



Science Fiction Society of Northern New Jersey

OCTOBER 2009 NEWSLETTER

LET THEM EAT FLESH!

That's Science Fiction

Tuesday, October 6, 2009 – 7p

Hillsdale Public Library

Diary of the Dead – continues George Romero's zombie legacy.

Whispers From Beyond & Face the Fiction

Saturday October 10, 2009

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

55 Wyckoff Ave., Ramsey

*6:00 p - 8:00p - ***Night of the Living Dead:***

Reanimated (Q & A session w/ curator Mike Schneider follows the film)

*8:00p - 10:00p - ***Zombie Encounter*** panel w/

Jonathan Maberry, Dr. Kim Paffenroth, John Joseph Adams, David Barr Kirtley, Peter Gutierrez, and Rob Hauschild.

Suspense Central

Monday October 12, 2009 – 8p

Panera Bread Restaurant - www.paneranj.com

165 Route 4 West, Paramus, 201.368.0752

Patient Zero by Jonathan Maberry

Drawing A Crowd

Wednesday October 14, 2009

New Moon Comics - www.newmooncomics.com

Join moderator Tim Cook to discuss Zombie comics.

Kirkman's *The Walking Dead*, *Marvel Zombies*

(Kirkman, Phillips, Suydam).

Fantasy Gamers Group

Saturday October 17, 2009

2:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Directions available upon request/contact **Todd**

Join us for terror, monsters, madness and more as

Films to Come: 4-Star Movie Discussion

Wednesday October 21, 2009 – 7p

Borders Ramsey (Interstate Shopping Center)

If it deals with entertainment, our Master of Entertainment Moderator will cover it.

*Dining follows this event.

Modern Masters

Friday October 23, 2009 – 8p

Borders Ramsey (Interstate Shopping Center)

Dying to Live by Dr. Kim Paffenroth

Infinite Chaos: A Temnia Campaign

Saturday October 24, 2009 – 2p – 10p

Directions available upon request/contact **Todd**

Welcome to the Western Nations of Temnia, a brutal and vicious tyranny ruled by the Immortal Emperor, the illustrious Naram'tzin, your boss. This game explores life in the far West, where powerful Samurai serve demon-worshipping madmen, and expediency and survival are balanced by honor and horror. A new day in the Yenxhai Dominions is dawning, and the peaceful nations of the East should beware!

Themes of the Fantastic

Tuesday October 27, 2009 – 8p

Wayne Public Library – www.waynepubliclibrary.org

All things 'zombie'

please visit www.sfsnnj.com for full details

SFSNNJ FACE THE FICTION PRESENTS:

ZOMBIE ENCOUNTER PANEL

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2009 - 6P/FILM, 8P/PANEL

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

55 WYCKOFF AVENUE

RAMSEY, NJ 07446

201-327-0148

OUR EVENING BEGINS AT 6P WITH *NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD: REANIMATED*. THIS FILM WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A Q & A SESSION WITH FILM CURATOR MIKE SCHNEIDER. THIS IS AN EXCLUSIVE NY/NJ-AREA SCREENING!

FOLLOWING THE FILM WILL BE OUR ZOMBIE ENCOUNTER PANEL: JOHN JOSEPH ADAMS, PETER GUTIERREZ, ROB HAUSCHILD, JONATHAN MABERRY, DR. KIM PAFFENROTH, & AND OUR EVENINGS GUEST MODERATOR DAVID BARR KIRTLEY. OUR PANELISTS WILL DISCUSS THEIR VARIOUS WORKS ON ZOMBIES AND GUIDE US THROUGH THE EVENING'S SCARES.

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE. BOOKS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AND SIGNING. WE WILL ALSO HAVE OUR 'SWAP TABLE' - ANY GENRE ITEMS OF INTEREST YOU'D LIKE TO SWAP, PLEASE BRING FOR THE TABLE.

BE THERE OR BEWARE!



