



The National **84** Fantasy Fan **Years**

Fandom's Second Oldest Print Publication
Cras ad Stellas — Tomorrow to the Stars
Volume 84 Number 1 January 2025

Short Story Contest Winners

Results of the 2024 National Fantasy Fan Federation Amateur Short Story Contest!

The First Prize goes to “We Follow Dragons” by Miranda Rain. This is a classic fantasy tale, with a nod to post-apocalyptic fantasy, where tribes of people scratch out the barest of livings following in the path of enormous dragons, creatures so vast that they might as well be gods. The story explores universal themes of courage, morality, and love, and takes the protagonist on a personal quest for heroism.

The Second Prize goes to “A Part From Reality” by Robin Rose Graves. This is a gripping “It’s All A Sim” science fantasy offering, where the protagonist is given this chilling revelation and challenged to cope with the moral repercussions. The story explores fate and volition, and asks what reality ultimately is.

The Third Prize goes to “The Universe is a Capricious Place” by Charles Walter. This is a whimsical “first contact” story with a truly likeable protagonist, who must protect his family while coping with responsibilities he never bargained for.

The Honorable Mention goes to “All That Glitters Can Be Sold” by Jordan Kirton. This is a grin-worthy bit of humor, a story about a thief and swin-

dlar making his naughty way through an uncaring world. His morals may be low, but his courage is called upon to the highest degree.

There were only 15 entries this year, not as many, alas, as last year. My greatest thanks to the N3F’s President, George Phillies, who did heroic work publicizing and promoting the contest. There were times, during the year, when I was afraid we’d have to cancel the affair for want of participation.

But, although the overall collection is small, it is a treasure trove of inventive, imaginative, and thrilling fiction, science fiction tales and fantasy yarns in the greatest tradition of these genres. There are serious stories and comedic ones, but they are all truly rich in creativity.

The future of “the literature of ideas” is in good hands, and these fifteen stories are rewarding, engaging, thrilling, and redolent with that “sense of wonder” that we all love so dearly. I offer my congratulations to the winners and to the finalists, and my thanks to everyone who participated. It was a deep and true honor to read these stories, and I predict that more will be known of some of our contestants.

During the year, I received a letter from someone who had sent in a story. I was asked to please remove the story from consideration in the contest. That was sad, of course, but the reason is wonderful: the author had sold a story and was no longer an



Art

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8 ... Fly Man by Jose Sanchez



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Continued Next Column, Middle

“amateur,” but had joined the ranks of the professionals!

The author was no longer eligible for this contest, but had taken a step forward in the journey into literary success. I hope that this can, and will, happen to many more of our contestants!

...Jefferson Swycaffer

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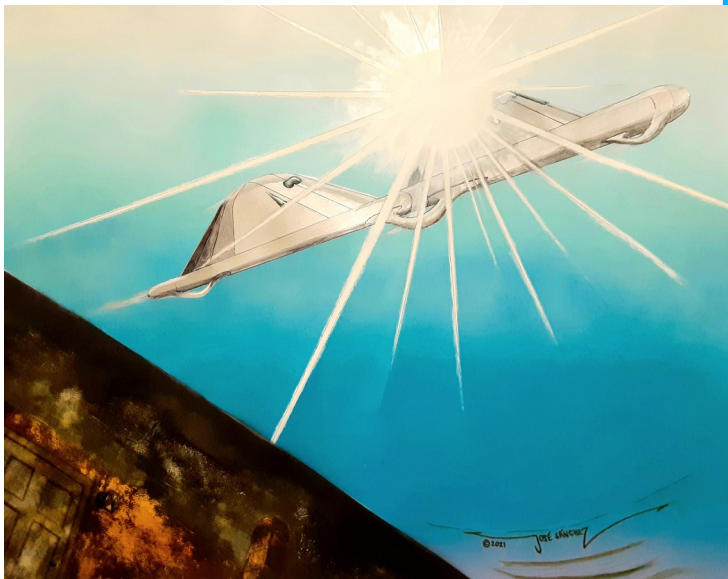
We offer four different memberships. Memberships with TNFF via paper mail are \$18; memberships with TNFF via email are \$6. All other zines are email only. Additional memberships at the address of a current member are \$4. Public memberships are free. Send payments to Kevin Trainor, PO Box 143, Tonopah 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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 Send material for this zine as electronic files (txt or rtf preferred, images as jpgs, please 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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In Memoriam

We are saddened report that Life Member Jacqueline Lichtenberg's husband Salomon passed away in his sleep after a long illness.



Flying Visitor by Jose Sanchez

Laureate Awards

We have finally reached the start of the cycle of issuing the annual N3F Laureate Awards. Our first step is a discussion of categories. Last year there were no nominations in several categories, but the categories are meritorious, so they endure. I have actually received several nominations already, including at least one for a category that does not exist. Each member is limited to two nominations in each category. The draft categories are

- 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)
- Best Manga/Comic Book/Graphic Novel

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

There can be multiple Awards for 'Best None of the Above'; these are voted on as 'Yes' or 'No'.

