

The National Fantasy Fan

Cras ad Stellas— Tomorrow to the Stars

Volume 79 Number 2

February 2020

N3F Crisis!

Fellow Neffers! We have a serious problem! Our faithful Treasurer of many years, David Speakman, for very good reasons does not want to continue as Treasurer after this year. We need a replacement. The Treasurer is appointed by the President.

What does our Treasurer do? He receives money given to the N3F, primarily for memberships. He is the signatory on the N3F bank account, which is maintained using the N3F's TIN. He disburses funds, based on Directorate motions, our Bylaws, or our Constitution. On a monthly basis, he provides the Directorate, President, and TNFF Editor with a report of all financial transactions, and all new membership information. Once a year, he gives the same people a yearly financial report.

I have been President of other clubs in which problematic Treasurers have caused major difficulties, so I take this new appointment very seriously. Please advise, or speak up if you are interested. George Phillies, President

Presidential Notes

I am profoundly grateful to all fellow Neffers who have become activists in the last few years. The proof of your activism is seen on the next page, where the list of Bureau Heads has now spilled over into a second column.

To be to the point, none of us are getting any younger. Several of your activists have reached the age where succession plans are in order. The N3F really needs for

you, the membership, to Stand Up for the Federation! by recruiting new member-activists.

Once a time, a critic whose name shall not appear here claimed that we offered members nothing other than some introductory literature. That statement was false then, and is still false now. Back then, the December 1967 TNFF includes want ads, a Treasurer's report, reports from the Information Bureau ("ask us questions"), N'APA elections, the Correspondence Bureau, the Fan-zine Appreciation Bureau, the Collector's Bureau (published its own zine *CB*, working on indices of the works of Hannes Bok and Edd Cartier, and an index of series stories), the Manuscript Bureau (collects material for fan-eds to use), the Story Contest (back then they collected a fee from non-members), Boskone and Witzend news, a membership list (400 members), a followup bureau (member activities), and an election report -- the Directorate election was contested; turnout among dues-paying members has not changed much over the decades on a percentage basis.

Many of these are worthwhile activities that we are not currently pursuing. Volunteers to try some of them would be most welcome.

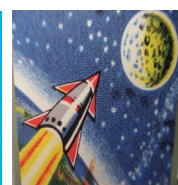
2020 Neffies

For many years, the N3F has given awards for speculative fiction materials in all media. We now reach the Awards for 2019 creations. Relative to last year, there are changes: There are Fan Awards. N3F Officers are not eligible for the pro awards, e.g., Best Novel. The nomination lists

Continued on Page 2, Top



Please volunteer
Needed: A Treasurer
Wordpress expertise. Zine Editors.
Book Reviewers. Letter of Comment Writers.



Your Volunteer Team

Directors:

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 Judy Carroll - BlueShadows2012@gmail.com
 Jefferson Swycaffer - abontides@gmail.com
 John Thiel - kinethiel@mymetronet.net
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 Editor, Origin John Thiel kinethiel@mymetronet.net
 Editor, The N3F Review of Books: George Phillies
 Keeper of the URLs David Speakman davodd@gmail.com
 Host of the Web Site David Speakman davodd@gmail.com

Bureau Heads

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 Birthday Cards R-Laurraine Tutihasi lauraine@mac.com;
 Judy Carroll autumnseas8012@gmail.com
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 Convention Calendar: Heath Row kalel@well.com
 Club Directory Heath Row kalel@well.com
 Correspondence Bureau Judy Carroll BlueShadows2012@gmail.com
 Election Teller Jon Swartz., jon_swartz@hotmail.com
 Fandom History/Research Bureau John Thiel kinethiel@mymetronet.net ; Jon Swartz jon_swartz@hotmail.com
 Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau John Thiel kinethiel@mymetronet.net
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 Neffy Awards Bureau George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net

Continued Next Column

for short fiction and anime will include curated lists of nominees. Heath Row suggested several clarifications in categories; you can see these below. Nominations are due by April 1, 2020 to George Phillies, 48 Hancock Hill Drive, Worcester, MA 01609, or electronically to phillies@4liberty.net.

