



The National Fantasy Fan

Cras ad Stellas— Tomorrow to the Stars
Volume 79 Number 11 November 2020

In This Issue

This is a busy issue. We have an election, so all our candidates get their statements. There is a proposed Constitutional Amendment, on which members must vote in January. I am required to mail this issue to all dues-paying members, because it contains a ballot.

Justin E. A. Busch notes that Uncle Hugo's Science Fiction bookstore was burned to the ground by rioters. Uncle Hugo will reopen, but not in that neighborhood. Uncle Hugo's owner had insurance, but not enough to cover this issue; he has launched a GoFundMe. Justin proposes that we should contribute to it from the N3F Treasury. His extended letter is on pages 4 and 5.

This is a social club. All dues-paying members therefore get a list of all other dues-paying members, as directed by the bylaws, which will be included in this issue. That listing will only be sent to the dues-paying members.

Finally, we discovered another feature of the PHP-List mailing system. The net result was that we mailed an issue of Tightbeam. The mailer declined to send it. We sent it again. As a result everyone mysteriously received two copies of Tightbeam. Please forward one of your copies to a stfnal friend.

Treasurer

As President, I have appointed Kevin Trainor as our new Treasurer. He has been busy working for the County counting ballots — it seems that there was an election — but reports that will soon be over with. We do now have an EIN for opening a bank account. He expects to have everything switched over in time for the December issue

— George Phillies

News

The 2020 First Fandom Annual has been published. It is a tribute to our last living Founding Member, Robert A. Madle. It was edited by John L. Coker III and Jon D. Swartz, Ph.D. and published by John Coker in an edition of ten numbered copies and 26 lettered copies. The Annual is available from John Coker for \$30. Send your \$30, which includes packing and shipping, to John at 4813 Lighthouse Road, Orlando, FL 32808.

Elections

It is November, so it is time to vote for the 2021 President and Directorate members. The ballot is on the next-to-last page of this issue. You may vote by using the paper ballot, or by emailing your votes to the Election Teller. The Election Teller is Jon Swartz, jon_swartz@hotmail.com, 12115 Missel Thrush Court, Austin, TX 78750. Send your ballots to him, not to me. To cast a valid vote, you must sign your ballot. Only the Teller will know for whom you voted.

Campaign Statements of Candidates

Kevin Trainor: "I have been less active than I would like these last few years on account of being homeless and/or scuffling to get by, but now that I am mostly retired out in the Nevada countryside, I expect to have more time and money to apply to things fannish. One of those things is the N3F Treasurer position, which David Speakman has been trying to give up for most of the last year. I have over a decade of experience as a tax accountant, and have served as treasurer for other fannish organi-

Continued on Page 2, Top Right



Art

5, 6 ... The Blue Beetle



Your Volunteer Team

Directors:

Heath Row— kalel@well.com (Chair)
 Judy Carroll - BlueShadows2012@gmail.com
 Jefferson Swycaffer - abontides@gmail.com
 John Thiel - kinethiel@mymetronet.net
 R-Laurraine Tutihasi - lauraine@mac.com

Officers

President George Phillies - phillies@4liberty.net
Treasurer Kevin Trainor wombat.soch@gmail.com,

Editorial Cabal

Editor, TNFF George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net
 Contributing Artists: Jose A. Sanchez, Angela K. Walker
 N'APA Collator Jefferson Swycaffer abontides@gmail.com
 Editors, Tightbeam George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net,
 Jon Swartz jon_swartz@hotmail.com
 Editor, Ionisphere John Thiel kinethiel@mymetronet.net
 Editor, Eldritch Science George Phillies
 Editor, Mangaverse Jessi Silver jessi@s1e1.com
 Editor, Films Fantastic Eric Jamborsky mrsolo1@comcast.net
 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

