



March 2010 Newsletter

It's A Small World: Children in SF

That's Science Fiction
Tuesday March 2, 2010 – 7p
Hillsdale Public Library
Bogus (1996)
Dining follows the movie.

Suspense Central
Monday March 8, 2010 – 8p
Borders Ramsey/Interstate Shopping Center
An Audience for Einstein by Mark Wakel.

Drawing A Crowd
Wednesday March 10, 2010 – 8p
New Moon Comics
Join moderator Tim Cook as he explores the comic book universe. For additional information click www.newmooncomics.com.

Face the Fiction
Saturday March 13, 2010
6:30p - 9:00p
Raider Books
99 Lafayette Ave.
Suffern, NY 10901
This month we welcome our favorite inner demon ***Jackie Kessler.***

Films to Come: 4-Star Movie Discussion Group
Wednesday March 17, 2010 – 7p
Ramsey Borders/Interstate Shopping Center
This group discusses the world of cinema and entertainment. Classic, current and upcoming genre and genre-related films, TV, books and media happenings are discussed. If it deals with entertainment, our Master of Entertainment Moderator will cover it. *Dining follows this event.

Special Activity: Lunacon
<http://2010.lunacon.org/>
Friday March 19 – Sunday March 21, 2010
Hilton Rye Town, Rye Brook, NY

Fantasy Gamers Group
Saturday March 20, 2010 – 2:30p
Directions available upon request/contact **Todd**
Join us for terror, monsters, madness and more as GM BJ Pehush explores the city of Arkham MA with our monthly Call of Cthulu (Chaosium 6th edition) game.

Themes of the Fantastic
Tuesday March 23, 2010 – 8p
Wayne Public Library
www.waynepubliclibrary.org

Modern Masters
Friday March 26, 2010 – 8p
Ramsey Borders/Interstate Shopping Center
This month: ***C.J. Cherryh's*** Hugo Award winning novel ***Cyteen.***

Rogue Trader: Wolves in the Fold
Saturday March 27 – 2p – 10p
Panera Restaurant Community Room
Ramsey, 1300 Rt. 17 North
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!

please visit www.sfsnnj.com for full details

SFSNNJ Face the Fiction presents Jackie Kessler

When: Saturday March 13, 2010

Time: 6:30p - 9:00p

Where: Raider Books, 99 Lafayette Ave., Suffern, NY 10901

SFSNNJ welcomes our favorite inner demon Jackie Kessler.

From www.jackiekessler.com

"Some kids want to grow up to be doctors, or movie stars, or political assassins. Me, I wanted to draw comic books. Not Archie comics, either—superhero comic books. Maybe it was all the heavily muscled guys in spandex...So maybe it's ironic that the book I wound up writing had nothing to do with overly muscled men and everything to do with scantily clad women. (Well, temporarily scantily clad.) Oh, right, and demons."

Jackie is the author of the best-selling Hell on Earth series (Hell's Belles, Road to Hell), The Icarus Project and finally got her comic book wish with a Buffyverse entry!

*Raider Books is adjacent to the historic Lafayette Theater in Suffern, NY. It is minutes away from Ramsey and Franklin Tpke.

FRANKLIN TURNPIKE/CR-507. FRANKLIN TURNPIKE/CR-507 becomes ORANGE AVE/US-202 when you cross into New York. RIGHT onto WASHINGTON AVE. LEFT onto NY-59/KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL HWY/LAFAYETTE AVE (there is a light here with a statue to your left in the center of the road and a church to your right). 99 LAFAYETTE AVE., Raider Books is on your left, adjacent to the Lafayette Theater, almost immediately after turning left. There is parking on the street, in the lot next to the theater or in the municipal lot (free parking all locations). Several good locations are nearby for dining following the event.

February Meeting Recaps

That's Science Fiction! – Tuesday, February 2, 2010

That's Science Fiction's February selection was Blacula (1972). I am quite sure our reaction to the movie was NOT what the people who made the film were going for - we laughed until we practically cried - a great time was had by all - sadly, at the movie's expense.

