

Purrsonal Mewsings #67



Purrsonal Mewsings, formerly *Feline Journal* and *Feline Mewsings* is a personalzine by R-Laurraine Tutihasi, PO Box 5323, Oracle, AZ 85623-5323; 520-275-6511, Laurraine@mac.com, <http://www.weasner.com/>. I hope to publish every six weeks.

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 #481. ©2019 R-Laurraine Tutihasi.

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#67

April 2019

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Cover illo—Amy Harlib
Title page header—Sheryl Birkhead
Photos p. 3—Mike Weasner, except second photo of Cato; p. 5, 7—Mike Weasner;
Other photos by editor
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Publication not guaranteed, but all submissions will be given due consideration.

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

*** Editorial / Introduction**

There's been too much excitement here since my last issue. On 12 March Cato caused me to fall on my tailbone. Boy was it painful. Now about five weeks later, the aches and pains are ninety-five percent gone. The remaining discomfort may take a long time to go away. In the meantime I alternate between sitting on heating pads and ice packs. I cancelled an appointment with my oral surgeon because of the sitting issue. When I feel I can be relatively comfortable sitting in a dental chair, I will set up a new appointment.

Cato caused another upset when he ran off into the night when I went out to empty a rain gauge. It was probably my fault. He was sitting on my shoulder, and I thought he would stay; the rain gauge isn't that far from the house. Unfortunately I was wrong, and I spent a couple of hours feeling guilty and grieving his loss. At least I had the presence of mind to post to key people on Facebook. One of the local pet rescue people saw my message and came over to help search for him. Mike actually found him, but Cato refused to come near him. I took out some toys and snacks, but he still refused to approach us. Finally we had the help of the woman whose house he had lived in prior to our adopting him, and he finally came when she called. You'd better believe I'll never let him out again unless he's on a leash.

Finally, I've been suffering from a cold for the last several days. It's been a number of years since I had a cold, but I seem to be able to control much of the symptomology with my allergy medications. There's nothing I can do for my lack of energy other than taking naps, though. As I work on this zine, the cold has settled in my chest, though it seems to be improving slowly.

I made an attempt to finish sanding the pieces for the shelving we want to build, but I found that holding sheets of sandpaper was too hard on my hands; I have repetitive motion problems. A neighbour lent us some equipment to try out. The best method seems to be using sponges covered with sandpaper. These give me a nice grip and are very lightweight. I bought some at Ace and hope to resume work on the shelves soon.

* * *

*** Kritter Korner**



Despite all his escapades, Cato remains as active as ever. He's just a hyperactive cat. He has periods of hyperactivity once or twice each day, running like crazy. We try to play with him, but there's no way we can play long enough to exhaust him. We tire way before he does.

On the plus side, he seems to eat everything I feed him. I'm still trying various different foods that I buy at Petco or from [chewy.com](https://www.chewy.com). I stick with foods that are all natural. I did buy puzzle dishes for him to keep him from guzzling his food. I will probably try some other designs.

He still jumps up on my shoulder; he prefers my left shoulder. He likes to ride around.

He found it rather upsetting when he ran away in the dark, but he seemed to recover very quickly after we got him back inside.

Below are a couple of recent photos of Cato:

	
Cato likes to ride on my shoulders.	

* * *

* Astronomy

Here are some of the highlights of Mike's astrophotography since my last issue.

		
Cigar Galaxy (M82)	Crab Nebula (M1)	NGC2903

	
Horsehead Nebula	Thor's Helmet Nebula

*** Westercon 71 in Denver, July 2018**

My apologies if this trip report is less than my usual. I was having some health problems that were unidentified at the time. The symptoms were varied and sporadic and included headaches and nausea. They would hit me at unpredictable times, and I was generally more tired than usual. It wasn't until I was back home that I figured out that my symptoms were a reaction to a medication I had started using in April. It took a month or more before symptoms started to appear, so I didn't think of that possibility until a neighbour asked me if I had started any new medication. My diary is full of missing information, and I've reconstructed what I did from my calendar and the convention publications.

