

LAMBDA SCI-FI



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DC Area Gaylaxians



PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044 - (202) 232-3141 - Issue #165 - Dec. 2003

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

New Year's Eve "Video Madness" Party

by Peter Knapp



Come celebrate New Year's Eve at Rob and Peter's newly-renovated home in downtown DC. As usual, this will give us a chance to both recover from the hectic "holiday" season and to party some more in anticipation of the new year.

Here are the details on how to join in on the fun:

When? Thursday, December 31st (3:00pm to ??). The doors will open at 3:00pm. The potluck dinner and the videos will begin at the 4:30pm-5:00pm range.

What to Bring? Bring along your favorite genre videos and DVD's (science fiction, fantasy, horror). Attendees will vote on which movies will be shown at the party. (There'll be different concurrent "tracks" of programming in two or three different parts of the house.)

The party will, of course, include a potluck meal, so bring along something scrumptious to eat. We're not pre-assigning categories of what food to bring, so everyone should just bring something from one (or more) of the following "basic food groups": appetizers (veggies, chips, etc.), a main course item (enough to serve at least 4-5 people), dessert (of course!), non-alcoholic drinks (both regular and diet).

(continued on page 3)

Reminder: Annual LSF Book Exchange Set for Jan. 11th Meeting

That's right, gang, the Holiday Season is almost upon us again; and it's time for a short reminder about Lambda Sci-Fi's upcoming *fourteenth* annual book exchange, which will occur at the January 11th meeting! All LSF members are invited to participate in this "blind book exchange" -- and visitors are invited to join in the fun, too!

Briefly, this will be an opportunity for LSFers to exchange copies of their favorite science-fiction, fantasy, or horror books/videos/etc. and, thus, get to know each other a little better. For those of you unfamiliar with the process, here's how it works: You won't be assigned to exchange books with any *particular* person - it's a "blind" exchange, where participants will get their pick from a pile of anonymous wrapped packages. **There will be full details on the exchange in the next (January) LSF newsletter.** ΛΨΦ

Next LSF Meeting - Dec. 14th -

The next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held at James Crutchfield's apartment (1414 17th St., NW, #413) on Sunday, December 14th. 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!

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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 LBGT 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 generally meets on the 4th Thursday of every month, starting at 7:00 PM. However, the *next* meeting will be held on December 4th (a special combined November-December session).

While Peter & Rob's house is undergoing renovations, the LSF Book Discussion Group will meet at a new venue: Brian & Sean's condo: 1300 13th St. NW #108 (Solo Piazza Building, on the corner of 13th & "N" Streets). For directions or more details, call 202-968-8737.

Here's the schedule for the next couple of months:

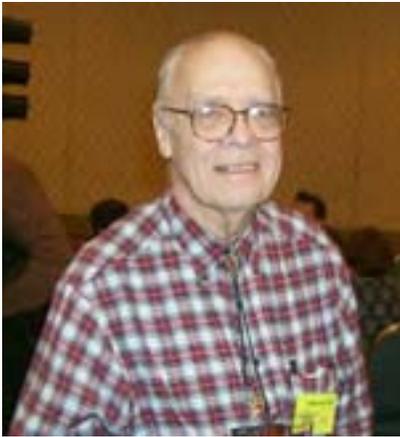
- Dec. 4th (NOTE: special combined Nov.-Dec. discussion) - *Fat White Vampire Blues* by Andrew Fox; moderator: Keith.
- Jan. 22nd - *Spin State* by Chris Moriarty; moderator: Rob.
- Feb. 26th - *Women Writing Science Fiction as Men*, edited by Mike Resnick; moderator: Carl.

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Hal Clement
1922-2003

(from Rob)

Another of our Greats passes.....

Harry Clement Stubbs, who under the pen name of Hal Clement wrote science fiction for sixty years and received SFWA's Grand Master Award in 1999, died in his sleep at his Milton, Massachusetts home on October 29, 2003, at age 81.

