

THE FACT SHEET



FANDOM ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL TEXAS
AUGUST 2010

JOIN US AT THE READING GROUP

Add some of these to your bookshelves, and join the Reading Group this fall! And remember, you need not finish a book to come to a meeting.

The Hundred Thousand Kingdoms by N. K. Jemisin (Sept. 21)

The Windup Girl by Paolo Bacigalupi (Oct. 4)

The Long Run by Daniel Keys Moran (Oct. 19)

Implied Spaces by Walter Jon Williams (Nov. 1)

The Shadow Year by Jeffrey Ford (Nov. 16)

The Humanoids by Jack Williamson (Dec. 6)

SHARE YOUR CON UPDATE

The next issue of the *FACT Sheet* will feature updates from ArmadilloCon. Please send your thoughts and notes to publications@fact.org, for inclusion. Thanks!

CONVENTIONS OF NOTE

Aug. 27-29: **ArmadilloCon 32**, Austin, TX. GoH Rachel Caine; Artist Cat Conrad; Editor Anne Sowards; Fan Elspeth Bloodgood; Toastmaster Nancy Kress; Urban Fantasy Special Guest Ilona Andrews; Steampunk Special Guest Michael Bishop. <http://www.armadillocon.org>

Aug. 27-29: **Bubonicon 42**, Albuquerque Grand (Sheraton) Airport Hotel, Albuquerque, NM. GoH Peter David; Toastmaster Mario Acevedo; Artist Guest Sarah Clemens. <http://www.bubonicon.com>

Sept. 2-6: **Aussiecon, the 68th Worldcon**, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. <http://www.aussiecon4.org>

Sept. 3-6: **DragonCon**, Atlanta, GA. <http://www.dragoncon.org/>

Sept. 17-19: **FenCon VII**, Crowne Plaza North Dallas, Addison, TX. GoH Spider Robinson ("virtual" guest), Music GoHs Jeff and Maya Bohnhoff, Fen GoHs Kevin Roche & Andrew Trembley, Artist GoH John Picacio, Scientist GoH John Randall, Toastmaster Joe R. Lansdale, Special Guest Jessica Wade, Special Guest Robert J. Sawyer. <http://www.fencon.org/>

Sept. 17-19: **Con*Stellation XXIX: Leo**, Holiday Inn Express, Huntsville, AL. GoH Wen Spencer, Master of Ceremonies Steve Jackson, Artist GoH Vincent Di Fate, Fan GoH Warren Buff. <http://www.con-stellation.org/>

Oct. 28-31: **World Fantasy Convention 36**, Columbus, OH. Guests of Honor: Dennis McKiernan, Esther Friesner, David Hartwell, Darrell K. Sweet. <http://www.worldfantasy2010.com>

Nov. 12-14: **Austin Comic Con 2010 Wizard World**

Convvention, Austin Convention Center, 500 East Cesar Chavez. <https://wizardworld.ticketleap.net/austin>

Dec. 3-5: **SMOFcon 28**, Sainte Claire, San Jose, CA. <http://www.smofcon28.org>

Dec. 31-Jan. 2: **Ikkicon**, Hilton Austin, Austin, TX. <http://ikkicon.com>

Feb. 11-13, 2011: **CorFlu**, The Domain Hotel, Sunnyvale, CA. <http://www.corflu.org/>

Feb. 18-20, 2011: **ConDFW**, Crowne Plaza Suites, Dallas, TX. GoHs Jack McDevitt, Tim Powers, Brandon Sanderson. <http://www.condfw.org/>

Mar. 25-27, 2011: **MidSouthCon 29**, Artist GoH Nene Thomas, Costuming GoH Keldar, Editor GoH Jackie Gamber, Toastmaster James P. Hogan.

UPCOMING FACT EVENTS

Friday, August 27 - Sunday, 29: **ArmadilloCon 32**. Renaissance Hotel Austin. Don't miss it!

Sunday, August 29, 3-4 pm: **Reading Group @ ArmadilloCon** (Renaissance Hotel Austin, San Marcos Room). *The Mote in God's Eye* by Larry Niven and Jerry Pournelle.

