

The National Fantasy Fan

Cras ad Stellae — Tomorrow to the Stars

Volume 77 Number 5

May 2018

Mangaverse Returns!

Truly wonderful news! Jessi Silver, Editor of S1E1.com, has offered to become editor of our new manga/anime/comics blog *Mangaverse!* You can reach her at Jessi@s1e1.com. She is looking for folks interested in, anime, manga, and comics to send her support material.

Jessi Silver says of her S1E1 pages “As for S1E1, it’s existed in one form or another since around 2007 (first on Livejournal, then as a co-production between myself as a writer and a friend as a coder, next in a blog format where I didn’t have a lot of control, and now in a *new* blog format where I own the space and control all the working parts). It was originally a website that focused on first episode reactions for each new anime season (which occur quarterly), but I did a reassessment a couple of years ago and now I tend to focus on deeper discussion of specific shows and movies, full series/movie reviews, and adjacent subject matter like Japanese fashion and video games, as well as information about conventions I attend.”

Fannish History and Research Bureau

After three issues of our excellent new zine *Origins*, which has been highly successful at promoting vigorous discussion of fan history, it has become clear that the underlying bureau has in best fannish style developed in a manner slightly different though very positive relative to what might have been anticipated.

The Fandom Introductory Bureau is hereby renamed the Fannish History and Research Bureau. The BuHeads are John Thiel and our Historian, Jon Swartz.

Neffy Nomination Comments

The list of Neffy nominations has been generated. **The ballot and final comments will appear in the next issue.** Comments on the nominees, and lists of nominees where there are no comments, follow.

Best novel : L. E. Modesitt, Jr. gives us *Assassin's Price*, a tale of a young man who is the heir to the kingdom. He wisely hopes to learn how to do the job before it becomes necessary for him to fill the position. Modesitt gives us complex tales whose characters push in all different directions, some being honest and others highly unscrupulous. If there is a kingdom, it is a place with limited resources, not all well-tended, local powers not totally subservient to the center, and deep plots to remake what has gone before.

The *Imager Portfolio* is an extended series of novels, all about the same place, spaced in time over many years so that characters who are young in one book may be much older in another or reduced to being historical figures in a third. Modesitt gives us a rich emphasis on day-to-day events, what is served at meals, music lessons for the heir and sister, and small clues that lead to major outcomes. It's very definitely not a space opera with exploding space fleets; the book is a quieter read with characters exploring contexts they do not completely know.

The enormously prolific Chris Nuttall gives us *The Zero Equation*, the third in a series of novels about Caitlyn Aguirre, the not-quite-teen-age daughter of a great house the city Shallot, a place dominated by inter-House conflicts. Houses, people, and their places in the world are based on sorcery, but Caitlyn has absolutely no magical ability. As seen in the earlier books in the series, this lack of talent gives her a huge advantage, namely she can forge magical implements of supernal power, a feat no one else can duplicate.

In this book, Caitlyn returns to Saint Jude's Academy, a place modelled after the British private academies that Nuttall justly loathes, based on personal experience. All around her are terrible bits of House politics dropping into civil war, an ambitious Crown Prince, and Caitlyn's malevolent Aunt Stregheria. There is a great deal of combat at the end of which Caitlyn must choose between letting evil triumph and bringing a new horror, a civilization smasher, into the world. There is a certain very modest amount of romance and a significant amount of school-girl competition turned very bad. The heroine's character progresses, though perhaps she manages to leap from the frying pan into the



This issue is divided among News, Zines, Blogs, Club Activities,
Letters of Comment, Sercon, and Reviews
Please update your member form at <http://n3f.org/join/membership-form/>



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

Editorial Cabal:

Editor, TNFF: George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net
 Art Editor, TNFF: Cedar Sanderson cedarlili@yahoo.com
 Editor, Tightbeam: Bob Jennings FabFicBks@aol.com
 Editor, Ionisphere: John Thiel kinethiel@comcast.net
 Editor, Eldritch Science: George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net
 Editor, Mangaverse Jessi Silver jessi@sle1.com
 Editor, Origins: John Thiel kinethiel@comcast.net
 N'APA Collator: George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net
 Keeper of the URLs: David Speakman davodd@gmail.com
 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@yahoo.com
 Birthday Cards: R-Laurraine Tutihasi lauraine@mac.com;
 Judy Carroll autumnseas8012@yahoo.com
 Book Review Bureau: G. Phillies phillies@4liberty.net
 Fandom History and Research Bureau: John Thiel kinethiel@comcast.net ; Jon Swartz jon_swartz@hotmail.com
 Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau: John Thiel kinethiel@comcast.net
 Franking Service: George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net
 Games Bureau: George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net
 Gourmet Bureau: Cedar Sanderson cedarlili@gmail.com
 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
 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
 Welcomittee: Judy Carroll autumnseas8012@yahoo.com;
 Robert J. Hansen <rjh@sixdemonbag.org>
 Writers Exchange : J. Carroll autumnseas8012@yahoo.com

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

fire.

I have previously reviewed Ryk Spoor's *Princess Holy Aura*. The hero of the piece is young man, a D&D gamesmaster, who is effectively given a chance to save the world. However, to do this he must give up his personal identity and become a mahou shouju, a Japanese magical girl like Sailor Moon, and her secret identity as a high school girl. The heroine goes on to procure friends who become the remaining magical girls of the team. Their opponent is a Lovecraftian Horror who lets one evil after the next, each being more powerful than the last, into the world, in traditional rolegaming style.

The novel is a deliberate attempt to take anime tropes and convert them into a serious novel, including an extremely clever tribute to E.E. Smith. Apparently the starting point of the novel was the suggestion that you cannot take anime tropes seriously. Wrong! Ryk Spoor succeeds brilliantly!

