

Purrsonal Mewsings #92



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 twelve weeks or so.

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PURRS **SINGS**

#92

September 2024

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

[] 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

My new time management system seems to be working well. I'm reading more than I have in years. I'm keeping up with the few correspondents that I have.

After a dry spring, monsoon season was pretty good and is winding down. July was our hottest month, but we only had three days that topped 100°F, and that only by tenths of a degree. As September progresses, it is cooling down.

* * *

* Kritter Korner

I've been taking Cato out for the occasional walk. He seems to enjoy it unless he becomes bothered by the barking of dogs or strangers in or near our yard. One time he became distressed when a coyote was close by. Another time I discovered that we were standing next to a rattlesnake. You can bet I got him away from there in a hurry.

My cover photo is of a rattlesnake that I noticed as I was topping up birdbaths. If it hadn't moved, I might not have noticed it. As Mike was with me that day, I had him take the photo. The snake was in a crevice in a retaining wall right near a birdbath. It probably found it a convenient place to trap birds. In all I've had four rattlesnake sightings this summer. Except for the one on the cover, I was with Cato; so I was in too much of a hurry to get him out of danger to take a photo.

* * *

* Astronomy

Since I didn't have much of an astronomy section last time, here are some interesting photos taken this year.

We had a couple of interesting sights back in May. There was unusual activity on our Sun that created aurorae all over the world, even at the equator. Those of us with dark cloudless skies were treated to them (see next page).

The same month Mike managed to take a photo of a comet (see next page).

In July we were treated to the launch of the Firefly Aerospace Alpha rocket from Vandenberg. When the launches occur just at the right time shortly after sunset, we can see them.



Firefly Aerospace Alpha rocket from



Vandenberg



Also in July Mike took a couple of very nice nebula photos.



Lagoon Nebula



Triffid Nebula



* * *

*** From Where I Sit:** My Opinions, Views, Etc. about Books, Plays, Movies, etc.

Tokyo Vice, two-season series on Max.

This series is based on a book written in 2009 by the main character, Jake Adelstein, in the series. It stars Ansel Elgort, who played the part of Tony in the remake of *West Side Story*. The other main actors are Ken Watanabe, Rachel Keller, Hideaki Itō, Show Kasamatsu, Ella Rumpf, Rinko Kikuchi, Tomohisa Yamashita, Miki Maya, and Yōsuke Kubozuka. It is mostly in English and Japanese and a bit of Korean, so there are subtitles.

I found it excellent.

The book details Adelstein’s experience as an investigative reporter working for a Japanese newspaper. Eventually he had to leave the country to save his own life. The book is an “engrossing, troubling look at crime and human exploitation in Japan”, according to Kirk’s Reviews.

I have not yet read the book, so I can’t speak to the series’ faithfulness to the book.

From reading some Internet articles, it appears that character names were changed. The book, presumably, and the series, reveals a lot to the viewer about the Yakuza, a Japanese gangster organization, somewhat like the Mafia.

I highly recommend the series, except to the very squeamish. There's a lot of violence.

#

The Shrink Next Door, mini series on Apple TV starring Will Ferrell as Marty and Paul Rudd as Ike.

This is a critique, so I will be giving a lot of details.

SPOILER ALERT!

This series is based on true events. It's about the relationship between a client and a psychiatrist. When Marty Markowitz started seeing Dr. Isaac "Ike" Herschkopf, Marty's life was under a lot of pressure. He was grieving the loss of his parents and trying to run the family fabric company. Things started out well.

But Herschkopf started taking over Marty's life and remaking it the way Ike thought Marty should live. He started out gradually insinuating himself into Marty's life. Marty was easy to push around. Soon Ike was living in Marty's house and pretending it was his. It was difficult to watch this middle part, and I did it one episode at a time.

(An aside to explain the way I watch TV. Since early this year, I've been streaming everything. I have a list of shows I like, and they are in alphabetical order. When I watched one episode of this show, it would be two to four weeks before I got back to it. One other detail—I generally watch about one hour at a time during my three meals.)

