



LAMBDA SCI-FI



DC Area Gaylaxians

PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044 - (202) 232-3141 - Issue #192 - March 2006

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



LSF Turns "Sweet 16"

Happy Birthday to us! That's right, gang! Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians will turn 16 years old this month! Amazing, isn't it? We've been at this for 16 years now, and there's no sign that it'll end anytime soon! [Ed. note: And we haven't missed an issue of the monthly newsletter either!]

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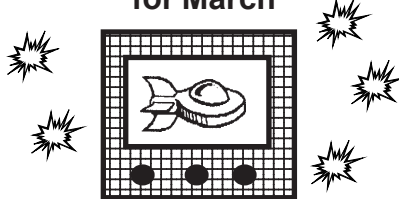
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Next LSF Meeting: Sunday, March 12th

The next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held at James Crutchfield's apartment (1414 17th St., NW, #413) on Sunday, March 12th. 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!

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Sci Fi Channel Friday Night TV Parties for March



NOTE: 2 Different Places on 2 Different Dates

When: Friday, March 3rd (New Episodes of *Stargate SG-1*, *Stargate Atlantis*, and *Battlestar Galactica*)

Where: The home of Jonathan Manning: 10901 Amherst Ave., Apt. 121, Silver Spring, MD 20902.

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.

Closest Metro Stop: Wheaton (Red Line). Walk East to Amherst Ave. Turn right and walk south two blocks to Wheaton Place Apartments on your left.

Parking: Please park on Amherst Avenue Amherst runs North and South, parallel with Georgia Ave. in the Wheaton area.

Schedule:

- 8:00 PM - *SG-1* - "Crusade"
- 9:00 PM - *Atlantis* - "Inferno"
- 10:00 PM - *BG* - "Lay Down Your Burdens, Part 1"



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 March 23rd. Here's the schedule for the next couple of meetings:

March 23rd - *The James Tiptree Award Anthology 1*; moderator: Carl.

April 27th - *Ruled Britannia*, by Harry Turtledove; moderator: Barrett. Λ Ψ Φ

For more information or directions, please call Jonathan at:

812-219-0449

or e-mail him at:

MusicEcon@hotmail.com

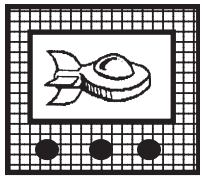
When: Friday March 10th (**Season Finales** of *Stargate SG-1*, *Stargate Atlantis*, and *Battlestar Galactica*)

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

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Friday Night TV Parties
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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).

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

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

Schedule:

8:00 PM -SG-1 - “Camelot”

9:00 PM - Atlantis - “Allies”

10:00 PM -BG- “Lay Down Your Burdens, Part 2”

For more information 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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A Request from Ye Olde Editor



On page 4 of this issue, you’ll find my review of the book I received at the annual LSF Blind Book Exchange: Ray Bradbury’s *The Martian Chronicles*. How about *you*? Have you read the book you received at the book exchange? If so, how about writing a review for the newsletter? I’m sure we’d all like to hear what you’ve got to say!

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Minutes for the February 2006 LSF Meeting
minutes taken by Scott



Business Meeting

Our host James asked if LSF should craft a procedure for notification if a LSF meeting is to be cancelled due to inclement weather or some other reason. It was decided that the host and the LSF Speaker should confer and that timely notification via e-mail should be made.

There was discussion about whether LSF would be participating in DC Youth Pride this year. A booth rental (which is half a table) costs \$60. The event prohibits the sale of goods or accepting money for memberships. It was decided not to pursue Youth Pride. [Ed. Note: That’s a very strange way to phrase that sentence, Scott.]

Social Meeting

Some attendees bantered about the idea of having a social outing at the “O” Street SE clubs before they shut down to make room for the new baseball stadium. Carl passed around the current Bud Plant catalog (comics, art books, statuettes, posters, etc.). Peter brought a set of free *Night Watch* items (mouse pads and T-shirts), which were quickly gobbled up. He also had some free passes for a sneak preview of *Night Watch*, a popular Russian movie that is described as “a smarter version of *Underworld*.”

