

Condensed Cream of Menace of the LASFS

Meeting #4490

Aug. 31, 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

- Author Robert Adams
- Actor, comedian, writer, and musician Julie Brown
- Musician and actor Debbie Gibson
- Director Marc Webb
- Writer G. Willow Wilson

Dispatchings

- Director and producer Jamie Christopher
- Actor, writer, and comedian Arleen Sorokin
- Musician Len Chandler

Media anniversary

In 1990, American fans could finally see the 1984 animated version of *Lensman* from Japan.

Reading of the Minutes (Heath Row)

Scribbles read the Condensed Cream of Menace for Aug. 24, 2023.

Additions and Corrections

- None

Auction to Name the Minutes

Jim DeTar bid \$6, won, and named them "Natural People."

Call for Approval

Moved to accept as read, and approved.

Celebration of Patron Saints

Allan Rothstein was celebrated and recognized by Charles Lee Jackson II and Matthew B. Tepper. Rothstein received three cheers.

Matthew B. Tepper was celebrated and recognized by Charles Lee Jackson II, Debra Levin, Lynn Maners, Elyat Poliner, Tom Safer, and Scribbles. Tepper received three cheers.

Committee Reports

- Programming (Eylat Poliner)
 - Sept. 7: Arlene Busby, on the Aerospace Legacy Foundation
 - Sept. 14: Aldo Spadoni, on conceptual aerospace design in science fiction
 - Sept. 28: David Raiklen, on the music of *Star Trek*
 - Oct. 12: Forry Award nominations and vote
 - Nov. 2: Board of Directors nominations
 - Nov. 9: Meeting #4500 and Board of Directors election
 - Nov. 16: History of the LASFS featuring longtime LASFSans
 - Nov. 23: Meeting at Loscon 49
 - Dec. 7: Nominations for president
 - Dec. 14: Procedural elections
 - Dec. 28: Loscon retrospective
- Loscon 49 (Michelle Pincus)
 - Loscon 49 is still on track and still going to be wonderful.

Honor Guard (Charles Lee Jackson II)

The Spot of Honor is held by the 48 Hour Film Project Los Angeles. Another month starts tomorrow. By the next meeting, we will have a new spot holder.

Eylat Poliner bid \$20. Susan Fox bid \$25. Jim DeTar bid \$30. DeTar dedicated the Spot of Honor to whatever Poliner would like to showcase in the spot. That was Loscon 49.

Registrar (Eylat Poliner)

We do not have any new guests, but we have some returning long-term members: Joyce Lloyd and Peggy Wu. Welcome back!

Treasurer (Debra Levin and Elayne Pelz)

Susan Fox reminded members to pay their dues.

Board Report (Michelle Pincus)

The next board meeting is Sept. 10 at 11 a.m. on this Zoom channel.

New Business

Elayne Pelz recently contacted two commercial real estate agents. She also contacted and talked to the church, which was going to discuss the idea of our meeting there with their board. Pelz expects that we won't be able to because another group is using the space. LASFSans are encouraged to look for other meeting places.

The big announcement, however, is that the LASFS is now richer by about \$27,000. Pelz applied for—and received—a grant from the Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity's Economic Opportunity Grants Program.

Time-Bound Announcements

- Nick Smith
 - There is a writing group focusing on sf prose called Speculative Ink that meets in Little Tokyo every two weeks . They're looking for new members.
(<https://www.meetup.com/speculative-ink-critique-group-for-scifi-fantasy-writers>)
 - The New Beverly Cinema will screen *Howl's Moving Castle* and *Conan the Barbarian* this weekend
- Krystal Rains will be tabling at Strategicon this weekend. It's worth going to.
(<https://www.strategicon.net>)

Moments of Science

- Lynn Maners: There's an interesting retraction this week about the Hopewell culture, which suddenly disappeared. They were an east coast mound builder culture, and they weren't really a unified culture but more of a trading and exchange network. The article that was retracted claimed that it disappeared because of a comet breaking up over eastern North America. Unfortunately, the data didn't really add up.
(<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10468503>)
- Jim DeTar: You'll now understand why I named the minutes "Natural People." *The Guardian* reported that scientists have created synthetic human embryos without using sperm or eggs, but stem cells.
(<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2023/jun/14/synthetic-human-embryos-created-in-groundbreaking-advance>) The work raises serious legal and ethical concerns.
- Tom Safer (https://www.todayinsci.com/8/8_31.htm)
 - Robert Hanbury Brown
 - Robert F. Borkenstein
 - Mary Putnam Jacobi
 - Event: Sun-powered car and Powerama

Regular Announcements

- Tom Safer: On Sept. 16, I will screen *Luca* at the Francis Howard Goldwyn Hollywood Regional Branch Library.
- Chris Marble: George Mulligan has been on oxygen for a week. They don't know what happened, but he had a setback.
 - Also, Don Fitch is still alive. I plan to see him in the next two weeks.
 - Scribbles had reached out to Marble after Fitch's weekly APA-L was returned in the mail, asking him to make a wellness check.
- Charles Lee Jackson II: I went back to school yesterday only to learn that I'd missed the first day of class, as had half of the rest of the class. Someone had forgotten to send an email.

Reviews

- Charles Lee Jackson II was recently in Disneyland, and it's already Halloween season.

- Nick Smith went to see a science fiction movie starring Ben Kingsley and Jane Curtin called *Jules*. It's a remarkably strange movie.
- Scribbles remarked on the 1980 movie *Terror on Tour*, noting its similarities to Alice Cooper, Kiss, and Bob Ross.
- Dean Johnson reread Tracy Kidder's 1981 book *The Soul of a New Machine*. It was pretty interesting and very accessible.
- Cathy Johnson went to the Hollywood Forever Cemetery to see *Poltergeist*. It was a lot of fun. She also saw *Peter Pan Goes Wrong* at the Ahmanson Theatre. She highly recommends it.
- Peter Santell read two Isaac Asimov works, *The End of Eternity* and the short story "Blind Alley." He recommends both.
 - Matthew B. Tepper commented that "Blind Alley" first appeared in the March 1945 *Astounding Science Fiction*.
- Jackson also recently had the opportunity to watch *Target Earth*. The story development is quite good, and the scenes of people walking through the empty streets of Los Angeles are very effective.

Miscellaneous

- Tom Safer will begin choir practice next Thursday. "I'll miss you all."
 - Tad Daley suggested that Safer quit choir and sing to us instead.
- Charles Lee Jackson II told a story about a parking space in front of a movie theater in Glendale. The same police officer would always ticket him, even though he could park there. They went to court.
- When Tim Friedline drives to work, the parking garage welcomes him, recognizing his license plate. "I've never been welcomed to a building before."
- Cathy Johnson reminded members about the aftermeeting.
- Barbara Gratz Harmon wants to talk to Chris Marble after the meeting.

Call to Adjourn

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