

LAMBDA SCI-FI

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DC Area Gaylaxians

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E-MAIL: info@lambdasf.org WEBSITE: <http://www.lambdasf.org/>



Gaylaxicons Past and Future



**Gaylaxicon 2005 has come and gone. Did you miss it?
If you missed out on all the fun *this* year,
you've got two more chances in the near future:
Gaylaxicon 2006 in Toronto and Gaylaxicon 2007 in Atlanta!!
(See page 2 and Con Calendar on page 6 for details.)**

SciFi Friday Night TV Parties

announced by Peter

The *Dr. Who* TV parties were so successful that we decided to extend the run. Now we'll switch to watching the new episodes of *Stargate SG-1*, *Stargate Atlantis*, and *Battlestar Galactica*.

When: Friday nights, August 12, 19, and 26

Time: Doors open at 7:30 PM and the shows start at 8:00 PM.

What To Bring: Some snacks and non-alcoholic drink to share. \$5 if you want to order pizza.

Where: The home of Peter and Rob: 1425 "S" Street NW, Washington, DC, in the 14th and "U" neighborhood,



near Dupont Circle and Logan Circle.

Closest Metro Stops: "U" Street/African-American Civil War Memorial/Cardozo (Green Line) or Dupont Circle (Red Line).

Parking: Street parking is generally available, though it is harder to find the later it gets.

(continued on page 2)

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 August 25th. Here's the schedule for the next several meetings:

Aug. 25th - *Gotham Central: Half a Life* (a graphic novel); moderator: Greg.

Sept. 22nd - *Smoke and Shadows*, by Tanya Huff; moderator: Peter/Rob.

Oct. 27th - *The Curse of Zwilling*, by Don Sakers; moderator: Mike P. Λ Ψ Φ

Next LSF Meeting: Sunday, Aug. 14th

The next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held at James Crutchfield's apartment (1414 17th St., NW, #413) on Sunday, August 14th. 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! Λ Ψ Φ

WHAT'S INSIDE?

James Doohan (obituary - pg. 2); Gaylaxicon 2006 (announcement - pg. 2); LSF Meeting Notes (pg. 3); *The Stars My Destination* (book review - pg. 3); Saturn Awards Announced (pg. 4); Locus Awards (pg. 4); 2005 Hugo Short List Announced (pg. 4); About Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians & Con Calendar (pg. 6)

James Doohan
1920 - 2005



James Doohan died of pneumonia and Alzheimer's disease early on July 20 at his Redmond, WA home. He was 85 years old. Doohan, of course, played Chief Engineer Montgomery "Scotty" Scott in the original *Star Trek* and in subsequent films

Doohan was born March 3, 1920, in Vancouver, British Columbia. He was enjoying a busy career as a character actor when he auditioned for a role as an engineer in a new space adventure on NBC in 1966. He was a master of dialects from his early years in radio, so he tried seven different accents.

Some 30 years later, Doohan recalled: "The producers asked me which one I preferred. I believed the Scot voice was the most commanding. So I told them, 'If this character is going to be an engineer, you'd better make him a Scotsman.'"

When *Star Trek* ended in 1969, Doohan found himself typecast as Scotty. But *Star Trek* continued in

syndicated TV both in the United States and abroad, and its following grew larger and more dedicated. In later years, Doohan attended 40 conventions around the country and lectured at colleges. He eventually reprised his "Scotty" role in six *Star Trek* movies.

In a 1998 interview, Doohan was asked if he ever got tired of hearing the line "Beam me up, Scotty."

"I'm not tired of it at all," he replied. "Good gracious, it's been said to me for just about 31 years. It's been said to me at 70 miles an hour across four lanes on the freeway. I hear it from just about everybody. It's been fun."



announcement by Lance Sibley

Hello all! It is my pleasure to inform the Network membership of the current details of the 2006 Gaylaxicon. So, without further ado:

Dates: June 16-18, 2006.

