

PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044 - (202) 232-3141 - Issue #110 - May 1999

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

Book Discussion Group: Upcoming Sessions



Are you interested in lively discussions on F&SF books, with an emphasis on elements of interest to our les/bi/gay/transgendered community? Well, have we got a group for you! In our first four sessions, we've discussed Mary Doria Russell's *The Sparrow* (Jan. 28th), Nicola Griffith's *Slow River* (Feb. 25th), Gregory Maguire's *Wicked* (March 25th), and Ursula K. LeGuin's *The Left Hand of Darkness* (April 22nd).

Here are the details on the next three meetings:

Thursday, May 27th - *Shadow Man* (winner of the 1996 Lambda Literary Award for F&SF), by Melissa Scott, facilitated by Keith.

Thursday, June 24th - *The Merro Tree* (winner of the 1998 Compton Crook Award for Best First F&SF Novel), by Katie Waitman, facilitated by Peter & Rob.

Thursday, July 22nd - *Where Late the Sweet Birds Sang*, by Kate Wilhelm; facilitator to be determined.

If any of these books sounds interesting to you, please join us. Besides discussing the chosen book, attendees also decide on the novels and discussion facilitators for succeeding months.

Meetings begin at 7:00 PM and are held at the home of our hosts, Rob & Peter - 1425 "S" St., NW, Washington, DC (near the Whitman-Walker Clinic, within walking distance of the U St./Cardozo [Green Line] or the Dupont Circle [Red Line] Metro Stations). For more detailed directions, contact Rob at: Klaatu01@aol.com

Mark your calendars! We hope to see you there!

Remember: Lammas Women's Books and More (located at 1607 17th Street, NW) has graciously agreed to co-sponsor our book discussion group. They have agreed to order copies of all the books slated for our upcoming meetings. If you don't have a copy of any of them, please consider buying one at Lammas.

ΛΨΦ

LSF Seeks New Network Rep (Election Set for May Meeting)



Jack Frost has announced that he is stepping down as Lambda Sci-Fi's Representative to the governing Board of the Gaylactic Network. Accordingly, LSF is seeking a successor to that position.

The Network Rep serves as a liaison between the Network Board and LSF, keeping LSF members informed of the activities of the Gaylactic Network and bringing LSF's issues and concerns to the attention of the Board. The Network Rep also polls the feelings of Lambda Sci-Fi members on issues before the Board and accordingly casts votes in the name of Lambda Sci-Fi on those issues.

To be eligible for the position of LSF's Network Representative, an individual must be a member in good standing of LSF. It is also essential that he or she have access to e-mail, either directly or through someone else, since e-mail is the primary method of communication between Board members. The Network Board also meets in person once each year, either at Gaylaxicon or (in years with no Gaylaxicon) at Worldcon or NASFiC.

Elections for the new LSF Network Rep will be held at the May LSF meeting (May 9th). If you're interested in applying for the position, be there!

ΛΨΦ

May LSF Meeting

The next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held on Sunday, May 9th at James Crutchfield's apartment: 1414 17th St., NW, Apt. 413 (near Dupont Circle) - 1:30 PM for business meeting; 2:00 PM for social meeting. (Elections for the new LSF Representative to the Gaylactic Network Board will be held during the business portion of the meeting.) Please bring munchies or soft drinks if you can. Hope to see you there!

WHAT'S INSIDE?

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The Shock Therapy Minutes of the April LSF Meeting

by Rob



The April meeting of Lambda Sci-Fi was filled with all sorts of dramatics and oohs and ahhs. Well, okay, not quite that earth-shattering; but it was still laden with many important topics....

In business items, we solidified our plans for events related to area Pride celebrations. We *will* have a booth at DC's Pride Celebration on June 13th. We'll also have a combined Meeting/Video Party the day before (Saturday, June 12th). In addition to DC Pride, we're also getting a table at Montgomery County Pride where we'll co-promote Lambda Sci-Fi and Gaylaxicon (with Gaylaxicon paying for half of the table). We also decided not to pursue Black Pride this year, though everyone thought sending info to local black gay groups would be a positive step.

