

# Purrsonal Mewsings #70



*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 #485. ©2019 R-Laurraine Tutihasi.

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#70

October 2019

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### **Art and Photo Credits**

Cover photo—Lesser goldfinch, by Mike Weasner

Title page header—Sheryl Birkhead

Photos—pp. 3, 7 by Mike Weasner; other photos by editor

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

Unfortunately I had a setback with my tail bone area discomfort. It would be misleading to call it pain. It's probably because I stopped using a heating pad during the hot months. I've gone back to using one again, so the situation is back to the way it was last month, maybe a bit better.

Fall seems to have descended on us rather suddenly. Until mid-September we were still experiencing the occasional three-digit (Fahrenheit) high. Since then the daily highs have fallen into the 70s. Technical monsoon ended about the same time; the technical definition of monsoon is when the dew point rises above 50° F and stays above it. Monsoon season rain is caused by daytime highs driving cloud formation that frequently produces rain later in the day. Recently we've experienced autumnal rain produced by systems moving in from the west. It will still get counted as monsoon rain, since the higher ups decided that monsoon season will be defined strictly by the calendar. By that definition, monsoon doesn't end until September ends.

The shelves we built are all finished and in use mostly for bird feeding supplies (see photo at right). We also put together a kitty condo that I previously purchased. Cato likes it.

Recently one of our microwave ovens and our toaster oven went belly up. The microwave was over ten years old and heavily used to the tune of several times a day. The toaster oven was newer but also fairly heavily used, especially in recent years. Replacements for both were ordered, and the toaster oven has arrived. Because our microwave is built in and microwave units have got smaller recently, we ordered a combination microwave/convection oven that will fit much better in the space we have for it.

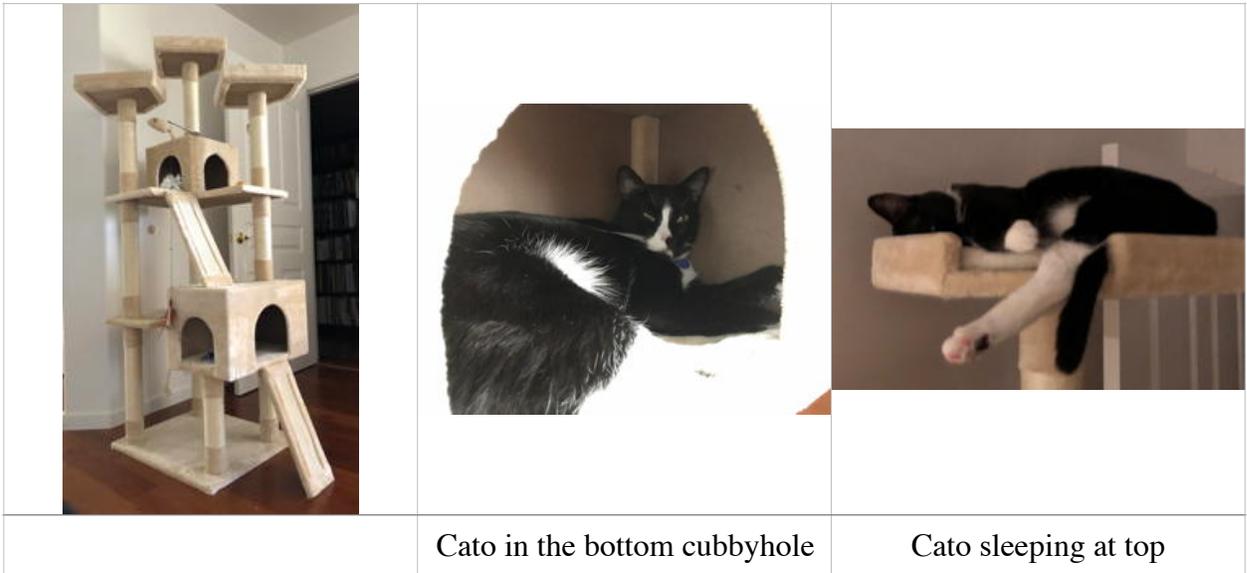
We also recently found a new handy man to weed our yard. It was beginning to look like a jungle. It's looking much better and shouldn't need frequent work.



