

The WSFA Journal

March/April

2020



Barry Newton

1949 - 2020

Carolyn's Perspective on the 2020 Nebula Award Nominees

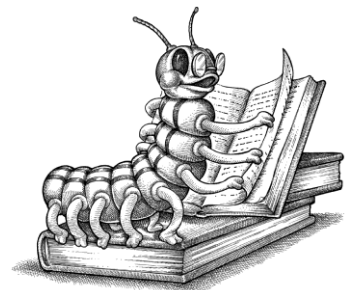
By Carolyn Frank

After I returned from New Zealand at the end of February, I saw the list of 2020 Nebula Award nominations for best novel and thought it would serve as a fun reading list. I went to the Montgomery County Library website and put a hold for 5 of them (I have never cared for Charles Gannon's books). All of the books arrived at my local library the Wednesday before everything closed in Maryland. So not only did I get them to add to my reading pile, with the 3-week mandatory return date has been pushed to the end of April at least, I also had no rush to finish them.



Having now read them all (I also picked up from the library Ken Liu's new set of short stories and the *Uncanny's* best of their stories, so I still have lots of new material to read), here is my personal assessment. The reviews are in the order of my personal preference.

1. *A Song for a New Day* by Sarah Pinsker - I enjoyed this book the most. Even though I read it before the stay-at-home order, the story struck a chord in me. I have gone out of my way to attend live music performances, from Simon & Garfunkel shows in my teens to local folk and blues house concerts in the past few months here in Maryland. And I have watched my quota of TV and video performances over the years as well. Live is so much more rewarding for me as the audience, and I've heard the same from those performing. Both the main characters were engaging, and the overall story certainly speaks to me. I would recommend this book to all.
2. *A Memory Called Empire* by Arkady Martine - This is an eminently readable space opera. The protagonist, a clever ambassador from a small independent mining Station, comports herself in a believable way, given the mess she has been thrust into. The world building of both the Station and the capital of the Teixcalaanli Empire has obviously been thought-through and makes for relevant environments for the diplomatic and detective work that she must work through. The story is both engaging and rapidly paced. For folks who prefer the diplomatic parts of space opera more than the space battles, I would highly recommend this book.
3. *The Ten Thousand Doors of January* by Alix Harrow - This is more of an old-fashioned pure fantasy. Many fantasy writers are fascinated by the concept of doors opening to somewhere else, and this is another in that chain. The protagonist, someone who clearly does not belong in this version of early 20th century Earth, spends the book learning of her parents and how the special doors in this universe work. The story is an enjoyable jaunt, but I found the plot rather obvious. I kept reading because I liked the main characters and the well-written work. For anyone who wants an escape from the real world, I would recommend this book.
4. *Gods of Jade and Shadow* by Silvia Moreno-Garcia - This is yet another revisiting of a Mayan myth. Possibly because I have read other retellings of the same myth, and partly by having to break up my reading to find Spanish translations, I had a hard time staying interested in this story. The protagonist, a Mexican young woman with Mayan ancestry, is a complete person but the other main characters are one-dimensional. I do give the book credit for attempting to show a more-or-less realistic 1920s Mexico, which is not a common venue. For anyone who enjoys new visits to old myths, I would recommend this book.
5. *Gideon the Ninth* by Tamsyn Muir - My one-word review: Ick. This book appears to have a great deal of publicity and possibly will win the Award. I did not dislike it from the start, but admittedly I sped-



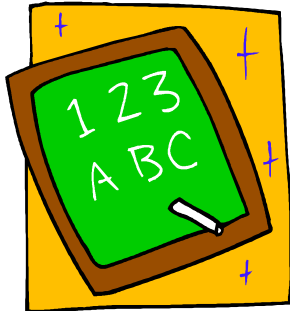
read my way through the last half of the book, only barely keeping myself from just skipping to the end to read the last chapter to be done with it. The protagonist, Gideon, a swords woman, is a likeable enough character, but her counterpart, Harrowhawk, is impossible. The book had too many quasi-major characters to keep straight, although it did have the list of all players at the front to which I kept returning. It gives nothing away to say the story ends with an endless boring swordfight which I mostly skipped through. The book says it is the first of a trilogy; now I know 2 more books that I will never want to read.

Last In-Person WSFA Meeting: Who’s Supposed to be Responsible?

