



THE F.A.C.T. SHEET

A monthly publication of the Fandom Association of Central Texas, Inc.

2007

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Join us! All FACT members are invited to all of these events!

- Sept. 4 (Tuesday), 7 PM: **FACT Reading Group**, *The Solaris Book of New Science Fiction* edited by George Mann
- Sept. 8 (Saturday), 6-11:30 PM: **Adult Gaming**, 802 Chiselpoint Cove, Round Rock, 78681
- Sept. 9 (Sunday), 2-4 PM: **FACT Board Meeting**, Austin Public Library, Carver Branch, 1161 Angelina.
- Sept. 15 (Saturday afternoon): **ArmadilloCon Wrap-Up Party**, exact time, location & other details TBD
- Sept. 17 (Monday), 7 PM: **FACT Reading Group**, Austin Public Library, North Village Branch, 2139 W. Anderson Lane, *In the Company of Ogres* by A. Lee Martinez
- Sept. 28 (Friday), 7-10:30 PM: **Ursa Major Social Meeting/Party** Lynn Ward's apartment, 3711 Medical Dr. #1614, San Antonio. FACT members welcome. Call Lynn for directions and to confirm location 210-218-2800.
- Oct. 1 (Monday), 7 PM: **FACT Reading Group**, Austin Public Library, North Village Branch, 2139 W. Anderson Lane, *The Left Hand of Darkness* by Ursula K. Le Guin
- Oct. 13 (Saturday), 6-11:30 PM: **Adult Gaming**, 3601 Malone Dr., Austin 78749
- Oct. 14 (Sunday), 2-4 PM: **FACT Board Meeting**, Austin Public Library, Carver Branch, 1161 Angelina.
- Oct. 16 (Tuesday), 7 PM: **FACT Reading Group**, *Seeker* by Jack McDevitt

FACT NEEDS A SOCIAL DIRECTOR - ARE YOU THE ONE?

The Fandom Association of Central Texas needs a Social Director.

Now, there's a tendency, when you see a notice like this, to let your eyes glaze over and to assume that one of the organization's old-timers will step up to fill the position. Don't do that! The organization needs new ideas and new energy.

So if you're a FACT member who has been thinking about volunteering in some capacity, or **even infiltrating the officer ranks as your first step in a plan to take over FACT and then the world**, now is your time to strike.

Duties of the Social Director include:

- Keeping an eye on upcoming movie release schedules and Central Texas special events calendars
- Using the information above to plan and announce occasional events (parties, movie outings, sports events attendance, picnics, etc.), optimally once per month or so
- Coordinating FACT's traditional annual events (the Boat Trip in June and the Christmas Party in December) (note that only *coordination* is required; you do not need to do everything yourself!)
- Working with the Publications Director to publicize these events and with the Board of Directors to budget them

If this appeals to you but you are uncertain about tackling it alone, be advised that you won't have to -- you'll have all the advice and experience you care to solicit from fellow FACT officers and the Board members.

If interested, please send a message to board2007@fact.org or call any FACT officer (see list on page).

-- Aaron Allston

FACT WEB SITE

Have you visited the FACT web site lately? Go to www.fact.org to admire our new look. Big thanks to Kimm Antell for her work on this!

REMINDER - READING GROUP SCHEDULE

All Reading Group meetings start at 7 PM. We have two meetings each month, one on a Monday and one on a Tuesday. Monday meetings are held at the North Village Branch of the Austin Public Library, where we are an official program. For the locations of our Tuesday meetings or more information, contact our organizer (reading@fact.org).

REPORTS FROM ARMADILLOCON 29

Artist **Nancy Cagle** reported that she had fun chatting in Con Suite. "Chats in the Con Suite would start on one odd topic and metamorphose through a dozen topics when given a chance. [It was] so good to hear intelligent people discoursing on 'heavy subjects.' Two editors I talked to had the same complaint I do as a teacher--the lack of good spelling and grammar in so much writing we have to read!" She especially enjoyed the chance to talk with other artists. "Gary and Rocky are very inspiring to me. Sherlock was my roomie and we talked a lot. I think hearing from the editors and writers on one panel was really good. Very helpful, too." As an artist, she found the show "nicely diverse," but hopes to see more originals and fewer prints at future shows. She had not thought to bring any of her work in jewelry but may do so next time.

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Author and Panelist **Mark Finn** had great things to say about ArmadilloCon 29: "ArmadilloCon has blossomed in the last six years into my favorite convention; it's the perfect mix of socializing and networking, and it's kept its reputation as a literary SF con without going the way of the snooty elitist." Read it all on his blog: finnswake.livejournal.com.

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Elze Hamilton said that her favorite thing was the Writer's Workshop. She got great feedback from **Louise Marley**, **Steve Wilson** and the other instructors and the students. She also enjoyed "the panels on fandom lore, such as the worst con disasters, or 'Authors and the Fans Who Love Them: Maybe a Little Too Much' (about stalking). There were some good, fresh, authentic stories told on those panels, some of them stranger than fiction. :-) I would like to see more of that at future ArmadilloCons." Elze took extensive notes at the "Create a World" panel (tinyurl.com/2eyvhd) and also for the "Con Disaster Stories" panel (tinyurl.com/2fnluj). The Con Disaster panel featured barbeque and beer brought by Brad Denton and some very lively stories, including the story of Disclave, which was seriously disrupted when an S&M convention going on at the same hotel

activated the hotel's entire sprinkler system by trying to use one sprinkler as a sex toy. In addition to attending and participating as a panelist, Elze helped staff the CFI (Center for Inquiry) booth in the Dealer's Room.

Some of Elze's favorite moments from the Con included:

John Moore, during the panel "The Story Unwritten" (a discussion on what stories are left to be told and why they haven't been written yet): "Fortunately, writers today are no longer shackled to the idea that writing is original creative process. For example, who's to say Dudley Dursley shouldn't have his own fantasy series? In each book he could team up with another 10-year-old wizard."

Laura Anne Gilman, during the "Mythology/Schmythology" panel: "Is a hero someone who knows he has a destiny, or someone who fights against the odds to do something heroic? Somebody like Harry Potter, who knew he had a destiny, who was told by everybody he was special, and people trained him for that and protected him? I don't think that's a hero, that's cannon fodder."

Joe Lansdale, during the "What You Should Have Read This Year" panel: "Phil Jose Farmer was the first person who brought sex into science fiction. Before that you only got to look at nifty rocket ships on the cover."

Rachel Caine, from the "Sex in SF" panel, speaking about genre distinctions and marketing categories, said this (she was actually quoting somebody else): "If you spend more than 50% of the time saving the world, it's urban fantasy. If you spend more than 50% of the time saving your relationship, that's paranormal romance." The "Sex in SF" panel had some other good moments that were perhaps a bit too off-color for publication.



Ellen Klages, Louise Marley, Sharon Shinn & AC29 Chair Renee Babcock. -- Photo by Elze Hamilton

Read **Elze Hamilton's** ArmadilloCon notes and see pictures at sfragments.blogspot.com.

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New FACT member **Eric Hollas** reported that the **James P. Hogan** presentation "The Electric Universe" was the highlight of his con. The discussion of the alternative electrical model of cosmology was fascinating. This ran long by thirty minutes and was interesting the entire time.

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Revolution SF posted a podcast of a discussion between panelist **Jay Lake** and Toastmaster **Howard Waldrop** that happened at ArmadilloCon 29. Go to revolutionsf.libsyn.com to hear it.

