



The WSFA Journal

September/October 2011



WSFA Gets Card(ed) First Friday Minutes By George Shaner

The August WSFA First Friday 8/5/11 meeting convened at the Scheiner residence and commenced at 9:17; Sam Scheiner presiding.

We still have money, to the tune of \$.

The voting for the WSFA Small Press Award has been closed and approximately 66% of the membership took the time to participate.

The trustees had nothing to report.

Capclave 2011: Cathy Green mostly spoke of recruiting folks to help at the fan table in Reno. In related developments, the new, improved WSFA business card, featuring basic information on future Capclaves was distributed.

Capclave 2012: George Shaner had nothing to report.

Capclave 2013: Mike Walsh was not present for the business meeting.

Intertivities: There was an opportunity to attend preview showings of the new film *Attack the Block*. Perhaps the London riots were simply practice drills for repelling the coming alien invasion.

We have some 93 members on Meet-Up.

Old Business: There was some continued discussion in regards to ordering WSFA tee-shirts.

New Business: None.

New Attendees: Several.

Announcements: None that really stuck with me.

The meeting ended at 9:38.

Attendees for the business meeting: Sam Scheiner, Judy Scheiner, George Shaner, Madeleine Yeh, Cathy Green, Bill Lawhorn, Sarah Mitchell, Ivy Yap, John Madigan, Candy Madigan, Katrin Wheatley, Drew Bittner, Bob MacIntosh, Esther McClure, Ernest Lilley, Sam Hogan, Meagan Voss, Brian Lewis, Steve Smith, Laura Somerville, Gayle Surrette, Paul Haggerty, Jimmy Rogers, Diana Peterfreund, Judy Newton, and Barry Newton.

Book Reviews

By Erica Ginter

I just finished *Pavane* by Keith Roberts, a forthcoming reprint from Old Earth Books. I enjoyed it immensely; it had an interesting premise (Queen Elizabeth I is assassinated as the Spanish Armada reaches England, resulting in a loss to Spain and the rise of the Church as the Lord High Ruler of Everything), good characters, and lyrical writing. (But it had way too many ellipses that had to be made consistent.) This was much better than proofreading the World Aviation Directory, let me tell you.



I also recently read and enjoyed Elizabeth Moon's *The Speed of Dark*, about a high-functioning autistic man who is being made to choose between staying the way he is, and perhaps losing the job that makes him independent, or submitting to an experimental treatment developed by the pharmaceutical company he works for that might make him "normal," but could change who he fundamentally is. It's mostly told from his viewpoint in a present-tense stream of consciousness. As you may know, I generally can't read anything longer than a short story in present tense but in this case it worked beautifully. It's very affecting and the character development of the main character is extraordinary. This was the Nebula winner in 2002.

Not SF by any means was *Planet Cat: A Cat-alog* by Sandra Choron, Harry Choron, and Arden Moore, which is the best bathroom reading ever, assuming you love cats. In hundreds of short articles, it covers everything there is to know about cats, from "How to mummify a cat in 8 easy steps" to "Are you sure you want a cat?" to "Cat epitaphs" and everything in between. I've been reading books and magazines about cats for as long as I can remember and I bred and showed Himalayans for several years, and there was a lot in this book that I didn't know. I knew I had a winner when I got to "57 literary cats" and found Cordwainer Smith's C'Mell and Robert Heinlein's Mr. Underfoot, Petronious Arbiter, and Pixel, along with a number of other SF and fantasy cats. These people did their homework! It was published in 2007, so you'd have to buy a used copy, I assume. I got mine at the first round of Borders going-out-of-business sales.

One of my dad's oldest (in both senses of the word) friends has a book coming out this month, *Corporal Boskin's Cold Cold War* by Joseph Boskin. He tells a humorous tale of his time in the Army stationed in Greenland in the early 50s, where he and my dad met and worked together at a base there. Their base was a cover for the U.S. Army's real mission in Greenland, building a missile-laden city under the ice cap known as the City under the Ice. It was top secret and Dad never breathed a word about it, even to Mom. Then one night in the 70s they were watching the evening news when the anchor said, "Next up: the City under the Ice in Greenland." Dad leaped out of his seat yelling, "They can't talk about that on TV! That's top secret!" The existence of the City under the Ice has been declassified, but no one told Dad!

WSFA Third Friday in August

Minutes from Carolyn Frank

The President had no report. Vice and Secretary were not here. The Treasurer reported that we have money.

