



The National Fantasy Fan

Cras ad Stellae — Tomorrow to the Stars

Volume 77 Number 11

November 2018

2018 N3F Election Results

President:

George Phillies 13 votes

Write-Ins 0

Directorate:

Judy Carroll 13 votes

Jefferson Swycaffer 13 votes

John Thiel 13 votes

Laurraine Tutihasi 12 votes

Write-Ins

Cedar Sanderson 2 votes ←—accepted election!

Jon Swartz 1 vote

Jon D. Swartz

Election Teller

November 17, 2018

Congratulations to George Phillies, Judy Carroll, Jefferson Swycaffer, John Thiel, and Laurraine Tutihasi. The write-in candidates will be contacted seriatim to see if they accept election, until the Directorate is filled to five members.

Membership List

As seen in our Constitution and ByLaws, voting members are to receive our current membership list every year. The list will be distributed electronically to voting members with email addresses and via papermail to all other voting members.

Zines

N3F — Now with Seven Zines

This has been an excellent month and a half for N3F zine publishing. You hold in your hands, or see on your screen, the latest issue of The National Fantasy Fan. N'APA 237 will be sent via email with this issue of TNFF. Jefferson Swycaffer is now the lead person at N'APA. Eldritch Science for late Fall 2018 went out a few weeks ago, with George Phillies assembling the issue. Ionisphere 13 as edited by John Thiel went out in early October. Tightbeam is momentarily appearing on a monthly schedule, with issues edited by Jon Swartz and George Phillies going out in September and October. Origin 9 as prepared by John Thiel will be appearing with this issue. Last, but hardly least, Jessi Silver has given us the first issue of the revived Man-gaverse.

That's seven zines the N3F now produces. Since the start of October, they total to 165 pages of material.

Cosplay Bureau?

In a real sense sf/fnal cosplay was invented by a Founder of the N3F. Founder Forrest J Ackerman and friend Morojo (Myrtle R. Douglas) appeared in costume at WorldCon I, several years before the N3F was formed.

One of our original members seems to have invented Cosplay, but we do not have a Cosplay Bureau. To form one, we need some volunteers. Please contact President George Phillies if you are interested.



This issue is divided among Elections, Zines, Club News, Letters of Comment, SerCon, and Reviews.



Your Volunteer Team

Directorate:

David Speakman—davodd@gmail Chair
 Judy Carroll - AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com
 Jefferson Swycaffer - abontides@gmail.com
 John Thiel - kinethiel@comcast.net
 R-Laurraine Tutihasi - lauraine@ mac.com

President

George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net

Treasurer

David Speakman davodd@gmail.com

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 Editor, Ionisphere: John Thiel kinethiel@comcast.net
 Editor, Eldritch Science: George Phillies
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 N'APA Collator: Jefferrson Swycaffer abontides@gmail.com
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 Host of the Web Site: David Speakman davodd@gmail.com

Bureau Heads

Anime/Comics: Kevin Trainor wombat.soho@gmail.com
 Artists Bureau: Cedar Sanderson cedarlili@gmail.com
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 Judy Carroll autumnseas8012@yahoo.com
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 Film Bureau: Eric Jamborsky <mrsolo1@comcast.net>
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 Historian: Jon Swartz jon_swartz@hotmail.com
 Information Technology: David Speakman davodd@gmail.com
 Lord High Proofreader: Jon Swartz jon_swartz@hotmail.com
 Membership Recruitment: Kevin Trainor wombat.soho@gmail.com, John Thiel kinethiel@comcast.net , Jeffrey Redmond redmondjeff@hotmail.com
 Neffy Awards Bureau: George Phillies
 Round Robins: Judy Carroll autumnseas8012@yahoo.com;
 Patricia Williams-King 755 Glen View Drive, Nashville, TN 37206
 Short Story Contest: J. Swycaffer abontides@gmail.com
 Video Schedule: David Speakman davodd@gmail.com
 Welcommittee: Judy Carroll autumnseas8012@yahoo.com
 Writers Exchange : J. Carroll autumnseas8012@yahoo.com

Many New Volunteers are needed: Electronic Publication Support, Convention Hospitality, Outreach, Correspondence, Support the N3F. Volunteer Now!

Editing Question Risqué or Risky?

