

## 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 2020 (Vol. 24, No./N° 1)

**NEXT  
MonSFFA MEETING  
IS THIS WEEKEND!****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. What areas of the SF/F universe would you like to explore this year? Your input is valued and encouraged!

**UPCOMING MEETING DATES:**February 8      April 4  
March 7         May 9**CHRISTMAS DINNER 2019**

Some 15 MonSFFen, family, and friends met at the downtown Baton Rouge Steakhouse & Bar on Rue de la Montagne (Mountain) Saturday evening, December 7, for the club's traditional celebration of the festive season.

Nestled next to a warming fireplace in a corner of the restaurant reserved for us by club president Cathy Palmer-Lister, folks enjoyed conversation, cocktails, and a lovely meal. Courtesy MonSFFA, each attendee received a small gift basket which included seasonal treats, a Genre bookmark designed by club VP Keith Braithwaite, and a souvenir science-fiction-Christmas-movie-themed keychain!

We were pleased to reward our 2019 volunteer-members, as well as those who had renewed their club memberships early, by way of special raffle draws designed for these purposes. (Of the winners, here, Fernando Novo and Dominique Durocher were not in attendance; their prizes have been held for them and can be picked up by them at an upcoming club meeting.)

Our fund-raising Christmas Raffle added \$60-plus to the club's coffers, capping a rather lucrative year with regard to fund-raising ventures. And, there were enough beautifully wrapped gifts under the club's Christmas tree to allow everyone present to win at least one, and often two or three prizes—Merry Christmas, everyone! We thank those who very kindly donated prize items to this raffle.

The evening proved a most enjoyable and satisfying closing MonSFFActivity of 2019.

**2020 CLUB ELECTIONS**

The club begins each 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, as this is the date of our first meeting

**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:**DUROCHER, Marc  
HAMMOCK, Christopher  
JANSSEN, Steven  
NOVO, Alice  
PETTIT, William S.  
PICARD, Shawn  
TOUSIGNANT, Yves**Due This Month, January:**

PALMER-LISTER, Cathy

**Due Next Month, February:**

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:

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

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 MonSFFA member 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.

## 2020 MonSFFA Events Schedule

Here, again, is MonSFFA's 2020 Events Schedule (all dates Saturdays unless indicated):

**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)

Please note that all bookings are subject to change and, given the particular circumstances in which the club finds itself this year (see next item), this schedule may well require modification in that we anticipate moving to a new meeting venue at some point within the next few months. Such a move might necessitate altering some of these dates, including, possibly, switching meetings from Saturdays to Sundays!

## Club Must Part Ways With Long-Time Host Hotel!

Last issue we reported that the Hôtel Espresso had informed us of a substantial increase to our monthly room-rental charges, one that proved unsustainable financially for a small, volunteer-run, non-profit organization such as MonSFFA.

We had expected the cost of renting our familiar St-François meeting room to rise in 2020, but we did not anticipate so dramatic an increase—hotel management informed us that prices were shortly to jump by some 90-percent, nearly doubling our current costs!

We don't have to tell you it didn't take a team of rocket scientists to calculate for us that such an increase we simply could not afford! The club would completely exhaust its cash reserves within a year, and thus did we attempt to negotiate a lesser, more—in our eyes—reasonable increase. But alas, we could not reach with the hotel a mutually agreeable figure, and consequently, MonSFFA finds itself compelled to soon abandon the familiar function room in which we have hosted our meetings and events for many, many years.

We are currently exploring several alternate venues, some suggested to us by club members, and will provide the membership with an update on our progress at the January 11 meeting. Club members will be kept abreast of developments and consulted prior to any key decisions being made.

Almost certainly, however, MonSFFA can expect that likely before the snow has melted, we will be gathering in a new meeting hall, probably a little further afield of the downtown area, and perhaps on Sundays rather than Saturdays. (We had not long ago switched to Saturday meetings from Sundays in order to secure our guaranteed spot at the Espresso, and now may find ourselves returning to Sundays.) We are also carefully considering such ancillary issues as close proximity to public transit and the ability to secure bookings sufficiently in advance.

That said, we are saddened to have to part ways with the Hôtel Espresso but do wish to thank their friendly and accommodating staff who, over the years, have always treated us so very well. In particular we wish to thank banquets manager Lucio Zarlenga, who initially set us up at what was then a Days Inn, established the many special benefits we enjoyed, and strived to deliver first-rate service to our group at a manageable price. We will most certainly miss our friends at the Espresso.

## Briefly:

► Phase Four of Marvel's Cinematic Universe launches May 1 this year with Black Widow. The Avengers-like ensemble Eternals will follow November 6, featuring Gemma Chan as Sersi, Salma Hayek in a gender-swapping exercise as Ajak, leader of the group, and Angelina Jolie as Thena. Other Eternals include Kit Harrington as Black Knight and Kumail Nanjiani as Kingo Sunen. The Eternals are a superhuman immortal race created by the Celestials. Set to bow in early 2021 is Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings, followed later in the year by Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness, an as yet untitled Spider-Man sequel, and Thor: Love and Thunder. Phase Four will also include a number of television series; The Falcon and the Winter Soldier and WandaVision are slated to premiere on Disney+ in 2020, with Loki, Hawkeye, Ms. Marvel and other series scheduled to follow in 2021.

► DC devotees can look forward this year to Birds of Prey (And the Fantabulous Emancipation of One Harley Quinn), in theatres February 7, and Wonder Woman 1984, set to open June 5. Margot Robbie and Gal Gadot, respectively, are reprising their roles. Fans will have to wait until 2021 for The Batman, director Matt Reeves' noir-detective reboot of the character starring Robert Pattinson as Bruce Wayne/Batman. Another Suicide Squad movie will also open in 2021. In 2022, Aquaman and Shazam will return in sequels, and Flash will appear in his first solo film.

► Conceptual artist Syd Mead passed away last month. He was 86. Mead has been described as a "visual futurist" and first made his mark as an industrial designer for, among others, the automobile and consumer electronics industries in the 1960s and '70s. His expertly rendered gouache paintings of ultramodern vehicles, cityscapes, and gadgets envisioned a sleek, shiny technological tomorrow. His stylish futuristic designs looked both functional and amazing, and so very plausible. Mead preferred brush and paint on board to working with the digital illustration software that was developed and came into widespread use during his lifetime; he stuck to the traditional techniques, saying "We still paint on cardboard with a stick with animal hairs stuck to the end. Everything is still painted by hand. I'm old school. I'm analog." Science fiction fans will know his work from the conceptual art he produced for such films as Star Trek: The Motion Picture, Aliens, Tron, and most strikingly, Blade Runner.

Visit MonSFFA on the Web / Visitez l'AMonSFF sur internet: [www.MonSFFA.ca](http://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 préparée 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*