

<i>De Profundis Ad Astra</i>	DE PROFUNDIS #608	
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PDF versions of *De Prof* are available at <https://tinyurl.com/LASFS-DeProf>.

May 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 8 p.m.: LASFS meeting	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 8 p.m.: LASFS meeting*	9	10
11 †	12	13	14	15 8 p.m.: LASFS meeting	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 8 p.m.: LASFS meeting	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 8 p.m.: LASFS meeting	30	31

All times are PT. Events in black text are LASFS events. Events in gray text are not.

* **Thursday Programme Items:** ; May 8—Hybrid meeting at Denny's (5525 N. Sepulveda Blvd., Sherman Oaks, CA 91411). There will be an auction.

† *There will be no Board of Directors meeting May 11, 2025. Next BoD is June 8, 2025.*

Meeting Tech Specs: LASFS meetings are currently held online via Zoom—and in person once a month. Contact host Susan Fox at susanfox@scifi.radio to receive an invitation, the meeting password, and weekly reminders.

COLOPHON

De Profundis #608 (May 2025)
Publisher and Editor: Matthew Mitchell

De Profundis is the newsletter of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society. The club's Web site is <http://www.lasfs.org>. *De Prof* is available in PDF format for free and in print from the editor at cost for printing and postage. Print subscribers must fund and maintain a balance for printing and mailing.

Westercon is a service mark of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, Inc. (LASFS, Inc.). Worldcon and NASFiC are service marks of the World Science Fiction Society (WSFS).

The editor requests news items of interest to LASFS members. While the editor accepts no advertising in *De Prof*, he will attempt to publish relevant event announcements.

Send such material to Matthew Mitchell at 2121 Nadeau Street #D16, Mojave, CA 93501 or via email to captmurdock@gmail.com. Deadlines are fluid. Any material deemed not appropriate for *De Prof* will be forwarded to the Official Collator for APA-L for possible publication.

The editor will prioritize content mandated in the LASFS By-Laws and supported by any applicable club traditions.

Print recipients are responsible for informing the editor of address changes. The editor will stop mailing newsletters to anyone whose mailing is returned.

Statements herein are those of the editor or writer and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the club or other members. Parenthetical interjections are solely the responsibility of the editor. Any resemblance betwixt smartassery and responsibility are purely coincidental.

Addendum: At the LASFS Board of Directors meeting on April 13, 2025, the directors accepted Matthew Mitchell's proposal to become editor of *De Profundis*.

De Profundis is published by Matthew Mitchell 2121 Nadeau Street #D16, Mojave, CA 93501; captmurdock@gmail.com; 661-483-1698 mobile. It is prepared for members of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society and select others. A recent copy can be requested for the Usual. This is a Radio Free Europa publication.

LASFS OFFICERS

Elected Procedural Officers

January-June 2025

President: Cathy Johnson

Vice-President: Susan Fox

Registrar: Derek LaPorte

Scribe: Nick Smith

Treasurers: Debra Levin and Elayne Pelz

Board of Directors

Chairman: Michelle Pincus (2027)

Vice Chairman: Matthew B. Tepper (2026)

Comptroller: Gavin Claypool (2025)

Secretary: Susan Fox (2027)

Other Members

Cathy Johnson (2027), Dean Johnson (2025), Christian B. McGuire (2026), Heide Nichols (2025), Elayne Pelz (2026), Eylat Poliner (2027), and Rob Powell (2026)

Special Advisors

Charles Lee Jackson II

Deceased/honorary positions: Forrest J Ackerman, Walt Daugherty, Len and June Moffatt, and Fred Patten

Appointed Officials

Cat Liaison, Computers, Editor, LASFS Archivist, Publications, and Westercon Liaison: Christian B. McGuire; Committee to Gouge Money from the LASFS and Key Control: Christian B. McGuire and Elayne Pelz; *De Profundis* Editor and APA-L Liaison: Heath Row; Film Coordination Committee, Honor Guard, Party Rabbi, and Video Collection Curator: Charles Lee Jackson II; Hall Decoration: Charles Lee Jackson II, Christian B. McGuire, and Elayne Pelz; LASFAPA Liaison: David Schlosser; LASFS Information: Lee Gold and Matthew B. Tepper; Librarian: Gavin Claypool; Assistant Librarian: Elayne Pelz; Marketing and Promotions: Michelle Pincus; Patron Saints List Manager: Elayne Pelz and Eylat Poliner; Photographic Collection (Special): Mike Donahue; Program: Eylat Poliner; Science Officers: Bill Green and Nick Smith; Assistant Video Collection Curator: Tom Khamis; Webmistress: Kristine Cherry; Web Advisors: Barry and Lee Gold

