

IMPULSE

onSFFA • 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

November-December / Novembre-Décembre 2010 (Vol. 14, No./Nº 9)

MonSFFA MEETING THIS WEEKEND

Sunday, November 21

11:00AM-5:00PM, St-François Room,
Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy Street

SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING

11:00AM, BOA MEETING: *We map out next year's events schedule.*

1:00PM, WEIRD SCI-FI TECHNOLOGIES: *Review of some of the more bizarre technologies to be found in the annals of science fiction.*

2:00PM, SIGNS AND SYMBOLS, LEGENDS AND MYTHOLOGIES: *An examination of these, their origins and connections.*

3:30PM, STAR TREK REMASTERED: *Original Trek, now with improved visual effects!*

Invitation to 2010 MonSFFA Christmas Dinner and Party

MonSFFA's members, their families, and the club's many friends, are invited to celebrate the season with us!

SATURDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 4

DINNER at 6:00PM, downtown, **SCORES RESTAURANT**, 1432 Ste-Catherine Street West (Guy-Concordia Metro); reservations under name: Bernard Reischl * **PARTY** at 8:00PM, "NOT SO PRIVATEER" BAR (formerly Park Place Bar), 1244 Mackay Street (between Ste-Catherine and René-Lévesque) * **Drinks, Music, and Pool!** * Rewards Raffle for volunteer members—don't forget to bring your blue "Participation Coupons"! * *Collection of toys, non-perishable foods for Sun Youth Christmas Basket Drive; please give in the spirit of the season* * **CHRISTMAS RAFFLES!**

2010 MonSFFA Christmas Dinner and Party Includes Rewards Raffle

MonSFFA's 2010 Christmas Dinner and Party is scheduled for Saturday evening, December 4. All of the club's members and their families, and MonSFFA's many friends, are welcome to celebrate the holidays with us! See the events column, left, for the official invitation and details.

We will gather, as we did last year, at the Scores restaurant on Ste-Catherine near Guy at 6:00PM (please arrive on time). Following a festive dinner there, we'll take a short walk to the "Not So Privateer" bar (formerly the Park Place, our traditional watering hole to these many years) for the party.

As is our seasonal custom, we'll be collecting toys and non-perishable food items at the party for donation to Sun Youth's Christmas Basket Drive. We have a few Christmas raffles planned, as well, including our Rewards Raffle.

This exclusive draw is the means by which we offer special thanks for their participation to those club members who ran programming at our meetings this year, or pitched in to help with special events and projects. For each such volunteer action performed in 2010, a club member received a blue "Participation Coupon". These coupons will serve as raffle tickets in the Rewards lottery. Each coupon-holding MonSFFAN will have a chance to win one of the prizes offered by the club as humble tokens of thanks. Members having collected coupons throughout the year are reminded to bring these to the party and to write their names on each in the space provided. The coupons will be tossed into a hat as we kick off the party, and winners drawn.

The club takes this opportunity to thank for their efforts each and every MonSFFAN who ran programming in 2010 or helped with special events and projects. This club runs on the involvement of its members and your having taken part is greatly appreciated.

And so, we hope to see all of you at the club's 2010 Christmas Dinner and Party, and to all we offer our early

**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*:

BOIES, Marquise
DUROCHER, Marc
HICKEY, Mark
KENNEY, Daniel P.
METHE, Ann
MOIR, Dorothy
MOIR, L. E.
NORMAND, Jean-Pierre
ST-PIERRE, Sylvain

The annual membership fees of the following club members are due this month, November:

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The annual membership fees of the following club members will become due next month, December:

REISCHL, Bernard
RUFIANGE, Yolande
SINCLAIR, Julia

Standard membership is only \$25 annually. Please complete 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 MonSFFA membership in timely fashion.

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: _____

wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

No December Impulse

As *Impulse* will not publish next month, December, this issue has been designated our November/December 2010 edition. Thus have we offered in advance our season's greetings (above) and squeezed in to the events column an invitation to the club's 2010 Christmas Dinner and Party, in addition to the scheduled programming for our November meeting.

Impulse returns in January.