Where do members want lines to be set in our different venues? There is always a question as to how outre or suggestive fanzine covers should be. The art may be excellent, but the topic may not necessarily be quite what some people wanted to see. The cover of the latest N'APA , with excellent art from Jose Sanchez, is a case in point. As N'APA front page Editor, your TNFF Editor decided that the cover was amusing but acceptable. At some point, one lapses over to Not Safe For Work, and then to the Art on the N3F Adult facebook pages, limited to over-18 folks. On one hand, SF is sometimes mind-expanding. On the other hand, some people have very specific ideas about how people's minds should be expanded, or how they do not want their mind expanded. I am from a much older generation. Younger members may have different perspectives on this question.

Bureaus Welcommittee

The purpose of the Welcommittee is to welcome new members to the club. A letter is sent, by email or postal mail, to new members informing them of club activities they may be interested in joining. Those members with email addresses are also sent attachments to the current TNFF and other publications the N3F has to offer.

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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 N3F, POB 1925, Mountain View CA 94042. 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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Needed. Someone to help greet new members.

Duties:

1. Welcome new members and inform them of activities the club has to offer.
2. Attach club e-zines to welcome letter.
3. Guide new members to activities and information that will help them enjoy their N3F experience.

If you would like to help welcome new members to this wonderful club, please contact
Judy Carroll AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.co

Round Robins

BuHead Patricia Williams-King writes:

Hi George , I got my TNFF zine the other day!

Thanks for the mention about the RR'sI hope it'll help. I'm getting quite a lot more RR's in the mails now, after you mentioned it! THANKS! ☐

I'm STILL writing LOC's and sending them out....(I'm sure I'll have to "Re-start" some after I get through with the RR's sent to me.) I sent two more robins out....which finishes all that were sent to me....I'll have to Re-start some of the "LOST of DEAD" ones now to get caught up. Could someone please mail me a book of stamps ..? That would be a BIG help...restarting 25 or 30 robins is expensive!

Electronic Round Robins

PLEASE NOTE: We have a new member in the club who wants to be involved in the ERR. All he needs is one member to sign up and make his team complete. If interested, please contact Judy Carroll AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com

Greetings, Neffers!

We have important news for you about the Electronic Round Robins.

No longer do you have to wait for two other members to join the ERR of your choice. We have decided to change things around and bring more satisfaction and completion into your life. Starting right now all you need to start an ERR is one more member." One more member?", you say,

"I will still have to wait eons to get another member interested in the Sci-Fi topic I have been dying to discuss." Drop that thought from your mind. That kind of thinking is no more. Starting

now, only two members are needed to correspond in an ERR - You and one other member.

Here's how it works. John contacts me telling me he wants to join an ERR. Ned also contacts me desiring to join an ERR. They don't have to chose which ERR to join, because there is no longer a choice. The only thing you need to join an ERR is an interest in Science Fiction. I partner John and Ned and they become one ERR. Together they decide what aspect of Science Fiction they wish to discuss. No longer do you have to decide between The Marvel Universe or DC Superheroes and Villains. You can have the best of both worlds. If you choose, you can jump back and forth between times, worlds, and dimensions. You can even venture into Fantasy and Horror, if you choose. It up to each ERR pair to decide what they discuss and when. It will be like having a pen pal.

If this appeals to you, and I hope it does, please contact me and I will partner you with another eager member waiting to discuss all things Sci-Fi.

If you want to be paired with more than one member, please let me know. Contact Judy Carroll AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com

Writers Exchange

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.

Since it is November and the holidays are racing us to the end of another year, and I don't seem to have time to breathe, let alone relax, I am falling back on my old standby - Quotes:

"October extinguished itself in a rush of howling winds and driving rain and November arrived, cold as frozen iron, with hard frosts every morning and icy drafts that bit at exposed hands and faces."

— J.K. Rowling, Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix

"November comes
And November goes,
With the last red berries
And the first white snows.

With night coming early,
And dawn coming late,

And ice in the bucket
And frost by the gate.

The fires burn
And the kettles sing,
And earth sinks to rest
Until next spring.”
— Clyde Watson, Children's author

“But there is always a November space after the leaves have fallen when she felt it was almost indecent to intrude on the woods...for their glory terrestrial had departed and their glory celestial of spirit and purity and whiteness had not yet come upon them.”

