



# Lambda Sci-Fi DC Area Gaylaxians



PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044



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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 roundtable 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. However, the next meeting will be held on May 19th (the third Thursday).

Here are the details for the next several book discussions:

**May 19th - Triton** (also retitled as *Trouble on Triton*), by Samuel R. Delany; moderator: Tod. (NOTE: changed to third Thursday for May!)

**June 23rd - The Gaslight Dogs**, by Karin Lowachee; moderator: Carl.

**July 28th - Finder: Voice**, by Carla Speed McNeil (a Dark Horse graphic novel); moderator: Greg.      Λ Ψ Φ



## Gaylaxicon / Outlantacon Is This Month!



See you in Atlanta, GA!!  
May 13 - 15!!!



## May LSF Meeting \*\*\* Change of Place \*\*\*



The next LSF meeting will be held on **Sunday, May 8th**. The meeting will be held at Rob and Peter's house (1425 "S" Street NW), near Dupont Circle. The business meeting will begin (as usual) at 1:30 PM; and the social meeting will begin at 2:00 PM. Please also bring some munchies or soft drinks, if you can. See you there!

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# GAYLAXICON 2012 back to Minneapolis

info passed along by  
Don Kaiser, Con Chair

Here's a brief update of Gaylaxicon 2012, based on information relayed at a recent Gaylactic Network Board phone call:

Membership: currently about 40 members.

Hotel: Contract signed with the Doubletree Minneapolis Park Place (where we were last time), but with much more favorable rates. Hotel room rates will be \$95 for a standard room.

Logistics: We will be upstairs in the larger (and taller) Terrace Ballroom. We'll divide

it into four smaller rooms: three will be for programming and one for dealers. Art show will be across the hall in the Orchard Suite. All of the room that was used for dealers and art show last time will be used for gaming this time (in addition to the room where gaming was last time)—about 3 times the space. Hospitality Suite will be the same double room as last time, with spill-over into a third suite next door.

Guests: We have made offers to and have been accepted by: Gary Russell (actor in *The Famous Five*, and script Editor for BBC Drama: *Doctor Who/The Sarah Jane Adventures/Torchwood*); Kyell Gold (author of many books, primarily of furry erotica); Lyda Morehouse (local GOH - author of many books, including the "Archangel" series); Prism Comics; Wendy Pini - Featured Artist (artist and author of the *Elfquest* series and the *Masque of the Red Death*).



## WHAT'S INSIDE?

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**David Bongard**  
1959 – 2011

Chris Cox recently advised us via e-mail of the passing of David Bongard on March 31st. Dave died peacefully in his sleep from congestive heart failure due to diabetes and other health complications. Chris and Dave haven't been active in LSF affairs in recent years, but long-time LSFers may remember that Chris and Dave first met at an LSF meeting many years ago.

After graduating from the University of Maryland (B.A. in history), Dave worked for the National Archives in Washington DC. He was a co-author of *The Harper Encyclopedia of Military Biography* and *Hitler's Last Gamble: The Battle of the Bulge, December 1944 – January 1945*. He was also a managing editor and contributor to other military history books and publications. As with so many of us, Dave really enjoyed reading and researching.

Memorial contributions may be made in Dave's name to the American Diabetes Association (Alexandria, VA) or to National Public Radio or to Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church (Severna Park, MD).

### Minutes of the April LSF Meeting taken by Rob and Scott

It was agreed that LSF will once again participate with a booth at the Capital Pride Festival. Rob will make a reservation with the Pride Committee.

The meeting kicked off with lots of chatter about superhero psychology – Supers, Special.

There was some discussion that while *Avatar* and *Tron: Legacy* were visually pleasing, they weren't really great films.

Teresa reported that the Syndicon gaming con (last weekend) was fun and well attended.

Carl distributed assorted articles sent to us from LSF member Wayne # 1.

Teresa told everyone about a gamers' brunch at Piratz Tavern (8402 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD) coming up on Sunday, April 17. It will feature games like Fluxx and Munchkin, plus RPG's, etc.

Rob thought that the description of the new film *Source Code* sounds like *Groundhog Day* with exploding trains.

Carl reported that he saw the fan-created *Browncoats: Redemption* movie at Ravencon this weekend. He agrees with Jim Williams's previous assessment: not very good.

A plethora of hero movies are coming out soon, featuring young X-Men, Thor, Green Lantern, and others.

SyFy Channel's *Stargate: Universe* is winding down – and including some cast members from prior *Stargate* series.

The anime feature *Akira* is being remade with the plot action in America rather than Japan.

Rob reviewed the upcoming LSF book discussions – *The Hundred Thousand Kingdoms* in April; *Trouble on Triton* in May; and *Gaslight Dogs* in June.

