



# 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. The next book discussion will be held on **April 25th**.

Here are the details for the next several book discussions:

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

**May 23** - *Kindred*, by Octavia Butler; moderator: Carl.

**June 27** - *Among Others*, by Jo Walton; moderator: Greg.

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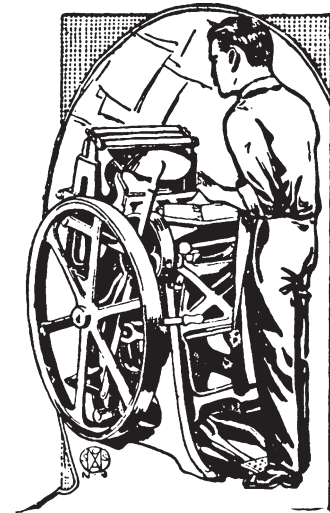


That's right, everybody!  
Gaylaxicon 2013 is next month! We hope to see you there!

For more details, see the Con Calendar on page 4 of this newsletter.

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## From Ye Olde Newsletter Editor

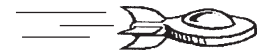


Hey, all you LSFers—and friends! It'd be really nice to hear from you about interesting F/SF/H stuff that's going on out there. Have you read a really good book – or seen a great new movie – or played a terrific new game? If so, why not tell the rest of us about it? If you haven't been able to get to an LSF meeting, you can send me a short article for the LSF newsletter. Just send it to the e-mail address shown above in the masthead, and I'll put it into the next issue. We'd all like to hear from you.

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## April LSF Meeting



The next LSF meeting will be held on **Sunday, April 14th**. 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!

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## WHAT'S INSIDE?

Minutes of the March LSF Meeting (pg. 2); *The Lovecraft Anthology* (book review - pg. 2); *The Earth Turned Upside Down* (book review - pg. 3); About Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians & Con Calendar (pg. 4)

**Minutes of the March  
LSF Meeting**  
taken by Scott

**Business Meeting**

Rob reported that the LSF Pride table has been booked. He reminded everyone about the movie outing at Gallery Place after the meeting to see *Oz: The Great and Powerful*. He also reminded everyone about the LSF gaming party on March 30th.

**Social Meeting**

Speaker Teresa initiated a name circle, because there were some new faces in the crowd. She reported that the National Geographics Museum is hosting a “real pirates” exhibit.

Even though the visuals were stunning, the plot of *Sucker Punch* was totally incomprehensible. Both Mike P. and Barrett enjoyed the new *Oz: The Great and Powerful* movie; it was noted, however, that the 3D isn’t all that great. Carl said he enjoyed the *Jack the Giant Killer* movie; he described it as a simple, fun movie.

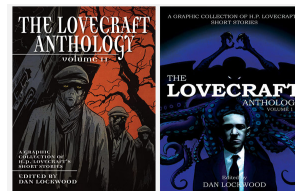
Other movie/TV news: A good remake of *Evil Dead* is being released in April. *Saturday Night Live* did a really good spoof of *The Walking Dead*. Season 3 of *Game of Thrones* starts soon. Jim W. described the documentary *American Scary*: a look at the nation’s tradition of horror TV show hosts. It was noted that this is the 20th anniversary of the first season of *Babylon 5*; and Rob described *Farscape* and *Babylon 5* as the best sci-fi TV shows.

Dan described his recent experience co-hosting the 40th anniversary of Count Gore DeVol (aka Dick Dysell) as a local TV (now Internet) horror-movie host. (Dan won the chance to co-host the show at a raffle.) The movie Dan and the Count hosted was *Brainiac*, a Mexican-made sci-fi movie from the 1970’s. The website for the Count’s show is: CountGore.com

DC Comics recently withdrew plans to publish a story by Orson Scott Card, possibly because of his widely-publicized anti-GLBTQ position.

**The Lovecraft Anthology:  
A Graphic Collection of H.P.  
Lovecraft’s Short Stories  
edited by Dan Lockwood  
(SelfMadeHero;**

**Vol. I, 2011; Vol. II, 2012)**  
a short review by Carl



I’m not the world’s biggest “graphic novel” fan. Oh, sure, I’ve enjoyed some of them; but, on the whole, I’m not a big fan. On the other hand, I am a big fan of H.P. Lovecraft; so, when I saw these “graphic collections” of Lovecraft stories, I simply couldn’t resist. And—guess what? – I really have enjoyed them!

Here’s what overall editor Dan Lockwood says in the Forward to Volume I: “My hope is that the adaptations in this volume will entertain and unnerve both established fans and those who are new to Lovecraft’s weird tales.” I think both volumes of *The Lovecraft Anthology* succeed in doing that.

