



# Lambda Sci-Fi DC Area Gaylaxians

PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044

(202) 232-3141 - Issue #274 - January 2013

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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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## Annual LSF Book (et al) Exchange at Jan. 13th Meeting

As promised in last month's newsletter, here's a short reminder about Lambda Sci-Fi's *twenty-third* annual book (et al) exchange, which will occur at the upcoming Jan. 13th meeting! All LSF members — and visitors, guests, attendees, etc. — are invited to participate in this "blind exchange."

In case you've never participated in one of these before (or in case you've forgotten), here's how it works:

(1) Go out and purchase a copy of your "favorite" science fiction, fantasy, or horror book. (NOTE: Over the years, LSF has expanded the concept of "book" to include comics, videotapes, "books on tape," etc. If you want — or if you're feeling particularly wealthy — you can even make it *several* favorite books or whatever.)

(2) Insert a piece of paper (or a bookmark) with your name on it. (That's so whoever eventually ends up with the item will know who it's from and will get to know a little more about you — at least to know what one of your "favorites" is.)

(3) Wrap up the exchange item, but don't put any identifying marks or



anything on the wrapped package to say who it's from. (That's to make sure it's a "blind" exchange — *i.e.* no one is supposed to know who it's from at first. And, by the way, all of that leftover Holiday wrapping paper should come in handy here!)

(4) At the meeting, add your wrapped exchange item to the pile with all the others; and you'll be assigned a number. (Only one exchange item — *i.e.* one package — per person, please!)

(5) When your number is called, you pick one of the packages from the pile. (And when you open it up, you'll find out who it's from.) See how easy?

I can hardly wait to see what shows up *this* year! Λ Ψ Φ



**We survived  
the 2012  
Apocalypse!  
Happy New  
Cycle!**



## January LSF Meeting



The next LSF meeting will be held on **Sunday, Jan. 13th**. 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 LSF Book Exchange will also occur at this meeting.** Please also bring some munchies or soft drinks, if you can. See you there! Λ Ψ Φ

## WHAT'S INSIDE?

LSF Meeting Minutes for December 2012 (pg. 2); The LSF Book Discussion Group (pg. 2); Gaylaxicon 2013 (announcement - pg. 2); Trickster Tales (book reviews - pg. 3); About Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians & Con Calendar (pg. 4)

**LSF Meeting Minutes  
for December 2012**  
taken by Scott

**The LSF election of Officers was held. The existing office-holders were elected by acclamation.**

Carl stated that he'd learned that Tuesday, December 11th, is "Angry Birds" Day (in honor of the 3rd anniversary of the video game).

LGBT authors Nicola Griffith and her partner Kelly Eskridge will be Guests of Honor at Westercon in Sacramento (July 2013). Rob commented that it looked like an LGBT specialty show, with Artist GoH Eric Shanower (creator of the Eisner Award-winning graphic novel series *Age of Bronze*) and Small Press Special Guest Eric Maxine (Eric's partner, who runs Hungry Tiger Press) also being there.

Rob stated that he had recently seen the film *Hitchcock* and enjoyed the casting (Anthony Hopkins, Helen Mirren, Scarlet Johansson) and the performance of Anthony Hopkins.

Several people commented that the TV series *Revenge* is a perfect soap opera!

*The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey* (part 1 of a 3-part series) is being released this Friday (December 21st). The big question: Will this movie end with the defeat of Smaug?

Will reported that he had seen the film *Cloud Atlas*. This led into a discussion comparing the film and the book (which will be the subject of the January LSF Book Discussion Group). Will also said he enjoyed the film *The Life of Pi*. He provided some comments about the film (trying to avoid spoilers) and advised everyone that it's more than just a story about a boy and a tiger in a lifeboat.

