

Purrsonal Mewsings #79



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, <http://www.weasner.com/>. I hope to publish every six weeks.

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#79

April 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.

[] if this box is checked, I need to hear from you if you wish to stay on my mailing list.

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

*** Editorial / Introduction**

The weather has been like a yo-yo. Although early in February we had removed the cover from the orange tree and saguaro because temperatures had warmed, we had to put them back mid-month. About mid-March we removed them again. Maybe this time they will stay off. I have occasionally irrigated my fruit trees when it was warm, and now I have turned the automatic system on.







In March we had a couple of snowfalls. One amounted to a couple of inches. The other was much less and vanished within mere hours.

Also in March we were finally able to get our Covid vaccinations. We have had our first Pfizer shot and have appointments for the second one coming up before this is collated. That was a great weight off me; I didn't realize how stressed I had been about it until after I made the appointment. We drove down to the University of Arizona, which takes about an hour. They are now offering to vaccinate all adults.

* * *

*** Kritter Korner**

I cropped most of the following photos from the ones taken by our wildlife camera. The hummingbird one was taken with my iPhone.

		
Antelope Squirrel	Badger (taken at night)	Hummingbird (not sure what kind)
		
Lesser Goldfinch	Roadrunner in Flight	White-crowned Sparrow in Flight

* * *

*** Astronomy**

Besides his usual activities, Mike was a speaker at this year's Leprecon, which was virtual. His panel was "Impacts of Satellite Mega-constellations". Others on his panel

were Dr. John Barentine of the International Dark-Sky Association and Gerald Nordley, an astronautical engineer. I will write more about this in my convention write-up next issue.

He also managed to do some astrophotography. Here are two photos. Stacking is when you combine several images into one, thereby increasing the sharpness.



* * *

* 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 #340

Jeanne Mealy (The Periodic Table of Variable Elements): I am saddened by StarWolf's disappearance. In fact I tried to call him at the number he earlier called me from, and I got the message that the number had been disconnected. I know how depressed he sounded when I spoke to him.

Lucy Schmeidler (Don't Ask #30): When we were having our house built, the question of ceiling height came up. Neither Mike nor I is particularly

tall, so we decided on eight foot. We were told that the higher ceilings would cost more. Well it turns out I didn't think it through enough. The library really needs to be taller to hold the amount of books we have. I forgot that we had tall ceilings in the family and living rooms in our old house back in California. Even having nine-foot ceilings in the living room would have spared us a lot of grief when our built-in refrigerator arrived. Because of the dolly it was rolled in on, the refrigerator had to be lain down to remove it from the dolly. It turns out

that if a refrigerator has been lain down, you can't plug it in until it has restabilized in the upright position for a day or so before plugging it in.

The cover illo is a furry of a skunk.

Jeanne Mealy (Quirky Bits): I'm sorry to hear you are dropping ANZAPA. I agree that the length of the mailings has become unwieldy. I admit I skim a lot of it. I wouldn't think of printing something that large. On the other hand in printing some of the longer Nebula Award nominees for this year, I put two or four pages on a side. I guess that's a possibility. Reading an online zine means I can compose my responses in another window. Possibly the length will shrink. On the other hand, I will drop out if it goes back to a physical format unless someone can print my zine out at the other end.

Glad to read that Rozzie seems to be doing better.

I was feeling quite stressed about the Covid vaccination situation, but I finally was able to sign in to the University of Arizona site, and we had our first Pfizer vaccinations on 8 March. The U of A is an hour's drive away. I don't know that there might have been a closer location, but I didn't want to lose the appointment at the U.

January may be typically the coldest month in Minnesota, but one year at Carleton College we had a January thaw. For those who don't know, Carleton is located in Northfield, about an hour's drive south of the Twin Cities.

Oracle is very hilly, being in the foothills of the Catalina Mountains.

Bike riding is not really my thing, which is why I have difficulty if the bike isn't small enough for me.

I'm not left-handed, but I do a lot of tasks interchangeably. I switch back and forth when I sweep with a broom, for instance, or go bowling. When I injured my right thumb during the summer while I was in junior high, I learned to write left-handed. That has come in very handy when arthritis problems in my right hand periodically become bad. When I brush my teeth, I brush the right side with my left hand and the left side with my right.

John is correct that male cats immediately outside your house may cause marking behaviour in your cats. A man called Jackson Galaxy created a TV series called *My Cat from Hell*. The series covers a lot of causes of bad cat behaviour. Although I don't think there are any new episodes, I think you might be able to locate the show on TV or online. He also has a website. He specializes in helping with cat problems.

Ruth Odren (The Once and Future Zine): It's good to know that more and more people are getting their Covid shots. We've had our first shot and have appointments for the second shot.