Presidential Message

Greetings to Neffers around the world. It is 2025. In April the N3F celebrates its 84th birthday.

On the positive side, we continue to publish a stellar series of fanzines. Our web pages are updated every few months, often enough that we are clearly active, but uncommonly enough that people will prefer to join and receive our zines via email or papermail, rather than only seeing new N3F zines a few times a year. One of our members (Hello, Kevin!) runs an annual convention in Nevada. Others operate bookstores or create essays on art, writing, and cookery.

In recent years, we have tried several projects that seemed to have hope of recruiting new members. New magazines FanActivity Gazette, The N3F Review of Books, and FrankinZine have a steady readership and make a nearly unique contribution to science fiction fandom. The Short Story contest bring the attention of the world of fen to our existence. Offering N'APA as a way to publish fan fiction was intended to support members in making the first steps toward being science fiction and fantasy writers.; a few members have already taken advantage of the proposal.

On the other side, we are not effective at recruiting new members. A membership club that does not recruit new members must eventually wither and die. For the oldest international science fiction fan club, this would be a sad fate.

There are a large number of social media sites and locations. It would be a great advantage if members were to speak up for us as a club that is worth joining. Some of you are convention fans. Some conventions give you paths to distribute fliers

about clubs and other sfnal activities I have N3F fliers that I would be happy to ship to you, for free, for you to distribute. Some years ago, the N3F voted a limited budget to subsidize members who want to host an N3F hospitality event in their hotel rooms.

I have been sent a proposal, which makes sense, but may or may not be a good idea. Members are invited to comment. The proposal is that we should offer one or both of the awards "The N3F Award for Excellence in Writing Science Fiction for Young People, Named in Honor of Robert A. Heinlein" and "The N3F Award for Excellence in Mentoring Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers, Named in Honor of John W. Campbell". I agree that the proposed Award names are a bit long.

Letters of Comment

Dear George and Jon,

I know we've digitized a lot of our back issues and that much of our material is available via Fanac.org, but the fires in southern California --



Sand Dwellers by Jose Sanchez

and the destruction of the Theosophical Society and its archives -- has me thinking about the N3F.

Do any members or officials currently hold any physical records or items related to the N3F? Do we have a plan for the archiving of those materials once they pass out of private hands?

Earlier today, I connected John Coker of the First Fandom Foundation -- and Jon because of his work with First Fandom -- with the Eaton Collection of Science Fiction & Fantasy at the University of California, Riverside. I was inspired by work a former president of the SFWA has been doing to preserve that organization's history.

If we have any N3F collections or archives, even if they're in different hands, we might consider a plan to preserve those materials through the Eaton Collection at some point. (I think it'd be the best home.) The head librarian there would be interested in working with us on that if we decide to take such a path.

Just planting the seed for future thinking and planning. Even your individual collections would be welcomed by Eaton. I can make introductions if and when that's of interest.

Heath Row

Editor George answers: Many years ago, the large stock of N3F archives was destroyed in a house fire. There are no plans, but I have no physical records that could be archived.

Editors:

Correction on the FAAn Awards

Thanks as always for promoting the FAAn Awards ballot, George, but I must point out that describing them as "the awards of the Corflu convention" is incorrect. You do then correctly state that the awards are "sponsored by the current Corflu" - a sponsorship which essentially agrees to produce and pay for any physical awards (trophies, certificates, whatever) which are given out and provides the venue for announcement and presentation. (Note that this did not happen in 2022 when Covid considerations moved the convention to October rather than the usual

Spring dates - the ceremonies were conducted on Zoom earlier in the year and no trophies were ever given).

It's worth always noting that no memberships (e.g. of Corflu) or fees are required to vote...

Nic Farey
Current FAAn Awards Administrator

Treasurer's Report

PayPal balance \$290.40
No change this month

NSB balance: \$2496.34
In: \$18 for membership

2 life members
17 electronic + 10 regular = 29 voting members
8 archive members + 265 public members = 273 non-voting members

Voting memberships expiring this month: Tom Feller, Heath Row, and Sam Lubell.

...Kevin Trainor

Son of SilverCon

Neffers are reminded that preregistration for Son of SilverCon III has begun! The \$5 discount for N3F membership is available again. Attending memberships are \$40 (through June 15), supporting memberships are \$20, vendor tables are \$50, and sponsorships \$100. Mail checks & money orders to Friends of Fission-chan, PO Box 143, Tonopah NV 89049; PayPal payments go to fission.chan@gmail.com.

Welcome to the Writers Exchange!

I would like to say that I have planned ahead and have great ideas for 2025. Ideas so great, and wonderful and powerful that even the N3F members who are not interested in writing will want to participate.

I started writing something a few days ago for the Writers Exchange. I was writing in a spiral notebook and have no idea where I left it. When I got on my computer today, I realized that I have only used my computer for two things in the last few months. Looking back, I have discovered that I have spent my time looking for Christmas presents, and playing Mahjong.

