

Purrsonal Mewsings #97



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 three months or so.

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#97

June 2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Editorial / Introduction—p. 2
Kritter Korner—p. 2
Astronomy—p. 2
Thoughts—p. 3
Loscon 2025—p. 4
Gallifrey One—p. 7
Letters—p. 10
Closing Remarks—p. 15

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* Editorial / Introduction

Spring began with only trace amounts of rain.

My exercise programme hit a snag in April as I came down with some kind of virus, possibly a stomach bug that had me down for more than two weeks. During that time I was also diagnosed with sciatica, albeit a mild case. The prednisone that was prescribed also helped with tight muscles in my right neck and shoulders.

Our household suffered some problems. We replaced some faucets because of leakage. Our kitchen refrigerator died, and we had to get a new one. Then my microwave died, and we had to replace that as well Mike's, which had died some months ago. Finally our water pump sprang a leak and has to be replaced; our area has inadequate water pressure. Along the way I also replaced our H2O Concepts water purifier.

This issue contains the report on last year's Loscon and this year's Gallifrey One.

* * *

* Kritter Korner

Since last issue, we haven't managed a lot of good wildlife photos.

Our camera trap managed a photo of a hooded oriole. Like hummingbirds, they are attracted to sweet nectar.

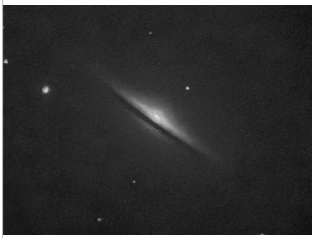
On one of his observing nights, Mike managed to snap a photo of a grasshopper on the observatory roof.



* *

* Astronomy

Mike managed to get some nice iPhone photos of objects in the sky.

			
Cigar Galaxy	Eskimo Nebula	Sombrero Galaxy	Whirlpool Galaxy

* * *

*** Thoughts:** My Opinions, Views, Etc. about Books, Plays, Movies, etc.

Jane: a Film by Brett Morgen, Disney+, 2017.

This was a very good film about Jane Goodall based on footage taken of her during her early days with other footage added. She became interested in animals at an early age and was an eager recruit when asked by palaeontologist Louis Leakey to research chimpanzees in Gombe Stream National Park in Tanzania. Based on her field studies, she later enrolled at Cambridge for her PhD. She studied the Gombe chimpanzees for many years. While she was at Gombe, she married Hugo van Lawick, a Dutch wildlife photographer. They had a son named after the father. When Hugo left Gombe to work elsewhere, the couple were divorced. Jane later married Derek Bryceson, who died of cancer in 1980. After doing much field research, Jane became a speaker about her research. She also became an advocate for animal conservation.

The film focussed on her early life and later life. There was a lot that I hadn't known about.

#

The Tempest, Rogue Theatre, 2026.

This was the best production of the play I've ever seen. Possibly this was because of the way the production seemed to place the audience in the middle of the action. The acting was excellent. This may have also been a more complete version of the play than I've seen before.

#

Sinners, BluRay (from library), 2025.

I watched this, because it's nominated for the Hugos. It's a vampire story with an overlay of race relations. It's historical, probably about a hundred years ago. It takes place in the southern United States. It wasn't really my type of movie. For one thing, there weren't any characters I identified with.

* * *

* Loscon 2025

Thursday, 27 November 2025, Mike drove me to the Tuscon International Airport. I had lunch there though it was early, since I had no idea when I'd have a chance to eat again.

The flight to LA was pretty short. The wait for the hotel shuttle was pretty long. By the time I got to the LAX Hilton, I was starving. I found an adequate second lunch. Then I found the convention registration table, but the room to get my participant ribbon wasn't yet open. I ran into Robbie Bourget and had a conversation with her. Wandering back to the lobby, which was decorated for the holidays, I found LASFS member Hare Hobbs. We talked for a while, then I found Larry Niven and friend; we talked at great length about many different things. After that I talked with Linda Deneroff and her friend for a while.



