

The National Fantasy Fan

Cras ad Stellas— Tomorrow to the Stars

Volume 78 Number 8

August 2019



Votes Have Been Counted

Behold the winners for the National Fantasy Fan Federation Speculative Fiction Awards, the Neffys. We have a happy event: We announce only the winners.

Best Novel (over 100,000 words)

Against Three Lands—George Phillies

Best Shorter Work (under 100,000 words)

The Black God's Drums - P. Djèlí Clark - Tor Publishing

Best Book Editor

Toni Weisskopf

Best Fanzine (electronic publication is allowed)

Tightbeam from the N3F

Best Blog

Mad Genius Club—the Mad Genii

Best TV Show

Game of Thrones

Best SF Movie/Video

A Quiet Place

Best Anime

Aggretsuko

Best Graphic Art Publication

Raven Daughter of Darkness - Marv Wolfman

Best Cover Art—Tie!

Kent Bash - the March-April 2019 F&SF

Brad Fraunfelter - The Broken Throne (novel by Chris Nuttall)

Best Magazine

Amazing

Club Elections

Anyway, I declare my candidacy, and run on the same platform as last year....Jefferson Swycaffer

If elected, I will serve...George Phillies

John Thiel has accepted his nomination.

Laurraine Tutihasi has accepted her nomination.

If you want to run for the Directorate or run for President, or you want someone else to run for Directorate, you should send your nomination to George Phillies phil-lies@4liberty.net as soon as possible. Also, you should renew your membership for a date extending into 2021.



Art
Pages 5, 11 — Angela K. Scott
Coming Soon — The N3F Review of Books



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SerCon

The NFFF Laureate Awards

by

Jon D. Swartz, Ph. D.

N3F Historian

It seems appropriate, as we vote on this year's Neffy Awards, to look back on other awards given by our club, The National Fantasy Fan Federation (NFFF or N3F), since it was founded in 1941.

Walter J. Daugherty

Several fan historians have suggested that our annual club awards started with fan Walter J. Daugherty (1916 - 2007), who presided over many Denvention activities in 1941. Denvention, the third Worldcon, was held in Denver, and Robert Heinlein was GoH.

Californian Daugherty presented small engraved medallions that he had made to recognize accomplishments by fans. Those who received these medallions were Forrest J Ackerman (for his interest in, and help to, fans); Julius Unger (for spreading news about fans); Olon Wiggins (for the consistently best fanzine); Damon Knight (for the best humorous fanzine); and Roy Hunt (for the best

Many New Volunteers are needed: Cosplay, Electronic Publication Support, Convention Hospitality, Outreach. Support the N3F. Volunteer Now!

The National Fantasy Fan (originally Bonfire), Vol. LXXVIII, Number 8, August 2019, ISSN 2169-3595. Published monthly by The National Fantasy Fan Federation.

Join or Renew

We offer four different memberships. Memberships with TNFF via paper mail are \$18; memberships with TNFF via email are \$6. All other zines are email only. Additional memberships at the address of a current member are \$4. Public memberships are free. Send payments to N3F, POB 1925, Mountain View CA 94042. Pay online at N3F.org. Our PayPal contact is treasurer@n3f.org Send phillies@4liberty.net your email address for a public membership.

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fan artist).

It is not clear now whether or not Daugherty was a member of the NFFF at the time of the Denvention, although he was listed as a member by 1943, according to early issues of Bonfire.

It should be noted that Daugherty himself picked these medallion winners; no voting was involved. Daugherty also recorded much of the con, including Heinlein's GoH speech. Despite all his con activities, Daugherty was on his honeymoon at the time!

NFFF Awards

Thereafter, the leaders of our club, many of whom were involved with events at Denvention (e. g., President E. E. Evans gave a talk), decided to start giving annual awards, called Laureate Awards, to recognize exceptional work by science fiction (SF) fans, but with these awards voted upon by club members.

The first NFFF awards were in the form of certificates, with stencils given as prizes! These awards were called Laureate Awards, and were announced in the club's fanzine, Bonfire (later titled The National Fantasy Fan). Much of the following is taken from the fan writings of early fan Harry Warner, Jr.

Harry Warner, Jr.

Warner (1922 - 2003), known in fandom as "The Hermit of Hagerstown," was editor of the first Bonfire, member of an early club Advisory Board, and author of two histories of fandom: All Our Yesterdays (1969) and A Wealth of Fable (1992). According to famous fan and later SF professional, Wilson "Bob" Tucker -- who wrote the Introduction to All Our Yesterdays -- Warner was a pack rat who owned thousands of records, thousands of books and magazines, and millions of fanzines. Warner was also a member of First Fandom, and was voted into The First Fandom Hall of Fame in 2005.

