



# LAMBDA SCI-FI



DC Area Gaylaxians

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E-MAIL: [info@lambdasf.org](mailto:info@lambdasf.org) WEBSITE: <http://www.lambdasf.org/>



## Dinotopia at the Smithsonian reported by Carl

No, no, no... this isn't about that awful two-part, Hallmark, made-for-TV special that aired several months ago! Nor is it related to the (Heaven forfend!) projected TV series of the same name! Nope, this special Smithsonian exhibit is based on the incredible illustrations and paintings that artist James Gurney created for his two wonderful *Dinotopia* books! In fact, the exhibit coincides with the tenth anniversary of the publication of Gurney's first volume in the series: *Dinotopia: A Land Apart from Time*.

So how'd it end up at the Smithsonian? Well, it all started back in 1989, when both Gurney and Michael Brett-Surman (a staff scientist at the National Museum of Natural History) were attending the World Science Fiction Convention in Boston. As with so many things science-fictional, it all started in a hotel bar, when Brett-Surman overheard Gurney pitching the idea for *Dinotopia* to a publisher. One thing led

## August 11th LSF Meeting

The next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held at James Crutchfield's apartment (1414 17th St., NW, #413) on Sunday, August 11th. The business meeting will begin at 1:30 PM; and the social meeting will begin at 2:00 PM. Please bring some munchies or soft drinks, if you can. See you there!



to another, and Brett-Surman offered his services for "strengthening the 'science' in Gurney's science fiction." The collaboration has lasted for over a decade.

And now Brett-Surman has co-organized an exhibition of Gurney's *Dinotopia* art at the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History. The show features 30 of the oil paintings Gurney prepared for the *Dinotopia* books, as well as numerous unpublished paintings, watercolors, and preliminary studies. If you're a "dino-phile" (like me!) and/or a fan of Gurney's F&SF art (like me!), then you won't want to miss this special exhibition! It runs until September 2nd.

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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 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 August 22 (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 few months:

- **August 22nd** - *Heritage of Hastur*, by Marion Zimmer Bradley; moderator: Rob.
- **September 26th** - *Neuromancer*, by William Gibson; moderator: Carl.
- **October 24th** - *Point of Hopes*, by Melissa Scott & Lisa Barnett; moderator: TBA.

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## WHAT'S INSIDE?

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## Minutes for the July 14 LSF Meeting

taken by Scott

The business portion of the meeting commenced at 1:40 PM.

It was announced that Peter Knapp has been elected as the new Speaker of the Gaylactic Network Board. In addition, since membership in the Gaylactic Network is now by individual rather than by club, individual LSF members are invited to join the Network by sending an e-mail to Wayne Wilkening. Peter encouraged LSFers to provide input on what they feel Network membership should include. Jack Frost has volunteered to serve as the editor for a Network newsletter. Rob also reported that the Spectrum Awards might be re-formatted as a nonprofit organization. He also provided a list of the Spectrum Awards finalists in the four award categories.

The social portion of the meeting commenced at 2:00 PM, kicked off by the traditional name circle. Four first-time attendees introduced themselves. Good to see new faces!

Peter commented on the memorial service for LSF member Randy Hagan who recently passed away.

Rob passed around recent mail received at the LSF post office box. Some items include: *Sigma* (the newsletter of a Pittsburgh SF/F&H group) and fliers for Capclave, the annual con put on by the Washington Science Fiction Society, to be held October 18-20, 2002 in Silver Spring, MD.

Neil Gaiman's *American Gods* will be this month's selection for the LSF book discussion group. The discussion will be held on Thursday, July 25, at Peter and Rob's house.

There appeared to be universal agreement that the new movie *Fear.Com* sounds horrible. Everyone chuckled over the recent *Washington Post* Travel section article on Tunisia, which mentioned tours of the sites where *Star Wars* was filmed.

This Friday, July 19, 2002, LSF will have an organized movie outing to see the *Attack of the Giant Moussaka* at the Jewish Community Center. Rob will post details via the LSF listserv.

