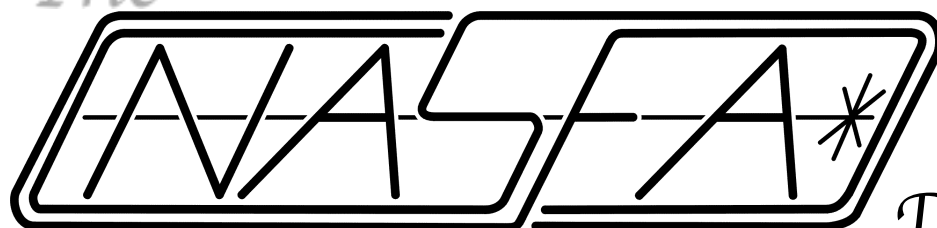


The



Shuttle

December 2014

*The Next NASFA Meeting is 6:30P Saturday  
20 December 2014 at the Regular Location*

*Next Concom Meeting, 3P Saturday 17 January 2015*

### ▲ Oyez, Oyez ▲

The next **NASFA Meeting** will be **6:30P Saturday 20 December 2014**, at the regular meeting location—the Madison campus of Willowbrook Baptist Church (old Wilson Lumber Company building) at **7105 Highway 72W** (aka University Drive). Please see the map at right if you need help finding it.

**PLEASE NOTE** that per a vote at the October meeting, the start of the Business Meeting has changed from 6P to 6:30P. Programs are still scheduled to start at 7P. In the past, Business Meetings have usually started about 20 (sometimes more) minutes past the nominal start time. However, with only 30 minutes allotted before the Program, it is likely that future Business Meetings will begin much closer to the nominal time—perhaps even on time!

#### DECEMBER PROGRAM AND ATMM

The program and After-The-Meeting Meeting for December will be combined as a Christmas Party which will be hosted by Sue Thorn plus Judy and Sam Smith. It will happen at the meeting place, after the Business Meeting.

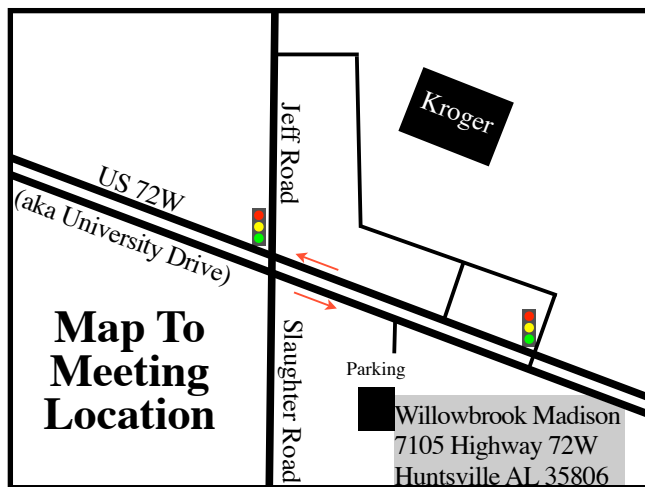
Festivities will include a random gift swap. *If you wish to participate in that*, please bring a gift (limit \$10 value, please). In addition to the gift swap, we will be playing some games. JudySue assures us that if Rudolf attends he will be allowed to play. You are also reminded that you can bring a friend if you wish. [In fact, that's a good thing to do any month. -ED]

For the party part, the usual rules will 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 MEETING

The next Con†Stellation XXXIII Concom Meeting will be at 3P on 17 January 2015—the same day as that month's club meeting. Barring a conflict, it will be held at the same place (Willowbrook Madison). There will be a dinner break between the Concom Meeting and the NASFA Business Meeting. The intent going forward is for the concom to meet on club meeting days, at least until we get close enough to the con to require going to two meetings a month. Stay tuned,



## Concluding Our 34<sup>th</sup> Year of Publication

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**Deadline for the January 2015 issue of The NASFA Shuttle is Monday 29 December 2014**

though, and consider all meeting dates past January as unconfirmed at this time.

#### NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

Ray Pietruszka and Nancy Cucci have volunteered to host a New Year's Eve party for NASFAns (and others). Their address is 211 Evalyn Street, Madison AL. For further details (start time, etc.) you can contact Nancy and Ray at 256-772-3587.

