

PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044 - (202) 232-3141 - Issue #197 - Aug. 2006
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**Stargate & Dr. Who Parties
(August - cont'd)**



With the return of *Stargate: SG-1* (Season 10), *Stargate: Atlantis* (Season 3) and *Doctor Who* (Season 2, being broadcast in the UK), I thought it'd be a good idea to invite people over to watch the shows. Feel free to show up for any or all of the shows.

I began by showing the first six episodes of the *Stargates*' summer seasons before heading off to the World Science Fiction Convention (weekend of August 23rd). I *don't* plan to show the August 25 *Stargate* episodes when I get back to Washington. I'll announce the last three evenings of *Stargate* viewings as the Sci Fi channel schedules the last three episodes of the season, probably in September. I'll show the last two *Doctor Who* episodes during those final *Stargate* evenings in September.

The Sci-Fi Channel has scheduled the *Stargates* one hour later than last season, so I've had to adjust the

August LSF Meeting



The next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held on the **Sunday, August 13th**, at James Crutchfield's apartment (1414 17th St., NW, #413). 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! **Λ Ψ Φ**

showings accordingly. *Doctor Who* episodes will be shown at 8:00 PM and the *Stargates* will be shown at 9:00 PM - 11:00 PM. Unfortunately, the two-part *Doctor Who* episodes will be broken up with "part one" being shown at 8:00 PM and "part two" being shown at 11:00 PM. Please see the schedule below for details.

- When:** August 4, 11, 18
Where: The Home of Peter and Rob - 1425 "S" Street, NW Washington, DC
For directions, see: <http://www.lambdasf.org/lsf/club/PeterRob.html>
Time: Doors open at 7:30 PM, shows start at 8:00PM.
What to bring: Snack food and \$5 if you want to order pizza.

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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 LBG 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 August 31st. Here's the schedule for the next several meetings:

- Aug. 31st** (Note: *The Aug. meeting is changed to the 5th Thursday because of Worldcon*) *Iron Council*, by China Mieville; moderator: Rob.
Sept. 28th - *Titan*, by John Varley; moderator: Peter.
Oct. 26th - *Smoke and Mirrors*, by Tanya Huff; moderator: Carl.

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WHAT'S INSIDE?

LSF July 9th Meeting Minutes (pg. 2); *Star Trek at WorldCon* (pg. 3); *Greek Mythology Revisited, Part 4 - Pan in F&SF* (book/film reviews - pg. 3); *Tim Hildebrandt* (obituary - pg. 5); *Jim Baen* (obituary - pg. 5); *About Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians & Con Calendar* (pg. 6)

Stargate & Dr. Who Parties

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Detailed Schedule:

Friday, August 4:

8:00 PM - *Doctor Who* - "The Impossible Planet" (Part 1 of 2) and "The Satan Pit" (Part 2 of 2)

10:00 PM - *Stargate: SG-1* - "Insiders"

11:00 PM - *Stargate: Atlantis* - "Irresistible"

Friday, August 11:

8:00 PM - *Doctor Who* - "Love & Monsters"

9:00 PM - *Stargate: SG-1* - "Uninvited"

10:00 PM - *Stargate: Atlantis* - "Progeny"

Friday, August 18:

8:00 PM - *Doctor Who* - "Fear Her"

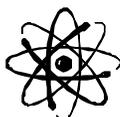
9:00 PM - *Stargate: SG-1* - "200"

10:00 PM - *Stargate: Atlantis* - "The Real World"

If you have any questions, please con-tact Peter at:

PeterKnapp@wavelengthsonline.com
or 202-483-6369

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**There are children
playing in the street
who could solve
some of my top
problems in physics,
because they have
modes of sensory perception
that I lost long ago.**

-- J. Robert Oppenheimer --

excerpted from
*Moving Forward, Keeping Still:
The Gateway to Eastern Wisdom*
(MJF Books, 1997)

LSF July 9th Meeting Minutes taken by Scott



Business Meeting

Carl announced that LSF won the bid for Gaylaxicon 2008, with Geoff Ryman as the Author Guest of Honor.

LSF Social Meeting

We dove straight into a hearty discussion of the new *Pirates of the Caribbean* movie. ("It was a fun movie, but it dragged on." "Great popcorn movie" "Loved the sword fight on the wheel.")

Rob had higher expectations of the new *Superman* movie. Mike P. said that some of the dialogue was lifted straight from one of the Christopher Reeve *Superman* movies.

