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Book (et al) Exchange at Jan. 14th LSF Meeting



As promised in last month's newsletter, here's a short reminder about Lambda Sci-Fi's *seventeenth* annual book (et al) exchange, which will occur at the upcoming Jan. 14th meeting! All LSF members — and visitors, guests, attendees, etc. — are invited to participate in this "blind exchange."

In case you've never participated in one of these before (or in case you've forgotten), here's how it works:

(1) Go out and purchase a copy of your "favorite" science fiction, fantasy, or horror book. (NOTE: Over the years, LSF has expanded the concept of "book" to include comics, videotapes, "books on tape," etc. If you want - or if you're feeling particularly wealthy - you can even make it several favorite books or whatever.)

(2) Insert a piece of paper (or a bookmark) with your name on it. (That's so whoever eventually ends up with the item will know who it's from and will get to know a little more about you — at least to know what one of your "favorites" is.)

(3) Wrap up the exchange item, but don't put any identifying marks or anything on the wrapped package to say who it's from. (That's to make sure it's a "blind" exchange - i.e. no one is supposed to know who it's from at first. And, by the way, all of that leftover Holiday wrapping paper should come in handy here!)

(4) At the meeting, add your wrapped exchange item to the pile with all the others; and you'll be assigned a number. (Only one exchange item - i.e. one package - per person, please!)

(5) When your number is called, you pick one of the packages from the pile. (And when you open it up, you'll find out who it's from.) See how easy?

I can hardly wait to see what shows up *this* year! **Λ Ψ Φ**

January - March 2007 Battlestar Galactica Parties

from Peter Knapp



There has been a major reshuffling (time and dates) of the schedule for new *Battlestar Galactica* episodes on the Sci Fi Channel! That means there will be a major reshuffling of the LSF *Battlestar Galactica* parties, too. Jonathan will be the host for the following January and February episodes. We're not yet sure who'll be hosting the March parties.) For dates and locations, please see the detailed schedule below.

Time: (On Sundays.) Doors open at 9:30 PM, shows start at 10:00 PM. (continued on page 3)



Xena at the Smithsonian info passed along by Wayne 1 and Julian excerpted from *Smithsonian Magazine* (Nov. 2006)

"Lucy Lawless, star of *Xena: Warrior Princess* (1995-2001), has given her signature costume to the Museum of American History." Here's an excerpt from her interview with *Smithsonian's* Katy June-Friesen.

Q: What do you and Xena have in common?

LL: Well, I can be quite hard-core myself, I suppose. As an actor, everything has to come out of you some-where — otherwise it doesn't strike a chord

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January LSF Meeting

The next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held on the **Sunday, January 14th**, 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. *The book exchange will occur later in the meeting.* Please bring some munchies or soft drinks, if you can. See you there! **Λ Ψ Φ**

WHAT'S INSIDE? *Imaro* (pg. 2 - book review); **LSF Meeting Minutes for 12/10/2006** (pg. 2); **The LSF Book Discussion Group** (pg. 3); **Xena at the Smithsonian** (pg. 3); **Weird Stories from Unexpected Sources** (book reviews, pg. 4); **The Iliad in Current F&SF Literature** (pg. 5); **David Gemmell** (obituary - pg. 5); **About Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians and Con Calendar** (pg. 6)

Imaro
(Night Shade Books, 2006)
by Charles R. Saunders
a review by Carl Cipra



Here's some good news for you if, like me, you're a fan of swords-and-sorcery fiction, aka heroic fantasy. (You know, the kind of F&SF featuring the likes of Conan and his sword-wielding brethren and sistren.) The "Imaro" stories of Charles R. Saunders are back in print — and (*Deo gratias*) Saunders himself is still with us and still writing.

"So, who or what is 'Imaro'?" you ask. Well, if you want to be simplistic about it, think of Imaro as a "black Conan" — but, as I say, that's kind'a simplistic. Yes, Imaro and Conan have many things in common: they're both mighty barbarian warriors who wander their respective worlds fighting evil men, monsters, and sorcerers and rescuing damsels-in-distress. And, yes, both of them would find the word "brooding" included on any list of their personality traits. However, unlike Conan, Imaro doesn't immediately jump to solve all problems with a fist or a sword. And Saunders would seem to have had a very definite story-arc in mind when he was writing (or as he continues to write) the "Imaro" stories. (Howard, on the other hand, seems to have simply written his "Conan" stories as they occurred to him — and it was left to later Conan-addicts to arrange them all into some kind of coherent timeline.)

