



lambda Sci-fi DC Area Gaylaxians



PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044

(202) 232-3141 - Issue #272 - November 2012

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 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. But the next book discussion will be our combined November-December meeting, held on **December 6th**.

Here are the details for the next three book discussions:

December 6 (NOTE: A combined November/December discussion.) - *The Book of Tongues*, by Gemma Files; moderator: Rob.

January 24, 2013 (returning to the "4th Thursday" schedule) - *Cloud Atlas*, by David Mitchell; moderator: Todd.

February 28, 2013 - *Black Blade Blues*, by J.A. Pitts; moderator: TC.

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2012 Gaylactic Spectrum Awards

info passed along by Carl

The winner of the 2012 Gaylactic Spectrum Award for Best Novel (and Recommended Short List) were announced at this year's Gaylaxicon 2012.

The 2012 Best Novel is *Honeyed Words* (Tor, 2011) by J.A. Pitts. It's the follow-up urban fantasy novel to *Black Blade Blues* (which was included on the Gaylactic Spectrum Short List for 2011). Boiling it all down to two sentences: "It's not every day that you discover you've reforged a magical sword, but that's exactly what blacksmith Sarah Beauhall did, and she soon finds out that a heroine's work is never done... Whether you're looking for a fresh presentation of LGBT content or well-crafted fantasy in an urban setting, *Honeyed Words* will draw you deeper into the lives of these very engaging chracters, not the least of whom is Sarah Jane Beauhall herself."

The following novels comprise the Gaylactic Spectrum Recommended Short List for 2012:

- *The Cold Commands*, by Richard K. Morgan (Del Rey, 2011)

- *God's War/Infidel*, by Kameron Hurley (Night Shade, 2011)



- *Grail*, by Elizabeth Bear (Spectra, 2011)

- *The Highest Frontier*, by Joan Slonczewski (Tor, 2011)

- *Huntress*, by Malinda Lo (Little, Brown, 2011)

- *A Rope of Thorns*, by Gemma Files (ChiZine, 2011)

- *Rule 34*, by Charles Stross (Ace, 2011)

- *Static*, by L.A. Witt (Amber Quill, 2011)

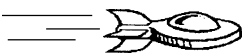
- *The Wild Ways*, by Tanya Huff (DAW, 2011)

The Gaylactic Spectrum Awards were created in 1998 to honor works in science fiction, fantasy, and horror that include positive explorations of gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgendered characters, themes, or issues. The Awards are administered by The Gaylactic Spectrum Awards Foundation.

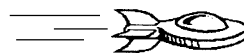
The winners and Recommended Short Lists for the 2012 Best Short Fiction and Best Other categories (works originally published in North America in 2010 or 2011) will be announced next year at Gaylaxicon 2013 (Atlanta, May 3-5, 2013). Nominations for the 2013 Best Novel (for novels first published in North America in 2012) are being accepted until March 31, 2013.

For more information about the Gaylactic Spectrum Awards Foundation, go to: <http://www.spectrumawards.org/>

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November LSF Meeting



The next LSF meeting will be held on **Sunday, November 11th**. The meeting will once again be held at Peter and Rob's home, **1425 "S" Street NW, Washington, DC**.

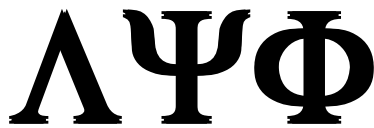
The business meeting will begin at 1:30 PM; and the social meeting will begin at 2:00 PM. Please also bring some munchies or soft drinks, if you can. See you there!

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WHAT'S INSIDE?

LSF October Meeting Minutes (pg. 2); LSF at Gaylaxicon 2012 (pg. 2); Gaylaxicon 2013 (announcement - pg. 2); Jeffrey Catherine Jones (obituary - pg. 3); About Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians & Con Calendar (pg. 4)

**LSF October Meeting
Minutes**
taken by Scott



Teresa initiated a traditional name circle to introduce all of the meeting attendees.

Carl commented that he liked Charles Stross's *Rule 34* (this October's book discussion) even better than *Glass House* (previous book discussion).

TV discussions: Teresa dislikes the current version of *Beauty & the Beast* – with Beauty being an unconvincing police detective. The idea of an NYC residence owned by Satan in new *666 Park Avenue* TV show was compared to a similar conceit in the film *Devil's Advocate*. Internal plot inconsistencies were cited in both the film *Looper* and the recent *Doctor Who* season finale, which featured the Weeping Angels. Peter described the brief Amy/Rory postscript (BBC-produced and not fan-produced), Krista sniffled at. Season 3 of AMC's *The Walking Dead* premieres tonight. (Hershel gets bitten!) The new season of *American Horror Story* starts with a new story and same cast members in different roles. The new series *Arrow* features a "dark" Oliver Queen, who kills off some people in the first episode. Note that a character named Dinah appears – a future Black Canary? And Peter and Rob and Carl all enjoy the new series *Elementary* (a Sherlock Holmes pastiche)!

