

# IMPULSE

MonSFFA • A MonSFF

NEWS BULLETIN  
OF THE MONTREAL  
SCIENCE FICTION  
AND FANTASY  
ASSOCIATION

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

January / Janvier 2009 (Vol. 13, No./Nº 1)

## NEXT MonSFFA MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND

**Sunday, January 18**

1:00PM-5:00PM

St-François Room, Days Hotel  
1005 Guy Street, Montreal

### SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING

**1:00PM**

**CLUB ELECTIONS:** MonSFFEn select their Executive for the coming year (see lead item, right, for details).

**1:15PM**

**GIVING GOOD PANEL:** A few of MonSFFFA's most experienced panelists offer pointers on presenting a topic and moderating a discussion panel.

**3:00PM**

**LANDING THE PHOENIX:** Meet the pair of Montrealers who built a full-scale replica of NASA's Phoenix Lander for the Canadian Space Agency, a partner in the recently completed Phoenix Mars Mission, and hear the story of how they landed the job, plus the details of construction.

## Next Month's MonSFFA Meeting

**FEBRUARY 22**

- Apollo 11 Moon Landing
- Sci-Fi's Hottest Hunks

## 2009 Club Elections

The first order of business as the club kicks off 2009 will be the selection of MonSFFFA's Executive Committee for the coming year. We will do so at our first event of this new year, January 18's club meeting. All MonSFFFA members in good standing are encouraged to participate.

MonSFFFA elects annually a president, vice-president, and treasurer—who together form the Executive Committee—and charges them with the responsibility of running the club on behalf of the membership. The three executives recruit advisors and appoint officers to assist them in carrying out this responsibility.

Our sitting Executive members are: Berny Reischl, president; Keith Braithwaite, vice-president; and Sylvain St-Pierre, treasurer.

Any MonSFFFA 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.

All MonSFFFA 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.

## Club's 2008 Christmas Dinner/Party

MonSFFFA closed 2008 with it's traditional Christmas Dinner/Party, held on the evening of December 6.

We began with dinner at the Nickels Bar and Grill Restaurant in Alexis Nihon Plaza before repairing to our familiar seasonal watering hole, the downtown Park Place Bar, where we enjoyed an evening of music, lively conversation, libations and, as always, pool. The bar's backroom pool table welcomed a succession of MonSFFEn over the course of the evening who played with varying degrees of skill, a few finding that a couple of beers actually *improved* their game!

Several genre DVDs, books and other nifty prize items were put up for raffle to raise a sack of lucre for both the club's general operating fund and our planned Anticipation

**DOES YOUR NAME APPEAR  
BELOW? WATCH THIS SPACE  
TO KNOW IF YOUR ANNUAL  
MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP  
FEES ARE DUE.**

The annual membership fees of the following MonSFFFA members are *overdue*:

BOIES, Marquise  
METHE, Ann

**Annual membership  
fees are due this month,  
January, from the  
following club members:**

**PALMER-LISTER, Cathy**

Annual membership fees will become due next month, February, from the following club members:

KRIMP, Nick  
LUPIEN, Denise  
LUPIEN, Leslie

Please renew your MonSFFFA membership in timely fashion. Annual dues for a regular membership are \$25. Fill out the application form, below, include payment (cheque or money order made out to MonSFFFA), and mail to:

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

Thank you for renewing your membership in MonSFFFA, Montreal's premiere SF/F fan club.

## 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. / Tél.: ( ) ( )

HOME/MAISON

WORK/TRAVAIL

Address / Adresse: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail / Courriel: \_\_\_\_\_

NO. & STREET / N° ET RUE APT./APP.

Interests / Intérêts: \_\_\_\_\_

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room party later this year. The group also collected a healthy stack of toys and non-perishable food items for donation to Sun Youth's annual Christmas Basket Drive.

A good time was had by all and we trust that MonSFFA's members, friends, and their families delighted in a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

We'd like to thank, in particular, club president Berny Reischl and vice-president Keith Braithwaite, who between them arranged for the dinner, set up the Park Place party, provided the evening's music, and saw to our collection for charity. Thanks, as well, to those MonSFFen who helped with the raffle. And finally, thanks to the staff of the Park Place, our most welcoming and long-time party hosts.

## World's Most Famous Sci-Fi Fan Passes Away; Catwoman Actress Dies

The most famous sci-fi fan in the world, Forrest J Ackerman, who is said to have coined the very term "sci-fi," died of heart failure at his home in Los Angeles last month. He was 92.

4SJ, or Forry, was possessed of an insatiable appetite for all things science fiction and horror. His legacy includes an unparalleled memorabilia collection accumulated over a lifetime—more than 300,000 books, magazines, posters, costumes, models and film props once housed in a former home dubbed the Ackermansion, to which thousands of SF fans have made the pilgrimage.

Ackerman served as literary agent to a great many genre writers over the years, including such notables as Ray Bradbury, H.P. Lovecraft, and controversial Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard. Ackerman himself wrote some 50 short stories and appeared as an extra in countless sci-fi films. He created the comic book character Vampirella and his definitive fan magazine, *Famous Monsters of Filmland*, which he wrote and edited from the late 1950s to the early 1980s, ignited the imaginations of a younger generation of science fiction and horror fans that included such future genre stars as Stephen King, Steven Spielberg, and George Lucas.

