

**NEXT
CLUB MEETING
IS THIS WEEKEND****Saturday, February 10****12:00PM-5:00PM****St-François Room (second floor)
Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St.
Downtown Montreal***MEETING THEME: Wear something red
in honour of Valentine's Day!***PROGRAMME****12:00PM-2:00PM****SATURDAY SCI-FI CINEMA MATINÉE—****SEXY SIRENS OF SCI-FI:** As we'll be exploring the topic of sex in the society of the future later today, our list of Genre films this edition all feature notable sexy sirens of sci-fi! We'll choose one of the movies for review!**2:00PM-2:30PM****A PERSONAL JOURNEY:** One of our own offers a brief account of his involvement with MonSFFA over the years, highlighting the fun and satisfaction it has brought him!**2:30PM-3:00PM****MID-MEETING BREAK:** Fund-raising raffle, brief discussion of club business**3:00PM-4:00PM****LOVE AND SEX IN THE FUTURE:** We speculate on the topic of love and sex in our increasingly technological society; will the world of tomorrow bring with it a dramatically new paradigm of love, human relationships, and sex?**4:00PM-5:00PM****GAME:** We apply a sci-fi twist to the popular board game Balderdash!**NEXT MEETING:
Saturday, March 10****CLUB MEETINGS
MOVE TO SATURDAYS!**

IMPORTANT; please take note: MonSFFA has moved its monthly meetings from Sundays to Saturdays!

Because of a rejigging of our host hotel's weekend cleaning schedule, our Grand Salon meeting room for much of last year, rented most Saturdays for wedding and other such large-scale receptions, will no longer be readied in time for us on Sunday mornings and thus, is effectively unavailable in 2018. Further, the 7th-floor luxury suite we've occasionally used as an alternate is also unavailable as it is being renovated. The hotel suite hastily provided us for our January 14 meeting proved too small and ill-suited to our needs, and would not make for a viable regular meeting room.

And so, the hotel offered to accommodate us on Saturdays, returning us to our familiar, original meeting room, the St-François. Options being rather limited, we have accepted their offer.

MonSFFen may recall that at the outset of 2017, St-François had become unavailable on Sundays beyond 4:00PM. As that would have cut our meeting time short, we opted, last year, to move to the Grand Salon. Circumstances now find us back in the St-François, but on Saturdays. Our meeting room arrangements these past couple of years have become quite the game of musical chairs!

A quick polling of members suggested that a shift from Sundays to Saturdays will probably not appreciably impact meeting attendance. We'll see how things go and make whatever adjustments might be appropriate and possible to best maintain the club's monthly meeting schedule. Long-time club members will

**DOES YOUR
NAME APPEAR BELOW?
CHECK THIS SPACE TO KNOW
IF YOUR ANNUAL MonSFFA
MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE***The Annual Membership Fees of
the Following Club Members are...***Overdue:**BENNETT, Paul
DUROCHER, Dominique
DUROCHER, Marc
GLOVER, Wayne
GRAND, Jason
McCULLOGH, Brian
NOVO, Alice
PELLEY, Lynda
PICARD, Shawn**Due This Month, February:**HAMMOCK, Christopher
MOIR, L. E.
RUFIANGE, Yolande**Due Next Month, March:**HICKEY, Mark
MÉNARD, François.
WALLING, Evelyn
WALLING, René

Standard membership is only \$25 annually. We offer a family rate of \$40. Add \$10 to either of these to enjoy our premium "Platinum" membership level. Please complete the form below, include payment (cheque or money order made out to "MonSFFA"), and mail to:

**MonSFFA c/o
4456 Boul. Ste-Rose
Laval, Québec, Canada
H7R 1Y6***Thank you for your
patronage***MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Please print legibly. Cut out form and mail as per directions.

AMonSFF FORMULAIRE D'INSCRIPTION

Complétez lisiblement. Découpez le coupon et postez tel qu'indiqué.

NAME/NOM: _____ AGE/ÂGE: _____ TEL./TEL.: _____ - _____ - _____

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Province _____ Postal Code/Code Postal _____ E-MAIL/COURRIEL: _____

INTERESTS/INTERETS: _____

remember that in our early days, we actually used to meet on Saturday afternoons!

Revised MonSFFA Meeting and Events Schedule for 2018

Given the shifting of our monthly club meetings from Sundays to Saturdays, as covered above, below is the revised MonSFFA meeting and events schedule for 2018.

January 14, last month's meeting, has, of course, passed and was our last on a Sunday. The April and August meetings have been moved not only from Sunday to Saturday, but forward one weekend from when initially listed. Note that only our monthly meetings at the Hôtel Espresso are affected by the Sundays-to-Saturdays shift; our other events remain scheduled on those days on which they have always been slated. In the case of inclement weather arising, the July 22 picnic in Parc Angrignon will be held on the following Sunday, the 29th.

Here's the revised 2018 schedule:

Sunday, January 14

Saturday, February 10

Saturday, March 10

Saturday, April 14

Saturday, May 26

Sunday, June 10 (Field Trip to Science and Technology Museum, Ottawa)

Sunday, July 22 (Barbecue/Picnic, Parc Angrignon)

Saturday, August 18

Saturday, September 8

Saturday, October 13

Saturday, November 17 (SF/F Used Book Sale)

Saturday evening, December 8
(Christmas Dinner and Party)

Sitting Executive Returned to Office for 2018

The first MonSFFA meeting of 2018 saw the club hold its annual elections for our three executive positions—president, vice-president, and treasurer—members present opting for experience and returning the 2017 slate to office for another year.