— L.M. Montgomery, *Anne of Windy Poplars*

The Writers Exchange is for anyone who has an interest in writing. If you are looking for someone to read your work, or if you would like to read the work of others, contact Judy Carroll Autumnseas@yahoo.com

Recruiting

We are continuing to use all available advertising possibilities. Jeff Redmond is running ads on his Facebook sites. —John Thiel [Ed: Now 225 members]

History and Research Bureau

We are presently exploring research possibilities. A column of research results has been begun.—John Thiel

Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau

The upcoming Ionisphere features interviews with President George Phillies and writer Rajnar Vajra. Our interviews are all aimed at facilitating relations among fans, pros and editors and familiarizing science fiction people with one another. Jeffrey Redmond is covering science fiction film-making and fan get-togethers in order to keep us in contact there. We are hoping John Polselli will keep up ground relations (paper fandom).—John Thiel

Birthday Card Bureau

Birthday cards: 9 cards sent Renewal notices: sent late due to being out of town. They will be included in November report. -- R-Laurraine Tutihasi

Letters of Comment

Angela Myers writes: I can't believe I just saw this! I get email on my phone as well as on my Mac, and I swear I didn't see it before today. I have been pretty engrossed in my WIP, which is a near-future dystopian and more "science fictiony" than any of my other three books.

I really enjoy *Tightbeam*. I read all the book reviews, always in search of that perfect novel for inspiration and enjoyment. I especially enjoy the original fiction and artwork. I've been consistently impressed by the covers.

Thank you so much for including the chapters from the first two books in *When the Moon Is Risen*. I greatly appreciate the publicity.

Garth Spencer writes: It seems that I have recently put myself in the position of constructing another fan-finish directory. (Whether this is redundant I leave to your judgment.) Can you expand on the rather meagre information I have about your APAs?

It all started when I tried to figure out how many other APAs are operating besides eAPA, of which I am the Official Editor. Attached for your amusement is the latest edition of my personalzine, *The Obdurate Eye #3*, which includes some rather skeletal lists of APAs, fanzines, conventions, et al. [Ed: *Obdurate Eye* will be circulated to the entire membership; please help Garth if you have information.]

Regular contributing artist Jose Sanchez writes: You are right in seeing [a particular piece of artwork] as a werewolf. It is actually a Lycan from the franchise "UNDERWORLD" from where I got my inspiration for it and the background is an old abandoned subway station tunnel or something like that.

The other silhouette image is the "Shadow-man" from the old *Twilight Zone* television series. He impressed me so much, that I HAD to draw it. It's one of my favorites in the oldie mill.

Yeah, about the original ideas. I can't WAIT to start! I'm eager and energized with the whole idea. It's been awhile for me since I've done my own thing.

Star Wars has burned me out.

Too much detail and accuracy has tired me. I need now to be more "free".

Jefferson Swycaffer writes on the Short Story contest:

I saw Bob Jennings' letter, and wanted to offer my opinion. Bob said that the current length limit of 8500

words for entries to the N3F Short Story Contest might be too small, too short, too limiting, making it hard for writers to develop the background details of a story.

Now, personally, I don't have the sense that the length limit is a problem, as the contest annually receives numerous stories with **extremely** well-developed concepts and backgrounds. The imagination on display always staggers me, and there is always a great wealth of diversity and richness of untrammelled creativity.

But I would have no **objection** to an increase in the permitted word-count for contest entries to 10,000 words. A little more work for me, but hey, I'm tough! I'm a seasoned professional (grin!) and I can take it. So if you think the contest for 2019 might benefit from an expansion in the word-count limit, I do not think there is any need for it, but I also don't think there would be any harm in it.

I will note that a great many stories submitted are substantially **shorter** than 8500 words, and are still inventive, creative, and stunningly rich in imaginative detail. Short-story writing is a challenge, and "more" is not always "better." If it were put to a vote, I'd vote against it...but without any sense of urgency or involvement. If anyone else has an opinion here, I'd love to hear it.

Lloyd Penney writes: Happy Hallowe'en! Many thanks for the October National Fantasy Fan, and I will make some fast comments on this issue, seeing it's the last day of the month.

Good luck to all who are running for office, and good luck to the club overall during this vital election. The membership needs to participate, and make their voices known. (All of this applies to your mid-term elections, too.)

My letter of comment... I did say to Amazing Stories editor-in-chief Ira Nayman that I was available to provide services as a copy editor / proofreader. Well, that is exactly what I have done for the upcoming second issue. I hope I've provided Ira with something of value, and the idea of being on the masthead of Amazing Stories...well, that harkens back to a dream from years ago. Our outdoor shows are done for the year. We now have four more shows coming up, and they are all indoors, which means less to pack. Let's hope people are doing some interesting Christmas shopping.

The idea of an NFFF party room at conventions is a good one, but they can be expensive, and need a lot of labor to run. With a national club, you need to

promote the club nationally, so you would need to run parties in just about any large American city. That's a lot of cons, and a lot of parties. Would ads in program books be a better use of resources?

Excellent research on Mary Elizabeth Counselman...I admit I'd never heard of her before, but thanks to Jon Swartz' researches, now I have. Same goes for E.B. Hanson.