Anime/Comics Kevin Trainor wombat.soch@gmail.com
 Artists Bureau Cedar Sanderson cedarlila@gmail.com
 Birthday Cards R-Laurraine Tutihasi lauraine@mac.com;
 Judy Carroll autumnseas8012@gmail.com
 Book Review Bureau G. Phillies phillies@4liberty.net
 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
 FanZine Review Editor Justin Busch
 Film Bureau Eric Jamborsky mrsolo1@comcast.net
 Forwarder Jeffrey Redmond
 Franking Service George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net
 Games Bureau George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net
 Gourmet Bureau Cedar Sanderson cedarlila@gmail.com
 Historian Jon Swartz jon_swartz@hotmail.com
 History and Research Bureau John Thiel kinethiel@
 mymetronet.net; Jon Swartz jon_swartz@hotmail.com
 Information Technology David Speakman davodd@gmail
 Lord High Proofreader Jon Swartz jon_swartz@hotmail.com
 Lady High Proofreader Jean Lamb
 Membership Recruitment Kevin Trainor wombat.soch
 @gmail.com, John Thiel kinethiel@mymetronet.net,
 Jeffrey Redmond redmondjeff@hotmail.com

Continued Next Column, Middle

zations, and I look forward to applying that experience in the service of the N3F. I would appreciate your support."

Jefferson Swycaffer: "My platform for running for Director is to support the President, help the club grow, and maintain the club in a healthy, happy, friendly, and cheerful exploration of the great joys of science fiction and fantasy fandom. Strife and contention are dull: let's not have any!"

John Thiel: I've been a director for several years now and have been the chairman during one year, doing directorate reports for TNFF. I've contributed many suggestions for N3F improvement during this time, some of which were carried out, such as establishing an educational bureau (the History and Research Bureau) and doing magazine advertising for the N3F. I consider myself not at work if I don't send out a few mailings each term to the members of the directorate, so I consider myself active as a director. I am thinking of becoming more active than that if elected to another term.—John Thiel

Your Volunteer Team

Neffy Awards Bureau George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net
 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 Bureau: Cathode Ray the anonymous
 Welcommittee: Judy Carroll BlueShadows2012@gmail.com
 Writers Exchange: Judy Carroll BlueShadows2012@gmail.com

WANTED! WordPress & Web Help

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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Judy Carroll: I will do my best to help the club continue to grow, and to support the club president to the best of my ability.

Heath Row: I hereby accept my party's nomination to run for re-election.

George Phillies: My statement is my record. I can't get away from it. I wish we were doing better, but we are doing.

Constitutional Amendment

We have a proposed Amendment to the N3F Constitution. You see it here because under our Bylaws: "Petitions of whatever purpose, endorsed by five per cent of the members or twenty-five members, whichever is less, must, within sixty days after the Directorate receives them, be submitted to the membership for decision unless the Directorate has already taken the indicated action." so it is a petition, and has the requisite support of 5% of the members.

The ballot on the Amendment will appear in the January issue of this magazine.

Remark: The Constitution and Bylaws are inconsistent with each other. The Constitution should be changed, not the Bylaws. The main change is that the Constitution failed to notice that fen can have children who are also fen. The change follows. The Directorate approves. It then goes to the membership for the deciding vote.

The Directorate presents to the members a motion to amend the Constitution, to replace

"3. Joint memberships are available to two persons residing in the same household. A joint membership will include The National Fantasy Fan Federation (TNFF) and all rights such as voting and club activities. The dues shall be more than a single membership but less than a double, to be set by the Directorate."

with

"3. Household memberships are available to several persons living in the same household. Dues for the first member of the household are at the rate set for a single membership. Dues for additional persons living in the same household, these being the 'household members', are set at rates fixed by the Directorate. Household members have all rights of other dues-paying members, such as voting and club activities, but are not sent separate issues of N3F paper mail newsletters."

Treasury

David Speakman advises us:

\$ 2794.50 (July 13, 2020)

+ 60.00 PayPal Dues
 + 0.00 Cash Dues
 + 0.00 Check Dues
 + 0.00 Money Order Dues
 - 3.61 PayPal Fees
 - 0.00 Banking Fees
 - 72.00 March-June Printing Costs (CK#5073)
 - 0.00 Zine Postage Reimbursement

\$ 2,778.89 (Oct 19, 2020)

As of mid-October we had 203 public members and 54 dues paying (including life) members.

