



LAMBDA SCI-FI



DC Area Gaylaxians

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

Torchwood (and Sarah Jane Smith Adventures) Parties

announced by Peter Knapp



For those that don't know, the Doctor Who revival in 2005 has been a phenomenal hit in the UK - 28 episodes have been shown, with 13 more to premiere (in the UK) in April. Two spin-off shows have been commissioned. Now that the first spinoff, Torchwood, has finished its run in the UK, and the pilot for the second spinoff, The Sarah Jane Smith Adventures, has also aired, I thought it'd be fun to see them again with a group. So, I've planned four afternoons of Torchwood viewing (with The Sarah Jane Smith Adventures tacked on to the last set of Torchwood showings) at Rob's and my place.

The parties will be held on Saturday afternoons every four weeks between February 3 and April 28. On the first and the third weeks, I'll be showing three episodes, and on the second and fourth weeks I'll be showing four episodes. Meals are not planned, but bringing snacks and non-alcoholic drinks to share is encouraged. Details follow:

What: Torchwood Parties.

When: Saturday afternoons, February 3, March 3, March 31, and April 28.

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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 February 22nd.

Here are the details on the next couple of book discussion meetings:

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

March 22nd - *The Strange Adventures of Ranger Girl*, by Tim Pratt; moderator: Krista.

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February - 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 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.

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February LSF Meeting

The next LambdaSci-Fi meeting will be held on the **Sunday, February 11th**, 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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**Minutes for the
1/14/2007 LSF Meeting**
minutes taken by Scott



Business:

There was general discussion about promoting Gaylaxicon 2008 at various cons starting later this year, perhaps with the 2007 CapClave.

Social:

Speaker Norman opened up the meeting with a traditional name circle. Then the discussion proceeded in predictable helter-skelter fashion:

The entire Justice League will show up in this week's episode of *Smallville*. No Batman, Wonder Woman, Flash, or Green Lantern, however. [Ed. Note: Actually, there will be a "Flash" character, but he's called "Impulse" or something like that.]

The Illustrated Man (1969, based on Ray Bradbury's book) is now out on DVD.

Both Teresa and Carl enjoyed *Dexter*, a Showtime series about a serial killer of serial killers. [Ed. Note: And Carl liked the books from which the series was developed, too.]

Del Toro's *Pan's Labyrinth* was given top reviews by a number of LSFers – "brilliant, stunning." Definitely *not* a children's movie, however.

Lord of the Rings trilogy director Peter Jackson is involved in an ongoing feud regarding an audit of expenses for the *Fellowship of the Rings* movie.

Ghost Rider (Sony Pictures), starring Nicholas Cage, opens in February. Will this totally bomb at the box office? Critically-acclaimed *Children of Men* is now in wide release. The *Golden Compass* movie, based upon the Phillip Pullman novel, is due out in November. Filming for *Indian Jones IV* has begun. (Yes, it will star Harrison Ford.) J.J. Abrams has indicated that there is a script for the next *Star Trek* movie.

John Michael Strazinski, better known as JMS, is creating straight-to-DVD *Babylon 5* movies, using characters whose actors are still alive.

Jonathan mentioned that he was opening up his home in Wheaton for the new season of *Battlestar Galactica* as well as *The Dresden Files*, to be

shown on Sunday evenings.

Carl passed around a catalog containing some American Library Association genre-themed bookmarks that LSF could potentially distribute at this year's Pride booth.

Peter passed around the recent Parsec newsletter of the Pittsburgh sci-fi group. He enjoyed the review of the Sci Fi Channel's *Lost Room*.

Torchwood! Torchwood! The crowd demands *Torchwood!* Peter advised that he would be showing *Torchwood* at his & Rob's place on these dates: Feb. 3, March 3 & 31; Apr. 28. Each showing will include 3 to 4 episodes of *Torchwood*.

Rob said that a new YA urban fantasy by Guy Gavriel Kay will be coming out this year.

The meeting then morphed into the annual Blind Book Exchange event. Here is a list of who received what from whom:

Julian received Harry Turtle-dove's *Guns of the South* (alternative history), from Barrett.