The premise of the film is an African prince, Prince Mamuwalde, and his wife, Luva, travel to Transylvania for political reasons. They visit Prince Dracula (never a good idea) to ask for help in putting a stop to slave trade. Things do not go as planned would be a huge understatement. .

Mamuwalde winds up bitten, cursed and locked in a coffin by Dracula, while his wife Luva is buried alive in the secret room. She gets to weep next to his coffin until she starves to death. This must be Dracula's way of discouraging houseguests.

Fast forward a century or so...way over the top interior decorators think they have hit the jackpot. They have purchased the belongings of Dracula's castle for a song. Being American, they laugh at the superstitious old caretaker and tell him Dracula is not real, only a movie monster. Caretaker gives them the stink-eye and nods knowingly. Queue what should have been menacing music, but no, wait, instead we heard this cheesy 70's porn music. Hard to get the chills when you're waiting for the orgy. Just sayin'

It was down hill from there. This movie was such a 70's film that it was hilarious - unbelievably politically incorrect, over-the-top fashion from the time (the hair was so big it was amazing people fit thru the doors), the 70's sound track blasting out funky dance tunes...all added up to an impromptu MST3000 night.

Blacula rises from his coffin, bites the two interior decorators (bet they're thinking they didn't get such a good deal after all and darn that know-it-all caretaker and his stink-eye) and so begins Blacula's reign of terror LA. At the funeral of one of the interior decorators (who we all agreed looked like Richard Simmons with too much bronzer) Blacula sees a woman he believes to be his wife Luva. Tina is not aware she's the reincarnated wife of Mamuwalde. He chases her through the streets yelling, "Luva", she flees terrified and the next thing you know, they're sitting together at a club falling in love!! Ummm, lady, he was running through the streets calling you by another woman's name.

This is one of those movies you have to see to appreciate. We were horrified by some of the things said in the movie and equally amused by the clothes, music and silly story line. We're still wondering why Juanita Jones hid under the sheet, why did I keep calling Mamuwalde Mumbo Jumbo, what was Tina thinking, just what kind of doctor was Dr. Gordon Thomas, how the heck did those hurricane lamps ignite with no match around and why was Blacula smoking right under the No Smoking sign??

Good, fun choice that we all enjoyed.

Suspense Central – Monday, February 8, 2010

OK, so I pulled a Deena and didn't read the book, but I was darned if I was going to let that stop me from having a good time!

It was a dark pre-snowstorm night as we gathered to discuss Vampire Babies in Brooklyn... I mean Bite Marks! This freshman effort by Terrence Taylor was well received by all present, even those of us who did not read it, as well written and well thought out. The only real complaint was from Liz Belisle and had more to do with the cover art (which was decidedly off-putting) than the story itself. The story was well written, the characters were interesting and exciting, and the humans were just as horrifying as the vampires in some respects. As I did not read the book, I cannot really provide much of a plot synopsis, but I can say that the story involved a lot of well handled flashbacks and timeline jumps as well as maladjusted serial killer vampires, starving baby vampire, a well thought out underground culture of vampires, and an interesting set of vampire rules that differ from the classical ones. All in all, two fangs up!

Drawing A Crowd – Wednesday, February 10, 2010

**Cancelled due to dangerous and inclement weather for the safety of our members*

Face the Fiction: Games, Movies and more – Saturday, February 13, 2010

First of all, I would like to thank all of Brian's friends who came out to honor him with a night of fun, laughter, delicious venison stew, and Deena yelling, "I wanna shoot something!" I know that I was grateful, and I am sure that Ana was as well. Brian was a long time gamesman, and I know that he would appreciate the testament! Now, on to the fun!