#### 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 for 2015 are TBD at press time.

We need ATMM volunteers all months in 2015.

#### FUTURE CLUB MEETING DATES

All but two 2015 NASFA meeting dates are currently scheduled on the normal 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday. The March 2015 meeting has been shifted to the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday (28 March) to avoid a conflict with MidSouthCon. The July 2015 meeting has been shifted to the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday (25 July) to avoid a conflict with Con Kasterborous.

#### 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 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. Interested parties can check the calendar online, but you can also subscribe to it and have your Outlook, iCal, BlackBerry, or other calendar automatically updated as events (Club Meetings, Concom Meetings, local sf/f/h/etc. events) are added or changed. You can view the calendar online at <tinyurl.com/NASFACal>.

## News & Info

#### LUNACON TO MISS 2015

Lunacon <www.lunacon.org>—a longstanding sf/f convention sponsored by New York Science Fiction Society (aka the Lunarians)—has announced that they will be skipping 2015. Dates for 2016 have already been announced (18–20 March 2016). Few other details are available but it has been said that those with a 2015 membership will be offered the option of a refund or rollover to 2016.

#### MWFF SUFFERS CHEMICAL INCIDENT

The Hyatt Regency O'Hare—headquarters hotel for Chicago-area con Midwest Furfest—was evacuated in the early wee hours of Sunday 7 December 2014 when a significant amount of chlorine was released. Nineteen people (many of them Furfest attendees) who complained of nausea and dizziness were transported to local hospitals for treatment; though fortunately many of them were released quickly. It does not appear that there were any serious injuries. The all-clear to move back into the hotel came at 4:21A.

The gas release is being investigated as a criminal matter. It

reportedly happened as the result of chlorine powder scattered in a 9<sup>th</sup> floor stairwell. Also, the hotel reportedly does not have a pool, so it seems unlikely that chlorine powder (possibly calcium hypochlorite) would be kept on hand by the hotel.

During the evacuation, hotel residents—including furies in costume—were given shelter from the cold at other hotels and at a convention center across the street. The latter was, ironically, hosting a dog show.

#### HORVATH ANNOUNCES FOR TAFF

Nina Horvath of Vienna has announced her candidacy for the Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund according to TAFF co-administrator Jim Mowatt. Horvath joins Wolf von Witting, who declared for the race a few months ago.

#### FFANZ VOTING OPENS

Voting has opened for the 2015 Fan Fund of New Zealand and Australia. With only one name on the ballot—Melbourne's David McDonald—the winner is pretty clearcut, though the money accompanying each vote is still needed to fund McDonald's trip to New Zealand. He will attend Reconnaissance <www.timelord2067.com/convention.html>, the 36<sup>th</sup> New Zealand National Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror Convention, to be held 3–6 April 2015 (Easter weekend) at the Sudima Lake Rotorua hotel in Rotorua, New Zealand (on the North Island).

A voting form can be found at <dan.rabarts.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/FFANZ-2015-Voting-Form.pdf>.

#### NZ WORLDCON BID UPDATE

The 2020 Worldcon bid for New Zealand <www.nzin2020.org> is a good bit firmer than it was after receiving what they deem sufficient commitments from "local" (Australasian) fans to work the convention should they win. An appeal was posted in late November 2014, asking for at least 200 commitments by 5 December and that was apparently achieved. The bid is looking for support from other parts of the world, of course, but wanted to make sure there would be enough boots on the ground locally to do the work necessary there.

#### JOE BUCKLEY LIVES (AND DIES)—FOR CHARITY

As many of you know, numerous Baen Books authors have inserted Joe Buckley <thefifthimperium.com> as a character in their books, usually killing him off in the process. Now Baen has collected many of those instances into a \$2.99 ebook <www.baenebooks.com/p-2613-the-many-deaths-of-joe-buckley.aspx>—even including some never-before-seen material. All proceeds will be split between two charities—Operation Baen Bulk (books and other supplies for US armed forces personnel) and ReadAssist (giving disabled readers free access to Baen ebooks).

