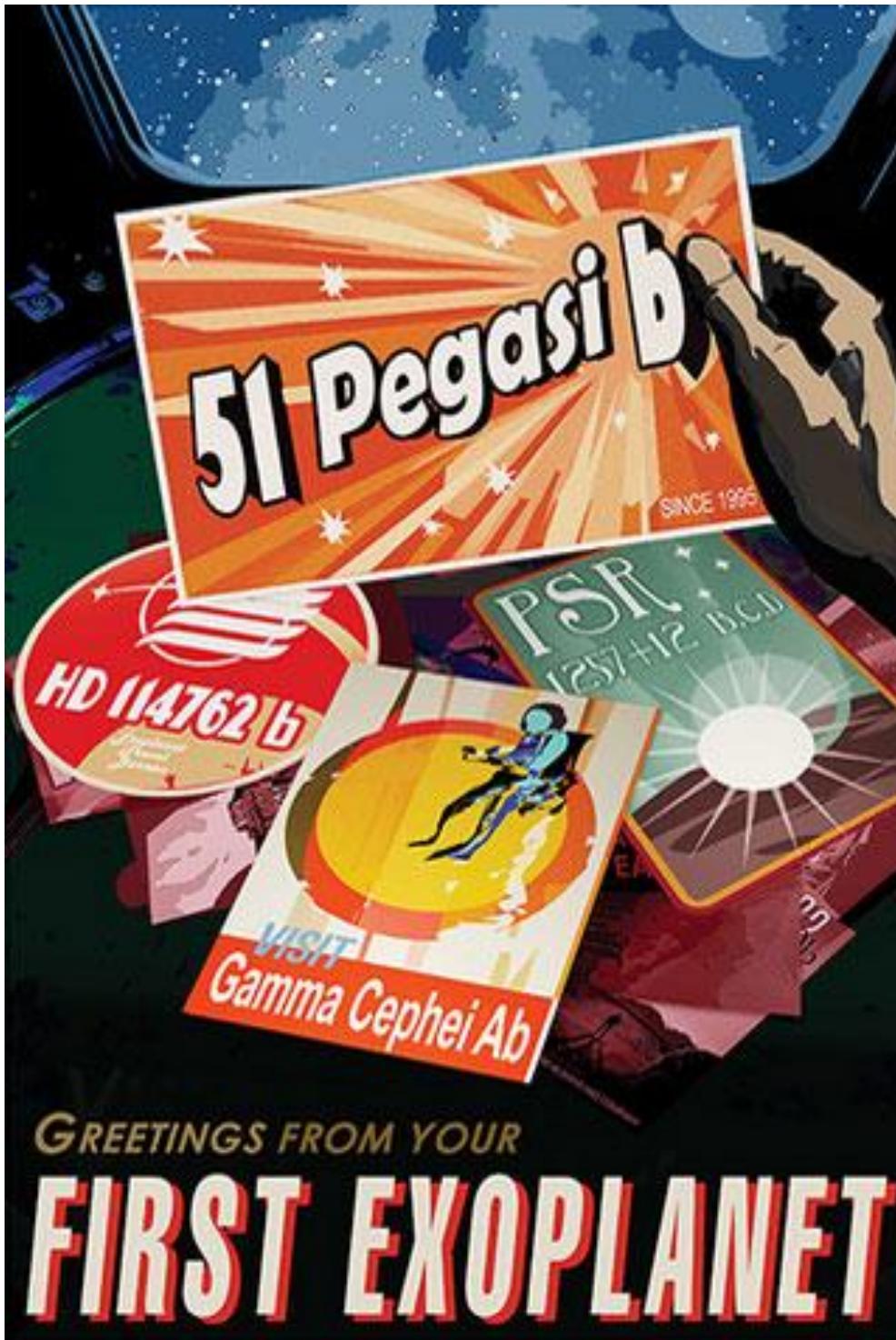


The WSFA Journal

July-August 2016

Edited by Sam Lubell



Art courtesy NASA/JPL-Caltech

**Other
Washingtons?**

**The Current
Golden Age**

100 Years of SF

**Reviews: *Story
of Owen &
Prairie Fire***

**Fran Wilde
Reads at WSFA**

**10 Things They
Didn't Tell You
About
MidAmeriCon II**

**Absolutely
Perfect Brownies**

**WSFA Earns
Fudge &
Brownies**

**Review: *Beyond
the Aquila Rift***

Other Washingtons?