2011 MonSFFA Calendar Makes Fine Christmas Present

MonSFFA's 2011 calendar has been completed and will be available for sale at our November 21 meeting. This, our first club calendar, highlights the creative output—artwork, costumes and props, scale-model spaceships, etc.—of a selection of talented MonSFFA members. Also included, for your edification, are a number of notable dates in the history of the club, and of greater SF/F fandom. A nod of thanks to all who contributed to the project, and to Berny Reischl for putting it all together.

Serving as a fund-raising vehicle for the club, the 2011 MonSFFA calendar is priced at \$8. MonSFFA will benefit from a discounted price of only \$5 with the club's Platinum members enjoying a further rebate of \$1.

Pick up your MonSFFA calendar in time for the new year! And pick up a few more as Christmas gifts!

October MonSFFA Meeting

The busy agenda for the club's October 17 meeting was eased a little in that one of our scheduled presenters had to depart early due to family obligations and was unable to give his talk. (Sylvain St-Pierre will return in November with his exploration of *Weird Sci-Fi Technologies*.) The MonSFFA folk gathered still had plenty to interest them, however, with, first, a presentation on the history of the Captain Future character across a variety of media, followed by a fascinating look at the use of SF in television advertising. The group also had opportunity to discuss at length several items of club business,

providing valuable feedback to the club's Executive.

Marquise Boies began proceedings with her extensively researched presentation detailing the journey of the Captain Future character from the pulps to a proposed feature film.

Super-scientist Curtis Newton, alias Captain Future, fought interstellar villains in a space opera magazine series, circa 1940s, aimed primarily at teenaged boys. Dubbed the "Wizard of Science", he was aided by three sidekicks: Grag, a giant metal robot; Otho, an android; and Professor Simon Wright, a living brain in a box. The idea for the character originated with one Mort Weisinger, an editor at *Standard Magazines* at the time, but it is SF writer Edmond Hamilton who penned most of the Captain Future tales, many of which were later released in book form. Captain Future's adventures were adapted as an animé series in the 1980s, a French translation of which aired in Québec, resulting in the popularity of the character locally.

Marquise outlined the biographies of the various players featured in the stories and touched, as well, on the science depicted. She covered Captain Future's influence on later sci-fi properties and screened a number of clips from the animated series, offering, too, a few variations on the show's theme music.

Marquise closed with talk of a planned live-action Captain Future movie. Expect a "big, fun space opera for the whole family," says German director Christian Alvart (*Pandorum*), who has secured the rights to the character. Financing is apparently in place and a script is in development.

Next up was Alice Novo, who, with an assist from Berny Reischl, put together an interesting collection of vintage and contemporary television commercials that employ science fiction themes and imagery to sell everything from automobiles and electric shavers to beer and breakfast cereal. Many of the ads were humorous—a time-tested sales technique—and folk chuckled at the variety of comical astronauts, space aliens, and robots shilling product. The stars of popular sci-fi TV series popped up as pitchmen, too, cleverly referencing their shows as they sang the praises of some commodity or other. A number of 1960s-era ads tapped into the keen

public interest at that time in the space program.

Perhaps the most celebrated television ad of all drew upon George Orwell's famous novel of a dystopian future, *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, to make the sale. The spot, which aired only once, during the Superbowl, introduced Apple's then brand new Macintosh computer by symbolically shattering the home PC environment of the day, represented in the Ridley Scott-directed commercial as a bleak world of drones in thrall of a grim, all-powerful overlord. The ad is capped by a voiceover, intoning that, with the arrival of the Macintosh, the year "1984 won't be like *Nineteen Eighty-Four*".

Thanks to our presenters and to all who helped to plan and run this meeting.

2011 Club Elections

The first order of business as the club begins a new year is traditionally the election of MonSFFA's Executive Committee for that year. MonSFFA's 2011 elections will take place at our January meeting (date to be announced; watch this space). All MonSFFA members in good standing are encouraged to participate.

MonSFFA 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.

Any MonSFFA 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 MonSFFA 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.

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

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Visit MonSFFA on the Web:

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: keith1958@live.ca

Visitez l'AMonSFF sur internet:

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www.MonSFFA.com