The cover of *Entertainment* magazine features the new *V for Vendetta* movie, which is coming out in March. It was noted that the *X-Men III* movie is slated to be released in May. And the animated *Curious George* feature is now out.

Michael recently attended the

annual Edgar Allen Poe birthday celebration in the Baltimore area. He showed off his cool “The Raven” cap.

The secret is out. Carl is entertaining the idea of heading up a “Gaylaxicon 2008” bid for here in the DC area. He insisted on the need for limited liability, so an incorporated entity will be needed — probably for a group specifically established for Gaylaxicon 2008. The positions needed for the incorporation papers would be President, Treasurer, and Secretary. The revenue and expenses from last year’s successful Boston Gaylaxicon were briefly reviewed. Possible dates for a DC-based Gaylaxicon were discussed — perhaps in October sometime or early November. Rob suggested having the Guests of Honor lined up well in advance. (More on this breaking news story as it develops...)

Back to the social meeting discussion. Michael reported that the AFI Theater (Silver Spring, MD) will be showing the original *King Kong* movie in March. He coordinate an outing.

Peter reported on his recent trek up to New York City to see the “PIXAR: 20 Years of Animation” exhibit at the Museum of Modern Art. (It was the final weekend for the exhibit.)

Peter advised everyone that the Friday evening *Stargate/Battlestar Galactica* get-togethers will continue at Jonathan’s until the March 3rd, and then they revert back to Peter and Rob’s place. (For a schedule, see the article beginning on page 1.)

Rob briefly mentioned the upcoming LSF book discussion group’s selections: C.S. Lewis’ *The Lion, Witch, and the Wardrobe* (February); *The James Tiptree Award Anthology 1* (March); and Harry Turtledove’s *Ruled Britannia* (April).

The musical *Spamalot* is coming to the National Theater. (And everyone consumed massive quantities of fat & sugar solids and liquids!)

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A great book should leave you with many experiences, and slightly exhausted at the end. You live several lives while reading it.

-- William Styron --



excerpted from *The Quotable Book Lover* (Barnes & Noble, 2002)



**Tim McGrain
RIP**

from an e-mail from
Tom Maclaney

Hello, friends:

We're sorry to have to tell you that Tim passed away yesterday [Jan. 10th] about 11:30. We don't have many details, but expect that he went peacefully.

Tim was a very good friend, and we will miss him very much. Our room at Worldcon won't be the same without his good spirit and gentle humor. We enjoyed seeing the Virgin Islands and Iceland with him, and wish we could have shared much more of the world.

Many thanks to those who sent e-mails; we know he appreciated hearing from you all. Tim really appreciated his friends, and we know you appreciated him, too.

Befitting a science fiction fan, Tim was a voracious reader and has left many books. We have been asked to take care of these. Once we have them catalogued, we will ask those who are

interested to kindly take a number of them. Most of them are SF, and if this interests you, please consider this. We want these books to go to Tim's friends first, and then to those who would appreciate such material. It may take a few months, but we will contact you once we know what is available. We will also be glad to hear any suggestions you might have on distribution of these books.

Thanks again for being Tim's friends.

[Ed. note: For those of you in LSF who didn't know him, Tim was a longtime member of the Detroit-area Gaylaxians. He was also a longtime participant at and supporter of Gaylaxicons and other Gaylactic Network events (such as GLBT suites at Worldcons). He was a genuinely nice guy; and I, for one, will miss seeing him.] Λ Ψ Φ



**- Gaylaxicon 2007 -
Dates & Hotel Announced**
announcement by Lance Sibley

Gaylaxicon 2007 will be held in beautiful midtown Atlanta, GA on October 5 - 8, 2007 (Columbus Day weekend).

Our hotel is the Sheraton Midtown Atlanta at Colony Square, located in the heart of the Atlanta "gayborhood". There are many entertainment options all within walking distance of the hotel.

Full membership information will be provided as soon as possible, including purchasing memberships online via PayPal. Please check back soon, or watch the Yahoo! Group for announcements.

Guest of Honor details are being worked out with the various parties, and announcements will be made as soon as possible. One named guest author so far, Laura J. Underwood.

