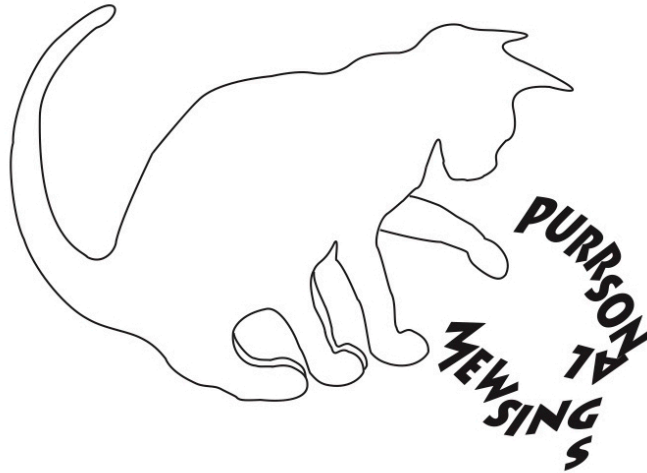


# Purrsonal Mewsings #58







#58

April 2017

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Contributions of art, reviews, articles, fiction, letters, even poetry welcome. Publication not guaranteed, but all submissions will be given due consideration.

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## \* Editorial / Introduction

This issue covers local events only

\* \* \*

## \* Local Outings

**Zookeeper's Wife:** This movie is based on information gleaned mostly from the wife of a zookeeper in Warsaw. She kept a journal during Hitler's invasion. The story is pretty sad from an animal lover's point of view. During the initial attack on Warsaw, many animals were killed. Others ran away after their enclosures were damaged, but many of them were later killed by frightened people and soldiers who couldn't see their value. The zookeeper tried, nevertheless to keep the place as close to its original condition as possible. He found other functions for the zoo, such as raising pigs for food for the war-torn inhabitants of the city and its surroundings. They also made use of the many buildings to protect as many Jews as possible. Most of them were housed for short periods until they could be moved elsewhere, but a few stayed for the duration.

The movie has been changed a bit from the book, which I'm almost finished reading. However the gist of the story is still there and very effectively done. I recommend it for anyone interested in World War II history.

#

**An Evening with Neil Gaiman:** We drove up to Mesa, a suburb of Phoenix, for this event. It turned into a sort of weekend trip, because friends from California were in the area for a week. We went up a day early to meet them for dinner. We spent the next day before the event visiting the zoo. We met another friend for dinner before the show.

I had never seen Neil Gaiman in person before, so this seemed like a good opportunity. I found out about it from a Phoenix friend. I first heard the name Neil Gaiman in connection with the *Sandman* graphic novel series. After that his name started popping up more and more. If you've seen the movie *Stardust*, you've seen his work. This evening's event consisted of him reading selections from many of his works, answering some audience questions that had been submitted beforehand, and two video clips. One of the video clips was from the upcoming Starz series *American Gods*, based on one of his books. It was very enjoyable.

\* \* \*

## \* Kritter Korner

We had a few interesting wildlife sightings since my last zine aside from the bobcat sighting on the cover.

One afternoon I heard a loud thud coming from Mike's office. A dove had smashed against one of his windows. When we looked outside a sharp-shinned hawk was standing over the dove's corpse.

I've previously used photos of the striped antelope squirrels we have here in abundance. However, there are other squirrels here as well. The photo on the next page shows one of our very large squirrels.





Mike managed to get a photo of one of our cardinals recently. I've left the background in to show some of our irises.



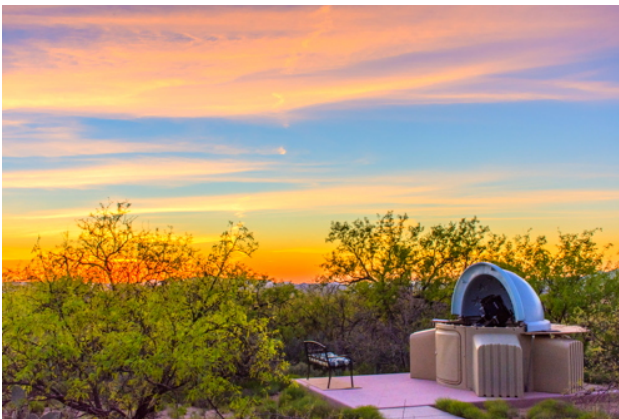
Of course we saw many animals at the Phoenix Zoo. Mike happened to be looking in the right direction when two African cranes (see below) started doing some sort of mating dance.



