



# Lambda Sci-Fi

## DC Area Gaylaxians

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### LAMBDA SCI-FI TURNS 36 THIS MONTH!

The first meeting was held on March 14, 1990. At the second meeting (April 11), members decided to call the club Lambda Sci-Fi, based on the newsletter name suggested by Al Weiner (first newsletter editor).



### Happy Saint Patrick's Day!

### 📖 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 26, 2026.

Here are the details for the next several discussions:

**March 26** – *Klara and the Sun*, by Kazuo Ishiguro; moderator: Zena.

**April 23** – *The Calculating Stars*, by Mary Robinette Kowal; mod.: Carl.

**May 28** – *The Adventures of Amina al-Sirafi*, by Shannon Chokroborty; moderator: Zena.

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### \*\*\*\*\* March 8, 2026 Meeting \*\*\*\*\*

The next LSF meeting will be held on **Sunday, March 8th**. 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: New Antarctic Dinosaur; Minutes of the February LSF Meeting.

Page 3: *Puck of Pook's Hill* (book review).

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

## New Antarctic Dinosaur info passed along by Carl

About 190 million years ago (during the early Jurassic Period) – long before ice sheets covered the southernmost continent, a huge plant-eating dinosaur lived in what is now Antarctica. Its fossilized remains were buried deep in frozen rock for eons and have finally been studied and officially identified as a new species. In a late 2025 issue of *Acta Palaeontologica Polonica*, experts have officially described the remains as a new genus and species of dinosaur.

The fossils – parts of a leg, foot, and ankle – were collected by a team led by paleontologist William Hammer during a 1990-1991 field expedition into the central region of the Transantarctic Mountains. The fossils were dug – using jackhammers and rock saws – out of dense sedimentary rocks at over 13,000 feet elevation; and they were described in 2007 as the basis for a new genus and species: *Glacialisaurus* – meaning “icy or frozen lizard” – and *hammeri* in honor of William Hammer, the scientist who led the original dig.

What kind of dinosaur was *Glacialisaurus*? It was a sauropodomorph, a member of the same group of dinosaurs that later produced such giants as *Apatosaurus* and *Diplodocus*. It’s estimated that this specimen would have measured 20 to 25 feet long and weighed between 4 and 6 tons (not quite the size of its later relatives). Said Nathan Smith (Postdoctoral Research Scientist at the Field Museum of Natural History): “Throughout the evolution of sauropodomorphs, there appears to be a general trend of increasing body size, and *Glacialisaurus* would likely fit somewhere in the middle of this evolutionary trend.” It lived at a time when early dinosaurs were still evolving rapidly and spreading widely.

The site where *Glacialisaurus* was found wasn’t a one-dinosaur discovery. Nearby, researchers also uncovered the remains of a theropod (flesh-eater) called *Cryolophosaurus ellioti*, a pterosaur wing bone, and a tooth from a tritylodont (a type of cynodont, one of those strange, extinct mammal-like reptiles that defy easy classification).

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## Minutes of the February LSF Meeting taken by Scott

Carl advised everyone that the 2027 World Science Fiction Convention will be held in Montreal (Sept. 2 to Sept. 6, 2027).

During discussions, Rob reminded everyone how much he loved SyFy’s *Resident Alien*, starring Alan Tudyk.

Karl mentioned that third and final installment of Denis Villeneuve’s *Dune* film trilogy is coming out this year. He also led into a discussion of the K-Pop genre, which was originally all “boy bands.” Rob said that nowadays “girl bands” are just as big, citing the 2025 cultural phenomenon *K-Pop Demon Hunters*, in which the female superstars use secret identities as demon hunters to protect their fans from supernatural danger.

### TV News

Peter and Rob are enjoying Paramount Plus’s *Star Trek: Starfleet Academy*. He also described “The Burn,” the galactic event that led to the demise of interstellar galactic civilization. (As it turns out, The Burn was a dilithium crystal glitch that caused the warp drives to explode on a massive



scale.) They also watched the first season of HBO Max’s *The Last of Us*; Rob commented that the fungus monsters don’t have as much “screen time” as one might expect. Rob also gleefully reported that Craig Mazin (showrunner for *The Last of Us*) is set to create a TV series based on the on-line game *Baldur’s Gate 3*.

During discussions of the on-line gaming industry, Rob described the “AAA” designation for companies that produce high-quality video games.

Derrick reported that he just completed the 26-episode *Chobitz* anime series (originally shown on TBS in 2002). He is currently enjoying season 2 of *Farscape*.

