



lambda Sci-fi DC Area Gaylaxians

PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044

(202) 232-3141 - Issue #261 - December 2011

E-MAIL: info@lambdascifi.org WEBSITE: www.lambdascifi.org

New Year's Eve Video Potluck Party

announced by Peter & Rob

Celebrate New Year's Eve with LSF at Rob and Peter's home. Here are the details on how to join the fun!

Where: The home of Rob & Peter: 1425 "S" Street NW, Washington, DC 20009.

Date: Fri., Dec. 31, 2011

Time: The doors will open at 2:30 PM. The potluck dinner and the videos will begin in the 3:00 - 3:30 PM range. We'll toast in the New Year with champagne, sparkling wine, and/or sparkling cider.

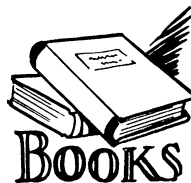
What to Bring: Bring your favorite genre Blu-rays, DVDs, and/or digital AVI files on a USB drive (science fiction, fantasy, horror). Attendees will vote on which movies will be shown. (There will be a couple of "tracks.")

It's a potluck meal, so bring something to eat. Feel free to bring appetizers (veggies, chips, etc.), a main course item (enough to serve at least 4-5 people), dessert (of course!), and/or nonalcoholic drinks (both regular and diet). For the New Year's toast, it's OK to indulge. So bring some sparkling wine or sparkling cider (or champagne, if you're feeling generous) to toast the New Year. *The hosts request that no one drink alcohol during the party other than at midnight.*

For more information, call 202-483-6369 or send email to:

Peter.P.Knapp@gmail.com $\Lambda\Psi\Phi$

Reminder: Annual LSF Book Exchange Set for Jan. 8th Meeting



(and other
stuff, too!)

That's right, gang, the Holiday Season is almost upon us again; and it's time for a short reminder about Lambda Sci-Fi's upcoming *twenty-second* annual book (*et al*) exchange, which will occur at the January 8th meeting! All LSF members are invited to participate in this "blind exchange" — and visitors are invited to join in the fun, too!

Briefly, this will be an opportunity for LSFers to exchange copies of their favorite science-fiction, fantasy, or horror books/videos/etc. and, thus, get to know each other a little better.

For those of you unfamiliar with the process, here's how it works: You won't be assigned to exchange with any *particular* person — it's a "blind" exchange, where participants will get their pick from a pile of anonymous wrapped packages. **Full details on the exchange in the next (January) LSF newsletter.** $\Lambda\Psi\Phi$



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 roundtable 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 meeting will be held on **December 1st**.

Here are the details for the next couple of book discussion:

Dec. 1st - REMINDER: This is our traditional combined November/December book discussion. *Naked City: Tales of Urban Fantasy*, an anthology edited by Ellen Datlow; moderator: Carl

Important Note - Please bring some suggestions for books to discuss. We will plan out future book discussions for the first several months in 2012. $\Lambda\Psi\Phi$

December LSF Meeting

***** Location Change!*****

The next LSF meeting will be held on Sunday, **December 11th**. The meeting will be held **at Peter and Rob's home, 1425 "S" Street NW, Washington, DC**. The business meeting will begin at 1:30 PM; and the social meeting will begin at 2:00 PM. Please also bring some munchies or soft drinks, if you can. See you there! $\Lambda\Psi\Phi$

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**Minutes for the November
LSF Meeting**
taken by Scott

Business Portion

Rob announced that he and Peter will host an LSF video party on New Year's Eve. [Ed. Note: For details, see page 1 of this newsletter.]

Social Portion

Teresa and Dan liked the new *Immortals* movie – they cited Mickey Rourke's acting as stupendous, but all other acting was horrible. They also raved over the Finnish *Rare Exports* movie about the hunt for Santa Claus, who appears to be a giant troll.

Rob reported that a recent episode of *American Gothic* included the terms "twink" and "power bottom."

It was noted that the next *Star Trek* movie is set for a 2013 release.

Two new TV series, *Once Upon a Time* and *Grimm*, are both captivating in their own ways. David noted all of the Disney references in *Once Upon a Time* – the names of the dwarves; Leroy/Grumpy sings "Whistle While You Work"; the students of teacher Mary Margaret/Snow White bring her pears, not apples, since she doesn't like apples. *Grimm* uses made-up creature names – and seems headed down the path of "monster of the week" episodes.

There is general consensus that AMC's *Walking Dead* Season 2 contin-



ues to be excellent – and faithful so far to the comic book storyline.

Several folks hooted over the upcoming *Twilight: Breaking Dawn* – the human girl gets pregnant, and everyone can't wait to see her drink blood through a sippy cup. The new film *Darkest Hour* – "In Russia, a group of young adults struggle to survive after an alien invasion" – appears to include invisible energy monsters. Nicholas Gage will star in the upcoming *Ghost Rider II* movie. A film based on *Hunger Games* (a grim YA series) is coming out in March 2013. *Battleship* looks like it will be a good popcorn movie.

David promoted Carrie Fisher's "Wishful Drinking" one-woman play. He also described the new "Battle for Westnoth" on-line game.

