



# Lambda Sci-Fi DC Area Gaylaxians



PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044



(202) 232-3141 - Issue #222 - September 2008

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## Gaylaxicon 2008 - Next Month!!

"Twenty years of fun!"

October 10-13, 2008

Hyatt Regency - Bethesda, MD

Don't miss out on all the fun!



See Con Calendar on page 6 for more details.



Author Guest of Honor:  
Geoff Ryman



Artist Guest of Honor:  
Alicia Austin



Membership can also be purchased on-line via PayPal.

And check out our website: [www.gaylaxicon2008.org](http://www.gaylaxicon2008.org)

### September LSF Meeting

**NOTE:**

**Change of Location!!**

The next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held on the **Sunday, Sept. 14th**. This month, the meeting will NOT be held at our regular location; it will be held at Rob & Peter's home (1425 "S" St., NW), in the Dupont Circle neighborhood. 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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### LSF Gaming & Potluck Party (Sept. 6th)

hosted by Teresa



I *really* enjoyed our previous LSF Gaming & Potluck Party, so I've decided to host one at my house!

**Date:** Saturday, September 6

**Time:** 1:00 PM to 10:00 PM

**Location:** The home of Teresa - 7015 Sycamore Ave, Takoma Park MD 20912.

It's near the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Co-Op and just past the

(continued on page 3)

### Gaylaxicon Volunteers,

Ahoy!

**Pizza Party Ahead!!**

**(Sept. 14th)**



Have you purchased your membership to attend Gaylaxicon 2008 (October 10-13, Bethesda Hyatt Regency)? If so, have you *also* thought about volunteering a few hours of your time during the convention to help out? If you have, then please join the Gaylaxicon 2008 Con-Committee at a pizza party in *your* honor.

The Gaylaxicon 2008 Volunteers Pizza Party will take place on September 14th, at Peter & Rob's home (1425 "S" St., NW, Washington, DC), starting at 12 Noon and continuing until the monthly LSF meeting begins (same place) at 1:30 PM.

The Gaylaxicon Con-Committee is looking for *your* help to ensure that this Gaylaxicon is as big a success as we'd all like it to be! We're looking for help in such areas as on-site registration, con-suite monitoring, art show security, and the like. So come to the Gaylaxicon 2008 Volunteers Pizza Party, chow down on some free pizza, and sign up to help out for a few hours at Gaylaxicon 2008!

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### WHAT'S INSIDE?

Minutes of the August LSF Meeting (pg. 2); The LSF Book Discussion Group (pg. 2); Have You Bought Your Gaylaxicon 2008 T-Shirt? (pg. 3); News About Gaylaxicon 2009 (pg. 3); Awards, Awards, Awards at Worldcon (pg. 4); Joe Kubert Rocks! (comics series review - pg. 5); About Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians & Con Calendar (pg. 6)

**Minutes of the  
August LSF Meeting**  
taken by Scott

**Business Meeting**

A volunteer meeting for Gaylaxicon 2008 will be held just before the September LSF meeting (Sunday, Sept. 14). Both meetings will be held at Peter & Rob's house. The LSF meeting will be preceded (at Noon) by a Pizza Party for folks who will help out as volunteers to work at Gaylaxicon 2008.

Teresa has kindly offered to host a LSF gaming party at her home on Saturday, Sept. 6. Look for more information on the LSF announce list. [Ed. Note: *And* on the front page of this newsletter.]

**Social Meeting**

Teresa initiated a name circle so that both old and new attendees could introduce themselves.

It was noted that the *Dark Knight* film will be playing on the IMAX screen at the Smithsonian Natural History Museum. There is a rumor of Johnny Depp will play the role of the Riddler in the *next* Batman movie.

*Starship Troopers 3* and *Scorpion King 2* are coming out as direct-to-video films.

*The Sarah Jane Chronicles* (YA spinoff from *Dr. Who*) are returning next year with five complete stories. Peter mentioned that next year there will be a five-part *Torchwood* mini-series. *Doctor Who* fans have raised the question: "Who will play the Doctor in 2010, if not David Tennant?" Freema Agyeman, the actress who plays Dr. Martha Jones on *Doctor Who*, will star on the new *Law and Order: London* TV series. It was noted that much of the dinosaur footage in the new series *Primeval* show has been lifted from a previous dinosaur documentary.

The archvillain Doomsday may appear on the series *Smallville*, as well as some members of the 30th Century Legion of Super-Heroes. (Will Matter-Eater Lad show up?)

Barrett mentioned that the 2008 National Book Festival (to be held on the



National Mall) lists author Neil Gaiman as one of the invited authors.