Letters of Comment

Editor:

I have a couple of things to say regarding Justin Busch's LoC, which responds in part to something Judy wrote about writing in a previous issue (that I unfortunately missed). I don't think there is only one correct way to write. David Drake, to name but one successful author, still does detailed outlines of his books on legal pads, and only then retires to his porch with a laptop to bash out the rest of the story. There are other writers who use 3x5 cards to scribble down scenes and then assemble the cards before writing. I agree that the final form of one's opus should be done on the computer, since most markets require an electronic document instead of double-spaced hardcopy, most notably Kindle, but the rough draft should be done in whatever medium the writer sees fit to use, whether it be cuneiform, longhand on paper, or the electric typewriter. Or a computer!

However, I do agree that we should start doing a "We also heard from..." feature in the lettercol. What better way to encourage people to keep writing? [Ed: Done.]

Kevin Trainor
 Tonopah, NV

Editor:

No doubt the national election was hanging heavily on all of our minds last month. As evidence, I note that A. E. Van Vogt's reference to 'writers' morphed into 'voters' in my last LoC, making for some amusing confusion.

The new stapling format -- two at the top -- creates awkward reading. I should note, though, that, unlike sensible readers, I did not remove the extraneous staple, as I prefer to keep all my fanzines as close to their original condition as possible.

Many thanks to Kevin Trainor for taking on the Treasurer's position. It's not an exciting job, but a vital one; we should all regret the long time it took to fill the position.

The rest of this letter has to do with acquiring new

members; it's something of a response to John Thiel's note from the Recruiting Bureau. I would suggest that two questions need to be answered here: *who* are we seeking to recruit; and *why* should they (or anyone) join the NFFF?

The former is straightforward, as is the answer: presumably we seek to recruit people who will be in some measure active, even if only to the extent of writing an occasional LoC to one of N3F's various fanzines. We want people who will contribute to the sense of community which is vital to the success of any fan organization, but especially to one in which the members rarely meet physically.

The second question is tougher to answer. In my comments, I intend no criticism of anyone; in fact, it seems to me that N3F is in some measure the victim of its own successes. The problem is to find a way to utilize those successes to generate more interest among fans in becoming active members.

Consider a fan contemplating joining the venerable National Fantasy Fan Federation. Presumably they ask themselves something like 'what's in it for me?' The answer is surprising: not much. Why? Because, apart from voting on awards and for officers, nearly everything the club offers is easily available for free on the internet; the major exception, which, alas, is probably of limited appeal to many younger fans, is the print version of TNFF. In other words, there is remarkably little which is exclusively connected to N3F membership. This resonates with the first question, in that it will mainly be people who are already committed to *activity* who will think seriously about joining. These people are, in all circumstances (not just fandom), in the minority. The majority will not be encouraged to join by the prospect of voting or holding office.

Two suggestions come to mind. The first is simple, but might have far-reaching, if not widespread, effects. This would be to delay the on-line posting of N3F (e-) publications by one year (*TNFF* might be an exception to this, as it most directly gives the flavor of the club as a club). That is, no one outside N3F would be able to download or read those zines until a year after the N3F membership. At the same time, the contents of those zines (especially the general-interest ones such as *The N3F Review of Books and Films Fantastic*) should be publicized as much as possible. Make people aware of what lies on the other side of joining.

The second suggestion is much larger in scope, and would take considerably more time and effort to organize. The idea comes from the early years of N3F, when, even in the midst of intra-club turmoil, the organization succeeded in publishing several highly successful items (an eight-piece Virgil Finlay portfolio; the first U.S. edition of Dr. David H. Keller's *The Sign*

of the Burning Hart). The N3F could initiate some large-scale project the result of which is free to full members, half-off to other members, and full price to non-members. Such publications are expensive, but probably not as expensive as many think. It might even be possible to obtain grants, whether at the collective or an individual level, from arts organizations toward the production costs.

