

PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044 - (202) 232-3141 - Issue #207 - June 2007
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**June LSF Meeting
 (with issues to vote on)
 and Pre-Pride Day
 "Video Madness Party"**

The next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held on the **Saturday, June 2nd**, at Julian's home in Georgetown (2462 Tunlaw Road, NW). This will be a short meeting (starting at 3 PM), followed immediately by the Pre-Pride Day "Video Madness Party." Please bring some munchies or soft drinks, if you can. Hope to see you there!

Note: The following issues will be voted on at the June 2nd meeting:

(1) An official vote on Jack Frost's nomination as replacement Speaker.

(2) An official vote on the proposal presented and discussed at the May LSF meeting (re: allocation of miscellaneous funds to Gaylaxicon 2008).

Members who are not going to be at the meeting should send their absentee ballots to Peter, including your full name, information identifying the issue, and your vote. For more information on voting please see the LSF bylaws:

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

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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 round-table discussions of works by significant F&SF authors.

The LSF Book Discussion Group generally meets on the 4th Thursday of every month, starting at 7:00 PM, at Peter & Rob's home: 1425 "S" St., NW -- for directions or more details, call 202-483-6369. The next meeting will be held on June 28th.

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

June 28th - *Fledgling*, by Octavia Butler; moderator: Rob.

July 26th - *The 49'ers* (graphic novel), by Alan Moore; moderator: ?



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**Three LSF Pride Day
 Events in June!!**

**(1) Pre-Pride "Video Potluck
 Party" and LSF Meeting**

What: A science fiction/fantasy/horror video and potluck party. Bring DVDs and videos to view. We will watch the movies that receive the most votes. There will be a short LSF meeting at the beginning of the party.

When: Saturday, June 2

Where: The home of Julian, 2462 Tunlaw Road, NW, Washington, DC (Directions at: <http://lambdasf.org/lsf/club/Julian.html>)

Time: 3:00 PM - LSF Meeting; 3:30 PM - ??? - Video Party

What to Bring: Bring science fiction, fantasy, and horror DVDs and videos to watch and snacks, dinner food, and/or non-alcoholic drinks to share.

For more information, please contact Peter at

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

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

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**On Sunday, June 10th, LSF will once again
 have a booth at the DC Capital Pride Festival.
 Be sure to drop by and say: "Hi!"**



Gaylaxicon 2008

"Twenty years of fun!"

For details, see the Con Calendar on page 6, or go to: www.gaylaxicon2008.org

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**Minutes of the
May 13th LSF Meeting**
minutes taken by Scott



Business Meeting

Rob proposed that miscellaneous funds raised between now and Gaylaxicon 2008 (October 2008) should be directed towards Gaylaxicon 2008 event. This would exclude membership dues and donations made specifically to LSF.

Jack Frost was nominated to serve as LSF Speaker. Rob asked if there were any other nominations on the floor. No other names were offered. Rob indicated that there would be a vote next month, at the June LSF meeting.

Jack advised that he would craft his proposal on how LSF votes on various issues.

Social Meeting

Rob advised everyone that Meisha Merlin, small GLBT-owned press, is now officially defunct. But we'll be seeing Stephen Pagel at Gaylaxicon 2007 in Atlanta in a few months ("Editor Guest of Honor").

The Sci Fi Channel's *Dresden Files* series has been cancelled. Season II of *Eureka* will start in July. Amanda Tapping's character on *Stargate* is moving over to *Stargate: Atlantis*. No

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**2007 Tiptree Awards
Announced**



info passed along
by Rob & Carl

And the winners are: Shelley Jackson for *Half Life* and Catherynne M. Valente for *The Orphan's Tales: In the Night Garden*.

The jury also gave an additional special recognition award for Julie Phillips's work of non-fiction *James Tiptree, Jr.: The Double Life of Alice B. Sheldon* (St. Martin's 2006). This kind of special award is unusual for the Tiptree Award, which focuses on fiction; but the jury could not ignore Phillips's fine work and excellent scholarship, detailing the life of the remarkable woman for whom the award is named.

