

I M P U L S E

LE BULLETIN D'INFORMATION DE L'ASSOCIATION MONTRÉLAISE DE SCIENCE-FICTION ET DE FANTASTIQUE, L'AMonSFF

March / Mars 2018 (Vol. 22, No./N° 3)

NEXT CLUB MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND

Saturday, March 10

1:00PM-5:00PM

**St-François Room (second floor)
Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St.
Downtown Montreal**

MEETING THEME: In honour of International Women's Day, pin your favourite female SF/F author's name to your heart!

PROGRAMME

1:00PM-2:30PM

WOMEN IN SF/F: We welcome guest panellists Jo Walton and Su Sokol for a discussion of women in SF/F, both as creators and characters! (See lead item for details.)

2:30PM-3:00PM

MID-MEETING BREAK: Fund-raising raffle, brief discussion of club business

3:00PM-4:30PM

DISCOVERING STAR TREK ANEW: We evaluate and compare the latest Star Trek iteration, Discovery, and the Trek parody The Orville. Is the Trek legacy well served by these series?

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Saturday, April 14—*Capes and Masks: An Exploration of the Superhero Genre (Presentations, Discussion)*

Saturday, May 26—*We revisit the topic of UFOs, specifically as depicted in sci-fi film (guest speaker unconfirmed at this time); Presentation: Translation in SF*

Sunday, June 10—*Field Trip to Science and Technology Museum, Ottawa*

MARCH MonSFFA MEETING TO WELCOME GUEST PANELLISTS

MonSFFA's March 10 meeting will welcome two special guests on the topic of women in SF/F. Who are the Genre's most notable women writers, and why don't we hear about them quite as much as we hear about their male counterparts? What obstacles have and do women writers face in a Genre long dominated by men? Are female writers finally making their mark on SF/F, or have they already done so, and long been recognized for their contributions? Do the characters, worlds, aliens, of speculative stories penned by women differ greatly, broadly speaking, from those of male authors? What constitutes a "Feminist" SF/F story, and can only a female writer truly write one? What of female characters in SF/F? Can men convincingly write female characters, and conversely, women male characters?

We'll tackle these and other questions with our special guests, Hugo-, Nebula- and World Fantasy-award-winning author Jo Walton, and lawyer and social activist Su Sokol, a writer of speculative and interstitial fiction.

Come meet Jo and Su at MonSFFA's March 10 gathering (see also, events column, left).

REMINDER: MonSFFA MEETINGS HAVE MOVED TO SATURDAYS!

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

As detailed last issue, in order to maintain its regular schedule of monthly meetings, the club has been required to shift these meetings

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
- HAMMOCK, Christopher
- McCULLOGH, Brian
- MOIR, L. E.
- NADEAU, Marc
- NOVO, Alice
- PELLEY, Lynda
- PICARD, Shawn
- RUFIANGE, Yolande

Due This Month, March:

- HICKEY, Mark
- MÉNARD, François.
- WALLING, Evelyn
- WALLING, René

Due Next Month, April:

- NOVO, Fernando

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

AMonSFF FORMULAIRE D'INSCRIPTION

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

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

ADDRESS/ADRESSE: _____
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INTERESTS/INTERETS: _____

from Sundays to Saturdays this year. We meet, now, in our familiar *former* meeting room of a couple years ago, St-François, located on the second floor.

Changes to our host hotel's weekend cleaning schedule made the Grand Salon—our principal locale last year—unavailable to us on Sundays in 2018.

We trust MonSFFen will be able to adjust to this new schedule. The Executive will take note of how things go over the coming few months and make whatever adjustments might be suitable and possible to best accommodate our members.

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

We're publishing again, here, the updated MonSFFA meeting and events schedule for 2018. Note that some events remain unaffected by the Sundays-to-Saturdays shift.

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)

February MonSFFA Meeting

February's well-attended meeting boasted a busy agenda!

