

PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044 - (202) 232-3141 - Issue #195 - June 2006

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

June LSF Meeting



The next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held on the **Saturday, June 10th, at Peter and Rob's home** (1425 "S" Street NW, Washington, DC, in the 14th and "U" neighborhood, near Dupont Circle and Logan Circle) in conjunction with the Pre-Pride Gaming/Video Party **-2:00 PM for business meeting & party** following as soon as the business meeting is over. (For more details, see article elsewhere on this page.) See you there! **ΛΨΦ**



On Sunday, June 11th, LSF will once again have a booth at the DC Capital Pride Festival. Be sure to drop by and say: "Hi!"

LSF Combined Pre-Pride Video/Gaming Party and June LSF Meeting
announced by Peter Knapp



What? In honor of the 2006 Capital Pride Day celebrations, LSF will host another one of its not-to-be-missed Pre-Pride Video/Gaming Parties (combined with the regular monthly LSF meeting). Bring your favorite science fiction/fantasy/horror movies (DVD or VHS format), board/card/social games, and munchies, finger food, and/or non-alcoholic beverages to share. As usual, attendees will vote on which movies to watch on one screen. Space for board/card/social games will also be provided.

When? Saturday, June 10th: 2:00 PM to midnight (doors open at 2:00 PM). The business meeting starts at 2:00 PM; and the party starts as soon as the meeting is over. At 6:30 PM, we'll take a break to go see the Capital Pride Parade and then either go out to dinner or order takeout. Movies and gaming start up again after dinner, lasting until ???

Where? The home of Peter Knapp (continued on page 3)

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, 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 June 22nd. Here's the schedule for the next several meetings:

June 22nd - *Watchmen* (graphic novel), by Alan Moore (author) & Dave Gibbons (artwork); moderator: Greg M.

July 27th - *Storyteller*, by Amy Thomson; moderator: Krista.

Aug. 31st (Note: *The Aug. meeting is changed to the 5th Thursday because of Worldcon*) *Iron Council*, by China Mieville; moderator: Rob. **ΛΨΦ**



Gaylaxicon 2006 is this month! Don't miss out on all the fun! (Turn to page 2 for more info.)

WHAT'S INSIDE?

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

Website: <http://gaylaxicon.gaylacticnetwork.org/>



Ellen Muth
Actor Guest of Honor



Nalo Hopkinson
Author Guest of Honor



Michael Rowe
Writer/Editor Guest of Honor



Richard Arnold
Media Guest of Honor



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Minutes from the May 14th LSF Meeting taken by Scott

Business Meeting

The first separate (not tied to an LSF meeting) **Gaylaxicon 2008 con-comm meeting** will be held on Saturday, May 20, at 10 AM at Peter and Rob's home. Con-committee chairs are asked to produce a paragraph describing their prior con experience (for inclusion in the official bid for the Network). Peter advised that he is working on the Gaylaxicon 2008 by-laws for the GCon2008 in preparation for incorporation.

Carl advised everyone that he has purchased some new ALA bookmarks to give away at the **LSF Pride Day table**. The bookmarks are of Superman and Batman. [Ed. note: Well, I *thought* they were. Faulty memory — turns out they're Superman and Teen Titans. Sigh.] He also said that he will contact the Atlanta folks to see if he can obtain Gaylaxicon 2007 handouts to distribute at the LSF Pride Day table. Michael C. volunteered to produce a calendar of upcoming LSF events to hand out at the Pride table.

Social Meeting

Norman initiated a name circle, where attendees introduced themselves.

Krista mentioned that either College Park, MD or Prince George's County is sponsoring a speculative fiction discussion for the next academic year.

Carl advised everyone that the lead story in the June 2006 issue of *Fantasy & Science Fiction* is GLBT-themed — Albert Cowdry's "Animal Magnetism."

TV news: *Battlestar Galactica* will begin its next season in October 2006. Maybe a third *Stargate* TV series? It was noted that non-genre *Law & Order: SVU* series will be shown on the Sci Fi channel. What next — something from HGTV?

Peter mentioned that *Star Trek* actor **George Takei** recently spoke at a

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LSF Pre-Pride Party

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and Rob — 1425 “S” Street NW, Washington, DC, in the 14th and “U” neighborhood, near Dupont Circle and Logan Circle. Closest Metro Stops: “U” Street/African-American Civil War Memorial/Cardozo (Green Line) or Dupont Circle (Red Line).

