

Menace of the LASFS

August 2023

Menace of the LASFS is the Complete and Purgated Minutes of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, published by LASFS scribe Heath “Scribbles” Row, 4367 Globe Ave., Culver City, CA; kalel@well.com; 718-755-9840 mobile; 323-916-0367 fax. It is prepared for members of the LASFS and select others. The official Condensed Cream of Menace is approved by the membership and published in *De Profundis*. A recent copy of *Menace* can be requested for the Usual. Letters of comment are welcome. Clarifications and corrections are welcome as letters of comment. A member of the Fan Writers of America. This is a Karma Lapel publication.

Meeting #4476, May 25, 2023

Before the meeting, LASFSans talked about Pomona, parking for graduation, pun fines, Susan Fox’s dress, Egypt, “You’re the Devil in Disguise,” MTV, and acronyms. Chris Marble reported that George Mulligan is now housebroken. He might be able to get a day pass and go for a ride next week. LASFSans also talked about Doug Wright conventions.

Call to Order

Susan Fox stood in for Cathy Johnson and called the meeting to order at 8 p.m.

Hatchings and Dispatchings (Nick Smith)

Hatchings

Lots of people are born on May 25.

Actor Ann Robinson (b. May 25, 1929) got her acting break by lying about being a trained stunt woman. Her first starring role was in the 1953 *The War of the Worlds*. She was also in a version on television and in Steven Spielberg’s remake in 2005.

Actor Brec Bassinger (b. May 25, 1999), star of the *Stargirl* series. Her parents should never have been allowed to name children. Her brothers are named Beric and Brice, neither of which are spelled the way you might think they ought to be. She got her start at the age of 13 in *The Haunted Hathaways* and graduated at 16 while a competitive cheerleader.

Puppeteer, director, and actor Frank Oz (b. May 25, 1944) directed *Little Shop of Horrors*, worked as a puppeteer, and acted in *The Blues Brothers*.

Director Bob Gale (b. May 25, 1951) managed a triple play with his work on *Back to the Future*. It’s a surprise anyone ever let him make a movie. His first film was Steven Spielberg’s bad idea *1941*. He’s been involved in every version of *Back to the Future*.

Dispatchings

Musician Tina Turner (b. Nov. 26, 1939, d. May 24, 2023) also did several fannish movies, including *Tommy* and *Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome*. She was also in *Last Action Hero* and the movie version of *Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band*. In 2022, there was a Tina Turner edition of the Barbie doll.

Actor Ray Stevenson (b. May 25, 1964, d. May 21, 2023) had ongoing roles in the Marvel Cinematic and the Star Wars universes. His only starring role was in one of the Marvel bombs—*Punisher: War Zone*. The conflicts with the script were so bad that the original screenwriter removed his name from the credits. Stevenson was cast as Volstagg in the Thor movies and in multiple Star Wars projects. Today would have been his 59th birthday.

Media anniversary

Susan Fox: May 25 is the anniversary of *Star Wars’* original premiere. To Terry Pratchett fandom, it’s the People’s Revolution of the Glorious Twenty-Fifth of May as depicted in *Night Watch*. To Douglas Adams fandom, it is Towel Day, devised by his fans in the days following his sudden passing in 2001.

Nick Smith: Craig Miller denies that he was the originator of this, but today is the orthodox anniversary of *Star Wars*. May 25 is not only the anniversary of two of the first three Star Wars movies, but the movie *Alien*. May 25 had a great deal to do with media fandom and its impact on culture.

Reading of the Minutes (Heath Row)

Scribbles read the Condensed Cream of Menace for May 18, 2023.

Additions and Corrections

None

Auction to Name the Minutes

Susan Fox bid \$5, won, and named them “Happy Birthday, R-Lauraine!”

Call for Approval

Moved to accept as read, and approved.

Celebration of Patron Saints

Deedee Lavender was celebrated and recognized by Susan Fox. Lavender received three cheers.

Joyce Lloyd was celebrated and recognized by Chris Marble. “She had a sterling personality.” Lloyd received three cheers.

Committee Reports

Programming (Eylat Poliner)

- June 1: Nominations open for club president
- June 8: Nominations and election of all five procedural offices

If you've been a member of the club for at least a year and would like to participate or continue your position, please be here.

Loscon 49 (Eylat Poliner): The con is held over Thanksgiving weekend. Michelle Pincus is your chair. Elayne Pelz just sent out Progress Report #1. Krystal Rains reported that Nerd Mafia will participate in Loscon. Chris Marble commented that Westercon will be hosted at Loscon, too.

Honor Guard (Charles Lee Jackson II)

The Spot of Honor is a parking place to raise some bucks to defray the costs of the LASFS. You can put any old thing up there, which will stay up there for a month. Because it's the end of the month, we'll hold an auction to decide what's up there next month. Do we have any bids?

Susan Fox bid \$10, won, and dedicated the spot to a picture of her dog.

Registrar (Eylat Poliner)

We don't have anyone new, but we do have a return guest this week, Tim Friedline. His son studies at the Berklee School of Music.

Treasurer (Debra Levin and Elayne Pelz)

Elayne Pelz reminded members to pay their dues, as normal. We're at the end of the month, so next week we can collect monthly dues, \$12 for the month.

Dues, pun fund fees, and donations can be rendered via Zelle or PayPal to payment@lasfs.org. Weekly dues are \$4. Monthly dues, at the first meeting of the month, are \$12.

Board Report (Michelle Pincus)

Susan Fox stood in for Michelle Pincus. The next board meeting is June 11 at 11 a.m.

Old Business

Not one

New Business

Not any

Impromptu Program: Memories of the opening of *Star Wars*

Eylat Poliner was 11 when it came out. She called her friend Debra Levin to go see *Star Wars*. Levin didn't

think there'd be any more tickets. There were. They couldn't sit with each other, but they both enjoyed the movie. She remains a fan, but there's too much. There's just so much *Star Wars*.

Chris Marble: I saw it opening week. I had to call my professor in college to tell him I'd be turning in my thesis a day late because I had to go see *Star Wars*. I saw it at Grauman's Chinese Theatre. We hid in the theater so we could see it again.

Scribbles: I was 4, so very young, but I remember going to the movie with my parents. I was the perfect age for the toys, which encouraged overlapping play with my sister because the larger-scale Luke Skywalker doll could fit in with her Barbies.

Lee Grixit: When *Star Wars* first came out, I was in Santa Maria. It was the year after I first joined the LASFS. I was a physics major at UCLA, and I found out the hard way that I wasn't well suited for physics. Santa Maria is too small to have big openings. The first I heard was the radio commercial about it. The ads didn't do it justice. I was with friends down in Los Angeles, and a friend, Jack Harness, said I should see it. He told me to take a lunch because I'd want to see it again. He was right.

Tim Friedline: I was a little older. I was very well aware of *Star Wars*. I was with a group of friends in San Francisco. We bought tickets at a big theater. We were wrapped around the block, and the place was jammed. The theater staff wore pins that said "May the Force Be with You." When the Death Star blew up, the entire audience erupted in cheers. I don't know that that still happens in movies. We could be shocked, surprised, and astounded back then.

Matt Mitchell: I was 12, and I had actually read the first two issues of the Marvel Comics adaptation, being a big comics fan at that point. My uncle, nanny, and surrogate father came to my junior high school one day saying I had an orthodontist appointment. I didn't remember having an appointment, and he thought we'd go see *Star Wars*. Needless to say, I was blown away. That was one of two movies I've seen in the theater that got a standing ovation at the end. The only other time was *Superman*. I saw it several times that summer. I had the soundtrack double album and the story of *Star Wars* narrated by Roscoe Lee Browne. When the comic adaptation came out, I wondered if the people who had done the issues had actually seen the movies.

