



Lambda Sci-Fi

DC Area Gaylaxians

PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044
(202) 232-3141 - Issue # 283 – October 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 **October 24th**.

Here are the details for the next several book discussions:

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.

Jan. 23, 2014 – *Ghost Spin*, by Chris Moriarty; moderator: Randy K.

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LSFers Remember Barrett Brick 1954 - 2013

From James Crutchfield:

Months before I even meet Barrett Brick or knew his name, I knew a lot about the person he was. Shortly after Barrett started working at the FCC, I heard that one manager was upset about a new employee who had put up a "Someone In Your Life Is Gay" poster in his office. I realized this was a person comfortable with who he was and willing to fight for what he believed. Traits that would

define Barrett over the 30+ years I knew him. I got to know Barrett through the Gay Activist Alliance (GAA) and a monthly lunch in DuPont Circle that some FCC gays created in an effort to bring FCC gay employees together.

Over the next 30 years our activism would take us in different directions, but our interests would often overlap. Barrett was very active

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<<<<< October LSF Meeting >>>>>

The next LSF meeting will be held on **Sunday, October 13th**. 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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Minutes of the September LSF Meeting

taken by Scott

Business Meeting

The meeting started with the traditional name circle.

Rob advised that the cost of the annual Pride table, website hosting, etc. exceeds the income from the LSF membership fees (Pride table - \$250; newsletter printing \$70-\$80/year; PO box - \$100/year; website - \$100/year). Rather than raising dues or newsletter subscription prices, Rob said that he would have a voluntary donation bucket at LSF events to help defray expenses.

Peter advised that Barret is no longer interacting with the *Washington Blade* and *Metro Weekly* to advertise upcoming LSF events. Peter asked for a volunteer to assume responsibility to disseminate LSF event info to the *Blade* and *MW*.

Social Meeting

Barrett is now in hospice care. He is taking visitors. For information about visiting him, please contact Peter or Rob.

Peter reported that nine LSFers attended a performance of *Potted Potter – The Unauthorized Harry Experience – A Parody*. It was reported to be hilarious and included scattered British pop cultural references. The dragon in Book 4 appeared in the play.

Teresa reported that DC Comics is not allowing Batwoman marry her fiancée. The rumor is that the DC Comics editorial staff does not want its superheroes to be married. Peter said that Aquaman is the only superhero who is married.

Rob reported that this year's attendees at WorldCon (San Antonio) were nearly all white. It is now a mainstream conversation to promote diversity in fandom, genre characters, etc.

TV news: The TV series *Once Upon a Time in Wonderland* is coming this fall. New genre TV show this season: *Tomorrow People*, which Rob is not excited about. During a discussion about Emmy awards for genre TV shows, it was determined that *Third Rock from the Sun* won the

Doctor Who 50th Anniversary Special Viewing Party

updated by Peter Knapp

The BBC has struck a deal with its distributors to broadcast the Doctor Who 50th Anniversary Special (*The Day of the Doctor*) around the world in 200 countries simultaneously! That means we'll be watching the special in the early afternoon instead of the evening. What I announced as a tentative pre-show may now be the post-show.

In addition, if the docudrama, *An Adventure in Space and Time*, starring David Bradley as William Hartnell (the first Doctor) is aired on or before the November 23, I'll add the movie to the lineup. In addition, it has been suggested that I encourage people to come in costume. So be it! Come as your favorite character or just wear a Who-inspired T-shirt.

When: Saturday, November 23, 2013

Where: 1425 "S" St NW, WDC 20009

Details: TBA

most Emmys: Outstanding Actor, Comedy Series (John Lithgow, three times); Outstanding Supporting Actress, Comedy Series (Kristin Johnson, two times); Outstanding Choreography, Outstanding Costume Design-Series, and Outstanding Sound Mixing-Comedy Series or Special ("A Nightmare on Dick Street", 1997). (Eight Emmys out of 31 nominations.)

Movies: Rob said he enjoyed *Elysium*; and Wes said it took a few days for *Elysium* to grow on him. Rob loved *Pacific Rim*: he said it passes "the Bechdel test". Look it up in Wikipedia:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bechdel_test

Rob reminded everyone about upcoming LSF book discussions: Stephen King's *11/22/63* (Sept. 26), Alaya Dawn Jonson's *The Summer Prince* (Oct. 24), and Michael Chabon's *The Yiddish Policemen's Union* (Dec. 5, combined Nov./Dec. discussion).

Jonathan reported that Marvel has created a "Trask Industries. (Trask Industries is, the group that creates the Sentinels, which are part of the next X-Men movie.) Check it out:



David Bradley as William Hartnell

Time: TBA (Five of Hours of Viewing Mixed in Within Several Hours of Celebration)

Tentative Schedule (Order and Time TBA):

An Adventure in Space and Time (90 Minutes)

The Day of the Doctor (75 Minutes)

The Curse of the Fatal Death (23 Minutes)

The Five Doctors (90 Minutes)

Time Crash (8 Minutes)

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<http://www.trask-industries.com/#/home>

Arne suggested that he would like to see everyone's five favorite genre books. Marshal suggested Alfred Bester's *The Demolished Man*. Rob suggested Arne send the question in to the LSF discussion line.

Rob reminded everyone that he and Peter will be hosting a 50th anniversary *Doctor Who* event in November. He will make sure to have a detailed announcement for the LSF newsletter and discussion line.

Rob advised that SF authors Frederick Pohl and A.C. Crispin both passed away this week.

