



# LAMBDA SCI-FI



DC Area Gaylaxians

PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044 - (202) 232-3141 - Issue #154 - Jan. 2003

E-MAIL: info@lambdasf.org WEBSITE: http://www.lambdasf.org/



## LSF New Year's Eve Video Party

It's time for the annual LSF New Year's Eve Party. This time it's at the new home of Julian Redditt. As with previous New Year's Eve parties, the LSF portion of the party will end a few minutes before midnight; but everyone is invited to stay and for a private party and celebrate the new year with a champagne or sparkling cider toast! Here are the details:

**Date:** Tuesday, December 31, 2002

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## Next LSF Meeting - Jan. 12th -

The next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held at James Crutchfield's apartment (1414 17th St., NW, #413) on Sunday, January 12th. 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!

**Remember:** This meeting will feature the Annual LSF Book Exchange; and all LSF members and guests are invited to participate. (See article elsewhere on this page for details.)

## Book Exchange at Jan. 12th LSF Meeting

As promised in last month's newsletter, here's a short reminder about Lambda Sci-Fi's *thirteenth* annual book exchange, which will occur at the upcoming Jan. 12th meeting! All LSF members — and visitors, guests, attendees, etc. — are invited to participate in this "blind book exchange."

In case you've never participated in one of these before (or in case you've forgotten), here's how it works:

(1) Go out and purchase a copy of your "favorite" science fiction, fantasy, or horror book. (Over the years, LSF has expanded the concept of "book" to include comics, videotapes, "books on tape," etc. If you want - or if you're feeling particularly wealthy - you can even make it *several* favorite books or whatever.)

(2) Insert a piece of paper (or a bookmark) with your name on it. (That's so whoever eventually ends up with the item will know who it's from and will get to know a little more about you — at least to know what one of your "favorites" is.)

(3) Wrap up the exchange item, but don't put any identifying marks or anything on the wrapped package to say who it's from. (That's to make sure it's a "blind" exchange - *i.e.* no one is supposed to know who it's from at first. And, by the way, all of that leftover Holiday wrapping paper should come in handy here!)

(4) At the meeting, add your wrapped exchange item to the pile with all the others; and you'll be assigned a num-

## 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 held on January 23rd (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 couple of months:

--- **January 23rd (2003)** - *Dance for the Ivory Madonna*, by Don Sakers; moderator: TBA.

--- **February 27th (2003)** - *Sea Dragon Heir*, by Storm Constantine; moderator: Greg M.

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ber. (Only one exchange item - *i.e.* one package - per person, please!)

(5) When your number is called, you pick one of the packages from the pile. (And when you open it up, you'll find out who it's from.) See how easy?

I can hardly wait to see what shows up *this* year!

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## WHAT'S INSIDE?

Minutes of the LSF Meeting for Dec. 8, 2002 (pg. 2); Plan 9 From Outer Space? (photo, pg. 2); NESFA Press (pg. 3); Nominations for 2003 Spectrum Awards (pg. 3); Two New Stellar Biographies (book reviews - pg. 4); Extra LSF Polo Shirts for Sale (pg. 5); About Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians & Con Calendar (pg. 6)

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## Minutes of the LSF Meeting for Dec. 8, 2002

by Scott

It was determined that there was a quorum of Lambda Sci Fi members (a combination of members present and several proxies), so that elections could be held. The uncontested slate of candidates was elected by acclamation: Michael Cornett (Speaker), Rob Gates (Treasurer), Scott Roberts (Secretary), and Peter Knapp (Membership Coordinator).

Peter read Rob's Treasurer's report. The LSF bank balance is \$2050.61. All bills and donations are paid up-to-date. The website has been paid up through September 2003.

Peter distributed mail from the LSF post office box. One of the items received is from Youth Pride, which is scheduled for Saturday, April 12, 2003. The question was raised whether LSF wants to have a table at Youth Pride next year; but the discussion was tabled until the January meeting.

