



# Lambda Sci-Fi

## DC Area Gaylaxians

PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044

(202) 232-3141 - Issue # 282 – September 2013

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### 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 round-table discussions of works by significant F&SF authors.

The LSF Book Discussion Group usually 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 book discussion will be held on **September 26th**.

Here are the details for the next several book discussions:

**Sept. 26** - *11/23/63*, by Stephen King; moderator: Keith.

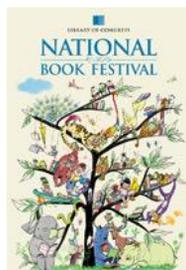
**Oct. 24** - *The Summer Prince*, by Alaya Dawn Johnson; moderator: Claire.

**Dec. 5** (combined Nov./Dec. discussion) - *The Yiddish Policemen's Union*, by Michael Chabon; moderator: Logan. **ΛΨΦ**

### Upcoming Events of Interest to LSFers

reported by Peter Knapp

Two upcoming events may be of interest to LSFers: The Maryland Renaissance Festival and The National Book Festival. Perhaps some enthusiastic person(s) will organize an LSF outing to one or both events?



The **Maryland Renaissance Festival** will be held on the following weekends: Aug. 24, 25, 31, Sept. 1, 2, 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29, and Oct. 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20. The Renaissance Festival is located in Crownsville, MD. Set in a fictional 16th-century English village named Revel Grove, the festival is spread over 25 acres of woods and fields. It is the second largest fair in the United States.

There are more than 130 craft shops and 42 food outlets. More than 1,300 participants populate the village: 400 work directly for the

company that runs the fair, 700 work for the other vendors, and 200 are performers on stages or characters throughout the village. The Festival features eight major theaters, four smaller stages in taverns, a children's area, and a jousting tiltyard with seating for 3,000.

More info can be found at:

<http://marylandrenaissancefestival.com/>

The Library of Congress is holding the annual **National Book Festival** on The National Mall on Saturday and Sunday, September 21 – 22. Many authors of working in various genres will be attending the event.

Of particular interest to LSFers are the Graphic Novel and Science Fiction authors who will be presenting and signing on Sunday, Sept. 22: Lynda Barry, Gilbert Hernandez, Jaime Hernandez, Elizabeth Moon, Fred Chao, and Jonathan Hennessey. (Check website for times.)

More info can be found at:

<http://loc.gov/bookfest/>

# ΛΨΦ

### September LSF Meeting

The next LSF meeting will be held on **Sunday, September 8th**. The meeting will once again be held at Peter and Rob's home, **1425 "S" Street NW, Washington, DC**. The business meeting will begin at 1:30 PM and the social meeting at 2:00 PM. Please also bring some munchies or soft drinks, if you can. Hope to see you there!

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### What's Inside?

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Page 4: Info About Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians & Con Calendar

## Minutes of the August LSF Meeting taken by Scott

In a continuation of last month's brief discussion about Arisa and Boskone (Boston area SF conventions), Carl described the differences between a "sercon" (serious convention) and a "party con." He also explained such "fanspeak" terms as FIAWOL ("fandom is a way of life") and FIJAGH ("fandom is just a g—damned hobby"). Finally, he announced that there's a new ALA bookmark design featuring the cast of *The Big Bang Theory*, and he'll be ordering a batch of them to hand out at next year's Pride Day table.

And where is Peter, to talk about the selection of the new actor to take on the role of Doctor Who, Peter Capaldi? [Ed. note: He was on vacation in California.]

David commented with great enthusiasm that SyFy Channel's *Face-Off* series has returned. Is it true that one contestant did not know how to use a sewing machine? And it was noted that the new series *Heroes of Cosplay* starts this week, although it's not clear what the show is about. David also described the plot of *Sharknado* – no, really. He later described *Frozen*, an upcoming animated Disney film, loosely based on Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tale "The Snow Queen."

Carl passed around an *Out Magazine* interview about actor Chris Pine, as well an article about *Firefly*'s Sean Maher and his role in Joss Whedon's new Shakespearean film *Much Ado About Nothing*.

What genre movies are coming out soon? *KickAss II*, *Mortal Instrument: City of Bones*, *World's End*, *Riddick*, and *Gravity*, what else?

A graphic novel based on George Lucas's original concepts for "The Star Wars" is in production.

Everyone is excited about the upcoming *Ender's Game* movie; but no one wants to pay to see it, lest its homophobic author Orson Scott Card might gain financially.

DreamWorks is developing a movie (animated?) about the charac-

## The Next Doctor (Who?) by Peter Knapp

On August 4th at 2:00 PM, the BBC aired a live special that introduced the next Doctor. The new actor will appear during the 2013 Christmas special, as Matt Smith (the 11th Doctor) regenerates into... Peter Capaldi. Capaldi's first full episode will be shown some time in 2014.

For those who are not familiar with him, this is what it says at: <http://www.imdb.com/>

Born 14 April 1958, in Glasgow, Scotland, Peter Capaldi attended drama classes and was accepted into the Glasgow School of Art. While studying there he secured his breakthrough role in *Local Hero* (1983).

