



# lambda Sci-fi DC Area Gaylaxians



PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044  
(202) 232-3141 - Issue #275 - February 2013  
E-MAIL: [info@lambdascifi.org](mailto:info@lambdascifi.org) WEBSITE: [www.lambdascifi.org](http://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. The next book discussion will be held on **February 28th**.

Here are the details for the next several book discussions:

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

**March 28** - *The Highest Frontier*, by Joan Slonczewski; moderator: Rob.

**April 25** - *The Years of Rice and Salt*, by Kim Stanley Robinson; moderator: Claire.

Λ Ψ Φ



## GAYLAXICON 2013

Hosted by  
**OUTLANTACON**

Yes, Virginia, there *will* be a Gaylaxicon in 2013! At last 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](http://www.outlantacon.org)



## Board Secretary for Gaylactic Network



info passed along by Carl

Are you interested in helping out with the running of the Gaylactic Network Board? If so, then maybe you'd be interested in applying for the position of Secretary to the Gaylactic Network Board. The position is currently open.

What are the duties of the Gaylactic Network Secretary? Here's what it says in the Gaylactic Network Charter:

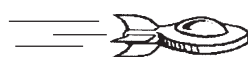
- Keeps accurate records of the names, addresses, and other relevant contact information of the Board, Officers, Affiliates, and Members.
- Keeps accurate records of Network activities, including minutes of all Board meetings.
- Prepares at least once per quarter a summary report of Board activity for the membership.

And here's how Wayne, the Network Speaker, explains the Secretary's

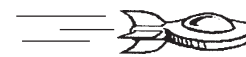
duties: "Essentially this means: working with the active Gaylaxicon committees to get their membership information quarterly; taking minutes five times a year (assuming a quarterly phone call and one in-person Board meeting); and reporting on Secretary activities five times a year (during the phone calls and in-person meetings). The membership list has been primarily kept as part of a yahoo e-mail group, so the Secretary is typically made moderator of the group, manages bounces, and manages any messages that are held pending moderator approval, etc. This has been VERY low volume."

If you're interested in the position of Secretary to the Gaylactic Network Board, please contact Wayne at:

[wawbaw@yahoo.com](mailto:wawbaw@yahoo.com)



## February LSF Meeting



The next LSF meeting will be held on **Sunday, Feb. 10th**. The meeting will once again be held at Peter and Rob's home, 1425 "S" Street NW, Washing-

ton, DC. The business meeting will begin at 1:30 PM and the social meeting at 2:00 PM. Please also bring some munchies or soft drinks, if you can. Join us! Λ Ψ Φ

## WHAT'S INSIDE?

January 2013 LSF Meeting Minutes (pg. 2); *Yellowstone Doomsday: Part 1 of 2* (book review -pg. 2); *About Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians* (pg. 4); *Con Calendar* (pg. 4)

January 2013  
LSF Meeting Minutes  
taken by Scott



### Business Meeting

It was noted that registration for Capital Pride 2013 is now open; and Rob stated that he would complete the registration forms.

Carl advised that the Boston Gaylaxians have submitted a bid for Gaylaxicon 2014 and that the Network Board will vote on their bid this evening. The con is tentatively scheduled for Halloween weekend 2014. (More news to follow, as it becomes available.)

### Social Meeting

Rob asked everyone about favorite books they read in 2012. Rob liked non-genre *Codename Verity* by Elizabeth Wine. He also liked Manuel Loureiro's *Apocalypse Z: The Beginning of the End*, recently translated into English from Spanish. ("As good as Max Brooks's *World War Z*.") As for best-liked movies in 2012, David K. liked *The Hobbit*, Peter liked *The Avengers*, and Rob spoke highly of *A Cabin in the Woods* and *Chronicle*.

David reported that he is really enjoying the 14th book of the "Wheel of Time" series.

Rob mentioned that there might be a *Dr. Strange* movie in the works. David K. described the campy 1989 movie *Cannibal Women in the Avocado Jungle of Death*. The new zombie movie *Warm Bodies* looks promising. (Can a human and a zombie find true love?) Transformers vs. giant monsters from the sea: it's Guillermo Del Toro's new film *Pacific Rim*. Jack described the fourth "Riddick" movie as a good "drinking movie" (i.e. watch if after you've been drinking). Whuuuh? Disney plans to produce a new "Star Wars" movie annually? (For how long?) It was mentioned that Stephen King's novel *Under The Dome* is being developed into a 13-episode TV series for CBS. Hurrah! The new season of *Archer* has arrived! A new thriller series called *The Following* (on Fox) was described: Kevin Bacon chasing around a grisly killer who "recruits murderous disciples." (Something to watch at the dinner hour.)

