

I M P U L S E

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

January / Janvier 2018 (Vol. 22, No./N° 1)

NEXT CLUB MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND

Sunday, January 14

1:00PM-5:00PM
Room 542 (Fifth Floor Suite)
Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St.
Downtown Montreal

MEETING THEME: Be prepared to help complete planning for the coming year's meeting programming! We need and want your input!

PROGRAMME

1:00PM-2:30PM

FOR THE LOVE OF LOVECRAFT!:

From relative unknown to ubiquitous inspiration of the fantastic—a retrospective on the works, influence, and life of Howard Phillips Lovecraft, Master of Weird Tales and father of modern supernatural horror.

2:30PM-3:00PM

MID-MEETING BREAK: Fund-raising raffle, club elections, update and discussion of club business

3:00PM-3:30PM

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!

3:30PM-5:00PM

MEETING AND EVENTS PLANNING:

We cross the "T's" and dot the "I's" on our 2018 activities!

2018 MEETING SCHEDULE AND PROGRAMMING

IMPORTANT: we have received word from the Hôtel Espresso that the meeting rooms we've been using to date will no longer be available to us on Sundays! Saturday's have been offered as an alternative, and we are currently working with the hotel to figure something out.

Be advised that as of this writing, we have not conclusively booked a regular meeting room.

We may end up gathering in a hotel room this weekend, if group meeting space cannot be secured before the weekend. We plan to poll members on the idea of moving our regular monthly meetings to Saturdays. As soon as we have further information, we will update the membership via the club's Web site.

And so, while this schedule will, in all likelihood, change, nevertheless, these are the meeting dates we've requested for 2018:

January 14
February 11
March 11
April 8
May 27
June 10
August 12
September 9
October 14
November 18

We'll hold our summer barbecue at Parc Angrignon on July 22, and our 2018 Christmas Dinner/Party on Saturday evening, December 8. These two dates are firm, barring inclement weather in the case of the barbecue, in which case we'd move the event to the following

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The Annual Membership Fees of the Following Club Members are...

Overdue:

BENNETT, Paul
DUROCHER, Dominique
DUROCHER, Marc
GLOVER, Wayne
GRAND, Jason
McCULLOGH, Brian
PELLEY, Lynda
PICARD, Shawn

Due This Month, January:

NOVO, Alice
PALMER-LISTER, Cathy

Due Next Month, February:

HAMMOCK, Christopher
MOIR, L. E.
RUFIANGE, Yolande

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:

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INTERESTS/INTERETS: _____

Sunday, the 29th. Also, either the May 27 or June 10 meeting will likely be replaced by a group field trip, as is our custom, but this has yet to be determined; stay tuned.

Also, we've been working on and hope to finalize our 2018 MonSFFA meeting programming at our January gathering this weekend. In October, we asked MonSFFen to suggest topics they would like to see explored at our 2018 meetings. We'll open the floor to any further proposals, updates, or amendments to that list. And if you are so inclined, please consider, as well, participating in one or more programming items as a presenter or panellist.

MonSFFen Celebrate Around Club Christmas Tree at 2017 Holiday Dinner

We celebrated the 2017 festive season by again returning to the always welcoming Irish Embassy Pub and Grill downtown. Some 20 or so MonSFFen and guests gathered at 6:00PM on Saturday evening, December 9 for our traditional Christmas Dinner/Party.

All enjoyed a fine meal, drinks, good company, and holiday cheer. Atop a bar stool, we set up a small Christmas tree, complete with lights and decorations, under which were displayed a bounty of gift-wrapped raffle prizes! We handed out a thank-you gift, also, to the winner of a small raffle exclusively for members who had renewed their memberships early last year, and to several more folk via our special thanks-to-volunteer-members draw. The fund-raising raffle itself raised \$99 for the club, monies to be directed to the club's operating budget.

We proffer thanks to club president Cathy Palmer-Lister for making the dinner arrangements with the Irish Embassy, and to vice-president Keith Braithwaite and member Josee Bellemare for seeing to our raffles and Christmas tree.

Club Elections

The first order of business as the club begins a new year is traditionally the election of MonSFFA's Executive Committee for that year. These elections always take place in January, at our first meeting of the year, and are officially confirmed by the following meeting, in February. All MonSFFA members in good standing, having paid in full their annual membership fees, are encouraged to participate.

MonSFFA elects annually a president, vice-president, 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. On occasion, a second vice-president may be elected, as well, usually to handle an important, specific task, or to take the reins on a special project.

Our sitting Executive is as follows: Cathy Palmer-Lister, president; Keith Braithwaite, vice-president; Sylvain St-Pierre, treasurer.

Any MonSFFA member in good standing who is responsibly and reliably able to carry out the duties of office may run for any one of the Executive posts. Candidates may nominate themselves, or accept nomination from another member in good standing. Nominations are received by the chief returning officer, or CRO, usually just before the commencement of voting on Election Day.

Long-time MonSFFAn Josée Bellemare is currently serving as our CRO.

All MonSFFA members in good standing are eligible to cast a ballot. Members are asked to be present at the designated place and time in order to exercise their right to vote. Proxy voting is not permitted, except under special circumstances and by approval of the CRO (out-of-town members unable to attend the vote, for example, may have their ballots cast by the CRO in their absence, or make their choices via e-mail or other form of communication outside of the designated voting hour).

Potential candidates are encouraged to advise the CRO of their intention to run for one of the three specified offices as soon as possible. See the CRO in person at a club meeting or function; or contact the club via our Web Site at: webmaster@monsffa.ca; or by standard post at: MonSFFA, c/o 4456 Boul. Ste-Rose, Laval, Québec, Canada, H7R 1Y6. Mark any correspondence to the attention of the CRO.

Briefly:

► We are informed that club treasurer Sylvain St-Pierre may be absent club activities for a time as he attends to family matters. We wish him and his family best wishes and look forward to his eventual return. In the meantime, the club's president and vice-president will act in his stead, sharing the responsibilities of club treasurer.

► Over the Christmas season, Keith Braithwaite produced a limited run of MonSFFilms coffee mugs (pictured), featuring poster art for the club's fan films *Encounters of the Very Close Kind*, *Beavra*, and *MooseMan*. One of these mugs was included as a raffle prize at the club's Christmas Dinner/Party, several more were sold. There are only a few left, and they will be available for purchase at the club's January 14 meeting at \$15 each (cash only, please). The club receives a percentage of each sale. Get yours while the gettin' is good!



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February / Février 2018 (Vol. 22, No./N° 2)

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.

MonSFFA 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

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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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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

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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

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I M P U L S E

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

April / Avril 2018 (Vol. 22, No./N° 4)

NEXT
CLUB MEETING
IS THIS WEEKEND

Saturday, April 14

12:00PM-5:00PM
St-François Room (second floor)
Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St.
Downtown Montreal*MEETING THEME: Wear a T-shirt,
hat, or underwear, bearing the logo
of your favourite superhero!*

PROGRAMME

12:00PM-1:45PM

SATURDAY SCI-FI CINEMA MATINÉE:As we're talking superheroes this month,
folk will be asked to pick for review one
of five superhero movies on offer!

1:45PM-2:15PM

THE APPEAL OF THE SUPERHERO:A quick discussion of superheroes, asking
why we are attracted to and fascinated by
them? Why do we need a world, even an
imaginary one, with superheroes? Or do we?

2:15PM-2:45PM

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

2:45PM-3:45PM

MARVEL VS. DC: We compare Marvel
and DC's many screen adaptations and
debate their merits, good and bad.

