



# Lambda Sci-Fi

## DC Area Gaylaxians

(202) 232-3141 – Issue # 410 – May 2024

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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 May 23rd.

Here are the details for the next several; discussions:

**May 23** – *Spinning Silver*, by Naomi Novik (moderator: Zena).

**June 27** – *Floating Hotel*, by Grace Curtis (moderator: Rob).

**July 25** – *The City We Became*, by N K Jemisin (moderator: Zena).

**Aug. 22** – *Die*, Vol. 1 & 2 (graphic novel), by Kieron Gillen *et al* (mod: Dan).

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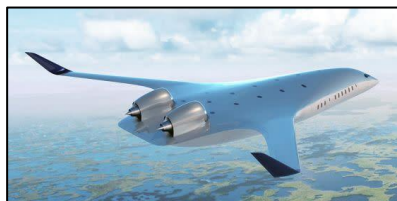


### New Aircraft Design

Info passed along by Carl

A seismic shake-up in the basic design of commercial airplanes is about to take place. An entirely new aircraft shape has been cleared to take off into California skies. At the end of May 2024, Long Beach-based JetZero announced that Pathfinder, its 1:8 scale “blended wing body” demonstrator plane, has been granted an FAA Airworthiness certificate and test flights are coming soon.

The “blended wing body” looks similar to the “flying wing” design used by military aircraft such as



JetZero's blended wing design

the iconic B-2 bomber, but the blended wing has more volume in the middle section. Both Boeing and Airbus are tinkering with the idea, and JetZero's new milestone brings it a little closer to its ambitious goal of putting a blended wing aircraft into service as soon as 2030.

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### \*\*\*\*\* May 12, 2024 Meeting \*\*\*\*\*

The next LSF meeting will be held on **Sunday, May 12th**. 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. Hope to see you there!



### What's Inside?

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## April LSF Minutes

taken by Scott

### TV News

It was noted that *Star Trek: Strange New Worlds* has been renewed, but *Star Trek: Discovery* has been cancelled. Plans for a final season of *Orville* were mentioned. David loved the *Lower Decks/Strange New Worlds* crossover episode.

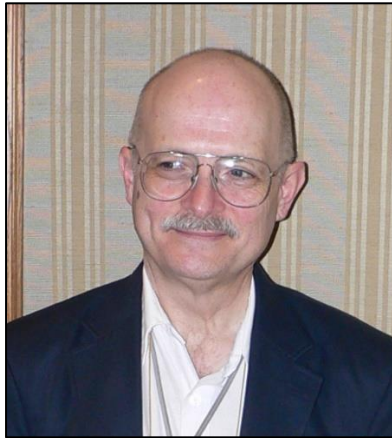
### Movie News

Will Karl see the *Sasquatch Sunset* mockumentary movie? Peter was vexed that *The Marvels* was panned. It was noted that some scenes from the next *Captain America* movie needed to be reshot. Phil liked the *Blue Beetle* movie – *Iron Man* meets *The Great American Hero*. Peter reviewed the upcoming genre movies in 2024: *Invisible Friend*, *Furiosa*, *Dead Pool & Wolverine* (rated R), and *Beetlejuice Beetlejuice*. Phil advised that the *Dune Messiah* movie has been green lit.

### Other News

Phil (newcomer) commented that he has the same *Star Trek* original series *Enterprise* model that Peter has on display in the living room. Rob showed off his new unboxed *Lego Dungeons & Dragons* set. Phil mentioned that he attends the huge Comic Con in San Diego; and he showed his Doctor Fate costume. Phil also showed a pic of his genre collections room in his house. Phil described the Frank & Sons Collectible Show warehouse in the City of Industry, CA. “Comic Books new and old from Marvel to DC... The hottest Hand-Painted Statues from Sideshow to Gentle Giant...”

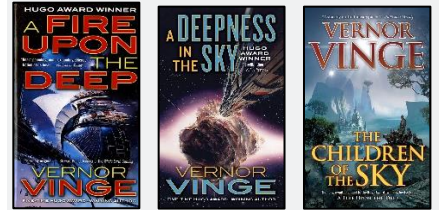
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**Vernor Vinge**  
1944 – 2024

From LSFer Rob:

“Sad to hear about the passing of science fiction author Vernor Vinge, whose career spanned well over half a century. (He sold his first story in 1964.) Vinge’s novels include some books that I absolutely loved. He won the Hugo Award for Best Novel three times; and he is considered by many to be a pioneer in discussing the singularity. He also had one of the first (if not THE first) stories that dealt with the concept of cyberspace (with his story *True Names* in 1981). His grand space epic novels – *A Fire Upon the Deep* and *A Deepness in the Sky* (both Hugo winners) and *The Children of the Sky* – are some of the finest examples of the meshing of complex hard science and cultural/social extrapolation you’ll ever read. I personally became a fan of Vinge’s work through his novels *The Peace War* and *Marooned in Realtime* (as well as the aforementioned novella *True Names*). RIP Vernor Vinge.”



