



**A WORD FROM THE EDITOR**

Well it's a New Year. Congratulations to the new officers and thanks to the previous ones.

Reminder that memberships are up and dues need to be paid at the next meeting or sent to the PO Box. (new PO Box listed in the OASIS ad)

Checkout the certificate of appreciation from the Guardians of Gallifrey.

Contact me if you need the following:

- to be removed or added to the OASFIS People box on page 2
  - To add a non FL convention to my Convention/Event listings
  - If you want your birthday listed in the EH
- See you next month.

**OASFIS December Christmas Party 12/13/09**

Attendance: Patricia Wheeler, David Ratti, Susan Cole, Steve Cole, Juan Sanmiguel, Arthur Dykeman, Roger Sims, Pat Sims, Dick Spelman, Hector Hoglin, Ruth Hoglin, Colleen O'Brien Ed Anthony, David Plesic, Kim Darin, Melissa McIntosh, Bob Yazel, Jim Riley

No official reports due to the Christmas party, which was a great deal of fun. Thanks to Patricia for hosting the party. Everyone brought excellent food, nice gifts and good companionship.

Election results:

President: Patricia Wheeler

Vice-President: Steve Grant

Treasurer: Michael Pilletere

Secretary: Susan Cole

Convention Chair for 2011: Juan Sanmiguel

**2010 Florida Convention Calendar**  
(source Wasabi Anime)

- January 8-10 (Miami)- Creation's Official Twilight Con [www.creationent.com/](http://www.creationent.com/)
- January 30 (Orlando) – Orlando Anime Day [www.orlandoanimesday.com/](http://www.orlandoanimesday.com/)
- February 6 (Tampa) – State Fair Comic Book Convention [www.tampacomicconvention.com/](http://www.tampacomicconvention.com/)
- March 12-14 (Orlando) – MegaCon [www.megaconvention.com/](http://www.megaconvention.com/)
- April 28-May 3 (Orlando) – HAuNTcon [www.hauntcon.com/](http://www.hauntcon.com/)
- May 2 (Tampa) – Tampa Comic & Toy Convention #2 [www.tampacomicconvention.com/](http://www.tampacomicconvention.com/)
- May 7-9, 2010 (Orlando) – EyeCon: Bloodlust [www.eyeconfla.com/bloodlust/](http://www.eyeconfla.com/bloodlust/)
- May 28-30 (Orlando) – Florida Battle Con [www.floridabattlecon.com/](http://www.floridabattlecon.com/)
- May 28-30 (Orlando) – OASIS 23 [oasfis.org/oasis/](http://oasfis.org/oasis/)
- June 4-6 (Orlando) GAMME Expo - [www.gamme-expo.com/](http://www.gamme-expo.com/)
- June 18-20 (Miami) – Florida SuperCon [www.floridasupercon.com/](http://www.floridasupercon.com/)
- June 24-27 (Orlando) – BotCon [www.botcon.com/](http://www.botcon.com/)
- July 5 (West Palm Beach) – Chibi-Pa: Sampler [www.chibipa.com/](http://www.chibipa.com/)
- July 10-11 (Jacksonville) – Ancient City Con [www.ancientcitycon.com/](http://www.ancientcitycon.com/)
- July 11 (Tampa) – Tampa Comic & Toy Convention #3 [www.tampacomicconvention.com/](http://www.tampacomicconvention.com/)
- July 15-18 (Orlando) – Infinitus [www.infinitus2010.org/](http://www.infinitus2010.org/)
- July 17-18 (Miami) – YasumiCon [www.yasumicon.com/](http://www.yasumicon.com/)
- July 23-25 (Tampa) – MetroCon [www.metroconventions.com/](http://www.metroconventions.com/)
- August 6-8 (Orlando) – Anime Festival Orlando [www.animefestivalorlando.com/](http://www.animefestivalorlando.com/)
- August 12-15 (Orlando) – Star Wars Celebration V [www.starwarscelebration.com/](http://www.starwarscelebration.com/)
- August 20-22 (Miami) – MizuCon [www.mizucon.com/](http://www.mizucon.com/)
- August 27-29 (West Palm Beach) – Chibi-Pa: Go [www.chibipa.com/](http://www.chibipa.com/)
- September 11-12 (Orlando) – CreatureCon [www.creaturecon.com/](http://www.creaturecon.com/)
- October 8-10 (St. Augustine) – EXPCon [www.expcn.org/](http://www.expcn.org/)
- October 8-10 (Orlando) – Spooky Empire