3:45PM-4:45PM

CAPES AND MASKS: AMERICAN**SUPERHERO COMICS ART:** Presentation
highlighting some of the notable artists of
American superhero comics.Next **Month's Meeting:****Saturday, May 26**
*UFOs in UFOlogy and
on screen*MARCH MonSFFA
MEETING WELCOMES
GUEST SPEAKERSMonSFFA's March 10 meeting welcomed
two special guests on the topic of women in SF/F.
Multi-award-winning SF/F author Jo Walton and
social activist and a writer new to the Genre, Su
Sokol, took their seats at the dais before a packed
room.Following an introductory video presentation
briefly outlining the history of, and biases faced by
pioneering women SF/F writers and early female
stars of the Genre, moderator Keith Braithwaite
opened the discussion by asking of the guests
what drew them to the Genre to begin with, and
who they thought were the female equivalents of
SF/F's so-called "Big Three"—Asimov, Bradbury,
and Clarke, along with Heinlein and other of the
Genre's best known male writers?It was immediately noted that these male
writers are dead and no longer selling! Many of
the best-selling and award-winning Genre writers
today, in fact, are women. So has gender equality
been achieved, then? What of the instances of
sexism endured by the precursors of today's stable
of very talented and capable female science fiction
and fantasy writers? Do such instances continue to
occur, today?Things are better than they were, to be sure,
but there's still a ways to go. Gay and transgendered
issues reflected in some of modern sci-fi are seeing
more push-back of late than are the old battles fought
by earlier generations of women SF/F writers trying
to break into the field. This brought up the recent
controversies surrounding the Hugo nominations
and the politically-charged arguments advanced by
such groups as the "Sad Puppies," who yearn for
the square-jawed science fiction of old and feel
that those kinds of stories are being overlooked by
a cabal of politically correct writers and activist
fans who are supposedly asserting a leftist agenda.Members of the audience were invited to chime
in with their thoughts and questions.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, Marc
GLOVER, Wayne
HAMMOCK, Christopher
HICKEY, Mark
McCULLOGH, Brian
MOIR, L. E.
NOVO, Alice
PICARD, Shawn
RUFIANGE, Yolande
WALLING, Evelyn
WALLING, René**Due This Month, April:**

NOVO, Fernando

Due Next Month, May:BROWN, Lindsay
BURAKOFF, Mark
REDMOND, Isis
SICHEL, DannyStandard 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.: _____ - _____ - _____

ADDRESS/ADRESSE: _____
No. & Street/N° et Rue Apt./App. City/Ville

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

INTERESTS/INTERETS: _____

Touched upon, too, was the then-common practise of women writers using gender non-specific pen names—C. L. Moore, C. J. Cherryh, J. K. Rowling—to mask their femininity because, they were apparently told, sales would suffer if the author of a sci-fi piece was known to be a woman! Su read aloud Robert Silverberg's humble admission of error regarding the gender of James Tiptree, Jr., who, it turned out, was a woman! Alice Bradley Sheldon wrote under the pseudonym James Tiptree, Jr. Silverberg had previously been confident, in print no less, that *of course* Tiptree, Jr. was a man, and that you'd have to be balmy to think otherwise! Jo clarified on the story regarding Cherryh, who it goes was cautioned by her first editor that she should change her surname because it sounded too much like that of a romance writer. But there actually was such a writer named Cherry, Jo explained, so Carolyn Janice Cherry added the "h" to her surname so as to differentiate herself from that other writer.

Our guests also illuminated the group on the *craft* of writing, touching on what influences their work, on building a realistic character, the ins and outs of the publishing business, and such.

The discussion closed with Jo and Su speaking of their latest projects, and signing a few books for enthusiastic fans. MonSFFA thanks them both for taking the time to share their thoughts with our membership.

The second half of the meeting saw an open discussion comparing two new TV shows, Star Trek: Discovery and the Trek parody The Orville.

Keith again moderated, joined at the dais by Francois Menard, Paula Dufour, Leslie Perryon, and Joe Aspler. Most found that, while not quite living up to what they promised, the shows were nonetheless entertaining. The panel and audience together dissected the just-completed first seasons of each show.

Discovery is fairly well written and acted, but relies on old Star Trek tropes like the Federation-Klingon conflict and the Mirror Universe to tell its story, despite the advertised promise of a return to the spirit of the original 1960s series. There was rather little exploring of strange new worlds or seeking out of new life and new civilizations involved! And while The Orville was sold as a send-up of Trek infused with frat-boy humour, it hasn't proven quite as funny as that would suggest. It doesn't seem to know if it wants to be a comedy or a science fiction series, and as such, it's an odd hybrid of both that doesn't quite satisfy as either. It is definitely an homage to TNG, however! And it did get better as the season progressed.

Thanks, again, to our guests, Jo Walton and Su Sokol, and to all of our panelists on this afternoon, as well as to those who helped to plan and run this meeting.

Update: 2018 MonSFFA Meeting Schedule

MonSFFen please take note: our October meeting has seen a date change, from the 13th to the 20th; update your calendars accordingly.

Here, again, is MonSFFA's meeting and events schedule for 2018, updated to reflect the most recent changes:

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 20

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

Saturday evening, December 8 (Christmas Dinner and Party)

Reminder: MonSFFA Meetings Have Moved to Saturdays

We remind the membership that MonSFFA has moved its monthly meetings from Sundays to Saturdays!

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

To date, this shift to Saturdays seems not to have greatly affected meeting attendance, which has been quite robust this year, and for which we are befittingly pleased. That said, we are aware that a few of our members are finding it more difficult to make it to meetings on Saturdays, and we take this opportunity to note again that the club has booked on Sundays, as always, such events as our upcoming June field trip and our July summer barbecue.

We will continue to keep our eye on developments over the coming months and make whatever adjustments might be suitable and possible to best accommodate our members.

Briefly:

► We are saddened by news of the death of our friend, Chris Chartier. Chris was one of Montreal fandom's movers and shakers during the heyday of the 1990s, when there were multiple clubs holding regular meetings and a show or convention running, it seemed, practically every weekend during the summers! Chris founded one of those clubs, Warp 9, and co-founded the Science Fiction Festival. We had many opportunities to work with him on shared projects like the TransWarp Mega-Meetings, to share club members, who were active within both clubs, and to help out with each other's convention ventures, ours ConCept and his the Festival. Chris was just 52, and leaves behind wife Jennifer Brown and their two children, Ryan and Autumn. We offer our sincere condolences to them and the rest of Chris' family. And, we raise our glass to Chris, and toast an "absent friend."

► We also offer our collective sympathies to former MonSFFan Krikor Ajemian, now living in Toronto, who lost his beloved mother, Ida, on March 20. Dr. Ida Cummings specialized in palliative care and was one of the founders of the West Island Palliative Care Residence.

► Fire recently swept through the building housing the Irish Embassy Pub and Grill and this favourite MonSFFA haunt is expected to be closed for months for repairs. The Irish Embassy was a regular post-meeting destination for many club members, and has been our Christmas Dinner and Party locale for several years, now.

► Meanwhile, Librairie Astro (1844 Ste-Catherine, just west of Le Faubourg; Guy/Concordia Metro) is closing, a victim of rising rents and, no doubt, the nightmare of ongoing construction in Montreal! The long-running comics and used books store is holding a "Turn Off the Lights Sale" leading up to the door closing for good at the end of June.

► Su Sokol, who was one of our guest speakers at last month's meeting, is moderating a panel discussion on speculative fiction at the Blue Metropolis Literary Festival on April 29 at 4:00PM. The panel is called The Children of Mary Shelley, admission is free, and for more information, Su sends this link:

<http://prog.tsharp.xyz/en/blue/20/show/455/The%20Children%20of%20Mary%20Shelley>

► The Canadian Mint is releasing a unique, oval-shaped \$20 silver coin that glows in the dark, commemorating a 1967 UFO encounter near Falcon Lake, Manitoba. Cool!

► Lastly, we were thrilled to hear that MonSFFan Isis Redmond has been selected as one of three area candidates chosen to compete in an international talent competition in Las Vegas this summer! She auditioned with the Undiscovered Talent Group and won her spot after a grueling series of workshops and auditions before talent agents from L.A., New York, Toronto and elsewhere. For MonSFFen who may want to help Isis achieve success, a GoFundMe page—using the name "Sisi" because the site would not allow her to use Isis!—has been set up to help defray costs for the trip to Vegas:

https://www.gofundme.com/raising-money-for-single-parents?pc=em_db_co2876_v1&rcid=dee130639c794b58a5c6567fb4daea07

Visit MonSFFA on the Web / Visitez PAMonSFF sur internet: www.MonSFFA.ca

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I M P U L S E

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

May-June / Mai-Juin 2018 (Vol. 22, No./N° 5)

NEXT CLUB MEETING IS COMING SOON!

Saturday, May 26

12:00PM-5:00PM
St-François Room (second floor)
Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St.
Downtown Montreal

MEETING THEME: This month's theme involves a craft challenge: make a pie-plate flying saucer! We hope to marshal an invasion fleet of UFOs! Bring along, as well, any UFO-related books, toys, etc. for the display table!

PROGRAMME

12:00PM-2:00PM

**SATURDAY SCI-FI CINEMA MATINÉE—
THE FLYING SAUCER EDITION:** Early-birds will be asked to pick for review one of the five UFO movies we'll have on offer!

