

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 2009 (Vol. 13, No./No 10)

MonSFFA's Members and Friends Invited to Club's 2009 Christmas Dinner and Party

**SATURDAY EVENING
DECEMBER 5**

DINNER at 6:00PM
SCORES RESTAURANT
DOWNTOWN WEST
1432 Ste-Catherine Street West
downtown Montreal
(Guy-Concordia Metro)

Reservations under name:
MonSFFA/Bernard Reischl

PARTY at 8:00PM
"NOT SO PRIVATEER" BAR
(formerly the Park Place Bar)
1244 Mackay Street
(downtown Montreal, between
Ste-Catherine and René-Lévesque)

*Rewards Raffle draw for all
member-volunteers! Don't forget to
bring your "Participation Coupons".*

*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 17, 2010
(Date to be Confirmed; Stay Tuned)

- Club Elections
- Bulwer-Lytton Bad Prose Competition

2009 MonSFFA Christmas Dinner and Party

All details having been ironed out, MonSFFA's 2009 Christmas Dinner and Party is on track, scheduled for Saturday evening, December 5.

We were a little behind the planning last month regarding the selection of a restaurant. In the days just prior to our November club meeting, an eatery had, in fact, been selected. We will gather at the Scores restaurant on Ste-Catherine near Guy at 6:00PM. Following a festive dinner there, we will make our way to the "Not So Privateer" bar, just a short walk from the restaurant. (See events column, left, for details.)

The "Not So Privateer" is our traditional Park Place Bar watering hole under a new name. It seems we were working from inaccurate information last month when we reported that the Park Place had gone out of business. Not so, as it turns out. MonSFFA's familiar seasonal saloon is still a going concern. Confusion stemmed from a name change as part of a business expansion. The Park Place has changed its name to the "Not So Privateer", affiliated with the larger Privateer club just a few doors down. And so, our Christmas party will take place at the same locale as always. The bar is simply operating under a new name.

As is our custom at this time of year, we'll be collecting toys and non-perishable food items at the party for donation to Sun Youth's Christmas Basket Drive. And in addition to our usual Christmas raffle, we'll also be holding our "Rewards Raffle" (see next item).

We hope to see all of our members and friends at the club's 2009 Christmas Dinner and Party, and to everyone, we extend our wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Rewards Raffle Draw at Christmas Party

We will be holding what we've dubbed our "Rewards Raffle" during the club's Christmas party, set to begin at 8:00PM at the "Not So Privateer" bar (formerly, the Park Place Bar, MonSFFA's familiar seasonal watering hole).

**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
JAMES, David
MORROW, Gordon

**Annual membership fees
became due from the following
club members in October:**

BOOM, Hendrik
KENNEY, Daniel P.
McCULLOGH, Brian
McCULLOGH, Megan
McCULLOGH, Philip
ST-PIERRE, Sylvain
WADSWORTH, Beulah

**Annual membership fees became
due from the following club
members last month, November:**

Ø

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

Ø

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

PALMER-LISTER, Cathy

Please renew your MonSFFA
membership in timely fashion.
The annual fee for a standard
membership is \$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

MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Name / Nom: _____ Age / Âge: _____

Address / Adresse: _____

NO. & STREET / NO 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: _____

This Rewards Raffle is a means of thanking for their participation those club members who ran programming at our meetings this year, or pitched in to help with special events.

For each volunteer action performed in 2009, a club member received a bright pink "Participation Coupon". These coupons will serve as raffle tickets in this exclusive draw so a member having collected coupons throughout the year should be sure to bring them to the party and write his or her name on each in the space provided. The coupons will be tossed into a hat and winners drawn, several premium items being the prizes humbly offered by the club as tokens of thanks.

The nature of a raffle, of course, dictates that not every coupon holder will win. But all will have a chance at one of the prizes and the club takes this opportunity to thank for their efforts each and every MonSFFAn who ran programming in 2009 or helped with special events. This club runs on the involvement of its members and your having taken part is greatly appreciated.

Membership Renewals

Because *Impulse* did not publish in October, and because of the short couple of weeks between the release of the November and December issues, not to mention a touch of flu within the club's membership office, we find ourselves a little behind on paperwork. We are therefore allowing some leeway regarding annual fees due. Members whose fees became due in October and November will be treated as current, as so highlighted in the reminders column to the right of the *Impulse* masthead this issue. In other words, the annual membership fees of these members will be treated as now due, not yet as past due.

You may, as always, renew your membership by standard post. Note that there is a time lag between a member's mailing of a membership renewal and our reception and processing of same. If you have already mailed us your cheque, ignore the reminder.

November MonSFFA Meeting Welcomes Guest Speakers

We are rather short on space this issue so our report on MonSFFA's well-attended November 22 meeting will, by necessity, be a brief one.

Leslie Lupien, acting as moderator,

opened proceedings by welcoming guest speakers Mark Shainblum, Claude Lalumière, and Jean-Louis Trudel—published authors all—to the dais for a discussion of recent trends in SF/F literature. In a wide-ranging discussion peppered with numerous questions and comments from the audience, the common observation of our guests was that science fiction is in decline. Perhaps because the pace of technological progress is such that it often outpaces the fiction, or perhaps because the science of today is harder for the layman to grasp—a damning comment on our public education system, some opined—the most noticeable trend in science fiction publishing is that fewer SF books are to be found on bookshelves. Fantasy is faring better, particularly that of the paranormal romance variety, which seems to be the trendy thing at the moment.

Our guests made clear that they write about that which interests them first and foremost, and not necessarily about what they think might be the next big thing. The classification of stories into this or that genre for marketing purposes, it was put forth, probably does more harm than good. There are plenty of mainstream books that are, by any definition of the term, science fiction! But these are not sold as science fiction.

The discussion also touched on movements within the SF writing community that strictly promote one or the other approaches to the science employed in science fiction. Our guests dismissed the notion that SF writers are supposed to predict the future. History shows that they often fail dramatically to do so.

The second half of the meeting saw Keith Braithwaite run a brief game that challenged members' knowledge of the characters, settings, and notable things associated with a selection of SF/F novels, films, and TV shows. Club president Berny Reischl bested his fellow MonSFFen and won the complete *Time Tunnel* television series on DVD as a prize.

We thank our guest speakers, along with Leslie and Keith, and those club members who helped plan and run this meeting.

Club's 2010 Meeting Schedule

MonSFFen selected dates for the club's 2010 meetings at the recent November 22 Board of Advisors parley. Dates remain to be confirmed, are as follows: January 17, February 21, March 28, April 18, May 16, June 13, August 15, September 19,

October 17, November 21.

The club's annual barbecue is set for July 25, with August 1 designated the rain date. 2010's MonSFFA Christmas Dinner and Party will take place on Saturday evening, December 4.

2010 Club Elections

The first order of business as the club kicks off the new year will be the selection of MonSFFA's Executive Committee for 2010. This will take place at our January 17 gathering (date to be confirmed; 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. Cathy Palmer-Lister is currently our chief returning officer.

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.

Briefly

- *Impulse* did not publish in October, as originally scheduled. Job and family obligations combined to place additional demands on editor Keith Braithwaite's time, preventing him from completing an issue that month. A brief note of explanation and accompanying meeting notice was distributed to members in place of the news bulletin. Items originally to have run in October were abridged and included in the November and this December issue.
- We are appreciative of a gift made to the club by the folks at Anticipation. A box full of stationery supplies left over after the successful Montreal Worldcon was recently delivered to MonSFFA.

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:

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":
AMonSFF a/s de
4456 Boul. Ste-Rose
Laval, Québec, Canada, H7R 1Y6

www.MonSFFA.com