Author of a multitude of novels and stories over the course of 60+ years in the genre, Hal Clement was a regular fixture at conventions and in the community. I had the pleasure of meeting and interacting with Harry first through MITSFS (the MIT Science Fiction Society), whose annual picnic Harry tried to attend

each year, and later through casual passing at conventions. He adored the universe, the people in it, the wonders it held, and I rarely saw him with anything less than a smile. He will be missed.

(from *SFWA News*)

Harry Clement Stubbs, who wrote science fiction as Hal Clement, died in his sleep earlier today, October 29, 2003, at his home in Milton, Massachusetts.

Born in 1922, Clement was a high school teacher whose fiction gained a reputation as quintessential hard SF – science fiction firmly based on established physics, chemistry, and astronomy. His novels often depicted highly-imagined alien worlds. The most famous was *Mission of Gravity*, set on a heavy, fast-spinning planet where the force of gravity is several times greater at the poles than at the equator. His last novel, *Noise*, was published earlier this year.

Clement was named a Grand Master by the Science Fiction Writers of America in 1999. Among his other honors was a Retro-Hugo Award in 1996 for his 1945 story "Uncommon Sense".

Clement is survived by his wife Mary, two sons George and Richard, daughter Christine Hensel, and grandson Jackson.



Gaylaxicon
2005
Confirmed
for July 1-4
2005!
from Wayne
Wilkening,
Conchair Gaylaxicon
2005

Gaylaxicon 2005 is pleased to announce that we have confirmed the Hyatt Regency Cambridge for Gaylaxicon 2005. The Hyatt is an exceptional property, centrally located in Cambridge right on the Charles River. The hotel is full service with a pool, exercise room, well-furnished rooms and enough function space to host an unforgettable Gaylaxicon. The room rate for the convention is \$104 for all non-suite rooms!

For those who are staying through the 4th of July holiday, we will be guaranteed a prime viewing space for the annual Boston fireworks over the river! If you've not yet signed up for the convention, go to www.gaylaxicon.org/2005 now! Membership rates are currently \$35 but will go up on November 1st!

Our GoH's are still being confirmed and we'll send out a notice as soon as that's been completed. We are planning a great convention and can't wait to see you all in 2005!



The "Secret" Minutes of the November LSF Meeting compiled by the Masked Stranger

LSF's long-standing Secretary, Scott, was unable to attend the November 9th meeting; and no one else could be coerced into agreed to accept the responsibility for taking minutes at the meeting. Consequently, what happened at the meeting that day is a Big Secret, and I'm not gonna tell you!!! Nyah, nyah, nyah!!!

Well, OK, maybe just this once...

Aside from all the typical nattering about this'n'that (books, movies, TV shows, etc., etc., etc.), a couple of

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significant items were decided.

(1) After a little research earlier that day, Peter and Rob reminded everyone that the LSF Charter requires that **Officer nominations** be made no later than the November meeting – with elections to follow at the December meeting. (YIKES!) The current slate of Officers – Michael C., Speaker; Rob, Treasurer; Peter, Membership Coordinator; Scott (*in absentia*, having previously told Peter of his intentions), Secretary – all agreed to volunteer to continue in their present Offices. As no

other nominations were made – and no volunteers came forward – it was agreed that the current Officers would be reconfirmed by acclamation.

(2) With the imminent completion of their home renovations (*Deo gratias!*), Peter and Rob announced their intention to host an LSF **"video madness"/New Year's Eve party**. (For details, see the announcement beginning on the first page of this newsletter.)

Tha-tha-tha-tha-that's all, folks! (Hopefully, Scott will be able to attend the December LSF meeting and there'll actually be some minutes for the newsletter!)

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New Year's Eve Party

continued from page 1



How to Get There? The party will be held at the home of Peter and Rob at 1425 "S" Street, NW, Washington, DC, near Dupont Circle, U Street, and Logan Circle.

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 a 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. Call 202-483-6369 if you get lost.

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 (crossing New Hampshire Ave. 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 of the way down the street, at 1425 "S" Street, NW. Call 202-483-6369 if you get lost.

Driving Directions: 1425 "S" Street, NW is located in the 1400 block of

14th Street, half way between 14th and 15th Streets, which run north/south. 14th Street is a two-way street. 15th Street is a one-way street, heading north. "S" Street is a two-way street and runs east/west.

