

Purrsonal Mewsings #56



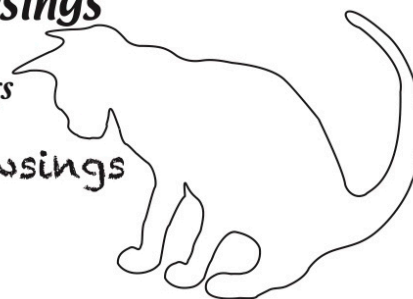
PURRSONAL MEWSINGS

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#56

January 2017

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 #468. ©2017 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 2017 by R-Laurraine Tutihasi. Originally published in *Purrsonal Mewsings* #56, <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.

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Art and Photo Credits

Cover photo—waterfall on the island of Hawaii
Title page header—Sheryl Birkhead

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

This issue includes my Hawaii trip report.

* * *

* Local Outings

George Takei's Allegiance: During World War II, George Takei, who was five when things started, was interned with his family. Sadly many Americans are ignorant of the internment of Japanese Americans during the war. This musical was developed with the goal of publicising the facts more widely. The play premiered in San Diego in 2012 after four years of development. It played on Broadway from October 2015 to February 2016. Seeking a wider audience, the musical was filmed and has been shown in select movie theatres around the world. It was wildly successful at cinemas, and a repeat showing is scheduled at the end of January 2017. Look up Fathom events on the Internet for theatre names and times.

The play is loosely based on George Takei's experience, but there are many changes as he was only a child at the time. The musical was produced and acted by Asian Americans. George Takei plays two characters.

I have heard one other person's story about the internment camps and have read or seen documentaries about it. The play for me accurately conveyed the impact of the events on those involved. I found the story touching to the point of running out of tissue paper.

The movie was followed by some shorts about the play and people who worked on and in it. People who left before the end of the credits missed them.

As one of my friends pointed out, perhaps a musical wasn't the best vehicle for this story. On the other hand, the form of a musical kept the story from being completely black. And there were bright spots for the Japanese Americans in this sad episode in our history. The resolution is not satisfying, but I think this is a reflection of life.

I'd like to note that no one in my family were in this country when this happened.

#

Rogue One: a Star Wars Story: This movie is a bridge between *Star Wars 3: Revenge of the Sith* and *Stars Wars 4: a New Hope*. Specifically the story is about how the rebels manage to secure the plans to the Death Star. I found it interesting to see how this came about. Some of my friends were unable to identify with the characters, but I had no problems.

#

Fiddler on the Roof: I first saw this musical in London in 1969. I also saw the movie starring Topol and have listened to the soundtrack starring Zero Mostel. This latest production was put on by the Arizona Theatre Company. It brought my memories of the London production. I enjoyed it very much.

#

Celestial Concert: This event was inspired by local citizen Evaline Auerbach, a member of Mike's Oracle Dark Skies Committee. She has studied the history of Oracle in depth. The event was in celebration of Lavinia Steward, who in 1916 contributed \$60,000 to the University of Arizona to be used for the building of an observatory. The Steward Observatory currently maintains telescopes on Mount Graham, Mount Lemmon, Kitt Peak, and Mount Bigelow. The concert was designed to be a combination of music and astronomy. The music, performed by pianist Stephen Cook was selected for astronomical themes and included such selections as extracts from *Also Sprach Zarathustra* and Holst's *The Planets*. The music was accompanied by a slide show of astronomical images presented by astrophotographer Adam Block. I participated in the "Neptune" excerpt of *The Planets* as part of the women's chorus. There was also a talk by Vatican astronomer Christopher Corbally and stargazing after the concert.

#

Hidden Figures: This is a docudrama about the black women employed by NASA in the late fifties and during the sixties. The movie focussed on three particular women. About halfway through the story, electronic computers start making an appearance. These computers were not very powerful compared to

what we have now, but they could still make calculations way faster than any human. The most ambitious of the women “computers” learned how to program and were able to make the transitions to becoming computer programmers.

This story also takes place at the beginning of the Civil Rights movement. Many of the women’s experiences reflect this, especially as the story takes place in Virginia where “separate but equal” was still the law. One woman goes to court to be allowed to take evening courses that are taught at an all-white school. The movie shows that many of the activities engaged in by the women were crucial to the success of NASA’s early efforts.