No committees were here except Meet-up since most committee personnel are at Worldcon in Reno. John reported 93 members in group some of whom made it here tonight. The Voices in Space site sent email message to Meet-up.

WSFA meeting for first time: Martin Burton-Goldvine is interested in alternate history. He has a novel coming out in the spring published by a small press in Livingstone Alabama. He also has an original published novel for sale in a box of his own books. Caroline Harzewski saw us through Meetup. She works in a medical library. She is a Star Trek fan from NYC who mostly reads. Christopher Axhelm (Ax) is a technogeek who is into robotics.

WSFA 2nd time: Katrin Wheatley said she has gone to cons.

Attendance: Christopher Axhelm, Carolyn Frank, Caroline Harzewski, Sam Hogan, Barry Newton, Judy Newton, Meridel Newton, Shirl Phelps, Evan Phillips, Steve Smith, Bill Squire, Mike Taylor, Megan Voss, and Katrin Wheatley.

WSFA Small Press Award Nominees

- “After the Dragon”, by Sarah Monette, published in the January 2010 issue of *Fantasy Magazine*, edited by Cat Rambo & Sean Wallace
- “Amaryllis”, by Carrie Vaughn, published in the June 2010 issue of *Lightspeed Magazine*, edited by John Joseph Adams
- “The Cassandra Project”, by Jack McDevitt, published in the June 2010 issue of *Lightspeed Magazine*, edited by John Joseph Adams
- “The Days of Flaming Motorcycles”, by Catherynne M. Valente, published in *Dark Faith* anthology, edited by Maurice Broaddus and Jerry Gordon, Apex Book Co. (May 2010)
- “Enid and the Prince”, by RJ Astruc, published in *Worlds Next Door*, edited by Tehani Wessely, FableCroft Publishing (June 2010)
- “Lord Bai’s Discovery” by Jean Marie Ward, published in *Dragon’s Lure*, edited by Danielle Ackley-McPhail, Jennifer Ross, and Jeffrey Lyman, Dark Quest Books (June 2010)

Alien Infertility in Science Fiction

Part II

By Victor Grech, Consultant Pediatrician (Cardiology) and Associate Professor of Pediatrics, University of Malta; Clare Thake-Vassallo, Senior Lecturer, Translation and Interpreting Studies, University of Malta; and Ivan Callus, Associate Professor and Head, English Language Dept., University of Malta.

Alien infertility has also featured in all of the popular SF television series, particularly in *Star Trek*, and the next section will be devoted to alien infertility in the *Star Trek* universe.

In an interesting twist on the praying-mantis theme, men are truly needed, albeit briefly, in the two *Star Trek* episodes, *The Lorelei Signal* (1973)¹ and *Favorite Son* (1997),² in which beautiful females feed off the ‘life energies’ of males, thus killing men to retain their immortality at the expense of infertility.

In *When the Bough Breaks* (1988), the starship *Enterprise* encounters a planet that is deliberately kept cloaked using a form of sophisticated stealth technology. While the *Enterprise* is in orbit, seven of the ship’s children are kidnapped by the alien inhabitants, an otherwise kindly



¹ ‘The Lorelei Signal’, dir. by Hal Sutherland, *Star Trek The Animated Series*, September 1973.

² ‘Favorite Son’, dir. by Marvin V. Rush, *Star Trek Voyager*, March 1997.

humanoid race who claim they are sterile and that they wish to teach the human children their customs and use them to repopulate their species. The *Enterprise* doctor discovers that they are suffering from radiation poisoning caused by the overhead planetary cloak, leading to infertility. This story makes several assumptions: that humans can interbreed with aliens and that cumulative radiation effects on fertility can somehow, even in an alien species, be repealed.³ A similar storyline is developed in the television series *Starhunter* wherein genetically modified and sterile human soldiers abduct children in order to maintain their numbers.⁴

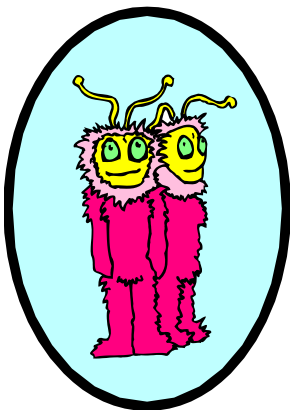
The original series *Star Trek* crew also encounter infertility on an alien planet, on which they find just five survivors who invade the *Enterprise* by stealth, and are invisible to the human crew because of a hyperaccelerated metabolism that permits them to move at velocities that are too fast for the human eye to register. Their aim is to overpower the crew members of the *Enterprise* and to hook them to a life-support system to be used as mating stock since their males have been rendered sterile by the radiation released by volcanic eruptions. Naturally, the *Enterprise* crew prevails and abandons the planet.⁵