Condensed Cream of Menace

(Official, approved minutes are also available online at <https://www.lasfs.org/lasfs-meeting-minutes>.)

Beginning this issue, the editor, who is very new to this job, is sticking in the Menace as he has received them. Well, with minor stylistic revisions.

Board Meeting December 8, 2024

Matthew B. Tepper, chairing
Susan Fox, Secretary

Called to order: 11:00 a.m.

Present:

Chair Matthew Tepper, Secretary Susan Fox, Eylat Poliner, Gavin Claypool, Christian B. McGuire, Rob "Gizmo" Powell, Cathy Johnson, Dean Johnson, Michelle Pincus

Non-Board Members: Webmistress Kristine Cherry; Club member observers Matt Mitchell, Dr. Susie Searight, John Searight, Victoria Honeywilde, Echo Skyhorse

Absent board members: Vice Chair Heide Nichols [was sick at Loscon], Elayne Pelz [away at Smofcon]

Minutes: approved

New Members: none

Treasurer's Report [Elayne Pelz]: absent

30 Second Reports

Chairman [Matthew Tepper] - No report

Vice Chairman [Heide Nichols] - absent

Secretary [Susan Fox] - No report

Comptroller [Gavin Claypool]- Investment account as of 12/06/24: \$1,026,704.13

Library [Gavin Claypool] Book sales at Loscon: \$927.00. Nobody seemed bothered at price hike from 50 cents to 1 dollar per paperback.

Thanks to Greg Barrett who helped man the table, and the marvelous Chris Marble, who is hanging on to four boxes temporarily.

Quartermaster [Susan Fox] – No Report

Archives [Cathy Johnson] – No Report

Physical Plant (storage) [Rob Powell] – We recently had a Loscon! Many things were taken out of storage and many things were returned to storage.

Couple of updates for the future: work party to be scheduled in January, to do additional clean up. Mini fridges: one white one needs to be disposed, but Rob has a line on a gently used one from the Burbank fire department which is cleaning out -their- storage.

AV Equipment (in storage) [Dean Johnson]
No report

Events [Eylat Poliner] - We had a very successful Loscon! 809 memberships, over 660 warm bodies in person. Over \$14,000 sales in the art show, a new record! 26 units of blood donated, almost \$1400 to the charity auction, that was \$1200 turned over to Julia Ree for the American Cancer Society after fees, plus \$352 cash donated in buckets. 238 cancer caps donated to ACS

One bungle: Electronic Gaming did not happen, due to communication problems between department manager Ben Levin, Eylat, Rob, and Logistics. Ben has been asked to do this again next year, with the help of the logistical Searights. Ben has been a gentlemen throughout the process.

A lot of excitement, team spirit for Loscon was incredible, everyone stepped up to help everybody, a sense of love, that people actually wanted to be at Loscon, staff and attendees.

Later in this call, Eylat wishes a closed session about problems concerning the Staff Lounge. More to come in the closed session.

At-con post-closing ceremony critiques: Eylat reports many thanks from attendees to LASFS and Loscon. Main complaints: Parking [we know], Lack of signage [we know, we can fix that]

Eylat still has plenty of thank you cards, if you didn't get one or you have a staff member who needs one, she can mail.

Gavin: Bids for Loscon 52 are due March 1, 2025.

Kristine – as Loscon Webmistress
Kristine will still work on the Loscon website,
whoever is chairing.
Michelle considers the web site as part of the
marketing team, and yes Kristine is still in!
Kudos from Matthew, Dean, Echo about the
phone version and online schedule

Publications [Christian McGuire] – Saw Heath
at Loscon, nothing there to report

Marketing and Recruitment [Michelle Pincus]
– Loscon website turned over to Loscon 51, that
marketing has begun.