In non-Pride news, we were contacted by Peppers, a 17th Street restaurant/bar, about co-sponsoring a Tuesday or Sunday night event there. With no cost to LSF, the evening would be advertised, we'd be able to hang our banners and set out materials about the group, and we would get half the profits from that evening. Although people seemed positive about the idea, it was suggested that more details should be gathered before making a final decision. Rob was given the task of following up.

In Network news, Jack Frost announced that he is resigning his post as Lambda Sci-Fi's Network Representative. Our Network Representative serves as a conduit between the Network and our local club, and casts votes in the name of Lambda Sci-Fi on issues before the Board. Elections for a new Network Representative will be held at the May meeting. In other Network news, Rob made a drastic suggestion for abolishing

the entire current structure of the Network (which is an organization of local organizations) in favor of becoming a purely "individual membership" organization. Rob suggested a few reasons why some sort of change is needed; and many others suggested that while change may be needed, such a drastic change may be a bit too much. Rob agreed that the drastic overhaul may be too much but suggested that a drastic proposal may be needed to get some real, positive discussion going within the Network about how to resolve the problems at hand. Carl recommended that Rob write up a white paper about his ideas to present to LSF and then to the Network Board as the door-opener for significant discussion at the Board meeting at Gaylaxicon.

With the dreaded business finally talked to death (and it took some work to talk it to death, believe me!), we moved on to the more social aspects of the meeting. After a quick name circle, the mayhem began....

Rob encouraged (begged?) everyone to submit nominations for the Spectrum Awards by the close of nominations (April 30th). Michael passed around the *Big Book of the Weird Wild West* and regaled us with tales of his adventures at the re-enactment group gathering (smorgasbord?) known as "Marching Through Time". Keith passed around the latest Del Rey Internet Newsletter, with news about upcoming and current Del Rey releases, while Rob passed around a gay studies press catalog received in LSF's PO Box. Those who had attended one of Ursula LeGuin's recent local appearances shared their experiences, while the events at Balticon were relived in all their glory. A number of people had

seen *The Matrix*, and it was given a huge "thumbs up" by those who had seen it, while the return of *Reboot* to American TV was loudly applauded. In other media news, *Futurama*, the new Matt Groening series, was given positive reviews, as was *Farscape* on the Sci-Fi Channel. Upcoming movie trailers have also been whetting appetites, among them *Star Wars: The Phantom Menace*, *The Wild Wild West*, and *The Mummy*. In addition, people are on the lookout for the "Muppets in Space" movie, and the remake of *The Haunting*.

In book news, Neal Stephenson's latest, *Cryptonomicon*, will be hitting shelves the first week of May. Early reviews seem to indicate that it is as chaotic and as good as his previous works. The Nebula nominations are out and will be awarded at the end of April. Andre Norton's new book, *Scent of Magic*, deals a lot with olfactory issues and was reported as a fun read. Rob reported that a series of fantasy books by Lynn Flewelling was rather charming and included significant gay content. The third book in this series, *Traitor's Moon*, will be out in July. Someone recommended a book entitled *The Bone People*, by Kerry Hume. New fantasies are also out by master fantasists Guy Gavriel Kay (*Sailing to Sarantium*, book one of "the Sarantine Mosaic") and George R. R. Martin (*A Clash of Kings*, book two of "Fire and Ice").

Whew, with all the talk of books and movies, we decided to end the meeting by dropping like a locust swarm on a box of for-sale goodies Carl brought from a recent skimming of his collection. As always, money was raised for the club, book addictions were soothed, and everyone walked away happy!

ΛΨΦ

One is tempted to define man as a rational animal who always loses his temper when he is called upon to act in accordance with the dictates of reason.