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FACT member and former Board member **Sonia Santana** said: "The 'Hour with Howard and Jay' panel was my favorite. I got a whole lot more of how Howard came to be, well, Howard. Waldrop is a wikipedia of history. He has an amazing amount of research knowledge that he can repeat in a very entertaining style. Jay did a great job of prodding him along. I also loved the 'Broad Universe Rapid Fire Readings' panel. You get a taste of a whole lot of different authors. Quick and tasty." On the auction, she raved that, "Mark Finn is the best auctioneer ever." She thought that the fannish feud was a little too obviously rigged. "The convention hospitality suite, as always, was excellent. A *chocolate fountain* on Saturday night! **Melissa Tolliver** and family went way beyond the call of duty!" She also enjoyed the parties. "ApolloCon and Australia 2010 rocked!"

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FACT Board member **Daniel Tolliver** attended AC29 with camera in hand. He captured a video of Howard Waldrop's reading and a number of candid shots of con attendees.



Kurt Baty and **Willie Siros** enjoy the conversation in the Con Suite. Photo by **Dan Tolliver**.

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Art Show Czar **Scott Zrubek** reported that we had sales of approximately \$5500. That's about \$1000 more than we sold in the past four years. **Peri Charlifu** (whose great pottery you may have admired) and **Theresa Mather** were particularly well represented in the auction. A big thanks to Scott and to all the artists who had works in the Art Show, including: **Gary Lippincott, David Lee Anderson, Kimm Antell, Jolie Bonnette, Iris Brown, Nancy Cagle, Peri Charlifu, Sarah Clemens, Cat Conrad, Daniel Cortopassi, Cynthia Dickinson, Meredith Dillman, Sara Felix, Brad Foster, Ashen Gray, John Kaufman, Rocky Kelley, Diesel LaForce, Theresa Mather, Stephen Montalvo, Betsy Mott, Christy Nicholas, Nicole Pelligrini, Carolyn Putnam, Maia Sanders, Sherlock, Matthew Taggart, Dan Thompson,** and **Sherry Watson**.

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A.T Campbell III: I've been attending and working on ArmadilloCon regularly since the 80's. This year I edited the program book, so as soon as the books were delivered on Friday, I was free to enjoy the con. I'd been working long hours in a crunch to get *Blacksite: Area 51* out the door, so it was good to take a break.

I enjoyed visiting with longtime friends from Central Texas as well as some relatively new friends from Houston. Several out-of-state and international fans were there to promote WorldCon bids or just to hang out, and it was good to chat with them.

It was nice to see the release of longtime ArmadilloCon participant **Alexis Latner's** first novel, *Hurricane Moon*. One book dealer told me it was his best-selling book for the weekend. **William Browning Spencer** returned to Austin and the con after an absence of a few years, and it was wonderful to visit with him. I enjoyed meeting **A. Lee Martinez**, a young prolific author of humorous fantasies. It was good to see and visit with **Bill and Judy Crider**, writers and relatives who've had a tough year. **Robert Taylor**, one of the pillars of Texas fandom in the 80s and 90s, made a much-appreciated appearance on Sunday afternoon.

The theme of this year's convention was clear: "Women." The driving forces were the con chair and programming director/webmaster, both female. Most of the major guests were women. And there were several program items specifically aimed at celebrating female writers and fans: "Broad Universe Rapid Fire Readings," "I Fell in Love with an Octopus," "Women in the SF Field," and "Before Xena and After Buffy."

I went to several readings on Saturday. **Shanna Swendson** read from a couple of humorous fantasy

romance novels, and while I'm clearly not her target audience, I enjoyed the reading. **Patrice Sarath** read a short excerpt that left me wanting more. **A. Lee Martinez** had me and the rest of the audience howling at his hilarious wordplay.

"Fannish Feud," our game show event, was fun and ably hosted by **Aaron Allston**. This year the pro team had their act together more than usual, and they won fairly easily without needing any help. I enjoyed Editor Guest **Sharyn November's** interview. Her personality is not what I'd expected from a children's book editor, but she's clearly intelligent, has good taste, and is a passionate advocate for her writers. Artist Guest **Gary Lippincott's** slide show was a revelation. The amount of detail he puts into small illustrations, using watercolor, is amazing. It was nice to see his early commercial illustrations (Biblical scenes) along with his later fantasy work, mostly for books aimed at younger readers.

My program schedule had two items. On Friday I was on a "4400 vs. *Heroes*" panel, which was lightly-attended but fun. I competed against **Sara Felix** at "Pictionary" on Sunday. Sara's team won a close match. My team was unfortunately geographically-challenged. In one round, I quickly conveyed that I was looking for the name of a female SF writer who lives in Colorado. The team couldn't think of anyone who matched the description, much less a well-known winner of multiple Hugos and Nebulas.

The Dealers' Room was more book-oriented than usual. I bought lots of stuff, mostly from *Adventures in Crime & Space* and *Realms of Fantasy*. The ArmadilloCon T-shirt from FoPaws was particularly nice this year.

The con closed with **Howard Waldrop's** reading. He read an entry from his blog, a short story, and a chapter from his upcoming novel *The Moone World*. I enjoyed the blog post the most.* Howard read an earlier chapter from *The Moone World* at an ArmadilloCon fifteen years ago. He is not a fast writer.

As the con closed, I was amused by how many people told me "see you next month at FenCon." I've never attended FenCon (a DFW-area con), but for some reason people are expecting me to be there. If my current crunch at work is over by then, I'll try to make it there. Sunday evening we had a big crowd for the post-con dinner at County Line. Afterward I spent a little time at the Dead ArmadilloCon Party, and then it was time to head home to rest up for another big week at work.

* Note from the editor: I also recommend that particular piece. It is item #1 at tinyurl.com/yqvrj6.

2007 HUGO & JWC AWARDS

The results of the 2007 Hugo Awards, as announced at Nippon 2007, the 65th World Science Fiction Convention, in Yokohama, Japan, on September 1, 2007, are as follows:

- Best Novel:** *Rainbows End* by Vernor Vinge
- Best Novella:** "A Billion Eves" by Robert Reed
- Best Novelette:** "The Djinn's Wife" by Ian McDonald
- Best Short Story:** "Impossible Dreams" by Tim Pratt
- Best Related Non-Fiction Book:** James Tiptree, Jr.: *The Double Life of Alice B. Sheldon* by Julie Phillips
- Best Dramatic Presentation, Long Form:** *Pan's Labyrinth* (2006). Screenplay by Guillermo del Toro. Directed by Guillermo del Toro
- Best Dramatic Presentation, Short Form:** *Doctor Who - "Girl in the Fireplace"* (2006) Written by Steven Moffat. Directed by Euros Lyn
- Best Editor, Long Form:** Patrick Nielsen Hayden
- Best Editor, Short Form:** Gordon Van Gelder
- Best Professional Artist:** Donato Giancola
- Best Semiprozine:** *Locus* ed. by Charles N. Brown, Kirsten Gong-Wong and Liza Groen Trombi
- Best Fanzine:** *Science-Fiction Five-Yearly* ed. by Lee Hoffman, Geri Sullivan, and Randy Byers
- Best Fan Writer:** Dave Langford
- Best Fan Artist:** Frank Wu

The winner of the **John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer** is Naomi Novik.