Vinge passed away on March 20<sup>th</sup> from Parkinson’s disease at age 79. Author David Brin posted the following: “A titan in the literary genre that explores a limitless range of potential destinies, Vernor enthralled millions with tales of plausible tomorrows, made all the more vivid by his polymath masteries of language, drama, characters, and the implications of science.”

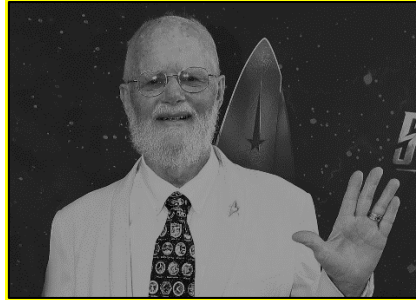
“Apartness,” Vinge’s first short story, was published in 1965 in the British magazine *New Worlds*. He studied computer science and received a PhD in 1971. Vinge was also a retired professor of computer science at San Diego State University, where he taught between 1972 and 2000.

Vinge first coined the term “singularity” as related to technology in 1983, borrowed from the physics concept of a singularity in spacetime. When discussing the creation of intelligences far greater than our own (a 1983 op-ed in *OMNI* magazine), Vinge wrote, “When this happens, human history will have reached a kind of singularity, an intellectual transition as impenetrable as the knotted space-time at the center of a black hole, and the world will pass far beyond our understanding.” In 1993, he expanded on the idea in his essay *The Coming Technological Singularity: How to Survive in the Post-Human Era*.

So high, so low,  
so many things to know.

-- Vernor Vinge, *A Deepness in the Sky* (1999) --

*Science Fiction Quotations: From the Inner Mind to the Outer Limits*  
edited by Gary Westfahl (Yale University Press, 2005)



## John G Trimble 1936 – 2024

From LSFer Carl:

I knew John (and, of course, his wife Bjo) for something like 40 years, both in Fandom and in the Society of Creative Anachronism (SCA). He was instrumental in prompting me to hook up at a sci-fi convention with Rick, my second lover. He was a major figure in both the SCA and Fandom, particularly *Star Trek* fandom. And he was truly a nice guy.

His daughter Lora posted this on her Facebook page:

April 19th, 2024 at 5:17 am my father John G Trimble passed away.

John was born in the late 1930's and grew up in Devils Lake, ND. He graduated from Poly High School in Long Beach CA and enlisted in the US Air Force on 5 April 1955...

John met his wife, Betty Jo (Bjo) under a piano at Forrest J Ackerman's mansion, a friend they met thru Science Fiction fandom. They were married in July and would have celebrated 64 years of marriage. Their 3 children, Kathryn, Lora and Jenn have been a constant joy and the addition of Jason, husband to Lora, and Jenn's husband Chris have completed the family.

In 1966 they found a group of people interested in mediaeval combat and arts. They joined the Society of Creative Anachronism (SCA). John served 2 terms as a member of its Board of Directors, was a landed Baron [Barony of the Angels]. His [coat of] arms were the very first to be registered with the College of Heraldry; and both John and Bjo have been members ever since. Later that year he said to his wife, "Gee it's a shame a good science fiction show like *Star Trek* is going to be canceled.

We should do something about that!" And the Save *Star Trek* campaign was born. For over 58 years John and Bjo Trimble have been ambassadors for science fiction, the space program, and the SCA. Meeting and hosting people from all walks of life, all over the world.

John has touched thousands of lives in a way that positive and full of joy. He will be greatly missed.

Remembering John G. Trimble (from StarTrek.com)

StarTrek.com honors the luminary whose contributions saved the *Star Trek* universe.

StarTrek.com is saddened to report the passing of John G. Trimble, who passed away the morning of April 19, 2024, as confirmed by his daughter Lora Boem in a post.

*Star Trek* and fandom as we know it all stems from the efforts and passion of John and his wife Bjo Trimble, the couple who launched a grassroots letter writing campaign to save *Star Trek* following NBC's cancellation of the Original Series, resulting in a third season. With enough episodes then, *Star Trek* was able to enter syndication, propelling it into a phenomenon that warranted an animated series in 1973 and big-budget feature in 1979.