A two-hour pilot of *Caprica*, a spin-off series from *Battlestar Gallactica*, is currently scheduled to air in December 2008 on the Sci Fi Channel – although this may be pushed back to early 2009. *Caprica* is described as "television's first science fiction family saga." Here is a brief premise: Set against the backdrop of the Twelve Colonies at peace, 51 years before the events depicted in *BSG*, *Caprica* revolves around the Adamas and the Greystones. Daniel Greystone, a wealthy technologist obsesses over his dead daughter and wants to bring her back to life – and ostensibly creates the first Cylon."

There will be 10 hours of *Battlestar Gallactica* next year. There is also the possibility of another straight-to-DVD *BSG* movie next year (like this year's *Razor*).

HBO is producing a series called *Tru Blood* based upon the Charlaine Harris vampire series. The series *Pushing Up Daisies* will be returning. JJ Abrams is producing an *X-Files*-style series called *Fringe*. The Fall TV series line-up includes *Tru Blood*, *Eureka*, *The Big Bang Theory*, *Heroes*, *Fringe*, *Doll House*, *Life on Mars*, *Sarah Conner Chronicles*, and *Sanctuary*.

At ComiCon, Peter reported that he met actor Gareth David-Lloyd, who plays Ianto Jones on *Torchwood* – and he showed us his autographed picture. Peter also passed around the latest issues of the *Sigma* newsletter from the Pittsburgh sci-fi group, Parsec.

Rob asked if there was interest in an LSF outing to see actress Carrie Fisher perform in a one-person play at the Lincoln Theatre.

Peter eagerly reported that action figures of the original *Doctor Who* series are being created. (He bought one at ComiCon.)

Here are the upcoming LSF book discussion books: Elizabeth Bear's *Undertow* (August); *Howl's Moving Castle* (book and/or anime version -



**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 Sept 25th.

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

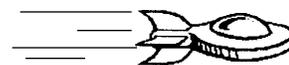
**Sept. 25th** - We're trying something new this month! *Howl's Moving Castle* (anime; directed by Miyazaki) - and/or, if you wish, the book by Diana Wynne Jones; moderator: Rob.

**Oct. 23rd** - *Vintage*, by Steve Berman; moderator: Bob A.



No average mind  
can either understand or enjoy  
science-fiction; it takes  
an amount of imagination  
beyond the average man.

--- John W. Campbell, Jr. ---  
"Science Fiction" (1938)



quoted in *Science Fiction Quotations*,  
edited by Gary Westfahl  
(Yale University Press, 2005)

September); Steve Berman's *Vintage* (October).

Next month's LSF meeting will once again be held at Peter and Rob's home.





### LSF Gaming & Potluck Party (Sept. 6th)

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third speed bump. If you're driving, be aware that my street is skinny and a two-way street.

The nearest Metro stop is Takoma (Red Line): <http://wmata.com>

It's a 15-minute walk from the Metro station to the site of the party; or you can take the 12 or 16 Ride-On Bus:

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/tsvtmpl.asp?url=/content/dot/transit/index.asp>

**Allergy Alert:** I own four cute cats and have a pond with fish in the front yard.

**What to Bring:** I will need some people to bring games, or all we'll be playing is *Candyland*. If you want to do a little game-shopping, there's a nearby store – called called Fair Day's Play (<http://www.yelp.com/biz/fair-days-play-takoma-park>) – that sells games like *Flux* and *Apples to Apples*. Also, please bring along something to eat: chips and snacks and sodas and stuff. (I don't think I want to do any cooking.)

For further information about the party or directions to the site, contact Teresa at: [babelfett@hotmail.com](mailto:babelfett@hotmail.com)

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### 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



T-Shirt Design by Artist Guest of Honor Alicia Austin

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.



### News About Gaylaxicon in 2009

passed along by Carl

Here's the scoop about *next year's* Gaylaxicon:

**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

#### Visit their website at:

<http://www.gaylaxicon2009.org>

Games are important; they mark that we are not just animals trying to stay alive but humans enjoying life and savoring it.

----- Robert A. Heinlein, *Farnham's Freehold* (1964) -----

quoted in *Science Fiction Quotations*, edited by Gary Westfahl (Yale University Press, 2005)

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## Awards, Awards, Awards at Worldcon

info passed along by Carl

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Ah, yes, Worldcon/Denvention has come and gone, but the awards linger on. Several major awards were given out at Worldcon; and I just thought I'd pass along some info about a few of 'em.