Full house tonight said Bill. Bob said, “Ladies and Gentlemen, first Friday meeting in March about to begin.” This opened the March 6th, 2020 WSFA meeting. Little did the WSFA members know this would be the last time they would meet in person for many many months.

Sam L read minutes. Sam S. gave us our money talk \$\$\$ year over year \$\$\$ Next month, year over year smaller, because we got World Fantasy in our account. Renewed our trademark for Capclave. Usually \$. This year Maryland had a mandatory \$ expedite charge plus \$ for a physical copy of the document. Sam L turned over insurance forms. Sam S said already paid this.

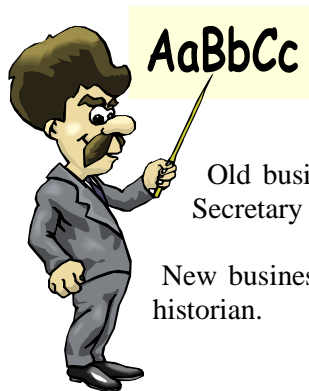
Bill for Capclave present said one new member in Feb, returning GoH Ken Liu at P&P, programming meeting next Sat. George for Cap Future said “Not to leave the room.” Sam S, said you are in the other room. George is waiting for hard date of Capclave before approaching the person he wants about coming. No point in pushing issue until we have a date.



Trustees, Elizabeth said working on slate. If interested let us know. If have multiple people running for a position we can have a real election. Need to pay dues if you want to be an officer (or vote.) Diet Crystal Pepsi discussed.

For Small Press Awards Cathy said that Carolyn is back. xx stories from xx publishers. Average 5500 words, only 4 longer than 10K. Stories coming at a slower rate. No zombies or cats yet. Lunch with Barry. Rodger reminded people that cookie bribery in effect until the end of March. admin@wsfasmallpressaward.org.

Elizabeth for code of conduct standing committee. She said we have a decent code of content, but it lacks administrative procedures. Who do they report an incident to, who decides? Who’s supposed to be responsible? Board is nine guys and me which is not a good look. Need a mixed gender group. Update to code of conduct and put out internal policy and procedure. Potential structure. Another update next month. Judy S announced herself dictator (at least of what happens in the house.)



Entertivities – Reston half marathon. NK Jemsin at Sidwell Friends March 25th. Need tickets in advance. Sam S said second season of Altered Carbon is on Netflix. Sam L. gave talk SF schedule. Hugo nominations close next Friday. Cathy said Steve Stiles is eligible. Has done a lot of work for Capclave.

Old business – Bob said Third Friday meetings moved to Mark Roth to Silver Spring. Secretary will get the info out.

New business – Aparva said if you want to put stuff up on the website see him as WSFA historian.

Announcements. Couch surfing. Elizabeth has sandwiches. Visited Powell's books. Sam L discussed how saved the Corps from dying of thirst and hunger by using his knowledge of grammar to change a sentence that Corps members will not eat, drink, or chew gum while walking in uniform to "While walking in uniform, Corps members will not eat, drink, or chew gum." Meeting adjourned at 9:43.

Attendance: Courtni Y Burluson, Rodger Burns, Ken Byrer, Apurva Desai, Cathy Green, Frances Holland, Bill Lawhorn, Sam Lubell, Bob Macintosh, Eugenia Martin, Sarah Mitchell, Sam Pierce, Aaron & Angela Pound, Judy & Sam Scheiner, George Shaner, Elizabeth Twitchell, Alexander Wallace, Michael Walsh, Ivy Yap, and Fred Bauer.

OBITUARY

Barry Newton

NOVEMBER 23, 1949 – MAY 12, 2020



Barry Newton was born on November 23, 1949 in Barranquilla, Columbia to Francis Scott Newton and Margaret Dobinson Newton. As his parents were both employees of the US Foreign Service, they traveled often and he lived in many places as he grew up, including India, Israel, and Austria.

He joined the Navy in 1970, where he served active duty for four years and remained a reservist until 1996. In civil life, he worked at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (then the National Bureau of Standards) as a COBOL specialist, where he remained until he retired from government service. He and his wife Judy then started

Ashton Computing and Management Services, LLC, which continued to attract private clients until they wound it down. He also worked as a contractor and consultant on Y2K and other projects.

