

The National Fantasy Fan

Cras ad Stellae — Tomorrow to the Stars

Volume 75 Number 11

November 2016

Ashes to Ashes Halloween Story The Quarter Test

Those are all submissions to *A Sea of Stars Like Diamonds*. They are quite fine.

Alas, their submission letters and contact information were stored on my computer, which had a RAID backup system, a third drive, and occasional copying to DVDs. The Microsoft Windows 10 Anniversary Upgrade ate my main hard drive and wrecked the directory structure on the entire RAID system. The stories arrived during a gap in the more systematic backup process. As a result, I have the stories on paper, but no electronic files or author contact info. Indeed, I am not sure who wrote the tales in question. If you are the author, please contact phillies@4liberty.net and send me the electronic files and your contact info again.

Elections!

Annual Elections are still upon us. The computer disaster ate a message to me from Ruth Davidson, Election Teller, reporting that she had moved. If you mailed a ballot to her, it will probably eventually get back to you.

The paper ballot is on page 11. VOTE! Yes, in this N3F election, voting twice is authorized. You may also vote electronically, which Ruth Davidson indicates that she prefers. Her papermail address is Ruth Davidson, 155 Acalanes Drive Apt. 17, Sunnyvale, CA 94086. Her email address is ruthiechan@gmail.com

We are electing a President, and we are electing five members of the Directorate. To be on the ballot or be elected, your dues must be paid up through all of next year. Please

renew at once if you are going to run.

We have one candidate for President: George Phillies

We have five candidates for the five Directorate positions:

Laurraine Tutihasi
John Thiel
Jefferson Swycaffer
Jon Swartz
Judy Carroll

Current Directorate members David Speakman and Heath Row indicated to me that they did not wish to serve on the Directorate this year. We honor them for their loyal service to our Federation! Without volunteers like them, where would we be?

Electronic Zines

TNFF is the N3F's paper newsletter. However, thanks to the miracle of modern computers, we are also publishing electronic zines, including Tightbeam, Ionisphere, and by and by Eldritch Science. If you want to receive these zines we must have your email address. If you are not receiving them, we do not have your email address. Please send it. Also, we have started sending out for free issues of other fanzines, also only via email. To receive these, we need your email address.

Directorate Acts!

By David Speakman,
Chair of the 2016 Directorate

The directorate heard two actions brought up by the President in the past 4 weeks:

1) Election issues. The president sought our advice and consent regarding issues involving the election of 2017 N3F officers. By acclamation, we approved his plans and remedies for handling the elections this year.



Art — Page 3 — Bounty Hunter — Jose Sanchez

Contributions Needed! We need more reports! We need more art! We need more letters and comments, and fannish news of every sort. Please send to the Editor of this, our Official Organ: George Phillies, 48 Hancock Hill Drive, Worcester MA 01609 phillies@4liberty.net 508 754 1859



Your Volunteer Team

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 David Speakman davodd@gmail.com
 Jon Swartz jon_swartz@hotmail.com
 Jefferson Swycaffer abontides@gmail.com
 R-Laurraine Tutihasi lauraine@mac.com

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Bureau Heads

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Judy Carroll autumnseas8012@yahoo.com

Convention Calendar: new volunteer needed

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Gourmet Bureau: Cedar Sanderson cedarlili@yahoo.com

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Writers Exchange Bureau: Judy Carroll
 autumnseas8012@yahoo.com

Many New Volunteers are needed: Electronic Publication Support, Readers for the Blind, Con Listings, Advertising, Convention Hospitality, Outreach, Correspondence, Comics, Films. Support the N3F. Volunteer Now!

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2) Motion 2016-06: Allocation of Treasury funds of \$156 to buy Advertising in Prozines to Promote the club. The ad to read something similar to: "National Fantasy Fan Federation -- founded 1941. Magazines, publications, activities, more. N3F.org" and run for three months in Analog/Asimov's and F&SF

YEA: Swartz, Swycaffer, Row

NO: Tutihasi

ABSTAIN: Speakman

Motion PASSED.

In Memoriam: Norman F. Stanley

by

Jon D. Swartz, Ph. D.

N3F Historian

Norm Stanley was a science fiction (SF) fan from Maine who was very active in fandom in the 1940s. He was a member of the famous Stranger Club of Boston, and was one of the club members who attended Noreascon 3 as a Fan Guest of Honor.

