

The WSFA Journal

March / April 2012

Always Room at WSFA

The First Friday meeting in February (2-3-12) was called to order at 21:12.

Minutes were waived and moved (all around the room). There were no officer reports from the president and vice. Treasurer Steve Smith said we had \$31,370.97. <Moola> is in transit from PayPal to WSFA Checking; of that, <clams> goes to Capclave. There were calls for donations of three cents so we could make a buck. Brian said trustees are looking for nominees <we're right here!>. If interested, email trustees or talk to the trustees. He will miss the next meeting due to cons.

Sam for Entertivities reported that the AFI Film Institute will show Metropolis with live music. <I went and it was fantastic>. Brian reported that *Mythbusters* will be near the Worldcon. Paul said WSFA Press is selling books at least one a week. The check will be delivered. *Silently and Very Fast* made Locus recommended reading list. There was no update to our Website. Last month's journal will be online this weekend. Paul hasn't finished the Paypal button for renewing membership. Changing the logo on our website is on the short list. "My credo is never put off until tomorrow what can be put off until next week." The president said we should have a check to make sure are a person is a member before allowing renewing. Paul said that's one of the things taking time. We have <many> followers on Facebook. Steve said the Facebook market cap would only be real if all the sheep in Farmville were real. Capclave past is done. Capclave present will have a programming meeting tomorrow.

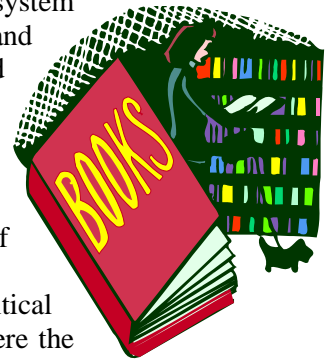
The Committee to talk SF is in negotiations to have a writer, Diane Peterfreund, come and read to us, probably the third Friday in April. Bill said they have twittered back and forth. Colleen for the small press committee said they had 23 stories already. She will send a note to publishers. The Committee is starting to read. They will have a meeting tomorrow to streamline and make the system work even better. April 1 deadline for stories. Then the committee will read and make a short list. Brian asked how many on the committee will have their turn end this year. The answer was two people, two slots, and a two-year commitment <I'm detecting a theme.> Members will have to read the stories and promote the award. Cathy is now the chair.

Old business: Sam Lubell had T-shirts. New business: None.

No one was here for first, second, or third meetings. Sam L. asked if anyone here still needed to pay dues. Steve said didn't have list with him.

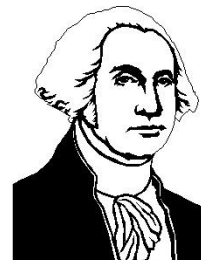
Announcements: Eva said there was a Hugo category of best fancast. Critical Hints by David Chalker is eligible. Mark Roth said he is doing a song circle here the night of Boskone. Sam S. said cellos are okay because there is always room for cello. Brian said Cox cable doing free remote swap. Paul said *Silently and Very Fast* can be considered for the Hugo. Meeting adjourned unanimously at 21:31.

Attendance: Drew Bittner, Alisha Brown, Colleen Cahill, Erica Ginter, Cathy Green, Paul Haggerty, Bill Lawhorn, Brian Lewis, Sam Lubell, Bob MacIntosh, Sarah Mitchell, Barry & Judy Newton, Mark Roth, Judy & Sam Scheiner, George Shaner, Steve Smith, Laura Somerville, Meagen Voss, Eva Whitley, and Ivy Yap.



Current Elected WSFA Office Holders and Trustee Slate (Current term June 3rd, 2011 – May 31st, 2012)

Officers:	Current	Trustees' Slate
President:	Barry Newton	Barry Newton
Vice President:	Sam Scheiner	Sam Scheiner
Secretary:	Sam Lubell	Sam Lubell



Treasurer: Steve Smith Steve Smith

Trustees:

Cathy Green	Cathy Green
Brian Lewis	Brian Lewis
Bob MacIntosh	Bob MacIntosh

Capclave Chairs:

2011	Cathy Green
2012	George Shaner
2013	Michael Walsh
2014	

Bill Lawhorn



Other Offices:

