

In Memorium Leonard Nimoy 1931-2015



WARP 90

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On the Cover

Tribute to Leonard Nimoy, by Keith Braithwaite. He ran a still from Amok Time through a few Photoshop filters to create what appears to be a watercolour and chalk illustration.

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Facebook
page



<http://www.monsffa.ca>



Facebook
group

YAHOO!

MonSFFA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Except where noted, all MonSFFA meetings are held
Sundays at 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.
Espresso Hotel, St-François Room, 1005 Guy Street,
corner René Lévesque.

Programming is subject to change
Check our website for latest developments.

JANUARY 18

Club Elections * It Came From the Internet
Meeting/Planning Session

FEBRUARY 15

Hanna-Barbera: The designers and animators from
Hanna-Barbera especially the creations of the late Alex Toth
Wishing Well, Wishing III: Genies, Leprechauns,
and Monkey's Paws
Club News: Updates to social media, New website &
Planning for the rest of the year:

MARCH 22

March Hares, Mad Hatter
CRAZY HAT COMPETITION

NOON: The Classic Movie Hour (or two)
Anime for the SF Fan, a presentation by René Walling.
Got Books? EVERYONE (Yes, you too!) brings in a book read
recently and tries to "sell" it to us.

APRIL 26

Paleo Art * Protecting your computer from cyber attack
Masquerades: The best costumes ever!

MAY 24

(To be rescheduled, probably to 31st)
Book Sale & Auction, starts at noon * Those Early Futures
Tribute to Glen Larson

JUNE 14

Field Trip to Jurassic World

JULY 19

MonSFFA BBQ (July 26 – Rain Date)

Really Fine Print: WARP is published quarterly by the Montreal Science Fiction and Fantasy Association (MonSFFA), a nonprofit organization of fans interested in sharing their love of science fiction and fantasy. The opinions expressed in WARP are those of the individual writers and do not necessarily reflect those of MonSFFA or the editor. To reprint any article, please contact the writer, or ask the editor to pass on your request. The use of copyrighted material is generally discouraged; but sometimes unavoidable; our apologies to the copyright holders, no serious infringement is intended. This is an amateur production, and your tolerance is appreciated by your fans.



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You've Got Mail!

Dear MonSFFen:

Thank you so much for Warp 89. Always good to see it, and I wish there was a convention in Montréal we could come to, to see you all. Looks like there are big changes afoot, so some comments to ask what's going on.

I see President Berny is deposing himself, and from what he says, he is certainly going into exile. Only for a year? Well, ya gotta do what ya gotta do. Are there any big personalities who can fill his big shoes and follow in his imperial foot steps for that year? I hope so.

We hope it's not for long! Not only big shoes—he wore many hats! With luck he will be back next year, at least as a member, with batteries recharged.

My letter...yes, I started that job at TC Media on my birthday, June 2. And, I started a new job at MSR eCustoms on September 9, so I'll be there three months in just a few days. Yvonne did have that new job at Crown Wallpaper, but left to go to Royal Building Supplies just north of Toronto. Jobs are great, but you have to enjoy being there, and we didn't enjoy TC Media or Crown Wallpaper. We did go to Coldwater, Ontario for their annual steampunk festival, and it was a great day in a beautiful little village. All the events we listed there were great fun, and full of valuable contacts. And, I believe Pluto has indeed been reinstated as a planet. The planet must have had good lobbyists.

The lobbyists are good, but the science wins hands down. Discovering Eris forced changes in the way we define the solar system bodies, and Pluto with its tilted orbit, was always a bit suspect from the start.

Christmas is shopped for, and we are just waiting for the shipments to come in. We have set up a Facebook page for our Penney's Steampunk General Store, so we hope you'll look us up and visit. It looks like our next convention will be Ad Astra in April, although there is the slim chance we will be at Frostcon in Toronto in January.

I "liked" the General Store. Thanks for clicking that "like" button for MonSFFA's page, too. I see you did in fact make it to Frostcon. Gotta love the name!

The Canadian Air & Space Museum is definitely not the original CASM, which was in Toronto at the old CFB Downsview. They were kicked out of their facilities some years ago by the federal government, who decided that rather than honour our space heritage, they needed the space for new ice rinks. This museum is in storage close to Pearson airport, and we are trying our best to support those who would like to see the museum restored to its former glory. The worst insult is to have the name outright stolen for another facility.

I agree, it's important to protect our heritage.

I don't get much time to read these days, but I just finished reading **The Magicians' Land**, the final book in the Magicians trilogy by Lev Grossman, the book review editor for Time Magazine. I don't know who's reading this series, but it is a

A Tribute to MonSFFA's Longest-Serving President

Keith Braithwaite

My friend of some 35 years and fellow sci-fi enthusiast, Berny Reischl, recently retired not only from MonSFFA, but from organized science fiction and fantasy fandom overall. A member of our club since its inaugural meeting almost three decades ago, he has served as MonSFFA's president for the past 13 years, an unprecedented stretch, altogether half the life of the club and more than triple the time put in by his any of his four predecessors! Considering the sheer volume of volunteer time Berny has given to local fandom and, expressly, to MonSFFA, we can't really be surprised at his decision to call it a day, only that he stuck with it for as long as he did.

I wish him a most tranquil and rewarding gafiation (that's fannish lingo meaning "retirement", for those of you uninitiated).

Berny and I met at art college in the late 1970s when he loaned me some of his material on sci-fi movies for an assignment I was working on about motion picture special effects. Sharing an interest in Star Trek and science fiction generally, we were soon fast friends and it was at my suggestion in 1987 that we attend the first meeting of a nascent Star Trek fan club that I had seen advertised at a downtown comics shop. That club was MonSTA, the Montreal Star Trek Association, soon to evolve into MonSFFA, with an expanded mandate to explore the greater science fiction and fantasy genre. We both joined the group at that meeting. And we would both, ultimately, become heavily involved with running the club.

Fast-forward a dizzying 26 years: last summer, citing a need to take a "break from it all", Berny announced that come the end of 2014, he would step down as president of MonSFFA and walk away from fandom entirely. He joked that his decision to depart was triggered by a mid-life crisis but subsequently revealed that he was feeling rather tired and somewhat unfulfilled of late. He wanted to change tack, steer a different course, take on fresh avocations, and, of particular resonance to me, pursue invigorating artistic endeavours. The time-consuming, day-to-day mechanics of running a sci-fi club, he felt, were keeping him from fully doing so. "I used to live a more creative life," he recalled, to employ his phrase.

