

Menace of the LASFS

November 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 #4490, Aug. 31, 2023

Before the meeting, members discussed going to Dragon Con, Yoda toilet bowls, the outdoor heat of Georgia, Walter Koenig, parking in Koenig’s neighborhood, his dog, jury duty, whether houses were Russian inventions, and how many small ice cream bars you might want to eat.

Call to Order

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

Hatchings and Dispatchings (Nick Smith)

Hatchings

Author Robert Adams (b. Aug. 31, 1933; d. Jan. 4, 1990) wrote the 18-volume Horseclans series.

Actor, comedian, writer, and musician Julie Brown (b. Aug. 31, 1958) had roles beyond *Earth Girls Are Easy*, including *Quantum Leap* and *Wizards of Waverly Place*.

Musician and actor Debbie Gibson’s (b. Aug. 31, 1970) first fannish role was a cameo in the first *Ghostbusters* movie. She was also in several sf movies and the show *Acting Dead*. That’s sort of a career dead end, though.

Director Marc Webb (b. Aug. 31, 1974) directed two Spider-Man movies—*The Amazing Spider-Man* and *The Amazing Spider-Man 2*—before becoming a producer. He’s worked on *Limitless* and *Just Beyond*.

Writer G. Willow Wilson (b. Aug. 31, 1982) helped make the modern *Ms. Marvel* a success, winning a Hugo. She also wrote several novels and the graphic novel *Cairo*.

Dispatchings

Director and producer Jamie Christopher (b. July 1, 1971; d. Aug. 29, 2023) usually served as second unit director on Harry Potter and Marvel movies. He also produced *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* and *Black Widow*.

Actor, writer, and comedian Arleen Sorkin (b. Oct.

14, 1955; d. Aug. 24, 2023) voiced Harley Quinn. She was a friend of Paul Dini, who created the animated Batman series. She appeared as Harley Quinn in what was supposed to be a one-time appearance. When the character was a surprise hit, she continued voicing her.

Musician Len Chandler (b. May 27, 1935; d. Aug. 28, 2023) was trained in classical piano, playing oboe, before picking up guitar and becoming a songwriter and folk singer. How did he end up on the radio in Pasadena? KTLA created a 15-minute segment called *The Credibility Gap* during the 1960s and hired people to perform the news however they wanted to. That led to *Spinal Tap* and a duo on *Laverne & Shirley*. Sadly, he wrote so many songs that most of them were never put onto records. He later taught people how to write songs. He was listened to by all the fen at Caltech and the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

Media anniversary

In 1990, American fen could finally see the 1984 animated version of Lensman from Japan. It’s based on the E.E. “Doc” Smith novel.

Reading of the Minutes (Heath Row)

Scribbles read the Condensed Cream of Menace for Aug. 24, 2023.

Additions and Corrections

None

Auction to Name the Minutes

Jim DeTar bid \$6, won, and named them “Natural People.”

Call for Approval

Moved to accept as read, and approved.

Celebration of Patron Saints

Allan Rothstein was celebrated and recognized by Charles Lee Jackson II and Matthew B. Tepper. Rothstein received three cheers.

Charles Lee Jackson: Allan Rothstein was someone whom I once described as a gentleman and an officer because he was in fact both those things. He did many thoughtful things for people over the years. When he retired, he received a pass for two people to go to Disneyland. He held on to this searching for the perfect date to take to the park. Failing that, he took me. While there, we were walking past a visitors center where they had a big sign saying “Change your one-day admission to a one-year admission.” He went in and discovered that he could pay the difference and upgrade. Shortly, he came to me, handed me a card and said, “Merry Christmas, happy birthday, this and next year.” That’s how I became a Passport holder.

Sadly he passed away and we were never able to go together again. But in his memory, I continue to go to Disneyland dozens of times a year.

Matthew B. Tepper: Allan did indeed do many wonderful things. In 2001, when I had a health problem and did not know whether I'd be able to afford my apartment, he took me into his home as a lodger. After that, my health improved completely and his got considerably worse. It was just so good to have a close friend around to share things with. When Allan was in perilous health, I would sometimes drive him around on errands. I'd take him to stores. One day on the way back home, I drove down a side street, and there was a yard sale in progress. One of the items on sale was a giant Mickey Mouse. I saw that, realized that Allan would want that, and sat there in the car while Allan got out, took his oxygen tank with him, rolled it ever so slowly behind him as he walked to the yard sale. The giant Mickey was handed over to Allan, and he returned to the car. I said to him, "How much?" He said, "I finally convinced her to take \$10 for it." "How much was she asking?" "\$5."

Matthew B. Tepper was celebrated and recognized by Charles Lee Jackson II, Debra Levin, Lynn Maners, Eylat Poliner, Tom Safer, and Scribbles. Tepper received three cheers.

Eylat Poliner: I've known Matthew since I joined the club at 18 years old. He befriended me way back then. I'm the reason he's connected with his wife, Debra. I blame myself for their union. Matthew is a musicologist, and he loves opera. He is a huge fan of Isaac Asimov and as far as I understand has all of his books. I'm blessed that he's in my life.

Charles Lee Jackson II: Matthew has been a friend of mine for so long that when I first met him he was a beardless boy and mere youth. I have a theory that given his love of both Groucho Marx and ducks that his mother must have watched *You Bet Your Life*. He still owes me dinner from his wedding.

Lynn Maners: Matthew is one of the few people in the world who enjoyed the very odd Bosnian music that I recorded in the 1980s.

