

## **Condensed Cream of Menace of the LASFS**

### **Meeting #4505**

Dec. 14, 2023

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

- Artist and author David A. Cherry (b. Dec. 14, 1949)
- Sports commentator, actor, and retired professional tennis player Vijay Amritraj (b. Dec. 14, 1953)
- Actor James Horan (b. Dec. 14, 1954)

#### Dispatchings

- Manager, writer, and producer Stan Rogow (b. Nov. 30, 1948; d. Dec. 7, 2023)
- Actor Andre Braugher (b. July 1, 1962; d. Dec. 11, 2023)
- Actor, writer, film editor, and psychotherapist Camden Toy (b. May 31, 1955; d. Dec. 11, 2023)
- Actor Ryan O'Neal (b. April 20, 1941; d. Dec. 8, 2023)
- Author David Drake (b. Sept. 24, 1945; d. Dec. 10, 2023)
- Writer Tony N. Todaro, president of the Greater Los Angeles Writers Society (b. June 1946; d. Dec. 12, 2023)
- Courtesy of Matthew B. Tepper: Fan Peter Edick (b. Jan. 17, 1949; d. December 2023)
- The club recognized a minute of silence in honor of those lost.

#### Media anniversary

On this date in 1984, David Lynch's version of *Dune* entered limited release. John Carpenter's *Starman* and *Runaway* were also released on that same date. The 1984 version of *1984*, ironically, wasn't released generally until 1985. (It entered limited release in December 1984.)

### **Reading of the Minutes (Heath Row)**

Scribbles read the Condensed Cream of Menace for Dec. 7, 2023.

### **Additions and Corrections**

- Nick Smith asked Scribbles to confirm the title of Jonathan Maberry's anthology.

### **Auction to Name the Minutes**

Eylat Poliner bid \$6, then \$7, then \$8, then \$10, won, and deferred to Scribbles for naming. Scribbles named them "\$10 Worth of Weird."

## **Call for Approval**

Moved to accept as read, and approved.

## **Celebration of Patron Saints**

Fred Patten was celebrated and recognized by Lee Grixit, Charles Lee Jackson II, Heide Nichols, Eylat Poliner, Scribbles, and Nick Smith. Patten received three cheers—and an extra yee-hah.

## **Committee Reports**

- Programming (Eylat Poliner)
  - Dec. 14: Procedural elections
  - Dec. 28: Loscon Retrospective

## **Honor Guard** (Charles Lee Jackson II)

The Spot of Honor is held by CLJII's Christmas Carols, Confections, and Caprices, a free Facebook page. (<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064562504969>)

## **Registrar** (Eylat Poliner)

We do not have any guests, but we do have a returning member, Mariel Tripato. She said hello.

## **Treasurer** (Debra Levin and Elayne Pelz)

Elayne Pelz waved her hand and Cathy Johnson reminded members to pay their dues.

## **Board Report** (Michelle Pincus)

The next board meeting is Sunday, Jan. 14, at 11 a.m.

## **Old Business**

The LASFS held an election of procedural offices. Charles Lee Jackson II explained the role of the procedural offices, which run and operate the club and its meetings day to day. He then described the role of the president. (<https://lasfs.org/lasfs-by-laws>)

Last week, when the nominations were open, we had two nominations. Cathy Johnson accepted, but J.P. Van Gordon was not available. Van Gordon declined the nomination. Jackson asked for further nominations. Eylat Poliner renominated Cathy Johnson, which was unnecessary. Nominations were closed.

The membership voted. There were no nay votes, and Jackson abstained. Cathy Johnson was elected president.

Jackson then described the role of vice-president from the By-Laws. He opened nominations for vice-president. Matt Mitchell nominated Susan Fox, who declined. Fox nominated Eylat Poliner, who accepted. Jackson closed nominations.

The membership voted. Eylat Poliner was elected vice-president.

Jackson described the registrar's duties from the By-Laws. He opened nominations. Eylat Poliner nominated Heide Nichols, who accepted. Jackson closed nominations.

