



# Lambda Sci-Fi

## DC Area Gaylaxians

(202) 232-3141 – Issue # 341 – August 2018

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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 August 23.

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

**Aug. 23** – *Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandell (moderator: Claire).

**Sept. 27** – *The Prey of Gods* by Nicky Drayden (moderator: Rob W.).  $\Lambda\Psi\Phi$



### LSF "Dog Days of August" Gaming Party August 25 (Saturday) an invitation from Peter & Rob

It's hot. We have air conditioning. Come play board games.

**What:** It's a gaming party. There's plenty of room for gaming, so please bring your favorite games (cards, board, etc.).

**When:** Saturday, August 25th; 2:00 PM to 11:00 PM

**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. To get in on the pizza order, please bring \$8 in exact change. If you don't want pizza, you can order take-out or go forage for food. There are a lot of



food choices in the Midcity (14th and "U") Corridor. Also, delivery menus will be available at the party.

**Where:** Home of Peter and Rob, 1425 "S" Street NW, Washington, DC. Their home is in the Midcity (14th and "U") neighborhood between Dupont Circle and Logan Circle. Directions (with Metro and parking advice) at:

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

**Questions:** Contact Peter at:

[PeterPKnapp@gmail.com](mailto:PeterPKnapp@gmail.com)

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### <<<<< August 2018 LSF Meeting >>>>>

The next LSF meeting will be held on **Sunday, August 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?

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## Worldcon in Washington DC?

by Peter Knapp



The World Science Fiction Convention (Worldcon) has been in Washington, DC twice: Discon I in 1963 and Discon II in 1974. Isn't it about time we get another Worldcon? Luckily there's a bid to bring Worldcon to Washington, DC in 2021:

<https://dcin2021.org/>

While the only two guaranteed things in life are death and taxes, "DC in 2021" currently has no competition. The two other bids, Dallas/Fort Worth and Boston, retracted their bids; they were "not able to find affordable, workable space for 2021".

How can you help? The easiest thing you can do is become a pre-supporter of the con.

I personally pre-supported the DC bid at the \$150 "Friend" level, which got me a cool T-shirt and an auto-conversion if I vote and they win.

Another way to help is to vote on the "DC in 2021" bid. To do this, you need to be at least an Associate Member of "Dublin 2019: An Irish Worldcon" (August 15 – 19, 2019). Here's a link to joining the Dublin worldcon:

<https://dublin2019.com/join-us/>

You can also volunteer to help the "DC in 2021" bid. Drop them an e-mail at: [info@dcin2021.org](mailto:info@dcin2021.org)

and I'm sure they'll be glad to put you to work!

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## Minutes of the July LSF Meeting

taken by Scott

**Film News:** Rob enjoyed *Ant Man and the Wasp* but was underwhelmed by *Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom*. The next "Marvel Cinematic Universe" movie will be *Captain Marvel* (March, 2019). David said he enjoyed the preview of *The House with a Clock in Its Walls* (based upon the 1973 book by John Bellairs that was illustrated by Edward Gorey). *Fantastic Beasts: Crimes of Grindelwald* is due out in November. David also remarked that the direct-to-digital release of the movie *UFO* (starring Gillian Anderson) might not be total crap. (We shall see.)

**TV News:** Teresa said that BBC's *Humans* is back on AMC (third season). There was a leak of a 58-second clip of the new *Doctor Who* – apparently of the Doctor and two of her companions. Teresa loves *The Magicians* – in Season 3, magic is turned off and then restored. David says that *Charmed* is being rebooted by CW this Autumn; it will be a primarily Latina cast. He also reported that *Timeless* has been cancelled.

**Other News:** Three recent genre deaths were discussed: author Harlan Ellison; comic book illustrator Steve Ditko; and author/editor Gardner Dozois. General question: What movie and TV show previews will be shown at ComicCon 2018?

Rob passed around the final two print editions of the *Sigma* newsletter from the Pittsburgh-area sci fi group Parsec.

**Upcoming LSF book discussions:** *Moonstruck: Magic to Brew*, a graphic novel by Grace Ellis (July 26); *Station 11* by Emily St. John Mandel (Aug. 23); *The Prey of Gods* by Nicky Drayden (Sept. 27).

Then we watched the first episode of CW's *Black Lightning*.

