

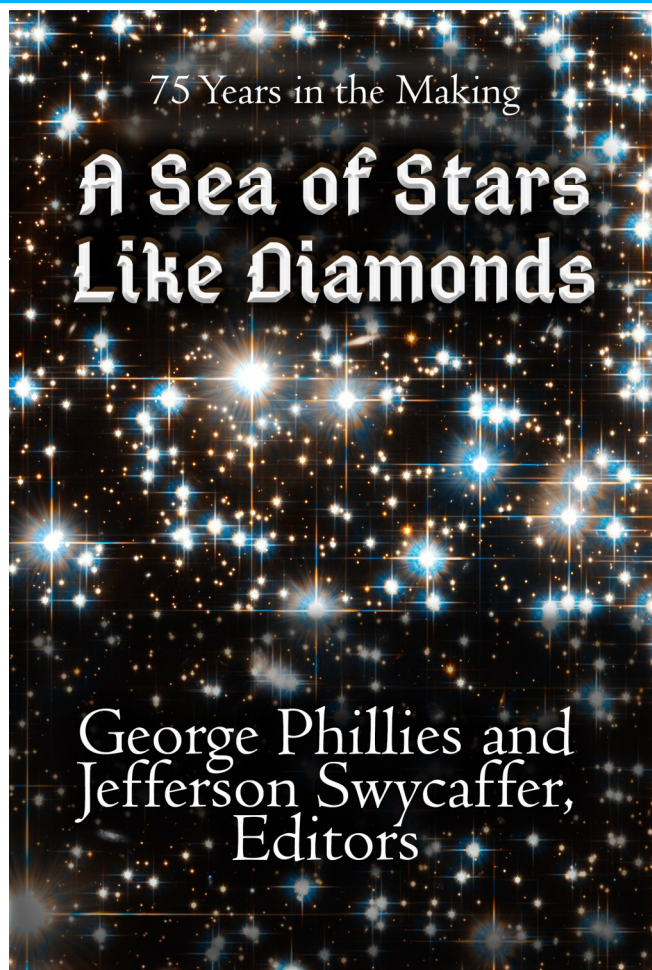


# The National Fantasy Fan

Cras ad Stellae — Tomorrow to the Stars

Volume 76 Number 1

January 2017



## A Sea of Stars Like Diamonds

Yes, that's our 75th anniversary volume, sent to all members with electronic addresses. Copies of *A Sea of Stars Like Diamonds* are also now available at Smashwords.com and on Amazon Kindle.

## 2016 Short Story Contest

Jefferson Swycaffer, Judge

First Prize:

"Moonhenge" by Robert N. Stephenson, Australia

Second Prize:

"Natural Selection" by Michael Simon, Canada

Third Prize:

"Beyond the Spires" by Frank Sawielijew, Germany

Honorable Mention:

"Free Fall" by Gustavo Bondoni, Argentina

## Franson Award Winners

One of your President's few privileges is bestowing the Franson Award on deserving Neffers. The Franson Award, formerly the N3F President's Award, was renamed in honor of long-time Neffer Donald Franson (1916-2002). The award gives N3F Presidents a way to show appreciation to people, especially people who have already won the Kaymar award, which can only be won once.

As President, it is my honor and privilege to bestow 2017 Franson awards on two highly deserving Neffers.

Jon Swartz is our long-time Historian and Archivist, keeping memories of our Federation alive in our hearts. He is also the Lord High Proofreader, without which TNFF would be filled with my ideas on spelling and grammar.

David Speakman is our indispensable officer, our Treasurer and keeper of the membership records. His willingness to bring to life the PHPlist emailing software has taken a huge burden off our publishing cabal's shoulders. In addition, he maintains the video schedule report, so that we have some idea what is found on modern television.



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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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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 monthly by The National Fantasy Fan Federation.

Jon Swartz and David Speakman serve our Federation nobly  
 and well. Please join me in thanking them for their service to  
 the N3F. And please join them in contributing time to our ad-  
 vancement

George Phillies, President, N3F—2017

## Kaymar Award

Named after fandom legend K. Martin Carlson (1904-1986),  
 the KAYMAR award has been given every year since 1959.

The selection is made by a committee, consisting of previous  
 winners who are still in the club, from nominations submitted  
 by members. The Kaymar Award, like few other awards in  
 fandom, is awarded only once. It is given not for talent or pop-  
 ularity, but for work, for the benefit of the club and its mem-  
 bers.

It is a fitting memorial to K. Martin Carlson, who originated,  
 maintained and financed it for 25 years. Now it is paid for by  
 the N3F Treasury, which is small compensation for the value  
 of the work done by the winners over the years. Prizes include  
 a year's membership extension, \$10 cash and a certificate.

