

MonSFFA • A MonSFF IMPULSE

NEWS BULLETIN
OF THE MONTREAL
SCIENCE FICTION
AND FANTASY
ASSOCIATION

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

April-May / Avril-Mai 2009 (Vol. 13, No./N° 4)

NEXT MonSFFA MEETING IS COMING SOON

Sunday, April 19

1:00PM-5:00PM

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

SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING

1:00PM

WHAT'S COOKING?—THE CUISINE OF SF/F: Presentation on food in SF/F.

3:00PM

DVD EASTER EGGS: We'll unveil some of the more interesting so-called "Easter eggs" (special hidden extras) to be found on sci-fi DVDs.

EASTER EGG-DECORATING

CONTEST: In conjunction with the above, we are holding an Easter egg-decorating contest. In advance of the meeting, MonSFFen are encouraged to apply an SF/F theme to their creative decoration of a real or artificial egg and bring the result in to the meeting for all to see. Multiple entries permitted. Eggs will be judged by the group and prizes awarded. (See also lead item, right.)

Next Month's Event:

**GROUP OUTING TO SEE
NEW STAR TREK MOVIE**

May 10

Downtown Theatre, Matinée Show

Theatre and show time to be announced on club Web site shortly before May 10.

Easter Egg Decorating Contest at April Meeting

We remind MonSFFA members of the Easter egg decorating contest we've planned for the April 19 meeting. Folks are asked to decorate a real or artificial egg in an SF/F theme and bring it in to the meeting for all to see. Exercise your creativity and have fun with it!

Members may enter as many eggs as they wish. Entries will be judged and prizes awarded. (See also Events column, left.)

Attention! Date Change, May Movie Outing

MonSFFen please note that we have moved up the date of our planned group outing to see the new *Star Trek* movie in May (see also Events column, left). We had scheduled May 24 originally, but have reconsidered; we'll now get together to catch the flick on May 10, the Sunday of the film's opening weekend. Please update your calendars accordingly.

Theatre and show time cannot be determined until a few days before the movie opens, but we will select a downtown theatre and early afternoon screening. These details will be e-mailed to everyone and posted on the club's Web site shortly before May 10th.

Bring a friend!

Update: MonSFFA Meeting Programming

In addition to the above movie outing date-change, we advise our membership of the following modifications to MonSFFA's 2009 meeting programming.

Confirmed is the shuffling of our Sci-Fi Garage Sale/Auction/Bake Sale fund-raiser from October's meeting to August's. The October meeting, now set for the 18th (as reported last issue), will feature in the fund-raiser's former slot what we expect will be a most amusing game: "Who's Who" will defy MonSFFen to identify their fellow club members from childhood photographs.

**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 MonSFFA members are *overdue*:

HAMMOCK, Christopher
THIBODEAU, Claude

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

**DODDS, Georges
NADEAU, Marc
NOVO, Fernando
SYSAVANE, Khoba**

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

BROWN, Lindsay
BURAKOFF, Mark
SICHEL, Danny
WHITELAW, Maureen

Please renew your MonSFFA 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 MonSFFA), and mail to:

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

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

MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Name / Nom: _____ Age / Âge: _____

Address / Adresse: _____

NO. & STREET / N° ET RUE APT./APP.

CITY/VILLE PROVINCE POSTAL CODE/CODE POSTAL

AMonSFF FORMULAIRE D'INSCRIPTION

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

Tel./Tél.: () ()

HOME/MAISON

WORK/TRAVAIL

E-mail/Courriel: _____

Interests/Intérêts: _____

October's planned exploration of zombie stories remains in place off the top of the meeting.

Our August meeting, scheduled for the 23rd and to date unprogrammed, now features the club's above-mentioned Sci-Fi Garage Sale/Auction/Bake Sale fund-raiser. Help support your club by purchasing SF/F books, comics, magazines, VHS tapes and DVDs, posters, toys and other cool collectibles. Bargain prices! Donations of items to this fund-raiser are most welcome; just bring 'em in to a club meeting or event in advance of August. The bake sale portion of our fund-raiser will offer a menu of tasty SF/F-themed snacks.

And, we'll open the August meeting with a lively game of Sci-Fi Pictionary, in which players must identify an SF/F character, vehicle, title, or phrase based solely on the quick sketches made on an easel by a teammate. No words allowed!

MonSFFen Get Small at March Meeting

MonSFFA's March meeting was held on the 15th and drew a healthy crowd for an exploration of Lilliputian worlds in SF, followed by a challenging visual game. Space is at a premium this issue, so we'll keep this meeting report necessarily brief.

