



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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Scott Custis [SC] and Jeanne Gomoll [JG]

January 2019 for *Turbo-Charged Party Animal* #391.

### Official Turbo proposal

[JG] For many very good reasons, *Turbo's* publication/distribution date tends to vary from month to month, though the submission deadline does not. One effect of delaying the publication date while holding to the same submission deadline is to significantly shorten the amount of time in which members have to produce their zines. **I propose that the submission deadline be re-set every month—for 30 days after collation of the previous issue. This date could be hand-written on the business pages when the zines are collated.**

We might end up with fewer than 12 issues per year with this process, but all of us would get a reasonable amount of time to prepare our zines. And Hope and Karl would retain maximum flexibility in their work on the apa.

### Lisa Freitag

[JG] The way holiday gifts become entangled with feelings of self-worth and happiness is a familiar one to me. My mom must have had a Christmas or birthday experience when she was young that she remembered as the perfect expression of being loved by her family. Maybe she was unable to re-create the experience and so she set enormous importance on the gifts she received from each of us. If a gift displeased her, she would angrily tell us, immediately upon unwrapping it. If she liked the gift (not too often), she would sternly warn us not to repeat that gift the next year. One rule was, "nothing for the kitchen." And "If I have to tell you what I want, it's not really a gift." My brothers, sister and I all became very tense around the holiday as we nervously pondered what to get mom. Like Cindy Lou of the *Winter Wonderettes*, none of us, including mom, was ever able to articulate (or sing) what she really wanted.



Have you seen Miley Cyrus' updated, feminist version of *SantaBaby*? It is worth having to type this long URL into your browser: <https://ew.com/tv/2018/12/21/miley-cyrus-santa-baby-feminist-jimmy-fallon/>

[SC] I liked your Santa Baby essay very much. I liked how you started out with a very negative view of the "Winter Wonderettes" show featuring a very sappy plot and your least favorite Christmas songs, but in performance you discovered that the show was actually fun and at least some of the music turned out to be pretty good. Then you went on to consider what the songs really seem to be saying and the idea of viewing Trump as Santa. I think many of us have a complicated relationship with Christmas. It's the most personal of holidays for many of us and that prompts a lot of interesting, if weird, responses to it. Your essay has prompted me to really think about how I see Christmas.

### Kim & Kathi Nash

[JG] Congratulations on selling the Beloit house!

### Greg G.H. Rihn

[JG] Thanks for the Teslacon report. Sort of like mountain-climbing, I find Teslacon details utterly fascinating to read about, even though I am unlikely ever to attend.

As I mentioned last month, Scott and I also very much enjoyed the Milwaukee Rep's production of *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*. I was reminded of APT's production of *Pride and Prejudice*, during one of those "interludes of movement and music," as you described them, in which the Darcys' and Bingleys' relationships were choreographed in a sort of plot-enhancing dance. As it turns out, both the Milwaukee Rep and APT used dance to summarize relationships in plays based on Austin novels, as well as using choreographed movement to usher actors and audience from one scene to the next. I found both productions' use of dance very effective and I wonder if there is something about Jane Austin's work that suggests this treatment. It seems ironic that her novels depend so much upon text and are nevertheless illuminated so well with dance. Not that I'm complaining. I am delighted and would certainly be willing to see *Miss Bennet* again, next holiday season.

We also enjoyed *The Favourite*. Soon after seeing that movie, we went to see *Mary Queen of Scots*, with its alternate history meeting between Mary and Elizabeth. Soon afterward, we saw both movies about Ruth Bader Ginsberg—*RGB* and *On the Basis of Sex*. It was interesting and rather invigorating to see so many great movies about women exercising power.

[SC] I'm starting to look forward to your TeslaCon report every year. It's the next best thing to being there with you. It sounds like it was a fine time with much to look forward to next year.

We also greatly enjoyed *The Favourite*. There were many things to like about this movie but one of the most delicious pleasures was watching three outstanding actors playing powerful, complicated and frequently unlikable women who were dealing with one another as the men in the story were largely relegated to the sidelines. It was fierce and awesome.