The Tiptree Awards will be presented on May 27th at WisCon. Jackson and Valente will each receive \$1000 in prize money, an original artwork created specifically for the award, and the signature chocolate that always accompanies the Tiptree Award.

The James Tiptree Jr. Award is presented annually to a work (or works) that explore and expand gender roles in science fiction and fantasy. Rather than finding work that falls into some narrow definition of political correctness, this award seeks out work that is thought-provoking, imaginative, and perhaps even infuriating.

In addition to selecting the winners, the jurors compile an "honor list" (formerly known as the "short list"), calling attention to works that the jurors found interesting, relevant to the award, and worthy of note. This year, the "honor list" includes:

- Andrea Hairston, *Mindscape* (Aqueduct Press 2006)
- Betsy James, *Listening at the Gate* (Atheneum 2006)
- Ellen Kushner, *The Privilege of the Sword* (Spectra 2006)
- James Morrow, *The Last Witchfinder* (Morrow 2006)
- Michaela Roessner, "Horse-Year Women" (*F&SF*, January 2006)
- Karen Russell, "Ava Wrestles the Alligator" (*Granta* 93, April 2006; *St. Lucy's Home for Girls Raised by Wolves*, Knopf 2006)
- Karen Russell, "St. Lucy's Home for Girls Raised by Wolves" (*Zoetrope: All-Story*, Summer 2006; *St. Lucy's Home for Girls Raised by Wolves*, Knopf 2006)
- Karen Traviss, *Matriarch* (Eos 2006)
- Mark von Schlegell, *Venusia* (Semio-text(e) 2005)

For more information on the Tiptree Awards, go to:
www.tiptree.org/



**Three LSF Pride Day
Events in June!!**

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**(2) LSF Booth at the
Capital Pride Festival**

What: The largest one-day street festival in the metropolitan area. LSF will have a table at the festival.

When: Sunday, June 10

Where: Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, DC, somewhere between 3rd and 7th Streets NW and Constitution and Pennsylvania Avenues NW

Map at:

www.capitalpride.org/pdfs/map.pdf

Time: Noon - 7:00 PM

For more information about Capital Pride, visit:

<http://www.capitalpride.org/flash/index.html>

For information about LSF, please contact Peter at:

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

**(3) Post-Pride
"Video Potluck Party"**

What: A science fiction/fantasy/horror video and potluck party. Bring DVDs and videos to view. We will watch the movies that receive the most votes.

When: Saturday, June 16

Where: The home of Peter and Rob, 1425 "S" Street, NW, Washington, DC (Directions <http://lambdasf.org/lsf/club/PeterRob.html>)

Time: 3:00 PM - ???

What to Bring: Bring science fiction, fantasy, and horror DVDs and videos to watch and snacks, dinner food, and/or non-alcoholic drinks to share.

For more information, please contact Peter at:

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



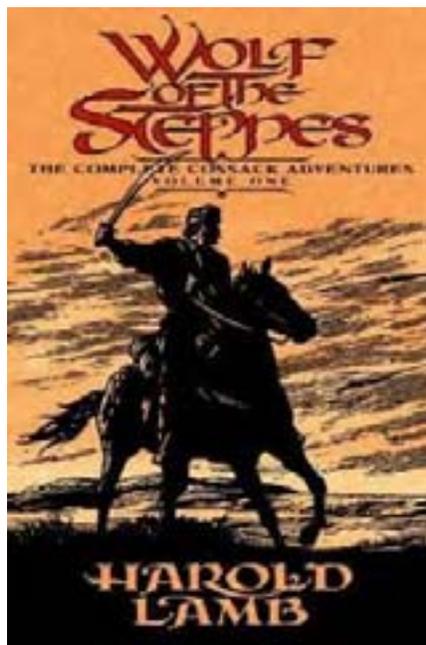
***Wolf of the Steppes:
The Complete Cossack
Adventures, Volume 1*
by Harold Lamb
(Univ. of Nebraska Press, 2006)
a review by Carl Cipra**