2:00PM-3:15PM

WATCH THE SKIES! AND THE MOVIES AND TV SHOWS ABOUT WATCHING THE SKIES!: The flying saucers and UFO aliens of popular culture have long been fodder for thrilling sci-fi films and television series! We examine how UFOlogy has influenced screen sci-fi, and vice versa!

3:15PM-3:30PM

MID-MEETING BREAK: Fund-raising raffle, brief discussion of club business and upcoming club field trip

3:30PM-4:30PM

LANGUAGE RECTIFIERS, PROTOCOL DROIDS, AND A FISH IN YOUR EAR:
Translation in SF

**NEXT MONTH:
SATURDAY, JUNE 9**

Field trip to Science and Technology Museum, Ottawa (see center column for details)

UFOs TO LAND AT MAY MonSFFA MEETING!

The principal topic of MonSFFA's May 26 meeting being UFOs (see Events Column, left), we are asking club members to bring in for our display table any UFO books, toys, or other paraphernalia they may possess.

But in addition, we are challenging MonSFFEn to exercise their crafting skills and make a pie-plate flying saucer for the occasion!

Base your design on a UFO described in the pages of Project Blue Book, or on a famous flying saucer from sci-fi film or television! Detail and paint your UFO as simply or elaborately as you wish, include little green men, perhaps, and maybe a display base!

Extra points to all who contribute a flying saucer to our alien invasion fleet!

CLUB FIELD TRIP TO OTTAWA PLANNED FOR JUNE 9

Firstly, please note that by popular request of the club's members, MonSFFA has moved its upcoming field trip to Canada's Science and Technology Museum in Ottawa forward one day, to Saturday, June 9 (the outing was originally scheduled for Sunday, June 10). Please update your calendars.

Car pools are currently being discussed; we'll further arrangements at our May 26 meeting, and final details will be posted on the club's Web site prior to the field trip date. Riders will be expected to pitch in for gas and any parking charges.

Following our museum visit, we anticipate a restaurant meal and, time allowing, a little shopping. Be advised that given the travel time involved, this will be a long day; steel yourself accordingly!

The venerable Science and Technology Museum has for decades been a destination of choice for school field trips or family excursions, as some of our older members may recall. Closed

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, Marc
GLOVER, Wayne
HAMMOCK, Christopher
HICKEY, Mark
McCULLOGH, Brian
MOIR, L. E.
NOVO, Alice
PICARD, Shawn
RUFIANGE, Yolande
WALLING, Evelyn
WALLING, René

Due This Month, May:

BROWN, Lindsay
BURAKOFF, Mark
REDMOND, Isis
SICHEL, Danny

Due Next Month, June:

BELLEMARE, Josée
SILVERMAN, Barbara
TOUSIGNANT, Yves

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

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ADDRESS/ADRESSE: _____
No. & Street/N° et Rue Apt./App. City/Ville

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

INTERESTS/INTERETS: _____

in recent years for necessary renovations to the building housing the museum's exhibits, the fully refurbished and updated CSTM, today, is again open and welcoming visitors! And the balance-taxing Crazy Kitchen, dating back to the museum's opening in 1967, is still a part of it all!

Featured at the CSTM this summer is The Art of the Brick, a Lego exhibition. Renowned Lego builder/artist Nathan Sawaya's work is on display, here, showcasing original pieces as well as recreations of world famous works of art like Michelangelo's David, Da Vinci's Mona Lisa, and Van Gogh's Starry Night. Also on show is a full-sized Lego T-Rex skeleton, made of over 80,000 bricks! And, the so-called "Block Party" interactive build space allows visitors to test their own creativity with Lego! We imagine club VP Keith Braithwaite is already working on designs for a full-sized Lego Beavra to challenge that T-Rex!



We'll take in this exhibit, adult admission for which is listed at \$22 (includes access to the entire museum). Discounts are available for children and seniors. MonSFFen are responsible for their own admission costs and any other field trip-related expenses.

MonSFFen interested in joining our excursion are asked to please confirm with us as soon as possible, either by e-mail or in person at our May 26 meeting. Spaces may be limited, so don't wait until the last minute!

Riders will be assigned to a car and will be asked to meet their driver at a designated location (likely a Metro station) for pick-up.

Please be on time!

Again, the final details of our carpooling arrangements will be posted on the club's Web site prior to the field trip date.

Information for our carpool drivers:

The Canada Science and Technology Museum is located at 1867 St-Laurent Boulevard, Ottawa (a short jaunt south of Highway 417).

From Montreal, follow Highway 40 West off the island into Vaudreuil-Dorion, bearing right when the road forks at exit 32 towards Ottawa. Continue on Highway 40 (Trans-Canada Highway) until the Quebec-Ontario border; the 40 becomes Highway 417.

Follow the 417 for roughly 110 kilometres into Ottawa. Exit at Innes Road (Exit 112), turning west (left) on Innes and continuing for about 2.5 kilometres to St-Laurent Boulevard. Turn left onto St-Laurent and drive a short distance, past a McDonald's and a Burger King, until the intersection of Lancaster Road. Turn left onto Lancaster and proceed to the CSTM parking lot entrance.

We will meet just outside the museum's main entrance before proceeding inside.

For information on the museum, surf to the CSTM's Web site: cstmuseum.techno-science.ca

April MonSFFA Meeting

April's club meeting got off to an early start with a superhero edition of Saturday Sci-Fi Cinema Matinée, the assembled MonSFFen passed on movies featuring Wonder Woman, Batman and Robin, Captain America, and a Russian superhero team, choosing, rather, to review the 1951 black-and-white adventure Superman and the Mole Men, starring George Reeves. This first ever Superman theatrical feature film was later recut as a two-part episode of Reeves' Adventures of Superman TV series, for which this movie served as a pilot of sorts. The movie was well received by our group, who found it dated, of course, but an entertaining and well made, low-budget effort. The camera trickery employed to give Superman flight and showcase his other super powers were simple but effective, it was noted.

The meeting proper opened with a quick discussion on the popular appeal of the superhero, moderator Keith Braithwaite opining that comic book superheroes are the modern equivalent of the gods of Greek and Roman mythology. Folk chimed in with their own observations, speaking of superheroes as representative of the ideals to which we individually and collectively aspire, as metaphors for our always changing societal values, and as role models for awkward, skinny adolescent boys (and girls!) who wish for the same impossible bravery, strength, and virtue in the face of adversity (read: high school or family crisis or just plain life in general!) as their comic book idols.

A lively and decidedly tongue-in-cheek "debate" pitted Marvel fans Paula Dufour and Marc Durocher against DC fans René Walling and Keith. François Menard moderated, here, testing the debaters with demanding questions on arcane aspects of the Marvel and DC universes, and pitting favourite characters from each against the other to determine who might prevail! It was all in good fun, with the audience commenting on the debaters' arguments and voting on the winners of each round as the debate progressed. In the end, François called it, overall, a tie!

Supported by numerous visuals in illustration of his treatise, Keith remained at the dais to offer a PowerPoint presentation on the evolution of comic book art, specifically through the lens of Golden and Silver Age Superman artists—many of them largely unsung—beginning with co-creator Joe Shuster, who in the mid-1930s with partner Jerry Siegel, laid the foundation for the world's most enduring superhero. Keith explained that the printing processes of the day necessitated a particular stylized approach to comic book art, and spoke, too, of the collaborative effort of many artists—writers, layout artists, pencillers, inkers, letterers, colourists—that is required to create a comic book.