After taking care of a few odds and ends back in my room, I went back down for dinner and found Jim and Karen Doty and joined them at the bar. At some point I discovered I didn't have my purse with me, not that I needed it! Later we were joined by Norm Cooper, whom I had first met at a job. We kept yakking just about forever.

Eventually we left the restaurant and moved to some comfortable seating in the lobby. Jim retired, but the rest of us continued for a while. Karen eventually retired, but



Norm and I continued talking for a while. After I retired, Norm got more to drink. I got to sleep about 23:00.

The next day, I got down to breakfast about 07:15 and was later joined by Arizona fan Mike Wilmoth.

After breakfast I went up to collect my programme participant ribbon and name tent. However it turned out that I was too early, and I waited until the material arrived late. There were also useful maps of the programming floors. I also went to the green room and picked up two Kind bars and talked with several other programme participants.

At 11:30 I attended a presentation about “The Ecology of Space Settlement” by Jane Shevtsov. As I understood it the talk was based on her PhD thesis. It covered the basics of ecology excellently.

Then I went to “How Los Angeles Revolutionised Astronomy”, another solo presentation by Varoujan Gorjian. His talk included mentions of Mount Wilson and the Griffith Observatory.

I had my first panel at 14:30 with six other presenters, five of which were Lauren Cipollo, Robin Rose Graves, Matt Conant (M), and Kyle Aisteach. There was one other whose name did not appear on the programme. We took turns discussing such questions as whether we enjoyed reading/writing dystopian fiction. Whether we enjoyed living through today’s dystopian situation. Also whether we had a favourite dystopian fiction. Personally I try to avoid such books--too depressing, especially in today's political climate.

Next I attended the panel “Science and Engineering of *The Expanse* with Kryss Blackwood (M), Stacy Meyn, Melora Larson, and one other.

After that I went to “Opening Ceremonies”, where the guests were introduced. The writer guest of honour was Ursula Vernon/T Kingfisher, artist guest of honour was Benton Jew, the music guest of honour was Lynn Gold, and the fan guest of honour was Tadao Tomomatsu.

I took a dinner break about 17:30 and went to the main restaurant. I had an espresso martini and haddock but was unable to finish. On my way out I noticed the Dotys and Norm in a different section of the restaurant and joined them for conversation. They had wanted me to be in their party, but we never saw each other earlier in the day.

We all went to the ice cream social, where I saw Craig Miller and Genny Dazzo, Matthew Pepper, and others. I left shortly after 20:00 to attend “Tadao Talk, a Basic Q&A”. Fortunately he was late arriving, so I didn’t miss anything. Finally I attended parties, including Elst Weinstein’s wine and cheese party, the Loscon party (where I signed up for next year), and a few others. It was after midnight when I returned to my room. I got to bed about 01:00.

I went down to breakfast Saturday morning about 07:30 and joined Tadao, who insisted on treating me. We were later joined by two convention workers, whose names I've forgotten.

After breakfast I grabbed some snacks in the green room for a later lunch on the run, then went to my first panel that started at 10:00. It was "How Do We Get Our Stories?" with Cynthia Ward, J. L. Doty, Victor Ciccarelli (M), Steven Silver, Dave Smeds, and me. The panel went well.

Then I took a lunch break and had yogurt, a Kind bar, and a piece of chocolate.

After that I went to my second panel, which was "Future Tech Today" with Kryss Blackwood, Robert A. G. Rankin (M), Steve Gillet, G. David Nordley, Hugh S. Gregory III, and me. Gregory had a tendency to monopolize the discussion, and our moderator was on the weak side. After that I attended two events featuring Tadao: "How Would You Explain a Stargate?" and "Interview with Tadao Tomomatsu" conducted by Michael Siladi.

Afterward I chatted with Norm Cooper and the Dotys until I met Cheryl Kaylor for dinner. She graciously treated me.

At night I went up to the party floor for a while. I got to meet Rick Sternbach. I chatted with a few other people, but I felt too tired and returned to my room about 22:30.

