



January 2011 Newsletter

Freshman Efforts: Some folks are pretty amazing first time out of the gate. Some get better, some get worse. This month we look at those authors and artists whose first great works may have been lost in the mists of time, but are still pretty amazing now.

That's Science Fiction

Tuesday January 4, 2011 – 7p
Hillsdale Public Library

Duel

*Dining follows the movie.

Face the Fiction

Saturday January 8, 2011 – TBA
Mahwah Bar & Grill Social

*Full details on p. 2

Suspense Central

Monday January 10, 2011, 2010 – 8p

*Note location change

Panera Bread Restaurant
165 Rt. 64 West
Paramus, NJ – 201.368.0752
Daemon by Daniel Suarez

Drawing A Crowd

Wednesday January 12, 2011 – 7p

Fantasy Games & Hobbies
9 Miller Rd - Mahwah

Issue #1

For additional information click
www.fantasygamesandhobbies.com

Films to Come: 4-Star Movie Discussion Group

Wednesday January 19, 2011 – 7p

Borders Books & Music
235 Interstate Shopping Center Shopping/Rt. 17
Ramsey, NJ 07446

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.

Rogue Trader: Wolves in the Fold

Saturday January 22, 2011 – time TBA

Fantasy Games & Hobbies

9 Miller Road, Mahwah, NJ

Rogue Trader is a game of space adventure, set in the grim darkness of Games Workshop's Warhammer 40000 universe. Are we the wolves in the fold, or merely the sheep?

Themes of the Fantastic

Tuesday January 25, 2011 – 8p

Wayne Public Library

Remember Their First Time?

www.waynepubliclibrary.org

Modern Masters

Tuesday January 28, 2011 – 8p

Panera Restaurant

1300 Rt. 17 North, Ramsey, NJ

Mutineers Moon by David Weber

Medium Screen Classics

Saturday, January 29, 2011 – TBA

Seasonal Movie Viewing Group – line-up TBA soon!! Get ready for another fun day of films.

please visit www.sfsnj.com for full details

SFSNNJ Face the Fiction presents: SF Social at Mahwah Bar & Grill

When: Saturday, January 8, 2011

Where: Mahwah Bar & Grill – www.mahwahbarandgrill.com

2 Island Road

Mahwah, NJ 07430

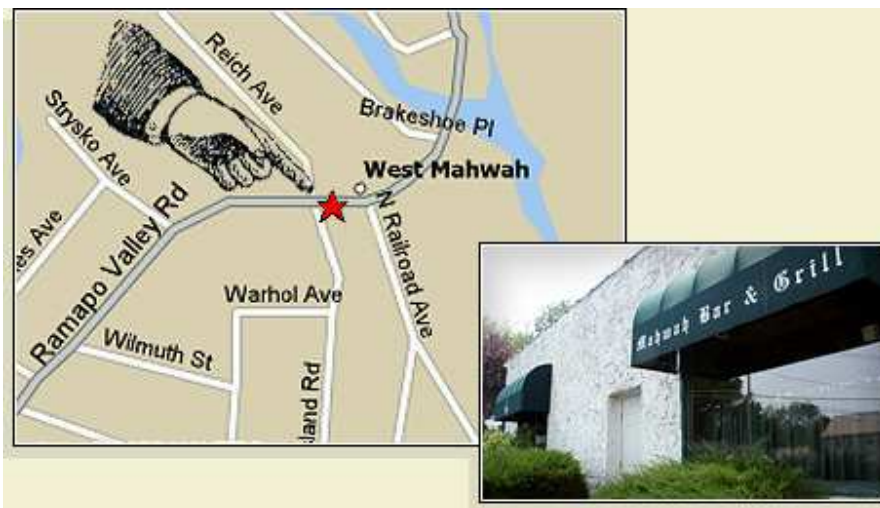
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Time: 6:30pm

Join us for an evening of food, fun and friends at Mahwah Bar & Grill. We have once again booked the back room for the event. No set price, dinner is your choice from the menu. Please join us as we start the new year in a relaxing, friendly atmosphere. "Great burgers, steaks, seafood, sautés, pasta and much more make this the place for everyone."