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### Janaury OASFiS Calendar

#### OASFiS Business Meeting

Sunday, January 10, 1:30 PM, Orange Public Library (Downtown Orlando, 101 E. Central Blvd., Orlando, FL 32801,407-835-7323). Come join us as we discuss the works of Clifford D.Simak

#### Sci Fi Light

Saturday January 30, 6:30 PM, Brick and Fire Pizza and Past Parlor (1621 South Orange Avenue Orlando,FL). Come join us and discuss **Inferno** by Larry Niven and Jerry Pournelle. For more info contact Steve Grant

To contact for more info:

OASFiS Business Meeting 407-823-8715

#### OASIS Guest Speculation Turns Fact

Chris Berman's next novel, **Red Moon**, predicted ice would be found on the Moon's southern pole. This year's probe crash has proven him right. For more info checkout: [xpressyourselfpublishing.org/redmoonnews.htm](http://xpressyourselfpublishing.org/redmoonnews.htm)

#### Top 15 Box Office Films for 2009

Source [www.boxofficemojo.com](http://www.boxofficemojo.com)

(Includes studio and total box office gross)

(Note 11 out of 15 are SF/Fantasy and comic films, see asterisk)

1*	<b>Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen</b>	Paramount/Dream Works	\$402M
2*	<b>Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince</b>	Warner Brothers	\$302M
3*	<b>Up</b>	Pixar/Buena Vista	\$293M
4*	<b>The Twilight Saga: New Moon</b>	Summit Entertainment	\$281M
5	<b>The Hangover</b>	Warner Brothers	\$277M
6*	<b>Star Trek</b>	Paramount	\$258M
7*	<b>Avatar</b>	Fox	\$213M
8*	<b>Monsters Vs. Aliens</b>	Paramount/Dream Works	\$198M
9*	<b>Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs</b>	Fox	\$197M
10	<b>The Blind Side</b>	Warner Brothers	\$184M
11*	<b>X-Men Origins: Wolverine</b>	Fox	\$180M
12*	<b>Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian</b>	Fox	\$177M
13	<b>The Proposal</b>	Buena Vista	\$164M
14*	<b>2012</b>	Sony	\$161M
15	<b>Fast and Furious</b>	Universal	\$155M

### OASFiS People

Steve Cole	407-275-5211 stevepcole@hotmail.com
Susan Cole	407-275-5211 sacole@mindspring.com
Arthur Dykeman	407-328-9565 adykeman@bellsouth.net
Steve Grant	352 241 0670 stevegrant@embarqmail.com
Mike Pilletere	mike-sf@webbedfeet.com
David Ratti	407-282-2468 dratti@eudoramail.com
Juan Sanmiguel	407-823-8715 sanmiguel@earthlink.net
Patricia Wheeler	407-832-1428 pwheeler11@cfl.rr.com

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

Best episodes of SF/Fantasy TV in 2009 by Tiffany Vogt of Airlock Alpha ([www.airlockalpha.com](http://www.airlockalpha.com))

"Daybreak Part 2", **Battlestar Galactica**

"Belonging", **Dollhouse**

"Welcome Back Carter", **Eureka**

"The Gift", **FlashForward**

"A New Day in an Old Town", **Fringe**

"Let All the Children Boogie", **Life on Mars**

"The Incident", **Lost**

"End of Nights Part 2", **Sanctuary**

"Doomsday", **Smallville**

"Justice", **Stargate: Universe**

"Changing Channels", **Supernatural**

"Today is the Day", **Terminator: The Sarah Conner Chronicles** Pilot, *V*

"Implosion", **Warehouse 13**

Special Mentions (This was because these were specials and not part of a regular TV Series)

