



The WSFA Journal

Jan/Feb 2018



Colder Than You Know
What

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Swords

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Colder Than You Know What

The 1/5/18 first Friday in January meeting began with an “Alright ladies and gentleman, first Friday in 2018,” said Prez Bob. “And it’s colder than you know what <I don’t actually.>. It is 9:18.” Bill said, “We’re late.” Bob answered, “We had to wait for Sam’s machine.” <sorry>. Sam L read minutes from last meeting



Treasurer’s report: Current balance: \$money. Year-over-year change: \$. Important caveat: The Hilton has not yet cashed its check. Once you subtract that amount our net change for the past year is approximately \$. Bob said that Judy will collect dues. There is a sheet. Sam S. is away for warmer weather.

Capclave Present: Bill said contract offer from <hotel> is being sent. Cathy gave a rant on hotels. We are looking for a two year contract. We also are dangling 2020 to them. Room rate is the same. We will have to split con suite and gaming. All would be on one side. Con ops would also be the gender neutral bathroom. Would probably be last week in September due to weddings and to have distance from World Fantasy. It also takes us off NY Comicon weekend and with Jo Walton’s new convention. We still have eight month run up. Need everyone to do publicity. She named people she’s interested in getting as GoH. Once she gets the contract, she’ll go through the list. Old hotel had had steady increases in cost, within inflation.

Sam Pierce was not here for 2019. But Cathy said it would be a two year contract covering 2019.

Bill for WFC said, it was announced today that our toastmaster Linda D. Addison won a lifetime achievement award from World Horror. Kudos. This shows we are picking good people. Ann and I are picking people for appreciation. Memberships are \$300. The end of the month Progress Report 2 with ballot for WF award, should spur more people to sign up. March 31st is deadline for the next price increase. We have the dealers’ page live. Things are progressing.

Capclave 2020: Bill said nothing major is happening. Need to see the Capclave contract for 2018/19 and see what we can get for 2020. Things will progress over next six months. Nothing else to report.

Trustees. Nothing to report. Bob said you have to have a slate by April. He asked the secretary to remind the trustees.

Small Press Award: Cathy said will meet tomorrow with Carolyn. Discuss rules. Carolyn sent link to the google docs. She will draft the official notice, set the schedule, and send materials to Paul who will activate the website.



Webpage not here. Bill said we have a contract signed for WFC special guest Alette de Bodard book, hopefully in time for Capclave and definitely by WFC. Subterranean Books is doing a book in same universe. Cathy said that Gayle talked about wanting to do more. Maybe for next Capclave do a reprint book. Bob sent a message to WFS mark protection committee about typos where WSFA was mislabeled WSFS.



Other committees: For twitter Sarah said happy international bird day. Dodos are working with Australian counterparts to trade our cold for their heat. Send

Elizabeth stuff for meetup. Talk SF did schedule. For Intertivities Mark talked doing song circle first Saturday in February.

No old business: Cathy said, we've been putting off, but at some point need to revive conversion to 501c3 issue. This would reduce our taxes.

New business: No new business.

Announcements: Its too g-d cold.

DC 2021/NZ 2020 party at Arisia. And fan table

Kathi said Arlington Planetarium mentioned in City Paper. Best events to see. Premiere new show in April.

Bill said Hazzah to John and Kathi for hosting new year's eve/fifth Friday.

Attendance: Courtni Y Bureson, Kimberly Hargan, Frances Holland, Bill Lawhorn, Sam Lubell, Bob Macintosh, Sarah Mitchell, Kathi Overton, Mark Roth, Judy Scheiner, George Shaner, Elizabeth Twitchell, Ivy Yap and Madeleine Yeh.

Review of *The Queen of Swords* by R.S. Belcher

Reviewed by Sam Lubell

Queen of Swords can best be described as a spin-off of Belcher's *Golgotha* series, rather than the third book in that series. Unlike [The Six-Gun Tarot](#) and [The Shotgun Arcana](#), this is not a weird western and features only a couple of characters from the previous books--Maude Stapleton and her daughter Constance (although a few others make cameos). While the earlier books belong to the "everything and the kitchen sink" school of gonzo plotting, this book is more tightly controlled and is the better book because of this. And it does not cross the border into horror the way **The Shotgun Arcana** did.