September Meeting Recaps

That's Science Fiction! – Tuesday – 9/1/09

We viewed "The Shape of Things to Come". It in no way mirrored "Things to Come" the 1936 film with Raymond Massey / Ralph Richardson. This 1979 film starred Jack Palance and the lovely Carol Lynley. It made the Star Trek sets look classy! **(Chris Hasselkus)**

We did have fun giving this movie the Mystery Science Theater treatment. Hopefully we didn't scare Benita away... As Mike P said, "I'm not really paying too much attention to the movie. I'm mostly enjoying the scenery...(Jo)

Drawing A Crowd – Wednesday – 9/9/09

Hail the new King of Drawing a Crowd! We proudly proclaim that Tim Cook is now the official Moderator, having passed the most strenuous test (i.e. putting up with the people at the meeting) and we shall now follow his lead in all things (except when we wander off topic and need to be beaten up).

Tim's first night as Moderator of the group began auspiciously with a discussion of a variety of alternate histories and rewrites including the Marvel "What If" series and a long discussion of Golden and Silver age histories before Todd derailed the discussion by bringing up DC's Infinite Earths problems. Luckily Tim was able to untangle the horrible truths for us with the help of Barry Weinberger. The discussion then ranged across the board from Marvel and DC to alternative time lines; alternate Earths, and even more. A great deal of time was spent on Days of Future Past as well as characters like Bishop and Cabal. We discussed some differences between the various Marvel lines (such as Ultimates), and we dove into some independent projects like Atomic Robo, Ignition City, and a few of the more esoteric Cthulu Mythos titles. All in all it was a great meeting and a perfect inauguration for our new Moderator! **(Todd Ehrenfels)**

In October we are going to be discussing Zombie comics, from A-Z! Come on out and show your support! Aurelia Long's nephew Tim Cook took over the reins as moderator. Tim fleshed the alternate history theme out with current trends in comics. Barry helped put historical perspective on the theme. Everyone present enjoyed the presentation. We all look forward to Tim's take next month on zombies. Great job! **(Chris H)**

Face the Fiction – Saturday – 9/12/09

We welcomed our September Face the Fiction guest, John L. Manning, Jr. on Saturday, 9/12/09. Mr. Manning is the author of the SF series, The New Mars, as well as The Night Watchman and the mystery Paradise Island.

The New Mars series is about a group of investors that turn Mars into "the" vacation destination. Whatever your pleasure or vice, New Mars has it. The series to date includes: The New Mars, The New Mars: A family Vacation, and The New Mars: The City Dome.


In the stories, Mr. Manning explained that he does not focus too much on specific technology, as he prefers to allow the reader to use their imagination and not get bogged down by 'tech talk'. As the stories progress, we see more and more people heading to Mars for vacation. So much so that new dome complexes need to be built to meet the demands of vacationers. Accommodations range from the seedy, low budget to the extravagant. As for what to do on Mars...what's your desire?

The Night Watchman is a story about a young man who stumbles upon a technology that allows him to fight crime in new and interesting ways. Hoodlums beware in this tale of underground crime and vice. Will our hero's newfound abilities overwhelm him? Will he continue to fight crime or be changed by his power?

John's newest book, Paradise Island sounds like dream in the beginning. A couple wins their own private island in a contest. Who wouldn't want their own private getaway in paradise...beautiful surroundings, beautiful weather and then little things start happening. Easy to chalk up these incidents up to nature, imagination. Then the strange occurrences become too hard to ignore. What is the secret behind Paradise Island?

Mr. Manning provided handouts for attendees to follow along as he read descriptions of each book. He also read a selection from his New Mars series about a rather vicious pod race.

He opened the floor to questions. Mike P asked about the description of the trip to Mars to discover both Mike and Mr. Manning are both fans of the Planet of the Apes movies. Influences, favorites and how he got his start were all covered. Mr. Manning was quite an inspirational guest and we enjoyed his presentation.