Susan Fox: Roscoe Lee Browne! I would have listened to that man read the phone book.

Charles Lee Jackson II: I got to see a screening of *Star Wars* at the studio in April because I was still with the foreign press at the time. After the crawl when the first ship comes into the screen and keeps

coming into the screen and coming into the screen, everyone gasped, and I knew it would be good. In another scene, you could see the square where some footage had been inserted, and someone said, "There! Fix that!" And in another scene, someone said that Chewie wasn't making any noise. Both those scenes were fixed the next time I saw it.

Christine Lipscomb: I was a teenager in Ohio when the movie came out, and all the teenage girls were gaga over Mark Hamill. But I was most impressed by the screen crawl. I'd never seen anything like that before. In the 1980s, I rented it on VHS, and I got even more indoctrinated when I met my husband, Gregory. He was one of the people who stood in those long lines to be among the first people to get in the door. He actually got his picture in the paper covering the people who went.

Nick Smith: The *Star Wars* comic preceded the movie, but people think it came out after the movie because of a funny reason. The way that comic books used to be dated, they were dated three months ahead of time. A July issue actually came out in April. So when the movie had come out, people had already read two issues of a six-issue series. My friends and I went to a theater in Westwood that had a huge, huge screen. Even having been prepared by the comics, the opening scenes of those comics were just mind-blowingly stunning. For 1977, the special effects were really good.

A few months later, I learned that the largest *Star Wars* fan on the west coast was D.C. Fontana. She and a friend immediately began writing songs based on *Star Wars*, and they performed them at a local con. For those of you who don't know, the artist for those comics was Howard Chaykin. He worked more from the script than the movie. That's why what's in the comic book bears no resemblance to what was on the screen.

Poliner: I remembered my experience meeting Carrie Fisher. I went to the Star Wars Celebration in 2015. I stayed overnight to see the new trailer for Star Wars Episode 8 (*Star Wars: The Last Jedi*). Mark met me there on Sunday, and I got a great seat for Carrie Fisher. I got to ask her a question: "What was her favorite line in all three original movies?" She was stumped and eventually answered, "Why you stuck-up, half-witted, scruffy-looking, nerf herder!" I got a picture, a hug, and a kiss with her. It was a beautiful moment at the peak of my depression. I'm still on cloud nine with that photo. She was a nice person.

Fox: I'm waiting in the long line to go in. The previous showing is coming out. A lot of LASFS people were going in and out. It was Westwood. Marty

Massoglia came out and said, "I think you'll like the movie. The first scene is just two ships coming onto the screen."

Poliner: I met all y'all because of *Star Wars*, actually. I'd started reading, *Star Wars* happened, I found Isaac Asimov's magazine (*Asimov's Science Fiction*) in the grocery store, and LASFS was listed in the back. I joined the LASFS, and next thing I know, I'm at the 1984 Worldcon.

Barbara Gratz Harmon: I'd like to do a callout for my favorite short movie, *Hardware Wars*. I thought it was so clever.

Fox: I programmed a convention in 1981 or so, and I left a space at the end of the program for whichever film everyone voted for. People voted for *Hardware Wars* and made me run the damn thing about 10 times. You'll laugh, you'll cry, you'll kiss three bucks goodbye.

J.P. Van Gordon: Don't forget the little electric guy on the screen. When I was at a convention, the *Star Wars* people came. Of course, nobody knew who they were. The Trekkies were there. What they did for us as fans was show us a whole bunch of the pre-drawings they do (storyboards), bits and pieces from the film, and everybody there just absolutely couldn't wait to see the movie. I went down to a theater on Wilshire for the first showing. I was the only one in line. I got my ticket, went in, and there was a tight little group of about 100 obvious fans sitting right in the middle of the theater.

When the screen crawl came, I was immediately reminded of serials. Right after the screen crawl, the spaceship flew over, and I said, "Wow!" From then on, it was like an adventure. At the end, after I had visited the toilet, I stayed to watch the next movie. The line for the third showing was down the street, around the block, and up the alley. It was such an amazing experience.

Jackson: Nick was talking about the comic book. In the late 1930s, National Periodicals had a comic book called *Movie Comics*, which included comic book or fumetti of movies of the time. They also adapted serials. They did an adaptation of *The Phantom Creeps*. They gave the writer only a brief synopsis of the 12 chapters and several hundred stills. In the film, Bela Lugosi is the Phantom. In the comic book, Phantom is his giant robot, which runs amuck. It is not unusual for comic books to be based on insufficient information.

Time-Bound Announcements

Krystal Rains reminded LASFSans about tabling at Strategicon this weekend at the Hilton Los Angeles Airport. "Friday night, I'll be there from 5-9, about

9-6 on Saturday and Sunday, and 9-2 on Monday. I don't even game, and it's a lot of fun. There's a lot of game developers trying out their games."

Nick Smith: A lot of the places I usually announce took this weekend off. American Cinematheque is showing the 1954 version of *Godzilla* on Saturday. On Sunday, they're showing the relatively recent movie *Wonder Woman*.

In Santa Clarita, there's a silent movie festival this weekend—the Newhallywood Silent Film Festival. (<https://santaclaritaarts.com/newhallywood>)—that starts tomorrow at 8 p.m. At 11 p.m., they'll show the Lon Chaney *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*.

Charles Lee Jackson II: If you are overwhelmed with an unflagging desire to ride Splash Mountain and get to see all the Uncle Remus forest folk, you better do it this weekend. Tuesday, it's going away. It'll be refurbished to turn into a *The Princess and the Frog* ride. The scenery will largely stay the same, but they'll swap the figures out. They're closing the ride at 10 a.m. on Tuesday.

Chris Marble: This is the last weekend for the Los Angeles County Fair. The Koroneburg Renaissance Festival starts this weekend.

Susan Fox: The Society for Creative Anachronism will offer demonstrations there all five weekends.

Moments of Science

Tim Friedline: NASA is developing a new rover they want to send to Saturn's ice moon, Enceladus. It's not going to be like the ones running around on Mars. It'll be snakelike. The ice moon of Enceladus is basically a water ball encased in ice going around Saturn. There's a deep ocean there that they don't know anything about.

Lee Grixit: The dolphins of Enceladus have now reached the 1950s with their first science fiction movie: *Serpents from Space*.

Eylat Poliner: Mushrooms can now be made into an urn to contain cremation ashes. The urn takes nine days to decompose. Caskets made the same way take 45 days to decompose.

Regular Announcements

Eylat Poliner might not be able to attend the June 8 meeting. She hereby accepts the nomination for registrar.

Reviews

Lee Grixit: I've been watching *Mrs. Davis*, which is definitely outside the boundaries of science fiction and fantasy. It's part of the larger safety net we have called spec fi. Every episode becomes more surreal and outrageous. What the hell is the plot? It will definitely

consume your CPU cycles. It's a miniseries, just eight episodes. I definitely recommend it just before bed.

Christine Lipscomb: I've been enjoying a Netflix program called *Alien TV*. It's an animated Australian and Canadian show offering two seasons in 2019-2020 of 13 episodes each. Each episode is split into three segments. The humor comes from nonverbal physical comedy. Team members get into trouble because they misinterpret what they're investigating. Some episodes also include a competing alien news team from another world. At the end of every episode, the findings are summarized in English. It's fun if you're looking for something to laugh about.

Nick Smith: There's a new movie out that has the strangest opera and classical music stuff along with sword fights and what looks like a violin duel. It's called *Chevalier*, and it's based on a historic figure who might have met Mozart but perhaps not in the way it's shown in the movie. They changed things historically—and musically—to make things more dramatic. It's showing at the Laemmle and a few other places. It's definitely weird.

