Menace of the LASFS, November 27, 2025
Meeting #4607
Happy First Meetings IRL
LAX Airport Hilton, Carmel Room
President: Cathy Johnson
Temporary Emergency Scribe: Matthew B. Tepper

This wasn't the usual place for an in-person LASFS meeting, and the venue had been changed at nearly next to almost kind of the last minute. LASFS President Cathy Johnson surveyed the room, gavel in hand, and decided that it would do. After some delay, chiefly with Temporary Emergency Scribe Matthew B. Tepper borrowing a laptop from Eylat Poliner that was retrieved by Michelle Pincus, the meeting was called to some semblance of order at 8:08. Cathy's phone then notified her that it was time to start the meeting. Isn't high tech wonderful?

We began with Nick Smith and his usual telling of Hatchings, Matchings, and Dispatchings.

Hatchings:

Today was the birthday, in 1907, of the great writer Lyon Sprague de Camp, who produced both fiction and non-fiction (chiefly archaeology), and added greatly to the literature about Conan the Conqueror.

1905: Verity Lambert, who was the first producer of "Doctor Who," and the architect who steered it for three seasons to evolve it from its original bland concept (that of a children's historical drama) to the time-travel adventure fun it has been ever since.

1951: Melinda M. Snodgrass, who wrote something like sixteen episodes of "Star Trek: The Next Generation," including the powerful "Measure of a Man."

1957: Michael Stackpole, who wrote for "Battletech" and "Star Wars" before expanding to writing novels.

1965 was the debut of one of the greatest kaiju: No, not Godzilla … Gamera!

Dispatchings:

Jill, Lady Freud, who died this past week at age 98, had been a child who was evacuated from London during the Blitz to the home of CS Lewis. His Narnia character Lucy Pevensie is based on her. Her career was largely in acting and narrating.

Jack Shepherd, age 85, may be best-known for playing Renfield in a 1977 version of "Dracula," the one starring Louis Jourdan. he was Renfield. PBS Great Performances. He was also in the Hugo-nominated film "The Bed Sitting Room," in which he was the Underwater Vicar.

Your substitute Scribe looked high and low, but there were no minutes from his namesake, the regular Scribe. It was pointed out that we had a meeting and did stuff, although Cathy presided from a room in a different hotel. Nevertheless, naming rights for those minutes were auctioned off, and Eylat Poliner paid $5 for the privilege of titling them "Welcome to Loscon 51: Tell me a story!"

There was only one Saint tonight, Frank Gasperik. Hare Hobbs described Frank as a bard who sang about Apollo 13 to the actual astronauts at the first L5 conference. Chris Marble said Frank enjoyed schmoozing and visiting people. Larry Niven attested that Frank had worked his way into *Lucifer's Hammer*, *Footfall*, and *Fallen Angels*. Joe Zeff said that Frank was always willing to help people when they needed it, such as rescuing people when their car broke down, or helping them move. He was there not just to take, but to give to people. Matthew met Frank at Santa Monica College, where they had often played Risk at meetings of the Strategic Games Club. We gave Saint Frank Gasperik three cheers and a guitar riff.

Honor Guard: Charles Lee Jackson, II was not here, but Cathy asked us to imagine a sign for Loscon 51 behind CL's shoulder. There will be an auction next week for December's Honor.

Your Humble Registrar was Scribing tonight. And could only observe that there were some people here who are usually seen only on Zoom.

Treasurer: Debra Levin exhorted, "Pay your dues!" Zell is preferred to PayPal, because then we don't get hit for the fees. Cathy suggested paying dues early for 2026, at least $25 at a time.

Board of Directors: Chair Michelle was here among us! The next Board meeting, is to be December 14th at 11:00 a.m., on our regular Zoom channel.

Status of new Clubhouse: Cathy says it is coming closer to completion, with the bookcases to go in next. Contractor Igor did a great job.

Programming: Eylat: next week is nominations for LASFS President, then the following week at Denny's the election of four of the procedural officers. The 18th had no program, while on the 25th, CL will have a holiday-themed reading for us.

Nick relayed some corrections for the program book, including the music programming. Lynn Gold will be doing a panel on writing song parodies. There are to be two filk concerts Saturday night, and CNN will be sending a film crew to cover the event(s). Eylat announced Loscon 52 Guests of Honor: Writer: Bill Wolkoff ("Star Trek: Strange New Worlds," "Star Wars Rebels"); Artist: LASFS' own Selina Phanara; Music: Adam Sanford aka Griff the Filker; Fan: Chris Marble; and Science: Gerald D. Nordley. Stop by Loscon 52 party for cookies, tea, and friendship bracelets. If you're only hearing about this now: Sorry, too late!

Fandom Wellness Committee: Chris says George McUrso's weight is down to 279, but he is still not able to sit up or roll over.

Old Business and New Business had we NONE, and there was much rejoicing.

Timebound Announcements: Chris Marble's birthday next week, and will be celebrated with double chocolate cake from Susan.

Marcia Minsky said that Sherri Benoun's birthday is this Saturday.

Moments of Science: Nick Smith saw a National Geographic Channel documentary on the origins of Machu Picchu. Hare had enjoyed a documentary about Kon-Tiki he saw on cable.

Reviews: Hare had also seen “Space Cadet” somewhere. The old 1950’s sci-fi adventure series starred the late Frankie Thomas, who also wrote Sherlock Holmes pastiches and was an expert on contract bridge. He was also a welcome guest at LASFS some years back. Nick recommended books by Ursula Vernon with some bizarre plot elements. Cathy recommends “Plur1bus” on Apple TV Plus, and from what your Substitute Scribe has seen of it, her description may constitute a mild spoiler, so I’ll leave that here.

Miscellaneous: Debra said something about a bowling alley, but she’s doing something in the kitchen right now and didn’t hear me asking her about it.

Cathy adjourned this fun convention meeting at 8:48.