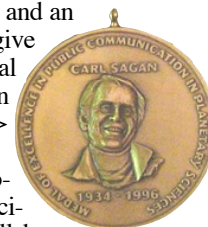
#### BRO. CONSOLMAGNO TO ACCEPT SAGAN AT SASQUAN

Brother Guy J. Consolmagno, an active fan and an astronomer at the Vatican Observatory, will give his acceptance speech for the Carl Sagan Medal for Excellence in Public Communication in Planetary Science <dps.aas.org/prizes/sagan> at the 2015 Worldcon.

The award is given by the American Astronomical Society's Division for Planetary Sciences. Consolmagno's acceptance speech will be on the second night of Sasquan, to be held 19–23 August 2015 at the Spokane Convention Center and nearby hotels in Spokane WA.

#### HACHETTE AND AMAZON BURY HATCHET

After almost a year of all-out war, publisher Hachette and



uber-bookseller Amazon have finally signed a new contract. Similar to the Amazon–Simon & Schuster agreement announced almost a month earlier, Hachette is said to now have the power to set prices for their e-books at Amazon. Predictably, both Amazon and Hachette say they are happy with the deal. Authors are also likely happy, since Hachette books (including e-books) will now presumably be available for pre-order once again and apparently intentional slowdowns in deliveries will stop. Whether customers will be as happy remains to be seen.

#### **TERRAFORM ONLINE MAGAZINE LAUNCHED**

Another online sf magazine has hit the intertubes. *Terraform* <motherboard.vice.com/terraform> is a production of Vice Media Group and their online platform Motherboard. It is in some places reported as a weekly 'zine, but that seems to mean publishing one new piece of short genre fiction a week. But hey, it's free, so *nema problema*.

## **November Minutes**

by Steve Sloan

The November meeting of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association was called to order on Saturday, November 15, 2014, in the Madison satellite location of Willowbrook Baptist Church at 6:30:31P by President Mary Lampert and the traditional crickets.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Doug moved that we reopen officer nominations and nominate people who weren't there. Mike K. asked if that meant we could only nominate people who weren't there. Doug amended his motion to clarify that only people who weren't present could be nominated. The motion was seconded, and the yeas slightly outnumbered the nays. Sam read the current NASFA membership list to remind everyone what names were available to nominate. Doug nominated Gary Shelton for President and Mary seconded. Doug nominated Bruce Butler for Vice President and Mike K. seconded. Thane tried to hide from nominations in his stroller. Doug moved that nominations be closed, Steve seconded, and the motion carried.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Sam reminded everyone that [2015] dues are due "real soon now."

Sam needed to let Willowbrook know our meeting schedule for 2015, so he asked about conflicts. Shelly consulted the Southern Fandom Resource Guide <www.southernfan.com> page on her smartphone for upcoming regional fan conventions that could conflict with NASFA meetings. Only three conflicts were found: MidSouthCon is scheduled for March 21, Con Kasterborous is scheduled for July 18, and Con†Stellation is scheduled for October 17. Shelly moved that we move the March NASFA meeting from March 21 to 28, and the July meeting from July 18 to 25. (We can have a short meeting at Con†Stellation if we need it.) Judy seconded, and the motion carried four to two.

#### **CON BUSINESS**

Con†Stellation 2015 co-con chair Shelly had been writing emails. One potential author Guest of Honor she invited couldn't do it. She also invited a new author guest.

Shelly got an email about a possible sponsorship which she will probably say no to.

Les Johnson arrived. Shelly invited him to be a guest, and he said he would be honored.

A concom (convention committee meeting) will be held at

3P on the Saturday after Thanksgiving at 1501 Slaughter Road (Judy and Sam's house).

Doug moved to adjourn at 6:56:50P.

For the November program, local author Les Johnson gave a presentation about Mars exploration and his latest book, *Rescue Mode*. Mike K. hosted the After-the-Meeting Meeting at his house.

