

# Menace of the LASFS

July 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 #4472, April 27, 2023

Before the meeting, LASFS members talked about technical difficulties, auction logistics, songs about Dolores, the many Matthews in the world, *Schmigadoon*, and Santa Barbara.

## Call to Order

Cathy Johnson called the meeting to order at 8:02 p.m. We are on agenda light, and we are having a Big Auction. We brought our virtual wallets, and Zelle is our friend.

## Hatchings and Dispatchings (Nick Smith)

Susan Fox stood in for Nick Smith

### Hatchings

- Author Todd McCaffrey (b. April 27, 1956, as Todd Johnson)
- Actor Jenna Coleman (b. April 27, 1986), known for playing companion Clara Oswald on *Doctor Who*
- Musician Ace Frehley (b. April 27, 1951), guitarist for Kiss. He adopted the persona of the Spaceman, or Space Ace
- Musician and actor Lizzo (b. April 27, 1988, as Melissa Viviane Jefferson), a *Star Wars* fan who played the Duchess of Plazir-15 in *The Mandalorian*
- Actor Jack Klugman (b. April 27, 1922, d. Dec. 24, 2012), who appeared in *The Twilight Zone* and *The Outer Limits*
- Radio broadcaster and voice actor Casey Kasem (b. April 27, 1932, d. June 15, 2014), voice of Shaggy in *Scooby-Doo* and Robin in *Super Friends*

### Media anniversaries

National Support Teen Literature Day, National Tell a Story Day, and National Little Pampered Dog Day

## Reading of the Minutes (Heath Row)

Scribbles read the minutes for April 20, 2023.

## Additions and Corrections

Matthew B. Tepper was satisfied by the *Star Trek: Picard* finale specifically.

## Auction to Name the Minutes

Christian B. McGuire bid \$20, won, and named them “Thank You, John Mansfield.”

## Call for Approval

Moved to accept as corrected, and approved.

## Celebration of Patron Saints

Bill Warren was celebrated and recognized by Charles Lee Jackson II, Chris Marble, Christian B. McGuire, Matthew Mitchell, and Matthew B. Tepper. Warren received three cheers.

Christian B. McGuire: Bill was a man with many stories. He met and interacted with so many people from Hollywood and television. He could drop a yarn at the drop of a hat. You didn’t even need a hat. He sure could tell a tale.

Chris Marble: He knew many things and many people. Unfortunately, he never believed that anyone ever wanted to listen to him. I always enjoyed it.

Charles Lee Jackson II: Bill Warren, of course, was the author of *Keep Watching the Skies!*, which was full of facts and charming anecdotes about his youth and what the included films meant to him. Bill and I were friends as long as I was in the LASFS. I spoke to him on the phone, and he told me about the meetings. I went to a meeting that evening. Bill thought I was the same guy as a fan named Gregory R. Jackson Jr. who had fawned all over Forrest J Ackerman. When he told people I used to say I looked like Forry when he was young, I was flabbergasted.

Matthew B. Tepper: He had an enormous knowledge of sf movies, television, and fields related to sf. He also had phenomenal knowledge of everything that had to do with Nero Wolfe. When he heard that I was going to be doing a panel at the LASFS some years ago, Bill told me he had to be on that panel. He shared a lot about Nero Wolfe’s stuff. That was his last hurrah at a con. He died a few months later.

Matthew Mitchell: I didn’t know Bill Warren very well personally, but he co-authored a murder mystery with Alan Rothstein set at L.A.con II titled *Fandom Is a Way of Death*. It was very witty and a wonderful primer to LA-area fandom and the many personalities thereof.

Nick Smith was celebrated and recognized by Susan

Fox, Scribbles, Kevin Segall, Tepper, and J.P. Van Gordon. Smith received three cheers.

Kevin Segall: I haven't known Nick for very long, but I've enjoyed every conversation I've ever had with him.

Matthew B. Tepper: Nick is a delightful and charming person with a tremendous amount of knowledge and a great interest in sharing it. He is a former Caltech person, and he's helped make the LASFS so much fun. Even before he joined the LASFS, he was around LA fandom.

Susan Fox: He's a longtime member of the area music community, too, including the L.A. Filkharmonics.

Scribbles expressed appreciation for Smith's fanac as an apahack in LASFAPA and Alarums & Excursions.

J.P. Van Gordon: I remember Nick from area meetings and conventions. He is very knowledgeable. He has a good background in sf. He also has knowledge of other fields, as well.

### Committee Reports

Loscon 49 (Michelle Pincus): There's a staff meeting Saturday.

Programming (Eylat Poliner):

- May 11: Todd McCaffrey, author
- June 1: Nominations open for club president
- June 8: Nominations and election of all five procedural offices

### Honor Guard (Charles Lee Jackson II)

The Spot of Honor is held by SCIFI.radio. Next month is not this month. Eylat Poliner bid a Cantor (\$20), then bid \$25, then bid \$30. She won and dedicated the Spot of Honor to Loscon 49.

### Registrar (Eylat Poliner)

We have no guests.

### Treasurer (Debra Levin and Elayne Pelz)

Elayne Pelz reminded members to pay their dues, four times. Dues, pun fund fees, and donations can be rendered via Zelle or PayPal. Weekly dues are \$4. Monthly dues, at the first meeting of the month, are \$12.

### Board Report (Michelle Pincus)

There will be a special board meeting at 7 p.m. May 17 to discuss hotel options. The next official board meeting is June 11.

### Time-Bound Announcements

Rob Powell: Tickets for the Jet Propulsion Laboratory's Explore JPL open house this weekend

are no longer available.

Eylat Poliner: Thursday is May the Fourth be with you.

