



Lambda Sci-Fi DC Area Gaylaxians

PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044

(202) 232-3141 - Issue #219 - June 2008

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 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 26th.

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

June 26th - *Bloodchild and Other Stories*, by Octavia Butler (especially the novella in the collection's title); moderator: Krista.

July 24th - *The Doll's House* (graphic novel; the 2nd "Sandman" collection), written by Neil Gaiman (various artists); moderator: Greg.

August 28th - *Undertow*, by Elizabeth Bear; moderator: Krista. $\Lambda \Psi \Phi$

Upcoming LSF Events announced by Peter Knapp

June 7 (Saturday) Pre-Pride Video Potluck Party

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.

Time: 3:30 PM - 11:30 PM

Where: The home of Julian, 2462 Tunlaw Road, NW, Washington, DC 20007-1839 (Directions at: <http://lambdasf.org/lsf/club/Julian.html>)

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.

June 14 (Saturday) Dinner and DC Pride Parade

A casual get-together for dinner, followed by a viewing of the annual Capital Pride Parade.

Time: Dinner, 5:00 PM; Parade, 6:30 PM

Locations:

(1) Meet at Rob and Peter's place no later than 5:00 PM: 1425 "S" Street NW, Washington, DC 20009-3819 (Directions at: <http://lambdasf.org/lsf/club/PeterRob.html>.)

(2) We'll walk to El Paraiso, a Salvadoran Restaurant, on 14th Street: 1916 14th St NW, Washington, DC 20009-4431 (Phone: 202-986-9693, <http://www.yelp.com/biz/el-paraiso-restaurant-washington-2>) and then walk down 14th Street, NW to see the parade around between "N" and "P" Streets NW (<http://www.capitalpride.org/parade.html>).

For more information, please send email to Peter at:

PeterKnapp@wavelengthsonline.com or call Rob and Peter at 202-483-6369.

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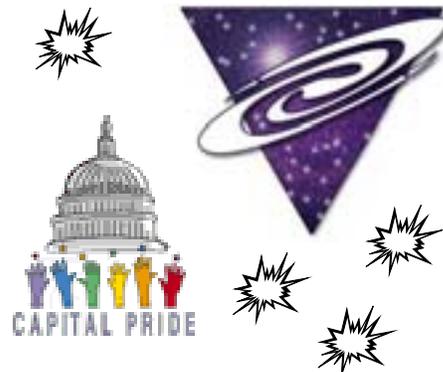


June LSF Meeting



The next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held on the **Sunday, June 8th**. The May LSF meeting will be held at James Crutchfield's apartment (1414 17th St. NW, #413), near Dupont Circle. The business meeting will begin (as usual) 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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Upcoming LSF Events

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June 15 (Sunday)

DC Capital Pride Festival

A street festival celebrating gay pride. LSF will staff a booth at the festival to promote LSF and Gaylaxicon 2008.

Time: 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Where: Pennsylvania Avenue, between 4th and 7th Streets NW, Washington, DC

For more information go to:
<http://www.capitalpride.org/calendar.html>

For more information, please contact Rob at:

rob gatesdc@gmail.com
or call Rob or Peter at 202-483-6369.

June 22 (Sunday)

Baltimore Pride Festival

A street festival celebrating gay pride. LSF will staff a booth at the festival to promote LSF and Gaylaxicon 2008.

Time: 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Where: Druid Hill Park, Baltimore, MD (For more information go to <http://www.baltimorepride.org/>.)

For more information, please contact Rob at:

rob gatesdc@gmail.com
or call Rob or Peter at 202-483-6369.



June 28 (Saturday)

Post-Pride Video Potluck Party

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.

Time: 3:30 PM - 11:30 PM

Where: Rob and Peter's Place - 1425 "S" Street, NW, Washington, DC, 20009-3819

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

What to Bring: Games (card, board, etc.) and snacks, dinner food, and/or (soft or otherwise) drinks to share.

If you have any questions, please call Peter or Rob at 202-483-6369 or send email to:

PeterKnapp@wavelengthsonline.com

July 19 (Saturday)

Gaming Party and Dinner Potluck

A laid-back social gathering, to hang out and play board and card games – and video games if someone bring a PS3 or Wii.