That's all for now... Let's hope the election gathers lots of votes, and gives the club some new directions. See you all with the next issue.

Bob Jennings writes: Received the print edition of TNFF today, with the ballot enclosed, which I will send out with tomorrow's mail. I notice that there are five Directorate positions, but only four candidates. One hopes that no dramatically contentious matter comes up over the coming year that might result in a two-to-two voting deadlock.

I noted Lloyd Penney's comment that he hasn't got the time or money to read much science fiction these days. I dunno about the time factor, altho it seems to me almost anybody could manage to squeeze in an hour or so of reading into even the busiest day, but so far as the monetary prospect goes, Lloyd doesn't have to spend a penny to read the material (OK, OK! Ouch!! Sorry, I couldn't resist!). There are plenty of public libraries everywhere that will be happy to provide a very wide selection of SF/fantasy books that can be checked out and read absolutely free.

Too much effort to trudge a few blocks over to the nearby branch library? No problem. There are dozens of sites on the internet that allow anyone to download books for free, or read them free on-line. The largest and best know are probably Project Gutenberg, and Internet Archives, but there are plenty of others available with minimum searching. Some current authors offer many of their fiction creations for free, and for very modest amounts of money, 99 cents to four dollars, over a million e-books can be purchased from interested sellers such as Amazon, SmashWords, and Barnes & Noble.

I can't address his comment that perhaps he has simply lost interest in the genre, but I would suggest that trying out some of the recent award winning stories would probably revitalize the spark pretty easily.

Well, Jon Swartz has come up with another author whose work I ought to recognize, but don't. I'm sure I've read some of the stories by Mary Elizabeth Counselman/-Vinyard in weird story anthologies, or at least have seen the TV adaptations of her work on

shows such as Thriller and GE Theater, but the name simply does not ring a bell. I note she had short fiction published thru the 1980s so I probably encountered her stories in one or another magazine during that decade for sure, but again, I have no memory connecting her name with anything.

Good book reviews as always, but nothing that makes me want to go out and snag copies to read. Both my unread pile of physical books and my unread stash of e-books had a strong growth spurt over the past month, so I'm set until I get thru some of the books that draw my initial attention.

Another interesting issue. Hope to see the new Eldritch Science out soon.

Just filled out and placed my N3F ballot in an envelope. I noticed that there is no place for the voter to identify himself. I don't suspect any possibility of voter fraud in the club election, instead I suspect there will be precious few votes cast at all; however, as a matter of policy on any kind of balloting, either paper or electronic, the person casting the vote should identify him/herself and there should be a line or two on the ballot itself for the person to write his/her name, and then another line to sign the ballot. I suggest making the change for all future elections. For the record, I identified myself and signed my paper ballot before stuffing it in the envelope.

---Bob Jennings
fabficbks@aol.com

"If merely 'feeling good' could decide, drunkenness would be the supremely valid human experience."

---William James (1842-1910)

Sercon

N3F Charter Members:

Donald B. Thompson

by

Jon D. Swartz, Ph.D.

N3F Historian

Also known in fandom as D. B. Thompson, Donald Thompson, and Don Thompson, Donald B. Thompson was a science fiction (SF) fan from Louisiana. In the early 1940s, he published the fanzine Phanny (later titled Phanteur). Phanny/Phanteur was published, on and off, from 1941 until 1952, for a total run of 24 issues. In the summer of 1948, he also published a one-shot fanzine he titled Phanteur Estivator. He had a story, "Eccentric Orbit," published in the March

1941 Astounding, as well as five LoCs to Astounding during the 1940 - 1943 period.

Thompson was a member of the N3F's Advisory Board in the early 1940s, but resigned during World War II. It has been reported that he once published a fanzine by using a "white print dry process done with office machinery."

This Don Thompson is not to be confused with other Don Thompsons with SF connections (i. e, the Don Thompson who edited the fanzine Don-o-Saur in the 1970s-1990s; and the Don Thompson who was married to Maggie Thompson, daughter of SF author Betsy Curtis).

Harry Warner, Jr. also referenced a "Donny Thompson" in his All Our Yesterdays. Apparently, this Donny Thompson was a fictional character in Wilson "Bob" Tucker's mystery, The Chinese Doll (1946). BNF Tucker often named fictional characters in his stories after actual SF fans he knew, a practice that came to be known as Tuckerisms.

Of course, Donald B. Thompson was also one of the sixty-four founding members of the National Fantasy Fan Federation (N3F) in 1941.

