

Menace of the LASFS

January 2024

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 #4498, Oct. 26, 2023

Before the meeting started, members discussed whether Scribbles would be present, and Susan Fox started recording. They also talked about *Romper Room* and making good television.

Call to Order

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

Hatchings and Dispatchings (Nick Smith)

Hatchings

Born in 1942, you might remember actor Bob Hoskins (b. Oct. 26, 1942; d. April 29, 2014) mostly for his role in *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*, but he was in a ton of other fannish roles, both on screen and as a voice actor. He was the best Mr. Smee ever in *Hook*, and you might have forgotten his role in Terry Gilliam’s weird film *Brazil*, but he was in many others. His final role was in *Snow White and the Huntsman*, which sort of counts as fannish.

Also born in 1942, screenwriter Kenneth Johnson (b. Oct. 26, 1942) spent his 40-year career mostly involved with fannish projects for TV and movies. His television work included developing *The Incredible Hulk* for television, but his very first job in the field was adapting a set of Edgar Allan Poe stories for TV. He did major work on *V*, *Alien Nation*, the original *The Six Million Dollar Man* and the reboot of *Bionic Woman*. Sadly, he also co-wrote what turned out to be a true fiasco of a movie, with basketball player Shaquille O’Neal out of his depth in the movie *Steel*, which could have been a decent movie with a real actor.

Slightly younger is an actual scholar, Jane Chance Nitzsche (b. October 1945), who has written several books and a ton of articles about the works of J.R.R. Tolkien, working in that field since 1979. She has also taught and written on things like mythology, modern medievalism, and the women writers of the middle

ages.

Born much later, actor Cary Elwes (b. Oct. 26, 1962) only had a few roles before his breakthrough in *The Princess Bride*, but he’s been a hard-working actor on movie and TV screens ever since, with many fannish roles. He excels at fannish comedy, too, with his starring role in *Robin Hood: Men in Tights* being almost as good as his role from *The Princess Bride*, but you might have missed his voice acting roles for anime dubs and even computer games.

Dispatchings

Actor Richard Roundtree (b. July 9, 1942; d. Oct. 24, 2023), who died this week in Los Angeles, was most famous for what turns out to have been his first film role with a character name attached. Before he starred in *Shaft*, he was primarily a stage actor, but that movie had multiple sequels, on movie and TV screens. He actually did a lot of fannish roles, though, and was in a wide range of things, including the live action versions of *George of the Jungle* and *Speed Racer*.

Media anniversary

In 1966, Jerry Lewis and Connie Stevens had a new movie come out on this date, called *Way...Way Out*, and in a way, it was an example of both science fiction comedy and propaganda. The premise of the movie included the idea that there was something deliberately risqué about the Soviets having crews with female cosmonauts, and the American response was to send married couples to the moon in response.

Oddly, though, exactly 40 years earlier, the Soviet movie industry released a science fiction propaganda film whose title translates as *Miss Mend*. Released as a serial, it was about an office girl and three reporters trying to stop capitalist businessmen from the west from staging some kind of bacteria strike on the USSR.

Reading of the Minutes (Heath Row)

Scribbles read the Condensed Cream of Menace for Oct. 19, 2023.

Additions and Corrections

None

Auction to Name the Minutes

Susan Fox bid \$10, won, and named them “Shut up and Give Me the Cookbook.”

Call for Approval

Moved to accept as read, and approved.

Celebration of Patron Saints

Lee Jacobs was celebrated and recognized by

Scribbles. Jacobs received three cheers.

Scribbles read an excerpt from *Telegraphs & Tar Pits* #39 as published in APA-L.

Committee Reports

Loscon 49 (Nick Smith): Arlene Busby has been working on the programming schedule and sent materials to participants for checking. Smith will interview Peter S. Beagle on Saturday morning. Beagle was the first author Smith met at his first con 50 years ago.

Cathy Johnson shared additional details about Loscon. Eylat Poliner reminded staff and potential volunteers about the Loscon staff meeting on Oct. 28.

Programming (Eylat Poliner):

- Nov. 2: Board of Directors nominations
- Nov. 9: Meeting #4500 and Board of Directors election
- Nov. 16: History of the LASFS with historical LASFSans
- Nov. 23: Meeting at Loscon 49
- Dec. 7: Nominations for President
- Dec. 14: Procedural elections
- Dec. 28: Loscon Retrospective

Honor Guard (Charles Lee Jackson II)

A shrouded skeleton, not the voice of Vincent Price, stood in for Charles Lee Jackson II. The Spot of Honor is held by CLJII's Hallowe'en Haunts, Highlights, and High-jinks. (<https://www.facebook.com/HalloweenHauntsHighlightsAndHiJinks>)

Gregory Lipscomb bid \$25 for Loscon 49 to hold the Spot of Honor for the next month.

Registrar (Eylat Poliner)

We have a guest, Kayla Denson, who found out about the club from its Web site. She's from Los Angeles and has never attended before. She's looking for a community with shared interests, perhaps a fantasy book club. She loves everything, is a student at UCLA Extension, literature fan, and writer. She's a marketing manager and an associate producer.

Treasurer (Debra Levin and Elayne Pelz)

Debra Levin reminded members to pay their dues. Next week is the beginning of a new month. We don't have any money; don't spend it. Donations are also welcome.

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

Board Report (Michelle Pincus)

Susan Fox stood in for Michelle Pincus. The next

board meeting is Nov. 12, 2023, at 11 a.m.

Old Business

Cathy Johnson indicated that we're still looking for a place to meet in person once a month. If you know of such a place, feel free to gather additional information to bring back to the club. We were not able to meet at the church again.

New Business

None

Time-Bound Announcements

Nick Smith: Dark Delicacies bookstore in Burbank is having a signing on Sunday at 3 p.m. with director Darren Lynn Bousman signing his children's book, *But Daddy, We Are Scared*.

The New Beverly Cinema is showing the original *Night of the Living Dead*, with a new 35mm print, on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights this weekend. The Friday 2 p.m. matinee will be *Tales from the Darkside: The Movie*, and the Saturday and Sunday 2 p.m. kiddie matinees feature *Beetlejuice*.

American Cinematheque at the Los Feliz 3 Theater on Vermont in Hollywood is showing the other version of *Dracula*, the Spanish-language version filmed at the same time as the Bela Lugosi version. That's their 4 p.m. film on Sunday. Then at 7 p.m., they are showing *Omen*, which is not the same film as *The Omen*. This one is a magical realism/horror film from Africa, and be prepared for subtitles, because it is in French, Swahili, Lingala, and English. They will finish their triple threat by showing Alfred Hitchcock's *Psycho* at 10 p.m.

The same organization is doing three days of scary stuff at the Aero Theater in Santa Monica, all being shown in 3D, with *Monster House* on Sunday at 5 p.m., *Dial M for Murder* on Monday at 7:30 p.m., and a Halloween double feature of *Creature from the Black Lagoon* and *House of Wax* on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

Since it's the weekend before Halloween, the Nuart Theater in west Los Angeles is having late night screenings of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* both Friday and Saturday nights this week. They are back to having *Rocky Horror* every Saturday, but with different films, many of them fannish, on Friday late nights.

The Old Town Music Hall, at 140 Richmond St. in El Segundo, is showing classic scary movies all month, every Saturday and Sunday. This Saturday at 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. will be *Dracula*, and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. will be the 1925 silent movie version of *The Phantom of the Opera*, with live music

from the theater's big Wurlitzer organ.

Moments of Science

Lee Grixit: There's another possible breakthrough for diabetes, implantables with long-term supplies that can help us catch up to one of Larry Niven's stories. You'd have an implant with a couple year's supply of insulin dispensed at proper intervals. They've got some pretty healthy white mice. Now they need to make the jump.

There's also a smaller handheld ultrasonic machine that breaks up kidney stones. There's also a new, more portable neuro inductive router with minimal attachments to get your brain to reach around to break your spine and get your limbs moving again.

Eylat Poliner: Ever fly Southwest and lose your luggage? Southwest will be the first airline to be able to track your luggage in real time. I truly hope that it works and that other airlines will do this too. (<https://www.thrillist.com/news/nation/southwest-airlines-baggage-tracker-app-website-launch>)

Nick Smith: JPL is mapping indicators for possible locations of subterranean ice on Mars. It uses a combination of technologies to measure where ice ought to be.

