



The National Fantasy Fan

Cras ad Stellas— Tomorrow to the Stars

Volume 78 Number 9

September 2019

Franson Award

The Franson Award was formerly 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).

This year, we had a nearly complete set of reviews of Dragon Award nominees in four categories: Best Novel, Best Fantasy Novel, Best Military Science Fiction Novel, and Best Alternate History Novel. Credit for this achievement — those nominees included two dozen novels — goes entirely to Pat Patterson, who read almost all of them and produced for almost every novel an extensive review. The timeline was extremely short. Between the announcement of the nominees and the voting deadline was barely a month, real time. Pat delivered on those reviews, which you have seen in the pages of The N3F Review of Books. His objective for this year is to deliver a solid one hundred reviews of published SF novels. This reviewing effort is an enormous contribution to all fen.

For his great contributions to our appreciation of the sf/fnal literature, it is my privilege to present a Franson Award to Pat Patterson.

The N3F Review of Books

We continue to search for more reviewers to write for The N3F Review of Books. Political opinions keep inserting themselves into sf/fnal discussions (see Row letter this issue) so a wide range of opinions is wanted.

Neffy Discussion

Once again, we have awarded the Neffy, The National Fantasy Fan Federation Speculative Fiction Award, to a series of meritorious fan and pro creators. Long-time Neffer Heath Row has given us extended discussion in a Letter of Comment in this issue—see page 6. Other Neffers have made suggestions.

From all these comments, I will distill a few thoughts for next year. When we first gave awards — then called the Laureate Awards — almost eight decades ago, many of the awards went to few for fannish activities. Best LoC writer. Best zine editor. Best fan artist. Best fan poet. We don't do much of that any more, and we should. Suggestions for fan awards should please be submitted as Letters of Comment.

In years past, nominations and awards went to creators scattered across the globe. This year, an issue that has not arisen before, several of the awards went to Neffers and Neffer activity, notably my novel *Against Three Lands* and our fine zine *Tightbeam*.

The novel nominations raised two issues. We have in the past had a nomination for some award for a vote tabulator. The precedent set then in that tabulators, being good fen would count the votes honestly, so I stayed on as tabulator. The other issue is that we have in the past had an officer with a published novel, but there was no effort to give him a Neffy. Similarly, we've always had fanzines, but they were not given awards. This year, matters went differently.

Based on suggestions to date, I propose that we split the



Art
Angela K Scott ... 2, 5



Your Volunteer Team

Directorate:

Cedar Sanderson - cedarlila@yahoo.com
 Judy Carroll - AutumnSeas8012@gmail.com
 Jefferson Swycaffer - abontides@gmail.com
 John Thiel - kinethiel@mymetronet.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 cedarlila@yahoo.com
 N'APA Collator Jefferson Swycaffer abontides@gmail.com
 \Editors, Tightbeam George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net,
 Jon Swartz jon_swartz@hotmail.com
 Editor, Ionisphere John Thiel kinethiel@mymetronet.net
 Editor, Eldritch Science George Phillies
 Editor, Mangaverse Jessi Silver jessi@sl1.com
 Editor, Films Fantastic Eric Jamborsky mrsolo1@comcast.net
 Editor, Origin John Thiel kinethiel@mymetronet.net
 Editor, The N3F Review of Books: George Phillies
 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 cedarlila@gmail.com
 Birthday Cards R-Laurraine Tutihasi lauraine@mac.com;
 Judy Carroll autumnseas8012@gmail.com
 Book Review Bureau G. Phillies phillies@4liberty.net
 Correspondence Bureau Judy Carroll autumnseas8012@gmail.com
 Election Teller Jon Swartz., jon_swartz@hotmail.com
 Fandom History/Research Bureau John Thiel kinethiel@mymetronet.net ; Jon Swartz jon_swartz@hotmail.com
 Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau John Thiel kinethiel@mymetronet.net
 Film Bureau Eric Jamborsky mrsolo1@comcast.net
 Forwarder Jeffrey Redmond
 Franking Service George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net
 Games Bureau George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net
 Gourmet Bureau Cedar Sanderson cedarlila@gmail.com
 Historian Jon Swartz jon_swartz@hotmail.com
 History and Research Bureau John Thiel kinethiel@mymetronet.net
 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@mymetronet.net, Jeffrey Redmond redmondjeff@hotmail.com
 Neffy Awards Bureau George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net
 Pro Bureau George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net
 Round Robins Patricia Williams-King , 335 Forrest Park Road, Apt # 75 Madison, TN 37115.
 Short Story Contest J. Swycaffer abontides@gmail.com
 Social Media David Speakman, George Phillies
 Video Schedule David Speakman davodd@gmail.com
 Welcommittee Judy Carroll autumnseas8012@gmail.com
 Writers Exchange Judy Carroll autumnseas8012@gmail.com



