



The National **83** Fantasy Fan **Years**

Fandom's Second Oldest Print Publication
Cras ad Stellas — Tomorrow to the Stars
Volume 83 Number 4 April 2024

Laureate Nominations

N3F Laureate nominations are complete. Nominees:

Best Fan Writer: Heath Row, Joseph T. Major, Guy Lillian III

Best Fan Editor: Joseph T. Major, Guy Lillian III, Janice L. Newman

Best Fan Web Site: galacticjourney.org/

Best Non-N3F Fan Publication: Alexiad, Spartacus

Best N3F Fanzine: Tightbeam, Ionisphere, N3F Review of Books

Best Novel:

The Demon's Design by Christopher Nuttall

Good to the Last Drop by Declan Finn

The Innocent Sleep by Seanan McGuire

Our Share of Night by Marianna Enriquez

Promises Stronger Than Darkness by Charlie Jane Anders

To Spy a Star by Jonathan Nevair

Best Shorter Work or Anthology – Starlite Pulp #3

Simultaneous Times, vol. 3, ed. J.-P. Garnier

Best Editor: Lida Quillen (Twilight Times Books);

Chris Kennedy (Chris Kennedy Publishing)

Jean-Paul L. Garnier (Space Cowboy Books)

Best History of SF Work: 2023 First Fandom

Annual "First Fandom Conversations"

Best None of the Above:

Best example of how not to run fan awards: The 2023 Hugo Awards

Best Podcast: SFF Addicts (Adrian M. Gibson and M. J. Kuhn)

Best SF reviewer: Tina S. Beier (Sound & Fury Book Review)

Nominations are closed. We hit six novels, not five, but one round of voting appears to be adequate, to be distributed with the June issue. Please comment on these nominations in any N3F Zine

Kaymar Award Nominee

The Kaymar Award is given in April each year, because the N3F was organized in the month of April. The Award is given for work for the club, and can be awarded only once. The Award is a memorial to K. Martin Carlson (1904 - 1986, who originated and maintained it for 25 years. He went by the name of Kaymar.

This year the nominee is Tiffanie Gray, who has contributed so much excellent art to N3F fanzines. Prior awardees who are current club members may cast their votes by sending their votes to Jon Swartz at judgeswartz@gmail.com or 12115 Missel Thrush Court, Austin, TX 78750. before this time next month.

President's View

As some of you know, I have begun the process of contacting members asking for their advice. We have wonderful members doing good things for our Federation. However, we tend to do things we are

The May TNFF Submission Deadline is April 17th.

**The deadline for the 2024 Short Story Contest is December 31.
For rules, see page 11, which announces the 2024 Contest.**



Your Volunteer Team

Directors

Jean-Paul Garnier spacecowboybooks@gmail.com
 Becky Jones beckyj47@gmail.com (Chair)
 Judy Carroll BlueShadows2012@gmail.com
 Jefferson Swycaffer aboutides@gmail.com
 Kevin Trainor wombat.soch@gmail.com (Treasurer)

Officers

President George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net
 Treasurer Kevin Trainor wombat.soch@gmail.com

Editors

Editors, TNFF George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net; Jon Swartz judgeswartz@gmail.com Artists Jose A. Sanchez, Angela K. Walker, Alan White, Nathan Warner
 N'APA Jefferson Swycaffer aboutides@gmail.com
 Tightbeam George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net,
 Jon Swartz judgeswartz@gmail.com
 Ionisphere
 Eldritch Science George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net
 Mangaverse Patrick Ijima-Washburn patokon.com@gmail.com
 Origin
 The N3F Review of Books George Phillies
 FanActivity Gazette Mindy Hunt mindyhunt@scifi4me.com
 Films Fantastic: Jason Hunt <jphunt@scifi4me.com>
 Keeper of the Passwords Jessi Silver belindabird@gmail.com
 Keeper of the URLs George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net
 Host of the Web Site George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net

