

MonSFFA's 2019 CHRISTMAS DINNER IS THIS WEEKEND!

Saturday, December 7
7:00PM, 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 Dinner
2019" (center column) for details

FIRST MonSFFA MEETING OF 2020:

Saturday, January 11, 1:00PM-5:00PM
St-François Room (second floor)

Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St. Downtown Montreal

MEETING THEME: Come prepared to suggest and
discuss programming ideas for the coming year!

PROGRAMME

1:00PM-2:30PM

G&S IN SF/F: Gilbert and Sullivan wrote some of music's most popular light operas and their works have oft been translated, parodied, and copied. Exhibiting a special attraction for sci-fi creators—Isaac Asimov was famously a fan!—the works of G&S have turned up in many SF/F stories, films, and TV shows, such as Star Trek and most recently, Good Omens. Aside from polite satire aimed at Victorian society, Gilbert had a weakness for fantasy and whimsy, and we'll explore that as well as other aspects of G&S in SF/F, including one anecdote featuring a future astronaut!

2:30PM-3:00PM

MID-MEETING BREAK: Club elections; brief discussion of club business; fund-raising raffle

3:00PM-4:30PM

PROGRAMMING FOR 2020: We'll brainstorm ideas and begin planning and scheduling 2020's meeting programming.

SUPER SCI-FI BOOK SALE GROSSES NORTH OF \$1100!

The "Invasion of the Super Sci-Fi Book Sale from Planet X" was the moniker given this year's fund-raising used SF/F book sale, which proved MonSFFA's most lucrative to date, adding a little over \$1100 to the club's coffers last month (November 9)!

The room was packed with avid bargain hunters as the sale opened to the public, with many folk expressing delight at the large selection of hardcovers and paperbacks available, and at our astounding bargains, in particular the Box-of-Books-for-\$10 deal! Within the roughly four-hour duration of the sale, we managed to clear some two thirds of our considerable inventory, if not more!

The club wishes to thank all of the member-volunteers and friends of the club who helped to set up, run, and at afternoon's end, pack away our book sale. Your helping hands were greatly appreciated!

We thank, as well, the numerous people who very kindly donated books to the cause; thank you so much for your support of our club!

All funds raised at this sale have been directed to MonSFFA's operating budget.

The sale went just swimmingly, with the exception of what we, unfortunately, can only conclude was a theft! It seems someone surreptitiously made off with the donations jar that had been placed, as usual, on the snack table. The few dollars collected here, at this and each of our meetings throughout the year, helps to offset the cost of renting our function space. We've never before had a problem leaving this donations jar sitting on the snack table at the back of the room, for the most part unattended, and didn't think it necessary to post a guard! And so, an otherwise wonderful day for MonSFFA was marred somewhat by a single lousy deed!

CHRISTMAS DINNER 2019

Mark Saturday, December 7 in your calendars (that's this coming Saturday, folks!)! We will be gathering between 7:00PM-7:30PM for our traditional seasonal celebrations once again 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.

**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:

BOIES, Marquise
HAMMOCK, Christopher
JANSSEN, Steven
KNAPP, Brian K.
KNAPP, Cathye
NOVO, Alice
PETTIT, William S.
PICARD, Shawn
TOUSIGNANT, Yves

Due This Month, December:

DUROCHER, Marc

Due Next Month, January:

PALMER-LISTER, Cathy

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

MonSFFA c/o
4456 Boul. Ste-Rose
Laval, Québec, Canada
H7R 1Y6

*Thank you for your
patronage*

MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

AMonSFF FORMULAIRE D'INSCRIPTION

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

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

ADDRESS/ADRESSE: _____

No. & Street/N° et Rue

Apt./App.

City/Ville

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

INTERESTS/INTERETS: _____

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

For those driving in, convenient indoor parking is available right next door! This 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. Regular street parking is also available in the area, however, note that vacant spots will likely be scarce (this is downtown Montreal on a Saturday night, after all!), so allow yourself plenty of extra time to find an available one.

All of that said, we take this opportunity to issue the following:

An invitation to all MonSFFen, 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 MonSFFen to donate to a local food bank or toy drive.

