

***We interrupt this
January 2017
newsletter for a
short one-page
announcement
regarding an
upcoming
December 2016
LSF movie outing...***

***Rogue One: A
Star Wars
Story***

Movie Outing
announced by
Peter Knapp



When: Saturday, 12/17/2016

Time: 4:00 PM (Plan to be in line with your ticket in hand no later than 3:30. A few of us will be in line no later than 3 PM.)

Theater: AMC Loews Uptown 1
3426 Connecticut Ave NW
Washington, DC 20008

Dinner: Afterwards, at a nearby fast casual restaurant.

Questions: Send e-mail to PeterPKnapp@gmail.com

***We return you now to your regularly-scheduled newsletter.
(Starting on the next page.)***



Lambda Sci-Fi

DC Area Gaylaxians

(202) 232-3141 - Issue # 322 – January 2017

E-MAIL: info@lambdascifi.org

WEBSITE: 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 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 January 26, 2017.

Here are the details for the next several book discussions:

Jan. 26, 2017 – *The Last Policeman*, by Ben Winters (moderator: Konrad).

Feb. 23 – *Daughter of Mystery*, by Heather Rose Jones (mod.: Claire).

March 23 – *The Long Way to a Small, Angry Planet*, by Becky Chambers (moderator: Konrad).

April 27 – *Air*, by Geoff Ryman (moderator: Rob.

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Annual LSF Book (*et al*) Exchange at Jan. 8th Meeting



That's right, gang, it's Holiday time again; and it's time for Lambda Sci-Fi's *twenty-seventh* annual book (*et al*) exchange, which will occur at the upcoming Jan. 8th 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 bookmark) with your name on it.

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New Year's Eve LSF Gaming Party – December 31st –



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

Date: Thursday, Dec. 31

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

Where: Rob & Peter's home: 1425 "S" St NW, Washington, DC

What to Bring: Your favorite table game or two (cards, board, etc.). It's a potluck meal, so bring something to eat: appetizers (veggies, chips, etc.), main course item (enough to serve at

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<<<<< January 2017 LSF Meeting >>>>>

The next LSF meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 8th**. The meeting will be held at Peter and Rob's home, **1425 "S" Street NW, Washington, DC**. The meeting will begin at 1:30 and the "group watch" will begin at 3:00 PM. Hope to see you there! It will also feature the annual LSF book (*et al*) exchange (see article on this page).



What's Inside?

Page 2: Minutes of the December LSF Meeting; Women in F&SF Short Stories (book reviews).

Page 4: Information About Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians and Con Calendar.

New Year's Eve Party

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least 4-5 people), dessert, and/or non-alcoholic drinks (both regular and diet). For the New Year's toast, it's OK to bring some sparkling wine or cider (champagne, if you're feeling generous).

The hosts request that no one drink alcohol during the party other than at Midnight.

For more information, call 202-810-4678 or send e-mail to:

PeterPKnapp@gmail.com

Directions & Parking Suggestions:

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

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LSF Book Exchange

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That's so whoever eventually ends up with the item will know who it's from and will get to know a little 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!

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Minutes of the December LSF Meeting

taken by Scott

Must be the holiday season! Only five attendees at today's meeting. Carl reminded everyone of the annual book/etc. exchange next month at the January LSF meeting.

Carl has just finished reading a fascinating non-fiction book: *Neuro-Tribes: The Legacy of Autism and the Future of Neurodiversity* by Steve Silberman. Chapter 6 includes a discussion of Hugo Gernsback (founder of *Amazing Stories*, who was perhaps a person with undiagnosed autism) and the origins of SF Fandom. The discussion passed to talking about the bio-pic *Temple Grandin*, starring Claire Danes: a dramatization of the life of the famous autistic who has a PhD and is internationally known for developing livestock handling facilities. An interesting frequent marker for children with autism is a fascination with dinosaurs.

The trailer for *Guardians of the Galaxy II* looks like fun. Wess enjoyed the film *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*. He said it was obvious who the bad guy was. Is Eddy Redmayne's character supposed to be autistic? Teresa enjoyed the goblins in the speakeasy. Carl is looking forward to Luc Besson's new sci-fi film *The City of a Thousand Planets*.

Teresa is enjoying the TV series *Lucifer*. Hulu is showing *The Exorcist*, which Teresa thinks is creepy; she loves starring actor Ben Daniels, who is also in the upcoming *Rogue One*. Rob has delighted in the Disney Channel's *Gummi Bears* animated series.

