

**PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044 - (202) 232-3141 - Issue #201 - Dec. 2006**  
**E-MAIL: [info@lambdasf.org](mailto:info@lambdasf.org) WEBSITE: <http://www.lambdasf.org/>**

**New Year's Eve  
Video Party**  
announced by  
Peter Knapp



Come celebrate New Year's Eve with Lambda Sci-Fi at Rob and Peter'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!

**Where:** The home of Rob & Peter - 1425 "S" Street, NW Washington, DC. For directions, see:

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

**Date:** Sunday, Dec. 31, 2006

**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").

**What to Bring:** Bring your favorite genre DVDs and videos (science fiction, fantasy, horror). Attendees will vote on which movies will be shown at the party (different concurrent "tracks"). It's 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

**Reminder: Annual LSF  
Book Exchange  
Set for Jan. 14th 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 *seventeenth* annual book (*etal*) exchange, which will occur at the January 14th 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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course item (enough to serve at least 4-5 people), dessert (of course!), and non-alcoholic drinks (both regular and diet).

For more information, call 202-483-6369 or send email to:

[PeterKnapp@wavelengthsonline.com](mailto:PeterKnapp@wavelengthsonline.com)

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**Dec. 2006 - Feb. 2007  
Battlestar Galactica Parties**  
from Peter Knapp



Rob and I will be hosting parties to view the next four episodes of *Battlestar Galactica* and Jonathan will be the host for the following four episodes. Because the holiday season is upon us, the Sci Fi Channel will not be broadcasting the show some weekends. For dates and locations, please see the detailed schedule below.

**Time:** Doors open at 8:30 PM, shows start at 9:00 PM.

**What to bring:** Snack food or soft drinks.

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**December LSF Meeting**

The next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held on the **Sunday, December 10th**, 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!

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**WHAT'S INSIDE?**

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**Minutes of the 11/12/2006  
LSF Meeting**  
taken by Scott



**Business:**

Elections for LSF officers for 2007 will be held at the December 2006 LSF meeting. All current officers are running once again for their current positions. An e-mail will be sent to the announcement list, advising list members of the upcoming elections.

Barrett is investigating the potential use of a phone message service that could be used to announce LSF meetings and other events.

**Social:**

Carl will be attending the Dark-overcon in Timonium, MD over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend. He will be coordinating a LGBT fan party for Saturday night in his room..

There is a new biography of P.L. Travers, the author of *Mary Poppins*. It was noted that the "Mary Poppins" character in the book, unlike the movie with Julie Andrews, is quite strict and not cute with umbrellas and penguins around.

Peter Jackson bought the screen rights to Phillip Pullman's "Dark Materials" trilogy.

Our Peter is excited about the new "James Bond" movie, which may be premiering in Georgetown. Expect to see him first in line!

*Firefly/Serenity* actor, Nathan Fillion, starred in this week's episode of *Lost*. There was even a bare chest scene!

The Sci Fi Channel's *Lost Room* premieres in December. Info about this new series was presented at World Con earlier this year.

And that's about it for this month's meeting!

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**Gaylaxicon 2008  
Mini-Report**  
by Peter Knapp

At this year's Gaylaxicon in Toronto, LSF won the right to host Gaylaxicon 2008. Carl Cipra will be the chair. Many organizing committee positions have been filled, but we're always looking for more volunteers.

Tentatively, the con will be held on October 10-13, 2008. The Author Guest of Honor is Geoff Ryman. The Artist Guest of Honor is Alicia Austin.

So far, 24 people have signed up for the con. Information about the con, including the registration form, can be found at:

<http://gaylaxicon2008.org>



**Geoff Ryman**

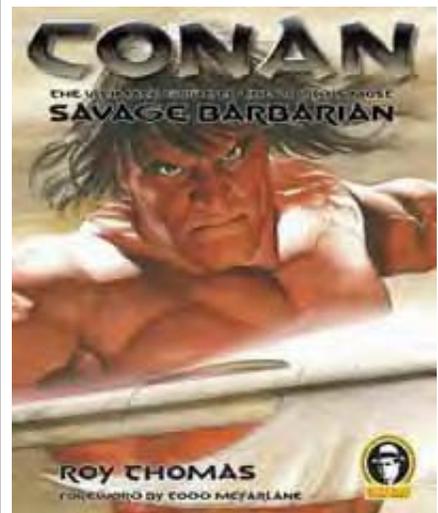


**"Childhood Dream"**  
by Alicia Austin

**Conan of the Coffee Table**  
book review by Carl Cipra

No, that's *not* the title of the latest Conan pastiche; I just couldn't resist using that as the title for this review. After all, that's pretty much what this book is: a big, beautifully-illustrated coffee table book about the mighty Cimmerian. Here's the actual title:

*Conan: The Ultimate Guide to the World's Most Savage Barbarian.* By Roy Thomas. (DK Publishing, 2006).