Guests started arriving around 6pm, with both new and familiar faces coming in from the cold to have a good time. Lots of folks marveled at the large Warhammer 40000-demo setup that I built up near the kitchenette area, and Jim and Steve Spinosa started the night off by playing a rousing game of Monty Python Fluxx. Within an hour, the joint was jumping with the film District 9 being played in the far corner (thanks again to Dave for bringing the DVD for us to enjoy), conversations and games at the large dining room table near the film, conversations in the central comfy couch section, the big sprawling 40K demo, and more conversations in the kitchenette area! The evening would continue on with more chatting, a few more games of Fluxx, Uno, and Trivial Pursuit, and a screening of the movie *Forbidden Planet*. Near the close of the night, Ana led us in a heartfelt toast to our fallen friend, and we all drank deeply in the memories of one of the most amazing people I was privileged to call friend. Also, Bambi was consumed and enjoyed by many (I wish that I could have been one of the many, but sadly my dietary restrictions prevented that, still it smelled heavenly and Aurelia and Remi said it was excellent!)

As I was running the 40K demo, I will concentrate on that, and leave the rest to others who were far better placed to observe goings-on elsewhere. I gathered my initiates to the table and explained the pros and cons of the various troops arrayed on the end, allowing the players to choose their forces as suited them. The disposition of forces were:
Daemonhunter Grey Knights: Paul Dellechiaie
Eldar: Kate Landis
Imperial Guard: BJ Pehush
Orks: Ann Marie Brown/Kate Landis
Space Marines: Aurelia Long
Tau: Deena Long

Fighting against them were the Dark Eldar Cabal known as the Benignity of the Compassionate Hand in all their evil bondage geared glory! The goal of the villains? Sacrifice enough Imperial civilians to activate the Talos, a death dealing machine capable of knocking all the good guys flat, powered by suffering and fluffy bunnies! Don't ask.

After going over the rules very briefly I guided our novices through their first turns of moving, running/shooting, and taking cover. The villains, who were apparently clueless as to the intrusion of all these enemies, did not really react until next turn, and then the real fun started. Deena's Tau and Kate's Eldar took potshots at Warriors farther down field while Paul's Grey Knights incinerated a poor Mandrake squad hiding in the brush near the allies' entry point. Shots rang out as the few survivors of the first volley tried to respond in kind, but it was too little, too late, and Ann Marie's Orks swamped a lone Warrior with 52 close combat attacks (YIKES!). Unfortunately, Ann Marie need to run and pick up the Pizza, and so control of the Orks was given to Kate (who retained them to their grizzly end). The Orks used the Eldar's suppressive fire for cover as they advanced on another hapless Dark Eldar Warrior squad, while the Imperial Guard, Grey Knights, and Space Marines advanced under cover of the Tau's long range firepower. Alas, the rolling wave of oncoming allies soon hit a speed bump as 4 different Dark Eldar Squads (Mandrakes, 2 Wyche Squads, and a Warp Beast pack) dogpiled on the Orks, whose assaults had taken them too close to the Dark Eldar positions. The Orks were mired in close combat, but thankfully the Eldar came to the rescue... yes, you read that right: the Eldar saved the Orks bacon, taking out 3 Warp Beasts and several Wyches before they could finally eliminate the last remaining Ork Nob. Soon, however, the Eldar were beset by enemies as their Dark Eldar cousins fought back with the savagery of their twisted race. Thankfully, BJ and the Imperial Guard came to the rescue... yes, that's right again, the Imperial Guard saved the Eldar in a bizarre twist of fate as Veteran Guardsmen charged directly into the teeth of Dark Eldar Incubi and a Drachon! Meanwhile on the right flank, Deena's Tau continued to plink away at long range targets as Deena shout, "Who can I shoot, I'm gonna Kiiiiiiii them!" and Aurelia and Paul advanced up the side. The Space Marines were spared a gruesome dogpile of close combat of their own due to a bad running role for the Dark Eldar that put them about a quarter of an inch too far away to assault the Adeptus Astartes! Sadly, Aurelia's Flamer and Paul's Incinerator units finished off the advancing horde of Wyches leaving them a clear path (thanks in no small part to Deena's long range shooting) to take out the Haemonculii torturing the victims to reactivate the Talos, allowing them to prevent the activation and help BJ and Kate finish off the last few enemy on the board.