### Special Event: Auction

Christian B. McGuire: First and foremost, the auction is a fundraiser for the club. Please bid generously. If there are no reserve bids on an item, it starts at \$1. Raises should be a minimum of \$1. It's fine if nobody wants to bid on an item. Elayne Pelz will mail the items unless other arrangements are made, and the postage starts at \$4—postage is on top of the winning bid. Other arrangements can be made for picking up items, but only at Pelz's convenience. Please be patient with the auctioneer. Also, please don't use special LASFS bid amounts, (e.g. Cantor), at least not for the first auction.

- *Tron: Legacy—The Movie Storybook*: Susan Fox bid \$10, Zareh Gorjian bid \$15 and won
- *Barlowe's Guide to Extraterrestrials* first edition 1979: Kevin Segall bid \$10, Fox bid \$19.79, Segall bid \$21 and won
- *Star Trek Annual 1986*: Fox bid \$5, Eylat Poliner bid \$10 and won
- Nov. 29, 1969, issue of *Saturday Review*: No bids
- David McCallum, *Music: A Part of Me* LP: Fox said that she will digitize this for whomever wins it, Nola Frame-Gray bid \$5 and won
- Medium *Star Trek V* T-shirt: Poliner bid \$1, Michelle Pincus bid \$2, Poliner bid \$5 and won
- Disney 100 Years of Wonder anniversary travel mug: Matthew B. Tepper bid \$5 and won
- Camp Goofy canteen bottle from the 1992 Disney Family Picnic: Fox bid \$10 and won
- Disney *Home on the Range* bandana and pin from The El Capitan Theatre: Fox bid \$1 and won
- Walt Disney company picnic "Thank You for Volunteering" pen: Fox bid \$10 and won
- Disney Team key ring: Fox bid \$5 and won
- Four *Star Trek Generations* plastic cups with lids from Jack in the Box: Poliner bid \$10 and won
- Karl Lembke *Official Manual for Spice Cadets* cookbook from LACon IV in 2006: Scribbles bid \$25, Cathy Johnson bid \$30, Scribbles bid \$35 and won. Christian B. McGuire offered his mother's copy to Johnson for \$35, as well.

## Reviews

Eylat Poliner: *Star Trek: Picard* earned an “F— wow!”

## Miscellaneous

Matthew B. Tepper commented that George Scithers wrote Karl Wurf’s *To Serve Man: A Cookbook for People*.

Chris Marble reported that George Mulligan continues to improve. We’ll see if he gets to go home before he moves to another rehab place.

Cathy Johnson reminded people about the aftermeeting.

## Call to Adjourn

Christian B. McGuire so moved. That was seconded. The ayes had it.

## Meeting #4473, May 4, 2023

Before the meeting, LASFSans discussed technical difficulties, 3-D glasses, Ray Zone, and the traditional meeting start time.

## Call to Order

Cathy Johnson called the meeting to order at 8 p.m. “Speak loudly and carry a big Thor hammer,” J.P. Van Gordon said.

## Hatchings and Dispatchings (Nick Smith)

### Hatchings

- Actor Esmond Knight (b. May 4, 1906, d. Feb. 23, 1987): Character actor Esmond Knight was born on this date in 1906. His first movie role was in 1928, long before his roles in a wide range of stuff that included both *Doctor Who* and *Superman IV*. He was part of television history. While working for the BBC in the 1930s, he was one of the actors chosen to be in the pre-World War II television shows being created, including some 30-minute made-for-TV movies.
- Actor Pia Zadora (b. May 4, 1954): This is also the birthday of actress and singer Pia Zadora, who did a lot of odd movies, but her two fannish ones may have been her oddest. Critics remember *Voyage of the Rock Aliens* with scarcely repressed horror, but most people forgot that when she was only 10 years old, she had a role in her first film, which was *Santa Claus Conquers the Martians*.

### Dispatchings

- Fan, LASFSan, faned, and apahack Marty Cantor (b. April 7, 1935, d. April 29, 2023): When he was last here a couple of weeks ago,

you might have noticed that he didn’t stick around very long. He’d had some healthcare setbacks, and his doctor was dithering about whether to keep him at home or find a facility. When I last saw him Thursday, he was going to visit a facility Friday. He died Saturday. You might have known about Marty’s sf activities, but he was also a talented musician. He was active with Bay Area musicians, some of whom went pro, but Marty never tried to do so. He was just having fun. John Hertz and I are going through his paperwork because Marty had a living trust, but we need to go through it to make sure he didn’t do it fannishly, as he often did. There are also plans for some kind of memorial gathering. Barbara Gratz Harmon has offered up her home as a possible outdoor location, but Marty was also active in the game community through Paper Hero’s, so we’ll be talking there to see what might be able to be done.

- Eylat Poliner volunteered to help with the memorial service and can recommend a probate attorney if one is needed.
- Cathy Johnson called for a minute of silence, which we recognized.

### Media anniversary

- On this date in 1970, there was a special screening of a new film in New York City. It had the odd title of *Colossus: The Forbin Project*. The novel it was based on was just *Colossus* (by Dennis Feltham Jones), but there were already fairly recent films called *The Colossus of Rhodes*, *The Colossus of New York*, and *Colossus and the Amazon Queen*, and you know how movie titles have to be obvious and distinct, right? Anyway, the film ended up inspiring one of the funniest pranks on the Arpanet, forerunner to the Internet, in which an annoying computer operator at a certain east coast university had to ask for control of his computer back after he had annoyed certain Caltech students a little too much. Having your mainframe computer quote the one from the movie can be very interesting to deal with.
- May the Fourth: “May the Fourth Be With You” was only recognized by Disney as a real thing 10 years ago today.
  - Susan Fox: An official action was taken in the state of California in 2019. According to Syfy, “Execute

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 72 ... In a step forward for geeks everywhere, the California Legislature has officially recognized May the 4th as Star Wars Day, seemingly the first-ever governing body to do so. The resolution was brought forth by Assemblyman Tom Daly of the state's 69th district as a way to celebrate the opening of Galaxy's Edge at Disneyland later this month."

- Eylat Poliner: Carrie Fisher got her star on Hollywood Boulevard today.