The membership voted. Heide Nichols was elected registrar.

Jackson also described the duties of the scribe. He opened nominations. Eylat Poliner nominated Scribbles, as did Heide Nichols and several other members. Jackson closed nominations.

The membership voted. Scribbles was elected scribe.

The elections were closed.

## New Business

None

## Time-Bound Announcements

- Cathy Johnson: Joyce Wolf sent in an announcement. A friend of the LASFS who lives in the Glendale/Pasadena area has a collection of *Locus* magazines dating from 1995 through 2007. She would like to give the collection away as a whole or in portions, whichever interested parties prefer. There is an inventory list available, and the donor prefers that the magazines be picked up rather than shipped. If you're interested, call Joyce Wolf at 818-249-4056 or email [joycewolf@earthlink.net](mailto:joycewolf@earthlink.net).
- Victor Khaze suggested that if an enthusiastic home can't be found for the magazines, the Open Bookstore in Northridge ( 8727 Tampa Ave.) might be a good place to take them. He recently picked up a bunch of older sf and fantasy magazines there, so they definitely buy such things.
- Nick Smith:
  - Dark Delicacies will host a signing Saturday with Mike Mendez, Alejandro Brugues and Efen Ramirez, Jonah Ray, Morgana Ignis, and Norman Cabrera, directors of the anthology film *Satanic Hispanics*. On Sunday, there's a signing of the novelization of *Silent Night, Deadly Night* with Armando Munoz.
  - Monday night, the Los Feliz Theatre will screen *Repo Man*.
  - The Egyptian Theatre is showing the Zac Snyder film *Rebel Moon—Part One: A Child of Fire*.
  - Saturday and Sunday, the New Beverly Cinema will screen *The Muppet Christmas Carol*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, and *Gremlins*. Monday and Tuesday, they'll show *Children of Men* and *Snowpiercer*.
- Michelle Pincus: Hare Hobbs's mother called her this afternoon. He's feeling detached from the LASFS and isolated. Pincus encouraged members to reach out to him.

## Moments of Science

- Lee Grixit: Researchers have developed a micro-brain voice-recognition system using brain cells and stem cells.  
(<https://www.technologyreview.com/2023/12/11/1084926/human-brain-cells-chip-organoid-speech-recognition>) It's fascinating and somewhat disturbing.
  - The science of communications revisited one of its oldest forms, the tin-can telephone. When you lay a lot of fiber optic cable, its vibrations can also be used.

### Regular Announcements

- Susan Fox: Apple TV+ picked up Martha Wells's *The Murderbot Diaries*, which might not bode well for *Foundation*, also produced by David S. Goyer.
- Charles Lee Jackson II recently realized that he habitually uses Disney's two-finger pointing method. He demonstrated how that is different from the Moe point. Jackson also posted on the Disneyland Former Cast Members and Fans Facebook group about that realization. He received about 200 responses.

### Reviews

- Nick Smith recently watched *Runaway*. It has a really strange Michael Crichton plot involving robotics and weaponry, and had a relatively small budget.
- Matt Mitchell watched the third *Doctor Who* anniversary special. It was surprising.
  - Julie Scott agreed that it was awesome. Eylat Poliner bounced in her chair.
- Lee Grixit recently watched the 2022 British series *The Lazarus Project*, which takes an interesting approach to time travel and memory.
- Charles Lee Jackson II recommended *The Toys That Built America* on The History Channel. (<https://www.history.com/shows/the-toys-that-built-america>) An episode focused on the development of Santa Claus over the last 100 years.
- Cathy Johnson mentioned the third episode of the newest *Connections* series. James Burke is making some really cool connections as he extrapolates what life might be like in the future.

### Miscellaneous

- Debra Levin apologized for being off screen during the treasurer's report. She had received a telephone call from a family number.
- Cathy Johnson reminded members of the aftermeeting.

### Call to Adjourn

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