



# Lambda Sci-Fi DC Area Gaylaxians



PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044



(202) 232-3141 - Issue #213 - Dec. 2007

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



## 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 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, however, will be a combined Nov./Dec. meeting and will be held on December 6th.**

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

**Dec. 6th** - *Stardust*, by Neil Gaiman; moderator: Greg.

**Jan. 24th** (back to the 4th Thursday schedule) - *Melusine*, by Sarah Monette; moderator: Rob.

**Feb. 28th** - *Rainbow's End*, by Vernor Vinge; moderator: Carl.       $\Lambda \Psi \Phi$

## December LSF Meeting

The next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held on the **Sunday, December 9th**, 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!



## New Year's Eve Video Party announced by Tanya Peltz

Unwind your holiday stress with movies and a potluck dinner at Lambda Sci-Fi's annual New Year's Eve Video Party. Here are the details on how to join in on the fun!

**Where:** The home of Tanya - 924 Maryland Ave, NE, Washington, DC. For directions, see:

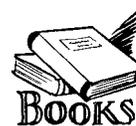
<http://www.lambdasf.org/lsf/club/Tanya.html>

**Date:** Monday, Dec. 31, 2007

**Time:** The doors will open at 4:00 PM. The potluck dinner and the videos will begin in the 5:30 - 6:30 PM range. At 11:45 PM, the party turns into a private party (everyone invited), and we'll toast in the new year with champagne and sparkling cider.

**What to Bring:** Bring your favorite genre DVDs and videos (science fiction, fantasy, horror). Attendees will vote on which movies will be shown at the party (different concurrent "tracks"). It's a potluck meal, so bring along something scrumptious to eat. We're not pre-assigning categories of what food to bring, so everyone should just bring something from one (or more) of the following "basic food groups": appetizers (veggies, chips, etc.), a main course

## Reminder: Annual LSF Book Exchange Set for Jan. 13th Meeting



(and other stuff, too!)

That's right, gang, the Holiday Season is almost upon us again; and it's time for a short reminder about Lambda Sci-Fi's upcoming *eighteenth* annual book (*et al*) exchange, which will occur at the January 13th meeting! All LSF members are invited to participate in this "blind exchange" -- and visitors are invited to join in the fun, too!

Briefly, this will be an opportunity for LSFers to exchange copies of their favorite science-fiction, fantasy, or horror books/videos/etc. and, thus, get to know each other a little better.

For those of you unfamiliar with the process, here's how it works: You won't be assigned to exchange with any particular person -- it's a "blind" exchange, where participants will get their pick from a pile of anonymous wrapped packages. **There will be full details on the exchange in the next (January) LSF newsletter.**       $\Lambda \Psi \Phi$

item (enough to serve at least 4-5 people), dessert (of course!), and non-alcoholic drinks (both regular and diet).

For more information, call 202-543-5293 or send email to: [tpeltz1@yahoo.com](mailto:tpeltz1@yahoo.com)

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**WHAT'S INSIDE?** Minutes of the Nov. 11th LSF Meeting (pg. 2); An Earlier "Harry Potter"? (pg. 2); A Note from Ye Olde Editor (pg. 2); Gaylactic Spectrum Awards (pg. 3); Author Reading at March LSF Meeting (pg. 3); *Star Trek: The "Next" Generation* (pg. 4); 2007 Hugos Announced (pg. 4); *The Yiddish Policemen's Union* (book review - pg. 5); Group Renames Asteroid for George Takei (pg. 5); About Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians (pg. 6); Con Calendar (pg. 6)

**Minutes of the Nov. 11th  
LSF Meeting**  
taken by Carl

[NOTE from Carl: Scott had to work today, so I got stuck with taking the minutes.]

**Business Meeting**

Elections for LSF officers will be held at the December 9th meeting. As a reminder, the following candidates are as yet running unopposed:

- Speaker - Teresa Ruby
- Treasurer - Rob Gates
- Membership Coordinator - Peter Knapp
- Secretary - Scott Roberts

Teresa Ruby gave the following short candidate's speech:  
*As Speaker for Lambda Sci-Fi, I would try to have a somewhat organized monthly meeting. I would keep the conversation from getting too off-track and make sure to have a name circle for any new members. Remember to vote Ruby for Speaker!*

There was a short report from Carl re: the latest Gaylaxicon 2008 con-comm meeting (held that morning).

