



Lambda Sci-Fi

DC Area Gaylaxians

(202) 232-3141 - Issue # 323 – February 2017

E-MAIL: info@lambdascifi.org

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 February 23, 2017.

Here are the details for the next several book discussions:

Feb. 23 – *Daughter of Mystery*, by Heather Rose Jones (mod.: Claire).

March 23 – *The Long Way to a Small, Angry Planet*, by Becky Chambers (moderator: Konrad).

April 27 – *Air*, by Geoff Ryman (moderator: Rob).

May 25 – *Lily and the Octopus*, by Steven Rowley (moderator: Bob A.).

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February Meeting

Discussion:

Sharing Our Pride Booth?

from Rob



As you might know, we've had a booth at Pride every year since the formation of the club. We promote the club and our events; we hand out bookmarks; we get email addresses for our mailing list; we promote Gaylaxicons; etc. We generally get around 40 valid new email addresses from our day at Pride, and generally a handful of people will get involved in our activities from it each year. Unfortunately the cost of having our table at Pride has risen significantly over the years - with this year's booth costing us about \$280 (only because we got a discount for signing up early). The bottom line: the Pride booth, while getting our name out there, eats up about 70-80% of our annual incoming funds and generates little to



no extra income over the year. We're slowly going to go broke at this rate. So...

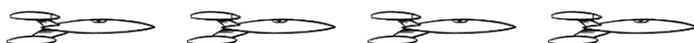
My suggestion is to approach the other big local LGBTQA+ fandom group - Geeks Out DC - to see if they might be interested in sharing the booth and the cost with us. We've been cross-promoting events on Facebook with the Geeks Out folks for the last several months, and there's definitely some group crossover. We tend to have a different array of events than they do, so they're less a competitor and more an "alternative" for folks interested in activities we don't generally do. We've already booked this year's table; and, if the club thinks it's a worthwhile idea, I can approach Geeks Out DC about sharing this year and in the future.

So, please give this some thought, and discuss it at the February meeting (which I unfortunately will miss). Based on the club's decision, I'll follow up or not.

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<<<<< February 2017 LSF Meeting >>>>>

The next LSF meeting will be held on **Sunday, February 12th**. The meeting will be held at Peter and Rob's home, **1425 "S" Street NW, Washington, DC**. The meeting will begin at 1:30 and the "group watch" will begin at 3:00 PM. Hope to see you there!



What's Inside?

- [Page 2:](#) Minutes of the January LSF Meeting.
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- [Page 4:](#) Information About Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians and Con Calendar.

**Minutes of the January
LSF Meeting**
taken by Scott

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A bitter-cold day outside!

Business Items: The current set of LSF officers was re-elected by acclamation. LSF might propose a genre panel for this year's Awesome Con; Rob will craft a programming idea and share it for feedback.

TV News: Only a few episodes of *The Travelers* so far – *Quantum Leap*-style time travelers from the future supplant the bodies of four others to save the world. *Powerless* is a DC Universe TV series: an R&D team at Wayne Enterprises develops products for regular humans who might get caught in battles between superheroes and supervillians. Rob discussed the new series *Emerald City*, a grim, dark version of *The Wizard of Oz*. He also says that the first season of *Lucifer* is hilarious: Lucifer comes to Los Angeles and battle crime. (35 episodes so far. Great chemistry, great dialogue. Rob recommends it.) Net-flix's *Sense8* "holiday special" is now available; the show works well for binge-watching but not so well for episode-watching. Teresa is suffering from Steven Moffatt fatigue. David is watching *Frequency* – the main character uses her ham radio to speak with her dead father. Upcoming: a new series *Time After Time* – HG Wells uses his time machine to travel to our time chasing Jack the Ripper.

Film News: Lots of anguish over the plot of *Passengers*. (The Chris Pratt character gets away with "rape", his victim forgives him, and they live happily ever after – forgivable reprehensible morality?) Rob feels that *Arrival* is an intelligent sci-fi movie. Peter and Rob loved *Rogue One* and the CGI representations of Grand Moff Tarkin and Princess Leia. (Did you recognize the two male characters who some perceive as a gay couple?) David provided the plot for *Timeless*: an unlikely trio of a scientist, a soldier, and a history professor use a time machine to change events in the past.

(And there is a lesbian character.) Randy could not sit through the current *Underworld* movie; Rob says that the entire series is awful, except for the first movie. *Guardians of the Galaxy II* comes out in May – with Baby Groot. (Awww...!) *Blade Runner 2049* (the sequel) will be coming out in October. Also coming out this year are *Logan* and *Thor: Ragnarok* (with Dr. Strange and the Hulk). In the DC Universe, the *Wonder Woman* and *Justice League* movies will be released this year.

Then Xena brought out birthday cupcakes for Peter's birthday. Yum!



Then it was time for the Annual LSF Blind Book Exchange! Here are the details:

From Teresa to Scott: *Strong Female Protagonist* by Brennan Lee Mulligan and Molly Osterberg.

From Carl to David: *Cherry Bomb*, *Blood Oranges*, and *Red Delicious* by Caitlin Kiernan.