WSFA 7/1/16 - President Bob called the show on the road at 9:15. Secretary Sam L. summarized minutes. Minutes were approved. Treasurer's report said \$\$\$\$\$ with a year over year of \$\$\$\$\$.

Capclave Present. Current registration was 128. We only picked up 6 members in June and are 20 off from last year and growing. Paul said things are progressing. Cathy asked about email or postcard blast. Get flyers and bookmarks from Paul and hand them out. Capclave Future Elizabeth said she is excited to have two guests. Needs to talk to WSFA Press. Far Future Cathy said status quo, looking at hotels. Wary of hotels doing renovations. People suggested hotels.

Bill for WFC said he got art for website, working forward on that. He is reviewing staffing list and code of conduct and harassment policy. For Capclave 2020, Bill had dinner with Ron on ways to raise money. He suggested a 2019 Kickstarter with various levels of rewards, a WSFA Press book, T-shirts. This would get people to pay for their membership in advance, but also have higher dollar items such as opening mass signing earlier for VIPs. We discussed a Kickstarter anthology with returning guests. Base rate with understanding extra money goes to getting guests. With Kickstarter, if we don't get enough money pledged we don't do the book so no risk to the club. Ron volunteered to do some of the work, co-publishing. We're still early in the process. It could be titled *Other Washingtons*. This becomes another channel for marketing the convention. No commitments yet, all discussion. Also looking at hotels, waiting to see what Cathy comes up with. BAWA is looking at 2019 DeepSouthCon and some hotels they're looking at for that con might work for Capclave. Someone suggested getting grants. Bob said to go to BSFS. Bill said to take advantage of multiple funding opportunities.



For Small Press Award, Sarah said that everyone should do their duty and vote. Paul said to date 22% of the club voted. Still early. WSFA Press has 100s of books in their basement. You need more books. One to read, one to keep in shrink wrap, and two to give.

Paul said all the WSFA Journals from 2010 on are up online. Club thanked him. For social media, Elizabeth said tweeting along. Sam needs to pick up box from Cathy for the Constitution committee.

Intertivities said Escape Velocity, Counterpoint, and Folklife Festival. Fran Wilde will do a reading here at first Friday in August.



Old business: Rodger is hosting Fifth Friday this month at his new condo. Elizabeth plans to finish gmail list. Send invites. She's looking into T-shirt making site. Bill brought up tax stuff. Issues discussed.

New business: None

Hank Smith was here for his second meeting. Elizabeth announced Pepsi is producing Crystal Pepsi. If someone brings a bottle, she'll buy its membership. Debate if new bottle counts as old member.

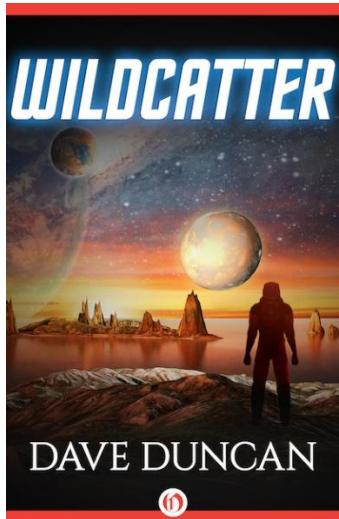
Meeting unanimously adjourned at 9:54.

Attendance: Courtni Buleson, Rodger Burns, Cathy Green, Paul Haggerty, Kimberly Hargan, Frances Holland, Judy Kindell, Bill Lawhorn, Sam Lubell, Bob Macintosh, Sarah Mitchell, Mark Roth, Judy & Sam Scheiner, George Shaner, Elizabeth Twitchell, Michael Walsh, Ivy Yap, Dan Zeidler, Henry Smith, and Gorilla Monsoon.

