



# Lambda Sci-Fi

## DC Area Gaylaxians

(202) 232-3141 – Issue # 385 – April 2022

E-MAIL: [info@lambdascifi.org](mailto:info@lambdascifi.org)

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.

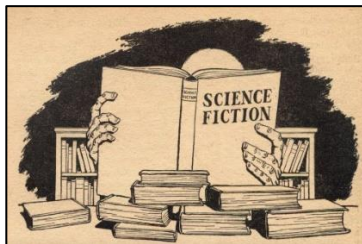
Before the COVID-19 shut-down orders, the LSF Book Discussion Group met on the 4th Thursday of every month, doors opening at 7:00 PM, at Peter & Rob's home. The next book discussion will be held **in person on April 28<sup>th</sup>**. **All attendees MUST be fully vaccinated.**

Here are the details for the next several discussions:

**April 28, 2022** – *White Trash Warlock*, by David Slayton (moderator: Rob G.)

**May 26, 2022** – *Iron Widow*, by Xiran Jay Zhao (moderator: Ben)

**June 23, 2022** – *The City Beautiful*, by Aden Polydoros (moderator: Carl) ΛΨΦ



### GAMING PARTY!! April 30th announced by Peter

Unless cases of COVID-19 spike before the end of April, LSF is going to have its first gaming party in over two years!

**All attendees MUST be fully vaccinated.**

It's a gaming party. There's plenty of room for gaming, so please bring your favorite games (cards, board, etc.).

**When:** Saturday, April 30; from 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 Mid-city (14th and U) Corridor. Also, delivery menus will be available, if needed.

(continued on page 2)



### Annual LSF Gift Exchange at May 8th LSF Meeting



**Hooray! We'll resume a long-delayed tradition and host LSF's *thirty-first* annual book (*et al*) exchange at the in-person monthly LSF meeting to be held on May 8, 2022!**

All LSF members – and visitors, guests, attendees, etc. – are invited to participate in this “blind exchange.” (*Remember: You MUST be fully vaccinated to attend this meeting.*)

In case you've never participated in one of these before (or in case you've forgotten), here's how it works:

(1) Go out and purchase a copy of your “favorite” science-fiction, fantasy, or horror book. (*NOTE: Over the years, LSF has expanded the concept of “book” to include comics, graphic novels, videotapes, “books on tape,” etc. If you want – or if you're feeling particularly*

(continued on page 2)

### \*\*\*\* April 10, 2022 Meeting = IN PERSON!!! \*\*\*\*

The next LSF meeting will be held on **Sunday, April 10th**. The meeting will return to in-person format and 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!

### What's Inside?

Page 2: Minutes of the March LSF Meeting; Virtual Book Club First Meeting on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Page 3: Joseph Parra (obituary).

Page 4: Information About Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians & Con Calendar.

## Minutes of the March LSF Meeting

taken by Scott

### Movie News:

Dan said that a new *Alien* movie is being planned, to be directed by horror director Fede Alvarez. Carl learned that the January 2022 film *The King's Daughter* bombed at the box office. It is based upon Vonda McIntyre's 1997 novel *The Moon and the Sun*, which won a Nebula Award. Rob thought there were too many characters in the *Eternals* movie; Peter and Carl thought that the bad guys – the Deviants – were not the same Deviants as originally portrayed in the Jack Kirby comics.

Peter and Wess enjoyed the experience at the new DC Bryant Street/Alamo Drafthouse Cinema on Rhode Island Avenue NE. They went to see the new *Batman* movie, with Robert Pattison portraying an “emo-version” of Batman. “Very moody.” It was a serial killer movie, but Batman does not kill anyone.

Premieres coming the next few weeks: *Moon Knight*; *Morbis*.

### TV News:

The *Star Trek: Discovery* finale is this week. Rob likes the fact that there are no straight white males on the bridge of the *Discovery*. *Star Trek: Picard* has shown its first few episodes; Peter liked the first contact theme of the most recent episode – where the new alien race is not simply “humanoid with funny ears.”

Peter said that the penultimate *Doctor Who* episode featuring Jodie Whittaker as the Doctor will premiere over Easter weekend. Rob and Teresa both like the animated *Legends of Vox Machina*.

### Other News:

Dan recommended the following service to learn where movies are showing or streaming:

<https://leterboxd.com>

Rob advised that NetFlix is still doing DVD and BluRay delivery service. Peter noted that the “Futures” exhibit at Smithsonian's Arts and Industries Building runs through July 6, 2022.

Peter recently attended the Gallifrey convention and reported that it attracted a larger crowd than he expected. There was a strong gay presence. He also

(continued on page 4)



## GAMING PARTY!!

continued  
from page 1

**Where:** Home of Peter and Rob, 1425 “S” Street NW, Washington, DC. Their home is in the Mid-city (14th and U) neighborhood, between Dupont Circle and Logan Circle. Directions (with Metro and parking advice) at:

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

**Questions:** Contact Rob at:

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

**Remember: All attendees must be fully vaccinated.**

ΛΨΦ

## Virtual Book Club First Meeting on May 3rd announced by Bob Angell



First of all, a huge thank-you to Rob Gates for virtually hosting LSF activities these past two years of the pandemic! Thank you, Rob, for keeping our community going during these difficult times!