We opened with the year's first edition of the now renamed *Saturday Sci-Fi Cinema Matinée*, featuring movies starring notable sexy sirens of science fiction and fantasy, like Zsa Zsa Gabor, Jane Fonda, Raquel Welch, and the unitard-clad Hollywood Cover Girls, featured in, respectively, *The Queen of Outer Space* (1958), *Barbarella* (1968), *One Million Years, B. C.* (1966), and *Cat-Women of the Moon* (1953)! Our fifth film offering, and the one chosen by the group for review, was the cheesy 1973 sci-fi sexploitation gem *Invasion of the Bee Girls*, starring Victoria Vetri and Anitra Ford. MonSFFen found the film mildly entertaining, in a so-bad-it's-good kind of way, and very much of its period.

All of this tied in nicely to our lead panel topic,

sex and love in the society of the future. Yves Tousignant and Keith Braithwaite were our panellists, here, engaging their audience in a wide-ranging discussion of emerging trends surrounding sex and love in our increasingly technological society, and the future that may develop as a consequence. Discussed were the impact of the Web and social media on modern relationships; the explosive growth of increasingly violent pornography and the consequent detrimental views of sex engendered in today's youth; the decline of traditional institutions such as marriage and the eroding of monogamy as society's default setting with regard to relationships; and virtual sex and how the advent of "sex robots" on par with those depicted in science fiction may well unintentionally wreck human civilization—with all of one's fantasies fulfilled, would anyone ever again come out of their basements?—or conversely, save it! The feasibility of human-alien couplings, a common trope of science fiction, was touched upon, too, as were some of the many representations of sex and love in SF/F.

Afterwards, everyone smoked a cigarette.

Among other brief video clips of interest to the group, the meeting witnessed the screening of a featurette on the production of the club's recently released stop-motion animation project, a short film starring cardboard cut-out dinosaur puppets. The scheduled slide-show presentation *A Personal Journey*, highlighting a club member's years-long involvement with MonSFFA and the fun and satisfaction it has brought him, was regrettably, again postponed, to a date later to be determined.

The closing hour or so of the meeting was given over to a sci-fi game put together by Danny Sichel and very loosely based on the popular board game *Balderdash*. Players were given the actual title of an obscure or oddly titled SF/F story, then asked to pen a quick fake outline of the story. These were then read aloud, along with the story's genuine summary, and folk were challenged to identify which was the true synopsis, scoring points if they did, or if their fake run-down fooled others. Lots of fun!

We thank our panellists for their efforts, as well as all involved in the planning and running of this meeting.

Briefly:

► Usually seen as harbingers of bad luck, black cats seem to be themselves experiencing a run of good luck as a result of Marvel's critically acclaimed *Black Panther* movie. Reportedly, the adoption of black cats has seen a marked increase since the film's release! *Black Panther* is breaking box office records all over the place and has now racked up domestic box-office receipts that put it in third place as a top money-maker amongst MCU movies, behind only *Avengers* and *Age of Ultron*. Meow, meow! (Translation: Wakanda forever!)

► Green-lighted by Netflix is a fresh take on *Sabrina*, the Teenage Witch, inspired, no doubt, by the recent success of the CW's *Riverdale*, television's new, dark, edgy interpretation of the classic Archie comics. Two seasons of *Sabrina* have been ordered; look for it to premiere in late-2018. Both shows are based on the Afterlife with Archie comic book series by writer Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa and artist Robert Hack. Aguirre-Sacasa is an executive producer and writer on both *Riverdale* and *Sabrina*.

► With the action set to unfold over 60 years after the WWI-set first film, the planned *Wonder Woman* sequel will feature classic *Wonder Woman* antagonist Cheetah—the post-Crisis version of the character, cursed archeologist Dr. Barbara Ann Minerva—as chief villain. Kristen Wiig is said to be favoured to play Diana's feline foe. A release date of November 1, 2019 has been announced.

► Things will be getting stranger yet again for the residents of Hawkins, Indiana; Netflix has confirmed that an 8-episode third season of its popular 1980s-set sci-fi/horror series *Stranger Things* is coming in late-2018 or early-2019.

► Trekkers will be pleased to hear that *Star Trek: Discovery* and *Trek* parody *The Orville* have each been renewed for a second season. MonSFFA will evaluate and compare these two shows at our March 10 meeting.

Visit MonSFFA on the Web / Visitez l'AMonSFF sur internet: www.MonSFFA.ca

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