



The National **80** Fantasy Fan **Years**

Cras ad Stellas— Tomorrow to the Stars

Volume 80 Number 3 March 2021

Jennings Wins Kaymar Award

Bob Jennings was unanimously voted as winner of the Kaymar Award. Three cheers for Bob!

The Kaymar Award is traditionally given in April every year, supposedly because the N3F was organized in the month of April. We're a bit early for once. The selection is made by a committee, consisting of previous winners who are still in the club, from nominations submitted by members. The award, unlike other awards in fandom, can be awarded only once. It is not given for talent or for popularity, but for work — work for the benefit of the club and its members. The award is a memorial to K. Martin Carlson [1904-1986], who originated, maintained, and financed it for 25 years. Carlson was a long-time N3F member who held many positions in the club, including club historian. He went by the fan name of Kaymar.

Constitutional Amendment Passes

The Constitutional Amendment passed unanimously.

Neffy Nominations, Pass One

Yes, we already have some nominations. We'll keep taking them for a while. If you look carefully, we also have some new proposed categories relative to years past.

Best novel: What the Wind Brings by Matthew Hughes,
The Artful Apprentice by Chris Nuttall
Storm Between Stars by Karl Gallagher
Unmasked by Kai Wai 'Benjamin' Cheah

Best shorter work: The Shadows of Alexandria by David Gerrold

Best Fan Writer: Cheryl Cline, Jeffrey Redmond

Best fan artist: Alan White, Jose Sanchez

Best fan website: Fanac Fanhistory Project, SciFi4Me

Best Fan Editor: William Breiding, Justin E.A. Busch, Bob Jennings

Best Non-N3F Fanzine: Portable Storage, Event Horizon

Best N3F fanzine: Origin, The N3F Review of Books

Best Comic/Manga/anime: Flying Sparks

Best TV show: The Expanse

Best Movie: 2067

Best Literary, etc., work: First Fandom Annual 2020: Celebrating Robert Madle

Best literary-critical or historical work: Fancyclopedia 3;

The Elusive Shift How Role-Playing Games Forged Their Identity by Jon Peterson

Letters of Comment

Dear Neffers:

Many thanks for The National Fantasy Fan, Vol. 80, No. 1, and so congratulations to this club for 80 years of existence. Fandom itself isn't much older. Time to make a few comments on this historic issue.

The letter column...I belong to the Canadian Conrunners group, but I spend too much time online as it is. I can't remember the last time I was on their Discord site. Still, it might be good for a discussion site for the club. My own letter... I must nominate for the FAAn Awards this year, I promised to do so after an absence of a couple of years.

A lot of organizations I am either connected with or have seen from a distance are taking their discussion groups to Discord. To be honest, I doubt I would follow; I have enough things to do, and enough contacts on social media without m taking on more. There is so much the N3F could supply to its members, but you would need so many more volunteers to produce it all. I suspect there are many of us who have a frantic schedule, like I do, and cannot take on more responsibilities, but I hope there are new members who are looking for some things to do.

I think I am done...forgive this poor letter, I was running a high temperature yesterday, and I have still not completely re-

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Art

6 ... Misty Travels ... Angela K. Scott
11... Wind Unicornus ... Angela K. Scott.



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Continued Next Column, Middle

covered. I have many things to do today, but all I want to do is crawl back into bed, which I might yet do this afternoon. At least it isn't the COVID. Take care, everyone, and see you the next issue, where I should be feeling better.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

Dear Neffers:

With the spiffy new club logo in the corner, I have Vol. 80, No. 2 of The National Fantasy Fan, and it is definitely time for some comments. We are fully recovered from COVID-19, and hope to stay that way until we can get some vaccines... which may be shortly for me. Yvonne may have to wait a little longer.

Congrats to Kevin Trainor on winning the Franson Award. From time to time, we see how much volunteers are needed when it comes to a busy organization such as this one. I hope this kind of recognition will keep the volunteer spirit going; we will need volunteers when the pandemic is done.

NeffCon sounds interesting... Having been to a couple of virtual conventions and lots of virtual lectures and other events, this NefferCon could be of great service to the membership. The idea of a newszine sounds good, too, but with the

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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 Kevin Trainor, PO Box 143, Tonopah NV 89049. Pay online at N3F.org. Our PayPal contact is treasurer@n3f.org Send phillies@4liberty.net your email address for a public membership.

The National Fantasy Fan (originally Bonfire), Vol. LXXX Number 3, March 2021, ISSN 2169-3595. Published monthly by The National Fantasy Fan Federation.

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typical news cycle going so fast, any news could be completely dated by the time it is laid out in a fanzine format. File 770 used to be a fanzine, but it is now a newsblog, and supplying SF news very quickly.

It's becoming busy here, Yvonne has taken a short-term assignment to slap some much-needed money in the bank, and I am trying the same thing, with a lot less luck. It would be great if we were both out during the week, but while I am at home, there is still plenty to do.

Many thanks for this second issue of the year, and I suspect the third will be ready soon. See you then.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

Hi George;

Received the February TNFF yesterday. Is that a brand new club logo? The colors and design are interesting, but at the risk of sounding like an old fogey, I really prefer the original club emblem, designed and in use for low these many decades. It was simple, direct, and easy to comprehend at first glance, something that is not true of the new full color work. As you note at the top of page one, the club has been around for eighty years, a fine enduring fannish tradition, and I for one, would like to see our traditional club logo retained.

I was able to access the old site, n3f.org, although the newest issues/numbers of the club zines appear not to be there as yet.

I enjoyed Jon Swartz's write-up on Og Son Of Fire. The problem with the Og characters, both in his original novels and all the spin-offs is that author Irving Crump deliberately mixed cave dwelling era humans with dinosaurs, something that is absolutely impossible (millions of years and multiple evolutionary changes separate the species). Even in the 1920s, the average reader of Boys' Life, where the stories originally appeared, would have known the situation, and apparently a lot of readers wrote a lot of letters in to the mag pointing out the incongruity.

