



# Lambda Sci-Fi

## DC Area Gaylaxians

(202) 232-3141 – Issue # 359 – February 2020

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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 February 27<sup>th</sup>.

Here are the details for the next several discussions:

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

**March 26, 2020** – *The Night Circus* by Erin Morgenstern (moderator: Zena).

**April 23, 2020** – *Lovecraft Country* by Matt Ruff (moderator: Carl).

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### Minutes of the January 2020 LSF Meeting

minutes taken by Scott

**T-shirts on display today:** Dan wore a T-shirt of rainbow D&D dice in the shape of a sword; Peter wore a Discon III T-shirt; Carl wore a Dr. Pepper T-shirt ("I like Dr. Pepper and maybe 3 people."); and David wore a T-shirt with a map of various D&D adventures.

**TV News:** Peter and Rob enjoyed the two *Doctor Who* "Spyfall" episodes. Peter did not like the third (and final) episode of BBC's/Netflix's *Dracula. Picard* starts up soon. Peter is watching *For All Mankind* series on Apple TV – an alternative history of the early days of the space race – the Russians land on the moon first, ERA passes and there are lesbians. Peter and Rob gave up on *Dark Crystal: Age of Resistance*: nice puppetry, but a slow plot development. *The Mandalorian* has finished its first season. Rob loves Season 3 of *The Expanse*, because of its high production values. Parts IV & V of the CW's *Crisis on Infinite Earths* are up soon. *The Magicians* starts up this week. *Good Place* has started its last run. Rob watched a preview of *Ragnarok* – the Norse gods appear in the kids of a small town in Scandinavia. ("No one has taken up the fight against the Giants since Rag-

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narok - until now.") *Daybreak* is a zombie outbreak TV show where kids take over parts of the town, *Mad Max*-style.

**Movie News:** Dan mentioned the preview for *Lock and Key*, based upon a comic book. MCU report from Rob: *Wanda Vision* has been moved up in the schedule; *Hawkeye* film may be on hold now.

**Other News:** Peter mentioned that the annual Gallifrey *Dr. Who* con in California may not continue much longer. The con chair has run this con for 30 years. Carl passed around his holiday card from George Takei & his husband Brad. Peter solicited feedback on potential Dramatic Presentation Hugo nominations for 2019; he read off a long list of genre TV shows and movies and asked for opinions. He also said that he received a letter from Awesome Con asking if LSF would like to host a panel at the con. He and Rob did not express high interest, and neither did anyone else. It is noted that Awesome Con has good queer representation.

(continued on page 3)

### <<<< << February 2020 LSF Meeting >>>>>

The next LSF meeting will be held on **Sunday, February 9th**, 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!



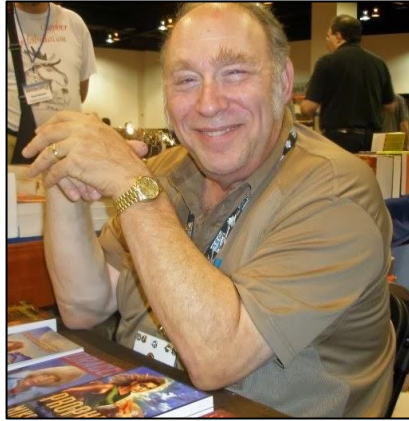
### What's Inside?

Page 2: Mike Resnick (obituary).

Page 3: Gahan Wilson (obituary).

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





## Mike Resnick 1942-2020

If you sensed “a disturbance in the Force” on January 9th, there’s a good possibility that it signaled the death of Mike Resnick. Resnick was a long-time Big-Name F&SF author; and he’s been a particular favorite of mine for a very, very long time. Over the course of his long F&SF writing career, he authored about 80 novels, (mostly F&SF), something like 280 short stories, and 10 non-fiction books. He won five Hugo Awards (with a record 37 nominations), a Nebula Award (with 11 nominations), and more other awards (both here and abroad) than there’s space for on this page.

Resnick was born in Chicago and attended the University of Chicago, where he met his wife Carol. He worked as a file clerk in Chicago until 1965, when he began to focus on writing and editing.