**Alice** (SyFy Channel Mini series)

**Caprica** (released as DVD soon to be a series on SyFy Channel)

"Planet of the Dead", **Doctor Who** (BBC)

"Waters of Mars", **Doctor Who** (BBC)

"The End of Time Part 1", **Doctor Who** (BBC)

**Torchwood: Children of Earth** (BBC)

All of these episodes (except for the **Torchwood** mini-series) are eligible for the Hugo for best Dramatic Presentation Short Form



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[www.spookyempire.com/](http://www.spookyempire.com/)

October 22-24 (St. Petersburg) – Necronomicon

[stonehill.org/necro.htm](http://stonehill.org/necro.htm)

October 29-31 (Orlando) – Hurricane Who

[www.hurricanewho.com](http://www.hurricanewho.com)

November 5-7 (Tampa) – ShadoCon [www.shadocon.com/](http://www.shadocon.com/)

November 7 (Tampa) – Tampa Comic & Toy Convention #4

[www.tampacomiconvention.com/](http://www.tampacomiconvention.com/)

December 10-12 (Orlando) – Creation's Official Twilight Con

[www.creationent.com/](http://www.creationent.com/)

### Best SF/Fantasy Books of 2008

From Amazon.com

#### Editor's Picks

- 1 ***Palimpsest*** by Catherynne M. Valente
- 2 ***The Red Tree*** by Caitlin R. Kiernan
- 3 ***The Other Lands (Acacia, Book 2)*** by David Anthony Durham
- 4 ***American Fantastic Tales*** Boxed Set by Peter Straub
- 5 ***Boneshaker*** by Cherie Priest
- 6 ***The Other City*** by Michal Ajvaz
- 7 ***Yellow Blue Tibia*** by Adam Roberts
- 8 ***Eclipse 3*** by Jonathan Strahan
- 9 ***Interfictions 2: An Anthology of Interstitial Writing*** by Christopher Barzak
- 10 ***The Sad Tale of the Brothers Grossbart*** by Jesse Bullington

#### Customer Favorites

- 1 ***Dead and Gone (Sookie Stackhouse, Book 9)*** by Charlene Harris
- 2 ***The Gathering Storm (The Wheel of Time)*** by Robert Jordan
- 3 ***One Second After*** by William R. Forstchen
- 4 ***Turn Coat (The Dresden Files, Book 11)*** by Jim Butcher
- 5 ***Bone Crossed (Mercy Thompson, Book 4)*** by Patricia Briggs
- 6 ***Hunting Ground (Alpha and Omega, Book 2)*** by Patricia Briggs
- 7 ***White Witch, Black Curse (The Hollows, Book 7)*** by Kim Harrison
- 8 ***Relentless (The Lost Fleet, Book 5)*** by Jack Campbell
- 9 ***Unseen Academicals (Discworld)*** by Terry Pratchett
- 10 ***By Heresies Distressed (Safehold)*** by David Weber

### Twilight Saga

(WARNING SPOILERS).

I like vampires but I am not fanatical about them. I have read a lot of the major works: *Dracula*, *I am Legend*, *Interview with a Vampire*, the *Sonja Blue* series and the early Anita Blake series. I was also a big fan of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and *Angel*. One of the recent anime series I got into was *Trinity Blood*, which was based on a series of novels by Sunao Yoshida. In *Trinity Blood*, vampire-like creatures are trying to take over Earth in the distant future with the Roman Catholic Church as the only force that can oppose them. Vampires can make great antagonists. They are incredibly strong, fast, and have years of experience. With these abilities, vampires can cause a lot of mayhem for a hero to deal with. They can also make great protagonists. With those same powers vampires can do a lot of good. Many good vampires are either trying to atone for past sins or fighting against their predatory nature. I tend to like my vampires clearly-defined, and the more scientifically based the better.