And, yes, the author is *that* Roy Thomas: Stan Lee's former assistant editor and eventually the editor-in-chief at Marvel Comics — the guy who acquired the "Conan" property for Marvel and then spent 20 years writing and editing such titles as *Conan the Barbarian*, *Savage Tales*, *The Savage Sword of Conan*, *King Conan*, and *Red Sonja*.

So, what have we got here? Well, first off, it's BIG! Like I said, it's a coffee table book — 10-by-12 and about three-quarters of an inch thick. And it's *beautiful!* Every page features eye-catching graphics — almost all of them in full color, some of 'em two-page spreads — by some of the leading Conan illustrators in the business. It includes artwork from Marvel and Dark Horse Comics, including such greats as John Buscema, Gil Kane, and Barry Windsor-Smith. And there are works by some of my favorite Conan cover-artists and illustrators: Frank Frazetta, Gary Gianni,

(continued on page 3)

## Conan of the Coffee Table

continued from page 2



Ken Kelly, and Alex Ross. Wow! (Surprisingly, though, nothing from another of my favorites, Joe Jusko.) Lots of really beautiful maps, too.

As for the non-graphics content — well, it's pretty darn complete. Virtually every aspect of the Cimmerian's legendary career is captured here, from the short stories and novels (primarily those written by old REH himself) to the Marvel/Dark Horse comics/graphic novels. (I think it's kind'a hard to be "The *Ultimate* Guide," however, when you consider that Dark Horse is still churning out new issues every month.) In fact, about the only aspects of "the Conan legend" *not* included in this book are the Cimmerian's adventures as shown on the Silver Screen (*Conan the Barbarian*, *Conan the Destroyer*, *Red Sonja*) and the small screen (the not-very-good 1998 TV series *Conan: The Adventurer*, featuring Ralf Moeller as Conan). Nope, "Ah-nold" makes no appearance in these pages — and neither does "Thulsa Doom" (who was actually a character in Howard's "Kull of Valusia" stories, *not* his "Conan" stories).

As you might imagine, this book probably isn't going to make "Conan purists" very happy — it doesn't restrict its content to the "canonical" (or should that be "Conanical?") REH works. There are lots and lots of storylines and characters from the various Conan comics and graphic novels in here. And I'm not so sure that Thomas has rigorously kept the promise he makes in the Prologue (page 8): "We have tried, in these pages, to make it clear when we are dealing with episodes or entities whose truth is not vouched for by the writings of Robert E. Howard himself."

That cavil aside, this is still quite an impressive book. As well as all the information about the Cimmerian's various swords-and-sorcery adventures, there's lots of information about the lands and peoples of the Hyborian Age.

## Dec. 2006 - Feb. 2007 Battlestar Galactica Parties

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The following seven episodes of *Battlestar Galactica* will be shown at the home of Peter & Rob, at 1425 "S" Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009. Directions can be found at:

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

If you have any questions, please contact Peter at:

PeterKnapp@wavelengthsonline.com  
Or call: 202-483-6369

- 12/01/06 - Episode 42 "Unfinished Business"
- 12/08/06 - Episode 43 "The Passage"
- 12/15/06 - Episode 44 "Eye of Jupiter"  
[Part 1 of 2]
- 1/05/07 - Episode 45 "Rapture"  
[Part 2 of 2]

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The following four episodes of *Battlestar Galactica* will be shown at the home of Jonathan, at 10901 Amherst Avenue, Apt 121 Silver Spring, MD 20902.

- 1/12/07 - Episode 46 "Taking A Break From All Your Worries"
- 1/19/07 - Episode 47 "The Woman King"
- 1/26/07 - Episode 48 "A Day in the Life"

Thomas has even included some of Howard's information about pre-Hyborian and "post-Conan" Hyborian times.

