



Lambda Sci-Fi

DC Area Gaylaxians

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Annual LSF Book (et al) Exchange at Jan. 10th Meeting



That's right, gang, it's Holiday time again; and it's time for Lambda Sci-Fi's *twenty-sixth* annual book (et al) exchange, which will occur at the upcoming Jan. 10th meeting! All LSF members – and visitors, guests, attendees, etc. – are invited to participate in this “blind exchange.”

In case you've never participated in one of these before (or in case you've forgotten), here's how it works:

(1) Go out and purchase a copy of your “favorite” science-fiction, fantasy, or horror book. (NOTE: Over the years, LSF has expanded the concept of “book” to include comics, videotapes, “books on tape,” etc. If you want – or if you're feeling particularly wealthy – you can even make it *several* favorite books or whatever.)

(2) Insert a piece of paper (or bookmark) with your name on it. That's so whoever eventually ends up with the item will know who it's from and will get to know a little more about you – at least to know what one of your “favorites” is.

(3) Wrap up the exchange item, but don't put any identifying marks or anything on the wrapped package to say who it's from. That's to make sure it's a “blind” exchange – *i.e.* no one is supposed to know who it's from at first. (And, by the way, all of that leftover Holiday wrapping paper should come in handy here!)

(4) At the meeting, add your wrapped exchange item to the pile with all the others; and you'll be assigned a number. (Only one exchange item – *i.e.* one package – per person, please!)

(5) When your number is called, you pick one of the packages from the pile. And when you open it up, you'll find out who it's from. See how easy?

I can hardly wait to see what shows up *this* year! $\Lambda\Psi\Phi$



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 January 28, 2015.

Here are the details for the next several book discussions:

Jan. 28 – *The Man in the High Castle*, by Philip K. Dick (mod: Ross/Dan).

Feb. 25 – *The Goblin Emperor*, by Katherine Addison (mod: Rob G.).

March 24 – *Her Smoke Rose Up Forever*, by James Tiptree Jr., (moderator: Claire).

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<<<<< January 2016 LSF Meeting >>>>>

The next LSF meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 10th**. 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?

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Minutes of the December 2015 LSF Meeting

taken by Scott

Reminders: There will be an LSF gaming party on New Year's Eve. The annual LSF Book Exchange is scheduled for the January 10th LSF meeting. The next LSF Book Discussion meeting will feature Philip K. Dick's *The Man in the High Castle*.

Television: *Ash: Evil Dead* on Starz is great! Lots of interest in the new *Supergirl* series. (Who or what is the head of the mysterious government agency?) Much excitement about the CW's upcoming *Legends of Tomorrow* series, premiering early in 2016, with Rip Hunter, White Canary, Captain Cold & Heat Wave, Hawkman & Hawkgirl, Firestorm, and others; the villain is immortal Vandal Savage.

Movies: Peter enjoyed Del Toro's *Crimson Peak* – a safe horror movie; David laughed over the over-bearing gothic elements. Apparently, Daniel Radcliffe could not save the *Victor Frankenstein* movie; it was in and too quickly out of theaters. Peter also enjoyed the latest *Hunger Games* movie (*Mockingjay – Part 2*); but Karl feels that Katniss was too passive. Teresa provided the names of upcoming movies: *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*; *The Danish Girl*; *Point Break* (the second remake); *The Forest*; *The Fifth Wave*; *400 Days*; *The Boy*; *Gods of Egypt*; *Batman vs. Superman*; *Huntsman II*; and *Finding Dory*. Will *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* be a let-down? (Have you seen the YouTube videos that identify plot holes – “Everything wrong with”?) Lots of positive comments *Spectre*, the latest “James Bond” movie. (It was noted that there no Daniel Craig nearly-nude scenes.)

Other Items: David, who has never seen any of the *Alien* movies, is now watching them. *Prometheus* (the prequel movie) is horrible – a group of scientists acting dumb and who deserved to get killed off. Peter played (and we all enjoyed) *Lava*, the tear-jerker short film that accompanied the Disney/Pixar feature *Inside Out*.

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Tarot Card by John Picacio

info passed along by Carl



As has been observed, it looks like *everybody* has jumped on the *Star Wars* bandwagon. And here's something by award-winning F&SF artist John Picacio. He created a *Star Wars*-themed limited edition print for the recent “Star Wars: The Force of Art” exhibition in San Antonio. It's entitled “Feel The Force Flow” – and it's based on the Temperance tarot card. (See image above.) If you want a signed and numbered print (and if there are any left), it'll cost you \$125. You can contact the artist at:

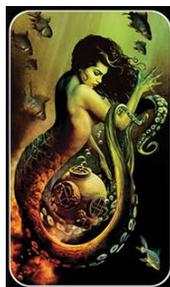
picacio@grandecom.net

and pay for it via Paypal.

