



Lambda Sci-Fi

DC Area Gaylaxians

PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044
(202) 232-3141 - Issue # 294 – September 2014

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WEBSITE: www.lambdascifi.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 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 25th.

Here are the details for the next couple of book discussions:

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).

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LSF's Last Summer Gaming Party

announced by Peter



Come celebrate the last Saturday of summer with an LSF gaming Party! (The autumnal equinox brings the fall season to the Northern Hemisphere on Sept. 22 at 10:29 PM EDT

What: A Gaming Party.

When: Saturday, Sept. 20; 2–11 PM.

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

Directions (& parking cautions) 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 lots of food choices in the "U" Street Corridor, including Trader Joe's (a block away at 1914 14th St NW).

For more info: Please contact Peter at: PeterPKnapp@gmail.com or Rob at: robgatesdc@gmail.com or call them at 202-483-6369.

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Call for LSF Vote at Sept. LSF Meeting

At the June 7th LSF meeting, the club voted on – and unanimously passed – the following proposal: "LSF proposes to explore serving as the official Gaylactic Network host club for Gaylaxicon 2015 at Bent-Con in Burbank, CA in early November 2015. Carl Cipra, Peter Knapp, and Rob Gates will work with the organizers of Bent-Con to insure that there is no financial outlay by (or risk to) LSF. Additional support from the LSF community will be requested on an as-needed basis."

Since that time, Peter, Rob, and Carl have held successfully discussions with the Bent-Con organizers and have come to an agreement in accord with the LSF proposal. The next step in the process is for the LSF membership to officially vote on hosting Gaylaxicon 2015 at Bent-Con in Burbank. We will be calling for an official vote at the Sept. 14th LSF meeting. Here's what we'll be voting on:

LSF agrees to serve as the official Gaylactic Network host for Gaylaxicon 2015 at Bent-Con in

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<<<<< September LSF Meeting >>>>>

The next LSF meeting will be held on **Sunday, September 14th**. 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 (including the vote on Bent-Con/Gaylaxicon 2015 – see article starting on this page); and the social meeting will begin at 2:00 PM. Please also bring some munchies or soft drinks, if you can. Hope to see you there!

What's Inside?

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Minutes for the August LSF Meeting

taken by Scott

There will be an LSF party at Peter & Rob's to view the season premiere of the new Doctor Who season (Saturday, August 23).

TV News: BBC America will be showing a four-part history of sci-fi: *The Real History of Science Fiction*. Time travel is the theme for the first show next week. *12 Monkeys* is being made into a TV show. Carl seems to be the only person watching *Extant*. Wes mentioned that fake motorcades were in action in DC filming for the American version of the TV series *House of Cards*. There was some discussion on the following current genre-related TV shows: *The Last Ship*, *The Strain*, *The Leftovers*, and *Penny Dreadful*. Carl reported that *Revolution* has been cancelled. (No tears here!)

It was noted that the fifth edition rules for *Dungeons & Dragons* is now available – and it is free on-line.

Movie News: There were mixed reviews for *The Guardians of the Galaxy*: Peter and Rob raved about it; Carl said he liked it (especially the “Easter egg” at the end”) but preferred the latest *Avengers* and *Captain America* movies. No one had anything positive to comment about the new *Ninja Turtles* movie. Dan liked the “rock angels” in the film *Noah*. Tyler said that he enjoyed the post-apocalyptic movie *Snow Piercer*, which takes place aboard a train that continuously travels around the glaciated world. Dan discussed *The Great Martian War*, a faux documentary about the Wellsian interplanetary invasion. (He liked the steampunk-ish Martian war machines.)

Dan read off a listing of genre movies coming out over the next several months: Frank Miller's new *Sin City* new movie (Carl loved the first *Sin City* movie); *To Be Takei* (a documentary about George Takei); the third installation of *Atlas Shrugged*; *Maze Runner*; *Box Trolls*

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(stop motion with Claymation faces); *Interstellar* (plot unclear); *Hunger Games: Mocking Jay, Part 1*; *The Hobbit: Battle of the Five Armies* (December); *Into the Woods*; *Hot Tub Time Machine II*; Disney's *Big Hero 6* (perhaps not too close to the graphic novel). There was some discussion about Terry Gilliam's 2013 *Zero Theorem* movie, which has an Orwellian dystopian theme.

There was a short discussion of Richard Preston's book about the Ebola virus: *The Hot Zone: The Terrifying True Story*. Newcomer Richie reported that he is a big fan of the books of Kim Stanley Robinson.

Thor is transitioning into a woman in the comic books – but not in the movies. Local watering hole The Black Cat will be showing *Star Trek: The Next Generation* during its “Ten Forward Happy Hour.” Carl distributed an obituary (provided by Wayne #1) for author Frank Robinson, one-time Gaylaxicon Special Guest.

Carl, Peter, and Rob reported on the current negotiations with the Bent-Con con-comm to co-host Gaylaxicon 2015 with LSF. [Ed. Note: See article starting on page 1 of this issue.] Carl will be attending this year's Bent-Con in November. Carl is considering joining the National Fantasy Fan Federation; he checked out their website based on the flyer Peter distributed at a previous LSF meeting. BronyCon was held last week in Baltimore. (Did Jack attend?) Tyler said he will be attending the Small Press Expo next month in Maryland.

