

# The WSFA Journal

November/December 2012



## Magic Word Now

The 10/5/12 October 2012 First Friday opened with an “Okay troops let's have a meeting,” said Prez Barry. “We have a quorum,” said the VP. The meeting was called to order at 21:08. “It's early,” said Bob. “Some of us have been here 2 hours already,” said Barry, referring to an earlier Capclave meeting.

Minutes were waived. There was no treasurer, but assume we still have some amount. “Let's have a Capclave,” said Brian. Current small press award people retiring after Capclave, but successors are already determined. First Friday in November will not be at the Scheiners. We can't do a swap. We need an alternative site. Candy checked her schedule. “I'm free, not vending,” she said. “If people want to do first and third at our house, it's okay. But I'm doing Sugarloaf third weekend so John will need do it alone or with Shirl.” Motion made and seconded. Passed. Thank you. The webmasters were asked to update website. Paul said, “I believe you forgot the magic word.” “Now!” said Bill.

Al said the website instructions for public transit are no longer accurate. It needs to say the 52 bus and say it takes Smarttrip card.

Intertivities: Brian said this was the 50th anniversary of release of *Dr. No* and Beatles' first single. Sam L. said this was a good month for silent monsters with Synaptic Theater's *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* and a ballet of *Dracula*. Others announced a new season of *Red Dwarf*. New Peter Hamilton book, *Late North Road*.

Publications: No new journal. WSFA Press selling books. Nothing lined up for 2013 yet. We will have WSFA Press books at table at Capclave. The 2nd printing of Valente is <status>, but we are eating through them. And she is GoH at Philcon. Publicizing her books is not a problem. New members on Facebook amount to 153. At least one is here. 75% never come to WSFA. Gayle said we are closing out our LiveJournal account due to lack of interest. Twitter account going well, 54 actual people and Barry the Buffalito. WSFA main page need more content. If you know something, send it or post it yourself, said Paul and Gayle. John said Meetup had 139. No one knows the crossover with our other accounts. Al said he has a face and goes to meets but is not a twit.

Capclave 2012: George said many here were at the earlier Capclave meeting. “Things are coming together. Knock on wood and no major emergencies. Up on the mantle are two glass objects that are gifts to our GoH. Next Saturday no one will see them from that distance. If take pictures do not post until after Capclave. We will do horrible things to you.”

2013: Mike said, “Mr. Mac sent hotel person some questions. Person we've been dealing with is no longer there. Answers look reasonably good. We have a contract proposal from them. We are lurching forward. Same hotel, so we will need to think how to manage additional bodies. Hotel is intimate. We will have to emphasize the daily shower. Biggest issue is function space. The biggest room holds 300 or so. Function space is an issue. Hotel has a lot of rooms and space nearby.” Paul said that the hotel block full this

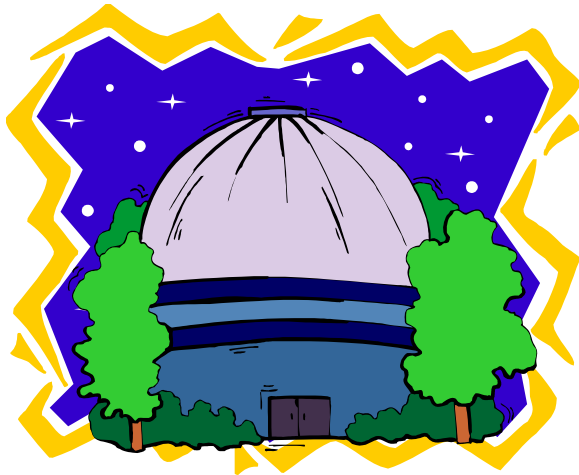


year so updated the page to show other nearby hotels.

