



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

Fandom's Second Oldest Print Publication
Cras ad Stellas — Tomorrow to the Stars
Volume 84 Number 7 July 2025

N3F Laureate Awards

Voting for the 2025 N3F Laureate Awards is now complete. The Laureate Awards, first given in 1941, are the oldest awards in science fiction fandom. They are given by vote of the members of the National Fantasy Fan Federation:

Best Fan Writer – Heath Row
Best Fan Artist – Tiffanie Gray
Best Fan Poet – Pedro Iniguez
Best Fan Editor – Mindy Hunt
Best Fan Web Site – Galactic Journey
Best N3F Fanzine – FanActivity Gazette
Best Non-N3F Fan Publication – Lofgeornost

Best Novel – To Turn the Tide by S.M. Stirling
Best Shorter Work – The Dragonfly Gambit
by A. D. Sui
Best Magazine – Utopia Science Fiction
Best Book Editor – Toni Weisskopf
Best Pro Artist – Dante Luiz
Best Historical Work – History of the Sam
Moskowitz Award from First Fandom
Best Podcast – Simultaneous Times

Congratulations to all winners.

Editor's Note

Readers will observe that this issue of N'APA does not look like past issues. The difficulty is that I am having bizarre software difficulties, so this issue was generated using LibreOffice, which lacks some of the features that I had while using MS-Publisher.

Director's View – July 2025 Jean-Paul L. Garnier

How Big is Science Fiction?

Science fiction is an interesting medium, it encompasses the entire universe and the entirety of time. With such a broad pallet, I often find it strange that we spend a lot of time attempting to put SF into tidy little boxes. Surely, categories, subgenres, and ideologies can be important when looking for something that catches one's interest to read, and they are convenient ways to organize a bookstore, but they are much narrower than the extremely broad pallet that SF is capable of.

In my experience running a bookstore, I have found that readers enjoy reading widely and hearing multiple perspectives, whether that be how we would communicate with aliens, what the future could look like, and even conflicting politics.

Personally, I am just as comfortable (and enjoy) reading such drastically different authors from Jerry Pournelle to Ursula K. Le Guin, and just about everything in between. One of the reasons that I read is to understand the thought processes of others, no matter how different (or alien) they may be from my own. I love that SF books can be an unspoken conversation between authors, sometimes refuting and criticizing each other, other times building on each other's ideas. With such a breadth of possible subject matter, it is exciting to see what authors of different eras and geographical locations come up with, even when it doesn't suit my taste.

SF is now being written all over the world, and this is of interest in and of itself. In my exploration of SF from
Continued on Page 3, column 1

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Continued Next Column

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Spaceship by Cedar Sanderson

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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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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the Soviet era, especially in their films, I found it interesting how varied the concerns of the stories are from one place and culture to another. Soviet era SF films often deal with miscommunication, while the films from the U.S. often deal with xenophobia and nuclear threat. Of course, Soviet SF was greatly censored (which can never be a good thing) but I find the difference in themes interesting nevertheless. What does this say about are respective cultures?

Lately (as I get older) I have been thinking a lot about how our tastes are often shaped by how we were introduced to things. For instance, music from my formative years has stayed with me, while I tend not to enjoy what came afterwards. I think that this can sometimes be true of our reading tastes as well. I certainly prefer certain eras of SF over others. But SF doesn't belong to me, or anyone in particular, and zeitgeists will come and go. Books that I may not have enjoyed a few years ago may become relevant to me as my life changes, who knows? For this reason, I try to read outside of my comfort zone, at least a few books a year. I am often surprised how I would have missed something great if I had allowed myself to stick with my jaded misconceptions.

With a medium that can deal with the infinite, where will the future of SF go? I think that the answer to that is up to us authors and readers.

Letters of Comment

Bob [Ed: Jennings], I think you may have misunderstood what I was complaining about in my Director's Notes back in April (or whenever it was) regarding the decline of traditional fandom. Perhaps I was attempting to say too much in too brief an essay.

