



# Lambda Sci-Fi

## DC Area Gaylaxians

(202) 232-3141 – Issue # 387 – June 2022

E-MAIL: [info@lambdascifi.org](mailto:info@lambdascifi.org)

WEBSITE: [www.lambdascifi.org](http://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. The next book discussion will be held **in person on June 23<sup>rd</sup>**. **All attendees MUST be fully vaccinated.**

Here are the details for the next discussion:

**June 23, 2022** – *The City Beautiful*, by Aden Polydoros (moderator: Carl)

**Note:** The Virtual Book Club also meets (via Zoom) on the same evening as the face-to-face discussion group: same book, same questions, *different* attendees. Look for the Zoom link in the usual book club notice or on the LSF web page.

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### June 11<sup>th</sup> LSF Pride Tabletop Gaming Party and Parade Watching

All attendees **MUST** be fully vaccinated.

**What:** It's a gaming party. There will be plenty of room for gaming, so please bring your favorite games (cards, board, etc.).

We'll take a break to watch the Capital Pride Parade around 3 PM:

[www.capitalpride.org/event/parade/](http://www.capitalpride.org/event/parade/)

**When:** Saturday, June 11; 2:00 PM to 11 PM or so.

**What to Bring:** Bring your favorite table game (or two or three). Also, please bring munchies and/or soft drinks to share (non-alcoholic please).

(details continued on page 2)



### LSF Jurassic World Movie Outing – June 12<sup>th</sup> announced by Peter

On Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, Rob and I are going to see a silly dinosaur movie that closes the Jurassic Park saga. Come watch people do stupid things and get eaten by dinosaurs.

We're going to the 2-D showing at 3:15 PM at the Big Show theater at the Alamo Drafthouse Cinema.

Tickets at:

<https://drafthouse.com/dc-metro-area/show/jurassic-world-dominion?cinemaId=1101&sessionId=7289&showSeats=true>

(details continued on page 2)

### \*\*\*\*\* June 11 (Saturday!), 2022 Meeting = IN PERSON!!! \*\*\*\*\*

The next (short) LSF meeting will be held on **Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup>**, in conjunction with a Pride Weekend gaming party. Meetings have returned to in-person format and will be held at Peter and Rob's home, **1425 "S" Street NW, Washington, DC**. **All attendees MUST be fully vaccinated.** The doors open at 1:30 PM and the event will begin at 2:00 PM. Hope to see you there!

### What's Inside?

Page 2: Minutes of the April Meeting.

Page 3: *Science Fiction in the Real World* (book review); **Virtual Book Club** – **Note the Date!**

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

## Minutes of the April LSF Meeting

taken by Scott

### LSF Business

Attendees voted unanimously to support the online book discussion as an official LSF event (running parallel to the “in person” book discussions).

### Movie News

Rob enjoyed the two scenes shown during the closing credits of *Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness*.

### TV News

It appears that the focus of Disney+’s *Moon Knight* series is mental health, specifically dissociative disorder (“experiencing a disconnection and lack of continuity between thoughts, memories, surroundings, actions and identity).” Dan and Teresa are liking Amazon’s *Wheel of Time* series as well as Apple TV’s *Shining Girls* (starring Elisabeth Moss, whose main character exists in a constantly shifting reality). Scottish *Sex Education* actor Ncuti Gatwa will be the first Black lead in BBC’s *Doctor Who*. Two upcoming Disney+ movies; *Kenobi* and *Ms. Marvel*. Rob reported that *Legends of Tomorrow* and *Batwoman* have been cancelled, while *The Flash* has been renewed. *Quantum Leap* has been ordered into production as a direct sequel to the original show. Peter ranted about the *Lego Ninjago* series

Paramount Plus+’s *Picard* has been renewed for one more season. Rob

says that actor Alison Pilli (who plays Dr. Agnes Jurati) the role of best actor for *Picard*; he also labels *Picard* as the Worst *Star Trek* series.