Overall it’s an upbeat story, but there are some heart-wrenching scenes. To me it’s a hopeful sign when such a film comes out during our current narcissistic era.

* * *

*** My Trip to Hawaii**

After an unsuccessful attempt to get more than an hour of sleep, I got up to my alarm at one am on Tuesday, 29 November, for a three am departure from our house. Mike drove me to Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport and got me there a few minutes before five am. We probably didn’t need to start quite that early; the airport was virtually empty at that hour. My suitcase was checked at kerbside. My boarding passes were printed there as well. So I walked to the security check with only my carry-ons. They were very thorough. It was still two hours before the flight when I reached my gate. When I booked my flights, I had requested an upgrade to first class using flight miles. I got it for the first leg but not the second. When I checked in online for my flights, I was given the option of upgrading my second leg by paying a reasonable fee; so I took advantage of it.

My first flight, which was to San Francisco, was pretty quiet. The man seated next to me was a businessman flying to Beijing, and he wore ear buds all the time and slept through most of the flight. We landed early at SFO but we had to wait a long time for a gate, so arrival was late by the time we could disembark. I had to walk briskly to my next flight, which was in the next concourse over. A moving sidewalk helped. By the time I reached the gate for my flight, boarding had already begun, so I had to merge with passengers in economy class. This time my seat companion was very talkative and interesting. He was flying to Maui to scatter the ashes of his life companion of some thirty years. Maui had been a frequent vacation spot for them. We were served breakfast, and fortunately one of the choices was gluten-free if I skipped the accompanying roll. We both napped after we ate. My seat, which was on the south side, was very hot.

After landing on Maui, it didn’t take long to get to the baggage area and find the Carleton College group. The entire trip was organized by Maris Shields, who also accompanied us the whole time. She did an excellent job, especially with the plans B that she had to come up with when the weather didn’t work out. It turned out that there were two other group members on my plane; they had been in the rear. It was a half hour drive to the Marriott Beach Wailea Resort, where the front desk was in an open air lobby. We were early for check in, but I was able to get a room. My roommate had not yet arrived.

I decided to explore the hotel a bit and bought a few things at a little shop near the lobby that sold souvenir items and snacks. Back in the room I wrote a few postcards and took them down to send out. I lay down for a nap after, and that’s when my roommate, Elizabeth “Betty” Hessel, arrived.

Shortly thereafter was the reception and dinner. First we all introduced ourselves around an informal circle before splitting up into smaller groups at tables for eight.

The next day we went on a whale watching cruise with the Pacific Whale Foundation. This was the beginning of the season for humpback whales, so there were not very many; but we had quite a few sightings. Following that was a tour of the Maui Ocean Center, a three-acre tropical reef aquarium and marine science center. They rescue green sea turtles and shark. Their exhibits focus on life in tropical coral reefs. Their tanks are fed by the ocean, and their coral reefs are living habitats. We had a pleasant partly sunny day for our outing.

We had lunch at the aquarium. They had gluten free buns, so I was able to have a cheeseburger.

We returned to the hotel to clean up for dinner, which Betty and I had with two other couples at Tommy Bahama in a nearby mall.

Thursday was the day for our visit to Haleakala. Unfortunately there was lightning at the summit, so the observatories had been evacuated. We went anyway, stopping on the way at Hosmer's Grove for possible bird sightings. Unfortunately it was cold and wet, and the trails were exceedingly muddy and full of extensive puddles. I turned around before we reached the birdwatching grove. Betty went all the way but didn't see any birds other than the colourful chickens at the trailhead that we all saw. Near the summit the wind eventually increased to gale force, and everything was hidden in fog. I didn't take any pictures for fear of losing either my iPhone or videocam. One of the park rangers gave a very interesting talk about migration to the Hawaiian islands. The people who settled here originally came from Taiwan. They went south first to places like the Solomon Islands. Eventually they went as far as the Easter Islands and possibly even South America.

Toward the end of our stay there, the fog parted briefly for a view into the crater.

