

# Menace of the LASFS

October 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 #4485, July 27, 2023

Before the meeting, LASFSans discussed the health of member George Mulligan, Do Not Resuscitate orders, sports fans, nacho cheese sauce, pun fines, *The Running Man*, the *Star Trek: Strange New Worlds* and *Star Trek: Lower Decks* crossover, jukebox musicals, spoilers, inflation, *Jagged Little Pill*, the *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* musical, Midsummer Scream setup, the Poliners’ anniversary, and other topics.

## Call to Order

Cathy Johnson called the meeting to order at 8:01 p.m. There was much cheering and rejoicing, and a dog barked.

## Hatchings and Dispatchings (Nick Smith)

I don’t have any deaths to announce this week, so things will be a little more cheery than last week. But I do have news for any of you who have any interest in dying. Be sure to put things down in clear notes and files so the people left behind can find things that are current. Make sure that someone knows where things are.

Barbara Gratz Harmon said that she walked her son in law through her home to take pictures of where things are located.

## Hatchings

This is the anniversary of the 1874 birth of actor and writer Frank Shannon (b. July 27, 1874; d. Feb. 1, 1959). His most famous fannish roles included the Flash Gordon serials as Dr. Alexis Zarkov, films dating back to 1912, *The Phantom* serial, and the Torchy Blaine series of movies, in which he got a promotion. He was also in perhaps the worst Lionel Barrymore movie of all time, *Boomerang Bill*.

Charles Lee Jackson II said that in the 1943 serial *Batman*, Shannon played a zombie fighting Batman on a roof at the end of the first chapter. He did not receive

screen credit, but he is unmistakable.

Actor and beauty pageant titleholder Rebecca Staab (b. July 27, 1961) was in 1994 *The Fantastic Four* movie almost no one has ever seen. Unknown to the actors, the movie was filmed to fulfill a contractual obligation, but it never screened in the United States. It eventually screened in Germany, and bootlegs have been available. Who made the movie? Roger Corman.

Susan Fox also mentioned the birth of game designer and author Gary Gygax (b. July 27, 1938; d. March 4, 2008), who co-created the roleplaying game *Dungeons & Dragons*.

## Dispatchings

Courtesy of Susan Fox:

- Fan, former LASFS member, and former *De Profundis* editor David K.M. Klaus (d. July 27, 2023) died at the age of 67.
- It’s also the one-year anniversary of the death of actor Bernard Cribbins (b. Dec. 29, 1928; d. July 27, 2022).

## Media anniversary

There are three: In 1965, filmgoers only in Pennsylvania got to see an advance screening of *Monster a Go-Go*. Today is also the date of the New York City premier of *Mighty Joe Young* in 1949. And in 1997, the *Stargate SG-1* series premiered on Showtime. It moved to Sci-Fi later.

Susan Fox added that Bugs Bunny made his first official appearance in *A Wild Hare*, screened on this date in 1940.

## Reading of the Minutes (Heath Row)

Scribbles read the Concensed Cream of Menace for July 20, 2023.

## Additions and Corrections

Lynn Maners clarified that we don’t know which species used the cores to make the first tools.

## Auction to Name the Minutes

Lynn Maners bid \$5, won, and named them “Happy 70th Anniversary to Marvin the Martian!” There was supposed to be an Earth-shattering kaboom.

## Call for Approval

Moved to accept as corrected, and approved.

## Celebration of Patron Saints

Ed Green was celebrated and recognized by Charles Lee Jackson II, Cathy Johnson, Lynn Maners, Chris Marble, and Tom Safer. Green received three cheers—and that’s G.R.E.E.N.

Chris Marble: A very hard-working fellow for the

club. I remember him sitting down with a hat between his legs hustling money for Loscon. Whenever he's been involved, he's had LASFS' best interests at heart.

Charles Lee Jackson II: Ed was president of the club more times than he cares to remember. He's also one of the living consultants for what the publisher now calls the Emperorverse. He's one of the adventurers who joins me on adventures around the world. In one story, Ed Green teams up with Bill Mills, and they make quite a pair. He's been quite a help with details about how the military works. He was also a comic book character. Like all comic book characters, he can—and will—never die. He will just go into limbo until he comes back into the story.

Lynn Maners: I really enjoyed his acting work in an industrial film as an exasperated sales manager.

Tom Safer: I appreciate that Ed helped me establish Tom Safer Presents Cartoons (TSPC) and run it for 12 years until the clubhouse closed.

Cathy Johnson: I've known Ed for years. He's very hard working. I see him at conventions helping Liz out at her dealer table.

Tom Safer was celebrated and recognized by Barbara Gratz Harmon, Debra Levin, Chris Marble, Eylat Poliner, Scribbles, and Matthew B. Tepper. Safer received three cheers.

Eylat Poliner: I have absolutely nothing nice to say about Tom. He's a horrible human being. He just happens to be my brother by choice. On to the real stuff, he should be a sacred object by now. He's put hundreds of dollars into the film room's license for Loscons. He's always there when I need him. I love him to death. He's a singer, loves classical music, and sings for three choirs. He has an obscene collection of video tapes, cartoons, movies, and other things. He also has a large record collection. I mean records, not CDs. He's always there for me.

Barbara Gratz Harmon: One of the thrills of a lifetime was when I went to one of his performances. That was really a thrill.

Chris Marble: I always enjoy Tom's Saturday morning cartoon shows at Loscon. The year he brought June Foray was incredible.

Matthew B. Tepper: A finer fellow than Tom Safer does not and could not possibly exist. He is genial to a fault. He is kind. He has a great sense of humor. He will regale you with stories if you let him. And he's a tremendous resource if there's a cartoon Debra and I want to identify. I am so glad to have Tom in my life.

Debra Levin: Tom is one of the nicest people I have ever known. I've always enjoyed going to the concerts when he's in the choir. Tom has an absolutely beautiful voice.

Scribbles hasn't talked to many LASFSans on the telephone, but he spoke with Safer on the phone today. They had a brief conversation to clarify some of the details from Today in Science. And Safer's Film Room is always a favorite at Loscon. It's one of the best places to find one's self.

Annamarie Safer: He's been my lover, husband, and best friend. We've been married 32 years. He takes care of her, and she loves him to pieces.

### Committee Reports

Loscon 49 (Michelle Pincus): Phil Yeh will have a table in our Dealer's Room. He's been an artist in the Los Angeles area for 50 years, and he was at the first San Diego Comic-Con. He's only missed two Comic-Cons. His comics promote reading.

Chris Marble: Phil is well known for *Penguin & Pencilguin*.

Programming (Eylat Poliner)

- Aug. 10: Planetary physicist Kevin R. Grazier, science adviser for movies and television
- Aug. 17: Gail Carriger, *Divinity 36: Tinkered Starsong Book 1*
- Aug. 24: Tom Safer presents a program of cartoon shorts after the meeting
- Sept. 7: Arlene Busby, on the Aerospace Legacy Foundation
- Sept. 28: David Raiklen, on the music of *Star Trek*
- Oct. 14: Forry nomination and vote

Marketing and promotions (Michelle Pincus): Pincus had a successful time at Comic-Con, with many friends of the LASFS putting our promotional cards on their tables.

### Honor Guard (Charles Lee Jackson II)

The Honor Guard has charge of the Spot of Honor. You can think of it as a parking place for your idea or logo. The Spot of Honor is held by Loscon 49. The end of the month is hard upon us, so I will open bidding on an auction for what will be in the Spot of Honor for the month of August. Damon Brown bid \$30 for the Los Angeles 48 Hour Film Project and won.

### Treasurer (Debra Levin and Elayne Pelz)

Debra Levin reminded members to pay their dues.

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

Susan Fox: Next month is the first of the month, so you can pay all at once.

## Board Report (Michelle Pincus)

The next board meeting will be Aug. 13 at 11 a.m. on this Zoom channel. It'll mostly be a closed-door session because we have some serious business to attend to.

## Old Business

Cathy Johnson mentioned plans to return to meeting in person at least once a month. The idea will be picked up again when Elayne Pelz returns from Canada.