From David to Moses: *10 Cloverfield Lane* (video).

From Moses to Teresa: *Buck Rogers: Grievous Angel* by Howard Chaykin (graphic novel).

From Xena to James: *The Mysterious Benedict Society* by Trenton Lee Stewart and *The Historian* by Elizabeth Kostova.

From James to Peter: *Southern Vampires* by Charlaine Harris, *Agents of Shield* (video); and *Penis Fairies and Queef Storms: A Coloring Book of Awful Things* by The Oatmeal.

From Rob to Xena: A trilogy by Robin Hobb, and a trilogy by Laurel K. Hamilton.

From Scott to Carl: *Embasytown* by China Mieville.

From Peter to Rob: *Nightmare Before Christmas* (game).

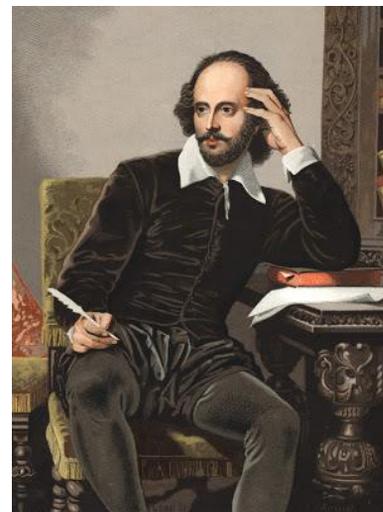
Finally, we watched the first two episodes of Netflix's *The OA* – captivating and creepy! ΛΨΦ

*Happy
Valentine's
Day to our
Friends at LSF!*



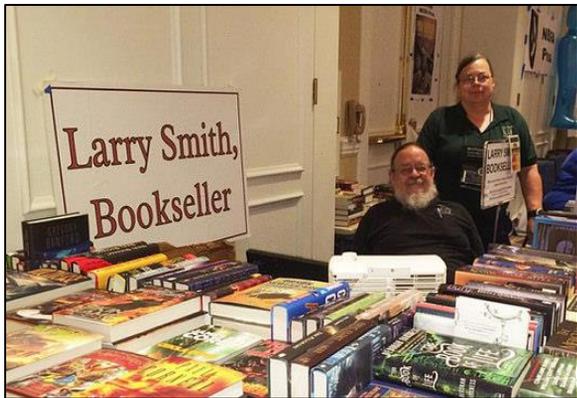
*From all of us
living near the
Hundred Acre
Wood!*

*Tomorrow is Saint
Valentine's Day,
All in the morning
betime
And I a maid at your
window,
To be your Valentine.*



*Shakespeare
Hamlet, Act 4 (c. 1601)*

Larry Smith 1946 – 2017



Larry Smith & Sally Kobee in typical “con mode”

Larry (Laurence C.) Smith was a mainstay of science fiction conventions for decades; and he was a friend of lots and lots of fen. If you’ve visited the Dealers Room at almost any Midwest or East Coast convention – or any number of Worldcons – then you’ve probably stopped by Larry Smith Booksellers. And, if you’re like many of us, you were one of Larry’s loyal, devoted customers – and you’ll miss him, too. Larry seemed to remember everybody and knew what they liked to read. He certainly knew the SF/F/H scene; he always had a recommendation; and he frequently gave you his opinion. He could also be a delightful curmudgeon.

Larry was also one of those dedicated fen who worked behind the scenes to keep sci-fi conventions going. He co-chaired the Columbus OH Worldcon bid in 1976; he chaired Marcon for a decade; he served as vice-chair of Chicon IV (1982); and he co-chaired the 2010 World Fantasy Convention. He acquired Dick Spelman’s book business in the early 1990s (based in Ohio) and thereafter became a regular among convention booksellers. Odds were good that he also ran the dealer’s room at any given convention, be it at a smaller local convention or at a Worldcon.

Larry unexpectedly passed away on January 20th, as his wife and business partner Sally Kobee was setting up at Chattacon (Chattanooga, TN). She immediately packed up and headed back home. Tributes to Larry from fen and authors from across the country – as well as heartfelt condolences to Sally – have been pouring into Facebook and other on-line sites.

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Sir John Hurt 1940-2017



Actor John Hurt has died at the age of 77. He was one of the most respected actors of his generation. Over his 50-year career, he portrayed some of the most memorable characters in British film and television. He received 2 Academy Award nominations, a Golden Globe Award, and four BAFTA (British Academy of Film and Television Arts) Awards.

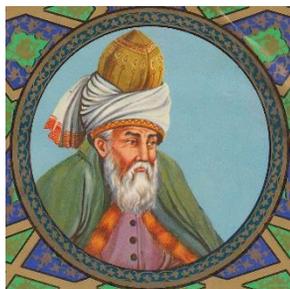
John Hurt was born in Chesterfield, Derbyshire in January 1940. In 1960, he won a scholarship to the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, where he trained for two years.

