

# Fan Activity

News of Fen of Interest to All Fen



# Gazette

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Contributions  
welcome.

## From the Editor:

Someone pointed out that we were already at Thanksgiving even though November just started yesterday. Ain't that true? Where does time go?

So, for starters, what am I thankful for this year? Well, there's family, friends, Office Dog and Jr Office Dog. Oh, my husband, I guess he can get a special mention 😊.

Passing by Thanksgiving means one thing, aside from the million pounds gained from the cooking that happens: the official start of the holiday season. Grab your tennis shoes and Tylenol.

I enjoy the fun of finding odd things for gifts. Our first year as a couple, I got Jason a coffee mug with two thumbs pointing at the drinker that says "This guy likes pineapple". Between his laughing and the teen's laughing, I think I knocked that out of the park. Our first year of marriage, I got him the 2-book collection of Ralph McQuarrie's concept art for *Star Wars*.



I think the topper was our second year of marriage though. Have I ever mentioned how much of a Trekkie Jason is? I mean, the Christmas tree can go warp 9 with the number of starships on it. I took it to the next level. I got him the *Enterprise* tree topper from Hallmark with Kirk, Sulu, and Uhura from the "Mirror Mirror" episode. Then got him the tricorder, communicator, and phaser ornaments.

So, I ask you this, Gazetters: first what are you thankful for this year? Second, how do you share your enthusiasm for your fandoms during the holiday? Do you have a sandworm pulling a Santa sled in your front yard? Do you have a T.W.K.E. 4 passing out eggnog to Grandma? Or are you serving fish fingers and custard as an appetizer?

Let me know, give other readers some brilliant ideas, oh, and bonus points for pictures! season hits.

~ Mindy

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## LETTERS

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**Jana Leigh Welch writes:**

Why I love *Supernatural*

"Carry on my wayward son. They'll be peace when you are done" \*Swoon\*

Saving people, hunting things, The family business. I love *Supernatural*. It brings me joy, feels, and laughter. Sam and Dean are hilarious. I find myself laughing out loud watching almost every episode. The love between the brothers is so incredibly powerful. The emotions are so strong even though it is pretend on a television screen. I really like Greek mythology - there are episodes that incorporate this - not to mention Egyptian gods, Norse gods, and so much lore from other sources. Some of the fun is when the story is based on actual urban legends. The wit of actors such as Mark Shepard, portraying Crowley, is stellar and perfectly cast. The first five seasons (Kripke era) are the best. I like "monster of the week" storylines in shows. After season five they move away from that format. But most of all - Jensen Ackles is the hottest man alive.

**In response to the *Letter From the Editor* in the October ish:**

Dear Mindy,

Actually, Mindy, I generally feel as if somebody switched out an alien planet for Terra right under my bed, while I was sleeping, and I go around seeing things almost, but not quite entirely, unlike the world I lived in yesterday. I feel this way not just this year, but ever since 1989 or so. I think that's when obviously unqualified presidents started being elected, obviously fraudulent economics became fashionable, music and film and television turned to crap, and fandom stopped being fannish. Onward.

So that's what the novel *City of Endless Night* is about. Sobering, isn't it, when speculation comes close to prophecy. Onward.

So the *FanActivity Gazette* is also running White Dwarf's new-book-release lists? Indeed do many things come to pass.

Yours, Garth (editor of *The Obdurate Eye*)

**[Yes, sir. We get those lists every couple of months, and we know that's just that one list. There are plenty of other great titles that come out every month. Hard to keep track of it all.]**

Dear Mindy:

I have Vol. 3, No. 5, the October *FanActivity Gazette*, and I'm certain the November issue will be out shortly. But for once, I have fewer than ten fanzines in the hopper to respond to, so here goes.

The season certainly change quickly here. We went from temperatures in the 70s (Fahrenheit) to the 30s and 40s, like someone reached over the turned the thermostat WAY down low. We had to get the heavier coats and sweaters out really quickly. Series I read until the end? The Harry Potter, Hitchhiker, Ringworld and Rama series, I remember so well, but I never could get through the entire Discworld and Dune series. Great writing, but interest in them did wane after a while. I am patiently waiting for Philip Pullman to finally release the third book in his Dust Trilogy, so he can finally complete the saga of Lyra Belacqua and an alternate Oxford.

My letter... Still going on *Amazing*. The hiatus on submissions is done, and they are slowly coming in. The big strike in Hollywood is done!, and that's good for everyone, especially those in the industry in Hollywood North, namely Toronto and Vancouver. We did get to Astronomicon 14 in Rochester in late October, but didn't have time for costuming, having been slotted in to run the registration table. No matter, we had a good time, and got reconnected with many friends,

The convention list...as I write, we should have been getting ready for the Wizard School and Yule Ball, but organizer Steve Buckley was unable to negotiate a final contract with the Holiday Inn in Burlington, Ontario, and the event was cancelled. I hope he can do it next year, but I remember how much the tickets were the first time he ran the event about four years ago, and I can imagine only the very well-off could possibly afford the tickets for this year, and for next year? I doubt it will happen again.

It is time to go, I have a Zoom session to go to about next year's NASFiC in Buffalo, and we are on the hunt for information for the NASFiC and World Fantasy Convention, also in 2024, and also in the Buffalo area, in Niagara Falls, New York. I will try to relay information on both these events.

Yours, Lloyd Penney



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Got something to share with us? Send an e-mail to [mindyhunt@scifi4me.com](mailto:mindyhunt@scifi4me.com)

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## Report on TusCon 50

### Mike McLain

TusCon 50 was held the weekend of 10-12 November 2023 at the Wyndham Viscount Suites Tucson East in Tucson, AZ. This was the first SF convention that my wife, Carolyn, and I had ever attended, so we weren't exactly sure what we were getting ourselves into. We didn't need to worry. TusCon focuses on the written word and artwork for the most part, although there was a bit of cosplay here and there), and is proudly known as "The Best Little Sci-Fi, Fantasy & Horror Convention in Arizona." And for good reason. Attendance is generally between 300-500, the guest list is fantastic, and the three day event had, by my count, 68 panels and events, not including ongoing things like the ConSuite and guest autograph opportunities. The special guests included:

Author Guest of Honor David Brin. David is the author of the Uplift Saga, *The Postman*, *Earth*, and many others, including the Hugo and Nebula award winner *Startide Rising*.

