

Madison FOURSQUARE

26

This issue of *Madison Foursquare* is brought to you by Scott Custis and Jeanne Gomoll, who live at 2825 Union Street, Madison, WI 53704.

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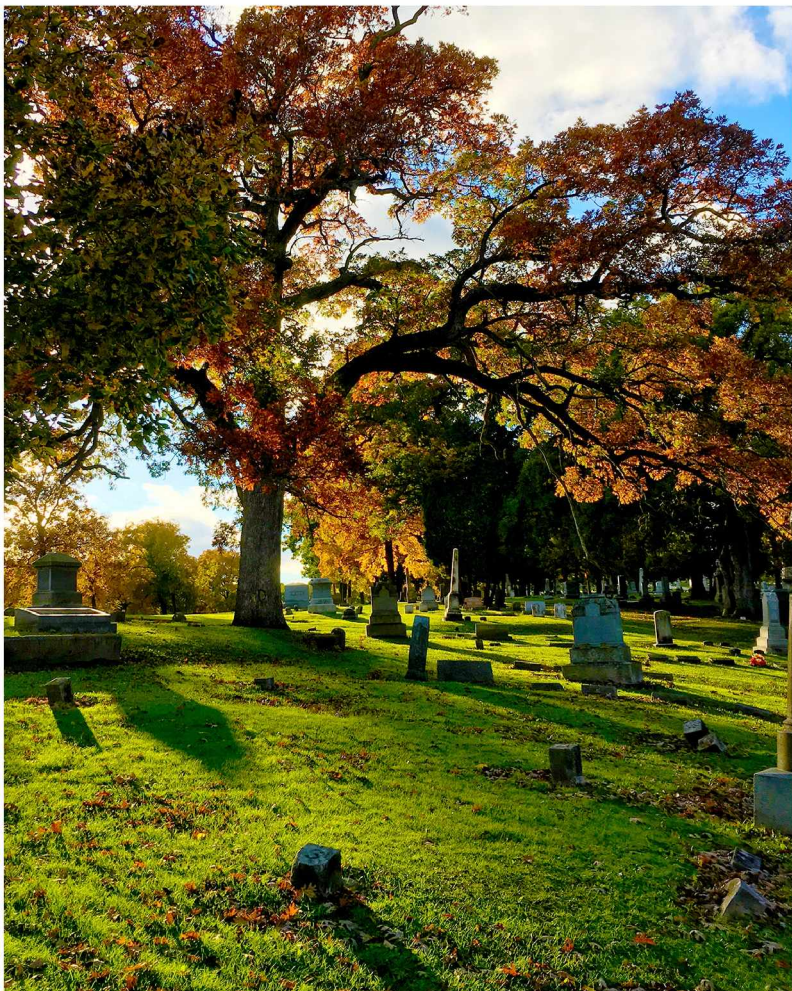
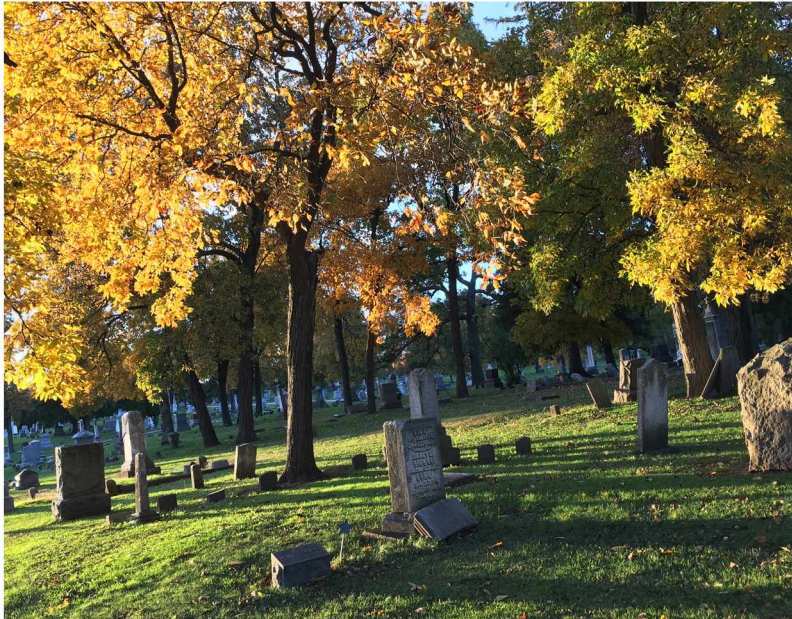
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Scott Custis [SC] and Jeanne Gomoll [JG]

October 2018 for *Turbo-Charged Party Animal* #388.



