



Lambda Sci-Fi

DC Area Gaylaxians

(202) 232-3141 – Issue # 339 – June 2018

E-MAIL: info@lambdascifi.org

WEBSITE: www.lambdascifi.org

Pre-Pride Gaming Party and Capital Pride Parade-Viewing - Saturday, June 9th -

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 9th; 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 Capital 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. 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: E-mail Rob at: RobGatesDC@gmail.com

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LSF Table at Capital Pride Festival

 - Sunday, June 10th - 

For the 28th year in a row, LSF will host a booth at the DC Capital 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. Carl and Rob will be there about 11:00 AM for setup; and they cheerfully invite anyone else who'd like to help out.

When: Sunday, June 10th; 11:00 AM set-up; festival Noon – 7:00 PM.

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

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Directions (with Metro and parking advice) at:

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

Questions: Contact Peter at: PeterPKnapp@gmail.com

LSF Post-DC Pride Gaming Party - Saturday, June 17th -

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: Saturday, 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 Mid-city (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 Mid-city (14th and "U") neighborhood between Dupont Circle and Logan Circle.

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<<<<< No Regular LSF Meeting in June >>>>>

There will be *no* regular "2nd Sunday" LSF meeting in the month of June. Instead, LSF will host a Gaming & Pride Day Parade-Watching Party on June 9th and our annual table at the Pride Day Festival on June 10th. Hope to see you there!



What's Inside?

Page 2: LSF Book Discussion Group; Spectrum Awards Announced.

Page 3: Water Plumes on Europa? Nebula Award News.

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

 **The LSF Book** 
Discussion Group



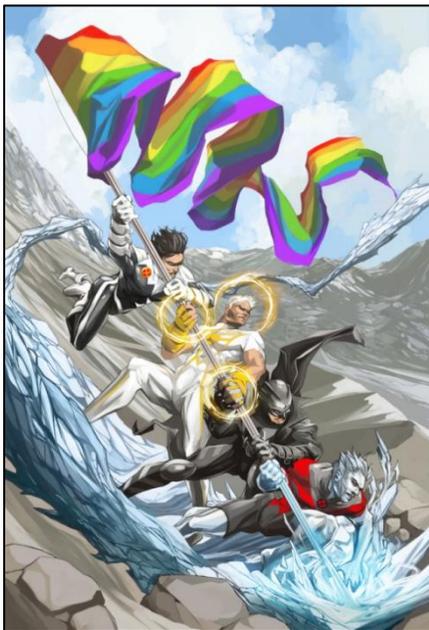
If *you're* interested in lively discussions of F&SF books (with an emphasis on elements of interest to the LGBT community), we invite you to join the LSF Book Discussion Group. Each month, we conduct fascinating round-table discussions of works by significant F&SF authors.

The LSF Book Discussion Group usually meets on the 4th Thurs-day 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 28.

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

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

July 26 – *Moonstruck, Vol 1: Magic to Brew* (graphic novel) by Grace Ellis & Shae Beagle (moderator: Carl). ΛΨΦ



Can you name these gay superheroes?

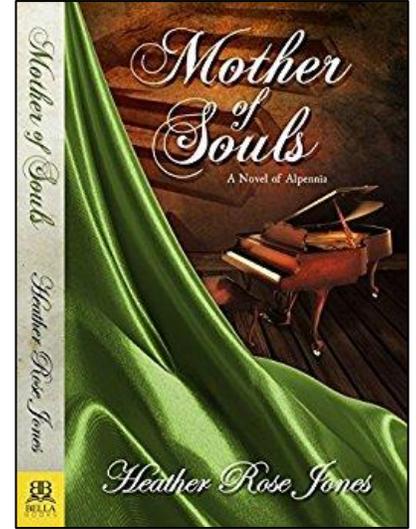
Spectrum Awards Announced
 info passed along by Carl



The winner and recommended list for the 2017 Gaylactic Spectrum Awards for Best Novel were announced on Saturday, May 12th, at Outlantacon-Gaylaxicon 2018 in Atlanta.

The Gaylactic Spectrum Awards honor works in science fiction, fantasy, and horror that deal positively with (and contain significant content for) LGBTQ characters, themes and issues. The independent Gaylactic Spectrum Awards Foundation was created to further the mission of the awards, which is to educate and raise awareness of LGBTQ content in SF/F/H. Nominations for the Gaylactic Spectrum Awards are open to everyone. Winners and a short list of recommended works in each category are selected by a jury. The 2017 Awards were presented in one category – Best Novel – for works originally appearing in calendar year 2016 or which were published earlier and granted an exception for consideration by the judging team.

The novel selected by the judges as the best science fiction, fantasy or horror novel with significant positive LGBTQ content for 2016 is *Mother of Souls*, by Heather Rose Jones, published by Bella Books. This Historical Fantasy novel pro-vides a unique exploration of the magical/ mystical qualities of various artforms (such as music, painting, religious ceremony, and archi-



ecture) includes a significant number of major LGBTQ characters.

Other novels recommended on the judges' Short List are *The Big Lie* by Julie Mayhew (Candlewick), *Cocktails at Seven*, *Apocalypse at Eight* by Don Bassingthwaite (ChiZine Publications), *Fallow and Hexbreaker/Hexmaker* by Jordan Hawk (Widder-shins Press), *Lily* by Michael Thomas Ford (Lethe Press), *Malachite* by Kirby Crow (Bonecamp), *Maze-Born Trouble* by Ginn Hale (Blind Eye Books), and *Night Terrors* by J.A. Pitts. These re-commended works show remarkable variety in content, tone, and genre. For the first time in the history of the Spectrum Awards, however, the Best Novel and the novels on Short List are all from small presses.