I got down to breakfast Sunday about 07:30. I moved over to Tadao's table after being spotted by Sherri Benoun and him. Sherri kindly gave me two persimmons and guavas from her parents' yard.

The first panel I attended was "Interview with Ursula Vernon/T. Kingfisher by Nick Smith". During the interview I discovered that this author created the *Digger* cartoon series that I liked. Then I took some time to look over the dealers room. After that I went to John Hertz's discussion about *Martians, Go Home* by Fredric Brown.

I took a lunch break in the Green Room.

This was followed by a presentation by LASFS member Charlie Jackson about movies that are sf but are usually labelled as something else. After that was Closing Ceremonies.

About 18:00 I met up with the Dotys and Norm Cooper for dinner, which we ate in the bar restaurant. Our waiter was almost a spitting image of Eddie Redmayne and seemed to enjoy being compared to him.

After dinner I briefly returned to my room to shed some weight from my shoulder bag. Then I went to the Dead Dog, where I talked with Carol, who is a friend of Larry Niven, and a few others. I returned to my room after 22:00 and started packing before

retiring about 22:45.

I got up early Monday morning but not early enough to get breakfast before heading to the airport. The line of people waiting to get a shuttle ride to the airport was humongous. I thought I might eat at the airport, but lines were impossibly long and made it difficult to check menus. So I just got a peppermint hot chocolate at Starbucks to tide me over. The flight went quickly, partly because I dosed a bit. Mike picked me up fairly promptly.

* * *

*** Gallifrey One 2026**

Gallifrey One is very different from the usual sf con. It's much more like the professionally run Star Trek cons I'm familiar with. However, it is fan run; the difference is that they partner with a professional group that sponsors the guests.

Thursday, 5 February 2026, I had to drive myself to the airport, because Mike wasn't feeling up to it. I left home an hour later than I technically should have, according to all the published rules. However I still arrived at the airport in plenty of time for my flight to LAX. My seat mate was a teacher's teacher and was flying home to Detroit. We chatted for a bit. Then I read; I'd brought a book club selection with me. At LAX I took a shuttle to the LAX Marriott.

I had lunch about 14:30 at Hangar 18. The restaurant where the European waitress used to work seemed to be closed for the weekend; I found out later that it was open for lunch and dinner.

After a rest in my room, which seemed fine except the bathroom sink was a bit high for comfort, I went down to registration. I managed to kill a lot of time talking with various people, first a couple of guys who have been lifelong friends and from Phoenix, a woman who gave me a ribbon, and a couple from Sacramento. Then I went to the ice cream social.

For dinner I sat down about 20:45 at Hangar 18.

I went down to breakfast about 08:45 on Friday and joined Michael Siladi, Alison, and another friend of theirs; it's enjoyable to have company for a meal. It's unfortunate that breakfast is limited to a buffet. The Marriott used to serve a nice sit-down breakfast.

After breakfast I attended the interview for Frazier Hines (who played Jamie) and Michael Troughton (the second Doctor Who). Then I was able to sign up for alternate spots on kaffee klatches for David Gerrold and Frazier Hines. Then I made a start on looking through the art show. After that I started my tour of the dealers room and met Teri Sears, a Facebook friend, who says we met in an APA, which she later identified as StippleAPA. Shortly after that I ran into Tom Stern, who told me that Marina was

resting.

Then I attended the interviews of Agyeman Freeman and Peter Davison, who pretty much looked unchanged. Davison's current wife also joined him. After that I attended an interview of Matthew Waterhouse (Adric) in a smaller, colder room; he is largely unchanged except for his hair, which is now white.

After a short break I attended an interview of Sarah Sutton (companion) and Mark



Strickson. I had the chance to tell him afterwards that he had succeeded in making me hate his character (Turlough); he seemed pleased. Then I finished my rounds in the art show and dealer's room; I remedied my oversight of getting a photo of Terri Sears.

Lunch was about 16:30, and I had a cheeseburger sans bun.

