



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

Cras ad Stellas— Tomorrow to the Stars

Volume 80 Number 5 May 2021

**N3FFYS**  
National Fantasy Fan Federation Speculative Fiction Awards

We have now reached the point of having a list of Neffy nominees. I have reordered the list of categories to put more emphasis on fan-related material.

We hit an interesting obstacle. In years past, I had a rapid source indicating how many words a work was, so that I could readily sort between novels ( $\geq 100,000$  words) and shorter works ( $< 100,000$  words). That source has ceased to function. What was I to do? What I did was to change the sort a bit, so that what had been 'shorter works' now also targets works seemingly intended for a younger or less-serious audience.

We have a couple months to discuss these entries before we vote. As in past years, voting will be numerical, with '5' for your first choice, '4' for your second choice, and on down the line.

The nominees are:

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 Literary-Critical or Historical Work

First Fandom Annual 2020: Celebrating Robert Madle

The Elusive Shift How Role-Playing Games

Forged their Identity by Jon Peterson

From Barsoom to Malacandra by John C. Wright

Best Comic/Manga/anime:

Flying Sparks  
The Lovely People  
The Cosmic Warrior

Best TV show:

The Expanse  
Stargirl

Best Movie:

2067  
Vivarium

Best Pro Artist:

Brad Fraunfelter

Best Book Editor:

Toni Weisskopf

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Art

8 ... Ghost Horses by Angela J. Scott



## 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  
 Kevin Trainor - wombat.soho@gmail.com

### Officers

President George Phillies - phillies@4liberty.net  
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### Best novel:

Storm Between the Stars by Karl Gallagher  
 Unmasked by Kai Wai 'Benjamin' Cheah  
 Hussar by Declan Finn  
 Pure Poison by Hawkings Austin  
 Coven by Declan Finn  
 Gods of Pangea by John C. Wright

### Younger readers:

Dragon Eye, PI by Karina Fabian  
 The Unbearable Heaviness of Remembering  
 by L. Jagi Lamplighter  
 The Lady Heiress by Christopher G. Nuttall  
 The Shadows of Alexandrium by David Gerrold

## Club Notes

Sadly, Eric Jamborsky advises us that for the nonce he will be unable to continue to edit Films Fantastic, so for the nonce, we have a vacancy for the Editor-

### Continued Next Column, Middle of Page

#### Your Volunteer Team (continued)

Neffy Awards Bureau George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net  
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 Round Robins Patricia Williams-King, 335 Forrest Park Road, Apt # 75 Madison, TN 37115.  
 Short Story Contest J. Swycaffer abontides@gmail.com  
 Social Media: George Phillies  
 Video Bureau: Cathode Ray the anonymous; Jason P Hunt jphunt@scifi4me.com

## 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.

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ship of that zine. On the bright side, Mindy Hunt is now sending us regular monthly issues of Convention Calendar.

In recent months, we have seen regular issues of many N3F zines being published, including The National Fantasy Fan, Tightbeam, N'APA, Ionsphere, Origin, and The N3F Review of Books. Mangaverse planned on six issues a year; editor Patrick Ijima-Washburn reported in the last issue that come April he would be teaching at four universities, which is certainly a major work load already. Eldritch Science made its annual/semiannual appearance. With this mailing, expect an issue of Mindy Hunt's *Conventions*, this time *Conventions for June*.

NafferCon should be visible on MeWe.com by the time you read this issue.

The Directorate — see end of zine — considered two proposals for avoiding possible difficulties at some future date. Neither proposal had support, so they were dropped.

## Letters of Comment

Editor:

A very stately 80 year birthday issue of TNFF. I agree with your endurance statement. N3F for the future!

I found a lot of optimistic statements in the issue, which befits an Annish. It was interesting to read of the Video Bureau, and it's a welcome addition. I would like to see some of those earlier bureaus restored and I hope you find the means of resurrecting them. The Fan Clubs Bureau and the Future Fandom Bureau sound particularly interesting to me.

The issue of BONFIRE was of great interest, although (and I may sound like the lad who pointed out the Emperor's new clothes in the fairy tale when I say this) the cover is not very impressive, seeming not to be even up to the hectograph level, and, considering the impressive names that are lined up on the membership list, doesn't seem to suit the organization very well. But the "Explanation" by Art Widner which you pointed out estab-

lishes solid ground and is indeed highly applicable to our present day N3F. Perhaps it should go in a booklet of notable documents from the organization's historical past.

