



lambda Sci-fi DC Area Gaylaxians



PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044
(202) 232-3141 - Issue #273 - December 2012
E-MAIL: info@lambdascifi.org WEBSITE: www.lambdascifi.org



Video Madness/Potluck Party (Dec. 1st)

Come join the LSF gang for a Video Madness/Potluck Party!

What: A science fiction/fantasy/horror video and potluck party. We will watch the movies that receive the most votes.

When: Saturday, December 1; 3:30 PM - ??

Where: Julian's home at 2462 Tunlaw Road NW, Washington, DC.

Directions at:

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

What to bring: Bring science fiction, fantasy, and horror DVDs to watch and snacks, dinner food, and/or non-alcoholic drinks to share.

For more information: Please contact Peter at:

Peter.P.Knapp@gmail.com
or call him at 202-483-6369.

On the day of the party, call Julian at 202-306-1497.

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Reminder: Annual LSF Book Exchange Set for Jan. 13th Meeting



(and other stuff, too!)

BOOKS

That's right, gang, the Holiday Season is almost upon us again; and it's time for a short reminder about Lambda Sci-Fi's upcoming *twenty-third* annual book (*etal*) exchange, which will occur at the January 13th meeting! All LSF members are invited to participate in this "blind exchange" — and visitors are invited to join in the fun, too!

Briefly, this will be an opportunity for LSFers to exchange copies of their favorite science-fiction, fantasy, or horror books/videos/etc. and, thus, get to know each other a little better.

For those of you unfamiliar with the process, here's how it works: You won't be assigned to exchange with any *particular* person — it's a "blind" exchange, where participants will get their pick from a pile of anonymous wrapped packages. **Full details on the exchange in the next (January) LSF newsletter.**

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New Year's Eve Video Potluck Party

announced by Peter & Rob

Celebrate New Year's Eve with LSF at Rob and Peter's home. Here are the details on how to join the fun!

Where: The home of Rob & Peter: 1425 "S" Street NW, Washington, DC 20009.

Date: Monday, Dec. 31, 2012

Time: The doors will open at 3:00 PM. The potluck dinner and the videos will begin in the 3:30 – 4:00 PM range. We'll toast in the New Year with champagne, sparkling wine, and/or sparkling cider.

What to Bring: Bring your favorite genre Blu-rays, DVDs, and/or digital AVI files on a USB drive (science fiction, fantasy, horror). Attendees will vote on which movies will be shown. (There will be a couple of "tracks.")

It's a potluck meal, so bring something to eat. Feel free to bring appetizers (veggies, chips, etc.), a main course item (enough to serve at least 4-5 people), dessert (of course!), and/or nonalcoholic drinks (both regular and diet). For the New Year's toast, it's OK to indulge. So bring some sparkling wine or sparkling cider (or champagne, if you're feeling generous) to toast the New Year. *The hosts request that no one drink alcohol during the party other than at midnight.*

For more information, call 202-483-6369 or send email to:

Peter.P.Knapp@gmail.com

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December LSF Meeting



The next LSF meeting will be held on **Sunday, December 9th**. 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 at 2:00 PM. **The annual election of officers will also occur at this meeting.** Please also bring some munchies or soft drinks, if you can. See you there!

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WHAT'S INSIDE?

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**Minutes for the
November LSF Meeting**
taken by Scott

Business Items:

The annual election of LSF officers will occur at the December 2012 meeting. And the annual LSF book exchange will be held at the January 2013 meeting. The first announcement of the book exchange is located on page 1 of this newsletter.

Julian will host a Video Madness Party at his house on Saturday, December 1. And Peter and Rob will host a New Year's Eve party at their home (Dec. 31st). For details on these parties, see articles on page 1 of this newsletter.

Rob reminded everyone about the next two LSF Book Discussion selections – *The Book of Tongues* by Gemma Files (Dec. 6) and *Cloud Atlas* by David Mitchell (Jan. 13).