It was 5 minutes to closing time so we quickly straightened up and headed out to continue the evening at a nearby diner. **(AM)**

Suspense Central – Monday – 9/14/09

We had a lot of fun at Suspense Central discussing *Fatherland* by Robert Harris.

Fatherland is a bestselling thriller by English writer Robert Harris that is also a work of alternate history - WWII to be exact. The premise - what is Nazi Germany was triumphant in World War II? Interesting to say the least.

Those that read the book enjoyed it and commented on how fast-paced it was. Kathleen remarked that she enjoyed the many twists and turns. Moderator Aurelia Long commented on the intrigue as well. Chris described the book as dark and that you could feel the despair.

Fatherland begins in Nazi Germany. It is the week before Adolf Hitler's 75th birthday. While the Third Reich is planning for the big bash, detective Xavier March notices the suspicious death of a high-ranking official. Then another high-ranking official...and another. Hmm, no coincidence, we got ourselves a few nasty murders going on here.

This nasty little nest of vipers has partner against partner, not one person you can trust, everyone afraid for their own life, and the person pulling the strings making sure his name is not connected in any way. He is untouchable.

Toss in Joseph P. Kennedy (yes, Joseph, Sr., not his boys) as President of the United States. It is actually President Kennedy's upcoming meeting with Hitler that sparks the killing spree of 'witnesses' to an event many would prefer never become 'known'.

This book has it all - torture in the cellars of Gestapo headquarters, rescues, secret border crossings, romance, U-boats, lots of people who "disappear" or "go east" (believe me, you do not want to 'go east') and twists that keep you guessing right up until the very end.

Aurelia and Kathleen did a great job of providing background and discussing the ins and outs of who, when and where. Chris tossed in his thoughts and found the book a page-turner.

Barry, Todd and Bill provided much of the actual history and the group had much fun comparing the book's 'history' to actual events.

Fatherland was well received and enjoyed. It provided for a great discussion that lasted right up until closing and continued outside for some time. Indian-lender indeed - you had to be there!

Join us next month for Patient Zero by Jonathan Maberry. Zombies, scary zombies. **(AM)**

Films to Come –Wednesday – 9/16/09

Moderator Barry Weinberger led a great Films to Come discussion last night. He gave us tons of movie information, movie schedules, movies to look forward to and in some cases to avoid.

The beginning of the meeting had several handouts for attendees to look over. One handout listed the top films of 2009 to date. Also passed around were handouts providing the line-up of movies for Big Screen Classics in both Teaneck (Cedar Lane) and Suffern (Lafayette Theater). The BSC list gave a run down of the fall line-up films and their respective directors. In addition, the list offered each director's other films/ratings as well. We discussed the director's, the ratings (some disagreement existed for some films), and had a retelling of an incident at Cedar Lane after Deb Matofsky asked if they ever had speakers. You know Bill had to be involved :)

Barry then explained his plan for the evening's meeting, and went over the movie list handout he provides. He explained how he prepares the lists, gathers the info, the ratings (Maltin Guide), underlines indicate genre films, and how he likes to cover three months - the previous month so we can discuss the films we've seen and recommend or warn people, the current month because we can talk about the current releases we've seen/want to see, and finally the upcoming month to discuss what we're anticipating or dreading.

First up was August. The first movie on the list was *Julie & Julia*. Chris was the only one who had seen the film. In usual chick-flick mode, he enjoyed it. No Chris, it can't be a December selection. *District 9* seemed to be the film most

people saw and it seemed to garner thumbs up from the majority. *G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra* had some debate. As Alex put it, "it's like sugary cereal - not nutritious but OK for some fun." *Inglorious Basterds* had some debate surrounding it as well. Chris and Todd enjoyed it, as did Alex. Our illustrious moderator was "not satisfied." He told us he would tell us why if we cared to ask him. Cliffhangers now?! Do we get extra credit if we ask? Alex made a good point about the film. Because it was Tarantino and had big name Brad Pitt, Tarantino was able to "fool an entire audience into seeing a foreign film." *Ponyo*, *H2* from Rob Zombie and *The Final Destination: Death Trap* 3D film made the discussion table.

