



Lambda Sci-Fi

DC Area Gaylaxians

(202) 232-3141 – Issue # 420 – March 2025

E-MAIL: info@lambdascifi.org

WEBSITE: www.lambdascifi.org



Happy Birthday, LSF!

The club turns 35 years old
this month!



Afternoon of Gaming with LSF

announced by Rob



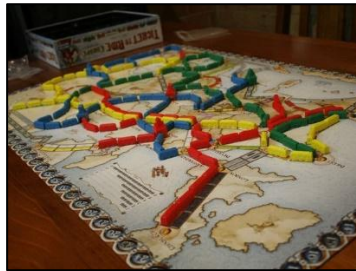
When: Saturday, March 15th, 1:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

Where: Peter & Rob's House.

What to bring: Games and *snacks* and/or non-alcoholic beverages to share

Come join us for an afternoon of gaming, ending in time for you to go off for other dinner and evening events. This is not an all-day/evening event, but will end at 7 PM.

ΛΨΦ



📖 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 Book Discussion Group usually meets on the 4th Thursday of every month, starting at 7:00 PM, at Peter & Rob's home: 1425 "S" St., NW; but the next book discussion will be held on March 27, 2025.

Here are the details for the next discussion:

March 27 – *Cahokia Jazz*, by Francis Spufford (moderator: Carl).

April 24 - *Frieren: Beyond Journey's End* (Vol. 1 and 2), by Kanehito Yamada, illustr. Tsukasa Abe (mod.: Greg).

ΛΨΦ



***** March 9, 2025 Meeting *****

The next LSF meeting will be held on **Sunday, March 9th**. The meeting will be held at Peter and Rob's home, **1425 "S" Street NW, Washington, DC**. The meeting will begin at 1:30 PM. Hope to see you there!



What's Inside?

Page 2: *The Roaring 20s in F&SF* (book reviews); Minutes of the February LSF Meeting.

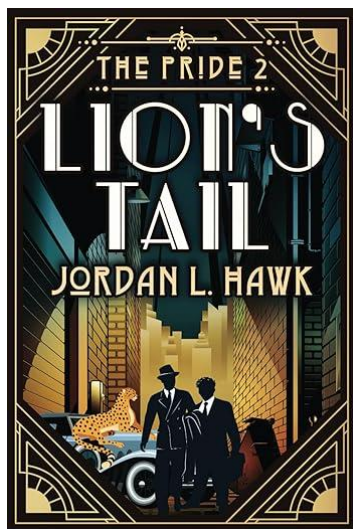
Page 4: Info About LSF: DC Area Gaylaxians; Con Calendar.

The Roaring 20s in F&SF

short reviews by Carl

The Roaring Twenties – that period between the World Wars and after the Great Flu Epidemic – brings to mind visions of Prohibition, speak-easies, bathtub gin, rum runners, gangsters, and flappers. And here are a couple of F&SF works set in that period.

Lion's Tail: The Pride Book 2
by Jordan Hawk
(JLH Books, 2024)



I've read a dozen or so books by Jordan Hawk, mainly the "Whyborne & Griffin" stories (a series of Lovecraftian queer novels) and the "Hexworld" series (queer novels of "witches" and their "familiar" set in modern NYC).

In the "hexworld," there are people who can create "hexes," which are drawings or symbols that contain magical spells which can be activated by anyone who speaks the proper words. Hexmen/women are people who specialize in creating hexes. Familiars (shape-shifters) are the source of the magic that can be used in hexes. And a Witch is someone who is bonded to a familiar and can use his/her familiar's magic to charge a hex.

Lion's Tail – and its predecessor, *Blind Tiger* (2021) – are also set in the "Hexworld"; but the action takes place in 1924 Chicago. The *Blind Tiger* is a friendly and jazzy local

Minutes of the February LSF Meeting

taken by Scott

TV News

Everyone in attendance has been enjoying Amazon Prime's *The Expanse*. Jim noted that the gun weapons on *Space 1999* had two visible settings: "stun" and "kill." Jim recalled the short-lived Fox series *Terra Nova* from 2011 about a family from Earth travelling back in time to live on the moon – his main observation was that there clearly was no science writer for the show. Rob has caught up on Apple+'s series *For All Mankind*: Season 4 ends with a thriving colony on Mars. Regarding Apple+ genre TV shows: there is general agreement that they can be described as "a slow burn with good production values."

There was unenthusiastic support for Paramount +'s series *Section 31*. The Federation's "Section 31" was introduced in Season 6 of *Star Trek: Deep Space 9*. The *Section 31* cinematography is horrible.

It was noted that Netflix's *Sandman* Season 2 is happening, but that it has been cancelled after that. The fall of Neil Gaiman (*Sandman*'s author) has been fast and hard.