The Current Golden Age of SF Fandom (part 2)
By Sam Lubell

Second-There's a science fiction explosion of movies and television, much of it based on books. I hardly need tell anyone about the *Game of Thrones* HBO series, the success of the Harry Potter movies, or the many many movies and television based on comic book heroes. The CW channel is running four shows based on DC Comics. There are probably more live action shows based on comics airing now than all of the history of television combined.

Third- The YA market is enormous and much of it is science fiction and fantasy. It's not just *Harry Potter* either; there's the *Hunger Games*, *City of Bones*, *Divergent*, and many others. Hopefully, these young people will continue reading Fantasy and Science Fiction as adults.



Fourth-Modern technology, both in e-readers and instant printing has produced a boom in small press and self-publishing. Yes, much of this are self-published novels that never should have left the author's trunk—or first drafts of novels that could have been turned into something decent with a good editor and several rewrites—but published authors are taking advantage of this technology to bring back their backlist and books that don't fit current publishers' vision. Open Road Media has books and ebooks by a wide range of science fiction and fantasy authors including Poul Anderson, Andre Norton, Greg Bear, Dave Duncan, Sarah Zettel, and others.

Fifth – Science fiction and fantasy has become respectable. I can't say that no kid gets beat up for playing Dungeon and Dragons, but when the top movies are science fiction, the richest man alive is Bill Gates, and everyone plays computer games, it is hard for too many people to look down on science fiction. We live in a world that just

25 years ago would have been considered science fiction with nearly everyone carrying a smartphone that can put them into contact with the world wide web of information, and books and music transmitted wirelessly.

Sixth—Thanks to the Internet, fan productions now have easy worldwide distribution. Fan films are on YouTube. Fanfiction is no longer limited to photocopies. Meetup links people to local clubs and book groups.

100 Years of SF

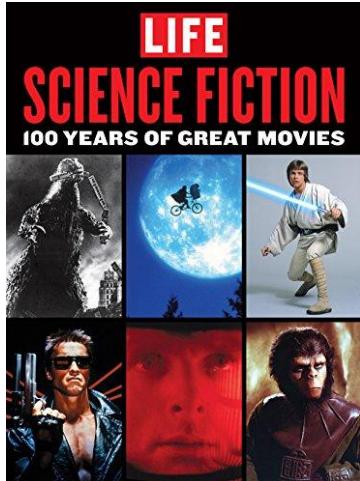
WSFA 7-15-16. Prez Bob called meeting to order at 9:16. There was a discussion of purchasing Crystal Pepsi. Sam L. read minutes from last meeting.

Capclave Present was not here. Future was not here and had nothing to report said Sarah. For Far Future, Cathy said she looking at 4-5 hotels, just in Maryland. Which ones are viable and have rooms. Some hotels quoting numbers out of our budget. Collette is helping and has contacts. She is a professional event planner. WFC-Talked to Ann on guests, progress is being made. Nothing to report for 2020 said Bill

Small Press Award, Sarah said doesn't have new information. August 7 deadline. BatDodo expects everyone to do their duty. Email webmaster@wsfa.org if you have not received a password. WSFA Press not here, Sam L said still have books in basement.

Trustees had nothing to report.

Social media – Sarah said she has posted tweets about voting for small press award. Announcement of a Fran Wilde reading at First Friday, at 9 PM, probably reading from *Cloudbound*, her new novel. If you want content on the webpage send it to the webmaster.



Bylaws: Sam L. hasn't finished going through the boxes. Cathy is happy to get them out of apartment.

Intertivities: Bill said will be dinner with Fran Wilde before the meeting, contact him if interested. She is doing readings on Monday at B&N in Bowie. Rodger said there will be a limited re-release of Planets of the Apes. Life Magazine has a 100 years of SF issue.

Talk SF: Announced schedule- F & SF and Asimov alternating months for First Friday and the online Clarkesworld on the Third Friday.

Old Business – Rodger hosting Fifth Friday. Elizabeth was not here to discuss email list. New business. Chirp chirp.

First meeting, Elizabeth Jones, went to cons, one of the neighbors said she should show up here, just around the corner.