Rob promoted the next LSF Book Discussion Group selection: *Naked City: Tales of Urban Fantasy*, edited by Ellen Datlow (to be discussed at the Dec. 1st session).

Carl reported that the new HP Lovecraft Historical Society indy film *Whisperer in Darkness* is still listed as "to be released in November" – but there's no sign of it yet. Maybe in time for the New Year's Eve party?

And everyone chowed down on all of the baked goods!



World Fantasy Awards

info passed along
by
Wayne # 1
and Carl



The 2011 World Fantasy Awards were given out on Sunday, October 30, at the World Fantasy Convention (San Diego, CA). Here are some of the details:

Winner: Best Novel

Who Fears Death? by Nnedi Okorafor (DAW Books)

Other Finalists: Best Novel

The Hundred Thousand Kingdoms by N.K. Jemison (Orbit)

Redemption in Indigo by Karen Lord (Small Beer Press)

The Silent Land by Graham Joyce (Gollancz/Doubleday)

Under Heaven by Guy Gavriel Kay (ROC/Harper)

Zoo City by Lauren Beukes (Jacana/Angry Robot)

Winner: Best Novella

"The Maiden Flight of McCauley's *Bellerophon*" by Elizabeth Hand (*Stories: All-New Tales*, Neil Gaiman & Al Sarrantonio, eds.; William Morrow)

Winner: Best Short Fiction

"Fossil—Figures" by Joyce Carol Oates (*Stories: All-New Tales*, Neil Gaiman & Al Sarrantonio, eds.; William Morrow)

Winner: Best Anthology

My Mother She Killed Me, My Father He Ate Me, Kate Bernheimer & Carmen Gimenez Smith, eds. (Penguin)

Winner: Best Collection

What I Didn't See and Other Stories by Karen Joy Fowler (Small Beer Press)

For more information on the 2011 (and previous) World Fantasy Awards, go to:
www.worldfantasy.org/awards



The Three Musketeers – F&SF?

reviewed by Carl

OK, so I broke down after all went to see the new film *The Three Musketeers*. Big screen, lots of SFX and action – and promises of a fair amount of F&SF. I didn't go in with high expectations – so I wasn't disappointed. Not thrilled, but not disappointed.

This film is to the Dumas novel as the Robert Downey Jr. film *Sherlock Holmes* is to the Sir Arthur Conan Doyle stories. Instead of swashbuckling roustabouts loyal to the King and to France, Messrs. Athos, Porthos, Aramis, and D'Artagnan have become action-heroes and (not-so-secret) agents of the Crown à la James Bond, with all the over-the-top ninja-like fighting skills and nifty gadgetry appertaining thereto. Bam! Pow! Slash! Socko! And lots'a stuff gets blown up real good! In fact, the opening sequence looks like a 17th Century version of a *Mission: Impossible* story, with the Musketeers (and Milady de Winter!!) raiding a secret vault in Venice to steal DaVinci's plans for a powerful flying warship. (This also probably explains all the nifty SF paraphernalia that shows up throughout the rest of the film: flame-throwers, rapid-fire gunnery, and so on. Wow – that DaVinci! What an inventor!)

The film's plot occasionally coincides with the plot of the Dumas novel.



You can see the story of “the Queen’s necklace” peaking through all the SFX and action sequences every now and then. The actors? A few of ’em stick in my memory – particularly their F&SF connections. The very cute Logan Lerman portrays D’Artagnan, previously seen as the title character in *Percy Jackson and the Olympians*. Orlando Bloom tears up the scenery as the villainous Duke of Buckingham – rather a far cry from Legolas in *The Lord of the Rings* or Will Turner in *Pirates of the Caribbean*. Milla Jovovich portrays Milady de Winter, the traitorous *femme fatale* – but she’s still as much of a kick-ass fighter as she was in *The Fifth*

Element or *Resident Evil* or *Ultraviolet*. And Mads Mikkelsen is the suitably evil DeRocheport; you might remember him as the suitably evil Le Chiffre in *Casino Royale*. Matthew Macfadyen, Ray Stevenson, and Luke Evans – as (respectively) Athos, Porthos, and Aramis – are so-so. Comic relief comes from Freddie Fox (as a foppish young King Louis XIII) and James Corden (as Planchet, servant to the Musketeers).

And then there’s Christoph Waltz as Cardinal Richelieu... (You might have seen him as the hapless villain Chudnofsky in *The Green Hornet*.) Hmm... Well, his portrayal of *Monsieur le Cardinal* isn’t as bad as either Vincent Price’s (1948) or Tim Curry’s (1993); but it’s nowhere near as good as either George Arliss’s (1935) or Charlton Heston’s (1973). But I digress...

If you want a popcorn movie full of action and explosions and derring-do, then the current remake of *The Three Musketeers* is for you. I think the F&SF content is clever and fun. Just don’t expect close adherence to the Dumas story – or witty repartee, for that matter.