Time: 1:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Where: Rob and Peter's Place - 1425 "S" Street, NW, Washington, DC, 20009-3819 (Directions at <http://lambdasf.org/lsf/club/PeterRob.html>)

What to Bring: Games (card, board, etc.) and snacks, dinner food, and/or (soft or otherwise) drinks to share.

If you have any questions, please call Peter or Rob at 202-483-6369 or send email to:

PeterKnapp@wavelengthsonline.com

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Lots of geniuses have been prodigies. So prodigious behavior is definitely something to look for. Some good questions to ask yourself: How many operas have I written? Did I stand in the library with my hands at my sides discoursing with the university lecturers from my father's college when I was only six? Were my teenage years spent in the shed making gadgets and explosions? Is my dad away laying siege to Byzantium? If your answers are five, yes, yes, and yes, respectively, you're already close.

excerpted from

How to Be a Genius: A Handbook for the Aspiring Smarty-Pants

by Andre de Guillaume

(Chicago Review Press, 2007)



News About Gaylaxicon 2009

passed along by Carl

OK, so they haven't exactly made their announcements with great fanfare or updated their Gaylaxicon website yet (www.gaylaxiconnetwork.org/gaylaxicon2009); but there is information now available about Gaylaxicon 2008. Here's the info I found on their yahoo group site:

Dates:

October 9 - 11, 2009

Site:

Doubletree Hotel Minneapolis-Park Place (Minneapolis, MN)

Guests of Honor:

Margaret Weis

(co-author of the original "Dragonlance" stories and collaborator with Tracy Hickman on several other F&SF series)

Andy Mangels

(author, journalist, editor)

Lawrence Schimel

(Lambda Literary Award-winning author)

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

Register on-line at:

<http://www.gaylaxicon2009.org>



**Minutes for the May 11th
LSF Meeting**
taken by Scott

Business Portion

Since many LSF members will be attending the Denver WorldCon 2008 (Aug. 6-10), it was decided to move the August LSF meeting from the 2nd Sunday to the 3rd Sunday of the month (August 17th).

Also, because Gaylaxicon 2008 will be held on the 2nd weekend in October (Oct. 9-13), there will be no October LSF meeting. (Hopefully, most LSFers will be attending the con!)

Looks like June will be a busy month! Here is a run-down of the schedule:

June 7th (Saturday): Pre-Pride video party at Julian's place - doors open at 3 PM; videos start at 4 PM.

June 14th (Saturday): Meet at Peter & Rob's (5 PM); then stroll over to the Pride parade (6:30 PM) and maybe stroll to dinner someplace locally afterwards.

June 15th (Sunday): LSF table at DC Pride Day.

June 22nd (Sunday): LSF table at Baltimore Pride Day.

June 28th (Saturday): Post-Pride video party at Peter & Rob's place - doors open at 3 PM, videos start at 4 PM.

We'll discuss details about the Baltimore Pride event at the June LSF meeting.

Social Portion

First speaker Teresa initiated a name circle to help welcome first-time attendees.

Teresa and Rob reviewed the upcoming books to be discussed at the LSF book club:

- May 22nd: *Tithe* by Holly Black
- June 26th: *Blood Child and Other Stories* by Octavia Butler
- July 24th: *The Sandman: Doll's House* by Neil Gaiman

There was a brief discussion about which of the "great sci-fi authors" will pass next. Ursula K. LeGuin's and Anne McCaffrey's names were mentioned.

Carl said that he has read *Troy*:



Gaylaxicon 2008

"Twenty years of fun!"

October 10-13, 2008

Hyatt Regency - Bethesda, MD



See Con Calendar on page 6 for details.



Author Guest of Honor: Geoff Ryman



Artist Guest of Honor: Alicia Austin

Fall of Kings, published in 2007, under the joint authorship of David and Stella Gemmell. (Stella Gemmell completed the book after her husband David died while writing the book.)

Rob thought that Robert Downey Jr. was perfect for the role of Tony Stark in the film *Iron Man*.