Great "first contact" novel, nominated for the Hugo, Nebula and Locus Awards in 1975.

Saturday, Sept. 11, 1-3 PM: **FACT Board Meeting** (Manchaca Branch, Austin Public Library, 5500 Manchaca Rd). The monthly meeting of the FACT board of directors is open to all FACT members and other individuals who have business to discuss.

Saturday, Sept. 11, 6PM. **Gaming** (FACT member home, 4209 Dauphine Dr.)

Tuesday, Sept. 21, 7-8PM: **North Austin Reading Group** (Austin Public Library, Milwood Branch, 12500 Amherst). *The Hundred Thousand Kingdoms* by N.K. Jemisin.

"Yeine Darr is an outcast from the barbarian north. But when her mother dies under mysterious circumstances, she is summoned to the majestic city of Sky. There, to her shock, Yeine is named an heiress to the king. But the throne of the Hundred Thousand Kingdoms is not easily won, and Yeine is thrust into a vicious power struggle with a pair of cousins she never knew she had."

See the interview with the author in the AUGust issue of Locus. Also recommended is her blog: <http://nkjemisin.com/>

Apr. 28 - May 1, 2011. **World Horror Convention**, Austin TX. GOHs Joe Hill and Sarah Langan, Media Guest Steve Niles, Toastmaster Joe R. Lansdale, Artists GOH Vincent Chong, Special Guest Brian Keene. <http://whc2011.org/>

June 3-5, 2011: **SoonerCon 20**, Featured Guests Selina Rosen, Tim Powers, Darrell K. Sweet. <http://www.soonercon.com/>

BOOK GROUPS

Sunday, August 29, 3-4 pm: **Reading Group @ ArmadilloCon** (Renaissance Hotel Austin, San Marcos Room). *The Mote in God's Eye* by Larry Niven and Jerry Pournelle.

Wednesday, Sept. 8, 7 PM: **Dark Forces Reading Group**, Flightpath Coffee House, *Sandman Slim* by Richard Kadrey.

Tuesday, Sept. 21, 7-8PM: **North Austin Reading Group** (Austin Public Library, Milwood Branch, 12500 Amherst). *The Hundred Thousand Kingdoms* by N.K. Jemisin.

Thursday, July 29, 7-8:30 PM, Barnes & Noble Arboretum Café, **Science and Religion in Fiction Book Club** (Center for Inquiry). *The One True Platonic Heaven* by John Casti. Coordinated by FACT member Elze Hamilton.

WRITING

2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 7-10 PM: **Slug Tribe**, Hancock Rec Center (41st and Red River).

Alternate Wednesdays, 7-9 PM, **Austin Creative Writers** (Feb. 3, 17). Borders Bookstore at Great Hills. Critique group (novels & short stories). For more information, go to groups.yahoo.com/group/austincreativewriting.

READING GROUP REPORTS

JULY 20 • ANATHEM

On July 20, the North Reading Group met at the Milwood branch of the Austin Public Library, 12500 Amherst Dr., Austin, TX 78727, to discuss Neal Stephenson's *Anathem*. The book was published in 2008 (William Morrow) and a movie-like "trailer" is available on the web. Eight people attended, and two who were unable to attend sent comments by email. Nine had read Stephenson before. All 10 started the 960-page book and 7 finished it.

This book exhibits a remarkable range of pacing. At the beginning it moves at a glacial pace, in keeping with cloistered life in the "Math." Many Maths with various programs exist in the world, but the

primary characters in *Anathem* study mathematics, astronomy and related history and philosophy. At the beginning, they are looking forward to their tenth anniversary there, a week when they will be permitted to go into the secular world and visit their families and the public will be allowed to tour the math. Some residents of the math have been there for hundreds of years and some for thousands, but they are sequestered from the relatively short-timers. Several group members gave up on the book during this extremely slow-paced section. The pace quickened, though, when the actions of some aliens caused what amounted to a universal draft, where groups from all the maths were sent forth to gather at

Connect with FACT online:

- Group List: groups.google.com
group factlist

- Website: www.fact.org

- Facebook: ArmadilloCon
Convention

- Twitter: [armadillocon32](https://twitter.com/armadillocon32)

a central location to deal with the situation. The pace continued to increase until at the end the scenes were shifting so rapidly that some found it hard to keep up with the action.