Carl reminded everyone that the LSF Book Club had postponed its discussion of Liz Williams' *Ghost Sister* the previous Thursday because of inclement weather and would hold this discussion on the upcoming Thursday, December 12. The discussion will be held at Rob and Peter's house.

Michael reported that he enjoyed the new James Bond movie with Pierce Brosnan and Halle Berry. ("The movie was great, but Madonna's opening song was horrible.") Peter eagerly commented that the new *Star Trek: Next Generation* movie, *Nemesis*, is opening on Friday, December 13, 2002. He passed around two action figures of Captain Picard and the Reman villain. Also in *Star Trek* news — it was noted that UPN's *Enterprise* TV series isn't doing so well in the ratings.

It was announced that Philcon is coming up on the Dec. 14-15 weekend in Philadelphia. Carl remarked that the DarkoverCon (Thanksgiving weekend in Timonium, MD) went well and that the GLBT room party he helped to coordinate was fun.

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### Plan 9 From Outer Space?

Nope. It's just Peter and his scuba diving class preparing for a practice dive. (This was in preparation for the recent trip he and Rob took to Belize.)



## LSF New Year's Eve Video Party

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### Time:

4:30 PM - 11:55 PM.

(A private party, to which everyone is invited, follows.)

### Location:

2462 Tunlaw Road, NW  
(Georgetown) Washington, DC

### What to Bring:

As with all of the LSF "Video Madness" parties, attendees should bring food to share (main dish, side dish, dessert, etc.) and/or drinks (non-alcoholic) to share and (of course) their favorite genre films. Attendees will vote on what to watch on a couple of screens.

### Directions:

Metrorail/bus Directions: Take the Pennsylvania Avenue Line, Buses 30, 32, 34, 35, and 36. These buses stop at the following Metro stations: Friendship Heights, Tenleytown/AU, Foggy Bottom/GWU, Farragut West, Archives/Navy Memorial, Eastern Market, Potomac Avenue, Naylor Road, and Southern Avenue. Get off at the Calvert Street stop (just before the Russian Embassy if you're on a north-bound bus; just after the Russian Embassy if you're traveling

on a south-bound bus). Travel west on Calvert. Cross 37th Street. Walk one block, and turn left at Tunlaw Road. Julian's house is the third house from the corner.

For the bus schedule, call Metro information at 202-637-7000 or visit their website at [www.wmata.com](http://www.wmata.com). You'll need Adobe Acrobat Reader (a free download at [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)) to access the bus schedules.

Driving Directions: If you are **driving from the North**, drive south on Wisconsin Avenue (from the direction of National Cathedral). Turn right on Calvert Street. Cross 37th Street; then left at Tunlaw Road. Julian's house is the third house from the corner.

If you are **driving from the South**, drive north on Wisconsin (from the direction of M Street). Turn left on Calvert Street. Cross 37th Street; then left at Tunlaw Road. Julian's house is the third house from the corner.

For more information call 202-306-1497 on the day of the party, or 202-483-6369 prior to the day of the party.

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**NESFA Press**  
 (<http://www.nesfa.org/press>)  
 an appreciation  
 by Colleen R. Cahill

The holiday season is upon us, and instead of telling you about one great book, I thought I would clue you into a whole press of good reads. The New England Science Fiction Association (or NESFA Press) publishes two types of works: those that recognize the work of guests-of-honor at their convention, Boskone, with a few Worldcons thrown in; and those that bring back to print classic science fiction works. Not only does this make some great works available again for new audiences to enjoy, but it makes a great shopping list, too. With prices ranging from four dollars to over 30 dollars, there is a wide range of items to choose from.