But if you're looking for Imaro to act like one of the blacks from the "Conan" stories (or indeed, like the tribal

LSF Meeting Minutes
for 12/10/2006
taken by Scott

Business

There was a brief review of the Gaylaxicon 2008 planning activities. Peter provided a summary of the progress to date.

The current LSF officers were re-elected for 2007.

The popular annual blind book exchange will be held at the January meeting. More details elsewhere in this newsletter!

Social

The previews for *Pan's Labyrinth* (coming to theatres on December 29th) are favorable.

Josh reported that *The Fountain* movie has a clear Buddhist theme — and is worth seeing.

Eragon, which appears to be *Lord of the Rings* with dragons, opens in theatres this Friday. Movie outing?

David Craig, who plays the lead role in *Casino Royale*, the new "James Bond" movie, has indicated that he wouldn't mind playing a gay scene in a "James Bond" movie.

The Illusionist is coming out on DVD soon.

Africans in the "Tarzan" stories of Edgar Rice Burroughs), then you're in for a disappointment. Howard's views on racial characteristics were — um — "unsophisticated" (as are, too often, those of Howard's imitators and fellows); and Saunders (himself an African-American) brought a much-needed change of perspective to the sub-genre of heroic fantasy. Yes, Saunders was inspired by the "Conan" stories of Robert E. Howard; but, as he says in his introductory essay in this volume: "Imaro would be the anti-Tarzan, and the setting in which his story unfolded would be an alternate-world Africa rather than an imaginary prehistoric era of the Earth we know, as was the case in Howard's Hyborian Age and Tolkien's Middle Earth." Thus, Saunders created the world of Nyumbani (Swahili for "home"), a mixture of the real, the legen-

The three two-hour episodes of *The Lost Room* on the Sci Fi Channel will be shown this week. Will a series be forthcoming?

In January, *Battlestar Galactica* is moving to Sunday nights at 10:00 PM. LSF member Jonathan will be opening his home for viewing future *BG* episodes.

Doctor Who's Christopher Eccleston will be joining the cast of *Heroes*. *Star Trek's* George Takei will be appearing as Hiro's father on *Heroes*. *Doctor Who's* Elisabeth Sladen, who played Sarah Jane Smith, a companion during the Tom Baker reign, will be getting her own series.

It was noted that Sci Fi's *Eureka* will be back for a second season.

Peter encouraged LSF members to sign up now, before year's end, for Gaylaxicon 2008, in order to save some money on the convention rate.

Carl mentioned that Melissa Scott has been engaged in research in the Ozarks for future fantasy work.

Don't forget the New Year's Eve video party at Peter & Rob's.

Upcoming LSF book discussions: Matt Ruff's *Set This House In Order* (Jan.); Neil Gaiman's *Anansi Boys* (Feb.); Tim Pratt's *The Strange Adventures of Ranger Girl* (March). **Λ Ψ Φ**

dary, and the un-real — an analog "ancient Africa" that reflects the wide variety of cultures and civilizations that have existed on the Dark Continent. And Imaro, the exiled Ilyassai warrior, is the figure that the reader follows through that world — from "the vast yellow reaches of the Tamburure plain" to the coastal kingdoms of Azania and Zanj, from the wicked City of Madness (a lost Atlantean colony) in the west to the fabled cities of mighty Cush in the north.

As a fan of Saunders's works, it's been difficult for me to get my "Saunders fix" — his works have had a spotty publication track record. I think I first came across the "Imaro" stories sometime in the mid-Seventies, in anthologies such as *Swords Against Darkness*. In the mid-Eighties, DAW Books published three slim volumes

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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 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 January 25th.

Here are the details on the next several book discussion meetings:
Jan. 25th (2007) - *Set This House in Order*, by Matt Ruff; moderator: Bob A.
Feb. 22nd (2007) - *Anansi Boys*, by Neil Gaiman; moderator: Peter.
March 22nd (2007) - *The Strange Adventures of Ranger Girl*, by Tim Pratt; moderator: Krista.

