



Lambda Sci-Fi

DC Area Gaylaxians

(202) 232-3141 – Issue # 355 – October 2019

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 October 24.

Here are the details for the next four discussions:

Oct. 24 – *The Ballad of Black Tom* by Victor Lavalle and "The Horror at Red Hook" by H.P. Lovecraft (moderator: Carl).

Dec. 5 (combined Nov/Dec discussion) – *Meddling Kids* by Edgar Cantero (moderator: Teresa).

Jan. 23, 2020 – *The Power* by Naomi Alderman: Teresa.

Feb. 27, 2020 – *Wonder Woman: The Golden Age, Vol. 2* (moderator: Claire).

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Events at Gaylaxicon 2019

info from Don Kaiser, Con Chair

As before, we will have three tracks of programming, and I am including a list of likely programming ideas from our programming head [see below]. If you are interested in participating in any of the panels as a panelist, please contact us at:

programming@gaylaxicon.org

We will also have role-playing games this year in addition to board gaming. If you are interested, check in the gaming room for the final schedule.

Also, please remember, contributions for the Chocolate Symposium on Saturday are always welcome. Drop them off in the Con Suite at any time before the Symposium.



Program List

- Style Tribes
- Costuming in Science Fiction Media
- We Are All 1/2,000,000th of a Hugo Winners Now
- Queering Fairy Tales
- Children's Literature with LGBTQ Themes
- LGBTQ SF/F Books for Kids and Teens
- About Queer Theory
- Once Upon a Time All Over Again
- Collecting/Selecting Tarot Decks
- AIDS
- How Has AIDS Influenced Fiction/Society/Media
- Bring a Game and Show It Off
- The Year in LGBTQ Comics, TV, and Movies
- *Star Trek Discovery*, Season 2
- All-LGBTQ Gaming Groups
- Yaoi/Yuri Manga
- Midnight Slash
- Game Design and Game Manufacturing
- Painting Miniatures Panel
- How to Successfully Podcast or YouTube Broadcast
- Ask a GM Panel

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<<<<< October 2019 LSF Meeting >>>>>

The next LSF meeting will be held on **Sunday, October 13th**, at Peter and Rob's home, 1425 "S" Street NW, Washington, DC. The meeting will begin at 1:30 PM. The "group watch" will begin about 3:00 PM. Hope to see you there!



What's Inside?

Page 2: Minutes of the August LSF Meeting; Boston Dynamics & Its Amazing Robots; Aron Eisenberg (obituary).

Page 3: Terrence Dicks (obituary).

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

Minutes of the Sept. 2019 LSF Meeting taken by Scott

Club News

The LSF newsletter will no longer be printed in paper format; it will continue to be produced in PDF format and distributed on-line. (Back issues will, of course, be available through the LSF website.)

Rob announced an upcoming LSF gaming party on Saturday, Sept. 21st.

Rob also reminded everyone about Gaylaxicon 2019 in Minneapolis this October, with guest authors Gregory McGuire, Michael Dahl, and Yoon Ha Lee. (For more details, see the Con Calendar on page 4.)

Rob reported that the LSF book discussion titles are lined up through Feb 2020: *All Systems Red* by Martha Wells (Sept.); *Ballad of Black Tom* by Victor Lavalle and “The Horror at Red Hook” by H. P. Lovecraft (Oct.); *Meddling Kids* by Edgar Cantero (Nov./Dec.); *The Power* by Naomi Alderman (Jan. 2020); *Wonder Woman The Golden Age, Volume 2* graphic novel collection by William Moulton Marston (Feb. 2020).

Film News

Rob reported that Marvel has confirmed that *Eternals* and *Thor 4* will feature explicitly queer characters. David and Paul watched *Mortal Instruments*, based upon the Cassandra Clare characters. *It, Chapter 2* opened this weekend. Movies for the remainder of the year: *Ad Astra*, *Abominable*, *Joker*, *The Addams Family*, *Gemini Man*, *Jexi*, *Jay and Silent Bob*, *Jojo Rabbit*, *Malificent: Mistress of Evil*, *Terminator: Dark Fate*, *Doctor Sleep* (sequel to *The Shining*), *Current War*, *Frozen II*, *Knives Off*, *Black Christmas*, *Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker*, and *Farmageddon*. Rob’s analysis: “We are in the golden age of genre content.”

TV News

Rob described how Disney and Disney+ will work. (Don’t forget that Disney now owns the Fox content.)