-- Oscar Wilde, *Intentions* --

Mainline

by Deborah Christian
a book review by Rob



Now, I'm not one to brag, but I'm fairly confident in my knowledge of the genre, particularly when it comes to good stuff with positive alternative sexuality content. But I suppose even the best of us miss things now and then. Which is why I was very pleased to discover this book after a recommendation from Jed (from the Philadelphia Area Gaylaxians) at Philcon in 1998. Little did I know that this book with the cool Bruce Jensen cover and a cyber-ish title would hold such a fine story. Don't get me wrong, this isn't what I'd call all-time "classic" material, but it is well written and entertaining.

The book tells the story of Reva, assassin and secretly a master of the unknown psionic discipline of seeing and traveling between probability timelines. Reva is a loner, by trade and by choice, her undocumented talent providing her the ability to pull off the most incredible assassinations and also forcing her never to make strong ties. You see, though Reva can see the timelines around her, switching lines often has unexpected results. Her family and past have both been left behind inadvertently when she switched lines – and though she can see multiple lines, she has no way of cataloguing or identifying them. Reva's life is a fast-paced and lucrative, but lonely, one. Given a job of pulling off a significant political assassination, Reva's life changes forever. The bodyguard who vowed to protect her target becomes a hunter, trying to fulfill the vow he made through revenge; Reva develops a friendship, and perhaps more, with a young woman looking to become a crime boss; and the repercussions of her latest assassination throw entire governments into turmoil.

Among the things I enjoyed most about the story were the fine characters Christian developed. Reva grows from her hard-shelled loner persona to a woman who understands how lonely she's been and searches for a way to end the loneliness. Despite the tragedies that pile up around her, in the end, Reva-the-

woman is much stronger than Reva-the-assassin was. In addition, the supporting characters are three dimensional. Lish, the young would-be crime boss, is both tough and vulnerable; while Vask, the psi-cop, can see past Reva's rough exterior to the hurting child beneath. Yavobo, the bodyguard, is an unstoppable juggernaut in pursuit of freedom from his vow, tied up by his own honor; while Flash is a hacker on 'way too much caffeine. There are countless other characters who come in and out of the story, never flat, never dull.

Christian also does a marvelous job weaving a vast array of story threads together, from the personal relationships to the big picture. And the world she's created is fascinating, with strange ancient alien life forms, giant cybernetic whales, psionic powers, and some great cyberspace activity. With all that, she manages never to muddle the story or let things get too confusing. Like many of the "Neal Stephenson age" chaotic-frenzy-of-plots writers, she manages to throw in everything but the kitchen sink – yet unlike many who attempt it, she manages not to lose sight of her real story.

Certainly *Mainline* is not a perfect book. There are times when the movement between characters and scenes is a little too fast or a little too slow. That's a skill it takes years to finely develop. And while Christian spends much time exploring the relationships between her characters, she always closes the curtains before they get too close. Perhaps that's simply the nature of these characters; but at times it felt as if she was avoiding exploring particular relationships any deeper. Finally, her economic and governmental structures are somewhat weak and at times unbelievable. Some of the things various characters get away with in supposedly high security areas is entertaining, but it leaves one feeling as if the definition of "high security" has been changed somewhat to fit the needs of a plot element. As always, governments and guards are dumb and

The Blue Place

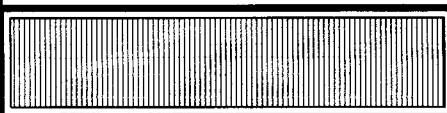
by Nicola Griffith
a very short review by Carl Cipra

I just finished reading Nicola Griffith's newest novel, *The Blue Place*. It's been mentioned off and on at LSF meetings for some time now. OK, so it's not either F&SF or horror - it's billed as a "suspense" novel. However, on the strength of how much I enjoyed her previous SF novels, *Ammonite* and *Slow River*, I decided to give *The Blue Place* a try. I'm glad I did; it's good!

Aud Torvingen, the protagonist, is the 29-year-old daughter of a Norwegian diplomat and an American businessman. She lives in Atlanta and admits to having a predilection for the thrill of violence. Retired from the Atlanta Police Department's elite "Red Dog" squad, Aud occasionally hires herself out as a bodyguard or armed escort. Late one stormy April night, while she's out for an exhilarating late-night walk, she collides with a beautiful young woman who's running in the opposite direction. Suddenly, behind Aud, a house explodes...