I've only sketched these ideas, since the point is not my detailed vision but one which comes from within the membership. I hope these ideas are a useful beginning of a productive conversation among the membership.

Justin E.A. Busch

Editor:

I don't know how much work is involved getting the pixel versions of club zines emailed out to the total membership, but my suspicion is that simply sending along a link to the club website instead of sending the individual ezines themselves will lead to a lot of people not bothering to read the issues at all, which would lead to even less involvement with the club.

I'm sure you are thinking, what difference? Hardly anybody responds to the zines or is trying to interact with the club right now; but I think that not sending out zines direct to each person will be harmful to the member involvement in the short run and certainly will have serious problems in the long run. Getting those zines in the email box every now and then reminds people that they are in the N3F and that the N3F has something to offer them directly and personally. Sending along a link is just creating another interpersonal step away from direct involvement.

---Bob Jennings

denise here!

I think that using a "cloud server" would be fine! caveat: as long as it's a "one click away" step to immediately access the server & the n3f zine! i am not computer literate (beyond the basics), so i get like really impatient when i have to go through so many difficult steps -- to get where i wish to go!

cheers!

Editor:

As you and the members of the Directorate are doubtless aware, in May of this year, during the rioting in Minneapolis, Uncle Hugo's Science Fiction Bookstore, the oldest independent SF bookstore in the country, was burned to the ground although owner Don Blyly, a well-known fan for decades, had insurance, nothing in his policy is geared towards the massive effort of reconstruction and recovery. He has, accordingly, started a GoFundMe campaign for five hundred thousand dollars. It stands, at this writing, at one hundred seventy-six thousand dollars,

with many of the donations coming from well-known fans, pros, and groups.

After carefully considering the N3F Constitution and Bylaws, I can find no section concerned specifically with extraordinary expenditures, so I am writing this letter as a way of starting whatever processes necessary. I am requesting that the President and Directorate make a donation to the Uncle Hugo fund in the amount of eighty-five dollars or more. As GoFundMe adds a hefty surcharge, this amount will most closely approximate my original idea. Should the Directorate wish to send a check directly to Mr. Blyly, I am certain that he would not object.

I should make clear that I have no connection with Mr. Blyly other than as a customer. I doubt he would know who I am. I write this letter without his knowledge, solely in the spirit of the preamble to the n3f Constitution, “interested in promoting the progress of science fiction and fantasy, and in furthering its enjoyment.”

Thank you for considering this request. Should there be anything else I can or should do, please let me know.
Justin E.A. Busch.

We Also Heard From: Philip Cahill, Graham J. Darling, Scott Duncan, John Thiel, Kevin Trainor, Kevin Welch, Tom Feller, Samuel Lubell, Jon Swartz, Gary Mattingly, Mike Simon, Rez, Jefferson Swycaffer, Cathy Palmer-Lister, and Evelyn Leeper, all talking about the alternative to the current PHPlist arrangement.

SerCon

The Blue Beetle by Jon D. Swartz, Ph.D. N3F Historian

Originally, the Blue Beetle was Dan Garret, a rookie patrolman and the son of a police officer who had been killed in the line of duty. The character debuted in *Mystery Men Comics #1*, dated August 1939, and was later seen regularly in *Blue Beetle Comics* and in *The Big Three*, all three comic books published by Fox Comics. The Blue Beetle also made occasional appearances in other comic books published by Fox.

The Blue Beetle’s powers originally came from a secret formula he drank (Vitamin 2X) and from his use of a bullet-proof, blue chain-mail outfit. In his introductory story he looked and acted a lot like The Green Hornet, except his suit and hat were blue rather than green. Later versions of his costume varied considerably before he settled on the one that most of us remember.

For a short while, he had a costumed boy assistant named Sparky, who helped him in his fight against crime.

Charles N. Wojtkoski

The Blue Beetle was created by artist Charles Wojtkoski (1921 - 1985), who signed his Fox work as Charles Nicholas. This name later became a house name used by other Fox artists.