Any member of the N3F may nominate someone who seems  
 worthy of the KAYMAR Award by sending a nomination to  
 the chairman of the Kaymar Awards Committee. Nominations  
 are usually collected beginning in January, but need to be sub-  
 mitted promptly so that the names can be voted on in time the  
 award in April. All names will be kept confidential. This is an  
 honor, not a campaign, and only the winner's name will be  
 made public. Chair: Jon Swartz, jon\_swartz@hotmail.com

## Franking Service

Thanks to the hard work of David Speakman, the long-  
 promised fanzine distribution service — the N3F Franking  
 Service — is now up and running. If we have your email  
 address, you should already have received via email at least

## 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@4liber-  
 ty.net your email address for a public membership.

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 current (at time reproduction is to be made) President and  
 Directorate of N3F or the original copyright holder.

two packages of electronic fanzines. More are on the way...it will be a while before we are caught up. If we do not have your email address, we cannot forward to you the waiting stack of efanzines.

## Needed: WordPress Expert

We have a set of web pages. They run in WordPress. We desperately need someone who at least somewhat understands WordPress to maintain the site. Your President can update text, but that's not at all good enough. Please contact George Phillis phillies@4liberty.net if you would be willing to help with this important project.

## Video Report

New and Returning  
...David Speakman

### JAN

- 1 Beyond FREEFORM (New)
- 2 Shadowhunters FREEFORM
- 4 Blindspot NBC
- 4 Frequency CW
- 5 The Good Place NBC
- 6 Emerald City NBC (New)
- 6 Grimm NBC
- 6 Sleepy Hollow FOX
- 8 Son of Zorn FOX
- 10 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD ABC
- 11 Jeff & Some Aliens COM (New)
- 12 Colony USA
- 13 A Series of Unfortunate Events NETFLIX (New)
- 13 The Vampire Diaries CW
- 16 Gotham FOX
- 16 Lucifer FOX
- 16 Timeless NBC
- 21 Black Sails STARZ
- 23 Supergirl CW
- 24 DC's Legends of Tomorrow CW
- 24 DC's Flash
- 25 Arrow
- 25 The Magicians SYFY
- 26 Riverdale CW (New)
- 26 Supernatural CW

### FEB

- 1 The 100 CW
- 8 The Expanse SYFY
- 12 The Walking Dead AMC
- 13 Humans AMC

### MAR

- 17 Marvel's Iron Fist NETFLIX
- 17 The Originals CW

## Birthday Bureau

November cards sent=5  
December cards sent=6

December renewal notices sent=8

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Laurraine Tutihasi laurraine@mac.com

Birthday Bureau and sometime reviewer and article writer.

## Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau

John Thiel

We still have only three in the bureau, a pro contact, a fan contact, and myself, and are wanting a news reporter and a person to handle addresses of fans and pros and to locate pro blogs and individual sites, and also a convention reporter. I'm making out well on interviews with authors; coming up in Ionisphere in February is one with Richard Lupoff, who is more or less a fan turned pro, and one with former N3F member Paulette Forshey, who won the N3F story contest a number of years back and now is a writer of romantic fantasies. Adam-Troy Castro showed satisfaction with his interview, Paul Levinson expressed pleasure with his, and both the forthcoming interviewees sound enthusiastic about the interviews.

Anyone wanting to write on topics of interest to fan-pro relations is welcome to do so, either in article form or in the letter column. Articles about prodom and fandom are also welcome.

## Round Robins

Judy Carroll

Years ago, while still a child, I learned something from my Aunt that I still find to be true today. She said that if something didn't have a price tag it would be considered to have little or no value. (I thought she was crazy. Doesn't everybody like to get things for free?)

Sometime after my Aunt told me this I was looking in the want ads of our daily paper. I was looking under Pets hoping to find an animal I could call my own that I could convince my parents to let me have. I love cats. As I read ads for striped kittens, calico kittens, Siamese kittens I noticed something. If the ad said FREE KITTENS! I eagerly read it, but dismissed it right away even if it described the cutest of kittens. My eyes would fly to the ads which boasted KITTENS \$3.00 or CUTE, CUDDLY KITTENS ONLY \$5.00. I found myself considering the kittens that had a price tag - that had value. How could this be? Free is good. Right? But, then I realized that by not placing a price tag or value on the kittens, I wondered what was wrong with them? Why was someone willing to part with them so readily that they were being given away?

How does this relate to the Round Robins you may be wondering? If joining the Round Robins had a fee for each Round Robin a member joined, or a set price giving the member access to all the Round Robins, would the Round Robins have enough members to actually be rounding? Would they have value?



