



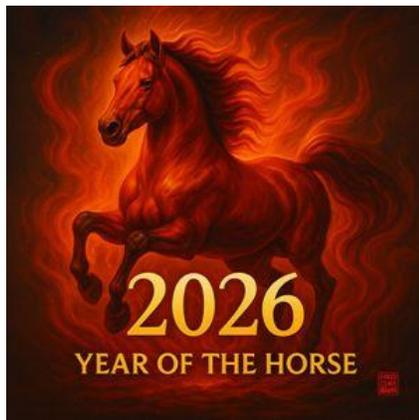
lambda Sci-fi

DC Area Gaylaxians

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恭喜发财

Gong hei fat choy!

(Cantonese: “Wishing you happiness and prosperity.”)



The Lunar New Year begins on February 17th. It will be the Year of the (Fire) Horse – 7th in the 12-year cycle of animals and 4th in the 60-year cycle of elements (metal, wood, water, fire, earth).



♥ Happy ♥
Valentine's Day
to everyone at
Lambda Sci-Fi
(and all their
friends)!

📖 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 February 26, 2026.

Here are the details for the next couple of discussions:

February 26, 2026 – *Gideon the Ninth*, by Tamsyn Muir; moderator: Tod.

March 26, 2026 – *Klara and the Sun*, by Kazuo Ishiguro; moderator: Zena.



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***** February 8, 2026 Meeting *****

The next LSF meeting will be held on **Sunday, February 8th**. 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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**Minutes of the January
LSF Meeting**
taken by Scott

Movie Stuff

Andy watched *K-Pop Demon Hunter* on Netflix. He described it as fun and predictable.

Jim enjoyed *Fantastic Four: First Steps* which occurs on Earth 828. The number 828 is a tribute to Jack Kirby (Marvel artist who originated the FF, born August 28: 8/28). The portrayal of Reed Richards/Mr. Fantastic is widely interpreted as neurodivergent.

Andy spoke about *Love Me*, a genre romance film starring Kristen Stewart and Steven Yeun. It is about a buoy and a satellite who develop a relationship after humanity goes extinct.

TV Stuff

Peter and Rob watched Netflix's *Stranger Things* finale. Some fans were bothered by the ending. Rob commented that he got misty-eyed during the final scene.

David said that the final season of Hallmark Channel's genre series *The Way Home* has been announced.

Derrick has finished watching the second season of *Farscape*, which originally aired from 1999 to 2003. Derrick also enjoyed Joe Hill's 2013 supernatural horror TV series *NOS4A2*. (Note: Joe Hill is Stephen King's son.)

The first two episodes of *Star Trek: Star Fleet Academy* are being released this week. The second season of Crunchyroll's *Frieren* is about to be released.

David is watching *War Between the Land and the Sea* (part of the Who-Verse).

David & Thiago enjoyed Netflix's anime series *Dragon Prince*. David said that it has an element-coded magic system: the Sun, the Moon, the Stars, the Earth, the Sky, and the Ocean.

Other Stuff

David educated everyone with a term "canon immigrant", which is a character who originates outside the primary canon (animation, film, or games) and is subsequently incorporated into the primary canon. Rob provided the example of DC's Harley Quinn character who was

LSF Book-ish Exchange		
From	To	What
Derrick	Karl	Robert Anton Wilson's "Schrodinger's Cat Trilogy"
Carl	Derrick	Suzanne Palmer's "Finder Chronicles" – <i>Finder, Driving the Deep, Scavenger Door, Ghostdrift</i>
David	Carl	Madeline L'Engle's "Time Quartet" series (5 titles)
Karl	Andy	DVDs: <i>Signs, District 9, Hairspray, Jurassic Park</i>
Andy	Rob	Dan Simmons "Hyperion Cantos" series
Rob	David	Daniel Keys Moran's <i>The Ring, Armageddon Blues, Emerald Eyes, Last Dancer</i>

introduced into the cartoons and then showed up in the comic books.

