



# Lambda Sci-Fi

## DC Area Gaylaxians

(202) 232-3141 – Issue # 356 – November 2019

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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 – for directions or more details, call 202-483-6369. The next book discussion will be held on December 5th.

Here are the details for the next three discussions:

**Dec. 5** (combined Nov/Dec discussion) – *Meddling Kids* by Edgar Cantero (moderator: Teresa).

**Jan. 23, 2020** – *The Power* by Naomi Alderman (moderator: Teresa).

**Feb. 27, 2020** – *Wonder Woman: The Golden Age, Vol. 2* (moderator: Claire).

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### LSF New Year's Eve Gaming Party!



Come join Lambda Sci-Fi as we ring out the old year and ring in the new year with an afternoon and evening of gaming.

**Date:** Tuesday, December 31, 2019

**Time:** The doors will open at 3:00 PM. We'll all ring in and toast the New Year with champagne, sparkling wine, and/or sparkling cider at midnight.

**Where:** Rob & Peter's home: 1425 S St NW, Washington, DC 20009



**What to Bring:** Your favorite table game or two or three (cards, board, etc.). It's a potluck meal, so bring something to eat: appetizers (veggies, chips, etc.), main course item (enough to serve at least 4-5 people), dessert, and/or non-alcoholic drinks (both regular and diet). For the New Year's toast, it's OK to bring some sparkling wine or cider (champagne, if you're feeling generous).

*The hosts request that no one drink alcohol during the party other than at midnight.*

**For more information,** send email to:

[PeterPKnapp@gmail.com](mailto:PeterPKnapp@gmail.com)

OR

[RobGatesDC@gmail.com](mailto:RobGatesDC@gmail.com)

**Directions and Parking Suggestions:**

<http://lambdascifi.org/club/PeterRob.html>

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### <<<<< November 2019 LSF Meeting >>>>>

The next LSF meeting will be held on **Sunday, November 10th**, at Peter and Rob's home, **1425 "S" Street NW, Washington, DC**. The meeting will begin at 1:30 PM. The "group watch" will begin about 3:00 PM. Hope to see you there!



### What's Inside?

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## Minutes of the October LSF Meeting

taken by Scott

Rob announced the date of the upcoming annual LSF gaming party: New Year's Eve (Tuesday, Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>).

### TV News:

Five episodes of *Crisis on Infinite Earths* series includes Brandon Routh, Tom Welling, Erica Durance, Burt Ward and even the character Lucifer. Will we see Lynda Carter perhaps? The COIE episodes will be featured separately on *Supergirl*, *Arrow*, *Flash*, and *Legends of Tomorrow*. The SyFy Channel recently aired a horror-based *Banana Splits* made-for-TV movie – really. CBS All Access has begun showing the *Star Trek Discovery Short Treks* – one of them features Spock's first meeting with Number One when they get stuck in a turbolift and have a chat. Carl says he has enjoyed the very dark *Prodigal Son* series, starring Tom Payne.

### Movie News:

There was lots of discussion about *Ad Astra*, the new “thoughtful” sci-fi movie starring Brad Pitt. Carl wanted to know whether the Dad on Neptune had actually found extraterrestrial life. Final decision: worth watching once on the big screen. Teresa watched two crappy genre movies at the Sun Cinema located in Columbia Heights for only \$10. *The Joker* is an extremely dark film, with some cinemas hiring extra security due to

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various concerns. *Frozen II* is coming out soon.

### Other News:

The final and long-awaited “Elemental” novel by Laurie Marks, entitled *Air Logic*, has hit the bookstores. The first three novels in the series were: *Fire Logic*, *Earth Logic*, and *Water Logic*. Peter was clearing out some of his T-shirt collection and offered them to anyone interested in having them. Peter and Rob reported on their recent trip up to Manhattan to see both *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* plays (Parts 1 and 2). The two plays focused on the theme of “sins of the father”, while the sons forged their own paths; and they tied directly into the Harry Potter Canon. *PlayBill* conveniently provided a summary of the seven books.

Upcoming LSF Book discussions: *The Ballad of Black Tom* by Victor Lavalle and “The Horror at Red Hook” by H. P. Lovecraft (October); *Meddling Kids* by Edgar Cantero (November/December); *The Power* by Naomi Alderman (January 2020); and *Wonder Woman: The Golden Age, Vol. 2* (February 2020).