Fellow Neffer Cedar Sanderson wrote *Tanager's Fledglings*. The hero of Cedar Sanderson's *Tanager's Fledglings* is Jem, a young man who has not-quite-inherited a tramp freighter spaceship. However, before he gets the ship, he must complete a profitable trading circuit as Captain rather than First Mate. If he loses money, he loses everything. One could say this is a coming of age story in the style of Heinlein or Andre Norton. The ship sails from point to point, so the author has no trouble throwing challenge after challenge at the protagonist, not to mention the Basset puppy. Reviews are extremely enthusiastic. The volume is a self-published e-book. It proves that editing by independent author-publishers can be as good as editing by a professional house.

Best shorter work : These reviews are courtesy Greg Hullender and RocketStackRank.com:

And Then There Were (N-One), by Sarah Pinsker

The National Fantasy Fan (Bonfire), Vol. LXXVII, Number 5 May 2018, ISSN 2169-3595. Published monthly by The National Fantasy Fan Federation.

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 . Send phillies@4liberty.net your email address for a public membership.

COPYRIGHT NOTICE: All material in this issue, unless expressly noted otherwise, is contributed for one-time use only in this publication in its various print and electronic forms including fair use in electronic archival libraries. All other copyrights are retained by the contributor. Other use of any portion of this publication in any medium requires the express permission of the current (at time reproduction is to be made) President and Directorate of N3F and the original copyright holder.

(SF Mystery) The inventor of trans-multiverse travel invites hundreds of instances of herself to a conference. It's great fun until one gets murdered. (18,912 words; Time: 1h:03m)

Rating: Intricately plotted, Moving, and Fun

"And Then There Were (N-One)," by Sarah Pinsker (edited by Lynne M. Thomas and Michael Damian Thomas), appeared in *Uncanny Magazine* issue 15, published on March 7, 2017.

Pro: Start with the title. Anyone who's read "And Then There Were None" by Agatha Christie immediately knows this will be a murder mystery—complete to a bunch of people trapped on an island by a storm. (But, as the modified title implies, only one gets killed, not all.)

Likewise, anyone who's attended a science fiction convention will find "SarahCon" hilarious. It's also cute that the narrator of the story isn't Sarah Pinsker the author, although she's at the event, and her Nebula award is used as the murder weapon.

By the end, we realize that R0D0 created this whole conference for the purpose of finding a Sarah to kill and impersonate. When the narrator hears the talk about the little girl and the runaway horse, she realizes that someone in a world on the bad side of a divergence point might do anything to get to a world where it didn't happen. She's initially thinking of the Sarah who was unable to save the little girl, but then she sees it.

What clued me in was when Sarah first interviewed the "DJ" and the woman seemed unfamiliar with key songs. It took a bit longer to guess why, but when the narrator looked at R0D0's photo of herself and Mabel and thought to herself that Mabel wouldn't have ever left Seattle, I realized "Her Mabel didn't leave Seattle." The author spun a great tale and yet left enough clues for the reader to figure it out.

It touches our emotions as well. The narrator clearly loves Mabel and her friends and family, and she keenly feels the loss that R0D0 feels. She doesn't condone the murder, but she can understand it. And so do we.

From the beginning, we've been told that decisions aren't something that Sarah Pinskers do very well, so it's fitting that that's where we leave her. Making and not making the decision to turn R0D0 in.

Con: It makes little sense that R1D0 would want to take R0D0's place. As far as her own reality is concerned, she's the inventor, and she didn't lose her wife. This makes R1D0 look vastly different from R0D0, and yet we're told they're the most similar pair of Sarahs.

It's arguable that there's too much humor for a murder mystery.

The Secret Life of Bots, by Suzanne Palmer

(SF Adventure) The ship hadn't activated Bot 9 in a long time—it's an unstable model—but in a desperate situation it needs all its resources. And how much trouble can it get into hunting down a rat? (8,975 words; Time: 29m)

Rating: Fascinating, Gripping, and Fun

"The Secret Life of Bots," by Suzanne Palmer (edited by Neil Clarke), appeared in *Clarkesworld* issue 132, published on September 1, 2017.

Pro: The Bot POV and the Captain's POV dovetail beautifully. Each one gives us just a bit more information about the mission, making things look darker and more desperate each time.

The hunt for the ratbug combines tension and amusement. We aren't sure Bot 9 is able to take down the ratbug, but we're also worried about the "instability" problem. But the dialogue between Bot 9 and the rest of the bots is hilarious. E.g. "We all wish you great and quick success, despite your outdated and primitive manufacture."

The conclusion is clever: Bot 9 was designed to innovate based on inputs, and the web spun by the ratbug gives it the idea that saves the day.

Con: Ship is effectively a human character. There's no way it would disregard the Captain's order to destroy Bot 9. It's also hard to believe Ship didn't regularly monitor the botnet.

In the Shade of the Pixie Tree, by Rodello Santos

(High Fantasy) Bekka is apprentice to the local witch, and she's off to collect pixies. Joakem wants to walk with her, and she can't tell him no. (3,608 words; Time: 12m)

Rating: Exciting and Heart-Warming

"In the Shade of the Pixie Tree," by Rodello Santos [bio] (edited by Scott H. Andrews), appeared in *Beneath Ceaseless Skies* issue 221, published on March 9, 2017.

Pro: Bekka collects the pixies and finds out she really does care for Joakem, albeit at the cost of a few years of her life—not that she exactly remembers what took place.

The sequence of the scenes in the story alternates between those in the present, which move forward, and those in the future, which move backwards. When they meet in the middle, the scene "A sunshower" overturns the events in "The Skies darken," and the catastrophe is averted.

On rereading the second scene, "The storm's darkest moment," we get a cold chill realizing just what spell she's trying to cast. The effect on the first read is a real shock, since Joakem was so happy and vigorous just one page before, and here he's lying dead. In a single scene, the author has made

us care about her characters. The fact that we do care about them make the tension very powerful.