Visit our website at:
<http://2007.atlantagallifreyans.org/>

**The Kraken
by Alfred, Lord Tennyson**

Below the thunders of the upper deep,
Far, far beneath in the abysmal sea,
His ancient, dreamless, univaded sleep
The Kraken sleepeth; faintest sunlights flee
About his shadowy sides; above him swell
Huge sponges of millennial growth and
height;
And far away into the sickly light,
From many a wondrous grot and secret cell
Unnumbered and enormous polypi
Winnow with giant arms the slumbering
green,
There hath he lain for ages, and will lie
Battening upon huge sea worms in his sleep,
Until the latter fire shall heat the deep;
Then once by man and angels to be seen,
In roaring he shall rise and on the surface
die.*

*Sounds really Cthulhu-like, doesn't it?

from *Committed to Memory*
(Books & Co./Turtle Point, 1996,
The Academy of American Poets)



**Gaylaxicon 2006
Actor Guest of Honor**
announcement by Lance Sibley

In a recent e-mail, Lance Sibley (Gaylaxicon 2006 Chair) announced that they have signed Ellen Muth as Actor GoH for Gaylaxicon 2006 (Toronto).

Ms. Muth starred as Georgia "George" Lass in the TV series *Dead Like Me*. She also starred in the TV movie *The Truth About Jane* (along with Stockard Channing and RuPaul), as a teenage girl in the process of coming out as a lesbian.



The Martian Chronicles
by Ray Bradbury
reviewed by Carl

First of all, my thanks to LaVaughn for this book, which I received during this year's "Annual LSF Blind Book Exchange" at the January LSF meeting. (And my thanks to Peter & Rob for helping me participate *in absentia*. At the time, I was actually somewhere in the southern end of the Shenandoah Valley, well on my way toward a three-week teaching assignment in Beckley, WV. But I digress; back to Bradbury...) When I opened the package upon my return from West Virginia, I was delighted. I'd actually read *The Martian Chronicles* already — about 40 years ago! — and I had fond (albeit vague) memories of the book. I'm also a big fan of Bradbury, having recently read such collections as *Dandelion Wine*, *The Illustrated Man*, and *The Golden Apples of the Sun*. I was looking forward to see how *The Martian Chronicles* would affect me now that I'm a more (ahem) "mature" reader.

Let me quickly state that I found *The Martian Chronicles* as enjoyable as all Bradbury's other collections of "classic" short fiction. And, believe me, this is "classic" fare. The collection itself was first published by Doubleday back in 1950, but a number of the stories had previously appeared in various pulp magazines during the late 1940's. Yes, a lot of the "science" is dated — or *outdated* — but, as Bradbury writes stories that emphasize "ideas" and "emotions" and "messages," his stories don't have an expiration date. Besides, there's that Bradbury flair, that Bradbury style, his use of the language, that make his F&SF such a continuing delight to read.

Some of the stories (such as "The Earth Men" and "The Third Expedition"), with their serio-comic storylines and last-minute ironic twists, would fit quite nicely as episodes of *The Twilight Zone*. I found "Usher II" fascinating because it foreshadows Bradbury's later (1953) novel *Fahrenheit 451*. Surprisingly, some of the



"Martian Chronicles" by Doug Chaffee
(cover for 1986 Worldcon program book)

images from this book that have really stuck with me over the years came from the last two stories in the collection — "There Will Come Soft Rains" (the automated house that survived the atomic war, with the shadows of its owners blasted into one of its walls) and "The Million-Year Picnic" (the identify of the new Martians).