As with any coffee table book, this one comes with a hefty price tag: \$24.99 USA (\$32.99 Canada). However, be of good cheer: I've seen it on "new books" tables in at least a couple of Borders bookstores with a "20% Off" sticker on it — in company with a couple of other new DK publications: *The DC Comics Encyclopedia* and *Batman: The Ultimate Guide to the Dark Knight*.

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2/02/07 - Episode 49 "Maelstrom"

If you have any questions, please contact Jonathan at:

musicecon@hotmail.com

Or call: 812-219-0449.

### Directions to Jonathan's Place:

Jonathan Manning lives at 10901 Amherst Avenue, Apt 121, Silver Spring, MD 20902. His home is near Wheaton Plaza.

By Metro: Take the Red Line to the Wheaton Metro Stop. After ascending the longest escalator in the Hemisphere, walk towards the Kiss'n Ride to your right (to the East). Walk forward to Amherst Avenue (walking East) through the Metro Parking Lot. Walk south along Amherst Avenue (to your right) until you reach Wheaton Place Apartments. The number is visible on the building. The apartment is on the ground floor with a patio.

By Car: Take I-495 to exit 31A (Georgia Avenue) going north. Travel north on Georgia past Dennis Ave and Plyers Mill Avenue to Windham Avenue. Turn right (going East) on Windham Avenue. Turn left at the next street, going north on Amherst Avenue. Turn right into the second Wheaton Place Apartment driveway. Turn right at your first opportunity and park.



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Conan, by Neal Adams

## John M. Ford 1957 - 2006

Yet another award-winning F&SF author died on September 25th. John M. Ford was the author of novels, short stories, poems, articles, and game reviews. And he was famous (notorious?) for his "Ask Dr. Mike" lectures at various conventions (Minicons, Reinconation 5, Noreascon 4, etc.), where the audience asked various scientific questions and Ford (wearing a lab coat) provided spontaneous humorous answers.

Ford's first short story, "This, Too, We Reconcile", appeared in *Analog* (May 1976) when he was 18. His first novel (*Web of Angels*) was published by Tor when he was 23. His third book (*The Dragon Waiting: A Masque of History*) won the 1984 World Fantasy Award for best novel when he was 27. [Ed. Note: *The Dragon Waiting* is one of my favorite books!] A few years later, he won



John M. Ford as "Dr. Mike"  
(Minicon 38, 2003)

the World Fantasy Award again for a poem ("Winter Solstice, Camelot Station"). His novel *Growing Up Weightless* won the Philip K. Dick Award in 1993. His articles, reviews, stories, and poems were published in *Omni*, *Analog*, *Isaac Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine*, *Amazing*, and various anthologies (including most of the *Liavek* anthologies). He wrote science fiction, fantasy, horror, and espionage thrillers equally well. He even wrote two *Star Trek* novels: *The Final Reflection* (1984) and *How Much for Just the Planet?* (1987).

Ford was born in East Chicago, Indiana, and raised in Whiting, Indiana. In the mid-1970s he attended Indiana University Bloomington, where he was active in the IU science fiction club and the Society for Creative Anachronism (using the name Miles Atherton de Grey). He suffered from complications related to diabetes since childhood and also had renal dysfunction which required dialysis and, in 2000, a kidney transplant. He was found dead from natural causes in his Minneapolis home on September 25.

Ford was a prominent member of the Friends of the Minneapolis Public Library, which established a John M. Ford Book Endowment after his death. Donations are used as interest-generating capital for the yearly purchase of new books.

Ford was much respected by his fellow writers, editors, critics, and fans.

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### "Mea Culpa" from Y<sup>e</sup> Olde Editor

If you've been keeping track, you probably noticed that there were *two* "#199-Oct.2006" issues of the LSF newsletter in a row. That's a big "WHOOOPS!" from me. Actually, the second one *should* have been labelled "#200-Nov.2006". (I haven't made one of *those* errors in a long time!) Yes, that's right—the LSF newsletter has been in continuous production *for 200 months*, without fail. (As of *this* issue, 201 months.)

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### The LSF Book Discussion Group



If you're interested in lively discussions of F&SF books (with an emphasis on elements of interest to the LBGT community), we invite you to join the LSF Book Discussion Group. Each month, we conduct fascinating 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 December 7th.

