



# Lambda Sci-Fi DC Area Gaylaxians



PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044



(202) 232-3141 - Issue #238 - January 2010

E-MAIL: info@lambdasf.org WEBSITE: http://www.lambdasf.org/



## The LSF Book Discussion Group

If you're interested in lively discussions of F&SF books (with an emphasis on elements of interest to the LGBT community), we invite you to join the LSF Book Discussion Group. Each month, we conduct fascinating roundtable discussions of works by significant F&SF authors.

The LSF Book Discussion Group generally meets on the 4th Thursday of every month, starting at 7:00 PM, at Peter & Rob's home: 1425 "S" St., NW - for directions or more details, call 202-483-6369. The next meeting (a combined November/December meeting) will be held on December 3rd.

Here are the details on the next couple of discussion meetings:

**Jan. 28th** (back to the regular 4th Thursday schedule) - *Havemercy*, by Jaida Jones & Danielle Bennett; moderator: Rob.

**Feb. 25th** - *Palimpsest*, by Catherynne Valente; moderator: ?

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## LSF Blue Moon New Year's Eve Video Potluck Party

announced by Peter Knapp

Come celebrate New Year's Eve (and a blue moon) with Lambda Sci-Fi at Rob and Peter's home in DC. This annual event will give us a chance to both recover from the hectic holiday season and to party some more in anticipation of the New Year. Here are the details on how to join in on the fun!

**Where:** The home of Rob & Peter - 1425 "S" Street NW, Washington, DC 20009. For directions, see:

<http://www.lambdasf.org/lsf/club/PeterRob.html>

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## Annual LSF Book (et al) Exchange at Jan. 10th Meeting



As promised in last month's newsletter, here's a short reminder about Lambda Sci-Fi's *twentieth* annual book (et al) exchange, which will occur at the upcoming Jan. 10th meeting! All LSF members — and visitors, guests, attendees, etc. — are invited to participate in this "blind exchange."

In case you've never participated in one of these before (or in case you've forgotten), here's how it works:

(1) Go out and purchase a copy of your "favorite" science fiction, fantasy, or horror book. (*NOTE:* Over the years, LSF has expanded the concept of "book" to include comics, videotapes, "books on tape," etc. If you want — or if you're feeling particularly wealthy — you can even make it several favorite books or whatever.)

(2) Insert a piece of paper (or a bookmark) with your name on it. (That's so whoever eventually ends up with the item will know who it's from and will get to know a little more about you — at least to know what one of your "favorites" is.)

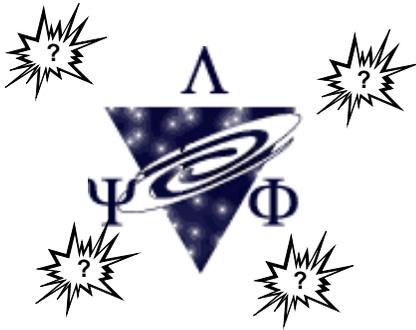
(3) Wrap up the exchange item, but don't put any identifying marks or (continued on page 2)

## January LSF Meeting

The next LSF meeting will be held on the **Sunday, January 10th**. The meeting will be held at James Crutchfield's apartment (1414 17th St. NW, #413), near Dupont Circle. The business meeting will begin (as usual) at 1:30 PM; and the social meeting will begin at 2:00 PM. **Remember:** The social meeting will feature the Annual LSF Book (et al) Exchange — see announcement on this page. Please bring some munchies or soft drinks, if you can. See you there!

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**WHAT'S INSIDE?** December Minutes - MIA? (pg. 2); Lambda Rising to Close in Early January (pg. 2); Last Two David Tennant Episodes of *Dr. Who* (pg. 2); *Centuries Ago and Very Fast* (book review - pg. 3);



**December Minutes - MIA?**  
sayeth Ye Olde Editor

Seems as how the minutes of the December 13th LSF meeting have gone MIA. Well, maybe not... but they don't seem to be available in time for me to get this issue of the newsletter finished. (Only a short window of opportunity, what with the Holidays fast upon us!)