Other News

Peter and Rob will be attending the two *Harry Potter: Cursed Child* plays in New York City next weekend. They are excited!

Finally, we watched the first episode of the new Netflix series *Dark Crystal*.

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Boston Dynamics & Its Amazing Robots

info passed along by Carl

There’s some amazing stuff going on at Boston Dynamics. I read an interesting article in the Washington Post; and then went on-line to look for possible YouTube postings. Well, I certainly found ‘em! Take a look at the videos showing the current capabilities of their four-legged Spot robot and their amazing 2-legged Atlas robot. Mind-blowing!

To see Spot in action, go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bmNaLiC6vkU>

To see Atlas in action, go to:

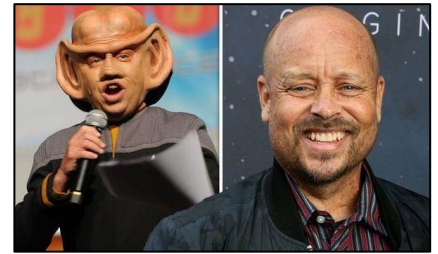
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kq6mJOkIvM>

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Spot



Atlas



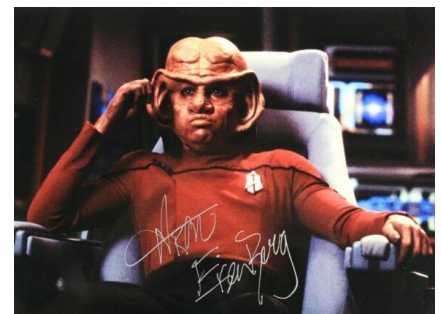
Aron Eisenberg
1969 – 2019

Aron Eisenberg appeared in 26 productions for 30 years, from 1989 to 2019. He was best known for his role as Nog (Quarks’s nephew) in 40 episodes of *Deep Space 9*. His character added a non-Federation perspective to the *Deep Space 9* universe, though, ironically, he joined the Federation and lost a leg in the Dominion War.

Aron Eisenberg was born with only one partially functioning kidney, which contributed to his limited growth to 5 feet tall. He received a kidney transplant at the age of 17 and another one in 2015. Unfortunately, he died of kidney failure.

In 2018, Eisenberg married Malíssa Longo. In addition to acting, he opened his own gallery as a professional photographer. He also performed on stage and occasionally directed for the theater.

For seven years on *Star Trek: Deep Space 9*, Eisenberg developed the character of Nog from the comic sidekick of Jake Sisko to a decorated Star Fleet veteran of the Dominion War. Eisenberg’s contributions to the show added to the rich tapestry of *Deep Space 9* that I enjoyed so much. He will be missed.

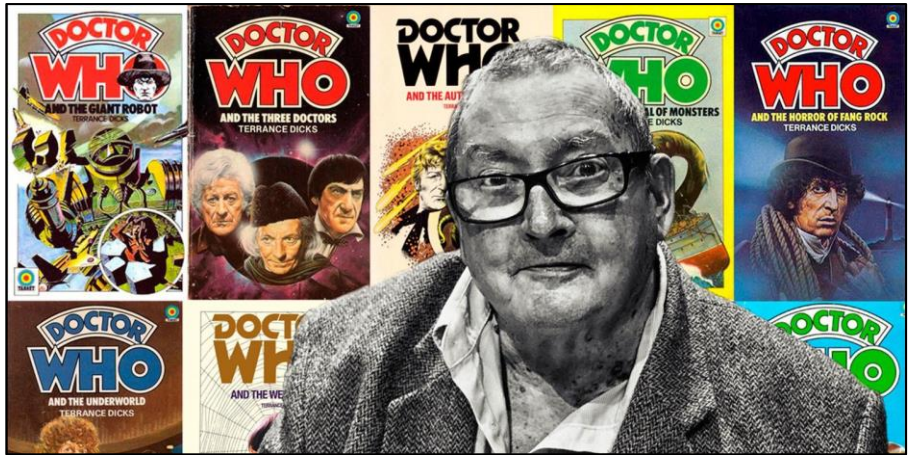


Events at Gaylaxicon 2019

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- Consent in Gaming
- Creating Memorable Non-Player Characters
- Applying Alignments in D&D and Elsewhere
- The Seven Deadly Sins and Seven Heavenly Virtues as Character Motivations
- Improv Games for Writers and Role-Players
- Very Random Encounters
- World of Warcraft: Classic Edition Re-Released
- Gay Villains
- “The Babadook is a Gay Icon and I’m Dating Mothman”
- The Tingleverse RPG
- Writing Straight Sex and Romance When You Are SUPER GAY
- Broadway Musicals, Icons, and LGBT Representation
- The Authoritarian Personality in Science Fiction
- The Space Opera Panel



Terrence Dicks

1935 - 2019

One of my childhood heroes, Terrence Dicks, passed away on August 29th. He was a British author, television screenwriter, script editor, and producer.