The book has two main plotlines. In the 1870s plotline, Maude returns to Charleston, South Carolina, to fight her father for custody of her daughter. Maude has been trained as a Daughter of Lilith, an ancient female secret society of assassins/fighters against evil who are supernaturally good fighters. Basically, they are like *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. And Maude has begun training her own daughter in these techniques. But Maude does not know that after she used the last of the blood in the Grail to save Constance's life (in **The Shotgun Arcana**), the other Daughters' flasks have run dry. This means no more Daughters can be made unless they can capture Constance, the Last Daughter of Lilith, and somehow reverse what Maude did. Meanwhile, the Daughters' old foe, the Sons of Typhoon, want to kill all the Daughters, but especially Constance who they believe to be the Grail of the Mother.

In the 1720s plotline, pirate queen Anne Bonny, who later becomes Maude's Gran, the woman who made Maude into a Daughter of Lilith, has escaped prison and set out to find a rich treasure trove in Africa. During her adventures, she learns about the Daughters and her quest for treasure becomes something greater.

While Constance's grandfather tries to civilize her, hiring tutors to make her a lady, Maude finds a female lawyer willing to challenge him in court. But Constance is having prescient dreams of monsters coming to kill her. These turn out to be the Sons of Typhon, resulting in a three-way conflict among Maude, the other Daughters, and the Sons.



The personalities of Anne and Maude are sufficiently different that the reader never becomes confused over which time period and character is being featured. Minor characters also are well developed. Maude's father is not evil, just a conventional person of his time. He truly wants to do what is best for his daughter and granddaughter; only he believes since he is male he knows best. The reporter could have simply been an obstacle, but instead is developed with an unusual flexibility. Unfortunately, the author does not explore the villains' motivations to the same extent.

The Queen of Swords mostly stands alone. Although one chapter contains a letter from her boyfriend in Golgotha and there are occasional references to past events in the first two Golgotha novels, these are sufficiently explained in the book. The ending plants seeds for both future Maude-centric books as well as participating in Golgotha ones. I look forward to reading them.

Secret of the World Fantasy Pins: Must Artist Work with Eyes Closed?

The 1/19/18 meeting began with an “Alright, are you ready?” said prez Bob. This is our second meeting in 2018, third Friday 2018. It's now 9:16. Sam L read from the minutes from last meeting. We have one trustee, Barry N, Bob reminded him to put slate together.

Capclave present: Cathy said that would be me. At this point, hotel contract issues discussed. At our old hotel, we proposed a contract moving the dealer's room so church group could use that space and we asked for a cost-cutting contract. Also we got contract offer from <hotel>. She will do a tentative ask to people on her GoH list to see if interested. Need to do a big push on publicity.



Sam Pierce for Cap Future was not here. He broke his leg. He is aware of the contract.

Bill for WFC and Capclave 2020: For Capclave, has some stuff about program. Nothing to report. Rockville Hilton might work. WFC division head meeting Feb 3. Progress report coming out this month with nominations for the World Fantasy award. He has a light with colors for the centerpiece of the banquet. Can then have people purchase them for a reasonable price. Beth Zipser is doing the award banquet. We will ask people to volunteer. Lifetime achievement winners are announced before the convention.

Bill said, we have submitted a small payment for some of the work on a pin for the WFC. Showed picture of someone wearing the pin, but it only shows the back. Pin talk. Sarah asked if we will make the artist do the work with his eyes closed.

Small Press Award: Committee has 30 stories and another 6 to look at said Carolyn. This is much faster than last year. Bill said, I posted the announcement on the SFWA board. Carolyn said we are getting stories from a lot of people we don't get before. Cathy said, she doesn't know if Lawrence sent the notice to a writers list. Cathy said that a lot of places we usually post are not in existence any more. We sent it to Ansible, File 770 etc.

Committee to discuss SF: Bill said has a reading in works, possibly April.



Sarah for Twitter: She tweeted the small press award announcement. Carolyn said been putting the twitter link in her emails.

Entertivities: Bill said guest for Regeneration Who: Peter Capaldi (a Doctor Who). Sam L. said Tom Doyle and friends will do a reading at the Black Cat. Cathy asked to put that at the Facebook and put it on the WSFA list.

No old business

No new business.

Here for a third meeting was Sander Olsen.

Treasurer announcement: Collect dues.

Announcements: Barry-2:40 for the government shutdown. Carolyn saw inaugural version of Batman by Gaslight an animated Batman vs Jack the Ripper movie. Batman voiced by Bruce Greenwood. Bill asked about publications related to Discon I. Steve said he has some archives. Wants Discon I and II materials. Mike said there's a transcription of the panels to Discon I. Also a book describing how Worldcon is put together based on Discon. Bill said, at Arisia, he was told day before Discon there was a gathering on the mall by some Doctor King. So, if we do the contracted nights, Saturday would be the 48th anniversary of the I Have a Dream speech.