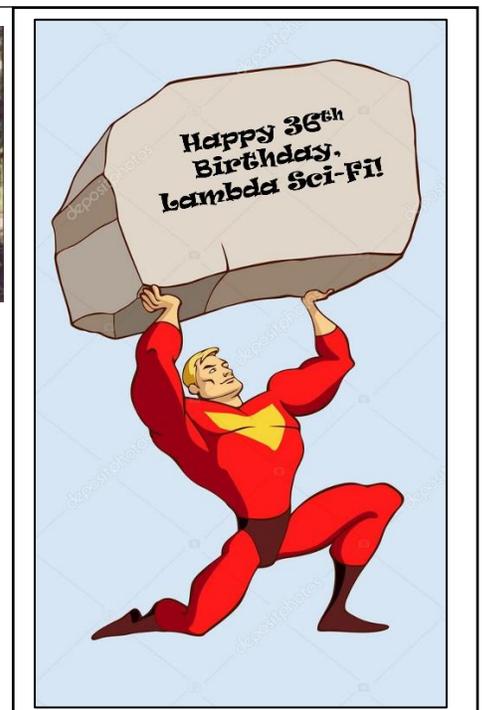
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A visual reconstruction of *Glacialisaurus hammeri* in its Antarctic landscape, alongside pterosaurs and a small mammal-like reptile.

© Daily Galaxy US

Head of  
*Cryolopho-*  
*saurus*



***Puck of Pook's Hill***  
**by Rudyard Kipling (1906)**  
 a short review by Carl

Some years ago, I picked up a copy of the 1922 Doubleday “Pocket Kipling” edition of this major Fantasy classic; but it took me until now to get around to actually reading it.



*Puck of Pook's Hill* is often overlooked as “children’s literature” but was originally serialized in the prestigious *Strand Magazine* (January to December, 1906). It contains a series of linked short stories (and poems) recounting the adventures of a young brother and sister living in the Sussex countryside who accidentally invoke and summon the supernatural being known as Puck. Yes, he’s *that* Puck, star of Shakespeare’s *Midsummer’s Night Dream* – but he’s also sooooo much more! He’s “the oldest Old Thing in England,” the (almost) immortal Spirit of the Land. “I came into England with Oak, Ash, and Thorn, and when Oak, Ash, and Thorn are gone I shall go too.” He’s seen other spirits and gods arrive with invading forces and eventually fade away.

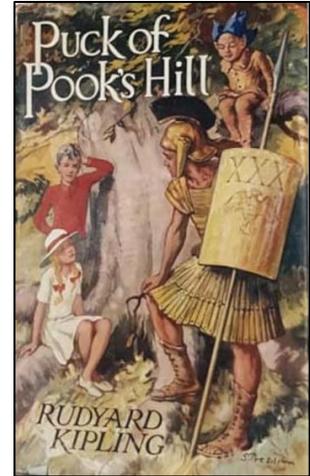


**The Puck Statue outside of the Folger Shakespeare Library (Washington DC)**

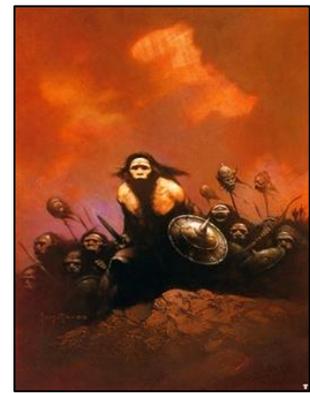
Over the course of 10 stories, Puck introduces the children to various personalities from Old England – and Kipling provides the reader with fictionalized stories set during various significant events in English history. Here are a few examples...

First, Puck introduces them to Weland, originally a powerful Forge God of barbaric invaders, whose worship waned over time until he merely became Weyland-Smith, a local spirit whose only remaining “shrine” was visited by travelers who needed their horses re-shod. There’s Sir Richard Dalyngridge, a minor knight who joins the forces of William the Conqueror, uncharacteristically befriends the Saxons on the estate he is granted, unexpectedly accompanies a band of Danish pirates in a journey down the coast of Africa, and brings home a mighty treasure (much of which he conceals, to be featured in other stories). Puck also introduces the children to Parnesius, a British-born Roman officer assigned to Hadrian’s Wall during the tumultuous last decades of the 4<sup>th</sup> Century; he has various adventures with the Picts during the period when “Emperor” Maximus withdraws most of the army from Britain to use in his (unsuccessful) bid for the Imperial throne in Rome.