## New Business

None

## Time-Bound Announcements

Chris Marble: Costume College is going on at the Sheraton Gateway Los Angeles Hotel and runs through the weekend.

Nick Smith: Midsummer Scream is this weekend in Long Beach. They have expanded their programming. They have panels and workshops on writing horror, as well as an amazing dealers room.

The La Pintoresca Branch Library, Octavia's Bookshelf, and the Huntington Library are holding an Octavia Butler Sci-Fi Book Club discussion of *Parable of the Sower* on Saturday. The event will occur at the Pasadena library branch Butler would have used as a child.

American Cinematheque at the Los Feliz Theatre has been screening Troy Donahue monster movies. This weekend, they'll feature *Monster on the Campus*.

The New Beverly Cinema will screen *Starship Troopers* on Friday and *Lilo & Stitch* this weekend.

## Moments of Science

Tom Safer: From Today in Science ([https://www.todayinsci.com/7/7\\_27.htm](https://www.todayinsci.com/7/7_27.htm))

- Allen K. Breed
- Hans Fischer
- John Hopkinson
- Event: A 1931 grasshopper plague in Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota

Lynn Maners: A linguistics colleague passed this one on to me. Every letter in English has a silent version except for one letter: v. V does not have a silent version in English.

Damon Brown: They haven't discovered lithium in Arkansas, but there was a *Wall Street Journal* article on Friday. Exxon-Mobil has committed to buying acres to create a lithium battery processing plant in Arkansas. We're very concerned because Exxon-Mobil isn't well known for its safety record, and we're concerned about the water table and area livestock. (<https://arktimes.com/arkansas-blog/2023/>

## [07/21/exxon-plans-to-build-lithium-processing-facility-near-magnolia-wsj-reports](https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-02895-0))

Lee Grixit: This is a moment of purported science. If you're still disappointed over polywater and cold fusion, here's another one. There's a claim that someone has actually created a room-temperature superconductor. They have published what they say are the instructions. Almost any lab could do it. Most of it could be done at the bronze age level, but at some point you need a metallurgy-style furnace. (<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-02895-0>)

## Regular Announcements

Scribbles reminded members of *The Los Angeles County Fanac Guide*, seeking submissions of local cons, stores, and historic locations of interest to area fen. (<https://tinyurl.com/LA-fanac-form>)

Damon Brown leaves for Los Angeles soon to participate in the Los Angeles 48 Hour Film Project. He'll then attend Defcon before returning to Los Angeles and eventually Arkansas for the Little Rock 48 Hour Film Project. This is his last night to Zoom in for a while.

## Reviews

Chris Marble visited George Mulligan. He continues to improve.

Nick Smith watched the entire *Secret Invasion* series on Disney+. It took me several minutes after the final credits rolled before my first "But wait!" moment came up. It was very clever and interesting, but it leaves so many threads dangling that it's going to be frustrating.

Damon Brown: Go see *Barbie*. Go see *Barbie* again. Margot Robbie gives the performance of her life, and they finally gave Ken a personality, which is amazing. I laughed out loud the entire film.

Tom Safer commented on the DC animated adventure *Justice League: Warworld*. It's a little bloody, but he recommends it.

## Miscellaneous

Lynn Maners: A hit-and-run driver rear ended me the other day on a major street in Tucson, Ariz. I'm OK. But I've ordered a large-sized flattened Wile E. Coyote sticker to put on the back of the car.

Nick Smith: In Marty Cantor's collections were caricatures of people associated with the LASFS drawn by a Robert Jones. Does anyone know who that is?

Matthew B. Tepper said that the work looks like that done by Atom.

Susan Fox suggested that it might be Bob Jones. ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bob\\_Jones\\_\(illustrator\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bob_Jones_(illustrator)))

Smith: There's another one whose initials are MW but who doesn't seem to be Mel. White or Michael Whelan.

He also found two handmade games: *Fanopoly* and the gigantic *Interplanetary* game from the 1940s.

Tom Safer: The Baltimore Orioles are in first place in the American League East. It's the first time since 2014.

Cathy Johnson reminded members of the aftermeeting.

Eylat Poliner put her thumb down for the Orioles. I call them Oreos because that's what they are. Tom, they're a lousy team.

### Call to Adjourn

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

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### Meeting #4486, Aug. 3, 2023

Before the meeting, LASFSans talked about lassitude, physical therapy, health insurance, taking surveys for money, encouragement, and other topics.

### Call to Order

Cathy Johnson called the meeting to order at 8:01 p.m. "Is it August already?"

### Hatchings and Dispatchings (Nick Smith)

Hatchings

Born in 1904 on this date was the author Clifford D. Simak (b. Aug. 3, 1904; d. April 25, 1988), who delighted readers with a writing career that ran from 1931-1986. So why was his last story not published until 2015? He'd sold it to Harlan Ellison for the last *Dangerous Visions*.

Author John DeChancie (b. August 3, 1946) seems to prefer in-person meetings. He's written sf, fantasy, and even a novelization based on *Witchblade*.

Director John Landis was born Aug. 3, 1950. If you think *American Werewolf in London* was his genre debut, you'd be wrong. *Schlock* came out years earlier.

Actress Bridget Brannagh (b. Aug. 3, 1972) has done a ton of fannish roles but doesn't seem to care how her name is spelled. She also has a former married name that's sometimes in credits spelled in different ways. Watch the series *Runaways* on Hulu.

Voice actor Corey Burton (b. Aug. 3, 1955) has hundreds of roles, ranging from Captain Hook to a Disney chipmunk. He does a lot of voice work for animation—Star Wars, Transformers, DC, and Marvel universes—and he's also been on *Ted Lasso*.

Bjo Trimble's 90th birthday is coming up on Aug.

15. Scribbles will send a birthday card to Trimble on behalf of the LASFS.

### Dispatchings

Film and TV composer and conductor Carl Davis (b. Oct. 28, 1936; d. Aug. 3, 2023) created work for historical, sf, and horror since the 1970s. A lot of his stuff was first shown on BBC or ITV in England.

We also lost actress, author, and Emmy-winning television journalist Betty Ann Bruno (b. Oct. 1, 1931; d. July 30, 2023), who died at the age of 91. She had retired to become a hula instructor. We've all seen her in her second acting role ever. Her first was a bit part in a John Ford movie. Her second was at the age of 8 as a Munchkin in the *The Wizard of Oz*. She didn't like acting that much.

Actor Marc Gilpin (b. Sept. 26, 1966; d. July 29, 2023) had largely been cast in disappointing roles. His big break should have been a pilot for an sf comedy starring Burl Ives; Gilpin played the kid. The network distributed it as a limited movie release, *Earthbound*.

Courtesy of Charles Lee Jackson II: Actor Melinda Peterson (b. Aug. 20, 1949; d. July 31, 2023) was the wife of Phil Proctor. She died unexpectedly last week.

Also: Actor and comedian Paul Reubens (b. Aug. 27, 1952; d. July 30, 2023) might be best known for his character Pee-wee Herman.

### Media anniversary

On this date in 1932, Fay Wray's often overlooked *Doctor X* came out. In 1951, TV audiences were treated to the pilot episode of *Tales of Tomorrow*, an early anthology series. Then, in 2007, the live-action remake of *Underdog* reached the big screen. Simon Bar Sinister was played by Peter Dinklage.

### Reading of the Minutes (Heath Row)

Scribbles read the Condensed Cream of Menace for July 27, 2023.

### Additions and Corrections

Jim DeTar indicated that a room-temperature superconductor has been created.

### Auction to Name the Minutes

Lynn Maners bid \$5, won, and named them "God Speed, Pee-wee Herman, on Your Next Great Adventure."

### Call for Approval

Moved to accept as corrected, and approved.

### Celebration of Patron Saints

Sean Cleary was celebrated and recognized by Chris Marbles, Heide Nichols, and Nick Smith. Cleary

received three cheers.

Chris Marbles: Sean is a furry member of the LASFS, also a filker and such. He moved up to Oregon a couple of years ago. He's still active on Facebook and chatting with folks.