Dan briefly described the horror-comedy film *John Dies at the End*.

(Wonder what happens at the end?)

Thanks to David K., meeting attendees learned what Twihards and Twitards are. David will be attending the Gallifrey One *Dr. Who* convention in Los Angeles.

Rob described the upcoming LSF Book Discussion Group selections. (For details, refer to the article on page 1 of this newsletter.)

And then almost everyone participated in the annual LSF Book *et al* Exchange. Here are the details:

- Dan received the first three books in Simon R. Green's "Nightside" series from Carl.

- Julian received an omnibus volume of the first three "Sword of Shannara" novels from David K.

- Jeff received three *Dr. Who* DVD's from Peter.

- Carl received William Fortschen's *One Second After* from Scott.

- Peter received Brian K. Vaughan's graphic novel *Saga* (Vol. 1) from David.

- Rob received Sandy Mitchell's *Emperor's Finest* and Ben Counter's *Grey Knights: The Omnibus* from Jeff.

- David received Cherie Priest's *Ganymede*, Lev Rosen's *All Men of Genius*, and the anthology *Bubbas of the Apocalypse* (which includes a short story by Rob) from Rob.

- Teresa received David Gerrold's "Chtorr Trilogy" from Julian.

- David K. received Max Brooks's *World War Z* from Dan.

- Barrett received a DVD of the complete TV series *The Cape* from Teresa.

- Scott received H.G. Wells's *The War of the Worlds and Other Science Fiction Classics* from Barrett.

ΛΨΦ

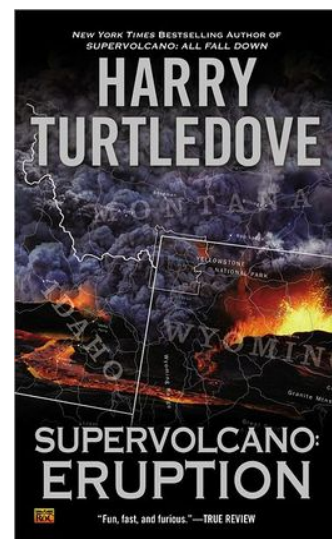


## Yellowstone Doomsday Part 1 of 2

Reviews by Carl

I'm a long-time fan of "disaster fiction." As a teenager, I remember avidly scanning the racks and shelves for works like John Christopher's *No Blade of Grass* (1957) and J.G. Ballard's *The Wind from Nowhere* (1961) and *The Drowned World* (1962). I also became a fan of disaster films – everything from *When Worlds Collide* (1951), *Airport* (1970), and *Earthquake* (1974) to *Twister* (1996), *Volcano* (1997), and *Dante's Peak* (1997). But I can't say as I'm a fan of *Towering Inferno* (1974), *The Day After Tomorrow* (2004), or *2012* (2009). Go figure.

So I guess it's somehow fitting that in 2012, a year featuring the latest "end of the world" craze, I ran across three books about an all-too-possible mega-disaster: the eruption of the supervolcano under Yellowstone Park. (Yes, it's there; and its eruption could potentially devastate much of the U.S. and impact the global climate for decades. Go look it up. I'll wait until you get back...)



*Supervolcano: Eruption*  
by Harry Turtledove  
(ROC, 2011)

That's right: the "king of alternate history" has written a disaster novel. I suppose it's only a slight change of emphasis: in this novel, he's asking "what could happen if...?" instead of "what could have happened if...?" And, with the research and writing skill he typically (continued on page 3)