We left home early on Monday, 2 July, for our two-day drive to Denver, taking our Lexus SUV, as Mike finds the Honda Civic uncomfortable for long drives. He was very active the previous night for a star party at Oracle State Park, so he was not as rested as he would have liked, but he managed the drive. We arrived at a Springhill Suites in Albuquerque before 16:00 so managed to rest up before we went out to dinner at Vintage Four Twenty-Three, a very nice upscale restaurant for a very tasty meal.

We finished the drive the next day. After we stopped in Wagon Mound, NM, for a fuel stop, we drove past the Emily Fire on Turkey Mound, which started 28 June and was lightning caused.

A bit after that, we saw the Sardinias Canyon fire farther to the west of the road that started 24 June and is suspected to be human caused; we were far away that everything was hazy.

We reached the Hyatt Regency Technology Park in Denver in mid-afternoon. It was generally a very nice hotel, but I found the restaurant very cold most of the time.

Westercon 71 started on the afternoon of the Fourth of July. We ran into Lisa Harrigan from the Bay Area, who had recently lost her husband and talked to her for quite a bit and had lunch with her.

We picked up our convention badges in the afternoon. Membership included two free books.

In the evening there was a Meet and Greet on the twelfth floor. It included a very interesting steampunk exhibit. I spoke to Kent Bloom, who was Fan Guest



of Honor, Mike
Later we started to
fireworks out the
Most were too far
horizon, but there
close enough to



Willmoth, and others.
see several sets of
twelfth floor window.
away and close to the
were a few that were
present well.

When I went down
morning, I was able to
Courtney Willis and
were joined a bit later
Nancy Kress's
writer. After we had
were joined by
Conversation ranged
depression.

to breakfast the next
join Connie and
Nancy Kress. We
by Jack Skillingstead,
husband, who is also a
finished our food, we
Cynthia Felice.
from high altitudes to

After breakfast I
discussing future Westercon and Worldcon bids.

went to a panel

In the afternoon I went to a Connie Willis reading, a panel about "Weird Astronomy" presented by Lou May, and another panel on "T-Space Science", where Alastair Mayer discussed the real science behind his T-Space series. We both went to Opening Ceremonies.

Mike and I skipped the ice cream social and had dinner instead. Service was under par, and we were discussing this with a couple one table over. Management overheard us, and we got two free breakfasts out of it.

At night I went to the Seattle for Westercon 73 bid party. There seemed to be no discoverable information about Lisa Harrigan's memorial for Harold. I had some good conversation at the party.

On the morning of the sixth, I attended a panel on "Fan Art vs. Intellectual Property"; discussion was about parodies, etc., and where to draw the line between homage and plagiarism. Mike went to a Q & A with NASA scientist Lou Mayo; he discussed the various projects he has worked on or expects to work on in future, including the James Webb Space Telescope, asteroid and planetary studies, and extrasolar exploration. He also speculated about topics such as alien life, protecting alien planets from contamination, and the reasons for Venus being so different from Earth.

Mike also went to "Really Weird Science: Intro to Quantum Computing" presented by Kevin Roche, who works for IBM, and always gives a fascinating talk.

My second programme item that day was a kaffee klatsch for David Gerrold.

At noon I went to a question and answer session for Nancy Kress.

In the afternoon Mike and I went to a presentation about "Alien Worlds

and Nearby Stars" presented by astrophysicist Heather Preston. A bit later I went to a panel on the "Search for Life in the Universe" given by Lou Mayo.

We met an astronomy buddy of Mike's for an early dinner. Fred and Michiko Goodman treated us to a meal at Maggiano's, an Italian restaurant.

In the evening I went to a Bohnhoff concert. I don't remember when I first heard them, but I've liked them ever since. Their music has a folk rock type of sound.

