



# Lambda Sci-Fi

## DC Area Gaylaxians

PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044  
(202) 232-3141 - Issue # 293 – August 2014

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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 August 28th.

Here are the details for the next several book discussions:

**August 28** – *The Song of Achilles*, by Madeline Miller (moderator: Carl).

**Sept. 25** – *Kafka on the Shore*, by Haruki Murakami (moderator: Max).

**Oct. 23** – *The Haunting of Hill House*, by Shirley Jackson – for comparison, try viewing the 1963 film *The Haunting*, directed by Robert Wise, starring Julie Harris & Claire Bloom (moderator: Rob). ΛΨΦ

### LSF Gaming Party

Saturday, Aug. 2nd  
announced by Peter



What: A Gaming Party.

When: Saturday, August 2; 2 PM – 11 PM.

Where: Home of Peter and Rob, 1425 "S" St NW, Washington, DC 20009.

Directions at:

<http://lambdascifi.org/club/PeterRob.html>

What to bring: Bring your favorite table game (or two). Also, please bring munchies and/or soft drinks.

Dinner: For those who are interested, we'll order pizza. If you want to join in on the pizza order, please bring \$8 in exact change. For those that don't want pizza, you can order take out or go forage for food. There are a lot of food choices in the "U" Street Corridor, including Trader Joe's (a block away at 1914 14th St NW).

For more information: Please contact Peter at [PeterPKnapp@gmail.com](mailto:PeterPKnapp@gmail.com) or Rob at: [robgatesdc@gmail.com](mailto:robgatesdc@gmail.com) or call them at 202-483-6369. ΛΨΦ

### LSF Doctor Who Season 8 Premier Party

Saturday, Aug. 23rd  
announced by Peter



What: A gathering to watch Peter Capaldi's First Full Adventure as The Doctor.

When: Saturday, August 23; 7 PM – 10 PM. (The show starts at 8 PM.)

Where: Home of Peter and Rob, 1425 "S" St NW, Washington, DC 20009

Directions at:

<http://lambdascifi.org/club/PeterRob.html>

What to bring: Any munchies and/or soft drinks you'd like to share during the show.

For more information: Please contact Peter at [PeterPKnapp@gmail.com](mailto:PeterPKnapp@gmail.com) or Rob at: [robgatesdc@gmail.com](mailto:robgatesdc@gmail.com) or call them at 202-483-6369. ΛΨΦ



### <<<<< August LSF Meeting >>>>>

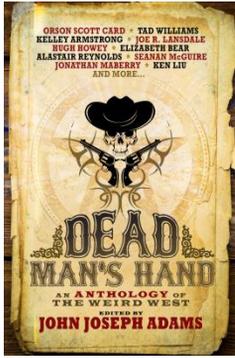
The next LSF meeting will be held on **Sunday, August 10th**. The meeting will once again be held at Peter and Rob's home, **1425 "S" Street NW, Washington, DC**. The business meeting will begin at 1:30 PM and the social meeting at 2:00 PM. Please also bring some munchies or soft drinks, if you can. Hope to see you there!

### What's Inside?

Page 2: Anthologies, Ho! (book reviews); June and July LSF Minutes.  
Page 4: Info About Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians & Con Calendar

## Anthologies, Ho! reviews by Carl

Why the sudden interest in short fiction? Hmm... I'm not quite sure. I've certainly been reading a lot of novels lately, and maybe I felt the need for a change. Or maybe it was the siren call of that stack of unread, fascinating-looking anthologies. At any rate, off we go...



### *Dead Man's Hand: An Anthology of the Weird West* edited by John Joseph Adams (Titan Books, 2014)

I'm pretty sure I've mentioned that I'm a fan of Weird Westerns: "stories of the Old West infused with elements of science fiction, fantasy, or horror" (to quote the editor's Introduction to this anthology). So how could I pass up *this* anthology of 23 all-new stories? Especially since it leads off with a story by one of my favorite authors, Joe Lansdale ("Mr. Weird Western" hisself).