The Lovecraft stories in these anthologies have been “adapted” by various talented individuals, such as Dan Lockwood and about a dozen others. They’ve done a really nice job in adapting Lovecraft’s works for this primarily visual medium. They’ve allowed the artwork to carry much of the mood and action, rather than simply present an illustrated, word-for-word version of the stories. And, if

Peter passed around recent issues of the Pittsburgh sci-fi group’s newsletter.

Jim announced that the DC Gay Men’s Chorus will be performing their version of *Xanadu* next weekend. Jim is doing stage construction work for the show. (How butch!)

Rob reviewed the book titles for the upcoming LSF Book Discussion Group: Joan Slonczewski’s *Highest Frontier* (March); Kim Stanley Robinson’s *The Years of Rice and Salt* (April). He also described the revived LSF Facebook page and invited everyone to check it out.

LSF is 23 years old! The club held its first meeting in March 1990. Carl brought out cupcakes with 23 candles to celebrate. The candles were blown out by Jim W., Peter, and Carl, who attended that first meeting.

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you’re a big Lovecraft fan too, then I assure you that these adaptations haven’t “ruined” Lovecraft’s works. I even went back and re-read some of the stories upon which these graphic adaptations are based. Sure, I still prefer Lovecraft “in the original format;” but I must admit that I think these two anthologies do a really nice job of preserving the “Lovecraftian” flavor.

And then there’s the artwork. Every story is illustrated by a different artist. Some of them have a style that is “lush,” and others are very stylized – worthy of some of the more lurid titles from the glory (gory?) days of EC Comics – but I didn’t find the mixture at all jarring. I think that *all* of the artwork does a really fine job of creating and maintaining the “Lovecraftian” mood of each story.

So, you ask, which Lovecraft stories are presented in two volumes of *The Lovecraft Anthology*? Glad you asked...

Volume I includes some of Lovecraft’s better-known tales: “The Call of Cthulhu”, “The Haunter of the Dark”, “The Dunwich Horror”, “The Colour Out of Space”, “The Shadow Over Innsmouth”, “The Rats in the Walls”, and “Dagon”.

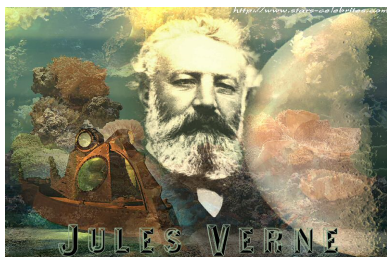
Volume II advertises itself as a “collection of graphic adaptations of the “minor” works of H.P. Lovecraft.” It includes: “Pickman’s Model”, “The Temple”, “From Beyond”, “He”, “The Hound”, “The Nameless City”, “The Picture in the House” (one of my favorite Lovecraft stories), “The Festival”, and “The Statement of Randolph Carter”.

I hope there’ll be a Volume III. So far, I’ve really enjoyed *The Lovecraft Anthology*!

NOTE: Back in 2010, Self-MadeHero also published a graphic novel version of *At the Mountains of Madness*, adapted and illustrated by I.N.J. Culbard (“with thanks to Dan Lockwood”). I haven’t been overly impressed with the artwork excerpts I’ve seen, however – looks to me rather like one of the “Adventures of Tintin.”

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**The Earth Turned  
Upside Down**  
by Jules Verne  
(Hesperus Press, 2012)  
a short review by Carl



I haven't read a Jules Verne novel in quite some time. I think the most recent was *Around the World in 80 Days* (an illustrated and annotated edition, no less), which I read several years ago. But then *The Earth Turned Upside Down* recently caught my eye.

When I first saw this slim volume, I didn't recognize the title; and, with its 2012 publication date, I thought it might be another "lost" Verne novel—like *Paris in the 20th Century* (written in 1863, but unpublished until 1994). Turns out I was wrong. *The Earth Turned Upside Down* (original title: *Sans dessus dessous*) is just one of Verne's lesser-known works. When Verne wrote it in 1889, he was already famous for such novels as *Journey to the Center of the Earth* (1864), *Twenty Thousand Leagues under the Sea* (1870), *Around the World in Eighty Days* (1873), and a host of others.

*The Earth Turned Upside Down* continues the adventures of the infamous Baltimore Gun Club and includes characters from two well-known previous novels: *From the Earth to the Moon* (1865) and *Around the Moon* (1870). In those two novels, the Baltimore Gun Club build a huge cannon ("the Columbiad") in Florida and use it to launch a manned projectile into space. This capsule circles the Moon and returns to Earth, where it splashes down into the sea and the three-man crew is rescued by a U.S. Navy vessel. (Sound familiar?)