Bureau Heads

Anime Kevin Trainor wombat.soch@gmail.com
 Art Bureau Jose Sanchez jose77sanchez@yahoo.com
 Birthday Cards Denise Fisk greenrose205@gmail.com
 Book Review Bureau G. Phillies phillies@4liberty.net
 Comics
 Convention Calendar Mindy Hunt
 Club News
 Correspondence Bureau Judy Carroll BlueShadows2012@gmail.com
 Election Teller Jon Swartz judgeswartz@gmail.com
 Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau
 FanZine Review Editor
 Film Bureau Jason Hunt <jphunt@scifi4me.com>
 Forwarder Jefferson Swycaffer aboutides@gmail.com
 Franking Service George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net
 Games Bureau
 Gourmet Bureau Cedar Sanderson cedarlila@gmail.com
 Historian Jon Swartz judgeswartz@gmail.com
 History and Research Bureau
 Information Technology George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net
 Kaymar Award Jon Swartz judgeswartz@gmail.com

Continued Next Column, Middle

good at. Other things can be overlooked. I have already received several excellent ideas:

Some members attend SF conventions. You might be able to distribute fliers. If you are a dealer, perhaps you could spare a stray table corner. Once upon a time, members would run a hospitality room.

One of our well-known author-members got their start writing fan fiction. Trek Fiction. Star Wars fiction. The best way to learn to write is to write, with no expectation of recompense. Then politely accept suggestions. A fiction zine might be a bit much, but perhaps N'APA could decide that it wel-

Your Volunteer Team

Laureate Awards George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net
 Lord High Proofreader Jon Swartz judgeswartz@gmail.com
 Lady High Proofreader Jean Lamb
 Membership Recruitment Kevin Trainor wombat.soch@gmail.com Jeffrey Redmond redmondjeff@hotmail.com
 Outreach Bureau
 Pro Bureau George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net
 Round Robins Judy Carroll - BlueShadows2012@gmail.com
 Short Story Contest J. Swycaffer aboutides@gmail.com
 Social Media
 Video Bureau Heath Row, kalel@well.com
 Welcomittee Judy Carroll BlueShadows2012@gmail.com
 Writers Exchange Judy Carroll BlueShadows2012@gmail.com

Join or Renew

We offer four different memberships. Memberships with TNFF via paper mail are \$18; memberships with TNFF via email are \$6. All other zines are email only. Additional memberships at the address of a current member are \$4. Public memberships are free. Send payments to Kevin Trainor, PO Box 143, Tonopah NV 89049. Pay online at N3F.org. Our PayPal contact is treasurer@n3f.org Send phillies@4liberty.net your email address for a public membership.

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 Published monthly by The National Fantasy Fan Federation. Send material for this zine as electronic files (txt or rtf preferred, images as jpgs, do not send PDFs) to the Editor: George Phillies, 48 Hancock Hill Drive, Worcester MA 01609, phillies@4liberty.net The submission deadline for each issue is the 15th of the month.

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comes fan fiction.

We have active members contributing to what the N3F does. I do not mean to denigrate any of their activities. They are what keeps us alive. I get magazines out the door. Judy Carroll keeps four bureaus in operation. Professional author Jefferson Swycaffer gives his time to the short story contest. Jon Swartz and Jean Lamb edit our zines. Mindy and Jason Hunt collect the news for FanActivity Gazette. The Kaymar, Franson, and Laureate Awards are run by long time members. Cedar Sanderson and Alan White have given us beautiful ads. I could go on. Kevin Trainor runs his own convention, Son of SilverCon.

Director's View

Becky Jones writes:

It's been a busy few months here in north Texas. We're (mostly) settled into the house, although still working on smaller things like making the patio area the oasis I have in my mind's eye. It's coming along.

Once again, I'd like to urge everybody to consider becoming a dues-paying member. Dues for an email membership are only \$6.00 per year and would go a long way to keeping us up and running.

I'm going to try to be at Kevin Trainor's Son of SilverCon II this year. It depends on finances and how my husband and I are coordinating our schedules. If I do make it, I'd love to meet some of you in person. You can find all the details at <https://sonofsilvercon.wordpress.com/>.

On the writing front, I had a story in Raconteur Press's Moggies in Space: A Galaxy Fur Fur Away. I mean, did you really expect cats NOT to go into space with humans?

Book four in my Academic Magic series is with my alpha reader and should be back to me shortly. In the meantime, I'm working on the chapter outlines for book 5. In between I'm building a raised bed for my veggies and keeping three cats enter-

tained.

Franking Service

The latest problem is that gmail thinks that our mailings are spam. We have no idea why. It took us a while to find the new distribution solution. Most issues for each month will be packed ZIP files on N3F.org where you can download them.