Teresa described CBS’s *Threshold* (a series from 2005 that only lasted one season): “A team of experts are assembled after the US Navy discovers an extraterrestrial object that briefly appeared near a ship.” The show had 13 episodes. Brent Spiner was one of the cast members.

### Other News

A sequel to the game *Dark Ring* has been issued; it’s called *The Elder Ring*. Teresa advised that it is a hard game to play! (Her character died three times in an hour.)

Julie Phillips is writing a biography of Ursula K. LeGuin. She previously wrote a biography of James Tiptree.

Upcoming “in person” LSF Book Discussions: *Iron Widow* by Xiran Jay Zhao (May 26); *The City Beautiful* by Aden Polydoros (June 23).

Instead of hosting a table at Capital Pride, there will be and LSF Pride Day Gaming Party on Saturday, June 11 (combined with a short LSF business meeting) and an LSF Movie Outing on Sunday, June 12, to see *Jurassic World: Dominion* at the Alamo Drafthouse Cinema DC.

Finally, it was time for the (previously) annual LSF Book(ish) Exchange! (see below)

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From	To	What
Karl	Scott	<i>Inherit the Stars</i> by James P. Hogan
Peter	Wess	2 episodes of <i>Mystery Science Theater 3000</i> (including <i>Plan 9 from Outer Space</i> )
Dan	Andy	Lovecraft manga
Wess	David	several “Vlad Taltos” novels by Steven Brust
Carl	Rob	DVD’s: <i>Things to Come</i> (1936) and <i>Penny Dreadful: City of Angels</i>
Scott	Peter	<i>In the Watchful City</i> by S. Qiouyi Lu
Rob	Dan	first five books of <i>The Expanse</i>
David	Karl	DVDs for <i>Once Upon a Time</i> Seasons 1 & 2
Andy	Carl	<i>Stars in My Pocket Like Grains of Sand</i> by Samuel Delany

## Tabletop Gaming Party and Pride Parade Watching continued from page 1

**Dinner:** For those who are interested, we’ll order pizza for dinner. To get in on the pizza order, please bring \$10 in exact change. If you don’t want pizza, you can order take-out or go forage for food. There are a lot of food choices in the Midcity (14th and U) Corridor. Also, delivery menus will be available if needed.

**Where:** Home of Peter and Rob, 1425 “S” Street NW, Washington, DC. Their home is in the Midcity (14th and U) neighborhood between Dupont Circle and Logan Circle. Directions (with Metro and parking advice) at:

[lambdascifi.org/club/PeterRob.html](http://lambdascifi.org/club/PeterRob.html)

**Questions:** Contact Peter at: [PeterPKnapp@gmail.com](mailto:PeterPKnapp@gmail.com)

**Remember:** All attendees MUST be fully vaccinated. ΛΨΦ

## LSF Jurassic World Movie Outing – June 12<sup>th</sup> continued from page 1

The Alamo Drafthouse Cinema is a brand new movie theater in Eckington (630 Rhode Island Ave NE, Washington DC, 20002 - next to the Rhode Island Ave Metro on the Red Line) offering food and drink ordering and delivery from your seat.

[drafthouse.com/dc-metro-area/theater/dc-bryant-street](http://drafthouse.com/dc-metro-area/theater/dc-bryant-street)

The Big Show is the third largest active screen in the DMV. The sound system is great.

Come early and take your picture with portraits of many theatrical presidents.

Afterwards those that are interested can forage for food. ΛΨΦ



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**Science Fiction  
in the Real World  
by Norman Spinrad**

(Southern Illinois Univ. Press, 1990)  
a short review by Carl

I picked up this little treasure at this year's Ravencon, courtesy of a seller of used books in the dealers' room.