WSFA Small Press Award Committee

Chair	Cathy Green	to 2013	
Members	Colleen Cahill	to 2012	Jimmy Rogers
	Paul Haggerty	to 2012	Sarah Mitchell
	Gayle Surrette	to 2013	
	Meagen Voss	to 2013	

At the 1st Friday Meeting, in April, the Trustees must present to the WSFA Membership a slate of Members in Good Standing who want to run for the openings in WSFA Offices. The Trustees need to present at least one name per office, but can present more than one. To volunteer to run for office, you can speak to any of the current Trustees at any time before then (except during a WSFA Meeting), or E-mail us at Trustees@WSFA.org

At the 1st Friday in May, after the Business Meeting, we will recess for 15 minutes, or so, and proceed to elect members into the above offices:

The Trustees will also accept nominations from the floor, during the Election Meeting, before each office is voted on but not of people who are not:

- (A) Members in Good Standing of WSFA,
- (B) Able to confirm their willingness to perform the duties of the Office
- (C) Seconded by someone other than the Member in Good Standing who has nominated them.

Each Office will be voted on separately using a method that will explained at that time.

Non Meeting Meeting

The Feb Third Friday (2/17/12) was a non-meeting as there was no quorum with many members away at Boskone and other conventions. We had a party instead. Attendance : The attendance list was not handed out. There were about 14 persons, including at least one new person (a guest of Shirl's). The following from memory: Carolyn Frank, Brian Lewis, Candy Madigan, John Madigan, Shirl Phelps, Evan Phillips, Jimmy Rogers, George Shaner, Steve Smith, Bill Squire, Meagen Voss, Thomas Woldering, and as mentioned an unnamed guest of Shirl's.

Bits of Books: Short Reviews

By Samuel Lubell

Cyber Way by Alan Dean Foster. SF/mystery. PB 306 pages. In this book from 1990 Foster has his characters use portable computers called pocket spinners hooked into the web and also function as phones. That's right, his police characters are using Internet smartphones. And this in 1990, when the real life web was still in the planning stages. The rest of the book was fairly so-so with a mix of mystery, technology, and southwestern magic.

Rise of Empire by Michael Sullivan. Fantasy-medieval. This is the second omnibus in the Riyria Revelations series. These books were originally published by the author's own imprint but proved so popular that Orbit, a mainstream publisher, bought the rights. These are straightforward and fun adventures. I like how the princess disguises herself as a chambermaid to investigate an enemy castle and says no one would recognize her because it would not occur to them that a princess could do this. I also like how the thieves themselves get massively tricked in the second part. However, it ends with a cliffhanger.

White Cat by Holly Black. YA Fantasy. Book One of the Curse Workers. In an alternate version of reality, some people are born with magical talents to influence people, reshape their memories, or even kill with a touch. But society frowns on these powers, so curse workers wind up as criminals, working for the Mafia. Cassel Sharpe is from a family of con men who have powers, all except for him (or so he thinks). He also is haunted by the memory of his girlfriend, the daughter of the local mob boss, who he may have killed. This is somewhat dark but a fun romp with powers. I'd read the sequel.

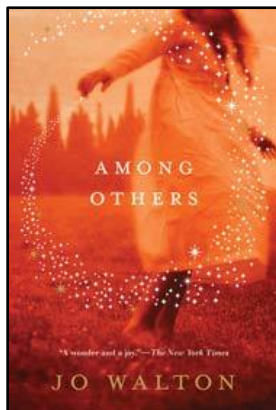


Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card. SF/Action. Re-read for the umpteenth time. The most recent books in this series were such a disappointment that I had forgotten how good this book was. And the discussion in the book club was one of the better ones too, even if one of the members kept insisting that Ender was the product of genetic engineering despite the complete absence of anything in the book that would support this theory. I first read the Ender novella in an anthology and then encountered the novel while a camp counselor on a day-off when I read the whole book that afternoon.

Ender's Shadow by Orson Scott Card. SF. Re-read. Unusually, this book is not exactly a sequel but a parallel novel that overlaps the events of *Ender's Game* but from Bean's viewpoint. I didn't like how it tried to make Bean smarter than Ender and the adults running the Battle school and how it gave Bean credit for things like coming up with the names for Ender's army. Still, this is almost as good as *Ender's Game* and much better than the other novels in the Bean part of the Ender saga.

