



Lambda Sci-Fi

DC Area Gaylaxians

(202) 232-3141 - Issue # 299 – February 2015

E-MAIL: info@lambdascifi.org

WEBSITE: www.lambdascifi.org

LSF “Julian Memorial” Video & Potluck

March 28 (Sat.), 2:00 - 11:00 PM

Come celebrate Julian’s life at a video potluck hosted by Michael Marinelli, Peter Knapp, and Rob Gates. There will be an opportunity to share memories of good times with Julian.

The party will include a potluck meal, so bring along something scrumptious to eat. We’re not assigning categories of food to bring, so just bring something from one (or more) of the following “basic food groups”: appetizers (veggies, chips, etc.), a main course item (enough to serve at least 4-5 people), dessert, and non-alcoholic drinks (diet & regular).

Also bring your favorite science fiction/fantasy/horror movies (DVDs. As usual, attendees will vote on which movies to watch.

Location: 1425 “S” Street NW, Washington, DC 20009-4181

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

Questions can be directed to Michael at mmarine322@aol.com

or Peter at PeterPKnapp@gmail.com or 202-810-4678

or Rob at RobGatesDC@gmail.com or 202-246-7800. **ΛΨΦ**



Julian's Life Celebration and Memorial Service

March 7 (Sat.), 4:00 PM - ???

Come celebrate Julian’s life at a memorial service hosted by his brother Jay. Food and drink (both alcoholic and non-alcoholic) will be provided. There will be an opportunity to share memories of good times with Julian.

Questions can be directed to Peter at PeterPKnapp@gmail.com or 202-810-4678.

Location: 2462 Tunlaw Rd. NW, Washington, DC 20007-1839

Directions at:

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

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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 February 26, 2015.

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

Feb. 26 – *Through the Woods* (a graphic novel), by Emily Carroll (moderator: Claire).

March 26 – *One-Eyed Jack*, by Elizabeth Bear (moderator: Carl). **ΛΨΦ**



<<<<< February 2015 LSF Meeting >>>>>

The next LSF meeting will be held on **Sunday, February 8th**. The meeting will 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?

Page 2: Julian Redditt (obituary); Come to the Circus! (F&SF Style) – Part 2 (book review).

Page 3: Jan. LSF Meeting Minutes.

Page 4: Information About Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians and Con Calendar.



JULIAN C. REDDITT
1940 – 2015

Julian Cathal Redditt, age 74, died in his home in Washington, DC on January 5th. The members of Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians are deeply saddened by his passing.

Julian was born on December 21, 1940 in State College, Pennsylvania. He graduated from the University of Hawaii in 1969, where he received a BA in Psychology. He subsequently received his MD while living in Brazil and completed his psychiatric residency and training at the University of New Mexico in 1986.

Julian relocated to Washington DC in 1987 and maintained a private practice while supporting numerous institutions, clinics, and universities in the Metro Area during his career.

Julian loved to cook and enjoy great food while hosting wonderful parties for friends and colleagues in his Glover Park home. He is survived by his two sons (Steven and Paul Redditt), brother Jay Gibbons, and several nephews, nieces, and grandchildren. He will be missed by many people who appreciated his personal bravery and generosity.

Julian was a long-term member of Lambda Sci-Fi. Jaime Innes (as he was then known) attended his first LSF meeting in June 1990 – and he attended his first

Gaylaxicon (in Tewksbury, MA) later that same year.

Here are just a few of the tributes from fellow LSFers:

From Krista: This morning, my friend Julian Redditt died. If you have heard me talk about a friend who learned everything from pre-Algebra up through calculus when in his 40s, so he could go to med school, that's Julian. If I've ever mentioned the person who told me how to cope with not fitting in at work, find an appropriately genre thing to be very, very good at talking about, and do it boldly and often, that's Julian. I spent a Christmas Dinner and several video parties at his place. I cried on his shoulder after breakups. From his stories of public health medicine and med-school in Brazil, I gathered stories to talk about with my MCAT students about their future careers. Both personally and professionally, Julian helped me learn to find ways to be successful.

From Randy K.: Dr. Julian Redditt a long-time friend, passed away Tuesday morning. He was one of the most interesting people I have known. He had an open and inquiring mind and was a true "ideas" person. My first reaction was a regret that I missed some opportunities for his company and I would not have a second chance to talk with him again. I always thought "next time" or "later".