Today, when I started writing my two other articles, I started feeling a little different than usual. I started feeling as if I have lost myself somewhere. Where have I been in the last few months, weeks, and days? Physically, emotionally, and mentally, I seem to have been someplace else. But, where? After running my mind through the last few months, I think I have discovered what has been part of my focus.

Some of my relatives have had a lot of problems these last few months. I won't say what has happened to them. Even though I never name them, I feel they still should have privacy. Their problems are not my problems, but I travel along with them and go through every problem, almost as if they were my own.

I've also had some of my own problems to go through. Things that just like to ruin a good day; unwanted memories that pop up uninvited, tiredness that blocks sleep, and a mind that won't be quiet.

Sitting here, writing this, I feel like myself again. I think I have allowed too many things to take over and have spent too much time in their company. I need to find myself again. I need to find fun things to do. I need to not allow the negative to creep in again.

Have any of the readers of this article had similar experiences? If so, I would welcome your input.

If you have a story you would like read, please contact me, and I will check with our readers to see who is available. I will contact you with the name and email address of your reader.

Please do not contact a reader unless I have assigned that reader to you. Occasionally we get several short stories at the same time and I don't want

any of our readers getting "reading overload."

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

Eldritch Science

As an experiment, Eldritch Science is converting to bimonthly publication, to alternate with issues of the N3F Review of Books.

The N3F Review of Books Incorporating Prose Bono

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Correspondence Bureau

Why not start the New Year sharing your thoughts about Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror with a member of the Correspondence Bureau. Corresponding with other members of the N3F can bring many things into your daily life. Such as, a new perspective on a movie or book you both like, your favorite TV or movie series, your favorite authors, maybe some of the well known sayings - "Live long and prosper," "Up, Up, and Away," "Welcome to the Human Race," etc.

"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, MI

49505-3830

Interests:

Star Trek - original TV series

Fantasy and Science Fiction

Favorite author is me

Hobbies - reading, writing, watching TV, meeting with friends

Books and memorabilia collections

John Thiel - by Email - kinethiel@outlook.com

Interests:

Magazines: Reader's Digest, Future Science Fiction, Space Stories, Startling Stories and Thrilling Wonder Stories

Television shows: Tales of Tomorrow, The Sid Caesar show, Roy Rogers, Sky King, Masterpiece Theater

Books: mysteries of Mary Roberts Rinehart, Groff Conklin's anthologies, Tales of the Supernatural, the writings of Sigmund Freud, The Big Push by Mickey Spillane, Theodore Sturgeon's work

Television: Leo Margules' anthologies, Peyton Place;

Movies: Voyages of Ulysses, The Life of Omar Khayyam, The House of Wax, Kiss Me Deadly

Comics: Dick Tracy, Little Orphan Annie, King Aroo;

Radio Shows: Sky King, Boston Blackie, Marty Faye.

Interesting Places: Venice, California, the Florida Everglades, Valparaiso, Indiana

Steve Condrey -

By Email - gscondrey@gmail.com

Interests:

Favorite genres: science fiction, fantasy, true crime and historical fiction

Favorite authors: Robert Heinlein, Ray Bradbury, Isaac Asimov, Robert E. Howard, Octavia Butler, Andre Norton, Anne McCaffrey, Frederik Pohl, 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!)

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

Interests:

Favorite Genres: Science Fiction and Murder Mysteries.

Favorite Authors: Shirley Jackson, Ray Bradbury, Dean Koontz, and Julie E. Czerneda.

Likes: Writing short stories and poems, working with young children.

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

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

FanActivity Gazette

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Welcommittee

I hope all our N3F members had a good 2024 and will have a Great 2025!

As far as I know we have no new members to welcome to the N3F.

If you know anyone you think may be interested in joining the N3F, please talk to them. Tell them how much you enjoy being a member of the N3F and how rewarding it can be to "hang out" with others who have the same interest in the imaginative genres of Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror.

Remember - being active is the most fulfilling way to enjoy being a member of the National Fantasy Fan Federation. Why not offer this opportunity to others?

If you have questions about the N3F or are interested in helping with the Welcommittee, please contact:

Judy Carroll at BlueShadows2012@gmail.com

Tightbeam

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Fly Man by Jose Sanchez

2025 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest
Story Contest Rules and Entry Blank

To enter a story, on a separate page, please supply the following information, followed by your story:

- 1) Title of story (for identification): Author's name and address: Author's email address:
- 2) Answer DO or DO NOT I do/do not wish to become a public (no dues, no vote) member of the N3F and receive for free all N3F magazines.

Testify: I have read the above rules for the 2025 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

We are here to encourage new writers, to reward the new kids on the block. 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. We want stories from guys and gals nobody's ever heard of...but in the years ahead, we will.

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 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, 2025.
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 2026. 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, 2025. Good luck!



Short Story Contest Winners

In Memoriam

Laureate Awards

Presidential Message

Letters of Comment

Heath Row ... Editor George ... Nic Farey

Treasurer's Report

Son of SilverCon

Welcome to the Writers Exchange!

Eldritch Science

The N3F Review of Books Incorporating Prose Bono

Correspondence Bureau

FanActivity Gazette

Welcommittee

Tightbeam

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