



Lambda Sci-Fi

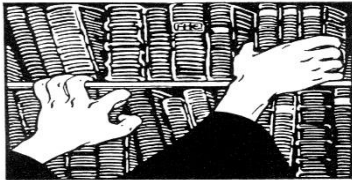
DC Area Gaylaxians

(202) 232-3141 - Issue # 333 – December 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. But the next book discussion will be held on December 7, 2017.

Here are the details for the next several book discussions:

Dec. 7, 2017 (combined Nov/Dec) – *Ninefox Gambit* by Yoon Ha Lee (moderator: Dave R.)

Jan. 25, 2018 – *Binti and Binti: Home* by Nnedi Okorafor (moderator: Carl)

Feb. 22, 2018 – *Borne* by Jeff VanderMeer (moderator: Konrad). $\Lambda\Psi\Phi$



LSF New Year's Eve Gaming Party!

Come join Lambda Sci-Fi as we ring out the old year and ring in the new with an afternoon and evening of gaming.

Date: Sunday, Dec. 31, 2017

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 all ring in and toast the New Year with champagne, sparkling wine, and/or sparkling cider.

Where: Rob & Peter's home: 1425 "S" St NW, Washington, DC 20009

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



to serve at 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 202-600-5511 or send e-mail to:

PeterPKnapp@gmail.com

Directions and Parking Suggestions:

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

[PeterRob.html](#) $\Lambda\Psi\Phi$



<<<<< December 2017 LSF Meeting >>>>>

The next LSF meeting will be held on **Sunday, December 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 November LSF Meeting; Julian May (obituary).

Page 3: What Color Is a Dinosaur (Egg)?; Reminder: Annual LSF Book (et al) Exchange

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

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



Movie News: Teresa really enjoyed *Thor: Ragnarok*, especially Chris Hemsworth's haircut. *Justice League* is coming out this week. (Who wants to schedule an LSF outing?) A new *Star Wars* trilogy has been announced, with minimal details; the new trilogy will be separate from the classic Luke Skywalker saga and instead focus on new characters. Peter mentioned a possible LSF *Last Jedi* movie outing. (Stay tuned!) Hugh Jackman will be starring as P.T. Barnum in *The Greatest Showman*. Disney-Pixar film *Coco* is based upon the Mexican holiday *Día de los Muertos*: 12-year-old Miguel travels to the Underworld!

TV News: Everyone loves Seth McFarlane's *The Orville* – a great homage to *Star Trek*. Teresa also loves the new *Exorcist* TV series which includes a gay badass priest. Season 9 of *Once Upon A Time* moves the story from Storybrook, Maine to a Seattle neighborhood named Hyperion Heights; the “bad guy” is gentrification, if you can believe that; and the cast is now more diverse. Everyone hates the new *Inhumans* series. (“It’s so stupid.”) *Star Trek: Discovery*'s gay couple is nice, even if the character of Lt. Stamets is kind of an ass. David reviewed the non-big-name cast members who serve on the bridge on *Discovery*. “Lost Sister” appears to be the favorite episode of *Stranger Things* Season 2.

Other News: Carl shared a newspaper review of *Paperbacks from Hell: The Twisted History of '70s and '80s Horror Fiction*. (Most of the horror stories reviewed have long since disappeared into landfills and yard sale boxes. Ha-ha!)



Julian May
1931 – 2017

Julian May passed away on October 17th. She was a multi-talented author who wrote books in the science-fiction, fantasy, horror, science, and children's genres. She is perhaps most famous for her “Saga of the Pliocene Exiles” series.

May's first professional fiction sale was the 1950 short story “Dune Roller”, which appeared in an issue of *Astounding Science Fiction* in 1951, accompanied by her own original interior illustrations. After selling one more short story to *Thrilling Wonder Stories* (“Star of Wonder”, 1953), May dropped out of the science fiction field for several years.

Starting in 1954, she wrote thousands of science encyclopedia articles for various publishers. Between 1956 and 1981, she (under her own name and various pseudonyms) wrote more than 250

books (mostly non-fiction) for children and young adults.

Julian May was a long-time and distinguished member of Fandom. She met her future husband – editor, anthologist, and publisher Ted Dikty – in 1951 at a sci-fi convention in Ohio. (She married him in 1953.) In 1952, May chaired the 10th World Science Fiction Convention in Chicago, becoming the first woman to chair a worldcon. In 1957, May and Dikty founded Publication Associates, a production and editorial service for small publishers.

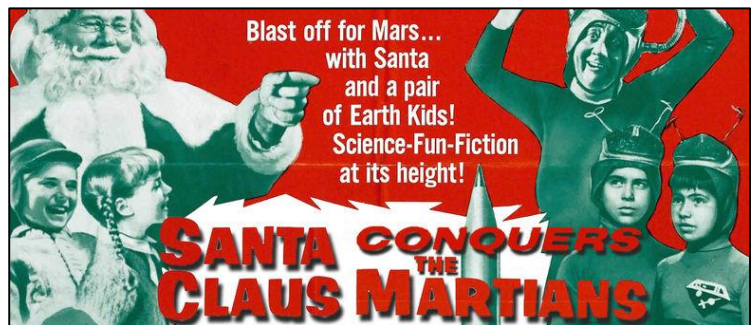
After a couple of decades hiatus, May returned to Fandom during the early 1970s. At Westercon 29 (Los Angeles, 1976) she wore “an elaborate diamond-encrusted space suit” she designed for the costume show. She soon started accumulating a folder of ideas for what would become the “Galactic Milieu” series, starting with *Intervention* (1987). And in 1978, she began writing what would become her famous “Pliocene Exiles” series: starting with *The Many-Colored Land* (1981) and continuing through 5 more novels. From 1977 through 1982 (under the name Ian Thorne), she also wrote nine monster-film-related novels, such as *Frankenstein Meets Wolfman* (1981).

