



Lambda Sci-Fi

DC Area Gaylaxians

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LSF Gaming Party and Capital Pride Parade Viewing – Saturday June 7th announcement from Rob

That's right... you read it correctly... our next LSF Gaming Party is almost here! LSF Gaming Parties are an opportunity to share your favorite board/card type games or to just come and play games you know and love or learn new ones. We have plenty of space, so multiple games will be underway at any given time. We'll start at 1:30 PM and run through to 11 PM or so.

Please Note: This event will replace our normal Second Sunday Social. There will be no Second Sunday Social on Sunday June 8th. (It's Pride Festival Day... go forth and be queer!)

Peter and Rob live less than a block from the Capital Pride Parade route - and we'll plan to take a break to watch the parade as a group. The timing of the parade has changed for this year, and the parade kicks off at 2 PM (since Capital Pride is *also* World Pride) – so we'll essentially start the event with the parade viewing. For those who don't want to view the parade or want to only view it briefly, we'll plan for a way for those who do not want to spend any significant time at the parade to be able to remain at the house during the parade viewing break.



What: LSF Tabletop Gaming & Pride Parade Viewing Party

When: Saturday, June 7th - 1:30 PM until around 11 PM – doors open 1:00 PM. The parade starts at 2 PM.

Where: Peter and Rob's Home – 1425 "S" Street NW in DC

What to Bring: Bring your favorite table game (or two or three or....). Also, please bring food/snacks and/or non-alcoholic beverages to share. Please feel free to bring friends along as well - the more gamers the merrier!

Dinner: There are many nearby options.

Questions: Contact Peter at: peter@lambdascifi.org

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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 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; but the next book discussion will be held on May 22, 2025.

Here are the details for the next several discussions:

May 22 – *To Shape a Dragon's Breath*, by Moniquill Blackgoose (moderator: Adrienne).

June 26 – *I Keep My Exoskeletons to Myself*, by Mack (Marisa) Crane (moderator: Sam).

July 24 – *The Fifth Season*, by N.K. Jemison (moderator: Zena). ΛΨΦ



***** May 11, 2025 Meeting *****

The next LSF meeting will be held on **Sunday, May 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 PM. Hope to see you there!



What's Inside?

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My Votes for the Best Dramatic Presentation Hugos of 2024

by Peter Knapp

These are the twelve nominees for the two best dramatic presentation Hugos that will be awarded at this year's Seattle Worldcon 2025 and how I ranked my voting for them. Of the five nominations I submitted for the long form, only *The Wild Robot* and *Wicked* got enough votes to make the final ballot. I did worse with my long form nominations. Only "Death's Hand in Mine" from *Agatha All Along* made the final ballot. With that batting average, will my top picks in both categories win a Hugo? Find out August 16 when the winners are revealed.

Long Form



The Wild Robot (DreamWorks Animation) – This amazing, animated movie about a robot lost in the wilderness who befriends and protects the animals it lives with was hands down my favorite movie of 2024. Perhaps being an animal lover biased me, but watching a tale of animals being protected from the cruelty of man brought tears to my eyes. I found the movie funny, poignant, and engaging.



Wicked (Universal Pictures) – I loved the original source material, Gregory Maguire's *Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West*, from the Oz universe. I didn't like the Broadway musical *Wicked*, based on the book *Wicked*. I didn't think I'd like the

Minutes of the April LSF Meeting

taken by Scott

Rob and Peter attended this year's Awesome Con at the Washington Convention Center. Peter volunteered at the con's huge gaming room, which was run by local gaming business Labyrinth. Rob attended a panel on teaching *Dungeons & Dragons*. Peter reported that Geeks Out held a panel focused on drag queens.

Rob and Peter will be attending two genre plays in New York City: *Death Becomes Her* and *Stranger Things: The First Shadow*.

Book News:

Derrick read Edward Ashton's 2022 novel *Mickey 7*, which he compared to Orson Scott Card's 2013 *Ender's Game*. He also promoted the five-book Victorian age science fantasy series "The Lady Trent Memoirs" Marie Brennan.

There was a discussion about the selection process for Hugo award nominations. David discussed "E Pluribus Hugo" (visit this link for more info: https://electowiki.org/wiki/E_Pluribus_Hugo).

TV News:

The season opener for the current *Doctor Who* has premiered – featuring Miss Belinda Chandra. The episode maintained a 1950's-vibe. The next episode will include animation.

movie, based on the musical, based on the book. Surprise, surprise, I did. The cast did a great job. I found the production design and costumes brilliant. I'm looking forward to part two of the movie that will be released November 21.



