

PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044 - (202) 232-3141 - Issue #144 - March 2002
 E-MAIL: info@lambdasf.org WEBSITE: http://www.lambdasf.org/



**Happy Birthday,
 Lambda Sci-Fi!
 (This month we're
 celebrating our
 12th anniversary!)**

March 10th LSF Meeting

The next LambdaSci-Fi meeting will be held at James Crutchfield's apartment (1414 17th St., NW, #413) on Sunday, February 10th. The business meeting will begin at 1:30 PM; and the social meeting will begin at 2:00PM. Please bring some munchies or soft drinks, if you can.

Remember: We'll be voting on the motion regarding ratification of the proposed Gaylactic Network Charter. (For details, see article on Feb. LSF minutes.)

See you there!

**LSF Gaming Party
 March 16th**

Come join Lambda Sci-Fi for another exciting game day!

WHEN: Saturday, March 16th, 4:00 PM to 11:00 PM, with a break at 7:00 PM for dinner.

WHERE: Steve Reckford's house, in North Bethesda, MD, only a few blocks from the White Flint Metro. Call 301-758-5298 or e-mail sreckford@yahoo.com to RSVP and get driving/Metro directions.

We hope to have two game tables running. When you RSVP, tell us what games you can bring so we can try to choose some stuff beforehand. Also, this is a potluck, so bring something good to eat with you! We can also have a DVD going in the background, if anyone so desires.

Anyway, let us know if you can come! Hope to see you there!

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**Invitation to Gay Men's
 Chorus Production of
 "The Wizard of Oz"**

Hi there! The Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC will be presenting a full production of "The Wizard of Oz" on March 22/23/24 at Lisner Auditorium on the George Washington University Campus. We have a all-male cast of over 120, sets, lights, costumes, special effects, etc.

We are offering a group discount for our Friday 8:00 PM and Sunday 3:00 PM performances. A group of 20 or more (or a little less... we can stretch the rules) will receive a 10% discount. Regular ticket prices are \$35, \$25, and \$15. Please e-mail or call me (202-338-7464) if you have any questions.

Tickets may be purchased by calling the chorus office (202-338-7464) or by e-mailing

ticketmanGMCW@aol.com

Thanks,

Jeff Buhrman (Artistic Director, GMCW)

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Upcoming Events

March 9th - Publication party for *Dance for the Ivory Madonna* (Lithicum, MD).

March 16th - LSF Gaming Party (North Bethesda, MD).

March 22nd/23rd/24th - Production of "The Wizard of Oz" by Gay Men's Chorus of Washington DC.

March 28th - LSF Book Discussion Group: *Aftermath*, by Chas. Sheffield (DC).

Ye Olde Editor says: Be careful what you wish for -- you might get it! This is *really* a fully-packed issue, with so many announcements and upcoming events (and, unfortunately, some obituaries) that there's barely enough room for a single book review! I even had to delay several articles until next month's issue.

WHAT'S INSIDE? Invitation to Publication Reception for *Dance for the Ivory Madonna* (pg. 2); Lambda Literary Award Finalists Announced (pg. 2); The LSF Book Discussion Group (pg. 2); A Hugo Nomination for *Wavelengths* (pg. 2); *Star Wars* Dinner-and-a-Movie Nights (pg. 3); A Cartoon by Chris Browning (pg. 3); Minutes of the Feb. 10th LSF Meeting (pg. 4); *Enterprise - By the Book* (book review, pg. 5); Obituaries: George Nader, Chuck Jones, Irish McCalla (pg. 5); About Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians and Con Calendar (pg. 6)

**Invitation to
Publication
Reception for
*Dance for the
Ivory Madonna***



We have received an invitation for Lambda Sci-Fi members and friends to attend a Publication Reception being hosted by former Gaylaxicon Author Guest of Honor Don Sakers, in honor of the publication of his new novel, *Dance for the Ivory Madonna*. The reception will be held on Saturday, March 9th from 6-9 PM at:

Homewood Suites
1181 Winterson Road
Linthicum, MD 21090
410-684-6100

The postcard invitation also included information on the book:

“In Don Saker’s *Dance for the Ivory Madonna*, it’s 2042, and the U.S. has split into three nations; special interest groups have their own House in Congress; artificial intelligence has kicked humans out of cyberspace; and the African continent, a hotbed of technological advancement, is united under a contract government called Umoja. Making his way through this brave new world is a young African-American operative of a secret organization whose task is to avenge his father’s murder - and save humankind.” (Publisher’s Weekly)

Dance for the Ivory Madonna
Don Sakers

460pgs * \$19.99 * ISBN 0-9716147-1-7
www.scatteredworlds.com

You can also reserve an autographed copy by emailing:

books@meerkatmeade.com

Don has been a longtime friend of Lambda Sci-Fi and GLBT fandom in general, and it’s great to see new work from him!

