



# lambda Sci-fi DC Area Gaylaxians



PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044

(202) 232-3141 - Issue #266 - May 2012

E-MAIL: [info@lambdascifi.org](mailto:info@lambdascifi.org) WEBSITE: [www.lambdascifi.org](http://www.lambdascifi.org)

## 2012 Hugo Award Nominations

info passed along by Rob & Carl

The 2012 Hugo Award nominees have been announced. Here are the nominees in just a few of the categories:

### Best Novel

- *Among Others*, by Jo Walton (Tor)
- *A Dance with Dragons*, by George R.R. Martin (Bantam Spectra)
- *Deadline*, by Mira Grant (Orbit)
- *Embassytown*, by China Mieville (Macmillan/Del Rey)
- *Leviathan Wakes*, by James S.A. Corey (Orbit)

### Best Related Work

- *The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction, Third Edition*, edited by John Clute, David Langford, Peter Nicholls, and Graham Sleight (Gollancz)
- *Jar Jar Binks Must Die...and Other Observations about Science Fiction Movies*, by Daniel M. Kimmel (Fantastic Books)
- *The Steampunk Bible: An Illustrated Guide to the World of Imaginary Airships, Corsets and Goggles, Mad Scientists, and Strange Literature*, by Jeff VanderMeer and S.J. Chambers (Abrams Image)
- *Wicked Girls* (CD), by Seanan McGuire
- *Writing Excuses, Season 6* (podcast series), by Brandon Sanderson, Dan Wells, Howard Tayler, Mary Robinette Kowal, and Jordan Sanderson



### Best Graphic Story

- *Digger*, by Ursula Vernon (Sofawolf Press)
- *Fables Vol. 15: Rose Red*, by Bill Willingham and Mark Buckingham (Vertigo)
- *Locke & Key Volume 4: Keys to the Kingdom*, written by Joe Hill, illustrated by Gabriel Rodriguez (IDW)
- *Schlock Mercenary: Force Multiplication*, written and illustrated by Howard Tayler, colors by Travis Walton (The Tayler Corporation)
- *The Unwritten (Volume 4): Leviathan*, created by Mike Carey and Peter Gross, written by Mike Carey, illustrated by Peter Gross (Vertigo)

### Best Dramatic Presentation, Long Form

- *Captain America: The First Avenger*, screenplay by Christopher Markus and Stephan McFeely; directed by Joe Johnston (Marvel)
- *Game of Thrones (Season 1)*, created by David Benioff and D.B. Weiss; written by David Benioff, D.B. Weiss, Bryan Cogman, Jane Espenson, and George R.R. Martin; directed by Brian Kirk, Daniel Minahan, Tim van Patten, and Alan Taylor (HBO)
- *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, Part 2*, screenplay by Steve Kloves; directed by David Yates (Warner Bros.)

(continued on page 2)



## 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 **May 24th**.

Here are the details for the book discussions for the next six months:

**May 24** - *Batwoman: Elegy*, by Greg Rucka; moderator: Teresa.

**June 28** - *God's War*, by Kamerron Hurley; moderator: Claire

(continued on page 3)

## May LSF Meeting

The next LSF meeting will be held on Sunday, **May 13th**. The meeting will once again 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!

Λ Ψ Φ

## WHAT'S INSIDE?

Minutes of the April LSF Meeting (pg.2); *Discovery Over the Mall* (pg. 2); *Down These Strange Streets* (book review - pg. 3); *About Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians* (pg. 4); *Con Calendar* (pg. 4)

## Hugo Nominations

continued from page 1



### Best Dramatic, Long Form (cont'd)

- *Hugo*, screenplay by John Logan; directed by Martin Scorsese (Paramount)  
- *Source Code*, screenplay by Ben Ripley; directed by Duncan Jones (Vendome Pictures)