AGENDA

Significant Others

Club President [Cathy Johnson] Upcoming in-
person meeting this week.

Due to illness from the con: In the weekly
invitation, please remind people that hybrid is an
option. Christian suggests this be publicized in
all the Marketing spaces.

Kristine tracked 19 people on staff alone who
got sick with one thing or another.

Susan will probably run the zoom from home
instead of at Denny's.

This week: Procedural elections, all positions
except treasurer [which is mid year]

Webmistress [Kristine Cherry]. Partly already
discussed during Loscon report. Starting details
in the Loscon 51. Please go through chair Sheri
Benoun and inform Kristine if you have
something for the website.

QR code should probably not be on the web
site, because you are already there. Needs to be
on postcards and other printed matter.

Susie: some parts still display Loscon 50.

Kristine says: this has to do with registration,
please email Elayne

Dean has some updated artwork for the Loscon
51 banner

Echo: also on the Dealer and Registration
pages. Kristin can change those right now.

Open Forum

Eylat: Jaroslav Olsa sent email, he is working on
a book about SF published by Czech-American
author Miles J. Breuer, and wishes to get LASFS
to help promote the book at the 2026 Worldcon
and possible Hugo nomination
This may be intended for the Worldcon

committee, forward to Worldcon chair Joyce
Lloyd.

Matthew: beware of the accusation of ballot box
stuffing

Closed door session.

Invited non board: Susie, John, Victoria, Echo
[check recording]

Eylat: The Chili Party people were having a big
30/20 anniversary and we did not have a con
suite to lend them, but offered the staff lounge if
they observed certain guidelines, none of which
were observed.

They are no longer welcome at any convention
that Eylat is chairing.

Turning over to Victoria: They were furious
about how small the room was. They were told
they could start set up at 2 or 3 and share with
Staff lunch, but they thought they could take
over the room at 2 or 3. They were very short
with us, upset that it was not a blank slate for
them. We were trying to ask them how to help
when Keith [Kato] came in, he was the shortest
tempered and upset that there were People still
there at 2 for a party at 8.

Victoria had to go out at 4 to get the Costco
pizza for the staff dinner, and leave JB [who
offered] to deal with Keith, who was never
satisfied with table placement, unable to
compromise in any way.

They said we had to stay in the Presidential
Suite, but not actually invited to the party. The
staff stayed in the bedroom to be available.
They were requested to clear out by Midnight,
Keith was there until 2:30 and then just walked
away, no thanks, no good bye. Con was stuck
cleaning up after them. Ken Bates was helpful
on their side, who ran the dessert/chocolate
fountain

Susie: as staff and as crisis interventionist
observed some of the set up: Susie asked the
chili stirrer "whatcha doing?" Got treated with
condescension, so Susie got out.

Next morning, a teenager was still shaking.
They had been told to stay in their side room,
felt they were trapped in their room without
being allowed to leave or escape in an
emergency. Victoria did not know the teenager
had been treated that way. Susie does not care
about any old fan's entitlement, but the idea of a
fan party is to make it welcoming.

Then the L. Ron Hubbard people's treatment of
our staff as an inconvenience and servants is

inexcusable.

Echo: the Scientology people were more respectful than the Chili people, but they were still not welcoming. She can not believe the entitled behavior by these two groups at this convention.

Eylat: apologizes for not realizing that Author Services meant the L.Ron Hubbard organization.

Echo: when it comes to treating people equally whatever their color, gender, religion, we should. But we have members of the LGBT community and offering space to an organization that [check recording] is dangerous precedent.

Echo was not aware how bad the staff had been treated by the Friday group, or she would have gone directly to the people running the parties and made them apologize or close them down. None of them are welcome to Loscon Hospitality Spaces from now on.

Eylat will ask Matthew as chairman of the board to send letters

We gave them the spaces at no cost, and they treated the staff in an unacceptable way. Eylat apologizes to Hospitality

Victoria and her fiancée JB had to flee Florida and the transgender genocide. They are reacting very strongly to the Scientologists for this reason.