And thus begins a sharp, well-written novel of suspense and romance, with the action stretching from the streets of Atlanta to the fjords of Norway. *The Blue Place* is a joy to read: well-developed characterizations, exciting action sequences, fine descriptive passages - everything you'd expect from an author who's won a Nebula Award, the James Tiptree Memorial Award, and two Lambda Literary Awards for her previous SF novels. Even though *The Blue Place* definitely isn't SF, I definitely recommend it.

ΛΨΦ



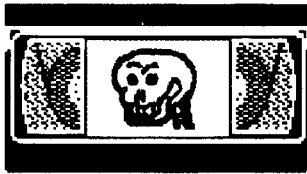
monolithic, making it easy for just about anyone to get away/get in/et cetera.

All in all, though, *Mainline* is a fun and frenetic read and an entirely successful first novel. You'll zip through it quickly and finish it feeling entertained and satisfied.

Rating: 8 out of 10 ΛΨΦ

Death Takes a Holiday and Meets Joe Black

video reviews by Joseph Parra



In 1934, Paramount Pictures embarked on what would become quite a "cause celebre" in what was then a fairly saturated sub-genre, fantasy films. They hired no less than the famous playwright Maxwell Anderson, along with scenarist Gladys Lehman, to adapt Alberto Casella's famous play, *Death Takes a Holiday* (as adapted by Walter Ferris) and into a screenplay of the same name. To further bank their bet, they chose Academy Award winner Fredric March for the lead role of Death/Prince Sirki, along with other stage notables and reliable contract players. Gordon Jennings, who would later gain fame for his work on *When Worlds Collide* and *War of the Worlds*, supplied the beautiful special effects which would be added to James Wong Howe's expert cinematography. Producer E. Lloyd Sheldon hired young director Mitchell Leisen to helm the project. The expensive gamble paid off, both at the box office and in fantastic film history. Famed super-fan and master film historian Forrest J Ackerman always refers to this lovely film as one of his favorite 1930s fantasies.

The plot is rather simplistic. A group of Italian notables and their guests are at a country estate one weekend when they receive a very different visitor - Death. Death makes his presence known only to the Duke who owns the villa. He asks the Duke to act as his guide on a weekend amongst the mortals; and he wishes to see why it is that he is so feared and why we mortals hold life so precious. Death takes the guise of Prince Sirki, an old friend of the Duke who has recently passed on. While there, Death falls in love with a young woman, to whom life and death are not enigmas but simply the wondrous and beautiful things they are. The Duke is mortified for the woman, but he cannot reveal Sirki's identity - if he does, Death will claim them all. This divine *commedia del'arte* resolves itself beautifully and must be seen to be understood. This is a film that is a "must have" for any serious cinephile!

1997 - Universal Pictures, which owns the rights to the Paramount 1928-1949 film library, decides to remake the classic film as a vehicle for Brad Pitt. Needless to say, a great many revisions would be necessary to bring both the situations and sensibilities up to date. Universal, too, spared no expense. They hired Martin Brest to direct, a team of writers (including Bo Goldman), ILM to do the special effects, and, last but not least, Sir Anthony Hopkins to co-star.

The plot, though in essence the same, is changed, in that the Duke is now a major industrialist and the young woman is now his daughter. There is no prince. Instead, a young man whom the daughter met - and who (unknown to the daughter) was killed in a car accident - turns up as "Joe Black", a supposed family friend of the industrialist. The ground rules are a little different here, in that Death has come to claim the industrialist but offers him a stay of execution in exchange for his hospitality. There are other incidental changes too numerous to mention, as well as a peculiar subplot involving a smarmy individual and a corporate take-over, which truly add nothing to the plot save for one glorious moment at the end.