The Man Who Loved Only Numbers by Paul Hoffman. Nonfiction. Library. I don't normally include my nonfiction reading here, but this might interest WSFAns. This is the story of Paul Erdos, a mathematical genius who had almost no interest in anything other than math. He comes across as very strange and in some ways unlikeable. He didn't have a home and depended on others to take him in for a few months while he came in and did math. But he also set up problems for others and collaborated to an unusual extent (the book mentions Erdos numbers, a form of six degrees of separation with a 1 for those who collaborated with Erdos, 2 for those who collaborate with someone who collaborated with Erdos etc.) The book is nonlinear and often seems like a collection of anecdotes rather than a biographical approach that makes order out of a life.

A Princess of Mars by Edgar Rice Burroughs. SF action. Plup era. Public domain. I thought the plot depended too much on coincidence. John Carter's ability to pass for a Martian with some coloring was a bit too much (although I'm willing to swallow it when Clark Kent does the reverse...) But for a science fiction book published 100 years ago and that helped establish the pulp tradition, it wasn't bad. But I'm going to pass on the rest. Ironically, I actually like the movie better.



Among Others by Jo Walton. Fantasy. This is a wonderful story about growing up as a bookish child with science fiction as the only thing keeping you sane. The main character, a girl whose twin sister died, is sent to a boarding school where she eventually meets a science fiction reading club. And the book is full of her reactions to various authors and books, making the reader want to maintain a list. At the same time, this is a fantasy story as Mori interacts with fairies, who occasionally have errands for her to do (one of which killed her sister) and fights

off her mother's evil magic. Magic is low-key here, not showy. For instance, when Mori does a spell to meet people like her and she discovers the science fiction club, she fears that the spell caused the club to have come into existence in the past. At first I didn't like the ending, how it just seems to fade out, but now I think that was intentional, life doesn't really have endings until the big one. I nominated this for the Hugo. <And so did many others as it made the ballot.>

The Wild Ways by Tanya Huff. 295 pages. This sequel to the *Enchantment Emporium* is quite good, but not as super-fantastic as the first one (which I bought after reading from the library and I almost never do that.) The book is about the Gale family who have special powers in the modern world. The main characters are Charlotte Gale, a wild power (a Gale who isn't tied to a single place) and Jack, who in addition to being a Gale is also a dragon prince with the ability to shift forms. There is an environmental angle here as the ruthless head of an oil company, trying to get offshore drilling right, confronts an environmental group run by selkies (seal-women) and hires a Gale Auntie to blackmail them by stealing their seal skins. All Charlotte wants to do is play music but she get entangled in this struggle and winds up forced to learn to tap her full powers – including time travel. I look forward to more books in this series.



More Silently and Very Fast(er)

The First Friday Meeting in March (3/2/12) was called to order at 9:16, with VP Sam S presiding in the absence of the president. We had a quorum. Minutes from last meeting waived. “Do we have money?” asked Sam. “I don’t know, just got here,” said Steve, who looked it up. We paid the <something> for the <someone>. Cathy said, “Trustees, if want to run for office let trustees know.” Brian said, “You have until first Friday in April. We are still looking for people for small press award committee. People who read the slush pile.” Cathy explained the duties. Sam S. said, “Think of this as an opportunity to broaden your reading horizons.”

Capclave Present. George said, “A couple of weeks ago I went to hotel, added some rooms for function space to the contract. The consuite will be on the ground floor. Feedback was that people wanted it downstairs. And people who moved the food in upstairs had no desire to repeat it. Bill said that he had a programming meeting. “We sent out the initial survey and request to culled list. Currently 35 said yes, 13 maybes. Many have yet to respond.” He will send a reminder out soon. He has Paul’s email, so will send him the names. Cathy said room block is open so can book at hotel. Capclave Future had nothing to report. He sent emails to George who is busy doing other things.

For Publications, Sam L said there was a press meeting. *Journal* is coming out bimonthly. Gayle for WSFA Press said we have about <numbers> of the Valente, <numbers> of the Vaughn. For *Future Washington* just <X> hardcover and <#> trades, so the rest have all been sold. The Valente book is nominated for the Nebula award and has appeared on many shortlists for the Hugo award. March 11th is the deadline for Hugo nominations.