Heide Nichols: Sean is an active filker and still participates with us online. He's a total bookphile who had bookcases and bookcases of genre stuff in his home. He came up all the way into the mountains to participate in filk circles at my home in Crestline. He has a really fun sense of humor and is an all-around really nice guy. I'm sorry he's no longer local, but he's still virtually with us somewhere.

Nick Smith: In fact, he was virtually in touch with me yesterday. No longer being in southern California, it can be challenging for him to track down several filk songs about the first Star Wars trilogy. It was fun to hear from him after a long time.

David Okamura was celebrated and recognized by Christian B. McGuire, Heide Nichols, Michelle Pincus, Eylat Poliner, and Nick Smith. Okamura received three cheers—and a paper box of boom.

Heide Nichols: David Okamura is another of our wonderful filkers. He has a wonderful deep baritone voice and contributed much to our filk circles and song libraries. He has an introverted nature but a deep sense of irony. He's also a paper artist and can make fabulous 3D things out of paper. He's a devoted son, and his mother in Orange County has been experiencing declining health.

Eylat Poliner: When we had a clubhouse, David would show up and bring paper toilet seat covers, toilet paper, and paper towels, donating them to the club on a weekly basis. He made sure the clubhouse was provided with necessary items. He's a very good mah-jongg player, and he's a lot of fun to hang around with. I miss him, and I miss our clubhouse.

Nick Smith: I have one of the zine covers he did for *Xenofilkia*. The dragon's hoard included everything from Beanie Babies to Rosebud the sled. This one is from a long time ago.

Michelle Pincus: For Loscon 43, David did the font and other design work.

Christian B. McGuire: He also constructed several rockets for another con promotion. They were beautiful. Sadly, we had to abandon them when we left the Burbank clubhouse.

## Committee Reports

Programming (Eylat Poliner)

- Aug. 10: Planetary physicist Kevin R. Grazier, science adviser for movies and television
- Aug. 17: Gail Carriger, author of *Divinity 36*

and *Demigod 12*, the first two Tinkered Starsong books

- Aug. 24: Tom Safer presents a program of cartoon shorts after the meeting
- Sept. 7: Arlene Busby, on the Aerospace Legacy Foundation
- Sept. 28: David Raiklen, on the music of *Star Trek*
- Oct. 14: 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 (Michelle Pincus): Pendragon Costumes will be in the Dealer's Room at Loscon

## Honor Guard (Charles Lee Jackson II)

The Spot of Honor is held by the Los Angeles 48 Hour Film Project.

## Registrar (Eylat Poliner)

We have no one new to report.

## Treasurer (Debra Levin and Elayne Pelz)

Elayne Pelz reminded members to pay their dues. We've had some scofflaws recently. We have bills to pay.

Dues, pun fund fees, and donations can be rendered via Zelle or PayPal to [payment@lasfs.org](mailto: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 will be Aug. 13 at 11 a.m.

## Old Business

Cathy Johnson said we're still exploring the idea of meeting in person. Elayne Pelz reported that she no longer has the correct phone number for the church. Tom Safer will look up American Lutheran Church and send Pelz the contact information.

## New Business

None

## Time-Bound Announcements

Nick Smith: There are a couple of controversies going on about our future announcements, so look for news about the opening or postponement of the opening of the Egyptian Theater and the Vista Theatre. We'll see

what really happens.

The American Cinematheque will show *Rosemary's Baby* at the Los Feliz Theatre multiple times, as well as the anime film *Grave of the Fireflies*.

The New Beverly Cinema will screen *Dawn of the Dead* on Friday and *Inside Out* on Saturday and Sunday.

Susan Fox: We have a member who sometimes tunes in here from Arkansas who's participating in the Los Angeles 48 Hour Film Project. Damon Brown's in Los Angeles today, but he's probably very busy. Each team will be assigned a genre and elements before heading out to write, shoot, and edit their films within 48 hours.

Dean Johnson: The WGA Garage Sale auction is going on. (<https://www.wgaragesale.org>, <https://www.instagram.com/wgaragesale23>, and <https://wgaragesale.ggo.bid>) They have some cool stuff including a *Warehouse 13* prop.

Fox: It benefits the Entertainment Community Fund, which helps people keep their homes and healthcare.

### Moments of Science

Tom Safer: From Today in Science ([https://www.todayinsci.com/8/8\\_03.htm](https://www.todayinsci.com/8/8_03.htm))

- John T. Scopes
- Robert Ernest House
- Elisha Graves Otis
- Event: Submarine

Lynn Maners: Prehistory ends in a culture when they have writing; then it becomes history. Writing systems have only been independently created five times in human history, and that includes the language rongorongo on Easter Island, which is only written on a European oar. *Star Trek* has a strong interest in African languages, which has the structure mb. People are exploring how to represent mb with only one symbol. There's a boom in writing systems from West Africa.

Lee Grixit: I've been following the claim of a room-temperature semiconductor. Unfortunately, there has not yet been a eureka moment, but no one has dismissed it. Despite the claim that it's easy to make the substance, it's only been worked on by actual materials labs. There's been a lot of number crunching to try to work out the theory, and people say it seems plausible. Several places have started making it, and it has exotic magnetic properties. One Chinese lab has a video they claim is of their results making the substance, and they're levitating small bits of metal. No one is saying it's a hoax or lab error like they did with polywater and cold fusion.

Jim DeTar: I think we're talking about

superconductors, not semiconductors.

Grixit: I meant superconductors.

DeTar: My moment of science is about the blue whale's bigger kin. Italian archaeologists have found ribs and vertebrae from what they consider the blue whale's larger predecessor, an extinct whale called the P. colossus. It might have been a shallow-water creature. Blue whales are the current largest critters, and they're endangered.

Nick Smith: The summaries I've been reading in the last day indicate it might not be a hoax, but it might be something other than superconducting. It's either superconducting or a really weird magnetic effect. Neither of them seems likely because they're different and conflicting. This is something, but we're not exactly sure what.

Nola Frame-Gray: COVID-19 is on the rise. *Daily Koz* published an article today. Data being reported might not be adequate. We're now in the fourth summer of the pandemic. Every summer, the United States has seen an increase of cases.

Susan Fox: I've been getting shots every six months, and that seems to be working.

Charles Lee Jackson II: I've been keeping my mask on.

Cathy Johnson: There'll be a new monovalent shot available in October. We're still fighting the last infection, which is dwindling.

### Regular Announcements

Tom Safer: Movies continue at the Frances Howard Goldwyn Hollywood Regional Branch Library. The next date is Aug. 19, and I'll screen *Frozen 2*.

Krystal Rains: Strategicon's third event of the year will be held over Labor Day weekend, Sept. 1-4. Loscon will table there. (<https://www.strategicon.net>)

### Reviews

Heide Nichols: I had the privilege of being able to work at Midsummer Scream last weekend. It's a fantastic con. It reminded me of the early days of Anime Expo and the beginnings of Comic-Con. The strike didn't affect the convention much at all. There were lots of stars and producers of horror movies from the 1980s, wonderful drag performances, fantastic cosplay, wonderful parties, more than 350 vendors in the vendors hall, and a steady stream of people in gaming. Check it out next year.

Chris Marbles: Creation, the *Star Trek* con in Las Vegas, is going on right now. Michelle Pincus has been there. I visited George Mulligan today, and he wishes everyone the best.

Nick Smith: I attended the Octavia Butler book discussion that was held last weekend. Response was

much greater than was expected. About 30 people showed up for the discussion of *Parable of the Sower*. They got such a good response, that after the August event at the Huntington Library, they're going to continue doing other book discussion groups focusing on authors influenced by Octavia Butler. I'll let people know when I have a list of what's happening. All three hosts are very excited about this. They want to do sf by people in the trail of Octavia Butler.

Charles Lee Jackson II: I'll review the Orange County Fair, which has all sorts of fun stuff. It was a little bit smaller than it was expected to be. One building that's usually full of vendors selling things had a music tribute in it, so they might have had fewer vendors. The crafts were very good and included Halloween stuff. It lasts a few more weeks.