1943 Laureate Awards

(For work done in 1942)

Best Fanzine: Le Zombie
 Newszine: Fanewscard
 Author: Duane Rimel
 Artist: Jack Wiedenbeck
 Poet: Walt Liebscher
 Article Writer: Bob Tucker

New Fan: Walt Dunkelberger
 Fan Who Did The Most: Al Ashley
 Highest Score for Everything: Bob Tucker

1944 Laureate Awards

Awards for work done in 1943, results from 57 ballots cast.
 Favorite Fan Writer, Fiction & Non-Fiction: Bob Tucker
 Best Poet: J. Russell Gray
 Best Artist: Jack Wiedenbeck
 Best Newszine: Fanewscard
 Best General Fanzine: Acolyte
 Best Fan: Walt Dunkelberger

NFFF 1945 Awards

President E. E. Evans announced in an issue of The National Fantasy Fan, dated January 1945, that the club awards would now be called the NFFF Awards to distinguish them from the FAPA Laureate Awards (which also are no longer given).

Certificate of Merit/Life Membership: E. E. Evans
 Best Fan Humorist: Bob Tucker
 Best Fan Artist: Jack Wiedenbeck
 Best Pro Mag: Astounding Science Fiction
 Best Pro Author: A. E. van Vogt
 Best Fanzine: Fanews
 Best New Fan: K. Martin Carlson

NFFF 1946 Awards

Fifty-six votes were cast, with the following results.

Best Author: Sam Moskowitz
 Best Poet: Redd Boggs
 Best Fanzine: Vampire
 Best Editor: Joe Kennedy
 Best Newszine: Fanews
 Specialist Fanzine: Fantasy Advertiser
 Fan of the Year: Joe Kennedy
 Best New Fan: Tom Jewett
 Professional Ex-Fan: Ray Bradbury
 Artist: John Cockroft
 Humorist: Bob Tucker
 Outstanding Promag: Astounding

Warner dropped his membership in 1947 from NFFF "as the club began to break definitely from general fandom." On the other hand, there were 98 new members during 1947. By 1949 there were 373 club members, and that level of membership held steady into the new decade.

NFFF 1948 Awards

Announced in June, the 1948 awards were as follows:

Best Fan Author: Sam Moskowitz
 Best Fan Editor: Stanley Mullen
 Best Fan Humorist: Charles Burbee
 Best Fan Poet: Redd Boggs
 Best Fan Artist: John Cockroft
 Best New Fan: Con Pederson
 Fan of the Year: K. Martin Carlson
 Best Ex-Fan Pro Writer: Ray Bradbury
 Best Fanzine: The Gorgon
 Best Promag: Astounding
 Best Newszine: Tympani
 Best Specialized Fanzine: Fantasy Advertiser

NFFF 1949 Awards

Best Prozine Editor: Horace Gold
 Best Prozine: Galaxy Science Fiction
 Best Filthy Pro: Ray Bradbury
 Best Pro Artist: Edd Cartier
 Best Fan Editor: Lee Hoffman
 Best Fanzine: Fanscient
 Top Fan: Roy Lavender

Warner noted the shift of the awards to pro activities, as seen by the categories voted upon. Warner also considered this evidence that the club had completely separated itself from general fandom because Roy Lavender, voted Top Fan, had done nothing in fandom outside of his NFFF activities.

1948 Fantasy Annual

The 1948 Fantasy Annual, 120 pages in length (not counting covers), reported the results of the 1948 Dreamland Opinionator Poll, conducted by Don Wilson and Howard Miller at the end of 1948. Financed by our club, the poll was restricted to about 80 fans, chosen for their knowledge of the field. The results of this poll were as follows: Top Fan Group was FAPA, with our club ranked #2; Top Fan Writer was Boggs (who was also Best Critic, Best Fan Fictionist, and Best Fan); Top Humorist was Kennedy; Top Fan Article Writer was Moskowitz; Top Fan Editor was Wilson; and Top Fan Artist was John Grossman. The Top Pro Author was A. E. van Vogt, and Virgil Finley was voted the Top Pro Artist.

