

The WSFA Journal Sept/Oct 2020



Dodo art from Alana Tedmon

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Social Media Stands for Social

WSFA 9/4 – It's time said President Bob. Here we go. First Friday in September. Sam Lubell did short version of minutes. Treasurer Sam said we have just a hair under \$K, little over \$ more than last year. Current: \$ Year over year \$

For Capclave Present, Bill said he is going through choosing people to sign up for programming. A few dropped out because don't do technology. We have a good group of people. Added some we normally don't get because virtual. We are working on website. Sam S said we got quite a few people. ## including ## who paid \$10 for the virtual convention only. Once we get the program public, I expect the numbers to go up. Visit the Capclave room after the meeting.

George for Capclave Future said Collette is querying the Board for approval of contract. I expect it to be signed shortly. Sam S said I have a signed copy. Not heard back from Bjorn but the Ring of Fire convention is the week before Capclave so I doubt Flint will come to Capclave this year.

Rodger had nothing to report. Trustees had nothing to report. Sam L. for the Committee to talk SF gave schedule. Ted Weber expressed interest in doing an online reading. Sam L said would contact him. For Small Press Award Cathy said she sent notifications and 90 percent said interested in doing programming at Capclave. Will talk to Paul about trophy and Gayle for certificates. They look so nice when she does it.



Entertivities: Dragoncon. Pluto TV streaming Dark Shadows. Michael I said CBS All Access is doing Star Trek marathon and Lower Decks. Deidre said the Museum of SF is doing online discussion webinars.

Publications. Sam L. asked for help transcribing meeting files. George S and Kathi said they can do virtual texts through Vtt files. Social Media Sarah M said social media stands for social. Please like and share so the algorithm picks it up and more people see it and buy Capclave memberships and come to WSFA to have a good time.

No old business. No new business. No new people. Announcements. Meridel Newton has a short story in an anthology *Recognize Fascism* titled "Today Is the First Day of the Rest of Your Life". Last story in book. Digital this month and in paper next month. Craig said Jeff Shalles published *The Return of Hyper Comics* by Steve Stiles. Eva says it is great.



The meeting adjourned at 9:41 at what passes for unanimously.

Attendance: Aaron & Angela Pound, Alex Wallace, Apurva, Bill Lawhorn, Bob MacIntosh, Carolyn Frank Deidre, Cathy Green, Courtni, Craig and Marsha Glassner, Elizabeth Twitchell, Eva Whitley, Frances Holland, G Schneider, George Shaner, Greg Key, Jim Thomas, Judy Newton, Kim Hargan, Madeleine Yeh, Mark Roth, Meridel Newton, Michael Ikea, Rodger Burns, Sam & Judy Scheiner, Sarah Katz, Sarah Mitchell, and Zenlizard

Book Recommendations from Capclave

By Carolyn Frank

I hosted the webinar on Books of 2020 and also copied citations of stories from various Discord channels including the Book Recommendations. The following is not a complete list as I ignored both books that I have already read and authors who I actively dislike such as Tamsyn Muir and NK Jemisin. Also, unless specified, I do not know if something is a book, novella, or short story (or if cited correctly).

Books of 2020 Webinar

Novels

- Every Bone A Prayer - Ashley Blooms
- Mexican Gothic - Silvia Moreno-Garcia
- The Constant Rabbit - Jasper Fforde
- The Vanished Queen - Lisbeth Campbell
- Beneath the Rising - Premea Mohamed

Novellas

- Ring Shout - P. Djèlí Clark
- Beowulf: A New Translation - Maria Davahna Headley
- The Goblin' Society - James P. Blaylock
- The Empress of Salt and Fortune - Nghi Vo
- No Man's Land - A J Fitzwater
- Riot Baby - Tochi Onyebuchi
- Finna- Nino Cipri
- Flyaway - Kathleen Jennings
- The Tower of Mud and Straw - Yaroslavl Barsukov

Novelette

- The Problematic Douchebag Collective - Kate Simonian - North American Review
- Burn, or the Episodic Life Of Sam Wells - AT Greenblatt - <https://uncannymagazine.com/article/burn-or-the-episodic-life-of-sam-wells-as-a-super/>
- Blue Hole, Red Sea - E Katherine Tobler from the **Evil In Technicolor** (collection)

Short Stories

- Real Animals - M North – in Lightspeed
- Avatars Inc. - Ann VanderMeer (ed.) - online for free
- The Turnaround - Charlie Jane Anders - in Alta (maybe online?)
- Grow, Divide, Sacrifice, Thrive - Jo Miles – in Metamorphosis Magazine
- Rat and Finch Are Friends - in Strange Horizons