The latest episodes in the continuing PBS series *The Hollow Crown* starts tonight. This part of the series deals with the Wars of the Roses, with Benedict Cumberbatch portraying Richard III.

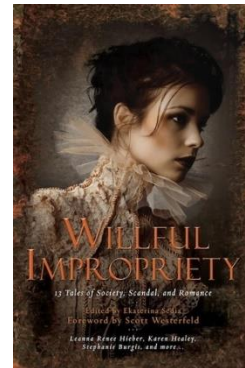
Lots of marginally genre discussions today – often on the topic of economics and possible future solutions – but a good time was had by all! Teresa's home-made pumpkin-spice cookies were a hit!

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Women in F&SF Short Stories

reviews by Carl

What a great way to start the new year: a series of reviews on a new topic!



Willful Impropriety: 13 Tales of Society, Scandal, and Romance
edited by Ekaterina Sedia
(Running Press Books, 2012)

I wasn't sure what to expect from this anthology. I only recognized the names of four of the authors: Genevieve Valentine, Mary Robinette Kowal, Steve Berman, and Caroline Stevermer.

Here's how the editor describes its theme: “...it seems to me that the Victorian age is a perfect medium to tell these stories of defying convention, of individuals chafing against the constraints of what was considered to be the unchangeable order of things. Against the expectation that one should know one's proper place, determined by one's race, class, and gender, against the notion of marriage and binary gender constructs, against the expectations of strictly heterosexual attraction.”

I figured it might have more F&SF stories than it actually does. As it turns out, it's a mixed bag of historical fiction, historical Romance, and tales of Victorian manners-and-morals – with four Fantasy stories and one steampunk-ish story mixed in. It *is*, however, a collection of enjoyable, well-written stories.

I was delighted to see that Steve Berman's “Steeped in Debt to the Chimney Pots” is another “Lind
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Women in F&SF

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and Tupp” story. (The first one was anthologized in 2004 in *The Fairy Reel*, edited by Ellen Datlow and Terri Windling.) Lind is a human street urchin; he’s in love with Tupp, a transplanted Wessex sprite; and both of them are trying to keep alive in the dark and dangerous streets of 1884 London. They must avoid the forces of human law enforcement as well as the graver hazards of the Folk (to whom Lind owes a supernatural debt).

However, I think my favorite story in the bunch is a non-F&SF story: “At Will” by Leanna Renee Hieber. It’s a story of gender fluidity on the Victorian stage. Sure, it has parallels to the film *Victor/Victoria* – but, on the other hand, I think that comparison is much too simplistic and doesn’t recognize the superiority of this nifty little story. Suffice it to say that I think it’s “well worth the price of admission” to the anthology.

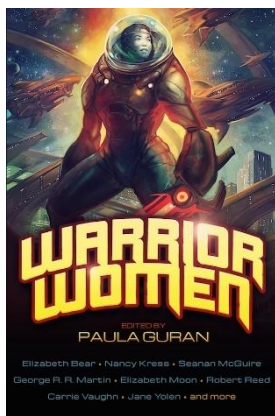
OK, so less than half the stories in *Willful Impropriety* are F&SF; but if you’re willing to occasionally step outside the F&SF genre, then I think you’ll also get a kick out of the non-F&SF stories in the anthology.

Warrior Women

edited by Paula Guran
(Prime Books, 2015)

All 24 of the stories in this anthology are reprints, including some Big Name Authors: Tanith Lee, Mary Gentle, Jane Yolen, Caitlin Kiernan, Elizabeth Bear, Nalo Hopkinson, George R.R. Martin, Tanya Huff, Nancy Kress, and Elizabeth Moon. It’s a real mixed bag of Fantasy, Swords-and-Sorcery, Space Opera, and even some historical fiction; but the quality of all the stories is fairly even. Sure, there are some stories that I liked better than others, but I don’t think there’s a “clunker” in the bunch.

Here’s a rather lengthy quote from the editor’s Introduction. (I just couldn’t resist passing it along



to you.)

“If you’re looking for stories of warrior women wearing chain-mail bikinis, brass bras, tight leather bodices, “boob-plate” armor, skin-tight space-suits, or latex bodysuits . . . move along. *Warrior Women* offers no women battling while showing obvious cleavage, toned midribs, exposed booty, bare or booted thighs, or even tank tops that showcase nipples. Nor will you find long unbound hair that has never known a split end, flapping fringe, or flowing robes to get in the way while fighting.