Site: Best Western Primrose Hotel, 111 Carlton Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Weekend memberships are currently priced at CAN \$50/US \$40, and can be purchased via our on-line registration form, available on our website:

gaylaxicon.gaylacticnetwork.org/

Our mailing address is:

Gaylaxicon 2006,
 1206-44 Dunfield Ave.
 Toronto, ON
 CANADA M4S 2H2

Hotel rooms can be booked directly through the Primrose Hotel, either via their website at:

<http://www.torontoprिमrosehotel.com/> or by phoning 1-800-268-8082. Be sure to mention Gaylaxicon to get the convention rate.

We would also encourage you to make a full vacation out of your trip to Toronto - our dates were expressly chosen, as Pride Week starts on the Monday immediately following the convention. You can attend the ceremonial raising of the Pride Flag in Nathan Phillips Square (our City Hall, which many of you may have seen as one of the destinations available through the Iconian gateway in the *Star Trek: TNG* episode "Contagion") and enjoy a week full of festivities. The Primrose will be raising their room rates for Pride Week, but you can hardly find a better-situated facility for enjoying the celebrations, as it is located at the southern edge of Toronto's Gay Village.

My committee and I are looking forward to seeing you next year in Toronto!

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SciFi Friday Night TV Parties

continued from page 1

Schedule:

- Friday, August 12
- 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM - *Stargate: SG-1* #905 - "The Powers That Be"
- 9:00 PM - 10:00 PM - *Stargate: Atlantis* #205 - "Condemned"
- 10:00 PM - 11:00 PM - *Battlestar Galactica* #205 - "The Farm"
- Friday, August 19
- 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM - *Stargate: SG-1* #906 - "Beachhead"
- 9:00 PM - 10:00 PM - *Stargate: Atlantis* #206 - "Trinity"
- 10:00 PM - 11:00 PM - *Battlestar Galactica* #206 - "Home"
- Friday, August 26
- 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM - *Stargate: SG-1* #907 - "Ex Deus Machina"
- 9:00 PM - 10:00 PM - *Stargate: Atlantis* #207 - "Instinct"
- 10:00 PM - 11:00 PM - *Battlestar Galactica* #207 - "The Raid"

For more info or directions, please call Peter and Rob at:
 202-483-6369

or e-mail Peter at:
PeterKnapp@wavelengthsonline.com

Directions can be found at:
<http://www.lambdasf.org/lsf/club/PeterRob.html>

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LSF Meeting Notes
– July 2005 –
by Rob

Business

We discussed a possible Book and Bake Sale to be held sometime this fall. The sale would include used books, videos, DVDs, toys, games, collectables, and more (all genre-related) – as well as home-made baked goods. Rob will look into potential locations and put together a proposal. Proceeds would benefit the club and/or possibly a charity of some sort. (One idea is to benefit the Gaylactic Spectrum Awards.)

We also discussed a potential change to our bylaws. We've sometimes had trouble getting a "quorum" for voting on proposals and elections – for instance, it took us months to approve the Pride table proposal again this year. We want to look at either changing the bylaws or perhaps incorporating some items into an annually approved budget. We also discussed strategies for getting a large enough contingent on hand for approving the budget and holding elections – with one key idea being to hold elections and the budget approval at the same meeting and to have that meeting tied to a video party.

Social

Much stuff was passed around, including items from the PO Box, posters from the recent space development conference, a comic called *Myth* that Peter picked up at Gaylaxicon, and various flyers and such from cons and events.

We talked about a number of movies: *War of the Worlds* (mediocre), *Man with the Screaming Brain* (awful), *Fantastic Four* (somewhat panned), *Land of the Dead* (not bad), *Batman Begins* (thumbs up), *Stealth* (better than expected), and *Bewitched* (sad, oh so sad).