Anthologies

- The Book of Dragons
- The Big Book of Modern Fantasy - Ann & Jeff VanderMeer (reprint)
- Medusa's Daughters - Theodora Goss (ed.)
- Swashbuckling Cats: Nine Lives on the Seven Seas, has a Beth Cato story, Tyche Books

Cited on Discord (in alphabetical order by author)

- Goblin Emperor by Katherine Addison
- The Angel of the Crows by Katherine Addison
- The Dragon's Curse by DH Aire, novella, which is a sort of prequel to epic fantasy series being promoted here: <https://storyoriginapp.com/to/ZkqCCoh>
- Giant Slayers by Ken Altabef
- Alaana by Ken Altabef
- The Obsidian Tower by Melissa Caruso
- "Made Things" by Adrian Czajkowski, an interesting take on enchanted inanimate creatures as a society
- Black God's Drums by P. Djèlí Clark
- Little, Big by John Crowley
- "Made Things" by Adrian Czajkowski, an interesting take on enchanted inanimate creatures as a society
- Legendborn by Tracy Deonn (YA)
- Unconquerable Sun by Kate Elliott]
- Innsmouth Legacy books by Ruthanna Emrys as a good Lovecraft retelling
- T. Frohock's Los Nefilim books... a collection of the original 3 novellas (called Los Nefilim) and the novels Where Oblivion Lives and Carved from Stone and Dream which are historical fantasy set before and after the Spanish Civil War in Barcelona, features half-angels and half-demons and song-magic.
- R.L. Gribble's Steel Blood
- And Yet by A. T Greenblatt, Uncanny Magazine, 2018
- RE: Bubble 476 by A. T Greenblatt, Asimov's, pocket universes
- The Outside by Ada Hoffmann - in a future where our AI overlords have effectively become gods
- The Space Between Worlds by Micaiah Johnson
- Eight Days of Luke by Diana Wynne Jones
- The House in the Cerulean Sea by TJ Klune
- The Vanished Birds by T. J. Klune
- Archivist Wasp by Nicole Kornher-Stace
- Catfishing on CatNet by Naomi Kritzer
- "Sidewise in Time" by Murray Leinster (1934), after which the Sidewise Award is named.
- Deadly Curiosities by Gail Z. Martin
- Deerskin by Robin McKinley
- A Blade So Black by LL Mckeenan
- The Last Witch Finder by James Morrow
- Fireborne by Rosaria Munda (YA)

- The Story of Silence by Alex Myers
- The Return of William Proxmire, in David Niven's collection: N-Space
- The Left-Handed Booksellers of London by Garth Nix
- Half-Resurrection Blues by Daniel Jose Older
- We Are Satellites by Sarah Pinsker
- The Midnight Bargain by C.L. Polk
- The Watchmaker of Filigree Street by Natasha Pulley
- The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue by V.E. Schwab
- More Happy Than Not by Adam Silvera
- And They Both Die at the End by Adam Silvera
- Jon Skrovron, Man Made Boy about Frankenstein's son Boy
- Cemetery Boys by Aiden Thomas
- Space Opera by Catherynne Valente \$1.99 in October
- The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland by Catherynne Valente
- Six-Gun Snow White by Catherynne M. Valente
- Cat Valente's short story "A Fall Counts Anywhere" in the anthology Robots vs Fairies.
- "The Lily and the Horn" by Cat Valente , Fantasy Magazine, Published in Dec. 2015 (Issue 59)
- Bryony & Roses by Ursula Vernon writing as T. Kingfisher
- Lent by Jo Walton - historical fantasy takes place in Florence starting in 1492 and has demons in it.
- Sleep State Interrupt by TC Weber
- Zero Day Rising by TC Weber
- Troy Wiggins' Afrofantasy / mythic fantasy "Sorrow and Joy, Sunshine and Rain" can be read here: <https://uncannymagazine.com/article/sorrow-joy-sunshine-rain/>
- The Ship of Stolen Words by Fran Wilde

Anthologies

- The anthology Skull & Pestle: New Tales of Baba Yaga is available at the usual places online. <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/skull-and-pestle-kate-forsyth/1129795212?ean=9781732254626>
- Bad Ass Moms, anthology by Crazy 8 Press, 2020
- Keith R.A. DeCandido reads his short stories to folks who are stuck at home thanks to the worldwide pandemic. <http://youtube.com/c/KRADCOVIDreadings>

Plenty of Things to Look At

WSFA 9/18 – Okay folks, said President Bob. It's 9:16 on the third Friday of September 2020 and the crap keeps coming. Sam L read the short version of minutes.