I studied psychology in college and at one time had thoughts of becoming a therapist. One thing a therapist should never do is insinuate himself into a patient's life. When I saw what Ike was doing, I found the show uncomfortable to watch. Once I reached episode 6 and the ending was in sight, I watched the last three episodes in quick succession.

Marty was under Ike's thumb for almost three decades. Marty didn't have a forceful personality and was easy to push around. Ike did this in such an underhanded way that Marty didn't know what was happening. It wasn't until he was in hospital after a routine surgery and Ike never visited him that Marty started to anger. Eventually Ike lost his licence to practice in New York.

Can you imagine? Ike took away three decades of Marty's life! The show made me angry with Ike. He had other victims too.

On the other hand, it was an excellent look at how a psychiatrist can go wrong.

END SPOILER ALERT.

The actors were excellent in their parts. The story was first revealed by one of Marty's neighbours. The story was originally publicized as a YouTube show.

#

WeCrashed, one-season mini-series on Apple TV, starring Anne Hathaway and Jared Leto.

This is probably of interest to people like me interested in the financial world and fans of the actors. Possibly you've heard of WeWork, a company founded by Adam Neumann, that provides office space for other companies. He seemed to know how to get people with money to invest. Anne Hathaway plays his wife. The company grew and

grew until it looked great on paper, unless you looked closely. In fact some of his colleagues from almost the beginning kept telling Neumann that they were bleeding money. Eventually reality caught up with Neumann, and he lost the CEO position. This doesn't mean he ended up a pauper. The investment world doesn't necessarily work that way. However he got a lot less than he bargained for. The company still exists. It became public after the brouhaha with Neumann.

I was interested because of having followed the business news. Neumann is/was like one of those slick door to door salesmen that used to knock on many of our doors. Maybe he did what he did just to see how much he could get away with. The show wasn't about his inner psychology. I found it a bit slow until the last few episodes.

#

The Me You Can't See, a mini-series on Apple TV jointly produced by Prince Harry and Oprah Winfrey.

This is a documentary that discusses mental health. Prince Harry has had his share of psychological stresses, and Oprah Winfrey has experienced it second-hand because of women she has helped to attend college. They also interviewed a number of other people around the world with mental health issues. The discussion involves the topic of difficulty some people have finding caregivers. A lot depends on location, and not everyone can afford to travel to get treatment. It is hoped that the show will shine a spotlight on the problem.

#

The Skin of Our Teeth by Thornton Wilder, presented by the Rogue Theatre in Tucson.

I first saw this play in high school, but this version seemed very different. Either my memory is really rotten, or the high school version was highly edited. One thing I know for sure, there were no dinosaurs, but we had a caveman. I remembered the high school version as being funny. This version was definitely not funny, at least not overall. As the story went, there were many funny spots.

The play is basically the story of mankind. The parental figures are called Mr. and Mrs. Antrobus. They represent mankind from the earliest days. There are three main events: the Ice Age, Noah's flood, and war. The play was first presented less than a year after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Wilder was trying to inject some optimism into the country.

Today with the kinds of things besetting the world, the play seems much grimmer.

It was excellently done by the Rogue Theatre company and other actors. One audience member especially applauded the performance of Jacob Toole, who is a high school senior. He played several roles.

* * *

* **CoKoCon**

CoKoCon was in Tempe in early September 2023. Tempe is a suburb of Phoenix. It only takes a couple of hours from home to drive there. It was held at a Doubletree hotel. As many of you may know, Doubletree hotels give away free cookies. This one had

gluten free ones, so I took them. The hotel has a conference centre in a separate building. My hotel room was about halfway between the lobby and the conference centre. Masks were required by the con. The hotel restaurant was quite good.

I ran into author Jim Doty, whom I had met at the 2022 Loscon. He lives in Oro Valley, where Mike and I lived while we were building our house.