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**Time to
catch up
on your
reading!**



**Lambda Literary Award
Finalists Announced**

info passed along by Rob Gates



‘Tis the Season...to start handing out Awards...

The finalists for this year’s Lambda Literary Awards have been announced. Here are the finalists in the science-fiction/fantasy/horror category:

Bending the Landscape: Horror, ed. by Nicola Griffith and Stephen Pagel (Overlook)

Bound in Blood, by David Thomas Lord (Kensington)

Gumshoe Gorilla, by Keith Hartman (Meisha Merlin)

Point of Dreams, by Melissa Scott and Lisa A. Barnett (Tor)

Vampire Vow, by Michael Schiefelbein (Alyson)

In addition, *Bending the Landscape: Horror* received a nomination in the Best Anthology category. And longtime friend of gay fandom Lawrence Schimmel received a nomination in the Best Erotica category for his collection: “His Tongue”.

The complete list of finalists is available from the Lambda Literary Foundation website at:

<http://www.lambdalit.org/lammy/14thfinalists.htm#Finalists>

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A Hugo Nomination for *Wavelengths* from Peter Knapp

Nominations for Hugo Awards close on March 31st; and for the Best Fanzine Award, I plan to nominate *Wavelengths*, created, maintained, and updated by my very own honey bunny, Rob Gates. Yes, it’s a bit nepotistic, but the Hugos are a popular choice award! Also, on a professional level, I’m an occasional contributor to *Wavelengths*, so I’d like to see something with my work in it win a Hugo.

**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 LBGT community), we invite you to join the LSF Book Discussion Group. Each month, we conduct fascinating roundtable discussions of works by significant F&SF authors.

The LSF Book Discussion Group generally meets on the 4th Thursday of every month, starting at 7:00 PM. The next meeting will be March 28 (at Peter & Rob’s house, 1425 “S” St., NW - for directions or more details, call 202-483-6369).

Here’s the schedule for the next several months:

--- **March 28th** - *Aftermath*, by Charles Sheffield; facilitator: Bob A. (NOTE: This discussion was moved from its original date in February.)

--- **April 25th** - *Dark Lord of Derkholm*, by Diana Wynne Jones; facilitator: Michael M.

— **May 23rd** - *The Fire’s Stone*, by Tanya Huff; moderator: Mike P. (NOTE: This novel is also contained in the omnibus collection *Of Darkness, Light, and Fire*.)

--- **June 27th** - *Dark Matter*, edited by Sheree R. Thomas; moderator: Carl. (NOTE: Carl will suggest a “short list” of selections from this anthology to serve as the basis of the discussion; list TBD.)

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For those of you going to ConJose this year, I strongly urge you to exercise your right to nominate works for the Hugos and to vote. Hugo Nomination forms can be found at:

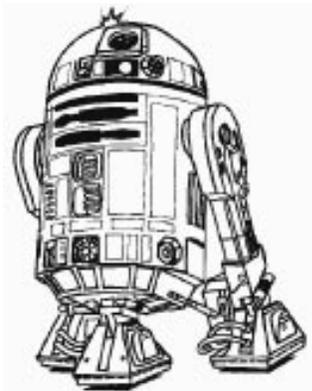
http://www.conjose.org/wsfs/wsfs_hugo.html

And you can find *Wavelengths* at: www.wavelengthsonline.com

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Star Wars Dinner-and-a-Movie Nights

In anticipation of the release of *Star Wars: Episode II - The Attack of the Clones* on May 16, Rob and Peter will be hosting four *Star Wars* movie nights, one night for each movie already released. The first three evenings, we will be showing both the classic and special editions of the original trilogy (both in widescreen). Since the special edition of *Episode I* has not yet been released, we'll only show the "classic" version.



