



Lambda Sci-fi

DC Area Gaylaxians

(202) 232-3141 – Issue # 437 – August 2026

E-MAIL: info@lambdascifi.org

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“Dog Days of Summer” LSF Gaming Party announced by Peter



To celebrate the Dog Days of Summer, we’re throwing our next LSF Gaming Party! 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. Peter and Rob have plenty of space, so multiple games will be underway at any given time. We’ll start at 2:00 PM and run through to 11 PM or so.



When: Saturday, August 15,
2:00 PM to 11 PM or so.

What to Bring: Bring your favorite table game (or two or three). Also, please bring munchies and/or soft drinks to share (non-alcoholic please).

Dinner: For those who are interested, we’ll order pizza for dinner. To get in on the pizza order, please bring \$10 in exact change. If you don’t want pizza, you can order take-out or go forage for food. There are a lot of food choices in the Midcity (14th and “U”) Corridor.

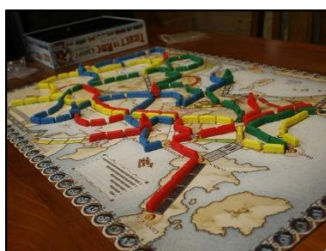
Where: Home of Peter and Rob, 1425 “S” Street NW, Washington, DC. Their home is in the Midcity (14th and “U”) neighborhood between Dupont Circle and Logan Circle.

Directions (with Metro and parking advice) at:

<https://www.lambdascifi.org/peterrob>

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 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 August 20, 2026.

Here are the details for the next three discussions:

Aug. 20 [*note date change to third Thursday*] – *The Will of the Many*, by James Islington; moderator: Josh.

Sept. 24 – *The Mercy of Gods*, by James S. A. Corey; moderator: Greg.

Oct. 22 – *The Starving Saints*, by Caitlin Starling; moderator: Rob.

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***** August 9, 2026 Meeting *****

The next LSF meeting will be held on **Sunday, August 9th**. 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?

Page 2: Factoid: The Dog Days of Summer; Minutes of the July LSF Meeting.

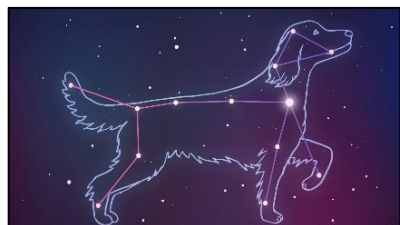
Page 3: My Votes for the Best Dramatic Presentation Hugos of 2025.

Page 4: Info About LSF: DC Area Gaylaxians and Con Calendar; Photo of Earth’s “Second Moon”.



FACTOID: The Dog Days of Summer

The term “dog days of summer” refers to the hottest and most humid weeks of the year, typically from July 3 to August 11. It’s named for Sirius (“the Dog Star” – the brightest star in the constellation Canis Major, Latin for “the Greater Dog”). Sirius rises in alignment with the Sun during the midsummer period.



Ancient Greeks and Romans noticed this alignment and believed that the combined brilliance of the Sun and the Dog Star was responsible for the scorching temperatures, drought, and general lethargy of the season. Hellenistic astrology connected the rising of Sirius with heat, drought, sudden thunderstorms, fever, mad dogs, and bad luck. The Romans referred to this sweltering period as the *dies caniculares* (“dog days”). Today, the phrase “dog days of summer” remains a popular way to refer to the peak summer heat.

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Minutes of the July LSF Meeting taken by Scott

Changes

Rob reported that mass market paperback production is dead. Mass market paperbacks can be described as the “small, inexpensive books traditionally sold in supermarkets, airports, drugstores, and newsstands.” On the other hand, trade paperback production is alive and well.

David reported that Sony has announced it will no longer produce any physical game media.

Peter displayed his latest *Star Trek* acquisition: a large model of *USS Enterprise NCC-1701*. It’s a coffee table centerpiece!

A discussion of a prospective film starring “Tilly Norwood” (the fictional AI-generated actress created in 2025) led to a more general discussion of AI influence on literature, film, etc.

Movie News

Peter and Rob reviewed a couple of new films: *Supergirl* (“a reluctant heroine – an enjoyable ‘popcorn’ movie”); and *Toy Story 5* (“sweet – better than *Toy Story 4*”). They spoke neutrally about the Spielberg film *Disclosure Day*.

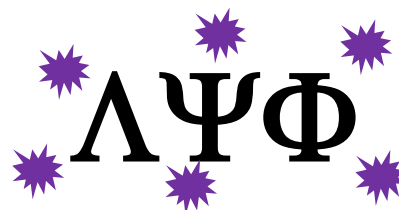
Scott described and reported on the low-budget horror movie *Backrooms*.