Parking: Street parking is generally available, though it is harder to find the later it gets. On weekends, there are no extra parking restrictions (*i.e.* the usual laws regarding intersections, hydrants, alleys, etc. apply – safe distances are usually marked).

For more information or directions: Directions can be found at:

<http://www.lambdasf.org/lsf/club/PeterRob.html>

For more information please call Peter and Rob at 202-483-6369 or e-mail Peter or Rob at:

PeterKnapp@wavelengthsonline.com
rgates@wavelengthsonline.com

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NASA & Space Resources

[excerpted from a flyer picked up at Ravencon]



NASA Main Web Page:

<http://www.nasa.gov>

NASA Image Exchange:

<http://nix.nasa.gov>

James Webb Space Telescope:

<http://www.jwst.nasa.gov>

Mars Exploration Rovers:

<http://marsrovers.jpl.nasa.gov/home/index.html>

Space Technology 5:

<http://hubble.nasa.gov/index.php>

Calipso and CloudSat:

http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/calipso/main/index.html

NASA Academy:

<http://www.nasa-academy.nasa.gov>



LSF Post-Pride Video Party

announced by Peter Knapp

What? In honor of the 2006 Capital Pride Day celebrations, LSF will also host another one of its not-to-be-missed Post-Pride Video Parties. Bring your favorite science fiction/fantasy/horror movies (DVD or VHS format), munchies, (appetizers, salads, entrees, main courses, etc.), and non-alcoholic beverages to share. As usual, attendees will vote on which movies to watch in two different rooms.

When? Saturday, June 24, 2006: 2:30 PM to midnight.

Where? The home of Julian — 2462 Tunlaw Road, NW (Georgetown

area), Washington, DC (located off Wisconsin Avenue, just above Georgetown).

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 or directions: Before the day of the party, please call Peter and Rob at: 202-483-6369 or e-mail Peter or Rob at:

PeterKnapp@wavelengthsonline.com
rgates@wavelengthsonline.com

On the day of the party, call Julian at 202-306-1497.

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LSF Meeting Minutes

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federal agency event here in DC honoring Asian American Heritage month. George included a discussion of his experiences in the Japanese internment camps during WWII.

Movie news: Barrett gives a “thumbs down” to the new *Poseidon* movie. *Mission Impossible III* appears to be less of a “big hit” than expected at the box office. *X-Men III* will be opening in a few weeks. (See the first two *X-Men* movies at Peter & Rob’s on May 20th!) The 7-minute trailer has received rave reviews. It has been reported that Josh Whedon is directing the new *Wonder Woman* movie, which will apparently be an origin story; no actors have yet been cast. Rumor has it that there will be a *Star Trek* movie in 2008, directed by JJ Abrams, who did *Mission Impossible III* and the *Lost* TV show. Everyone is salivating for the *Daywatch* sequel to *Nightwatch*.

On September 12th, the original theatrical-release version of the first 3 *Star Wars* movies will be released on DVD.

Trivia from Michael C.: The first “deaf” (with actors signing the dialog) movie was *Deafula*. Michael said that he would bring the Japanese move

Black Lizard to the next LSF video party.

Teresa talked about her experience playing fairy in a recent local production of Shakespeare’s *Midsummer Night’s Dream*.

Upcoming LSF events: Book discussion group on **Thursday, May 18**, to discuss book 11 of Neal Stephenson’s *Quicksilver* (at Peter & Rob’s house). **Saturday, May 20** — Gaylaxicon 2008 con-comm meeting at 10AM, followed at 12:30 PM video party to watch the first two *X-Men* movies (at Peter & Rob’s house). **Saturday, May 27** — *X-Men III* movie outing (see e-mails for more details). **Saturday, June 10** — an ever-so-brief LSF meeting, followed by a Pre-Pride Video Party (at Peter & Rob’s) — including a 6:30 PM stroll over to watch the Pride Parade, followed by dinner break of some sort and then resumption of the video party back at Peter & Rob’s. **Sunday, June 11** — LSF table at Capital Pride Festival. (Come by to help set up, staff the table during the day, take down in the evening — undoubtedly followed by a dinner trip of some sort.) **June 16/17/18** — Gaylaxicon 2006 in Toronto! **Thursday, June 22** – book discussion group will discuss the *Watchman* graphic novel. **Saturday, June 24** — a cool post-Pride video party at Julian’s home, starting at 2:30 PM.