He was the lead singer of a punk rock band, Dreamboys, which included Craig Ferguson as the drummer and Temple Clark as the bassist.

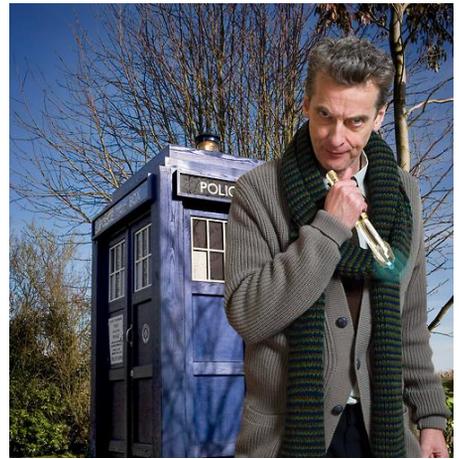
He played a character called "W.H.O. Doctor" in *World War Z* (2013) before being cast in the lead role for *Doctor Who*.

ters Mr. Peabody and Sherman, from the old *Rocky and Bullwinkle* TV show. A Superman/Batman movie is in production; it will apparently maintain continuity with the most recent Superman movie.

Dan noted that DC Comics has stated that its current target market is now 45-year-olds, not kids. He also confirmed that the villain in the upcoming *Avengers II* movie will be Ultron (who won't be a creation of Hank Pym, since a separate movie about Ant Man – aka Hank Pym – is in the works). Meanwhile, Teresa is excited that the series *Once Upon a Time* will feature a mermaid.

James briefly described *Midnight Riot*, the latest novel in the "River of London" series by British author Ben Aaronovitch novel: a series of novels about a detective learning to become a wizard. (Note: Aaronovitch also wrote a *Dr. Who* script/novelization: *Remembrance of the Daleks*.)

There will be a third *Tomorrow People* TV series – about kids who realize that they are the next generation of human evo-



Capaldi is the only Oscar winner to play the Doctor (though he won the Oscar not for acting, but for best animated short film). He is the second actor to play the Doctor who has played a previous role in the show (the first actor being Colin Baker).

Capaldi is the third Scottish actor to portray the Doctor in the TV series, following Sylvester McCoy (who played the 7th Doctor) and David Tennant (who played the 10th Doctor).  
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lution. Translation: they have assorted super-powers.

Upcoming LSF Book Discussion Groups: August – V. Brice-land's *The Glassmaker's Daughter*; September – Stephen King's *11/22/63* (which includes some time travel elements).  
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Reading computer manuals  
without the hardware  
is as frustrating as  
reading sex manuals  
without the software.

– Arthur C. Clarke –  
*The Odyssey File*

quoted in  
*The Mammoth Book of Zingers,  
Quips, and One-Liners*  
edited by Geoff Tibballs  
(Carroll & Graf Publishers, 2006)



## Jack Vance 1916 – 2013

I learned at PulpFest that Jack Vance, one of F&SF's Great Ones, had passed away. Vance was an active writer of science fiction, fantasy, and mystery for almost 60 years – even after becoming legally blind in the 1980s. He wrote somewhere between 60 and 90 works – my sources aren't completely certain. In a 2009 profile in *The New York Times Magazine*, he was referred to as “one of American literature's most distinctive and undervalued voices.”

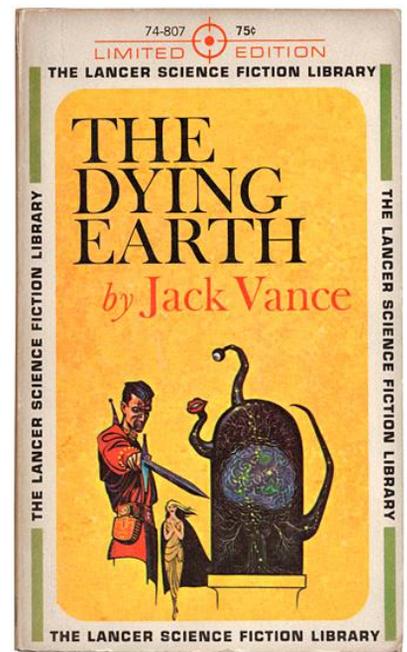
Vance's first published story was “The World-Thinker”, which appeared in the Summer 1945 issue of *Thrilling Wonder Stories*. But he didn't establish himself as a full-time writer until the 1970s. In the meantime, he worked at such trades as bell-hop, canner, gold dredger, electrician in a naval shipyard, rigger, surveyor, ceramicist, and carpenter. During six years at UC Berkeley,

Vance studied mining engineering, physics, journalism, and English – and published jazz reviews for *The Daily Californian*.

It's difficult to point to any particular Vance story as “typical” of his works. The stories he wrote for the Pulp in the 1940s and 1950s covered many science fiction themes, with a tendency to emphasize mystery and biological themes rather than technical themes. (He almost never wrote about robots.) Many of his stories are comic. He was also an original member of the Swordsmen and Sorcerers' Guild of America, a loose-knit group of heroic fantasy authors founded in the 1960s to promote the sword-and-sorcery sub-genre.