TV News

Peter and Rob have watched the entire first season of Apple+’s *Star City*, a spinoff of *For All Mankind*. Plus, they are also rewatching *Babylon 5*.

Teresa is enjoying Season 2 of Disney+’s *X-Men 97* series.

Andy is watching Season 3 of Apple+’s *Silo*. He said that Season 2 dragged, without much action except for the last two episodes.



David provided a summary of Hallmark’s *The Way Home* genre series (“time travel lake”).

Coming this Fall on CBS: *Eternally Yours*, a vampire sitcom. (“A married vampire couple struggle to accept their daughter’s human boyfriend, after being together for 500 years.”)

Apple+ is producing an adaptation of William Gibson’s 1984 novel *Neuromancer*.

Star Trek: Strange New Worlds is starting up again.

Other News

Rob described *Fabulous Bodies*, the brand-new horror novel by Chuck Tingle.

Otakon (an anime/manga/Asian pop culture convention) is coming up at the Washington Convention Center (July 31 to Aug. 2).

Andy described his experience playing *Civilization VII*, where players attempt to develop a civilization.

David talked about the current stage version of C.S. Lewis’ *Prince Caspian* at the Museum of the Bible.

Upcoming LSF Events

There will be an LSF gaming party on Saturday, August 15th. [For details, see the article on page 1 of this newsletter.]

LSF Book Discussions: July – *The First Fifteen Lives of Harry August* by Claire North; August – *The Will of the Many* by James Islington; September – *The Mercy of Gods* by James S.A. Corey; October – *The Starving Saints* by Caitlin Starling.

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**“We’re all
mad here!”**



- The Cheshire Cat -
*Alice’s Adventures in
Wonderland*
Lewis Carroll (1865)

My Votes for the Best Dramatic Presentation Hugos of 2025

by Peter Knapp

These are the twelve nominees for the two best dramatic presentation Hugos that will be awarded at this year's Anaheim Worldcon 2026. This is how I ranked my voting for them. Will my top picks in both categories win a Hugo? Find out on August 30 when the winners are revealed.

Long Form



While *Frankenstein* is my top pick I suspect *Andor* (Season 2) will win the Hugo.

Frankenstein – Guillermo del Toro adapted Mary Shelly's classic novel into a 2½ hour movie with the first half telling the story from Dr. Frankenstein's point of view and the second half of the movie from the monster's point of view. I thoroughly enjoyed this movie.

Mickey 17 – Director Bong Joon Ho hit a home run with the movie *Parasite*. I was looking forward to his follow up movie *Mickey 17*. This black comedy is about Mickey, who has signed up for expendable work. When he dies (usually of a work-related accident) a clone of him is printed out. Things go awry when a clone is printed but the clone's predecessor is still alive. The movie was a lot of fun.

Sinners – My friends told me *Sinners* is a good movie. I finally watched it and I agree with them. Taking place in the Jim Crow-era, twin brothers (both played by Michael B. Jordan) try to start a new life in the Mississippi Delta. Unfortunately, a vampire has other plans. The movie is very dark and bloody.

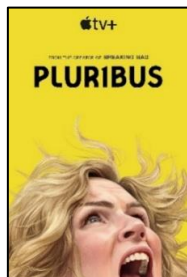
Superman – With the arrival of Jame Gunn as co-chair and co-CEO of DC Studios, the tone of this Superman movie is very different from the Zack Snyder-led previous modern Superman movies. It is light, fun, and

feels like a comic book.

Andor (Season 2) – Set in the *Star Wars* universe, *Andor* tells the story of a rebel named Cassian Andor, who first appeared in the movie *Rogue One*. Both seasons of *Andor* show Cassian's evolution from a drifter to a rebel. The pacing of Season 1 is too slow for my taste. Season 2 sped up the story, but I found it similarly slow. Many people consider *Andor* the best of the modern *Star Wars* stories, and I would agree. I never got invested in the characters. I didn't like it very much.

KPop Demon Hunters – I am not the demographic this movie was made for. Three teenage female KPop singers are also demon hunters. A competing male KPop group turn out to be demons. Both groups sing KPop. Both groups fight a lot. Many of the characters behave the way the anime comic relief characters act. I had trouble staying awake while watching this movie.

Short Form



While *Pluribus*: "We Is Us" is my top pick, I suspect *Severance*: "Cold Harbor" will win the Hugo.

Pluribus: "We Is Us" – How would you react if suddenly everyone around you acted strangely? Would finding out everyone is now connected to a hive mind and want to figure out how to connect you to the hive mind? In this season opener, Carol Sturka faces these questions. The show is creepy and at times horrific. I love it.

