



DC Area Gaylaxians

PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044 - (202) 232-3141 - Issue #208 - July 2007

E-MAIL: [info@lambdasf.org](mailto:info@lambdasf.org) WEBSITE: <http://www.lambdasf.org/>

### July LSF Meeting

- \*\*\* 1. Change of Site! \*\*\*
- \*\*\* 2. Proposal to Vote On! \*\*\*

The next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held on the **Sunday, July 8th**, at Peter & Rob's home: 1425 "S" St., NW — for directions or more details, call 202-483-6369.

The business meeting will begin at 1:30 PM. **NOTE:** At the business meeting, a proposal to amend the LSF Bylaws will be voted on. *For details, see page 3 of this newsletter.*

**Members who are not planning to attend the meeting should send their absentee ballots (via e-mail) to Carl Cipra. Carl will be chairing the meeting in the absence of the Speaker.**

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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### Invitation from Ye Olde Editor



LSF is proud to have put out an issue of its newsletter every month for the past 17+ years. But this isn't a solo effort. No sir-ee! Consider this an invitation (or a reminder) for you to send in book reviews, movie reviews, or articles of F&SF relevance (with or without GLBT content) for inclusion in the newsletter! Just send in your articles to the LSF e-mail address and mark 'em as "attn: newsletter editor." In the words of Bartles & James: "Thank you for your support!"

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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 July 26th.

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

- July 26th** - *The 49'ers* (graphic novel), by Alan Moore; moderator: Greg.
- Aug. 23rd** - *Teranesia*, by Greg Egan; moderator: Rob.
- Sept. 28th** - *Vellum*, by Hal Duncan; moderator: TBA (Krista?).

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### Gaylaxicon 2008

"Twenty years of fun!"



For details, see the Con Calendar on page 6, or go to: [www.gaylaxicon2008.org](http://www.gaylaxicon2008.org)



### Gaylaxicon 2007 Progress Report and More!

info provided by William Boozer

Gaylaxicon 2007 in Atlanta is just over three months away! Our second progress report is available at: <http://www.gaylaxicon2007.org/PR2.pdf>

It leads off with how to get a discounted rate at our host hotel for the duration of your stay at the con.

Also, we've had a change in our organizing committee staff, and we are happy to welcome Kris Harter on as our new Public Relations Director. Over the past year, Kris has been quite active in getting the word out both here in Atlanta and at cons throughout the United States, and she is an unlimited source of energy for us.

Please remember: Gaylaxicon 2007 memberships increase from \$50 to \$60 on 03 September, so if you're planning to come, get your membership now before the price goes up. If you're not planning to come, then change your mind. It's not too late!

### WHAT'S INSIDE?

Minutes of the June 2nd LSF Meeting (pg. 2); Correction to May LSF Minutes (pg. 2); Gay Dr. Who Fans Know How to Enjoy London Pride (pg. 2); Proposed LSF Bylaw Changes - A Side-by-Side Comparison (pg. 3); Frazetta Museum (pg. 4); Super Hero Stamps, Chapter Two (pg. 4); Blood and Thunder (book review - pg. 5); About Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians (pg. 6); Con Calendar (pg. 6)

## Minutes of the June 2nd LSF Meeting

minutes taken by Carl

[Ed. Note: I'm sure I missed a lot of stuff – I just got too caught up in all the conversations.]

### Business Meeting

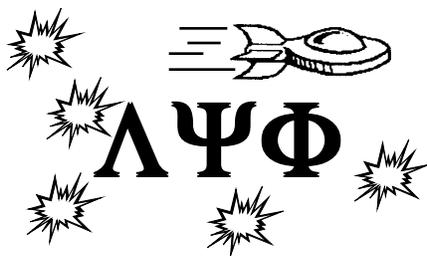
Jack submitted a **proposed change to LSF bylaws** on the mechanics/timing of voting for bylaws changes. (For details, see information on page 3.) This proposal will be voted on at the July LSF meeting.

**Election news:** Jack Frost was sole nominee for the position of LSF Speaker. He won the election unanimously.

**Rob's proposal re: funding** (as introduced at the May meeting) was voted on and passed unanimously. (As a reminder: 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.)

The **July LSF meeting** will be held at Peter & Rob's home. (James might not be able to host that month.)

As always, LSF will host a table at **Capital Pride Day**. Set up will be between 9:30 and 10:00 AM next Sunday. (Next Saturday will be the Pride Day Parade — and associated dinner get-together — starting at Peter & Rob's home.



