

Condensed Cream of Menace of the LASFS

Meeting #4519

March 21, 2024

Scribe: Heath "Scribbles" Row

Call to Order

Cathy Johnson called the meeting to order 3:59 into the video recording.

Hatchings and Dispatchings (Nick Smith)

Susan Fox stood in for Nick Smith.

Hatchings

- Composer and musician Johann Sebastian Bach (b. March 21, 1685 [Old Style]; d. July 28, 1750)
- Actor Matthew Broderick (b. March 21, 1962)
- Actor Timothy Dalton (b. March 21, 1946)
- Actor Sonequa Martin-Green (b. March 21, 1985)
- Actor Gary Oldman (b. March 21, 1958)
- Fictional character Capt. James T. Kirk, who is scheduled to be born March 22, 2233

Dispatchings

- Author and educator Vernor Vinge (b. Oct. 2, 1944; d. March 20, 2024)
- Actor M. Emmet Walsh (b. March 22, 1935; d. March 19, 2024)

Reading of the Minutes (Heath Row)

Scribbles wasn't present. No Condensed Cream of Menace was read.

Auction to Name the Minutes

Dean Johnson bid \$6, won, and named the minutes that were not read "Future Minutes."

Celebration of Patron Saints

Dan Deckert was celebrated and recognized by Charles Lee Jackson II, Chris Marble, and Matthew B. Tepper. Deckert received three cheers.

Committee Reports

- Programming (Eylat Poliner)
 - 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>)

- Tad Daley suggested that this event offers a unique opportunity to promote to potential members as well as current members.
- Susan Fox encouraged carpooling.
- Daley suggested investigating public transportation options.
- June 6: President nominations
- June 13: In-person (hybrid) meeting and procedural elections
- Loscon 50 (Eylat Poliner)
 - Loscon 50 is being held at the Hilton Los Angeles Airport.
 - We tabled at the Los Angeles Vintage Paperback Collectors Show, sold eight memberships, and distributed promotional postcards.
 - Our Artist Guest of Honor, Laura Brodian Freas Beraha, cracked a rib in a fall recently. Her spirit is good, and she's looking forward to Loscon, but she's currently recovering.
 - Kristine Cherry continues to update the Loscon Web site.
- Fandom Wellness Committee (Chris Marble)
 - Selina Phanara caught COVID-19 last week. She's no longer testing positive but still feels rotten.
 - Greg Barrett is doing OK.
 - George Mulligan is supposed to get five days a week of physical therapy.
 - Courtesy of Charles Lee Jackson II: Jean Marie Stine, a LASFS member from way back and his publisher, broke her hip in a fall but is recovering well.

Honor Guard (Charles Lee Jackson II)

The Spot of Honor is held in the loving memory of Tony Benoun.

Heide Nichols: His memorial service is going to be held this Saturday from 4 p.m. to about 8 p.m. at Griffins Grill in Los Alamitos.

Registrar (Heide Nichols)

We don't have any guests this evening, but newer members including Derek LaPorte, and Dr. Susie and John Searight have returned.

Treasurer (Debra Levin and Elayne Pelz)

Elayne Pelz reminded members to pay their dues. She told Tad Daley that she'll figure out how to send him a Square invoice.

She also encouraged members to donate money. We might have found some property. "Cross everything you can cross."

Board Report (Matthew B. Tepper)

The board of directors met a couple of weeks ago. The next board meeting is scheduled for April 14. I'm waiting for final confirmation that another meeting will not need to be done on

that date. We have canceled the May board meeting as is traditional in favor of Mother's Day.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Time-Bound Announcements

- Eylat Poliner: I am now a volunteer with the Browncoat Auxiliary Depression & Anxiety Support System, otherwise known as B.A.D.A.S.S. (<https://www.browncoatsupport.org>)
- Chris Marble: We mentioned Tony Benoun's memorial on Saturday. There's also a memorial for Mark Merlino on Saturday. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LLfNdhHmh1Y>)
 - Members discussed memorial locations, snack and food preferences, and appropriate dress codes.

Special Event: Heidi Nichols, "Death Is Inevitable"

After a reference to Robert A. Heinlein's Lazarus Long series, *Logan's Run*, and the perennial trope of living forever—or not dying—Nichols gave a talk about how to best prepare for death. She recommended a three-part plan: deciding what you want done with your body, funding that choice, and telling someone about it—writing it down.

Her presentation also considered appropriate documents such as trusts, wills, and medical powers of attorney. LASFS members shared stories about estates they'd helped execute, offering additional advice. Members also asked questions about arranging for the transportation of their body, as well as what inspired Nichols to learn so much about the topic.

Moments of Science

- None

Regular Announcements

- Eylat Poliner: If you are on staff for Loscon 50, there's a meeting April 21 at 1 p.m. at the Hilton Los Angeles Airport.
- Matthew B. Tepper: The next board meeting will occur at its customary date and time (April 14) because it doesn't conflict with the Loscon staff meeting.

Reviews

- Charles Lee Jackson II has been watching the 1975 sitcom *When Things Were Rotten*, which is tame for Mel Brooks but still wacky beyond any rational thought.

Miscellaneous

- Tad Daley informed members about a recent article he published, "Zero Would Be Nice:

From Oppenheimer to World Annihilation” on Common Dreams.

(<https://www.commondreams.org/opinion/trinity-test-nuclear-annihilation>)

- Cathy Johnson reminded members about the aftermeeting.

Call to Adjourn

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