To keep things simple, we ask that you bring your own dinner (including non-alcoholic drinks) the evenings we show the first three movies. The last evening, you have a choice of bringing your own dinner or ordering pizza. Here are the details:

When:

Friday, April 12 - *Star Wars: Episode IV - A New Hope*

Friday, April 19 - *Star Wars: Episode V - The Empire Strikes Back*

Friday, April 26 - *Star Wars: Episode VI - The Return of the Jedi*

Friday, May 3 - (week skipped)

Friday, May 10 - *Star Wars: Episode I - The Phantom Menace*

Where:

1425 "S" Street, NW, Washington, DC (phone 202/483-6369)

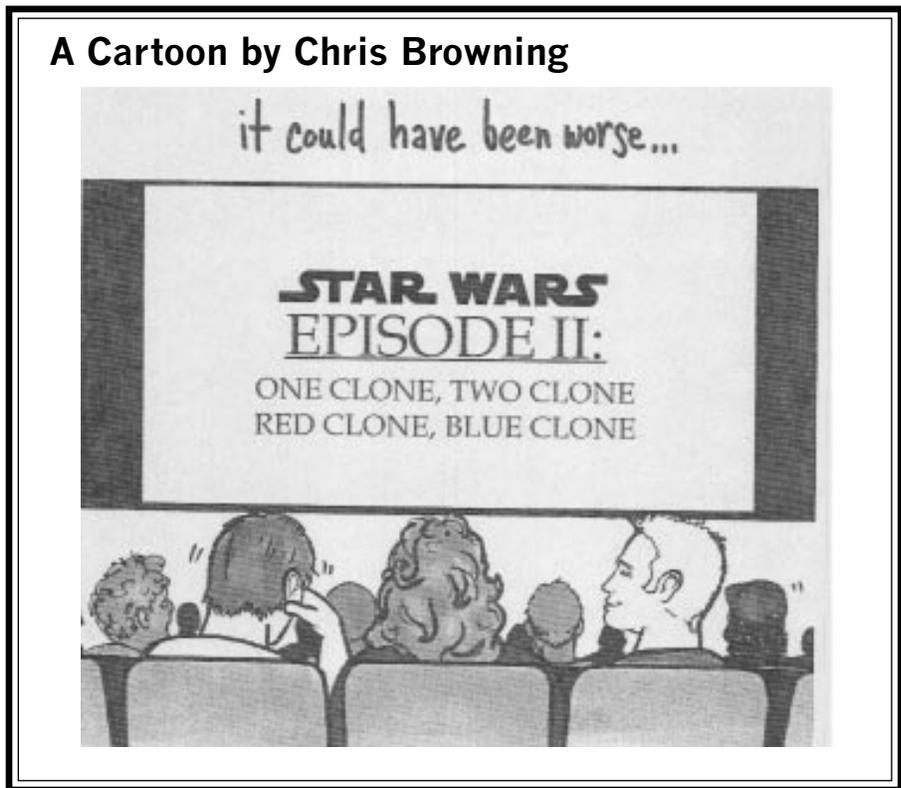
Time:

Doors open 7:30 PM. Movies start at 8:00 PM.

What to Bring:

Yourself, a friend, dinner (including non-alcoholic drinks) on April 12, April 19,

A Cartoon by Chris Browning



and April 26 and dinner or cash to buy pizza on May 10.

Directions:

A map of the neighborhood can be found at

http://www.stationmasters.com/System_Map/USTCARDO/ustcardo.html

The Metro website is:

<http://www.wmata.com/>

From closest Metro Stop:

Take Metro to the "U" St/African-American Civil War Memorial/Cardozo stop (Green Line). Exit Metro on the 13th Street side of station. When you come up the escalator, you'll be on "U" Street, facing 13th Street. There will be a Rite Aid drug store in front of you. Cross 13th Street toward the Rite Aid. Follow "U" Street to 14th Street. There will be a McDonald's at 14th Street. Cross 14th Street toward the McDonald's. Turn left in front of the McDonald's. Follow 14th Street for two full blocks. When you cross "T" Street, you'll pass The Free Evangelical Church (which looks like a warehouse). When you cross Swann Street (which is between "T" and "S" Streets), you'll pass a 24-hour laundry. At "S" Street, hang a right. (If you cross "S" Street and pass a small used car lot,

you've gone too far.) You'll pass the Whitman Walker Clinic and then an alley. We're the seventh row house after the alley: 1425 "S" Street, NW. If you get lost, give us a call at 202/483-6369.