Saturday morning we both went to two panels. One was titled "Earthrise: 50 Years Since Apollo 8" presented by Lou Mayo. The other was a discussion of Heinlein's *Glory Road*, which had been proposed as a classic by John Hertz; as I recall we decided it did not fit his definition of a classic, because we are still in the same period as the one written about as far as human development was concerned.

At noon Mike went to "Cool Astronomy Discoveries" presented by Courtney Willis and Graham Lau. Among the topics discussed were Oumuamua, gravity waves, Pluto, exoplanets, Juno mission results, and solar seismology.

In the afternoon I went to a question and answer session of author Rebecca Moesta Anderson; her works have mostly been movie and TV tie-ins with one original series co-written with her husband, Kevin J. Anderson.

The masquerade was in the afternoon, and we both went.

In the evening I went to another Bohnhoff concert and a talk titled "The Sun Explodes! Sort of..."; solar physicist Thomas Berger talked about the explosive processes that make the sun shine. Mike joined me for another panel about "Exoplanets" presented by aerospace historian Dan Dubrick.



The next morning the presentation I went to was Jeff Sturgeon, the Artist GoH, showing slides of much of his art and telling us about a publishing project he's working on. It's called the Last Cities of Earth; it's hoped that an illustrated anthology will be published with fiction by sixteen authors. There is a Facebook page and a Patreon page to support it.

In the afternoon we went to a panel on "Hard Science in Fiction" with panellists Connie Willis, Frank Garry, Heather Preston, Jaime Harold, and Kevin Ikenberry. I also went to another panel about "Outstanding Mysteries in Astrobiology" presented by astrophysicist Emily Hardegree-Ullman. We both went to the Connie (Willis) and David (Gerrold) Hour; they interviewed each other and provided the audience with much entertainment.



In the evening we visited friends of Mike's living just outside of Denver.

The next day we started our two-day drive back home. We stayed that night at a Towne Place Suites motel in Albuquerque. There was a nice restaurant called Nick & Jimmy's a short walk from the motel. It was quite good, and I learned the proper way to eat an artichoke.

We arrived home on Monday, 10 July 2018.

* * *

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

Alternate Routes, by Tim Powers

This is a fantasy that takes place in modern Los Angeles and was recommended by a friend in LA. Many references are made to places in LA, and I don't know how a reader unfamiliar with LA would follow the book. Having lived there for a number of years, I could identify many places that were referenced.

The plot concerns two law enforcement people, one who has been on the run for a while due to complicated reasons that are explained. The freeways of LA have become entangled with another dimension where exist manifestations of dead people. Many in law enforcement have been making use of these dead people to solve crimes. Unfortunately as more such use is done, the connections between the two dimensions increase. The other dimension threatens to swallow up our dimension. Regrettably most people turn a blind eye to this possibility. The book follows the two main characters as they try to close off the connection while being pursued by other law enforcement people.

While I found the book enjoyable enough, my the overall feeling about the book is that it was rather mediocre. Maybe this just isn't my cup of tea.

#

Mr. Penumbra's 24-hour Bookstore, by Robin Sloan

This was our book club's selection for March. It's a very different sort of book. We all found the title intriguing. Whether it's actually sf seems debatable. The bookstore in question does offer some sf, but its main collection is a puzzle to two of the three workers.

The story takes place in Silicon Valley. The protagonist gets a job there after the startup he worked for goes bust. He works the night shift. He meets his two counterparts as they change shifts. The patrons are dominated by people who borrow the books in the main collection. As the protagonist continues to work, he becomes increasingly curious about the main collection.

Eventually an attempt is made to decipher a key book using the computer power accessible to Google. The attempt fails, and the mystery is eventually solved by more mundane means.

The book is intriguing and entertaining, and I liked it quite a bit.

#

***Annihilation*, starring Natalie Portman and Jennifer Jason Leigh**

This is an sf horror film nominated for the Hugo this year for films released in 2018.