At any rate, I'll just pass along the most significant news from that cold-and-rainy day. The annual LSF elections were held—all the current slate of officers were voted back into office by acclamation, as follows:

- Speaker** - Teresa
- Treasurer** - Rob
- Membership Coordinator** - Peter
- Secretary** - Scott

So, Happy Holidays, y'all! Hope to see y'all at the LSF Blue Moon New Year's Eve Party! Λ Ψ Φ



**LSF Book Exchange**  
continued from page 1

anything on the wrapped package to say who it's from. (That's to make sure it's a "blind" exchange — *i.e.* no one is supposed to know who it's from at first. And, by the way, all of that leftover Holiday wrapping paper should come in handy here!)

(4) At the meeting, add your wrapped exchange item to the pile with all the others; and you'll be assigned a number. (Only one exchange item — *i.e.* one package — per person, please!)

(5) When your number is called, you pick one of the packages from the pile. (And when you open it up, you'll find out who it's from.) See how easy?

I can hardly wait to see what shows up *this* year! Λ Ψ Φ

**Lambda Rising to Close in Early January**  
info passed along  
by Greg McElhatton



I know a lot of members shop at Lambda Rising for their books, so I thought you'd want to know about the bad news...

Lambda Rising, the bookstore that has served serving the LGBT community in DC for 35 years, is closing its Dupont Circle store, as well as its remaining out-of-town store in Rehoboth Beach in January.

Deacon Maccubbin, the store's founder and co-owner, told *D.C. Agenda* (the replacement for *The Blade*) in an exclusive interview that he plans to retire soon and that he and co-owner Jim Bennett (his domestic partner of 32 years) decided they would rather close the stores than sell them to a new owner who might change their focus and mission. Λ Ψ Φ

**New Year's Eve Party**  
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**Date:** Thurs., Dec. 31, 2009  
**Time:** The doors will open at 6:00 PM. The potluck dinner and the videos will begin in the 7:00 – 7:30 PM range. We'll toast in the New Year with champagne, sparkling wine, and/or sparkling cider.

**What to Bring:** Bring your favorite genre Blu-rays, DVDs, and/or digital AVI files on a USB drive (science fiction, fantasy, horror). Attendees will vote on which movies will be shown at the party. (There will be different concurrent "tracks.")

It's a potluck meal, so bring along something scrumptious to eat. Feel free to bring some appetizers (veggies, chips, etc.), a main course item (enough to serve at least 4-5 people), dessert (of course!), and/or nonalcoholic drinks (both regular and diet). For the New Year's toast only, it's okay to indulge. So bring some sparkling wine or sparkling cider (or champagne, if you're feeling generous) to toast the New Year. The hosts request that no one drink alcohol during the party other than at midnight.

For more information:  
call 202-483-6369 or send email to:  
Peter.P.Knapp@gmail.com Λ Ψ Φ



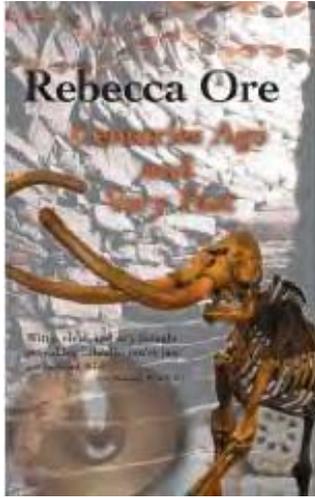
**Last Two David Tennant Episodes of Doctor Who**  
info passed along  
by Peter Knapp



*Doctor Who* "The End of Time, Part One" premieres Saturday, December 26th at 9 PM on BBC AMERICA. "The End of Time, Part Two" premieres a week later: Saturday, January 2nd, at 9 PM. Check out the details at <http://www.bbcamerica.com/content/123/doctor-who-the-end-of-time-part-one.jsp>

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**Centuries Ago  
and Very Fast**  
by Rebecca Ore  
(Aqueduct Press, 2009)  
a short review by Carl



Rebecca Ore has been writing really good SF for a couple of decades. Her works have been nominated for the John Campbell Award (1988) and the Philip K. Dick Award (1988 and 1989); and her short story “Accelerated Grimace” was short-listed for the James Tiptree Award (1998). I heard somebody talk about *Centuries Ago and Very Fast* at a panel discussion at Worldcon in Montreal this year – and then I actually managed to find it in the con’s lamentably-small Dealers Room. I’m certainly glad I did.