From an alternative Metro Stop:

Take Metro to the Dupont Circle stop (Red Line). Exit the Metro on the "Q" Street side of the station. At the top of the escalator, hang a right on "Q" Street. Follow "Q" Street and pass a liquor store on your right and a Wrap Works sandwich shop on your left. Travel five blocks, passing the Raku Asian restaurant at 19th Street, a couple of large apartment buildings at 18th Street (also crossing New Hampshire at a diagonal), a Trios Pizza restaurant at 17th Street, the Jewish Community Center at 16th Street, and row houses at 15th Street. Cross 15th Street and hang a left. Travel two blocks on 15th Street to "S" Street. Cross "S" Street and hang a right. We're two-thirds of the way down the Street at 1425 "S" Street, NW. If you get lost, give us a call at 202/483-6369.

For more information, send email to:

PeterKnapp@wavelengthsonline.com
or
rgates@wavelengthsonline.com

Minutes of the Feb. 10th LSF Meeting

LSF Business Meeting

Jack distributed the draft of a **proposed new Gaylactic Network Charter** which has been sent to each of the Gaylactic Network Affiliates for consideration and vote. Jack then made the following motion (duly seconded):

LSF should review the Charter document. LSF should vote next month to ratify or not ratify this charter.

NOTE: According to the LSF charter, this motion will be voted on at the March LSF meeting. Members who were not present at the meeting and wish to vote on this issue can view the proposed Network Charter at the following web address:

<http://www.lambdasf.org/lsf/network/Gaylactic%20Network%20Charter.pdf>

Treasurer Rob reported that the current LSF bank balance is \$2124.72. Rob advised that the biggest expense for LSF at this time is for photocopying the newsletter — approximately \$35/month (to which are added postage costs and the cost of envelopes).

Rob also announced the upcoming schedule for the **LSF Book Discussion Group**. For February, the subject for discussion will be Tanya Huff's *Gate of Darkness, Circle of Light* (available as part of an omnibus edition entitled *Of Darkness, Light, and Fire*). The book for the March meeting will be Charles Sheffield's *Aftermath*.

Video party! Peter and Rob will be hosting a video party at their home (1425 "S" Street NW) on Saturday, February 16, 2002, beginning at 3:00 PM. There were will be three TV screens, at least one of which will be for DVD's. (*For directions and details, see the article elsewhere in this newsletter.*)

Steve Reckford will be hosting an **LSF gaming party** at his home, within walking distance of the White Flint Metrorail station. The date of the party is Saturday, March 16, 2002. (*For directions and details, see the article elsewhere in this newsletter.*)

Rodney asked about the possibility of LSF pursuing 501(c) 3 status (as



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

a non-profit organization). A meeting attendee commented that while 501(c) 3 status made sense for the Gaylactic Network, it might make less sense for LSF. Jack suggested that someone might consider performing some basic research and presenting it to LSF for discussion.

LSF Social Meeting

The traditional name circle kicked off the meeting. There were a number of first-time attendees!

The Sci Fi Channel's magazine, *Sci Fi*, has started up again. Scott Edelman is the editor.

Helgi reported that he had attended Further Confusion, a furry convention held in San Mateo, CA. He indicated that the con was well-attended. He also remarked that this con will be five days long next year.

Michael C. guffawed over Ralph Bakshe's complaints about the new *Lord of the Rings* movie. (Bakshe, who produced a humdrum animated version of *LOTR*, has stated that the producers of the new live-action movie have no rights to *LOTR*. Yeah, okay.)

Michael C. also beamed as he described the Edgar Allen Poe convention he attended in Baltimore this January. At the con, there were panels on possibilities for Poe's death — did he drink himself to death? Was he murdered? And was he perhaps also gay?

Rob announced an upcoming series of *Star Wars* video parties that he and Peter will be hosting at their home in April and May. Each night will feature a *Star Wars* movie with a pot-luck dinner (bring your own food and beverage) at their home (1425 "S" Street NW). Get our your PDA's, folks! (*For directions and details, see article elsewhere in this newsletter.*)

ConJose, this year's **Worldcon**, will be held Labor Day weekend in San Jose, CA. Mike P. reported that hotel

reservations for the con will be beginning soon. It was also reported that the con registration fee for the Boston WorldCon in 2004 will be increasing at the end of this month. Jack alerted everyone that the party hotel at the 2003 WorldCon in Toronto won't be attached to the main Worldcon hotel.

Spaced Out, the newsletter from the Australia GLBT sci-fi group, was passed around. Rob read aloud a handwritten letter from a Texas inmate who is seeking pen-pals interested in science fiction.

Rob has been working on a compilation of recommendations for genre award nominations. The Hugo award nominations ends on March 31, 2002. Rob listed the four Lambda Literary Award nominations in the fantasy/science-fiction category.

