

Condensed Cream of Menace of the LASFS

Meeting #4515

Feb. 22, 2024

Scribe: Heath "Scribbles" Row

Call to Order

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

Hatchings and Dispatchings (Nick Smith)

Hatchings

- Actor Dwight Frye (b. Feb. 22, 1899; d. Nov. 7, 1943)
- Actor Thomas Jane (b. Feb. 22, 1969)
- Actor and producer Drew Barrymore (b. Feb. 22, 1975)
- Fan and LASFS member Genny Dazzo (b. Feb. 22, 1953)
- Courtesy of Susan Fox
 - Actor and singer Celia Rose Gooding (b. Feb. 22, 2000)
 - Actor, producer, and director James Hong (b. Feb. 22, 1929)
 - Actor Kyle MacLachlan (b. Feb. 22, 1959)
 - Actor Jeri Ryan (b. Feb. 22, 1968)
 - Writer, costume designer, and artist Edward Gorey (b. Feb. 22, 1925)

Dispatchings

- Comic book artist Enrique Badía Romero (b. April 24, 1930; d. Feb. 15, 2024)
- Author Steve Miller (b. July 31, 1950; d. Feb. 20, 2024)
- Actor Micheline Presle (b. Aug. 22, 1922; Feb. 21, 2024)

Media anniversary

On this date in 2012, *John Carter* premiered in Los Angeles. It entered general release March 9 that year. On this date in 1993, the first episode of *Babylon 5*, "The Gathering," was aired on television.

Reading of the Minutes (Heath Row)

Scribbles read the Condensed Cream of Menace for Feb. 15, 2024.

Additions and Corrections

- Heide Nichols indicated that she wasn't at the meeting. We agreed that Matthew B. Tepper called on Derek LaPorte.
- Charles Lee Jackson II asked whether the book title *Blacula: Return of the King* was correct. It was.

Auction to Name the Minutes

Eylat Poliner bid \$5, won, and named them “Welcome, Derek.”

Call for Approval

Moved to accept as corrected, and approved.

Celebration of Patron Saints

Maureen Garrett was celebrated and recognized by Nick Smith and Matthew B. Tepper. Garrett received three cheers—and a dog barked.

Committee Reports

- Programming (Eylat Poliner)
 - Feb. 29: In-person (hybrid) meeting at Denny’s (5525 N. Sepulveda Blvd., Sherman Oaks, CA 91411). There will be a Big Auction.
 - March 7: Craig Miller reading
 - March 14: In-person (hybrid) meeting and Big Auction
 - March 21: Heide Nichols performance of “Death Is Inevitable”
 - April 11: In-person (hybrid) meeting—By-Laws discussion and first vote
 - April 18: By-Laws vote
 - May 9: In-person (hybrid) meeting and Big Auction
 - June 6: President nominations
 - June 13: In-person (hybrid) meeting and procedural elections
 - Poliner has also talked to Jaroslav Olša Jr. about potential meeting space at the Consulate General of the Czech Republic (10990 Wilshire Blvd. #1100, Los Angeles, CA 90024) for a screening of *Restore Point* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2C-ghAfM0es>). The meeting would be a hybrid meeting, but the movie would not be.
 - Poliner asked for a show of hands to gauge interest.
 - The event is likely to occur in May or June.
- Loscon 50 (Eylat Poliner)
 - Obi-Shawn Crosby agreed to be MC. They’ll show the original three Star Wars movies after the ice cream social. The 501st Legion has also been invited to attend.
 - We have chosen a nonprofit to support, the American Cancer Society. Fen will be able to knit caps to present to Julia Ree during the *Star Wars* presentation. The auction will also raise funds for the American Cancer Society.
- Fandom Wellness Committee (Chris Marble)
 - George Mulligan sends his greetings. His rehab continues. He’s coming up on 26 months. Marble encouraged him to do 35 minutes of exercise a day.
 - Marble hasn’t talked to Greg Barrett since the last meeting.
 - Multiple members updated the group on COVID-19 tests, con crud, and other illnesses.
 - Cathy Johnson reported that Dean Johnson’s surgery is scheduled for Monday morning.

Honor Guard (Charles Lee Jackson II)

The Spot of Honor is held by Loscon 50, celebrating 50 Loscons. Next week will be the chance to get something in for next month.

Registrar (Heide Nichols)

We don't have any new guests tonight. At the last board meeting, we approved a new member, Derek LaPorte, and he's been diligent about attending since then.

Treasurer (Debra Levin and Elayne Pelz)

Elayne Pelz reminded members to pay their dues. We don't like chasing people down. People have until the end of March to pay for the year. Zelle is preferred.

Board Report (Matthew B. Tepper)

The board of directors will next meet March 10 at 11 a.m. The board has already agreed on wording for a By-Laws change, which we'll send on to the club for a vote in April.