I look forward to the next TNFF.

-John Thiel

Editor:

N3F has so much activity I thought there were thousands of members. That's why I asked for clarification when your interview said it was 260.

Tamara Wilhite

Editor:

What a magnificent list of initiatives. Thank you!  
Jacqueline Lichtenberg

Editor:

I'm getting the next month's Origin all set up; I'm looking out for not making a deadline by starting to set up the issues right after each issue is distributed. Jon Swartz has been doing about the same, and I'm satisfied the issues will not lag. This method enables me to keep the issues formatted pretty well. I think Origin is in very good condition and we need not worry about bureau output. A thanks to all of you for keeping up with me. I haven't been let down yet. Origin is floating pretty well, and for all I know the members are finding enjoyment in reading it; every once in a while I receive commendations on it. Our writings show we are doing research besides writing in Origin, so the only improvement I can think of there would be recommendations for research, and those recommendations seem to occur spontaneously from what we write, but perhaps there should be official statements of research possibilities printed in Origin. I might start doing this after giving it some thought.

One thing I think we should be doing is going over what the N3F itself has been like in the past, the near past as well as the far past, and comparing what was being done in it then with our own activities. We would be wanting to ask questions of people who had been members. I thought of this when contemplating "what have bureaus done in the past?" by way of deciding what to be doing now. Perhaps Jon would have some recollections which would be worth considering.

Any feedback on this matter is welcomed.  
--John Thiel

Editor:

I must resign my position with the film bureau. Current conditions here make it impossible to keep any kind of schedule, or to write anything worth reading. I am sorry to do this, but feel I must. My deepest apologies.  
Eric Jamborsky

Dear Neffers:

Thank you for the newest National Fantasy Fan, Volume 80, No. 4, once again celebrating 80 years of the N3F. There's a lot to celebrate here, and publications like this one show there's a lot happening.

I will put in here that getting a .pdfed version of the first Bonfire is a treat, and it's a visual cue as to how far fannish publications have come in 80 years. It's wonderful to look through, and see some of the big names of that early day, some of whom I actually knew and met, like Art Widner. Again, congrats to all, and time to comment on this issue.

The idea of NefferCon sounds great, and I hope there will be more information about it coming soon. I create a science fiction convention list for friends in Toronto and area, but of course, with the pandemic, and the closed border between the US and Canada, there are few conventions to list, but there is always the opportunity to list virtual conventions.

The locol, and my letter... Both of us have our vaccinations, and we are now awaiting our second shots. I did join the Zoom session from Fanac.org with Ruth Berman and Devra Langsam, and that was an informative session, too. We are still in total lockdown, and do I ever need a haircut. I hope information on the upcoming Neffys will be coming soon.

The latest news I have heard is that there is at the last minute a new Worldcon bid for 2023, namely Winnipeg, Manitoba. I am hopeful that it will win, even though it's unlikely that we would be able to afford attending it. As more information comes

about with it, I will pass it along.

I think I am done for the moment... good to see there are still celebrations happening, and thank you again for a look at the first Bonfire. Hope to see you next issue.

Yours, Lloyd Penney

Editor:

I've written to eight of the inactive people in the membership who were people with names known to me inquiring about their inactivity. One said that he had no interest in the N3F and did not intend to renew. Another said that he was too busy for N3F activities, but I wrote back and asked him if he would at least find time for one letter of comment to one or another of the publications. I haven't as yet heard from the others, but I was encouraged by hearing from two of them because I was sure from that that I had correct email addresses that weren't outdated and that they were indeed on the receiving end. I thought this would be of interest to the other directors.

—John Thiel

## Frank Godwin and Connie by Jon D. Swartz, Ph.D. N3F Historian

Francis (Frank) Godwin (1889 – 1959) was an illustrator and cartoonist. At the age of 38, he began to draw the comic strip Connie, an unusually progressive strip for 1927. When asked to come up with a “girl strip” by his syndicate, it's likely they were looking for something along the lines of other successful girl strips of the time, such as Winnie Winkle, Ella Cinders, or Tillie the Toiler. It is doubtful that Godwin was expected to come up with the Renaissance woman of the 30s, as Connie turned out to be!

### Early Work

As a teenager, Godwin began working at The Washington Star, where his father was an editor. Later he became friends with James Montgomery Flagg when



they studied together at the Art Students League. In 1908 Flagg helped Godwin get work with Judge, a weekly humor magazine.