So let's talk about the books. For those interested in the classics there is *The Best of James H. Schmitz*, which contains nine stories and a complete bibliography of the author's works. Or perhaps you need the first American hardback edition of *Norstrilia*, by Cordwainer Smith. For fans of Smith's works, NESFA also offers *The Rediscovery of Man: The Complete Short Science Fiction of Cordwainer Smith*, which includes "The Dead Lady of Clown Town," and "Scanners Live in Vain." A favorite author of mine is Charles Harness; and NESFA offers two collections of his work and a brand new title by this master: *Cybele, with Bluebonnets*. For hard science fiction fans, there are three volumes of Hal Clement's work, all listed as essential. The volumes are a mix of short stories and novels; and for anyone who reads Clement, these are essential.



More recent authors are not ignored by NESFA. There are three Lois McMaster Bujold items, including *The Warriors Apprentice* (a must for any Miles Vorkosigan fan, as it is the first hardcover generally available edition of this work). Alternate history readers will want a copy of *The Armor of Light*, written by award-winning authors Melissa Scott and Lisa A. Barnett. Set in Elizabethan England, *Armor* includes a mix of history and magic, tempered with intrigues and mystery. George R.R. Martin's *Quartet* of four works includes the Hugo winning "Blood of the Dragon." *Moon Dogs* is a collection stories and essays by Michael Swanwick, of which the title story received a Hugo nomination in 2001. If your shopping list needs a lighter touch, try Tom Holt's *Expecting Beowulf*: two of Holt's funniest books (*Expecting Someone Taller* and *Who's Afraid of Beowulf*) in a single volume.

While NESFA Press does not take web purchases, you can easily mail or fax the order form. The hardest part of this will be picking which titles you want from this great list. You are sure to find something here for many on your gift list and also find things to put on your own.

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## December LSF Minutes

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The current issue of *Scarlet Street* is a "swimsuit issue", which includes photos and articles about the Creature From the Black Lagoon.

Movie outing! Lambda Sci Fi is having an outing to see *Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*, on Saturday, December

21, for the 2:50 PM show.

The next book for the January LSF Book Discussion Group will be Don Sakers' *Dance for the Ivory Madonna*. And the annual LSF book exchange will occur at the January 2003 meeting (details elsewhere in this newsletter).

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## Nominations for 2003 Spectrum Awards



Nominations for the 2003 Gaylactic Spectrum Awards are now open. Anyone may submit nominations; and you may submit as many nominations as you wish in any category.

There are three categories for 2003 - Best Novel (for any novel originally released in 2002); Best Short Fiction (for any single work of short fiction originally released in 2002); and Best Other Work (for any work in any other form originally released in 2002, including movies, television, comics, collections, anthologies, art, games, music, and more). Although the Best Other Work category is a single category at this time, the judges may - if nominations warrant - elect to create other separate categories after nominations have been compiled. Professional electronic publications are eligible. Nominations will remain open through March 31, 2003; but we encourage you to submit nominations as soon as possible so that our judges can begin the work of narrowing down the nominees.

The Gaylactic Spectrum Awards exist to bring attention to and recognize works in science fiction, fantasy and horror which include positive gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender content.

Online nominations may be submitted through our new website at:

<http://www.spectrumawards.org/nomform.htm>

While there, be sure to check out our new website, including information on previous years, joining or supporting the Gaylactic Spectrum Awards Foundation, and more!

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

If you have any questions, please let me know.

- Rob Gates -

Gaylactic Spectrum Awards Foundation  
[info@spectrumawards.org](mailto:info@spectrumawards.org)

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## Two New Stellar Biographies

reviewed by Carl Cipra

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I predict... (Good grief! I sound like Criswell! But at least I'm not predicting "Phantoms in Philadelphia" or some such Criswellian nonsense! Now, where was I? Oh, yes...) I've just finished reading two terrific new biographies of notable F&SF celebrities; and I predict that one or both of them will appear on the ballot for Hugo Awards in the "Best Related Book" category (*i.e.* any non-fiction work whose subject is related to the field of F&SF or fandom). These new biographies are: *Better to Have Loved: The Life of Judith Merrill*, by Judith Merrill and Emily Pohl-Weary (Between the Lines, Toronto, 2002); and *Bradbury: An Illustrated Life, A Journey to Far Metaphor*, by Jerry Weist (William Morrow, NYC, 2002).