Neffy Categories are

Best novel (over 100,000 words)
 Best shorter work (under 100,000 words)
 Best book editor
 Best TV show
 Best SF movie/video
 Best SF Magazine
 Best animation (anime/cartoon)
 Best manga/comic book/graphic novel
 Best artist, cover or otherwise
 Best non-N3F fanzine (electronic publication is allowed)

Your Volunteer Team

Pro Bureau George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net
 Round Robins Patricia Williams-King , 335 Forrest Park Road, Apt # 75 Madison, TN 37115.
 Short Story Contest J. Swycaffer abontides@gmail.com
 Social Media David Speakman, George Phillies
 Video Schedule David Speakman davodd@gmail.com
 Welcommittee Judy Carroll BlueShadows2012@gmail.com
 Writers Exchange Judy Carroll BlueShadows2012@gmail.com

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

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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Best N3F fanzine
Best fan artist
Best fan writer
Best fan editor
Best fan web site
Other

Please send your nominations to George Phillies, philies@4liberty.net by April 1, 2020.

For Best Anime, Jessi Silver as curatrix has given us three titles:

The Promised Neverland
Sarazanmai
Astra: Lost in Space

Bureau News Birthday Bureau

January stats: 6 renewal notices sent
Birthday cards: 13 sent
...Laurraine Tutihasi

Convention Bureau The Unconventional Convention Calendar Compiled by Heath Row

The following conventions will occur between April-June 2020. Convention runners and fans should send event listings to Heath Row at kalel@well.com for consideration. Please contact event organizers before making travel plans.

Eve Fanfest April 2-4, 2020, Reykjavik, Iceland
Eve Online eveonline.com/fanfest

Anime Con Arkansas April 3-5, 2020, Little Rock, Arkansas
Anime animeconarkansas.com/

The Great Philadelphia Comic Con April 3-5, 2020, Oaks, Pennsylvania
Comic books and pop culture philadelphiacomiccon.com/

HelioSphere April 3-5, 2020, Tarrytown, New York
Science fiction and fantasy
heliosphereny.org/

Heroes of the Shadow World April 3-5, 2020, New York
Shadowhunters fandom
jalmics.com/event-management/hotsw/

FLPolyCon April 4, 2020, Lakeland, Florida

Geek culture fpolycon.org/

Sci-Fi Scarborough April 4-5, 2020, Scarborough, England
Science fiction and comic books
scifiscarborough.co.uk/

Tsunami Merida Comic Con April 4-5, 2020, Merida, Mexico
Comic books tsunamimerida.com/

Norwescon April 9-12, 2020, SeaTac, Washington
SF&F and science norwescon.org

Anime Boston April 10-12, 2020, Boston
Anime animeboston.com/

Marmalade Dog April 10-12, 2020, Kalamazoo, Michigan
Role-playing games, miniature wargames, and other games
marmaladedog.org/

WonderCon April 10-12, 2020, Anaheim, California
Comic books comic-con.org/wca

Concentric: Eastercon April 10-13, 2020, Birmingham, England
SF&F concentric2020.uk/

Conapalooza April 11, 2020, Kingsport, Tennessee
Pop culture and gaming conapalooza.com/

Def Com April 11, 2020, Defiance, Ohio
Comic books facebook.com/dplsdefcom/

MegaCon Orlando April 16-19, 2020, Orlando, Florida
Pop culture megaconorlando.com

StokerCon UK April 16-19, 2020, Scarborough, England
Horror Writers Association stokercon-uk.com/

Barrie Fantasticon April 17-18, 2020, Barrie, Ontario, Canada
Pop culture barriefantasticon.ca/

ConStellation April 17-19, 2020, Lincoln, Nebraska
Science fiction and fantasy constellationne.net/

Fantasy Book Fest April 17-19, 2020, Anaheim, California
Fantasy fandom fantasybookfest.com/

JordanCon April 17-19, 2020, Atlanta
Robert Jordan, The Wheel of Time jordancon.org/

Sci-Fi on the Rock April 17-19, 2020, St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada
SF&F and horror
scifiontherock.com/

SlavCon April 17-19, 2020, Bratislava, Slovakia

Science fiction, fantasy, and pop culture slavcon.sk/sk

AsahiCon April 18, 2020, Antioch, California
 Anime asahicon.org/

Ratha Con April 18, 2020, Athens, Ohio
 Pop culture therathacon.com/

LuxCon April 18-19, 2020, Luxembourg Science fiction, fantasy, and horror luxcon.lu/

Minicon April 19-21, 2020, St. Louis Park, Minnesota
 Science fiction mnstf.org/minicon54/

Calgary Expo April 23-26, 2020, Calgary, Alberta, Canada
 Comic books and entertainment calgaryexpo.com/

Sci-Fi Weekender April 23-26, 2020, Great Yarmouth, England
 SF&F scifiweekender.com/

