



Lambda Sci-Fi

DC Area Gaylaxians

(202) 232-3141 - Issue # 329 – August 2017

E-MAIL: info@lambdascifi.org

WEBSITE: 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.

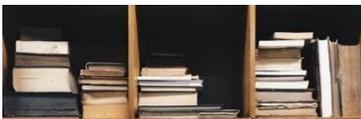
The LSF Book Discussion Group usually meets on the 4th Thursday of every month, starting at 7:00 PM, at Peter & Rob's home: 1425 "S" St., NW – for directions or more details, call 202-483-6369. The next book discussion will be held on August 24, 2017.

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

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

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

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LSF Dog Days of Summer Tabletop Gaming Party

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

When: Saturday, August 19

Time: 2:00 PM to ??

What to Bring: Bring your favorite tabletop 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 nearby. 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 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 Peter at:

PeterPKnapp@gmail.com

or Rob at: RobGatesDC@gmail.com

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The "dog days" or "dog days of summer" are the hot, sultry days of summer. They were historically the period following the heliacal rising of the star Sirius ("the dog star"), which Greek and Roman astrology connected with heat, drought, sudden thunderstorms, lethargy, fever, mad dogs, and bad luck. They are now taken to be the hottest, most uncomfortable part of summer in the Northern Hemisphere.

<<<<< August 2017 LSF Meeting >>>>>

The next LSF meeting will be held on **Sunday, August 13th**. The meeting will be held at Peter and Rob's home, **1425 "S" Street NW, Washington, DC**. The meeting will begin at 1:30 and the "group watch" will begin at 3:00 PM. Hope to see you there!



What's Inside?

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Minutes of the July LSF Meeting

taken by Scott

Teresa advised that Dan got a new Playstation and is now addicted to *Horizon Zero Dawn*.

Otakon is being held at the Washington Convention Center this year. It used to be held in Baltimore. The crowds are expected to be large.

The new film *Spider-man: Homecoming* is getting great reviews. Rob was pleased that it was not yet another Spider-man origin story. Uncle Ben is only mentioned in a throw-away line.

Star Trek: Discovery premieres Sunday, September 24th, on CBS. The remaining episodes will be shown on the CBS All Access subscription service. The focal character is not the captain, but rather the first officer. The series is post-*Enterprise* and pre-TOS.

Some off the big-named actors in the Marvel Cinematic Universe may not be around post-*Infinity Wars*, since some of the current actors cost too much. It was noted that the *Infinity Wars* conflict will even include the Guardians of the Galaxy.

There will be a shorter season of *Game of Thrones* this year and next year. The episodes, however, may be slightly longer. Peter noted that a Shaw bar on 7th Street NW currently is running a popular *Game of Thrones*-themed pop-up. The lines to get in wrap around the corner!

Other TV news: Netflix's *Sense8* will get a two-hour closure movie. A giant asteroid is headed towards Earth! Can it be stopped? To find out, watch the new CBS series *Salvation*, premiering this Wednesday.

New TV shows: *The Crossing*, *The Gospel of Kevin*, *Inhumans*, *Star Trek: Discovery*, *Young Sheldon*, *Black Lightning*, *Ghosted*, *The Gifted*, and *The Orville* (with Seth McFarland!).

Peter distributed some Baen Books tchotchkes gathered at a con that he recently attended. He also

Adam West Remembrance (1928 – 2017)

by Peter Knapp

As you may have heard Adam West passed away June 9, 2017 after a short battle with leukemia. He was 88 years old.

I remember watching him in the title role of Batman as a kid. My mom didn't like my brother and me watching TV, so when we got home from school we'd go to a friend's house to watch it. I loved the campy show and how West played the role of Batman seriously despite the silliness going on around him. He was also really hot. In the final episode of the Batman TV series, "Minerva, Mayhem and Millionaires", Bruce Wayne visits a spa. As you can see from the picture shown above-right, woof!

