

The WSFA Journal May/June 2018



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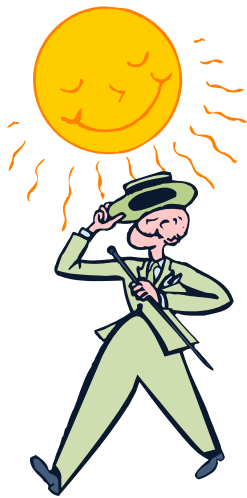
Review of Head On

Four Dodos on a Sleeping Human

The 5-4-18 First Friday WSFA meeting began when Prez Bob banged his gavel. Alright ladies and gentlemen. Sam S fixed the clock. It's the first Friday in May. "It's election time," said Bill. Sam L. summed last meeting. Nothing was done.

Sam S., treasurer, said, "Tonight is election night. To vote, you are supposed to be a member, check with me to see if you are a member and if not, see me. Treasurer's report \$\$\$ with a year over year of \$\$\$."

Capclave Present: Cathy said we are doing big push at Balticon. Need XX members. Sit at the table and be accurate. Use the dodos and make eye contact. If get 20 or 30 people do drawings for tschaskies. Table list here. Rodger said prelim schedule is up. If everyone does an hour or two, it won't be a huge burden. Take flyers to conventions, book groups, gaming etc. We need all the publicity. Push it to your friends. We will have a table at Worldcon. When we were in Reno, people stopped by and took flyers. Publicity not just for this year. If going to San Jose, try to do an hour a day at the table. Also need help traveling with dodos. They understand about flying steerage (Sam S. Since they don't normally fly.) Need people for Gaithersburg book festival on Sat the 19th. Contact Cathydalek@gmail.com. Also meeting on the 20th at Cathy's. Learn how to use the program system. We're..., so upsell it to friends. Share the info. If going to bookstore, leave flyers. We can reciprocate with stuff for our registration bag. We've been doing this for years, but people still don't recognize that we are here. If know an author who will be interesting for programming tell them about it and Capclave@gmail.com. Tweet about it. And book your hotel room.



Capclave future not here.

Far future/WFC. Bill said registrations trickling in for WFC. We are X to cap. Bob said progressing on number of dealers so we should have a large dealer's room. Coming along fine. On art show front, things are progressing better than expected. Tom Kidd will have a large number of things to display. Also some older material will be electronic. Vince will have stuff on process of doing new award. Charles Vess will have art from his Earthsea book. He will give a tour in the art show. Good number of artist on display. Joanie Dashoff is in charge and reaching out. Sam L will be getting copies of letters for the WSFA Journal from the GoH. <See letter in this issue> Kidnapping note. Get to know you. That's progressing. Bill is thinking about GoH gifts, always a challenge. Mr. Walsh will be getting a special gift. Paul suggested a one-year membership at WSFA. Bill said, no a half a membership since we are splitting it with BSFS. Planning for Capclave 2020 will depend on results from WFC. May need a bigger space. Discussion of hotel costs.

Need badges for dodos, buy your Capclave membership. Cathy's dodos need names.

Cathy said, "At the Ravencon party, we found out you can perch 4 dodos on a sleeping human before waking her up." Bill continued, we placed order for awards with Vincent Del Franco. Making the pins is in progress. Will pass on to future conventions. May offer pins to previous winners at cost. Sam S. asked for numbers. In negotiations.



Trustees: Mark said, we will be holding an election. We have a slate. Sam S., get with 21st century, it's a white board.

Sam L gave schedule for Committee to read SF.

Small Press Award. XX stories are online for people on the committee said Paul. Please read. You have until June 3. Cathy said June 3 we will meet at my apartment. Paul said, "Then we will

put the finalists up for the club to read.” Cathy said, “We will discuss percentages for fudge at the meeting.” Paul said numbers are consistent with previous years. Last year XX, this year XX. Half the stories by females, 5% initials. Most usual publishers, but fewer Australians. A few more non-fantasy stories, higher proportions of horror, even a few humor. Higher percentage of authors from big name publishers. About 20% were disqualified for being too long or from a publisher too big. Discussion of criteria.

WSFA Press. Paul said, we continue to sell a few older books on a regular basis, getting them out of my basement. For this year’s book I have a cover and title. Solid facts have not reached me about when I will have it in my hands. I’d really not want to drive to pick them up to get them on time. Cathy asked about preordering the book if already have a Capclave membership. \$40, but \$30 for Capclave members. Cathy purchased a copy. Sam S. said he has Colleen’s copy of the WSFA archive. Looking for a home.