Movie/Film/TV News:

Hansel & Gretel: Witchhunters, starring Jeremy (“Hawkeye”) Renner, will be released in January 2013. The animated feature *Escape from Planet Earth* will be released in 2013, featuring the voices of Brendan Fraser and Sarah Jessica Parker. The Disney movie *Oz The Great and Powerful*, starring James Franco, is slated for release in March 2013. *Avatar 2* is also scheduled for release in 2013. Rumor has it that the *World War Z* movie, starring Brad Pitt, won't be very faithful to the book by Max Brooks. Everyone groaned when it was mentioned that *Splice II* is in production.

There was lots of chatter about Disney acquiring the *Star Wars* franchise. And, speaking of *Star Wars*, Peter is currently playing the “Angry Birds/Star Wars” game. The DreamWorks animated film *Rise of the Guardians* (featuring Santa Claus, Jack Frost, the Tooth Fairy, and the Easter Bunny) sounds cute. Peter announced that he enjoyed the animated *Wreck-It Ralph* film, which includes such characters as PacMan and Q-Bert.

Dan described a horror movie named *Thale*, which features Norwegian forest maidens.

Rob said that he is enjoying the new TV series *Arrow*, which features a

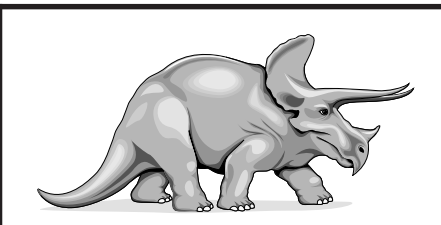


very, very dark Oliver Queen who actually kills badguys. He also enthusiastically reported that Season 2 of the TV series *American Horror Story* features some of the same actors as Season 1 in different roles and a different storyline – this time, in a haunted asylum.

Books/Etc.:

The discussion of the upcoming film version of *World War Z* led to a discussion of all the “mash-up” novels that have been coming out of late – mixing genres, often featuring zombies or other monsters. Carl mentioned that he recently purchased a “mash-up” entitled *Blackbeard's Pirates Versus the Evil Mummies* by James Black – in which Blackbeard takes his ship, the *Queen Anne's Revenge*, into the Mediterranean. He also announced – to Julian's delight – that a new “Miles Vorkosigan” novel has just hit the bookstores: *Captain Vorpatril's Alliance* by Lois McMaster Bujold.

Dan marveled that *Sandkings* (1981), the novel upon which an *Outer Limits* episode was based, was authored by George R.R. Martin.



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.



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



Look for Me by Moonlight
by Mary Downing Hahn
(Clarion Books, 1995)
reviewed by Carl



Some time ago I reviewed Mary Downing Hahn's most recent YA novel, the chilling and edgy *The Ghost of Crutchfield Manor*. I enjoyed that novel and mentioned that I looked forward to reading more of Hahn's works. Well, I eventually picked up one of her earlier works, a YA vampire story entitled *Look for Me by Moonlight*. Yikes! It's good! I think it's even more chilling—in a "good" way — than *The Ghost of Crutchfield Manor*.

Sixteen-year-old Cynthia (aka "Cynda") Bennett is a child of divorced parents. For the past nine years, she has lived with her mother and her new stepfather: resigned to be "hopscotching all over America" as part of a Navy family. But when her mother and stepfather announce that they'd all be moving to Italy for the next three years, Cynda throws "a major temper tantrum;" and Cynda's mother arranges "an invitation to stay with Dad for at least six months, maybe longer if things worked out." ("Maybe Mom thought it was Dad's turn to cope with me. Maybe I was her revenge.") So, in the depths of a cold January, Cynda is shipped off to a remote coastline of Maine, where her father, his much-younger new wife, and her new five-year-old half-brother Todd, live in a small historic inn (a busy tourist resort only during the summer

months). But what about school? No problem! Cynda's father—a former literature teacher—will ensure that she's home-schooled. (Currently, her father makes a living running the inn and writing best-selling mystery novels during the off-season.)