As we return to our workplaces and to in-person events, some of us recognize the convenience of participating virtually and would like that opportunity to continue, even if only infrequently. Since a hybrid book club format isn't possible, Bob Angell will host a separate Zoom book club the first Tuesday of the month following the physical meeting. For example, the book discussed in-person on April 28th will be discussed virtually on May 3rd.

The NEW Virtual Book Club (VBC) is for folks who would like to discuss the LSF book of the month by Zoom for whatever reason. Come join us on the first Tuesday of each month follow-

## LSF Gift Exchange

continued from page 1



wealthy – you can even make it *several* favorite books or whatever.) New or used, it makes no difference, as long as it's one of your favorites!

(2) Insert a piece of paper (or bookmark) with your name on it. That's so whoever eventually ends up with the item will know who it's from and will get to know a little about you – at least to know what one of your “favorites” is.

(3) Wrap up the exchange item, but don't put any identifying marks or anything on the wrapped package to say who it's from. That's to make sure it's a “blind” exchange – *i.e.* no one is supposed to know who it's from at first. (All of that leftover Holiday wrapping paper should come in handy here!)

(4) At the meeting, add your wrapped exchange item to the pile with all the others; and you'll be assigned a number. (Only one exchange item – *i.e.* one package – per person, please!)

(5) When your number is called, you pick one of the packages from the pile. And when you open it up, you'll find out who it's from. See how easy?

I can hardly wait to see what shows up *this* year!

ΛΨΦ

ing the in-person discussion. We will follow the same questions and format as the in-person meetings. You can log in at 7:00 PM, and the book discussion will begin at 7:30 PM.

A Zoom link will be sent out with the normal book club reminder.

The first VBC will be on May 3rd to discuss *White Trash Warlock* by David Slayton. On June 7th, the VBC will discuss *Iron Widow* by Xiran Jay Zhao.

ΛΨΦ





**JOSEPH PARRA**  
1953 - 2022

From Facebook post by Rob Gates

It's with great sadness that I report the passing of long-time LSFer and movie aficionado "Uncle" Joe Parra. Joe was a professional stage actor and knew virtually everything about films – good and bad and very bad... new and old and very old. Once upon a time, we would take group LSF road trips out to Winchester VA to see him perform at the Theater there. He moved to Florida some time back to care for his ailing parents and so has not been around LSF for years, but he was a big part of our history.

Above and beyond all else, Uncle Joe was a wonderful person, full of joy, and fiercely protective of his friends. I'll never forget him pulling me aside when I first met him and after I'd been dating Peter long distance for a couple months. He grilled and intimidated/threatened me to make sure my intentions were good and that I'd never hurt Peter. Once he was sure of me though, he pulled me into his circle of protection and caring.

We'll miss you, Uncle Joe. May your resting place be filled with nightly shows on stage, old 50s schlock films, and endless opportunities for you to tell stories over a meal. Or I hope you rise from the grave as a hungry zombie or vampire and terrorize a small town; I think you'd enjoy that.

From *Broadway World* (Tampa FL)  
by Peter Nason

Joseph made you feel special. He made you feel good about life. He made you smile.

I first saw Joseph Parra onstage over a decade ago. The show: *August: Osage County*, easily one of the finest local productions of the past ten or so years. It was a show peppered with the best of the best of Florida actors, and Joseph could stand out even amid that talented assemblage.

Truth be told, as great and memorable as he was onstage—a truly remarkable actor who performed brilliantly in countless plays and musicals—his legacy is actually the joy he spread offstage. He would greet you with a big smile and a hug. He became a fixture in the audience of various venues, and you could always hear that laugh, that hearty Joseph Parra laugh.

As chair of Junior Thespian District 11 (Pinellas-Pasco-Hernando-Citrus Counties), I would ask him to adjudicate middle school students ages 11-14 at our festival. He loved doing it because he could spread that joy—the joy of being in the arts, the joy that galvanized his life, the joy that absolutely beamed from him—to a new generation. His critiques of young performers were so positive, heartfelt, lively. He loved giving back... And his reviews didn't just focus on the main actors or plotlines; he would shout out stage managers and the behind-the-scenes folk who made the magic happen.

His knowledge of cinema was second to none, encyclopedic, and he celebrated horror movies and little-known films so far out in the cult atmosphere that probably not even Martin Scorsese or Quentin Tarantino knew of some of them.

Whenever I saw Joseph in person, he would always ask in a sort of purr, "How's my baby?" He was referring to my Boston Terrier, Ike. An animal lover, he loved hearing updates about the antics of my fur baby. And he told so many terrific tales. Whenever he would sign off on a Facebook post, he would do it with those two words that I will always associate with him: "BIG KISS!"

Joseph passed away from lung and kidney cancer last Friday morning, March 4th, at the age of 68. For the past few months, he chronicled his struggles on Facebook; he was starkly honest but he never lost that signature affirmative spark. Our Tampa Bay theatre community, which is a pretty tight group, is a much sadder place without his *joie de vivre*. The outpouring of so many people on social media about Joseph's death is staggering; he touched so many lives, all of them talking about his joy, his encouraging nature, his lovely spirit. And how special he made us all feel.