The *Enterprise* NX-01 series crew also encounter the relics of a sterile race that had passed away on an ancient planet centuries before, leaving behind a genetically engineered virus that is capable of mutating other races – both bodies and minds – into their species in an attempt to perpetuate the race.⁶ However, it is inconceivable that a species capable of such advanced feats of genetic engineering would be incapable of treating themselves for infertility.

Only one individual of the ‘Caretaker’ race is encountered by the *Voyager* crew. The Caretakers had inadvertently destroyed a planet’s ecology and a Caretaker couple had been left to supervise the survival of the inhabitants of the planet, but when one of the couple leaves, and the remaining Caretaker ages and approaches death, he unsuccessfully attempts to seek a mate and reproduce in order to leave behind another Caretaker to

supervise the planet.⁷ Yet another *Star Trek* episode involves a humanoid race based on the planet which shifts between this dimension and another, wherein the inhabitants exist as pure consciousness and are unable to procreate. Starfleet manages to establish a means of stabilizing the planet such that it remains locked in this, our native dimension, allowing the aliens to reproduce.⁸ A similar situation is depicted in *Hell’s Pavement* (1955), when the protagonist finds himself in a circumscribed area of the Earth where humans and their habitat exist solely in the mind, and where sex simply does not exist, so the inhabitants survive by relying on the state dumping their unwanted in this area, which is considered a penal colony of no return.⁹

Somewhat illogically, the *Star Trek Voyager* episode *Ashes to Ashes* (2000) portrays an alien species that reproduce by reanimating the newly deceased of other species, and over a period of months, the dead DNA is remodeled into alien DNA.¹⁰ This is unsound on many counts as the aliens could just reanimate themselves when they



³ ‘When the Bough Breaks’, dir. by Kim Manners, *Star Trek The Next Generation*, February 1988.

⁴ G. Philip Jackson and Daniel D’or, *Starhunter*, The Movie Network, 2001–2003.

⁵ ‘Wink of an Eye’, dir. by Jud Taylor, *Star Trek The Next Generation*, November 1968.

⁶ ‘Extinction’, dir. by LeVar Burton, *Star Trek Enterprise*, September 2003.

⁷ ‘Caretaker’, dir. by Winrich Kolbe, *Star Trek Voyager*, January 1995.

⁸ ‘Meridian’, dir. by Jonathan Frakes, *Star Trek Deep Space 9*, November 1994.

⁹ Damon Knight, *Hell’s Pavement* (New York: Lion Books, 1955).

¹⁰ ‘Ashes to Ashes’, dir. by Terry Windell, *Star Trek Voyager*, March 2000.

die. In addition, neighboring species would consider such practices as grave robbing and would totally destroy their dead. Moreover, this practice would potentially pose a significant moral dilemma to this species in that a family wishing to have a child would be able to acquire one by killing a child of another species, and then reanimating the corpse. While this is not true infertility, scouring space for the purposes of corpse scavenging would be quite population limiting.

Genetic engineering has also been shown to cause sterility in aliens, and the 'Son'a' race in *Star Trek Insurrection* (1998), are sterile as a result of damage caused by biological and genetic experimentation that they themselves attempted in an effort to attain longevity.¹¹

Aliens have not been spared nuclear mishaps and in the *Friendship One* (2001), the accidental misuse of antimatter causes devastating explosions on an extrasolar planet that trigger a nuclear winter and produce alien, radiation-damaged babies.¹²

The *Star Trek* episode *Elogium* (1995), depicts the alien but humanoid females of the species 'Ocampa' who undergo their 'elogium' once in their lifetime, and this is a physiological change wherein an Ocampan female becomes sexually mature, but with a twist, in that this is the only time in an Ocampan female's lifetime wherein they may become pregnant. This is an unusual choice of name for such a process as an elogium is more commonly known as the praise bestowed on a person or thing; a panegyric or eulogy. At face value, the elogium is illogical as this would result in halving of the species' total numbers in each generation, so the only logical assumption is that the outcome of each pregnancy is multiple (twins or more), although this is never alluded to in the entire series.¹³