Barry met Judy in 1971 at a science fiction event, and they were married in 1973. They were both active in science fiction fandom. Over the years, Barry was a member, trustee, and president of the Washington Science Fiction Association, a member of the Baltimore Science Fiction Society, a member of the Society for Creative Anachronism, staff on many local conventions and several Worldcons, as well as a member of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America. He was also a contributor to SFRevu and an active member of online fannish communities and mailing lists.

In later years, Barry became greatly involved with local community groups and organizations. He was a founding member of Greater Sandy Spring Green Space and PreserveAshton, two local environmental groups. He was an early board member and longtime volunteer for the Olney Farmers and Artists Market, and he administered the Olney-Brookeville Exchange and Olney Freecycle list, two community-focused mailing lists. Recently, he had been volunteering as a runner for Community Food Rescue. He was also deeply invested in both local and national politics, and served as an election judge as often as they would let him.

Barry was a devoted husband and father. He enjoyed reading, traveling, and staying up-to-date with trends in technology. He was a humble, generous, and thoughtful person who was always willing to lend a hand, an ear, or a piece of considered advice. His gentle humor and insight was valued by all.

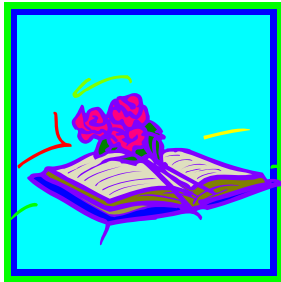
Barry was originally diagnosed with cancer in 2002, but treatment seemed to be successful. A second diagnosis was made recently. After an extended effort to treat it, Barry died on May 12, 2020 at 70 years old. He is survived by wife Judith, daughter Meridel, and cats Tabby Minor and Smog. He is dearly missed.

Barry Newton
By Lydia Ginter

Lydia posted this about Barry Newton shortly after he died. She gave me permission to send it to you for the WSFA Journal. Thanks in advance! -Erica Ginter

My entire feed right now is "Fuck cancer." And it's true. With that in mind, in honor of his passing, I'm going to share a story about Barry that is one of my earliest memories.

When I was very, very young, we held WSFA at our house. And I was a pest, because I was very, very young. And my parents (usually mom) would always try to get me to go to bed at some time or another, and I never wanted to go, because the house was full of exciting people and things and foods I wasn't allowed to have.



I don't know exactly how old I was when this happened, but I didn't want to go to bed as per usual. I think Mom was despairing a bit. And Barry came upstairs to my room and showed me something, on his very early palm pilot/blackberry/assorted cellular device. I don't remember what it was, I just remember the device was involved (if I recall he played me something on it, a video or a song). Thus distracted, he talked with me until I fell asleep. I woke up, and he was gone, and the house was quiet, and I fell back asleep. And it was just another WSFA third Friday night.

I don't know how old I was, of how long that moment I shared with him was, or anything about it besides the moment and the room that it happened in. But I remember his voice and his kind warm smile and the fact it felt like someone was listening to me when I needed to be listened to.

Barry was always kind, and when I saw him around at WSFA or at conventions he always kind inquiries about my life/health/schooling/jobs, despite watching it all play out in real time on Facebook. He always listened, he always asked questions, and he always smiled when I updated him on everything going on. That smile, his scratchy warm voice, and his kindness are what I'll miss the most.

May your journey among the stars be peaceful, Barry Newton. We miss you very much.

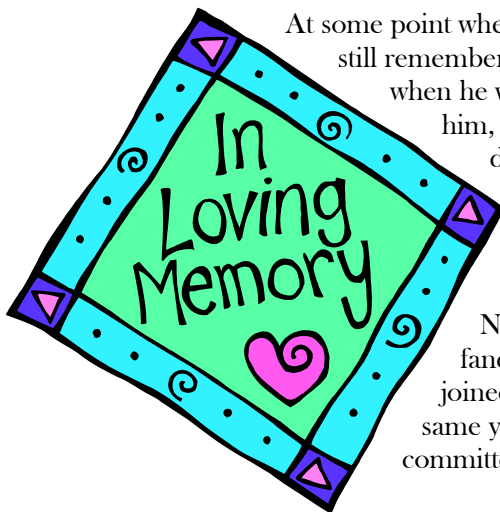
Barry Newton: The Dependable Friend
By Sam Lubell

In my wallet is a medical emergency card with my blood type, doctor, and emergency contacts. On that card I just crossed out Barry's name from where it had stood for many years. Why Barry? Because you could always trust him to know what to do and to do what he said he would do. He was always the rational voice who tried to do good and help others. When I needed someone to pick me up from a dental operation that

required me to be heavily sedated, Barry was the first person I called and he promptly said he would do it. And he did. He led WSFA as president and served as trustee for many years. Although he was frequently quiet, when he spoke he meant what he said. I will miss seeing him and being able to rely on him.

