



LAMBDA SCI-FI



DC Area Gaylaxians

PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044 - (202) 232-3141 - Issue #189 - Dec. 2005

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

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 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, 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 Dec. 1st (a combined Nov./Dec. meeting). Here's the schedule for the next several meetings:

Dec. 1st (Note: *special combined Nov./Dec. meeting*) - *Waiting*, by Frank Robinson; moderator: Bob Angell.

Jan. 26th - *Mysterious Skin*, by Scott Heim; moderator: Bob Angell.

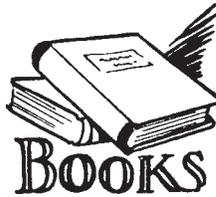
Feb. 23rd - *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, by C.S. Lewis, moderator: Peter.

March 23rd - *The James Tiptree Award Anthology I*; moderator: Carl.

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Reminder: Annual LSF Book Exchange Set for Jan. 6th Meeting



(and other stuff, too!)

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 *sixteenth* annual book (*et al*) exchange, which will occur at the January 8th meeting! All LSF members are invited to participate in this "blind 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 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.**

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New Year's Eve Video Party

announced by Peter Knapp



Come celebrate New Year's Eve with Lambda Sci-Fi at Julian's home in DC. This annual event 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!

Date: Sunday, Dec. 31, 2005

Time: The doors will open at 4:00 PM. The potluck dinner and the videos will begin in the 5:30 - 6:30 PM range. At 11:45 PM, the party turns into a private party (everyone invited) and we'll toast in the new year with champagne and sparkling cider (since official LSF events are "dry").

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Next LSF Meeting: Sunday, Dec. 11th

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

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WHAT'S INSIDE?

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New Year's Eve Video Party

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Location: Julian's place—2462 Tunlaw Road, NW (Georgetown)

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 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!), and non-alcoholic drinks (both regular and diet).

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, 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 traveling 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.

Alternatively, 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 Cocoa 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.

For the bus schedule, call Metro information at 202-637-7000 or visit their website at www.wmata.com. You'll need Adobe Acrobat Reader (a free download at 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. Prior to the day of the party, call 202-483-6369 or send email to:

PeterKnapp@wavelengthsonline.com

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Real Affirmations Audience Ballot Results

reported by Peter

LSF was a Community Partner for two genre films at this year's Reel Affirmations Film Festival. The average ratings for all feature films ranged from 4.82 (the best) to 2.02 (the worst). One of "our" films, *Hard Pill*, ranked about halfway down the list. The other, *Scab*, landed in last place. (Those of us who saw the film know why!)

The other genre movie offering, *Dead Serious* (which involved gay vampires, as did *Scab*), ranked second to last. Can't anyone make a good gay vampire movie!?!?

Film	Average Rating
<i>Hard Pill</i>	4.15
<i>Dead Serious</i>	2.09
<i>Scab</i>	2.02

For all the results, please go to:

<http://www.reelaffirmations.org/filmfest/ratings.cfm>

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2005 World Fantasy Awards

info passed along by Michael C.

The following awards were presented at the 2005 World Fantasy Awards banquet on November 6th.

Anthology: (dual award)

Acquainted With the Night, edited by Barbara and Christopher Roden
-and-

Dark Matter: Reading the Bones, edited by Sheree R. Thomas

Novel:

Jonathan Strange & Mr. Norrell, by Susanna Clarke

Novella:

"The Growlimb," by Michael Shea

Short Story:

"Singing My Sister Down," by Margo Lanegan

Collection:

Black Juice, by Margo Lanegan

Artist:

John Picacio

Special Award,

Professional:

S. T. Joshi

Special Award,

Non-Professional:

Robert Morgan

(Sarob Press)

Life Achievement: (two awards)

Carol Emshwiller & Tom Doherty



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LSF Meeting Minutes for November 2005

minutes taken by Scott



Business

Rob reported that there are approximately 80 to 100 Gaylaxicon T-shirts left over from the 1999 and 2000 cons. (Most of them are from the 2000 con.) Rob would like to get them out of the house. It was suggested that the T-shirts be given away at the December 2005 and January 2006 LSF meetings. It was further suggested that the remainder of them be given away to charity.