Even though the soubriquet "Weird Western" is only a few decades old, the genre has certainly been around for a much longer time. Robert E. Howard wrote some weird Western stories back in the 1930s – for example, "The Horror from the Mound" (*Weird Tales*, May 1932). But, as this anthology amply demonstrates, the genre hasn't been "mined out" yet.

As with many anthologies, I found this one to be a mix of "stories I liked" and "stories I didn't like as much" – but I think there are some real goodies in here. Here are a few of my especial favorites... Alan  
(continued on page 3)

## The "Minute" June 2014 Minutes taken by Rob

Vote passed unanimously. [Ed. Note: For LSF to explore serving as the official Gaylactic Network host club for Gaylaxicon 2015 at Bent-con in Burbank, CA.] Games were played; the Parade was watched; dinners were eaten; more games were played; fun was had. [Ed. Note: At the LSF Pre-Pride Gaming & Parade-Viewing Party.]

### July LSF Minutes taken by Scott

Speaker Teresa initiated a name circle, since the meeting included some new faces.

Peter has bought 10 raffle tickets: the grand prize is a trip to England to appear in the new *Star Wars* movie.

TV News: Carl thinks the new TV show *Extant* (starring Halle Berry) is interesting. *The Strain* premieres tonight on FX; it's based upon a Guillermo del Toro novel about a vampire virus. *Game of Thrones* has been nominated for several Emmy awards. But, alas, *Orphan Black's* Tatianna Maslany has not been nominated for any awards. The CW Network will feature a new series, *The Flash*, this autumn; the Atom and Firestorm characters will appear. Everyone spoke enthusiastically about the series *Penny Dreadful*, which includes many public domain characters from 19th-century fiction; the cast includes actors Timothy Dalton, Rory Kinnear, Billie Piper, and Josh Hartnett. The new series *The Last Ship* includes a lesbian character. Rob reported that *Archer* has been nominated for a Critics' Choice Award for Best Animated Series. Rob said he is enjoying *Community*, which NBC cancelled in May. Scott grumbled about the SyFy Channel's *Metal Hurlant* series.

Movies: The *Sharknado II*



trailer is hilariously awful. The *Guardians of the Galaxy* movie is coming out soon; Rob said there might be an organized LSF movie outing to go see it. Peter saw the new *Earth to Echo* movie and compared it to *E.T.* and *SuperEight*. The new *Transformers* movie seems to rely on the same plot formula as the prior *Transformer* movies. Rob described *Snow Piercer*, an independent post-apocalyptic-themed sci-fi film. All life on the planet has died, except for a lucky few aboard a train, which appears to travel around the globe. While in Maine, Peter and Rob saw the new Tom Cruise film *Edge of Tomorrow*; they enjoyed the film, except for the ending. They also visited the home of Stephen King.

Other News: Peter passed around the latest *Parsec* newsletter from the Pittsburgh sci-fi group. Teresa mentioned that the Capital Fringe festival has some genre plays. Rob spoke about *Unexpected Stories*, two previously unpublished works by Octavia Butler. Carl passed around an *Advocate* article about YA animated features that include positive portrayals of gay characters: *Paranorman* and the soon-to-be released *Boxtrolls*. It was noted that husband-and-wife team Meredith Finch and David Finch are taking over DC's *Wonder Woman*. Rob described the most recent D & D rules, which incorporate more flexible gender roles. The original *Sailor Moon* (anime series) had a bunch of gay and transgendered character, but those episodes were not shown in the States. (Who knew?)

Upcoming LSF Events: The LSF book discussion group is discussing *Ancillary Justice* by Anne Leckie on Thursday, July 24. The August LSF book discussion will feature *The Song of Achilles* by Madeline Miller. Peter announced an LSF gaming party on Saturday, August 2. On Saturday, August 23, Peter and Rob will host a viewing of the new *Doctor Who* "Deep Breath" (with Peter Capaldi as the new Doctor) – we all watched the brief trailer for it.

