



Lambda Sci-Fi

DC Area Gaylaxians

(202) 232-3141 - Issue # 324 – March 2017

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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 March 23, 2017.

Here are the details for the next several book discussions:

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.).

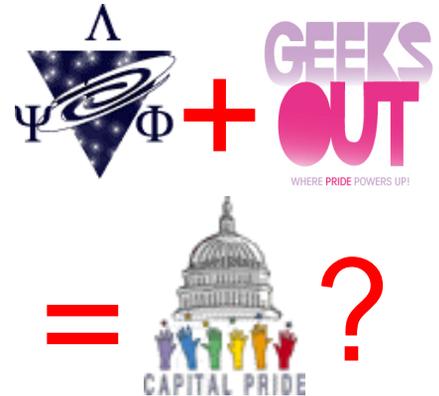
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Lambda Sci-Fi turns 27 this month! The first meeting was held on March 14, 1990, at the home of Loree and Marcelle Cook-Daniels. There were nine attendees. The minutes of that first meeting include the following information:

“As for ‘business,’ we decided to circulate and read the Galactic Network’s Principles and By-Laws, with an eye toward sooner or later deciding if we want to join as a subsidiary group; not to decide now about officers, name, structure, etc...”

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These are a couple of questions to be resolved in the coming months...



<<<<< March 2017 LSF Meeting >>>>>

The next LSF meeting will be held on **Sunday, March 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! (REMINDER: Daylight Savings Time begins at 2 AM on Sunday! So set your clocks ahead by one hour!)



What's Inside?

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Osprey Meets Cthulhu

short reviews by Carl

If you're a fan of table-top gaming or militaria, then you're probably quite aware of Osprey Publishing. Since 1968, they've been a leading publisher for military history enthusiasts. On any given day, you'll probably find several dozen of their thin, well-researched, and beautifully-illustrated books on the Military History shelves of your local B&N. But it's on the F&SF shelves that you're going to find a couple of fascinating 2016 books in the "Osprey Adventures" line: *The Cthulhu Campaigns: Ancient Rome* and *The Cthulhu Wars: The United States' Battles Against the Mythos*.

Mark Latham's *The Cthulhu Campaigns* explores the involvement of Lovecraftian entities with the Roman Empire, from the city's founding to its fall. Seems as how an inner circle of the Roman priesthood controlled (or attempted to control) the Republic and the Empire in the interest of dominating the world and waking Cthulhu from his dreams in R'lyeh. *The Cthulhu Campaigns* recounts Rome's (and Cthulhu's) centuries-long battles with various esoteric cabals and other Lovecraftian entities around the Empire's borders, including Shub-Niggurath (among the Germans), Nodens (among the Celts), Dagon (in the Mesopotamian cities), and Nyarlathotep (among the Egyptians). And it's filled with magnificent illustrations (both full color and B&W) by ³RU-MOR.

The Cthulhu Wars, as its subtitle indicates, tells the "secret history" of the United States' ongoing struggles with NREs (*Necronomicon-Related Entities*). Authors Kenneth Hite and Kennon Bauman have done a masterful job of combining actual historical incidents and people (such as Secretary of Defense James Forrestal) with characters and storylines from the Lovecraft canon (such as the Government attack featured in "The Shadow Over Innsmouth"), into a fascinatingly integrated narrative – from pre-Colonial days to the current "Global War on

Minutes of the February

LSF Meeting

taken by Scott

LSF Business:

As Rob reported in his article in last month's newsletter, the cost of the Pride Day table has been rising each year – this year, it's \$280 (even with the early-registration discount). Rob's suggestion about splitting a table with Geeks OUT! this year to save money was discussed, and attendees voted in favor of his idea. Rob will now contact Geeks OUT! to see if that group might be interested in sharing a Pride Day table with LSF.

We will need to have Peter advise us about whether he has heard back from AwesomeCon about LSF possibly hosting a discussion panel this year.

Otakon 2017 will be held at the Washington Convention Center rather than in Baltimore. Carl will ensure that it's added to the Con Calendar in the newsletter.

TV News:

There seemed to be agreement that the television version of *The Man in the High Castle* has better plot-based development than the book. *The Dark Knight Retires* (fan shorts) features an older Batman – find it on YouTube! General consensus is that *Powerless* is very clever. Season 2 of

The Magicians has aired; the TV series is much better than the book. Peter Capaldi is leaving *Dr. Who*. Margaret Atwood's *Handmaid's Tale* will be shown on Hulu in April. *Supergirl* and *Flash* will join forces for a musical cross-over episode. *Riverdale* (based on Archie Comics characters) didn't receive any raves, although Carl reported that *TV Guide* feels it's badly under-rated.

Movie News:

Richard Hatch (Capt. Apollo of *Battlestar Galactica*) has passed away. Carl passed around an item from Wayne: *Blade Runner 2049* is expected to be released in October; Harrison Ford will make an appearance as Rick Deckard. Did you know that *Warm Bodies* (the zombie movie) is based upon Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*? *Lego Batman* has just opened with rave reviews. (Sauron guest stars!) *Guardians of the Galaxy II* is coming out soon, and Vin Diesel voices Baby Groot. Coming out later this year: *Kong: Skull Island*, *Power Rangers*, and *Ghost in the Shell*. An American live-action version of *Death Note* is being made. Controversial film *The Assignment* features a hitman trans woman played by Michelle Rodriguez. Remakes in the news: *Flatliners*, *Murder on the Orient Express*, and Stephen King's *It*.