I really like the Judith Merrill biography. Actually, it's a combination of biography and *autobiography*. You see, Merrill had begun to work on an autobiography before her death in 1997; and now Emily Pohl-Weary (her granddaughter) has completed the job by compiling and editing Merrill's content and by writing some new and additional material.

Judith Merrill (nee Grossman) had a long association with F&SF, including a career spanning over 50 years of writing (and/or editing) everything from pulps, to paperbacks, to television work. She was once widely-known as the "Little Mother of Science

Fiction"; but I'm afraid her fame has faded among readers nowadays. (I myself have only read one of her works, *Gunner Cade*, which she co-authored with Cyril Kornbluth, under the pen-name "Cyril Judd.") Hopefully, this biography will go a long way toward bringing her name back before the current F&SF reading public.

Sections of *Better to Have Loved* consist of compilations of personal correspondence between Merrill and her friends, family, inamorata, and acquaintances. The earliest letters provide a fascinating picture of the workings and interplay among early fandom - - and not just in regard to their writing. There's plenty of information in these letters regarding their leftist leanings, their social interactions, their philosophizing, their feuds, etc. Merrill was, of course, one of the Futurian Society, that early fannish group that included such future luminaries as Fred Pohl, Virginia Kidd, James Blish, Damon Knight, Isaac Asimov, Donald A. Wollheim, and Cyril Kornbluth. (Side note: For another point of view on the group, I refer you to Damon Knight's book, *The Futurians*.) Letters in subsequent chapters chart Merrill's involvement with many other F&SF personalities, such as Fred Pohl (to whom she was married for a time), Walter Miller Jr. (author of *A Canticle for Leibowitz*, with whom she had a love affair), Fritz Leiber (with whom she also had a short fling), and Ted Sturgeon (who encouraged her early writing efforts and even helped her choose her *nom-de-plume* "Judith Merrill"). It was also quite an eye-opener to read Merrill's frank discussion of her long-time, deep, and abiding love for fellow author Katherine MacLean (although there was apparently never any physicality to their mutual love).

The book also includes a number of essays or articles written by Merrill that highlight certain aspects of her life and/or expound her feelings on various subjects (such as providing the answer to that age-old question: "Where do you get all those crazy ideas?"). The fact that Merrill was a first-class thinker, passionate person, and talented writer

comes through loud and clear throughout the book.

*Better to Have Loved* is fascinating reading. I highly recommend it. (The title of the book, by the way is based on a verse by Alfred, Lord Tennyson: "*'Tis better to have loved and lost/than never to have loved at all.*" The book's Prelude features both this verse and Merrill's poignant response: "*Every way to lose a lover is unbearable. But any way to lose a lover does not end the loving. Grief is not knowing where to give the love that does not stop.*")



And then there's the other book: Jerry Weist's *Bradbury: An Illustrated Life*. Well, who doesn't know about Ray Bradbury? You'd have to have buried your head rather deeply under a *very* big rock not to have heard of him -- even if you're not an F&SF fan. Like Judith Merrill, Bradbury's writing career has spanned more than five decades. His works have appeared in virtually every popular medium: pulps, slicks, books, comics, movies, television, and stage. Bradbury's fannish credentials are also quite extensive: he began his fannish career back in the 1940s and counts the likes of Forrest J Ackerman and Ray Harryhausen among his oldest friends.

However, I was quite surprised to find that *Bradbury: An Illustrated Life* isn't so much about Bradbury-the-person as it is about Bradbury-the-artist/writer. It doesn't give the reader as much information about Bradbury's personal

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## Two Biographies

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life as it gives about his intellectual, artistic, and authorial life. OK, maybe I'm quibbling here. I suppose it could be argued that an exposition of a person's ideas, dreams, literary career, professional projects, etc. *does* provide a clear and accurate picture of the life of a figure like Ray Bradbury; but I'd expected to see a little more. In contrast, the Judith Merrill biography includes *lots* of information about her personal life and loves, revealing more about her than just her literary career. Having read her biography, I feel like I've gotten to know Merrill-the-person much better than I have Bradbury-the-person from reading *Bradbury: An Illustrated Life*.