Vance is probably most famous for a collection of linked stories set in a far-future Earth, when the sun (as well as human civilization) is dying, and magic and weird science exist side-by-side: collected as *The Dying Earth* in 1950. (In many respects, I think Vance set the tone for “the New Weird” long before that F&SF sub-genre was conceived in the 1990s.)

Some of my other favorites from his SF works include: *Big Planet* (1957), *The Languages of Pao* (1958), the “Demon Princes” space opera novels (*The Star King*, 1964; *The Killing Machine*, 1964; *The Palace of Love*, 1967; *The Face*, 1979; and *The Book of Dreams*, 1981), *Ports of Call* (1998), and *Lurulu* (his final novel, 2004). His most notable Fantasy novels are probably his “Lyonesse Trilogy”: *Suldrun's Garden* (1983), *The Green*



*Pearl* (1985), and *Madouc* (1989).

Vance won numerous awards and honors for his works. He won three Hugos, for the SF novels *The Dragon Masters* (1963) and *The Last Castle* (1967), and for his memoir *This is Me, Jack Vance!* (2010) – and a Nebula Award for *The Last Castle*, too. He received the World Fantasy Award in 1990 for *Lyonesse: Madouc*. He won an Edgar Award in 1961 for the best first mystery novel, *The Man in the Cage*. Vance was given a World Fantasy Award for Life Achievement in 1984; the Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers of America made him its 14th Grant Master in 1997; and he was inducted into the Science Fiction Hall of Fame in 2001.

Beauty is a luster which love bestows to guile the eye.  
Therefore it may be said that only when the brain is  
without love will the eye look and see no beauty.

-- Jack Vance, *The Dying Earth* (1950) --

quoted in *Science Fiction Quotations: From the Inner Mind to the Outer Limits*  
edited by Gary Westfahl (Yale University Press, 2005)

## \* \* 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 copy of 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. The next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held on Sunday, **September 8th, at Peter and Rob's home, 1425 "S" Street NW, Washington, DC.** 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



Sept. 19-21, 2013 **8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MID-ATLANTIC NOSTALGIA CONVENTION.** Hunt Valley Inn (Hunt Valley, MD). Guests include: Larry Storch (*F-Troop*), Julie Newmar ("Catwoman" on *Batman*), Johnny Crawford (The Rifleman), Ed Asner, Mamie van Doren. Membership: \$15 per day per person (pre-pay online in advance at the con's website for a discount).  
Website: [www.midatlanticnostalgiaconvention.com](http://www.midatlanticnostalgiaconvention.com)

Oct. 11-13, 2013 **CAPCLAVE 2013.** Hilton Washington DC North (Gaithersburg, MD). Guest of Honor George R.R. Martin; Editor GoH: Sharyn November; Artist GoH: Steve Stiles. Membership: \$60 August - September; \$70 at the door. Make checks payable to "Capclave" and send to: Capclave 2013 Registration, c/o Sam Scheiner, 1518 North Edison St., Arlington, VA 22205-2638. On-line registration also available at [Capclave.org](http://Capclave.org).  
Website: [Capclave.org](http://Capclave.org) Info: [info@capclave.org](mailto:info@capclave.org) Twitter: [twitter.com/capclave](https://twitter.com/capclave)

Nov. 29 - Dec. 1, 2013 **DARKOVER GRAND COUNCIL 36.** (A very LGBT-friendly convention.) Crowne Plaza Baltimore (Timonium, MD). GoH and Artist GoH: TBA; Special Guest: Katherine Kurtz. Membership: \$50 thru 11/1; \$55 thereafter and at the door. Make checks payable to "Armida Council" and send to: Armida Council, PO Box 7203, Silver Spring, MD 20907  
Website: [www.darkovercon.org](http://www.darkovercon.org)

April 25-27, 2014 **RAVENCON 2014.** Doubletree by Hilton Richmond Midlothian (Richmond, VA). Author Guest of Honor: Elizabeth Bear. Membership: \$35 until 12/31/2013; \$40 before 4/11/2014; \$45 at the door.  
More information available online: <http://www.ravencon.com>

Aug. 14-18, 2014 **LONCON 3: The 72nd World Science Fiction Convention.** (London, UK). Guests: Iain Banks, John Clute, Robin Hobb. Membership (currently): \$170 (ages 26+); \$110 (ages 16-25) - prices will go UP. Make checks payable to "Loncon3" and send to: London in 2014, #110, 530 Showers Drive, Ste. 7, Mountain View, CA 94040  
Website: [www.Loncon3.org](http://www.Loncon3.org) Info: [info@Loncon3.org](mailto:info@Loncon3.org)

July 3-6, 2014 (tentative dates) **GAYLAXICON 2014.** Hotel TBD (Boston, MA). "When the stars are right over Boston!" Membership: \$50 thru 8/31/2013. Make checks payable to "Gaylaxian Science Fiction Society" and send to: GSFS c/o Registration, PO Box 425662, Cambridge, MA 02142

Info: [Questions2014@Gaylaxicon.org](mailto:Questions2014@Gaylaxicon.org)

On-line Registration: [Registration2014@Gaylaxicon.org](mailto:Registration2014@Gaylaxicon.org)