Son of SilverCon

Son of SilverCon is the Convention of N3F Treasurer Kevin Trainor. He writes: In less than 90 days, we shall be holding Son of SilverCon II at the lovely & palatial Plaza Hotel & Casino in downtown Las Vegas. Guest of honor is N3F member Brad Torgerson, and special guests Dan & Sarah Hoyt will be returning. Pre-registration is \$35 for N3F members, supporting memberships are \$20, vendor/artist tables are \$50, and sponsor memberships are \$100. Send checks or money orders to Friends of Fission-chan, PO Box 143, Tonopah NV 89049; you can also pay using PayPal via fission.chan@gmail.com.

Letters of Comment

Dear Neffers:

Thank you for The National Fantasy Fan, V.83, No. 3, and the grand catch-up continues, although the end is never in sight. Still a lot of fanzines are coming out, which is keeping me busy.

Nefferon...an N3F convention sounds great, but much fanac in the United States is simply too far away for us. But, IMHO, any convention is a good one these days, for it brings fans together, and I see that as a rarity these days. Having a look at hotel room rates, plus function space costs, or even the price of a case of soda...I have to wonder if inflation has priced most convention-like events out of our reach.

My letter of comment...work on Amazing Stories continues, and lately, I have been working more on novels than short stories. Our Best of 2023 col-

lection book should be out shortly, and with my name on the covers, an old dream is about to come true. With my comments on flyer tables in mid, that's why we thought it best to get tables at this year's NASFiC and World Fantasy Convention. We also plan to go to Loscon 50, for that should be quite the party.

I have more Joanna Russ books than I thought... The Adventures of Alyx, The Female Man, The Zanzibar Cat, We Who Are About To..., The Two of Them, Picnic on Paradise and And Chaos Died. Might have some in hardcover, but they are not accessible right now. She has always been a visible and distinct personality, and a great writer, and now I know more about her. Thank you!

Getting late, and I am having trouble focusing, so you can imagine the trouble I'm having with typing. Many thanks, see you later in April.

Yours, Lloyd Penney

Hi, George and Jon,

Two of the stories that I had entered in the N3F short story contest are in this book along with eight more of my short stories. Working on getting another book of SF short stories published. Woohoo!

<https://accargillauthor.wordpress.com/2024/03/22/my-first-book-of-short-stories-now-published/>

A.C.

Fellow Neffers,

I made several nominations, and urge you to consider them. First, for Best Editor/Editrix, I nominated Lida Quillen and Chris Kennedy. Many of you will not know Quillen. Her publishing house, Twilight Times Books, discovers writers and supports their publishing efforts. Their most prominent cusses is Neffer Chris Nuttall, who — Twilight Times reports — has received from them over a million dollars in royalties in the last decade. The House publishes a wide range of books including both electronic and paper editions.

Chris Kennedy delivers military science fiction, including ebooks, well-made paperbacks, and audio books, notably series that actually complete. Kennedy Publishing is one of the few that supports the genre.

For None of the Above, I nominated the 2023 Hugo Awards as the Best Example of how not to run a science fiction award. You can read many details on File770. Among other things, close to a thousand ballots were disqualified...the voters in question were more or less all Chinese. Several likely winners were disqualified for no apparent reason. The committee did a search for the political inclinations of nominees, and disqualified some of them as a result. The published vote counts are highly suspect.

Finally, for Best Novel I call your attention to The Demon's Design by Christopher Nuttall and Good to the Last Drop by Declan Finn.

George Phillies

SerCon

Wilmar Shiras Bio-Bibliography by Jon D. Swartz, Ph.D. N3F Historian

Wilmar House Shiras (1908 - 1990), born Wilmar Alberta House, was a science fiction (SF) author, who also wrote under the pen name of Jane Howes. Her father was a machinist, and both of her parents

were Massachusetts natives.