I talked with Picacio briefly at Worldcon 2015 and purchased a copy of his (as yet incomplete) deck of *Loteria* cards. (*Lotería* is the Spanish word for lottery; it's a game of chance, similar to bingo, but using images on a deck of 54 cards instead of plain numbers on pint pong balls. See examples below: traditional on the left; Picacio's on the right.)

Check out his website:

<http://johnpicacio.com>



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Mission to Enceladus?

info passed along by Wayne # 1

“If Enceladus has life, we will find it.” This is the quest of a team of scientists who have asked NASA to fund the building of a small orbiter to sample geyser-like plumes for evidence of life on this moon of Saturn.

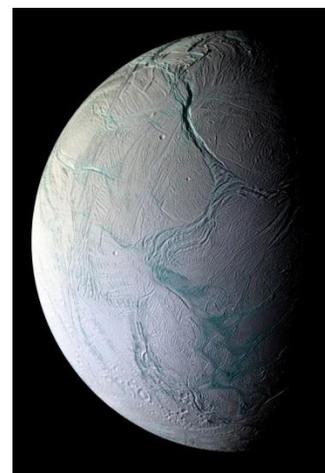
Scientists discovered these plumes spouting from Enceladus's south polar region in 2005; and since then, evidence has mounted that the plumes originate from a layer of water perhaps six miles deep (beneath an ice-shell that is 19 to 25 miles thick). Previously, it was believed that Enceladus only possessed a large pocket of liquid water beneath the moon's south polar region; but on Sept. 15, 2015, it was announced that there seems to be a *global* ocean under its icy crust. (Enceladus would seem to be a smaller analog of Jupiter's moon Europa.) This has encouraged Enceladus researchers, because a global ocean has the potential for a more diverse and vigorous ecology.

NASA already plans to launch a spacecraft toward Europa in the early-to-mid-2020s; and now NASA is also thinking about sending an orbiter to Enceladus. The possible Enceladus project would be known as the Enceladus Life Finder (ELF), part of the NASA Discovery Program (relatively low-cost missions to various destinations in the solar system).

For updated information about Enceladus, check out this website:

<http://saturn.jpl.nasa.gov/science/moon/s/enceladus/>

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Spectrum Novels Announced at ChessieCon

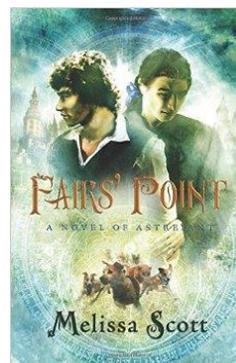
info passed along by Carl



**2013
Best
Novel**



**2014
Best
Novel**



At a special ceremony during ChessieCon (Saturday afternoon, Nov. 28th), the winners of the Gaylactic Spectrum Awards for “Best Novel” for the years 2013 and 2014 were announced. Rob and Carl also announced the “Short Lists” for both years and distributed informational handouts. The winners of the Gaylactic Spectrum Awards for “Best Short Fiction” will be announced at Gaylaxicon 2016 (Minneapolis).

Death by Silver (Lethe Press), by Melissa Scott and Amy Griswold, is the winner of the Spectrum Award for “Best Novel” published in 2013. It’s a murder mystery (with magic!) set in Victorian London (the first in a new series). The winner for “Best Novel” published in 2014 is *Fairs’ Point* (Lethe Press) by Melissa Scott. It’s the fourth novel in the “Astreiant” series – also a magical murder mystery set in a Fantasy world reminiscent of urban Renaissance Europe.

The Gaylactic Spectrum Awards recognize outstanding works in science fiction, fantasy, or horror that deal positively with issues, themes, and characters of special relevance to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered communities. Winners are chosen by a panel of judges. Nominations are open to everyone; readers, fans, writers/creators, publishers, and more are encouraged to nominate their own or others’ works.