Artist Guest of Honor Chaz Kemp. Chaz is a Bram Stoker award finalist specializing in SteamPunk, CyberPunk, and Fantasy. His watercolor works portray a wide selection of culturally diverse characters.

Science Guest of Honor Geoff Notkin. Geoff is the Emmy award winning producer and host of three seasons of the Science Channel series *Meteorite Men*, as well as the educational series *STEM Journals* for Cox Media.

Special Media Guest Robert Kurtzman. Robert is an artist and special effects creator whose work can be seen in an insane number of movies and television programs, including *Dances with Wolves*, *From Dusk Till Dawn*, *Nightmare on Elm Street 5*, and on and on.

Toastmaster Eric Schumacher. Eric is an award-winning actor, multimedia producer, and director. He portrayed Wyatt Earp in Fox TV's *Legends and Lies*, and Doc Holliday in director Alex Cox's documentary film *Tombstone Rashomon*.

In addition to the special guests, there were some 60 other guests participating in various events and panels. Since listing all the panels is a bit much, here are the panels Carolyn and I participated in:

The Expanding Definition of Fantasy

"Monsters" as Heroes

Art: The Process of Composition

It's BAAACK – OSIRIS Rex Asteroid Sample Return Mission

Researching Your Writing

Rhoynish Turtle Conservation Society Presents – This is the Golden Age of *Star Trek*

Keeping It Real: How to Make Fantasy Worlds Feel Realistic

An Hour with David Brin

Rhoynish Turtle Conservation Society Presents – The Works and Worlds of Neil Gaiman

H.G. Wells – "The Crystal Egg"

Human Augmentation, AI, and the Fermi Paradox

The Business of Getting Published – From Query Letter to Contract

Why do the Soft Sciences Never Advance in Science Fiction?

Formatting for Kindle Direct Publishing

Giving Good Fan Service

Why Are *Star Wars* Fans So Toxic and What Can We Do?

As you can see, there was plenty to keep any fan busy and happy. Everyone was very friendly and welcoming, and it was a treat to have the chance to talk to all of the guests and fans. We're already looking forward to coming back next year to TusCon 51.



## You'd Better Watch Out...

**Bob Jennings**

SANTA CLAUS, one of the most enduring fantasy figures of all time makes his traditional appearance on December 24th every year. To quote directly from his Wikipedia entry:



*Santa Claus, also known as Father Christmas, Saint Nicholas, Saint Nick, Kris Kringle, or simply Santa, is a legendary character originating in Western Christian culture, who is said to bring children gifts during the late evening and overnight hours on Christmas Eve of toys and candy or coal or nothing, depending on whether they are “naughty of nice”. He supposedly accomplishes this with the aid of Christmas elves, who make the toys in his workshop, often said to be at the North Pole, and flying reindeer who pull his sleigh through the air. The modern character of Santa is based on folklore traditions surrounding Saint Nicholas, the English figure of Father Christmas and the Dutch figure of Sinterklass.*

*Santa is generally depicted as a portly, jolly, white-bearded man, often with spectacle, wearing a red coat with white fur collar and cuffs, white-fur-cuffed red trousers, red hat with white fur, and black leather belt and boots, carrying a bag full of gifts for children. He is commonly portrayed as laughing in a way that sounds like “ho ho ho”. This image became popular in the United States and Canada in the 19th century due to the significant influence of the 1823 poem “A Visit From St. Nicholas”. Caricaturist and political cartoonist Thomas Nast also played a role in the creation of Santa's image. This image has been maintained and reinforced through song, radio, television, children's books, family Christmas traditions, films, and advertising.*

So powerful is this image of holiday good will and gift giving to children that it has been adopted into other cultures that have no long-standing Christian traditions to support it, including Japan and Korea, where it is seen as an opportunity to have a family holiday and give sweets and gifts to children.

In addition to the zillions of stories about him that have appeared in prose, verse, visual and audio media of all kinds, the character has been the subject of serious scientific studies including weighty examinations of the potential psychological effects Santa Claus can have on young children happily accepting everything they hear about him as factual.

Despite being relentlessly commercialized, the traditional image of Santa retains his appeal, easily overcoming critics, cynics, disbelievers, and would-be distracters. Grumps and Scrooges are no match for the venerable legend who embodies the very spirit of good will and happiness.

Santa Claus has been an icon of western civilization for centuries, but it is also clear that the need for a holiday of thanksgiving and gift giving in the midst of winter, a holiday positioned at or just after the Winter Solstice, is a long-standing tradition in most human cultures. The worst of winter might be still ahead, but the sun is returning and we, our families, our friends, and our neighbors will manage to survive. And Santa Claus is just the latest incarnation of this universal spirit of hope and thanksgiving.

*Bob Jennings has been involved in fandom since the late 1950s, and is one of the original founding members of comics fandom, founding the SFPA and publishing hundreds of fanzines. From 1979 to 2000, Bob ran a science fiction/comics/game store, which is now all mail order.*

*He's currently at work to develop a device that will zap robo-callers and internet spammers.*



## New Movies in December

**12/1**

*Godzilla Minus One*  
*The Shift*  
*Teddy's Christmas*

**12/3**

*How the Grinch Stole Christmas* (limited)

**12/4**

*It Came From Dimension X*

**12/8**

*Poor Things*  
*The Boy and the Heron*  
*Lord of Misrule*

**12/8 cont**

*Concrete Utopia*  
*Raging Grace*  
*The Windigo*

**12/9**

*Dreams of Darkness*

**12/15**

*Wonka*  
*Rebel Moon Pt One: A Child of Fire*

**12/22**

*Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom*  
*Migration*

## Pubnites and Other Events

Lloyd Penney

### THIRD MONDAY

Nov 20, 2023

The Red Cardinal Tavern, 555 Burnhamthorpe Rd., Unit 102, in Etobicoke.