2007 LOCUS AWARDS

Winners of this year's Locus Awards, voted by readers of *Locus Magazine* in the annual Locus Poll, were announced some weeks ago and not included in the last issue. In case you missed them, here's the list:

- Best Science Fiction Novel:** *Rainbows End*, Vernor Vinge (Tor)
- Best Fantasy Novel:** *The Privilege of the Sword*, Ellen Kushner (Bantam Spectra)
- Best First Novel:** *Temeraire: His Majesty's Dragon/Throne of Jade/Black Powder*, Naomi Novik (Del Rey; Voyager); as *Temeraire: In the Service of the King* (SFBC)
- Best Young Adult Book:** *Wintersmith*, Terry Pratchett (Doubleday UK; HarperTempest)
- Best Novella:** "Missile Gap", Charles Stross (*One Million A.D.*)
- Best Novelette:** "When Sysadmins Ruled the Earth", Cory Doctorow (*Baen's Universe* 8/06)
- Best Short Story:** "How to Talk to Girls at Parties", Neil Gaiman (*Fragile Things*)

Best Magazine: *The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction*

Best Publisher: Tor

Best Anthology: *The Year's Best Science Fiction: Twenty-Third Annual Collection*, Gardner Dozois, ed. (St. Martin's)

Best Collection: *Fragile Things*, Neil Gaiman (Morrow; Headline Review)

Best Editor: Ellen Datlow

Best Artist: John Picacio

Best Non-Fiction: *James Tiptree, Jr.: The Double Life of Alice B. Sheldon*, Julie Phillips (St. Martin's)

Best Art Book: Cathy & Arnie Fenner, eds. *Spectrum 13: The Best in Contemporary Fantastic Art* (Underwood)

WFC NOMINATIONS INCLUDE *CROSS PLAINS*

The Final Ballot for the World Fantasy Awards has been announced. Nominations include *Cross Plains Universe: Texans Celebrate Robert E. Howard*, for Best Anthology; Mark Finn for Special Award: Professional (for *Blood & Thunder: The Life of Robert E. Howard*); and San Antonio resident John Picacio, for Artist.

Life Achievement

Winner Betty Ballantine

Winner Diana Wynne Jones

Novel

Lisey's Story, Stephen King (Scribner; Hodder & Stoughton)

The Privilege of the Sword, Ellen Kushner (Bantam Spectra; Small Beer Press)

The Lies of Locke Lamora, Scott Lynch (Gollancz; Bantam Spectra)

The Orphan's Tales: In the Night Garden, Catherynne M. Valente (Bantam Spectra)

Soldier of Sidon, Gene Wolfe (Tor)

Novella

"Botch Town", Jeffrey Ford (*The Empire of Ice Cream*, Golden Gryphon)

"The Man Who Got Off the Ghost Train", Kim Newman (*The Man from the Diogenes Club*, MonkeyBrain)

Dark Harvest, Norman Partridge (Cemetery Dance)

"Map of Dreams", M. Rickert (*Map of Dreams*, Golden Gryphon)

"The Lineaments of Gratified Desire", Ysabeau S. Wilce (F&SF 7/06)

Short Fiction

"The Way He Does It", Jeffrey Ford (*Electric Velocipede* 10 Spring '06)

"Journey Into the Kingdom", M. Rickert (F&SF 5/06)

"A Siege of Cranes", Benjamin Rosenbaum (*Twenty Epics*, All-Star Stories)

"Another Word for Map Is Faith", Christopher Rowe (F&SF 8/06)

"Pol Pot's Beautiful Daughter (Fantasy)", Geoff Ryman (F&SF 10-11/06)

Anthology

Cross Plains Universe: Texans Celebrate Robert E. Howard, Scott A. Cupp & Joe R. Lansdale, eds.

(MonkeyBrain and the Fandom Association of Central Texas)

Salon Fantastique, Ellen Datlow & Terri Windling, eds. (Thunder's Mouth)

Retro Pulp Tales, Joe R. Lansdale, ed. (Subterranean)

Twenty Epics, David Moles & Susan Marie Groppi, eds. (All-Star Stories)

Firebirds Rising, Sharyn November, ed. (Firebird)

Collection

The Ladies of Grace Adieu and Other Stories, Susanna Clarke (Bloomsbury)

The Empire of Ice Cream, Jeffrey Ford (Golden Gryphon)

American Morons, Glen Hirshberg (Earthling)

Red Spikes, Margo Lanagan (Allen & Unwin Australia; Knopf)

Map of Dreams, M. Rickert (Golden Gryphon)

Artist

Jon Foster

Edward Miller

John Picacio

Shaun Tan

Jill Thompson

Special Award: Professional

Ellen Asher (for work at Science Fiction Book Club)

Mark Finn (for *Blood & Thunder: The Life of Robert E. Howard*, MonkeyBrain)

Deanna Hoak for copyediting (freelance)

Greg Ketter for DreamHaven

(dreamhavenbooks.com)

Leonard S. Marcus, ed. (for *The Wand in the Word: Conversations with Writers of Fantasy*, Candlewick)

Special Award: Non-Professional

Leslie Howle (for her work at Clarion West)

Leo Grin (for *The Cimmerian*)

Susan Marie Groppi (for *Strange Horizons*)

John Klima (for *Electric Velocipede*)

Gary K. Wolfe (for reviews and criticism in *Locus* and elsewhere)

TOR OFFERS WORLDCON PODCASTS

Tor Books will offer its first podcasts--from the 65th World Science Fiction Convention in Yokohama, Japan, August 30-September 4. Tor publisher Tom Doherty and senior editor Patrick Nielsen Hayden will send daily podcasts during the convention that will

include interviews with authors and editors. The podcasts will be available for download from iTunes, Yahoo and Google, and through RSS. People will also be able to tune in directly at www.tor-forge.com/podcasts.

CFI SPONSORS NEW READING GROUP

The Center for Inquiry, whose booth you may have visited at ArmadilloCon, is sponsoring a "Science and Religion in Fiction" reading group. The group meets on the last Thursday of the month at the café in the Barnes and Noble Arboretum store. They put up a CFI sign at the table so the group is easy to find. The books they are selecting seem likely to interest some FACT members.

- September: Khaled Hosseini, *A Thousand Splendid Suns*
- October: Christopher Moore, *Lamb: The Gospel According to Biff, Christ's Childhood Pal*
- November: Orhan Pamuk, *Snow*
- December: Neil Gaiman and Terry Pratchett, *Good Omens*

You can find out more about the Center for Inquiry at www.centerforinquiry.net/austin.

U.T. ANIME SOCIETY CELEBRATES 20TH YEAR

This is the University of Texas at Austin Anime Club's 20th anniversary as a registered UT student organization. The Anime Club is a volunteer-based, non-profit student organization at the University of Texas at Austin. Its purpose is to provide fans of Japanese animation, or anime, a place to meet and exchange views and information. They hold regular showings (open to the public) of selected anime series, many of which are not commercially available in the United States (usually Japanese with English subtitles).

Showings are on Fridays at 7:00 PM in WEL 1.316. While membership is restricted to currently enrolled students of UT and current UT staff and faculty, the anime showings are open to the public. They will be starting an all-new lineup of shows this semester, so you will not have to worry about coming in at the middle of a long series.

FACTOIDS & FRIENDS

This column is for news about FACT members, their friends, Texas writers, and important events in the SF&F community. If you have any such news, please contact the F.A.C.T. Sheet Editor at publications@fact.org.