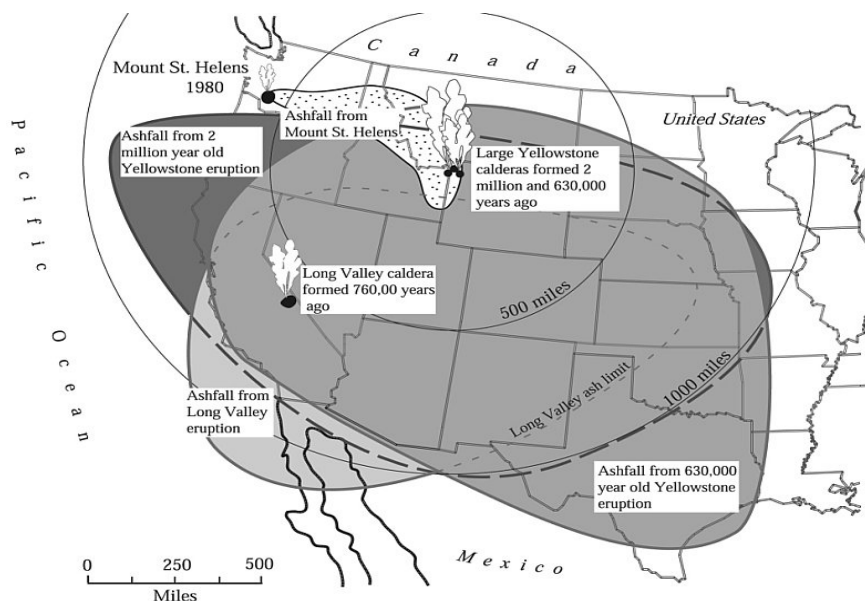
## Yellowstone Doomsday

continued from page 2

brings to his alternate-history novels, Turtledove paints a frightening picture of what could happen if.

Turtledove masterfully shows the reader how the eruption of the Yellowstone supervolcano could affect various parts of the U.S. (and, indeed, of the world) through the personal experiences of the scattered Ferguson family and their friends and loved ones. Colin Ferguson is a police lieutenant in a Los Angeles suburb; and his ex-wife Louise lives in L.A. with her new, younger gym-bunny boyfriend. Their older son Rob is a bass-player in the up-and-coming band “Squirt Frog and the Evolving Tadpoles” – currently touring rural New England. Younger son Marshall is a perpetual student at UC Santa Barbara; and daughter Vanessa has moved to Denver in pursuit of what turns out to be a failed romance. Finally, Colin’s new girlfriend Kelly Birnbaum is a volcanologist/doctoral student at UC Berkeley; and she’s been studying the increasingly-unstable Yellowstone caldera.

The opening segment of a good disaster novel (or film) is the “set-up”: the part of the narrative where the author (or director) lets you get to know the main characters in their pre-disaster lives. The hope is that you will develop some sympathy (or at least empathy) for the characters – so that the disaster will have more of an impact on you and you’ll be more likely to care about what happens to them. It’s also the part of the story where the reader (or viewer) learns about the events leading up to the disaster. About the first 150 pages of *Supervolcano: Eruption* is



used for the “set-up.” The reader gets to know the Fergusons *et al* and watches the steadily-worsening conditions out at Yellowstone, while Turtledove cleverly inserts background information about the Yellowstone caldera and supervolcanic eruptions in history and prehistory.

Then the supervolcano rips loose – and everything goes increasingly downhill from there. Poor Vanessa Ferguson is right in the heart of the disaster area and flees Denver, heading toward a hoped-for sanctuary in the eastern portion of the U.S. And, although they don’t personally experience the worst of the eruption’s immediate effects, all the other characters soon discover just how much of a disaster an eruption of this magnitude can be: ashfall; disruption of transportation, food supply, and other essential services; and changing weather patterns. As I said, Turtledove paints a frightening picture.

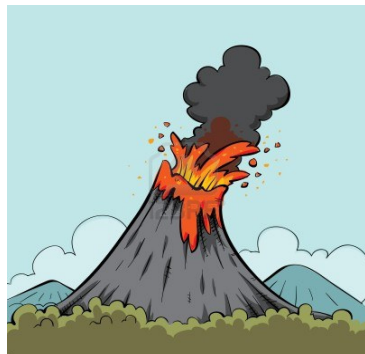
I also couldn’t help but marvel at Turtledove’s speculations about the geopolitical effects of the eruption. At one point, he relates how Iran (supposing that that U.S. is now too devastated to care about the Middle East) destroys Tel Aviv with a nuclear missile. This is immediately followed by the obliteration of several Iranian cities in a devastating Israeli nuclear counterstrike. Wow.

Turtledove’s follow-up novel – *Supervolcano: All Fall Down* – hit the shelves in early December 2012; and I’m really looking forward to reading it. (In the meantime, *Supervolcano: Eruption* has been issued as a mass-market paperback.)

Part 2 continued in  
Next Month's Newsletter:  
(reviews of *Ashfall* and  
*A Land of Ash*)

Λ Ψ Φ

### Advice on Supervillain Hideouts



#### Inside a Volcano

**Pros:** Easy to carve the shape of your face into the side; intimidating, especially if the volcano is still active; inconspicuous (unless you do the whole face-carving thing).  
**Cons:** Construction is very difficult and costly; volcanos are rarely found in major cities, thus making your commute pretty lengthy; you could lose your whole operation in one earth-burp.

Excerpted from

*The Supervillain Handbook: The Ultimate How-to Guide to Destruction and Mayhem*  
by King Oblivion, Ph.D., as told to Matt D. Wilson (Skyhorse Publishing, 2012)



**\*\*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, **February 10th, 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)