## *The Outpost* by Mike Resnick a review by Carl Cipra



It's really kind'a neat when a couple of your "favorite things" come together – you know, sort'a like chocolate and peanut butter in those Reese's Peanut Butter Cup commercials. Well, in a more literary fashion, it happened for me recently when one of my favorite authors wrote a novel dealing with one of my favorite F&SF themes.

The author is Mike Resnick – far and away one of my favorite authors. I must have dozens and dozens of his novels and collections of his shorter works. *Santiago, Ivory, Paradise, Purgatory, Inferno*, the "Kirinyaga" stories, the "Tales of the Velvet Comet" novels, and on and on and on – I've loved 'em all! In fact, there's only one Mike

There was some discussion about the upcoming WorldCon convention to be held Labor Day weekend in San Jose, CA. Many LSF members will be attending. Preliminary info will be posted in early August. And the Gaylactic Network is organizing a GLBT fandom suite for the weekend; events in the suite will include a Gaylaxicon promotion party.

Carl announced that he will once again help coordinate a GLBT fandom party at this November's Darkover convention, where Deborah Christian will be the guest author.

Rob made available some non-genre books that he received for free in the mail. It was noted that metacritic.com is a recommended source for reviews.

Resnick novel that I haven't liked: a very early work of his entitled *Redbeard* (1969). To this day, I haunt the "R" section of the F&SF shelves of any bookstore or dealer's table I visit, hoping for the appearance of a new Resnick work – preferably in hardback.

And then there are the so-called "bar stories" – also known as "club stories" or "pub stories" – one of my favorite F&SF sub-genres. They're a type of frame story in which a number of patrons or "regulars" (mostly humans, but not always) are gathered at their favorite watering hole and someone ends up telling a story of some sort: a whimsical exploration of some sort of F&SF conundrum or a semi-serious exploration of some facet of the human experience – it could even be just a tall tale, a "shaggy dog story," or the set-up for an extended (and ghod-awful!) pun. Bar/club/pub stories have been around for a *very* long time; and they've appeared in F&SF magazines for well over half a century. Classic examples of the sub-genre are Arthur C. Clarke's *Tales from the White Hart* (US collection, 1957), L. Sprague de Camp's & Fletcher Pratt's *Tales from Gavagan's Bar* (collected 1953), and Spider Robinson's "Callahan's Crosstime Saloon" books and stories (starting with *Callahan's Crosstime Saloon*, collected 1977). As you might imagine, I've got quite a collection of 'em in my personal library.

And, now, here comes Mike Resnick with *his* contribution to the "bar story" sub-genre – *The Outpost*. That this novel is, in fact, an *intentional* addition to the "bar story" sub-genre is obvious from the book's dedication page. In addition to his wife, Carol, Resnick dedicated this book to "the Outpost's progenitors: Rick's Café Américain, The Monkey Bar, Gavagan's Bar, Joe the Angel's City Hall Bar, Wallace's, The White Hart, Tchoka's, [and] The Draco Tavern." Being the writer he is, however, Resnick can't let well enough alone; and *The Outpost* turns out to be quite a unique contribution indeed.

The story starts out "normally" enough – for an SF bar story, that is. The

(continued on page 5)

**Spectrum Award  
Finalists for 2002  
Announced**  
Contact: Rob Gates

# Gaylactic Network Spectrum Awards

The Spectrum Awards, science fiction fandom's premiere award recognizing works of special positive interest to gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered people, are pleased to announce the finalists 2002.

The Spectrum Awards, created and primarily sponsored by the Gaylactic Network, are juried and were created to honor works in science fiction, fantasy and horror that deal positively with gay characters, themes and issues.

Regular awards will be presented in three categories for works originally released in 2001: Best Novel, Best Short Fiction, and Best Other Work. To honor works released prior to the creation of the award, the jury will also announce new inductees into the Spectrum Awards Hall of Fame.

