



The National **83** Fantasy Fan **Years**

Fandom's Second Oldest Print Publication
Cras ad Stellas — Tomorrow to the Stars
Volume 83 Number 2 February 2024

President's Message

I think I shall echo a theme of the fine thoughts of Judy Carroll in the previous issue. Said differently, we have fallen into something of a rut, where a small number of fen are active members, and other members are relatively inactive. We have a set of wonderful activities that are done well, and a set of important activities that are not getting done.

On the bright side, we have an increasing number of people taking over old activities. Mindy Hunt is doing a fine job with FanActivity Gazette. Her other half will be taking on Films Fantastic. The web site has a new caretaker. We may well have a new editor for the sadly neglected Eldritch Science.

Recognition should also go to the fine members who are already active. You can see most of them listed on the next page.

The most important missing activity is outreach. I could talk about where to do outreach, but perhaps more important is the message, the branding. What does the N3F offer fen around the world that makes us worth joining? How do we reduce that message to a few words? We are an ancient and honorable part of fannish tradition. Join us. Be a part of history in the making. Or perhaps "Only science fiction club wit a gourmet bureau"?

Once upon a time, we had a committee whose task it

was to contact non-renewing members and asking them why they did not renew.

We have been in this boat before. At one time, the N3F was down to a single dues-paying member. Barely two decades ago, a handful of members kept the N3F alive. We have come up from there, but as you can see from this newsletter we have not come up to the standard of the 1950s or 1960s, when we had hundreds of active dues-paying members.

N3F Laureate Awards

There was limited discussion sent to me on the N3F Laureate Awards. Based on the input and past record, the various anime and comic awards will be merged into one award.

Just as last year, you may nominate up to two entries in each category. We may do a preliminary ballot to reduce the number of entries in a category to five or so. Voters will assign points to each entry in a category, except in the None of the Above category, where the vote on each nomination will be "Yes" or "No". The responder 'no award' will not be counted.

N3F Officers and their creations are not eligible for awards. Awards to authored works, e.g., novels, are to the authors. Awards to collective creations, e.g., motion pictures, are to the creation.

What are the awards for this year?



The March TNFF Submission Deadline is March 15th.

**The deadline for the 2024 Short Story Contest is December 31.
For rules, see page 11, which announces the 2024 Contest.**



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Continued Next Column, Middle

Best Fan Writer
 Best Fan Artist
 Best Fan Editor
 Best Fan Web Site
 Best Non-N3F Fan Publication (electronic publication is allowed)
 Best N3F Fanzine
 Best Novel (over 100,000 words)
 Best Shorter Work under 100,000 words) or Anthology
 Best Animation (anime/cartoon), Manga/Comic Book/Graphic Novel

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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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Best Book Editor
 Best Pro Artist, cover or otherwise
 Best Television Show, Film, or Video
 Best Literary-Critical Work
 Best History of SF Work
 Best None of the Above

Letters of Comment

Editors:

I think Judy Carroll has brought up a good point when she speaks of the comparison of postal and electronic mail. Electronic mail is too transient and lacks substantiality. Regardless of the many improvements the use of email has brought about it gives users little to hold onto. I suggest we take more interest in ground mail and not be disappearing from the segment of fandom who don't have computers, but are still a part of science fiction fandom. –John Thiel

Dear Neffers:

Many thanks for The National Fantasy Fan, Vol. 83, No. 1, another year of N3F publications. As always, things to see and read, and things to say afterwards.

We all applaud the writers and artists, and other creators in SF today. Their efforts fuel fandom, and science fiction as a whole. Can't do it without them. Still, I have to wonder if our fuel supply is stable, and if and when will we, literally, run out of gas. Perhaps I shouldn't write these things, but given how decimated fandom is, has it been the same for our SF creators?

I certainly understand Judy Carroll's essay. I entered fandom in December of 1977. When I started attending a fan club in Victoria, British Columbia, I found lots of interesting people doing all kinds of interesting things. That tailed off to some degree before the pandemic, which killed some fans, and sickened many who were told by many others that it was safer to stay home. To be totally honest, fandom here is mostly moribund.