For the Committee to Talk SF, Bill said, we will have Diane Peterfreund doing a reading on the first Friday in April. He asked if the club would prefer an short story or excerpt from new series. She writes fantasy and YA. Club voted for a short story. Podcast stories next month will be at the VA meeting. For Entertivities, Sam L. recommended the play *Astro Boy and the God of Comics*.

Small Press Committee has <some> stories, deadline is April 1st. Cathy said, WSFA members can nominate stories. Send it to Carolyn and she’ll do the stripping [of the author’s name]. Let publishers know.

Old business. We are doing a couple meeting swaps. In April, 1st Friday will be in MD and third Friday in VA. Same swap in June. Third Friday in May



will be the Nebula awards, a number of WSFAans are involved in running the weekend. So we're moving the meeting. Friday night will be the free autographing session.

New business: Gayle said, "WSFA press has been doing 1 or 2 books for Capclave with the Guests of Honor. This year, the guests don't have anything available or declined. Catherynne Valente's *Silently and Very Fast* is nominated for the Nebulas and we only have <same number> left. So this year, we suggest doing 500 copies of the Valente as a trade edition, not limited. This would cost <money> and we would have them in time for the Nebulas, if approved at this meeting. The breakeven point would be <number> books." Steve asked if we had approached Cat. Paul said she approached us, is very interested. Cathy said every time she mentions it online we sell a few books. The motion was seconded by Brian. No one opposed, no abstentions. Motion passed unanimously. Bill objected to his lack of abstentions.

New people: Terry Smith, been to Capclave and Balticon. He is trying to write sf. He does webwork and tech writing.

Announcements: Elspeth still exists. In the *Washington Post*, Mike Dirda reviewed the book *Pavane* published by Mike Walsh. SMOFs found it interesting. Mike said, he checked the Amazon sales ranking. Before the review, it was below 1 million 200 thousand; yesterday, the book was at 1100 in sales ranking, but the Amazon sales algorithm is a deeply held secret. "As far as I know, it is selling." He brought copies in a box. It is a really skiffy production with stunning quotes. Buy books, he has a printer to pay.

Jimmy Rogers said the New Weird podcast has 100 word story contest. He won twice in the last month. Ernest has good and bad news. Good news, he has disaffiliated with NAESP. Bad news, some fool decided to hire him. He is now doing IT and LAN support for Homeland Security. He told them that he didn't want to manage anything. Managing stuff sucks. Then when showed up, he was given a team to manage. Now sitting at a desk trying to look useful because he don't have a security clearance.

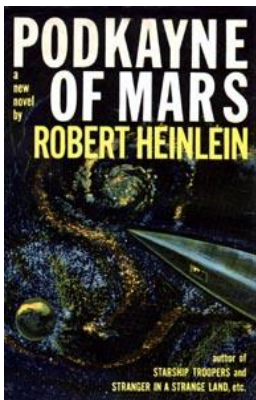
Motion to adjourned. Meeting unanimously adjourned at 9:47.

Attendance: Drew Bittner, Alisha Brown, Cathy Green, Paul Haggerty, Elspeth Kovar, Bill Lawhorn, Brian Lewis, Sam Lubell, Bob Macintosh, Sarah Mitchell, Jimmy Rogers, Judy and Sam Scheiner, George Shaner, Steve Smith, Gayle Surette, Sean Wallace, Michael Walsh, Ivy Yap, Madeleine Yeh, Ken Byrer, and Terry Smith.

Disney Announces Third Mars Movie

April 1, 2012, Hollywood, FL – After the success of the top-grossing animated hit *Mars Needs Moms* and the critically praised *John Carter*, Disney is pleased to announce the third movie in its Mars trilogy will be *Podkayne of Mars* by Robert Heinlein.

"I understand Heinlein is a big name among readers of books," said Disney president M. Mouse. "Not that I've read any of course. People tell me he has not had much success with movies made from his books. Turning his *Space Troopers* into an anti-war movie and all that. That's why we're using the same top-notch team that adapted *John Carter*."



"We're doing what we did with *John Carter*," said writer/director Andrew Startoon. "We're following the book closely except where we changed things. We had to modify the Mars scenes to match the background established in *John Carter*, so not to confuse viewers of that movie. And we save money since we already had the sets. We also incorporated bits from Heinlein's other books. We needed a cute animal to follow Podkayne around so we're using the *Star Beast*. And we need a romance for teenagers so we've added Castor and Pollux from *The Rolling Stones*."