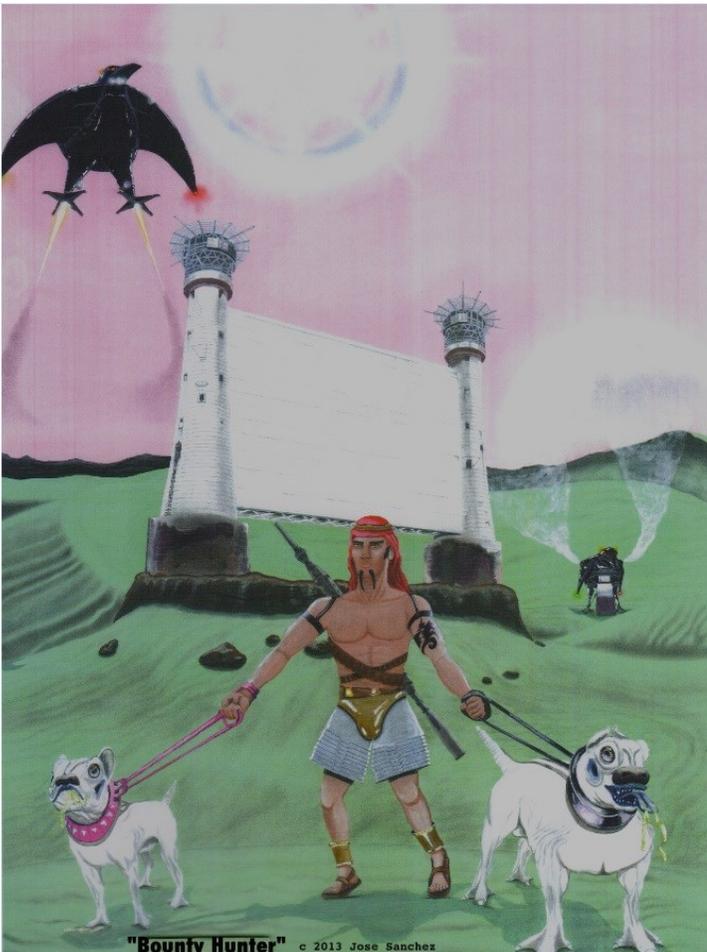
Stanley was also involved in the Skowhegan Junior Astronomical and Rocket Society, the type of fan club that combined both science and SF activities and was common in the 1930s-1940s. He was generous with his fellow club members, and let them borrow from his bound-volumes of SF prozines.

He attended early conventions such as Philcon, as well as some of the early Boskones. He also participated in Mainecon Jr, a "conference" in the language of the times, in 1943, with his friend Jim Avery and the visiting Claude Degler. He gave Degler some fanzines, and got along well with him. This generosity of his, plus the "conference" they had had with Avery, qualified him to be a member of Degler's legendary Cosmic Circle.

Join or Renew

We offer four different memberships. Memberships with zines via paper mail are \$18; memberships with zines via email are \$6. Additional memberships at the address of a current member are \$4. Public memberships are free. Send payments to N3F, POB 1925, Mountain View CA 94042. or pay online at N3F.org or send phillies@4liberty.net your email address for a public membership.

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Norm was still active in fan matters in the late 1940s, and attended the 1948 Torcon where he participated in a roundtable discussion on the probable date of the arrival of interplanetary travel.

Norm's major fanzine was Fan-Tods, which ran for 19 issues. He also published Beyond with Roscoe E. Wright. Fan-Tods was a SF zine that was subtitled "The Magazine for the Tod Fan." It appeared in the 1940s-1950s, and was edited and published by Norm from his home in Rockland, Maine. Fan-Tods was an apazine, distributed through FAPA (Fantasy Amateur Press Association), and then VAPA (Vanguard Amateur Press Association).

Jack Speer's 1944 poll found Fan-Tods to be among the nation's top five zines. In the 1940s, Norm was very much a member of the "sense of wonder" camp of SF. According to Warner's All Our Yesterdays, when Norm's mother told him about atomic bombs and Hiroshima he remembered thinking: "I confess my first reaction was one of elation, which even the obvious misgivings couldn't quench. 'Geez, we might blow up the whole planet,' I thought, 'but it's still wonderful.'"