Ackerman published this Annual; Boggs was the editor; assistant editors included Sneary, Moskowitz, and Rapp; and contributors included several other NFFF

members, including Warner, who was one of our club's charter members – so our club was well represented in publishing this Annual. The section on Fan Organizations that described our club's recent activities concentrated on various club publications that included David H. Keller's *The Sign of the Burning Heart*, the first book published by our club. Publishing this book gave the NFFF/N3F a lot of positive publicity at the time and is still seen as a noteworthy accomplishment today.

Sources: Harry Warner's *All Our Yesterdays* (1969) and *A Wealth of Fable* (1992); issues of *Bonfire* and *The National Fantasy Fan* published in the 1940s; 1948 *Fantasy Annual*.

N3F Founding Members

by

Jon D. Swartz, Ph. D.
 N3F Historian

Over the past several years, sixty of the sixty-four charter members of our club, founded in 1941, have been profiled in the pages of *The National Fantasy Fan*, leaving only four charter members who have not been featured in this way so far.

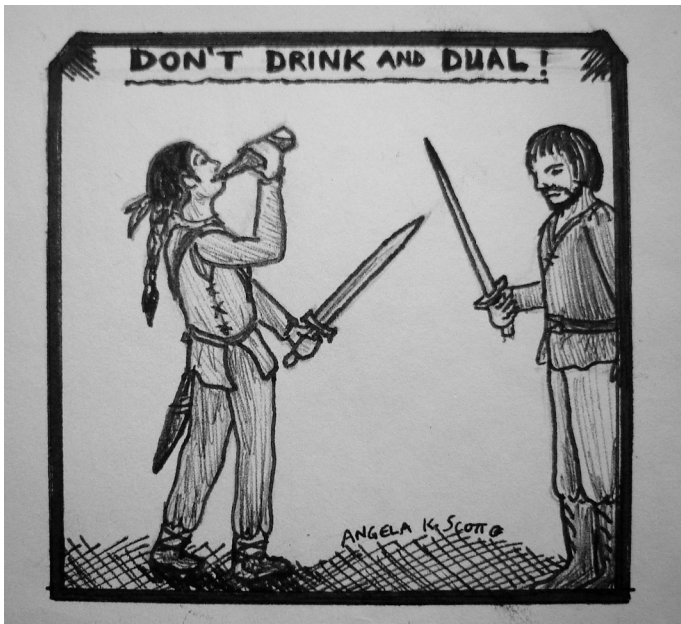
These non-featured members are Jack Fields, Robert Jordan, Eugene Jorgensen, and George Robson. All of them apparently resided in California in 1941. It has been very difficult to obtain additional information on these men. It is very hard to locate data on a SF fan from nearly 80 years ago.

Only minimal information (e. g., their state of residence) is available today on these charter members, not enough to write founding member articles about them, even very brief ones.

The next step in this long term project is a new N3F *Fandbook* based on our founding members. This new *Fandbook* -- written by George Phillies, club president, and me, club historian -- will be published in the near future. This publication will contain a brief history of our club, a list of all sixty-four founding members, and reprints of articles about some of them.

In the future, if enough information is obtained on the members not featured so far in *The Fan*, additional articles will be written about them, their lives, and their work.

If anyone reading this article can provide pertinent information on Fields, Jordan, Jorgensen, or Robson, please inform me or George about it.



Angela K. Scott

Treasury

\$2,641.68 (June 12, 2019)
 + 0.00 PayPal Dues
 + 0.00 Cash Dues
 + 0.00 Check Dues
 + 0.00 Money Order Dues
 - 0.00 PayPal Fees
 - 36.00 Printing and Postage June/July

 \$2,605.68 (July 22, 2019)

\$ \$2,605.68 (July 22, 2019)
 + 60.00 PayPal Dues
 + 0.00 Cash Dues
 + 18.00 Check Dues
 + 0.00 Money Order Dues
 - 3.20 PayPal Fees
 - 14.00 Banking Fees
 - 18.00 Printing and Postage August

 \$2,648.48 (August 17, 2019)

New, Renewed, & Reinstated Members & Info Updates — July

New & Reinstated:
 #273 - Richard Wright - Public, Non-Voting
 IRL: Author
 Interests: Books, Comic books, Computers and technology, Publishing, Writing
 Fan since: ~1965
 Fanac Since: 1969

Clubs: IPMS
 Cons: DragonCon, VulCon, IPMS Nationals
 SF/F Genres: All
 Creators: Elizabeth Moon, David Weber, James H. Schmitz, Asimov, Heinlein, Clarke...
 Activity Interests: Mostly reading, but do the occasional review.