Capclave has a home for 2012 and 2013. Barry said 2013 will be known as CapedClave. Mike said, "We've thought about it, maybe escalate membership rate until obscenely high." Elspeth asked, "Shouldn't we think of this before Capclave?" Mike said, "Many people are unlikely to register at Capclave. We've increased the registration cost. Rates are set." Kathi said if we get a lot of people can say do a cap then. Discussion. Al said, one year a local sf con had Mercedes Lackey as GoH. Day passes worked well.

2014: Bill said he is planning a dog and pony show. Invite the kitty too. Will sign hotel stuff soon. Have the announced guests. Paolo and Holly Block. No bovine death squad. Pasteurize this.

Talk SF will discuss F&SF tonight. Literary awards: Gayle said the awards arrived. We have a winner. Three nominees will be there. Chris Dolley, Lawrence Schoen, and David Klecha. She will send letters to other nominees about accepting.



No new old business. New business. Come to Capclave.

No one was here for first or second WSFA meeting. Al Katerinsky was here for his third meeting. He is from Buffalo. He used to weigh a lot more. So you might not recognize him. Candy is vending at the Tacoma Park Street festival. Come out and give her money. Sam L. gave Mike Walsh the latest issue of *Asimov's* with a very positive review of *Pavanne* that Mike published. "Hot damn," Mike said. Kathi said it is October so Halloween is coming immediately after Capclave. This year her haunted house is based on the "Oval Portrait" by Poe. Please help. They had a ribbon cutting for the local planetarium near the Washington Lee school. It made the news, went well.

Shows will start this month. One seat left in front of the projector that hasn't been dedicated. Ebay auction raised \$1400.25. John M. said if we did it for WSFA we'd have to call it the dodo. Posted video on her Facebook page. Elspeth needs to buy a car. She is looking for good used car with automatic transmission.

John said Candy celebrated her birthday. She said it was her 50th. In celebration, she got a surprise party. Candy said, "When I was 15 I wanted a surprise party. This was the first birthday party I had since I was 14. My birthday was Thursday and they threw it Wednesday so it was a surprise. And I had breakfast in bed."

Meeting unanimous adjourned at 21:48.

Attendance: Drew Bittner, Ken Byrer, Alan Katerinsky, Paul Haggerty, Elspeth Kovar, Bill Lawhorn, Brian Lewis, Candy and John Madigan, Sarah Mitchell, Barry Newton, Kathi Overton, Mark Roth, Judy & Sam Scheiner, George Shaner, Laura Somerville, Gayle Surrette, Michael Walsh, Ivy Yap, and Crystal Paul.

### Will WSFA Cause the End of the World?

The end of the Mayan calendar, which some claim will mark the end of the world, will take place December 21, 2012. Since that is the third Friday in December, there will be a WSFA meeting. Coincidence? Maybe. On the other hand, there is the possibility that something will happen at the meeting that will actually **cause** the Mayan Apocalypse end of world.

"The WSFA meeting will be the last major event to take place on the 21<sup>st</sup> near the capital of the most powerful nation on



Earth,” said Dr. Nadie. “If the world hasn’t already been destroyed by 9:15 PM, it is likely something there will trigger the cataclysm.”

The members of WSFA however, deny any such plans.

“We’ve never even destroyed a country,” said WSFA President Barry Newton. “The most we’ve done was damage a hotel and that wasn’t even really us.”

Frequent abstainer Bill Lawhorn refused to confirm allegations that he will make a surprise motion at the meeting. “We have a guest who will do a reading,” he said. “That’s plenty for one meeting.”

The WSFA meeting will take place at the home of John and Candy Madigan, WSFA’s usual third Friday hosts.

“I’m certainly not going to bake anything that would cause the end of the world,” said Candy Madigan, a former member of the U.S. military. “After hosting four WSFA meetings in a row in October and November, I certainly didn’t spend the one Friday we had off plotting anything.”

The only unusual item on the agenda is a reading by local SF writer Brian Shaw. But he insists nothing he will read could cause the end of the world.