The first event I attended was a presentation called “Animations of andyvanoverberghe”: he showed examples of his varied animation work. (see photo below)



Then I attended “Opening Ceremonies”: Seanan McGuire was the Author GoH. Bruce Davis was the Local Author GoH. Andy VanOverberghe was the Artist GoH. Margaret & Kristoph were the Filk GoHs. (See photo below)



After that I attended the panel “Extraterrestrial Biology”. It was presented by Bruce Davis (see photo below), a trauma surgeon by day, and author Dani Hoots. It was pretty much agreed that carbon was probably the basis for most life.

Dinner was about 20:30 at the hotel's lounge. Bruce Davis and I were invited to join Jim Doty and his wife, who were done eating but were interested in conversation. Dinner was quite good as was the conversation.

Afterward we went to the Drag Show (see photo below), which was mediocre to really good, depending on the act. I got to bed about 00:45.



The next day was Saturday, 2 September 2023.

I had breakfast about 07:45 in the Milagros hotel restaurant. As I was leaving my table, I met Bruce Davis and ended up in a long and interesting conversation that only ended when programming was about to start.

I went to see the presentation “Creating Art with Lasers, Light, and Geometry” with andyvanoverberghe.

Then there was a “Sketch Off” with Lorelei Esther, Gilead, Jon LeMond, and andyvanoverberghe in which the audience suggested a theme, and each artist had to draw something on the spot.

I skipped lunch and just had a snack bar sometime in the vicinity of noon.

Then I attended the presentation “SF Tube Talk” with Lee Whiteside. With all the streaming services it's become trickier to keep track of all the shows and where they can be seen.

Lee Whiteside also did “Doctor Who 60th Anniversary”. I started watching the show

in the 1970s when it started being shown on PBS stations around the country. I had briefly seen an earlier episode in Britain and thought that it was just a silly kid's show. After I returned home from Britain, though, I became homesick for Britain; and *Doctor Who* was one way to connect.

Then there was "Meet the Guests" with Bruce Davis, Margaret Davis, Michael Flanders, Kristoph Klover, Seanan McGuire, and Andyvanoverberghe.

The Ice Cream Social was out on the patio. I met a couple of cute long- and medium-haired dachshunds.

After that I went to the panel "How Science Influences SF Stories" with Bruce Davis, J. L. Doty, and Gideon Marcus. (See photo below)



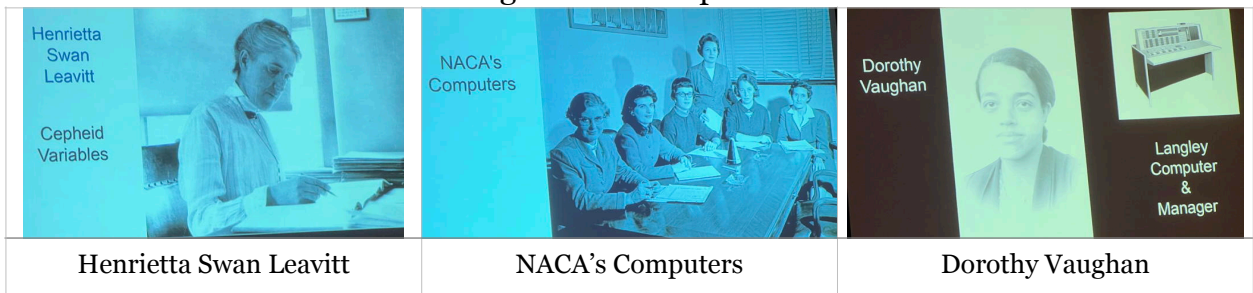
"LGBTQ+ in SF/F/H Literature" with Tom Chronin, Seanan McGuire, SD Simper, and Cynthia Ward was of some interest, though I don't really read much of the writing that was discussed. It seemed mostly to be fantasy, which isn't really my cup of tea.

