



# The National Fantasy Fan

Cras ad Stellae — Tomorrow to the Stars

Volume 76 Number 10

October 2017

## News—Elections!

Once again, we have reached time for elections! All dues-paying and Life members may run for office and vote. Jon Swartz has agreed to receive and count the ballots. This month we have the list of nominees and write-in candidates.

Next month — statements of candidates and ballot. Persons who announce as write-in candidates before the next issue may submit statements, but will not be listed on the ballot. To be eligible to serve you must pay up your dues as per the Bylaws.

### Nominees

**President**—George Phillies

### Directorate—Nominated

Judy Carroll

R-Laurraine Tutihasi

David Speakman

Jefferson Swycaffer

John Thiel

### Directorate—Write-In

Richard Speakman

Jon Swartz and Heath Row declined nominations to run for the Directorate.

## Eldritch Science

I have mentioned that Eldritch Science is a revival of my magazine of some decades ago. I happen to have in my basement large stacks of extra copies. Over the next months, I am going to mail these out to dues-paying members, probably one issue at a time, not all at once, and no promise you will all get each issue. To the extent I have extra copies of an issue, they will be sent to public members.

## Boost the N3F!

Something You Can Do

Do you use Facebook, Twitter, or some other electronic outreach medium? Do you belong to blogs or news groups? When it is appropriate, speak up for the N3F! Be sure you include our web address <http://N3F.org/join>.

## Presidential Message to Volunteers

Greetings from your President!

First, I want to thank each of you for everything you are already doing for the N3F. We are a volunteer organization. It is through the fine efforts of you, our volunteers, that we are able to advance.

Second, I am absolutely confident that we would all like to see a better N3F, an N3F that all fen everywhere choose to join.

How do we get from here to there? First, we keep doing the things we are doing, and do them better. Second, we add new activities that make us more attractive to current and potential members.

Better? I occasionally send private notes, suggesting alternative ways to do things. I try to be positive and not hurt anyone's feelings. Sometimes I succeed. Sometimes despite my best efforts I have hurt a few feelings. Please consider making your own suggestions. Letters of Comment to our zines are always a good path.

New activities? Most of us only have so much time. Most of you are already dedicating that time to our Federation. Where, then do we find the volunteers who are willing and able to take on new projects? Outreach. Membership recruitment. Fanac.

If you are going to a con or club meeting, please take along a stack of membership brochures or back issues of TNFF, and hand them out. Ask if your local comic/SF/game store will let you put out fliers. I can send you fliers or zines. Please ask.



This issue is divided between News, Club Activities,  
Letters of Comments, Sercon, and Fiction

Artwork: Page 2 Angela K. Scott's Pegasus Lake



## Your Volunteer Team

### Directorate:

John Thiel - kinethiel@comcast.net—Chair  
 Judy Carroll - AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com  
 Jon Swartz - jon\_swartz@hotmail.com  
 Jefferson Swycaffer - abontides@gmail.com  
 R-Laurraine Tutihasi lauraine@mac.com

**President:** George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net

**Treasurer:** David Speakman davodd@gmail.com

### Editorial Cabal:

Editor and Publisher, TNFF: George Phillies  
 phillies@4liberty.net

Art Editor, TNFF: Cedar Sanderson cedarlili@yahoo.com

Editor, Tightbeam: Bob Jennings FabFicBks@aol.com

Editor, Ionisphere: John Thiel kinethiel@comcast.net

Editor, Eldritch Science: George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net

Keeper of the URLs: David Speakman davodd@gmail.com

Host of the Web Site: David Speakman davodd@gmail.com

### Bureau Heads

Artist's Bureau: Cedar Sanderson cedarlili@yahoo.com

Birthday Cards: R-Laurraine Tutihasi lauraine@mac.com;

Judy Carroll autumnseas8012@yahoo.com

Convention Calendar: new volunteer needed

Fan-Pro Coordinating Activity Bureau: John Thiel  
 kinethiel@comcast.net

Franking Service: George Phillies

Games Bureau: George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net

Gourmet Bureau: Cedar Sanderson cedarlili@gmail.com

Historian: Jon Swartz jon\_swartz@hotmail.com

Information Technology: David Speakman davodd@gmail.com

Lord High Proofreader: Jon Swartz jon\_swartz@hotmail.com

Membership Recruitment: Kevin Trainor wombat.soch  
 @gmail.com, John Thiel kinethiel@comcast.net

N<sup>2</sup>APA: George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net

N3F Bookwyrms:

Round Robins:

Judy Carroll autumnseas8012@yahoo.com;

Patricia Williams-King 755 Glen View Drive, Nashville,  
 TN 37206

Short Story Contest: Jefferson Swycaffer  
 abontides@gmail.com

Video Schedule: David Speakman davodd@gmail.com

Welcommittee: Judy Carroll autumnseas8012@yahoo.com

Robert J. Hansen <rjh@sixdemonbag.org>

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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Pegasus Lake — Angela K. Scott

If you publish on blogs, websites, Facebook, etc., a good closing line is always “Like SF? I belong to the N3F <http://N3F.org> and you should, too.” not to mention “N3F? Public memberships are free.”

Leading people to Fanac is good. Our wonderful Welcommittee does its share, but more voices in this direction would be positive. Speaking up (e.g., Letters of Comment) for activities you would like to see, and do not, would be positive.

Best,

George Phillies

## Club Activities Treasurer's Report

\$2,789.94 (July 3, 2017)

+ 0.00 PayPal Dues

+ 0.00 Cash Dues

+ 0.00 Check Dues

- 0.00 PayPal Fees

- 43.20 Postage

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## 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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# TNFF

\$2,746.74 (August 12, 2017)

Check for \$102.12 postage reimbursement sent to George Phillies on Sept. 17, 2017.