Christian: "I told you so"

I know that, Sheri knows that bad

The initializing incident for this was allowing THE TEA to take over the Staff Lounge space.

The tea was not as much of a problem with rudeness and interpersonal relations, but set a bad precedent, at this con and much earlier ones, as previous Hospitality heads Susan and Eylat could confirm.

The Weinstains thanked the chair, but not the Hospitality staff

Christian will talk to Sheri about the staff lounge issues

Once again, Eylat apologizes to the Hospitality Staff, and thanks everyone.

Matthew suggests Eylat retain a lawyer before sending a letter to the rude people. Eylat's husband Mark is a paralegal, he can look

it over.

Susie: suggests to send a letter to all parties stating due to the size and restrictions, moving forward, we will not be allowing private or attendee parties in the staff lounge. Suggest that they pay for their own suites for their own parties.

Susie suggests eliminating the part criticizing rudeness, etc. or saying WHY, but keep it professional and "legalese." Susie would be happy to have that conversation if the party people need to have one.

Dean: letter should come from the next chair, not the past chair

John: Maybe it should not come from the chair at all, but the organization

Christian: It should not to be written by Sheri at all.

Gavin: Put it in the Progress Report. The Staff Lounge is for the staff only, no parties to take it over. Christian concurs

Matthew: Does Chaz Boston Baden pay for his party suite?

Eylat: YES he does, and pays for extensive refreshments, with no request for funds. All the other parties paid for their own as well.

Gavin: Is Keith likely to be doing another chili party? There was a rumor that this was his last.

Christian: Keith said so himself. He has said this before, but this time could be right.

Next meeting date: January 19, 2025 11:00 a.m. Third Sunday, to avoid Anime LA, where a number of us are working
Board job elections will be at this meeting

Adjournment 12:30 p.m.

December 12, 2024

Meeting #4557

Cathy Johnson, presiding

Nick Smith, Scribe

Call to order by president Cathy Johnson, presumably within a loud shout of 8:00 p.m.

Hatchings, Matchings and Dispatchings

Hatchings:

- actor Edward G. Robinson,
- author and folklorist Josepha Sherman, actress Sarah Douglas of the *Superman* movies and
- actress Sarah Sutton of *Doctor Who*

Media anniversaries:

- *The Postman* movie in 1997, and
- the *Bill the Galactic Hero* student film of 2014, which had the highest budget of any student film to that date, and was a feature length film with music by Iggy Pop.

Passings:

- actor Michael Cole
- actor Thom Christopher
- actress Maria Socas, who were the two villains in the Roger Corman movie *Wizards of the Lost Kingdom*,
- British actor and screenwriter Arnold Yarrow, who died at the age of 104

Reading of the previous minutes, meeting #4556

Bid to name the minutes: Christian McGuire bid "A Cantor" to name them "A Cantor is a bid of \$20." The minutes were approved.

Patron Saints

Fred Patten:

Christian mentioned how Fred was instrumental in the founding of Anime fandom and Furry fandom, even overseas. Chris Marble said that he was a great guy who published 2700 APA-L issues in a row. CLJ II said that Fred Patten was a major financial force who monetized his fandom just the right amount, writing and publishing things that made money without driving fans broke. He was also a fan of European comics and Mexican wrestling in comic book form. Nick Smith mentioned the artwork that Fred owned that were part of the museum exhibit before Fred's passing, and Fred got to see it.

Rob "Gizmo" Powell:

Eylat Poliner mentioned that Gizmo is helpful with load-in and load-out for cons, but he was very helpful when Karl Lembke passed away, and his belongings had to be moved and stored. Christian mentioned Gizmo's building cabinets for storing and moving the Tardis, and built an elevated, rolling platform in Ed Hooper's garage.

Gizmo has donated tons of stuff for auctions. Krystal mentioned that Gizmo's real expertise is really in HOW to load in and load out.

Committee Reports

Honor Guard: Christmas Carols, Confections and Caprices holds the spot for this and two more weeks.

Registrar: Welcoming of guests would have happened, but they were all too smart to show up on an election night. The Birmingham Science Fiction Group sent us Christmas greetings. For those of you who didn't recognize the name, this organization, also called The Brums, started in the early 1970s and in addition to meeting monthly, they run Novacon, a convention that is actually older than LosCon.