From Stephen: I didn't know Julian well, because I am basically shy and talk myself out of going to most meetings at the last minute. And I haven't been to a book discussion or video party for a very long time. But I remember the second time I talked to Julian. I was sitting on a small couch by myself; and Julian, after saying "Hi" to his friends, decided to sit by this new member. He remembered some things about the first time we talked, and was warm and able to get me to come out of my shell. I discovered that he was one of the nicest, most open, and wonderful people I have ever met.

Editorial thanks to Jonathan for the picture of Julian.

Come to the Circus!
(F&SF-style)

Part 2
 book reviews by Carl



As I said at the start of the first part of this series of review, the circus has long served as the basis for F&SF stories, books, and films. Just a couple of additional notes as a lead-in to Part 2:

The fourth season of the weird and popular TV series *American Horror Story* has the subtitle *Freak Show* – and freak shows have had a long and distinguished association with circuses and carnivals. On stage, director Diane Paulus has re-visioned the current touring incarnation of the musical *Pippin* with a circus theme.

Now, on to the next review...

Nightmare Carnival
 edited by Ellen Datlow
 (Dark Horse Books, 2014)

This is a really nifty anthology of 15 all-new "creepy carnival" stories edited by the oh-so-talented Ellen Datlow, with fascinating introductory essays by Katherine Dunn and Ellen Datlow. Truth to tell, I bought the anthology because it includes a short story by Laird Barron. I'd just read a fascinatingly creepy novel by him (*The Croning*, 2013) and I wanted to read one of his short stories.

Yes, Barron's "Screaming Elk, MT" is one of my favorites in this anthology. It reads like *noir* fiction: a wise-cracking protagonist, murky morality, etc. It's the story of a big-boned, rough-and-tumble, hard-hitting woman who is hired on as a gun-for-hire to help the Gallows Brothers Carnival destroy a decades-long curse. It was a joy to read – and I was delighted to see that Barron can create well-written novels *and* short stories.

(continued on page 3)



Jan. LSF Meeting Minutes

minutes taken by Scott

Rob opened up the meeting by reporting that long-time LSF member Julian Redditt had passed away at home earlier in the week. Rob submitted some suggestions of ways to honor Julian's memory.

Rave reviews for new TV show *Marvel's Agent Carter*, starring Hayley Atwell – a great period piece. Rob advised that it is an eight-episode storyline. In contrast, *Galavant* is an 8-episode fantasy storyline – a goofy sitcom musical. Jonathan reported that The Evil Queen is still trying to find happiness in *Once Upon a Time*.

The *Into the Woods* movie is delightful, despite Johnny Depp's wretched performance. The other princes in the play were cut from the movie. (Everyone loved the "agony" scene with the two princes in the stage version; and Bernadette Peters's stage performance is superior to Meryl Streep's movie performance.)

Regarding the latest *Hobbit* movie – Carl did not recall the body count among the dwarves being so high in the book.

Peter said that the identity of the new Ant Man in the upcoming movie will be Scott Lang, not the original Henry Pym.

Carl said that *The Imitation Game*, the new film about Alan Turing, makes his sexuality a key focus. Renee commented that most code breakers were women, which was not reflected in the movie.

Peter is not thrilled with the latest Dr. Who, Peter Capaldi. But he and others are eager to attend the upcoming Gallifrey convention.

Both *Arrow* and *Flash* have been renewed for another season. Lots of good eye-candy; poor dialogue. Rob noted that the character of Ray Palmer has been introduced, so we should expect to the Atom pop up.

Rob advised that the film *Jupiter Ascending* is being released in February. *Project Almanac*, which centers on the butterfly effect of reckless time travel, is coming out on January 30th. *Hot Tub Time Machine 2* is being released in February. Coming from the

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director of *District 9*: a new film entitled *Chappie*, about robots with AI, starring Hugh Jackman, Sigourney Weaver, and Sharlto Copley.

Rob provided a recap of *The Legend of Korra*, a sequel to *Avatar: The Last Airbender*. The ending was full of LGBT content. David described a new game called *Crusader's Quest*; it is neither a play-for-free or pay-to-win game.

This month's LSF book discussion is *Children of Kings* by Marion Zimmer Bradley and Debra Ross.

Carl provided some details about Gaylaxicon 2015, which will be held jointly with BentCon (Burbank, early November).

And then it was time for the Annual LSF Book/Media exchange: From Lindsey to Scott: *Left Hand of Darkness* by Ursula K. LeGuin.

From James to Krista: *Children of the Earth* by Mercedes Lackey, *And All the Stars a Stage* by James Blish, *The Machiavelli Interface* by Steve Perry, and *Alien Cargo* by Theodore Sturgeon.