When I was in my late teens, I became a big fan of the historical books written by Harold Lamb (1892 - 1962) — for example: *Genghis Khan: The Emperor of All Men* (1927); *Tamerlane* (1928); *The Crusades* (1931); *Cyrus the Great* (1960); *Babur the Tiger* (1962). Little did I know about Lamb’s prolific earlier career as a writer of adventure fiction for the pulps.

Lamb got his start in the pulps — such as *Argosy* and *All Story* — primarily writing historical adventure fiction. He quickly moved on to the prestigious *Adventure* magazine. *Adventure* was for many decades the best selling pulp magazine in America; and Harold Lamb was one of its most popular writers. In the days before television, escape entertainment was to be found in the pulp magazines, and *Adventure* was acknowledged as a leader in the field, with a reputation for great writing and historical accuracy. Granted, *Adventure* didn’t give birth to colorful characters like “The Shadow” or “Doc Savage.” but it featured a great deal of fiction that was enjoyable and popular. *Adventure* was Lamb’s primary fiction outlet for 19 years.

And now the University of Nebraska Press is publishing four volumes of Harold Lamb’s “Complete Cossack Tales,” starting with *Wolf of the Steppes*. *Wolf* contains 10 short works (short stories, novelettes, etc.) originally published in *Adventure* between the years 1917 and 1919. These stories all recount the adventures of Khlit, an aging warrior of the Zaporogian Cossacks.

Khlit of the Curved Saber (nicknamed “The Wolf”) is a warrior past his prime; he’s a man noted for his wily schemes as much as for his mighty sword arm (sort of an Odysseus on horseback). Exiled from his home among the Cossacks, Khlit’s adventures take him (and the reader) across the length



and breadth of sixteenth century Central Asia — from the plains of the Ukraine to the Great Wall of China, from the arctic tundra to the Himalayas and the northern reaches of Mughal India. And what a set of adventures they are! He successfully conducts a single-handed vendetta against the Golden Horde; he finds the hidden, treasure-filled tomb of Genghis Khan; he visits (and defends) the castle of Prester John, the legendary Christian priest-king; he breaks the power of the revitalized cult of the Assassins at their fortress of Alamut; he leads a Mongol army against Imperial Chinese invaders; and he defends his newly-won Tatar kingdom from the treacherous machinations of Tibetan lamas. Wow!

“Oh, but wait,” you object. “What’s that got to do with F&SF? That all sounds like historical adventure fiction to me!” Valid point. Historical-based adventure fiction is what Lamb wrote — featuring only the occasional prophecy by some shaman or so-called magician. But Lamb’s works — and specifically his “Cossack Tales” — definitely influenced the adventure-fantasy literature of the Pulp Era. Robert E. Howard, for example, was a big fan of Harold Lamb and many of his “Oriental” stories were inspired by Lamb’s works. Howard sometimes even read Lamb’s Asian histories and historical fictions as research for many of his own F&SF stories, including Conan’s adventures in

the Turanian Empire and the other Eastern lands of the Hyborian Age. And, truth to tell, unless you’re well-versed in the history and culture of Central Asia in the sixteenth century, it’ll probably seem to you that Khlit’s adventures are taking place in some Asian-inspired fantasy world.

(Side note: After reading *Wolf of the Steppes*, I decided to read Nikolai Gogol’s *Taras Bulba* [Modern Library, 2003, new translation by Peter Constantine]. I noticed a number of similarities between Gogol’s novel and the Khlit stories. Both Khlit and Bulba are aging Cossacks; and although Bulba lives in the *seventeenth* century and doesn’t wander all over Asia, Khlit’s and Bulba’s stories share some similar themes and even have a couple of specific incidents in common. I can’t help but wonder if Lamb had read Gogol’s work, which was originally published in 1842.)

