



# OSFS

## Statement

Newsletter of the **Ottawa Science Fiction Society, November 2013**,  
Issue 415, Volume 37, Number 11. Founded Feb 1977,  
Incorporated Jan 16, 1979

**Dinner-Gatherings** Starting at 6:00 pm.

This month we meet/eat at the

[Yang Ming Chinese Buffet](#),

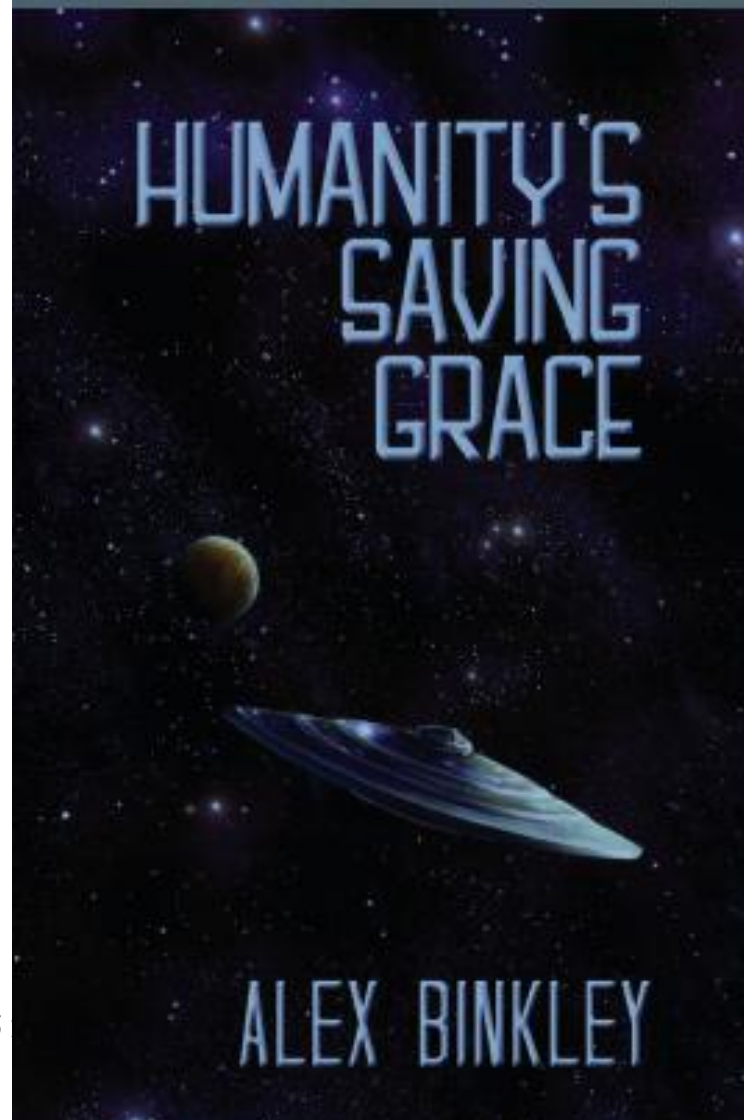
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Emerald Plaza

Phone :(613) 228-0840, Ottawa, On ([map](#))

The art work this month is the cover of the just

OSFS Statement #415



released work of our own Alex Binkley. (Page 7)

### Editor's Blather:

Not much; between one computer's failure and another's quirks the Statement is rather late. Misplacing a jump drive didn't help.

### FOR YOUR VIEWING PLEASURE

Jupiter rises around 11pm and Mars about 3am. Venus is low in the sunset twilight. The Moon will reach Last Quarter on the 26th.