Resnick’s F&SF writing career began (as Michael Resnick) with the novella “The Forgotten Sea of Mars” (1965), the novels *The Goddess of Ganymede* (1967) and *Pursuit on Ganymede* (1968) – all Burroughs pastiches – and *Redbeard* (1969), a barbarian-among-the-mutants swashbuckler. He then stepped away from F&SF. During the 1960s and 1970s, he edited men’s magazines and tabloid newspapers and wrote a weekly column about horse racing and a monthly column about purebred collies. (He and his wife bred and showed purebred collies and ran a kennel.) He is also reputed to have written over 200 “adult” novels (erotica and Gothic, under various pseudonyms). Resnick returned to F&SF

with *Battlestar Galactic 5: Galactica Discovers Earth* (1980, with Glen A. Larson).

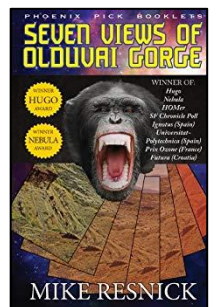
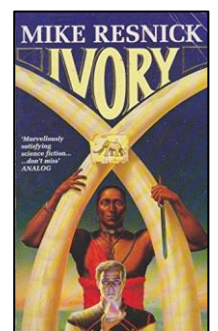
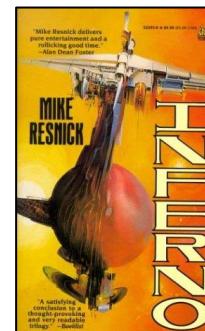
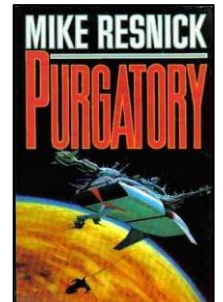
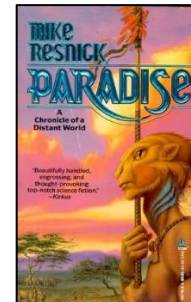
Many of Resnick’s novels, stories, and series take place in his “Birthright Universe”, a sprawling space-operatic setting where humanity (and other non-human races) comprise a fabulous intergalactic civilization and anything can (and does) happen. Some of my favorites are his “Widowmaker” novels (the adventures of a famous intergalactic bounty hunter), his “Galactic Midway” novels (a rip-roarin’ circus traveling the interstellar reaches), and the “Velvet Comet” novels (the most famous and notorious bordello in the galaxy). Some reviewers have called them all “Westerns in space” (somewhat like *Firefly*); but that’s not all that goes on in Resnick’s “Birthright Universe”.

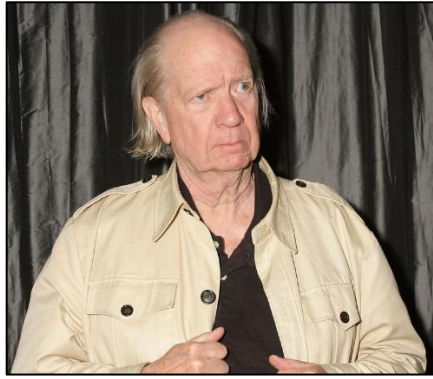
Resnick had long been interested in Africa, its history and its civilizations; and this lifelong interest is featured in a number of his works. A favorite of mine is his “Galactic Comedy” series (think of Dante’s “Divine Comedy”). In three novels (*Paradise*, *Purgatory*, *Inferno*), he depicts the exploratory, colonial, and post-colonial experiences of humans with the ecologies and indigenous races of three different planets. The novels present thinly-disguised histories of Kenya, Zimbabwe, and Uganda. Then there are Resnick’s “Tales of Kirinyaga”, a series of stories and novels set on an artificial planetoid that the Kikuyu tribe have created as a method of preserving their traditional culture and ecology. All of the Kirinyaga stories are thought-provoking, some are controversial, and some are heart-breaking. His 1998 novel *Ivory: A Legend of Past and Future* follows the “travels” across time and space of a pair of huge African elephant tusks; the linked stories describe how various individuals and organizations came to possess the tusks via purchase, war, theft, etc. Finally, there’s his novella “Seven Views of Olduvai Gorge” (winner of both a Hugo and a Nebula Award), which describes an alien archaeological expedition to Earth after the extinction of humanity.