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Call for LSF Vote at Sept. LSF Meeting

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Burbank, CA (Nov. 6/7/8, 2015). Carl Cipra, Peter Knapp, and Rob Gates will serve as organizers and liaisons with the Bent-Con con-comm. There will be no financial outlay by (or risk to) LSF. Additional support from the LSF community will be requested on an as-needed basis.

Please come to the Sept. 14th LSF meeting to vote on this proposal. Alternatively, you can register your vote via e-mail no later than Sept. 13 by sending it to:

PeterPKnapp@gmail.com

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Bent-Con 2014

Nov. 7-9, 2014

Los Angeles Burbank Marriott
Convention Center
Burbank, CA

<http://bent-con.org/>

Anthologies, Ho!

Part 2

reviews by Carl

Yes, I've been reading rather a lot of anthologies lately. As I said, maybe it's the siren call of that stack of unread, fascinating-looking anthologies. At any rate, continuing the reviews...

Rogues

edited by George R.R. Martin
& Gardner Dozois

(Bantam Books, 2014)

This *huge* anthology is the latest in a series of cross-genre anthologies edited by George R.R. Martin and Gardner Dozois. I've read and reviewed several of their previous anthologies of all-new short fiction: *Warriors* (2013), *Down These Strange Streets* (2012), and *Songs of Love and Death* (2011). This time, they've collected 21 top-notch new stories about (in the words of George R.R. Martin): "Scoundrels, con men, and scalawags. Ne'er-do-wells, thieves, cheats, and rascals. Bad boys and bad girls. Swindlers, seducers, deceivers, flimflam men, imposters, frauds, fakes, liars, cads, tricksters..."

If you're an F&SF "purist", then you're probably not going to want to pick up a copy of this anthology. As I said, it's "cross-genre" – the editors were looking for good new short fiction, regardless of genre. Again, here's how George R.R. Martin describes it: "Our theme is universal, and Gardner and I both love good stories of all sorts, no matter what time, place, or genre they are set in, so we went out and invited well-known authors from the worlds of mystery, epic fantasy, sword and sorcery, urban fantasy, science fiction, romance, mainstream, mystery (cozy or hard-boiled), thriller, historical, romance, Western, noir, horror...you name it." As it turns out, 16 of the stories are either Science Fiction, Fantasy, or Horror; and only 5 of 'em are non-F&SF/H.

But, let me assure you, regardless of genre, all of the stories in *Rogues* are pretty darn good! Here are some of my personal favorites. Just take a look at some of the authors with



stories in this anthology: Joe Abercrombie, Joe R. Lansdale, Michael Swanwick, Steven Saylor, Garth Nix, Walter Jon Williams, Neil Gaiman, Connie Willis, and George R.R. Martin himself. Good readin' ahead!

It was difficult to decide, but here are just a few of my favorites: In Joe Abercrombie's "Tough Times All Over", an unknown magical object is successively stolen, bought, pick-pocketed, swindled, burgled, killed for, and fenced as a widely diverse cast of characters enacts a Fantasy version of "Button, button, who's got the button?" Cherie Priest tells a fascinating story about big bad Kilgore Jones as he seeks to destroy a rather unusual lake monster in the strip-mine-poisoned back hills of Tennessee ("Heavy Metal"). Neil Gaiman takes us into the world of London Below (the setting for his famous novel *Neverwhere*), as the self-styled Marquis de Carabas outmaneuvers several more powerful scoundrels in "How the Marquis Got His Coat Back". And George R.R. Martin has included "The Rogue Prince, or a King's Brother", a story about Daemon Targaryen, possibly an excerpt from his forthcoming comprehensive history of Westeros, *A World of Ice and Fire*.

I think my absolute favorite is Gillian Flynn's "What Do You Do?" In it, a New Age swindler (an "aura reader" and "psychic cleanser") suddenly finds herself mixed up in a deadly situation that's frighteningly similar to Shirley Jackson's *The Haunting*: an "evil" house psychically infecting the people who live there. However, Steven Saylor's "Ill Seen in Tyre" gives the Flynn story a run for its money, as Saylor links a story about Gordianus the Finder (hero of his First Century B.C. historical detection series) to Fritz Leiber's famous swords-and-sorcery duo, Fafhrd and the Gray Mouser.

I was delighted to see that several of the stories include positive LGBT content. "Bent Twig" is a short

story about two of Joe Lansdale's most popular characters – Hap Collins and his big, black, gay partner Leonard Pine – as they head out to rescue Hap's girlfriend's daughter from her most recent very bad decision. In Scott Lynch's "A Year and a Day in Old Theradane", Amarelle Parathis leads a band of mercenary first-class scoundrels into a *Mission: Impossible*-style crime; and Amarelle's team includes a very capable lesbian couple (one is a magician and the other is an "armorer, artificer, and physician to automatons"). Daniel Abraham's "The Meaning of Love" and Steven Saylor's "Ill Seen in Tyre" both include scenes of same-sex tenderness; but I can't tell you about them without giving away some of their plotlines.

Rogues is a great read, from start to finish. I highly recommend it, as well as any of the other anthologies edited by Martin and Dozois. In fact, I seem to have missed one: *Dangerous Women* (2013) – more good reading to look forward to!

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The difference between
a moral man and
a man of honour
is that the latter regrets
a discreditable act,
even when it has worked
and he has not been caught.



H.L. Mencken
Sententiae
1916

quoted in
The Cynic's Lexicon
edited by Jonathon Green
(St. Martin's Press, 1984)

* * 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 14th, 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



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 For more info: 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

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

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

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/>

