



Lambda Sci-Fi DC Area Gaylaxians



PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044



(202) 232-3141 - Issue #234 - September 2009

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 will be held on September 24th.

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

Sept. 24th - *Love and Rockets: Maggie the Mechanic* (graphic novel), by Jaime Hernandez; moderator: Greg.

Oct. 22nd - *Psycho* (the book and/or the movie), by Robert Bloch; moderator: Carl.

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Gaylaxicon 2009 Progress Report



Gaylaxicon 2009
October 9 - 11, 2009

info@gaylaxicon2009.org

Doubletree Hotel Minneapolis-Park Place

1500 Park Place Blvd.
St. Louis Park, MN 55416

Guests of Honor

Margaret Weis
Andy Mangels
Lawrence Schimel
Terrance Griep
Marc DeBauch (featured artist)

Letter from Don Kaiser, the Convention Chair

We are looking forward to hosting you at our fabulous convention. We have great Guests of Honor, as well as a substantial list of Also Attending professional writers, editors, and artists who will be joining us. We know you'll have a fantastic time with our exciting line-up of events, games, programming, dealers room, art show, and programming.

Starting with our major events,

we will have the **Friday evening Opening Ceremonies**, followed by the Meet the Pros Reception, where we will serve hors d-oeuvres and where a cash bar will be available. **Saturday evening** we will have a new event at Gaylaxicon - a **Cabaret** emceed by Glori Hallelujah. We will include the chance for any costumers to strut their stuff. **Sunday evening** we'll dim the lights for a **Movie Spectacular**, including *Big Bank Love/Juvenile A* and *I.K.U.* We are still finalizing our line-up of interesting movies.

Our **game room** will be fabulous this year, with long hours. It is sponsored by the Twin Cities' largest game store - The Source Comics and Games.

We're putting together our schedule of programming and are taking suggestions for panels or other programming items. If you are interested in participating in programming, please volunteer your suggestions and time. See the Programming announcement below for information on submitting ideas or volunteering to be on panels.

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September LSF Meeting

The next LSF meeting will be held on the **Sunday, September 13th**. The meeting will be held at Rob and Peter's home (1425 S Street, NW), near the U Street Metro. 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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WHAT'S INSIDE?

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Minutes of the August LSF Meeting taken by Scott

It was noted that WorldCon 2009 – Anticipation 2009 in Montreal – is going on this same weekend and that some LSF'ers are absent from the meeting because they are attending World-Con.

Teresa passed around some *Doctor Who* action figures and a *Babylon 5* board game. Rob passed out some last-remaining *Farscape* caps from Gaylaxicon 1999.

Rob asked for feedback on the most recent *Doctor Who* episode, "Children of Earth." (The world's governments had to make some tough decisions regarding the fate of some of Earth's children.) Russell Davies indicated at ComicCon that there will be a new season of *Torchwood*, although the BBC has not issued an official announcement.

Rob reported on the six-part BBC mini-series about a vampire, a werewolf, and a ghost living together in the same house. He also passed around an assortment of articles about *Torchwood*, *Primeval*, and *Warehouse 13*.

The July 2009 issue of *Sigma*, the newsletter of the Pittsburgh-area sci-fi group, was passed around.

Rob reported on the new *District 9* movie that takes place in South Africa. He said that it is thought-provoking and that humanity doesn't come off too well. Those who saw the *GI Joe* movie commented that it had good special effects, but not much else. There was discussion about the genre arthouse film *Moon*, with influences of *2001* and *Silent Running*.

TruBlood fans – note that the character of Sophie gets introduced near the end of the current season.

Rob provided a list of the upcoming books to be discussed at the next couple of LSF book discussion group meetings: *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* by Junot Diaz (August 27), *Love & Rockets: Maggie the Mechanic*,

District 9 Mini-Review

by Rob Gates

I figure if the studios are kind enough to offer advance screenings, I'll do my part to encourage that behavior by reporting my take on movies I see that way...