## **NASFA Calendar**

#### **DECEMBER**

- 05–07 Yama-Con 2—Pigeon Forge TN.
- 06 SukoshiCon—Birmingham AL.
- 06–07 Farragut Fest—Kingsland GA.
- 07 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.
- 09 BD: Maria Grim.
- 12 Día de la Virgen de Guadalupe.
- 12 BD: Toni Weisskopf.
- 12–14 GeekonomiCon—Biloxi MS.
- 17 First Day of Hanukkah.
- 17 BD: Robin Ray.
- 19 BD: Yvonne Penney.
- 20\* NASFA Meeting—6:30P Business, 7P Program, at Willowbrook Madison. Program & ATMM: hosted at the church by Sam and Judy Smith plus Sue Thorn. See the Announcements on page 1 of this issue for details.
- 20 BD: Aaron Kennedy.
- 21 Winter Solstice.
- 24 Last Day of Hanukkah.
- 24 Christmas Eve.
- 25 Christmas Day.
- 26 BD: Michael R. Stone.
- 26 Boxing Day.
- 26 First Day of Kwanzaa.
- 28 Día de los Inocentes.
- 31 New Year's Eve, party at Nancy Cucci and Ray Pietruszka's house. See the Announcements on page 1 of this issue for contact info.

#### **JANUARY 2015**

- 01 New Year's Day.
- 01 Last Day of Kwanzaa.
- 02–04 Anime Kaiju—Nashville TN.
- 03 BD: Jim Kennedy.
- 03 BD: Karen (Hopkins) Omel.
- 06 BD: Rich Garber.
- 06 Epiphany.
- 06 Día de Reyes.
- 07 BD: Douglas E. Lampert.
- 07 Orthodox Christmas Day.
- 09–10 Shadowcon—Memphis TN.
- 09–11 GaFilk—Atlanta GA.
- 14 Orthodox New Year.
- 16 BD: Bruce Butler.
- 16–18 Siege of Augusta—Augusta GA.
- 17\* Con†Stellation XXXIII Concom Meeting—3P, at Willowbrook Madison. There will be a dinner break before the club meeting.
- 17\* NASFA Meeting—6:30P Business, 7P Program, at Willowbrook Madison. Program: TBD. ATMM: TBD.
- 17 Anime Blues Winter Remix—Southaven MS.
- 17 Knoxville Anime Day—Knoxville TN.
- 19 BD: Martin Luther King (Observed).
- 20 BD: Larry Montgomery.

FEBRUARY 2015

01 National Freedom Day.  
01 Atlanta Comic Convention—Atlanta GA.  
02 Groundhog Day.  
02 Día de la Constitución.  
06 National Wear Red Day (women's heart health)  
06-08 Days of the Dead—Atlanta GA.  
08 BD: Lin Cochran.  
09 BD: Jack Lundy.  
10 BD: Marcia Illingworth.  
12 BD: Abraham Lincoln.  
13-15 ConDFW—Addison TX.  
14 St. Valentine's Day.  
15 BD: Susan B. Anthony.  
16 Presidents' Day.  
17 BD: Nancy A. Cucci.  
17 Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras.  
18 Ash Wednesday.  
19 Chinese New Year.  
20-22 Concave—Bowling Green KY.  
21\* Con†Stellation XXXIII Concom Meeting—3P, lowbrook Madison. **TENTATIVE.**  
21\* NASFA Meeting—6:30P Business, 7P Program. lowbrook Madison. Program: TBD. ATMM: TB  
21-22 ETSU-Con—Johnson City TN.  
22 BD: George Washington.  
24 Día de la Bandera.  
27-01 ConNooga—Chattanooga TN.  
27-01 Kami Con 7—Birmingham AL.  
27-01 AnachroCon—Atlanta GA.

02 BD: Ronnie Lajoie.  
02 Read Across America Day.  
05 Purim.  
06-08 Gnome Con 4—Savannah GA.  
06-08 The Vampire Diaries—Atlanta GA.  
07 Cardboard\*Con—Atlanta GA.  
07 Athens Anime Academy—Athens GA.  
08 Día Internacional de la Mujer.  
08 Daylight Saving Time begins.  
09 BD: Tracey Kennedy.  
10 BD: Kerry Gilley.  
13-15 Con GT—Clarksville TN.  
13-15 Game Days X—Franklin TN.  
13-15 JoeLanta—Atlanta GA.  
13-15 SecretsCon—Atlanta GA.  
13 BD: Anita Eisenberg.  
14 AthCon—Athens GA.  
16 BD: Benito Juárez (Observed).  
17 St. Patrick's Day.  
18-22 36<sup>th</sup> International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts  
—Orlando FL.  
20 Spring Equinox.  
20-22 CoastCon 38—Biloxi MS.  
20-22 MidSouthCon 33—Memphis TN.  
21 BD: Benito Juárez.  
22 BD: Jayson Woosley.  
28\* Con+Stellation XXXIII Concom Meeting—3P, at Wil-  
lowbrook Madison. **TENTATIVE.**  
28\* NASFA Meeting—6:30P Business, 7P Program, at Wil-  
lowbrook Madison. Program: TBD. ATMM: TBD.  
**PLEASE NOTE** that this is a week later than usual.