Looking for a new home for old Turbo Apas

[SC] These old *Turbos* are free to any current member who wants them.

- #139 to 219, January 1998 to September 2004
- # 72 to 98, June 1992 to August 1994 EXCEPT for issues 75, 78, and 89 which have walked off somewhere. If you want them, let me know by email and we will work something out.

What's Up (Scott)

[SC] It's finally Fall in Wisconsin. Or at least it's Fall in such a way that we can appreciate it. After several weeks of very gloomy weather, and almost daily rain, it has finally cleared off and turned cool. The leaves have turned and we can get outside in the sunlight and drink in the dazzling color.

We have not been up to any particular adventures lately. We are currently in the process of replacing our five basement windows before winter as our old windows are almost falling out of their frames. We got together with our theater gang for a chilly but delicious picnic and our last outdoor APT show, Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure*, which earned it's reputation as a difficult play and one in which I left feeling both impressed with the performances and staging, but dissatisfied with the story. That said, I still loved going to a fall show when the weather is clear and cool and we are huddled in our seats under coats, hats and blankets with our steaming beverages focused on the action as the lights illuminate the trees in the background looming over the stage.

We have also been to a few movies. *The Wife* with Glenn Close and Jonathan Pryce looked good in the trailer, and the performances were certainly bold, if a bit showy. Close played the wife of an author (Pryce) who wins the Nobel Prize for Literature. As they travel to Sweden to accept the prize, we find out about their complicated relationship. In the end, it left me with more questions about the wife than it answered.

[JG] This is Jeanne interrupting Scott's movie review because I loved *The Wife*, and because I had fewer questions about the wife's character than Scott did, and ALSO because I have been thinking about its

story after seeing another movie about a very similar subject and character: *Colette*, with Keira Knightley as the famous *fin de siècle* French writer, whose husband, for many years, claimed to be the author of her work. I've known this story for a long time, but had always visualized an imprisoned, abused woman, who eventually escapes and claims her fame. I was surprised to see the relationship between husband and wife portrayed with affection and humor and much more complexity than I had imagined. So too with *The Wife*: I admired the complexity of the relationship. I don't want to say much more about the plots of either of these films; I recommend them both. But I should say that they provide excellent illustrations to append to Joanna Russ's essential book: *How to Suppress Women's Writing!* Back to Scott now...

Michael Moore's *Fahrenheit 11/9* was alternately fun and infuriating to watch, which is what you should expect. It held some surprises, but it was not quite as compelling as the original *Fahrenheit 9/11*. *Juliet Naked* with Ethan Hawke, Rose Byrne and Chris O'Dowd was a little gem of a movie which I liked very much. O'Dowd played a devoted British fan of a faded rock star played by Hawke who had suddenly left the public spotlight years ago. When O'Dowd's long-suffering wife, Byrne, accidentally attracts Hawke's attention and prompts a visit from America, complications ensue. Most recently we saw the new *A Star is Born* with Bradley Cooper and Lady Gaga, which surprised me by turning out to be pretty good. I have only seen the Streisand/Kristofferson version years ago and I don't remember it fondly. The new one is not perfect but Cooper and Gaga really succeeded in selling it to me.

Books read lately include, for our book discussion group, *The Calculating Stars* by Mary Robinette Kowal and *Arabella cf Mars* by David Levine. In Kowal's novel, she tried to introduce women to the early space program and tackle the obstacles women would have faced personally, politically and socially competing to become astronauts. She did a lot of research and worked through the challenges in a believable manner. The problem was her story was set in a world where a huge meteorite crash in the Atlantic forces the world to grapple with the need to eventually move everyone off Earth. Kowal does not deal with this plotline very well, I thought, and it hurts the novel overall. I cannot point to any particular problem with Levine's novel other than to say that it is high fantasy of a type that doesn't much appeal to me. It felt a bit like a YA novel and I was the wrong audience.