Miscellaneous

Nola Frame-Gray asked whether the voices of Fozzie Bear and Yoda were both performed by Frank Oz.

Nick Smith assured her they had been.

Call to Adjourn

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

Meeting #4477, June 1, 2023

Before the meeting, LASFSans talked about Zelle, bank accounts, who's responsible when things go wrong with financial transactions, Hobo Kelly, *Romper Room*'s Magic Mirror, *Winky Dink and You*, Capehart-Farnsworth televisions, Michelle Pincus's appearance on *Romper Room*, Engineer Bill, and other topics.

Call to Order

President Cathy Johnson called the meeting to order at 8:01 p.m.

Hatchings and Dispatchings (Nick Smith)

Hatchings

I usually leave science birthdays to Tom Safer, but this Nobel laureate has ties to science fiction and to LASFS. Dr. Kip Thorne (b. June 1, 1940) was 83 today, and Larry Niven's novel *Rainbow Mars* is derived from some of Dr. Thorne's work. So is *Contact* by Carl Sagan, and he actively worked on the film *Interstellar*. Caltech thought highly enough of him to make him a full professor at the age of 30, and

to later name him to the physics chair named after Dr. Richard Feynmann. Both PBS and the BBC have used his work to explain things like black holes.

Director Gareth Edwards (b. June 1 or July 13, 1975, depending on the source) got his start as a visual artist for the movies, but *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story* was only one of his fannish movies as a director. He had previously directed the 2014 version of *Godzilla* and an earlier film called *Monsters* that was a post-alien-invasion film that mostly slipped past fans. It was a low-budget experimental film in which he established his credentials as a director, and the few people who saw it gave the film good reviews.

There were a whole bunch of actors sharing today's birthday, but I realized that we'd never celebrated a science fiction author who is also a multi-instrumental musician, and that's Michael P. Kube-McDowell (b. Aug. 29, 1954, apparently). He has written about a dozen science fiction novels, including one co-authored with Arthur C. Clarke, has had more than 500 science articles published in various publications, and three of his stories were adapted into episodes of *Tales from the Darkside*. Oddly, though, a lot of fans only know him from his music. He was part of a band in the Black Book Band in the Midwest that did a lot of performances at sf conventions and an album or two, performing both filk music and outstanding versions of cover tunes from the mainstream world. He played viola, both electric and acoustic guitar, keyboard, and sang backup vocals.

Dispatchings

Actor John Beasley (b. June 26, 1943, d. May 30, 2023) passed away this week. Best known as a character actor, he's been in the *Firestarter* remake and was in the first episode of *The Mandalorian*. Most people in Los Angeles know his grandson better: Malik Beasley of the Lakers (now of the Milwaukee Bucks).

Actor George Maharis (b. Sept. 1, 1928, d. May 24, 2023), who in the 1960s was famous for *Route 66*, also recorded several albums as a singer. He later became a talented character actor who starred in *Night Gallery* and *The Sword and the Sorcerer*.

File 770 went into the archives. Forrest J Ackerman's brother's grave site has been located and is now listed on *Find-A-Grave*.

Media anniversary

Yes, this is the anniversary of the general release of both *Star Trek III: The Search for Spock* (1984) and the Arnold Schwarzenegger film *Total Recall* (1990), but fans might not know that it's also the anniversary of one of Stephen King's favorite science fiction

films: *The Horror of Party Beach* from 1964. It's a horror musical about mutated sludge monsters terrorizing a beach community. It is apparently available to watch on several streaming services.

Reading of the Minutes (Heath Row)

Scribbles read the Condensed Cream of Menace for May 25, 2023.

Additions and Corrections

Eylat Poliner expects to miss the June 8 meeting, not this meeting. (She is, in fact, here.)

Auction to Name the Minutes

Lynn Maners bid \$5, won, and named them "Pluck Your Magic Twanger Froggy."

Call for Approval

Moved to accept as corrected, and approved.

Celebration of Patron Saints

Charles Lee Jackson II explained the Patron Saints for attending guests. Ed Baker was celebrated and recognized by Cathy Johnson and Charles Lee Jackson II. Baker received three cheers.

Johnson: Ed Baker did at one time give the club money.

Jackson: Ed Baker was a member of the club early in the 1960s. He unfortunately provided a ride to a hitchhiker and was found dead in his car. He was friends with Phil Castora, Jack Harness, and others of that ilk. He was a good guy, and we were sorry to lose him as soon as we did.

Committee Reports

Programming (Eylat Poliner)

- June 8: Nominations and election of all five procedural offices
- Eylat Poliner pre-accepted an expected nomination for registrar

Loscon 49 (Michelle Pincus)

- The hotel block is open for reservations
- Please secure your membership. Membership rates increase to \$60 on June 15 at midnight

Honor Guard (Charles Lee Jackson II)

Charles Lee Jackson explained the Honor Guard and the Spot of Honor. The Spot of Honor is held by SCIFI.radio, not Susan Fox's dog. You can say SCIFI.radio as though you're in a conga line.

Registrar (Eylat Poliner)

Our guest has to be approved by the board, but Yeni

Alvarez paid her membership dues today. She was very honest and told me it was her third meeting. She's based in Los Angeles, found the club online, and said that we are "her tribe." Alvarez is a writer and a voice artist.

There was some discussion about paying dues weekly or monthly, and whether the library will be accessible at any point. Susan Fox commented on the club's need for a clubhouse.

Treasurer (Debra Levin and Elayne Pelz)

Elayne Pelz reminded members to pay their dues. It's a new month, so members can pay \$12/month. Everyone present has paid.

Board Report (Michelle Pincus)

The next board meeting is June 11 at 11 a.m.

Old Business

Nominations for president (Charles Lee Jackson II):

- Jackson explained the role and responsibilities of the president
- The term runs from June through December
- Nominations
 - Eylat Poliner: Cathy Johnson
 - Chris Marble: Heath Row (Scribbles declined.)

New Business

In no way

Time-Bound Announcements

Nick Smith: Cinema will show *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial* this weekend

Kevin Segall:

- This weekend is Monsterpalooza.
- Next Wednesday at the Los Angeles Breakfast Club, Bob Gurr, Disney Imagineer, will speak (<https://www.labreakfastclub.com/event-details/bob-gurr>)

Moments of Science

Lynn Maners: Pre-Columbian contacts between Polynesia and South America were unclear until a vast genetics study determined that there was one contact event in about the year 1200. Whoever those individuals were, they definitely bonked and brought wives back. Those genes spread throughout Polynesia. That reminded me of the settlement of Iceland, where most Icelandic men can trace their genome to Norway.

J.P. Van Gordon has always suspected the connection.

- <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-020-2487-2>
- <https://www.science.org/content/article/no-one-could-have-predicted-dna-offers-surprises-how-polynesia-was-settled>

Tom Safer shared some news from the Today in Science page (https://www.todayinsci.com/6/6_01.htm):

- Edward Charles Kitchmarch: English mathematician at the forefront of analysis. His contributions helped resolve the general theory of quantum mechanics and such theory.
- Charles Benedict Davenport: American zoologist who contributed to the study of eugenics and heredity.
- Francis and Freeland Stanley: Francis invented a photographic dry plate process. They sold the company to Eastman Kodak to work on steam-powered automobiles, of which they built thousands via the Stanley Motor Co.

Nick Smith: Early analysis of the Marsquake recorded by instruments on the Insight lander suggest a couple of things that we didn't previously know. The first is that the average thickness of the Martian crust is thicker than that of our own Earth. The second is that the Martian crust is thinner in the northern hemisphere than in the southern hemisphere. That last part is odd enough that scientists are trying to figure out how that happened.