First, of course, there's The Big One: **the Hugo Award**. The award is named for SF legend Hugo Gernsback and is awarded for the best F&SF works in various categories as voted by members of the World Science Fiction Convention. Here are some of this year's Hugo winners:

### Best Novel:

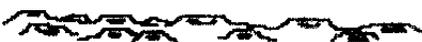
- *The Yiddish Policemen's Union* by Michael Chabon (HarperCollins)

[runner-up: *The Last Colony* by John Scalzi (Tor)]

### Best Novella:

- "All Seated on the Ground" by Connie Willis (*Asimov's*, Dec. 2007)

[runner-up: "Recovering Apollo 8" by Kristine Kathryn Rusch (*Asimov's*, Feb. 2007)]



### Best Novelette:

- "The Merchant and the Alchemist's Gate" by Ted Chiang (*F&SF*, Sept. 2007)

[runner-up: "The Cambist and Lord Iron: A Fairytale of Economics" by Daniel Abraham (*Logorrhea*, Bantam)]

### Best Short Story:

- "Tideline" by Elizabeth Bear (*Asimov's*, June 2007)

[runner-up: "A Small Room in Koboldtown" by Michael Swanwick (*Asimov's*, April/May 2007)]

### Best Related Book:

- *Brave New Words: The Oxford Dictionary of Science Fiction* by Jeff Prucher (Oxford Univ. Press)

[runner-up: *Breakfast in the Ruins: Science Fiction in the Last Millennium* by Barry Malzberg (Baen)]

### Best Dramatic Presentation, Long Form:

- *Stardust* (based on the novel by Neil Gaiman; illustrated by Charles Vess; Paramount Pictures)

[runners-up: *Heroes*, Season 1 (NBC/Universal); and *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* (Warner Bros.)]

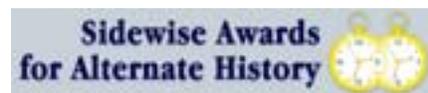
### Best Dramatic Presentation, Short Form:

- *Doctor Who*, "Blink" written by Steven Moffat

[runners-up: *Doctor Who*, "Human Nature"/"The Family of Blood" written by Paul Cornell; and *Battlestar Galactica*, "Razor" written by Michael Taylor]

For a full list of 2008 Hugo winners and nominees, go to:

[www.thehugoawards.org](http://www.thehugoawards.org)



And then there are the 12th Annual **Sidewise Awards** "to honor the best allohistorical [*i.e.* alternate history] genre publications of the year." The award takes its name from Murray Leinster's 1934 short story "Sidewise In Time," in which a strange storm causes portions of Earth to swap places with their analogs from other timelines. I am,

as I've said before, a fan of the alternate history sub-genre, so I made a point of attending this small awards ceremony. Here's the scoop:

### Winner, Best Long-Form Alternate History:

- *The Yiddish Policemen's Union* by Michael Chabon (HarperCollins)

### Other finalists:

- *1945: A Novel* by Robert Conroy (Ballantine)

- *Ilario* by Mary Gentle (two volumes: *Ilario: The Lion's Eye* and *Ilario: The Stone Golem*, HarperCollins)

- *Mainspring* by Jay Lake (Tor)

- *Rome Burning* by Sophia McDougall (Orion UK)

- *Ha'penny* by Jo Walton (Tor)

### Winner, Best Short-Form Alternate History (Tie):

- "Quaestiones Super Caelo et Mundo" by Michael Flynn (*Analog*, July 2007)

- "Recovering Apollo 8" by Kristine Kathryn Rusch (*Asimov's*, Feb. 2007)

### Other finalists:

- "Les Innocents"/"Lumier" by Elizabeth Bear (*New Amsterdam*, Subterranean Press)

- "Public Safety" by Matthew Johnson (*Asimov's*, March 2007)

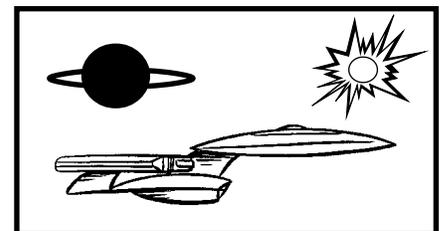
- "An Alternate History of Chinese Science Fiction" by Jess Nevins (posted on *No Fear of the Future*, May 17, 2007)

- "Metal Dragon Year" by Chris Roberson (*Interzone* #213, Dec. 2007)

- "Missives from Possible Futures #1: Alternate History Search Results" by John Scalzi (*Subterranean Magazine*, Winter 2007)

For more information about the Sidewise Awards and alternate history in general, go to: [www.uchronia.net](http://www.uchronia.net)

(continued on page 5)



## Awards, Awards, Awards

continued from page 4



And, finally, there's **the Golden Duck Award**, awarded for excellence in children's science fiction literature. Here are this year's winners:

### Picture Book:

- *Mars Needs Moms* by Berkeley Breathed (Philomel)

### Special Award Graphic Novels:

- Stone Arch Books (for quality SF graphic novels to attract young SF fans)  
Special Award Nonfiction: *World of Science Fiction* series by John Hamilton (Abdo Publishing; multiple titles: *Space-ships*; *The Final Frontier*; *Pioneers of Science Fiction*; *Weapons of Science Fiction*; *Golden Age and Beyond*; *Science Fiction in the Media*; *New Worlds*; *Time Travel*; *Modern Masters of Science Fiction*; *Future Societies*; *Aliens*)

### Eleanor Cameron Award for Middle Grades (Tie):

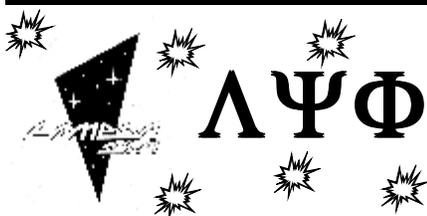
- *Shanghaied to the Moon* by Michael J. Daley (Putnam Juvenile)  
- *Gravity Buster: Journal #2 of a Cardboard Genius* by Frank Asch (Kids Can Press)

### Hal Clement Young Adult Award:

- *Sky Horizon* by David Brin; illustrated by Scott Hampton (Subterranean Press)

For more information about the Golden Duck Awards, go to:  
[www.goldenduck.org](http://www.goldenduck.org)

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## Joe Kubert Rocks!

*Tor* (a 6-issue mini-series)

by Carl



This is kind'a unusual for me - reviewing a comic book mini-series, and one that's only halfway complete! Well, yeah... but I *really* like it, and I thought I'd pass the info along!

Joe Kubert is one of my favorite comic book artists. He's been in the business for something over 50 years, primarily for DC Comics. He's well-known for his work on such characters as Viking Prince, Hawkman, Sgt. Rock, and The Haunted Tank. He also did a long stint as the artist for DC's Tarzan series (now available in 3 volumes through Dark Horse Comics: *Tarzan: The Joe Kubert Years*).

And *now* DC is featuring Kubert's work in a 6-issue mini-series entitled *Tor: A Prehistoric Odyssey*. Only three issues have come out so far, and I'm once again absolutely hooked by Kubert's work.

This isn't the first appearance of Tor, however. Kubert created the character back in 1953. Tor is a prehistoric human character, a tad more evolved than the other members of his more apeman-like tribe. (Think of the young caveman Tumak, as portrayed by handsome actor John Richardson in the 1966 Hammer production of *1,000,000 BC*, with special effects by Ray Harryhausen.) Tor debuted as a character in the comic *1,000,000 Years Ago* (Sept. 1953), appeared again in *3-D Comics* # 2 and # 3 (Oct./Nov. 1953), and then starred in his own series beginning in May of 1954 (running for several years thereafter).



Now DC has resurrected the character for a 6-issue mini-series, written *and* illustrated by Joe Kubert. And the first three issues have been jam-packed with F&SF adventures! So far, Tor has: been driven away from his tribe and family; rescued an adolescent, pointy-eared apeman from a giant crocodile; been menaced by a giant six-armed mutant humanoid; discovered the ruins of a primordial lost city inhabited by debased ape-men (shades of Tarzan and the lost city of Opar!); fought a saber-toothed feline monster; joined a gang of exiled mutant humans (shades of the X-Men!); been menaced by a horde of albino troglodytes; and awakened a tentacled Lovecraftian monster from the depths of an underground lake. Wowie! All *that*, with 3 more issues to go in the mini-series! And all of it illustrated in that incredible Kubert style! Λ Ψ Φ

Once human beings realize something can be done, they're not satisfied until they've done it.

-- Frank Herbert --  
"Cease Fire" (1958)

quoted in *Science Fiction Quotations*,  
edited by Gary Westfahl  
(Yale University Press, 2005)

**\*\* 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, Sept. 14th**, at Rob & Peter's home (1425 "S" St., NW), in the Dupont Circle neighborhood. 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

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](http://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](http://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](http://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: \$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](http://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](http://www.farpointcon.com) E-mail: [trekcontact@comcast.net](mailto:trekcontact@comcast.net)

Feb. 13-15, 2009 **KATSUCON 15**. Hyatt Regency Crystal City (Crystal City, VA). Washington's Premiere Japanese Animation and Manga Festival. Membership: \$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](http://www.katsucon.org)

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.gaylaxicon2009](http://www.gaylaxicon2009.org) Register on-line at: <http://www.gaylaxicon2009.org/index.php/registration>