Performances are uniformly fine in *Meet Joe Black*. Granted, Brad Pitt is no Fredric March, but he doesn't try to be either. He is quite lovely in the role, if perhaps a bit simplistic. But, then, he is quite lovely - period! Anthony Hopkins is, of course, magnificent as the industrialist; I don't think he is capable of giving a lousy performance. Clare Forlani shines as the daughter; but the best runners for the money - other than Pitt and Hopkins - are Marcia Gay Harden and Jeffrey Tambor as well-meaning-but-inept relatives. Martin Brest does a nice job directing his players.

Uh-oh! Complaint time! The original film told its story in 80 minutes and was clear and concise. The remake

is 178 minutes long and, with the subplots rearing their heads, at times becomes a little rambling. At almost three hours in length, this is hardly surprising. That aside, *Meet Joe Black* is pretty, with ILM providing the spare-but-well-done effects and DeLuxe Color making everything look natural, not garish.

So, if there is a knock on your door and you don't know who the party on the other side is, remember that every now and then *Death Takes a Holiday!* Answer the door - who knows, you might *Meet Joe Black!!* ENJOY!!!

Ratings: *Death Takes a Holiday*, 4 out of a possible 4; *Meet Joe Black*, 3 out of 4.

ΛΨΦ

Nebula Awards Announced

info passed along by
Rob Gates



The Nebula Awards are presented annually by the Science Fiction Writers of America (SFWA) for excellence in S&FS literature. This year's winners are as followed:

AUTHOR EMERITUS:

Phillip Klass (William Tenn)

GRANDMASTER:

Hal Clement

SHORT STORY:

Bruce Holland Rogers, "Thirteen Ways to Water" (*Black Cats and Broken Mirrors*, Martin H. Greenberg & John Helfers, ed., DAW Books, 6/98)

NOVELETTE:

Jane Yolen, "Lost Girls" (*Realms of Fantasy*, 2/98)

NOVELLA:

Sheila Finch, "Reading the Bones" (*Fantasy & Science Fiction*, 1/98)

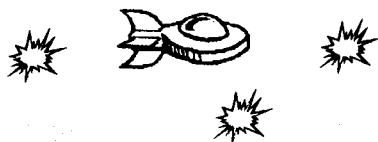
NOVEL:

Joe Haldeman, *Forever Peace*, (Ace Books, 10/97)

It's interesting to note that Haldeman's *Forever Peace* also won the Hugo Award (a popular vote by members of the World Science Fiction Convention) last year. I believe this is the first time a work has *first* won the Hugo and *then* won the Nebula.

ΛΨΦ

Hellspark, by Janet Kagan
(Meisha Merlin Publishing)
reviewed by Carl Cipra



Last month, in my review of Dr. Edward Hall's *The Silent Language*, I mentioned that I'd get around to telling you about Janet Kagan's *Hellspark*. OK, no time like the present...

The newly-discovered planet Lassti isn't exactly a calm and peaceful place, no matter how you look at it. Its very name is a dead give-away. In Sheveschkem, the language of the survey captain in charge of the planet, *Lassti* means "Flashfever," a disease characterized by bizarre visual effects ("like being slugged in the side of the head and seeing sparks"). Virtually every day, the aptly-named planet features violent rainstorms accompanied by massive displays of thunder and lightning - this also leads to large quantities of ionized air, which tends to make many people jumpy or hyper-active. The biosphere of Lassti has (of course) adapted to this prodigal supply of electrical energy; indeed, half the animal *and* plant life on Lassti uses electricity for either offense or defense. (The multi-cultural survey team has coined *very* descriptive names for some of the wildlife: flashwood, livewire, smoldering pine, blitzen, lightning rod, zap-me, flashgrass, shocker.)

But Lassti also has a native lifeform that may (or may not) be sapient. Nobody on the survey team has been able to confirm it one way or the other; and therein lies even more conflict. If the birdlike *sprookjes* are judged to be sapient, then Lassti will be declared off-limits to exploitation and colonization. But the survey team has been studying Lassti for three years now, and the powerful Multi-Galactic Enterprises is pressing them for a final declaration of non-sapience. Suddenly, the survey team's physicist - who might have discovered something significant about the *sprookjes* - is found dead out in the field. It *might* have been an accident;

but, on the other hand, it *might* have been murder. And if it's murder, who's the culprit? Is it some off-planet agency interested in exploiting Lassti's resources? Is it another member of the survey team with a personal grudge against the physicist? Or, an even more alarming possibility, is it one of the *sprookjes*?