Now it's a decade or so later, and the members of the Baltimore Gun Club—led by Impey Barbicane (club president), Captain Nicholl (creator of the explosive "dyna-mix" used to fire the Columbiad), and J-T Maston (club secretary and math-

ematician)—have devised a wildly improbable scheme to exploit the extensive coal deposits located beneath the North Pole's ice cap.

OK, OK, so Verne wasn't exactly clear on the concept of polar geography. We now know that there's no Arctic continent beneath the polar ice, just ocean. But Verne had indeed put his finger on some other concepts that certainly ring true.

First, he seems to have predicted the "energy crunch" that's now on everyone's mind. Here's an excerpt from Chapter V:

*Yet, around the world, the extraction of coal... has reached an annual rate of 400 million tones. Now, this rate of consumption shows every sign of increasing while our industrial needs likewise continue to grow. Even if electricity replaces steam as a source of power, it will entail the same rate of coal consumption for the production of that power. The belly of industry hungers for coal alone; it consumes nothing else. Industry is a 'carboniverous' animal; there is no choice but to feed it...*

*But, while our iron consumption is provided for to the end of days, our appetite for coal is not. Far from it. Wise people with an eye on the future, even when that future may be hundreds of years away, ought to seek out coalmines wherever far-sighted nature left them in the geological eras.*

How similar does this sound to current arguments about the world's ever-increasing demands on our dwindling petrochemical resources? And this leads directly to their second concept that Verne recognizes in this book: that some people will seemingly go to any length to get their hands on more resources, regardless of consequences. Enter Barbicane & Co.

How do they plan to get at the coal deposits currently buried under all the Arctic ice? "Easy: get rid of the ice." How do they plan to get rid of the ice? "Melt it off." How will they melt off all that ice? "Change the tilt of the Earth's axis, and let the heat of the sun melt it off." How do they plan to change the Earth's axial tilt? "Build a really big gun; aim it just right; and fire it off at just the right time.



The recoil from the blast will alter the Earth's axial tilt to the desired position (perpendicular to the Earth's orbit)." But what about the consequences of such a sudden jolt? "Hey! You can't make an omelet without breaking eggs!" (These are my words—but it's pretty much what the impassioned dialogue in the novel boils down to.)

Unlike Verne's more famous novels, there's not a lot of "action" and "traveling about" in *The Earth Turned Upside Down*. Most of the book is devoted to: the Baltimore Gun Club's successful (and humorous) machinations to purchase the Arctic polar regions (everything above latitude 84 degrees North); the scientific and mathematical basis for their plans to un-tilt the Earth's axis; and the international debate about potential disasters if the plan is successful. In the last couple of chapters—almost literally the "countdown" to the big blast—the scene shifts from Baltimore to Africa (the site for the "really big gun"). And I must admit that I found the novel's denouement to be rather a surprise.

I think *The Earth Turned Upside Down* is a "must read" for fans of Verne and steampunk. I think Sophie Lewis's translation (from the French original) is very readable. And, as I said earlier, I found this short novel to be a fascinating foreshadowing of the "energy crisis" of our own times—up to and including a consideration of the problems of "climate change." In a way, I guess you could even consider it to be an exploration of the concept of "terraforming" within a steampunk context.

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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, **April 14th, 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



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: \$45 at the door.

More info available at: <http://www.ravencon.com>

April 26-28, 2013 **ECUMENICON 2013**. Comfort Inn (Beltsville, MD). Conference themes: The Question of Evil; Duality and Reality, "The Road to Fair Elfland," and Defense Against the Dark Arts! Membership: \$80 for 3 days. On-line registration available at: [www.Ecumenicon.org/Conference/Registration](http://www.Ecumenicon.org/Conference/Registration) Website: [www.Ecumenicon.org](http://www.Ecumenicon.org)

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: \$50 until 4/15/2013 (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: \$55 until 4/30/2013. Make checks payable to "Balticon 47" and send to: Balticon, PO Box 686, Baltimore, MD 21203-0686. On-line registration 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: \$111. On-line registration.

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

Oct. 11-13, 2013 **CAPCLAVE 2013**. Hilton Washington DC North (Gaithersburg, MD). Guest of Honor George R.R. Martin; Editor GoH: Sharyn November; Artist GoH: Steve Stiles. Membership: \$50 thru May; \$55 June - July; \$60 August - September; \$70 at the door. Make checks payable to "Capclave" and send to: Capclave 2013 Registration, c/o Sam Scheiner, 1518 North Edison St., Arlington, VA 22205-2638. On-line registration also available at [Capclave.org](http://Capclave.org).

Website: [Capclave.org](http://Capclave.org) Info: [info@capclave.org](mailto:info@capclave.org) Twitter: [twitter.com/capclave](https://twitter.com/capclave)