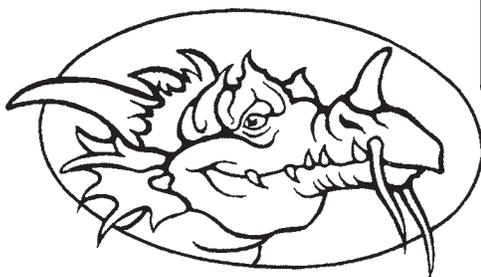
Here are the details on the next several book discussion meetings:

**Dec. 7th** - *Drawing Blood*, by Poppy Z. Brite; moderator: Brian. (Note: *This is a combined Nov./Dec. meeting. It takes place on the first Thursday in December.*)

**Jan. 25th (2007)** - *Set This House in Order*, by Matt Ruff; moderator: Bob A. (Note: *The book discussion group returns to its regular fourth Thursday date.*)

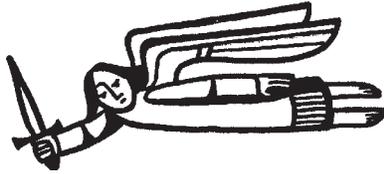
**Feb. 22nd (2007)** - *Anansi Boys*, by Neil Gaiman; moderator: Peter.

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**Carnivorous**, *adj.* Addicted to the cruelty of devouring the timorous vegetarian, his heirs and assigns.

Ambrose Bierce, *The Devil's Dictionary*



**Jack Williamson**  
1908 - 2006

Another one of the Great Old Ones in the F&SF field passed away on November 10th at the age of 98.

Jack Williamson's first SF short story was published in 1928, a year after Charles Lindbergh made his historic solo flight from New York to Paris. Williamson was one of the longest-active writers in the F&SF field. He was 20 years old when "The Metal Man" appears in *Amazing Stories* — and his writing career continued on into the 21st Century. His last novel, *The Stonehenge Gate*, was published by Tor Books in 2005.

Ray Bradbury described Jack Williamson as "one of the great science fiction writers... he became my best friend and teacher." Arthur C. Clarke said: "I have no hesitation in placing Jack Williamson on a plane with two other American giants, Isaac Asimov and Robert Heinlein." Sam Moskowitz (author of the 1961 *Seekers of Tomorrow: Masters of Modern Science Fiction*) wrote that Williamson was "an author who pioneered superior characterization in a field almost

barren of it, realism in the presentation of human motivation previously unknown, scientific rationalization of supernatural concepts for story purposes, and exploitation of the untapped story potentials of antimatter."

Williamson himself believed that "science is the door to the future and science fiction is the golden key." He wrote more than 50 novels, including *The Humanoids* (1949, one of his best-known works), *Darker Than You Think*, and *Legion of Time*. He collaborated with Fred Pohl on nearly a dozen SF novels, including *Undersea Quest*, *Star-child*, and *Farthest Star*.

Williamson received a Grand Master Award in 1976 for lifetime achievement from the Science Fiction Writers of America. He also received a World Fantasy Award for life achievement from the World Fantasy Convention in 1994. In 1998, Williamson received the Bram Stoker Award for superior achievement from the Horror Writers Association. In 2001, his novella *The Ultimate Earth* won both the Hugo and Nebula Awards.

Williamson credited hard work and constant inquiry with helping him remain current as an award-winning science-fiction writer. "I have a vast curiosity about our universe, our origins and its probable future," the then 95-year-old Williamson (who subscribed to numerous science journals, magazines, and newspapers) told the *Albuquerque Journal* in 2004.

All this from a man born on April 29, 1908, in Bisbee, Arizona, when the state was still a territory. And when his family moved to eastern New Mexico in 1915, they did it in a covered wagon. "We lived on isolated farms and ranches, far from anybody, and when I was young I knew very few other kids; so I lived to a great extent in my imagination," Williamson told *Publishers Weekly* in 1986. "Life would have been absolutely

empty without imagination." He was home-schooled until he was 12 years old. Reading an early copy of *Amazing Stories* magazine was a turning point for the teen-aged Williamson. "Here were spacecraft taking off from other worlds, travel in time and all sorts of wonderful inventions!" Williamson recalled. He spent a year writing short science-fiction stories, composing them in his head as he worked on the family farm, then typing them on an antique Remington typewriter borrowed from an uncle.