From the North: Get onto 16th Street (Exit 31 on the Beltway) on Connecticut Avenue (Exit 33 on the Beltway) heading South. Turn left on "S" Street and follow "S" Street (6½ blocks from Connecticut Avenue; 2 blocks from 16th Street) to 1425 "S" Street, NW. Call 202-483-6369 if you get lost.

From the South: Get onto I-495 North. After crossing the Potomac River, follow signs for US Route 1 (near the Thomas Jefferson Memorial). US Route 1 become 14th Street. Follow 14th Street to "S" Street. Turn left on "S" Street and follow "S" Street ½ block to 1425 "S" Street. Call 202-483-6369 if you get lost.

Parking: Street parking is generally available, though it's harder to find the later it gets. On weekends and holidays, there are no parking restrictions, but make sure not to park too close to street intersections, alleys, and fire hydrants — or risk getting a ticket. Safe distances are usually marked.

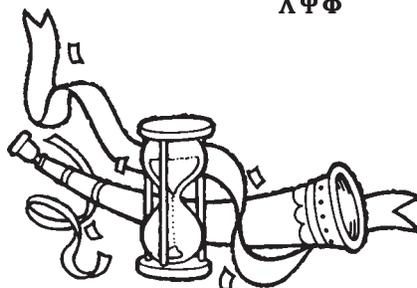
For more information send Rob an email at:

rgates@wavelengthsonline.com and/or Peter at:

PeterKnapp@wavelengthsonline.com or give them a call at 202-483-6369.

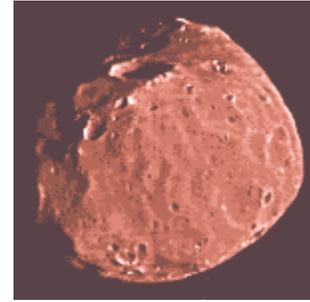
NOTE: The LSF party ends at 11:30pm and is immediately followed by a private party with an open invitation to toast the incoming new year.

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Phobos

a short review by
Peta Joy Sosnowski



There's a new book coming out this month entitled *Phobos*, by Ty Drago; and it's one of the best stories I've read in a very long time. And as I've had quite some time on hand(s), I've been living with my nose in a book (I love the smell), so I would know.

Quickly, and with no spoilers: Mike Brogue is part cop and part soldier, and full Martian. As a prize for saving one of the powerful people on Mars from a terror kidnapping, he is given a choice of being stuck in a never-ending photo op or of getting sent to a research outpost on the moon Phobos, where something has started hunting the scientists. Guess what his choice is?

This is a truly great story with a little bit military, mystery, intrigue and a lot of just good old-fashioned SF— with a hostile lifeform thrown into the mix, just for that special added flavor. I got a jump on everybody when I had the chance to read the advanced, uncorrected proof (a bit of bragging here), but I'll be out to buy the book. As the author lives very near to me in NJ, I think there's a good chance I can get it signed.

My advice - Go get it!

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I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work.

-- Thomas Alva Edison --



Scarlet Street by Mike Cornett



Many have heard me talk about this magazine. *Scarlet Street: The Magazine of Mystery and Horror* is a very fun mag devoted to classic horror and mystery films and TV. (And fiction, to a lesser degree.)

Scarlet Street is also a very gay-slanted magazine; the publisher, Richard Valley, and the Managing Editor, Tom Amorosi, are a couple—and quite a fun one too! They were guests at a Gaylaxicon a while ago and also appear at numerous East Coast conventions (mostly horror ones).

Anyway, the reason I'm talking about it now is that I got the new issue today and it's probably their gayest yet. Articles in the new issue include:

— "Attack of the Horror Hags," about movies like *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?* and other horrors with aging screen divas like Bette Davis, Joan Crawford, and Olivia de Havilland.

— "Screamers, or Cute Boys in Their Underpants Drop Dead," about the gay-oriented horror films of deadguyscinema.com, which feature all sorts of scantily-clad young men in peril.

— "Muscling in on the Movies," an overview of the Italian Hercules films, including a rare nude photo of 50's gay heartthrob Steve Reeves.