During the 1940s, he was also a member of the National Fantasy Fan Federation (N3F), and Chairman of our club's Planning Committee. Under the Constitution in effect at the time, the Chairman was an appointed officer who headed up the committee -- of up to twelve club members -- that was responsible for the long-range progress of the N3F. He was also one of the original members of First Fandom, and was elected to the First Fandom Hall of Fame in 2013.

Stanley passed away on October 22, 2016, at the Sussman House, a retirement facility in Rockport, Maine. He was 100 years old. He told friends that he attributed his longevity, in part, to having Shredded Wheat for breakfast every day.

Sources: All Our Yesterdays; The Immortal Storm; Fancyclopedia 3; ISFDB; Wikipedia; and other Internet sites.

N3F Founding Members: Edward E. "Doc" Smith

by

Jon D. Swartz, Ph.D.
N3F Historian

E. E. Smith (1890 -- 1965) was a science fiction (SF) writer whose Ph.D. degree was appended to his name by editors of pulp magazines in an attempt to add some distinction to the space opera stories he wrote for their publications. Adding the degree after his name led to his being called "Doc" Smith by his many fans. Before he became a writer Smith worked at many different jobs, including stevedore, bricklayer, mill-hand, ranch hand, lumberjack, silver miner, surveyor, engineer, conductor on a horse-drawn streetcar, teamster, explosives expert, electrician, and chemist in a variety of settings.

He graduated from The University of Idaho with a degree in chemical engineering in 1914, then attended George Washington University in Washington, D. C. for his graduate work (M.S. in chemistry, 1917; Ph.D. in chemical engineering, 1919). He married photographer's model Jeanne Craig MacDougall in 1915; and they subsequently had three children, a son and two daughters.

Smith's first SF publication -- that took him five years to write and another seven years to get published -- was his classic space opera novel about an anti-gravity substance (X) used to power a spaceship, The

Skylark of Space. The story was serialized in *Amazing Stories* beginning with the August, 1928, issue. Smith was paid a total of \$125.00 for the entire serial. Hugo Gernsback, Publisher and Editor in Chief of *Amazing*, the first magazine devoted entirely to SF, described this first published work of Smith's as follows: "Plots, counter plots, hair-raising and hair-breadth escapes, mixed with love, adventure and good science seem to fairly tumble all over the pages." It's interesting that Gernsback should have mentioned "love" in his description of *Skylark*, because it helps explain Smith's co-author who is usually added to editions of the book. Smith had asked Mrs. Lee Hawkins Garby, wife of a former classmate, to help him with the "love interest" and other feminine matters in the story. Whatever Mrs. Garby's contribution to the story, Smith split the payment he received for it with her.

The success of *The Skylark of Space* resulted in a writing career that ended only with Smith's death in 1965. In particular, it led him to write more "Skylark" novels, several novels in his even more popular "Lensman" series, and a half-dozen standalone novels. During his 50-year writing career Smith created several memorable characters, especially Marc "Blackie" Duquesne. Of his many stories, *Spacehounds of IPC* was his favorite.

Many of the writers of the Golden Age of SF were friends and/or admirers of Smith. Isaac Asimov, the most prolific author of the Golden Age, had the following to say: "From the late 1920s and through the 1930s right up to the rise of Heinlein, Doc Smith was the most towering figure in science fiction, thanks to the enormous scope of his novels."

At the very least, Smith can be credited with popularizing two major themes in SF writing: 1) interstellar flight (*The Skylark of Space*, 1928); and 2) the unification of the stars into a community (*Galactic Patrol*, 1937). SF writers would exploit these two concepts for many decades to come. Smith was not called The Father of Space Opera for no reason. His ideas also found a broader audience. According to his daughter Verna Jean, several of Smith's fictional ideas were adopted/adapted by the United States military, including his CIC sub-nano-second computer system from the *Lensman* flagship Z9M9Z.

Of course, he was also one of the founding members of our club, celebrating its 75th anniversary this year. His daughter Clarissa was also one of our founding members.

Sources: *In Memory Yet Green*; *The Encyclopedia*

of Science Fiction; *The Universes of E. E. Smith*; *Science Fiction and Fantasy Literature, Volume 2: Contemporary Science Fiction Authors II*; *The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction and Fantasy, Volume 2: Who's Who, M-Z*, *Fancylopedia 3*, *ISFDB*, and *Wikipedia*.

