



lambda sci-fi

DC Area Gaylaxians

(202) 232-3141 – Issue # 396 – March 2023

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**Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians
turns 33 this month! Happy Birthday!**

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 March 23rd. **All attendees MUST be fully vaccinated.**

Here are the details for the next several months:

March 23 – *Black Sun*, by Rebecca Roanhorse (moderator: Rob).

April 27 – *Queers Destroy Science Fiction*, anthology edited by Seanan McGuire (moderator: Carl).

May 25 – *Of Wars, and, Memories, and Starlight*, collection by Aliette de Bodard (moderator: Andy).

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**** March 12, 2023 Meeting ****

The next LSF meeting will be held on Sunday, March 12th. The meeting 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 meeting will begin at 2:00 PM. Hope to see you there!

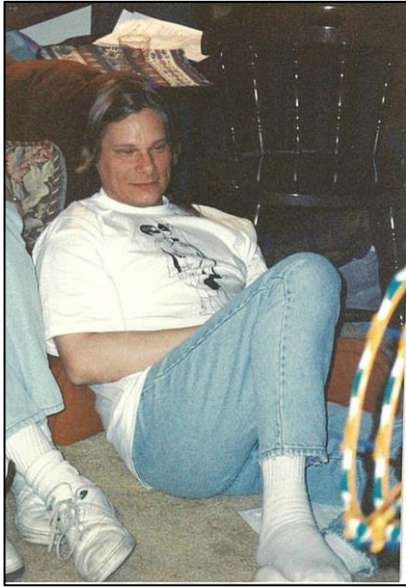


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Wayne Beaudro 1958 – 2022

Wayne Beaudro, a long-time LSFer, passed away on December 20, 2022. Wayne had been a member of LSF for about 3 decades, although he hadn't attended any LSF events in the last several years. Instead, he sent bulging packets of F&SF-related magazine and newspaper articles to Carl so that the information could be shared at monthly LSF meetings or in the newsletter.

You probably knew him as Wayne #1 (the first of several LSFers

with that name) – or as “the guy who used to live with Julian and do odd jobs around the house.” If you were a member of the Radical Fairies, you possibly knew him as “the Contrary Fairy.”

Wayne had been a very “private” person of late, so none of us found out about his passing until after the Holidays, when his roommate Eliot responded to Carl’s Christmas card and let us know about his passing. Eliot then arranged a very small memorial get-together for a few of Wayne’s closest friends. Peter, Niko, and Carl were invited.

At this memorial get-together, everyone shared anecdotes and other information about various aspects of Wayne’s life. Wayne was born in West Berlin, the son of a high-ranking military officer. After West Berlin, his family moved to Fort Riley, Kansas. Wayne himself later served in the US Army as an infantry officer and “voice interceptor.” He was fluent in several Slavic languages (particularly Russian). Everyone agreed that some of the details of his non-LSF life probably wouldn’t be “suitable for public consumption.” No one had recent photos of Wayne; but the LSF attendees were able to share a few pictures from when Wayne participated at LSF events. (*The photo shown here was taken at an LSF event in May 1996.*)

Ye Olde Editor can’t help but believe that Wayne’s soul is now merrily cavorting in the Realms of Faery.

Minutes of the February LSF Meeting taken by Scott

TV Discussions

Season 3 of CBS’s *Picard* has had good reviews and is purported to bring back most of the *Star Trek: Next Generation* cast, including Diana Muldaur (Dr. Pulaski). John advised that plans for *Stargate* are on hold. It was noted that actor Brian Jacob Smith is gay – he played in Will Gorski in *Sense8*. David is enjoying the Hallmark Channel’s series *The Way Home*, which includes a time portal pond in the woods. Have you heard about the Hulu series *Extraordinary* – it’s about 18-year-olds gaining superpowers, except for the main character Jen, who is now 25 years and is waiting to get hers. Andy described Netflix’s series *Kingdom* about zombies overrunning Korea in the 14th century. Everyone in attendance at the meeting agreed that there was no story to tell with *The Book of Boba Fett*. Jim described “aliasing” and “anti-aliasing” as they apply to restoring older TV shows like *Next Generation*.