The LSF members who attended Gaylaxicon 2006 in Toronto chatted about their experiences there. Apparently, a huge local crowd purchased one-day passes just to see Ellen Muth, Media Guest of Honor. There was a small crowd for Richard Arnold. The hotel was described as being "skanky" by some; it is located on the edge of the Toronto GLBT district. All in all, everyone had a good time and had fun.

Mike P. & Ron and Rob & Peter attended the *Lord of the Rings* musical while in Toronto – describing it as being rough around the edges with unimpressive acting. However, they both enjoyed the stage mechanics and noticed that there were massive cuts to the plot.

Peter and Rob enjoyed *Spam-alot*.

On the LSF e-mail list, Krista mentioned the *One-Man Star Wars* trilogy play at the Woolly Mammoth Theater. A flyer for the play was passed around.

Michael C. provided a good review of the Monster Bash Con that he recently attended in Pittsburgh. Lots of fun! The con next year will be held on a college campus, which should help draw a younger audience.

Carl passed around a recent issue of *The Advocate*, which included

an article about Batwoman and other superheroes with GLBT interest.

Rob provided a rundown of books that have recently come out – *Smoke and Ashes* by Tanya Huff (the third "Tony Foster" novel), *The Privilege of the Sword* by Ellen Kushner (sequel to *Swordpoint*), *Warring States* by Susan R. Matthews (the latest "Jurisdiction Universe" novel), and *The Oracle Queen* by Lynn Flewelling.

Rob announced the upcoming Friday night events at his and Peter's home for the new seasons of *Stargate* and *Doctor Who* (2nd season). *Doctor Who* episodes will be shown at 8 PM (with two-parters continued at 11 PM), with the *Stargate* episodes beginning at 9 PM.

A plug for the LSF book discussion group: The July discussion book is Amy Thompson's *Storyteller*; August is *Iron Council* by China Miéville; and September's book is *Titan* by John Varley.

Michael C. advised that he would announce an LSF movie outing to see *Strangers with Candy* at the AFI.

It was noted that the new film *My Super Ex-Girlfriend* (starring Uma Thurman) looks cute and entertaining. Will Keanue Reeves perform any better in *A Scanner Darkly* after he's been rotoscoped?

Peter watched the last Season 2 episode of *Doctor Who*; and guess what happens? Well, we won't share any spoilers here...

Some end-of-the-meeting items – Marvel has a gay hero called Freedom Ring. *Eureka* is an upcoming new genre TV series (Sci-Fi Channel). Everyone loved *Daywatch*, the sequel to *Nightwatch*. Rob gleefully recalled watching *Electra Woman and Dyna Girl* (1976-1977 Saturday morning live-action TV series).

Okay, that's it for this meeting. Over and out!

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**Time is but the stream
I go fishing in.**

**Henry David Thoreau
Walden, 1854**

Star Trek at WorldCon

info received via e-mail
from Bjo Trimble



World Science Fiction Convention
to Celebrate
Star Trek's 40th Anniversary

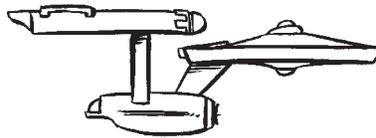
Forty years ago, on September 8th, 1966, *Star Trek* debuted on television screens across America, forever changing the landscape of television and science fiction. But days earlier, the show's creator, Gene Roddenberry, flew to Cleveland, Ohio and the 24th World Science Fiction Convention to preview his new series for the science fiction fans gathered there.

He came, along with Sam Peeples, a writer for the series, and screened two episodes: the original pilot, "The Cage," and "What Little Girls Are Made Of." They spoke, extolling the wonders of their series. They also brought three women's costumes and models to display them.

With that association, how could L.A.con IV, the 64th World Science Fiction Convention not commemorate and celebrate the 40th anniversary of *Star Trek*?

This year, the convention will have hundreds of speakers and program items over its five day run at the Anaheim Convention Center, with topics covering the literature and business of science fiction books, movies & television, science & space and more. Top authors, artists, filmmakers, scientists from around the world will all take part in the convention's program. And a portion of that program, as well as the convention's extensive exhibits, will be dedicated to *Star Trek*, the people who created it, and the fans who love it.

The program is still in the works and the convention is still contacting people involved with *Star Trek* in all of its incarnations, but already scheduled are:



– Appearances by stars from the original *Star Trek* series, Walter Koenig and BarBara Luna as well as *Star Trek: The Next Generation*'s Marina Sirtis, *Star Trek: Voyager*'s Richard Herd, *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*'s Andy Robinson, and Suzie Plakson, who appeared on *Next Generation*, *Voyager*, and *Enterprise*. More stars expected but not yet confirmed.

