



# Lambda Sci-fi DC Area Gaylaxians



PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044



(202) 232-3141 - Issue #258 - September 2011

## Awards, Awards, Awards info passed along by Carl

Once again, a number of prestigious sci-fi awards were announced at the World Science Fiction Convention (RenoVation, Reno NV). Here are some of the highlights:



The Hugo Awards are awards for excellence in the field of science fiction and fantasy. They were first awarded in 1953 and have been awarded every year since 1955. The Hugos are awarded each year at the World Science Fiction Convention; and voting for the awards is open to all members of the World Science Fiction Society (members of the current year's Worldcon).

The 2011 Hugo Award winners were announced at the traditional banquet on Saturday evening, August 20th. Authors Jay Lake and Ken Scholes presided as Masters of Ceremony, with additional presenters including Tim Powers, Boris Vallejo, Ellen Asher, George R.R. Martin, and Robert Silverberg. Here are some of the award-winners:

### Best Novel

*Blackout/All Clear* by Connie Willis  
(Ballantine Spectra)

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### September LSF Meeting \*\*\* Location Change!\*\*\*

The next LSF meeting will be held on Sunday, **September 11th**. The meeting will be held at **Peter and Rob's home, 1425 "S" Street NW, Washington, DC**. The business meeting will begin at 1:30 PM; and the social meeting will begin at 2:00 PM. Please also bring some munchies or soft drinks, if you can. See you there!

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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 meeting will be held on **September 22nd**.

Here are the details for the next several book discussions:

**Sept. 22nd** - *Perks of Being a Wallflower*, by Stephen Chbosky; moderator: Alex.

**Oct. 27th** - *Demon's Lexicon*, by Sarah Rees Brennan; moderator: Claire.

**Dec. 4th** - REMINDER: This is our traditional combined November/December book discussion. *Naked City: Tales of Urban Fantasy*, an anthology edited by Ellen Datlow; moderator: Carl

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### Best Novella

*The Lifecycle of Software Objects*  
by Ted Chiang (Subterranean Press)

### Best Novelette

"The Emperor of Mars"  
by Allen M. Steele  
(*Asimov's*, June 2010)

### Best Short Story

"For Want of a Nail"  
by Mary Robinette Kowal  
(*Asimov's*, Sept. 2010)

### Best Related Work

*Chicks Dig Time Lords:  
A Celebration of Doctor Who  
by the Women Who Love It*  
edited by Lynne M. Thomas  
and Tara O'Shea (Mad Norwegian)

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## WHAT'S INSIDE?

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## Awards, Awards, Awards

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### Best Graphic Story

*Girl Genius, Volume 10:*

*Agatha Heterodyne and  
the Guardian Muse*

written by Phil and Kaja Foglio;

art by Phil Foglio;

colors by Cheyenne Wright

(Airship Entertainment)

### Best Dramatic Presentation, Long Form

*Inception*, written and directed by  
Christopher Nolan (Warner Bros.)

### Best Dramatic Presentation, Short Form

*Doctor Who: "The Pandorica Opens"/  
"The Big Bang"*

written by Steven Moffat,

directed by Toby Haynes (BBC Wales)

### John W. Campbell Award for

Best New Writer (not a Hugo Award)

Lev Grossman

For a complete listing of all 2011  
Hugo Awards, go to their website.

## Sidewise Awards for Alternate History



The Sidewise Awards for Alternate History were conceived in late 1995 to honor the best aliohistorical genre publications of the year. The award takes its name from Murray Leinster's 1934 short story "Sidewise in Time."

### Best 2010 Long-Form Alternate History

*When Angels Wept: A What-If History  
of the Cuban Missile Crisis*

by Eric Swedin (Potomac Books)

### Other Long-Form Finalists:

*Columbia & Britannia*

by Adam Chamberlain and Brian A.  
Dixon (Fourth Horseman Press)

*Red Inferno: 1945* by Robert Conroy

(Ballantine Books)

*Pinion* by Jay Lake (Tor Books)

## Minutes of the August LSF Meeting

taken by Scott

### Business

advised that Wayne Wilkening (Chairman of the Gaylactic Network) asked if LSF would consider hosting Gaylaxicon in 2013. Carl mentioned that Wayne has also asked Jim Williams to consider possibly chairing the con.