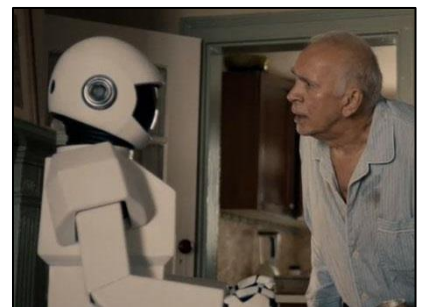
Movie Discussions

Jim liked the view of Thor’s rear in the third “Thor” movie. Andy enjoyed reading Andy Weir’s *Project Hail Mary* (Ballantine Books). The novel has been optioned for a movie starring Ryan Gosling. The author is more prominently known for *The Martian*. Jim says he was bored to tears watching *Ad Astra*, starring Brad Pitt. (“It was a hot mess.”) Karl says he enjoyed the 2012 movie *Robot and Frank*, starring Frank Langella. ΛΨΦ



HULK
GREEN!

Happy Saint Patrick’s Day!

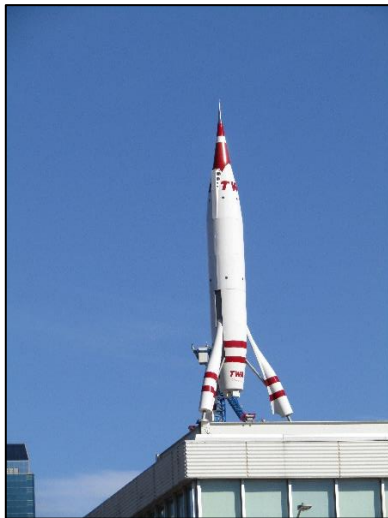


Scene from *Robot and Frank*

A Blast from the Past!

by Carl

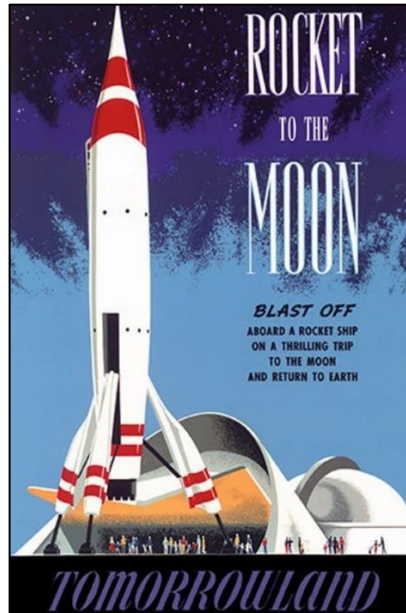
So, there I was, in the middle of my two-week teaching assignment in Kansas City MO. As I was walking down Main Street, on my way to Jack's Stack for some yummy BBQ, something amazing caught my eye! There was a big red-and-white rocketship perched on the roof of an otherwise nondescript building on 18th Street! It stopped me in my tracks! "Is it possible?" I wondered. "I swear I saw that very same rocket in the center of Disneyland's Tomorrowland when I was a kid!" I used the telephoto feature on my camera and took several pictures. Sure enough! Same "retro-future" look, same red-and-white color scheme, same window blister for the pilot up near the top – and even the same TWA logo on the side! Who-d'a'think it?!



When I got back to the hotel, I quickly googled it to see what I could find out. Turns out that it's not the very same rocket I saw as a kid in Disneyland; but it is a "lineal descendant." And it has an interesting history.

The original 76-foot-tall rocket – known as the Moonliner – did indeed serve for many years (1955 – 1962) as the main icon for Disneyland's "Rocket to the Moon" attraction. It was originally created in conjunction with TWA (Trans World Airlines, for you "new kids"). It was also used as an icon for TWA's corporate headquarters in Kansas City. (The current version – the Moonliner III – was introduced at Dis-

neyland in 1998 and serves as part of the façade for the Alien Pizza Planet restaurant.)



The Moonliner was designed by Disney Imagineer John Hench and rocket scientist Wernher von Braun. Von Braun was the science consultant for the three "Man in Space" episodes for the Disneyland TV show; and Hench was inspired by von Braun's V-2 single-stage rocket design. TWA's signature red-and-white color scheme and corporate logo were meant to reflect its conception as a commercial spacecraft in "the far-off year of 1986." The Moonliner was the tallest structure in Disneyland when the park opened in 1955; but it was only a 1/3-scale model. (The "real" Moonliner would have been over 200 feet tall.)