Throughout his life, Resnick and his wife were heavily involved with F&SF fandom. They appeared in five Worldcon masquerades in the 1970s (winning four

of them). Resnick was Guest of Honor at about 42 science fiction conventions and Toastmaster at about a dozen more. He also wrote a number of non-fiction books dealing with his experiences as a fan and as an F&SF author, including: *I Have This Nifty Idea* (2001), *Once a Fan...* (2002), *The Science Fiction Professional* (2002), *Worldcon Guest of Honor Speeches* (2007), *...Always a Fan* (2009), and *Q&A for Science Fiction Writers* (2018). He was also a regular contributor to the *SFWA Bulletin*.

Resnick was first on the *Locus* list of all-time award winners for short fiction, and 4th on the list of science fiction’s all-time top award winners in all fiction categories. In 1995, Mike Resnick was awarded the Skylark Award (or the “E.E. Smith Memorial Award for Imaginative Fiction”) for Lifetime Achievement in Science Fiction.





**Gahan Wilson**  
1930 – 2019

I was saddened to learn that Gahan Wilson, one of my favorite cartoonists and an icon of F/SF/H, passed away in November 2019 from complications due to advanced dementia. His style was unique and unmistakable. I'm pretty sure you've seen his work somewhere, at some time – usually appearing as a single panel with a very weird twist of some sort. To quote Michael Maslin (one of Wilson's long-time fellow contributors to *The New Yorker*): "Weird was his specialty—he thought that way, and he drew that way."

Wilson's cartoons and prose fiction appeared regularly in *Playboy*, *Collier's*, and *The New Yorker* for almost 50 years. He provided all the interior line-drawing illustrations for Roger Zelazny's *A Night in the Lonesome October* (1993), although the cover isn't his work. He also illustrated a slew of children's books, such as the "Matthew Looney" series of Jerome Beatty Jr. (starting with *Matthew Looney's Voyage to the Earth*, 1961, and ending with *Maria Looney and the Remarkable Robot*, 1978). In 1992, he wrote an animated short film entitled *Diner*. (It's possible to view *Diner* on-line; but the only version I've been able to find was recorded off a TV screen – not the greatest quality.)

Wilson was a movie columnist for *The Twilight Zone Magazine* and a book critic for *Realms of Fantasy* magazine. He contributed short stories to *The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction* and other publications. He even wrote and illustrated a short story for Harlan Ellison's *Again, Dangerous Visions* (1972). (The title of that particular short story, by the way, is simply an inkblot.)



**"Now that you've come of age, son, I think it's time your old dad let you in on our little family curse."**

Wilson's short fiction has been collected in such works as *Gahan Wilson's Graveside Manner* (1965), *Gahan Wilson's Cracked Cosmos* (1975), and *Gahan Wilson's Out There* (2016). There are a couple of remarkable collections of Wilson's cartoons: *Gahan Wilson: 50 Years of Playboy Cartoons* (2009) and *Fifty Years of Gahan Wilson* (2010).

In 1981, Wilson received the World Fantasy Convention Award. (The trophy itself featured a bust of H.P. Lovecraft, as designed by Wilson himself in 1975.) He was given a World Fantasy Life Achievement Award in 2004. In 2005, he received the National Cartoonists Society's Milton Caniff Lifetime Achievement Award. He is also the subject of a feature-length documentary: *Gahan Wilson: Born Dead, Still Weird* (2014, directed by Steven-Charles Jaffe and featuring contributions by Guillermo Del Toro, Stan Lee, Neil Gaiman, Mike Mignola, Hugh Hefner, Randy Newman, and others).