Sources: All Our Yesterdays, Fanzine Index, The Complete Index to Astounding/Analog, Fancyclopedia 3, ISFDB, other Internet sites.

Current Holdings of N3F Materials

by

Jon D. Swartz, Ph.D.

N3F Historian

Back issues of The National Fantasy Fan since I became a member in the 1990s, plus many earlier issues, a few from the 1940s - 1960s.

Issues of Tightbeam, New Member Handbooks, Neffer a Bad Batch recipe books, N3F Speculative Fiction Awards pamphlet, etc., including the first Bonfire.

Letter to the Membership (from president Susan Van Schuyver, dated October 26, 2001). Attached to the letter is a N3F Membership Application Form and a Ballot for the 2002 elections.

"The Organization of Fandom" by Walter J. Daugherty (nd)

Postwarp, the N3F Letterzine (3 issues, 1950s).

The Collector's Bulletin #2 (September, 1964).

1952 Membership Roster.

Early SF Fandom Directories, earliest dated 1940.

The N3F Wants You (1965). NFFF Welcommittee Magazine #14 (1953).

The Neo-Fan's Guide to Science-Fiction Fandom,

6th edition, 1984 [plus a couple of earlier editions of this guide].

1948 Fantasy Annual, published by Forrest J. Ackerman/edited by Redd Boggs.

Seven (7) N3F Fandbooks, dated 1962 to 2016.

1950 Fan Directory, edited by Len Moffatt (sponsored by the N3F & The Fantasy Foundation)

Geep! The Book of the National Fantasy Fan Federation, edited by Rose Secrest, 1987. [Short stories, poetry, and a play written by N3F members]

A History of the Hugo, Nebula, and International Fantasy Awards (1978) by Donald Franson and Howard DeVore (both longtime N3F members). [plus two other editions, the latest dated 1998 and solely by DeVore]

A Portfolio of Illustrations by Virgil Finlay, 1946. [published by N3F]

Hannes Bok Illustration Index (1970), plus several Bok b&w plates (Gnome Press, 1948)

What is Science Fiction Fandom? [published by the N3F Welcoming Committee, mid-1940s]

Science Fiction Title Changes by Michael Viggiano & Donald Franson, 1965. [published by N3F]

The Sign of the Burning Hart by David Keller, 1948. [only hardcover book ever published by N3F]

A Spacewoman Speaks (1960) by Rolf Telano. [Telano was a pseudonym of Ralph Holland, president of N3F from 1958 until his death in 1962, and at one time editor of The Fan]

Boxes of fanzines published by N3F (e. g., TNFF, N'APA, Origin, Ionisphere, Eldritch Science), plus other fanzines donated to the club.

Boxes of assorted fanzines, including Cry of the Nameless and Genzine, donated to the N3F by descendants of former member Gertrude M. Carr.

Handwritten correspondence to N3F presidents over the years.

Typescript of A Sea of Stars Like Diamonds (edited by Phillis & Swycaffer, 2016).

A box of the early fan writings of Jack Robins (and his wife Lottie). These materials, plus family photos, are also available in a thumb drive donated to N3F by John L. Coker III, current First Fandom President. Many of these items were published in the First Fandom Annual 2018, edited by Coker and Jon D. Swartz. Robins was a longtime member of both First Fandom and the N3F (voted Life Member status in 2012).

An assortment of convention programs, local, regional, national (including some Worldcons).

All eleven (11) issues of The Gorgon (published by Stanley Mullen/Denver, CO) [1940s SF/fantasy

fanzine donated to the N3F by longtime club member Bob Peterson].

“A Brief History of the National Fantasy Fan Federation” by K. Martin Carlson (1940s).

“The Life of the Fan” by Milton Rothman (1940s).

“N.F.F.F. Roster” [dated July, 1947]

“1941 Fanzine Yearbook” by Bob Tucker.

“1986 N3F Fan Calendar” [with birthdays of Nef-fers]

Ghu's Lexicon by Ralph Holland, 1958.

“A Canticle for P. Schuyler Miller” by Sam Moskowitz.

Note: Several of these publications have been described in detail in my “Historical Vignettes” articles for The Fan.

Reviews

L.A. Behm II's Martian Aria Reviewed by Cedar Sanderson

This is a satisfyingly big book.

Even though I love big books, just that alone is not enough. I always appreciate a good story, and he delivers. With some action and adventure, which is in there, too, deftly inserted as tales without being told. See, the central tale of the book is the old colonist telling the history of the Mars colony to a graduate student. Which could be, ah, academically boring. Only Behm manages to adroitly switch back and forth between ‘then’ and ‘now’ and there is a story happening in the ‘now’ as well. I shouldn't spoil this if I tell you that the book is Hard SF, except for the aliens. Only the aliens aren't alive in the ‘now’ of this story. But I'll let you read that part.