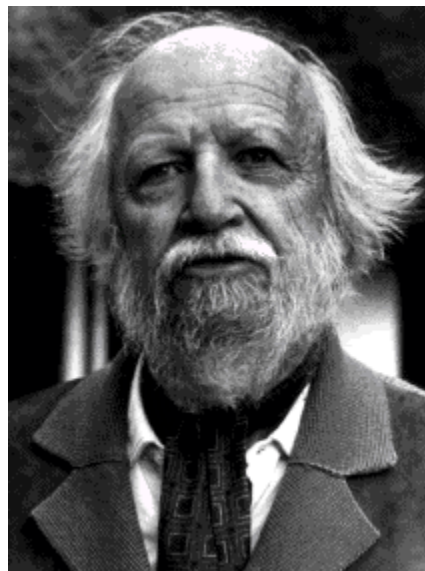
Finally, Gaylaxicon Reports from various attendees. Much fun was had by everyone. Tiptree Awards were very cool. Johanna Sinisalo rocked. Gaylactic Spectrum Awards were announced: *Earth Logic*, by Laurie Marks - for Best Novel; "Country People", by Richard Hall (from anthology *Shadows of the Night*) for Best Short Fiction.

The Stars My Destination
by Alfred Bester
(Vintage, 1996; orig. pub. 1956)
a review by Colleen R. Cahill

Probably everyone of us has played the desert island game, where we decide which music, foods, or other items we would take if trapped on a desert island. For me, Alfred Bester's *The Stars My Destination* will always be on the list. This mix of adventure, romance, and all the sides of human nature is one of my favorite stories, one that I am glad is back in print.

Discoveries bring change to human cultures, and none were more influential than the breakthrough of the *jaunte*, the ability of mankind to teleport. It is in these worlds (as humanity has also settled through the solar system) that Gully Foyle lives: a space Merchant Marine who's talents are "stunted by lack of ambition." This changes after Gully is the only survivor of a disaster on the *Nomad*, where he lives in the last airtight compartment on the ship. It is not this solitary prison that transforms him as much as his abandonment by another space ship, even after it sees his rescue signals. Now Gully has all the motivation he needs: revenge on the *Vorga*, the ship that left him to die.

Before you feel to sorry for Gully, be aware he is a crude individual, of no education or manners; and in his thirst for vengeance he is also ruthless and willing to destroy anything or anyone that gets in his way. He is also a



Alfred Bester

very noticeable person, after his encounter with a interesting group of "Scientific People" in a asteroid belt who honor him by tattooing his face with stripes and swirls, transforming it into a tiger mask. What Gully is unaware of is, while he is stalking the *Vorga*, he is being sought by Presteign, a power man who wants to know where the *Nomad* is and, more importantly, the location of the secret weapon PyrE. This personal battle between Gully and Presteign will grow to envelope the entire Earth and all the planets, with the future of mankind at stake and the stars as the prize.

This work could be argued to be fantasy, as the science is weak; but I still feel it is a classic of science fiction, with a dystopia feeling, as the freedoms of most are being withheld by a small group of powerful people. Bester gives us a dark world of corporate government and human teleportation; and is it not much of a stretch to say he inspired many other writers, from William Gibson to J. Michael Straczynski. What impressed me the most was the timelessness of this work, which I never would have suspected was written in the 1950s. The touches of humor, which can almost be cynical at times, combine with the creative use of typography and strong characters to give us a complex and compelling tale of human emotion and struggle. And most of all, its fun! That's why *The Stars My Destination* is a book I will cherish and re-read regularly.



Michael also reported on what a great time he had at Monster Con in Pittsburgh – where a significant gay contingent banded together to make it a fabulous event. Of special note was the appearance there by Forry Ackerman, who its good to see is out and about again.

That was about it, followed by a quick review of upcoming events and then general nattering until we all scurried off!