In addition to Fox, Charles Wojtkoski worked for several other comic book companies, including Marvel (The Defender), DC (Boy Commandos), Fawcett (Nyoka), Holyoke (Captain Aero), Quality (Plastic Man), and Charlton (Wild Bill Hickok and Billy the Kid).

Newspaper Comic Strip

Like other popular comic book heroes of the Golden Age, such as Superman and Batman, the Blue Beetle had his own newspaper comic strip (1940), although it didn’t last very long. The strip was drawn by several artists, but originally by Jack Kirby, who signed his work with the Charles Nicholas pseudonym. Drawing the Blue Beetle was Kirby’s first paid work drawing a superhero.

Radio Series

A syndicated 15-minute radio series of the Blue Beetle was heard “coast to coast” on CBS in 1940, with Fox hoping it would match the success of “The Adventures of Superman” that had begun airing earlier in the year. Movie and radio actor Frank Lovejoy played the title role for the first fourteen episodes. He was then replaced with a different, uncredited actor in the title role. The series was not successful, however, although it was advertised in many of the Fox comic books. More than 20 episodes of the serial are available for listening



today.

TV Appearances

Versions of the Blue Beetle were seen in various TV programs over the years, including *Batman: The Brave and the Bold*, *Smallville*, and *Young Justice*.

Movie Mentions of the Character

Dan Garret appeared on the cover of a comic book in

the *Watchmen* film tie-in *Under the Hood*; and Garret was also in the 2012 film *Agent Beetle* (but not referred to there as the Blue Beetle).

Later Comic Book Versions of the Character

There was a Silver Age version of the Blue Beetle, published by Charlton Comics, that was somewhat different from the Golden Age version. He was still Dan Garrett (adding a second “t” to the name), but was an archaeologist who gained his powers from a mystical scarab found during a dig in Egypt.



Both versions of the character appeared in *Americomics*, published by AC Comics in the early 1980s. The AC version featured both Dan Garrett and Ted Kord as secret identities

of the Blue Beetle.

DC Comics acquired the rights to the character, and used both the Garrett and Kord versions of the character.

Dynamite Entertainment published their version of the character in 2008 as Big Blue (apparently to avoid trademark conflicts with DC).

Concluding Comments

Only a few of the superheroes that originated in the Golden Age of Comic Books can be considered true multi-media heroes. In my opinion, the Blue Beetle has to be thought of as one of these because of his appearances on radio and in a newspaper comic strip, in addition to his many appearances in comic books over the years.

Surprisingly, at least to me, is that there was no Blue Beetle comic book club that readers could join. Because of this, and the short runs of the radio and newspaper series, there are no premiums associated with the character for fans to collect.

Sources

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Goulart, Ron (ed.). *The Encyclopedia of American*

Comics. NY: Facts On File, 1990.

Swartz, Jon D. & Robert C. Reinehr. *Handbook of Old-Time Radio*. Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow Press, 1993.

Note: In addition to the sources cited above, several Internet sites were consulted.

Events

Virtual cons -- Report from Mindy Hunt

OCTOBER (back next year!)