What I really liked about this story was the characters he built. It takes you a while to get to know them, as he slowly builds them, putting a little in here, a telling phrase or action there. I liked that. The main character, the narrator, you get a fairly good feel for almost right away. But as the story goes on, you are allowed a chance to see what his team and later his family think of him, and how they treat him is telling. His voice may be modest, but you see that he is loved and respected, even as he tends to ‘aw, shucks’ in his narration. And that's the other thing. There are no braggarts in this telling. Just men and women who got the jobs done, and in fact, one thing emphasized throughout is that those who are willing to get their hands dirty and work like dogs eventually win the prize.

There are no thrilling space battles in this book.

But it's a fun read. My only complaint is that the first chapter is a little rough, and I was relieved to see the story smooth out and become more clear after that choppy introduction. If you like Heinlein's tales of colonization – Farmer in the Sky comes to mind – or...

I promised the author that I'd write a blurb for him, so here goes: *Martian Aria* tells the tale of mankind's first steps onto Mars, the adventures of reaching the red planet, and the thrilling discoveries that awaited humanity's best and brightest when they got there. A tale of rugged colonists, family, kittens, and those who were willing to get their hands dirty in pursuit of a new land, a new home. There is still another frontier, out in the stars, for those who are willing to grasp for it.

Sam Schall's *Duty from Ashes* Reviewed by Cedar Sanderson

I had been looking forward to this book, had pre-ordered it as soon as I could, and then on the day it downloaded to my Kindle I was too busy to be able to read it. I did manage to find time over Thanksgiving Break to take it in, and was rewarded for my time.

Duty from Ashes is a space opera, military-themed, and a sequel. However, it was easy to pick back up and find the threads of the old story arc as well as the new threads. Yes, there are multiple plot threads, but this isn't a book with Byzantine complexity, you will be able to follow the threads and keep all the characters straight, Schall has done an excellent job of creating and fleshing out unique characters.

I really enjoyed all the effort in this book, and I'm not referring to the author now. The main character, Ashlyn Shaw, is struggling with trust, not only her own of the people who are trying to prove that she really does belong in charge of her new regiment, but the trust of those people in their new commander. She's not a superhero, and it takes a lot of effort to gain that trust, something I as a reader appreciated. Sometimes it's fun to see a hero get all befuddled, and then work it through.

One of the subplots in this book rang really true to me, the dealings with the prisoner's of war. I've done a lot of reading about POW camps in WWII, in particular the ones administered by the Japanese, and that feeling of hopeless defiance has been captured nicely by Schall. It makes for a heart-wrenching scene, and I won't spoil the whole thing for you.

I think if anything, this book is stronger than the first book; oh, and it ends nicely. You can see the story arc coming for the sequel that Schall tells you is there, but you aren't figuratively left hanging by your fingernails at cliff's edge wondering what the hell happens next. Well done.

If I have to compare it to another writer, it would be Weber, but the early Weber, where Honor Harrington is still uncertain, groping her way along, supported by her staff and family. Also, those books were slimmer, and offered more action, more momentum, just as *Duty from Ashes* does. I stopped reading the Harrington series a while back, when it slipped off into the weeds of massive political info-dumps and ever slower and more convoluted plots. I'm very pleased that this series takes me back to the space opera I most enjoy, character, action, and fun!

Ghost by John Ringo Reviewed by George Phillis

This is a near-future sort of SF volume in the Tom Clancy style, namely not-quite-present day events in which science and contemporary weapons and politics are intertwined. The *Ghost* of the title is a former military man with an uncanny ability to go places and leave the bodies of other people on the ground. This is a 2005 volume, so the villains of the piece are Arab terrorists and the like, with exotic schemes like kidnapping young American women to torture them to death and using a hydrogen bomb to blow up Paris.

Readers should be warned that in other respects *Ghost* is a truly terrible person, to put it mildly...and he knows he is terrible. It is difficult to overstate what a terrible person he is, in some respects. He is the sort of person who, if he had been eaten alive by a crocodile, would have made you feel sorry for the poor croc. The combat action and pursuit segments, which are well-written, are interspersed with scenes on fishing and living on a large cabin cruiser and segments on the hero's tastes in carrying on with women. For these, the descriptions approach an instruction manual on carrying them out (I skipped through these very rapidly, meaning I skipped a lot of pages, one after the next.) I realize that there is a modern trend to generate antiheroes, but *Ghost* appears to be an effort to explore how terrible a human being can be and still, when not being terrible, do heroic and virtuous things.

