



# lambda Sci-fi

## DC Area Gaylaxians

(202) 232-3141 - Issue # 336 – March 2018

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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 de-tails, call 202-483-6369. The next book discussion will be held on March 22.

Here are the details for the next several book discussions:

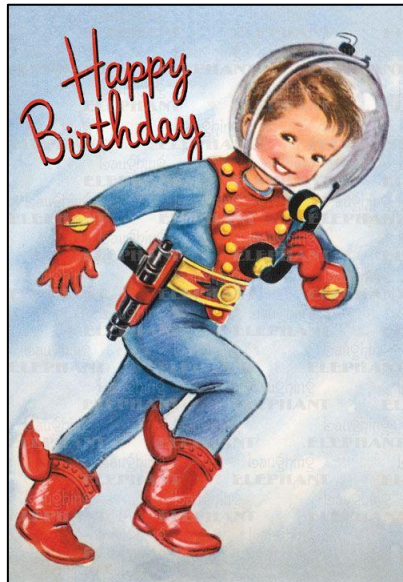
**March 22** – *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle (moderator: Rob).

**April 26** – *The Dinosaur Lords* by Victor Milan (moderator: Randy).

**May 24** – *The Black Tides of Heaven and The Red Threads of Fortune* by JY Yang (moderator: Greg).

**June 28** – *The Dispossessed* by Ursula Le Guin (moderator: Konrad).

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LSF's Birthday in March 2016

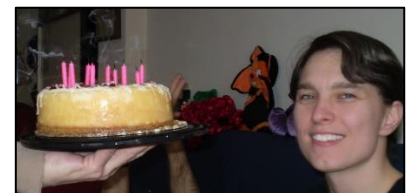
### Happy Birthday, LSF!

Lambda Sci-Fi turns 28 this month! The first meeting was held on March 14, 1990, at the home of Loree and Marcelle Cook-Daniels. There were nine attendees. The minutes of that first meeting include the following information:

“As for ‘business,’ we decided to circulate and read the Gaylactic Network’s Principles and By-Laws, with an eye toward sooner or later deciding if we want to join as a subsidiary group; not to decide now about officers, name, structure, etc...”

When Al Weiner created the first issue of the club newsletter a month later, he called it “Lambda Sci-Fi” – and everyone thought that sounded like a great name for the club, too!

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LSF's Birthday in March 2009

### <<<<< March 2018 LSF Meeting >>>>>

The next LSF meeting will be held on **Sunday, March 11th**. 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. We will also celebrate LSF's 28th birthday. Hope to see you there!



### What's Inside?

Page 2: Minutes of the February LSF Meeting; John Young (obituary).

Page 3: Women in F&SF Short Stories, Part 3 (book review).

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

## Minutes of the February LSF meeting taken by Scott

David recalled the 1978 short-lived CBS genre program *Ark II*, where a small set of scientists travel in post-apocalyptic Earth using an RV. (Rob and Carl noted that their vehicle was repurposed from the feature film *Damnation Alley*.) David also recalled, from 1985, the eight-episode series *Otherworld*, about a family that finds itself in a parallel Earth that is slightly different from our own.

It was noted that Netflix is re-making *Lost in Space*. The character of Dr. Smith will be played by a female.

Rob commented that all of the CW “teen-angst” shows have gay content these days.

Upcoming genre movies to watch for: *Black Panther*, *Wrinkle in Time*, *Ready Player One*, *Infinity War*, *Solo: A Star Wars Story*, *Dead Pool II*, *Jurassic Park: Fallen Kingdom*, *Ant-Man and Wasp*.

Peter passed around the current issue of *Parsec*, the newsletter from a Pittsburgh sci-fi group.

There’s an upcoming new Sy-Fy Channel series called *Krypton*, about Kal-El’s grandfather: “Superman’s grandfather brings hope and equality to Krypton while leading a shamed and ostracized House of El.”

The series *Once Upon a Time* and *Narnia Chronicles* have both been cancelled. And Disney Animation has cancelled *Gigantic*, its proposed “Jack in the Beanstalk” movie.

Upcoming LSF book discussions were announced. [See page 1 of this newsletter for details.]

Peter will be attending The *Doctor Who* Gallifrey One convention next week in Los Angeles.

Awesome Con is in a few weeks; Rob reported that LSF’s panel suggestion was not accepted.

Then we watched the first two episodes of Netflix’s *Altered Carbon*. Well received!

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**John Young**  
1930 – 2018

John Young, NASA’s longest-serving astronaut, passed away on January 5th in his Houston home.

Young was born in San Francisco and grew up mostly in Orlando. After graduating from Georgia Tech in 1952, he joined the Navy and became a test pilot. He joined the astronaut corps in 1962.