Treasurer: Elayne Pelz says pay your dues to be eligible to vote.

Board of Directors: January meeting will be January 19th at 11 am on Zoom

Loscon:

50 still waiting for final financial numbers. Zoom meeting for staff on January 19th for con wrap-up. The artist GOH came down with COVID, so she wanted people to know 51 will be Nov. 28-30, 2025, at the LAX Hilton. \$55 is the current rate. Ursula Vernon/T. Kingfisher is the writer GOH.

Programming:

Procedural elections tonight
Dec. 19 Tim Griffin singing holiday songs via Zoom

Fannish wellness:

George McUrso is recovered from his latest cold, and is starting to restart rehab. Should be getting his VA benefits finally.

Old Business:

Procedural office nominations and elections. CLJ II explained the offices.

President: Cathy Johnson is still nominated. Chris nominated Christian who courteously declined. Christian nominated Craig Miller, who declined with thanks.

Vice President: Eylat nominated Susan Fox, who accepted the nomination. Krystal Rains was nominated, but politely declined. CLJ II was

nominated, and respectfully declined. Eylat was nominated, and respectfully declined.

Scribe: Heide Nichols nominated Nick Smith, as did Hare Hobbs. Eylat nominated Matthew Tepper, who declined courteously.

Registrar: Eylat nominated Derek LaPorte, who paused only briefly before accepting. Chris nominated Anita Nuñez and Victor Khaze. Anita accepted, but Victor declined, leaving Anita to carry on the struggle. In a hard-fought electoral battle between those in physical attendance and those on Zoom, Derek won 19-18.

New Business:
None

Timebound announcements:

I [Nick] don't normally include holiday music events, but Vroman's Bookstore in Pasadena is having one so cool that I had to include it. This Saturday afternoon, there will be two hours of instrumental holiday music, but probably not what you think. Starting at 1:30 pm, they will have the quintet Gone With the Winds, a classically trained wind quintet, which as Matthew might tell you, includes Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, French Horn and Bassoon. Then, at 2:30 they will be followed by The Sliders, which is a trombone quartet. No, really.

Adjournment at 9:33 pm

December 19, 2024

Meeting #4558

Cathy Johnson, presiding
Nick Smith, Scribe

Call to order by president Cathy Johnson.

Hatchings, Matchings and Dispatchings:

Hatchings:

- Sir Ralph Richardson
- Tim Reid
- Jennifer Beals
- Alyssa Milano
- fannish historian Harry Warner

Media anniversaries: three movies released on this date in 1986:

- *King Kong Lives*
- *Hyper Sapien*
- *Little House of Horrors*, the musical

version of the earlier movie and play. None were box office successes.

Passings:

- actress Diane Delano
- actor David Weatherly
- author Barry Malzberg, who according to Matthew suddenly passed earlier that day.
-

Reading of the previous minutes, meeting 4557

Bid to name the minutes: \$5 to Chris Marble to

name the minutes "Welp, no Maners..."

Approval of minutes at 8:21 pm.

Patron Saints:

Steve McGinty: CLJ II remembered him as being a very active fan a long time ago. Matthew Tepper remembered him from the early 2000s. He shared his computer hot spot with fans at the club.

Heide Nichols: Eylat Poliner said that Heide was involved with Project Linus, which decorates blankets for cancer patients. This year, they helped with the knit hats for the cancer project. She has run gaming at various cons over the years.

Committee Reports

Treasurer reminded people that dues are going up in January.

Board of Directors: Next meeting on January 19th on Zoom at 11 am

Honor Guard: the Spot of Honor is currently held by Christmas Carols, Confections and Caprices

Loscon 50: Staff wrapup on Zoom at 1 pm on January 19th

Loscon 51: No report update.

Programming: Tonight is the last program for 2024, which is Tim Griffin's holiday concert. Eylat is working on programs for the next few months, which may include droids terrorizing the other folks at Denny's.

Matthew Tepper went to The Last Bookstore: Studio City. It's still a work in progress, but it's open and strong in some areas, science fiction is still being worked on.

