

# 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

December / Decembre 2008 (Vol. 12, No./No 10)

## MonSFFA's Members and Friends Invited to Club's 2008 Christmas Dinner and Party

**SATURDAY EVENING  
DECEMBER 6**

### Dinner at 6:30PM

Nickels Bar and Grill Restaurant  
1500 Atwater (Alexis Nihon Plaza),  
Local G23, downtown Montreal  
(Atwater Metro)

Reservations under name:  
Bernard Reischl/MonSFFA

Party at 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 18, 2009

### Club Elections

*Giving Good Panel: How-To Guide  
Battlestar Galactica: Spot the Cylon*

## 2008 MonSFFA Christmas Dinner and Party

Plans for MonSFFA's annual Christmas Dinner and Party have been finalized. Note that while we had originally discussed, at our November 16 BoA meeting, booking the Mr. Steer restaurant on Ste-Catherine for dinner, that establishment cannot accommodate us on the December 6 date we requested and so we have substituted the Nickels Bar and Grill Restaurant in Alexis Nihon Plaza (Atwater Metro). Seating is limited to 24, however, so it'll be first come, first serve. We ask that members contact club president Berny Reischl by e-mail (president@monsffa.com) to advise him of their intention to attend. Should folk be unable to join us for dinner, we hope you'll be able to meet us afterwards at our familiar watering hole, the Park Place Bar, for the party.

Date, times, and other details are provided in the events column, left.

We take this opportunity to wish all of our members and friends the very best of the season.

## Emru Townsend Succumbs to Leukemia

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Emru Townsend on Tuesday evening, November 11. He was 39. Emru was an erudite, refined, and gracious individual, a profoundly amiable fellow, beloved and respected throughout Montreal's animation and SF/F community. He will be greatly missed.

Emru's many friends in local fandom were cautiously optimistic this past summer when news came that, against all odds, a stem-cell donor had been found for him. (Because very few blacks are registered as donors, there was little chance of finding a match.) Though we all knew he was not yet out of the woods, this turn of events gave many of us hope. But alas, his particularly aggressive form of leukemia proved unconquerable. He died peacefully surrounded by close family.

Emru is survived by his wife, Vicky Vriniotis, young son Max, parents Beverley King and David Townsend, and sister Tamu.

## 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, Dominique  
JAMES, David  
METHE, Ann

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

**RUFIANGE, Yolande**

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

PALMER-LISTER, Cathy

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.

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/VILLE PROVINCE POSTAL CODE / CODE POSTAL

Monetary donations in his memory can be made to:

#### **African Caribbean Leukaemia Trust**

<http://www.aclt.org>

#### **National Marrow Donor Program (US)**

<http://www.marrow.org>

In keeping with Emru's wishes, we encourage folk to please learn more about registering to be a bone-marrow and stem-cell donor. Contact:

#### **Hema Quebec**

<http://www.hema-quebec.qc.ca>

#### **Canada Blood Services**

<http://onematch.ca/registry>

#### **National Marrow Donor Program (US)**

<http://www.marrow.org>

#### **National Blood Service (UK)**

<https://secure.blood.co.uk/bonemarrow.asp>

## **Con•Cept Throws Another Great Sci-Fi Party**

Con•Cept is always a fun sci-fi party and the 2008 edition of the long-running general-interest SF/F convention was true to that maxim. Con•Cept 2008 took place at the event's familiar Days Hotel locale in downtown Montreal over the October 17-19 weekend.

Enthusiastic fans welcomed headlining guests David Brin, the award-winning author of *Earth*, the *Uplift* books, and *Kiln People*; local genre star Yves Menard, former literary editor of Quebec's SF magazine, *Solaris*, and award-winning author of 14 books and over 40 short stories in both French and English; and actress Samantha Ferris, featured in the genre television series *The 4400*, *Supernatural*, *Smallville*, and *Battlestar Galactica*, among others. Filling out the guest roster and providing entertaining panel content were such special guests as Toronto-based TV and radio personality, and "Canada's ultimate fangirl," Liana K; science guest Stéphane Dumas, who is active in the SETI project; and co-MC's Larry Stewart and Alain Ducharme.