You can view [menu options](http://www.mahwahbarandgrill.com/menus-mahwah.htm) here: <http://www.mahwahbarandgrill.com/menus-mahwah.htm>

To find [directions](http://www.mahwahbarandgrill.com/directions-mahwah.htm) best for you go to: <http://www.mahwahbarandgrill.com/directions-mahwah.htm>



***Face the Fiction: Where imagination lives!
Only at the SFSNNJ***

December Meeting Recaps

That's Science Fiction! – Prancer Returns - Tuesday December 7, 2010

A very enjoyable film was viewed: "Prancer Returns", a sequel to last year's showing of "Prancer". Thanks to Barry for alerting us to the existence of this gem. It really could have been called "Son of Prancer" in that the original goes to his heavenly reward and leaves his son to carry on the tradition of being one of Santa's reindeer for Christmas Eve. The cast did a fine job of evoking the holiday season - even Jack Palance was on board for this one. Everyone except new attendee William went to the Ridge Diner afterward to continue the merriment. I brought a copy of the DVD for next year's selection, "March of the Wooden Soldiers", in a colorized version, starring the beloved Laurel & Hardy. **(Chris H)**

Additional comments: Yes...thanks to Barry indeed. Snowballs are primed and ready for you!

That aside, Chris left out the marauding cow, the savage reindeer attack, the poor dead reindeer...this is possibly why he sees his selections as 'uplifting' rather than demented and kinda scary - lol. Chris watches a different movie than the rest of us.

Prancer Returns wasn't horrible. In fact, it was commented by both Liz and Mike that it wasn't as depressing as Prancer. It did have the feel of being more of a made-for-TV movie, but was presented well. The actors were convincing and the story was cohesive. Prancer Returns had that feel good holiday vibe, which was nice.

The best thing about Prancer Returns was that no one had seen the movie (most of us, including Chris, would never have known about this film). It's always fun to watch something you've never seen.

Drawing A Crowd – Wednesday, December 9, 2010

Moderators Haywood and Mike did a great job Wednesday night at Drawing a Crowd. Haywood and Mike had worked out a holiday theme for the night.

Haywood printed out several beautifully illustrated/drawn special edition holiday covers from Marvel comics in full color. They were gorgeous, and we had fun looking them over and choosing a favorite. Among the covers were Issue #1 Marvel Holiday Special 1991, 1992's issue, Issue 1993, Issue #1994 Catastrophe on 34th Street, Issue #1995, Issue #1996, Issue #2004 Jonah's Holiday Carol, Issue #2005 Moleman's Christmas: Yes, Virginia, There is a Santron Christmas, Issue #2006 How Fin Fang Foom Saved Christmas, Issue #2007 Piece of Cake; Merry Christmas. Thanks to Haywood for sharing the covers.

Mike took the writing aspect of the meeting. He summarized several holiday stories from holiday editions. First up was *Have Yourself A Sandman Little Christmas*. This Marvel Team-Up #1 debuted in 1972. This story finds Spider-Man and the Human Torch working out some issues. All ends well.

Next up was *Silent Night, Deadly Night*, a Christmas Eve tale with Ghost Rider and the Three Kings. But, Miracle Man is causing mischief. Will all end well?

Tis The Season finds Fantastic Four and the Avengers at a charity snowball fight, when Silver Surfer decides to pop in. Iceman bringing snow to LA and Hulk loving the holiday.

Betrayed (Spider-Girl vol. 7, Nov. 1, 2006) tells the tale of Betty Brant's Christmas party. Can Spider-Man be two places at once?

Christmas Stocking (Archie's Christmas Stocking: Archie and Friends All-Stars, 10/10) was a fun little story from Archie comics. Moose doesn't like kissing (stupid jerk). His girlfriend Midge does. What would happen if Archie and Reggie decide to use the mistletoe, with Midge, to make Moose see the error of his ways?

Twas the Fright Before Christmas (Spider-Man's Tangled Web #21, 2/2003). Spiderman foils the mugging of a sidewalk Santa and uncovers a bigger plot.

The Silent Night of the Batman (Friedrich, Adams and Giordano. This eight-page tale was first published in 1970). Batman joins Commissioner Gordon and his officers on the roof of Police HQ as they sing Christmas Carols all night. As the music rolls the people of Gotham avert disaster and tragedy themselves by listening to their consciences.

The Man Who Murdered Santa Claus (Christmas With the Super heroes #1, 1988 - reprinted From Justice League of America (DC, 1960 series) #110 (March 1974)). The murder of a department store Santa Claus puts the JLA (Justice League of America) on the tail of the Key and his scheme to kill the JLA.

