



lambda Sci-fi DC Area Gaylaxians



PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044

(202) 232-3141 - Issue #279 - June 2013

E-MAIL: info@lambdascifi.org WEBSITE: www.lambdascifi.org

LSF Pre-Pride Gaming and Parade-Viewing Party - June 8th - info from Rob



Come celebrate DC Pride Day at a Pre-Pride Gaming and Parade-Viewing Party with the folks at LSF!

What: A gaming party – with a break to watch the Pride Parade. There’s plenty of room for gaming, so please bring your favorite table games (cards, board, etc.). *We’ll start the party with a brief LSF meeting.*

When: June 8th (Saturday); 3:00 PM–?? There’ll be a short LSF meeting at 3:00 PM, and then let the games begin!!! (Note: We’ll take a break to walk down the street and watch the parade as a group – and for everyone to get dinner on their own.)

What to bring: Bring your favorite table game (or two). Also, please bring munchies and/or soft drinks.

Where: Home of Peter and Rob, 1425 “S” Street NW, Washington, DC.

Directions at:

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

For more information: Please contact Rob at: robgatesdc@gmail.com or call him at 202-483-6369.

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DC Capital Pride Festival - June 9th - (Sunday)

For the 23rd year in a row, LSF will staff a booth at the DC Pride Festival to promote LSF and queer fandom. Come join us and help to spread the word about Lambda Sci-Fi and LGBT-themed F&SF!

Feel free to drop by the LSF booth sometime during the day. As in previous years, we didn’t see the need to establish specific schedules for staffing the booth; we’ve always had lots of LSFers (both long-timers and newbies) show up and stick around. Rob and Carl will be there about 10:00 AM for set-up; and they cheerfully invite anyone else who’d like to help out.

Time: 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Where: Pennsylvania Avenue, somewhere between 4th and 7th Streets NW, Washington, DC

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LSF Post-Pride Video Party - June 15th - info from Peter



Keep celebrating DC Pride at the Post-Pride Video/Potluck Party with the folks at LSF!

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

When: June 15th (Saturday), 3:30 PM-??

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

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

Directions at:

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

For more information: Please contact Peter at: PeterPKnapp@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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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 round-table 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 **June 27th**.

Here are the details for the next book discussion:

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

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WHAT'S INSIDE?

May LSF Meeting Minutes (pg. 2); LSFers at Awesome Con (pg. 2); Ray Harryhausen (Obituary - pg. 3); About Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians & Con Calendar (pg. 4)

May LSF Meeting Minutes

taken by Scott

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Business Portion

LSF Pride Day activities are as follows:

Saturday, June 8: short LSF meeting (3 PM), followed by gaming party (3:30 PM), at Peter & Rob's place, with a break to walk down the street and watch the Capital Pride parade (4:30 PM).

Sunday, June 9: LSF table at Capital Pride Festival—stop by some time during the day and help staff the booth.

Saturday, June 15: post-Pride video party at Julian's place in Glover Park.

Upcoming LSF book discussions: *Kindred* by Octavia Butler (May); *Among Others* by Jo Walton (June).

Social Portion

There was a universal declaration that: last night's *Doctor Who* episode was a total train wreck; Matt Smith has no acting skills whatsoever; and, even though Neil Gaiman wrote the episode, it still sucked.

There was an animated discussion about the *My Little Pony* "brony" phenomenon.

It was reported that *Saturday Night Live*'s "Game of Thrones" skit hilariously pokes fun at *Game of Thrones* fandom.

Dan reported that Disney has changed the physical appearance of *Brave*'s Princess Merida for their "Disney Princesses" franchise. And David proclaimed that Pocahontas and Mulan were NOT princesses.

It was noted that Power Girl's costume got its "boob window" back. Jim W. remarked that John Lassiter had not been successfully in his attempt to revive cell animation at Disney.

Sentiment seems to be that using the character of Mulan in the *Once Upon a Time* series is stretching it. But the series has been renewed.

From the trailer, *Gravity* looks like it will be a fantastic movie. Dan compared it to the non-SF film *Open Water*. The *Enders Game* movie has been released.

LSFers at Awesome Con

by Peter, Rob, & Carl Knapp

From Peter:

Privately held Awesome Conventions LLC, founded in 2011, held the first Awesome Con D.C. at the convention center the weekend of April 20-21, 2013. Rob and I went to this comics and media convention on Sunday afternoon in part to support a local convention. I wasn't sure what to expect and wondered if it would be fan produced and fun or professionally produced and not-so-fun, like Creation Conventions.

I had fun. While situated in the huge Walter E. Washington Convention Center, the convention had a small feel to it. Programming was light; guests were few. The dealer's room, mostly comics-related vendors, filled a huge room.

