



Lambda Sci-Fi

DC Area Gaylaxians

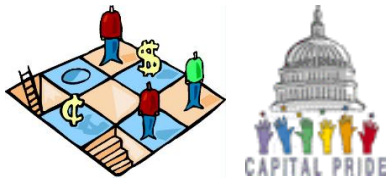
(202) 232-3141 – Issue # 399 – June 2023

E-MAIL: info@lambdascifi.org

WEBSITE: www.lambdascifi.org

LSF Pride Tabletop Gaming Party and Parade Viewing

announced by Peter and Rob



All attendees **MUST** be fully vaccinated.

What: It's a gaming party. There's plenty of room for gaming, so please bring your favorite games (cards, board, etc.).

When: Saturday, June 10; 2:00 PM to 11 PM or so.

We'll take a break around 3:00 PM to watch the Capital Pride Parade <https://www.capitalpride.org/event/parade/>

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:

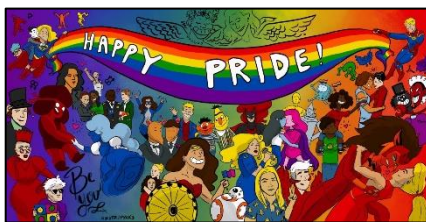
<https://www.lambdascifi.org/peterrob/>

Questions: Contact Peter at:

PeterPKnapp@gmail.com

Remember: All attendees **MUST** be fully vaccinated.

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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. The next book discussion will be held in person on June 22nd. **All attendees MUST be fully vaccinated.**

Here are the details for the next couple of months:

June 22 – *Sins of the Black Flamingo* (collected 5 issues), by Andrew Wheeler & Travis Moore (moderator: Ben).

July 27 – *Even Though I Knew the End*, by CL Polk (moderator: Carl).



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***** June 11, 2023 Meeting *****

A brief LSF meeting will be held on Saturday, June 10th, in conjunction with a tabletop-and-gaming party and Pride Parade viewing (see announcement above). The event will be held at Peter and Rob's home, **1425 "S" Street NW, Washington, DC**. **All attendees MUST be fully vaccinated.** The doors open at 2:00 PM. Hope to see you there!



What's Inside?

Page 2: 2023 Nebula Awards; Minutes of the May LSF Meeting.

Page 3: Food and F&SF, Part 2 (book review); Star Eats Planet!

Page 4: Info About Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians and Con Calendar.



2023 Nebula Awards

info passed along by Rob and Carl

The Nebula Awards are voted on and presented by full, senior, and associate members of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers Association. The current award-winners were announced on May 14, during the 2023 Nebula Conference in Anaheim CA.

Novel: *Babel* by R.F. Kuang (Harper Voyager)

Novella: *Even Though I Knew the End* by C.L. Polk (Tordotcom)

Novellette: "If You Find Yourself Speaking to God, Address God with the Formal You" by John Chu (*Uncanny*, Jul/Aug 2022)

Short Story: "Rabbit Test" by Samantha Mills (*Uncanny*, Nov/Dec 2022)

Game Writing: *Elden Ring* by Hidetaka Miyazaki & George R.R. Martin (FromSoftware, Bandai Namco)

Ray Bradbury Award (SF/F Dramatic Presentation): *Everything, Everywhere, All at Once* by Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert (A24, AGBO, IAC Films)

Andre Norton Award (YA SF/F Works): *Ruby Finley vs. the Interstellar Invasion* by K. Tempest Bradford (Farrar, Straus, Giroux)

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"Space is big. Really big. You just won't believe how vastly, hugely, mind-bogglingly big it is. I mean, you may think it's a long way down the street to the chemist, but that's just peanuts to space."

– Douglas Adams –
The Hitch-Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy

Minutes of the May LSF Meeting

taken by Scott

A new Gaylaxicon has been announced! Gaylaxicon-Outlanticon 2024 is scheduled for March 22-24, 2024 in Atlanta:

<https://www.outlantacon.org>

Film News

The discussion about the next *Dune* movie drums up lots of squawk about the first movie being too ponderous. Peter and Rob spoke favorably about the new *Guardians of the Galaxy* movie. The *Babylon 5* animated movie uses the voice actors (who are still alive) from the live action series.

TV News

Rob discussed how *ST: Deep Space Nine* serves as a precursor to modern *Trek* productions – with Federation characters making bad decisions. Jim painfully described the SyFy series *The Ark*; he hated it because the science is so bad. Peter describes the concept of a "puzzlebox" series (such as *Lost*), during which viewers must watch to get clues about what's going on; and he said the *Westworld* series falls into the puzzlebox category. Jim is loving *Strange New Worlds*, even if the bridge and Pike's stateroom are too large. Jim and Rob loved Season 3 of *Picard*, which centered upon fan service. Season 2 of *Foundations* is coming out.