“As much as I appreciate the fantasy women portrayed by Frank Frazetta, Boris Vallejo, Julie Bell, and others; glorious old pulp pin-ups; the work of many gaming and comic artists; and the astounding engineering (and challenges of wearing) costumes like Seven of Nine’s silver catsuit—the women in these stories have no need of enhanced anatomy or sexy costumes. Like all viable warriors they wear functional clothing and/or protective gear.”

Two of my favorites have also appeared in other anthologies I’ve read: Caitlin Kiernan’s “The Sea Troll’s Daughter” (a raucous variation on the Beowulf story, featuring a Lesbian swordswoman-for-hire); and Carrie Vaughn’s “The Women from Avenger” (an historical, non-F&SF story about the Women Airforce Service Pilots – WASPs – during WWII).

Here are some of my other big favorites:

Alette de Bodard’s “The Days of the War, as Red as Blood, as Dark as Bile” is one of her ongoing “Xuya” universe series, a group of loosely connected stories in which Chi-

nese and Vietnamese cultures have reached the stars. Rebellion has fractured the Empire, and a young woman meets *Vermillion Phoenix*, the last of the mindships. This is only the second de Bodard story that I’ve read, and I’m a confirmed fan already.

“Anukazi’s Daughter” by Mary Gentle is another story featuring positive LGBTQ content, as a rigid patriarchal empire faces off against an island-based culture that has what we would consider very liberated attitudes toward women and same-sex relationships.

Elizabeth Bear’s “Love Among the Talus” is a story of magical dynastic marriage negotiations (with *very* unexpected results). It’s set in the same Mongol-esque world as her recent “Steles of the Sky” novels.

“In the Loop” by Ken Liu is a very disturbing story about “collateral damage” and the psychological effects of near-future drone-based warfare.

Yoon Ha Lee’s “The Knight of Chains, the Deuce of Stars” is an intricate and lyrical story about Nirstez of the Nine of Chains (a disgraced interstellar warlord). She plays a fascinating winner-take-all game against the powerful and mysterious Daechong, the Warden of the Tower, to gain the secret of ultimate victory against her enemies.

“Boy Twelve” by Jessica Reisman is an example of New Space Opera, set on a mind-boggling manufactured world: a woman and her sidekick set out on a dangerous mission to retrieve a rare drug, unexpectedly accompanied by the clone of her late husband (who has an agenda of his own).

Warrior Women is well worth reading! Lots’a good stuff in here!

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(to be continued)



* * 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 copy of 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 8th, at Peter and Rob's home, 1425 "S" Street NW, Washington, DC.** 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



Feb. 17-19, 2017 **FARPOINT 2017**. Radisson Hotel North Baltimore (Timonium MD). Membership: \$80 pre-registration for the weekend (daily rates available). Guests: Enver Gjakaj ("Agent Daniel Sousa" from *Agent Carter*), more TBA. Checks payable to "Farpoint Enterprises" and send to: Farpoint Enterprises, 11708 Troy Ct., Waldorf, MD 20601. Register and pay on-line at: www.FarpointCon.com/register Website: www.FarpointCon.com

March 24-26, 2017 **(RE)GENERATION WHO3**. Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace (Baltimore MD). Membership: Pre-registration \$80; \$90 at the door; VIP packages available. Guests: Sylvester McCoy (7th Doctor), Michelle Gomez (Missy), Peter Purves (1st Doctor Companion Steven Taylor), Katy Manning (3rd Doctor Companion Jo Grant). Registration through the website: <https://regenerationwho.com/>

May 26-29, 2017 **BALTICON 51** (including The 1632 Minicon). Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace (Baltimore MD). Membership: *[more information as it becomes available]* GoH: Eric Flint; Artist GoH: Donato Giancola. Checks payable to ? and send to PO Box 686, Baltimore, MD 21203-0686 Website: www.balticon.org E-mail: balticoninfo@balticon.org

June 16-18, 2017 **AWESOME CON 2017**. Walter E. Worthington Convention Center (Washington, DC) "Awesome Con welcomes some of the biggest and nerdiest names across comics, movies, TV, and more." Membership: \$75 for the basic 3-day weekend pass (daily rates & "add-ons" available). Registration on-line. Website: <http://awesomecon.com>



**The Justice Society
of America wishes
a Happy New Year
to all the folks at
Lambda Sci-Fi!**