After Mike and Haywood completed their holiday segment, they opened the floor and Barry took a quick trip back to October to discuss *50 Reasons To Love Horror Comics*. This neat list was in Rue Morgue and alphabetically listed horror comics and horror comic writers. Barry also mentioned the upcoming Green Lantern release.

We had a nice time and wound up chatting about all things comic-related until after 9:30pm! Next month Haywood and Mike will discuss *Freshman Efforts* in comics.

Face the Fiction: Acting Out Panel – Saturday, December 11, 2010

Before I get into what an amazing time we had with our Acting Out! Panel guests, I'd like to thank our panel guests for a great presentation - Brad Abraham, Keith Crocker, Rob Hauschild, Susan & Ed X. Young - and everyone for helping out, bringing food/goodies/swap table items, set-up, clean up and anything I may have forgotten. Everyone pitched in to help in some way! We had cheesecake, chips, pretzels, tortilla chips, marzipan's, fruit platters & vegetable platters (yes, platters), great buffet-style dinner with salads, appetizers/finger foods, pasta, rolls, croissants, sparkling cider, soda, ice, coffee, milk - you name it, we probably had it (Todd Debiak and I staked out an area near the food - lol). We had candies on the tables as centerpieces, a beautifully decorated hall, in short, it was fantastic. To ALL who helped out, brought, cleaned, went above and beyond, showed up to enjoy...THANK YOU! Best of all was enjoying the company of friends - luckily for us, there were way too many of you to list individually, you know if you were there - lol!

I do have to give a special Thank You to my helpers Devon and Carson Gutierrez! They helped in so many ways and even provided piano accompaniment. Thank you both (and thanks to Mom & Dad for such polite, well-behaved boys).

Thanks to Thom for coming all the way from Baltimore! And we are glad Ana Keveney was able to join us.

Now to our event. Our Acting Out! Panel was a huge success. This panel meshed and it showed. They had fun with each other and that clearly showed in their presentation to the audience. The panel represented various areas of the entertainment industry: promoter, actor, writer and more.

The panel began by providing brief bios. First up was Brad Abraham: Brad is a screenwriter whose work includes the recent SyFy Channel movie *STONEHENGE APOCALYPSE* and the 2000 miniseries *ROBOCOP PRIME DIRECTIVES*. As a freelance journalist, his writing has appeared in a variety of publications, most notably Rue Morgue, Fangoria and Dreamwatch magazines. Next was Susan who shared what it's like to be frozen to the ground in 9 degrees covered in zombie prop blood. Ed X. Young followed and told us about Zombies, b-movies and special effects make-up demonstration. Next up, Rob Hauschild. Rob is a New Jersey-based writer, editor and cult film purveyor. Rob also founded and published the cult genre magazine *VeX* (1995-2000), and is presently co-owner and producer for DVD label Wild Eye, focusing on offbeat horror and cult movies (www.wildeyereleasing.com). Finishing the line-up was Keith Crocker who also wears many hats - film teacher, writer, horror expert, public speaker and filmmaker.

After each panel member had given a brief background, Mr. Young screened a trailer for the film *Sea of Dust* (starring the legendary Tom Savini and Ingrid Pitt, <http://www.seaofdust.com/>) and then the hilarious 15 minute short zombie comedy showcasing Mr. Young's SFX skills - *Zombie Zombies Everywhere* - check it out on IMDb: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1601243/>.

After the screenings we took a break for coffee and dessert. We chatted a bit and then reconvened loaded up with goodies and a much-needed caffeine boost. As our guests do us the courtesy of appearing, we like to have them present in the format or order they choose or feel most comfortable with,

not the other way around. This has proven to be both a polite/respectful decision and a wise one as our guests are comfortable and always give their best. This panel gave 110%!!

After our dessert break, our guests were ready to go back and give their all. The ice had been broken with each guest's bio and the screenings, so this time the floor was opened for questions. We couldn't get enough. We kept our guests talking until well after 11pm and could've kept going. The questions were diverse and our guests gave thoughtful and often hilarious answers. They were honest as well, i.e. Ed's personal story of his meeting Suzy over Punk Rock and Brad's very funny aside that his likening Godzilla to marriage in no way reflected on his own marriage as wife sat nearby laughing. The entire time they talked to us we were entertained not only by their responses, but often by their antics, i.e. Rob trying to give Keith the mic and Keith responded with, "I don't need that, I have a big mouth."