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Saturn Awards Announced

info passed along by Kendall



On May 3rd, the 31st annual Saturn Awards were announced. The Saturn Awards are given by the Academy of Science Fiction, Fantasy & Horror Films; and I'm happy to see that *Stargate SG-1* won a couple and that *Lost* has also won a couple. Here are a few of the winners:

- Best Science Fiction Film:** *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*
- Best Fantasy Film:** *Spider-Man 2*
- Best Horror Film:** *Shaun of the Dead*
- Best Action/Adventure/Thriller Film:** *Kill Bill: Vol. 2*
- Best Animated Film:** *The Incredibles*
- Best Actor:** Tobey Maguire (*Spider-Man 2*)
- Best Actress:** Blanchard Ryan (*Open Water*)
- Best Supporting Actor:** David Carradine (*Kill Bill: Vol. 2*)
- Best Supporting Actress:** Daryl Hannah (*Kill Bill: Vol. 2*)
- Best Director:** Sam Raimi (*Spider-Man 2*)
- Best Music:** Alan Silvestri (*Van Helsing*)
- Best Costume:** Kevin Conran (*Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow*)
- Best Make-Up:** *Hellboy* (Jake Garber, Matt Rose, Mike Elizalde)

- Best Special Effects:** *Spider-Man 2* (John Dykstra, Scott Stokdyk Anthony LaMolinara, John Frazier)
- Best Network Television Series:** *Lost*
- Best Syndicated/Cable Television Series:** *Stargate SG-1*
- Best Television Presentation:** *Farscape: Peacekeeper Wars*
- Best Actor on Television:** Ben Browder (*Farscape: Peacekeeper Wars*)
- Best Actress on Television:** Claudia Black (*Farscape: Peacekeeper Wars*)
- Best Supporting Actor on Television:** Terry O'Quinn (*Lost*)
- Best Supporting Actress on Television:** Amanda Tapping (*Stargate SG-1*)
- The Special Recognition Award:** *Star Trek*



Locus Awards

The Locus Awards were announced at Westercon Due North in Calgary on July 2. Unlike previous years, this year Locus announced a short list in each category prior to Westercon weekend. The awards are selected by a poll of *Locus* readers.

- Best SF Novel:** "The Baroque Cycle" (*The Confusion* and *The System of the World*), by Neal Stephenson
- Best Fantasy Novel:** *Iron Council*, by China Miéville
- Best First Novel:** *Jonathan Strange & Mr. Norrell*, by Susanna Clarke
- Best YA Book:** *A Hat Full of Sky*, by Terry Pratchett
- Best Novella:** "Golden City Far", by Gene Wolfe
- Best Novelette (tie):** "Reports of Certain Events in London", by China Miéville &

- "The Faery Handbag", by Kelly Link
- Best Short Story:** "Forbidden Brides of the Faceless Slaves in the Nameless House of the Night of Dread Desire", by Neil Gaiman
- Best Anthology:** *The Year's Best Science Fiction: Twenty-First Annual Collection*, Gardner Dozois (ed.)
- Best Collection:** *The John Varley Reader*, by John Varley
- Best Non-Fiction Book:** *The Wave in the Mind*, by Ursula K. Le Guin
- Editor:** Ellen Datlow
- Magazine:** *The Magazine Of Fantasy & Science Fiction*
- Book Publisher:** Tor
- Artist:** Michael Whelan

2005 Hugo Award Shortlist Announced
passed along by Kendall
(from a press release by Interaction, the 63rd World Science Fiction Convention)

The shortlist for the Hugo Awards (recognising achievement in Science Fiction during the year 2004) has been released. The Hugo Awards were named in honor of writer, publisher and inventor Hugo Gernsback; they are science fiction's highest honor for professional and fan work.

Voting for the Hugo Awards is open to all attending and supporting adult members of Interaction, the 63rd World Science Fiction Convention, which takes place in Glasgow (Aug. 4th through 8th). The winners will be announced at a ceremony on August 7th in Glasgow, as part of the Convention.

The following list of 2005 Hugo Award nominees include finalists in 7 of the 14 categories, plus the John W. Campbell Award (not a Hugo).