The 1970s television series *Space 1999* also used the alien sterility premise in the episode *Earthbound* where humanoid aliens are found fleeing an unexplained process that rendered all life on their planet progressively sterile.¹⁴ In similar vein, in *I Married a Monster from Outer Space* (1958), the menfolk of an American town are taken over by an alien species whose females have been rendered sterile by the collapse of their solar system's sun, and have come to Earth to marry and breed with Earth human females in order to revive their race,¹⁵ clearly a spin-off of the classic *Invasion of The Body Snatchers* (1956).¹⁶

Tanith Lee's *Beauty* (1983)¹⁷ takes this further by turning human females into surrogate mothers, with no genetic contribution to their offspring, who have embryos implanted by sterile aliens in an attempt to perpetuate their race. Similarly May's *The Many-Colored Land* (1981) depicts an alien race in Pliocene Earth (5.3-2.5 million years ago) who use humans who travel back to this time as breeding stock, since their own females have impaired fertility, and human women are forced to undergo tubal ligations to ensure that they do not gestate any human babies. Interestingly, the alien gynaecologist who



¹¹ *Insurrection*, dir. by Jonathon Frakes (Paramount Pictures, 1998).

¹² 'Friendship One', dir. by Mike Vejar, *Star Trek: Voyager*, April 2001.

¹³ 'Elogium', dir. by Winrich Kolbe, *Star Trek Voyager*, September 1995.

¹⁴ 'Earthbound', dir. by Charles Crichton, *Space 1999*, January 1976

¹⁵ *I Married a Monster from Outer Space*, dir. by Gene Fowler Jr, (Paramount Picture, 1958).

¹⁶ *The Invasion of the Body Snatchers*, dir. by Don Siegel (Allied Artists Pictures Corporation, 1956).

¹⁷ Tanith Lee, 'Beauty', in *Red as Blood, or Tales from the Sisters Grimmer* (New York: DAW, 1983).

performs these ligation reversals is infertile, as she is a male who has had a sex change. Human males are also forced to become genetic donors.¹⁸ Alien male infertility is not depicted as a problem as only one male in the saga is depicted to be infertile. Indeed the alien king is extremely fertile and exercises *droit de seigneur* on all human females in order to increase their chances of rapid impregnation. Droit de seigneur was the purported medieval lord's legal right to deflower virgins on their first married night.¹⁹ Also, in Nour's *Love's Captive* (2005), interstellar pirates abduct fertile females as wives for the men of a planet whose race is endangered due to their women's sterility.²⁰

A more menacing approach is taken in the *X-Files*, whose protagonists thwart a government conspiracy to help inimical aliens colonize the Earth, including attempts to create a slave race of human-alien hybrids through the use of bio-weapons. The female protagonist is abducted, her ovaries are removed for human-hybrid experimentation purposes and she is implanted with an alien embryo. Although she is saved, she is now technically sterile, having no ova, and indeed, should pass into menopause as explained earlier. However, she eventually still manages to become pregnant.²¹ An unusual and unexplained infertility theme is also seen in the television series *Lost* (2004), which is set on a desert island and where pregnant women die on the island before they can give birth.²²

A combined human-alien infertility interaction is depicted in Groom's *The Purple Twilight* (1948) where the protagonist travels to Mars in search of the descendants of Atlantis and instead finds the telepathic members of the dying intelligent Martian race, who had attacked and destroyed humans on Atlantis in self-defense and then fell into an arms race that led to a nuclear war that sterilized the Martian race. When the protagonist returns to Earth he finds a similar arms race developing and recounts his cautionary tale in vain.²³ Sterile Martians are also represented in *A Rose for Ecclesiastes* (1963), and the human protagonist manages to father a child with a female Martian, to the chagrin of the Martians as it contradicted their fatalistic expectations of racial extinction, an event in the distant past that had sterilized the race.²⁴

To Be Continued.

Only East Coast Convention at Worldcon

The September First Friday WSFA meeting 9/2/11 was held with Sam S. chairing in the absence of prez. He called this meeting to order at 9:16 on September 2nd. There was no business done at the last meeting. We have money. "Before or after today's market crash?", asked Sam S. Market crash? It's Bill's fault because of the non-jobs report.