Peter and I had the chance to see *District 9* last night at an advance screening. The audience was pretty packed, and there was already quite a crowd when I got there more than 1.5 hours before the showtime. *District 9* is produced by Peter Jackson (you all know who he is) and directed by Neill Blomkamp, and is based on a short film by Blomkamp from a few years ago called *Alive in Joburg*. The premise is simple – twenty years ago a massive alien ship arrived on earth, parked over Johannesburg, South Africa, and simply stopped. Eventually humanity decides to go investigate the ship and discovers a large colony of what are described as malnourished scavengers. These are not, according to official reports, some great intelligent race here to meet us, but perhaps the cast offs, the unwanted, nothing more than scavengers. Inevitably, humanitarian aid arrives, and the aliens are housed and fed...and kept in an enclosed area of Johannesburg called District 9, overseen by an international humanitarian organization, the MNU.

Flash forward 20 years and District 9 has become what one would expect, a slum. The aliens, derogatorily called "prawns," are unable to work and tensions are running high as humans complain about their unwanted neighbors and the money spent to house and feed them. MNU is tasked, with the help of some military enforcement, with evict-

ing the aliens to a new home over a hundred miles from Joburg.



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District 9 is an intriguing mix of dark, over-the-top violence and scathing social commentary. Told through a combination of "post-event" documentary style commentaries and "in-the-moment" action cams, the film kept us emotionally on our toes. It transitioned seamlessly between action and emotion, between violence and heart. As each layer is peeled away, uncovering the secrets of District 9, we were left with disturbing answers and deeper questions. While *District 9* is undoubtedly a film with science fiction trappings, it is less about the aliens, than about us.....and that's what makes for good genre fiction in any medium.

I highly recommend *District 9*. While *Star Trek* and *Harry Potter* were certainly *fun* movies, for pure storytelling and depth this was easily one of the best genre movies I've seen in a while.

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graphic novel by the Hernandez brothers (September 24).

It was noted that the depressing post-apocalyptic movie *The Road*, starring Vigo Mortenson, will be coming out this autumn. Is *The Time Traveler's Wife* a chick flick? Good question. There was lots of chatter about Johnny Depp starring as the Mad Hatter in the new *Alice in Wonderland* movie.

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Where is everybody?

-- Enrico Fermi --

quoted in
If Ignorance Is Bliss, Why Aren't There More Happy People?
by John Lloyd & John Mitchinson
(Harmony Books, 2008)

Gaylaxicon 2009

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Our **Dealers Room** will be packed with publishers, booksellers, games, jewelry, tarot and astrology readings, and many other fine products and services. Please visit often and support them while at the convention.

We expect our **Art Show** to have many lovely items for display and sale. If you are interested in submitting pieces, please see the Art Show announcement below.

Parties! We have one confirmed book launch at the convention this year and hope to have one more. If you're interested in hosting a party at Gaylaxicon 2009, please contact us; we would love to have you do so. We have suites reserved that you can book for your party for \$180/night.

We have designed a **polo shirt with our logo** on it. If you are interested in ordering one for pick-up at the convention, or to be sent to you beforehand, check out the web site for ordering information.

Please be sure to **book your hotel rooms** through our room block, linked from our web site, so that we will get credit for your room nights. If you're willing to commit to paying at the time of booking – rather than when you stay – the hotel is offering a substantial discount on your stay. (One of our committee members saved over \$50 for a four-day stay.)

Be sure to stop in at our party at Anticipation, the 2009 Worldcon in Montreal, QB!

Please be sure to spread the word about Gaylaxicon 2009. We are looking forward to seeing you all in October.

Program Overview by Joe Agee, Gaylaxicon 2009 Program Chair

It is, of course, expected that speculative fiction conventions offer up

a diverse mix of panels, discussions, and readings; but Gaylaxicon will accomplish this with a uniquely queer perspective. If your straight friends are worried that every panel will be gay-themed, reassure them otherwise – good sci-fi is always appreciated, and we love to dish! But this is also an opportunity for us to focus on topics that are often left out of other conventions. Where else will you find **Gaylactic Jeopardy?** We'll also have a **Meet the Pros Reception**, a fabulous cabaret, an evening of special film programming, and the return of **Chocolate Madness**—plan on bringing some of your favorite to share!

