



# lambda Sci-fi

## DC Area Gaylaxians

(202) 232-3141 – Issue # 344 – November 2018

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### 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 December 6.

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

**Dec. 6** (combined Nov./Dec. discussion) – *Leviathan Wakes* by James A. Corey (moderator: Konrad). ΛΨΦ

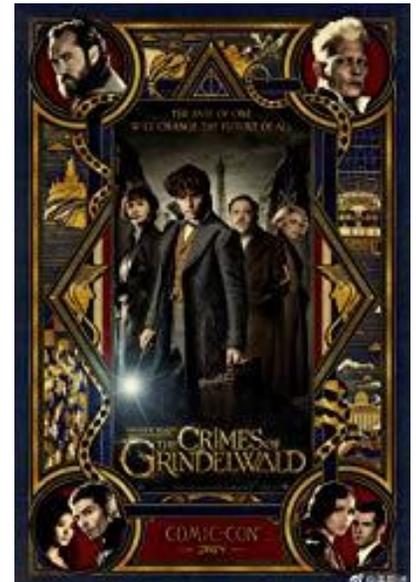
### **Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald** - an LSF Movie Outing - announced by Peter

**When:** Sunday, Nov. 18; 3:25 PM show.

**Where:** Regal Gallery Place Stadium 14, 701 Seventh St NW, Washington, DC (Gallery Place-Chinatown Metro Station on the Red Line).

**Details:** It'll be opening weekend for the movie, so it's recommended that you buy your ticket in advance. It's also reserved seating, so you can show up whenever you want. Peter, Rob, and Wess will be sitting in Seats F9, F10, and F11, in case you want to get seats close to them. For those who are interested, we'll have dinner in Chinatown after the show.

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**Questions:** Please send email to: [PeterPKnapp@gmail.com](mailto:PeterPKnapp@gmail.com)



Happy Thanksgiving to  
everybody at LSF  
and to all their friends  
and families!

### <<<<< November 2018 LSF Meeting >>>>>

The next LSF meeting will be held on **Sunday, November 11th**. 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 October LCF Meeting**  
taken by Scott

Rob reminded everyone that the next Gaylaxicon will be held in October 2019 in Minneapolis.

**TV News:** Amazon picked up *The Expanse* from the Syfy Channel. Amazon is also apparently developing a TV series of *The Lord of the Rings*. Rob enjoys the new season of *Doctor Who*, featuring Jodie Whittaker as the Doctor. He also likes the new NetFlix series *The Haunting of Hill House*, set in current times. Not much is known so far regarding CBS's new *Star Trek*-based series *Picard*. The third season of *Iron Fist* has been cancelled. In answer to a question from Joe, Teresa recommended two genre shows on non-cable TV: NBC's *The Good Place* and the CW's various DC Comics series (*Flash*, *Supergirl*, etc. – "but not *Arrow*"). Rob described the new idea for *Black Mirror* Season 5: going interactive, with viewers choosing their own adventure.

**Film News:** *The First Man* (starring Ryan Goslin) is reported to be incredibly boring. Teresa reported that she enjoyed the new *Predator* movie, which apparently includes some humorous elements.

**Upcoming LSF book discussions:** *Theory of Bastards* by Audrey Schulman (Oct. 25) and *Leviathan Wakes* by James S.A. Corey (Dec. 6).

**Upcoming LSF Event:** LSF gaming party – Saturday, Oct. 27.

Finally, we watched the first *Star Trek Discovery* short feature ("Run-away") and Episode 1 of the new season of *Doctor Who*.

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Have a SUPER Thanksgiving!

**Monsters in Philadelphia!**  
info passed along by Carl

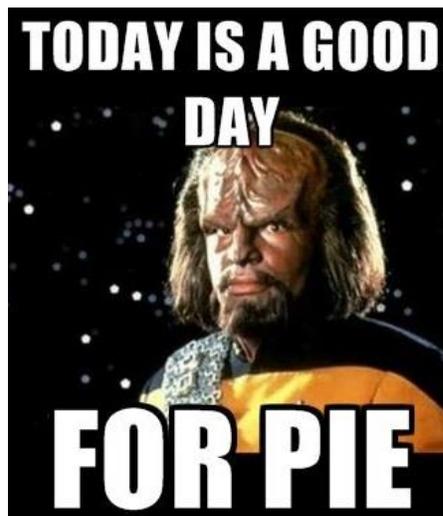


This is an art exhibit that would warm the cockles of H.P. Lovecraft's heart!