**Upcoming LSF Events**

The annual LSF Book/Etc. Exchange will take place at the January 13th LSF meeting. (Details elsewhere in this newsletter.)

Tanya will host the LSF New Year's Eve video party. (Details elsewhere in this newsletter.)

There will probably be an LSF outing in December to see an advanced screening of *Golden Compass*. Details will be forthcoming from Kendall via e-mail in the near future, as soon as he hears from the promoter who's making the tickets available.

**Social Meeting**

There was a lot of talk about "computer stuff" — and I didn't understand a word of it!

There was some continuing discussion of Prof. Dumbledore's sexuality, as revealed recently by J.K. Rowling herself.

Mike C. recently attended the Palace of Wonders and purchased the

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9th issue of *Shocked and Amazed*, which he passed around. [It's about sideshow stuff - *eeew!*]

Barrett passed around a copy of the "Date Lab" article from today's *Post Magazine*. It features a story about a first-date lesbian couple who both like H.P. Lovecraft and *Witchblade*.

Joe Rauscher announced that a "Sputnik Golden Anniversary" gala will be held at the Washington Club (on Dupont Circle) on Thursday, Nov. 15th. Tickets cost \$25, with an on-line discount (embassyevents.com). The event will feature a buffet, cocktails, and various astronaut guests.

Surprise, surprise! Peter and Rob called in from Hawaii just to say "Hi!"

There was some discussion of some recent "really good" *Torchwood* episodes.

Upcoming Johnny Depp features were discussed: *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* (to be released soon, with Depp in the title role) and a new *Dark Shadows* film (rumored, several years down the road, with Depp as Barnabas Collins).

Carl passed around a couple of give-aways: on behalf of Rob - *Q Spec Sampler 2007* (Don Sakers, ed., a collection of stories and excerpts by Gaylactic Spectrum nominees); a reprint of the Sept. 1919 pulp *The Thrill Book*.

Just as a curiosity item, Carl read excerpts from a pamphlet he'd received at work: "Preparing for Pandemic Influenza". There was a brief discussion, and then everyone fled.

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**Gaylaxicon  
2008**

**"Twenty years of fun!"**

See the Con Calendar on page 6 for details.

**An EARLIER  
"Harry Potter"?**  
a question raised by Carl



**Noah Hathaway  
"Harry Potter, Jr." (?)**

So I'm in my hotel room, idly watching AMC on the TV while getting reading for a day a Philcon; and AMC is running a really *awful* old movie: *Troll* (1971). It's a stupid low-budget piece of dreck, featuring both June Lockhart (aka "Mrs. Robinson" from *Lost in Space*) and daughter Anne Lockhart as the witch "Eunice St. Clair" and an absolutely adorable teen-aged Noah Hathaway (formerly cute little "Boxey" from the original *Battlestar Galactica*). At any rate, as the credits slowly rolled by, I couldn't help but notice that Hathaway's character in *Troll* is named "Harry Potter, Jr." (His father — played by Michael Moriarty — is, of course, "Harry Potter, Sr.") Hmmm... I wonder if J.K. Rowling knows about *this*?

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**A Note from Ye  
Olde Editor**



No, your eyes aren't deceiving you! The masthead design for the LSF newsletter has changed for the first time in over a decade! I decided to try out a little something new and see if everybody likes it.

Please let me know what you think about the new masthead design. (Feedback is always appreciated by Ye Olde Editor.) You can tell me in person or send feedback via:

Lambdasf@yahooogroups.com

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## Spectrum Awards

### Gaylactic Spectrum Awards

announced by Rob Gates

Washington DC (October 21, 2007)—The Gaylactic Spectrum Awards Foundation is pleased to announce the winner of the 2007 Gaylactic Spectrum Award for Best Novel.

The Gaylactic Spectrum Awards were created in 1999 by The Gaylactic Network, the premiere organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) fans of science fiction, fantasy, and horror (SF/F/H), to honor works in SF/F/H that deal positively with gay characters, themes and issues. The independent Gaylactic Spectrum Awards Foundation was created in 2002 to manage the awards and further the mission of the Awards, which is to educate and raise awareness of GLBT content in SF/F/H. Nominations for the Gaylactic Spectrum Awards are open to everyone. Winners and a short list of recommended works in each category are selected by a jury.