Dune: Part Two (Legendary Pictures/Warner Bros. Pictures) – Yawn. Denis Villeneuve is a brilliant director,

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Season 7 of the Netflix series *Black Mirror* has started. David advised that the season finale of the *Wheel of Time* series will start next week. (It's based upon the book series by Robert Jordan.)

Film News:

Derrick reported that he's watched the 1998 *Akira* as well as David Lynch's 1984 *Dune* (starring Kyle MacLachlan). Peter did not enjoy the 2024 American psychological horror drama film *I Saw the TV Glow*. Rob reported that he's eager to watch the 2025 horror comedy film *Death of a Unicorn*. There was general agreement that the 2025 *Minecraft* (starring Jason Momoa and Jack Black) sounds horrible. (The horde of YouTube "Minecraft" videos made by 11-year-olds rank better.)

Peter listed upcoming movie releases: *Thunderbolts** (which is described as *Suicide Squad*-ish), *Jurassic World: Rebirth*, *Superman*, and *Fantastic Four: First Steps*.

Other News:

Derrick told everyone about the 16th anniversary of web comic *Homestuck*, created by author & artist Andrew Hussie. It ran from 2009 to 2016. Derrick said that the plot is similar to *Jumanji*.

Upcoming LSF Events:

Book discussions: April: *Friren: Beyond Journey's End* (Volumes 1 & 2) by Kanehito Yamada & Tsukasa Abe; May: *To Shape a Dragon's Breath* by Moniquill Blackgoose.

There will be no regular LSF meeting on the 2nd Sunday in June. Instead, on Saturday, June 7th, there will be an LSF gaming party, followed by a short stroll to the Pride Parade that day.

As a "big finish," we watched the trailer for Apple+ TV's *Murderbot*, based upon "The Murderbot Diaries" by Martha Wells. Peter also displayed a fun poster for the Apple+ TV series *Severance*.

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My Votes

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and in so many ways this was a brilliant movie. It is also the third time *Dune* has been brought to screen. (The 1965 novel by Frank Herbert was previously adapted for the 1984 David Lynch-directed theatrical movie and the Syfi Channel's 2000 TV miniseries.) I'm so familiar with the material, this new version didn't wow me.



Flow (Dream Well Studio) – Expectations can be a dangerous thing. I missed *Flow* in the theaters and heard and read that this was the best animated movie released in a long time. That it was a story about a cat and other animals trying to survive in a post-apocalyptic (to at least humans) world sounded intriguing. That there was no dialog piqued my curiosity. What I saw was very pretty, but didn't go anywhere and left me cold. Would I have enjoyed the movie more if my expectations were not so high? Probably. Was it better than *The Wild Robot*? Definitely not.



Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (Warner Bros. Pictures) – This is the fifth movie in the *Mad Max* post-apocalyptic universe and the second movie about the character Imperator Furiosa. It is a prequel to the far superior *Mad Max: Fury Road*, which introduced Furiosa. I found the movie a lot of spectacle without a lot of heart.



I Saw the TV Glow (Fruit Tree/Smudge Films/A24) – Quoting my husband Rob, “[I] have a predilection against slow burn, horror, and teen angst. The deck is stacked against [me] for this movie.” I think he is right. I really had trouble getting into this movie I had never heard of before the Hugo nominations were announced. That there was transgendered content was totally lost for me.

Short Form

I went back and rewatched the five episodes I had previously seen, along with the one nominee I had not seen. I found watching all six nominees in the span of two days an interesting experience. It helped me really think about:

1. Whether a self-contained story was better than an episode in the middle of the season run.
2. Whether being familiar with the universe the episode played in impacted my enjoyment of the episode.
3. Did the episode bring me joy.

Answering those three questions helped me rank the six nominations.



Star Trek: Lower Decks: “The New Next Generation” (Paramount+) – I really enjoyed the series finale of the comedic animated *Star Trek* show. It paid off five sessions of this love letter to all things *Star Trek* but didn't rely on needing to have watched every *Star Trek* that preceded it. (Self-contained: Yes; Familiar with universe: Yes; Brought me joy: Yes)

Star Trek: Lower Decks: “Fissure Quest” (Paramount+) – I also really enjoyed the penultimate episode of *Lower Decks*, probably a bit more than the finale. This episode had so many guest characters from *The Next Generation* timeline appearing that I don't think the episode would have worked as well if I wasn't a diehard *Star Trek* Fan. (Self-contained: Yes; Familiar with universe: Yes; Brought me joy: Yes)