### Best Dramatic Presentation, Short Form

- *Doctor Who*, "The Doctor's Wife", written by Neil Gaiman; directed by Richard Clark (BBC Wales)  
- "The Drink Tank's Hugo Acceptance Speech", Christopher J. Garcia and James Bacon (Renovation)  
- *Doctor Who*, "The Girl Who Waited", written by Tom MacRae; directed by Nick Hurran (BBC Wales)  
- *Doctor Who*, "A Good Man Goes to War", written by Steven Moffat; directed by Peter Hoar (BBC Wales)  
- *Community*, "Remedial Chaos Theory", written by Dan Harmon and Chris McKenna; directed by Jeff Melman (NBC)

### Campbell Award for Best New Writer

- Mur Lafferty  
- Stina Leicht  
- Karen Lord  
- Brad R. Torgersen  
- E. Lily Yu

As a reminder, the Hugo Awards are nominated and voted by members of the World Science Fiction Society (*i.e.* paid members of the current World Science Fiction Convention). The 2012 winners will be announced at Chicon 7 (the World Science Fiction Convention, Chicago, August 30 – September 3).

The Hugos are named in honor of Hugo Gernsback, the famous pulp magazine editor (founder of *Amazing Stories* in 1926) and recognized as "The Father of Magazine SF."

For more information about the Hugo Awards – and a complete listing of all 2012 nominees for all categories – visit their website:

<http://www.thehugoawards.org>

Λ Ψ Φ

## Minutes of the April LSF Meeting

taken by Scott

Various movies were talked about. Teresa talked about the Finnish movie *Iron Sky* – about Nazis who went off to the moon and are now returning – it's also a Palin-spoof. From the makers of *Wallace and Gromit* (Aardman Studios) comes *The Pirates!* – *Band of Misfits*. Somebody mentioned the 2010 British film *Jackboots on Whitehall*, an animatronic puppets movie about Nazi Germany invading the UK; it features lots of well-known actors' voices (including Ewan McGregor, Richard Grant, Richard Griffiths, Dominic West, and Alan Cumming). *Mirror Mirror* plays fast and loose with the Cinderella mythology: lavish costumes, Nathan Lane turns into a cockroach, and the cast breaks into a song-and-dance number during the credits. But will *Mirror Mirror* be better than the upcoming *Snow White and the Huntsman* (featuring Chris Hemsworth as the Huntsman)? Will *The Hobbit* movie end With the introduction of Smaug? It was noted that *Hunger Games* had the highest opening box office for a non-sequel movie – and that the next *Hunger Games* movie is scheduled for release in 2013.

Did you see the photo of President Obama and Nichelle Nichols – with both of them doing the Vulcan salute? The President seems to be able to do it much better than Ms. Nichols. And, speak-

## Discovery Over the Mall

info passed along by Carl

It was quite a show on Tuesday, April 17th, when the space shuttle Discovery was flown – mounted on the back of a modified NASA Boeing 747 – in 4 low passes over the National Mall in Washington DC. Two of the fly-overs provided spectacular views for the waiting crowds as Discovery was flown directly up the Mall from West to East, from the Lincoln Memorial to the Capitol.

This was Discovery's final flight, as it was moved from Florida's Kennedy Space Center to Dulles International Airport, on its way to its new home at the nearby Smithsonian National Air & Space Museum in Chantilly VA.

Λ Ψ Φ

ing of *Star Trek*, the next movie is scheduled for release in 2013.

Rob reported on a new exhibit at the American Art Museum: "The Art of Video Games".

The official TV trailer for the movie of Stephanie Meyer's *The Host* is now out. Stephen Spielberg is producing Stephen King's *Under the Dome* book – and, yes, there is a video trailer!

The last season of the SyFy series *Eureka* is about to kick off. Rob is eager to see how the second season of the HBO series *Game of Thrones* book will be filmed. Season 2 of *Fallen Skies* – "The Resistance Continues" – will premiere in June.

Some TinTin fans thought that the *TinTin* movie was too Indiana Jones-ish but enjoyed how the plotlines of three TinTin books were incorporated. Sigourney Weaver plays a minor role in Joss Whedon's upcoming *Cabin in the Woods* movie.