It is a common observation that the "literary" part of fandom, those of us who came into it from reading books and magazines, has long since been eclipsed in numbers by media fans whose exposure to F&SF has come through movies, TV shows, or video games. Certainly the ghastly failure of the public schools to teach children how to read is one factor here; we have college students -in allegedly elite colleges, no less!- who are apparently incapable of reading an entire novel in the course of a semester. This has the knock-on effect of fewer people reading F&SF, and further, fewer people getting involved in fandom, if they even chance

to hear of it.

The multiplicity of media conventions attended by media fans is fine, I suppose, but most of those are for-profit conventions intended to sell things, and they always have been. This is not the same thing as a Balticon, Libertycon, Minicon, or even a Convergence, where literary fandom is just one of many fandoms being catered to.

Fandom needs active, participating fans who read, or who are at least willing to sit down and discuss their favorite media, and we need to get them involved in the N3F. I'm doing the best I can with Son of Silvercon.

Regards,
Kevin Trainor

Editors:

Thanks for the welcome.

Fortunately, people keep starting new conventions -- but the aging and dying of existing fandom is still very real. Quite a lot, I think, tends to come down to disconnects--the people who decide to start new conventions aren't often in communication with the people running aging conventions that eventually run out of steam as they lose enough staff (and members) that they stop being viable.

But it does mean that traditions break and either have to be started anew, learned from scratch, or die. For instance, in the NYC metro area, Lunacon finally breathed its last a few years ago, after many sad years in which it was a fraction of its former verve and size.

Fans spun up a new con, Heliosphere (actually, there was a bit of bad feeling when they spun it up before Lunacon was officially dead), but in my brief experience, Heliosphere is as small, or smaller, than Lunacon was at its tiniest--it feels better, because it's actually planned for that size, but it's a tiny local con, not a regional.

And meanwhile, of course there are other cons, all the time. But how many have a gaming room, how many have a con suite (which isn't necessarily that expensive; you can still do a con suite for \$5/person if you can bring in outside food and a bit more if you can't; dwarfed by current hotel prices), how many have filking? How many have room parties, much less Worldcon bid room parties, which are part of the glue that keeps fandom a unit that plays at one another's parties, and fliers, eager fans, or even room parties for other conventions? A lot of that you only get with institutional knowledge, which tends to break hard

when a new generation starts up their own conventions without ever having gone to the conventions held by others--except maybe a comic-con.

I think the core to maintaining a thread of fandom is adaption and embrace, of new media, of course, and new leadership, staff, and volunteers, but also new technology. A HUGE advance during the last few years was embrace of online conventions, and while that's receded somewhat, I think it's a key to providing low barrier of entry convention experiences that can maintain a social web and draw new people in (and connected with other convention traditions).

-- Josh Kronengeld

Dear George and Jon:

I have on the big screen Vol. 84, No. 6 of The National Fantasy Fan, and as I usually do, I have a few comments on it, and I will offer them now...

Greetings to G. Steven Condrey... You are right, the question of What Is SF? is one that has plagued us all since the very start of fandom. Usually, the question causes so many unpleasant situations, right down to agreeing to disagree. For many, just to try to settle the argument, SF is whatever I point my finger to at the time. Some SF books have nothing on the cover to indicate it's SF, except perhaps for some very familiar SFnal author names.

My loc... Around here, the summer has definitely arrived, and with the heat we've been getting, the AC does work, and we've really needed it. My thoughts about conventions mesh with Bob Jennings', there are still lots of conventions around. In my area, their foci are on comics, gaming, media SF (SW, ST, DW), and even toys and gaming and Lego. For us, SF litcons have vanished. So we have had to change things up. Our main events for 2025 are now an outdoor literary event, called Word on the Street, and a hotel convention up in Ottawa called Can*con 2025. At both, we will be selling Amazing Stories books and back issues of the magazine.

