

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

### **Meeting #4522**

April 11, 2024

Scribe: Heath "Scribbles" Row

### **Call to Order**

Cathy Johnson called the meeting to order before the video recording began.

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

#### Hatchings

- Author Peter O'Donnell (b. April 11, 1920; d. May 3, 2010)
- Author Melanie Tem (b. April 11, 1949; d. Feb. 9, 2015)
- Actor, singer, dancer, photographer, and theater director Joel Grey (b. April 11, 1932)
- Author Gregory Keyes (b. April 11, 1963)

#### Dispatchings

- Cartoonist, author, and historian Trina Robbins (b. Aug. 17, 1938; d. April 10, 2024)
- Film editor Edgar Burcksen (b. May 13, 1947; d. April 7, 2024)
- Sound engineer Dan Wallin (b. March 13, 1927; d. April 10, 2024)

#### Media anniversary

On this date in 2001, the first episode of *Special Unit 2* aired on television. The dark fantasy comedy police procedural lasted only 19 episodes.

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

Neither Scribbles nor anyone else read the Condensed Cream of Menace.

### **Celebration of Patron Saints**

Elliott "Elst" Weinstein was celebrated and recognized by Chris Marble and Matthew B. Tepper. Weinstein received three cheers—a stein and a lollipop.

### **Committee Reports**

- Programming (Eylat Poliner)
  - April 18: By-Laws vote (if it passes after discussion tonight)
  - May 2: Charles Lee Jackson II reading of "The Diamond Men"
  - 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>)
  - May 30: Robert Sawyer reading of *The Downloaded*
  - June 6: President nominations

- June 13: In-person (hybrid) meeting and procedural elections
- Loscon 50 (Eylat Poliner)
  - Loscon 50 will be held at the Hilton Los Angeles Airport over Thanksgiving weekend. Our Writer Guest of Honor is Spider Robinson. If you haven't signed up yet, please do so.
  - There is an all-staff Loscon meeting Sunday, April 21, at the Hilton as well as online.
- Fandom Wellness Committee (Chris Marble)
  - Selina Phanara is on her way back from San Antonio, Texas.
  - George Mulligan is doing reasonably well. He's doing physical therapy four to five times a week.
  - Greg Barrett is embarrassed to come to a meeting because he's behind on dues, but he's doing fine.
  - Dean Johnson demonstrated that his sling and brace have been removed. Now he starts physical therapy. He'll do the same exercises Cathy did.
  - Christian B. McGuire added that Elayne Pelz recently fell while exercising. She hyperextended her right arm and suffered some bruising but didn't break anything.
    - Cathy Johnson sent the club's regards.

**Honor Guard** (Charles Lee Jackson II)

The Spot of Honor is held as a memorial to Tom Digby.

**Registrar** (Heide Nichols)

Eylat Poliner stood in for Heide Nichols. Guest Jaime Morgan Muñoz, producer for KCET PBS SoCal's program *Lost L.A.* is observing the meeting as research for an episode on science fiction in Los Angeles. He recently finished reading *Children of Time* by Adrian Tchaikovsky, which is about a planet populated by giant spiders. It's highly recommended.

**Treasurer** (Debra Levin and Elayne Pelz)

Debra Levin reminded members to pay their dues. Everyone in the room and on Zoom has paid them. If you can, please make donations. We will appreciate that.

**Board Report** (Matthew B. Tepper)

The board of directors will next meet Sunday, April 14, at 11 a.m.

**Old Business**

None

**New Business:** By-Laws discussion and vote

Charles Lee Jackson II described the process for voting on the proposed By-Laws change. Matthew B. Tepper will read the text and questions can be answered. We will take a show of hands, and if the motion passes tonight, we'll vote again. There will be no discussion next week,

so if you have any questions, tonight is the time to ask them.

Matthew B. Tepper: There is a proposal that has been passed to the club by the board of directors to amend the LASFS By-Laws. As it currently stands:

Article III, Section 1, Part C

C. When elected, and continuously while serving, each Director shall meet the following qualifications:

1. Be an Attending Member, and have maintained such Attending Membership for at least 156 regular Society meetings;
2. Be an Attending Member continuously during the previous 52 regular Society meetings, unless prevented from doing so by a medical condition or by being temporarily absent from the area;
3. Reside within Los Angeles County, Kern County, Orange County, Riverside County, San Bernardino County, or Ventura County;
4. Not have been declared of unsound mind by a final order of court; and
5. Meet such additional activity requirements as the Board may establish pertaining to activities of the Board itself.

The Board, by a majority vote of the directors who meet all of the required qualifications to be a director, may declare vacant the office of any Director who fails or ceases to meet any of the above qualifications that was in effect at the beginning of that director's current term of office.