The two characters are wonderful. We love the way they tease each other. When things turn bad, they try to protect each other. And the catastrophe is the fault of both of them. Joakem causes it by going where he isn't supposed to, but Bekka deliberately doesn't tell him the risks because she likes her secrets.

The foreshadowing in this story is excellent. As mentioned above, we know that Bekka's going to try some kind of spell, but we don't know what kind. We see the effects of the pixies and learn things about them in just the right order, so we never feel we're getting an infodump.

And the tension builds all the way to the last scene.

Con: Its hard to see why the witch would teach her teenage apprentice such a spell.

Utopia, LOL?, by Jamie Wahls

Hysterical and yet Touching

(SF Humor) After Charlie is unfrozen, Kit guides him around the future. It's, like, TOTALLY not what he expected, and yet, like, kinda familiar, LOL. (5,025 words; Time: 16m)

"Utopia, LOL?," by Jamie Wahls (edited by Jane Crowley and Kate Dollarhyde), appeared in Strange Horizons issue 06/05/17, published on June 5, 2017.

Pro: Kit's voice is pitch-perfect. She's a big part of what makes the whole thing so funny. E.g. Floor Tile Simulator. "I'm really underselling it." ROFLMAOUITU, as they say.

Beneath the hilarity, though, there's serious business. First, it seems unlikely that Charlie will ever be happy in this "utopia." Second, for all of her silliness, Kit doesn't seem deeply attached to it either. She never talks about any specific friends, for example. Obviously, there's a reason she's the only option Allocator considers for guiding newcomers. We also learn that she's actually a bit sad about what's happened to the real world (aka "Universe Zero").

Finally, Allocator has an impossible problem: its own programming leads inevitably to the destruction of the human race and most of the solar system because it cannot stop humanity from increasing its numbers. (Big points that it cannot "change its programming," by the way.)

The resolution makes complete sense and has a strong emotional kick to it. Allocator has been sending individuals from Earth's past out to the stars to give humanity a chance at a future. And Kit has been training them. The hanger bay is almost empty, so they've been doing this for quite a while, and the end must be very near. Kit's decision to consent to Allocator wiping her memory yet again so she can train the

next resurrectee makes total sense--it's the only thing she can do that actually has any chance of making a difference. Bravo!

Con: The juxtaposition of silly humor with serious business may not work for everyone.

Best book editor

Toni Weisskopf—Baen
Sheila Gilbert—Daw

Best fanzine: Ionisphere; MT Void; Tightbeam All these zines are sent to all members. You have seen them, if you can receive email.

Best Blog: The Bar bar.baen.com; MadGeniusClub.com; The ChrisHanger chrishanger.wordpress.com

Films: Thor: Ragnarok; Guardians of the Galaxy 2

Best TV show: Legends of Tomorrow; Supergirl

Best anime

The Ancient Magus Bride
Devilman: Crybaby
The Eccentric Family
Kino's Journey

Best graphic art publication

Hawkeye
Jean Grey
Shade the Changing Girl

For anime, Kevin Trainor and our new anime/comic bureau acknowledge Jessi Silver, who did the "Shiny New Anime" panel at Detour last weekend and who posts reviews on her website s1e1.com

SerCon

N3F Founding Members:

Hyman Tiger

by

Jon D. Swartz, Ph.D.

N3F Historian

Hyman Tiger was an early Queens, New York, science fiction (SF) fan and member of the Queens Science Fiction League.

The Queens Science Fiction League (QSFL) was originally established late in 1937 and was made up of young fans. When the Futurians of New York joined, the name was changed to Greater New York Science Fiction League (GNYSFL); after this group broke up, the QSFL was re-established under a new charter. With good publicity from some pro writers, it gathered a large number of fans. Eventu-

ally, even an offshoot group was formed, the Newark Science Fiction League.

Tiger attended Nycon I, Boskone I, and Philcon I. Nycon I was the first worldcon, held in New York, NY, in 1939. Boskone I was the first of many regional cons in Boston, and was held in 1941. Philcon was the worldcon held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1947.

In reporting on various feats of strength by fans, genre historian Harry Warner, Jr. wrote that Tiger could bend double a silver dollar using only one hand. In his history of early SF fandom, Sam Moskowitz commented on Tiger's comprehensive knowledge of contemporary SF and also wrote that Tiger had made many helpful contributions to the QSFL library.

In addition, of course, Tiger was one of the charter members of our club, The National Fantasy Fan Federation (N3F), in 1941.

Sources: All Our Yesterdays, The Immortal Storm, Fancyclopedia 3, other Internet sites.

Neglected Genre Authors:

Curt Siodmak

by

Jon D. Swartz, Ph.D.

"The Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror Stories of Curt Siodmak"

Born Kurt Siodmak in Dresden, Germany in 1902, Siodmak acquired a university degree in math/engineering before he began to write novels. He invested royalties earned by his first books into the movie *Menschen am Sonntag* (People on Sunday), a chronicle of the lives of five Berliners on a summer weekend. The movie (1930) was co-directed by Siodmak's older brother Robert and Edgar G. Ulmer -- with a script by Billy Wilder. This movie is credited with inventing a new movie genre. Siodmak later stated that he did not receive any credit for the movie and that writers were never recognized properly in the movie industry, only directors and actors. He later went on to direct several movies himself.

Siodmak early showed evidence that he was destined to become a writer. He published his first fiction, a fairy tale, when he was only eight years old. In the following years Siodmak wrote many novels, screenplays, and short stories -- including the novel *F. P. 1 Doesn't Answer* (1933), which became a popular movie starring Peter Lorre.

Siodmak decided to emigrate after hearing an anti-semitic tirade by Nazi propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels, and left Germany for England where he made a living as a screenwriter before then traveling to the United States in 1937.