Michael M. received Steve Gould's *Jumper* (about a teenage teleporter), from Scott.

Jonathan received a DVD of *The Covenant* (ridiculous plot, but nice eye candy), from Michael M.

Norman received Charles Sheffield's *Starfire* and *Aftermath*. (Oddly enough, this was the "spare" exchange item from Carl that he supplied so Norman could participate.)

Barrett received Terry Pratchett's *Hogfeather* (a Christmas-themed book), from Steve.

Steve received the entire *Star Trek* animated series, from – who else? – Peter.

Teresa received Gabriel Garcia Marquez's *Love in the Time of Cholera*, from Jonathan.

Carl received 2 DVDs (15 episodes) of *Starhunter* (a Canadian

**Another Maryland Game
Party (March 4th)**
announced by Krista Park



Announcing another Maryland Game Party!!!

Who: Any LambdaSci-Fi-Friendly Gamers

What: A Game Party for Board Games and Card Games of all Types (not an official LSF Event).

When: Sunday, March 4, 2007, 1 PM to 10 PM

Where: Krista Park's Place – 6100 Westchester Park Dr. Apt # 502; College Park, MD 20740

Contact Info: krista.park@verizon.net; home phone – 301-441-3671

Please feel free to bring games you'll enjoy. I own Robo Rally, Arkham Horror, Settlers of Catan (for 6), Ticket to Ride: Europe, Trans America, Betrayal at House on the Hill, various versions of Trivial Pursuit, Taboo, Pictionary, Alhambra, Monopoly, Carcassonne: The City, a limited set of Killer Bunnies, San Juan, and a few other miscellaneous games. I have four tables of various sizes that we can game at, so please do bring your own games.

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produced space opera series, starring Michael Paré from James, our host.

Scott received Laurie Marks' *Earth Logic* and Anne Harris' *Inventing Memory* (both in hardback, no less!), from Rob.

Rob received *Hannibal* (yes, as in "Lecter"), from Teresa.

Peter received Jack McDevitt's *Chindi* and *Deepsix*, from Carl.

James: Naomi Novick's *His Majesty's Dragon*, *Throne of Jade*, and *Black Powder War* (alternate Napoleonic Wars, with dragons), from Julian.

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Torchwood Parties

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Where: The home of Peter and Rob, 1425 "S" Street NW, Washington, DC 20009. For directions, please see:

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

Time: 1:00 PM (doors open at 12:30 PM).

Schedule: See below.

For more information, please contact Peter at:

PeterKnapp@wavelengthsonline.com or call him at 202-483-6369.

Saturday, February 3

- 1:00 PM - Episode 1 - "Everything Changes"
- 2:00 PM - Episode 2 - "Day One"
- 3:00 PM - Episode 3 - "Ghost Machine"

Saturday, March 3

- 1:00 PM - Episode 4 - "Cyberwoman"
- 2:00 PM - Episode 5 - "Small Worlds"
- 3:00 PM - Episode 6 - "Countrycide"
(Warning: excessive graphic gore)
- 4:00 PM - Episode 7 - "Greeks Bearing Gifts"

Saturday, March 31

- 1:00 PM - Episode 8 - "They Keep Killing Suzie"
- 2:00 PM - Episode 9 - "Random Shoes"
- 3:00 PM - Episode 10 - "Out of Time"

Saturday, April 28

- 1:00 PM - Episode 11 - "Combat"
- 2:00 PM - Episode 12 - "Captain Jack Harkness"
- 3:00 PM - Episode 12 - "End of Days"
- 4:00 PM - *The Sarah Jane Smith Adventures* (not *Torchwood*)

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February - March 2007 Battlestar Galactica Parties

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What to bring: Snack food or soft drinks.

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

- 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

Orcall: 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

Maryland Game Party

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This will be a semi-pot luck. I will have a veggie tray, some sort of dessert, sodas, and a hot vegetarian main dish. Please bring other food or beverages (including meat or alcohol) that you'd enjoy. My kitchen is relatively spacious and well equipped, so we'll be able to have the food and drinks set up in there continuously. If it will make your life easier, I can supply serving plates and utensils or re-heating equipment.