Topics ranged from CGI (good, sometimes useful, but mostly bad), to promoting films (asked by Todd), to AMC's *The Walking Dead* (asked by Barry). We learned how films are made thanks to Brad and Ed (out of sequence, in various locations, etc.), how they are selected and marketed (Rob, Keith). Every panel member agreed that film school does not teach students how to market a film. Rob's expertise took center stage here. He was honest as he told us it's called show "business" for a reason. It's unfortunate but true - not every film made will find a market. Sometimes bad films get made and promoted while good films never find their way to an audience through lack of knowledge on the filmmaker's part. Susan provided some fun insider details about special effects and boiled bones! Susan proudly told us she has kept every t-shirt she wore as a zombie.

Thom asked about influences and we got lots of fun answers on this one. Vincent Price, Hammer films, Roger Corman, Richard Matheson and even *Twilight Zone*. The audience was extremely interactive and the panel was animated and original. We learned what it's like to be an actor in a film (Ed telling us about *Sea of Dust* and getting killed by his first screen love Ingrid Pitt), an extra in a film (Susan chomping on boiled bones and braving 9 degree weather while trying to hold special effects blood in her mouth), watching syfy mangle your work (Brad trying hard to not throw a brick at syfy channel for taking some liberties with his *Stonehenge Apocalypse* story - stupid high school and helicopter - you had to be there), Keith's hysterical answers and opinions...it all added up to an amazing night and one very good time. We can't wait to work with these guys again! Thank you Brad, Keith, Rob, Susan and Ed for a fantastic time.

Suspense Central – Cemetery Dance by Douglas Preston & Lincoln Childs - Monday December 12, 2010

Very nice turnout for Suspense Central despite the snow, wind and freezing temperatures. Moderator Aurelia Long was unable to make the meeting due to car problems and asked if I'd step in as moderator - sure, why not.

The book for this month was *Cemetery Dance* by Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child (Mr. Child also happens to have been an SFSNNJ guest speaker!!). All present had read the book (Jo was almost done with it), which made for a great discussion. I opened the meeting by reading from a handout I brought with a summary and asking those present who had read the book and if they had read any previous Pendergast novels.

Cemetery Dance finds fan favorite, Special Agent Aloysius Pendergast, returning to NYC to solve a murder close to him. Also involved are returning characters William Smithback, Nora Kelly, and Vincent D'Agosta (readers first meet all four in *Relic* and grow to think of them all as family in subsequent stories). Part of what makes *Cemetery Dance* such a page-turning read is we know the characters and that provides a comfort level and in this case, much suspense! However, this is a good story if you are new to the series and does stand-alone quite well.

Cemetery Dance opens with William Smithback (NY Times reporter) and his wife Nora Kelly (archaeologist at Museum of Natural History) returning from a dinner celebrating their first anniversary. Nora tells Smithback she has to run to the bakery (she has ordered a special pastry for him and wants to surprise him). When she gets home, the apartment door is open, Smithback has been brutally murdered, and she gets attacked upon entering the apartment. She wakes up in the hospital and all eye witness claims point to a man who lived in the building...but committed suicide two weeks ago. In fact, his body was pulled from the river two weeks ago..he was most certainly dead. Yet neighbors identify him and security

cameras have him on film! Now his body is missing from the morgue and it appears he's killed Smithback and almost killed Nora. Enter Pendergast to solve this gem of a mystery.

Detective D'Agosta is officially leading the investigation and it's very personal for him. He's good friends with Smithback and Nora Kelly. He tries to protect Nora. He tells Pendergast and Nora to stay out of things, which they ignore. The journey they take to get answers leads them through sewers, catacombs, crypts, up against the Obeah (West Indian Zombi cult of sorcery and magic), and that's the beginning. This is one creepy story with many scary moments that keep you turning pages and guessing up until the end. This story has so many red herrings.... good stuff!

As Pendergast and D'Agosta delve into things; they find a secretive cult in a seedy area of Manhattan. It's not on maps, a fence surrounds it, and no one in the neighborhood around it will go near the place. They claim to hear screams and are terrified. Inside D'Agosta & Pendergast find the deadly Obeah cult, get attacked by a zombi horde, find a crypt, animal sacrifices...not in Kansas any more Toto!