Indeed, Berny used to build and paint elaborately detailed sci-fi models and dioramas, for example, or design and sketch extraordinary spacecraft, but hadn't done either for many years. It seemed to me that, at least in part, he simply wanted a return to such imaginative outlets, wholly and passionately. As an offshoot of his

professional life as a graphic artist, for instance, he has lately tried his hand at the creation of dynamic 3-D digital models and images, and become quite adept at it. As an artist myself, I can relate to the excitement he feels at exploring a new medium. And I can certainly appreciate my good friend's desire to reclaim his artistic spark. On this, he has my categorical understanding, support, and genuine best wishes.

Further, I know from personal experience just how the fun of running a hobby club can, and almost certainly will, eventually, become the task of running a hobby club. Those of us especially who sign on with great enthusiasm and become so thoroughly engaged all, after a time, experience a waning of our enjoyment, an ebbing of our dedication, and a certain level of fatigue. To put it colloquially, we burn out.

Berny has my understanding, here, as well, for I once occupied the very same post of club president that he held, and I, too, resigned the position when I sensed that I had done my time and needed a respite from the duties requisite. And this diminution of one's exuberance is not a peculiarity exclusive to sci-fi fandom. We can burn out on any pastime. Prior to my discovering fandom, I was a leader with the Boy Scouts of Canada, but after many years with that organization, the day came when I knew that my tank was empty.

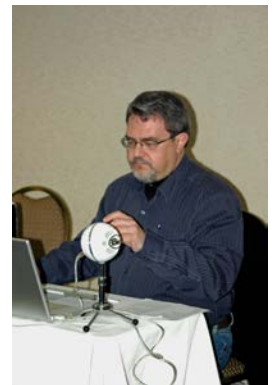
Berny, to be sure, has put in far more than his fair share on MonSFFA and is unreservedly deserving of his gafiation.

This is a guy who devoted a great deal of his scarce free time to this club, above and beyond his obligations as president. He was our Web master, recording secretary, and provided invaluable technical support to our panellists and presenters over the years so that slide shows and video screenings unfolded smoothly and professionally, this when he wasn't, himself, a panellist or presenter.

Of his own volition, he took care of so many of the little things entailed in successfully staging our monthly get-togethers, simple chores like setting out the raffle prizes at each of our meetings, and as an extra little something for everyone's amusement, putting up on the wall a display of humorous cartoons and other tidbits he'd garnered from the Internet. He arrived early to make certain the meeting room was properly set up, and offered any early birds screenings of fun and interesting videos he'd come across on the Web. He produced graphics,



Berny with his Tripod diorama



Berny records audio plays for MonSFFA.

signage, innumerable banners and publicity flyers for the club's use at various conventions and other events.

At one point, he threw in a sizable amount of his own cash to help fund MonSFFA's room party at Anticipation, the Montreal Worldcon (2009), and led the hardworking club crew that served up galactic quantities of smoked-meat sandwiches, bagels, and beer at the enormously popular, standing-room-only shindig.

He participated in numerous of MonSFFA's projects, bringing his many talents to the table on our fan film productions, the ConCept SF/F convention, which this club founded and ran for several years, MonSFFA's 20th Anniversary Party (2007), and other group undertakings.



Berny at TransWarp,

He fine-tuned the electronic version of our newsletter, Impulse, and for much of his time with the club, laboured, too, on our fanzine, Warp, often contributing cover artwork and providing technical expertise with regard to desktop publishing, photo reproduction, and printing. The club was spoiled, if truth be told, by the superior quality of workmanship Berny was able to bring to our publications due to his professional skills.

MonSFFA cannot thank him enough for all the contributions he has made over the years to the success of the club. I was pleased to have been selected to present him with but a small token of the club's eternal thanks at our Christmas Dinner last December, his last official MonSFFA function. We gifted him with a hardcover collection of Gold Key Comics' Star Trek stories, chosen to reflect first, his fondness for Star Trek, and second, his love of the comics art form.

Apart from MonSFFA, Berny's enthusiasm for SF/F fandom was reflected in his involvement with such local projects as

Q-Con (1989), a forerunner of and inspiration for MonSFFA's ConCept; Yesterday to Tomorrow: Science Fiction Through the Ages (1997), an SF exhibition mounted at Complexe Desjardins downtown and featuring some of Forrest J. Ackerman's famous collection of memorabilia; and the Dimension SF Science Fiction Film Festival (1999) at the venerable Cinéma Impérial.

Berny was also at the helm of the Klingon fan club KAG Kanada for many years, published that group's fanzine, Disruptor, oversaw the group's participation in Montreal fandom's TransWarp series of inter-club meetings/mini-cons (1992-1994), and organized many a Klingon Bowling Tournament, raising thousands for local charities. He won an Aurora Award in 2000 for his organizational achievements with KAG Kanada.

Berny approached all of these enterprises with his characteristic zeal and attention to detail, and I have no doubt that he will bring the same to any new ventures upon which he embarks. In his sign-off missive to MonSFFA's membership he wrote of seeking out for himself "new frontiers and challenges"; we wish him an exceptionally gratifying journey. And should he drop by in future to visit his old club—and he is most welcome to do so—I'm sure that he'll have some pretty cool artwork to show us.



Berny as K'hack
(pronounced like a cat
spitting up a hairball)



HOMAGE TO LEONARD NIMOY

By Keith Braithwaite

Leonard Nimoy passed away on February 27 at age 83, succumbing to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, an ailment the cause of which he firmly believed was his unfortunate smoking habit, despite his having given it up 30 years ago. He is survived by his wife, two children, numerous grandchildren, and an older brother. News of his death occasioned accolades from his Star Trek co-stars, NASA astronauts, U.S. president Barack Obama, and Trekkers the world over.

A screen and stage actor, Nimoy's talents extended, as well, to directing, writing and poetry, photography, and singing. But he will best be remembered for his portrayal of Star Trek's renowned half-human, half-Vulcan science officer, Mr. Spock, a legacy the actor finally embraced after an initial period of resistance, which proved futile.

He appeared in, among other productions, Rod Serling's

Twilight Zone and Night Gallery, The Outer Limits, Get Smart, Mission: Impossible, the sci-fi thriller Them!, the B-movie The Brain Eaters, the first remake of Invasion of the Body Snatchers, and the serial Zombies of the Stratosphere. Before landing the role of Spock, he co-starred with DeForest Kelley, the future Doctor McCoy, in the TV Western The Virginian, and with future Captain Kirk William Shatner in an episode of The Man from U.N.C.L.E.

