

LAMBDA SCI-FI



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DC Area Gaylaxians



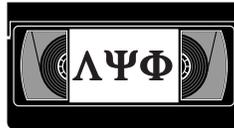
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E-MAIL: info@lambdasf.org WEBSITE: <http://www.lambdasf.org/>


**LSF Meeting
and Video Party**



 announced by Peter Knapp



What: Combined LSF Meeting and Video Party!!!

When: Saturday, September 11, 2004—3:00pm to midnight.

The business meeting starts at 3 PM, and the party starts as soon as that's over.

Where: The home of Julian — 2462 Tunlaw Road, NW (Georgetown), Washington, DC.

Details: Bring your favorite science fiction/fantasy/horror movies (DVD or VHS format), and munchies, food (appetizer, salad, main course, or dessert), or non-alcoholic beverages to share. As usual, attendees will vote on which movies to watch in two different rooms of the house.

Metro 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, Nalor Road, and Southern Avenue. Get off at the Calvert Street stop (just *before* the Russian Embassy if you're on a northbound bus – just *after* the Russian Embassy if you're on a southbound 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 (# 2462). which has a peaked

porch roof and red living room walls visible through the windows.

Alternately, you can take the D2 bus at Dupont Circle. Board the D2 bus at the bus stop at Connecticut and Q (right by the Q Street exit). You can also board the D2 bus at the first bus shelter on P Street west of Dupont Circle (in front of the old public restrooms - now a police substation) or the second bus shelter on P Street (across the street from Oasis Deli and Pan Asian Restaurant). The bus will go up 37th Street to Tunlaw Road, turn left at Benton Street, and stop in the next block at Observatory Place. Get off and walk north one block to Beecher Street; turn right and walk a block to Tunlaw Road again; turn left; go north on Tunlaw Road to # 2462, which has a peaked porch roof and red living room walls visible through the windows.

(continued on page 2)

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, at Peter & Rob's home: 1425 "S" St., NW -- for directions or more details, call 202-483-6369. The next meeting will be held on September 23rd.

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

Sept. 23rd - *Red Thunder* by John Varley; moderator: Carl.

Oct. 28th - *Blood Price* by Tanya Huff; moderator: Randy.

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Next LSF Meeting: September 11th

*****Note: Change of Date & Change of Site*****

The next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held at Julian's Georgetown home (2462 Tunlaw Road, NW) on Saturday, September 11th. It will be held in conjunction with a Video Party. The business meeting will begin at 3:00 PM; and the Video Party will begin as soon as the business meeting is over..

For further details on this event, see the article beginning on this page. See you there!

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WHAT'S INSIDE?

Minutes for the August 8th LSF Meeting (pg. 2); Jerry Goldsmith (obituary - pg. 2); *Around the World in 80 Days* (film review - pg.3); *Women in Horror* (pg. 3); *Tales of Hoffman* (opera review - pg. 4); *Wanna Take a Train Ride to The Prisoner's Village?* (pg. 5); *About Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians & Con Calendar* (pg. 6)

Minutes for the August 8th LSF Meeting taken by Scott

Ah, the predictable sparse attendance of August! The lean crowd still succeeded in having a spirited two-hour meeting. With that being said, let's dive right in!

Rob said the *I, Robot* movie was better than he thought it would be. *The Onion* has had a field day with the disappointing *Catwoman* movie. Carl and Yours Truly liked *The Village* movie; Michael commented that he has already figured out the plot twist, even though he has not yet seen the movie. [Ed. Note: It's not all that hard to figure out the general concept — but how it gets there is really kind'a cool.] The title of the third *Star Wars* movie has been announced — *Revenge of the Sith*.

The general consensus is that *Stargate: Atlantis* is meager fare. The previews of *Peacekeepers*, the *Farscape* mini-series, look promising; it is scheduled to air October 17 & 18, 2004. The new *Battlestar Galactica* series begins in January 2004.

Michael agreed to read and review Jeffrey Huntington's *Demon Watch* book #2. Jean-Pierre Dorleac, the costuming guest from Gaylaxicon 1999, has written a book titled *Abracadabra Alakazam*.

