

Condensed Cream of Menace of the LASFS

Meeting #4512

Feb. 1, 2024

Scribe: Heath "Scribbles" Row

Call to Order

Eylat Poliner called the meeting to order at 8:01 p.m.

Hatchings and Dispatchings (Nick Smith)

Hatchings

- Animator, film director, and producer George Pal (b. Feb. 1, 1908; d. May 2, 1980)
- Actor, comedian, writer, and singer Garrett Morris (b. Feb. 1, 1937)
- Actor Elisabeth Sladen (b. Feb. 1, 1946; d. April 19, 2011)
- Actor, writer, and musician Bill Mumy (b. Feb. 1, 1954)

Dispatchings

- Actor, singer, dancer, and dance instructor Hinton Battle (b. Nov. 29, 1956; d. Jan. 30, 2024)
- Manga artist Hinako Ashihara (Ritsuko Matsumoto) (b. Jan. 25, 1974; d. Jan. 29, 2024)
- Actor, singer, and dancer Chita Rivera (b. Jan. 23, 1933; d. Jan. 30, 2024)
- LASFS member and fan Nathan Okun (b. Dec. 22, 1948; d. Jan. 11, 2024)

Media anniversary

On this date in 1946, *The Flying Serpent* soared onto the movie screens of America.

Reading of the Minutes (Heath Row)

Scribbles read the Condensed Cream of Menace for Dec. 28, 2023, and Jan. 25, 2024.

Additions and Corrections

- Dec. 28, 2023: None
- Jan. 25, 2024:
 - A member clarified that Marc Schirmeister is writing a novel with Mel White.
 - Cathy Johnson reminded Scribbles that Gavin Claypool also brought up a nearby Denny's that has a banquet room available for \$50.

Auction to Name the Minutes

Lynn Maners bid \$5, won, and named Dec. 28, 2023's Cream of Menace "Best Wishes for a Rapid Healing to the First Gentleman of Our President."

Eylat Poliner bid \$10, won, and named Jan. 25, 2024's Cream of Menace "Happy Birthday, Van!" LASFSans sang "Happy Birthday to You," reportedly worse than the Time Meddlers.

Call for Approval

Dec. 28, 2023: Moved to accept as read, and approved.

Jan. 25, 2024: moved to accept as amended, and approved.

Celebration of Patron Saints

Gary Louie was celebrated and recognized by Cathy Johnson, Chris Marble, Matt Mitchell, and Heidi Nichols. Louie received three cheers—and a bag of Legos and mahjong tiles.

Mike Luwish was celebrated and recognized by Chris Marble and Scribbles. Luwish received three cheers.

Committee Reports

- Loscon 50 (Eylat Poliner)
 - Loscon 50 is happening. We have guests. We have a hotel.
- Programming (Eylat Poliner)
 - Feb. 29: Craig Miller reading
 - March 14: Heide Nichols will present “Death Is Inevitable” at the end of the meeting.

Honor Guard (Charles Lee Jackson II)

The Spot of Honor is held by Loscon 50, celebrating 50 Loscons.

Eylat Poliner thanked Jackson for designing and making the Loscon 50 flier for the Spot of Honor.

Registrar (Heide Nichols)

We have no new guests tonight.

Treasurer (Debra Levin and Elayne Pelz)

Elayne Pelz reminded members to pay their dues. It’s February. You’ve got one more month to pay your yearly dues. If you’ve been paying in chunks, pay some more.

Pelz referred to her records to see how much J.P. Van Gordon has sent so far.

Board Report (Matthew B. Tepper)

The board of directors will next meet Feb. 11 at 11 a.m. Business is expected to end before some sporting event. A By-Laws change will be finalized to propose to the club for vote at the following meeting.

Old Business

Cathy Johnson asked Elayne Pelz whether Gavin Claypool sent her information about the Sherman Oaks Denny’s banquet room (5525 N. Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90049), which can accommodate about 60 people from 7:30-10 p.m. or longer for \$50. The aftermeeting would also be held there. As far as Pelz knows, Feb. 29 will be OK. She’ll call back tomorrow.