(continued on page 5)



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**2005 Hugo Award
Shortlist Announced**

continued from page 4

Best Novel

- The Algebraist* by Iain M. Banks (Orbit)
- Iron Council* by China Miéville (Del Rey; Macmillan)
- Iron Sunrise* by Charles Stross (Ace)
- Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell* by Susanna Clarke (Bloomsbury)
- River of Gods* by Ian McDonald (Simon & Schuster)

Best Novella

- “The Concrete Jungle” by Charles Stross (*The Atrocity Archives*, Golden Gryphon Press)
- “Elector” by Charles Stross (*Asimov’s*, Sept. 2004)
- “Sergeant Chip” by Bradley Denton (*Fantasy & Science Fiction*, Sept. 2004)
- “Time Ablaze” by Michael A. Burstein (*Analog*, June 2004)
- “Winterfair Gifts” by Lois McMaster Bujold (*Irresistible Forces*, NAL)

Best Novelette

- “Biographical Notes to ‘A Discourse on the Nature of Causality, with Air-Planes’ by Benjamin Rosenbaum” by Benjamin Rosenbaum (*All-Star Zeppelin Adventure Stories*, Wheatland)
- “The Clapping Hands of God” by Michael F. Flynn (*Analog*, July/Aug. 2004)
- “The Faery Handbag” by Kelly Link (*The Faery Reel*, Viking)
- “The People of Sand and Slag” by Paolo Bacigalupi (*Fantasy & Science Fiction*, Feb. 2004)
- “The Voluntary State” by Christopher Rowe (*Sci Fiction*, scifi.com, May 5, 2004)

Best Short Story

- “The Best Christmas Ever” by James Patrick Kelly (*Sci Fiction*, scifi.com, May 26, 2004)
- “Decisions” by Michael A. Burstein (*Analog*, Jan./Feb. 2004)
- “A Princess of Earth” by Mike Resnick (*Asimov’s*, Dec. 2004)



- “Shed Skin” by Robert J. Sawyer (*Analog*, Jan./Feb. 2004)
- “Travels with My Cats” by Mike Resnick (*Asimov’s*, Feb. 2004)

Best Related Book

- The Best of Xero* by Pat and Dick Lupoff (Tachyon Publications)
- The Cambridge Companion to Science Fiction* ed. by Edward James and Farah Mendlesohn (Cambridge University Press)
- Dancing Naked: The Unexpurgated William Tenn*, Volume 3 by William Tenn (NESFA Press)
- Futures: 50 Years in Space: The Challenge of the Stars* by David A. Hardy and Patrick Moore (AAPPL; Harper Design International)
- With Stars in My Eyes: My Adventures in British Fandom* by Peter Weston (NESFA Press)

Best Dramatic Presentation - Long Form

- Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* (Focus Features; story by Charlie Kaufman & Michael Gondry & Pierre Bismuth; screenplay by Charlie Kaufman; directed by Michael Gondry)
- Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* (Warner Brothers; written by Steve Kloves; based on the novel by J.K. Rowling; directed by Alfonso Cuarón)

- The Incredibles* (Walt Disney Pictures/Pixar Animation Studios; written & directed by Brad Bird)
- Sky Captain and The World of Tomorrow* (Paramount Pictures; written & directed by Kerry Conran)
- Spider-Man 2* (Sony Pictures Entertainment/Columbia Pictures; screen story by Alfred Gough & Miles Millar and Michael Chabon; screenplay by Alvin Sargent; based on the comic book by Stan Lee & Steve Ditko; directed by Sam Raimi)

Best Dramatic Presentation - Short Form

- “Heroes” Part 1 & 2 - *Stargate SG-1* (MGM Television/The Sci Fi Channel; written by Robert C. Cooper; directed by Andy Mikita)
- “Not Fade Away” - *Angel* (20th Century Fox Television/Mutant Enemy; written by Jeffrey Bell & Joss Whedon; directed by Jeffrey Bell)
- Pilot Episode - *Lost* (Touchstone Television/Bad Robot; story by Jeffrey Lieber and J.J. Abrams & Damon Lindelof; teleplay by J.J. Abrams & Damon Lindelof; Directed by: J.J. Abrams)
- “Smile Time” - *Angel* (20th Century Fox Television/Mutant Enemy; story by Joss Whedon & Ben Edlund; teleplay by Ben Edlund; directed by Ben Edlund)
- “33” - *Battlestar Galactica* (NBC Universal Television/The Sci Fi Channel; written by Ronald D. Moore; directed by Michael Rymer)