\$2,746.74 (August 12, 2017)

+ 36.00 PayPal Dues

+ 0.00 Cash Dues

+ 0.00 Check Dues

- 1.64 PayPal Fees

- 102.12 Postage

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\$2,678.98 (Sept. 17, 2017)

## Birthday Card Bureau

Birthday cards sent: 9    Renewals sent: 6  
-Laurraine Tutihasi

## Membership Report

New & Reinstated Members & Info Updates -None -

Renewed

#23 Jefferson Swycaffer - Regular Voting - Exp 2/28/19

#142 Judy Carroll - Regular Voting - Exp 6/30/19

Expired in August None! Thank you for renewing early!

Expiring in September

#145 Kevin Trainor, Jr.

#146 David Rubin

#192 Michael Broussard

Expiring in October

#98 Robert Jennings

#140 Roy J. Moore

#150 Robert Hansen

Members Eligible To Appear On The Ballot For 2018 Officers: Paid up at least through 12/31/18 as of September 15, 2017.

Judy Carroll Exp 6/30/19

Jacqueline Lichtenberg Exp: Life Member

George Phillies Exp: 4/30/19

Heath Row 1/31/20

David Speakman 11/30/20

Rich Speakman 11/30/20

Jon D. Swartz Exp: 12/31/18

Jefferson Swycaffer Exp: 2/28/19

John Thiel Exp. 12/31/18

## Bookwyrms

As a result of resignations, the Bookwyrms Bureau Head position is now vacant. Volunteers to assume the post - Contact phillies@4liberty.net

## Games Bureau

We recently reached an agreement with AHIKS whereby which I will very occasionally electronically circulate a copy of their fanzine Kommandeur. Most of you will now have received it.

Wesley Kawato writes: "Yesterday I met with my gamer friends and learned that Stronghold Games has released an expansion kit for Terraforming Mars. My friend bought Hellas and Elysium at a recent gaming convention. Hellas and Elysium introduces two new map boards for Terraforming Mars. Actually, this is a single, double-sided map board. I now know that the map board for the original game only covered one third of Mars. Hellas and Elysium are the areas to the west and east of the original play area. I don't know enough about Martian geography to know which expansion map is to the east and which one is to the west. Both new scenarios use the same card deck as in the standard game and the same rules. The three scenarios cannot be linked.

Yesterday I got to play Elysium but not Hellas I like this scenario is much as the base game. I'm predicting that the expansion kit will revive the Terraforming Mars craze, causing it to survive 3 to 6 months longer than it would've. Here in Southern California the Terraforming Mars craze had maxed out, and was just starting to decline. The release of Hellas and Elysium just change that.

I also have learned that Stronghold Games has announced that Venus Next will be released in early twenty eighteen. This game will be an expansion kit for terraforming Mars not a standalone game. To play Venus Next you will need the card deck and rulebook from the base game. Venus Next is set on Venus. If this expansion is as good as Hellas and Elysium, then I see the Terraforming Mars craze going strong until the middle of 2018. If Stronghold Games keeps coming out with quality expansion kits, then there may be no end in sight for this product."

## Welcommittee

Hosh-gel-din-iz Turkish - Hoşgeldiniz. ... This is a tricky one if you don't break it down into smaller parts. You can also use the more general phrase, "Buyurun," ("Booh-Rohn"), to say hello and welcome all at the same time. "Hosh-gel-dinn-iz" (From How to Say Welcome in Different Languages -wikihow.com)

The purpose of the Welcommittee is to welcome new members to the club. A letter is sent, by email or postal mail, to new members informing them of club activities they may be interested in joining. Those members with email addresses are also sent attachments to the current TNFF and other publications the N3F has to offer. No new members reported this month.

If you would like to help welcoming new members to this wonderful club please contact Judy Carroll AutumnSea-s8012@yahoo.com"Sha-loam."



Your Editor has inadvertently been omitting Robert Hansen from the Welcommittee listing. Apologies.

## Round Robins

What is a Round Robin?

Round Robins are discussion lists. They are a way of connecting with people who have similar interests. Traditional round robins are sent through the mail. Each round robin consists of a packet of letters from its members - which is mailed from member to member. As each member gets the packet, they read all the letters, then remove their own previous letter, write a new one, and send the packet on to the next member.

The N3F offers two kinds of Round Robins; traditional - where members send letters in the mail, and electronic - where members send letters by email. Both kinds are fun and informative and a good way to meet other members and to discuss topics of mutual interest.

NOTE: If you wish to join a Postal Round Robin contact - Patricia Williams-King, 755 Glen View Drive, Nashville, TN 37206

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:

Science Fiction, Fantasy & Horror in TV, Movies and Books - 4 members; Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror Artists - 2 members - ONLY 1 MORE MEMBER NEEDED; Writers and Their Works - Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror - 1 member; Japanese Anime - 1 member; Fairy Tales and Folklore - 2 members

The following Round Robins have 0 members each.  
The Marvel Universe; DC Superheroes and Villains; 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. Please help these members by joining one of the above Round Robins. If you see an ERR you would like to join please contact Judy Carroll AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com

## Directorate Report

The directors have been disputing a proposition to establish a three-person executive committee with a stable membership to ensure that website accounts are overseen, one example being the support of the N3F website, which went down for a period of time. The proposition was proposed for a vote, but a full vote was not received.

## Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau

We are continuing to improve contacts with various fan resources.

## Recruiting Bureau

I am posting at various fan sites with publicity for the NFFF.

## Writers Exchange Bureau

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. This is October, and Halloween is peeping and seeping from houses. So we bring you Halloween related items. Pick a quote to ponder, a monster to create or movies to watch.

Quotes

Where there is no imagination there is no horror. - Arthur Conan Doyle

We make up horror to help us cope with the real ones. - Stephen King

Whenever a thing is done for the first time, it releases a little demon. - Emily Dickenson

Monster Categories — a Writer's Guide (Taken from everywritersresource.com - October 1, 2015)

Following is "... a list of all the kinds of monsters....and their first or best example."