FACT MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

FACT members with recent or upcoming birthdays include **Renee Babcock** (July 24)

AUTHOR & PUBLISHER NEWS

Eight stories from *Cross Plains Universe* received honorable mentions in Gardner Dozois' prestigious *Years Best Science Fiction 24th Annual Collection* (2007). Rick Klaw compiled this list:

Neal Barrett, Jr. - "The Heart"

Scott A. Cupp - "One Fang"

Mark Finn - "A Whim of Circumstance"

Lawrence Person - "The Toughest Jew in the West"

Carrie Richerson - "The Warrior and the King"

Chris Roberson - "The Jewel of Leystall"

Howard Waldrop - "Thin, On the Ground"

Gene Wolfe - "Six from Atlantis"

Jayme Lynn Blaschke recently posted several reviews on Revolution SF: *Roving Mars* (tinyurl.com/28pact), *Renaissance Paris: 2054* (tinyurl.com/yos9ae).

Del Rey stated in their July newsletter that Warner Bros. has purchased the rights to **Terry Brooks's** Shannara series and will be developing it for the big screen. Sources indicate that *The Elfstones of Shannara* will be the likely starting point.

The Houston Chronicle reported that local novelist and Rice professor **Justin Cronin** has signed a multimillion-dollar deal with Ballantine for a post-apocalyptic vampire trilogy. The first book, titled *The Passage*, is due in the summer of 2009.

Steven Gould's new book *Jumper: Griffin's Story* was released in hardcover on August 20. This is the third in the Jumper series. The paperback edition will be released next year in conjunction with the movie, which comes out on February 15. The film has a website now: jumperthemovie.com. IMDB lists a cast that includes Hayden Christensen, Samuel L. Jackson, Diane Lane and Rachel Bilson.

Mark Finn won "one and a quarter" Cimmerian awards this year. He won The Atlantean (Outstanding Achievement, Book by a Single Author) for *Blood & Thunder: The Life and Art of Robert E. Howard*. He was one of four winners for the Stygian (Outstanding Achievement, Website) for work on the Cimmerian Blog.

Paizo Publishing's new imprint, Planet Stories, is re-releasing classic science fiction and adventure stories, with the goal of reaching a new generation of readers. This new series launched in August with the publication of *The Anubis Murders* by Dungeons & Dragons co-creator **Gary Gygax**. In September, they will release **Michael Moorcock's** *City of the Beast*. The October title will be *Black God's Kiss* by **C.L. Moore**, with **Henry Kuttner's** *Elak of Atlantis* to follow in November.

Rick Klaw's recent work includes "No Strangers to Drama," an *Austin Chronicle* article about **Mark Finn** and his work to rescue the Vernon Plaza

Theater. Read all about it at tinyurl.com/23rnxy. Klaw and Finn were both panelists at ArmadilloCon 29.

Rick Klaw also has several new reviews posted on Revolution SF: *Sunshine* (tinyurl.com/2b99j4), *The Simpsons Movie* (tinyurl.com/264mrp; co-written with his wife, Brandy Whitten-Klaw), *Masters of Science Fiction Episode 1* (tinyurl.com/2f6pbr), *The King of Kong: A Fistful of Quarters* (tinyurl.com/ywrgam). He also now has a blog for the Dark Forces Reading Group: darkforces.powbangzap.com/blog.

Rick Klaw's recent works also include an *Austin Chronicle* article on **Lewis Shiner**. Don't miss it. You can read it online at tinyurl.com/yvcxoz. And don't miss Shiner's new website, the Fiction Liberation Front, where Shiner is offering his works for free: www.lewisshiner.com/liberation.

Elizabeth Moon won this year's Robert A. Heinlein Award. This award was established in 2003 to honor outstanding published works in hard science fiction or technical writings that inspire the human exploration of space. Prior recipients include **Greg Bear**, **Larry Niven**, **Jerry Pournelle** and **Jack Williamson**. For details, see www.sfw.org/news/2007/heinleinaward.htm.

Rick Riordan reports some progress on the Percy Jackson film that is in development. Director Chris Columbus has hired a screenwriter to help with the script and they are apparently deep into their draft. The screenwriter is Craig Titley, whose produced credits include the movies *Cheaper by the Dozen* and *Scooby Doo*.

Rick Riordan has published "The Stolen Chariot," a Percy Jackson story, on his blog. See tinyurl.com/yqutjt.

Chris Roberson's story "Death on the Crosstime Express" will appear in *Sideways in Crime*, edited by Lou Anders. The anthology is due out from Solaris in summer, 2008. Mr. Roberson has a new novel, *Set the Seas on Fire*, due out from Solaris on September 7 (and now listed as available on Amazon). Read a recent and amusing interview with this author at tinyurl.com/ywfnkr.

John Scalzi, who will be Guest of Honor at ArmadilloCon 2008, is listed as one of "Ten Top [New] SF Writers of the 00's (so far)," a list put together by Marc Andreessen, cofounder of Netscape. Read his complete list at tinyurl.com/yrfwat.

Jeff Vandermeer reports on his blog, Ecstatic Days, that he and **Ann Vandermeer** are editing a steampunk reprint anthology for Tachyon. They have commitments from **Michael Chabon**, **Neal Stephenson**, **Joe Lansdale**, **Paul Di Filippo**, **Michael Moorcock**, **James Blaylock**, and **Ted Chiang**, with more pending. The anthology will also

feature original nonfiction from **Rick Klaw**, among others.

Howard Waldrop mentioned at ArmadilloCon that Small Beer Press is now posting pieces of his online. The blog is called Blog Like Me. (Never fear. Waldrop writes the pieces out longhand and mails them in for translation to electronic format.) He read "Your (Manifest Destinies) Miss You," and it was wonderful. The next three items are worth reading, too. Read them all at tinyurl.com/yqvvrj6.

Martha Wells has a story, "Holy Places," in the current issue of *Black Gate* (#11, summer 2007). Her story "Reflections" appeared in the previous issue. She also has a story, "The Potter's Daughter," in the recently-released *Year's Best Fantasy 7* (Tachyon Publications, edited by David Hartwell and Kathryn Cramer).

MEDIA NEWS

Babylon 5 fans are enjoying *The Lost Tales*, a new direct-to-DVD production. This is the first release in what is projected to be a short series. It was directed by J. Michael Straczynski and stars **Bruce Boxleitner** and **Tracy Scoggins**.

New for Buffy fans -- *Buffy Between the Lines* is a serialized, podcast fanfic audio drama written, produced and created by fans for fans. Each season will bring you twelve or so episodes in classic radio drama fashion. Beth Nelson of the Austin Browncoats co-wrote one of the episodes. The first episode is expected at the end of September. An interview with the cast and more information about the upcoming series are available at buffybetweenthelines.com.

Johnny Depp will star in an upcoming film based on the 1960s soap *Dark Shadows*.

A digitally remastered *Flash Gordon* has been re-released on DVD. This coincides with the new *Flash Gordon* series on the SCI FI cable channel.

A new Star Trek film is due out on December 26, 2008. **Leonard Nimoy** will have a role. Zachary Quinto of *Heroes* will play the role of the young Spock in the film. Production begins this November. See startrek.com for additional details. SciFi.com currently has a video interview with Quinto posted at tinyurl.com/23t9le.

A new episode of *Star Trek: The New Voyages*, this one starring **George Takei**, has been released. View it at www.startreknewvoyages.com.