His big break in the United States came with his screenplay for *The Wolf Man* (1941), starring Lon Chaney, Jr., which established this fictional creature as one of the most popular movie monsters of the time. In the film Siodmak created many of the werewolf legends now accepted by movie audiences (e. g., being marked by a pentagram; being practically immortal apart from being struck/shot by silver implements/bullets; etc., and he also wrote the famous verse:

"Even a man who is pure in heart,
And says his prayers by night
May become a Wolf when the Wolfbane blooms
And the autumn Moon is bright"
(later changed to "And the Moon is full and bright")

Siodmak's SF novel *Donovan's Brain* (1942) was a bestseller that was reprinted several times, translated into many languages, and adapted for movies (once as *The Lady and the Monster*). Other genre films Siodmak wrote were *Earth vs. the Flying Saucers*, *I Walked With a Zombie*, and *The Beast with Five Fingers*. It has been asserted by some that Siodmak utilized the latest scientific findings in the plots of his works, combining them with SF motifs.

He died in his sleep September 2, 2000, at his home in Three Rivers, California. He was married to Swiss Baroness Henrietta Erna de Perrot for 76 years. They had one child, son Geoffrey.

Genre Novels

F. P. 1 Does Not Reply (Little, Brown, 1933) [a trans-Atlantic flight involving a floating station in the Atlantic Ocean]

Donovan's Brain (Knopf, 1943) [a biochemist keeps a dead millionaire's brain alive in an electrically charged, oxygenated saline solution within a glass tank]

Riders to the Stars (1953) [with Robert Smith/astronauts are sent into space to capture a meteor and bring it back to Earth]

Skyport (1959) [a scientist wants to build an orbiting space city]

Hauser's Memory (1968) [the Nobel Prize-winning scientist from *Donovan's Brain*, the world's leading authority on RNA, now works for the CIA]

The Third Ear (1971) [a scientist discovers a chemical that can give anyone extrasensory perception]

City in the Sky (1974) [a 2,000-page SF novel, cut down to 220 printed pages!]

Gabriel's Body (1992) [disfigured in an explosion, a biochemist selects the body of a brain-dead but physically flawless young man to use as his own].

Genre Screenplays in English

F. P. 1 (1933)

The Invisible Man Returns (1940)

Black Friday (1940)

The Ape (1940)

The Purple V (1943)

I Walked with a Zombie (1943)

Tarzan's Magic Fountain (1949)

Riders to the Stars (1954)

Earth vs. the Flying Saucers (1956)
Love Slaves of the Amazons (1957)

Genre Films Directed

Bride of the Gorilla (1951)
The Magnetic Monster (1953)
Curucu, Beast of the Amazon (1956)
Love Slaves of the Amazon (1957)

Swedish Television Series

13 Demon Street (1959)
Siodmak created this anthology series, with the shows set at the decaying 13 Demon Street. The host, a haggard Lon Chaney, Jr., opened and closed each episode. As he says in the show's introduction, "I am condemned to live here, to suffer on this earth eternally as a punishment for my sin. It is said that no greater outrage was ever committed by any mortal. But should I find a crime more heinous, my terrible punishment will end!" In addition to creating/producing this series, Siodmak directed each episode -- and also wrote several of them.

Stories in American Magazines

"Donovan's Brain" in Black Mask (September - November 1942)
"Donovan's Brain" in Famous Fantastic Mysteries (August 1950)
"The Eggs from Lake Tanganyika" in Amazing (July 1926)
"The Eggs from Lake Tanganyika" in Science Fiction Classics (Summer 1967)
"The Thousand Mile Grave" in Playboy (November 1971)
"Variation of a Theme" in F&SF (June 1972)
"The P Factor" in F&SF ((September 1976)

Stories in Genre Anthologies

"The Eggs from Lake Tanganyika" in The Gernsback Awards 1926, Volume 1, edited by Forrest J Ackerman (1982)
"F. P. 1 Does Not Reply" in Science Fiction Classics, edited by Forrest J. Ackerman (1986)
"Experiment with Evil" in Vampire, edited by Peter Haining (1985)
"The Eggs from Lake Tanganyika" in The Prentice Hall Anthology of Science Fiction and Fantasy, edited by Garyn G. Roberts (2003)

Concluding Comments

While some critics have referred to Siodmak as a hack writer, his work has been very popular over the years; and other writers, including Stephen King, have acknowledged his influence on their work. King called Siodmak "a fine thinker and an okay writer." In the movie industry he was sometimes called "King of the B Movie."

On the other hand, since he wrote his first genre story at age eight -- and wrote up to the time he died at age 98 -- he has to have had one of the longest careers in the history of writing SF/F/H stories.

Whatever critics and other authors think, it is clear that Siod-

mak was versatile. In addition to his genre fiction and screenplays, he wrote mainstream novels, a play (about Jack the Ripper), an opera ("Song of Frankenstein"), and at least one children's book, Anatol the Mule -- which he also illustrated. Today, however, he is almost totally neglected by SF and fantasy fans.

Bibliography

Bleiler, E. E. The Checklist of Fantastic Literature. Chicago, Shasta, 1948.
Davin, Eric Leif. Pioneers of Wonder. Amherst, NY: Prometheus Books, 1999.
King, Stephen. Danse Macabre. NY: Everest House, 1981.
Siodmak, Curt. Even a Man Who Is Pure in Heart. . . . Three Rivers, CA: Three Rivers Press, 1997.
Siodmak, Curt. Wolf Man's Maker: Memoir of a Hollywood Writer, Revised Edition.. Lanham, MD, Scarecrow Press, 2001.
Tuck, Donald H. The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction and Fantasy, Volume 2: Who's Who, M - Z. Chicago, Advent: 1978.

