

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

December / Decembre 2006 (Vol. 10, No./Nº 12)

REMINDER TO CLUB MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:

MonSFFA's 2006 Christmas
Celebrations
are this Weekend

**SATURDAY EVENING
DECEMBER 9**

DINNER, 6:00-7:30PM

Guido & Angelina's
AMC Forum
2313 rue Ste-Catherine Ouest
(corner Atwater)
Telephone: 514-228-5225

PARTY, 8:00PM

Park Place Bar
1244 rue Mackay
(downtown, between
Ste-Catherine and
René-Lévesque)

*As is our tradition, we will
be collecting toys and items of
non-perishable food for donation
to Sun Youth's Christmas Basket
Drive. In the spirit of the season,
please give to benefit those less
fortunate in our community.*

**NEXT MONSFFA MEETING:
Sunday, January 21, 2007**

Please Renew Your Club Membership on Time!

The festive season is upon us and while we look forward to celebrating with family and friends, we trust those MonSFFen whose annual fees become due during these often hectic holiday months (check the expiration date on your membership card) mind the importance of renewing their memberships *on time*. Steady cash flow facilitates the smooth operation of the club. We'll be pleased to receive your MonSFFA membership renewals via the club's P.O. box.

Our yearly dues remain unchanged at \$25, which works out to *only* about \$2 per month!

2007 MonSFFA Meeting Dates

The club's meeting dates for next year, pending confirmation of the bookings by the Days Hotel, are as follows: January 21, February 18, March 25, April 22, May 27, June 10, August 19, September 23, October 21, and November 18.

The club's annual barbecue-in-the-park will take place on Sunday, July 29 (should inclement weather prevail, the event will be moved to the following Sunday, August 5).

Our traditional Christmas party will be combined in 2007 with the club's 20th anniversary celebrations, scheduled for Saturday, December 8.

Watch this space for further details.

2007 Club Elections

MonSFFA's selection of its 2007 Executive Committee will take place off the top of the first club meeting of the New Year on January 21. All full club members are encouraged to participate in this process.

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 Executive recruits advisors and appoints officers to assist them in carrying

**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:

BLAIS, Annie
KRIMP, Nick
RUIFANGE, Yolande
RUIZ-DIAZ, Karina

**Annual membership
fees are due this month
(December) from the
following MonSFFA
members:**

**GAUDET, Jacques
LUPIEN, Denise
LUPIEN, Leslie**

Annual membership fees will become due next month (January) from the following MonSFFA members:

BROWN, Lindsay
MINEAU, Sebastien
NOËL, Kim
SMITH, Garry

Please renew your MonSFFA membership in timely fashion. Annual dues are \$25. Fill out the membership application form, bottom of page, include cheque or money order, made out to MonSFFA, and mail to:

**MonSFFA
P.O. Box 1186, Place du Parc
Montreal, Québec
H2X 4A7**

If you have already done so, ignore this notice. We 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.

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: _____
No. & STREET / N° ET RUE APT. / APP.

E-mail / Courriel: _____

CITY / VILLE _____ PROVINCE _____ POSTAL CODE / CODE POSTAL _____

Interests / Intérêts: _____

out this responsibility.

Any full 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 full 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 full 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.

November MonSFFA Meeting

The club's last meeting of 2006 was held on November 19. Programming included a review of science fiction and fantasy fandom's unique lexicon followed by screenings of selected fan films. Some 25 folk were in attendance.

Keith Braithwaite opened the dictionary of fandom's terminology, challenging his audience to define such peculiar fannish words, acronyms, and phrases as "faunch," "corflu," "SMOF," and "Pub Your Ish!" Keith, joined by Cathy Palmer-Lister, provided an historical perspective on fandom and the odd lingo of the sub-culture.

Fandom has adopted numerous terms to describe the science fiction genre, "scientifiction," "stf" (pronounced "stef," an abbreviation of *scientifiction*), and "skiffy" among them. Fans, it was noted, are quick to truncate words and phrases, resulting in such common fannish expressions as "con," "concom," "fanzine," and "sercon," short for, respectively, "*convention*," "*convention committee*," "*fan magazine*," and "*serious and constructive*." Acronyms, too, appear often in fanspeak; "BNF," "FIAWOL," and "GAFIA," for example, stand for "*Big-Name Fan*," "*Fandom is a Way of Life*," and "*Getting Away From it All*." Many fannish acronyms have ripened into verbs or nouns. "To gafiate," derived from GAFIA, for example, is to retreat from fandom while "a gafiate" is one who has done so.

Keith and Cathy also discussed the evolution of the science fiction fan community and offered their thoughts on a definition of modern fandom. While fans during the early years focused almost exclusively on written



MonSFFA takes
this opportunity
to wish all of its
members and
friends the very
best of the festive
season, and health
and happiness in
the New Year.

...

Happy Christmas to
all, and to all a
good night



SF, today, the community is considerably balkanized, resulting in many sub-fandoms loosely connected by a shared interest in some aspect or other of science fiction, fantasy, and/or fandom. For many, fandom is a social vehicle.

For your information, to faunch is to yearn, desire, or to hunt for or acquire. Corflu, short for "*correction fluid*," is a term associated with fanzine production. A SMOF is a "*Secret Master of Fandom*," one who boasts much experience running conventions or clubs. And "Pub Your Ish!" is a popular slogan within fanzine circles meaning "publish your issue."

The latter part of the meeting featured screenings of a number of fan films that MonSFFA president Berny Reischl had collected from the Web. These amateur productions range widely in quality and several of those Berny had selected boasted ample budgets and near-professional production values, stretching,

maybe, the definition of fan film. The full-length *Star Trek* episodes produced by the New Voyages and Exeter crews were among such examples. Berny treated the group to excerpts of these, along with favourites like the intense comic book superhero medley *Grayson* and the *Star Wars* vignette *Duality*.

An audience always appreciates well-crafted comedy and the room was in stitches over a spot-on parody of Joss Whedon's *Firefly* and the classic *Troops*, a *Cops* spoof set on Tatooine.

Some fan films are designed simply to highlight the producers' skills at CGI modeling and animation, often with hopes of landing a job at a Hollywood special effects house. We viewed a number of such efforts, including a space battle pitting *Star Wars*' Imperial armada against *Battlestar Galactica*'s rag-tag fleet. Similarly, aspiring actors often produce audition reels to showcase their talents. One such example featured a monologue delivered with diabolical relish by a young actor playing the Joker threatening a group of hostages.

Perhaps the purest form of fan film is the truly low-budget, decidedly amateur effort set in the universe of a popular SF/F film or television series. Berny showed several of these, including a brief *Battlestar Galactica* adventure.

We thank the usual suspects for helping to plan and run this meeting, and appreciate the contributions of program participants Keith Braithwaite, Cathy Palmer-Lister, and Berny Reischl.

MonSFFA's BoA sat for about an hour before the start of the meeting to select meeting dates for next year and plan programming.

Briefly:

- Local movie premieres co-sponsored by MonSFFA recently include the hit comedy *Borat*, the time-warping *The Fountain*, and the horror thriller *Turistas*.
- MonSFFA's own Charles Mohapel, who has snapped many a WorldCon masquerade, often as official photographer, oversaw an ambitious project at this year's WorldCon in L.A. He organized a team of 12 photographers that covered the entire convention for the con's "Day in the Life of WorldCon" project, patterned after the "Day in the Life of..." series of coffee table books. Cool! We all look forward to seeing the final result.

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
P.O. Box 1186, Place du Parc
Montreal, Québec, H2X 4A7

- 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:

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