Beyond the book group, I have been on a bit of a non-fiction binge lately as I clear books off my to-read shelf, some of which have been sitting there for years. For instance, I recently finished *Krakatoa: The Day the World Exploded* by Simon Winchester. This covers much more than just the volcanic eruption of August 27, 1883. Winchester devotes long sections to the colonial history of Indonesia,

what is known of Krakatoa's prior eruptions, the history of the science of plate tectonics, and a detailed picture of what life was like in the area at the time as well as detailed discussion of the aftermath of the eruption. Very thorough, very interesting. Currently I'm working on Doris Kearns Goodwin's Pulitzer Prize winning book *No Ordinary Time* which is a history of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt's life on the home front during World War II. So far I can tell you that Goodwin is a more engaging writer than Winchester was.

Lisa Freitag

[SC] Sorry it took so long to write a response to your WisCon ordeal. I was hesitant to assume when you might be ready to discuss it publically in the apa. After seeing Steve's comments in issue 384, I decided to wait for your response.

My initial reaction to the news when I heard it at WisCon was befuddlement. Lisa banned? What on earth for? When someone tells me that a person was banned after a panel, my mind goes into Safety/Security mode and I start thinking of the possibilities that seem logical to me. Did she punch or grab someone? Did she threaten someone? Did she verbally or sexually abuse someone? Did she disrupt the panel by shouting at people, or use profanity or refuse to relinquish her time or otherwise refuse or ignore the instructions of the moderator? None of these behaviors seem remotely like my friend, Lisa. So what could she have done? Turns out, just being too controversial.

Although I am relieved to see that you experienced no adverse effects at Worldcon (I was a little worried how the effects of WisCon's action might ripple out to a wider fandom) now I'm starting to be concerned about the opposite effect. That being banned by WisCon may eventually become a sort of badge of honor, at least among some fans. Loss of credibility would hurt the WisCon community. It could end up that in the concom's zeal to protect WisCon, they end up harming it.

[JG] Re your comment to **Greg and Georgie**: I've noticed that I have a fairly high tolerance for pain, which makes those pain level numbers tricky for me: I can always imagine that pain could be much worse, so I rarely feel comfortable claiming a high value. But the main thing that makes me nervous is that I am never sure whether something I perceive in my body is a symptom that I really should mention because it might turn out to be serious, or if it is simply an predictable and unavoidable sign of aging that I should simply learn to deal with. For instance, a few years ago I reported to my doctor that I sometimes had problems with acid indigestion, but then it turned out that what I was actually having were really severe, dangerous episodes of acid indigestion that had produced precursors to Barrett's esophagus. Well, that's been dealt with now and I haven't had an episode of acid indigestion for a couple years. But the confusion continues

in other areas. It doesn't feel so much connected to risk avoidance to me, as lack of knowledge.

Thanks for your comments about my covers!

How did you work the song, "Momma, Look Sharp" into a filk? What was the fannish subject?

Re your comment to **Andy**: I too occasionally imagine a personal life-narrator whose ominous comments foreshadow an event that is about to utterly transform the world around me. Much like when I see a character in a movie or book, set in a time just before a war, or a place about to be engulfed in a disaster—in which case, I am the one providing the ominous foreshadowing comments. "Yeah, everything's fine *now*, but things are about to get *very, very* bad; you might think about emigrating." Funny thing, with the latest predictions about global warming we hardly need imaginary narrators anymore.

It's been a bad summer for Midwest outdoor theater getting rained out, that's for sure. But our little group of American Players Theater attendees have been incredibly lucky: all our performances remained dry. One Saturday afternoon, it began drizzling after the play had ended, as we walked down the hill, but that's it. Of course I can only say that now that we've attended our last outdoor play and I'm not in any danger of summoning an ironic thunder shower upon our next performance. I'm sorry you missed William's performance!

Re your comment to **Andy** about zombies standing in for incapacitated people in society: I just have to mention one of the interesting things about the latest season of *Fear the Walking Dead*—the inclusion of a new character who uses a wheelchair; he is admirable, funny, and a pretty adept zombie-killer.