Club News Treasury

\$2,969.47 (March 31, 2018)
+ 0.00 PayPal Dues
+ 0.00 Cash Dues
+ 28.00 Check Dues
+ 0.00 Money Order Dues
- 0.00 PayPal Fees
- 0.00 Banking Fee
- 0.00 Postage

\$2,997.47 (March 30, 2018)

New, Renewed, & Reinstated Members & Info Updates

Renewed:

#4 Diane Blackwood - Regular - Exp 4/30/19
#5 Bob Blackwood - Household- Exp 4/30/2019
#49 Kent McDaniel - Electronic - Exp 3/31/2019

New:

#244 - Robert Dean - Public, Non-voting
Job: Engineer
BDay: Mar. 4
Interests: Books, Reading and book clubs, Role-playing games
Fan Since: Half a century
Fanac Since: Decades

#245 - Bill Beeskow - Public, Non-voting

Job: IT Consultant
BDay: Jan 30
Interests: Art, Computers and technology, Conventions and clubs, Publishing, Reading and book clubs, Reviewing, Role-playing games, Television, Writing
Fan since: Since birth.

Fanac since: Not much? I've been to no conventions.

Zines: Starlog many years ago

Genres: Wow. Start with ST:TOS, LiS, Space:1999, Forbidden Planet, MHI, Alpha One series, John Carter of Mars, and everything between.

Creators: Too many to list, Osborn, Correia, Kupari, Burroughs, Clarke, Doyle...

Current Members Updating Info:

#20 - Denise Fisk - Public

Job: Retired (oh yeah!)

BDay: Oct. 5

Interests: Books, Collecting, Correspondence, DVDs and videos, Reading and book clubs, Reviewing, Writing

Fan Since: 45 years

Fanac Since: 40? years

Clubs: "forgot"

Cons: various cons in seattle & portland years ago

Genres: wide range in both categories! like urban fantasy, dystopian, legendary heroes ("xena" & "hercules" tv shows), speculative sci-fi, classic fantasy, some classic sci-fi, game of thrones (books & tv shows), vampire stories, feminist authors & feminist stories, anthologies -- and the list goes on!

Creators: mercedes lackey, andre norton, kerri arthur, marion zimmer bradley, c.l. moore -- and a ton more!

Online interest: updates on all of the star trek tv shows & movies, fave actors, writers, producers, directors -- and a ton more!

N3F interest: Writing for club publications, Corresponding

#21 - Jeffrey Redmond

Job: Writer, researcher, editor, publisher

BDay: May 10

Interests: Art, Books, Comic books, Computers and technology, Correspondence, Costuming, Editing, Fanzines, Online activities, Publishing, Reading and book clubs, Reviewing, Round robins (group letters), Teaching science fiction, Television, Writing

Fan Since: Since I was a young boy

Fanac Since: Since I was a young man

Clubs: Star Trek, Star Wars, UFOs

Cons: Conic Con

Zines: The FAN

Genres: Sociological, Military, and Survival

Creators: Bradbury, Asimov, Clarke, Heinlein, Burroughs

Online Ac: Yes. What is needed and I can help with.

N3FInterests: Artwork, Recruiting at conventions, Writing for club publications, Organizing activities, Corresponding, Publishing, Assisting with projects

#160 - Brian Toberman

BDay: July 7

Fan since: 45 years

#191 - John Thiel

Job: Social Organizer

BDay: Aug. 6

Interests: APAs (amateur press associations), Art, Blogging,

Books, Conventions and clubs, Correspondence, Editing, Fanzines, Online activities, Reviewing, Round robins (group letters), Writing

Fan Since: Since age 6

Fanac Since: Since age 11

Clubs: Fapa, Indiana SFA, Lafayette Interstellar Society, the Cult, the Junior International Science Fiction Club, Junior Association of Science Fiction Authors and Publishers, APA-H, SAPS, The Space Club, the Cosmic Pen Club

Cons: Three Windycons, one Autoclave, one Worldcon (Chicon), Context, Starbase Indy, Wabashcon, Inconjunction, Hoosiercon, Indianapolis Writer's conference

Zines: Analog, Asimov's, F&SF

Genres: No favorites

Creators: No favorites

Online ac: anything that might strike my fancy

N3F Interests: Artwork, Writing for club publications, Organizing activities, Corresponding

#197 - Ahrvid Engholm

Job: Freelance Journalist

BDay: Jan. 6

Interests: APAs (amateur press associations), Art, Books, Cartooning, cartoons, and animation, Computers and technology, Conventions and clubs, Editing, Fanzines, Filk singing, Online activities, Publishing, Reading and book clubs, Writing

Fan since: ca 50 years

Fanac Since: 42 years

Clubs: SFSF, SFF, FAPA, EAPA

Cons: Oh, 125+ cons, incl 7 Worldcons

Read Fan or Pro zines?: Only occasionally (Sweden has no prozines and fanzines are today few)

Genres: "Hard" SF

Creators: Many writers: Asimov, Heinlein, Vance, Anderson, Dick. Directors: Hitchcock, Kubrick

Online ac: I run a writers' E-mail list in Sweden and am a member of several lists

#228 - Lisa Nybaek

Job: Student

BDay Sept. 29

Interests: Art, Books, Cartooning, cartoons, and animation, Computers and technology, Conventions and clubs, Correspondence, Costuming, Fanzines, Online activities, Reading and book clubs, Television, Writing

Fan Since : since i am 16

Fanac Since: since i am 22

Clubs: Star Trek, starfleet international

Cons: new york comic con

Zines: the fan

Genres: star trek with captain kirk

Creators: gene roddenberry

Online Ac: N3F facebook

N3F Interests: Artwork, Recruiting at conventions, Writing for club publications, Organizing activities, Corresponding, Publishing, cosplay

Expired/Expiring Renew Now!!

