

# I M P U L S E

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

January / Janvier 2017 (Vol. 21, No./N° 1)

## NEXT CLUB MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND

**Sunday, January 15**

**1:00PM-5:00PM**

**St-François Room**

**Hôtel Espresso, 1005 Guy St. Downtown Montreal**

*MEETING THEME: In honour of the late Carrie Fisher, make and wear a black armband bearing a depiction of Princess Leia.*

### PROGRAMME

**1:00PM-2:30PM**

**NAME THAT TUNE (SCI-FI EDITION):** An exploration of SF/F soundtracks and notable Genre composers, plus sci-fi themes and imagery in pop music, all in the form of a fun and challenging game!

**2:30PM-2:45PM**

**RETURN OF THE DRAGON!:** Hear all about the revival of local gaming con Draconis!

**2:45PM-3:00PM**

**MID-MEETING BREAK:** Brief discussion of club business; fund-raising raffle

**3:00PM-3:15PM**

**2017 MONSFFA ELECTIONS:** Selection of club's Executive Committee for coming year; all MonSFFen encouraged to participate.

**3:15PM-4:15PM**

**OMG!:** Ancient mythological gods, as in Stargate! Or Christian allegories by authors like C. S. Lewis! Or the Raelians and other cults!—There's no escaping the various visions of God! Or is there? If there's no such thing as magic, can gods exist? Should we rid fantasy altogether of the supernatural?

**4:15PM-5:00PM**

**BRAINSTORMING SESSION:** We kick around further our ideas for 2017 meeting programming; member input urged and appreciated!

## CLUB ELECTIONS AT JANUARY 15 MEETING

The first order of business as the club begins a new year is traditionally the election of MonSFFA's Executive Committee for that year. These elections always take place in January, at our first meeting of the year, and are officially confirmed by the following meeting, in February.

Official notice is hereby given that MonSFFA's 2017 elections will be held at our January 15 club meeting, immediately following the mid-meeting break.

All MonSFFA members in good standing, having paid in full their annual membership fees, 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. These executives recruit advisors and appoint officers to assist them in carrying out this responsibility. On occasion, a second vice-president may be elected, as well, usually to handle an important, specific task, or to take the reins on a special project.

Our sitting Executive is as follows: Cathy Palmer-Lister, president; Keith Braithwaite, vice-president; Sylvain St-Pierre, treasurer.

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.

Long-time MonSFFA member Josée Bellemare is currently serving as our CRO.

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

**DOES YOUR NAME APPEAR BELOW? CHECK THIS SPACE TO KNOW IF YOUR ANNUAL MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE**

*The Annual Membership Fees of the Following Club Members are...*

### Overdue:

D'ORTUN-BOYER, Lynda  
DUROCHER, Marc  
GLOVER, Wayne  
HAMMOCK, Christopher  
MOIR, L. E.  
NOVO, Fernando  
PETTIT, William S.  
WHITELAW, Maureen

### Due This Month, January:

NOVO, Alice  
PALMER-LISTER, Cathy

### Due Next Month, February:

RUFIANGE, Yolande

Standard membership is only \$25 annually. We offer a family rate of \$40. Add \$10 to either of these to enjoy our premium "Platinum" membership level. Please complete the 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 your patronage*

## 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./TEL.: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS/ADRESSE: \_\_\_\_\_  
No. & Street/N° et Rue Apt./App. City/Ville

Province Postal Code/Code Postal E-MAIL/COURRIEL: \_\_\_\_\_

INTERESTS/INTERETS: \_\_\_\_\_

to exercise their right to vote. Proxy voting is not permitted, except under special circumstances and by approval of the CRO (out-of-town members unable to attend the vote, for example, may have their ballots cast by the CRO in their absence, or make their choices via e-mail or other form of communication outside of the designated voting hour).

## November Club Meeting

The club's final meeting of 2016 was held on Sunday, November 20, and began with another edition of our semi-regular showcase, the Sunday Sci-Fi Cinema Matinée.

Fantasy adventures were on tap this morning, the MonSFFen gathered choosing from a list of movies that included *The Magic Sword* and *Jack the Giant Killer* (both 1962). The group opted for the very best, selecting for review the celebrated Ray Harryhausen masterpiece *The 7th Voyage of Sinbad* (1958), featuring one of the stop-motion maestro's most acclaimed creatures, the iconic Cyclops!

While some evaluated the story and script as old-fashioned by today's standards, this did not especially diminish audience enjoyment of the picture. Everyone classed the film a tremendously rousing fantasy adventure that pitted Sinbad and his brave crew against a bevy of extraordinary creatures brought to life in an amazing display of special effects wizardry and craftsmanship. All agreed that the movie stands the test of time.

Perhaps inspired by this Harryhausen classic, Keith Braithwaite and François Menard, during the course of the afternoon, completed principal photography on the club's own stop-motion project, a simple short film using paper cut-out dinosaurs animated against construction and crepe paper backdrops.

The meeting also saw one of our own, Shawn Picard, introduce to his fellow MonSFFen his own creative project, a recently self-published high fantasy novel, one of several he has penned and marketed online.

The group also kicked around a few programming ideas as the club began preparing for 2017's meetings.