Some great quotes from the game were:

Kate: These Orks are going to be so ashamed at having been saved from destruction by Eldar...

Aurelia: I think my Marines need a weapons upgrade.

Paul: I think I love my flamethrower way too much, is that wrong.
BJ: Congratulations Ann Marie, your Orks killed a bunch of bad guys and you weren't even here!
Kate: Exarch Nancyboy is apparently too scared to move more than an inch at a time.
Aurelia: I kill Mr. Wiggly with fire! I see what you (Paul) mean about loving this flamethrower!
BJ: Well, I could help the Eldar, or just sit over here and laugh.
Deena: You guys have to get out of my way so I can shoot more!
Aurelia: OK, so giant scorpion engine of death thing is bad, right?
Paul: What do you mean we can't shoot it until its active, that seems wrong!
Paul: Wow, I thought you were kidding about the guys in bondage gear, that's too creepy.
Ann Marie: I just want to be bad! Which army is the most Bad A**?
BJ: It's OK, the citizens are expendable and probably easier to kill than the bad guys. I mean we probably have like a few billion more on this planet alone.
Todd: Yes, and they stay crunchy in milk (in reference to the warp beasts).

At the end of the game, a deafening cheer went up, causing everyone to look over at the table of laughing players. A good time was had by all (except Mr. Wiggly who was still on fire).

Additional Comments:

Considering that neither one of us knew what we doing, It was quite rousing. We fared better with Uno and the movie District 9. I only wish that we could have stuck around for the toast to our dear friend Brian; we always enjoyed your company and we hope to see you again somewhere in the great beyond.... **(Steve Spinosa)**

Besides the Warhammer 40K, much fun was had elsewhere. Conversations were brisk and plentiful. When Ann-Marie won her part of the game, BJ even picked her up bodily to celebrate. It's too bad some of the people who knew Brian and Ana and who were welcomed in their home weren't there to celebrate a fine man whom we lost way too soon. **(Chris H)**

Films to Come – Wednesday, February 17, 2010

Films to Come enjoyed a lively discussion with a free-form style. Moderator Barry led the discussion that ranged in topics from the upcoming Oscars to favorite directors/producers of attendees.

One such discussion centered on Monty Python favorite, Terry Gilliam. Todd mentioned he was a fan, and Barry questioned Todd about Gilliam's filmography. The only Gilliam films Todd had not seen were *Jabberwocky* (didn't miss much) and *The Imaginarium of Dr. Parnassus* (due to limited theaters showing the film). He highly recommends *Brazil* and was so-so about *Tideland*.

With Bill attending, Barry had to get in the obligatory Edagr Rice Burroughs jabber. Talk of the long-awaited John Carter movie and the Medium Screen Classics ERB marathon were covered.

The YA movie & books Percy Jackson: The Lightening Thief was touched on.

Barry brought a couple of Maltin Guides to the table for those who had not seen them the previous month, and provided a brief summary of movies, books, TV discussed as well.

In all, it was much fun and a good meeting.

Themes of the Fantastic – Tuesday, February 23, 2010

**Cancelled due to inclement weather*

Modern Masters – Friday, February 26, 2010

**Cancelled due to inclement weather*

Medium Screen Classics – Saturday, February 27, 2010

Our seasonal movie-viewing group, Medium Screen Classics ended its winter run with an Edgar Rice Burroughs marathon – an all day ERB extravaganza. We were treated to the bizarre *At the Earth's Core*, *Greystoke: The Legend of Tarzan, Lord of the Apes* (1984), and the animated Disney *Tarzan* (1999).