Lunch was at a restaurant back in Wailea. We returned to the hotel relatively early. Betty and I had dinner at the hotel. We were both tired and retired early.

The following morning (1 December) I managed to forget several toiletry items as we packed for the next leg of our trip. I may have been confused by two erroneous bills that were slid under our room door. Betty went down first to successfully straighten out these bills at the front desk. As it was, I was one of the last to arrive for our bus ride to the Kahului airport. Our flight from there to Hilo was quite short with just a bit of time for beverage service.

It was raining cats and dogs in Hilo when we arrived. The rain continued during our stay there. We were given a scenic bus tour. Hilo is on the rainy side of the island, but I think the amount of they had was a bit more than usual. The soccer fields pointed out to us were entirely under water.

Eventually we arrived at the Imiloa Astronomy Center. It's a planetarium and museum. The exhibits emphasize the importance of astronomy to Hawaii. The stars in the sky played an essential role for the people who navigated the Pacific Ocean to get to the Hawaiian Islands. The planetarium show we saw also covered this topic. We had lunch there before we continued our trip to the Kilauea Lodge just outside the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park at an elevation of 4000 feet. The lodge is somewhat like a country inn. The main building has a restaurant and a meeting room underneath. There are several smaller buildings with guest rooms. Betty and I were in an upstairs room with wall heaters. The room was freezing cold when we arrived. We turned on heaters in the main bedroom and in the bathroom, but they took a long time to warm things up. We used the spare blankets in the armoire at night. The room warmed up sometime during the night; I awoke briefly to throw off the covers. Some of the other rooms had fireplaces.

In the evening we had a group dinner in the hotel restaurant. The hotel were having a lei competition, and we all voted. The winners were announced on 12 December, and there's a photo on their Facebook page.

It was after this that I discovered that I had left my toothbrush and hairbrush behind. Betty kindly lent me a hairbrush until I could get a replacement the following morning. I'd also left behind my powder compact and a pocket mirror, but I didn't discover that until later. I was able to replace everything except the powder compact.

The following morning there was a talk given by geologist Cheryl Gansecki of the University of Hawaii after breakfast about the geology of Hawaii. She led our outing to the Volcanoes National Park. Unfortunately we had quite a bit of rain on the beginning of our trip, but we were able to see some hot lava from an observation point. I skipped a hike to sulphur fumaroles, since I've seen similar formations at Lassen Volcanic National Park in California.

After lunch at Volcano House, we had better weather for the afternoon. We saw a variety of lava formations and eventually got to a viewpoint from where we could see steam rising from the ocean where lava was pouring down (see photo at right). We returned to an earlier



observation point to see the glow of lava in a crater in the evening (see photo at right). Unfortunately fog rolled in as the sun set.

The next day we rode a bus on our way to Kona. We stopped at Punalu'u Beach Park to walk on the black sand and see a sea turtle (see photo below). We also passed a property that once belonged to Jimmy Stewart.

We stopped for lunch at the Manago Hotel overlooking Kealahou Bay, where I bought a few postcards.

Later we stopped at Pu'uhoonua o Honaunau, the ancient archaeological site also called the Place of Refuge, where we took a self-guided tour of a restored temple.

Some of us saw sea turtles

When we reached the South Kohala Coast, we tropical fruit juice.

The following morning (5 breakfast about the now huge new telescope atop minority that opposes it for have little knowledge of historically. The Hawaiian consensus, so the looking towards their Islands. The lease on also expires in 2033, so they may all have to shut their domes.

Because Mauna Kea was socked in by snow, we had to cancel our trip to see the observatories at the top. Instead we had an outing riding around areas closer to the hotel. After a picnic lunch at a park, we stopped at Pu'ukohola Heiau, where Kamehameha the Great built a temple to Kuka'ilimoku in 1790-91. We listened to a ranger talk and then had time to walk to the temple for photos. More driving brought us to a hill on a ranch for a view of the area. Across the water we could see Maui. We eventually ended up at the Keck Observatory office. We heard a talk about the Keck and then toured one of the offices where the astronomers work. I found this interesting. I had already seen the top of Mauna Kea back in 2000 when I organized a group trip to see the observatories; then we had drizzly, foggy weather; but we did get a tour of the NASA Infrared telescope. It's one thing to see a telescope, but it's another to learn how one is used.

