

Condensed Cream of Menace of the LASFS

Meeting #4524

April 25, 2024

Scribe: Heath "Scribbles" Row

Call to Order

Cathy Johnson called the meeting to order 0:28 into the video recording.

Hatchings and Dispatchings (Nick Smith)

Hatchings

- Author Fletcher Pratt (b. April 25, 1897; d. June 10, 1956)
- Magazine and comic book editor Mort Weisinger (b. April 25, 1915; d. May 7, 1978)
- Actor Peter Jurasik (b. April 25, 1950)
- Actor Gina Torres (b. April 25, 1969)
- Author, editor, and publisher Silvia Moreno-Garcia (b. April 25, 1981)

Dispatchings

- Actor and filmmaker Terry Carter (b. Dec. 16, 1928; d. April 23, 2024)
- Art director and production designer Ray Chan (b. 1967; d. April 23, 2024)
- Fan and LASFS member John Trimble (b. Nov. 17, 1936; d. April 19, 2024)
 - Members of the LASFS recognized a minute of silence in honor of Trimble.
- Courtesy of Elayne Pelz: Computer programmer and fan Leane M. Verhulst (b. June 25, 1969; April 20, 2024)

Media anniversary

On this date in 1951, *Five*, directed by Arch Oboler, premiered in Los Angeles.

Reading of the Minutes (Heath Row)

Cathy Johnson reported that, "Yes, we have no minutes." We rolled past that and expect extra minutes some other time.

Celebration of Patron Saints

Bill Warren was celebrated and recognized by Charles Lee Jackson II, Debra Levin, Chris Marble, and Matthew B. Tepper. Warren received three cheers—and keep watching the skies.

Nick Smith was celebrated and recognized by Susan Fox, Christine Lipscomb, Selina Phanara, Nick Smith, and Matthew B. Tepper. Smith received three cheers—and a Moment of Science.

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
- Chris Marble asked about in-person meetings in June, and Nick Smith and Cathy Johnson confirmed the in-person meeting in June is June 13. Elayne Pelz also confirmed we're solid with the second Thursdays at Denny's.
- Loscon 50 (Eylat Poliner)
 - Susan Fox reported on the in-person staff meeting at the Hilton Los Angeles Airport. We did a little walk around, and I'll edit the walk-around video. It went smoothly and nothing exploded.
 - Cathy Johnson: We had a big group, about 42 people on Zoom and in person. There's a lot of excitement about the hotel.
- Fandom Wellness Committee (Chris Marble)
 - Greg Barrett is doing Greg Barrett stuff.
 - I took Selina Phanara to go see George Mulligan yesterday, and for Selina, George got out of bed so they could hug.
 - Selina had all sorts of dental work this afternoon.
 - I have been remiss in contacting Don Fitch.
 - Cathy Johnson pointed out Dean Johnson's arm, which is more mobile. He starts physical therapy in a couple of weeks, and he drove a car last night all the way downtown to see *Funny Girl*.
 - Charles Lee Jackson II went to the hospital yesterday by bus and on foot. The walk up the hill was challenging. Details on his upcoming surgical procedure are unclear, but he passed all the tests they gave him. While he was in the waiting room, he read half of David E. Brown's *Vampiro: Vampire Bat In Fact & Fantasy*.

Honor Guard (Charles Lee Jackson II)

The Spot of Honor is held in memory of the wild, whacky, wonderful, weird, and wistful Tom Digby. He was a long-time member of the LASFS.

This being the last meeting of the month, I will open it up for suggestions for what it should be next month, with dollar amounts attached. Who would like to bid on next month's spot?

Debra Levin bid \$25, won, and dedicated it to whatever Susan Fox wants. Jackson sang a little song, and Fox dedicated it to Loscon 50.

Registrar (Heide Nichols)

Heide Nichols wasn't present, and Susan Fox reported we had no guests. We miss our registrar and our emergency back-up registrar.

Treasurer (Debra Levin and Elayne Pelz)

Elayne Pelz reminded members to pay their dues. This week, we have people who need to pay their dues. Pay your dues, people.

Project Yolanda is still sitting there, I'm afraid. We have not heard no, yes, or anything. Apparently, there was some sort of a mixup, but everything has been straightened out. I haven't heard any big explosions, so they haven't laughed us out of the city yet.