My loc...I am typing this up at home, but once again, I composed them in that coffee shop very

close to where I work. I have received the 40 N3F flyers you sent to me, and I will take them to the NASFiC, the World Fantasy Convention, and Loscon 50, if you don't already have someone doing that.

I have been working on getting caught up with Amazing Stories, and I think I can say that I am there, but now comes a new project. Amazing is now preparing a book, called The Best of 2023, and the cover will say it's edited by me. Can't wait! Got some writing to do for it, intros for each story, plus one overall, I expect, and it will have my name on the front as the editor, and I couldn't be happier, and my dream is coming true.

Time to go...thanks for this, and see you with the next. Yours, Lloyd Penney

Dear Neffers:

It's taken me a while to get around to writing this LoC because 2024 has already been a crazy year filled with activity. Thank you to everyone who voted in the election for the Directorate. It is my honor to serve the N3F, and I hope that I can make a meaningful contribution. I've greatly been enjoying reading all of the zines! And a huge congratulations to the recent contest winners! I lament hearing about Ionisphere no longer being produced, and a big thank you to John Thiel for keeping it going for so long. For our community to thrive we need participation, so I urge members to get involved, so we can all do this together.

Jean-Paul L. Garnier

Hi George and Jon;

Received the latest TNFF and that I would send out a few brief comments.

It was certainly good to hear that the N3F short story contest had such a strong turnout this year. The prize winning stories all sound interesting. I hope we get a chance to read them in the pages of Eldritch Science or some other club zine very soon. Making the annual contest open to everyone, including non-club members seems to have kept a lot of variety in the entries.

Sorry to read about John Thiel's computer woes.

He should be able to get a replacement computer for not too much expense. The price of new machines has come down a lot in the past few years, but even cheaper would be if he picked up a rebuilt computer. They function just fine and a rebuilt machine costs much less than a new one. Local tech support or a computer savvy friend can move the contents of his old hard drive onto the new computer thru the use of PC Mover or similar software and he can be back in biz in no time at all.

Judy Carroll's comments are timely, but I think everyone has to realize that back in Ye Olden Days, the last century to be exact, when fanzines and fanac was delivered via the US Mail and in-person club or convention events, that there were a lot fewer fans around than there are now. The phrase "a proud and lonely thing to be a fan" was true because there just weren't that many active science fiction/fantasy fans out there. Many of us existed as island personalities, devoted to the literature and the TV/movies derived from the genre, but it was highly unlikely that there were many people within a fan's circle of acquaintances, or even within the same city, who shared the same interest in stf that he did. That was especially true when it came to finding other people with the desire to communicate and interact with other like-minded individuals. Clubs, when they existed, were small, and fragmented easily when core members moved away to school or to new jobs. Conventions, even World Cons, were modest affairs with not that many people in attendance.

It's a whole new world now. The Science fiction and fantasy genres are major segments of the entertainment and literary worlds, and there are literally millions of fans out there who are interested in talking about their interest in the stuff. I don't think we should be shocked or upset when modern fans use modern forms of communication to keep in touch with one another. Email is fast, free, and offers nearly instant communication with like-minded people.

The N3F continues to offer many activities and services that fans, even today's high-tech fans, can make use of, and I hope we can continue to expand our outreach to even more people in the hobby.

We have a lot to offer, but not everyone is going to be interested in every one of the club activities. We should certainly honor the past, but we have to keep the club relevant to the new generation as well.

I was surprised by Lloyd Penney's comments in the letter column that (apparently) conventions in his area no longer have flyer hand-out tables. Huh! Strange indeed. I've never been to any kind of stf or game related convention past or present that didn't have a flyer/general announcement table. Many cons have tables for free fanzines and even free books/CDs/music cassettes as well. Is this just something unique to his part of Canada, or is the non-flyer situation becoming a new normal?