Expired in March
#204 - Michael Simon

Expired in April
#212 - Jay Hardy
#213 - Anne Guglik

Expiring in May
#17 - Dorothy Kurtz
#216 - Jeff Pritchard

Member Status Changes
#201 Katriena Knights - Regular to Public - EXP 2/28/2018

Birthday Card Bureau

Renewals—7, including two at one address
Birthday cards—6
Laurraine Tutihasi laurraine@mac.com

Fannish Research Bureau

We're getting off to a rocky start; fan research appears to be a touchy subject, and also it is a difficult undertaking. I've written to several N3F members who seem like they could help me out with the bureau, but so far have received no answer from them, surprisingly enough. Two issues of ORIGIN were successfully accomplished and I am working on the third, in which I explain its title. I'm hoping for membership participation, as research is an active and interesting thing to be doing and does ask for the input of others. Origin will be listing sources of research information as they are discovered, to abet the research being done by members. — John Thiel, Bureau Head

Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau

We are arguing for a greater centrality for science fiction, so that people involved with it are in closer contact, and so that things aren't out of sight somewhere. We didn't get the last issue distributed at efanazines yet, as IO as well as Tightbeam and TNFF and Origin were not put on by Bill Burns, who says he is revising the site in certain ways and apparently will be displaying the publications a little differently. This set me back in announcing the Sheila Williams interview on the Facebook Asimov's page. Hopefully all the N3F magazines will be on display before the end of this month. —John Thiel, Bureau Head

Games Bureau Report

In Port Royal, all of the players are pirates looking for treasure on the Spanish Main. On their turn, players keep drawing cards until they find what they want. Treasure ships provide money. Henchmen, of various types, provide victory points

and special abilities. The game system penalizes players who get greedy. If two treasure ships of the same nationality show up, then you're busted. All of the cards you just drew get discarded and your turn ends. In this game, you may take actions even when it isn't your turn. After the player whose turn it is takes the card he wants, then the other players divide up what's left. First player to reach twelve points wins. A good way to rack up victory points is to use your henchmen to perform various missions.

Compass Games has once again delayed the release of Stellar Horizon. No reason was given for the delay. Stellar Horizon allows up to seven players to simulate the future exploration of the solar system. The game is now scheduled for release in the fourth quarter of 2018. This is the third time Compass Games has delayed the release of this game.

Membership Recruiting Bureau

We continue to advertise the N3F; I have an advertisement for it in the newest SURPRISING STORIES. My inquiries about the F&SF ad we were supposed to have, have not been answered by the editor or Gordon Van Gelder. We're still doing our best. —John Thiel

Round Robins

What is a Round Robin?

Round Robins are discussion lists. They are a way of connecting with people who have similar interests. Traditional round robins are sent through the mail. Each round robin consists of a packet of letters from its members - which is mailed from member to member. As each member gets the packet, they read all the letters, then remove their own previous letter, write a new one, and send the packet on to the next member.

The N3F offers two kinds of Round Robins; traditional - where members send letters in the mail, and electronic - where members send letters by email. Both kinds are fun and informative and a good way to meet other members and to discuss topics of mutual interest. Judy Carroll AutumnSea-s8012@yahoo.com

NOTE: To join a Postal Round Robin contact - Patricia Williams-King, 755 Glen View Drive, Nashville, TN 37206

Patricia reports on the active Round Robins:

- # 6 Star Trek: DS9+TNG Members : 3
- #10 Harry Potter, books & Movies, Members 3
- #13-A SYFY Channel, members 3
- #16-A STAR WARS Rogue One & TFA Members 3
- #17 TV SF&F Members 3
- #21 C.J. Cherryh Members 3
- #24 J.R.R. Tolkien/TLOTR's Books Movies Members 3
- #24-A Comix, Graphic Novels, Animation Members 5
- #29 Science & Technology in Society Members 4
- #40 High Technology in the Ancient World Members 3

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.

This month we have two new members who have joined N3F. Welcome Robert Dean and Bill Beesknow. We hope your association with the N3F will be enjoyable and long lasting.

If you would like to help welcome new members to this wonderful club please contact Judy Carroll AutumnSea-8012@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.

“A writer is a person who cares what words mean, what they say, how they say it. Writers know words are their way towards truth and freedom, and so they use them with care, with thought, with fear, with delight. By using words well they strengthen their souls. Story-tellers and poets spend their lives learning that skill and art of using words well. And their words make the souls of their readers stronger, brighter, deeper.” — Ursula K. Le Guin

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

Letters of Comment

Dear Neffers:

Thank you for The April National Fantasy Fan. I am just making the month, but I am sure there is something to say about what's here.

Just for the record, Tightbeam 286 arrived via e-mail just a couple of days ago. I will respond to that issue just as soon as it is possible. There are times where fanzines just come rushing in via eFanzines.com, and this has been one of them.

I hope that writers are never forgotten, and even if they are, their words of wisdom may survive them. Every month, I look through the latest Ansible from Dave Langford, and each issue has, unfortunately, a long list of people connected to the SF field who have passed away. Our fond interest crumbles away with each passing.

Ah, I reveal myself in my letter. Yes, I did wonder about a steam-

punk bureau, especially because it is still relatively new compared to other interests within the field, and it does attract an older cross-section of the fannish population.

I am glad there are enough interested to find out and research the personal history of writers like Mindret Lord. One reason I am glad this was done is that I had never heard or read about Mindret Lord until I opened this fanzine. There is always something new to learn.

I have a little bit of work tomorrow and the day after, and after that is Corflu 35, this year's annual fanzine convention, and it just happens to be here in Toronto. There are many names coming here from Britain, Australia and even Thailand, and it should be a great weekend. I've been looking forward to it for a while. After that comes a few weekends of craft shows and conventions; the spring has finally arrived here.

Thanks to all, and see you with the next issue.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

Editor:

I received the disks to send to members a week and a half ago, and the disk to me I received last week.