Causeacon April 24-26, 2020, Beckley, West Virginia
 Pop culture causeacon.com/

Farmageddon April 24-26, 2020, Farmer City, Illinois
 Role-playing games farmageddon137.com/

FilkOntario April 24-26, 2020, Markham, Ontario, Canada
 Filk filkontario.ca/

Imagicon April 24-26, 2020, Minot, North Dakota
 Science fiction and fantasy imagiconnd.com/

Lexicon April 24-25, 2020, Lexington, Kentucky
 Tabletop gaming lexicongaming.com/

Oz-Con April 24-26, 2020, West Plains, Missouri
 Gaming, cosplay, and anime oz-con.com/

Penguicon April 24-26, 2020, Southfield, Michigan
 Open source hardware and software, science fiction, and gaming 2020 penguicon.org/

RavenCon April 24-26, 2020, Williamsburg, Virginia
 Science fiction and fantasy ravencon.com/

TallahasseeCon April 25, 2020, Tallahassee, Florida
 Comic books tallahasseecon.com/

Makers & Creators Convention April 25-26, 2020, Macungie, Pennsylvania
 Science fiction and fantasy crafts wediscovergeeks.com/macc-event

Metrotham Con May 1-3, 2020, Chattanooga, Tennessee
 Pop culture metrothamcon.com/

Nichelle Nichols Farewell Celebration May 1-3, 2020, Burbank, California
 Star Trek fandom uhura.space/

Treklanta May 1-3, 2020, Atlanta
 Star Trek fandom treklanta.org/

Visioncon May 1-3, 2020, Springfield, Missouri
 Pop culture visioncon.net/

EM-Con Nottingham May 2-3, 2020, Nottingham, England
 Pop culture nottingham.em-con.co.uk/

Florida Supercon May 8-10, 2020, Miami Beach, Florida
 Pop culture floridasupercon.com/

Marcon May 8-10, 2020, Worthington, Ohio
 Science fiction and fantasy marcon.org/

Monsterpalooza May 8-10, 2020, Anaheim, California
 Monsters and movie magic monsterpalooza.com/spring/index.html

KapowCon! May 9, 2020, Bristol, Virginia
 Comic books facebook.com/kapowcon/

Lodi Comic Con May 9, 2020, Lodi, California
 Comic books lodicomicon.com/

Watch City Festival May 9, 2020, Waltham, Massachusetts
 Steampunk watchcityfestival.com/

KeyCon May 15-17, 2020, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
 Science fiction and fantasy keycon.org/2020/

Nickel City Con May 15-17, 2020, Buffalo, New York
 Comic books nickelcitycon.com/

Anime North May 22-24, 2020, Toronto
 Anime animenorth.com/event/

AniMinneapolis May 22-24, 2020, Minneapolis
 Anime animinneapolis.com/

ConQuest May 22-24, 2020, Kansas City, Missouri
 Science fiction and fantasy conquestkc.org/

Thy Geekdom Con May 22-24, 2020, Oaks, Pennsylvania
 Anime, gaming, and pop culture thygeekdomcon.com/

Balticon May 22-25, 2020, Baltimore
 Science fiction and fantasy balticon.org/wp54/

BayCon May 22-25, 2020, San Mateo, California
 Science fiction and fantasy baycon.org/

MediaWest*Con May 22-25, 2020, Lansing, Michigan
Science fiction media mediawestcon.org/

MisCon May 22-25, 2020, Missoula, Montana
Science fiction and fantasy miscon.org/

Starfleet International Conference May 22-25, 2020, San Mateo, California Star Trek fandom
ic.sfi.org/

WisCon May 22-25, 2020, Madison, Wisconsin
Feminist science fiction and fantasy wiscon.net/

Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America Nebula Conference May 28-31, 2020, Woodland Hills, California
Science fiction and fantasy
nebulas.sfwaweb.org/nebula-conference/

ConCarolinas May 29-31, 2020, Charlotte, North Carolina
Pop culture concarolinas.org/

QFX East May 29-31, 2020, Tampa, Florida
Queer fandom qfxevents.com/

Sausomecon May 29-31, 2020, Independence, Missouri
Anime and pop culture sausomecon.com/

Cradle Con May 30-31, 2020, Garden City, New York
Comic books and pop culture cradlecon.com/

WonderFest May 30-31, 2020, Louisville, Kentucky
SF, horror, and comic books wonderfest.com/

Cogs & Corsets June 5-7, 2020, Bloomington, Illinois
Steampunk cogsandcorsetsil.com/

Earp Division Expo June 5-7, 2020, Anaheim, California
Wynonna Earp earpdivisionexpo.com/