Announcements. Carolyn brought carrot cake and stuff from a potluck. Judy said on Sunday Oley farmer's market will have a pie bakeoff. Sam L. said BSFS reading next Sat – *Curse of Chalion*. Free Tor ebooks.

Meeting unanimously adjourned at 9:42.

Fifth Friday will be at Rodger Burns, 1320 Fenwick Lane, Unit 510, Silver Spring, MD

Attendance: Courtni Burleson, Rodger Burns, Vicki DiSanto, Carolyn Frank, Cathy Green, Kimberly Hargan, Frances Holland, Michael Ikeda, Bill Lawhorn, Sam Lubell, Bob Macintosh, Candy Madigan, Sarah Mitchell, Barry & Judy Newton, Deidre Tracy, Michael Walsh, Ivy Yap, and Elizabeth Jones.

***The Story of Owen: Dragon Slayer of Trondheim and Prairie Fire* by E. K. Johnston**
Reviewed by Madeleine Yeh

I wanted to praise these two books as among the best of the young Science Fiction I have read recently, but then started thinking that I was wrong and they were Fantasy Stories. What differentiates Science Fiction from Fantasy?

The books are set in the normal world of rural Canada, in a place where Hockey playoffs lead the news, fools endanger themselves with cell phone cameras, and teenagers worry about passing Algebra. However, it is also a world which has dragons, and dragon slayers. I've reluctantly decided these books must be fantasy because nothing in science can explain the dragons. The dragons fly and breathe flame and are distressingly toxic. Dragon blood can render ground infertile for years. There are also many different species of dragons. On an even superficial analysis, none of this is possible. How can anything the size of a Volkswagen bus fly? How could it breathe flame? How did humans survive much less develop a civilization? The dragon slayers kill their dragons with sword and lance and bow and arrow since modern artillery would scatter the toxic parts around.



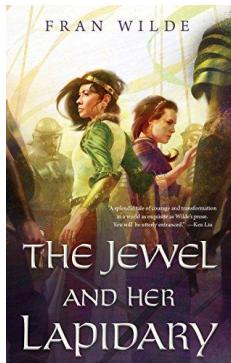
These are very, very good books despite the handwaving. I wanted to have these classified as Science Fiction because there is no magic involved. The narrator is a perfectly normal teenager who loves music, and worries about applying to Universities and getting around her parents. However on her first day of 11th grade she meets the new boy, Owen Thorskald, skinny, shy and the son and nephew of famous dragon slayers. Owen is training to be a dragon slayer and Siobhan finds herself training to be his bard.

The books avoid most of the things I hate about Fantasy novels. It doesn't have an omniscient narrator, it doesn't have multiple threads, and most of all it doesn't have characters with super abilities. The story is human sized not monumental or god-like size. The characters do great things, but they are the sort of things that can be done by regular people not super heroes. Unlike mythical characters, the heroes have to work hard on their skill, they practice weapons until their arms ache, and run regularly to build up their endurance, and spend week nights studying English and mathematics.

Most of Owen and Siobhan's activities are normal and mundane, studying Algebra, practicing music, writing English papers and studying history. Some things are less normal like a dragon shelter under the school and a driver's ed course that tells how to avoid dragon attacks.

The best part about this is it's someone telling a fascinating story about likable characters and building a nearly believable world and society.

Fran Wilde Reads at WSFA



WSFA 8-5-16 - First Friday started at 9:52 after Fran Wilde reading of *The Jewel and Her Lapidary*. Motion to waive minutes and accept as unread. Passed. Treasurers report - \$36,178.37 and year over year \$5,257.19.

Capclave Present was not here. We went up to 140 registrants. There was a slight flurry before price went up at end of July. Still 20 behind where should be. If you haven't registered for Capclave do so.

Cap Future – Elizabeth is here. Still has her guest Ken Liu and Neil Clarke. Doing planning this weekend. We will have a Capclave and it will be awesome. See her if you have things you want done. She will have a birthday party at this Capclave. There is a contract for a WSFA Press book with Ken Liu. It will be illustrated. It is a novella reprint from the anthology he just published, but it will be illustrated and signed limited edition.