Remembering Barry Newton By Meridel Newton

My father, Barry Newton, was a part of the fannish community long before I came along, and it was really only after he was gone, when I was asked to write this memory of him, that I realized just how much of his life he spent in fandom. It's been quite a journey, delving into online archives to see what could be found, what could be verified, about his life. Some stories I'd half-remembered hearing about as I grew up, and some later events I witnessed in person. As I pieced things together, I couldn't help but think that there's so much of him that I never saw, even though I knew him all my life.



At some point when I was in elementary school, I got in trouble for reading during class. I still remember how nervous I was to bring that report home- and how surprised I was when he waved it off. That was when I first learned that the same had happened to him, in a way. His academic attention span had suffered a great deal when he discovered the school library had a complete set of the Lensman books. It was an assurance that I took with me into the rest of my life- if the conventional regime didn't spark your interest, pursue your dreams, your passion, your idle curiosity wherever it might take you.

Nothing demonstrates that idea more than his longtime involvement with fandom. My father started his fannish life as early as 1970, when he first joined WSFA. In 1974, he signed on as a staff member of Balticon 8. That same year, he worked on Discon II. He later joined the 1977 Worldcon bid committee.

Barry served as President of WSFA from 2011-2014, trustee as needed, and in countless unofficial roles. He was also a member, at various times, of the Baltimore Science Fiction Society, the Society for Creative Anachronism, and the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America.

He served as con staff at conventions across the country, including Torcon 3, Denvention 3, and various Balticons, including as Guest of Honor liaison at Balticon 44. In 1983, he was instrumental in bringing computers to Worldcon, which led to Constellation being the first Worldcon to have an automated registration system. The RadioShack TRS-80 used for that may still be in a basement somewhere in Baltimore.

Barry was also an active member of online fan communities, including list serves, newsgroups, and blog sites such as File 770 until he could no longer concentrate enough to read them.

He always dreamed of going to space, and his lifetime of involvement in science fiction fandom was an enduring legacy of that dream. The people in fandom, the activities, the spark of belief in a brighter and better future- they meant all the world to him. It means more than I can say to see the community remember him, and I hope that, in some small way, he can consider the continued growth and success of science fiction fandom as his legacy.

“But I’ll tell the story and I’ll draw the picture
 And I’ll sing the anthem that banishes doubt,
 And host the convention that summons the family
 That carries the fire that never burns out
 There are so many chances to give up the journey,
 Especially when it’s so easy to stay,
 But I am willing to sacrifice
 Something I don’t have for something I won’t have
 And not only me,
 But we are willing to sacrifice
 Something we don’t have for something we won’t have
 So somebody will,
 So somebody will someday.”
 -- “Somebody Will,” Sassafress (used with permission)



Note for Future Fan Historians



In March of 2020 a great plague called COVID-19 swept the world. Millions caught the coronavirus and hundreds of thousands died. In an attempt to slow the spread and save lives governments ordered people to shelter in place in their homes and only leave it for essential work and gathering food. Workplaces that could do so shifted to work-from-home and schools and colleges sent everyone home and instructed their students through online methods. Conventions took the year off or went online. And clubs like WSFA shifted to online meetings and socializing. So from the first meeting in April 2020, until the discovery of a working vaccine or a COVID-Cure, WSFA continues to meet online.

WSFA's First Online Meeting: New, Unique and Historic

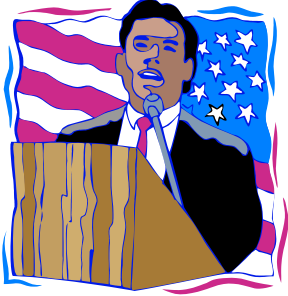
Note that the March Third Friday meeting was cancelled due to the pandemic. This was WSFA's first online meeting.

