



Lambda Sci-fi

DC Area Gaylaxians

(202) 232-3141 – Issue # 434 – May 2026

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Welcome home, Artemis II crew! (April 10)

***** May 10, 2026 Meeting *****

The next LSF meeting will be held on **Sunday, May 10th**. 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!



📖 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 LGBTQ 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 28, 2026.

Here are the details for the next three discussions:

May 28 – *The Adventures of Amina al-Sirafi*, by Shannon Chokraborty; moderator: Zena.

June 25 – *Project Hail Mary*, by Andy Weir; moderator: Todd.

July 23 – *The First Fifteen Lives of Harry August*, by Claire North; moderator: Andy.

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NOTE: The "fourth Thursday" date in August (Aug. 27) will conflict with LA-con V (Worldcon), which many LSFers will be attending. **Therefore, the August book discussion will instead be held on Aug. 20 (third Thursday).**

What's Inside?

Page 2: Finalists for Hugo Awards; Minutes of the April LSF Meeting; Link to the NASA Gallery for the Artemis II Lunar Flyby.

Page 4: Info About LSF: DC Area Gaylaxians & Historical Con Calendar.

Finalists for Hugo Awards

info passed along by Carl



LAcon V (the 84th World Science Fiction Convention) has announced finalists for the 2026 Hugo Awards, the most prestigious honors for excellence in science fiction and fantasy. Voting on the final ballot will open in early May 2026; and only LA-con V WSFS members will be able to vote on the final ballot and choose the winners for the 2026 Awards. The 2026 Hugo Awards, the Lodestar Award, and the *Astounding* Award will be presented on Sunday evening, August 30, 2025 at a formal ceremony at LAcon V.

Here are the finalists in several major categories:

Best Novel

- *A Drop of Corruption* by Robert Jackson Bennett (Del Rey; Hodder-escape)
- *Death of the Author* by Nnedi Okorafor (William Morrow; Gollancz)
- *Shroud* by Adrian Tchaikovsky (Tor UK; Orbit US)
- *The Everlasting* by Alix E. Harrow (Tor US; Tor UK)
- *The Incandescent* by Emily Tesh (Tor US; Orbit UK)
- *The Raven Scholar* by Antonia Hodgson (Orbit US; Hodderscape)

Best Novella

- *Automatic Noodle* by Annalee Newitz (Tordotcom)
- *Cinder House* by Freya Marske (Tordotcom; Tor UK)
- *Murder by Memory* by Olivia Waite (Tordotcom)
- *The River Has Roots* by Amal El-Mohtar (Tordotcom; Arcadia UK)
- *The Summer War* by Naomi Novik (Del Rey US; Del Rey UK)
- *What Stalks the Deep* by T. Kingfisher (Nightfire; Titan UK)

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Minutes of the April LSF Meeting

taken by Scott

Jim described his recent fan-friendly JoCo cruise. He met NASA astronaut Kate Rubins. Will Wheaton did not attend, but John Scalzi did.

Rob described turn-based play-by-mail games. Play-by-mail games emphasize strategy, planning, and diplomacy rather than quick reactions. Play results for each turn are sent to each player, often days or weeks later.

Jim talked about how he liked the 1981 CJ Cherryh *Downbelow Station* (1981) by CJ Cheryh, part of the Alliance–Union Universe.

Did you know that Margaret Atwood, author of *The Handmaid's Tale*, did not care for the term science fiction for her work, preferring speculative fiction?

Andy described Clare North's novel *The First Fifteen Lives of Harry August*, which blends time-loop mechanics with philosophical and emotional depth.

Movies

Everyone loves the movie *Project Hail Mary*, based upon the novel of the same name by Andy Weir. (Note: This book is this month's LSF book discussion title.)

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Rob noted that the 2026 Oscar winners include genre titles such as *Sinners*, *Frankenstein*, and *KPop Demon Hunters*.

TV

There was lots of discussion about how the writers of *Star Trek: Lower Decks* have included characters from the TOS animated series that are considered cannon.

David said that he and Chiago are watching *Spy X Family*, an animated series based on the manga by Tatsuya Endo.