Young flew in space six times. He was the only astronaut to go to space as part of the Gemini (1965 and 1966), Apollo (1969 and 1972), and Space Shuttle programs (two flights on space shuttle *Columbia*, 1981 and 1983). In 1972 (as commander for Apollo 16), he became one of only twelve astronauts to set foot on the Moon. He was chief of the astronaut corps for thirteen years, coordinating spaceflight training, scheduling, and safety.

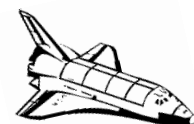
Soon after joining the astronaut corps, Young was assigned to help develop equipment and protective gear for space flights. He and Virgil “Gus” Grissom (who would later be his flight partner aboard Gemini 3) had spoken about faulty wiring in an early model of the Apollo spacecraft but had not brought their concerns to NASA authorities for fear of losing their jobs. When Grissom and two other astronauts were killed in a launchpad fire in 1967, Young vowed never to stay silent again and became a loud voice for astronaut safety. He was particularly outspoken after the *Challenger* explosion (1986) – in a scathing twelve-page memo,

he wrote that NASA management had compromised the *Challenger* crew’s safety in order to move forward with the launch. Young advocated for safety reforms, and his comments got him labelled as a “prophet of doom and gloom”. Within a year he was relieved of his duties as chief of the astronaut corps and assigned as director of engineering and safety.

Young’s astronaut adventures were not without lighter moments – and near disasters. During his first mission (1965), he smuggled a corned beef sandwich aboard Gemini 3 and offered it to Gus Grissom when it was time to eat their freeze-dried lunches. In 1972 (as commander of Apollo 16), he and fellow astronaut Charles Duke drove the “moon buggy” on a 15-mile jaunt across the lunar surface, collecting soil and rock samples. At one point, the buggy’s fender fell off, and Young became an on-the-spot lunar mechanic. (He attached a cardboard map of the moon to the vehicle and kept on going.) During his final space mission (1983), Young commanded the *Columbia* space shuttle. During re-entry, two of its three auxiliary power units caught fire and the main computer stopped working. In his memoir, Young wrote: “Not to mince words, we were on fire when we landed, though of course we didn’t know it at the time.” (Note: In 2003, the *Columbia* broke apart during re-entry, killing all seven astronauts aboard. Young, still officially an astronaut, suggested that an emphasis on cost-cutting had contributed to the potential for accidents.)

Young retired from NASA in 2004, after 42 years. He said his only hobby had been staying fit enough to maintain his active flight status. He is survived by his second wife Susy, two children by his first marriage, and two grandchildren.

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**Women in F&SF  
Short Stories, Part 3**  
reviews by Carl

Continuing a series of reviews begun in the January 2017 LSF newsletter and continued in the February 2018 newsletter.

***A Tyranny of Petticoats: 15 Stories of Belles, Bank Robbers & Other Badass Girls***

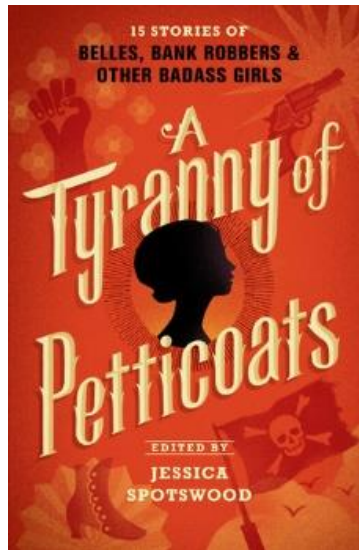
edited by Jessica Spotswood  
(Candlewick Press, 2016)

This anthology looked interesting, so I picked up a copy. Here's an excerpt from the editor's Introduction: "Despite their many important contributions, women—especially queer women, women of color, and women with disabilities—have too often been erased from history... I love the idea of creating a collection of YA historical fiction; I couldn't imagine any theme that would intrigue me more." And the stories in the anthology do indeed contain a wide mix of heroines – racially, culturally, sexually, geographically – whose stories are set in different times and places throughout American history. There's everything from a pirate story set in 1710 British North America to the protest-filled streets of Chicago during the 1968 Democratic National Convention.

But, despite its announced intention to provide an anthology of "historical fiction", I was interested to see that six of the 15 stories contain strong Fantasy elements.

"Mother Carey's Table" by J. Anderson Coats (British North America, 1710): A young ex-slave (disguised as a boy) and her father are members of a pirate crew. During a disastrous encounter with a Portuguese warship, the girl encounters "Mother Carey", a female version of "Davy Jones".