Doctor Who: “73 Yards” (BBC, Disney+) – This Doctor-light standalone episode spotlighted the companion Ruby Sunday. The show runner, Russel T Davies, described it as folk horror. Horror is normally not my thing and brought down my enjoyment of the episode. (Self-contained: Yes; Familiar with universe: Yes; Brought me joy: No)

Doctor Who: “Dot and Bubble” (BBC, Disney+) – Another standalone episode that I initially didn't particularly like. I had trouble empathizing with the guest cast who played self-absorbed addicts of social media. I liked the episode better on second viewing. (Self-contained: Yes; Familiar with universe: Yes; Brought me joy: No)



Agatha All Along: “Death's Hand in Mine” (Marvel, Disney+) – *Agatha All Along* is a quirky, imaginative show. Patti LuPone plays a 450-year-old witch and member of Agatha's coven who experiences time in a non-linear fashion. This episode focuses on her character, and LuPone is brilliant in this episode. In some ways I enjoyed this episode more than the two nominated *Doctor Who* episodes. Unlike the self-contained *Doctor Who* episodes, this ‘chapter’ of *Agatha All Along* is tightly connected to the previous episodes in the season and doesn't hold its own. (Self-contained: No; Familiar with universe: Yes; Brought me joy: Yes)

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*** * INFORMATION ABOUT LAMBDA SCI-FI: DC AREA GAYLAXIANS * ***

Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians (LSF) is an organization for lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and trans-gendered (LGBT) 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 LGBT people and their friends;
- provide forums for LGBT people and their friends to share their interest in SF/F/H;
- promote the presence of LGBT elements within SF/F/H and within fandom; and
- promote SF/F/H within the LGBT community.

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, **May 11th, at Peter and Rob's home, 1425 "S" Street NW, Washington, DC.** We 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 23-26, 2025 **BALTICON 59**. Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel (Baltimore MD). Author Guests of Honor: Silvia Moreno-Garcia & Sebastien de Castell; Artist GoH: Stephanie Law; Science GoH: Marc Abrahams. Membership: \$80 - March 1 thru April 15; \$85 - April 16 thru May 15; \$89 at the door (daily rates available). For more information and on-line registration: [Balticon 59 | Baltimore's Science Fiction Convention](#)

June 7, 2025 **HANACON**. "Anime, Art, & Asian Pop culture Convention." Silver Spring Civic Building at Veterans Plaza (Silver Spring MD). Membership limited to 1,000. Membership: \$45. For more information: www.HanaConAnime.com

August 7-10, 2025 **PULPFEST 2025**. "Celebrating pulp magazines and related materials, vintage paperbacks, digests, men's adventure and true crime magazines, contemporary genre fiction, first-edition hardcovers, series books, dime novels, original art, Big Little Books, Gold/Silver/Bronze age comic books, old time radio shows, gaming materials, film serials, B-movies, and related collectibles." DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Pittsburgh-Cranberry (Mars PA). Weekend membership = \$40 for members staying at the DoubleTree (otherwise = \$50). Webpage: <https://pulpfest.com>

August 13-17, 2025 **SEATTLE WORLDCON 2025**. Seattle Convention Center (Seattle WA). Guests of Honor: Martha Wells, Donato Giancola, Bridget Landry, K. Tempest Bradford, Nisi Shawl. Full attending membership: currently \$250 (will go up). For more information & on-line registration: <https://seattlein2025.org>

October 3-5, 2025. **GAYLAXICON 2025**. Crowne Plaza Suites AiRE MSP Airport - Mall of America (Bloomington MN). *More details as they become available.* [Home - Gaylaxicon 2025](#)

August 27-31, 2026 **LACON V** (2026 World Science Fiction Convention). Anaheim Convention Center, Hilton Anaheim & Anaheim Marriott Hotels (Anaheim CA). Guests of Honor: Barbara Hambly, Ronald D. Moore, Colleen Duran, Dr. Anita Sengupta, Tim Kirk, Geri Sullivan (Fan GoH), Stan Sakai, Ursula Vernon (aka T. Kingfisher). Full attending membership: currently \$200 (will go up). For more information & on-line registration: <https://www.lacon.org/>

My Votes

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Fallout: "The Beginning" (Amazon Prime Video) – I have never played the *Fallout* video game, nor had I watched the series. Starting with this season finale, I felt I missed a lot of

character development, setup, and worldbuilding that would have made my enjoyment of the episode better. Was it a bad episode? No. Did I care if the capitalists or the rebels would prevail in this post-apocalyptic world? Not really. Compared with the other nominees, whose seasons I had watched in their entirety and enjoyed overall, this single episode of *Fallout* wasn't dramatic enough as a standalone episode to engage me. (Self-contained: No; Familiar with universe: No; Brought me joy: No)

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