I think the three Parnesius stories are my favorites: “A Centurion of the Thirtieth,” “On the Great Wall,” and “The Winged Hats.” They recount the young Roman’s adventures with Allo, an influential figure among the Picts north of the Wall. I was inescapably reminded of some of the “Pict-ish” stories written by Robert E. Howard, specifically his “Bran Mak Morn” stories, which were also set during the Late Dark Ages in Britain. I guess I shouldn’t be surprised at this, because Howard included Kipling among “my favorite writers” and a collection of Kipling’s verse is listed in Howard’s library at the time of his death. In fact, “A Pict Song” – one of the poems in *Puck of Pook’s Hill* – definitely influenced Howard’s “The Song of a Mad Minstrel” (*Weird Tales*, Feb-March 1931), particularly the first couple of stanzas of Howard’s poem.



**Cover of the 1957 edition published by Macmillan**



**Frank Frazetta's concept of Picts in the Dark Ages (cover for *Bran Mak Morn*)**

The final section of *Puck of Pook's Hill* is somewhat problematic. It consists of the poem “Song of the Fifth River” and the short story “The Treasure and the Law.” The poem sets forth the concept that a “Secret River of Gold” is the driving force for much of what happens in the world and that “Isreal” is the God-appointed “Lord” of that River. The final stanza makes this quite clear:

*A Prince without a Sword,  
 A Ruler without a Throne;  
 Isreal follows his quest:—  
 In every land a guest.  
 Of many lands the lord.  
 In no land king is he.  
 But the Fifth Great River keeps  
 The secret of her deeps  
 For Isreal alone,  
 As it was ordered to be.*

(continued on page 4)

**\*\* 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 8th, 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 16-17, 2026 **HANACON**. "Anime, Art, Asian & Pop Culture Convention." Sheraton Baltimore North Hotel (Towson MD). Membership: \$65 (until May 15, 2026); \$70 thereafter and at the door. Website: [www.HanaConAnime.com](http://www.HanaConAnime.com)

May 22-25, 2026 **BALTICON 60**. Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel (Baltimore MD). Guests of Honor: Jim Butcher, Jennifer Blackstream, Elizabeth Leggett (Art GoH). Membership: \$80 thru April 15; then \$85 thru May 15; \$89 at the door (daily rates available). More details as they become available. Website: <https://www.balticon.org/>

July 10-12 2026. **SHORE LEAVE 46**. "Celebrate Star Trek's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary." Lancaster Wyndham Resort & Convention Center (Lancaster PA). Names of celebrity guests on website. Membership: \$130 for the weekend; daily rates available. Website: [www.shore-leave.com](http://www.shore-leave.com)

July 30 – August 2, 2026. **PULPFEST 2026**. "Celebrating Mystery, Adventure, Science Fiction, and More." Includes Doc Con 2026, FarmerCon XXI, and Shadow Con. DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Pittsburgh-Cranberry (Mars, PA). Membership: Advance Full Membership = \$40 (if staying at the DoubleTree); \$50 Full Membership; Single-Day Membership for either Friday or Saturday = \$25. Registration form can be downloaded from the Homepage. Homepage: <https://pulpfest.com>

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/>

October 2-4, 2026 **CAPCLAVE 2026**. Rockville Hilton & Executive Meeting Center (Rockville MD). Guests of Honor: Rebecca Roanhorse, Nino Cipri. Details as they become available. Website: <https://capclave.org>

**Puck of Pook's Hill**  
continued from page 3

In "The Treasure and the Law," Puck introduces the children to Kadmiel, a traveling Jewish physician/scholar who lived in the time of King John. Kadmiel's narrative brings the story of Sir Richard Dalyngridge's hidden treasure trove full circle and ties it into the story of King John being forced to sign the Magna Carta. Kipling presents Kadmiel as a good and honorable person, and the story makes quite clear the harsh conditions that Jews were subject to in England – and indeed in Europe as a whole. And Kadmiel describes their resilience

and courage in the face of mistreatment and pogroms. On the other hand, Kadmiel also describes "secret meetings of the great ones among my people" to consider how their monetary influence can affect the outcome of wars and peace among the kingdoms and peoples of Europe. Ummm... although I didn't sense any anti-Semitic intent in Kipling's story, I also couldn't help but think that these "secret meetings" were uncomfortably close to the rabid claims of "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion" and other anti-Semitic propaganda. In this particular case, Kadmiel's friend Elias of Bury accesses the hidden treasure trove of Sir Richard Dalyngridge and uses it to

influence the terms of the Magna Carta and force King John to accept those terms – thus setting England on its long path toward the eventual rule of Parliamentary law.

I quite enjoyed *Puck of Pook's Hill*; and I think it's one of the influential early works of English fantasy, on a par with such other works as *Peter Pan*, *The Wind in the Willows*, and *Alice in Wonderland*.

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