Movie News

The movie *Project Hail Mary* is coming out next year (2026), starring Ryan Gosling. It is based on the 2021 novel of the same name by author Andy Weir

Upcoming genre movies: *Captain Marvel*, *Mickey 17*, *Superman*, *Fantastic Four*, *Jurassic Park: Rebirth*, and *Tron: Ares*.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Peter played trailers for the upcoming films *Superman*, *Fantastic Four*, and *Jurassic Park: Rebirth*.

speakeasy owned and operated by the Gatti "family." The Gattis are a Pride of Familiars who shift into big cats such as tigers, lions, cheetahs. Sam Cunningham (a hexman) and his lover Alistair Gatti (a cheetah-shifter) have survived gang-related threats (as told in the previous novel *Blind Tiger*) and are hopefully (and slowly) working toward a deeper rela-

Other News

Jim reviewed two similar short story titles: HG Wells's *Country of the Blind* (1904) and Poul Anderson's *The Man Who Came Early* (1956). Derrick is reading Michael Swanwick's *The Iron Dragon's Daughter* (1993). The term "ansible" was discussed – it first appeared in a 1966 novel by Ursula K. Le Guin; and it refers to the fictional technology for achieving Faster-Than-Light communication.

Peter solicited suggestions for the Hugo Awards Best Dramatic Presentation (Long Form) and Best Dramatic Presentation (Short Form). Here are the suggestions:

- Best Dramatic Presentation (Long Form): *Deadpool & Wolverine*, *Substance*, *Wicked*, *Inside Out 2*, *Alien*; *Romulus*, *Wild Robot*, *Venom*, *Beetlejuice Beetlejuice*, *X-Men 97*, and *Furiosa*.
- Best Dramatic Presentation (Short Form): Various episodes from these genre TV shows – *For All Mankind*, *Doctor Who*, *Silo*, *What If*, *Echo*, *Lower Decks*, *Star Trek: Prodigy*, *Star Trek: Discovery*, *Monarch*, *Umbrella Academy*, *The Boys*, *Three Body Problem*, and *Resident Alien*.

Upcoming LSF events

Book discussion titles: *A Closed and Common Orbit* by Becky Chambers (February); *Frieren: Beyond Journey's End* (Volumes 1 & 2) by Kanehito Yamada and Tsukasa Abe (March); and *Cahokia Noir* by Francis Spufford (April).

Rob announced an LSF gaming party on Saturday, March 15th, from 1 PM to 7 PM.

ΛΨΦ

tion relationship; but they haven't yet bonded as witch-and-familiar.

Unfortunately, Chicago is becoming embroiled in a new series of deadly gangland turf wars – with the Gattis and the *Blind Tiger* caught between competing gangs. The crisis comes to a head when a member of the

(continued on page 3)

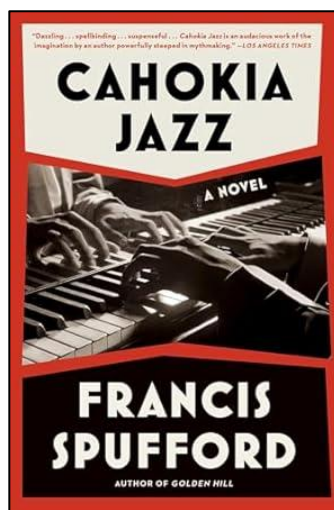
The Roaring 20s in F&SF

continued from page 2

gang mysteriously dies after walking into the Blind Tiger. A corrupt Prohibition agent in the pay of a rival gang blackmails Sam and Alistair into investigating the murder, hoping they'll prove that the murder was an inside job. Meanwhile, the head of the Sullivan gang talks Sam into working on a secret hex project that could enable him to defeat all rival gangs. Dangers abound for the Gattis, and Sam and Alistair are risking life and limb and any possibility of bonding.

Lots of action, lots of atmosphere, and lots of queer relationships (both M/M and F/F). Jordan Hawk continues to write really enjoyable queer Fantasy stories.

Cahokia Jazz: A Novel
by Francis Spufford
(Scribner, 2024)



I originally picked up this novel on a whim. I was attracted by the word “Cahokia” in the title. (One of the items in my Bucket List is to visit the ancient Cahokia mounds in southern Illinois.) And as I read a little more about it, I discovered that it’s a *noir* murder mystery – I enjoy *noir* fiction (and films), as well as murder mysteries. The final hook was the fact that *Cahokia Jazz* is an alternate history story – I’m a big alternate history fan – and it won the Sidewise Award in 2023 for best long-form alternate history. Bingo! I was hooked!