\* \* \*

## \* Kritter Korner

As mentioned above, Cato has a new kitty condo. Below are photos of the condo and Cato enjoying his condo.



Here's another photo of Cato with his tongue out.



\* \* \*

### \* Astronomy

Astronomical conditions were even worse than those I reported last issue due to high humidity. Mike managed to take a nice photo of Jupiter and a couple of nice sunset photos.



\* \* \*

## **\* Trip to see Skate America and visit my sister, October 2018**

I got very little sleep before I had to get up shortly after midnight on Friday, 19 October, in order for Mike to drive me to Sky Harbor Airport in Phoenix. We arrived at the airport about 05:00. Fortunately I found a breakfast place open shortly after I went through security about 05:30, because I was famished.

My first flight went smoothly. I dozed much of the time. When we reached LA, there was a bus to take us to our gate, which was practically on the other end of the airport. It's much warmer in LA than at home. My second flight was on a small plane with three across seating in first class. Takeoff of the flight to Seattle was delayed by fog in Seattle. The plane had to get more fuel, and we lifted off more than an hour late. Lunch was served in first class about noon.

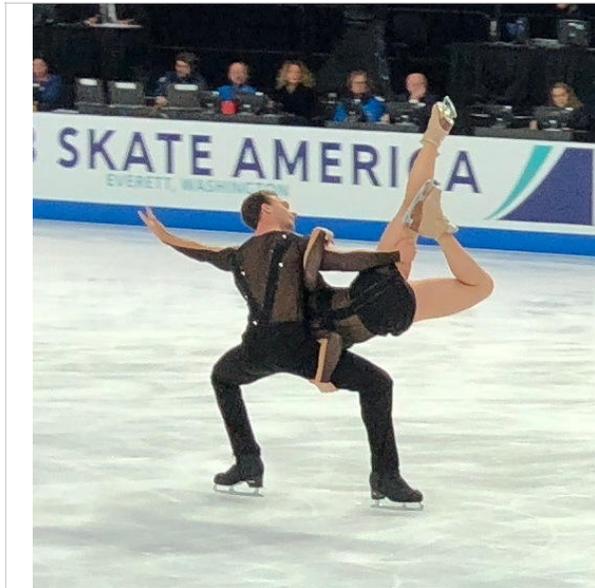
We landed about 13:45. Due to airport construction, we disembarked remotely and got bused to baggage claim. From there I took a bus to the car rental place. By the time I got on the road using my iPhone app Maps to navigate, it was about 15:00. It took more than an hour to get to my motel in Mukilteo because of rush hour. After checking into the TownPlace motel in Mukilteo, I drove to the Terracotta Red restaurant in Everett where I met Gordon Eklund for dinner. It had been a number of years since I'd seen him, so we had a lot to talk about.

After dinner, I found the Angel of the Winds Arena a mile or so down the road from the restaurant to attend Skate America. Skate America is the first of six international invitational competitions that are part of the ISU (International Skating Union) Grand Prix of Figure Skating. There are five other competitions in the series that all culminate in the Grand Prix Final in December. I found myself sitting next to another singleton, a Japanese American named Yuko who only became interested in figure skating after watching the Pyongchang Olympics. We made a tentative date to go to dinner together the next day. This evening's schedule had the pairs and men's short programmes.

Saturday, 20 October 2018, I left the motel about noon and parked at the county garage which is in the next block from the arena. One of the things I noticed because it was daytime was the beautiful fall colours; lots of red leaves. I was hungry, so I bought a hot dog and fries; there were a number of food concessions inside the arena. I let Yuko finish the chips, because it was too much for me. The pairs and men skated their long programmes. Russian pairs Evgenia Tarasova and Vladimir Morozov won gold; American pairs came in third, fourth, and sixth. American Nathan Chen got the gold in the men's contest. We left the arena after the men's medal ceremony and headed to a nearby Thai restaurant where we'd made reservations. The restaurant was overwhelmed. It took so long to be seated that most of the people who hadn't made reservations gave up. As it was we barely had time to eat. But we both had enough to feel full. At night the women and dance shorts were done. It was really foggy outside later.