Re **Walter's** essay and my responses to it: As for the idea that WisCon has always been a place where controversy is accepted ... I don't agree. Early non-feminist, right-leaning attendees always used to complain about how intolerant they felt WisCon attendees were. The first WisCon was given the nickname, "PervertCon" by a disgruntled contingent of Midwest fans. There was a persistent, often-published assertion that WisCon did not allow men to attend. I benefited from and supported the idea of "rooms of ones own" at WisCon and other cons, which barred entrance to men. And every four years during presidential election years, a few Republican-leaning fans among WisCon attendees would complain bitterly about how closed-minded WisCon attendees were and how shut out of the conversation they felt. To my mind, these folks got plenty of time being heard outside of WisCon. I was more interested in making WisCon a place for building confidence, coalitions and new ideas among people who often felt silenced outside of WisCon. At the time, that meant *women*, to me. I certainly didn't see WisCon as a place where we should encourage attacks on feminism for the sake of a good argument. It never would have occurred to me to suggest that we ban someone for being a sexist, but the overwhelming number of attendees who were supportive of feminist ideals certainly made

WisCon an uncomfortable place for those who disagreed. I DO feel that the current WisCon conglomeration is harming the convention by attacking its own community and allies. But I also must admit that I may be uncomfortable with the new activists' critiques because I can no longer locate myself on the cutting edge of the social discourse that is happening. I've discovered more than a few unexamined and suspect assumptions in myself and think now that the most useful role I can adopt is to listen and support, where I used to think of myself as leading the charge.

I look forward to reading your thoughts on "brave spaces"!

Gregory G.H. Rihn

[SC] We also liked *The Recruiting Officer* quite a lot, we were particularly impressed with the note of melancholy at the end that underlined the real, and often terrible, fates many of the recruited men would likely meet as well as the devastating effects on the families left behind. It was particularly valuable to have seen *The Recruiting Officer* before seeing APT's *Our Country's Good* last month, which was the story of Royal Marines and convicts putting on a production of *The Recruiting Officer* in an Australian penal colony in the 1780's. Several actors appeared in both plays, and some of them like Nate Burger and Cristiana Panfilio, revised their same characters from the first play. It was a fascinating pairing of shows with truly impressive performances.

We finally did a night of fine dining around Jeanne's birthday last month, making our first trip to Madison's L'Etoile in a very long time. We decided to go a bit wild and opted for the seven-course tasting menu and I chose the wine pairings. Jeanne chose one of the non-alcoholic beverages which turned out delicious enough that she got two. The food and wine were excellent. This was a first experience for both of us of foie gras, which came accompanied by a little peach, lavender and jalapeno. The jalapeno were just shavings, no seeds and no real heat. The foie gras was very fatty but tasty. Still I did not swoon over it. It wasn't even my favorite dish of the evening which would be a tough choice between the 100-day-aged ribeye; the duck with plum, avocado and pistachio; or the dessert of sour cream ice cream, apricot and hickory nuts.

[JG] Congratulations on the new job.

The relationship between the Tiptree Motherboard and WisCon is fine, though I suspect that there will be no more author- or title-specific filk songs written to serenade future Tiptree winners at their ceremonies. The Tiptree Auction in 2019 will be the last I work on--mostly because I've been doing it for 25+ years and enough is enough, and it hasn't felt like much fun for a while. It's likely that other, younger volunteers will take over from me. Or not. But I will retire from that job in any case. I am also looking forward to being able to take a break from attending WisCon some year soon.

Jim Hudson & Diane Martin

[SC] Even the pictures you posted did not fully capture the awfulness of the flood scene in your basement by the time I got there on Thursday morning. Walking around in it brought vivid images to my mind of 5½ feet of dirty water lifting or shoving around even large and heavy items like a washing machine, bed, bookcases and office furniture. It's not like the water just seeped in and calmly filled up around things. The flood must have been a pretty chaotic scene. Very little below the water level was safe. It could have been worse, but it was bad enough. We are so relieved that you guys and the cats are okay and the damage was contained. Best of luck on the tough decisions ahead.