Williamson received \$25 for "The Metal Men," which was featured on the cover of the December 1928 issue of *Amazing Stories*. Thirteen of his first 21 stories (published between 1928 and 1932) were illustrated on various pulp magazine covers.

During World War II, Williamson served as an Army Air Forces weatherman and rose to the rank of staff sergeant. He served the final three months of the war in the Pacific. In 1947, Williamson's first book, a reprint of his early serial *The Legion of Space*, was published by Fantasy Press. It earned him \$750 and helped persuade him to return to full-time writing.

Williamson's 1984 autobiography, *Wonder's Child: My Life in Science Fiction*, won a Hugo Award for best nonfiction book. "I've never written bestsellers or made a great deal of money at it, but when I look back, I've been able to spend most of my life doing something I enjoyed," Williamson said in an interview in a 1999 issue of *Interzone*. "It's an exciting time to be alive. I wish I could live another century."

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**\*\* INFORMATION ABOUT LAMBDA SCI-FI: DC AREA GAYLAXIANS \*\***

**Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians** (LSF) is an organization for gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgendered (GLBT) people, and their friends who are interested in science fiction, fantasy, horror and related genres in all forms (SF/F/H). LSF's primary goals are to have fun, to provide a community, and to:

- promote SF/F/H, with particular attention to materials of interest to GLBT people and their friends;
- provide forums for GLBT people and their friends to share their interest in SF/F/H;
- promote the presence of GLBT elements within SF/F/H and within fandom; and
- promote SF/F/H within the GLBT community.

Annual membership fees are \$10, for which you will receive an e-mailed this monthly newsletter and a membership directory. (Hard copies of the newsletter cost an additional \$15 per year.) Newsletter submissions are always welcome.

Meetings are usually held on the second Sunday of each month at a private residence. The next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held on the **Sunday, December 10th**, 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



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](http://www.farpointcon.com)

Feb. 16-18, 2007 **KATSUCON 13**. Omni Shoreham Hotel (Washington, DC). "Washington's premiere Japanese animation and manga festival." Membership: \$45 until 12/31/2006, \$50 afterwards & at the door. Make checks payable to "Katsucon 13" and send to: Katsucon Pre-Registration, PO Box 7064, Silver Spring, MD 20907-7064. Website: [www.katsucon.org](http://www.katsucon.org)

April 20-22, 2007 **RAVENCON 2007**. Doubletree Inn at the Richmond Airport (Richmond, VA). Author Guest of Honor: Robert Sawyer, Artist Guest of Honor: Steve Stiles, Fan Guest of Honor: wombat (jan howard finder). Membership: \$30 until 12/31/06; \$35 from 1/1/07 to 4/19/07; \$40 at the door. Make checks payable to "RavenCon" and send to: RavenCon, 9623 Hollyburgh Terrace, Charlotte, NC 28215 Website: <http://www.ravencon.com>

May 25-28, 2007 **BALTICON 41**. Marriott's Hunt Valley Inn (Hunt Valley, MD). Guests of Honor: Larry Niven & Jerry Pournelle; Artist GoH: Joe Bergeron. Membership: \$45 thru 2/28/2007; \$50 from 3/1 thru 4/30/2007; \$58 thereafter & at the door. Make checks payable to "Balticon 41" and send to: Balticon 41 Registration, PO Box 686, Baltimore, MD 21203-0686 Website: [www.balticon.org](http://www.balticon.org) E-mail: [balticoninfo@balticon.org](mailto:balticoninfo@balticon.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 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://gaylaxicon2007.org/>

"A Mid-October Weekend," 2007 **CAPCLAVE 007** ("Dodo Noir, Neo-Pulp"). Hilton Silver Spring (Silver Spring, MD). Author GoH Jeffrey Ford; Editor GoH: Ellen Datlow Membership: \$40 thru 6/30/07; \$50 from 7/1 to 9/30/07. Make checks payable to "Capclave 2007" and send to: Capclave 2007 c/o Barry Newton, PO Box 153, Sandy Spring, MD 20860-0153. Website: <http://www.capclave.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. Artist Guest of Honor: Alicia Austin. Information at: [gaylaxicon2008.org](http://gaylaxicon2008.org)