The change that the board ultimately decided on would be to change Part 3, which is "Reside within Los Angeles County, Kern County, Orange County, Riverside County, San Bernardino County, or Ventura County." That is to be changed to, "Reside within the states of California, Nevada, Arizona, and Oregon." Seven voted in favor, and one opposed; the measure passed from the board of directors to the club.

Jackson: Please note that we did not change any other sections of the By-Laws, just that one, which is opening up the physical space that can be occupied by a member of the board of the club. Are there questions?

LASFS members asked why the board wants to make the change—and why those specific states. Board members explained their reasoning—online communications, where active members now live—as well as past precedent expanding where board members can live. Members expressed concern that there was no stipulation that a majority of the board reside in the Los Angeles area, and that the current proposal could lead to hostile takeover attempts.

After lively, thoughtful discussion, the question was called. Six people voted for the amendment as proposed. 18 voted against and there were a couple abstentions. Johnson announced that the motion was voted down and sent back to the board with recommendations. Additional recommendations were requested via email before the next board meeting.

### **Time-Bound Announcements**

- Nick Smith

- Dark Delicacies will host a signing on Saturday for two books, Stephen B. Armstrong's *I Want You Around: The Ramones and The Making of Rock 'n' Roll High School* and the first two volumes of *Roger Corman's New World Pictures: An Oral History*.
- The New Beverly Cinema will show *Jason and the Argonauts* and a double feature of *Mothra* and *The H-Man* on Saturday and Sunday. They will also screen *First Omen* as a matinee this weekend and all next week.
- Landmark's Nuart Theatre will screen *The People's Joker* on Friday and Saturday.
- The Old Town Music Hall in El Segundo will show the original 1950s version of *The Thing, Them!*, and *Forbidden Planet*.
- Vidiots plans to show *Kiki's Delivery Service*, a collection of stop motion animation, *Season of the Witch*, *Lilo & Stitch*, and *A Matter of Life and Death*.
- The Vista Theater will show a compilation of Three Stooges short subjects on Saturday and Sunday.
- Heide Nichols: This might also be a Moment of Science. The next meteor shower, the Lyrids, occurs April 16-25. The peak night will be April 21.

### Moments of Science

- Rob "Gizmo" Powell recently experienced the solar eclipse and developed a slide show. At the end of the meeting, Powell shared his slide show once the technical issues were sorted out. (He presented the material while on a cruise ship off the coast of Baja California.) His explanation and description of the mystical experience was informative and entertaining. He also shared upcoming eclipse dates for 2026-2028.
- Lee Grixit: A Roman town, ruins but not buried, was discovered in Italy. It was on top of a hill and was located using a drone. Maybe more people should take drones out. You, too, could accidentally become an archeologist.

### Regular Announcements

- Hare Hobbs: There's a new Hawkwind box set, *Days Of The Underground: Studio & Live Recordings 1977-1979*. They've got gobs and gobs of songs with science fiction lyrics. It's a 10-disc set covering 1977-1979.
- Krystal Rains: AnaCon at the Anaheim Public Library is April 27 (<https://www.anaheim.net/4743/AnaCon>). If anyone is going, I can give you some postcards to take.
  - The weekend of May 4-5 is LitFest in the Dena (<https://litfestinthedena.org>). I'll be volunteering Saturday.
  - There will be readings at Vroman's Bookstore in Pasadena on May 11.
- Dr. Susie Searight: My organization, the Browncoat Auxiliary Depression & Anxiety Support System (<https://www.wearebadass.org>), will have a table at AnaCon. We can display items at the event.
- Nick Smith: The *Los Angeles Times* Festival of Books (<https://events.latimes.com/festivalofbooks>) is April 20-21. It usually has a lot of science fiction and fannish material at the small press-related booths. It's at USC again.

## Reviews

- Hare Hobbs just saw *Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire*. It was a pretty good film, but the fighting was hard to keep track of. With two identical creatures, who are the good guys and bad guys?
- Christian B. McGuire recommended *Dune: Part Two*. Don't see it in a middling theater, but on as large a screen as you can because of its scale.
  - He also read *Inner Space & Outer Thoughts: Speculative Fiction From Caltech and JPL Authors*, and he would recommend it to anyone. It's got great variety, and some of the people went in really interesting directions. These are fresh ideas.
- Lee Grixit has been reading *Islands of the Moon* by River Jackson, a post-apocalyptic story in which the seas have risen and the ozone layer is gone. It's a narrative poem, which makes it difficult to read.

## Miscellaneous

- Krystal Rains offered Loscon pins for sale.

## Call to Adjourn

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