SF Magazines: Amazing Stories

by
Jon D. Swartz, Ph.D.
N3F Historian

Amazing Stories is an American science fiction (SF) magazine launched in April, 1926, by Hugo Gernsback's Experimenter Publishing. It was the first magazine devoted solely to SF. Before *Amazing*, SF stories had made regular appearances in other magazines, including some published by Gernsback, but *Amazing* helped define and launch a new genre of pulp fiction.

Gernsback's editorial in the first issue asserted: "Not only do these amazing tales make tremendously interesting reading – they are also always instructive." He had always believed that "scientifiction," as he called these stories, had educational power, but he now understood that the fiction had to entertain as well as to instruct. His continued belief in the instructional value of SF was not in keeping with the general attitude of the reading public towards pulp magazines, which was that they were trash.

Amazing was published, with some interruptions, for almost eighty years. The title first changed hands in 1929, when Gernsback was forced into bankruptcy and lost control of the magazine. In 1931, Bernarr Macfadden purchased the assets of the Mackinnon-Fly magazine publishers (in Canada), which gave him *Amazing Stories* and several other titles. They were published under the Teck Publications imprint.

Amazing became unprofitable during the 1930s and in 1938 was purchased by Ziff-Davis, who hired Ray Palmer as editor. Palmer made the magazine successful though it was not regarded as a quality magazine within the SF community. In the late 1940s *Amazing* began to print stories about the Shaver Mystery, a lurid narrative that explained accidents and disaster as the work of robots named deros. The stories were presented as fact, and led to dramatically increased circulation -- but also led to ridicule from many quarters.

Palmer was replaced by Howard Browne in 1949, who briefly entertained plans of taking *Amazing* up-market. These plans came to nothing, though *Amazing*

did switch to a that, hedigest format in 1953, shortly before the end of the pulp magazine era.

A brief period under the editorship of Paul W. Fairman was followed, at the end of 1958, by the leadership of Cele Goldsmith. Despite her lack of experience, she was able to bring new life to the magazine; and her years are regarded as one of Amazing's most creative eras. She was unable to arrest the declining circulation, though, and the magazine was sold to Sol Cohen's Universal Publishing Company in 1965.

Companion Magazines

In addition to *Amazing*, Ziff-Davis published several other early SF magazines, including *Amazing Stories Annual*, *Amazing Stories Quarterly*, and *Amazing Stories Science Fiction Novel*. All these publications followed the lead of *Amazing*, publishing the same kind of stories, most of which were reprints.

A far different companion magazine was *Fantastic Adventures*, launched in 1939 as a SF/fantasy sister magazine edited by Palmer, who was editing *Amazing* at the time. Under Palmer, the magazine had its ups and downs, with its best-selling issues usually containing stories by Edgar Rice Burroughs. The magazine received a death knell when Ziff-Davis began *Fantastic* in 1952 with Howard Browne as editor.

Hugo Gernsback

Hugo Gernsback (1884 - 1967), was a Luxembourg -American writer, editor, inventor, and magazine publisher, best known for scientific publications including *Amazing Stories*. His contributions to the genre as publisher were so significant that he is sometimes called "The Father of Science Fiction." The awards presented at the World Science Fiction Convention each year are named Hugos after him. Gernsback also wrote fiction, including the SF novel *Ralph 124C 41+* that was originally published in 1911.

Ray Palmer

Raymond Arthur Palmer (1910 - 1977) was a SF fan (from early in the 1930s) who later became an author, editor, and publisher under his name and various pseudonyms. He is credited with publishing the first SF fanzine, *The Comet* (later titled *Cosmology*) in 1930. He was editor of *Amazing*, from 1938 to 1949, and started *Fantastic Adventures* in 1939.

Cele Goldsmith

Cele Goldsmith Lalli (1933 – 2002) was the editor of *Amazing* from 1959 to 1965, *Fantastic* from 1958 to 1965, and later the Editor-in-Chief of *Modern Bride* magazine. Goldsmith began working on SF and fantasy magazines under Paul Fairman. When Fairman left Ziff-Davis in 1958, Goldsmith took over as editor of both *Amazing* and *Fantastic*. She was open to new authors and experimentation in writing. Among her discoveries were the SF authors Thomas M. Disch, Ursula K. Le Guin, Keith Laumer, and Roger Zelazny.

