

Purrsonal Mewsings #55





#55

November 2016

Purrsonal Mewsings, formerly *Feline Journal* and *Feline Mewsings* is a personal/genzine I hope to publish every six weeks by R-Laurraine Tutihasi, PO Box 5323, Oracle, AZ 85623-5323; 520-275-6511, Laurraine@mac.com, <http://www.weasner.com/>. It is distributed through StippleAPA and sent to other friends and family. It is available for the usual (a response of any kind, including letters, e-mail, and phone calls of comment; trade; contributions of illos, fiction, or articles; or even money: \$5.00 per issue). The zine will be placed on the web shortly after paper publication; please let me know if you prefer just to read the web version. I can also e-mail this in Word or rtf format. Kattesmint Press #467. ©2016 R-Laurraine Tutihasi. Permission is granted to reprint or forward any part or all of this newsletter created by the editor provided that it carries the following statement: "Copyright 2016 by R-Laurraine Tutihasi. Originally published in *Purrsonal Mewsings* #55, <http://www.weasner.com/laurraine/Felinemewsings/index.html>." All other material is copyrighted by their respective creators, and they should be contacted for any reprint permission.

Table of Contents

Editorial / Introduction—p. 2
Local Outings—p. 2
SF Poetry—p. 2
Kritter Korner—p. 2
Reviews—p. 3
StippleAPA—p. 4
Letters—p. 6
Closing Remarks—p. 8

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Title page header—Alexis Gilliland

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

[] if this box is checked, I need to hear from you if you wish to stay on my mailing list.

If you are reading this electronically and would prefer to receive a printed version, please let me know. Or vice versa.

* Editorial / Introduction

I don't have any travel to report on this issue, so it will be short.

* * *

* Local Outings

Treece event: Every year our realtors have an invitational event for their clients. This year we were invited to the Gaslight Theatre for dinner and a show. The show was the musical melodrama *Frankenstein*. I believe this is the same one we saw the first time we attended their event, but I don't know what differences there might have been in the production. The story is about Victor Frankenstein's son moving back to the castle with his fiancée. The villagers are still angry about the monster. Another scientist arrives and wants the new Victor Frankenstein to resurrect the monster. At first he is reluctant, but he changes his mind. Hilarity ensues.

The play was followed by a tribute to some famous Las Vegas performers, such as Elvis Presley, the Four Seasons, and Nancy Sinatra. Actors impersonated the singers and did a very good job.

Before the play and during intermissions, musicians played some sing-along songs and other music.

* * *

* Poetic Tribute to SF

How Very Strange a Doctor to Doctor Strange

by Jonathan Vos Post

Master Magician
Defends Humanity
Martial Arts Tactician
on the edge of sanity
illustrated by Titian

Trained by Swinton, Tilda,
playing The Old One
the physical skills get metaphysical
add magic Spells
some other dimensions are Hells

Magic from String Theory
Magic Quantum Mechanics
fights, never weary;
Defends Earth; never panics.

* * *

* Kritter Korner

A month or so ago, there were a lot of lesser goldfinch around the yellow flowers that were blooming right outside our house. I took some photos looking out the window. They weren't very good, since I wasn't close enough and



didn't have a telephoto lens. But on the previous page is the best one

Gateway and Mercury are doing well, and here's a recent photo of them:



* * *

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

On Basilisk Station, by David Weber

This is the first book in a series about Honor Harrington, military heroine and influential politician. There are more than twenty books in the Honorverse. I had heard of the books before, but this is the first one I read. In this one, Honor has yet to do anything particularly heroic. In fact she has to prove herself as the commander of light cruiser *Fearless*. The ship is woefully underarmed for the situation she finds herself in, but she comes through alive. The Honorverse is over two millennia in our future when people have spread themselves out over the galaxy. In this novel, Honor is sent to Basilisk Station, which is a remote station that some people think should be abandoned to their competitors. There are political machinations to sabotage the station, so that the powers that be will abandon it. Honor is caught right in the middle of that.

I found the book mostly interesting, but I felt it placed too much attention on troop manoeuvres and political info dumps. The development of the main story line is good, and the character development is handled well. On the whole, though, it's not really my type of book. I have read other space opera that appeal more to me.

#

The Aeronaut's Windlass, by Jim Butcher

The author is well-known for his Dresden File books. In this one, he starts a few series known as the Cinder Spire series. This first book takes place around a world shrouded in mist. Apparently no one lives on the surface, which is inhabited by unpleasant creatures, some of which play an important part in this novel. The people live in spires that float above the surface of the planet. The conflict in this novel is between two of these spires. There is some sort of arcane art practiced that resembles magic to some degree, and each side in the fight employs a practitioner of this art. The main character is the captain of an airship. Other protagonists are residents of one of the spires involved in the altercation. Characters also include cats with a difference. These cats are quite intelligent and organized and have their own society. Some of them, however, hang around one of the humans. These chosen humans can communicate with the cats. The book is well written and moves quickly.

