



Lambda Sci-Fi

DC Area Gaylaxians

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E-MAIL: info@lambdascifi.org

WEBSITE: www.lambdascifi.org



Green Goblin at the Emmys info passed along by Carl

A mysterious green goblin showed up on the red carpet at the 2023 Primetime Emmy Awards on January 15th. Under all the incredible make-up and prosthetics was Princess Poppy, a member of the cast of *RuPaul's Drag Race*.

Here's what Princess Poppy told the interviewers from *Entertainment Weekly*: "I wanted to do the exact opposite of what is expected of you when you go to an event like this. I wanted to take decorum and turn it on its head. Mainly I wanted to be a troll-slash-hag. I wanted to be so shocking that you just have to turn and look at me—in the worst way possible." Success!
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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 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 February 22nd. **All attendees MUST be fully vaccinated.**

Here are the details for the next couple of discussions:

Feb. 22, 2024 – *The Space Between Worlds*, by Micaiah Johnson (moderator: Judy)

March 28, 2024 – *The House in the Cerulean Blue Sea*, by TJ Klune (moderator: Zena).
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Happy Lunar
New Year!

2024 – Year of
the Dragon



**** February 11, 2024 Meeting ****

The next LSF meeting will be held on **Sunday, February 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 PM, followed by gaming at 3:00 PM. Hope to see you there!



What's Inside?

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**Minutes of the January
2024 LSF Meeting**
taken by Scott

Peter talked about his recent California trip. He and his Dad enjoyed the movie *Poor Things*, described as a Frankenstein-themed feminist movie that includes elements of magical realism and starring Emma Stone, Mark Ruffalo, and William Defoe. There was also a favorable discussion of the non-genre film *American Fiction*.

Peter also reviewed a list of genre movies opening this year: *Madame Web*, *Dune Part 2*, *Godzilla vs Kong: New Empire*, *Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes*, *Inside Out 2*, *Deadpool 3*, *Beetlejuice*, *Venom III*, and *Captain America: Brave New World*.

The fourth season of *For All Mankind* has begun; a current plot thread is that an asteroid is headed towards Earth. (The producers are reputed to want a full seven seasons.) The plot of the movie *Creator* centers upon humanity trying to wipe out AI. Zach Snyder's *Rebel Moon* is very derivative and borrows story lines.

Upcoming LSF book discussions: *A Haunting on the Hill*, by Elizabeth Hand (January); *The Space Between Worlds*, by Micaiah Johnson (February); *The House in the Cerulean Sea*, by TJ Klune (March).

We then conducted the Annual LSF Book(ish) Exchange:



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From	To	Title(s)
Rob	Karl	Glen Cook's "Black Company" books
Andy	Peter	Charles Strauss's <i>Singularity Sky</i> and <i>Accelerando</i>
Karl	Andy	<i>War of the Worlds</i> (starring Tom Cruise)
Scott	Carl	2 graphic novels: <i>Nice House on the Lake</i> and <i>Invisible Kingdom</i>
Carl	Rob	Michael Chabon's <i>Kavalier and Clay</i> ; Helene Stapinski and Bonnie Siegler's <i>The American Way</i> ; Max Alan Collins's <i>Seduction of the Innocent</i>
Peter	Scott	20 th anniversary <i>Farscape: The Complete Series</i> on DVDs & <i>Farscape: The Peacekeeper Ward</i> (the show finale)



2024 is the Year of the Yang Wood Dragon. It will reputedly bring evolution, improvement, and abundance – the perfect time for rejuvenated beginnings and setting the foundations for long-term success.

Ye Olde Editor Sayeth



Discussions during the January LSF meeting raised a couple of questions about aspects of Queer culture.

The first question involved the meaning of the acronym "QUILTBAG." It was yet another effort some years ago to find an acceptable all-inclusive term for the Queer community, as coined by Sadie Lee (2006). There isn't a solid consensus on the exact meaning of the acronym. It seems to have meant: Queer (or Questioning), Undecided, Intersex, Lesbian, Transgender (or Transsexual), Bisexuals, Allied (or Asexual), and Gay (or Genderqueer). I can't say as I've seen QUILTBAG used very much in the last decade or so – perhaps people no longer find it a satisfactory referential term.