Jim has enjoyed the *Godzilla Monarch* series, starring Kurt Russell and his son Wyatt Russell.

The new season of AppleTV's *For All Mankind* series has begun; it's set in the 2010's. David informed everyone that the fourth season of the Hallmark Channel's time-travel-based series *The Way Back Home* will be starting soon.

Who will be watching the new HBO *Harry Potter* series, slated to be released on Christmas Day 2026? (Can you watch it without giving acknowledgement to JK Rowling?) ΛΨΦ



Earthset
(6:41 PM, April 6, 2026)
During the Artemis II crew's flyby of the Moon

To view more photos in the NASA Gallery for the Artemis II Lunar Flyby, go to:

[Artemis II Lunar Flyby - NASA](#)

Hugo Finalists

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Best Novelette

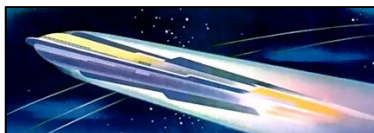
- “Kaiju Agonistes” by Scott Lynch (*Uncanny Magazine*, Issue 62)
- “Never Eaten Vegetables” by H.H. Pak (*Clarkesworld*, Issue 220)
- “Rapport: Friendship, Solidarity, Communion, Empathy” by Martha Wells (*Reactor*, July 10, 2025)
- “The Girl That My Mother Is Leaving Me For” by Cameron Reed (*Reactor*, April 2, 2025)
- “The Millay Illusion” by Sarah Pinsker (*Uncanny Magazine*, Issue 67)
- “When He Calls Your Name” by Catherynne M. Valente (*Uncanny Magazine*, Issue 65)

Best Short Story

- “10 Visions of the Future; or, Self-Care for the End of Days” by Samantha Mills (*Uncanny Magazine*, Issue 63)
- “In My Country” by Thomas Ha (*Clarkesworld*, Issue 223)
- “Laser Eyes Ain’t Everything” by Effie Seiberg (*Diabolical Plots*, May 16, 2025)
- “Missing Helen” by Tia Tashiro (*Clarkesworld*, Issue 226)
- “Six People to Revise You” by J.R. Dawson (*Uncanny Magazine*, Issue 62)
- “Wire Mother” by Isabel J. Kim (*Clarkesworld*, Issue 229)

Best Series

- *Emily Wilde* by Heather Fawcett (Del Rey US; Orbit UK)
- *October Daye* by Seanan McGuire (Tor US; DAW)
- *Old Man’s War* by John Scalzi (Tor US; Tor UK)
- *The Chronicles of Osreth* by Katherine Addison (Tor US; Solaris UK; Subterranean)
- *The Craft Wars* by Max Gladstone (Tor; Tordotcom)
- *White Space* by Elizabeth Bear (Saga Press; Gollancz)



Best Graphic Story or Comic

- *Absolute Wonder Woman Vol. 1: The Last Amazon*, written by Kelly Thompson, art by Hayden Sherman and Mattia de Iulis (DC Comics)
- *A Girl and Her Fed*, written by KB Spangler, art by Ale Presser (www.agirlandherfed.com)
- *A Wizard of Earthsea: A Graphic Novel*, written by Ursula K. Le Guin, adapted and art by Fred Fordham (Clarion Books; Walker UK)
- *The Invisible Parade* by Leigh Bardugo and John Picacio (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers; Orion UK)
- *The Power Fantasy Volume 1: The Superpowers*, written by Kieron Gillen, art by Caspar Wijngaard (Image Comics)
- *The Space Cat*, written by Nnedi Okorafor, art by Tana Ford (First Second)

Best Related Work

- *Colourfields: Writing About Writing About Science Fiction* by Paul Kincaid (Briardene Books)
- *Inventing the Renaissance* by Ada Palmer (University of Chicago Press US, Head of Zeus UK)
- *Last War in Albion: “The Cuddled Little Vice (Sandman)”* by Elizabeth Sandifer (Eruditorum Press)
- *Positive Obsession: The Life and Times of Octavia E. Butler* by Susana M. Morris (Amistad)
- “Ragnarök vs the Long Night” by Ashaya and Aziz (History of Westeros Podcast, August 10, 2025)
- *The Hugo Spreadsheet of Doom*, maintained by Renay (Google Spreadsheet)