John and Bjo Trimble, in 2016, were brought on stage at *Star Trek Las Vegas* in celebration of the 50th anniversary, and the *Star Trek* franchise team surprised and honored them with a painted portrait of them by artist JK Woodward.



Recalling their efforts after a visit to the Original Series set, following the 50th anniversary honor, John Trimble told StarTrek.com, "When we saw the change in the cast and crew during the filming of 'The Deadly Years' from what it had been before, we

knew something was going on. It had been a very up cast and crew, and now it was very down, the mood. We found out by going to craft services, the underground gossip source, that they were probably going to cancel the show after the second season. We had to leave and go back to Oakland, where we lived at the time, and on the way, we were talking about what a change it had been in the cast. I turned to Bjo and I said, 'There ought to be something we can do about that,' knowing full well that that was throwing down the challenge."

The couple immediately sprang into action. John Trimble added, "We spent the rest of the trip going up the Central Valley, before Interstate 5, back to Oakland, discussing how to do it and putting together the Save *Star Trek* campaign."

Bjo Trimble credited John for building out the framework of their grassroots campaign, "We knew, of course, we were going to have to both mail letters... John was downstairs with a hand-cranked mimeograph machine, turning out the letters, which we still have a copy or two. We folded them, labeled them and stamped them, and put them in bulk mail. He was doing a whole bunch of the physical work, the grunt work. I was more getting people over to help us... John was everywhere; he was the one who ran the errands. He's the one who lifted, toted, and basically it simply was not possible for me to do it alone."

The decades following their legendary writing campaign, John and Bjo Trimble remained ambassadors for science fiction, the space program, and the Society of Creative Anachronism. The pair continued to attend *Star Trek* premiere and events, meeting fellow fans and sharing their enthusiasm for each new iteration of *Star Trek* and generation of fandom, including last year's *Star Trek: Picard* Season 3 red carpet premiere in Hollywood, CA.

The entire *Star Trek* family sends their condolences to Trimble's family, friends, and loved ones around the world.

## \*\* INFORMATION ABOUT LAMBDA SCI-FI: DC AREA GAYLAXIANS \*\*

**Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians (LSF)** is an organization for lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and trans-gendered (LGBT) 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 held on Sunday, **May 12th, at Peter and Rob's home, 1425 "S" Street NW, Washington, DC.** 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 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](mailto:balticoninfo@balticon.org)

Aug. 1-4, 2024 **PULPFEST 2024**. "Celebrating Mystery, Adventure, Science Fiction, and More." DoubleTree by Hilton Pittsburgh-Cranberry (Mars PA, 19 miles north of Pittsburgh). Weekend (\$40 if you stay at the DoubleTree, \$50 if you stay elsewhere) and single-day memberships available. Website: [www.PulpFest.com](http://www.PulpFest.com) On-line membership via: <https://pulpfest.com/plpfest-paypal/>

Aug. 2-4, 2024 **OTAKON 2024**. "To celebrate Asian pop culture, (anime, manga, music, movies, video games, etc.) and its fandom." Walter E. Washington Convention Center (Washington DC). Weekend membership: \$85 (daily rates also available). On-line registration. Website: [www.otakon.com](http://www.otakon.com)

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](http://www.capclave.org) Info: [info@capclave.org](mailto:info@capclave.org)

Oct. 11-13, 2024 **CONFABULOUS 2024**. Crowne Plaza Suites MSP Airport/Mall of America, previously Crowne Plaze AiRE (Bloomington MN). A fan-fun LGBTQ+ convention with a relaxed feel (gaming & discussion panels). Full Membership: \$60. Website: <https://confabulous.org>

## Samples from Asteroid Benu

info passed along by Carl

It took months for NASA to finally access the samples delivered to Earth by OSIRIS-REx (Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security, Regolith Explorer) from the asteroid Benu. The TAGSAM (Touch-and-Go Sample Acquisition Mechanism) landed in the military's Utah Test and Training Range in September 2023 and was shipped to NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston. Disassembly of the TAGSAM was delayed by two stuck fasteners.

Finally, scientists were able to look at the contents and were stunned. It contained 121.6 grams (4.3 ounces) of dust and pebbles collected from Benu – the biggest cosmic sample ever collected from beyond the Moon. NASA has said that studying this sample from the carbon-rich Benu asteroid will help researchers better understand planet formation and the events that led to the creation of life on Earth.



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A top-down view of the TAGSAM from OSIRIS-REx, with the lid removed to reveal the remainder of the asteroid sample inside.