For more information about the Gaylactic Spectrum Awards, including a complete listing of all nominated works, winners, and short lists for the entire history of the Gaylactic Spectrum Awards, visit the website at:

<http://www.spectrumawards.org/>

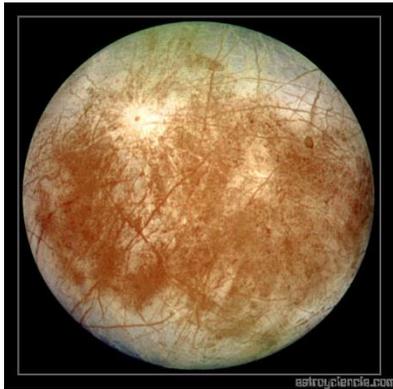
To nominate novels for 2018 (publication dates in 2017), go to:

<http://www.spectrumawards.org/nomform.htm>

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Water Plumes on Europa? info passed along by Carl



Based on data collected by NASA's Galileo probe (December 1997), scientists now believe that giant jets of water are occasionally spouting more than 100 miles high from the surface of Europa, one of Jupiter's moons.

Europa is one of Jupiter's four largest moons, which were first sighted by Galileo in 1610. Europa is thought to contain a warm, saltwater ocean underneath its thick, icy crust. Surface temperatures on Europa vary from about -260° F at the equator to about -370° at the poles; but beneath about 15 miles of surface ice, there's believed to be a massive salty ocean, possibly liquified by heat from "tidal flexing" of Europa due to Jupiter's massive gravitational field. (There might even be another "ocean" or "subsurface lake" – separate from the "deep ocean" – sandwiched into the ice crust somewhere.)

In December 1997, the Galileo did a fly-by within 250 miles above Europa's "hot spot"; but an antenna failed to deploy after launch, which limited the amount of data the probe could send back. In 2012, the Hubble Space Telescope seemed to observe water vapor spouting above Europa's south pole; and subsequently (2014, 2016) they spotted what seemed to be a recurring jet shooting up from an unusually warm "hot spot" near Europa's equator.

Xianzhe Jia, a space physicist at the University of Michigan, has analyzed the data from the Galileo probe and, on May 14th, published his study in the journal *Nature Astronomy*. Jia thought

that if a plume existed, the Galileo probe might have sensed it with its magnetometer and plasma wave instruments. The data showed that Europa's magnetic field intensified and shifted orientation just as the Galileo made its closest approach; and the plasma wave instrument showed unusual emissions that could be associated with a high density of charged particles. This data didn't make sense to scientists at the time. Jia contends that this is what you would expect to find near a jet of salty water; and his hunch has been confirmed by Margaret Kivelson, a UCLA space physicist who was the principal investigator for Galileo's magnetometer.

The source of the plumes is still unclear. The prevailing theory is that the water comes directly from Europa's subsurface ocean and is driven upward by hydrothermal activity (like geysers on Earth).

But, so what? Well, the European subsurface ocean is considered one of the best spots in the Solar System to look for alien life. And if Europa is in fact spewing out water from these oceans, it becomes much easier to test for evidence for life by simply flying a probe through one of the plumes and analyzing its chemical composition. (Face it, that'd be much easier than landing and then drilling through possibly 15 miles of hard-packed ice!) NASA's "Europa Clipper" and the European Space Agency's "Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer" (JUICE) are scheduled to be launched in the early-to-mid-2020s; both will be armed with high-resolution cameras and a suite of other sensitive instruments. They will be seeking molecules associated with biological activity.

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Nebula Award News info passed along by Carl



The Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America (SFWA) has announced this year's winners for the 52nd Nebula Awards, the Ray Bradbury Award for Outstanding Dramatic Presentations, and the Andre Norton Award for Outstanding Young Adult Science Fiction or Fantasy Book. The Awards were presented in Pittsburgh PA at the Pittsburgh Marriott City Center during a ceremony on the evening of May 19th.

The Nebula Awards recognize the best works of science fiction and fantasy published in the United States as selected by members of SFWA (membership open to professional genre authors). The Nebula Awards were first presented in 1966.

This year's winners are:

- Novel: *The Stone Sky* by N.K. Jemison (Orbit US)
- Novella: *All Systems Red* by Martha Wells (Tor.com Publishing)
- Novelette: "A Human Stain" by Kelly Robson (Tor.com 1/4/2017)
- Short Story: "Welcome to Your Authentic Indian Experience™" by Rebecca Roanhorse (Apex 8/2017)
- Ray Bradbury Award for Outstanding Dramatic Presentation: *Get Out* (written by Jordan Peele)
- Andre Norton Award for Outstanding Young Adult SF or Fantasy Book: *The Art of Starving* by Sam J. Miller (HarperTeen)

For more information, visit:

<https://nebulas.sfwaworld.com>

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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 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 a **Gaming & Pride Day Parade-Watching Party** on Saturday, **June 9th, 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

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: \$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/>

Oct. 5-7, 2018 **CREATURES, CRIMES & CREATIVITY CON** ("for readers and writers and fans of all genre fiction, including mystery, suspense, romance, thriller, horror, sci-fi, fantasy, and paranormal"). Sheraton Columbia Town Center (Columbia MD). Membership \$245. For more information: www.creaturescrimesandcreativity.com

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

October 2019 **GAYLAXICON 2019**. Crown Plaza Aire Hotel (Minneapolis MN). During Outlantcon-Gaylaxicon 2018, the Gaylactic Network Board approved the bid by the North Country Gaylaxians to host Gaylaxicon 2019. More details as they become available.