After a strange meteorite lands on Earth, a zone in which the usual biological rules don't apply starts growing. A strange shimmering curtain separates this zone from the rest of Earth. Several groups of men have been sent in, but no one has returned except for one who appears to be gravely injured and unable to communicate. It's decided to send a group of women, and the movie follows these women's misadventures.

The genetics of life in the zone appears to have changed. Everything appears to be genetically identical, but things take on different shapes. The fear level of the women starts to rise rapidly.

While the story was gripping, I was disappointed by the ending. Too many questions remained unanswered.

#

***In the Garden of the Beasts*, by Erik Larson**

This is a non-fiction book about the American ambassador's term in Germany as Hitler rose to power. The ambassador chosen, some think mistakenly, is quite unorthodox. He is an academic of modest means. His cohorts all seem to be very wealthy men who use their own wealth to supplement the modest pay given to them in order to entertain.

The book reconstructs the life of the ambassador, his family, and the people around him using diaries, correspondence, and memoirs.

I have had an interest in this period of German history as the result of a course I took in college about Weimar Germany. This is a period between the two world wars. I wasn't particularly interested in the topic when I signed up; I merely wanted to take a class taught by that particular professor, as I'd heard so many great things about him. I wrote a paper about Hitler from a psychological point of view for the class, as psychology was my major. Hitler is a fascinating psychological subject.

I enjoyed the book greatly. The author has researched the main characters in this historical drama. In an afterward he relates the fates of the main characters after the period covered by the book. I can recommend the book highly to anyone interested in this period of history.

#

A Quiet Place, starring Emily Blunt, John Krasinski, and Millicent Simmonds

This is another sf horror film nominated for the Hugo this year.

The scene is a contemporary future in which most human life has been killed by invaders from who knows where. They have no sight but have very keen ears. Any sound made by humans or animals could spell death. We're introduced to a family of five, and the mother is expecting. They live on a farm. The daughter is deaf, and this may explain why they all seem conversant in sign language, which is now their main means of communicating. They walk barefoot and spread sand in pathways to deaden sound.

The story is exciting, and it's easy for the viewer to identify with the family members. I do find it a bit incredible that the weakness of the invaders escaped the notice of all the scientists in the world, though.

* * *

*** 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.

MAILING COMMENTS ON STIPPLE-APA #324

Ruth Odren (The Once and Future Zine): My sympathies on losing your siblings.

The Sparrow and the 'Wolf (Not Unlike a Sparrow's Perspective): A *Time for the Stars* was my favourite Heinlein book. I haven't read it in a while, so I should probably do so sometime soon.

I think much visual sf doesn't stand up to close scrutiny. I don't think *The Orville* is particularly bad in this respect.

Vi is a Unix text editor.

Lucy Schmeidler (Do Ask #14): I hope that you've recovered from your fall.

Growing up we had a set of bricks very similar to Lego in concept. They were red and made of brittle plastic. I believe there were also some white bricks to use as trim.

Do you ever use the library? I'm sure NYC must have a good library system. I also believe NYS has a good interlibrary loan system, unless conditions have deteriorated since I worked in upstate. I'm a very frequent library user myself these days.

Joyce Maetta Odum (Daffodils and Viscera): Gerri Balter also cannot use escalators. One of my nieces in law was so unfamiliar with escalators when she visited us back in LA that it would take several minutes for her to

get on one.

Cy Chauvin (Amazons & Swallows Forever! #67): Cruise ships have their place. A lot depends on where I'm going. Obviously using a cruise ship for an African safari doesn't work, but they worked well in Alaska and Antarctica. I'm also planning to use a cruise ship on my trip to Iceland planned for next year. It is nice not to have to keep packing and unpacking as you go from place to place. The cruise ships I've used have been on the small side. I've never been on the really big cruise ships, where I believe the ship experience is the main *raison d'être* of the trip. The cruise ships I've used have been about getting from

place to place. Of course there are some entertainments on the ship, some of which I use.

