Discussion questions for Monday November 19
Stardust by John Gribbin and the chemical evolution of the universe

1. Where do Hydrogen and Helium (the most abundant elements in the universe) come from? (Chapter 6) In very general terms, where do all of the other elements come from?

2. Qualitatively, what is the CNO cycle and what is its role in the production of Nitrogen (an element upon which life depends)? In what stars does the CNO cycle occur? (Chapter 5).

3. What is the overall role of stars like the Sun in producing the elements upon which life is based? How are those elements spread into space? (Chapter 8)

4. What is the difference between a Supernova Type I and a Supernova Type II? What are the different and similar roles that these types of supernovae play in the production of elements (for example Iron and Oxygen) in the universe? (Chapter 8)

5. Discuss the meaning and implications of the famous Carl Sagan quote “We are made of starstuff.”