Most Recent Version

Amazing is no longer being published. After going through several versions since Goldsmith was editor in the 1960s, with varying success, the most recent version of the magazine was an online version. In September, 2011, the trademark for *Amazing* was acquired by Steve Davidson, and online publication began in 2012 - with two issues in July and August of that year.

Amazing currently exists as a website that fans can join.

Some Conclusions

In the history of SF, *Amazing* will always be acknowledged as the first English language all-SF magazine.

A major accomplishment was "Discussions," the magazine's letter column, that began in the January, 1927 issue. In addition to readers' comments about the stories, full names and addresses of the letter writers were published – making it possible for readers to communicate with each other. It can be argued that this column was the beginning of SF fandom as we know it today.

Over the years, *Amazing* has been the most popular --and also at times the least popular -- SF magazine being published. In fact, one critic has written that it has almost been eight different magazines, depending upon the philosophies and practices of the various owners and editors.

Nevertheless, *Amazing* is seen by most genre historians as occupying a very important place in the history of SF in the United States.

Bibliography

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pedia of Science Fiction. London: Orbit, 1993.

Stableford, Brian. Historical Dictionary of Science Fiction Literature. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow, 2004.

Tuck, Donald H. The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction and Fantasy, Volume 3: Miscellaneous. Chicago: Advent, 1982.

Tymn, Marshall B. & Mike Ashley (eds.). Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Weird Fiction Magazines. Westport, CT: Greenwood, 1985.

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

Writers Exchange Bureau

We are still looking for writers!

Please send us your work. We promise we will be gentle.

Send your writing to either Jefferson Swycaffer abontides@gmail.com OR to Judy Carroll AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com

Well, no one sent me any Set of Words (for want of a better name) as asked for in the October TNFF. Here is what I am referring to:

October. Halloween. Dark Night. Pale Moon. Moaning Wind. Whispered Sighs. Petrified. Alone.

This is really fun, people. You should give it a try. Here are my set of words for November:

November. Thanksgiving. Autumn Day. Smiling Faces. Family Games. Grateful Sighs. Love. Contentment.

You have probably noticed each set has the same pattern -

1 word - 1 word - 2 words - 2 words - 2 words - 2 words - 1 word - 1 word

Send your Set(s) of Words to Judy Carroll AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com and they will be published in the December TNFF.

A Touch of Trivia

This isn't really trivia, but I think it is appropriate for this time of the year. Following are quotes on gratitude

from writers:

"I would maintain that thanks are the highest form of thought; and that gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder." G.K. Chesterton

"Reflect upon your present blessings, of which every man has plenty; not on your past misfortunes, of which all men have some." Charles Dickens

"Silent gratitude isn't very much to anyone." Gertrude Stein

"You cannot do a kindness too soon because you never know how soon it will be too late." Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Piglet noticed that even though he had a Very Small Heart, it could hold a rather large amount of Gratitude." A.A. Milne

"This a wonderful day. I've never seen this one before." Maya Angelou

If you have any comments or ideas on A Touch of Trivia contact Judy Carroll AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com

Welcomittee

Hoo-ahn Ying "Chinese (Mandarin) - 欢迎

[simplified], 歡迎 [traditional]. Written phonetically like this, "huānyíng, you want to focus of emphasizing the second half just a little louder than the first." (From- How to Say Welcome in Different Languages - wikihow.com)

In the October TNFF we were introduced to the town of Littleton. Today we will learn more about this unique town.

Littleton is a special place where people of different backgrounds get together to meet, have fun, converse and learn from each other. The most common connection of the people of Littleton is their love of Things Imagined. The intertwining of Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror to create worlds and beings of surprising strengths and uncommon abilities. Dimensions and planes of unknown origins blending together in bizarre and captivating ways.

If you would like to join in Littleton's activities please contact the bureau head of the activity in which you are interested. Look at the first or second page of this publication under "Your Volunteer Team."

Stroll down to 'Bureau Heads' and pick out the bureaus you would like to join. Contact the Bureau Heads so you can fully enjoy the benefits of being a member of The National Fantasy Fan Federation. OR Contact Judy Carroll AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com for comments, questions or help.