The finalists are:

**Best Novel**

- Bouncing Off the Moon*,  
by David Gerrold (Tor)
- Dreamer*, by Steven Harper (Roc)
- The Ghost Sister*,  
by Liz Williams (Bantam)
- The Kappa Child*, by Hiromi Goto  
(Red Deer Press)
- Kushiel's Dart*,  
by Jacqueline Carey (Tor)
- A Paradigm of Earth*,  
by Candace Jane Dorsey (Tor)
- Point of Dreams*, by Melissa Scott &  
Lisa Barnett (Tor)
- The Song of the Earth*, by Hugh  
Nissenson (Algonquin Books)

**Best Short Fiction**

- "The Anthvoke", by Steve Berman -  
from the collection *Trysts* and  
the magazine *Strange Horizons*
- "The Devil and Mrs. Faust", by Ian  
Phillips - from the anthology  
*See Dick Deconstruct*
- "If On A Moonlit Night", by M. Shayne  
Bell from the magazine *Realms  
of Fantasy* (Dec. 2001)

- "Kindred", by Alexis Glynn Latner - from  
the anthology *Bending the  
Landscape: Horror*
- "Love On a Stick", by Carrie Richerson -  
from the anthology *Bending  
the Landscape: Horror*
- "Passing", by Mark Tiedemann - from  
the anthology *Bending the  
Landscape: Horror*
- "Shiomah's Land", by Nisi Shawl from  
the magazine *Asimov's Science  
Fiction* (March 2001)
- "Soul of Light", by Catherine Asaro -  
from the anthology *Sextopia*
- "Triangle", by Ellen Klages - from the  
anthology *Bending the Land-  
scape: Horror*

**Best Other Work**

- Bending the Landscape: Horror*, edited  
by Nicola Griffith & Stephen  
Pagel (anthology; Overlook)
- Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, by Joss  
Whedon (television; UPN/WB/  
Fox)
- Charm School* (comic; Slave Labor)
- Codename: Knockout #0 - #6*, Robert  
Rodi (comic; DC/Vertigo)
- Green Lantern #137 & #140*, Judd  
Winick (comic; DC Comics)
- Sextopia*, edited by Cecilia Tan  
(anthology; Circlet Press)
- Trysts*, by Steve Berman (collection;  
Lethe Press)
- X-Force #117-118* (comic; Marvel)

The 2002 Spectrum Awards will be presented at the World Science Fiction Convention (San Jose, CA, August 29 – September 2).

For more information about the Spectrum Awards, including a complete listing of all nominated works, you can visit their website at:

<http://www.lambdasf.org/spectrum/>

or send e-mail to:

[spectrum@lambdasf.org](mailto:spectrum@lambdasf.org)

Information on the World Science Fiction Convention in San Jose can be found at:

<http://www.conjose.org/>

Finally, for more information about the Gaylactic Network, visit:

<http://www.gaylactic-network.org/>

ore-mail:

[speaker@gaylactic-network.org](mailto:speaker@gaylactic-network.org)

Addresses are listed below.

Spectrum Awards  
c/o Lambda Sci-Fi  
P.O. Box 656  
Washington, DC 20044

The Gaylactic Network  
P.O. Box 127  
Brookline, MA 02146

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Mark Twain's response to an introduction as  
"one of the world's great authors":

I was sorry to have my name mentioned as one of the great authors, because they have a sad habit of dying off. Chaucer is dead, Spenser is dead, so is Milton, so is Shakespeare, and I am not feeling very well myself.

(excerpted from *The Wit and Wisdom of Mark Twain*,  
edited by Aaron John Loeb, Barnes & Noble, 1996)

## Gays in Comics Panel(s) Announced for San Diego Comic Con! (Aug. 1-4, 2002)

from Andy Mangels (www.andymangels.com)

Howdy all! Although there are a LOT more announcements to come in the next week or so, I wanted to announce that this year will feature not just one GAYS IN COMICS panel but TWO! Here are the details. Keep watching for more details about gay booths, gay parties, the specially-printed gay book, and more!



### Gays In Comics: Crossfire

A prequel to the 15th annual Gays in Comics panel that spins off a hot topic from last year's GiC panel raised by DC editor Joan Hilty (who, although not attending Comicon, organized this panel and will co-host it in spirit). Is there such a thing as a "gay sensibility"? If so, how does it manifest itself in our stories, art, and fandom? In a true roundtable discussion, staged talk-show-style, *Sequential Tart's* Denise Sudell splits the question into different aspects and lets six opinionated queer creators go at it!