Lee Grixit: Taking certain cells from the stomach, which requires adaptation, scientists found that there are cells that are already responsive to chemistry and produce substances in reaction. They can reprogram them to produce insulin and have cured diabetes in mice.

Jim DeTar: The FDA approved the first nasal spray, Opvee, to counteract opioid overdoses.

Charles Lee Jackson II: Scientists who have chosen to remain nameless have discovered that Splenda can cause genetic damage.

Nola Frame-Gray: Splenda can also affect your body physically, including leaky gut.

Susan Fox shared the URL <https://www.futurity.org/sucralose-genotoxic-2926272-2> in chat.

Regular Announcements

Scribbles reported on the sf musical play For the Love of a Glove, [https:// fortheloveofaglove.com](https://fortheloveofaglove.com).

He also remarked that the current issue of *De Profundis* has an error on the calendar page. The

LASFS is indeed meeting the last week of the month. If you'd like an updated edition, let him know.

Cathy and Dean Johnson are becoming busier with theater productions and are currently working on shows in Oxnard and Ojai.

Reviews

Nick Smith: There is a new semi-documentary out called *BlackBerry*. It is about the history of the development of the smartphone and how the fate of the BlackBerry relates to the NHL. There's some recent stuff in it about the technology we all use—as well as how BlackBerry and Apple did not create the same product. The portrayal of the engineers is just delightful. The movie is worth watching if you're interested in technology or fannish-type people.

The Machine, co-starring Mark Hamill, is an action adventure comedy family story that includes both drama and humor. It's about two very different families that interact in the weirdest ways. I can't recommend it as a must-see movie, but Mark Hamill is unlike however you've ever seen him before. The humor in it is OK, but the other stories are better.

Lee Grixit: The cartoon *Fired on Mars* is basically an office comedy, but what happens when you're let go—and there's nowhere else for you to go? It's very interesting.

Kevin Segall: My wife and I have both really been enjoying the television adaptation *American Born Chinese*, based on a comic book by Gene Luen Yang. It's a lot of fun and pretty addictive.

Lynn Maners: I've been following a Facebook group from Iceland called Bókabéusar (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/501684300845716>) that features people's own libraries, as well as incredible libraries from all around the world.

Miscellaneous

Nola Frame-Gray: When you mail items, be sure to include the complete address so it's mailed correctly. If you can use the ZIP+4 Code, please do so.

Nick Smith announced a memorial event for Marty Cantor on June 17 at Barbara Gratz Harmon's home. It will begin at 11 a.m. and last into the afternoon.

The county has placed another seal on Marty's door, a second seal of the same type. John Hertz and others still cannot gain access to the apartment to obtain Marty's legal documents to carry out his final wishes.

Tom Safer is again screening films at the Frances Howard Goldwyn—Hollywood Regional Branch Library every third Saturday of the month. This month's feature is *Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile*. (<https://www.lapl.org/whats-on/events/saturday-film-screening>)

Cathy Johnson reminded members about the aftermeeting.

Nola Frame-Gray commented on the fact that you sometimes need to wait for the aftermeeting to open.

It's true. Johnson gets up, stretches, and walks around.

Call to Adjourn

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

Meeting #4478, June 8, 2023

Quote of the Meeting: "Supervision... if I had supervision, I wouldn't be flying around in an egg with a lion!"—*Super Chicken* (courtesy of Susan Fox)

Call to Order

Cathy Johnson called the meeting to order 34 seconds into the video recording.

Hatchings and Dispatchings (Nick Smith)

Hatchings

On this day, in addition to our normal birthdays, we have the birthday of a book. On this day in 1949, it was 1984 because the George Orwell novel was first released. For some odd reason, some of the early reviews found it to be well written but a bit depressing.

Born in 1910, author and editor John W. Campbell (b. June 8, 1910, d. July 11, 1971) had a huge impact on the world of science fiction, especially with his editorship of *Astounding* and later *Analog*. That lasted more than 30 years and helped guide a couple of generations of authors.

Eylat Poliner interrupted to indicate that we're missing our scribe. Susan Fox indicated that that's why we're recording the meeting.

The birthday is shared by a number of authors, but Smith only mentioned two because we've got an election to do. The first one you might not remember unless you've read a lot of magazines and anthologies.

Robert F. Young (b. June 8, 1915, d. June 22, 1986) didn't start writing until after serving in World War II. He wrote for more than 30 years, but in that time produced only five novels, of which only four were published in the United States. He was a very prolific short story writer, though, and was popular in the sf magazines published in the United States, but apparently also had a big following in France and Japan. It was in France that his fifth novel was published in French. I don't know whether he wrote it in French or if it was translated, but apparently you had to read French if you wanted to read his fifth novel.

Born later, Kate Wilhelm (b. June 8, 1927, d. March 8, 2018) didn't catch on as a writer until the late 1950s, at which time she sold stories to both *Astounding* and *Fantastic*. Campbell had a backlog of purchased stories, so even though he bought a story first, the one in *Fantastic* came out first. In addition to her award-winning writing, she and her second husband created the Clarion Workshop for writers—and in her spare time, she did the draft sketch for the design of the Nebula Awards. In addition to her sf work, she also wrote more than 30 mystery novels.

Actor Colin Baker (b. June 8, 1943) was the last of the actors to star in the classic version of *Doctor Who*, but that was not his only fannish role. He was also in *Blake's 7* and *The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles*, among other TV shows. It's his birthday today.

It's also the birthday of singer and actor James Darren (June 8, 1936), who turns 87 today, with a long career in both movie and TV roles. His early career ranged from the Gidget movies to *The Guns of Navarone*. In addition to being the singing voice of Yogi Bear, of all things, he was a recurring character on *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* and was one of the stars of the old *Time Tunnel* TV show. He was in every episode.

Dispatchings

TV actor, writer, and producer Paul Eckstein (b. 1963, d. June 6, 2023) was an actor seen in two of the Star Trek series, and he wrote for things like *The Dead Zone* miniseries, among other things. Among non-fans, he was probably best known for his work in helping to create the show *Godfather of Harlem*.

I'm pretty sure that Fred Patten read the work of the science fiction and fantasy cartoonist who used the pseudonym Joshua Quagmire. Now that he's gone, I can tell you that his real name was Richard Glen Lester II—or Richard Lester (b. 1952, d. May 28, 2023). The story goes that someone in his family would be very upset with the things he was drawing, so for 40 years, he made hiding his identity something of a game. He even drew himself in stories but was always positioned so you couldn't see his face.

His cartoons were in some of the issues of *Fantasy Book* when I was editing that and in a lot of other places, but his own comic series featuring Cutey Bunny was self-published because, well, it was too weird for any of the mainstream publishers. The only publisher weird enough to want to publish it was run by somebody even crazier than Josh, so the deal fell through. At the time of his death, he was doing an online comic called *Bunz & Katz* (<http://www.bunzandkatz.com>).

The last published chapter mentioned that he'd had

both a computer glitch and a health glitch of some kind. He died just a few days later, and his sister made his passing public. Apparently, his sister was aware of his cartooning work, but she couldn't deal with him being anything but a crazy cartoonist, either, based on the way she phrased the announcements. He was a really nice guy, a really great cartoonist, and he was always fun and funny. The world is going to miss him if they ever realize that he's not really there any more because Joshua Quagmire had no obituary, just Richard Glen Lester II.

James Langdell: I'm sorry to hear that. I was very amused by his Cutey Bunny cartoons, but even more so, back in the day when that was coming out, even more frequently than that was coming out, *Amazing Heroes* would run a preview special every six months. Joshua Quagmire would provide for the upcoming issues featuring Cutey Bunny paragraph after paragraph of the most outlandish things that you could expect from the next six months of his comics. It was an entertaining thing in itself.

