



Lambda Sci-fi

DC Area Gaylaxians

(202) 232-3141 - Issue # 330 – September 2017

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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 September 28, 2017.

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

Sept. 28 – *A Taste of Honey* by Kai Ashante Wilson (moderator: John).

Oct. 26 – *Passing Strange* by Ellen Klages (moderator: Carl).

Dec. 7 (combined Nov/Dec) – *Ninefox Gambit* by Yoon Ha Lee (moderator: Dave R.).

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North Country Gaylaxians



The Twin Cities' chapter of the Galactic Network.

ConFABulous!
It's next month!
(Oct. 6 – 8)
info passed along
by Don Kaiser

The North Country Gaylaxians present ConFABulous! Join us over the upcoming Columbus Day holiday for a weekend of gaming and socializing!

ConFABulous will be held at the Crowne Plaza Aire MSP Airport (Mall of America), 3 Appletree Sq., Bloomington, MN 55425. The fun will begin at 1:00 PM on Friday (October 6th) and continue until 4:00 PM on Sunday (October 8th).

We'll have a large gaming room, a hospitality suite, and one track of programming. Think of it as a relaxicon, with no guests of honor, art show, or dealers room. Our large gamig room will have very extended hours – 24 hours if we want it! Membership will be \$40 (\$50 at the door).

Tickets are currently available on-line via EventBrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/confabulous-2017-tickets-35973363298>

For more information, visit our Facebook page:

@MNConFABulous

More information as it becomes available.



News Flash! Dr. Who Gender-Change Imminent!



<<<<< September 2017 LSF Meeting >>>>>

The next LSF meeting will be held on **Sunday, September 10th**. 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!



What's Inside?

Page 2: Minutes of the August LSF Meeting; George Romero (obituary).

Page 3: *Dot Complicated* (short book review); June Foray (obituary).

Page 4: Information About LSF: DC Area Gaylaxians and Con Calendar.

Minutes of the August LSF Meeting

taken by Scott

Apparently, attendance at this year's Worldcon in Helsinki was higher than expected. Rob said last-minute registrations exceeded attendance expectations.

Rob attended last week's OutWrite event at the DC Center. He said that there were some genre readings, including from Cecilia Tan and Steve Berman. True *Doctor Who* devotee Peter will attend the Doctor Who Exhibition in Cardiff. WashingCon tabletop gaming convention is coming up in September at Georgetown University.

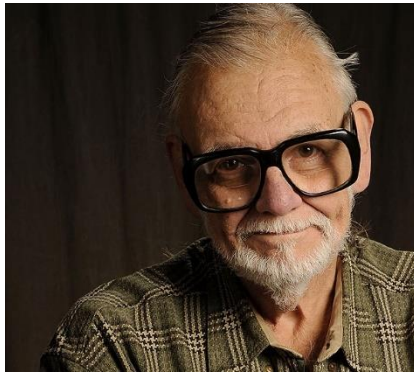
An LSF board game party will be held this Saturday (Aug. 19) at Peter and Rob's. Come on by!

TV News: Those watching the current (7th) season of *Game of Thrones* are truly loving it! The time intervals between events are much faster than in prior seasons. NetFlix will be showing a live-action *Death Note* in a few weeks. ("Justice is Coming!") The next *Doctor Who* will be female. (Shocker! Some fanboys are upset.) Teresa defended NetFlix's superhero *Defender* series. Genre TV series *Kevin (probably) Saves the World* starts this Fall. (A ne'er-do-well is recruited by an angel to save the world. Is Kevin up to the task?)

Movie News: Teresa will be arranging a movie outing to see *Thor: Ragnarok*. *Valerian* review: the main two characters are flat and have no chemistry; the bazaar scene in the alien dimension demonstrated some creativity. David is looking forward to *Dark Tower*, even though it does not have rave reviews. *Sharknado 5* – more outlandish than the prior *Sharknado* movies – apparently includes a prelude time travel. The new *BladeRunner* movie is coming out this Fall, starring Ryan Gosling and Harrison Ford.



(continued on page 3)



George A. Romero
1940 – 2017

Zombies, zombies, everywhere,
Nor any brains to eat!!

[with apologies to
Samuel Taylor Coleridge's
The Rime of the Ancient Mariner]

That little ditty seems a fitting way to lead into a discussion of the life and works of George Romero, who passed away in July. After all, he was often called the "Father of the Zombie Film".

Romero was born in the Bronx, son of a Cuban-born father and a Lithuanian-American mother. He was raised in the Bronx and attended Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh.