University of Nebraska Press has already published the second volume in the series: *Warriors of the Steppes* (2006). It contains several more Khlit adventures and “all five tales of Khlit’s greatest friend, the valorous Abdul Dost, and Dost’s comrade Sir Ralph Weyand.” The final two volumes — *Riders of the Steppes* and *Swords of the Steppes* — are due out in June 2007. I’m looking forward to ‘em all; and if you’d like to read some of the best adventure tales to come out of the Pulp Era, then I recommend you get your hands on ‘em, too. ΛΨΦ

**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)

"Spaceport America" Vote in New Mexico

info passed along by Joe Rauscher



April 5, 2007 The National Space Society released this statement following the successful passage of Dona Ana County's spaceport referendum: "The voters of Southern New Mexico have made a bold step toward an exciting future — putting their own money behind the construction of Spaceport America," said George Whitesides, Executive Director of NSS. "It is the first time that the new industry of personal spaceflight has come before a popular vote - and the referendum's passage is an endorsement of the industry's economic potential.

"The voters of Dona Ana County have made a decision that their children will be proud of, and that will have a profound impact on the future of humanity."

According to the state of New Mexico, the tax is expected to generate



Looking SE from New Mexico Rte. 51 toward "Spaceport America"

approximately \$6.5 million a year for 20 years. Up to 25 percent, \$1.6 million, of the revenue will be used to fund math and science programs in the county school system. The other 75 percent, \$4.9 million, will be used as a revenue stream to bond approximately \$50 million towards the construction of Spaceport America.

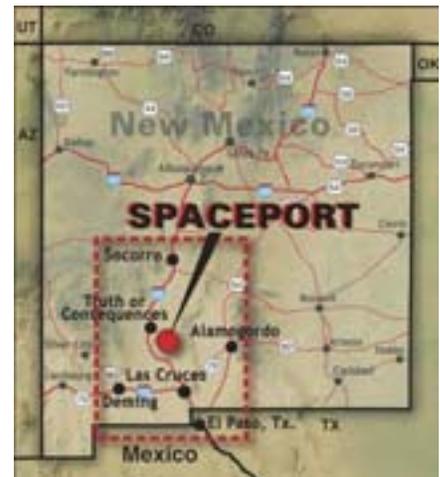
Spaceport America is expected to be operational by late 2009 or early 2010.

The National Space Society (NSS) is an independent, grassroots organization dedicated to the creation of a spacefaring civilization. Founded in 1974, NSS is widely acknowledged as the preeminent citizen's voice on space. NSS counts thousands of members and over 50 chapters in the United States and around the world. The society also publishes *Ad Astra* magazine, an award-winning periodical chronicling the most

important developments in space. For more information about NSS, how to join or donate, or the society's annual International Space Development Conference, visit: www.nss.org

(Joe adds: "FYI - and maybe I'll be able to go up while I'm still alive!!)

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May LSF Minutes continued from page 2

one seems thrilled over *Painkiller Jane*. Rob mentioned a Sci Channel pilot for *Flash Gordon*, which produced a round of groans from attendees. [Ed. Note: Harumph! I happen to like *Flash Gordon*, in all its various forms! I hope they don't screw it up.] Peter said that a new *Babylon 5* movie is in the works, with some of the original cast.

Barrett noticed two genre book review in today's *Washington Post* Book Section – Michael Chabon's *The Yiddish Policeman's Union* and John Crowley's *The Post House*.

Peter passed around the April 2007 issue of *Sigma*, the Pittsburgh sci-fi group's newsletter.

Rob thought that the *Spider-Man III* movie was lots of fun and a good popcorn movie. *The Fountain* (starring

Hugh Jackman) is coming out on DVD. The new *Shrek III* movie is coming out this fall. Memorial Day weekend will see the opening of the new *Pirates of the Caribbean* movie.