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 before the business meeting. The business meeting is at 6:30P. 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.

**Fantasy** ..... *The Book of Life*, Deborah Harkness  
**Science Fiction** ..... *The Martian*, Andy Weir  
**Horror** ..... *Prince Lestat*, Anne Rice  
**Graphic Novels & Comics** ..... *Serenity: Leaves on the Wind*,  
 Zack Whedon, Georges Jeanty (Penciller), and Fabio Moon  
 (Artist)  
**YA Fantasy & Science Fiction** ..... *City of Heavenly Fire*,  
 Cassandra Clare  
**Debut Goodreads Author** ..... *Red Rising*, Pierce Brown  
**Mystery & Thriller** ..... *Mr. Mercedes*, Stephen King  
**Middle-Grade and Children's** ..... *The Blood of Olympus*,  
 Rick Riordan



## URSA MAJOR AWARD SEEK RECOMMENDATIONS

The annual Anthropomorphic Literature and Arts Awards, perhaps better known as the Ursa Major Awards, are seeking recommendations for their recommended reading/viewing/playing lists <[www.ursamajorawards.org/ReadList.htm](http://www.ursamajorawards.org/ReadList.htm)> for calendar year 2014. Recommendations must be received by 15 January 2015.

## SLF DIVERSE WRITERS & DIVERSE WORLDS GRANTS

The Speculative Literature Foundation <[www.speculative-literature.org](http://www.speculative-literature.org)> announced the winners of two first-time grants—their 2014 Diverse Writers Grant and 2014 Diverse Worlds Grant. Both grants (\$500 each) went to **Madhvi Ramani**, in part for her short story “Zafir, the Saudi Superhero.”

Honorable Mentions for the Diverse Writers Grant went to Carmen Maria Machado, Denise Ganley, Ito Udofoia, and Jonina Stump. Honorable Mentions for the Diverse Worlds Grant went to Carmen Maria Machado, Denise Ganley, Jonina Stump, and Margaret Kingsbury.

# Tea And Crumpets

## No Need for a Questing Beast—Chapter 10

by PieEyedDragon

[Editor’s Note: PieEyedDragon’s adventures in Middle-Earth will resume in these pages later. In the meantime, we take you to another time and location. PED spends somewhat less time “on camera” in this adventure, but still plays a major part.]

Luna: What brings you here, PED?

PED: I was looking for a portal to another world, where I hope to find something specific to help watch over the Earth.

Luna: A portal? Do you mean some sort of artifact portkey?

PED: No, Miss. I consulted a friend who could sometimes see bits of the future. He helped narrow down my choices. Then I went to see my old employer in Japan. He could see some of the future, too. A young fox-woman of my acquaintance showed up to help him. I was finally directed to locate a certain lake in England: a lake polluted by magic, that would resist being found. I finally got a glimpse of it from an odd vantage, and the concealing glamour was abated. Right away I met some of the inhabitants: Mer-folk. As a visitor from distant parts, it was my place to tell them news of the outer world.

Luna: My friend Moaning Myrtle saw you there. She’s a ghost. Were you really using whale songs?

PED: Yes. It is a very formal communication form amongst ocean peoples.

Luna: Professor, are you all right?

Hagrid: Eh? Oh, I was jus’ enjoyin’ tha company. Dragons are wonnerful creaturs, but often mis-unnerstood.

PED: I’ll try to be clear, then. Anyway, the land I’m looking for has a known portal in the air, somewhere over London. I would try to avoid such a public area. There was likely at least one portal in the past from somewhere in the Americas. That was likely a one-time gate. There remains a, very probable, water gate; down here in this lake, somewhere. It seems likely that it was not a one-time gate, but has been closed for centuries. I hope to find it and force a passage through.

Luna: So, what are you trying to find, ultimately?