I've got another absolutely perfect property, but it's in Palmdale. It's only \$875,000, but we can't move it.

Board Report (Matthew B. Tepper)

The board of directors has taken up the challenge of rewriting the proposed By-Laws change that was voted down by the club. It has gone to committee, and members of that committee might have looked at it. We will report back when we have some sort of consensus.

The next board meeting will be June 2 because we're not having a meeting in May because of Mother's Day. June 9 was unworkable for several people.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Time-Bound Announcements

- Nick Smith
 - Dark Delicacies is having a signing on Saturday for the book *In Search of Darkness: A Definitive Look at 80s Horror*. This signing will feature not only the co-authors, Heather Wixson and Patrick Bromley, but also Tom Holland; Kelli Maroney; Heather Langenkamp; David LeRoy Anderson; Steve Johnson; Edward, Charles, and Stephen Chiodo; and editor Derek Anderson.
 - The Laemmle NoHo 7 is showing the original version of *Alien* for one week, starting tomorrow, three showings a day.
 - The New Beverly Cinema is showing the science fiction film *Gattaca* on Friday. On Saturday and Sunday, they are showing *Labyrinth* as their kiddie matinee.
 - Landmark's Nuart Theatre continues to show *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* as their late night show on Saturdays, but this Friday, their late night movie is the director's cut of *Little Shop of Horrors*.
 - The Old Town Music Hall in El Segundo is having two different shows of classic cartoons this Saturday, for children and adults. Cartoon historian Jerry Beck will be at both shows.
 - Vidiots will show a festival of stop-motion animation from 16mm prints and *Muppets From Space*.
 - Vroman's Bookstore in Pasadena will participate in Independent Bookstore Day. Their morning storytime will feature musicians from the Pasadena Conservatory of Music, and the rest of the day will include special giveaways and contests.
- Cathy Johnson: If you enjoy classic rock with a lot of brass, a friend of ours' band, the Brass Roots Initiative (<https://brassrootsla.com>), will play at the BH Chapter 73 Veterans Hall in Woodland Hills on Saturday night. Dean Johnson will be working the soundboard.

Moments of Science

- Matt Mitchell: There are what look like hundreds of little black spiders in a place called Inca City on Mars. The spiders are actually geysers.
(<https://www.livescience.com/space/mars/hundreds-of-black-spiders-spotted-in-mysterious-inca-city-on-mars-in-new-satellite-photos>) David Bowie references are welcome.
- Nick Smith: Voyager 1 is communicating again, and we're sure that it hasn't been taken over by an alien intelligence because it said so.
 - Rob Powell: The Jet Propulsion Laboratory staff put the code that runs communications in an uncorrupted part of memory.
(<https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/news/nasas-voyager-1-resumes-sending-engineering-updates-to-earth>)

Regular Announcements

- None

Reviews

- Lee Grixit reviewed *Krapopolis*. It's simplified history featuring gods and mythical creatures such as manticores, cyclops, and sea monsters.
- Nick Smith went to see *The Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare*. The story itself is entirely outrageous and based on the book *Churchill's Secret Warriors: The Explosive True Story of the Special Forces Desperadoes of WWII* by Damien Lewis.
- Cathy Johnson watched *Fallout* on Prime Video. We started watching it slightly begrudgingly but got hooked immediately. The characters are great, and it's kind of an alternate history of technology.
 - Ben Levin also endorses the show.
- Charles Lee Jackson II has been clearing off his DVR queue with great dispatch. He recently saw *Mad Max*, which he'd never seen before. It's better than *The Road Warrior*.
 - Cathy Johnson: *Mad Max—Fury Road* is spectacular.
 - Jackson also saw *Something to Sing About*, which tanked. It's vaguely biographical.
- Peggy Wu talked about Moe, her Dumeril's boa from Madagascar. He's a big, special needs snake with a damaged spine. She uses him for outreach.

Miscellaneous

- Charles Lee Jackson II enjoyed some Hershey's Eggs leftover from Christmas.
- Nick Smith reported on the annual gathering of storytellers in southern California. It was supposed to be in Orange County, but it's in Claremont because the organizer didn't lock down a venue. It'll be this Saturday at the Claremont Friends Meeting. A concert is open to the public.
- Cathy Johnson reminded members about the aftermeeting.

Call to Adjourn

Matt Mitchell so moved. That was seconded. The ayes had it.