Actually Obama set up a department to cope with pandemics, but T**** disbanded it.

Basically you have to settle for exercise that you are willing to do, I do a lot of exercises ranging from the ones given me by my physical therapist to weight lifting. Mike won't do exercises of that type. Bike riding

is the only thing he will do.

I've also always been short, but I think I've only lost one inch so far.

Joyce Maetta Odum (Foxglove and Hellebore): Of the different movie versions of *War of the Worlds* I've seen, I agree that the first one is best. I, believe, however, that there are a couple of versions I haven't yet seen. One I've seen clips of looks pretty good, as it takes place during the same period as the book.

My favourite Star Trek movie is the one with the whales.

I won't allow my fruit trees to become too tall, so I will make sure they fit within the cage, which is about ten feet tall.

Marge Sehnert (Mamma's Mutterings): Do you have mice in your apartment building?

Only certain types of fruit trees grow here and require irrigation. The apples are gala. The peach is a type of cling free; I'm not exactly sure of the exact type of my tree. My pear tree is an Asian pear.

CapClave was an online convention that I attended. I believe it was headquarter in DC.

Chrystine Omori (A Sparrow's Perspective): I really feel for you living in Brazil, which seems to going down the toilet. I hope you will be safe.

Sorry you lost Barbie. And also sorry to hear your mother is doing poorly.

I've made a note of your phone number. I believe you are also still on

Facebook.

My best wishes.

Bill Thomasson (Musings from the Gathering Dusk #38): The cartoon is of a furry skunk.

I find myself gravitating toward people rather than topics at conventions these days.

Economics has always eventually proven more of a force than military factors. That was what led to the eventual collapse of the USSR. Historical events tend to move at a glacial pace, though things seem to be moving faster now than they ever have before.

History has always moved in a helical manner, but there seems to be a built-in direction toward improvement. At least one hopes.

Garth Spencer (Mission Creep #15): Who is *Bettie Page*? Okay, I looked her up, and she was apparently a model.

Erik Biever (Mars or Bust!): As far as I know, I shouldn't have to keep bears from my fruit trees. For one thing I don't think they have much interest in fruit. For another they are rare around here.

Justin E. A. Busch (Stipple-ations: Stfan Views and Reviews): I think bobcats are generally too small to be dangerous to people, although I guess they might be dangerous to small children. They are the size of very large domestic cats.

Cy Chauvin (Amazons & Swallows

Forever! #80): I'm adding *Piranesi* to my almost infinitely long list of books to read list. I really liked the author's *Jonathan Strange and Mr. Norrell*, and this books sounds similar.

During the three years I spent at Carleton College, I never noticed that Minnesotans sounded different from other Mid-westerners.

* **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.

Mary Manchester, 1297 Monroe Av, #2, Rochester, NY 14620-1655
2 February 2021

An electric-assist bike. What a really great idea: exercise but without the pain that usually means "not today".

The cage for your fruit trees sounds like the ultimate solution. If it doesn't work, what next?

((I'm pretty sure it'll work, based on the experience of other fruit tree owner. However, if it doesn't work, it's time to give up.))

#

Lloyd Penney, penneys at bell dot net **21 February 2021**

We are finally back up on our feet after something we worked hard not to catch, but did anyway, COVID-19. We have felt very poorly for too long, and we are amazed at how much weight we've lost, but we are still recuperating. I feel good enough to start writing again, so here are some comments on *Purrsonal Mewsings 77*.

((I'm sorry you caught Covid but happy you recovered.))

Texas has had to deal with some terribly cold weather, weather it is not used to, and whose infrastructure is not built to deal with that cold. Has any of those temperatures

affected you where you are? It's easy for us to comment on that cold weather, for we get it most years and worse, but Texas was totally unprepared for it. Arizona might be ready for those temperature; we know the desert can be cold at night.

((In this part of Arizona, we are used to temperatures dropping below freezing. However it did that only once here this winter, though we had three instances of snow.))

I haven't done much in the way of virtual conventions, but Zoom events have been great fun. We belong to the Etobicoke Historical Society, and they have monthly lectures. Coming up shortly is the Heritage Days Virtual Festival, which was the last actual event Yvonne and I attended last year. Certainly tells you that we've been under lockdown for a long time. One of our speakers will be British tailor Zack Pinsent, who has spent the past twenty years dressed in Edwardian finery every day of his life.

Letters...indeed, the Internet has become such a part of everyday like, I think the United Nations has declared it as a right. Otherwise, you don't communicate. For people like Timothy Hill, who is now confined to a long-term-care home, the Internet is now a lifeline, the only way to communicate with anyone, especially in this pandemic, coming up on one year.

