There's Chocolate in Your Future
Minutes of meeting #4614
January 15, 2026

"Gizmo" Powell was certainly living up to his nickname, as he was testing a multi-camera set-up on the Zoom call. Some of the camera angles were quite good, others looked a Blair Witch road-show. But definitely a worthwhile experiment, as we might be able to use something of this nature for the meetings in the clubhouse. Cathy and Dean Johnson have already been working on the audio-visual hook-ups there. After a brief discussion about who gets the upcoming three-day weekend (or not) we proceeded to the call to order at 8:01 p.m.

Hatchings, Matchings and Dispatchings
Nick
Hatchings:

- 1896, Marjorie Bennett, actress noted for fannish roles in The Twilight Zone and Abbott & Costello movies
- 1935, Robert Silverberg, prolific s-f author
- 1936, Richard Franklin, actor remembered as Capt. Mike Yates in Doctor Who
- 1942, Barbara Tarbuck, actress noted for roles on Quantum Leap, the Incredible Hulk and American Horror Story
- 1944, Christopher Stasheff, s-f and fantasy author

Media anniversaries:

- 1941, premiere of the The Face Behind the Mask, with Peter Lorre
- 1975, debut of Dark Star, an early film by director John Carpenter and writer Dan O'Bannon, who wrote Alien.

Dispatchings:

- Guy Moon, composer for such timeless classics as Sorority Babes in the Slimeball Bowl-O-Rama
- Tina Packer, actress and founder of a New England Shakespeare company
- TK Carter, actor and voice artist
- Tom Causey, sound mixer for Escape from New York and several Star Trek movies
- Erich von Danikan, author of Chariots of the Gods and other psuedoscientific works.

Additionally, Barbara Harmon contributed that this week was the anniversary of her husband Jim's passing.

Reading of the minutes of meeting #4613:
Preferring to be Vincent Price in the Hollywood Squares over Mike Brady in the Brady Bunch, Matt read the minutes from the last meeting. Probably owing to the discussion of tipping waiters at Denny's, Rita Loy bid $5 to name the minutes: The Cattle in the Pasture. Despite some bovine-related puns by Dean and Dr. Suzie, for which they were duly fined, the members approved the minutes at 8:23 p.m., and that ain't no bull

Patron Saints:
Jeff Seigel: Susan remembered Jeff as one of the other teenagers running around the club when she was a teenager running around the club in the mid to late 70s. Matt read from the Patron Saints archive that according to Jerry Pournelle recalled that Jeff was a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy and retired as a major; as of 2001, he was serving as a Lutheran minister in Iowa. Marc Silver even found a weblink to his church showing he was still among us as of five weeks ago. Reverend Jeff was given three cheers.

Committee Reports
Honor Guard: CL reported that this month, the spot of honor was being held by Scifi.radio -- "Sci-fi for your Wi-Fi." CL further related the notion that in the near future, with the opening of the clubhouse, the Spot of Honor is going undergo some sort of mutation.

Registrar: Marc reported that we could wear our Members Only jackets again...although Marc admitted that he had only the shirt, not the jacket.

Treasurer: Elayne reminded everyone that it's a new year and the yearly members should start paying the $170 annual fee, because we could use the geedus. As always, weekly dues are $5, monthly are $15.

From there, seguing slightly into Old Business, Elayne reported that Gavin is still shelving books, and the Loscon supplies are moving to the onsite storage sheds, enabling us to close some storage spaces. Eylat brought up the sodas currently in her car. Susan is bringing in a robot vacuum. Eylat bought trashcans. Nick is going to see if the stored board games are in decent shape.

Board of Directors: Michelle meeting on the 18th at the new clubhouse. Personal attendance is being restricted to Board members, plus webmistress Kristine Cherry and special advisor CL, because the place is just not ready for a full meeting.

Programming: Between recovering from certain medical issues and preparing for Gallifrey One next month, there is not going to be much programming for meeting in the next few weeks.

Loscon 52: Susan helpfully posted the pertinent information in the chat. Eylat added that she needs some warm bodies to man the Loscon table at Strategicon on President's Day weekend. Gallifrey One, the weekend before, is covered.

Fannish wellness: Chris reported that George Mulligan got interviewed by a social worker, and this time it looks like they're going to move him to Warehouse 13 or the nursing-home equivalent thereof. Eylat is recovering from her issues and is jumping back into life with both feet. Dean is wearing smaller bandages than he was last week and has given up his Phantom of the Opera cape.

Timebound announcements
Susan reminded us that Gene's book signing at Black Cat Fables in Monrovia is on Saturday the 17th. Nick gave us the lowdown on lots of movies and another signing at Vroman's Bookstore.

From there, we face-planted into Miscellaneous, and this week it lived up to its name.

- Eylat and Nick traded (how apropos) stories on the El Stinko parking at various Traders Joe's in Greater L.A.
- From there, Nick referenced a Ray Bradbury story, which Matthew opined as Fahrenheit 451, then managed to segue into an 11-foot television screen being touted at the Consumer Electronics Show. What to do if you only have a ten-foot ceiling is apparently YOUR problem.
- CL said he went to the doctor to get a sonogram, and also got a rash from the gel. Most of us have to settle for a lollipop.
- Eylat has two more classes this semester, and she graduates from CSUN in May, after six years. Bluto didn't do nearly so well at Faber College. Marc said he started his college journey in

1989, and CL admitted his collegiate career has lasted over a quarter century. Matthew once again came through for us with a relevant book: Doorways in the Sand by Roger Zelazny.

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At this point, Eylat moved to adjourn at 8:56 p.m.