Expired/Expiring
 Renew Now!!

Expired in June
 #32 Ray F Nelson
 #218 Joseph P Martino

Expiring In July
 #129 John W Andrews

Expiring in August
 #247 Mark A Kady
 #248 Eric Jamborsky

Member Status Changes
 #233 Mark Harrit - Electronic Voting to Public Non-Voting (Exp. 4/2019)
 #242 Michael Watson - Electronic Voting to Public Non-Voting (Exp. 3/2019)

New, Renewed, & Reinstated Members & Info Updates — August

Renewed/Reinstated:
 #16 Patricia Williams - Regular Voting

#20 Denise Fisk - Regular Voting
 IRL: Retired
 DOB Oct. 5
 Interests: Books, Comic books, Conventions and clubs, Correspondence, DVDs and videos, Editing, Reading and book clubs, Reviewing, Round robins (group letters), Television, Writing
 Fan for: 50 years
 Fanac since: 45 years
 Clubs: "formerly n3f & some 'star trek' clubs in person & online"
 Cons: "too numerous to name!"
 Genres: Urban Fantasy & Dystopian
 Fave Creators: "mercedes lackey, kevin o'brien (more horror), marian zimmer bradley, some stephen king, andre norton, vonda mcintyre, michael crichton, wolfgang petersen, alfred hitcock & many more too numerous to name!"
 N3F Interests: Writing for club publications, Corresponding, reviewing movies & novels with a sf/f/

dystopian/some thriller slants

#23 Jefferson Swycaffer - Regular Voting

#142 Judy Carroll - Regular Voting

#247 Mark A Kady - Regular Voting

IRL: Construction Coordinator/District Mgr

DOB: Dec 8

Interests: APAs (amateur press associations), Audio, Books, Collecting, Computers and technology, Conventions and clubs, DVDs and videos, Fanzines, Filk singing, Games and video games, Online activities, Role-playing games, Round robins (group letters), Television, Writing

Fan for: Over 40 years

Fanac: Over 30 years

Clubs: Sime/Gen Fandom, Friends of Darkover, Starfleet

Cons: Timecon, Toronto Trek

Fave Genres: High Fantasy, Cyberpunk

Fave Creators: Anne McCaffrey, Marion Zimmer Bradley, Frank Herbert, Jacqueline Lichtenberg

New & Reinstated:

#270 Pat Patterson - Electronic Voting

IRL: Retired, Papa, Reviewer

DOB: May 5

Interests: Blogging, Books, Reviewing

Fan since: "At least 56 years (since I was 10)"

Fanac since: "Errm..I breathe air. Pretty much it."

Genres: Military SF

N3f Interests: Reviewing, Writing for Club zines

Sponsor: George Phillies

Expired In July

#129 John W Andrews

Expiring in August

#248 Eric Jamborsky

Expiring in September

#251 Bob Goolsby

#252 Katherine Langley

#256 Bradley Slavik

#257 Scott Duncun

#258 Constance Elliott

#259 Erik Martin

Member Status Changes

#16 Patricia Williams - Public Non-Voting to Regular Voting (Exp. 9/2020)

#20 Denise Fisk - Public Non-Voting to Regular Voting (Exp. 9/2020)

#218 Joseph P Martino - Regular Voting to Public Non-Voting (Exp. 6/2019)

Zines

The N3F Review of Books

We are adding another Fanzine. *The N3F Review of Books incorporating Prose Bono* will feature extended reviews of STFnal novels, books of literary criticism on STFnal topics, and articles on writing, illustrating, and marketing stfnal works. Expect the first issue soon.

The National Fantasy Fan

We continue monthly publication. As TNFF Editor, I will be submitting to the Directorate proposals of amending the Constitution and Bylaws to recognize that our zines now appear more often than quarterly.

Mangaverse

Jessi Silver reports she is pondering a memorial issue for Kyoto Animation, which was attacked by a firebomber, leaving 35 people dead.

Tightbeam

The next issue of Tightbeam is issue 300. Jon Swartz and George Phillies report that Tightbeam is on its monthly schedule. Future issues will be held to a maximum of 30 pages.

N'APA

The deadline for the next collation of N'APA is September 15.

Eldritch Science

The next issue of Eldritch Science is slated for late Fall publication.

Films Fantastic

Eric Jamborsky writes that production of issue 6 is under way, the focus being Ray Harryhausen's Seventh Voyage of Sinbad.