## Paper 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, Fantasy 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 lee-andjj@gmail.com

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

## Eldritch Science

While it has taken longer than might have been hoped, we are now preparing to launch our new fanzine **Eldritch Science**. Eldritch Science will publish art, poetry, and fiction including science fiction, swords and sorcery, supernatural, occult, and horror.. Fiction contributions should be a mini-

mum of 7500 words. We accept lengths up to complete novels. Editorial standards are significant. In its prior incarnation under my editorship, I lost multiple authors to major SF publishing houses. I hope to repeat the experience in the future. Send submissions (.RTF is preferred for prose) to the Eldritch Science Editor, George Phillis philies@4liberty.net.

## Neglected Genre Writers

by

Jon D. Swartz, Ph.D.  
 N3F Historian

## The Fantastic Stories of Robert W. Chambers

Robert William Chambers was born on May 26, 1865, in Brooklyn, New York to William P. Chambers, a lawyer, and Caroline Chambers (*née* Boughton), a direct descendant of Roger Williams, founder of Providence, Rhode Island. Robert's brother was Walter Boughton Chambers, a progressive and influential architect. Robert dedicated his most famous book, *The King in Yellow*, to Walter.

Robert Chambers was first educated at the Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute, and then entered the Art Students' League at the age of twenty -- where the artist Charles Dana Gibson was a fellow student. He and Gibson later created the image of the jet-set Gibson Girl, sometimes called the Chambers Girl. Chambers later studied at the École des Beaux-Arts and at Académie Julian in Paris from 1886 to 1893, and his work was displayed as early as 1889 in the Paris Salon. On his return to New York, he succeeded in selling illustrations to *Life*, *Truth*, and *Vogue* magazines. Then, for reasons unclear at this time, he devoted most of his time to writing, producing his first novel, *In the Quarter*, in 1894.

His most famous work was *The King in Yellow*, a 1895 collection of weird, fantasy, and science fiction short stories -- connected by the theme of a fictitious drama, *The King in Yellow*, which causes those who read it to become mentally unbalanced. Genre critic E. F. Bleiler described *The King in Yellow* as one of the most important works of American supernatural fiction. Bleiler also wrote that Chambers was the link between the work of Poe and the modern writers of supernatural fiction.

Chambers returned to the weird genre in his later short story collections *The Maker of Moons* and *The Tree of Heaven*, but neither was as successful as *The King in Yellow*. Several of his most popular stories are considered to be science fiction, including "In Search of the Unknown," "Police!!!," and "The Repairer of Reputations."

In order to earn a living, Chambers turned to writing romantic fiction. According to historians, Chambers was one of the most successful authors of his period, his later novels selling well -- with a handful achieving best-seller status. Many of his works were also serialized in magazines. After 1924 he devoted himself solely to writing historical fiction.

Over his lifetime, Chambers had more than 70 books published, with fourteen of them turned into movies. One of his books, *The Common Law*, was filmed three times during his lifetime. He also wrote much verse, many short stories, articles, and two stage and opera books which were performed. Chambers always traveled with the rich and powerful. That he knew Rupert Hughes, the uncle of Howard Hughes, is a well-known fact. Rupert Hughes wrote the introduction to a 1938 edition of *The King in Yellow*.

Chambers for several years made his summer residence in a remodeled ancestral estate at Broadalbin in the foothills of the Adirondacks. He also maintained an office near Central Park, the location of which was a secret even from his own family. Some of his novels touch upon colonial life in Broadalbin and nearby Johnstown.

On July 12, 1898, he married Elsa Vaughn Moller (1882 - 1939). They had a son, Robert Edward Stuart Chambers (later known as Robert Husted Chambers), who also gained some fame as an author. Robert W. Chambers died on December 16, 1933, in New York City, following abdominal surgery.

### Genre Books

*The King in Yellow* (Nealy, 1895) [contains most of his best genre stories]  
*The Maker of Moons* (Putnam, 1896) [a secret society working black magic]  
*The Mystery of Choice* (Appleton, 1897) [contains "The Messenger"]  
*In Search of the Unknown* (Harper, 1904) [biological SF stories/contains "A Matter of Interest"]  
*The Tracer of Lost Persons* (Appleton, 1906) [introduced the detective character on whom the later popular radio series was based]  
*The Tree of Heaven* (Appleton, 1907) [stories related to an oriental carpet]  
*The Green Mouse* (Appleton, 1910) [invention serves as a mating bureau]  
*Police!!!* (Appleton, 1915) [sequel to *In Search of the Unknown*]  
*The Slayer of Souls* (Doran, 1920) [Secret Service thriller about world conquest]  
*The Talkers* (Doran, 1923) [discovery of the source of life]

Note: Books are listed by date of publication, from earliest to most recent.