And to other *Turbo Apa* readers: if you are in the habit of storing your old apas in a file cabinet drawer, you should know that they absorb a lot of water when submerged. We had to use a pry bar and hammer to extract enough of them out of one file cabinet drawer so we could remove the rest, pull out the cabinet drawer and haul the ruined file cabinet (and apas) to the street. Just so you know.

[JG] Thanks for the comprehensive story of your flood, Jim. I'm so sorry that you and Diane had to go through this, and so irritated that the insurance industry prioritizes its own profit over what should be its main goal, i.e., providing actual insurance.

I think that we will all have to rethink the way we live in the next couple decades. The changing climate will soon have a huge effect on how our infrastructure supports us ... or doesn't. After last week's report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Scott and I have begun the discussion about how we, personally, should prepare for the likely drastic changes coming within the next 20 years. I don't think we have any good ideas yet, nor any notion of where to look for advice, but it seems necessary to start thinking about it.

Andy Hooper

[SC] Kudos to you for finally getting your zine in ahead of ours. We had not figured out **Hope and Karl's** ordering scheme until you mentioned it during your visit to Madison. Now that we know, it adds a new little perspective to the apa.

I always find your mailing comments great fun to read, but I want to add an Amen to your invitation to **Marilyn Holt** to please share a bit of her fiction with us here in Turbo.

Of course I enjoyed *The Kronberg Caper*. It's an engrossing and well-told story that shows us some new angles on World War II, such as really large scale looting by the Allies and the role of some of Germany's royalty in the Nazi regime. The toughest part of the story was trying to follow the Germanic history prior to about 1866. In other circumstances I have always hesitated to read very

much about pre-1900 German history. I usually backed off realizing that it was very complex and confusing. It makes you wonder if the success of German industry rests on torturing German youth with their ancient history in school such that science and engineering seem orderly and simple to them in comparison. Yet you managed to bring me through it with pretty minimal re-reading. Once we get to *The Thin Blue Blood*, the story moves along very well.

The thieves' dilemma here was vexing. In possession of a vast pile of treasure and almost no way to turn it readily into a vast pile of money. I think it would have been nearly impossible to break into the concrete box, find the treasure and then have the wisdom to NOT to try to take it all. But a little rational thought would have revealed no easy path to fortune. There have to be better ways to get rich quick.

[JG] Wow! What a great story, "A Heist in Hesse" is! Very cinematic, I think. Thank you, Andy. I really enjoyed reading it.

I've frequently said that I wished there were more conventions that prominently championed progressive causes as part of their celebration of SF/F. It's just that I don't see myself getting involved in con-running again. My silence does not indicate lack of support for the idea.

Steven Vincent Johnson

[SC] I was amused by your description of Charm's hunting behavior. Real life is brutal and the real life of cats as hunters is not for the squeamish. As Jeanne and I find ourselves nearly overrun with bunnies and squirrels, a predator like Charm would likely be welcome here. We might even adjust to the gruesome trophies, if it meant that our flowers and herbs would be left unmolested. Still, pets are a big responsibility and I don't know if we will ever make room in our lives for an animal companion even if they are very good at pest removal.

[JG] I was struck by how none of us here in the apa can actually remember the names, and probably never knew the names, of the concom members involved in the decision to ban Lisa immediately after the dread panel. I remember the complaints that the WisCon concom used to hear years ago about its lack of transparency and suspicious motives. New people volunteered and astonished us by declaring themselves to be completely clueless about who was responsible for what, and how the concom worked. (We were convinced that our actions were mostly open to the public.) Other folks tweeted accusations based on apocryphal stories of how the concom made its decisions—that we slighted some, favored others, according to clique preferences. In response, we reminded folks that panels were crowd-sourced and that the final program list was compiled based on how many people signed up for them. But still, some folks preferred stories featuring an evil cabal. It's funny, now, to find myself almost completely unaware of who is currently doing the work and how the concom makes its decisions, after so many years in which I could have recited exhaustive

performance reviews for everyone on the concomb, in minute detail. Given my anger at the concomb's recent actions, I can see how it might be tempting to ascribe a conspiratorial plotline to the story. But I'm with you Steve, I hope to hear the true, behind-the-scenes story eventually, with names attached.