Personal Life

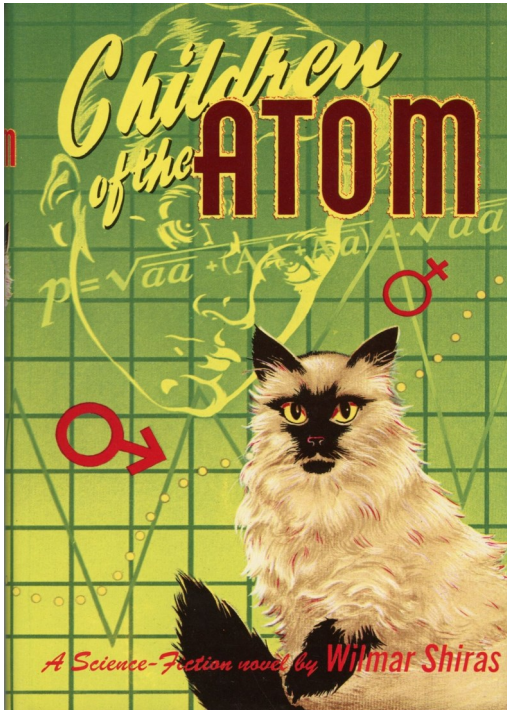
Born in Boston, Massachusetts, Shiras attended Boston University, but dropped out in 1927, her freshman



year, to get married. Married at eighteen, she moved with her husband, a newly graduated chemical engineer, to the suburbs of Los Angeles.

She earned a bachelor's degree from the College of the Holy Names in Oakland in 1955; and she received a master's degree in history from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1956. She and her husband, Russell Shiras, raised five children, two boys and three girls, and she said that it was for her

family that she began creating stories.



Publications

Her first SF story, “A Day’s Work,” was published in *Science Fiction Adventures* in the November, 1952, issue of that prozine.

Her story, “In Hiding,” was published in the November, 1948, issue of *Astounding Science Fiction*. This story, about extraordinarily gifted children who were trying to find their place in the world with the help of a sympathetic psychiatrist, became a classic in the SF field.

Shiras published two sequels to “In Hiding,” both also appearing in *Astounding*: “Opening Doors” (March, 1949 issue), and “New Foundations” (March, 1950 issue).

These stories then became the first three chapters in her later popular novel, *Children of the Atom*. This book was hailed as another step in the coming of age of SF, mainly because it served as a precursor to the so-called “psi boom” of the 1950s – promoted in the pages of *Astounding* by John W. Campbell, Jr, the editor of *Astounding*.

Her other published SF included “Backward, Turn Backward” (1970); “Shadow-Led” (1971); “Reality” (1972); and “Bird-Song” (1973). The 1970 story was published in *New Worlds of Fantasy* #2; the last three appeared in the SF prozine *Fantastic*.

Her novel, *Slow Dawning*, published by the B. Herder Book Company in 1948, as by Jane Howes, was not SF. She also published several non-fiction books under this pseudonym.

Pseudonym

She used the pseudonym of Jane Howes, but not on any of her SF stories (see above).

Awards/Honors/Recognitions

Her most famous SF story undoubtedly was “In Hiding,” a novella that was later reprinted in several anthologies, including *The Best Science Fiction Stories: 1949*, *Great Stories of Science Fiction* (1951), *Stories for Tomorrow* (1954), and *The Science Fiction Hall of Fame, Volume II* (1973).

Shiras’ novel, *Children of the Atom*, was published by Gnome Press in 1953, with book cover art by Frank Kelly Freas. The Science Fiction Book Club declared it to be one of “The Most Significant Science Fiction & Fantasy Books of the Last 50 Years, 1953 – 2002.”

Concluding Remarks

Children of the Atom has been credited, though never officially confirmed, with providing the inspiration for Stan Lee and Jack Kirby’s popular comic book creation, *The Uncanny X-Men*.

Despite her name, there was never any doubt in the SF field about her gender. Sources report that editors with whom she came in contact all addressed her as Mrs. Shiras.

She was born in Boston, Massachusetts, on September 23, 1908; and she died in Alameda, California, on December 23, 1990.

Sources

Ashley, Mike. The Complete Index to Astounding/Analog, 1981.

Davin, Eric L. Partners in Wonder, 2006.

Frank, Janrae, Jean Stine, and Forrest J Ackerman (eds.). New Eves, 1994.

Hawk, Pat. Hawk's Authors' Pseudonyms II, 1995.

Metcalf, Norm. The Index of Science Fiction Magazines, 1951 – 1965, 1968.

Yntema, Sharon (ed.). More Than 100 Woman Science Fiction Writers, 1988.

Note: In addition to the above, several Internet sites were consulted, including Fancyclopedia 3, ISFDB, and Wikipedia.