Peter listed the tentative start dates for upcoming genre films: *Narnia: Prince Caspian*, *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull*, *Get Smart*, *Wall-E*, *Incredible Hulk*, *Hellboy II*, *Dark Knight*, *X-Files: I Want to Believe*, *Mummy III*, animated *Star Wars: Clone Wars*, *Quantum of Solace* (a James Bond film), *Madagascar II*, the next "Harry Potter" film, *The Day the Earth Stood Still* (with Keanu Reeves - say it ain't so!). (Does *Sex and the City* count as genre?)

Carl expressed concern about Del Toro doing the two Hobbit movies. Will they be too dark? And will he get around to doing a Cthulhu film?

One attendee who watched *Speed Racer* (the animated TV series) as a child had mixed feelings about the current *Speed Racer* movie.

Both Laurel K. Hamilton and Lynn Flewelling have new novels coming out soon.

It was noted that A&E will be showing a remake of Michael Crichton's *Andromeda Strain*. The two-night TV movie will open up on Memorial Day

weekend.

Peter blurted out a spoiler on the season finale for *Torchwood* - two of the *Torchwood* members get killed off. Over at *Doctor Who*, the latest companion, played by Katherine Tate, is refreshing because she is not pining for the Doctor.

The previews for M. Night Shyamalan's *The Happening* certainly have the feel of his earlier movies - *The Sixth Sense*, *Unbreakable*, and *The Village*. Why are all of these people dying or disappearing? The script originally was titled *The Green Effect*.

Peter passed around the most recent newsletter from PARSEC, the Pittsburgh sci-fi group.

Secret Talents of the Stars - an ill-fated TV show that was canceled after one episode. And George Takei was on the show singing a country western song.

Here TV Network is producing its own gay James Bond movie, starring Robert Gant. This is the network that brought you *Dante's Cove*.

Rob mentioned that a new superhero game will be coming out in the Spring.

And Peter promoted Gaylaxicon 2008!

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**Peter's Annual
Best Dramatic Presentation
Hugo Predictions**
by Peter Knapp

By a series of unfortunate mishaps, I missed the my opportunity to nominate works for Hugo consideration. If I *had* nominated works, *these* would have been my choices:

**Best Dramatic Presentation
Long Form**

*Harry Potter and the
Order of the Phoenix*
I Am Legend
Ratatouille
Battlestar Galactica, "Razor"
Stardust



**Best Dramatic Presentation
Short Form**

Battlestar Galactica, "Crossroads"
(Parts 1 & 2)
Doctor Who, "Human Nature"
& "The Family of Blood"
Star Trek New Voyages, "World
Enough and Time"
Stargate Atlantis, "Sunday"
Torchwood, "Captain Jack Harkness"



What *actually* got nominated were the following:

**Best Dramatic Presentation
Long Form**

Enchanted
*Harry Potter and the
Order of the Phoenix*
Heroes, Season 1
Stardust
The Golden Compass

**Best Dramatic Presentation
Short Form**

Battlestar Galactica, "Razor"
(televised version, *not* DVD)
Doctor Who, "Blink"
Doctor Who, "Human Nature"/"Family
of Blood"
Star Trek New Voyages, "World
Enough and Time"
Torchwood, "Captain Jack Harkness"

Six of the works I would have nominated *did* get nominated, if you count the *Battlestar Galactica*, "Razor" nomination in the Short Form category, as opposed to the nomination I proposed in the Long Form category. That's a 60% success rate.

I made sure to cast my votes for the Hugos well ahead of the voting deadline. This is how I voted in order of preference:

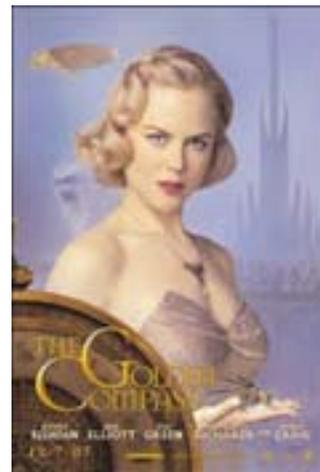
**Best Dramatic Presentation
Long Form**

1) I walked into *Stardust* not knowing anything about the movie or the source material. Boy, was I pleasantly surprised. The movie entertained me and moved me the way a good old-fashioned love story should. It was, in my opinion, by far the best genre movie of the year.

2) I'm a big fan of the 'Harry Potter' books and movies. Last year's installment, while fun, wasn't dramatically new or different from the previous movie in the series.