My home is about three miles from the College Park Metro Station. Please contact me if you need a ride from the metro station, and I'll try to arrange a pick-up or car-pooling. Online maps do work very well for my complex, but you do need to know a few things about getting to my apartment and parking.

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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Sci Fi Channel Picks Up Season Three of Doctor Who

info passed along by
Peter Knapp



The American cable network Sci Fi Channel has announced that they have secured the rights to air Series Three, starting in the summer of 2007, according to a note on their *Doctor Who* page: <http://www.scifi.com/doctorwho/>



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← [Ed. Note: Complete directions to the site in the March newsletter.]

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My Hugo Nominations for 2006

by Peter Knapp
(with additional insight provided by Rob Gates)

As many of you know, I'm a media fan. I nominate dramatic presentations for Hugos every year that I'm eligible to nominate them. As I attended last year's Worldcon, I just got my ballot in the mail for the 2006 Hugos.

Without further ado, here are my nominations, in the order that I would vote for them if they make the final ballot.

Dramatic Presentation, Long Form:

- Pan's Labyrinth*
- V for Vendetta*
- Nightwatch*
- The Lost Room* (Miniseries)
- X-Men 3*



Pan's Labyrinth was probably the best movie I saw in 2006. Mexican director Guillermo del Toro tells the tale of a young girl named Ofelia who deals with monsters from both her imagination and from real life. Set during the end of the civil war in Spain, she escapes to an imaginary world that while horrific, is a far cry from the life she faces with her new evil stepfather. Del Toro does a masterful job of weaving two very different worlds together and makes them believable. While watching the movie, I wanted Ofelia to prevail through the impossible situations presented to her by both worlds. Professional critics often don't "get" genre movies. This movie is an exception. As of this writing,

it's already won the best picture award from The National Society of Film Critics. I wouldn't be surprised if it wins an Oscar.



V for Vendetta is based on the graphic novel of the same name by Allan Moore and David Lloyd. The screenplay is by The Wachowski Brothers and made by their studio. (They did *The Matrix*.) Unlike *Pan's Labyrinth*, which mixed reality with speculative fiction, *V for Vendetta* takes place wholly in the genre camp. In a near-future fascist state, a freedom fighter known only as "V" tries to bring down the government. He befriends a young woman who, by the end of the movie, helps him incite a revolution. Unlike so many Hollywood adaptations of source material that sanitizes gay content, this movie keeps it all in and I think might actually add to it. I really appreciated the decision to keep the gay content in the movie. The Wachowski Brothers did a fine job of crafting an interesting, thought-provoking movie with great action sequences, like they did in *The Matrix*.



I saw a sneak preview for *Nightwatch* in 2005. Early in the showing, a section of the movie didn't make a lot of sense. I asked Rob if the

movie was supposed to be like that. Just then, the projectionist stopped the movie, as the reel of film had been loaded in backwards and upside down. It took almost half an hour to unwind the film and rewind it correctly on a new reel. Almost no one left the theater while waiting for the movie to restart. It was that engaging. Taking place in modern Russia, the forces of light have an uneasy truce with the forces of dark. When one side is going to use their powers, they have to get a license from the other side. Early in the movie, the rules are broken, which starts a chain reaction of chaos and horror. I really had to pay attention, as the story was very convoluted and it was not often clear who was a good guy and who was a bad guy. It kept my attention the whole time. When released in Russia, it quickly became the most successful Russian movie ever. Too bad the American distributor botched the American release of the movie with next to no publicity.



In December, the Sci Fi Channel premiered their big miniseries of the year, *The Lost Room*. With investigating a homicide, a cop named Joe Miller discovers a secret segment of society who desperately are trying to find magical objects that originally came from a mysterious motel room. While objects are not haunted, people who come in possession of the objects often go crazy or get killed by other people trying to collect the objects. The investigation gets personal when Miller's daughter disappears in the room. It took a while to dawn on me, but this miniseries was about quantum physics and what happens when people come into possession of objects that open portals to other realities. Cerebral stuff couched in a slightly film noir mystery. I hope *The Lost Room* comes back as a series.