Scribbles commented on Tepper's past activity as an apahack. I often encounter his writing in old apae and like to think I've gotten to know him a little bit better reading it, even if I wasn't able to woo him back for APA-L #3000. Scribbles also remarked that not being able to accept recent invitations to social gatherings held by Tepper should not be taken as disinterest. He looks forward to spending time with Tepper and his family.

Tom Safer: I really appreciate the music that we share together. We both appreciate classical music,

and you've come to many of my concerts. You also came to the burial of my mother in law. You're an all-around good guy.

Debra Levin: Mathew is a very nice person. He's a good beanie. My son is laughing at me. He has a propeller beanie. He got it at a Loscon. Presumably, it's the same kind as June Moffatt's. I enjoy spending time with him. He's knowledgeable about all sorts of things.

Committee Reports

Programming (Eylat Poliner)

- Sept. 7: Arlene Busby, on the Aerospace Legacy Foundation
- Sept. 14: Aldo Spadoni, on conceptual aerospace design in science fiction
- Sept. 28: David Raiklen, on the music of *Star Trek*
- Oct. 12: Forry Award nominations and vote
- Nov. 2: Board of Directors nominations
- Nov. 9: Meeting #4500 and Board of Directors election
- Nov. 16: History of the LASFS featuring longtime 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 49 is still on track and still going to be wonderful.

Honor Guard (Charles Lee Jackson II)

The Spot of Honor is held by the Los Angeles 48 Hour Film Project. Tomorrow, another month starts. By the next meeting, we will have a new spot holder.

Eylat Poliner bid \$20. Susan Fox bid \$25. Jim DeTar bid \$30. DeTar dedicated the Spot of Honor to whatever Poliner would like in the spot, which was Loscon 49.

Registrar (Eylat Poliner)

We do not have new guests. But we have some returning long-term members: Joyce Lloyd and Peggy Wu. Welcome back!

Treasurer (Debra Levin and Elayne Pelz)

Susan Fox reminded members to pay their dues.

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

Board Report (Michelle Pincus)

The next board meeting is Sept. 10 at 11 a.m. on this Zoom channel.

Old Business

None

New Business

Elayne Pelz contacted two commercial real estate agents. She also contacted and talked to the church, which was going to discuss our meeting there with their board. I'm afraid that that is going to be a no go because they have a meeting in the room we used to meet in on Thursdays that goes until 7 p.m., which means they're not out of there until 7:30 or 8 p.m. People might start looking around for other meeting places. The big announcement is that the LASFS is now richer by about \$27,000. I applied for a grant and received it from the Los Angeles County Economic Opportunity Program for Nonprofit Corporations. It has hit the bank account, and it has cleared. We might not have a building, but we have more money toward the building.

Time-Bound Announcements

Nick Smith: There is a writing group focusing on sf prose called Speculative Ink that meets in Little Tokyo every two weeks. They're looking for new members. Contact them through their Meetup link.

(<https://www.meetup.com/speculative-ink-critique-group-for-scifi-fantasy-writers>)

The New Beverly Cinema will screen *Howl's Moving Castle* and *Conan the Barbarian* this weekend.

Krystal Rains will be tabling at Strategicon this weekend. It starts tomorrow and runs through Monday. If you haven't been there, it's worth going to. (<https://www.strategicon.net>)

Moments of Science

Lynn Maners: Science is not just about demonstrating hypotheses, it's also about retractions. There's an interesting retraction this week about the Hopewell culture, which suddenly disappeared. They were an east coast mound builder culture, and they weren't really a unified culture but more of a trading and exchange network. The article that was retracted claimed that it disappeared because of a comet breaking up over eastern North America.

Unfortunately, the data didn't really add up. (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10468503>)

Jim DeTar: As you listen to this one, you'll understand why I named the minutes "Natural People." Scientists have created synthetic human embryos without using sperm or eggs, but stem cells, reported the *Guardian*. The embryonic structures do not have a beating heart or brain. The work raises

serious legal and ethical issues.

(<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2023/jun/14/synthetic-human-embryos-created-in-groundbreaking-advance>)

Tom Safer: From Today in Science (https://www.todayinsci.com/8/8_31.htm)

- Robert Hanbury Brown
- Robert F. Borkenstein
- Mary Putnam Jacobi
- Event: Sun-powered car and Powerama

Regular Announcements

Tom Safer: On Sept. 16, I will screen *Luca* at the Francis Howard Goldwyn Hollywood Regional Library. It's really worth seeing. It's a fun Disney film.

Chris Marble: George Mulligan has been on oxygen for a week. They don't know what happened, but he had a setback. Don Fitch is still alive. I plan to see him in the next two weeks.

Charles Lee Jackson II: I went back to school yesterday only to learn that I'd missed the first day of class, as had half of the rest of the class, because someone forgot to send an email.

Reviews

Charles Lee Jackson II: Some places are a bit more timey-wimey than other places. I was in Disneyland, and it's already Halloween season at Disneyland.

Nick Smith: I went to see a science fiction movie starring Ben Kingsley and Jane Curtin called *Jules*. Jane Curtin has a musical number in it in which she sings "Free Bird." It's about a UFO crashing in an elderly gentleman's backyard, and because of who he is, no one wants to believe that it happened. It's a remarkably strange movie. It's a science fiction movie. It has the strangest fuel source I've seen used in a science fiction movie. And the cast interacts in such strange versions of their younger selves.

