

Origin 65 **July 2023**



**Journal of the National Fantasy Fan Federation's
History and Research Bureau**

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This is a monthly NFFF publication representing our bureau. It
is our aim to increase interest in science fiction and fantasy, and
science fiction fandom, history and research.

Published for the National Fantasy Fan Federation (NFFF). To join, use the membership
form at <http://n3f.org/join/membership-form> to provide your name and address for
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Editorial



You Make It On Your Own

Or do you? Reading Judy Carroll's column this issue has given me thoughts on this matter, which I'll express in the editorial afterwards. But it comes to mind also because the recent circumstances of devastation have cut a lot of people off, even cut them loose from their support systems. During the Great Depression in the early part of the last century people were not discussing it much in the printed matter, and experiences of the depression did not make the news very often ("A fellow got rolled down on 5th and Norway" wasn't seen very often); and by and large, references to the depression started appearing when the phenomenon of the depression had begun to abate. Here we are in writers' and readers' land, and we are also not very articulate about it, attributing things going wrong to the Okies or the Tennessee hill country, or to foreign holocausts which should not be of much interest unless people want to talk about the apocalypse (e.g., Israel battling with Arabia). Clearly it's worse out in these places than it is here, but on the other hand we are experiencing the Dark Cloud as well. No one knows who named the Depression, but a clue is that "depressed" means "in low spirits"; the term is used to mean material events such as loss of monetary intake, but there is also a matter of feelings involved in the term—people got depressed when society went sliding down. We readers of news know that we've had wars called the first and second world wars, but do the less literate know that there are these terms? The less literate are, though, crowded around the more literate, and it may be hanging them up trying to tell the unlearned populace about world wars. Someone might say, "Is that what you've learned from all that reading and self-improvement?" I think that the lowered morale might come from something else, and not fluctuations in the monetary system, so that the great depression was really more of a change in mood, resulting in ineptitude, but this, of course, cannot be scientifically measured. So Judy's "cheer up" approach seems to be the right one.

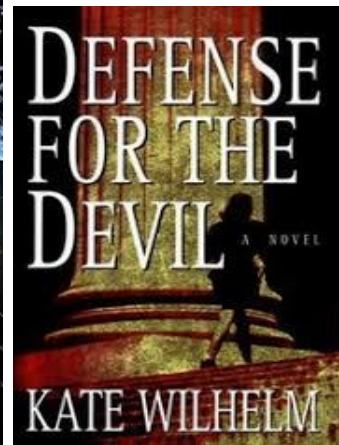
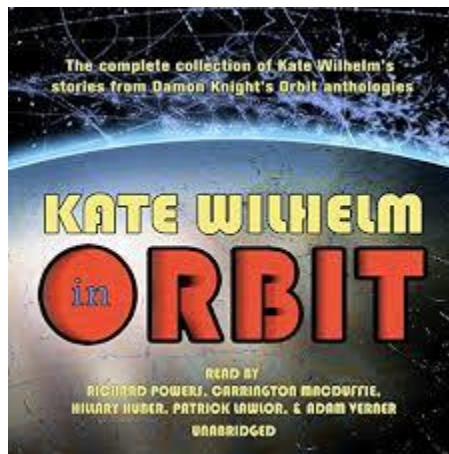
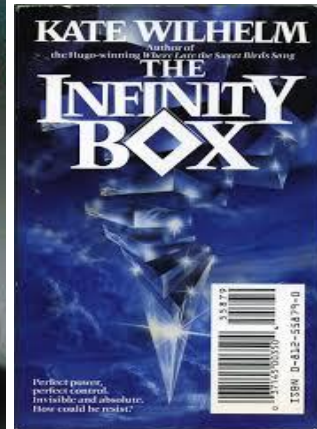
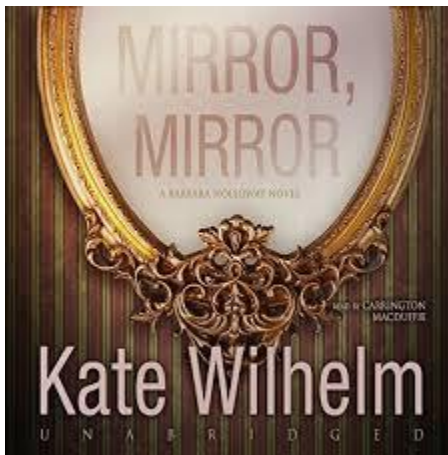
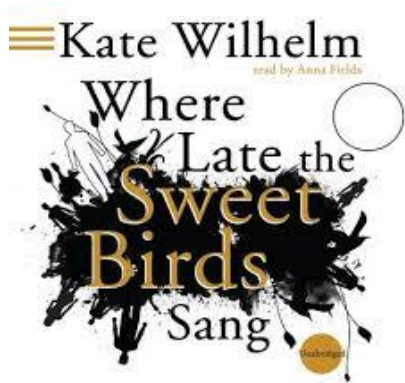
Individuality? What can one man do? In the storms of the present, what can one man do? Or, yes, what can one woman do? Probably that'd be two different things. In both cases, it's what can one person do about things, and the answer (as I have it; you recall that I'm writing the individual thesis) is that looking after oneself is of paramount importance. One should take care of one's own concerns, and look after one's own security and happiness before anything else. Why? Because no one can be certain about what would be best for anyone else, but would have much better perceptions about what could be best for oneself. This self-concern should not be of any damaging qualities to others, of course. One is looking for righteous solutions for oneself. It's apt to be foolish to participate in mass behavior, but the lone individual can avoid foolishness. The loss of yourself from wild enterprises may be a relief rather than regrettable. Get with things you know about and make the most of your sole activities. It's no time for avarice, there's nothing to be gained. You don't make it in a mob, you make it on your own. And women should get where it's nice, and that's where an individual has started to count again. Don't go for any leagues—retire from that. There's too much inept, unpracticed conflict in social action in these troubled times. Meditation—one's own meditation, not something from a book—is what's best. Think how restful it would be to avoid all the trash that's going on.