\* Denise Sudell, moderator, writer (*Sequential Tart*)

\* Phil Jimenez, writer/artist (*Wonder Woman, X-Men*)

\* Terrance Griep, writer (*Scooby Doo, Big Bang*)

\* Eric Shanower, award-winning writer/artist (*Age of Bronze, Oz Story Magazine*)

\* Elizabeth Watasin, writer/artist (*Charm School*)

\* Jose Villarrubia, artist/painter (*Veils, Alan Moore's ABC covers*)

\* Joe Phillips, artist/ animator (*The Heretic, Xodus USA*)

### Gays In Comics: Year 15 and Still Coming Out!

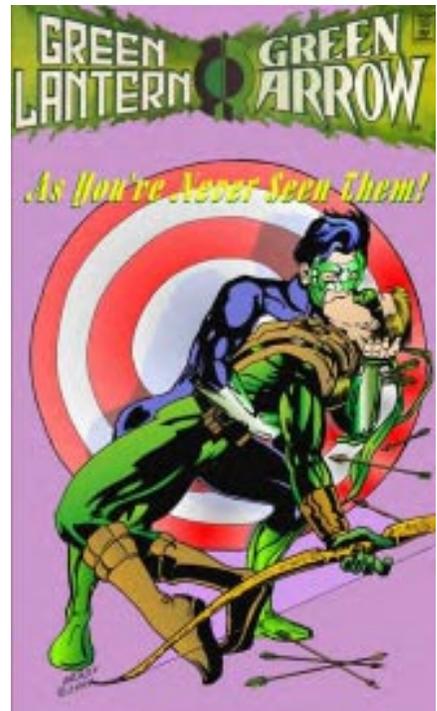
Celebrating 15 years at the Con, this popular panel has also been given a Friday night prequel! This year's Saturday eve round of cutting-edge gay, lesbian, bisexual, and even straight creators and publishers will cover all the bases. From publishing to writing to art to fandom. . . gays in the comic world are coming out strong!

\* Andy Mangels, moderator, writer (*Star Trek, Roswell*)

\* Darren Davis, publisher/writer (Tidal Wave Studios, *10th Muse, Legend of ISIS*)

\* Jai Sen, Xeric-winning publisher/writer (Shoto Press, *Garlands of Moonlight, The Golden Vine*)

\* Devin Grayson, writer (*Nightwing, X-Men: Evolution*)



\* Joe Palmer, webmaster (Gay League)

\* Carla Speed McNeil, award-winning straight writer/artist (*Finder*)

\* Chuck Kim, writer (*Superman, Powerpuff Girls*)

### Gay Comic Fan Reception & Party!

Here's your chance to socialize with other gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, or open-minded fans and creators! This party is sponsored by the Gay League, and will include lots of fabulous door prizes, games, some truly fun video entertainment, and dozens of comic and animation pros in attendance!

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Are roses not selfish  
because it want to be a red rose.  
It would be a really selfish if it want  
all the the flowers in the garden  
to be both red roses.

