

Condensed Cream of Menace of the LASFS

Meeting #4523

April 18, 2024

Scribe: Heath "Scribbles" Row

Call to Order

Cathy Johnson called the meeting to order 25 seconds into the video recording.

Hatchings and Dispatchings (Nick Smith)

Hatchings

- Illustrator Frank R. Paul (b. April 18, 1884; d. June 29, 1963)
- Actor Clive Revill (b. April 18, 1930)
- Screenwriter and novelist David Whitaker (b. April 18, 1928; d. Feb. 4, 1980)
- Actor David Tennant (b. April 18, 1971)

Dispatchings

- Guitarist, singer, songwriter, and composer Dickey Betts (b. Dec. 12, 1943; d. April 18, 2024)

Media anniversary

On this date in 1940, *The Man With Nine Lives* was released in the United States.

Courtesy of Susan Fox: On this date in 1938, *Action Comics #1*, featuring Superman, first went on sale.

Reading of the Minutes (Heath Row)

Susan Fox stood in for Scribbles, doing reluctant double duty. Fox read the Condensed Cream of Menace for March 21 and April 4, 2024. (March 21 was also later read by Scribbles in mid-May, because he didn't preview past all the negotiations—my apologies!)

Additions and Corrections

March 21, 2024: None

April 4, 2024: James DeTar commented on the movie *Restore Point*, indicating he'd seen it at Loscon and found it very well done and original. He recommended it.

Auction to Name the Minutes

Heide Nichols bid \$5, won, and named March 21, 2024, "Death Will Not Release You."

Susan Fox bid \$5, won, and named April 4, 2024, "Can You Take a Choke?"

Call for Approval

March 21, 2024: Moved to accept as read, and approved.

April 4, 2024: Moved to accept as remarked upon, and approved.

Celebration of Patron Saints

Stan Burns was celebrated and recognized by Chris Marble and Matthew B. Tepper. Burns received three cheers—and a toque.

June and Len Moffatt were celebrated and recognized by Maryann Canfield, Charles Lee Jackson II, Debra Levin, Chris Marble, Heide Nichols, Eylat Poliner. The Moffatts received three cheers.

Committee Reports

- Programming (Eylat Poliner)
 - 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
 - Mark and I attended an open house at the consulate and checked out the parking. Our host will cater the event for us. There’s paid parking at the building next door: \$21 for a couple hours. I recommend carpooling. Most of the people at the mixer found street parking, so there’s street parking available. Do we still want to move forward with this? Whomever does Zoom will miss out.
 - Members of the LASFS expressed interest in moving forward.
 - Matthew B. Tepper has been to a couple of events at the host’s home. He lays out a nice table of cheese, crackers, cold meats, and olives. This will be the first official LASFS meeting taking place in another country.
 - Poliner inquired whether there were any legal implications to that—referring to Susan Fox’s question in chat. Elayne Pelz said no.
- Loscon 50 (Eylat Poliner)
 - There is a hybrid staff meeting this Sunday at 1 p.m. at the Hilton Los Angeles Airport. There is a limited amount of parking passes available for \$20. Try to carpool if you can. There will be coffee, tea, chips, and cookies.
 - Loscon is still happening. We’re staffed. We hope you all come.
- Fandom Wellness Committee (Chris Marble)
 - George Mulligan is moving along. When I visit, he works out. When I don’t, he doesn’t.
 - I visited Greg Barrett yesterday. His apartment’s annual inspection was this morning. He didn’t pass, but we can fix it. We need to clean his patio.

Honor Guard (Charles Lee Jackson II)

The Spot of Honor is held in honor of Tom Digby, a long-time LASFS member and beloved wacko, a fun guy to be around. I wish he were still around.

Registrar (Heide Nichols)

We have no visitors today. It's always nice to see newer members and a few of the old ones, like Peggy Wu, who only occasionally gets to drop in to see us.

Treasurer (Debra Levin and Elayne Pelz)

Elayne Pelz reported that everybody has paid their dues; there's nobody to yell at. But you can donate money—please.

She also reported on Project Yolanda. We have made an offer on a property and are awaiting a response.

Cathy Johnson: Project Yolanda refers to property we've looked at that we're making an offer on. It's on Yolanda Avenue south of Sherman Way in Reseda.

Pelz: Donate money! Anyone who wants to donate \$25,000 or more, now's the time to do it.

Board Report (Matthew B. Tepper)

The board of directors held its regular meeting Sunday, April 14. Among other things, we welcomed two new members, John and Susie Searight, whose applications were approved by the board.

We also discussed the recent defeat of the By-Laws change and agreed to work on a revision that will bring it more in line with what the opponents to the change wanted. The board will discuss it via email. We won't have a meeting in May because of Mother's Day, and we moved the meeting from June 9 to June 2.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Time-Bound Announcements

- Willard Stone: The *Los Angeles Times* Festival of Books is this weekend. There are fannish panels. (<https://events.latimes.com/festivalofbooks>)
- Nick Smith
 - The indoor events at the Festival of Books this year have a small ticket price. It now costs \$6 to go to any of the indoor events. The graphic novels stuff is largely outdoors, so it's free. The science fiction stuff is indoors.
 - Dark Delicacies is hosting a signing Saturday for the DVD and Blu-ray editions of the TV version of Stephen King's *The Shining*.
 - American Cinematheque will show the 1960 film *House of Usher* on Saturday at the Los Feliz Theater. On Sunday, the Aero Theatre will show a double feature of *Valley Girl* and *Real Genius*.
 - The New Beverly Cinema is showing the 1957 western *3:10 to Yuma* on Saturday and Sunday, as well as a horror double feature of *Fright Night* and *Night of the Creeps*.

- Landmark's Nuart Theatre continues to show *The People's Joker*. On Saturday night, the filmmaker will do a Q&A.
- The Old Town Music Hall is showing *Beetlejuice* and offers a special program about movie music and popular music on Sunday, including a performance on the theater's pipe organ.
- Vidiots is showing the anime *Kiki's Delivery Service* on Friday, subtitled, as well as *Resident Evil* and *The Lego Movie* on Saturday, and *Turning Red* on Sunday.

Moments of Science

- Nick Smith: They're finally getting around to how fruit flies move. There's something funny about the way they run. They built teeny, tiny treadmills and measured with rapid-motion photography how fruit flies run. A fruit fly can run on a split treadmill with each side running at a different speed. They move their legs at different speeds to keep their bodies level. They're very fast for an insect and marathon durable. They can run on a treadmill for an hour at a time. Scientists are still studying their middle legs. It'll assist AI motion of legs. (<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/fruit-flies-walk-treadmills-behavior>)

Regular Announcements

- Charles Lee Jackson II: Like Greg Barrett, I also had the Ministry of Housing inspect my domicile last Friday. I passed with no comments, which was the best you can do. Tom Khamis, I thank you.
 - I checked my weight today, and I've lost 90 pounds since my heaviest weight.

Reviews

- Nick Smith saw two movies. *Civil War* is a horror movie in the way that Seanan McGuire's Newsflesh series included horror stories. It's really about the journalistic aspects of a civil war. *Arcadian* is possibly post-apocalyptic science fiction or horror. Nicholas Cage is once again doing a really strange story.
- Charles Lee Jackson II saw several things this week: *Welt am Draht*, or *World on a Wire*, a German serial that predates *The Matrix*; and two episodes of *Lone Wolf and Cub*.

Miscellaneous

- Cathy Johnson reminded members about the aftermeeting.

Call to Adjourn

Maryann Canfield so moved. That was seconded. The ayes had it.