Jeanne Mealy (Quirky Bits): At present I use three different medications for asthma.

Travelling with fans can certainly help alleviate the tedium of train travel, just not enough. I also didn't care for the food

You can train cats to harness and leash if you want to take them out.

Your photos of icicles hanging off the eaves of houses reminded me of a photo my father took when we were living in Rochester, NY. I probably have the photo somewhere.

See you all in the next disty.

* 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. I use Oxford standards of spelling and punctuation.

Tom Feller, PO Box 140937, Nashville, TN 37214

20 February 2019

Thank you for sending the latest *Purrsonal Mewsings*.

I made *Six Wakes* my number one choice for the Hugos last year and *The Stone Sky* number five. I thought the former may be the best novel about cloning I have ever read; but while the latter, as you said, satisfactorily brings the "Broken Earth" trilogy to an end, I simply did not think it was better than four of the other novels on the final ballot.

#

Robert S. Kennedy, Jr., The Terraces of Boise, 5301 East Warm Springs Ave., Apt. B306, Boise, ID 83716-6205, robertk at cipcug dot org

2 March 2019

Thank you for #65. It arrived about the same day as the deadline so hopefully this will still be in time.

2018 was quite a year for me. There was the installation of a pacemaker as well as a couple of other medical procedures. Then toward the end of the year, I sold my house in Southern California at the urging of my niece and moved to The Terraces of Boise in Boise, Idaho. This is a CCRC [Continuing Care Retirement Community] and is very nice. There are some strange happenings though. Some days this weird white stuff falls from the sky and covers the hills, trees, roofs, and ground. Maybe a few days later it decides to rain. Today it is clear and nice, about 40°.

Mike's Astronomy montage was quite enjoyable.

Ruth Odren commented that she had her DNA done and it told her about her Neanderthal DNA, but didn't indicate her %. Basically everyone of European decent has Neanderthal DNA. Mine is 2.8%. I have somewhat mixed ancestry. But my direct male ancestry is 100% Irish. I recently purchased and read *The Neanderthals Rediscovered-How Modern Science Is Rewriting Their Story*-Revised and Updated by Dimitra Papagianni & Michael A. Morse (2015). For anyone who is interested, I highly recommend the book. Of course as Neanderthal information continues to be discovered, updating may have to be done every year or two.

I very much look forward to your report on your Africa trip.

#



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

12 March 2019

Many thanks for *Purrsonal Mewsings* 65...sorry it has taken a while to respond; I have gotten myself some online work, and I have been handling work coming from nearby Mississauga and far-away Manila, Philippines. I'd had a lot of it lately to keep me busy; but with a pause in the proceedings, I can get some fannish writing done.

Ah, excessive travel...what I wouldn't do to have excessive travel. We have planned our next trip, though; and it is our return to England coming up in late May of this year. Can't wait! We plan to see things we did see the first time and many things we didn't. We also plan trips to places like Liverpool, Stonehenge, Bath, and Lincoln.

Cats, and any pets, for that matter teach us so much about love and responsibility and grief, for we live so much longer than they do. They give their lives to us for our enjoyment and entertainment, so the least we can do is to make those lives as rich as we can.

The second *Fantastic Beasts* movie was probably the only movie we saw of all you list here, but I think even the Harry Potter fans (including Yvonne) were a little frustrated and confused by it. Perhaps it is a typical middle movie (even though we have been promised a total of five *Fantastic Beasts* movies), and even J. K. Rowling promised answers for the next movie. It was fun to see Johnny Depp do his typical best in creating a very atypical character behind various layers of makeup and appliances.

I have been following *Star Trek: Discovery* and have very much enjoyed each episode this season. I have not followed *The Orville*, but it looks like the end of season episodes were quite good. I do not watch much television outside of news and documentaries, and *Murdoch Mysteries*, of course. I want as much time as possible to write and make costume jewelry. I guess entertainment for me has its limits.