President asked secretary to send Paul the results of election.

Intertivities: Bill said part of Wonder Woman 2 will be filmed at Landmark Mall, casting call, looking for long hair, paramedics and firemen. Cathy said Arlington’s Shut Up and Write group will have a discussion about YA anthologies. Main Arlington County Library.

No old business

New business: Sam L asked if anyone would take charge of doing T-shirts. Elizabeth asked about putting them on the Internet. Mark said he has two groups who do shirts. Wants an email. Bill suggested contacting BSFS about doing shirts.

Greg Key is here for third meeting.

Announcements: Bill a couple months ago Rebecca Kuang did reading. Book is out. Reviews are positive. Selling on Amazon. The Poppy War. She goes off on tour next week after she finishes Georgetown.

Gayle said Worldcon sent email, the Hugo voting is up, but the packet is not up until next week. Check your spam folder.

Sam S said, our daughter published her first story in a new zine Vulture Bones.

Paul has discovered that mealworms are the crack cocaine of the chicken world.

Meeting unanimously adjourned 9:53.

Attendance: Courtni Y Burleson, Rodger Burns, Ken Byrer, Cathy Green, Paul Haggerty, Kimberly Hargan, Frances Holland, David Keener, Bill Lawhorn, Sam Lubell, Bob Macintosh, Sarah Mitchell, Mark Roth, George Shaner, Gayle Surette, Elizabeth Twitchell, Ivy Yap, Madeleine Yeh, M. Greg Key, and Apurna Desai.

Election:

President: The slate is Bob Macintosh. Are there any nomination? Closed. All in favor. Acclaimed.

Vice President: The slate has George Shaner. Closed. All in favor. Acclaimed.

Secretary Sam has agreed to keep typing for another year. Closed. All in favor. Acclaimed. Thank you

Treasurer: Sam S agreed to run away with all our money. Sam S. I don’t have enough to get to Tahiti so need to do it another year. Closed. One no (Judy S), Ayes have it.

Small Press Award: Cathy and Kim to do two year terms. Any other noms? Closed. Acclaimed.

The gavel was handed to Bob for trustees. Nominees: Barry, Rodger, and Elizabeth. Closed. All in Favor. Acclaimed.

The slate was elected with no nominations from the floor.

What Happened To Supervillains?

By Mark Roth-whitworth

I've just written a short short, and one of the premises is that real superheroes would not, as Tom Smith sings, "be out bashin' baddies in their BVDs". What just struck me is that some of the supervillains have become far more believable. The best example is, of course, Lex Luthor. Look at the Lex of the comics in the seventies and eighties, and the first Superman movie: he keeps looking for ways to make money fast, and gain his own superpowers, including an Iron-man style power suit.

Then came the DC Crisis on Infinite Earths. In the aftermath, Lex was none of that. Instead, he was a billionaire, who hired people to do things, or made them do things. The way he used his all-female direct support staff showed just how evil he was.

So, why did the superheroes never make that jump?

I can only assume that, even though several times over the decades, the comics realized that most of their audience was no longer early teens, and went to serious stories... then back to bashing. Makes a fun, brainless movie, but any real thought makes so much of it absurd. The most obvious example of this would be Green Lantern. He's still going around creating giant green fists with his power ring. At least to me, the most obvious thing in the world for him to do would be something along the lines of "Oh, here come some baddies," and the next thing baddies know, they're completely surrounded by a force field... and can't breathe, pass out, and our hero can use the ring to disarm and bind them, and hand them to the authorities.



Another example would be the Batman. He's supposed to be brilliant, and a billionaire, and yet doesn't seem to have any way to track his villains' movements of money, or hiring agents, the way Holmes did with the Baker Street Irregulars. Instead, he has to do everything himself, and then go bash the baddies.

Perhaps it's time for low and mid-level heroes who work for the "superheroes" to have their chance in the sun.

Capclave Visits Farpoint

The WSFA 5-18-18 meeting met upstairs. Prez Bob called the meeting to order at 9:15. Third Friday in May 2018. Sam L. read minutes.

Capclave present: Cathy said we need lots of new members. Cathy brought flyers. Please plug it to your friends and on social media. We will have a Capclave table at Balticon. We need people to do an hour or two a day. Look at online schedule and email. We have two memberships with table. Elizabeth will have



one so if someone can have the other if they commit to three hours a day at the table. We will have rack cards and bookmarks, not as soon as I hope. I will bring to distribute. We will do a bookstore mailing. Plug it to anyone. If you know of conventions email Capclave@gmail.com. Big push at Balticon. Any convention. Even if sounds like something not like our convention. We went to Farpoint, had a number of publishing panels. We didn't sell any memberships but people picked up flyers. Also at Regen Who, people were willing to hear the pitch for Capclave. The fact that we offer writing workshops is a draw. Even bring to bridge club.