On the other hand, Crump was an engaging writer and the problems Og and his friends faced trying to survive in the harsh environment of pre-history still make interesting reading. It's a far cry from Jean Auel and her Clan of the Cave Bear series, but the basic premise is the same---smart, dedicated individuals determined to make positive changes in the difficult world in which they live.

The series was popular with the readers of Boys' Life, and the hardback books sold well enough so that Grossett & Dunlap issued them in inexpensive 50 cent dime store editions, which did well even in the dark days of the Depression. Those sales and the fact that Crump kept adding a new book to the series every few years were apparently what convinced Libby Foods to sponsor the radio show. They also sponsored the syndicated Tarzan radio program, so they had an enduring interest in jungle style juvenile heroes.

I have seen some of the painted lead figures Libby offered as radio premiums. They turned up at a collector/nostalgia show back in the late 1970s. I was not impressed. I have never seen a copy of the adventures map, or the Og board game.

The four hardcover books are still popular and sought after among juvenile series books collectors, however for

those who are interested, there is an excellent website devoted to Og and his creator---<https://www.trussel.com/prehist/crump/ogs.htm>

In addition to providing lots of information about the character and his creator, all of the four hardback books are reprinted complete, along with all the original illustrations, and some side notes (for example, extra chapters and additional dialog was added to several of the books after they were serialized in Boys' Life.) These books can be read chapter by chapter online, or downloaded and read at your leisure on whatever electronic reading device you favor.

In regards to the announcement that the annual Neffer nominations are open; I hope members will make a lot of nominations. For myself, I have never been less qualified to recommend anything from the field from last year. I've been so busy with my mail order boom biz that I've hardly had time to read/listen/view anything, and I'm way, way behind in my fanac. The next issue of my fanzine Fadeaway was supposed to come out late last August. I still haven't found the time to finish up the issue, and here it is more than six months later. I'm trying to catch up on things, but I will definitely not be making any nominations or taking part in any discussions about the upcoming Neffer Awards this time round.

I vote in favor of the new club constitutional amendment, although I really don't think this situation with many members of a family being active fans is going to arise very often. Oh, I see I have to send the email to Jon Swartz. OK; will do.

---Bob Jennings

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George:

Per our discussion, I think the group can benefit from both a regular presence on social media and a YouTube channel. Both can be used for outreach, promotions, and education/information purposes.

YouTube: The videos can be supplied by any members, and there could be categorized playlists for collecting and sorting whatever material gets put on the channel. Once it gets enough subscribers and watch time, it can be monetized. There's another threshold for enabling live broadcasts.

Social: a tool like Hootsuite or Tweetdeck (or something similar) can be used to schedule promotional posts, announcements, links to online articles and such. Kind of a "fire and forget" strategy, although if someone(s) can be around to monitor and respond to things, it would help drive engagement, which then drives traffic to whatever destination you choose to promote.

For us, I'm using social to disseminate links only. I do engage a bit on Twitter, but for the most part these are shares and likes, the occasional comment. Replies vary with the discussion. Other than that, I'm sharing links to our articles and videos and avoiding the drama of the Twitter Flame Wars.

The YouTube channel could also be made available to the various fantasy fan groups around the world, if they want to provide content that can then be shared to a broader audience. If NESFA has a panel or workshop, for example, a video on N3F's channel would potentially reach a fantasy group in India, and vice versa.

YouTube can also be a good medium for reaching younger fans, as they're active on the channel a majority of the week.

You can also set up Twitch, Rumble, Bitchute as alternative channels, although Twitch is mainly for gaming.

Any videos can also be embedded in the group's Facebook page, which also has the option of live video, so you could host author and artist Q&A sessions there, port them over to YouTube, or go the other way. If you have live capabilities for both YT and FB, there's a way to simulcast to both.

A collaboration between N3F and SciFi4Me could be a way of launching your channel in a "back door pilot" type of scenario, in which we launch an N3F production on our channel and then use that to build an audience for the N3F channel. Something like "N3F Presents" as a half-hour or so feature program to spotlight new work, Q&A sessions, panels, etc.

On this most recent Tightbeam, I see a reference to Cedar's video. I think there's a way you can actually embed the video itself into the document using Microsoft's equivalent to the "Place" tool. Maybe something inside the "Insert" menu. But you should be able to put in a pointer to pull the video into the document.

Also, if anyone is interested, we could re-publish reviews on our dot-com platform and provide a link to a web site for the reviewer.

I'm not sure how much time we'd be able to devote to a lot of this, although some of it would run parallel to what we're doing here and shouldn't take much time as they overlap. But we could take a look at some different ideas and lend what assistance we can.

With respect to NefferCon, We shouldn't discount the opportunity for a middling revenue stream, as you can put the Zoom panels behind a paywall -- say \$5 or so, especially if there's going to be any advertising expenses. Something through Eventbrite, for example, and then whoever pays the fee gets the private Zoom link. Limit it to 50 or 100. Our account allows for up to that many on a call, so we could probably host it and stream it to our channels. Or do a mix with some free discussion and a handful of VIP access parts.

If you want to do it on a Saturday, we could kick things off out of our morning news show, Good Morning Multiverse, and continue through the day with both panels and one-on-one interviews with a mix of people hosting or moderating.

Each panel could also be a place where you could have sponsorships. "This broadcast is brought to you by _____".

Other ideas are sure to percolate once events open back up in earnest.

Jason P Hunt
Publisher/CEO
www.SciFi4Me.com

Editor:

Re a video convention: We could consider starting smaller, perhaps with monthly Zoom or Google Hangouts meetings. A light agenda, see who shows up, see how many show up, and just hang out shooting the breeze. I can set up and host Google Hangouts or Zoom meetings. We can even do a test run with the directorate and this group to see whether it's sufficiently easy.