\* \* \*

## \* **Astronomy**

Mike took some photos on the few, relatively speaking, good nights he's had since my last zine. Here are a couple of the best photos: one is of a rather surreal looking sunset,



and the other is NGC4565 or the Needle Galaxy.

\* \* \*

## \* **Reviews:** reviews without attribution are by the editor

***Cinder***, by Marissa Meyer

This book has a cover picture of a bright red high heel shoe on a leg, of which we can only see the bottom part. I remember seeing it before and steering clear of it. If you look closely, you can see the outline of the underlying structure of the leg and can see it's not human; but I probably never looked that closely before the book was chosen as a selection for the Oro Valley Science Fiction Book Club. The closer look made it obvious that the book is science fiction. The story is loosely based on the Cinderella fairy tale. The blurb about the author says she's always liked fairy tales. So have I. So really the book was written for exactly my kind of reader.

In this version of the story, the Cinderella character is a cyborg. She was damaged enough in an accident that only turning her into a cyborg was able to save her. Unfortunately the man who saved her died shortly after of an incurable disease. Her adoptive mother does not care for her at all. She has two stepsisters, one of whom likes her. Unfortunately that sister soon falls victim to the same disease that killed her father. The prince character is an actual prince.

The story takes place in an Asiatic kingdom formed after World War IV. There are now six nations on Earth. The moon was also colonized but broke off on its own sometime. Relations between the Earth and Luna are not optimal. We also learn that the incurable illness originated on the moon.

There's a lot going on, and everything is not resolved at the end of the book, which is the first of many in the "Lunar Chronicles".

I was quite taken by the book; but, as I said above, this book was written with me in mind, so it's no surprise. I intend to read at least the next book to see what happens to Cinder. I can recommend the book to everyone who likes the Cinderella story.

#

***Ha'penny***, by Jo Walton

This is the sequel to *Farthing*, which I probably reviewed a while back. I think I received that as a review copy. It left me nervous, as the ending did not exactly bode well. The trilogy is a "what if" story about Hitler winning World War II. England signs a pact with Germany. There was a period in British history when it might have gone that way.

The persecution of the Jews starts subtly and slowly but inexorably. This book does not mention the couple fleeing Britain to Canada at the end of the previous book, so I can only presume they were successful in their flight. It's very unpleasant, because they are persecuted by the wife's family, who are on their way to grabbing power in the government.

This book follows the detective who had investigated the murder in the first book. In this book, he is investigating the deaths of two people who apparently died while building a bomb. There is a lot about the resistance movement against Hitler.

The third book in the trilogy was not available in either library system I have cards for. I was able to find a reasonably priced used copy on Amazon, and I intend to read at a future date. I've been interested in World War II, especially as concerns the Jewish population, for a long time; so I just had to read this trilogy. And Jo Walton is a very good writer.

\* \* \*

## \* **StippleAPA**

StippleAPA is an amateur press association. An APA is like a group pen pal. Each distribution includes a fanzine from each member, who usually writes about his or her interests and life and makes comments on the previous issues of the other members. If you're interested in joining, please let me know and I can get you in touch with the person who runs it.

I got an early start on this current issue, but then things got in the way, so I'm working on finishing it at the last minute. The best laid plans and so forth ...

A dry February was followed by a dry March, and it looks like April is following suit so far.

## MAILING COMMENTS ON STIPPLE-APA #308

**Dale Cozort (Space Bats & Butterflies):** My condolences on your loss of Autumn.

**Ruth Odren (The Once and Future Zine):** I appreciate the effort you made to catch up on comments.

**Bill Thomasson (Musings from the Gathering Dusk #7):** Sorry your plan to get a photo of yourself in your zine didn't work out.

**Stephanie Meyer (Monkey Mind):** My condolences on the loss of your mother.

**Cy Chauvin (Amazons & Swallows Forever #53):** I saw somewhere a keyboard for sale that makes sounds like a typewriter.