He returned to his iconic role for the Star Trek movies, including as an older Spock in the J. J. Abrams reboot and its follow-up, and memorably as Ambassador Spock in the television series Star Trek: The Next Generation, most popular of the original show's many sequels. He also voiced Spock in Star Trek: The Animated Series, and recently, in an episode of The Big Bang Theory.

Starfleet Treachery

Barbara Silverman

The story so far: Captain Janeway is ordered to stop the impending coalition against Starfleet and the Federation. She ambushed the Maquis, and Chakotay was captured, but the rest of his crew escaped. A conversation with Chakotay left Janeway puzzled as to his motives, and the ease with which he was captured.

Then Janeway was assigned to exploring the Gamma quadrant for three months. It appears there may be an alliance between the Cardassians and the Dominion, and if so, the Federation needs to know if it's an alliance of mutual protection, or aggression. Chakotay may hold some answers, so Admiral Janeway was bringing him to Starfleet HQ for a meeting but Chakotay was beamed out of the shuttle craft. The admiral assigns his daughter to search the badlands for the Maquis leader, and she in turn requests the assistance of Tom Paris, who is released from prison for this mission.

Immediately on entering the Badlands, Voyager is detected and scanned by Chakotay's ship. Negotiations are interrupted when both ships are hit by a massive displacement wave, seriously damaging both ships. Heroic efforts bring the engines back on line, but then crew members start vanishing. Janeway orders an emergency lockdown, but it is too late. The crews of both ships are transported to what appears to be a cornfield, but is in fact an immense space station. Declaring a truce in the face of a greater enemy, the two captains consider their options, but then Janeway is transported to a laboratory.

CHAPTER 25

One minute unconscious on a demonic examination table, the next awake on the hard deck of engineering, eyes staring up, not at tortuous devices, but at the welcoming, oscillating blue light of a warp-core. Her warp-core.

Jumping to her feet, Janeway regretted her haste. As momentary lightheadedness turned the deck to an unwelcome angle, she braced her hand against a bulkhead. When the flooring under her ceased spinning, the captain checked on the people around her.

"Mr. Carey, are you alright?" Placing her hand on his arm to steady him.

Joe Carey held his head in one hand while the other was wrapped tightly around the railing surrounding the core. "I...I think so Captain. What....what about the others?"

Janeway slowly looked around the room. "To me, everything seems the same as before. Except for being dazed and disoriented everybody appears to be as they were. Once the others regain their senses, make sure the remaining injured are taken to sickbay."

Still holding fast to the guardrail, Carey looked at Janeway. "What happened to us?"

Janeway's voice left no doubt as to her anger. "Mr. Carey, I don't know! However, I certainly intend to find out! Make sure...."

Stopping in mid-sentence she again looked around. The dead! There were no dead. She could think of only one reason. The aliens! Violating the deceased was just as bad as violating the living. Infuriated she contacted the bridge. "Cavit, are you there?"

There was a slight tremor to the voice of the first officer as he softly replied. "I'm here."

Once again the captain mentally crossed her fingers. "Are the others also on the bridge?"

Still in a daze, Cavit replied slowly. "Yes Captain."

Janeway immediately started in the direction of the turbolift. "How long were we on that....that Array?"

Cavit managed to walk over to the console above the command chairs. His movements sluggish, it required several seconds before he obtained the required information. "Five days."

Five days! The captain shuddered. No wonder her body

ached! Again, Janeway shivered. Never would she forget the feeling of violation and the excruciating pain inflicted by those implements. Or the dreadful screams from those who had surrounded her!

Fearful of the answer, the captain held her breath as she asked the next question. "Computer, are there any members of the crew missing?"

The mechanical, dry emotionless response sent dread coursing through her body. "Ensign Harry Kim is not onboard."

Janeway marched into the turbolift "Deck One!"

Standing stiffly in the centre of the tiny conveyance, hands clenched at her side, the captain contacted the bridge. "Cavit, what about Chakotay and the other Maquis?"

This time the first officer responded quickly. "Life signs are registering on their ship. They're hailing us."

She whispered a silent prayer that Kim had been transported to the Maquis ship. "Open a comm channel. I'll be there momentarily."

Just as the turbolift doors opened onto the bridge, a frantic message came from Tom Paris. "Captain! Captain! Harry Kim is not onboard! He must still be over there!"

"Acknowledged!" Kathryn Janeway covered the distance from the lift to the center of the bridge in record time.

Opposite her stood the viewscreen and the Maquis commander. His face as grim and angry as that of the Starfleet captain.

Having heard Paris, Chakotay answered Janeway's question before she could even open her mouth. "He's not here. I was hoping my chief engineer, B'Elanna Torres, might be with you?"

'Damn!' Janeway gritted her teeth almost to the breaking point. Placing her hands on her hips, she stood with feet slightly spread. "No, unfortunately Torres is not onboard my ship. So.....it seems we each have a member of our crew missing. Apparently Commander, our problems are just starting. I think it would serve our mutual interests to continue working together."

A simple statement! One that would start the wheels of destiny along the road called fate.

Chakotay nodded, a slow uncertain nod. Taking a deep

breath, for a moment he closely studied the Starfleet captain. Then he made a decision. A decision destined to forever alter not only his life, but also the life of Kathryn Janeway.

His eyes drilled into the face of the Starfleet captain. "Send me your transport coordinates. I'm coming over with one of my men." Then he added warily. "At least I hope he's one of mine!"

A small smile formed on Janeway's lips. "You can rest assured Commander, I have no spy onboard your ship." No way could she resist. "At this time!" Standing at his station behind her, Tuvok raised an eyebrow.

Before turning away from the viewscreen, Chakotay threw her an amused look. Then he headed for his turbolift. "Evans, with me. Seska, you have the bridge."

Janeway turned in the direction of tactical. Mr. Tuvok, send the coordinates for the bridge to Chakotay's transporter room."

Waiting for the Commander to arrive, Janeway walked over to Tuvok. The Vulcan surveyed his captain. "Humans never cease to amaze me. How you are able to exchange light-hearted conversation during a serious situation."