By 1920 Godwin was doing covers for popular magazines such as Liberty and Ladies' Home Journal. Later he did spot illustrations for new

editions of classic books such as King Arthur and His Knights, Treasure Island, and Robinson Crusoe. He is also remembered for some of the ads he illustrated, such as the ones he did for Coca Cola.

### Connie

In 1927, while working for the Philadelphia Public Ledger's new syndicate, Godwin started a Sunday comic strip he titled Connie. Her full name was Connie Kurridge (pronounced courage, of course).

Connie initially "purveyed flapper and lounge lizard gags in pretty-girl-page fashion," according to comic strip historian Ron Goulart.

When Godwin added a Connie daily strip in 1929, however, she became a freelance adventuress and private investigator. In these new roles, she "trekked in search of lost cities and tangled with invisible men and crazed scientists bent on world conquest."

### Comic Book Work

During 1943 - 1945, Godwin drew Wonder Woman for DC Comics. He also did occasional art work for publisher Lev Gleason's crime comic books (mid-to-late 1940s).

### Other Work

In addition to Connie, and his work mentioned above, Godwin did the following strips: Vignettes of Life (mid-1920s), The Wet Blanket (1930s); Babe

Bunting (mid-1930s); War on Crime (late 1930s to early 1940s); Roy Powers, Eagle Scout (late 1930s); and Rusty Riley (late 1940s to late 1950s).

### Critical Comments

Godwin's Sunday strips, mixing art nouveau with plots from pulps in the 1930s, have been said to be unlike anything else ever seen in comic strips.

Goulart described these strips as giving "the impression of a sort of R-rated Oz movie."

Comic strip historians/critics like Goulart seem to agree that, while Connie was beautifully drawn, the strip lacked somewhat in convincing dialogue and plots.

Connie ceased appearing as a newspaper strip in the middle 1940s, after running in fewer and fewer newspapers; but found another audience through reprints in the comic book Famous Funnies, beginning with the first issue. Several of Godwin's other newspaper strips were also reprinted in Famous Funnies over the years, with his The Wet Blanket also beginning in the initial issue.

### Conclusions

Connie is still worth reading today, especially the



stories with science fiction plots. Even the ones with more of less “light” story lines are entertaining.

Arcadia Publications published *Connie*, a collection of newspaper strips, in 1989. The book also included information on Godwin’s other comic strip work (see Galewitz reference below).

## Sources

Bails, Jerry & Hames Ware (eds.). *Who’s Who of American Comic Books, Volume II*. Detroit, MI: Bails, 1974.

Galewitz, Herb (ed.). *Connie by Frank Godwin*. Greenfield, WI: Arcadia, 1989.

Goulart, Ron. *Great History of Comic Books*. Chicago, IL: Contemporary Books, 1986.

Goulart, Ron (ed.). *The Encyclopedia of American Comics*. NY: Facts On File, 1990.

Thomas, Roy. *Wonder Woman: The War Years, 1941 – 1945*. NY: Chartwell Books, 2015.

Waugh, Coulton. *The Comics*. NY: Luna Press, 1974.

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

## Club Activities

### Treasury

Paypal balance \$925.08  
NSB balance: \$1785.63

Life members: 2  
Electronic members: 25  
Regular members: 31  
Household members: 0  
Total voting members: 58

Public members: 205  
Total membership: 263

Expiring in May: Michael Lowrey, Allegra Gulino, Samuel Lubell, Dorothy Kurtz, and Kathryn Jankowski.

Renewed this month: Scott Duncan, Lauren Clough, Katherine Langley, Patrick Ijima-Washburn, George Phillies, and Mick Taylor. Thanks to all of you!

## The Birthday Card Bureau

Ten birthday cards were, or will be, sent out in May. Please note that I have not outsourced the birthday messages to a first grader. I had a rather substantial bicycle accident last month, and neither of my hands is wholly functional, but I thought it better to scrawl actual greetings rather than printing something out and gluing it to a card.

...Justin

## 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 am expanding the conception of the bureau to include all relevant activity which we are doing or might encourage members to do. The raison d'être for the bureau requires further explanation, which I am commencing to do.—John Thiel

## Welcommittee

Melody Friedenthal is the newest member to the N3F. Welcome! Melody! We hope you enjoy all the N3F has to offer.

Please read the current TNFF for a list of the many activities and bureaus you can join. Being active is the most fulfilling way to enjoy being a member of the National Fantasy Fan Federation.

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.