Walsh – Phillip Pullman has a new book, special Waterstone edition. Signed 5,000 book plates. Steve said BSFS has free books. Barry said Star Trek Discovery has gotten dark.

Bill made motion to adjourn. 9:55.

Attendance: Courtni Y Burlson, Carolyn Frank, Cathy Green, Frances Holland, Michael Ikeda, Beth Jones, Bill Lawhorn, Sam Lubell, Bob Macintosh, Walter Miles, Sarah Mitchell, Barry & Judy Newton, Steve Smith, Michael Walsh, Ivy Yap, Madeleine Yeh, Sander Olson, and David Holden.

Science Fictional Valentine's Day



Heinlein's Lazarus Long sent a Valentine to his mom. Don't all boys love their mother?

Sookie Stackhouse (Charlaine Harris' Southern Vampire Mysteries) received a Valentine from Eric the Northman and sent one to Bill the Vampire.

Anita Blake received Valentines from too many to include here (besides, she shot all of them.)

Mary Sue (from countless fanfic) received Valentines from everyone except for the readers.

Oscar the Grouch (from Sesame Street) threw away a Valentine.

Buttercup (the Princess Pride) ignored the Valentine she received from Wesley, but secretly treasured the one sent by the Dread Pirate Roberts.

Murderbot didn't send any Valentines, it just wants to watch its shows. (Martha Wells' The Murderbot Diaries)

Star Trek's Kirk sent Valentines to all the green alien women in his little black book.



“So, Lois, you used to get Valentines every year from both Superman and Clark Kent, but now that you married Clark, you only get one. Is Superman afraid of giving Valentines to a married woman?”

Signed Capclave Contract!!!!

The 2/2/18 WSFA Meeting was called to order with a “Meeting time!” from the President. It’s 9:15 First Friday in February in 2018. Mark protested, “It still doesn’t sound real.” Sam L read minutes. Add treasurer email.

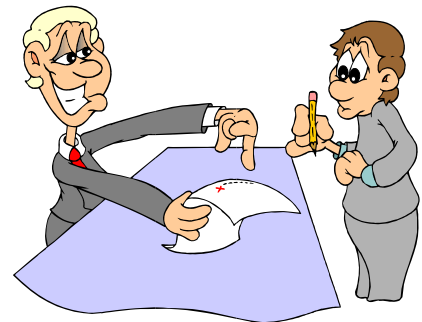


Capclave present – Cathy said we have a contract <there was applause> signed for this year and next year. It will be at the Rockville Hilton. Sam L was asked to write letter to our old hotel explaining that we got an offer we can’t refuse. The convention will be the last week in September this year, third week in October for Sam P. I was told not to do it the week before WFC and to avoid weddings and the Jewish high holidays. I have 80% of my committee put together. We may do the initial list for programming even without the GoH. I have a list of people to ask. I want one biggish name. The hotel has lots of space to play with. We will have most of the new part. Potential to grow into things. There are way more bathrooms than I remember. There are several large rooms for dealer’s and main programming.

Someone asked if there will be more space for more dealers. Cathy said probably. Room block should be open next week. There was a discussion of parties. Huge space for the autograph session/party. Hotel seemed really enthusiastic. Thanks to someone at 2021, I’m assuming Bill, we’re doing a table swap with Farpoint.

Capclave Future not here.

Bill for Far Future/2020. Now that we have a signed Capclave contract, Collette is talking to hotel about right of first refusal for 2020 for a couple of weekends. More serious discussions can happen. On WFC, if you look to my right, something is flashing. This will be the centerpiece for the banquet. Will put a plaque on it. Progress Report is being worked on. It has been sent to printer and should be out for next week. Once ballot is out, more people will register. We are a little behind where we were in 2014. Plans to pick up if needed. We’re getting to halfway to the cap (950). Room block should open up soon for that. There will be a division head meeting at BSFS clubhouse.



Trustee: Mark said started working on a slate. See I’m napping.

Social media: Elizabeth needs to put reading on the meetup. Sarah is posting on Capclave dates.

Talk Sf: First meeting in March, we will discuss what people are nominating for Hugo. Bill said finalized Rebecca Kuang to do a reading from Poppy War, first Friday in March. Tickets for raffle. Miriam Kelly said reading April 10th at BSFS. First novel.