IMDB states that a new big-screen version of *Get Smart* is in production, starring **Steve Carell** (formerly of *The Daily Show*) as Maxwell Smart/Agent 86, **Anne Hathaway** (seen in *The Princess Diaries*) as Agent 99, **Alan Arkin** as Thaddeus (The Chief), and **Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson** as a new character, Agent 23. The film is scheduled for release in June, 2008.

UPCOMING EVENTS

OTHER GROUPS

Sept. 16 (Sun), 5 PM (food), 6 PM (viewing begins):

AustinDrWho: Dr Who series shorts and an episode of *Blake's 7*. For info, send a message to austindrwho@yahoo.com.

Sept. 17 (Mon), 7 PM, Bookpeople: The **Ludicrous Speed Book Group** will discuss *Neuromancer* by William Gibson

Sept. 19 (Wed), 7 PM, Flight Path (corner of 51st and Duval): The **Dark Forces Reading Group** will discuss *Pantheon High Volume 1* by Paul Benjamin and Steven Cummings

Oct. 10 (Wed), 7 PM, Flight Path (corner of 51st and Duval): The **Dark Forces Reading Group** will discuss *Stir of Echoes* by Richard Matheson

Oct. 22 (Mon), 7 PM, Bookpeople: **The Ludicrous Speed Book Group** will discuss *The Princess Bride* by William Goldman

Wednesdays, 7-11:30 PM, Thor's Hammer: **Center for Inquiry** meets to play board and card games

Saturdays, 12-8 PM, Great Hall Games: **Austin Board Gamers**

MOVIES & TV

Alamo Draffhouse

Sept. 20-27 (Alamo Draffhouse South Lamar):

Fantastic Fest: A week-long festival featuring "the best in new science-fiction, fantasy, horror, animation, crime, Asian, and all around badass cinema." Festival badges available for \$110. For more information, see www.fantasticfest.com.

University of Texas Anime Club (Fridays, 7 PM, UT WEL 1.316). Regular schedule starts Sept. 7 with the following:

- Random Slot: TBA
- *Nodame Cantabile* #1
- *Kyo Kara Maoh!* #1
- *Le Chevalier D'Eon* #1
- (Break: Title is TBA) — Restart at 9:20
- *Claymore* #1
- *Legend of the Galactic Heroes* #1
- *Princess Tutu* #1
- *Sayonara Zetsubou Sensei* #1
- *Speed Grapher* #1

University of Texas Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies (Wednesdays, 7 PM, GRG 102, Geography Building, corner of 24th and Whitis)

- Sept. 12: *Aelita, Queen of Mars*, Jakov Protozanov, dir. (1924)
- Sept. 26: *His Name Was Robert*, Ilya Olshvanger, dir. (1967)
- Oct. 10: *Soliaris*, Andrei Tarkovsky, dir. (1972)
- Oct. 24: *Stalker*, Andrei Tarkovsky, dir. (1979)

- Nov. 7: *The Heart of a Dog*, Vladimir Bortko, dir. (1988)
- Nov. 28: *Night Watch*, Timur Bekmambetov, dir. (2004)

CONVENTIONS & THE LIKE

Here are details on conventions that **FACT** members, associates, and Favorite Authors will attend.

2007

Sept. 21-23: **FenCon IV**, Crowne Plaza North Dallas, Addison, TX. SFF & Filk Con. Music GoH Tom Smith; Fen GoH Kathleen Sloan; Artist GoH David Mattingly; Special Guest: Toni Weisskopf. www.fencon.org

2008

Feb. 8-10: **OwlCon XXVII**, Rice University, Houston, TX. Gaming, fantasy and science fiction. www.owlcon.com

Feb. 22-24: **ConDFW VII**, Richardson, TX www.condfw.org

Apr. 25-27: **Nebula Awards Weekend**, Omni Austin Hotel, Austin, TX. www.sfw.org/awards/2008/index.html

Mar. 27-30: **AggieCon 39**, College Station, TX. aggiecon.tamu.edu

June 6-8: **SoonerCon 2008**, Biltmore Hotel, Oklahoma City, OK. GoH John Ringo; Artist GoH Tom Kidd; Toastmaster Selina Rosen. www.soonercon.com

June 27-29: **ApolloCon 2008**, Houston, TX. www.apollocon.org

Jul. 25-27: **Conestoga 12**, Tulsa, OK. GoH Diana Gabaldon; Artists GoH Stephen Hickman; Fan GoH Tim Miller. www.sftulsa.org

Aug. 6-10: **Denvention 3/WorldCon 66**, Denver, CO. GoH Lois McMaster Bujold; Artists Guest Rick Sternbach; Fan GoH Tom Whitmore; Toastmaster Wil McCarthy. denvention3.org

Aug. 15-17: **ArmadilloCon 30**, Austin, TX: GoH John Scalzi; Artist GoH Dean Morrissey; Fan GoH Kelly Persons; Toastmaster Bill Crider. www.armadillocon.org

READING GROUP REPORT

UPCOMING BOOKS

- September 3: *The Solaris Book of New Science Fiction* edited by George Mann
- September 18: *In the Company of Ogres* by A. Lee Martinez
- October 1: *The Left Hand of Darkness* by Ursula K. Le Guin
- October 16: *Seeker* by Jack McDevitt

- November 5: *I Am Legend* by Richard Matheson
- November 20: *Keeping It Real* by Justina Robson
- December 3: *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan

JUNE 4: THE LAST MIMZY BY HENRY KUTTNER

Eight of us gathered at the North Village library for this meeting, and another submitted comments by email. Our topic was *The Last Mimzy*, a collection of classic short science fiction and fantasy by Henry Kuttner. This is a reissue of the earlier book *The Best of Henry Kuttner*, retitled to tie in with the recent film *The Last Mimzy*, which was adapted from one of its stories. About half of us had read Kuttner previously. Everyone started the book, and four finished.

The book starts with "Mimsy Were the Borogoves," the basis for the recent film. It involves bright children finding toys from the future. The Lewis Carroll thread that imparts the title to the story is well-done. One person was impressed that such a good story could be inspired by a few silly sentences from Jabberwocky. Those of us who saw the movie were pleased by how well the basic concept of the story is maintained, yet the movie is clearly updated to the present. A few people complained about the poor characterization of children of the story. They felt that Kuttner did not understand children at all, and were not surprised to learn that he was not a parent.

This book is full of strong stories. We all liked "The Twonky," a story about a home-entertainment device from the future that does a lot more than its owners expect. "The Voice of the Lobster," about a conman on a spaceship, was fun both for the plot and the third wall-breaking writing style. "Two-Handed Engine," a paranoid horror story, reminded some of us of Philip K. Dick. The only true fantasy in the book is "Gnome There Was," a humorous examination of labor relations among fantastic creatures. We were delighted with "Nothing But Gingerbread Left," a WWII-era story that proposed a musical solution to defeating the Nazis. "Or Else" is a wonderful and low-key first contact story. The book concludes with "Absalom," a tale of a parent and a brilliant child that suitably bookends "Mimsy."

A few people commented that some of these stories seemed like episodes of *The Twilight Zone*. It turned out that the story "What You Need" had been adapted for this classic show in 1959.

We liked Kuttner's writing style a great deal. His clean prose and efficient storytelling made the stories easy to read. We felt he had great respect for the reader. We appreciate the variety of topics he explored, and the care his editor took in choosing stories for this collection.