We're having a meeting to learn how to use the Program system at Capclave this Sunday at Cathy's. Between Dupont and Van Ness they are doing shuttle service at Metro. XX Van Ness. At 1 pm. Courtni said she has list of program participants. Cathy said, while we've tried to cut program participants in the past, this year we're increasing so can have them take hotel rooms. Rodger asked if Cathy needs info on any of Balticon's programming people.

Capclave Future nothing to report
WFC and Far Future not here.
Talk SF gave the schedule.

Entertivities – Making the rain stop. Kim read about NASA funding to hunt for aliens. Cathy asked if that means SETI won't have to be done on people's laptops. Madeleine called climate change fake news. Mike said it's just erosion, according to a House committee.

Old business – Mark contacted his T-shirt guy. About \$8. Sam said he asked about colors and Mark hasn't gotten back to him yet.
New business – XX was discussed.
Meeting adjourned at 9:42. Unanimously.

Attendance: Courtni Y Bureson, Rodger Burns, Cathy Green, Kimberly Hargan, Frances Holland, Michael Ikeda, Beth Jones, Sam Lubell, Bob Macintosh, Sam Pierce, Mike Taylor, Michael Walsh, Ivy Yap, Madeleine Yeh, and Sander Olson.

World Fantasy Guest Letters

In our last issue (March-April) we reprinted Bill Lawhorn's correspondence with World Fantasy Convention (which WSFA is co-sponsoring with BSFS) Guests of Honor. Here are the rest of these letters.

Hi Kaaron,

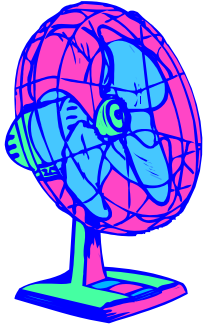
I hope all is well with you and that the end of summer is pleasant. It is approaching spring here and the weather decided to try for a little more winter. Thank you once again for being a Guest of Honor at the Baltimore World Fantasy Convention this fall. This letter is a way for our club members to get to know you, and maybe a little bit about me as well when we publish the letters in a future WSFA Journal.

I am the CoChair who represents the Washington Science Fiction Association in partnership with the Baltimore Fiction Society, although I am a member of both clubs. I was born in Wisconsin but migrated to the Washington DC metro area when I got a job with the US Bureau of Labor Statistics in 2000. Within a year a coworker invited me to a WSFA meeting where I was welcomed with open arms. Have you been involved in any SF clubs or associations?

WSFA is one of the oldest science fiction clubs in the US founded in 1947. The club hosted two Worldcons and a couple of World Fantasy Conventions. In 1963, club members from Baltimore started BSFS. So we do have a long history of working together.

One of my first conventions was the 2003 World Fantasy Convention hosted by WSFA on Capitol Hill. That kind of skews a person's expectations of what a convention should be. My fondest memory of that convention was spending about 20 minutes chatting with Michael Stackpole talking about **I Jedi**. I won't

forget that bag of books either. It was where I realized I could interact as a person with the creators of the books I read. What was your first convention and what was the most memorable thing about it?



Being a member of WSFA also gave me the chance to review books for SFREVU, an online review site run by a club member. I have been writing reviews for them for over a decade. I have written a few reviews for the WSFA Journal as well. My reviews have come a long way since the first, but there are still some things which remain. I think my first review was for a Harry Turtledove book. What was your first story?

Attending conventions has allowed me to meet a ton of great people, but it also led to a great quandary in my life, reading books by people I know before I read their books. What if I don't like their work? Will something I read change how I view them?

Okay, it typically doesn't, but that irrational part of my brain still freaks about taking that first foray.

After a few years in DC, I ended up organizing the program for a couple of professional conventions related to Economics and forecasting. After I did that and chaired one of those conventions, I realized I could handle running our local SF convention, Capclave. The best part of it was choosing the Guests of Honor; I still love that aspect of convention running. It is a great way to meet and interact with guests. Where was your first Guest of Honor gig?

Having attended WFC in 2003 but not for a while after that, I returned in 2010 since it was close in Columbus, Ohio. It actually was our honeymoon as I'd married Sarah Mitchell a couple of weeks before that convention. It was there I had a chance to see more of the convention and learn its feel and how it changes based on the staff and city. My CoChair, Ann Marie Rudolph, and I are looking forward to highlighting Baltimore's Inner Harbor with our Safe Harbors theme. It will also be fun to work with the Mary Shelley Frankenstein 200th anniversary as well.