I noticed many African American artists and writers in attendance, and Rob pointed out that many of the artists and writers were local and with DC being a majority black city, the racial makeup of the local talent made sense. In contrast, mostly white male the gamers played in the huge *Magic the Gathering* tournament. The room did not smell like a locker room; I'm guessing the gamers took showers because the gaming room was not a 24-

David reported on some genre pilots: *Returned*, *Agents of SHIELD*, *Intelligence*, *100*, *Originals*, *Oxygen*, *Tomorrow People*, *Almost Human*, *Sleepy Hollow*, *Belief*, *Wonderland*, *Big Thunder*, *Second Sight*, and *SuperClyde*. Rob noted that *Under the Dome* (the TV series based on the Stephen King novel) starts this summer. Jim W. commented that the eight alien races on *Defiance* are "as alien as Canadians."

Rob reported that there are racist elements in the on-line game *BioShock Infinite*.

GeeksOut (a club for gay geeks) is apparently opening up a chapter in the DC area.

We watched the hilarious YouTube Audi commercial starring Zachary Quinto and Leonard Nimoy.

Seventeen LSFers attended Gaylaxicon in Atlanta last weekend. They all reported that they enjoyed themselves and had fun!

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hour venue as in other cons.

A lot of attendees came in costume, and babies wore some of the cutest outfits. The age demographics at Awesome Con seemed to vary considerably, from babies to people in their sixties. I know people fret about the greying of fandom at Worldcons. It seems that is not an issue when the main themes of the convention are comics, media, costuming, and/or gaming.

I did attend one event—a showing of *Ninjas vs. Monsters* followed by a Q&A by co-writer and director Justin Timpane. Timpane made the movie for \$17,000 and financed it through Kickstarter. (Eat your heart Hollywood.) It reminded me a lot of a trashy Saturday night Syfy movie. If you're interested in checking out the movie, you can get more information at: <http://ninjasvs.com/>

I enjoyed the few hours I spent at Awesome Con and look forward to attend more of the con next year. If you're interested in comics, media, costuming, and/or gaming I think you'd like the convention too.

From Rob:

One of the things I appreciated was the diversity of the crowd in attendance. All ages, shapes, sizes, colors, etc appeared to be represented; and the crowd mingled and interacted very well. Everyone seemed to be having a good time, and it appeared to draw families as a unit as well. It was kind of cool seeing families walking around together, all in costumes (often costumes that were completely unrelated to each other). I expect I'll devote more time to it next year and prepare myself by learning more in advance about the comic artists and writers who are in attendance so I'll have a better appreciation for their work when I see it at the convention.

(continued on page 3)



Ray Harryhausen 1920 – 2013

In 1939, Ray Harryhausen and his friend, aspiring writer Ray Bradbury, joined the LA-based Science Fiction League formed by Forrest J Ackerman. Harryhausen, Bradbury, and Ackerman became lifelong friends – and now the last of this trio of F&SF friends has passed away.

Harryhausen was an American visual effects creator, writer, and producer. He created a form of stop-motion model animation known variously as “Dynamation,” “SuperDynaMation,” and “Dynamama.” He seemed to have a magic touch that allowed him to bring his models to life – they didn’t seem like “puppets”; rather, they became characters in their own right. He caught the animation bug back in 1933, when he saw the ground-breaking special effects work of Willis H. O’Brien in the film *King Kong* – and he spent his early years experimenting in the production of animated short films.

In the 1940s, Harryhausen got his first commercial job after a viewing of his demo reel (fighting dinosaurs): he worked on George Pal’s *Puppetoons*, a series of short animated features. [Ed. Note: My favorite has always been “Bravo, Mr. Strauss” (1943), in which a statue of the composer comes to life and, like the Pied Piper, leads “the mighty Screwball army” (Nazi analogs) to their destruction in the Danube River.] During World War II, Harryhausen worked for Special Services Division (under Col. Frank Capra) as a loader, clapper, gaffer, and camera assistant. He also honed his animation skills at home making short films about the use and development of military equipment.

In 1947, Harryhausen worked as an assistant animator for his idol Willis H. O’Brien on the film *Mighty Joe Young*. The film won an Academy Award for special effects (1949).

Harryhausen’s first solo feature film effort was *The Beast from 20,000 Fathoms* (1953), a major international box office hit for Warner Brothers. The rest, as they say, is history: a series of iconic F&SF films featuring Harryhausen’s animation.

- *It Came from Beneath the Sea* (1955)
- *Earth vs. the Flying Saucers* (1956)
- *20 Million Miles to Earth* (1957)
- *The 7th Voyage of Sinbad* (1958) – his biggest hit of the 1950s, and the top grossing summer film for Columbia.