After some technical difficulties, President Bob said, “Alright folks. It’s 9:16 on April 3. Thank you, I’m here. Alrighty. Let’s get this started at 9:16. As president, I want to thank BWAWA for letting us use their Goto Meeting App. Continuing on. This is the first virtual meeting WSFA ever had. New, unique and historic. While our bylaws allow us to do regular meetings this way, but do not permit virtual elections. I will have a proposal in new business to cover our current situation. Mr. Secretary I believe we do not have outstanding old business that is not in committee and we will waive the reading of the minutes. Sam L. said there is no old business except for moving Third Friday to Mark Roth’s place.

Mark discussed his problems with support using Linux.

Sam S said the treasurer’s report was emailed. We have current funds: \$\$\$, Year-over year: about \$\$\$ at \$\$\$\$. We have finally caught up with the big World Fantasy deposit. The surplus is a combination of the surplus from last year's Capclave, plus the higher registration rate for this year.

Trustees: Elizabeth asked if Barry was on the line, hearing nothing said trustees put together a slate. I will read it and paste it in the chat. Nothing very surprising. Bob is to repeat for President, Kim Hargan is up



for Vice President. Sam S as Treasurer, Sam L as Secretary. Rodger Burns for Capclave 2022 chair, he's done a Balticon, he can do a Capclave. Trustees are Elizabeth, Courtni, and Angela Pound. Small press award for 2021-22, Cathy Green and Kim Hargan. You are allowed to be on the small press committee and hold another office. There is a plan for the election next month. As always if you want to run there are options during the election. Sam S. said if you have not paid your dues and wish to vote in next month's election, please send me your dues, you can mail me a check, wipe it with bleach before putting it in the mail, or call me and we can do it by CC over the phone. Elizabeth asked about doing a way to pay dues online as

you would register for Capclave. Sam S said don't want to do it on the Capclave page. Paul would have to do it inside the WSFA webpage and link it via PayPal. Or do square online. Paul said that is entirely possible that would send dues through PayPal, if that is something that would be desired. Elizabeth said if we can do it quickly and easily there is no downside for people paying dues online. Sam S. said, let's go ahead and do it. We can talk this weekend. Bob said, alright folks. That's our slate. Paul said, went over the BWAWA voting system.

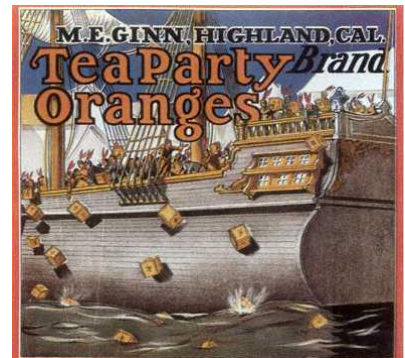
Capclave. Bill for 2020 said still planning to hold Capclave mid-October. Invitations to participants are going out this weekend. We'll set up Zambia for them. Arrange for returning GoH gifts. Sam S. said in terms of registration picked up 5 people in March, our average number. Despite everything. We're up to 128 paid registrations. Bill said, it seems people are hoping we're still going on and so am I.

George for Capclave Future said I wish I had something to say. Right now, until I get a date from the hotel representative, no point in asking guests or arranging anything. At that I'll ask my Guest if she's still interested, if not I'll move on. I'm in a holding problem like the rest of the country. Elizabeth said she is working on a Code of Conduct. Roger is doing online gaming.

Bob was having connection problems. Sam S said George should do a coup.

George agreed. "I am now your leader. Let's see going on from there. We've talked cons, trustees. I guess I'm going to go to publications next."

For publications, Paul said sold a few books, nothing to talk about. Gayle said past date to get a book in time. I haven't heard from the agent for Connie Willis. This virus think put a kibosh on doing a book. George said, probably best since we don't know if it will happen. Sam L said got responses from Cathy and will send Journal to Paul for posting. Paul said okay. George asked about other messaging media. Bill said Facebook getting more people coming on. We'll hopefully be making appearances on WSFA and Capclave feeds. We need more outreach since don't have conventions to pull people in. Sarah said dodos are posting on Twitter and Instagram with secret cosplay epics. I'll be posting workings in progress because it is so secret that even they don't know what they are doing.