### Social

In the Marvel "Ultimate Universe," a new biracial Spiderman named Miles Morales has been introduced.

Claire attended an art show at the Art & Space Museum depicting the space program over the past 50 years. She also advised everyone that the National Book Festival on the National Mall in September will feature a guest appearance by science-fiction author Neal Stephenson.

Carl commented on all of the butt-focused shots of Daniel Craig in the film *Cowboys and Aliens*. Jim W. was impressed by the ape character movement of the new *Rise of the Planet of the Apes* movie. Several people commented that they look forward to Pixar's next feature, *Brave*—a fantasy with a female lead., The

upcoming Superman movie, titled *Man of Steel*, is due out in June 2013; it will feature the Kryptonian villains General Zod and Faora. Carl described the trailer for the game-based movie *Battleship*: it will feature ocean-going alien spaceships against Earth navies. And the "Rockem-Sockem Robots"-based film, *Real Steel*, starring Hugh Jackman, looks promising.

Carl and Jim will be attending the World Science Fiction Convention in Reno this coming week; and David will be attending Gallifrey (Dr. Who Convention) next February. Jim W. reviewed the events and activities at the most recent Shore Leave convention; he got to speak with Gary Lockwood and Sally Kellerman. Claire commented that Anne McCaffrey will be attending the next DragonCon after a long absence due to health issues.

Apparently, not many LSFers have been watching the sci-fi TV series *Alphas*, *Falling Skies*, or *Haven*. And did you know that the newest male character on *Warehouse 13* is gay?

Carl described Paul Malmont's latest novel, *The Astounding, the Amazing, and the Unknown*. In it, genre authors Robert Heinlein, Isaac Asimov, and L. Sprague de Camp work at a naval laboratory doing research in support of the war effort during WWII. Λ Ψ Φ

### Best 2010 Short-Form Alternate History

"A Clash of Eagles" by Alan Smale  
(*Panverse Two*, ed. Dario Ciriello,  
Panverse Publishing)

### Other Short-Form Finalists:

*Mammoths of the Great Plains*  
by Eleanor Arnason (PM Press)

"Alten Kameraden" by Barry Longyear  
(*Asimov's*, April/May 2010)

"Sidewinders" by Ken MacLeod  
(*The Mammoth Book of Alternate  
Histories*, eds. Ian Watson and Ian  
Whates, Robinson Publishing and  
Running Press)

"Goin' Down to Anglotoon"  
by William F. Wu  
(*The Dragon and the Stars*, eds. Derwin  
Mak and Eric Choi, DAW Books)



The Golden Duck Awards are designed to encourage science fiction literature for children. They have been presented every year at Worldcon (since 1992).

### Picture Book

*Oh no, or how my science project  
destroyed the world*  
by Mac Bennett,  
illustrated by Dan Santat

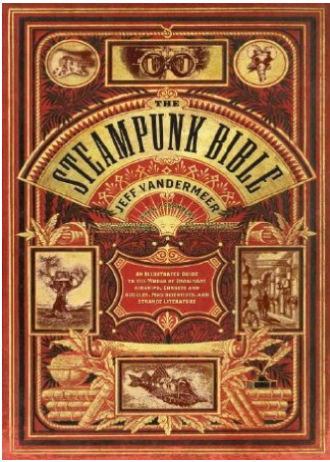
Eleanor Cameron Award  
for Middle Grades  
*Alien Encounter*  
by Pamela Service and Mike Gorman

Hal Clement Award for Young Adult  
*www.Watch* by Robert Sawyer

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## Illustrated Steampunk from Abrams Image, Part 1 of 2

reviewed by Carl



**The Steampunk Bible**  
by Jeff VanderMeer,  
with S.J. Chambers  
(Abrams Image, 2011)

There's been a lot of discussion at LSF lately regarding the resurgence of "steampunk" in the F&SF community. New steampunk novels and anthologies seem to pop up every day. And it's been noted that local conventions – such as Balticon and Darkovercon – have included more and more steampunk activities in recent years. How fortuitous, therefore, is the publication of *The Steampunk Bible: An Illustrated Guide to the World of Imaginary Airships, Corsets and Goggles, Mad Scientists, and Strange Literature!*

You say you're not familiar with "steampunk"? OK, quick and dirty definition: it's a sub-genre of SF that involves an era or world where steam power (and/or clockwork mechanisms) are widely used and that often includes anachronistic technology (or futuristic innovations as Victorians might have envisioned them). Think of the works of Jules Verne or H.G. Wells or Mary Shelley as possible sources. Steampunk literature (labeled as such) first came to prominence during the 1980s and early 1990s: *The Anubis Gates* (Tim Powers, 1983); *Lord Kelvin's Machine* (James Blaylock, 1985); *Infernal Devices* (K.W. Jeter, 1987); *The Difference Engine* (William Gibson & Bruce Sterling, 1990).