David will be seeing the play *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* in New York City, which features the sons of Harry Potter and Draco Malfoy as central characters. He will also be seeing *Happy Ending*, about robots in love.

Rob recommended the wizard-detective "Lord Darcy" series of books by author Randall Garrett to Derrick, published from 1964 to 1979.

Rob reported about the "Dungeons n Drafts" event slated for 01/19/2026 at Aslin Beer Company (1740 14th St NW).

Jim advised everyone that HAL 9000's birthday was 01/12/1992 (the date he becomes operational in *2001: A Space Odyssey*). Jim also reported that genre author David Gerrold is having some health issues.

Rob chatted about the sudden shut-down of Misha Merlin publishers in May 2007.

David described the phenomenon of microdramas: 1-5 minute serialized dramatic episodes built for smart-phone viewing and designed for fast consumption, addictive cliffhangers and algorithm-driven engagement. Absolutely gamified. Rob has watched a 2025 microdrama titled "Prince's First Love", a short, LGBTQ "enemies-to-lovers" romance.

Upcoming LSF Book Discussions: (January) *This World is Not Yours* by Kemi Ashing-Giwa, (February) *Gideon the Ninth* by Tamsyn Muir, (March) *Klara and the Sun* by Kazuo Ishiguro.

The Annual LSF Book-ish Exchange was held. See the box above for the results. (Ed. Note: Carl participated *in absentia*.)

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"Happy Birthday,
HAL!"

"Thank you,
Dave."

[And "thank you, Jim W." for reminding us that the HAL 9000 became operational on January 12, 1992.]

More Discoveries from Asteroid Benu

info passed along by Carl



Asteroid Benu (NASA)

In last month's new letter, it was reported that samples taken from 4.6-billion-year-old asteroid Benu in 2023 contained 33 amino acids, including tryptophan (the complex amino acid often linked to post-turkey-dinner drowsiness). But wait, there's more...

On December 10th, NASA announced that scientists have also found that the samples contain sugars essential for life on Earth: glucose (the human body's main source of energy) and ribose (a critical RNA ingredient). This marks the first time ribose has been found in an extraterrestrial sample. Although the sugars are not evidence of extraterrestrial life, NASA says that it shows that crucial ingredients for life's chemistry are widespread throughout the solar system.

Dr. Yoshihiro Furukawa (Tohoku University, Japan) said in a statement: "All five nucleobases used to construct both DNA and RNA, along with phosphates, have already been found in the Benu samples brought to Earth by OSIRIS-Rex. The new discovery of ribose means that all of the components to form the molecule RNA are present in Benu."

NASA noted that finding ribose in Benu was not a complete surprise, because it was previously detected in meteorites recovered on Earth in 2019. However, not finding the sugar deoxyribose (a key building block of DNA) was also interesting, because of what it could mean for the beginnings of life. It means that ribose might have been more common than deoxyribose in environments of the early solar system and could support the theory that the first forms of life relied on RNA for survival. Dr. Furukawa said: "Present day life is based on a complex system organized primarily by three types of functional biopolymers: DNA, RNA, and proteins. However, early life may have been simpler."

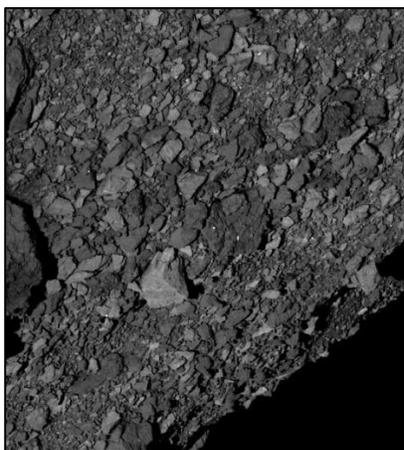


Image taken by NASA's OSIRIS-REx spacecraft (March 2019), showing a view across asteroid Benu's southern hemisphere and into space

In addition to the sugars they found in the asteroid's samples, researchers also found ancient and mysterious "space gum" – something never seen before in space rocks. NASA says this translucent rubber-and-plastic-like substance could have helped create life on Earth and that the gum was likely made in the early days of the solar system. The larger "parent" asteroid that Benu broke off from was formed from materials in the cloud of gas and dust that eventually led to the creation of our solar system – and previous research showed that this parent asteroid survived various chemical processes involving heat and water during the solar system's formation.