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We are suspending requirements of membership dues for now, as we are not paying for meetings. The Executive will review our financial situation regularly.  
website [www.ottawasfs.ca](http://www.ottawasfs.ca)  
executive [exec@ottawasfs.ca](mailto:exec@ottawasfs.ca)

Rates	
Regular	\$0.00
Family	\$0.00
Extraordinary & Senior	\$0.00

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OSFS Logo	Bruce Wright
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**MOVIES** List submitted by Sandi Marie

**ON DVD**

**NOVEMBER**

Man of Steel - Nov 12

RED 2 - Nov 26

**DECEMBER**

The Wolverine - Dec 3

**COMING TO YOUR THEATRE**

**NOVEMBER**

Enders Game - Nov 1

Thor the Dark World - Nov 8

The Hunger Games: Catching Fire - Nov 22

**DECEMBER**

The Last Days on Mars - Dec 6

The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug - Dec 13

Walking With Dinosaurs - Dec 20

**JANUARY 2014**

The Amityville Horror: The Lost Tapes - Jan 3

I, Frankenstein - Jan 24

**FEBRUARY**

RoboCop - Feb 7

Vampire Academy - Feb 14

**APRIL**

Captain America: The Winter Soldier - Apr 4

Robopocalypse - Apr 25

**MAY**

The Amazing Spider-Man 2 - May 2

**JUNE**

Edge of Tomorrow - Jun 6

How to Train Your Dragon 2 - Jun 13

Transformers: Age of Extinction - Jun 27

**JULY**

Maleficent - Jul 2

X-Men: Days of Future Past - Jul 18

Dawn of the Planet of the Apes - Jul 18

Hercules: The Thracian Wars - Jul 25

## Coming Events List submitted by Lloyd Penney

- November 15-17 - **Astronomicon 12**, Radisson Hotel Rochester Riverside, Rochester, NY. Literary SF convention. Guests: David Gerrold, Liana K, Ed the Sock, Dr. David Stephenson, Tom Rockwell, Peter David, Vincent DiFate, more. - [www.astronomicon.info](http://www.astronomicon.info), page on Facebook.
- November 29 - December 1 - **SFContario 4**, Ramada Plaza Hotel, Toronto. Guests: Seanan McGuire, Dave Kyle, Chandler Davis. - [www.sfcontario.ca](http://www.sfcontario.ca).
- December 6-8 - **Smofcon 31**, Royal York Hotel, Toronto, ON. Convention runners' convention. - [www.smofcon31.org](http://www.smofcon31.org).
- December 14 - **Frostcon 2**, St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts, Toronto. Cosplay/geek convention. Guests: Twinfools, VadorWolf, Faxen Cosplay, Toronto Batman, That Joker Guy, Erin Cossar. - [ontariocosplaycommunity@hotmail.ca](mailto:ontariocosplaycommunity@hotmail.ca), page on Facebook.
- January 17-19, 2014 - **Legendary ConFusion**, Dearborn DoubleTree Hotel, Dearborn, MI. SF literary convention. Guests: Mike Carey, Rich Morris, Ian Tregillis, Mark Bernstein. - [www.confusion.stilyagi.org](http://www.confusion.stilyagi.org).
- March 7-9, 2014 - **Furnal Equinox 2014**: Circus, Sheraton Toronto Airport Hotel & Conference Centre, Toronto. Furry convention. Guests: Sabretoothed Ermine, Sandy Schreiber. - [www.furnalequinox.com](http://www.furnalequinox.com).
- April 4-6 - **Ad Astra 2014**, Holiday Inn Markham. Guests: David Weber, Anne Groell, Patricia Briggs, Steven Erikson. - [www.ad-astra.org](http://www.ad-astra.org), Twitter @adastrasociety, page on Facebook.
- April 6, 2014 - **GTA Comic-Con**, Oakville Conference Centre, Oakville. - [www.gtacomicon.com](http://www.gtacomicon.com).
- April 25-27, 2014 - **FilKONtario 24**, Delta Airport West, Mississauga. Guests: S. J. Tucker, with the Heather Dale Band; Gary Ehrlich, Piers Cawley. - [www.filkontario.ca](http://www.filkontario.ca).
- April 25-28, 2014 - **Costume Con 32**, Sheraton Airport Hotel, Toronto. - [www.costumecon32.com](http://www.costumecon32.com).
- June 6-8, 2014 - **Bloody Words XIII**, Hotel TBA, Toronto, ON. Mystery convention. Guests: Vicky Delany, more. -

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

LOC

**Dear OSFen:**

Thank you for Statement 414. I will congratulate all those smiling Aurora winners, and dive headlong into the zine to see what I can say.