– Writers from the original series, including DC Fontana, David Gerrold, and Robert Sabaroff, talking about crafting a legend.

– A display of costumes actually used on the series.

– Writers and producers from *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*, *Star Trek: Voyager*, and *Enterprise*.

– Graphics, miniatures, and props.

– A slide presentation on *Star Trek: Phase 2*, the first planned revival of *Star Trek*, from 1977, which was dropped at the very last minute in order to bring *Star Trek* to the motion picture screen instead.

– A slide show by John & Bjo Trimble on the history of *Star Trek* Fandom.

– Panels with fans of *Star Trek*, talking about the first fan-run conventions, keeping *Star Trek* alive between its cancellation in 1968 and the debut of *Star Trek: The Motion Picture*.

– A show by *Star Trek* designer Mike Okuda, showing behind-the-scenes graphics from various versions of *Star Trek*.

– A presentation by *Star Trek: TNG*, *Voyager*, and *Enterprise* Special Effects Supervisor Ronald B. Moore.

– "Behind The Camera From Behind A Camera" – a slide show of crew-taken photos of behind-the-scenes moments on *Star Trek: Enterprise*.

– A lesson in speaking Klingon from the director of the Klingon Language Institute.

– The creators behind *Star Trek: New Voyages* and *Hidden Frontier*, the two internet series continuing the adven-

Greek Mythology Revisited Part 4 - Pan in F&SF by Carl Cipra

Greek mythology – that's a pretty big subject; and there are certainly a *lot* of F&SF books out there based on the stories and themes and images of the gods, heroes, and monsters of the ancient Greeks. I've been doing a lot of reading in this area recently, and I thought I'd share my thoughts about some of the good ones I've read. Now, in Part 4, I'll take a look at various depictions of Pan (the pastoral goat-god) in F&SF – beginning with a popular work by one of the all-time greats of classic horror literature, Arthur Machen.

The Great God Pan
by Arthur Machen (1894)

Oddly enough, despite the title, Pan never actually makes an appearance in this story. This is one of those works of Lovecraftian (*pre*-Lovecraftian, actually) "cosmic horror," where it is shown that we mere mortals will be driven mad if we see/experience the "reality" of the world behind (or beneath) what our senses normally tell us. Here's how Machen explains it in *The Great God Pan*:

(continued on page 4)

tures of the Starship *Enterprise*.

– A screening of *Free Enterprise*, followed by a talk by Mark A. Altman and Robert Meyer Burnett, the film's writers, producer, and director.

– A screening of *Galaxy Quest*, followed by a talk by Robert Gordon, the film's writer.

– The convention's traditional first-night welcome reception, this year themed to the Babel Conference Ambassadorial Reception, with David Gerrold as Master of Ceremonies.

And much, much more. Keep checking our website for more details and future announcements:

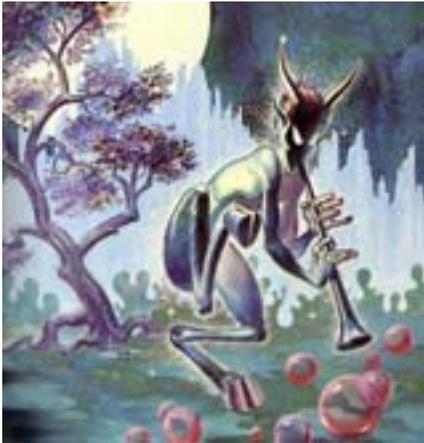
www.laconiv.org

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Pan in F&SF

continued from page 3

“We know what happened to those who chanced to meet the Great God Pan, and those who are wise know that all symbols are symbols of something, not of nothing. It was, indeed, an exquisite symbol beneath which men long ago veiled their knowledge of the most awful, most secret forces which lie at the heart of all things; forces before which the souls of men must wither and die and blacken, as their bodies blacken under the electric current. Such forces cannot be named, cannot be spoken, cannot be imagined except under a veil and a symbol, a symbol to the most of us appearing a quaint, poetic fancy, to some a foolish tale.”



**The Piper, by Kelly Freas
(Weird Tales, 1950)**

This notion of the terrifying or devastating effects of undiluted, direct Divine Presence can be seen in many ancient Greek myths. Consider the fate of Semele (mortal mother of Bacchus) — when she tricked Zeus into revealing himself to her in all his divine glory, she instantly burst into flames. And there is, of course, the petrifying result of Medusa’s direct gaze. Likewise, Pan had the ability to induce mindless fear (“panic”) in anyone, mortals *or* divinities. For humans, “panic” is a variation of *thambos*, the “awful terror... the horror that seizes one who suddenly recognizes a god” (*The Cult of Pan in Ancient Greece*, by Philippe Borgeaud; Univ. of Chicago Press, 1988).