—Oscar Wilde—

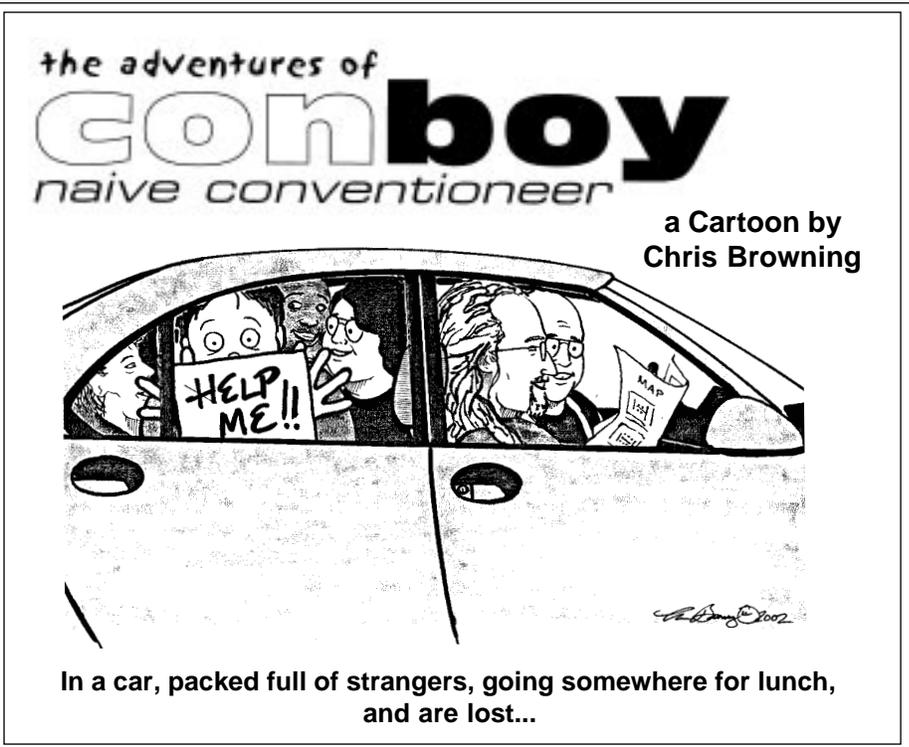
*The Soul of Man Under Socialism*

(excerpted from *The Wit of Oscar Wilde*,  
edited by Sean McCann,  
Dorset Press, 1969)

## The Outpost

continued from page 2

setting is a lonely little gathering place (“the farthest you can get from anywhere”) known as the Outpost, owned and operated by one Thomas Aloysius Hawke (aka Tomahawk). The Outpost (a combination bar-restaurant-boarding house-trading post-etc.) is situated on the planet Henry II – one of “the Eight Henrys” in the Tudor-Plantagenet binary star system – at the leading edge of the Inner Frontier, near the Galactic Core and far from the centers of galactic civilization in the Commonwealth. (Resnick has actually written quite a number of stories and novels set somewhere along the Inner Frontier. He uses it as an analog for the Wild West of American folklore.) Reggie (a robot, one of the novel’s characters) describes the Outpost as “a gathering place for the most extraordinary people in the galaxy.” And what “extraordinary” people they are! Here are the names of just a few of *The Outpost’s* cast of characters: Catastrophe Baker, the Reverend Billy Karma, Gravedigger Gaines, Bet-a-World O’Grady, Three-Gun Max, Sinderella, Little Mike Picasso, Nicodemus Mayflower, and Hellfire Carson – I leave it to your imagination to figure out *why* they’ve got these names. At any rate, the Outpost is being visited by a larger-than-usual number of these “extraordinary people” all at the same time, which is (as you can imagine) not exactly conducive to a peaceful, relaxed atmosphere at the bar. It seems that there’s a war on “out there” – a vast and powerful alien armada is sweeping through human space, devastating everything it encounters – and all these “extraordinary people” really don’t have any interest in getting involved. They figure they’ll just wait it out at the Outpost and spend the first third of the novel swapping tall tales, yarns, and hard-to-swallow anecdotes about their extraordinary careers. The reader is treated to such tales as “Catastrophe Baker and the Dragon Queen,” “The Greatest Painting of All Time,” “The Short, Star-Crossed Career of Magic Abdul-Jordan,” “Johnny Testosterone and the Temple Virgin,” and



many, many more. Like I said, pretty standard fare for a collection of bar stories – well-written and a rollicking good time!

But then the unthinkable happens – the war approaches the Outpost and our band of rugged individualists discover that “staying out of it” is no longer an option. So, off they go to fight the alien armada in their own unique ways. (I mean, what the hell! A fight’s a fight, isn’t it?) This third of the book is, naturally, devoted to a series of stories entitled “[name of character] and the Aliens.” Now the reader gets the pleasure of “watching them all in action,” not just listening to them spin tall tales about their careers. The reader is still in for a rollicking good time; but the body count steadily rises – and it isn’t always the Aliens who bite the dust at the end of any given story.

