

# Lambda Sci-Fi DC Area Gaylaxians



PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044







## The LSF Book Discussion Group

If you're interested in lively discussions of F&SF books (with an emphasis on elements of interest to the LBGT community), we invite you to join the LSF Book Discussion Group. Each month, we conduct fascinating roundtable discussions of works by significant F&SF authors.

The LSF Book Discussion Group generally meets on the 4th Thursday of every month, starting at 7:00 PM, at Peter & Rob's home: 1425 "S" St., NW -- for directions or more details, call 202-483-6369. The next meeting will be held on August 28th.

Here are the details on the next several discussion meetings:

August 28th - Undertow, by Elizabeth Bear; moderator: Krista.

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. λΨФ



# Gaylaxicon 2008

"Twenty years of fun!"

October 10-13, 2008 Hyatt Regency - Bethesda, MD





See Con Calendar on page 6 for details.



**Artist Guest of** 

Honor:

Alicia Austin

**Author Guest of** Honor: Geoff Ryman



## August LSF Meeting \*\* Note: Date Changed\*\* (to August 17th)

Because of the dates of the World Science Fiction Convention (Aug. 6-10), the date of the August Lambda Sci-Fi meeting has been moved to the 3rd Sunday of the month, August 17th. The meeting will be heldat 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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October 9 - 11, 2009

#### Location:

Doubletree Hotel Minne apolis-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)

#### Website:

www.gaylacticnetwork.org/ gaylaxicon2009



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# Minutes of the July LSF Meeting

taken by Scott

#### **Business Meeting**

Because some LSF members will be attending the World Science Fiction Convention in Denver durig the second weekend in August, the **August 2008 LSF meeting has been rescheduled** to the 3rd Sunday – August 17.

An LSF gaming party will occur on Saturday, July 19, Peter and Rob's place, beginning at 1:00 PM.

#### **Social Meeting**

There were a few name circles during the meeting to welcome the four new attendees.

Speaker Teresa will be organizing an outing to see the new *Dark Knight* movie this Friday, July 18, at the Uptown Theater. Look for an announcement via e-mail.

Rob mentioned a new TV series called *True Blood*, based upon the Charlaine Harris Southern vampire novels. The main character, Sookie Stackhouse, a telepath in a world of outvampires, is played by Anna Paquin, who played Rogue in the *X-Men* movies. Production starts this fall.

Peter passed around his latest acquisitions – the latest set of *Doctor Who* and *Torchwood* action figures.

Rob advised everyone about an upcoming one-woman play at the Arena Stage starring Carrie Fisher (Princess Leia in the *Star Wars* movies) Perhaps an LSF outing?

Peter passed around the June 2008 issue of *Parsec*, the newsletter of the Pittsburgh sci-fi club.

One of the items circulated at the meeting was an article about *Doctor Who*'s Billie Piper playing a role in a BBC series about prostitution.

Peter passed around an interview from *The Onion* with Harlan Ellison.

While in California getting married, Peter and Rob will be taking a day to attend Comicon. Maybe they will see the *G4* people, who will be covering the con.

James circulated an article about Ray Bradbury from AARP Magazine.

Michael showed off the first issue of *Scarlet*, the successor magazine to *Scarlet Street*. It includes a movie review he wrote. He also has an assignment to write about the new *Mummy* movie. He also advised everyone about his blog:

dustandcorruption.blogspot.com

Carl promoted Gaylaxicon 2008, hosted by LSF, coming this October. (For more details on Gaylaxicon 2008, look elsewhere in this newsletter.)

Some attendees saw the recently released *Wall-E* movie (the latest Pixar production). It was noted that there are some slow and some romantic scenes that bored small children.

Rob noted the genre author Jewelle Gomez was part of the California same-sex marriage lawsuit.

Science fiction author Thomas Disch recently passed away. But it didn't seem to be widely known that he was gay!

A six-episode TV series remake of *The Prisoner* is underway. Some of the actors from the original series will ostensibly be in this new remake.

A new book in Lynn Flewelling's "Night Runner" series has just hit the bookstores. The title is *Shadows Return*. This fantasy series features two male lovers as the main characters.

Rob reminded everyone of the upcoming LSF book discussion group sessions: Neil Gaiman's graphic novel *The Doll's House* will be discussed at the July meeting; Elizabeth Bear's *Undertow* is the subject of the August meeting; and Diana Wynne Jones's *Howl's Moving Castle* (the book and/or the animated film) will be discussed at the September meeting.

Peter raised the following question: Will the *Dr. Who* character of Martha Jones jump over to *Torchwood* and serve as the medical doctor?

Coming to the States via BBC America is *Primeval*, a "thriller that sees dinosaurs - and other creatures from the future - travel in time to wreak present-day havoc."

New attendee Scott mentioned that he will have a story in a new anthology called Men, the content of which primarily adult in nature.



Conan the Phenomenon by Paul M. Sammon (Dark Horse Books, 2007) a brief review by Carl

As you may (or may not) remember, *Conan: The Ultimate Guide* (reviewed in the Dec. 2006 issue) was devoted to chronicling the world and the fictional career of the mighty Cimmerian, as told in Robert E. Howard's stories and the Marvel and Dark Horse comics/graphic novels. And now there's...

Conan the Phenomenon, which – as it says in the book's subtitle – explores "the Legacy of Robert E. Howard's Fantasy Icon." And it does it really well! It starts with a chapter about Howard's life and the influences on his writing. Next, it chronicles the appearance of the original 17 Conan stories that appeared in Weird Tales (1932-1936), as well as the five fragments and/or synopses of Conan stories that were later "fleshed out" by various other authors.

Then it follows the succeeding publication history of the Conan stories through Gnome Press (where I got my own first introduction to Conan) and Lancer Books (with all those really great Frank Frazetta covers). It devotes succeeding chapters to Conan's appearances in: Marvel Comics (with artists Barry Windsor-Smith, John Buscema, Gil Kane et al); Donald M. Grant Publisher (featuring illustrations by such artists as Alicia Austin and George Barr); Dark Horse Comics; the "all new" Conan stories of such authors as L. Sprague DeCamp, Karl Edward Wagner, and Robert Jordan; Conan's appearances on the Silver Screen (starring "Ah-nuld") and television (featuring highly-forgettable performances by muscleman Rolf Moeller); and much, much more.

And, of course, it's profusely and magnificently illustrated! To my mind, it's well worth the \$29.95 price – especially if you're an REH Completist or a Conan Afficianado!

### **AFI Names Top** Genre Films

info passed along by Peter from www.scifi.com/sfw/news/



The American Film Institute revealed the 10 greatest movies in 10 classic American film genres-including science fiction, fantasy, and animationin a three-hour special television event on CBS June 17. A jury of 1,500 film artists, critics and historians named 2001: A Space Odyssey the top science fiction film, Snow White and The Seven Dwarfs the top animated film, and The Wizard of Oz the best fantasy film. Each segment of the broadcast featured a different celebrity host, including Sigourney Weaver for science fiction, Jennifer Love Hewitt for animation, and Sean Astin for fantasy.

A complete list of the top 10 films in those genres follows.

Top 10 Science Fiction Films 1. 2001: A Space Odyssey (1968)

- 2. Star Wars: Episode IV A New Hope
- (1977)
- 3.E.T.: The Extra Terrestrial (1982)
- 4. A Clockwork Orange (1971)
- 5. The Day the Earth Stood Still (1951)
- 6. Blade Runner (1982)
- 7. Alien (1979)
- 8. Terminator 2: Judgment Day (1991)
- 9. Invasion of the Body Snatchers (1956)
- 10. Back to the Future (1985)

Top 10 Animated Films

- 1. Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs (1937)
- 2. Pinocchio (1940)
- 3. Bambi (1942)
- 4. The Lion King (1994)
- 5. *Fantasia* (1940)
- 6. Toy Story (1995)
- 7. Beauty and The Beast (1991)
- 8. Shrek (2001)
- 9. Cinderella (1950)
- 10. Finding Nemo (2003)

Top 10 Fantasy Films 1. The Wizard of Oz(1939)



**Thomas Disch** 1940 - 2008

Thomas Disch was an American science fiction author and poet. He won the Hugo Award for Best Related Book (previously called Best Non-Fiction Book) in 1999. He also had two other Hugo nominations and nine Nebula Award nominations to his credit. He won the John W. Campbell Memorial Award, a Rhysling Award, and two Seiun Awards, among others. Disch was born in Des Moines, Iowa.

In the 1960s, his work began appearing in science-fiction magazines. His first novel, *The Genocides*, appeared in 1965. [Ed. Note: I read that one when it first came out; and I think that's the only Disch work I've read - back in the days when I was heavily into "disaster SF."] Disch soon became known as part of the New Wave, writing for New Worlds and other avant-garde publications. His critically acclaimed novels of that time included Camp Concentration and 334 and On Wings of Song (all of which were named in "Science Fiction: The 100 Best Novels," a survey by critic David Pringle). In the 1980s, he moved

from science fiction to horror, with a series of books set in Minneapolis: The Businessman, The M.D., The Priest, and The Sub. His latest novel The Word of God will be published posthumously by Tachyon Publications in the Summer of 2008.

Disch's science fiction was considered unconventional; the worlds he created were an odd mix - dark and horror-filled, humorous and playful. His books were often described as dark, but this did not trouble him. His work, he said, had the same proportion of tragedy and merriment as Shakespeare. "In entertainment terms, evil has been good box office since the Greek theater," said Disch in a 1999 article in the Minneapolis Star Tribune. "The closer you get to genuine high tragedy, the more willing to let terrible things happen to good people, the more you will grab the reader. Evil is an inexhaustible source when you want to discuss the nature of human beings."

In 1999, Disch won the Nonfiction Hugo for The Dreams Our Stuff Is Made Of: How Science Fiction Conquered the World, a sardonic look at the SF field. Among his other nonfiction works, he also wrote theatre and opera criticism for The New York Times, The Nation, and other periodicals. Some of his more popular works were those aimed at younger readers, such as The Brave Little Toaster (which became an animated film in 1987, as did its sequel, The Brave Little Toaster Goes to Mars) and his A Child's Garden of Grammar (1997).

Disch had been depressed since the 2004 death of his partner, Charles Naylor. The two men had been together for three decades. Friends said Disch was found dead inside his apartment. He had shot himself in the head, according to the city's chief medical examiner's office.

- 2. The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001)
- 3. It's a Wonderful Life (1946)
- 4. *King Kong* (1933)
- 5. Miracle on 34th Street (1947)
- 6. Field of Dreams (1989)

- 7. *Harvey* (1950)
- 8. Groundhog Day (1993)
- 9. The Thief of Bagdad (1924)
- 10.*Big* (1988)

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## **Hugo Nominations**

info passed along by Carl



In the June LSF newsletter, Peter gave his predictions for this year's Hugo Awards in the "Best Dramatic Presentation" categories (both Long Form and Short Form). Since the Hugo Awards will be announced later this month at the World Science Fiction Convention in Denver (Denvention, 3), I

guess it's only appropriate that I also pass along information about the Hugo nominees in a few of the other categories. So, here they are:

#### **Best Novel**

Brasyl by Ian McDonald (Gollancz/Pyr)
Halting State by Charles Stross (Ace)
The Last Colony by John Scalzi (Tor)
Rollback by Robert J. Sawyer (Tor)
The Yiddish Policemen's Union by
Michael Chabon (HarperCollins)

#### **Best Novella**

- "All Seated on the Ground" by Connie Willis (*Asimov's*, Dec. 2007)
- "The Fountain of Age" by Nancy Kress (*Asimov's*, July 1007)
- "Memorare" by Gene Wolfe (F&SF, April 2007)
- "Recovering Apollo 8" by Kristine Kathryn Rusch (*Asimov's*, Feb. 2007)
- "Stars Seen Through Stone" by Lucius Shepard (F&SF, July 2007)

#### **Best Novelette**

- "The Cambist and Lord Iron: a Fairytale of Economics" by Daniel Abraham (*Logorrhea*, Bantam/Spectra)
- "Dark Integers" by Greg Egan (*Asimov's*, Oct. 2007)
- "Finisterra" by David Moles (F&SF, Dec. 2007)
- "Glory" by Greg Egan (*The New Space Opera*, HarperCollins/Eos)
- "The Merchant and the Alchemist's Gate" by Ted Chiang (F&SF, Sept. 2007)



#### **Best Short Story**

- "Distant Replay" by Mike Resnick (*Asimov's*, April 2007)
- "Last Contact" by Stephen Baxter (*The Solaris Book of New Science Fiction*, Solaris)
- "A Small Room in Koboldtown" by Michael Swanwick (*Asimov's*, April 2007)
- "Tideline" by Elizabeth Bear (*Asimov's*, June 2007)
- "Who's Afraid of Wolf 359?" by Ken MacLeod (*The New Space Opera*, Harper Collins/Eos)

#### **Best Related Book**

*The Arrival* by Shaun Tan (Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic)

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

Breakfast in the Ruins: Science Fiction in the Last Millennium by Barry Malzberg (Baen)

The Company They Keep: C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien as Writers in Community by Diana Glyer (Kent State Univ.)

Emshwiller: Infinity x Two by Luis Ortiz (Nonstop)

#### John W. Campbell Award

(for best new SF writer of the year)
Joe Abercrombie (2nd year of eligibility)
Jon Armstrong (1st year of eligibility)
David Anthony Durham (1st year of eligibility)

David Louis Edelman (2nd year of eligibility)

Mary Robinette Kowal (2nd year of eligibility)

Scott Lynch (2nd year of eligibility)



#### **Best Professional Artist**

- Bob Eggleton covers: *To Outlive*Eternity and Other Stories (Baen);

  Ivory (Pyr); and The Taint and

  Other Novellas (Subterranean)
- Phil Foglio covers: Robert Asprin's Myth Adventures, Vol. 2 (Meisha Merlin); What's New (Dragon Magazine, Aug. 2007); Girl Genius Vol. 6, Agatha Heterodyne & the Golden Trilobite (Airship Entertainment)
- John Harris covers: Spindrift (Ace); Old Man's War (Tor); The Last Colony (Tor)
- Stephan Martiniere covers: *Brasyl* (Pyr); *Mainspring* (Tor); *The Dragons of Babel* (Tor)
- John Picacio covers: Fast Forward 1 (Pyr); Time's Child (HarperCollins/ Eos); A Thousand Deaths (Golden Gryphon)

Shaun Tan - The Arrival

For a complete listing of nominees for all categories, go to: http://www.denvention.org/hugos/ 08hugonomlist.php

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I believe in logic,
the sequence of
cause and effect,
and in science
its only begotten son
our law,
which was
conceived by
the ancient Greeks,
thrived under
Isaac Newton,
suffered under
Albert Einstein...

fragment of a "creed for materialism" - John Brunner, Stand on Zanzibar - (1968)

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



# **Stan Winston** 1946 - 2008

Hollywood special-effects maestro Stan Winston died at age 62, surrounded by family, after a seven-year struggle with multiple myeloma, according to a representative from Stan Winston Studio. Winston won visual effects Oscars for 1986's *Aliens*, 1992's *Terminator 2: Judgment Day* and 1993's *Jurassic Park*.

Winston was an American visual effects supervisor, make-up artist, and film director. He is best known for his work in the Terminator series, the *Jurassic Park* series, Aliens, the Predator series, and Edward Scissorhands. He won a total of four Academy Awards for his work. Winston, a frequent collaborator with director James Cameron, owned more than one effects studio, including Stan Winston Digital. His established areas of expertise were in makeup, puppets, and practical effects; but he had recently expanded his studio to encompass digital effects as well.

Winston was born in Arlington, Virginia. He studied painting and sculpture at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, from which he graduated in 1968. In 1969, after attending California State University, Long Beach, Winston moved to Hollywood to pursue a career as an actor. Struggling to find an acting

job, he began a makeup apprenticeship at Walt Disney Studios.

In 1972, Winston established his own company, Stan Winston Studio, and won an Emmy Award for his effects work on the telefilm *Gargoyles*. Over the next seven years, Winston continued to receive Emmy nominations for work on various projects. Winston received his first Oscar nomination in 1982 for *Heartbeeps*. His ground-breaking work on the sci-fi horror classic *The Thing* that year brought him to prominence in Hollywood.

Winston won his first Oscar for Best Visual Effects in 1986 on James Cameron's movie Aliens. Over the next few years, Winston and his company received more accolades for its work on Hollywood films, including Tim Burton's Edward Scissorhands and John McTiernan's Predator. In 1992, he was nominated for vet another Tim Burton film, Batman Returns; his effects on Danny DeVito (The Penguin), Michelle Pfeiffer (Catwoman), and in delivering Burton's general vision for Gotham City earned him more recognition for his work ethic and loyalty to what was an intrinsic ability to bring different directors' ideas to life. Winston turned his attention from super villains and cyborgs to dinosaurs when Steven Spielberg enlisted his help to bring Michael Crichton's Jurassic Park to the screen. In 1993, the movie became a blockbuster, and Winston won another Oscar for Best Visual Effects.

Winston and his team continued to provide effects work for many more films and expanded their work into animatronics. One of Winston's most ambitious animatronics projects was Steven Spielberg's *AI: Artificial Intelligence*, which earned Winston another Oscar nomination for Best Visual Effects.

At the time of his death, Winston was working on the sequel *Terminator Salvation*. According to reports, next for Stan Winston was *Jurassic Park IV*. Winston was also signed on to help with the monster effects for *The Suffering*, an upcoming action-horror film to be based on the Midway video games.

# 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.



Gaylaxicon 2008 "Twenty years of fun!"

#### \*\*INFORMATIONABOUTLAMBDASCI-FI:DCAREAGAYLAXIANS\*\*

**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. *However, the next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held on the* **Sunday, August 17th (the 3rd Sunday),** 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



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, MD20861. (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

Nov. 28-30, 2008**DARKOVER GRAND COUNCIL MEETING XXXI**. Holiday Inn Select Baltimore North (Timonium, MD). Guest of Honor: Patricia Briggs; Artist GoH: Ruth Lampi; Special Guest: Katherine Kurtz. Membership: \$45 until Nov. 1; \$50 after that & at the door. Make checks payable to "Armida Council" and send to: Armida Council, PO Box 7203, Silver Spring, MD 20907. Website: www.darkovercon.org Info at: members@darkovercon.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