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## Anthologies

continued from page 2

Dean Foster has written a new tale of Mad Amos Malone (a wandering, larger-than-life mountain-man) and Worthless (his rather unusual horse); in “Holy Jingle”, Malone is hired to rescue a hapless coach-driver from a powerful Oriental succubus. Rajan Khanna weaves an intricate tale (with a twist at the end) about sorcerous card sharps battling their competitors in a murderous quest for decks of cards imbued with powerful magic (“Second Hand”). Elizabeth Bear’s “Madam Damnable’s Sewing Circle” is a delightful steampunk-ish story in which a madam and her girls defy a Seattle gangleader to save two brutalized prostitutes from further harm. “Sundown” (by Tobias Buckell) is an unusual alternate history story, with a black lawman and Frederick Douglass (yes, *that* Frederick Douglass) battling an insidious alien invasion in 1877 Colorado – while hoping (quite literally) that the U.S. Cavalry will come to the rescue. The story I got the most pure enjoyment from, however, was “The Golden Age” by Walter Jon Williams: masked avengers battling equally flamboyant villains (and each other) in Northern California during the wild-and-woolly days of the Gold Rush. What a romp! (Eat your hearts out, Zorro and Batman, ‘cause you ain’t got nothin’ on these heroes!)

Some of the stories in *Dead Man’s Hand* weren’t exactly what I was expecting in a collection of Weird Western stories; but, on the whole, I think any fan of the genre will get a kick out of this anthology.



## Black Pulp

edited by Tommy Hancock,  
Gary Phillips, & Morgan Minor  
(Pro Se Press, 2013)



I discovered this anthology purely by accident, as I was surfing around Amazon.com. It looked interesting, especially since the Introduction was written by Walter Mosley (one of my favorite authors). I couldn’t help but be intrigued by a collection of 12 all-new stories written in the manner of classic Pulp fiction – with an added fascinating twist: all the stories in *Black Pulp* feature black protagonists.

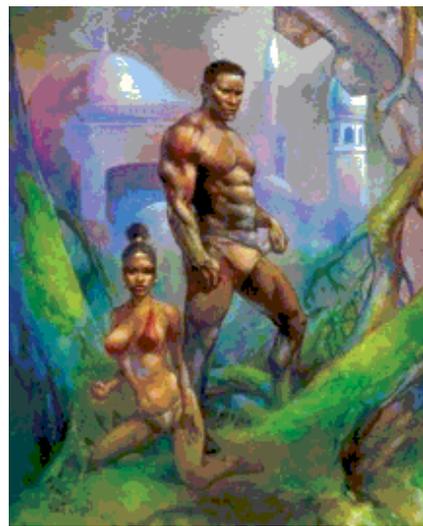
I’ve always been a big fan of F&SF from the Pulp Era. Sure, a lot of less-than-wonderful stuff made it into print during those years – but the Pulps also saw the rise of some of my favorite authors: Dashiell Hammett, Sax Rohmer, C.L. Moore, Robert E. Howard, H.P. Lovecraft, Harold Lamb, and Leigh Brackett, just to name a few. The Pulps weren’t intended to be Great Literature. Walter Mosley describes the function of Pulp fiction this way:

“Literature for the masses kindled the imagination and used our reading skills so that we could regale ourselves in the cold chambers of alienation and poverty. We could become Doc Savage or The Shadow, Conan the Barbarian or the brooding King Kull and make a difference in a world definitely gone wrong.”

And, ya know, the “New Pulp” stories in this anthology are (on the whole) pretty faithful to the best traditions of my favorite Pulp Era writers. Action, adventure, intrigue, and (yes) sometimes questionable morality. (I’ve mentioned my interest in *noir* fiction, too, haven’t I?)