Ionisphere/ Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau:

We're looking to have a WorldCon report in Ionisphere, and have word from Cardinal Cox that he will be writing one for Ionisphere, which will appear in the next issue from now; it will show a big event where fans met pros and vice versa.

We are establishing good relations with the netzine Bewildering Stories; there's an interview with Don Webb, its editor, in this issue of Io, and an interview with me, which discusses the N3F, appears in the weekly Bewildering, still up as I write. Overseas fandom is being contacted via the interview with Anders Bellis in this same issue. —John Thiel

Origin

There was perhaps an issue with the emailing of the last issue of Origin, issue 17, as one member reports not receiving it. Please advise phillies@4liberty.net if you did not receive your issue.

Bureaus

Birthday Bureau

Cards sent in July: 9

Renewal notices sent: 5

R-Laurraine Tutihasi — BuHead

Correspondence Bureau

Welcome to the Correspondence Bureau!

As most of you know the Correspondence Bureau was reinstated last month after many years in hibernation. I would love to tell you that we have had many members seeking correspondence with other club members, but so far no one has expressed a desire to join.

Corresponding with another N3F member can be very rewarding. I joined the N3F a few years ago and became involved in one of the bureaus. Another bureau member and I would discuss bureau business. A few months later we began corresponding as friends. We still correspond, and we are still friends.

By joining the Correspondence Bureau you will be able to talk about your love of fishing, sports, reading, cooking, running, movies. The list goes on - it's endless. Or perhaps you would like to talk with someone whose interests are unknown to you and discover this person and their interests with each conversation.

You have two choices for seeking a pairing:

Choice #1 - You want to be paired with someone of like interest. Send an email to the bureau head listing your interests. When someone with similar interest requests a pairing both of you will be notified and given the email of the other member. Contact the other member and the rest is up to you.

Choice #2 - You want to be paired with the next person whose interests are unknown. Send an email to the bureau head telling of your choice. You will be paired with the next person with unknown interests and both of you will be notified and given the email of the other member.

The rest is up to you.

Whichever way you choose will be an adventure.

If you wish to join the Correspondence Bureau please contact Judy Carroll
AutumnSeas8012@gmail.com

Games Bureau

Alien Invasion: Defense of Corona Review by George Phillies

Alien Invasion: Defense of Corona carefully does not say it is a game based on George Pal's War of the Worlds. Since the invaders are not indestructible, it isn't. The US player can win by destroying the alien war machines. However, you have 1950s US military units with accurate unit compositions, alien invaders., and a terrain map of the area around Corona, California. You can see it on ebay.com/itm/264283065162 or at BoardGameGeek.com., and order it from Strongpoint Modelling and Simulations.

Century: Spice Road Review by Wesley Kawato

Century: Spice Road is a deck building game that simulates the spice trade in the 15th century. Each player starts with a player board that can hold up to ten spice cubes. The spices are represented by cubes of different color. Yellow cubes are the least valuable, followed by red, green, and brown cubes in that order.

Players start the game with two Merchant cards. Merchant cards are used to acquire more spice cubes or to upgrade the spice cubes you already have. One possible action each turn is to acquire more merchant cards. There is always a row of six merchant cards available for purchase. The card at the front of the line can be acquired for free. Cards farther down the line cost spice cubes. Each card skipped costs a cube.

The key to winning this game is to use your spice cubes to acquire point cards. There is always a row of five point cards available for purchase. To acquire a point card you need to spend the spice cubes specified on the card. Point cards range in value from 6 to 20 victory points.

Bonus cards are acquired by having the point cards in the first two positions in the row. These bonuses are represented by silver or gold coins.

The game ends when one payer acquires the proper number of point cards. That number is five or six, depending on the number of players. Once the end game is triggered, the current game turn is finished off and points are totaled. Silver coins are worth one extra point. Gold coins are worth three extra points.

The rules to Century: Spice Roads are the same as the rules to Century: Golem. Both games are published by Plan B Games in Canada.

History and Research Bureau

The subject of changes in the Constitution of the N3F was brought up in a Directors bulletin and we decided to research earlier versions of the constitution, which we have commenced doing and the current Origin contains a copy of the first N3F constitution, with Jon Swartz's examination of Harry Warner's comments about constitutional changes following. I am looking for further information, hoping to find each time there has been any major revision of the constitution. This should contribute to a solid grounding in N3F history. —John Thiel

Membership Recruiting

John Thiel writes: I'm establishing recruiting bureau bulletins as of now to discuss the bureau with the other two members of it. Some bureau identity should be added considering that it is a bureau.