Jon's article on Elizabeth "Betsy" Curtis concentrated on her published StF works, but she was much better known as a fan. In fact most people in the hobby regarded her fanac highly, but mostly considered her as one of those people who had "sold a few" to the pro-mags. Sixteen stories and at least that many published poems is certainly more than "a few", and as Jon noted, several of her stories were nominated for awards and appeared in Best Of anthologies. It is unfortunate that she didn't write more fiction during her long life, but I guess inspiration strikes when and wherever it does.

I note this is nomination time for the Neffy Awards. I'll have to think about it and get back to you with my few nominations this time round.

Another good TNFF issue. I look forward to the next one. —Bob Jennings

Treasury

PayPal balance \$237.21
Out: \$80 for N3F Short Story Contest Prizes

NSB balance: \$2460.34

2 life members+ 20 electronic + 17 regular = 39 voting members
8 archive members + 244 public members = 252 non-voting members

Expiring this month: Michael McLain, Jeff

Club News

Directors' View

JeffersonSwycaffer writes: I'm up for February, and I don't have a lot to comment on. There's been no real official Directorate business, and those things that I work on directly are going pretty well. I just finished business for the 2023 Short Story Contest, which I believe went well, although we didn't have as many story submissions this time than the year before. Publicity for the contest is hard work, and our President and our Treasurer have been putting in effort to let people know about the contest. N'APA is going reasonably well, although we lost a contributing member because of computer problems. N'APA is more complicated than it should be, because ^^ have computer problems. I don't know of any other issues, schmozzles, tsuris, or problems, and I hope that the Directorate is spared having to convene to address any such for the foreseeable future. The N3F is a second home to me, and I want to see it thrive

Round Robins Bureau

Welcome one and all. We have two kinds of Round Robins available, Netflix Streaming and Postal Mail.

Netflix Streaming Round Robins (NSRR)

The Travelers NSRR was completed on August 4th. I am happy to announce it was a success!!! If you would like to know what the members had to say about this Round Robin, you can find their responses in the August, 2023 issue of TNFF. We are offering Travelers again in case the above reviews have piqued your interest.

Travelers - 3 seasons - Members and RM needed.
New series - Black Mirror Needs at least one other member to start.

This series has a RM and 1 other member.

We have two NSRR waiting for RM and members -
Stranger Things - 4 seasons - Netflix says the 5th and final season will be coming.

Raising Dion - Raising Dion - 2 seasons -on-going

Please contact me if you are interested in joining and/or becoming a RM.

If you have a suggestion for a NSRR please contact me.

- 1 - A member chooses the series he/she wishes to watch.
- 2 - When they have decided which series they wish to watch they contact me and I will tell them whether there are enough members to begin the RR
- 3- When there are 2 members, and the Robin Master, the RR will begin.
- 4 - The Robin Master (RM) emails the Netflix Streaming Round Robin (NSRR) members with a schedule. Two episodes a week are recommended when starting the RR. However, more episodes a week can be considered if the members choose to do so. ALL members must agree to the number of episodes watched in a week. We want this to be a fun adventure. Not a cumbersome one.
- 5 - Once the required episodes for that week have been viewed, that member will email each member in a joint email with their comments. At the top of the email the episodes viewed should be listed.
- 6 - Repeat steps 4 & 5 each week until the series ends.

Postal Mail

Postal Mail is the traditional Round Robin (RR). Members who have chosen the same topic discuss their likes and dislikes. Each RR needs at least three members and a Robin Master (RM). When enough members have signed up the RM will send them a letter explaining how the RR works. (If you want to know more about how a RR works before you join, please let me know and I will give you more information. My email address and postal address are listed at the end of this article.)

We have the following Postal Mail RR at this time:
Worldwide Folklore RR
Heroic Women.

If you have any questions about either of these RR, or wish to join, please contact me by email, if possible, or by postal mail. My email and postal address are at the end of this article. If anyone is interested in starting a new RR, please contact me. I will put the information in the next TNFF as "seeking mem-

bers." If interested in joining either of the RR above please contact me. My contact information is at the end of this article.