The next day was mostly a hiking outing in the heart of the lush North Kohala countryside with dramatic cliffs and valleys on the windward side of the island. After lunch at a higher elevation with a view, we changed boarded a 4-wheel vehicle called a Pinzgauer to go to some rougher terrain on land managed by the tour company for a fairly long and somewhat challenging hike with lots of ups and downs. The recent rain also made much of the path quite muddy. Towards the end of the hike was a stop at a pool below a waterfall. Some of our group ventured into the water. The rest of us just rested and took photos.

That night there was a very nice farewell dinner at the hotel. The food was very good. A few of us spotted a black-capped night heron in the surf. My attempt to take a photo unfortunately didn't work too well. You can see it's a water bird but not much more.

The next day was departure day. Many people left in the morning or afternoon, but I had to wait until late evening along with a few others. My flights were both first class purchased with the help of frequent flyer miles. I checked out at the regular checkout time and stored my luggage with the bell captain. During the day I walked around the hotel, both inside and outside. Later in the afternoon I ran into two other people from our group, and I walked with them along the beach, where we saw five turtles. We had dinner together. Shortly before our bus ride to the Kona airport, I retrieved my luggage and changed my shoes.



in the water.

Mauna Lani Bay Hotel on the were greeted with leis and



December) there was a talk after controversial project to build a Mauna Kea. There is a vocal cultural reasons; they obviously astronomy's importance government operates by astronomical community are second choice site of the Canary Mauna Kea for all the telescopes

My first flight was delayed until after midnight; I managed no more than two hours of sleep. The flight landed in Seattle, where I had a layover of over six hours. Fortunately my sister picked me up for lunch, so that helped pass the time. I slept off and on during the flight to Phoenix, which landed in the evening. After Mike picked me up, I slept most of the two-hour drive home.

Getting to Hawaii and coming back were somewhat tiresome, but the stay in Hawaii afforded much pleasure. I'm glad I went.

* * *

* **Kritter Korner**

Mike got a great shot of an owl on our property in late November:

And below is the obligatory photo of our two cats:



* * *

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

The Fifth Season, by N. K. Jemisin

This novel won the Hugo Award for Best Novel last year, but I wasn't impressed to that extent by it. It's well written in a convoluted way. The reader doesn't really understand what's going on until close to the end of the book. To me that's a sort of trick and cheapens the work. I can't even begin to describe the plot without giving everything away. However, I can say that it takes place on another planet or Earth in a different universe or Earth so far in the future that we can't imagine how it could be. Some people have certain powers over geomagnetic energy. These people tend to lead lives isolated from others. The main character is one of these.

#

Simon Bloom, the Gravity Keeper, by Michael Reisman

I read this for the Oro Valley Science Fiction Book Club. It's main audience was intended to be younger readers. The main characters are high school students. Although the book club tries to stick to science fiction and stay away from fantasy, this book has fantasy elements. In the world of the book, each science has an overseer. Each overseer owns a manual. At the beginning of the book, there is a disagreement among the overseers, and the manual for physics ends up in the possession of a high school student. A lot of action ensues. It's an interesting story that also explores many of the concepts of science along the way. This exploration of scientific ideas is what pushes the book into the science fiction category.

#

Mark Twain's Letters from Hawaii, by Mark Twain

When Twain was working as a journalist, he travelled to Hawaii in 1866 and was there for four months. During that time he sent reports back to the States. This book is a selection of the letters he wrote. Personally I felt that his writing was not at its best. However, it is interesting to learn about conditions in Hawaii at the time.

* * *

* **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.

A couple of month ago, a problem with some iPhones was made public. I had experienced problems with my iPhone shutting down unexpectedly when the battery still had power. The problem started after the iPhone was more than a year old. Apple announced a free battery replacement programme. I didn't have time before my Hawaii trip to take care of it, but I finally took my iPhone in at the end of 2016, so it now has a new battery.

We had a white Xmas for a change. It snowed on Xmas Eve, so the snow was still on the ground the next morning.