Charles Lee Jackson's skeletal stand in, "Window Ghost," not Skeletor, has two items: During his last reading, the story "Fallen Hero" incorporates technology similar to what Grixit described above. Jackson is also currently taking several new medications that include side effects. He hasn't experienced the side effects, but the opposite of the side effects.

Nola Frame-Gray also commented on the insulin implant. They implanted islets of langerhans cells from the pancreas in mice. She doesn't understand why the tissue wasn't rejected.

Regular Announcements

Scribbles let the club know that he'll be traveling next month. Please record the meetings, and he'll continue preparing minutes for reading at the meetings.

Reviews

Eylat Poliner finished watching *Ahsoka*. She felt that they brought *Star Wars* back even more than *The Mandalorian* did. If you have a chance to watch it and you like *Star Wars*, it's up there.

Lee Grixit commented on a silly new cartoon called *Krapopolis*. It's one of those not quite historical things. It takes place in ancient Greece and is supposed to be the archaic period. It's about a young man who wants to be an enlightened king. His mother is a minor deity who wants to get invited to parties on

Olympus again. His father is a manticore, and his sister is half cyclops. She has two eye sockets and two eyebrows but only one eye. It's very fun and occasionally touches on authentic lore. The gods are a bunch of soap opera characters.

Kayla Denson has been watching *The Fall of the House of Usher* on Netflix. If you're a fan of Edgar Allan Poe, they draw on a lot of elements of his work. It's also scary and recommended for spooky season. It's very good.

Miscellaneous

Simmie Noble Collins shared a faux pas. She was listing a book on eBay, Philip K. Dick's *The Man in the High Castle*, perhaps a first edition. She listed it for \$50, and then learned it sells for anywhere from \$800 to \$3,000. It sold before she was able to edit it. She wrote an apology to the buyer and pleaded ignorance. The buyer accepted her apology, and she refunded his money. Then eBay relisted it again automatically, and it sold again. She had to do the same thing all over again. Now it might go for \$1,500.

Eylat Poliner commented that the LASFS library contains rare books that can be checked out. There have been thefts.

Chris Marble reported that George Mulligan has lost more weight and is down 100 pounds from his peak. The potential for a day trip for Christmas exists.

Window Ghost reminded people about next week's nominations for the board of directors. He'll explain the process fully next week.

Poliner asked whose seats are up and checked the Web site. Scribbles shared the details from *De Profundis*: Nick Smith, Christian B. McGuire, Elayne Pelz, and Rob Powell's seats are up for election. Poliner volunteered to let those folks know that their seats are up for renomination.

Cathy Johnson reminded members about the aftermeeting.

Poliner found an inexpensive Middle Eastern Greek restaurant, Athenian Grill, in Reseda. It might make a good location for the Greater Angeleno Gourmet Society (GAGS), perhaps in November. Another option could be Hummus Bar & Grill in Tarzana.

Call to Adjourn

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

Quotes of Note

Matthew B. Tepper: "No one can ignore the hotel next door."

Meeting #4499, Nov. 2, 2023

Before the meeting began, members talked about how the minutes are the most boring part of the meeting—“because I was already there”—reading the first three chapters of *The Da Vinci Code* in a dentist’s waiting room, how we made it to November, LASFSans joining using unidentifiable Zoom IDs, whether dead people have much to say, and other topics.

Call to Order

Cathy Johnson called the meeting to order 3:20 into the video recording.

Hatchings and Dispatchings (Nick Smith)

Hatchings

While Burt Lancaster (b. Nov. 2, 1913; d. Oct. 20, 1994), born 110 years ago today, isn’t given credit for many fannish films, he did star in the 1977 version of *The Island of Doctor Moreau* and was in the baseball fantasy *Field of Dreams*. If you’ve never seen his 1950s film *The Crimson Pirate*, then you’ve missed one of the most fun swashbucklers of all time, but later he starred in an odd film called *The Hallelujah Trail*, which was the closest a film came to *Blazing Saddles* before *Blazing Saddles*.

If you’ve seen *Forbidden Planet*, then you might remember actor Warren Stevens (b. Nov. 2, 1919; d. March 27, 2012), born in 1919, as Doc. It turns out that he was in a lot of other science fiction, mostly for television, during his acting career of nearly 60 years. He might also be one of the few actors who got a *Star Trek* role because of a previous role, as Gene Roddenberry was such a huge *Forbidden Planet* fan that he viewed it as inspiration for *Star Trek*, and made sure Stevens was in an episode.

Born in 1927, comic book artist Steve Ditko (b. Nov. 2, 1927; d. June 29, 2018) was responsible for the visual designs of a ton of comic book characters, the two most famous of whom are probably Doctor Strange and this guy called Spider-Man. He created many others, for Marvel, DC, and Charlton, as well as self-publishing some very strange other comics over the years. He passed away just a few years ago, but was inducted into two of the major comic book halls of fame for artists.

Lois McMaster Bujold (b. Nov. 2, 1949), the science fiction and fantasy author, also has a birthday today. For those of you who didn’t notice, she has as many Best Novel Hugos as Robert A. Heinlein, if you don’t count his honorary awards, so she’s very good. You might not know that she started out as a fan, and she co-published a *Star Trek* fanzine that featured one

of her early fan stories.

Longtime fan Don Fitch (b. Nov. 2, 1928) has reached the age of 95, and we hope that he continues to age like a fine wine.

Dispatchings

While better known to non-fans for his long-running roles on daytime soap operas, actor Tyler Christopher (b. Nov. 11, 1972; d. Oct. 31, 2023) did a number of fannish roles, on shows like *Charmed*, *Special Unit 2*, *Angel*, and the 2002 version of *The Twilight Zone*. He also acted in a number of low-budget sf movies, most of which were truly terrible. He died earlier this week in San Diego.

Also, while actor Matthew Perry’s (b. Aug. 19, 1969; d. Oct. 28, 2023) death was announced in nearly every possible way, I didn’t see his connection to science fiction mentioned at all. While the series *Friends* wanted him for the Chandler role from the very beginning, he was not originally going to be available, because he had just filmed the pilot for a planned series, an sf comedy called *L.A.X. 2194*. Yes, a comedy about a future airport and its baggage handlers. According to at least some critics, it wasn’t horrible, but NBC didn’t pick it up, so Perry became available for *Friends* at the last minute.

We also lost astronaut Ken Mattingly (b. March 17, 1936; d. Oct. 31, 2023). You might remember his name, but not from where, and that’s because he kept getting assigned to missions and then having them changed. He didn’t make it to the moon until Apollo 16, but he was the orbiter backup for Apollo 11, and would have been on Apollo 13 until getting exposed to German measles. He was the second astronaut to ever do a “deep space” EVA during the return from the moon, in order to retrieve film cartridges from the external cameras. Later he was part of the Space Shuttle program and remained a Navy pilot until retiring at the rank of rear admiral.

Actor Richard Moll (b. Jan. 13, 1943; d. Oct. 26, 2023) died a few days ago, and if you never saw him on *Night Court*, you need to rush out and do that. He did a number of fannish roles, including voice work on *Batman: The Animated Series*.

Finally, we lost longtime fan and pro artist Carolly Cristin Hauksdottir about a month ago, but because her family was very, very non-fannish, word leaked out only slowly. I knew her because she was a regular artist for *Fantasy Book*, back in the 1980s, and I gave her the assignment to illustrate the first magazine story by a newish writer named Mercedes Lackey. She also did art for filk music recordings and songbooks, and was active in fandom in the Bay Area for many years. If you played any computer games from 1990 on, you

probably saw her work, because artwork for computer games was her day job for many years.

Media anniversary

In 1924, a silent science fiction movie came out, *The Last Man on Earth*. Taking place in the then-future, the story centers on a hermit coming out of the forest to find that all known other men have succumbed to a strange disease. Hijinks ensue.

Reading of the Minutes (Heath Row)

Susan Fox stood in for Scribbles and read the Condensed Cream of Menace for Oct. 26, 2023.

