

Condensed Cream of Menace of the LASFS

Meeting #4520

March 28, 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

- Merchant marine officer and author A. Bertram Chandler (b. March 28, 1912; d. June 6, 1984)
- Director, editor, and producer Roger Nygard (b. March 28, 1962)
- Visual effects artist, designer, sculptor, illustrator, and makeup artist Doug Drexler (b. March 28, 1953)

Dispatchings

- Courtesy of Lee Gold
 - Fan, filker, and LASFS member Tom Digby (b. Jan. 6, 1940; d. March 27, 2024)
 - Members including Barry Gold, Lee Gold, Cathy Johnson, Larry Niven, Eylat Poliner, Nick Smith, and Matthew B. Tepper shared memories and stories about Digby.
 - Space scientist and writer Stephen Goldin (b. Feb. 28, 1947; d. March 22, 2024)
 - Members including Lee Gold and Nick Smith shared memories and stories about Goldin.
- Horror and roleplaying game author James Moore (b. Sept. 3, 1965; d. March 27, 2024)
- The members of the LASFS recognized a minute of silence in honor of Tom Digby and Stephen Goldin.

Media anniversary

On this date in 1999, the first episode of *Futurama* aired on television. On this date in 1941, *Man Made Monster* was released.

Reading of the Minutes (Heath Row)

Scribbles read the Condensed Cream of Menace for March 14, 2024.

Additions and Corrections

Nick Smith asked that the minutes specify that some of the fan videos feature songs by Kathy Mar.

Auction to Name the Minutes

Eylat Poliner bid \$10, won, and named them “We Will Miss You, Tom Digby.”

Call for Approval

Moved to accept as clarified, and approved.

Celebration of Patron Saints

Sue Haseltine was celebrated and recognized by Susan Fox and Matthew B. Tepper. Haseltine received three cheers—and belated yays.

Committee Reports

- Programming (Eylat Poliner)
 - April 11: In-person (hybrid) meeting at Denny’s—By-Laws discussion and first vote
 - April 18: By-Laws vote
 - May 2: Charles Lee Jackson II reading of “The Diamond Men”
 - May 9: In-person (hybrid) meeting and Big Auction at Denny’s
 - May 23: In-person (hybrid) meeting at the Consulate General of the Czech Republic (One Westwood building, 10990 Wilshire Blvd. #1100, Los Angeles) followed by a screening of *Restore Point* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uA0c4uchstk>)
 - May 30: Robert Sawyer reading of *The Downloaded*
 - June 6: President nominations
 - June 13: In-person (hybrid) meeting and procedural elections
- Loscon 50 (Eylat Poliner)
 - Krystal Rains will table at WonderCon in Anaheim this weekend.
 - Shawn Crosby will serve as emcee for Loscon 50.
 - If you haven’t been to the Loscon Web site, please go there!
 - Susan Fox and Dr. Susie Searight will create a memorial display.
 - If you are on staff or a department head, we’ll meet Sunday, April 21, at 1 p.m. at the Hilton Los Angeles Airport.
- Fandom Wellness Committee (Eylat Poliner)
 - She received a phone call from Michelle Pincus about Hare Hobbs. His mother Shirley isn’t doing well, and Hare is experiencing some difficulties. Kristine Cherry is helping out and seems to have everything in order.

Honor Guard (Charles Lee Jackson II)

The Spot of Honor is held in the loving memory of Tony Benoun.

This is the last Thursday of the month, so we offer the opportunity for someone to dedicate the Spot of Honor for the next month. Maryann Canfield bid \$20 and dedicated the Spot of Honor to Tom Digby.

Registrar (Heide Nichols)

We have a lot of people we haven't seen for a while, including Peggy Wu, and Lee and Barry Gold. We were also joined by Orton Ortwein, who is fascinated by Ray Bradbury and Forrest J Ackerman. He dialed in from Chicago.

Treasurer (Debra Levin and Elayne Pelz)

Debra Levin reminded members to pay their dues. She also said "Howdy Doody!" You can also make donations.

Lee Grixit inquired whether the LASFS had received his payment. He had paid \$35 earlier that day.

Board Report (Matthew B. Tepper)

The LASFS board of directors will next meet Sunday, April 14, at 11 a.m. Last week we were considering a conflict, but that has been resolved. The board meeting in May has been canceled in honor of Mother's Day.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Time-Bound Announcements

- Nick Smith
 - Idiots will show *The Triplets of Belleville* on Sunday
 - Dark Delicacies plans to host a signing Saturday for *Phantom Limbs: Dissecting Horror's Lost Sequels and Remakes* by Jason Jenkins. A number of contributors will be present.
 - WonderCon will occur this weekend at the Anaheim Convention Center.
- Heide Nichols
 - The SpaceX Falcon 9 Starlink mission was supposed to launch today. It got scrubbed earlier this evening before fueling. It's going to be rescheduled, perhaps for tomorrow night. It'll launch from Vandenberg Space Force Base. The payload includes more than 20 satellites.
 - A company called Celestis is also launching human remains into outer space. Its employees will plant trees in their memory here on Earth.

Moments of Science

- Lee Grixit: There's a new non-invasive prosthetic for people who can't speak. You no longer need to hold a device up to your throat. There's now a decal that can detect the movements of the larynx and convert it to sound. It's programmable so it can better synthesize your voice. It's expected to be inexpensive.

Regular Announcements

- Cathy Johnson: The LASFS board of directors received an email announcing a speaking engagement for J. Michael Stracysnski on April 11. Stracysnski will speak at California State University, Dominguez Hills in Carson.
- Nick Smith: The release date for the long-delayed *The Last Dangerous Visions* edited by Harlan Ellison is now Oct. 1. Pre-orders open soon.

Reviews

- Nick Smith saw *Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire*. It was less a comedy film and more a serious movie with comic relief. It's not perfect, but the special effects were really interesting and fun, and the story was well written.
- Orton Ortwein mentioned that Ray Bradbury's *Dark Carnival* was recently reissued.

Miscellaneous

- Cathy Johnson reminded members about the aftermeeting.
- Eylat Poliner reported that Kristine Cherry created a contact form featuring a QR code on the LASFS and Loscon Web sites. If you'd like to direct people there, please do so.

Call to Adjourn

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