*Centuries Ago and Very Fast* is a collection of 13 linked short stories (a couple of which have been previously published). Put ‘em all together and they tell you about the life and adventures of Vel, a gay man born way back in the Paleolithic Era (*i.e.* the Old Stone Age). His uniquely powerful immune system has allowed this former mammoth-hunter to live an ageless and healthy life for about 15,000 years now (give or take a couple of centuries); and he has fostered an extended family (descended through his long-dead sister) down the millennia. He also seems to have the ability to jump back and forth through time at will.

As with all the best SF, the story’s SFnal trappings primarily serve to enrich the background for Ore’s examination of the human condition over time. And, because of Vel’s sexuality,

**Art Robbery at  
Frazetta Museum**

info passed along by Kendall  
“Frazetta Watch” Bullen

On December 9th, Alfonso Frank Frazetta (52-year-old son of the famous F&SF artist) was arrested on charges of stealing approximately \$20 million worth of painting from the family-run art museum (which contains paintings by Frank Frazetta). Frazetta Jr. was charged with burglary, theft by unlawful taking, and criminal trespass.

According to the police report, Frazetta Jr., with the help of two men (including one operating a backhoe), broke through the museum door and took about 90 paintings. He loaded the paintings in his trailer and vehicle but was apprehended before he could flee the scene. The elder Frazetta, who is suffering from dementia, was in Florida at the time of the alleged break-in.

According to the police affidavit, Frank Jr. told the responding trooper

Ore also examines the *gay* human condition down the centuries. In “The Queen of the Vid,” Vel picks up a flamboyant Puerto Rican drag queen in NYC in June 1969 and then has a front-row seat to witness the Stonewall Riots. In the title story, Vel visits a London “molly house” in 1725 – and the reader gets a good idea of just how dangerous things could be for homosexuals in the early 18th Century. The entire sequence of stories is, in fact, framed and interspersed by scenes of Vel’s developing relationship with Thomas in present-day America. It’s a tender, poignant – and sometimes raunchy – love story that begins when Thomas first meets Vel, then continues as Thomas learns about Vel’s incredible secret and eventually must face the fact that he is a mortal man who has fallen in love with an immortal. You might even get a little misty when you read “At a Time of Some Difference.”

I’m definitely nominating *Centuries Ago and Very Fast* for the Gay-lactic Spectrum Awards this year. Pick up a copy yourself and I’m sure you’ll see why.



Frank Frazetta Sr. in His Younger Days

he had Frank Sr.’s permission to enter his museum “by any means” and move all the paintings to a storage facility. The trooper called the Frazetta Sr., who told the law enforcement official he had not given his son permission to either be in the museum or remove paintings from it.

Frank Jr.’s wife said the incident was the result of family infighting that began after the death of Frank Sr.’s wife a few months ago. According to Lori, Frank Jr. and Ellie ran the family business until Ellie’s death a few months ago — when the infighting over Frank Sr.’s paintings began. [Ye olde editor sayeth: “WTF?!”]

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There comes a moment in the day, when you have written your pages in the morning, attended to your correspondence in the afternoon, and have nothing further to do. Then comes the hour when you are bored; that's the time for sex.

-- H.G. Wells --

quoted in  
*If Ignorance Is Bliss,  
Why Aren't There More Happy People?*  
(*Smart Quotes for Dumb Times*)  
by John Lloyd & John Mitchinson  
(Harmony Books, 2008)

**\*\*INFORMATION ABOUT LAMBDA SCI-FI: DC AREA GAYLAXIANS\*\***

**Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians** (LSF) is an organization for gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgendered (GLBT) people, and their friends who are interested in science fiction, fantasy, horror and related genres in all forms (SF/F/H). LSF's primary goals are to have fun, to provide a community, and to:

- promote SF/F/H, with particular attention to materials of interest to GLBT people and their friends;
- provide forums for GLBT people and their friends to share their interest in SF/F/H;
- promote the presence of GLBT elements within SF/F/H and within fandom; and
- promote SF/F/H within the GLBT community.