Smith: If you were unfamiliar with what Cutey Bunny was based on, it was a parody of one of the Japanese anime that Fred Patten brought to the United States. He helped promote *Cutie Honey*. Fred, being not only the anime fan but the anthropomorphic fan that he was, was reading Josh's work, I'm pretty sure, because most of it involved these really weird anthropomorphic characters as superheroes, police detectives, or whatever he felt like having them be. He also had a set of space-traveling gophers that were part of a spinoff from the Cutey Bunny stuff that was even weirder.

Langdell: I'm trying to remember if the gophers title was one of the *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* rip-offs, but in its own way.

Smith: It was very, very funny, and it's sad that we lost him.

Media anniversary

Because both *Ghosbusters* and *Gremlins* came out on this date in 1984, I'm going to talk about the other film, which you've probably never seen. In 1989, this was the general release date of a science fiction movie starring Walter Koenig and Bruce Campbell called *Moontrap*.

Unfortunately for fans in the LASFS, the general release was done in Germany. There had been one screening at a convention in Texas after which the distributors decided that the regular general release should be somewhere far away. There was a video release a few years later, which didn't print very many copies for some reason.

For other reasons, the Japanese version had more

footage than the American release. No one is quite sure why the editing was different, but there's a whole scene in the Japanese version that's not in the American video version.

There was a sequel made more than 25 years after the original, but the sequel got even worse reviews even though it was made by the same writer, producer, and director. Most people haven't seen it. Almost nobody outside of Germany has seen it on a really big screen, but there it was.

Reading of the Minutes (Heath Row)

Susan Fox stood in for Scribbles and read the Condensed Cream of Menace for June 1, 2023.

Additions and Corrections

The term dates for the upcoming elections were clarified: The term begins in July.

Auction to Name the Minutes

Lynn Maners bid \$5, then \$10, won, and named them "Congratulations to Eylat!"

Call for Approval

Moved to accept as corrected, and approved.

Celebration of Patron Saints

Michael Bloom was celebrated and recognized by Susan Fox, Cathy Johnson, Nick Smith, and Matthew B. Tepper. Bloom received three cheers.

Cathy Johnson: There are two Michael Blooms involved in the society. Do we know which one this is?

Susan Fox: I thought it was the skinny one with the dandelion hair. He used to have dandelion hair. It's almost too thin and white now to tell.

Matthew B. Tepper: The one who wears the guru T-shirt. He explained it to me at great length once, and I've totally forgotten.

Johnson: The one who doesn't do a lot of cosplay.

Tepper: I think Michelle [Pincus] knows him best.

Nick Smith: I can comment on him because I've known him for a long time. He hasn't been involved in LASFS stuff lately. He's still having health issues, unfortunately. Michelle is trying to talk him into moving away from the apartment that he's been living in, which is actually very near to where we have Loscon, but he's just one of those people who really doesn't want to move even though where he's living isn't good for him.

He's a hands-on tech person and is knowledgeable about a lot of stuff. When his health was better, he was a member of the filk music community for many years, as well as just general fandom. Last time I saw him, he was in his grumpy geek mode, but he's a very

nice guy, very generous to the club when he could be, and really nice when you got to know him. But getting to know him was occasionally a bit of a challenge, like with a lot of fans.

Johnson: I remember Michael. I haven't seen him in quite a number of years. I first met him through the Time Meddlers back in the early 1990s. He was involved in that and in *Doctor Who* fandom. He was a really nice guy.

Fox: Wasn't he at Loscon?

Johnson: He goes to Loscon.

Smith: He goes to Loscon about half the time. It just depends on how his health is that week.

Johnson: He's got some struggles.

Jim Glass was celebrated and recognized by Susan Fox, Cathy Johnson, and Chris Marble. Glass received three cheers—and a book.

Cathy Johnson: I met Jim a few times. I don't know him well.

Susan Fox: He was club librarian for a long time when we were in the old, old building on Ventura Boulevard. He did a boffo job of that and was always welcoming to anyone who showed an interest in books whatsoever.

Tad Daley: I do miss our library.

Matthew B. Tepper: So do I.

Heide Nichols: Amen.

Committee Reports

Loscon 49 (Eylat Poliner): It's Thanksgiving weekend. Come! It's at the Marriott hotel near LAX.

Honor Guard (Charles Lee Jackson II)

The Spot of Honor is held not by Susan Fox's dog—which isn't named Spot—but by SCIFI.radio. We encourage people to check it out and support it because it supports us.

Susan Fox: We're starting the *Flash Gordon* serial once a week. The details are on our Web page (<https://scifi.radio/2023/06/06/flash-gordon-comes-to-scifi-radio>).

Registrar (Eylat Poliner)

We have no guests tonight.

Treasurer (Debra Levin and Elayne Pelz)

Near the end of the meeting, Heide Nichols asked whether we were going to remind members to pay their dues. Cathy Johnson did so on behalf of Debra Levin.

Board Report (Michelle Pincus)

The next board meeting is scheduled for June 11.

Old Business

Charles Lee Jackson II proctored the elections for the upcoming term. He explained how the club is run on a volunteer basis and that elected officers help run the club for a six-or 12-month period depending on the position. Tonight, we have the election for the five procedural officers, who run the club on a week to week basis.

Last week, we opened and recessed the nominations for president of the society. The president is the general manager and chief executive officer of the corporation, subject to approval by the board of directors. Additional information about the position—and others—is available online at <https://lasfs.org/lasfs-by-laws>.

Last week, Cathy Johnson was nominated and accepted. She has not reconsidered that acceptance. We reopened nominations, and there weren't any further nominations. Nominations were closed, and Eylat Poliner moved to railroad Johnson. A vote was held, and it was unanimous.

Jackson then described the role of the vice president. Nominations were opened. Matthew B. Tepper nominated Heide Nichols, who accepted the nomination. Eylat Poliner nominated Susan Fox, who accepted. Nominations were closed, and a vote was held. Fox was elected vice president.

After Jackson described the role of registrar, nominations were opened. Susan Fox nominated Eylat Poliner, who accepted the nomination. Tad Daley nominated Heide Nichols, who declined. (Lee Grixit recommended that Nichols volunteer at an online con to learn more about the Zoom platform.) Chris Marble nominated Matt Mitchell, who accepted. Nominations were closed, and a vote was held. Poliner was elected registrar, and Mitchell conceded.

Jackson described the role of scribe, and nominations were opened. Cathy Johnson nominated Scribbles. Susan Fox remarked that she is authorized to accept on his behalf. Chris Marble nominated Dean Johnson, who respectfully declined. Nominations were closed, and a vote was held. Scribbles was elected scribe.

After describing the role of treasurer, Jackson opened nominations. Eylat Poliner nominated Elayne Pelz and Debra Levin. Levin communicated Pelz's pre-arranged acceptance and agreed to continue serving as Pelz's "minion." Nominations were closed, and a vote was held. Pelz and Levin were elected treasurer.

Thus ended the elections for the upcoming term. The board elections will be held in November.

New Business

Cathy Johnson expressed her openness to people currently serving on committees to continue serving in the next term, should they so choose. That includes Eylat Poliner in programming.

Time-Bound Announcements

Nick Smith: The New Beverly Cinema will show the 1954 version of *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* on Saturday and Sunday.

Tony Benoun: Tomorrow is Christian B. McGuire's birthday.

Regular Announcements

Charles Lee Jackson II completed another semester at college yesterday and received a verbal certificate of merit.

Chris Marble visited George Mulligan (or McUrso) today and hopes to take him out for lunch next week.