Hurt’s first film was *The Wild and the Willing* (1962); but he made his mark playing Richard Rich in the 1966 film *A Man for All Seasons*. He won a BAFTA Award for playing Quentin Crisp in the TV play *The Naked Civil Servant* (1975); and he won further acclaim for his role as the emperor Caligula in the 1976 series *I, Claudius*. In 1978 he won his first Academy Award nomination for *Midnight Express* (as “Max”), and he won a Golden Globe and a second BAFTA for it, too. Hurt also did voice-work in such animated films as *Watership Down* (1978, as “Hazel”) and *Lord of the Rings* (1978, as “Aragorn”). In 1980 he played John Merrick in *The Elephant Man*, which earned him his second Academy Award nomination. Also in 1980, he gave memorable birth to a “chest-burster”, as Kane in the film *Alien*. Four years later he played Winston Smith in the film adaptation of the George Orwell classic *Nineteen Eighty-Four* (opposite Richard Burton). Hurt appeared as “Ollivander” in several of the *Harry Potter* films and as “The Great Dragon” in the TV series *Merlin* (2012).

In 2013, at the age of 73, Hurt made his debut in *Doctor Who*, as “The War Doctor”, a character invented by Steven Moffat to fill the gap in the series 50th Anniversary story “The Day of the Doctor”. He also appeared in “The Name of the Doctor” and “The Night of the Doctor”.

Sir John received a knighthood, for his services to drama, in the 2015 New Years Honours; and on July 17, 2015, at Windsor Castle, he was invested and received the accolade from Queen Elizabeth.

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You were born with potential. You were born with goodness and trust.
You were born with ideals and dreams. You were born with greatness.
You were born with wings. You were not meant for crawling, so don't.
You have wings. Learn to use them and fly.

-- Jalaluddin Rumi (13th Century Persian mystic and poet)

* * 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 12th, 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. 17-19, 2017 **FARPOINT 2017**. Radisson Hotel North Baltimore (Timonium MD). Membership: \$80 pre-registration for the weekend (daily rates available). Guests: Sam Witwer ("Mr. Hyde" from *Once Upon a Time*), Enver Gjokaj ("Agent Daniel Sousa" from *Agent Carter*), Nicholas Meyer (director), more TBA. Checks payable to "Farpoint Enterprises" and send to: Farpoint Enterprises, 11708 Troy Ct., Waldorf, MD 20601.

Register and pay on-line at: www.FarpointCon.com/register

Website: www.FarpointCon.com

March 24-26, 2017 **(RE)GENERATION WHO3**. Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace (Baltimore MD). Membership: Pre-registration \$80; \$90 at the door; VIP packages available. Guests: Sylvester McCoy (7th Doctor), Michelle Gomez (Missy), Peter Purves (1st Doctor Companion Steven Taylor), Katy Manning (3rd Doctor Companion Jo Grant).

Registration through the website: <https://regenerationwho.com/>

May 12-14, 2017 **OUTLANTACON** ("The Best in LGTBIQ Sci Fi, Fantasy, Horror, Anime, and Gaming"). Atlanta Marriott Century Center (Atlanta, GA). Membership: \$40 until 12/31/2016 (presumably higher after that – webpage not yet updated). Registration on-line at registration@outlantacon.org

Website: www.outlantacon.org

Information: info@outlantacon.org

May 26-29, 2017 **BALTICON 51** (including The 1632 Minicon). Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace (Baltimore MD). Membership: [more information as it becomes available] GoH: Eric Flint; Artist GoH: Donato Giancola. Checks payable to ? and send to PO Box 686, Baltimore, MD 21203-0686

Website: www.balticon.org

E-mail: balticoninfo@balticon.org

June 16-18, 2017 **AWESOME CON 2017**. Walter E. Worthington Convention Center (Washington, DC) "Awesome Con welcomes some of the biggest and nerdiest names across comics, movies, TV, and more." Membership: \$75 for the basic 3-day weekend pass (daily rates & "add-ons" available). Registration on-line. Website: <http://awesomecon.com>

July 6-9, 2017 **NORTHAMERICON '17** (NASFiC 2017). Sheraton Puerto Rico (San Juan, Puerto Rico). Guests of Honor: Daina Chaviano, Tobias Buckell, George Perez, Brother Guy Consolmagno, Javier Grillo-Marxuach, Paula Smith. Attending Membership: \$100 (will go up)

Website: www.northamericon17.com

July 7-9, 2017 **SHORE LEAVE 39** ("a fan-run media SF convention"). Hunt Valley Inn (Hunt Valley, MD). Guests: "to be announced as soon as confirmed". Membership: \$95 for the weekend (daily rates available). Checks payable to "Shore Leave" and send to: Shore Leave 39, PO Box 6809, Towson, MD 21285-6809

Website: www.shore-leave.com

Oct. 6-8, 2017 **CAPCLAVE 2017**. Hilton Washington DC North (Gaithersburg, MD). Author GoH: Ken Liu; Editor GoH: Neil Clarke. Membership: \$55 to May 31; \$60 from June 1 to July 31; \$65 from Aug. 1 to Sept. 30; \$70 at the door.

Website: www.capclave.org Info: info@capclave.org