Cathy Johnson: I binged through *Good Omens* Season 2, and it was a lot of fun—and funny. If you haven't seen it, I highly recommend it. It's on Amazon Prime.

Nichols: It was wonderful.

### Miscellaneous

Tom Safer corrected the library's address in his movie announcement.

Lynn Maners: Just to show you how quickly conditioning works, after getting rear ended, I'm extremely sensitive to how many speeders there are in Tucson.

Charles Lee Jackson II: Today I had my last session with my hand therapist. They got out bells and whistles and made a big production out of it. I might still have to go back for more hand therapy.

Nick Smith: I want to thank Heath Row for his help taking Marty Cantor's fanzine collection to UC-Riverside last weekend. He took a day off work because it's so expensive to rent a van on the weekend. The library was very excited to receive the collection. They might be coming to the Valley to pick up remaining items at a later date. If any of you are interested in printers or bookcases, his furniture will be carted away soon if we don't do something with them.

Cathy Johnson reminded members about the aftermeeting.

### Call to Adjourn

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

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## Meeting #4487, Aug. 10, 2023

Before the meeting, members discussed impartial

juries, jury duty, tonight's guest, *Star Trek* uniforms and figurines, Weird Barbie, *Spaceballs*, *Star Wars* and video games, and other topics

### Call to Order

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

We are on agenda light tonight because we have a guest, Kevin R. Grazier.

### Hatchings and Dispatchings (Nick Smith)

#### Hatchings

The contributions of novelist, screenwriter, and director Curt Siodmak (b. Aug. 10, 1902; d. Sept. 2, 2000) to the movie industry include *The Wolf Man* and *Donovan's Brain*. His screenwriting includes *House of Frankenstein* and *I Walked with a Zombie*.

Actor Noah Beery Jr. (b. Aug. 10, 1913; Nov. 1, 1994) was in more fannish stuff than most fans realize. His work included the 1920 silent version of *The Mark of Zorro*, 1950's *Rocketship X-M*, *7 Faces of Dr. Lao*, *The Rockford Files*, and the 1950s' *Circus Boy*.

Actor and singer Claudia Christian's (b. Aug. 10, 1965) most successful show is *Babylon 5*. She's also in the animated movie.

Susan Fox also mentioned the birthdays of actor and director Antonio Banderas (b. Aug. 10, 1960) and *The Hunger Games* author Suzanne Collins (b. Aug. 10, 1962)

#### Dispatchings

Director William Friedkin (b. Aug. 29, 1935; d. Aug. 7, 2023) worked on episodes of *The Alfred Hitchcock Hour*, *The Twilight Zone*, *Tales from the Crypt*, and the documentary *Fritz Lang Interviewed by William Friedkin*. *The Devil's Triangle*, a UFO thriller starring Marlon Brando, Steve McQueen, and Charlton Heston was planned for the 1970s but did not occur.

Actor Mark Margolis (b. Nov. 26, 1939; d. Aug. 3, 2023) appeared on *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, *Quantum Leap*, *12 Monkeys*, *Gotham*, *Constantine*, *American Horror Story: Asylum*, and *Snowpiercer*, as well as *The Equalizer* and *Better Call Saul*.

Film editor Arthur Schmidt (b. June 17, 1937; d. Aug. 5, 2023) was a second generation filmmaker. His father worked on *Sunset Boulevard* and *Some Like It Hot*. Schmidt, then, worked on movies such as *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*, *Forrest Gump*, and *The Rocketeer*.

#### Media anniversary

*Dinosaurus!* appeared on the big screen on this date in 1960. It had previously screened in New Orleans and Los Angeles on June 24 and July 20, respectively. The

movie involved a T. rex-ish dinosaur and a neanderthal being freed from deep sleep by an underwater explosion.

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

Scribbles read the Condensed Cream of Menace for Aug. 3, 2023.

### **Additions and Corrections**

None

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

Heide Nichols bid \$5, won, and named them “Excellent Minutes for August.”

### **Call for Approval**

Moved to accept as read, and approved.

### **Celebration of Patron Saints**

Ed Hooper was celebrated and recognized by Nola Frame-Gray, Chris Marbles, Matt Mitchell, Eylat Poliner, and Matthew B. Tepper. Hooper received three cheers—and a broken bokken.

Chris Marbles: I consider Ed a friend. Once he was established in Riverside, I’d take him out for errands. We spent some pleasant time together because he was isolated from the fannish community there.

Matt Mitchell: I initially met Ed through the Time Meddlers. He was an enthusiastic participant. One of the things I always remember about him is that during our annual picnic, we had a large pinata in the shape of a Tardis. Ed would sometimes bring a Japanese-style wooden sword, and people would bash the target to get the candy with great enthusiasm if not skill. One year, the sword broke. It was forever known after that as the broken bokken. It’s not my pun, I’m only quoting. What a guy. Ed was a good guy, and I rejoiced in renewing our friendship through the LASFS. Now I miss him.

Eylat Poliner deferred to Charles Lee Jackson II to explain what a patron saint is.

Jackson explained the patron saints for newcomers and guests.

Susan Fox exhorted LASFSans to boost their potential for sainthood. Donations can be rendered via Zelle or PayPal to [payment@lasfs.org](mailto:payment@lasfs.org).

Poliner: Ed, myself, Matthew, and Debra went to see a Marvel movie—perhaps the first Guardians of the Galaxy movie—and went for lunch afterward. Ed was fun to be around, always helped with conventions, and was just a really nice person. The last couple of years, he went through some really rough stuff. I miss him.

Matthew B. Tepper: Ed was a giant puppy of a person. At his best, he was enthusiastic, funny,

delightful, ready to share his interest in something, and a stalwart toward his friends. Yes, he had bad things happen to him toward the end of his life. I feel like he was taken from us. I am resentful, but I miss him. Every time we have the Forry Award nominations, if someone else doesn’t do it, I will nominate Hiyao Miyazaki.

Nola Frame-Gray: He had a brilliant mind. He would speak passionately about *Star Trek*. He was always listening, too. He loved working with computers on cruise ships. A part of him makes me very sad. I think he was a walking, breathing example of how our club and country suffers because he was undereducated. He had a brilliant mind. If he’d been allowed to use his intellect to its full capacity, our country would have been a better place.

Tim Merrigan was celebrated and recognized by Charles Lee Jackson II and Chris Marble. Merrigan received three cheers—and a bag of chips, a bottle of corflu, and a hat with a bunch of nickels banged into it.

Charles Lee Jackson II: Tim Merrigan did a whole lot to keep APA-L running during a period in which it was slacking off. When I put out the word that any member of LASFS could join and become the model for a funny animal in a comic strip, Tim said he wanted to be a cat who wore a leather hat, a manx cat with a prosthetic tail. When I drew it, I let him pull the tail around in a little wagon.

Chris Marble: Tim worked on APA-L for years and years and years and was very dedicated to it. I haven’t heard from him in a number of years. He hasn’t come to Loscon for awhile, but he’s a good guy.

Jerry Pournelle was celebrated and recognized by Nola Frame-Gray, Tim Friedline, Matt Mitchell, Heide Nichols, Eylat Poliner, Tom Safer, Nick Smith, and Matthew B. Tepper. Pournelle received three cheers—and a can of haggis.

Eylat Poliner: The very first person I ran into when I first came to the LASFS was Jerry Pournell. Not the Jerry Pournelle we all know and love, but a drunk-ass Jerry Pournelle. The registrar at the time came running out after me after I turned around and left. Many years later, we had a special meeting at the clubhouse. I was president, and I warned people I’d throw them out if they got rude. Well, Jerry Pournelle got thrown out. He was cursing up a storm. Later that night, he came up to me and said, “Madam President, my ass deserved to be thrown out that door.” CL later asked me if Pournelle was still a member. I said why not, he apologized to me. He had a whole new respect for me, and I had a whole new respect for him. He turned out

to be a good person.

