



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

Fandom's Second Oldest Print Publication
Cras ad Stellas — Tomorrow to the Stars
Volume 83 Number 5 May 2024

Kaymar Award

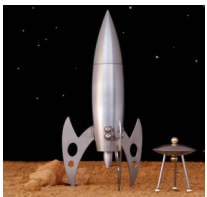
Jon Swartz writes: As the Kaymar Award election teller, I declare the 2024 Kaymar Award won by Tiffanie Gray.

The Kaymar Award is given in April every year, supposedly because the N3F was organized in the month of April. 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.

Franson Awards

The Franson Award was originally called the N3F President's Award. It was renamed in honor of Donald Franson. This award started because past N3F Presidents wanted to give a show of appreciation to people, even those who have won the Kaymar Award.

As your President, I am pleased to bestow the Franson Award on A.C. Cargill (for much extremely te-



The June TNFF Submission Deadline is June 16th.

**The deadline for the 2024 Short Story Contest is December 31.
For rules, see our web pages, which announce the 2024 Contest.**



dious work improving our web pages),, and to Mindy and Jason P. Hunt, for dramatically improving the quality of our newszine, the N3F FanActivity Gazette.

FrankinZine

Our new N3F zine is FrankinZine, the zine of the N3F Franking Bureau.

The Franking Bureau reflects one of the original purposes of the club, redistributing fanzines to subscribers. Thanks to electronics, the Franking Project is once again practicable.

However, there has been a competition between the steps we take to ship the zines to members, and the steps spam defenders take to make it impossible to ship spam to the same members. In recent months, we were losing. A letter with a few attached fanzines was enough to trigger spam blockades that stopped all of our email messages to some ISPs.

Finally the solution was found: FrankinZine, the Zine of the N3F Franking Service. FrankinZine is unique among N3F fanzines. It is prepared as a single ZIP file. Zines are read by extracting them from a single zipped file. FrankinZine is not mailed. FrankinZine is put up on the N3F web site, as a single file, to be found at tnfff.org/frankinzine.

The first issue of FrankinZine is now available.

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Continued Next Column, Middle

Laureate Awards

We have reached the time to vote on this year's Laureate Awards. The Laureate Awards are the oldest awards in fandom, first given in 1941, honoring all manner of fannish and stfnal activity. The ballot and instructions are on page 7. Please vote. You have until June 15 to transmit your votes to the N3F Laureate Award Administrator, George Phillies, phillies@4liberty.net.

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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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 Published monthly by The National Fantasy Fan Federation. Send material for this zine as electronic files (txt or rtf preferred, images as jpgs, do not send PDFs) to the Editor: George Phillies, 48 Hancock Hill Drive, Worcester MA 01609, phillies@4liberty.net The submission deadline for each issue is the 15th of the month.

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I had asked people to write endorsements, and there have been a number of these in different places, I received one more, from Chris Nuttall, for his Editor, Barb Caffrey.

"Over a decade ago, Barb was introduced to me as an editor who would be perfect for my latest, at the time, novel: Schooled in Magic. Since then, it is no exaggeration to say that Barb has worked closely with me on many other projects - fantasy, science-fiction, alternate history - and that she has made an extremely valuable, in fact irreplaceable, contribution to my work. The SIM universe would not be so deep or broad, and it would certainly have not grown to over thirty books, without her.

She is also a decent writer in her own right, as well as an excellent sounding board and - dare I say? - a good friend. She deserves this award, and many more besides."

View from the Directorate by J.-P. L. Garnier

Greeting fellow Neffers!

It's been exciting to see FanActivity Gazette and Films Fantastic both alive and thriving, thank you Mindy and Jason! And it's also been sad to see Ionisphere go, a heartfelt thanks to John Thiel for keeping it going for so long, and good luck with your computer problems (Urrgh! I hate those!). Naturally, things are always in motion and changing, but it takes the work of dedicated individuals to make wonderful and fun things happen, such as all of these great zines.

Which brings me to a question, why aren't more N3F members actively involved? I know there are a lot of us, and that we all love SFF, but I (gratefully) see the same folks writing LoCs and contributing, while a silent majority remains in the shadows. I want to hear from all of those folks too, and really, the more the merrier. It would also be excellent to see more folks sign up as voting members as well. As a club, we have the cheapest dues around, and we can all participate in nominating and voting for our favorite SFF endeavors. Speaking of which, it's excellent to have the Laureate

Awards happening every year. Especially with the recent Hugo debacle giving fan awards a bad wrap, we can do better at N3F (and do). SFF is constantly updating itself, breaking new ground, and having new voices emerge. Let's celebrate that together and do what we can to help it shine.