Gourmet Bureau

Koeksusters by Peter Grant Cooking by Cedar Sanderson

One of the brave volunteers to send me a dish to try was Peter Grant. I have happily been reading his books since I met him and his lovely wife at LibertyCon 26. Peter's space operas are light, feature a true-blue hero (to my delight) and have been getting better with each release. I'm really looking forward to his next book, the 4th in the Steve Maxwell series, which will come out later this month. stand against the storm cover - blog size

Koeksister, or koeksusters, are a syrup-dipped African treat, whose name derives from either cake, or cookie. I was a bit worried at first they would be too sweet, but the syrup dries on the hot doughnut after dipping and draining, and comes out beautifully glazed. Also, there is no sweetener in the batter, so this could easily be manipulated to less-sweet. Although never low-carb, but that's ok. They were decadently good, chewy, and yes, I will make them again.

I used the recipe from Fleur Hupston that Peter sent me, with some slight alterations.

Begin with the syrup:

- 4 cups sugar
- 1 cup water
- 1 teaspoon of ground cinnamon
- 1 tsp ground ginger

Place all ingredients in a pan on the stovetop and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and allow to simmer for about 10 minutes, until it starts to thicken into a syrup. Remove from heat and refrigerate until cool, preferably overnight (note: I cooled mine for about 3 hours, it was cool at that point).

- 1 beaten egg
- 6 tablespoons of yogurt
- 6 tablespoons of butter
- pinch of salt (as I was using unsalted butter)
- 1 tsp ground ginger
- 1/2 tsp ground cardamom
- 2 cups white flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder

In a bowl, combine the dry ingredients. With a pastry blender, cut in the butter until it is pea-sized. Add the egg and yogurt, mix until dough forms a soft ball. Add a couple tablespoons of milk if dough does not want to ball up and avoid overworking it. Once dough is in a ball, wrap it with saran wrap and refrigerate at least a couple of hours, and overnight if you want breakfast doughnuts (we had ours for dessert).

While dough is cooling, read some of Peter's excellent War to the Knife. When dough is chilled, remove, and roll out on a floured surface until it is about 1/4" thick. Cut into strips that are about 4" long. I figured out that making them about 1/2" wide worked, but narrower might be better, even. Take three strips, and press the ends together, then braid. Press the bottom ends together to seal. Place carefully into a dutch oven (or fryer) with about 2-3" of hot oil in it. I don't have a fry thermometer right now, so I tested when it looked right with a strip of dough. I don't recommend this if you aren't comfortable with deep-frying, but I've been cooking this way for a long time, and sometimes I can get away with stuff. I do recommend a probe thermometer, they are a great multi-use tool. If your oil is too low, the dough will get greasy, if too hot, the outside will burn while the inside is raw.

As soon as you pull the golden-brown on both sides Koeksister from the fat, plunge it into the syrup pan you pulled out of the fridge a minute ago. I used a large spoon to cover both sides of the doughnut, and then put it on a rack over a jellyroll pan to drain.

This recipe makes about 6-8 Koeksisters, depending on how big your braids are!

Anime Review

Angolmois: Record of Mongol Invasion Reviewed by Jessi Silver

First Impression Review

Episodes Viewed: 2 and 3.

Summary and Thoughts: Kuchii is invited to attend a strategy meeting with Lord Sukekuni, Princess Teruhi's father. Kuchii's "expertise" isn't held in high regard, and as an outsider going against the island's lord he quickly wears out his welcome. The other men minimize the threat the Mongols pose and expect maybe 300 of them to set foot on the island, if even that many. The Mongol army may even avoid Tsushima entirely and head straight for Hakata, instead. Kuchii encounters an old acquaintance who by chance who promises to round up 3000 troops; the downside is that it will take a week to get them to Tsushima and by then it may be too late. Kuchii does what he can to defend the island. When the Mongol army sets foot on land victory against them seems possible, even likely. Lord Sukekuni comes out swinging and seems invigorated by the battle and the possibility that his name may live on in glory for it. But the Mongol army's superior technology quickly turns the tides and Kuchii is left to wonder whether or not

they'll survive to see reinforcements arrive.

The islanders regroup and wrestle with the discovery that their leader and his son have both been killed at the hands of the invaders. However, Kuchii puts on the armor he was given by Sukekuni, his fellow exiles take up the fight as well, and their superior strategy allows them to eke out enough of a victory to survive another day. They make their way to a silver mine to hole up out of view and Kuchii proposes a daring tactic – they'll strike at night when the Mongol army isn't expecting them. He gets 64 men to agree to the mission. They gingerly approach the Mongol encampment on the beach. As they try to figure out the best route to take, two of their own men betray them and purposely blow their cover. It appears as if there may be an enemy in their midst, and the Princess may be their first victim.