### Stories/Poems Reprinted in Genre Anthologies/Periodicals

"The Demoiselle d'Ys" in Famous Fantastic Mysteries (November, 1942)  
 "The Yellow Sign" in Famous Fantastic Mysteries (September, 1943)  
 "The Yellow Sign" in Sleep No More (Derleth, 1944)  
 "The Yellow Sign" in Super Science Stories (April, 1945)  
 "The Yellow Sign" in Avon Fantasy Reader #2 (1947)

"In the Court of the Dragon" in Avon Fantasy Reader #5 (1947)  
 "The Demoiselle d'Ys" in Editors Choice in Science Fiction (Moskowitz, 1954)  
 "The Yellow Sign" in Magazine of Horror #1 (August, 1963)  
 "The Repairer of Reputations" in Magazine of Horror #3 (February, 1964)  
 "The Mask" in Magazine of Horror #6 (November, 1964)  
 "Cassilda's Song" in Magazine of Horror #8 (April, 1965) [verse]  
 "Passeur" in Magazine of Horror #8 (April, 1965)  
 "The Sign of Venus" in Weird Tales (Summer, 1973)  
 "The Splendid Apparition" in Weird Tales (Winter, 1973)

Note: Stories are listed by date of publication of the anthology/periodical in which they were reprinted.

### Some Conclusions

At one time Chambers was a very popular author, mostly for his historical and romance fiction. His *The King in Yellow* is credited with contributing to H. P. Lovecraft's famed Cthulhu mythos, and his *The Maker of Moons* is held in almost as high regard by connoisseurs of horror.

Lovecraft was a great admirer of *The King in Yellow*, once stating that it "achieves notable heights of cosmic fear." He especially liked Chambers' story, "The Yellow Sign," calling it "altogether one of the great weird tales ever written." When Chambers later gave up writing science fiction/fantasies and instead turned to writing romantic fiction, however, Lovecraft was highly critical and wrote that Chambers was "a fallen Titan – equipped with the right brains and education, but wholly out of the habit of using them." Chambers was a member of The National Institute of Arts and Letters.

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## N3F Founding Members:

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

Lew Martin was a Denver, Colorado, science fiction (SF) fan who is known in fandom principally for attending Chicon I, the 1940 Worldcon in Chicago, with his friend and fellow fan Olon Wiggins. Their attendance at the con is considered noteworthy because they rode underneath freight train boxcars for more than thirty hours to get from Denver to Chicago. (A fellow traveler failed to complete the trip, in a somewhat bloody manner, but he wasn't an SF fan).

The next year Martin played a major role in organizing the 1941 Denvention. For this convention, Martin served as secretary-treasurer, Roy Hunt worked as artist and editor, and Wiggins was the director.

At this time Martin was a member of the Colorado Fantasy Society and served as its secretary-treasurer. He had previously been a member of the local Denver SF club, the Denver Science Fictioneers.

Martin assisted Wiggins on the fanzine The Science Fiction Fan, and also contributed to The Alchemist (including the special issue, the Deventioneer Alchemist). The Alchemist served as the club zine of the Colorado Fantasy Society, which at one time included Robert Heinlein as a frequent guest.

In the early 1940s, Martin and his friends had letters published in such SF prozines as Fantastic Adventures, Comet, and Starling.

Martin was a member of First Fandom and was elected to the First Fandom Hall of Fame, posthumously, in 2016.

His photograph, standing alongside Wiggins, appears on page 101 of Harry Warner's All Our Yesterdays (Advent, 1969).

In addition, of course, in 1941 he was a charter member of our club, The National Fantasy Fan Federation (N3F). The N3F celebrated its 75th year as an important part of SF fandom last year.

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

## Games Bureau

Wesley Kawato

There is a new version of the Traveller Role Playing game. From what I can tell, there seem to be no major rule changes. But there has been a drastic change in the Traveller Universe. Most adventures take place in the Spinward Marches Star Sector. That sector has been completely redesigned. I took a look at the new star map and couldn't find a single star system from the old star map.

## Writers Exchange Bureau

Judy Carroll

I would like to say we have started out the new year with many stories to read written by our N3F members. But alas, that is not so. We have no stories except the ones we tell ourselves while waiting to discover if the next time we open our emails or check our mail boxes we will find a story written by YOU.