Janeway thought over Tuvok's statement. How do you explain emotion to one who suppresses it? "Yes....I guess it is one of the strange aspects of being human. Often during trying times, when under pressure, it is possible to share pleasant bantering. Tuvok, this type of emotion is difficult to explain!"

The Vulcan retorted with two raised eyebrows. "Captain! Humans are difficult to explain."

Janeway smiled. "I suppose we are. It is not to lessen the severity of the situation, or make light of it. Instead it eases the stress, producing a feeling of comradeship, that one is not alone. It helps to clear the mind for the task ahead."

As the humming of a transport arrival reached her ears, Janeway turned in the direction of the sound. Out of the corner of her eye, she caught the movement of a phaser.

As the molecules of the two Maquis settled into human form, Janeway whirled to face her first officer. "Cavit! I did not order phasers. Put yours away!" Cavit's phaser remained centered on the two visitors. "Captain! We have dangerous people beaming over. Starfleet regulations state...."

Janeway took a step in Cavit's direction. The captain's face clearly showed the anger she was feeling. "I am fully aware of the rules and regulations of Starfleet! I should not have to remind you....here, Chakotay is not the enemy. Must I repeat a direct order?"

"No Captain." Hiding his inner fury, Cavit returned the phaser to its proper place. Janeway might be the captain, but how dare she embarrass him before the crew....all because of this outlaw and traitor.

Turning back to Chakotay, Janeway hid the displeasure and disappointment she was feeling. At the first available opportunity she would notify Cavit that a formal reprimand was being inserted into his file. Nodding to Tuvok to accompany her, Janeway walked over to her guests. Nursing his ego, Cavit remained standing beside the tactical station. Tom Paris, having arrived on the bridge in time to learn that B'Elanna Torres was also missing, remained by the turbolift, not quite certain what to do now that Chakotay was standing only a few feet away.

Having witnessed the actions of the first officer, Chakotay

remained silent, the expression on his face speaking for him. The phaser of the Maquis leader had never left the holder on his belt, he had put his trust in her word. A trust she had kept.

Stopping just a few feet from Chakotay and his companion, Janeway addressed the man who by the strange twist of circumstances had become her ally. "Chakotay, did any of your crew obtain information about the Array?"

He shook his head. "I'm afraid not. At least nothing we did not already know."

Turning her head in the direction of her security chief, Janeway noticed the amused faces of the two Maquis as they looked at the Vulcan. "Tuvok, what about your investigations?"

As with any Vulcan, his voice was quiet, steady. No emotion, one continuous monotone. For him, speaking about a forced abduction was no different than reply to a question concerning the weather. "I was in the process of tracking the holographic projector when the alien transferred us to the examination room. I believe this alien is searching for something, most probably information about our species. We were subjected to a biological examination then released. There appears to be no intent to cause us any harm."

Hearing Tuvok, Tom Paris moved in their direction. "What about Harry and B'Elanna? They're probably dead. What about the others who died? Is that no intent to cause harm?"

Tuvok turned to face the agitated young man. "Perhaps they are dead, and we did suffer considerable loss of life, however, that does not imply intent to do so."

Holding up her hand, Janeway interjected. "At this moment we have no proof either way. I prefer to believe that our two missing crew members are still alive. There could be many reasons why they were not returned at the same time that we were."

She turned to the Maquis leader. "Chakotay, are any of your dead still onboard your ship?"

The question took him completely by surprise. For a moment he stared at the Starfleet captain. "No! I assumed the doctor....damn!" Stopping to take a deep calming breath, Chakotay glanced at his companion, then back to Janeway and Tuvok. "Your dead are also missing." A statement, not a question.

Janeway made no attempt to hide her feelings. "If that alien took them for experimentation...."

Chakotay finished her sentence. "The dead deserve respect, not subjected to alien curiosity."

Janeway held up both hands. "We're jumping to conclusions."

Bending her head, hands on her hips, Janeway stared down at the deck as she weighed her options. There were few to choose from. In fact there were none. At least, none that were acceptable to the Starfleet captain.

Chakotay waited for her decision. He knew what his choice would be. However, he also knew Starfleet captains were notoriously cautious, looking to Starfleet Command for their orders. This time there was no Starfleet Command, no higher authority. So far he liked the way Janeway worked. Now he was about to discover Kathryn Janeway was not afraid to make decisions.

To make the choices that were necessary!



Vera visits the UK

Joe Aspler

This is an article about old airplanes, not F&SF. But most F&SF fans are vintage airplane fans, so here we go.

The skies of Britain hosted a rare sight this summer. For the first time in 50 years (and probably for the last time ever), two Lancaster bombers flew together at air shows across the UK. To add to the vintage flavor, the Lances usually had an escort of Spitfires.

Vera (VR-A) is a Lancaster bomber; one of more than 400 built between 1943 and 1945, near today's Pearson International Airport. Also known as the Mynarski Memorial Lancaster, in honour of Andrew Mynarski, who won the Victoria Cross in 1944, Vera is based at the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum in Hamilton. Completed at the end of the war, VR-A spent many years as a maritime search and rescue aircraft for the RCAF before being put on public display. It was restored to full airworthy condition in the late 1980s.

This past summer, Vera crossed the Atlantic. She joined the only other airworthy Lancaster, "Thumper", part of the RAF's Battle of Britain Memorial Flight. The two spent six weeks on the air show circuit around the UK. And that's where I saw them: at the Duxford Air Show, on Battle of Britain Sunday (Sept 14, 2014).

There was a considerable Canadian representation at the air show. In addition to Vera, there were also a Canadian Turbo Beaver, a Canadian-made Hurricane fighter (in the colours of a Battle of Britain squadron), and a Canadian-made Consolidated Canso amphibian, in the colours of a USAAF wartime search-and-rescue squadron. Others include the only airworthy B-17 based in Europe, four privately owned Spitfires, and eight World War I aircraft replicas.

Duxford is also home to the massive permanent aircraft collection of the Imperial War Museum. The Duxford permanent collection includes another Canadian-built Lancaster (in the colours of an RAF squadron), the Avro CF-100 Canuck 1950s all



weather interceptor, and a de Havilland Canada Chipmunk trainer. As shown in the photo, the main hanger at Duxford is a seriously overcrowded place!

The Duxford Air Show is one of the biggest such events in the UK. The presence of the two Lancasters guaranteed a massive turnout from the public. The lineups on the motorway trying to get onto the site were up to two hours long. Fortunately, I was on the shuttle bus from the Cambridge train station – special access lane guaranteed!