3) I enjoy *Heroes*, but I never got sucked into the serialized nature of the show. If I missed an episode (which I often did), I had to ask Rob for a recap. Perhaps if I sat down and watched the entire series in one shot, I would have enjoyed it more.

4) One of my favorite books was ruined by writer/director Chris Weitz – *The Golden Compass*. Why did he have to water down the anti-Catholic bent of the source material? Why did he have to cut the downbeat ending of the book and end the movie on a happy note? Oh yeah, he was trying to make money in a media that plays it safe (and not offend the religious right) and waters down a great coming-of-age young adult tale. Had I not read the book, would I have liked the movie better? Probably. Technically, it was a good movie. The production was gorgeous; the special effects deserved the Oscar they won; and the acting was good. But I *did* read the book (and the *whole* trilogy – "His Dark Materials" by Philip Pullman) and my enjoyment of the movie suffered for it.



5) I did not see *Enchanted* but decided to vote for it as my last choice. I don't expect it to win; but if it does, that's better than no award.

**Best Dramatic Presentation
Short Form**

As many people know, I'm a sucker for anything *Doctor Who/Torchwood*-related. Therefore, I *had* to pick the three *Doctor Who/Torchwood* episodes for my top three votes.

1) The *Dr. Who* story that brought tears to my eyes was the love story between Captain Jack Harkness and Captain Jack Harkness in *Torchwood*, "Captain Jack Harkness." Of the three *Doctor Who/Torchwood* episodes, this was the most dramatically powerful for me.

(continued on page 5)

Hugo Predictions

continued from page 4

2) I really want Paul Cornell, who wrote *Doctor Who*, “Human Nature”/“Family of Blood,” to win a Hugo. That’s why I chose his work over Stephen Moffit’s *Doctor Who*, “Blink.”

3) Moffit has already won two Hugos (for previous *Doctor Who* episodes) and, more recently, two Baftas (a British Bafta and Welsh Bafta) for “Blink.” (I also liked Cornell’s two-parter better than Moffit’s single episode, though I think Moffit’s “Blink” is tighter and doesn’t suffer from the padding that made the two-parter overly long.)

4) Next on my list was the killer *Battlestar Galactica* episode “Razor.” It did a great job of presenting a strong story without requiring the audience to have followed the show. Bringing back the Cylons from the 1980s show brought goose bumps to my skin. The movie kicked some fracking butt!

5) That leaves one of the best fan-produced *Star Trek* episodes I’ve ever seen, *Star Trek New Voyages*, “World Enough and Time.” The story is strong, the sets are good, and the CGI special effects are great. But the acting is moderate-to-poor (except for the two professional actor guest stars, George Takei and Christina Moses); the dialog was weak; and the episode suffered from many technical flaws, such as the sound quality.

In some ways it’s unfair to put “World Enough and Time” in the same category as the other four stories. “World Enough and Time” was made on a shoestring budget. The production values on *Doctor Who*, *Torchwood*, and *Battlestar Galactica* are all excellent. The shows’ producers all have the money to hire the best writers, actors, and technical crews to produce a polished piece of work. “World Enough and Time” pales in comparison.

What do I think will win? That’s easy: Long Form – *Heroes*, Season 1; Short Form – *Battlestar Galactica*, “Razor”

Worldcon is in the U.S. this year. There are currently 3,389 members. I wasn’t able to find attendance figures

for last year’s Worldcon; but, since it was in Japan, I’m pretty sure membership was low. All members of this year’s Worldcon and last year’s Worldcon can vote for the Hugo awards. Both *Heroes* and *Battlestar Galactica* are very popular shows in the U.S.

While there were a lot of fun theatrical movies last year, nothing really stood out in my mind as great. *Heros*, on the other hand, ranked 21st in the 2006–2007 television season, with an average 14.3 million people watching the show. Surely some of those viewers must be members of Worldcon?

While *Doctor Who* won a Hugo two years in a row, I think *Battlestar Galactica* will get another Hugo this year. (The show won in 2005 for the first episode of Season One – “33.” “Razor” is currently ranked #183 in Movies & TV at Amazon.com.) I know that among the LSF crowd I hang out with, *Battlestar Galactica* is more popular than *Doctor Who* or *Torchwood*. Time will tell if my predictions are correct.