Vampire (Dracula)  
Giant Mutations/ Monsters (Godzilla)  
The Enlivened Corpse (Frankenstein)  
Mutated by Science (The Fly)  
Animal Transformation (Wolfman)  
Formless manifestation (Blob)  
Creature from Outer space (War of the Worlds)  
Unreal Stalker (Freddy)  
Destructive Artificial Intelligence (Terminator)  
Indestructible Slasher (Michael Myers)  
Natural Terror (Jaws)  
Reanimated corpses (Night of the Living Dead)  
Natural Mutations (Freaks)  
Demonic Possession (Exorcism)  
Manifested Demons (The Evil Dead)  
Ghosts (House on Haunted Hill)  
Realistic Serial Killer (Psycho)  
Undocumented Creature from an Abyss (Creature from the Black Lagoon)  
Mythological Monsters (The Clash of the Titans, The Kraken)  
Humanoid Aliens (Fire in the Sky)

Horror Movies The Top 10 Horror Movies of the 20th Century (from IMDb)

1. The Blair Witch Project (1999)
2. Night of the Living Dead (1968)

3. Psycho (1960)
4. Alien (1979)
5. The Thing (1982)
6. The Texas Chainsaw Massacre (1974)
7. Army of Darkness (1992)
8. Evil Dead II
9. Jason Lives: Friday the 13th Part VI (1968)
10. The Evil Dead (1981)

10 Best Horror Movies of the 21st Century by Gautam Anand July 4, 2016 (from TheCinemaholic.com)

1. The Others (2001)
2. The Ring (2001)
3. The Conjuring (2013)
4. The Orphanage (2007)
5. Let the Right One In (2008)
6. [REC] (2008)
7. The Blair Witch Project (2000)
8. The Babadook (2014)
9. The Cabin in the Woods (2012)
10. It Follows (2015)

If you are interested in any of the following please contact  
Judy Carroll AutumnSeas8012@Yahoo.com

1. If you would like to join the Writers Exchange to be a reader of have your work read by others.
2. If you would like to help start a Writers Sharing Group
3. If you have passages from novels, short stories, poetry, movies, screenplays, or TV you would like to share please contact me and I will put them in the TNFF for August.

Judy Carroll AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com

## Letters of Comment

Editor:

I was glad to see Jon Swartz get the Moskowitz Award and I congratulate him on it. I trust he's received his plaque in the mail and is able to mount it on his wall.

I was going through issues of TNFF in the NFFF archives that were published prior to the commencement of my own membership, and found discussions in these earlier issues of making improvements in the NFFF, and some complaints about things being lacking, so I don't think this topic is only a recent one. Presumably the people running the activities are somewhat touchy about complaints, but I think that an expansion program would be highly desirable, and of course to do that we have to get members more interested in being active. The same problem is found elsewhere in fandom—FAPA has no waiting list and has a low membership count, and are doing some soliciting they didn't use to do, and the other apas express similar complaints. To take Judy Carroll's lead, as expressed in the May 2016 issue of TNFF, I'd ask, are members indisposed, incapacitated, or what? Broke and lacking time is what many fans are expressing with regard to being active. Apparently there is little or no impetus to production existing in the fandom of the present time. So I would think a good first step in doing something about all

this is to identify and discuss the problem, as we have been doing, and supply reasons and initiative for active presence, participation, and even production. As a first attempt at doing this, I would point out to the N3F and to fandom at large that we are not maintaining a good public image when we are not active. Whatever happened to the drive to popularize science fiction and do something with it? Perhaps this popularization drive was usurped by external publicists. Maybe some of fandom has vanished into activity surrounding the New York Times best-seller lists.

On another topic, I seem to recall the Round Robins being part of the correspondence bureau in an earlier N3F.

-John Thiel

Dear Neffers:

Thank you for Vol. 76, Nos. 8 and 9 of The National Fantasy Fan. I am pleased and relieved to report that after nearly two years of job hunting, I finally did find some good employment, and I am now drawing a paycheck. Of course, being at work through the day means I have greatly reduced writing time, I am sure you'll understand. That's why here's comments on two issues, and I think I am cutting the deadline on a third issue really fine. Sorry about this, George...J

No. 8... Sorry about no letters of comment, I am falling more and more behind all the time. This may wind up being a sorry attempt to give you a letter, but at least, I am trying. The same excuse should probably be relayed to Bob Jennings and Tightbeam. Bob, I will try to catch up.

Titles of books have to catch the eye, indeed, but there are times I think there are only so many titles available. How many times have I seen a book with a title like, for example, Rules of Engagement? A quick Google will show there may be dozens of them. Finding an original title may become a real job.

I have seen the first two episodes of Star Trek: Discovery, a third is on the PVR, and the fourth comes on in a couple of days. I hear so much about it, and I think it could be excellent. Yet, others love The Orville, and a ten-second glance at the show turned me off it entirely. There's the basis for an interesting discussion.

No. 9... Congratulations to Jon Swartz on his award, and well deserved. I think more and more, getting the membership of any club to do anything is closing in on impossible. It does take more than your membership monies to get things done. And more and more, clubs are now just pages on Facebook, where no dues are required, and perhaps 99.99% of the membership is passive, waiting for things to happen.

My letter... the steampunk events for the summer have come to an end with the huge Grand Canadian Steampunk Exposition in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, inside Fort George. Now comes a couple of Harry Potter events...one was last weekend, and the other is this coming weekend. This fall/

winter sees us at two craft fairs, with hopes that we shall do well at both.

Your founders...I wonder if the John L. Millard listed is the John Millard who was the chairman of Torcon I, who I met once at the first real meeting of the Torcon III/Toronto in 2003 organizational committee meeting? Please let me know... I think Taral Wayne might be able to give you some details. There, I hope I've been able to offer some information and leads; that's what I like to do the best. Fandom survives when information is distributed to as many people as possible; that's why I have always liked fanzines. Please keep them coming, and see you with the next one.