Heath Row

Dear George,

It occurs to me that people seem much more interested in *having* a newszine than *doing* one; as A. Langley Searles noted many years ago (*Devil Take the Hindmost* 1, December, 1944), "the apathy of fans towards projects is well known". I doubt very much that, absent an editor enthusiastic about the idea, the result would be worthy of N3F's traditions. Nor is it clear that there wouldn't be much repetition of material already found in other newszines.

I would suggest, instead, two things: that the newszine, if launched, be limited to a listing of conventions, accompanied perhaps by two or three brief convention reports. This would perform a useful service, possibly be entertaining, and avoid cluttering up *TNFF*. Speaking of the latter, if a news column is both desirable and attainable, it could easily be accommodated by eliminating the spaces between paragraphs, which give the publication a very choppy look in any case. I counted said spaces in the last *TNFF*; not including those between headings and text, there were sixty-one, which means that the equivalent of an entire column of print is being devoted to nothing at all. It would be better devoted to material of interest to N3F members.

If the barrage of e-mails I received, apparently from people replying to the entire N3F e-mail list, is any indication, there is clear support for a virtual convention but less clarity regarding its nature. The name 'Neffercon' seems to have been assumed; I note only that this means that the convention's date(s) should be announced only after they are absolutely fixed, as, should there be even a slight postponement, the nickname 'Nevercon' will doubtless appear as if by magic.

One thing I left out of my earlier suggestions is the question of a Code of Conduct. This is vital. It must be clear, comprehensive, inclusive, and, in the event, quickly and effectively enforced. Again, I am assuming that the desire is to attract new members (as well as, presumably, to avoid losing old ones). The convention experience, therefore, must be secure and appealing to as wide a potential audience as possible; harassment or abuse must be seen to be unacceptable and, should either occur, must be addressed immediately and effectively. Failure to do this could be catastrophic both for the convention's success and N3F's reputation.

June is the actual 80th anniversary of *The National Fantasy Fan*, which is, I believe, the oldest continually published fanzine. I hope that the issue will be suitably celebratory.

Justin

Editor:

On the topic of the virtual con, we've had a good bit of success with our livestream programming. It's not quite the same as panels, but we use Zoom quite a bit for interviews, and it probably wouldn't be much of a leap to coordinate something for group consumption. I've had conversations today with Top Con Pop Expo about doing something similar in October, and doing something with a private link would give you a potential revenue stream, even if it's just a handful of dollars for access. I'm still looking into the logistics of it, but I'd be happy to share the results of the research.

On the 'zine: we're actually noodling an idea where we use the indie comics model and crowdfund a print edition of our online work through Indiegogo. 60 pages is the current thought.

The appeal is to go back to the "old fashioned" way of printing a book instead of doing something online. Maybe even print it in purple mimeograph ink...

There's a whole generation who's into everything "retro" nowadays. Vinyl is coming back, VHS is as well... why not the printed 'zine?

And we already have staked a claim on the "center-neutral" position and try to stay above the fray when it comes to the political fights. We've had good response from folks who appreciate our even-handed approach, especially when it comes to the news side of our programming.

Having said that, I absolutely think there's an opportunity to create more material that stays away from the "If you don't like my politics, don't buy my book" crowd. Perhaps there might be a way for some in this group to contribute guest articles and think pieces. The one thing I'd suggest is that it should be relatively evergreen topics, given the turnaround time that would be involved. Interviews, behind-the-scenes articles, author features, introductions to book series or TV shows... there are a number of possibilities.

Jason P Hunt

Fan News

FANAC Fan History Project FANAC Newsletter 15

Welcome to a new year that has started nicely. Vaccinations are going up. Virus infections are going down. Fanac continues. Our FANAC Fan History Project has been very busy. Here's our news. If you would like to read our formatted PDF version of this FANAC Newsletter 15, it's here - <https://fanac.org/fanzines/FANAC-Updates/>. FYI, the Newsletter is 7 pages long.

ZOOM Into Fan History: We've had lots of positive response to our Fan History Zoom sessions. Thus far, we have held three very different programs, and each of them had an involved and attentive audience. Since we're not constrained by a convention time clock, the programs can be as long or as short as the discussion takes. We're scheduling more Fan History Zooms, and have put up a schedule at <https://fanac.org/zoom.html>. If you miss any programs, you can catch the recordings on our YouTube channel.

The next Fan History Zooms: The Benford Twins, Fandom and the Larger Universe with Greg and Jim Benford. Greg and Jim will talk about their fanac over the years and about the important and interesting people they've met. What influence did fandom have on them? Did relocation change their interactions with fandom? How have their professional lives influenced their fanac, and vice versa? Join us, and expect a few surprises.

March 27, 2021, at 2:00 pm EDT, (11 AM PDT, 6 PM London, 6AM Sunday Sydney). RSVP to fanac@fanac.org for the Zoom link.

Tentative future sessions:

- April 17, 2021 at 2pm EDT - Early Star Trek Fandom, with Ruth Berman and Devra Langsam
- May, 2021 – Interview with Erle Korshak by Joe Siclari
- June, 2021 – TBD

After June, we may switch to a Quarterly schedule.

YouTube Channel Anniversary: March 9 was the 5th anniversary of our Channel. We've uploaded 100 audio and video recordings, gained 783 subscribers, and garnered over 108,000 views. Recordings range from the 1960 Pittcon Guest of Honor speech by James Blish to the 1976 appearance of Mark Hamill and Star Wars producer Gary Kurtz at Big Mac to our recent Zoom session recordings. Our most viewed recording has over 30K views, and 8 audio recordings have had over 1,000 each. There's a series of fannish interviews with folks like Bob Tucker, Forry Ackerman and Walt Willis. There are convention panels, GoH speeches, filking, fannish dramatic productions like Anti-Fan, and even Jon Singer's very credible imitation of a mimeo. Thanks to everyone who helped by providing advice, recordings, format conversions, photos for the audios and everything else. More to come!