Walking is the best exercise for anyone our age; but I am busy at home a lot, with a lot of commitments and things to catch up on. I would go for those walks more often if I felt I had the time. Also this cold weather doesn't help with things, but at some point I will go back for those walks. For me it is safest to get on a bus, go a distance away, and then walk home. I think we can agree that 2020 was basically postponed, but will 2021 be the same? If we can get past the anti-mask and anti-vaccine nonsense, then perhaps the second half of 2021 can get us back close to normal. Honestly, I think 2022 will bring normality back.

((What is normality? I think whatever comes will be different, at least I hope so. I sometimes think things will become more normal soon, then I have doubts. Only time will tell.))

End of issue...seeing Yvonne and I are in our 60s, we probably won't be eligible for our COVID-19 vaccines just yet. Looks like most people will have their vaccines by September. Take care, stay warm and safe, and see you with the next issue.

((Mike and I will have had our shots by the end of March. States vary in their eligibility requirements for getting the vaccinations. We'll just have to wait and see.))

#

John Hertz, 236 S Coronado St, #409, Los Angeles, CA 90057

28 February 2021

My Inauguration Day poem was in *Vanamonde* 1431, which will come to you in due course. I repeat it here:

Back to build better,
Into the currents again,
Determined, dauntless.
Every face shall have a voice
National leadership hears.

It's an acrostic (read down the first letter of each line) in unrhymed 5-7-5-7-7-syllable lines, like Japanese *tanka*.

#

Amy Harlib, amyharlib at e-activism dot com

6 March 2021

Sorry I did not respond to *Purrsonal Musings* 77, 76, 75 and 74. I enjoyed reading them, I love any included photos and cartoons; but I am so profoundly depressed and furious about the never-ending virus insanity devastating my gigs, my happiness and sense of purpose and the entire planet has gone completely psychotic with obsessive/compulsive germaphobic disorder over essentially a bad flu, that I just cannot write about anything without ranting about what I call "the global SCAMDEMIC". I WANT MY GIGS BACK and I want my life back.

We have been living in a nightmare mix of *1984*, *a Brave New World*, *The Matrix*, and *The Hunger Games*; and I am NOT a happy camper to be living in the scifi dystopias I hated and dreaded in my youth.

I enjoy reading your zine and would love to continue receiving it.

#

David Bratman, dbratman at earthlink dot net

6 March 2021

I don't know what S. Rayne thought I said, but your interpretation is correct: I find something aesthetically displeasing about a barred galaxy. I prefer a whirlpool. That's just a matter of taste.

Nor do I know what error I made, but I checked and the Milky Way is believed to be a barred galaxy, and I didn't find anything rebutting that. There's an article about the confirmation of the discovery at <https://www.space.com/1442-milky-ways-central-structure-fresh-clarity.html>.

#

Cathy Palmer-Lister, cathypl at sympatico dot ca

6 March 2021

Thank you! Please tell Mike I love his astrophotos!

#

Trinlay Khadro, 1734 S 56th St, West Allis, WI 53214

7 March 2021

This summer Megumi kitty was suddenly very ill. It was an acute episode of kidney disease that she'd shown no sign of two weeks earlier at her annual vet exam. She spent five days at the veterinary hospital and came home very weak with a special diet and subcutaneous fluid treatment. A few weeks later she was doing much better. Now she's doing really well and yells when I'm late for her daily treatment. She turned nineteen, so I hope to keep her feeling as good as possible for as long as possible.

Seimei, age fourteen, is now on medication for hyperthyroid, and he's also doing great. His symptoms were some weight loss and taking a flying leap into the hallway from the stairway landing; the stairway is about ten feet high and about eight feet long. He's got the weight mostly back, and his behaviour is less maniacal.

We're still waiting to get called from the waitlist for the Covid shot. Wisconsin doesn't have a state legislature that gives a f*** about people or public health.

I love the photos, especially the bobcats.

I suspect Mike is right about intelligent life within our galaxy. I'm thinking that they lock their doors as they zoom past Earth. I've heard so many "alien sighting" stories that sound an awful lot like stranded motorists in a spooky remote area or "bad neighbourhood".

Richard Dengrove: re rural net access. Locally I've run into seeing ads for services, events with a web address and no phone#. I need to get an appointment at my doctor's clinic—gotta go through the health system to set up the appointment. I'm trying to get my household set up to get the vaccine. I have to go online to get on a waitlist to get an appointment.

Lovecraft Country is titled after the book of the same name. The series covered the book in the first two episodes.

The high rate of abuse and neglect in nursing and group homes has been highlighted by Covid. The well run homes were able to limit the spread. The bad ones were just so neglectful in regular times that outbreaks ran wild. Worse there were homes where the residents were treated like experimental populations, and the people who should have been looking out for them dosing them with questionable and dangerous medications rather than rely on known best practices.

((She enclosed three items that I took a photo of and share here.