For small press Carolyn gave report. (See following email). We got 152 stories this year. Last year 170 stories. Thanks to Sarah and folks for not publicizing it. We got 30% of entries in last week. 60% submitted by publishers/editors, 37% by authors. Fairly reasonable size. Theme music. Overwhelmingly fantasy. Very few animals. 53 publishers, a third were new to us. No Australian stories. I'm done. Yes!

Elizabeth said had a meeting to discuss revising the code of conduct. It is in progress and will be done by the time we are allowed to meet in person. Committee to discuss SF will discuss the current issue of Asimov's right here in this chatroom.

Entertivities Rodger said he's doing online gaming on Wednesday evenings. If interested email him. Discussion of how this is the Passover Seder and questions about platforms. Looking into options.

Kathi said Lavar Burton is having all sorts of tech problems doing his reading series. Sam S. said, but he's the chief engineer. He shouldn't be having technical problems. Bill asked if the group would be interested in seeing if can get an author to do an online reading. We can get up to 150 people for a chat although video would have to be off. Someone like Kevin who had a tour cancelled might be interested.

Sam L said the only old business is that when online meeting come back into fashion we will be meeting at Mark Roth's place for Third Friday.

George asked if Paul wanted to say something. Paul said he has all the stories from the Small Press Award committee; all but 20 have been converted and will be up tonight. Look on the website. The other thing is if the group decides to allow for electronic voting at meetings I have the online voting system I developed for BWAWA installed on the WSFA site and just need approval to get people loaded into it and tell them how to use it. So if we choose to go that route, the tech side is already taken care of.

Elizabeth made motion to use Paul's software. Bill said we're still in old business and Bob had something he wanted to introduce.

Paul added to notify him if you have things you want to get up on the website.



New business: Sam S asked if anyone knew what Bob was going to propose or if we should go with Elizabeth's motion? George asked Bob to put it in the chat window. Sound problems made it so that the club did not hear what Bob was saying for a while. There seemed to be a delay. Sam S. asked if anyone else had a motion. Sam L told him to use the chat window. Bob swore at his computer. Sam L. said, "We heard THAT!" Rodger said, Bob's computer is clearly only letting through the naughty bits.

Sam S. "In the absence of Bob, I will make a motion. If I remember how the bylaws read in order to vote you must be present, so I make a motion that the sense of the club is that the word presence in the bylaws for voting include virtually present." Seconded.

Rodger offered an amendment, "This is an extraordinary measure due to the current pandemic and general orders forbidding large in-person gatherings. It is not to be considered a normal measure." Someone asked about conditions.

Sam S. said, amending my motion to say "for the May 5, 2020 vote for officers that we define the word present to also include virtual presence so this is a one-time deal for the next month. Not that it will require an actual vote. Specified that this is for next month that will be virtual."



Sam L. asked about for the future. Sam S. said we can decide on that later. We can decide if we want to amend the bylaws in a more long-term fashion later. This is just about how the club is interpreting the sense of that word in the bylaws." Paul said that this is just for the election of officers not the voting on motions made at a meeting. Sam S. said, "Yes, this is specific to the election. In Roberts Rules of Orders you can get a sense of the group for how the rules are interpreted. So in one sense the current bylaws are ambiguous. It simply says you must be present. We're a SF club so presence should include virtual presence and this is how we will interpret in next

month.”

Kathi said, “This is an extraordinary situation. We don’t want to set a bad precedent that will hurt us later. This is an unusual situation so doing the virtual presence thing is not out of line.

Bill said, “Likely that everything will be done with by acclamation so this may not be an issue. A Contested election is the only time this becomes a problem.”

Carolyn said, “We are not changing the bylaws with this. We’re just trying to get through the election next month. We’re not trying to do anything other than get through the election so we can have the election. The end.”

Bill asked to call the question. George asked people to vote in chat. Simplest way to do this.

Madeline asked if we could do divination by chickens, someone said use dodos. Paul said he had chickens but it would give them ideas.

Vote. One abstention, one no. Motion carries. George said “Unorthodox solution but unorthodox times so we are moving forward.”