One aspect of *The Martian Chronicles* that I really enjoyed is something that might be difficult for other readers to handle — the sense of "nostalgia." (No, I'm not referring to the fact that this book came out the year I was born!) I guess I'd classify *The Martian Chronicles* — and many of Bradbury's other works — as "nostalgic F&SF." Yes, the stories in *The Martian Chronicles* are definitely "science-fictional" and "futuristic" (with rockets and robots and space travel and aliens and so on); but the attitudes and personal beliefs and social constructs portrayed in them very definitely reflect the times in which they were written — that small-town, rural, Midwestern world of the 1940's and 1950's (where Bradbury himself had his roots) which is becoming increasingly difficult for 21st-century Americans to conceptualize. As I read these stories, I was struck with the fact that Bradbury had, in effect, taken small-town, mid-20th-century Americans, given them rockets, and sent them to Mars. Yes, the "dates" in the stories range

anywhere from 1999 to 2026, but I often got the impression I was reading about *The Music Man* or *Mayberry RFD* with a Martian setting. And it suddenly dawned on me that I got the same feeling from many of the other Bradbury F&SF works that I enjoyed — *Something Wicked This Way Comes*, *The Illustrated Man*, *The Halloween Tree*, *Dandelion Wine*, *From the Dust Returned* — no, not "anti-science" or "anti-technology," but F&SF themes and concepts as viewed through the nostalgic lens of bygone days.

Bradbury's first professional sale (to *Super Science Stories*) was in 1941, when he was about 21 years old. His first published collection of short stories (*Dark Carnival*) came in 1947; and (as I said) *The Martian Chronicles* came out in 1950. I first read *The Martian Chronicles* in about 1965 — and I'm glad to have re-read them now, when I can appreciate them all the more. Thanks again, LaVaughn! Λ Ψ Φ

**"It is good to renew
one's wonder,"
said the philosopher.
"Space travel has made
children of us all."**

a quote contained in
The Martian Chronicles,
by Ray Bradbury

The New Face (and Body) of Aquaman



Yes, indeed, *this* (see above) looks to be the new face (and body!) of Aquaman – six-foot-two, 28-year-old actor William Toale. It has been announced that Toale is slated to play the lead role of Arthur “A.C.” Curry in the pilot for the new *Aquaman* TV series. He was selected from over 400 candidates by the new show’s producers Alfred Gough and Miles Millar (creators of the series *Smallville*). Previously, Toale has worked on the soap opera *Guiding Light* and the made-for-TV movie *Tempting Adam*.

Note: The “A.C.” Curry character was portrayed in a recent episode of *Smallville* by model Alan Ritchson (see below). Apparently, Ritchson got a lot of acclaim for his body but little-to-none for his acting.

The *Aquaman* pilot is scheduled to begin filming this month, possibly in Miami.



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Andreas Katsulas: as G'Kar, as himself, as Tomalak

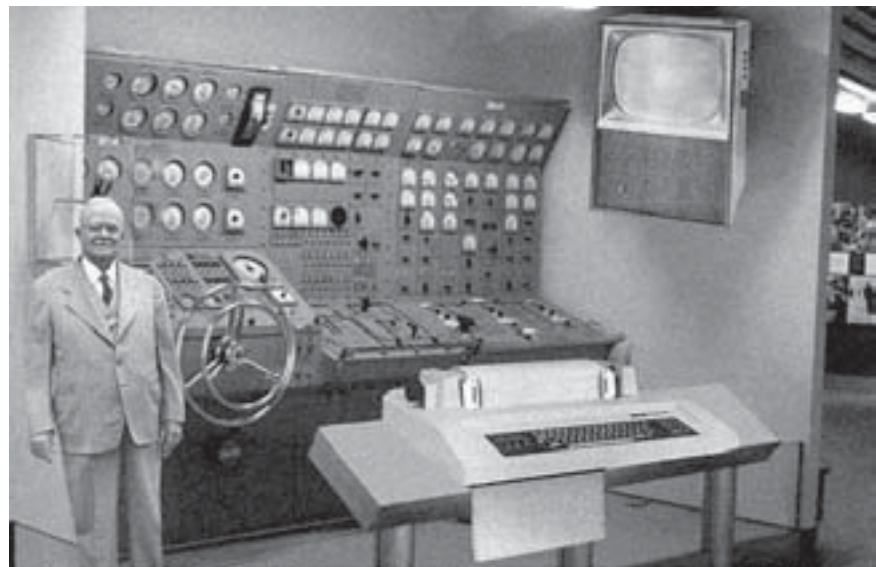
Andreas Katsulas (1946 - 2006)

On Feb. 13, Andreas Katsulas died of lung cancer in Los Angeles, his longtime home. He was 59. Katsulas was a character actor, perhaps best known to SF fans as G'Kar, the Narn Ambassador, on *Babylon 5*. He was also no stranger to *Star Trek* fans; he played the Romulan Commander Tomalak in several *ST:TNG* episodes; and his last *Trek* appearance was as a Vissian captain in an episode of *Enterprise*.