It's a short zine, so this is a short loc. Many thanks for the issue, and I will try to create something larger for the next one.

Yours, Lloyd Penney

Origins

Sam Lubell has indicated that he will revive *Origin*, our fannish history fanzine, as *Origins*. He writes us:

"It looks like the *Origins* zine hasn't been published since 2023. I'd be interested in reviving and editing it as a bimonthly. I have a strong interest in fandom, history, and promoting science fiction/fantasy literacy. I would focus Origins on pre-21st century science fiction/fantasy including fannish activity (cons and fanzines), biographies and analysis of older SF writers, reviews of older sf magazines and anthologies, and maybe interviews with older fans/writers."

A Gentle Stroll

The new N3F APA *A Gentle Stroll* has had a successful launch, with two issues out the door and issue three already receiving submissions. Contributions in issue 2 were

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A Rhodomontadulous Promenade ... George
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AI and Artificial Stupidity On The March

There is some controversy about what artificial intelligence can and cannot do. On one hand, our attention was drawn to a recent article in which the writer asked a certain heavily-used AI system in what order various countries deployed early nuclear reactors. AI got the very first reactor right, completely missed the subsequent American reactors, then missed the first Canadian reactor (1945), the first Russian reactor (1946) the first British reactor, the first Norwegian-Dutch reactor,...etc. The AI system provided a prime demonstration of that more important phenomenon, Artificial Stupidity (AS).

On the other hand, consider the highly positive AI contribution as seen on YouTube, this being the series [youtube.com/watch?v=OtuI2TxFfBA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OtuI2TxFfBA) Soviet Star Trek, which is an AI remake of the original series, in sort of live action, in which the People's Star Fleet under Comrade

Spockovitch strives to make the universe safe from capitalism via nuclear bombardment, ending with an investigation of possible capitalist tendencies of atomic orbitals. It's seriously funny, and well done, though some readers will not recognize every reference in the video.



Comrade Hero Spockovitch

Games Bureau

Following a modest intermission, the Games Bureau has returned with a new magazine, the rolegaming APA *A Gentle Stroll*. The APA's title is a mirror reflection of the title of the old rolegaming APA *The Wild Hunt*. Publication is presently planned to be monthly. Collation of issue 3 will occur at the end of the month.

Treasurer's Report

Paypal balance \$308.73
In: \$6 for membership (less fees)
NSB balance: \$2532.34

2 life members + 17 electronic + 10 regular + 1 household = 30 voting members
8 archive members + 265 public members = 273 non-voting members

Voting memberships expiring this month: Steve Simmons, Krystal Rains, and Mark Nelson.

Thanks to Adrian Kresnak for renewing.

Book Review Bureau

We continue to search for new sources for reviews of SF books. Switching from monthly to bimonthly publication means no change in our coverage of reviews; it means we opened up a space for the publication of *Eldritch Science*.

N3F Review

The N3F Review of Books Incorporating Prose Bono
George Phillies, Editor

The June 2025 Table of Contents

We are reminded that The N3F Review went from monthly to bimonthly publication in order that there was a simple publishing slot for *Eldritch Science*. Article coverage has not been reduced. You are simply getting twice as many reviews in each issue.