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## Steve Ditko

1927 – 2018

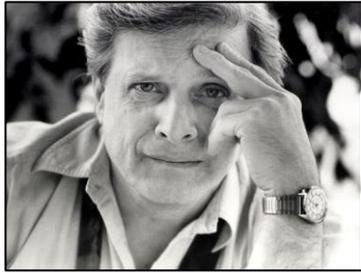
If you're a long-time fan of superhero comics, then you're also probably a long-time fan of Steve Ditko. His style is instantly recognizable; and he is best known for his classic illustrations of Spider-Man and Doctor Strange. (He was also the co-creator – with Stan Lee – of both characters.)

Inspired by his father's love of newspaper comic strips (such as Hal Foster's *Prince Valiant*), Ditko was turned on by the introduction in 1940 of Jerry Robinson's *Batman* and Will Eisner's *The Spirit*. After graduating high school, he enlisted in the U.S. Army (1945) and served in postwar Germany, where he drew comics for an Army newspaper. Following his discharge, he moved to New York City and enrolled (under the G.I. Bill) in the Cartoonists and Illustrators School, where Jerry Robinson was teaching.

Ditko began professionally illustrating comic books for Key Publications in early 1953; his first published works were: "Paper Romance" (*Daring Love* #1; Oct. 1953) and "Stretching Things" (*Fantastic Fear* #5; Feb. 1954). He soon found work at the studio of writer-artists Joe Simon and Jack Kirby, beginning as an inker on backgrounds. In 1954, he also began a long association with Charlton Comics, and he would continue to work for Charlton intermittently until its demise in 1986.

After recovering from tuberculosis at his parents' home, Ditko returned to NYC in late 1955 and began drawing for Atlas Comics (the precursor

(continued on page 3)



**Harlan Ellison**  
1934 – 2018

It's pretty much impossible to effectively summarize Harlan Ellison's life and achievements in anything short of a massive tome. The anecdotes and attributed antics alone would fill a large-sized volume.

Ellison was, above all, a writer and was known for (to quote Wikipedia) "his prolific and influential work in New Wave speculative fiction, and for his outspoken combative personality."

Ellison was born in Cleveland, Ohio. He ran away from home frequently, taking on a wide range of odd jobs in various other states. He attended Ohio State University for 18 months (1951-1953) before being expelled – supposedly for hitting a professor who had denigrated his writing ability. (And, over the next 20 years, sent said professor a copy of every story he published.)

After publishing two stories in the *Cleveland News* (1949) and selling a story to EC Comics (early 1950s), Ellison moved to New York City (1955) to pursue his writing career, primarily in F&SF. While serving in the U.S. Army, his first novel was published: *Web of the City* (1958, based on his experiences going under cover in a street gang).

In 1962, Ellison moved to California and began to sell his writing to Hollywood. He co-wrote the screen-play

for *The Oscar* (1966) and sold scripts to various TV series, including *The Loretta Young Show*, *The Flying Nun*, *Route 66*, *The Alfred Hitchcock Hour*, and *The Man from UNCLE*.

Perhaps his most famous sci-fi TV scripts are "Soldier" and "Demon with a Glass Hand" (*The Outer Limits*, 1964) and "The City on the Edge of Forever" (*Star Trek*, 1967). He served as creative consultant to the 1980s version of *The Twilight Zone* and *Babylon 5*. He even made an on-screen appearance as a "Psi Cop" in the *Babylon 5* episode "The Face of the Enemy" (1997).

Over the years, Ellison used a number of different pen names, including Cordwainer Bird, Jay Charby, Sley Harson, Ellis Hart, John Magnus, Paul Merchant, Pat Roeder, Ivar Jorgenson, Derry Tiger, Harlan Ellis, and Jay Solo. His output – short stories, novellas, screenplays, comic book scripts, teleplays, and essays – was massive.

Ellison won: eight Hugo Awards (plus a "shared" Hugo for the screenplay of his novel *A Boy and His Dog*); four Nebula Awards; five Bram Stoker Awards (horror stories); two Edgar Awards (mystery stories); two World Fantasy Awards; two George Méliès Fantasy Film Awards; The World Fantasy Award for Life Achievement (1993); induction to the Science Fiction Hall of Fame (2011); and at least a dozen other awards. Perhaps his best-known works are: the short stories "'Repent, Harlequin!' Said the Ticketman" (1965) and "I Have No Mouth and I Must Scream" (1967); the ground-breaking anthologies he gathered and edited, *Dangerous Visions* (1967) and *Again, Dangerous Visions* (1972); and his collected essays of opinion about TV, *The Glass Teat* (1970) and *The Other Glass Teat* (1975).