### Georgie Schnobrich

[JG] The role-game I remember playing in High School History class, like your French Revolution exercise, also had a big impact on me as I grew older. Our teacher gave us a map showing an imaginary continent divided into four countries plus a large island-country. We distributed ourselves into five groups, inhabitants of the five countries, each of which had a various point totals for natural resources, population, wealth, poverty, technical expertise, arts, agriculture and military. Our teacher instructed us to choose a government style, a leader, an ambassador, and any other officials we wanted. There was no stated goal, no definition of "winning," not even the suggestion that the game involved any sort of competition. I recall that I didn't take this game too seriously. My fellow students named me Queen Jeanne because it rhymed, not for a monarchical preference. We spent a good amount of time designing a cool flag. By the second day, ambassadors were making secret agreements, and war was declared by day three. The "winning" team (not mine) exulted at having gained control of the continent and that's when our teacher stepped back into the game. He pointed out that we could have done anything we wanted. We could have worked together to build a utopia; we could have solved problems, we could have designed our own end-game. But instead we chose to make war upon one another. "OK," he said, "we will now start the unit on International Relations. I do not want to hear ANY of you complain that you don't understand why countries go to war."

I think I gradually grew into a very different person from the one I was in high school, when I treated the idea of leadership as a sort of joke, when I never thought to make principled stands among my fellow students. Partly the change for me was a result of growing self-confidence, but it was due even more to the sense that I was part of something larger. I found creative ways to articulate my ideas, through work on *Janus/Aurora* and WisCon, but my ideas and actions were just small droplets in a great wave of people and ideas, and that wave ended up changing the topography of our world. It was a glorious feeling to be part of it all.

But now, at times ... I no longer feel like my ideas are brewing within the foam of a world-changing wave. I'm having to swim hard just to keep up with those taking the risks at the edges, those shaping their identities, and those demanding space for their ideas. I have to swim hard just in order to witness the changes and am finding it necessary to take care not to get swept into the undertow. I recognize that

my language is cluttered with bad assumptions formed in a world that is now melting under the assault of new, younger voices. That's not to say that all the new, younger voices deserve the same respect, but it's harder to evaluate their voices from outside the wave, especially when I need to spend time reconsidering my own assumptions.

Your metaphor for your feeling outside the changes going on in WisCon, is that the activists may view you as guillotine fodder. I can see a future for WisCon in which so many people are banned, that retribution becomes a more important goal than changing the world. That would be a terrible thing. I am looking for ways that my voice might eventually temper that impulse. But I recognize this fear from my younger days: some adults were scared then of the changes demanded by anti-war activists and feminists. I am mostly optimistic about the changes that will eventually be wrought by the current generation of activists. A little sad that I'm no longer in the forefront of the landscape-altering wave crest, sure. But, who knows, I see quite a few older women these days taking principled stands and making a difference. The more voices, the better. I would hate to lose yours.

[SC] WisCon has lost a lot of wise voices in recent years and losing yours would be another serious loss, but I have to say that I'm relieved in a way to see that you have decided to move on. I don't know how many more of my friends I can stand to watch be treated like **Lisa** (and others) were treated. For someone as brave as you, I fear it's only a matter of time before you also unintentionally cross some line into heresy.

### Jim Hudson & Diane Martin

[JG] I love Kaley's card! Very nice use of color. That girl has talent. If she spends time with you during the summer I'd like to meet her.

[SC] It was great being able to join you both for the last Peter and Lou Berryman early New Years Eve show at the Goodman Center. We have not seen them in quite a while and it was nice to remember how warm and funny they are.



### Julie Zachman

[JG] Sorry you didn't like Robinson's *New York 2140*. I think it's my favorite KSR novel. Scott and I read it together and then I bought the audio tape and listened to it again, enjoying it even more the second time.

I've got a prism prescription too. It is gradually worsening, especially when I'm tired, but I think my brain is less bothered by it than when it started. I sometimes realize I am paying attention to just one of the doubled images and simply ignoring the other. Not a good way to teach ones eyes to force the two images together. Why are the exercises controversial??

A long time ago, Scott convinced me to go see *Unforgiven* with him; at the time I was not a big fan of westerns. I loved it, of course. But since then, I have gotten more interested, especially with the postmodern kind, and we have seen quite a lot of westerns over the years.

