



The National **85** Fantasy Fan **Years**

Fandom's Second Oldest Print Publication
Cras ad Stellas — Tomorrow to the Stars
Volume 85 Number 1 January 2026

Important Good News

But first, Happy New Year! to all. In 2026, may your stfnal activities all be enjoyable and successful! Having said that, this issue of TNFF, known as "The Fan" to many long-time members, has more good news than fits on Page One. Our annual Short Story Contest was once again a success. See the article below. The N3F President issued Franson Awards to noteworthy members, See within. The Laureate Awards topics for the year have once again been improved. See within. We are gradually gaining new members.

Short Story Contest Winners

Results of the 2025 National Fantasy Fan Federation Amateur Short Story Contest!

Judge Jefferson Swycaffer writes:

The First Prize goes to “Blood Remembers the Pain” by Joshua D. Martin. This is a supernatural thriller, involving a spiritualist and part-time exorcist investigating a case of possession, and dealing with the consequences in the gentlest possible way. Sometimes, “I cast thee out!” is not the answer.

The Second Prize goes to “Time is a Harsh Mistress” by Charles van Wettum. This is a sci-fi cautionary tale, which asks how far people will go to be re-united with their loved ones, and looking at how dreadful the final cost might be.

The Third Prize goes to “The Super Senior's Sitter” by Charles Walter. This is an unusual superhero story, with a loveable hero and her equally loveable minder and involuntary side-kick.

The Honorable Mention goes to “The Simulation” by Calvin M. Madsen. This is a grisly tale of a carnival side-show involving a combat simulation that is all too realistic.

This year, we received nineteen stories, more than last year! I want to thank all of the entrants for all of their stories! We received stories from four different countries and seven U.S. states. We received science fiction, fantasy, horror, fairy tale, and even stories that aren't easily categorized or pigeonholed. It's fun when stories break out of the narrow confines of our genre definitions and forge a new path through the literary wilderness. I want to thank our President, George Phillies, for the work he's done publicizing and marketing the contest, letting people know about it, and inviting people to enter; the contest's growth this year is due to his efforts.

The stories were all highly imaginative, creative, original, and clever. There was a broad range of writing styles and emotional tonalities, from celebrations of joy to the crushing defeat of tragedy. Some were humorous and whimsical, although most were serious and insightful. All the stories were fun to read!

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Join or Renew

We offer four different memberships. Memberships with TNFF via paper mail are \$18; memberships with TNFF via email are \$6. All other zines are email only. Additional memberships at the address of a current member are \$4. Public memberships are free. Send payments to Kevin Trainor, PO Box 143, Tonopah NV 89049. Pay online at N3F.org. Our PayPal contact is treasurer@n3f.org Send phillies@4liberty.net your email address for a public membership.

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There was a range of diversity of sophistication and talent, from beginning writers who are just learning the craft, to polished and mature writers who ought, by rights, to be professionally published, and I very much hope they soon will be, even though it would remove them from eligibility for this contest. The contest is a launching platform, of sorts, and I hope that all of the entrants will try their hand at submitting stories to professional magazines and anthologies. That way lies the heartbreak of rejection slips, but it is the only path to becoming a published author.

This contest reassures us all that imagination is strong among new writers, and that the literature of ideas is well-served by creative, thoughtful, inventive, and talented writers!

Franson Awards

The Franson Award originally called the N3F President's Award. It was renamed in honor of Donald Franson. This award started because past N3F Presidents have wanted to give a show of appreciation to people – even those who may have won the Kaymar Award (which you can only win once). The Award is given by the N3F's President.

First, as N3F President, it is my honor and privilege to give Franson Awards to Jason Hunt and Jean-Paul Garnier for organizing virtual face-to-face meetings of N3F officers, Directors, Editors, Bureau Heads, and Distinguished Members.

Second, as N3F President, it is my honor and privilege to give Franson Awards to Jefferson Swycaffer, Mindy Hunt, Jason Hunt, Steven Condrey, Samuel Lubell, and Jean-Paul Garnier for taking the editorships of six of our fanzines.