Matthew B. Tepper and Susan Rothman indicated that AARP members get a 15 percent discount for their whole table.

Johnson thanked Nick Smith for finding New Musicals Inc. She also thanked Claypool.

Smith reported that New Musicals Inc. wouldn't be available for the next weeks we wanted. He asked about Internet access at Denny's, and Elayne Pelz reported that the club owns a portable hotspot.

Eylat Poliner also indicated she has a lead on another venue—free—and programming option that she's looking into.

New Business

None

Time-Bound Announcements

- Peter Santell: TCM is showing Fritz Lang's complete version of *Metropolis* tonight at 9:30 p.m. Matthew B. Tepper reviewed it at a LASFS meeting about 15 years ago; it really makes sense.
- Nick Smith:
 - The New Beverly Cinema is showing *The Matrix* on Friday and *Babe* on Saturday and Sunday. Saturday night's double feature is *Altered States* and *Lair of the White Worm*.
 - Vidiots will show *Wall-E* and *Final Destination 2* on Friday. Saturday features *Toy Story* and *Beetlejuice*. Sunday brings *The Birds*.
 - Brain Dead Studios will show *Tank Girl* on Saturday.
 - The Vista Theater will feature *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty* on Saturday and Sunday.

Moments of Science

- Lee Grixit: There's bad and good news about the microbial consumption of plastic. Some organisms that developed the ability on their own don't finish the job. A project of artificial breeding has developed organisms that can convert polyethylene into silk.
 - A new electrical system is in development for iron smelting that can be applied to the detoxification of waste pools from aluminum processing.
- Rob Powell: Ingenuity, the robotic helicopter device on Mars, flew its last flight. Problems with its propellers led to its demise. Originally, it was expected to make five missions, and it completed 72. (<https://plus.nasa.gov/scheduled-video/nasa-science-live-ingenuity-mars-helicopter-flies-its-final-flight>)

Regular Announcements

- Chris Marble: Selina Phanara caught COVID-19 but has recovered.
 - George Mulligan's progress continues.
- Charles Lee Jackson II has a new book out this week, book 38 of The Emperor's Secret Files, *Goddess of Mystery*.

- Heide Nichols reminded people that President's Day weekend is not far away. Strategicon will be held next door to Gallifrey One. Loscon will table at both, and she expects to see every one of us.
- Dean Johnson: In case you're wondering what the sling is for, I busted my arm. I fell after the in-person meeting, and we went to the emergency room. There's a spiral fracture in the humerus. I also scraped my knee and got 12 stitches. The main takeaway is to be careful when you're crossing the street.
 - Cathy Johnson indicated that Dean jogged across the street to bring the car around, leading to a fall. Many LASFS members helped control traffic safely. She thanked them.

Reviews

- Nick Smith started watching *Moon Girl and Devil Dinosaur* on Disney+. The story and comic book adaptation are wonderful.
- Scribbles finally got around to watching *The Sandman* and is up to episode 5, which adapts the comic book up to issue #7. It's a wonderful fantasy and leaves a lot of the DC universe stuff from the comic book out, which is excellent.
- Charles Lee Jackson II just watched *Attack of the Giant Leeches* for the first time since 1960. When you can't see the leeches very well, they're really scary. He liked it better than he did when he was 10.
- Eylat Poliner reviewed the first ever hybrid meeting last week. She thanked Cathy and Dean Johnson, and Susan Fox, who made it happen. She also thanked Christian B. McGuire and Elayne Pelz for the auction.
- Lynn Maners: There's a YouTube channel called *Ancient Americas* (<https://www.youtube.com/@AncientAmericas>). They just dropped a new episode on the first people of the Americas. It's based on Jennifer Ruff's book *Origins: A Genetic History of the Americas*, a book he wasn't familiar with. It's really excellent.

Miscellaneous

- Cathy Johnson reminded members about the aftermeeting.

Call to Adjourn

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