Dinner was about 21:00. I had a variation on a cheeseburger.

On Sunday I got to breakfast about 07:45 and was joined by Bruce Davis.

Afterward I went to programming, but neither of the two programmes I was interested in happened. So I returned to my room and updated my spreadsheets. Eventually I went to "Spotlight on Bruce Davis" and learned even more about him than I had by talking to him.

"The Women Pioneers of Space Science" was presented by Gideon Marcus. It was about the "hidden figures" in the dawn of space from Henrietta Leavitt to Katherine Johnson. There were a lot more of them. Too bad I don't videotape programming any more. This one would have been a good one to tape.



There was no time for lunch.

“What Have Our GoHs Been Up To?” featured Margaret Davis, Kristoph Klover, and Seanan McGuire”, who have known each other for a long time. Seanan is also a filker. We learned more about them.

At “Spotlight on Seanan McGuire”: we learned even more about her. For any readers not acquainted with her, she also writes science fiction and horror as Mira Grant. The first book I read by her was *Feed*, a science fiction version of zombies. That was the first book in a trilogy, and I read the entire series. More recently she wrote *Into the Drowning Deep*, a rather gruesome interpretation of mermaids.

I took a short break for a snack and joined fans Patrick and Chris, his wife.

Then I attended most of “The Appeal of Found Families in SF” with Bruce Davis, Gideon Marcus, and Seanan McGuire. I asked about the new *Quantum Leap*, but none of them had seen it. And, unfortunately it only lasted a couple of seasons.

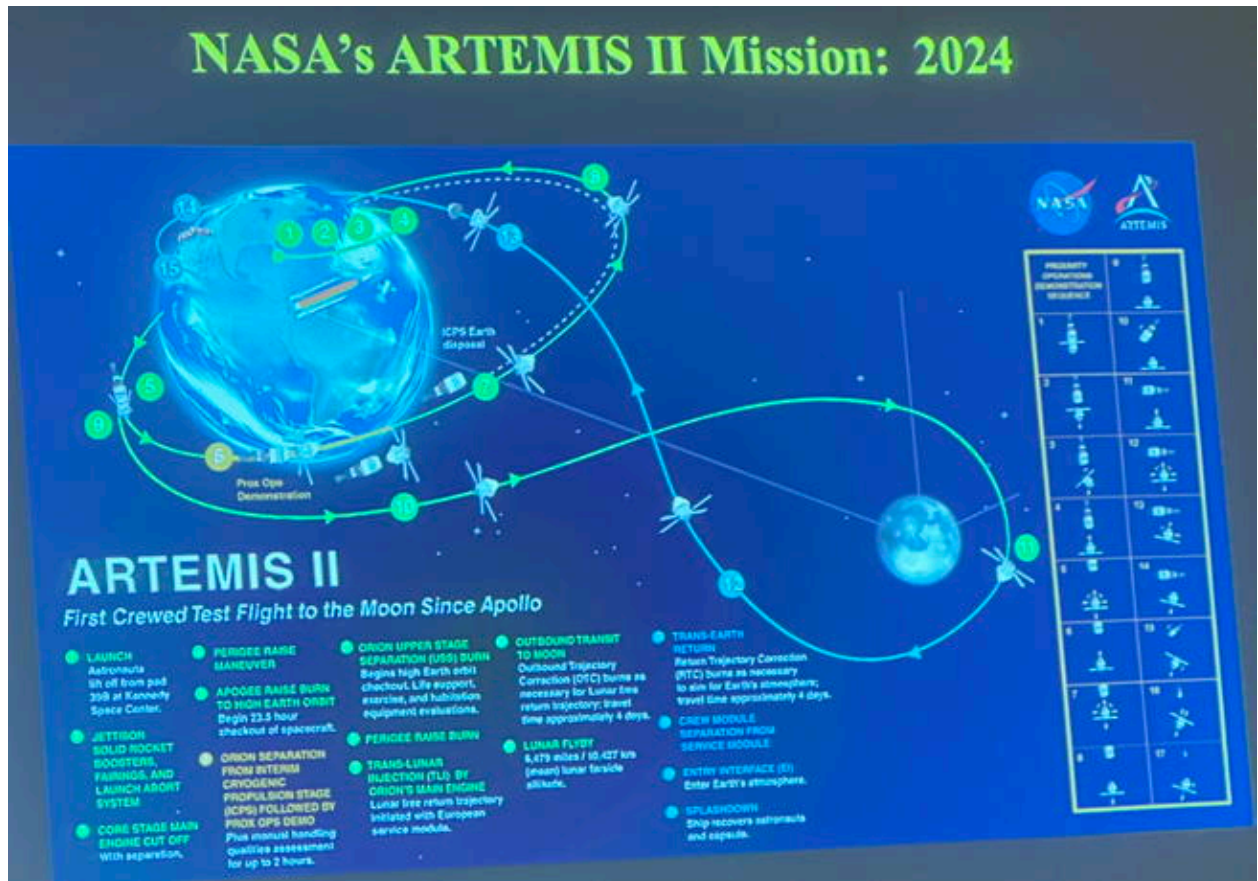
The last programme item I attended was “Mike’s Book Club” about *Uncommon Stars* by Ryka Aoki, but not enough people who had read the book attended, so I left and got dinner.