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“Hey! You Got Your Mystery in My Science Fiction!!”

reviews by Carl Cipra

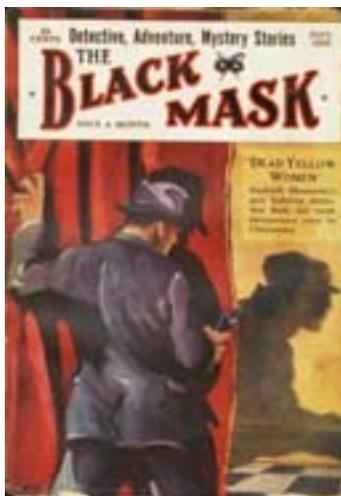
OK, OK, I realize that the M-word (“Mystery” — not “Madonna” — you ninny!) doesn’t cut a lot of ice around LSF, but there are actually some really good science-fictional mystery stories out there — and I recently read two books containing just that kind of cross-over work.

There are, after all, some strong ties between the Mystery and Science Fiction genres. Lots of well-known, successful F&SF authors have written works in both genres — including Fredric Brown, Alfred Bester, Jack Vance, Richard Matheson, Henry Kuttner, Isaac Asimov, and Leigh Brackett. And, more recently, well-known mystery writer Walter Mosley has been trying his hand at science fiction (*Blue Light*, *Futureland*, and *The Wave*). And, says editor Mike Resnick in his Introduction to *Down These Dark Spaceways*, just over a half-century ago, two novels clearly disproved the theory “that no one could effectively blend the mystery story with the science fiction story”: Alfred Bester’s *The Demolished Man* (1953, winner of the first Hugo) and Isaac Asimov’s *The Caves of Steel* (1954). I’ll also add that one of Robert E. Howard’s Conan stories (“The God in the Bowl”) is quite clearly a “locked room mystery” story (first published in 1952); and, to mention a few of my favorites, there are Janet Kagan’s SF/Mystery novel *Hellspark* (1988) and John Varley’s Anna-Louise Bach stories, such as “The Barbie Murders” (1978) and “The Bellman” (2004).

At any rate, on to my reviews of a couple of recent SF/Mystery books.

Down These Dark Spaceways
ed. by Mike Resnick
(Science Fiction Book Club, 2005)

I ordered this all-original anthology through the Science Fiction Book Club on the basis of the following: its editor (Mike Resnick) and its theme (sci-fi mysteries). It turns out I made a really good choice!



***Black Mask* (Nov. 1925)**

In his Introduction, Resnick provides a clear statement of the anthology’s theme: “I decided that it might be interesting to use what is known as the *Black Mask* school of writing as a jumping-off point for a sextet of science fiction novellas.” OK, now I’m *really* hooked! For those of you not familiar with the Pulp Era, *Black Mask* magazine (under the editorship of Joseph Shaw, 1926 - 1936) was arguably the finest detective pulp magazine ever published. It regularly featured such authors as Dashiell Hammett (creator of Sam Spade) and Raymond Chandler (creator of Philip Marlowe) and was known for its “hard-boiled fiction.”

On the whole, I think Resnick did a good job of presenting science fiction with a “hard-boiled” slant in *Down These Dark Spaceways*. And what a collection! Every author is either a Nebula and/or Hugo winner, a Nebula and/or Hugo nominee, or a Campbell Memorial Award nominee/winner.

The book starts off with a contribution by Mike Resnick himself: “Guardian Angel.” It’s filled with all kinds of satisfyingly *noir* twists and turns, as a sci-fi PI searches for a missing teenager, the son of an ice-queen society matron and an interstellar gangster — although the young man might not be so much “missing” as “fleeing.”

Then there’s “In the Quake Zone,” by David Gerrold. This was probably my favorite of the lot. The quakes Gerrold includes in his story are

timequakes; and his L.A. detective travels back and forth and up and down the timeline trying to find out why another time-traveler is murdering young gay men in West Hollywood — and, if possible, stop him before he kills any of them. (I’ve nominated it for this year’s Spectrum Awards.)