DC is reintroducing Power Girl, the Justice Society, and Earth 2.

Rob rattled off the 2012 Hugo Award nominees. [Ed. Note: For more details, see the article starting on page 1 of this newsletter.]

The upcoming LSF book club books were noted: *Order 66* in April and *Batwoman: Elegy* (graphic novel) in May.

Λ Ψ Φ



Discovery is the oldest of the three remaining shuttles. During its career, Discovery carried 252 people and the Hubble Space Telescope into orbit. It was also the first shuttle to return to space flight after the loss of the shuttles Challenger and Columbia. NASA retired Discovery after a career that covered 148 million miles.

Λ Ψ Φ

## Down These Strange Streets

edited by George R.R. Martin  
and Gardner Dozois  
(ACE Books, 2011)  
a short review by Carl

Lately, I've been doing a lot of reading in the "urban fantasy" sub-genre – particularly in the form of short stories. I even moderated the discussion of *Naked City: Tales of Urban Fantasy* (edited by Ellen Datlow) for the December 2011 LSF Book Discussion Group. And, all of a sudden, I ran across another recent anthology of all-new "urban fantasy" short fiction: *Down These Strange Streets*.

It has an interesting introduction ("The Bastard Stepchild") by George R.R. Martin, which includes a short description of the "newest" version of urban fantasy. I think it's worthwhile to quote some of what he says here:

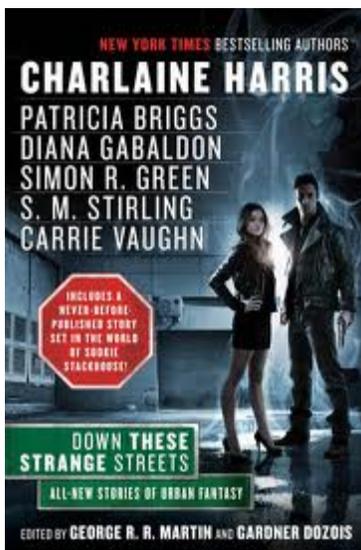
*The bastard subgenre that is today's urban fantasy is the offspring of two older genres.*

*Horror is the mother that gave it birth. (And that's horror, if you please, don't give me any of this "dark fantasy" claptrap, that's just a feeble attempt to pull a cloak of respectability down over the grinning skull of a genre that traces its own roots back to penny dreadfuls and Grand Guignol.)...*

*The father of today's urban fantasy, however, is the mystery story. And not just any old kind of mystery story... No, we're talking noir here, we're talking the strong stuff, raw and dirty.*

Got that, pilgrim? I wouldn't want there to be any misunderstandings.

As with any anthology, I guess you'll find some of the stories in *Down These Strange Streets* to your liking – and some of 'em you might not like as much. The second story in the batch – "The Bleeding Shadow" by Joe R. Lansdale – is really creepy (or, as George R.R. Martin says: "strong stuff, raw and dirty"). But what else would you expect from Joe Lansdale? On the other hand, I didn't especially like Glen Cook's "Shadow Thieves" (one of his "Garrett, P.I." stories). There must be at least a dozen



"Garrett, P.I." books on the shelves of my nearby Barnes & Noble, so somebody's reading and enjoying them – but on the basis of this story, I won't be buying any of 'em.

But on the "other" other hand – it's urban fantasy, so I suppose three hands isn't completely outside the realm of possibility – I really liked Simon Green's story "Hungry Heart". It's part of his "John Taylor/Nightside" paranormal detective series: sort 'a like a paranormal Sam Spade-analog in "the dark heart of London, where it's always three A.M." Good stuff! I've already purchased the first two "Nightside" novels (*Something from the Nightside* and *Angels of Light and Darkness*), and I'm really looking forward to reading 'em. I'll keep you posted.