— "From Muscle Beach to the Movies: Mark Forest," an interview with the 60's beefcake heartthrob, including his address so fans can write to him!

— "Great Scott!: Gordon Scott," an interview with an actor who played both Hercules and Tarzan.

— "From Muscle Beach to the Movies: Reg Lewis," an interview with the 1957 Mr. Universe, who went on to make a number of movies.

— and a bunch more of fun stuff. Check it out!

Ed. Note: Mike's short article first appeared in the on-line LSF discussion group. In a reply, Randy Bell provided *Scarlet Street's* website, which is: <http://www.redcirclellc.com/index.html>

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Star Trek x 3 = ? reviews by Carl Cipra



As with any category this broad, I've found "Star Trek literature" to be a pretty mixed bag. I've read almost a dozen *Star Trek* books – by various authors – and I can't say that reading them has been an unalloyed pleasure. Yes, I *really* enjoyed a couple of 'em – specifically: Steve Barnes' *incredible* "expanded novelization" *Far Beyond the Stars* (based on the *DS9* TV episode about Benny Russell, the black sci-fi pulp writer); and *Captain Proton: Defender of the Earth* by D.W. "Prof." Smith (a campy pulp-style story based on Tom Paris' *Voyager* holo-deck adventures). On the other hand, I found some *Trek* books to be utter disappointments. (I'm a *big* fan of Julia Ecklar's works; but I can't say that I'd recommend her "classic *Trek*" novel, *The Kobayashi Maru*, to anyone as an indication of just how good a writer she is. And I consider my reading of Jeri Taylor's novel, *Unification*, to have been a waste of time, since it provides *nothing* beyond what you'll see in the 2-part *TNG* episode – I'd been hoping for some further insights into Romulan society.) Others – such as Diane Duane's *Dark Mirror* [*TNG*]; Melissa Scott's *Proud Helios* [*DS9*] and *The Garden* [*Voyager*]; and S.N. Lewitt's *Cybersong* [*Voyager*] – I'd rate as anywhere from "pretty good" to "just OK".

Having said that, I ended up taking three *Star Trek* novels along with me on a recent work-related trip. I just thought I'd let you know what I think about 'em.

Uhura's Song by Janet Kagan (1985)

This one's been buried in my "to read" pile for quite a while. I bought a used copy of *Uhura's Song* several years ago after reading – and enjoying! – Kagan's *Hellspark* (Meisha Merlin Press). I had really enjoyed the way Kagan handled non-alien cultures and personalities in *Hellspark* and decided to give her earlier work a try. (If you're



interested, I reviewed *Hellspark* in the May 1999 issue of the LSF newsletter.)

Uhura's Song is an example of a "non-canonical" *Star Trek* story – *i.e.* it's not a story from any of the TV series or movies. It's a novel that uses familiar *Star Trek* characters to tell a science fictional story. In the case of *Uhura's Song*, Kagan uses "Classic *Trek*" characters.

A deadly plague has broken out among the cat-like sentients of the planet Eeiauou; and the *USS Enterprise* has been sent in an attempt to find a cure. Unfortunately, there doesn't seem to be a cure and humans are succumbing to the plague, too – in fact, several of the *Enterprise* crew have been infected. The only hope would seem to be encoded within the secret traditional songs of the Eeiauouans, songs that Uhura learned from an Eeiauouan diplomat she befriended many years ago. Now, *Enterprise* is flashing across the galaxy in a race against time to find a cure on a mythical Eeiauouan homeworld – before the plague spreads to more Federation planets.

Not a bad little book. Although I didn't find Kagan's handling of the cultures of the feline Eeiauouans and Sivaoans to be as expert as her handling of alien cultures in *Hellspark*, it was still well done. Interestingly, Kagan has also woven an archetypal "Trickster" figure into this story – an intriguing plot device that I can't go into without spoiling the story; and, frankly, I'm still of two minds as to whether I like the way she handles it. This book will probably be difficult to find – I think it's been out of print for years.