Panel programming was strong and most of the panels were lively—always a plus—and very well attended. And the layout of the convention floor at the Days Hotel allows for what has become something of a unique characteristic of Con•Cept, spirited hallway

discussions and debates between panels that practically constitute another panel track. Meanwhile, Con•Cept's fan film screenings—another noteworthy feature of this con—continue to entertain with inventive, original, and sometimes racy sci-fi and horror shorts and features produced on paltry budgets by budding filmmakers. Cool!

MonSFFA was, of course, in attendance throughout the weekend, set up at a promotional table in the dealer's room taking memberships and selling back issues of *Warp* and several of our fan film DVDs. We thank those club members who helped staff our table.

Con•Cept's dogged concom (many of whom happen to be MonSFFolk, including long-serving chair Cathy Palmer-Lister) and tireless crew of volunteers are to be congratulated on a job well done, particularly in light of the fact that the con continues to be understaffed, a perennial problem that could jeopardize future editions of the event. Unfortunately, too, unconfirmed registration numbers suggest that attendance might have been down a little this year over recent years and the con may thus come up a few hundred dollars short of operating expenses. But regardless, what we take away from Con•Cept 2008 is that it was a whole lot of fun. And we look forward to Con•Cept 2009, which will mark the con's 20th anniversary.

## **November MonSFFA Meeting**

MonSFFA's last regular meeting of 2008 took place on November 16, beginning with a pre-lunch Board of Advisors parley that focused primarily on planning next year's meetings and other activities (dates listed, final item, this page).

Cathy Palmer-Lister provided the afternoon's featured programming, giving a talk on star myths, the ancient stories spun around the night skies. She chose to focus not on the commonly known Greek and Roman legends attached to the familiar constellations above, but rather on lesser known tales, including several North and South American aboriginal myths. The actors in these stories were often animals like the bear or birds like the robin and bluejay. Cathy noted that the night sky provided seasonal markers for the planting and later, harvesting of crops, for instance, and certain stories devised around prominent stars served to impart such knowledge to each generation. Life lessons were also taught

through sky stories.

Following the mid-meeting break, the group was invited to take part in a sort of time capsule project. Club president Berny Reischl sat all members present down in front of his camcorder and asked them to voice forecasts as to MonSFFA, Montreal, and indeed, the world at large five years hence. He videotaped everyone's predictions with the intention of burning the recordings to a DVD to be viewed at MonSFFA's Christmas party in 2013. How good are science fiction fans at predicting the future? As regards our group at least, we'll know in five years.

Time allowed for a bit more work on next year's programming before the meeting closed and folk adjourned to dinner at a nearby restaurant.

We thank Cathy and Berny for their contributions, as well as all who took part and all who helped to plan and run our November meeting.

## **Briefly:**

- We are expecting to receive complimentary premiere passes to the remake of *The Day the Earth Stood Still*. The IMAX screening is scheduled to take place at the downtown Scotiabank Montreal Theatre on Thursday evening, December 11 at 7:00PM. These passes will be distributed to randomly selected MonSFFA members; check the club's Web site for updates.
- As function space was unavailable to us in October, the club booked an afternoon outing in lieu of a meeting. A dozen or so MonSFFers convened at the downtown AMC Forum Sports Bar Bowling Alley (in the old forum) on October 26 for an afternoon of conversation, food and drink, and bowling. A good time was had by all and the group wrapped up the afternoon with coffee and dessert across the street at Nickels. Our thanks to Berny Reischl for organizing this outing.

## **2009 Club Meeting/Event Dates**

The club has selected the following dates for its meetings and events next year: January 18, February 22, March 22, April 19, May 24 (*Star Trek* movie outing), June 14, July 26 (summer barbecue; rain date: August 2), August 23, September 20, October 25, November 22, December 5 (Christmas Dinner and Party).

MonSFFA will also be in attendance at the 67th Worldcon, Anticipation, August 6-10.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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":  
AMonSFF a/s de  
4456 Boul. Ste-Rose  
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