Murray Moore's LoC: Yvonne as Queen Victoria? I see it all the time! The Queen has been popular at some of the steampunk events we go to; and seeing that 2019 is Victoria's 200th birthday year, I will try to find her more opportunities to greet her subjects.

My LoC...for the first time in some time, both Yvonne and I are working; though my work is online at home. The steampunk convention in Novi, MI, did not happen again; but local fans there are attempting to launch a new event called the Michigan Steam Expo. It's only a one-day event, a smart thing if they aspire to make it longer eventually; but it is on the same time as one of our bigger conventions that we vend at, so we cannot go.

Seeing it's the end of the zine, I presume it's the end of this letter, and off it goes to you. See you with the next issue!

#

Amy Harlib, amyharlib at e-activism dot com

13 March 2019

Finally had a chance to give *PM # 65* full attention.

Adored the Octo Ballet cover and Mike's astronomy photos.

Was very sad to read about your cats dying. I mourn them as much as any human, their love is so precious, the grief when they leave us worth all the years of joy, although their short lives are never long enough.

Then I went to your website and discovered CATO! So delighted you gave another Gift of the Cat Goddess a happy forever home – what an adorable black and white domestic shorthair.

My Fiona is hanging in there at fifteen and is the love of my life. Enjoyed some films recently.

Mary Poppins Returns: very entertaining and visually dazzling but not quite as good as the Julie Andrews original which was practically perfect in almost every way.

The Kid Who Would Be King: fun insertion of the Arthurian legend into modern UK with twelve year olds as the heroes; well worth a look.

How to Tame Your Dragon: The Hidden World: I really love this trilogy; and this conclusion is the best of them all, esp. when Toothless the Night Fury finds his mate, the Light Fury. Pure dazzling joy and fun.

I have one interesting performance challenge: For Mar. 16th I was asked to fill an hour of time for a St. Patrick's Day pre-party. So, in addition to my usual 10-12 minute long Yoga Go Bragh! Shamrock Stretch! Celtic Contortion! Little Old Limber Lady Leprechaun! Riverdance Was Never Like This! I have to perform Granny Grammy songs which meant memorizing Irish songs in two weeks—"Molly Malone", "Erin Go Bragh", and "Foggy Dew", plus I'll sing some general crowd pleasers like "When I'm 64" and "Donna Donna". Between that, and patter, and a Q and A, that should fill the time. I will get paid split the door whatever that is. It is in a small venue in West Hempstead Long Island, NY – Creative Corner.

Still never enough gigs! That never changes. Until next time, Namaste!

#

Joy V. Smith, pagadan at aol dot com

15 March 2019

I am really running late, but I enjoyed #65, especially Mike's montage--and his other photos; but I was so sorry to learn about Mercury's and Gateway's passing. Has life settled down...?

You've certainly been busy--traveling and all; and I'm glad that you discovered the source of your medical/medicine problems. I hope you're still doing well.

Thanks for the reviews. Btw, my favorite C. J. Cherryh books are the Chanur series.

Thanks to Taral Wayne for his historic coins photos; I'm not sure if they're all Hellenic.

I enjoyed all the LoCs and their updates too.

#

Timothy Lane, timothylane51 at gmail dot com

24 March 2019

I recall the Cato character from the Pink Panther movies, whose name and character were presumably inspired by Kato of *The Green Hornet*. I recall once a cat realizing from my getting out a cat carrier (we had several) that she was due to visit the vet. She disappeared for hours into the tiny crawl place under a bookcase. It was pure chance that I happened to see here. She never escaped the room at the vet, though.

Back when I could do so, I enjoyed visiting zoos. The first I can recall was the National Zoo, back in the spring of 1960. So I can understand your enjoyment of the safaris on your African trip. It would have been nice to see a photo of the nyalas.