Far Future- Cathy hasn't really done much yet. Need to get with Collette to look at hotels. Need date and hotel firmed up. If can do a 2018 and 2019 two-year contact, want to do so. Bob said to email it to the board and if he's still prez he will sign it.

Bill had nothing to report on 2020 or WFC. Discussion of current WFC. Bill is doing outreach. Cathy said we have goodwill from 2014. Will do listening sessions.

Small Press Award – Cathy said Paul hasn't said how many WSFAns voted. Madeleine said it was 54%. Voting closes Sunday at Midnight. Sam S said we currently have 46 members. Cathy said she'll do the press releases and send them out when we're ready to go.

Social media – Tweet tweet. Sarah said Dodos are busy tweety. Facebook, word out about reading and we got a lot of people. Elizabeth is working on mailing list because having problems with Sprint on her phone.

The committee to discuss SF discussed schedule.

Intertivities: Star Wars day at Nationals on August 15. Baltimore Book Fest and National Book Festival.



Bylaws Still working on it.

Sam L. Needs to contact Steve about stuff in basement.

Old business: Elizabeth in murder ballad on Sprint, so no news on mailing list. Fifth Friday at Rodger's new condo had four people. Fun time.

No new business.

First Meeting: Paul Gruber, heard about us from Kim. Paul works as tutor. Renee Brown, goes to Capclave regularly. Love it. All friends come to her house for Capclave.

Day Al-Mohamed. WSFA Small Press Award nominee. He likes the comradery.

Announcements: Bill thanked audience and Fran. He noted that having a guest do a reading boosts attendance. If you know someone who can do a reading, please tell Bill. We do have another writer in the room so she's invited.

Jeff Peresky was hit by a car when on the bike. He's mostly conscious and pissed. He's a member of techno-fandom. Will be in hospital through Sunday and then a few days in rehab.

Meeting adjourned at 10:16, unanimously.

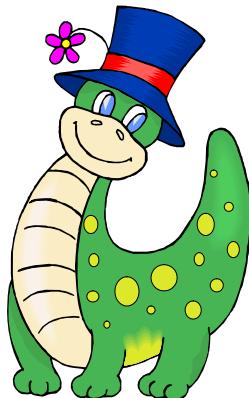
Attendance: Courtni Burleson, Rodger Burns, Ken Byrer, Cathy Green, Kimberly Hargan, Frances Holand, David Keener, Judy Kindell, Bill Lawhorn, Sam Lubell, Bob Macintosh, Sarah Mitchell, Michael Nelson, Barry & Judy Newton, Kathi Overton, Aaron & Angela Pound, Mark Roth, Judy & Sam Scheiner, George Shaner, Elizabeth Twitchell, Michael Walsh, Ivy Yap, Madeleine Yeh, Paul Gruber, N. Renee Brown, and Day Al-Mohamed

10 Things They Didn't Tell You About MidAmeriCon II

By Sam Lubell

I'm not at Worldcon this year, alas. But I still contributed to the first issue of the newsletter. <https://midamericon2.org/2016/08/17/mac-ii-news-issue-1/>

1. Many geographically-challenged fans are mistakenly going to the Kansas City in Kansas, not Missouri.
2. The ASPCA visited claiming to be responding to a report of rabid puppies on the premises.
3. One of the costumers dressed as a dinosaur and its human lover is Chuck Tingle, but we don't know which one.
4. At the Hugo Award ceremony, instead of reading off No Award when it wins, the presenter will pick up a big mallet and hit a Gong Show gong.
5. The barbecue places have BBQ Alien. It tastes like chicken.
6. Members of the American Psychological Association are on site, investigating authors to see if writing under several pen names qualifies as Multiple Personality Disorder.



7. To recognize GoH Tamora Pierce, a booth in the dealer's room will be offering free piercings. A disappointed fan, chilled by the high AC, was overheard muttering that she wished they were honoring toastmaster Pat Ca(r)digan instead.
8. GoH Michael Swanwick's reading will feature the talking animals from the titles of his two most recent collections. The dog will indeed say bow wow and the cat will in fact have not so much to say.
9. To honor the 50th anniversary of Star Trek, Worldcon will be hosting a Star Wars Day.
10. At the end of Worldcon, instead of announcing where it will be next year, the chair will say Worldcon is finnish.