FANAC Fan History Project website: <http://fanac.org>

What Shall We Scan Next? Our top priority has been to rescue the oldest, most endangered fanzines and preserve their digital likeness. But as you can tell from a glance at the archive, we scan much more than those. Our scanning priorities have often been driven by our "special projects". In 2017, we started the Newszine Project, intended to enable researchers to easily find contemporary reports of fannish events. Today, we have more than 3,700 newszines online, and an up-to-date chronological listing of them (link at the bottom). In 2019, we put together a core list of fanzines to scan (which you can see at https://fanac.org/fanzines/core_fanzine_list_to_scan.pdf). We have now uploaded 77% of the issues on that list. In 2020, Mark Olson began an effort to put convention publications on line. We now have more than 2,380 on FANAC.org.

In 2021, with the regular posting of homepage BNF spotlights, and the addition of the FANAC Zoom sessions, we're adding in fanzines that support both. For the Susan Wood spotlight, with the help of Eli Cohen and John D. Berry, we added columns and additional publications by Susan Wood. For the Southern Fandom Zoom, we added close to 100 issues of fanzines published in the South (including over 60 Southern Fandom Confederation Publications). There's more about what we want to scan at <https://fanac.org/fanzines/whatwewant.html>. If you have materials that you can scan, please let us know and we'll set up a Dropbox for you to send them.

Recent additions: The most notable batch of recent additions comes from the able scanning of Perry Middlemiss and Irwin Hirsh. If you read the weekly updates, you will have seen a slew of fanzines by the late John Bangsund which they've scanned including Australian Science Fiction Review, Perergon Papers, Philosophical Gas, and Scythrop along with a number of less weighty titles such as Les Souris Dansent, Lodbrog, New Millennial Harbinger, Stunned Mullet, and Crog - a hint for you on an upcoming spotlight page.

You'll also have seen some early Star Trek zines from the 60s and 70s in support of our April Zoom session with Ruth Berman and Devra Langsam including T-Negative and Spockanalia.

In addition, check out Lee Hoffman's Self Preservation, Bruce Arthurs's Godless, Dick Eney's Speculative Review,



Misty Travels by Angela K. Scott

Bill Rotsler's *Tattooed Dragon*, Leigh Couch's *Sirriush* and Dave Langford's *Twll-Ddu*. There are many more worthwhile zines that have been added including those that fill in gaps in the runs we have. From our core list we've added 3 more issues to *Fantasy Commentator* (A. Langley Searles), 12 issues of *Les Spinge* (Darroll Pardoe), 5 issues completing the run of *Minac* (Ted White and Les Gerber), 2 issues plus *Handbooks* added to *Operation Fantast* (Ken Slater), 5 issues of *Rhodomagnetic Digest* (Don Fabun), 1 to *Shangri-L'Affaires*, 2 to *Spacewarp* (Art Rapp), 3 to *Stellar* (Ted White) and 15 to *Trap Door* (Robert Lichtman), and all these just since the beginning of 2021. Links to all the fanzines: https://fanac.org/fanzines/Classic_Fanzines.html

PDF Replacements: The reason for digitally archiving fanzines is to make them accessible to fans everywhere. When someone hears how wonderful a storied fanzine like *Quandry* or *The Acolyte* was, they can use the archive to read the issues instead of just wonder what they were like. Originally, in the 1990s, we started retyping issues (and hey, thanks Judy Bemis!). In the 2000s we started putting up JPGs of each page, so readers could just click their way through. Now, we're putting up searchable PDFs. One of our projects is to replace those fanzines that were accessible in typed or JPG form with searchable PDFs. Since the last newsletter, we have replaced our complete runs of the following titles with searchable PDFs: *Aporrheta* (H. P. Sanderson), *Bane* (Vic Ryan), *Double Bill* (Bill Bowers and Bill Mallardi), *Fanscient* (Donald Day), *Fantastic Worlds* (Edward Ludwig and Sam Sackett), *Granfalloon* (Linda Bushyager), *Hyphen* (Walt Willis and Chuck Harris), *Innuendo* (Terry Carr), *Mota* (Terry Hughes), *Slant* (Walter A. Willis), *Stellar* (Ted White and Larry Stark), *Toto* (Walt Willis et al), and *Void* (Jim and Greg Benford, Ted White). We've also replaced all the issues we have of: *Cry of the Nameless* (134 issues, F. M. Busby, Wally Weber, et al), *Outworlds* (70 issues, Bill Bowers, except for a one page flyer), and *Spanish Inquisition* (8 issues, Jerry Kaufman and Suzle Tompkins).

By Country: Since the last newsletter, we put up a "By Country" listing. As of now, it shows fanzines from 16 countries from Argentina to the USA and for each we have listed the number of titles, issues and pages. The Country listing is definitely a work in progress. We're gradually adding some new capability, and have started listing city along with country. Eventually we plan to have heat maps of where fannish activity has been concentrated. For now, it just looks a little funny as

we add the data but haven't got the formatting right yet. Watch this space.

[Fancyclopedia 3 – https://fancyclopedia.org](https://fancyclopedia.org)

Fancyclopedia has grown to over 27,700 pages. In addition to new material, there've been some changes that we think make Fancy more interesting and useful.

Who is that guy? – You'll see photos starting to appear on the Fancyclopedia people pages. For examples, see pages for Bob Tucker or Abby Lu Ashley.

Direct link – We're putting links to the appropriate FANAC.org and YouTube Channel pages at the bottom of the Fancyclopedia pages. For instance, at the bottom of <https://fancyclopedia.org/Twll-Ddu> is a link to the fanzines themselves on FANAC.org. The MagiCon page links to the MagiCon publications and to recordings from the con.

We know that fans have used our sites for creating anthologies and collections and even to help write a family history. We'd love to get more pieces about how you use the resources we are providing.