For 2007, Awards are being presented in three categories. The Novel category recognizes works originally released in 2006 in the US/North America. The Short Fiction and Other Work categories will recognize works released in 2006 or 2007.

The novel selected by the judges as the best science fiction, fantasy, or horror novel with significant positive GLBT content from 2006 is *Vellum*, by Hal Duncan, published by Del Rey Books. This complex and highly original novel combines traditional fantasy elements with myth, theology, linguistics, and advanced technology. It incorporates deep and thoughtful emotional content, explorations of sexuality, and strikingly complex relationships.

Other novels recommended on their short list by the judges were (in alphabetical order by title):

*Carnival*  
by Elizabeth Bear  
(Bantam Spectra Books)



*Dragon's Teeth*  
by James Hetley (Ace Books)

*The Growing*  
by Susanne Beck & Okasha Skat'si  
(P.D. Publishing)

*The Privilege of the Sword*  
by Ellen Kushner  
(Bantam Spectra Books)

*Smoke and Ashes*  
by Tanya Huff (DAW Books)

*Snow*  
by Wheeler Scott (Torquere Press)

*Spin Control*  
by Chris Moriarty  
(Bantam Spectra Books)

*The Virtu*  
by Sarah Monette (Ace Books)

These recommended works show remarkable variety in content, tone, publishing house size, author experience, and genre.

The 2007 Gaylactic Spectrum Award for Best Novel was presented at Gaylaxicon 2007 in Atlanta on October 6, 2007. The Awards for Short Fiction and Other Work will be announced in December 2007. The 2008 Awards will be presented at Gaylaxicon 2008 in Washington DC in October 2008.

For more information about the Gaylactic Spectrum Awards, including a complete listing of all nominated works from 2007, a handout listing winners and short list recommendations with brief descriptions, or to nominate works for the 2008 Gaylactic Spectrum Awards, you can visit the website:

<http://www.spectrumawards.org/>  
or send email to:

[info@spectrumawards.org](mailto:info@spectrumawards.org)

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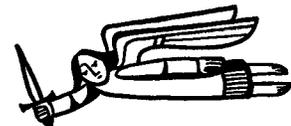
### Author Reading at March LSF Meeting announced by Peter Knapp



Author Warren Rochelle will deliver a reading at the March 9th LSF meeting.