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Imaro

continued from page 2

collecting all the extant "Imaro" stories. (If you decide to look for 'em now, they're rare as hen's teeth and very expensive.) Since then, nothing. So, as I say, it's "three big cheers" to Night Shade Books for bringing the "Imaro" stories to light again. *Imaro*, the first volume, collects the first six "Imaro" stories (with "The Afua" being a revision/re-write of "Slaves of the Giant-Kings"). The next volume, *Imaro 2: The Quest for Cush*, is set for publication in January 2007. And, best news of all, Saunders says he'll be continuing Imaro's saga in up-coming volumes featuring new, previously-unpublished stories! (I'm a happy man!) Λ Ψ Φ

**January - March 2007
Battlestar Galactica Parties**
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What to bring: Snack food or soft drinks.

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

- 1/21/07 - Episode 44 "Rapture"
[Part 2 of 2]
- 1/28/07 - Episode 45 "Taking A Break From All Your Worries"
- 2/11/07 - Episode 46 "The Woman King"
- 2/18/07 - Episode 47 "A Day in the Life"
- 2/25/07 - Episode 48 "Dirty Hands"

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.

We're not yet sure who will be hosting the parties for the final four episodes:

- 3/4/07 - Episode 49 "Maelstrom"
- 3/11/07 - Episode 50 "The Son Also Rises"
- 3/18/07 - Episode 51 "Crossroads, Part 1"
- 3/25/07 - Episode 52 "Crossroads, Part 2"

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Xena at the Smithsonian

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in viewers. Of course, I never killed anybody, I haven't slain warlords, and I really can't do flips.

Q: Did you ever expect to be a leading lady in the world of campy sci-fi?

LL: No, because I never watched it, never read it, never particularly liked it. But the fact is, sci-fi deals with some of the biggest issues of philosophy and humanity and politics today. And I'm offered a lot of roles such as, "Do you want to be a cop?" or "Do you want to be a housewife?" But now sci-fi roles interest me intrinsically.

Q: Was the warrior princess outfit comfortable?

LL: Not at first, because they



would put boning in the corset. It would cover up those little floating ribs that are so important for breathing, so I'd feel like I was having panic attacks. But it just became a second skin after a while. It was very functional, once I got over the modesty factor. I admit to being a little embarrassed the first couple weeks because I'd never worn anything so short. I was black and blue for the first couple of years. Λ Ψ Φ

Weird Stories from Unexpected Sources

two books reviewed by Carl Cipra

H.G. Wells, *The Croquet Player*
(Univ. of Nebraska Press, 2004)

Robert Silverberg, *The Book of Skulls*
(Ballantine/Del Rey Books, 2006)

Serendipity and coincidence abound. Two books randomly and impulsively picked off the bookstore shelves by me at different times, then both unexpectedly chosen from my (massive) “to read” pile at just about the same time. Both books — Wells’s *The Croquet Player* (1937) and Silverberg’s *The Book of Skulls* (1972) — are reprints of works from authors I wouldn’t have expected to write this sort of thing: weird fantasy/fiction, verging on horror. Both have covers prominently featuring — of all things — a human skull. And both of them — rather surprisingly — have definite GLBT content.

H.G. Wells - *The Croquet Player*

This slim volume was written rather late in Wells’s career (1937); and in the Afterword, John Huntington (an English professor at the University of Illinois) describes it as “a meditation on the international crisis just before the Second World War.”

Something very strange is going on in the remote English village of Cainsmarsh. Wells evokes a sense of Lovecraftian evil in describing “the brooding strangeness that hangs over Cainsmarsh.” (The name alone is quite Lovecraftian.) There’s a woman who’s literally afraid of her own shadow; a terrified farmer “murders” a scarecrow; family pets are being bludgeoned to death; and previously-happily-married couples are resorting to violence against each other. There’s an old tradition that Cain “and the worst of his sons” settled and died in the Cainsmarsh area and that their presence poisoned the very soil — and there are those strange, primitive bones now housed in the local museum. Has this malevolent heritage somehow been awakened? Are the Cainsmarsh

incidents symptomatic of an ever-expanding threat to all of civilization?