Some of my ideas for managing our personal life in a changing climate, assuming that the effects aren't totally apocalyptic around here, are: Keep an eye on the rapidly changing and improving technology of solar energy. It seems possible that fairly soon one might be able to "paint" ones roof with solar panel receptors. Try to make our next car as energy efficient as possible—maybe 100% electric but at least a hybrid. Recycle as much as possible and try to reduce plastics use. (I have re-useable metal straws now that I carry with me in a bamboo carrying case.) Carefully plan meals to eliminate food waste. Upgrade our furnace soon to a much more efficient model. Make sure we support political candidates for whom the environment is a priority.

[SC] I like your snazzy and easy-to-read layout. [I like it too! —JG]

We blew through the second season of *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, which I liked even better than the first season. We also watched the first season of *The Kominski Method* with Michael Douglas and Alan Arkin. We liked it, but I think anyone's enjoyment will depend a lot on how much you like these two old actors and identify with their old white guy problems.

What a great thing you are doing by taking care of your elderly foster dog. With the challenges she's struggling with, she seems to have come to the right place. How are your other dogs reacting to her? Please keep us updated.

### Walter Freitag

[JG] Working at the DNR, I've met many bird watchers. They come in lots of flavors, and there are definitely quite a few of the goal-oriented, competitive types you describe. There are also many folks who are fairly casual about keeping their life-list up-to-date. As for the obsessed ones, I sometimes think—ah, but for the accident that sparked their interest in birds rather than baseball or *Star Wars* trivia—it doesn't much

matter what subject obsesses them, they would behave similarly wherever their focus landed them.

For me, taking pictures must be easy. No special gadgets, no extra equipment. If I can't take the picture with my iPhone, which I carry with me anyway, I no longer bother, precisely for the distancing effect you mention. Luckily, iPhones are capable of taking some amazingly fabulous photos. I find the "back up" feature in my iPhoto useful when I've taken a good picture of someone but then see that the second I clicked, the person blinked and her eyes are closed. Back up a second and the picture is perfect. Or if I take a picture of someone or something in transition, the best shot, the moment when the movement is at the height of a trajectory, is a split second away from the main shot. So I find that tool useful—but only later. I don't pay any attention to this in the moment. But I sometimes adjust the photo after I get home and review my pictures, especially if I want to share them or play with them to make art.

[SC] Your excellent Bird Watching essay brought together some very interesting questions. I tend to be a pretty lazy photographer, often thinking about taking pictures only at the last minute if at all. I used to frequently go on trips or hikes and leave the camera



behind but, when it was with me, I tended to resist taking the time away from enjoyment to set up a photo. Now, of course, the camera is pretty much always with me in my phone and, with the loss of film, I can cheaply choose to shoot ten pictures of something in order to end up with one good one. So technology has played a big role in how my relationship with cameras has changed. It's left me with fewer excuses for not taking pictures these days.

## Andy Hooper

[JG] It was fun reading about Andy Young's experience after Sputnik was launched. So was Tom Perry's anthropological examination of fannish terms and culture.

[SC] Wow. Captain Flashback isn't kidding around. This is some great old stuff. Andy Young's enthusiasm was great fun. I had no stake in, or opinions about, the issues brought up in Tom Perry's nicely written piece but it was fun to read the letters of comment in response, particularly Joseph Nicholas'. It prompted me to laugh even though he probably did not intend for it to be funny. Looking forward to more.

## What's New: some year-end lists

### Scott & Jeanne's Movie List for 2018

[SC] These are all movies we saw in movie theaters last year in the order we saw them.