The next story, Catherine Asaro’s “The City of Cries,” is probably my least favorite of the anthology. It’s not that it’s not a good story — it *is* a good story. It’s just that I don’t think it fits the “hard-boiled detective” theme as well as the others. The story is set in Asaro’s “Skolian Empire” universe. The investigator, an ex-street rat-ex-military-turned-gumshoe, must work her way through the delicate (and deadly) social intricacies of the ruling Dynasty (as well as of her former underworld friends) to find an AWOL young prince. Or is he a *kidnapped* young prince?

Robert Reed’s “Camouflage” is a really fascinating tale of the far-distant-future; and it truly has “interstellar” scope. It all takes place within the unbelievably immense, unbelievably old Great Ship as it lumbers on its continuing multi-billion-year voyage around the galaxy. Reed’s unwilling investigator — who’s hiding a number of his *own* secrets — is tasked by the Great Ship’s stern First Chair to unravel a centuries-long series of murders involving the ex-husbands of a reclusive resident-passenger. (Truth to tell, I found the descriptions of the Great Ship — which are scattered throughout the story — as much of a treat as the story itself.)

Jack McDevitt is one of my favorite writers. “The Big Downtown” is yet another example of why that is. A female detective finds that her latest missing-person case has turned into a murder/cover-up with links to various high-rollers in the interstellar archeology community. But how did an artist’s model get involved with *them*? And why kill her (and, as it turns out, several others)? The setting is in and around a future Washington, DC of the not-too-distant future — and it contains references to events in some of McDevitt’s recent novels.

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Mystery in Science Fiction

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Finally, there's Robert Sawyer's "Identity Theft." (Yes, it's the Robert Sawyer who wrote *Hominids*.) Sawyer tells the tale of the only detective on Mars – he's trying to solve a murder in a world where people are regularly downloaded into android bodies. How do you solve a murder in a society where victims – and perpetrators – don't have fingerprints or DNA?

Like I said: on the whole, a pretty darn good collection of "hard-boiled" sci-fi stories. It's just unfortunate that *Down These Dark Spaceways* isn't more generally available. (As far as I know, you can only buy it from the Science Fiction Book Club.)



Dead Man on the Moon: A Luna City Special Investigations Novel, by Steven Harper (Phobos Impact, 2006)

Steven Harper has a brand-new novel on the stands. It's not part of his "Silent Empire" series (for which he has received 3 Spectrum Award nominations); rather, *Dead Man on the Moon* has been described as "Sci-Fi meets CSI."

Noah Skyler is a young, good Earthside cop who has just won a scholarship to attend prestigious Luna University. However, with the high cost of living on the Moon (you know — paying for food, air, stuff like that), Noah is required to hold down two jobs at the same time as being a student. Being a vaudeville performer at a local theater isn't too much of a strain (although it *does* present a few unexpected problems); but his other job, working as a forensic investigator for Luna City Special Investigations, could end up costing him a lot more — his life! Noah has barely set foot on the Moon when his soon-to-be LCSi supervisor assigns him

Two Book Reviews by Craig Laurance Gidney

L'Amber

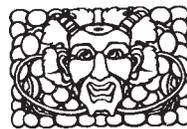
by Tanith Lee

(a non fantastic book
by a fantasy/horror writer)

Jayne, a café worker, falls in love with the ethereal, glamorous Jilaine during a chance meeting. Jayne (known as Jay) is young, lonely, poor, and a closeted lesbian. Jilaine is an artist, a published author, and the daughter of a semi-famous painter. Jay's feelings for Jilaine verge on obsession and lead her to inveigle her way into Jilaine's life. She discovers that all is not as it seems.

Set in London in the early '80s, this brief novel is an acute psychological thriller and character study. It is written like a monologue; and Jay's voice—the self-loathing, the distance she places between herself and people—comes through believably. Jay is the lesbian version of Patricia Highsmith's Ripley—an amoral interloper; and the plot has an interesting Ingmar Bergmanesque twist.

Lee captures the crazy feel of emotional and sexual obsession in this cautionary fable.