This is not really my type of book, but I can otherwise recommend it and whatever sequels come out.

#

Replay, by Ken Grimwood

I bought this book many years ago at the recommendation of Bruce Pelz, whom some of you may have known. But it took until now when the sf book club I belong to chose it as its selection for October. That said, it's not really science fiction. It can certainly qualify as speculative fiction, and we had a lively discussion about it. In the book the protagonist finds himself waking up after his presumed death. He wakes up years earlier though, when he was just starting college. After an initial period of great confusion, he decides to live differently this time around. Because he can remember some of the horses that won the Kentucky Derby and who won some of the sports competitions, he puts bets on sure winners and quickly becomes wealthy. He also makes changes in his love life.

This death and waking up sequence happens several times. Each time, though, he is older when he reawakens. Over time he finds what he considers the most important things about living. One question he has is whether he is the only one who experiences this. Eventually he finds two other people who are also reliving lives, but one is a serial killer.

While this is not science fiction, it certainly gives a reader food for thought. What would we do differently if we had the opportunity?

* * *

* 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.

September ended up bringing us almost four inches of rain, but we didn't have any rain in October.

Some of you may recall that I broke a corner of my iPhone screen sometime last autumn. I finally had it fixed for a nominal sum, since it was covered by Apple Care.

The pathway work has been completed. Photo to right shows a piece of it.



MAILING COMMENTS ON STIPPLE-APA #305

Nicole Bourgoïn (A Fool's Errand):

I also am very fond of succulents and have quite a few. Cacti are a subclass of

succulents, and we have many of those in the ground. I also have other succulents that are not cold hardy, and they're in planters that I bring inside when it gets

too cold.

Jeanne Mealy (Quirky Bits): I'm happy you had a good time at MidAmeriCon II.

Thanks for the alert about the new Halloween postage stamps. I was able to get some.

I agree with many that the Star Trek stamps issued by the USPS are rather unimpressive compared, especially those that were issued by Canada and Australia.

Thanks for the skating article.

The Sparrow and the Wolf (Not Unlike a Sparrow's Perspective):

Thanks for the postcard

The BBC *Humans* series that you mentioned an issue or two back is being shown by BBCAmerica. So far it seems interesting. It's a bit weird that this season *Westworld* is being shown on HBO as well. Sometimes I get the artificial humans mixed up in my mind between the two shows.

Cy Chauvin (Amazons & Swallows Forever #50): Thanks for your MidAmeriCon II report.

Ruth Odren (The Once and Future Zine): Glad you liked the covers as well as the Antarctica trip report.

* * * * *

Happy holidays to all and a Happy New Year!

I hope to see you all next year.

I hope you get your computer problems sorted.

Moi (Purrsonal Mewsings #54): My copy was missing two pages. For me that wasn't a problem; I was able to print out a copy. I hope no one else is missing any pages.

Rayne (Happy Halloween): I can't see paying more than \$200 for a pair of shoes and certainly not for anything as uncomfortable looking as those.

Bill Thomasson (Musings from the Gathering Dusk #4): Thank you for sharing your experiences at MidAmeriCon II and in transit.

Erik Biever (No-Fry Zone): Thanks for sharing your experiences at the Minnesota State Fair.

Joyce Maetta Odum (Peaches and Moonlight Dances): Cruise control used correctly can keep your gasoline usage down.

I'm intrigued by the series *Young Dracula* that you reviewed. It looks like I'll have to buy the DVD set from Amazon if I want to see it. Some episodes appear to be posted on YouTube, but I was unable to play them.

* * *

* 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.

Rodney Leighton, 11 Branch Rd, RR #3, Tatamagouche, NS B0K 1V0 Canada

6 September 2016

Thanks for *Purrsonal Mewsings* #53. Not sure when it arrived--about a month ago I think.

I read some of it the day it arrived. I have been having trouble with falling into sleep at weird times regardless of what I might be doing. Well it only happens when I am sitting down. Like reading: I sometimes read, say, PM straight through; and other times I am reading and the next thing I become aware that it is 5 or 10 or 30 minutes later, zine is on my lap. Doesn't have anything to do with the zine. Chuck sent me a CD of a guy named David Sedaris. Comedian, he reads stories. I play it on my DVD player. They are amusing; each one runs about half an hour. Listening to one last evening, I checked the time which was about 19 minutes and the next thing I knew he was starting on the next show. So I slept, unaware, while this dude talked on my tv for about 12 minutes.