The tour was sponsored by Thwaites Brewery, makers of Lancaster Bomber Ale. Sending a 4-engine Lancaster bomber to England for 6 weeks was not cheap. The fuel bill alone was about \$340,000. But the Brits were good hosts. When one of Vera's four Merlin engines failed, the RAF loaned one of their spares.

On the way over, a young software millionaire paid about \$80,000 via an eBay auction for the privilege of being a "crew member" (aka a passenger) on a very long flight on a slow, non-pressurized airplane. Two more wealthy young individuals who lost the initial eBay auction paid the same amount to fly back as passengers.

I wonder if those guys are SF fans.



PBY Catalina long range amphibian patrol craft. This was built in Montreal as the Canadian version, the Consolidated Canso. It spent the war on RCAF anti-submarine patrol off Canada's east coast, followed by several years after the war as a search-and-rescue aircraft. It is now privately owned, based at Duxford, and painted in the colours of a wartime USAAF rescue squadron.



A Hurricane in the colours of a 1940 Battle of Britain RAF Squadron, but built in 1942 in Fort William (Thunder Bay), Ontario.



Vera with the only other airworthy Lancaster, “Thumper”, part of the RAF’s Battle of Britain Memorial Flight., here seen escorted by two spitfires.



Avro Canada CF-100 Canuck, 1950s Canadian all-weather fighter. In the permanent collection at Duxford.



A Sopwith Triplane replica. There were eight flying World War I replicas (British, French, and German) as there are no original WWI aircraft in airworthy condition.



A seriously overcrowded hangar showing part of the permanent collection at Duxford. Picture taken with a 16mm wide angle lens which – for the non-photographers in the group – is a seriously wide angle lens. In the foreground is another Canadian-built Lancaster, in the colours of a wartime RAF squadron. In the upper right is a long-range Sunderland flying boat. Behind the left wing of the Lancaster is the Vulcan jet bomber, active from the 1950s to the 1980s. Behind the Lancaster’s tail is the British Aircraft Corporation TSR-2 – a what-if of British aviation, similar to Canada’s Avro Arrow.



The Librarians

Josée Bellemare



In early December, a new series started on Space: **The Librarians**. It's a sequel to the series of Librarian movies starring Noah Wyle.

The premise is that magic exists in the world and that magical artifacts need to be protected from evil people who would abuse their power.

This is where the librarians come in: while there is only one Librarian, Noah Wyle's character, the other three are librarians in training. Each with their own skill set, they work together with The Guardian to stop the evil Serpent Brotherhood from bringing magic back into the world.

The concept is nothing new. Many movies have been made using the same idea, the most famous of which is the Indiana Jones franchise. The Librarian movies are a modern take on the

same theme: a highly educated man with a sense of adventure travels around the world collecting powerful artifacts and keeping them out of evil hands.

Television series have followed the same path: Warehouse 13 has enormous warehouses around the world to store the artifacts they retrieve, Sydney Fox/The Relic Hunter has encountered her share of magical relics and a few episodes of Buffy and Charmed have also dealt with objects of power.

Our history is full of legendary objects: Excalibur, The Ark of the Covenant and The Spear of Destiny the most obvious but there are so many others out there. Every culture has its legends and myths about magic and objects of power.

Did any of these objects ever really exist, did they have the power they are credited with, did magic ever truly exist or did humans make it all up? If such objects ever exist, what happened to them, where are they now?

That is for our imagination to explore and The Librarians to find out.

Into the Woods (2014)

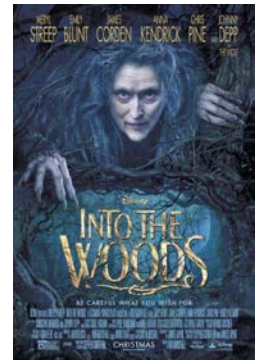
Steven Janssen

Directed by Rob Marshall. Starring Meryl Streep, Emily Blunt, Johnny Depp
Film adaptation of a Broadway Musical of the same name.

If you don't like singing, this movie is not for you!! There's lots of singing, some of it good, some of it not so good.

Although I am not an expert on fairy tales, the story for this film is a sort of hodgepodge of several of them, decently fitting together for the purpose of the scenario. Good special effect and make-up, superb performance from Meryl Streep as the witch.

Funny and light up to about the last 40 minutes, and then it turned a bit weird.
Be warned, it is not really a "They lived happily ever after" type of ending..."



REVIEWS: Games and Pastimes

Dr Who Exploding Tardis Jigsaw Puzzle

Cathy Palmer-Lister

My brother and sister-in-law gifted me with a Dr Who jigsaw puzzle. They know me well, the puzzle is a picture from my favourite television show in the style of my favourite painting by my favourite artist! It's challenging, to say the least! So much blue – Blue sky, blue TARDIS, Many swirls of yellow, and some very oddly shaped pieces. I usually start with the border, but even that was not obvious, so many pieces have straight edges. But it's beautiful! Definitely recommended.



Comiccon Montreal 2014

Josée Bellemare

On the weekend of the 12th, 13th and 14th of September, Montreal was host to Comiccon.



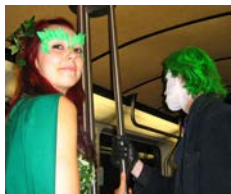
This convention gets bigger every year and the crowds showing up at Palais des Congrès are incredible. When you first show up the lines don't seem that bad but then they have you going around the building to the admission tables after which you are directed to a maze so long you start to feel like a rat. One hour later you come out to the back of the dealers' room.

For those of you not familiar with the place, Palais des Congrès is one block wide, three blocks long and has 7 floors. To get from point A to point B you need to be in shape and have plenty of time.

As for Comiccon itself, the dealers' room is big enough to get lost in and the guests are varied enough to satisfy most people.

Unfortunately Matt Smith, aka the 11th Doctor Who, cancelled at the last minute.

I showed up Friday afternoon, went through the maze and looked at the program for the weekend. Then I started exploring the dealers' room, checking out who was selling what and attended a few panels, including a panel on cosplay with Yaya Han, professional cosplayer and one of the stars of the TV reality show *Heroes of Cosplay*.



One big disappointment was finding out the Tim Horton was closed for renovations. Their loss, considering the number of people that showed up.