I had dinner with Bruce Davis about 20:30. We had a great and varied conversation.

On the final day, Monday, I had breakfast about 08:00 and was joined by Bruce Davis.

My first event was “*Babylon 5* 30th Anniversary” presented by Lee Whiteside.

Then I attended “Return to the Moon! Artemis!” with David Williams of Arizona



State University. As we all know this mission has been delayed.

“Book Talk” was a panel with Seanan McGuire, S. D. Simper, and Jenn Windrow.

I sat down to lunch about 14:15 and was joined by Bruce Davis.

The guests and various people who worked the con were thanked at the “Closing Ceremonies”. It was also announced that the convention may continue in a new form in future.

* * *

* 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.

Trinlay Khadro, 1734 S 56th St, West Allis, WI 53214

13 July 2024

Yes! We had a 98% coverage eclipse in April. I didn’t have the ability to photograph the eclipse but got a few photos of Sis and my mascot plushies wearing the glasses and having fun. Also Timber, Mom’s cat, was puzzled and concerned with humans “acting weird”.

Lucy Schmeidler: great poem! Cato is a Good Boy and Mighty Hunter.

Jeanne Mealy: Thanks for mentioning the bat in the lead wall. I had also encountered that story: it involves 1) a type of bat being tracked and trapped in South America that is not found in the wild in South America (fairly common in North America), 2) a researcher who appears in no other literature/publications (unlikely) but a name “similar” to a bat scientist, who when contacted and read said article said “Oh, that’s not me and that’s crazy” and laughed hard, 3) absolutely insane amount of lead for the wall “trap”, 4) bat supposedly found in the lead wall via x-ray, and 5) the only source for the story is the Museum of Jurassic Technology (a “dime museum/cabinet of curiosity” in California. On the plus side, the “museum” looks like fun; so if I ever get out that way, I’ll have to take a day to see it!

((I’ve been to the “museum”, which is located in Culver City. It’s sort of like the Ripley’s Believe It or Not museums.))

Re: various folks with banks and fee issues. I’ve used a credit union for nearly three decades now. I’d never go back to a bank.

((The reason we used a bank until about a year ago, is because it was handy, offered a great deal for seniors, and there were no credit unions near us. That changed a number of years ago, and we are now with a credit union again.))

I really appreciate reading about your garden, wildlife, Cato, and your travels. There are so many places I'd love to go to—blocked by economics and disability. Australia and New Zealand sound wonderful. (I should drop a line to Lyn McConchie.) And another eclipse! Nifty! Quokka are adorable.