Can you sense all the "teen angst" already? To say that Cynda is an increasingly lonely and alienated teenager is putting it mildly. She's been exiled to a gloomy old inn in the depths of a snowy Maine winter, with no one to see except her distracted father, her new stepmother, her demanding little half-brother, and an old housekeeper who comes in a couple of times a week to help out. Oh, the housekeeper has a cute young nephew who shows up every now and then — but Cynda has always been "awkward" around boys and she's having trouble getting to know him. And maybe the inn isn't really haunted, but there is that old story about the young girl who was brutally murdered at the cliffs near the inn about sixty years ago...

Then, one snowy night, Vincent Morthanos shows up at the inn. He says he's looking for a nice, quiet place to stay for a few weeks while he writes his poetry. He's tall, pale, dark-haired, handsome ("...the handsomest man I'd ever seen, the sort you stop and stare at in disbe-

lief."), charming, and well-spoken. Cynda is instantly smitten — and, as the days and nights pass, Vincent seems to take a friendly interest in Cynda, too: he takes time to talk with her; he seems to understand her; he seems to care. As it turns out, of course, he's really an ancient and very powerful vampire — and he's settled on Cynda (and her little brother, too) as his latest prey. Slowly, gradually, steadily — over the course of several days — he draws Cynda and Todd in and begins to feed. And, most horrible of all, the children find themselves unable to resist Vincent or to warn others about him.

Ah, the good old-fashioned kind of vampire: the evil and supernatural blood-sucker! Bwa-ha-ha-ha-ha!!! As I was reading along, however, it suddenly became clear to me what Hahn is doing in this novel. In the guise of a vampire story, she's showing her readers how a sexual predator operates. Through Cynda's narrative, we are given a chilling first-person view of how a sexual predator manipulates unsuspecting children by playing on their emotions, their worries, their naiveté. Granted, making the villain a vampire allows him to use supernatural means to keep the children from warning others about him — but it's not all that much of a stretch to realize how a child's fear and shame could be used to much the same end.

Like I said, *Look for Me by Moonlight* is a chilling little story. It certainly gave me the chills from time to time! (Oh, I haven't told you how it ends, have I? Bwa-ha-ha-ha-ha!!!) **Λ Ψ Φ**



"Since we began to gather around fires to protect us from the dark and its dangers, we have believed in ghosts, yet no one can prove they exist. On the other hand, no one can prove they don't exist. Thus, ghosts occupy a gray area or the twilight zone, so to speak. I've read many 'true' ghost stories and have heard dozens of accounts from friends and acquaintances, some of which have been very convincing. I suppose you could say I lean toward believing but am not absolutely positive. It's important to keep an open mind. Doubt is good."

-- Mary Downing Hahn

excerpted from a FAQ on www.hmhbooks.com/features/mdh/faq.html

****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, **December 9th, 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



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*); John Billingsly (Dr. Phlox in *Star Trek: Voyager*). 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

May 24-27, 2013 **BALTICON 47**. Hunt Valley Inn (Hunt Valley, MD). Guest of Honor: Joe Haldeman; Artist Guest of Honor: Rick Sternbach; Special Guest: Nnedi Okorafor. Membership: \$50 until 2/28/2013; then \$55 until 4/30/2013. Make checks payable to "Balticon 47" and send to: Balticon, PO Box 686, Baltimore, MD 21203-0686. On-line resigration also available.

Website: www.balticon.org

July 5-8, 2013 **THE NORTH AMERICAN DISCWORLD CONVENTION 2013**. "The Turtle Moved!" Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel (Baltimore, MD). Guest of Honor: Sir Terry Pratchett (health permitting) & Rob Wilkins (Terry's personal asst.). Membership: \$99 until 12/31/2012; thereafter \$111. On-line registration.

Website: www.nadwcon.org

Info: info@nadwcon.org