One of the largest events at the last two San Diego Comic Cons were the panels/presentations for the films *Twilight* and *New Moon*. Then the writer, Stephenie Meyer, was profiled on *CBS Sunday Morning*. The only other science fiction/fantasy/horror writers who have been profiled by CBS News were Stephen King and J.K. Rowling. This perked my curiosity. Around the time the first film came out, I tried to read the book. Every copy in the Orange and Seminole County Library systems were checked out. I did not want to buy the book. To me buying a book is a big commitment and I was not sure if this series was going to be worth it. I finally got copies of the whole series thanks to the kindness of Melissa McIntosh

The *Twilight* series consists of *Twilight*, *New Moon*, *Eclipse*, and *Breaking Dawn*. Bella Swan moves from Phoenix, Arizona to Forks, Washington to live with her father. While at school she meets the mysterious Edward Cullen. It turns out that Edward and his family are non-predatory vampires. Bella falls in love with Edward. Bella also makes friends with Jacob Black. It turns out the Jacob is part of a pack of werewolves who have a truce with the Cullens. While Bella, Edward and Jacob deal with their relationship issues, they also have to fight hostile rogue vampires and confront the vampire royalty.

One thing bothers me about this series: Meyer's vampires are not killed by sunlight, it just makes them sparkly. The vampires are also pretty much invulnerable, have super speed and do not sleep. Fire is the only sure way to kill a vampire. Given all this power, one wonders why vampires have not taken over humanity. In this series vampires have been around since the 15<sup>th</sup> century. They could have taken over easily before the industrial age. In the third book, there is talk about the problems of creating and controlling a vampire army. While difficult, the vampires could have created an army within 20 years. One wonders if Meyer had sold the series to a genre publisher like Tor, the editors would have asked her to address this problem.

Besides that problem, the books are good. The plot focuses more on the romantic relationships, with the threatening vampires in the background. The climax usually deals with the

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CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Presented to

JUAN SANMIGUEL & OASFIS

from the

GUARDIANS OF GALLIFREY

for Your Generosity

this 19th day of December, 2009

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hostile vampire threat. The relationships feel genuine. They are complicated, and people do get hurt along on the way, yet everybody works out which is what one wants from a romance.

It is the classic story of the extraordinary which hides in the everyday world. Bella is thrust into the extraordinary and has to deal with it. Bella is kind, smart, klutzy, and a bit unsure of herself. She does a good job of facing what this world gives her. All the characters are well thought-out, but Bella is our point-of-view character (most of the time). She is the one the reader has to relate to. Bella develops as the series goes on. Bella has hard life-changing decisions to make and she makes them.

The plotting and pacing of the books are well done. Meyer does a good job of down-shifting the narrative to develop the characters and explain this world. One gets the needed exposition and it flows seamlessly in the story. Meyer also has an original take on both the vampire and werewolf mythology. Mainly she takes away their traditional limitations (vampires are not hurt by sunlight and werewolves can control their metamorphosis and their wolf forms). In the last book, Bella converts into a vampire. We get to see the transformation from her point of view. It is a very science-fictiony moment as Bella describes what is happening to her. It is an incredible event brought to human terms by Bella's observations. There are also some unexpected twists at the end of the story. One of these twists is that our heroes are able to talk and think their way out of the final conflict of the series. Not that there is anything wrong with a big throw-down fight at the end. J.K. Rowling did a great job with her conclusion to the *Harry Potter* series. It is cool when one is expecting a big battle and the heroes avoid it with their brains. It is also interesting that the local (and some not-so-local) vampires and werewolves are able to overcome their mutual prejudice for a common cause. At the end of the story a new community is starting.

The series is fun. It deserves the accolades it has been getting. I think males tend to deny liking it because the books' main focus is on the relationships rather than action. The books seem to inspire passion from their fans. It is always good to hear that so many people are reading. Hopefully they will stick with it. Another entry into the pantheon of vampire myth has arrived.

### *Avatar*

(WARNING SPOILERS)

This film is being called a game-changer. *Avatar* is touted as a herald of a new form of movie-making. *60 Minutes* interviewed writer/director James Cameron. It is currently doing exceptionally well at the box office.

