

Condensed Cream of Menace of the LASFS

Meeting #4508

Jan. 4, 2024

Scribe: Heath "Scribbles" Row

Call to Order

Cathy Johnson called the meeting to order at 8:01 p.m.

Hatchings and Dispatchings (Nick Smith)

Hatchings

- Academic and folklorist Jacob Ludwig Karl Grimm (b. Jan. 4, 1785; d. Sept. 20, 1863)
- Actor Barbara Rush (b. Jan. 4, 1927)
- Writer, editor, and critic Ramsey Campbell (b. Jan. 4, 1946)
- Actor and comedian Matt Frewer (b. Jan. 4, 1958)

Dispatchings

- Actor Glynis Johns (b. Oct. 5, 1923; d. Jan. 4, 2024)
- Actor, producer, and publicist Mickey Cottrell (b. Nov. 4, 1944; d. Jan. 1, 2024)
- Sound editor Peter Berkos (b. Aug. 15, 1922; d. Jan. 2, 2024)

Media anniversary

This date in 1958 marks the premier of Leonard Nimoy's first sf role, *Satan's Satellites*, an edited version of the 1952 serial *Zombies of the Stratosphere*. On this date in 2002, *Impostor* entered nationwide release; the movie was based on Philip K. Dick's short story "The Impostor."

Reading of the Minutes (Heath Row)

Scribbles read the Condensed Cream of Menace for Nov. 30, 2023.

Additions and Corrections

- Nola Frame-Gray asked whether the handicap service table at Loscon 49 displayed the traditional blue symbol.
 - Cathy Johnson asked Eylat Poliner to take that into consideration for next year.
- Eylat Poliner clarified the number of Loscon 50 memberships sold at Loscon 49: 223.

Auction to Name the Minutes

Eylat Poliner bid \$10, won, and named them "Buy Loscon 50 Memberships."

Call for Approval

Moved to accept as amended, and approved.

Celebration of Patron Saints

Dan Alderson was celebrated and recognized by Nola Frame-Gray and Charles Lee Jackson II. Alderson received three cheers.

Joe Zeff was celebrated and recognized by Nola Frame-Gray, Charles Lee Jackson II, Chris Marble, Matt Mitchell, Eylat Poliner, Scribbles, and Matthew B. Tepper. Zeff received three cheers—and sideburns, and a clue-by-four.

Committee Reports

- Loscon 50 (Eylat Poliner)
 - The con is happening, we have guests, and we have a Web site. Pay your dues and pay your membership.
 - Loscon 50 membership rates are good until May 1: Full—\$50, Child—\$25, Military—\$45.
- Programming (Eylat Poliner)
 - She took the end of 2023 off. This week, she will return to lining up guests for upcoming meetings.
 - We will meet in person and online Jan. 25, and there will be a Big Auction.
 - New location found by Nick Smith: New Musicals Inc., 5628 Vineland Ave. north of Burbank Boulevard in North Hollywood

Honor Guard (Charles Lee Jackson II)

The Spot of Honor is held by SCIFI.radio.

Registrar (Heide Nichols)

We do not have any guests tonight.

Treasurer (Debra Levin and Elayne Pelz)

Debra Levin reminded members to pay their dues or Elayne Pelz will come after you.

Scribbles has not yet paid his annual dues. He was encouraged to do so, and he announced such intent.

Board Report (Michelle Pincus)

Susan Fox stood in for Michelle Pincus. The next board meeting will be Jan. 14 at 11 a.m.

Old Business

Cathy Johnson: We'll be meeting in person Jan. 25 and no longer need to find a place.

New Business

Cathy Johnson: We'll be meeting in person Jan. 25; we found a place.

There was some discussion about the meeting location. Nick Smith indicated that there's a bus stop at the corner of Burbank and Vineland.

Time-Bound Announcements

- Nick Smith
 - American Cinematheque will hold a Hayao Miyazaki movie marathon at the Egyptian Theatre Hollywood showcasing *My Neighbor Totoro*, *Howl's Moving Castle*, *Princess Monoke*, and *Spirited Away* in honor of his birthday. On Sunday at 8 p.m. they'll show the 1972 version of *Solaris* with subtitles.
 - Sunday and Saturday, New Beverly Cinema will show the 1940 *Fantasia*.
 - Vidiots will screen the Korean monster movie *The Host* on Friday. On Saturday they're showing *The Neverending Story*. Sunday, they'll screen Disney's 1951 animated *Alice in Wonderland*.
 - Landmark's Nuart Theatre will show *Alien* on Friday. Saturday brings *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*.
 - Dark Delicacies will host a signing Saturday for the book *Frankenstein: The True Story* featuring director Sam Irvin, Alec Smight, Julian Barnes, and Julie Brown.

Moments of Science

- Nick Smith: Fighting against invasive plant species is an ongoing challenge in the historical field as people try to restore battlefield sites. The battlefield site of Culloden is being restored to its original condition using an unusual tool: highland cattle. They can eat almost anything. (<https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/highland-cow-battle-of-culloden>)
- Lee Grixit: They're now making purely biological nanites. They're calling them anthrobots. (<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/robots-made-from-human-cells-can-move-on-their-own-and-heal-wounds/>) Personally, I think they should use Arthur C. Clarke's term "biop." I'm worried about when they go rogue.

Regular Announcements

- Chris Marble: George Mulligan sends his greetings. He got out of bed today for the first time in a couple of weeks.
 - Greg Barrett also says hello. He's unable to do much of anything.
- Charles Lee Jackson II has a new book out, *Perils of the Yukon*. It's available on Amazon for a mere \$2.

Reviews

- Nick Smith picked up a couple of books at Loscon, Brandie June's *Gold Spun* and *Curse Undone*, a two-part story. The first is a strange retelling of Rumpelstiltskin. In the second, June weaves in other things from the Brothers Grimm. The dress that she was wearing at the con was worn by one of the characters in those two books at a point in time where she had to have a specially designed dress because she had wings.
- Scribbles watched an episode from the new season of *Slow Horses* before the meeting. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slow_Horses) It's an excellent British crime thriller.
- Lee Grixit watched a new show that ended in December, *Beacon 23*. Effectively, it's stellar era science fiction. *Beacon 23* is a literal beacon, a lighthouse in space telling

people where the safe routes are so they don't run into a storm of dark matter. That's just the setting. The plot has to do with the relationships of people involved there and the surprises and interactions of the people's personal affairs—and the setting.

- Scribbles also read two *Doctor Who* Target novelizations of the recent 60th anniversary specials: Gary Russell's *The Star Beast* and Mark Morris's *Wild Blue Yonder*. While the books are an excellent way to experience the new episodes before you see them, *The Star Beast* pairs well with the original comic serial, and *Wild Blue Yonder* is impressively visual, suggesting the special effects must be amazing.

Miscellaneous

- Charles Lee Jackson II: Martin Young posted an article about Nicolas Cage returning a stolen skull to Mongolia. (<https://www.nytimes.com/2015/12/23/arts/design/nicolas-cage-tyrannosaurus-bataar-mongolia.html>)
- Nick Smith: Lisa Morton will teach an online course through *Atlas Obscura* focusing on ghosts in western culture. It starts Jan. 22. (<https://www.atlasobscura.com/experiences/ghosts-online-course>)
- Cathy Johnson reminded members about the aftermeeting.

Call to Adjourn

Eylat Poliner so moved. That was seconded. The ayes had it.