In the mean time, Nora, home from the hospital after her viscous attack, gets a visit. She hears tapping on her window and discovers her husband on her fire escape - you know, her dead husband!! Yikes. Up until this point, Pendergast was doubtful of the eyewitness accounts. With Nora verifying it was indeed William Smithback who was trying to get in her apartment, Pendergast must believe zombies are making these attacks. It appears Smithback's body has also taken a walk from the morgue - just like his attacker's had before him.

The story takes you places you sometimes do not want to go. Kathleen said she kept waiting to find out Smithback wasn't really dead. He couldn't possibly be! Sadly, he is. But, that's the kind of story *Cemetery Dance* is - it throws so much at you that you don't know what's real, what's imagined or what will happen next. Chris said he thought a lot of what was happening was Nora's imagination due to her drugged state. This one had a definite supernatural feel to it.

Dave likened the story to *Serpent and the Rainbow* and asked if we felt *Cemetery Dance* was creepier. I thought *Cemetery Dance* was far creepier than *Serpent and the Rainbow* because we know these characters - we have history with them so you have a feeling of doom for them. You are invested in them and their outcome. Kathleen agreed.

Cemetery Dance is the 9th Agent Pendergast book. Kathleen and I have read them all, and Dave had read the majority. Pendergast is first introduced in *Relic* and returns in *Reliquary*. He assumes the role of protagonist in *Cabinet of Curiosities*, and becomes legend. He's an awesome character with so much mystery around him he's almost a story himself. The novels are: *Relic*, *Reliquary*, *The Cabinet of Curiosities*, *Still Life With Crows*, *Brimstone*, *Dance of Death*, *The Book of the Dead*, *The Wheel of Darkness*, and *Cemetery Dance*.

We had fun going over each book's premise briefly. Thanks to Dave for his efficient looking up skills! I asked what Pendergast novel was everyone's favorite. Kathleen had a tough time, but finally settled on *Relic*. She liked the setting in the museum, under the museum and the overall menacing feeling. Dave chose *Still Life With Crows* because it was so different from the other Pendergast stories. Jo and I chose *Cabinet of Curiosities*. I chose it because it reminds me of *The Night Strangler* (Kolchak) - underground cities, creeper guy...what's not to love? Jo was a fan of the setting as well. Chris chose *Cemetery Dance*...because it's the most recent book he read and remembers it - lol.

We took a brief detour and chatted about *The Long Walk*, a Stephen King story written under the Bachman moniker. Dave brought this story up and it reminded me of a Japanese film *Battle Royale*. Check both out.

We went back to *Cemetery Dance* and went over the things we liked in the story, each person's favorite part of the story and the overall take on the book. Chris was impressed that the story was about regular people in extraordinary circumstances. It had a feeling of honesty to it. It was unanimously agreed that the book delivered and is strongly recommended.

I then told everyone about next month's book, *Daemon* by Daniel Suarez and provided a handout with a brief description of the book for everyone to look over. I read the summary from the handout, which led to

a brief chat about similar books/movies and what we thought we could expect. I also provided titles/authors for Suspense Central thru July and Dave looked them up on the yahoo calendar. Enjoyable meeting, highly recommended read.

Films to Come – Thursday, December 17, 2010

Moderator Barry came prepared with handouts, Entertainment Weekly, and then some, for this month's Films to Come. Excellent meeting!

We started the evening off chatting about a variety of topics while enjoying dinner. From shady characters in our midst, police shakedowns to holiday specials on TV, we covered the gamut. After a warm meal we cleaned up and jumped into the meeting proper.

First up, the always fun All-Time Box Office - USA and International. These lists are comprised of films that have grossed over \$100,00,00 at the box office during a theatrical run. It is always interesting to see what movies have been added to the list or what's moved down. Once again our awesome knowledge of films was put to the test with an extremely difficult and increasingly challenging game of *fill-in-the-blank*. Difficult in that Barry practically spoon-feeds us the answers. What exactly is he implying??

On the USA list, Toy Story 3 and Alice In Wonderland still held the top two positions, earning \$414,984,497 and \$ 334,185,206 respectively. New addition, Harry Potter and the Deathly Hollows, Part 1 coming in at #6 with a hefty \$259,924,254 and still going. Tangled was another new addition at #18 with a respectable \$118,136,279.

The biggest changes were once again seen in the All-Time Non-USA Box Office. Toy Story 3 and Alice in Wonderland switched positions again with Alice topping Toy Story 3. Those two have been flip-flopping for some time for first place. Resident Evil: Afterlife made the non-USA list at #12 with \$230,274,000, but was not on the USA list at all.