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

Scribbles read the minutes for April 27, 2023.

### **Additions and Corrections**

Rob Powell clarified that tickets for Explore JPL hadn't sold out; they were free, but no longer available.

### **Auction to Name the Minutes**

Eylat Poliner bid \$5, \$10, \$15, won, and named them "I Had a \$15 Credit to Burn, so I Burned It."

### **Call for Approval**

Moved to accept as corrected, and approved.

### **Celebration of Patron Saints**

Larry Niven was celebrated and recognized by Nola Frame-Gray, Lee Grixit, Charles Lee Jackson II, Cathy Johnson, Chris Marble, Michelle Pincus, and Matthew B. Tepper. Niven received three cheers.

Chris Marble: He used to do a wonderful Irish coffee at Loscon, and it was appreciated by hundreds of fen over the years, I'm sure.

Nola Frame-Gray: The thing I remember most about Larry is that on some panel, somebody asked him a question, and with a twinkle in his eye, he said "That's a good question."

Matthew B. Tepper: I have enjoyed his writing for many years, and I have told him so. He was also the first sf pro I'd ever met at a convention, at FunCon in 1968.

Cathy Johnson: He might have been the first pro I met at a con, at Gallifrey One or Gallifrey One: The Sequel back in the day.

Lee Grixit: That you could walk into the LASFS clubhouse and meet someone like Larry Niven— whoa, a pro writer. Then he put me to work painting.

Charles Lee Jackson II: Even though he's a pro, he has a very fannish heart. He doesn't judge people. He welcomes people. If he and Fuzzy were having a

party, he'd invite people. Eventually it got to be so crowded and busy, it got so it wasn't practical any more. What else is Fuzzy gonna do but host a good party?

Michelle Pincus: He's very much a part of the marketing team. He considers Loscon his home convention.

Scribbles doesn't always get emails from pros. But he's received an email from Niven. One month, Scribbles sent out *De Profundis* without the attachment, accidentally. Niven emailed him back: "So where is it?"

### **Committee Reports**

Programming (Eylat Poliner):

- May 11: Todd McCaffrey, author
- June 1: Nominations open for club president
- June 8: Nominations and election of all five procedural offices

Loscon (Michelle Pincus): Loscon 49 just had a planning meeting. Not as many people showed up as I would like. We had a productive meeting. Loscon is on track.

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

The Honor Guard is in charge of the Spot of Honor. The Spot of Honor is held by Loscon 49, Enchanted Loscon. If you're not a member of Loscon or you don't expect to be one of the elite who will speak at Loscon, buy your damn memberships.

### **Registrar** (Eylat Poliner)

We have no guests tonight

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

Debra Levin reminded members to pay their dues. There is no Elayne Pelz. Actually, there is, but she's not here tonight. You still have to pay your dues.

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

### **Board Report** (Michelle Pincus)

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

### **Old Business**

Not any

### **New Business**

Not the slightest bit. "Yay for us not getting anything done. That's what fandom's all about!"

### **Time-Bound Announcements**

Nick Smith

- New Beverly Cinema screenings of *Psycho*,

*Psycho II*, and *Psycho III*

- Dark Delicacies signings with Tom Holland for two of his books and Peter H. Brothers for *Suspending My Disbelief*

### Moments of Science

James DeTar commented on an *Investor's Business Daily* article about the state of the space race. (<https://tinyurl.com/IBD-space-race>) He talked about the SpaceX rocket explosion, a Japanese spacecraft, Europe's launch to a moon of Jupiter, the value of the space industry, satellites in orbit, and space junk.

Lee Grixit reported on archeologists discovering 2,000-year-old gemstones lost by bathers at a Roman bathhouse in England. (<https://tinyurl.com/Roman-baths-gemstones>) Archeologists excavating a Roman bath house discovered the lost and found. At the bottom of a drain pipe or trough, they found a lot of carved itaglios and small carvings that had been lost from people's rings. They found so many you could probably make a small mosaic of them.

Matthew Mitchel remarked that it could be worse. They could have unearthed the vomitorium.

### Regular Announcements

Scribbles reminded LASFSans about the Original Renaissance Pleasure Faire (<https://renfair.com/socal>) and announced a USS Angeles (<https://ussangeles.org>) movie outing.

Chris Marble reported that George Mulligan continues to do well—and that the Los Angeles County Fair (<https://www.lacountyfair.com>) starts this weekend.

### Reviews

Nick Smith: The TV show *Quark* was ahead of its time, being about a space cleanup crew. It was on back in the 1970s, and only eight episodes were broadcast before it was canceled. Fans were outraged, because it was pretty good. Richard Benjamin was the star—and the captain of the cleanup ship.

Lee Grixit has been experimenting with the generative AI tool Poe. (<https://poe.com>) He asked it to write like Nero Wolfe, and it had him go to the scene of the crime. He asked it to write like Encyclopedia Brown, and he was an adult. Grixit also asked it to write a double dactyl, and one of the verses was about how hard it is to write a double dactyl. “When you ask it to write alternate history, it has trouble committing,” he said.

Matthew B. Tepper had Poe write sonnets, and the first sonnets were OK. Then it started writing 16-line sonnets and he couldn't get it back to writing 14-line sonnets. He suggests asking it to write a sestina, a very

tough poetic form.

Charles Lee Jackson II remarked on the *Hop Harrigan* and *Chick Carter, Detective* serials, as well as the movie *True Lies*. That movie is based on a movie based on a movie. It's science fictional because of the gadgets.

Cathy Johnson enjoyed the finale to *Star Trek: Picard*. She said it was fun and offered lots of good fan service.

### Miscellaneous

Chris Marble caught the common cold at CostumeCon.

Charles Lee Jackson II knows so much about Disneyland that he can help cast members find the hot corn stand.

Rob Powell reported that 36,000 people participated in the two-day Explore JPL event. (<https://tinyurl.com/Explore-JPL>)

Cathy Johnson reminded LASFSans about the aftermeeting.