For more information about the OSIRIS-Rex mission and the Benu sample, go to:

<https://science.nasa.gov/mission/osiris-rex/>

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Ice Age DNA info passed along by Carl

Over a decade ago, the frozen remains of a pair of Siberian wolf pups were pulled from the permafrost near the village of Tumat (northeast Siberia), some of the youngest specimens of the animal ever discovered. One of the pups had its final meal preserved inside its stomach, a piece of flesh from the now-extinct woolly rhinoceros (*Coelodonta antiquitatis*), an animal similar in size to the modern white rhino but covered in a robust coat of hair allowing it to survive the harsh Siberian temperatures. Most probably, the woolly rhino fell prey to a pack of wolves, and the pup got a share of the feast. Radiocarbon dating placed the pup's last meal at roughly 14,400 years ago (a few hundred years before the extinction of the woolly rhino species).

But wait, there's more...

A new study, published in the journal *Genome Biology and Evolution*, describes how scientists were able to sequence a "high-coverage genome" from the muscle tissues of the woolly rhino. This is the first time researchers have sequenced the entire genome of an Ice Age animal, and it's thanks to what was found inside the stomach of another animal.



For more detailed information:

[Genome Shows no Recent Inbreeding in Near-Extinction Woolly Rhinoceros Sample Found in Ancient Wolf's Stomach | Genome Biology and Evolution | Oxford Academic](#)

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LEGO Cupid for Valentine's Day



** 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, February 8th, 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 16-17, 2026 **HANACON**. "Anime, Art, Asian & Pop Culture Convention." Sheraton Baltimore North Hotel (Towson MD). Membership: \$65 (until May 15, 2026); \$70 thereafter and at the door. Website: www.HanaConAnime.com

May 22-25, 2026 **BALTICON 60**. Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel (Baltimore MD). Guests of Honor: Jim Butcher, Jennifer Blackstream, Elizabeth Leggett (Art GoH). Membership: \$75 thru Feb. 29, 2026; then \$80 thru April 15; then \$85 thru May 15; \$89 at the door (daily rates available). More details as they become available. Website: <https://www.balticon.org/>

July 10-12 2026. **SHORE LEAVE 46**. "Celebrate Star Trek's 60th Anniversary." Lancaster Wyndham Resort & Convention Center (Lancaster PA). Names of celebrity guests on website. Membership: \$130 for the weekend; daily rates available. Website: www.shore-leave.com

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/>

October 2-4, 2026 **CAPCLAVE 2026**. Rockville Hilton & Executive Meeting Center (Rockville MD). Guests of Honor: Rebecca Roanhorse, Nino Cipri. Details as they become available. Website: <https://capclave.org>

Temporary Shutdown of Large Hadron Collider info passed along by Carl

Starting in June 2026, the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) is going to shut down for about 5 years. Engineers will be upgrading the LHC so that it can carry out ten times the number of particle collisions it currently can do. The project is currently called the "high-luminosity LHC". The new LHC's massive ring-shaped tunnel will be considerably bigger than the current LHC – about 100 km instead of the current 27 km. This will allow for far more experiments to be conducted and yield still more data.

The LHC's underground particle accelerator is designed to whip up particles to nearly light speed and replicate the extreme conditions in the cos-



mos shortly after the Big Bang. In 2012, scientists used the LHC to discover the existence of the Higgs boson, an elementary particle that is responsible for giving all other particles their mass.

While the LHC is shut down, physicists will still be left with plenty of "homework" to complete. Says Mark Thomson (new director general of CERN, the intergovernmental organization and physics lab that oversees the

LHC): "The machine is running brilliantly and we're recording huge amounts of data. There's going to be plenty to analyze over the period. The physics results will keep on coming."

$\Lambda\Psi\Phi$