- |                                      |   |                                    |  |
|--------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. <i>All The Money in the World</i> | 12. <i>The Death Cf Stalin</i>            | 22. <i>Sorry To Bother You</i>     | 33. <i>Bad Times at the El Royale</i>                  |
| 2. <i>Downsizing</i>                 | 13. <i>Ready Player One</i>               | 23. <i>Blackkkklansman</i>         | 34. <i>Tea With the Dames</i>                          |
| 3. <i>The Post</i>                   | 14. <i>Isle Cf Dogs</i>                   | 24. <i>The Spy Who Dumped Me</i>   | 35. <i>Widows</i>                                      |
| 4. <i>Phantom Thread</i>             | 15. <i>Beirut</i>                         | 25. <i>Puzzle</i>                  | 36. <i>Bohemian Rhapsody</i>                           |
| 5. <i>Hostiles</i>                   | 16. <i>Tully</i>                          | 26. <i>Operation Finale</i>        | 37. <i>Can You Ever Forgive Me?</i>                    |
| 6. <i>Call Me By My Name</i>         | 17. <i>A Quiet Place</i>                  | 27. <i>Juliet Naked</i>            | 38. <i>Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes cf Grindelwald</i> |
| 7. <i>15:17 To Paris</i>             | 18. <i>Hotel Artemis</i>                  | 28. <i>The Wife</i>                | 39. <i>They Shall Not Grow Old</i>                     |
| 8. <i>Black Panther</i>              | 19. <i>Incredibles 2</i>                  | 29. <i>Fahrenheit 11/9</i>         | 40. <i>The Favorite</i>                                |
| 9. <i>Game Night</i>                 | 20. <i>Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom</i> | 30. <i>A Star Is Born</i>          | 41. <i>Spiderman: Into the Spiderverse</i>             |
| 10. <i>Red Sparrow</i>               | 21. <i>Mission Impossible: Fallout</i>    | 31. <i>Colette</i>                 | 42. <i>Vice</i>  |
| 11. <i>A Wrinkle In Time</i>         |   | 32. <i>The Old Man and The Gun</i> |  |

[SC] We like to go to first-run movies. Before I retired we usually went on Friday nights after I got off work. Now we most often go on Tuesdays to take advantage of \$5-movie-night, or to discounted matinee shows on other days. What can I say about last year's movies? It would probably be easier to list the movies I didn't like then to pick out the best ones. If I were to do it over again, I would not have bothered with *Downsizing* and *The Spy Who Dumped Me*. The movies that surprised me the most by how much I liked them would have to include *Red Sparrow*, *Beirut*, *Juliet Naked*, and *Spiderman: Into the Spiderverse*. Those films are a real hodgepodge, they are nothing like each other. Many films I ended up enjoying in spite of (sometimes substantial) flaws. If I had to pick one favorite movie of the whole year, setting aside *They Shall Not Grow Old* which is kind of its own thing, I would choose *Isle cf Dogs*. It was the most fun I had at the movies all year.



## Scott's Book List for 2018

[SC] \*indicates SF Without Borders book club selections. Books are listed in the order I read them.

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|--|--|---|--|
| 1. <i>The Stone Sky</i> ,<br>N.K. Jemisin                                    | 10. <i>Assassination Vacation</i> ,<br>Sarah Vowell        | 18. <i>American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House</i> , Jon Meacham | 26. <i>*The Murderbot Diaries</i> ,<br>Martha Wells ( <i>All Systems Red, Artificial Conditions, Rogue Protocol, and Exit Strategy</i> ) |
| 2. <i>*The Only Ones</i> ,<br>Carole Dibbell                                 | 11. <i>*The Moon and the Other</i> ,<br>John Kessel        | 19. <i>Dreamside</i> , Graham Joyce                                       | 27. <i>No Ordinary Time</i> ,<br>Doris Kearns Goodwin  |
| 3. <i>*Artemis</i> , Andy Weir   | 12. <i>A Small Town in Germany</i> ,<br>John Le Carre      | 20. <i>*The Bedlam Stacks</i> ,<br>Natasha Pulley                         | 28. <i>A Confederacy Cf Dunces</i> ,<br>John Kennedy Toole   |
| 4. <i>Iain M Banks</i> ,<br>Paul Kincaid                                     | 13. <i>The Abominable</i> ,<br>Dan Simmons                 | 21. <i>Lincoln in the Bardo</i> ,<br>George Saunders (audio)              | 29. <i>Shane</i> , Jack Schaefer   |
| 5. <i>*Borderline</i> ,<br>Mishell Baker                                     | 14. <i>*The Traitor Baru Cormorant</i> ,<br>Seth Dickinson | 22. <i>Indigo</i> , Graham Joyce  | 30. <i>*Gnomon</i> , Nick Harkaway   |
| 6. <i>Persepolis Rising</i> ,<br>James S.A. Corey                            | 15. <i>Provenance</i> , Ann Leckie                         | 23. <i>Krakatoa: The Day the World Exploded</i> ,<br>Simon Winchester     | 31. <i>The Partly Cloudy Patriot</i> ,<br>Sarah Vowell   |
| 7. <i>The Undoing Project</i> ,<br>Michael Lewis                             | 16. <i>*New York 2140</i> ,<br>Kim Stanley Robinson        | 24. <i>*The Calculating Stars</i> ,<br>Mary Robinette Kowal               |  |
| 8. <i>In the Woods</i> , Tana French   | 17. <i>*An Accident cf Stars</i> ,<br>Foz Meadows          | 25. <i>*Arabella cf Mars</i> ,<br>David D. Levine                         |  |
| 9. <i>The Rise And Fall cf D.O.D.O.</i> , Neil Stephenson and Nicole Galland |  |   |  |