One of the members listened to the book on CD's while driving on a trip. She spent 35 hours on the trip and enjoyed the book, but found it easy to put aside from time to time. One reader was "charmed" by the vocabulary--"Avout" as opposed to devout, for example. Several readers commented that they liked the intellectual discussions, although some thought it covered too broad a front and could have been improved with a little more focus. One reader liked the Math of "Loreites," whose job was to point out errors that crept into the other Maths' arguments. (Given the virulence of many academic debates, one wonders how there could be any thousand-year Lorites.) Another math produced the traditional "fighting monks."

One reader commented that the book was too heavy to carry around. One read it on a Kindle and liked that advantage. Another tried it on a cell phone and found it was 'way too long for that.

The emailed comments of one reader are worth quoting: "To me, it worked superbly on all the levels I look for in science fiction, or in any book for that matter: character, story, prose, setting, ideas. . . . a single-viewpoint character . . . first-person narrator . . . Fraa Erasmus serves well in that capacity, frequently being the bridge between

various subcultures . . . a delightful voice, observant and wryly sardonic . . . This novel is full of richly rendered characters making truly difficult decisions. . . . The world-building is the real strength of the book.”

Despite the flaws inevitable in trying to reconcile many philosophies that in actuality are widely separated by time and culture, this book is a remarkable true science fiction tour-de-force. The reader may at times be interested, enchanted, bored, annoyed, skeptical, and confused--as are the characters. The consensus of the group was, however, that if you stick it out you'll be glad you did.

After the meeting we enjoyed dinner at the near-by Thai Cuisine.

AUG 2 • BITTER ANGELS

On August 2nd, the North Reading Group met at the North Village Branch of the Austin Public Library, located at 2505 Steck Ave, to discuss *Bitter Angels*. The author is Sarah Zettel, writing under the name C. L. Anderson. It won the 2010 Phillip K. Dick award, given for a distinguished SF work issued originally in paperback form in the U.S. Twelve members attended. Nine had read Zettel before (this is her first book written as C. L. Anderson). Eight started the book and six finished it. Apparently the nom-de-plume was selected because the story was a departure from Zettel's themes over the past several years and her recent books hadn't sold well enough.

The central theme is how in a multi-planet colonial empire peace might be maintained by a dedicated central force (the Guardians) whose members are not permitted to kill, even in self defense. The protagonist is a long-retired Field Commander of the Guardians, Terese Drajeske, who reluctantly accepts a return to duty to investigate the disappearance of a former close associate. The book is a hybrid military SF-space opera-detective-spy story with a strong female protagonist, set in a planet best described as a "hell hole," controlled by a despotic central government located nearby whose power is maintained by rationing water.

Several members like the book, for a variety of reasons. One commented on the detailed world-building. Another liked the pacing and the fact that all of the characters had detailed backgrounds. Two commented that "the book wrapped up well." Others simply liked the story and said that it maintained their interest throughout.

A couple of readers found the pacing to be too slow early on; one dropped out after 60 pages. One commented that the book had "too many viewpoint characters." Another complained that there was "too much motion," creating confusion, although adding that the characterization was good and most of the action scenes were well done.

The consensus was that this is a good summer read.

After the meeting the group enjoyed dinner at The Black-Eyed Pea.

-- Tom Sciance

FACT BOARD MEETING JULY 2010

The monthly meeting of the board of directors for the Fandom Association of Central Texas was called to order on Saturday, 10 July 2010, by Board Chair Jonathan Miles at the Manchaca Branch Library, 5500 Manchaca Rd., Austin, Texas, at 1:09 p.m. Present in addition to the chair were Directors Liz Burton, C. Dan Tolliver and Wendy Snyder, FACT Officers Eric Hollas and Jennifer Juday and FACT member Karen Meschke.