Following are quotes by writers on writing:

You must stay drunk on writing so reality cannot destroy you.  
Ray Bradbury

You don't write because you want to say something, you write because you have something to say. F. Scott Fitzgerald

There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you. Maya Angelou

The worst enemy to creativity is self-doubt. Sylvia Plath

If reality is destroying you, if you have something to say, if the agony of your untold story is becoming unbearable then vanquish the enemy stopping you and WRITE!

You may send your work to Judy Carroll - AutumnSea-s8012@yahoo.com OR  
Jefferson Swycaffer - abontides@gmail.com

## A Touch of Trivia

New Years Traditions

Auld Lang Syne

The most commonly sung song for English-speakers on New Year's eve, "Auld Lang Syne" is an old Scottish song that was first published by the poet Robert Burns in the 1796 edition of the book, Scots Musical Museum. Burns transcribed it (and made some refinements to the lyrics) after he heard it sung by an old man from the Ayrshire area of Scotland, Burns's homeland.

It is often remarked that "Auld Lang Syne" is one of the most popular songs that nobody knows the lyrics to. "Auld Lang Syne" literally translates as "old long since" and means "times gone by." The song asks whether old friends and times will be forgotten and promises to remember people of the past with fondness, "For auld lang syne, we'll take a cup o' kindness yet."

Hogmanay (Scotland)

The birthplace of "Auld Lang Syne" is also the home of Hogmanay (hog-mah-NAY), the rousing Scottish New Year's celebration (the origins of the name are obscure). One of the traditions is "first-footing." Shortly after midnight on New Year's eve, neighbors pay visits to each other and impart New Year's wishes. Traditionally, First foots used to bring along a gift of coal for the fire, or shortbread. It is considered especially lucky

if a tall, dark, and handsome man is the first to enter your house after the new year is rung in. The Edinburgh Hogmanay celebration is the largest in the country, and consists of an all-night street party (visit their Hogmanay website here).

#### Oshogatsu (Japan)

The new year is the most important holiday in Japan, and is a symbol of renewal. In December, various Bonenkai or "forget-the-year parties" are held to bid farewell to the problems and concerns of the past year and prepare for a new beginning. Misunderstandings and grudges are forgiven and houses are scrubbed. At midnight on Dec. 31, Buddhist temples strike their gongs 108 times, in a effort to expel 108 types of human weakness. New Year's day itself is a day of joy and no work is to be done. Children receive otoshidamas, small gifts with money inside. Sending New Year's cards is a popular tradition—if postmarked by a certain date, the Japanese post office guarantees delivery of all New Year's cards on Jan. 1.

#### Spain

The Spanish ritual on New Year's eve is to eat twelve grapes at midnight. The tradition is meant to secure twelve happy months in the coming year.

#### The Netherlands

The Dutch burn bonfires of Christmas trees on the street and launch fireworks. The fires are meant to purge the old and welcome the new.

#### Greece

In Greece, New Year's day is also the Festival of St. Basil, one of the founders of the Greek Orthodox Church. One of the traditional foods served is Vassilopitta, or St Basil's cake. A silver or gold coin is baked inside the cake. Whoever finds the coin in their piece of cake will be especially lucky during the coming year.

#### United States

Probably the most famous tradition in the United States is the dropping of the New Year ball in Times Square, New York City, at 11:59 P.M. Thousands gather to watch the ball make its one-minute descent, arriving exactly at midnight. The tradition first began in 1907. The original ball was made of iron and wood; the current ball is made of Waterford Crystal, weighs 1,070 pounds, and is six feet in diameter.

A traditional southern New Year's dish is Hoppin' John—black eyed peas and ham hocks. An old saying goes, "Eat peas on New Year's day to have plenty of everything the rest of the year." Another American tradition is the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California. The Tournament of Roses parade that precedes the football game on New Year's day is made up of elaborate and inventive floats. The first parade was held in 1886.

#### Widely Observed New Year Symbols and Traditions

**Resolutions:** It is believed that the Babylonians were the first to make New Year's resolutions, and people all over the

world have been breaking them ever since. The early Christians believed the first day of the new year should be spent reflecting on past mistakes and resolving to improve oneself in the new year.

**Fireworks:** Noisemaking and fireworks on New Year's eve is believed to have originated in ancient times, when noise and fire were thought to dispel evil spirits and bring good luck. The Chinese are credited with inventing fireworks and use them to spectacular effect in their New Year's celebrations.

(From infoplease

New Year's Traditions

Auld Lang Syne and other New Year's customs

by Borgna Brunner)

## SF Magazines:

### Science-Fiction Plus

by Jon D. Swartz, Ph.D.