Jae Adams

[SC] You mention in a comment to **Lisa** that you were last in New York in 1963. I was last in Las Vegas in 1963 or '64. We should compare notes of what we remember from way back then. Both cities are a lot different now.

I was seven or eight and our family of five had embarked on our last big family trip, which was to drive from my hometown of Anamosa, Iowa, to visit my mother's family in Los Angeles. I had made the trip before, possibly a couple times, with my mom by train (my brother used to tease me that I walk funny because he said that I learned to walk on the train). This driving trip was the first cross-country by car adventure for me and I loved it. I will spare you my memories of the whole trip, but Vegas was quite vivid. At home I watched TV all the time, so I knew what Las Vegas was. We were all looking forward to driving through it. But Dad, who did nearly all the driving, was firmly in control of the schedule and we ended up driving through Vegas in the late morning (!) We went right down the Vegas Strip and past the famous casinos, but it was blindingly sunny and desert dry hot. Our new 1963 Buick LaSalle was not air conditioned so it was dusty with all the windows rolled down. Dad started through town by issuing a clear instruction to the rest of us, "Look for someplace to eat." But, of course, it being Vegas, we all gawked at the casinos, the Stardust, the Flamingo, the Sahara, and others and stared at the few brave souls caught out in the frying pan heat. We got all the way down the Strip to the edge of town when Dad stopped the car and asked us where we should eat. No one had an answer, which I remember resulting in some loud complaining from the Old Man. But it was Vegas, what else could we do but gawk? I think we ended up at some drive-in place a little way back on the Strip. That was it. Lunch, a rest, then back on the road to L.A. I've never been back.

[JG] Lovely, and weirdly soothing to read.

Jim & Ruth Nichols

[SC] Great trip report and really lovely pictures. We usually try to take a day trip out to Washington Island when we are in Door County, but not this year. It's very relaxing out there compared to the much more touristy mainland Door County. Most often we try to extend our day trip to Rock Island State Park which requires an additional foot ferry. It's very peaceful out there. Usually we will hike a bit, then relax at the beach. The Rock Island beach is sand, but it faces the Lake Michigan side, so I often find the water freezing

cold. Jeanne is usually okay with it. When we head back to Washington Island at the end of the afternoon, I like to make a stop at Nelson Hall for a beer. If we are only out for a day, we don't stay on the island for dinner because we need to catch the car ferry back to the mainland. On other trips we have been known to stay at one of the resorts on Washington Island for a night or two. It's really quiet out there once the ferry service stops. Feels like you left the world far behind. On these occasions, the best moment is sitting out on the lawn at the Sunset Resort facing west over the lake. Two Adirondack chairs, two gin and tonics, a warm breeze and just the sounds of the gulls and the waves as the sun sets. Then out to dinner. Maybe it's time to do that again next year.

Jeanne and I were lucky to catch a little movie that ran through town a short time back called *Puzzle*. It starred Kelly Macdonald. It was about a woman who seemed content with her suburban life until she discovered she enjoyed working on jigsaw puzzles, then finds out there is such a thing as jigsaw puzzle competitions. So she partners with a strange man to compete in one and discovers she has a real skill at competitive jigsaw puzzling and the adventure prompts her to change her life. It was a simple story, but really well done. Maybe if you see it, it will ease the pain of fighting with the Pratchett puzzle.

[JG] I have a short video I recorded at Washington Island's Schoolhouse Beach, mostly for the audio track—I love the sound of water rattling over the stones back and forth as the waves go in and out. I find it totally mesmerizing. I also have many beautiful, white, smooth, limestone rocks from that beach and from Rock Island. (Scott frequently reminds me that I am a thief.) Ah yes, the lavender farms: we want to get back there someday and see them in full bloom. If you go back to Washington Island and stay overnight, I recommend the Sunset Resort. We love it. They have a row of Adirondack chairs in the yard facing the beach and the western sky; it's an incredibly wonderful place to watch the sun set. That's where Scott and I went in 2014, immediately after the WisCon meeting at which I resigned. It was a traumatic day, but lounging in an Adirondack chair with a gin and tonic in my hand, made everything seem OK. We stay there every once in a while when we go to Washington Island and don't want to cut our visit short in a rushed day-trip. The Sunset Resort owners post a cardboard clock in the lobby set to the exact time of the day's sunset so you can plan your day, as you do. Here's some info about the Sunset Resort: <https://www.sunsetresortwi.com>

Thanks for the trip report Ruth! I'm glad Jim recovered from his travel injury.