Next weekend, Michael will be attending "Horrorified," a horror festival in Baltimore. Guaranteed, he will return next month with entertaining tales from the con!

Michael reminded everyone about the upcoming LSF movie outing on Friday, August 13th, at the AFI

Theater in Silver Spring, to see *Strangers of Bombay*.

Exorcist movie outing! Meet at the *Exorcist* stairs in Georgetown! Michael will be coordinating a movie outing.

There wasn't much interest in the *Alien vs. Predator* movie. Viewers looking for a gore-fest might be disappointed, since the movie is rated PG-13.

The new Justice League cartoon movie seems to include a huge variety of heroes from the DC Universe, including Green Arrow and the new cheerleader, Supergirl.

Greg the Bunny and the director's cut of *Hellboy* will come out on DVD soon.

With some sighs, it was noted that UPN's *Enterprise* has renewed for a partial season — 13 episodes. The attempt to revitalize *Dark Shadows* fell through. *Doctor Who* fans should be happy to hear that the producers of a new *Doctor Who* series have announced that the Daleks ("You must be ex-ter-min-a-ted!") will be included in the 13-part series.

Julian cheerfully agreed to host an LSF Video Madness Party at his home on Saturday, September 11th. Details elsewhere in this newsletter!

Capclave, the local DC area con, will be held in October at Tyson's Corner.

Kirsten Dunst and Toby McGuire have signed on for the *Spider-Man III* movie.

Don't forget this month's LSF book discussion of Lois McMaster Bujold's *The Curse of Chalion*.

And that's it for the dog days of August!

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Jerry Goldsmith
1929 - 2004

Academy Award-winning composer Jerry Goldsmith has died at age 75, according to the Associated Press. The prolific composer, whose career spanned nearly 50 years, died in his sleep July 21 following a long battle with cancer.

Goldsmith won his sole Oscar for *The Omen*, but his many other film credits include the original *Planet of the Apes*, *Alien*, several *Star Trek* features (including *The Motion Picture*, *First Contact*, and *Nemesis*), *Outland*, *Gremlins*, *Legend*, *Total Recall*, *The Mummy*, and *Looney Tunes: Back in Action*. Additionally, he provided the themes for such television series as *Star Trek: The Next Generation* and *Star Trek: Voyager*, winning an Emmy for *Voyager*, as well as *The Man From U.N.C.L.E.*. He also scored individual episodes of *The Twilight Zone*.

— from Peter Knapp

LSF Meeting and Video Party

continued from page 1

Bus Schedule: Call Metro information at 202-637-7000 or visit their website at <http://www.wmata.com>. You'll need Adobe Acrobat Reader (free download at <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 turn left at Tunlaw Road. Julian's house is the third house from the corner.

Parking: Street parking is generally available, though it is harder to find the later it gets. On weekends, there

are no extra parking restrictions — other than the usual laws regarding intersections, hydrants, alleys, etc. (Safe distances are usually marked on the pavement.)

For more information, call Peter at 202-483-6369 (*before* the day of the party) or Julian at 202-306-1497 (*on* the day of the party).

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Around the World in 80 Days
a review of the Buena Vista Pictures film
by Rodney Elin

The Look

Over the past few years, Disney has created several movies based on attractions that can be found at their theme parks. These movies include *The Haunted Mansion*, *Pirates of the Caribbean*, and *The Country Bears*. *Around the World in 80 Days* is not actually based on a theme park attraction; it is based more on a themed “land” from the Disney parks. In 1992, Disney created a design for its Tomorrowland in Disneyland Paris (then, Euro Disneyland) that was based on the imagery crafted by Jules Verne in his science fiction from the turn of the century. Thus, Disney offered a theme park land based on what Jules Verne might have imagined the future would look like in 1992. This Disney vision of a once-upon-a-time future included a lot of sepia-toned, stressed metal and polished brass, with an organic quality to it. The Tomorrowland Disney built in Paris was so successful that Disney rebuilt and made over its other two Tomorrowlands (Orlando and Anaheim) with the same Jules Verne vision-of-the-future motif. The film *Around the World in 80 Days* owes as much to Disney’s theme park lands as to anything else. If anything, the “star” of this movie is the art direction, which is based almost entirely on the Disney “lands,” giving this movie an overall cartoon feel. So much of the movie is cartoon-like, in a positive way. And the movie relies on many, many cartoon conventions – in everything, from the almost animated quality of the scene transitions showing the camera traveling entire segments over a curved earth, to the fact that during the big fight scene with Jackie Chan, the gang of villains hold back and attack him one at a time, allowing him maximum screen time in which to dispatch them.