2020 MonSFFA Events Schedule

MonSFFA’s 2020 Events Schedule is as follows (all dates Saturdays unless indicated; all bookings subject to change):

January 11 (Club Elections)

February 8

March 7

April 4

May 9

June 6

Sunday, July 12 (Summer Picnic-in-the-Park)

August 8

September 12

October 17

November 14 (Super Sci-Fi Book Sale)

December 5 (Christmas/Holiday Dinner/Party)

Function Space Rental Cost Nearly Doubles!

While the club expected the cost of renting function space to rise for the coming year, we did not at all anticipate so drastic an increase—the Hôtel Espresso’s management have informed us of a 90-percent jump in our costs!

The club’s Executive are discussing the increase with hotel representatives, hoping to work out a more modest increase, but at the same time, MonSFFen should be made aware that the club simply cannot financially sustain such a sizable increase, and that barring successful negotiations with the hotel, we may find ourselves exploring other options, including that of finding new, less expensive facilities, possibly outside of the downtown area.

MonSFFen will, of course, be kept abreast of the situation and consulted prior to any key decisions being made.

October Meeting

MonSFFA’s 2019 group project was completed at the outset of this meeting as the various scratchbuilt model

spaceships (fabricated of empty pop bottles, plastic food containers, and bits of assorted household “junk”) were given a final coat of paint. Build teams had been working on their ships during workshop sessions over several months. Keith Braithwaite oversaw this project, which had been dubbed our Utopia Planitia Shipyards Competition.

Several MonSFFen had the good fortune to travel to Ireland this past summer to attend the 77th Worldcon as well as the 2019 Eurocon, and the meeting proper got underway with an account of their trip. Projecting on screen numerous photographs of their adventure, Sylvain St-Pierre, Cathy Palmer-Lister, Joe Aspler, and René Walling offered a brief tourist’s overview of Ireland before describing in detail the conventions themselves, comparing the Irish Worldcon to typical North American and other European Worldcons, noting the little things that made the event charmingly and uniquely Irish.

René followed solo with an overview of the statistical work he has been doing for several years, now, regarding Worldcons and SF/F fandom, noting some interesting misconceptions about the state of Worldcons (they’re not in decline, as many believe), and spotting a few trends that seem to be developing in fandom. He outlined, as well, his methods of gathering data and the difficulties, in certain cases, posed by a lack of easily accessible facts and figures regarding Worldcons past.

Josee Bellemare closed the meeting with a primer/how-to session on sock puppets, incorporating a sci-fi angle to the examples she had on hand and laying the groundwork for a potential club group project/fan film next year.

We thank all of our presenters today while also acknowledging the contributions of those club members who helped to plan and run this, our October 2019 meeting.

Club Elections at January 2020 Meeting

The club begins each 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.

Please mark Saturday, January 11 in your calendars, for this is the date of our first meeting of 2020, at which will be held the elections for MonSFFA’s 2020 Executive Committee.

The club elects annually a president, vice-president, and treasurer, who together form MonSFFA’s Executive Committee and are charged 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 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).

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 by way of our Web Site (see bottom of page); or by standard post to the club’s mailing address (see bottom of page). Mark any correspondence to the attention of the CRO.

Briefly:

▶ Considered one of the worst films ever made, the 1964 Christmas “classic” Santa Claus Conquers the Martians is a low-rent Yuletide/sci-fi pastiche in which Santa Claus and two Earth children are kidnapped and brought to Mars in order to instill in Martian children a bit of the Christmas spirit! But rogue Martians oppose the plan and resort to sabotage before they are ultimately foiled and Santa Claus ends up “conquering” Mars not by force, but with the simple spirit of Christmas. The film is often disparaged for its stilted acting, cheesy special effects, and ridiculous Martian costume design, but to be fair to producers, the movie was intended as a comedic children’s Holiday film, and the production values weren’t all that bad, given the shoestring budget. Those Martian costumes, however, were unquestionably ridiculous!

▶ At the opposite end of the quality spectrum is 1946’s heartwarming It’s A Wonderful Life, which includes a chilling alternate-history sequence, beautifully shot in *film-noire* style, that proves pivotal in lead character George Bailey’s redemption. A *true* Christmas classic!

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

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

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