Surprisingly, for SF written 50 years ago, the technology in these stories does not seem dated. Kuttner does not go into much technical detail, but just describes objects as they are used. All the devices either exist now or are plausible.

What does date the stories is that many of them rely on the protagonists getting drunk. "The Proud Robot" and other stories of Gallagher, a recurring Kuttner character, involve a guy constructing a sophisticated robot, getting stinking drunk, and forgetting the robot's purpose. Drunkenness is a device use solely for humor. As society's attitude toward drinking has evolved, this storytelling device is now rarely used.

One person who originally read these stories in the Sixties commented that they were written at a time when no SF novels were being published. He also noted that several New Age writers were influenced by Kuttner.

Overall we enjoyed this book, and everyone was glad we picked it. A latecomer arrived just as we were finishing the discussion, to join us for dinner. We had a nice meal at Conan's.

--A. T. Campbell, III

JUNE 19: RAINBOW'S END BY VERNOR VINGE

Eleven members attended the discussion of Vernor Vinge's *Rainbows End*. One reader emailed a set of comments. All but one member had read Vernor Vinge before. Everybody started the book. All but two people finished it, and the rest were planning to finish.

Overall people thought it was a multi-layered book, even though (to quote one reader) when you read *Rainbows End*, it does not feel like a book with layers. The majority of the group felt the story was entertaining. However, everyone seems to have taken something different away from it.

Some people did not think that the technology portrayed in the book brought up any unique concepts, but others were impressed how convincingly Vernor Vinge extrapolated from existing technological trends. One reader said he had just read in the news that Google and Linden Labs are collaborating on "something like that" (he didn't clarify). Several readers noted that the technologies Vinge describes seemed familiar to them from Vinge's earlier novel *Deepness in the Sky*. The ubiquitous nodes that store information about the physical world around them, are a milder version of localizer dust; the You-Gotta-Believe-Me technology is a milder version of Focus.

A fun read or food for thought?

Some people thought *Rainbows End* was mostly a spy / mystery thriller, a fun read without a significant science-fictional aspect; on the contrary,

a minority said it was an intellectually worthwhile book to read, but the story did not "pull them along." Of those who were hooked by the story, several complained that the plot hit a major snag at the library battle scene. The battle, which draws out over a hundred pages or more, snarls the flow of the story, more so because the particulars of it aren't really important to the plot. (To be fair, one reader loved the library battle scene. He felt as if watching a group of inhabitants of the World Of Warcraft universe battle the inhabitants of the Discworld universe for supremacy of their environment.)

Yet other group members said the book was both a pleasure to read and provided food for thought. They noted that the book attempts to describe what it's like to be in the bend of the technological progress curve going off into the Singularity, and debated whether Vernor Vinge was more successful at it than Charles Stross in *Accelerando*. Regardless, a few readers acknowledged that the author did an impressive job of showing the coming of the Singularity from the inside, so transparently you don't even understand how it happens. He showed it from several perspectives. There were kids in the book who have really mastered the "wearing" (a catch-all term for using the augmented reality technologies via devices built into the clothing and contact lenses); there were kids who were struggling with it; and then there were the "retreads" -- people who grew up in the pre-wearing era, and who needed to be taught this from scratch; there were even people who rebelled against the augmented reality, like the guy who, instead of wearing his computers, carried a laptop.

An *Alice in Wonderland*-like tour of the future

To make the "brave new world" comprehensible to us, the author had to show it through the eyes of one of our contemporaries, which explains the choice of the viewpoint character as Robert Gu, a retread. The readers observed that if Vinge chose a point of view character who was "native" to the new technologies, we wouldn't understand at all what was happening in the story. To quote a reader, Robert Gu was an equivalent of a shipwrecked English sailor in the medieval Japan.

This leads us to the question of what the Rabbit was. Even though it's not clear from the book (beyond some educated guesses), what kind of entity the Rabbit is, a reader observed that Rabbit's role is essentially that of the White Rabbit from *Alice in Wonderland*. He further said *Rainbows End* is essentially an *Alice in Wonderland* kind of story, the Wonderland in this case being the high-tech future Robert Gu is touring. Hence Gu is kind of an Alice. (Not to be confused with a "Rainbows End" character named Alice. One of the more mysterious characters in the novel, she left some readers

wanting more. They thought that for the importance of the role she played, the author should have told us more about her.)

Speaking of characterization, though this group considers it be one of Vernor Vinge's lesser strengths, most people thought that Vinge did a good job with Robert Gu. (Personally I wasn't impressed with Robert Gu's transformation from a world class jerk to a caring person, since it seemed externally, not internally motivated. His Alzheimer's treatment gave him a whole new personality, taking away his ability to see deeply into people and push their buttons, so he wasn't able to hurt people as well as he used to.) But most people in the group found Gu's character growth convincing.

Political aspects of the book

One reader said all these things discussed so far were irrelevant to what Vinge wanted to do. The reader thought *Rainbows End* was one of the best political novels written of late, relevant to our current time, when the country's administration doesn't live in reality-based world. He liked that Vinge did not take a stance on whether the high-tech world he described was utopia or dystopia. It can be either, since the ubiquitous computing devices that enrich one's perception of reality can also be used for surveillance of the wearers.

But the author did not push one view or the other; instead he showed good and bad implications of the whole series of things that are going on now, such as department of homeland security, or interesting unintended consequences of Alzheimer's treatment.

Another reader was intrigued with the political aspect of the book that was left hidden behind the scenes. There are hints in the book that the near future world is going to be far more dangerous and violent than what we have experienced so far. Vinge offhandedly mentions that Alice's family was from Chicago and "none of them survived." Or that the counter-terrorist measures were mostly working, because "they haven't lost a major city in almost five years." Apparently, minor cities were lost more often than that.

Several prominent science fiction writers had written novels that were their response to 9/11, and it may be fair to say that *Rainbows End* is Vernor Vinge's reaction to that event (somewhat belated, but not if you keep in mind that this writer produces one to two novels a decade). To quote one reader, "He's been writing as fast as he could."

--Elze Hamilton

JULY 2: 1632 BY ERIC FLINT

We discussed *1632* at the North Village Library, where we had nine participants, including three first-time attendees. One member had been

lobbying for us to discuss this book for at least three years. Four of us had read Flint previously. Eight of us had started *1632*, and all eight finished. One additional member submitted comments by email.

In this book, the small mining town of Grantville, West Virginia is whisked from the year 2000 to Germany in the middle of the Hundred Years' War. The townspeople immediately must defend themselves and figure out how to get food, energy, and other necessities of life. Along the way they make powerful allies and enemies, and they have to fight many battles.

We liked a lot about this book. It fits well into the "go back in time and reinvent technology" tradition of *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*, *Lest Darkness Fall*, and many others. The historical look at science and industry was fun. The characters of the townspeople and the locals they encounter are well-developed, and we especially liked the strong women. One of our favorite characters was Jeff, the motorcycle-riding nerd hero. We enjoyed the appearance of historical figures like Gustavus Adolphus and Cardinal Richelieu. Several people commented that the fast-moving action and soap opera relationships made the book "popcorn" or "beach reading," but that can be a good thing.

There were issues. One person wished the story had more science fictional elements beyond the time travel sequence at the start of the book. Another simply was not interested in reading detailed description of military battles. Two people mentioned being disturbed by a teenage girl being turned into a "sharpshooting killing machine."