Scribbles recently watched *Terror on Tour*. There's little fantastical in it; it focuses on a hard rock band that's a cross between Alice Cooper, Kiss, and Bob Ross; and he can't really recommend it. But the songs performed by The Names are amazing.

Dean Johnson reread Tracy Kidder's 1981 book *The Soul of a New Machine*, the story of the engineering team that got together to build the Data General Eclipse. Everything was pretty secret. It was pretty interesting, and the writer brought all of the science and nuance to that to a very accessible level. I hadn't read it in 30 years.

Cathy Johnson went to the Hollywood Forever Cemetery to see *Poltergeist*. If you're going to see a movie in a cemetery, *Poltergeist* is the way to go. It was a lot of fun. She also saw *Peter Pan Goes Wrong*

at the Ahmanson Theatre. I highly recommend it. They have about a month left. The troupe is the same troupe as the Goes Wrong series. They're extremely funny. Everything you could imagine going wrong in a play goes wrong.

Peter Santell read two Isaac Asimov works, *The End of Eternity* and the short story "Blind Alley," which dealt with politics. I was immediately thinking about current-day politics. I recommend both.

Matthew B. Tepper commented that "Blind Alley" first appeared in the March 1945 issue of *Astounding Science Fiction*. It's been collected and anthologized.

Jackson also recently had the opportunity to watch *Target Earth* starring Richard Denning based on a story by Paul W. Fairman. It's a story about a couple of people who wake up to find the city almost completely evacuated. It's been overrun by robots from the planet Venus. The story development is quite good, and the scenes of people walking through the empty streets of Los Angeles are very effective. It does fall down in the design of the robot, but dealing with the robots is very well handled.

Miscellaneous

Tom Safer: Next Thursday I'll be starting choir practice. I'll miss you all.

Tad Daley suggested that Safer quit choir and sing to us instead.

Charles Lee Jackson II: Last time I had an automobile, I used to go to a motion picture theater in Glendale. There was a blue space right in front of the box office. Every time I was at the theater, for more than a year, I would come out and there'd be a citation on my windshield. It was always the same officer. I drove around the block, to the courthouse, and showed them my ticket and placard. I ended up going to court, and I testified against the officer, who ended up being cited for abuse of authority.

Tim Friedline: I was listening to that sad story, so I had to offer a happier one. I've been working from home since before the pandemic. Now I have to go into the office. I got set up for parking, and I drive in. Instead of needing a key to let myself in, it said "Welcome, Tim Friedline," and it opened up. I've never been welcomed to a building before. And when I leave, it says, "Goodbye. Nice seeing you." It literally reads your license plate. That's how it knows whether you're supposed to go inside.

Cathy Johnson reminded members about the aftermeeting.

Barbara Gratz Harmon expressed interest in talking to Chris Marble after the meeting.

Call to Adjourn

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

Quotes of Note

Matthew B. Tepper: "Come and ride with me, Lucille, / In my merry Sunmobile..."

Meeting #4491, Sept. 7, 2023

Before the meeting, members spoke informally with Arlene Busby, president of the Aersospace Legacy Foundation. Discussion touched on her husband, James Busby; Wernher von Braun; unanswered emails; Loscon programming; board meetings; Peter Grainger; Simmie Noble Collins; and other topics.

Call to Order

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

Hatchings and Dispatchings (Nick Smith)

Hatchings

Author John William Polidori (b. Sept. 7, 1795; d. Aug. 24, 1821) was part of Lord Byron's circle of friends. Three years after Mary Shelly published *Frankenstein*, he published *The Vampire*. The publication damaged Polidori's brief career.

Fan and publisher Gerry de la Ree (b. Sept. 7, 1924; d. Jan. 2, 1993) published fanzines in the 1930s and 1940s and then collections of art by Virgil Finlay, Hannes Bok, and poetry by Clark Ashton Smith.

Actor and singer Mira Furlan (b. Sept. 7, 1955; d. Jan. 20, 2021) performed a role on *Babylon 5* and other fannish roles. She also did voice acting for the *Spider-Man* animated series and had a role in *Space Command*.

Filmmaker Alex Kurtzman (b. Sept 7, 1973) helped create four *Star Trek* spinoffs: *Star Trek—Discovery*, *Star Trek—Picard*, *Star Trek—Strange New Worlds*, and *Star Trek—Prodigy*. He wrote for *Hercules: The Legendary Journeys* and created *Fringe*.

Susan Fox mentioned a handful of others, including Queen Elizabeth I (1533), actor Toby Jones (Dream Lord in *Doctor Who*, Dr. Arnim Zola in Captain America movies and other Marvel Cinematic Universe shows, and Basil Shaw in *Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny*), comedian and actor Leslie Jones (*Saturday Night Live* and the 2016 *Ghostbusters*), actor Julie Kavner (1951, the voice of Marge Simpson from the beginning in 1987 on *The Tracey Ullman Show* as well as other voice roles such as Ma in *The Lion King 1 ½*), and actor Jonathan Majors (He Who Remains on *Lovecraft Country* and Kang the

Conqueror in the MCU, but not in *Loki*'s second season because he's implicated in those domestic violence charges. His next court date is Sept. 15.).

Dispatchings

Most of actor Gayle Hunnicutt's (b. Feb. 6, 1943; d. Aug. 31, 2023) memorable roles were horror or espionage. She was cast opposite Rock Hudson in the television adaptation of Ray Bradbury's *The Martian Chronicles*.

Musician and composer Gary Wright (b. April 26, 1943; d. Sept. 4, 2023) died at the age of 80. His song, "Dream Weaver" inspired *Nightmare on Elm Street*.