Constitution Committee picked up stuff from Steve’s. Cathy will go through the tax stuff. Elizabeth offered to use scanner. Not sure the version up has all the changes. Judy Kindell thought some stuff done

while president isn't in it. Bill asked, about bylaws and standing rules. Bill suggested codifying. Prez said committee needs to go through it first. Stuff for Eva on Jack Chalker.

Entertivities: Kim said Netflix doing anthology series based on Philip K Dick, Electric Dreams. Altered Carbon is on Netflix. Barnes and Noble is selling deluxe hardcover collections in alphabetical order. Horror and SF for \$13. Publications has new WSFA Journal

No old business:
No new business.

Announcements: Mark doing song house party tomorrow. Logo designer is cheap. Walsh said Dadeleus Books is moving so doing 20% off sale.

Motion to adjourn. 9:58 unanimously (or as close as WSFA gets).

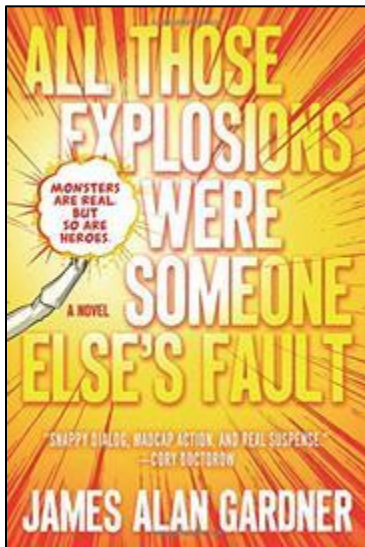
Attendance: Ken Byrer, Cathy Green, Kimberly Hargan, David Keener, Bill Lawhorn, Sam Lubell, Bob Macintosh, Eugenia Martin, Sarah Mitchell, Mark Roth, Judy Scheiner, George Shaner, Elizabeth Twitchell, Michael Walsh, Ivy Yap, Madeleine Yeh, Apurva Desai, and N. Barry Carver.



Review of *All Those Explosions Were Someone Else's Fault*

by James Alan Gardner

Reviewed by Samuel Lubell



Superheroes have become super-popular. Yes, they've long dominated comic books, but now they are frequently at the movie theater and on TV. Strangely, superheroes, at least those with costumes and codename, are less prevalent in novels. One exception is *Wildcards*, the shared world series edited by George RR Martin, although one can argue that has long since transcended its superhero origins.

All Those Explosions Were Someone Else's Fault attempts to capture the fun of superheroes in prose form by creating a world in which monsters known as Darklings (vampires, werewolves, other dark creatures) fight superheroes called Sparks.

The book takes a while to get going as it needs to cover the backstory. Elders of the Dark realize they can make money by selling mystical power and extended youth to billionaires. As a result, the superrich all become Darklings while still retaining their economic and political power. "When CEOs become vampires, Congress outlaws stakes." This imbalance causes the Light to create Sparks, accidental superheroes, and Mad Geniuses like the Inventor. There's a fun scene of the first resistance to the Dark when thinly veiled versions of Lex Luthor and Clark Kent confront a werewolf and vampire out for Alex's blood. "In all the infinite versions of Earth, the farm boy with the cape must show up first."

The book is focused on three roommates at the University of Waterloo in Canada. Kim, the main character used to call herself Kimmi when in high school. Just four foot ten, she is an academic achiever who

reinvented herself as the androgynous Kim when she entered college after a bad breakup with a wealthy boy who became a Darkling, Nicholas Vandermeer.

One night, Kim and her roommates – Miranda, Shar, and Jools – are caught in a scientific experiment gone wrong that gives them super powers. Kim becomes Zircon with super-senses and the ability to shrink. Miranda gains sonic powers as Aria. Shar has light powers as Dakini, and Jools follows a hockey theme as Ninety-Nine with peak human skills and knowledge. As they are told, the powers work as long as they are not questioned too much. “The way you beat the friction is plausible deniability... The moment you say a thing’s impossible, it becomes impossible for you.” And costumes, codenames, and masks create the superpower of anonymization, although one character does figure out a costumed character’s secret identity. <So Lois Lane still has no excuse.>



Instead of saving ordinary citizens from evil Darklings, the roommates find themselves trying to save Darklings from a Mad Genius’ attempts to give superpowers to Darklings that winds up overloading them.

Much of *All Those Explosions Were Someone Else’s Fault* falls into the same trap as many superhero movies in focusing so much on the origin story (and in this case the extensive background) that the actual story suffers. But this still kept my interest. There is very strong characterization, especially for Kim and for Jools. If you like superheroes but think you have outgrown DC and Marvel comics as kid’s stuff, give this book a try.