It is at the north-west corner of Burnhamthorpe and The West Mall, right beside the Tim Horton's. There's plenty of parking out back, free after 5pm, and you can drive in to the parking from either street, although the Burnhamthorpe entrance is easier. If you are taking transit, you can take the 50 Burnhamthorpe bus from Islington station and get off at The West Mall, or the 112B or 112C West Mall bus from Kipling station and get off on the north side of Burnhamthorpe.

Start time is 6:30 and we have the back table area 4, 5 & 6.

### TORONTO PAGAN PUB MOOT

Third Monday of each month

Madison Avenue Pub, 14 Madison Ave in the Spadina & Bloor St west area.

There is parking behind the pub; it is accessed off Spadina on the east side just north of the Spadina Station. There is access to the pub by a walkway. For more info call Karen or Evan at 416-635-5981

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/TorontoPaganPubMoot>

### OTHER EVENTS

If you know of a fannish event, that is not a convention, please let us know so we can put it here. For example, a book launch, a celebration of some kind.

## Confronting Fear, not Fearlessness, is Part of the Hero's Journey

Janelle Waz

There's been a lot of talk about what makes a good hero, and one of the things I keep hearing about (especially for recent heroes) is that a hero needs to be fearless... and that rubs me the wrong way. When I look at a lot of the heroes that populate our culture, they do indeed have fears and their journey is overcoming those fears to do the right thing. In fact, I would go as far as to say that fearlessness is actually detrimental, a tragic flaw. So today, I'm going to wax on about the hero's journey, that it's not being fearless, but doing the right thing despite internal fears, that makes a hero... a hero.

### What Is Fear?

Let's talk about what fear is. Now, at the risk of being cliqued in these kinds of videos, let's look at a definition so we all know what we're talking about. Now, a quick Google search reveals that Fear as a noun is "an unpleasant emotion caused by the belief that someone or something is dangerous, likely to cause pain, or a threat"; as a verb, it's to "be afraid of (someone or something) as likely to be dangerous, painful, or threatening". And, while we're at it, Fearlessness is simply "lack of fear". Okay, those are some reasonable definitions to work with.

What I gather from these definitions is that fear (and I mean healthy fear, of course) is instinctual. It's meant to be there. It keeps us safe or at the very least take precaution against things that could otherwise kill us. We'll always have fears because they're naturally part of us: they're ingrained into our very being. If someone is truly fearless, lacking a certain respect for things that could very well kill them, let's be real: they won't have a very long lifespan. Because of that, I would argue that fearlessness is akin to arrogance or recklessness, traits that are typically viewed as tragic flaws.

Let's look at the character of Apollo Creed from the *Rocky* franchise, a character I would describe as fearless. I like Apollo. I like how he went from being Rocky's rival to his friend and trainer. Though I argue that Apollo's death in *Rocky IV* backed future stories into a corner, it does exhibit Apollo's fatal flaw: his tendency to vastly underestimate his opponent. The guy underestimated Rocky... TWICE. So, when Drago comes around in *Rocky IV*, Apollo challenges him to a match, and he doesn't have a fear for a guy that pretty obviously has been 'roided up. Heck, even from the start, Apollo's entrance proves he's not taking it seriously, putting on a full-blown music video complete with James Brown! Still, it was one hell of a show. But Apollo wasn't afraid of Drago, and he damn well should have been! And he ultimately pays the price, dying during the fight. It was his arrogance, his ignoring Rocky's warnings about Drago, his fearlessness, that led to his death.

### Golden Mean

*"Virtue is the golden mean between two vices, the one of excess and the other of deficiency." - Aristotle*

Now I want to talk about something called the Golden Mean, which is an idea in Greek Philosophy about avoiding the extremes: excess is bad, deficiency is bad, the middle - golden. Let's do like Aristotle and look at something like courage: taken to one extreme, to an excess, courage can be recklessness, foolhardy, and on the other extreme, a lack of courage is cowardice. The right amount of courage, though, is virtuous.

The point I'm trying to make is that when developing heroes in stories, the Golden Mean applies. Heroes shouldn't be fearless (or, at least if they are, it's a flaw that they need to overcome), but they also shouldn't be cowering in a corner. The hero has justifiable fears but saddles up anyway because it's the right thing to do or they need to accomplish something.

### Examples of Heroes Confronting Their Fear

Let me go back to *Rocky* for a moment because I was thinking of a scene between Rocky and his wife Adrian in *Rocky III*. The beautiful thing about their relationship is that Adrian looks out for Rocky and she's the one that keeps him grounded. In *Rocky III*, Rocky is training to fight Clubber Lang (who I still argue killed Mickey, but that's beside the

point), and Rocky's heart clearly isn't in the training since Mickey's death. Apollo, now his trainer, begins to lose faith in him, so Adrian confronts Rocky about what's bothering him and Rocky reveals something.

Rocky: I'm afraid. For the first time in my life, I'm afraid.

Adrian: I'm afraid too. There's nothing wrong with being afraid.

That's right: Rocky Balboa, one of the prime examples of masculinity in American pop culture, is afraid. He explains that before (ie: in the first movie), if he lost, he was the only one that suffered. But now, he's got a wife and a kid. He's got a nice house and a nice pile of cash. There are people depending on him, and he doesn't want to lose everything and let everyone down. He's afraid that, because Mickey selected his opponents after he became heavyweight champion, all the fights he fought since then were just set-ups, that he's not really the fighter or the man he thinks he is. Rocky Balboa is human! It's Adrian who reminds him that there's nothing wrong with being afraid, that anything he loses can be replaced... AND DON'T YOU DARE BRING UP *ROCKY V*... She grounds him in this scene, telling him that he's the one that has to confront his fears and guilt that he's carrying to fight Clubber or it'll bother him the rest of his life. She even says that even if he loses, he loses with no excuses or fear. And Rocky does overcome this: he fights Clubber, and he triumphs in the end in what is arguably the best *Rocky* sequel.