The freshly returned Executive was immediately faced with a renegotiation of our function-space contract with the Hôtel Espresso, necessitated by a change to the hotel's schedule which left us without an available meeting room on Sundays. (See lead item "Club Meetings Move to Saturdays!")

We wish the Executive well as they tackle this, and the other complications and sundry tasks of

organizing the club's operations for the coming year. Congratulations on their re-election are proffered Cathy Palmer-Lister, president, Keith Braithwaite, vice-president, and Sylvain St-Pierre, treasurer.

Note that Cathy and Keith will be pinch-hitting for Sylvain, handling the duties of treasurer for the first couple months of the year as he attends to a pressing family matter which will, unfortunately, keep him from attending our meetings and events for a time. We look forward to his eventual return.

January MonSFFA Meeting

We began 2018 with a look at the life and works of H. P. Lovecraft. François Menard, with input from Keith Braithwaite, outlined the pioneering supernatural horror writer's personal history, listing and offering commentary, too, on his major works, which include his Dream Cycle and famous Cthulhu Mythos stories.

A troubled individual, Howard Phillips Lovecraft (1890-1937) experienced a number of family tragedies during his life, including the death of his father when Lovecraft was only 8 years old, and the mental illnesses of both his father and mother. Lovecraft himself endured nervous breakdowns and died impoverished at the age of 46, his seminal works of weird fiction largely unrecognized in his lifetime. But he was hugely influential to many of the 20th century's premiere horror and science fiction/fantasy writers and Genre filmmakers, among them Ramsey Campbell, Stephen King, Clive Barker, Neil Gaiman, Alan Moore, Mike Mignola, Steven Spielberg, John Carpenter, and Guillermo del Toro.

Influenced himself by 19th- and early 20th-century dark fantasy and horror writers such as Edgar Allan Poe, Lord Dunsany, Arthur Machen, and Algernon Blackwood, and by his own nightmares—his grandfather would tell him Gothic horror stories as a child—Lovecraft employed an engaging, archaic style to write of dark, forbidden knowledge uncovered, of powerful ancient and malevolent entities and the insignificance of man in this vast cosmos, of civilization under threat from horrid barbarism, of inexorable fate and inherited guilt, and most controversially, of class and race (his disparaging views of immigrants and non-whites were xenophobic and decidedly racist).

Lovecraft was an avid participant in the amateur journalism movement, a member of the United Amateur Press Association, and corresponded extensively on a variety of topics with other writers of his day—Conan creator Robert E. Howard, Frank Belknap Long, Clark Ashton Smith, August Derleth, Fritz Leiber, and Robert Block among them. This group became known as the Lovecraft Circle, penning stories set in Lovecraft's universe, with Lovecraft's blessing and encouragement.

Keith Braithwaite screened numerous trailers for some of the cinematic adaptations of Lovecraft's stories, including director Stuart Gordon's handful of films, *Re-Animator* (1985) probably his best known. Rod Serling's anthology series *Night Gallery* (1969-1973) included an adaptation of the story *Pickman's Model*, and a couple of recent independent productions distributed by the H. P. Lovecraft Historical Society were made to appear as if produced in Lovecraft's 1920s-1930s era. Oddly, no Lovecraft story has yet been adapted to film as an A-list, big-budget movie, although director Guillermo del Toro has been talking in recent years of filming the novella *At the Mountains of Madness*.

The latter part of the afternoon saw the club's election of its Executive Committee for the coming year (see previous item) and the finalizing of 2018 meeting programming. The planned presentation *A Personal Journey* was postponed until February's meeting.

We thank for their efforts all involved in the planning and staging of this meeting.

Briefly:

► We were, regrettably, unable to get a paper version of January's *Impulse* printed and mailed in a timely manner last month. We apologize for this shortcoming. Fortunately, the electronic version *was* released as usual, and available. Paper copies of both the January and February issues will be on hand at our February meeting.

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Impulse is put together monthly by Keith Braithwaite of behalf of MonSFFA and is available on MonSFFA's Web site courtesy Cathy Palmer-Lister. Contact Keith in regards to this publication by any of the following means: In person at a MonSFFA meeting • E-mail: keith1958@live.ca • Voice mail: 450-692-8831 • Via the club's mailing address, to the attention of "Impulse": MonSFFA c/o 4456 Boul. Ste-Rose, Laval, Québec, Canada, H7R 1Y6

Impulse est préparé une fois par mois par Keith Braithwaite au nom de l'AMonSFF. Il est disponible sur le site internet du club grâce à Cathy Palmer-Lister. Pour toutes questions concernant cette publication, contactez Keith soit: En personne à une réunion du club • Courriel: keith1958@live.ca • Boîte vocale: 450-692-8831 • Par la poste à l'adresse du club, à l'attention de "Impulse": AMonSFF a/s de 4456 Boul. Ste-Rose, Laval, Québec, Canada, H7R 1Y6