*The Steampunk Bible* provides a beautifully-illustrated guide to lead you through all the various ins-and-outs of

the great, wide, weird world of Steampunk!

Chapter 1 – "It's a Clockwork Universe, Victoria" – starts you off with an overview. It even includes a whimsical mathematical formula designed by John Coulthart to provide a tongue-in-cheek "definition" of the genre:

*STEAMPUNK = Mad Scientist Inventor [invention (steam x airship or metal man / baroque stylings) x (pseudo) Victorian setting] + progressive or reactionary politics x adventure plot*

Chapter 2 – "An Imaginary Voyage to the Past" – takes you back through the origins of "steampunk". It provides a really good grounding in the lives and works of Jules Verne and H.G. Wells, as well as supporting background information: the pre-Verne/Wells *contes philosophiques*, Edgar Allan Poe, the Industrial Revolution, the U.S. Civil War, early 20th Century Japanese SF authors (such as Yano Ryukei and Oshikawa Shunro), and the "Edisonades" of the U.S. 19th Century "dime novels".

Chapter 3 – "Clanking Metal Men, Baroque Airships, and Clockwork Worlds" – explores the literature of Steampunk: from its origins in the 1980s (Powers, Blaylock, Jeter, *et al*) up to the current crop of Steampunk-ish writers (Gail Carriger, George Mann, Cherie Priest, Scott Westerfield, *et al*) and the comic books and graphic novels (such as Mike Mignola's "Amazing Screw-On Head", Phil & Kaja Foglio's "Girl Genius", or Alan Moore & Kevin O'Neill's "League of Extraordinary Gentlemen"). "The Young Steampunk's Guide to Subgenres" even outlines possible distinctions *within* Steampunk literature: Boilerpunk, Clockpunk, Dieselpunk, Gaslight Romance, Mannerspunk, Raygun Gothic, and Stitchpunk.

Oh, but wait! There's more to Steampunk than literature! Much, *much* more! And *The Steampunk Bible* leads you there, too.

Chapter 4 – "From Forevertron to the Raygun Rocketship and Beyond" – takes you into the world of artists, craftsmen, and do-it-yourself "activists." There's Forevertron Park (Prairie Du Sac, Wisconsin), a gigantic Steampunk art installation. There's Sean Orlando's full-

sized "Steampunk Tree House," which appeared at the Burning Man Festival (Black Rock City, Nevada, 2007). And there's "Les Machines de L'île Nantes" Exhibit (2007), featuring the gigantic "Sultan's Elephant," a lumbering Steampunk monstrosity built as a tribute to Jules Verne (who lived in Nantes).

You say you don't just want to "read" or "see" Steampunk – you want to "look" Steampunk? OK, turn to Chapter 5 – "Hair Stays, Goggles, Corsets, Clockwork Guitars, and Imaginary Airships" – which leads you through the world of Steampunk fashion, accessorizing, and role-playing. There's even a guide to "Steampunk music" and related events in the Steampunk subculture.

And how can one talk about Steampunk without considering its appearances in and effect upon movies, animated features, and television? So take a look at Chapter 6 – "Magic Lanterns, Robot Armies, Giant Tuning Forks, and Perambulating Castles." It looks at everything from Disney (*20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*, 1954) to Georges Méliès (*Le Voyage dans la Lune*, 1902) to Hayao Miyazaki (*Howl's Moving Castle*, 2004) to *The Wild, Wild West* (1965-1969) to *Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow* (2004) to *Dr. Who* episodes (such as the 2008 Christmas Special) and *Warehouse 13* (SyFy Channel, 2009 to date). It also got me to go on-line and look up "Jasper Morello and the Lost Airship" (2005). I highly recommend taking a look at this Oscar-nominated short film (26 minutes). Wow! Now *that's* Steampunk – with a touch of Lovecraft!