Matt Mitchell: Besides the many colorful things you could say about Jerry Pournelle, a piece of advice about writing he gave me many years ago was to shoot the sheriff in the very first paragraph. To me, that typifies Jerry in a nutshell.

Heide Nichols: I had a really unusual relationship with Jerry Piurnelle. In a previous life, I was a math lecturer. I would go around to schools to explain the game show three-door theory that had been published by Jerry Pournelle. That gave me a great respect for the man's mathematical and scientific ability. I was also a great fan of his writing, particularly that which he did with Larry Niven. He was always rude and horrible to me as a person, but I always think about how intelligent he was and how he shared that with the world.

Matthew B. Tepper: When my entire biological family had given up on me and my father explicitly told me that he thought I'd never marry, Jerry Pournelle took me aside and told me that I would. He was right. He was at my wedding, he was one of my groomsmen, and he read one of the seven blessings—the only non-Jew asked to do so. He could argue with you and still remain your friend. Tepper also told a story about canned haggis wrapped in tartan paper.

Tim Friedline: A long time ago, I read one of his books. I had a question and wrote him a letter, never thinking he'd reply—but he did. He didn't answer my question directly, he did it like an artist would. He was very clever. I was taken aback that someone of his stature would write me back.

Nola Frame-Gray: Years ago, I was talking with Jerry about a very popular author. I said, "You know the problem with this writer? Whenever her characters have a battle, they're going to stand up and dust themselves off." He said, "You're right!"

Nick Smith: Jerry and I rarely agreed on anything political, but we had an interesting conversation once about the salaries of civic employees. I told him what librarians at the Library of Congress were paid, and he was appalled. Libraries were really the only public function that he supported.

Tom Safer: I had the pleasure of having Roberta Pournelle as part of my choir. She had a very beautiful voice.

## Committee Reports

Programming (Eylat Poliner)

- Aug. 17: Gail Carriger, author of *Divinity 36* and *Demigod 12*, the first two Tinkered Starsong books
- Aug. 24: Tom Safer presents a program of

cartoon shorts after the meeting

- Sept. 7: Arlene Busby, on the Aerospace Legacy Foundation
- Sept. 28: David Raiklen, on the music of *Star Trek*
- Oct. 14: 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 the Los Angeles 48 Hour Film Project.

## Treasurer (Debra Levin and Elayne Pelz)

Elayne Pelz reminded members to pay their dues.

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

## Time-Bound Announcements

Nick Smith

- Upcoming Dark Delicacies signings featuring Vera Strange's new Disney Chills series book and Moss Lawton's graphic novel *Hellaween*. On Sunday, there's also a local walk between stores.
- Upcoming American Cinematheque screenings of *Rosemary's Baby* and *Teen Witch*
- The New Beverly Cinema will screen *The Ring* on Friday and *Toy Story 3* this weekend.

**Special Event:** Planetary physicist Kevin R. Grazier, science adviser for movies and television. The role of a science adviser is often not well understood. I put together a little Powerpoint about what we do and what we don't do. I also want to hype my books. They're called *Hollyweird Science*, volumes one and two. (<https://www.amazon.com/Hollyweird-Science-Generation-Spaceships-Microchips/dp/3319542133> and <https://www.amazon.com/Hollyweird-Science-Quantum-Multiverse-Fiction-ebook/dp/B012RGEYY2>) Having worked in the industry, I'll go into how the entertainment industry works. Sometimes the science in your TV and movies isn't as accurate as you'd like. Accuracy might not even be a goal.

People ask me at every convention, How did you get that job? I'll go into how I did it and how you might do it now. The answer is different. Paramount had a process by which members of the general public could submit an unsolicited manuscript. A friend and I thought *Star Trek: Voyager* had a lot of promise but wasn't living up to it. We wrote a story and submitted it. I was a busy UCLA grad student at the time. Seven months later to the day, I got a call from an assistant who invited us to come in and pitch stories. You come up with five to seven ideas and pitch them to a writer. It's astounding how often everyone has the same idea at the same time. Most of the time, I pitched to Michael Taylor, with whom I worked with on *Battlestar Galactica*, and Bryan Fuller. I stayed in contact with both of them after *Voyager* ended, and when Ron Moore presented his vision for BSG at Galacticon in Burbank, I liked what I saw and asked Bryan if he'd recommend me as a science adviser. I worked on every episode after that.

On several shows, the job title was the same but the roles were different. On BSG, it was science fiction, sure, but the sf was rarely front and center. The science mostly focused on their day to day as they're being chased across the galaxy by the Cylons. If you were to describe your day to day, you'd talk about your smartphone. When *Star Trek* came out, the communicator was considered impossible. We achieved that in the 1990s. You might describe an ATM. That's what my role was. Some episodes had more science than others. Mostly it was describing the background and grounding the fantastical in the real world so audiences could make the jump.

*Eureka* was about a laboratory that invented things. It was a dramedy and went back and forth with *Warehouse 13* as the most popular show. *Eureka* was a small town with a large lab underneath it. The town was maybe 50 years ahead of the rest of the world. On this show, science was essentially a guest star. Being 50 years advanced, we were more fantastic and taking a leap. That was more hit or miss than BSG because we were extrapolating. Some of the things we extrapolated on and got lambasted for at the time later came to fruition. We literally 3D printed Felicia Day. Now they're 3D printing meat. That's on the table right now. Sometimes we got it right. Sometimes we got it wrong.

For a while, *The Zula Patrol* was the single most watched TV show by women aged 18-20 because of their children. It was a fantastically popular edutainment show. The science didn't have to be as correct, but the topics we focused on were correct. Last week or in the future can slide a little. The other science adviser was the Bad Astronomer, Phil Plait.

We were accurate to the letter in terms of that week's science.

On *Defiance*, I was hired a year and a half before we even started building. I was hired to help create the world. We had an armada of alien ships show up on our doorstep. It wasn't a stealth invasion. They also had terraforming technology. One thing led to another, and all of their spaceships exploded. Some of their technology fell to Earth and began to partially terraform the planet. The planet ended up somewhere in the middle and wasn't really home to either race. It ran for three seasons. The world was very fantastic: the creatures, the plants, the aliens. Because there were more leaps in storytelling faith, we wanted to ground as much as possible in the real world. The way I designed their world came into play in Season 3.

I was also the science adviser for *Gravity*. I met with the director and screenwriter three and a half years before the movie came out. When it came out, people couldn't wait to start slamming the science. Some of those claims were legitimate, and we knew in advance—and some of them were not. One famous sci-lebrity tweeted his scientific misgivings. I was asked to respond to him. As I began correcting his tweets, they vanished. It wasn't as much an educational moment as it could have been. In the industry, you come under fire, and sometimes people aren't correct. We knew from the beginning that you can't get from the orbit of Hubble to the orbit of the International Space Station with a space shuttle, and one backpack of oxygen and propellant. They were inspired by the Imax movie about the Hubble and wanted to capture the grandeur of the film. They made a creative choice. We knew the science, but they made a dramatic choice. Sometimes you just have to accept that. They also made a companion short film *Aningaaq*.

More recently, I worked on *Foundation*. In episode 105, the computer has been instructed not to give a character information. She's able to triangulate where they are and figure out how fast they're going. I wrote that scene. I went to the UCLA Writers Program. I offered to write it instead of giving them 20 pages of notes. They thought it worked—and what aired was basically what I wrote, but they improved it. With Bear McCreary's music, this was actually a pretty compelling scene. I was interviewing Robert J. Sawyer for my science books, and on the *FlashForward* series, they told him that for every technical term you use, 25,000 people don't come back. Regardless, that scene had as much science and math in it than you might ever see.

Writers are counseled to always keep the audience in your creative vision. You want to create moments—

Oh Wow moments, not Oh Puh-Leeze! moments, otherwise known as an immersion break. You don't want science to pull people out of the drama. People will check out of real science before they will trekno science. The science adviser on *Star Trek* isn't about consistency to this universe, but with *that* universe. McCreary even told me that music can be an immersion break.