WhedonCon June 5-7, 2020, Los Angeles
Whedonverse fandom whedoncon.com/

Wizard World St. Louis June 5-7, 2020, St. Louis, Missouri
Pop culture wizardworld.com/comiccon/st-louis

Ponoka Fanfest June 6, 2020, Ponoka, Alberta, Canada
Anime, comic books, and science fiction
ranul4.wixsite.com/website-1

Con Kasterborous June 6-7, 2020, Huntsville, Alabama
Doctor Who fandom conkasterborous.com/

Celebrity Fan Fest June 11-14, 2020, San Antonio, Texas
Pop culture pmxevents.com/

Superman Celebration June 11-14, 2020, Metropolis, Illinois
Superman fandom supermancelebration.net/

AnimeNext June 12-14, 2020, Atlantic City, New Jersey
Anime animenext.org/

Sci-Fi Valley Con June 12-14, 2020, Altoona, PA
Science fiction and nostalgia scifivalleycon.com/

Utopia June 12-14, 2020, Wyboston, Bedfordshire, England
Doctor Who fandom fantomevents.co.uk/utopia-2020/

Campbell Con June 13, 2020, Reno, Nevada
Pop culture campbellcon.com/

SWFL SpaceCon June 13, 2020, Fort Myers, Florida
SF and comic books swflspacecon.com/

Ground Zero Animation Expo June 13-14, 2020, Stanton, California
Animation gzaexpo.com/

RobCon June 13-14, 2020, Kingsport, Tennessee
Comic books and gaming robcon.org

Terror Con June 13-14, 2020, Providence, Rhode Island
Horror and the paranormal theterrorcon.com/

Kids Con New England June 14, 2020, Nashua, New Hampshire
Comic books and children's books
kidsconne.com/

4th Street Fantasy June 19-21, 2020, St. Louis Park, Minnesota
Fantasy fiction 4thstreetfantasy.com/

Heroes Convention June 19-21, 2020, Charlotte, North Carolina
Comic books heroesonline.com/heroescon/

International Fan Festival Toronto June 19-21, 2020, Toronto
Anime toronto.ifanfes.com/

Mythmoot June 25-28, 2020, Leesburg, Virginia
Speculative literature
signumuniversity.org/mythmoot/

PortConMaine June 25-28, 2020, Portland, Maine
Pop culture portconmaine.com/

Amazing Comic Con June 26-28, 2020, Las Vegas
amazingcomiccon.com/amazing-las-vegas

Planet Funk Con June 26-28, 2020, Bettendorf, Iowa
Comic books planetfunkcon.com/

Correspondence Bureau

Currently we have 2 members interested in corresponding. Since they already correspond with one another they would like to broaden their N3F horizons and get to know other members.

If you are interested in broadening your N3F horizons, by corresponding with Jeffery Redmond or John Thiel, (each has chosen choice #2) please send an email with your name, the name of the person you have chosen and your email address to: Judy Carroll - BlueShadows@gmail.com

You will then receive an email with the email address of the person you have chosen to correspond with and he will receive an email with your name and email address.

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 with your name and a list of 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. Include your name and email address. You will be paired with the next person with unknown interests and both of you will be notified and given the email address of the other member. The rest is up to you.

Whichever way you choose will be an adventure.

The Correspondence Bureau is open to all members of the club who have an email address whether they are paying or non-paying members. Members seeking to correspond through the Correspondence Bureau will be asked for permission to publish their name in the monthly article.

If they do not wish to have their name published only their Choice #1 or #2 will be published. No email addresses will be published in the monthly article nor given to another member without that member's permission.

If you wish to join the Correspondence Bureau contact

Judy Carroll - BlueShadows2012@gmail.com

NOTE: This is a NEW email address.

Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau

In line with his letter in the October TNFF, I've contacted Steve Davidson for further work with his idea about establishing a close relationship between Amazing Stories and the NFFF resembling the earlier relationship the SF League had with the professional level. The online Amazing is sporting its award as the best prozine from the NFFF on its masthead.—John Thiel

Games Bureau

Turmoil, the new expansion kit for *Terraforming Mars*, has just been released. This new expansion adds a political dimension to Stronghold Games' popular game about settling Mars. We learn that Mars is ruled by the Terraforming Council. Six political parties vie for control of the Council. Players can place delegates within those parties. The first delegate each turn is free. Additional delegates can be placed for a small cost. Each time a new party takes control of the Council, players may gain extra resources depending on which cards they have already played. Also, controlling the Council Chairmanship is worth one Victory Point each turn.