Treasury

Paypal balance \$266.31
In: \$6 for memberships (less fees)

NSB balance: \$2460.34

2 life members
15 electronic + 14 regular = 31 voting members
8 archive members + 249 public members = 257 non-voting members

Reclassified to Electronic: Kevin Menard
Reclassified to Public: Patrick Ijima-Washburn and Matthew Weitendorf

Welcome to Jessica Cook, Sandy Lender, and Jeff Cassell

Bureau Reports

Welcome to the Writers Exchange!

The Writers Exchange Bureau is for anyone interested in writing. You don't have to be a published writer, or strive to be a published writer. You don't have to have written a book, a poem, a story, or the lyrics

to a song. All you need is an interest in writing.

Writers Quote for the Month

Get it down. Take chances. It may be bad, but it's the only way you can do anything really good. - William Faulkner *

This month we are featuring Jefferson Swycaffer, one of our N3F writers.

Jefferson says:

I first discovered writing at an early age...grade school...but I was no good at it. Really rotten. I started out very badly, and only picked up anything like "real skill" (which is still dubious!) in college.

I like to write books most, stories next most, and, alas, no, I'm no good at all at poetry.

My favorite genre is "urban fantasy." Do you remember the old TV show "Beauty and the Beast" with Ron Perlman and Linda Hamilton? That's a super example of my favorite genre. I have also written and published seven books of "starships and empires" science fiction, which is also a fun genre.

Yes, I definitely love to read and to write in the same genres. I read a lot of Fantasy and Heroic Fantasy, and write in those genres as well.

Alas, I struggle with every page. It's so much easier just to skip writing for the day and read instead. I have to exercise a lot of harsh self-discipline. I'm also a "seat of the pants" writer; I don't tend to work from outlines, but just plunge rather blindly ahead without really knowing what's going to happen next. It's a process of discovery, and I'm often completely surprised by what I have written.

My advice is to find that discipline, and do the work. Turn out those pages. Sweat blood, chew your nails, stare at the blank computer screen, and, by golly, just make it happen. It's hard. It's mighty blamed hard, but there is only one way forward, and that's to grind out the words, one at a time.

The publishing market these days is very, very tight and restrictive. It is extremely difficult to get published. Don't give up hope, but don't hold high ex-

pectations. The market, frankly, stinks. I wish I could say something inspirational and hopeful, but the ugly fact is that getting published is harder, now, than it has ever been in all of publishing history. Keep writing, and start by submitting to small markets. Collect those rejection slips. Don't despair. Despair is easy. Success is hard.

I've published seven "spaceships and empires" genre SF novels, two "urban fantasy" novels, and a fair number of short stories here and there, mostly in the fantasy or "furry" genres. I'm very definitely a furry!

The best quote about writing is from Dorothy Parker, who said that writers don't like to write...but they like to have written. So very, very true! The greatest reward of all is putting down "The End" at the conclusion of a story or a book!

...Jefferson Swycaffer

Thank You, Jefferson. I appreciate your input.

If you are interested in reading some of Jefferson's books, please read the following:

"If you go to Amazon and look me up, I have about 25 books self-published as Kindle books. (Do you read via an e-reader?) The one I would recommend most is "The Sea Dragon," which is, I think, my best"

*Quotes by Famous Authors to Inspire Perseverance. Indeed Editorial Team updated May, 2023

I would like this bureau to be an informative and a pleasant experience. If you have any ideas of what you would like to see in the Writers Exchange, please feel free to contact me by email or postal mail. and tell me your ideas. My contact information is at the end of this article.

If you have a story you would like read, please contact me, and I will check with our readers to see who is available. I will contact you with the name and email address of your reader. Please do not contact a reader unless I have assigned that reader to you. Occasionally we get several short stories at the same time and I don't want any of our readers getting "reading overload."

If you are a new writer, a professional writer, or someone who dreams of being a writer - this is the place for you. If you love reading unpublished work and find it exciting to do so, this place is also for you. The Writers Exchange is for anyone interested in writing. If you have a story you would like read and commented on, or if you just want the excitement of reading unpublished work, then the Writers Exchange is here for you. Published or unpublished - all are welcome. You may join as a writer, a reader or both.