The Movie

Witty and enjoyable art direction aside, this movie is based on Jules Verne’s 1872 novel; and, frankly, who cares if it is an accurate adaptation of the novel? And who would want to compare it to the Oscar-winning 1956 adaptation? *Around the World in 80 Days* is an underrated and enjoyable romp through a world based on the imaginings of Jules Verne, with plenty of Victorian-era excesses and eccentricities to marvel at. The Disney movie stars Steve Coogan as Phileas Fogg, the struggling, unappreciated inventor who takes a wager that he can circumnavigate the globe in 80 days. He is joined by the ever-lovable Jackie Chan as Passepartout, Coogan’s valet of Chinese and French lineage.

It is clear from the outset that Chan and Coogan had a very good time in the making of this film. Coogan plays the role of the time-and-efficiency-obsessed inventor to the hilt, practically reveling in his character – while Chan does an admirable job of overplaying his role as valet-cum-bank-robber, with an appropriate amount of mugging for the camera and Jackie Chan-inspired stunt maneuvering.

The film even has cartoon-style action and typical cartoon-style giant plot holes. (How did Inspector Fix – Ewan Bremmer – follow our travelers from Paris to Turkey without a hot air balloon?) And how could you have an adventure film without a love interest? Enter Monique La Roche (Cecile De France) as an aspiring impressionist painter who talks our heroes into allowing her to join them.

This film also has an appealing overabundance of cameo appearances from a host of A-list actors, including John Cleese, Kathy Bates, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Owen and Luke Wilson, and Sir Richard Branson, who is amusingly cast as the pilot of a hot air

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Women in Horror

by Michael Cornett



EMPOWERED women in horror, actually. None of this boob-flashing, save-me-save-me for these women!

First off, a new website (<http://www.pretty-scary.com/>) is by women horror fans, for women horror fans. It’s very new, so the content is still building; but there are movie and music reviews, interviews (including Cassandra Peterson/Elvira), a warped advice column, news, and a “Scary Studs” section to feature beefcake photos of horror’s handsomer men. (so far, “Scary Studs” only has a few shots of *Cabin Fever* director Eli Roth; but it’s a good start.) These ladies are gay-friendly, too.

Next, some classic scream queens got together and created their own production company. Hammer Glammer Films has been formed by film stars Ingrid Pitt (*The Vampire Lovers*, *Countess Dracula*), her daughter Stefanie (*The Asylum*), Veronica Carlson (*Dracula Has Risen from the Grave*, *Frankenstein Must Be Destroyed*), and Caroline Munro (*Dracula A.D. 1972*, *Captain Kronos: Vampire Hunter*, *The Golden Voyage of Sinbad*); and it will focus on producing low-budget direct-to-DVD films. Probably won’t be the greatest films in the world, but it’s cool to see these ladies taking charge! Their first film, *Three for Hell*, is in production. Their website is:

<http://www.hammerglammerfilms.co.uk>

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Tales of Hoffman

reviewed by Michael Cornett

Back in May, some LSFers went to the University of Maryland's Clarice Smith Center for the Performing Arts on LSF's first-ever opera outing. They were there to see Jacques Offenbach's immortal opera *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*, based on the life and works of 19th century supernatural writer E. T. A. Hoffmann.

The opera was a student production, given by the Maryland Opera Studio, which is the University of Maryland's graduate program in opera performance; but when we sat down in the Smith Center's sumptuous theater, we might as well have been at a professional opera house.

