

# Purrsonal Mewsings #78



*Purrsonal Mewsings*, formerly *Feline Journal* and *Feline Mewsings* is a personalzine by R-Laurraine Tutihasi, PO Box 5323, Oracle, AZ 85623-5323; 520-275-6511, [Laurraine@mac.com](mailto:Laurraine@mac.com), <http://www.weasner.com/>. I hope to publish every six weeks.

It is distributed through StippleAPA and sent to other friends and family. It is available for the usual (a response of any kind, including letters, e-mail, and phone calls of comment; trade; contributions of illos, fiction, or articles; or even money: \$5.00 per issue). The zine will be placed on the web shortly after paper publication; please let me know if you prefer just to read the web version. I can also e-mail this in Word or rtf format. Kattesmint Press #499. ©2021 R-Laurraine Tutihasi.

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#78

February 2021

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Contributions of art, reviews, articles, fiction, letters, even poetry welcome. Publication not guaranteed, but all submissions will be given due consideration.

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If you are reading this electronically and would prefer to receive a printed version, please let me know. Or vice versa.



## \* Editorial / Introduction

I'm sure most of us sighed in relief when the inauguration happened peacefully. It's unfortunate that two weeks previous there was unprecedented violence at the nation's Capitol. Since then the country seems to be proceeding peacefully despite continuing snags.

Highlights of this month included the National Figure Skating Championships. The competition proceeded in the usual fashion with the only difference being the absence of a live audience. It took place in Las Vegas rather than San Jose as previously planned. A previous competition in Vegas went well, so it was decided to return there. The organizers create a bubble there; and all participants, including judges and the media, had to stay within that bubble during the entire time and a few days before the event. Everyone was tested first.

The end of January brought us welcome rain and snow. The temperatures remained on the low side the entire month with few exceptions. My orange tree and saguaro cactus were covered until early February when the weather became milder.

I don't seem to be watching as much programming on DirecTV as previously. A few months ago, we bought an Apple TV box, triggered by free subscriptions to Apple TV after we bought new iPhones in late 2019 and by our new Internet service that we started in August that allow us more Internet time.

The Apple subscriptions have been extended twice. I wanted to watch on our TV rather on the smaller devices or even my iMac screen, so we bought the Apple TV box. Our DirecTV subscription includes free access to HBO Now as well. I recently figure out how to watch that on one of our TV sets.

On Apple TV I have watched all the episodes of the series *See* and *Snoopy in Space*. The first is a post apocalyptic story about an Earth in which the survivors of some unnamed disaster are mostly blind. A few sighted people are born sporadically, but most of these have been persecuted. The main character, played by Jason Momoa, is blind but has a son and daughter who are sighted. He and some family members must flee from persecution. *Snoopy in Space* is an animated series aimed at children.

On HBO Now I am watching the series *Raised by Wolves*. The series takes place on an alien planet, where two androids have been sent to raise human children. There seems to have been a war previously. There is also a group of religious people who land



on the same planet.

Since February began, the weather has been milder. I've been trying to fix the drip irrigation system for my fruit trees. Before the cage was put up, critters kept chewing off the ends of the drip hoses. Mike seems to be having problems with his hands and was unable to install new drip hoses; I also lack strength in my hands. I hired someone to help me, at least until I ran out of hose. The handyman showed me a trick to attaching the hoses, so I may try to do it myself. Otherwise I'll just call him back.

I have once again postponed my dental hygiene until I get my vaccination. The Pima County Library has reopened all branches for pickup service, so I have ordered a new book. The Covid-19 situation seems to have improved. I'm wondering with some trepidation what effect the Super Bowl parties will have.

\* \* \*

## \* **Kritter Korner**

Mike recently bought a new telephoto lens for his Nikon DSLR camera and was playing around with it. He managed to capture a great shot of a Cooper's hawk. It would have been even nicer if that pesky branch hadn't been in the way.

On another occasion, Mike was able to take a video of an Anna's hummingbird, which are year-round residents. I was able to crop a frame from that. It snowed a bit at the end of January. I went outside to take some photos and captured a picture of some quail tracks.



Finally here's a photo of Cato on our bed.



\* \* \*

## \* **Astronomy**

Mike had some so-so days and some excellent days, especially for the recent planetary conjunctions. Photographically those events weren't exactly spectacular, but here is a photo of the Flame and Horsehead nebulae that is. On the next page is his 2020 montage.