Fannish wellness: George McUrso is working on getting better, and so far it's working.

Tim Griffin's concert followed.

Old Business

None.

New Business:

None.

Timebound announcements:

Nick Smith reported on screenings of *The Muppet Christmas Carol* coming up this weekend, along with a few other movie screenings.

Science report

Lee Grixit had a report that he thought could inspire SF writers. DNA can be compressed, which has been looked at as data storage, but the way DNA molecules fold has led some robotics folks to looking at the mechanics of how that works.

Regular announcements:

None.

Reviews

None

Miscellaneous

Heide said that the meteor shower currently going on is very visible up in the mountains, and is really cool if you get away from city lights.

The after-meeting will be happening tonight.
Adjournment at 9:20 pm.

December 26, 2024

Meeting #4559

Cathy Johnson, presiding

Nick Smith, Scribe

Call to order by president Cathy Johnson,
sometime before 9:00 p.m.

Hatchings, Matchings and Dispatchings

Hatchings:

- mathematician Charles Babbage,
- actress Kathleen Crowley
- actress Tahnee Welch
- actor and stunt man Chuck Hicks

- late East Coast fan Priscilla Olson of NESFA

Media anniversaries:

- 1932 *Island of Lost Souls*
- 1965 *The Monkey's Uncle*.

Passings:

- actor Art Evans
- science fiction writer and editor George Zebrowski.

Reading of the previous minutes, meeting #4558

Bid to name the minutes: Debra Levin bid a
Maners to name the minutes of 4558 "Eggplant."
Approval of minutes at 8:24 pm

Patron Saints

Robbie Bourget: Heide Nichols said that Robbie is a great help at cons, running Ops. Chris Marble mentioned that she actually saved someone's life at a con years ago. Matt Mitchell mentioned that she had helped the early Gallifrey conventions stay operational financially, since she had a credit card and the con didn't. Eylat Poliner said that when her daughter Anna was really sick, Robbie made sure that Anna could get into the con in a wheelchair and attend things. Anita Nuñez mentioned her very first con, Worldcon in San Francisco, where she worked con ops. That was the con where Robbie beat up muggers and handed them over to the police. CLJ II mentioned that several LASFS members were given short-term employment at the Canadian embassy for various tasks. He was working to help them sort their film collection for digitizing. Also, Robbie helped him verify details for his writing. Tom Safer mentioned how Robbie helped him save the film program at the 2012 Worldcon, as the con had kind of double-booked.

Marty Cantor: CLJ II said that Marty was a complex individual. He was friendly but a curmudgeon, stubborn in his beliefs. Reliably produced fanzines in classic form. Matthew remembered that Marty loved classical music, and that Marty had a bunch of Rotsler art which ended up being used for the Loscon where the artist bailed. Chris said that Marty was one of the first people that Chris met at the club, and was a great fan of classic fanzine work. Nick pointed out that Marty was also a talented amateur musician, and after Cathy pointed out that Marty was documented as being a beatnik, Nick Smith pointed out that he was also a poet

in his pre-LASFS days.

Elayne Pelz: Eylat talked about how supportive Elayne was when Eylat got the Loscon bid, and how much that meant to her. Heide said that Elayne has a wealth of knowledge and good advice, everything from how to archive emails to the right ways to tip. Chris said that there were tons of conventions that could not have run smoothly without her. Victor said that he's glad he's gotten to know Elayne over the years, and that she's a font of convention professionalism. If he's worried about how a convention is going, he looks at Elayne, and if she's not panicking, he knows things will be okay. CLJ II has known Elayne since she joined the club, and when she was new to the club she quickly got involved in the operations of the club. Eylat said that she learned a lot about how to treat convention staff from Elayne. Dean Johnson said that Elayne can send a wealth of paragraphs in a three-word email. Tom Safer said nice things about Elayne's cat. Three cheers and pay your dues

Committee Reports

Treasurer: New dues start next week.
Honor Guard: This month's honor guard space just expired. 60 years ago this month, Larry Niven's first pro SF story was published in *Worlds of If*, so the spot got used to honor Larry. Bidding for the month of January was fierce, and Gavin Claypool bid a triple-Cantor to keep the Larry Niven tribute up for January.