Treasury

2589.23 (October 17, 2016)

+ 54.00 PayPal Dues

+ 0.00 Cash Dues

+ 36.00 Check Dues

- 0.00 Reimbursements

- 2.70 PayPal Fees

+ 0.00 Interest

2676.53 (November 14, 2016)

Round Robins

My understanding is that JAPANESE ANIME is very popular. In fact I personally know several people who have loved Anime since there were children. And some members have expressed interest in Anime when they joined the N3F. What I don't understand is why no one has joined the JAPANESE ANIME ROUND ROBIN. If switching the Round Robin from Snail Mail to Electronic Round Robin is the problem, please let me know and it will be switched.

Following is a very brief history of JAPANESE ANIME taken from - Open Culture -The best free cultural & educational media on the web:

"Anime has a far longer history than you might think; in fact, it was at the vanguard of Japan's furious attempts to modernize in the early 20th century. The oldest surviving example of Japanese animation, Namakura Gatana (Blunt Sword), dates back to 1917, though much of the earliest animated movies were lost following a massive earthquake in Tokyo in 1923. As with much of Japan's cultural output in the first decades of the 20th Century, animation from this time shows artists trying to incorporate traditional stories and motifs in a new modern form."

Snail Mail Round Robins

Following is the list of current Snail Mail Round Robins and the number of members in each.

Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror in TV, Movies and Books. - 2 members

Writers and Their Works - Science Fiction, Fanta-

sy and Horror - 2 members

Fairy Tales and Folklore - 2 members

Beauty and the Beast in Fairy Tales, Movies and TV - 1 member

A Round Robin needs at least 3 members to start rounding. Please help these members by joining one of the above Round Robins.

The following Round Robins have 0 members each.

Japanese Anime

Cartoons and Cartooning

Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror Video Games

Comics and Graphic Novels

A Round Robin needs at least 3 members to start rounding. If you see any RR you would like to join please contact Judy Carroll

AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com

Electronic Round Robins

We need at least 3 members to start an ERR. Following is the list of current ERR and the number of members in each one:

The Marvel Universe - 0 members

DC Superheroes and Villains - 0 members

All Things Star Wars - 0 members

Science Fiction, Fantasy & Horror in TV, Movies and Books - 1 member

Beauty and the Beast in Fairy Tales, Books, Movies and on TV - 1 member

Writers and Their Works - Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror - 1 member

Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror Artists - 2 members

Bookworms - In this ERR the members read and discuss books from a list selected by the Bureau Heads of the Bookworms reading club. Currently they have 3 members.

For more information about the Bookworms reading list and their round robin contact --- Graham & Wolf leeandjj@gmail.com

If you see an ERR you would like to join contact Judy Carroll AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com

Membership Changes

New Member

Guy Lillian - Archivist GHill@yahoo.com

Renewed

Jefferson Swycaffer - Regular voting
Expiry: 2/28/2018

Wesley Kawato - Regular Voting
Expiry: 12/31/2017

Kevin Trainor - Electronic Voting
Expiry: 9/30/2017

Kathy Powe - Electronic Voting
Plus one family member: Unknown
Expiry: 11/30/2017

David Rubin - Regular Voting
Expiry: 9/30/2017

Owen K Lorion - Regular Voting
Expiry: 11/30/2017

**Expired/Expiring
Renew Now!!**

Expired in October
Jaymie Collette

Expiring in November
Jason Freelan
Stewart Hunsaker
Angela Myers
Steven Roberts
Brian Toberman

Expiring in December
Gary Casey
William Center
Michele Nowak Center
Dennis Davis
Charles D Ward
Rikki Winters

Status Changes

Chris Nuttall - from Electronic Voting to Public non-voting

Games Bureau Report

Cubicle 7 has just come out with the 11th resource book for the Doctor Who roleplaying game. This one covers the adventures of the 11th Dr. Like all of the earlier resource books, this one has an episode guide. The episode guide allows gamemasters to turn each televised episode into a roleplaying adventure. Reading the

episode guide is a good way to catch up on episodes you've missed, even if you're not into roleplaying games.