PED: A very special kind of... dust. May I... sniff you?

Luna: (Perplexed) Sniff me?

PED: The olfactory equivalent of staring at someone; and staring is often considered rude. Are you a v... a princess?

Luna: (Laughs) Princess! Good gracious no. Go ahead and sniff, then. I’ll sniff you back.

PED: That is fair.

The dragon mostly closes her eyes. Her muzzle comes very close to Luna’s armpit, hand, neck and face. Luna sniffs, and places a hand on the warm, dry muzzle. PED leans back, eyes still closed... internally processing the expelled cells.

PED: There is something rather, unexpected, if you don’t mind my saying so. Especially in your mitochondrial DNA. What was your mother’s maiden name?

Luna: Oh, my mother was Pandora Lovegood, though born Margaret Llewellyn. She was a muggle-born witch. She was always fiddling with pots and jars, curious to see inside. So, they called her “Pandora” in school. When she married, she took the name officially. She died when I was nine.

PED: I am sorry to hear of that. And, what was *her* mother’s name?

Luna: That would be Grandma Jane. Jane Ansell.

PED: And before her?

Luna: That was, lets see; Granny Wendy... Wendy Darling; daughter of Mary (or Molly) Aster and George Darling, and *her* parents were Lord Leonard Aster and Louise...

PED: Thank you, that should be far enough. Have you ever heard the name “Peter Pan”?

Luna: Mama and Grandma Jane told me stories about him. I used to make up my own stories, too, until mama died. Are you looking for Pixie dust, then? Neverland is not a real place, you know.

PED: I’m, pretty sure, that it *is* a real place. I’ve seen the Pan several times. Once I even spoke with him.

Luna: Oh, surely you’re joking!

PED: Miss Lovegood, I detect a tiny amount of Pixie dust in the cells that you expel in your breath. What is more, some of those traces are lodged in, not your own cells main protoplasm, but in your mitochondrial DNA.

Luna: (Baffled) What does that mean?

PED: For Pixie dust to be present there, at least one of your direct *maternal* ancestors must have been exposed to it. I have researched all the books. They are not completely fiction. They state that Wendy Darling *did* go to Neverland; several times. And so did her daughter Jane and granddaughter Margaret. You say your mother was a muggle-born witch? I think this is why. Two generations, *at least*, before her were exposed to the magic Pixie dust.

Luna: I’m really nothing special.

PED: Your hands are small and rather delicate. Yet I can sense that you, quite recently, made a fist and gave Death a real punch in the nose! My advisors told me to seek a witch who had something missing, and something extra. You may be that witch, and my key to Neverland, once I find the door. But, are you... *missing* anything? You appear to have all your ears, eyes, fingers, and limbs. I don’t yet know about your toes or anything else.

Luna: Well, I *do* have all of my toes and fingers (though my hand shadow does not quite match up). I can’t be your key. I couldn’t go to Neverland. *It* is not a place grownups could enter.

PED: There are *some* grownups there.

Luna: What, would I be a pirate? Not likely. And I certainly was not born an Indian.

PED: There is one further class of grownups permitted. You fit in very nicely, for you are... a Witch!

Luna: Well, surely. But *you* couldn’t go there, or could you?

PED: Dragons are explicitly mentioned (and, failing that, I qualify in one *other* class as well).

— O — O — O —

Professor McGonagall reenters the headmaster's office, with a seriously bemused and faraway expression on her face. There are a few wizards and witches standing there now, in addition to the portrait people.

Professor Dumbledore: Are you all right, Minerva? Have you been Confused or anything?

Professor McGonagall: I never wanted to leave. But I *had* to return and tell you. The temptation is enormous.

Headmaster Record: What temptation, Minerva?

Professor McGonagall: The greatest temptation any educator, librarian, alchemist, or sorcerer ever faced. Access to knowledge that is all but limitless. The libraries of Atlantis, personal accounts of millennia of human history, travels in outer space, and the elemental planes. Things neither Merlin nor even Clow Reed ever knew.

Professor Record: (Waves his wand over and around Professor McGonagall) Who am I, Minerva?

Professor McGonagall: You are Headmaster Cullen Allen Record. You were appointed shortly after I tendered my resignation as Headmistress.