If you are communicating primarily by website and Meetup, are there regular club meetings in a room any more, or is all club business done at the gatherings? *{What club business there is, is being done there and by e-mail. There is talk of having some proper meetings-with-speakers in the spring. Ed.}*

Also, congratulations to the Sunburst winners. The first time I read about this year's winners, it was in an American club zine from Huntsville, Alabama. I am not sure where the Sunburst press releases get

distributed.

I quite enjoyed Monsters University, but am not sure if I will get it on DVD or BluRay, or get it at all. I do want to get the season 6 release of Murdoch Mysteries, which I believe is coming out next month. I expect our next movie will be the second Hobbit movie, and after that...well, nothing really appeals. My interests are changing more than I thought.

If you're coming down to Toronto for SFCOntario 4, come and see us in the dealer's room! We will have our regular steampunk jewellery and other items. After that, probably Ad Astra in the spring, plus CostumeCon 32.

The US government shutdown is now history, but I would wonder how much damage it did to the US economy (last I heard, \$42 billion, but that

might be the lost value of stocks on the stock markets), and to organizations the government doesn't seem to like to fund, like NASA. Wonder what damage they suffered in this political staring match?

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

Earth will be habitable for another 1.75 billion years? I can see that, only if we are not polluting it. I would think the amount of time we have before we have completely ruined this planet is a lot less.

Well, summer is well and truly done. The temperatures are now down in the single digits, and we now have to consider warmer coats. I'm greedy, I want summer all year 'round, but I couldn't live in Canada if that's what I really wanted. It's a trade-off, I guess.

I may be as close as I've been all year to full-time employment, so wish me luck, and I hope to have some good news soon. In the meantime, everybody stay warm!

## New Books

Launch of **Humanity's Saving Grace** by Alex Binkley

Saturday Nov. 30 from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm at Books on Beechwood in New Edinburgh.

Having barely avoided self-destruction, an ancient race has expanded to eight other worlds. While the Beings explored Earth numerous times during two centuries with their flying saucers, they didn't consider the primitive Terrans worth contacting. That changes when their worlds came under attack from a relentless, mysterious foe. The aliens offer to repair Earth's ravaged environment in exchange for pilots and soldiers to fight their foe. The First Earth Expeditionary Force battles in space and on the ground while trying to comprehend how thousands of humans had been conscripted into fighting for the enemy. Equally puzzling for FEEF

is figuring out the motives of robot-like creatures that serve the aliens, and discovering the origin of centuries old ruins on several planets and a seemingly uninhabited community under a protective dome.

**Royanna: An Extraterrestrial Affair** by Raphael Ferraro

Springfield, MA--Most alien abductions follow a predictable pattern. In Royanna, the encounter between a human and an alien is unique. Professor Stephen Drago is not taken; instead, he is seduced by an attractive female from another world. Wondrous events unfold from this relationship. If you like mystery, action, and a touch of romance, you will enjoy this encounter tale about a college professor and a scholarly priest attempting to translate a cryptic manuscript concerning the influence of aliens on human evolution. The men's extraordinary adventures take them from Palmyra, New York, where they rediscover Joseph Smith's renowned magical spectacles, to Professor Stephen Drago's startling revelation about the ancient stone images engraved on the Gate of the Sun in Tiahuanaco, Peru. Additionally, this science-fiction narrative explores various religious themes such as the role of the Divine Feminine in our lives, the awakening of higher consciousness, and experiencing the "Heart of the Universe," the matrix of creation, through the union of two kindred species. In

this case, a male earthling and a female visitor from another star system.