Fiction

- 2...Allies of Convenience by Terry Mixon and J.N. Chaney ... Review by J.R. Handley
- 4...Beyond the Crimson Haze by Nicolas Woode-Smith ... Review by Declan Finn
- 6...Beyond the Shallow Grave by Nicolas Woode-Smith ... Review by Declan Finn
- 8...The Big Sheep by Rob Kroese ... Review by Declan Finn
- 10...Blood Country by Declan Finn ... Review by Jim McCoy
- 12...Blood, Sweat, and Steel - Tales of Future Combat and Mechanized Warfare Edited by Mark Green ... Review by JR Handley
- 17...Cartwright's Cavaliers by Mark Wandrey ... Review by Jim McCoy
- 20...Children of the Enaisi by L.S. King ... Review by Caroline Furlong
- 22...The Chooser: A Tale of Modern Valkyrie by David L. Burkhead ... Review by Jim McCoy
- 23...Conquistador by S. M. Stirling ... Review by George Phillies
- 24...Crossing Over by Paul Clayton ... Review by Michael Gallagher
- 26...The Dabare Snake Launcher by Joelle Presby ... Review by Jim McCoy
- 28...Every Version of You by Grace Chan ... Review by Mark Nelson
- 29...The Hedge Wizard by Alex Maher ... Review by Jim McCoy
- 31...King Kobold Revived by Christopher Stasheff ... Review by Caroline Furlong
- 33...Kothar Barbarian Swordsman by Gardner Francis Fox ... Review by Heath Row
- 34...The Last Iota by Rob Kroese ... Review by Declan Finn
- 35...Laws and Prophecies by L. S. King ... Review by Caroline Furlong
- 38...Liberty Station by Terry Mixon ... Review by JR Handley

42...Magelight by Kacey Ezell ... Review by Declan Finn
 45...Majority by Abby Goldsmith ... Review by Declan Finn
 47...Mystic Quest by Tracy Hickman and Laura Hickman ... Review by Jim McCoy
 49...The Neck Romancer by Declan Finn ... Review by George Phillis
 49...Not that Kind of Good Guy by John Ringo ... Review by Declan Finn
 51...President Patton by Rick Kester ... Review by George Phillis
 52...Prospero Lost by L. Jagi Lamplighter ... Review by Caroline Furlong
 54...Ready Player One by Ernest Cline ... Review by Jim McCoy
 55...Redliners by David Drake ... Review by Jim McCoy
 58...Rimworld: Into the Green by J.L. Curtiss ... Review by Jim McCoy
 59...Scales of Injustice by J.F. Posthumus ... Review by Declan Finn
 60...The Santara Commentaries: The Padri by Michael P. Marpaung ... Review by Brian Heming
 62...Shadow Card Guardian, by Kacey Ezell ... Review by Declan Finn
 64...Sherlock Holmes and the Shadwell Shadows by James Lovegrove ... Review by George Phillis
 64...Ship of Magic by Robin Hobb ... Review by Heath Row
 65...Son of Cayn by Jason McDonald, Alan Isom and Stormy McDaniels ... Review by Jim McCoy
 67...Space Platform by Murray Leinster ... Review by Heath Row
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 74...Sunrise on the Reaping by Suzanne Collins ... Review by Jim McCoy
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 79...Tracking by David R. Palmer ... Review by George Phillis
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Rings: A Catholic Worldview – The Faces of Fantasy by Caroline Furlong
 82...Science Fiction Fandom Edited by Joe Sanders ... Review by Heath Row
 83...The 2024 Hugo Award Best Series Also-Rans ... Review by Tom Feller

Prose Bono

91...Writing Fiction by Heath Row

Welcommittee

Judy Carroll writes: This month we have no new members to welcome into 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

N'APA

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Correspondence Bureau

People, where are you? The Correspondence Bureau has members who have been waiting to make new friends and discuss all things N3F and Beyond. Join in a conversation and make new friends.

"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

Interests: Favorite Genres: Science Fiction and Murder Mysteries.

Favorite Authors: Shirley Jackson, Ray Bradbury, Dean Knottz, 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 Judy Carroll BlueShadows2012@gmail.com

FanActivity Gazette Mindy Hunt, Editor

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Mangaverse: Manga and Anime • **Fanactivity Gazette:** Monthly Fandom News

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<https://n3f.org/to-join/>

PayPal to pay: treasurer@n3f.org

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

ALAN WHITE

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!



N3F Laureate Awards

Editor's Note

Director's View – July 2025 by Jean-Paul L. Garnier

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A Gentle Stroll

AI and Artificial Stupidity On The March

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