Keith Braithwaite and Danny Sichel led off with their presentation on and discussion of science fiction stories involving microcosmic adventures, including Jonathan Swift's seminal *Gulliver's Travels* (1726), from which we derive the term Lilliputian to describe the very small. The tiny worlds of such stories, or the miniature protagonists adventuring in a relatively giant world, are often simply fantastical devices employed by an author to satirize or otherwise comment on social or political issues.

The idea of human miniaturization, though fraught with problems of scientific logic, nevertheless remains fascinating to genre writers and filmmakers, serving to explore things from a decidedly different perspective. Stories like *Adventures of a Micro-Man* (Edwin Pallander, 1902) or *Lost Men in the Grass* (Donald Suddaby, 1940) are vehicles for the observation of the small-scale wonders of the natural world, often accompanied by moralizing on the part of the author. Adventures like Richard Matheson's *The Shrinking Man* (1956), from which was derived the classic sci-fi film *The Incredible Shrinking Man* (1957), are

principally tales of survival featuring suddenly monstrous insects and other perils. And the similarity of our solar system to the model of the atom prompted the idea of worlds within worlds. This theme is explored in stories like *The Microcosmic Buccaneers* (Harl Vincent, 1929), "A Matter of Size" (Harry Bates, 1934), *Surface Tension* (James Blish, 1952), and of course, the Dr. Seuss children's classic *Horton Hears a Who!* (1954).

The presentation touched on such mythological micro-creatures and staples of fantasy literature as fairies and gnomes, as well as the child-sized dwarves and hobbits of *Lord of the Rings*. Also, clips from such movies as *Dr. Cyclops* (1940) and *Fantastic Voyage* (1966) were screened.

Following the mid-meeting break, Berny Reischl ran a game in which a variety of images were shown, greatly magnified, and folk challenged to identify the SF/F film or TV series from which they were lifted. Lots of fun!

Thanks to Keith, Danny, and Berny, for the afternoon's programming, as well as to those MonSFFen who helped to plan and run this meeting.

A Board of Advisors meeting was held during the morning slot; updates to 2009 meeting programming were finalized and new initiatives discussed.

Briefly:

● In order to help finance the club's activities at this summer's Worldcon, a "Super Fund-Raising Raffle" has been initiated, offering as prizes several premium collectibles valued at between \$25 and \$100. Tickets are \$5 each and may be purchased at club events until the winning stubs are drawn at Polaris 23 in Toronto on July 12. Participants are eligible to win one or more of the prizes; winners may collect their prizes either at Polaris on the 12th or at MonSFFA's barbecue in Montreal on July 26. Prizes may alternately be shipped at the expense of the winner.

● MonSFFA has decided on a room party as our major promotional event during Anticipation, the 2009 Worldcon, in August. ConCept will co-host the event with us. We plan to hold the party the Friday evening of the con. Various fund-raising operations are currently underway to help offset the hefty costs involved. Our theme is hockey and the club is asking members for loans of hockey equipment and paraphernalia with which to

decorate the room. We're looking in particular for a portable goal net and a tabletop hockey game. We're also looking for volunteers to help set up and run the party; one need not be attending the convention to serve as a party volunteer. More details to follow; watch this space.

● In addition to our room party, MonSFFA has been asked by Anticipation to mount a static display at the Worldcon outlining the history of the club and Montreal fandom in general. We'll be displaying back issues of *Warp* and other items from the club's archives. To augment this material, we are asking members to loan us old photos, fanzines, promotional flyers and such relating to MonSTA, MonSFFA, ConCept, or Montreal fandom in general. Please bring your contributions to our historical display in to a MonSFFA meeting soon. Please also identify as yours the items you lend; they will be returned to you with much thanks after the Worldcon.

● MonSFFA is introducing a rewards program for members who help with the planning and running of club activities. Coupons will be awarded to said members throughout the remainder of the year and at the club's Christmas party, these coupons can be converted into tickets for a special "rewards raffle." Full details to follow; watch this space.

● We are pleased to report that Keith Braithwaite has been nominated for an Aurora Award for his efforts as *Impulse's* editor. The Auroras are Canada's awards for achievements in the SF/F field. Voting is underway online and by standard post; the voting deadline is July 15, 2009. The Auroras this year will be handed out at Anticipation. We encourage MonSFFen to support one of our own. Surf to the Aurora Web site for more details: www.prixaurorawards.ca

No Impulse Next Month

Finally, we advise MonSFFen that because the club has no meeting booked next month, and because the movie outing we've organized in place of a May meeting is scheduled early in the month, *Impulse* will not publish a May 2009 issue. This edition has thus been designated our April-May 2009 issue. *Impulse* returns in June.

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":
MonSFFA c/o
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

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:

● Boîte vocale: 450-692-8831
● Par la poste à l'adresse du club, à l'attention de "Impulse":
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Laval, Québec, Canada, H7R 1Y6