“There aren’t any magic spells in my reading,” the author stated. “There may be a mention of a Doomsday device or alien takeover of the planet, but it’s strictly fiction. If writing about such things caused the end of the world there’s no way we would have survived E. E. ‘Doc’ Smith let alone ‘World Wrecker’ Edmond Hamilton.”

So how will WSFA cause the end of the world? According to reliable sources, members of the club are scientists, computer experts, trivia experts, and readers of strange stories.

“If anyone can do it, they can,” said a visitor to one of the meetings who demanded to be left anonymous.



### Dongle Swapping

The 10/19/12 October Third Friday meeting began with “Let’s have a meeting.” President Barry called to things to order 21:23. Brian said we don’t have quorum. Mike said, “Change the quorum.” Sam L. read the minutes. They were approved. Steve’s treasurer’s report included the note: “The Virginia state tax forms have been filed and fees paid. I have gotten a Square account for WSFA, so that non-Capclave credit card purchases can go directly to the main WSFA checking account. I am going to try to get rid of the merchant checking account with its associated fees by the end of the year.” At the meeting Steve said we had a little money, including everything in the account, \$ and change. M & T has almost \$. He needs to figure out the square credit card reader because Sam S. used a different one. This is far easier than the knucklebuster machine, but not good in places without cell phone. He needs to resolve difference in square readers. It is a nightmare trying to figure out how much merchant account works. He asked Candy for expert opinion on using square to do mail in credit without signatures. After the meeting, they will show how to do this. Big discussion. Cathy said we should clarify this before dropping the merchant account. Barry said some places let you take a picture instead of using a dongle. Cathy said the physical reader doesn’t matter, it’s the account. Mike said people can do dongle swapping. Shirl asked how much money dumping the merchant account would save. Steve said it would save at least \$5 a month. Also, we deal with many banks and six or seven intermediate organizations and all of them charge fees. Bill by the month. Cathy



asked for confirmation before we dump it.

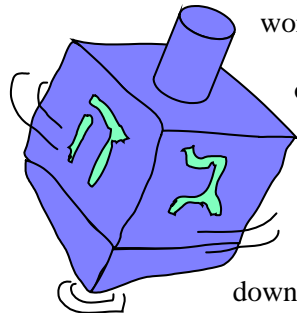
Trustees: Think about running for office. Entertivities: Sam L. discussed upcoming conventions. No one was here from WSFA Press. WSFA is on Facebook, people still active. Meetup is up to 143. We did Meetups at Capclave, second one had seven people, including Rob Thornton. At last meeting someone asked how many in the WSFA Meetup list are current WSFAns. 35 are at least occasional attendees.

Capclave past: It's over. George said, "My shoulder is happy, all the stress was going into my shoulder. Everyone thinks it went well. If I knew what I did, I'll tell people. We had 402 paying people including plus ones. This is the current record that will be beat next year." Colleen said we made \$714 in the silent auction for the SFWA emergency fund. We got rid of T-shirts and disc tapes, almost all the DVDs, but didn't get rid of the license plate. Scalzi's tuckerization went for \$150. At one point Scalzi said he would bid for it himself, but that would mean he would have to kill himself off in a book. Colleen is knitting a Dr. Who scarf for the next auction. George said John and Nick had a good time. They received their gifts yesterday. He is waiting to see if have a surplus. Cathy said had we had to renegotiate some items to have the con suite downstairs as people requested. We had a decent number of students. Capclave didn't get into any sections of the Washington Post calendar.