I was surprised to find that all but three of the stories in this anthology are in some fashion F&SF-related. However, even the three exceptions deal with very important Pulp Era subjects: crime fiction and Westerns. (Joe Lansdale’s “Six Finger Jack” and Gar Anthony Hopwood’s “A Seat at the Table” are both stories of gangland assassinations and betrayals. And Ron Fortier’s “The Lawman” is a fictionalized retelling of some of the events in the life of real-life U.S. Deputy Marshall Bass Reeves, who died in 1910. All three of these stories are *excellent!*)

The other nine stories in this anthology all deal with F&SF themes: everything from a lost African city and a dark god (“Drums of the Ogbanje” by Mel Odom) to a black Tarzan analog (“Mtimu” by Charles Saunders), and from superhero crime-fighters (“Black Wolfe’s Debt” by D. Alan Lewis) to a boxer and a blasphemous cult in 1930s Hollywood (“Decimator Smith and the Fangs of the Fire Serpent” by Gary Phillips). Even the one story that’s set outside the expected Pulp milieu – Michael Gonzales’s “Jaguar and the Jungland Boogie”, set in 1980s Harlem – definitely reflects its antecedents amongst the masked crimefighter stories of the Pulp Era. Lots of fun.



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## \* \* 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, **August 10th, at Peter and Rob's home, 1425 "S" Street NW, Washington, DC.** 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



August 1-3, 2014 **SHORE LEAVE 36**. Hunt Valley Inn (Hunt Valley, MD). Guests: Richard Dean Anderson, Leonard Nimoy (via Skype), Robert Picardo, and more. Membership: \$80 for the weekend (daily rates available). Send membership (with SASE) and check payable to "Shore Leave" to: Shore Leave 36, PO Box 6809, Towson, MD 21285-6809.

Website (for info and "the quickest updates"): [www.shore-leave.com](http://www.shore-leave.com) E-mail: [information@shore-leave.com](mailto:information@shore-leave.com)

October 10-12, 2014 **CAPCLAVE 2014: CIRQUE DE LA CAPCLAVE**. Hilton Washington DC/North Gaithersburg (Gaithersburg, MD). Guests of Honor: Paolo Bacigalupi, Holly Black, Genevieve Valentine. Membership: \$55 Aug. – Sept.; \$60 at the door. Website: [www.capclave.org](http://www.capclave.org) For more info: [info@capclave.org](mailto:info@capclave.org)

November 6-9, 2014 **WORLD FANTASY CONVENTION 2014**: 1914-2014 – Three Centennials. Hyatt Regency Crystal City (Arlington, VA). Guests: Les Edwards (aka Edward Miller), Guy Gavriel Kay, Stuart David Schiff, Laid Finlay (daughter of Virgil Finlay), Jane Yolen. Attending membership: \$200. On-line and mail-in membership forms available on the website.

Website: <http://worldfantasy2014.org/> For more info: [info@worldfantasy2014.org](mailto:info@worldfantasy2014.org)

November 28-30, 2014 **CHESSIECON 2014**. Crowne Plaza Baltimore North (Timonium, MD). Author GoH: Tamora Pierce. Music GoH: Tom Smith. Art GoH: Theresa Mather. Special Guest: Katherine Kurtz. Membership: \$55 until Nov. 14; \$60 at the door. Payment via Paypal; or print membership form from website (checks payable to "Thanksgiving Science Fiction Society") and send to: TSFS, Inc., PO Box 83032, Gaithersburg, MD 20883-3032

Website: <http://chessiecon.org> For more info: [info@chessiecon.org](mailto:info@chessiecon.org)

February 13-15, 2015 **FARPOINT 22**. Baltimore North Plaza Hotel (Timonium, MD). Guests: Tim Russ, Marc Okrand, Timothy Zahn (author), and more. More info as it becomes available.

Website: [www.FarpointCon.com](http://www.FarpointCon.com)

June 19-21, 2015 **CAPITAL CON DC 2015**. "A new science fiction/fantasy convention for the Washington DC area." Washington Court Hotel on Capitol Hill (Washington DC). Media GoH: Doug Jones ("Abe Sapien" in *Hellboy* and *Hellboy 2*). Author GoH: Sherrilyn Kenyon. Artist GoH: Ruth Sanderson. More info as it becomes available.

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