You make it on your own because you can make it with yourself—as for others, you get along better with them if you are at some peace with yourselves. Be careful in interpreting what others say and ask questions about it in a polite or even nice manner. Let them make it on their own and then see how well you DO get along.

Individuals are more appreciated than people immersed in rampant social behavior. I like to see people who talk about things of interest to them, and seldom get a chance to talk to people who are on the move.

This is, of course, all meant to apply to the N3F. We have what I consider intolerable arguments going on here, mostly behind the scenes, but it's getting to be that if anyone makes a comment up front, it's based on what is going on elsewhere. We should definitely try to be more communicative and not be talking only about crucial matters (such as our own misbehavior as we wrangle around out front). Do I speak from personal experience? Yass, and I'm getting like not being able to abide these recurring fracas. I started out in this life with soldiers all around me emerging from the overseas wars and my first birthday was on the same day that the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan, and I remember someone bringing it up. I also remember a fellow showing me a machine gun when I was three years of age. War was much discussed right along. I think now we have war as never before, and I would like to see it recede.

Women Genre Authors: Kate Wilhelm by Jon Swartz



Katie Gertrude Meredith Wilhelm Knight (1928-2018) was an award-winning American author. She wrote works in science fiction (SF) and fantasy, including the popular novels *THE KILLER THING* (1967) and *WHERE LATE THE SWEET BIIRDS SANG* (1976), and the collections *THE MILE-LONG SPACESHIP* (1963) and *THE INFINITY BOX* (1975).

Her first novel, however, was a mystery, published in 1963, and she later returned to

writing mysteries with her Barbara Holloway and Constance & Charlie series of novels. During her career she wrote and edited scores of books>

Her writing crossed over the genres of SF/fantasy, mystery, suspense, family sagas, and radio plays. Her works have been adapted for television and movies in the United States, England, and Germany, and her stories have been translated into more than a dozen languages.

She contributed to many popular American magazines, including **The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction (F&SF)**, **Amazing Stories**, **Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine**, **Fantastic**, **Omni**, **Redbook**, **Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine**, and **Cosmopolitan**.

Pen Names

In addition to Kate Wilhelm, she used some other names in her work, including K. Wilhelm and Kathleen Curran.

Notable Genre Works

THE MILE-LONG SPACESHIP (1963)

THE CLONE (1965)—1966 Nebula Award nominee

THE NEVERMORE AFFAIR (1966)

ANDOVER AND THE ANDROID (1966)

BABY, YOU WERE GREAT (1967)—1968 Nebula Award nominee

THE KILLER THING (1967)

THE PLANNERS (1968)—1969 Nebula Award Winner

THE DOWNSTAIRS ROOM (1968)—collection of 14 SF stories

LET THE FIRE FALL (1969)

THE YEAR OF THE CLOUD (1970)

APRIL FOOL'S DAY FOREVER (1970)—1971 Nebula Award nominee

A COLD DARK NIGHT WITH SNOW (1970)—1971 Nebula Award nominee

ABYSS: TWO NOVELLAS (1971)—contains "The Plastic Abyss" (1992 Nebula Award nominee) and "Stranger in the House"

MARGARET AND I (1971)—1972 Nebula Award nominee

CITY OF CAIN (1974)

THE INFINITY BOX (1975)—collection of 9 SF short stories

WHERE LATE THE SWEET BIRDS SANG (1976)—Hugo and Locus Award winner, Nebula nominee