This expansion also adds random events that may be good or bad for the players. "Turmoil" also adds five new corporations to the game, each with interesting special abilities. Use of this expansion kit may greatly lengthen the game if lots of bad random events keep getting drawn. I have been in a game where that was the case. The game probably got lengthened by an hour. I feel that's the only drawback to this otherwise very good expansion kit. — Wesley Kawato

History and Research Bureau

We are doing our best to bring fannish history, as well as science fiction history, to life in Origin, and I think we're doing a good job of it.—John Thiel

Recruiting Bureau

Nothing new to report this month; I'm starting to wonder if some of the people we've gotten interested are not succeeding in following the process of enrolling. Perhaps we should establish an intermediary relationship with potential recruits.—John Thiel

Round Robins

Patricia Williams tells me that she has mailed 8 or so round robin letters to restart things where people have

dropped.

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. Anyone willing to help welcome new members to this wonderful club will be greatly appreciated. If interested, please contact Judy Carroll at BlueShadows2012@gmail.com

NOTE: This is a new email address.

Writers Exchange

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.

Since St. Patrick's Day is next month, I thought a little bit of the Irish would be appropriate.

To celebrate the Irish people, I have 2 suggestions.

1. Read a few Irish folktales, short stories, poems, or plays by Irish writers. The following is a short list of Irish writers:

William Butler Yeats
James Joyce
Bram Stoker
C.S. Lewis
Oscar Wilde
Maeve Binchy
Jonathan Swift
Samuel Beckett
Frank McCourt
George Bernard Shaw

2. Write a short story about one or more of the following Creatures of Irish Folklore*

Banshee - A spirit who appears in the form of a cloaked, wailing woman who usually foretells the death of a family member.

.Abhartach -..." solitary sorcerer dwarfs with the power to rise from the grave and wreak havoc as undead crea-

tures." They can only be stopped by being killed with a yew-wood sword and buried upside down.

Cluricauna - A sprite-like creature who takes the form of a tiny drunken old man who loves to play practical jokes.

Far Darrig - A supernatural being with long snouts and skinny tails. They are small faeries who wear red coats and caps and "delight in gruesome practical jokes, like stealing babies and replacing them with changelings." They are thought to be associated with nightmares.

Fear Gorta (means 'man of hunger' in Irish) - A supernatural being..."an emaciated phantom who goes through the land in famine time." begging for food and giving good fortune to any who help him.

Sluagh - ... "the spirits of sinners who, unwelcome in heaven or hell, must haunt the realm of the living." ... "thought to move through the sky in flocks, ... they'd try to enter the homes of dying people in order to steal their souls."

Ellén Trechend -..."a horrifying three-headed monster, ..."emerges from a cave on a rampage of destruction." Taken from Cath Maige Mucrama a tale written in Middle Irish from the 8th or 9th century. Translators disagree on what type of a monster it is. Some say a bird or a vulture while others believe it to be ..." a fire-breathing dragon-like creature."

* The above list was taken from Dictionary.com from an article titled: 7 Creatures of Irish Folklore

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

If interested, please contact: Judy Carroll.
BlueShadows2012@gmail.com
NOTE: This is a new email address.

Letters of Comment

Dear Neffers,

This is a Letter of Comment of the December 2019 issue of The Fan. John, what is *Surprising Stories*? I'd like to learn more about it. I was particularly inspired by a couple of pieces of art: Angela K. Scott's *Stonehenge, Before*

Time and Jose K. Sanchez's *Starship*. I am curious whether the artists' middle names are the same.

Jon, have you considered collecting your various comic book club write-ups as a pamphlet when you are done? Might make a good club publication like the pamphlet we collaborated on previously.

I also appreciated the artwork in the membership flier — as well as the idea that ‘there are fans of as many hues and colors as there are dragons!’ We welcome everybody.

...Heath Row

Editor:

Another Return from abroad; another issue of TNFF awaiting, welcome as always (despite the mangling accomplished by the USPS. Many thanks to Jon Swartz for the egoboo regarding *Dreams Renewed*; if anyone is interested in seeing a copy, a small SASE to Justin E. A. Busch, 308 Prince St. #422, St. Paul, MN 55101, will suffice for the most recent issue. I was a bit surprised to see *Thrilling Wonder Stories* described as “somewhat obscure” in the review of John Thiel’s latest zine. But perhaps everything before *Star Wars* is obscure now.

