

Condensed Cream of Menace of the LASFS

Meeting #4518

March 14, 2024

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

- Broadcaster, journalist, and author Algernon Blackwood (b. March 14, 1869; d. Dec. 10, 1951)
- Actor Michael Caine (b. March 14, 1933)
- Filmmaker Wolfgang Petersen (b. March 14, 1941; d. Aug. 12, 2022)
- Filker, fanartist, and author Diana Gallagher Wu (b. March 14, 1946; d. Dec. 3, 2021)
- Fan, filker, and author Julia Ecklar (b. March 14, 1964)

Dispatchings

- Courtesy of Michelle Pincus: Fan Susan Frank (d. March 2, 2024)
 - Eylat Poliner: When someone commits suicide, it isn't anybody's fault and no one needs to take blame. Poliner can recommend grief counseling if needed.
 - Susan Fox: Her brother Reg found her. She's worried about him.
- Manga artist and character designer Akira Toriyama (b. April 5, 1955; d. March 1, 2024)
- Fan, filker, and singer-songwriter Rilla Heslin (b. March 1, 1952; d. March 10, 2024)
- The LASFS recognized a minute of silence to honor Frank's death.

Media anniversary

On this date in 1994, the first episode of the *RoboCop* television series aired. On this date in 1981, the movie *Mobile Suit Gundam* first screened in Japan.

Reading of the Minutes (Heath Row)

Scribbles read the Condensed Cream of Menace for March 7, 2024.

Additions and Corrections

- Matt Mitchell didn't ask whether there was a meeting March 28, but whether it was left off the list accidentally. Eylat Poliner clarified that she doesn't list meetings that don't have a program scheduled.

Auction to Name the Minutes

Eylat Poliner bid \$10, won, and named them "Flying Space Monkeys."

Call for Approval

Moved to accept as clarified, and approved.

Celebration of Patron Saints

Gavin Claypool was celebrated and recognized by Hare Hobbs, Charles Lee Jackson II, Chris Marble, Nick Smith, and Matthew B. Tepper. Claypool received three cheers.

Committee Reports

- Fandom Wellness Committee (Chris Marble)
 - George Mulligan is doing well. He expressed concern about Susan Fox's broken window and plans to get out of bed more often.
 - Selina Phanara also says hello. She just got COVID-19 for the third time but has been asymptomatic so far.
- Committee to Gouge Money from the LASFS (Cathy Johnson)
 - Even though we don't have a Big Auction tonight, we have a few items to auction off.
 - The first two items were candy donated by Hare Hobbs.
 - Harry Potter chocolate: Michelle Pincus bid \$1 and won.
 - Butter Beer Jelly Bellies: Krystal Rains bid \$2 and won.
 - Larry Niven donated the second Dream Park novel, *The Barsoom Project* by Larry Niven and Steven Barnes.
 - Dean Johnson bid \$25 and won.
- Programming (Eylat Poliner)
 - March 21: Heide Nichols performance of "Death Is Inevitable"
 - April 11: In-person (hybrid) meeting at Denny's—By-Laws discussion and first vote
 - April 18: By-Laws vote
 - 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>)
 - June 6: President nominations
 - June 13: In-person (hybrid) meeting and procedural elections
- Loscon 50 (Eylat Poliner)
 - The con will be held Thanksgiving weekend at the Hilton Los Angeles Airport.
 - There will be a toy drive.
 - All the information is on the Web site, created by Kristine Cherry.
 - Krystal Rains still has Loscon logo pins available for \$12 a piece.
- Membership (Elayne Pelz)
 - If you'd like a signed membership card, let me know. Some crazy lady signed a whole bunch of them.
- Cathy Johnson: We're scheduling in-person, hybrid meetings for the second Thursday of

each month.

Honor Guard (Charles Lee Jackson II)

The Spot of Honor is held in loving memory of Tony Benoun. If you saw the Zoom last week, we have a little Spot of Honor plaque featuring his picture. We honor Tony in his absence, and we miss him.

Registrar (Heide Nichols)

We have some returning guests. Joe Machado Jr. has come back for the second time. We're glad to have him. And Dr. Susie and John Searight have joined us for the third time. Other members we've recently gained such as Derek LaPorte and Alex Garganigo are also here. Members inquired whether Jeffrey Delshad was a member in good standing.

Treasurer (Debra Levin and Elayne Pelz)

Elayne Pelz wished everyone a happy Pi Day and reminded members to pay their dues. There are two more weeks to pay your annual dues. You can also pay monthly dues and weekly dues.

Elayne Pelz announced progress looking for real estate options. She's talking to a realtor tomorrow.