SOMERSET DREAMS AND OTHER FICTION (1978)—collection of eight SF stories

JUNIPER TIME (1979)—1980 Nebula Award nominee

THE WINTER BEACH (1981)—1982 Nebula Award nominee
A SENSE OF SHADOW (1981)
LISTEN, LISTEN (1981)—contains four novellas
WELCOME, CHAOS (1983)
HUYSMAN'S PETS (1985)
FOREVER YOURS, ANNA (1987)—1988 Nebula Award winner
CRAZY TIME (1988)
CHILDREN OF THE WIND (1989)—contains "Children of the Wind"
CAMBIO BOY (1990)
NAMING THE FLOWERS (1992)—1994 Nebula Award nominee
AND THE ANGELS SING (1992)—collection of twelve SF short stories
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING (1994)—1995 Nebula Award nominee
FEAR IS A COLD BLACK (2010)—collection of her early short stories
MUSIC MAKERS (2012)—collection of five stories
THE BIRD CAGE (2012)—collection of four stories

Awards/Honors/Recognitions

Wilhelm won many awards for her writing, including the Prix Apollo, Kurd Lasswitz, Jupiter, Hugo, Locus, and Nebula awards.

She was Guest of Honor at the 1990 Worldcon, and in 2003 was inducted into the Science Fiction Hall of Fame.

In 2016, the SFWA renamed the Solstice Award the Kate Wilhelm Solstice Award in her honor.

The September 2010 issue of F&SF was a Special Kate Wilhelm Issue. It included a novella by Wilhelm, "Yesterday's Tomorrows", an appreciation of Wilhelm by Gordon Van Gelder, and a six page bibliography by William G. Contento. Richard Wilhelm, Wilhelm's son, did the cover art.

Marriage to Damon Knight

Wilhelm and SF author/editor/critic Damon Knight, her second husband—whom she married in 1963 and with whom she had one child—also provided assistance to numerous other writers over the years. Their teaching careers covered a span of several decades, with hundreds of students.

The couple helped to establish both the Clarion Writer's Workshop and the Milford Writer's Conference. They lectured together at universities in South America and Asia, and were guests and panelists at numerous SF conventions around the world.

Knight, a member of the famous Futurians of New York, was born September 19,

1922; he died April 15, 2002. He is also credited with founding our club, the N3F, in 1941.

Comments about Wilhelm and Her Works

According to genre author and critic Paul Di Filippo, Wilhelm was: “arguably undervalued in her lifetime—she worked in the shadow of her more famous husband, Damon Knight...”

Genre editor/critic Gordon Van Gelder wrote that her work “is not fiction that can be pigeonholed easily.”

When Wilhelm died in 2018, SFWA president Cat Rambo said in a remembrance: “Wilhelm will always be part of SFWA; it is woven into her legacy, and the organization is the poorer for this loss. She was one of the stars by which I sailed, and my map is darker now.”

Concluding Comments

After Damon Knight’s death, Wilhelm continued to host monthly workshops, as well as teach at other events. She also edited Clarion and Nebula Award anthologies. She was an avid supporter of local libraries and helped raise funds for them.

A non-fiction book, THE WORKS OF KATE WILHELM, was published in 1983, and MASTERS OF SCIENCE FICTION: KATE WILHELM was issued in 2020.

Infinity Box Press was created to present the works of Wilhelm and Knight in both hardcover and ebook formats. Her papers are housed at the University of Oregon.

Kate Wilhelm died March 8, 2018, according to her son Richard.

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Hello from Jeffrey Redmond





Kindness
is
Magic



BY JUDY CARROLL

You are at a gas station when a stranger walks up and asks if you would buy gas for his car because he doesn't have any money. What would you say?

What did you say to the above question?

- Go ask someone else.
- Leave me alone
- I'm sorry. I don't have any money.
- Yes!

You and a friend are standing on a street corner waiting for the light to change. A stranger approaches and asks if he could spend the night at your house. What would you say?

What did you say to the above question?

- NO!
- Get lost or I'll call the police!
- I'm sorry. I don't have enough room.
- Yes!

For several months, on a local TV station, I watched an interesting series, THE KINDNESS DIARIES. Leon Logothetis is the host of the program. Leon had set an almost impossible task for himself—driving from Alaska to the tip of Argentina in a yellow Volkswagen. Now this is what makes the show so interesting. Leon did not take any money with him. He made the entire trip by relying on the kindness of strangers.

Not everyone he asked for money, or food, or a place to sleep said yes to him. But, what I found to be most interesting was the people who had the least are the ones who said "Yes".

Sometimes. Leon would become so impressed with someone he offered them something. In a moment, I will explain what that "something" is.