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

Judy Carroll at [BlueShadows2012@gmail.com](mailto:BlueShadows2012@gmail.com) or 975 East 120 South, Spanish Fork, Utah 84660

## History and Research Bureau

We are introducing the staff to the N3F better than we have been doing in order to establish closer relations with the rest of the membership, for the improvement of the bureau and to acquire more interest in it.—John Thiel

## Writers Exchange

Welcome to the Writers Exchange!

It's been a long time since we have received any stories from our N3F writers. Part of our service is to read short stories and critique them for any of our members who would like a second opinion.

Actually, your work would be critiqued twice, once by me and once by Jefferson Swycaffer. Each of us sees the same story in a different light.

If interested, please contact me.

How well have you been keeping your writing goals?

George Phillies answers: Not as well as I would like. There is always something in the way. But last month you did get my latest novel.

If you would like to respond to this question or any other question asked earlier this year, feel free to do so. If you have any questions or observations you would like to share with others -feel free to do so.

I have no writing questions for next month. I'm kind of in my "rebellion mode." Instead, I'm going elsewhere. You are invited to come along, if you like.

I have a four year old relative who is fascinated with Alice in Wonderland and all things related to Alice. (Disney, animated version, 1951.) Her birthday is in a few months, so I decided to look for Alice in Wonderland items on Amazon. There are too many items to count: t-shirts, coloring books, jewelry, figurines, toys (not as many as I had expected) etc. Many of these items are for adult Alice fans.

What has really interested me are the quotes, from Alice in Wonderland\*, that appear on many items; bags, shirts, totes, spoons, key chains, etc.

I have decided to list a few of the quotes. See if any of them apply to you or someone else you know.

"I knew who I was this morning, but I have changed a few times since then".

"Have I gone mad?" "I'm afraid you're entirely bonkers. But I'll tell you a secret. All the best people are."

"I give myself very good advice but I very seldom follow it."

"Who in the world am I. Ah, that's the great puzzle."

"I'm not crazy. My reality is just different than

yours."

If you know which characters said the above quotes, I would appreciate it if you could send me an email or postal mail, and let me know.

\* Please Note: I tried looking up the above quotes so I could tell you which character said each quote. This was not successful. Either my queries gave me the answer of Lewis Carroll or people were giving their interpretation of the quotes meaning.

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

### Recruiters Bureau

We're thinking of discussing the N3F in fandom at large. This is better than simple advertising. People have not been getting enough information about the N3F. I have two Facebook sf groups pages where I can write about the N3F, and I'll be starting out with my group SF FANDOM. I'm going to ask Jeffrey whether he will be able to write about his own N3F membership, but haven't asked him as yet.—John Thiel

George Phillis writes: In my opinion, all club members need to be taking membership recruitment and publicity much more seriously than we now do.

## Directorate Notes

The Directorate considered a motion to amend our bylaws by adding

### XV. EMERGENCY PROVISIONS:

- A. These bylaws cannot anticipate every conceivable situation which might occur in the future. Occasionally, situations may arise not covered by these bylaws or where strict adherence to these bylaws would have a damaging effect on the N3F as a whole. In such situations, the Directorate, by majority vote of the members casting "Yea" or "Nay" votes may waive a specific provision of these bylaws, subject to the following restrictions: The situation in question should be temporary in duration and non-recurring.

After discussion, there was no support for this amendment, so it was dropped.

The Directorate considered a Bylaw:  
Add to Bylaws III.5.

5. The Society is open to persons who are not hostile to the N3F. A person is hostile to the N3F if they have made public statements attacking the N3F. The Officers and Directorate will maintain a confidential list of such persons and their statements. If such a person applies to join the N3F, their membership will be declined, but they will be provided with a copy of the statement for which their membership is being declined.



Ghost Horses — Angela K. Scott



# 2020N3F 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](mailto: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](mailto: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, 2021.
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.
11. 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 2021. 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, 2021. 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 2021 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](mailto:abontides@gmail.com)



In This Issue

Neffys

Club Notes

Letters of Comment

John Thiel, Tamara Wilhite, Jacqueline Lichtenberg,  
John Thiel, Eric Jamborsky, Lloyd Penney, John Thiel

SerCon

Frank Godwin and Connie

Club Activities

Treasury — Birthday Card Bureau — Correspondence Bureau  
Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau — Welcommittee — History and Research Bureau  
Writer's Exchange — Recruiters Bureau

Directorate Acts

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c/o George Phillips  
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