Round Robins

Currently Active Round Robins

For more information, or to join a Round Robin, contact Patricia Williams-King, 335 Forrest Park Road, Apt # 75 Madison, TN 37115

- # 1 Cats in SF, Fantasy & Folklore (Members) 3
- #2 World Wide Folklore 3
- #3 The Speculative in Films 3
- #6-A Fairy & Folk Tales #1 4
- #8 Mysticism & Religion in SF & Fantasy 3
- #9 Celtic Folklore & Druid Folklore 4
- #10 Harry Potter Books & Movies 3
- #11 Mercedes Lackey 3
- #12 Mythology 3
- #13-A SYFY Channel 3
- #13-B SF&F in Films 4
- #14 Star Trek: Voy & Ent 4
- #15 Star Trek: Classic/TOS 4
- #17 TV SF &F #1 3
- #18 Vampires 3

- #20 Firefly/Serenity 3
- #21 C.J. Cherryh 3
- #22 Horror 4
- #23 Doctor Who #1 4
- #24 J.R.R. Tolkien & TLOTR's Books & Movies 3
- #25 Comix, Graphic Novels, Animation 3
- #27 Sherlock Holmes 4
- #28 Torchwood 4
- #29 Science & Technology in Society 3
- #30 Thieves World #1 4
- #31 Women SF & Fantasy Writers 4
- #32 Darkover/MZB 4
- #35 The Three Mary's, Mary Renault, Mary Brown & Mary Stewart 3
- #39 The Hobbit: The book & Movies 3
- #41 General SF & Fantasy Books & Movies 3
- #42 Anne McCaffrey /Pern Dragons 3

Writer's Exchange Bureau

Welcome to the Writers Exchange!

If you are a new writer, a professional writer, or someone who dreams of being a writer -this is the place for you.

If you love reading unpublished work and find it exciting to do so, this place is also for you.

In the June issue I told readers of my introduction to Shirley Jackson. This month I am sharing quotes from How I Write* one of Shirley Jackson's lectures on writing. Her lectures are more personal than one may hear from other writers. They are not so much — this is what you should do — as they are — this is what I do

"One of the nicest things about being a writer is that nothing ever gets wasted. ... A writer who is serious and economical can store away small fragments of ideas and events and conversations, and even facial expressions and mannerisms, and use them all someday."

" I believe that a story can be made out of any such small combination of circumstances, set up to best advantage and decorated with some use of the imagination."

" What I am trying to say is that with the small addition of the one element of fantasy, or unreality, or imagination, all the things that happen are fun to write about."

* Taken from the book- Shirley Jackson Let Me Tell You; New Stories, Essays, and Other Writings Edited by Laurence Jackson Hyman and Sarah Hyman DeWitt.

The Writers Exchange is for anyone interested in writing.

If you have a story you would like read and commented on, or if you just want the excitement of reading unpublished work, then the Writers Exchange is here for you. Published or unpublished — all are welcome. You may join as a writer, a reader or both.

If interested, please contact Judy Carroll,
AutumnSeas8012@gmail.com

Welcommittee

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.

This month we welcome new members Richard Wright and Dan Miller.

May your stay be long and memorable.

Needed: Members willing to help
.Duties:

1. Send greeting emails to new members which includes the following:
 - Bureaus and Activities offered
 - Attachments of club publications
2. Help new members when needed

All members without an email address will be contacted by the bureau head. Anyone willing to help welcome new members to this wonderful club will be greatly appreciated.

If interested, please contact Judy Carroll at AutumnSeas8012@gmail.com

Letters of Comment

Dear Neffers,

Regarding Bob Jennings' evaluation of the Neffy Awards in the July TNFF letter column, one could note also that they seem to be compiled with the assumption that the entire membership has read or seen all or most of the items nominated, whereas most of the membership, one may assume, is not omnivorous and are unlikely to have any familiarity with very many of

the things nominated, considering the variety of sources. That being said, I'd point out that awards are given for awards reasons rather than critical ones, and Amazing is both new and a valuable addition to SF, two frequent sources of awards recognition.

I'm not sure why the awards or anything else should be shelved due to inattention, as it is not really necessary to discontinue it. Perhaps Mr. Jennings regards inactivity as clutter and wants a neater TNFF. Perhaps he finds it detracts from the N3F's appearances, but I have seen the awards taken seriously elsewhere, for example in the File 770 column in the online Amazing, so I know they are respected and contribute to the interest shown to the N3F.