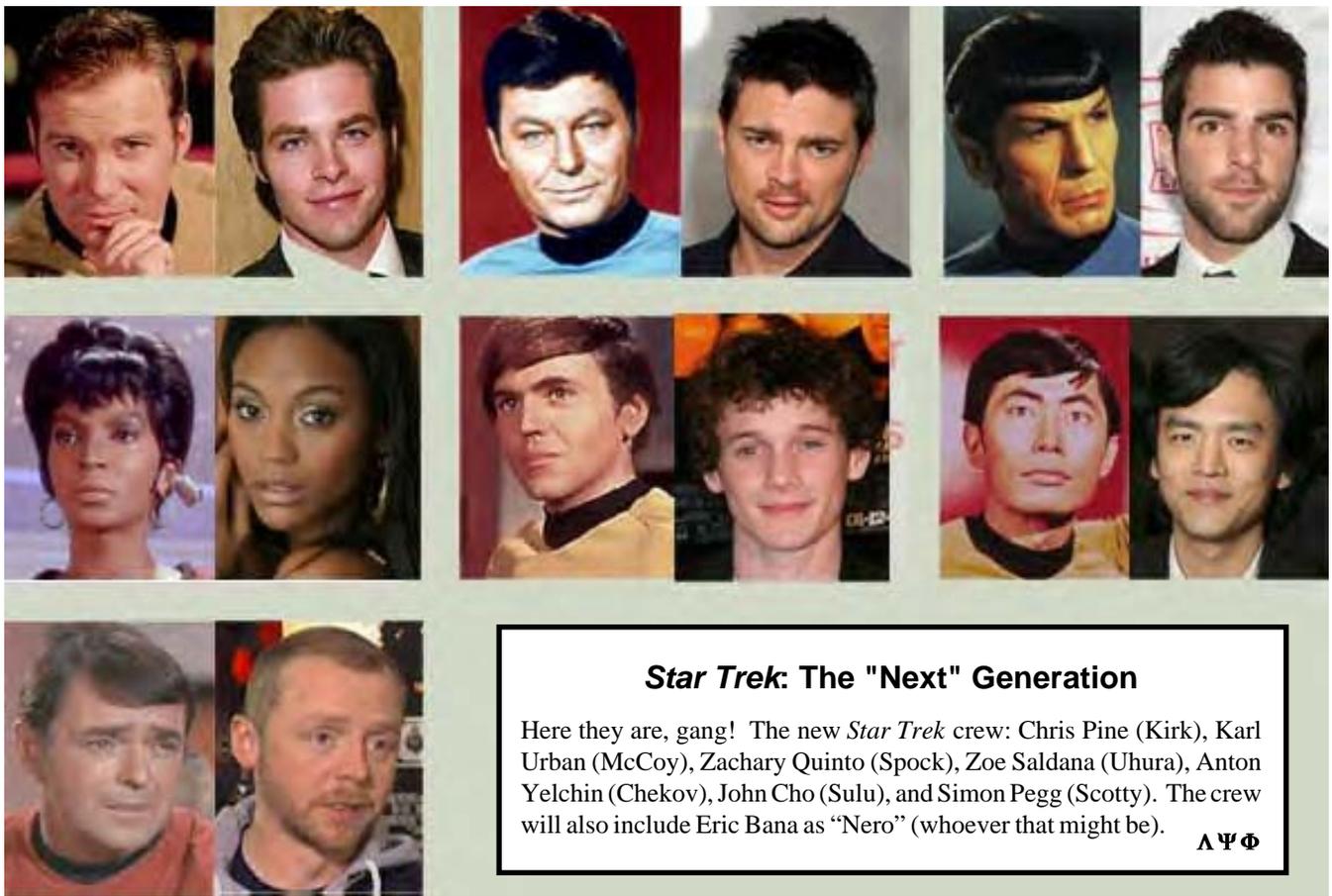
Warren Rochelle is an Associate Professor of English at the University of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg, Virginia. He has had his work published in several journals, including *Foundation* and *Extrapolation*. His critical work, *Communities of the Heart: The Rhetoric of Myth in the Fiction of Ursula K. Le Guin*, was published by Liverpool University Press in 2001. His creative works (short fiction and poetry) have appeared in *Forbidden Lines*, *Aboriginal Science Fiction*, *Beyond the Third Planet*, *Crucible*, and *Romance and Beyond*. He is also the author of two novels: *The Wild Boy* (2001) and *Harvest of Changelings* (2007).

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**The whole point of dogma seems to be that you've already solved all the problems, answered all the questions, and foreseen all of the future. Divine inspiration or serious ego problem?**

excerpted from  
*Weng Shu: Observations, Quotes, and Aphorisms*, by William Levy  
(Godiva Graphics, 2006)



**Star Trek: The "Next" Generation**

Here they are, gang! The new *Star Trek* crew: Chris Pine (Kirk), Karl Urban (McCoy), Zachary Quinto (Spock), Zoe Saldana (Uhura), Anton Yelchin (Chekov), John Cho (Sulu), and Simon Pegg (Scotty). The crew will also include Eric Bana as "Nero" (whoever that might be).    Λ Ψ Φ

**2007 Hugos Announced**

The 2007 Hugo Winners were announced at Worldcon (Nippon 2007) on Sept. 1st.

The Hugo Award is one of the top awards for excellence in the field of science fiction and fantasy. Hugos are presented each year at the World Science Fiction Convention, by the World Science Fiction Society. All Worldcon members are entitled to nominate and vote for their favorites.