On my way out of the restaurant, I saw Peter Davison sitting around a table in the lobby with his wife, Mark Strickson, and one other; so I took the opportunity to let him know he was my favourite of the original Doctor Who run, that I was watching the original *All Creatures Great and Small*, that I saw him in *Kiss Me Kate* ("Great Performances") on TV recently, and how I learned a lot about his family from watching the show David Tennant did with Michael Sheehan during the COVID lockdown. Of course I learned even more from the interview earlier in the day. I also took a photo of a man costumed as the Colin Baker Doctor Who, because his resemblance to the original was uncanny.

Back in my room I read a bit.

Just after 20:00 I went to Kevin Roche's party on the first floor (below the lobby). I

had one vodka cocktail then water after and grabbed some snacks that would serve later as a small dinner.

I talked to DeLana, whom I had met on the airport shuttle, for a while. Then I had an interesting conversation with a trans woman originally from southern England. Lastly I had an extended conversation with Lisa from Palo Alto. By that time, my energy was flagging and returned to my room, where I finished my dinner while I read a couple of chapters in my book before getting ready for bed. I got to bed about 23:45.

I didn't get down to breakfast Saturday until after 08:00, but I found Alison and joined her. Michael came down a bit later and stayed after Alison left. He told me Jim and Melody Rondeau had a dealer's table.

I successfully located Jim and Melody Rondeau and chatted with them until their sales activity got too busy.

I sat for a while catching up with e-mail until the time approached for the kaffeeklatsch with Frazier Hines. He's only half Scottish and doesn't have the accent. He's just good at accents and different voices.

Then I attended another interview with Freema Agyeman (companion). One of the things she mentioned was not regretting not changing her name.

I ran into Tom and Marina Stern in the corridor and got a photo.

Next I attended the panel "It's Time for the Muppet Show!" with panellists Craig Miller, either Christopher Jones or Sam Warner or Scott Tipton (no name cards), Catrina Parker, and another woman. I saw Genny Dazzo afterwards, and she was still reeling from having sat by Sandy Cohen's deathbed.

I had lunch about 15:30 and had steak.

After that I attended an interview of Millie Gibson (latest companion and also in *The Forsytes*). There was a short break before the masquerade, so I sat down to read e-mail. Eventually a couple sat down near me, and we started talking. It turned out she is one of the editing team for the fanzine *Journey Planet*. Eventually the masquerade started a bit late. I got a seat in the front row. The masquerade was okay. It was also relatively short. I returned to my room afterwards.

Dinner was a bag of Doritos about 21:00.

I was pretty sleepy by then. I went to bed about 22:15.

I got down to breakfast Sunday morning about 08:00.

After breakfast I returned to my room for about half an hour and returned downstairs for an interview of one of the creature actors. While waiting I had an enjoyable

conversation with two other Japanese Americans.

I failed to make the cut for David Gerrold's kaffeeklatsch.

I sat down to lunch at Hangar 18 about 12:45.

I spent the beginning of the afternoon socializing then attended the 15:00 panel, which was a sort of farewell panel that included all the guests.

I had dinner with Lisa Harrigan at Hangar 18. Unfortunately the place was crowded with Super-bowl fans. Lisa couldn't find anything she wanted at the steak restaurant, and the Social Marketplace was using an abbreviated menu. We managed to share a small table at the invitation of a person already eating there.

At night I started packing, read, took a semi-shower, and read some e-mail. I got to bed about 21:45.

I got up about 06:45 on Monday and had breakfast about 08:45.

After breakfast I returned to my room, finished packing, and read e-mail. For some reason my breakfast charge to the room hadn't worked, so I had to go to Hangar 18 to give them a credit card as well checking out. I waited a while in the lobby before getting on the shuttle. Mark Strickson was waiting for the same shuttle; he lives in New Zealand. We chatted for a bit. It turned out I could have waited longer to leave, as my flight was delayed; but then I would have missed the chance to chat with Mark.

I had no lunch.