Also dead, at age 81, is sensuous singer and actress Eartha Kitt, one of three women who played Catwoman on the campy 1960s-era *Batman* TV show. Kitt, whose sultry rendition of the Christmas number "Santa Baby" is among the classic holiday tunes heard every December, succumbed to cancer on Christmas day.

## MonSFFA's 2009 Meetings and Events Schedule

Details of MonSFFA's 2009 meetings and events schedule, as worked out at the BoA meeting of November 16, are as follows:

### January 18

- Club Elections
- Giving Good Panel
- Landing the Phoenix

### February 22

- Fly Me To The Moon: this summer will mark the 40th anniversary of the first manned moon landing. We offer an historical overview of the Apollo 11 mission, plus a look at moon mythology and some of the many lunar adventures in sci-fi cinema and television.
- Saviours of the Universe—Sci-Fi's Hottest Hunks: MonSFFA's women flip through the SF/F equivalent of the annual fireman's calendar while exploring the manly attributes of the genre's most handsome heroes.

### March 22

- It's a Small World After All: we explore the Lilliputian worlds of SF/F in such examples as *Gulliver's Travels* and *Land of the Giants*.
- Game—Magnification Factor 3: players are challenged to identify iconic sci-fi images that have been greatly magnified.

### April 19

- What's Cooking?—The Cuisine of SF/F: a presentation on food in SF/F.
- Easter Egg-Decorating Contest: in conjunction with the above presentation, we are holding an Easter egg-decorating contest. Prior to the meeting, MonSFFen are encouraged to apply an SF/F theme to their creative decoration of an Easter egg and bring the finished result in to the meeting for all to see. Entries will be judged by the group and a prize awarded for the most popular. Decorators may work with a real or artificial egg.
- DVD Easter Eggs: we'll reveal some of the more interesting so-called "Easter eggs" (special hidden extras) to be found on sci-fi DVDs.

### May 24

In lieu of a regular meeting this month, we plan to attend as a group a Sunday-afternoon screening of the new *Star Trek* movie, scheduled to open at this time.

### June 14

- Role-Playing Games in the 21st Century: we outline the fun to be had playing sci-fi role-playing games and examine the many changes that have been introduced to the RPG universe in recent years.
- Scooby-Doo, How Old Are You?: we'll snack

on the popular cartoon adventures of Scooby-Doo and his mystery-solving pals, who embarked on their first of many SF/F-ish cases 40 years ago.

### July 26

MonSFFA's Annual Summer Barbecue this year will be held, as is our custom, in Parc Angrignon. Should inclement weather prevail, we have scheduled the following Sunday, August 2, as an alternate date.

### August 6-10

Anticipation, the 67th World Science Fiction Convention, will unfold here in Montreal over this extended weekend. MonSFFA will, of course, be present; we plan to host a room party and on the convention floor, mount a display offering an historical overview of MonSFFA and Montreal fandom.

### August 23

Programming to be announced.

### September 20

- Best Sci-Fi Movies Never Made: we explore a selection of potentially great genre films proposed but, ultimately, never produced, as well as a few endlessly stuck, it seems, "in development." We'll also make a list of genre films we'd like to see produced.
- Next on This Channel...: we explore some of the proposed sci-fi television series that failed to make it past a pilot, or were quickly cancelled after but a handful of episodes.

### October 25

- Afternoon of the Living Dead: we dissect the zombie story in genre literature and film.
- Fund-Raising Auction/Garage Sale: MonSFFA's annual fund-raiser; support your club by purchasing SF/F books, comics, toys and other cool collectibles. Bargain prices!

### November 22

- The Write Stuff: a discussion of trends in SF/F writing. What's hot, what's not, both in professional circles and in online fanfic? We'll highlight the most original and exciting new fiction.
- Game—The Word is Given: players must identify the SF/F book, film, or television show attached to a randomly selected character, place name, or term.

### December 5

MonSFFA's Annual Christmas Dinner/Party. Details to announced.

Note that all programming is subject to change. We'll update members on any changes to this schedule in *Impulse* and on the club's Web site.

Impulse is put together monthly by Keith Braithwaite on behalf of MonSFFA. An e-version is available on MonSFFA's Web site courtesy Kurt Schmidt. Contact Keith in regards to this publication by any of the following methods:

- In person at a MonSFFA meeting
- Via the club's mailing address, to the attention of "Impulse":  
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4456 Boul. Ste-Rose  
Laval, Québec, Canada, H7R 1Y6

- E-mail: bigewok@total.net
- Voice mail: 450-692-8831

Visit MonSFFA on the Web:

[www.MonSFFA.com](http://www.MonSFFA.com)

Impulse est préparé une fois par mois par Keith Braithwaite au nom de l'AMonSFF. Il est aussi disponible en version électronique sur le site internet du club grâce à Kurt Schmidt. Pour toutes questions concernant cette publication, contactez Keith soit:

- En personne à une réunion du club
- Courriel: bigewok@total.net

Visitez l'AMonSFF sur internet:

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