Dan provided information about a number of genre movies that will be released in early 2013: *Oz the Great and Powerful*, *Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters*, a remake of *Carrie*, *GI Joe: Retaliation*, *Iron Man 3*, *Star Trek: Into Darkness* (Will the villain be the character "Gary Mitchell" from the original TV series?), *Man of Steel*, *The Wolverine*, *Elysium*, *Hunger Games: Catching Fire*.

**TV News:** The following series are wrapping up their current seasons: *Walking Dead*, *Revolution*, *Arrow*. There



is some question about whether the SyFy Channel is planning to remake the old BBC sci-fi series *Blake's 7*. *Continuum* is a Canadian sci-fi series that is being imported by the SyFy Channel.

**Sci-fi on the Web:** *H+* is a web series produced by Bryan Singer, dealing with transhumanism. *Battlestar Galactica: Blood and Chrome* is a prequel webisode series about William Adama in the First Cylon War. (We need to check these out!) Teresa and Dan talked up the British sci-fi TV series *Misfits* (which they're watching on Hulu; it's about youth offenders performing community service who have gotten superpowers).

The meeting ended with the following question: Will the next *Doctor Who* companion be a Dalek? ΛΨΦ

**SF has never really aimed to tell us when we might reach other planets, or develop new technologies, or meet aliens. SF speculates about why we might want to do these things, and how their consequences might affect our lives and our planet.**

-- John Clute--

**SF: The Illustrated Encyclopedia (1995)**

quoted in  
*Science Fiction Quotations*  
edited by Gary Westfahl  
(Yale University Press, 2005)



**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. The next book discussion will be held on **January 24th**.

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

**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. ΛΨΦ



**GAYLAXICON 2013** Hosted by **OUTLANTA CON**

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**

**FUN!  
FRIENDS!  
FANDOM!**  
**GAYLAXICON**  
**ATLANTA, GA**  
**MAY 3 - 5**  
**2013**

## Trickster Tales

short reviews by Carl

The Trickster is a fascinating archetypal character; he prominently features in the myths and legends of cultures around the world and across the millennia. He is sometimes a mischievous spirit-god: a liar, a thief, a shape-shifter, a schemer. He plays foolish pranks against the high and mighty, and constantly tries to get something for nothing. Stories about him frequently depict his pronounced sexual appetite, mostly (although not exclusively) for women. His plans don't always work – he's often caught in the act and punished or humiliated. But he is not evil – amoral perhaps, and often self-serving, but not outright evil. In fact, the Trickster is often portrayed as a culture hero who brings benefits to humanity – or even as a demiurge that literally helps to bring the world into being.

You've certainly heard of one or more of his incarnations in myth and legend. There's Loki in Norse mythology; and Anansi (Spider) in various African myths. In Greek mythology, there's Hermes who, as a mere baby, steals the cattle of the Sun. There's Punch, of "Punch and Judy" fame. And, of course, there's Br'er Rabbit in the African-American tales from the ante-bellum South. The Trickster has even reincarnated as any number of pranksters in popular American culture, particularly in cartoon form: Coyote (he who hunts the Roadrunner), Daffy and Donald Duck, and (most famous of all) that "Oscar-winning rabbit," Bugs Bunny.

So, what brought on this short mythological discourse? Well, I'll tell ya...

***American Indian Trickster Tales***  
selected & edited by  
**Richard Erdoes & Alonso Ortiz**  
(Penguin Books, 1998)

I found this slim volume at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian. Its stated purpose is "to bring Trickster to life for a modern American audience" in a "spirited collection that draws together two centuries of American Indian oral tradition."

After an informative introductory essay, the editors present over 100

Native American Trickster tales from dozens of different tribal sources. Trickster is shown in his many guises: Raven (from the Northwest Pacific coast), Iktomi the Spider (from the various Sioux tribes), Rabbit (from tribes that originated in the Southeast), the seemingly ubiquitous Coyote (whose tales range from the Arctic to Mexico), and a number of others. Here are just a few of the stories included in this book.