But enough about Rocky: let's head off into the Sci-fi realm. Luke Skywalker! The quintessential hero's journey! And, of course, I'm talking about his arc in the original trilogy because I'm not a fan of what they did with him in the sequel trilogy. But if you recall *The Empire Strikes Back*, Luke seeks out Yoda to train him as a Jedi, but Yoda is a tad resistant to the idea, even getting into a ghost argument with Ben! I swear, Yoda's pulling out all the stops, even going as far to say Luke's too old! Why don't say you won't train him because you don't like his haircut while you're at it! Yoda warns Luke about the commitment he's about to make and the chance of failure, but in for a credit, in for a... whatever the *Star Wars* equivalent of a pound is, Luke commits to training, saying he's not afraid, to which Yoda eerily responds, "You will be... YOU WILL BE." And you know what? Yoda was right. Luke isn't fearless and does indeed develop fears from this point on. The fear of confronting his own father. The fear of falling to the Dark Side. The fear of what he might become. It's those fears that he has to confront in order to defeat the Emperor, to restore the Jedi Order, to bring peace to the galaxy, even to save his own father. Did having those fears make Luke any less of a hero? Of course not! It makes him human and relatable! But it was facing his fears and staying on the Light Side even though he could die, that makes him a hero.

Heck, there are countless examples of the hero overcoming fears to do what is right. Adrian Monk overcomes his multitude of fears to solve crimes on *Monk*. Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz* embarks on a scary journey to get the Wicked Witch's shoes so she could return home. Heck, even Spongebob Squarepants got over his fear of going outside to save Sandy and Patrick from a Gorilla! EVEN SPONGEBOB HAS A HERO'S ARC!

### Conclusion

But all of this is to say that heroes should have fears: it's a part of human nature and makes them relatable. But it's not the absence of fear that makes a hero, but rather the struggle to overcome them to do what needs to be done. And I think this line from *The Princess Diaries* really captures this idea.

*"Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the judgment that something else is more important than fear."*

*Janelle Waz is a Trekkie, gamer, and Youtuber who is often fueled by copious amounts of tea. She publishes videos twice a week where she analyses Star Trek episodes, reviews video games (in particular the retro variety), and occasionally talks about how to brew the perfect cup of tea. You can find her on YouTube @JanelleWaz for some laughs, Trek, and games.*







## Science Fiction Pro and Fan Birthdays

*This list of fandom-related birthdays was first published by Bruce Pelz in the Fantasy Amateur Press Association. Andrew Porter published and updated the list for Science Fiction Chronicle. Updates are welcome!*

*Unless stated otherwise, all birthdays are in the 20th century.*

### December

Charles Finney, 12/1/05; Jerry Sohl, 12/2/13; Brian Lumley, 12/2/37; Doug Beason, Leigh Strother-Vein, 12/3/53; Tony Cvetko, 12/3/54; Ian Wallace, 12/4/12; Bill & Dick Glass, 12/4/45; Richard Lynch, 12/4/49; Walt Richmond, 12/5/22; Betsy Wollheim, Susan Palermo, 12/5/51; Susan Rothman, 12/5/54; William P. McGivern, 12/6/21; Ted Pauls, 12/6/42; Leigh Brackett, 12/7/15; Buzz Dixon, 12/7/53; Tom Galloway, 12/7/60.

John Morrissey, 12/8/30; Ann Morris, 12/8/49; Lise Eisenberg, 12/8/56; Steve Fahnestalk, 12/9/47; Curt Stubbs, 12/9/48; Nicki Lynch, 12/9/52; George McDonald, 12/10/1824. Fred Patten, 12/11/40; Ralph Roberts, 12/11/45; Ken Fletcher, 12/11/46; Rebecca Lyons, 12/11/53; Ken Ozanne, 12/12/41; Paul Novitski, 12/12/50; Timothy Lane, 12/12/51; Susan R. Higgins, 12/12/52; Joan Verba, 12/12/53; Toni Weisskopf, 12/12/65; Shirley Jackson, 12/14/16; J.G. Newkom, 12/14/35; John Baxter, 12/14/39; Edward Llewelyn, 12/15/17.

John Sladek, 12/15/37; John Guidry, 12/15/44; Harry Hopkins III, 12/15/55; Leslie Smith, 12/15/58; Arthur C. Clarke, 12/16/17; Philip K. Dick, 12/16/28; Norm Metcalf, 12/16/37; Steve Forty, 12/16/48; Alexander Bouchard, 12/16/56; Lex Nakashima, 12/16/60; Jack Chalker, 12/17/44; J.R. Madden, 12/17/50; Angela Kessler, 12/17/70; H.H. Munro, 12/18/1870; Alfred Bester, 12/18/13; Walter J. Daugherty, 12/18/16; Sterling Lanier, 12/18/27; David G. Hulan, 12/18/36; Fran Skene, 12/18/37; Michael Moorcock, 12/18/39; Stephen Spielberg, 12/18/47; Harry Warner, Jr., 12/19/22; Lee Pelton, 12/19/49; Tom Boardman, 12/20/30. James Sallis, 12/21/44; Lenny Bailes, 12/21/46; Mandy Slater, 12/21/63.

Norma Auer Adams, 12/22/39; Bea Barrio, 12/22/42; David H. Keller, 12/23/1880; Chuch Harris, 12/23/27; George Heap, 12/23/28; Fritz Leiber, 12/24/10; Dan Morgan, 12/24/25; Ray Beam, 12/24/32; Joseph T. Major, 12/24/54; Rod Serling, 12/25/24; Bill Fesselmeyer, 12/26/47; Ken Slater, 12/27/17; Perdita Boardman, 12/27/31; Fred Lerner, 12/27/45.

James E. LaBarre, 12/27/59; George Zebrowski, 12/28/45; Sheryl Birkhead, 12/28/46; Charles L. Harness, 12/29/15; Sam Long, 12/29/45; David L. Travis, 12/30/35; Avedon Carol, 12/30/51; Bob Shaw, 12/31/31.

*To update this list, please contact Heath Row via e-mail at [kalel@well.com](mailto:kalel@well.com) with the subject "Science Fiction Pro and Fan Birthdays" or something similar.*





**READ  
MORE  
'ZINES!**

Eldritch Science  
FanActivity Gazette  
Films Fantastic  
Ionisphere  
Mangaverse

N'APA  
The National Fantasy Fan  
N3F Review of Books  
Origin  
Tightbeam

National Fantasy Fan Federation - tnfff.org

## Hear No Evil, See No Evil

### N3F Tape and Video Bureaus Report

#### Heath Row

Did anyone listen to or watch the recommendations offered so far? If so, email Heath at [kalel@well.com](mailto:kalel@well.com) or message him on Facebook with your thoughts, comments, and other discussion—and we'll publish the best commentary in this bureaus report! Let us know what you think about each month's recommendations. We even welcome recommendations and requests.