John Scalzi's *Old Man's War* is going to be adapted into a movie. Paramount has purchased the movie rights. The novel is basically a story about old people who get new bodies and fight nasty aliens.

*The Book of Mormon*, a play written by the creators of *South Park*, has been receiving rave reviews.

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### Paul

movie review by Teresa Ruby

*Paul* is a road trip movie, with two middle-aged nerds from England who find themselves with a hitchhiker in the form of Paul, an alien. Paul is on the run from a shadow government agency run by "The Big Guy" (Sigourney Weaver, I'm not kidding).

Simon Pegg (playing "Graeme") and Nick Frost (playing "Clive") are two funny guys who have collaborated on many movies, such as *Hot Fuzz* and *Shaun of the Dead*. Missing from the equation in this movie, but present in those two others, is writing partner Edgar Wright; but he's hardly missed, thankfully.

Paul is a CGI character, but very realistic, within a live-action movie. His character has a personality and a history all his own, with a developed backstory revealed incrementally through the movie. One of the highlights is his collaboration with Steven Spielberg on the movie *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, which also receives several in-joke callbacks throughout the movie. In fact, the entire movie is heavily flavored with in-jokes and references to other movies both in and out of the sci-fi genre.

One running joke is that Clive and Graeme are gay, but this isn't the case; it's just a bromance. Enter Kristen Wiig, playing Ruth Buggs, the love interest for Graeme.

*Paul* is funny, adult, and a nerdy good time.

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**Elisabeth Sladen**  
1946 – 2011

*Dr. Who* fans around the world mourn the passing of Elisabeth Sladen, aka the Doctor’s famous companion “Sarah Jane Smith.” Ms. Sladen died in the morning of April 19th; she had quietly been battling with cancer for some time.

After drama school, Ms. Sladen joined the Liverpool Playhouse repertory company as assistant stage

manager. In 1970, she landed her breakthrough TV role, appearing as Anita Reynolds in the hugely-popular series *Coronation Street*.

In 1973, Elisabeth Sladen was cast in the role that would define much of her life: she was cast as investigative journalist Sarah Jane Smith, the replacement companion for the Third Doctor (Jon Pertwee) and debuted in the story “The Time Warrior.” As Sarah Jane Smith, Ms. Sladen participated in what many consider “the golden years” of *Dr. Who*, alongside the Fourth Doctor (Tom Baker).

Ms. Sladen chose to leave the series in 1976, with an emotional departure scene at the conclusion of the serial “The Hand of Fear.” She continued to work in theater and television, often alongside her husband, Brian Miller. In 1985, with the birth of her daughter Sadie, she also wanted to focus on her family life. Ms. Sladen did, however, return as Sarah Jane Smith for the 1981 Christmas Special “A Girl’s Best Friend” (a pilot for a proposed *K9 and Company* spin-off). She was reunited with “her” Doctor (Jon Pertwee) in the 1983 20th Anniversary celebration

“The Five Doctors” and again in the 1990s for two radio stories.

Then, in 2005, a discussion with Russell T. Davies led to Ms. Sladen’s guest appearance in the story “School Reunion,” which reunited Sarah and K9 with the Doctor (David Tennant). Sarah Jane Smith proved to be as popular as ever, which led to Ms. Sladen’s starring role in the spin-off series *The Sarah Jane Adventures*. This new series has been very popular and has won the Royal Television Society’s award for Children’s Drama. It has featured appearances by “the Brigadier” (Nicholas Courtney), the Tenth Doctor (David Tennant’s final performance as the Doctor in “The Wedding of Sarah Jane Smith”), and the Eleventh Doctor (Matt Smith in “Death of the Doctor”).

At the time of Ms. Sladen’s death, there were still three episodes of *The Sarah Jane Adventures* to be broadcast. Ms. Sladen’s autobiography (*Who’s That Girl*) is due out later this year.

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**Nicholas Courtney**  
1929 – 2011

With all of the recent attention on the death of Elisabeth Sladen (aka Sarah Jane Smith), you might not have known that another long-time *Dr. Who* character passed quietly from the scene a month previously. Nicholas Courtney – aka “the Brigadier” – died in February after a long battle with cancer. Courtney’s role as the Brigadier was arguably the most consistent

role in the history of the franchise. There have been eleven Doctors; but there has only been *one* Brigadier. Courtney portrayed Alistair Gordon Lethbridge-Stewart opposite five different Doctors, in more than 100 episodes spanning two decades.

William Nicholas Stone Courtney served his National Service in the British Army; but he did not want to pursue a military career. Courtney made guest appearances in several other cult-favorite TV series, including *The Avengers* (1962, 1967) and *The Champions* (1968).