Yours, Lloyd Penney

## SerCon

### Neglected Genre Authors:

#### E. F. Benson

by

Jon D. Swartz, Ph.D.  
N3F Historian

#### “The Fantastic Fiction of E. F. Benson”

Edward Frederic Benson (1867 - 1940) was an English novelist and short story writer, known professionally as E. F. Benson – and to his family and friends as Fred.

He was born at Wellington College in Berkshire, the fifth child of the headmaster, Edward White Benson (later Chancellor of Lincoln Cathedral, Bishop of Truro, and Archbishop of Canterbury) and Mary Sidgwick Benson, known as Minnie -- who was described by Gladstone as the “cleverest woman in Europe” and who, after her husband's death, set up a lesbian household with Lucy Tait, daughter of the previous Archbishop of Canterbury.

E. F. Benson was the younger brother of Arthur C. Benson (1862 -1925), who, among other works, wrote a biography of their father and the words to “Land of Hope and Glory”; Monsignor Robert H. Benson (1871 -1914), author of several novels and Roman Catholic apologetic works; and Margaret (Maggie) Benson (1865 -1916), author and amateur Egyptologist. Like Fred, Arthur and Robert also wrote genre short stories. Two other siblings died young. Benson's parents had six children but no grandchildren. One biographer called Benson's family “one of the most extraordinarily brilliant and emotionally doomed of Victorian families.”

Benson showed an early interest in the classics and in archeology, and he was an excellent athlete -- and a precocious and prolific writer, editing his school magazine and publishing his first book while still a student. His series of “Mapp & Lucia” books are about Emmeline (Lucia) Lucas and Elizabeth Mapp.

The principal setting of four of the “Mapp and Lucia” books is a town called Tilling, which is recognizably based on Rye, East Sussex, where Benson lived for many years and served as mayor from 1934 until 1937 -- after moving there in 1918. Benson's home, Lamb House, served as the model for Mallards, Lucia's home in the Tilling series. Lamb House attracted writers: it was earlier the home of both Henry James, a friend of Benson's, and later of Rumer Godden. The Mapp & Lucia books were made into a 1985-1986 TV series in England. Although he wrote many biographies and social comedies in addition to the Mapp and Lucia books, it is for his fantasies that Benson is remembered today. Benson remained active all his life, was awarded the MBE, and outlived his brothers; but, like them, did not marry. There were rumors that he was homosexual; but his biographers have denied this, saying that he just wasn't interested in sexual relations of any sort. In his biography of Benson, Masters reported that, like his brothers, Benson “never once gave marriage a thought” although it was pointed out to him by his brother Arthur that he needed “to save the family genes by getting a wife.”

During his lifetime he published over a hundred books, a quarter of which were non-fiction. He died in 1940 of cancer in University College Hospital, London. One of his memorable quotes: “How desperately difficult it is to be honest with oneself. It is much easier to be honest with other people.”

#### Genre Books by Benson

##### Novels:

The Judgment Books (1895) [an evil portrait controls the artist]  
The Luck of the Vails (1901) [a goblet casts a curse upon its owners]  
The Image in the Sand (1905) [white and black magic in a struggle over a soul]  
The House of Defence (1906) [a horror tale in which faith-healing works]  
The Angel of Pain (1906) [occult investigations go desperately wrong]  
David Blaize and the Blue Door (1918) [protagonist enters a wonderland]  
Across the Stream (1919) [protagonist is haunted by a demon]  
Colin I and Colin II (1923 and 1925, respectively) [a pact with the devil over time]  
The Inheritor (1930) [a family curse that produces monsters]  
Raven's Brood (1934) [a wife turns out to be a witch]

##### Short Story Collections:

The Room in the Tower and Other Stories (1912)  
The Countess of Lowndes Square and Other Stories (1920)  
Visible and Invisible (1923)  
Spook Stories (1928)  
More Spook Stories (1934)

##### Posthumous Collections of His Genre Work:

The Horror Horn (1974)  
The Tale of An Empty House and Other Ghost Stories (1986)  
The Collected Ghost Stories of E. F. Benson (1992) [54 of his most popular stories]

Genre Short Stories (see Note)

“And No Bird Sings” [Vampire Stories - Dalby]  
 “And the Dead Spake” [Visible and Invisible]  
 “The Ape” [The Countess of Lowndes Square]  
 “At Abdul Ali's Grave” [The Room in the Tower]  
 “At the Farmhouse” [Famous Fantastic Mysteries – December 1946]  
 “The Bath-Chair” [More Spook Stories]  
 “The Bed By the Window” [Weird Tales - November 1929]  
 “Between the Lights” [The Room in the Tower]  
 “The Bus Conductor” [100 Tiny Tales of Terror - Dziemianowicz, et al]  
 “The Case of Frank Hampden” [The Countess of Lowndes Square]  
 “The Cat” [The Room in the Tower]  
 “Caterpillars” [Strange and Fantastic Stories - Margolies]  
 “The China Bowl” [100 Hair-Raising Horror Stories - Sar-rantonio & Greenberg]  
 “Christopher Came Back” [More Spook Stories]  
 “The Confession of Charles Linkworth” [Oxford Book of English Ghost Stories - Cox & Gilbert]  
 “The Dance” [More Spook Stories]  
 “Dark and Nameless” [Ghost Stories - May 1929]  
 “The Dust-Cloud” [The Room in the Tower]  
 “The Face” [Hauntings: Tales of the Supernatural - Mazzeo]  
 “The Flint Knife” [Ghost Stories - May 1930]  
 “The Gardener” [Visible and Invisible]  
 “Gavon's Eve” [Tales of Witchcraft – Dalby]  
 “The Hanging of Alfred Wadham” [Weird Tales - August 1929]  
 “The Horror Horn” [In the Grip of Terror - Conklin]  
 “The House with the Brick Kiln” [The Oxford Book of Ghost Stories - Pepper]  
 “How Fear Departed from the Long Gallery” [The Room in the Tower]  
 “In the Tube” [Visible and Invisible]  
 “James Lamp” [Weird Tales – June 1930]  
 “The Man Who Went Too Far” [Famous Ghost Stories - Cerf]  
 “Monkeys” [Weird Tales - December 1933]  
 “Mrs. Amworth” [Great Tales of Terror and the Supernatural -Wagner & Wise]  
 “Mrs. Andrews' Control” [The Countess of Lowndes Square]  
 “Mr. Tilly's Séance” [Visible and Invisible]  
 “Negotium Perambulans” [Visible and Invisible]  
 “The Other Bed” [The Room in the Tower]  
 “The Outcast” [Famous Fantastic Mysteries - August 1942]  
 “Outside the Door” [100 Little Twisted Tales - Dziemianowicz, et al]  
 “The Passenger” [100 Hair-Raising Horror Stories - Sar-rantonio & Greenberg]  
 “Pirates” [More Spook Stories]  
 “The Psychical Mallards” [More Spook Stories]  
 “Reconciliation” [Spook Stories]  
 “Roderick's Story” [Famous Fantastic Mysteries - April 1946]  
 “The Room in the Tower” [Gothic Short Stories - 2002]  
 “The Sanctuary” [Phantasmagoria – 1976]  
 “The Shootings Of Achnaleish” [The Room in the Tower]