Media anniversary

This date 65 years ago was the premier of a movie written by Charles Beaumont based on a story by Ben Hecht. It was touched up by a writer for *The Three Stooges*. 1958's *Queen of Outer Space* starred Zsa Zsa Gabor and featured costuming by Edith Head.

Charles Lee Jackson II: Edith Head's costuming from *Forbidden Planet* was also used in *Queen of Outer Space*. Today is also the anniversary of the birth of my mother, who encouraged all my fannish interests.

Simmie Noble Collins: Beaumont was one of the first people to see her after she was born.

Susan Fox added that *True Blood* premiered on this date in 2008. Tomorrow's TV premieres are better: *Star Trek* and *That Girl* in 1966.

Reading of the Minutes (Heath Row)

Scribbles read the Condensed Cream of Menace for Aug. 31, 2023.

Additions and Corrections

Tad Daley had suggested that Safer quit choir and sing to us instead.

Auction to Name the Minutes

Lynn Maners bid \$5, won, and named them "Welcome, Arleen Busby and the Aerospace Legacy Foundation."

Call for Approval

Moved to accept as amended, and approved.

Celebration of Patron Saints

Greg Bilan was celebrated and recognized by Cathy Johnson, and Chris Marble. Bilan received three cheers—and a Klingon forehead.

Cathy Johnson: Greg was a fixture of the club who was with us for many years. He was a very hard worker and always willing to jump in and lend a hand when needed.

Chris Marble: The friendly Klingon often worked the dealers room at Loscon and was pretty darn reliable.

Emil Luwish was celebrated and recognized by Susan Fox, Charles Lee Jackson II, and Chris Marble. Luwish received three cheers.

Chris Marble indicated that Matthew B. Tepper usually speaks up for Emil Luwish.

Tepper never met him.

Susan Fox: He gave us money.

Charles Lee Jackson II: Did he give us money, or did his son give us money? It was so long ago that I don't remember.

Committee Reports

Loscon (Michelle Pincus): Loscon 49 is coming up. It's going to be amazing. So many things are coming up. It's going to be lots of fun.

Programming (Susan Fox for Eylat Poliner)

- Tonight's program: Arlene Busby, on the Aerospace Legacy Foundation.
- Sept. 14: Aldo Spadoni, on conceptual aerospace design in science fiction
- Sept. 28: David Raiklen, on the music of *Star Trek*
- Oct. 12: Forry Award nominations and vote
- Nov. 2: Board of Directors nominations
- Nov. 9: Meeting #4500 and Board of Directors election
- Nov. 16: History of the LASFS featuring longtime 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)

The Spot of Honor is held by Loscon 49.

Registrar (Eylat Poliner)

We have a guest tonight, Simmie Noble Collins. She introduced herself to the club. She honors her husband's memory by continuing their bookselling business.

Eylat Poliner indicated that she has three free meetings, then it is \$10 to join.

Collins is already a member, so she just needs to start paying dues again.

Treasurer (Debra Levin and Elayne Pelz)

Elayne Pelz reminded members to pay their dues.

Just because we got a grant doesn't mean we can't keep donating. Donate!

Board Report (Michelle Pincus)

The next board meeting is Sept. 10 at 11 a.m. on this Zoom channel.

Old Business

Elayne Pelz: The church has bombed out on us. We aren't going to be able to use it.

New Business

None

Time-Bound Announcements

Nick Smith: Dark Delicacies will hold a signing Saturday with Jonathan Maberry to feature three of his books. They represent science fiction, horror, and suspense and adventure.

The New Beverly Cinema is showing *Chicken Run* for its weekend matinee.

Matthew B. Tepper: *Chicken Run* is *The Great Escape* with buk-buk's.

Chris Marble caught COVID-19 but is better now. He's not visiting anyone for a while.

Charles Lee Jackson II: The Food Network Halloween cooking competition shows begin this weekend. It's Halloween.

Cathy Johnson: Halloween is starting earlier and earlier.

Special Event: Arlene Busby, on the Aerospace Legacy Foundation

Busby gave a presentation on the ALF, of which she's been president for seven years. She's been involved since 2013, when she became secretary. The organization concentrates on preserving the NASA site in Downey—and the Columbia Memorial Space Center. The Inspiration mockup is the first wooden prototype for the space shuttle. A new building will be built behind the current center to host various displays.

The membership includes engineers who worked on the Apollo and shuttle programs, as well as others, and enthusiasts. The ALF also partners with Oasis (<http://www.oasis-nss.org>), the local chapter of the National Space Society, and offers a speakers bureau for school and library programs. An active conrunner—Busby chaired Westercon 75 and runs programming for Loscon 49—she also spearheads the ALF's OuteRimCon, which will resume in 2024.

Eylat Poliner: What got Arlene into aerospace? Busby: She's always been interested in the space program since she was young. When she started dating Jim, she'd take him to Aerospace Legacy Foundation meetings. By absorption, I got involved. I was secretary for a number of years. Even when I was programming Loscon, I was always more interested in

the science stuff. It's a love of keeping the history alive. Jim, my husband, instilled a lot of this in me, as well, to keep focused on all things space related. We'd watch documentaries and raw footage of some of the missions. Jim gave me an outlet to talk about my interests. I still love sci-fi, don't get me wrong. I just love doing what I'm doing.