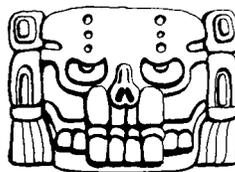
Wells is also very Lovecraftian in format: while on holiday in Les Noupets, the narrator (George Frobisher, the “croquet player” himself) hears it all second-hand from Dr. Finchatton (a country doctor who moved to Cainsmarsh) and later from Dr. Norbert (Finchatton’s psychiatrist).

On the other hand, Wells is very *un-Lovecraftian* in the person of Mr. Frobisher. My impression is that Mr. Frobisher is “one of the boys” — he strikes me as sort of a Noel Coward-esque character, with very definite gay overtones. Here’s a short excerpt from the first chapter, “The Croquet Player Introduces Himself”:

Many people, I know, find me a trifle effeminate and ridiculous because I make croquet my game; they say as much behind my back and at times they betray it to my face, and I admit there have been moments when I have been inclined to agree with them. But on the other hand quite a lot of people seem to like me, everybody calls me Georgie in an affectionate manner, and on the whole I am inclined to like myself. It takes all sorts to make a world and I see no sense in pretending to be the human norm when one is not.

And *this* is the man that Drs. Finchatton and Norbert choose to confide in about the dark and mysterious goings-on in Cainsmarsh?!

I quite enjoyed *The Croquet Player* — it was a pleasant surprise to run across this little-known work from the man who brought us *The War of the Worlds*, *The Invisible Man*, and *The Island of Dr. Moreau*.



Robert Silverberg - *The Book of Skulls*

As the story opens, it’s Spring break, and four college roommates are driving from New England to Arizona on a quest for immortality: Timothy (the

wealthy WASP and Big Man On Campus), Ned (the cynical gay poet), Eli (the Jewish antiquarian scholar), and Oliver (the Kansas farmboy with the great bod, and the object of Ned’s secret affections). Based on the clues in *The Book of Skulls*, an ancient manuscript discovered by Eli, the foursome are looking for the House of Skulls, the secret desert hideaway of the mystical Brotherhood of the Skulls — a group claiming to guard the secret of eternal life. There’s a catch, however. *The Book* stipulates that the Brotherhood will accept four aspirants at a time — but that only two of them will be granted immortality. The other two must die as sacrifices: one must die by suicide and the other must be murdered. Now *there’s* something to look forward to! Along the way, the personalities and thoughts of the four men are explored through alternating first-person narrative chapters. Who lives and who dies? Ah, but that’s the secret!

Silverberg wrote this book back in 1972. As he explains in his Afterword, it was his contribution to the then-current SF movement known as “the New Wave,” which was “an attempt to reconcile the visionary, even romantic themes of science fiction with the methods of modern mainstream novelists.” It’s certainly not the type of work I’d come to expect from a classic SF writer like Robert Silverberg. (Of course, Silverberg also wrote “adult stories” for various men’s magazines once upon a time, but that’s neither here nor there.) I was quite surprised to see how well — and how sympathetically — he handled Ned, the gay character. Very well done — I quite enjoyed this book, too.

Oh, and before I bring this article to an end, I should tell you that *The Croquet Player* and *The Book of Skulls* have something *else* in common. I won’t go into the details, as that would *definitely* be a “spoiler;” but suffice it to say that by the end of each of these books there just might be some doubt in your mind as to whether there’s actually been any “supernatural” content in them. H.G. Wells and Robert Silverberg — very cagy writers! **Λ Ψ Φ**

**The Iliad in Current
F&SF Literature**
an unexpected continuation
by Carl Cipra



Black Ships Before Troy: The Story of the Iliad, by Rosemary Sutcliff (Laurel-Leaf/Random House, 2005)

Just when I thought I'd completed all my reviews on the subject of current re-tellings of *The Iliad*, I ran across a new one by one of my favorite YA historical fiction authors, Rosemary Sutcliff. If you're a fan of YA (young adult) historical fiction, then Rosemary Sutcliff is no stranger to you. If you're not familiar with her works, then I can highly recommend a couple of them: *The Eagle of the Ninth* (Roman vs. Celt in 2nd Century Britain); or *The Shining Company* (Celt vs. Saxon in 6th Century Britain). And now there's *Black Ships Before Troy*.