In this vast universe consisting of billions of galaxies is it just possible that advanced life forms may exist who possess the instincts to venture, investigate, and learn; and that perhaps these intelligent beings have traveled to this planet in the distant past or plan to visit us in the near or distant future? Besides depicting an intimate relationship between a female alien and a human male, Royanna also explores the possible presence and influence of benign extraterrestrials on our culture and future evolution.

Raphael Ferraro, 1.413.739.3737, Rferr200@aol.com

Writer and retired educator, Raphael Ferraro is the founder and former director of The Italian American Press and the author of three books. Viewers can obtain a free reading sample of Royanna at <http://www.smashwords.com/books/view/314445>



## **Astrophysics**

### **COSMIC PACMEN**

Ken Tapping,

22nd October, 2013

Years ago there was a popular computer game called Pacman, which involved dealing with, among other things, creatures that wandered around gobbling up anything they encountered. Scattered around the universe are cosmic pacmen that make the ones in the computer games seem benign and friendly by comparison. A week or two ago astronomers observed a small asteroid being chewed up and absorbed by a distant white dwarf star, designated GD-61. It got too close and was destroyed by tidal forces. This event was of special interest because the asteroid was made largely of ice, supporting the possibility of watery planets like ours orbiting other stars.

Back in the 1700's Isaac Newton made his landmark proposal that every piece of material in the universe attracts every other piece with a force that increases with the masses involved and falls off with increasing separation. This means that if two objects are close

enough to each other, the attractive force between their facing sides will be much stronger than between their other sides. On Earth the difference between the Moon's pull at to the side of Earth facing it and the other side of the world gives rise to the tides. The Moon pulls the ocean on the side of the Earth facing it up into a bump and pulls the Earth itself away from the ocean on the other side, leaving a second bump. Because this example is so well known, we refer to these gravity difference effects as tidal forces, wherever we see them at work. Imagine what would happen if the Moon's gravitational attraction were ten, a hundred or even a thousand times greater. This is what can happen if enough mass is compressed into a small enough lump, so that it is possible to pass really close to it.

There are objects in the universe which qualify for this, such as white dwarf stars, neutron stars, and most extreme of all, black holes. White dwarf stars are the final stages in the lives of stars like the Sun. They have run out of fuel and sneezed off their outer layers, leaving only their white-hot cores. They are about the size of the Earth and so dense that a single teaspoonful

of their material would weigh several tonnes. Neutron stars are the remnants of stars a few times the mass of the Sun. These stars exploded, producing shock waves that propagated downwards into the core of the star, compressing it down to a few kilometres in diameter.

Black holes are the most extreme. In this case their material is compressed so far we are not sure exactly how big the resulting lump is. However, their gravitational fields are so strong it distorts the fabric of space-time, concealing them. When that unfortunate asteroid approached too closely to GD-61, the tidal effects were so strong that material from the side facing the star was torn away from the rest of the object. This went on until the asteroid had been destroyed. Imagine a star approaching an invisible black hole. If we observe long enough we will see the star starting its final spiral. Then the star gets progressively pulled out of shape, until its material forms a swirl rather like what we see when we drop some cream into coffee that has already been stirred. Finally the star is completely pulled apart and the black hole is surrounded by a disc of star debris, gradually falling into the hole.

It looks as though we really do live in a “dog eat dog” universe, where everything is busily swallowing everything else. Will the universe last long enough for it to contain just one fat, well-fed black hole? What could happen then? At some point, will that hole open up and suddenly start to expand, starting the whole thing over again?

#### FOR YOUR VIEWING PLEASURE

Jupiter rises around 11pm and Mars about 3am. Venus is low in the sunset twilight. The Moon will reach Last Quarter on the 26th.

Ken Tapping is an astronomer with the National Research Council's Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory