



PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044 - (202) 232-3141 - Issue #212 - Nov. 2007

E-MAIL: [info@lambdasf.org](mailto: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, however, will be a combined Nov./Dec. meeting and will be held on December 6th.**

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

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

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

**Feb. 28th** - *Rainbow's End*, by Vernor Vinge; moderator: Carl. Λ Ψ Φ

### November LSF Meeting

The next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held on the **Sunday, November 11th**, at James Crutchfield's apartment (1414 17th St. NW, #413). The business meeting will begin at 1:30 PM; and the social meeting will begin at 2:00 PM.

Please bring some munchies or soft drinks, if you can. See you there!

### Game Party and Potluck

hosted by Dan Homitz

**Sunday, Nov. 4, 1 pm - ????**

Snacking and socializing 1 PM - 2 PM. The first round of games will begin promptly at 2 PM. Dinner break, to share in the potluck, around 6 PM..

NOTE: If you plan to attend this LSF event or want more info, please e-mail me directly at [ztimoh@juno.com](mailto:ztimoh@juno.com) so I can send you the Evite invitation.

Bring your favorite board, card, or other portable game(s). However, you will have to convince others to join you in the fun! The host also has a variety of card, board, trivia, and other games to share.

Home of Dan Homitz  
5200 59th Avenue  
Hyattsville, MD 20781  
202-215-3937

This will be a potluck event. The host will provide non-alcoholic drinks but requests that everyone bring an entree, side dish, or dessert to share. Considering the timing, any leftover Halloween candy or other goodies are welcomed!

Again, if you plan to attend this LSF event or want more info, please e-mail me directly at [ztimoh@juno.com](mailto:ztimoh@juno.com) so I can send you the Evite invitation. Please, let's keep all further discussion of this event in that forum (the Evite). The Evite will also give you an opportunity to list the food item you plan to bring, to find carpooling/ride opportunities, etc.

Allergy alert: The host has 2 dogs and 3 ferrets. The animals will be caged for the duration of the event.

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### New Year's Eve Video Party

announced by Tanya Peltz

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

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

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

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

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



**What to Bring:** Bring your favorite genre DVDs and videos (science fiction, fantasy, horror). Attendees will vote on which movies will be shown at the party

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## October LSF Meeting Minutes taken by Scott

### Business portion of the meeting:

As per the LSF by-laws, Rob issued a **call for nominations for four LSF officer positions**. Peter indicated that he plans to run for LSF Membership Coordinator again. Rob said that he will run for Treasurer once again. Carl said that Jack advised him that he did not wish to pursue the position of Speaker. Rob nominated Theresa for the position of Speaker. Nominations will be closed at the end of the November LSF meeting. Elections will be held at the December meeting.

Carl expressed interest in hosting a **GLBT room party at the Dark-overcon** (Thanksgiving weekend, in Timonium, MD). The party will also promote Gay-laxicon 2008.

### Social portion of the meeting:

A drunken Bacchanalian orgy ensued. No, not really.

After a brief name circle to introduce everyone, there was much discussion about **Gaylaxicon 2007 in Atlanta**, which had been attended by several LSF members. Peter passed around the program guide from the con. Peter said he enjoyed the media presence at the con. One of the media guests was the group that fan-produced *Star Trek: Hidden Frontiers*, which is now producing a new series called *Star Trek: Odyssey*.

Author David Gerrold is doing the 4th episode of fan-produced *New Voyages*, a re-working of his rejected gay-themed *ST:TNG* script "Blood and Fire."

Peter mentioned that the Wikipedia entry for *Star Trek* lists most, if not all, of the fan-produced *Star Trek* series.

It was noted that approximately 60 people have signed up for **Gaylaxicon 2008** already. It was also announced that Gaylaxicon 2008 will be held at the Hyatt Regency Bethesda (atop the Bethesda Metrorail station). The guest room rate for the con is \$169/night.

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The **LSF gaming party** held out in Loudoun County, VA was well-attended, and everyone had lots of fun!

Michael reported that his visit to the newly opened **Madame Toussaud Wax Museum** was tasteless and unimpressive. He said that there were people walking around amongst the wax statues trying to sell cameras.

Have you seen the YouTube trailer for the *Sweeney Todd* movie starring Johnny Depp? It's a musical horror tale about a mad barber whose victims get chopped up into meat pies. Yummy!

Rob advised everyone that there is a new, longer trailer for the *Golden Compass* movie, which is slated to be released in December.

Peter passed around the latest issue of *Sigma*, the newsletter of PAR-SEC, the Pittsburgh-area sci-fi group. Rob sheepishly passed around review copies of genre books from Publish America.

**Warren Rochelle** will attend the March 2008 LSF meeting and do a reading. He has been published by a small press.

Michael brought in a book titled *Creepy Crawls: A Horror Fiend's Travel Guide* by Leon Marcelo.

George Lucas has completed 40 episodes of *Clone Wars*, a 3-D animated series.

It was noted that Cartoon Network is showing the original *Astroboy* episodes – cool episodes for 7-year-olds, but boring for adults.

Michael mentioned the unfortunate passing of Richard Valley, one of the men behind *Scarlet Street*. [Ed. Note: See obituary elsewhere in this issue.]

Rob reviewed the upcoming titles for the **LSF book discussion group**: October – Tanya Huff's *Smoke and Ashes*; November/December – *Stardust* (Neil Gaiman's original - some editions illustrated by Charles Vess - *not* the novelization of the movie); January – Sarah Monette's *Melusine*.

There will be a Hallowe'en LSF video party at Julian's home in Glover

Park on Saturday, 10/28/2007.

A new Playstation III game called *Eye of Judgment* was described. It's classified as "augmented reality," with interaction/interface between cards played and the game system.

Michael picked up the DVD of the first season of *Robot Chicken*.

Rob said that he was not impressed with the new *Bionic Woman* TV series. *Big Bang Theory* is a good show for geeks. [Ed. Note: Hey! Watch what you say, Scott! I said it was a funny show *about* geeks! I like it - as in: "laugh out loud" like it.] There was general agreement that the new series *Journeyman* is rather weak. It's predicted that *Moonlight* (aka "*Foreverknight 2.0*") won't last.

Nichelle Nichols is appearing in a recurring role on *Heroes*.

*Battlestar Galactica: Razor* (made-for-TV movie, about the adventures of the *Pegasus*) will be shown on November 24th.

This December's SciFi Channel December special will be *Tin Man* (based on Baum's *The Wizard of Oz*).

There might be a direct-to-video *Serenity II* movie. ΛΨΦ



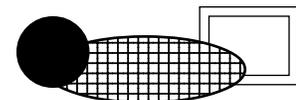
## New Year's Eve Video Party

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(different concurrent "tracks"). It's a potluck meal, so bring along something scrumptious to eat. We're not pre-assigning categories of what food to bring, so everyone should just bring something from one (or more) of the following "basic food groups": appetizers (veggies, chips, etc.), a main course item (enough to serve at least 4-5 people), dessert (of course!), and non-alcoholic drinks (both regular and diet).

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

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## Gaylaxicon 2007 Review

by Peter Knapp



When I told my coworkers that I was going to Gaylaxicon, they looked at me funny. For those not familiar with fan-run conventions, many people who go to them “have a life.” They don’t live in their mother’s basement and don’t know the names to every episode of every incarnation of *Star Trek*. The primary reason they go is to have fun and socialize, which is exactly what I did.

I see many people through the SF convention circuit that I only see once or twice a year at conventions. This year’s Gaylaxicon was no exception. I reunited with people from all over the North American continent, from as far away as California and Canada. Of course, I also saw people from LSF whom I almost never see in DC! Hanging out with friends and getting cuddly with some of them was a lot of fun. My only complaint is that much of the cuddling happened late at night when I was really tired and had to go to bed and get enough sleep – yes it’s recommended that one get sleep at conventions – to be coherent at the next morning’s panels. Next year I want an afternoon tea that will facilitate midday cuddling! ;)

Speaking of panels, I really enjoyed the media portion of the programming. I volunteered to be a panelist on three *Doctor Who*-related panels. They were all a lot of fun, especially the 10:30 AM “Anything That Moves: *Torchwood* and Captain Jack Harkness” panel. At 10:30 AM on a Sunday morning, I didn’t think anyone would show either as a panelist or in the audience. A large crowd showed up, and all my fellow panelists made it, which contributed to a lively discussion, as we each had a different opinion of the show: from loving it, to hating it, to somewhere



**Richard Valley**  
1949 - 2007

### a remembrance by Mike Cornett

Richard Valley, pioneering editor of the gay-slanted genre magazine *Scarlet Street*, died at about noon on Friday, October 12th, at the age of 58. He had cancer.

For over 15 years, *Scarlet Street*, which covered the mystery and horror genres (with occasional forays into sci-fi, fantasy, and superheroes), angered a few but pleased many more with its frank discussions of gay subtext in many classic genre films.

Richard Valley and *Scarlet Street* were pioneers in gay fandom, openly discussing GLBT content in films ranging from *What’s the Matter with Helen?* and *Bride of Frankenstein* to *Horrors of the Black Museum* and *How to Make a Monster*, at a time when many prominent critics and scholars of the horror genre overlooked or even denied such content.

Valley was a playwright for many years, with comedies like *Play by Play* and *A Piece of Cake* on his résumé. He had recorded audio commentaries for several DVD editions of the Basil Rathbone/Sherlock Holmes films; and,

in the middle (which is where my opinion of the show lies). The audience also had a lot of questions and opinions, which added to the lively discussion.

Other media panels that I attended included a presentation by David Gerrold about his upcoming

with friend actor/composer/music producer Bruce Kimmel, he had produced a CD, *Jeepers Creepers! Great Songs from Horror Films*, that featured Broadway and cabaret performers singing songs from films like *The Blob*, *The Uninvited*, and *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?*

*Scarlet Street* had temporarily halted publication while Richard dealt with his illness. Another issue was in the planning stages at the time of his death. Many of Valley’s friends and associates are hoping to continue the magazine in the future.

Valley had been a guest at a previous Gaylaxicon (and was hoping to appear at our next one) and for a long time had been a fixture at various horror-oriented conventions on the East Coast. Age slowed him down somewhat, but he was always a guest at Monster Bash in Pittsburgh, which also served as a gathering/reunion for friends and fans who knew each other from the message boards at the *Scarlet Street* website.

Richard Valley and I had been good friends for many years. He and I had our differences...he liked Universal, I liked Hammer; he thought Orlando Bloom was sexy, I preferred Karl Urban; he hated *MST3K*, I loved it; and we both detested Baz Luhrmann’s *Moulin Rouge!* with a passion...but in the end our friendship was solid and strong. He gave me my first writing assignment, an interview with Val Lewton, Jr.; and although it was never used, it got me started doing DVD reviews elsewhere. It was through him that I made many new friends who are now part of my extended family. He was a unique, intelligent, witty voice in fandom, and not merely a loss to me personally, but to many of his friends around the world.

Richard is survived by his mother and his partner of 26 years, Tom Amorosi.

“Blood and Fire” episode of the web-based *Star Trek: New Voyages* ([www.startreknewvoyages.com](http://www.startreknewvoyages.com)), starring Bobby Rice as Peter Kirk (Captain Kirk’s nephew) and Evan Fowler as Crewman Freeman, his boyfriend. Both actors

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## Socket

a movie review  
by Peter Knapp



At Gaylaxicon 2007, I got a chance to see *Socket*, a gay horror film that reminded me a lot of a David Cronenberg film. It deals with a surgeon, Bill Matthews, who is hit by lightning. While recovering, he meets a hunky intern, Craig Murphy, who likewise has been hit by lightning. Craig introduces Bill to a group of people addicted to electricity and uses the group to help him struggle with his own addiction. As with many addictions, things don't go well.

I try very hard to look past amateur elements of independent movies that make the gay film festival circuit. When there are too many, though, it's difficult to enjoy the movie. Luckily, *Socket* rises above the usual fare. For the most part, it is well acted, scripted, and shot. The movie kept me interested and engaged for an hour and a half. I recommend it highly.

By the way, I usually don't get queasy watching movies, but I had to leave this movie for a few minutes during a sequence when Bill tests a way of juicing more organically than plugging a fork into an electrical outlet. The scene was not gory or violent, but highly disturbing, as it showed him sinking to a new low with his addiction. It was like watching a train wreck, and not in a good way.

More information can be found at the production company's website:  
<http://darkbluefilms.com/projects.html>

Oh, did I mention that it has male frontal nudity, both in bed and in the shower?! ;)

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## Gaylaxicon 2007 Review

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appeared on stage with Gerrold, who showed the audience a rough cut of the love scene between the two characters. Afterwards the three had a Q&A session with the audience. Rice admitted that Fowler had soft lips and good breath, a very diplomatic response about what it was like as a heterosexual kissing a gay man. (Later on in the weekend I found out – though not based on personal experience – that Fowler is a good kisser.)

Another fan-produced *Star Trek* series, *Star Trek: Odyssey* ([www.hiddenfrontier.org](http://www.hiddenfrontier.org)) also had a presence at the con. Because of a *Doctor Who* panel I was on, I missed most of the first episode of *Odyssey*. The captain of the *Odyssey*, a gay Bajoran played by Bobby Rice, is on a long journey (think Homer's *Odyssey*) to get home. He doesn't know if his husband is still alive and waiting for him.

I have to admit I haven't been a big fan of the fan-produced *Star Trek*. Early episodes of *Star Trek: Hidden Frontier* (*Odyssey* is the sequel show) were awful. But a lot has happened in

seven years. The pieces of the *New Voyage* and *Odyssey* episodes I saw engaged me enough to want to download full episodes of all the various fan *Trek* shows ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Star\\_Trek\\_fan\\_productions](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Star_Trek_fan_productions)) and give them a try.

The weekend went by very quickly due to all the people to hang out with, things to do, and sleep to catch up on. I wish the convention had been longer. On a side note, Brian and I went to the Georgia Aquarium ([www.georgiaaquarium.org](http://www.georgiaaquarium.org)) Friday afternoon. It's touted as "The World's Largest and Most Engaging Aquarium." While I could argue that I've been more engaged by other aquariums (the Boston and Baltimore aquariums come to mind), I enjoyed the Atlanta aquarium a lot. I recommend it highly.

If you haven't made plans to attend next year's Gaylaxicon ([www.gaylaxicon2008.org](http://www.gaylaxicon2008.org)) in Bethesda, MD over Columbus Day weekend (October 10-13, 2008), I highly recommend that you do. Gaylaxicons are a lot fun in general, and the people planning next year's con (myself included) intend to make it a memorable one!

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## Frazetta Redux

info passed along  
by Kendall P. Bullen

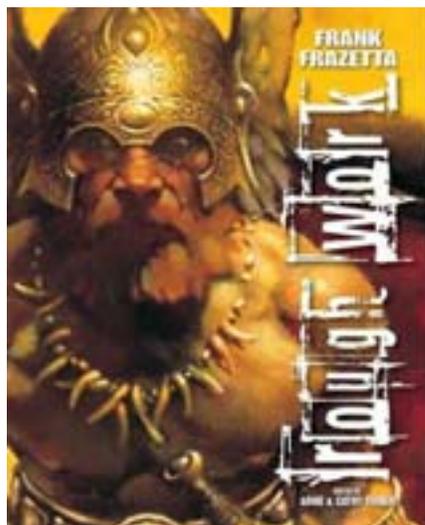
The self-professed Kendall "Frazetta Watch" Bullen has advised us about a new book of the works of artist Frank Frazetta. It's called *Frank Frazetta: Rough Work* (Underwood Books, 2007).

For samples from the collection, including sketches and other "rough work," go to:

<http://igallo.blogspot.com/2007/09/frank-frazetta-rough-work.html>

There's also a link to the book at Amazon.com.

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## A Blast from the Past

a short book review by Carl Cipra

### *Amerika*

a novel by Brauna E. Pouns  
from a screenplay by Donald Wrye  
(Pocket Books, 1987)

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Serendipity strikes again!

As you know, I've been traveling a lot lately. Well, one weekend during my 3-week sojourn in Kansas City, I dropped into a Salvation Army store while waiting for my clothes to dry at a laundromat; and, of course, I quickly hunted down the used books section of the store. Lo and behold! – I ran across a genuine “lost treasure.” It's the novelization of a 12-hour ABC mini-series: *Amerika* (which featured the talents of Kris Kristofferson, Robert Urich, Sam Neill, Mariel Hemingway, Christine Lahti, and a host of others). I quite enjoyed the 1987 mini-series; and, needless to say, I picked up the paperback without a moment's hesitation. Oh-boy-oh-boy-oh-boy!

The premise of the story is that the United States has been taken over by the Soviet Union, and the Soviets intend to prevent the reassertion of their rival superpower by balkanizing it into a number of loosely confederated, independent nations. Quite a fascinating premise, considering the actual turn of events! I don't seem to remember the mini-series ever really explaining how the Soviets pulled it off. The “Prologue” of the novelization, however, explains it quite handily: they detonated four gigantic nuclear weapons in the stratosphere above the U.S. and took out the highly-sophisticated American defense and communication systems with a vast electromagnetic pulse (EMP). The U.S. President was given a choice: surrender (and unilaterally disarm) or face certain annihilation. Then Soviet Bloc forces (thinly disguised as UN peacekeepers) moved in to “restore order.” Pretty nifty, says I. The Soviet motivation? They realized that the U.S.-led arms race was bankrupting the Soviet Union, and unrest and uprisings had begun to pop up here and there within the Soviet bloc



– so the boys in the Kremlin decided to take out their American rivals in one bold stroke and to utilize America's agricultural/industrial resources to bolster the Soviet regime.

But what about American resistance? Yes, there was some – mainly in mountainous regions in the West and in Alaska. But, as for the rest... “[The Soviets] were offering peace. It was a sort of peace that the great majority of Americans—all those who wanted nothing more from their time on earth than to preserve some fraction of the security and comfort they'd known before—accepted with appalling ease.” Also, sadly possible: a population whose will-to-resist had already been enervated by its own government, now led by collaborators and quislings.

As the story opens, almost a decade later, the Soviets want to pull their occupation forces out of America – they're needed to bolster an increasingly shaky Soviet dominion within their own lands – and they can't afford to allow a revived American superpower to rebuild itself after they leave. Hence, they plan to eliminate the puppet U.S. Federal Government and set up smaller regional “nations” that will never reunite. The first to secede will be the agricultural Midwest – to be renamed “Heartland” – with its capital at Omaha.

And thus the stage is set. Three men symbolize the novel's ten-

sions. (1) Peter Bradford, a former county commissioner, is to become the Governor General of Heartland; he believes that this will be the first step in getting Soviet “advisors” out of North America – and, eventually, lead (at some unspecified future date) to the reunification of the United States. (2) Devin Milford has just been released from a long stint in a Texas political detention camp and sent back to his Nebraska home as an “internal exile.” He ran an unsuccessful independent campaign for the presidency in 1992 (in opposition to the Soviet-backed candidates) and was supposedly “hospitalized after a nervous breakdown.” Milford is weakened by his experiences in the detention camp but he remains a true patriot at heart – he quickly becomes the unwilling focus of anti-Soviet sentiments. (3) KGB Colonel Andrei Denisov is second-in-command of the Soviet occupation forces; he has developed a grudging respect for the American people and their former goals. He also knows a horrendous secret: hard-liners have gained the upper hand in the Kremlin, and they will *not* allow the U.S.A. to rise again. If the balkanization of America is not achieved – and soon – the planned withdrawal of Eastern Bloc forces will immediately be followed by the nuclear devastation of most major American cities. All the pieces are in place; tensions are high; and the game begins!

What was originally designed to be a dystopian warning has become a fascinating study in alternate history. I quite enjoyed the original TV mini-series; and, yes, I quite enjoyed reading the novelization. *Amerika* – a blast from the past; and an enjoyable read.  $\Lambda\Psi\Phi$



**Gaylaxicon  
2008**



**“Twenty years of fun!”**

See the Con Calendar  
on page 6 for details.

**\*\*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, November 11th**, at James Crutchfield's apartment (1414 17th St. NW, #413). The business meeting will begin at 1:30 PM; and the social meeting will begin at 2:00 PM. Please bring some munchies or soft drinks, if you can. Hope to see you there!

Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians is an affiliate of **the Gaylactic Network**, an international organization for gay people and their friends who are interested in science-fiction and fantasy.



## Con Calendar

by Carl



Nov. 23-26, 2007 **DARKOVER GRAND COUNCIL MEETING**. Holiday Inn Select Baltimore-North (Timonium, MD). "Avery GLBT-friendly con." Guest of Honor: Esther Friesner; Artist GoH: TBA; Special Guest: Katherine Kurtz. Membership: \$45 until 11/1/2007; \$50 thereafter & at the door. Make checks payable to "Armida Council" and send to: Armida Council, PO Box 7203, Silver Spring, MD 20907 Website: [www.darkovercon.com](http://www.darkovercon.com) Info at: [jaelle@darkovercon.com](mailto:jaelle@darkovercon.com)

Nov. 16-18, 2007 **PHILCON 2007**. Sheraton Philadelphia Center City Hotel (Phila., PA). Principal Speaker: Eric Flint; Artist GoH: Sue Dawe; Costuming Special Guest: Kevin Roche. Membership: \$45 until 10/31/2007; \$50 after that & at the door. Download PDF membership from their website. Website: [WWW.PHILCON.ORG](http://WWW.PHILCON.ORG) e-mail: [registration2007@philcon.org](mailto:registration2007@philcon.org)

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. \$130 thru 05/31/2007 (will go UP after that!). Make checks payable to "Denvention 3" and send to: Denvention 3, PO Box 1349, Denver, CO 80201 Website: <http://denvention.org> Information at: [info@denvention.org](mailto:info@denvention.org)

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

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