[FANAC Fan History YouTube Channel
https://youtube.com/c/FANACFanHistory](https://youtube.com/c/FANACFanHistory)

We've added seven programs (in 10 pieces) since the last update. Of those seven programs, three are recordings of our Zoom programs and account for 6 pieces. When sessions are much more than an hour, we break them up. Let's start with the non-zoom pieces.

Noreascon 3, the 1989 Worldcon, had a very robust masquerade. We've put the N3 official masquerade recording online in two parts. Due to copyright laws, YouTube required us to silence the music for a few of the songs. However, if you enjoy costuming, and admire workmanship, this is a particularly good masquerade, IMO. Thanks to Dr. Gandalf for format conversion.

"Science Fiction as Social Criticism", an interview of Fredrik Pohl by Fred Lerner was broadcast in 1963. This half-hour audio recording includes Fred Pohl's opinions on advertising, the current SF scene, and his own work. From the description -- It's worth noting that this is the second interview Pohl did that day. Interviewer Fred Lerner tells us that "the recording engineer was so interested in what Pohl had to say that he forgot to turn on the recorder. Fred Pohl was gracious – and patient – enough to repeat the interview!"

If you enjoy filk, then check out the Leslie Fish concert from *Tropic 6* (1987). Leslie wrote her first filk in 1963, and is still writing today. The set list includes "Black Powder and Alcohol", "Blue Bread Mold" and an evocative rendition of Don Simpson's "Ship of Stone". Thanks to Eli Goldberg for his help in putting this together.

In 1978, Harlan Ellison was the Worldcon Guest of Honor (Iguanacon). This audio recording is part of his "Burning the Phoenix" session, essentially a GoH talk. It's full of anecdotes and casual asides, and very much Harlan in all ways.

The Zoom sessions were great and the recordings are faithful. Rob Hansen, British fan historian, gives a virtual tour of fannish Holborn (London) that includes decades of context related to the fannishly important places he visits. Ted White's

interview lasted 4 hours over 2 days, and the 4 videos that came from it are well worth watching. The notes on each help with a list of the important topics covered, so if you have a particular area of interest, you can focus on that recording. Our most recent zoom session, “An Anecdotal History of Southern Fandom”, brought about 200 years of fan-nish experience together to talk about the people, places, conventions and publications of this surprisingly cohesive group. More to come!

Donations: We’ve had offers of financial donations from folks who like what we are doing and want to support it. In response, we’ve put a “Donate” button on our front page. The button takes you to PayPal to contribute. All moneys go toward our projects, of course. We are a 100% volunteer organization.

Navigation - Access, Easy Access:

1. Feature Splash Page – Our homepage changes every 6 weeks or so, and spotlights a featured fan. Included are listings of all the material we have on our sites about that person, and even a few external links.
2. FANAC BNF and Special Topics Pages – where old Splash Pages go to live. It also includes references that were not splash pages. https://fanac.org/fanzines/FANAC_BNF_pages/
3. Fanzines by Country – Sample the fannish vibes from different parts of the world. Most of the fanzines are in English, but there are a few non-English ones. Google Translate is a great companion to browsing the Country list. BTW, we have the first Japanese English language fanzine, and several early German fanzines.
4. Searchable PDFs. These not only preserve the look and formatting of the original material but they make ego-scanning even easier (and scanning for anything else of course). They are also easily downloadable so you can take the publications with you for later reading. We will eventually convert all our older publications to this format.
5. What’s New subscription – in addition to accessing our twice weekly ‘What’s New’ Updates at <https://fanac.org/NewStuff.html>, you can get these updates sent to your email as they are posted. They provide a detailed list of all the material we have added with direct links. To receive these, send a note to FANAC-Updates+subscribe@groups.io
6. Specialized directories on unique themes. Example: Cosmic Circle Publications lists titles produced by all of Claude Degler’s Cosmic followers. The Fanthologies, Collections, and Festschrifts directory puts together all those publications devoted to a single person (along with all the other Fanthologies).

FANAC by the Numbers. To give us some idea of the progress we are making to document our fan history here are the numbers as of today:

We have added 1,358 issues in the last 4 months, giving us 14,068 fanzine issues (covering 809 titles) with more than 236,015 pages. This is up from the 12,710 fanzine issues and 208,554 pages reported in our November update. This is still an undercount because many of the smaller size zines are

often scanned two pages at a time as well as the HTML files which count as only one page.

Our new Convention publications listing has 2,381 publications from 596 conventions with 49,052 pages. From the 81 Worldcons, we have 1,243 publications and 29,971 pages.

Our YouTube channel now has 100 recordings with 783 subscribers, and 108,596 views, up from last time’s 89 recordings, 696 subscribers, and 98,146 views.

Fancylopedia 3 has an enormous amount of information in its 27,722 pages, with entries for 5,991 people, 7,396 fanzines, 228 APAs, 1,293 clubs and 6,907 conventions. Fancylopedia 1 by Jack Speer (1944) was 103 pages. Fancylopedia 2 (1959) from Dick Eney was 186 pages. Fandom has grown a bit.

Anniversary Year - In many ways, this is an anniversary year. The FANAC.org website was started 25 years ago. Mark Olson took over Fancylopedia 3 exactly 10 years ago. Edie Stern became FANAC webmaster 5 years ago (taking over from Jack Weaver, our webmaster for 20 years) and also started the Fan History YouTube channel. These last five years have seen wild growth of the Fan History Project. Look at the numbers in the section above.

We have the approval of hundreds of editors to put their publications online and have become a repository for many publications for various S-F organizations including ASFA, BSFA, BSFG, FACT, First Fandom, LASFS, Minn-Stf, NFFF, NESFA, Science Fiction Foundation, SFSFS, and WSFA. Could your organization be next?

This is a collective project. Hundreds of you are providing contributions from the small to the colossal. We are the coordinators but take a look at our list of Contributors at https://www.fanac.org/FANAC_Inc/fancont.html. It keeps growing every month. If you’re not listed and should be, we apologize. Drop a note to fanac@fanac.org.

