



Lambda Sci-Fi

DC Area Gaylaxians

(202) 232-3141 – Issue # 402 – September 2023

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**LSF
September
Gaming
Party**



info
passed
along by
Rob &
Peter

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 September 28th. **All attendees MUST be fully vaccinated.**

Here are the details for the next several months:

Sept. 28 – *Middlegame*, by Seanan McGuire (moderator: Judy).

Oct. 26 – *Hellboy: The Chained Coffin & Others*, art and stories by Mike Mignola (moderator: Greg).

Dec. 7 (combined Nov./Dec.) – *The Expert System's Brother*, by Adrian Tchakovsky (moderator: Andy).

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Come join us for our next LSF Gaming Party as we celebrate the "end" (??) of summer with a day of gaming in air-conditioned comfort!

Saturday September 9th LSF Tabletop Gaming Party

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

When: Saturday, September 9th; 2 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. Also, delivery menus will be available if needed.

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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***** September 10, 2023 Meeting *****

The next LSF meeting will be held on **Sunday, September 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!



What's Inside?

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James R. Crutchfield
1945 – 2023

We are saddened to report that long-time LSFer James Crutchfield passed away from natural causes at his home on July 29th.

James was an active LSF participant for over a decade; and for a number of years he hosted LSF's monthly social meetings at his Dupont Circle apartment. Rob has noted that those years saw LSF's greatest growth, due in part to the central location and ease of Metro access afforded by James's apartment. Some of James's F&SF interests included *Supernatural*, *True Blood*, *Chuck*, *Heroes*, and Laurell Hamilton's "Anita Blake" series. James was also an active supporter of

the Gaylaxicons hosted by LSF, variously running the art show and program book advertising.

After college, James enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and served for 12 years, with tours of duty in the Philippines, Vietnam, Germany, Florida, and New York. He was honorably discharged in 1976 and moved to Washington DC. He worked briefly at a civilian job at the Pentagon before beginning a 24-year tenure with the Federal Communication Commission.

When James moved to Washington DC in 1976, he discovered the gay *Friends Radio* program, Lambda Rising Bookstore, and *The Blade*. This put him in touch with Washington's gay community and led to a lifetime of involvement with that community. In one interview, James said: "I did my first protest when Anita Bryant came to town [January 1978]. From there [my involvement] became a snowball rolling down the hill and carrying me forward with it into many other things." A biographical write-up says that the long list of James's community endeavors and leadership efforts began around 1978, when he served as secretary for the Metropolitan Community Church's Prison Outreach Committee and volunteered for the MCC Homeless Women Feeding Program (1978-1981).

James was a member of the Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance (GLAA) for over 30 years and served for two years as an office manager. He

served on the board of the DC Gay Community Center for seven years and was its president from 1982 to 1988. It was reported that under his leadership the Community Center became a central meeting space and support organization for new community organizations. In 2000, he was invited to become one of the 5 founding members of the Rainbow History Project because of his encyclopedic knowledge of DC's gay history and personalities; he served on the Rainbow History board for nine years.

James served for two years as president of the Capital Area Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Veterans of America and as secretary for an earlier local LGBT veterans group. His concerns for gay youth led him to become a founding member of SMYAL (Sexual Minority Youth Assistance League) in 1984 and to serve on its board for 2 years. His interest in sports led to his involvement with DC sports organizations and gay bowling leagues. He served for six years as president of CARA (Capital Area RainBowlers Association) – where he acquired the nickname "Hawk."

A 2009 write-up of James by the Rainbow History Project named him an LGBT Community Pioneer and described him as "a community builder, one of those hard-working people and a classic example of the busy person others ask to get things done." Capital Pride declared him a Hero of Pride in 2004.

Minutes of the August LSF Meeting taken by Scott

Carl discussed the recent passing of long-time LSF member James "Hawk" Crutchfield. It was noted that James hosted LSF's monthly meetings for several years at his Dupont Circle apartment; and Rob noted that this coincided with a significant growth period for LSF, in part due to the central location and Metro-accessibility of James's apartment.

An LSF tabletop gaming party is scheduled for Saturday, September 9th.

TV News

Rob is enjoying the second season of *Harley Quinn* (on HBO Max). One episode's plot revolves around the hottest ass in Gotham City – belonging to Nightwing. (Take that, Captain America!) General consensus is that the series *Foundation* (on Apple+) is visually stunning, but boring. Peter contrasted it to the series *For All Mankind*, which he found to be compelling and energizing. Rob talked about two *Star Trek: Strange New Worlds* episodes – two characters from the animated comedy *Lower Decks* show up on the Enterprise; and the *ST:SNW* musical episode.

Movie News

Karl is looking forward to the movie *Jules* (starring Ben Kinsley) about a UFO crashing in a rural Pennsylvania backyard. Rob and Peter were delighted with the movie *Meg 2: The Trench*. Rob discussed the basic premise of the *Barbie* movie – Barbie travels from "the Barbie universe" to the real universe. (A *Wizard of Oz* connection.) Rob loved that Helen Mirren provided the movie's voiceover.

James Gunn and Peter Safran are rolling out DC-based projects released in "chapters," similar to the Mar-

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My Pick for the 2023 Best Dramatic Presentation, Long Form Hugo

by Peter Knapp

Every year I try to pick the nominees and then the winners of the two Best Dramatic Presentation Hugo awards. I missed creating a nominee list, but I want to share my picks before the award ceremony on October 21, 2023 at Chengdu Worldcon, the 81st World Science Fiction Convention.

Best Dramatic Presentation, Long Form Hugo

This category is easy for me... *Everything Everywhere All at Once* blew me away. It's an amazing movie about, a "middle-aged Chinese immigrant swept up into an insane adventure in which she alone can save existence by exploring other universes and connecting with the lives she could have led."