Yes, Carleton College is my Alma Mater.

The choosing of a site for building an astronomical observatory can be complex. One of the reasons they chose Mauna Loa is because there are already several observatories there. The site was chosen before the recent brouhaha by the native Hawaiian movement, which represents a minority of people. However they are very active. Hawaii is governed more by consensus than majority rule. When any minority becomes vocal, the situation becomes difficult. The current observatories are on land that is leased, and the lease runs out in a few years. It's

possible that all the observatories will need to leave. The astronomical community want the new telescope near the equator. There aren't that many viable sites where this is possible. It needs to be at some elevation in order to be above as much of the atmosphere as possible for the best viewing. At a high enough elevation, much weather is frequently below the observatory; and observations can continue through many storms. You also need a friendly government. You wouldn't want to build an observatory where there is political unrest. The observatory must also be relatively easy to get to.

**Moi (Purrsonal Mewsings #57):** The rehearsals for the Easter cantata are going well. By the time you read this, Easter will have already happened and we will have performed, one hopes successfully.

I've also been rehearsing a programme of Broadway music with the Voices of the Oaks Chorus. We have a bit more time to practice that, but it seems to be going well.

I think I will try harder in future to avoid singing with more than one group at the same time.

**Marge Sehnert (Mamma's Mutterings):** I hope you had a successful trip to Florida.

**Joyce Maetta Odum (Sagaria):** I



believe the “coyote” you saw was a coywolf, a cross between a coyote and a wolf. There was a *Nature* episode about them. They are a lot smarter and more aggressive than either a coyote or a wolf.

I’m sorry to hear about your family problems with trespassers.

**Erik Biever (Gluten-free Mock Duck):** I think there have been shows on TV about the real people behind the *Hidden Figures* characters.

**Jacky Boykin (Hollywood 101: the “Talk” of the Town):** Nice that you were able to see the X-wing. Not so nice that you couldn’t get a photo.

**Jeanne Mealy (Quirky Bits):** There

\* \* \* \* \*

See you all in six weeks.

was no official video that I know of the Celestial Concert. There was some talk of repeating it somewhere in the Phoenix area, but I’ve heard nothing yet.

It’s hard to say how many whales we saw. We could have seen several, or we might have seen the same one several times.

Black sand is really tiny grains of lava. The pieces are small enough that it isn’t any different from other sand.

We didn’t have more than a few inches of snow at Xmas time.

It was several years ago when Mike also had pneumonia. It was the year the H1Nwhatever was going around.

You can mix vodka with grapefruit juice for a nice cocktail. Vodka is a good mixer, because it has little flavour of its own. Rum is also not too bad.

\* \* \*

## \* Letters to the Editor

The text of letters received will be in brown. My replies to the letters will be enclosed in double parentheses and will be in black. I will also routinely make editorial corrections in punctuation, spelling, and the like. Deadline for next issue is 2 November 2016.

**Tom Feller, PO Box 140937, Nashville, TN 37214-0937**

**28 February 2017**

Thank you for sending *Purrsonal Mewsings* #56. I am enclosing my latest zine for the Southern Fandom Press Alliance in trade. By the way, “ROM” stands for Retired Old Man.

Anita and I visited Hawaii in 2008, but we cruised on the *Pride of America*. We flew in and out of Honolulu, where we boarded the ship, and saw four islands: Oahu, Maui, Hawaii, and Kauai. We were there during the wrong time of year for whale watching, although we did see them years later on our Alaska cruise. We did visit the Maui Ocean Center, which we liked very much. We did not visit any observatories, but we did visit the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and had lunch at the Kilauea lodge.

#

**Lloyd Penney, 1706-24 Eva Rd, Etobicoke, ON CANADA M9C 2B2 penneys at bell dot net**

**5 March 2017**

I’ve got issue 56 of *Purrsonal Mewsings*, and many thanks. And now, it’s time to make a few comments on it, and see what I can compose.