### Call to Adjourn

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

### Quotes of Note

“All sciences point to yes”

Eylat Poliner: I still look like a Smurf.

Nick Smith: Nah, you're too tall for a Smurf.

Susan Fox: Too short of a Na'vi.

### Meeting #4474, May 11, 2023

Before the meeting, LASFSans discussed marshmallow shooters from *Star Trek V*, *Mystery Science Theater 3000*, *Highlander II*, *GalaxyQuest*, Westercon in the 1990s, the alternate version of *Star Trek IV*, Cathy Johnson's birthday (“Happy birthday, madam president,” said Matthew Mitchell, imitating Carol Channing imitating Marilyn Monroe.), *Victor Victoria*, Tiny Tim, and jazz while a dog barked.

### Call to Order

Tiptoeing through the tulips, Cathy Johnson called the meeting to order at 8 p.m. Fingers were crossed that guest Todd McCaffrey will show up.

### Hatchings and Dispatchings (Nick Smith)

Because we're on agenda light, I limited myself to just a couple of things.

### Hatchings

- Actor Doug McClure (b. May 11, 1935, d. Feb. 5, 1995) was mostly known for westerns

on television, but he also did some fannish work, including *The Twilight Zone*, *The Land That Time Forgot*, *At the Earth's Core*, *Warlords of the Deep*, *Automan*, and *Out of This World*.

- Heide Nichols mentioned physicist Richard Feynman (b. May 11, 1918, d. Feb. 15, 1988)
- Comedian and actor Foster Brooks (b. May 11, 1912, d. Dec. 20, 2001), who had a recurring role on *Mork & Mindy*

#### Media anniversary

You might think that Bela Lugosi and Tor Johnson only made one Ed Wood movie together. Four years before *Plan 9 from Outer Space*, they were both in *Bride of the Monster*. Today was its Hollywood premiere in 1955.

Charles Lee Jackson II indicated that *Bride of the Monster* is included in the LASFS recommended viewing list. “It does have the reputation of being better than *Plan 9 from Outer Space*, at least,” he said.

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

Scribbles read the minutes for May 4, 2023.

#### Additions and Corrections

Charles Lee Jackson II clarified the title of *Chick Carter, Detective*.

#### Auction to Name the Minutes

Dean Johnson bid \$7, won, and named them “Cathy’s Birthday Present.”

#### Call for Approval

Moved to accept as corrected, and approved.

#### Celebration of Patron Saints

Eylat Poliner explained that patron saints are people who give the club money, at least \$1,000, so we say nice things about them.

Bob Null was celebrated and recognized by Nola Frame-Gray, Lee Grixit, Charles Lee Jackson II, Cathy Johnson, and Eylat Poliner. Null received three cheers.

Cathy Johnson indicated he’s the once and future vice president when we get to his plane of existence.

Eylat Poliner: When he left the club, four people had to take over what he used to do. He was the janitor. He’d clean up. He was the property. Bob Null gave us much more than \$1,000. When we had a clubhouse, if I needed supplies, tables or chairs, Bob would open the clubhouse for me to pick it all up.

Lee Grixit: Certainly, he gave a thousand dollars in kind if you consider a janitor’s wages.

Johnson: Because he filled the soda machine, we

called him the soda fairy. One night he came in wearing wings and carrying a wand.

Charles Lee Jackson II: The soda fairy originally started off as the soda *ferry* because he was ferrying soda. When the spelling changed, Bob embraced it to his own amusement—and everyone else’s. He lived half a mile from the clubhouse, but he’d drive to pick me up and we’d drive all over, including to an Orange County video store that he really loved. He’d come out with \$400 in DVDs, and I’d come out with \$40. He literally had more money than he knew what to do with. He was a computer-fum-diddler and did all sorts of aerospace work. When he reached retirement age, his bosses asked him to come back as a contractor, which was more money and fewer hours. He said no thank you, and they needed to bring in about a dozen people to do what he did. He was quite a fellow. He vice chaired my Loscon in 1984. He did so much for the club. It took four people to replace him just in the jobs he was doing. It’d take an entire club to replace what he meant to us.

Johnson: Robert was his middle name, so he went by Bob in fandom. But in the real world, he used his first name, which was Merlin.

Nola Frame-Gray: He was very interested in stamps and coins. One night he was talking to us about the value of gold. He knew what it cost to go to San Francisco and come back in the distant past. He had the ability of being able to give information to those of us who didn’t have a traditional educational background without ever being condescending. I treasure him for that.

#### Committee Reports

Programming (Eylat Poliner):

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

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

The Spot of Honor is held by Loscon 49, Enchanted Loscon, to be held in November. We encourage all club members to come to Loscon, where you can meet the pros and laugh at them when they’re funny.

#### Registrar (Eylat Poliner)

Gina Risemerg submitted a new-member form. Eylat Poliner said, “You get three free meetings, after which it is \$10 to join and death does not release you. After joining, each meeting is \$4 each or \$12 a month (payable at the beginning of the month).” Gina is from Los Angeles and heard about the LASFS at a social gathering. She’s interested in reading and writing sf and enjoys sf, cosmic horror, and high fantasy. She’s a

literature fan, a gamer, and an aspiring pro. She's a lifelong sf fan. For the last few years, she's been working on longer-form writing, including novels. "I work for a tiny little company," she said.

Rachael Kuintzle is from Glendale and found the LASFS by Googling "science fiction writers in Los Angeles." She enjoys hard sf and optimistic sf. She's a student and a writer, and a recent postdoc at Caltech. She just defended her PhD last week. She served as editor in chief of Caltech's first sf anthology, *Inner Space & Outer Thoughts* (<https://amzn.to/3JGtBy7>), which was recently published. She's also a founding member of Caltech's creative writing club.