Into the heart of all this turmoil comes Tocoht Susumo, a member of the Hellspark traders so essential to the civilized planets of the Extremities. Tocoht is all but forced into accepting the less-than-completely-legitimate role of investigator/judge in the case of the physicist's murder and the question of *sprookje* sapience. Accompanied by "Maggy," her shipboard extrapolative computer, Tocoht must search for the truth through a morass of cultural taboos, intrigue, and a very dangerous, unfamiliar ecosystem. And there's always the possibility that there's a murderer out there who's willing to kill again to cover his/her/its tracks...

Hellspark is a well-written book, a fascinating combination of "hard" SF, "soft" SF, and murder mystery. The most obvious "hard" SF aspects of the novel are, of course, Kagan's explorations of the biosphere and planetary ecology of Lassti and of the biology of the *sprookjes* - but she has also written in some ingenious technological gadgetry, such as the mechanical extensions into which "Maggy" projects herself and the "2nd skin" worn by various characters. The investigation and resolution of the survey physicist's death has all the hallmarks of a satisfying murder mystery - with an SF bent, of course. But *Hellspark's* greatest strength is in the area of "soft" sciences, particularly in its exploration of social, linguistic, and cultural differences. In this area, Kagan has definitely been influenced by her reading of the works of Dr. Edward Hall, particularly *The Silent Language* and *The Hidden Dimension*. All the novel's characters are well-fleshed-out; over and above their individual *personalities* and unique *occupations*, Kagan has also fashioned underlying *cultural* identities for them as well. Each member of the multi-

cultural survey team (as well as Tocoht Susumo herself) is imbued with distinctive cultural nuances -- idiomatic expressions, cultural biases, kinesics (body language, gesture, etc.), and proxemics (spatial orientation during social/personal interactions) -- upon which the trans-cultural influence of the interstellar Comity (with its artificial language, Gall'ing') is only an uneasy veneer. In one of the book's afterwords, Kagan admits that this required *painstaking* attention to detail on her part (*e.g.* not everyone "nods" to indicate assent, even here on Earth!); and I believe she did an excellent job of it. In my opinion, another of Kagan's triumphs is her ability to handle all the "hard" SF and "soft" science without any great expository lumps to slow down the story. From Page 1, the reader enters into an on-going, pre-existing universe of societies and cultures, with just enough clues embedded in the story and the dialog to keep him/her from getting too terribly lost.

There's even a touch of "queer content" in *Hellspark*. In the background of the main storyline, there seems to be a romance of some sort developing (with a little mediation by Tocoht Susumo) between two humanoid/female members of the survey team. It's a hoot to watch as Buntecreih the Jannisetti, a rough-and-tumble hardware tech, mechanic, and shuttlepilot, gradually develops a charming relationship with the ultra-sophisticated Edge-of-Dark, a high-born, fashion-conscious Vyrnwyn.

I really enjoyed *Hellspark* and highly recommend it as a good read. And, as far as I can tell, *Hellspark* is typical of the type of quality you can expect from Meisha Merlin Publishing. They've also published two Storm Constantine books (*Stalking Tender Prey* and *Three Heralds of the Storm*) and a couple of others that I'm looking forward to reading: *Bridling Chaos* by Lee Killough and *The Gumshoe, the Witch, and the Virtual Corpse*, by Keith Hartman. (I'll keep ya posted on 'em...)

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*** * INFORMATION ABOUT LAMBDA SCI-FI: DC AREA GAYLAXIANS * ***

Lambda Sci-Fi is a Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror fan club for Gay people and their friends. Annual membership fees are \$15, for which you will receive this monthly newsletter and a membership directory. Newsletter submissions are always welcome.