I am not sure if *Allegiance* has made it here yet. I'd like to see it but almost guaranteed prices will be far too high for our budget, such as it is. It's good to see George has reinvented himself yet again to make this musical and tell this important story. I never did see *Rogue One*, but I am looking forward to *Episode VIII: The Last Jedi*, coming in December, I believe. We did see *Hidden Figures*, and it was a great thing to see. Next should be a movie on the women who were trained for flight for the Mercury programme, and who were promptly forgotten by NASA, thinking only that good ol' boys were the only ones to have the Right Stuff.

Twenty years ago, Yvonne went to Hawai'i with her two sisters, and they stayed on the big island. She didn't travel much but just enjoyed the wildlife and feral cats on the lanai of where they were staying. They did go to see some of the lava flow from Kilauea, and sister Denise made the mistake of trying to take some lava rock home. I wouldn't mind going some time, but I doubt it will happen.

I think I did answer this already...The Asylum in Lincoln, UK took place in various facilities around the city, including the Assembly Hall, a building with a façade that dates back to the 15th century. It was all over the historical part of the city, eleven different venues. This year, that number may increase, but the locus of the convention will move north to Bishop Grosseteste University in the north end of Lincoln. However if crossing the border is not considered too dangerous, we plan to go to Detroit this coming July for a steampunk event called Motor City Steam Con that will take place within a hotel just north of the Detroit airport. The two events together will make for an interesting comparison.

Sheryl Birkhead had been wondering about Taral Wayne...a little while ago now, Taral had a stroke, and he is now in the midst of a long recovery. Our common friend Steve Baldassarra has been helping him with his recovery, and he will eventually get back all knowledge the stroke seems to have blocked access to. His prognosis sounds good, but he will need time to recover.

Anyway, I am about done here...it is a new year; the job hunt continues ever onwards; and I count the few blessings that I have, for I have to find something very soon. Tomorrow is Monday, the beginning of a new week, and with luck there will be some new opportunities to find. Take care, and see you the next time.

#

**Sheryl Birkhead, 25509 Jonnie Ct, Gaithersburg, MD 20882**

**10 March 2017**

At this point I have no idea where I am in catching up-- in front of me I have issues #52, 53, and 56. I think I have LoCced #54 and 55--but I had to spend (waste?) some time trying to locate the LoC-- as all I had saved was the first line---thank heavens for multiple backups--just had to keep looking. But I think I have it..or maybe not if another ish has snuck by.

Let me get a start on #52 even if that is old news. Well, for starters, since I only got around to seeing the *Martian* recently (courtesy of Netflix), maybe not quite that old for me.

Nice to see fillos from Brad and Taral (as I understand it, has just gotten out of the hospital)

I have managed to not get any of the crowns replaced, but the number over the age the dentist notes for replacement has risen to quite a few!

I read all the con reports and enjoyed them but figure comments close to a year and a half late are of little interest. So, all enjoyed.

#53: Great cover photo! My brother and his family always go away for Christmas, and the 2015 trip was to Antarctica, so I got a lot of terrific photos from their trip. It sounds as if, despite the gluten poisoning, you had a good time even if parts were less than pleasant.

Okay- that was a very short comment but gets me up to issue #56. Sorry to have cheated to make up for the lost time.

Mentioning George Takei's play about the Japanese American internment during World War II brings to mind information about the time from an unusual source: the *American RoadShow*. I happened across

an instalment that was about art from one of the camps and went on to delve into history and such. A dark time.

I have not seen *Rogue One* yet, since it is not yet available from Netflix, but it is supposed to be RSN. *Hidden Figures*, *Dr. Strange*, and a whole host of other movies are in that same group---still not yet available but all right up there at the top of my list. I checked online, and it would appear that DVDs of at least two of these movies are actually for sale now cheaper than it would be for a movie ticket. Now while I have no intention of actually going to the movies, I am beginning to wonder if it might be a good idea to buy a DVD or two before seeing them on the Netflix disc that has to be retired. I'll think about that a bit more.

Reading about your Hawaii trip and the time spent at the airport reminds me that my sister called when they were in Miami. I do not pretend to understand the missionary regulations, but the phone she had could only be used in the US. We had not spoken in quite a long time because of that (they don't get to leave their home base often now that her husband is the president of the mission). She said she was calling, because her husband felt uneasy with the 45 minute layover so they opted for 5 hours--so time enough to call various family members. It has been many years since I have flown--don't miss that at all!