N3F Historian

Science-Fiction Plus (with the sub-title: Preview of the Future) was a science fiction (SF) magazine published in 1953 by Gernsback Publications, Inc. With a large format and printed on slick paper with glossy covers, it began as a monthly but switched to bi-monthly with the June, 1953, issue. It was also referred to as Science-Fiction +.

Edited and published by SF legend Hugo Gernsback, the 68-page magazine (the front and back covers were counted as pages) sold for 35¢ and ran for seven issues, from March, 1953 (Vol. 1, No. 1) to December, 1953 (Vol. 1, No. 7). However, for the last two issues, October and December, 1953, the paper was switched from slick to book paper. The Managing Editor, who in actuality was responsible for most aspects of the magazine, was SF fan and historian Sam Moskowitz. Legendary SF artist Frank R. Paul was the Art Director. Several scientists served as consultants.

The lineup of writers included many famous names in the history of the genre, including Robert Bloch, Murray Leinster, Chad Oliver, Clifford D. Simak, and James H. Schmitz. It also featured the first published story by Anne McCaffrey. Cover illustrations were by SF artists Frank R. Paul and Alex Schomburg, with interior illustrations by Paul, Virgil Finlay, Paul Cooper, and others.

The first issue had novelettes by Gernsback and Philip Jose Farmer, with short stories by Otto Binder, John Scott Campbell, and Gernsback (as Greno Gashbuck), book reviews by Moskowitz, and a variety of essays on science topics.

An interesting bit of trivia is that the cover of the October, 1953, issue was urged by Star Trek creator Gene Roddenberry to be a guide for Matt Jefferies in the development of the star ship USS Enterprise.

The final issue of Science Fiction Plus (dated December, 1953) featured stories by Murray Leinster, Harry Bates,



James H. Schmitz, Frank N. Robinson, and Eric Frank Russell. Michael Fischer wrote the cover story, "Misfit," that was illustrated by Paul.

### Hugo Gernsback

Hugo Gernsback (August 16, 1884 – August 19, 1967), was a Luxembourg-American writer, editor, inventor, and magazine publisher, best known for scientific publications including the first all-SF magazine, *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+*, originally published in 1911.

### Sam Moskowitz

Sam Moskowitz (June 30, 1920 – April 15, 1997) was an early SF fan, and later, a writer, critic, and historian of the field. He wrote the first comprehensive history of SF fandom, *The Immortal Storm*, published in book form for the first time in 1954. Most of the book was originally published in the form of articles in the SF fanzine *Fantasy Commentator*.

### Some Conclusions

The glossy, folio format of the magazine seemed to proclaim that SF had finally come of age and could be displayed on the country's newsstands with the popular general magazines of the time.

Tymn and Ashley wrote that *Science-Fiction Plus* was "the expression of the editor-publisher's idealism and the fan enthusiasm of its managing editor, Sam Moskowitz."

It was seen by critics of the day as the last expression of Gernsback's philosophy that he had displayed at the beginning of SF in his magazines in the 1920s. Gernsback saw SF as a vehicle of prediction and education and hoped that reading SF would motivate readers to become scientists themselves. While some fans of the time did eventually become scientists, many more became genre writers, agents, and editors. Most readers of SF, of course, usually end up working at jobs that have little or no connection with the sciences.

### Bibliography

Clute, John & Peter Nicholls (eds.). *The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction*. London: Orbit, 1993.  
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 *Fancyyclopedia 3*, *ISFDB*, and *Wikipedia*.

## Welcommittee

Judy Carroll

Sva-gaht ha-AIN

Hindi - स्वागत (Svगत) सवागत हैं (svगत hain). Both of these will work, though the second is a little more formal.

•"Sva-gaht"

•"Sva-gaht ha-AIN"

(From *How to Say Welcome in Different Languages* - wiki-how.com)

The town of Littleton is greeting the new year with election results for the mayor and the town council:

Mayor - George Phillies - phillies@4liberty.net

Council Members

Judy Carroll - AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com

John Thiel - kinethiel@comcast.net

Jon Swartz - jon\_swartz@hotmail.com

Jefferson Swycaffer - abontides@gmail.com

R-Lauraine Tutihasi lauraine@ mac.com

Please feel free to contact any of the above members with any concerns or questions you may have.

The Town Shop Keepers are all set up in their various shops and are OPEN FOR BUSINESS!