Capclave present, Bill said the program team has scheduled a lot. Just need to schedule the readings and book launches. Trying to figure out schedule for talks. We start the day with the heavy hitters at a Sat 9am panel that includes Ken Liu's only panel – Ask me anything author edition. Capclave will run through 5:30 Sunday, keeping things busy

throughout the weekend. To save on resources we are scheduling 90 minute blocks with a half hour turnover. Will get out a list of panels soon to promote on the website. We have 67 scheduled events and more coming. 30+ people want to do readings. Rodger has been a huge help inputting information to the system. He wants Zenlizard to schedule a few things to try to learn system for next year. Zenlizard is giving up on Break My Games people as they have not followed through. Sam S. said that registrations have been trickling in. We have ## total. I have email addresses for everyone. Mix of people. Bill said plenty things to look at.

George for 2021 said nothing profound. "I haven't been bugging Eric Flint's crew because they are doing their own Ring of Fire convention. I need to hunt down Bjorn to see how Eric feels about it." Sam L asked if the contract has been signed. Sam S said both contracts have been signed and we paid the deposit.



Rodger for Far Future Capclave 2022 said it will be September 30 to October 2, same weekend as 2021.

Sam L. gave the schedule for the committee to discuss SF. For Small Press Award Cathy said we will have 95% of finalists participating in Capclave. We haven't completely figured out the logistics for the award ceremony. Paul has ordered the award. Rodger asked to be in the loop a liaison to BSFS.

Trustees. It's 2020, we're doing as good as we can. Waiting for #2020 to be the dumpster fire.

Publications. Sam L. had a new Journal. Entertivities people mentioned Virtual Library of Congress Book Festival.

No old business. New business, Sam L. said to promote Capclave to friends.

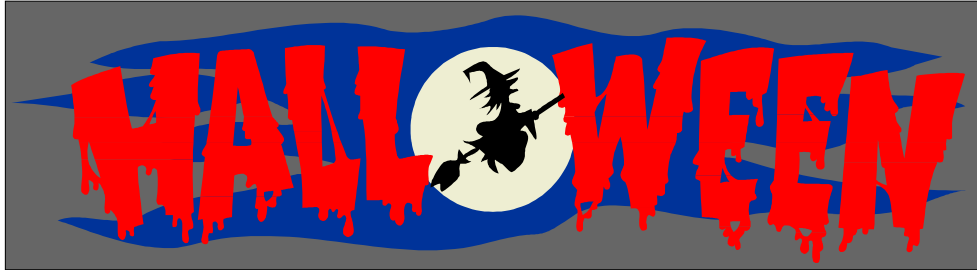
New People. George Howard attending first meeting. Found us on Meetup group. Said he is a writer who is published. Cut dinner short to be here.



Announcements: Rodger as host said "You all should know where your own bathroom is." Mike I said four different Smithsonian museums reopened using timed passes (no timed passes for Renwick.) Alex said publisher asked him to put together an anthology of Alternate History stories based on American folklore. SeaLionPress.co.uk. Carolyn got a T-shirt for working on Balticon as Zoom oversight. These things are working pretty well. Never too early to register at Discon III. Book recommendations included The Memory Palace by Yoko Ogawa and Robert Sheckley's The Status Civilization

Motion to adjourn. The Nay vote was loud enough to set off the dogs. Meeting adjourned at 9:42 at what passes for unanimous.

Attendance: Mark Roth, Sam Lubell, Sarah Mitchell, Greg Key, Jim Thomas, Zenlizard, Bill Lawhorn, Sam S. Eva Whitley, Cathy Green, Courtni, George Shaner, Ginny Schneider, Judy Newton, Carolyn Frank, Madeleine Yeh, Frances Holland, Sarah, Judy Scheiner, Mike Ikeda, Aaron, Bill A, Alex Wallace, Angela Pound, Bob MacIntosh, Mike Taylor.



Halloween 2020



After nearly 8 months of lockdown:

- Every day is Halloween since we are always wearing masks
- Every house is haunted by pale (from lack of sunlight) figures who never leave
- The real scary monsters are COVID-19 and other people who might be carrying the coronavirus
- Every day is a potential trick and staying alive is a treat
- Those who hand out candy to children brave enough to risk going near strangers invent elaborate ways to hand out candy at a distance.

The Eighth Month of March

The 10/3 First Friday in October began with President Bob calling it “The crazy year called 2020.” Sam L. read minutes. Sam S. said we had \$ which is \$ more than last year. He paid Capclave deposit for the next two years.