Contact: Judy Carroll, 971 East 120 South, Spanish Fork, Utah 84660; OR Email : blueshadows2012@gmail.com

Welcome to the Writers Exchange

Following is what I have planned for 2024:

- Quotes by writers.
 - Topic discussions
 - Interviews with N3F writers
 - Writing exercises, questions and challenges
 - And anything else I can think of connected to writing -
- Suggestions are welcome.

Writers Quote for the Month

"You should write because you love the shape of stories and sentences and the creation of different words on a page. Writing comes from reading, and reading is the finest teacher of how to write." Anne Proulx *

I like books, and stories that have detail in them. I don't mean details like how many buttons on a shirt, or how many red cars are in the shop being fixed. I like details that describe the scenes we are in as we are reading.

If I am in a park I want to know something about the park. Is it a big park, or a little park? Are there a lot of people or no people? I want to feel as if I am walking through the park observing what is going on. I want to be there. I want to feel the wind on my face, and hear the laughter of playing children. I want to jump out of the way before that crazy kid on the bicycle runs me down. I like dialogue, but not too much of it at once. I like it short and to the point.

Now, you may have noticed that the first paragraph is a lot longer than the second paragraph. (If you can call it that.) I do better with detail. I like finding the right words to describe how someone is feeling, or the terror encasing their mind as they realize something terrible is about to happen to them. I would

like our writers to tell us how they feel about details and dialogue when reading a story. Also, which do they use the most when writing - detail or dialogue, or both? Responses will appear in the March TNFF. Please respond. I would like to know that others are reading this article other than myself, the writer, and George and Jon, the TNFF Editors.

Welcommittee

We have no new members to greet this month.

Being active is the most fulfilling way to enjoy being a member of the National Fantasy Fan Federation. Please read the current TNFF for a list of the many activities and bureaus you can join. If you find a bureau or activity you are interested in, please contact the head of the bureau or activity for more information. The purpose of the Welcommittee is to welcome new members to the club and to help them find an activity or bureau with members that have the same likes and interests.

If you have questions about the N3F or are interested in helping with the Welcommittee please contact: Judy Carroll at BlueShadows2012@gmail.com

Awards Committee

The N3F has its awards, the Laureate Awards, the first science fiction fan awards ever given. This year we are giving them again. Please nominate and vote.

There other more recent awards in science fiction fandom, not all of which are currently given, such as the Hugo Gernsback Awards and the John Campbell Award.

This year a great scandal has arisen with respect to the Hugo Awards. It seems that the vote totals are irregular. There are accusations that a large number of ballots from Chinese fans were removed or not counted correctly, which might well have cheated Chinese writers of their awards. Other nominees were perhaps disqualified, an action done by the Western members of the Hugo Awards committee, because of their politics. (In addition, a small number of nominees were apparently disqualified by the Chinese government because their works violated Chinese pornography laws.) You can read much

more about the scandal on Mike Glycer's File770.com.

Correspondence Bureau

"In a very real sense, we are all Aliens on a strange planet. We spend most of our lives reaching out and trying to communicate. If during our whole lifetime, we could reach out and really communicate with just two people we are indeed very fortunate."

Gene Roddenberry

Following are the names, interests and contact information of members seeking correspondence:

Jeffrey Redmond - by Email - redmondjeff@hotmail.com;
by Postal Mail 1335 Beechwood St NE, Grand Rapids, MI49505-3830

I am an old Star Trek of the original television show days. I enjoy both Fantasy and Science Fiction. My favorite author is me with my Chronicles of Erda fantasy fiction books. My hobbies include reading, writing, watching TV, and meeting with friends. I have books and memorabilia collections, and try to keep up with my cat.