Blood in the Snow – Toronto, Ontario, Canada Oct 28-Nov 7

Youmacon – Detroit, MI Oct 29-Nov 1

HalloCon – Dalton, GA Oct 30-Nov 1

World Fantasy Convention – Salt Lake City, UT Oct 29-Nov 1

DerpyCon – New Brunswick, NJ Oct 30-Nov 1

GeekGirlCon – Seattle, WA Oct 31-Nov 1

NOVEMBER

Gamehole Con – Madison, WI Nov 5-8

METATOPIA – Morristown, NJ Nov 5-8

Carnage – West Dover, VT Nov 6-8

Chicago Tardis – Chicago, IL Nov 6-8

MidWest Fest – Kansas City, MO Nov 12-15

Fryecon – Layton, UT Nov 12-14

Anime Iwai – Fort Lauderdale, FL Nov 13-15

DeepSouthCon – Kenner, LA Nov 13-15

Grogmeet-ish – Manchester, United Kingdom Nov 13-15

San Diego Historical Games Convention – San Diego Nov 13-15

U-Con – Ypsilanti, MI Nov 13-15

Big Bend Comic Con – Alpine, TX Nov 14

LegionsCon – New Jersey Nov 14

Dream It – Paris, France Nov 14-15

Thought Bubble – Harrogate, United Kingdom Nov 14-15

UnCon – Broadstairs, United Kingdom Nov 14-15 ♦

BBG.Com – Dallas, TX Nov 18-22

PhilCon – Cherry Hill, NJ Nov 20-22

PMX – Pasadena, CA Nov 21-22

ChessieCon – Baltimore, MD Nov 27-29

DECEMBER

MomoCon – Atlanta, GA Dec 11-13 2021

JANUARY

Arisia – Boston, MA Jan 15-18

Ohayo Con – Columbus, OH Jan 22-24

FEbruary

BlizzCon – Los Angeles, CA Feb 19-20

Anthro New England – Boston, MA Feb 25-28

APRIL

Norwescon – SeaTac, WA Apr 1-4

Directorate Acts

The Directorate has voted to amend the Bylaws to reinstate the office of Secretary. All five Directorate members voted in favor of this amendment. The Amendment inserts in the Bylaws a new Section:

IV. The Secretary.

1. The Secretary maintains the membership roster of the National Fantasy Fan Federation, in the form of an electronic spreadsheet. A copy of the spreadsheet shall be sent monthly to the President, Treasurer, and each member of the Directorate.

2. The Secretary is appointed by the President. The Directorate may by majority vote disapprove of a Presidential appointment, in which case the President must appoint a different person as Secretary.

3. The Secretary may serve as a member of the Directorate.

4. The President and Treasurer shall ensure that the Secretary is promptly notified of each new member, change of address, and membership renewal, notification being in no case less often than once a month.

Bureaus

Birthday Cards

Birthday cards sent in October: 11
R-Laurraine Tutihasi

Correspondence Bureau

Because there have been few responses I have decided to change the setup of the Correspondence Bureau.

If you wish to join you need to do the following:

1. Send me your name and either email address OR

postal address.

2. If you wish to correspond with a member already listed with the Correspondence Bureau include their name.

3. If you have a postal address and wish to correspond with someone listed "by email" let me know and I will contact them. I will let you know their reply.

Depending on your preference you will receive an email or postal mail with the contact information of the person you wish to contact, and they will receive your contact information.

The following members are interested in corresponding:
Jeffrey Redmond - by email
John Thiel - by email
Judy Carroll - by email or postal mail.

Send email requests to: Judy Carroll, BlueShadows2012@gmail.com

Send postal mail requests to: Judy Carroll 975 E 120 S Spanish Fork, UT 84660

Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau

I'm thinking of ways to get the existence of this bureau known outside the N3F, so that they will be aware that the coordinating activity exists. I might try writing articles about it for fanzines outside the N3F.-John Thiel

History and Research Bureau

All I can say this month is we keep our fanzine coming out regularly with never a miss.-John Thiel

Recruiting Bureau

I'm considering developing the recruiting bureau into a broader range; I'm planning to send a notification of these considerations to the two other recruiters (one of whom has become the new treasurer, for which he has our congratulations), the notification itself being an expansion of the doings of the bureau, and see what they have to say.-John Thiel

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.

We would like to welcome our newest members to the N3F, Leah Zeldes Smith and Lloyd Penney. We hope your stay with us is a long and happy one.

If you have questions about the club or are interested in helping, please contact

Judy Carroll at BlueShadows2012@gmail.com

Writers Exchange

Welcome to the Writers Exchange!

I think it would be fun, exciting, and informative if our writers would actively participate in the monthly Writers Exchange article. We could get to know one another and help with writing questions and problems.

Question for November: When you are writing how do you develop your characters?