From Scott to Peter: *World War Z* by Max Brooks. (Note: The book is better than the movie.)

From David to Lindsey: *Dragons of Winter Night*, *Dragons of Spring Dawning*, *Dragons of Autumn Twilight* by Margaret Weis & Tracy Hickman.

From Krista to Renee: *Bone and Jewel Creatures* by Elizabeth Bear.

From Xena to Carl: four volumes of Lloyd Alexander's "Prydain" series.

From Peter to James: *Torchwood*, seasons I and II.

From Rob to David: a collection of Harry Harrison's "Stainless Steel Rat" stories by Harry Harrison.

From Carl to Xena: *The Steel Remains*, *The Cold Commands*, and *The Dark Defiles* by Richard K. Morgan.

From Renee to Rob: a novel by John Scalzi. (I forgot to write down the title.)

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Come to the Circus!

continued from page 2



But Barron's story isn't my only favorite. Some of the others really stick out in my mind, too. The opening story, N. Lee Wood's "Scapegoats" is probably the most poignant tale in the bunch. It's the sad story about a carnival elephant named Madelaine, as told by Mae "The Amazing Lobster Woman" Wrightson. Like I said: poignant, with a creepy fillip at the end. In Priya Sharma's "The Firebrand", there's a gradual reveal of the tragic deaths of several circus performers. (Sort'a reminded me of Chris Priest's 2005 novel *The Prestige*.) And then there's Jeffrey Ford's "Hibbler's Minions": a story about Ichbon's Caravan of Splendors during the Great Dustbowl of the 1930s – and their icky run-in with an out-of-control flea circus. (This one sort'a reminded me of George R.R. Martin's "The Sand Kings".) "The Darkest Part" (by Stephne Graham Jones) is just plain creepy from start to finish, as a bunch of grown-up social misfits avenge their childhood molestation by a creepy clown. Nathan Ballingrud's "Skullpocket" is just plain weird. It's the story (half silly, half horrific) of how a ghoulish 1914 tragedy in the town of Hob's Landing led to the establishment of the Annual Skullpocket Fair, an accommodation (of sorts) between the town and the Wormcake "family". I don't think I've ever read anything quite like it.

Nightmare Carnival is quite an anthology – if you're in the mood for "creepy carnival" stories, give it a try.

(Part 3 next month)

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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, **February 8th, 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



February 13-15, 2015 **FARPOINT 22**. North Baltimore Plaza Hotel (Timonium, MD). Guests: Colin Ferguson ("Jack Carter" from *Eureka*), Tim Russ ("Tuvok"), Marc Okrand, Timothy Zahn (author), and more. Membership: \$80 weekend rate (daily rates available).
Website: www.FarpointCon.com

April 24-26, 2015 **RAVENCON 10**. Double Tree by Hilton Richmond Midlothian (Richmond VA). GoH: Allen Steele; Artist GoH: Frank Wu; Special Guest: Lawrence M. Schoen. Membership: \$40 before 4/10/2015; \$45 at the door.
Info at: <http://www.ravencon.com>

May 22-25, 2015 **BALTICON 49**. Hunt Valley Inn (Hunt Valley, MD). GoH: Jo Walton; Artist GoH: Charles Vess. Membership: \$55 until 2/28/2015; \$60 from 3/1 thru 4/15; \$65 thereafter. On-line registration thru the convention website.
Website: <http://www.balticon.org/>

May 29-31, 2015 **AWESOME CON 2015**. Walter E. Washington Convention Center (Washington, DC). Guests include: George Takei ("Mr. Sulu"), John Rhys-Davies("Gimli the Dwarf"), and Sean Astin ("Sam Gamgee"). Weekend membership: \$75 after 1/1/2015(daily rates available). On-line registration thru the convention website.
Website: <http://www.awesome-con.com/washington-dc/>

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/>

Oct. 9-11 **CAPCLAVE 2015**. Hilton Washington DC North/Gaithersburg (Gaithersburg MD). Guests include: Gorden Van Gelder (Editor, *F&SF Magazine*); Alastair Reynolds (*Revelation Space*). Membership: \$50 thru 5/31/2015.
Website: www.capclave.org

Nov. 6-8, 2015 **BENT-CON/GAYLAXICON 2015**. Los Angeles Marriott Burbank Airport Hotel and Convention Center (Burbank, CA). Membership: \$60 weekend rate. More info as it becomes available.
Website: <http://bent-con.org/>