The next day I left for the skating about 09:45. I parked at the county garage again. The skating started at 11:00. The medals for the dance and women's events were decided. Americans Madison Hubbell and Zachary Donohue won gold in dance. Ladies gold went to Satoko Miyahara of Japan; Americans were in fourth, sixth, and tenth

place. After the medal ceremonies, Yuko and I left to eat at the Thai place again because of its convenient location kitty corner from the arena. Because of the early hour, about 3:30 pm; the place was busy but manageable. We got seated almost right away. It took a while for orders to be taken and the food to arrive, but we had ample time to enjoy the meal. We even had dessert.



Dance



Ladies Medal Ceremony

The skating spectacular began at 18:15. A number of skaters entertained us. The show was done about 20:30. It took me a while to get out of the parking lot with so many people leaving at the same time. Driving was fairly quick since there was no fog.

Monday morning I checked out of the motel and drove to a gas station not too far from the airport. It was pretty foggy, so I couldn't go full speed all the way. My sister, Mimi, called about then to let me know she hadn't been able to park where she'd planned so was driving to the airport. Shortly after that I drove to the rental car return. From there I took the bus to the airport terminal. I called Mimi from there, and she managed to figure out a place to meet. After we found each other, we took my luggage to her car. Then we made our way to the light rail station. The ride to the Westlake station would take longer than our planned meeting time with Linda Deneroff, so I texted her to let her know. Linda is someone I see frequently at conventions; we met back in the mid-1970s. Shortly thereafter we found each other easily and walked to Il Fornaio, an Italian restaurant. We had a pleasant lunch. Linda and Mimi shared a pizza, and I had a Caesar salad.

After lunch we walked to Linda's office where we said good-bye to her and took the light rail from there back to Westlake, from where we took the monorail to Seattle Center where we went to the museum that has the Science Fiction Hall of Fame. We also saw the sf, fantasy, and horror exhibits. It was too foggy to bother with the Space Needle. Then we rode the monorail back to Westlake, took the light rail back to the airport, and got in Mimi's car to get dinner, which we had at Applebee's. We also took a short time out to shop at a Japanese store before going on to Mimi's house in Fife.

The next day we went to the Art Museum in Tacoma. It included a small Chihuly exhibit. We had lunch at a nearby restaurant. In the afternoon we went to the History Museum, which turned out to be very interesting. It wasn't so much what they had as the way things were organized. We were there until closing. We had dinner at Koharu, a Japanese restaurant.



On Wednesday Mimi drove me to the airport early and dropped me off at the American terminal. When I got to the counter, I was told to go to the Alaska Airlines counter since my flight was actually on Alaska. Fortunately it was just next to American. The flight to Sacramento was smooth. There was snack service. After I landed in Sacramento, I had to take a long walk to another terminal. The way was not clear, as there was little or poor signage. I had to go through security again. The plane to Phoenix boarded on time. I slept some on the flight. We landed on time. By the time Mike picked me up, it was about 19:00. The new route Mike is using took about ninety minutes, compared to two hours on the freeway, to get home.

\* \* \*

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

I hope to have some reviews next 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.

## MAILING COMMENTS ON STIPPLE-APA #328

**Jeanne Mealy (Quirky Bits):**  
Speaking of kids having been more "free range" in the past, someone in Oracle put up a sign during the

summer off-school season, "Free range kids. Drive carefully."

Was the Llama Costume Contest for people to dress up like llamas or for

people to make costumes out of llama wool?

**Erik Biever (Robot Feet):** Did you take time off from work to attend the state fair?

I used to have pretty good penmanship, especially after I learned calligraphy. Unfortunately I now have too much trouble with arthritis to hold a pen for any length of time, and it's a struggle to write legibly,

**Garth Spencer (Mission Creep #4):**

Dale Cozort runs excerpts from his fiction all the time, so I'm sure you may do the same.