Highlights from 2020

Asteroid (1988) Delores  
23 January 2020

Venus shadow  
14 April 2020

Conjunction 6' 22"  
21 December 2020

Womus  
tharlow  
April 2020

Venus shadow  
April 2020

**Conjunction 6' 22"**  
**21 December 2020**

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## \* Critique of *Sanditon* on “Masterpiece”

\*\*\* Spoiler alert \*\*\*

When Jane Austen died, she left some unfinished manuscripts. One of these became known as *Sanditon*. In 1976 *Sandition: a Novel by Jane Austen and Another Lady* was published, and I bought a copy. I’ve been a longtime Jane Austen reader. However it lay unread until I had seen *Sanditon* on “Masterpiece”. The show was billed as a Jane Austen story, but it was very modernized. There was emphasis on the financial state of the oldest Parker brother, who was trying to build up the seaside community of Sanditon to be competitive to towns like Bath or Brighton, which were health spas that many flocked to and which featured many social events. There were also a couple of characters not of the gentility but of the working class. It featured a young Black heiress from the West Indies, who is the ward of Sidney Parker. The worst thing was the lack of a happy ending for the heroine. After I watched the series, I thought about it. I was never okay with the ending. The more I thought about it, the more upset I became. I decided I had to read the book to have a better perspective on the entire situation.

Jane Austen’s fragment end in the middle of Chapter 11. At that point she had introduced many of the main characters and had mentioned the rest. There was a young lady from the West Indies, but she is described as mulatto, which probably meant that she was only somewhat dark. She was gentility but not necessarily an heiress and had no relation to Sidney Parker at all. Instead she arrived with a small group of other young ladies with a chaperone. There was no mention of large architectural projects. All the characters are of the gentility. And most important there is a happy ending.

The creator of *Sandition* on “Masterpiece” changed the personality of the heroine, Charlotte Heywood, from that of a proper Regency period young lady to a rather socially clumsy country bumpkin. I consider the series to be a flop. Some excuse the creator, because they say he might have been angling for a second season with a happy ending. But there will be no second season and no redemption for him.

The “Another Lady” stayed in character with Austen’s other works. Austen did not have along life. Had she done so, her style may have evolved even as far as the modern interpreter for *Sanditon* on “Masterpiece” surmised, but that is mere wild conjecture. The other lady stayed within the bounds created in Austen’s completed works. There are certain things that are true of all of them, including the happy ending.

Incidentally the “another lady” has been identified, but she is not anyone I’d previously heard of. I think she did a creditable job of completing Austen’s novel. I’ve heard others have also done the same, but I’m not familiar with any of their work.

\* \* \*

## \* StippleAPA

StippleAPA is an amateur press association. An APA is like a group pen pal. Each distribution includes a fanzine from each member, who usually writes about his or her interests and life and makes comments on the previous issues of the other members. If you’re interested in joining, please let me know and I can get you in touch with the



person who runs it. Note to non-members: these are my comments to members.

## MAILING COMMENTS ON STIPPLE-APA #339

**General comment:** The mailing is so thick that the final page wasn't firmly stapled in. Eventually it fell off completely. I put in two staples from the back side to reinforce it.

**Justin E. A. Busch (Stipple-Ations: STFnal Views and Reviews):** Welcome to StippleAPA. I hope you enjoy it here.

**Garth Spencer (Mission Creep #14):** I'm sure very few of us are innocent of having done something offensive without realizing it at the time.

I can only keep my fingers crossed regarding the supporters of our previous president.

**Cy Chauvin (Amazons & Swallows Forever! #78):** I looked at the Oracle Fire Department web site and found a link to a map of the fire hydrants in our town. Rest assured there are a number of them here. I didn't count, but there are probably about fifty or so.

I presume the cover art from Ray Nelson was recent. I just know he sent it to me recently.

**Bill Thomasson (Musings from the Gathering Dusk #37):** There's no period in my name.

**S. Rayne (We Rock We Roll):** An e-zine could be a subset of an electronic

APA. Many e-zines make up an electronic APA.

The misuse of *decimation* upsets me as well.

The Oracle Fire Department web site has a link to a page that shows all the fire hydrants in Oracle.

