



Lambda Sci-Fi

DC Area Gaylaxians

(202) 232-3141 - Issue # 327 – June 2017

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LSF Capital Pride Events

info provided by Peter Knapp



LSF Pre-Pride Gaming Party and Capital Pride Parade-Viewing - Saturday, June 10th -

Come celebrate DC Pride at a Pre-Pride Gaming and Parade-Viewing Party with the folks at LSF!

What: A gaming party!

When: Saturday, June 10th; 2:00 PM to ?? We'll start the party with a brief LSF meeting at 2:00 PM; and then let the games begin!!! We'll take a break to walk down the street and watch the Pride Parade as a group.

What to Bring: Please bring your favorite table game (or two). Also, please bring munchies and/or soft drinks.

Dinner: You're on your own for dinner after the parade and before gaming resumes. There are a lot of food choices in the area. Delivery menus also available at the party.

Where: Home of Peter and Rob, 1425 "S" Street NW, Washington, DC between Dupont Circle and Logan Circle.

Directions (with Metro and parking advice):

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

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Questions: E-mail Peter at: PeterPKnapp@gmail.com

or Rob at RobGatesDC@gmail.com

Capital Pride Parade Info at: <http://www.capitalpride.org/events/parade-2017/>

Pride Festival Info at: <http://www.capitalpride.org/events/festival-2017/>

LSF Table at Capital Pride Festival - Sunday, June 11th -

For the 27th year in a row, LSF will host a booth at the DC Pride Festival to promote LSF and queer fandom. Come join us and help to spread the word about Lambda Sci-Fi and LGBT-themed F&SF!

Feel free to drop by the LSF booth sometime during the day. As in previous years, we don't see the need to establish specific schedules for staffing the booth; we've always had lots of LSFers (both long-timers and newbies) show up and stick around. Rob and Peter will be there about 11:00 AM for setup; and they cheerfully invite anyone else who'd like to help out.

When: Sunday, June 11th; 11 AM set-up; festival Noon – 7:00 PM.

Where: Pennsylvania Avenue NW, somewhere between 4th and 7th Streets NW. (Metro: Green/Yellow lines to the Archives-Navy Memorial-Penn Quarter stop).

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LSF Awesome Con Panel

- Saturday, June 17th -

info provided by Peter Knapp



Lambda Sci-Fi will present a discussion panel at Awesome Con. We encourage people to attend our panel and participate in the discussion. The more the merrier!

What: LSF Discussion Panel "Beyond Labels - I Know You'd Love This..." Come join us - and be prepared to participate - as we gather a group of fans with varying interests in geekdom and find our connection points. We'll get to the heart of why we love what we love, and then open ourselves up to ideas of works from *other* fandoms that will appeal based on those things we love. We promise, you might enter thinking you're just a fan of military sci-fi (for instance), but you'll leave wanting to explore some other fandom!

When: Saturday, June 17th; 1:30 PM – 2:15 PM

Where: Room 144 B/C at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Mt Vernon Place NW, Washington, DC (Metro: Green/Yellow lines to the Mt Vernon Sq/7th St-Convention Center stop).

Info about Awesome Con (including how to purchase Tickets):

<http://awesome-con.com/>

Questions: Contact Peter at: PeterPKnapp@gmail.com or Rob at:

RobGatesDC@gmail.com

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What's Inside?

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Minutes of the May LSF Meeting

taken by Scott

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Today's meeting was lightly attended, perhaps in part because it was Mother's Day.

The LSF Pre-Pride Gaming Party is on Saturday, June 10th, beginning at 2 PM. There will be a brief LSF meeting, followed by gaming fun! Later that afternoon, we'll take a short break to stroll over to watch the Pride Parade. When the parade ends, we'll stroll back and resume the gaming fun.

On Sunday, June 11th, LSF will have a table at the Pride Festival. You are invited to help staff the LSF table.

The following week (Saturday, June 17th), LSF will host a discussion panel at Awesome Con (1:30 PM). The panel title is "Beyond Labels - I Know You'd Love This..."

Then June 24th (Saturday), LSF will host its Post-Pride Gaming Party at Peter and Rob's place.

Upcoming LSF book discussions: *Lilly and the Octopus* by Steven Rowley (May); graphic novel *Monstress Vol. 1: Awakening* by Marjorie Liu and Sana Takeda (June); *Everfair* by Nisi Shawl (July); *Radiance* by Catherynne Valente (Aug.); *A Taste of Honey* by Kai Ashante Wilson (Sept.).

Teresa boasted about Dan's extensive Manga collection. She is not eager to see the next *Pirates of the Caribbean* movie. Finally, she reported on seeing the 2010 documentary-comedy *The People vs. George Lucas* (about *Phantom Menace*).

Ursula K. LeGuin's *Left Hand of Darkness* is planned for a TV miniseries. Everyone is excited about seeing the upcoming *Wonder Woman* movie.