Michael reiterated that he will not be running for re-election as LSF Speaker next year.

Social

Carl wasn't present at the LSF meeting. That afternoon he would be attending a performance of *Equus* in Los Angeles and then having dinner that evening with its star performer, *Star Trek's* George Takei, who recently came out.

Two LSF members have been recently published. Bob Angell has a story in *Asimov's*. Antonio Ruffini has an article in *On Spec: The Canadian Magazine of the Fantastic*.

LSFer in *Asimov's* info passed along by Carl

Hey, check out the latest issue of *Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine* (January 2006). Yes, indeed, the "R.R. Angell" whose short story is included there is our own Bob Angell. Congrats, Bob!

The story is entitled "In the Space of Nine Lives." (Yes, there's a cat in it.) The story is a fascinating coming-of-age/maturity story that takes place aboard a cold-sleep colony ship. It also includes an interesting virtual reality concept and (to my knowledge) a unique take on how the ship is "crewed" during the long, long sub-light-speed voyage. And, yes, it has GLBT content.

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Michael attended "Blur of the Other Worldly," an exhibit on art and the paranormal in Baltimore. The website is: bluroftheotherworldly.com

A photographer from the *MW* weekly newspaper took a photo of the group.

Krista reported that she saw *Serenity* and enjoyed it. But she said that if she hadn't watched some of the TV episodes, she would not have been able to follow the plot.

Those who attended the recent LSF video party at Julian's home commented that they really liked beefcake Ryan Reynolds in the *Blade: Trinity* movie. And most attendees loved Julian's cooking!

Rob reminded everyone about the *Harry Potter* marathon at his and Peter's home on Saturday, Nov. 19th, starting at 12:30 PM (featuring the first three *Harry Potter* movies) — followed by the movie outing the next day to see the latest *Harry Potter* movie. It was noted that the "spoo" plotline has been omitted from the movie. (Unsure of the correct spelling of spoo? spew? spu?)

Michael talked about possibly having a *King Kong* outing in December. Plus, the *Aeon Flux*, *Narnia*, and *Spiderman III* movies are coming out. The *X-Men III* media blitz has begun, too. *The DaVinci Code* movie will be released sometime in 2006.

Fiona Patton's first new novel in a few years has been released. It's a fantasy entitled *The Silver Lake* (apparently the start of the "Warriors of Estavia" series).

Stargate is being touted as the longest running genre TV show in the U.S.

It was also noted that "Wizards of the Coast" stores are now closed. But the business is still around! ΛΨΦ



My Dinner with George and Brad

by Carl



As some of you might have noticed, I didn't attend the November LSF meeting — I was kind of busy elsewhere that day. I'd flown to Los Angeles during the first week of November to spend some time with my old boyfriend Rob — and on November 13th (the day of the LSF meeting) we attended a Sunday matinee performance of the East West Players' production of *Equus* (starring George Takei) — followed by dinner with George and Brad at a delightful little French restaurant in LA's Little Tokyo.

The play's venue was the main-stage home of the East West Players, a renovated basilica-style church on the edge of Little Tokyo. (I think it's the church once featured in John Carpenter's film *Prince of Darkness*.) *Equus* is one of my favorite plays; but, prior to this, I'd only seen the film version (starring Richard Burton) and stills of other stage productions. Even though I was quite familiar with the play, I found this production to be both breath-taking and viscerally powerful — especially in a comparatively small venue. (I think it only seats about 200.) George's performance as "Dr. Dysart" was, of course, a real treat. Trieu Tran, the young actor who portrayed "Alan Strang," was astoundingly good. (And his nude scene toward the end of the play was — ahem — riveting.) The lovely Cheryl

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My Dinner with George and Brad

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Tsai was quite good as “Jill Mason” (and made quite an impression during the nude scene, too). As the East West Players’ productions feature all-Asian-Pacific casts, all the “horses” were also played by well-built, bare-chested Asian-American men. (Oh yeah, I was a happy man! Special kudos to Wesley John, the hunky Filipino-American actor who portrayed “Nugget,” the main “horse”!)