I think David Bratman meant barred galaxies look *aesthetically* wrong to him. I guess I didn't catch the error in his letter.

**Kathy Sidles (Looking Around—Panda Wildflower Says Hi!):** Back in junior high when I thought about becoming an astronomer, the thought of having to stay up nights dissuaded me. Today, however, professional astronomers do not have to stay up all night unless one is stuck with having to tend the equipment.

**Marge Sehnert (Mamma's Mutterings):** I had to look up "diamond painting" as I'd never heard of it before—interesting concept.

**Dale Cozort (Space Bats & Butterflies):** I, too, liked *Limitless* and was sad when it was cancelled. One of these days I have to see the movie that it was based on.

**Joyce Maetta Odum (Stoutly upon the Ramparts):** The pyrrhuloxia (*Cardinalis sinuatus*), also called the desert cardinal, is related to the northern cardinal. (*Cardinalis*

cardinalis).

The person I knew who painted her cars pink had nothing to do with Mary Kay as far as I know. She was the head librarian at the library at Eastman Kodak in Rochester, NY.

Not all Roombas connect to the Internet. Mine doesn't. The cheaper models don't.

**Jacky Boykin (Hollywood 101: The "Talk" of the Town):** I wish I'd known that you were going to be in *Shameless*; I would've paid more attention. It's one of the shows I watch regularly. I'll have to try to rewatch that episode, or at least the scene that you're in. Looking at [IMDB.COM](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt1443886), I see that it was the first episode of the current (and final) season. You're billed as Jaxy Boyd?

Watching talk shows, as I sometimes do, I can see how filming is progressing in different places. For a number of months, *Real Time with Bill Maher* on HBO was actually done from his home using Zoom or similar software. Then he returned to his studio where there was a shrunken audience that had to run the gamut of

Covid tests. For a while he had no audience except the people who worked for him. Now they are back to having a limited audience.

On the other side of the Atlantic, I notice on *The Graham Norton Show* that they first limited audience size and the guests were seated very far apart. Lately the audience is all virtual. The show is aired here a week or two after it's aired in Britain.

I gather from information picked up on a few talk shows that some TV shows were able to film by creating bubbles around the actors and crew.

**Jeanne Mealy (Quirky Bits):** So sorry to hear of Rozzie's health problems. I hope the cause of her behaviour change is found soon if it hasn't been already.

Hot days, defined as temperatures in the three digits in Fahrenheit, in October have not happened since I started keeping track. We had more days in the nineties in October this year than previously though. Generally temperatures last October were higher than in previous years

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## \* Letters to the Editor

The text of letters received will be in brown. My replies to the letters will be enclosed in double parentheses and will be in black. I will also routinely make editorial corrections in punctuation, spelling, and the like. I use Oxford standards of spelling and punctuation.

After I put my previous issue to bed, I discovered some letters that should have been included in it. I'll start with those.

**Tom Feller, PO Box 140937, Nashville, TN 37214**

**14 November 2020**

We haven't tried to do any of the virtual conventions.

I remember that I once bought a car because Anita liked the colour. It was copper.

We are having no trouble finding toilet paper, but not necessarily the brand Anita favours (Scott).

#

**Justin E.A. Busch, 308 Prince St, # 422, St. Paul, Minn. 55101**

**23 November 2020**

I am fascinated at the variety of wildlife you have at your doorstep. I live close to, and frequently use, a bicycle trail that gives me access to wooded areas; squirrels and rabbits abound, and occasional deer; but the most exotic thing I've seen is the occasional garden snake.

The [virtual] ConReport was entertaining, even if it did principally convince me that virtual conventions are not my cup of tea. More to the point, though: reading it, combined with a coincidental fanzine acquisition, set me thinking about *Purrsonal Mewsings* #81. The acquisition was a more or less random collection of issues of your earlier fanzine *Convention Log* (five issues from #31 to #58; 1982-1990). I doubt that I am the only one among your readers who would welcome, as part of a celebration of PM #81, Kattesmint Press #500, a fanac autobiography: how you got into SF; whom you read, fanzines you enjoyed, -and of course something of your own fanzine history. The latter must be quite extensive; I noticed that issue 31 of *Convention Log* was, Kattesmint Press #87 and issue 58 was Kattesmint #242, so plenty more was going on....