(continued on page 5)



Star Trek x 3 = ?
continued from page 4

Garth of Izar
by Pamela Sargent and
George Zebrowski (2003)



This is the novel that actually got me going on this recent *Star Trek* kick. *Garth of Izar* is what I'd call a "continuing story" type of *Star Trek* novel – it takes a character from one of the *Trek* episodes/movies and tells you "what happens next" (or "what led up to this"). *Garth of Izar*, obviously, tells "what happens next" to Captain Garth ("LORD Garth!!!"), the shape-shifting madman that Kirk and Spock encountered on their visit to the Federation rehabilitation asylum on Elba II (in the episode entitled "Whom Gods Destroy"). I'd found Garth (as portrayed on TV by the late Steve Ihnat) to be a fascinating character – and Sargent and Zebrowski are pretty well-known SF authors – so when I saw this novel on the stands, I decided to give it a try.

Garth has seemingly been cured of his madness; and Starfleet Command has been debating what to do about him. Garth was, after all, a tactical military genius and a war hero – but then there's that period of insanity and the uncertainty of whether he's actually cured. Should Starfleet give him his rank back, give him a command, bury him in a desk job somewhere, or retire him outright? In the meantime, Garth has alerted Starfleet about a secret plot by the Antossians (the secretive race that originally taught him their shape-shifting abilities) and has offered his services in exposing their plans. Still not certain of what to do with him, Starfleet Command assigns Captain

Kirk, Commander Spock, and the rest of the crew of the *USS Enterprise* to assist Garth on this mission – and to keep an eye on Garth, should he in fact still be insane.

On the whole, I wasn't overly impressed with this one. The plot twists centering around the uncertainty of Garth's mental status were handled well; but, considering what was done with Odo and the Founders in *DS9*, I expected the culture of the shape-shifting Antossians to be handled better. Ah, well, I guess I'll just have to rate *Garth of Izar* as another of those "just OK" *Trek* novels.

Vulcan's Heart
by Josepha Sherman
and Susan Shwartz (1999)



I've always been intrigued with the contrasting societies and cultures of the planet Vulcan and the Romulan Empire, so I decided to read this one despite my previous disappointment with Jeri Taylor's novelization *Unification*.

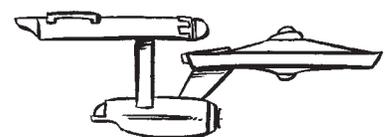
Vulcan's Heart is what I'd call a "linking story," one that connects events that occur in one or more *Trek* TV episodes or movies – or, if you prefer, a "fill in the gaps" story that tells you what happened *between* various episodes/movies. In the case of *Vulcan's Heart* readers are provided with links between the classic *Trek* episode "The Enterprise Incident" and the *TNG* episodes "Yesterday's Enterprise" and the two-part "Unification". The major characters in *Vulcan's Heart* include: Ambassador Spock; Commander Saavik (Spock's former protege,); Lieutenant Jean-Luc Picard of the *USS Stargazer*; Ambassador Sarek (Spock's father); Admiral Leonard McCoy; Senator Pardek of Romulus (from "Unification") and

Commander Charvanek (the unnamed Romulan Commander, from "The Enterprise Incident"); and Captain Rachel Garrett and Lieutenant Richard Castillo of the *USS Enterprise*, NCC-1701-C (from "Yesterday's Enterprise"). The story begins with the betrothal of Spock and Saavik on Vulcan (an event not previously shown anywhere else) and culminates with the Battle of Narendra III (as shown in "Yesterday's Enterprise").

For years, Spock has been researching his theories of the origins of Romulan civilization as an offshoot of Vulcan civilization; and he has dreamed of healing that ancient rift between the two branches of the Vulcan-Romulan race. The authorities on Vulcan, however, have studiously ignored him. Therefore, to advance both these projects, Spock plans to secretly visit the Romulan capital and contact the leaders of a growing dissident movement. Meanwhile, Dralath, the ambitious new Romulan Praetor is plotting to overthrow the Emperor and assume personal control of the Romulan Star Empire – using a sneak attack against an unarmed Klingon outpost as the first step to garner support for his regime. Spock's life becomes increasingly imperiled as the political pot boils over on Romulus, while the lives of his friends – and of his bride-to-be, Saavik – are endangered by the interplanetary cold-war-gone-hot.