In August 2015, Julian May and her late husband were inducted into the First Fandom Hall of Fame in a ceremony at the 73rd World Science Fiction Convention (Spokane, WA).

Upcoming LSF Events: Peter announced the LSF New Year's Eve gaming party. Details on page 1 of this newsletter. The next LSF book discussion will be on Thursday, December 7th: *Ninefox Gambit* by Yoon Ha Lee.

Finally, everyone watched the *Star Trek: Discovery* episode titled “Si Vis Pacem, Para Bellum.”

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What Color Is a Dinosaur (Egg)?

by Carl (with additional info from Wayne #1)

[Ed. Note: This is a continuation of an article from the November issue of the newsletter: "What Color Is a Dinosaur?"]

In October 2017, Jasmina Wiemann and her colleagues published research results on the color of dinosaur eggs. Fossil dinosaur nests and eggs are fairly common in certain Late Cretaceous sites in the deserts of Mongolia and China. When looked at with the naked eye, these eggs have a blackish/brownish color. But was that their *original* color?

Wiemann and her colleagues sampled fossilized eggs from three oviraptor nests and analyzed them with a technique called liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry, which separates the chemical components of a mixture and identifies them based on their molecular mass. To confirm that the pigments aren't the result of contamination from an outside source – such as bacteria in the surrounding sediments – a sample of the surrounding fossil matrix was also analyzed.



The eggshell chromatograms show two major peaks, indicating the presence of two different molecules: protoporphyrin IX (for a reddish-brown color) limited to the outermost eggshell layer and biliverdin (for a green-blue color) throughout the inner core layer of the eggshell. Based on these peaks and on known concentrations in emu shells (which have blue-green eggs),

they calculated the concentration of pigments in the fossil eggshells. In all three fossil samples, the concentration of biliverdin is higher than that of protoporphyrin, which suggests that these oviraptor eggs were originally blue-green in color – possibly to blend into concealing vegetation deposited on the nest. Modern-day emus and cassowaries lay blue-green eggs and cover their nests with leaves and vegetation.

But there's another fascinating possibility. In living birds, blue-green eggs are associated with paternal care and communal nesting. It seems that biliverdin is an antioxidant and its presence in the eggshell may signal the health of the female. If this is the case, more colorful eggs would represent more healthy females, and males are expected to contribute more to raising offspring resulting from such colorful eggs. Paternal care and communal nesting have been inferred based on the large clutch size laid by oviraptors and related species; and the presence of blue-green oviraptor eggs might provide additional evidence for this. Emus and cassowaries lay dark blue-green eggs and practice communal nesting, in which several females built a nest, lay their eggs in it, and all participate in incubation, defense, and food delivery. Communal nesting is difficult to test in fossil animals; but a preliminary unpublished 2015 study has identified chemical signatures of several maternal individuals in oviraptor nests.

So, this is the first time that scientists have reconstructed the color of dinosaur eggs. It not only pushes the existence of colored eggs from modern birds all the way back to theropod dinosaurs of the Cretaceous – it also lends support to certain theories about dinosaur behavior (at least in some species).

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



That's right, gang, the Holiday Season is almost upon us again; and it's time for a short reminder about LSF's upcoming *twenty-eighth* annual book (*et al*) exchange, which will occur at the January 14th meeting! All LSF members are invited to participate in this "blind exchange" – and visitors are invited to join in the fun, too!

Briefly, this will be an opportunity for LSFers to exchange copies of their favorite science-fiction, fantasy, or horror books/videos/etc. and, thus, get to know each other a little better.

For those of you unfamiliar with the process, here's how it works: You won't be assigned to exchange with any *particular* person – it's a "blind" exchange, where participants will get their pick from a pile of anonymous wrapped packages. **Full details on the exchange in the next (January) newsletter.**

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Happy Kwanzaa!



* * INFORMATION ABOUT LAMBDA SCI-FI: DC AREA GAYLAXIANS * *

Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians (LSF) is an organization for gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, and trans-gendered (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, **December 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



Feb. 9-11, 2018 **FAIRPOINT 2018**. Delta Hotel by Marriott (Hunt Valley, MD). Guests include: Nana Visitor, Matt Frewer, author Timothy Zahn. Membership: \$85 for the weekend. Mailing address: Farpoint Enterprises, 11708 Troy Court, Waldorf, MD 20601. On-line registration available.

Website: <http://www.farpointcon.com/>

Feb. 16-18, 2018 **KATSUCON 2018**. Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center (Washington, DC). An annual 3-day fan convention for multicultural enthusiasts and entertainment. Membership: \$70 until 02/2017 (\$170 for "VIP tickets"). Registration on-line.

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

May 11-13, 2018 **GAYLAXICON/OUTLANTACON 2018**. Outlantacon's is hosting Gaylaxicon in 2018. Membership: \$40 until 12/31/2017 (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 \$210 (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: \$200 (current rate; will go up). Guests of Honor: Kaaron Warren, Scott Edelman, Michael J. Walsh. Artist Guest of Honor: Tom Kidd. Special Guest: Aliette de Bodard. 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/>



**This Hanukkah,
remember to light
your "Trek-norah"!**