Following are the shops, what they specialize in and the name of proprietor: (Yes, these are the bureaus, imaginatively renamed)

Artists Keep -Discussing Art and Artists - Cedar Sanderson - cedarlili@yahoo.com

Birthday Grove - Birthday Greetings to Town Members - R-Lauraine Tutihasi - lauraine@ mac.com

Fan-Pro Road - Coordinating Fan Activity in the Town: John Thiel - kinethiel@comcast.net

Games Away - Town Gaming Interests - George Phillies - phillies@4liberty.net

Gourmet Square - Delicious Food - Cedar Sanderson - cedarlili@yahoo.com

History Heights - Town Historian - Jon Swartz - jon\_swartz@hotmail.com

Lord High Gardens - Providing Proofreading for Town Publications - Jon Swartz -

jon\_swartz@hotmail.com

Recruitment Circle - Inviting People to Join Littleton - Kevin Trainor - wombat.soho@gmail.com

and John Thiel - kinethiel@comcast.net

N'APA Woods - A Town Publication By Town Members - George Phillies - phillies@4liberty.net

Book Row - Town Members Reading Club - Graham and Wolf - leeandjj@gmail.com

Round Robins Bend - Town Members Get Together and Discuss Various Subjects

Judy Carroll - autumnseas8012@yahoo.com or

Patricia Williams-King - doofusming@yahoo.com

Story Trail - A Yearly Writing Contest for Town Members -



Jefferson Swycaffer - abontides@gmail.com  
 Video Point - A List of News and Reviews of Interest to Town Members -

David Speakman - davodd@gmail.com  
 Welcome Avenue - Greets New Town Members and Informs Them of the Towns Activities -

Judy Carroll - AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com  
 Writers Way - A Gathering of Those Who Like to Write and Those Who Like to Read -

Judy Carroll - AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com  
 For those of you who would like to join in the uniqueness and history of this town, and not just pass through it window shopping, Please contact the Shop Keepers listed above for the Town Activities you would like to be involved in. Or contact Judy Carroll AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com

don't just be in the town.  
 LIVE IN THE TOWN!

## Membership Recruitment

Kevin Trainor

Kevin Trainor writes on cons he is visiting: I have Anime Detour coming up in April, Balticon over Memorial Day weekend, and possibly Sabakon in the fall.

## Treasurer's Report—January

David Speakman

2743.60 (Dec. 17, 2016)  
 + 70.00 PayPal Dues  
 + 0.00 Cash Dues  
 + 0.00 Check Dues  
 - 3.52 PayPal Fees  
 -----  
 2810.08 (Jan. 17, 2016)

### NEW & REINSTATED MEMBERS

#201 - Katriena Knights - Electronic Voting  
 Expiry: 2/28/2018  
 krcknights@msn.com

#202 - Felicity Walker - Public  
 felicity4711@gmail.com

#203 - Charles Rector - Public  
 crector@myway.com

#204 - Michael Simon - Public  
 msimon@nbnet.nb.ca

#205 - Frank Sawielijew  
 jarlfrank@rpgcodex.net

### RENEWED:

#34 - R-Laurraine Tutihasi - Regular Voting

Expiry: 1/31/2018

#9 - William Center - Electronic Voting

#10 - Michele Nowak Center - Household Expiry: 12/31/2017

#67 - Lauren Clough - Regular Voting  
 Expiry: 01/31/2017

EXPIRED/EXPIRING  
 Renew Now!!

Expired in December  
 #153 - Gary Casey  
 #13 - Dennis Davis  
 #172 - Charles D Ward

Expiring in January  
 #129 - John W Andrews  
 #15 - Sarah Glasgow Harder

Expiring in February  
 None! Thanks for renewing!

### STATUS CHANGES

#155 - Jason Freelan - Electronic Voting to Public Non-Voting  
 #156 - Stewart Hunsaker - Electronic Voting to Public Non-Voting  
 #159 - Steven Roberts - Regular Voting to Public Non-Voting

## Letters of Comment

1706-24 Eva Rd.  
 ON  
 CANADA M9C 2B2  
 January 19, 2017

Etobicoke,

Dear Neffers:

Thanks for Vol. 75, No. 12 of The National Fantasy fan. This will probably be a fast loc given the time, and also given the fact I do not have any Internet access at all right now. Yay, Bell Canada! So, here comes some comments on the issue, and anything else that comes to mind.

Congratulations to the election winners!, but it's easy to see that few voters participated. For the future, members have to participate more, and take part. Tell your newly-elected officials what you want to see in the NFFF, and given them your directions. They are there to represent what you want.

I did not know much of the origins of elves in our modern Christmas habits. I know of the origins of Santa Claus, from the Coca-Cola ads, so I definitely prefer the European Father Christmas.