### Social Meeting

Rob reported that Laurie Marks's new novel *Water Logic* (Small Beer Press) is on the stands. (Rob got his copy at Wiscon.) He also reported that Wiscon was fun – he talked up Gaylaxicon 2008 around the con and even got info about the con included into the Wiscon newsletter.

Carl reported he'd put out Gaylaxicon 2007 and 2008 flyers at Balticon (same weekend as Wiscon). He announced that Naomi Novik won the 2007 Compton Crook Award at Balticon for her first novel, *His Majesty's Dragon*. Rob says Peter Jackson has optioned Novik's books (Napoleonic Wars, with dragons) as possible films.

Rob reported that the last 10 episodes of *Blood Ties* (Lifetime Channel) will air in October. (This TV series is based on the "Victory Nelson/Henry Fitzroy" novels of Tanya Huff.) Also, Season 2 of *Eureka* will be returning in July (Sci Fi Channel).

Peter reported that MPT is showing Season 1 of the new *Dr. Who* series and that Season 3 will be shown *on Friday nights only* on the Sci Fi Channel.

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## Gay Doctor Who Fans Know How Enjoy London Pride and Watch Doctor Who at the Same Time!

info passed along by Peter Knapp

excerpted from:  
[www.gallifreyone.com/news](http://www.gallifreyone.com/news)  
OutpostGallifrey:  
The Dr Who News Page

### Dilemma Averted for London Gay Who Fans

TV Series News June 13, 2007

Posted By R. Alan Siler

As reported by PinkNews, the final episode of Series Three of *Doctor Who*, "The Last of the Time Lords," is being broadcast on the same day as the London Pride Festival, held in Trafalgar Square.

Organizers of the event, in an effort to not make gay *Who* fans choose between the annual celebration and the season finale of their favourite show, have come up with an interesting compromise: they plan to carry the live BBC broadcast of the episode at 7:10 p.m. on a big screen at the event's main stage in Trafalgar Square. And if that's not enough to get gay fans out to the event, they've also arranged to have John Barrowman co-host the event with Graham Norton. Barrowman will be speaking earlier in the afternoon about his role as Captain Jack on *Doctor Who* and *Torchwood*.

The event kicks off at 3:00 following the Pride parade through town and concludes with the broadcast of "The Last of the Time Lords."

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## Correction to May LSF Minutes

sent in by Kendall

In the June LSF newsletter (page 4), the following incorrect information was included in the minutes for the May LSF meeting: "Kendall reported on three book reviews – two books by Robert Sawyer and *Artemis Fowl's Lost Colony*."

Kendall sent in the following correction to Ye Olde Editor. It should have read: "...two books by Robert Sawyer and John Scalzi's *The Lost Colony*."

Editorial thanks, Kendall!

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John Barrowman

## Proposed LSF Bylaws Changes - A Side-by-Side Comparison (To be voted on at July LSF Meeting)

### Current sections of LSF Bylaws (to be affected by Jack's proposal)

#### 4. Voting

a. Propositions must be announced at the meeting prior to the vote and announced through all official communication methods in the intervening period. Propositions must be voted on without alteration.

b. A written proposal for vote must be provided to the Secretary and an exact copy to the Speaker at the meeting where the proposal is made, and that exact text provided by e-mail to the Speaker, the Secretary, and the Newsletter editor, if at all possible.

c. For a vote to be valid a minimum of 10 members or 25% of the membership, whichever is fewer, must cast votes on the issue. A simple majority of the votes cast must be cast by members in attendance at the meeting where the vote is taken. Absentee ballots may be cast by giving a vote on paper (including e-mail which can be printed) to the person running the meeting prior to when the vote is taken. Absentee ballots must include the member's full name, information identifying the issue, and the member's vote. A good faith effort will be made to gather absentee ballots.

d. A proposal passes if a simple majority votes yes.

e. An emergency vote may occur to accomplish club business at a regular club meeting under the following circumstances:

i. The proposer must make a good faith effort to inform the membership of the upcoming vote and must document their efforts at the time of making the proposal.

ii. A 3/4 majority of votes by members must be cast in favor at the meeting to allow the emergency vote.

iii. An emergency vote passes if a 3/4 majority of votes cast on the issue are in favor. Absentee ballots will be accepted with the same restrictions as for regular votes. A minimum of 10 members or 25% of the current membership, whichever is fewer, must cast votes on the issue for the vote to be valid.