To correct a few very peculiar typos that crept into the transcription of my letter in the last issue.: In suggesting that the fanzine category be separated into print and online, I appear to say that “Prince scenes receive less attention” Given all the coverage of Harry’s exploits, this claim is nonsensical. It was meant to be “Print zines receive...” Just afterward I seem to describe Minn-stf’s *Rune* as using “tech photography”; the intended phrase was “hctography”. [Ed: Behold these triumphs of voice-to-text conversion.]

Congratulations to the winners of the short story contest. The winning stories (and the runner-up) sound quite interesting, and I hope to read them someday.

...Justin E. A. Busch

Treasurer’s Report

\$ 2703.86 (December 2, 2019)
 + 40.00 PayPal Dues
 + 18.00 Cash Dues
 + 36.00 Check Dues
 + 6.00 Money Order Dues
 - 2.03 PayPal Fees
 - 0.00 Banking Fees
 - 50.00 2019 Short Story Contest 1st Prize via PayPal
 - 30.00 2019 Short Story Contest 2nd Prize via PayPal

- 20.00 2019 Short Story Contest 3rd Prize via Check #5052

- 18.00 January Printing Costs (CK#5050)

- 18.00 February Printing Costs (CK#5051)

\$ 2665.83 (February 2, 2020)

Editor’s note: The January Report encountered electronic gremlins, and is here combined with the January Report.

Membership Changes

Renewed:

#26 Rikki Winters - Regular Voting, through Dec. 2020
 #27 Kense Net-Ubasti - Household Voting, through Dec. 2020

#28 David Speakman - Regular Voting, through Nov. 2023

#44 - Wesley Kawato - Regular Voting, through Dec. 2021

#153 - Gary Casey - Electronic Voting, through Dec. 2020

#241 - Matthew Weitendorf - Regular Voting, through March 2021

New & Reinstated:

#280 - J.I. Rogers - Regular, Voting through Feb. 2021
 IRL: Author

#281 - Chris Kennedy - Public, Non-Voting

#282 - Angela Walker - Public, Non-Voting

IRL: Dog Grooming Salon Owner (Another Canadian!)
 BDay: Dec. 21

Fan Interests: Art, Audio, Books, Cartooning, cartoons, and animation, Comic books, Computers and technology, Games and video games, Online activities, Reading and book clubs

Fan For: 15 years

Fanac: "Unsure"

Clubs: "Facebook groups. Science Fiction page."

Genres: Science fiction by book or audiobook. Art and drawings. Anything with space travel, robots and new technologies.

Creators: Robert J. Sawyer, Tad Williams, Ken Grimwood, J.S. Morin

Internet activity: Facebook groups, polls, games

Sponsor: Jeffrey Redmond

N3F Interests: Artwork , Organizing activities , Corresponding

Expired/Expiring

Expired in January

#67 - Lauren Clough

Expiring in February

#263 - Alan White

#264 - Lynne Jambor

Expiring in March

#204 - Michael Simon

#210 - Steve Fahnstalk

#243 - John T Erb

Member Status Changes

#178 - Michelle Rictuccia - From Public to Dropped, Resigned Membership

#255 - Scott Lee Spence - From Regular to Public, EXP Oct. 2019

#250 - Shami Stovall - From Regular to Public, EXP Oct. 2019

SerCon My First Comic Book by Jon D. Swartz, Ph.D. N3F Historian

The title of this article is a bit misleading, since – to be completely honest with the reader -- it really should be something like “The First Comic Book That I Bought With My Own Money: Leading Comics #12” -- but that is much too unwieldy a title.

It was the early 1940s, and my parents and I had traveled from Houston, Texas to Baltimore, Maryland to visit my older brother, George, who was working in the Baltimore Shipyards as a welder before going into the army. George was 12-and-a-half years older than I, and often indulged me when he had some spare money. We visited a local newsstand where Leading Comics #12 caught my eye, and I bought it with a dime my brother had given me. My parents asked me more than once: “Are you sure this is the one you want?” Previously I had only read funny animal comic books of the Donald Duck and Bugs Bunny variety that my parents had bought for me. What was there about the cover of this particular comic book that caught my eye?

Looking back from the perspective of nearly 80 years, I can only conclude that it was the colorful balloons, or maybe the numbered clues, that The Seven Soldiers of Victory were chasing. (At the time I loved balloons, and I was proud of my ability to count to very high numbers).

Only five of the Seven Soldiers were actually involved in the action on the cover: The Crimson Avenger, The Vigilante, The Shining Knight, The Star-Spangled Kid, and The Green Arrow. I had heard of only a couple of

them at the time.