**Jacky Boykin (Hollywood 101: the "Talk" of the Town):** Do tell what that "most comfortable bra" is.

**Lucy Schmeidler (Don't Ask #18):**

Type 1 diabetes is a lack of cells that produce insulin. In type 2 the body destroys the insulin that it produces; it's an autoimmune disease.

**Joyce Maetta Odum (Carefully to Tread):**

It seems so strange that I look for drought tolerant plants while you search for moisture tolerant flowers.

The rattlesnake in the photo I ran previously was just outside our living room window, and we were inside. A little later though as Mike was outside manoeuvring to get a good photo of something else, he almost stepped on a different rattler.



Here's a Mojave rattlesnake that was right in front of him.

**Bill Thomasson (Musings from the Gathering Dusk #26):**

Glad your cataract surgery went well.

**S. Rayne (Wight as Rayne):**

The panel "History of Online Fandom" covered everything from its beginning in newsgroups. I never really participated in newsgroups; I could never get the hang of how they worked. The first groups I participated in were the fora on CompuServe; then I didn't participate very much; there was more chaff than wheat, in my opinion. I had very little to add to what the other participants had to say.

\*\*\*\*\*

See you all in the November disty.

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**\* 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.

**Timothy Lane, timothyane51 at gmail dot com**

**22 September 2019**

Losing molars . . . in my case, they didn't even all come in. (I never was fond of milk, though I later made up for it by eating a lot of cheese.) I reached physical maturity with four primary teeth remaining. Since then three have rotted out, but I still have a badly chipped primary tooth remaining on the lower right side of the mouth. I often wonder what a forensic anthropologist would make of my bones.

((Not all my molars came in either—probably a good thing since I have a child-sized mouth.))

Over time teeth lost under bridges have cost me a lot of molars. I have none at all left on the upper right side of the mouth. Fortunately, I have no problem eating.

Those are some nice photos of your trip to all those missions. I read about Junipero Serra in grade school, which probably owes a great deal to my two years in a Catholic school in Greece.

((I learned about Junipero Serra in school as well; that would have been public school in Massachusetts. On the other hand that and the gold rush were about the only things I learned about California until I moved there.))

Given how far the Rocky Mountain states are above sea level, they wouldn't need any magic walls to protect them from flooding even in a worst case global warming aka climate change scenario. I read a novel once that involved a sand painting with links to Navajo culture. It may have been by Alan Dean Foster, but I'm not sure.

#

**David Bratman, dbratman at earthlink dot net**

**23 September 2019**

I was happy to see your California Mission report. I've been to all the missions at one time or another, so it was easy to picture your trip. I'm particularly glad you got to San Antonio – so few people do, as it's the most out-of-the-way of all the missions – and La Purisima. Those are the most well-preserved and/or authentically rebuilt.

((I've only been to nine of the missions.))

Berni's nephew was married in San Luis Obispo mission, near where he and his wife went to college at Cal Poly. That's the only mission I've attended a wedding in. I've attended concerts in at least six.

Berni and I visited the San Diego mission when we were down there for Mythcon this summer. Berni particularly liked the iconography and historical value.

#

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

**23 September 2019**

Beautiful photo of the mule deer, and I also love the picture of the Eagle nebula-- and Cato is so cute!

What a fun and lovely tour of the missions, etc. Thank you for the photos and the descriptions of everything. Oh, an olive oil tasting. That I'd love!

I haven't read or seen any of the reviewed novels or films, but I also enjoyed the other photos and illos and the Stipple comments and the LOCs, which always help me catch up with people.

Btw, Pemberley, my tortoiseshell cat, is tapping me as I type to tell me that she wants me to throw another paper toy for her. (I keep crumpled paper toys in a drawer in the computer desk.) Hey, keep those claws sheathed!



#

**Cathy Palmer-Lister, cathypl at sympatico dot ca**

**25 September 2019**

Thanks! I share your zine on the MonSFFA site.