For the month of December 2023, we recommend the following:

#### First Fridays: Shorts

This month's short film recommendation is the 1964 fan film *Castle of Terrors* produced by the Delta Science Fiction Film Group in England. Runtime: 20 minutes.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zFonwW3M5M4>

#### Second Saturdays: Feature Films

November's movie selection is the 1957 *Attack of the Crab Monsters*, an inexpensive but fun Roger Corman film. Runtime: One hour.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HMWDTVNDiVg>

#### Third Thursdays: Old-Time Radio

We suggest two episodes of *Dimension X* this month.

"Universe" (Nov. 26, 1950)

<https://youtu.be/zT0QTyxIKWo>

Based on the short story by Robert A. Heinlein in the May 1941 *Astounding*—seek it out and read it afterward to compare!

"Untitled Story" (Aug. 23, 1951)

[https://youtu.be/hfrpnAjpZ\\_o](https://youtu.be/hfrpnAjpZ_o)

Based on the short story by Frank M. Robinson in the September 1951 *Astounding*—seek it out and read it afterward to compare!

If a URL doesn't seem to work, email or message Heath, and he'll seek a replacement. The Web is a fickle place.



## Silvercon Lives Again! (Sort of..)

Mindy Hunt

Convention experiences are different for everyone. Some look forward to the big name guests while others are out to support a local with a booth in artist's alley. Or maybe you're hoping to find that Funko Pop that will complete the collection. One thing for sure is that the guests enjoy being surrounded by others who enjoy some sort of fandom as much as they do. One thing that they don't focus on is all the effort that's put in to create these events. If they're curious enough, usually on the convention's website there's a story on how the event came to be.

This past October a new convention had its debut in Las Vegas: Son of Silvercon. Sound familiar? It is the brainchild of Kevin Trainor, also known as Chief Wombat for Friends of Fission-chan. They're an organization devoted to promoting nuclear power and the ongoing clean efforts in Nevada at the Nevada National Security Site (formerly the Nevada Test Site). Plus, they love science fiction.

When Chief Wombat moved to the Las Vegas area, he found several fandom groups and the occasional large convention but nothing focused on science fiction along the lines of Liberty Con. There was Silvercon back in the early 90's but they were no longer around. So he and the group decided to put together Son of Silvercon, which they described as "Like Liberty Con, but it is not Liberty Con."

As I was adding Son of Silvercon to our grandmaster convention list over on SciFi4Me.com, I read through the Friends of Fission-chan's website and got some good chuckles from the blog. This is not Kevin's first con-deo (can I make that a word?). He was part of starting up Anime Detour in Minneapolis in 2003 – but with more help. The blog details serious issues that come with starting a convention (money, guests, money, location, money, bad info on flyers, and, of course, money). However, the attitude is, "I'm putting together this convention. It's not an easy thing, I've got a sense of humor about it – roll with the punches and bring on more."

And Friends of Fission-chan pulled it off.

The planning started in March 2023, and Son of Silvercon debuted October 13 through the 15th 2023. They state that it's for "you, Me, Hoyt's Huns, Monster Hunter Nation, libertarians, conservatives, and other malcontents & wrong thinkers." Their guests included artist, author, cartoonist and all-around nice lady M.C.A. Hogarth. They had Sarah Hoyt and Daniel Hoyt. She blogs and writes science-fiction, and he's the author of *9th Euclid's Prince*. They also had author, cartoonist, and YouTube dude, Jon Del Arroz.

They had 25 attend with 4 supporting paid members. Programming was a guideline, or as stated in the blog "Much like the cake, the programming schedule is a lie." Guests supported the consuite with the InterMountain Cookie Conspiracy ("borrowed" from Disclave where people donated baked goods and other tasty concoctions. So, Son of Silvercon upped the ante: \$5 worth of congoer's recharging goods and you receive credit for next year's membership AND a snazzy button...or something). Small issue with the Dealers' Bedroom (don't worry, logistics not sticky fingers).

But their main goal was a success.

"Everybody seems happy with the way the convention went and wants to come back next year. All we need to do now is convince everyone to bring half a dozen of their close personal friends to the con..."

And as guest D.J. Butler pointed out to Kevin, they made it happen and that was the important thing. That is truth.

Fans of Fission-chan are going to make it happen again August 9, 2024 with Son of Silvercon II: Electric Boogaloo. Head over to their site, [fission-chan.org](http://fission-chan.org), to get the details and read through the growing pains of this con. Words of support are in their comments, reminding them that some of these MASSIVE cons started with a handful of fans in a room.

It’s the goals and dreams of these fans that have us stress that no con is too small for my growing convention list. They need to have support even more than most. Plus, with a smaller size, it’s more intimate and can be more tailored. Plus it gives everyone a chance to really connect with other fans and maybe find a new fandom to dive into.

Congratulations to Friends of Fission-chan and we look forward to seeing many more Son of Silvercon events in the future.



**FANAC FanHistory Zoom Session**  
**APAs Everywhere, with**  
**Fred Lerner, Christina Lake,**  
**Amy Thomson & Tom Whitmore**  
**Date: December 9, 2023**  
**Time: 2PM EST, 11AMPST,**  
**7PM GMT (UK)**

Since the first FAPA mailing in 1937, APAs have been part of fandom, with topic-specific APAs, local APAs, general APAs, con committee APAs, and many more. Our panelists talk about their experiences with APA life.

Why did you join APA(s)? Did your APAs live up to your expectations and why? What makes the APAs unique? How do the members of the APA relate to each other? What’s that community like? How does it compare to being online? Are APAs obsolete? Would you join a new APA today?