Ms. Sutcliff is a master at telling fascinating, well-researched, human stories set in olden times; and her prose is thrilling and lyrical. *Black Ships Before Troy* is no exception. In this case, she recreates life in Bronze Age Greece and Asia Minor. ("In the high and far-off days when men were heroes and walked with the gods...") However, unlike her other historical novels, Ms. Sutcliff this time includes a supernatural element; unlike many other modern re-tellings, the Gods do indeed appear in *Black Ships*, offering advice, issuing warnings, influencing heroic actions, etc. (Curiously, she bypasses those scenes in *The Iliad* where the Gods personally join in the combat.)

And, despite the fact that the subtitle is "The Story of the Iliad," *Black Ships* includes more than you'll find in *The Iliad* itself: it starts with the wedding of Peleus and Thetis (parents of Achilles) and the Judgement of Paris, and it continues on to the deaths of Achilles and Paris, the appearance of the Trojan Horse, and the destruction of Troy.



David Gemmell
1948 - 2006

Popular U.K. fantasy writer David Andrew Gemmell died in July of this year of a coronary artery disease two weeks after undergoing heart bypass surgery. (In his words: "I tried to quit smoking and found that the years of polluting my brain with nicotine meant that I couldn't string a reasonable sentence together without filling my lungs with smoke. I went three months without a drag, took a good look at the crap I was writing and lit up.") Gemmell was 57 years old.

Gemmell's first novel, *Legend*, was published in 1984, but he continued as a freelance journalist for the *London Daily Mail*, *Daily Mirror*, and *Daily Express*. He was also an editor of newspapers in Sussex, but this career ended after the publication of his third novel, *Waylander* (1986), in which he used his work colleagues' names for characters in the story. Subsequently, Gemmell became a full-time writer and published dozens of books under his own name, all of which have remained in print. He also published a novel entitled *White Knight*, *Black Swan* (under the name Ross Harding), a thriller based on his own personal experiences growing up in London. (It's the *only* novel of his that's out of print.)

Most of Gemmell's novels — mostly in the "heroic fantasy" sub-genre

— tend to be part of a series. There are 10 novels in the "Drenai" series, 4 novels in the "Rigante" series, 3 novels in the "John Shannow" series, 2 novels in the "Stones of Power" series, 2 novels in the "Hawk Queen" series, 2 historical fantasies about ancient Macedon (*Lion of Macedon* and *Dark Prince*), and (so far) 2 novels about ancient Troy (*Troy: Lord of the Silver Bow* and *Troy: Shield of Thunder*).

Gemmell once summed up the content of his novels with these words: "Love, friendship, honour, courage and redemption." He was fascinated by what he saw as the true nature of heroes (believing them to be unreliably heroic); and this ambivalence is reflected in almost everything he wrote. His novels often feature a self-doubting but charismatic warrior who, together with a group of unlikely companions, overcomes the forces of darkness in a series of violent and costly encounters.

Gemmell died before he could complete his "Troy" trilogy. The first novel in this series, *Troy: Lord of the Silver Bow*, is now available in a U.S. trade paper edition. [Ed. Note: It's probably the best "Trojan War" novel I've ever read. For my review, see the Oct. 2006 issue of this newsletter.] The U.S. edition of the sequel, *Troy: Shield of Thunder*, is set to come out in hardback from Ballantine in March 2007. (It's already been published in Britain: Bantam, Oct. 2006.) And then there's the projected third volume, *Troy: Fall of Kings...* It's been reported that Gemmell had completed about 70,000 words on this novel, as well as a chapter-by-chapter plan of how each character should develop and how he saw the final novel ending. His editor at Transworld has said that Gemmell's wife, Stella, will complete the remainder of the book, working from his chapter notes. (Stella Gemmell has apparently been involved in the research and creation of the trilogy since its inception in 2003.) **Λ Ψ Φ**

This book is actually a re-print of the text included in a 1993 large-size version illustrated by Alan Lee. This Laurel-Leaf/Random House version is a

small, inexpensive mass-market paperback — but all of Rosemary Sutcliff's fabulous prose is still there.

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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, January 14th**, 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

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

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 E-mail: 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