On to the infamous list.... This time we covered November, December and January.

November:

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hollows, Part 1 got thumbs up from all who had seen it. We're still not sure what the heck Barry was saying about Burlesque, but Bill seemed to fixate on Cher. Due Date - a rip-off of Planes, Trains and Automobiles. Morning Glory, Megamind, and Unstoppable were briefly covered. Bill had seen Love and Other Drugs and was not overly impressed. He felt the film needed to be either more serious or less comedic. As it stands, it doesn't balance well.

December:

True Grit led to nice discussion about John Wayne and some bad imitations...I mean spot-on...spot-on imitations. Jack Black, starring in Gulliver's Travels, led to a small debate. Bill not a fan...Devil's Advocate fan. The Tempest, Little Fockers, The Fighter, Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader, I Love You Phillip Morris, The Warrior's Way, The Company Men, Frankie and Alice, Rabbit Hole and Beautiful all were discussed in depth. The big buzz for December though was Tron: Legacy. Barry is impressed with it being a sequel and not a reboot. Whether or not it will be successful remains to be seen. It has to be better than Piranha 3-D...I hope.

January:

Season of the Witch had some talk. Dave pointed out he had seen commercials and thought it looked promising. Bill and Chris were both unsure of the Green Hornet citing the possible "silliness" factor they believe Seth Rogan will bring to the lead role. The Mechanic garnered some time with an aside about original vs. new version.

Of course, while going through the months, we took some side-trips. Who starred in what, why Bill can't seem to keep Ryan Gosling and Ryan Reynolds straight, why Dan Ackyrod is the voice of Yogi Bear and not Jackie Mason, why was it so cold, sharing issues, cute M&M candies, and other assorted absurdities, made for a fun time. Nice wrap-up to the year in films.

Modern Masters – Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Modern masters met on Tuesday, 12/21/10 to discuss *The Steel Remains* by Richards Morgan. Modern Masters moved just for the month of December to accommodate Todd's work schedule. We met at Panera in Ramsey and had a nice time.

Author Richard Morgan was an English language professor at Strathclyde University (try saying that 5 times fast). The advance for the film rights to *Altered Carbon*, his debut novel, allowed him to become a full-time author. Mr. Morgan lives in Glasgow.

Todd gave us a thorough background on Richard Morgan and his works. While Todd enjoyed *The Steel Remains*, he enjoyed some of Morgan's other books a bit more. Morgan writes with a bluntness that may be off-putting for some. *The Steel Remains* is Morgan's first fantasy novel.

The Steel Remains centers on the protagonist Ringil. Ringil is foul-mouthed, tough, and carries a big sword - he also knows how to use it...well. The main character Ringil is as unapologetic as author Morgan in his approach to things. Oddly, you can't help but like the guy. Why you ask? Well, for as much as he is foul-mouthed, crude and boorish, he is honest, loyal and brave. This man has your back if he considers you a friend. He knows what a friend is - *a true friend* - he doesn't provide lip-service to get something he wants for himself - that's for the creeps, thieves and liars in the story who get exactly what they deserve.

Ringil lives in an inn telling old war hero stories in exchange for free room and board. You see, Ringil is hero. He bravely battled foe, lizard people and dragons and came out the winner. He is so renowned, the inn owner named the inn after Ringil's sword - The Ravensfriend. He happily lives in retirement...until Mom pays a visit.

We learn Ringil is from big money and not close to his family. 'Family' has issues with his lifestyle choices, but Mom needs a favor that she knows only Ringil can successfully take care of. Ringil's cousin has been sold by her no-good husband to settle gambling debts. Mom wants her back. Off Ringil goes to appease Mom...she is formidable.

What starts off, as Ringil searching for his cousin becomes a more complicated story of revenge and ancient enemies returning to wreak havoc. Ringil must now get back his cousin and fight the dwenda. The dwenda are an ancient race believed to be extinct. They strike fear into even the most seasoned warriors. All in a days work for poor Ringil.

Morgan weaves a solid yarn. He adds in old friends of Ringil's, Egar and Archeth, for the final battle. Egar and Archeth both get equal time in the telling of their stories. It seems overwhelming, but somehow Morgan manages to make all three characters so interesting that it's not. He does an excellent job of melding the story lines together.