Maid and Bird — Angela K. Scott

Neffy fanzine award, with one award going to N3F zines (after all, we have nine of them now) and another to non-N3F zines.

The suggestion was made that N3F members should not be eligible for the fiction awards, so that the awards would go to outsiders. However, the N3F numbers great professional writers, people who surely deserved being awarded, among our founders. E. E.

Smith comes immediately to mind. As I type, Neffer authors include Jacqueline Lichtenberg, Brad Torgersen, Jagi Lamplighter Wright, Cedar Sanderson, and Jon Del Arroz (and apologies to everyone I have forgotten). Surely these fine people could legitimately be given a Neffy for one of their works? I shall therefore propose that the Neffy fiction awards should not go to officers or active Bureau Heads.

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

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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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Elections

Dear President and Directorate:

According to our Bylaws, for a candidate to qualify to run for office:

IV. Elections

1. All candidates must, by the filing deadline of August 15 of each year, have paid their dues for the year in which they will hold office if elected..."

The following members had dues paid in advance through at least Dec. 31, 2020, as of August 15, 2019:

John Thiel - Paid Through 12/31/2020
 George Phillies - Paid Through 4/30/2021
 Gar Chen - Paid Through 10/31/2021
 Owen K Lorion - Paid Through 11/30/2021
 Jefferson Swycaffer - Paid Through 2/28/2022
 Judy Carroll - Paid Through 6/30/2022
 David Speakman - Paid Through 11/30/2022
 Rich Speakman - Paid Through 11/30/2022

A simple suspension of the Bylaws by majority vote of the Directorate would need to happen to allow other candidates to appear on the ballot.

David Speakman, Treasurer

Current nominees are George Phillies (Pres) and Directorate: Jefferson Swycaffer, John Thiel, and Judy Carroll.

Club Activities

Treasury

\$2,648.48 (August 17, 2019)
 + 66.00 PayPal Dues
 + 0.00 Cash Dues
 + 18.00 Check Dues
 + 0.00 Money Order Dues
 - 2.81 PayPal Fees
 - 0.00 Banking Fees
 - 18.00 September Printing Costs (CK#5021)
 - 78.83 Zine Postage Reimbursement (CK#5020)

\$ 2632.84 (September 11, 2019)

New, Renewed, & Reinstated Members & Info Updates

Renewed/Reinstated:

#36 Heath Row - Regular Voting, thru Jan 2023

#248 Eric Jamborsky - Electronic Voting, thru Aug 2020
 #252 Katherine Langley - Electronic Voting, thru Sep 2020

New & Reinstated:

#274 L Jagi Lamplighter Wright - Public, Non-Voting
 #275 Jon Del Arroz - Public, Non-Voting
 #276 Jerry Kaufman - Public, Non-Voting
 (Returning Former Neffer)
 Mundane Life: Retired
 Fan Interests: APAs (amateur press associations), Books, Conventions and clubs, Correspondence, Fanzines, Online activities, Reading and book clubs
 Fan for: 60 years
 Fanac for: 52 years
 Other clubs: Vanguard (informal Seattle group)
 Cons: "First convention was the 1966 Worldcon, Tricon in Cleveland Ohio. Too many others to list."
 Zines: Banana Wings, BEAM, SF Commentary, Inca, Chunga, Lofgeornost, This Here..., Captain Flashback, Trap Door. No prozines currently.

Expired/Expiring

Expired in August

None! Thank you for renewing!

Expiring in September

#251 Bob Goolsby
 #256 Bradley Slavik
 #257 Scott Duncan
 #258 Constance Elliott
 #259 Erik Martin

Expiring in October

#98 - Robert Jennings
 #255 - Scott Lee Spence
 #250 - Shami Stovall

Member Status Changes

#129 John W Andrews Regular Voting --> Public Non-Voting, Exp July 2019

Correspondence Bureau

Welcome to the Correspondence Bureau!