Board Report (Matthew B. Tepper)

The board of directors met last Sunday. The item of interest was a bid for Loscon 51. The board approved that bid to go to the club membership for vote.

Old Business

- Charles Lee Jackson II: What we want to do this evening is give a yea or a nay to the Loscon bid that's been supported by the board of directors. The con bid chairman will stand up and tell us a little bit about the bid and the committee. We'll take questions, and then we'll have a vote.
- Sherri Benoun is bidding for Loscon 51. She has convention running experience, including Gallifrey One and Loscon committee positions. She also co-chaired for World Fantasy Convention and staffed Worldcon in multiple positions. She'd like to design the convention for a different demographic, ages 25-45. She's looking at particular authors who resonate with that demographic and would like to be more inclusive and reach out to the current fan community. Elayne Pelz will serve as treasurer. Krys Bowie will handle the hotel. The Web admin is Kristine Cherry. Other people have asked about positions, so we're getting volunteers already. There is not currently a theme.
- A vote was held. Benoun's bid was awarded.

New Business

None

Time-Bound Announcements

- Willard Stone
 - The Sierra Madre Wistaria Festival is occurring March 17. (<https://www.facebook.com/sierramadrewistariaFestival>)
- Matthew B. Tepper
 - The Los Angeles Vintage Paperback Collectors Show is also March 17 at the Glendale Civic Auditorium. (<https://www.la-vintage-paperback-show.com>) The LASFS will be there selling books and Loscon memberships.
 - Nick Smith: The show starts at 9 a.m. Sunday. It costs \$10 to get in. Several authors who are LASFS authors will be in attendance, including Craig Miller, Larry Niven, John DeChancie, and others.
- Nick Smith didn't prepare a long list of movies this week because he didn't want to compete with the paperback show.
- Sherri Benoun: Tony Benoun's celebration of life will occur Saturday, March 23, from 4-8 p.m. at Griffin's Grill in Los Alamitos.

Moments of Science

- Hare Hobbs: We have another new name for a fault—My Fault, Your Fault, Everybody's Fault, and now Nobody's Fault.
- Lee Grixit
 - Pay attention to hard water deposits in your tea kettle. They can capture microplastics.
 - Something that could fuel another branch of retrofuture: Pump Punk, the 3D printing of tiny little pipes and valves that can be assembled to create digital logic. Pneumatic, non-electronic robots are in the offing, but I'd consider them automatons because their power supply will be external.
- Susan Fox: The third test of the SpaceX spaceship occurred. This time it launched, reached 100 kilometers in altitude, achieved stage separation—and neither part landed in a controlled fashion.

Regular Announcements

- None

Reviews

- Michelle Pincus: This year's Oscars were historical—a movie and its sequel both won Oscars. (That's a joke, with *Godzilla Minus One* being a sequel to *Oppenheimer*.)
- Kristine Cherry finished a Netflix anime renewed for a second and third season.
- Heide Nichols wants to review something that's science and fiction but not science fiction. She just finished Bonnie Garmus's novel *Lessons in Chemistry*, which is now an Apple TV+ series. The book is about a woman chemist in the late 1950s and 1960s and explores how women broke the glass ceiling. It's a fascinating book.
 - Cathy Johnson has been watching the TV show, and it's quite good.
 - Craig Miller has finished the program, and it's all good.

- Eylat Poliner watched *Poor Things*. It's kind of a weird science fantasy. It's bizarre but very good. And there's lots of sex.
- Charles Lee Jackson II saw *La maldición de Nostradamus* (aka *The Curse of Nostradamus*), a Mexican film in Spanish with no subtitles. Then he saw a Japanese movie with English subtitles, *Gorath*, as it is called in the United States. It's colorful. It's interesting.
- Jeffrey Delshad saw the new Dune movie, *Dune: Part Two*. It's a new interpretation of the world and seems more religious.

Miscellaneous

- Hare Hobbs's mother will have a consulting credit in Ron Howard's forthcoming movie.
- Nick Smith: The music guest of honor this year at Loscon is Kathy Mar. A fan in the northwest has decided to blend traditions from anime and sf con cultures. She's collecting older filk songs, including music from Mar, and setting them to old footage from *Star Trek* and other programs. (<https://www.youtube.com/@ladybuglisawah> and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NSUyUL_jzbo&list=PLtMBceDCX0YGrQO5Cv4ViAYZ_9xy30IUt)
- Hare Hobbs talked about the band Hawkwind, which is very science fiction. He's invited one of the members to Loscon.
 - Lee Grixit also mentioned the Blue Oyster Cult and their song "Black Blade" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GP42WYdykT8>)

Call to Adjourn

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