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

Elayne Pelz reminded members to pay their dues. If anybody needs to receive documentation of what they donated to the club for their 2022, email Pelz and she'll send you your amount.

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

#### **Board Report** (Michelle Pincus)

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

#### **Special Event:** Todd McCaffrey

"I've never met virtually with LASFS online. What questions do you have for me?"

Eylat Poliner suggested he do a reading.

McCaffrey's been writing a lot over the last decade. He's written at least a million words in the Pern universe. He's written about two million words since. He's also done a middle grade series titled *L.A. Witch*. "I loved writing middle grade," he said. "Its limitations bring some interesting freedom." He read an excerpt from the first *L.A. Witch* book, *Birthday*. He then read a portion of *Raw Space*, the first Canaris Rift book, kind of a space opera mash up. He also discussed middle-grade fiction, paranormal romance, and other topics.

Susan Fox: "Middle-grade fiction refers to books written for readers between the ages of 8 and 12, while young adult fiction refers to books written for readers roughly between the ages of 12 and 18."

Lee Grixit: "Harry Potter seems to be targeted toward readers close to the age Harry is in each." Grixit asked whether the crew sings "Wellerman" on the Sparkle? (They do not.)

Fox asked why the Harper Hall books aren't available on Kindle. McCaffrey shared some history about Anne McCaffrey's publishing in *Analog*, Virginia Kidd and the Virginia Kidd Agency, Beth Blish working at Athenaeum, the editors at the Del

Rey imprint, Ballantine's acquisition by Random House—and then Penguin—and the assignment of the subsidiary rights at Simon Schuster. The two series are licensed by two different publishing houses, and the contract had nothing in it addressing ebooks. "We've been trying to get that sorted out, but we're working with multiple agencies and companies," he said.

McCaffrey described writing as a conversation with the writers we've read: David Weber, Robert A. Heinlein, James Blish, and Anne McCaffrey, particularly the Tower and Hive series.

Alex Garganigo: You said writing middle grade frees you up. I would like to hear more.

McCaffrey: I've written teen, I've written YA. With middle grade, you have the freedom to have a much looser outline. You don't have to worry about subplots so much. You can do a lot more hand waving. Things to watch out for are if you want to go hot and steamy. This one, I had outlined in 2009 but life happened. I was just finishing up the Canaris Rift series, and I came across this outline. So I wrote it. There are seven others popping out of my head. They're not super long. You can do more stuff with middle grade because you can focus more on the plot and characters. You've got a younger voice to work with. You're dealing with characters who are just starting their lives. Young Adult lets you do much the same, but you can get a little more intimate and tighter with your characters in their heads.

Nola Frame-Gray: I'm having a heck of a time finding books on English grammar.

McCaffrey: recommended Strunk and White's *The Elements of Style* and *Self-Editing for Fiction Writers*. "The English language is my plaything, my clay, my sandbox. If I want to bend, fold, and mutilate it, I can do that. I don't know who the lords of grammar are."

Dean Johnson: How do you find a 12-year-old voice?

McCaffrey: That's the fun part about writing. I don't know how everybody else writes. I know how Todd writes, and I know a little bit about how mom writes. Holly's voice is very strong inside of me. One of the things I love about writing and reading is that we can find characters we want to read more about. We fall in love with them. They're such cool characters, we just want to be in their world. When we were working on *Dragon's Kin*, one of the characters refused to die.

J.P. Van Gordon suggested *The Chicago Manual of Style* and asked what Anne McCaffrey thinks of the recent Avatar film.

McCaffrey: Mom's not with us any more.

Susan Fox: There were people riding dragons in it.

McCaffrey: I think they could have done it back in

*The Empire Strikes Back* when they were on Dagobah. Some people did a stage adaptation of *Dragonsong* using fire lizards as puppets. You don't need CGI. You need the story. I've moved from being an advocate of film for *Dragonriders of Pern* to some sort of streaming series. There's a tendency for artists to go where they're most happy. Hopefully we'll see something happen. I think James Cameron did a wonderful job using 3-D in *Avatar*. With *The Way of Water*, you watch it for the beautiful colors. That's about it. We know he made money.

Van Gordon: I was thinking more about impression of the dragons.

McCaffrey: But they didn't impress the dragons. They plugged right into their heads. It was arguably derivative, but not so much that you could go sue in court. You take it as the homage it was and hope that people find the source material.

### Miscellaneous

Chris Marble deferred to Susan Fox.

Fox reported that Westercon has been canceled. Loscon 49 will host Westercon members, and the annual Westercon meeting will occur at Loscon.

Charles Lee Jackson II: Since the retirement of his friend who played Farley the Fiddler at Disneyland, Jackson goes to the back room of the Pioneer Mercantile in Disneyland Park to tell a joke that Farley told 14 times a day. On the network television program *Ghosts*, two of the ghosts told that very Farley joke right there on network TV. "I was thunder struck and instantly posted the news on Farley's page on Facebook," Jackson said. In the back room of the Mercantile, there's a giant statue of a buffalo. Farley would point at that statue and say, "Do you know what the buffalo would say when he dropped his child off at work?"

Matthew Mitchell reported that Gallifrey One is opening up hotel reservations tomorrow. (<https://www.gallifreyone.com/reservations>)

Cathy Johnson: The hotel block tends to fill up.

Johnson also reminded members about the aftermeeting.

### Call to Adjourn

Eylat Poliner so moved. That was seconded and fourthed, but not thirded. The ayes had it.

### Meeting #4475, May 18, 2023

"Don't smoke it. Use gummies." Chris Marble shared greetings from George Mulligan and Chuck Donahue. Elayne Pelz asked for Nola Frame-Gray's address and Tim Friedline offered his. Our president threw jazz hands.