You have a large body of work, what work do you recommend everyone read to get a feel for your writing? I like to make sure I have read the seminal works of authors, and I expect many others will as well.

If you are planning to come in early, what is the one thing you don't want to miss? I am, of course, the typical local who waits to go to museums until there is a guest in the area who wants to go first. Although, with the convention planning, I probably can't get away to enjoy it with you.

Then again, I hope we can plan to have at least one meal together. That is always a nice way to bond.

I look forward to seeing you this fall,

Bill Lawhorn
WFC 2018 CoChair

W. & A. G. M. N. & R. & E. & V. & Co.
 Picturesque scene
 in the midst of autumn.



Dear Bill,

Many thanks for your kind letter. At the moment we are experiencing the most glorious end to Autumn. The leaves are turning but the weather is warm.

Thanks for all your questions and for your own responses to them. I'm writing on stationery I bought while living in Fiji. It is a bit odd but certainly apt, I think!

I've been a member of the CSFG (Canberra Speculative Fiction Guild) for about ten years. Recently they made me a life member, which is a great honour. We have a really strong writing community in Canberra

AMERICAN
*Picturesque scene
 in the midst of autumn*



in St and in wider circles.

I too remember my first World Fantasy Convention. It was Saratoga Springs, 2007, and one of the most wonderful weekends of my life. Yes, that big bag of books! We still use the sports bag they came in; in fact we call it the World Fantasy Bag!

My first published short story was "White Bed" in a feminist horror anthology. While I think my writing has developed since then (1993) I wouldn't change a word of the story.

I have two books out this year. Tide of Stone, from Omnium Gatherum, and a short story collection from Dark Moon Books

A. W. J. W. M. N. G. R. I. E. V. & Co.
 Picturesque scene
 in the midst of autumn



I can't wait for my trip to Baltimore. My family and I will come over a bit earlier, to see family and friends. There's so much I'd love to see in Baltimore! The museums, the art museum, a distillery, or two, a haunted pub crawl, food, food, food and food. I'm sure we'll manage a meal together.

I'm so thrilled to be coming to World Fantasy as a guest of Honor and can't wait to hang out with you, the other committee member, my fellow guests, the attendees... basically everyone! See you in November

Keaton

Some Great Life Achievement People

The WSFA First Friday in June 6/1/18 began with President Bob banging the gavel, okay folks. It's 9:15 on the first Friday in June. Bill said, "I object," but was ignored.

Cathy said it is the first meeting under the new regime <with the same officers as the old.> Treasurer not here. Sam L. summarized last meeting.



Cathy for Capclave said we had a reasonably successful Balticon. New members joined. Email sent to former members. We are back on track, with about XX new members. Reminder email, talking to people at con who took flyers so could register on PayPal. Check the dates and their finances. We will have a table at Shore Leave with DC21. Hotel is sold out but still memberships available. Sam L and Cathy will be going. Business cards are available. We have flyers. Please take and hand out at events even if you think it is not sf related. We love

Shahid Mahmud who will be doing the program book for us for free. Thank you. Full color covers front and back. 48 sheets so 96 pages max size. Very helpful in terms of costs. He is a great guy and he publishes Nancy Kress. So shop at Arc Manor. We will have a table at Worldcon. If everyone at Worldcon does an hour a day we will have enough coverage. Need people to transport dodos and carry one around at Worldcon. Upcoming conventions, take flyers. We will do a programming meeting at Cathy on Saturday the 16th at noon. Everyone can come. Send program ideas. Buy your memberships. Cap Future nothing.

Bill for Capclave 2020. Talked to Shahid, he is willing to do the program book then. Will be calling on past Capclave chairs to write a look back at their Capclave and GoH. Tribute to Gardner. Mark asked about a remembrance of Disclave. Info on WSFA Press books. Future Washington

WFC – Electronic version of current PR has gone out. We have a quote and the physical copies will be sent. Printer missed it going through. In August or September we may do it with a mailing party. Expecting report on members from Sam S. Deadline has passed for nominating for the World Fantasy Award. Mike Walsh said, "Membership nominates two out of five, judges pick three." Bill some great lifetime achievement people. We will find out in advance so we can invite them. Alette has her flight schedule. Will have a full day to relax. We have a workshop coordinator. We will be looking at potential workshops. Thinking about a tour of the Constellation with Chuck Gannon. Outreach to IRS about tax code and self-employment. Talking to Tee Morris and wife about doing a five hour social media workshop. Tour of the Poe house. Other possibilities.