Small Press officially said the winner has been chosen. Paul said the winner is one of these stories, and then read the complete list of nominees. Bill said, "A fix" when the Vaughn story was mentioned. A press release was sent to the committee for checking and will be sent to the Secretary for inclusion in the Journal. Paul said, "I'm sorry no fudge for WSFA. I think the percentage [who voted] was an increase and an remarkable effort by the club, but the fudge was just out of reach."

¹⁸ Julian May, *The Many-Colored Land* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1981).

¹⁹ Jörg Wettlaufer, 'The *Jus Primae Noctis* as a Male Power Display: A Review of Historic Sources with Evolutionary Interpretation', in *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 21 (2000), 111–23.

²⁰ Myra Nour, *Love's Captive* (Lake Park: New Concepts Publishing, 2005).

²¹ 'Requiem', dir. by Kim Manners, *The X-Files*, May 2000.

²² 'The Other Woman', dir. by Eric Laneuville, *Lost*, March 2008.

²³ Pelham Groom, *The Purple Twilight* (London: T. Werner Laurie, 1948)

²⁴ Roger Zelazny, 'A Rose for Ecclesiastes', *The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction*, November 1963.

Publications: We now have both stories for books, artwork, design in place; now, we are doing the final step—printing the books. They will be done well before Capclave. One book dealer is interested in buying a considerable number after Capclave. Cathy said we sold one *Future Washington* and one Turtledove at Renovation. Sarah said we should take photo of them handing the check over. WSFA Press is now talking about publications for future years. Still to be discussed.



Cathy for Capclave said we were the only east coast con at the Worldcon. We only sold two books, but handed out a lot of info, some Worldcon attendees said they may move in the area or have relatives here. So, from point of view of getting our name out, this was valuable. Most WSFAns at Worldcon sat at the Capclave table, hauled dodos, and books. Cathy sent an email saying everyone has to come back from Renovation with the dodos they came with, that she hopes was not taken out of context. We have photos of authors and Scalzi with dodos. At least one Dodo, Darth, was into costuming with lots of outfits including Sir Dodo, knight of the ugly chicken, who did a quest with the brotherhood without banners. Pictures of the dodo riding a datschen in chain mail, and photos of our banner are on Laurence Person's blog. This is useful publicity for us. People do like the dodos. There will be a meeting at Cathy's. The con is six weeks away, so watch Cathy go crazy. Sam S said the future not here, and far future is

stoned [for medical purposes]. Bill corrected him, saying actually Mike is trying to get unstoned. [He has been having kidney stone problems.] Bill is doing programming for Future (George's).

Intertivities. Sam L. mentioned the Neal Stephenson reading at Politics & Prose and the Terry Pratchett event at the National Press Club. Cathy Green said the Roundhouse Theater is doing *Fahrenheit 451*. This is a quite good theater troop, the same people who did last year's *A Wrinkle in Time*.

The Committee to Talk SF will discuss summer reading books. Secretary Sam L said he sent the Journal over to Paul, pdf version only. No other committees.

Old business. T-shirts.

New business. Fifth Friday this month. No volunteers. First Friday next month is Yom Kippur. So a number of people will not be here, but Judy will be here hosting.

First meeting? Second meeting? Star Straf from Alexandria, last here six months ago. Pooch Picucci moved here two years ago. Saw a few of us at Renovation. Third meeting: Sam Hogan and Kenneth Adams. Both are now eligible to join.

Announcements: Bill said, trying to advertise military bases for Capclave, if know someone on a base let him know. There is Mexican Coca Cola in the soda chest <Does it have a green card?>. (My precious, said Paul, it's all mine.) There was a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned 9:39, unanimously.

Attendance: Kenneth Adams, Cathy Green, Paul Haggerty, Charity Helton, Bill Lawhorn, Sam Lubell, Candy and John Madigan, Sarah Mitchell, Judy & Sam Scheiner, Steve Smith, Gayle Surrence, Meagen Voss, Ivy Yap, Star Straf, Pooch Picucci, Sam Hogan, Laura Somerville



10 Great Science Fiction Audio Podcasts

By Jimmy Rogers

The entire paradigm of science fiction literature seems to be in a state of flux. Book publishers are being outstripped by eBook sales and new online-only publishers seems to spring up every week. The upside of this

shift is that fans of audiobooks and audiofiction have more opportunities than ever to listen to free works by professional authors. I've put together this list to help you capitalize on the proliferation of great podcasts out there.