### Proposed changes to Bylaws (changes in italics)

#### 4. Voting

a. *Non-Bylaw changing* propositions must be announced at the meeting prior to the vote and announced through all official communication methods in the intervening period. Propositions must be voted on without alteration.

b. *Bylaw changes must be announced at a business meeting two meetings prior to the vote. The first business meeting following the proposal must include time to review and discuss the proposal, but the proposal cannot be altered. At the second business meeting following proposal, the proposition must be voted on without alteration. The proposal must be announced through all official communication methods in the intervening period.*

c. A written proposal for vote must be provided to the Secretary and an exact copy to the Speaker at the meeting where the proposal is made, and that exact text provided by e-mail to the Speaker, the Secretary, and the Newsletter editor, if at all possible.

d. For a vote to be valid a minimum of 10 members or 25% of the membership, whichever is fewer, must cast votes on the issue. A simple majority of the votes cast must be cast by members in attendance at the meeting where the vote is taken. Absentee ballots may be cast by giving a vote on paper (including e-mail which can be printed) to the person running the meeting prior to when the vote is taken. Absentee ballots must include the member's full name, information identifying the issue, and the member's vote. A good faith effort will be made to gather absentee ballots.

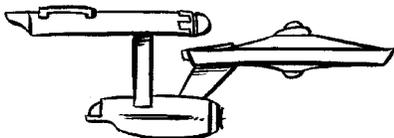
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**Frazetta Museum**  
info passed along by Kendall



Are you a fan of the artwork of Frank Frazetta? If so, did you know that there's a museum dedicated to his art (with associated museum store) located somewhere in the wilds of Pennsylvania? Well, there is.

It's located in the town of East Stroudsburg, PA (??) — and apparently it's not the easiest site to get to. According to one description: "It's a very classy little museum on a lovely estate out in the Pennsylvania countryside (almost hidden, as there are no big signs advertising it and you have to have detailed directions to find it in the first place, *i.e.* I think they only want serious fans of his work to visit...)." It's also reported that the nearest major city is New York City.

The Frank Frazetta Museum spent several years in Boca Grande, Florida. It's now located at the 75-acre estate of Frank Frazetta (who will turn 80 on February 9, 2008). The site includes Frazetta's home and a museum dedicated to his work, including a 3,000-square-foot gallery built with cathedral ceilings.

Museum Hours are Saturdays and Sundays from 11 AM to 4 PM. It will stay open through the Saturday before Christmas and will reopen in the spring, sometime in April. No one is permitted on the premises at any other time without permission from Frank or Ellie Frazetta personally. Admission to the museum is a minimum donation of \$10 per person. All proceeds go to the maintenance of the gallery and preservation of the artwork.

For more information about the Frank Frazetta Museum, check out their website:

<http://www.frazettaartgallery.com/ff/museum/index.html>

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**Super Hero Stamps, Chapter Two**

info provided by Jonathan Manning

Dear Everyone,

For stamp enthusiasts, Chapter Two of the Super Hero Stamps (Marvel superheroes) will be released on July 26th. You can preview them here:

[https://shop.usps.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/ProductDisplay?catalogId=10152&storeId=10001&productId=31009&langId=-1&parent\\_category\\_rn=13401](https://shop.usps.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/ProductDisplay?catalogId=10152&storeId=10001&productId=31009&langId=-1&parent_category_rn=13401)

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Tarzan & Conan  
by Frank Frazetta



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**Blood & Thunder:  
The Life & Art of  
Robert E. Howard  
by Mark Finn  
(MonkeyBrain Books,  
Austin TX, 2006)  
a short review by Carl**