### Call to Order

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

### Hatchings and Dispatchings (Nick Smith)

#### Hatchings

- Fan and apahack R-Laurraine Tutihasi (b. May 18, 1948): According to *File 770*, this is the 75th birthday of R-Laurraine Tutihasi, a longtime fan and fanzine writer, and a LASFS member now living in Oracle, Ariz. There was some discussion about what the R stands for. It's the initial of a secret Japanese name.
- Actor Andreas Katsoulis (b. May 18, 1946, d. Feb. 13, 2006): This is the anniversary of the birth of actor Andreas Katsulas, who had recurring roles on both *Babylon 5* and *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, but you might not remember that he was also in a few episodes of *Max Headroom* and at least one of *Alien Nation*, among other fannish shows.
- Author Fred Saberhagen (b. May 18, 1930, d. June 29, 2007): It is also the anniversary of the birth of author Fred Saberhagen. While his Berserker novels might be his best-known fannish works, my own favorites were his very unusual Dracula books, like *The Holmes-Dracula File*.
- Actor Michael Rogers (b. May 18, 1964): It's also the birthday of character actor Michael Rogers, who has had roles in almost every fannish TV show of this century, but who also starred in a big screen film that will be shown at the New Beverly this week, so don't fall asleep before the timebound announcements.
- Author Diane Duane (b. May 18, 1952): This is the birthday of author Diane Duane. She got her start as a writer after working as an assistant to David Gerrold, got married, and moved to Ireland. She kept writing, but never finished her Door series, sadly, as people kept giving her money to write other stuff. One of my great joys while working for a library was to hand her book *So You Want To Be a Wizard* to kids, and watch them get hooked on fantasy literature.

#### Dispatchings

- Film editor John Refua (b. 1964, d. May 17, 2023): We lost film editor John Refua, who had worked on a number of fannish films, including both *Avatar* movies. In fact, his work on the 2009 *Avatar* led to his only Oscar nomination. His television work ranged from



*Twin Peaks to Reno 911.*

#### Media anniversary

This is the anniversary of two legendarily awful fannish movies, Roger Corman's *War of the Satellites* and the Vincent Price horror-ish film *The Abominable Dr. Phibes*. It's even the date that the original *Battlestar Galactica* movie hit the big screen, but we sometimes overlook small-screen things that are connected to the club, and in 1962, May 18 saw the first screening of a *The Twilight Zone* episode with ties to the LASFS. It was "I Sing the Body Electric," based on a story by Ray Bradbury—and featuring a relative of Debra Levin.

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

Scribbles read the minutes for May 11, 2023.

#### Additions and Corrections

Nick Smith clarified the pronunciation of Feynman. Scribbles should've known better. Surely, he was joking.

#### Auction to Name the Minutes

Eylat Poliner bid \$5, won, and named them "F—Cancer."

#### Call for Approval

Moved to accept as written, if not read, and approved.

#### Celebration of Patron Saints

Eylat Poliner explained the LASFS patron saints for an attending guest. A patron saint is someone who has donated money to the club, and we honor them one night out of the year. The amount is \$1,000.

Tom Digby was celebrated and recognized by Nola Frame-Gray, Charles Lee Jackson II, Cathy Johnson, Chris Marble, Eylat Poliner, Nick Smith, and Matthew B. Tepper. Digby received three cheers—and a whole lot of bubbles.

Chris Marble: Bubbles was always a delight to talk to at the clubhouse. I enjoyed talking about pronunciation with him. Most of us last saw him at the San Jose Worldcon, where he was moving slowly.

Cathy Johnson: As far as we can tell, he's still among the living.

Eylat Poliner: He is a character. He has jewelry here. He has jewelry there. When I first met him as an 18-year-old girl, I was a little taken aback. He might still stun some young people today. He was very, very sweet, respectful, and kind.

Johnson: He definitely did the body piercings before it was cool.

Nick Smith: He was one of the strangest but most wonderful fannish poets. Some of his poetry was truly

bizarre. (He recommended the collection, *Along Fantasy Way*—<https://conchord.org/fantasyway>.) I didn't know you could make that out of foam rubber! The combination of the piercings and bubble blowing certainly got people's attention in San Jose and the Bay Area. Until a few years ago before COVID-19, he was attending the filk convention up there.

Nola Frame-Gray: Once a year, he would hold winter parties in his home. He was a devout pagan, and on top of his house was a star that proclaimed his religion, acted as a signpost, and convinced his neighbors that it was Christmas symbol. I met his friends, some of whom I wish I could meet again. One would procure Barbie dolls and give them shockingly short haircuts. He worked in computer programming.

Matthew B. Tepper: Many stories could be told about Digby. He liked to make strange machines. Some of those were clocks. When I first joined the club in 1969, the meetings were held at least for a few months in the building where he lived. One of the clocks on the wall would tell random time. The other was a cuckoo clock with a particularly loud cuckoo. That would go off at odd times during LASFS meetings. One time, Jerry Pournelle was giving an oration, and when he finished, we heard it: Cuckoo! His gadgets were as wonderful as he is.

Frame-Gray: He was a wonderful writer who often contributed to APA-L.

Charles Lee Jackson II: During that period when the club was meeting at Digby's place, the upper right corner of a quad made out of a mini-mansion, at one of the meetings at which we discussed the club's dues structure, the idea came up to prorate the membership fee. Bruce Pelz sat back and commented that only at Digby's place would someone who bought their life membership in November pay less than someone who did so in January.

#### Committee Reports

Programming (Eylat Poliner):

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

CLJII described how elections work and will do so again in the future.

Loscon (Eylat Poliner): Loscon will occur over Thanksgiving weekend. You can register at <https://loscon.org/49>. It's going to be fun. Peter Beagle will be our guest of honor.

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

Jackson described the Spot of Honor for an attending guest. The Spot of Honor is held by Loscon 49. We'll auction off next month next week.

**Registrar** (Eylat Poliner)

We have one guest. His name is Tim Friedline. “I work in information technology for a bank,” he said. “I’ve been reading science fiction for a long time. I’m really excited to join this group.” He learned about the group looking for book discussion groups and clubs.