“Of course, it is a Disney movie,” said co-writer Andrew Marx. “So, Podkayne doesn’t have any parents, only an uncle just like Huey, Dewey, and Louie Duck. But don’t worry. We’re going back to the original source material for the ending.”

Podkayne of Mars will be coming to a theater near you somewhere in the World as Myth multiverse.

The Evil Twin Wears a Goatee

The WSFA Third Friday (3/16/12) meeting took place without a president or vice. In their absence <there was a vicious struggle for control> the secretary offered current treasurer, former secretary and former president Steve the choice of running the meeting or taking notes. Steve chose running the meeting. <Shows which job is easier.> There were lots of new people.

“Okay, let’s have a meeting,” Steve boomed. The 3rd Friday March 2012 was called to order at 9:19. Sam L gave important parts of last meeting. Steve read the treasurer’s report. Dues are due. You have to be a member to vote and to vote on stories of small press award. President is not here. Brian said Judy is planning is coming when she is able. Candy talked to Barry on the telephone. She can’t manage 11 pm yet. Judy is sending emails and seemed to be doing well recovering from her heart attack and a quadruple bypass. Doctor seems pleased with her progress.

Trustees need a slate for next meeting. The election will be the first meeting in May. The slate is still missing one spot for small press committee. Jimmy Rogers was so enthusiastic he volunteered twice. Erica said this means he has to read all the stories twice. Someone else said the second volunteer must be his evil twin. The evil twin wears a goatee.

Capclave past is closed. Present is not. Future not here.

Electronic media: John said as of 10 minutes ago our Meetup group was up to <number>. Candy said interivities and meetup should coordinate. Eva volunteered to run the entertainment committee if we have it as the entertainment committee. Brian said *John Carter* is out <but doesn’t he get two more strikes?>. Someone challenged the inclusion of this note asking, “But is that entertaining. “ There was political chatter. On the committee to talk SF – Jimmy Rogers said we will talk podcasts on the third of the month, even if meeting location is different. Talk podcasts after this meeting. He has started his own podcast of the monthly list.



Small Press. So far there have been # stories. This is a lot <descriptive> than last year. Deadline is April 1. We will probably get 10 or so new stories. There were several submission from Australia. Brian asked if any were from Lee.

Thomas asked about use of the logo on website. Sam L. said will remind the webmasters. Thomas is available to help.

Old business: WSFA shirts available. Meetings get switched next month. There is a Fifth Friday this month. Eva suggested the use of the BSFS clubhouse but it would have to be a Saturday. John offered to have it here so his house would be clean. Eva withdrew. There will be a Fifth Friday meeting at John and Candy’s. New business. None.

First meeting: Rick. Shirl dragged him here.

Carl. Found us through Google maps. Alexander told him about the meeting. Both from BSFS. John said cross pollination is good. Alexander is the social media correspondent from BSFS.

Cynthia was brought here by Sam. She still run con suites but not for BSFS. She has been doing it since 1985. Believes in food in consuites. hmw@aol.com.

Second meeting: None.

Third meeting: Michael. He is now eligible to be a member.



Announcements. The Madigans have a new bunny. Champion show bunny. Named summer because she looks like snow and she's chilling. Eva sold Well World series to Arkham Manor and sold the audio rights to first three books. She is now looking for a gigalo. She has lost 80 pounds since last June. Carl is heading a book discussion group at BSFS, discussing Red Mars next Sat 6:30 – 8 at BSFS. Followed by *Game of Thrones* in April, then in June *Windup Girl*, and in July *Way of Kings*. More information is online.

Motion to adjourn. Meeting unanimously adjourned 9:54.

Attendance: Alisha Brown, Carolyn Frank, Erica Ginter, Charity Helton, Sam Hogan, Brian Lewis, Sam Lubell, Bob Macintosh, Candy & John Madigan, Walter Miles, Shirl Phelps, Jimmy Rogers, Steve Smith, Meagen Voss, Eva Whitley, Thomas Woldering, Michael Ikeda, Karla Yeager, Alexander Harris, Rick Docksai, Katrin Wheatley, Zahra Miles, and Kindra Gresham.