Annual membership fees are \$10, for which you will receive an e-mailed this monthly newsletter and a membership directory. (Hard copies of the newsletter cost an additional \$15 per year.) Newsletter submissions are always welcome.

Meetings are usually held on the second Sunday of each month at a private residence. But the next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held on the **Sunday, January 10th**, at James Crutchfield's apartment (1414 17th St. NW, #413), near Dupont Circle. The business meeting will begin at 1:30 PM; and the social meeting will begin at 2:00 PM. Please bring some munchies or soft drinks, if you can. Hope to see you there!

Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians is an affiliate of **the Gaylactic Network**, an international organization for gay people and their friends who are interested in science-fiction and fantasy.



## Con Calendar

by Carl



February 12-14, 2010 **FARPOINT** ("Baltimore's Fandom Family Reunion"). Crowne Plaza Baltimore North (Timonium, MD). Guest: Mira Furlan ("Rousseau" from *Lost*; "DeLenn" from *Babylon 5*); and more to be announced! Pre-registration membership for the weekend: \$70. (Daily rates available.) Register on-line at: [www.farpointcon.com](http://www.farpointcon.com) -- or make your check payable to "Farpoint Enterprises" and send registration info to: Farpoint Enterprises, Inc., 11708 Troy Ct., Waldorf, MD 20601. Website: [www.farpointcon.com](http://www.farpointcon.com) E-mail: [trekcontact@comcast.net](mailto:trekcontact@comcast.net)

April 9-11, 2010 **RAVENCON 2010**. Holiday Inn Kroger Center (Richmond, VA). Author GoH: Rachel Caine; Artist GoH: R. Cat; Gaming GoH: Steve Long. Membership: \$35 until 12/31/2009; \$35 from 1/1/2010 to 4/1/2010; \$40 at the door. Registration form available on-line. Make checks payable to "Ravencon 2010" and send to: Ravencon 2010, 3502 Fernmoss Court, Charlotte, NC 28269. Website: [www.ravencon.com](http://www.ravencon.com)

May 28-31, 2010 **BALTICON 44**. Marriott's Hunt Valley Inn (Hunt Valley, MD). Author GoH: Tanya Huff; Artist GoH: Howard Tayler; 2009 Compton Crook Award Winner: Paul Melko; 2010 Compton Crook Award Winner: TBA. Membership: \$48 until 2/28/2010; \$53 from 3/1/2010 until 4/30/2010; \$60 after 4/30/2010 and at the door. Registration: [registration@balticon.org](mailto:registration@balticon.org) Website: [www.balticon.org](http://www.balticon.org) E-mail: [balticoninfo@balticon.org](mailto:balticoninfo@balticon.org)

August 5-8, 2010 **RECONSTRUCTION** (NASFiC 2010). Raleigh Convention Center; Raleigh Marriott City Center; Sheraton Raleigh Hotel (Raleigh, NC). GoH: Eric Flint; AGoH: Brad Foster. Membership: currently \$95 (will go up!). Make checks payable to "ReConStructure" and send to: ReConStructure, PO Box 31706, Raleigh, NC 27622 Website: [www.reconstructionsf.org](http://www.reconstructionsf.org)

October 29-31, 2010 **GAYLAXICON 2010**. Marriott Chateau Champlain (Montreal, QC, Canada). More details as they become available. Website: [www.gaylaxicon2010.org](http://www.gaylaxicon2010.org)

Aug. 17-21, 2011 **RENOVATION** (69th World Science Fiction Convention). Reno-Sparks Convention Center (Reno, Nevada). Guests of Honor: Ellen Asher, Charles N. Brown, Tim Powers, Boris Vallejo. Membership: \$140 until 4.30/2010. Website: [www.renovationsf.org](http://www.renovationsf.org) Membership queries: [memberships@renovationsf.org](mailto:memberships@renovationsf.org)