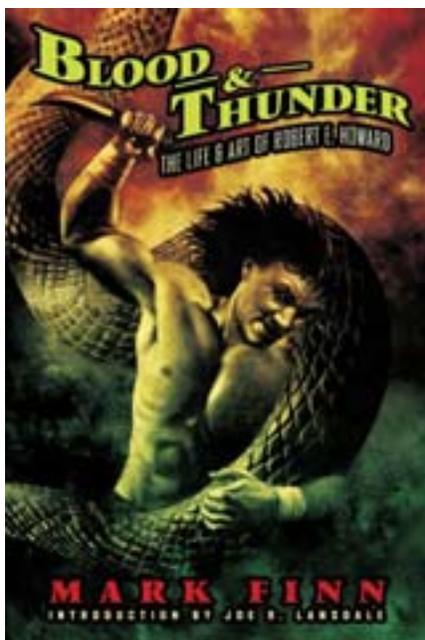
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Lately, there's been a lot of buzz about the new Tiptree biography — *James Tiptree, Jr.: The Double Life of Alice B. Sheldon*, by Julie Phillips (St. Martin's Press, 2006), available later this year in trade paper edition from Picador. It has received a "special recognition award" from the Tiptree Literary Award Council, and it's been nominated for a Hugo this year (Best Related Book). Rob has been promising a review of it for a while now (nudge! nudge!).

But I recently ran across a lesser-known biography about (conversely) an F&SF author who's more widely known than Tiptree/Sheldon — it's a biography of Robert E. Howard, creator of (yes) "Conan the Barbarian" (among other characters).

*Blood & Thunder* is "the first full-length biography of Robert E. Howard in over twenty years." And it was written by Mark Finn. Finn, like Howard, is a resident of the Lone Star State. And the book features an Introduction by another Texan, Joe Lansdale, who has his own impressive reputation as an F&SF and mystery/thriller/adventure author.

Why read this book? Well, REH has arguably had more influence on popular F&SF literature than anyone except JRR Tolkien. In the pages of *Weird Tales*, Howard pretty much single-handedly originated the "swords & sorcery" sub-genre. His characters such as Kull of Valusia and Conan of Cimmeria set the stage — for good or for ill — for much of what was to follow. (In fact, the term "blood and thunder" is the less-than-complimentary description that has been bestowed upon Howard's works by its detractors — and even by some of its biggest fans. Hence, the title of Finn's book.) BUT much of what's been written about REH and his works has been... ahem... less than thoroughly



researched or is downright inaccurate. For example, Finn doesn't have a lot of kind things to say about L. Sprague de Camp's REH bio, *Dark Valley Destiny*. ("In many ways, it was because I have such a strong negative reaction to *Dark Valley Destiny* that I chose to write this book the way I did; I tried to think of everything that I didn't like about de Camp's effort, and then I tried very hard not to do that.")

Finn has done extensive research into Howard's life (his letters to Lovecraft, Derleth, and others; Novalyne Price's memoirs; and much, much more), and he's carefully set the record straight on a number of issues — including a more accurate chronology and link between Howard's suicide and the death of his mother. (Did you know she didn't die until *after* his suicide? It appears that Howard shot himself *in anticipation of* his mother's death.)

However, I think Finn's most important contribution is in providing a *context* for Robert E. Howard's life and works. Finn provides a very informative description of life and society in Cross Plains and its surroundings during the period just prior to Howard's birth as well as during his lifetime. He provides some very reasonable speculations (I think) on how Howard's childhood experiences contributed to the man and writer he would become. And Finn does



**Robert E. Howard**

an excellent job of showing how Howard's Texas background and Texas experiences clearly show themselves in his works, even in his "swords and sorcery" fiction. Oh, and if you're unfamiliar with all of REH's *non-Conan* stories, *Blood & Thunder* will provide you with a really good summary of Howard's boxing stories, his Westerns, his "Oriental" stories, his "weird" fiction, and so on. In the final chapter, entitled "Mythology," Finn also provides an overview of what happened to Howard's creations in the hands of those who followed him — with brief tributes to artist Frank Frazetta, author Fritz Leiber, and others and (again) less-than-complimentary references to De Camp, Damon Knight, Robert Jordan, director John Milius, and Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Final thoughts: I like *Blood & Thunder*. I think it provides some fascinating, corrective, and long-needed analysis to "the Robert E. Howard story." If you're an REH fan too, then I highly recommend it to you.

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(George Barr illustr.)



**\*\*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, July 8th**, at Peter & Rob's home: 1425 "S" St., NW — for directions or more details, call 202-483-6369. 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



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](http://www.darkovercon.com) Info at: [jaille@darkovercon.com](mailto: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](http://WWW.PHILCON.ORG) e-mail: [registration2007@philcon.org](mailto: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 "Dvention 3" and send to: Dvention 3, PO Box 1349, Denver, CO 80201 Website: <http://dvention.org> Information at: [info@dvention.org](mailto:info@dvention.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](http://www.gaylaxicon2008.org)