**Trieu Tran riding John Wesley
Equus (East West Players)**

After the play, Rob and I met up with Brad Altman (George’s partner) out in the parking lot and waited for George to wade his way through the crowd of fans and well-wishers (including, that day, the managing editor of *The Advocate*) — then we all jumped into Rob’s car and drove over to Grill Lyon for dinner. Over drinks and appetizers, we all got reacquainted and reminisced about old times. (Brad, George, Rob, and I all met 20-something years ago as members of the LA/Silverlake chapter of Front Runners, a GLBT running club.)

In those deep, mellifluous tones of his, George talked about any number of things going on in his life. Here are only a few of them that I can remember. He talked about the challenge of the role of “Dr. Dysart” in

Michael Piller

1948 - 2005

info passed along by Peter Knapp
from www.startrek.com/startrek/view/news/article/14414.html

On November 1st, at the age of 57, Michael Piller succumbed after a long battle with an aggressive form of head and neck cancer. Piller is best known to television viewers around the world as the executive producer/co-creator of more than 500 hours of *Star Trek*.

Piller was an Emmy Award-winning journalist and began his broadcasting career with CBS News in New York. His first position in entertainment television was as a censor in the CBS docudrama unit. Piller then spent two years as a programming executive before leaving CBS to write full-time.

Piller served as creative consultant for *Star Trek: Voyager* (which he co-created) until the series concluded in May 2001. He also co-created *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* and served as executive producer on *Star Trek: The Next Generation* (1989-1994), *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* (1992-1995), and *Star Trek: Voyager* (1994-1996). During the 1994-1995 television season, he also co-created and executive-produced the UPN network series *Legend*.

In 1998, Piller wrote and co-produced *Star Trek: Insurrection*, the ninth installment in the enormously successful *Star Trek* feature film franchise for Paramount Pictures.



In 1999, Piller partnered with his son Shawn Piller to form Piller2, Inc., a Hollywood-based production company, where they developed and produced new television and motion picture properties. The father/son duo were also the co-creators of USA Network’s top-rated cable drama series *The Dead Zone* and the ABC Family Channel’s *Wildfire*.

With Piller at the helm of *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, the show became the first syndicated series in the 90’s to receive an Emmy nomination for Outstanding Drama. *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* continued the success of the franchise during its seven seasons on the air. *Star Trek: Voyager* also ran for seven seasons.

Piller’s credits as a writer-producer include the series *Simon & Simon*, *Cagney & Lacey*, *Miami Vice*, *Probe*, and *Hard Time on Planet Earth*. In addition, he co-created and executive-produced the syndicated series *Group One Medical*. **Λ Ψ Φ**

Equus – being on-stage during the entire play and having unusually large amounts of dialogue to memorize. (He told us how grateful he was to Brad for helping him learn all his lines.) As you might expect, George says he’s been inundated with requests to appear at all kinds of GLBT functions and events since his coming-out interview in *Frontiers*; and he’s very interested in campaigning in favor of gay marriage rights. Oddly enough, while we were talking about his recent interview on the Howard Stern radio program (during which he discussed the gay marriage issue), a guy came over from across the

restaurant to compliment George on how sensible and convincing he’d sounded during the Howard Stern interview. Finally, George is even thinking about revising/expanding his autobiography (*To the Stars*) to include the gay aspects of his life – he jokingly said he was thinking about re-titling it *Down to Earth*. **Λ Ψ Φ**



The Boar
by Joe R. Lansdale
(Night Shade Books, 2005)
reviewed by Carl Cipra

Joe Lansdale is one of my favorite authors — mystery, F&SF, horror, “weird westerns,” occasional GLBT themes — and, as I’ve said before, I often enjoy reading YA (young adult) literature. So, when I ran across a YA novel by Joe Lansdale, how could I possibly pass it up? Well, the cost was a bit of a shocker — \$25 for a slim 121-page book is a bit pricey — but I didn’t let that dissuade me.