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Other News

Jim says that he enjoyed attending RavenCon 2023 (in Glen Allen, VA), with special guest Count Gore De Vol. He also recently went on a Jonathan Coulter "JoCo" cruise. A description: "Between main stage entertainment, workshops, crafts, panel discussions, live podcasts, readings by authors, musical performances, comedy shows, office hours, gaming events, and excursions, and shadow events – there's more hours of programming than there are in a week. No matter what your interest, we have you covered!" Sounds like a geek fest!

Rob advised everyone that the Nebula Awards 2023 ceremony is occurring this evening in Anaheim, CA.

Rob walked through the list of upcoming LSF activities:

Book discussions: *Of Wars, and Memories, and Starlight* by Alette de Bodard (May); *Sins of the Black Flamingo* (Issues 1-5, available in a single trade paperback) by Andrew Wheeler, Travia Moore, and Tamra Bonvillain (June); *Even Though I Knew the End* by C.L. Polk (July).

There will be an LSF tabletop-and-gaming party and Pride Parade viewing (Saturday, June 10). Note: There will NOT be an LSF monthly meeting on Sunday, June 11.

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"A place where there isn't any trouble. Do you suppose there is such a place, Toto? There must be. It's not a place you can get to by a boat or a train. It's far, far away. Behind the moon, beyond the rain."

– *The Wizard of Oz* (film, 1939) –

Food and F&SF, Part 2

short reviews by Carl

In last month's issue, I began this (very short) series of articles about two books that illustrate the relationship between F&SF and food. After a few introductory remarks, I reviewed the anthology *Galactic Stew* (Zombies Need Brains LLC, 2020). Unfortunately, I ran out of room before I could get to the review of the second book. So here it is now...

La Cuisine Humaine

by Norman Spinrad

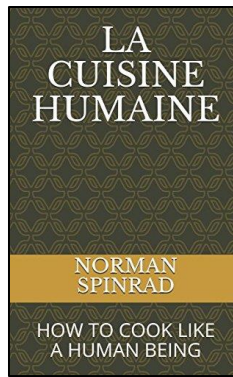
("independently published," 2018)

Norman Spinrad is one of my "go to" authors whenever I'm looking for something "wild and wonderful" to read. *La Cuisine Humaine* certainly fills the bill.

This little work – hardly more than a pamphlet – is subtitled "How to Cook Like a Human Being" and was purportedly "found in Hanger 51 by Norman Spinrad." The back cover describes it as "the only cookbook you will ever need to be able to cook like a human being—even if you already are one!!" The author says it was "prepared after several months on Earth sampling its fare and discussing culinary matters with both master chefs and a sampling of ordinary humans..." What a hoot!

The Introduction further explains that "a certain mania for *La Cuisine Humaine* has been sweeping the galaxy ever since the recent discovery of the humans' otherwise not-terribly-noteworthy civilization, resulting in many pleasurable new dining experiences, but also, alas, the prevalence of all too many misconceived and loathsome concoctions that the humans themselves would rightly consider vile desecrations."

The author frequently reinforces the contention that this is "not a cookbook" – it's not a collection of step-by-step recipes (so many teaspoons of salt, so many cups of flour, etc., etc.). The author lists and describes all the ingredients used for various human dishes, but it exhorts readers to "Experiment, improvise, invent!" You know... one of those "add to taste" kind'a things. There



are dozens and dozens and dozens of mouth-watering descriptions of how to prepare various human dishes.

Here are a few sample passages to give you some idea of the delightful reading experience in store for readers:

— "Pastas may have been developed as a basic universal metabolic fuel for impoverished mass populations, but the culinary ingenuity of the humans has long since made an artistic virtue of economic necessity by transforming this industrial fodder into the raw material for haute cuisine."

— "In America, a 'hamburger' may be simply a fried patty of chopped beef slapped between two pieces of pallid bread slathered with an odious sweetened tomato sauce called 'ketchup,' or it may be covered with melted cheese, bacon, mushrooms, green chilies, satay sauce, taco sauce and entire salads to reach the status of culinary art."

— "When it comes to politics, economics, science, philosophy, or how to manage a planetary ecosystem, this immature civilization may indeed have nothing to teach us, but when it comes to the culinary arts, we could all certainly enhance our galactic kitchen-culture and interstellar dining-room civilization by learning to cook like human beings."