Poliner: As a child, when you looked out into space, what kept you going to where you are now. Was it the engineering, the missions, what? Busby: I deal with a lot of the engineers, and one of the things they brought to my attention is that a lot of people focus on the astronauts. Hardly anyone focuses on the engineers. I've always had an interest in the engineers. In the early days, there were no computers. Everything was a slide rule. I grill them on what they did, the projects they can talk about. It's fascinating to listen to them and the brain power in the room is quite amazing.

Matt Mitchell: Have you had much contact with the commercial space companies? Busby: We do know some people who work for SpaceX, but they never have any free time. Working engineers are really hard to reach. We do talk to other organizations like the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and Oasis.

Simmie Noble Collins: My father worked at Boeing in the 1960s. I grew up with the term aerospace and always knew it to refer to airplanes, not outer space. I googled it, and it combined both. Did that change? When did it change? Busby: Before North American Aviation became part of the Apollo program, they used to make planes for the war effort. All of that land down there is now a hospital and mall. They had their own airport to test their own planes. They'd been part of the plane industry for a long time.

Scribbles: Can you recommend any compelling portrayals of the aerospace industry? Busby: Jerry Pournelle's hard sf, because he worked in the industry.

Tad Daley connected Busby to a high school in Downey. He wrote a piece on the meaning of the Columbia disaster in *USA Today* in 2003.

Miscellaneous

Cathy Johnson reminded people about the aftermeeting.

Chris Marble: George Mulligan's physical therapy has started again. He's still on oxygen. Marble was waiting for his COVID-19 test results as he spoke, so to speak.

Johnson: Krystal Rains also recently contracted COVID-19.

Susan Fox encouraged people to get the new vaccination before Loscon.

Charles Lee Jackson II said three words to Busby: Arthur C. Clarke.

Susan Fox: Without Clarke, we might not actually be having this meeting. He was the first virtual guest at a Worldcon in 1977.

Call to Adjourn

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

Meeting #4492, Sept. 14, 2023

Before the meeting, members talked about ice cream, who *won't* chair the next Loscon, making ice cream, wasabi, garlic, breath mints, the cost of nitrogen, the *Los Angeles Times'* "death by chocolate" recipe, gift exchanges, and whether the president would attend. She did not.

Call to Order

Susan Fox called the meeting to order at 8:01 p.m.

Hatchings and Dispatchings (Nick Smith)

Hatchings

Actor and screenwriter Walter Koenig (b. Sept. 14, 1936) appeared on *Star Trek* and *Babylon 5*, as well as other fannish things including *The Starlost* and *Futurama*.

Writer and producer Bryan Woods (b. Sept. 14, 1984) co-wrote *The Quiet Place* and wrote and directed *65*.

British sf author Justin Richards (b. Sept. 14, 1961): If you don't read *Doctor Who* stuff, you've missed about half of his output.

Dispatchings

Manga artist Buichi Terasawa (b. March 30, 1955; d. Sept. 8, 2023) created the first manga created entirely using a computer. He was popular in France. Luc Besson is a fan.

Media anniversary

The Mysterious Island premiered in New Jersey on this date in 1929, starring Lionel Barrymore. Some say it's based on the Jules Verne novel, but it changed almost everything but the title and the presence of submarines. They even changed the name of Captain Nemo.

Charles Lee Jackson II: They just used his real name but got it wrong.

Reading of the Minutes (Heath Row)

Scribbles read the Condensed Cream of Menace for Sept. 7, 2023..

Additions and Corrections

Susan Fox clarified the date of the Worldcon at which Arthur C. Clarke appeared on video.

Charles Lee Jackson II clarified the use of Edith Head's costuming in a couple of films.

Auction to Name the Minutes

Eylat Poliner bid \$6, won, and named them "I Don't Know What to Call Them."

Call for Approval

Moved to accept as corrected, and approved.

Celebration of Patron Saints

Dale Hales was celebrated and recognized by Charles Lee Jackson II, Heide Nichols, Eylat Poliner, Nick Smith, and Matthew B. Tepper. Hales received three cheers.

Charles Lee Jackson II: Dale Hales was a childhood friend of mine. We went to elementary school together. After sixth grade, we separated because we went to different junior high schools. I didn't see him for a very long time. Then he found the LASFS by coming to the 1984 Loscon, which I chaired. He joined the club, was very helpful when he was around, and used to make spiced cider for parties and Halloween. He didn't get along with his father so much so that when his father died, he spent everything he inherited on other people.

Eylat Poliner: I'm also one of the recipients of one of Dale's random gifts. We weren't even close, and he gave me these gorgeous dragon wine glasses that I still have in the cabinet to this day. He was very generous. He was pissed off and getting even. But he was a good person.

Heide Nichols: I remember Dale Hales mostly in his royal Navy costume at Loscon. He was a huge fan and a really nice guy. He gave me a set of mugs from my grandmother's china set. He gave me those out of the blue, and I felt blessed by that. He was roommates with Joyce Sperling for many years. His nephew Jason was also a LASFSan.

Nick Smith: He was a really nice member of the gaming community that would meet at the LASFS clubhouse. He would cajole people into playing something that they weren't originally going to play. He didn't just go for the obvious things to do. He would find something interesting and get people to do it.

Matthew B. Tepper: After Allan Rothstein died, his family saw fit to donate a number of items Allan had owned to the club for auction. I remember the auction. Dale very happily bid on lots of items and made sure we got a lot of money out of it. I don't know how well

he knew Allan, but he certainly made the club glad to have him as a member—and made the memory of Allan nice, too.