Catie Pfeifer

[SC] Congratulations on the wedding. Sounds like a lovely time. What does Jacob think of your apa habit here in Turbo? Does he know about it yet?

[JG] Congratulations, Catie. Yes, please, pictures!

F.J. Bergmann

[SC] Welcome back. Thanks for doing the update on your lives since 2004, you have kept very busy and productive. Congratulations on all the awards for your work and on the 40th wedding anniversary. Fred must be thinking about retirement in the foreseeable future.

I hope you have a nice road trip out to North Carolina. Fall is a nice time of year for getting out on the road. I can see us heading north and east in a future year in the fall to see some color or striking out south and west as the temperatures start to moderate. It's fun tossing travel ideas around.

[JG] Welcome Jeannie! I'd love to see the color version of *Lizard King* someday. Congratulations on the many, many awards. Impressive!

What's New, in chronological order (Jeanne)

[JG] Wednesday and Thursday, September 26-27, Scott and I drove down to Chicago and stayed overnight. I needed to buy a new wig (as many of you know, I have alopecia) on Wednesday afternoon. I am quite pleased with the new look. We checked into our hotel and then enjoyed a fabulous dinner at The Gundis, Chicago's only Kurdish restaurant. That evening we attended an absolutely hilarious performance by The Second City. The whole comedy troupe was great, but I predict that we will all see the very talented Ryan Asher in the future (See photo below, second face from the left). Finally, we went out for dim sum at Furama the next morning. I love dim sum but it's not available except in large cities and Madison isn't large enough for the sort of dim sum service that comes on carts wheeled around a big room from which diners pick out dishes. Furama was exactly what I desired, the food was wonderful and when I called, I was relieved to discover that the restaurant was open 7 days a week. (I feared that weekday mornings



JG

The Furama



might not attract enough customers.) When we strolled into the place—a cavernous room with dozens of tables, we discovered that we were the only customers. Later on, another guy was served, but that was it. Hard to believe they were open. But good for us. Yum.

Our friend Elizabeth Matson invited us down to Janesville for a hike and guided tour of the Oak Hill Cemetery, or "Chill at Oak Hill," Thursday, October 11. The day was sunny and dry, so it turned out to be a beautiful day to view colorful trees (see the pics on page 1 of this zine) and tombstones, of course, with accompanying spooky stories. It was really the first day since the leaves started changing that it was not raining or overcast. So we really enjoyed the day. We went out to dinner and caught up with Elizabeth before heading back north to Madison.

Scott and I attended three Wisconsin Book Festival events over the October 12-14 weekend. Saturday's "Fearless Women in SF&F" scheduled at A Room of One's Own bookstore was supposed to feature Mary Robinette Kowal, but she cancelled because she was sick. In her place, two new Tor SF authors read from their novels (both of them doing a public reading for the first time in their careers), and ... we weren't impressed. I don't remember their names and now can't even find information about them on line. So I think I will just move on and say that we really enjoyed the other two Wisconsin Book Festival events we attended, both at the Madison Public Library: 1) Dan Kaufman, author of *The Fall of Wisconsin* and 2) Rebecca Traister, author of *Good & Mad* (right). You may recognize Traister from MSNBC appearances. She was fantastic.

Rebecca Traister



The Second City



At the last moment, Scott and I bought tickets to the Madison roadshow of the Tony Award-winning show, *Something Rotten*. We'd heard someone mention it the week before, and then we saw an enthusiastic review on Friday night. It sounded fun: Shakespeare AND references to American musicals, in the vein of *The Producers* and *A Funny Thing Happened On the Way to the Forum*. The plot: a less-famous Elizabethan playwright engages a soothsayer to discover details of Shakespeare's most famous *future* play. The soothsayer gets bits of *Hamlet* mixed up with dozens of Broadway musicals and cobbles together a script for "Omelet: A Tragedy." Hey, that sounds fun," we said. "Let's see if there are tickets available." There were, so we ordered tickets for the Sunday 10/14/18 matinee. The audience seemed to love it. During the standing ovation, the woman behind us said she had never laughed so much in her whole life. Scott and I looked significantly at each other, very aware that neither of us had laughed very much at all. I sort of wish I'd read that darned review a few days later, and we could have said,