**Not to know is bad. Not to want to know is worse.
Not to hope is unthinkable. Not to care is unforgivable.**



-- Nigerian Proverb --
excerpted from
African-American Wisdom
by Millie Mackiney (2004)

to investigate a corpse out on the surface. It appears that someone was shoved out of an airlock without a spacesuit; and, despite the fact that DNA records of *all* Lunar visitors and residents are on file, there seems to be no record of the victim anywhere. And then another body is found! Luna City's normal record of infrequent and non-lethal crimes is being shot to hell; and LCSi is under heavy pressure from the mayor's office to solve the murders and avoid

Word Made Flesh
by Jack O'Connell

Mixing noir crime fiction with existentialist fantasy, *Word Made Flesh* creates a new genre, heavy on the atmosphere. Set in a decaying New England factory town called Quinsigamond, its follows the adventures of ex-cop/current cabbie Gilrein, as he gets enmeshed in an insidious plot with rival mob bibliophiles. The town of Quinsigamond is stuck in a time warp, with abandoned art deco buildings, old world crime syndicates, and haunted mansions. A radio station plays a Caribbean torch singer's songs incessantly. The grotesque characters are memorable: a fallen priest who becomes a Kafkaesque detective, obsessed with his Methodology; a blind tattoo artist who can see, even though her eye sockets are empty; an old world refugee who speaks to a doll that might be a golem.

This is not so much a mystery as it is an allegory about the power of stories, madness, and history. The plot swirls with stories-within-stories, while the frame tale is told in present-tense, a crime fiction manner with an understated sense of the absurd. Horrific imagery, violence, and menace prowl through the streets of O'Connell's postmodern, surreal tale. Not for the squeamish. There is a strong, allusive quality to the tale. Fans of David Lynch or the author Paul Auster should give this a try.

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scaring off some desperately needed investors who are expected to arrive any day now.

I found *Dead Man on the Moon* to be an enjoyable, fast-paced read and a satisfying combination of murder mystery and near-future police procedural. I also think Harper has done a nice, believable job of portraying what life on the Moon could be like. If you like your "SF" mixed with "M," then I think you'll enjoy this novel, too.

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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, June 10th, at Peter and Rob's home** (1425 "S" Street NW, Washington, DC, in the 14th and "U" neighborhood, near Dupont Circle and Logan Circle) in conjunction with the Pre-Pride Gaming/Video Party - **2:00 PM for business meeting** & party following as soon as the business meeting is over. 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



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

July 7-9, 2006 **SHORE LEAVE 28**. Marriott's Hunt Valley Inn (Hunt Valley, MD). "Guests will be announced as soon as they are confirmed." Membership: \$55 until 6/15/2006 (higher at the door). Make checks payable to "Shore Leave" (and enclose two SASE's) and send to: Shore Leave 28, PO Box 6809, Towson, MD 21285-6809.

Website: www.shore-leave.com E-mail: information@shore-leave.com

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

Oct. 20-22, 2006 **CAPCLAVE 2006**. Hilton Washington/Silver Spring (Silver Spring, MD). More information as it becomes available. Membership: \$30 thru 5/31/2006; \$40 from 6/1/2006 thru 9/30/2006; \$50 at the door. Make checks payable to "Capclave 2006" and send to: Capclave 2006, 7113 Wayne Dr., Annandale, VA 22003-1734

Website: www.capclave.org E-mail: info@capclave.org

Nov. 17-19, 2006 **PHILCON 2006**. Sheraton Philadelphia Center City Hotel (Phila., PA). More information as it becomes available. Membership: adults \$50 at the door. Website: WWW.PHILCON.ORG e-mail: INFO2006@PHILCON.ORG

Nov. 24-26, 2006 **DARKOVER GRAND COUNCIL MEETING XXIX**. Holiday Inn Timonium (Timonium, MD). "A very GLBT-friendly con." Guest of Honor: Jacqueline Carey; Artist GoH: TBA; Special Guest: Katherine Kurtz. Membership: \$45 until 11/1/2006; \$50 thereafter & at the door. Make checks payable to "Armida Council" and send to: Armida Council, PO Box 7203, Silver Spring, MD 20907 Website: www.darkovercon.com Info at: members@darkovercon.com

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 5-8, 2007 **GAYLAXICON 2007**. Sheraton Midtown Atlanta at Colony Square (Atlanta, GA). Full membership information will be provided as soon as possible, including purchasing memberships online via PayPal. Guest of Honor details are being worked out with the various parties, and announcements will be made as soon as possible.

Website: <http://2007.atlantagallifreyans.org/>