Michael Thorsen was celebrated and recognized by Heide Nichols and Eylat Poliner. Thorsen received three cheers—and a starter set.

Eylat Poliner: I spent many hours playing mah-jongg with Michael at the clubhouse. He had multiple starter sets, and to this day Debra Levin and I say to each other, “No starter sets in the game.” He did a lot for the clubhouse when we had a building. He was the quartermaster, kept the soda machine full, and otherwise took care of the building. I miss Mike a lot. He was a good guy.

Heide Nichols: I also miss playing mah-jongg with Michael Thorsen. He was a wonderful soda master and the quartermaster I hope to be when I grow up. He was inspiring. He was nice to everyone. And he used to walk around taking pictures of people. I really miss the virtual masquerade.

Committee Reports

Programming (Eylat Poliner)

- Sept. 28: David Raiklen, on the music of *Star Trek*
- Oct. 12: Forry Award nominations and vote
- Nov. 2: Board of Directors nominations
- Nov. 9: Meeting #4500 and Board of Directors election
- Nov. 16: History of the LASFS featuring longtime 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)

The Spot of Honor is held by Loscon 49.

Registrar (Eylat Poliner)

We have three guests tonight. Sharon Goldstein came across the club’s list of books in 2002. She’s working on a mystery with sf overtones and is shopping a fantasy trilogy. She sings and is semi-retired. She’s also a *Jeopardy!* champion and once had dinner with Isaac Asimov. She and a friend wrote a female version of his “The Clone Song.”

Kathleen Madsen is part of the Society for Creative Anachronism. She and her husband Kirk met through the University of Maryland’s sf club. They enjoy science fiction, and she makes cheese.

Aldo Spadoni is our speaker.

Treasurer (Debra Levin and Elayne Pelz)

Susan Fox reminded members to pay their dues.

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

Board Report (Michelle Pincus)

The next board of directors meeting is Nov. 12 at 11 a.m. on this Zoom channel.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Time-Bound Announcements

Nick Smith: Dark Delicacies will host a Saturday signing for David J. Schow’s *The Outer Limits at 60* and a Sunday signing for John Shirley’s *SubOrbital 7*.

The New Beverly Cinema will show *The Powerpuff Girls Movie* and a double feature of *The Crow* and *The Crow: City of Angels* on Saturday. On Monday, they’ll screen *Spider Baby* and *The Incredibly Strange Creatures Who Stopped Living and Became Mixed-Up Zombies!!?*

Charles Lee Jackson II: *The Power Puff Girl Movie* is very good.

Smith: The Nuart Theatre is showing *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* again on some Saturdays. Tomorrow night, they’ll screen the final cut of *Blade Runner*.

Special Event: Aldo Spadoni, on conceptual aerospace design in science fiction

Spadoni gave a presentation to LASFS members about engineering and art, aerospace and entertainment, and some of his recent projects. The last time he spoke to us was in 2014, when he talked about his career designing spacecraft, and in 2013, when he spoke about his work with Larry Niven. He first met Niven in the 1990s, drew spaceships from the Larry Niven Universe, including the Lenin, the Motie Embassy Ship, and the Skydiver. He also worked in video game development for a Larry Niven project, designing an ARM Battlepod and an asteroid mining rig.

A lifelong space cadet, Spadoni shared early memories of John Glenn in 1962, taught himself to draw with color pencils, designed spacecraft interiors and exteriors, and learned how to paint with airbrush and watercolors. Spadoni has served as the president of the International Association of Astronomical Artists (<https://iaaa.org>), consulted on their semiannual magazine *Pulsar*, published the book *The*

Beauty of Space Art and assisted with *Astronomy* magazine's special July 2022 issue.

An engineering graduate from MIT, Spadoni worked for Hughes, TRW, and Northrop Grumman before retiring about 10 years ago. He now focuses on blending engineering and artwork with a small company called Aerospace Imagineering. He also started the Engineering Visualization Resource to work with engineering teams to animate CAD models that show how vehicle concepts might work. The real challenge was visualizing complex networks. "I've been doing the exact same kind of drawings for half a century. But now I get paid."

His work has included jobs for Hot Wheels, Estes, video game developers, and consulting for Hollywood. He's worked on a dozen movies, including *True Lies*, *Apollo 13*, *Titanic*, *Supernova*, *Stealth*, and *Iron Man*. Spadoni also walked through several examples of artistic concepts focusing on mission-driven design, cruise ships and skyscrapers, vanity-driven design and helmet lights. His current work focuses on Jeffrey Morris's FutureDude Entertainment (<https://futuredude.com>) and the movie project *Persephone*.

LASFS members asked questions about the role of a technical adviser, amateurs critiquing the accuracy of his artwork, and how changes in staff can affect ongoing projects.

It's traditional in Hollywood for science fiction movie producers to hire a technical adviser and then not listen to them. Have you experienced that? Spadoni: A few of the movies I worked on, they were clearly just checking off the box. I got paid, so I can't complain.

Lee Grixit: Have you ever run into a flat earther or moon landing denier who tried to tell you why your drawing is wrong? Spadoni: I've been blessed in that regard. Most of the people I deal with, we just get together to make fun of those folks.

Charles Lee Jackson II: You might recall Universal TV's *Buck Rogers in the 25th Century* TV series. When it was in development, it was a Leslie Stephens project. He had hired David Gerrold. He reached out to his sf writing friends saying pitch me stories. When Stephens was out, the guy who came in said we don't want any of those sf writers. Spadoni: No matter what industry you're in, the money people control everything.