The orchestra began the overture, and the curtain rose on a large set of fleecy clouds and painted curtains, all inspired by the paintings of Rene Magritte. (As the opera progressed, more Magritte images were used on the stage, the surreal imagery matching the surreal content of the opera.) The opera's prologue sets the framing story of the author and poet Hoffmann (tenor Yoonsoo Shin), sitting in a tavern and drinking while waiting for his current lady love, Stella, to finish her performance at the theater next door and to give him a sign that she truly loves him. However, his rival, Lindorf (bass Christopher DeVage), intercepts a letter she sent him and waits for her arrival as well. Hoffmann begins to tell the other patrons about his previous lost loves, all of which ended because of another person's interference — someone a lot like Lindorf. Meanwhile, Hoffman's muse (mezzo-soprano Andrea Hill) tells the audience that she wants him to create art and that by surrendering to love he'll surrender his creativity. She disguises herself as his friend Nicklausse (merely by putting on a man's suit) and hangs about him, attempting to discourage him from emotional involvements.

In Act I, based on the story "The Sandman," Hoffman has a mad crush on the lovely Olympia (coloratura Jae Eun Shin). However, the magical

glasses he was given by the inventor Coppelius (Eugene Galvin) prevent him from seeing that Olympia is a clockwork robot. Hoffmann finally gets to meet Olympia face to face, and she sings a charming aria full of extravagant cadenzas — but also keeps winding down! She finally dances with Hoffmann but becomes too energetic and knocks off his glasses before twirling offstage. Coppelius angrily dismembers Olympia after being cheated in a financial transaction (the dismemberment is cleverly indicated by stagehands carrying paintings of various female body parts — in this production many props are merely indicated by paintings), leaving Hoffmann sobbing and holding her head.

Act II is based on the story "Councillor Krespel" and tells the story of Hoffman's love Antonia (soprano Eun Hee Kim). Her father (Krespel) has taken her away from Hoffmann because of her failing health. Her mother was a great singer, you see, and killed herself by singing; Antonia wants to follow in her mother's footsteps but her own health can't stand up to the strains of singing. Krespel's servant Franz (Kerry Lee Jennings) wants to sing but has a terrible voice; and he has a delightfully funny aria in the middle of the act demonstrating his ineptitude. Hoffmann finds Antonia and has her promise to never sing again so they can live happily ever after. However, the charlatan Dr. Miracle (bass Matthew Osifchin) arrives, promising to treat Antonia, although her mother died under his care. When both Hoffmann and her father are gone, Miracle calls upon the ghost of her mother, whose voice (provided by Andrea Hill) urges Antonia to live for the moment and sing. Antonia, inspired by Miracle's trickery and her own ambition, sings madly, only to slump to the floor as the men in her life rush in; and she dies in her father's arms.

Act III, based on "A New Year's Eve Adventure," opens in Venice, as the muse/Nicklausse joins the courtesan Giulietta (soprano Lorriana Markovic) in the famous and very familiar "Barcarolle." Hoffmann, quite cynical by this time, mocks her attractions; but Giulietta



L'Homme (1964) by Magritte

is definitely attracted to him, much to the irritation of her current love, Schlemihl (Osifchin again) — leading to a very impressive quartet. The villainous Dappertutto (DeVage again) bribes Giulietta with a diamond ring and orders her to seduce Hoffman and steal his reflection (and thus his soul), the same way she stole Schlemihl's shadow. Hoffmann falls for her, and she gains his soul. Realizing what she has done, Hoffmann fights with Schlemihl, killing him, and regains his soul only in time to see Giulietta leaving with a new love.

In the epilogue, we're back in the tavern. Nicklausse and Hoffmann reveal that each of the three women was but one aspect of his current love, Stella. But when she finally arrives, he's confused and sneering over her apparent lack of feeling for him. She leaves with Lindorf; and the muse, shucking her disguise, claims Hoffmann for her own.

While the opera does have a fairly downbeat ending, it's also open to interpretation. This production took the attitude that it was a struggle between conformity and creativity. Some others have opined that it's saying that when all else is lost, Hoffmann still had his art. Personally, I see it as an illustration of the sacrifices that need to be sometimes made in the name of creativity and art, and as a man's journey through love,

(continued on page 5)

Tales of Hoffman

continued from page 4



experiencing infatuation, being a manipulative lover, and being manipulated.