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My Hugo Nominations

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X-Men 3 was a fun movie, but I don't think it had heart of the previous two installments of the franchise. Was this because Brian Singer, who directed the first two *X-Men* movies, left the franchise? Maybe. I did enjoy the movie though. I found it a good summer popcorn movie. Fun but fluffy.

Dramatic Presentation, Short Form:

Doctor Who - "Army of Ghosts"/
Doomsday"

Doctor Who - "The Impossible Planet"/
The Satan Pit"

Doctor Who - "School Reunion"

Doctor Who - "The Girl in the Fireplace"

Doctor Who - "Rise of the Cybermen"/
The Age of Steel"



What can I say? I can't get enough of *Doctor Who*. There were really good science fiction shows on TV last year. *Battlestar Galactica* and *Heros* come to mind. Even not-so-good shows like *Stargate: SG-1* had stand-out episodes such as "200." I just happen to like *Doctor Who* better.

For the uninitiated, *Doctor Who* is the longest running genre show on the planet. It centers on a alien named the Doctor, who travels the universe in a

time-and-space machine exterminating evil and championing the causes of the less fortunate and down-trodden. He almost always has a companion with him, usually female and human. *Doctor Who* is to the UK what *Star Trek* is to the US. The current version of the series is the brainchild of Russell T. Davies, the openly gay created of the original (British) *Queer as Folk*. In the current incarnation of the show, Russell has focused the show on the relationship between the Doctor and his companions and between the time travelers and the people left behind.

The two-part season finale showcased the meeting between two of the Doctor's greatest foes, the Daleks and the Cybermen. Both want to take over Earth and exterminate or delete the human race. To complicate matters, a rift between our Earth and another Earth opens, threatening both worlds. While the adventure was great, the part that ripped my heart out was the forced departure of the Doctor's companion, Rose, who had traveled with him for two years. I cried during the last few scenes.

"The Impossible Planet"/"The Satan Pit," another two-parter, was basically the story of Alien, set in the *Doctor Who* universe. While made almost entirely within studio sets (the exception being the pit which was filmed at a rock quarry), I was able to suspend my disbelief and thrill to the Doctor and company trying to survive many hazards in a claustrophobic set based on a planet revolving around a black hole.

While the new version of *Doctor Who* tries very hard to stand on it's own, every once in a while elements from the original show are brought back. Two favorite companions from the mid-to-late 1970's, Sarah Jane Smith and K-9, guest star in "School Reunion." While the nemesis of the week was fun to watch, the strength of the episode lay in relationships between the Doctor and his companions past and present. The episode explores one of the curses of immortality. We find out why the Doctor always leaves his companions behind. While they grow old and die, he doesn't. He finds it unbearable to watch the people he loves fade away. While I

didn't cry during this episode, I did get teary-eyed.

"The Girl in the Fireplace" was probably the best episode of the season. Again, it revolves around relationships, this time a love story between the Doctor and Madame De Pompadour, mistress of Louis XV, King of France. One did not have to be a fan of *Doctor Who* and be knowledgeable in the mythos of the show to enjoy this episode.

The third two-parter in my list of favorite episodes, "Rise of the Cybermen"/"The Age of Steel," brings back the Cybermen from the classic series. Since the Cybermen are my favorite *Doctor Who* baddies of all time, I had to like the episode, even if it recycled previous *Doctor Who* stories. It also introduced Ricky, an alternate universe version of Mikey, Rose's boyfriend. In the alternate universe, Ricky has a boyfriend named Jake!

When I talked to Rob and what I was going to nominate, I pointed out that two of the movies I wanted to nominate – *Pan's Labyrinth* and *Nightwatch* – were foreign language films with subtitles. He pointed out the all of the TV shows I nominated were also foreign. While the US can and does make good stuff, I'm hoping that last year's foreign movies are an indication that we'll be seeing more excellent movies that are not a product of the Hollywood system, that tends to turn out safe, comfort movies. We'll see in September if any of my picks win Hugos!

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**Education is what you get
when you read
the fine print.
Experience is what you get
when you don't.**

-- Janis Weatherall Clark

excerpted from
African-American Wisdom
by Millie Mackiney
(Great Quotations Publ. Co., 2004)

****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, February 11th**, 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