Additions and Corrections

None

Auction to Name the Minutes

Gregory Lipscomb bid \$10, won, and named them “Happy Halloween 2023.”

Call for Approval

Moved to accept as read, and approved.

Celebration of Patron Saints

Francis Hamit was celebrated and recognized by Cathy Johnson and Matthew B. Tepper. Hamit received three cheers.

Cathy Johnson: He gave us money.

Matthew B. Tepper: Francis is a visionary. He foresaw today’s obsession with virtual reality and wrote a book about it 27 years ago—*Virtual Reality and the Exploration of Cyberspace*. He’s a veteran. He was on the ground in Vietnam. He worked in intelligence, and he has stories. He’s quietly charming in his own way, and he’s a good person.

Bill Rotsler was celebrated and recognized by Tony Benoun, Charles Lee Jackson II, Christian B. McGuire, Matt Mitchell, Nick Smith, and Matthew B. Tepper. Rotsler received three cheers.

Nick Smith: Bill Rotsler was a strange and generous man who had all sorts of weird ideas at times. I approached him and other authors to see if we could quote their work in a game project. He was thrilled we sought permission to quote his work. He was one of the most prolific fan artists I’ve ever encountered. He was just always drawing. Marty Cantor had been publishing Rotsler originals following his death. Heath Row has those now to be divvied up among different fanzine editors. Who could do so many illustrations and just leave them sitting around? At the time of his death, Rotsler was also working on a modernized version of a *The Devil’s Dictionary* kind of book. I don’t know what his plan

was, but that’s what the manuscript appeared to be.

Charles Lee Jackson II: Bill Rotsler was the most broadly talented man I ever knew. He was an actor, voice artist, cinematographer, director, writer, sound engineer, pornographer, ladies man, and general bon vivant and boulevardier. If you ever wanted to do anything and couldn’t think of anyone to do it, you just called on Rotsler. He was just amazing with all the disciplines he mastered. He produced a series Bill Warren did about film for French television. He also did artwork that didn’t find its way onto scraps of paper, including dinner plates and walls.

Matthew B. Tepper: Bill Rotsler saved part of a convention long after he had died. Four years ago, Loscon 46 was in its late planning stages. We went through two different Artist Guests of Honor. I was able to get an Editor Guest of Honor, Moshe Feder, who did a great job. But the badge designs are usually done by the Artist Guest of Honor. Marty Cantor, Tony Benoun, and I went through a bunch of old fillos that Rotsler had done years and years ago. We found a bunch of them that fit into the space of a badge, and those were our badge designs. I can’t thank him enough.

Christian B. McGuire: With Gregory Benford, he wrote a book called *Shiva Descending*. He also wrote a novel that was particular to his interest as an artist called *Patron of the Arts*. If you ever get a chance, read it. It’s in the LASFS library as well as available on Kindle. As an amateur photographer, he’d taken an interest in manhole covers. There were pictures of hundreds of different manhole covers in his estate. It was an out-of-the-blue interest, and he had some sort of book or work that he planned to do with it but never got around to doing.

Tony Benoun: Christian B. McGuire had handed me an envelope full of Rotsler illustrations that I scanned in and put on the computer.

Tepper: Then I also thank Christian B. McGuire for helping save the art for the Loscon badges.

Matt Mitchell: Among Bill Rotsler’s other writing efforts, he also did an Iron Man novel—*Stan Lee Presents Iron Man: And Call My Killer... Modok!* He populated it with characters from his own life, including Sharman Divino, who was a longtime lady friend of Bill’s, and also another LASFSan, Randy Greiner. He was one of the villains in the book.

Committee Reports

Programming (Eylat Poliner)

- Nov. 2: Board of Directors nominations
- Nov. 9: Meeting #4500 and Board of Directors election
- Nov. 16: History of the LASFS with historical

LASFSans

- Nov. 23: Meeting at Loscon 49
- Dec. 7: Nominations for President
- Dec. 14: Procedural elections
- Dec. 28: Loscon Retrospective

Cathy Johnson added that the Loscon meeting during the con will take place on the 16th floor. It will take place at 8 p.m., and there will be a Big Auction. Please come with your wallets, PayPal, watches, Zelle, cash, or checkbook.

Christian B. McGuire: It won't be huge, but it will be interesting. I won't be there, but Cathy will take the lead. It'll be more than 10 but perhaps not more than 20 items on auction. There will be another copy of Karl Lembke's recipe book available.

Johnson: For that meeting, because Scribbles is out of town, Susan, do you mind being emergency, backup scribe for that meeting?

Susan Fox: I'll have to figure out where I'll need to be. Who's doing the Zoom?

Johnson: I wasn't planning on doing a hybrid meeting.

Fox agreed to do it, but she won't enjoy it.

McGuire will provide a list of items, the physical items, and an actual auction sheet. During the auction, the scribe agrees to keep records. When the auction is over, the list is passed to the treasurer, so people don't try to pay in the middle of the auction.

Eylat Poliner volunteered to record auction results.

Loscon 49 (Michelle Pincus): Loscon is coming up. This is your last chance to make your hotel reservations. Our room block closes Nov. 8, 2023. Do you have your membership? The online rate will close soon, and it'll cost more at the door.

Heide Nichols: The music room will be on the 16th floor. The Tim Griffith and Fallen Stars concerts will be on the main stage.

Honor Guard (Charles Lee Jackson II)

The Spot of Honor is held by Loscon 49. It will be held the fourth week of this month. People might not be watching my dining room much that night.

Registrar (Eylat Poliner)

There are no guests tonight. Thank you to Susan Fox for checking in on that.

Treasurer (Debra Levin and Elayne Pelz)

Elayne Pelz reminded members to pay their dues. It's a new month, so pay your monthly or weekly dues. It's November, so start thinking about yearly dues. You can start paying those next month: \$135 for 2024.

Dues, pun fund fees, and donations can be rendered via Zelle or PayPal to payment@lasfs.org. Weekly

dues are \$4. Or pay by the month at the first meeting of the month, for \$12.

Charles Lee Jackson II: Only standard, regular members of the society can vote in elections. Next week, when we have an election, anyone who's delinquent in their dues won't be able to vote.

Board Report (Michelle Pincus)

The next board meeting is Nov. 12, 2023, at 11 a.m.

Old Business

Nominations for the board elections (Charles Lee Jackson II): The LASFS is the procedural side of the club. The corporate side of the club is what allows these fun meetings to go on, keeps track of the library, and otherwise keeps things operating in a smooth manner. There are 11 members, and we generally elect about a third of the board so there's some continuity.

Jackson explained the requirements for a member to serve on the board as documented at <https://lasfs.org/lasfs-by-laws>. He also described the nomination process.

Cathy Johnson asked what seats are up for election: Nick Smith, Christian B. McGuire, Elayne Pelz, and Rob Powell. Jackson also listed people who are ineligible because they're currently on the board or are otherwise unable to be nominated.

Christian B. McGuire nominated Elayne Pelz, who accepted the nomination enthusiastically. She has exceptional knowledge of how the club runs, she has her finger on the pulse of many things, and she works steadily on behalf of the club and the board.

Eylat Poliner nominated Rob Powell, aka Gizmo, who accepted the nomination with beautiful articulation. Powell has been maintaining the LASFS storage unit, built several cabinets, and is a valuable member of the club. He's always available to help. Gizmo said he goes out of his way to help useful people and fellow fans. He rolled a 2. Did he succeed?

Johnson nominated Christian B. McGuire, citing his years in the club and knowledge. McGuire accepted, appropriately following step 1a. Without a clubhouse, his participation is more limited than what it used to be. He does a lot of work that doesn't have anything to do with his board position. He actively participates in board meetings. Elayne Pelz and Matt Mitchell also wanted to nominate McGuire.

Heide Nichols nominated Tony Benoun, who declined.

Eylat Poliner nominated Debra Levin, who declined because she works on Sundays and can't do it.

McGuire nominated Nick Smith, who accepted, suggesting that this would be the last term on the

board he's willing to do. He'd like some new blood on the board. McGuire says that because Smith's only been on the board for about a decade, he does bring new ideas and input. Smith currently serves as vice chairman and gets called upon when the chairperson isn't available. He's also storing LASFS belongings, including the video collection. Mostly he has had a lot of experience on nonprofit boards. The LASFS rules were written to be fannish rather than to actually do things.