John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer (best new science fiction writer of the past two years)

- Elizabeth Bear (2nd year of eligibility)
- K.J. Bishop (2nd year of eligibility)
- David Moles 2nd year of eligibility)
- Chris Roberson (2nd year of eligibility)
- Steph Swainston (1st year of eligibility)

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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, **August 14th**, at James Crutchfield's apartment: 1414 17th St., NW, #413 (near Dupont Circle) - 1:30 PM for business meeting; 2:00 PM for social meeting. 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, Peter, and Rob



Aug. 4-8, 2005 **INTERACTION (63rd World Science Fiction Convention)**. (Glasgow, Scotland, UK). Guests of Honor: Greg Pickersgill, Christopher Priest, Robert Sheckley, Jane Yolen. Membership: currently \$195 (will go up!). Make checks payable to "Interaction" and send to: Interaction, PO Box 58009, Louisville, KY 40268-0009

Website: www.interaction.worldon.org.uk

Email: info@interaction.worldcon.org.uk

Sept. 3-6, 2005 **CASCADIA CON (NASFiC 2005)**. SeaTac Airport Hilton (Seattle, WA). Author GoH: Fred Saberhagen; Artist GoH: Liz Danforth; Editor GoH: Toni Weisskopf. Membership: \$110 until 8/1/05 (will go up after that). Make checks payable to "Seattle NASFiC" and send to: Seattle NASFiC, Box 1066, Seattle, WA 98111. URL: www.CascadiaCon.org

Sept. 17-18, 2005 **BALTIMORE COMIC-CON**. Baltimore Conv. Center (Baltimore, MD). Guests include: Frank Cho, Howard Chaykin, Mike Kaluta. For info, call: 410-526-7410 or visit: www.comicon.com/baltimore

Oct. 14-16, 2005 **CAPCLAVE 2005**. Hilton Silver Spring (Silver Spring, MD). GOHs: Howard Waldrop, Patrick Nielsen Hayden. Membership: \$40 from 7/1 thru 9/30; \$45 at the door. Make checks payable to "Capclave" and send to: Capclave 2005, 7113 Wayne Drive, Annandale, VA 22003-1734. Website: www.capclave.org Info: info@capclave.org

Nov. 25-27, 2005 **DARKOVER GRAND COUNCIL MEETING XXVIII**. Holiday Inn, Timonium (Timonium, MD). Guest of Honor: C.S. Friedman; Artist GoH: TBA; Special Guest: Katherine Kurtz; Musical GoH: Clam Chowder. Membership: \$40 until 11/1/2005 (after that & at the door: \$45). Make checks payable to "Armida Council" and send to: Armida Council, PO Box 7203, Silver Spring, MD 20907 Website: www.darkovercon.com

June 16-18, 2006 **GAYLAXICON 2006**. Best Western Primrose Hotel (Toronto, Ontario, Canada). More information as it becomes available. Membership (currently): US \$40/CAN \$50 (registration form available online). Website: <http://gaylaxicon.gaylacticnetwork.org/>

Aug. 23-27, 2006 **L.A. CON IV (64th World Science Fiction Convention)**. (Los Angeles, CA). Author GoH: Connie Willis; Artist GoH: James Gurney; Special Guest: Frankie Thomas (*Tom Corbett, Space Cadet*). Membership: currently \$150 ("will go up after that"). Make checks payable to "L.A. Con IV" and send to: L.A. Con IV, c/o S.C.I.F.I., Inc., PO Box 8442, Van Nuys, CA 91409 Website: www.laconiv.com For more info: info@laconiv.org

October 4-7, 2007 **GAYLAXICON 2007**. (Atlanta, GA). Their bid was just accepted this year at Gaylaxicon 2005. More details as they become available.