“The Shuttered Room” [Phantastic Book of Ghost Stories – Dalby]  
 “Spinach” [Spook Stories]  
 “The Step” [A Tide of Terror – Lamb]  
 “The Temple” [Spook Stories]  
 “The Terror by Night” [100 Ghastly Little Ghost Stories - Dziemianowicz, et al]  
 “The Thing in the Hall” [Realms of Darkness - Lee]  
 “The Witch-Ball” [100 Wild Little Weird Tales - Weinberg, et al]  
 “The Wishing-Well” [Weird Tales – July 1929]

Note: Titles of stories are listed alphabetically, along with books/periodicals in which they can be found; if the books are anthologies, the editors are given.

#### Some Concluding Remarks

Jones and Newman (1988) saw fit to include *The Horror Horn: The Best Horror Stories of E. F. Benson* in their compilation of the best horror books of all time. *The Horror Horn*, edited by Cynthia Reavell, consists of stories from four earlier Benson books: *The Room in the Tower*, *Visible and Invisible*, *Spook Stories*, and *More Spook Stories*. In addition to the title story, this collection includes “The Thing in the Hall,” “The House with the Brick-Kiln,” “The Face,” and “The Bed by the Window.”

In his famous *Supernatural Horror in Literature* H. P. Lovecraft wrote: “Mr. Benson's volume, *Visible and Invisible*, contains several stories of singular power.” Fellow genre author Marjorie Bowen called Benson “a superb craftsman.”

Benson's most famous stories have been described as “ranking with the best chillers of M. R. James and Henry James.” Clute & Grant have written that Benson was a more versatile writer than James, but was neglected for more than a half-century. It is obvious, however, that he can no longer be considered a completely neglected author. Ash-Tree Press in Ashcroft, British Columbia, has recently published a series of five books of Benson's short fiction.

#### Bibliography

Bleiler, E. F. *The Checklist of Fantastic Literature*. Chicago, IL: Shasta, 1948.  
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 Jones, Stephen & Kim Newman (eds.). *Horror: The 100 Best Books*. London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1988.  
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## N3F Founding Members:

### Phil Bronson

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

Minnesota science fiction (SF) fan Philip Bronson published the fanzine, *Fantasite*, between 1940 and 1944, a 12-issue SF fanzine and Official Organ of the Minneapolis Fantasy Society. The zine ceased publication when Bronson moved from Minnesota to California. Other fanzines published by Bronson in the 1940s included *Scienti-Comics*, *Wudgy Tales*, and the 1943 *Shangri L'Affaires*.

Because of his publication of *Scienti-Comics*, Bronson has been credited by some as being the first person to publish a comic book fanzine. This statement was made because Bronson included material on comic strips/comic books in this early zine. At least one other fanzine, however, issued a few years earlier, had done much the same thing.

*Scienti-Comics* was a SF and comic fanzine published in 1940. The first issue was published in Hastings, Minnesota, in May-June of 1940. It was a 20-page, color hectographed fanzine and featured a complete SF comic by Bronson called "Robot Doom." The second issue was 38 pages, and featured contributions by C. Christopher Cross, Damon Knight, Robert Lowndes, and a fan poll by Art Widner, at the time editor of *FanFare*. Both issues of *Scienti-Comics* can be viewed on the Internet.

Bill Schelly, writing in his 2010 book *Founders of Comic Fandom*, described the early comic fanzines such as *Scienti-Comics*, *Malcolm Willits' The Comic Collector's News*, and *David Kyle's Fantasy World* as "lonely little satellites looking for an orbit," which was not to come until the 1950s-1960s.

*Wudgy Tales* was published by Bronson in 1943 for two issues. Also, in 1943, Bronson was responsible for two issues of *Shangri L'Affaires*.

In 1941, of course, Bronson was a founding member of the National Fantasy Fan Federation (N3F). Early in our club's history, he was a member of the N3F Directorate.

Sources: *Fanzine Index*, *All Our Yesterdays*; *A Wealth of Fable*, *The Immortal Storm*; *Fancylopedia 3*; *ISFDB*; *Wikipedia*; and other Internet sites.

## Missing Member Bios

Jon Swartz's magnificent biographic study of our founders has run into an obstacle: For the remaining founders there simply is not much available information that he has found. I supply here a list of the remaining founders; if anyone has information on them, please contact Jon Swartz as soon as possible. That's [jon\\_swartz@hotmail.com](mailto:jon_swartz@hotmail.com). The missing are:

Henry A. Ackermann, Charles A. Beling, Lynn Bridges, James Bush, Edwin F. Counts, Jack Fields, Joseph Fortier, Charles Hansen, Earle Barr Hanson, Fred Hurter, Robert Jones, Robert Jordan, Eugene Jorgensen, Nicholas E. Keenally, John L. Millard, Chris E. Mulrain, Francis Paro, George Robson, Phil Schumann, Ray J. Sienkiewicz, Robert Studley, Donald B. Thompson, Hyman Tiger, Thomas Wright.