I've never been to a fan convention so anything I say may not make much sense. Is there a packet that is passed out at the convention to the attendees informing them of the activities, speakers, merchandize, etc. available to them? If so, do they ever include information on things of interest that the convention does not cover? Is it possible to have information on the N3F passed out with other free stuff at the door? I've been to conventions dealing with teaching children where packets and sometimes small carrying bags are passed out with information on where to get other related items. Sometimes the small carrying bag has the logo of a company hoping to catch the attendees interest. After the convention, I always enjoyed going through the items in the packet or bag and discovering things I was interested in and where to find them. Perhaps a small booklet could be included that has information on the N3F and articles etc. from N3F zines that might attract interest in the club. Free things are always fun, especially after the convention when the noise and hurrying around are over, and you have nice things you didn't have to spend money on. Some suggestions: a small notebook with the N3F logo on it, (could be a regular note book with N3F sticker on it), or N3F pencils. (I know these may not be practical money wise.) What about a N3F application form included in the packet?

Judy Carroll

Hi George;

Just got the email version of TNFF and read it immediately. A sparse but good issue. I was sort of crogged that you had good things to say about "The Deadly Mantis" movie, which I consider one of the all time zero grade sci-fi turkey's produced during the late 1950s, and that's saying a lot.

In addition to being composed of at least one third free footage

from US Government air force films, plus retreat stock footage shots from a 1933 Universal adventure movie (which were in turn salvaged from a silent movie documentary), the production features plenty of closeups of people talking, the better to avoid having to pay for expensive sets, or even el-cheapo sets.

The plot was nonsensical, and the whole film was shot very rapidly to cut down the amount of time the crew had to be paid. My understanding is that rehearsal time was minimal, and the director relied on the first-take-fits-all style of production. Luckily the major actors were seasoned professionals trying to do their best with inert dialog and a stupid plot.

The major expense for the whole production was for a couple of paper-mache dummy preying mantises that had to be shoved and manipulated by stage hands on the infrequent points where an actual visual of the menace had to take place. The story is filled with plot inconsistencies, and I think it is significant that the star of the movie, Craig Stevens, had nothing good to say about the movie and generally advised his fans to avoid it when it came on late nite TV, which it did frequently in the early 1960s during the years when Stevens was enjoying great success starring in the Peter Gunn detective show on television.

I have never watched "Volcanosaurus", due mainly to paying attention to what critics and friends who had seen it, and felt they had squandered precious minutes of their life by sitting thru that abomination.

...Bob Jennings

Movie Review .. Black Panther

Note: This review is the product of a three-way discussion. I have a Jewish Republican female friend, and a black gay male Democrat friend. I am a white straight male Independent. We all have our various views on everything - including movies. There are many who like the "Black Panther" movie, and there are many who do not. With a budget of \$210 million it has now grossed over \$1.5 billion, making it the third highest earning movie in the U.S. of all time. A Walt Disney production of two hours in length, it's produced by Kevin Feige and directed by Ryan Coogler. Much of the filming was done in Atlanta, Georgia . . . far away from Hollywood, California.

Both loud praise and intense criticism persist, but all movies require a willing suspension of disbelief. If a particular aspect of any film is anathema to a viewer, he or she is never able to "get into" it. They are always on the outside looking in. They can't resent the very basis of the super hero movie, the super hero himself, and the technological world in general.

There is much that is definitely positive about this film. Chadwick Boseman does a fine acting job in the lead role. There's plenty of action, adventure, suspense, romance, stunts, and special effects throughout. Sub-Saharan Africa has never been as technologically developed as Europe, but it has certainly contributed to civilization in other ways.

Wakanda is not supposed to be a real African country any

more than Krypton is supposed to be a real planet. Stan Lee and Jack Kirby dreamed up Wakanda and The Black Panther for issue 52 of the Fantastic Four way back in 1966. They thought the idea of a hidden technologically advanced Black civilization in Africa would be unique and interesting to readers of the F.F.

Since issue number five the Fantastic Four had called itself "The World's Greatest Comic Magazine" right on every cover. During the time the Panther was introduced, that boast might well have been true.

Certainly the fact that half a century after he was created, the Panther can command more than a billion dollars at the box office in amount, is breathtaking. The Marvel comics creator Stan Lee (Stanley Lieber) is 94, and makes a cameo appearance in the movie. In 1966 he definitely could not have foreseen this.

If too many people are saying too much about this movie, then maybe we should never read anything by critics until after we see it. In the case of science fiction and super hero movies, many critics will invariably tell you too much about it. But don't let them be so influencing. Remember that most of them are not themselves fans of fantasy and science fiction.

The Black Panther is just another Marvel super hero, like Iron Man, Thor, or Spider man. The Panther is about 4 years younger than those other characters, but hardly an unknown quantity. Generally Marvel's movies have been very good, and we should all be expecting no less. It did not occur to anyone that a very good movie about a black super hero would be a seminal event in the Black Community. It didn't occur to anyone because they had not realized that most people were unaware that there were Black super heroes.

There are always people who usually don't like super hero movies. But some will still consider seeing this one because friends and neighbors are all chatting about it. Many people don't know that there are any black super heroes. It's true that there aren't that many, but they have been around for decades. In fact, Black Lightning and Luke Cage (Power Man) are currently on television.

But more of the critics than not have liked Black Panther and, more importantly, see it has a vehicle for galvanizing Black Pride. Make no mistake, it is definitely a black movie. There are two secondary characters who are white, but they are clearly secondary characters. It is also a woman's movie, in more ways than one.

The women in this movie take no crap from anyone, and rise to the level of the Amazons in Wonder Woman. This may reflect, at some level, the sociological and cultural roles of black women in modern American society. Many black families in the U.S. are headed by single parent females today.

The critics have been correct about its effect on the Black community. It can be quite gratifying to see, as it does make a difference when black people see themselves on the screen. This movie is well written, well cast, well acted, well directed, and it

looks beautiful. As far as CGI and cinematography went, they put their money on the screen.

Movies are entertainment, and they can also be educational. So please go see *Black Panther*, and enjoy. You probably won't be disappointed, and you might even learn something.