N3F Laureate Awards

Based on popular response, the N3F Laureate Awards Bureau finds that the 2026 Laureate Award categories will be:

Best Fan Writer
Best Fan Artist
Best Fan Editor

Best Fan Poet
Best Fan Web Site
Best Non-N3F Fan Publication (electronic publication is allowed)
Best N3F Fan Publication
Best Novel (over 100,000 words)
Best Shorter Work (under 100,000 words) or Anthology
Best Book Targeting Young Adults
Best Poem or Collection
Best Book Editor
Best Pro Artist, cover or otherwise
Best Television Show, Film, or Video
Best Animation (anime/cartoon)
Best Manga/Comic Book/Graphic Novel
Best Computer Game
Best Role-Playing Game.
Best Literary-Critical Work
Best Historical Work
Best None of the Above

I thank in particular Jean-Paul Garnier for his suggestions. There was a suggestion that we should split the Best Shorter Work category into pieces, and we can still do so, but historically there has been little interest in this category even when it was not split..

Best None of the Above is for categories we missed. There can be multiple Awards for 'Best None of the Above'. These have usually been voted on as 'Yes' or 'No'.

A search of our back issues of The National Fantasy Fan finds from 1945 a list of award categories for 1944 work. These were Best Fiction Author, Best Non-fiction Author, Best Newsy, Fan of the Year, Best Fanzine Technically, Best story, Best article, Best Poem, Best Humor, Best Picture. Your author is not sure what a 'newsy' was, and suspects that 'picture' is a motion picture.

Director's View

Welcome to the new directors and thanks to all that voted! (Doh!, I forgot to vote this time!) It's always good to have fresh new ideas and voices at the helm of our club. While I will no longer serve on the directorate, I'm not going anywhere. I'll be continuing my editorship of Ionisphere, and my

hope is that this year I will have more time to participate in LOCs.

The Laureate Awards are coming up again and we hope to see more participation and discussion. There has been some discussion about categories, and I would like to offer my opinion. It's been wonderful to see speculative poetry celebrated in recent years, and I think it would be a great idea to have a category for Best Speculative Poetry Collection. To my knowledge, while there are several best poem awards out there, there is only one award for Best Collection (The Elgin), so perhaps we should add one. While I don't play very much, maybe we could modernize and have Best Video Game and/or TTRPG categories. Novellas are also growing in popularity again and we're seeing many great anthologies published, so I would like to see categories for those as well. I also think it would be a good idea to put together a system of informing nominees (for those outside of the club) that way they can share in the bragging rights and help spread the word about how our club celebrates SFFH. What do you think?

...Jean-Paul L. Garnier

Presidential Notes

On a positive note, some of our fine Neffers volunteered to revive activities within the club. Issues of Origins, Ionisphere, and Films Fantastic appeared after a gap of several years. Active members gathered via Zoom and identified steps that would make us better. Some of those steps are now being put into place. Membership recruitment is advancing.

Alas, we have had an interesting year. Repairs on the N3F.org web site are advancing, albeit slowly. The lists of back issues of our zines, and the lists of award winners, have been restored, now with the most recent entries at the tops of the lists. The page of zine descriptions was updated. Other repairs are being made more slowly. We were specifically asked about the Swag link, and were advised that it had ceased to be functional due to lack of business.

Efforts to produce my zines for the N3F had the hindrance that there was a highly obscure software

fault in my computer, one that only recently vanished as mysteriously as it had arisen.

Our successes lead to consequences. Once upon a time, TNFF published occasional book reviews, bits of art, debates on the future of the club, and much more, all topics that have now migrated to our newer zines. Those newer zines are great! However, they leave TNFF a bit thinner.

We would benefit by having a Welcoming Bureau, a Multimedia Bureau, a NefferCon Bureau, a Professional Support Bureau, and a Social Media Bureau. The Welcoming Bureau would target putting the N3F name in front of the fannish public, for example at cons. Indeed, we now have members who attend conventions regularly and have volunteered to take N3F Fliers and bookmarks to the conventions that they attend. The Professional Support Bureau is working on projects. Jason and Mindy Hunt expressed an interest in the Multimedia Bureau.

FAAn Awards

Voting for the 2026 FAAn awards, given for performance in producing fine fanzines during 2025 is now open.

The seven award categories are unchanged from last year. They are as follows:

FANZINE AWARDS

Best Genzine
Best Perzine
Best Special Publication/One-shot/Limited series

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Best Fanwriter
Best Fanartist (Steve Stiles Memorial Award)
Best Letterhack (Harry Warner, Jr. Memorial Award)
Best Fanzine Cover

Voting is open to anyone with an interest in fanzines, no memberships or voting fees are required.

Ballots must be received by 23:59 Pacific time, Saturday February 14th 2026, and the awards will be presented at Corflu Pickled (fanzine convention) in Santa Rosa, CA after the banquet on Sunday, March

1, 2026. Anyone wishing to watch the ceremonies in real time will need at least a virtual membership, details at <https://corflu.org/> along with The Incomplete Register 2025, the awards voters' guide and pro forma ballot, which is also available for the asking from the awards administrator, Nic Farey, far-eynic@gmail.com.