There have been two new additions to the Ticket To Ride family of railroad games. They are Ticket To Ride Pennsylvania and Ticket To Ride Britain. In most Ticket to Ride games, the only way to score points is to build rail links between cities. In the new Pennsylvania game, players also score points for acquiring stock shares. Most rail links allow the building player to pick a share of stock from the stock pool. Most rail links allow players a choice of corporations from which they can draw shares. In the new Britain game, players need to buy technology cards if they want to build the larger rail links between cities or enter new areas of the game board.

...Wesley Kawato

Birthday Card Bureau

R-Laurraine Tutihasi advises us that last month she sent out seven birthday cards and seven renewal notices.

Letters

Editor:

Thank you for sending the latest issue of the The National Fantasy Fan, George. It is greatly appreciated. In return, I am attaching the latest issue of my genzine, Askance, which is now available on efanzines.com, a site a strongly recommend for fans interested in fanzines. There are tons of new and old zines there, and it's a lot of fun to peruse and enjoy them.

You also included a cover letter detailing one of the long-standing purposes of the N3F, to circulate members' and nonmembers' fanzines. So I am giving you permission to float the attached zine to your members who might be interested in fanzines. I appreciate the offer.

It is good to see the N3F doing outreach and encouraging participation in science fiction fandom. I actually have no interest in becoming an N3F member - never have, sad to admit - because I grew up in Minneapolis, Minnesota, which has long had an active sf community of fans and pros. These days, living in Texas and pretty much just being a fanzine fan with a lot of regional conventions and events within a short drive (less than 4 hours away) keeps me quite happy. Life is

good right now, fannishly speaking, and I'm enjoying myself, which is what being a fan is all about.

Good luck to you and the N3F. Maybe one day we will meet at a convention. With luck, I will be at the San Jose WorldCon in 2018.

All the best,
John Purcell

Gourmet Bureau Report

Eat This While You Read That: John Ringo
Cedar Sanderson

Our Gourmet BuHead is hard at work moving her family and finishing a Bachelor's degree as a full time student — did I mention also working — but this seemed to be a fine recipe. For the photographs: <https://otherwheregazette.wordpress.com/2015/05/27/eat-this-while-you-read-that-john-ringo/> Cedar writes:

It's difficult to pick out just one John Ringo book to recommend with this recipe. I've been reading his books for as long as I've been a Baen Barfly, and that's coming up on fifteen years now. Given the nature of the dish itself, I have to say that reading the Kildar would be the best choice for this meal. For a change, you will be in the book fully, all senses engaged as your house fills with the smell of cooking and you taste your sauce to season it.

If you're already a fan, a newer series begins with Under a Graveyard Sky, and this is simply the best zombie series I have ever read. Take all your old preconceptions, toss them with the scraps from the recipe, and read these. And if you're dead broke and never heard of this Ringo Guy, then you can always start with a selection from the Baen Free Library (motto: the first taste is always free) and A Hymn Before Battle is superb action military science fiction.

There are, as most of you well know, many ways to make the same dish. No two cooks will take the same recipe and have it come out in the same way, although if you are careful as you follow it, it will be very close. Most recipes that aren't based on certain chemical and physical properties (bread, leavening, meringue...) can be adjusted and tweaked by additions, substitutions, and subtractions. I'm talking about this to say that I've always worried about this series. I'm asking people to give me a dish. Some also offer recipes, others just name a favorite and I take it from there. The probability of being given the same dish is fairly high.

I asked John Ringo for a dish, and he promptly asked if I had already done chicken paprikash. I had, but assured

him that everyone makes a different recipe...

This is what he sent me:

Start with a bottle of white wine, not oaky, Sauvignon blanc or Johannesburg riesling works nicely. Pour a glass and sample to make sure it's the right taste and clarity.

Okay, pour another glass and we begin...
I usually wing it.

Once I had stopped chuckling, I started on the winging. Maybe also on the wine, but this blog is about the recipe. Working with the Paprikash idea, and adding a Georgian (the country not the state) twist to it, I came up with the following.

Chkmeruli Paprikás
(Georgian Paprika Garlic Chicken)
Chicken paprika

Color, flavor, this dish has it all!