Absolutely Perfect Brownies (as served to WSFA on August's First Friday)
By Madeleine Yeh

Based on Quick Nutted brownies from Mrs. Witty's Monster Cookies by Helen Witty page 86, 87
 Copyright 1983, Workman Publishing Company Inc.; New York, New York 10018

These are absolutely perfect brownies, cakey and nutty. This is made with cocoa and oil and whole wheat which is faster and healthier than solid chocolate and butter.

Double recipe for 9x13 pan, why make just one batch when these freeze well?

3/4 cup unsweetened cocoa, preferably Dutch-process

2 1/2 cups granulated sugar

2 2/3 cups whole wheat flour

1 teaspoon baking soda

1 teaspoon salt (optional, I normally leave it out)

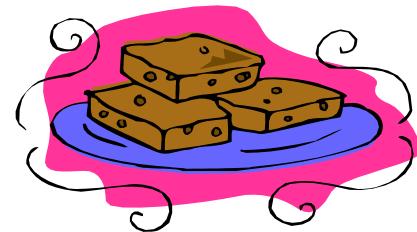
2/3 cup corn oil or other bland vegetable oil (I usually use canola oil)

2 eggs

2 teaspoon vanilla extract

1 1/2 cups water

1 cup coarsely chopped walnuts or pecans



1. Preheat the oven to 350 F, with an oven rack in the center position. Place parchment in a 9x13 pan, slitting the corners on one side and bending the parchment until it fits smoothly

2. Directions for mixing by hand. Measure all the dry ingredients except the nuts into a bowl and mix well. Measure all the wet ingredients into a different bowl and beat with a whisk or egg beater well until everything is homogenous. Stir the wet ingredients into the dry ingredients and mix gently until just blended. Then if you are mixing by hand, be sure to beat the batter well, about 3 minutes. This is best done with a heavy whisk or a spoon but not with an egg beater. An electric mixer can be useful at this stage. Mix the nuts in gently.

Scrape the batter into the prepared pan, spreading it evenly.

3. Bake the brownies in the center of the preheated oven for 50 minutes, or until a cake tester emerges dry from the center. Set the pan on a wire rack and cool the brownies. Cut them into squares or bars when they are completely cool.

4. The brownies may be stored, covered, in their pan, or wrapped in plastic wrap or aluminum foil or in a plastic bag. They will keep at room temperature for several days, or they may be refrigerated for several weeks, or frozen for longer storage.

Makes 1 9x13 panful (56 2-inch squares)

Single Batch ingredients

1/3 cup corn oil or other bland vegetable oil (do NOT substitute other shortening)

6 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa, preferably Dutch-process

1 egg

1 1/4 cups granulated sugar

1 1/3 cups all-purpose flour

1/2 teaspoon baking soda

1/2 teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

3/4 cup water

1/2 cup coarsely chopped walnuts or pecans



Bake in an 8x8 pan for 35 minutes

NOTE: Original recipe also called for chocolate chips but I don't like chocolate chips on my brownies. There were 3/4 cups semisweet chocolate chips baked on top of a single recipe. Original directions for an electric mixer available upon request.

WSFA Earns Fudge and Brownies

WSFA 8-19-16 Third Friday meeting with VP George Shaner presiding.

Everyone is at Worldcon. Don't have quorum. Meeting was called to order at 9:15, third Friday in August. Sam L. did minutes. Treasurer did not send Sam L. anything.



Cap Present – Things going on said Paul; program is almost ready for review. He lost his gaming czar due to health. Elizabeth suggested he talk to Zenlizard. Need someone with games. No games past PG. Kim volunteered but doesn't have games. Also problem with hotel reservation on website. People have been logging in and it says it is full. But we know is not. Can call and book directly. Elizabeth offered to call. Noia cracking down on security, locking down usb ports and cd-roms.