Susan Fox nominated Heath Row, who isn't here. Jackson said we can accept a nomination that might not come about. He will see this recording. "Heath, when you see this recording, email me, and let me know." Elayne Pelz says he might not be eligible. He hasn't been a member for three years. Eylat Poliner spoke with Row earlier today. He said he could be on the board, or he can serve as scribe.

Fox withdrew her nomination. Jackson asked that Row let him know if he accepts or declines.

Lee Grixit nominated Matthew B. Tepper on the grounds of having experience and free time. Tepper pointed out that he served a couple of terms on the board a decade ago and accomplished nothing. As vice chairman, he chaired only one meeting.

Johnson: You accomplished nothing, but you didn't break anything.

Tepper: "When I was nominated for a third term, I said I could vote for necessary repairs as well as anyone else." He accepted the nomination.

McGuire moved to close the nominations. Next week, we will hold the election of directors. Jackson will describe the procedure then.

New Business

None

Time-Bound Announcements

Nick Smith: Dark Delicacies bookstore in Burbank is having signings this weekend. On Saturday at 3 p.m., Peter Brothers will be signing the new book *Citizen Kong: The 90th Anniversary*, and Steve Niles will be signing the deluxe edition of *30 Days of Night*, the graphic novel story that inspired the horror movie. Sunday at 3 p.m. will be a signing of the DVD of *8 Found Dead*, with the director, the writer, and much of the cast.

The New Beverly Cinema is apparently teaching kids about the history of classic movies. Their kiddie matinee at 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday this weekend will be Charlie Chaplin's *The Gold Rush*. Grownups get a serious lesson as well, as the evening films for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday are the correctly edited version of *Touch of Evil*, the Orson

Welles film that the studio took away from him and nearly ruined, and *The Lady from Shanghai*, which co-starred Welles as an actor and left his name off of the credits as the film's director.

American Cinematheque at the Los Feliz 3 Theater on Vermont in Hollywood is showing John Carpenter's 1987 horror movie *Prince of Darkness* on Friday at 4 p.m., and the Rob Zombie remake of the horror movie *Halloween* on Monday at 7 p.m.

In chat, Christian B. McGuire offered information on the Egyptian Theatre rebuild: <https://variety.com/gallery/egyptian-theatre-renovation-photos-netflix/egyptian-theatre-ceiling-2023>.

The same organization is doing a full day of animation at the Aero Theater in Santa Monica this Sunday, starting with a triple feature of Trolls animated films starting at 12:30 p.m., and ending with *Robot Dreams* starting at 7:30 p.m.

The Nuart Theater in west Los Angeles is showing *Rosemary's Baby* on Friday at 10:30 p.m., and *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* on Saturday at 11 p.m.

Charles Lee Jackson II: Beginning Saturday morning on Facebook, another page of mine will make its debut. It's called CLJII's *Your Best Entertainment Companion*. (<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100081418001578>) The book is now available on Amazon, with the paperback coming out in a week or so. If you enjoy the book or old films, the Facebook page will begin on Saturday.

???: A time change goes into effect Saturday evening. You don't want to be late to stuff you're going to on Sunday.

Cathy Johnson: Spring ahead and fall back, so we'll fall back an hour.

Moments of Science

Lee Grixit: News from China claims to have made a development, though it's early on, to use an artificial virus to change someone's genetics. For children who are deaf because they can't grow the correct cells in their inner ears, this can correct that. It's kind of like a driver update. Deafness that comes from age occurs because you don't grow all the right hairs. It might be good for that, too.

Matthew B. Tepper: The bones that relay the vibrations stiffen up and don't work as well.

Dean Johnson: The second person who's ever received a pig heart transplant died. He only lasted six weeks, and there wasn't a lot of hope for him. He said he did it specifically to advance science.

Regular Announcements

Matt Mitchell: Gallifrey One announced its newest guest, Rose Tyler's actor, Billie Piper, her first

appearance in 10 years.

Reviews

Heide Nichols: The quirky *Upload* is back, a very weird series. It's a comedy, and it's currently on Prime Video.

Victor Khaze has been enjoying the urban fantasy slice of life anime called *The Masterful Cat Is Depressed Again Today*. Clifford the Big Red Dog got so big because a girl loved him so much. This cat is human sized, and its master is an overworked salary woman. It's like the old *Animaniacs* segment "Chicken Boo." Everyone sees him as a giant chicken but doesn't believe he's a giant chicken. It's on Crunchyroll.

Miscellaneous

Christian B. McGuire: Last week was this year's Worldcon in Chengdu, China, for which they apparently built a floating museum, a brand new convention center, and did some amazing stuff. A Bay Area fan many of us know, Richard Man, won a Hugo award. A Midwest fan, Chris Barkley, also won a Hugo award. Bobbi Armbruster, a LASFS member, bon vivant, and gorgeous gal, won the Big Heart Award.

Cathy Johnson: Also, Seana McGuire won.

McGuire: The average of the people there was 18. Lots of different schools sent entire classes. There are images of hundreds of kids. Their interest in science fiction in China is growing by leaps and bounds.

Johnson reminded people about the aftermeeting.

Call to Adjourn

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

Quotes of Note

Christian B. McGuire: "Yngvi is still a louse!"

Susan Fox: "No, autocorrect, I meant Plergb."

Meeting #4500, Nov. 9, 2023

Call to Order

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

Hatchings and Dispatchings (Nick Smith)

Hatchings

Actor and comedian Ed Wynn (b. Nov. 9, 1886; d. June 19, 1966) appeared on *The Twilight Zone*, as the voice of the Mad Hatter, and in *Cinderfella* and *The Gnome-Mobile*.

Fan, author, editor, and literary agent Larry Shaw

(b. Nov. 9, 1924; d. April 1, 1985) was a Futurian, a professional writer, and editor of *If* magazine and *Infinity Science Fiction*. He published Harlan Ellison's first magazine story, later editing monster movie magazines and for Lancer Books before becoming a literary agent.

Director Cliff Bole (b. Nov. 9, 1937; d. Feb. 15, 2014) had a hand in *The Six Million Dollar Man*, three different Star Trek series, *MacGyver*, and *Supernatural*.

Actor and professional bodybuilder Lou Ferrigno (b. Nov. 9, 1951) portrayed the Hulk on TV and worked as a voice actor for animated series. He was also in the *Star Trek Continues* Web series and on *Night Court*.

Dispatchings

Martial artist, actor, and stunt coordinator Pat E.

Johnson (b. Dec. 31, 1939; d. Nov. 5, 2023) appeared in *Enter the Dragon* and went on to work on the live action *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* and *Mortal Kombat*. He also appeared in three Karate Kid movies.

Courtesy of Matthew B. Tepper: Astronaut Frank Borman (b. March 14, 1928; d. Nov. 7, 2023) died this week.

Media anniversary

On this date in 1966, the Vincent Price movie *Dr. Goldfoot and the Girl Bombs* was released in the United States. Italian made and co-starring Price and Fabian, it was a sequel to *Dr. Goldfoot and the Bikini Machine*.

Reading of the Minutes (Heath Row)

Susan Fox read the Condensed Cream of Menace for Nov. 2, 2023.

Additions and Corrections

Charles Lee Jackson II clarified that only "standard, regular" members will be able to vote in the LASFS board election. Cathy Johnson added that members must be paid up on their dues.

Auction to Name the Minutes

Christine Lipscomb bid \$5, won, and named them "Come Back Soon, Scribbles."

Call for Approval

Moved to accept as corrected, and approved.

Celebration of Patron Saints

Woody Dodge was celebrated and recognized by Matthew B. Tepper. Dodge received three cheers.

Matthew B, Tepper: Despite his name, he appeared in a commercial for Subarus and gave me some

helpful advice related to Subaru. He's a nice guy, charming, and helpful. I haven't seen him in years and hope he's all right.