Rob and Peter both enjoyed *Guardians of the Galaxy II*. Rob loved the five Easter eggs incorporated within the credits; he said that the Guardians will be part of the "Infinity War" movies.

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 June 22, 2017.

Here are the details for the next several book discussions:

June 22 – *Monstress, Volume 1: Awakening* (graphic novel) by Marjorie Liu (moderator: Rob G.).

July 27 – *Everfair* by Nisi Shawl (moderator: Claire).

Aug. 24 – *Radiance* by Catherynne Valente (moderator: Konrad).

Sept. 28 – *A Taste of Honey* by Kai Ashante Wilson (moderator: John).

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Peter passed around the May 2017 issue of *Sigma*, the newsletter of Parsec, the Pittsburgh-area sci-fi group. It was noted that some Parsec members participated in the recent March for Science.

Then we watched the first two episodes of Starz's *American Gods*. Truly wild!

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LSF Post-Pride Gaming Party

Saturday, June 24th

Info provided by Peter Knapp



Continue to celebrate Capital Pride at LSF's Post-DC Pride Gaming Party with the folks at LSF!

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

When: Sat., June 24th; 2:00 PM to ??

What to Bring: Bring your favorite table game (or two). Also, please bring munchies and/or soft drinks.

Dinner: For those who are interested, we'll order pizza. To get in on the pizza order, please bring \$8 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 Midcity (14th and "U") Corridor. Also, delivery menus will be available at the party.

Where: Home of Peter and Rob, 1425 "S" Street NW, Washington, DC. Their home is in the Midcity (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 Peter at: PeterPKnapp@gmail.com or Rob at: RobGatesDC@gmail.com

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My Hugo Nominations for 2017 Dramatic Presentations

by Peter Knapp



As many of you know, I'm a media fan. My husband Rob and I met 25 years ago at the World Science Fiction convention. For many years, been attending Worldcons, and for many years we've nominated and voted for works worthy of winning the Hugos. While I used to try to read all the nominated literature, I long ago gave up and now only nominate the best dramatic presentations for Hugos every year that I'm eligible. This is one of those years.

Back in January, I nominated the works in this article. (I'm such a traitor to my favorite show, *Doctor Who*. I didn't nominate any *Doctor Who* this year.)

The nominees have been announced. See the article in last month's newsletter or go to the Hugo website: <http://www.thehugoawards.org/hugo-history/2017-hugo-awards/>

Four of my Long Form nominations made it to the final ballot. Two of my Short Form nominations made the final ballot; and while my *Games of Thrones* nomination didn't make the final ballot, two other episodes of *Game of Thrones* from the same season made the final ballot.

When I voted, I ranked the Short Form nominations in the order shown below. (Again, I'm such a traitor to my favorite show, *Doctor Who*. I ranked the *Doctor Who* nomination fourth in the Short Form category.)

1. *The Expanse*: "Leviathan Wakes" - *The Expanse* is my favorite show on TV right now. The show follows the crew of the *Canterbury* and a lone detective as they try to solve a mystery and prevent the solar system from heading toward all-out war. Taking place 200+ years in the future, humanity is divided into three factions: Earthers, Martians, and Belters (who colonized the asteroid belt). Each faction deeply mistrusts the other two and make choices that,

while they may be good for their faction, may endanger humanity as a whole. This political drama does an amazing job of weaving multiple story lines together within a science fiction trapping. The writing, acting, production values, and special effects are top notch. The season finale, "Leviathan Wakes," ties the seemingly disparate season-long plot lines together, and left me satisfied but wanting more.

2 & 3. *Game of Thrones*: "The Door" and "Battle of the Bastards" - If you're not familiar with *Game of Thrones*, you live under a rock. This political drama does an amazing job of weaving multiple story lines together within a fantasy setting. The writing, acting, production values, and special effects are top notch. "The Door" bids adieu to a beloved character and explains why he only says one particular word every time he opens his mouth. Watching the episode was absolutely heart-wrenching. I cried. In the "Battle of the Bastards", two enemies from different houses face off in a final battle for control of one of the houses. I cheered the hero and booed the villain, a truly vile sadist.

4. *Doctor Who*: "The Return of Doctor Mystero" - If you're not familiar with *Doctor Who*, you live under a rock. The last few seasons of *Doctor Who* have left me cold. Last year's Christmas special (the first new episode after a year of waiting) attempted to be a love letter to American superheroes. While there were cute homages to the superhero genre, the result fell flat.

I wasn't familiar with the other two nominees so I didn't vote for them: *Black Mirror*: "San Junipero" and *Splendor & Misery* [album].

In the Best Dramatic Presentation (Long Form) category, I ranked the nominees this way:

1. *Hidden Figures* - *Hidden Figures* is based on the real story of three African-American women who broke color and gender barriers at NASA and helped with the calculations necessary to get the Mercury astronauts into space. It's an amazing feel-good movie and a great history lesson. It *is* Hugo-eligible. It qualifies under the "related subjects" portion for the

Long Form category. Previous NASA-related stories included *The Right Stuff* and *Apollo 13*.