To attend, send a note: [fanac@fanac.org](mailto:fanac@fanac.org)

**The Fantasy Amateur**  
 Volume 73, Number 1  
**Fantasy Amateur Press Association**  
 mailing number **200**  
 August, 1987

MEMBERS OF THE NEW BRITAIN JOINT FANCLUBS ASSOCIATION  
 Since 74  
 OFF. PRESIDENTS: Helen Bate and Jerry McAtkinson  
 SOCIAL SECRETARY: John Payne  
 HONOR. OFFICERS: Irene Strick

This month’s word find is in celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Doctor Who*. It’s a bit more challenging than previous puzzles. Enjoy!

Y E L U N I D K B A D W O L F  
 O E K D Q V E J X M A W J M I  
 G A L L I F R E Y A V E N J B  
 G V H Q G S O M D S R X Q V R  
 I X H G J D W R D T O L Q C Z  
 K U Q J H G O D H E S W Y Y E  
 G J R A F L F D N R J S Y P T  
 W I Q Y E I B U A L I S P Q Z  
 M H P M D A Z N A L S R D O U  
 L H I P N V Z D Z I E O O D N  
 Q T A N W N T Y M H A K A O Z  
 X J O K Z L A A V T K B S C I  
 Q D N Y M M R A I Z F P V T V  
 O B E X M C D V M B F H I O I  
 S A C U J A I Q H E R N G R O  
 I L S C U F S T Z S U Y O R X  
 G B A K V L R T V D N D H X W  
 A X P S A A Z P E H F Y F R Y  
 O T A O E R I T Z R Y H I A F  
 L N K R L K O R I D P F R H K  
 X J J R M W N U Q M C M X A U  
 Z X C Y B E R M E N E V W K B  
 N S T R E G E N E R A T I O N  
 Q W L M H S R J H N L T O N H  
 I Y V V B B C I X K T N Z M P

- TARDIS
- DOCTOR
- DONNA
- GALLIFREY
- TIME LORD
- SORRY
- DALEKS
- CYBERMEN
- TOYMASTER
- OOD
- SKARO
- DAVROS
- MASTER
- MISSY
- REGENERATION
- BBC
- BAD WOLF
- UNIT
- EARTH

## 2023 World Fantasy Award Winners Announced

### Jason P Hunt



Over the last weekend of October, Kansas City hosted the 48th Annual World Fantasy Convention, where the 2023 World Fantasy Award winners were announced to recognize works published in 2022. In addition, the convention presented two Life Achievement Awards for outstanding service to the fantasy field. Winners are marked in red.

#### Lifetime Achievement

- Peter Crowther
- John R. Douglas

Crowther is the co-founder of PS Publishing and a British journalist, novelist, editor, short story writer, and anthologist. Among his many accolades are a Best Anthology nomination in the 1993 World Fantasy Award for *Narrow Houses*, a 2000 British Fantasy Award in the Best Collection category for *Lonesome Roads*, a 2009 BFA in the Best Magazine/Periodical category for *Postscripts*, along with several additional nominations in several categories for both World Fantasy Awards and BFA's.

Douglas, who passed away August 3, was an influential editor for several decades, working at Berkley as well as Avon Books, Pocket Books/Simon & Schuster, and HarperCollins. Over those years he was responsible for acquiring and editing hundreds of genre titles. Douglas was also a journalist and editor of *Science Fiction Chronicle* from 2002 to 2005, and he was among the fans who founded the Ontario Science Fiction Club in 1966. He's survived by his wife of 48 years, Ginjer Buchanan.

#### Best Novel

- *Saint Death's Daughter*, C.S.E. Cooney (Solaris)
- *Spear*, Nicola Griffith (Tordotcom)
- *The Ballad of Perilous Graves*, Alex Jennings (Redhook; Orbit UK)
- *Babel*, R.F. Kuang (Harper Voyager US; Harper Voyager UK)
- *Siren Queen*, Nghi Vo (Tordotcom)

#### Best Novella

- *The Bruising of Qilwa*, Naseem Jamnia (Tachyon)
- *The House of Drought*, Dennis Mombauer (Stelliform)
- *Even Though I Knew the End*, C.L. Polk (Tordotcom)
- *Helpmeet*, Naben Ruthnum (Undertow)
- *Pomegranates*, Priya Sharma (Absinthe)

#### Best Short Fiction

- "The Devil Don't Come with Horns", Eugen Bacon (*Other Terrors: An Inclusive Anthology*)
- "Incident at Bear Creek Lodge", Tananarive Due (*Other Terrors: An Inclusive Anthology*)
- "The Morning House", Kate Heartfield (*PodCastle* 7/5/22)
- "Telling the Bees", Kat Howard (*Sunday Morning Transport* 1/30/22)
- "Douen", Suzan Palumbo (*The Dark* 3/22)

### Best Anthology

- *Screams from the Dark: 29 Tales of Monsters and the Monstrous*, Ellen Datlow, ed. (Nightfire)
- *Other Terrors: An Inclusive Anthology*, Vince A. Liaguno & Rena Mason, eds. (Morrow)
- *Dark Stars: New Tales of Darkest Horror*, John F.D. Taff, ed. (Nightfire)
- *Africa Risen: A New Era of Speculative Fiction*, Sheree Renée Thomas, Oghenechovwe Donald Ekpeki, Zelda Knight, eds. (Tordotcom)
- *Trouble the Waters: Tales from the Deep Blue*, Sheree Renée Thomas, Pan Morigan, Troy L. Wiggins, eds. (Third Man)

### Best Collection

- *Dark Breakers*, C.S.E. Cooney (Mythic Delirium)
- *Breakable Things*, Cassandra Khaw (Undertow)
- *All Nightmare Long*, Tim Lebbon (PS)
- *Boys, Beasts & Men*, Sam J. Miller (Tachyon)
- *A Different Darkness and Other Abominations*, Luigi Musolino (Valancourt)

### Best Artist

- **Kinuko Y. Craft**
- Galen Dara
- Matt Ottley
- Lauren Raye Snow
- Charles Vess

### Special Award – Professional

- Irene Gallo, for Tor.com
- Gavin J. Grant & Kelly Link, for Small Beer Press
- Tim Lebbon & Daniele Serra, for *Without Walls* (PS)
- Fiona Moore, for *Management Lessons from Game of Thrones: Organization Theory and Strategy in Westeros* (Edward Elgar)
- **Matt Ottley, for *The Tree of Ecstasy and Unbearable Sadness* (Dirt Lane)**

### Special Award – Non-Professional

- **Michael Kelly, for Undertow Publications**
- Cristina Macía, for The Celsius Festival
- dave ring, for Neon Hemlock Press
- Lynne M. Thomas & Michael Damian Thomas, for *Uncanny*
- E. Catherine Tobler, for editing *The Deadlands*

Congratulations to the winners and all the nominees!