John Thiel - by Email - kinethiel@outlook.com I am interested in things I haven't seen much that have something about them that gives me a feeling of looking for more about them. Magazines which have interested me have been The Readers Digest, Future Science Fiction, Space Stories, Jack and Jill Magazine, Startling Stories and Thrilling Wonder Stories, Arizona Highways and others; Television shows that have interested me have been Tales of Tomorrow, The Sid Caesar show, Roy Rogers, Sky King, Masterpiece Theater; interesting books have been the mysteries of Mary Roberts Rinehart, Groff Conklin's anthologies, Tales of the Supernatural, the writings of Sigmund Freud, the life of Françoise Villon, The Big Push by Mickey Spillane, Theodore Sturgeon's books, Leo Margules' anthologies, Peyton Place; Movies of interest were the Voyages of Ulysses, The Life of Omar Khayyam, The House of Wax, Kiss Me Deadly; comics of interest were Dick Tracy, Little Orphan Annie,

King Aroo; radio shows, Sky King, Boston Blackie, Marty Faye. Interesting places, Venice, California, the Florida Everglades, Valparaiso, Indian

Steve Condrey - By Email - gscondrey@gmail.com
Favorite genres: science fiction and fantasy, also some true crime and historical fiction. I particularly enjoy military and post-apocalyptic science fiction (but not of the "retired Navy SEAL who just happens to own a ranch in Montana bugs out amid a rampaging zombie horde that's totally not a proxy for societal undesirables" variety of apocalypse).
Favorite authors: Like many others, I cut my teeth on Robert Heinlein, Ray Bradbury, and Isaac Asimov. I also enjoy Robert E. Howard, Octavia Butler, Andre Norton, Anne McCaffrey, and Frederik Pohl. Among writers who are still alive and active today, I like Harry Turtledove, Larry Niven, Robert Sawyer, David Weber, and S. M. Stirling. Movies and TV shows: Star Trek, Babylon 5, Star Wars, Doctor Who, Aliens, Blade Runner, Conan the Barbarian (1980).

I do like to write, but haven't worked up the nerve to publish something. Maybe getting more involved here will help me get to that point (I hope!) Outside of fandom, I am active in my local astronomy club. I edit their newsletter and occasionally do outreach activities. I also volunteer at my church. Most of all, my wife, two kids (ages 16 and 12), and a fluctuating menagerie of house pets.

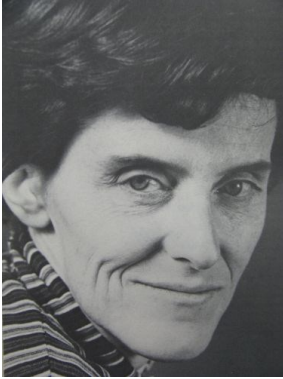
Judy Carroll - By Email BlueShadows2012@gmail.com; by Postal Mail, 975 E 120 S, Spanish Fork, UT 84660
My favorite genres are Science Fiction and Murder Mysteries. My favorite authors are Shirley Jackson, Ray Bradbury, Dean Koontz, and Julie E. Czerneda. I like to write short stories and poems. I love being around young children. Their laughter, happiness, and excitement are contagious.

If you would like to join the Correspondence Bureau and have your name and interests listed please contact me.

Send email requests to : Judy Carroll BlueShadows2012@gmail.com OR
Send postal mail requests to: Judy Carroll 975 E 120 S Spanish Fork, UT 84660

Katherine MacLean Bio-Bibliography

by
Jon D. Swartz
N3F Historian



Katherine Anne (Kate) MacLean was born in Glen Ridge, New Jersey, on January 22, 1925; in 1950, she took a B. A. degree from Barnard College, New York. She later did postgraduate study in psychology, and then worked as a college lecturer on creative writing and literature.

Much of her writing consisted of short stories; her first, "Defense Mechanism," was an early Astounding "psi-boom contribution" (October, 1949).

Pseudonyms/Collaborations

She generally wrote under her own name, although some early stories, like "Syndrome Johnny" (June, 1951, *Galaxy*), were as by Charles Dye (Charles Dye was her husband during 1950 – 1953); and one appeared as by G. A. Morris. She was later married to David Mason, and then to Carl West.

MacLean was in the vanguard of those science fiction (SF) writers who attempted "to apply to the soft sciences the machinery of the hard sciences in a generally optimistic reading of the potentials of that application." Her competence in dealing with technological matters may reflect the wide range of occupations she held in her mundane life.

She collaborated with Mary Kornbluth, widow of SF author Cyril Kornbluth, on the short story, "Chicken Soup," (Winter, 1973, *Weird Tales*).