If interested, please contact: Judy Carroll.
BlueShadows2012@gmail.com OR if you prefer postal mail, Judy Carroll 975 E 120 S Spanish Fork, UT 84660

Round Robins Bureau

Welcome one and all.

We have two kinds of Round Robins available, Netflix Streaming and Postal Mail.

Netflix Streaming Round Robins (NSRR)

The Travelers NSRR was completed on August 4th. I am happy to announce it was a success!!! If you would like to know what the members had to say about this Round Robin, you can find their responses in the August, 2023 issue of TNFF.

We are offering Travelers again in case the above reviews have piqued your interest. Travelers - 3 seasons - Members and RM needed.

New series - Black Mirror Needs at least one other member to start. This series has a RM and 1 other member.

We have two NSRR waiting for RM and members - Stranger Things - 4 seasons - Netflix says the 5th and final season will be coming.
Raising Dion - Raising Dion - 2 seasons -on-going

Please contact me if you are interested in joining and/or becoming a RM.

If you have a suggestion for a NSRR please contact

me.

- 1 - A member chooses the series he/she wishes to watch.
- 2 - When they have decided which series they wish to watch they contact me and I will tell them whether there are enough members to begin the RR
- 3- When there are 2 members, and the Robin Master, the RR will begin.
- 4 - The Robin Master (RM) emails the Netflix Streaming Round Robin (NSRR) members with a schedule. Two episodes a week are recommended when starting the RR. However, more episodes a week can be considered if the members choose to do so. ALL members must agree to the number of episodes watched in a week. We want this to be a fun adventure. Not a cumbersome one.
- 5 - Once the required episodes for that week have been viewed, that member will email each member in a joint email with their comments. At the top of the email the episodes viewed should be listed.
- 6 - Repeat steps 4 & 5 each week until the series ends.

Postal Mail

Postal Mail is the traditional Round Robin (RR). Members who have chosen the same topic discuss their likes and dislikes. Each RR needs at least three members and a Robin Master (RM). When enough members have signed up the RM will send them a letter explaining how the RR works.

(If you want to know more about how a RR works before you join, please let me know and I will give you more information. My email address and postal address are listed at the end of this article.) We have one RR at this time: Worldwide Folklore RR

If you have any questions about either of these RR, or wish to join, please contact me by email, if possible, or by postal mail. My email and postal address are at the end of this article.

If anyone is interested in starting a new RR, please contact me. I will put the information in the next TNFF as "seeking members."

If interested in joining either of the RR above please contact me. My contact information is at the end of this article.

Contact: Judy Carroll, 971 East 120 South, Spanish Fork, Utah 84660 OR Email : blueshadows2012@gmail.com

Welcommittee

We have new members in the N3F, Jessica Cook, Sandy Lender, and Jeff Cassell. Jeff's fannish interests are novels, TV, anime, APAS, and fanzines. He discovered the N3F while on the internet. Jessica is interested in novels. Sandy is interested in Tolkien/LOTR; Goodkind; indies. We hope you all have a Wonderful Experience with the N3F.

Being active is the most fulfilling way to enjoy being a member of the National Fantasy Fan Federation. Please read the current TNFF for a list of the many activities and bureaus you can join. If you find a bureau or activity you are interested in, please contact the head of the bureau or activity for more information. The purpose of the Welcommittee is to welcome new members to the club and to help them find an activity or bureau with members that have the same likes and interests.

If you have questions about the N3F or are interested in helping with the Welcommittee please contact: Judy Carroll at BlueShadows2012@gmail.com

Fanzines

FanActivity Gazette, The National Fantasy Fan, Tightbeam, and The N3F Review of Books Incorporating Prose Bono maintain regular monthly publication. N'APA continues regular bimonthly publication. Recently, an issue of Eldritch Science was published. Films Fantastic is being revived on a quarterly schedule. Mangaverse publication is subject to the time constraints of its editor. Ionisphere and Origin are on hiatus.

Correspondence Bureau

"In a very real sense, we are all Aliens on a strange planet. We spend most of our lives reaching out and trying to communicate. If during our whole lifetime, we could reach out and really communicate with just two people we are indeed very fortunate."