- *The Three Worlds of Gulliver* (1960)
- *Mysterious Island* (1961)
- *Jason and the Argonauts* (1963), which includes the celebrated fight sequence that took 3 months to film, between 3 actors and 7 living skeletons.
- *First Men in the Moon* (1964)
- *One Million Years B.C.* (1966)
- *The Valley of Gwangi* (1969)
- *The Golden Voyage of Sinbad* (1974)
- *Sinbad and the Eye of the Tiger* (1977)
- *Clash of the Titans* (1981)

Harryhausen formed the Ray & Diana Harryhausen Foundation in 1986, a registered charity in the US and the UK. The Foundation preserves all of his collection and promotes the art of stop-motion animation.

In 1992, Harryhausen received the Gordon E. Sawyer Award for Technical Achievement at the Scientific and Technical Achievement portion of the Academy Awards. He was honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on June 10, 2003. In 2005, he was inducted to the Science Fiction Hall of Fame (the first year it honored a non-literary contributor); and in 2008, the British Fantasy Society awarded him the Wagner Award for his lifetime contribution to the genre. Over the years, George Lucas, Peter Jackson, Nick Park, Phil Tippett, Terry Gilliam, Steven Spielberg, and James Cameron have all publicly acknowledged Harryhausen’s influence upon their films.

LSFers at Awesome Con

continued from page 2

From Carl:

This con really sneaked up on me. I didn’t know anything about it until I saw the spread in the “Weekend” section of *The Washington Post* on the Friday just before the con. (“Get Your Geek On: Power up for Awesome Con D.C., the city’s first convention for comic book, sci-fi and pop culture fans.”) I’m certainly not in the same league as Greg or Scott when it comes to comics-fandom; but I decided to give Awesome Con a one-day try anyway.

I got there late morning on Saturday – and discovered that I was about 10 people behind Greg in the “cash only” line. As it turned out, I spent about 2 hours in the Exhibit Room (what I would have called a Dealers Room), looking at all the cool stuff for sale and buying a couple of prezzies, a couple of interesting graphic novels, and some beautiful artwork. I also wandered around a bit looking at all the costumes – and perovving at a number of spandex-clad guys. (In particular, I remember a rather hunky Ant-Man.) I didn’t go to any of the panels. But, to give you an idea of what went on, here are just a few of the several dozen available topics: “Star Trek vs. Star Wars Debate”, “Sci-Fi Speed

Dating”, “Pro Wrestling Today: How We’d Book It”, and “Comic Book Digital Colors Workshop”. There were a number of Media guests. The only two I recognized were voice actor Phil LaMarr (the voice of Samurai Jack and others) and actor Ernie Hudson (Winston Zeddemore from *Ghostbusters*). There was also a “Mind of the Geek Game Room” – but I didn’t go anywhere near it.

Awesome Con will return next year: April 19-20, 2014. They’re promising that it “will be much BIGGER!!!” Alrighty then... Maybe I’ll give it a try. (I’ll also try to get it into the LSF newsletter’s Con Calendar, too.)

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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. **But the next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held in conjunction with a Pre-Pride Gaming Party on Saturday, June 8th, at Peter and Rob's home, 1425 "S" Street NW, Washington, DC.** There will be a short business meeting will begin at 3:00 PM; and the party will begin at 3:30 PM. For details, see the article on page 1 of this newsletter. Hope to see you there!

Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians is an affiliate of **the Galactic Network**, an international organization for gay people and their friends who are interested in science-fiction and fantasy.



Con Calendar

by Carl



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 Info: 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: \$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.

Website: Capclave.org Info: info@capclave.org Twitter: twitter.com/capclave

Nov. 29 - Dec. 1, 2013 **DARKOVER GRAND COUNCIL 36**. (A *very* LGBT-friendly convention.) Crowne Plaza Baltimore (Timonium, MD). GoH and Artist GoH: TBA; Special Guest: Katherine Kurtz. Membership: \$50 thru 11/1; \$55 thereafter and 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

Aug. 14-18, 2014 **LONCON 3: The 72nd World Science Fiction Convention**. (London, UK). Guests: Iain Banks, John Clute, Robin Hobb. Membership (currently): \$170 (ages 26+); \$110 (ages 16-25) - prices will go UP. Make checks payable to "Loncon3" and send to: London in 2014, #110, 530 Showers Drive, Ste. 7, Mountain View, CA 94040

Website: www.Loncon3.org Info: info@Loncon3.org

July 3-6, 2014 (tentative dates) **GAYLAXICON 2014**. Hotel TBD (Boston, MA). "When the stars are right over Boston!" Membership: \$50 thru 8/31/2013. Make checks payable to "Gaylaxian Science Fiction Society" and send to: GSFS c/o Registration, PO Box 425662, Cambridge, MA 02142

Info: Questions2014@Gaylaxicon.org On-line registration: Registration2014@Gaylaxicon.org

