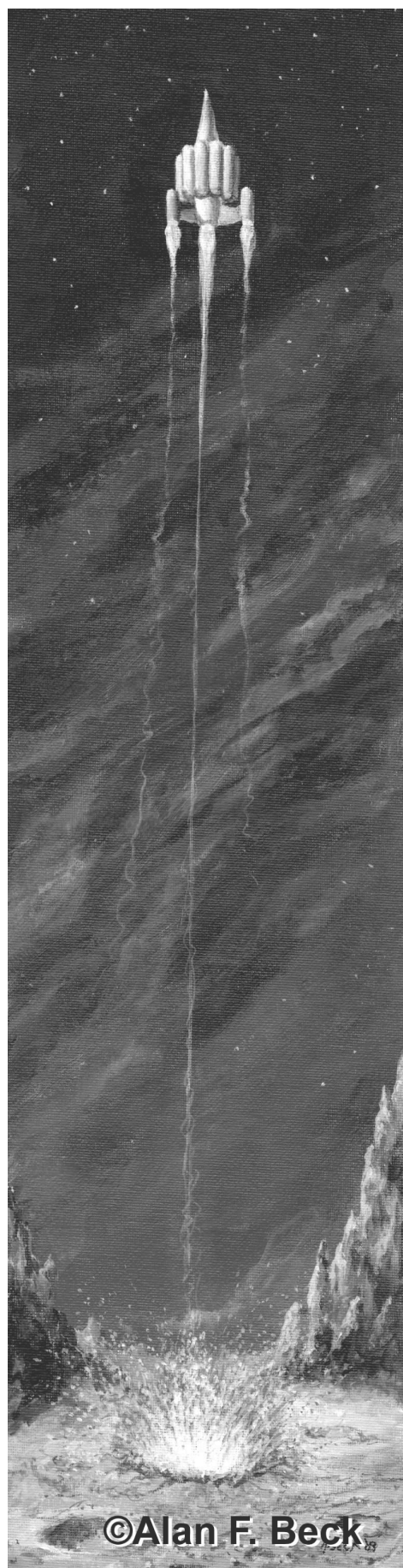
A Trek brassiere and I am not sure what...earrings? Tassels? Pasties? I really don't know! There is a website called regreetsy.com, which shows off all the real crap people are trying to sell on their Etsy pages. Would those earrings/tassels/??? go on RegrEtsy?

Greetings, Pie-Eyed... I have seen field desks at local antique shows, and I know of one artisan who makes field desks. We are thinking of getting one, but we are practical sorts, and wouldn't want to buy one just to be able to say we have one. You certainly have the advantage of being a large presence. It must be refreshing to be able to converse, either by speech or mindspeech, with humanoids that do not quail at the sight of presence of a dragon. As we have seen from the latest movie, dwarves can be quite dominant. No one should ever make assumptions of people if they are shorter in stature than most. (If you have seen pictures of us, you know that all Yvonne and I need are the right clothes and hairy feet, and we could pass as Hobbits.)

My loc... my new job was great... until they let me go the day after I returned from Christmas holidays. I tried my best for them, but when the boss works from home, the training isn't going to be all that good. As always, the job hunt goes ever onwards.

It's Friday, and tomorrow is the Toronto Tea Festival at the local reference library, and then a lunch with local *Murdoch Mysteries* fans. Hope everybody's having a great weekend, and see you with the next issue.

[RE Hugo nominations, yep the WSFS Constitution was amended recently to allow for wider eligibility. Voting in the final round is still limited to members of the administering convention but nominations can be made by members of the immediate past, present, and immediate future convention. The non-bra things in the pic you reference are tasseled-pasties (shaped like Trek emblems)... an intriguing idea if you ask me. (But then my friends and family would tell you I'm a bid odd.) RegrEtsy folded recently—apparently an attack of Real Life™ on the part of the maintainer—though the archives remain available at <www.regreetsy.com/archives>. I don't know if



either the bra or pasties were ever featured, but if not it's probably only because Etsy does indeed have a lot of odd stuff. To prove that (as if any more proof is necessary) I've inserted a pic of a Trek-themed men's g-string/pouch for sale for the Low-Low Price of only \$8.99+s&h. It's advertised as being perfect for a wedding gift or bachelorette night. Hmm... probably best not to use it for both. The groom might not appreciate wearing hand-me-downs... especially if the pouch turned out to be larger than he needed. Good luck on the job front, Lloyd. North of the border is, one would assume, completely insulated from the silliness that is the US fight over sequestration in its many permutations. In my industry—indeed in anything that's to any significant degree dependent on federal spending—I doubt that many people are being hired. Even when openings are identified I suspect the thought of committing to a new employee during the current uncertainties causes HR sphincters to tighten uncontrollably. -ED]





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