The owl photo is a gem. Of course the obligatory foto feline is always appreciated.

Seeing the name of Jeanne Mealy's APazine reminds me that I suspect the current Periodic Table does not resemble the one I was used to seeing. One of these days, just for grins, I ought to go look it up and see what number we have reached.

Seeing your comment to Lloyd Penny on Cy Chauvin's APazine reminds me that I found a set of cat Steam Punk thank you cards. That is on my list of things to buy when any disposable income shakes loose.

Your urgent care comment: My primary care physician told me at the very end of the annual exam that she had been told a week before that the office was being closed in one month. She has been practicing in the area for nineteen years and started as a solo practitioner. When it was obvious she could not make it by herself, she took in another physician. Then two years ago, it became apparent again that things had to change. She sold to MedStar, and they came in with a new computer system, then suddenly said they were shutting the office down. She said she had asked if any local internists were taking on new patients and was told no. Her office is the only one in town. Now I need to start looking around to see what, if anything, is available within a reasonable driving distance.

((My sympathies. That makes our problems in that area seem very minimal. Sometime a year or two ago, we received a letter telling us that our doctor was leaving the medical group. Since there was another doctor at the same office, we changed to that one. Several months ago I received a letter saying the same thing about our new doctor. We haven't quite made the switch yet, but there is now a new doctor at the same office, so we'll likely go with him.))

Seeing John Purcell's name reminds me not to forget to vote for TAFF. I finally remembered to vote. It has been a few years and I am back on the straight and narrow fannish path!

I downloaded an audio format of *The Aeronaut's Windlass* from one of the county's resources and listened to it as I worked around the house. It took a bit to get into it, and then I was hooked; the feline aspect reeled me in. Of course I looked to see if the sequel was available--nope. Apparently once the next "Dresden Files" book is done, the sequel to *Aeronaut* will be next up. So I started looking around and am listening to some other new authors. Some I enjoy and some..um..not so much, but I need to at least try a sample.

((I find the sf book club useful for that purpose. I get to read a lot of authors I probably never would have looked at otherwise. Occasionally I meet a book I want to read more of.))

In case you did not know, Taral was in the hospital for "some time" and the last I read was home. I am not certain what happened or the longterm prognosis. Fingers crossed that he can bounce back and keep on both writing and drawing!

((See info about Taral in Lloyd's letter above.))

I think that about does it.

#

**Joy V. Smith, Pagadan at aol dot com**

**20 March 2017**

Thank you! I haven't seen *A Dog's Purpose*, but I plan to. Thanks for the review. I enjoyed the photos of the javelinas. Do they ever get very close to you? Great montage of Mike's astronomy photos! How far is his observatory?

((The closest I ever got to javelina was about ten feet. Fortunately I was in a car. Mike's observatory is about a hundred and twenty feet from our house; there is a concrete walkway to it.))

I enjoyed Lloyd Penney's con report of *The Asylum*--impressive! And the comments on the internment camps were interesting. Speaking of Pacific War alternate histories, I enjoyed *Pacific Empire* by G. Miki Hayden. Interesting look there at Australia too...

#

**Timothy Lane, timothylane51 at gmail dot com**

**21 March 2017**

As a long-time *Twilight Zone* fan, I appreciated your review of *The Fool's Illusion*. The title "The Puppet Show" reminds me of an old story I read, "Puppet Show" (I don't recall the author, unfortunately) in one of the earliest SF works I ever read (a 1962 anthology). Of course, you can't copyright titles, which is why I have three different novels titled *Ashes to Ashes*.

In one of my college French courses, we had a "theatre of the absurd" play by Ionesco titled *La Cantratrice Chauve* (The Bald Soprano, which of course had no such character in the play). I've also seen on TV the movie version of Ionesco's *The Rhinoceros*, with Gene Wilder and Zero Mostel.

The Ray Bradbury story you were thinking of, I believe, is "Usher II" from the *Martian Chronicles*, in which a Poe fan avenges himself on those he dislikes (I don't recall why) by putting them through a variety of unpleasant events based on Poe's works. Bradbury was very concerned about the loss of literary knowledge, which is a feature not only of *Fahrenheit 451* but of many other [of his] stories as well.