There's a fabulous temporary art installation at Building 611 (an old rusting warehouse) in Philadelphia's Navy Yard. Over a dozen huge, purple, 40-foot-long tentacles are bursting out of windows and reaching from the roof-top. The tentacles are inflatable sculptures, so they sway in the breeze and create a sense that a huge creature is trying to break out of the building. (It sure looks "Lovecraftian" to me!)

The installation – "Sea Monsters HERE" – was created by UK-based artists Filthy Luker and Pedro Estrellas. They were invited to install the work as part of a collaborative project between Group X (a collection of local artists and organizers) and the Navy Yard. It's on view until November 16.

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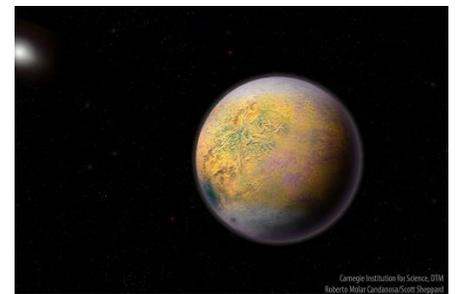


A Klingon Thanksgiving?

**Dwarf Planet and Giant Moon**

info passed along by Carl

On October 2nd, the International Astronomical Union's Minor Planet Center announced that a previously-unknown dwarf planet is circling through the far reaches of the Solar System. The small spherical object was officially designated as TG387 when it was first observed in October 2015 by the Subaru telescope at Hawaii's Mauna Kea Observatories. And, in the spirit of its near-Halloween discovery, TG387 was nicknamed "the Goblin".



The Goblin is about 300 kilometers (nearly 190 miles) in diameter, six times smaller than Pluto – "on the small end of a dwarf planet" said discoverer Scott Sheppard (Carnegie Institution for Science). It's probably a ball of ice; and it "always stays well beyond the giant planet region" (Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune). The Goblin's orbit comes no closer than 65 AU (astronomical units) to the Sun. (Reminder: An AU is the distance between the Earth and the Sun.) In contrast, Pluto is on an average about 40 AU from the Sun.

The Goblin has a lopsided elliptical orbit: 65 AU at its closest approach to the Sun, but 2,300 AU from the Sun at the furthest-away point of its orbit – reaching well into the region of space known as the Oort Cloud. The Goblin takes 40,000 years to complete one orbit of the Sun. (One "Goblin year" ago, there were Neanderthals on the Earth.) Because it moves so slowly, confirming the Goblin's orbit required repeated observations between 2015 and 2018. And it's a good thing they spotted the Goblin when they did, because

(continued on page 3)

## Dwarf Planet and Giant Moon

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for 99% of its orbit, the Goblin is too distant and too faint to be detected.

Two other dwarf planets – VP113 (nicknamed “Biden”) and Sedna – also have skewed orbits like the Goblin’s. Scott Sheppard theorizes that a large, unknown planet could be “shepherding” these dwarf planets, guiding them around the fringes of the Solar System. Other astronomers agree, theorizing that this “shepherd planet” would be bigger than the Goblin or Pluto, possibly up to 10 times as massive as Earth. In a 2014 *Nature* article, Sheppard said that smaller objects like the Goblin would have to “dance around” the unknown planet or else risk collisions or being ejected from their orbits – and, so far, all the objectives Sheppard has spotted out there appear to dance as predicted. The Goblin sits right in the middle of a cluster of known objects and “If the trends are true, then we don’t know of another explanation for why they would be grouped in an orbit like this.”



Meanwhile, MUCH further out in space – about 8,000 Light Years away – astronomers may have discovered signs of the first moon outside our Solar System. And it’s a doozy!

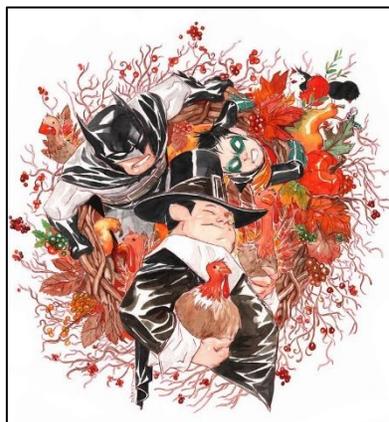
In the journal *Science Advances*, Alex Teachey and David Kipping (two Columbia University astronomers) have reported finding signs of a large, gaseous “exomoon” orbiting an even larger exo-planet. They’re carefully calling their discovery a “candidate moon”, with more studies required to confirm its existence. But Kip Hodges has called their findings “compelling”. (Hodges, a planetary sci-

entist and deputy editor at *Science Advances*, was not himself involved in the study.)