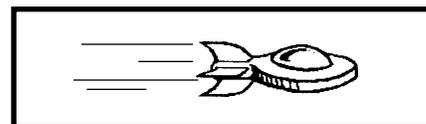
Published! Rob gleefully advised that he will be published again, this time in *More Stories That Won't Make Your Parents Hurl*. His story is titled "The Empty Plate."

Underdog fans alert! Bob S. is creating his own Underdog website.

Arisia con report: Carl, Nan and Kay reported that they had attended Arisia in Boston in January. A number of panels contained GLBT content. Carl (as Network Speaker) presented Arisia with a plaque to thank the Arisia organization for its generous \$1600 contribution for the Network's GLBT con suite at last year's WorldCon in Philadelphia, PA.

Steve read aloud a number of the "Secret Diaries of the Lord of the Rings", found on the web. Much chuckles by everyone!

Finally, auction time! Carl auctioned off one of his mother's famous hand-knit scarves for \$20. Scott's *Dune* book with DVD was auctioned for \$15. And Randy's *Star Trek: Next Generation* wrapping paper produced \$8 for LSF.



Enterprise – By the Book **by Dean Wesley Smith & Kristine Kathryn Busch**

reviewed by James Crutchfield



Was this the best book I read this past year? No – in fact, it was not even close – even though, to be fair, I must admit it was an improvement over the average *Star Trek* novel. Most likely this is due to the fact that it is based on new characters whom we have much to learn about – as opposed to characters in other *Star Trek* novels that are starting to get a little long in the tooth.

In this novel, we find the crew of the *Enterprise* making First Contact with two separate races on the same planet. However, it was the sub-plot that grabbed my attention, as four members of the crew participated in a role-playing game to kill time.

First Contact is a new experience for Captain Archer and most of his crew. Being impulsive and impatient,

Captain Archer wants to contact one of the races almost immediately upon reaching the planet. T'Pol, our favorite new Vulcan, on the other hand, wants Captain Archer to take a slow approach, even if that means studying the race from a distance for years before making contact. The Captain, being strong-headed and resentful of the way the Vulcans have treated Humans, will make his own decision and his own mistakes.

In making mistakes and learning from the, Captain Archer begins to realize that maybe – just maybe – the Vulcans have had some justification in how they have treated Humans. He even starts to believe that perhaps there needs to be a book on making First Contacts; but, of course, he does not want to be the one to write the book.

The sub-plot has Ensign Cutler teaching three other members how to participate in a role-playing game. For those of us who are not familiar with how such a game functions, this sub-plot is highly educational. Having never participated in such a game before, I found it interesting to learn about how such a game functions and found myself thinking that perhaps I will play a game in the future.

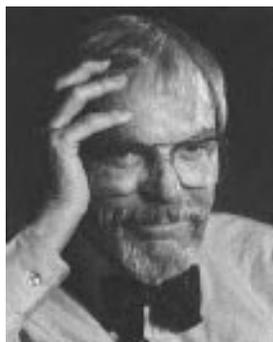
While not a classic, it is an enjoyable book and a quick read. For fans of the new show, it is a good opportunity to learn more about the *Enterprise* crew. For those who have wondered what goes on in a role-playing game, this books provides a simple explanation.

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George Nader
1921-2002

George Nader was a beefcake actor who appeared in a string of campy films, including *Robot Monster* (1953) and *The Human Duplicators* (1965). He won a Golden Globe Award in 1954 as best male newcomer. Nader was also an author; he started writing after an eye ailment made it difficult to act. His science fiction novel *Chrome* (1978) is considered groundbreaking for its depiction of a homosexual romance between a man and a male humanoid robot. Nader was part of the “secret” gay Hollywood scene; his partner, Mark Miller, was Rock Hudson’s secretary.



Chuck Jones
1912-2002

It’s simply not possible that you don’t know about Chuck Jones. During his more than 60 years in the animation field, Jones created over 300 animated films, won two Academy Awards, and was given an Honorary Oscar in 1996. He helped bring to life many characters during the Golden Age of animation, including some of Warner Brothers’ most famous Looney Toons characters – Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck, Elmer Fudd, Porky Pig, and others. Among the characters he created himself are Road Runner, Wile E. Coyote, Marvin the Martian, Pepe Le Pew, and Gossamer (the big hairy monster).