Registrar: No guests, but Derek gave a rhyming announcement of that.

Board of Directors: Zoom meeting on January 19th at 11:00 am

Loscon 50 staff wrap-up on January 19th on Zoom at 1 pm.

Programming: Eylat is still working on programming for the new year.

Fannish wellness: Chris has a cold, so he didn't visit anyone this week. George McUrso is more positive in attitude, Selina Phanara is doing well.

Old Business
None

New Business

None

Timebound announcements

Victor reported that today was Susan Fox and Gene Turnbow's anniversary.

Science report

Tom Safer reported on the Birthday of Charles Babbage, patenting of the Frisbee, and Marie Curie's work

Regular announcements

Eylat got a 4.0 average for her course work this fall. Tom was here because he got a day off from choir.

Reviews

Eylat reviewed the *Doctor Who* Christmas special, and really liked it.

Tom reviewed the concert he was in last Sunday. The choir did the Christmas Oratorio in German, wonderful but challenging. Also some other carols in German. Music by Heinrich Schutz.

Marc Silver mentioned that he was in a choir that sang music attributed to Schutz, but later turned out to be by someone else.

Miscellaneous

Nick mentioned the Eskimo Nell movie that Barry Gold found. It's not bad, but remarkably weird.

Tom mentioned the anniversary of the first known feature length film, which was about Ned Kelly and came out in 1906.

We adjourned at 9:24 pm.

January 2, 2025

Meeting #4560

Cathy Johnson, presiding

Nick Smith, Scribe

Call to order by president Cathy Johnson, around 8:00 or as soon as she got the animals quieted down.

Reading of the previous minutes, meeting #4559

Bid to name the minutes: Gavin Claypool bid a Maners to name the minutes "Estwald" [an Asimov reference from *The Gods Themselves*]. Approval of minutes afterward,

Patron Saints

Dan Alderson: CLJ II said that Dan Alderson wrote computer programs for JPL for unmanned

exploration, and he wrote the navigation software that made it easier to penetrate the asteroid belt. At LASFS he was a big collector of all kinds of things, including the world's only complete collection of Fawcett comics from the golden age, which passed on to Harlan Ellison when Dan died. Barbara Harmon said that Dan was her mother's favorite student, as her mother was an English teacher at the high school Dan went to. Heide Nichols was temporarily frozen, but came back to discuss the Alderson Drive, which was in Niven/Pournelle stories. Chris Marble said that Dan was a pleasant fellow if you kept the conversation to the wide range of things he found interesting. Matthew Tepper said that Dan came up with more complex slingshotting of space probes, using planetary gravity to boost velocity. A cheerful person of sorrowful countenance, and he tended to put himself down. CLJ II mentioned that Dan was a fictional character in the Emperor series, and that he was honored by the renaming of the asteroid belt in those stories. Three cheers and a slingshot assist.

Joe Zeff: Now living in Colorado with his sister Marcia Minsky. Matt Mitchell met Joe in real life back in the 1980s, but has gotten to know him better through APA-L. This included the explanation of how he learned how to use a straight razor to maintain his sideburns. There is an online forum for people who use specific blades and brushes, and Joe, of course, found it. Barbara Harmon mentioned Joe talking about his favorite things. Chris remembered Joe talking about customer support stories from when he worked at Earthlink. Eylat Poliner mentioned that Joe wanted to be consistent, like wanting to sit in a certain place at meetings. Eylat mistakenly sat in "his" chair at one meeting. She remembered one of his tech support jokes. CLJ II remembered that Joe was both a baker and a prestidigitator.

Committee Reports

Programming

- **Jan. 23:** Susan Fox and Gene Turnbow about Sci Fi Radio
- **Feb. 6:** Lynn Gold, music guest for LosCon 51, will present a few songs.

Fannish wellness: Chris says George McUrso has continued to lose weight, slowly, but is also gaining strength slowly. Barbara has been talking to him by phone.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None

Timebound announcements

LosCon 52 bids need to be prepared to present to the board at the February meeting. Eylat ran down the list of requirements for the bid. Gavin clarified that the correct deadline is end of February, so the presentation to the board would be at the March board meeting, and any that qualify could be presented within 30 days after that.