While the production wasn't as lavish and expensive as something one might find at the Kennedy Center or the Washington Opera, it was a great example of what can be done on a limited budget with some imagination and industry. The singing was exceptional all around. Andrea Hill especially displayed vocal pyrotechnics (including a scornful parody of Olympia's "Doll Song") and a definite stage presence. Jae Eun Shin handled the vocal gymnastics required for the role of Olympia, although her voice didn't project as much as others. Eun Hee Kim as Antonia filled the entire theater with her powerful voice. Lorriana Markovic as Giulietta lacked a sense of evil usually associated with the role, but gave it a curvaceous, materialistic Mae West quality that, coupled with her gorgeous red velvet gown, made her role memorable and vampy. Yoonsoo Shin, as Hoffmann, demonstrated great stamina and ability in his role, and all the principals seemed ready to join a pro company at a moment's notice.

All in all, it was a memorable evening out, a great opportunity to see some new talent emerge on the scene. The Maryland Opera Studio's productions are famous for their low cost and high quality, and I can see why. It was a grand entertainment and a great chance to stretch the boundaries of the usual LSF outing.

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Wanna Take a Train Ride to The Prisoner's Village?

by Carl

You know, you can certainly find references to F&SF stuff in the most unexpected places!

A couple of years ago, when a serious eye operation prevented me from traveling via airline, I made a couple of cross-country Amtrak trips and became very interested in railway journeys. As part of this fascination, I picked up a witty book entitled *All Aboard with E.M. Frimbo, World's Greatest Railroad Buff* (1997)—a collection of 54 curmudgeonly-but-loving *New Yorker* articles by Rogers E.M. Whitaker (Frimbo's alter ego) dealing with various aspects of his decades-long love affair with passenger rail travel. (Great stuff, by the way – I highly recommend it!)

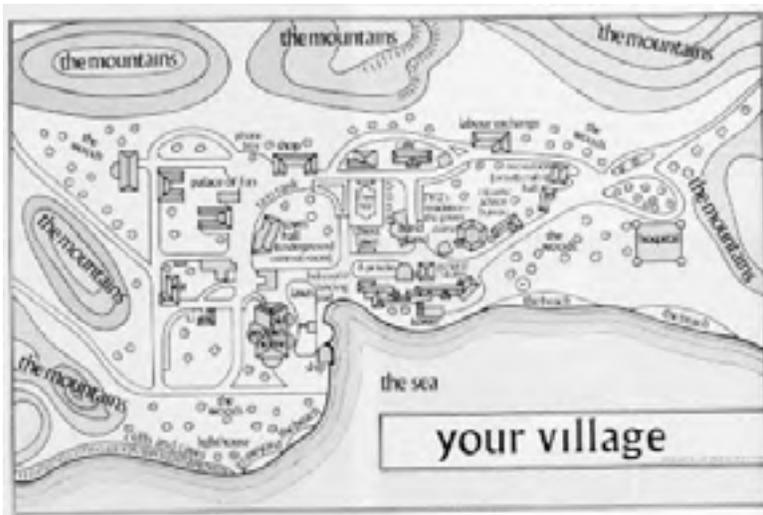
At any rate, Chapter 38 (entitled "A Welsh Folly") relates the story of Frimbo's late-1970s trip through North Wales on the narrow-gauge Festiniog Railway and his visit to the picturesque little village of Portmeirion (officially "the Hotel Portmeirion") on Cardigan Bay. You've never heard of Portmeirion? Maybe not, but odds are really good that you've *seen* it. Portmeirion was the site of "The Village," where a former Secret Agent (played by actor Patrick McGeehan) was confined and bedeviled in the 1968/1969 TV series *The Prisoner*.