On the other hand, the "second" subtitle of this book (*A Journey to Far Metaphor*) should have been the tip-off for me that this is a book of Bradbury's ideas and the themes that run throughout his life, rather than a more traditional type of biography. It includes some short passages about Bradbury's early life and involvement in fandom; but, on the whole, each chapter primarily deals with a different "thematic" period of his life, in rough chronological order of when they began: fandom, writing (pulp, slicks, books), and adaptations of his works for stage, screen, and TV.

Above all, *Bradbury: An Illustrated Life* is a big, *beautiful* "coffee table" book. If you want to spend hour after hour staring at reproductions of stunning F&SF artwork, then this is definitely the book for you! It's absolutely *filled* with magnificent full-color pictures of cover art from Bradbury's books, art based on his works, movie stills, sketches and doodles by Bradbury himself, photographs, etc. -- all linked by short passages describing each particular "theme" in Bradbury's life. In fact, aside from the short descriptions accompanying each illustration, there's probably only about 20 or 30 pages of actual text in this book!

Perhaps the most fascinating chapter for me was the one about Bradbury's association with William

## Extra LSF Polo Shirts for Sale

announced by Peter Knapp

This is your lucky day! LSF has eight extra embroidered polo shirts for sale, first come first served. (The embroidered logo design is shown at right.) Each shirt costs \$25. The breakdown of available sizes and colors is as follows:

- 1 Large White
- 1 Large Royal Blue
- 2 Extra-Large White
- 4 Extra-Large Royal Blue

Hurry and get your order in while the supply lasts! For a copy of the order form, in PDF, go to:

<http://www.lambdasf.org/lsf/LSFPolo.pdf>



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Moderation is  
a fatal thing.  
Nothing succeeds  
like excess.  
-- Oscar Wilde --  
(from *A Woman of  
No Importance*)

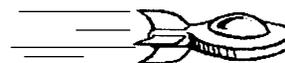
Gaines and EC Comics. Yes, indeed, Ray Bradbury was heavily involved with the folks who brought us comics like *Tales from the Crypt!* In fact, Bradbury wrote and/or authorized adaptations of quite a number of his short stories for the pages of such EC titles as *Weird Science*, *Weird Fantasy*, *Weird Science-Fantasy*, and *The Haunt of Fear*. This chapter contains lots of reprints of pages from Bradbury's EC adaptations -- many of them rendered by some of my favorite illustrators, such as Wally Wood and Al Williamson. It also includes the texts of a number of letters between Bradbury, Gaines, and Al Feldstein (who did most of the editing for Bradbury's EC appearances). It was especially fascinating to read the letters they exchanged during the time of the "crackdown" on comics (*i.e.* the Senate Subcommittee hearings on causes of juvenile delinquency, which followed the 1955 publication of Fredric Wertham's infamous *Seduction of the Innocent*).

On the other hand, I could have done without another chapter's compila-

tion of excerpts from the "shooting diary" of François Truffaut, which recount his directorial musings during the production of the 1967 film version of *Fahrenheit 451* (starring Oscar Werner and Julie Christie). I suppose *somebody* might find that sort of thing fascinating -- but not me.

As I said earlier, I predict that one or both of these books will be in the running for a Hugo Award this year. Given the nature of the Hugos and the subject matter of each biography, I suspect that, between the two of them, the Bradbury bio will probably be the frontrunner. Ray Bradbury is, after all, far and away better known than Judith Merrill; and *Bradbury: An Illustrated Life* is (as I said) a big, pretty picture book -- very attractive, lots of pretty full-color pictures, easy to digest. Personally, I still prefer *Better to Have Loved: The Life of Judith Merrill*.