2013 Capclave: Mike said, "Same hotel, Columbus day weekend. Still three days but may at some future date consider expanding. We could encourage people to stay over Sunday night for a few extra room nights." Cathy said not a holiday for everyone. The eight people who run Capclave might not want the extra day. Mike said it took a while for Disclave and Balticon to evolve to a four day convention. Cathy said, one advantage is the holiday will allow those who work the convention to have an extra day to recover. Colleen suggested taking the GoH out for something Monday. Cathy said she will ask Gayle and Paul to put date up. Mike said notified GoH of the date. Sharon November is ordering authors to attend. Colleen mentioned Sam S. designed a shield for the House Dodo. Not heard back from George but he's a busy guy. There will be an ad swap with Philcon. With GRRM we don't need tons of publicity. Someone asked how many memberships for next year sold. Mike said the number was comparable to previous years, about X. Cathy has tables at conventions. Lunacon has Mike Flynn for GoH. Rye Hilton has renovated. Do publicity.

2014: Cathy said we have a two-year contract. Still minor details being worked out.



No talk SF today. Colleen said we had a literary award. It will be her last one. We had a nominee who came from France. Chris Dolley was on several panels. He wrote book of Steampunk P. G. Woodhouse stories and International Kittens of Mystery. See the Book View Cafe. We have a two-time winner, from Australia. Neil Clark said this was the second time he came up with two second placers. Cathy is now the lead on the committee, we will be looking for three new members next year as both Cathy and Gayle could step down. Jimmy Rogers and Sarah Mitchell are the new people this year. Being on the committee lets you see a broad spectrum of stories. You do have to make commitment to read 85 stories. Colleen said she read at least five pages and the ending. Paul does three pages. Cathy said if doesn't have a sf/fan element in the first five pages, she checks the ending. Brian said if we only get two replacements, decide among yourselves. Cathy said we could have a contested election. Colleen said every story I like never wins. Cathy said hers doesn't even make the final cut.

Barry said let's see how quickly can get to cookies.

Old business: First Friday is here at the Madigans. New business. Sam L. said there will be a fifth Friday in November. Candy laughed. She conferred with John and they said that would be okay. Four meetings in a row in Maryland.

Karen is here for her third meeting and will join now. Steve took her paperwork.



Announcements: Smores. Colleen will be moderating a panel at BSFS at 8:30. a panel on female heroes in fantasy which is a repeat of a panel the same writers did at the National Women Writers museum. Barry said BSFS is celebrating 50 years. Boskone will be 50 next year. Discworld convention is in July. The registration site back up and the rate is going up soon. Colleen is doing programming. Theme is L-Space (libraries) and they will have a real orangutan. Don't call him a monkey. Someone nominated Bill to fit in an orangutan suit. Shirl is back from Ireland. She said, "It was beautiful. The sun was out the whole time I was there so they almost prevented me from leaving the country thinking it was my doing."



The meeting unanimously adjourned 22:19.

Attendance: Colleen Cahill, Carolyn Frank, Cathy Green, Michael Ikeda, Brian Lewis, Sam Lubell, Candy & John Madigan, Walter and Hanam Miles, Barry Newton, Shirl Phelps, George Shaner, Steve Smith, Laura Somerville, Michael Walsh, Ivy Yap, Madeleine Yeh, and Karen North.

### WSFA's In Candy's Basement

The 11/2/12 November First Friday (and Sam's birthday) opened at 21:12 with maybe a quorum. Prez Barry said, "Let's hold a meeting."

Officers: Sam L. said WSFA received an invite from BSFS for their 50th anniversary. "Isn't it so nice when your child grows up?" Trustees said to consider running for office. Treasurer's report was skipped. Let's pay for a party.

Committees: Entertivities: Sam announced LotR marathon and SF speed dating. Someone said, "They think we're in our parent's basement. <pause> Actually, we're in Candy's basement." Small Press Awards: Brian said awards have been made. WSFA Press: Bill said they are still working out a project with George. Online: 143 people in Meetup. First night dinner had four people, second night had seven.

Capclave 2012. We are still closing the books, have not received final billing from hotel. Do have list of all those who attended. They like us and know they will be paid.

Capclave 2013 not here but at world fantasy. Bill said preregistration was up from prior years. Hotel contract has been signed. Book is still in discussion. "Again Dangerous Games," suggested Barry.