In 1962, TWA dropped its sponsorship, and Douglas Airlines took over, and the Moonliner was rebranded as the Douglas Moonliner. It was repainted in Douglas's blue-and-white color scheme, with a vertical Douglas logo running down the side. The Douglas version of Moonliner lasted only until 1967, when it was taken down for the construction of a whole new Tomorrowland.

In 1956, Hughes (owner of TWA) added a 22-foot-tall version of the Disneyland Moonliner to the southwest corner of the TWA Corporate Headquarters Building (18th and Baltimore, near downtown Kansas City).

This was designated as the TWA Moonliner II. By 1962, Hughes had sold TWA and ended their business partnership with Disney. The airline's management removed the Moonliner II from the roof and sold it to SpaceCraft (a local RV company).

Then, in early 2005, the Nicholson Group (a KC urban development firm) hired El Dorado, Inc. (a local architectural firm) to design and oversee the restoration of the former TWA Corporate Headquarters Building – complete with a replica of Moonliner II on the roof. A brand-new TWA Moonliner II replica was fabricated by The Bratton Corporation in early 2006 (with the original TWA color scheme and logo) and installed on the same southwest corner roof location as the original Moonliner II. The building is currently the home of Barkley, Inc. (a KC-based advertising agency).

And THAT, as it turned out, is what I saw and what caused my heartbeat to speed up in excitement!

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Herb Ryman's 1954 concept design for Tomorrowland

**** 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.

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 on Sunday, March 12th, 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

May 5-7, 2023 **GALACTIC DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION CONVENTION**. Pennsylvania Convention Center (Philadelphia PA) – Philadelphia Marriott Downtown (hotel). "Gaaays in Spaace (GIS) is an LGBTQ+ non-profit organization dedicated to advancing diversity and inclusion in Hollywood and the Aerospace industry." Guests include: Denise Crosby, Nana Visitor, Robert Picardo, Garrett Wang, and more. Membership available on-line: \$160 (+ \$11.32 fees) for the weekend; daily passes and various "executive" (more expensive) passes available. Website: www.dnicon.org

May 26-29, 2023 **BALTICON 57**. Renaissance Harborplace Hotel (Baltimore MD). GoH: Jane Yolen; Special Guest: John Scalzi (2023 Robert Heinlein Award Winner); Artist GoH: Ariel Burgess. Registration: \$75 until April 15; \$85 from April 16 to May 15; \$95 after May 15 and at the door. On-line registration. Website: <https://www.balticon.org/wp57/>

July 7-9, 2023 **SHORE LEAVE 43**. Delta Hotels Baltimore Hunt Valley (Hunt Valley MD). "Guests will be announced as soon as they are confirmed." Weekend membership: \$105 (daily rates available). On-line membership application if paying by credit card. Website: www.shore-leave.com

June 16-18, 2023 **AWESOME CON 2023**. Walter E. Washington Convention Center (Washington DC). Guests include: Billy Dee Williams; and many more to be announced. On-line registration: \$95 for the weekend; daily badges and various "premium" (more expensive) memberships available. Website: <https://awesome-con.com>

July 21-23, 2023 **CONFLUENCE**. Sheraton Pittsburgh Airport Hotel (Pittsburgh PA). Guest of Honor: Ada Palmer; Featured Artist: Susan Dexter; Featured Music Guest: Sassafra+. Weekend membership: \$55 to 7/10/2023; \$65 thereafter (daily rates available). On-line registration. Website: confluence-sff.org

July 28-30, 2023 **OTAKON 2023** (celebrating Asian pop culture, including anime and manga). Walter E. Washington Convention Center (Washington DC). On-line registration: \$75 for the full weekend; daily memberships available. Website: <https://www.otakon.com>

Sept. 29 – Oct. 1, 2023 **CAPCLAVE 2023**. Rockville Hilton & Executive Meeting Center (Rockville MD). GoHs: Sarah Pinsker, Kameron Hurley. Registration details: \$55 until 5/31; then \$60 until 8/31; and \$65 thereafter. Website: <https://www.capclave.org/capclave23/>