Science report:

Lee mentioned DNA being used for data storage. You would need a container that is long-term and doesn't react with DNA. A synthetic amber-analog seems to be the newest idea. *[Somehow, this is going to end up with the pirates eating the tourists. – ed.]*

Regular announcements:

The 30th anniversary of Xena is this year, and there's a Creation con at the Burbank Marriott at the end of January.

Reviews:

Lee Grixit reviewed *The Decameron* on Netflix, which is NOT about the stories of The Decameron. It's about relationships between the characters, and is being done as a farce. Lee is enjoying it.

Nick Smith reviewed *Kraven: The Hunter*, which is good but not perfect, and is really a science fiction movie set in a superhero world.

Cathy Johnson reviewed the video version of *Wicked*, and enjoyed it. Matthew reviewed it in the context of how it related to the stage play.

Julie Scott reviewed the movie *Carry On*, with Jason Bateman as the villain, and really liked it. Barbara loved the original L. Frank Baum book so much that she didn't like the book for *Wicked*.

Adjournment at 9:16 pm.

Upcoming Conventions

May 3: Ridgecon – Ridgecrest, CA, <https://fantasycons.com/event/25777/ridgecon-2025>

May 3-4: Retro Palm Springs, _

<https://retropalmsprings.com/>

RocketTown Comic Con – Lompoc, CA, <https://rockettown-comic-con.company.site/>

May 10: Lodi Comic Con Spring, <https://lodicomiccon.com/home>

Omega Con – Madera, CA, <https://www.purplepass.com/organizer/8594>

May 17: Geek Out Napa Valley, <https://www.countyofnapa.org/3493/Geek-Out-Napa-Valley>

May 17-18: Comic Con Revolution – Ontario, CA, <https://www.comicconrevolution.com/>

May 23-25: Fanime – San Jose, CA, <https://www.fanime.com/>

May 23-26: Gamex – Los Angeles, CA, <https://fancons.com/events/info/24589/gamex-2025>

May 24: Pasadena Comic Con, <https://pasadenacomicon.com>

May 24-25: Anime Wonder California – Ventura, CA, <https://events.animewonderfest.com/VenturaCA2025/>

May 24-26, Galactic Camp – Alameda, CA, <https://www.galacticcamp.com/>

Kubla-Con – Burlingame, CA, <https://kublacon.com/>

May 30-Jun 1: Monsterpalooza – Pasadena, CA, <https://www.monsterpalooza.com/>

Anime Riverside, <https://www.monsterpalooza.com/>

Upcoming Events

May 3: Free Comic Book Day, Metro Entertainment, Santa Barbara, CA. <https://www.metro-entertainment.com/>

May 21: National Talk Like Yoda Day.

Please contact the con, store, or venue (or visit its Web site) to confirm any events and logistics before traveling to attend. Events and schedules

are subject to change. Additions and updates welcome.

If you'd like to submit cons, events, or news items of interest to LASFS members for inclusion in *De Prof*, please do so by contacting the editor (see Colophon above).

Clubzine Exchange

In addition to sending *De Prof* to the LASFS membership, we also send copies to about 50 sf clubs around the world. Some of them reciprocate with their own publications. I personally have not received any yet, but I will list them here as they are presented to me.

Available Fanzines

Those interested in new fanzines should refer to <https://efanzines.com> and <https://fanac.org>.

A Quick Note

I'd like to thank my predecessor, Heath Row, for freely and warmly giving me the resources and advice to facilitate the undertaking of editing *De Profundis*. I'm shamelessly using the template he provided for this publication in my inaugural issue; it is going to take me a month or two to remake this newsletter in my own warped image.

I would also like to thank the Board of Directors, especially Christian McGuire, Director in Charge of Publications, for giving me the opportunity to edit *De Profundis*. I truly appreciate the faith.

Please feel free to send news, reports, feedback, comments, corrections, Letters of Comment, etc., to my email in the Colophon. The editor, of course, reserves the right to make silly noises at all submissions.

Thank you.

--Matt