Back in 2001, Lansdale won the Edgar Allen Poe Award (from the Mystery Writers of America) for his “country noir” novel *The Bottoms*. In *The Boar*, Lansdale returns to the same setting — the Sabine River Bottoms, East Texas, during the Great Depression — to tell of a particularly harrowing adventure experienced by characters only briefly encountered in *The Bottoms*.

“The year of The Devil Boar” is what they call 1933 down in The Bottoms. It was also the year that forever changed the lives of 15-year-old Ricky Dale and his young friend Abraham Wilson — for that was the year they faced Old Satan himself.

After a hiatus of many years, the Sabine River Bottoms have suddenly been revisited by Old Satan, a huge wild boar. Legend has it that Old Satan is over a century old and has terrorized The Bottoms at least three times previously. Legend also says that either “he’s an old Caddo Indian medicine man that’s getting back at the whites by changing himself into a wild boar, a boar that can’t be killed by guns, but only with magic” or “the devil’s been let loose here.” In either case, crops, livestock, and humans are once again being attacked, savagely mauled, and killed by this wily, elusive, and highly dangerous creature. Thus far, no one has been able to track the beast down amidst the swamps and wildwoods of The Bottoms, let alone kill it — but, after a series of harrowing attacks, Ricky and Abraham are determined to end the threat of Old Satan



1920 illustration of
the Calydonian Boar Hunt

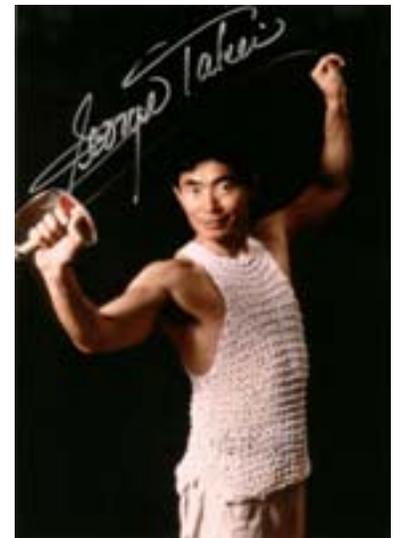
forever. Ricky has been inspired by the heroes of such writers as Herman Melville, Jack London, and Edgar Rice Burroughs (as well as by such pulp magazines as *Dime Detective*, *Doc Savage*, and *Black Mask*); and Abraham’s inspiration comes from his reputed lion-killing African ancestors. Ricky and Abraham thus set off into the trackless reaches of The Bottoms to hunt down the seemingly unstoppable monster — armed with a Winchester rifle, a few young hunting dogs, Abraham’s family heirlooms (a spear and a shield), and advice from Old Uncle Pharaoh (Abraham’s great-grandfather, himself seriously wounded in one of Old Satan’s previous visitations).

Lansdale’s *The Boar* is heir to a long and venerable tradition, following as it does in the footsteps of any number of myths about a hunt for a savage wild boar. In Greek mythology, for example, there are the famous Calydonian Boar Hunt (featuring Melagar, Jason, and a number of other early Greek heroes) and the Fourth Labor of Hercules (to capture the Erymanthian Boar). An example from another mythic tradition is the Celtic tale of Diarmid’s fatal confrontation with the deadly Boar of Glen Gulbain. And Lansdale successfully combines this powerful mythic imagery with his own particular brand of East Texas “noir” — all in all, making for a very satisfying read.