Here's the part where I remind you that a convention is only as good as the contributions of its members; so please help us fill our program schedule by sharing with us your ideas for great panels, or volunteer to be a program participant. Maybe you have a favorite panel from past Gaylaxicons you want us to recreate, or perhaps you've seen something at another convention that would be great at Gaylaxicon. You can find submission forms for programming ideas on the website. You can contact me with questions or volunteer to be on panels by dropping a note to:

programming@gaylaxicon2009.org

Registered yet? It's not too late to register for Gaylaxicon 2009. **Our pre-registration deadline has been extended to September 25.** Visit our registration page to register on-line or to download a PDF of our registration form.

Art Show: We are looking forward to many artists displaying (and selling) their beautiful work in this year's Art Show! To review the rules and to see other details relevant to artists, visit our on-line Art Show information page. If you are interested in volunteering or have questions about participating, contact me via:

artshow@gaylaxicon2009.org

Dealers Room: The Dealers Room is ready for you! We're moving along nicely with a number of friendly purveyors of all things sci-fi, comic-based, gaming, other-worldly, and otherwise; and you are going to love spend-



My mother used to say that there are no strangers, only friends you haven't met yet. She's now in a maximum security twilight home in Australia.

-- Dame Edna Everage --

quoted in
If Ignorance Is Bliss, Why Aren't There More Happy People?
by John Lloyd & John Mitchinson
(Harmony Books, 2008)

ding time with them. In our Dealers Room you'll get to browse through our fabulous vendors' wares and services and to enhance your Gaylaxicon 2009 experience. If you are interested in being a dealer or in volunteering in our Dealers Room, please contact:

dealers@gaylaxicon2009.org

(Shopping – it's not just for malls anymore!)

Program Book Ads and Artwork: The Gaylaxicon 2009 publications team is currently accepting artwork and advertising for the convention program book. Visit our program book page for more details, including ad rates and format requirements.

Want to spend more time in the Twin Cities? Check out our guide for how to find more great places and events of interest in and around the Twin Cities.

Need more information? To find our more information on guests, hotel, activities, and more, visit our website at: www.gaylaxicon2009.org





Memories of Anticipation (2009 Worldcon in Montreal) by Carl

I guess I should start off by saying I had a good time at Anticipation, the 67th World Science Fiction Convention, held in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. I'd never been to Montreal before, so I'd been looking forward to this trip as much for a vacation as for a Worldcon.

I stayed at the Embassy Suites (208 Saint Antoine Ouest), just across the street from the *Palais des congrès* (aka Convention Center) and just a street or so away from *Vieux Montréal* ("Old Montreal" = the historic district). So I was poised to head off in either direction at the drop of a hat. In fact, I wandered around Montreal *a lot*: the *Vieux Montréal*, Chinatown, and Le Village (their version of "gaytown" – kind'a sleazy, says I). In my frequent wanderings around *Vieux Montréal*, I tried out all kinds of interesting little (non-chain) restaurants. I ate boar, deer, bison, and *cheval* (yes, horse – not my favorite). But I digress... back to the con.

All kinds of awards were given out over the course of the event. Here are a few of 'em:

First, there were the Chesley Awards, awarded by the Association of SF & Fantasy Artists (ASFA) for science fiction and fantasy art first appearing in 2008. Here are just a few of the Chesleys for 2009. For a complete listing, check out their website at:

www.asfa-art.org/chesley.html

Best Hardback Cover

Donato Giancola, *A Book of Wizards*
(SFBC, April 1008)

Best Paperback Book Cover

John Picacio, *Fast Forward 2*
(Pyr, October 2008)



Best Magazine Cover

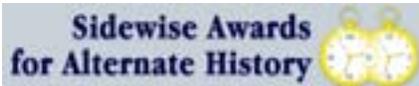
Matts Minnhagen
Clarkesworld (April 2008)

Best Interior Illustration

Donato Giancola, "The Wraith"
(*Playboy*, Nov. 2008)

Best Product Illustration

Dan Dos Santos
Hellboy II promotional art
(Dark Horse & Universal Pictures)



And then there are the Sidewise Awards (the 13th year!), honoring excellence in works of alternate history.
www.uchronia.net/sidewise

Winner, Long Form

(novel or series)
Chris Roberson
The Dragon's Nine Sons (BL/Solaris)

Winner, Short Form

(not a novel or series)
Mary Rosenblum, "Sacrifice"
(*Sidewise in Crime*, BL/Solaris)



Next, the Golden Duck Awards, to honor excellent Science Fiction for children and teens. Their website is:
www.goldenduck.org

Picture Book

We're Off to Look for Aliens
Colin McNaughton (author/illustrator)
Walker Books Ltd



Eleanor Cameron Award

(for Grades 2-6)
Lighter Than Air
Henry Melton (author)
Wire Rim Books

Hal Clement Award - Tie!

(featuring a young adult protagonist who is solving adult problems)
The Hunger Games
Suzanne Collins (author)
Scholastic Press

Little Brother

Cory Doctorow (author)
Tor Teen



And, of course, "the big one" – the 2009 Hugo Awards. Here are a few of the Hugos. For a complete listing, check out their website at:
www.thehugoawards.org

2009 Hugo Award

Best Novel

The Graveyard Book, Neil Gaiman
(HarperCollins)

Best Novella

"The Erdmann Nexus", Nancy Kress
(*Asimov's*, Oct/Nov 2008)

Best Novelette

"Shoggoths in Bloom", Elizabeth Bear
(*Asimov's*, March 2008)

Best Short Story

"Exhalation", Ted Chiang
(*Eclipse Two*)

Best Related Book

Your Hate Mail Will Be Graded: A Decade of Whatever, 1998 - 2008
John Scalzi (Subterranean Press)

Best Graphic Story (new category)

Girl Genius, Volume 8: Agatha Heterodyne and the Chapel of Bones
written by Kaja and Phil Foglio
art by Phil Foglio
(Airship Entertainment)

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Memories of Anticipation

continued from page 4

Dramatic Presentation, Long Form

Wall-E

story by Andrew Stanton
& Pete Docter

screenplay by Andrew Stanton
& Jim Reardon

directed by Andrew Stanton
(Pixar/Walt Disney)

[Ed. Note: Said Rob Gates in a recent e-mail: “No surprises, except perhaps *Wall-E*...as much as it was a fabulous movie, I expected a more traditional film (like *Iron Man* or *Dark Knight* for instance) to win.”]

Dramatic Presentation, Short Form

Dr Horrible’s Sing-Along Blog

written by Joss Whedon,
Zack Whedon, Jed Whedon &
Maurissa Tancharoen

directed by Joss Whedon
(Mutant Enemy)

Best Editor, Short Form

Ellen Datlow

Best Editor, Long Form

David G. Hartwell

Best Professional Artist

Donato Giancola

Best Semiprozine

Weird Tales

edited by Ann VanderMeer
& Stephen H. Segal

Best Fanzine

Electric Velocipede

edited by John Klima

John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer

David Anthony Durham

Panels, panels, panels. Yes, there were a lot of ‘em – even a complete track only in French. (Welcome to Quebec!)

Besides all the usual topics, there were a surprising number of sociological/historical panels (particularly on Saturday), presumably catering

to budding writers who’d like to do some effective world-building. Here are a few of ‘em: “The Real Barbarians” (an illustrated lecture by Edward James, Professor of Medieval History at University College Dublin – and, as it turns out, husband of frequent Gaylaxicon guest Farah Mendlesohn); “Elizabethans and the Magical World”; “The Middle Ages: Getting It Right” (discussion panel included Edward James). By the way, Edward James is a *delight* to listen to, a stereotypical (albeit of the non-boring type) “Old Oxford Don.”

And there was a sprinkling of “Queer-interest” panels: “Once Upon a Time, There Was a Little Gender Variant Metaphor...”; “Rainbow Futures” (discussion panel included frequent Gaylaxicon guest Cecilia Tan); “Polyamory: Not Quite as Heinlein Described It” (discussion panel included frequent Gaylaxicon guest Candace Jane Dorsey).

Oh, and here’s a joke told by Michael Swanwick during the panel discussion “Why Write Across the Genres?”

What’s the difference between
an extra large pizza
and a science fiction writer?

Answer: An extra large pizza
can feed a family of four.