Briefly:

- ▶ This issue of Impulse has been designated our May-June 2018 edition; Impulse will not publish again until mid-July, shortly before, and with details of, our summer barbecue picnic-in-the-park.
- ▶ Given our May meeting's theme, this one bears repeating: the Canadian Mint has released a unique, oval-shaped limited-edition \$20 silver coin that glows in the dark, commemorating a 1967 UFO encounter near Falcon Lake, Manitoba. Historically, Canada has apparently long been a UFO hotspot!
- ▶ And, we again remind book and comics fans that Librairie Astro (1844 Ste-Catherine, just west of Le Faubourg; Guy/Concordia Metro) is, regrettably, closing, a victim of rising rents and the nightmare of ongoing construction in Montreal! The long-running comics and used books store is holding a "Turn Off the Lights Sale" leading up to the shutting of its doors for good at the end of June.
- ▶ Avengers: Infinity War is a runaway blockbuster, chalking up astounding box office numbers that have set numerous industry records. The film is now the highest-grossing superhero movie of all time, the most successful comic book film adaptation ever, and the highest-grossing MCU movie of the bunch! It has surpassed Star Wars: The Force Awakens as the movie to most quickly reach \$1 billion in worldwide receipts, managing the feat in just 11 days! As of this writing, Infinity War has taken in over \$1.6 billion!
- ▶ Genre TV series wrapping up this season or cancelled include: Once Upon a Time, The Crossing, and, not surprisingly, Inhumans on ABC; The Last Man on Earth, The Exorcist, The X-Files, and Lucifer on Fox; and The Originals on The CW. Both late-'90s-early-2000s series Charmed and Roswell (as Roswell, New Mexico) are rebooting on The CW.
- ▶ Finally, we remind MonSFFen that regular cash flow is vital to the continued financing of our activities. We ask that club members not allow their memberships to lapse; *please* pay your annual membership fees *on time!* Our standard membership fee remains set at a very reasonable \$25 yearly. Refer to the Membership Column on the front page of each issue of Impulse to know if your annual MonSFFA membership fees are due. And thank you for your timely membership renewal!

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

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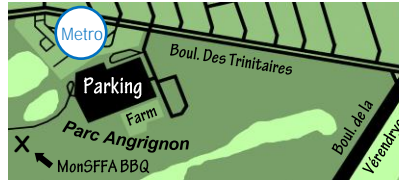
July / Juillet 2018 (Vol. 22, No./N° 6)

NEXT CLUB EVENT IS THIS WEEKEND

SUNDAY, JULY 22

MonSFFA's Summer Barbecue-in-the-Park

10:30AM-4:30PM



Parc Angrignon, Lasalle (Angrignon Metro)

All Club Members, their Families and Friends Invited!

Bring your Own Food and Drink; Club will Supply Cooking Grill

SEE DETAILS, RIGHT (please read lead item)

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

August 18 *Sword and Sorcery; Judging a Book by its Cover (sci-fi book cover art); Tour of Starship Enterprise (Ticonderoga, NY)*

September 8 *Ret-Conning; Astronomy (Guest TBA); DIY Podcasting*

October 20 *Saturday Sci-Fi Cinema Matinée—Halloween Edition (early-bird programming); Golden Age of Pulps; Folktales: Influence on SF/F*

November 17 *The Super Sci-Fi Book Sale Unchained! (fund-raiser)*

NOTE: Programming subject to change

INVITATION TO CLUB'S ANNUAL SUMMER BBQ

MonSFFA takes this opportunity to invite all of its members, their families, and friends to join us for our annual Summer Barbecue-in-the-Park, scheduled, this year, for Sunday, July 22.

The long-term forecast is calling for a partly overcast day with temperatures in the low-30s. There is indicated a possibility of scattered light showers, but we do not expect that these will amount to much.

However, weather forecasts can change so take note that festivities will be bumped to the following Sunday, July 29, in the event of persistent rain. We'll run any eleventh-hour bulletins of a postponement of the event on the club's Web site—MonSFFA.ca—the morning of the 22nd, should circumstances so dictate. Check our site for news if the skies seem suspect that morning. Otherwise, we'll see you at the park!

We will gather at about 10:30-11:00AM under or nearby our usual stand of trees in Parc Angrignon, Lasalle (Angrignon Metro). You'll find us behind the Metro/bus station and just a short walk from the parking lot adjacent the now-shuttered "Farm", or petting zoo (see map, Events Column, left).

Bring your own food and drink; MonSFFA will supply a small cooking grill. We usually commandeer a couple of picnic tables for the day, but you may wish to cart along a folding chair of your own, or a picnic blanket, and perhaps a card or board game, ball, or Frisbee. And don't forget your sunscreen!

So do join us for a pleasant afternoon of easy conversation, refreshing drink, and tasty fare amongst the company of fannish friends!

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, Marc
- GLOVER, Wayne
- HAMMOCK, Christopher
- HICKEY, Mark
- McCULLOGH, Brian
- MOIR, L. E.
- NOVO, Alice
- PICARD, Shawn
- RUFIANGE, Yolande
- SICHEL, Danny
- WALLING, Evelyn
- WALLING, René

Due Last Month, June:

TOUSIGNANT, Yves

Due This Month, July:

Ø

Due Next Month, August:

Ø

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**MonSFFA c/o
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H7R 1Y6**

Thank you for your patronage

MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

INTERESTS/INTERETS: _____

Field Trip More Than Just Another Brick in the Wall!

MonSFFA undertook as our summer excursion a field trip to Canada's Science and Technology Museum in Ottawa on Saturday, June 9.

The venerable Science and Technology Museum has for decades been a destination of choice for school field trips or family excursions. Closed in recent years for necessary renovations to the building housing the museum's exhibits, the now refurbished and updated CSTM is again open and welcoming visitors! And the balance-challenging Crazy Kitchen, dating back to the museum's opening in 1967, is still a part of it all!

We found the museum to be a wonderful collection of artifacts tracing the progression of technology in Canada through the years, from tiny vacuum tubes and transistors to massive radio-telescopes (the latter in scale-model form, here), children's bicycles to giant, powerful steam-powered train locomotives, children's toys to family recreational vehicles. A 1950s-era military radar console had the retro sci-fi look of any number of spaceship control panels seen in old SF movies or TV shows. Très cool! There were displays of old radios and television sets, record players and high-fi stereo consoles, CBC broadcast microphones, early video-gaming systems, and common household items such as a barrel-like clothes washing machine, with a set of rollers mounted atop through which the wet clothes were run to squeeze as much water out before the wash was hung up to dry on a clothesline. Several of our older members recalled such washers from their childhoods.

The science behind the technology on display was outlined in a variety of interactive stations.

The CSTM's showcase exhibition this summer is The Art of the Brick, a Lego exhibition featuring the work of renowned Lego builder/artist Nathan Sawaya. His original pieces, as well as recreations of world famous works of art like Michelangelo's David, Da Vinci's Mona Lisa, and Van Gogh's Starry Night, greatly impressed our group. His largest sculpture was a full-sized T-Rex skeleton, made of over 80,000 bricks!

For information on the museum, visit the CSTM's Web site: cstmuseum.techno-science.ca

After our visit, we sat down to lunch at a local eatery, then disbursed in smaller groups to a variety of shopping locales before heading back to Montreal. All in all, a most enjoyable day.

We thank all involved in organizing and carrying out our field trip, in particular our volunteer carpool drivers.

Summertime, and the Livin' is Easy...

We remind club members that MonSFFA moves to a more relaxed beat during the summer months as the volunteer-members who run the club are, at various times during this period, on vacation or away on weekends, and thus unavailable for club commitments. Rest assured that the club still gets done what it has to get done, only at a more leisurely pace than usual.

May Club Meeting

MonSFFA's May 26 meeting was our last before the club's summer activities began.

We started a little late—blame it on Montreal's construction-related road closures and traffic jams, which delayed the arrival of a few of us!—with an edition of Saturday Sci-Fi Cinema Matinée focused on flying saucers and UFO aliens. Those MonSFFen gathered in advance of the regular meeting chose from a list of five so-themed films—the classic Day the Earth Stood Still (1951), the quintessential '50s flying saucer flick Earth vs. The Flying Saucers (1956), the Canadian-made stinker Starship Invasions (1977), a TV movie, Roswell (1994), and the creepy alien abduction tale Dark Skies (2013). Folk opted for the thrills of Ray Harryhausen's stop-motion saucers in Earth vs. the Flying Saucers, rating this B-movie a serviceable actioner with a competent script and cast that benefitted from Harryhausen's superior special effects magic; his scenes of saucers attacking and the destruction of Washington, D. C. landmarks were the highlights. An enjoyable, if not exceptional, movie.

Keith Braithwaite opened the meeting proper with a PowerPoint presentation on the influences UFOlogy has had on sci-fi movies and TV shows, like the aforementioned Earth vs. the Flying Saucers, which drew on real reported UFO sightings for elements of its story, and for the designs of the featured flying saucers. Keith cited other films, and TV series like The Invaders (1967-'68), Project U.F.O. (1978-'79), Dark Skies (1996-'97) and, of course, the X-Files (1993-2002; 2016, 2018), all of which, to varying degrees, tapped into actual UFO lore in scripting their stories. The late start to the meeting necessitated a shortened presentation, unfortunately, so Keith has more on UFO-themed films and TV series in reserve for another time.