When I was a teenager in the ‘80s, I discovered what was to become my favorite show of all time, *Doctor Who*. Back then, I saw half-hour episodic stories starring Tom Baker as The Doctor. I had no clue that three actors had preceded him in the lead. There were no VCRs or on-demand streaming services, so if I missed an episode, I would have to wait several months for that episode to be repeated. Also, I had missed eleven seasons of the show that were not being repeated anywhere.

Then I discovered the novelizations of all the stories, from an imprint affectionately known as Target Books. Through these books I discovered a much broader world of *Doctor Who*, which helped cement my love of the show.

The majority of these books were written by Terrance Dicks. Terrance Dicks novelized 67 televised stories. Initially these novelizations were only available in the UK; and it was difficult for me to get them. Eventually they started being released in the US; and it was always a treat to find a new novelization. I read them as quickly as possible and still have the complete collection today.

Terrance Dicks’s association with *Doctor Who* began with his working on the show itself in 1968 and continued until his death. He was a script editor, screenwriter and producer for the show, as well as being instrumental in the development of the Doctors on planet Gallifrey and of Time Lord society.

In addition to *Doctor Who*, Terrance Dicks worked on many other TV shows, including *Space 1999*; and he wrote many non-*Doctor Who*-related books. He was a great ally to *Doctor Who* fandom; and he will be sorely missed.



**Have a
Happy
Halloween!**

*** * 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, **October 13th, 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

October 18-20, 2019 **GAYLAXICON 2019**. Doubletree Hotel by Hilton Minneapolis-Park Place (Minneapolis MN). Membership: \$65 (ends 10/1/2019). On-line registration via EventBrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/gaylaxicon-2019-registration-51438596226>
Homepage: <https://www.facebook.com/MNGaylaxicon/>

October 18-20, 2019 **CAPCLAVE 2019**. Hilton Washington DC/Rockville (Rockville MD). Guests of Honor: Martha Wells, Robert J. Sawyer. Membership: \$70 at the door. Make checks payable to "CAPCLAVE" and send to: Capclave 2019 Registration c/o San Scheiner, 1518 North Edison Street, Arlington VA 22205-2638. Website: www.capclave.org For information: info@capclave.org

Nov. 1-3, 2019 **ANIME USA 2019** ("Of Otaku, By Otaku, For Otaku"). Washington Marriott Wardman Park (Washington DC). Guests: various voice actors and others. Pre-registration: \$70 for the weekend (daily rates available).
Website: www.animeusa.org Registration site: animeusaregistration.org

Nov. 8-10, 2019 **PHILCON 2019**. Crown Plaza Hotel (Cherry Hill NJ). Guests: Tim Pratt (Principal Speaker), Stephanie Pui-Mun Law (Artist GoH). Membership: \$55 from Oct. 1 thru Nov. 1; \$65 at the door. On-line registration.
Website: www.philcon.org Facebook: www.Facebook.com/Philcon.PSFS

April 24-26, 2020 **RAVENCON 15**. DoubleTree by Hilton Williamsburg (Williamsburg VA). GoH: Terry Brooks. Membership: \$35 before 12/31/2019; \$40 until 4/3/2020; \$50 at the door. (Daily rates also available.) On-line registration.
Website: www.ravencon.com



Gaylaxicon 2019

www.gaylaxicon.org

It's THIS month!

Minneapolis MN – Oct. 18-20



We are once again at the DoubleTree Minneapolis Park Place and once again have two ballrooms for three tracks of programming, an art show, and a dealer's room. Gaming will again be in the Season Suites and will be open throughout the con and stocked with lots of games for you to enjoy throughout the convention. Our fabulous con suite will be filled with good food, hot and cold beverages and conversation, as well as the annual Chocolate Symposium.

Registration for the convention is available at our web site. Hotel rooms are also available linked from our web site. We are looking forward to seeing you all and please be sure to spread the word about what a great convention Gaylaxicon is.