Saturday morning started with a surprise. People always say when taking the metro, if you don't want trouble don't attract attention to yourself. This Saturday nothing could be further from the truth. From the very first station, people in costume were waiting on the platform. You name it, they were there: Ghostbusters, comic book superheroes and villains, characters from Star Trek, Star Wars, Lord of the Rings, anime, video games and many more I couldn't identify. On this day,

showing your geek colours gave you safety in numbers. I can only assume it was the same from both directions and went on all morning. It was the ordinary people that were outnumbered and confused. When the metro arrived at Place D'Armes, the people getting off was like a tidal wave.

I have to admit, most of the panels I attended were about costuming but I did attend a few celebrity Q&A sessions. On Saturday I went to see the Power Rangers and Stephen Amell and on Sunday I saw Karl Urban. They were all very entertaining.

One section of the dealer's room was reserved for photo booths: various groups put together scenes from movies or TV shows and in exchange for a charitable donation you could have your picture taken next to the Back to the Future DeLorean, inside the Tardis or riding with Wolverine on his motorcycle or many others.

After finding a few items on the dealers' room I spent a lot

of time taking pictures of people in costume. You had your standards: characters from Star Trek, Star Wars, and various comic books but new this year were the characters from Captain America Winter Soldier, Frozen, Doctor Who, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and I even saw Groot, the plant from Guardians of the Galaxy.



Some people buy their costumes from a store and others make their own. It all depends if you just like to dress up, if you like to express your creativity or all the

possibilities in between. Sometimes it's just finding the right pieces and combining them to come up with the right look.

As for myself, I went with my hand painted t-shirts: Wonder Woman on Friday, Tardis on Saturday and Steampunk on Sunday.

With many conventions dying out Comiccon is filling the void and attracting more and more people every year, from casual fans to the more serious devotee. With its variety of guests, panels and dealers Comiccon could turn out to be the future of fandom in Montreal.



Upcoming Events & Conventions

Lloyd Penny, Dom Durocher, Lynda Pelley

Abridged, a more complete list can be found on our website: <http://www.monsffa.ca>

January 23-25 - GAnime, Palais de Congrès, Gatineau, QC.
Guests: Doug Walker, John Lang. www.ganime.ca, @ganime on Twitter.

February 28 - Kitchener Comic Con, Kitchener City Hall, Kitchener, ON. www.KitchenerComicCon.com.

March 22 HeritageCon 9 Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum, Hamilton, Ont www.ipmshamilton.ca

March 20-22 - Furnal Equinox 2015 presents Furry Arcade, Sheraton Toronto Airport Hotel & Conference Centre, Toronto. Guests: Xenotropos, H0rs3. www.furnalequinox.com

March 20-22 - Toronto Comicon, Metro Toronto Convention Centre. Guests include Karen Gillan, Christopher Judge, Morena Baccarin www.comicontoronto.com

April 12 BuffCon 32 Justin & Columbus Hall Cheektowaga (Buffalo), NY www.ipmsniagarafrontier.com

April 10-11 WrightCon 2015 IPMS/USA Region IV Convention Hope Hotel and Conference Center, Wright-Patterson AFB Dayton, OH

April 10-12 - Ad Astra 2015, Sheraton Parkway North, Richmond Hill, ON. SF literary convention. Guests include: Charles deLint, Anne Bishop, Kelly Armstrong, Heather Dale www.ad-astra.org, and [page on Facebook](#).

April 12 - GTA Comic Con, Holiday Inn Burlington. Guests: Zack Galligan, Pat Mastroianni. www.toycon.ca/comiccon.

April 16-19 - FilKONtario 25. Filk convention. Guests: Bill & Brenda Sutton, Heather Borean, Talis Kimberley, Kari Maaren, Nicole Dieker www.filkontario.ca

April 25 Can/Am Con 13 VT National Guard Armory Winooski, VT <http://www.ipmsusa.org/events/index.asp>

May 2 NorEastCon 2015 IPMS/USA Region I Convention Polish Community Center Albany, NY <http://www.ipmsusa.org/events/index.asp>

les 8, 9 et 10 mai L'édition 2015 du congrès Boréal aura lieu 2015 à Montréal. La soirée du 8 mai se déroulera à la Maison des écrivains (492 avenue Laval). La fin de semaine 9-10 mai sera à l'hôtel Expresso (1005 rue Guy) <http://www.congresboreal.ca/fr/2015/Accueil/Accueil.php>

May 22-24 - Anime North 2015 Toronto Congress Centre and

International Plaza Hotel Guests TBA www.animenorth.com
Weekend passes are sold out! Day passes may still be available

May 22-24 - What The Fur 2015: Time-Travellin' Furies, Holiday Inn Point-Claire, Montreal. Guest: Cat-Monk Shiro www.whatthefur.ca

May (29) 30-31 Wonderfest Hobby Expo Louisville, KY <http://www.wonderfest.com/>

June 6 Brickfete- Montreal - June 6 & 7, 2015 - (Needs to be confirmed) <http://brickfete.com/>

July 10-12 - RyuKon 2015, Buffalo Niagara Convention Centre, Buffalo, NY. Anime/steampunk/gaming convention www.ryu-kon.com/ryu-kon-2015.html

July 22-25 IPMS National Convention Columbus, OH <http://www.ipmsusa2015.com>

July 24-26 - ConBravo! 2015, Hamilton Convention Centre & Sheraton Hamilton Hotel <http://conbravo.com/>

August 19-23 - Sasquan/73rd World Science Fiction Convention, Spokane Convention Center, Spokane, WA. Guests: David Gerrold, Leslie Turek, Tom Smith, Vonda McIntyre, Brad Foster. www.sasquan.org

September 26 CapCon 2015 Nepean Sportsplex Nepean (Ottawa), Ont <http://www.ipmsottawa.com/capcon/>

October (day TBD) Ajax 35 Scale Model Contest J. Clarke Richardson Collegiate Ajax, Ont <http://www.ajaxscalemodelcontest.com>

October 2-4 – Eeriecon 17, Byblos Niagara Resort & Spa, Grand Island, NY. Literary SF convention. <http://www.eeriecon.org/>

October 9-11 – Creation Entertainment's Salute to Supernatural, Hyatt Regency King St., Toronto. http://www.creationent.com/cal/supernatural_toronto.htm

October 18 – 43rd Annual Canada's Greatest Toy Collector's Show & Sale, Etobicoke Olympium, Etobicoke, ON. <http://www.ctcs.org/show.htm>

November 7&8 – Geekfest Montreal, College de Maisonneuve, Montreal. <http://geekfestmtl.com/>