But Resnick *still* isn’t finished – he’s got another twist in store! As all wars must, this one ends, too; and the survivors gradually trickle back to the Outpost, where (as always) Willie the Bard is waiting to take down everyone’s story. Funny thing, though – the stories they tell just don’t seem to exactly match what the reader “saw” happen during the war! Makes you wonder just how many outright lies we’ve been listening to

since the opening of the novel, doesn’t it? And then, as an added kicker, Willie announces that he’s been “embellishing” and/or “interpreting” everybody’s story, so that everything comes out the way it “should” – and the reader is treated to a fascinating, eye-opening discussion of such concepts as the accuracy of history, the nature of “facts,” and truth vs. Truth.

What an incredible story (stories?) Mike Resnick tells in *The Outpost*, with a fair-sized dollop of philosophizing mixed in amongst one helluva lotta entertainment. It’s no wonder I’m such a big fan of his!

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Any fool can tell the truth,  
but it requires a man  
of some sense  
to know how to lie well.



Samuel Butler  
1835-1902



(excerpted from *The Cynic’s Lexicon*,  
edited by Jonathon Green,  
St. Martin’s Press, 1984)

**\*\*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, August 11th**, 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



August 2-4, 2002 **DIVERSICON 10**. Hotel TBA (Minneapolis, MN). Guests of Honor: Steven Barnes & Tananarive Due. Membership: \$45 at the door. "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.sfmnnesota.com](http://www.sfmnnesota.com)

August 16-18, 2002 **FANEX 16**. Days Hotel Timonium (Baltimore, MD). Guests include: Yvonne Monlaur, Ted Bohus, Fred Olen Ray, Tom Weaver, others. Membership: \$30 for the weekend; \$10 per day at the door. Make checks payable to "Midnight Marquee Press" and send to: Midnight Marquee, 9721 Britinay Ln., Baltimore, MD 21234 Website: [www.midmar.com](http://www.midmar.com)

August 23-25, 2002 **HORRORFIND WEEKEND**. BWI Airport Marriott (Baltimore, MD). Guests include: *Evil Dead* reunion (with Bruce Campbell, Ellen Sandweiss, Betsy Baker, Sarah York, and Tom Sullivan), Tom Savini, Douglas Clegg, Mason Winfield. Membership: \$25 until 6/1/02; \$30 after 6/1/02, \$20 per day at the door. Make checks payable to "Horrorfind" and mail to: Horrorfind.com Inc, 9722 Groffs Mill Dr, PMB 109, Owings Mills, MD 21117.

Website: [www.horrorfindweekend.com](http://www.horrorfindweekend.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](mailto:reg@conjose.org)). Website: [www.conjose.org](http://www.conjose.org)

(NOTE: The Gaylactic Network will host a GLBT con suite Thursday - Sunday at the Fairmont Hotel.)

October 18-20, 2002 **CAPCLAVE 2002**. Hilton Silver Spring (Silver Spring, MD). GoH: Stanley Schmidt; Artist GoH: Alexis Gilliland. Membership: \$30 until 9/3; \$35 from 9/4 - 10/12; \$40 at the door. Make checks payable to "Capclave 2002" and send to: Capclave 2002 Registration, 7113 Wayne Dr., Annandale, VA 22003-1734.

For more information: [info@capclave.org](mailto:info@capclave.org)

Website: <http://capclave.org>

Nov. 29 - Dec. 1, 2002 **DARKOVER GRAND COUNCIL MEETING XXV**. Holiday Inn Timonium (Timonium, MD). GoH: Deborah Christian; Artist GoH: Rebecca Liptak; Special Guest: Katherine Kurtz. Membership: \$40, until 11/1/02; \$45 after that. Make checks payable to "Armida Council" and send to: Armida Council, PO Box 7203, Silver Spring, MD 20907. (This is a very GLBT-friendly convention. LSF will host a room party on Saturday night.) Website: [www.darkovercon.com](http://www.darkovercon.com)