#



**Amy Harlib, aharlib at earthlink dot net, 212-989-8217**

**23 March 2017**

Just finished *PurrMew* 57, and it was more slender than previous issues so not that much to say except I loved the photos. Wish I could have been at The Lincoln Steampunk Fair.

I dislocated my right hip replacement on Feb. 26th while warming up for a gig; and this has truly screwed me over, set back my beloved physical activity greatly and placed me in existential crisis over how I am going to live from now on.

Everything depends on an MRI on April 7th when the hip brace comes off, and I find out how badly damaged the muscles and tendons around my right hip are. Apparently the soft tissues were so weakened from age and not healing that well from the hip replacement in Jan. 2015, and doing contortions stressed it to the point where \*pow\* doing deep front bends were too much.

I'm determined to find a way to recover and keep performing. Will keep you posted about the MRI results and what happens next.

Meanwhile I can still do spectacular stretches with my left leg (my left hip was replaced when I was much younger and healed strong and firm and is in no danger of ever popping out), and a nice elbow balance despite the hip brace and between singing a song and doing a few limited movements, I have a couple of "acts" but not enough moves for pure movement routines, which greatly limits what I can do.

Since obsessing over my hip and trying to save the world from the "Trumpocalypse" from my computer takes up most of my time, that's about it.

I did enjoy the new *King Kong* movie, *La La Land*, *Silence*, *The Great Wall*, *The Lego Batman Movie*, *Moana*, *Fences*, *Hidden Figures*, *Midnight*, *Lion*, *Paterson*, *Queen of Katwe*, *A United Kingdom*, *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*, and more.

#

**Mary Manchester, 1297 Monroe Av #2, Rochester, NY 14620-1655**

**23 March 2017**

What a wonderful trip to Hawaii that was! So well-planned and led. It's just the sort of trip I'd have taken back in the day. So—on to Africa!

If I'd written right I got your Xmas card (thank you), I'd have said something about no big snowmen here so far; and winter continued just like that. Some snow, melted off, some more. Then February was mild, and we were all ready to slide into an early spring. Well, Mother Nature had other plans. March 1—winds in the 60 mph range.

March 8—winds peaking at 81 mph. Huge damage, 90,000 or so without power, poles snapped off like masts in a shipwreck, wires all over, crew out in deep *cold*.

That was still being worked on when the storm blew in on the 14th and 15th; 12"-24" plus drifts.

Here cable went out and the flag got shredded but no loss of power.

Other than weather, uh, oh—taxes are done. Brighton Library and one phone call to the State, and I got what I needed in a timely manner. That's always a WHEW! no matter how the numbers work out.

#

**Ken Bausert, passscribe at aol dot com**

**24 March 2017**

Your latest issue (#57) arrived at our winter headquarters in Florida this morning (thanks!). I thought I already e-mailed you to thank you for the previous issue (#56), but I don't see it in my "sent" mail so, apparently not. I thought that one was very good, and I enjoyed your report on the trip to Hawaii with the photos you shared. I wrote a nice review of that issue which will be included in the upcoming *Xerography Debt* (review zine).

#

**Brad Foster, jabberwocky2000 at hotmail dot com**

**27 March 2017**

Yeah, can tell my eye sight is still a little funky; when I first pulled this issue out of the envelope, I thought the cover photo was some kind of odd wind-power pole or something. It was only after looking at it for almost a minute that I saw the bird- feeders hanging from it. Ah, getting older sucks....

Speaking of photos, amazing stuff Mike has been getting, going by the small samples you published here. Must be amazing to ring up one of those into focus for the first time and realize how deep you are seeing into space. Cool!

Your take on the javelina seemed kind of "amused" more than alarmed. But if they were raiding my property, chewing branches off trees, I think I might be a bit more concerned myself. When they start nibbling on plants you -didn't- want pruned, you might need to do something about them. Will await future updates in future issues. All we have around here is a growing population of feral cats, who don't tend to be quite as destructive. And look quite cute lounging around on fences and roof tops.

Your review of the Rose book, *The Fool's Illusion*, made it sound interesting and like something to look for in the future. I particularly liked the idea of having a genre that we call "the genre that is difficult to identify". I think most of my own favourite books would fit quite easily into that category.