September and October were next. We went through both months and covered the films we'd seen and those we were looking forward. Bill was the only one who saw *Whiteout*, we're still not sure what his take was - lol. It was noted that *Shutter Island*, previously slotted for October was now moved to February 2010. We briefly went over all of the upcoming films but focused on the genre films: *Cirque Du Freak: The Vampire's Assistant* (based on a YA series), *Where the Wild Things Are*, *Zombieland*, *The Stepfather*, *Astro Boy*, *Antichrist*, *The House of the Devil* and *Saw IV*.

Along the way we diverted and spoke about favorites from the director's filmography that Barry provides. We had a lot of fun wondering what Maltin was thinking with some of his ratings. It was unanimous that he goofed big time with *Toy Story* and *Toy Story 2* - both should have been 4 stars. It's obvious we all missed our calling as critics :)

Barry ended the meeting with October and the films we're waiting for. He tied up any loose ends and a group of us headed out for dinner (poor Todd was starving). Great meeting and much fun. Check out Films next month for a fun discussion about movies, TV and more. **(AM)**

Themes of the Fantastic & Modern Masters – Friday – 9/25/09

We met on Friday, 9/25/2009, as a combined Modern Masters / Themes of the Fantastic to discuss Alternate History and undoubtedly it's most famous writer, Harry Turtledove. His book "Worldwar: In the Balance" was the particular. Kathleen had gotten a library copy that didn't indicate it was the first of a 4-book series; she was wondering as she got to the end why nothing was being resolved - now she knows! One of my favorite authors, Frederick Forsyth, wrote "The Day of the Jackal" as a sample of an Alternate History. Worthwhile discussion. **(Chris Hasselkus)**

SFSNNJ Member Movie Reviews

Inglorious Basterds – Bill Wagner

Went to see *Inglorious Basterds* yesterday, I liked the film and as we all know it is a genre movie, considering the alternate history. There are some fine performances, along with some scenery chewing, but it was all (if you pardon the brutal Nazis and the extreme violence) well done. Lots of visual and musical references to other films, and a cameo performance by Rod Taylor as Winston Churchill.

The Wizard of Oz – HD – Chris Hasselkus

Very nice print. The crowd had very few children, probably because it was a school night. Always great to see it on the big screen with an audience.

(500) Days of Summer – Chris Hasselkus

Gene had been told how good this film was, so he went to see it and enjoyed it lot. I don't usually like non-linear films but this one didn't bother me because it was so enchanting. The soundtrack includes my all-time favorite Hall & Oates song, namely You Make My Dreams Come True. Quirky but a fine film. "A"

Upcoming Conventions

UberCon XII:

Edison, NJ

November 6th, 7th, and 8th, 2009!

[UberCon XII Dates!](#)

At long last, we can safely announce our next event's dates and location: November 6-8, 2009, at the Holiday Inn, Edison.

The site does not currently reflect this information, but in the next couple weeks, we will be updating everything, and getting you the latest information.



<http://www.ubercon.com/>

Some 2010 dates:

Lunacon 2010, March 19-21, 2010
New York's Oldest Science Fiction and Fantasy Convention
Author Guest of Honor: Tanya Huff
Artist Guest of Honor: Theresa Mather
Fan Guest of Honor: Dominick Corrado
Hilton Rye Town, Rye Brook NY
Lunacon 2010
PO Box 432
Bronx, NY 10465
info@lunacon.org

I-CON 29

APRIL 9, 10, & 11, 2010!!!
<http://www.iconsf.org/>

Parsippany, NJ
Fri., Sat. & Sun.
July 9-11, 2010
Hilton Parsippany Hotel
Creation Entertainment's East Coast - Supernatural Convention