((To begin with, Kattesmint Press #500 may not necessarily be *Purrsonal Mewsings* #81. Currently I'm doing another zine for another APA. I'm not sure that I could reconstruct my fannish history without a lot of research into old papers. I can't really even remember what worldcons I've attended without looking at the list of all worldcons. However I can tell you that my zine was originally called *Convention Log*, because they started out as reports of cons I attended. I can also tell you that my first APA was SDNY, a short-lived APA organized by someone in upstate New York.

((If you're interested in my autobiography, I can send you my intro zine for my other apa. It's only six pages, so I can easily print it out. Let me know))

#



**David Bratman, dbratman at earthlink dot net**

**22 January 2021**

Mike's photo of the Jupiter-Saturn conjunction is gorgeous. I like the tiny image of Saturn's rings, and the graphic indication in the apparent sizes of just how much further away Saturn is than Jupiter, since it's not actually that much smaller. That's something that wasn't apparent in a naked-eye view of the conjunction. I take it that those are three of Jupiter's Galilean moons immediately above and below it.

((Yes those are three of the Galilean moons.))

I get information on public library openings and closings and their rules for pickup from their websites. Because all the larger cities here have their own libraries separate from the county, we have many systems available – I keep cards for six, and have occasionally used two others – and they all have slightly different rules about how to get books. Because the pandemic procedures are new, they've all been invented independently and aren't standardized. Without reminders from checking the websites, I wouldn't be able to keep track.

((We have county library systems rather than city ones, thank goodness. Keeping track of more than two would be a juggling act. I use one library each in each county. Our local library currently only has pickup times in the AM, which is not at all convenient for me. Trying to use any other library in Pinal County would be very inconvenient because of distance; Pinal is mostly a rural county. The Pima County libraries have all day pickup (except for about a month when all but a couple of branches were closed); I use the branch closest to us. I drive past that once or twice each week))

I've heard the "Minnesota speech style" in movies, especially in *Fargo*; but I've never encountered it in person, whether from Twin Cities people or from the few rural Minnesotans I've met. I suppose it exists, but I wonder how widespread it is.

((I understood the accent in *Fargo* to be North Dakotan; if I'm wrong, I'm sure someone will correct me. I have not heard it in real life, either; and I have talked to John Stanley many times.))

#

**Tom Feller, PO Box 140937, Nashville, TN 37214**

**30 January 2021**

Speaking of Confederate monuments, arrangements have been made to exhume the bodies of Nathan Bedford Forrest and his wife from a park in Memphis and transfer them to a Confederate cemetery in Columbia, TN. The monument that stood next to the graves had previously been taken down and stored in a warehouse. It will be also be moved to Columbia.

#

Your editorial concerns plants. Good luck with the trees that bear fruit. It's nice to have your very own trees. A big problem, my wife, Heidi, says, is pests. Her father found that not only did he have a problem with creatures that could climb up the trees and grab the fruit, and creatures that flew down on the tree and got the fruit. In addition, there were a few creatures who dug their way to the fruit and got it that way.

((I will keep an eye out for creatures that try to get at my fruit trees from underground. So far the only ground level problems I've had have been critters that chew up the drip irrigation hose and those that chew the bark off the tree trunks. I'm hoping that the tree cage will keep those problems away.))

Also, you talk about doing exercises. I do them too. At 75, I still lift weights. Nothing heroic, though. I doubt I press more than 60 lbs. However, I look better and am more mobile than other men of 75. Should I have gone further? After I saw my brother make a mess of himself in his 60s 'body buildings,' I decided against it.

I wish Mike good luck with his bicycle for people with arthritis.

((Mike seems to be doing well with his bike. Since he bought it, he has ridden nearly four hundred miles.))

The Astronomy section discusses the Jupiter and Saturn conjunction, The Great Conjunction. People, in the Middle Ages and Renaissance, believed that apocalyptic changes would happen, both good and bad. The astronomer Johannes Kepler believed that Christ was born during the Great Conjunction of 7 B.C.

Next, you have a section devoted to CapClave. I saw some of the Connie Willis and Nancy Kress discussion. The only thing I remember is they liked a series I liked, *Babylon 5*. I also watched the last event of the day, starting at 10:30 PM. It was the "Writing Horror in the Light of Day" panel, with all Australian horror writers. Of course, it was midday in Australia. Many told about their real life inspirations. Like how a little creature accidentally fell on someone; and, in the process, messed up a rock band's mosh pit. Everyone was afraid of it and it was afraid of everyone. I forgot what creature it was.