Help? We could use some help in two areas: Publicity and Correspondence

Publicity: Where should we send information on what we’re doing? Are you part of a club, or group that would be interested? Are you a social media maven who has a list of relevant sites? So many people are working hard on the Fan History Project, and we just want to honor that by making sure that we get the word out to those that would be interested. **Permissions:** Are you an experienced fan with a heavyweight contact list? We need help in correspondence. Since we ask permission before we put material up, there’s a lot of scrambling for email addresses, sending requests and responding to the responses. If you are willing to help with some correspondence, please send a note to me at jsiclari@fanac.org.

Coming Attractions: We will be adding many more non-US fanzines to FANAC.org, from Europe, Asia and Australia, mostly in English. We have large additions of Australian fanzine in progress. We have many recordings for our YouTube channel to choose from and our Zoom series is providing us with more.

Please pass this update on to any fan or list where you think it might be of interest. Those interested in subscribing can sign up on the FANAC.org home page.

We often close with a funny line about Fan History. This time, we'll just say get your jabs and we hope to see you in person in the coming years. Stay safe!

Fanhistorically yours, Joe Siclari, Edie Stern and Mark Olson

Contributors this quarter: Again, we have received new material from many fans including: Mowgli Assor, Jim Benford, Ruth Berman, John D. Berry, Leybl Botwinik, John Bray, Bill Burns, Elinor Busby, Darah Chavney, Ron Clarke, Eli Cohen, John Coker III, Linda Deneroff, Alistair Durie, Leigh Edmonds, Ahrvid Engholm, Dr. Gandalf, Janice Gelb, Kim Gibbs, Eli Goldberg, Roelof Goudriaan, Anne Gray, Rob Hansen, Irwin Hirsh, Kim Huett, Robin Johnson, Steve Johnson, Jerry Kaufman, Dave Langford, Evelyn & Mark Leeper, Fred Lerner, Polina Levontin, Robert Lichtman, Andrew Lippert, Guy Lillian III, Michael Lowrey, Rich Lynch, Sam McDonald, Laurie Mann, Paul March-Russell, Gary McGath, Lori Meltzer, Perry Middlemiss, Murray Moore, Karl-Johan Norén, Joe Patrizio, George Phillies, Bill Plott, Andy Porter, Thomas Recktenwald, David Ritter, Robert Runte, Ell Schulman, Steven Silver, Leah Zeldes Smith, Dale Speirs, Alan Stewart, Matthew Strait, Bjo Trimble, Pat Virzi, Jo Lindsay Walton, Ted White, Peter Young, Taral Wayne, Jesse Weinstein, and input from Sandra Bond, Thomas Bull, Udo Emmerich, John Hertz, Bruce Mai, Tracy Poff, Suzle Tompkins, and Amy Wolfthal. If you belong on this list, and I've left you off, then my apologies.

Selected links

FANAC.org: <https://www.fanac.org>
 Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/fanacproject/>
 Fancyclopedia 3: <https://fancyclopedia.org>
 FANAC Fanhistory YouTube channel: <https://youtube.com/c/FANACFanHistory>
 Zoom schedule: <https://fanac.org/zoom.html>

Fanzines:

Fanzines: http://fanac.org/fanzines/Classic_Fanzines.html
 (FIND ALL FANZINES HERE)
 Core List: to Scan: https://fanac.org/fanzines/core_fanzine_list_to_scan.pdf
 Chronological Listing: https://fanac.org/fanzines/chronological_listing_of_fanzines.html
 Newszine Project: <https://fanac.org/fanzines/newszines.html>

Conventions

Chronological Convention list: https://fancyclopedia.org/Convention_timeline
 Convention Publications: <http://fanac.org/conpubs/>
 Worldcon Photos: <https://fanac.org/worldcon/>

FANAC Fanhistory

YouTube channel: <https://youtube.com/c/FANACFanHistory>
 Noreascon 3 Masquerade (1989 Worldcon), part 1 - <https://youtu.be/VSqEmwjpILA>
 Fred Pohl Interview by Fred Lerner - <https://youtu.be/3bUiO6jhRWA>

Leslie Fish concert (Tropicon 6, 1987) - <https://youtu.be/haH-qdWyV7U>

Harlan Ellison at IguanaCon (1979 Worldcon - <https://youtu.be/ws6kFq61DhE>

FANAC Zoom programs playlist - <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8D69oYQFIO8zJ8lbe5LOac66h2P4pmav>

The FANAC Fanhistory Project is a project of The Florida Association for Nucleation and Conventions (FANAC) Inc., a non-profit 501(c)(3) educational organization recognized by the IRS. FANAC.org is archived by the US Library of Congress for long-time preservation and future availability.

SerCon

Invisible Scarlet O'Neil by Jon D. Swartz, Ph. D. N3F Historian

Invisible Scarlet O'Neil was an American comic strip character, written and drawn by cartoonist Russell Stamm, who had previously been an assistant on both Tiny Tim and Dick Tracy. Syndicated initially by the Chicago Times, the Scarlett O'Neil strip ran from 1940 to 1956. Scarlett was described by the Chicago Times as "America's new superheroine."

The strip focused on Scarlet, a plainclothes superhero (and one of the first, perhaps, the first, superheroine) who had the power of invisibility. Scarlet used her power mostly to aid strangers in need and help the police catch dangerous criminals, as explained by a comics historian, below:

Don Markstein Statement

"Scarlet got the power of invisibility from a ray her father, a scientist, was experimenting with. She curiously put just her finger in the ray, and suddenly disappeared, clothes and all. Fortunately, she discovered that a certain nerve in her left wrist could work as a toggle for the power -- touching the nerve turned her invisibility on or off. This origin story was told in the first episode, in the form of a quick flashback to events years earlier, so she could get right into action. Scarlet's adventures were a little light on Nazi spies, Japanese saboteurs, master criminals and the like. In fact, they were kind of light, period. Russell Stamm, the cartoonist who created her, was a former assistant on Chester Gould's Dick Tracy, but chose a less severe approach for his own strip. The art was more rounded and 'friendly' looking, and the stories less hair-raising. Instead of shooting it out with vicious killers, Scarlet's typical adventure, especially near the beginning, involved helping children in trouble. She did take on some dangerous foes, but her strip was less an action-packed comic than a send-up of them."