2 tbsp canola oil
2 tbsp butter
10 cloves garlic, peeled
1 med pepper (I used Serrano, for more heat you could go with jalapeno or habanero) seeded.
1/2 c water
1/4 c cream
3 chicken breasts, large
1 tbsp Smoked Spanish Paprika (yes, the smokes makes a big difference)
a handful of thyme sprigs
1/2 c white wine
1/2 c cream

Start the oven at 400 deg F. I was making roast cauliflower for a side dish, and I put it in about 15 minutes before the chicken went in. I'd cut the cauliflower into florets and tossed with a little olive oil, red wine vinegar, and several (lost count of how many) garlic cloves in addition to a couple sprigs of thyme.

Smoked paprika

I just sprinkled the paprika over the breasts and gave them a quick flip. Putting the paprika in while browning would have led to burnt paprika.

In a cast iron skillet, heat the oil and butter. Using the canola oil raises the smoke point (don't use olive oil, which has a very low smoke point). Brown the chicken on both sides. While it is browning, put the garlic, pepper, water, and cream into the blender and puree the sauce. When the chicken is browned, sprinkle the paprika over it more or

less equally. Tuck the thyme sprigs around it. Then pour the liquid sauce over the breasts and slide the whole thing into the hot oven. Set timer for twenty minutes.

When chicken is cooked through (check with a meat thermometer in the thickest part of the breast, it's ready to come out at 160 deg f) remove from the skillet to a plate. Place skillet back on a med-high burner, and whisk in the wine and cream. Bring to a boil and reduce until sauce is thick. Check your cauliflower, if it is fork-soft, remove from the oven.

Roasted cauliflower comes out nutty, sweet, a little tang from the vinegar. It stood up well to the rest of the meal.

I sliced the chicken breasts before serving, into 1/2" thick medallions, put them on a bed of fresh baby spinach, and spooned sauce over the meat and greens. We normally don't eat a whole breast, so this recipe will feed 6 adults, or two adults and a hungry teenager. YMMV, and unless your little ones are well-trained on the matter of garlic and a little heat from the pepper they may not touch it.

This is a garlicky dish, and the smokiness of the paprika I used added a lot of flavor and smell to it. The whole house was redolent of it. We were all but drooling by the

time I got it on the plate, and we ate far too much of it. The First Reader says it is good, but overwhelming. Strongly flavored. He also says I can make this again any time I want to. We had a similar dish a few days later, only with pork chops...

...Cedar Sanderson

Novels by Neffers



Thrown back in time after the spells binding Whitehall School together nearly collapsed, Emily finds herself in the days of Lord Whitehall. But everything she knows about the past is a lie. The Whitehall Commune is in hiding from a great and terrible foe, while some of the legendary founders bicker like children and others call on deadly and untrustworthy entities with agendas of their own.

Desperately seeking a way back to her own time, her mere presence a boon and a curse to established history, Emily is drawn into a conflict against both rogue wizards and a mysterious force intent on exterminating all magicians before the future school can take shape. But as deadly powers converge on the castle, her time is running out.....

And, deep beneath Old Whitehall, something dark and dangerous is about to be born.

Ballot

Email or mail your completed ballot to Ruth Davidson, 155 Acalanes Drive Apt. 17, Sunnyvale, CA 94086. Her email address is ruthiechan@gmail.com

Ballot for Directorate. Circle names to vote for them. Vote for up to five people, including write-ins.

Judy Carroll John Thiel Jon Swartz
Jefferson Swycaffer R-Laurraine Tutihasi

Write-Ins _____

Ballot for President. Circle the name to vote for the candidate. Vote for up to one candidate, including a write-in.

George Phillies Write-In _____

Sign your name: _____

Print Your name: _____

Print your address _____

Email or mail your completed ballot to Ruth Davidson, 155 Acalanes Drive Apt. 17, Sunnyvale, CA 94086. Her email address is ruthiechan@gmail.com

2016 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, 2016.
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. 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 do sign over rights cannot affect whether or not you win the contest. Royalties will be divided evenly between all contest writers once publishing costs are covered. Winners will be notified as soon as the judging is completed. Announcements and notifications of winning entries will be made in March 2016. Please take your time and submit your best work. You can resubmit stories previously entered. All entries will be kept confidential and will be judged fairly and anonymously. The deadline for all entries is Dec. 31, 2015. 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 2016 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

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SF Magazines: Amazing Stories

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Treasury — Round Robins — Membership Changes

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Gourmet Bureau Report: John Ringo/Chkmeruli Paprikas

Short Story Contest

Novels by Neffers

Election Ballot

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