MAILING COMMENTS ON STIPPLE-APA #306

Jeanne Mealy (Periodic Table of Variable Elements): Actually I think my zine last month had 19 pages including the cover.

Thanks for the penguin article.

Cy Chauvin (Amazons & Swallows Forever #51): When I was home from college on breaks, I used to spend hours reading until the real world seemed to be unreal.

I'll ask Lloyd Penny how The Asylum steam punk even in England differs from sf convention or worldcons.

I didn't know that some counties in Indiana don't observe daylight savings time.

Ruth Odren (The Once and Future Zine): I'm sorry to hear of all your health problems. I hope you're doing better.

Thanks for including your poem.

Dale Cozort (Space Bats & Butterflies): Your to-be-read pile is nothing compared to mine. I own about 1500 unread books, possibly more. I've lost count of how many unread e-books I have on the Kindle, Nook, and Kobo apps, not mention the ones in iBooks. I'm also about year behind with my periodical reading. I always try to do too much.

Thanks for including an excerpt of your writing.

Joyce Maetta Odum (Crepascular): Urgent care facilities vary in quality. The one closest to us seems to be very good. I took my husband when I suspected he might be lapsing into pneumonia, to which he is prone. The doctor there said I brought him in just in time. Our regular doctor was unavailable at the time and

had referred us to urgent care.

I've never heard of coyotes attacking people. Possibly they might do so when they are in a pack, but I doubt that a lone coyote would do so.

Marge Sehnert (A Very Busy Lady): I cycle through the various headers sent to me by two of my readers.

Bill Thomasson (Musings from the Gathering Dusk #5): There are two types of dreams I have about being at a convention. In the first kind, I search without success for my hotel room. If I find it, there's always something wrong with it. And I can never find it again.

In the second kind, I'm so busy socializing that I never get around to pick up my badge.

If the quote you use (middle age is the period in life when it is harder to go up the stairs than down them) is true, then I guess I haven't reached middle age yet even though I'm past retirement age.

Bubonicon has a few hundred attendees. One of the reasons for the number of authors is that there are a lot of authors living in the area; a similar thing happens in LA and San Diego. It has a good reputation, and that probably attracts other authors.

Stephanie Meyer (Monkey Mind): Mike's hometown has changed but not as much as one might expect. The schools have changed a bit. Most of the buildings are where they used to be, but some of them have been repurposed.

Our group had a lot of luck in Antarctica. Not all groups have the opportunity to disembark on the continent itself, and most groups don't get to go below the Antarctic circle. Conditions just worked out in our favour.

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

Much of the opposition to single payer health insurance comes from the insurance companies and pharmaceutical companies. The rest comes from ignorant people who buy into the insurance companies' perspective. It's really quite unfortunate really.

I rather liked the original *Doc Savage* movie. It's camp.

Jeanne Mealy (Quirky Bits):

I believe the cicadas in Indiana buzzed at a higher pitch than the ones in Arizona. They also didn't seem to be as overwhelmingly loud.

The animal in the upper right on page 14 of *Purrsonal Mewsings* #54 is a very relaxed meerkat.

I've never seen Amy Harlib's contortionist at in person. I haven't seen her in person at all since the late 1970s or early 1980s.

* * * * *

See you all in six weeks.

* * *

*** 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.

Ken Winograd, Merrimack, NH

5 November 2016

I received your most recent zine and enjoyed reading about Mike's high school reunion and your related travels. Some nice colour photos as well, I see... blowing the budget are we? Your shots of the animals at the Louisville Zoo were particularly nice.

#

Jan Weasner, Bremerton, WA

7 November 2016

Hello, enjoyed your newsletter so much that I shared the professional-like newsletter with our friend, Sherry.

She enjoys excellent writing & fascinating photos much as I do. Bravo from Jan Weasner & Sherry Megahee.

#

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

8 December 2016

Sorry this has taken a while, but I do keep a big stack of zines to be LoCced on my desktop, and *Purrsonal Mewsings* 54 has now risen cream-like to the top. Or, I just finally got around to it...