I enjoyed the first episode of this series for its decent animation and focus on a part of Japanese history that was unfamiliar to me. The next couple of episodes, despite being fairly action-packed, start settling into a pattern in which the main character demonstrates his battle intelligence despite the protests of his detractors, and violent acts occur ad nauseum as if to prove his point. There's nothing really wrong with this and in a way I can appreciate (though maybe not enjoy) that a series with this type of old-style masculine energy has appeared in an era where it's not exactly en vogue, but it's a style of storytelling that I start to find a little exhausting after a while. I personally have a difficult time empathizing with characters who seem to suffer no ill-effects after mowing down multiple human beings. In a series that's literally about the onset of war, brutal violence is basically the main component of the action.

There's a scene during which Kuchii talks about his family. He's had multiple wives (as was apparently the custom at that time), but was eventually left with one wife and a daughter. After going to war, he returned to find that they had died of disease and been buried while he was gone. I feel like there are several legitimate ways a character could express emotion about a situation like that; setting aside the fact that dead women/children as motivation is more than a little passé, I think there are many ways his family's death could inform Kuchii's actions. The revelation is treated as nothing more than a passing thought, though, and considering the lack of impact one has to wonder why it was even included in the first place.

I think the broader issue is that there really aren't enough women in this series. As far as important speaking roles go, Princess Teruhi is essentially "it,"

and she's portrayed as a tomboyish type caught between an awkward and uncomfortable femininity she occasionally attempts to adopt, and the inclination to display masculinity and fighting spirit, for which she's ridiculed by the other men. In theory I like the idea of a warrior princess; in practice it turns Teruhi into a token character who reads as stunted and annoying.

Would I continue watching? – I won't deny that the underlying story of this series is interesting; it's an underdog tale and those are difficult to resist. Unfortunately as a viewer it's difficult for me to look past the extreme gender imbalance and accompanying hyper-masculine tone. While I wouldn't go so far as to say I'm incapable of relating to male characters and their experiences, I'm tired of putting in that kind of one-sided effort with little payoff to speak of. For history buffs and anime fans who are looking for something with some grit and gore, I think this is a great choice. I'm just not sure I'm interested in following along.

Treasurer's Report

\$3133.51 (October 17, 2018)

+ 36.00 PayPal Dues

+ 18.00 Cash Dues

+ 2.00 Donation (Cash)

- 1.64 PayPal Fees

\$3187.87 (November 18, 2018)

New, Renewed, & Reinstated Members

#38 - Angela Myers - Regular, Voting - Exp.

11/30/2019; #65 - George Wells - Regular, Voting -

Exp. 12/31/2019 (Reinstated); #98 - Robert Jennings -

Regular, Voting - Exp. 10/31/2019; #145 - Kevin Trai-

nor, Jr. - Electronic, Voting - Exp. 9/30/2019; #223 -

Dr. Daniel Rego - Regular, Voting - Exp. 11/30/2019

#255 - Scott Lee Spence - Regular, Voting - Exp.

10/31/2019 (Reinstated - Assigned new #)

Expired/Expiring Renew Now!!

Expired in October: 140 - Roy J. Moore, 150 -

Robert Hansen

Expiring in November: 41 - Owen K Lorion, 160 -

Brian Toberman

Expiring in December

9 - William Center

10 - Michele Nowak Center

26 - Rikki Winters

27 - Kemse Net-Ubasti

44 - Wesley Kowato

222 - Gary Casey

2018 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, 2018.
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.

101 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. Royalties will be divided evenly among all contest writers once publishing costs are covered. Winners will be notified as soon as the judging is completed. Announcements and notifications of winning entries will be made, March 2018. Please take your time and submit your best work. You can resubmit stories previously entered. All entries will be kept confidential and will be judged fairly and anonymously. The deadline for all entries is Dec. 31, 2018. 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 2018 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

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Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau, Birthday Card Bureau

Letters of Comment

N3F Charter Members: Donald B. Thompson

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Sam Schall's Duty from Ashes

Ghost by John Ringo

Gourmet Bureau — Koeksusters by Peter Grant

Anime Review — Angolmois: Record of Mongol Invasion

Treasurer's Report



N3F TNFF
c/o George Phillips
48 Hancock Hill Drive
Worcester MA 01609

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