I'm getting ready for Teslacon (November), making critters and working on a design for a crocheted parrot. I think I have it mostly figured out.

#

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

15 July 2024

Anita and I once saw a stage adaptation of *The Iliad*, Book 1. The actors were in World War II costumes and the scenery was minimal. I remember enjoying it.

#

Lloyd Penney, penneys at bell dot net

4 Aug 2024

Thank you for issue 91 of *Purrsonal Mewsings*...it is always a busy time, so much happening right about now. Fanzines have been pushed to the side a little bit, so I have to choose my time carefully to get back into things. Here's a LoC for you...

There are so many television streaming services available to us, but we subscribe to none of them. We don't watch much TV, never have, for the reasons in the first paragraph...just not enough time. Years ago, I did buy a lifetime membership with a service that allows us to download from YouTube, and we have seen lots of documentaries and other programmes that we like. Best money spent in quite a while.

((We get Max free from AT&T, from whom we buy our phone service and Internet. Max shows most things that are shown on HBO and also other things. I don't want you to get the idea that I spend a lot of time watching TV. I watch an average of three hours a day during meals. Mike watches the NBC *Nightly News* on weekdays, NFL football, and coverage of the Indy 500.))

Ah, you've read *ESPionage: Regime Change* by Frank Wu and Tom Easton. I was the editor on that book. We are currently working with Tom on the sequel. I found out that Tom recently celebrated his 80th birthday, and he had been a member of SFWA for more than 50 years. The sequel is looking good...

We'd love to get to Australia, but a lottery win would be the only way we'd get there. We'd love to meet up with Bruce Gillespie and LynC, and as many other Ozfans as we could see. Hello, Jeanne Mealy! Wonderful to see you and chat with you at the Buffalo NASFiC. More on the NASFiC later.

The eclipse...true to form, it was too cloudy to truly see it, but we did feel it. Light levels dropped noticeably, as did the temperature. Not much to experience, but we were able to see lots of TV footage of the event.

Loscon 50...we have our flights arranged, plus our room, and we have offered to help with set-up and do some programming, and we will work for our memberships. We are looking forward to this 50th convention, historic in many ways.

Rich Dengrove...the boilerplate of legal wording is a language unto itself. Yvonne knows how to employ it well, given her legal training; and we both think an English/legalese translation app would be a marvellous thing.

And now, the NASFiC...we headed down to the Buffalo NASFiC first thing the first day. We had arranged for a table in the dealers' room for *Amazing Stories*, where we would be selling books and back issues of *AS*. And we were honest as we could be at the border crossing about what we were doing. We had a table and a City of Buffalo vendor's permit, and we were directed over to secondary...we got across to them that we had an American-based magazine, and we were going to an American convention to to sell this American product to an American convention full of American members. Yet because we were Canadian citizens, we were somehow taking American jobs away; and we were almost directed back to Canada. However we had given them a copy of the convention flyer, and there was one word they understood...volunteer. They decided to let us go, but we'd better not do this again. Believe me, next time we go across the border, we're gonna lie through our teeth!

The convention was a great time; we spent most of our time in the dealers' room; we saw so many old friends, hit a number of parties, and our sales were good for such a small convention. We'd heard attendance was just over 400, making it one of the smallest NASFiCs on record. Still, a great time, and even with a small group; Wayne Brown and committee did a great job. The Buffalo Hyatt Regency was quite comfortable, and we kinda rattled around in the Buffalo Convention Centre down the street, but our weekend was most enjoyable.

I think I will cut things short here, there's not much time to get other things done. Thank you for this issue, and I always look forward to the next.

#

We Also Heard From: Mary Manchester

* * *

*** Closing Remarks**

I'm finishing this up as Autumn is about to start officially. The weather is already headed in that direction. I have a rather full schedule before my next issue in December. We have an event sponsored by Indiana University, two conventions, and one more play

play in the play series I subscribe to.
See you all next time.

Laurraine