Meetings are generally held on the second Sunday of each month at a private residence. The next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held on Sunday, May 9th, at James Crutchfield's apartment: 1414 17th St., NW, Apt. 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 James



July 2-4, 1999 **OTAKON 1999**. Baltimore Convention Center, Hyatt Regency Baltimore, Sheraton Inner Harbor (Baltimore, MD). "The premier anime convention experience!" Hotel rates (if made before 6/1/99): Hyatt Regency Balt. (\$101/nite, up to quad), Sheraton Inner Harbor (\$99/nite, up to quad) - *hotel rates much higher if res. made after 6/1/99*. Membership rates: \$40 until 5/28/99; \$45 from 5/29 and at the door (daily membership rates available at the door). Make checks payable to "OTAKON" and send to: OTAKON Registration, 661A Waupelani Dr., State College, PA 16801. E-mail: info@otakon.com Website: www.otakon.com

July 9-11, 1999 **SHORELEAVE 21**. Marriott's Hunt Valley Inn (Hunt Valley, MD). Guests: Gary Lockwood (*Star Trek's* "Gary Mitchell"), Tim Russ ("Lt. Tuvok"), Alyson Hannigan (*Buffy's* "Willow"), Eric Pierpoint (*Alien Nation's* "George Francisco"), Barbara March (*TNG's* "Lursa"). Hotel rates: \$92/night. Membership: pre-registration = \$40 (no pre-registration after 5/31; rates higher at the door). Make checks payable to "Shore Leave 21" and send to: Shore Leave 21, PO Box 6809, Towson, MD 21285-6809. E-mail: ShoreLeave@aol.com Web: <http://members.aol.com.com/shoreleave>

August 6-8, 1999 **MONSTER RALLY '99: First Annual World Horror Film Convention**. Crystal City Hyatt (Arlington, VA). Guests: Christopher Lee, Forrest J Ackerman, Zacherley, Elena Verdugo, and more. Hotel rates: \$105/night (sgl or dbl). Membership: \$40. Make checks payable to "FANEX" and send to: FANEX, c/o John Stell, 12118 Little Patuxent Pkwy, Apt. J, Columbia, MD 21044. For more info, call (410) 665-1198 or check out the websites at: FANEX.com or, Chillertheatre.com

August 26-29, 1999 **CONUCOPIA:NASFiC1999** (since WorldCon is in Australia). Anaheim Marriott (Anaheim, CA). GoH: Jerry Pournelle; Editor GoH: Ellen Datlow. Membership: \$100 until 7/5/99. Make checks payable to "SCIFI" or "Conucopia" and send to: Conucopia, c/o SCIFI, PO Box 8442, Van Nuys, CA 91409. For more info: 99.nasfic.org or, website: www.99.nasfic.org

October 8-11, 1999 **GAYLAXICON1999: THE 10TH GAYLAXICON**. Washington, DC. Guest of Honor: Diane Duane; Artist GoH: Nancy Janda. Membership: \$50 through Aug. 1, 1999; \$60 at the door. (No mail-in registrations after Sept. 1, 1999.) Make checks payable to "Gaylaxicon 1999" and send to: Gaylaxicon 1999, c/o Lambda Sci-Fi, PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044. For more information, call 202/232-3141. Send e-mail to: info@lambdasf.org Also check out: <http://www.lambdasf.org/gaylaxicon1999/>

May 26-29, 2000 **COSTUMECON 18**. The Sheraton Hartford (Hartford, Conn.). "All the usual events of a CostumeCon - masquerades, a fashion folio and show, doll contest, dealers' room, costume exhibits, and strong programming oriented toward hands-on workshops." Membership: \$60 thru 8/31/99; \$70 from 9/1/99 thru 4/23/00; \$80 at the door. Make checks payable to "CostumeCon 18" and send to: CostumeCon 18, 11 Winter Street, Amesbury, MA 01913-1515. E-mail at: info@cc2000.org Website: www.cc2000.org