After the mid-meeting break, Danny Sichel was up with his talk on translation as featured in sci-fi. Such devices as Star Trek's universal translator, Star Wars' protocol droids, the Babel fish of Hitchhiker's Guide to the Universe, and others allow us to speak to aliens, understand what they are saying, although not always with complete accuracy. Danny outlined some of sci-fi's most interesting examples of translation methods, and the problems of the inevitable mistranslations or misunderstandings that are bound to crop up from time to time. He noted that an alien species, quite possibly, may not communicate with sounds, as we do, and that would certainly complicate our understanding each other!

We thank Keith and Danny for their presentations, and all who helped to plan and run our May 2018 meeting.

Briefly:

► The always opinionated, irascible, irreverent Harlan Ellison passed away on June 28 at age 84. Beyond SF/F literature, Ellison's prodigious talents extended into film and television, comics, criticism, and as an essayist. His awards are numerous and include multiple Hugos and Nebulas, several Edgar Allan Poe and Bram Stoker Awards, as well as honours for his Outer Limits and Star Trek screenplays. Among his best known works: A Boy and his Dog, I Have No Mouth, and I Must Scream, City on the Edge of Forever (Star Trek), Demon with a Glass Hand (Outer Limits), Jeffy is Five, The Beast that Shouted Love at the Heart of the World, and 'Repent, Harlequin!' Said the Ticktockman.

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

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I M P U L S E

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

August / Août 2018 (Vol. 22, No./N° 7)

NEXT
CLUB MEETING
IS THIS WEEKEND

Saturday, August 18

1:00PM-5:00PM

St-François Room (second floor)
Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St.
Downtown Montreal*MEETING THEME: Bring in two or three
SF/F paperbacks featuring your favourite
cover art!*

PROGRAMME

1:00PM-2:00PM

SWORD AND SORCERY: We explore
this adventure-laden, magical, and
violent sub-genre of fantasy!

2:00PM-3:00PM

YOU CAN JUDGE A BOOK BY ITS COVER!:We challenge the old axiom and suggest
that there often are visual clues on a book's
cover that allow one to anticipate content!

3:00PM-3:30PM

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

3:30PM-4:30PM

PERMISSION TO COME ABOARD: We board
the original U.S.S. Enterprise by way of a
slideshow tour of Star Trek's original
Enterprise sets, recreated in exacting detail
just a two-hour drive south of Montreal!

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

September 8 *Ret-Conning; Astronomy
(Guest TBA); DIY Podcasting (Tentative)*October 20 *Saturday Sci-Fi Cinema
Matinée—Halloween Edition (early-bird
programming); Golden Age of Pulps;
Folktales: Influence on SF/F***NOTE: Programming
subject to change**CLUB'S 2018 SUMMER BBQ
DUBBED "UMBRELLA-CON"

This year's club Barbecue-in-the-Park at Parc Angrignon was scheduled for Sunday, July 22, and despite threatening rain, went ahead as planned.

Weather forecasts on that morning varied from predictions of light rain, followed by noontime clearing skies, to steady rain throughout the day, including afternoon thunderstorms. As some of these forecasts emanated from sources that in past instances we have found to be notoriously unreliable, we gambled that the rain would likely (*hopefully!*) stop falling about noonish and any thunderstorms would hold off long enough for us to enjoy a few hours of picnicking in the park. But we hedged our bet by advising MonSFFen to maybe bring along their umbrellas, just in case. Luckily, most did!

A light rain fell throughout our picnic, pausing only briefly at one point. We had set up under the cover of a grouping of trees, so we managed to escape a thorough soaking and, despite the inclement conditions, nevertheless enjoyed each other's company. It proved a truncated and moist afternoon of lively conversation on topics ranging from superhero movies, vintage WWII aircraft, and the recent Montreal ComicCon to ghosts, 3-D printers, and—no surprise—the weather. Folk quickly dubbed the event "Umbrella-Con!"

Our barbecue's charcoal-fueled fire not only grilled a variety of tasty meats, but provided a source of warmth for those among us who felt a tad chilly in the drizzle. Our umbrellas and beer also helped us brave the experience!

And of course, as luck would have it, the skies began clearing just as we packed up and made our way home, the afternoon thunderstorms never having materialized.

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PICARD, Shawn
RUFIANGE, Yolande
SICHEL, Danny
WALLING, Evelyn
WALLING, René

Due in June:

TOUSIGNANT, Yves

Due Last Month, July:

Ø

Due This Month, August:

Ø

Due Next Month, September:

ASPLER, Joseph
BOIES, Marquise
BRAITHWAITE, Erin
BRAITHWAITE, Keith
BRAITHWAITE, Scott
DUFOUR, Paula

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No. & Street/N° et Rue Apt./App. City/Ville

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

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Warp in Running For Aurora Award

MonSFFA's fanzine, Warp, is once again nominated for an Aurora Award! We're competing in the Best Fan Writing and Publications category.

Warp won an Aurora in 1999 under the editorship of Lynda Pelley, and has been nominated a number of times under current editor Cathy Palmer-Lister.

To vote, one must be a member of the Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Association, annual fees for which are \$10. Voting is conducted online and closes Saturday, September 8, at 11:59 EDT, 2018. The Awards will be handed out at this year's Convention, V-Con 42 (Richmond, B.C.), October 5-7.

Visit the Aurora Awards Web site for complete information on joining the CSFFA, and on voting for the Auroras: www.prixaurorawards.ca

Summertime, and the Livin' is Easy...

We again remind MonSFFers that the club moves to a more relaxed beat during the summer months as the volunteer-members who run the club take vacations or are away weekends. Rest assured that the club still gets done what has to get done, only at a more leisurely pace than usual.

We trust all are having an enjoyable summer, and we welcome everyone back from the summer break as our monthly meeting schedule resumes with this upcoming August 18 meeting.

Briefly:

► MonSFFA extends sincere condolences to club member Alexis Despland and his family, who on July 31 suffered the loss of Michel Despland, Alexis' beloved father, a professor emeritus in the study of religions and cultures at Concordia University. He was 82.

► Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3 writer/director James Gunn has been fired! Gunn helmed the first two Guardians of the Galaxy films for Marvel and was working on pre-production for the third when "incendiary" online remarks he made nearly a decade ago, joking tactlessly about pedophilia and rape, surfaced, prompting Marvel's parent company, Disney, to sack him. Gunn has apologized for his comments, declaring that he's not the self-styled outrageous provocateur he was then, and that he's matured. But Disney insists that the quips in question are simply "indefensible" and incompatible with the company's values. Disney is

standing by its decision, despite lobbying in favour of reinstating Gunn on the part of Guardians cast members and others.

► Actress Ruby Rose will play Kate Kane/Batwoman in an Arrow/Flash/Supergirl crossover special scheduled to air in December on the CW. A Batwoman series may follow in 2019. While attending the recent premiere of *The Meg*, the gay actress became quite emotional at news of her casting, explaining that as a young girl, she never had TV characters, let alone a superhero, with whom she could identify. She is thrilled to be portraying one of DC's few lesbian protagonists, and in the bargain providing a role model for today's gay youth. Rose is one of the stars of *The Meg*, a big, dumb monster movie currently in theatres featuring a Megalodon, that being a giant prehistoric shark.

► A *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* reboot is apparently in the works at Fox, and original *Buffy* series creator Joss Whedon is involved. Early reports suggested that this "inclusive" contemporary *Buffy* TV show will cast a black actress in the role made famous by Sarah Michelle Gellar. However, more recent speculation has it that this black *Buffy* will be introduced not as *Buffy*, but in fact as a new slayer within the established *Buffyverse*. No word on casting yet, or on whether original cast members will appear, although James "Spike" Marsters has said he'd be up for it if called upon. Some fans of the original are wondering aloud whether a reboot is really necessary, or could live up to the well-regarded original, and further, questioning the seeming insinuation that the original was not inclusive, given the presence of such black characters as Kendra and Sineya (the First Slayer), and gay characters Willow and Tara.

► Series lead Andrew "Rick Grimes" Lincoln confirmed at San Diego Comic-Con last month that he will be leaving *The Walking Dead* at the conclusion of this upcoming ninth season of the zombie-apocalypse drama.

