

I M P U L S E

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

February / Février 2020 (Vol. 24, No./N° 2)

**NEXT
MonSFFA MEETING
IS THIS WEEKEND!****Saturday, February 8
1:00PM-5:00PM****St-François Room (second floor)
Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St.
Downtown Montreal***MEETING THEME: Valentine's Day is near; in celebration, contribute red or heart-shaped snacks to our snack table!***PROGRAMME****1:00PM-2:00PM****WHO WRITES THIS STUFF?:**

Rather than discussing a particular book or writer, we'll look at *all* of them! Statistics can help us see the big picture, and examine trends in genre publishing dating back to the 1800s!

2:00PM-2:30PM**MID-MEETING BREAK:** Fund-raising raffle; brief discussion of club business**2:30PM-3:30PM****EVERYWHERE YOU LOOK!:** Science is a state of mind, and so is science fiction. If we broaden our definition of SF, expand what counts as science fiction by just a little, where else can it be found?**3:30PM-4:30PM****BLUF/SF:** Game in which players, given the title of an actual published fantasy or science fiction story, first try to bluff their opponents with a false plot summary, then try to identify the genuine story synopsis, included among the false outlines.**UPCOMING MEETING DATES:****March 7 April 4 May 9****2020 CLUB EXECUTIVE**

Cathy Palmer-Lister, Keith Braithwaite, and Sylvain St-Pierre have been returned to office for another year as MonSFFA's Executive Committee.

Voting occurred at the January 11 club meeting, with the long-serving, battle-tested trio deemed by their fellow MonSFFen best able to handle the challenges of running this club. Collectively, their experience at the helm of our metaphorical ship, and within SF/F fandom at large, is unmatched, and thus was the confidence of the membership again granted them.

We extend our congratulations to Cathy (president), Keith, (vice-president), and Sylvain (treasurer).

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.

**MonSFFA MOVING, LIKELY
BY MARCH OR APRIL!**

As MonSFFen are aware, the Hôtel Espresso has implemented a substantial increase to our room-rental charges this year, one that, financially, is simply unsustainable for a small, volunteer-run, non-profit organization such as ours.

The cost of renting our familiar St-François meeting room has risen by a whopping 90-percent, nearly doubling our monthly costs!

Talks undertaken with the hotel failed to arrive at a mutually acceptable renegotiated rate and consequently, MonSFFA finds itself compelled to depart the familiar Hôtel Espresso and seek a new function room elsewhere.

**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
PICARD, Shawn
TOUSIGNANT, Yves**Due This Month, February:**

RUFIANGE, Yolande

Due Next Month, March:MÉNARD, François
WALLING, René

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

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

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

AMonSFF FORMULAIRE D'INSCRIPTION

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

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

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

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

INTERESTS/INTERETS: _____

We are now in the process of exploring several alternate venues, some suggested to us by club members, and are principally focused on three possibilities: a community center in Verdun, the Atwater Library, and a church in Westmount, the latter being favoured for location, access to public transit, and ease of parking.

The membership was updated on our progress at the club's January 11 meeting, and in the pages of this news bulletin, and will be kept abreast of developments. We hope to finalize our discussions with the representatives of our potential new venue shortly as we wish to secure a new and viable meeting room as soon as possible, this so as not to burn through any more of the club's cash at the Espresso than is absolutely necessary.

Please note that our previously published 2020 Events Schedule may—though not necessarily—require revision once our move to a new venue is settled; meeting dates might be changed, including, perhaps, the switching of some or all meetings from Saturdays to Sundays!

Stay tuned.

January 11 MonSFFA Meeting

The club held its first meeting of 2020 on January 11, opening proceedings with Joe Aspler's entertaining presentation on the odd penchant of SF/F writers and producers to include in their stories references to Gilbert and Sullivan, and snippets of their songs, the famous Major-General's Song from *The Pirates of Penzance* being oft employed.

With Keith Braithwaite providing technical assistance, Joe screened clips of sci-fi films, TV shows, and video games to prove his thesis. And indeed, Gilbert and Sullivan *do* pop up randomly, unexpectedly, and amusingly in *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, *Babylon 5*, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *The Simpsons*, *The Muppet Show*, and *Mass Effect 2*, among others. Isaac Asimov was a big fan, stated Joe, but it seemed altogether strange and surprising to our group that so many SF/F writers and producers were so taken by Gilbert and Sullivan as to somehow work the 19th-century composers into their stories and films and television episodes!