Capclave Real Soon. Bill said the program is getting final tweaks, adding bios and program descriptions. Need people to monitor rooms and con suite. Although under the weather, Paul is scrambling to get things done. Courtni posted link to volunteer. Sam S. said we have a mix of people. ## members. Bill said he is hoping for a rush of new members as get closer to the convention. Courtni for volunteers said there are ## dedicated volunteers and gaggle of floaters to help with Zoom, Discord, sit in readings and monitor Discord. Bill said we need people to serve as door guards and work in con suite to keep track of things. Zoom meetings in multiple breakout rooms. Smaller conversation areas. Haven’t determined hours for consuite but it won’t be 24 hours. Depends on the number of volunteers. First panels start at 9 am so want to open at 8 or 8:30. Kathi is trying to test stream platform for small press award ceremony after the meeting so wants to have a bunch of people to use her test link.

Cap Future. George had nothing to say. See how this year goes. Hope for a vaccine by this time next year. Rodger for Far future said happy to remain far future. “You don’t get out of it that easy,” said George.

Small Press award. Cathy said she is working with the other Kathi on how the ceremony could work in a virtual way. Six out of 8 finalist authors are on the program. Six or seven publishers/editors. Don’t want it to drag. Kathi suggested emailing for art associated with story to display while listing finalists. The award has been purchased.

Trustees. Elizabeth said WSFA exists and hopefully will continue to exist. Two days into October... actually the eighth month of March.

Sam L. gave the schedule for the Committee to talk SF. Sam S. said Paul not here but emailed to say that Subterranean Books ordered \$ worth of WSFA Press books. Sam L. said the March/April Journal had a tribute to Barry Newton and is online.

No old business.

New business: Sam L. said there is a Fifth Friday in October. He offered to host a Fifth Friday party on Zoom. Costumes welcome but not required.



Mohammed Sarwar was here for his first WSFA meeting. He has known about WSFA for some time but hadn’t been to a meeting. Sam L. said that Chessiecon will be an online convention. Carolyn said the Space X rocket made it up this time. Meeting adjourned 9:48.

Attendance: Sam L. Sam S. Mark, George S, Jim Thomas, Kathi Overton, Madeleine Yeh, Carolyn Frank, Cathy Green, Frances Holland, Sarah Mitchell, Mike I, G.S. Schneider, Judy Newton, Aaron & Angela Pound, Bob MacIntosh, Fabrice Guerrier, Alex Wallace, Rick Ellrod, Semkirk, Kim Hargan, Elizabeth Twitchell, Bill Lawhorn, Apurva, Courtni B, Ginny Schneider, Mohammed Sarwar, and Greg Key.

Review of *Middlegame* by Seanan McGuire

Reviewed by Sam Lubell



Middlegame is not your typical urban fantasy. For most of the book the fantastical element is low key, twins separated at birth who can communicate telepathically even though one is in Boston and the other in California. But there is a lot more going on that the twins only learn about through the course of the book and in the end the magic proves to be quite powerful.

At this stage in her career, McGuire should be beyond the old trick of starting a story (or novel in this case) with an exciting scene from the ending and then jumping back to tell most of the story as a flashback. But that is what she does, opening the book with “Book VII: The End” Timeline: five minutes too late, thirty seconds from the end of the world. Dodger is dying and Rodger is shocked by the amount of blood. At this

point the reader does not know who these characters are or anything but that Dodger could calculate the amount of blood on the floor while Rodger is not reassured by words the way Dodger is by numbers. Then the book cuts to a quote from an invented children's story *Over the Woodward Wall* by Deborah Baker, which is the source for the quest for the Impossible City mentioned throughout the book, and a quote from Asphodel Baker to the American Alchemical Congress. Later in *Middlegame*, the reader learns that the children's book was written as a way for Baker to communicate her alchemical ideas.

The alchemist Asphodel Baker has animated a man, James Reed, from pieces of the dead to prove her right and do what she cannot. In turn, he creates pairs of children who will enable him to control the universe through the Doctrine of Ethos divided into component parts of mathematics and language. Two of these children, mathematical genius Dodger in California and linguistics genius Rodger in Boston make telepathic contact as young children. The sections on the loneliness of gifted children ring true.

The two stop communicating at times, once when Reed's assistant pretends to be a doctor who threatens to remove Rodger from his home unless he gives up the delusion and once after Dodger attempts suicide. But then the two are reunited at college and start living up to their potential including the ability to turn back time. They are aided by Dodger's murderous roommate, a spy for Reed. Gradually, through attempts by Reed's assistants to interfere with their lives, they discover their alchemical origins and decide to use their powers to save the world.

Although the main characters are children for the first quarter of the book and graduate students for the remainder, this book does not have the normal concerns of YA fantasy – romantic triangles and proving oneself an adult. There is the self-discovery of what they can do, but this is more equivalent to a superhero learning his powers (that can happen at any age) rather than a young person trying to determine who he is as an adult.