1. **Clarkesworld Magazine**

You'll notice I've numbered this list, and indeed, if I had to listen to one podcast first, it would be Clarkesworld. Voiced by the soothing Kate Baker, the Clarkesworld Magazine podcast releases two stories (usually awesome ones) a month. Their topics range across SF, fantasy, and horror, but the average reader will likely find the stories well within their own taste. I warrant that some of the best fiction of the year comes out of Clarkesworld Magazine. One of the advantages of this podcast is that it encompasses the entire magazine, so there is no fiction in print that are not also "in voice." They offer subscriptions and accept donations if you wish to show your support.

2. **Lightspeed Magazine**

Right up there with Clarkesworld is Lightspeed. This up-and-coming online-only publication puts out two audiofiction episodes a month. They don't read everything they publish in text, but you get quality instead of quantity. Some of the best SF narrators around show up in Lightspeed (including Stefan Rudnicki, my personal favorite and co-narrator of ALL of the Enderverse audiobooks). I look forward to the

groundbreaking stories and the exceptional voicing each time they say "Let's take the jump to lightspeed!" They also offer subscriptions and accept donations.

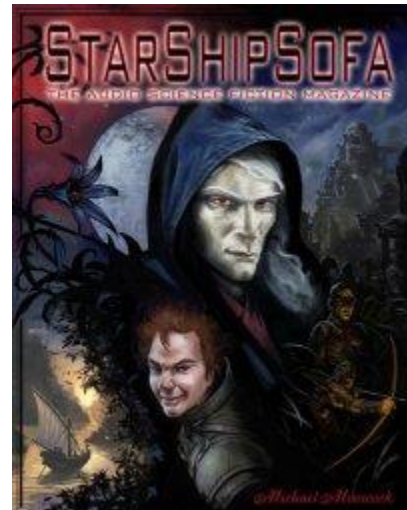
3. **Escape Pod**

For a bit of variety, Escape Pod is a good choice. Their stories are largely audio "reprints" from other sources (though they do publish the occasional original fiction). Unlike the previous two entries, the authors aren't always "name brands" and sometimes the stories don't hold up to the same standard. The podcast often makes good use of the audio medium by playing with multiple narrators and the like. The reason I keep coming back to Escape Pod is the uncertainty over whether the story will be fantastic or disappointing: I like the surprise. At the end of each episode, they read listener comments to previous stories, so I if you didn't like a story, you might find that you're one of many who posted angrily on the forums. There is a greater sense of community with Escape Pod than most on this list.

As an added note, Escape Pod is part of the Escape Artists family of podcasts. I haven't listened to them yet, but you might want to check out **Podcastle** for Fantasy and **Pseudopod** for Horror if those tickle your fancy. You can support Escape Artists with donations.

4. **StarShipSofa**

Oh, man! What can I say about StarShipSofa other than "climb aboard!" Tony C. Smith captains this lengthy podcast, which features segments on recent science, science in literature, interviews, deep studies of the genre and, of course, original fiction. It is audio's answer to *Analog*. The segments are all done by various contributors, but they are neatly stitched together by the gregarious Captain Tony, whose Scottish accent and ultra-positivity will have you grinning from minute one. Overall, the fiction is very good and sometimes Tony snags an interview with the author. It's a long podcast, so I'll keep this blurb brief and let it speak for itself! StarShipSofa accepts donations.



5. The Drabblecast

If you have a hankering for weirdness, this podcast is for you. Each week, narrator Norm Sherman offers up a great piece of short fiction. One of the interesting aspects of The Drabblecast is its use of music. Each original story comes complete with background music that really accents the story being told. I've listened to other podcasts that used music before and always found it distracting. With The Drabblecast, each piece is custom composed for the fiction, so it sounds great!

Beyond the main fiction, each episode includes a drabble (100 words) and a twabble (a twitter-sized 100 character story). Some weeks, the episodes begin with a silly audio serial full of puns and strange adventures. The Drabblecast takes a little getting used to, but I say it's well worth the effort. You can support the podcast through donations or merchandise.

6. Tor.com Audio Podcast

This podcast is almost completely defunct, as they haven't published anything since February of this year. I bring it up because the archives are fairly extensive and Tor.com publishes a lot of great stories. The episodes themselves are pretty spartan, but the fiction is good, so check it out!

