



Volume 33 Number 7 Issue 395

December 2020

### A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

This was a very hard year with a few bright spots. I am delayed doing my usual Worldcon report. I am hoping to focus on it during the Hoilday season. Sadly we lost Ben Bova and share my thoughts on him Next month's issue will have some end of the year lists. We will find out what was big in science fiction and fantasy books and films. There might be some reviews. Hopefully my Worldcon report. Happy Holidays.

### Award News (Source File 770)

Nalo Hopkinson will be the 37th Damon Knight Grand Master. This is awarded by the Science Fiction Writers of America (SFWA) for lifetime contributions to the literature of Science Fiction and Fantasy.

Hopkinson's first novel was *Brown Girl in the Ring*, published in 1998. She won the Astounding Award for Best New Writer in 1999. *Sister Mine* won the Andre Norton Award. She was the Guest of Honor at Worldcon 75, the 2017 Worldcon in Helsinki Finland. Other Awards include the British Fantasy Award, Gaylactic Spectrum Award, and the Sunburst Award.

There is a tribute video on SFWA's You Tube Channel. Participants in video include SFWA President Mary Robinette Kowal, Levar Burton, Tobias Buckell, Sarah Pinsker, and Lynn Thomas.

Hopkinson will formally accept the honor at the 58th Nebula Weekend, June 4-6, 2020. The Nebula Weekend will be virtual and the award ceremony is usually open to all.



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## December OASFiS Calendar

### Holiday Party and Elections

Sunday December 19, 2020 12:30PM at Patty Russel's House (email Patty Russell at bearinthewoods\_8us@hotmail.com or Juan at sanmiguel@earthlink.net for more detailed directions).

### Sci Fi Light

#### Taking Break for the Holidays!!!

To contact for more info:  
OASFiS Business Meeting 407-823-8715

## OASFiS People

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Any of these people can give readers information about the club and its functions. To be included in the list call Juan.

### Letters of Comment

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November 3, 2020

Dear OASFiSians:

Many thanks to all of you for the September and October issues of the Event Horizon, 393 and 394. I have taken a little bit of time off my letter writing to edit a book or two, but I am now back to catch up, and perhaps donate a few column-inches to a future issue. Hopeful, anyway.

393... The Ignyte Awards sound very interesting, and I even recognize a few names, but in many ways, this genre has left me behind. It's impossible to keep up, so I carry on with what I enjoy and can afford. I am lucky in that I can see all of the current Trek shows, and I work on occasion on the various issues of *Amazing Stories*, and I have had the chance to edit, copyedit and proofread a number of books...that's about all I do now, and I am pleased with it. I would imagine the Awards have been awarded, and now to see if the results are in issue 394.

My letter...I say again, libraries in Toronto do not have these items. I have asked, and the branches I have dealt with seem more interested in making sure my card is up to date, rather than getting me something I might want to see, and then they tell me that book is nowhere in the system. I gather my card will expire soon, and I suspect I will simply let it expire; it's done nothing for me.

*That is downer that your local library seems so limited. Does*

*your library have eBook services. Due efforts by the publishers, numbers of eBook editions are restricted to a few copies. Still I have used that to read regular books and graphic novels.*

394... The Emmys look interesting too, but so many of these shows are on streaming services I either can't get, or do not subscribe to. Perhaps they will get to regular television one of these days.

*I was thinking about this. Due to the current state of FCC regulations in the US, this is highly unlikely. Over the air television networks have tight restrictions. Maybe cable? I saw **Watchmen** and **Lovecraft Country** on Amazon Prime. I paid about \$30 for each to see them after the finished their run on HBO Max. I hope Apple TV does this too when they release their adaptation of Asimov's **Foundation**. If not I will consider buying the physical media*

And, it's lunchtime! I will get this ready to go, and then search for something interesting in the kitchen. Take care, stay safe, and seeing that today is election day, may everyone vote safely. A friend in New Port Richey voted this morning with no problems. Others report on voter obstruction, but that merely lengthens the time they wait to get their vote in, and they all got the chance. See you with the next issue.