Mark suggested workshop about selling a novel. Kim said Joshua Billings has discussed this at Balticon. Discussion about finding the expertise. Craft of Writing and the Business of Writing. Tales from the Slush. How to be rejected from the slush.

We don't have a date, but in July full staff meeting at the Renaissance hotel. Coming up to the time when need to get space for books for the book bag. Things are progressing. At some point soon will connect with Judy and Diane Lacy and others on food stuff. Looking for help staffing the con suite. Judy – I will help out but not be there all day every day. Bill I and Ann are thankful for all the work and help you have done. Looking for others to do staffing.

Mark said he thought con suite was filled. Bill said no, looking for people.

Bill - Still have openings for new members, hopefully when the awards are announced more people will join.

Bob said we have about XX tables for the dealer's room.

Bill said, for the art show. Special exhibit on women in fantasy that Jo and Eddi are doing for us 70 – 100 art pieces on that theme. Charles Vess work related to Earthsea. Vincent Di Fate castings for the World Fantasy Award. Also our GoH Tom Kidd. Other art too.



Trying different things. And our guests are good. Email to Geek Girl Riot podcast to link to Alliette. Mr. Walsh, our honored guest, who will be the cheapest guest. Bob said, no, he is costing us two tables.

Nov 1 – 4. If come on Wednesday, to help us stuff bags, you can take a few with you. And I'll pay the hotel to bring cookies. Also consignment table.

WSFA Press – Gayle paid the last person, just need to check with Sean about print date. Want to go earlier than usual. Should be all set to go. Paul would rather have them in his basement than driving across the state last minute. Gail said things are looking good. We have been steadily selling our older books and at our table. Paul said, "Tell me how many books you want so I can provide them. WSFA Press is okay. We are close to being out of the second printing of the Valente. We still have XX boxes of the Martin. The Valente trade is selling better than the Martin." Gayle said that will

change if they ever make a movie out of Skin Trade. Sold books at our table. So next year do the deal splitting the table with Chessiecon.

Rodger asked about arranging to sell BSFS Martin books alongside ours. Cathy said complicated. Bill suggested doing a consignment. Discussion.

Small Press Award. We will have the meeting at Cathy's place at 1 on Sunday. Deadline for WSFA members voting is the end of the first weekend in August (August 5th) a week after the Hugos.

Paul said, Sunday night, the stories should be available for members to read and judge. Send a message to webmaster@wsfa.org if don't get email announcement.

Paul. Site is up to date. If you want content put up, please submit it. We do not create content.

Mark asked about trustees email list. Paul said this has been updated.

Committee to talk SF discussed the schedules.

Intertivities. Kim's 62nd birthday. Bill went to Rebecca's reading of the Poppy War at Politics and Prose on the Wharf. July 5th at AFI Silver will be showing 2001 in 70mm.

Old business: Mark asked about T-shirts. Bob said to ask about what colors are available that would work with the logo. Sam L. said light colors.

Sam L said Sam S. is not here. Sam S. has been given info about XX. And he is investigating.

New business:

Announcements: Bill said Emily Whitten says hello. BSFS invites WSFA to its picnic at fourth Saturday of the month. Mike Walsh said the George and Howard and Gardner show from Capclave is on YouTube. A fun two hours.

Meeting adjourned at 10:07. Unanimously.

Attendance: Courtni Y Burlison, Rodger Burns, Cathy Green, Paul Haggerty, Kimberly Hargan, Bill Lawhorn, Sam Lubell, Bob Macintosh, Sarah Mitchell, Sam Pierce, Mark Roth, Judy Scheiner, George Shaner, Gayle Surette, Elizabeth Twitchell, Michael Walsh, Ivy Yap, Madeleine Yeh, and N Barry Carver.

Birthday Cake for Sam Lubell By Madeleine Yeh

Vanilla Cheesecake with Strawberry Glaze from "Have your Cake and Eat It, Too" by Susan G. Purdy. Published by William Morrow and Company Inc., New York

Note: I made this November 2017 for Sam's birthday. I wanted to do a low-fat cheesecake, and this recipe doesn't require starting the day before processing or draining any ingredients. I needed to make this for someone's birthday so I could limit myself to a couple of slices. Sam opined that he thought cheesecake was delicious when queried.