I've been a fan of Norman Spinrad for quite some time now. I figure I can always count on him for a fascinating – and provocative – reading experience. Over the years, I've enjoyed a number of his novels, including: *Bug Jack Barron* (1969), *The Iron Dream* (1972), *Little Heroes* (1987), *Russian Spring* (1991), *Journals of the Plague Years* (1995), *Osama the Gun* (2007, which I reviewed in the November 2020 issue of the LSF newsletter), and *The People's Police* (2017). And when I say "provocative," I really mean it. *Bug Jack Barron* caused nationwide controversy (and publishing difficulties) in Great Britain; *The Iron Dream* ran afoul of censors in Germany; and *Osama the Gun* was excoriated (and faced publishing difficulties) here in the USA. I always look forward to Spinrad providing a good story, an eye-opening examination of various social issues, and a wild ride.

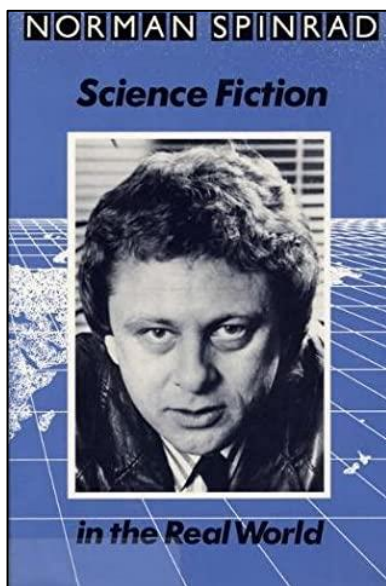
However, *Science Fiction in the Real World* is not a work of fiction – it's a collection of essays that examine various aspects of science fiction. Twelve of these essays appeared in *Isaac Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine* from 1985 to 1988. The *Asimov's* editors gave Spinrad "carte blanche four times a year to publish critical pieces of some length that need not confine themselves to discussion of current books and need not conform to any stylistic critical conventions... as long as current novels were tied into the discourse."

Spinrad calls this collection of essays "a revisionary examination of where we are and how we got there, and a revisionary redefinition of the concept of 'genre' itself." He also says: "In a sense, I've tried to write a kind of science fiction about science fiction, to relate what gets written to the lives of the characters that write it and the world that shapes their

**Virtual Book Club - Note the Date!**  
announced by Bob Angell

The Virtual Book Club (VBC) has been officially voted a part of LSF! Folks who can't make the in-person meeting can instead attend a virtual "shadow" meeting via Zoom. The VBC will be held at the same time as the in-person discussion (the fourth Thursday of the month). "Doors" of the VBC will open at 7:00 PM, with discussion beginning at 7:30 PM. Look for the link in the usual book club notice or on the web. We will read the same books and entertain the same questions on the same night as the in-person discussion. So, if you are stuck in traffic, rained out, or too far away to go to the in-person discussion, Zoom into the Virtual Book Club. "See" you there!

consciousness, which is not too different from relating the lives of made-up characters to the made-up world you create for them."



Spinrad turns his penetrating critical eye on all kinds of "big" questions. For example, the first section of the book is entitled "Literature and Genre: A Critical Overview." It includes an essay on "Critical [literary] Standards" and how they're applied (to different degrees and with differing success) to science fiction and to non-genre literature. As you can tell from the title of the second essay – "Science Fiction Versus Sci-Fi" – he takes on what he considers the "crucial distinction" between such terms as SF, science fiction, and sci-fi. In the third essay in this section ("Inside, Outside"), he compares the experiences (successes, failures, critical reception) of SF authors

who write non-SF works and non-SF ("mainstream") authors who write works of SF (but deny it).

Succeeding sections of the book include essays dealing with graphic novels, SF books that have been made (or not) into movies, Hard SF, Cyberpunk, "a new collective dream of space," military SF, the role of the Hero, and the careers of such writers as Theodore Sturgeon, Kurt Vonnegut and the fictional Kilgore Trout, JG Ballard, and Philip K. Dick.

Along the way, a wide range of SF works and authors are discussed during Spinrad's analyses, as well as the works of dozens of non-genre authors.

If you're looking for an "easy read," this ain't it. Each essay contains any number of loooong paragraphs consisting of a single sentence strung together with subordinate clauses and asides. Spinrad's vocabulary ranges from the erudite (dare I say "high-falutin"?) to the downright folksy.