Leon asked a family in South America if he could spend the night at their house. The father said "Yes". He explained that he had a wife and two children and other people

that were staying with him. When they got to this gentleman's house, Leon discovered that the house was very tiny. (I don't recall the exact number of rooms. I think it was a kitchen, living room, one bedroom and a bathroom.) Leon asked what was the most number of people that slept in this tiny house. The father answered, "Eight".

Now I will explain the "something". Leon was so impressed with the kindness this family showed to others, including strangers, that he said he would pay to have their house enlarged.

That surprised me! How could he pay to have this house enlarged? I had been trying to figure out how the camera crew that followed him around was paid. A sponsor?

To explain how Leon had the money to offer people who impressed him with their kindness, unselfishness, and desire to help others, I will quote from his website, leonlogothetis.com/about

Before Leon Logothetis became a global adventurer, TV host, motivational speaker, and best-selling author, he was living an uninspired and disconnected life as a broker in London. On the outside, it looked like he had it all. But inside, he was chronically depressed. He decided to do something radical about it—give it all up for a life on the road. He embarked on an adventure around the globe, fueled by the receiving and giving of kindness. On his journey, he found the essence of humanity and learned about the bonds that connect people worldwide. Through kindness, he discovered that when we start to compare ourselves by our similarities instead of our differences, we start to create a brighter future.

With so many things that are happening in the world today, and in our individual lives, it can be difficult to stay positive. But without positivity, there is no hope. Without hope there is no happiness. Without happiness there is despair. None of us want despair.

So, let's think and do positive things. I'm not suggesting we all follow in Leon's footsteps and drive around in a Volkswagen relying on the kindness of strangers. I'm suggesting we show kindness to our neighbors, to the clerks who help us in stores, to the people we pass on the street.

It doesn't take much to show kindness—a wave and a smile to a neighbor, a thank you to the clerks, walking slower on the sidewalk so an elderly person won't feel they are in your way.

I'm closing with two quotes from The Kindness Diaries TV series.
—If everyone gave a piece of bread the whole world would have food.—A Catholic Priest

—How you show up in the world matters.—Leon Logothetis

WRAP UP

Editorial comments on the issue



Looking over Judy's column this issue brings me to answering questions she's asked. Someone wants money to fill his gasoline tank. My answer would have to be that all my money's in checks; I seldom carry cash around with me any more. It's bad to see someone stranded, though, and I think what I'd have to do is call the situation to the attention of other people around there. Probably enough money could be gotten to fill his gas tank. That failing, dial 911, because it does amount to an emergency.

What really comes to my attention, though, is the stranger asking if he could stay overnight at my house. Here I'd have to get someone to contact "Home With Hope" to find him a place to stay, because it would be hard to tolerate having him in the house overnight. The fellow with the tiny house might be a comparison, and I'd have to admit that I have a larger house than that. I have a living room, a kitchen, a bathroom, four small bedrooms, and a basement. Due to this, I have had people I didn't even know staying at my house. My niece and her daughters got evicted, and I had to move them into my house, and they brought what were apparently boyfriends along, and those boyfriends would stay overnight and longer. One of them was sleeping on my front porch, another got set up in the garage. They had sheddings, but were insecure in them and had a tendency to be homeless. A couple of girls tried to move in, too, but my niece threw them out. Sometimes police were coming and they took three people away in cuffs. I wasn't calling the police but they were. There were extras, "friends", coming in after the boyfriends. We were trying to get them jobs. One fellow got one, bought a new car and took off in it, and my niece's daughter froze him out. They didn't always get along with these boyfriends, it went up and down. At one time three dogs moved in, but now there's just one dog and nine cats. I'd say these are hard times, and one just does what one can. At one time in the past people were lining up destitutes and putting them in various homes including ours, and we had four women lodgers over a number of

years. It looked like they might just keep living there, but some organization got them better, individual living quarters. When I mention Depression woes, these conditions also exist around here now. Places all over town are bankrupt. As I indicate in my editorial, I keep looking around to better social conditions. I try to be kind to people I deal with; it's the best way, and I feel better when I call a stranger "Jim" and perhaps pound fists with him, or go and mix at a park hard times festivity (sometimes they have Saturnalia music).

Of Jon Swartz's article, I have only learned recently that Damon Knight was famous. All that I ever read by him was HELL'S PAVEMENT and "Babylon II". Also he reviewed for **Science Fiction Adventures** (Larry Shaw's magazine) and I read those. Now I find that he was in on the origination of the N3F. I had always thought that Sam Moskowitz was the big man behind this organization. But Sam never raised his voice enough to take credit for what he did. THE IMMORTAL STORM was his big contribution.

Hasta la Vista, and it's been a nice nother issue of Origin.