Courtney’s first appearance in *Dr. Who* came in 1965, in the serial “The Daleks’ Master Plan,” with the First Doctor (William Hartnell). He portrayed Space Security Agent Bret Vyon. In 1968, he was cast as Colonel Lethbridge-Stewart in “The Web of Fear,” featuring Patrick Troughton as the Second Doctor. Later that year (“The Invasion”), Courtney reappeared as Brigadier Lethbridge-Stewart, in charge

of the British contingent of UNIT (an organization that protects Earth from alien invasions). The Brigadier appeared semi-regularly from 1970 to 1975, with return appearances in 1983. The Brigadier’s last *Dr. Who* TV appearance was in 1989 (“Battlefield”), although he appeared (along with many other former cast members) in the charity special “Dimensions in Time” (1993).

In 2008, Lethbridge-Stewart (now Sir Alistair) appeared in “Enemy of the Bane,” a two-part story in *The Sarah Jane Adventures*. It was intended that Sir Alistair would reappear the following year in “The Wedding of Sarah Jane Smith,” but Courtney was recovering from a stroke and was unable to take part.

Courtney’s updated autobiography, *Still Getting Away With It* was published in 2005.

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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 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, May 8th**, at Peter and Rob's home (1425 "S" St., NW), near Dupont Circle. The business meeting will begin (as usual) at 1:30 PM; and the social meeting will begin at 2:00 PM. Please bring some munchies or soft drinks, if you can. 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



May 13-15, 2011 **GAYLAXICON 2011** (held in conjunction with OutlantaCon 2011). Holiday Inn Select Atlanta-Perimeter (Dunwoody, GA). Special Media Guests: Amber Benson & Melissa Carter; Artist GoH: Steve Scott. Membership: \$50 (purchased on-line thru their website).

Website: [www.outlantacon.org](http://www.outlantacon.org) Information: [info@outlantacon.org](mailto:info@outlantacon.org)

May 27-30, 2011 **BALTICON 45**. Marriott's Hunt Valley Inn (Baltimore, MD). GoH: Ben Bova; Artist GoH: Vincent DiFate; Special GoH: Steve Geppi. Membership: \$62 after 4/30 and at the door. Make checks payable to "Balticon 45" and send to: Balticon 45 Registration, PO Box 686, Baltimore, MD 21203-0686. (Registration forms available on-line.)

Website: [www.balticon.org](http://www.balticon.org) Information: [balticoninfo@balticon.org](mailto:balticoninfo@balticon.org)

May 27-29, 2011 **TIMEGATE** ("The Home of Doctor Who and Stargate Fandom in Atlanta!"). Holiday Inn Select (Atlanta, GA). Guests Sophie Aldred ("Ace," from the era of the 7th Doctor); Ben Aaronovitch (Dr. Who script writer); Melissa Scott (author); and more. Membership: \$35 to 5/1/2011; \$45 at the door. Make checks payable to "TimeGate" and send to: TimeGate, PO Box 500565, Atlanta, GA 31150. Or purchase membership on-line at: [www.timegatecon.org/memb/htm](http://www.timegatecon.org/memb/htm)

Website: [www.timegatecon.org](http://www.timegatecon.org)

Aug. 17-21, 2011 **RENOVATION** (69th World Science Fiction Convention). Reno-Sparks Convention Center (Reno, Nevada). Guests of Honor: Ellen Asher, Charles N. Brown, Tim Powers, Boris Vallejo. Membership: currently \$195 until 4/17 (will go up!).

Website: [www.renovationsf.org](http://www.renovationsf.org) Membership queries: [memberships@renovationsf.org](mailto:memberships@renovationsf.org)

Oct. 14-16, 2011 **CAPCLAVE 2011**. Hilton Washington DC/North Gaithersburg (Gaithersburg, MD). Guests of Honor: Carrie Vaughn & Catherynne Valente. Membership: \$45 thru June; \$55 July thru September; \$60 thereafter. Make checks payable to "Capclave" and send to: Capclave 2011, PO Box 53, Ashton, MD 20861. Register online at: [www.capclave.org](http://www.capclave.org)

Website: [www.capclave.org](http://www.capclave.org) Info at: [info@capclave.org](mailto:info@capclave.org)

Nov. 25-27, 2011 **DARKOVERGRANDCOUNCIL 34**. (A very LGBT-friendly convention.) Crowne Plaza Baltimore (Timonium, MD). Guests of Honor: Ellen Kushner & Delia Sherman; Special Guests: Katherine Kurtz, Melissa Scott. Membership: \$50 until 11/1; \$55 thereafter & at the door. Make checks payable to "Armida Council" and send to: Armida Council, PO Box 7203, Silver Spring, MD 20907.

Website: [www.darkovercon.org](http://www.darkovercon.org)

Info at: [jaelle@darkovercon.org](mailto:jaelle@darkovercon.org)