I’m almost certain this was my first view of The Crimson Avenger, who appeared in the back pages of Detective Comics, dominated at the time by Batman and Robin. I may have seen The Green Arrow (and Speedy) on the covers of More Fun Comics, but I did not have any of the comic books featuring them. I probably had seen The Vigilante in the back pages of Action Comics because some of my friends were fans of Superman and had copies of Action that they shared with me. I wasn’t familiar with The Star-Spangled Kid (and Stripesy) at all, and didn’t begin reading Star-Spangled Comics – in which they originally starred and eventually appeared for almost 90 issues -- until The Newsboy Legion and the Guardian commanded the covers; and I didn’t recognize The Shining Knight at all, not being a reader of Adventure Comics until much later when Simon & Kirby’s Sandman took over as the star of that comic book.

Ron Goulart

Popular culture expert and science fiction author Ron Goulart offered to print my article on the first comic book I bought for his fanzine, Comics History Magazine, that he published during 1996 - 1997; but I never got around to writing it for him. I regret that now. Goulart was one of my favorite SF writers at the time, and I briefly corresponded with him. I also wrote an article about his work for the magazine Paperback Parade, and I heard that he enjoyed reading it from the magazine’s editor/publisher.

Learning to Read

My grandfather Swartz, a Methodist minister, read the newspaper funnies to me when I was 3 or 4. I remember that my favorite strip at that early age was “Buck Rogers” -- but I also liked many of the others. At the time, the late 1930s, there were many comic strips to choose from in the funnies of most newspapers. Later my grandparents, parents, and brother bought me Big Little Books (BLBs) and comic books of the funny animal type. I was able to read these books by myself when I was 5 or 6.

When I began reading by myself, I preferred BLBs and comic books to the other reading materials available to me. My brother had a small library of his own, with books like The Boy Scouts on Sturgeon Island -- or Marooned Among the Game-Fish Poachers, and I eventually read most of them, especially after he asked me to take care of them while he was away in the army. My short term memory isn’t all that great these days, but my long term memory is just fine; I still remember, for example, after almost 80 years, that all the scouts in the book had catchy nicknames -- and my favorite was the scout

named Stephen that the other scouts called Step Hen!

Leading Comics

Leading Comics was the DC comic book that was created to take advantage of the popularity of All-Star Comics, a comic book that featured The Justice Society of America. The Justice Society consisted of such popular super-heroes as The Flash, The Green Lantern, Doctor Fate, The Spectre, Hawkman, Wonder Woman, and other colorful heroes; even Superman and Batman were honorary members and made occasional guest appearances in the stories.

Leading Comics, on the other hand, featured The Seven Soldiers of Victory (also known as The Law's Legionnaires) and consisted of The Crimson Avenger (usually with Wing, his costumed aide, who apparently wasn't counted when adding up the Seven Soldiers), The Vigilante, The Shining Knight, The Star-Spangled Kid & Stripesy, and The Green Arrow & Speedy.

The Story (and Writer/Artists) of Leading #12

The plot of the story in Leading #12, "Million Dollar Challenge," involved a supposedly eccentric millionaire offering the Soldiers a million dollars for charity if they could find five hidden valuables using clues he gave them. Not wanting to lose out on helping a charity of their own choosing, the Soldiers separated into their usual fighting teams (helped by the supporting characters from their regular strips) and went forth to solve the clues and find the hidden treasures. Of course, there was a catch to the challenge; but the Soldiers/Legionnaires were successful anyway.

The cover art is credited to artist Jon Small (now there's a coincidence!), with the individual chapter art credited to the Cazeneuve brothers (Arturo and Luis), and the story credited to Joe Samachson.

Small was an English artist who drew The Lone Ranger for UK publications before coming to the United States in the late 1930s. He was the original artist on Bulletman for Fawcett Publications and worked for other U. S. publishers, including Dell. He returned to England in 1955 to work on British comics, and died in 1966.

The Cazeneuve brothers, originally from Argentina, emigrated to the United States in 1939, and did artwork for several other comic book companies in addition to DC -- including Fox, Harvey, and Timely (now Marvel). Luis died in 1977, and Arturo in 1992.

Samachson was a biochemist who wrote SF under the pseudonym of William Morrison. Under his Morrison pen name, he wrote some Captain Future stories in the 1940s; and in the 1950s wrote several SF stories for DC's Mystery in Space and Strange Adventures comic books. Samachson died in 1980.

Some Concluding Comments

Today, at age 85, I am able to read many of the DC comic books I missed reading as a youngster because of the DC Archive Editions. I can't afford to buy the original comic books, and wouldn't spend the amount of money asked for them even if I had it. I have re-read Leading Comics #12, and all the other issues of this comic book in their three Archive Editions.