Cap future: Elizabeth will call hotel about registration problems. Why does this happen each year? Meeting with Cathy to discuss programming and plans. Much will be carried over from past years. But also discussion how to use guests for maximum advantage.

Book from Ken Liu, we've signed contract and waiting for confirmation. Once signed will meet with graphic designer person to make rack card and bookmarks.

Capclave Future GoH Neil Clarke won Cheslie award for best art direction
Nothing on 2020/WFC.

Journals online up to date. WSFA Press Paul said no change. Sold one book.

Small Press Award. Voting closed. Votes tabulated. Winner is one of the nominees. 70% of members voted. Cathy owes us fudge, said Paul. Cathy has been informed. Mad owes us brownies. Discussion of when they should bring the fudge and brownies. Trophy is on order, usually takes about two weeks so no problems.

Social media: Elizabeth said nothing up on Meetup. Sarah posting on Worldcon. Webpage created for 2024 for BAWA.

Intertivities – Kim said channel 15 on Verizon is Heroes and Icons, showing all Star Treks in order. Also Hercules, Xena etc. Black Cat bar/music groups is doing 10-Forward, Hogwarts, and Doctor Who happy hours. Yale University did study of readers and found people who read 3.5 hours a week live almost two years longer, even accounting for education and income.

Amazon Prime is premiering new live action Tick series. Maryland Renaissance Faire starts next week.

The committee to talk SF, will do Clarkesworld today and Asimov's first Friday. Constitution committee had nothing to report.

No old business. New business. Fifth Friday next month. September 30. No volunteers.

Here for her second meeting was Beth (Elizabeth) Jones. Third Meeting: Robert Thomas. No trustees here to sign him in.

Announcements: George has new car. 2016 Ford Focus ST. Has a turbo. Dark Grey with metallic shine. Deidre Tracy discussed books and WSFA on the Green Light tv show in Prince Georges. Paul wasn't called for jury duty, but used up store of luck.

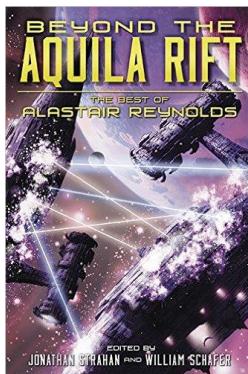
Meeting unanimously adjourned at 9:52.

Attendance: Carolyn Frank, Paul Haggerty, Kimberly Hargan, Michael Ikeda, Sam Lubell, Candy Madigan, Shirl Phelps, Evan Phillips, George Shaner, Steve Smith, Deidre Tracy, Elizabeth Twitchell, Ivy Yap, Madeleine Yeh, Robert Thomas, and Beth (Elizabeth) Jones

Beyond the Aquila Rift: The Best of Alastair Reynolds by Alastair Reynolds

Edited by Jonathan Strahan and William Schafer

Review by Sam Lubell



The traditional career path of a science fiction writer used to be to start one's career writing short stories and then switch to writing novels, since writers make far more money from one novel than many stories. Today, most novelists never write stories and when they do it is usually tied to a novel's setting. *Beyond the Aquila Rift: The Best of Alastair Reynolds* shows how he has been an exception to this trend, having written stories of various lengths throughout his career as a novelist. In fact, his novella "**Slow Bullets**" (not included in this collection, but published in a signed limited edition by WSFA Press) is a Hugo finalist this year and won the Locus award.

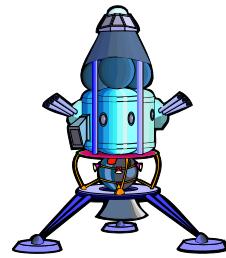
This very large (779 pages) collection of stories contains 18 of Reynolds' best short fiction. The impressive size of this collection enables several longer stories to be included; one is over 100 pages and five more are over 50 pages. While there are author notes on each story, the publisher collected them all at the end rather than after each story.