The artwork on the front is yet another reminder that today John Glenn passed away. He won't have to deal with the Trump government, which like many, he must have been afraid of. I think these are the interesting times we were all warned about.

I never did see the third Star Trek reboot film. I admit I am a hardcore Trekfan, going all the way back to the times of the Welcomittee, but it just didn't interest me. Maybe I can spend some time with a borrowed DVD, but I didn't care to go and see it in the theatres. Hate to say it, but same goes with the *Rogue One* SW film. Don't care about it, because it's not a part of the original sequence.

((I wonder if I'd go see them if not for Mike, who is a completist when it comes to certain series.))

That's a beautiful Victorian-style mansion on page 6, extremely tall. There are so many houses like that in southern Ontario, and some of them are historic homes open to the public.

Bubonicon had lots of familiar names as guests. I haven't seen Ben Bova in some time; he had a daughter who lived up here, which is what got Ben up here a number of times for conventions; but I do not know if she still lives here. Neat critters!

I tried to read Philip Jose Farmer's works; I tried so hard to like them, and I just couldn't do it. It's for readers more dedicated than I, I suppose. I can't be alone, though.

My LoC: We did indeed have a great time in England. We flew from Toronto to Gatwick Airport via Westjet and took the Gatwick Express train to Victoria station, where we stayed in a Harry Potter-themed hotel room for two days and in between went to Watford where the warehouse-sized HP exhibits are. It's become an amazing industry. Then, five days in London, touring around by foot and by tour bus. Big Ben, Parliament, the London Eye, and a Thames River tour, just to name a few. After that, trains up to Lincoln for The Asylum VIII, the biggest steampunk event in the world, where we had ourselves just the best time. We both want to go back to see more.

Has issue 55 been out yet? If so, please do send it to me. With that, I will say thank you, and Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year! See you in that far-off SFnal year of...2017.

#

Tom Feller, Nashville, TN

15 December 2016

Thanks for sending *Purrsonal Mewsings* #55. I am enclosing my most recent zine for FAPA as a trade.

I also found *On Basilisk Station* to be underwhelming, but David Weber has quite a devoted following, and he is a really nice guy if you ever have the chance to meet him in person. Like you, I liked *The Aeronaut's Windlass* a lot, although I did not make it my first choice for the Hugos but did rank it higher than No Award.

Replay sounds a lot like *The First Fifteen Lives of Harry August* by Claire North, although in the latter book the title character returns to the time of his birth each time he dies.

We have also been watching and enjoying *Timeless*. It reminds me a lot of the sixties series *The Time Tunnel*, which I occasionally watch on a nostalgia channel we get here in Nashville.

#

John Purcell, 3744 Marielene Circle College Station, TX 77845; askance73 at gmail dot com
29 December 2017

Please forgive me, Laurraine, for failing to write a letter of comment for so long. Please accept this very brief LoC as a beginning of an apology. And I thank you for continuing to send your zine to me; it gave me the chance to add your mailing address to my files so I can get the latest issue of *Askew* off to you, complete with the current ballot for the TAFF 2017 race. As you are probably well aware, I am one of the three candidates this year, so what can I say? Vote for me, of course!

I really shouldn't be surprised that the cover picture is of a horned frog. Was this fellow sunbathing on your property? I am assuming so. Also, your kitty critters Gateway and Mercury look like they are quite comfy with each other, but I bet they can be real terrors when they want. The joys of being owned by cats.

((We've previously see the great horned lizard on our property before, but this one is a small one right behind our house.))

It is good to know that StippleAPA is still running and that some very familiar names are mentioned. It was good to see Jeanne Mealy and John Stanley at LoneStarCon III a few years ago; and should I ever get back to Minneapolis again for a Minicon, it will be wonderful to see Joyce Maetta Odom, Ruth Odren, and Erik Biever.

Well, I think that will do it for now. I have to get back to do some home-style things—dishes, change the litter boxes—before relaxing for the remainder of the evening. Take care, and I look forward to seeing you and Mike sometime soon.

#

Joy V. Smith, Pagadan at aol dot com

29 December 2016

Thank you! I enjoyed the photos and the book reviews. The *Aeronaut's Windlass* by Jim Butcher sounds intriguing. I confess it could be because of the cats. And I enjoyed the APA notes, which certainly bring me up-to-date.