Miscellaneous

Nola Frame-Gray requested that the complete address be entered into court proceedings. Whether there's an S, N, E, or W in front of a street name is extremely important or it'll be mailed to another part of town. Also, please be sure to include all nine digits of the ZIP code. For those of us living in apartments and condominiums, some can be as large as 100, the last four digits of the ZIP code act as an apartment or unit number in case the apartment or unit number was entered incorrectly.

Tad Daley just recently learned about Westercon's cancellation and asked whether there was some sort of dark story about that.

Cathy Johnson commented that it was a lack of memberships. You need enough memberships to pay the hotel.

Susan Fox proposed a sour grapes party or something.

Chris Marble remarked that some fen had already booked plane flights and will be in town anyway.

Cathy Johnson reminded LASFSans about the aftermeeting.

Call to Adjourn

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

Meeting #4479, June 15, 2023

Call to Order

Cathy Johnson called the meeting to order at 8:01 p.m. There was some idle chatter about June Gloom, Los Angeles weather, and air conditioning—or the lack thereof. Charles Lee Jackson II disputed whether the meeting had actually been called to order. It had been.

Hatchings and Dispatchings (Nick Smith)

Hatchings

Comic book artist Neal Adams (b. June 15, 1941, d. April 28, 2022) got his start on a comic strip based on the television show *Ben Casey*. He helped DC return *Batman* to a more serious image following the Adam West TV show, as well as a series of Green Arrow and Green Lantern stories that drew on realistic themes.

Actor Neil Patrick Harris (b. June 15, 1973) got his start in the movie *Purple People Eater*. He then went on to *Doogie Howser, M.D.* and *How I Met Your Mother*, returning to his sf past in *Starship Troopers* and *Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog*.

Susan Fox highlighted his role as the Music Meister in *Batman: The Brave and the Bold*. Harris did his own singing, in English and French.

Dean and Cathy Johnson mentioned his work as a Broadway performer in *Assassins* and *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*.

Also born on this date, fan turned pro Sondra Marshak (b. June 15, 1942), who started writing *Star Trek* fan fiction. She wrote *Star Trek* novels as well as a biography of William Shatner. She stopped writing in the 1980s, and stopped being willing to be interviewed a few years ago.

Dispatchings

Actor Treat Williams (b. Dec. 1, 1951, d. June 12, 2023) was known more for mainstream dramatic acting, but he did two tiny roles in *The Empire Strikes Back*. His earliest fannish role was as the prince in *Shelley Duvall's Faerie Tale Theatre* version of "The Little Mermaid" He and his agent didn't generally pick scripts well, so his fannish roles aren't as well known.

Comic book artist John Romita Sr. (b. Jan. 24, 1930, d. June 12, 2023) helped popularize many Marvel characters, and his costume inspired that in the Spider-Man movies. His portrayal of Mary Jane Watson was influenced by his previous work in romance comics.

Matt Mitchell: "Face it, Tiger... you just hit the jackpot!"

Courtesy of Heide Nichols: Cartoonist and animator James Ian McGinty (b. May 6, 1985, d. June 8, 2023), who did *Plants vs. Zombies Heroes*, *Invader ZIM: Enter the Florpus*, artwork for *Adventure Time*, and TV tie-ins such as *Rocko's Modern Life*, as well as his own series. He died at the age of 38.

Nick Smith: I was told it was of natural causes, but it wasn't apparent what was going on.

Nichols: It was stress related. He was always trying to get work, and he wasn't eating well enough. His system overloaded, according to his parents. If you've

gone to Anime LA, you might have seen him. He displayed in the artist's alley.

Media anniversary

In 1954, June 15 or 19 saw an ant problem arise that Raid couldn't cure: *Them!* It got an Oscar nomination for special effects. A year later, *This Island Earth* went into general release June 15, a higher-budget, technicolor sf movie. It didn't do that well at the time. Reviews improved over time as viewers realized it had an actual plot.

Reading of the Minutes (Heath Row)

Scribbles did not read the minutes for June 8. He will read them next week.

Auction to Name the Minutes

Eylat Poliner bid \$17, won, and did not name the minutes that weren't read "Happy Birthday, Debra. These minutes were not named."

Celebration of Patron Saints

Sandy Cohen was celebrated and recognized by Charles Lee Jackson II, Cathy Johnson, Chris Marble, and Heide Nichols. Cohen received three cheers—and a bag of Hersheys.

Cathy Johnson: Sandy Cohen is a terrific guy.

Chris Marble: I miss meeting in person and Sandy being present for his saint night, because he always brought chocolate. I've known him for a decade, and he and I were in Estonia at the same time. That was the start of his hospital time, and it was just a day trip for me.

Heide Nichols: Sandy is known in the con community for having terrific green rooms. He's been kind enough to teach people like me what he does, and I appreciate it. When he got sick, I was surprised to learn he's actually named Alexander.

Charles Lee Jackson II: Sandy is not just a Patron Saint, but the Chancellor of Chocolate, a Sacred Object of the LASFS.

Nichols: Sacred Objects donate at least \$3,000.

Hare Hobbs was celebrated and recognized by Charles Lee Jackson II, Cathy Johnson, Chris Marble, Eylat Poliner, Tom Safer, and Nick Smith. Hobbs received three cheers—and a book review.

Cathy Johnson: Hare hasn't been able to join the meetings because of Zoom.

Eylat Poliner: Hare is a really nice person. At cons, he readily agreed to do things like unload carts. He always helped before cons and after cons, but not during cons because he likes to play. He's on the shy side. And he's not technical, which is why he isn't here.

Chris Marble: He's always a delight to see. He's always enthusiastic when he'd do his book reviews. I enjoyed seeing him at the wedding Saturday, and he seemed to be doing fine, as did his sister.

Nick Smith: I always enjoy talking about music with him. He's quite knowledgeable about pop music, and we've talked about rock opera and the way the Beach Boys' music was produced. He's very well versed in music and its fannish aspects.

Tom Safer: He always has a cheerful attitude, and you can't get away from a smiling person. He's always fun.

Charles Lee Jackson II: Hare is a voracious reader of sf and other things. That's a heroic effort on his part because he has dyslexia. Reading is a challenge he's met head on and punched to the ground.

Committee Reports

Marty Cantor's memorial (Eylat Poliner): We will celebrate the life of Marty Cantor on Saturday, June 17, at the home of Barbara Harmon from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The event is potluck, so please bring something to share.

Please be respectful of Barbara's property. We're not paying for it. It's in Burbank. Heath has volunteered to do some light weeding and yard work before the gathering. Nick Smith is bringing paper goods. Eylat is bringing tablecloths, and if you want to bring food, coordinate with Eylat. She'd prefer people not go into the house, if at all possible.

If you can bring chairs, feel free to do so. There won't be a lot of table seating.

Programming (Eylat Poliner):

- July 6: Big auction
- July 13: Author Craig Miller, *Star Wars Memories*
- Aug. 10: Planetary physicist Kevin R. Grazier
- Aug. 24: Tom Safer presents a program of cartoons after the meeting
- Sept. 7: Arlene Busby, Aerospace Legacy Foundation
- Nov. 2: Board of Directors nominations
- Nov. 9: Meeting #4500, Board of Directors elections
- Nov. 16: History of the LASFS
- Nov. 23: Meeting at Loscon 49
- Dec. 7: Nominations for president
- Dec. 14: Procedural elections
- Dec. 28: Loscon Retrospective
- Also, David Raiklen will be speaking on the music of *Star Trek* and *Star Wars*

Loscon 49 (Michelle Pincus): Loscon is shaping up

to be round-the-clock fun.

Honor Guard (Charles Lee Jackson II)

The Spot of Honor is held by SCIFI.Radio, sci-fi for your wi-fi, a fine institution that supports the LASFS. It is sincerely hoped that the LASFS supports it in return.