And it's all brought to a speculative conclusion in Chapter 7 – "The Future of Steampunk: Will Clockwork Gears, Mechanical Corsets, and Dirigibles Be Enough?"

*The Steampunk Bible* is a lavishly-illustrated guide to the history and current state of this resurgent F&SF sub-genre. If you're at all interested in things Steampunk-ish, then *The Steampunk Bible* is a "must have." (And if I hadn't read it, I'd never have read the *next* book I'll be reviewing!)

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[Stay tuned for Part 2 of 2 in next month's LSF newsletter!!!]



**\*\* 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 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, **September 11th, at Peter and Rob's home, 1425 "S" Street NW, Washington, DC**. The business meeting will begin at 1:30 PM; and the social meeting will begin at 2:00 PM. Please bring some munchies or soft drinks, if you can. 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



Oct. 14-16, 2011 **CAPCLAVE 2011**. Hilton Washington DC/North Gaithersburg (Gaithersburg, MD). Guests of Honor: Carrie Vaughn & Catherynne Valente. Membership: \$55 July thru September; \$60 thereafter. Make checks payable to "Capclave" and send to: Capclave 2011, PO Box 53, Ashton, MD 20861. Register online at: [www.capclave.org](http://www.capclave.org)  
Website: [www.capclave.org](http://www.capclave.org) Info at: [info@capclave.org](mailto:info@capclave.org)

Nov. 18-20, 2011 **ANIME USA** ("Of Otaku, by Otaku, for Otaku!"). Hyatt Regency Crystal City (Arlington, VA). Membership: \$48 from 9/1 thru 10/31/2011. Register on-line at: <https://www.animeusaregistration.org/>

Nov. 18-20, 2011 **PHILCON 2011** ("Celebrate 75 years of Fandom!"). The Crown Plaza Hotel (Cherry Hill, NJ). Principal Speaker: Cory Doctorow; Artist Guests of Honor: Boris Vallejo & Julie Bell. Membership: \$40 (higher at the door). Make checks payable to "Philadelphia Science Fiction Society" and mail to: Philcon Registration, PO Box 8303, Philadelphia, PA 19101. Or register on-line at [www.philcon.org](http://www.philcon.org).

Nov. 25-27, 2011 **DARKOVER GRAND COUNCIL 34**. (A very LGBT-friendly convention.) Crowne Plaza Baltimore (Timonium, MD). Guests of Honor: Ellen Kushner & Delia Sherman; Special Guests: Katherine Kurtz, Melissa Scott. Membership: \$50 until 11/1; \$55 thereafter & at the door. Make checks payable to "Armida Council" and send to: Armida Council, PO Box 7203, Silver Spring, MD 20907. Website: [www.darkovercon.org](http://www.darkovercon.org) Info at: [jaille@darkovercon.org](mailto:jaille@darkovercon.org)

April 13-15, 2012 **RAVENCON 2012**. Holiday Inn Select Koger Center (Richmond, VA). Guests: TBA. Membership: \$30 before 12/31/2011; \$35 after that; \$40 at the door. Make checks payable to "RavenCon" and send to: RavenCon, PO Box 36420, Richmond, VA 23235. More info online at: <http://www.ravencon.com>

Aug. 30 - Sept. 3, 2012 **CHICON 7** (70th World Science Fiction Convention). Hyatt Regency Chicago (Chicago, IL). Guests of Honor: Mike Resnick (author), Rowena Morrill (artist), John Scalzi (toastmaster), Story Musgrave (astronaut). Membership: \$175 until 09/30/2011. (Will go up after that!) Make checks payable to "Chicon 7" and send to: Chicon 7, PO Box 13, Skokie, IL 60076. (You can also register on-line.) Website: [www.chicon7.org](http://www.chicon7.org) Info: [info@chicon.org](mailto:info@chicon.org)

Oct. 5-7, 2012 **GAYLAXICON 2012**. Doubletree Hotel Minneapolis-Park Place (Minneapolis, MN). Guests: Gary Russell (writer/producer), Wendy Pini (*Elfquest*), Lyda Morehouse (author), Kyell Gold (furry author). Membership: \$70 - 2011 registration. Register on-line (via Eventbrite). Website: [www.gaylaxicon2012.org](http://www.gaylaxicon2012.org)