The other question involved the origin of the Lambda (Λ) as a symbol of the Gay (now Queer) community. No one seems to have a definitive answer. Some people suggest that it's simply a lower-case L and that it stands for "liberation."

Here's what the *Encyclopedia of Homosexuality* says: "In the early 1970s, in the wake of the Stonewall Rebellion, New York City's Gay Activists Alliance selected the letter lambda, which member Tom Doerr suggested from its scientific use to designate *kinetic potential* as the emblem."

Another source says that Doerr meant the lambda to symbolize the liberation that is achievable through activism – a catalyst symbolizing the exchange of energy. He also designed the lambda flag: a "chrome yellow" lambda on a blue field.

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Second Asteroid in at the Kill?

info passed along by Carl

A newly-discovered crater suggests that a second asteroid impact may have contributed to the great end-of-Cretaceous extinction about 66 million years ago.

When the Chicxulub asteroid crashed into the Yucatan area, its impact was massive. Wildfires rages across continents, tsunamis crashed into coastlines, and about three-quarters of existing species went extinct.

Now scientists have discovered what might be an impact crater off the coast of Guinea that also seems to date to about 66 million years ago. Veronica Bray (a planetary scientist from the University of Arizona) is a co-author of a study published in *Science Advances*. She said the following during an interview for *National Geographic*: “A lot of people have questioned: How could the Chicxulub impact—albeit a huge one—be so globally destructive? ... It might have had help.”

It’s theorized that a second asteroid might have broken off from the much-larger Chicxulub asteroid – or it might have been part of a closely-timed asteroid cluster. In 2020, researchers were examining seismic survey data when they discovered this second crater. They called it the Nadir crater, naming it after a nearby underwater volcano. The study’s co-authors (Veronica Bray, Uisdean Nicholson, and Sean Gulick) reported: “Among the flat, layered sediments of the Guinea Plateau, west of Africa, was what appeared to be a large crater, a little under 10 km wide and several hundred meters deep, buried below several hundred meters of sediment.” Scientists haven’t yet con-



firmed that the Nadir crater was made by an asteroid; but Bray, Nicholson, and Gulick write that features of the crater (its scale, the ratio of height to width, the height of the crater rim) are consistent with an impact origin – and deposits around the Nadir crater look like materials ejected from a crater after a collision.

If it was in fact the result of an impact, computer models indicate that the asteroid would likely have been about 0.25 miles across and hit an ocean that was more than 2,600 feet deep. (In comparison, the Chicxulub asteroid was likely around 6 miles wide.) The Nadir hit would have caused shock waves equivalent to an earthquake of 6.5 or 7 magnitude and would have triggered underwater landslides and a series of tsunamis.

Scientists will need to drill into the formation and collect samples in order to verify whether Nadir was truly formed by an asteroid strike, as well as to arrive at a more precise date for the collision and determine its possible connection to Chicxulub. The team has applied for emergency funding for this additional research.

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LSF Tabletop Gaming Party March 16, 2024



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

When: Saturday, March 16; 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).

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.

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:

<https://www.lambdascifi.org/peterrob>

Questions: Contact Peter at: peter@lambdascifi.org

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*** * Con Calendar * *** by Carl

March 22-24, 2024 **OUTLANTA CON/GAYLAXICON 2024** (“Atlanta’s LGBTQ+ convention for Sci-fi, Pop Culture, Multi-media & Gaming!”). Atlanta Marriott Northeast/Emory Area (Atlanta GA). Weekend membership: \$60 (purchase on-line at the website). Website: <https://outlantacon.org>

May 24-27, 2024 **BALTICON 58**. Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel (Baltimore MD). Guest of Honor: L.E. Modesitt Jr; Music GoH: Rhiannon’s Lark; Editor GoH: Sheila Williams; Artist GoH: Omar Rayyan. More info to be announced. Website: <https://www.balticon.org/> E-mail: balticoninfo@balticon.org

Sept. 27-29, 2024 **CAPCLAVE 2024**. Rockville Hilton (Rockville MD). Guests of Honor: Sheree Renee Thomas; Matt Diniman. Membership: \$55 from Jan to May 2024; \$60 from June to July 2024; \$65 from Aug to Sept 2024; \$70 at the door. Website: www.capclave.org Info: info@capclave.org



Spectrum of Dragons, by The-SixthLeafClover