Registrar (Eylat Poliner)

No guests were present.

Treasurer (Debra Levin and Elayne Pelz)

Elayne Pelz reminded members to pay their dues. Anyone who's feeling flush, we'd appreciate donations. There's no way we're going to get a new building without money. Auctions will help, but so will tax-deductible donations. I'll even write you a shiny nice tax letter.

Dues, pun fund fees and donations may be rendered via Zelle or PayPal to payment@lasfs.org. Weekly dues are \$4. Monthly dues, at the first meeting of the month, are \$12.

Board Report (Michelle Pincus)

The next board meeting is July 9 at 11 a.m.

Old Business

Charles Lee Jackson II: In a previous order of old business, I was remiss. We did not do part of the traditional LASFS election procedure. What am I bid for the color of the ballot for the president of the LASFS? Cathy Johnson bid \$11, won, and deemed that the color shall be fuchsia.

What am I bid for the color of the ballot for vice president? Susan Fox bid \$20 just to shut people up. Eylat confused everyone by describing a cantor. (*Menace*, July 2023) Fox won and deemed that the color shall be blue.

What am I bid for the color of the ballot for registrar? Matthew Mitchell bid \$12, won, and deemed that it shall be goldenrod.

What am I bid for the color of the ballot for scribe? Jim DeTar bid \$10, won, and deemed it shall be puce

What am I bid for the color of the ballot for treasurer? Matthew B. Tepper bid \$20, won, and deemed it shall be pink

New Business

Cathy Johnson: We've been Zooming for quite a while, and a few people are itching for this social club to be a little more social again. Assuming the church is still available, we still have a key. Is there interest in meeting in person perhaps once a month? We'd meet as a hybrid meeting to continue to involve the people we've picked up online, but we won't grow if we

don't meet face to face.

We definitely have an overwhelming sense of the room that this is something we'd like to pursue. We can make equipment happen so we can keep the Zoom part of it going.

Elayne Pelz: The person with the key was George.

Susan Fox: Chris Marble goes to see George Mulligan every once in a while.

Elayne Pelz will reach out to the church to see if we can begin meeting again. It was \$135 a week.

Dean Johnson: We're just thinking once a month if we can pay for it.

Time-Bound Announcements

Tom Safer: I have resumed my shows at the Frances Howard Goldwyn Hollywood Regional Branch Library. This Saturday I will be showing *Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile* at 2 p.m. Admission is free.

Nick Smith: The New Beverly Cinema is showing sf for grownups again, a double feature tomorrow night: *Fantastic Planet* followed by *Heavy Metal*. The American Cinematheque will show *Dr. Strangelove* at 1 p.m. Sunday on the big screen.

Moments of Science

Tom Safer talked about three scientists from https://todayinsci.com/6/6_15.htm:

- Herbert A. Simon
- Hubertus Strughold
- Georg Wüst
- And two events: vulcanized rubber and the lightning experiment (https://todayinsci.com/6/6_15.htm#event)

Lynn Maners: Paleoarchaeologists studying the Homo naledi and a burial site in the Rising Star Cave in Africa discovered that the small-brained creatures made and used fire as a tool, and created artwork on cave walls. What is that spark? Their brains are half the size of human brains. Neanderthals are bigger. It's not a case of size but something going on in the brain. Maners expects a new field of expertise to develop: paleoneurology.

Regular Announcements

Nick Smith: The La Pintoresca Branch Library, Octavia's Bookshelf, and the Huntington Library are collaborating on the Octavia Butler Sci-Fi Book Club in June, July, and August. (<https://www.pasadenanow.com/weekendr/pasadena-libraries-partner-to-launch-octavia-butler-sci-fi-book-club>)

Chris Marble: George Mulligan says hi. I messaged him about the key. He's getting stronger but we didn't go out for lunch because he didn't have a lot of clothes

to wear.

Cathy Johnson: We have tickets for Dean's grandson's high school graduation tomorrow.

Reviews

Jim DeTar: The 2021 movie *Free Guy* is available on Netflix or Amazon Prime. It has a really good cast, Ryan Reynolds, Jody Comer, and Joe Keery. They devise a code for a game that uses AI. Dwayne Johnson, John Kasinski, and Channing Tatum have bit roles. It's a fun movie. The plot is that an NPC or nonplayer character becomes aware that he's in a video game. I won't give any spoilers, but I can tell you this: There are some parallels to real life. He becomes the first self-aware AI entity. It's humorous, a comedy drama, a dramedy. The idea keeps it very light, which is different from past years, with *Terminator*. The special effects are terrific, and I recommend it.

Chris Marble: I was at a wedding over the weekend, and it all went well. It was the first Armenian wedding I've ever been to. The happy couple is still in Las Vegas enjoying themselves.

Lynn Maners saw the trailer for the new animated *Babylon 5: The Road Home*. He isn't sure he likes it animated, but the voices give him the tingles.

Miscellaneous

Charles Lee Jackson II: Sara Paretsky failed her saving throw in sampling a caramel candy and has a huge dental bill in the offing. Jackson messaged her with some advice, and she replied!

Rob Powell is looking for someone to help with 34 boxes of sf books down in San Diego. Please contact him if you are interested or know someone who is. Scribbles sent him contact information for the San Diego Speculative Fiction Society and Darkstar at UCSD.

Eylat Poliner expressed her gratitude to Jackson and Susan Fox for helping her with programming.

Cathy Johnson reminded people about the aftermeeting.

Call to Adjourn

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

Meeting #4480, June 22, 2023

Before the meeting, LASFSans discussed Don Fitch and APA-L, *Cat Ballou*, Tycho Brahe, whether horses can win an Oscar, peanut butter and fishing line, *Mr. Ed*, a season pass or punch card for pun fines (for fine puns), being attacked by birds, Chris Marble's jointed Freddy Krueger fingers, the wilds of Ojai, Wolverine,

Sabretooth, *Edward Scissorhands*, teaching geography and anthropology, the difference between cultural geography and cultural anthropology, the pleasures of a paycheck, Lynn Maners's upcoming 75th birthday, nudism, Robert A. Heinlein, and *Nunsense*.

Call to Order

Cathy Johnson called the meeting to order at 8 p.m.

Hatchings and Dispatchings (Nick Smith)

Susan Fox stood in for Nick Smith.

Hatchings

- Actor Bruce Campbell (b. June 22, 1958) from *The Evil Dead* and sequels
- Actor Tim Russ (b. June 22, 1956), who appeared as Tuvok in *Star Trek: Voyager* and in *Spaceballs*
- Actor Lindsay Wagner (b. June 22, 1949), *The Bionic Woman* action heroine
- Animator and producer Joaquim Dos Santos (perhaps b. July 22, 1977), known for *Avatar: The Last Airbender* (2005), *The Legend of Korra* (2012), and one of three directors of new feature *Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse* (2023)
- Voice actor Paul Frees (b. June 22, 1920, d. Nov. 2, 1986), who performed voices in thousands of radio, TV, and movies, including many Disney roles and Disneyland attractions—named a Disney Legend in 2006
- Actor and voice actor Orson Bean (perhaps b. July 22, 1928, d. Feb. 7, 2020), whose genre roles included Bilbo Baggins in the animated version of *The Hobbit* and a deeply strange psychiatrist in *Being John Malkovich*

Dispatchings

- Writer and editor Robert Gottlieb (b. April 29, 1931, d. June 14, 2023), former editor-in-chief of Simon & Schuster in the 1950s and '60s, then Alfred A. Knopf until 1987 before going on to *The New Yorker*. Gottlieb edited novels by Doris Lessing, Ray Bradbury, Elia Kazan, and Michael Crichton.
- Actor Treat Williams (b. Dec. 1, 1951, d. June 12, 2023) died in a motorcycle accident. His genre roles included Xander Drax, the main villain in *The Phantom*, and as himself on *The Simpsons*
- Comic book artist John Romita Sr. (b. Jan. 24, 1930, d. June 12, 2023), who was also recognized last week

Media anniversary

Fictional character Bilbo Baggins in *The Hobbit* returns to his home at Bag End, Shire Reckoning 1342. In 1955, Walt Disney's *Lady and the Tramp* was released. In 1977, Disney's *The Rescuers* was released; it was the first Disney film to get a sequel. In 2001, the final episode of the TV show *Xena: Warrior Princess* aired June 18. And in 2018, Universal released the film *Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom* to theaters.