The morning started off with a free Continental Breakfast of omelet sandwiches (compliments of Barry & Burger King) complete with orange juice!

First up was the campy, bizarre *At the Earth's Core*. Think cheesy plastic dinosaurs, weird piggy looking subterranean dwellers who communicate with even more weird bird-like creatures and human slaves that all seemed to have the same Amadeus Mozart big wigs. Todd was particularly impressed by the non-stop explosions – he was a

bit confused as to why they built an entire one on what appeared to be nitroglycerin, but it made for some 'cool' blowing up sequences. Bird-thingy falls off of the rock it is on and.... explodes. Stumpy plastic dinosaur thingy gets shot with bows from an arrow and...explodes. Rock fortress.... explodes. Although Bill did not give us a warning about this film (he had seen it), we had fun with it.

An animated short, *Tarzan and the Colossus of Zome*, followed our journey to the Earth's core. This was from *Saturday Morning Cartoons: 1970s Volume 1*; Warner Bros. Tarzan gets to battle the giant robot Colossus. Colossus doesn't play well with others in the sand box and shrinks Tarzan. The robot then takes over, puts his makers in a cell and sets out to conquer a neighboring village. Oh yeah, the people who built Colossus are tiny, inches high people. In many ways this is a faithful adaptation of Edgar Rice Burroughs' Tarzan. His friend/sidekick is N'kima the monkey – Cheeta is from the movies. The cartoon featured many of the lost cities from the novels. The animation is based upon the work of Burrough's favorite Tarzan artist, Burne Hogarth.

Next up was *Greystoke* with Christopher Lambert. Someone else will have to fill that one in, as I had to leave for a bit. I secretly went looking for those awesome arrows that could make a dinosaur explode.

The marathon completed with Disney's animated version of *Tarzan*. Well done film with great music and animated sequences.

Bill compared the two Tarzan films and pointed out that the Disney film was, in some regards, closer to the book than *Greystoke*. He felt the two films would need to merge to fully cover the material from the books. He filled-in some assorted trivia as well. Barry had a few Tarzan books on hand for viewing.

Wonderful way to end our winter run of Medium Screen Classics! Enjoyed by all who attended. MSC returns in July & August for its summer run.

SFSNNJ Member Movie Reviews

Percy Jackson Book & Movie – Chris Hasselkus

As I said I was going to do, I saw the film of Percy Jackson based on the first book of the series, *The Lightning Thief*. Neither the book nor movie matched Harry Potter in depth or scope. The book was funny; the movie just had good special effects. Book: B; Film: C.

Avatar Revisited – Chris Hasselkus

Gene McGrath was off Monday, so I went with him to see *Avatar*, which he had not seen. I had seen it previously in 3D, but this time went to see it in IMAX 3D. Obviously the picture was bigger, but the sound is what really blew me away. It truly is one of the most groundbreaking films I've seen.

DVD Reviews – Chris Hasselkus

I've viewed three DVDs recently. Here are some thoughts:

The Corpse Bride: Similar animation as *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. I hadn't seen it since it came out; nice story and great Danny Elfman score.

(500) Days Of Summer: Mahwah Library showed this. I had seen it in the theatre and thought it was a lot of fun, especially in that it was so non-linear. The use of the Hall & Oates song *You Make My Dreams (Come True)* is great.

Whip It: I got this out of the library. I had tried to see it at the AMC @ GSP but a company had rented the theatre that day. This is the directorial debut of Drew Barrymore in which she did a pretty good job. The film centers around Ellen Page of Juno fame about a girl going nowhere who finds roller derby and loves it.

Upcoming Conventions

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
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SUPERNATURAL

PARSIPPANY, NJ
Fri., Sat. & Sun.
July 9-11, 2010
Hilton Parsippany Hotel



PARSIPPANY, NJ
Fri., Sat. & Sun.
August 13-15, 2010
August 20-22, 2010