► Patrick Stewart will reprise his role as Jean-Luc Picard in a planned new *Star Trek* series for the CBS All Access streaming service. No premiere date yet.

► Climate change is allowing flora and fauna acclimated to more southern climes to now migrate north, including the venomous Northern Black Widow Spider! Typically found in the U.S. and Southern Ontario, the Northern Black Widow is now encroaching on Quebec's southern border and will soon make its way to Montreal and environs! "These words he speaks are true, we're all humanary stew, if we don't pledge allegiance to... The Black Widow!" No word on whether this Black Widow is affiliated with the Avengers. Or radioactive.

► Canadians reported 1101 UFO sightings last year, and at 518, Quebec topped all Canadian provinces and territories with nearly half of those, according to a Manitoba-based survey by UFOlogy Research, which estimates that about eight percent of these sightings might be classified as unexplained. In authoring its annual survey, the group collates data from numerous sources, including UFO organizations, government files, media reports, and internet postings. With 74 sightings, Montreal led Toronto, Vancouver and other Canadian cities reporting UFOs in 2017. In an unrelated statistic, Canadians spend annually upwards of \$22 billion on alcohol, and \$5.5 billion on marijuana.

► President Trump recently announced that the U.S. will immediately begin to organize and establish an American Space Force! This proposed sixth branch of the U.S. military would be tasked with defending the nation, protecting American assets in space, and furthering the exploration of space. Trump stated that in terms of defending America, "it is not enough to merely have an American presence in space, we must have American *dominance* in space!" Claiming that the future belongs "totally to us (Americans)," he envisions building "gleaming new spaceships," opining that "economically, militarily, scientifically, in *every* way, there's no place like space!" The idea was met with both interest and skepticism.

► Correction: we made a slight error in our coverage of the May club meeting last issue, referring to "the Babel fish of Hitchhiker's Guide to the Universe," when that should have read, of course, "Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy." Oops!

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September / Septembre 2018 (Vol. 22, No./N° 8)

NEXT CLUB MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND

Saturday, September 8

1:00PM-5:00PM
St-François Room (second floor)
Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St.
Downtown Montreal

MEETING THEME: *Bring in for display, or wear something Star Trek!*

PROGRAMME

1:00PM-2:30PM

PLUS ÇA CHANGE...: We examine the pervasive practice of “retconning” — retrospectively revising everything from Klingon facial features to the origins of comic book superheroes to the race/gender-swapping of long-established characters! Is nothing sacred anymore? Why is this done, and is it a good or bad thing?

2:30PM-2:45PM

MID-MEETING BREAK: Fund-raising raffle, brief discussion of club business, fan-film project update

2:45PM-3:45PM

SPACE JUNK!: A talk on the increasingly serious problem of orbiting space junk.

3:45PM-4:45PM

PERMISSION TO COME ABOARD: We board the original starship Enterprise by way of a slideshow tour of Star Trek’s original Enterprise sets, recreated in exacting detail just a two-hour drive south of Montreal!

NEXT MONTH’S MEETING:

Saturday, October 20: Saturday Sci-Fi Cinema Matinée—Halloween Edition (early-bird programming); The Golden Age of Pulps; Folktales and their Influence on SF/F

MonSFFA’S WARP UP FOR AURORA AWARD; DEADLINE TO VOTE NEARS!

We remind our readers that MonSFFA’s fanzine, Warp, is once again nominated for an Aurora Award, competing in the Best Fan Writing and Publications category. The deadline to cast one’s vote is 11:59PM, EDT, Saturday, September 8, night of the club’s September meeting!

Warp won an Aurora in 1999 under the editorship of Lynda Pelley, and has been nominated a number of times under current editor Cathy Palmer-Lister.

To vote, one must be a member of the Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Association, annual fees for which are \$10. Voting is conducted online. The Awards will be handed out at this year’s Convention, V-Con 42 (Richmond, B.C.), October 5-7.

Visit the Aurora Awards Web site for complete information on joining the CSFFA, and on voting for the Auroras:

www.prixaurorawards.ca

REVIVAL OF WARP’S ART SHOWCASE ENVISIONED

Warp editor Cathy Palmer-Lister encourages, as always, contributions to the ’zine, and hopes to revive the once-regular Main Viewscreen art showcase, which highlighted the artwork of club members. MonSFFEn are urged to submit their drawings and paintings! Cover art is also wanted.

AUGUST MonSFFA MEETING

The club’s regular meeting schedule resumed in the wake of summer activities with the August 18 gathering. Attendance

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Due This Month, September:

BOIES, Marquise
BRAITHWAITE, Erin
BRAITHWAITE, Keith
BRAITHWAITE, Scott
DUFOUR, Paula

Due Next Month, October:

PELLEY, Lynda
PETTIT, William S.
ST-PIERRE, Sylvain

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was robust and the print-version of Warp 101 was available for pick-up.

The afternoon's agenda, however, had to be modified as we found ourselves without our video/slide projection system!

We opened with a discussion of favourite sci-fi book and magazine cover artists, with Cathy Palmer-Lister, Danny Sichel, and Keith Braithwaite highlighting a number of illustrators—Michael Whelan, Vincent Di Fate, Norman Saunders, Wayne Barlowe—and passing around the room books featuring their artwork for all to see. The audience chimed in with their own favourite artists, among them Frank Frazetta, the Brothers Hildebrandt, and Frank Kelly Freas.

Keith also mentioned that often, one can get an idea of what a book is about based on common visual tropes utilized on the jacket by marketing and art directors. High fantasy book covers tend to feature dragons, wizards, warriors clad in medieval garb on horseback, for example. Science fiction books feature spaceships and planet-scapes as shorthand for what's to be found between the covers, or astronauts in jetpacks brandishing ray-guns. A book splashing its author's name in large, bold text across a minimalist cover illustration is usually trying to sell the reader on that author.

François Menard followed with an extensive treatise on Sword and Sorcery, a subset of the larger fantasy genre, highlighting the bloody adventures of sword-wielding warriors epitomized by Robert E. Howard's Kull the Conqueror and Conan the Barbarian. François was our guide through a history of this subgenre in both literature, and film and television. Minus our usual projector, we nevertheless managed to show some of the trailers François had brought along, albeit on a small laptop screen!

We apologize for our logistical oversights!

The planned slideshow tour of Ticonderoga, New York's astonishingly accurate recreation of the original starship Enterprise television sets, finally, was postponed. This presentation has been rescheduled for our September 8 meeting (see Events Column).

We thank Cathy, Danny, Keith, and François for their contributions to the afternoon's programming, as well as all those who helped to plan and run this meeting.

MonSFFA Membership Cards to be Discontinued

With the club's current stack of blank membership cards now exhausted, a discussion ensued at our August 18 meeting on whether or not to commit

budget monies to the printing of a fresh batch, or indeed whether to maintain the practise of issuing membership cards at all.

It was noted that our membership cards were originally designed to allow members to take advantage of certain discounts at local Genre bookstores and hobby shops offered through our now-defunct MonSFFA Discount Program. But each and every one of the participating merchants—at peak, the program sported some 15 vendors—has gone out of business, having, one by one, closed throughout the 1990s and early-2000s as Montreal's retail landscape underwent major upheaval.

After a brief discussion, it was the unanimous thinking of the assembled membership to discontinue the practice of issuing club membership cards. It was proposed that perhaps a digital version of a MonSFFA membership card might be posted on the club's Web site and made available to any members who wished to download and print out at home their own copy.

Another thought was that a small, inexpensive but cool "gift" item be stocked in bulk, and one each given to new and renewing members upon payment of their annual fees. This proposal is under consideration and has not yet been approved for implementation, however.

Summertime, and the Livin' is Easy...

Summer's end approaches and as MonSFFA know, the club moves to a more relaxed beat during the summer months as the volunteer-members who run the club take vacation time, or are away weekends. Rest assured that the club still gets done what it has to get done, only at a more leisurely pace than usual.

We thank you for your understanding.

Briefly:

► Production on Guardians of the Galaxy, Vol. 3 has been delayed and the film's planned release postponed as a new director is sought to replace the franchise's recently fired architect, James Gunn. Writer/director Gunn was axed by Marvel Studios' parent company, Disney, after decade-old inflammatory online jokes about pedophilia and rape attributed to him were uncovered. According to some reports, right-wing bloggers gleefully brought to light Gunn's admittedly tasteless remarks in retaliation for his outspoken criticism of President Trump's administration!