## Rollin’ With Some Punchy Cosplay

### Mindy Hunt

This past October, Jason and I had a chance to work with Walkin’ & Rollin’ Costumes again, producing a livestream for a recent multi-reveal event. We’ve filmed a couple of events for them and helped them live stream in the past, and it’s a joy to do because everyone who involved has the biggest grin on their faces: the participants and the people who work behind-the-scenes, regardless of their stress level.



What is Walkin’ & Rollin’ Costumes, you ask? They are a nonprofit organization that creates costume for kids in walkers and wheelchairs with the help of volunteers and donations from the public.

In 2005, Lon Davis’ son Reese was born with cancer. A tumor crushed his spinal cord leaving him with limited mobility in his legs. He got his first wheelchair three years later. For Halloween, Lon made Reese a Wall-E costume that would fit around his wheelchair. It was an instant hit.

After that Reese would challenge Lon each year with a different costume idea, becoming larger and more elaborate. They drew the attention of the media and started receiving requests for other kids to enjoy their creations. With the help of volunteers, they work with different teams from all over the United States to build and then present to the kids their requested costume. The volunteer teams range from high school to community members to corporate build teams. Lon and Reese have traveled to several conventions to do their reveals.



Through their hard work and effort, they’ve shown that a walker or a wheelchair does not limit a child from becoming the superhero or character they want to be for Halloween. Really when you look at it, it’s an extra accessory to enhance their love for whichever fandom they into at moment. (We know how this can constantly change for kids.) What is Cinderella without her pumpkin carriage? Pilots need their airplanes and conductors need their train engine. And Disneyland’s Splash Mountain needs riders on the ride – this is probably my favorite.

When they are up on stage presenting the costumes to the kids and their families, it’s hard to not have the biggest grin on your face because of the excitement and love you see in the kids and their parents and siblings watching their children glow. The pride that is on the faces of the teams that have built them and the excitement in their voices as they explain some of the details that they have done to these costumes to make them better than what the kids and parents had hoped for.



Of this batch of costumes revealed during the livestream, my personal favorite is the Winnebago from *Spaceballs*. But even though I had my favorite, everybody is a winner and they all looked fabulous.



Head over to [www.walkinrollin.org](http://www.walkinrollin.org) to learn more about this amazing organization. If you're feeling a crafty mood, there might a team near you, that you can reach out to be a part of an amazing experience for these children.

(photos: Walkin' & Rollin' Costumes; [facebook.com/WalkinRollin](https://facebook.com/WalkinRollin))





# December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Eat a Red Apple Day	2 National Fritters Day
3 National Roof Over Your Head Day	4 Wear Brown Shoes Day	5 Repeal Of Prohibition Ammendment Day	6 Put On Your Own Shoes Day	7 Pearl Harbor Day	8 National Brownie Day	9 National Pastry Day
10 Nobel Prize Day	11 National Noddle Ring Day	12 National Ding-A-Ling Day	13 Violin Day	14 National Roast Chestnuts Day	15 National Lemon Cupcake Day	16 National Chocolate Covered Anything Day
17 National Maple Syrup Day	18 National Bake Cookies Day	19 Oatmeal Muffin Day	20 Go Caroling Day	21 National Flashlight Day	22 National Date Nut Bread Day	23 Roots Day
24 National Egg Nog Day	25 Christmas Day	26 National Candy Cane Day	27 National Fruitcake Day	28 Card Playing Day	29 Pepper Pot Day	30 National Bicarbonate of Soda Day
31 Make Up Your Mind Day						

Y E L U N I D K B A D W O L F  
 O E K D Q V E J X M A W J M I  
 G A L L I F R E Y A V E N J B  
 G V H Q G S O M D S R X Q V R  
 I X H G J D W R D T O L Q C Z  
 K U Q J H G O D H E S W Y Y E  
 G J R A F L F D N R J S Y P T  
 W I Q Y E I B U A L I S P Q Z  
 M H P M D A Z N A L S R D O U  
 L H I P N V Z D Z I E O O D N  
 Q T A N W N T Y M H A K A O Z  
 X J O K Z L A A V T K B S C I  
 Q D N Y M M R A I Z F P V T V  
 O B E X M C D V M B F H I O I  
 S A C U J A I G H E R N G R O  
 I L S C U F S T Z S U Y O R X  
 G B A K V L R T V D N D H X W  
 A X P S A A Z P E H F Y F R Y  
 O T A O E R I T Z R Y H I A F  
 L N K R L K O R I D P F R H K  
 X J J R M W N U Q M C M X A U  
 Z X C Y B E R M E N E V W K B  
 N S T R E G E N E R A T I O N  
 Q W L M H S R J H N L T O N H  
 I Y V V B B C I X K T N Z M P

- TARDIS
- DOCTOR
- DONNA
- GALLIFREY
- TIME LORD
- SORRY
- DALEKS
- CYBERMEN
- TOYMASTER
- OOD
- SKARO
- DAVROS
- MASTER
- MISSY
- REGENERATION
- BBC
- BAD WOLF
- UNIT
- EARTH

## DECEMBER CONVENTIONS

**Mindy Hunt**

Each month we will provide a list of conventions from around the world. This list is constantly being updated throughout the month. You can find our full events list as well as a calendar at [SciFi4Me.com](http://SciFi4Me.com).

If you know of a local event, big or little, send us and email at [events@scifi4me.com](mailto:events@scifi4me.com) so we can add it and make it the most comprehensive conventions list on the internet.