Then we watched a series of previews: BBC's *War of the Worlds* (set during the Edwardian Era); *His Dark Materials*; *Picard* (one of the new Star Trek-related series); and *Star Trek Discovery Short Treks*.

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## Spectrum “Best Novel” Awards for 2019 Announced

info passed along by Carl



The 2019 Gaylactic Spectrum Award for “Best Novel” (for works released in 2018) was announced on October 19th at the Saturday night banquet at this year's Gaylaxicon (Minneapolis).

This year's winner for “Best Novel” and the associated Short List of runners-up are as follows:

**Winner:** *Point of Sighs* by Melissa Scott (Lethe Press)

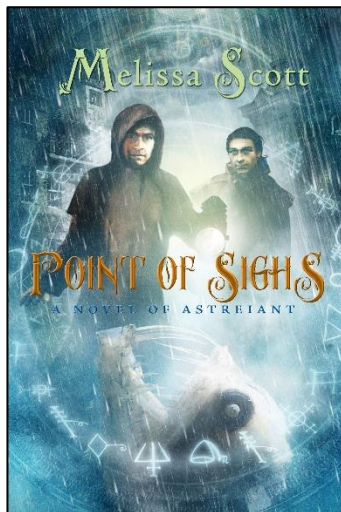
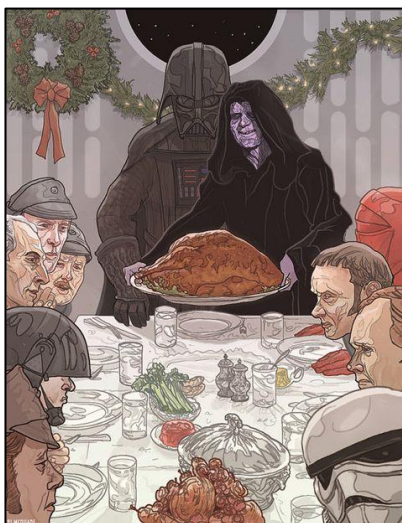
### Short list:

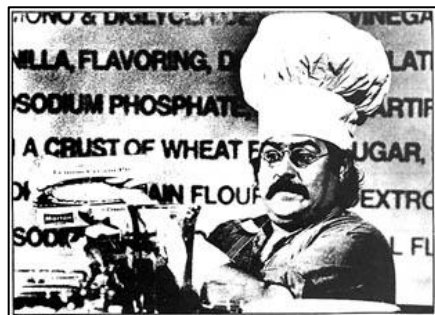
- *American Hippo* by Sarah Gailey (Tor)
- *Armistice* by Lara Elena Donnelly (Tor)
- *Balefire* by Jordan L. Hawk (CreateSpace)
- *Finders* by Melissa Scott (Candlemark & Gleam)
- *Five Planes: The Rule of Five, Season 1* by Melissa Scott & Don Sakers (Speed-of-C Productions)
- *Harkworth Hall / Leviathan* by L.S. Johnson (TraversingZ)
- *Stone Mad* by Elizabeth Bear (Tor)
- *A Study in Honor* by Claire O'Dell (Harper Voyager)

The Gaylactic Spectrum Awards are given by the Gaylactic Spectrum Awards Foundation to honor works in science fiction, fantasy, and horror which include significant positive explorations of gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgendered characters themes, or issues. For more information on the Foundation, as well as complete lists of all nominees, short lists, and winners (1998 – present), go to the following website:

[www.spectrumawards.org](http://www.spectrumawards.org)

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## Marshall Efron 1938 – 2019

In a recent issue of *The Washington Post*, I was saddened to learn of the passing of Marshall Efron. His irreverent wit and quirky sense of humor never ceased to crack me up. He was an actor, a humorist, and a radio broadcaster; he was a roly-poly guy with a walrus-like mustache. And, as I said, he never ceased to crack me up.

Efron graduated from UCLA and then got a master's degree in English from UC Berkeley in 1964. He spent one year in law school before turning to acting.

I wasn't familiar with his TV career from the early 1970s, when he lampooned American consumerism on "The Great American Dream Machine", a series featured on the newly-formed PBS network. (The series was noteworthy for featuring such other luminaries as Studs Terkel, Kurt Vonnegut, and the first ap-

pearance of Chevy Chase.) Efron performed short skits that taught, among other things: how to create your own famous last words; how to determine the appropriate category for different-sized olives; and how to create a lemon pie by only relying on the ingredients listed on the box. ("Factory fresh, factory approved. No lemons. No eggs. No cream. Just pie.") I've watched them recently and really got a kick out of 'em.