In *The Great God Pan*, Machen orchestrates opportunities for *thambos*

— and describes its horrific effects — in a number of ways. The story unwinds gradually in a series of narratives drawn from different times, places, and observers; and all of the characters who come into contact with the title Entity are driven insane, often to the point of suicide. It all begins with Dr. Raymond, a typical “mad scientist.” With utter disregard for his patient’s feelings or well-being, Dr. Raymond surgically tinkers with the brain of his young ward, Mary, so that she is able to see the “reality” normally filtered out by our senses. The result is that Mary goes instantly and irrevocably mad. Later, Mary has a child who is mysteriously in contact with the Pan-Entity from birth. The child’s actual origins are rather murky, and her childhood is filled with dark visitations; she grows into a literal *femme fatale* who disguises her madness under a veneer of seeming normality but spends her life (under a series of different identities) luring men into lives of profligacy, degradation, insanity, and utter ruin. In effect, Mary’s child has been mad from birth, possessed and driven by the Pan-Entity. The ancient Greek term for this phenomenon is “panolept.” (“The panolept is possessed... he bears witness to the effect of Pan’s power.” — *The Cult of Pan in Ancient Greece*.)

Yes, this story is rather more “mythos” (in the Lovecraftian sense) than “mythological” (in the Greco-Roman sense); but Machen’s use of the name “Pan” as a label for his depiction of “cosmic horror” certainly places it within the purview of my essay. (Besides, it’s *such* a cool story. I highly recommend it to all fans of HP Lovecraft and his ilk.)

The Circus of Dr. Lao
novel by Charles Finney (1935)

The 7 Faces of Dr. Lao
MGM film (1964)
directed by George Pal
screenplay by Charles Beaumont

It never ceases to amaze me just how different the “film version” of a book can be (even when Disney Studios aren’t involved). There are quite a few similarities between Finney’s book and

the MGM film — but the overall tone is rather different. In both cases, the inscrutable Dr. Lao shows up in the Old West town of Abalone, Arizona with his circus of curious delights and supernatural/mythological wonders. But the book is rather darker than the film, the film proving to be more up-beat, with fortuitous transformations of character in store for the less-than wonderful citizens of Abalone. (Oh, and Finney’s book doesn’t rely on actor Tony Randall to play all the roles!)

As for Pan... Well, to begin with, Pan (so named) does *not* appear in Finney’s novel — yes, Agnes Birdsong (the prudish schoolteacher) is seduced by a satyr; but it’s never even suggested that the seducer is the Goat God himself. In the film, however, the seduction of schoolteacher Angela Benedict (portrayed by Barbara Eden) is perpetrated by “Pan, the God of Joy.” Pan is portrayed by the ubiquitous Tony Randall when Angela first enters Pan’s tent; but as he goes into his erotic, whirling dance of seduction, Pan transforms himself into the appearance of Angela’s handsome boyfriend Ed Cunningham (portrayed by the handsome John Ericson) — to my mind, a rather more plausible seduction! Pan only appears in one other scene during the film (the parade just before the “Destruction of Woldercan” vignette), and he doesn’t speak either time (except for a goat-like “baaa!” at the end of the scene with Angela). Pan’s seduction of Angela is one of gesture and movement, accompanied by the frenzied music he plays upon his Pan-pipes. Referring back to Greek myth, it was said that Pan was able to play a “seductive melody upon his syrinx” (*The Cult of Pan in Ancient Greece*). Pan’s pipes were called “syrinx” after the unfortunate nymph of the same name who was transformed into a stand of hollow reeds to escape Pan’s amorous clutches; and Pan fashioned those reeds into a set of shepherd’s pipes.

This, by the way, is one of the few cases where I recommend the film rather than the book it is based on.