It’s 1922, and disturbing events are taking place in the city of Cahokia – the capital of the state of Cahokia, located on the east bank of the Mississippi River (directly opposite where the city of St. Louis exists in our timeline). One dark and stormy winter night, Detective Joe Barrow and his sometime partner Detective Phin Drummond are called to the scene of a bloody murder atop one of the highest skyscrapers in the city. The victim is an unidentified white man whose corpse is laid out in a manner that suggests an ancient Aztec sacrifice – his chest has been carved open and his heart removed. Barrow and Drummond scramble to sift through complex leads to solve the case as the city administration pressures the Cahokia Police Department to bring the case to quick-and-convenient conclusion; the Ku Klux Klan is fanning the flames of racial intolerance against the Cahokian residents in the city (as well as against Blacks and Jews, of course); and there’s a growing fear that U.S. Federal troops will be sent in to dismantle the state’s government as well as the last vestiges of traditional Cahokian culture. Over the course of a week, social unrest reaches a fever pitch.

I don’t want to go into too much detail about the novel, because LSF has chosen *Cahokia Jazz* as the subject of the March Book Discussion. Suffice it to say that I think the novel definitely deserved the honor of a Sidewise Award. Francis Spufford has crafted a fascinating alternate USA – with a clever explanation for the “point of departure” that caused it to diverge from our timeline. It also provides a study of how Native American cultures might have adapted over the centuries to meet the exigencies of the early Twentieth Century. At the same time, Spufford has crafted an engaging murder mystery with all the trappings of *noir* fiction (corrupt city officials; less-than-honest police; a *femme fatale*; etc.) and the social inequities of America in the 1920s. I really enjoyed *Cahokia Jazz*; and I’m looking forward to this month’s LSF Book Discussion.

ΛΨΦ



Ed Note: This is a really cool image of a porcelain serpent that I didn’t have space for in last month’s newsletter (in honor of the Year of the Snake in the Lunar Calendar).

Confucius once said that a bear could not fart at the North Pole without causing a big wind in Chicago.

By this he meant that all events, therefore, all men, are interconnected in an unbreakable web. What one man does, no matter how seemingly insignificant, vibrates through the strands and affects every man.

– Philip José Farmer –
“Riders of the Purple Wage”
(1967)

Science Fiction Quotations: From the Inner Mind to the Outer Limits, edited by Gary Westfahl (Yale University Press, 2005)

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

Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians (LSF) is an organization for lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and trans-gendered (LGBT) 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 LGBT people and their friends;
- provide forums for LGBT people and their friends to share their interest in SF/F/H;
- promote the presence of LGBT elements within SF/F/H and within fandom; and
- promote SF/F/H within the LGBT community.

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 Sunday, **March 9th, at Peter and Rob's home, 1425 "S" Street NW, Washington, DC.** We 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

May 23-26, 2025 **BALTICON 59**. Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel (Baltimore MD). Author Guests of Honor: Silvia Moreno-Garcia & Sebastien de Castell; Artist GoH: Stephanie Law; Science GoH: Marc Abrahams. Membership: \$80 - March 1 thru April 15; \$85 - April 16 thru May 15; \$89 at the door (daily rates available). For more information and on-line registration: [Balticon 59 | Baltimore's Science Fiction Convention](#)

June 7, 2025 **HANACON**. "Anime, Art, & Asian Pop culture Convention." Silver Spring Civic Building at Veterans Plaza (Silver Spring MD). Membership limited to 1,000. Membership: \$45. For more information: www.HanaConAnime.com

August 7-10, 2025 **PULPFEST 2025**. "Celebrating pulp magazines and related materials, vintage paperbacks, digests, men's adventure and true crime magazines, contemporary genre fiction, first-edition hardcovers, series books, dime novels, original art, Big Little Books, Gold/Silver/Bronze age comic books, old time radio shows, gaming materials, film serials, B-movies, and related collectibles." DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Pittsburgh-Cranberry (Mars PA). Weekend membership = \$40 for members staying at the DoubleTree (otherwise = \$50). Webpage: <https://pulpfest.com>

August 13-17, 2025 **SEATTLE WORLDCON 2025**. Seattle Convention Center (Seattle WA). Guests of Honor: Martha Wells, Donato Giancola, Bridget Landry, K. Tempest Bradford, Nisi Shawl. Full attending membership: currently \$250 (will go up). For more information & on-line registration: <https://seattlein2025.org>

October 3-5, 2025. **GAYLAXICON 2025**. Crowne Plaza Suites AiRE MSP Airport - Mall of America (Bloomington MN). *More details as they become available.* [Home - Gaylaxicon 2025](#)

August 27-31, 2026 **LACON V** (2026 World Science Fiction Convention). Anaheim Convention Center, Hilton Anaheim & Anaheim Marriott Hotels (Anaheim CA). Guests of Honor: Barbara Hambly, Ronald D. Moore, Colleen Duran, Dr. Anita Sengupta, Tim Kirk, Geri Sullivan (Fan GoH), Stan Sakai, Ursula Vernon (aka T. Kingfisher). Full attending membership: currently \$200 (will go up). For more information & on-line registration: <https://www.lacon.org/>