Committee Reports

Programming (Eylat Poliner)

- Nov. 9: Meeting #4500 and Board of Directors election
- Nov. 16: History of the LASFS with historical LASFSans
- Nov. 23: Meeting at Loscon 49
- Dec. 7: Nominations for President
- Dec. 14: Procedural elections
- Dec. 28: Loscon Retrospective

Loscon 49 (Michelle Pincus): Loscon's on schedule. It's going to be fabulous.

Honor Guard (Charles Lee Jackson II)

The Spot of Honor is held by Loscon 49 thanks in part to some backwoods chicanery. It will be held immediately if you're speaking geologically.

Registrar (Eylat Poliner)

We have somebody new. Amy is from con ops and has worked with Loscon and Gallifrey One. I know who Amy is. She's a very nice person. Anita Nunez promised her that she wouldn't have to speak or show her face if she came tonight. Cathy Johnson remarked that we're happy to have her present.

Treasurer (Debra Levin and Elayne Pelz)

Debra Levin reminded members to pay their dues. She confirmed whether Crys Bowie had paid their dues for the month or week; Bowie's paid for the year! Levin also confirmed the dues status for Victor Khaze, Matt Mitchell, Anita Nunez, and Willard Stone—who had all paid monthly.

Board Report (Michelle Pincus)

The next board meeting is this Sunday, Nov. 12, 2023, at 11 a.m.

Old Business

Charles Lee Jackson II led the election for the soon-to-be-vacant seats on the corporate board for the LASFS. Last week we called for nominations, and we ended up with five nominees for the four seats. We'll proceed with the Dan Alderson plan to hold an election. I will describe a candidate, and we will raise our little pink hands for counting. Jackson further described the voting process and asked members to raise their physical hands, not their virtual Zoom hands—until asked—which scrambles his screen.

For the first seat, Elayne Pelz received 20 votes—including three proxy votes from Eylat

Poliner—and was re-elected to the board.

For the second seat, 17 members—including three proxies from Poliner—voted for Rob Powell, who was re-elected.

For the third seat, 14 members—including three Poliner proxies—voted for Christian B. McGuire, who was re-elected.

For the fourth seat, 14 members voted—including Poliner's three proxies—for Matthew B. Tepper, who was elected to serve on the board.

Those elected included McGuire, Pelz, Powell, and Tepper.

Cathy Johnson welcomed the new board members and thanked Smith for his years of board service. Members gave him a round of applause as an outgoing board member. Tepper also received a round of applause.

Jackson indicated that the new term begins in January. Johnson doubled everybody's salary.

Tepper was fined for a delightful joke about serving on the board for the Southern California Naturalist Association. Someone else also charged a fine.

New Business

None

Time-Bound Announcements

Nick Smith: The number of places to go for cool fannish films is increasing as of next week.

Dark Delicacies will host a signing Saturday for Jessica Hobbs's *The Witch and Other Tales of the American Gothic* and Colin Hinckley's *The Black Lord* on Saturday. On Sunday, they'll host a signing for the *Friday the 13th Part 3 Ultimate Cut* CD with composer Harry Manfredini.

The New Beverly Cinema will screen cartoons Saturday and *One Hundred and One Dalmatians* on Saturday and Sunday.

Quentin Tarantino's new Vista Theatre is opening next week; they missed the theater's 100th anniversary by just a few weeks.

The American Cinematheque returns soon to the Egyptian Theatre. Tickets to the Nov. 21 screening of *2001: A Space Odyssey* sold out immediately. *Vampire's Kiss*, *The Pit and the Pendulum*, and *The Time Machine* screen this weekend at the Los Feliz Theatre.

Vidiots remodeled the old Eagle Theater in Eagle Rock. This Saturday they'll screen *The Secret of NIMH* and *Ghost World*. *Spy Kids* screens Sunday.

The Landmark Nuart Theater will screen *Children of Men* on Friday and *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* on Saturday.

Eylat Poliner: Next week, we will celebrate meeting #4500, and we'll host a panel featuring Matthew B. Tepper, Craig Miller, and Charles Lee Jackson II to explore the history of the club.

Moments of Science

None

Regular Announcements

Charles Lee Jackson II will be signing his new book *Your Best Entertainment* at Loscon on Saturday. He will have some physical copies available, and he offers ebook autograph cards.

“Grok” was a clue on *Jeopardy!* recently.

Chris Marble: George Mulligan is getting stronger and might be able to take a day trip for Christmas.

Scott Beckstead successfully revived his Amiga 1000, the FrankenAmiga, which now has a Raspberry Pi as a processor. It's 1,000 times faster than the original.

Nick Smith commented that *Babylon 5's* special effects were done on an Amiga 2000.

Reviews

None

Miscellaneous

Cathy Johnson reminded members about the aftermeeting.

Call to Adjourn

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

Meeting #4501, Nov. 16, 2023

Call to Order

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

Hatchings and Dispatchings (Nick Smith)

Hatchings

Born in 1892, actor Richard Hale (b. Nov. 16, 1892; d. May 18, 1981) was best known for character roles in westerns, but his first fannish role was actually in 1945, in *A Thousand and One Nights*. He was in *One Step Beyond*, *The Girl from U.N.C.L.E.*, *The Invaders*, *Night Gallery*, and *Star Trek*, among others.

Burgess Meredith (b. Nov. 16, 1907; d. Sept. 9, 1997), born on this date in 1907, had an acting career that ran from the 1930s to 1996. You might remember him from the multiple *The Twilight Zone* episodes he did, but some folks forget that he was in a lot of other fannish stuff, ranging from the 1953 *Tales of*

Tomorrow series to being the narrator for a TV series about the life of a group of Neanderthals. His final role was as a voice actor in an sf/horror video game, but he was also the voice of Puff the Magic Dragon in two movies.

Actor Clu Gulager (b. Nov. 16, 1928; d. Aug. 5, 2022), born in 1928, was another one known more for westerns, but that's because he starred in one and was a longtime regular character in another. His role of Billy the Kid in the western series *The Tall Man* might be the only case of a network being hassled by Congress into canceling a western, because it portrayed Billy the Kid as being basically a hero. Anyway, after that show and *The Virginian*, he began to do character roles in horror movie sequels like *Return of the Living Dead* and *A Nightmare on Elm Street 2: Freddy's Revenge*, as well as TV guest shots on things like *Knight Rider* and *Automan*. He died locally just last year.

Author Robin McKinley (b. Nov. 16, 1952) was born on this date in 1952, and her writing career started in 1978, when she submitted a manuscript called *Beauty*, a retelling of the Beauty and the Beast fairy tale. The first publisher she sent it to loved it, and a couple of books later, she started winning awards, both for children's fiction and for fantasy in general. Last year she was named a Grand Master by the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers Association.

Finally, we come to the birth anniversary closest to this club, that of Milt Stevens (b. Nov. 16, 1942; d. Oct. 2, 2017). Milt was born in 1942, and joined the LASFS while still a teenager. By his late 20s, he was president of the club, and served on the Board of Directors for a number of years. He chaired what became the first Loscon, as well as the 1980 Westercon and co-chaired the 1984 Worldcon, among many other contributions to both fandom and to the LASFS. I will leave it at that, because I think we'll be hearing more about him later in the meeting.

Dispatchings

Sadly, we lost author Michael Bishop (b. Nov. 12, 1945; d. Nov. 13, 2023) on Monday, the day after his 78th birthday. He wrote or co-wrote around 30 novels and 150 shorter works of prose, as well as enough poetry to fill two books. Oddly, he was nominated for Hugo and Nebula awards all the time, but rarely won. In fact, the year after he won a Nebula for one of his novels, he had trouble selling the next book to a bigger publisher, so it was published by Arkham House with less than 3,600 copies printed. It took more than 30 years for a paperback edition of that book to come out.

Media anniversary

Normally I only list the first U.S. showing for a film, but this is a special case. On Nov. 16, 1961, audiences in Italy got to see a new movie, but an odd one. It was *Hercules in the Haunted World*, starring British bodybuilder Reg Park and in his only Hercules movie ever, Christopher Lee. The U.S. release was delayed for three years, and for some reason Christopher Lee's voice was redubbed by another actor. This U.S. release then inspired an opera in 2010, which Matthew B. Tepper might know about. It was called *Hercules vs. Vampires* and was performed by the Los Angeles Opera company here in 2015.