I recall reading a detailed history of German Southwest Africa that I found in the Purdue library. You never know what you'll find in a college library, but that may have been the oddest thing I ever encountered there. There can't have been much interest in it.

#



Murray Moore, murrayamoore at gmail dot com

26 March 2019

Issue 65. Your DNA analysis apparently was as revelatory as was mine (paid for by my sister). I am equally Irish and English, with a smattering of Norwegian.

My father's side's ancestry was investigated in the 1890s, as best it could be done in the 1890s. The result, in two volumes, was *Ancestors and Descendants of Andrew Moore 1612-1897*.

Andrew Moore's dates are 1688-1753. He emigrated from County Antrim, Ireland, becoming a pioneer European settler in nowadays Pennsylvania-Dutch Lancaster-area Pennsylvania.

Another Andrew Moore descendant today lives in Andrew's house. Mary Ellen and I visited, a couple of years ago.

In October, 2023, a gathering of Andrew Moore descendants has been announced, to mark our Quaker ancestor's arrival, three hundred years previous, in Atglen, Chester County, Penn. I want to attend. I am curious to meet more of my American cousins. And the weather there in October should be pleasant.

Issue 66. The only spring plants here as of Mar. 26 are non-native snowbells. For the first time I am growing, indoors, native plants from seed. I started with lupin and showy tick-trefoil because they needed to be only scarified before sowing, but not stratified. Most of the lupins have germinated; the tick-trefoils are slower.

I have flown only once in Business Class, Heathrow to Toronto, and only then because, when I reached my assigned seat, my assigned seat was occupied by another passenger. Otherwise I think about the thousands of dollars I am making (= have not spent) during the time that I am in transit in the air on a flying bus.

((I've been buying my overseas flying tickets using mileage points.))

This evening, from the comfort of our front room couch, I will attend the monthly meeting of the CSFFA (Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Association). CSFFA is the volunteer non-profit group that administers the Aurora Awards. I am the board secretary: the rest of the board membership live in Quebec, Alberta, and British Columbia; thus we meet on-line.

#

Joy V. Smith, pagadan at aol dot com

27 March 2019

What a fantastic travelogue! You had to be taking a lot of notes--and photos! Cato is lovely and lively; and that's a cute cover illo, plus interesting photos from the mirror lab. Funny Steve Stiles cartoon about the lemmings.

((I keep a diary and try my best to keep it up-to-date when I travel.))

Thanks for an interesting and very informative issue. I liked the reviews too; I haven't seen *Ready Player One*; it sounds more interesting than I had thought.

#

Mary Manchester, 1297 Monroe Av, #2, Rochester, NY 14620-1655
postmarked 28 March 2019

Thank you for P. M. #66, and a big welcome to Cato. After all he's been through, he deserves a happy forever home, and that's just what you and Mike have begun to give him.

Ah, Africa! What an amazing experience—just being there. Your reports are always so precise in detail that it's as if I'm right there with you. Just let's part ways at that "O'Hare is a zoo" paragraph. From that point on, the wonderfulness was a memory.

((She also enclosed a *Shoe* comic in which a lawyer says "My client had to come back from the West Coast to make this court date." The judge replies, "So what?" The lawyer continues, "He flew coach your honor." The judge says, "Punishment enough. Case Dismissed."))

#

Amy Harlib, amyharlib at e-activism dot com **13 April 2019**

Purr Mew #66 contained a particularly interesting trip to S. Africa report. I really enjoyed it since I'll never be able to afford to go there. Loved the photos.

So happy you have a new kitty, Cato, adorable as heck! I hope he'll have a long and happy life with you.

#

Robert S. Kennedy, Jr., The Terraces of Boise, 5301 East Warm Springs Ave., Apt. B306, Boise, ID 83716-6205, robertk at cipcug dot org
13 April 2019

Thank you for #66.

The cat photo (p. 3) makes me almost wish to have a cat, but I don't want to have one here in my apartment. No place for it to roam; and if it got loose in the building, I would be in trouble.