"The Journey" by Marie Lu (Northwest Coast, 1723): A young Inuit girl's village is massacred by European



"traders". During the girl's escape into the Northern woods, she and her dog-team encounter various protective supernatural animals.

"Madeleine's Choice" by Jessica Spotswood (New Orleans, 1826): A young girl – one of the *gens de couleur libres* – is torn between her love for a white plantation owner (with his proposal for her to be his kept consort) and her family's insistence that she legally marry an African-American carpenter. So she decides to seek advice from Marie Laveau (the notorious "Voodoo Queen").

"Los Destinos" by Leslye Walton (Southwest Texas, 1848): The Fates are reincarnated as three young Latino girls; and one of them falls in love with a doomed young *vaquero*.

"High Stakes" by Andrea Cremer (Boston and Natchez, 1861): A young assassin-for-hire – descended from a race of mythical monsters – and her *jinn*-sidekick are hired to protect a sorcerer during a high-stakes poker game involving various competing supernatural factions.

"Gold in the Roots of the Grass" by Marissa Meyer (Deadwood, North Dakota Territory, 1877): A young Chinese fortune-teller is asked by a handsome ghost to avenge the

deaths of various miners at the hands of an ambitious land-swindler.

A couple of stories feature Lesbian main characters: "City of Angels" by Lindsay Smith (Los Angeles in 1945) and "The Whole World Is Watching" by Robin Talley (Chicago in 1968). They're both straightforward historical fiction, with no F&SF content. They are, however, quite good.

All of the stories in this anthology are fascinating and well-written. Again, if you're willing to step out of the F&SF genre every now and then, I think you'll find *A Tyranny of Petticoats* to be a very satisfying reading experience.

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The most important thing, the heaviest single factor in one's life, is whether one's born male or female. In most societies it determines one's expectations, activities, outlook, ethics, manners—almost everything. Vocabulary. Semiotic usages. Clothing. Even food.

-- Ursula K. Le Guin --  
*The Left Hand of Darkness*  
(1969)

quoted in  
*Science Fiction Quotations: From the Inner Mind to the Outer Limits*  
edited by Gary Westfahl  
(Yale University Press, 2005)



**\*\* 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, **March 11th, 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

March 30 – April 1, 2018 **AWESOME CON 2018**. Walter E. Washington Convention Center (Washington, DC). Guests include: Dave Bautista ("Drax the Destroyer"); Jeremy Bulloch (adult "Boba Fett"); Joe Keery (from *Stranger Things*); Joonas Suotamo ("Chewbacca" in the latest *Star Wars* films); Karen Gillan ("Amy Pond"; "Nebula"); Michael Rooker ("Yondu Udonta"); Phil LaMarr (voice actor). Membership: \$75 for the weekend (daily rates avail-able, as well as more expensive "special packages"). Tickets available on-line. Website: [www.awesome-con.com](http://www.awesome-con.com)

May 11-13, 2018 **GAYLAXICON/OUTLANTA CON 2018**. Renaissance Concourse Atlanta Airport Hotel (Atlanta, GA). Outlantacon is hosting Gaylaxicon in 2018. Membership: \$50 until 4/22/201. On-line registration. Website: <http://www.outlantacon.org/> Info: [info@outlantacon.org](mailto:info@outlantacon.org)

May 25-28, 2018 **BALTICON 52**. Baltimore Renaissance Harborplace Hotel (Baltimore, MD). GoH: Catherine Asaro; Artist GoH: Galen Dara; Special Guest: Larry Niven. Membership: \$69 until 4/15; \$72 until 5/15 (on-line); \$75 at the door. Mail-in registration deadline: 4/15; on-line registration deadline: 5/15  
Website: <http://balticon.org/wp52/> E-mail: [balticoninfo@balticon.org](mailto:balticoninfo@balticon.org)

July 6-8, 2018 **SHORE LEAVE 40** (a fan-run media SF convention). Hunt Valley Inn – Delta Marriott (Hunt Valley, MD). Guests: TBA. Membership: \$95 for the weekend (daily membership rates available) – pre-registration deadline June 15 (prices higher thereafter & at the door). Website: <http://www.shore-leave.com> E-mail: [information@shore-leave.com](mailto:information@shore-leave.com)

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](http://www.worldcon76.org)

Sept. 28-30, 2018 **CAPCLAVE 2018**. Rockville Hilton & Executive Meeting Center (Rockville, MD). GoH: Nancy Kress. Membership: \$55 until May 31; \$60 from June 1 to July 31; \$65 from Aug. 1 to Sept. 30. Use the on-line registration form (using Paypal or processing your credit card thru Paypal). Website: <http://www.capclave.org/capclave/capclave.18/>

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/>