I am pleased to announce that our first member, Jeffery Redmond, has signed up. Jeffery has chosen Choice #2 and wants to be paired with the next person whose interests are unknown. If you would like to correspond with Jeffery, you need to do the following:

1. Choose Choice #2.
2. Send an email with your name, choice number and

email address to Judy Carroll AutumnSea-
s8012@g.mail.com

You will receive an email with Jeffery's email address and he will receive an email with your name and email address.

As much as we love science fiction, fantasy and horror sometimes we just want to talk about our other interests, or get to know someone living in another state or country, or find someone who likes to joke as much as we do.

By joining the Correspondence Bureau you will be able to talk about your love of fishing, sports, reading, cooking, running, movies. The list goes on - it's endless. Or perhaps you would like to talk with someone whose interests are unknown to you and discover this person and their interests with each conversation.

You have two choices for seeking a pairing:

Choice #1 - You want to be paired with someone of like interest. Send an email to the bureau head with your name and a list of your interests. When someone with similar interest requests a pairing both of you will be notified and given the email of the other member. Contact the other member and the rest is up to you.

Choice #2 - You want to be paired with the next person whose interests are unknown. Send an email to the bureau head telling of your choice. Include your name, and email address. You will be paired with the next person with unknown interests and both of you will be notified and given the email address of the other member. The rest is up to you. Whichever way you choose will be an adventure.

POLICY

The Correspondence Bureau is open to all members of the club who have an email address whether they are paying or non-paying members. Members seeking to correspond through the Correspondence Bureau will be asked for permission to publish their name in the Monthly article. If they do not wish to have their name published only their Choice #1 or #2 will be published. No email addresses will be published in the monthly article nor given to another member without that member's permission.

If you wish to join the Correspondence Bureau or you have any questions:
Contact Judy Carroll AutumnSeas8012@gmail.com

Birthday Card Bureau

Birthday cards sent in August: 8
Renewal notices sent: 8

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Laurraine Tutihasi
laurraine@mac.com

Birthday Bureau and sometime reviewer and article writer.

Recruiting Bureau

I have begun issuing bulletins, to which the other members of the recruiting bureau were responsive, so we have successfully established intercommunication within the bureau. I will continue sending out these bulletins.—John Thiel

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 welcome new members Jon Del Arroz, Jerry Kaufman and L Jagi Lamplighter Wright to the N3F. Welcome!. We hope your experience with the club is a long and enjoyable one.

We are happy, and very pleased to announce, that the Welcommittee has a new member in its ranks. Jeffrey Redmond has kindly offered to help contact and greet new members to the club. Thank you, Jeffrey. Your help is greatly appreciated!

Anyone willing to help welcome new members to this wonderful club will be greatly appreciated. If interested, please contact Judy Carroll at AutumnSea-s8012@gmail.com

Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau

We will begin reviewing options and finding new options for effectively establishing better relations in fandom and in the professional world of science fiction and fantasy. I am going to go over potential methods for doing this, which I have not done to any great extent before.—John Thiel

History and Research Bureau

I have noticed a stimulus for fan and science fiction research emanating from this bureau. There is more talk about history and research of sf and fantasy on the net and a more lively interest in it. Where formerly not much information on science fiction could be googled, it is now possible to find a lot relating to sf and even fandom by looking for it, and photos of science fiction doings and of the covers of fanzines have made their way into Google images. Some of what I've been getting can be noted in my two NFFF zines, Origin and Ionisphere. I will be describing how to Google successfully in the October issue of Origin.—John Thiel

Book Review Bureau

In collaboration with the Writers Exchange Bureau and the Pro Bureau, we have started publishing a new zine, *The N3F Review of Books, Incorporating Prose Bono*. Issue 1 has already appeared. Issue 2 should appear in a few weeks.

Zines

TNFF Volume 78 Number 9 lies before you. Tightbeam went out last week. Issues of Origin, N'APA, and Films Fantastic are in the distribution path, to be mailed over the next week, not all in one lump. Jessi Silver writes that the next issue of



Mask and Rose — Angela K. Scott

Mangaverse will be out sooner rather than later. El-dritch Science has had a bit of a dry spell for fiction that matches our needs. The next issue of *The N3F Review of Books* appears to be on schedule for the weekend of the 27th.