What a mind is on display here! Not an *easy* read, but definitely a very *satisfying* one, says I. ΛΨΦ

**"It ain't power that  
corrupts,  
it's the changes you  
put your head through  
getting it."**

— Norman Spinrad  
*Bug Jack Barron*

**\* \* 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-generated (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. But the next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting (with gaming party) will be on Saturday, **June 11th, at Peter and Rob's home, 1425 "S" Street NW, Washington, DC. All attendees MUST be fully vaccinated.** We 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, Peter & Scott

June 3-5, 2022 **AWESOME CON 2022**. Walter E. Washington Convention Center (Washington DC). Special Guests include: Anthony (C3PO) Daniels; Sean (Sam Gamgee) Astin; Simu (Shang-Chi) Liu, Sylvester (Dr Who) McCoy. Membership (Badges): \$85 for 3-day badge (single-day badges available). Webpage: <https://awesome-con.com/>  
Purchase membership/badges on-line at: [https://purchase.growtix.com/eh/Awesome\\_Con\\_2022](https://purchase.growtix.com/eh/Awesome_Con_2022)

July 15-17, 2022 **SHORE LEAVE 42**. Delta Hotels Baltimore Hunt Valley (Hunt Valley MD). Guests: Brandon Routh (Superman/Clark Kent, Ray Palmer/Atom); Adam Baldwin (Jayne, *Firefly*), Jewel Staite (Kaylee, *Firefly*), and others. Weekend membership: \$105; daily rates available. Web page: [www.shore-leave.com](http://www.shore-leave.com)

July 29-31, 2022 **OTAKON 2022**. (A convention devoted to animé, manga, and Kpop.) Walter E. Washington Convention Center (Washington DC). Guest list to be announced. Membership rate: \$100 for the weekend (daily rates available).  
On-line registration: <https://www.otakon.com/register/> Webpage: <https://www.otakon.com/>

July 29-31, 2022 **CONFLUENCE 2022**. Sheraton Pittsburgh Airport Hotel (Coraopolis, PA). Guests: Neil Clarke (editor of the Hugo and World Fantasy award-winning *Clarkesworld Magazine*), Tim Griffin (award-winning teacher, musician, and storyteller), and others. Weekend membership: \$50 from 4/16/2022 - 6/30/2022, \$55 from 7/1/22 - 7/25/2022, \$60 at door. Web page: <http://confluence-sff.org/>

Sept. 1-5, 2022 **80<sup>TH</sup> WORLD SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION (CHICON 8)**. Hyatt Regency Chicago Hotel (Chicago IL). Author GoH: TBA; Artist GoH: Floyd Norman. Membership: \$240. Webpage: <https://chicon.org/>  
On-line registration: <https://registration.chicon.org/>

Sept. 30 – Oct. 2, 2022 **CAPCLAVE 2022**. Hilton Washington DC/Rockville Hotel & Executive Meeting Center (Rockville MD). GoHs: Ursula Vernon, Irene Gallo. Membership: \$60 from June 1<sup>st</sup> to Aug. 31<sup>st</sup>; \$65 from Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> to Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>. On-line registration at: <https://www.capclave.org/capclave/capclave22/registration.php>  
Webpage: <https://www.capclave.org> Info at: [info@capclave.org](mailto:info@capclave.org)

Nov. 25-27, 2022 **CHESSIECON 2022**. (A very LGBTQ+ friendly con.) Delta Hotels Baltimore Hunt Valley Hotel (Hunt Valley MD). GoH: Danielle Ackley-McPhail; Music GoH: Blibbering Humdingers. Membership: \$50 until 10/30; \$55 after that; \$60 at the door; daily memberships available. On-line registration (via PayPal): <https://johogan.org/chessieconlogin.cfm> OR by mail to: TSFS, Inc., PO Box 83032, Gaithersburg MD 20883-3032 (checks payable to: TSFS, Inc.).  
Info at: [info@chessiecon.org](mailto:info@chessiecon.org) Website: <https://chessiecon.org/>