I will be guest editing one issue of Eldritch Science this summer, which I don't really have time for but am looking forward to anyway. But we still need volunteers to step in at the helm of some of our zines. It's a great way to gain experience as an editor, and to have the thrill of creating a zine. There are so many fun fanzines out there, proving that fandom is alive and well, but why not join one of ours, or create your own? It's easier than ever, and if you are doing it digitally it costs nothing. What do you have to lose? Let's talk about the SFF books, magazines, and movies we love while giving their authors a boost in exposure.

Jean-Paul L. Garnier
spacecowboybooks@gmail.com

Needed: Membership Secretary by George Phillis

I am proposing a significant change to the Bylaws.

For a long time, we had a "Secretary", who was really the Membership Secretary. The Secretary kept the Membership Records. A certain former member occupied both offices, and proposed that the offices be merged by eliminating the Secretary. We did as recommended. Then he quit the club. Fortunately, Kevin Trainor rode to the rescue and became Treasurer.

I have discussed the current situation with Kevin. Now that he is running his convention, not to mention having his highly seasonal job, he is really too busy to do the Membership Secretary work in a thorough manner. I therefore propose to review the Bylaws to divide the Treasurer office into a Treasurer position and a Membership Secretary position, and find a new Membership Secretary. The first step is the Bylaws revision.

Before we go any farther than this, I would like

your reaction to the general proposal. There may also be devils in the details, but there is no point in advancing if a substantial part of the membership is significantly opposed to the proposal.

Please respond with Letters of Comment.

Letter of Comment

Dear George and Jon:

Time for another fast loc, this time on *The National Fantasy Fan*, Vol. 83, No. 4. I'm sure no. 5 is on the go, so here goes nuthin'...

I know what I have said about volunteering in the past, but I do know we are all busy people. Making a living, or at least trying to, takes up more time than ever, so kudos to those who can spare the time to help the N3F.

My loc...I've been quite busy assisting Kermit Woodall with the construction of the *Amazing Stories Best of 2023* book, adding introductory blurbs and biographies. It will take some time yet, but it is coming, and I just think it will be great.

I now know a lot more about Wilmar Shiras...I certainly recognize the name, but thought that Wilmar was a male name! (There is a Wilmar Ave. not far from where I live.) There are stories I greatly enjoyed, so thanks for another fine writer who hasn't had much time in the spotlight. There's a lot of writers like that.

"I'd like to have money. And I'd like to be a good writer. These two can come together, and I hope they will, but if that's too adorable, I'd rather have money." "I hate writing; I love having written." Ah, Dorothy Parker was a fountain of quotable quotes. I certainly agree with her, but I'd extend that to any activity where it can be hard (but not impossible) to succeed.

Gotta go make some dinner soon, so I've got to turn the over on. Thank you for these issues, and I hope I am contributing something to the final product. See you with the next final product.

Yours,
Lloyd Penney

SerCon

Bea Mahaffey Bio-Bibliography

by

Jon D. Swartz, Ph.D.

N3F Historian



Beatrice (Bea) Mahaffey was an American science fiction (SF) fan and magazine editor. She was born on August 21, 1928, in Cincinnati, Ohio; and died in Hamilton, Ohio, on March 28, 1987. Her obituary appeared in the May, 1987, issue of the genre magazine, *Locus*.

She met SF editor/writer Raymond Palmer in 1949 at the World SF Convention in Cleveland (Cinvention), and was hired to assist him at Clark Publications (the publishing company he had formed after he left the editorship of *Amazing Stories*), in Evanston, Illinois.

Editorial Work

She worked on Palmer's new SF prozine, *Other Worlds*, beginning in May, 1950; Palmer was incapacitated by an accident shortly after she was hired, but tried to remain involved with the magazine from his hospital bed.

As a consequence of this accident, Mahaffey was listed as either Co-Editor or Managing Editor of *Other Worlds* from November, 1952, to July, 1953, and then again from May, 1955, to November, 1955. In the early 1950s, another woman, Marge Sanders Budwig, was listed as an Associate Editor.