I was rather surprised at three of the stories included in this anthology: Steven Saylor's "Styx and Stones", Diana Gabaldon's "Lord John and the Plague of Zombies", and John Maddox Roberts's "Beware the Snake". I don't know that I'd consider them to be "new urban fantasy" stories. They all have historical settings – (respectively) Roman Babylon, 18th Century Jamaica, and the Rome of Julius Caesar – and the "fantasy" connection is kind 'a thin. (They are, however, good stories, so I don't want to put any spoilers in here to explain why I say that.)

I was also delighted to find that two of the stories have strong GLBT-positive content. In fact, one of the reasons I picked up the anthology in the first place was because I saw it includes a new

"Lord John" story by Diana Gabaldon.

Gabaldon has written (I believe) a half-dozen novels and several short stories featuring Lord John Grey, a handsome, brave, fashionable, and urbane-witty young nobleman in 18th Century Britain – and he has a decided preference for male "companionship." All of the "Lord John" stories are well-written historicals. In this story, Captain Grey leads a troop of soldiers off to Jamaica to face a potential rebellion and (of course) outbreak of zombies.

The other GLBT-positive story is "In Red, with Pearls" by Patricia Briggs. It stars a couple of minor characters from her "Mercy Thompson" series: Warren Smith (a gay werewolf) and his human lover Kyle Brooks (a divorce attorney). Together they try to find out who sent a zombie to kill Kyle. And this particular zombie brings a whole new (and rather different) meaning to the term *femme fatale*.

*Down These Strange Streets* also contains some cool stories by other well-known F&SF authors: Charlaine Harris, S.M. Stirling, Carrie Vaughn, Conn Iggulden, Laurie King, Melinda Snodgrass, and Lisa Tuttle. It's quite a good collection of all-new "new urban fantasy" stories; and, on the whole, I enjoyed it.

Λ Ψ Φ



## The LSF Book Discussion Group

continued from page 1

**July 26** - *Welcome to Bordertown*, edited by Holly Black & Ellen Kushner; moderator: Greg.

**August 23** - *Hav*, by Jan Morris; moderator: Carl

**September 27** - *Beyond Binary*, edited by Brit Mandelo; moderator: Jack.

**October 25** - *Rule 34*, by Charles Stross; moderator: Dan

Λ Ψ Φ

**\*\*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, **May 13th, 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



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: \$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](http://www.balticon.org)

Registration form at: [www.balticon.org/bconreg.html](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.chicon7.org) Info: [info@chicon.org](mailto: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. Register on-line (via Eventbrite). Website: [www.gaylaxicon2012.org](http://www.gaylaxicon2012.org)

Oct. 12-14, 2012 **CAPCLAVE 2012**. ("A small relaxed literary convention with a program that usually focuses on the short fiction form.") Hilton Washington DC North/Gaithersburg (Gaithersburg, MD). Author GoH: John Scalzi; Author/Editor GoH: Nick Mamatas. Membership: \$45 until 5/30; \$50 from 5/31 to 7/30; \$55 from 7/31 to 9/29; \$60 from 9/30 to 10/7. Register on-line (with Paypal) or print PDF of membership form, make check payable to "Capclave", and send to: Capclave 2012 Registration, c/o Barry Newton, PO Box 53, Ashton, MD 20861. Website: [www.capclave.org](http://www.capclave.org)

Nov. 23-25, 2012 **DARKOVERCON GRAND COUNCIL 35**. (A very LGBT-friendly convention.) Crowne Plaza Baltimore (Timonium, MD). Guest of Honor: Nalo Hopkinson; Artist GoH: Samantha Press; Special Guest: Katherine Kurtz. Membership: \$50 until 11/1/2012; \$55 after 11/1 & at the door. Make checks payable to "Armida Council" and send to: Armida Council, PO Box 7203, Silver Spring, MD 20907. Website: [www.darkovercon.org](http://www.darkovercon.org) Info at: [jaelle@darkovercon.org](mailto:jaelle@darkovercon.org)