Katsulas was born in St. Louis, MO and held a master’s degree in theater from Indiana University. Before turning to the big screen and television, he was involved with Peter Brook’s International Theatre Company for 15 years,

performing around the world with a challenging combination of improvisational theatre in every imaginable circumstance and space. He moved to Los Angeles permanently in 1986, and his film career took off with roles in Michael Cimino’s *The Sicilian* (1987), Ridley Scott’s *Someone to Watch Over Me* (1987), and Blake Edward’s *Sunset* (1988). He also found scores of other television and film parts, everything from *Alien Nation* and *Max Headroom* to the big-screen version of *The Fugitive* (1993), in which he played the infamous “one-armed man.” It was in 1993 that he became involved with *Babylon 5*.

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Scientists from the RAND Corporation have created this model to illustrate how a “home computer” could look like in the year 2004. However the needed technology will not be economically feasible for the average home. Also the scientists readily admit that the computer will require not yet invented technology to actually work, but 30 years from now scientific progress is expected to solve these problems. With teletype interface and the Farvian language, the computer will be easy to use.

a “home computer” from a 1954 issue of *Popular Science Magazine*

**** 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, **March 12th**, 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



May 26-29, 2006 **BALTICON 40**. Marriott's Hunt Valle Inn (Hunt Valley, MD). Guest of Honor: Neil Gaiman; Artist GoH: Lorraine a'Malena; Special GoH: Gene Wolfe. Membership: \$55 after Apr. 30 & at the door (registration form available on-line).

Website: WWW.BALTICON.ORG

E-mail: balticoninfo@balticon.org

June 16-18, 2006 **GAYLAXICON 2006**. Best Western Primrose Hotel (Toronto, Ontario, Canada). Guests of Honour: Richard Arnold; Michael Rowe. Membership (currently): US \$40/CAN \$50 (registration form available on-line). Website: <http://gaylaxicon.gaylacticnetwork.org/2006/>

July 7-9, 2006 **SHORE LEAVE 28**. Marriott's Hunt Valley Inn (Hunt Valley, MD). "Guests will be announced as soon as they are confirmed." Membership: \$55 until 6/15/2006 (higher at the door). Make checks payable to "Shore Leave" (and enclose two SASE's) and send to: Shore Leave 28, PO Box 6809, Towson, MD 21285-6809.

Website: www.shore-leave.com

E-mail: information@shore-leave.com

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 thru 09/15/05 ("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

Oct. 20-22, 2006 **CAPCLAVE 2006**. Hilton Washington/Silver Spring (Silver Spring, MD). More information as it becomes available. Membership: \$30 thru 5/31/2006; \$40 from 6/1/2006 thru 9/30/2006; \$50 at the door. Make checks payable to "Capclave 2006" and send to: Capclave 2006, 7113 Wayne Dr., Annandale, VA 22003-1734

Website: www.capclave.org

E-mail: info@capclave.org

Aug. 2-5, 2007 **ARCHON 31 (2007 NASFiC)**. (St. Louis, MO). Featured Guest: Barbara Hambly; Artist GoH: Darryl K. Sweet; Media GoH: Mira "Delenn" Furlan. Membership: \$45 (currently). Make checks payable to "Archon 31" and send to: Archon 31/2007 NASFiC, PO Box 8387, St. Louis, MO 63132-8387. Website: <http://www.archonstl.org/31/>

October 5-8, 2007 **GAYLAXICON 2007**. Sheraton Midtown Atlanta at Colony Square (Atlanta, GA). Full membership information will be provided as soon as possible, including purchasing memberships online via PayPal. Guest of Honor details are being worked out with the various parties, and announcements will be made as soon as possible. Website: <http://2007.atlantagallifreyans.org/>