Michael C. reported the LSF *Grindhouse* movie outing was fun. He also passed around the current *Van Helsing's Journal*, which includes a review he did on *The Tales of Hoffman*. And he also passed around a hardback book titled *Weird Maryland*. [Ed. Note: It features an article on the "Star Wars Museum" maintained by Tom Atkinson and Don Sakers.]

George Takei is back on *Heroes*. It was happily reported that the series has been renewed. And *Lost* has been renewed for two season's worth of material. *Dante's Cove* (the GLBT dark

fantasy soap opera) has been so successful that a second series about a coven of vampires has been created.

It was noted that a new series of *Terminator* movies will be produced, picking up the storyline 10 years after the original storyline ended. One assumes that Governor Schwarzenegger won't be starring.

Kendall reported on three book reviews – two books by Robert Sawyer and *Artemis Fowl's Lost Colony*.

Rob provided a round-up of some upcoming LSF events: The May LSF book club book will discuss Chris Moriarty's *Spin Control*, the June book will be Octavia Butler's *Fledgling*, and for July, it's a graphic novel titled *The 49'ers* by Alan Moore.

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***Into the Mummy's Tomb:
Mysterious Tales of Mummies
and Ancient Egypt***
(Barnes & Noble, 2006)

edited by
John Richard Stephens

a short review by Carl



I noticed this book as I browsed the sale shelves at a local Barnes & Noble store. It's one of those unique little B&N productions (actually a reprint of a 1999 Fern Canyon Press edition). What's in it? Well, the title (and subtitle) pretty much say it all: all kinds of short works (non-fiction, fiction, and F&SF) dealing with the subject of Egyptian mummies and their tombs.

The range of authors and variations on a theme are truly amazing.

There are four non-fiction works (including the Introduction). They include descriptions of discoveries by various Egyptologists, including Howard Carter's description of the discovery and opening of King Tut's tomb in 1923. Personally, I found the first-person 1820 narrative of Giovanni Belzoni to be *very* disturbing — it's enough to make any modern-day archaeologist cringe! Compared to Belzoni, Indiana Jones and Lara Croft are first-class researchers!

The non-F&SF fictional works include stories by: Agatha Christie (a Hercule Poirot mystery), Mark Twain (an excerpt from *The Innocents Abroad*); and Elizabeth Peters (one of her few short stories; a murder mystery set in ancient Egypt).

It's the F&SF stories that are perhaps the *most* amazing. It's surprising to see who wrote stories about mummies and the curses thereof. There's

a story by Louisa May Alcott (yes, the author of *Little Women!*): "Lost in a Pyramid or, The Mummy's Curse." There's a short piece by Tennessee Williams (yes, the playwright!) entitled "The Vengeance of Nitocris" (based on the legends of the notorious sorceress-queen of Egypt). And there's a surprisingly humorous, tongue-in-cheek piece by Edgar Allan Poe: "Some Words with a Mummy." A couple of other classic authors with F&SF works included here are: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle ("The Ring of Thoth" and "Lot No. 249") and H. Rider Haggard ("Smith and the Pharaohs").

And then there are the stories by various prominent F&SF writers: "Under the Pyramids" by H.P. Lovecraft (apparently "written with" Harry Houdini); "The Death-Ring of Sneferu" by Sax Rohmer (creator of Fu Manchu); the humorous "Colonel Stonesteel's Genuine Home-Made Truly Egyptian Mummy" by Ray Bradbury (one of his Greentown, Illinois stories); an abridged version of Bram Stoker's novel *The Jewel of Seven Stars*; and an excerpt from Anne Rice's *The Mummy, or Ramses the Damned*.

A quirky little collection, but a fun read.