Reading of the Minutes (Heath Row)

Scribbles is still missing. Susan Fox reported that he hasn't had a chance to transcribe yet. We will continue to record, and he will catch up.

Additions and Corrections

None

Auction to Name the Minutes That Weren't Read

Gavin Claypool bid \$45, or 4,500 pennies, one for each meeting, won, and named them "4,500 down, 500 to go, to infinity and beyond"

Susan Fox indicated that meeting #5000 will occur June 9, 2033.

Call for Approval

None

Celebration of Patron Saints

Milt Stevens was celebrated and recognized by Maryann Canfield, Charles Lee Jackson II, Eylat Poliner, Nick Smith, and Matthew B. Tepper. Stevens received three cheers.

Eylat Poliner: Milt was a fun person to hang out with at the club. When we had a clubhouse, he gave us the furniture we all sat on and spent hours yapping and playing games on. He paid a lot of people to give him rides to doctor appointments or to his house from the clubhouse.

Nick Smith: He was one of two major fans who worked for Los Angeles Police Department at the time. He also chaired two of the best cons I've ever been to, Westercon 1980 and Worldcon 1984, which might still hold the record in terms of paid attendance. He was an incredibly organized person. He was a data analyst for the LAPD. He was very organized, skilled, and generous. He gave a bunch of money to the club in various ways and might be the second highest donor to the club in the saints ranking. He was really interesting to talk to and hang out with.

Charles Lee Jackson II: In the days when Ed

Buchman was publishing his weekly APA-L fanzine, I did a long string of covers for him featuring a brontosaurus, a toad, and human people. He was part of the Epitome of Evil, Ltd. He's a comic book character, and we all know that comic book characters never die. They just go into limbo until there's a new editor.

Matthew B. Tepper: I've said a number of really nice things about Milt over the years. He could always be counted on for reviews during the meeting of crazy movies, unexpectedly interesting books, and I always looked forward to those.

Maryann Canfield: Milt was a very interesting man to talk to, and I liked playing Oh Hell with him.

John Trimble was celebrated and recognized by Susan Fox, Cathy Johnson, Craig Miller, and Nick Smith. Trimble received three cheers.

Susan Fox: He was one of the early forces in the LASFS in the 1960s. He definitely changed my life. His and his wife's conventions are where I met all of you. He and his wife now live down in San Diego at the Chula Vista Veterans Home. His birthday is tomorrow.

Cathy Johnson: My introduction to fandom as a teenager was reading *On the Good Ship Enterprise* by Bjo Trimble. I met John at my very first and last edition of Equicon in 1978. That was my first step into fandom.

Craig Miller: John and Bjo together were very active in the LASFS dating back to the 1950s, when a lot of the activity centered around them. They were actively involved and kept the club going for a long time. Bjo gets a lot of press because she's a much more flamboyant personality than John. John is quieter, but he was very much involved in the fannish activities. He's a really good guy and has a wicked sense of humor. They were both very active in the Society for Creative Anachronism, also.

Fox: They were indeed, since the very beginning in the mid-1960s. They were Baron and Baroness of Angels in the 2000s. Call them your excellency.

Nick Smith: Trimble did the offset printing for the songbooks for the LA Filkharmonics. Along with Bjo, he was involved in an attempt at a semiprofessional magazine. Unfortunately, the funding fell apart after a few issues. Bjo was often the name on things even though John was doing a lot of the work.

Eylat Poliner was celebrated and recognized by Tad Daley, Susan Fox, Nola Frame-Gray, Cathy Johnson, Christine Lipscomb, Chris Marble, Matt Mitchell, Anita Nunez, Mark Poliner, Echo Skyhorse, and Matthew B. Tepper. Poliner received three cheers.

Chris Marble: She made chocolate for years and years and years. She'd prepare chocolate for events, as a business, and I still remember that fondly.

Echo Skyhorse: Eylat was one of the very first people to welcome me into fan-run conventions. She's adopted me, and she's become in a way my big sister. She's amazing.

Mark Poliner: Eylat has been my companion for the last 26-plus years, and it has been up and down, but she's been a wonderful person to know, to love, and she's been a wonderful mother for our daughter. She's been there for me when I've been down. I've been there for her when she's been down. Her one fault is not knowing how to say no. She's a wonderful person.

Matthew B. Tepper: In addition to the good things about Eylat, I will add that she's been a wonderful and supportive best friend to my wife since childhood. I treasure that friendship because it makes both of them happy.

Christsine Lipscomb: Eylat was the first person I had contact with in the membership. She made me feel so welcome. I appreciate all the hard work she's put into the club, which is so obvious.

Anita Nunez: I could talk about Eylat for half an hour, but we don't have that. I wouldn't stay in the club if it weren't for you. I might not be the sane human being who was able to raise my daughter if it weren't for you.

Matt Mitchell: One of the great things about coming back into the community was reconnecting with a lot of people, Eylat being at the top of the list. You were a good friend for a long time, and my late wife Mary Beth was a friend of yours as well.

Tad Daley: I remember that Eylat had some kind of role as a liaison to the guest of honor of the San Jose Worldcon, Spider Robinson. I saw you with him a lot, and I was envious. He seemed very happy. You were hanging out with Spider Robinson! (She was working at the autograph table.)

Nola Frame-Gray: Eylat is also an excellent writer. She did a series of postings for Facebook when she was in Israel during lockdown doing homework. Her postings were absolutely riveting.

Susan Fox: I probably would've quit in a huff without her. She's been studying peer counseling and even though I am not a duchess, she's been counseling me well.

Cathy Johnson: You're a terrific person. I count you among my dear friends, and I always appreciate you.

Committee Reports

Programming (Eylat Poliner)

- Nov. 23: Meeting at Loscon 49—it will not be

hybrid

- Dec. 7: Nominations for President
- Dec. 14: Procedural elections
- Dec. 28: Loscon Retrospective

Loscon 49 (Michelle Pincus): It's coming up. We're looking for volunteers to unload the truck at 10 a.m. Thursday. Spend Thanksgiving with us setting up the con and get an extra day of convention. I hope to see you all at Loscon.

Cathy Johnson: Next week's meeting will be at Loscon. It will not be a Zoom meeting.

Tad Daley recommended that we promote the LASFS more at Loscon so people become more aware of the club.

Honor Guard (Charles Lee Jackson II)

The Spot of Honor this month is held by Loscon 49. Next week, it'll have the Spot of Honor, but there won't be one because we won't be here in the Ethernet.

Registrar (Eylat Poliner)

We have two guests tonight. One is returning, Echo Skyhorse, a dear friend of mine. She'll be working in the green room at Loscon.

We also have a new guest, Stephen Judah, who heard about us from Simmie Noble Collins. He takes his writing pretty seriously. He appreciates science fiction and doesn't know anyone who appreciates science fiction. He lives an hour south of Austin, Texas, moving there a year and a half ago. Favorite authors include Isaac Asimov, Robert A. Heinlein, and Charles Sheffield. He's enjoying a lot of 19th century stuff right now though, like Alexandre Dumas's *The Count of Monte Cristo*, which he just finished. He's working through Miguel de Cervantes's *Don Quixote* and also recently finished Herman Melville's *Moby-Dick*.

Treasurer (Debra Levin and Elayne Pelz)

Elayne Pelz reminded members to pay their dues. We've got some people who owe their dues. The new year is creeping up on us, so cough up your \$135 for the next year. We got one more week, two more weeks of this month for the monthly dues.

Board Report (Michelle Pincus)

The next board meeting is Dec. 10, 2023, at 11 a.m.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Time-Bound Announcements

Tad Daley: *Interstellar* is showing at the Fine Arts Theatre Beverly Hills this weekend. (<https://fineartstheatrebh.com>)

Special Event: History of the LASFS with historical LASFSans

Eylat Poliner read a paragraph of introduction for the panel discussion, as well as brief biographical sketches of the panelists participating. We'll then kick off the discussion by returning to questions I sent them a while ago: "When you joined the club, what was it like? What year did you join? Who was famous at the time? What was going on around you?"