On a more personal note, my own family has had some experience with the Arizona desert’s version of a wild boar, the *javelina* (the collared peccary; name derived from the Spanish word for

“javelin” or “spear”). Early one morning a few years ago, while gazing out my mother’s kitchen window, I noticed my sister’s horses standing stock still and staring intently off into the brush beyond their barbed wire fence. Following their gaze, I noticed a large black animal — about the size of a St. Bernard dog — lumbering off into the brush and realized that I had sighted a *javelina*. When I told stepfather about it, he told me to keep an eye on it while he went for his gun. Then, when I asked him why he wanted to kill it, he brought out a snapshot of what was left of one of his Rottweilers after a chance meeting with a *javelina*. “OK,” I said, “he went off that way somewhere.” And I pointed out into the high brush beyond the barbed wire. “In that case,” said my stepfather, “forget it. If you can’t see ‘em, you don’t hunt ‘em. Wandering around in the brush looking for a *javelina* is a good way to get killed.”

And, trust me, that *javelina* was nowhere near the size of the monster in Lansdale’s *The Boar*! Λ Ψ Φ



The Normal is the good smile in a child’s eye -- all right. It is also the dead stare in a million adults. It both sustains and kills -- like a God. It is the Ordinary made beautiful; it is also the Average made lethal.

-- Dr. Dysart
(*Equus*, Act One, Scene 19;
by Peter Shaffer)

****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 the Sunday, **December 11th**, at James Crutchfield's apartment: 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. will be held at Peter & Rob's home. (For directions, call 202-483-6369.) 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. 9-11, 2005 **PHILCON 2005**. Phila. Marriott Downtown (Philadelphia, PA). Principal Speaker: David Weber; Artist GoH: David Mattingly. Membership: \$50 after 9/30 and at the door (daily memberships available). Make checks payable to "Philadelphia Science Fiction Society" and send to: Philcon Registration, PO Box 8303, Philadelphia, PA 19101-8303. (On-line registration also available). Website: www.philcon.org/ For more info: info2005@philcon.org

May 26-29, 2006 **BALTICON 40**. Marriott's Hunt Valle Inn (Hunt Valley, MD). Guest of Honor: Neil Gaiman; Artist GoH: Lorraine a'Malena; Special GoH: Gene Wolfe. Membership: \$43 thru Feb. 28, 2006; \$55 after Apr. 30 & at the door (registration form available on-line). Website: WWW.BALTICON.ORG E-mail: balticoninfo@balticon.org

June 16-18, 2006 **GAYLAXICON 2006**. Best Western Primrose Hotel (Toronto, Ontario, Canada). Guests of Honour: Richard Arnold; Michael Rowe. Membership (currently): US \$40/CAN \$50 (registration form available on-line). Website: <http://gaylaxicon.gaylacticnetwork.org/>

Aug. 23-27, 2006 **L.A. CON IV (64th World Science Fiction Convention)**. (Los Angeles, CA). Author GoH: Connie Willis; Artist GoH: James Gurney; Special Guest: Frankie Thomas (*Tom Corbett, Space Cadet*). Membership: currently \$150 thru 09/15/05 ("will go up after that"). Make checks payable to "L.A. Con IV" and send to: L.A. Con IV, c/o S.C.I.F.I., Inc., PO Box 8442, Van Nuys, CA 91409 Website: www.laconiv.com For more info: info@laconiv.org

Aug. 2-5, 2007 **ARCHON 31 (2007 NASFiC)**. (St. Louis, MO). Featured Guest: Barbara Hambly; Artist GoH: Darryl K. Sweet; Media GoH: Mira "Delenn" Furlan. Membership: \$45 (currently). Make checks payable to "Archon 31" and send to: Archon 31/2007 NASFiC, PO Box 8387, St. Louis, MO 63132-8387. Website: <http://www.archonstl.org/31/>

October 4-7, 2007 **GAYLAXICON 2007**. (Atlanta, GA). Their bid was just accepted this year at Gaylaxicon 2005. More details as they become available.