Murderbot: "All Systems Red" – Murderbot is a self-aware cyborg security unit. It hacks its own control programming. Instead of killing its clients, the rogue android just wants to hide its free will, protect its human survey teams, and binge-watch soap operas in peace. "All Systems Red" is the season finale of *Murderbot* and wraps up many plot lines in a satisfying way. Based on the book series by Martha Wells, both the books and the show are hilarious. I highly recommend the ser-



ies, either in book form and/or the television adaption.

Doctor Who: "The Story & the Engine" – The Fifteenth Doctor visits a barber shop in Lagos, Nigeria. There, he gets trapped by a villain named the Barber. The Barber uses spoken stories to power a giant, time-traveling spider engine. The episode was written by Inua Ellams, a Nigerian-born, UK-based poet and playwright known for his stage play *Barber Shop Chronicles*. This was one of the better episodes of the season. One does not need to be familiar with *Doctor Who* to enjoy the story.

Murderbot: "The Perimeter" – Hugo nominators must really like *Murderbot*, as two episodes were nominated. "The Perimeter" is the penultimate episode of the season and resolves one human survey team trying to kill the other human survey team.

Severance: "Cold Harbor" – In the world of *Severance*, some people elect to have surgery that allows them to separate their memories into two kinds of memory – work memories and non-work memories. Outside of work, these people remember nothing about their work life. At work they don't remember anything about their life outside of the office. While I really wanted to like *Severance*, it just doesn't work for me. Perhaps the surreal nature of the show frustrates me, as things happen and are never explained. Maybe it's because I couldn't empathize with any of the characters.

The Wheel of Time: "The Road to the Spear" – I didn't care for this episode, which is probably unfair. First, I'm not a big fan of fantasy. Second, "The Road to the Spear" is an episode in the middle of the third season of a show I've never seen before. The characters and situations are foreign to me. I'm not willing to invest hours watching the show to get to the nominated episode. If I was willing to do so, I might enjoy the show more, as I would know who the characters are and what they're doing.

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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, August 9th, 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

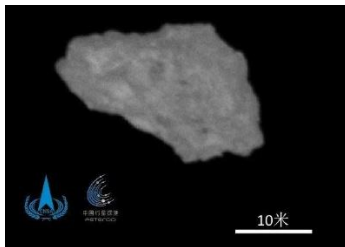
August 27-31, 2026 **LACON V** (2026 World Science Fiction Convention). Anaheim Convention Center, Hilton Anaheim & Anaheim Marriott Hotels (Anaheim CA). Guests of Honor: Barbara Hambly, Ronald D. Moore, Colleen Duran, Dr. Anita Sengupta, Tim Kirk, Geri Sullivan (Fan GoH), Stan Sakai, Ursula Vernon (aka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

Photo of Earth's "Second Moon"

info passed along by Carl

China has shared the first-ever photograph of the asteroid known as 2016H03, aka 469219 Kamo'oalewa (Hawaiian for "wobbling celestial object"). It's an unusual near-Earth asteroid that loops around Earth although it is actually gravitationally bound to the sun. Kamo'oalewa is estimated to be about 100 meters in diameter. This Chinese image of the asteroid was taken at a distance of 20 kilometers.



The Chinese National Space Agency (CNSA) sent off the robotic Tianwen-2 spacecraft in May of last year aboard a Long March 3B rocket launched from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in southwest China. Now, after travelling about 600 million

miles for 400 days, Tianwen-2 sent back a historic photo of the asteroid.

The next step will be for Tianwen-2 to scoop up some material from the asteroid into a capsule, which will then be sent back to Earth late next year.

On July 10th, the CNSA reported: "Going forward, the probe will gradually conduct more detailed scientific explorations to obtain information on the asteroid's shape, material composition and internal structure, providing support for preparations for sampling." If successful, China will become the third country to retrieve material from a flying asteroid (following previous successful missions sent by Japan and the U.S. to other asteroids).

Kamo'oalewa's eccentric orbit only swings by Earth every 45 years, so it's not officially a moon in the natural satellite sense. It's one of seven "quasi-moons" that occasionally orbit by the Earth. Analysis of its orbit suggests that its orbital dance with Earth began about a century ago and will continue for a few more centuries.

Where Kamo'oalewa came from is one of the main questions that China's mission hopes to answer. Some experts suspect this asteroid is actually a

piece of the lunar surface that was torn off by a meteor impact. In fact, there's a good chance that three other quasi-moons also came from the same cataclysmic lunar strike. Other experts suggest that Kamo'oalewa is an asteroid caught in Earth's gravitational pull, the fragment of a rock torn apart by the Earth-Moon system.



An artist's impression of
469219 Kamo'oalewa
(Picture: Sharkey et al./Nature
Communications/University of
Arizona)

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