For complete lists of *all* nominees – or to nominate works for consideration – go to the Gaylactic Spectrum Awards website:

<http://www.spectrumawards.org/>

2013 Short List

- *Angel on the Ropes*, by Jill Shultz (Schultz).
- *Blood Oranges*, by Kathleen Tierney (Roc).
- *Dead in the Desert*, by Lou Harper (Harper).
- *The Holy Road and His Sacred Bones*, by Ginn Hale (Blind Eye).
- *Indexing*, by Seanan McGuire (47North).
- *The Left Hand of Justice*, by Jess Faraday (Bold Strokes).
- *The Magpie Lord*, by KJ Charles (Samhain).
- *Something More Than Night*, by Ian Tregillis (Tor).
- *The Summer Prince*, by Alaya Dawn Johnson (Arthur Levine).
- *The Violent Century*, by Lavie Tidhar (Hodder & Stoughton).
- *Widdershins, Threshold, and Stormhaven*, by Jordan Hawk (JLH/Widdershins).



2014 Short List

- *A Case of Possession and Flight of Magpies*, by KJ Charles (Samhain).
- *The Dark Defiles*, by Richard Morgan (Del Rey).
- *Daughter of Mystery*, by Heather Rose Jones (Bella).
- *A Death at the Dionysus Club*, by Melissa Scott & Amy Griswold (Lethe).
- *The Future Falls*, by Tanya Huff (DAW).
- *Heirs of Grace*, by Tim Pratt (47North).
- *King of Dublin*, by Lisa Henry & Heidi Belleau (Riptide).
- *The Mercury Waltz*, by Kathe Koja (Roadswell).
- *Necropolis and Bloodline*, by Jordan Hawk (Widdershins).
- *Red Delicious*, by Kathleen Tierney (Roc).
- *Pathfinder Tales: The Redemption Engine*, by James Sutter (Paizo).
- *Shards of Time*, by Lynn Flewelling (Del Rey).
- *Wind Raker*, by Melissa Scott & Jo Graham (Crossroad).



GAYLAXICON 2016: Oct. 7-9, 2016

Check out the updated website:

<http://www.gaylaxicon2016.org/>

* * 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, **January 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



Feb. 12-14, 2016 **FARPOINT 23**. Radisson Hotel North Baltimore (Timonium, MD). Guests to include: Sean Maher ("Simon Tam" from *Firefly*); more guests TBA. Membership: \$80 for the weekend (daily rates available). On-line membership available (using Everbrite). Website: <http://www.farpointcon.com/>

Feb. 12-14, 2016 **KATSUCON 2016** (anime, manga, cosplay, etc.). Gaylord National Resort (National Harbor, Washington DC). Membership: \$70 until Jan. 31, 2016. Registration is on-line. Website: <http://www.katsucon.org/>

May 27-30, 2016 **BALTICON 50**. The Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel (Baltimore, MD). GoH: George R.R. Martin; Artist GoH: John Picacio. Membership: \$59 until 2/29; \$64 from 3/1 to 4/15; \$70 thereafter. On-line registration available: registration@balticon.org. Website: www.balticon.org E-mail: balticoninfo@balticon.org

July 15-17, 2016 **SHORE LEAVE 38**. (Celebrating Star Trek's 50th Anniversary.) Hunt Valley Inn (Hunt Valley, MD). Membership: \$90 for the weekend (daily memberships available) – deadline for pre-registration 6/15/2016; prices higher at the door. Send a membership form, self-addressed stamped envelope, and check payable to "Shore Leave" to: Shore Leave 38, PO Box 6809, Towson, MD 21285-6809 Website: www.shore-leave.com E-mail: information@shore-leave.com

Aug. 17-21, 2016 **MIDAMERICON II, the 74th Worldcon**. Kansas City Convention Center & Bartle Hall (Kansas City, MO). GoHs: Kinuko Craft; Patrick & Teresa Nielsen Hayden; Tamora Pierce; Pat Cadigan. Membership: \$185 "until Spring 2016" (will go up after that). Registration is on-line (via PayPal). Website: <http://midamericon2.org/>

October 7-9, 2016 **CAPCLAVE 2016**. Hilton Washington DC North/Gaithersburg (Gaithersburg, MD). Membership: \$45 thru 12/31/2015; \$50 from 1/1/2016 thru 5/31/2016; \$55 from 6/1 thru 7/31; \$60 from 8/1 thru 9/30; \$65 at the door. Author GoHs: Sarah Beth Durst, Tim Powers. On-line registration. Website: www.Capclave.org

Oct. 7-9, 2016 **GAYLAXICON 2016**. Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Minneapolis-Park Place (Minneapolis, MN). Guests of Honor: Eleanor Arnason (author); David Maxine (Hungry Tiger Press); Eric Shanower (*Age of Bronze*). Registration: \$50 thru 2015; \$80 at the door. Registration is on-line. Website: <http://www.gaylaxicon2016.org/>