Gene Roddenberry

Following are the names, interests and contact information of members seeking correspondence:

Jeffery Redmond - by Email - redmondjeff@hotmail.com
by Postal Mail
1335 Beechwood St NE
Grand Rapids, MI
49505-3830

I am an old Star Trek of the original television show days I enjoy both Fantasy and Science Fiction. My favorite author is me with my Chronicles of Erda fantasy fiction books My hobbies include reading, writing, watching TV, and meeting with friends. I have books and memorabilia collections, and try to keep up with my cat.

John Thiel - by Email - kinethiel@outlook.com

I am interested in things I haven't seen much that have something about them that gives me a feeling of looking for more about them. Magazines which have interested me have been The Readers Digest, Future Science Fiction, Space Stories, Jack and Jill Magazine, Startling Stories and Thrilling Wonder Stories, Arizona Highways and others; Television shows that have interested me have been Tales of Tomorrow, The Sid Caesar show, Roy Rogers, Sky King, Masterpiece Theater; interesting books have been the mysteries of Mary Roberts Rinehart, Groff Conklin's anthologies, Tales of the Supernatural, the writings of Sigmund Freud, the life of Françoise Villon, The Big Push by Mickey Spillane, Theodore Sturgeon's books, Leo Margules' anthologies, Peyton Place; Movies of interest were the Voyages of Ulysses, The Life of Omar Khayyam, The House of Wax, Kiss Me Deadly; comics of interest were Dick Tracy, Little Orphan Annie, King Aroo; radio shows, Sky King, Boston Blackie, Marty Faye. Interesting places, Venice, California, the Florida Everglades, Valparaiso, Indian

Steve Condrey - By Email - gscondrey@gmail.com
Favorite genres: science fiction and fantasy, also some true crime and historical fiction. I particularly enjoy military and post-apocalyptic science fiction (but not of the "retired Navy SEAL who just happens to own a ranch in Montana bugs out amid a rampaging zombie horde that's totally not a proxy for socie-

tal undesirables" variety of apocalypse).

Favorite authors: Like many others, I cut my teeth on Robert Heinlein, Ray Bradbury, and Isaac Asimov. I also enjoy Robert E. Howard, Octavia Butler, Andre Norton, Anne McCaffrey, and Frederik Pohl. Among writers who are still alive and active today, I like Harry Turtledove, Larry Niven, Robert Sawyer, David Weber, and S. M. Stirling.

Movies and TV shows: Star Trek , Babylon 5, Star Wars, Doctor Who, Aliens, Blade Runner, Conan the Barbarian (1980).

I do like to write, but haven't worked up the nerve to publish something. Maybe getting more involved here will help me get to that point (I hope!)

Outside of fandom, I am active in my local astronomy club. I edit their newsletter and occasionally do outreach activities. I also volunteer at my church. Most of all, my wife, two kids (ages 16 and 12), and a fluctuating menagerie of house pets.

Collections: I had a pretty sizable collection of books, games, and memorabilia that unfortunately was a casualty of the 2019 Missouri River flooding. I am currently rebuilding. My home office is heavily inspired by Forry Ackerman's Ackermansion, but at a much smaller scale (for the time being)

Judy Carroll - By Email BlueShadows2012@gmail.com by Postal Mail 975 E 120 S, Spanish Fork, UT 84660

My favorite genres are Science Fiction and Murder Mysteries. My favorite authors are Shirley Jackson, Ray Bradbury, Dean Koontz, and Julie E. Czerneda. I like to write short stories and poems. I love being around young children. Their laughter, happiness, and excitement are contagious.

If you would like to join the Correspondence Bureau and have your name and interests listed please contact me. Send email requests to : Judy Carroll BlueShadows2012@gmail.com
OR

Send postal mail requests to: Judy Carroll 975 E 120 S Spanish Fork, UT 84660



N3F **THE NATIONAL** **FANTASY FAN FEDERATION**

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Fantasy, Horror, Occult including Books, Films, Manga,
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ALAN WHITE

National Fantasy Fan:
Monthly Newszine

Tightbeam: Monthly Reviews

Ionisphere: Fan-Pro Interactions

Origin: Monthly Fan History

Eldritch Science: Fiction

N'APA: Amateur Press Association

Mangaverse: Manga and Anime

Fanactivity Gazette:
Monthly Fandom News

The N3F Review of Books:
Monthly Book Reviews

Interest Bureaus • Short Story Contest
Writer's Exchange • Book Reviews • Birthday Cards
Fannish History • Round Robins • APA • Art
Fan-Pro Coordination • Gourmet Bureau
Welcomittee • Correspondence