The Aurora Award

The Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Association is calling for nominations to the Aurora Awards. You do need to be a member of the CSFFA to nominate and later vote for candidates. There is a huge advantage to joining the association: the voter's package that receive after the announcement of the short list will have all the works that are in the running, sometimes even the novels, but at the very least there will be extracts of the novels. <http://www.prixaurorawards.ca/>

However, anyone whether a member or not, can add a work they feel is deserving to the eligibility list. WARP and Impulse are both on the list. However, last year the fanzine category was dropped because it failed to draw enough nominations. So, join and nominate!! You should already be familiar with Opuntia,

OSFS, and the BCSFAzine as MonSFFA trades with their editors. There are several other excellent Canadian zines, I recommend Broken Toys by Taral Wayne

<http://www.efanzines.com/Taral/index.htm> ,

Space Cadet by Graeme Cameron, <http://www.efanzines.com/SpaceCadet/index.htm#space> ,

Swill by Neil Willaims has an interesting concept, but I find it impossible to read. <http://swill.uldunemedia.ca/>

Still, you should at least take a look—it might strike your funny bone more deftly than mine.

There will be a new trophy this year, Frank Johnson having “retired” last year. The designer of the new trophy is somebody called Bernard Reischl, anyone heard of the guy? ;-)

The Hugo Award

This year, the Hugo Awards will be handed out at Sasquan, the 73rd World Science Fiction Convention in Spokane, Washington, August 19-23, 2015 <http://sasquan.org/hugo-awards/nominations/> To nominate, you need to be a member of Sasquan, or have been a member of LonCon 3 last year.



MonSFFaandom: September 2014 to January 2015

Keith Braithwaite

SEPTEMBER

MonSFFA held a second Super Sci-FiBook Sale in conjunction with its September 28 meeting. Boxes of sci-fi and fantasy books left over from the club's first sale in April of this year were augmented by hundreds more volumes freshly donated to the club—thank you to all of our very generous donors!—and again provided booklovers with a vast selection at unbelievable bargain prices. We thank the many MonSFFen who showed up early that Sunday morning to help cart and unpack books, and set them out on our sales tables. We are reminded that this club runs on the dedication and energy of its members, and we appreciate greatly everyone's effort. We thank our many book-loving customers, as well. Our two Super Sci-Fi Book Sales this year have raised for the club over \$700, funds much needed in light of the always ncreasing costs of operation .The club expects to hold one more book sale, date to be determined but probably sometime in late spring, 2015.

The meeting opened with a presentation by Sylvain St-Pierre on the bizarre creatures to be found in SF/F. Extensively researched and copiously illustrated with stills and video clips, Sylvain's “Creative Creatures” explored, first, various of the beasts of ancient Greek and other mythologies.

Sylvain detailed the characteristics of such creatures as the Gryphon, Minotaur, Centaur, Manticore, and others. The multi-headed Hydra and snake-haired Medusa were recognized by those who had seen some of the old Ray Harryhausen fantasy

films while Sylvain elaborated on the less-known Mermecolion, an ant with the head of a lion, the terrifying daggertoothed Australian Bunyip, and the Japanese “Turtle Man”, the Kappa, which devours one's liver by way of the anus!



Europe's olden dragons were cited while Sylvain noted that the rhinoceros inspired many a tale of strange monsters brought back to Europe by the travellers of those distant times.

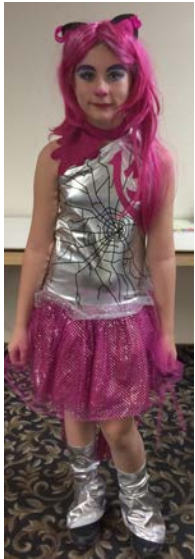
The Jabberwocky, Cheshire Cat, and various of H. P. Lovecraft's sping-tingling brutes—Cthulu, Yog-Sothoth, Shub-Niggurath and other of the Great Old Ones—were covered, as were thoughtful interpretations of Martians and other extraterrestrials by sci-fi pulp artists Frank R. Paul and Edmund Alexander Emshwiller. More recently are the aliens of sci-fi literature as envisioned by illustrator Wayne Barlowe in his famous Guide to Extraterrestrials.

The afternoon's closed with oral reviews of the recent Montreal ComicCon and the 72nd Worldcon, Loncon 3, in London, England. Discussion followed on the changing convention scene today, as commercially driven ComicCon-like events appear to be sweeping aside smaller, traditional fan-run

cons. The notion that the Worldcon has become a convention only for old, unwelcoming, gray-haired fannish traditionalists, attracting fewer and fewer young fans, was dispelled by a topical survey of Worldcon attendees focusing on age and retention carried out by

Anticipation co-chair and MonSFFAn René Walling. MonSFFA thanks everyone who contributed to the planning and running of this meeting.

OCTOBER



As suggested by the meeting's stated theme, a number of MonSFFen arrived in Halloween costume, or bearing Halloween treats, for the occasion of the club's October 26 meeting.

The afternoon's agenda was a busy one, opening with a brief presentation by Cathy Palmer-Lister on Loncon 3, the 72nd Worldcon, held in London, England, this past August. Projecting visuals as she offered her review of the event, Cathy found this to have been one of the bigger and better Worldcons she has attended. She was particularly pleased with the strong science programming offered.

Sylvain St-Pierre was up next with a solidly researched seminar on that time-honoured staple of the sci-fi convention, the craft of costuming, these days often called cosplay. Sylvain's talk spanned decades of costuming artistry, from venerable SF fan Forrest J. Ackerman's introduction of the idea of dressing up as an individual from one's favourite SF/F story in the earliest days of science fiction

conventions to the modern practice of patrolling the corridors of giant Comic-Con events kitted out as a superhero or video game character and posing for countless photographs. Whether putting together a simple "hall costume" or an intricately detailed outfit for presentation in a con's masquerade (costume competition), fun and creativity are at the heart of the hobby and costuming is arguably more popular today than ever.

Time was running short as we moved to our third presentation of the afternoon, Keith Braithwaite's screening of numerous interesting, cool, or just plain weird sci-fi video clips he and other club members had gathered from the Internet. But with less than 90 minutes of meeting time remaining and well over three hours of material in hand, Keith necessarily had to trim his presentation. Comedy skits, celebrity interviews, movie trailers, various oddities, and such—all having some correlation to SF/F—were screened, with Keith promising to present the remaining clips he'd collected another time soon.