After landing it took a lot of walking to get to my car. All the reading I had done, first on my iPhone and then a book left my eyesight wonky, and I had double vision for a long time. I managed to drive home okay.

* * *

*** 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.

Evaline Auerbach, evalineja at icloud dot com

31 March 2026

When I opened this, I thought you were using a copy of one of my photos. The Christmas cactus photo is so close to one I used for my start page photo. But it has a bit of a vase that is like one I have in my complex of plants. My Christmas Cacti (I have four of them) should be called EASTER cacti as well, because some of them break out in bloom on or about Easter time, though they were two weeks early this year because Easter was so late. This is this year's.



((Yours is huge compared to mine.))

#

Gary Mattingly, gsmattingly at yahoo dot com

31 March 2026

Thanks for *Purrsonal Mewsings* #96! That's a lovely cover.

Great Kritter Korner photos and night sky photos.

Cloud 9 and *Peter and the Starcatcher* sounds interesting.

Your Seattle Trip Report was interesting and entertaining. I liked the photos too. I noted a Rwanda Worldcon bid. That's interesting.

It sounds like you had a good visit and a good time at the convention. You also talk to a number of people. I'm moderately introverted and definitely not a conversationalist. Sounds like you do well talking to people. I'm just too old and set in my ways to become a friendly conversationalist. Plus, I guess I'm happy with my internal conversations and the ones I have with the dogs. Oh well.

Sounds like you will be busy in the future as well. Sometimes I, too, plan too much. I go to quite a few movies, including repertory theatres, films presented by the SF Film Society and the SF Silent Film Society, and a number of current releases, too. Then there are SF Jazz concerts and others, like Los Lobos at the Fillmore last Friday. Then there's Bikram yoga 6 days a week, and Pilates on the 7th. I keep too busy. And sometime in the next few days, I need to balance the check book and do taxes. Oh well.

Have fun! Thanks for sending me all the issues of *Purrsonal Mewsings*!!

#

Tom Feller, PO Box 140937, Nashville, TN 37214-0937 27 March 2026

My last eye exam showed that I can put off cataract surgery for another six months.

Thanks for the Worldcon report. It helps me live vicariously.

I don't think I ever read any of William F. Buckley's nonfiction books, but I did read a few of his spy novels. He also had a syndicated newspaper column that was printed in the paper that my parents subscribed to.

In case you hadn't heard, Patsy Williams passed away. There was no funeral, and Fran Bray has custody of her ashes. Our plan is to go out to Charlie's grave and spread her ashes over him.

((So sorry to hear of Patsy's passing. Your plan for spreading her ashes sounds sweet.))

#

Tom Feller, PO Box 140937, Nashville, TN 37214-0937 5 November 2025

Thank you for sending *Purrsonal Mewsings* #95

My eye doctor has informed me that cataract surgery is in my future.

I think that all of Ann Leckie's books in the "Ancillary Justice" series have been nominated for the Hugo, so I have been reading them as part of my Hugo voting process. I liked all of them, although I don't think I made any of them my first choice.

((Some years I do well in reading Hugo nominees, others not so much.))

Sorry you had to cancel you Loscon trip. I've never been to that convention.

#

Murray Moore, murraymoore at gmail dot com

9 April 2026

You did not see us during the Seattle Worldcon nor will you see us during LAcon V. I am disappointed that I will not see during LAcon V what I expect will be a wonderful display of Tim Kirk's art. Also, a Rotsler exhibition curated by Chris Garcia. My first sight of Chris was during L.A.con IV. In the distance between hotel and convention centre, I saw a hairy-headed man carrying a sign with the words Christ for TAFF. Closer to the sign, I saw the words were Chris for TAFF. But, a reasonable mistake on my part.

Mary Ellen & myself will be at Worldcon in Montreal, next year, but you will not? "I found out some information about the Montreal Worldcon in 2027; eventually I decided to attend." What was the information that put you off Montreal?