(continued in next month’s newsletter)

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Tim Hildebrandt
1939 - 2006

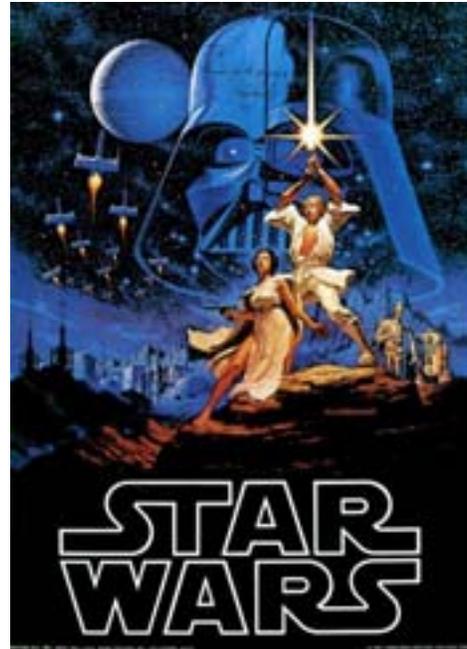
Tim Hildebrandt – half of the famed Hildebrandt Brothers illustration studio, whose images fired popular imagination in the late 20th century – died on June 11th, from complications of diabetes. He was 67 years old. He and his surviving twin, Greg Hildebrandt, are probably best-known for their illustrations and posters for *The Lord of the Rings* and *Star Wars*.

Says *Star Wars* creator George Lucas: “For millions of fans

around the world, the *Star Wars* poster that Tim and Greg Hildebrandt created in 1977 became the definitive illustration of that galaxy far, far away. It’s an exciting, vibrant and unforgettable image that is even more astonishing when you realize that it was created in just 36 hours.”

However, Tim and Greg Hildebrandt are also famed among illustrators for their work on children’s books, comics, and fantasy illustrations, all of it characterized by unusual realism, depth, and richness of color.

Newspaper comic strips introduced the brothers to art. At the age of 19, they worked on animations for the Navy; and in the 1950’s, they did documentary film work on world hunger for Bishop Fulton Sheen. In the late 1960’s, they began illustrating children’s books; and in 1976 came the first *Lord of the Rings* calendar. The calendar was Tim Hildebrandt’s idea, his brother said. “I wanted to pursue gallery art at that point, but Tim was pushing and pushing” on the Tolkien trilogy, “and then I read it



and said OK.” The calendar was their studio’s second-best-known project, after their poster for *Star Wars*.

Greg Hildebrandt said of his brother: “He’s in my hand, eyes, mind, art, soul. He always has been from birth, and he still is.”



Jim Baen
1943 - 2006

Longtime genre publishing icon Jim Baen passed away on June 28th, never having awoken from a coma induced by a stroke earlier in the month. Jim was a founding partner of Baen Books, one of the largest independent

publishers of popular fiction. Since its inception in 1984, Baen Books became one of the leading publishers of science fiction and fantasy.

Jim Baen had a long career as an editor and publisher, starting with Ace Books (in the complaints department). He moved to Galaxy Science Fiction in 1973, where he became editor of *Galaxy* and *If* magazines. He briefly returned to Ace (under publisher Tom Doherty) to run their science fiction line. When Doherty left to found Tor Books, Baen went with him and established its science fiction line, purchasing its first 170 titles.

In 1983/1984, a deal with Simon & Schuster/Pocket Books gave Baen a chance to found his own independent company, Baen Books. Over the years, Baen published many leading genre

authors, including Lois McMaster Bujold, David Drake, Elizabeth Moon, Larry Niven, David Weber, John Ringo, and Eric Flint.

Jim Baen was recognized as Editor Guest of Honor at Chicon 2000, the 58th World Science Fiction Convention. A remembrance of his life will be held at LACon IV, the 64th World Science Fiction Convention (in Anaheim).

It has been said that although Baen might not have been a universally loved figure, he was certainly tremendously influential and will be missed.



**** 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, August 13th**, at James Crutchfield's apartment (1414 17th St., NW, #413). 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. 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



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 XXXIX**. Holiday Inn Timonium (Timonium, MD). "Avery 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

Feb. 16-18, 2007 **FARPOINT 2007**. Marriott's Hunt Valley Inn (Hunt Valley, MD). Special Guest: Summer Glau ("River Tam" from *Firefly/Serenity*). Other Guests: Marc Okrand (Creator of Klingon language); Peter David (author). Membership: \$55 (weekend, pre-registered); daily rates available. Make checks payable to "Farpoint Enterprises" and send to: Farpoint Enterprises, Inc., 11708 Troy Ct., Waldorf, MD 20601 Website: www.farpointcon.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/>

October 10-13, 2008 **GAYLAXICON 2008**. Hotel: to be announced (Washington DC area). Membership: \$50 at present (will go up). Guest of Honor: Geoff Ryman. Information at: gaylaxicon2008.org