What is your pathway made of and how long is it? It seems to go on for a ways--nice effect. Did you colour it yourself? Thanks for sharing your zine; I like the title.

((The pathways are mostly made of flagstone in that pinkish colour you see. Other parts of the pathway system are made of patio bricks or compacted earth. The pathways cover about an acre of ground so are quite extensive; don't ask me to measure. We have three acres in all.))

[30 Dec]: So, it's natural; it looked artistic. Sounds like fun pathways to explore. Oh, I love hardscape!

#

Amy Harlib, aharlib at earthlink dot net

30 December 2016

Enjoyed *Purrsonal Mewsings* #55, esp. the cat news. Gateway and Mercury are so adorable! It's like one is the short-haired twin of the other!

There has been a plethora of dazzling genre films of late, and I have been wallowing in delight: *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*, *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*, *Arrival* (a very good adaptation of a terrific science fiction story "Story of Your Life" by Ted Chiang), *Moana*, *Dr. Strange*, *Shin Godzilla*.

And there are plenty of fine dramas and documentaries: *The Handmaiden*, *Moonlight*, *The Eagle Huntress*, *La La Land*, *Silence*, *Loving*, *Fire at Sea*, *Into the Inferno*, *Rules Don't Apply*, *Snowden*, *Queen of Katwe*, *Birth of a Nation*.

Then there is the sad loss of Carrie Fisher, whose death so upset her mom, Debbie Reynolds dies a day later of grief! Wow! At least they are not going to have to figure out how to survive the coming onslaught of Trump—the reincarnation of Hitler and Caligula rolled into one. I have never been so furious and terrified of forces outside my control in my life. RESIST, PEOPLE! PROTEST LOUDLY! NO TO FASCISM IN AMERICA! End of political rant.

((TCM has dedicated 27 January to Debbie Reynolds and are showing many of her films then.))

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Sheryl Birkhead, 25509 Jonnie Ct, Gaithersburg, MD 20882 5 December 2016-1 January 2017

Tardy is the word, since I have both #54 and #55 right here. I have excuses—the back again and not doing much of anything for the past two months. All well, it is slowly getting better; and I get so irritated at not getting anything done that at the first hint of improvement, I overdo it. Today is the first day that I have got anything done fanwise, and the backlog is respectable. Even the laptop is now iffy.

((I wouldn't feel too bad. Somehow I've managed to fall almost a year behind in my periodical reading.))

Enough of that—onward.

I just recently saw (via Netflix) the new Star Trek film. My main thought was “a whole stable of new characters”. I enjoyed it—not great and not the worst of movies.

You guys do get a lot of mileage.

Naturally I like the obligatory photo of Gateway and Mercury!

Reading your mailing comments on StippleAPA #303, interesting—from shingles to Zika.

On to LoCs. I think it was two years ago that my brother took his wife and daughters to Antarctica. ... Throughout the rest of the year, he and his wife take multiple long cruises, and I get pictures from all the places they have been. With Antarctica they finally hit all the continents.

((I hope to hit that goal next year by going to Africa. Purists may argue that I have not really been to Asia, since Japan is an island.))

I'll move on to #55.

It took me a moment to locate the lizard on the front cover.

Thanks for the current photo of the feline contingent.

I'm totally up to date with the “Dresden File” books from Butcher; just waiting for the next one. Thanks for the information on the new series—might just give that a try.

The picture of the pathway work makes it look terrific!

Now onto mailing comments on StippleAPA #305.

I only saw the USPS pumpkin stamps when I looked through the holiday philatelic catalogue. In order to purchase before the January price increase, I bought; but I agree that the Star Trek stamps are lacklustre. I went ahead and placed a small order and tacked on the Pluto stamps and several of the moon international rate stamps.

Your mention of Taral reminds me I have not read much from him lately; but since Yahoo has been blocking me out of both my e-mail accounts, it has been interesting trying to figure out a way to get back in.

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WAHF: Mary Manchester

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*** Closing Remarks**

Deadline for next issue will be 23 February.

Laurraïne
18 January 2017