Capclave 2014, Bill said, "The hotel contract has been signed. I gave Sean go ahead to talk to Holly about a book project."

Talk SF is open, could discuss recent books people read.

No old business. No new business.

First meeting: Julie, heard about WSFA from Jimmy. Student at U of MD. Likes fantasy. Jimmy shot down.

Announcements: Sam L has a birthday-46. Madigans are looking for a renter for a room in their house. Bill has arranged for December reading by an author, Brian Shaw of Paper Golem, Third Friday in December. Erica had 5-day migraine. Jimmy said *Amazing Stories* being rejuvenated. His podcast will be syndicated through Amazing Stories. Brian has the new 4th gen iPad. Don't hurt Bambi's dad. Meeting unanimously adjourned at 21:32.



Attendance: Alisha Brown, Erica and Lydia Ginter, Bill Lawhorn, Brian Lewis, Sam Lubell, Bob Macintosh, Candy & John Madigan, Sarah Mitchell, Barry & Judy Newton, Shirl Pelps, Jimmy Rogers, George Shaner, Steve Smith, Laura Somerville, Ivy Yap, Madeleine Yeh, Michael Ikeda, and Julie Geuard.

### Mini Book Reviews

By Samuel Lubell

You'll note a few of these are YA. That's because I was looking for good books to give as gifts and had to read them first to make sure they were appropriate.



*Captain Vorpatril's Alliance* (Vorkosigan Saga, #15)  
by Lois McMaster Bujold

This is a fun book about "Ivan, you idiot" who proves less an idiot when not standing next to his cousin Miles. Ivan is a staff officer to an admiral when a friend, and secret agent, asks him to help a woman who might be in danger. In order to protect Tej, Ivan marries her. This leads to romantic complications that get even worse when Ivan's family starts interfering and even more so when her family arrives and starts plotting. But is it science fiction? Yes, it is part of a long-running science fiction series that has included space battles and public reaction to genetic mutations. And in this book, there is a genetically engineered character, spaceships and stunners. However, these are mere trappings. The romance and the treasure hunt could have easily been written in a modern day setting. Of course it is still well-written and fun, but a lesser book in the series.

*Ghost Story* (The Dresden Files, #13)  
by Jim Butcher

The Dresden Files is probably the best urban fantasy series going. One thing that works is that Butcher does not repeat himself but changes the status quo every so often. That is certainly the case here. In the previous book, *Changes*, Butcher revitalized his long-run series by killing off his hero. In this book Harry's ghost investigates his own murder and the changes to Chicago and his allies during the months when he was completely dead. Harry must learn how to be a ghost and if he can access his wizard powers. He also confronts a new threat, the Corpsetaker and his ally, an evil version of Bob, the spirit who assisted Harry throughout his career.



*A Beautiful Friendship*  
by David Weber

This is a YA spinoff of Weber's Honor Harrington series in which Honor's ancestor, Stephanie, discovers the telepathic treecat. I'm not normally a big fan of Weber's writing, but Stephanie is a great character. She is very competent, for any age, let alone 14, and has a bit of insecurity that comes with being young in an adult's world. She is a great role model for young readers and her adventures are exciting. Much of this is written from the treecat's point of view, and their inability to communicate with the humans is a major frustration, and plot point.

*Leviathan* (Leviathan, #1)

by Scott Westerfeld, [Keith Thompson](#) (Illustrator)

I think this is more alternate history than Steampunk. This book is set in an alternate WWI in which Darwinists have used biology to develop strange beasties, including living airships, while Clankers have giant mechanical walkers. The plot doesn't always live up to the setting, but it is a series and the author is clearly building to something bigger. The story has two main characters. Aleksandar, secret heir to the Austro-Hungarian Empire, who flees with his father's loyal servants and giant walker when his parents are killed. Deryn, a girl, disguises herself to join the British Air Service. The two meet when Deryn's airship, the living Leviathan of the title, crashes near Alek's hideout. Only by combining Clanker and Darwinist techniques, can the two help the Air Service save the ship and its secret mission. This book is well illustrated and a good read for boys and girls.

