



Lambda Sci-Fi

DC Area Gaylaxians

(202) 232-3141 – Issue # 338 – May 2018

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 May 24.

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

May 24 – *The Black Tides of Heaven* and *The Red Threads of Fortune* by JY Yang (moderator: Greg).

June 28 – *The Dispossessed* by Ursula Le Guin (moderator: Konrad). ΛΨΦ

LSF Cinco de Mayo Tabletop Gaming Party announced by Peter Knapp



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, May 5, from 2:00 PM to ??

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.

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.

Directions (with Metro and parking advice) at:

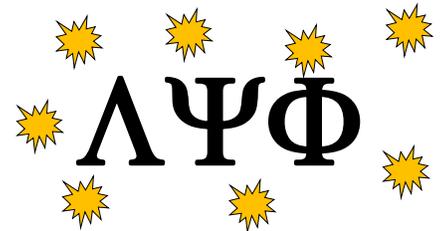
<http://lambdascifi.org/club/PeterRob.html>

Disclaimer: This is *not* a genuine Cinco de Mayo Party. (It's merely a coincidence that the tabletop gaming day is the same day as the anniversary of the Mexican Army's victory over the French Empire at the Battle of Puebla, on May 5, 1862, under the leadership of General Ignacio Zaragoza.)

Questions: Contact Peter at: PeterPKnapp@gmail.com

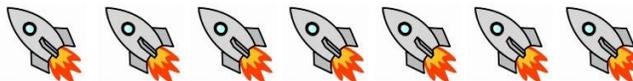
or Rob at:

RobGatesDC@gmail.com



<<<<< No Regular LSF Meeting in May >>>>>

There will be *no* regular "2nd Sunday" LSF meeting in the month of May. Instead, LSF will host a **Cinco de Mayo Gaming Party on May 5th** (see article above). Hope to see you there!



What's Inside?

Page 2: Minutes of the April LSF Meeting; My Hugo Nominations for 2018.

Page 3: *2001: A Space Odyssey* at Smithsonian's Air & Space Museum.

Page 4: Information About LSF: DC Area Gaylaxians and Con Calendar.

Minutes of the April LSF Meeting taken by Scott

Upcoming LSF Events: There will be *no* regular monthly LSF meetings in either May or June. Instead, LSF will host a *Cinco de Mayo* Gaming Party on Saturday, May 5th; and LSF will host its annual Pride Parade viewing and gaming party on Saturday, June 9th. LSF will also have a table at the DC Pride Event on Sunday, June 10th.

Movie Outing: Sunday, April 29th, to see *Avengers: Infinity Wars* at Mazza Gallerie. Stay tuned for further details.

Awesome Con: Although LSF did not host a discussion panel at Awesome Con this year, several LSF members attended the con. Peter enjoyed the John Barrowman session, even though he felt it was “derivative”. He also attended the *Doctor Who* panels. (But who paid hundreds of dollars to see John Boyega? No raised hands.) Peter also enjoyed the showing of Episode # 1 of Netflix’s *Lost in Space* reboot and the subsequent Q & A session; one of the scientists on the panel said that the problems encountered by the Robinson family can actually occur. Rob noted that the entire *LiS* series will get dropped this Friday. (Did you see the cameo appearance by Billy Mumy?) Scott reported on his encounter at the table for the DC-area Society for Creative Anachronism groups. (Who knew that they were still around? Carl – aka Conrad von Regensburg – did.)

Movie News: Teresa is eager to see *The Quiet Place* horror movie. (Can the female protagonist deliver a baby in a bathtub and remain quiet so that the aliens don’t attack her?) Rob thinks that the *Ready Player One* movie improved on the concept from the source book; he loved the 1980’s references throughout. No one seemed to like the new *Tomb Raider* movie. (Bzzt!)

TV News: Peter is looking forward to the new season of *Doctor Who* – the first female doctor, who will have four Companions. Bill doesn’t like the new *Krypton* series on the SyFy Channel

My Hugo Nominations for 2018 by Peter Knapp



My husband Rob and I met 25 years ago at the World Science Fiction convention. For many years, we went to Worldcon, and for many years we nominated and voted for works worthy of winning the Hugos. I now limit my nominations to the best dramatic presentations for Hugos every year that I’m eligible to nominate them. This is one of those years.

In March, I nominated the following works:

Dramatic Presentation, Long Form: *Coco*; *Logan*; *The Shape of Water*; *Thor: Ragnarok*; and *Wonder Woman*.

Dramatic Presentation, Short Form: “About a Girl” (*The Orville*); “Home” (*The Expanse*); “The Monster

– not “captivating” enough. *The Magicians* has been renewed for a 4th season; and the third season of *The Expanse* starts this week. Wess is looking forward to *The Big Bang Theory* doing a show commemorating the passing of Steven Hawking.