Then Kipping and Teachey asked for 40 hours of observation time on the Hubble Space Telescope (which is four times as precise as the Kepler). During their observation, there were “weird signatures in the flicker of Kepler 1625. Kepler 1625’s light faded more than an hour before Kepler 1625b (a known exoplanet) transited the star, and the star’s light remained dimmer for a while after the planet passed. Kipping and Teachey determined that this wasn’t the result of activity on the star; and there was no evidence that another planet was influencing Kepler 1625b’s orbit. To them, it looked to them like Kepler 1625b is being orbited by another body the size of Neptune.

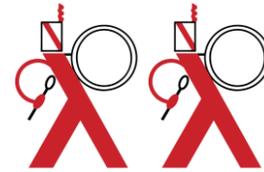
So, here’s what seems to be going on: Kepler 1625 is an aging star and is known to host a gaseous planet the size of Jupiter (called Kepler 1625b). And Kepler 1625b is apparently being orbited by a Neptune-sized moon. How did that unusual combination come about? Kipping and Teachey aren’t sure. Kepler 1625b’s huge “moon” might actually be a wayward planet captured by the larger Kepler 1625b – or, like Earth’s moon, it could have been formed by some catastrophic collision when something big hit Kepler 1625b. “It’s raising new questions about the sort of dynamical processes that go on to create the planets and moons,” said Teachey.

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## DC’s Different Drummer Concert

“Beyond Our World”  
- November 3rd -



DC’s Different Drummers proudly announce their upcoming November 3<sup>rd</sup> performance by the Capital Pride Symphonic Band, featuring compositions inspired by space and exploration. The title of the concert is “Beyond Our World”; it will feature musical performances drawing their inspiration from humankind’s wonder and curiosity about the cosmos.

Their special guest Master of Ceremonies will be Dr. Robert Lutz, founder and co-chair of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Advisory Committee, an employee association that advocates for LGBT personnel at NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center (Greenbelt MD).

**When:** Saturday, Nov. 3rd, beginning at 7:00 PM

**Where:** The Church of the Epiphany, 1317 “G” St., NW, Washington DC

**Tickets are available online** through their website:

<http://dcdd.org>

The concert will include Richard Strauss’s Introduction to *Also Sprach Zarathustra*, (as used in 2001: *A Space Odyssey*), excerpts from Gustav Holst’s *The Planets* (“Mars” and “Jupiter”), and a “Symphonic Suite from *Star Trek*” by Michael Giacchino, Alexander Courage, and Gene Roddenberry, as well as other space-themed compositions.

DC’s Different Drummers is a 501(c)(3) LGBT music organization that welcomes ALL musicians as it fosters pride, inclusivity, and engagement with the greater Washington DC region through music.

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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 meeting will be held on Sunday, **November 11th, 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

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, 2018 **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](http://www.chessiecon.org) Information: [info@chessiecon.org](mailto:info@chessiecon.org)

Feb. 8-10, 2019 **FARPOINT** ("Your FAN-RUN CONVENTION for 26 YEARS!"). Delta Hotel by Marriott (Hunt Valley, MD). Guests: Wallace Shawn, Peter David, Keith RA DeCandido ("more to come!"). Membership: full weekend (3-day) pre-registrtion: \$85.  
Website: [www.FarpointCon.com](http://www.FarpointCon.com)

April 5-7, 2019 **RAVENCON 14** (Virginia's Science Fiction & Fantasy Convention of Opportunity). Doubletree by Hilton Williamsburg (Williamsburg VA). Author GoH: Melinda Snodgrass; Music GoH: Library Bards (more to come). Membership: \$35 before 12/31/2018; \$40 until 3/9/2019; \$50 at the door (daily rates available). Membership on-line through the website.  
Website: <http://www.ravencon.com/>

May 24-27, 2019 **BALTICON 53**. Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel (Baltimore MD). Guests of Honor: Elizabeth Bear, Scott Lynch, Nicky Drayden (2018 Compton Crook Award Winner). Registration will open toward the end of November 2018. Membership: \$66 before March 1, 2019; \$71 from March 1 until April 15; \$74 beginning April 16; \$77 at the door.  
Website: <https://www.balticon.org/wp53/> E-mail at: [balticoninfo@balticon.org](mailto:balticoninfo@balticon.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.