((I would't say I was put off from going to Montreal, but I didn't see anything that made me want to attend. Things that attract me to a convention are location and guests of honour. I will go to LA, because I'm at heart an Angeleno. Also I want to visit the San Diego Zoo, which is not too far away from Anaheim. I have no attachment to Montreal. I went to Seattle, because I could combine the convention with a visit to my sister.))

I will vote for Brisbane for 2028. But the Heidelberg bid will win. All the many Europeans, and many Brits, too, will want the opportunity to attend another Worldcon close to them, not a Worldcon on the far side of the planet.

((You may be right about the Brisbane-Heidelberg vote. If you are, I would still consider Heidelberg. I've not been to that part of Germany.—Later comment: Heidelberg withdrew, so it likes like I will be going to Australia.))

Photos of six species of bird, this issue: the only one we see in our back yard is goldfinch. In 2016 the Gray Jay, AKA whiskey jack or Canada Jay, became Canada's unofficial national bird. In January 2015, The Royal Canadian Geographical Society's magazine, *Canadian Geographic*, announced a project to select a national bird for Canada. The top five selections were the Canada jay, common loon (*Gavia immer*), snowy owl (*Bubo scandiacus*), Canada goose (*Branta canadensis*) and black-capped chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*). My federal government has not recognized a species of bird as Canada's national bird.. Despite the Canada Jay living in every province and territory, I have not knowingly seen one.

((The goldfinch you see is the eastern one. Ours is the lesser goldfinch, a bit paler than yours. As far as I can tell from the range maps for the Canada Jay, it doesn't usually

travel as far south as Toronto. To me the Canada Jay seems the best choice for national bird, because the others are easily found south of the border.))

#

Lloyd Penney, penneys at bell dot net

9 April 2026

Thank you muchly for *Purrsonal Mewsings* 96. You've been sending these out for a long time...any plans for the 100th issue? Anyway, comments beckon...

((No plans for a special issue. It's time-consuming enough without that added burden.))

The metric system...I guess I've gotten quite used to it, and I can go from metric to imperial and back again without much bother. Our highway signs here have kilometres on them instead of miles, and as long as I remember that 50 mph is the same as 80 kph, and 10 Celsius is the same as 50 Fahrenheit, all is good.

((Although I got pretty used to the metric temperature system, since I wasn't driving, I really didn't learn anything that would help me in that way. Back in the 1980s, the speed limit signs in Ontario had both metric and miles, but I guess that's no longer true.))

Yvonne may have to have a cataract removed soon. She is an old hand at eye operations, going back to when she was a child. Also, she has avoided an operation on the rotator cuff of her shoulder. Any pain here was caused as a repetitive stress injury, making all those tropical shirts she has made for the past 30 years or so, hundreds of them.

You and I seem to get to Loscon, but never at the same time! We plan to vote on the Hugos, but we expect our next Worldcon to be Montreal 2027. Don't need to worry about crossing borders or having to pay ruinous exchange rates.

((I can't blame you for not wanting to come to the US during this time. If I were Canadian, I wouldn't either.))

My LoC...I certainly know about the Canada jay, in spite of the fact it is not native to the General Toronto Area. I guess the blue jay, with its blue plumage, gets more attention. I believe there has been moves to make the Canada jay our national bird, but nothing has been decided yet.

Amazing Stories...the Best of 2025 is out now, and the first new issue of the magazine will be out RSN!

Had a good look, and I think I got everything I could comment on...off it goes. Thank you for this issue, and I look forward to some more.

#

We Also Heard From: Joy V. Smith.

* * *

*** Closing Remarks**

One thing I found that kept me busier than ever was buying season tickets for our local concerts. They are enjoyable for the most part, and there is little commute time to get there, but that was apparently the straw that broke the camel's back—one too many things to do.

Maybe someday I will get four issues out annually as I always intend. Upcoming events include another college reunion in June (unfortunately mechanical problems plaguing the first leg of my flight to Minneapolis forced me to cancel the trip), the Worldcon in August in Anaheim, and Loscon in November.

See you all next time.

Laurraine