After *Batman*, West had trouble finding work, as he had been typecast as the campy Caped Crusader. Luckily, he had a lot of success doing voiceover work. He was cast as Mayor Adam West on *Family Guy* in 2000 and continued to play the role of Mayor

passed around three recent PARSEC newsletters from the Pittsburg sci-fi group.

Rob reported that the LSF panel at this year's AwesomeCon was well-attended and well-received.

Coming up: The DC Center (14th & "U" Street NW) is sponsoring OutWrite 2017 next month. OutWrite is a celebration of LGBT literature. Rob noted that there will be three genre readings, including one by author Don Sakers. Does LSF want to pay \$150 for a table? No interest in paying & manning a table. *Bzzzt*.

Rob reminded everyone about the next LSF book discussion: *Everfair* by Nisi Shawl (July 27th).

Peter might arrange an outing to see the upcoming *Valerian: City of a Thousand Planets*.

There was some discussion about arranging an outing to the Board & Brew in College Park.

Peter could not force himself to say anything positive about the Tom Cruise *Mummy* movie.



West until his death. West pre-recorded five more episodes as Mayor West that will be released post-humously as part of *Family Guy*'s sixteenth season.

[Y^e Olde Editor's Note: I remember first seeing him, in a very limited role, in *Robinson Crusoe on Mars* (1964). He also made an appearance – as himself – in an episode of *The Big Bang Theory*. The arguments over who was "the best Batman" were a hoot!]

An extensive article about Adam West can be found here:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adam_West

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David reported that he saw two genre plays in New York City: *Groundhog's Day* and *Charlie & the Chocolate Factory*.

No one at the meeting will be attending this year's World Science Fiction convention in Helsinki. But Carl indicated that he will be attending ConJose next year. ΛΨΦ



"Don't interrupt! I'm trying to fathom the sub-conscience of a deadly criminal!"

-- Batman --

"While Gotham City Burns"
(Season 1, Episode 30)



OutWrite 2017 (Aug. 4-6)

info passed along by Dave Ring

OutWrite is a celebration of LGBT Literature in Washington, DC. The festival consists of readings, panels, workshops and book vendors. This year's event takes place on August 4th-6th at The DC Center for the LGBT Community: 2000 14th Street NW, Washington, DC. Last year we had more than four hundred attendees at the festival, and we expect more this year. All readings are free and open to the public.

We would like to particularly invite members of Lambda Sci-Fi to attend our speculative fiction-related events this year, which start at 10 AM on Saturday, August 5th.

- 10 AM: "Of Stars, Steam and Swords", featuring Annabelle Jay, St. Sukie de la Croix, Jarrod King, and Eric Andrews-Katz. Moderated by Rob Gates.

Escape Velocity 2017 (Sept. 1-3)

info passed along by Peter & Carl

Actors, scientists, authors and artists... gaming, drone-racing, and much more!

The Museum of Science Fiction is bringing Escape Velocity 2017 to Washington, DC, from Sept. 1-3 at the Marriott Wardman Hotel & Convention Center. Building on the first annual Escape Velocity in 2016, which attracted some 2,700 attendees, the event will combine the fun of comic cons with the fascination of science and engineering festivals to entertain and to promote STEAM education.

An out-of-this-world event for adults and kids alike, Escape Velocity particularly seeks to reinvigorate the interest of young people in science, technology, engi-

- 11 AM: "The Alchemy of Bodies", featuring Marianne Kirby, Don Sakers, Sunny Moraine, and Day Al-Mohamed. Moderated by Michael Thomas Ford.

- 12 Noon: "Love and Other Monsters", featuring Rahul Kanakia, Craig Gidney, Steve Berman, and Ruthanna Emrys.

- 3 PM: "Circler Press Bingo", featuring Cecilia Tan giving out prizes and swag from Circler Press, home of "erotica for geeks".

- 4 PM: "Non Binary: Beyond Gender in Speculative Fiction". A panel featuring Don Sakers (moderator), Rahul Kanakia, Craig Gidney, Michael M. Jones, and Ruthanna Emrys.

- 5 PM: An erotica reading (title TBD) featuring Cecilia Tan, Debra Hyde, Dena Hankins, and Christian Baines.