In the mid-twenty-second century, humans are exploring the planet Pandora. Pandora is a moon orbiting a Jupiter-like planet in the Alpha Centauri system. Pandora has less gravity than Earth, an atmosphere poisonous to humans, and is inhabited by tall blue-skinned people called the Na'vi. The Na'vi have a primitive culture. Human researchers, led by Dr. Grace Augustine (Sigourney Weaver), interact with the Na'vi using avatars. Avatars are artificially-created Na'vi bodies driven remotely by human operators. The humans on Pandora are working for a corporation, whose main goal is to mine unobtainium

(cute joke here). Jake Sully (Sam Worthington), a paraplegic and former Marine, goes to Pandora as an avatar operator. Sully is replacing his brother, a fully trained avatar operator, who died. Avatars are genetically matched to their operators and Sully is compatible with his brother's avatar. Along with the scientists, the corporation has brought in a large security force. Sully is asked by the security chief Quaritch (Stephen Lang) to gain information on the Na'vi who live in a huge tree over a large unobtainium deposit. Sully is able to gain unprecedented access to the Na'vi, and begins to learn their ways from Neytiri (Zoë Saldana), daughter of the leader. As Sully learns more about the Na'vi, he begins question the corporation's aim.

The biggest problem with this film is the story. It is an old story of the primitives fighting a technologically advanced society. There is very little done to even modernize the story. Despite the implication that human researchers have been on the planet for years, it seems that there are no advocates for the Na'vi on Earth. The corporation seems to have the ability to do anything they wish to get the unobtainium. There is no explanation as to what unobtainium is used for. All that is known about unobtainium is its value. The Na'vi's only hope is an outsider who will bring down their enemies. As Hugo-nominated writer Paul Cornell points out, what the Na'vi need is a good lawyer and PR firm.

The film is full of clichés. Two stuck out to me. One is the insane military commander who just wants to kill natives. Quaritch does a lot of things which come off as unstable. It is scary enough that a private corporation can have an army, but it is insane that they put a maniac at the head of said army and no one in authority really challenges him. The other thing is that the person with little experience at his job is able to beat out those with more experience. This just feels hackneyed. The story might have still worked with an experienced avatar operator getting close to the Na'vi.

Despite these problems, the story works on basic level. You cannot go wrong with a big powerful military force being brought down by a determined people. The action sequences are well-shot and are easy to follow, which is more than I can say for the *Transformers* films. The final battle works, given the way world is set up, though one wonders what is to prevent the corporation to come back and attack again.

The film's strength is in the world-building. Pandora is a real alien world. This is not Earth dressed up. Pandora has a unique flora and fauna. Cameron and his team put in a lot of effort into creating Pandora. One gets into this world particularly with the 3D effects. This was the second 3D movie I saw in 2009. The first was *Coraline*. Both films were enhanced by the 3D effects. 3D may have finally matured, after nearly 50 years of existence. Cameron and his team got the science right. For more on this go to [www.aintitcool.com/node/43440](http://www.aintitcool.com/node/43440).

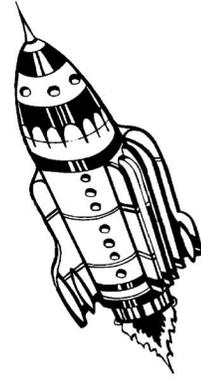
The idea of a networked planet was great and well-executed. It is cool how the Na'vi connected to their animals via an interface, like networking a computer. The only thing that hurts this idea is the fact that it takes an outsider to contact the main planet node.

*Avatar* will raise the bar on future science fiction/fantasy films. One hopes that future endeavors using *Avatar*'s technology will have better stories.

The Orlando Area Science Fiction Society Presents  
Its 23rd Annual Celebration of Science Fiction and Fantasy

# OASIS 23

May 28-30, 2010



Writer Guests of Honor  
Sharon Lee and Steve Miller

*Liaden series*  
*Balance of Trade, Fledgling,*  
*Carousel Tides*

## Hotel Information

\$89/night, single-quad  
through 4/30/10  
Mention OASIS for rate

Orlando Marriott Downtown  
400 West Livingston St.  
Orlando, Florida 32801  
407-843-6664  
1-800-574-3160

Artist Guest of Honor  
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*Battlestar Galactica (2003)*  
*Mulan, Tarzan(1999), Lilo and Stitch*

Filk Guest of Honor  
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Weekend Memberships:  
\$30 until 1/1/10,  
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