Poliner commented on the dues. It costs \$10 to join, and death does not release you. You get three free meetings, and afterward we charge \$4. a week or \$12 a month.

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

Elayne Pelz reminded members to pay their dues. A couple of people need to pay their dues this week, so cough it up.

**Board Report** (Michelle Pincus)

Cathy Johnson: The upcoming board of directors meeting is the second Sunday in June at 11 a.m. Guests are welcome.

Susan Fox: The next board meeting date is June 11.

**Old Business**

Not anything

**New Business**

Zilch

**Time-Bound Announcements**

Nick Smith: The movie mentioned earlier is that they’re going to show the director’s cut of *Alien* Friday night at the New Beverly Cinema. Saturday night, they’re going to screen *Beyond the Black Rainbow* starring Michael Rogers. He had the one starring role.

American Cinematheque will screen *The Sword and the Sorcerer* at the Los Feliz Theatre on Saturday.

Dark Delicacies in Burbank is holding a signing May 20 for the DVD of a recently released movie, *Space Wars*. This signing will include the writer, the director, and several actors.

Eylat Poliner: The unofficial event for the Greater Angeleno Gourmet Society (GAGS) is canceled this Saturday because your host has schoolwork to do. It will resume in June.

Elayne Pelz pushed her cat away. She would like more of the desk.

**Regular Announcements**

Krystal Rains: Loscon is tabling at Strategicon’s Gamex. People who aren’t members can join for \$10 off at the gaming con.

Chris Marble: George Mulligan continues to improve. He caught a cold, so progress has been slow. Chuck Donahue sends greetings. I had lunch with him

last Saturday.

Cathy Johnson: Scott Beckstead on Facebook said he lost a toe recently. He had to have a toe removed. He’s in good spirits and is now walking. He’s now Scott of the Nine Toes.

**Reviews**

Nick Smith: I went to see *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3*. It was a very satisfying conclusion to the stories. It also drew on a lot of stuff from the comic books and got very little twisted. It’s a very good comic book movie—and a science fiction story.

Charles Lee Jackson II: I’d like to review the Los Angeles County Fair in Pomona, which I attended last Friday with Elayne Pelz and Sandy Cohen. It was in the middle of the afternoon and more lightly attended than 10 years ago. There were fewer vendors, but the area has adjusted itself to accommodate more carnival rides and food vendors that weren’t there before.

The competition judges displayed excellent taste and awarded four firsts and a second to the five items Elayne entered in various needlework competitions. The iced wine for the day must have been very good because they ran out of it before we got to the pavilion. I had my parasol with me. And I found it a little odd to be surrounded by people who were having fun, and no one stopped me for directions, which is what happens at Disneyland all the time.

Cathy Johnson: Patrick took me to the Original Renaissance Pleasure Faire for Mother’s Day. It was a bit of an odd thing to do on Mother’s Day, but it was fun. It was the first time we went to the jousting, and that was pretty keen. We didn’t get sunburned.

**Miscellaneous**

Nick Smith: Los Angeles County is still being very slow in figuring out how to open up Marty Cantor’s apartment so his attorney can access his trust and will. His healthcare worker thinks it’s on the kitchen table where it can’t be missed. John Hertz and I think the county is understaffed. I’ve talked to the Eaton collection, and they’re very interested in acquiring Marty’s early fanzine collection. It came up that there had been previous discussions about them holding on to some of our archival stuff. They’re interested in getting access to materials about the early days of fandom, and they have available staff.

Heide Nichols: I’m glad you enjoyed the Renaissance Pleasure Faire. If anyone remembers Agoura, you might be interested in knowing that next weekend, the Koroneburg Renaissance Festival opens. It’s in the Eastvale and Norco area west of the 15, south of the 60, and north of the 91. We’re an old festival-type village, have a whole bunch of guilds,

and great entertainment. We have food and vendors, but it's not a big commercial real estate thing. We have jousting, black powder, crafts and needlework, carpenters—and lots of fun. I'm a member of a guild there, and we'll be there through June. We're a barony in Germany.

Nick Smith: It's been a while, but when I went, it was a lot of fun.

Nichols: We've expanded, but instead of adding vendors, we've added guild areas, a castle, and games for kids.

Charles Lee Jackson II: If you remember the Schtroumpfs, the Belgian-French characters that were intended for everyone before they were Americanized as the Smurfs, they got a shout on *Jeopardy!* tonight.

Cathy Johnson reminded people about the aftermeeting.

### Call to Adjourn

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

### Quotes of Note

Chris Marble: Did Tom Digby write the snot vampire story?

Matthew B. Tepper: No, that was Barry Weissman. The title of Barry Weissman's story is "The Cure." He submitted it to *Dangerous Visions*, but Harlan Ellison rejected it, saying it was "too disgusting."

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### LASFS Auction Bids

Brought to you by the Committee to Gouge Money out of the LASFS (edited lightly and reprinted from *No Award* #5, March 1999)

**Background:** Years ago, when the thought of a clubhouse was merely a dream, the LASFS instituted a weekly auction. The purpose was to raise money for the building fund. Being the LASFS, we decided to call a spade a spade and term the auction a "Money Gouge." Thus was formed the Committee to Gouge Money out of the LASFS. The LASFS also turned the whole idea of an auction on its head, so the members who weren't bidding also enjoyed themselves. This developed into the madness you're about to read.

Herewith, a list of some of the most common bidding terms, meanings, and conventions. If you are a newcomer to the club, you will now have the advantage of being as confused as the regular attendees are.

**Officially Blank Items:** This started when Bill Rotsler started bringing in for auction review copies of

X-rated video tapes. (Rotsler made a part of his living by writing reviews of such things.) All things considered, we auctioned off the "officially blank" tapes only to those over the age of 18. (Years, not days.) Nowadays, other things at LASFS are often considered officially blank, and the phrase is not limited to the minds of those who run for LASFS office.