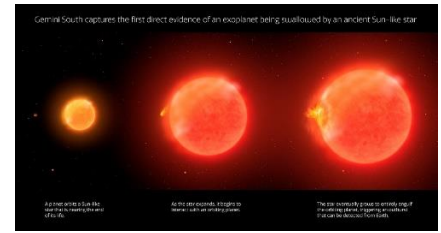
As far as I can tell, the only place to get your hands on this little gem is via Amazon.com or similar sources. It only costs about five dollars. Well worth the price, says I!

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Star Eats Planet!

info passed along by Carl



I'm sure you've heard stories about how a dying star becomes a red giant and swallows all its planets within a certain distance. Scientists believe this to be a fairly common occurrence across the universe; but they've never actually seen it happen – until now. Past studies have only observed stars just before or after they swallowed planets.

As reported in *Science News*, astronomers at CalTech, Harvard, MIT, and other schools detected a star turning into a red giant and consuming one of its orbiting planets. The star is close to the constellation Aquila, about 12,000 light years away; and it became 100 times brighter for over 10 days. Researchers theorize that this represents a jovian (Jupiter-sized) world falling into its host star. The burst was first observed in May 2020; and it took roughly a year to figure out what happened. Using the NEOWISE infrared telescope, the team decided that it wasn't a case of two merging stars. The energy from the outburst was only a thousandth of what it should have been in a collision of two stars; and it emitted a stream of cold dust rather than hot plasma. Kishalay De (MIT) noted that our Sun and Jupiter provided a good cross-reference, because Jupiter's mass is about a thousandth of the Sun's mass.

This sighting also provides a glimpse into the future – roughly 5 billion years from now – when the Sun dies and it's believed that it will consume the Earth and the other inner planets of the Solar System.

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

Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians (LSF) is an organization for gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, and trans-gendered (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.

Newsletter submissions are always welcome

Meetings are usually held on the second Sunday of each month at a private residence. **BUT** the next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting (a short one) will be held on Saturday, June 10th, in conjunction with a tabletop-and-gaming party and Pride Parade viewing (see announcement on page 1), at Peter and Rob's home, 1425 "S" Street NW, Washington, DC. **All attendees MUST be fully vaccinated.** 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

June 16-18, 2023 **AWESOME CON 2023**. Walter E. Washington Convention Center (Washington DC). Guests include: Billy Dee Williams; and many more to be announced. On-line registration: \$95 for the weekend; daily badges and various "premium" (more expensive) memberships available. Website: <https://awesome-con.com>

July 7-9, 2023 **SHORE LEAVE 43**. Delta Hotels Baltimore Hunt Valley (Hunt Valley MD). Guests include: Grace Park, Claudia Black, Ben Browder, Robert Picardo, Penny Johnson Jerald, Robert Duncan McNeil. Weekend membership: \$105 (daily rates available). On-line membership application if paying by credit card. Website: www.shore-leave.com

July 21-23, 2023 **CONFLUENCE**. Sheraton Pittsburgh Airport Hotel (Pittsburgh PA). Guest of Honor: Ada Palmer; Featured Artist: Susan Dexter; Featured Music Guest: Sassafras+. Weekend membership: \$55 to 7/10/2023; \$65 thereafter (daily rates available). On-line registration. Website: confluence-sff.org

July 28-30, 2023 **OTAKON 2023** (celebrating Asian pop culture, including anime and manga). Walter E. Washington Convention Center (Washington DC). On-line registration: \$75 for the full weekend; daily memberships available. Website: <https://www.otakon.com>

Aug. 3-6, 2023 **PULPFEST 2023** ("celebrating Mystery, Adventure, Science Fiction, and More") Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Pittsburgh-Cranberry. Weekend membership = \$40 if you stay at the Doubletree \$50 if you stay elsewhere (daily rates available). For registration via PayPal, go to the con's website: www.pulpfest.com

Sept. 29 – Oct. 1, 2023 **CAPCLAVE 2023**. Rockville Hilton & Executive Meeting Center (Rockville MD). GoHs: Sarah Pinsker, Charlie Jane Anders. Registration details: \$55 until 5/31; then \$60 until 8/31; and \$65 thereafter. Website: <https://www.capclave.org/capclave23/>

March 22-24, 2024 **OULANTACON/GAYLAXICON 2024** ("Atlanta's LGBTQ+ convention for Sci-fi, Pop Culture, Multimedia & Gaming!"). Atlanta Marriott Northeast/Emory Area (Atlanta GA). Weekend membership: \$60 (purchase on-line at the website). Website: <https://outlantacon.org>