Bea and Marge were also listed on the editorial staff of Palmer's *Fate Magazine* in the early 1950s, probably when Palmer was incapacitated and needed all the help he could get with his magazines. *Fate* was Palmer's magazine of paranormal and unexplained phenomena.

Mahaffey also co-edited both *Science Stories*

(October, 1953 – April, 1954) and Universe Science Fiction (June, 1953 – March, 1955) with Palmer, along with the first four issues of his magazine of fiction and non-fiction on occult topics, Mystic Magazine (November, 1953 – May, 1954).

It has been reported that Bea lost interest in Mystic when Palmer started leaving out SF and fantasy stories in favor of so-called non-fiction articles on the occult. Mystic later was re-titled Search Magazine (published by Palmer Publications), with contents much like Palmer's former magazine, Fate.

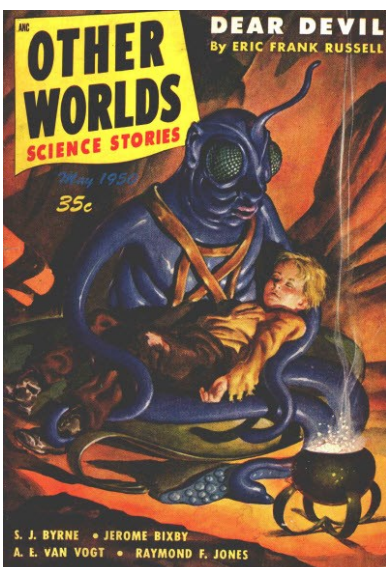
Pseudonym

Bea used the pseudonym of George Bell (with Palmer), when they both edited the first two issues of Universe Science Fiction in 1953.

Critical Comments

SF historians Mike Ashley and E. F. Casebeer both consider that she had a strong positive influence on the various Palmer prozines, and probably was responsible for acquiring some of the better material that Palmer published.

For example, she is credited with purchasing Eric Frank Russell's story, "Dear Devil," that was published in the May, 1950, issue of Other Worlds and was nominated for a Hugo Award in 1951. This story is still highly regarded today.



After Palmer closed his offices in Evanston, Illinois in 1955, Mahaffey continued to work on the magazine by mail from Cincinnati.

In 1956, an unexpected tax bill forced Palmer to lay off Mahaffey, and he had to run his magazines by himself from that point on.

"I'm Bea"

Earlier, Mahaffey had introduced herself to readers in an essay titled "I'm Bea" in the March, 1955, issue of Universe Science Fiction -- that listed both her and Palmer as editors.

This was the last issue titled Universe Science Fiction. The title of the magazine reverted back to Other Worlds after this issue.

In her brief essay, Bea wrote, in part: "I am the editor of this magazine. I have the job of picking out the stories, polishing them up, and getting the illustrations for them, doing the actual work of producing the magazine for the printer. It isn't an easy job, but I love my work."

This statement appeared, along with a photo of her, looking lovely as usual, at her desk. Readers who read this statement must have wondered just what editor Ray did.

Cincinnati Fantasy Group

Bea was an active member of the Cincinnati Fantasy Group (CFG), serving for years as its secretary, even after she left Cincinnati to work with Palmer on Other Worlds. Other members of CFG at the time included fans Charles Tanner, D. C. Richardson, Lou Tabakov, Dale Tarr, and Don Ford. Ford was chairman of Cvention, where Bea met Palmer.

Bea's sister, Pat Lake, was also active in the CFG in the 1940s – 1950s; Pat was later the subject of a hoax appearance at the 1954 Supermancon, held in Manchester, England.

Nadis' biography of Palmer has two photos of Bea, one showing her at Midwest Con 2 in 1951, and the other showing her with other members of the CFG in 1949.

Mahaffey Popularity

Mahaffey was very popular with SF fandom in the 1950s. Nadis has written that "fans flocked to the Clark Publishing offices to get a glimpse of her,"

and that male fans “pined for her” and frequently reported “Bea sightings” in their fanzines.

Honors/Awards/Recognitions

She was honored at BEACON, the celebration of Irish Fandom during Bea’s visit to Ireland before the Coroncon, held May 23 -- 24, 1953 (Whitsun weekend), at the Bonnington Hotel on Southampton Row in London. Bea was elected to the First Fandom Hall of Fame in 1987.

Some Concluding Statements

Her interest in science as a child led her to reading SF in the 1940s. She was on the committee for Chiccon II in 1952, one of the pros whom some in fandom worried were taking over the Worldcons.