Reading of the Minutes (Heath Row)

Scribbles read the Condensed Cream of Menace for June 8 and 15, 2023.

Additions and Corrections

None for June 8 or June 15

Auction to Name the Minutes

Eylat Poliner bid \$8 for June 8, 2023, won, and named them "Happy Birthday, Debra."

Lynn Maners bid \$5 for June 15, 2023, won, and named them "Where Did Cathy Go?"

Call for Approval

June 8 was moved to accept as read, and approved.

June 15 was also moved to accept as read, and approved.

Celebration of Patron Saints

Ted Johnstone was celebrated and recognized by Charles Lee Jackson II. Johnstone received three cheers—and a *The Man from U.N.C.L.E.* gun. (The guns from that TV show received fan mail.)

Jackson: Ted Johnstone was a member of the LASFS. Without his hat on, he was David McDaniel. When I joined the club, he was one of the people I fell in with because he had written two *The Man from U.N.C.L.E.* tie-in novels. Writing was what he considered his side line. His real aim in life was cinematography and film editing.

He had been around the club for a long time as Ted Johnstone because he was leery about giving his real name to the organization. To this day, many members still think of him as Ted. He was a graduate of the UCSD school of cinematography, returned to the LA area, and was known as a great wordsmith. In addition to his professional writing, he was also well known for his fanwriting and served as what we now call scribe. His minutes were among some of the best we've had.

He was a great guy to work with and was able to do what I wanted, collaborating on several projects, including a *Star Trek* novel that didn't go anywhere. At one point, he was going to work for *The Rockford Files* and wrote a story before he found out the person

wasn't actually involved in *The Rockford Files*.

He and his wife moved back to Pulaski, Penn., next to Blue Bell, from where he'd call me after midnight and say, "Greetings from the future." He moved back to California and unfortunately died in an accident much to everyone's dismay—presumably including himself. He was a long-time member of the club, an active member, and is missed to this very day.

Committee Reports

Programming (Eylat Poliner):

- July 6: Big auction
- July 13: Author Craig Miller, *Star Wars Memories*
- Aug. 10: Planetary physicist Kevin R. Grazier
- Aug. 24: Tom Safer presents a program of cartoons after the meeting

Marty Cantor's memorial gathering (Eylat Poliner): Poliner read a letter from Barbara Gratz Harmon thanking members for their kindness and care at Cantor's memorial gathering. Scribbles even did yard work.

Honor Guard (Charles Lee Jackson II)

The Spot of Honor is held not by Susan Fox's dog, but by SCIFI.radio.

Registrar (Eylat Poliner)

There are no guests present.

Treasurer (Debra Levin and Elayne Pelz)

Elayne Pelz exhorted members to donate, donate, donate.

Old Business

To no extent

New Business

Not for a moment

Time-Bound Announcements

Kevin Segall: *An Evening with Arnold Schwarzenegger* on Wednesday at the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, including a screening of *Terminator 2: Judgment Day* in 3D. Advance tickets are sold out. (<https://www.academymuseum.org/en/programs/detail/an-evening-with-arnold-schwarzenegger>)

Tickets went on sale today for *An Evening with Sir Patrick Stewart* discussing his book *Making It So: A Memoir* at Robert Frost Auditorium in Culver City. In-person tickets are sold out, but virtual event tickets remain available. ([https://livetalksla.org/events/sir-](https://livetalksla.org/events/sir-patrick-stewart)

[patrick-stewart](#))

Heide Nichols reminded members that this is the last weekend for the Koroneburg Renaissance Festival (<https://renfestcorona.com>), as well as a period-appropriate science fair Saturday.

Tom Safer: The library had a plumbing issue, so the screening of *Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile* was rescheduled for July 1.

Moments of Science

Lee Grixit: This week in Somebody Tripped in Egypt, there were two big finds. One, a 52-foot-long undamaged wall with a previously undiscovered copy of Book of the Dead. From the pictures I saw, it looks as though the painters hadn't finished. The other thing they found near the city of Luxor were the remains of a late-Roman city. It was busy, apparently networked, and had two tall towers meant for carrier pigeons.

Tom Safer: From the Today in Science Page (https://todayinsci.com/6/6_22.htm)

- James H. Pomerene
- N. Howell Furman
- James Beaumont Neilson
- From events: Galileo Galilei

Regular Announcements

Scribbles: A former member of the LASFS, Randy (or Isha) Mueller, who was then married to a man named Bill, reached out to the club. She was a member when David McDaniel, aka Ted Johnstone, aka Tedron, served as scribe. She would like to donate APA-L covers and tables of contents from 1976-1977 to the club in memory of her ex-husband Bill, who died July 12, 2009. Mueller will mail the items to Scribbles, who will scan them for archiving, as well as placement in the LASFS archives or library.

Chris Marble visited Don Fitch this past week. He might be 94, but it's unclear. He continues to receive APA-L, a huge percentage of his contact with the outside world. Marble also visited George Mulligan today.

Matt Mitchell: I don't know if you've ever done the Google meme Florida Man and then put in your birthday. A town in Broward County, Florida, was invaded by giant African land snails carrying rat lungworm, which can cause meningitis. I don't know if anyone had giant meningitis snails on their Bingo card, but there you go.

Reviews

Susan Fox: *The Good, the Bad and the History* (Chronicles of St. Mary's Book 14) by Jodi Taylor is out. It's very good. I wouldn't go into this book

without reading #13. I'm halfway through it—and I'm going directly back to it after the meeting.

Lee Grixit enjoys the YouTube series *Esoterica*, which explores arcane history, philosophy, and religion. It spends a lot of time on John Dee.

Eylat Poliner continues to watch *Star Trek: Strange New Worlds*. The second season brings back the original *Star Trek*. If you like Kirk you'll like *Strange New Worlds*.

Inspired by Jim Main's new magazine *The Screening Room*, Scribbles has started watching the 1999 TV series *Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's The Lost World*—when he's not watching *Travelers*.

Charles Lee Jackson II read shooting scripts for *Dr. Goldfoot and the Bikini Machine* and *A Study in Terror*. The first script is funnier and less whacky than the finished film. The second movie is a mid-1960s British Film in which Sherlock Holmes goes after Jack the Ripper. The film is wonderful, and the script is incredibly literate. I recommend the film; the script is a good representation of the finished film. If you see the film, go find the Ellery Queen novelization of the movie.

Miscellaneous

Lynn Maners: The head general of the Ukrainian army has a camouflage field uniform. Dead in the center is a patch of baby Yoda, a morale patch.

Cathy Johnson: The Force might help.

Eylat Poliner: The first three weeks in July, I will be absent and Heide Nichols will be doing the job of registrar.

Johnson: There will be no aftermeeting tonight.

Lynn Maners bid \$5 for Eylat Poliner to make a motion. Scribbles bid \$6. Maners bid \$7. Jim DeTar bid \$10.

Call to Adjourn

With such encouragement, Eylat Poliner so moved. That was seconded. The ayes had it.