I spent an hour or so in line to get Author GoH Neil Gaiman’s autograph on my hardcover graphic novel version of *Stardust*. (He’s *very* handsome and charming! Now, all I need is artist Charles Vess’s autograph.)



Neil Gaiman

Saturday Night (after the Masquerade) featured a real treat: the entry from the Republic of South Africa for the Montréal International Fireworks com-

petition. Actually, I passed on viewing it from the 7th floor of the *Palais* along with other con attendees. Instead, I wandered into *Vieux Montréal* and sat on the riverfront plaza in front of the 19th Century Custom House and watched it from there (to view it in the company of various drunken *Québécois*).

The Dealer Room was really kind of disappointing – *very* small. (Philcon and Balticon generally feature Dealer Rooms that are easily twice as large.) I hear that a lot of the American dealers just didn’t want the hassle of dealing with Canadian Customs regulations. And at least *half* of the booksellers only sold French-language books. (Welcome to Quebec!) Needless to say, I didn’t come home with the usual heavily-laden-with-books luggage.

The Art Show was also kind of small. But I purchased a couple of really cool F&SF-related pieces of art in a small art studio in *Vieux Montréal*.

And, finally, here’s the news on the upcoming conventions:



Worldcon 2010 will be Aussiecon 4 (Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre), Sept. 2-6, 2010.

www.aussiecon4.org.au

NASFiC 2010 (ReConStruction) will be held in Raleigh, North Carolina, Aug. 5-8, 2010.

www.reconstructionsf.org



Worldcon 2011 (Renovation) will be held in Reno, Nevada, Aug. 17-21, 2011.

www.renovationsf.org

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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, September 13th**, 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



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

October 16-18, 2009 **CAPCLAVE 2009**. Hilton Washington DC/Rockville (Rockville, MD). GoHs: Harry Turtledove (author), Sheila Williams (*Asimov's* editor). Membership: \$55 1 to Oct. 1; \$60 at the door. Make checks payable to "Capclave 2009" and send to: Capclave 2009 Registration, c/o Barry Newton, PO Box 53, Ashton, MD 20861
Website: www.capclave.org

November 20-22, 2009 **PHILCON 2009**. The Crowne Plaza Hotel (Cherry Hill, NJ). Principal Speaker: Catherine Asaro; Artist GoH: Frank Wu; Special Guest: L.A. Banks. Membership: \$55 from Sept. 1 to Oct. 31; \$60 at the door. "If you are able to, please use online registration, even if you're mailing in a check. Just select 'Other Payment Options,' then click on 'Pay by Check' when you've completed the form."
Website: <http://2009.philcon.org>

November 27-29, 2009 **DARKOVER GRAND COUNCIL MEETING XXXII**. The Crowne Plaza Baltimore (Timonium, MD). GoHs: Emma Bull and Will Shetterly; Special Guest: Katherine Kurtz; Musical GoH: Clam Chowder. Membership: \$45 until Nov. 1; \$50 thereafter and at the door. Make checks payable to "Armida Council" and send to: Armida Council, PO Box 7203, Silver Spring MD 20907
Website: <http://www.darkover.org>

February 12-14, 2010 **FARPOINT** ("Baltimore's Fandom Family Reunion"). Crowne Plaza Baltimore North (Timonium, MD). Guest: Mira Furlan ("*Rousseau*" from *Lost*; "*Delenn*" from *Babylon 5*); and more to be announced! Pre-registration membership for the weekend: \$70. (Daily rates available.) Register on-line at: www.farpointcon.com -- or make your check payable to "Farpoint Enterprises" and send registration info to: Farpoint Enterprises, Inc., 11708 Troy Ct., Waldorf, MD 20601.
Website: www.farpointcon.com E-mail: trekcontact@comcast.net

August 5-8, 2010 **RECONSTRUCTION** (NASFiC 2010). Raleigh Convention Center; Raleigh Marriott City Center; Sheraton Raleigh Hotel (Raleigh, NC). GoH: Eric Flint; AGoH: Brad Foster. Membership: currently \$95 (will go up!). Make checks payable to "ReConStructure" and send to: ReConStructure, PO Box 31706, Raleigh, NC 27622
Website: www.reconstructionsf.org