Collected Genre Fiction

Some of her stories were collected in *The Diploids and Other Flights of Fancy* (1962), and then later in *The Trouble with You Earth People* (1980).

In addition, many of MacLean's early stories have been anthologized. Perhaps the best-known are

"Pictures Don't Lie" (August, 1951, *Galaxy*), which tells of the arrival of an alien spaceship which seems normal according to advance radio signals, but turns out to be little more than microscopic; "The Snowball Effect" (September, 1952, *Galaxy*), a satire on social engineering in which a ladies' knitting circle expands to become the strongest political pressure group in the USA and potentially the world; and "Unhuman Sacrifice" (November, 1958 *Astounding*), an important piece of anthropological SF in which a visiting exploration team on another planet misreads an initiation ceremony as needless when its purpose is to prevent a damaging biological change.

SF Series

Notable is her "Hills of Space" series, dealing with the settling of the asteroids by refugees, fugitives, and the poor; it includes the following stories: "Incommunicado" (June, 1950, *Astounding/Ace Books*, 1962), "The Man Who Staked the Stars" (July, 1952, *Planet Stories*, as by Charles Dye), "Collision Orbit" (May, 1954, *Science Fiction Adventures*), "The Gambling Hell and the Sinful Girl" (January, 1975, *Analog*), and a novel provisionally titled "The Hills of Space."

SF Themes in Stories

MacLean's first novel, *Cosmic Checkmate* (March, 1958, *Astounding*), with Charles de Vet, combines space opera with speculations on a society whose hierarchy is built around skill at a particular board game.

Missing Man (1975), which contains her 1971 Nebula - winning story "The Missing Man" (March, 1971, *Analog*), deals with the exploits of an esper whose telepathy is a kind of sonar device enabling him to trace people emitting emotional distress signals; he cooperates with New York's Rescue Squad and goes to their aid.

Dark Wing (1979), with her third husband, Carl West, is a juvenile and presents a world in which medicine is forbidden; a teenager learns to become an outlaw surgeon by studying a medical kit, a remnant of times past.

Noteworthy Publications

- Cosmic Checkmate (NY: Ace Books, 1962) [with Charles V. de Vet]
- Second Game (NY: DAW Books, 1981) [with Charles V. de Vet]
- The Man in the Bird Cage (NY: Ace Books, 1971)
- Missing Man (NY: Putnam's Sons, 1975)
- Dark Wing (NY: Atheneum, 1979) [with Carl West]
- Web of the Worlds (Medford, OR: Armchair Fiction, 2012) [with Harry Harrison]
- The Diploids and Other Flights of Fancy (NY: Avon Books, 1962)
- The Trouble with you Earth People (Norfolk, VA: The Donning Company/Starblaze, 1980)
- Trouble with Treaties (Tacoma, WA: Lanthorne Press, 1975) [with Tom Condit]
- The Man Who Staked the Stars (Project Gutenberg, 2010) [as by Charles Dye]

Radio Adaptations of Stories

Two of her stories were adapted for broadcasting on radio, both on NBC's X Minus One: "The Snowball Effect" on August 14, 1956; and "Pictures Don't Lie" on October 24, 1956.

Awards/Honors/Recognitions

MacLean received a Nebula Award in 1971 for her novella "The Missing Man" (Analog, March, 1971); she was a Professional Guest of Honor at the first WisCon in 1977; she won the Cordwainer Smith Rediscovery Award in 2011; and she was honored in 2003 by the SFWA as an Author Emeritus.

Critical Comments

Genre author/critic Damon Knight wrote, "As a science fiction writer she has few peers; her work is not only technically brilliant but has a rare human warmth and richness." Fellow author Brian Aldiss noted that she could "do the hard stuff magnificently," while Theodore Sturgeon observed that she

"generally starts from a base of hard science, or rationalizes psi phenomena with beautifully finished logic."

For Davin's *Partners in Wonder: Women and the Birth of Science Fiction, 1926-1965*, MacLean supplied a detailed description of her negotiations with editor John W. Campbell in regard to the publication of her earliest stories.