*I got up at 4AM on the first day of early voting and was the first one at the polling place. I got my vote in with a pre-marked ballot (based on research I did days earlier using various online resources). It went well. I think it was great this last election broke records. I hope we can get the momentum up for the Georgia run off elections and future elections. Very votes counts!*

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

### Ben Bova

Ben Bova was a name I heard off a lot when I got into Science Fiction. I saw his name on books. I heard about him in stories about the field in fandom. He always seemed to be around. I am not even sure when I first met him.

“Brillo”, a collaboration with Harlan Ellison, may have been the first story of his I read. It was a solid story about a robot police officer and the problems that idea would have. The story was plagiarized and made into a television series. Ellison sued the network and the studio and won \$337,000 in damages (in 1980). Bova said at a con that after lawyers’ fees and court costs, Ellison added a section to his house and Bova bought a new car.

Bova was one of the best Hard Science Fiction writers. You knew the science was always right in his stories. In an interview, he said it was dumb that Luke Skywalker turn off his bomb sight during the Death Star attack. He noted that real bomber pilots never did that.

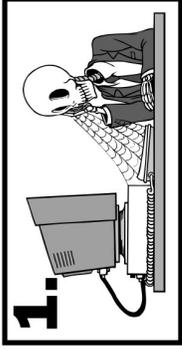
His *Grand Tour* novels took us to parts of the Solar System that did not get a lot of attention. Mercury, Venus, Jupiter, Saturn, and Uranus were settings for interesting plots. He found new areas to explore with the Moon and Mars. *Uranus* was released this year which makes the *Grand Tour* eligible for the Best Series Hugo.

As an editor, Bova was very helpful to writers. He published Spider Robinson’s stories in *Analog* and told him to go to cons. He help Joe Haldeman find a publisher to *The Forever War*. Bova would win the Best Editor Hugo six times.

Bova was helpful to OASIS as a guest. He was always open to do anything on the program. When I tried to put together a panel to celebrate the 50th anniversary of *Dune*, Bova politely reminded me that he knew Frank Herbert and would do the panel. Bova was on the first panel when OASIS hosted the SF version of *Wait, Wait, Don’t Tell Me* (hosted by the team from *Necronomicon*). At OASIS 30 he participated in the Harlan Ellison Memorial Panel. Bova did what he could to promote the con, mentioning it in interviews.



# There are two ways to be a science fiction and fantasy fan in Florida.



**1.** Read about the exciting fan activities *other* people are doing.

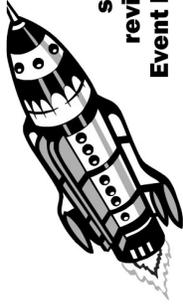


**2.**

**Start doing exciting things yourself, and meet new friends "in the flesh" with OASFIS!**

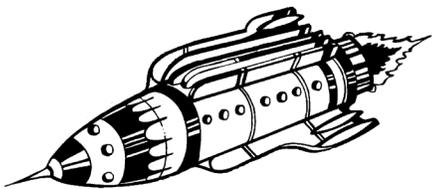


We're OASFIS - the Orlando Area Science Fiction Society. We enjoy and promote science fiction, fantasy, horror, books, movies, TV series, costuming, gaming - every part of the most imaginative hobby in existence. Of all the conventions in Central Florida, only our **OASIS conventions** are operated *by* fans, *for* fans, and not for profit...bringing affordable fun that speaks to *your* interests. Bring your unique fan interests to life and share them with Florida's fan community. We work with other fan organizations to bring our mutual passions to life. Visit our monthly meetings...and help shape fandom's future by joining OASFIS. Individual and family memberships are available. If you're tired of just sitting, you're welcome at OASFIS...no bones about it!



**Besides monthly meetings and our OASIS conventions, read about our special events and activities on our web site! Members can contribute articles, reviews and original fiction to our magazine Event Horizon. We want to hear from you!**

**OASFIS: The Orlando Area Science Fiction Society  
[www.oasfis.org](http://www.oasfis.org)**



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