We'd also like to welcome you to "Do Be A Stranger", a workshop on writing LGBT Horror and Weird Fiction, led by Steve Berman, at 10 AM on Sunday, August 6th, at the DC Center.

Find more information about the festival on Twitter, on Facebook, and at our website:

<http://thedccenter.org/outwrite/>

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neering, art, and math by producing and presenting the most compelling, exciting, educational, and entertaining science festival in the United States using science fiction as the primary engine.

Escape Velocity 2017 will include appearances by: Cas Anvar (film and TV actor, currently appearing in the Syfy hit *The Expanse*); Morgan Gendel (screenwriter for *Star Trek: The Next Generation*); Thomas Dolby (musician, inventor, writer, teacher, engineer and pioneer of synthpop); Joe Haldeman (Hugo and Nebula Award-winning author); Marc Okrand (creator of the Klingon language); C. Alex Young, PhD (NASA solar astrophysicist, member of the Museum's Board of Advisors).

Escape Velocity 2017 will also feature: lively panel discussions on topics from the history of the sci-fi movie soundtrack, to the philosophy of

North Country Gaylaxians



The Twin Cities' chapter of the Gaylactic Network.

Announcing ConFABulous! (Oct. 6 - 8) info passed along by Don Kaiser

The North Country Gaylaxians present ConFABulous! Join us over the upcoming Columbus Day holiday for a weekend of gaming and socializing!

ConFABulous will be held at the Crowne Plaza Aire MSP Airport (Mall of America), 3 Appletree Sq., Bloomington, MN 55425. The fun will begin at 1:00 PM on Friday (October 6th) and continue until 4:00 PM on Sunday (October 8th).

We'll have a large game room, a hospitality suite, and one track of programming. Think of it as a relaxicon, with no guests of honor, art show, or dealers room. Our large game room will have very extended hours - 24 hours if we want it! Membership will be \$40 (\$50 at the door).

Tickets are currently available on-line via EventBrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/confabulous-2017-tickets-35973363298>

For more information, visit our Facebook page:

@MNConFABulous

More information as it becomes available.



artificial intelligence, to manipulating the human genome, to competitive sci-fi gaming, to the future of drones; Sci-Fi Film Festival; drone racing event; award ceremony for winning team of the international Deep Ocean Robotics Competition; *Starship Horizons* Bridge Officers simulation and Sci-Fi Escape Room; sci-fi and fight stunt workshop by DC Stunt Coalition; Space Party.

Ticket prices: \$25-30 Single-Day Entries; \$50 Standard Weekend pass; \$100 VIP Weekend pass.

More info at:

<https://escapevelocity.events>
and
<http://www.museumofsciencefiction.org/>

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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. The next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held on Sunday, **August 13th, 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



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 **CONFABULOUS** (a gay relaxacon). Crowne Plaza Aire MSP Airport (Mall of America), 3 Appletree Square, Bloomington, MN 55425 Crowne Plaza Aire MSP Airport (Mall of America), 3 Apple-tree Square, Bloomington, MN 55425. Membership: \$40 (\$50 at the door). More information as it becomes available. Facebook page: @MNConFABulous
Registration via EventBrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/confabulous-2017-tickets-35973363298>

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

Nov. 10-12, 2017 **PHILCON 2017**. The Crown Plaza Hotel (Cherry Hill, NJ). Author GoH: Seanan McGuire; Artist GoH: Don Maitz; Special Guest: Janny Wurts. Membership: \$55 thru 8/31; \$60 from 9/1 thru 10/31; \$65 at the door. Website: www.philcon.org www.facebook.com/Philcon.PSFS

Nov. 24-26, 2017 **CHESSIECON 2017**. Radisson North Baltimore (Timonium, MD). Author GoH: Ada Palmer; Music GoH: T. 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/OUTLANTACON 2018**. The Network Board has ap-proved Outlantacon's bid to host Gaylaxicon in 2018. Membership: \$35 until 9/31 (will go up after that). Website: <http://www.outlantacon.org/> Info: info@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/>