After Palmer's death on August 15, 1977, Mahaffey published an essay, “I Remember Ray,” in the September, 1977, issue (#204) of the SF newszine *Locust*.

She married a man named Baird, who reportedly was not a SF fan. At one time Mahaffey was also a member of our club, the National Fantasy Fan Federation.

Sources

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Tymn, M. B. & Mike Ashley (eds.). *Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Weird Fiction Magazines*, 1985.

Warner, Harry, Jr. *All Our Yesterdays*, 1969.

Warner, Harry, Jr. *A Wealth of Fable*, 1992.

More Bureaus

Correspondence — Round Robins Writer’s Exchange — Welcommittee

Judy Carroll reports that her new computer is being persnickety, so she cannot send us reports.

Eldritch Science

The next issue will be out soon under the leadership of J.-P. Garnier. Details when they are available.

Budding Authors

Jacqueline Lichtenberg noted that many authors got their start writing fan fiction involving movies, television shows, and the like. By writing fan fiction, budding authors are relieved of an immediate need to create characterization, background cultures, styles of speech so that they can focus on the most important part of fiction...plot and writing. By putting up their writing where it can be seen, they can be complimented for what it is, and given gentle hints for future improvement.

The obvious place for this material is our APA, N’APA, open to dues-paying members. If you are a budding author, please consider joining.

Treasury

PayPal balance \$266.31. NSB balance: \$2460.34. 2 life members + 16 electronic + 13 regular = 31 voting members; 8 archive members + 249 public members = 257 non-voting members. Paid membership/voting rights expiring: Mark Nelson, Kimberly Martin. Voting rights expired: Steve Condrey.

Welcome to A.T. Johns and Tiffanie Gray!

Neffers are reminded that preregistration for Son of Silvercon II ends June 15, and with it the \$5 discount for N3F membership. Attending memberships are \$35 for N3F members, supporting memberships are \$20, vendor tables are \$50, and sponsorships are \$100. Mail checks & money orders to Friends of Fission-chan, PO Box 143, Tonopah NV 89049; PayPal payments go to fission.chan@gmail.com

N3F Laureate Awards

We present here the ballot for the 2024 N3F Laureate Awards for sfnal and fannish creations from 2023. For all awards other than the None of the Above Award, give 10 points to your first choice, 9 points to your second choice, 8 points to your third choice... You do not have to vote at all for a particular nominee or award. In each category, the winner is the one with the most votes. Write-in votes are not allowed. There is no vote "None of the Above".

There is a None of the Above Award. Here vote yes or no on each nominee. A majority vote in favor is needed to given the award to that nominee.

Ballots are due by June 15. Email your ballot to phillies@4liberty.net or use papermail to George Phillies, 48 Hancock Hill Drive, Worcester, MA, 01609

Best Fan Writer:

Heath Row

Joseph T. Major

Guy Lillian III

Best Fan Editor:

Joseph T. Major

Guy Lillian III

Janice L. Newman

Best Non-N3F Fan Publication:

Alexiad

Spartacus

Best N3F Fanzine:

Tightbeam

Ionisphere

N3F Review of Books

Best Fan Web Site:

galacticjourney.org/

Best Novel:

The Demon's Design by Christopher Nuttall

Good to the Last Drop by Declan Finn

The Innocent Sleep by Seanan McGuire

Our Share of Night by Marianna Enriquez

Promises Stronger Than Darkness by Charlie Jane Anders

To Spy a Star by Jonathan Nevair

Best Shorter Work or Anthology

Starlite Pulp #3

Simultaneous Times, vol. 3, ed. J.-P. Garnier

Best Editor:

Lida Quillen (Twilight Times Books);

Chris Kennedy (Chris Kennedy Publishing)

Jean-Paul L. Garnier (Space Cowboy Books)

Barb Caffrey

Best History of SF Work:

2023 First Fandom Annual "First Fandom Conversations"

Best None of the Above:

Best example of how not to run fan awards: The

2023 Hugo Awards

Best Podcast: SFF Addicts (Adrian M. Gibson and M. J. Kuhn)

Best SF reviewer: Tina S. Beier (Sound & Fury Book Review)



Kaymar Award — Franson Awards
FrankinZine — Laureate Awards
View from the Directorate by J.-P. L. Garnier
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Letter of Comment
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Writer's Exchange — Welcommittee
Eldritch Science
Budding Authors
Treasury

Yes, this is a short issue, with multiple submissions very late.

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