instead, "that sounds like it would have been fun; too bad we missed it." The fact that so many people around us obviously loved it and that it won a Tony Award must mean that our reactions had more to do with us and less about the play. But I really didn't like it: unmemorable songs, a stilted plot, a not very funny central conceit, and no consistent point of view. (Shakespeare was portrayed as both an arrogant, rock star egotist who was willing to steal work from other writers AND the most brilliant writer of all time.) Ah well.

The sale of my business is ALMOST complete. The contract is signed. The date is set. I have sold my business to the wonderful Tara Ingalls who owns the company, Tingalls Graphic Design. Even though Tara and I easily agreed on all details, the writing of the actual, legal contract took way too long, the reason being lawyers. Sheesh. But that's done now. I am writing a letter to my clients, inviting them to attend a meet-and-greet party at Tingalls, and as of November 1, I will be done, except for transferring graphic files to Tingalls from any clients who sign a release. Yay!

—Jeanne & Scott
October 2018



Depredations of the Bunnies, part 2



[Above] Having consumed every bloom and leaf on the coneflower plant in September, the bunnies targeted this hardy mum plant as their October meal. This time they restricted themselves to the flowers and left the leaves alone.

[Left] Andy and Carrie visit Madison, picking up fanzine collections from Jeanne and Jae Adams.



Andy & Carrie

Science Fiction Without Borders

Book Discussion Group

We meet once a month—
6:30–8:00 pm,
on the 3rd Tuesday of
the month at

Frugal Muse Bookstore
235 Junction Road
Prairie Towne Center
Madison WI 53717

11/20/18 *All Systems
Red & Artificial
Conditions.*
Two *Murderbot*
novellas by
Martha Wells

1/15/19 *Gnomon,*
by Nick Harkaway

2/9/19 *Trail of
Lightning,*
by Rebecca
Roanhorse

Join us!

Some of the books we've read: *The Fifth Season*, N.K. Jemisin 🍂 *Kraken*, China Miéville 🍂 *Lovecraft Country*, Matt Ruff 🍂 *Everfair*, Nisi Shawl 🍂 *All the Birds in the Sky*, Charlie Jane Anders 🍂 *The Watchmaker of Filigree Street*, Natasha Pulley 🍂 *The Expanse* series, James S.A. Corey 🍂 *Uprooted*, Naomi Novik 🍂 *Grace of Kings*, Ken Liu 🍂 *The Windup Girl*, Paolo Bacigalupi 🍂 *Seveneves*, Neal Stevenson 🍂 *The Three-Body Problem*, Cixin Liu 🍂 *Ancillary Justice*, Ann Leckie 🍂 *The First Fifteen Lives of Harry August*, Claire North 🍂 *The Martian*, Andy Weir 🍂 *The Golem and the Jinni*, Helene Wecker 🍂 *NOS4A2*, Joe Hill 🍂 *Hydrogen Sonata*, Iain M. Banks 🍂 *2312*, Kim Stanley Robinson 🍂 *11/22/63*, Stephen King 🍂 *The Gone-Away World*, Nick Harkaway 🍂 *Ready Player One*, Ernest Cline 🍂 *Among the Others*, Jo Walton 🍂 *Redwood and Wildfire*, Andrea Hairston 🍂 *The Passage*, Justin Cronin 🍂 *Who Fears Death*, Nnedi Okorafor 🍂 *World War Z*, Max Brooks 🍂 *Replay*, Ken Grimwood 🍂 *The Green Glass Sea*, Ellen Klages 🍂 *Alif the Unseen*, G. Willow Wilson 🍂 *The Only Ones*, Carola Dibble 🍂 *The Calculating Stars*, Mary Robinette Kowal 🍂 *The Bedlam Stacks*, Natasha Pulley 🍂 *An Accident of Stars*, Foz Meadows 🍂 *New York 2140*, Kim Stanley Robinson 🍂 *The Traitor Baru Cormorant*, Seth Dickinson

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