...Jeffrey Redmond

Book Reviews

Fighting Her Father's War by M.L. Maki. It is 1990. American Aircraft Carrier *Vinson* is transported in time back to 1941. Good news! The author is not paralyzed by the imbecilic Hollywood trope that if you go back in time you cannot change anything, leading to absolutely tedious TV shows in which character activities are completely pointless. The heroes smash the Japanese invasion of the Philippines.

The heroine of the piece is Lieutenant Samantha "Spike" Hunt, a top line F-15 pilot in an era when few women served as fighter pilots. The villain is Lieutenant Commander Carleton, who opposes women in combat arms and eventually goes completely and totally off the deep end. The enemy is the Imperial Japanese Navy, because a modern Japanese Self-Defense Force Base filled with F-14s has also returned; they want to sink the *Vinson* before Tokyo is nuked. Amusingly, the Americans have nuclear weapons on board but do not want to use them.

The author very clearly has a detailed appreciation of how the 1990 navy functioned, so the details of ship operation, aerial combat, and military weaponry all ring true. Period Japanese military officers do their duty in creative ways; the tale is not one-sided battle porn. A well written tale.... review by Phillis

The Last World War by Dayton Ward gives us another alien invasion. The aliens arrive on the ground with hyperspace tunnels. At first they do not realize that their tunnels, planned to let them fight a war on their planet, are instead bringing them here. The first half of the tale is individual combat on a very local scale. A Marine Reserve Platoon in central US encounters aliens while doing summer training. The aliens are strong, have very good direct fire weapons, and at first have all the ammunition. However, the aliens have two nations, and the other side supports us. The second half of the tale is global, top-down coverage. Air support is relatively ineffective; the famous quote from a related film is 'the jets went in, but they didn't come out again'. At several points American tactics leave something to be desired; time on target artillery strikes are overlooked. Individual heroism plays a major role in the final outcome.review by Phillis

The Lemurian Stone by Stefan Hickman is a fine example of late 1980s swords and sorcery. A demon is attacking a mythical kingdom, and folks are sent on mystical quests to recover the pieces needed for a solution. There are deaths along the way, one a bit pointless. Princess Tara is a swordswoman, but outclassed by some of those around her. When she carries on with — it would be telling — pregnancy ensues. One of the lead characters on the quest is very much more than he at first

appears.

There was a period tendency to attempt portentous writing styles. Most of these attempts were unsuccessful. Hickman succeeds: The writing is ornate, but successfully so. "...from this wizened frame issued a malevolence of spirit that stupefied the young scholar, a malevolence besides which the doorkeeper seemed benign and fatherly; feeling his peril grow the longer he gazed upon the dreaded Shaman, Aeran drew forth the fateful pouch of opals..."review by Phillis

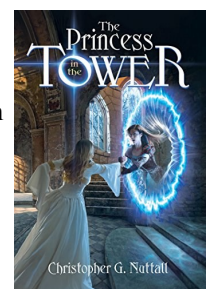
Pam Uphoff's Black Goats. Really, this whole series is excellent. Here are the first lines of the book: "Picking rocks was only fun for the first half-hour. Pity it was such a good way to practice magic." Pam blends fantasy and science fiction for fantastic fiction. Her world is well-developed both culturally and geographically, and peopled with characters who come to life: The Sheep Man, the old gods, and the goats, who are revealed to be cruel wizards trapped by a spell hundreds of years before. There's plenty of sex in this book, and not all of it consensual. But Pam carries it off, developing a story where the conflict is between magic and mundanes who no longer remember that the tiny population of magic users dwells in the village of Ash.

The dark part of this fantasy comes with the escape of the Goats, who find power enough to break their magic chains and escape the Sheep Man, who is revealed to be the Tyrant King Nihility, possibly the most powerful wizard to ever exist in their world, even if he has spent 800 years as a shepherd with moronic-level intelligence. Desperate to rein the goats in, witches, wizards and their horses leave Ash to track down and kill the Black Goats.

The lighter side of the fantasy tale is the creation of the Wine of the Gods, a substance chock full of spells for healing, fertility, aphrodisiac, and things the gods don't even remember throwing into the potent brew while they were being happily drunk on more normal wine. Unleashed on the world, the self-sustaining spell mixture will take over any other wine it is poured into — even a few drops. While it will heal pretty much anything, it also makes the partaker, well, let's just say there are orgies herein. Again, she carries it off very well, expertly implying without showing gory details. This tale is more about the people, their world, and how the Goats and the Wine affect it, than it is about the sex.

Obviously, this is not a book for young adults. And it might not be for some adults, either. But I think you will enjoy her series... and if you haven't started it yet, I recommend beginning with *Outcasts and Gods*, which is more science fiction than fantasy, and is a superb story of genetic engineering and consequences.review by Cedar Sanderson

The Princess in the Tower is the 15th volume of Chris Nuttall's *Schooled in Magic* series. Lady Emily has now left her Academy, to learn that her good friend Princess Alassa has been imprisoned by King Randor. Naturally, a rescue attempt will be made. Emily's introduction of technology is destabilizing the world. Randor wants it changed back.



In This Issue

Mangaverse Returns!
Fannish History and Research Bureau
Neffy Nomination Comments

Sercon
N3F Founding Member Hyman Tiger
Neglected Genre Author Curt Siodmak

Club News
Treasury--Membership Updates
Birthday Card Bureau--Fannish Research Bureau
Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau—Games Bureau
Membership Recruiting Bureau--Round Robins
Welcommittee--Writers' Exchange

Letters of Comment
Lloyd Penney, Judy Carroll, Bob Jennings

Movie Review -- Black Panther

Book Reviews
Fighting Her Father's War, the Last World War, The Lemurian Stone,
Black Goats, The Princess in The Tower

Behold! Courtesy Cedar
Sanderson, we now have
our own QR code



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