I rather liked *Vulcan's Heart*. Sherman and Shwartz do a nice job of bringing together the elements of various disparate TV episodes and melding them harmoniously. They've also managed to "stay true" to the characters and to the overall "feel" of the *Trek* universe. Not exactly Hugo or Nebula Award material, but nicely done nevertheless. (FYI: The same authors had previously co-written another *Trek* novel, *Vulcan's Forge* [1998], which I haven't read. It's apparently a stand-alone novel about another period of Spock's life, *not* part of a "series," as such.)

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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 \$10, for which you will receive an e-mailed this monthly newsletter and a membership directory. (Hard copies of the newsletter cost an additional \$15 per year.) 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, December 14th**, 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, Peter, and Rob



Dec. 12-14, 2003 **PHILCON 2003**. Marriott City Center (Philadelphia). *Avery* GLBT-friendly convention! Guest of Honor: Jack McDevitt; Artist Guests of Honor: Greg & Tim Hildebrandt; Special Guests: Peter David & Harry Harrison. Membership: \$40 until 5/31/2003 (will go up). Go to website to download pdf of registration form. Website: www.philcon.org

April 8 - 11, 2004 **GAYLAXICON 2004 - SANDIEGO**. The annual national GLBT science-fiction/fantasy/horror/comics/gaming convention. Red Lion Hanalei Hotel (San Diego, CA). Author Guest of Honor: David Gerrold; Artist Guest of Honor: Joe Phillips. Membership: \$45 until 12/21/2003; then \$50 until 2/29/2004; and \$60 at the door. Make checks payable to "Gaylaxicon 2004 - San Diego" and send to: Gaylaxicon 2004 - San Diego, 1010 University Ave., PMB #946, San Diego, CA, 92103-3395. Membership forms available on-line. Information at: www.gaylaxicon.org/2004 E-mail: Gaylaxicon2004@aol.com

May 28-31, 2004 **BALTICON 38**. Wyndham Baltimore Inner Harbor (Baltimore). Guest of Honor: Lois McMaster Bujold; Artist Guest of Honor: David Seeley; 2003 Compton Crook Award Winner: Patricia Bray. Membership: \$37 thru 12/15/2003; \$42 from 12/16/2003 to 2/28/2004; \$47 from 3/1 thru 4/30/2004; \$52 thereafter & at the door. Make checks payable to "Balticon 38" and send to: Balticon 38, PO Box 686, Baltimore, MD 21203-0686 Website: www.balticon.org E-mail: balticoninfo@balticon.org

October 22-24, 2004 **VEGA CON**. Jackie Gaughan's Plaza Hotel and Casino (Las Vegas, NV). Guest include: Steven Brust and Kathg Mar. Membership: \$25 until 2/29/04; \$30 from 3/1/04 to 6/30/04; \$35 from 7/1/03 to 10/1/04; \$45 at the door. Make checks payable to "VSFA" and send to: VSFA, 2800 Las Vegas Blvd. So., Suite 11, Las Vegas, NV 89109. Email: VegasSFAssociation@yahoo.com Website: www.vegacon.com

July 1-4, 2005 **GAYLAXICON 2005**. Hyatt Regency Cambridge (Boston, MA). Introductory membership rate: \$35. Make checks payable to "Gaylaxicon 2005" and send to: Gaylaxicon 2005, PO Box 1059, Boston, MA 02103. (More information as it becomes available.) Website: www.gaylaxicon.org

Aug. 23-27, 2006 **L.A. CON IV (64th World Science Fiction Convention)**. Anaheim Convention Center, Anaheim Hilton, Anaheim Marriott (Anaheim, CA). Author Guest of Honor: Connie Willis; Artist Guest of Honor: James Gurney; Fan Guest of Honor: Howard DeVore; Special Guest: Frankie Thomas ("Tom Corbett, Space Cadet"). Membership: \$125 thru 12/31/2003 (will go UP after that!). Make checks payable to "L.A. CON IV" and send to: L.A. CON IV, PO Box 8442, Van Nuys, CA 91409-8442 Website: WWW.LACONIV.ORG Info: INFO@LACONIV.ORG