### Nov 30 – Dec 3

CCXP – Sao Paulo, Brazil Nov 30-Dec 3  
 MidWest FurFest – Rosemont, IL Nov 30-Dec 3  
 Galaxy Con Columbus– Rosemont, IL Dec 1-3  
 Los Angeles Comic Con – Los Angeles, CA Dec 1-3  
 PAX Unplugged – Philadelphia, PA Dec 1-3  
 SMOFCon – Providence, RI Dec 1-3  
 Abilene Comic Con – Abilene, TX Dec 2-3  
 Bold City Con – Jacksonville, FL Dec 2-3  
 Brick Fest Live – Greenville, SC Dec 2-3  
 Comic Con Okinawa – Okinawa, Japan Dec 2-3  
 For the Love of Sci-Fi – Manchester, United Kingdom Dec 2-3  
 German Film & Comic Con Winter – Dortmund, Germany Dec 2-3  
 Holiday Cosplay – Tampa Bay, FL Dec 2-3  
 Oddities & Curiosities Expo – Sydney, New South Wales, Australia Dec 2-3  
 Wintercon – New York City, NY Dec 1-3  
 Dragonmeet – London, United Kingdom Dec 2  
 Greater Philly Toy Expo – Phoenixville, PA Dec 2  
 Midwest Comic Book Convention Kansas City – Kansas City, MO Dec 2  
 Modesto Toy-Anime-Comic Con – Modesto, CA Dec 2  
 Port Perry Comicon – Port Perry, Ontario, Canada Dec 2  
 Tri-Cities Comicon – Bristol, VA Dec 2  
 Wayne NJ Toy Show – Wayne, NJ Dec 2  
 Waynesburg Toy & Comic Expo – Waynesburg, PA Dec 2  
 Bowling Green Anime-Fest – Bowling Green, KY Dec 3  
 Canton-Akron Comic Book, Toy & Nostalgia Convention – Canton, OH Dec 3  
 Concord Toy-Anime-Comic Con – Concord, CA Dec 3  
 Doncaster Brick Festival – Doncaster, United Kingdom Dec 3  
 London Comic Mart – London, United Kingdom Dec 3  
 Midwest Comic Book Convention St Loius – Collinsville, IL Dec 3  
 Newmarket Comicon – Newmarket, Ontario, Canada Dec 3  
 Raleigh Comic Book Show – Raleigh, NC Dec 3  
 SW-Floridacon – Fort Myers, FL Dec 3  
 Toronto Toy & Nostalgia Show – Toronto, Ontario, Canada Dec 3

**Dec 6 – 10****VIRTUAL**

Midwest GameFest – Kansas City, MO – Dec 7-10  
 New York City Horror Film Festival – New York City, NY Dec 8-12

**ON-SITE**

New York City Horror Film Festival – New York City, NY Dec 7-10  
 Anime Frontier – Fort Worth, TX Dec 8-10  
 Cosplay Expo – Las Vegas, NV Dec 8-10  
 Delhi Comic Con – Delhi, India Dec 8-10  
 Ecchi Expo Anime– San Antonio, TX Dec 8-10  
 Everwinter – Waltham, MA Dec 8-10  
 Permian Basin Comic Con – Midland, TX Dec 8-10  
 rAge Expo – Midrand, South Africa Dec 8-10  
 The Road So Far...The Road Ahead Nashville – Nashville, TN Dec 8-10  
 Yama-Con – Pigeon Forge, TN Dec 8-10  
 Brick Fest Live – Raleigh, NC Dec 9-10  
 Comic Con Stuttgart – Stuttgart, Germany Dec 9-10  
 Comic World Taiwan Taipei Show – Taipei City, Taiwan Dec 9-10  
 Oddities & Curiosities Expo – Brisbane, Queensland, Australia Dec 9-10  
 Oz Comic Con Melbourne Xmas Edition – Melbourne, Victoria, Australia Dec 9-10  
 Quad City Con Davenport – Davenport, IA Dec 9-10  
 Rail City Fan Fest – Saint Albans City, VT Dec 9-10  
 Raptor Con – Evansville, IN Dec 9-10  
 Singapore Comic Con – Singapore, Singapore Dec 9-10  
 ToyConNJ – Wayne, NJ Dec 9-10  
 LouisvilleCon – Louisville, KY Dec 9  
 MidSouth Toy Fest – Memphis, TN Dec 9  
 Ocean City Comic Con – Ocean City, MD Dec 9  
 Captial Trade Show – Ottawa, Ontario, Canada Dec 10  
 Comic & Toy Show – Dayton, OH Dec 10  
 Madison Comic Con – Madison, WI Dec 10  
 Merced Toy-Anime-Comic Con – Merced, CA Dec 10  
 SoCal Joe Show & Toy Convention – Temecula, CA Dec 10

**Dec 14 – 17**

SIEGE Con – Kennesaw, GA Dec 14-17  
 Con+Alt+Delete – \*Chicago, IL Dec 15-17  
 DesignerCon – Anaheim, CA Dec 15-17  
 Brick Fest Live – Birmingham, AL Dec 16-17  
 Lumburton Comic and Toy Show – Lumberton, NC Dec 16-17  
 Oddities & Curiosities Expo –Melbourne, Victoria, Australia Dec 16-17  
 Quad City Con Des Moines – Des Moines, IA Dec 16-17  
 Sac Gamers Expo – Sacramento, CA Dec 16-17  
 Big Apple Comic Com – New York City, NY Dec 16  
 Huntsville Anime-Fest – Huntsville, AL Dec 17  
 Woodland Toy-Anime-Comic Con – Woodland, CA Dec 17

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**Dec 20 – 26**

Holiday Matsuri – Orlando, FL Dec 20-22

Comic World Taiwan Taipei Kaohsiung – Kaohsiung City, Taiwan Dec 23-24

Collecti.Con Hamilton Toy and Collectible Show – Hamilton, Ontario, Canada Dec 26

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**Dec 28 – 31**

Furvester – Stuttgart, Germany Dec 28-Jan 1

Cosplay Matsuir – Pasay City, Philippines Dec 28-30

OKiCon – Oklahoma City, OK Dec 29-31

Comic Market – Tokyo, Japan Dec 30-31

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**We welcome your feedback!**

If you have comments, suggestions, or articles to share please  
send an e-mail to [mindyhunt@scifi4me.com](mailto:mindyhunt@scifi4me.com)  
or [jphunt@scifi4me.com](mailto:jphunt@scifi4me.com) and let us know how we're doing!

Thank you for taking the time to read and respond.

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