-John Thiel

Dear Neffers:

Once again, I am behind, and I just can't seem to get going sometimes. I have the June and July issues (Volume 78, Nos. 6 and 7) of The National Fantasy Fan, and I need to get this going for the August issue. Here goes!

June... The idea of Prose Bono is a very good idea, and I am sure there are some soon-to-be novelists in and out of the club who could use whatever information and opinion may be in it. Good to see the Correspondence Bureau up and about again...we live in an age where we consume what we find online, but seem to be loathe to contribute or create. Correspondence today seems to be a word or two in a short conversation on social media. I seem to be among the few who remembers how to write a letter. I could put it on paper and in a stamped envelope for paper mailing, but I use e-mail for speed. Deadlines and all...I like the noise they make as they go whooshing by...

My letter... The job hunt continues onwards, but I have two on-site interviews lined up for next week, so I suspect my revised resume may be working. As I type, the Dublin Worldcon is in its second day, and we are definitely not there. However, lots of people are, and we should see news from the Worldcon soon, if it isn't already on File 770.

July... Election time again. I hope the membership will participate in high numbers. Looks like you have all created more and more for the membership to participate in, always good for a club to supply to its members. And, it looks like you are getting plenty of feedback from your members on the club publications. Good to see Amazing Stories getting some love, too, but then, I am far from objective there.

On the Supermen of America club...thanks for the mention of Joe Shuster. The annual Canadian comic book awards are named the Shusters, and one of Joe's famous relatives was Frank Shuster, one of Canada's best known comedians from the 60s, 70s 80s and 90s, and with his partner Johnny Wayne, was one of the most popular acts to ever appear on the Ed Sullivan Show. I met Frank Shuster many years ago at the main studios of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, or CBC.

Done for the moment...I hope I am not too late for the August issue! See you all then.

Yours,
Lloyd Penney.

Dear Neffers,

2019 Dragon Awards: Paying the Price for Access
Greetings, to all Neffers, especially those of you who are looking forward to DragonCon this year! And to my family members who may have stumbled on to this, please don't worry; I'm not going to run away and join the circus.

According to the little count-down functions I have built into my "Read and Review for Dragon Con" spreadsheet, there are 21 days left for me to get the job done, and I will need to read and review an average of 294 pages per day. That's a LOT, and I'm pretty sure I never worked this hard, even when I was in graduate school.

Only 24 hours ago, however, I was pretty sure I was NOT going to have to work that hard. The reason? 16 of the books nominated to me were not available to me through my usual sources. Last year, I was able to obtain all but six of the finalists, but it was looking pretty dreary for my prospects this year. I addressed some of that in my blog post on Thursday.

Unexpectedly, a wise and beneficent individual, and one who REALLY wants some reviews turned in, arranged for me to get quite a few e-books, and I'm given to understand that some paperbacks are in the mail. It's pretty amazing, actually, and I'm very grateful.

At the same time, I'm aggravated by the lack of access. Now, in THIS case, I'm not talking about my personal access. I already addressed that issue the other day, and I'm not gonna do so again. I'm talking about the lack of access to the reading material to everyone in the universe.

This is NOT one of those "information wants to be free" rants that hackers use to justify stealing other people's stuff. I absolutely believe that people who produce goods and services deserve to be paid for those goods and services, and that a reasonable marketplace is going to make that happen. It's just that I don't think we HAVE a reasonable marketplace right now, because of some archaic business practices, which I shall now enumerate.

First: I took the list of Dragon Award finalists, in the four categories I review: SF Novel, Fantasy Novel, Military SF/F, and Alternate History. I looked on Amazon to see what these items would cost to access, in ONE (only) of four different formats: Kindle e-book, Audio-book, Paperback, and Hardback. These are, by the way, what may be the best-case scenarios; if a book was on sale, I picked the sale price. I ALSO picked the price that was listed for ME, and I am an Amazon Prime customer. I did it that way, because I just wasn't sure if some of the discounts were available to everyone, or just to Prime customers, and I didn't want to make the outcome any worse.

I emphasized that the prices are for ONE (only) of the formats. The reason for that is that there are special deals available for audio books for people who have a Kindle copy. It's a pretty deep discount in all cases (as in, \$7.49, instead of \$25 -\$35); in one case, the cost of the audio-book is a semi-bizarre \$1.99, instead of \$29.99.

I also included ONLY the Kindle purchase price. However, I DO want to comment about Kindle Unlimited separately.