Film discussions: Dan described the movie *Robot & Frank*: an ex-jewel thief who receives a robot as a gift from his son; the robot is convinced to participate in a heist with the ex-jewel thief (starring

Frank Langella and Susan Sarandon). A new, grittier *Superman* movie – starring muscular Henry Cavill – is planned for release in 2013. *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* (featured in an earlier LSF book discussion) is now a movie, featuring Emma Watson. There are at least three versions of trailers for the new film *Cloud Atlas* – romance, action and sci-fi. A faithful film adaptation of *A Wrinkle in Time* is in the works.

Jim W. reported on this year's CapClave convention up in Gaithersburg. He said that author George R.R. Martin is slated as guest author at next year's CapClave. He also announced that he contributed to the kickstarter project for the Tesla Museum in upstate New York.

Rob told everyone about the Spectrum Award Best Novel and Short List winners, as announced at Gaylaxicon. [Ed. Note: See article on page 1 of this newsletter.]

Next, Rob reminded everyone of the upcoming selections for the LSF Book Discussion Group: *Rule 34* by Charles Stross (October), *A Book of Tongues* by Gemma Files (November/December), and *Cloud Atlas* by David Mitchell (January). It was noted that *Cloud Atlas* is not a "summer beach read" and that adequate time should be allocated to read the book!

Carl noted that he picked up a DVD of the 1930's sci-fi musical film *Just Imagine* at Gaylaxicon. Perhaps it'll be shown at a future LSF video party?

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LSF at Gaylaxicon 2012
info passed along by Carl

A number of LSFers attended Gaylaxicon 2012 in Minneapolis: Alex, Carl, David, Jack, Josh, Julian, Keith, Kendall, Mike P., Peter, Rob, Ron, Scott, Thamer, and Warren.

Thanks to Joe Agee (North Country Gaylaxians), Carl was able to make his pilgrimage to some fabulous Minneapolis bookstores: DreamHaven Books, Uncle Hugo's Science Fiction Bookstore, and Uncle Edgar's Mystery Bookstore. Carl also participated in the Saturday morning Gaylactic Network Board meeting, where official approval was given for the Atlanta Outworlders to host Gaylaxicon 2013 in Atlanta. [Loud cheers!]

On Friday afternoon, Mike P. was a featured member of the panel discussion "Friends of Dorothy: What is it about the Wizard of Oz, Judy Garland, and the Oz books that appeals to queers?" And on Saturday afternoon, Rob, Warren, and Carl formally announced the 2012 Gaylactic Spectrum Award for Best Novel (including the Recommended Short List).

Saturday night's Cabaret was a lot of fun – including the fund-raising activity in favor of gay marriage rights in Minnesota (making donations in order to pull stickers off cute guys). On Sunday Evening, many LSFers enjoyed the showing of *Outland*, a 2012 six-part Australian mini-series about a GLBT sci-fi club. (Maybe we'll get a chance to some day show it at an LSF Video Madness Party?)

Everyone reported having a good time at Gaylaxicon 2012!

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Yes, Virginia, there will be a Gaylaxicon in 2013! At this year's Gaylaxicon in Minneapolis, the Network Board formally approved Atlanta's bid to host Gaylaxicon 2013! For more information, see the Con Calendar on page 4 of this newsletter, or go to their website:

www.outlantacon.org





Jeffrey Catherine Jones
1944 – 2011

I only recently learned that Jeff Jones (one of my favorite F&SF artists) passed away in May 2011. I was visiting DreamHaven Books, Comics, and Art during this year’s Gaylaxicon, where I bought a back issue of *Illustration* (one of favorite magazines). The magazine featured an “In Memoriam” article about Jones – an article that included information about Jones’s change of gender in 1998.

Jeffrey Durwood Jones (aka “Jeff Jones”) was known for his work in comics and cover illustration during the 1960s and 1970s.

After graduating from Georgia State College, Jones and his wife Mary moved to NYC in 1967. (The couple were separated in the early 1970s.) Jones found work drawing comics for King Comics, Gold Key, and such magazines as *Creepy*, *Eerie*, and *Vampirella*. He created striking cover illustrations for over 150 books, including the Ace editions of Fritz Leiber’s “Fafhrd and the Gray Mouser” series and such Andre Norton novels as *Postmarked the Stars*, *The Zero Stone*, and *Uncharted Stars*. His works

were also featured in such magazines as *Fantastic* (early 1970s), *National Lampoon* (1972-1975), and *Heavy Metal* (early 1980s).

Jones was nominated for and/or won a number of prestigious F&SF awards. He was nominated for a Hugo as Best Fan Artist in 1967 and for Best Professional Artist in 1970, 1971, and 1972. He was first nominated for the World Fantasy Award for Best Artist in 1975 – and won the award in 1986. Jones was also nominated for the Chesley Award in 1999. On more than one occasion, Frank Frazetta referred to Jeff Jones as “the greatest living painter.”