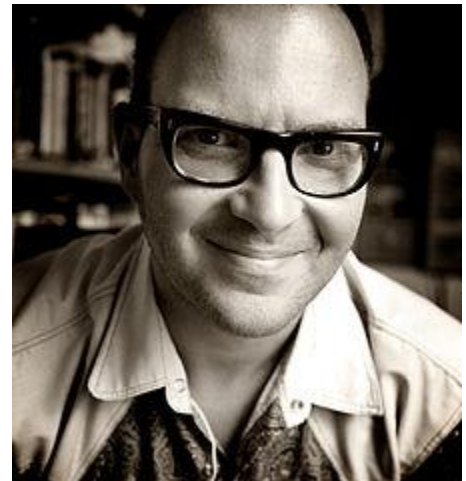
7. Beneath Ceaseless Skies

Why is a fantasy podcast on here? Well, your mother always told you it was good to have variety in your diet! In all seriousness, I'm not a great aficionado of fantasy, but this podcast does a good job of presenting a story with no "world of fantasy" news and such. Also, they tend to lean toward "adventure fantasy," so it makes for a nice half an hour of escapism. Not every issue publishes an audio story, but you'll receive about two a month. Beneath Ceaseless Skies accepts donations for support and offers paid Kindle subscriptions.

8. Cory Doctorow's Podcast

This podcast is a little odd because it's the only personal podcast on the list. If you're familiar with Cory Doctorow and you like his work, I probably don't need to convince you of this podcast's quality. If you haven't heard of him, he's one of those guys with a finger in every pie. Doctorow is an editor of BoingBoing.net, former member of the EFF, and has written a ton of interesting, cutting-edge SF over the years. His most famous work is probably the posthuman novella, [Down and Out in the Magic Kingdom](http://DownandOutintheMagicKingdom).

His podcast generally includes updates about his life and career, calendar of events, and recordings of various things. This latter category can range from original fiction he's yet to put in print, Mark Twain stories (which he reads excellently), and speeches/interviews he does in other places. Like everything Doctorow does, the podcast is free and can be supported by buying anything he has produced over the years.



9. SF Signal Podcast

If you're a big SF nerd like me, you've probably followed a link or two pointing toward SF Signal. They take on the wide world of SF, reviewing books, posting the news, and generally geeking out. Their podcast alternates between roundtable discussions (mostly "What is your favorite _____?") and interviews with authors who have recently published. As of this publication, I am listening to their interview with the esteemed William Gibson. There is no audio fiction on this podcast, but after a given episode you'll probably find yourself nose-deep in a new book/show/movie/podcast they have recommended.

10. Notes from Coode Street

"Good morning Gary!" Notes from Coode Street is last, but certainly not least. Each week (or so), Gary K. Wolfe and Jonathan Strahan sit down for a cross-ocean chat about books, authors, genre, and even more

esoteric topics within SF. Both are professional reviewers and anthologists, so they process an enormous number of works at the same time. We the listeners benefit because they can share their fairly unique understanding of the SF field on the show. They also get into more than a few friendly debates over the merits of a book or a shift in the field. Notes from Coode Street doesn't seem to take donations, but I bet they'd love it if you told a friend!

I hope this list gives you a nice starting point if you're new to SF podcasts. If you're already a podcast veteran, maybe one of these can help flesh out your subscriptions.

We Get Zip

The September 16, third Friday meeting began with waiting for the President who came in late. Sam Hogan paid his \$20, so he made quorum. "Yo, let's have a meeting," Barry stated declaring it to be 21:26 <My watch only goes up to 12.> Sam L. read the minutes. The treasurer is not here. There is one



new member. We have quorum. All three trustees are here, but had nothing to say. Cathy said it is a good time to start thinking of running for office. <Cathy, there's still time to launch your White House bid. If you can run Capclave, the country will be easy.>

Intervitivities: Sam suggested *Fahrenheit 451*, people should go on their own, because we do not have enough time to get organized. Clam Chowder benefit concert. Brian said that the Maryland Renfair is going on.

Sam L. said we have a new Journal from the summer complete with a submission from Malta. He's using it as an academic publication. Someone suggested having Bob MacIntosh review it so it would be a refereed journal.