— O — O — O —

There is another green flash from the fireplace. A man, unlimbering a large camera, follows close behind a mature woman in a tight dress, with tightly curled blond hair and jeweled glasses. Hands with long red nails are opening a notebook.

Rita Skeeter: (Smugly) Smile for the camera, ladies and gentlemen! I don't know exactly what is going on, but my nose for news has been itching something terrible! Professor Record: what is "Leviathan"?

Four wands are suddenly pointing at her.

— O — O — O —

Professor Record: Now, now, there's no need for all this. Wands down, everyone! That's better. Miss Skeeter, I've only just arrived, myself. How can I answer such questions? It seems to me that perhaps I should be asking you.

Rita Skeeter: Take your turn, Headmaster. I'm the reporter. I asked first, and I am a lady!

Professor McGonagall: (An indistinct mutter, something about a bull?)

Rita Skeeter: What was that, Minerva? You were here. Can you tell me why that Lovegood person had blood on her dress?

Professor McGonagall: And how would you know anything about that?

Rita Skeeter: (Lightly) Oh, lets just say a little bird told me.

Professor McGonagall: (Fixing Rita with a most piercing glance) Or, perhaps... a little *bug*?

Rita Skeeter seems to wilt considerably. She opens her mouth to reply, but Professor Dumbledore reappears in his portrait and interjects.

Professor Dumbledore: Headmaster Record, and all the rest. Might I suggest you all draw up chairs and sit down? One more chair, too. There is another coming who will be in for this telling of tales.

Charlie Weasley: Who's that, Professor?

A green flash from the fireplace heralds the entrance of a man in the very distinctive robes of the Department of Mysteries. Rita's eyebrows climb toward her hairline, then lower back half way.

Rita Skeeter: Well, I don't expect we'll hear much from one of the Unspeakables!

Mr. Hobson (The Unspeakable): Then again, maybe you will, Rita. Professor Dumbledore visited his portrait in our Department, the only portrait there, and asked me to come and hear something in... my line. So, let us be seated. I think Mister

Fred Weasley should speak first, and then Professor McGonagall.

— O — O — O —

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

## Letter of Comment

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

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

25 November 2014

Thank you for the November *Shuttle*, and there is always something of interest to find within. Time to find it, and write a few comments on what I find.

Worldcon bids... there are now four bids for 2017, Japan, Finland, Montreal, and Washington [DC]. Given that Montreal is in the running, that's the only year I am really interested in. That's a difficult year to call; there're some good bids here, and Worldcon fandom will choose based on how much money they have, where they'd like to go, how adventurous they are, and what memories they have.

Not sure what happened with CUFF this year, except that it does look like real life caught up with the winner. Deb Yeung will do a fine job... again.

Greetings to Pie Eyed! Another very readable episode, and in one of Yvonne's favorite universes, the magical one with Hogwarts in it. Very autobiographical, too. PED, any information and technology you could give the humans in this benighted world would be of great service.

My loc... I have officially nominated Wolf von Witting for the 2015 TAFF race, and I wish him the best of luck. If there is another Toronto Worldcon bid, I would expect the Toronto-based bidders and Worldcon runners who are on the committees for Sasquan, the Kansas City bid, and other bids to call in favours, and start a bid for a future year for Toronto. We may yet see a Torcon 4. I won't be a part of that committee, I've done my time, but I hope I am right in my suspicions. I agree with you, Mike, about overcommitting. We take stock of what we're doing every few years, and especially when we feel like we are stressed, and we make a decision about what activity to drop, and that decision is never easy.

Must get this to you, and with plenty of time to spare for a change. See you with the next issue.

[Personally, I think I could find adventure in any of the potential 2017 Worldcon sites, Lloyd. Mind you, the probability I'd go to the con in any of those alternate futures does vary... not so much based on money but on my then-estimation of the rigors of both travel and participating in con activities. My advancing age (and, sadly, weigh), my mobility issues, and the ever-diminishing comforts of air travel do conspire together to whisper in my ear against some sites more than others. A long flight with multiple connections to a spread-out site with lots of walking... not really as attractive as it might once have been. Regarding the 2015 TAFF race, you'll see elsewhere in this issue that von Witting has been joined by Nina Horvath in declaring for the race. -ED]



**Momonga: The Flying Squirrel**

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