► Variety reports that former Doctor Who star Matt Smith will appear in a key role in Star Wars: Episode IX, currently filming. He's British, unquestionably, so it's a good bet that he'll be playing a villain! Also among new cast members are Keri Russell (The Americans) and Dominic Monaghan (Lord of the Rings, Lost).

► Patrick Stewart's new CBS All Access Star Trek television series will see him reprise the role of Jean-Luc Picard. The narrative is set 25 years after the events of Star Trek: Nemesis and will focus on the next phase of the iconic character's life, in which Picard, apparently, is no longer a Starfleet captain. The show is untitled, absent any significant plot details, and without a premiere date at this time.

► Led by a Canadian scientist, a research team at Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario, has demonstrated a means of dramatically accelerating the formation of magnesite, a CO₂-absorbing mineral that forms in nature over a period of hundreds to thousands of years. But by using polystyrene microspheres as a catalyst, the production of magnesite crystals is accomplished in just 72 days! The process occurs at room temperature and is therefore energy efficient. And the polystyrene microspheres remain chemically unaffected, and so can be reused. Scaled up, this method, then, could potentially help to slow global warming by sequestering atmospheric carbon-dioxide. CO₂ levels have risen dramatically in the past century, driven by human activity, and carbon-dioxide is, of course, a greenhouse gas that contributes to global warming.

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I M P U L S E

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

October / Octobre 2018 (Vol. 22, No./N° 9)

NEXT
CLUB MEETING
IS THIS WEEKEND

Saturday, October 20

12:00PM-5:00PM

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

MEETING THEME: The Halloween season is upon us again and we encourage MonSFFen to either attend this month's meeting in costume, bring in something spooky to help decorate the room, and/or donate Halloween-themed nibbles to our snack table!

PROGRAMME

12:00PM-1:45PM

SATURDAY SCI-FI CINEMA MATINÉE—THE “B-MOVIE PURGATORY ON HALLOWEEN” EDITION (EARLY-BIRD PROGRAMMING):

We offer MonSFFen some of the *worst* vintage sci-fi/horror B-movies ever made, including the “classic” Plan 9 From Outer Space! Choose one for review, *if you dare!*

1:45PM-3:15PM

THE GOLDEN AGE OF PULPS: A celebration of the energetic and colourful era of the sci-fi pulp magazine at its apex!

3:15PM-3:30PM

MID-MEETING BREAK: Fund-raising raffle, club business, fan-film project update

3:30PM-4:30PM

FAMILY RESEMBLANCES—CHANGELINGS IN FOLKLORE AND SF: This presentation will consider the persistence of the changeling legend in science fiction. The “family resemblance” among these genres lies in their mutual concern with biological and social transformation.

NOVEMBER 17: Sci-Fi Book Sale!**DECEMBER 8: Christmas Dinner/Party!**THE SUPER SCI-FI BOOK
SALE BREATHES ANEW!

Just in time for the Christmas shopping season, MonSFFA is holding the latest in its popular series of SF/F used book sales!

Benefit from our astounding bargains! Pick up a handful or a whole box of science fiction and fantasy paperbacks and hardcovers at incredible discounts! A good book makes a great Christmas gift! Spread the word and bring a friend or two!

Our sale unfolds on Saturday, November 17, at the downtown Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St. (corner René-Lévesque), second floor.

The sale opens to the public at 1:00PM, to MonSFFA members an hour earlier, and runs until 4:00PM.

Cash sales only, please!

We suggest you bring along a few grocery bags in which to tote home all of your bargain books!

All funds raised at this sale will be directed to MonSFFA's operating budget.

SEPTEMBER CLUB MEETING

MonSFFen met on September 8 at the club's Hôtel Espresso locale for a busy schedule of programming, beginning with Sylvain St-Pierre's look at “ret-conning,” that being the retrospective revision of everything from Klingon facial features to the origins of comic book superheroes to the race/gender-swapping of long-established characters, an increasingly trendy exercise.

After defining the term “ret-con,” Sylvain categorized the various motivations for the practise, such as for reasons of marketing, of modernizing for today's audiences, or of updating from an historical or scientific perspective, and included a couple of related examples in illustration of each. Ret-conning, whether applied in limited or significant fashion, extends across genre and media, from novels to comic books to television series and movies.

But is ret-conning really necessary, or constructive? It's a mixed bag; in some cases, yes, in others, not so much! Sometimes, the process succeeds in refreshing an outdated property in order to breathe into it new life,

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BOIES, Marquise
DUFOUR, Paula
DUROCHER, Marc
GLOVER, Wayne
HAMMOCK, Christopher
HICKEY, Mark
McCULLOGH, Brian
PICARD, Shawn

Due This Month, October:
PELLEY, Lynda**Due Next Month, November:**

ANTONOW, Agata
DESPLAND, Alexis
KNAPP, Brian K.
KNAPP, Cathy
LAWRENCE, Adam
JANSSEN, Steven

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*Thank you for your
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while in other instances it seems little more than a blatant marketing ploy or a sop to some form of political correctness.

Cathy Palmer-Lister was up next with a brief talk on the subject of space junk. Abandoned satellites and old rocket boosters, not to mention the bits and pieces of damaged or destroyed man-made objects floating about in random orbits around the Earth, has become quite the problem! We are littering our space lanes with the detritus of past space missions and endangering our modern satellite communications systems and space-based scientific research platforms, like the International Space Station.

As larger pieces of junk collide with others and break up into smaller fragments, more and more junk results, the scraps propelled into ever more haphazard trajectories. Cathy offered a number of charts detailing the sheer number of pieces floating around up there at various altitudes.

She also noted a few of the proposed solutions to the problem, which include the use of recoverable and reusable boosters in future, and the deploying of large nets to capture the free-flying debris.

The meeting closed with Keith Braithwaite and Lindsay Brown's slideshow of their trip last year to Ticonderoga, New York, to visit replicas of the original Star Trek sets housed in a nondescript building in the middle of this small, Adirondack town.

A dedicated group of Star Trek fans, guided by a copy of the original blueprints of the sets they'd obtained from a Hollywood professional who had worked on the Gene Roddenberry-created TV series in the mid-1960s, built these replicas initially for the group's ambitious Star Trek: New Voyages Web series. Today, their faithful recreation is an officially sanctioned tourist attraction.

Keith and Lindsay pronounced their immersive experience of walking the decks of the Enterprise, from Transporter Room to Sick Bay to Engineering to the famous Bridge and more, as the closest one could come to actually boarding the fabled, fictional starship! Running through hundreds of photos and a few quick videos they'd shot, the two described their adventure, pointing out the meticulously attention to detail displayed by the folk who researched and erected a near-perfect duplicate of the original television studio sets.

Well worth the two-hour drive to Ticonderoga for any Star Trek fan!

We thank Sylvain, Cathy, Keith, and Lindsay for their contributions to the afternoon's programming, and acknowledge, too, those who helped to plan and run this meeting.

Briefly:

- ▶ The long-running Walking Dead television series opened its 9th season recently, and will see series star Andrew Lincoln leave the show by season's end! His character, Rick Grimes, is expected to be killed off. Another popular character, Maggie Greene/Rhee, played by Lauren Cohan, will appear only in a limited number of episodes this season and is also expected to depart.
- ▶ Director James Gunn, recently booted from Marvel's Guardians of the Galaxy franchise under a cloud of controversy, has been hired by Warner Bros. to helm DC's Suicide Squad 2!

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Breathes Anew!

Attention SF&F Readers:

AMAZING PRICES on Thousands of *Amazing Stories* by *Science Fiction and Fantasy* Authors from Asimov to Zelazny!

We've got plenty of inventory left over from our previous sales, plus lots of fresh stock, and we're clearing it all at our astonishingly low prices!

PILES OF PAPERBACKS! BOXES OF BOOKS!
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Paperbacks: 50¢ each, 3 for \$1.00, 7 for \$2.00!

Trade Paperbacks: \$2.00 each

Hardcovers: \$3.00 each

BIG BULK BARGAIN: \$10.00 for a whole **BIG** box full of books!

Select Specialty Books: as marked

Magazines and Comics: 10¢ each

EVERYTHING! MUST! GO!

Open to the Public! Spread the Word and Bring a Friend!

STOCK UP NOW FOR YOUR HOLIDAY READING!