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### Steve Ditko Obituary continued from page 2

of Marvel Comics); he contributed many stories to Atlas/Marvel's *Strange Tales*, *Amazing Adventures*, *Strange Worlds*, *Tales of Suspense*, and *Tales to Astonish*. Spider-Man, co-created by Ditko and Lee, first appeared in *Amazing Fantasy* #15 (Aug. 1962); and Doctor Strange first appeared in *Strange Tales* #110 (July 1963). The Ditko-Lee collaboration also resulted in such other memorable characters as Doctor Octopus, the Green Goblin, Baron Mordo, the Dread Dormammu, and Eternity. After being the exclusive artist on *The Amazing Spider-Man* and the "Doctor Strange" features, Ditko left Marvel in 1966 for unspecified reasons.

Ditko continued to work for Charlton and also for DC Comics, where he illustrated such characters as the Blue Beetle, the Creeper, Hawk and Dove, and Shade the Changing Man. He also began contributing to small independent publishers. He returned to Marvel as a freelancer in 1979.



In 1967, Wally Wood's *witzend* #3 saw the premiere of Ditko's solely-owned "Mr. A", a controversial hard-liner crime-fighter influenced by Ditko's deep interest in Ayn Rand's philosophy of Objectivism.

Ditko retired from mainstream comics in 1998; but many collections of his works have appeared since then.

Ditko won numerous awards for his work on *Spider-Man*. In 1987, he was presented *in absentia* with the Comic-Con International Inkpot Award – he refused the award, saying: "Awards bleed the artist and make us compete against each other." He was inducted into the Jack Kirby Hall of Fame in 1990 and into the Will Eisner Award Hall of Fame in 1994.

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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 trans-gendered (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, **August 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

Aug. 16-20, 2018 **WORLDCON SAN JOSE**, the 76th World Science Fiction Convention. McEnery Convention Center (San Jose, CA). Guests of Honor: Chelsea Quinn Yarbro & Spider Robinson. Membership: currently \$230 (will go up!). On-line registration thru the convention's website. More information (including hotel information) as it becomes available. Website: [www.worldcon76.org](http://www.worldcon76.org)

Sept. 28-30, 2018 **CAPCLAVE 2018**. Rockville Hilton & Executive Meeting Center (Rockville, MD). GoH: Nancy Kress & Alyssa Wong. Membership: \$60 from June 1 to July 31; \$65 from Aug. 1 to Sept. 30. Use the on-line registration form (using Paypal or processing your credit card thru Paypal). Website: <http://www.capclave.org/capclave/capclave.18/>

Oct. 5-7, 2018 **CREATURES, CRIMES & CREATIVITY CON** ("for readers and writers and fans of all genre fiction, including mystery, suspense, romance, thriller, horror, sci-fi, fantasy, and paranormal"). Sheraton Columbia Town Center (Columbia MD). Membership \$245. For more information: [www.creaturescrimesandcreativity.com](http://www.creaturescrimesandcreativity.com)

Nov. 1-4, 2018 **WORLD FANTASY CONVENTION**. Baltimore Renaissance Harborplace Hotel (Baltimore, MD). Guests of Honor: Kaaron Warren, Scott Edelman, Michael J. Walsh. Artist Guest of Honor: Tom Kidd. Special Guest: Aliette de Bodard. Membership: \$200 (current rate; will go up). On-line registration or print out registration form & send to: WFC2018 c/o Baltimore Science Fiction Society, Inc., PO Box 686, Baltimore MD 21203-0686 Website: <http://www.wfc2018.org/>

Nov. 23-25 **CHESSIECON 2018**. Radisson North Baltimore Hotel (Timonium MD). GoH: Jo Walton; Music GoH: Dr. Mary Crowell. Membership: \$55 until Nov. 1; \$60 at the door (checks payable to "Thanksgiving Science Fiction Society"). To pre-register, print out the registration form & send to: TSFS, Inc., PO Box 83032, Gaithersburg, MD 20883-3032 – or register on-line via PayPal Website: [www.chessiecon.org](http://www.chessiecon.org) Information: [info@chessiecon.org](mailto:info@chessiecon.org)

October 2019 **GAYLAXICON 2019**. Crown Plaza Aire Hotel (Minneapolis MN). During Outlantcon-Gaylaxicon 2018, the Gaylactic Network Board approved the bid by the North Country Gaylaxians to host Gaylaxicon 2019. More details as they become available.