I first caught Efron in action in his quirky and oh-so-funny skits in "Marshall Efron's Illustrated, Simplified, and Painless Sunday School", which ran as part of the CBS *Lamp Unto My Feet* TV series on Sunday afternoons (1973-1977). The skits were low-budget, with Efron playing all the roles (including both David and Goliath in one episode); and (as I said) these skits were funny. ("We've got trouble, right here in Nineveh City.") The series received an award from a Protestant church council and resulted in a book entitled *Bible Stories You Can't Forget: Even If You Try* (1979), co-written by Efron and his long-time collaborator Alfa-Betty Olsen. (The book is a delight, too.)

But I can hear you asking: "What's his connection to F&SF?" If so, I guess you don't consider his science-based "Great American Dream Machine" skits or his retelling of Biblical myths and legends as qualifying in this regard. OK, then let's look at a couple of other parts of

Efron's multi-faceted career. He appeared as "fellow prisoner TWA" in George Lucas's *THX 1138* (1971). And then there's all his voice work. He provided voices for various animated films, including: *Synonamess Botch* (*Twice Upon a Time*, 1983); *Lamp Post*, *Toilet Bot*, *Bass Drum*, and *Microphone* (*Robots*, 2005); *Wickersham Guard #1* and *The Wickersham Brothers* (*Horton Hears a Who!*, 2008); and *Larry the Duck* (*Home on the Range*, 2004). He also provided various voices for the 1997 video game *The Space Bar*. And he did voice work for a number of animated TV series: *The Smurfs* (Sloppy Smurf); *The Transformers* (Hun-Gurr's 2nd head); *Time Squad* (The Earl of Sandwich); and various voices in *Snorks* and *The 13 Ghosts of Scooby-Doo*.

Here are YouTube links to some of my favorite Marshall Efron short videos:

"Better Living Through Chemistry" (lemon pie):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cHL Pm5XHDPw&t=9s>

"Sizing Olives":

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=up-RvuljLmE>

"Creative Playfoods Challenge":

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WZbn4nPPMk>

You'll easily be able to locate many of his other videos while you're there.



Ye Olde Editor  
sayeth: Heartfelt  
editorial apologies  
for not crediting  
our own Peter for  
writing the two  
obituaries for the  
October LSF  
newsletter.





**\* \* 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.

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. The next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held on Sunday, **November 10th, at Peter and Rob's home, 1425 "S" Street NW, Washington, DC.** 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

Nov. 1-3, 2019 **ANIME USA 2019** ("Of Otaku, By Otaku, For Otaku"). Washington Marriott Wardman Park (Washington DC). Guests: various voice actors and others. Pre-registration: \$70 for the weekend (daily rates available).

Website: [www.animeusa.org](http://www.animeusa.org) Registration site: [animeusa.com/registration](http://animeusa.com/registration)

Nov. 8-10, 2019 **PHILCON 2019**. Crown Plaza Hotel (Cherry Hill NJ). Guests: Tim Pratt (Principal Speaker), Stephanie Pui-Mun Law (Artist GoH). Membership: \$55 thru Nov. 1; \$65 at the door. On-line registration.

Website: [www.philcon.org](http://www.philcon.org) Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Philcon.PSFS](https://www.facebook.com/Philcon.PSFS)

April 24-26, 2020 **RAVENCON 15**. DoubleTree by Hilton Williamsburg (Williamsburg VA). GoH: Terry Brooks. Membership: \$35 before 12/31/2019; \$40 until 4/3/2020; \$50 at the door. (Daily rates also available.) On-line registration.

Website: [www.ravencon.com](http://www.ravencon.com)

May 22-25, 2020 **BALTICON 54**. Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel (Baltimore MD). GoH: Wen Spencer; Artist GoH: Lee Moyer; Musical GoH: Cheshire Moon; 2019 Compton Crook Award winner: R.F. Kuang. Membership: \$66 until Feb. 29, 2020. On-line registration.

Website: <https://www.balticon.org/wp54> Info at: [balticoninfo@balticon.org](mailto:balticoninfo@balticon.org)