"Putting a Saddle on Coyote's Back" – in which Coyote's plans to eat Rabbit go awry – reminds me of another famous Coyote's numerous failures to eat a certain Roadrunner. "Coyote and Fox Dress Up" is an example of Trickster's many cross-dressing stories; in this one, the title characters run a scam on the Wolf Brothers. In "The Winkte Way," Spider and Rabbit go even further and engage in male-male sex. (*Winkte* is the Sioux word for hermaphrodite or transvestite. Spider and Rabbit do it "the *winkte* way.") The final story in the collection – "Raven Lights the World" – is an example of Trickster-as-demiurge, using his wiles to bring light, the Sun, the Moon, Stars, and various other benefits to humans.

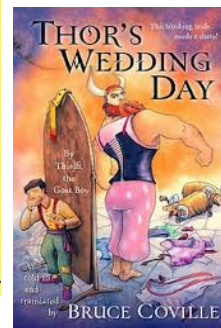
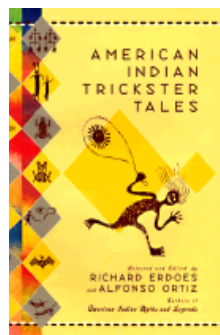
*American Indian Trickster Tales* is a fascinating – and entertaining – collection. It's also surprisingly bawdy – not what you'd call "children's lit."

***Thor's Wedding Day***  
by **Bruce Coville**

(Magic Carpet Books/Harcourt, 2005)

On the other hand, *Thor's Wedding Day* definitely is "children's lit." Its author, Bruce Coville, has written dozens and dozens of very popular YA books. The story is narrated by Thialfi, a youngster who has been indentured as a servant to Thor, the Thunder God. (His primary duty is to tend to Gat-Tooth and Tooth-Grinder, the talking goats who pull Thor's chariot across the skies.)

Coville explains: "The bones of *Thor's Wedding Day* come from an ancient Norse poem called the *Thrymskviða*—a delicious burlesque of the gods, and the only truly funny myth I know." Someone has stolen Thor's hammer Mjollnir; and this threatens the security of Asgard. Then the giant Thrym makes a ransom demand: give him the goddess



Freya as his bride and he'll return Mjollnir. Naturally, Freya objects; so Odin orders Thor to disguise himself as Freya – with Loki and Thialfi disguised as bridesmaids – and sends them off to Jotunheim to retrieve Mjollnir. Adventures – and hilarity – ensue.

Matthew Cogswell's delightful illustrations add to all the fun – particularly the picture of Thor being laced into a corset. (There's a color version on the cover.) And we're not talking about the blonde beauty of Chris Hemsworth here; as the picture shows, this is the big, burly, bushy-bearded version of Thor. Like I said: funny!

The Trickster featured in *Thor's Wedding Day* is, of course, Loki; and he demonstrates quite a number of Trickster traits. He's shown to be a shape-shifter – in this case, becoming a falcon in an attempt to locate Mjollnir. He's definitely depicted as a thief and mischief-maker. (Three guesses as to who is ultimately behind the theft of Mjollnir.) And then there's the cross-dressing – and a little more. I'll let Thialfi/Coville describe it:

*They were dressing Loki at the same time, but being decked out as a woman didn't bother him at all. If anything, he seemed to enjoy it. But then, according to Gat-Tooth, Loki had once turned himself into a pretty little mare and was the mother of Odin's horse, Sleipnir. So I suppose dressing up as a bridesmaid wasn't such a stretch for him.*

I have to admit that the reference to Sleipnir's parentage surprised me. Granted, Coville doesn't exactly state that Loki was mounted by a stallion, but I still think it's a surprising inclusion for a "children's lit" story.

*Thor's Wedding Day* is a classic Trickster story – and quite an enjoyable read.

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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, **January 13th, 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](http://www.farpointcon.com)

E-mail: [trekcontact@comcast.net](mailto: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](http://www.outlantacon.org)

Info: [info@outlantacon.org](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.nadwcon.org)

Info: [info@nadwcon.org](mailto:info@nadwcon.org)

