

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

### **Meeting #4477**

June 1, 2023

Scribe: Heath "Scribbles" Row

### **Call to Order**

President Cathy Johnson called the meeting to order at 8:01 p.m.

### **Hatchings and Dispatchings (Nick Smith)**

#### Hatchings

- Physicist Kip Thorne (The time travel technology in Larry Niven's *Rainbow Mars* is based on Thorne's wormhole theories.)
- Filmmaker Gareth Edwards
- Author and musician Michael P. Kube-McDowell

#### Dispatchings

- Actor John Beasley
- Actor George Maharis
- *File 770* reported that the grave site of Forrest J Ackerman's brother Alden L. Ackerman was recently located and listed on *Find a Grave*.

#### Media anniversary

This is the anniversary of the general release of *Star Trek III: The Search for Spock* and *Total Recall*. It's also the anniversary of one of Stephen King's favorite science fiction films: *The Horror of Party Beach*.

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

Scribbles read the minutes for May 25, 2023.

### **Additions and Corrections**

- Eylat Poliner expects to miss the June 8 meeting, not this meeting. (She is, in fact, here.)

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

Lynn Maners bid \$5, won, and named them "Pluck Your Magic Twanger Froggy."

### **Call for Approval**

Moved to accept as corrected, and approved.

### **Celebration of Patron Saints**

Charles Lee Jackson II explained the Patron Saints for attending guests. Ed Baker was celebrated and recognized by Cathy Johnson and Charles Lee Jackson II. Baker received three cheers.

## Committee Reports

- Programming (Eylat Poliner)
  - June 8: Nominations and election of all five procedural offices
    - Eylat Poliner pre-accepted an expected nomination for registrar
- Loscon 49 (Michelle Pincus)
  - The hotel block is open for reservations
  - Membership rates increase to \$60 on June 15 at midnight

## Honor Guard (Charles Lee Jackson II)

Charles Lee Jackson explained the Honor Guard and the Spot of Honor. The Spot of Honor is held by SCIFI.radio, not Susan Fox's dog.

## Registrar (Eylat Poliner)

Our guest still has to be approved as a member by the board of directors, but Yeni Alvarez paid her membership dues today. Based in Los Angeles, Alvarez is a writer and voice artist.

There was some discussion about paying dues weekly or monthly, and whether the library will be accessible at any point. Susan Fox commented on the club's need for a clubhouse.

## Treasurer (Debra Levin and Elayne Pelz)

Elayne Pelz reminded members to pay their dues. It's a new month, so members can pay \$12/month. Everybody attending has paid.

## Board Report (Michelle Pincus)

The next board meeting is June 11 at 11 a.m.

## Old Business

- Nominations for president (Charles Lee Jackson II)
  - Jackson explained the role and responsibilities of the president
  - The term runs from July through December
  - Nominations
    - Eylat Poliner nominated Cathy Johnson
    - Chris Marble nominated Heath Row, who gratefully—and gracefully—declined

## New Business

None

## Time-Bound Announcements

- Eylat Poliner will not be at the June 8 meeting because of other commitments
- Nick Smith: The New Beverly Cinema will show *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial* this weekend

- Kevin Segall
  - Monsterpalooza is this weekend
  - Next Wednesday at the Los Angeles Breakfast Club, Bob Gurr, Disney Imagineer, will speak
    - <https://www.labreakfastclub.com/event-details/bob-gurr>

### Moments of Science

- Lynn Maners: A genetics study determined that there was one contact event between Polynesia and South America about the year 1200. South American genes spread throughout Polynesia.
  - J.P. Van Gordon:
    - <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-020-2487-2>
    - <https://www.science.org/content/article/no-one-could-have-predicted-dna-offers-surprises-how-polynesia-was-settled>
- Tom Safer: Today in Science History—[https://www.todayinsci.com/6/6\\_01.htm](https://www.todayinsci.com/6/6_01.htm)
  - Edward Charles Titchmarsh: English mathematician at the forefront of analysis, contributed to quantum theory
  - Charles Benedict Davenport: American zoologist who contributed to the study of eugenics and heredity
  - Francis Edgar and Freelan O. Stanley: Francis invented a photographic dry plate process. He and his brother sold the company to Eastman Kodak and turned their attention to steam-powered automobiles, of which they built thousands via the Stanley Motor Co.
- Nick Smith: A quake on Mars was measured by NASA's InSight lander. Measurements suggest that the average thickness of the Martian crust is thicker than that of Earth, and that the crust is thinner in the northern hemisphere.
- Lee Grixit: Stem cells from the human stomach can be changed into cells that secrete insulin.
- Jim DeTar: The FDA approved the first nasal spray, Opvee, to treat opioid overdoses.
- Charles Lee Jackson II: Scientists discovered that Splenda can cause genetic damage.
  - Nola Frame-Gray: Splenda can also cause leaky gut.
  - Susan Fox: <https://www.futurity.org/sucralose-genotoxic-2926272-2>

### Regular Announcements

- Scribbles reported on the sf musical play *For the Love of a Glove*, <https://fortheloveofaglove.com>
  - He also remarked that the current issue of *De Profundis* has an error on the calendar page. The LASFS is indeed meeting the last week of the month. If you'd like an updated edition, let him know.
- Cathy and Dean Johnson are becoming busier with theater productions and are currently working on shows in Oxnard and Ojai.

### Reviews

- Nick Smith commented on the semi-documentary *BlackBerry*, which is about the history of the development of the smartphone.
  - He also remarked on *The Machine*, co-starring Mark Hamill.
- Lee Grixit finds the cartoon *Fired on Mars* interesting.
- Kevin Segall and his wife have been enjoying the television adaptation *American Born Chinese*.
- Lynn Maners recommends the Facebook group Bókabéusar, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/501684300845716>

### Miscellaneous

- Nola Frame-Gray reminds LASFSans that when we mail items, to be sure to include the complete address so it's mailed correctly. She recommends using the ZIP+4 Code.
- Nick Smith announced a memorial event for Marty Cantor on June 17 at Barbara Gratz Harmon's home. It will begin at 11 a.m. and last into the afternoon.
  - The county has placed another seal on Marty's door. John Hertz and others still cannot gain access to the apartment to obtain Marty's legal documents.
- Tom Safer is again screening films at the Frances Howard Goldwyn—Hollywood Regional Branch Library every third Saturday of the month. This month's feature is *Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile*. <https://www.lapl.org/whats-on/events/saturday-film-screening>
- Cathy Johnson reminded members about the aftermeeting.
  - Nola Frame-Gray remarked that sometimes you need to wait for the aftermeeting to open.

### Call to Adjourn

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