It's always good to see something about Ray Bradbury, even if it's just his bio. I only met him once, at an American Worldcon, but he seemed overwhelmed by the whole thing. I wish I'd had the chance to sit down with him and chat. And, good to see

something about John W. Campbell. To be honest, I hadn't even seen a picture of Campbell until a couple of years ago. We all need reminders of these giants of our genre. I had never heard of the Kuslans...I don't think their names appear in any of the better-known fan histories like All Our Yesterdays or A Wealth of Fable. There's always something new to learn.

That's all for now...I have the latest issue of Tightbeam to respond to, so I will get on that in a day or so. Many thanks for the last issue of 2016, and I look forward to the first issue of 2017.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

Hello, George.

As this tumultuous year comes to its inglorious close with a series of unexpected celebrity deaths - notably Carrie Fisher and her mother Debbie Reynolds one day apart, and their passing happening a few days after singer George Michael's death - here comes the last loc of the year from me to you. I do hope for all of us that the next year will be a much more positive year for all of us despite the presidential change-over. Onward and upward. We have no choice.

Okay. As I am sure you and many other fans are aware, I am one of the three candidates in the running for the 2017 TAFF race. The goal is for voters to select a worthy North American fan to be shipped overseas to attend the 75th World Science Fiction Convention in Helsinki, Finland. If elected, my wife and I intend to not only enjoy the WorldCon as much as possible, but we plan to visit fans in England, Wales (already set), and hopefully also in France, Copenhagen, Italy, and Prague. It's going to take a lot of preparatory work, but the four weeks we will be in Europe should be a lot fun. Here's hoping! The website for the ballot can be found [taff.org.uk](http://taff.org.uk). All the rules for this vote are included there as well.

Losing First Fandom member Norman F. Stanley is sad, but Jon Swartz wrote a fine obituary and tribute to him. I remember reading about Mr. Stanley in Harry Warner's excellent fan history, All Our Yesterdays. Thank you, Jon, for writing this.

The piece about Doc Smith was also well done. Even though long-term fans like myself already have knowledge of these long ago fans and pros, I believe Jon Swartz is contributing important work in passing along the histories of those who planted the seedlings that grew into the massive science fiction community. Definitely keep doing these histories of key figures and events for the new member of the N3F.

Well, that does it for tonight. I thank you, George, for sending the issue to me. As always, it was enjoyed.

All the best,

John Purcell  
3744 Marielene Circle  
College Station, TX 77845

George,  
A Sea of Stars Like Diamonds. You and Jefferson did a great job. Congratulations! Happy New Year,

Jon Swartz

Hi George;  
Thanks for sending along Sea of Stars. I started reading it last nite. The lead story is excellent.

I also wanted to pass along this URL--- <http://ftldesign.com/logs/efanzines/> Go there and go to the bottom of the page. This is the list of stats for viewers of the efanzines.com web site. Specifically, at the bottom of the page it gives a list of the number of views/downloads during the past 30 day period. This gives a pretty good idea of how many people are downloading your fanzine. The N3f zines are all grouped together, and it is likely that a person checking out one N3F title will check out the other two as well. As of this morning the N3F goodies had 747 reads over the past 30 pages. (I will resist the urge to say our zines are Flying High! Oh wait, I guess I didn't...) It's very exhilarating to watch those numbers go up every day. Of course, then, after a time, it's also a bit disconcerting to see them drop down each day after hitting a peak too, (Fadeaway 51 is down to 632 downloads as of this morning). Anyway, check it out and bookmark that URL so you can keep an eye on how the neffer zines are doing with the broader audience out there.

---Bob Jennings



A Sea of Stars like Diamonds Back Cover

## 2017 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](mailto: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](mailto: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, 2017.
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 by March 2018. 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, 2017. 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 2017 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](mailto:abontides@gmail.com)



## In this issue:

A Sea of Stars Like Diamonds  
2016 Short Story Contest Winners  
Franson Award Winners  
Kaymar Award

Franking Service — Needed: Wordpress Expert

Video Report — Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau — Round Robins

Eldritch Science — Neglected Genre Writers

N3F Founding Members — Games Bureau — Writers Exchange Bureau

SF Magazines: Science-Fiction Plus

Welcommittee — Membership Recruitment — Treasurer's Report

Letters of Comment — A Sea of Stars Back Cover

2017 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest

In this Issue

A Sea of Stars Like Diamonds Cover design by Cedar Sanderson using ESA/Hubble images from the NASA Hubble Orbital Telescope. The title font is Gamaliel. The font for the author names and the 75 years strap line is Centaur. ESA/Hubble images are released under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 international license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0>). Image credits: NASA, ESA, and H. Richer (University of British Columbia). The image shows globular cluster NGC 6397 in the constellation Ara (the Altar).

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