In *Gravity*, when Matt Kowalksi and Dr. Stone fly pass the ISS, miss, and are moving away from it, Kowalski tells them to cut their tether. He will drift away, and she can save herself. People ask why the tether is taut and say that doesn't make sense. It totally makes sense. Their tether is taut between them and the other tether is loose but getting tighter. Together, it might break free. With just her, she doesn't.

Sometimes, even if the science is all bad, people might not care if you sell it—and it's super cool. So many people were motivated to go into science because of science fiction. Imagination is really important.

How do you get this gig? I got it the old fashioned way, by knowing someone. Today there's an organization called The Science & Entertainment Exchange. They will pair you with science advisers for free. Just call 1-844-NEED-SCI. (<https://www.vox.com/videos/2017/2/21/14686500/hollywood-science-houtline>)

We are not the science police. We want to get the science as right as possible and still tell a good story.

Charles Lee Jackson mentioned the work of Dan Alderson at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

Grazier added that scientific accuracy in literature is more important than it is in cinema. Sf cinema didn't stem from sf literature, it stemmed from Georges Melies, who wanted to show what a good director he was. TV is also more accurate than film.

Tim Friedline asked a question about *Defiance* and the video game. There was some effort to merge things a bit.

Grazier indicated that trying to do both did make his job harder. It sounded like a good idea at the time, but we dropped it after the first season because it was a major pain in the butt. And you had two groups of storytellers who thought they were better than the other. I went down there to sit with them to figure it out. I was able to help integrate the storytellers a little better. The video game got away with more in terms of pushing boundaries.

### **Moments of Science**

Gregory Lipscomb: My timebound announcement and Moment of science is that the Perseid meteor shower,

one of the best shooting star displays of the year, will peak this Saturday night, Aug. 12 and before dawn Sunday, Aug. 13, 2023. More information is available at <https://www.space.com/32868-perseid-meteor-shower-guide.html>.

Lee Grixit offered an update on the legitimacy of the room-temperature superconductor.

### **Regular Announcements**

Tom Safer emailed Elayne Pelz the number for American Lutheran Church.

Scribbles mailed a birthday card to Bjo Trimble.

### **Miscellaneous**

Cathy Johnson reminded members of the aftermeeting.

Charles Lee Jackson: Jerry Pournelle is the worst doctor that I've ever heard of, but I have heard of him.

### **Call to Adjourn**

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

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### **Meeting #4488, Aug. 17, 2023**

Before the meeting, members of the LASFS talked about the Hat, Allan Rothstein, middle names, blue skin, silver chloride colloid, Tillamook ice cream, various ice cream flavors, chili, the arrival of the club president, and other topics.

### **Call to Order**

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

### **Hatchings and Dispatchings (Nick Smith)**

#### **Hatchings**

Screenwriter and author Oliver Crawford (b. Aug. 12, 1917, d. Sept. 24, 2008) worked on mostly fannish TV shows. He was one of 200 writers blacklisted during McCarthyism. Crawford died in Los Angeles in 2008.

Producer and screenwriter Harve Bennett (b. Aug. 17, 1930, d. Feb. 25, 2015) worked on *Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan*, *Star Trek III: The Search for Spock*, *Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home*, and *Star Trek V: The Final Frontier*, earning a Hugo and a Golden Raspberry. He also worked on the TV show *Time Trax* and *The Powers of Matthew Star*, as well as others.

Editor and publisher Neil Clarke (b. 1966), founder of *Clarkesworld Magazine* (<https://clarkesworldmagazine.com>), has been nominated for several Hugos.

#### **Dispatchings**

Actor Peter Vaughan-Clarke (b. June 11, 1957, d. August 2023) had one long-running role in *The*

*Tomorrow People*. He then moved to lighting and work as a key grip.

#### Media anniversary

In 1984, two movies premiered while we were planning for the Worldcon in Los Angeles: *Sheena* and *Sword of the Valiant*. The latter film was originally titled *Sword of the Valiant: The Legend of Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*.

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

Scribbles read the Condensed Cream of Menace for Aug. 10, 2023.

#### Additions and Corrections

None

#### Auction to Name the Minutes

Eylat Poliner bid \$6, won, and named them “We Miss You, Ed.”

#### Call for Approval

Moved to accept as read, and approved.

#### Celebration of Patron Saints

Charles Lee Jackson II described the patron saints of the LASFS for newcomers and guests.

Mark Bilan was celebrated and recognized by Jackson, Cathy Johnson, Heide Nichols, Eylat Poliner, and Nick Smith. Bilan received three cheers.

Eylat Poliner: Mark Bilan is Greg Bilan’s brother. Greg Bilan gave \$1,000 to the club on behalf of Mark. I’ve never met him or seen him at a meeting.

Cathy Johnson: He lives in the Bay Area.

Jackson: Greg Bilan decided that instead of rising to the heights, he decided to spread the wealth around so his other family members would be included.

Heide Nichols: He wanted people to say nice things about his brother at least one day out of the year. That is very kind.

Johnson met him at a Baycon.

Nick Smith: Greg might have gone to live with Mark when he was having health troubles. Unfortunately, his health took a turn for the worse when he moved up there.

Bjo Trimble was celebrated and recognized by Susan Fox, Charles Lee Jackson II, Cathy Johnson, Heide Nichols, Eylat Poliner, and Scribbles. Trimble received three cheers.

Cathy Johnson: I’ve never heard a horrible thing said about Bjo.

Charles Lee Jackson II: Bjo cursed me by telling people that I was the conscience of the LASFS.

Heide Nichols: Bjo and John Trimble started the

petition that saved *Star Trek*.

Susan Fox: Her *Star Trek Concordance* is a necessary part of any library.

Eylat Poliner: I’ve asked Bjo to speak to the club, and she said yes. After her birthday, I’ll follow up with her to lock things down. We’ll change things around so she can present first. She says hello—and she did get our letter.

Scribbles mentioned her memoir *On the Good Ship Enterprise*, which broadened his view of her as a fan, activist, family member, spouse, and parent.

Johnson indicated that that book was her introduction to fandom.

#### Committee Reports

Loscon 49 (Eylat Poliner for Michelle Pincus): The con will be held over Thanksgiving weekend.

Programming (Eylat Poliner):

- Aug. 17: Gail Carriger, author of *Divinity 36* and *Demigod 12*, the first two Tinkered Starsong books
- Aug. 24: Tom Safer presents a program of cartoon shorts after the meeting
- 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. 14: 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 the Los Angeles 48 Hour Film Project.

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

Elayne Pelz reminded members to make donations because everyone’s paid their dues.

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

#### Old Business

None

## New Business

We have a new patron saint. As of today, Jim DeTar has donated \$1,000. He hasn't given me his date yet, but he's going to look at the list of weeks and let us know his preference.

## Time-Bound Announcements

Tom Safer will screen *Frozen II* on Saturday at the Frances Howard Goldwyn Hollywood Regional Branch Library.

Nick Smith: At Vroman's Bookstore on Tuesday night, there's a special event for Caltech's anthology *Inner Space and Outer Thoughts: Speculative Fiction from Caltech and JPL Authors*.

**Special Event:** Gail Carriger, author of *Divinity 36* and *Demigod 12*, the first two Tinkered Starsong books

Carriger doesn't generally do readings, but she did tonight, reading from *Divinity 36*. It's categorized as YA, but that wasn't her intent other than wanting the marketing hook. She called the LASFS old-guard fandom.

The book is part of a trilogy, and they're all written, so she's putting them out quite quickly. She didn't want a long wait between books in the series.

Susan Fox indicated that the book from which Carriger read is *Divinity 36*. The newer book is *Demigod 12*, and the next book in the Tinkered Starsong Trilogy, *Dome 6*, is due out Oct. 1.

The passage read introduced a character and focused on his interaction with an alien.

Debra Levin wondered why Carriger typically doesn't do readings. Mostly because most of her books are set in the United Kingdom and she doesn't have a British accent. Her voice doesn't sound the way she wants it to sound. "I always have audiobooks, and the audiobooks aren't out yet. I feel like a professional narrator does a better job than an author. I grew up with audiobooks rather than television. It's only now after 15 years as a mother that I've learned that people want authors to read their work because they want to hear how it sounds to you. I don't think I'm very good at it. I grew up around actors and stuff."