Saturday, NOVEMBER 17, 2018, 1:00-4:00PM

Hôtel Espresso (2nd Floor), 1005 rue Guy, corner Boul. René-Lévesque
(Metro Guy/Concordia or Lucien L'Allier)

Sponsored by, and in support of MonSFFA, The Montreal Science Fiction and Fantasy Association

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I M P U L S E

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

November-December / Novembre-Décembre 2018 (Vol. 22, No./N° 10)

NEXT CLUB MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND

Saturday, November 17

10:00AM-5:00PM
St-François Room (second floor)
Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St.
Downtown Montreal

MEETING THEME: MonSFFen are asked simply to help out with the club's fund-raising Super Sci-Fi Book Sale! And of course, feel free to take advantage of the amazing bargains on offer!

PROGRAMME

10:00AM-1:00PM

SET-UP FOR BOOK SALE/PRE-SALE!:

MonSFFen and friends are asked to help us set up for this club fund-raiser! (See also lead item)

1:00PM-4:00PM

THE SUPER SCI-FI BOOK SALE BREATHES AGAIN!:

Fund-raiser, MonSFFA's annual used SF/F book sale! All welcome! (See ad, page 2)

3:00PM-3:30PM

MID-MEETING BREAK: Discussion of and information on club business

3:30PM-4:30PM

SCI-FI BALDERDASH: We put a sci-fi twist on the popular parlour game of trivia and bluffing!

MonSFFA's 2018 Christmas Lunch/Party!

Saturday, December 8
1:00PM, Downtown Montreal

BATON ROUGE STEAKHOUSE & BAR, 1050 RUE DE LA MONTAGNE

Just south of corner René-Lévesque, beside Centre Bell (Lucien-L'Allier Metro)

- MonSFFA Christmas Raffle!
- Rewards Raffle for Volunteer Members!
- *And More!*

See Item "Christmas Party 2018" (right) for details

SUPER SCI-FI BOOK SALE!

MonSFFA hosts the latest in its popular series of SF/F used book sales on Saturday, November 17, just in time for the Christmas shopping season! Locale: the downtown Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St. (corner René-Lévesque), St-François Room (the club's usual meeting room) on the second floor.

Benefit from our astounding bargains! Pick up a handful or a whole box of science fiction and fantasy paperbacks and hardcovers at incredible discounts, as outlined in our ad, page 2!

The sale opens to the public at 1:00PM, to MonSFFA members and set-up volunteers an hour earlier, and runs until 4:00PM.

Cash sales only, please!

We suggest that you bring along a few grocery bags in which to tote home all of your bargain books!

We ask those who so very kindly offer to help us unpack our boxes of books and set up our sales tables to please arrive as early as possible, 10:00-10:30AM-ish.

Note that we are accepting donations of any used sci-fi books, magazines, or comics you may wish to gift to the club to augment our stock; please bag or box and deliver them to the sale before noon. We thank you for your donations.

All funds raised at this sale will be directed to MonSFFA's operating budget.

CHRISTMAS PARTY 2018

With our usual Irish Embassy Christmas-Party locale currently closed while undergoing renovations after fire gutted their building earlier this year, we have selected a nearby restaurant and bar at which to host our 2018 holiday celebrations. We'll be meeting at the downtown Baton Rouge Steakhouse & Bar, located at 1050 de la Montagne (Mountain), just south of the corner of Boul. René-Lévesque, downtown—it's beside the Bell Centre; nearest Metro station is Lucien-L'Allier. Menu is varied, food is of excellent quality, and reasonably priced.

So mark Saturday, December 8, in your calendars! But please note: we'll be holding our get-together in the *afternoon* this year, not the evening. Unfortunately, the Baton Rouge does not take reservations on Saturday evenings due to a busy walk-in business surrounding hockey games and other Bell Centre events.

And so, we'll meet at the restaurant at 1:00PM to enjoy a festive *lunch* rather than a dinner (reservations

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GLOVER, Wayne
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PICARD, Shawn

Due This Month, November:

ANTONOW, Agata
DESPLAND, Alexis
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KNAPP, Cathy
LAWRENCE, Adam
JANSSEN, Steven

Due Next Month, December:

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have been made under the name “Cathy Palmer-Lister/MonSFFA”). But all of our usual “Christmas Party” features will take place, as always—Volunteer-Members’ Rewards Raffle, MonSFFA Christmas Raffle, Christmas tree, etc. (remember to bring a few extra dollars with you for our Christmas Raffle, a club fund-raiser)!

A bonus, here, is that for those driving in, indoor parking is available right next door! Hand your parking stub to the Baton Rouge’s cashier when paying your bill, and as long as your total is \$25 or more, you’ll park for free! The parking garage is accessed from de la Montagne, just south of René-Lévesque, under the TD Bank branch located in the corner office tower there. The garage entrance is well indicated with signage.

That said, we take this opportunity to issue the following:

An invitation to all MonSFFA, their families and the club’s friends, to join us in celebration of the festive season! And our best wishes to all for a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful, healthy, and Happy New Year!

And lastly, in the spirit of the season, we encourage MonSFFA to donate to a local food bank or toy drive.

Club Elections

MonSFFA begins a new year with the election of its Executive Committee for that year. These elections always take place at our first meeting of the year, in January, and are officially confirmed by the following meeting, in February. All MonSFFA members in good standing, having paid in full their annual membership fees, are encouraged to participate.

MonSFFA elects annually a president, vice-president, 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.

Our sitting Executive is as follows: Cathy Palmer-Lister, president; Keith Braithwaite, vice-president; Sylvain St-Pierre, treasurer.

Any MonSFFA member in good standing who is responsibly and reliably able to carry out the duties of office may run for any one of the Executive posts. Candidates may nominate themselves, or accept nomination from another member in good standing. Nominations are received by the chief returning officer, or CRO, usually just before the commencement of voting on Election Day.

Long-time MonSFFA An Josée Bellemare is currently serving as our CRO.

All MonSFFA members in good standing are eligible to cast a ballot. Members are asked to be present at the designated place and time in order to exercise their right to vote. Proxy voting is not permitted, except under special circumstances and by approval of the CRO (out-of-town members unable to attend the vote, for example, may have their ballots cast by the CRO in their absence).

Potential candidates are encouraged to advise the CRO of their intention to run for one of the three specified offices as soon as possible. See the CRO in person at a club meeting or function; or contact the club via our Web Site at: webmaster@monsffa.ca; or by standard post at: MonSFFA, c/o 4456 Boul. Ste-Rose, Laval, Québec, Canada, H7R 1Y6. Mark any correspondence to the attention of the CRO.

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Briefly:

▶ Space is at a premium this issue so suffice it report that our October 20 meeting began with the year’s final installment of Saturday Sci-Fi Cinema Matinée, featuring, for Halloween, a choice of the worst of the worst in vintage sci-fi/horror, including the “classic” Plan 9 From Outer Space! Folks reviewed Attack of the Giant Leeches (1959), commenting on the low-rent production values and hard-to-ignore errors of this so-bad-it’s-good flick. Two excellent presentations followed, well researched and detailed, the first by Sylvain St-Pierre on the Golden Age of the Pulp, tracing the evolution of colourful pulp sci-fi magazines as far back as the so-called Penny Dreadfuls of 19th century Britain. Adam Lawrence was up next, offering a treatise on the “family resemblances” of changeling legends and SF/F, outlining the folklore from which stem changeling myths, and the ways in which SF/F writers have tapped into and adapted these to their own purposes, citing numerous examples. Many thanks to Sylvain, Adam, and all the usual suspects!

▶ Stan Lee has died. The comics superstar, co-creator of many of Marvel’s most popular superheroes—Spider-Man, The Fantastic Four, The X-Men, Ironman, The Incredible Hulk, Black Panther, and Daredevil, to name a few—had recently been ill and was taken to hospital in Los Angeles early Monday morning, November 12, where he ultimately passed away. He was 95. His characters live on not only in comic books, but on television and in the lucrative entertainment juggernaut that is the Marvel Cinematic Universe. To the delight of fans, Stan Lee cameoed in each of these Marvel movies.

▶ We reported last issue that Walking Dead star Andrew Lincoln’s character, Rick Grimes, was to be killed off. Well, not quite, it turns out! In a recent episode, he seemingly died in an explosion but unknown to the show’s other characters, he has, in fact survived and was whisked away aboard the mysterious helicopter that has shown up sporadically of late. He won’t return to the TV series but apparently, Rick Grimes will appear again in several Walking Dead movies!

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