



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

Fandom's Second Oldest Print Publication
Cras ad Stellas — Tomorrow to the Stars
Volume 85 Number 3 March 2026

Laureate Award Nominations

We have received some nominations already, but only in some categories. Curiously, we received no nominations for the

Best Television Show, Film, or Video

Best Animation (anime/cartoon)

Best Manga/Comic Book/Graphic Novel

Best Computer or Role-Playing Game.

Best Literary-Critical Work

Perhaps we are all fans of fandom and the printed word. Please send your nominations to George Phillips, phillies@4liberty.net by April 4th. Remember, N3F Officers are not eligible for Best Novel.)

The current nominees are

Best Fan Writer:

Lloyd Penney

Niall Shapiro

Best Fan Artist:

Jose Sanchez

Tiffanie Gray

Best Fan Editor:

George Phillips

Bob Jennings

Best Fan Poet:

Denise Dumars

Robert Frazier

Best Fan Website:

Fanac

Galactic Journey

Ansible

Best Non-N3F Fan Publication:

The Obdurate Eye

Pablo Lennis

Best N3F Fan Publication:

The N3F FanActivity Gazette

Eldritch Science

Best Novel (over 100,000 words):

Heart of the Mountain by Larry Correia

A Kiss for Damocles by J. Kenton Pierce

Best Shorter Work (under 100,000 words)
or Anthology:

Disgraced Return of Kap's Needle by Renan
Bernardo

Electronic Brain #1

Crystal Singer's Song by David Weber

Best Poem or Collection:

Life During the Lazarus Age by Robert Frazier

Best Book Editor:

Eric Fomley — Shacklebound Books

Toni Weisskopf — Baen Books

Cedar Sanderson — Raconteur Press Boys Books

Best Pro Artist:

Bob Eggleton

Dante Luiz

Bruce Pennington

Cedar Sanderson

Best Historical Work:

Dreaming of Autonomous Vehicles: Miloslav
(Miles) J. Breuer: Czech-American Writer and the

Birth of Science Fiction by Jaroslav Olša, Jr.

First Fandom 20254 Annual (Coker, Swartz)

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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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Playing at the World Volume 2 by Jon Peterson

Best None of the Above:
Story Hour (<https://www.storyhour2020.com>)

In the Mystery of Death
All Men Are Initiates

We regret to report that N3F Member William
Cruz Carroll passed away
unexpectedly on December 31, 2025.

Letters to the Editors

Dear George and Jon:

In some ways, I am still catching up with a lot of things, and taking more time to get caught up. My time is not my own, and right now, that's fine with me. I'd like to think my productivity is way up. Anyway, this is a loc to respond to The National Fantasy Fan, Vol. 85, No. 2, and let see what I have to say.

The N3F does have a lot of bureaus, and I can see where these other bureaus, existing or proposed, would come in handy. You know the history of fandom, from the very beginnings, only about 10% of the fans were busy doing things, and the other 90% were...not. I think the term used back then was the Happy Deadwood.

The N3F Laureate Awards...thank you for the honour of a nomination. Hoping for the best...

Schedules...we all try our best to keep to them, as we agree to do all these volunteer jobs. But real life often gets in the way, or in some cases, make it impossible to get the job done. Not much you can do. I hope Mindy Hunt is back on her feet very soon.

My loc...on March 10, just a few days from this writing, is March 10, and that day sees the 100th anniversary of the first issue of Amazing Stories. As soon as the artwork arrives for both the first new issue of the magazine, and my next anthology, Amazing Stories: Best of 2025, I will send it to you, and everywhere else, too.

Thanks for this issue!

Yours, Lloyd Penney

Dear George and Jon:

I'm a month late answering your email! I apologize. In partial mitigation, the email and last month's winter storm arrived at about the same time. (It took almost three weeks to finish digging ourselves out - metaphorically and otherwise.)

I rejoined N3F as a voting member.

I do not have good ideas about the stagnation problem.