Old Business

Cathy Johnson reminded members about the upcoming in-person hybrid meetings Feb. 29, March 14, April 11, May 9, and June 13.

New Business

None

Time-Bound Announcements

- Nick Smith
 - American Cinematheque is hosting a Hayao Miyazaki triple feature at the Egyptian Theatre Hollywood on Sunday featuring *Kiki's Delivery Service*, *Porco Rosso*, and *Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind*.
 - They're also showing Roger Corman's *The Masque of the Red Death* at the Los Feliz Theater.
 - New Beverly Cinema will screen a Roald Dahl double feature, as well as *Time Walker* and *The Outing*.
 - The Vista Theater will screen *Blazing Saddles* and Danny Kaye's *Hans Christian Andersen*. On Feb. 28, they'll screen *Kiss the Girls and Make Them Die* as a double feature with *Secret Agent Super Dragon*
 - Dark Delicacies will host a signing with Izzy Lee for the book *I Can See Your Lies*.
 - Vroman's Bookstore will host a conversation with Cory Doctorow about his new book *The Bezzle* on Saturday.
 - The Octavia E. Butler Science Fiction Book Club will hold an online talk with Dr. Kendra Parker at Georgia Southern University. The La Pintoresca Branch Library will host the live component.

- Scribbles: Corflu 41 is next weekend in Las Vegas. The deadline to vote for the Faan Awards is Saturday (<https://efanzines.com/TIR/Incompleat2023.pdf>).

Moments of Science

- Susan Fox: Odysseus lunar lander became the first United States-made spacecraft to touch down on the moon in 50 years. It landed this afternoon.
- Lee Grixit: There's an interesting development related to the adoption of synthetic materials. Did we start using them because they're better than natural materials? Is it because they cost less? Now we could switch back to natural materials and produce them synthetically, like cellulose. It was recently announced that there's now a process that can strain chitin out of waste and use it for construction materials. Will that affect people with allergies? Chitin itself is not an allergen, but it can still catalyze allergic reactions.
- Nick Smith: This is a moment of fannish science. Some of you have probably read historical fantasy or science fiction about something that fell out of the sky and affected everything. In Switzerland, they found an arrowhead made of meteoric iron. The meteor was identified, and it landed in Estonia. That means that nearly 3,000 years ago, someone in Estonia found an artifact that fell out of the sky and traded it most of the way across Europe at the point when the Bronze Age was fading out. Was it a happenstance? Or did it affect the development of iron weapons?

Regular Announcements

- Matt Mitchell: On Feb. 20, long-time fan Mark Merlino died. He'd had several strokes over the holidays and was diagnosed with liver cancer. He was a founding member of the Cartoon/Fantasy Organization and ConFurence. (https://en.wikifur.com/wiki/Mark_Merlino)
 - Rob Powell reported that a GoFundMe was established for his family. (<https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-a-true-fandom-original>)

Reviews

- Scribbles recently read the new issue of the relaunched *Worlds of If* magazine (<https://worldsofifmagazine.com>)—it's very good and worth seeking out.
 - He's also started watching the TV show *Sapphire & Steel*, one of the most bizarre and awkward programs he's ever seen. It's approach to time travel is wonderfully foreboding.
 -
- Heide Nichols has been enjoying a young adult series by Rebecca Rode, *Numbers Game* (<https://authorrebeccarode.com/products/numbers-game>). It's heavily science fiction.
- Eylat Poliner has now watched all of *The Librarians*. It's a very enjoyable show and is similar to *Warehouse 13*. It's available on Amazon.
- Lee Grixit reviewed *Quantum Leap* last year. He thought it did a good job referencing the old series. In the second season, they did a great job of getting through the overarching plot. There's a nice denouement.

- Charles Lee Jackson II remarked that on this week's episode of *NCIS*, they dealt with the death of David McCallum and brought down the curtain on his character. It was a good send off, and the episode had a little sting in the tail.
- Debra Levin offered two phone-related reviews. She took the phone with her to pick Ben up, and it was hysterical to join the meeting in her car via Bluetooth.
 - She also started watching *Doctor Who* from the beginning on Tubi. She's seen all of the William Hartnell episodes that they offer, and she's enjoying it. She's also enjoyed some of the animated episodes.
- Eylat Poliner had a really good time at Gallifrey One. It was a really good convention.
 - Cathy Johnson also enjoyed it.

Miscellaneous

- Charles Lee Jackson II took a fall two weeks ago but didn't break a hip. He's been carrying his phone with him in case he falls. He asked whether there is much in the way of electromagnetic radiation from a mobile phone that's turned off.
- Cathy Johnson announced that there will be no aftermeeting tonight. We'll meet in person next week.

Call to Adjourn

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