Four Membership Levels:

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2024 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest

Story Contest Rules and Entry Blank

Now and then, it has been suggested to open the N3F Amateur Short Story Contest to professional writers, writers who have had one or two sales. I've never favored this. It is my opinion that we want new blood. We want to reward the new kids on the block. To be blunt, we want writing that is not that good. We want stories from people who don't know their object from their subject, who don't know where commas go, and who use apostrophes to denote plurals -- but who have a story to tell. I want stories from guys nobody's ever heard of...but in the years ahead, we will. Those who are already successful don't need the encouragement of our little contest. If they were to enter the contest, the danger is that they'd win, every time, and crowd out the promising newcomer.

1. This contest is open to all amateur writers in the field, regardless of whether they're members of the National Fantasy Fan Federation. For the purposes of this contest, we define an amateur as someone who has sold no more than two (2) stories to professional science fiction or fantasy publications.
2. Stories entered in the contest must be original, unpublished, not longer than 8,500 words in length—and must be related to the science fiction, fantasy, or similar genres in the opinion of the judge.
3. Email attachments of Word documents are acceptable for submission. Manuscripts on paper should be typed, single sided on 8 1/2"-by- 11" white paper, double spaced, with pages numbered. The name of the author should not appear anywhere on the manuscript to ensure impartial judging. Photocopies are acceptable, if they are of good quality. Computer printouts must be legible.
4. Contestants can enter up to three stories. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) if you would like your story returned at the end of the contest. Stories will not be returned without an SASE. Do not send your only copy in case of accidental loss. We are not responsible for lost manuscripts.
5. Email entries will be accepted. Send to Jefferson P. Swycaffer at abontides@gmail.com. No guarantee can be made of email receipt. Privacy and property rights will be absolutely respected. No one other than the Short Story Judge will ever see the submission.
6. **There are no entry fees.**
7. Cash prizes totaling \$100 will be awarded as follows: First prize is \$50, second \$30, and third \$20. Honorable mentions and semi-finalists will receive a certificate of award.
8. Send all manuscripts to the contest manager: Jefferson Swycaffer, P. O. Box 15373, San Diego, CA 92175-5373; abontides@gmail.com. Emails with the story attached in word format are preferred. Paper manuscripts are acceptable. All entries must be received or postmarked no later than Dec. 31, 2024.
9. The Short Story Judge is a published science fiction professional, and also a loving fan of the sf and fantasy genres. All comments and critiques are solely the Short Story Judge's opinion, but he promises to be constructive and polite.
10. Stories will also be reviewed by the Editor of the N3F Fiction zine Eldritch Science; authors of suitable tales will be invited to submit their tales for publication in our zine. This review and invitation will only occur after contest winners have been announced, so it can have no effect on the contest outcome.
11. The NSF may want to publish an electronic book including top entries from one or more years of publication. You will not be contacted about this until after the contest is over and prizes have been awarded. If we want to publish your story, you will have to sign over to us first world serial rights. Your willingness to sign over rights cannot affect whether or not you win the contest. Winners will be notified as soon as the judging is completed. Announcements and notifications of winning entries will be made by March 2025. Please take your time and submit your best work. You can resubmit stories previously entered if they did not win previously. All entries will be kept confidential and will be judged fairly and anonymously. The deadline for all entries is Dec. 31, 2024. Good luck!

Please supply on a separate page the following information as your entry form.

Title of story (for identification): Author's name and address: Author's email address:

I have read the above rules for the 2024 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest, and I agree to them.

Signature/Date: _____

Mail to: Jefferson Swycaffer, P. O. Box 15373, San Diego, CA 92175-5373 ; or email abontides@gmail.com



Laureate Nominations — Kaymar Award Nominee
President's View—George Phillis
Director's View—Becky Jones

Franking Service—Son of SilverCon

Letters of Comment
Lloyd Penney—A.C.—George Phillis

SerCon
Wilmar Shiras Bio-Bibliography

Treasury

Bureau Reports
Welcome to the Writers Exchange!—Round Robins Bureau—Welcommittee—Fanzines
Correspondence Bureau—N3F Ad Flier—Short Story Contest

N3F TNFF
c/o George Phillis
48 Hancock Hill Drive
Worcester MA 01609