Although he was a Capclave 2015 Guest of Honor, Reynolds is not as well known in the United States as he is at home in Great Britain, where his publisher gave him a 10 year, 10 book, £1 million contract in 2009. Reynolds has a doctorate in astronomy and was a research scientist for the European Space Agency. So, it is no surprise that he writes hard science fiction filled with accurate science. What is surprising is how well he writes characters ranging from a man betrayed by his brother, to a robot space probe turned talk show guest. He also excels at creating unusual settings for his plots.



Many of these stories feature action and excitement. "Great Wall of Mars" is about an attempt to make peace with the Conjoiners, humans linked to machines, that becomes a story of duplicity and betrayal set early in his *Revelation Space* universe. "Fury" is about the robot bodyguard to the emperor of space and the secret crime that began the Radiant Commonwealth. The naïve narrator of "The Star Surgeon's Apprentice" discovers the spaceship crew he joined are really pirates and the ship's doctor is turning captives into lobotomized slaves. In "2217", virtually all the human race is in hibernation; one of the first to go under, to sleep until immortality becomes available, is woken up to a war between superintelligent machines. "Trauma Pod" has a sergeant in a Starship Troopers-style armored combat rescued by a trauma pod, but something goes wrong when the artificially intelligent pod is forced to operate.

Other stories focus on exploration. The title story, "Beyond the Aquila Rift" is a wonderfully human story as a captain stranded far off course repeatedly tries to find a way to tell a crewmate what happened, only to return her, minus her memory of being woken up, to hibernation. In "Diamond Dogs", set in his *Revelation Space* universe, a team of explorers tries to make it through a structure with a series of rooms each of which presents a mathematical challenge; incorrect answers are punished with mutilation or even death. "Troika" is a fascinating tale of Soviet space exploration and a seemingly alien object in space told in flashbacks by an escapee from an asylum. "The Last Log of the Lachrimosa", another *Revelation Space* tale, has a three person crew (plus a pet monkey) investigate what happened to the survivor of a spaceship crash (and possible valuable relics only to expose personal conflicts between the three. "In Babelsberg" is a very funny story about a robot space probe that has returned to earth to give speeches and appear on talk shows, including a popular show hosted by a talking Tyrannosaurus Rex, the product of radical genetic manipulation. This features a line most talk show hosts probably wish they could say, "SIT. NOT MAKE DEREK CROSS. CROSS DEREK WANT KILL."



He even has some stories on relationships. "Weather" features a growing romantic attachment between a human shipmaster and a captured Conjoiner, and includes a captain whose is forced to reexamine his hatred of the enemy. "Minla's Flowers" also includes deceit and surprise in this story of a space explorer and his efforts to help the humans of an endangered planet whose internal war prevents them from building the spacecraft they need to escape. "The Sledge-Maker's Daughter" is a far-future story with a fantasy-feel about an elderly widow passing on a powerful device to a teenage girl. "The Water Thief" has a nice contrast between a refugee in a camp who operates a telepresence rig and an injured astronaut on the moon who wants her to disobey her orders to save his life. "The Old Man and the Martian Sea" has an unusual relationship between a young stowaway, upset at her sister's lack of communication with her, and an elderly repairman on Mars.

Others are about art and artists. "Zima Blue" is about an artist, who once created moon-sized artwork in his signature shade of blue, and what it means to keep memories in a machine. "Thousandth Night" features a family reunion, every 200,000 years, in which everyone presents their memories of how they spent the last 200,000 years--the narrator spent the whole time watching sunsets. But when one of the family finds a discrepancy, she teams with the narrator to uncover a threat to the universe. "Vainglory" is a short about a rock sculptor hired to carve the head of Michelangelo's David on a rock orbiting Neptune.

While \$45 may seem pricey for a collection of stories, note that Subterranean Press specializes in books for collectors (true collectors will covet the signed, numbered, leather-bound limited edition at \$125). For the rest of us, the ebook is excellent value at \$9.99 (about 55 cents a story).

Fans of his novels, including his *Revelation Space* series and his *Poseidon's Children* series, will find much to enjoy here. Readers of hard science fiction looking for stories with the science and adventure of the golden age, but with a modern style and more literary treatment of character and setting, will greatly enjoy *Beyond the Aquila Rift: The Best of Alastair Reynolds*.

Recommended.