Best Dramatic Presentation,

Long Form

- *Andor* (Season 2), written by Tom Bissell, Dan Gilroy, Tony Gilroy, and Beau Willimon, directed by Ariel Kleiman, Janus Metz, Alonso Ruizpalacios (Disney+)
- *Frankenstein*, screenplay by & directed by Guillermo del Toro (Netflix)

- *KPop Demon Hunters*, screenplay by Danya Jimenez & Hannah McMechan, Maggie Kang and Chris Appelhans; directed by Maggie Kang and Chris Appelhans (Sony Pictures Animation for Netflix)
- *Mickey 17*, screenplay by Bong Joon Ho, directed by Bong Joon Ho (Warner Bros. Pictures)
- *Sinners*, screenplay by Ryan Coogler, directed by Ryan Coogler (Proximity Media, Warner Bros. Pictures)
- *Superman*, screenplay by James Gunn, directed by James Gunn (DC Studios)

Best Dramatic Presentation,

Short Form

- *Doctor Who: “The Story & the Engine”*, written by Inua Ellams, directed by Makalla McPherson (BBC One, Disney +)
- *Murderbot: “All Systems Red”*, written by Paul Weitz & Chris Weitz, directed by Roseanne Liang, based on the book *All Systems Red* by Martha Wells (Apple TV)
- *Murderbot: “The Perimeter”*, written Chris Weitz & Paul Weitz, directed by Paul Weitz, based on the book *All Systems Red* by Martha Wells (Apple TV)
- *Pluribus: “We Is Us”*, written and directed by Vince Gilligan (Apple TV)
- *Severance: “Cold Harbor”*, written by Dan Erickson, directed by Ben Stiller (Apple TV)
- *The Wheel of Time: “The Road to the Spear”*, written by Rafe Lee Judkins, directed by Thomas Napper, based on the book *The Wheel of Time* by Robert Jordan (Amazon Prime Video)

Best Game or Interactive Work

- *Blue Prince*, developed by Dogubomb, published by Raw Fury
- *Citizen Sleeper 2: Starward Vector*, developed by Jump Over the Age, published by Fellow Traveller

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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 10th, 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 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: \$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

July 30 – August 2, 2026. **PULPFEST 2026**. "Celebrating Mystery, Adventure, Science Fiction, and More." Includes Doc Con 2026, FarmerCon XXI, and Shadow Con. DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Pittsburgh-Cranberry (Mars, PA). Membership: Advance Full Membership = \$40 (if staying at the DoubleTree); \$50 Full Membership; Single-Day Membership for either Friday or Saturday = \$25. Registration form can be downloaded from the Homepage. Homepage: <https://pulpfest.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>

Hugo Finalists

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- *Clair Obscur: Expedition 33*, developed by Sandfall Interactive, published by Kepler Interactive
- *Dispatch*, developed and published by AdHoc Studio
- *Hades II*, developed and published by Supergiant Games
- *Hollow Knight: Silksong*, developed and published by Team Cherry
Lodestar Award for Best YA Book
- *Among Ghosts* by Rachel Hartman (Random House Books for Young Readers)
- *Coffeeshop in an Alternate Universe* by C.B. Lee (Feiwel & Friends)
- *Holy Terrors* by Margaret Owen (Henry Holt; Hodderscape UK)
- *Oathbound* by Tracy Deonn (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers)
- *Sunrise on the Reaping* by Suzanne Collins (Scholastic Press)
- *They Bloom at Night* by Trang Thanh Tran (Bloomsbury US/UK)
Astounding Award for Best New Writer (sponsored by Dell Magazines)
- Sophie Burnham (2nd year of eligibility)
- Kamilah Cole (2nd year of eligibility)
- Antonia Hodgson (1st year of eligibility)
- Molly O'Neill (1st year of eligibility)
- H.H. Pak (2nd year of eligibility)
- Jared Pečaček (2nd year of eligibility)

For a complete listing of all categories and finalists, go to:

[Hugo Award Finalists – LAcon V](https://www.lacon.org/)

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