Other News: Rob ran through the list of the dramatic presentation finalists for the Hugo Awards. Carl advised that through May 29th Smithsonian’s Air & Space Museum is featuring a recreation of “the white room” featured in the final scenes of *2001: A Space Odyssey*, to celebrate the movie’s 50th anniversary.

Upcoming LSF book discussions: *The Dinosaur Lords* by Victor Milan (April); *The Black Tides of Heaven* *and* *The Red Threads of Fortune* by JY Yang (May); and *The Dispossessed* by Ursula K. LeGuin (June).

Then we watched last night’s *Saturday Night Live* “Black Jeopardy” skit (featuring *Black Panther*’s T’Challa), followed by the first episode of ABC’s *The Crossing*.

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and the Rocket” (*The Expanse*); “USS Callister” (*Black Mirror*); and “World Enough and Time” (*Doctor Who*).

The nominees have now been announced.

Best Dramatic Presentation, Long Form: *Blade Runner 2049*, *Get Out*, *The Shape of Water*, *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*, *Thor: Ragnarok*, and *Wonder Woman*.

Best Dramatic Presentation, Short Form: “The Deep” [song] by Clipping; “Magic to Make the Sanest Man Go Mad” (*Star Trek: Discovery*); “Michael’s Gambit” (*The Good Place*); “The Trolley Problem,” (*The Good Place*); “USS Callister” (*Black Mirror*); and “World Enough and Time” (*Doctor Who*).

Three of my Long Form nominations made it to the final ballot; and two of my Short Form nominations made the final ballot. As I am not a member of this year’s Worldcon, I cannot vote for the Hugos. If I could vote for the Hugos, I would rank my votes this way:

In the Best Dramatic Presentation, Long Form category, I’d rank the nominees this way:

1. *The Shape of Water* – I must confess I love director Guillermo del Toro’s movies. *The Shape of Water* is no exception. The movie portrays a beautiful love story about a deaf woman who falls in love with the equivalent of the Creature from the Black Lagoon. The fairy tale romance takes place during the cold war and contrasts the beauty of love with the ugliness of man. As with many of del Toro’s movies, the monster is us. Magical realism, amazing world building, and social commentary mix to make a truly amazing movie.

2. *Wonder Woman* – This movie passes the Bechtel Test with flying colors. It doesn’t do so well with the Russo Test and Race Test^{fl}, but I’m okay with that. *Wonder Woman* is the first great female-led superhero movie and hopefully will lead the way for more quality female-led superhero movies. (I don’t count

(continued on page 3)

My Hugo Nominations

continued from page 2

1984's *Supergirl*, 2004's *Catwoman*, or 2005's *Electra* as great – or even good – movies.) Gal Gadot gives a great performance as a sheltered Amazonian who finds herself in the man-made madness of World War I. Her hope and optimism about the potential for humanity to do better is uplifting.

3. *Thor: Ragnarok* – This is the funniest super hero movie since *Deadpool*, and it doesn't rely on R-rated language or violence (like *Deadpool*) to tickle my funny bone. The director, Taika Waititi, let his cast improvise many of their lines, which gave the dialog a more natural ring to it. Waititi stole the show every time his character Korg appeared on screen. This movie tickled my funny bone a lot.

4. *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* – I found Episode VIII to be a fun continuation of the "Skywalker" series of *Star Wars* movies. The most interesting part is the deconstruction of many of the myths about the Force perpetuated in previous movies. While many fans criticize the movie for too much progressivism^[ii] and the generational hand-off^[iii], among other sins, I find the deviations from the 41-year-old original *Star Wars* refreshing.

5. *Blade Runner 2049* – Unfortunately, this sequel left me cold. It is visually stunning and explores the concept of memory being an important part of what makes one human. It also devolves into a violent chase movie with misogynistic elements.

I did not see *Get Out* so I would not vote for it.

In the Dramatic Presentation, Short Form category, I'd rank the nominees this way:

1. "USS Callister" (*Black Mirror*) – I finally saw my first episode of *Black Mirror*, now in its fourth season. *Black Mirror* is an anthology series and "examines modern society, particularly with regard to the unanticipated consequences of new technologies. Episodes are stand-alone, usually set in an alternate present or the near future, often with a dark and satirical tone, though

some are more experimental and lighter."^[iv] This episode does a great job of paying homage to *Star Trek* in a very creepy way. I was nostalgic for the *Star Trek* of my childhood while being creeped out by the protagonist, who used the tropes of *Star Trek* to play god in a virtual world he'd trapped his employees in. I look forward to seeing more episodes of *Black Mirror*.

2. "World Enough and Time" (*Doctor Who*) – If you're not familiar with *Doctor Who*, you live under a rock. The last few seasons of *Doctor Who* have left me cold. I initially chose not to nominate an episode of the 2017 season, but a few of my Whovian friends browbeat me into reconsidering. The Cybermen are my favorite monsters in the *Doctor Who* universe. This story shows a very creepy origin to the Cybermen that is truly disturbing. The death of a major character adds to the no-win scenario our heroes are faced with. With the nudging of my friends, I realized that this story was indeed very dramatic.