Letters of Comment

Editors:

Effective 1/16 my address will change:

60 Garfield Lane
Glenwood, IA 51534

I've already changed the editorial address in Eldritch Science with the January issue (which was put together shortly after we closed on the house). I will have Internet access beginning on 1/16 but if any Zoom calls etc. are scheduled for this coming weekend I cannot promise my participation.

Incidentally, revisiting a topic from the October meeting: I'm currently participating in a 2-day scientific symposium held almost entirely online. Would it be possible to revive NefferCon as an online convention? This spares us the costs of securing a venue, hospitality, etc. and the attendees the cost of travel and accommodations. We could even revive our swag page (which I miss!) to support the venture. All we would really need to do is pull together some panelists people actually care about and promote the heck out of it. With enough lead time this would work.

...Steve Condrey

Dear Neffers:

Thank you all for The National Fantasy Fan, Vol. 84, No. 11, and there are things to discuss here. Too bad the news is so bad, but it has to be dealt with... and that is the destruction of the club website.

Who could have wanted to do that? There's plenty of sick minds out there, but to do that kind of damage? Sounds like they knew what was there, and what to destroy. Could the sysop track it back to a particular

computer and user? I guess that information, if it was available, went with the website. At least you have backups, but still...

Congratulations and thanks to all who have stepped up to become candidates in the upcoming club elections. George, you might yet become President-for-Life, or as long as you want it. When it comes to the club being on life-support, we certainly have a lot of fanzines, but to be frank, how many of us are readers? We're good for zines, but are there services that the electorate might want or need? If a web site can so easily be vandalized, could there be downloadable apps for all to use?

Ah, two locs! Interest in The Martian Trilogy continues to rise, and sales are pretty good so far. I hope it continues! I think this is a very important book, and it adds a new chapter in the history of science fiction.

And, I think I am done. This was a bit of a thin issue; otherwise, I think I could have written more. Take care, all, and Yvonne and I wish you all the happiest of December celebrations, whatever you celebrate, have fun and stay warm. See you in the New Year, perhaps?

Yours,
...Lloyd Penney

Hi, Editors,

I'm searching for information, LOCs, or any mention of T.D. (Thelma) Hamm. I believe that she was a N3F member in the 40s and 50s. Do we have records going back that far? Or do you have any ideas who I should ask? Thanks! Jean-Paul Garnier spacecowboybooks@gmail.com

Bureau Activities

In alphabetical order, starting not quite at the beginning: Once again, the Kaymar Award was given by the living Kaymar Awardees. The Laureate Award process is advancing. Proofreading is being performed. The Pro Bureau contributes to The N3F Review of Books Incorporating Prose Bono. The Short Story Bureau just finished running the 2025

contest. The Art Bureau under Jose Sanchez continues to supply us with quality art for or covers. The Book Review Bureau finds reviews and republishes them in The N3F Review of Books. Convention listings are reported monthly by Mindy Hunt in her zine now titled The N3F Fan Gazette. The Film Bureau is hard at work assembling articles for another issue. Emails in some ways have become more reliable; our Forwarder has not recently had any business. The Franking Service occasionally assembles new issues of FrankinZine. The Games bureau has its own APA, A Gentle Stroll. The Gourmet Bureau, Historian, and History and Research Bureau are visible in our pages. Information Technology suffered major reverses, which it is attempting to overcome.

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FILMS FANTASTIC *Is Back!*

The revue of reviews has returned! Check it out today at tnfff.org!



READ
MORE
'ZINES!

Eldritch Science
FanActivity Gazette
Films Fantastic
Ionisphere
Mangaverse

N'APA
The National Fantasy Fan
N3F Review of Books
Origin
Tightbeam

National Fantasy Fan Federation - tnfff.org

N3F presents

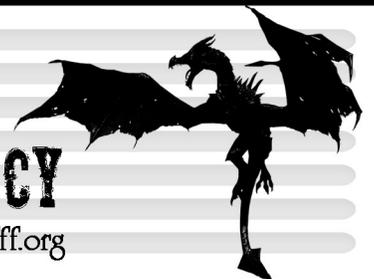
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The NATIONAL FANTASY FAN FOUNDATION



Banner Ads

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2026 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 following rules for the 2026 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 2027. 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, 2026. Good luck!



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Banner Ads

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