Half a century ago (let alone decades more), fantasy fandom and its publications served different needs than today's: The fantasy tent was much smaller, and being a fan of fantasy was more likely to mean the same things to more people.

In the absence of internet / usenet / bitnet, if you wanted to communicate with fellow fans you had to organize meetings or mailings. Today, the fantasy tent is large and fragmented, and there is likely to be little overlap in what people have read, played, watched - or are even aware of.

I recently watched a youtube video whose presenter was identifying noteworthy or iconic fantasy novels from various stages in the history of the genre. I was amused to note that I'd read about 50 of his 75 pre-Tolkien picks, 80 of 125 in his 1960-1989 category -- and some 40 out of 300 of his later picks. I don't think I'm reading less than I used to.

Dani Zweig

Editor: Once upon a time, I belonged to an SF club that had an annual picnic. One of the games played was for one person to describe a character, and the others to identify the novel.

When I returned to the group much more recently, the game did not work. No one had ever heard of anyone else's novels. The field had simply become too large.

Bureau Activities

A Gentle Stroll

The latest issue went out on time. There was an anomaly in the mailing. We heard from a subscriber who did not receive his issue, so we re-transmitted it.

Anime

We continue to publish anime reviews through N3F Tightbeam. More reviews are always welcome.

Art

Front (and sometimes back) covers of some N3F zines continue to have fine illustrations. Please send your artwork to Jose Sanchez, jose77sanchez@yahoo.com.

Book Review Bureau

We shall persist with publishing The N3F Review of Books, though our supply of book reviews has recently taken a severe hit.

Convention Bureau

Mindy Hunt, through the N3F Fan Activity Gazette and through the web pages at SciFi4Me, gives us a long list of conventions.

Conventions

Kevin Trainor writes of his activities with Son of SilverCon: Somebody apparently reached out to Dan Willis, who has expressed interest in attending. Thank you, anonymous benefactor! Interestingly enough, so has Declan Finn. Brad Torgersen will be returning, and the Hoyts may return as well – they have a very busy July involving family stuff, so that may or may not happen.

Some of you have graciously overpaid for your memberships, and we have committed that money

toward making sure our con suite continues to be better than the one at the Worldcon. Take that, WSFS!

Questions, suggestions, idle chatter? E-mail me at fission.chan@gmail.com or hit me up on the Discord. I'll try to pop in there on Friday nights

Historian

N3F Historian Jon Swartz writes: "In my years as our historian, I have been asked many times by N3F members to aid them with various tasks related to our club and its membership. Recently, I agreed to help Jean-Paul Garnier with one of his writing projects."

Ionisphere

Jean-Paul Garnier writes: The next issue of Ionisphere is currently being put together. It will feature interviews with some of the Science Fiction & Fantasy Poetry Association's Grand Masters of Speculative Poetry, and perhaps some poems as well, if we're lucky.

Pro Bureau

The project of generating lists of useful contacts for authors, artists, and the like is under way. The N3F Review of Books Incorporating Prose Bono continues to run book reviews of recent and older SF novels and anthologies, and in addition publishes articles on improving writers' uses of their craft.

Short Story Contest

The 2026 contest has been announced.

Treasury

Treasurer Kevin Trainor writes:

Slow Growth > No Growth

Paypal balance \$140.45

In: \$24 for memberships (less fees)

NSB balance: \$2540.34
 2 life members
 27 electronic + 13 regular = 42 voting members
 8 archive members + 262 public members = 270 non-voting members

Welcome to Joseph Gill!
 Thanks to Dani Zweig for upgrading to a voting membership!

Voting memberships expiring this month: None!

Neffers are reminded that preregistration for Son of Silvercon IV 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



Alien Landscape by Artist Fish

Our Electronic Presences

On Facebook our regular group is National Fantasy Fan Federation (N3F) and our regular page is N3F.

The old name N3FList will take you to our facebook group. We had had a member who demanded that we create a separate public N3F Page, but he never did anything with it. He finally disappeared without leaving a forwarding address, so we made the group

go away.