Our principal presentation of the afternoon was by Sylvain St-Pierre on the topic of the dastardly villains of SF/F. Covering legendary bad guys from SF/F literature, comics, and the screen, Sylvain outlined the attributes of villainy and, along with his audience, explored our fascination with the likes of Dracula, Sauron, and Darth Vader. The best-conceived villains are not merely one-dimensional baddies with a penchant for violence, destruction, and memorable catch-phrases! And, they do not see themselves as evil, but are, rather, driven by some albeit warped reasoning or desire.

As always, we thank for their contribution our programme participants this day, as well as all those who helped to plan and run this meeting.

## Holiday Dinner Closes MonSFFActivities for 2016

MonSFFA's 2016 Christmas Dinner/Party was held on Saturday evening, December 3. Some 20 club members and friends were in attendance, including former MonSFFA president Berny Reischl, who degafiated briefly to join his old sci-fi comrades for the holiday dinner gathering. The downtown Irish Embassy Pub and Grill served as our meeting place, as has become our recent Christmas custom.

Folk enjoyed the good company, conversation, and seasonal cheer over a fine meal and drinks. The surprising election of Donald Trump as U.S. president just a month earlier seemed like something out of a dystopian science fiction novel to many and was the topic of more than one discussion!

Via our special "Rewards Raffles", token thank-you gifts were distributed to randomly selected volunteer-members in recognition of the efforts of all volunteer-members on behalf of the club during the year. We also offered a table-full of gift-wrapped prizes to the lucky winners of our traditional Christmas fund-raising raffle (all proceeds are directed to funding the club's operations). We thank very much all those who donated items to our raffles.

Finally, we extend thanks to club president Cathy Palmer-Lister for making the arrangements with the Irish Embassy, and to club VP Keith Braithwaite and MonSFFAn Josée Bellemare for organizing the various raffles.

We trust that all of our club members, their families, and friends enjoyed a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Our best wishes to all for the coming year.

## Briefly:

- ▶ We are saddened to learn of the recent passing of club member Leslie Lupien, and offer our sincere sympathies to his wife, Denise, and family. Rest in peace, old friend.
- ▶ 2017 MonSFFA meeting/event dates are as follows (pending confirmation): January 15, February 12, March 12, April 9, May 14 (field trip), June 4 (book sale), July 16 (picnic-in-the-park), August 27 (Fancraft workshops), September 17, October 15, November 12, December 9 (Christmas Dinner/Party).
- ▶ Please note: while we usually meet on the second floor of the Hôtel Espresso in the St-François Room, the hotel staff sometimes shuffles us to another room down the hall, or moves us upstairs to the 7th-floor luxury suite, Room 700. If we're not set up in our regular St-François Room, check the other rooms on the floor to see if we've been relocated, or check with the front desk; they'll point you in the right direction.
- ▶ The Star Wars community was rocked over the Christmas holiday by the passing of actress Carrie Fisher, best known for her portrayal of Princess Leia in the Star Wars screen saga. Fisher suffered what was described as "a massive heart attack" on a flight from London to Los Angeles. She was attended to aboard the flight and handed over to waiting EMT's when the plane landed. Rushed to hospital, Fisher succumbed a few days later. She was 60. A talented and wickedly funny writer who was well regarded in Hollywood as a script doctor, Fisher had struggled with depression and addiction much of her life. She mined her own experiences to pen the 1987 novel, and later 1990 screenplay for, *Postcards From the Edge*, the story of an actress trying to rebuild her career after getting out of rehab while living with her brash, opinionated, and domineering mother. The fictional tale mirrored Fisher's life in many ways, for instance her relationship with her own mother, Hollywood legend Debbie Reynolds. Sadly, Reynolds, heartbroken at her daughter's death, died herself the following day, reportedly having said shortly before she passed, "I want to be with Carrie." Fisher was cremated and, after a joint memorial ceremony for mother and daughter, a portion of her ashes were buried with Reynolds at Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Hollywood. Fisher's Star Wars co-stars and fans have expressed their shock and sorrow at her passing. She will always be remembered fondly as the brave, resourceful, defiant, take-charge Princess Leia, a role model for young girls everywhere. A campaign to have Disney declare Princess Leia an official Disney Princess has been launched by fans (the Disney corporation now owns Lucasfilm, and the Star Wars franchise). The "Disney Princess" designation has traditionally been reserved for the young cartoon heroines of Disney's acclaimed animated films.

**Visit MonSFFA on the Web / Visitez l'AMonSFF sur internet: [www.MonSFFA.ca](http://www.MonSFFA.ca)**

*Impulse is put together monthly by Keith Braithwaite of behalf of MonSFFA and is available on MonSFFA's Web site courtesy Cathy Palmer-Lister. Contact Keith in regards to this publication by any of the following means: In person at a MonSFFA meeting • E-mail: [keith1958@live.ca](mailto:keith1958@live.ca) • Voice mail: 450-692-8831 • Via the club's mailing address, to the attention of "Impulse": MonSFFA c/o 4456 Boul. Ste-Rose, Laval, Québec, Canada, H7R 1Y6*

*Impulse est préparé une fois par mois par Keith Braithwaite au nom de l'AMonSFF. Il est disponible sur le site internet du club grâce à Cathy Palmer-Lister. Pour toutes questions concernant cette publication, contactez Keith soit: En personne à une réunion du club • Courriel: [keith1958@live.ca](mailto:keith1958@live.ca) • Boîte vocal: 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*