Fabrice Guerrier is here for his second meeting. Happy to be here. Very strange times this timeline. Announcements: Sam S said in lieu of the usual host’s announcement he hopes you all know where your own bathroom is. Sam S figures on sheltering in place at least until mid-May. We may be virtual for first Friday in June. Sam L said for attendance, has anyone checked to see if Ivy Yap is maintaining her attendance record. Elizabeth assured the group that she has totally seen Ivy Yap. Sam L. said people have loads of time on their hands so contribute to the Journal. George Shaner said that Madeleine is making facemasks. Balticon 54 is not happening in person but will be doing weekend events online. Courtni was in a *New York Times* article on online meetings. Suggested that people wear pants. MD primary in June. Request absentee ballots. John and Kathi are preparing for a pickup BBQ on the Fourth of July.

The meeting adjourned at 10:09.

Attendance. (Approximate since not everyone used their real name and some people may have joined the zoom meeting after I wrote down people’s names. Sam Lubell, Bill Lawhorn, Cathy Green, Rodger Burns, Apurva Desai, Bill Aquier, Zenlizard, Paul Haggerty, Carolyn Frank, Madeleine Yeh, Kim Hargan, Barry Newton, Alex Wallace, Sarah Mitchell, Bob Macintosh, George Shaner, Fabrice Guerrier, Courtni Burleson, Kathi Overton, Eva Whitney, Rick Ellrod, Sam Scheiner, Frances Holland, Elizabeth Twitchell, Aaron and Angela Pound, Mark Roth, and Ivy Yap.

Status of WSFA Small Press Award nominations – April 3, 2020 By Carolyn Frank

- xx nominated stories sent to Paul by 5 PM yesterday (April 2nd)
 - Final story received at 9:33 PM March 31st; 14 stories received on March 31; 45 stories received in the final week (roughly 30%).
 - Last year we received 170 stories, so thanks to Sarah and our social media for NOT publicizing the closing date in March.
- 60% of the stories submitted by publishers/editors, 37% submitted by authors, and x were submitted by WSFAans, so I guess no rewards from Roger.



- Average story length was 5400 words, shortest story was only 707 words, longest 16,299 words.
 - 7 stories were shorter than 2,000 words and 8 were longer than 10,000 words.
- Very heavy on the fantasy. Only theme was music.
 - Most common non-humans were demons/spirits, with a few monsters and aliens.
 - Very few animals of any kind, even imaginary ones such as dragons or unicorns.
- The xx stories had been published by xx publishers, of which 1/3 were new to us this year (many thanks to Cathy and Sam for their rapid response as to whether or not we would consider these new-to-us publishers as a small press).
 - When I checked with Neil Clarke on the number of subscribers to *Clarkesworld* for a nomination by a WSFAn, I inadvertently reminded him to submit his own 3 entries.
 - None of the Australian publishers submitted any stories this year, probably due to the wildfire situation.
 - For publishers of books, the number of books published in 2019 ranged between 1 and 20, averaging around 7.
 - For publishers of magazines, the number of subscribers, mostly Patreon and Kickstarter folk, ranged from 20 to under 4000, averaging around 720. So we are clearly hearing from small presses.

Wondering What the Future Will Look Like

“Alright guys,” said Bob (via GoToMeeting) on Third Friday 4/17/2020. “It’s 9:15, let’s get started. Mr. Secretary you want to do a brief summary of what we did last meeting.” Sam L. tried to read the minutes from the last meeting. There were some more problems with sound. Kathi said, “This sounds suspiciously like what happened last time.” Sam L asked George if he was ready to do another coup. The treasurer Sam S. was not here. So Bill said we’ll jump right to Capclave present.

Capclave Present (Bill) said he sent first round invitations to regular participants. We’ve gotten some responses back. Things are moving. There will be an online meeting to plan some outreach stuff assuming that we will run in October. Capclave Present (George) said he had “Less than nothing to say right now. So anyway. I’m wondering like everyone else what the future will look like. At some point will get in touch with <name> about what we would expect from GoH.



Trustees. The trustees met and we have a slate. Elizabeth read the trustees’ slate of officers. Really familiar. Bob Macintosh for President again. Kim Hargan for Vice President since George is moving out of that as Capclave 2021 becomes nearer. Sam Lubell for Secretary, Sam Scheiner for Treasurer. Capclave 2022 chair would be Rodger Burns. Trustees would be me Elizabeth Twitchell, Angela Pound, and Courtni Burleson. Small Press committee for 2021-22, they rotate will be Cathy Green and Kim Hargan. Election will be online First Friday in May. Just for this year because no other way to do that.