Colleen for Facebooks said it was there. We get messages. Gayle sends something. Sam L. said website is being worked on. Club pointed out Paul has a job. John for MeetUp said we were up to 93 people. John wants us to get up to the 100 member level. Erica said but I already know about WSFA, it's in my DNA. John checks off who attends the meeting in the MeetUp group. John said "Capclave is coming up, last year we had two additional dinners through the MeetUp. I've been wanting to put up dinners for this year. Last year we were new to MeetUp, we set up two dinners with the group within MeetUp and had half a dozen for each dinner. Last year's convention was down the street from Fundruckers. Now it is further away. Cathy pointed out the hotel will shuttle us. Brian said there are 93 places within a walk. Colleen said, and they'll come up and pick us up. John asked for three restaurants. Fourth thing. Through the MeetUp, gets requests from different organizations who want to sponsor us. Waiting for yea or no. John read four organizations that will give us discounts. Bob said, we get zip, cost is zip. Perks are discounts. Bob said if we want to trade advertising with them, put in a disclaimer. Cathy said from IRS viewpoint, it may be problematic. Implicit endorsement. John said he wants the club to look this over and vote next month. Sam L. moved that we put it on the WSFA list and let people look it over.

Capclave 2011. Cathy said we need volunteers for registration. The con suite will be a suite. Smaller but avoids the Montgomery County rules about food. Now we can revive the



cookie conspiracy. <It's alive! Frankencookie is alive!> If people would bake stuff to bring, that would be super. Cathy said she intends to do so. Will post to WSFA forum asking for suggestions for con suite. Much more flexible on what we can get. So if people have ideas, useful to have suggestions.

2012 has nothing to say, living in denial.

For 2013, Mike Walsh said that George has changed his email. He's off to the Emmies as *Game of Thrones* is up for 17, so now is not a good time. Other than that nothing to speak of.

Committee to Talk SF will discuss Asimovs.

Small Press Award. Colleen knows who won but won't tell us about it. Cathy said the Sat night big event is autograph/awards/GOH gifts/concert and anything else we can think off. Will be two birthdays at Capclave. Short list of nominees is on the website. Both GoH are on the list. Blind judging so we didn't know when nominated. You want to be there Sat night approx. 9pm. Free cake <the cake is NOT a lie> and cash bar.

Old business. Fifth Friday this month. The Madigans volunteered to host. Sam brought up the T-shirt proposal. People said to just do the new logo not need anything on the back. Discussion about maybe doing the Joe design. People said it wouldn't work on the back. Gold nugget. Dark blue ink. One color. Sam will do sign in sheet. And email. And will do it on the list.

No more old business. No new business.

First meeting-Elisa, heard about us through MeetUp. She moved here two weeks ago. Her husband is in the Navy and she has a 10 month old daughter. She does art and writing for fun. Others suggested she write something for the Journal. She has a cool picture of rocket over her research site.

Sam L. made his announcement, and we print dissertations too.

Candy got into the Sugarloaf Craft Show that is heavily juried. Her house now has a free range bunny, try not to step on her.

Erica talked to guys at worldcon where they publish winners of sf awards. Place in England sells solid silver Dodo charms for about \$35. See her so can split shipping.

Library of Congress book festival is next week. Come down. Colleen said it is okay to distribute bookmarks. Library of Congress What If series of author talks is active again. Colleen can give email list. This Monday, Mary Jo Putnam.

Mike Walsh had a kidney stone on the flight to Worldcon. Sunday again. Went to the ER. Had the really good drugs. Fourth attack Monday, neurologist said it passed. Cat scan revealed quarter inch that is not big enough to be operated. So buy books, make him happy.

The nerdist podcast do things with people who are famous with SF. Will have a show at the 9:30 club on November 6th. Fan culture oriented. Will sell out fast. \$25. Comedy and back and forth. Elisa has issues [of magazines] and wants to circulate them. Elspeth said hello before disappearing. Adjourned unanimously 21:10.

Attendance: Colleen Cahill, Carolyn Frank, Erica Ginter, Cathy Green, Sam Hogan, Elspeth Kovar, Brian Lewis, Sam Lubell, Bob Macintosh, Candy & John Madigan, Barry & Judy Newton, Evan Phillips, Jimmy Rogers, George Shaner, Laura Somerville, Bill Squire, Mike Taylor, Michael Walsh, Ivy Yap, Madeleine Yeh, Alisha Brown, Meridel Newton, Kindra Gresham.

October Poem By Samuel Lubell

Outside there is a spooky
Chill in the air as
The ghosts & goblins gather round
On their way to trick or treat as
Bats fly beneath a full harvest moon

Earth & sky both shudder in fear
Remembering when man feared the unknown in the dark

Happy Halloween everyone!