In this narrative, Frimbo relates all kinds of fascinating facts about Portmeirion. It was entirely the work of a 92-year-old Welsh architect, Sir Clough Williams-Ellis, and took almost 50 years to build. (Sir Clough admits that he never had any architectural training, except for three months working in the office of Sir Edwin Lutyens, the designer of New Delhi, India.) On the grounds there's a statue of Atlas inscribed "To the Summer of 1959 in Honour of Its Splendour" and another plaque that says "1971 Highly Commended." In its original run, *The Prisoner* was not shown on Welsh television. The hotel can accommodate about 100 guests; and the hotel staff (including shopkeepers and maintenance men) numbers just over a hundred. Out by the Portmeirion parking lot, there's a plaque inscribed with one of Sir Clough's mottoes: "Cherish the Past, Adorn the Present, Construct for the Future." Quirky details for a wonderful (as in "full of wonder") and eclectic architectural jewel.

Makes me want to take a trip to Wales. How about you? Might not be too much of a side trip from next year's Worldcon in Glasgow.

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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. However, the next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held on the **Saturday, September 11th**, at Julian's home: 2462 Tunlaw Road, NW (Georgetown), in conjunction with a Video Party. The business meeting will begin at 3:00 PM, and the Video Party will begin as soon as the business meeting is over. *For more details, see article beginning on page 1 of this newsletter.* 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



Oct. 15-17, 2004 **CAPCLAVE '04**. Tyson's Corner Marriot (Vienna, VA). GoH: Nick Pollota; Artist GoH: Butch Honeck. Membership: \$37 until 5/31/04; \$45 at the door. Make checks payable to "Capclave '04" and send to: Alexis Gilliland, 4030 8th St. South, Arlington, VA 22204.

Nov. 26-28, 2004 **DARKOVER GRAND COUNCIL MEETING XXVII**. Holiday Inn Timonium (Timonium, MD). Guest of Honor: Tamora Pierce; Special Guest: Katherine Kurtz; Musical Guests: Clam Chowder. Membership: \$40 until 11/1; \$45 after that & at the door. Make checks payable to "Armida Council" and send to: Armida Council, PO Box 7203, Silver Spring, MD 20907. Contact: members@darkovercon.com or Jaelle@darkovercon.com or Jaelle@radix.net

December 10-12, 2004 **PHILCON 2004**. Marriott City Center Philadelphia (Phila., PA). Principal Speaker: Brian Aldiss; Artist GoH: Joe DeVito; Special Guests: Kevin J. Anderson & Rebecca Moesta, Tom Purdom. Membership: \$40 to 9/15/04. Make checks payable to "Philadelphia Science Fiction Society" and send to: Philcon 2004 Registration, PO Box 3, Oreland, PA 19075
Website: www.philcon.org Email: info@philcon.org

February 11-13, 2005 **FARPOINT 2005**. Marriott's Hunt Valley Inn (Hunt Valley, MD). Special Guests include: Jeffrey Combs, Kathy Garver, Tony Amendta. Membership: \$50 for the full weekend (daily rates available). Make checks payable to "Farpoint Enterprises, Inc." and send to: Farpoint Enterprises, Inc., 11708 Troy Ct., Waldorf, MD 20601. (On-line registration is also available.) Website: www.bcpt.net/~wilson/ Email: trekcontact@comcast.net

July 1-4, 2005 **GAYLAXICON 2005**. Hyatt Regency Cambridge (Boston, MA). Guest of Honor: Lois McMaster Bujold. Membership: \$40 at present (will go up!). 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/2005

Aug. 4-8, 2005 **INTERACTION (63rd World Science Fiction Convention)**. (Glasgow, Scotland, UK). Guests of Honor: Greg Pickersgill, Christopher Priest, Robert Sheckley, Jane Yolen. Membership: \$170 to 11/30/04 (will go up!). Make checks payable to "Interaction" and send to: Interaction, PO Box 58009, Louisville, KY 40268-0009
Website: www.interaction.worldon.org.uk Email: info@interaction.worldcon.org.uk

Sept. 3-6, 2005 **CASCADIA CON (NASFiC 2005)**. SeaTac Airport Hilton (Seattle, WA). Author GoH: Fred Saberhagen; Artist GoH: Liz Danforth; Editor GoH: Toni Weisskopf. Membership: \$85 until 11/30/04 (will go up after that). Make checks payable to "Seattle NASFiC" and send to: Seattle NASFiC, Box 1066, Seattle, WA 98111. URL: www.CascadiaCon.org