Moments of Science

Nick Smith: There's a study being done about birds and bird songs. Female birds tend to choose mates that have elaborate songs. Birds who can sing elaborate songs and calls have a higher IQ. Female birds are

choosing smarter mates.

Call to Adjourn

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

Meeting #4493, Sept. 21, 2023

Before the meeting, members of LASFS discussed the music of the Final Fantasy series, orchestral music as a gateway to classical music, Harry Partch's "And On The Seventh Day Petals Fell In Petaluma," Dr. Demento, Ian Whitcomb, Matthew B. Tepper's upcoming birthday, his youthful nature, whether he's old enough to know better, when he plans to retire, and other topics.

Call to Order

Susan Fox called the meeting to order at 8:01 p.m.

Hatchings and Dispatchings (Nick Smith)

Hatchings

Author H.G. Wells (b. 1866; d. Aug. 13, 1946) was born on this date. His novels and short stories have inspired more than 140 movies and TV series. George Melies's *A Trip to the Moon* was even a spoof of one of his stories.

The work of animator, director and painter Chuck Jones (b. 1912; d. Feb. 22, 2002) on Looney Tunes earned him three Oscars, and he received an award for his body of work.

Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In made actor, comedian, and poet Henry Gibson (b. 1935; d. Sept. 14, 2009) famous, but he did a lot of fannish work. His last role was on a show with William Shatner. He was one of the judges on *Boston Legal*.

Actor and comedian Bill Murray (b. Sept. 21, 1950) wasn't just in *Ghostbusters* and *Groundhog Day*. He's also a Shakespearean actor.

Author Stephen King (b. Sept. 21, 1947) once wrote an entire fantasy novel, *Eyes of the Dragon*, to prove he could write something other than horror. He once gave a talk at the Pasadena Library and then wrote a scary story about the library police and what they could get away with.

Matthew B. Tepper: His *Fairy Tale* was published last year. It was apparently his COVID-19 novel. This guy can really write!

Smith: *Eyes of the Dragon* is a really weird fantasy that will inspire you to always have a napkin on your lap when eating.

Dispatchings

Today's *File 770* included a tribute to one of the

fannish costumers who died a couple of months ago. Costumer Deborah K. Jones died July 8, 2023.

Susan Fox added that cartoonist Joe Matt (b. Sept. 3, 1963; d. Sept. 18, 2023) died at the age of 60 of an apparent heart attack.

Media anniversary

This is the best television series I have ever encountered where Death Will Not Release You comes into play. On this date in 1969, *Randall and Hopkirk (Deceased)* first aired on television. The series was brilliantly weird. If you've never seen it, I suggest trying to find an episode. It didn't last as a series for more than a couple of seasons. It was outstanding.

Susan Fox reported that it's available on Prime Video.

Reading of the Minutes (Heath Row)

Scribbles read the Condensed Cream of Menace for Sept. 14, 2023.

Additions and Corrections

None

Auction to Name the Minutes

Eylat Poliner bid \$5, won, and named them "Thank You, Heath, for Doing a Great Job."

Call for Approval

Moved to accept as read, and approved.

Celebration of Patron Saints

Karl Lembke was celebrated and recognized by Susan Fox, Chris Marble, Eylat Poliner, and Scribbles. Lembke received three cheers—and a chocolate fountain.

Susan Fox: He was our intermittent scribe and chairman of the board for 21 years. His administration could buy its own drinks. He died about a year and a half ago.

Eylat Poliner: I'm the executor of his estate, and we're still going strong on it. It can take a long time. He worked in hospitality for more than 20 years. I trained him. We started him off at Marcia Minsky's Loscon as the second for the staff lounge. He was a mah-jongg player. He was a good person. His politics were ever so wrong, but he was still a good person. He was a platelets donor more than 1,000 times for the Red Cross. If you can donate, they could use your blood and your platelets. In general, he was a sweet person. If you needed help, he would help. I can't tell you the number of times we met for Gallifrey One and Loscon, loaded his van with sodas, and drove it to the storage unit. We'd do that at 9 o'clock on a weeknight

because the sale was going to end the next day. I miss him quite often. I want to text him about Loscon hospitality, but the only person I can text is myself.

Scribbles mentioned Lembke's long-running contributions to APA-L.

Poliner: He had a storage unit, also. It was the second unit for Loscon's storage unit. The only things he had in it was Loscon hospitality stuff.

Susan Fox: Does anyone want a chocolate fountain?

Chris Marble: One year, that fountain exploded everywhere, spraying chocolate in a three and a half foot radius. It wasn't the right thickness.

Fox: He was a major giver to the club in terms of life and hours.

Committee Reports

Programming (Eylat Poliner)

- Sept. 28: David Raiklen, on the music of *Star Trek*
- Oct. 12: Forry Award nominations and vote
- Nov. 2: Board of Directors nominations
- Nov. 9: Meeting #4500 and Board of Directors election
- Nov. 16: History of the LASFS featuring longtime LASFSans
- Nov. 23: Meeting at Loscon 49
- Dec. 7: Nominations for president
- Dec. 14: Procedural elections
- Dec. 28: Loscon retrospective

Poliner will not serve in her current roles next year. She will stay on for programming until replaced.

Susan Fox indicated the LASFS is looking for volunteers and candidates.

Honor Guard (Charles Lee Jackson II)

The Spot of Honor is held by Loscon 49.

Registrar (Eylat Poliner)

We don't have any guests tonight.