#

**Jan Weasner**

**29 March 2017**

You made me laugh out loud reading your marvellous newsletter. I was raised in Indiana where robins announced Spring Time. You mentioned Vultures in relation to Spring in Arizona. At first I thought you were teasing, but no you were not. You hit my funny bone with that one. Thanks for my long overdue chuckle!

#

**Mary Manchester, 1297 Monroe Av #2, Rochester, NY 14620-1655**

**30 March 2017**

Thank you for *Purrsonal Mewsings* #57.

Javelina! You're a long way from Webster, my dear. Little piggy things about 2' high? Two great photos, as are all the photos, every issue.

((You got the size of the javelina about right, with some variation.))

Since Lloyd sort of mentioned it, what does the political climate in Arizona look like close-up? Or shouldn't I ask?

((Where I live, it's not too bad. Oracle is, among other things, an artist colony; and most people here are pretty liberal. There are exceptions, of course. I try not to discuss politics unless I know I'm among like thinkers. I think the Tucson area seems liberal to a degree. I'm just frustrated that both our senators to Congress are conservative.))

I think we crossed in the mail, so not much news from my side. Downtown is lit up at night more than it's been in the past, but I forgot to look out during the proper time to check on maybe less of a display. There was nothing in the local paper, but that isn't surprising. The print *Democrat & Chronicle* is slowly easing away. Few pages on the way to fewer days, for so the threat goes. At least the comics and Jumble remain. For now.

This would be mud season if we got some rain; but the early spring blooms are just coming up in quantity, always a good sign.

#

**Lloyd Penney, 1706-24 Eva Rd. Etobicoke, ON CANADA M9C 2B2; penneys at bell dot net**

**6 April 2017**

Thank you for the newest *Purrsonal Mewsings*, issue 57. I am typing this up in perhaps the strangest of places...with my tablet and Bluetooth keyboard, I am sitting in the waiting room of a garage, getting our car's windshield replaced. While they pop the old windshield out, here come some comments on the issue at hand.

We did not see *A Dog's Purpose*, but I gather it lost a lot at the box office because there was a report of animal cruelty in one of the scenes, and that report went viral across the Web. The report was later disproved, and the report came from a single bad opinion of what was seen, but the damage was done; and I think the movie is probably now in the second- or third-run theatres.

((I heard the rumour; but even if true, it didn't sound like anything egregious. I had seen the preview trailer, and that had appealed to me a lot.))

I had never heard of javelinas before. Is there any way to keep these marauding little piggies from invading your property? They sound quite destructive. I am sure local pest control has some recommendations to keep them away.

((Javelinas are a protected species in Arizona. I suppose a strong enough and tall enough fence would keep them off our property, but I'm a wildlife supporter. They were here first, and we are invading their land. They can be destructive, and I have taken measures to protect some of my plants from them and other pesky critters.))

This Jim Butcher steampunk series sounds better and better. I admit to not having read much SF over the past few years, but this series might be a good way to get back into things. I should look up some reviews on the series, and see what's said about it.

A little bit more on our steampunk festival hotel in Lincoln, UK. The Castle Hotel wasn't the most luxurious, and it wasn't staffed at night (a swipe card got us in each evening), but it was extremely comfortable. Their dining room had what was called a curated menu. Special foods here and there and interesting ways of serving them, but for breakfast each morning, we enjoyed three farmed duck eggs. They are bigger than hen eggs and richer. They got us through the day each day, and only once did we pause for a little lunch. So back home, when they are available, we treat ourselves by buying a dozen duck eggs. It's hard to believe that our trip was almost seven months ago.

All done for the moment, and the new windshield is just now going into place. There's no web access here, so this LoC will go out to you when we get home. Many thanks for this issue, and I hope it gets to you before the next issue comes out. See you then.

#

**I Also Heard From:** Robert S. Kennedy Jr. (who sent an article [from the Mar-Apr 2017 issue of *Pacific Standard* {[psmag.com](http://psmag.com)}] about bird-saving collars for pet cats. This would only cover a third of the cats roaming around, since the rest are feral.) and Kees van Toorn.

\* \* \*

## \* Closing Remarks

Deadline for next issue will be 18 May.

Laurraine  
11 April 2017