Finally, not every book is available in all four formats. All offer an ebook and a paperback edition; two offer no audio-book, although I understand from the publisher that those are in the works; eleven of the 24 are not available in hardback.

And now, I rant. A bit.

I think we all expect the audio-book prices to be elevated, they DO require some significant work. And we are accustomed to paying higher prices for hardback editions of books. But e-books? Heck, they ought to be cheap. You have one single set-up for the entire thing, and that's pretty much it. Storage cost? Nope, no warehouse needed. Distribution costs? Fiddlesticks. Inventory control issues? Management of returns? Additional print runs? Strike through ALL of that stuff.

I am NOT an expert in the publishing business. I DO, however, know some people who ARE experts in the publishing business, and they are selling e-book editions

for ONE THIRD (or less) the cost of their paperback editions, and they are making money doing it.

SURELY, percentages aren't the entire story. If you are selling a paperback for \$10, it's not unreasonable to charge \$7 for an e-Book, and that's 70%, so I don't see that as an issue. You might disagree, and bless your heart for doing so!

But what possible justification can you use for charging MORE for an e-book than you do for a paperback? That's the case for SEVEN of the books on this list. And TWO of the books on the finalist list have e-books that sell for more than the hardback edition.

(Errm.. the Kindle Unlimited thing I wanted to talk about? Out of time. But I wish to point out that LAST YEAR, there were eleven KU selections among the finalists; this year, there are only five. And that goes to access, which I discuss now.)

Forgive the rant, if you can. It's just that I see this as limiting access to science fiction, in at least TWO ways, and it bugs me.

Decades ago, I was one of the pre-teens reading under the covers with a flashlight when I should be asleep; now, I'm reading on my iPad when I should be asleep. How is the field going to attract new readers if the next generation has to pay through the nose for the privilege? That's limit one.

Limit two is maybe more subtle, but I am of the opinion that it's the more insidious. In decades past, Traditional Publishing controlled access to an intellectual property with a physical presence. With the advent of e-commerce, MUCH of that structure is obsolete. If they can just get control of the market, though...

Okay, I'm stopping there, because I may transform into a werewolf if I keep going. Please do not take this as a criticism for any of the books, or any of the authors. Unless they are indie, or with a small publishing house, it's not likely they have anything to do with book pricing. I PROMISE I will be reviewing each book on merits, insofar as it is possible for me to do so. I just had to get this off my chest.

Which appears to be getting furrier...AAARROOO!!
Pat Patterson

Fellow Neffers,

Recent correspondents have raised several issues that

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pear

Sun Maiden — Angela K. Scott

worthwhile to discuss further. The complaint was made that the only nominee for 'Best SF Movie/Video' was "A Quiet Place", suggesting that there were other, better, films or TV programs. I suppose that could be true. I watch very few videos, so I lack an informed opinion on the matter. However, it is indubitably the case that not one of our members actually thought that something else was better, at least not with the vigor needed to send me a letter or email making a different nomination.

Second, there have been suggestions that we should trim activities, by eliminating activities in which only a few people are interested. In my opinion, a practical matter, there are no activities that are of interest to more than a modest fraction of our members, except perhaps for reading or viewing sfnal items. If we eliminated all the activities in which many of our members are uninterested, we would have more or less no activities left.

Finally, this year the operation of the Neffies revealed a few issues that were not identified in advance. I am inclined to propose that the fanzine category become 'Best Fanzine not published by the N3F'. Jon Swartz's history of the laureate awards shows that at one time we gave many more fan awards than we do now. I believe we should change, by offering more fan awards. My hesitation is that I am not sure we have enough information about what our fellow fen around the world are doing to make such an award credible.

Finally, I am profoundly grateful for the entirely unexpected Neffy Best Novel Award.

George Phillies



Neffy Awards Announced
Club Elections
History of the N3F Laureate Awards
N3F Founding Members — Messrs. Fields, Jordan, Jorgensen, and Robson
Treasury
New, Renewed, and Reinstated Members and Updates for July and August
Zines—The N3F Review of Books, he National Fantasy Fan, Mangaverse, Tightbeam ,
N’APA, Films Fantastic, Eldritch Science, Ionisphere, Origin
Bureaus
Birthday bureau, Correspondence Bureau,
Games Bureau (Defense of Corona, Century: Spice Road),
History and Research Bureau, Membership Recruiting, Round Robins,
Writer’s Exchange Bureau, Welcommittee
Letters of Comment
Thiel, Penney, Patterson, Phillies

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