**Money Auction:** A member will often donate foreign or domestic currency, and members bid on it. That includes anything declared money by the audience (usually by bidding for it as a separate auction starting at the present bid). The real excitement is that the person who is second in the bidding contest also pays their bid. This type of auction is the only type where you can under bid the current bid. If someone donates a U.S. \$2 bill, and one person bids \$0.75, another bids \$1, and no one else bids, the \$1 bidder pays and gets the \$2 bill, but the fan bidding \$0.75 also pays—but gets nothing for the bid except the satisfaction of supporting the club.

Often, in order to protect their "investment" in their bids, bidders wind up at amounts higher than the value of that upon which they are bidding. Example: Bidder 1 is at \$1.95 and Bidder 2 is at \$1.75. Bidder 2 then bids \$2 and Bidder 1, wanting to at least get the bill and not "waste" his \$1.75, bids \$2.05. Bidder 2, with similar logic, then bids \$2.25. Sometimes this "logic" gets carried to ridiculous extremes.

**Side Auctions:** If a member chooses, they can bid to open or close the bidding. All that means is that if the bid is "closed" no further bidding can take place unless a new auction is started to reopen the bidding. In effect, the last bid is the winner. In the LASFS, being the LASFS, sometimes there are secondary (and even tertiary) side bids—"I bid to open the closed bid to open the bid"—the auctioneer often needs the memory of an elephant (which is why Bruce Pelz used to be our auctioneer). If the bid is "open," bidding on the original item can continue. Opening and closing the bidding can also take place on the first series of bids to open or close the bid. That can continue until it loses its humor value, stops making serious money, or has all the bidders so convulsed with laughter that they are not able to continue, whichever comes first.

**"A Dollar to Give it to...":** Sometimes, a bid will be conditional, which means that if something is done with the object being bid upon, then the bidder will pay for it. A conditional bid is usually to give it to someone or something, or fulfilling a condition (i.e., the next person through the door). The auctioneer will

normally play along with that as long as the conditional isn't illegal, immoral, or will result in lawsuits. Even those conditions can be open to auction.

**Scratch Bid:** If this bid is called for, and the bidder agrees, the auctioneer can bid the bidder up to a dollar over the previous bidder—in whatever minimum is currently accepted. That can lead to bidders bidding “against” themselves. This bid was named after a member who would often knowingly bid against himself. (Years before this particular bidder, there was another bidder who, every week, bid against himself in this manner. He left before the escalating procedure was developed.) Beware: In a money auction, you could end up with both ends of the stick. Welcome to the wonderful world of LASFS auctions!

**Cantor Bid:** This bid was named for one of the previous treasurers who always bid \$20 for a parking space. She did not own a car to park in it. She sometimes bid on a space even though she already had one or more of them.

#### **A Compendium of Some Bidding Amounts**

Burp = \$0.05  
Scratch = Raises in sequence up to \$1 above previous bid total  
Thorson = \$0.09  
One Bit = \$0.125  
Baker's Dozen = \$0.13  
Two Bits = \$0.25  
No Quarter or Null Quarter = \$0.30  
Three Bits or One Nibble = \$0.375  
The Answer = \$0.42  
Ook = \$0.50  
Double Nickel = \$0.55  
Commodore = \$0.64 (upgrade sends bid to next higher computer bid)  
Speed Limit = \$0.65  
Slobber = \$0.75  
Spirit or Trombones = \$0.76  
Oh, Max; Toss Him Out; or Toss the Bum Out = \$0.86  
Piano = \$0.88  
Feldon = \$0.99  
Drool = \$1  
Dalmatians or Hollywood Freeway = \$1.01  
Harbor Freeway = \$1.10  
Victorious Beast = \$1.11  
Simi Valley Freeway = \$1.18  
Ventura Freeway = \$1.34  
Gross = \$1.44  
North Hollywood Freeway = \$1.70

Glendale Freeway = \$2.0  
Pasadena Freeway = \$2.10  
Ballet, Locomotive, or Railroad Beast = \$2.22  
Older Computer = \$2.86  
Too Gross = \$2.88  
Half a Beast = \$3.33  
Old Computer = \$3.86 (upgrade sends bid to next higher computer bid)  
San Diego Freeway = \$4.05  
Three Gross = \$4.32  
Golfer's Beast = \$4.44  
Modern Computer = \$4.86 (upgrade sends bid to next higher computer bid)  
Golden State Freeway or Sebalis = \$5  
Polish Beast = \$5.55  
Pentium = \$5.87 (upgrade sends bid to next higher computer bid)  
Riverside Freeway = \$6.05  
Beast, The Beast, or Wholesale Beast = \$6.66  
San Gabriel Freeway = \$7.10  
Convenience Beast = \$7.11  
Gambler's or Lucky Beast = \$7.77  
Gourmand Beast = \$8.88  
Three German Virgins = \$9.99  
Pavarotti or Santa Monica Freeway = \$10 (a tenner)  
Berge's Beast = \$10.10  
Munsters Beast = \$13.13  
Enterprise = \$17.01  
Lost Moon = \$19.99  
Cantor = \$20  
Odyssey 1 = \$20.01  
Odyssey 2 = \$20.10  
Odyssey 3 = \$20.61  
Ancient Computer = \$80.88 (upgrade sends bid to next higher computer bid)  
Three Nibbles = One Byte = \$1,125  
Three Bytes = One Word = \$3,375  
Three Words = One Core = \$10,125  
Three Cores = One Tape = \$30,375  
Three Tapes = One Drum = \$91,125  
Three Drums = One Dump = \$273,375  
Three Dumps = One Domain = \$820,125  
Three Domains = One Network = \$2,460,375

**Important Final Note:** Jokes aside, auctions perform an important function for the LASFS. They help raise money to obtain a new clubhouse. We encourage you to have fun (within legal reason, or course). And, of course, to spend money. Lots and lots of money! Let the Gouge begin.