The presentation of the minutes of the June meeting was postponed until August meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE: No items required board action.

OFFICER REPORTS

CHAIR

Mr. Miles noted he had attended ApolloCon briefly and took part in the July ArmadilloCon meeting.

PRESIDENT

Mr. W. Siros being absent to attend Mythcon, there was no report.

VICE-PRESIDENT

No report

TREASURER

Ms. M. Moul reported debits this month totaled \$649.21 for the mass mailing and the Barrett party. Air fare reimbursement was sent to Karen Meschke in the amount of \$2805.40. Paypal receipts for June totaled \$2795 for Armadillocon and \$22 for FACT. Balance as of June 30, 2010 was \$23,708.38.

The treasurer, after a great deal of research, has determined that we will be best treated by depositing our funds with the University Federal Credit Union, who would welcome us with open arms and pay us interest on our balances. Ms. Meschke advised that when FACT had previously considered moving the account to a credit union we were told they couldn't serve nonprofits. The matter of changing accounts was tabled until Ms. Moul can be available to provide additional information.

SECRETARY

Ms. Burton advised her activities were addressing normal matters.

REGISTRAR

Vital Statistics Change

55 Active Memberships Change: +1

37 Expired Memberships (< 1 Year) Change: 0

Changes since 05/08/2010 Report

New Membership

Gray David

Renewed Memberships

Miles Jonathan W *Actual renewal was in March*

Changes since 05/08/2010 Report

Renewed Memberships

Moore John F.

Babcock Renee

Chevalier Joi

Changes since 04/10/2010 Report

New Memberships

Moul Joyanne

Other Changes:

Davidson Tom *Fixed expiration date*

HISTORIAN

No report

MIS

Ms. J. Moul advised Paypal will now only send email notifications to the primary email address so she has updated the e-mail forwarders to make sure that everyone will get the emails they need.

She also fixed broken email links on the contact page of www.fact.org and made routine updates.

PUBLICATIONS

Ms. Juday noted the *FACT Sheet* is a bit late but has gone out: she will send the paper copies Monday. She has also worked on ArmadilloCon publicity and helped with gaming.

QUARTERMASTER

No report

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ARMADILLOCON

Ms. Burton advised membership is at 134 as of 30 June. Guests' travel and hotel arrangements have been made, and the main publicity campaign is about to commence. The convention was listed on the *Austin Chronicle's* go-to events website.

There are 12 registered dealers to date. Final registration for the writer's workshop was 47, and manuscripts are being distributed. The faculty for the workshop this year is superb, and drew students from all over the country.

HOTEL COMMITTEE

No report, but Liz noted were no room nights set aside for Sunday for ArmadilloCon.

Fred is working on it for the convention this year. It was requested Ms. Burton bring copies of the contracts to the August meeting.

BYLAWS COMMITTEE

No report

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

A reminder of the special FACT member convention rate was posted to the FACT list.

POLICIES & PROCEDURES COMMITTEE

No report. The committee will meet in August.

READING GROUPS

The North group is going well, and Ms. Burton advised she had received several inquiries about restarting the South group.

OLD BUSINESS

1. World Horror: No report.

2. Bank Change: As noted, the board will wait for additional information.

3. ArmadilloCon 33: Ms. Juday reported some of her selected guests have accepted, and that she will continue pursuing the others to be able to announce her slate at ArmadilloCon 32.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Signature Card: It was moved by Mr. Tolliver, seconded by Ms. Snyder, that the signatories on the FACT account be Charles Siros, Jennifer Juday, Elizabeth Burton, and Marianne Moul. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 1

2. Sam's Club Renewal: It was moved by Mr. Tolliver, seconded by Ms. Burton that we renew the Sam's Club membership, with the account-holders names to remain the same.

There being no other business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 1: 40 p.m.

About The FACT Sheet

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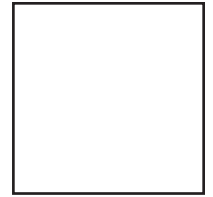
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The FACT Sheet
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