Carriger also talked about the alien language in the book, linguistics, pronunciation—she even made a pronunciation guide available at <https://youtu.be/Bovd1aI-PJA>—meaning, and the need for a glossary to learn how words are pronounced.

Eylat Poliner complimented Carriger on her reading. "When you made up your language, where did you go for ideas for your language?" Carriger is an anthropologist by training and has two masters degrees. She's not great at languages, but she's

fascinated by linguistics. Your culture affects your language, and your language affects your culture. "Early in the pandemic, I got really interested in Asian dramas, primarily Thai. I was starting to learn conversational Thai before a trip we were planning." She also discussed the use of formal and informal registers and self-assigned flexible pronouns. Her exploration also included Chinese, Japanese, and other dramas—having been an anime fan—and drew on all of that. You can use language to give characteristics to characters, assert alienness, and use it as a plot device.

A member asked about her book *Soulless: The Manga*. Carriger started in anime but transitioned to manga in the early 2000s. She joined Amazon because she could buy manga there. She still enjoys anime to this day—she has audio sensitivity issues and isn't wild about the voice acting. She enjoys Asian dramas now because she can get stuff subbed and captioned. That way she can hear the original language's tonality. Her work does well in Japan. It didn't make a lot of money, but it listed well.

When asked about her primary author influences, she said she was a "straight-up 1990s geek girl": Mercedes Lackey, Anne McCaffrey, to some extent Darkover, and prior to that, Tamara Pierce. She was 8 when the first Alanna book came out. "I was 8 but I was an advanced reader. They were meant for 10. Lady knights will always make me pick up a book. I was also raised on a lot of British children's books: *The Wind in the Willows*, *The Secret Garden*, and *The Lord of the Rings*." A relative, a quantum physicist, was into British sf. "My first sci-fi was really media. My doctor is the sixth doctor, thank you very much. That's the one with the question marks."

Her first book out in 2009. She became a full-time author in 2012. Then she got sucked back into teaching in the Bay Area.

Advice she'd give an aspiring writer? Having an education in small business is invaluable for any kind of art. "I spend half my time on the business side of being an author. I sometimes wish I had a quickie MBA. These three books were self-published, but I'll probably package an omnibus and sell it to a traditional publisher for a premium hardback edition. I'm a total workaholic. The secret is loving it. You've got to love it."

## Regular Announcements

Susan Fox: Society for Creative Anachronism participant Laura Jenkins just passed away from cancer.

Charles Lee Jackson II: With all of the tragedy and difficulties in Hawaii, people there have rallied together to help people who've taken guests into their

homes. They're calling themselves the kanaka Costco. All the locals are sailing in to help the Lahaina needy.

Fox will post something to her Facebook page about a benefit concert online.

### Miscellaneous

Cathy Johnson reminded members of the aftermeeting.

### Call to Adjourn

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

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### Meeting #4489, Aug. 24, 2023

Before the meeting, LASFSans talked about physical therapy, blood draws, sugar Coke, hitting the wrong button, screen sharing, George Mulligan, gladiators, the History Channel, historians who get things wrong, *Blazing Saddles*, Maynard G. Krebs, *The Outer Limits*, *The Great Race*, screenplays for sequels (both Susan Fox and Charles Lee Jackson II wrote one!), and *The Muppet Show*.

### Call to Order

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

### Hatchings and Dispatchings (Nick Smith)

#### Hatchings

Actor William Morgan Sheppard (b. Aug. 24, 1932; d. Jan. 6, 2019) had a ton of fannish roles, including Captain Nemo in the 2010 *Mysterious Island* and a *Star Trek* movie appearance. He was in the Doctor Who and Babylon 5 universes, and he did voices for video games and *Biker Mice from Mars*.

Actor, comedian, and musician Kenny Baker (b. Aug. 24, 1934; d. Aug. 13, 2016) is remembered by a lot of fans for his work in the Star Wars movies as R2-D2, but he was also in *Time Bandits*, *Willow*, *Flash Gordon*, and a TV series.

Actor and screenwriter Sonja Bennett (b. Aug. 24, 1980) played recurring roles in *Battlestar Galactica* and produced *Ghost Wars*.

Author Orson Scott Card (b. born Aug. 24, 1951) has managed to offend a lot of people, myself included.

#### Dispatchings

Animation art director Nizo Yamamoto (b. June 27, 1953; d. Aug. 19, 2023) worked on *Weathering with You* and Studio Ghibli movies.

Heide Nichols mentioned that actor Darren Kent (b. June 6, 1987; d. Aug. 11, 2023), died at the age of 36. He'd had roles in *Game of Thrones* and *Dungeons & Dragons: Honor Among Thieves*. She read about it

on SCIFI.radio. (<https://scifi.radio/2023/08/18/actor-darren-kent-of-game-of-thrones-and-dungeons-and-dragons-gone-at-only-36>)

### Media anniversary

On this date in 1966, we watched *Fantastic Voyage* on the big screen. It might have been Raquel Welch's biggest science fiction role.

### Reading of the Minutes (Heath Row)

Scribbles read the Condensed Cream of Menace for Aug. 17, 2023.

### Additions and Corrections

None

### Auction to Name the Minutes

Lynn Maners bid \$5, won, and named them "Five-Cent Kool-Aid Makes Two Quarts."

### Call for Approval

Moved to accept as read, and approved.

### Celebration of Patron Saints

Marilyn "Fuzzy Pink" Niven was celebrated and recognized by Tony Benoun, Cathy Johnson, Chris Marble, and Heide Nichols. Niven received three cheers—and a bob and lace, or a root beer float.

Chris Marble: She's been working art shows at Loscons for decades and decades and is still a source of information for people who don't know how to do it perfectly. She also plays mah-jongg.

Heide Nichols: At one of my very first Loscons, I was pretty much having a meltdown, and this nice woman I didn't know from Adam stopped to talk to me, calm me, and told me it wasn't the end of the world. She told me her name was Fuzzy, and she wasn't kidding. She's a calm, cool, collected, neat person.

Tony Benoun: Her nickname started off as Fuzzy Pink Roommate.

Cathy Johnson: From what I understand, it was because of her fuzzy pink slippers. We all know her and love her as Fuzzy. She does great lacework. If you've watched her with the bits of yarn and string laid out on a pattern, it's very beautiful. She does a lot of crafting and sewing.

Michelle Pincus was celebrated and recognized by Barbara Gratz Harmon, Cathy Johnson, Chris Marble, Heide Nichols, Eylat Poliner, Tom Safer, Kevin Segall, Nick Smith, and Matthew B. Tepper. Pincus received three cheers.

Tom Safer: I appreciate Michelle as a friend. She always has good ideas for things. She's doing a

wonderful job putting a con together.

Eylat Poliner: I enjoy Michelle's energy, She represents the Energizer Bunny. She never slows down. If you bottled up that energy, I'd buy it. She's full of life and energy and is fun to be around.

Nick Smith: Since she moved to Las Vegas, she's been taking over Nevada fandom. She's been reaching out to fans in Nevada, as well as Pokemon Go. It's been fun seeing that transition as she moves from California to Nevada.

Kevin Segall: Michelle's one of the first people I met in the LASFS. She's so fun, so sweet, and I have fun every time I see her.

Chris Marble: She's one of my favorite people to come across, whether it be through sf, Pokemon Go, or in Nevada. And she's been able to select the flavor of the liquid nitrogen ice cream more often than anyone else.

Heide Nichols: Michelle is someone we couldn't have run the last few Loscons without. She's a very gracious hostess and has a beautiful new home that's very welcoming. I'm glad she makes time to come back to us.

Matthew B. Tepper: Michelle is not only a good friend, but she knows how to arrange things and make things happen. Not everybody has that ability, but she has it in large quantities. She's cute, bouncy, and is the wild elf girl.