### No Relation to Crystal Pepsi

The November Third Friday meeting was called to order by Secretary Steve in the absence of the president. There was a new journal. Sam L. read minutes. Steve read the treasurer's report. Let's have a party. Now let's pay the bills. Citibank has an allergy to Firefox. Trustees have nothing to report. Cathy said it is never too early to think about running for office.

Capclave Past: Capclave Past got the hotel invoice. It was due to be paid tomorrow but will be paid by the end of month since it was sent to the wrong address. We made hotel block. George will need to look at records to see if paid a deposit. We had X paying customers and Y total. We set the landspeed record that will be broken next year.

Capclave Next: Flyers were sent to World Fantasy and Philcon. Webmasters are working on website as we go. Still need to confirm that registration is working.

Cap Future: We are in the future. Part of the same hotel contract. Bill said we're inviting everybody.

Publications: Cathy didn't get Sam's email with past journals. New journal but toner problem.

Social media: Cathy said Facebook going strong. Sarah said Twitter is up to 66. We still have LiveJournal. Steve asked if have a blog one on Dreamwidth. Cathy said no. Elizabeth said she knows what's up with that. Cathy said lots of sf authors on LiveJournal. Brian asked if anyone can read the email in our yahoo account. John said there are 143 people on MeetUp. Ernest dropped out. John got bill for \$Z dollars for next 6 months. Motion to pay, ruled unnecessary since standing order. No word yet on WSFA Press.

Intertivities: Brian had printout of Victorian Christmas Music Hall. The LotR marathon will be showing the extended version. McAfee Anti-virus does not protect you from murder charges as McAfee found out. This led to a big discussion. Sam L. mispronounced the founder's name and was told no dragons involved. Bill said third Friday will have Brian Shaw read to us. Mayan end of the world. Brian said supposed to happen at noon so if we have WSFA meeting, it means the world has not ended.



Committee to talk SF: Jimmy Rodgers will discuss podcasts. With s'mores. The list can be found at [www.scienceismagic.com](http://www.scienceismagic.com) and the WSFA list and Facebook as well as his own Synthetic Voices podcast.

Old Business: Fifth Friday will be here. Thanks! John said if Candy wants to be a glutton she can

do all the housework . Candy said John did it this time, because she is vending at Sugarloaf.

No new business

Third WSFA meeting: Crystal. No relation to Crystal Pepsi and it hasn't had its membership bought this year.

Steve said he will take advance memberships for 2013 in December. \$20.

Announcements: Don't feed the little dog chocolate. The second one is immortal. Free range bunny. Candy is vending at SugarLoaf and Chantilly in three weeks. Brian said Hostess is dead. Support Firehouse Subs since they send subs to NY for relief. Sam L. said Neil Clarke needs support, subscribe to Clarkesworld magazine. Jimmy seconded it. Carolyn said Clarkesworld has the most entries into the WSFA small press contest. George found a beetle in a beer. Elizabeth Twitchell is back, looking for a job in association management. Jimmy made a Goodreads discussion group for podcast discussions. Ernest said he'll be going to the *Hobbit* Dec 15th at the Hoffman. Will post time to the forum.

Meeting adjourned unanimously at 9:52.

Attendance: Drew Bittner, Carolyn Frank, Cathy Green, Charity Helton, Michael Ikeda, Bill Lawhorn, Brian Lewis, Ernest Lilley, Sam Lubell, Bob Macintosh, Candy & John Madigan, Sarah Mitchell, Shirl Phelps, Evan Phillips, Jimmy Rogers, Mark Roth, George Shaner, Steve Smith, Elizabeth Twitchell, Ivy Yap, and Christel Gesterling.