Some of the big winners are:

- Best Novel**  
*Rainbow's End*, by Vernor Vinge (Tor)
- Best Novella**  
*A Billion Eves*, by Robert Reed  
(*Asimov's* Oct/Nov 2006)
- Best Novelette**  
*The Djinn's Wife*, by Ian McDonald  
(*Asimov's* July 2006)

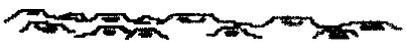
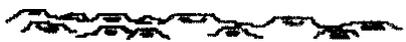


**The 2007 Hugo Award**

- Best Short Story**  
"Impossible Dreams," by Tim Pratt  
(*Asimov's* July 2006)
- Best Dramatic Presentation - Long Form**  
*Pan's Labyrinth* (Picturehouse)

- Best Dramatic Presentation - Short Form**  
*Dr. Who*: "Girl in the Fireplace"  
(Note: 2 other *Dr. Who* episodes were also nominated: "School Reunion" and the 2-part "Army of Ghosts"/"Doomsday")
- Best Related Book**  
*James Tiptree Jr: Double Life of Alice Sheldon*, by Julie Phillips (St. Martin's)
- Best Pro Artist**  
Donato Giancola
- Best Semi-prozine**  
*Locus*
- Best Fanzine**  
*Science-fiction Five-Yearly*
- John W. Campbell Best New Writer Award**  
Naomi Novik

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**The Yiddish  
Policemen's Union**  
by Michael Chabon  
(Harper Collins, 2007)  
a short review by Carl Cipra

Prior to this novel, I'd only read two other books by Michael Chabon: *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay* (2000) and *The Final Solution* (2004). I quite enjoyed both of them. *Kavalier & Clay* was the subject of one of our LSF book discussions — it's a fictionalized early history of comic books in the United States, as seen through the experiences of two young Jewish cousins who create "The Escapist" (analogous for Jerry Siegel and Joe Schuster, the creators of "Superman"). *Final Solution* is a Holmes-ian pastiche, featuring a mystery investigated by a very "old man" in 1944. Both novels tangentially deal with the Holocaust. In *Kavalier & Clay*, Josef Kavalier arrives in New York City in 1939 as a refugee from Czechoslovakia; and in *Final Solution*, "the old man" (Holmes, I presume) learns about that "Final Solution" by investigating the connection between the murder of a British Foreign Office official and the strange words spoken by a pet parrot belonging to a young Jewish refugee.

And now here's *The Yiddish Policemen's Union*. Once again, the Holocaust figures (albeit very tangentially) in the background of the story — but only as the springboard for the issue of finding a new "Jewish homeland" after World War II. Ah, but the world of *The Yiddish Policemen's Union* isn't *our* world, you see; for this book is very definitely an "alternate history" story.

The "point of divergence" from our timeline (according to the Uchronia website) is 1939, when Alaskan Congressional Delegate Anthony Dimond is run over by a taxicab (assassinated?) and, without his strong opposition, Congress passes the King-Havener Bill to establish a Jewish refugee district in Sitka. (In *our* timeline, Dimond — who died in 1953 — was instrumental in defeating Roosevelt's proposal to establish Alaska as an international Jewish homeland.) There

are, however, at least a few other differences from our timeline: (1) the Soviet Union collapsed in 1942 and WWII lasted a little longer; (2) we nuked Berlin in 1946 to bring WWII to an end; and (3) in 1948, the forces of the Arab League soundly defeated Anglo-Zionist efforts to establish the State of Israel in Palestine.

The story itself actually begins much later, in and around the Federal District of Sitka. Per the terms of the Sitka Settlement Act (1941), the 60-year "federal district" status of Sitka is set to expire and the territory will revert to the State of Alaska. Not a big deal, one might think — *except* for the fact that very stringent U.S. immigration quotas are still in effect; and, when the District reverts to Alaska, the greater part of the resident non-citizens (*i.e.* Jewish refugees and their descendants) will be forcibly deported unless they are lucky enough to find somewhere else (in a very unsympathetic world) willing to accept them as legal immigrants. Yikes!

Ah, but that's not *really* the whole story either! You see, *The Yiddish Policemen's Union* isn't just an "alternate history" story; it's also a piece of *noir* detective fiction.

Meyer Landsman (don'tcha love that name?) Is a homicide detective with the Sitka District Police; he's facing the end of his career (and probable deportation) with the coming Reversion. And then he gets involved in the mysterious murder of a neighbor of his — a chess prodigy and quasi-religious figure — but he's suddenly ordered to drop the case. Even his boss (his ex-wife) doesn't seem to want the case to be solved. But does that stop Meyer? Of course not. He and his partner and best friend Berko Shemets (half-Tlingit, half-Jewish) stubbornly decide that they'll solve this one before the Reversion, even if it kills them. And it just might! The deeper they dig, the heavier (and more deadly) the opposition becomes. This is great *noir* fiction, with a twist — like a mix of Raymond Chandler and Sholom Aleichem.