David cruised through his iPhone to advise everyone of upcoming F&SF genre movies this season: *Insidious II*, *Gravity*, *Thor 2*, *Carrie*, *Ender's Game*, *Hunger Games: Catching Fire*, *Riddick*, and *Frozen*.

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Remembering Barrett Brick

continued from page 1

in the gay Jewish community, both locally and internationally. Knowing of my interest to attend a Bet Mishpachah service, Barrett made sure to inform me when columnist Richard Cohen would be their guest speaker. Some years later, I felt highly honored when he invited me to be his personal guest when he was being recognized by the Holocaust Memorial Museum Board.

Barrett (the Republican) and I (the Democrat) were seldom that far apart in our political views and a shared interest in politics that went beyond GAA (later GLAA). We were volunteers for the Carol Schwartz campaigns for City Council and later for Mayor of D.C. During Operation Desert Storm, we were among a small group outside the White House reflecting the fact that not all gays were against the military action. Later, we would spend many weekends outside the White House with a group, gay and straight, demonstrating in support of the Troops and their families.

While our interactions were most often activist in nature, it was Barrett who got me interested in attending soccer games, especially when DC hosted some of the soccer games for the Atlanta Olympics. Oddly enough, Barrett and I had never discussed our liking for reading science fiction, so it was a pleasant surprise when I attended my first meeting of Lambda Sci-Fi to find that Barrett was a member. It also struck me as very appropriate that, when Barrett finally found someone to share his life, it would be someone of the caliber of his husband Antonio, another sci-fi fan.

Barrett was always a voice of reason who would listen



to each side of an issue, sometimes intensely; and then, whether in a meeting or a social event, he would discuss each side's views and bring people to a consensus. In a community where leaders too often get caught up in themselves, in game playing, and in their personal goals, Barrett was always someone you could trust to do the right thing while maintaining a high sense of integrity and honesty.

I have the highest respect for Barrett as a person as well as an activist, and would enjoy it when we would sometimes run into each other, after work at DuPont Circle, and just sit and catch up on what we were doing and the goings-on within our community and the broader political community. I am sorry we lost Barrett so soon, as I am sure he would have accomplished so much more, given time. Like so many others, I will miss the opportunity to share additional time and adventures with Barrett.

From Peter Knapp:

In August 1989, I went to Noreascon 3, the 47th Worldcon. The Gaylaxians hosted a gay fandom party at that Worldcon, where I added my name to a sign-up list of gay fans interested in meeting other fans in their local

cities. While I don't remember meeting Barrett at that party, he must have been there, as he signed the list.

I received a mailing from the Gaylaxians after Noreascon, with contact information for other local fans. On March 14, 1990, Loree Cook-Daniels hosted the first meeting of what would become Lambda Sci-Fi. Nine people came to the meeting, including Barrett. We talked about what kind of club we wanted to have and started the discussion on how to run it. Barrett, with his many years of organizing experience, provided a lot of help in creating a club that is still going strong after 23 years!

Over the years, Barrett frequently attended LSF events and helped run the club. When the club had a legal question, Barrett was always willing to give us an opinion. He became the club's "Blade Runner," our press liaison. He made sure that club events were posted in community calendars for both *The Washington Blade* and *Metro Weekly*. He even helped the club organize and run a couple of Gaylaxicons.

On a personal level, I always enjoyed spending time with Barrett. In addition, I would see Barrett at Worldcons. After he met his future husband, Antonio Ruffini, in September 1999, at Aussiecon 3 in Australia, my husband Rob Gates and I would hang out with the two of them at conventions and also in DC, when Antonio came to town from his native Johannesburg, South Africa.

Barrett has been an important part of my family-of-choice for almost half of my life. I miss Barrett terribly.

For other tributes to Barrett, go to:

<http://www.keenewsservice.com/2013/09/22/activist-barrett-brick-dies-at-59/>

<http://www.glaa.org/resources/barrettbrickbio.shtml>

* * 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, **October 13th, 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 & James



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: \$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.

Website: Capclave.org

Info: info@capclave.org

Twitter: twitter.com/capclave

Nov. 29 - Dec. 1, 2013 **DARKOVER GRAND COUNCIL 36.** (A very LGBT-friendly convention.) Crowne Plaza Baltimore (Timonium, MD). Author GoH: Rosemary Edghill; Steampunk GoHs: Steampunk Family; Special Guest: Katherine Kurtz; Clam Chowder's Farewell Concert. 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

March 14-16, 2014 **FUR THE 'MORE.** (A furry convention. The theme is "Pirates vs. Ninjas".) Hunt Valley Inn (Hunt Valley, MD). Registration (non-refundable): \$40 on-line; \$45 at the door.

Website: <http://www.furthermore.org>

April 18-20, 2014 **AWESOMECON 2014.** Walter E. Washington Convention Center (Washington, DC). Guests include: Peter Mayhew ("Chewbacca"), Ernie Hudson (*Ghostbusters*), Dirk Benedict ("Starbuck", *Battlestar Galactica*), Nicholas Brendon ("Xander Harris", *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*), David Yost & Walter E. Jones (Blue Ranger & Black Ranger, *Mighty Morphin' Power Rangers*). Two-day tickets for \$50; one-day tickets for \$30. Tickets available at the convention; you can also order tickets on-line. Website: <http://awesomecondc.com>

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

Info: info@Loncon3.org

GAYLAXICON 2014. Breaking news! Boston will not be the site for Gaylaxicon 2014 after all. Watch this space for developments.