The astronomy article with pictures was interesting.

Your Africa Trip Report along with the pictures was very much enjoyed. Being that I am lucky to be able to walk around the block, I find your travels incredible.

On page 21 someone (I'm not sure who) mentions the movie *The Thirteenth Floor*. I have the DVD and have watched it at least three times. I highly recommend the movie.

Once again thank you for another fine issue.

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Jerry Kaufman, jakaufman at aol dot org

12 April 2019

Thanks for sharing your Africa trip - it sounds like you had a mostly amazing time.

It's been some time since I read *Parable of the Sower* and the second book in the duology, *Parable of the Talents*. What I found most memorable in the books was Lauren's development of her own religion in which God is Change. It's the opposite of Taoism, I think, in which no matter what changes, underneath all is the same calm and peaceful unity. The titles of the two books certainly allude to religious stories that teach lessons, like the Biblical parables of the Prodigal Son or the seed that falls on barren soil. I presume the sower of the first book is Lauren, but I'm not sure of the talents in the second book. Time, I think, to re-read them.

In the letter column I mentioned that I wanted to see *Spider-Man: Into the Spideverse*. Suzle and I did manage to get to that while it was still in theaters here and were glad we did so. It's good story-telling, with themes of allowing yourself to get help when needed, working with a team, but also having faith in your own abilities. The animation blends and contrasts many styles of comic art, which adds to the freshness and excitement.

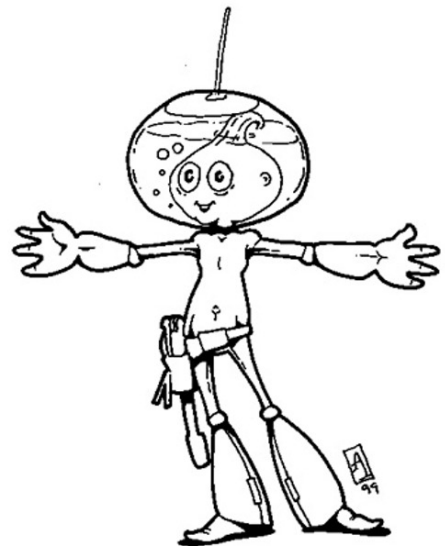
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14 April 2019

Thanks for issue 66 of *Purrsonal Mewsings*. I hope it's not too late to get something into the LoCol and join in on the conversation. It looks like you may have had more snow in Oracle than we did in Toronto. Also, good for you in getting another cat. So many have such attachments to their recently deceased pets, they cannot take on another cat or dog. Some kind of guilt, I guess, either survivor guilt, or the feeling that you have betrayed your lost pet by taking on another. We demand of these animals their entire lives in the name of our companionship or entertainment; the least we can do is honour their memory by taking on another pet, often a rescue pet from the pound.

My sister-in-law just came back from a tour of southern Africa, and while she had a great time, I



don't think she will go back. In about forty-five days (we counted), Yvonne and I will return to England for three weeks this time, see lots more of London, and travel to Lincoln, Liverpool, Stonehenge, and Bath. Your pictures of the cheetahs, leopard and rhinos are great.

Stipple-APA comments...I know there are LEGO conventions in Australia; but just now, there are such conventions in Canada, in the Toronto area. In some ways, I'd love to go; but I remember always wanting LEGO blocks when I was a kid and never getting them because my parents couldn't afford them. There is a LEGO store in a nearby mall...I can't afford it, either.

Oops, looks like I am past the deadline, but at least I tried. Many thanks, and see you with the next issue.

((The deadline was pushed forward a week due to Easter, so you're okay.))

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WAHF (We Also Heard From): Jan Weasner

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*** Closing Remarks**

Next time I hope to have my Worldcon trip report from last year.
Deadline for next issue is expected to be 23 May 2019.

Laurraine
19 April 2019