Other News:

David reported that a Broadway adaptation of *Groundhog Day* is debuting in May

David also described "the Un-canny Valley", which is "used in reference to the phenomenon whereby a computer-generated figure or humanoid robot bearing a near-identical resemblance to a human being arouses a sense of unease or revulsion in the person viewing it." He used reactions to the 2004 *Polar Express* movie as an example; and various folks described their reactions to the "Princess Leia" and "Grand Moff Tarkin" recreations in *Rogue One*.

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Horror". Darren Tan also does a masterful job of supplementing the written narrative with a combination of actual photographs, clever photoshopped images, and striking color plates.

Lovecraft fans, be on the lookout for these two books. I think you'll be more than happy to add 'em to your Mythos library. ΛΨΦ

Richard Hatch

1945 - 2017

Richard Hatch was an actor, writer, and producer best known for his role as Captain Apollo on the original *Battlestar Galactica*, and also as Tom Zarek in the 2003 remake of *Battlestar Galactica*. He died on February 7th from pancreatic cancer under hospice care in Los Angeles, aged 71.

Hatch began his theatrical career with the Los Angeles Repertory Theater. In the late 1960s, he starred in several plays and musicals Off Broadway and won an Obie Award for his work in *PS Your Cat is Dead* in Chicago.

Hatch began working in television in 1970 when he starred as Philip Brent in the daytime soap opera *All My Children*, which he played for two years. He then made guest appearances in such primetime TV series as *Cannon*, *Barnaby Jones*, *Hawaii Five-O*, and *The Waltons*, as well as appearing in several made-for-TV movies such as *The Hatfields and McCoy's* and the 1978 TV movie *Deadman's Curve* (portraying Jan Berry of the musical duo Jan and Dean). Hatch gained his first major television role in 1976 as Inspector Dan Robbins on *The Streets of San Francisco* (replacing Michael Douglas, who had left the series that year). He also had a recurring role for one season on *Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman*. By this time, Hatch had become something of a pin-up and regularly appeared in teen-oriented magazines such as *Teen Beat*, *16 Magazine*, and *Tiger Beat*.

In 1978, Hatch gained a starring role in Glen Larson's *Battlestar Galactica*, which aired for a single season before cancellation. Hatch was nominated for a Golden Globe Award for the role of Captain Apollo. An abridged version of the pilot episode of *Battlestar Galactica* was released in cinemas (initially overseas and then for a limited run in the US), as was a sequel film, *Mission Galactica: The Cylon Attack* (made from episodes of the series).

Throughout the 1980's, Hatch made guest appearances on *Hotel*, *Murder She Wrote*, *The Love Boat*, and *Fantasy Island*. He made several low-key theatrical film releases, including *Prisoners of the Lost Universe* (1983). In 1984, he appeared in several episodes of *Dynasty*. In 1990, he returned to daytime soap operas and appeared on *Santa Barbara*. He continued to make guest appearances on prime time series such as *Jake and the Fatman* and *Baywatch*, but roles were becoming few and far between. His next big role would be as Tom Zarek in the reimagined version of *Battlestar Galactica*, in which he made semi-regular appearances from 2004 to 2009.

Hatch attempted to revive *Battlestar Galactica*. In the 1990's, he began writing novels based on the series, and also wrote, co-directed, and executive-produced a trailer called *The Second Coming* in the hopes of enticing Universal Studios (the rights holders for the franchise) into producing a new series that would have been a direct con-



Captain Apollo



Commander Kharn

tinuation of the original 1978 series (ignoring the events of the failed spin-off *Galactica 1980*, in which Hatch did not appear). Although the trailer won acclaim at science-fiction conventions, Universal was not interested and instead opted for a remake rather than the sequel. Hatch (who claimed to have remortgaged his house to make the trailer) was bitterly disappointed and was highly critical of the prospective new series on his website. In 2004, he stated to *Sci-Fi Pulse* that he had felt resentment over the failure of his planned *Galactica* continuation and was left "exhausted and sick... I had, over the past several years, bonded deeply with the original characters and story... writing the novels and the comic books and really campaigning to bring back the show." Later, in 2004, Hatch was offered a recurring role in the new *Battlestar Galactica* series, playing Tom Zarek, a terrorist-turned-politician who spent twenty years in prison for blowing up a government building. After Zarek's death, Hatch commented that "never did I play this character as a villain nor did I think he was one and I still feel that way" – he considered the character to be a principled figure who is driven to violence after being "blocked in every way possible" by Roslin and Adama. "Zarek, Adama and Roslin all wanted power for the same reason, to make a positive difference."

Alongside his attempts to revive the original *Battlestar Galactica*, Hatch created his own space opera entitled *The Great War of Magellan*, including a comic book series and a role-playing game in support of this. He appeared in *InAlienable*, a 2008 science fiction film written and produced by Walter Koenig. In 2011, he worked on a new reality TV series called *Who the Frak?*, which he created and appeared in as himself (touted as "the world's first social network reality drama"). In 2012 and 2013, Hatch appeared in the web series *The Silicon Assassin Project*. In 2013, he ventured into the Steampunk genre, starring in the short film *Cowboys & Engines* alongside Malcolm McDowell and Walter Koenig. In 2014, he played the Klingon Commander Kharn in the *Star Trek* fan film *Prelude To Axanar* and was to appear in the subsequent fan production *Star Trek: Axanar* in 2015.

* * 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, **March 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



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 **OUTLANTA CON** ("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

Aug. 11-13, 2017 **OTAKON 2017** ("an annual convention to celebrate Asian pop culture and its fandom"). Walter E. Washington Convention Center (Washington, DC). New memberships: \$95; \$100 at the door. On-line registration.
Website: www.otakon.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