[<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt6710474/>]

It's also about the power of love and tells a heartwarming story of how love can triumph over hate.

Exploring the multiverse is a very popular topic. The Daniels (Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert) devised an original way of traveling through the multiverse, which was a lot of fun. Their realization of many universes, including one made up of sentient rocks with google eyes, led to a visual spectacle that I enjoyed watching.

It is rare that a genre movie wins the Academy Award for Best Picture. This movie won seven Academy Awards: Best Picture, Best Director, Best Original Screenplay (The Daniels), Best Film Editing (Paul Rogers), Best Actress (Michelle Yeoh), Best Supporting Actor (Ke Huy Quan), and Best Supporting Actress (Jamie Lee Curtis). Do yourself a favor and go see this movie if you haven't already done so! Bonus: There's queer content.

I would rank the other nominees (except for *Nope*, which I haven't seen) in this order:

Severance (Season 1)

The premise of this show was very intriguing and very disturbing. "Mark leads a team of office workers whose memories have been surgically divided between their work and personal lives. When a mysterious colleague appears outside of work, it begins a journey to discover the truth about their jobs."

[<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt11280740/>]

The end of Season 1 leaves a lot of questions unanswered. I look forward to Season 2. Bonus: There's queer content.

Black Panther: Wakanda Forever

The most intriguing part of this sequel is the introduction of Prince Namor, the Submariner, played by be-still-my-beating heart Tenoch Huerta (whose crotch was digitally reduced). I grew up wanting to be the Submariner, and this interpretation of the comic book character was very different from the source material. I was predisposed to not like this version of the character. I was pleasantly surprised by his performance and warmed up to the character quickly. In a lot of ways, this movie was a love letter to Chadwick Boseman, the actor who played the Black Panther in the original movie and died of colon cancer after filming the first movie. *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever* is not as good as the first movie, but it was a decent sequel.

Bonus: There's blink-and-you-miss-it queer content. "It's implied that new Dora Milaje warrior Aneka (Michaela Coel) has a relationship with veteran Ayo (Florence Kasumba)"

[[https://www.insider.com/black-panther-wakanda-forever-lgbtq-representation-explainer-2022-11#:~:text=%22Wakanda%20Forever%22,Black%20Panther%3A%20Wakanda%20Forever%22,veteran%20Ayo%20\(Florence%20Kasumba\)](https://www.insider.com/black-panther-wakanda-forever-lgbtq-representation-explainer-2022-11#:~:text=%22Wakanda%20Forever%22,Black%20Panther%3A%20Wakanda%20Forever%22,veteran%20Ayo%20(Florence%20Kasumba))]



August LSF Minutes

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vel Cinematic Universe. The "Marvels" movie is coming out later this year; it will feature Captain Marvel/Captain Marvel, Photon/Monica Rameau (also known as Captain Marvel and Spectrum), and Ms. Marvel/Kamala Khan. Does superhero movie fatigue exist?

Book News

Rob praised the recent Chuck Tingle book *Camp Damascus* – a gay conversion camp horror story.

Upcoming LSF Book Discussions: *Into the Broken Land* by Tanya Huff (August); *Middlegame* by Seanan McGuire (September); *Hellboy Vol. 3: The Chained Coffin and Others*, by Mike Mignola (October); and *The Expert System's Brother* by Adrian Tchaikovsky (November/December).

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Turning Red

This movie is about: "A thirteen-year-old girl named Mei Lee... torn between staying her mother's dutiful daughter and the changes of adolescence. And as if the challenges were not enough, whenever she gets overly excited she transforms into a giant red panda."

[<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt8097030/>]

I'm a huge Pixar fan but wasn't looking forward to this movie, as I knew it was about female teenage angst, reaching puberty, and loving a boy band. I was pleasantly surprised, as this movie was funny and had a lot of heart. No bonus: There's no queer content, though there was supposed to be.

[<https://variety.com/2022/film/news/disney-pixar-same-sex-affection-censorship-don-t-say-gay-bill-1235200582/>]

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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. The next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held on Sunday, **September 10th, 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

Sept. 29 – Oct. 1, 2023 **CAPCLAVE 2023**. Rockville Hilton & Executive Meeting Center (Rockville MD). GoHs: Sarah Pinsker, Charlie Jane Anders. Registration details: \$65 until 9/15; and \$70 at the door.

Website: <https://www.capclave.org> On-line registration: <https://www.capclave.org/capclave/capclave23/registration.php>

Oct. 20-22, 2023 **CONFABULOUS, Year 6**. Crown Plaza Suites MSP Airport – Mall of America (Bloomington, MN). Hosted by North Country Gaylaxians. "A safe and friendly space for the LGBTQ+ community and allies/friends to get together for gaming and panels of interest to our community – plus the Chocolate Symposium & vendors."

Website & on-line registration: <https://confabulous.org>

Nov. 17-19, 2023 **PHILCON 2023**. DoubleTree by Hilton (Cherry Hill, NJ). Principal Speaker: Jonathan Maberry; Artist Guest: Rob Carlos; Special Guest: Kelley Armstrong. Membership: \$65 until Nov. 10th (when pre-registration closes); higher at the door.

Website: www.philcon.org On-line registration: <https://philcon.org/registration/>

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>

**Best Dramatic Presentation,
Long Form Hugo**
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Avatar: The Way of Water

If you liked *Avatar*, which I did, this sequel will not disappoint. It took 13 years for James Cameron to create the second chapter (of five) chronicling humans attempts to rape the planet Pandora of its natural resources to the detriment of the native Navi population. The quality of the sequel effects was so good that the movie won the Oscar for Best Visual Effects. No bonus: There's no queer content. Humans and Navi in 2154 are very heteronormative.

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