This led to a discussion of the political issues explored in the book. We liked its examination of church vs. state politics. One person suggested this town represented the Jeffersonian ideal of small town democracy. We had split opinions of the book's message of "democracy is great no matter where or when." When we tried to figure out the author's own political leanings, one person suggested "Trotskyist."

A couple of people in the group were big fans of the *1632* world. They spoke enthusiastically about this book's sequels, the published fan fiction, and the unpublished fan fiction available online. They told us about the phenomenal fan community and the cons-within-cons held to celebrate *1632*.

Overall this was a good book, and many of us who were initially dubious about it (myself included), bought the sequel, *1633*. After the meeting, we had a nice dinner at Waterloo Ice House.

--A. T. Campbell, III

JULY 17: *WHEN GRAVITY FAILS* BY GEORGE ALEC EFFINGER

We have been reading classic works in the group a bit more lately. We realized that we had never read anything by George Alec Effinger, a onetime ArmadilloCon regular and former Guest of Honor. Since several of his books came back into print recently, we decided to read his Hugo-nominated *When Gravity Fails*. Eleven people gathered for this discussion at A.T.'s house, and two more submitted comments by email. Nine of us had read Effinger before. Ten people at the meeting started the book, and all ten finished. Both the email participants had finished the book.

This book is a cyberpunk detective novel set in the Middle East. Private detective Marid Audran is forced into an uneasy alliance with a police officer to work on a case for Friedlander Bey, a local crime lord. The book is set a couple of hundred years in the future, where people can have modifications to improve their brain power and memory, give them new personalities, and provide specific knowledge like foreign languages.

We found it easy to get involved with Marid and his world. We felt that the story and technology hold up well, which is rare for a 20-year-old cyberpunk book. Several of us appreciated Marid's personal struggle about getting brain modifications for himself. One person's comment about the Middle East setting was "Effinger wrote about Arabs before they were cool." The prose style is seamless and effortless to read. Marid is a sympathetic character, and his narration style reminded some of us of the work of Raymond Chandler. We thought the blend of mystery and SF worked well.

Those of us who knew the author felt that the atmosphere in the book derived as much from the author's experiences in the New Orleans French Quarter as from his research about the Middle East. We appreciated his sympathetic treatment of the troubled people and social misfits who populate the strip clubs and bars where most of the action takes place. One person summed it up as "freaks are people too."

Our disappointments in the book were minor. One person felt that plot was not as well-developed and memorable as the characters and setting. Another was disappointed that the book was not the hard SF novel she expected from the book's title. It turns out that the title was a quote from a Bob Dylan song.

It was interesting to see how some of this book's futuristic speculations held up. The ubiquitous use of cellular phones, which were rare or nonexistent at the time of the book's writing, was spot-on. Some people felt that recent political developments in the

Middle East make it clear that the world of this book can no longer exist in our future.

Overall, we had a good time reading and discussing this book. Most of those new to Effinger plan to read more of his work. Afterward, we had a nice dinner at Mongolian Grille.

-- A. T. Campbell, III

FACT BOARD MINUTES

Submitted by Elizabeth Burton

JUNE 2007

The monthly meeting of the board of directors for the Fandom Association of Central Texas was called to order by Board Chair Brian Price at the Carver Branch of the Austin Public Library, 1161 Angelina St., Austin, Texas, at 2:09 p.m. Present in addition to Mr. Price were Directors Aaron Allston, Elizabeth Burton, Jennifer Juday, Charles Siros, JP Sugarbroad and C. Dan Tolliver and ArmadilloCon 29 Chair Renee Babcock.

The secretary presented the minutes of the May meeting, and a number of errors were noted. There being no further additions, clarifications or corrections, it was moved by Mr. Siros and seconded by Mr. Allston the minutes stand as approved subsequent to correction. Ayes: 6; Nays: 0; Abstain: 1.

OFFICER REPORTS

CHAIR

Mr. Price advised he has been extremely busy at work and was ill so was unable to attend to any FACT-related activities. He noted that FACT member Angela Price has been working on the Stepp donation lots.

PRESIDENT

The president being absent, there was no report.

TREASURER

- As of May 31, 2007, the net assets were: FACT, \$2,441.91; ArmadilloCon, \$3787.77; World Fantasy, \$25,565.01.
- Revenues received: FACT, \$21.00; ArmadilloCon, \$625.00; World Fantasy, none.
- Expenditures: FACT, \$157.46; ArmadilloCon, \$707.79; World Fantasy, \$5.00.

SECRETARY

Ms. Burton reported she had contacted the Carver Library and reserved the current meeting room through December 2007.

SOCIAL DIRECTOR

Ms. Burton advised she would contact Lynn Ward about listing San Antonio events on the calendar. The annual boat trip is this coming Saturday, which Mr. Siros posted to the FACT List. Mr. Tolliver moved and Mr. Sugarbroad seconded that a sum of \$150 be approved for food on behalf of FACT. All were in favor. The board noted that there is an apparent vacancy for this position, as one of those original people suggested for it wasn't interested and the other was inactive. It was determined a new nominee needs to be found.

REGISTRAR

Ms. Cooper did not provide a report, and has notified the secretary she has not yet received the database. She was advised it was available in the Media Max storage account and the log-in information provided. Ms. Juday advised she had created a second Media Max account for registration information. After discussion, Mr. Price agreed to contact Ms. Cooper to determine where the problem lies. Ms. Babcock asked if Paypal ArmadilloCon registrations are being forwarded to the appropriate places and being logged in, and was advised they were. Mr. Siros noted that what matters is that there exists an accurate membership database, which he was assured is the case.

HISTORIAN

Mr. Tolliver reported he has located a quantity of photos for Lisa Greene's memorial that are currently with Karen Meschke. He also noted that the Ursa Major parties listed on the events calendar should be amended to include the information those wishing to attend need to be accompanied by an Ursa Major member.

INIS

- Kimm Carrillo reported via email that the Google events calendar is now embedded in the website and that she has completed some general updates. She stated that now that she has the current membership database, she can work on building a portal for members that is password-protected. The ArmadilloCon website, she noted, continues to be updated as well. Mr. C. Siros has posted the dealers room info, and she will be working on programming during the next month.
- Mr. Allston suggested adding the new board address to the website, generating a discussion regarding means of protecting the new address from the accumulation of spam that affected the original one. The board consensus was that if current security measures are not sufficient, alternatives will be considered.

PUBLICATIONS

Ms. Juday reported that the FACT Sheet has been distributed. Ms. Burton advised she has yet to receive the notification and requested Ms. Juday check to be sure is going to her Gmail account. Ms. Juday advised the announcement goes to the FACT mailing list, and Ms. Burton advised receipt of list mail has been spotty from the beginning, which was why she requested her address be changed on all lists. Ms. Juday noted only about 20 printed copies are now being sent, and that she hasn't notified all those groups currently sending us copies of their newsletters of our address change yet.

PUBLIC RELATIONS LIAISON

No report. Ms. Burton agreed to take on the task of outlining a job description and contact Ms. Chevalier. It was noted Kimm Carrillo had drawn up a list, and Ms. Burton was advised to see if she still a copy. Ms. Babcock advised she didn't feel any additional promotional effort was need for ArmadilloCon 29. She also noted that ApolloCon is impending and asked if FACT will have room party as usual. She was referred to the event coordinator's report.