Barbara Gratz Harmon: She was also involved in Sherlock Holmes fandom and the Blustering Gales from the South-West. (<https://www.coliserv.net/bgsww>) We should always have a Zoom option for people like Michelle.

Cathy Johnson: Michelle is so organized, so hard working, and has such love for fandom.

## Committee Reports

Programming (Eylat Poliner)

Tonight, Tom Safer will screen four animated shorts after the meeting: Tex Avery's *The House of Tomorrow*, *The Farm of Tomorrow*, *The Car of Tomorrow*, and *The T.V. of Tomorrow*.

John Trimble communicated that Bjo would not be able to present to the club at this time because of technical challenges.

Upcoming programming for the LASFS includes

- 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. 14: 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 (Michelle Pincus): Cathy Johnson said that the con is coming up this November. If you can join us in person or online, we'd love to have you at that meeting.

If you'd like to run the toy drive, reach out to Michelle Pincus. She's looking for volunteers. We're hoping to partner with Toys for Tots. Depending on who takes it over, I might move the contact for Toys for Tots to them. We get boxes from Toys for Tots. At 10 a.m., you drag out the box. You sit there, look friendly, act welcoming, and thank the people for their donations. At 5 p.m., we move the box to a staff room. Repeat that three times. On Sunday, we hope to have two uniformed Marines accept the toys, and the toys go off with them. Last year, we drove the toys to the Marine base because the commander gave his staff the holiday weekend off. We might even use wardrobe boxes from U-Haul.

Loscon is on track, and we have good stuff coming up for it.

## Honor Guard (Charles Lee Jackson II)

The Spot of Honor is held by the Los Angeles 48 Hour Film Project.

Susan Fox said the 48 Hour Film Project audience awards screening is Sunday, Aug. 27 at Regal LA Live.

Jackson: Next week is the harbinger of next month. We'll select the Spot of Honor recipient for next month.

## Registrar (Eylat Poliner)

We have no guests at this time.

## Treasurer (Debra Levin and Elayne Pelz)

Debra Levin reminded members to pay their dues.

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

## Board Report (Michelle Pincus)

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

## Old Business

Cathy Johnson: Elayne Pelz is still working with the church to finalize using the space we had been using.

Once that's done, we'll start meeting there once a month, perhaps starting in September. If we do, it will be a hybrid meeting. Dean and I have already figured out what equipment is needed to make that happen.

### New Business

None

### Time-Bound Announcements

Nick Smith

At Vroman's Bookstore on Saturday, the amazingly strange Ukelele Orchestra of the Western Hemisphere will perform. They're really good, and sometimes they do sf-related music when they feel like it.

Dark Delicacies will host a signing Saturday with Sadie Hartmann for *101 Horror Books to Read Before You're Murdered*, and David Scott Hay for *NSFW*.

The Huntington will host the third Octavia Butler Science Fiction Book Club discussion of *Parable of the Talents* on Saturday in its meeting room. Smith plans to go to this one, as well.

### Moments of Science

Tom Safer: From Today in Science ([https://www.todayinsci.com/8/8\\_24.htm](https://www.todayinsci.com/8/8_24.htm))

- Ralph Eugene Lapp
- Albert Claude
- Sir Daniel Gooch
- Event: Minor planet Pluto

Lynn Maners: You're certainly all aware of Ötzi the ice man. That started glacial archaeology. In Norway, as the glacier patches began to recede, artifacts began showing up. Recently, as the glacier has retreated more, they're finding suits of clothing. When you're on the verge of freezing to death, you feel overwhelmingly hot, take your clothes off to cool off—and die.

Nick Smith: An odd announcement was made. Apparently, one of the largest musical instruments ever made was found in the Andes. It's a drum big enough for dozens of people to dance on to make percussive sounds. Four dancers were able to make percussive sounds as loud as 80 decibels.

Lynn Maners: That is called a floor drum. If you ever make it to Chaco Canyon, there's a floor drum there. [It's also called a floor vault or foot drum.]

Smith: The engineering was pretty amazing. The upper layer was dirt, and all the engineering was below it.

Maners: There's more engineering and stonework in the foundation of Macchu Picchu than in the buildings above.

### Regular Announcements

Tom Safer's September screening at the Frances Howard Goldwyn—Hollywood Regional Branch Library will be *Luca* on Sept. 16. It's a fun Disney film about a boy who lives in water.

If you want to join the Burbank Chorale, they're holding open auditions. The season begins Sept. 12.

### Reviews

Eylat Poliner shared a meeting review from Gail Carigger—"Dear Eylat, I just wanted to say thank you so, so much for hosting me at your gathering. I enjoyed myself immensely. It made me feel very nostalgic. You really made me feel welcome, and your questions were thoughtful and fun. All the very best, Gail"

Nick Smith went to see the movie *Blue Beetle*. It's very much a science fiction movie set in a superhero universe. The character first started in 1939, and there was a serial script written as well as a *Blue Beetle* radio show in 1940. I was impressed by the way they converted a complicated story into a movie that was interesting. They did some cool visual effects I was really pleased by. It's definitely worth seeing even if you've never read any of the *Blue Beetle* comics.

Charles Lee Jackson II: The *Blue Beetle* serial is a fanboy rumor from the 1960s. There was never anything like that. It's similar to the rumor that the *Captain America* serial was supposed to include the Crimson Avenger. If you're familiar with *Watchmen*, the idea was that those characters would all be owned by Charlton Comics, including the Blue Beetle. It's always been a very popular character. Steve Ditko totally changed it, and everyone still loved it.

Smith: The Captain America in the serial looked a lot like the Blue Beetle including the gun.

Eylat Poliner: If you haven't seen the *Star Trek—Strange New Worlds* sing-along episode, it's now up there with her favorite episodes such "The Trouble with Tribbles."

Heide Nichols: If you like the Klingons and have any interest in K-Pop—Klingon-Pop—this year's Loscon's music room will offer Klingon-related music. Members will learn how to do the music and song for the Klingons.

Cathy Johnson: There will be singing Klingons at Loscon.

Chris Marble: I saw *Haunted Mansion*. Well, it was fine. I enjoyed the callouts to the ride hither and thither. I enjoyed Jamie Lee Curtis playing the crypt keeper. It's not a movie I would see again unless I was with a friend who really wanted to see it.

Scribbles saw *The Last Voyage of the Demeter* and recommends it. It's a vampire movie. It's a costume

drama. It's an old dark house movie on a ship.

Charles Lee Jackson II recently saw *Peau d'Ane* on TCM. Based on a Hans Christian Andersen story, it's a charming film and well worth the time it would take to watch it.

Matthew B. Tepper: "Peau D'Ane" Translates as "Donkey Skin." Lee and Barry Gold love that movie too.

Tom Safer: The new Guardians of the Galaxy movie is great fun and well worth the price of the DVD.

### **Miscellaneous**

Nola Frame-Gray: I heard that India had a successful moon landing. Does anyone know about that?

Lynn Maners: They have a rover up there looking for ice.

J.P. Van Gordon offered the links <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cqtSj0UTGpk> and [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NitxnjDII\\_s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NitxnjDII_s).

Frame-Gray: To see the Tom Safer cartoons, do we stay here or transfer to another channel?

Susan Fox: Stay right here.

Tom Safer: I have the DVD loaded.

Eylat Poliner discouraged people from using Airbnb. They had some plumbing issues at their Airbnb while on vacation, and the property manager tried to charge them for the plumbing repairs. It was the person before them who caused the problem—disposable wipes in the toilet—not us.

Similarly, Instacart sometimes doubles up and charges more for their items. You'll end up paying more than you will in a store.

Frame-Gray: When Louis and I were in serious lock down, we used Amazon Fresh for food delivery. We weren't aware that they include an automatic tip for the driver. I believe in tipping drivers, but I didn't like that they just did it.

Cathy Johnson: There won't be an aftermeeting because of Tom's program tonight—unless we want to convene even later.

### **Call to Adjourn**

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

### **Quotes of Note**

Courtesy of Matt Mitchell:

Statler: "They called the meeting to order."

Waldorf: "Starting a new bad habit!"