In 1950 the title of the strip was reduced to simply Scarlet O'Neil and then it was changed again in 1955 to Stainless Steel, when a former minor character in the strip took over the lead role.

Russell Stamm

Stamm was the sole creator and artist for Invisible Scarlet O'Neil, after having worked on Tiny Tim. Stanley Link, the creator of Tiny Tim, was Stamm's uncle. He noted the boy's interest in illustration and introduced him to Sidney Smith, creator of The Gumps. Stamm's career began in 1934, when he worked in the art department of the Chicago Tribune, as an assistant to Link. A year later, he earned a position assisting Gould on Dick Tracy.

Scarlet is one of the first heroines in comics, and probably the first super-powered heroine. Stamm displayed his sentimental side in his Scarlet strips. After he gave up newspaper work, Stamm founded Russell Stamm Productions, which created TV commercials. He produced some of the first Jolly Green Giant and Charlie the Tuna commercials and created the Hostess Cup Cake Twins. His company earned numerous awards and he worked right up to his untimely death.

Stamm was the youngest of seven children, born in Chicago on April 16, 1915. He married Marjorie Dingham on April 22, 1939. The couple had two children, William Paul (November, 1942) and Russell Jr. (February, 1946). Their father died of a heart attack on August 2, 1969, and was buried in Concordia Cemetery, Forest Park, Illinois.

Comic Books

Scarlet O'Neil appeared in several comic books (Feature Funnies, Harvey Comics Hits, Black Cat Comics, Black Cat Western), and also had her own comic book for three issues in the early 1950s. All of these comic books were published by Harvey Comics.

Big Little Books

Two Scarlet O'Neil big little books (BLBs) were published by the Whitman Publishing Co., the principal publisher of BLBs: Invisible Scarlet O'Neil (1942) and Invisible Scarlet O'Neil Versus the King of the Slums (1946). The 1942 BLB was all pictures, no text on alternate pages, but had two "See 'Em Move" features. Stamm was credited with the writing and art on both BLBs.

Whitman Hardcover Book

Invisible Scarlet O'Neil (1943) was also one of the hardcover books published in the 1940s in Whitman's series of books for older boys and girls. Credit for both the book's writing and art was attributed to Stamm.

Another book on Scarlet was published in 2003, written by Stamm's son, Russell Stamm, Jr.

Merchandise

There was not much marketing of the character. On the other hand, the Chicago Tribune set of 73 comic character statuettes sold during the 1940s-1950s included two characters from Invisible Scarlet O'Neil, Scarlet and Chips, a cow



boy character featured in the strip. There were also Scarlet O'Neil paper dolls for fans of the strip.

In addition, Scarlet's adventures were available in Acme Cine Vue Comic Film Strips, along with other popular newspaper strips of the 1930s – 1940s.

Statement by Stamm's Son

“When my father, Russell A. Stamm, Sr., was a little boy he had dreams of becoming a syndicated cartoonist. He was constantly doodling cartoon characters on every piece of paper that he came across. He had a true talent for a unique and creative approach to his characters, themes, and drawings.

In 1935, when he went to work as an assistant for Chester Gould drawing Dick Tracy, his boyhood dream started to become a reality.

By the time I was born in 1946 my father was a well known syndicated cartoonist and his feature character, Scarlet O'Neil, was already six years old. I was fortunate to watch my father at work while I was growing up, and see the dedication, energy, and love he had for his career.

It is in his honor that I present Scarlet O'Neil as she was then, and what she will be from this day forward. I hope you will enjoy seeing a great deal of his original art and my interpretation of what Scarlet is today.”

In 2012, New Legends Productions published a 100-page graphic novel with a contemporary setting, written by Russell Stamm Jr., with artwork by Wendell Cavalcanti (pencils) and Rob Jones and Elton Thomasi (inks).

Some Conclusions

The time was certainly ripe for an invisible super heroine to appear. Invisible characters were appearing all over the popular culture landscape. In the movies, The Invisible Man was

shown in 1933 and Topper was released in 1937. In 1940, Universal Studios released both *The Invisible Man Returns* and *The Invisible Woman*. The Shadow, already in the pulps and on the radio, entered both comic books and newspapers early in 1940. A character called *The Invisible Man* was in *Timely's* (now *Marvel*) *Mystic Comics* in the early 1940s. The blockbuster movie hit *Gone With the Wind*, featuring the trials and tribulations of the dark-haired, blue-eyed heroine, *Scarlet O'Hara*, had its premier in 1939. The zeitgeist in America was perfect for the appearance of an invisible character such as *Scarlet O'Neil*!

From the statement by Stamm's son, repeated above, it can be seen that *Scarlet* still exists. Interested parties can check out *Scarlet O'Neil* today on her own website.

Atlantis Studios in 2007 published a one-shot comic book, *Untold Origins of Invisible Scarlet O'Neil*, on the history of the character. In 2017, *Babes with Blades* premiered a play by Barbara Lhota based on the strip.

Her comics were reprinted in Australia by the *Daily Mirror*, and in Mexico she was known as “*La Invisible Escarlata*.”

The daily, Sunday, and comic book *Scarlett O'Neil* strips are currently available for viewing on the Internet.

Suffice to say that *Scarlet* has been around a lot, and still is, in one form or another.

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Note: In addition to these sources, several Internet sites were consulted.