The story moved at a good pace, had good characters and was well written. The one complaint most readers had was the crudeness. Crude, vulgar language and sexual scenarios were common and at times seemed to diminish the story. While it is certainly in fitting with the type of characters in the story, it seemed unnecessary. Morgan likes edgy, and *The Steel Remains* did not disappoint there. A recommend with an advisory. The sequel would be of interest.

Themes of the Fantastic – Tuesday, December 28, 2010

Canceled – blizzard of December 2010!

SFSNNJ Member Reviews Books, Movies, TV

Out and About with Steve Spinosa

UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE, CANCUN MEXICO (Steve Spinosa)
Greetings to all from Cancun, Mexico!!!!

As some of you may know, yesterday I left New Jersey to head down to Mexico with Mr. Steven Lonagan & "Master" Chris Trimarchi for the Americans For Prosperity Hot Air tour Event at the CasaMagna Marriott in Cancun, Mexico to unmask international global warming alarmism at the UN Climate Change Conference today. I will briefly recap the events so far:

On a gray and stormy morning Masters Trimarchi, Lonegan, & myself left the AFP office in Bogota to head to LaGuardia Airport. When we arrived there we discovered that our flight out of LaGuardia had been delayed and we would not make our connecting flight out of Fort Lauderdale to Cancun, Chris T, quickly discovered that there was a flight out of Kennedy Airport going directly to Cancun leaving at 12:00 noon yesterday. We then hurriedly booked the flight thru CT's Iphone, and jumped in a cab to make the flight on time. We arrived at 3:30 p.m. Cancun time (4:30 p.m. NJ time) cleared thru customs and caught the shuttle to the Marriott. After checking in & getting changed we went downstairs for the welcome reception, after which we had dinner with John Flynn (AFP Legal Counsel) And Nancy Burwell (who had been stuck at Newark Airport for eight hours before just arriving in Cancun) then Master Lonegan, CT, Erik Telford and I went out into the garden area to talk and smoke cigars (that CT had purchased in Mexico) into the late hours.

This morning we all jumped into taxi vans to head over to the Moon Palace in order to greet Delegates as they arrived at the UN Conference. The presence of the police made that impossible. However we were able to do some photo ops and shoot some video footage outside the building. Then we headed over to the Climate Change Village exhibit where more video footage was shot of the model "green home of the future". This footage should now be available for viewing at www.americansforprosperity.org Please check it out!!!

This evening is our dinner and event live from the Maya ballroom at the hotel here in Cancun, Mexico where we will have several speakers and a presentation from Mr. Lonegan himself. We will be simulcast back to New Jersey at the Sheraton Tara Hotel on Smith Road in Parsippany at 7:00 p.m this evening or you can view our event live at www.americansforprosperity.org/newjersey I encourage all of you to do so!!!!

We'll be in Mexico for two more days before returning Sunday afternoon. I hope to see you all very soon!!!!

Update: Last night the official part of our AFP Hot Air Tour event in Cancun, Mexico concluded with our official webcast from the Maya Ballroom at the CasaMagna Marriott, which started at 7:00 p.m. Cancun Time (8:00p.m. NJ time) Tim Phillips (president of AFP) hosted the event and showed three videos: a) footage of UN delegates at the pre-conference party on Monday night, b) A pre-recorded message from Senator James Imhoff of Oklahoma (and a vocal anti-cap & trade force in the Congress), and c) Ed Frank's footage of our protest/photo op outside the UN Climate Change Conference & our tour of the "green house of the future" at the Climate Change Village. Our featured speaker was Andrew Breitbart, the journalist who uncovered corruption in ACORN. Afterwards our group scattered off into various cliques buying drinks and reviewing the day's events at the hotel bar before heading out to party on...The "TNT" duo (Chris Trimarchi & Erik Telford) livened up the outdoor gardens with their cigar smoking, pool diving antics!!! (Actually Erik is our director of New Media technologies and is really a nice guy) Today a good number of our AFP folks went home while some stayed around for a day or two longer...Lonegan and I spent part of our time on the beach, then went out for lunch and shopping with fellow New Jerseyan Nancy Burwell & Erik Telford. Tomorrow Master Lonegan, Erik Telford and I are planning to visit the Mayan ruins on the inland part of Cancun along with getting in some beach time...See you all very soon!!!

Upcoming Conventions

<http://www.scificonventions.com/> - take a look at this site for different conventions

<http://www.scifisource.com/> - great site for all things genre