## Fiction

### Rocket Stack Rank Reviews

[www.RocketStackRank.com](http://www.RocketStackRank.com)

Read them all at [RocketStackRank.com](http://RocketStackRank.com), the web pages of Greg Hullender and Eric Wong. We will not be reporting their top recommendations every month. Rocket Stack Rank says of itself: Welcome to Rocket Stack Rank!

After witnessing the problems with this year's Hugo Awards, we decided to create a website to encourage readers of science fiction and fantasy to read and nominate more short fiction. Lots of other people are doing this too, but we specifically wanted to tackle the problem of helping people get copies of short stories, novelettes, and novellas once they decided they wanted to read them.

The three big professional magazines, *Analog*, *Asimov's*, and *F&SF* are all available online by subscription, but they don't make it easy to get back-issues online. Our 2015 Magazines page covers just about every possible way to do this, and there are good strategies for people with tablets and smartphones, people with eReaders like Kindles and Kobos, people who want to read everything on their desktop or laptop, and even people who want to stick with print.

Our rating system, on a scale from one to five stars, aims to produce a small "bucket" of five-star stories by the end of the year. These are the stories we think are award-worthy, and there should be few enough of them that a person with limited time could read just that subset and find things worth nominating. Since we're trying to apply fixed standards rather than hit a particular target, we're not sure how many there will be in each category, but it won't be more than a dozen or so.

So welcome! We hope you find our site useful for finding the stories you want to read.

The following are their four and five star tales for September. If you go to [RocketStackRank.com](http://RocketStackRank.com) you can find all their wonderful links.

Rating: 5 —> Hugo-worthy

*i know my own & my own know me* by Tracy Canfield  
Time: 28m (Novelette) Issue: *Analog* 09.10|17 (SF Adventure) A team trying to understand what happened to a human colony whose members have all regressed to animal intelligence is distracted when someone uplifts their cat to human intelligence.



The Secret Life of Bots by Suzanne Palmer Time: 29m (Novelette) Issue: Clarkesworld 132 (SF Adventure) The ship hadn't activated Bot 9 in a long time—it's an unstable model—but in a desperate situation it needs all its resources. And how much trouble can it get into hunting down a rat?

Rating: 4 —> Recommended

A Tinker's Damnation by Jerry Oltion Time: 16m (ShortStory) Issue: Analog 09.10|17 (SF Colony) When the nanofab failed seventeen years ago, it condemned the colony to slow decline as their high tech wore out and they switched to iron-age methods. Young Henry wants to fix it and be a hero.

Abductive Reasoning by Christopher L. Bennett Time: 12m (ShortStory) Issue: Analog 09.10|17 (SF Humor) When Cjek guides her damaged ship to an emergency landing in Roy's cornfield, problems ensue because she's not the sort of UFO he was expecting.

Books of the Risen Sea by Suzanne Palmer Time: 56m (Novelette) Issue: Asimov's 09.10|17 (Climate SF) Caer brings an abandoned robot back to his hideout in the flooded part of town and tries to prepare for attack by the raiders who dumped it.

Children of Xanadu by Juan Paulo Rafols1 Time: 49m (Novelette) Issue: F&SF 09.10|17 (Dystopia) In a China-occupied Philippines, Dr. Garcia engineers superior children for his people's conquerors. He's got a plan to turn the tables, if he can execute it before he dies.

Climbing Olympus by Simon Kewin Time: 10m (ShortStory) Issue: Analog 09.10|17 (SF Adventure) Florian used to be a climber back on Earth, and now he wants to be the first man to climb Olympus Mons.

Hollywood Squid by Oliver Buckram Time: 17m (ShortStory) Issue: F&SF 09.10|17 (SF Humor) The squids from space haven't been very popular for a while, but washed-up director Tony Casagrande has a can't-miss plan for a detective thriller with a human and a squid.

My Fifth and Most Exotic Voyage by Edward M. Lerner Time: 47m (Novelette) Issue: Analog 09.10|17 (SF Adventure Pastiche) In which we learn of a hitherto-undisclosed fifth voyage of Lemuel Gulliver, to a place called "Chicago" in 2022, and of the marvelous things that happened there.

Tasting Notes on the Varietals of the Southern Coast by Gwendolyn Clare Time: 05m (ShortStory) Issue: F&SF 09.10|17 (Horror) In which a military conquest is described in terms of the wines produced near each of the conquered cities.

The Twilight Pariah by Jeffrey Ford Time: 1h:50m (Novella) Issue: Tor Novella 09/13/17 (Horror) College friends Henry, Maggie, and Russell decide to play archeologist in the back yard of an old, abandoned house, but things get serious when they find the deformed skeleton of a child.

Wind Will Rove by Sarah Pinsker Time: 48m (Novelette) Issue: Asimov's 09.10|17 (Generation Ship) The ship lost most of its

historical records some years back, and the narrator tries to use music to maintain a connection with distant Earth.

## Review: Nothing in Common

I've been racking my brain for something these two books have in common, and can't figure anything out. Only that both authors are veterans. Otherwise... polar opposites. Oh, and both fun to read for me. You all know already that I'll read almost anything, right? So a bildungsroman science fiction novel and a steamy romance novel, it's all in a week's reading.

To begin with, Jaxson is a classic romance novel. Girl meets boy, boy beats her abusive ex to a pulp... There's a lot of fun in this book. I really enjoyed the development of the military aspects, that her father opened up to the new guy in her life based on their mutual service. The scene at the Marine Corps Birthday Ball. I loved the setting in Hawaii (someday I want to go visit) and the obsession with food. In fact, one of my few nitpicks is that I would have liked to see the final cupcake baking developed a little more. That felt a bit rushed. Oh, and a caveat: it doesn't bother me, I found it well-done, but there is a steamy sex scene in this book. So you know.