This is a remarkably rich and creamy cake with a relatively high proportion of cream cheese, albeit the reduced fat variety. It achieves its light texture from stiffly whipped egg whites. The vanilla flavor is the perfect foil for a topping and glaze of fresh strawberries. If your berries are deep red and very ripe, use Strawberry Topping and Glaze (page 434). Out of season, make the topping with strawberries plus red currant jelly, per the recipe, to achieve a ruby-hued glaze.

You can change the flavor of the cake by adding (in addition to the vanilla) a teaspoon of maple, almond, or orange extract: select a fruit topping to complement the flavor.

Crust:

Butter-flavor no stick cooking spray
3 tablespoons Grape-Nuts or finely crumbled Shredded Wheat (I used cheerios)
1 tablespoon granulated sugar

Filling:

1/4 cup plus 2 tablespoons unsifted all-purpose flour
1/4 tsp salt
1 1/2 cups (12 ounces) low fat cream cheese, at room temperature
1/3 cup canola or sunflower oil
1 1/4 cups granulated sugar, divided
2 large eggs separated
1 tablespoon vanilla extract
2 cups low-fat vanilla yogurt
2 large eggs, separated
1 tablespoon vanilla extract
1 1/2 cups sifted all-purpose flour
1 quart ripe strawberries, rinsed and hulled
1/2 cup red currant jelly



1. Position a rack in the center of the oven and preheat it to 300 degrees F. Coat the springform pan with cooking spray. If using an aluminum pan, line the bottom with baking parchment or wax paper and spray. NOTE: I used a 9x13 pan lined with parchment paper.

Combine the cereal and sugar and add to the prepared pan. Tilt and rotate the pan until evenly dusted with crumbs; spread the loose crumbs evenly over the bottom.

2. Sift together the flour and salt into a small bowl or onto a sheet of wax paper.
3. In a large bowl, beat the cream cheese with an electric mixer until smooth. Beat in 1 cup of the sugar, the egg yolks, and vanilla until well blended. Reduce the speed to low and alternately add the flour mixture and yogurt. Beat until smooth.
4. In a clean grease-free bowl, using clean beaters, whip the egg whites until foamy. Gradually add the remaining 1/4 cup sugar and whip until the whites are stiff but not dry. Fold the whites into the batter in several additions.
5. Turn the batter into the prepared pan and set it on a heavy baking sheet for ease in handling. Bake for about 1 hour, or until the edges of the cake are slightly puffed up and the center is dry to the touch but slightly wobbly. Turn off the heat, leaving the cake in the oven with the door closed for 1 hour. Set the cake on a wire rack away from the drafts until thoroughly cool. Cover and refrigerate for a minimum of 4 hours, or overnight to firm.

Note: Since I used substantial one piece roasting pan, I didn't need a heavy baking sheet. Since the cheesecake was rather thin I only baked it for about half an hour or so. The cheese cake was placed in the freezer to solidify as I didn't have much time.

6. To unmold the cake, run the top of a paring knife between the top edge of the cake and the pan. Loosen the spring and lift off the pan sides, leaving the cake on the pan bottom, cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate. Note: This didn't apply to me. I picked up the cake by using the parchment paper and placed it gently on the 9x13 rectangular cake carrier.

7. Strawberry Topping and Glaze (page 434)

This virtually fat-free ruby-colored topping is perfect for Vanilla Cheesecake (page 224), but also adds sparkle to a plain chiffon or sponge cake. Use only fresh ripe berries for garnishing the cake; if they aren't available forgo the garnish

1 quart fresh ripe strawberries, washed, dried and hulled or 2 cups frozen unsweetened whole berries thawed. Note: This is a 1 lb. package of frozen strawberries

1/3 cup granulated sugar, or to taste

2 teaspoons fresh lemon juice

1 1/2 tablespoons cornstarch

1/4 cup cold water.

1. Pick over the fresh berry and reserve about 1 1/2 cups of the best to garnish the cake. Leave whole or slice in half if extra-large. Set them aside. Cut up the remaining berries.
2. Combine the remaining fresh berries or the frozen berries, the sugar and lemon juice in a medium heavy bottom non reactive saucepan. Set the pan over medium heat and cook, stirring and mashing the berries for 2 or 3 minutes or until the sugar dissolves.
3. In a cup, stir the cornstarch into the water, then stir into the berries. Raise the heat slightly, and bring to a boil, stirring constantly. Boil, stirring for 1 minute, or until the glaze is thickened and no longer cloudy. Remove from heat and let cool completely.
4. Arrange the reserved fresh berry, if using, on top of your cake, then spoon on about 2/3 cup of the glaze. Chill the cake for about 1 hour to set the glaze, and pass the remaining glaze as a sauce at the table.