World Fantasy Award designed by Gahan Wilson



## Minutes of the Jan. 2020 LSF Meeting

continued from page 1

Then it was time for the Annual LSF Book Exchange:

- **From Karl to Scott:** *Doctor Who* 4<sup>th</sup> Series DVD collection.
- **From Dan & Teresa to Carl:** 7 collected graphic novels from weekly British sci-fi magazines (such as *Strontium Dog*).
- **From Carl to Karl:** *The Chronicles of Amber Volume 1, Four for Tomorrow*, and *Creatures of Light and Darkness*, all by Roger Zelazny.
- **From Scott to Dan & Teresa:** *Blackout* by Connie Willis.
- **From Rob to David:** *Barbarella* DVD.
- **From David to Rob:** *Firefly* and *Quantum Leap* DVDs.

Finally, we watched a preview of *The New Mutants* and a *Star Trek Short Trek* (with a Picard Easter egg), followed by the first episode of *The Witcher* series, starring Henry Cavill. ΛΨΦ



**\* \* 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. 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, **February 9th, 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

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](http://www.ravencon.com)

May 1-3, 2020 **AWESOME CON.** Walter E. Washington Convention Center (Washington, DC). Guests include: Zachary Levi ("Shazam!"); Ron Perlman ("Hellboy"). Includes "Pride Alley, a celebration of queer creators and fans curated by GeeksOUT." Membership: 3-day passes = \$80; 1-day passes = \$40-\$55 (depending on the day). "Tickets on sale soon." Limited tickets – on-line purchase advised via their Tickets Page. Website: <https://awesome-con.com/>

May 22-25, 2020 **BALTICON 54.** Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel (Baltimore MD). GoH: Wen Spencer; Artist GoH: Lee Moyer; Musical GoH: Cheshire Moon; 2019 Compton Crook Award winner: R.F. Kuang. Membership: \$66 until Feb. 29, 2020. On-line registration. Website: <https://www.balticon.org/wp54> Info at: [balticoninfo@balticon.org](mailto:balticoninfo@balticon.org)

July 10-12, 2020 **SHORE LEAVE 42.** Delta Hotels Marriott Baltimore Hunt Valley (Hunt Valley MD). Actor GoH: Denis Lawson (*Star Wars* "Wedge Antilles"); more TBA. Membership: \$105 for the weekend (\$120 at the door); daily rates available. Printable registration forms & on-line registration available through the Registration Page.

Website: [www.shore-leave.com](http://www.shore-leave.com)

July 29 – Aug. 2, 2020 **CONZEALAND, the 78<sup>th</sup> World Science Fiction Convention.** TSB Arena, Intercontinental Hotel *et al* (Wellington, New Zealand). GoH: Mercedes Lackey & Larry Dixon; Artist GoH: Greg Broadmore; Toastmaster: George RR Martin. Membership: currently \$452NZ (approx. \$272US); it will go up! On-line registration. Website: <https://conzealand.nz>

Aug. 20-23, 2020 **COLUMBUS NASFiC 2020, the North American Science Fiction Convention.** Sheraton Columbus Hotel at Capitol Square (Columbus, OH). GoH: Brian Herbert & Kevin J. Anderson; Artist GoH: Stephanie Law; Science GoH: Marc Millis (NASA). Membership: currently \$100 (will go up!). Make checks payable to "Columbus 2020 NASFiC" and sent to: Columbus 2020 NASFiC, c/o Kim Williams, 4227 Beechrun Rd., Whitehall, OH 43213. On-line registration also available.

Website: <http://columbus2020nasfic.org/>

Sept. 4-7, 2020 **TCEP 27** ("Ted and Craig's Excellent Party"). "A relaxed gaming convention." Hampton Inn & Suites Washington Dulles Airport (Sterling VA). Membership: \$30 for the weekend. Website: <https://www.barkingmad.org/>

Oct. 16-18, 2020 **CAPCLAVE 2020.** Rockville Hilton & Executive Meeting Center (Rockville MD). GoH: Peter S. Beagle and Troy L. Wiggins (editor/blogger). Membership: \$50 thru the end of 2019 (will go up). On-line registration.

Website: <https://www.capclave.org/capclave/capclave20/>