And, speaking Dumas, I noticed that the original novel has been recently re-issued as a trade paperback, with scenes from this film on the cover. Boy oh boy, are unsuspecting new readers going to be disappointed when they find out all that “James Bond-ish” stuff ain’t in there! Talk about false advertising! **ΛΨΦ**

2011 Gaylactic Spectrum Awards

The 2011 Gaylactic Spectrum Awards in the Best Novel category were officially announced by Rob and Carl at a special ceremony at Darkovercon on Saturday, November 26th. The Award honors novels published in 2010. Here are the Winner and the Short List:

Best Novel

Under the Poppy by Kathe Koja
(Small Beer Press)

Short List

Black Blade Blues by J.A. Pitts
(Tor Books)

Bob the Book by David Pratt
(Chelsea Station Editions)

A Book of Tongues by Gemma Files
(ChiZine Publications)

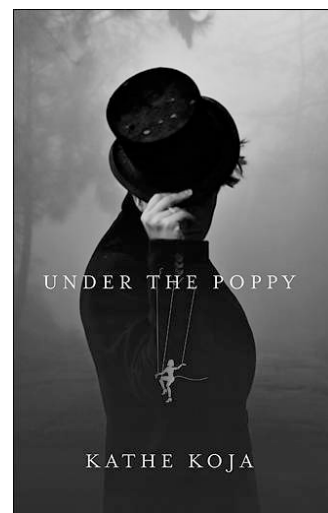
Red Hood’s Revenge by Jim C. Hines
(DAW Books)

Stealing Fire by Jo Graham
(Orbit Books)

The White Road by Lynn Flewelling
(Spectra)

The Wolf at the Door
by Jameson Currier
(Chelsea Station Editions)

The Short Fiction category will be announced in 2012 to honor short fiction published in the years 2010 and 2011.



For more information about the Gaylactic Spectrum Awards, go to:
<http://www.spectrumawards.org/>

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 transgendered (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 this monthly newsletter and a membership directory. (Hard copies of the newsletter cost an additional \$15 per year.) 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, **December 11th, at Peter and Rob's home, 1425 "S" Street NW, Washington, DC**. The business meeting will begin at 1:30 PM; and the social meeting will begin at 2:00 PM. Please bring some munchies or soft drinks, if you can. 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



Feb. 17-19, 2012 **FARPOINT 2012**. Crowne Plaza Baltimore North (Timonium, MD). Guests: Kristin Bauer (*True Blood*, *Once Upon a Time*), Michael Hogan (*Battlestar Galactica*), Kate Vernon (*Battlestar Galactica*), Peter David, Mark Okrand. Membership: \$80 pre-registration for the weekend (daily rates available). Make checks payable to "Farpoint Enterprises" and send to: Farpoint Enterprises, 11708 Troy Ct., Waldorf, MD 20601.

Register on-line at: www.farpointcon.com E-mail Group: Farpointcon@yahoo.com

April 13-15, 2012 **RAVENCON 2012**. Holiday Inn Select Koger Center (Chesterfield, VA). GoH: Glen Cook; Artist GoH: Matthew Steward. Membership: \$30 before 12/31/2011; \$35 to 3/30/2012; \$40 at the door. Make checks payable to "Ravencon" and send to: RavenCon, PO Box 36420, Richmond, VA 23235. More info online at: <http://www.ravencon.com>

Register on-line at: <http://ravencon.com/registrationPAYPAL.php>

May 25-28, 2012 **BALTICON 46**. Marriott Hunt Valley Inn (Hunt Valley, MD). GoH: Jody Lynn Nye, Artist GoH: Jim Odbert, Scientist GoH: William D. Phillips (Nobel Prize in Physics 1997). Membership: \$50 to 2/28/2012, \$55 to 4/30/2012, \$62 at the door. Make checks payable to "Balticon" and send to: Balticon 46 Registration, PO Box 686, Baltimore, MD 21203-0686.

Website: www.balticon.org Registration form at: www.balticon.org/bconreg.html

Aug. 3-5, 2012 **SHORE LEAVE 34**. Marriott's Hunt Valley Inn (Hunt Valley, MD). Guests: TBA. Membership: \$80 pre-registration for the weekend (daily rates available). Make checks payable to "Shore Leave" and send to: Shore Leave 34, PO Box 6809, Towson, MD 21285-6809. Website: <http://www.shore-leave.com> E-mail: information@shore-leave.com

Aug. 30 - Sept. 3, 2012 **CHICON 7** (70th World Science Fiction Convention). Hyatt Regency Chicago (Chicago, IL). Guests of Honor: Mike Resnick (author), Rowena Morrill (artist), John Scalzi (toastmaster), Story Musgrave (astronaut). Membership: \$195 until 03/31/2012. (Will go up after that!) Make checks payable to "Chicon 7" and send to: Chicon 7, PO Box 13, Skokie, IL 60076. (You can also register on-line.) Website: www.chicon7.org Info: info@chicon.org

Oct. 5-7, 2012 **GAYLAXICON 2012**. Doubletree Hotel Minneapolis-Park Place (Minneapolis, MN). Guests: Gary Russell (writer/producer), Wendy Pini (*Elfquest*), Lyda Morehouse (author), Kyell Gold (furry author). Membership: \$70 - 2011 registration. Register on-line (via Eventbrite). Website: www.gaylaxicon2012.org