*The Yiddish Policemen's Union*: a third great novel by Michael Chabon. I highly recommend it!

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**Group Renames Asteroid  
for George Takei [excerpts]**  
by Samantha Gross

Associated Press  
posted: 03 Oct 2007 09:03 am ET



NEW YORK (AP)--A piece of outer space named for George Takei is in kind of a rough neighborhood for somebody who steers a starship: an asteroid belt.

An asteroid between Mars and Jupiter has been renamed *7307 Takei* in honor of the actor, best known for his role as Hikaru Sulu in the original *Star Trek* series and movies.

"I am now a heavenly body," Takei, 70, said Tuesday, laughing. "I found out about it yesterday. ... I was blown away. It came out of the clear, blue sky—just like an asteroid."

The celestial rock, discovered by two Japanese astronomers in 1994, was formerly known as *1994 GT9*. It joins the *4659 Roddenberry* (named for the show's creator, Gene Roddenberry) and the *68410 Nichols* (for co-star Nichelle Nichols, who played Lt. Uhura). Other main-belt asteroids have been named for science fiction luminaries Robert Heinlein and Isaac Asimov.

The renaming of *7307 Takei* was approved by the International Astronomical Union's Committee on Small Body Nomenclature...

Burbine said he suggested Takei's name in part out of appreciation for his work with the Japanese American Citizens League and with the gay rights group Human Rights Campaign. Takei, a spokesman for HRC's Coming Out Project, was cultural affairs chairman of the JACL, and he was appointed to the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission by former President Clinton...

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

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

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

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

Meetings are usually held on the second Sunday of each month at a private residence. The next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held on the **Sunday, December 9th**, 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

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. Membership: were \$175 thru 05/31/2007 (has gone UP since then!). 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](mailto:info@denvention.org)

October 10-13, 2008 **GAYLAXICON 2008**. Hyatt Regency - Bethesda (Bethesda, MD). Guest of Honor: Geoff Ryman. Artist Guest of Honor: Alicia Austin. Download PDF membership form from the website. Membership: \$60 until 12/31/2007; \$65 from 01/01/2008; \$70 after 09/30/2008. Make checks payable to "Gaylaxicon 2008" & send to: Gaylaxicon 2008, c/o Lambda Sci-Fi, PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044-0656. Membership can also be purchased on-line via PayPal. Information at: [www.gaylaxicon2008.org](http://www.gaylaxicon2008.org)

October 17-19, 2008 **CAPCLAVE 2008**. Rockville Hilton (Rockville, MD). Writer GoH: James Morrow; Critic GoH: Michael Dirda. Membership: \$35 through the end of 2007 (will go up after that). Download the form from their website, with check payable to "Capclave 2008," and send to: Capclave 2008, c/o Barry Newton, PO Box 53, Ashton, MD 20861. (On-line payment options also available.) Online at: [www.capclave.org](http://www.capclave.org)

???? **PHILCON 2008**. ("Philcon 2008 has come unstuck in Time and Space!") Membership: \$40 thru as of 11/19/07; \$45 as of 6/1/08; \$50 as of 10/1/08; \$60 at the door (where/whenever *that* is!). Make checks payable to "Philcon 2008" and send to: Philcon Registration, PO Box 8303, 30th Street Station, Philadelphia, PA 19101-8303. (Online registration is also available.) More details as they become available. Website: [www.philcon.org](http://www.philcon.org)

October 2009 **GAYLAXICON 2009**. (Minneapolis, MN). Details to be announced as they are available. Membership: \$60 until 09/01/2009; then \$70 until 10/01/2009; \$80 at the door. Make checks payable to "Gaylaxicon 2009" and send to: Gaylaxicon 2009, P.O. Box 2412, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402  
Website: [www.gaylacticnetwork.org/gaylaxicon2009](http://www.gaylacticnetwork.org/gaylaxicon2009)