On MeWe use N3F or Neffercon to find our MeWe groups.

On Discord use discord.gg/5w3GCjds55 to join our discord site.

There is a Tightbeam page on X.com, but it is inactive.

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N3F **THE NATIONAL** **FANTASY FAN FEDERATION**

**Covering all branches of SF:
Science Fiction, Fantasy, Horror,
Occult including Books, Films,
Manga, Television, Anime, Comics
and MORE!**

NINE FANZINES
emailed to your computer!

National Fantasy Fan: Monthly Newszine • **Tightbeam:** Monthly Reviews

Ionisphere: Fan-Pro Interactions • **Origin:** Monthly Fan History

Eldritch Science: Fiction • **N'APA:** Amateur Press Association

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

The N3F Review of Books: Monthly Book Reviews

Interest Bureaus • Short Story Contest • Writer's Exchange

Book Reviews • Birthday Cards • APA • Fannish History • Round Robins

Fan-Pro Coordination • Gourmet Bureau • Art • Games

Welcomittee • Correspondence

Four Membership Levels:

Regular: \$18/year with papermail of TNFF

Electronic: \$6/year with email of TNFF

Family: \$4/year (regular/electronic member at same address)

Public: Free, but non-voting



**TO
JOIN:**

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

PayPal to pay: treasurer@n3f.org

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

ALAN WHITE

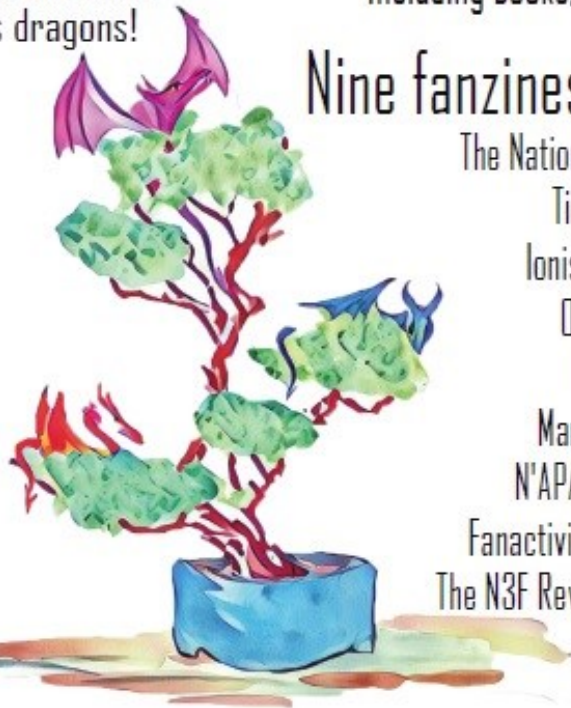
N3F The National Fantasy Fan Federation

Fans of as many hues and sizes as dragons!

Covering all branches of SF: science fiction, fantasy, horror, occult, and more
Including books, films, manga, television, anime, comics

Nine fanzines emailed to your computer

The National Fantasy Fan -- monthly newszine
Tightbeam -- monthly Reviews
Ionisphere -- Fan-Pro Interactions
Origin -- monthly fan history
Eldritch Science -- Fiction
Mangaverse -- manga and anime
N'APA -- amateur press association
Fanactivity Gazette -- monthly Fandom news
The N3F Review of Books -- monthly book reviews



Interest Bureaus
Short Story Contest
Writer's Exchange

Art
Book Reviews
Birthday cards
Fannish history
Games

Round Robins
Fan-Pro Coordination
APA
Gourmet Bureau



Membership Levels
Electronic -- \$6/year with email of TNFF
Family -- \$4/year (regular/ electronic member at same address)
Public -- free, but non-voting



To Join: <https://n3f.org/to-join/>
PayPal to pay: treasurer@n3f.org
Public Membership: send
phillies@4liberty.net your name and email
address

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!



Laureate Award Nominations
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