Treasurer (Debra Levin and Elayne Pelz)

Elayne Pelz reminded members to pay their dues. There's only one person tonight who needs to pay their dues.

Dues, pun fund fees, and donations can be rendered via Zelle or PayPal to payment@lasfs.org. Weekly dues are \$4.

Board Report (Michelle Pincus)

The next board of directors meeting is Nov. 12 at 11 a.m. on this Zoom channel. We're going to give October a miss.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Time-Bound Announcements

Nick Smith: There's a very special announcement first. The Octavia's Bookshelf bookstore, which moved next door because they needed more space, will host a book discussion meeting this weekend, *The Daughter of Doctor Moreau* by Silvia Moreno-Garcia. It's a retelling of H.G. Wells's *The Island of Doctor Moreau*.

Dark Delicacies is hosting a signing Saturday with Brad Sykes for *Neon Nightmares: L.A. Thrillers of the 1980s*.

The New Beverly Cinema will screen *DuckTales the Movie: Treasure of the Lost Lamp*.

Landmark's Nuart Theatre will screen *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* on Saturday night and *Blade Runner 2049* on Friday.

The Los Feliz Theatre will screen *Who Framed Roger Rabbit* on Saturday

Scribbles won't be here next week. Please record the meeting.

Charles Lee Jackson II: Tomorrow night at 11:49 p.m., CLJII's Hallowe'en Haunts, Highlights, and High-jinks will open on Facebook for a new season of what we like to call spooky fun. It will run until Nov. 1. It's a Facebook page, and if you like Halloween, it's a good place to go. There will be new stuff every day. (<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064562504969>)

Moments of Science

Nick Smith: Since our archaeologist is not here, a strange thing has come up in anthropology and archaeology: the world's oldest known wooden structure. If wood has been soaked in cold water that's been really long existing, you can identify it. This piece has been in running water for millenia. The age of the structure has been estimated to be 480,000 years old, which means pre-Homo sapiens building with woven wood. So far, all they've found is the structure, but they're also searching for tools and fossils nearby. This pushes things back a long way because the material was submerged for all that time. (<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/logs-evidence-oldest-wood-structure>)

Regular Announcements

Chris Marble: I took Paula Green in for her second cataract surgery today and it seemed to go well.

George Mulligan is still on oxygen. If he's off oxygen, he's pretty non-functional. The chances of him making it home this year are minimal. He's been in bed since Jan. 1, 2022.

Nick Smith informed members that Suntup Editions is publishing Peter Beagle's *The Last Unicorn* in three different limited editions. (<https://suntup.press>) The books go on sale this Saturday. They only expect the regular limited edition to survive past that day.

Reviews

Charles Lee Jackson saw a movie literally minutes before the meeting. It's not a picture I haven't seen before, but I haven't seen it this century: *Invasion, U.S.A.* It's a story about a bunch of people sitting together in a bar, bitching and moaning about the government getting in their way. A character named Mr. Ohman tries to persuade them of the error of their ways, but before he can do that, the Soviets invade. It uses an incredible amount of stock footage. It was a four-day shoot with several sets, but it was not a difficult film to make. It is very cheap but surprisingly effective if you just go with the flow. It's available on YouTube and runs a little over an hour.

Eylat Poliner: I would like to review *Ahsoka*, the new Star Wars. I very much enjoyed it. I felt like I was watching the original episodes 4, 5, and 6. If you haven't seen it, I'm only two episodes in, and if you're a Star Wars fan, you'll definitely enjoy this one.

Nick Smith: I just finished reading Silvia Moreno-Garcia's novel *The Daughter of Doctor Moreau*. It's a very interesting retelling of the H.G. Wells story because it's told from a different point of view. It's not being politically correct, it's being culturally interesting. It's set in the Yucatan. I found that to be fascinating because she made it work historically.

The bookstore that recently expanded focuses on authors overlooked in our genres. They needed more floor space for books, signings, and events. They moved next door to a bigger store. That's almost unheard of for a sf bookstore. She kept selling out of Octavia Butler books every time she restocked them.

I also watched *Space Probe Taurus*. It is peculiarly written. One entire segment of the film seems to be there only to make the film longer because it has nothing to do with the rest of the movie. The writing is painfully bad. The acting is better than the writing. And the special effects are almost nonexistent. I can't honestly recommend it except one of those things you watch because you're astonished it was actually released. It's on YouTube and I couldn't not finish watching it.

Nola Frame-Gray: I've been watching classic *Star Trek* on Pluto. The special effects are absolutely gorgeous. They were a labor of love and are better than the effects I've seen in movies. I'm also listening to old collections of *The Best of Trek*. They're talking about model making. Will some of the *Star Trek* historians get confused because of the difference between CGI and making models? That might be a part of history that's getting lost.

Matt Mitchell: In the last distribution of APA-L, I noticed the return of your back-cover cartoons. It's a welcome return. We really appreciate your contributions.

Frame-Gray: I'm glad my artwork is appreciated. I had a lot of fun doing it. But I'm not currently able to read APA-L. When I contributed to APA-L before, I used a screen reader. Now I've switched screen readers, but I don't know if it has the capacity to handle PDFs. Then my computer nearly died.

Miscellaneous

Charles Lee Jackson II: The Food Network's Halloween-themed competition shows have started. I just saw last night a Halloween baking championship. One of the contestants became very ill and had to bow out. That threw the entire show's schedule off because they lost two people that episode. It'll be interesting to see how they deal with that.

Call to Adjourn

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