((Lately I seem to attend convention events that include people I want to see, although at a live convention I will also attend other panels with interesting topics.))



Next we get to Stipple-APA #337. You tell Marge Sehnert that Mike believes extraterrestrials exist in our galaxy. However, you don't believe they exist at all. ...Who knows? On the one hand, I say this while writing the history of extraterrestrials as an idea. On the other hand, I confess the book may never see the light of day.

((You must have misread my comment. I did not say I don't believe in extraterrestrials, just that there has heretofore not been any evidence of their existence.))

Next, letters to the editor. I'll start with my two letters. I confess, with lots of things, I got confused; and I promise to recheck my facts. For instance, I promise to re-check the blacks and reds in your letter section, and who I should attribute particular views to. Also I should recheck the sections where your discussions take place. Finally, I will presume you are answering writers in your Stipple-APA section rather than they answering you.

On the other hand, that I set the series *Lovecraft Country* in Massachusetts in #75 doesn't seem so far off. I confess I haven't seen the series. However, you say the story starts in Chicago but then the characters travel to Massachusetts.

((Most of *Lovecraft Country* takes place in the Chicago area. A few episodes took place in Massachusetts, and one took place in Korea.))

So much for mistakes. About your other comments on my first letter, I'm glad rugged terrain and great fire fighters kept your house from burning down. Fire is a problem in the West in the summertime now, isn't it? I keep reading about fires in California. One would think the entire state is in flames in summertime. However much the extent of fires, though, I thank my lucky stars it never gets that dry in the DC area. Not with all the other problems we have.

About your comments on my second letter, I was glad to hear you back-up your computer too. Cloning, in particular, is good if you lose all your data and programs on the same computer; and all it needs to right it is an uploaded clone. Unfortunately, I have been procrastinating about uploading one.

((I clone my computer to an external drive.))

What do I have to say to Timothy Lane? I am lucky to have the same hair at 75 as I had at 35. I got that trait from my father who died at 89 with the hair of his youth still attached. With other traits of my youth that I got from my father who died at 89 with the hair of his youth still attached, I haven't been as lucky. Part of my memory and attention span is going. I have some aches and pains; and there are other problems I refuse to mention. Good luck to us as we age further. At our age, we need luck.

((In case you haven't heard, Timothy Lane passed away in December.))

What do I have to say to Lloyd Penney? I'm not bored either. I watch movies and series on Amazon Prime. I still write a long zine for the Southern Fandom Press Association. I



publish the fanzines JOMP and JOMP, JR. As I said, I am writing a book. In addition to that, there's a whole bunch of chores that need doing if I'm to keep up my life style .

Finally, we get to your closing remarks, I hear Curt Philips, the fan and ambulance driver, got his Covid-19 vaccinations so fandom isn't too far behind. As As for myself, I got my first two days ago.

((I hear of more and more people who have received their Covid-19 vaccines. We are still waiting.))

#

**Andrew Porter, aporter55 at gmail dot com**

**2 February 2021**

Thanks for the issue. I especially liked the parts about how you enclosed your fruit trees. I haven't followed previous issues, so don't know about the battles you've had with intrusive animals, but I can imagine. Hey, free food and water: what's not to like? No such problems for me, but then, I live in a third-floor apartment in Brooklyn Heights, a densely populated (though scenic; lots of mid-19th century houses) neighbourhood.

Had my first vaccination on Jan. 25th, and will have the second on Feb. 15th. Meanwhile, have been staying away from fellow humans when I go out, suitably masked, for food shopping. I can walk to stores just down the street, or a few streets further away. Also, walk to Trader Joe's and several other food stores clustered together, about 9 blocks away.

((There are drawbacks and benefits no matter where one lives. Out here stores are miles away. The closest supermarket is about fifteen miles away.))

#

IAHF: Trinlay Khadro, Mary Manchester

\* \* \*

## **\* Closing Remarks**

We are still waiting hopefully for our Covid-19 vaccine. Quite a few of my friends have reported getting them already. Arizona seems to be behind the times. There was a report that Covid-19 is the greatest cause of death in the state. Maybe I will have better news next time. Here's hoping.

*Laurraine*

*12 February 2021*