## Jeanne's Book List for 2018

[JG]\*indicates SF Without Borders book club selections. Books are **not** listed in the order I read them .

- |  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|
| 1. <i>The Stone Sky</i> ,<br>N.K. Jemisin                                    | 17. <i>*The Murderbot Diaries</i> ,<br>Martha Wells ( <i>All Systems Red, Artificial Conditions, Rogue Protocol, and Exit Strategy</i> ) |  |   |
| 2. <i>*The Only Ones</i> ,<br>Carole Dibbell                                 | 18. <i>*Gnomon</i> , Nick Harkaway   |  |   |
| 3. <i>*Artemis</i> , Andy Weir   | 19. <i>The Best of All Possible Worlds</i> , Karen Lord  |  |   |
| 4. <i>*Borderline</i> , Mishell Baker  | 20. <i>Station Eleven</i> ,<br>Emily St. John Mandel   |  |   |
| 5. <i>Persepolis Rising</i> ,<br>James S.A. Corey                            | 21. <i>Terran Tomorrow</i> ,<br>Nancy Kress  |  |   |
| 6. <i>The Rise and Fall of D.O.D.O.</i> , Neil Stephenson and Nicole Galland | 22. <i>If Tomorrow Comes</i> ,<br>Nancy Kress  |  |   |
| 7. <i>*The Moon and the Other</i> ,<br>John Kessel                           | 23. <i>Tomorrow's Kin</i> ,<br>Nancy Kress   |  |   |
| 8. <i>The Abominable</i> ,<br>Dan Simmons                                    | 24. <i>Out of Left Field</i> ,<br>Ellen Klages   |  |   |
| 9. <i>*The Traitor Baru Cormorant</i> , Seth Dickinson                       | 25. <i>Passing Strange</i> ,<br>Ellen Klages   | 31. <i>All These Worlds</i> ,<br>Dennis E. Taylor      | 38. <i>Stephen Fy's Victorian Secrets</i> ,<br>John Woolf, Nick Baker |
| 10. <i>*New York 2140</i> ,<br>Kim Stanley Robinson                          | 26. <i>Wakulla Springs</i> , Andy<br>Duncan & Ellen Klages   | 32. <i>The Stars Are Legion</i> ,<br>Kameron Hurley    | 39. <i>The Alice Network</i> ,<br>Kate Quinn                          |
| 11. <i>*An Accident of Stars</i> ,<br>Foz Meadows                            | 27. <i>The Outsider</i> ,<br>Stephen King  | 33. <i>Girls &amp; Boys</i> , Dennis Kelly             | 40. <i>Who Runs the World</i> ,<br>Virginia Bergin                    |
| 12. <i>*The Bedlam Stacks</i> ,<br>Natasha Pulley                            | 28. <i>The Coming Storm</i> ,<br>Michael Lewis   | 34. <i>Emma</i> , Jane Austin                          |   |
| 13. <i>Lincoln In The Bardo</i> ,<br>George Saunders                         | 29. <i>For We Are Many</i> ,<br>Dennis E. Taylor   | 35. <i>So Lucky</i> , Nicola Griffith                  |   |
| 14. <i>*The Calculating Stars</i> ,<br>Mary Robinette Kowal                  | 30. <i>We Are Legion</i> ,<br>Dennis E. Taylor   | 36. <i>The Power</i> ,<br>Naomi Alderman               |   |
| 15. <i>The Fated Sky</i> ,<br>Mary Robinette Kowal                           |  | 37. <i>The Girl with All the Gifts</i> ,<br>M.R. Carey |   |
| 16. <i>*Arabella of Mars</i> ,<br>David D. Levine                            |  |  |   |



See you in March!  
Jeanne & Scott, January 2019