NOTE: I didn't bother to mash any berry. It makes a nice red glaze with whole berries floating in it. The cheesecake was cut into small squares with dental floss and served with the strawberry glaze separate so that each person could ladle strawberry and glaze on their own piece.

Note on the cake. I think this is a low-calorie cake because it omits a nice and tasty crust and there isn't much cheese cake. Sam liked it anyway and reported that the leftover cake and glaze kept for two days properly refrigerated. It's possible the cheesecake could have kept longer but there is no empirical evidence to that affect. It would be thicker baked in a smaller pan.

Bill Calls for Abolishing the Small Press Award



The 6/15/18 Third Friday meeting began with President Bob banging the gavel, "Order, order," he cried. Sec Sam L read the minutes.

Cap present – Programming meeting at Cathy's tomorrow. Email program@capclave.org. Guests are Nancy Kress and Alyssa Wong, like to talk about the writing process. Nancy Kress does a lot of biology based and near future thriller. Anniversary of books and movies. Bunch of rooms so can do a bunch of programs. The more ideas the better. Never know what is popular. Even if tailor it to GoH interest they may decide they don't want to do it.

Far Future/WFC – Nothing to report for Capclave 2020. WFC will have a meeting on the 24th of June; will be at John Sapienza's house at 1 PM. Will start monthly meetings on a Sunday. Can't do the clubhouse due to gaming stuff. Bill brought a box to show that the WFC pins came in. But he won't show the pins, since they are at his house guarded by the dodos. Sam S has sent payment. Second shipment will be available for nominees for 16 and 17 that will be sold to them at cost. (Publishers may purchase for their nominees.) Sarah has seen them. "I know a dodo."

Bill continued, sent a query to the board, mid to end of July is when will see the list of finalists. They will send out the list. Norman Bates the co-chair of the 2020 Worldcon (New Zealand) is designing the cards to go with the pins.

Cards and flyers for Capclave.

Small Press. Every member should have received their summons to read and vote, said Bob. Cathy said if have 70% make fudge. 80% chocolate cheesecake, 90% both, 100% cheesecake and individual packets of fudge. Michael asked if we ever reached these goals. Cathy said XX.

Talk SF, Sam L gave schedule.

Intertivities: Kim said NASA announced Curiosity has found organic molecules. Shore Leave in July, Capclave will have a table. Delta Hunt Valley. Smithsonian Folklife festival starts next week. BSFS Annual Picnic. Naomi Novak signing at East City Books in July for Spinning Silver on July 12th.

Old Business: Fifth Friday this month. No interest.

Cathy asked about new quotes for XX. It is in progress. Sam will have more info at First Friday.

New business:

The small press award was discussed. Cathy said, speaking for herself. We have already dropped the word count limit for the small press stories. There is a trend of seeing more at the maximum of our word count. In the future, we might want to consider shrinking down the max word count. We saw a large

number of long stories and those at the long end. We wouldn't completely eliminate the novelette. Rodger said, 17,500 is the current limit. Cathy said the club as a whole would have to vote for this. She understands why people send us novellas.

Judy said, when I see a 40 or 50 page story, I go O' My God.

Cathy said lowering the limit it would make it easier for the committee. Discuss of difference novella and novelette.

Bob said if the committee wants to make a recommendation, the club would be willing to consider it.

Bill said, It's not evil; it's a promise being kept. I move we kill the small press award because eight stories are too many. There was no second, so motion died. Bill said, I read and voted. I know someone else who voted No award.

Courtnei said we need to be responsive to people's concerns.

Here for first meeting in a long while was Michael Dobson. He said he's been in and out. Last WSFA meeting attending was 1983, and before that in the 70s. Worked at TSR, helped build the Air and Space Museum. Wrote alternate history novels. Was a fanzine publisher. Now does fanzine Random Jottings. Varied topics. Fanzine fandom is what I love and I wound up chair of Corflu, the convention for fanzine fandom. In Rockville, May 2, 2019 at the Cambria Hotel in Rockville. Spend a lot of time on fan history. Wealth of fan history. Willing to do a panel or exhibit on WSFA. Elaine Stiles is in charge of registration. Sam L. offered to help.

Announcements: Eva said the BSFS is showing the Riverworld movie from 2010, the good one.

Bill said, we have official weekend for DC in 2021, last full weekend 25-29th of August. Hotel has committed to that. We will have this official by Worldcon.

CBS All Access has a series Strange Angels about Jack Parsons, the guy who invented the jet assisted takeoff. A founder of JPL. Has L Ron Hubbard and LSFS.