CONVENTION EVENT COORDINATOR

Ms. Martinez filed an email report advising she was unable to attend the meeting because of illness. She advised she would be attending ApolloCon and hosting a room party for ArmadilloCon.

QUARTERMASTER

Mr. Sugarbroad requested clarification of why we are keeping two units through August. Mr. Siros explained it's necessary because there is not sufficient room in one, as we still need to distribute a large quantity of books. It was requested that Mr. William Siros provide the library list he stated he was compiling by June 15. Ms. Babcock asked if there were any remaining World Fantasy program books available there, as she needs some as soon as they can be obtained. Mr. Siros advised he will check.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ARMADILLOCON 28

Ms. Babcock requested information on an outstanding payable. Mr. Sugarbroad advised there were two—one is an ad, but he was unsure what the other is. He advised would email the information to her Monday.

ARMADILLOCON 29

- Ms. Babcock reported that the mass mailing went very quickly, and that to date there have only been a modest number of returns. Mr. Sugarbroad reported 6 memberships

have been received as a result of the mailing. Ms. Babcock noted Kimm Carrillo has received an email from someone willing to volunteer to handle gaming. She said she has set up a LiveJournal community for the convention and had five people join almost immediately. The next meeting is tentatively set for the third Wednesday in June, but she may push it back a week because that is the day after the reading group meeting. She advised an anime group in Houston wants to do an ad trade; Mr. Siros noted the prices are the same for ads and agreed it was a good idea, as the group gets 3,000 attendees at its convention.

- Mr. Sugarbroad questioned use of first-class rather than bulk rate for the mass mailing, and the reasons for this decision were explained.

ARMADILLOCON 30

Mr. Siros reported they have all the contact information needed but that he needs to confer with Kurt Baty to determine if those contacts have been made.

WORLD FANTASY CONVENTION

- Ms. Babcock reported \$3,000 and case of books to was donated to the Robert E. Howard organization Project Pride the previous weekend; Kimm Carrillo made the official presentation on Friday. Ms. Juday requested a report for the FACT Sheet.
- Ms. Babcock advised she is still trying to get the books closed, but that progress is slow and frustrating. Mrs. Carrillo, WFC treasurer, reported she is waiting for Sara Felix to give her a PDF of the program book so she can determine what ads are in it for cross reference with invoices. She stated she has also failed to receive any bank statements for the past three months and has asked Mr. Sugarbroad to scan and send them to her. Once she has those items, she advised, she can complete the financials for the convention.

READING GROUP

The group has met twice and will be voting on new books at the next meeting. Those wishing to have input should contact A.T. Campbell III with suggestions or preferences. Ms. Babcock requested something should be included in the next newsletter regarding the schedule change of the meeting held at the library from Tuesday to Monday that would highlight it, to ensure people are aware of it.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Pat Virzi:** Ms. Juday advised she had presented Ms. Virzi with a \$50 B&N Certificate.
2. **Stepp Donation:** Mr. Price reported progress is being made in setting up the items into lots.
3. **Utility Cart:** Mr. Siros reported he and Mr. Baty haven't been able to find a fabricator to do the machining necessary for the conversion. He agreed to the request of Mr. Price that he find one by 25 June, as the conversion needs to be completed prior to ArmadilloCon.
4. **Board Retreat:** Mr. Siros agreed he will set it up for the new date Monday and will email Mr. Price with the information.
5. **Hotel Committee:** Mr. Siros stated the committee hasn't met since the last board meeting. However, he said he has talked with Fred Duarte, who will make a counteroffer to offset the impact of the additional fees the hotel is requesting. If nothing comes of that, they will establish a canvassing committee to seek a new location.
6. **ArmadilloCon Book Project:** Mr. Allston moved, seconded by Ms. Juday, that this item be tabled and removed from the agenda pending a full report from Mr. Siros.
7. **Friends of Fandom:** It being decided by the board that a donation to this organization is a matter for the World Fantasy committee, it was agreed it should be removed from the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Additions to Agenda:** Mr. Allston requested that approval of the minutes be added to agenda template. Ms. Burton noted it should also include a listing for correspondence. Mr. Allston also noted that Kimm Carrillo's name is misspelled in one item.
2. **FACT Merchant Account:** Mr. Sugarbroad advised he has been looking into getting our own merchant account. The best option he's seen to date has a fee of \$150-200/year and carries a two-year commitment. Mr. Price asked if he had checked with Sam's Club and Costco, both of which offer special rates on merchant accounts for business members. Mr. Sugarbroad noted that one important issue is whether we have sufficient transactions for such an account to be cost-effective, as the only time it would be used to any significant extent is at ArmadilloCon. He wondered how much credit card business was actually transacted there. Ms. Babcock recommended

he contact Scott Zrubek for art show records, as that's the major portion. Mr. Sugarbroad also requested input on the advantages of having our own account, to which Ms. Babcock responded we would get the receipts, a matter that has been problematic. With such an account we could avoid using Paypal, which would save on fees. Mr. Price suggested forming a committee to explore the matter, and Mr. Allston recommended more research be done for next meeting, at which time the board can decide if a committee is warranted.

3. **Registrar Position:** Citing the problems that are recurring, Mr. Sugarbroad advised that as an interim measure he would agree to act as registrar until the situation is resolved. It was moved by Mr. Tolliver and seconded by Mr. Siros that his suggestion be accepted. Mr. Allston suggested it would be diplomatic to contact Ms. Cooper first to determine if she can assume the responsibility. Mr. Tolliver then amended his motion, in that Mr. Sugarbroad should first contact Ms. Cooper to discuss the issue and offer to handle the matter in the interim, which was seconded by Mr. Allston. Ayes: 5, Nays:0, Abstain:2.

4. **Social Director:** There being no one present wishing to assume the position, it was recommended a help wanted ad be placed in the *FACT Sheet* seeking a volunteer. Mr. Allston will draft the text.

There being no other business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

THE FANDOM ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL TEXAS, INC.

The Fandom Association of Central Texas, Inc. (F.A.C.T.) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit literary/educational corporation. To contact the board and officers as a group, send an e-mail message to board2007@fact.org.

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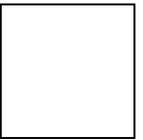
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The F.A.C.T. Sheet
The Fandom Association of Central Texas, Inc.
PO Box 26442
Austin, TX 78755



First Class Mail

JOIN US!

ALL FACT MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO ALL OF THESE EVENTS!

- Sept. 4 (Tuesday), 7 PM: **FACT Reading Group**, *The Solaris Book of New Science Fiction* edited by George Mann
- Sept. 8 (Saturday), 6-11:30 PM: **Adult Gaming**. 802 Chiselpoint Cove, Round Rock, 78681
- Sept. 9 (Sunday), 2-4 PM: **FACT Board Meeting**, Austin Public Library, Carver Branch, 1161 Angelina. If you have never been to a Board Meeting, please consider this one. Everyone is invited.
- Sept. 15 (Saturday afternoon): **ArmadilloCon Wrap-Up Party**, exact time, location & other details TBD
- Sept. 17 (Monday), 7 PM: **FACT Reading Group**, Austin Public Library, North Village Branch, 2139 W. Anderson Lane, *In the Company of Ogres* by A. Lee Martinez
- Sept. 28 (Friday), 7-10:30 PM: **Ursa Major Social Meeting/Party**, Lynn Ward's apartment, 3711 Medical Dr. #1614, San Antonio. Call Lynn for directions and to confirm location 210-218-2800.

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