Barry said, “I thought you were going to invite me to run a con. I don’t think that is going to happen.”

Rodger said, “Then I am doomed to run the con. Barry I was hoping you were gonna save me.”

For Small Press Award, Carolyn said, “I’ve done my bit, now up to folks to read the stories..” The committee may meet in person, since there are only five people or online in June. Someone suggested using Google hangouts. Meanwhile reading the stories.

Barry asked Paul about working from home. Paul said, “I am required to work from home.” Paul, our webmaster said not much to report. Journals are up. If meeting online next week, please send me links to post. For the online election, I have code written. I fully expect vote to be by acclamation. But if we don’t have it ready, someone will contest.” Gayle said WSFA Press. No book can be done in time. Won’t do

infinity. So maybe in 2021. For social media, Sarah said same stuff, plus allergies. Courtni said Meetup updated from May. Sam L. gave the schedule for the Committee to Talk SF.

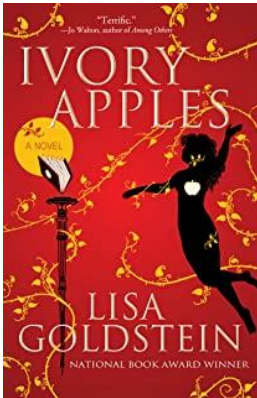
Entertivities – Rodger said virtual Balticon will last four days. More info soon. Volunteer. Rodger is running an online board game.

Old Business, Paul has the list of paid-up WSFA members. If you did not get his guide for the online election, contact him. Webmaster@wsfa.org.

New business. Sam S is setting up online dues paying through PayPal, do it this new weekend. No other new business.

Fabrice Guerrier here for his third meeting.

Attendance: Sam Lubell, Cathy Green, Rodger Burns, Sarah Mitchell, Alex Wallace, Eva Whitley, Carolyn Frank, Fabrice Guerrier, Frances Holland, Judy Newton, Bill Aquirier, Gayle Surette, Meridel Newton, Paul Haggerty, Aaron and Angela Pound, Mike Taylor, Courtni Burselon, Barry Newton, Madeline Yeh, Elizabeth Twitchell, Kathi Overton, George Shaner, Kim Hargan, Ginny Schneider, Mike Taylor, and Ivy Yap.



Review of Lisa Goldstein's *The Ivory Apples* Reviewed by Sam Lubell

The Ivory Apples by Lisa Goldstein is the story of an obsessed fan turned to evil. The narrator's Aunt Maeve wrote a beloved novel, *Ivory Apples*, many years ago under her real name Adela Madden. But now she has hidden herself away from fans of the book who throw conventions about the novel, write letters, engage in endless speculation, and struggle to find out what happened to the author.

When the narrator, Ivy, was eleven, she encountered strange spirits in the woods near Aunt Maeve's house; one of them enters into her and starts altering her perceptions and behavior. Soon afterwards Ivy and her siblings encounter a woman at the local park, Kate Burden, who played games with them and gradually takes the place of a mother in their lives, although Ivy does not trust her. Then, after their father mysteriously dies in Kate's basement, the sisters discover their father's last will had changed their guardian from his brother to Kate. Kate horribly mistreats the sisters in an effort to convince them to tell her where to find their aunt. Kate has a form of magical control over the spirits, who turn out to be the source of the Greek myths about the muses. Ivy runs away, helped by the muse within her, but is determined to come back and fight Kate for her sisters' lives.

The magic here is low key. Kate's magic can create illusions and manipulate people to help her. The muse inside Ivy enhances her poetic talents and it turns out that Ivy's aunt also once had a muse in her, which may account for why her book is so powerful.

Although *Ivory Apples* does have some of the characteristics of a Young Adult novel – the age of the protagonist, the use of the first person, efforts by Ivy and her sisters to find their identities, the inability of adults to help, and even the first stages of falling in love – the book does not have the feel of a YA novel. The tone and the book's concerns seem to me to fit adults more than they do YA.

I recommend the book for readers more interested in characterization than action and who are willing to let a story mature slowly, rather than starting with a bang and going from excitement to more excitement.