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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 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, January 12th**, 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



Feb. 14-16, 2002 **KATSUCONNINE**. Hyatt Regency Crystal City (Arlington, VA). Anime, gaming, cosplay, dealers, panels, guests. Membership: \$45 until 12/31/2002 (no pre-registrations after 12/31; "at door" prices available). Make checks payable to "Katsucon" and send to: Katsucon, Attn: Registration, PO Box 222691, Chantilly, VA 22153-2691.

E-mail: [katsucon@katsucon.org](mailto:katsucon@katsucon.org)

Website: [www.katsucon.com](http://www.katsucon.com)

May 23-26, 2003 **BALTICON 37**. Wyndham Baltimore Inner Harbor Hotel (Baltimore, MD). GoH: Sharon Lee & Steve Miller; featured artists: Sheila & Omar Rayyan. Membership: \$40 from 12/16/2002 to 2/28/2003; \$45, 3/1 - 4/30; \$50 at the door. Make checks payable to "Balticon 37" and send to: Balticon 37, PO Box 686, Baltimore, MD 21203-0686.

E-mail: [balticoninfo@balticon.org](mailto:balticoninfo@balticon.org)

Website: [www.balticon.org](http://www.balticon.org)

July 11-13, 2003 **SHORELEAVE 25**. Marriott's Hunt Valley Inn (Hunt Valley, MD). Guests include: John Rhys Davies (*LoTR's* Gimli, *Indiana Jones's* Sallah); Marina Sirtis (*ST:TNG's* Deanna Troi); Andrea Thompson (*B5's* Talia Winters); Marc Singer (*Beastmaster*). Membership: \$50 until 6/31/03 (higher at the door). Make checks payable to "Shore Leave" and send (with 2 SASE's) to: Shore Leave 25, PO Box 6809, Towson, MD 21285-6809.

E-mail: [information@shore-leave.com](mailto:information@shore-leave.com)

Website: [www.shore-leave.com](http://www.shore-leave.com)

Aug. 28 - Sept. 1, 2003 **TORCON 3 (The 61st World Science Fiction Convention)**. Metro Toronto Convention Centre & surrounding hotels (Toronto, Ontario, Canada). Guests of Honor: George R.R. Martin (author), Frank Kelly Freas (artist), Mike Slyer (fan), Spider Robinson (Toastmaster). Membership: \$170 US for attending adults (valid as of 7/1/02 -- will go up!). Make checks payable to "Torcon 3" and send to: Torcon 3, PO Box 3, Station A, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5W 1A2.

E-mail: [info@torcon3.on.ca](mailto:info@torcon3.on.ca)

Website: [www.torcon3.on.ca](http://www.torcon3.on.ca)

Sept 19-21, 2003 **CAPCLAVE 2003**. Hotel: to be named later (DC Metro area). Guest of Honor: William Tenn. Membership: \$30 thru 8/1/2003; \$35 thru 9/5/03; \$40 at the door. Make checks payable to "Capclave" and send to: Capclave 2003 Registration, c/o Cathy Green, 3003 Van Ness St. NW, Apt. W527, Washington, DC 20008.

E-mail: [info@capclave.org](mailto:info@capclave.org)

Website: [www.capclave.org](http://www.capclave.org)

Sept. 2-6, 2004 **NOREASCON 4 (The 62nd World Science Fiction Convention)**. Hynes Convention Center & surrounding hotels (Boston, Mass.). Pro GoHs: Terry Pratchett & William Tenn. Attending membership: until 2/28/03, \$140 for attending adults (will go up!) Membership form on-line; registration also available on-line. Make checks payable to "Noreascon 4" and send to: Noreascon Four/MCFI, PO Box 1010, Framingham, MA 01701-1010.

For general questions: [info@mcfi.org](mailto:info@mcfi.org)

Website: [www.noreascon.org](http://www.noreascon.org)