After graduating from Carnegie Mellon, Romero began his career by shooting short films and commercials. One of his early commercial films was a segment for *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*, in which Mr. Rogers underwent a tonsillectomy. With nine of his friends, Romero formed Image Ten Productions in the late 1960s and produced *Night of the Living Dead* (1968), which has been called a defining moment for modern horror cinema. His next journey into the zombie genre was *Dawn of the Dead* (1978) – shot on a budget of \$1½ million and earning over \$55 million internationally. He made his third entry into his "Dead Series" in 1985: *Day of the Dead*. Three more "Dead" films eventually followed: *Land of the Dead* (2005); *Diary of the Dead* (2007); and *Survival of the Dead* (2009)



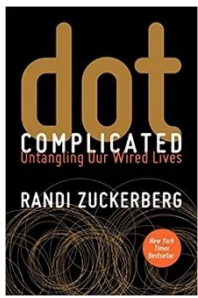
Romero also brought us: *Knightriders* (1981, a story of motorcycling modern-day jousting); *Creepshow* (1982, an anthology film written by Stephen King); and the horror anthology TV series *Tales from the Darkside* (1983 – 1988). In 2014, Marvel Comics began releasing *Empire of the Dead*, a 15-issue miniseries written by Romero (featuring both zombies and vampires).

Romero has a cameo appearance in Jonathan Demme's *The Silence of the Lambs* (1991) as one of Hannibal Lecter's jailers.

Romero cited the 1951 British film *The Tales of Hoffmann* as the inspiration for his film-making. In 2002, he ranked the following as his "top ten films of all time": *The Brothers Karamazov* (1958), *Casablanca* (1942), *High Noon* (1952), *Dr. Strangelove* (1964), *King Solomon's Mines* (1950), *North by Northwest* (1959), *The Quiet Man* (1952), *Repulsion* (1965), *Touch of Evil* (1958), and *The Tales of Hoffman* (1951). He also cited Herk Harvey's *Carnival of Souls* (1962) as an influence on his work.

In 2009, Spike TV honored him with the Mastermind Award. Romero's influence (and that of *Night of the Living Dead*) has been acknowledged by such men as comics writer Robert Kirkman, novelist Seth Grahame-Smith, and film-makers John Carpenter, Edgar Wright, and Jack Thomas Smith.

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**Dot
Complicated**
a short review
by Scott

LSF member Dr. Julian Redditt, who passed away in 2015, had given me a book as a gift some number of years ago, and I just got around to reading. It is titled *Dot Complicated: Untangling Our Wired Lives*, by Randi Zuckerberg (sister of Mark Zuckerberg of Facebook fame) – published in 2013. I decided to read it on a long flight across country and back.

I can't categorize it as an SF&F book, but SF&F fans have general interest in technology issues. The book is sort of a memoir of Randi Z's life, with some emphasis about her time while working at Facebook and while starting her family. She describes how social media and technology impact our lives. She provides suggestions on what to share with whom, whom to trust, and how to intermix one's work-life with one's personal life, at least regarding social media.

I know why Julian elected to give me this book: I think that he was able to relate to the sentiments that Randi Z is sharing in *Dot Complicated*.

Thank you, Julian! You are missed.

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August LSF Minutes

continued from page 2

Other: Theresa is listening to the creepy *NightVale* podcast. Peter and Rob watched the *Mighty Morphing Power Rangers*. Teresa is enjoying the *Winona Earp* series; the main character is like Buffy, with some magical powers.

Then attendees watched a British movie, *Attack the Block*, featuring Jodie Whittaker – the new (female!) Doctor Who. Everyone loved the aliens with glow-in-the-dark sharp teeth!

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June Foray 1917 – 2017

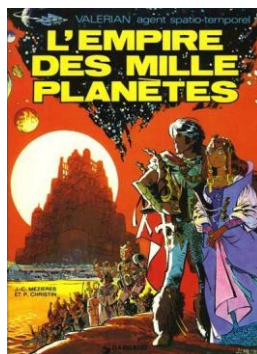
One of America's greatest voice actresses passed away in July at the age of 99. I'm quite sure you've heard her voice and would recognize it instantly. Over the decades, she was the voice behind such Warner Brothers characters as Witch Hazel and Granny (owner of Sylvester and Tweety). But she's probably most famous for her work in various Jay Ward/Bill Scott productions, as the voice of Rocky the Flying Squirrel ("Hokey smoke, Bullwinkle!"), Natasha Fatale ("Boris Dahlink, what ve do now?"), Nell Fenwick (Dudley Do-Right's sweetheart), Ursula (George of the Jungle's mate), and many of the voice-characterizations featured in *Fractured Flickers* (1963).