Seems like a strange time to go to Antarctica. Sounds like a good trip. I dislike cold and snow and can't see myself ever wishing to go to that place. The iceberg photo was cool. I have actually seen icebergs albeit nothing of that size. Many moons ago my family lived on Prince Edward Island. Before they built the bridge, getting on and off the place required taking the ferry. When I was in college here in N.S., I used to go home a couple of times and on some occasions there were icebergs. Mind you, sometimes the strait was frozen solid and the boat was breaking through ice all the way.

((It was Antarctic summer, which is the only time people can travel in or out of Antarctica; during the rest of the year, there is too much ice in the ocean around the continent. I'm not particularly fond of winter weather, but I like penguins enough to ignore the weather.))

Afraid I don't have much to say this time.

I wasn't planning on doing any further issues of *Rodney's Fanac*, but Chuck apparently thinks there should be more. Last I heard he had not yet started to put #8 together but would soon. Probably the preview copy will arrive today. I did some things that I was thinking of very small zine things but he decided to cobble them into one zine. Copy should show up in your email thing someday. Now I am contemplating #9.

#

Tom Feller, TomFeller at aol dot com

28 October 2016

Thanks for sending the zine.

We saw Ben Bova at Contraflow in New Orleans just a few weeks ago. I agree that it is amazing how optimistic he is about the future.

I read the first two Riverworld books way back in the seventies, and remember enjoying them at the time. The first book won the Hugo Award. Speaking of the Hugos, I liked *Uprooted* enough to make it my number two choice on the ballot this year.

((I may have put it in first place on my ballot. There was nothing really outstanding this year, IMHO.))

#

Marcia Meldrum, Culver City, CA, mlynnmel at gmail dot com

30 October 2016

Thanks for sending me your mewsings, which I always enjoy. You are the only person I know who has ever been to Antarctica. I also enjoyed reading about your trip back to Seymour for Mike's reunion; my

50th reunion was this spring in West Lafayette, Indiana. Ultimately, I decided I couldn't spare the time to go, but all my classmates were invited to contribute to a website telling about their adventures since leaving WLHS, and it was a lot of fun to catch up. It's astonishing to think that next year you and I will have known each other for fifty years also.

I don't know that I have any interesting news. I have been promoted at work to Associate Professor and have a very nice office; we just started a new research project on mental health and I continue to teach an interdisciplinary course on the History and Science of the Brain, which I enjoy. I finally converted all my home service to a single wireless provider and now have the equivalent of TiVo, which means I can record anything and watch more television than ever. I have been enjoying *Timeless*; have you seen it?

((Congratulations on your promotion.

((I have also been enjoying *Timeless*. With our DirecTV DVR, I too have been watching way too much TV; though I'm way behind in the actually viewing of the many shows I've recorded.))

I'm fine and the cat is fine. Let me know if you come to LA any time.

#

Jerry Kaufman, JAKaufman at aol dot com

30 October 2016

Your zine arrived a few days ago, and I finished reading it this morning. I enjoyed the photo on the cover of you with a radio telescope - when did Mike buy it? I also liked the shots of animals from the Louisville Zoo. On the other hand, perhaps the shot of the mysterious threesome on page 5 could have been posed in better light? (I assume they are Lisa Photini, yourself, and Joe Major. Do you know if Lisa's surname means "small photon"? It would be appropriate in this instance.)

((I tried to improve the original photo but could only succeed so far. It was taken under very poor conditions as we were exiting from the restaurant where we'd had dinner. It was also taken with a notebook computer.))

Did Mike take the notes on the Bubonicon panel about robo-cars, or did you also attend? I'm particularly interested in the topic because the insurance agency I work for is a specialist in Public Auto (the industry term for any business that provides transportation for the public - sightseeing, airport shuttle, limousine, and so forth). I wish I could have been there, or that other conventions discuss the subject. Did the panelists make a guess about the effect on insurance companies, rather than just raising the issue? Why would trade union membership increase?

((Mike attended the talk about robo-cars on his own. I doubt he remembers any more details now at this late date. Lately I've noticed a lot off publications have had articles on the same or similar topics. My guess about trade union membership is that workers would try to protect their jobs as drivers.))

Could you change our mailing address from 3522 NE 123rd Street to:

P.O. Box 25075
Seattle WA 98165 (a different ZIP code from our street address)

Our neighbourhood has a lot of mailbox theft - the mailboxes are on the street and easy targets. Thanks!

((No problem. Sorry to hear about this problem. The PO doesn't deliver at all to our house, but they give us a free PO box.))

#

WAHF: Taral Wayne

* * *

*** Closing Remarks**

Deadline for next issue will be 5 January 2017. Because of the year end holidays, there is more time between issues.

Next issue will include a convention report and a trip report.

Laurraine

6 November 2016