Conclusions

Her career was intermittent, and it seemed that she had finally retired around 1980; but from 1994 on, she published occasionally in collaboration with Carl West, her third husband. Famous SF fan Dave Kyle once wrote: "Kate MacLean was an unabashed advocate of 'free love' and took some explicit photos with Charlie Dye." MacLean contributed a chapter, "Alien Minds and Nonhuman Intelligences," to Bretnor's *The Craft of Science Fiction*.

She died September 1, 2009, age 94, survived by her son, Christopher Mason.

Sources

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Note: In addition to the above, several Internet sites were consulted, including Fancyclopedia 3, ISFDB, and Wikipedia.

N3F The National Fantasy Fan Federation

Fans of as many
hues and sizes
as dragons!

Covering all branches of SF: science fiction, fantasy, horror, occult, and more
Including books, films, manga, television, anime, comics

Nine fanzines emailed to your computer

The National Fantasy Fan -- monthly newszine

Tightbeam -- monthly Reviews

Ionisphere -- Fan-Pro Interactions

Origin -- monthly fan history

Eldritch Science -- Fiction

Mangaverse -- manga and anime

N'APA -- amateur press association

Fanactivity Gazette -- monthly Fandom news

The N3F Review of Books -- monthly book reviews



Interest Bureaus
Short Story Contest
Writer's Exchange

Art
Book Reviews
Birthday cards
Fannish history
Games

Round Robins
Fan-Pro Coordination
APA
Gourmet Bureau



Membership Levels

Electronic -- \$6/year with email of TNFF

Family -- \$4/year (regular/ electronic member at same address)

Public -- free, but non-voting

To Join: <https://n3f.org/to-join/>
PayPal to pay: treasurer@n3f.org

Public Membership: send
phillies@4liberty.net your name and email
address



2024 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest

Story Contest Rules and Entry Blank

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

1. This contest is open to all amateur writers in the field, regardless of whether they're members of the National Fantasy Fan Federation. For the purposes of this contest, we define an amateur as someone who has sold no more than two (2) stories to professional science fiction or fantasy publications.
2. Stories entered in the contest must be original, unpublished, not longer than 8,500 words in length—and must be related to the science fiction, fantasy, or similar genres in the opinion of the judge.
3. Email attachments of Word documents are acceptable for submission. Manuscripts on paper should be typed, single sided on 8 1/2"-by- 11" white paper, double spaced, with pages numbered. The name of the author should not appear anywhere on the manuscript to ensure impartial judging. Photocopies are acceptable, if they are of good quality. Computer printouts must be legible.
4. Contestants can enter up to three stories. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) if you would like your story returned at the end of the contest. Stories will not be returned without an SASE. Do not send your only copy in case of accidental loss. We are not responsible for lost manuscripts.
5. Email entries will be accepted. Send to Jefferson P. Swycaffer at abontides@gmail.com. No guarantee can be made of email receipt. Privacy and property rights will be absolutely respected. No one other than the Short Story Judge will ever see the submission.
6. **There are no entry fees.**
7. Cash prizes totaling \$100 will be awarded as follows: First prize is \$50, second \$30, and third \$20. Honorable mentions and semi-finalists will receive a certificate of award.
8. Send all manuscripts to the contest manager: Jefferson Swycaffer, P. O. Box 15373, San Diego, CA 92175-5373; abontides@gmail.com. Emails with the story attached in word format are preferred. Paper manuscripts are acceptable. All entries must be received or postmarked no later than Dec. 31, 2024.
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 2025. 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, 2024. 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 2024 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



President's Message

N3F Laureate Awards

Letters of Comment

John Thiel—Lloyd Penney—Jean-Paul L. Garnier —Bob Jennings

Treasury

Club News

Directors' View—Round Robins Bureau—Welcome to the Writers Exchange
Welcommittee—Awards Committee—Correspondence Bureau

Katherine MacLean BioBibliography

Short Story Contest

N3F TNFF
c/o George Phillips
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