((I believe MonSSFA is the Montreal Science Fiction and Fantasy Association .))

#

**Robert Kennedy, robertk at cipcug dot org**

**27 September 2019**

Thank you for #69.

Great Cover. Being that I am a cat person (despite not having a cat here), the cat photos were also enjoyed. If a cat got loose in this building, it might never be seen again. I did

notice a note taped to one of the resident's door that asked to keep the door shut so the cat would not get out.

Excellent report on your California missions trip. I did a somewhat similar trip many years ago. Outstanding photos. You stopped in San Simeon and had lunch; but no tour of Hearst Castle? I've done three tours of Hearst Castle and you really missed something. The "pier" in Santa Barbara where you had lunch at the Moby Dick restaurant has a name—Stearns Wharf. On November 18, 1998, there was a massive fire on Stearns Wharf and Moby Dick burned down as well as a large portion of the wharf from the restaurant to the end of the wharf. My brother (John) and I drove up there and it was a real mess. Thankfully the damage was repaired and Moby Dick reopened. I have a wonderful T-shirt with the fire and destroyed Moby Dick depicted on the reverse. One of the many things I miss since moving here to Idaho is going to Santa Barbara and having lunch on Stearns Wharf at Moby Dick. Then walking the wharf, looking into the shops, and finally having two or three scoops of chocolate chip ice cream at the ice cream store.

((I have been to the Hearst Castle a couple of times .))

My comment about the scallop (singular) was meant as a joke and had a Smiley Face. But the Smiley Face apparently didn't make it to my letter that you printed.

((Sorry, I missed the smiley face.))

In my comment about the punctuation book *Eat's, Shoots & Leaves* by Lynne Truss, I might have been clearer concerning the title. A panda is in a café and eats a sandwich. As he is leaving he draws a gun and fires two shots. The waiter wants to know why so the panda gives him a book. The entry in the book says concerning a panda: "Large black-and-white bear-like mammal. Native to China. Eats, shoots and leaves." An obvious comma insertion that doesn't belong. One has to be careful about inserting or not inserting commas which is sometimes apparently a problem of mine.

((Just so. Thanks for the clarification; I have not read the book.))

#

**John Hertz, 236 S Coronado St #409, Los Angeles CA 90057**

**25 September 2019**

((He included comments on #65. He couldn't remember whether he wrote before.))

About *The Sword of Rhiannon*, fairness seems to require remarking it isn't fantasy. It looks like one at first under "sufficiently advanced technology..."

I think SF and "future studies" radically different. SF isn't in the business of predicting the future, a misapprehension that hounds us.

Hadn't realized you were close to Tucson. Have you been attending Tuscon? I've seen a Tuscon XLVI webpage that announces no Fan Guest of Honor. This troubles me.

((We're an exurb of Tucson, although we're in the next county over. I have been to a few Tuscons and have mentioned that fact in my zine. I just checked the Tuscon web site, and there are guests of honour mentioned but no one I'm familiar with. I usually go when a guest I'm interested in is in attendance. Sometimes, if convenient, I stop by on Saturday evening to attend the birthday party of two friends.

((Being so close to Tucson, I have two library cards, one for each of the two adjacent counties.))

You mention Ctein's writing. I'm a big fan of his *Saturn Run* (2016) with John Sandford. Maybe you saw my interview with Ctein in *File 770* #166.

I've read D. D. Levine's "Arabella" books, and I've known him for years (as perhaps you have too). Never heard him read. If as you say he's nearly as good as H. Ellison, that's wonderful.

My Spikecon report is at [file770.com/spikecon-spoonfuls/](http://file770.com/spikecon-spoonfuls/).

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**I Also Heard From: Alan White, Amy Harlib, Tom Feller, and Ray Nelson (who sent a fillo)**

\* \* \*

**\* Closing Remarks**

Next time I hope to have a report of our trip to this year's Spikecon that combined Westercon, Nasfic, 1632 Minicon, and Manticon.

Deadline for next issue is expected to be on or about 7 November 2019.

*Laurraine*

*1 October 2019*