Joe offered an historical overview of Gilbert and Sullivan, who composed some of the most popular light operas of all time, and were famous for their polite but cutting satire of Victorian society. He noted that dramatist Gilbert had a fondness for fantasy and whimsy that was reflected in their works.

With lyrics projected on screen, MonSFFen were challenged to sing along with Joe, tackling the difficult patter of the Major-General's Song!

Joe also included a few clips of live theatrical performances, including of his own appearance in the chorus of a Gilbert and Sullivan production staged while he was a university student back in the day. Ex-astronaut and current Canadian Governor-General Julie Payette—an excellent vocalist, incidentally, who once sang with the Montreal Symphony Orchestra—also performed Gilbert and Sullivan during her university days. And in *H.M.S. Pinafore: Gilbert and Sullivan—The Next Generation*, a cast of M.I.T. engineering students performed *Pinafore* as Next Generation-era Starfleet officers with the familiar *Enterprise* bridge serving as principal setting!

After the mid-meeting break, during which time the membership was updated as to the club's search for a new meeting hall (see previous item), Cathy Palmer-Lister oversaw a planning session in which we brainstormed ideas for 2020 meeting programming and began outlining the schedule for our next and subsequent meetings.

Among the suggested presentations were: sci-fi gadgets (ray-guns, tricorder, sonic screwdriver, etc), the art of futurist Syd Mead, urban futures, conspiracies and urban legends, "surreal-estate" (the strangest buildings and structures in sci-fi), the likelihood of alien contact, the question of whether the immense popularity of superhero movies and TV shows is a sustainable phenomenon, the cinematic works of Italy's Mario Bava, costuming and prop making for the cosplayer, and *more!* It's shaping up to be a fascinating year.

We thank all those who contributed, whether in ways major or minor, to the success of this, our first meeting of the year.

Briefly:

▶ To the surprise of many, a comic book movie leads the pack this year with 11 Oscar nominations! *The Joker* is competing for trophies in several major categories, notably Best Picture, Best Actor, Best Director, and Best Adapted Screenplay. Star Joaquin Phoenix has already won Best Actor nods for his *Joker* at the Golden Globes, the UK's BAFTA Awards, and the Screen Actors Guild Awards.

▶ MCU fans watching the Superbowl at the outset of the month got a first look at trailers for the upcoming Disney+ series *WandaVision*, *The Falcon and the Winter Soldier*, and *Loki*. These three shows, combined with 2020 and 2021-scheduled feature films like *Black Widow*, *The Eternals*, and *Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness*, are part of the Marvel Cinematic Universe's Phase Four.

▶ *Straight Outta Dodge City* is an anthology of weird Western fantasy and horror stories from Baen Books releasing this month, while fans of dystopian novels may be interested in Ben Okri's highly anticipated *The Freedom Artist*, from Akashic Books, or Gish Jen's "smart, funny, and desperately unsettling" *The Resisters*, from Knopf. Sarah Gailey's "horse opera for the 22nd century," *Upright Women Wanted*, is a little of both pulp sci-fi Western and dystopia! It's also out this month, from Tor.

▶ The stars of the original *Jurassic Park* have been lured back to the dinosaur franchise for *Jurassic World: Arcadia* (working title), due in theatres June 11, 2021. Sam Neill, Laura Dern, and Jeff Goldblum (who had a brief turn in *Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom*) will join Chris Pratt and Bryce Dallas Howard for this third *Jurassic World* movie, the sixth in the *Jurassic Park/World* series of films.

▶ The freshly released *Colour Out of Space*, directed by Richard Stanley and starring Nicholas Cage and Joely Richardson, is reportedly the first of a proposed trilogy of H. P. Lovecraft adaptations, with Stanley hoping to shoot *The Dunwich Horror* next.

▶ Apparently dissatisfied with last year's "too outside-the-box" *Lost Boys* pilot, the CW has ordered a second pilot and completely recast this potential TV series, based on the 1987 horror/comedy movie.

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

Impulse is put together monthly by Keith Braithwaite on 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