MonSFFA proffers thanks to presenters Cathy Palmer-Lister, Sylvain St-Pierre, and Keith Braithwaite, as well as to all who contributed to the planning and running of this meeting.

NOVEMBER

MonSFFA's final meeting of the year was held on November 16. A good portion of the agenda was devoted to the preliminary planning of meetings for next year's calendar, beginning with the selection of preferred 2015 dates for our regular gatherings. These will be submitted to the hotel for confirmation. Folk also tossed out suggestions for meeting programming next year, including a celebration of the 50th anniversary of Gerry Anderson's Thunderbirds TV series and explorations of such diverse fare as the Perry Rhodan universe, urban legends, games and sports competition in SF/F, and the search for the Holy Grail. These and other ideas will be fleshed out into panels and readied for the coming year, along with the return of perennial favourites like our August "fancraft" workshops and June outing/field trip.

After a slight delay, Sylvain St-Pierre presented the afternoon's scheduled talk on the topic of sci-fi's "Strange Societies", which are often critical reflections on human civilization. Various of the genre's utopias and dystopias were

highlighted, as were such familiar and fabled destinations as Lilliput (Gulliver's Travels) and Plato's Atlantis.

The mid-meeting break saw a quick fund-raising raffle add a few coins to the club's coffers and the display of Christmas ornaments brought in by MonSFFen in keeping with the meeting's designated theme.

Keith Braithwaite then offered a few additional video clips collected for his "It Came from the Internet" presentation of the previous meeting, plus a selection of movie trailers. So much material was amassed for Keith's October screening that unused clips will easily provide the foundation for a reprise of this panel in 2015.

MonSFFA tips its hat to presenters Sylvain St-Pierre and Keith Braithwaite, and thanks, too, all those who contributed to the planning and running of this meeting.



DECEMBER

MonSFFen got together at the downtown Irish Embassy Pub and Grill on Saturday evening, December 6, for the club's 2014 Christmas Dinner and Party. Arrangements for the event had been made by departing MonSFFA president Berny Reischl, who earlier in the year announced his plans to retire from active fandom at year's end. This celebration of the festive season was

Berny's last official club function and his fellow MonSFFen bestowed upon him a modest thank-you gift for some 25 years of service to the club. For 13 of those years Berny led the group as club president, a term more than triple the time in office of any of his predecessors.

On behalf of the club, VP Keith Braithwaite presented Berny

with the gift, an anthology of Gold Key Star Trek comics. This particular volume was chosen because Berny remains both an avid Star Trek (original series) and a comics fan. Always a font of knowledge on the topic of comics, especially when speaking of the field's top artists, he joined the club at its inception, when it was called MonSTA, the Montreal Star Trek Association. He will be missed and is most certainly welcome to visit on occasion in future.

Folk enjoyed conversation over a fine meal and later, lingered

JANUARY

Our January 18 meeting kicked off 2015's MonSFFA activities and saw the election of the club's Executive Committee for the coming year. Long-time club member Josée Bellemare acted as Chief Returning Officer, overseeing electoral proceedings.

We can officially announce that veteran committee members Sylvain St-Pierre and Keith Braithwaite were both returned to office as treasurer and vice-president, respectively, while Cathy Palmer-Lister was named president, replacing the departing Berny Reischl, who has retired from organized fandom after some 25 years of involvement, the latter half of that time clocked as MonSFFA's leader. Lindsay Brown opted not to run again as the club's second vice-president (an optional post) and that position will go unfilled in 2015.

We congratulate and wish our 2015 Executive Committee the best as they begin their term of office. And, we thank both Berny and Lindsay for their service while noting our particular appreciation of Berny's many years of dedication to the club. We wish him a most tranquil and pleasant gaffiation, and extend to him an open invitation to drop by a meeting or event anytime and visit.

MonSFFA elects annually a president, vice-president(s), and treasurer—who together form the Executive Committee—and charges them with the responsibility of running the club on behalf of the membership. These executives recruit advisors and appoint officers to assist them in carrying out this responsibility.

Cathy Palmer-Lister comes to the job of president with a wealth of fannish organizational experience. She has been involved with MonSFFA for many years and currently sits as editor of the club's fanzine, Warp. She held the position of chair for many years on the concom of ConCept, the MonSFFA-founded local sci-fi convention that ran for some 20

over drinks. The club's traditional holiday raffle doled out great sacks of sci-fi prizes (books, DVDs, trinkets and collectibles) and one volunteer member of the many was selected by random draw to receive a special reward for their efforts on behalf of the club throughout the year. A bonus draw was also held to acknowledge a lucky one of the handful of members who had renewed their memberships early during the calendar year.

A good time was had by all!

years. And, she is no stranger to the role of MonSFFA president, having occupied that post before, in the late 1990s, during the Eugenics Wars.

The meeting proceeded with planning for 2015. Folk contributed ideas, offered themselves as panellists, and discussed a number of the club's policies and practices with an eye to making improvements. The importance of recruitment was



stressed by freshly elected president Cathy Palmer-Lister and ideas so-related were tossed about and debated. A number of folk volunteered to help with or cover various basic tasks at future meetings.

Keith Braithwaite provided the bulk of the afternoon's programming, screening cool, fascinating, and sometimes just plain weird videos he had culled from the Web at the suggestion of fellow members. Keith had edited these together into a presentation he dubbed It Came From the Internet. These particular videos consisted largely of clips he hadn't had time to include in his like presentation back in November. He also treated the group to several trailers for upcoming genre movies.

We thank all who contributed to the planning and running of this, our first meeting of 2015.



In what episode did Spock say:

- ★ On my planet, to rest is to rest, to cease using energy. To me, it is quite illogical to run up and down on green grass using energy instead of saving it.
- ★ I fail to understand why I should care to induce my mother to purchase falsified patents.
- ★ They regard themselves as aliens in their own world, a condition with which I am somewhat familiar.
- ★ Sir, there is a multi-legged creature crawling on your shoulder.

★ A most curious creature, Captain. Its trilling seems to have a tranquilizing effect on the human nervous system. Fortunately, of course, I am...immune...to...its...effect.

★ Doctor, I am chasing the captain, Lieutenant Uhura, and Ensign Chekov, not some wild aquatic fowl.

★ He knows, Doctor. He knows.

Answers, and many more Spockisms can be found on our webpage:
<http://monsffa.ca>