Today we have three panelists: Craig Miller (joined in 1968), Matthew B. Tepper (1969), and Charles Lee Jackson II (1967). Bill Ellern joined in the 1940s.

Jackson: In 1967, the club was meeting at the location known as the Hill on South St. Andrews Place about two blocks diagonally from the corner of Wilshire and Western. It was a big old house that had once been a mansion and had been divided up. Several LASFS members were living there, and the solarium had been given over to the LASFS library, which could fit on three bookshelves. I'd hear about the club, and Forrest J Ackerman was going to be at the meeting. So I contacted a friend, who's father drove us to the meeting.

I met Larry Niven and David McDaniel, who was in the middle of writing his *The Man from U.N.C.L.E.* paperbacks at the time. We became partners in crime and worked together for a long time on various projects. America was very interested in space at the time because of the Apollo missions. So science was a big deal in those days. The night that I was there, APA-L was distributed. It was APA-L #157, an anniversary issue with a wonderful cover featuring photographs of members over the years. The most notable face on that cover was Bruce Pelz.

The meeting was very informal. It was held in the sitting room of the mansion, and the socializing was going on in the drawing room across the hall. Matt McKagan and I were already on the edge of comic book fandom at the time, so I plunked down my dollar at the end of the meeting. I still have that membership card somewhere.

Miller: I was 13 years old, and I spent an afternoon with Ray Bradbury, who told me about the LASFS. I had to convince my mother to drive me to midtown LA. We were still at the Hill at that point and stayed there for another year. The LASFS was very much the same. Pelz was the procedural director, as we called the president then. Many of the same people were attending six to 10 months after Charlie joined.

I was 14 by the time I got to the LASFS. I was by far the youngest person there, but everyone treated me just like anyone else going to LASFS. Nobody treated me like, Who's That Kid? That made for a warm welcome, and I started attending as often as I could get rides.

In 1968, we were at war and the space program was going on. Charlie, it wasn't the LASFS gathering for the Apollo moon landing, it was Bjo and John Trimble who hosted a viewing party. Many LASFS members went there, but it wasn't an official LASFS activity. They had a huge house in mid-Wilshire at that time. Lots of people brought TVs so you could watch TV in different rooms.

The Hill was not an official name. It was just what people called it. It was a boarding house. People rented a room, and there was a communal dining room and kitchen. Then we moved to Tom Digby's apartment on the second floor not far from where the Hill had been. Prior to the Hill, we had been in a number of places mostly in the mid-Wilshire area.

Tepper: I joined in March 1969. We were indeed meeting in the home of Tom Digby, who had all sorts of weird decorations. There were two interesting clocks. One would move randomly, and the other was perfectly normal looking if you were living in the mirror universe. There was also a cuckoo clock. At an early meeting I was at, Jerry Pournelle stood up and gave a rip-snorting speech about how America should go into space and leave our mark there, and when he finished, that cuckoo went off.

Poliner: If the LASFS broke off from the Science Fiction League in the 1940s, when did we get our first clubhouse—and why?

Miller: The biggest supporter and drive behind the building fund was Bruce Pelz, though he was not the first who created it, which was Paul Turner. A lot of people thought the building fund was crazy. How could we ever raise enough money to build a building? Bruce was the big one who pushed it, so we could have a permanent home, meet regularly, put out the library, and have events other than meeting nights. The first clubhouse we moved into was on Ventura Boulevard in Studio City on the corner by Tujunga Avenue.

Tepper: That was the end of 1973.

Miller: There's a relatively famous photo of the first meeting and all the famed authors who came out for the meeting: Larry Niven, Jerry Pournelle, Harlan Ellison... there were a couple dozen. A.E. Van Vogt, I think? It's been a long time. Not all of them are as well known, but there were a lot of name authors.

Jackson: We'd already had the library for quite some time. That was a primary reason to have a

physical location. When we first walked into the place, it seemed so large, like your memories of your first childhood home. The nice thing about the clubhouse was that we had a meeting room, a library, a room for APA-L, and a kitchen.

Tepper: After we left Digby's home, we bounced around a couple of different places that we rented, one of which was the Philomathean Building in Santa Monica. Before that, we were at the Palms Playground Recreation Center for maybe one to two years. Miller set that up with letters between him and the powers that be.

Miller: We were there more than a year and a half. We got the space free of rent from the city, and we built their spook house, a walkthrough haunted house at least twice, maybe three times.

Tepper: By the time we were at the Philomathean Building, I'd gone on to college in San Francisco, so I missed most of our days at the clubhouse. Then I went to grad school in Minnesota and returned here in 1986.

Poliner: We've purchased the Burbank clubhouse, which was my first clubhouse. I joined in 1985 and fell in love with it.

Nola Frame-Gray joined the club on Ventura Boulevard. Michelle Pincus and Maryann Canfield both joined at the Burbank clubhouse.

Susan Fox: My mom had a brief foray into the world of real estate, and her first sale was getting the LASFS a clubhouse. It was twice as big as the previous clubhouse. It was two buildings, and it was wide open spaces.

Miller: The rear building was where we had the meetings and had the APA-L room. The first clubhouse could fit into that meeting room. In the front building we had socializing, a rudimentary area we called a kitchen, the library, and socializing rooms. There was a courtyard area between the two.

There was a lot that happened there. We spent a few weeks remodeling them, putting doors on the library, and knocking walls down in the back building... Jerry Pournelle was kind of gang bossing the remodeling efforts. Getting LASFS members to do manual labor with power tools isn't the safest thing to do.

Tepper: We had lots of interesting elections in those years. Elections back then were done using secret ballots even though we knew what everyone's handwriting looked like. There were many contested elections. I've seen less of that over the years. There was one instance where I showed up at the clubhouse and the entire meeting room had been rotated 90 degrees widdershins, or 270 degrees clockwise.

Jackson: By that time I'd carved out my niche in the club. Using all that extra space, I was able to do

videos before the meetings. At least three years in that period, we set up the LASFS Showcase to trick authors to come in.

Miller: I wouldn't put it quite that way. The authors would come in for maybe an hour talk, and then instead of the usual auction stuff, we'd auction off better stuff, and the authors might bring things in. You had a ticket for the day, there'd be a buffet, and it was kind of a mini-con fundraiser.

Jackson: At one of those events, maybe 1983-1984, Ackerman was present. I took him aside at one point and explained to him who I wanted as the fan guest of honor at the Loscon I was going to run. He replied, "Oh, you want me to help you find him."

Tepper: An award was given to Ackerman in 1952 as fan personality. Some time in the late 1980s when I was yoked to a girlfriend who I'd brought with me from Minneapolis, there were a lot of young people who used to show up at the club. That included yourself and a bouncy little redhead who was your best friend. She later got married, and I was in the wedding party. Years later, her husband was in an accident, and many years after that, said redhead returned to Los Angeles from Texas. We managed to hit it off 12 years ago. In 2013, Debra and I would get married. I never thought that this would happen to me. The LASFS introduced me to Debra, and that is one of the happiest things in my life.

Miller: I don't have a single memory that stands out. It's really that LASFS became a community, a family. So many of my friends I met through LASFS or by extension. I went to LASFS. I found out about conventions. I met people at conventions. I met my wife at a convention. I developed my career because of my involvement in fandom. It all spun out of the LASFS, getting involved in the activities, and the people I met there. Not all of the memories are good, but it's much more positive than negative.

Jackson: My time with the club has pretty much all been really swell, and partially because of meeting so many people who became lifelong friends. My most cherished memories of the LASFS that are not self-aggrandizing are the first couple of years with the club. I was 17, I was welcomed in, and I was treated like an actual human person. I fell in with people who were sf fans but also big comic book people. Over the years I had two serious girlfriends, one of whom turned out to be a really good girlfriend to have. Those early memories stand out the best.

Tad Daley: There were a lot of comments in the chat about how hard it was to get to meetings sometimes. But what about Hiroshima? Just imagine going to the club a day or two after Hiroshima and all the scientific minds who might have had something to

say. Also, does anyone know about the mythical visit of H.G. Wells to the LASFS?

Jackson: The club didn't start meeting weekly until 1940. Before then we met biweekly. The only story I ever heard about Wells was that Ackerman went to hear him speak and could do a pretty good impression of Wells.