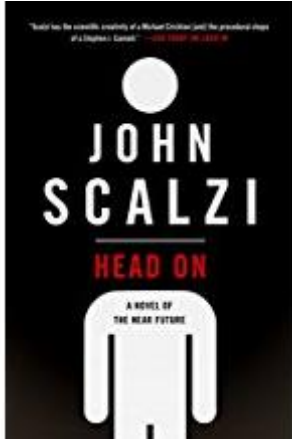
Meeting adjourned 9:53, what passes for unanimously.

Attendance: Courtnei Y. Bursleson, Rodger Burns, Carolyn Frank, Kimberly Hargan, Frances Holland, Michael Ikeda, Beth Jones, Bill Lawhorn, Sam Lubell, Bob Macintosh, Sarah Mitchell, Barry & Judy Newton, Meridel Newton, Mike Taylor, Michael Walsh, Eva Whitley, Ivy Yap, Madeleine Yeh, David Holden, and Michael Dobson.

Review of Head On by John Scalzi Reviewed by Sam Lubell

Head On, a sequel to 2014's [Lock In](#), is a near future mystery set in a world where one percent of the population has Haden's Syndrome, a disease that paralyzes people's bodies but leaves the brain otherwise working. Since one of the victims was the U.S. First Lady, the government funded advanced technologies to let Haden's function in the world, including remotely controlled android bodes called "Personal Transports" (nicknamed threeps). Inevitably, a popular sport develops, Hiketa, in which specially constructed threeps use swords and hammers to tear off the head of a threep on the other team and carry it through the goal.

FBI agent Chris Shane, a Haden, is in the audience when Duane Chapman drops dead while playing Hiketa. But when Chris and senior partner Leslie Vann, a non-Haden, investigate why Duane's stats and vitals were removed from the data feed, they find the league official who ordered this data removal has apparently committed suicide.



Naturally, there is more going on than the FBI agents know at first. As they investigate, they discover secrets involving sex, violence, and money. Chris' parents help in the investigation, as they had been invited to become the owners of a Hilketa team for DC. And Chris' roommates play a role, especially one who is a data analyst. There is even a cute cat who becomes an important witness.

As in the first book, part of the fun is having Chris' threep bodies burned, smashed, and otherwise destroyed. At one point a character jokes that Chris is hard on the threeps the agent occupies. However, this is played more like a cop who keeps on smashing cars rather than like an invulnerable superhero (there is a nice scene where the head of the Philadelphia FBI office argues with Chris over who will pay to replace the latest destroyed threep).

The story is told first-person by Chris and the author never reveals if Chris is male or female. Like with *Lock In*, the audiobook for *Head On* has two versions, one narrated by *Star Trek*'s Wil Wheaton and one by *Buffy*'s Amber Benson. Scalzi successfully keeps this gender secret low-key. In fact, when I read the first book, I did not even notice that the gender was never specified. The book does mention that Chris' father is African-American (it comes up as one of the reasons why the league wants him to become an owner).

As usual, Scalzi's writing is fast, funny, and compellingly readable from the very first sentence, "By the time Duane Chapman died on the Hilketa field, his head had already been torn off twice." The book is very entertaining, even when describing elaborate funding schemes. Characterization is sufficient but little more than the bare bones. Chris does not dwell on the negative side of being a Haden or wish to be normal. Occasionally Chris does think (or is reminded by another character) of his good fortune in being born to a billionaire who can afford 24-hour care for Chris' paralyzed body and multiple threeps. And there are a few more hints about the past of Chris' FBI partner. But for the most part, this feels like a "buddy cop" show where one partner has multiple robot bodies.

The book is perfectly good as light entertainment. However, since Scalzi does not go beyond the surface here, readers looking for more will be disappointed. Scalzi does touch on how the government is backing away from its tax breaks and assistance to Hadens, and there is the occasional comment about Chris' privileged background compared to the condition of other Hadens. But this stays in the background and Scalzi never allows the politics do more than flavor characters' motivations.

Although *Head On* is the sequel to *Locked In* and features the same characters in a new mystery, it stands alone. The author provides enough information about Haden's Syndrome, the characters, and the world so a fresh reader can jump right in. There is only a brief mention of the previous case (just as Watson does not bring up everything Sherlock Holmes did in each story).

Fans of mysteries and near-future science fiction will enjoy *Head On* and Scalzi fans will instantly feel right at home. The book provides an entertaining few hours and, unlike many mysteries, can be re-read with enjoyment even after the reader knows the solution to the crimes.