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excerpted from *Science Fiction
Quotations*, edited by Gary Westfahl
(Yale University Press, 2005)

**The creation of wealth is
certainly not to be despised,
but in the long run
the only human activities
really worth-while are
the search for knowledge
and the creation of beauty.**

**Arthur C. Clarke
"Rocket to the Renaissance"
(1960)**

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**Booker International Prize
Nominees**

info passed along by Carl

I was reading *The Washington Post* last week and ran across an article about nominees for the 2nd Booker International Prize. This prize is a spin-off of Britain's prestigious Booker Prize (awarded every 2 years to a living fiction author; open only to novelists from Britain, Ireland, and former Commonwealth nations). However, the International Prize for fiction is open to any living author whose works have been published in English or whose work has been translated into English, and it recognizes a body of work (rather than just a single novel).

I found it interesting that 3 of the nominees are authors whose works include F&SF novels: Philip Roth (American), Margaret Atwood (Canadian), and Doris Lessing (British).

One of Roth's latest novels, *The Plot Against America* (2005), is an "alternate history" story, the harrowing tale of a Jewish family living in a United States in which Charles Lindbergh was elected President and a fascist party has taken control of the government. Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale* (1985) is a well-known piece of chilling "dystopian fiction"; her *Oryx and Crake* (2003) is a cautionary tale about biotechnology; and the title of *The Penelopiad: The Myth of Penelope and Odysseus* (2005) pretty much says it all. Finally, there's Doris Lessing, with her classic SF series, the "Canopus in Argos: Archives" novels: *Shikasta* (1979), *The Marriages Between Zones Three, Four and Five* (1980), *The Sirian Experiments* (1980), *The Making of the Representative for Planet 8* (1982), and *The Sentimental Agents of the Volyen Empire* (1983). The series recounts the epic struggles between Canopus and its rivals over the fate of the Universe (with insights on human history and our prospects for the future).

The list of International Prize nominees was announced on April 12th; and the winner (who will receive a \$120,000 award) will be announced in June.

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

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

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

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

Meetings are *usually* held on the second Sunday of each month at a private residence. *However, the next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held on the **Saturday, June 2nd**, at Julian's home in Georgetown (2462 Tunlaw Road, NW). This will be a short meeting (starting at 3 PM), followed immediately by the Pre-Pride Day "Video Madness Party."* 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 Galactic Network**, an international organization for gay people and their friends who are interested in science-fiction and fantasy.



Con Calendar



by Carl

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). Publisher GoH: Steph Pagel; Author GoH: TBA. Membership: \$50 thru Labor Day, 2007; \$60 after that; memberships available online via PayPal. Website: <http://gaylaxicon2007.org/>

October 12-14, 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>

Nov. 23-26, 2007 **DARKOVER GRAND COUNCIL MEETING**. Holiday Inn Select Baltimore-North (Timonium, MD). "Avery GLBT-friendly con." Guest of Honor: Esther Friesner; Artist GoH: TBA; Special Guest: Katherine Kurtz. Membership: \$45 until 11/1/2007; \$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: jaille@darkovercon.com

Nov. 16-18, 2007 **PHILCON 2007**. Sheraton Philadelphia Center City Hotel (Phila., PA). Principal Speaker: Eric Flint; Artist GoH: Sue Dawe; Costuming Special Guest: Kevin Roche. Membership: \$45 until 10/31/2007; \$50 after that & at the door. Download PDF membership from their website. Website: WWW.PHILCON.ORG e-mail: registration2007@philcon.org

August 6-10, 2008 **DENVENTION 3 (The 66th WorldCon)**. Colorado Convention Center & nearby hotels (Denver, CO). Guest of Honor: Lois McMaster Bujold; Artist GoH: Rick Sternback. \$130 thru 05/31/2007 (will go UP after that!). Make checks payable to "Denvention 3" and send to: Denvention 3, PO Box 1349, Denver, CO 80201 Website: <http://denvention.org> Information at: info@denvention.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: www.gaylaxicon2008.org