Interview with an N3F Officer An Interview with Author Kevin Trainor By Tamara Wilhite

According to Kevin Trainor's bio, he's an Army Security

Agency veteran. He is a Russian/German/Spanish linguist and did signal intelligence and electronic warfare. He served four years active duty and another twelve years in the National Guard and Reserve. This is what led to his memoir *What Did You Do in the Cold War, Dad?* He's also an avid anime and science fiction fan as well as a published sci-fi author.

Tamara Wilhite: You have such an interest in Anime that you're the nominal head of the Anime & Recruiting bureau of the National Fantasy Fan Federation, also called N3F. What does that entail?

Kevin Trainor: Mostly I'm looking to get other anime fans interested in the N3F as a place to publish and read reviews of anime and manga, maybe publish some art. We're reaching out to alternative social media, which has caused a bit of a kerfluffle, but so far we haven't had too many flounces over it. These days, I'm mostly talking to people one on one about N3F and maintaining the membership roster; there's two other fellows in the recruiting bureau, and they're posting ads in online SF zines and groups.

Tamara Wilhite: In a prior conversation, you mentioned classic sci-fi writers who influenced you like Poul Anderson, David Drake, Robert Heinlein, Keith Laumer, and Samuel Eliot Morison. What do you like to read?

Kevin Trainor: Most recently I've been reading Peter Nealen's *MAELSTROM RISING* technothrillers, which are SF by some peoples' definitions and not others. I've also been rereading the *Revelations Cycle* novels, which kick off the *Four Horsemen* universe; David Drake's *ROLLING HOT*, one of his *Hammer's Slammers* novels; and it's about time for me to go through Drake & Stirling's *Raj Whitehall* series, which is a perennial favorite.

Tamara Wilhite: You have a great understanding of military history as well as somewhat recent military experience. How do you think warfare is evolving beyond jokes of watching Twitter posts about bombs instead of watching CNN to learn where the rockets hit?

Kevin Trainor: Some days I think we're headed towards the kind of awesome high-tech powered-armor future we saw in *STARSHIP TROOPERS* and the *Four Horsemen* series, and other days I think it's going to be more like *Gordy Dickson's Dorsai* stories, where complex high-tech gear is too difficult to maintain in the field and too easy to defeat with countermeasures, so everybody uses simple rifles. Jerry Pournelle's *CoDominium* universe was like that as well – most of the colony planets and a good number of the independent planets just didn't have the technology and manufacturing base to support the kind of weaponry that was common in the Cold War – heavy armor & artillery, electronic warfare, combat aircraft, all that stuff.

Tamara Wilhite: You said you've spent a dozen years trying to write the *Great Anime-based Space Opera Novel*. That led to your short story collection, *The Anti-Dog Tank and Other Stories*. Have you ever finished and published the novel you had

planned?

Kevin Trainor: This is embarrassing to admit, but what's holding me up on Starfighter Girls (the aforementioned space opera) is that I haven't been able to get off the dime and write the battle scenes. There's about four major battles in the novel before the final one, and I keep dithering over whether I should game them out or follow S.M. Stirling's example and just write the damn things. (I was genuinely shocked to find out that he hadn't played out the battles in the Raj Whitehall and Emberverser novels with miniatures, because they sure read that way.) I'm actually further along with The Misfit, which is a retooling of an old Malcolm Jameson story about a young man who desperately wants to follow his war hero father into battle during an interstellar war, but his widowed mother has too much financial clout for the powers that be to allow that. The short story collection really doesn't have anything to do with either of them; two of them are set in a Second Civil War after an abortive nuclear exchange with the Red Chinese, and the rest of them are just weird little things that came to me. I don't follow Poul Anderson's practice of leaving a bowl of milk out for the brownies in exchange for story ideas, but every so often, my muse will drop a scene on me, and it's off to the races.

Tamara Wilhite: What else are you working on?

Kevin Trainor: Well, taxes, obviously; it's that time of year. I have a magical girl story that I was hoping to shop to Jason Cordova's upcoming TANKS FOR THE MAMMARIES



Wind Unicornus by Angela K. Scott

anthology, but I was too slow and a couple million other authors got their stories in first. I have a couple of sequels in mind for "They Are Telling Me It Is Time To Go", and something inspired by Peter Nealen's MAELSTROM RISING series which asks the question – if the Triarii are all ex-SpecOps and Marines, what happens to the older, fatter troops who might still have some gas in the tank and don't want to go down without a fight?

Tamara Wilhite: Is there anything you'd like to add?

Kevin Trainor: I'd like to encourage your readers to join the N3F, if they haven't already. Aside from Dragon*Con and a few other places, we're one of the few genuinely apolitical organizations left in fandom, and we're always interested in peoples' opinions about anime, SF, fantasy, movies, TV, and games. We have six zines and an Amateur Press Association, so there's a lot of room for people to speak their minds.

Tamara Wilhite: Thank you for speaking with me.

Thank you for asking!

Tamara Wilhite's Interviews appear regularly on the electronic pages of LibertyIslandMag.com.

Treasurer

Paypal balance \$858.55

NSB balance: \$1785.63

Life members: 2

Electronic members: 23

Regular members: 32

Household members: 1

Total voting members: 58

Public members: 199

Total membership: 256

Expiring this month: Nobody

Convention Operations Bureau

It has been proposed to run an N3F on-line convention on Mewe.com, to match the Concellation convention on Facebook. The convention would run for many months. Posts would be moderated.

Birthday Card Bureau Report

Twelve cards were mailed, but there were two anomalies. One card came back with a Post Office rubber stamp message saying "No Such Number." If Rachel Kreutzer is still a member, and wants her birthday card, could she please contact me with her proper address? The second is that one member's birthday was listed with the February birthdays but the date suggested that perhaps August was correct; if you got a birthday card this month but your birthday is in August, please let me know.



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Fanac Fan History Project

Sercon
Invisible Scarlet O'Neil
Interview with Kevin Trainor

Treasurer
Convention Operations Bureau
Book Review Bureau

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