2. *Stranger Things*, Season One - "In a small town where everyone knows everyone, a peculiar incident starts a chain of events that leads to the disappearance of a child - which begins to tear at the fabric of an otherwise peaceful community." *Stranger Things* follows a bunch of geeky kids growing up in the '80s. (In the '80s, I was a geeky kid. The show is like revisiting my childhood and is a blast from the past.) It's also amazingly well-written and -acted. I couldn't stop watching the season.

3. *Arrival* - This is the best cerebral science fiction movie I've seen in a long time. Two human scientists attempt to learn how to talk to aliens. While that sounds boring, the movie turned out to be very engaging, intelligent, and thought-provoking.

4. *Deadpool* - While not the first R-rated superhero movie, *Deadpool* is probably the funniest superhero movie I've ever seen. Ryan Reynolds was born to play Deadpool, an amazing anti-hero. Funny, funny, and so politically incorrect.

5. *Rogue One* - This story of a suicide mission set in the *Star Wars* universe is the first movie that is not part of the "Skywalker triple trilogy". The main cast are characters new to the *Star Wars* movie universe and blended well with characters already introduced in previous *Star Wars* movies. It is also the first *Star Wars* movie without a John Williams musical score; Michael Giacchino did a great job writing *Star Wars* music.

6. *Ghostbusters* - This is a comedy about four misfits who save New York City from an infestation of ghosts. While the female comedians busting ghosts in this movie are extremely funny, this third movie in the series is effectively a remake of the original movie. I think it would have worked so much better if the movie had been set in a different locale and didn't rely on filling the movie with so many Easter egg homages to the original movie.

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* * 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 copy of 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. But this month, the Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held on **June 10th (Saturday), at Peter and Rob's home, 1425 "S" Street NW, Washington, DC** as part of the Pre-Pride Gaming Party and Capital Pride Parade-Viewing (see page 1). 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



June 16-18, 2017 **AWESOME CON 2017**. Walter E. Worthington Convention Center (Washington, DC) "Awesome Con welcomes some of the biggest and nerdiest names across comics, movies, TV, and more." Membership: \$75 for the basic 3-day weekend pass (daily rates & "add-ons" available). Registration on-line. Website: <http://awesomecon.com>

July 6-9, 2017 **NORTHAMERICON '17** (NASFiC 2017). Sheraton Puerto Rico (San Juan, Puerto Rico). Guests of Honor: Daina Chaviano, Tobias Buckell, George Perez, Brother Guy Consolmagno, Javier Grillo-Marxuach, Paula Smith. Attending Membership: \$100 (will go up) Website: www.northamericon17.com

July 7-9, 2017 **SHORE LEAVE 39** ("a fan-run media SF convention"). Hunt Valley Inn (Hunt Valley, MD). Guests: "to be announced as soon as confirmed". Membership: \$95 for the weekend (daily rates available). Checks payable to "Shore Leave" and send to: Shore Leave 39, PO Box 6809, Towson, MD 21285-6809 Website: www.shore-leave.com

Aug. 11-13, 2017 **OTAKON 2017** ("an annual convention to celebrate Asian pop culture and its fandom"). Walter E. Washington Convention Center (Washington, DC). New memberships: \$95; \$100 at the door. On-line registration. Website: www.otakon.com

Oct. 6-8, 2017 **CAPCLAVE 2017**. Hilton Washington DC North (Gaithersburg, MD). Author GoH: Ken Liu; Editor GoH: Neil Clarke. Membership: \$55 to May 31; \$60 from June 1 to July 31; \$65 from Aug. 1 to Sept. 30; \$70 at the door. Website: www.capclave.org Info: info@capclave.org

Nov. 24-26, 2017 **CHESSIECON 2017**. Radisson North Baltimore (Timonium, MD). Author GoH: Ada Palmer; Music GoH: T.J. Burnside Clapp; Artist GoH: Megan Willis. Membership: \$55 through Nov. 15; \$60 at the door. Make checks payable to "Thanksgiving Science Fiction Society" and send to: TSFS, Inc., PO Box 83032, Gaithersburg, MD 20883-3032 (Also registration on-line via PayPal.) Website: www.chessiecon.org Info: info@chessiecon.org

May 11-13, 2018 **GAYLAXICON AT OUTLANTACON 2018**. The Network Board has approved Outlantacon's bid to host Gaylaxicon in 2018. More information as it becomes available. Website: <http://www.outlantacon.org/>

Nov. 1-4, 2018 **WORLD FANTASY CONVENTION**. Baltimore Renaissance Harborplace Hotel (Baltimore, MD). Membership: \$175 (current rate; will go up). On-line registration or print out registration form & send to: WFC2018 c/o Baltimore Science Fiction Society, Inc., PO Box 686, Baltimore MD 21203-0686 Website: <http://www.wfc2018.org/>