I wish the world could emulate his kindness.

So here's to you, Uncle Joe; BIG KISS, dear soul!

From an interview with Joe in 2016,  
by Lynne Bernfield

Actor Joseph Parra discovered his destiny when he was just four years old. Having watched *Shock Theater* on television, he was captivated by Bela Lugosi and Boris Karloff. He thought that what they were doing "looked like fun." When he asked what they were doing—many people responded that they were playing, but that made no sense to little Joseph, to whom "playing" was something you did with trucks and toy soldiers. Finally his second grade teacher came through—she told him that they were "acting." When Joseph asked why they did it, she replied that "it was how they made their living." This was something Joseph understood. And right then and there he knew what he was going to do with his life.

Ye Olde Editor Sayeth:

Oh, Joe, how I'll miss you! So many memories... The trip across that famous bridge to a funhouse on the Canadian side of Niagara Falls! The "Mexican Wrestling" category in Gaylactic Jeopardy! *Thank you!*

**\*\* 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-generated (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 return to face-to-face format on Sunday, **April 10th, at Peter and Rob's home, 1425 "S" Street NW, Washington, DC. All attendees MUST be fully vaccinated.** We hope to see you there and will keep you informed of the status of future meetings.

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

April 1-4, 2022 **COSTUME CON 40 ("Rogues, Royals, and Renegades")**. North Bethesda Marriott Hotel and Convention Center (Rockville MD). Membership: \$95 for full attending membership. On-line registration: <http://costume-con40.org/shop/>  
Webpage: <https://costume-con40.org/>

April 29 – May 1, 2022 **RAVENCON 15**. Virginia Crossings Hotel by Hilton (Richmond VA). GoH: Terry Brooks; Music GoH: Rhiannon's Lark. Membership: \$40 before 4/5/2022; \$50 at the door; day badges available.  
Webpage: <https://ravencon.com> On-line registration at: <https://ravencon.com/store/Registration-c23522469>

May 27-30, 2022 **BALTICON 56**. Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel (Baltimore MD). GoH: Nancy Springer; Artist GoH: Odera Igbokwe; Special Guests: Seanan McGuire, Wen Spencer, CJ Cherryh.  
Membership: \$75 before 5/22; \$85 at the door; daily rates available.  
On-line registration at: <https://www.balticon.org/wp56/registration/>  
Webpage: <https://www.balticon.org/wp56/> E-mail at: [balticoninfo@balticon.org](mailto:balticoninfo@balticon.org)

July 15-17, 2022 **SHORE LEAVE 42**. Delta Hotels Baltimore Hunt Valley (Hunt Valley MD). Guests: Brandon Routh (Superman/Clark Kent, Ray Palmer/Atom); Adam Baldwin (Jayne, *Firefly*), Jewel Staite (Kaylee, *Firefly*), and others. Weekend membership: \$105; daily rates available. Web page: [www.shore-leave.com](http://www.shore-leave.com)

July 29-31, 2022 **CONFLUENCE 2022**. Sheraton Pittsburgh Airport Hotel (Coraopolis, PA). Guests: Neil Clarke (editor of the Hugo and World Fantasy award-winning *Clarkesworld Magazine*), Tim Griffin (award-winning teacher, musician, and storyteller), and others. Weekend membership: \$45 through 4/15/2022, \$50 from 4/16/2022 - 6/30/2022, \$55 from 7/1/22 - 7/25/2022, \$60 at door.  
Web page: <http://confluence-sff.org/>

Sept. 30 – Oct. 2, 2022 **CAPCLAVE 2022**. Hilton Washington DC/Rockville Hotel & Executive Meeting Center (Rockville MD). GoHs: Ursula Vernon, Irene Gallo. Membership: \$55 thru May 31<sup>st</sup>; \$60 from June 1<sup>st</sup> to Aug. 31<sup>st</sup>; \$65 from Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> to Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>. On-line registration at: <https://www.capclave.org/capclave/capclave22/registration.php>  
Webpage: <https://www.capclave.org> Info at: [info@capclave.org](mailto:info@capclave.org)

**March LSF Minutes**  
continued from page 2

discussed the production of the animated *Doctor Who* episodes.

Rob shared the sad news of the passing of long-time LSF member Joe Parra.



**Upcoming LSF Events:**

Rob announced that the monthly 2nd-Sunday LSF Meetings will return to in-person format starting with the April meeting. And LSF Book Discussions meetings will also return to in-person format starting in April 2022. *Attendees are requested to be fully vaccinated before attending any of these events.* The annual LSF Gift Exchange will occur at the May

8th LSF Meeting. Peter and Rob will host an LSF Gaming Party on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> (2 PM start time).

**Upcoming LSF Book Discussions:** *Architects of Memory* by Karen Os-borne (March 24, via Zoom); *White Trash Warlock* by David R. Slayton (April 28, face-to-face); *Iron Widow* by Xiran Jay Zhao (May 26, face-to-face).

ΛΨΦ