LMGTFY (Let Me Google That For You)

The 2/16/18 February Third Friday minutes were taken by Rodger Burns. <Thanks Rodger>

Called to order 9:18

Previous minutes waived

Treasurer - no report

Capclave Present - no report, not present

Capclave Future - no report, not present

WFC/Capclave Far Future - no report, not present

WSFA Small Press - no report, not present



Small Press Committee - 72 stories have been posted, 1 major email crash lost ~3 days of inbound email and potential submissions, Paul will be attempting to notify submitters.

Trustees - elections are coming up, Trustees expect to have at least one candidate for every position; members interested in serving should talk to the trustees.

Webmaster - no report, not present

Social Media - no report, not present

Entertivities -

Neil Clarke has finalists for Clarkesworld Best of 2017, voting thru 2/24

Hugo noms open thru 3/16
Politics and Prose at the Wharf hosts author readings, including SF/F authors
Handbag is worth seeing, at the Roundhouse Theater

No old business
No new business

Announcements
Barry commented on the LMGTFY (Let Me Google That For You) app
Committee to Discuss SF will discuss Clarkesworld this week, and potential Hugo nominations at March First Friday

Closed at 9:29

Attendees: Carolyn Frank, Judy Newton, Barry Newton, Mike Taylor, Michael Ikeda, Erica Ginter, Frances Holland, Courtni Burleson, Deidre Tracy, Kimberly Hargan, George Shaner, and Rodger Burns.

Secrets of the Capclave Dodos

By Sam Lubell

Who are the Capclave Dodos?
How did they get here?
Why are they obsessed with Capclave?
And what's with having handlers put their hands up the dodo's <censored>?
For the answers to these and other question, your humble editor sat down to interview the Capclave Dodos

Journal: So you're the Capclave dodos?

Dodos: Squark!

<Turns on the universal translator>

Journal: So you're the Capclave dodos?

Dodos: A talking human! What will they think of next? Yes, we are.

Journal: So aren't dodos extinct? How are you here?

Science dodo: Obviously, we are the products of a genetic experiment designed to bring back extinct species.

Phantasy dodo: No, no. I used my magic to transport a whole flock of dodos from our island to a new home.

Journal: But there haven't been any dodos on Mauritius Island since the 17th century.

Phantasy: Maybe it was a really slow spell.

Cap dodo: By using my strong leadership skills and flying cap, I led the dodo flock from extinction to here, this land of marvels.

Other dodos: Yay Cap! Three cheers for our leader.

Snowy dodo: I went to sleep and woke up here. I'm happy. They didn't have Capclave when I went to sleep and now they do.

Darth dodo: It was the will of the Force. The Force flows as it will and men, aliens, and dodos, follow in its wake.



Journal: So why are the dodos so obsessed with Capclave?

Greylock: We're not obsessed. You humans are the ones who are obsessed. You run the thing. We just really, really like Capclave.

Snowy: It's fun. We get to meet lots of great authors, editors, readers, and more. And there are snacks.

Blue dodo: Writers read their works, sign autographs, and talk on panels.

Brown dodo: And there are writers' workshops with lots of help for humans (and humans need it!)

Snowy: And parties with food.

Science: Science presentations, the WSFA small press award, chatting with fans.

Blue: Why would you want to talk to machines that push air around?

To Be Continued in future issues of *The WSFA Journal*

Writer Seeks Readers

By Barry Carver

Dear Fellow WSFA members,

I've likely mentioned (a few dozen times) that I've just finished a novel (writing one, not reading one). Well, it's back from the editor and all polished up and spiffy.

Now I need a reader or two that are unfamiliar with my previous work(s)... that could be you. What I need is:

1. A sentence or two about whether or not you like the story and if it makes sense to you. You can write as much as you want, by I need REAL feedback from folks that know SciFi... and a sentence or two will be a real help to me.
2. A suggestion of two well-known SciFi titles (or Authors) to which my book seems similar. Agents and Publishers seem to want to know what else has sold that my stuff is like... and I'm a poor judge of that.

For this, I can offer... NOTHING! Okay, well, I'd be happy to reciprocate or revoice the message on your answering machine as Yoda. I guess that's not nothing but I'd be pretty darn grateful either way.

I reserve the right to mention this at the next Virginia-side meeting, for those that never read this far in the newsletter.

Thanks!

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