Middlegame was a Hugo finalist and deserves the accolades as one of the best books of the year. If this is what Seanan McGuire can do when not writing one in one of her series, I hope she does many more of these experiments. Recommended.

12 Hours Away from the Official Start



The October 16th Third Friday meeting began with “It’s Meeting Time,” said president Bob. “Okay everybody. Welcome to the third Friday meeting in October.” Sam L. read the minutes from the last meeting. Sam S said the money was the same.

For Capclave, Bill said nothing to report. Has not started yet. We are 12 hours away from the official start. Kaffeeklatch information has been sent. Attendance ## paid, ## total. Bill authorized Kathi to increase 3rd webinar room to ##. Issue may be with con suite. Discord training. Social media from participants. People excited. Thank you to volunteers. It seems weird

not to actually be at Capclave. Tomorrow will be crazy. Sunday crazy. But after 6PM Sunday I'll be fine. We're leaving things so if have to be virtual George's year we will be planning further in advance. Know what to push on. I'm looking forward to seeing people. Beth Cato is getting up 3 am her time to do poetry panel and she's excited. For the most part I'll be in the con suite area. Sam L. asked about the link to award ceremony. Bill said it is not yet up, being tested. Will be on the front page. Capclave Facebook and Fast forward. Sam S said we have ## pre-registered for next year. Zenlizard has a game room schedule added. Alex asked about the schedule for discord moderators. Courtni said it is in the volunteers' folder in tech resources. Jim asked if programs will up on YouTube. Bill said no, only live. We did not get permission for recording with the exception of the award ceremony. Bill said he had to express how much work and help Kathi Overton, Rodger, and Paul did. Without their work and help Capclave would not be happening. We need people to step up. The amount of work they did cannot be sustained. We need to think about how we can help. We tend to rely on individuals who do it alone; and that's not a good choice for the club. WSFA has 60 years of con running. For this to continue we need younger people. Let's have fun as well as some work.

George for Capclave Future. I've not been useful to you. But if there's something I can do let me know. Not much has changed since we talked. Need to nail down if Eric Flint still wants to do this. Need to see if old school or virtual again. Mark recommended waiting a week due to recovery from Ring of Fire Convention. Bill said I have some ideas to talk about after this Capclave. George said Offer is there. It's his to decline.

Rodger said Capclave Far Future has nothing to report. If it did, I would be too frazzled to report it.

Trustees: Courtni said See you this weekend.

Paul, as webmaster and chicken master said one third of his chicken coup is up. Already oversubscribed. More chickens than space. Trying to keep up with website updates. Pulls from Zambia this weekend every 15 minutes automatically. Bill said he should lock it up after this weekend so it is preserved. Paul said after this weekend would go to 2021 which is invisible. Bill asked if the books purchased by Subterranean were all Aliette De Bodard. Paul said it was a bunch of titles. He updated the WSFA Calendar to say meetings are virtual for the rest of the year <and considerably beyond.> Paul said he will post links to the award ceremony when his bribe of his weight in dark chocolate arrives.



Sam L. gave schedule for the committee to discuss SF. Small press award ceremony is at 6. It is the usual format but everyone has to bring their own cocktail and cake. Bill will MC because Cathy's Internet can only handle a few people. She will have a press release ready to drop. 7 of 8 finalists will be present. Grateful to Kathi Overton.

Entertivities. People said to vote. Fiyahcon is this weekend.

Old business. Fifth Friday, Sam L. is hosting. Bill said Capclave Code of Conduct has been approved and is now in place. No new business.

New people. Cee Briscow found us through the Maryland Writer's Association.



Announcements: Shelia Williams is ghost hosting on Charlie Stross's blog. Judy Newton wants to thank Sam L. "for the lovely tribute to Barry in the WSFA Journal." She encourages everyone to go and see it. Bill said he and Sarah got married at Capclave 10 years ago so this is his 10th wedding anniversary observed. Meeting adjourned 9:54.

Attendance: Ginny Schneider, Frances Holland, Bill A., Judy Newton, Fabrice Guerrier, Cathy Green, Sam L., Sarah Mitchell, Sam S. Carolyn Frank, Madeleine Yeh, Jim Thomas, Deirde, Michael I, Rodger, Mark, Robert Rasthogi, Aaron & Angela Pound, Elizabeth Twitchell, Jim Thomas, Alex Wallace, Bob MacIntosh, Zenlizard, Courtni Burlson, Bill Lawhorn, Paul, Gayle, and Kim Hargan.