Jaxson is a light read. Weightless. Save it for when you're having a gloomy day and want something to brighten it for you, or for when you're under the weather like I did. And don't forget: this is a debut novel. Go leave a review after you've read, because I don't know about you, but I'd like to read more from this author.

And on the other hand, something completely different. Stephen Simmons's The Galileo Syndrome follows the life and development of a pair of savant children, through the eyes of the older sister Peaches, from about the age of three onwards. This does not necessarily make it a YA story, and it annoys me (yes, I'm going on a side rant) that people assume that just because the protagonists are young, there's nothing there for them. YA has a lot more to do with the simplicity of plot, language, and direction of the theme than it does the age of the protagonists. Although this book could be read by younger people (in fact, I plan to give a copy to my 12 yo Junior Mad Scientist) it contains much that will go right over their heads. Just because a book is clean, sweet and lacks sex, does not make it a YA. Ok, rant off.

Ever thought about what education for a savant would be like? Simmons lays it out, and along the way delivers some interesting points about teaching science, history, and well, teaching. The book is entirely from the point of view of Peaches rather than her brother Ricky, because his thought processes are more opaque. Peaches thinks of herself as normal (although she isn't, but it's a good characterization by Simmons as he develops her), and her little brother as autistic, although she knows what he is. It's more complex than autistic. Simmons's conceit in this story is that Ricky can sense all the parallel universes, can hear them, almost from birth. He also has an eidetic memory. Yeah, that could leave a child seeming very Odd indeed to the outside world.

I'm not going to summarize the plot for you. It's a fun read, for all the weight of some of the topics he introduces. This is a satisfyingly long book (I like big books, I cannot deny...) and there is

wit and humor to leaven the action, character development, and a few cameos I'll leave you to try and figure out who. I liked this, from Peaches: "But while the 'curve fairy' was drifting invisibly through the school, gently tapping all the girls here and there, for some reason the little bitch decided it would be fun to grab her wand with both hands and beat the crap out of me with it." That made me laugh out loud. I can remember feeling just that way when I developed young.

The drawback of the book for me is the title. I personally don't think that Galileo was beset for his science, but for his inept politics. Which isn't the case with Ricky in this book. On the other hand, it's catchy, and most readers won't know better. So? I don't know. Lesson for me with Galileo was don't piss a pope off. Only because I'm so very not-a-catholic this was never even a half-thought for me. Heh. Enough digression. If you like old-school science fiction with development of characters, alien worlds, and yes, political commentary, you'll enjoy this book. He left it fairly open at the end, so I don't know if a sequel is planned, or if we can simply extrapolate from what's given to the conclusion of their lives.

...Cedar Sanderson

## Eat This While you Read That! David Freer's Sticky Date Pudding

This series of posts featuring authors, their books, and a favorite recipe of their choice, was born from my love of cooking, reading, and taking pictures. Here's how it works: I get in touch with an author, ask for a dish, then I make it, taking pictures as I go, and finally it's featured along with links to the author's work. It's been a lot of fun so far, and if you want to find the beginning of the series you can look here.

I don't know about you, but I've been reading at the table since I was big enough to handle a book in one hand and a fork in the other. I've been cooking since Mom had to set up a milk crate for me to reach the counter, and I love the art and science of creating food. It's endlessly variable, usually delicious, and like doing chemistry in the kitchen every single time.

Today we're going to pick up Dave Freer's newest, Joy Cometh With the Mourning, and take a trip Down Under with a very tasty dessert that's perfect for the cool weather we're having in my hemisphere. If you'd prefer a rollicking space opera, take a look at Stardogs, instead.

Dave sent me a recipe with his usual humorous take on things, so I am reproducing it here with very little comment. It's not a difficult recipe, and well worth the effort. Keep in mind that an English pudding is an American cake, to begin with.

Sticky Date Pudding Joy Cometh

Ok, I don't know how familiar Americans are with this but it's a common, old-fashioned Australian winter (and any other time you have the excuse) treat.

1 cup dates,  
2 teaspoons of bi-carbonate of soda

1 cup of boiling water  
2 tablespoons of butter  
2 tablespoons of soft Brown Sugar  
2 eggs  
½ teaspoon of salt.  
1 and ½ cups of self-raising flour (I use Spelt flour, and 1/2 tsp baking powder)  
½ teaspoon vanilla essence

Chopped Dates

Chopped Dates: I cheated and used the food processor. Putting the baking soda in while I pulsed kept it from getting too sticky.

Rough-chop dates and add with bi-carb to the boiling water. Stand until cool – this means start this a couple of hours before.

Preheat your oven to 180 C. (moderate oven) (For the Americans in our audience, a 350 deg F oven will do nicely)

Cream the butter and sugar, add eggs one at a time and beat well as you do so.

Add vanilla, then some flour, then some of date/bicarb/water mixture –repeat and stir it together as you go.

Line a square tin with baking paper (or use one of the new flexible rubber type stuff tins).

Pour your mix in, bake for 30-40 minutes (depends on your oven) – but until a skewer comes out clean.

Serve warm cut in squares, with the important part, the sauce.  
Brown Sugar Sauce

Melting the brown sugar into the butter. Don't let it go too far, or you'll make candy.

1 cup soft brown sugar (the thick sticky brown stuff –I hope America has it, is best).

¾ cup of cream (real cream, not some woosy low fat stuff)  
½ teaspoon vanilla essence  
2 tablespoons of butter

Brown Sugar Sauce

Stirring the cream in slowly. I wound up switching to a whisk to properly blend it together.

In a saucepan, melt the butter, add the sugar, stir and do your best to dissolve the sugar, add the cream and vanilla, and while stirring occasionally get it to a gentle bubble – take it off, taste it. Sit in the kitchen and lick the spoon. Have a little more. Try to resist sitting in the kitchen and eating it all, but pour warm and generously over the squares of the cake in individual bowls. It should soak in and leave a puddle in the bowl. Do not leave Sanford to pour his own sauce or you will regret not just eating it all in the kitchen. Serve with thick cream.