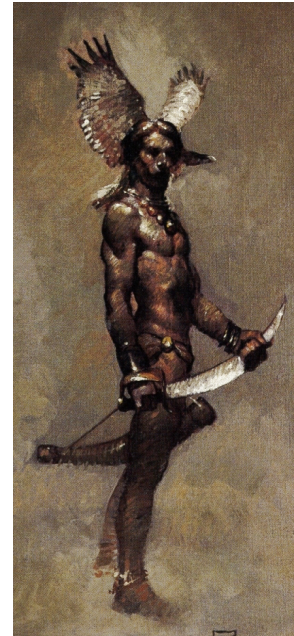
However, this prolific output took its toll, and Jones decided it was time to retire from commercial art and turn to fine art, with the idea of making a living from the sale of prints and portfolios. From 1975 to 1979, Jones shared workspace in Manhattan with fellow F&SF artists Bernie Wrightson, Barry Windsor-Smith, and Mike Kaluta – collectively known as “The Studio.”

Later in life, Jones recalled wanting to be a girl from her earliest memories. She confronted these issues in 1998 and began hormone replacement therapy. She changed her name to Jeffrey Catherine Jones and was legally recognized as female. In 2006, during a candid interview with *Locus* editor Arnie Fenner, Jones said: “I thought it would make me less depressed and I was wrong... the only thing I can do at this point is accept things as they are. And I think I have. Besides, what other choice do I have?”

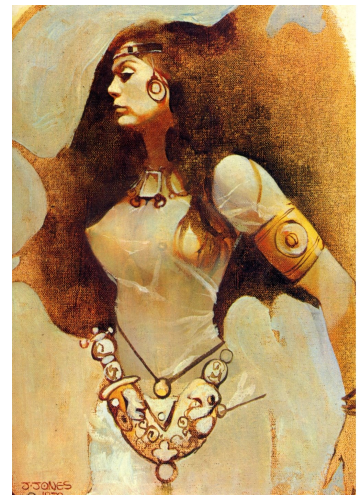
Quoting the obituary in *Illustration*: “Maintaining a life of artistic freedom came at a great price, and the artist had trouble making ends meet over the years. She was also plagued by personal problems which led to a nervous breakdown in 2001, and the loss of her home and studio. It took a few years for her to recover to the point where she could paint and draw again.”

Jones passed away on May 19, 2011, surrounded by family, friends, and loved ones. She is survived by her daughter Julianna – and a magnificent legacy of stunning F&SF art.

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Cover for
The Book of Robert E. Howard



Sheherazade (1970)



Cover for
The Zero Stone

****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, **November 11th, 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 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



Nov. 9-12, 2012 **PHILCON 2012** ("The Philadelphia Area's Conference of Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror" - est. 1936). Crowne Plaza Hotel (Cherry Hill, NJ). Principlal Speaker: Catherynne M. Valente; Artist Guest of Honor: Phil Foglio. Membership: \$40 for the weekend. Register on-line (with PayPal) or send membership request (with check payable to "Philcon 2012") to: Philcon 2012, PO Box 8303, Philadelphia, PA 19101-8303 Website: www.philcon.org

Nov. 23-25, 2012 **DARKOVERCON GRAND COUNCIL 35**. (A very LGBT-friendly convention.) Crowne Plaza Baltimore (Timonium, MD). Guest of Honor: Nalo Hopkinson; Artist GoH: Samantha Press; Special Guest: Katherine Kurtz. Membership: \$50 until 11/1/2012; \$55 after 11/1 & 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 Info at: jaille@darkovercon.org

February 15-17, 2013 **FARPOINT 2013**. Crowne Plaza Baltimore North (Timonium, MD). Guest of Honor: Lee Arenberg (Grumpy in *Once Upon a Time* & Pintel in *Pirates of the Caribbean*); more guests TBA. Membership: \$80 for the weekend. (Daily rates available.) Make checks payable to "Farpoint Enterprises" and send to: Farpoint Enterprises, 11708 Troy Ct., Waldorf, MD 20601. (You can also register online.) Website: www.farpointcon.com E-mail: trekcontact@comcast.net

April 5-7, 2013 **RAVENCON 2013**. Holiday Inn Select, Koger Center (Richmond, VA). Writer Guests of Honor: Kevin J. Anderson & Rebecca Moesta; Fan Guest of Honor: Carla Brindle. Membership: \$35 until 12/31/2012; \$40 from 1/1/2013 to 3/23/2013; \$45 at the door. More info available at: <http://www.ravencon.com>

May 3-5, 2013 **GAYLAXICON 2013**. Atlanta Marriott Century Center (Atlanta, GA). Guests: David DeCoteau (film producer: *The Brotherhood*, *Voodoo Academy*, etc.) and more TBD. Membership: \$40 until 12/31/2012 (available on-line via PayPal).

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