Irish McCalla
1929-2002

Irish McCalla was best known for her title role in the 1950s television series *Sheena: Queen of the Jungle* (based on the comic book heroine). Most of the 26-episode syndicated *Sheena* series was filmed in Mexican jungles, where Ms. McCalla did her own stunts, swinging from vine to vine and wrestling mechanical alligators, until the day she grabbed an unsecured vine and slammed into a tree, breaking her arm. After *Sheena*, she had parts on TV’s *Have Gun, Will Travel* and *Route 66*. Among her other films, Ms. McCalla also appeared in *She Demons* (a 1958 horror film that has become a cult classic).

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

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

Annual membership fees are \$20, for which you will receive this monthly newsletter and a membership directory. 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, March 10th**, at James Crutchfield's home: 1414 17th St., NW, #413 (near DuPont Circle)- 1:30 PM for business meeting; 2:00 PM for social meeting. Please bring some munchies or soft drinks, if you can. 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, Mike C., Peter, and Rob



April 5-7, 2002 **JERSEYDEVILCON 2**. Sheraton Edison Hotel, Raritan Center (Edison, NJ). Fantasy GoH: Terry Pratchett. Membership: \$35 (until 3/7/02); \$40 thereafter & at door. Make checks payable to "JerseyDevilCon" and send to: JerseyDevilCon, PO Box 403, Metuchen, NJ 08840. website: <http://JerseyDevilCon.hypermart.net/Homepage.html>

May 24-27, 2002 **BALTICON 36**. Wyndham Inner Harbor Hotel (Baltimore, MD). Author GoH: Mark Rogers; Artist GoHs: Phil & Kaja Foglio; Filk GoH: The Boogie Knights. Hotel rooms: \$119/night + tax (sgl/dbl/tpl/quad). Membership: \$40 from until 3/12; \$45 from 3/13 to 4/30; \$50 at the door. Make checks payable to "Balticon 36" and send to: Balticon 36, PO Box 686, Baltimore, MD 21203-0686. website: <http://www.balticon.org>

June 7-9, 2002 **CHARMCITY CREEPCON**. Baltimore Convention Center (Baltimore, MD). Guests include: Anthony S. Head, Kane Hodder, Warwick Davis, Virginia Hey, David Carradine, Ben Chapman, Caroline Munro. Membership: in advance, \$15 per day, \$25 for the weekend; at the door, \$20 per day, \$30 for the weekend. Send to: FOD Entertainment, c/o Creep Convention, PO Box 2139, Glen Burnie, MD 21060-2139, or online at: www.creepcon.com

July 12-14, 2002 **ANTHROCON 2002**. Adams Mark Hotel (Philadelphia). Guests of Honor: Lisanne Norman, Heather Bruton. Hotel rooms: \$99/night + tax (sgl/dbl/tpl/quad). Membership: \$35 until 2/28/02; \$40 until 6/15/02; \$45 at the door. Make checks payable to "Anthrocon" and send to: Anthrocon, Inc., PO Box 270, Devault, PA 19432-0270. website: <http://www.anthrocon.org>

July 12-14, 2002 **SHORE LEAVE 24**. Marriott's Hunt Valley Inn (Hunt Valley, MD). Guests: TBA. Membership: \$50 until 5/31/02 (\$60 at the door; daily rates available). Make checks payable to "Shore Leave" and send to: Shore Leave 24, PO Box 6809, Towson, MD 21285-6809 website: <http://www.shore-leave.com>

August 2-4, 2002 **DIVERSICON 10**. Hotel TBA (Minneapolis, MN). Guests of Honor: Steven Barnes & Tananarive Due. Membership: \$30, until 7/4/02; \$45 at the door. Make checks payable to: "Diversicon" and send to: Diversicon, PO Box 8036, Lake Street Stn., Minneapolis, MN 55408. "A gathering of fans, writers, and artists who recognize and appreciate diversity in speculative fiction and media, in the fan community, and in the world around us." For more information on Diversicon: www.sfminnesota.com

Aug. 29 - Sept. 2, 2002 **CONJOSE (The 60th World Science Fiction Convention)**. McEnery Convention Center & surrounding hotels (San Jose, CA). Author GoH: Vernor Vinge; Artist GoH: David Cherry; Fan GoH: John & Bjo Trimble. Attending membership: \$180 until 7/31 (will go UP!). Make checks payable to "ConJose" and send to: ConJose, PO Box 61363, Sunnyvale, CA 94088-1363 (or: reg@conjose.org). website: www.conjose.org
E-mail: info@mcfi.org Website: <http://www.noreascon.org>