## September Novels, A Partial List

The Smashwords.com list of SF&F tales over 100,000 words.

Loner's Deep by Graham Storrs

Edge.Zero de beste Nederlandse genverhalen uit 2016 by Edge Zero

The Secret King: Lethao by Dawn Chapman

Star Crusades: Nexus - Complete Series Box Set (Books 1 - 9) by Michael G. Thomas

The Exodus by Bryan Thomas Schmidt

The League of Elder: Sygillis of Metatron by Ren Garcia

Return to Castaway Island - A Castaway Island Story by Paco Jones

The Hounds of Harujin: The Complete Omnibus by Jason Shannon

Jingo by Mike Fitting

The Farpool: Marauders of Seome by Philip Bosshardt

INTERSTELLAR A Series of Science Fiction Adventure Stories Omnibus Parts 7 - 12 by Adrian Games & Fate by Bill Gourgey

Gravity & Fire by Bill Gourgey

Minutegirls by George Phillies

Good Luck Earth by John McKenna

Jericho Johnson: The Cold War by J.A. Stowell

Col'm by D Krauss

The Second Apocalypse by C.(Kees) le Pair

Speaking With Your Demons by Vincent Berg

Series: Demonic Issues, Book 2.Demonic Issues Box Set by Vincent Berg

Tales from Grey Station Nine: Season One by Lazette Gifford

1/2986 Eco-Thriller Series: Books 1-3 by A. Wendeberg

Satan Rising by John Twilley

Le Trame del Tempo by Italo Salieri

The Defender of Rebel Falls: A Medieval Science Fiction Adventure by Erik Christensen

Veronika Station by Myron Shindler

Ascent of Mars by Roger Ruffles

Harbinger of Darkness by Richard C. White

Road Ghosts: Omnibus Edition by E. Chris Garrison

Hurna's Blade by GJ Kelly

Destiny's Seduction by Isabo Kelly

Demonhome by Michael G. Manning

Aaron+Henna: The Terrible Twos by Kevin Williams

Disciple by Jody Wallace

Dead Central: Carnalis by Rose Garnett

The Guide of Time: The Trilogy by Cinzia De Santis

The Exile of Caswel Esmar-Box Set by Gregg Schwartzkopf

The One Left Behind: Magic by Shakyra Dunn

The Fourth Element Trilogy Boxed Set by Kat Ross

Highshield by Randolph Lalonde

A Dark Faerie Tale Collection Books 1-8 by Alexia Purdy & J.T. Lewis

The Persephane Pendrake Chronicles-Box Set-Trilogy One by Lady Ellen

Pretender to the Crown by Melissa McShane

The Weather War by Stephanie A. CainUtter Fabrication: Historical Accounts of Unusual Buildings and Structures by Jeremy Zimmerman (editor) & Dawn Vogel (editor)

Series: Mad Scientist Journal Presents.

The Proper Bearing by Angela D'Onofrio

Intruder In His Heart by TM Watkins

Knights and Demons Complete: by Greg Dragon

Escalating Disturbances by Patrick Nafzger

The Elphame Chronicles The Destiny of a King The Complete Saga Parts 5 – 7 by Adrian Holland

Une autre vie à Citara - Tome 1 : Tempétueuse Sylvine by Nathalie Bagadey

The Elphame Chronicles Parts 1 - 4 The Destiny of a King The Complete Saga by Adrian Holland

Drop of Water: A Fantasy Adventure by S.R. Olson

Flor de Jade V Oscuridad Parte I Cataclismo Jesús B. Vilches

The Year's Best Australian Fantasy and Horror 2012 (volume 3) by Liz Grzyb (editor) & Talie Helene (editor)

The Year's Best Australian Fantasy and Horror 2015 (volume 6) by Liz Grzyb (editor) & Talie Helene (editor)

Guardian of the Vale by Tamara Shoemaker

Shadows of Uprising by Tamara Shoemaker

Mark of Four by Tamara Shoemaker

Unleash the Inferno by Tamara Shoemaker

Embrace the Fire by Tamara Shoemaker

Kindle the Flame by Tamara Shoemaker

Shadows' Reach by Jackson Lear

Curse Breaker: Enchanted [The More Epic Version] by Melinda Kucsera

The Skillseed by David Ainsworth

The Omega Children - The Agent of the Diaspora by Shane A. Mason

Speaking With Your Demons by Vincent Berg

Woodson's World by Marvin Berenson

Sacrifices (Book Three of The Pawn's Game) by Victor Nox

GODLESS - The Elder Stone Guardian by A.K. Gallagher

Cronica Acadia : Bend Sinister by C.J. Deering

F\*KTORY, Vol. 1: Fabricating Fuck-Ups by Jorge Enrique Ponce

Ella by Guillermo Cerviño Porto

Ferrian's Winter: Book Two: Grath Ardan by Megan LeighThe Cult of Mao by James Suriano

Elsewhere Stories by Robert Collins

The Scattered Bond by E.D.E. Bell

Magic of the Lost Kings by C. V. Haden

Nights of Sambria and the Wish of light by Omri Hope

Demonic Issues Box Set by Vincent Berg

Order of the Dead: After the Zombie War by Guy James

Witches Plus Bonus Witches II Apocalypse by Kathryn Meyer Griffith

The Gospels of Izal - The Astounding Secrets of the World Before by Rolando R Gutierrez

Unleashing the Pack by David J. O'Brien

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Dagon's Bell and Other Discords by Brian Lumley

Return of the Deep Ones and Other Mythos Tales by Brian Lumley

The Things That Crawl by Richard Lee Byers

Scattered, Smothered, & Chunked - Bubba the Monster Hunter Season One by John Hartness

Sacrifice of the Hybrid Princess by Nancy Kilpatrick

Blacktop by Terry Lloyd Vinson

Ella by Guillermo Cerviño Porto

Rushed: Something Wicked by Brian Harmon

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N3F TNFF  
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