BTW, I only saw twelve genre movies and one genre miniseries last year. The older I get, the pickier I get. Here is the list of movies I *did* manage to see, on which I based my fantasy nominations and actual voting for the Best Dramatic Presentation Long Form Hugo:

*Aqua Teen Hunger Force Colon
Movie Film for Theaters*
*Fantastic Four 2: Rise of the
Silver Surfer*
Ghost Rider
The Golden Compass
*Harry Potter and the Order
of the Phoenix*
I Am Legend
*Pirates of the Caribbean: At
World’s End*
Ratatouille

Have You Bought Your Gaylaxicon 2008 T-Shirt?



The Gaylaxicon 2008 T-shirt is now available for purchase. It features artwork by our artist guest of honor, Alicia Austin.

Orders can be placed through PayPal. You will then be able to pick up your T-shirt at the registration desk during Gaylaxicon 2008. T-shirts cost \$15 each. They are available in sizes Small through 5XL. Small through 3XL T-shirts are light blue in color; 4XL and 5XL T-shirts are white.

To order, go to the Gaylaxicon 2008 T-shirt web page:

<http://www.gaylaxicon2008.org/tshirt.html>

Select the T-shirt size you want and click the “Add to Cart” button. On the PayPal Shopping Cart, you can update the quantity if you want to order multiple T-shirts of the same size. If you want to order *different* sized T-shirts, add the first T-shirt to your shopping cart, click on the “Continue Shopping” button to return to the page, and choose the next size of T-shirt.

Note: You can order your T-shirt and purchase your Gaylaxicon 2008 membership in the same order. After adding your T-shirt, click the “Continue Shopping” button, and visit the Registration page to add your convention membership to your order. ΛΨΦ

Shrek the Third
Spider-Man 3
Stardust
Tin Man (SciFi Mini Series)
Transformers

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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, June 8th**, at James Crutchfield's apartment (1414 17th St. NW, #413), near Dupont Circle. 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 World Con)**. Colorado Convention Center & nearby hotels (Denver, CO). Guest of Honor: Lois McMaster Bujold; Artist GoH: Rick Sternback. Membership: \$200 (more at the door?). 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**. Hyatt Regency - Bethesda (Bethesda, MD). Guest of Honor: Geoff Ryman. Artist Guest of Honor: Alicia Austin. Download PDF membership form from the website. Membership: \$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

October 17-19, 2008 **CAPCLAVE 2008**. Rockville Hilton (Rockville, MD). Writer GoH: James Morrow; Critic GoH: Michael Dirda. Membership: \$50 until Sept. 30; \$60 after Oct. 1. 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

Nov. 21-23, 2008 **PHILCON 2008**. Crowne Plaza Hotel (Cherry Hill, NJ). Principal Speaker: Tim Powers; Artist GoH: John Picacio. Membership: \$45 thru 9/30; \$50 thru 10/31; \$60 at the door. 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.) Website: www.philcon.org/2008

Feb. 13-15, 2009 **KATSUCON 15**. Hyatt Regency Crystal City (Crystal City, VA). Washington's Premiere Japanese Animation and Manga Festival. Membership: \$35 until June 30; \$40 until Sept. 30; \$45 until Dec. 31, 2008; \$50 at the door. Make checks payable to "Katsucon Entertainment" and send to: Katsucon Entertainment Inc., PO Box 3354, Crofton, MD 21114 Website: www.katsucon.org

Feb. 13-15, 2009 **FARPOINT 2009**. Crowne Plaza Baltimore North (Timonium, MD). Guests: Harve Bennett, Marc Okrand, Peter David, and more. Membership: \$60 pre-registration; daily rates available at the door. Make checks payable to "Farpoint 2009" and send to: Farpoint Enterprises, Inc., 11708 Troy Ct., Waldorf, MD 20601. You can also register online. Website: www.farpointcon.com E-mail: trekcontact@comcast.net

October 9-11, 2009 **GAYLAXICON 2009**. Doubletree Hotel Minneapolis - Park Place (Minneapolis, MN). GoHs: Margaret Weis, Andy Mangels, Lawrence Schimel. 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 Register on-line at: <http://www.gaylaxicon2009.org>