Pro Bureau

In support of our writers and would-be writers, we are now publishing a series of columns on aspects of writing, to appear in the *Prose Bono* section of *The N3F Review of Books*. We are fortunate to have an excellent columnist. Robert Runte is Senior Editor with EssentialEdits.ca. He has edited over 30 traditionally published SF&F novels, two of which were nominated for awards. We hope to have additional columnists soon.

Writers' Exchange Bureau

Welcome to the Writers Exchange!

If you are a new writer, a professional writer, or someone who dreams of being a writer -this is the place for you. If you love reading unpublished work and find it exciting to do so, this place is also for you.

In the June issue I told readers of my introduction to Shirley Jackson. The July and August issues contained quotes from Jackson's lectures - Memory and Delusion and How I Write. This month I am including quotes from Jackson's lecture Garlic in Fiction.*

"Far and away the greatest menace to the writer - any writer, beginning or otherwise - is the reader. The reader is, after all, a kind of silent partner in this whole business of writing, and a work of fiction is surely incomplete if it is never read."

"Here is one of the greatest pitfalls for beginning or inexperienced writers: Their stories are, far too often, just simply not very interesting. It is easy to be trapped in a story you are writing, and to suppose that interest you feel yourself in the story is automatically communicated to the reader...."

"Any discussion of what might or might not catch the interest of a reader is hopeless; any magazine editor can give endless meaningless platitudes about what people want to read, or what people ought to read, but in the last analysis no story of any kind for any magazine for any type of reader is going to be interesting unless the writer, using all his skill and craft, sets himself out deliberately to make it so."

This last lecture should be read in its entirety. The three quotes above don't do it justice. You can buy the book listed below, or you can Google *Garlic in Fiction* a lecture on writing by Shirley Jackson. You will find it in the *New Yorker* August 3, 2015

* Taken from the book- Shirley Jackson *Let Me Tell You; New Stories, Essays, and Other Writings* Edited by Laurence Jackson Hyman and Sarah Hyman DeWitt

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.

If interested, please contact: Judy Carroll. AutumnSea-s8012@gmail.com

Letters of Comment

Dear Neffers,

I received *The National Fantasy Fan* 78/8 in the last week or so, and in the name of not letting it languish, here's a letter of comment.

Patricia, I have a few round robins I owe letters on. After I write this letter, I'll respond to at least one. Thank you for continuing to include me.

Because of the multiple mentions of *Amazing Stories* in this issue, I subscribed and ordered some recent back issues. I look forward to re-adding it to my reading of *Analog*, Asimov's, *F& SF*, *Interzone*, and others. When I was still in high school, the older sister of an ex-girlfriend got an editorial job at TSR in Lake Geneva. Thanks to Lisa I got occasional comp copies of *D & D*-related paperbacks, as well as issues of *Amazing Stories*. Apparently TSR started its run of *Amazing Stories* in 1982, lasting until 1995. For some reason I remember it re-launching somewhere in the early 90's, but that doesn't seem to have been the case. One thing I remember about my exchanges with Lisa was that she said working in fantasy and science fiction affected her enjoyment of reading genre fiction for leisure, because she grew to consider it work.

My take on the volume of club activity. If people have the energy to make things, let's make things. We, as members might not be able to read all of everything every time, but some people will always be reading part of something, in and out of the club if we do it right, and

that's worthwhile. I've always made zines for myself first and then perhaps been pleasantly surprised others find value in reading it.

One thing I would consider in terms of awards, however, is separating Neffer entries, winners from more general entries/winners. For example, I am quite fond of George Phillies, but is his novel really the best in the last year? Ditto with Tightbeam.

I much prefer reading on paper than on screen, perhaps because I'm online all day every day at work. I tend to read my Kindle to Kindle Unlimited and very inexpensive collections of public domain works. That said, Wildside Press's Megapacks are awesome and well worth checking out, especially if you really want to dig into a specific author or explore a vintage genre. But, otherwise, Patterson is correct: e-books should cost less than books, not the same as or more than. I will not buy an e-book that's even close to retail price in print. (That said, Amazon Unlimited is of dubious consistency. You're better off checking out e-books from your local public library.)