Ms. Foray's career began in radio back in the 1930s; and during the 1940s and 1950s she became known for her voice-over work in animated cartoons, record albums (particularly with Stan Freberg), radio programs, films, and television. Over the decades, her voice-work has included

many other memorable characters: Lucifer the cat (*Cinderella*, 1950), Cindy Lou Who (*How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, 1966), Aunt May Parker (*Spider-Man and His Amazing Friends*, 1981-1983), and Grandmother Fa (*Mulan*, 1998). Foray was the original voice for Mattel's "Chatty Cathy" doll; and, on the creepier side, she was also the voice of "Talky Tina", the murderous doll featured in the 1963 *Twilight Zone* episode "Living Doll".

In the mid-1960s, Foray became devoted to the preservation and promotion of animation. She was one of the founders of ASIFA-Hollywood, a chapter of the International Animated Film Association. In 1972, she came up with the idea of the Annie Award, an animation-only alternative to the Oscars and Emmys. In 1995, ASIFA-Hollywood established the June Foray Award for "individuals who have made a significant and benevolent or charitable impact on the art and industry of animation" – and Foray was its first recipient. As a member of the Governors' Board for the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, Foray lobbied for two decades for the establishment of an Academy Award specifically for animation – her petitioning resulted in its creation in 2001.

In 2011, Ms. Foray received the Comic-Con Icon Award. In 2012, she received her first Emmy nomination – and (at the age of 94) became the oldest entertainer to be nominated for and to win an Emmy. In 2013, she received the Governors Award at the 65th Primetime Creative Arts Emmy Awards ceremony.



In case you didn't know about it, here are some pictures from the original French graphic novels upon which Luc Besson based his film *Valerian*.



*** * 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, **September 10th, 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



Oct. 6-8, 2017 **CONFABULOUS** (a gay relaxacon). Crowne Plaza Aire MSP Airport (Mall of America), 3 Appletree Square, Bloomington, MN 55425. Membership: \$40 (\$50 at the door).

More information as it becomes available. Facebook page: @MNConFABulous

Registration via EventBrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/confabulous-2017-tickets-35973363298>

Oct. 6-8, 2017 **CAPCLAVE 2017**. Hilton Washington DC North (Gaithersburg, MD). Author GoH: Ken Liu; Editor GoH: Neil Clarke. Membership: \$65 to Sept. 30; \$70 at the door.

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

Nov. 10-12, 2017 **PHILCON 2017**. The Crown Plaza Hotel (Cherry Hill, NJ). Author GoH: Seanan McGuire; Artist GoH: Don Maitz; Special Guest: Janny Wurts. Membership: \$60 from 9/1 thru 10/31; \$65 at the door.

Website: www.philcon.org www.facebook.com/Philcon.PSFS

Nov. 24-26, 2017 **CHESSIECON 2017**. Radisson North Baltimore (Timonium, MD). Author GoH: Ada Palmer; Music GoH: T. Burnside Clapp; Artist GoH: Megan Willis. Membership: \$55 through Nov. 15; \$60 at the door. Make checks payable to "Thanksgiving Science Fiction Society" and send to: TSFS, Inc., PO Box 83032, Gaithersburg, MD 20883-3032 (Also registration on-line via PayPal.)

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

May 11-13, 2018 **GAYLAXICON/OUTLANTACON 2018**. The Network Board has approved Outlantacon's bid to host Gaylaxicon in 2018. Membership: \$35 until 9/31 (will go up after that). Website: <http://www.outlantacon.org/> Info: info@outlantacon.org

Aug. 16-20, 2018 **WORLDCON SAN JOSE**, the 76th World Science Fiction Convention. McEnery Convention Center (San Jose, CA). Guests of Honor: Chelsea Quinn Yarbro & Spider Robinson. Membership: currently \$190 (will go up!). On-line registration thru the convention's website. More information (including hotel information) as it becomes available.

Website: www.worldcon76.org

Nov. 1-4, 2018 **WORLD FANTASY CONVENTION**. Baltimore Renaissance Harborplace Hotel (Baltimore, MD). Membership: \$175 (current rate; will go up). On-line registration or print out registration form & send to: WFC2018 c/o Baltimore Science Fiction Society, Inc., PO Box 686, Baltimore MD 21203-0686

Website: <http://www.wfc2018.org/>