3. "Magic to Make the Sanest Man Go Mad" (*Star Trek: Discovery*) – This self-contained episode in an otherwise tightly-connected first season was fun. I didn't nominate it as there was nothing particularly special about the episode that made me laugh, cry, or sit on the edge of my seat in anticipation as to how it would resolve. A few episodes of the second half of the season (broadcast in 2018) are worthy of nominating, so I expect at least one of those episodes will make my 2019 Hugo nomination list.

I did not listen to "The Deep" [song] by Clipping or watch either "Michael's Gambit" (*The Good Place*) or "The Trolley Problem" (*The Good Place*), so I would not vote for any of them.

I plan to attend next year's Worldcon (Dublin 2019) — An Irish Worldcon^[v], so in addition to nominating movies and TV episodes for best dramatic presentation Hugos, I will also vote for the finalists. I hope Season 11 of *Doctor Who*, with new almost everything, will be better than the last few years of my favorite show.

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2001: A Space Odyssey at Smithsonian's Air & Space Museum

info passed along by Carl



Fifty years ago, *2001: A Space Odyssey* premiered at the Uptown Theater. The National Air & Space Museum celebrates this golden anniversary with an interesting new exhibit: "The Barmecide Feast", an immersive art installation that recreates "the white room" seen in the film's final segment. This installation will be open through May 28th.

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Notes:

[i] <https://feministlizabethan.com/2017/06/16/the-bechdel-russo-and-race-test-wonder-woman/>

[ii] What happened to the white male universe of the very first *Star Wars*!?

[iii] Luke, Leia, and Han will probably all be dead by the end of Episode IX.

[iv] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Mirror

[v] <https://dublin2019.com/>

*** * 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. (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 event will be the **Cinco de Mayo Gaming Party** held on Sunday, **May 5th, 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

May 11-13, 2018 **GAYLAXICON/OUTLANTACON 2018.** Renaissance Concourse Atlanta Airport Hotel (Atlanta, GA). Outlantacon is hosting Gaylaxicon in 2018. Membership: \$50 until 4/22/201. On-line registration. Website: <http://www.outlantacon.org/> Info: info@outlantacon.org

May 25-28, 2018 **BALTICON 52.** Baltimore Renaissance Harborplace Hotel (Baltimore, MD). GoH: Catherine Asaro; Artist GoH: Galen Dara; Special Guest: Larry Niven. Membership: \$69 until 4/15; \$72 until 5/15 (on-line); \$75 at the door. Mail-in registration deadline: 4/15 (on-line registration deadline: 5/15); \$75 at the door (daily memberships available). Website: <http://balticon.org/wp52/> E-mail: balticoninfo@balticon.org

July 6-8, 2018 **SHORE LEAVE 40** (a fan-run media SF convention). Hunt Valley Inn – Delta Marriott (Hunt Valley, MD). Guests include: William Shatner, Ming-Na Wen (*Agents of SHIELD*), Shawn Ashmore (*X-Men*). Membership: \$95 for the weekend (daily membership rates available) – pre-registration deadline June 15 (prices higher thereafter & at the door). Website: <http://www.shore-leave.com> E-mail: information@shore-leave.com

Aug. 16-20, 2018 **WORLDCON SAN JOSE**, the 76th World Science Fiction Convention. McEnery Convention Center (San Jose, CA). Guests of Honor: Chelsea Quinn Yarbro & Spider Robinson. Membership: currently \$230 (will go up!). On-line registration thru the convention's website. More information (including hotel information) as it becomes available. Website: www.worldcon76.org

Sept. 28-30, 2018 **CAPCLAVE 2018.** Rockville Hilton & Executive Meeting Center (Rockville, MD). GoH: Nancy Kress & Alyssa Wong. Membership: \$55 until May 31; \$60 from June 1 to July 31; \$65 from Aug. 1 to Sept. 30. Use the on-line registration form (using Paypal or processing your credit card thru Paypal). Website: <http://www.capclave.org/capclave/capclave.18/>

Nov. 1-4, 2018 **WORLD FANTASY CONVENTION.** Baltimore Renaissance Harborplace Hotel (Baltimore, MD). Guests of Honor: Kaaron Warren, Scott Edelman, Michael J. Walsh. Artist Guest of Honor: Tom Kidd. Special Guest: Aliette de Bodard. Membership: \$200 (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/>

Nov. 23-25 **CHESSIECON 2018.** Radisson North Baltimore Hotel (Timonium MD). GoH: Jo Walton; Music GoH: Dr. Mary Crowell. Membership: \$55 until Nov. 1; \$60 at the door (checks payable to "Thanksgiving Science Fiction Society"). To pre-register, print out the registration form & send to: TSFS, Inc., PO Box 83032, Gaithersburg, MD 20883-3032 – or register on-line via PayPal Website: www.chessiecon.org Information: info@chessiecon.org