Jefferson Swycaffer

Minor characters are easy: ask yourself, "What would Dickens do?" Come up with a quirky name and a quirky personality. I wanted a priest, so I started with Chesterton's "Father Brown," and named him "Robert Bishop." Father Bishop. No, no, he's just a priest...

Then I fill in with minor details: Father Brown was piercingly observant and intelligent, so Father Bishop is a bit nearsighted and inattentive, but he's deeply caring. Father Brown was stringently dogmatic, so Father Bishop is liberal and tolerant, and is able to accept people (LGBT) without judgement. Sometimes you define a character by what he is *not*, as much as by what he is!

For minor characters, try on "funny hats." A guy sniffs a lot. A lady stoops a bit because she thinks she's too tall. A sailor really hates fish. A policeman has a guilty secret, having committed a couple crimes when he was young. A doctor thinks everything comes down to problems with the liver. Yes, you can over-do Dickensian whimsy, but a little is a nice ingredient.

For major characters, let it build slowly. Make it a project of discovery. Don't write everything down in a definitive biography: leave some blank spaces and let them percolate in the unconscious.

I love to go on long walks and "talk" with my characters. On good days, they talk back, telling me all sorts of interesting details! And don't be afraid of negative traits: it's okay if your hero is sometimes gruff or inter-

rupts others, or if he leaps to judgements sometimes, or if he sometimes punches below the waist. A touch of "feet of clay" makes a hero more believable, and, in some ways, more likeable.

Question for December:

Is there any particular time of year that sparks your writing creativity more than others?

In October I find my mind running around with werewolves, ghosts, mummies etc. (Never zombies. I hate zombies. I find them terribly disturbing. "They're coming to get you, Barbara.") There's a feeling in the air of excitement, wonder, belief and dread.

It's the one time in the year when you can open the gates and let your imagination run free without people thinking you are too old for this sort of behavior. After all, Halloween is coming. and the creatures that come with it.

At this time of year I find myself writing about Halloweenish type things. Usually, I only write a paragraph or two and that's the end of that. A few times I have written a long poem. A few years ago, a relative, that is a writer, came up with the idea that we would take turns writing stories and emailing them to each other. I was to go first.

Once my story had been emailed, my relative would start writing his story and when finished email it to me. My deadline was set for Halloween. Well, I did write a story. It was ok. I met the deadline. A short time later I reread that story. I started rewriting it. It took me a year to complete it but, by the next Halloween, I had a really good story. It was worth a year's wait.

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

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 OR if you prefer postal mail,

Judy Carroll 975 E 120 S Spanish Fork, UT 84660

Election Ballot 2019

Vote for up to five candidates for the Directorate and up to one candidate for N3F President. Vote by circling names of people for whom you are voting.

You may write in names of candidates who are not on the ballot. You may write in up to five names for the Directorate and up to one name for President. To vote for a candidate, circle his or her name. To be elected, a person must be a dues-paying or life member of the N3F.

Under our Bylaws, you must sign your ballot. The list of names of voters will appear in the next issue of *The National Fantasy Fan*. Mail your ballot to the Official Teller, Jon Swartz, jon_swartz@hotmail.com, 12115 Missel Thrush Court, Austin, TX 78750. You may also vote electronically, by sending Jon a ballot with your votes indicated.

Candidates for the Directorate

Judy Carroll Heath Row Jefferson Swycaffer

John Thiel Kevin Trainor

Space for write-ins:

Candidate for President

George Phillies

Space for write-in:

Your Signature:

Ballots must be received by December 19 to be counted.



Election Issue

In this issue — Treasurer — News — Elections—Candidate Statements
Constitutional Amendment—Treasury

Letters of Comment

Kevin Trainor—Justin E. A. Busch—Bob Jennings—Denise Fisk—Justin E. A. Busch

Sercon

The Blue Beetle

Events—Directorate Acts

Bureaus

Birthday Cards—Correspondence—Fan-Pro Coordinating—History and Research
Recruiting—Welcommittee—Writers Exchange

Election Ballot

The papermail issue sent to dues-paying members includes the club roster.

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