There is nothing really outstanding about issue #12. The only unique issue, at least to my way of thinking, was Leading #10, in which the Seven Soldiers (actually eight, counting Wing) were shipwrecked and found themselves on four different islands with unusual partners (e. g., Crimson Avenger with Speedy, Vigilante with Green Arrow, etc.), and were forced to fight in these unaccustomed pairings when danger appeared.

The Seven Soldiers of Victory only lasted for 14 issues in Leading Comics. A fifteenth adventure was written, but not drawn, when the comic book changed to all funny animal strips (e. g., Peter Porkchops). While growing up, All-Star was my favorite comic book because it starred The Justice Society of America. Leading Comics, however, still brings back fond memories for me -- especially, for obvious reasons, Leading #12.

Note: Created by SF and comic book writer and editor Mort Weisinger and artist Mort Meskin, singing cowboy Greg Saunders (The Vigilante) first appeared in Action Comics #42 (November, 1941). The "Western Waddy" later appeared on the cover of Real Fact Comics #10 to promote his 1947 movie serial; and I recently learned that there was also an Action "miniature comic book" featuring The Vigilante that was published to promote the serial. Vig also appeared once on the cover of Action Comics -- with Superman and three other characters from the book, with Superman front and center, of course. In the late 1940s, the Vigilante appeared in the first four issues of DC's Western Comics. In the 1970s this character and other more-or-less forgotten members of The Justice Society and The Seven Soldiers were revived by DC Comics, and appeared in several of their Silver Age comic books. On the other hand, the comic books consisting solely of the adventures of Superman, Batman, and Wonder Woman were never canceled.

2020 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest

Story Contest Rules and Entry Blank

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

1. This contest is open to all amateur writers in the field, regardless of whether they're members of the National Fantasy Fan Federation. For the purposes of this contest, we define an amateur as someone who has sold no more than two (2) stories to professional science fiction or fantasy publications.
2. Stories entered in the contest must be original, unpublished, not longer than 8,500 words in length—and must be related to the science fiction, fantasy, or similar genres in the opinion of the judge.
3. Email attachments of Word documents are acceptable for submission. Manuscripts on paper should be typed, single sided on 8 1/2"-by- 11" white paper, double spaced, with pages numbered. The name of the author should not appear anywhere on the manuscript to ensure impartial judging. Photocopies are acceptable, if they are of good quality. Computer printouts must be legible.
4. Contestants can enter up to three stories. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) if you would like your story returned at the end of the contest. Stories will not be returned without an SASE. Do not send your only copy in case of accidental loss. We are not responsible for lost manuscripts.
5. Email entries will be accepted. Send to Jefferson P. Swycaffer at abontides@gmail.com. No guarantee can be made of email receipt. Privacy and property rights will be absolutely respected. No one other than the Short Story Judge will ever see the submission.
6. There are no entry fees.
7. Cash prizes totaling \$100 will be awarded as follows: First prize is \$50, second \$30, and third \$20. Honorable mentions and semi-finalists will receive a certificate of award.
8. Send all manuscripts to the contest manager: Jefferson Swycaffer, P. O. Box 15373, San Diego, CA 92175-5373; abontides@gmail.com. Emails with the story attached in word format are preferred. Paper manuscripts are acceptable. All entries must be received or postmarked no later than Dec. 31, 2020.
9. The Short Story Judge is a published science fiction professional, and also a loving fan of the sf and fantasy genres. All comments and critiques are solely the Short Story Judge's opinion, but he promises to be constructive and polite.
10. Stories will also be reviewed by the Editor of the N3F Fiction zine *Eldritch Science*; authors of suitable tales will be invited to submit their tales for publication in our zine. This review and invitation will only occur after contest winners have been announced, so it can have no effect on the contest outcome.
- 101 The NSF may want to publish an electronic book including top entries from one or more years of publication. You will not be contacted about this until after the contest is over and prizes have been awarded. If we want to publish your story, you will have to sign over to us first world serial rights. Your willingness to sign over rights cannot affect whether or not you win the contest. Winners will be notified as soon as the judging is completed. Announcements and notifications of winning entries will be made by March 2020. Please take your time and submit your best work. You can resubmit stories previously entered if they did not win previously. All entries will be kept confidential and will be judged fairly and anonymously. The deadline for all entries is Dec. 31, 2020. 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 2020 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest, and I agree to them.

Signature:

Date: _____

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



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2020 N3F Short Story Contest

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