))

#

Jason Burnett, brithistorian at gmail dot com

12 March 2021

I just wanted to drop you a line to say that I enjoyed *Purrsonal Mewsings* #78, especially the beautiful photographs.

Reading your Stipple-APA comments made me want to rejoin. Can you put me in touch with whoever is currently running it? Thanks.

#

Richard Dengrove, richd22426 at aol dot com

14 March 2021

I will start my comments on *Purrsonal Mewsings* 78 with your “Editorial”. One thing you said was you liked a show for kids, “Snoopy in Space”. That brought back memories from MediaWestCon in Lansing, Michigan. Some of the panels concerned kids’ shows. The reason was that though the audience and panelists were adults, they still remembered theirs. The favourite was “Ghostbusters.”

Next, I will tackle the “Kritter Korner”. Maybe I should have put this among your Editorial comments, but it did not hit me until the Kritter Korner. You mentioned that you had snow on the ground for a week or two. You liked yours. The water helped your plants grow. It snowed in Northern Virginia here too. I’m afraid I didn’t like mine. The problem was that because snow had been shovelled into empty spaces, I couldn’t park in a place I had to.

Next still is your critique of *Sanditon*. About the novel, I am glad “Another Lady” did a good job of imitating Jane Austen’s style. Not every writer can imitate someone else’s style; not even good ones. Recently, I read *The April Robin Murders*, a murder mystery. It was published in 1957. The authoress, Craig Rice, wrote two-thirds of it and died. The publisher had Evan Hunter, under the pseudonym Ed McBain, finish it. He did OK handling the complicated plot – and fabricating his own complications. However, he didn’t have Craig’s sense of humour or her creativity with the co-detective’s photographic memory.

Next again are your responses to StippleAPA. In your comment to Jackie Boykin, you discuss Bill Maher’s show *Real Time with Bill Maher*. You said when he returned to his studio, the audience was very small. I wonder if his TV show could somehow go through YouTube. My skeptics group has run a presentations through YouTube. There are ways the home audience can contact those on stage there. To be honest, though, I really don’t know how it would work with Bill Maher’s show.

((Bill Maher frequently has an overtime segment for his show. That part has always been on YouTube. I don’t think that segment has been run since Covid started. As for the main part of the show, there is no audience participation except for applause and laughter.))

Finally, we reach “Letters to the Editor”. Tom Feller, in his first letter, says that he has been able to get toilet paper, just not the toilet paper Anita likes, Scott. What’s bizarre is that Scott is what I have had plenty of. It’s lasted several months.

After that short comment on a short letter by Tom, I will get to your comments on the letters. First, a comment to David Bratman. You’ve had a minor problem with your libraries. I have a major problem. Before Covid-19, Fairfax County, VA, libraries were great. Not now. One branch got me microfilm as an interlibrary loan. Unfortunately, with the method I used, I couldn’t see the print. So I asked them to keep the microfilm, and I would use another method for copying it. They said they would until March 27th. I called them on the 10th, a phone message told me they were closed because of Covid-19. The problem is how am I going to copy the microfilm – or am I?

Second are your comments on my letter. Comment one concerned virtual conventions. You attend conventions because there are people there you want to see. I do the same. In fact, it is usually one person, George Wells in some conventions and Fred Gooding, Jr. in other conventions. On the other hand, if I can’t be at a live convention, I can still enjoy the panels at a virtual convention. Do you nonetheless find them enjoyable?

((Virtual conventions have their place. They are no really substitutes for physical conventions. While I can see the guests at a virtual convention, I miss the chance encounters I have with other attendees at a physical convention. However I think it might be a good idea for conventions to have virtual tracks even when we go back to physical conventions. It would offer people who can’t travel for whatever reason a chance to see part of the convention. Perhaps a virtual membership fee could be less than a physical one.))

Comment two concerns backing up. You clone your drive to an external drive. I have an external drive where I back up files. However, I was thinking of having my computer cloned to I-Drive's cloud when I finally get around to it.

((Depending on the amount of data one has on one's computer, off-site backup may be impractical, especially with limited Internet access.))

Comment three concerns Timothy Lane. I appreciated the info; not that I am happy that he died. I may have had a conflict with him about politics in the distant past. However I met him at a convention in Atlanta, and he struck me as a very decent fellow.

Comment four concerns the Covid-19 vaccine. You told me you were waiting for it. Knock on wood. My health insurance, Kaiser Permanente, vaccinated me and Heidi. I hope you have had equal luck since you wrote that remark.

* * *

*** Closing Remarks**

I'm running late on this and hope that the post office is back to more normal speeds of delivery. Last time snow storms delayed delivery. I had thought to run my LepreCon report here, but it'll have to wait until next issue.

Laurraïne

26 March 2021