Tepper: That's what I've heard. That got exaggerated into Wells attending the LASFS and talking to several members, but Ackerman at least went to one of Wells's talks.

Miller: During World War II, Ackerman would keep a meeting room open so visiting servicemen would have somewhere to go to meet other fans.

Jackson: That's how we got Len Moffatt.

Miller: An awful lot of people traveled through LA during the war and decided that they weren't going to go home.

Frame-Gray: One of the peculiarities of the North Hollywood clubhouse was that we didn't have a phone. But we did have a payphone. So we got very good at learning to listen for the payphone to ring.

Tepper: There was a phone in the library at the second clubhouse, but members couldn't use it for outgoing calls.

Moments of Science

None

Regular Announcements

None

Reviews

None

Miscellaneous

Christine Libscomb asked about traffic after the fire on the freeway.

Matthew B. Tepper indicated that his commute hasn't been affected because he doesn't use the 10.

Susan Fox: This afternoon, the governor and the mayor indicated the freeway would be open in time for Thanksgiving.

Craig Miller: The repairs will not be completed, but at least a few lanes will be open in both directions.

Cathy Johnson: It became a state emergency, and they got some federal money too.

Fox: It's not near the convention, so it won't really affect us.

Chris Marble will soon see the earliest living member soon, Don Fitch. Don Fitch first visited the club in 1948 or 1949. George Mulligan says hi. He's been recovering from COVID-19 for two years and has lost 100 pounds.

Charles Lee Jackson II: The sales of the physical edition of his book have not been as good as the digital version. He'll have copies of his new book available at Loscon.

Johnson reminded people about the aftermeeting.

Call to Adjourn

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

Meeting #4502, Nov. 23, 2023

Stunt Scribe: Susan Fox

Minutes recorded live at the Los Angeles Airport Marriott

Call to Order

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

Hatchings and Dispatchings (Nick Smith)

Hatchings

In 1887 on this date, William Henry Pratt was born, the son of Edward John Pratt Jr., the Deputy Commissioner of Customs Salt and Opium, Northern Division, Indian Salt Revenue Service, and his third wife, Eliza Sarah Millard. Why should you care? Well, by the time he was 22, he had taken up acting, and decided that he needed a stage name to go with his new career. The name he chose was Boris Karloff (b. Nov. 23, 1887; d. Feb. 2, 1969), and from his work in *Frankenstein* to his narration of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, he fascinated audiences for his entire 60 year acting career.

1898 saw the birth of Bess Flowers ((b. Nov. 23, 1898; d. July 28, 1984), and if you just said "Who?" well, that's the point. She became one of the busiest actresses in Hollywood because she was perfect as the woman needed to flesh out a scene without ever stealing it. In her career, which ran from 1923 to 1970, she had more than 1,000 roles, most of which never even spoke a line, even once there was sound in the movies. Alfred Hitchcock loved her work, and put her in his TV series several times, as well as his film *North by Northwest*. Her fannish roles were often in things like *I Married a Monster from Outer Space*, but her personal record was being cast for 14 different roles on the *Perry Mason* TV show. You'll see her in old episodes of the 1950s *Adventures of Superman* or in other films like *The Lost World*.

1908 saw the birth of Nelson S. Bond (b. Nov. 23, 1908; d. Nov. 6, 2006), a writer for the pulps as well as radio, television, and the stage, but he was also part of First Fandom, attending the first Worldcon. He was supposedly the one who convinced Isaac Asimov not

to respond so heatedly to letters of comment that disagreed with his own opinions about his stories.

Much more recently, actress Michelle Gomez (b. Nov. 23, 1966) has graced both movie and TV screens in fannish roles for a couple of decades, including on *Highlander: The Raven*, *Chilling Adventures of Sabrina*, *Gotham*, and the recent *Doom Patrol*. A lot of fans will remember her best from her run on the *Doctor Who* series as Missy, the female regeneration of the Master.

Dispatchings

Actor Joss Ackland (b. Feb. 29, 1928; d. Nov. 19, 2023) was very busy, with a career that began with stage roles at the age of 17, in 1945. His first fannish role was in a ghost movie in 1952, and his work in movies and television continued until his retirement after completing three film roles in 2014. Oddly, he is remembered in the U.S. as the villain in *Lethal Weapon 2*, but his career included a lot of horror work, as well as being in both a BBC adaptation of a sequel to *The Three Musketeers* and to the 1973 Richard Lester version of the original. IMDb counts 206 separate roles that he played.

Closer to the club, we also lost longtime fan and author Bill Ellern (b. Nov. 30, 1933; d. Nov. 18, 2023) last weekend, at the age of 89. Bill and his late wife Anne Morrel attended the club for many years, and Bill served on the LASFS board of directors until 2009. Bill's professional career was in the field of engineering in the aerospace field, but in the 1960s he got permission from E. E. "Doc" Smith to write a few new Lensman stories. Some of these ended up being serialized by Forry Ackerman as extra material in the American editions of *Perry Rhodan*.

Media Anniversary

On this date in 1963, *Doctor Who* aired on television for the first time. Its 60th anniversary is this year. In 2015, *The Expanse* premiered on TV. And the musical fantasy comedy *Just Imagine* hit the big screen in 1930. It bombed at the box office but was the first science fiction film to be nominated for an Oscar, for art direction.

Reading of the Minutes (Susan Fox)

Fox moved to delay such reading until next week. It was so moved, seconded, and voted, and the ayes had it.

Additions and corrections

None

Auction to Name the Minutes That Weren't Read

Eylat Poliner bid \$20 to not name the minutes. She

then proceeded not to.

Call for Approval

None

Celebration of Patron Saints

Jim Tanenbaum was celebrated and recognized by Susan Fox, Nola Frame-Gray, and Hare Hobbs.

Tanenbaum received three cheers—and an Emmy.

He was a film sound professional who worked on *Phantom of the Paradise* and *Avatar*, as well as a kind donor.

Committee Reports

Loscon 49 (Michille Pincus): Loscon 49 is this weekend! Don't forget the Falling Stars concert and astronomy panel. There will be a Loscon 50 party Friday and Saturday in Room 1746.

Programming (Eylat Poliner)

- Dec. 7: Nominations for President
- Dec. 14: Procedural elections
- Dec. 28: Loscon Retrospective

Registrar (Eylat Poliner)

We have two guests tonight. Sobek Meri Ra is attending for the first time. He's an aspiring chef and author of the book *Dirty Saints*. A *Doctor Who* fan, he's happy to be here.

We also welcomed John Spence, who has been helping in the Loscon game room. This is his first actual club meeting. He's a tech helper and a really nice guy.

Treasurer (Debra Levin and Elayne Pelz)

Elayne Pelz reminded members to pay their dues.

This is a dues-paying meeting, so pay your \$4, please.

Board Report (Michelle Pincus)

The next board meeting is Sunday, Dec. 10, at 11 a.m.

Old Business

If you can make calls to find a location for face-to-face meetings, please do so. Or contact Elayne Pelz with your recommendation, and she can make the call.

New Business

None

Special Event: The Big Auction

There was an auction. A record of the auction was kept, but discarded.

Time-Bound Announcements

None

Regular Announcements

Super secret Loscon logo pins are available to those who prepaid. Very few are left for sale at the information booth. If they sell out, you can put your name on a list for when we reorder.

Heide Nichols asked LASFSans to clear their trash from the room so we can use it for music in the morning. On Sunday morning, there will be a panel here on the topic of death.

Reviews

Nick Smith reports that *The Marvels* is a better sf movie than it is a comic book movie. The actor who plays Ms. Marvel really carries the whole thing; she is delightful.

Miscellaneous

Chris Marble visited George Mulligan.

Krystal Rains: This weekend only, Loscon 50 memberships are available for \$35.

Nick Smith: The LASFS will host a book sale at Loscon. It will include books from the Marty Cantor and other late members' estates.

Cathy Johnson: The aftermeeting will take place over the next three days! Enjoy Loscon 49.

Call to Adjourn

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

Quotes of Note

"Twelve-inch Captain Kirk..."

"In his dreams!"