While traveling for work early last month, I picked up Stephen King's "The Outsider" at the airport. Originally published last year it's in paperback now and continues the Bill Hodges trilogy focus on Holly Cribney. It'll also be a ten part miniseries on HBO. A supernatural police procedural more than a horror novel, it blends aspects of Mexican legend and love, mashed with doppelgängers to make a good read. I pretty much couldn't put it down.

I also watched a couple of movies that might be of interest. On the stream series Shudder, which focuses on horror, I watched the 1970 exploitation film "I Drink Your Blood" which has a rather colorful history. While it's pretty much a zombie movie, I'd classify it as science fiction because it speculates what would happen if a group of people all contracted rabies, portrayed really true to life, so it's speculative perhaps. But the biological/scientific is there. The movie also addresses Satanism, cults of personality, and eminent domain. And it goes so far as to speculate that rabies might be transmitted sexually, or at least by kissing. And perhaps it can be.

This morning, then, I watch the 1993 Full Moon movie "Arcade". Full Moon offers its own streaming service, as well. *Arcade*, which costars John DeLarricie, who played Q and *Star Trek: the next generation*, is basically about a VR dream videogame that gain sentience and proceeds to kill a group of teenagers. The hero and tries to figure out what's going on, and to stop it. The computer graphics

and special effects are pretty low-budget, but the production drew the attention of Disney, whose executives thought the movie sky cycles were too similar to the cycles in *Tron*. Of the two movies, *I Drink Your Blood* is the better, but *Arcade* is more clearly SF.

Also in the mail this week came the October 2019 issue of *Star Wars Insider*, the official magazine. Feature articles focus on “The Force Awakens”, Han Solo, Warwick Davis, and David Tattersall. Fandom is well represented, with items on cosplay and fanart, as well as on a fan club report from Seattle. Do we have any members active in the Titan garrison chapter of the 501st Legion, or the Rebel Legion in Seattle? But the best article in the issue is about the false economics of scale in super weapons, including but not limited to unreliable employees, overconfident rebels, and construction problems.

With that, goodbye for now. Keep making zines, people. I appreciate the hard work.

Heath Row

Dear Neffers,

I’d suggest that this might be the last letter of comment I pen this weekend, but I have really been enjoying this. I guess I’ve missed plugging into the N3F and look forward to checking out *Tightbeam* and *Ionsphere* and the N3F Review of Books, as well. The trigger for this letter of comment is *The Fan* Volume 76 Number 8, from August 2017.

Are we still looking for someone to maintain a convention calendar? I used to do that when I edited *The Fan*, and if there is interest I could pick that up again. I called up my old directory of SF clubs, and it looks like the last time I updated that was a decade ago. So the skeleton is there if one started compiling updates from the local clubs. Let me know if there is interest.

I was intrigued by Donn P. Bonzier’s practice of splitting up letters of comment to spread commentary from multiple letterheads throughout his zine. I would like to see a copy of that to see how it works, how it flowed, how people were attributed, etc. One of the things I’m aware of is getting so many letters of comment in such short order, is how disconnected it might all seem. I feel much the same in reading APAs like *Alarums & Excursions*. So many people responding to something someone said somewhere, all at different

times, in their own zine. Regardless I prefer that social media commentary or online discussions, at least for my fandom fix.

It’s funny Mr. Swartz mentions Watson’s enjoyment of the writing of William Clark Russell in the Sherlock Holmes story “The Four Orange Pips”. I read that story just last night for the Round Robin and missed the reference entirely! So I must return. There it is in the first page of the story! “Sherlock Holmes sat moodily at one side of the fireplace, cross-indexing his records of crime, whilst at the otherend I was deep in one of Clark Russell’s fine sea-stories, until the hum of the gale from without seemed to blend with the sea, and the splash of the rain to lengthen out into the long swish of the sea waves.” That’s some fine serendipity.

And it’s one reason why I’m doing this, even if the zines I’m commenting on are old. I would not have connected *The Fan* to Russell to Holmes to the Round Robin any other way. Fine serendipity indeed.

Reading the May/June 2019 issue of the *Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction* this afternoon, I’d like to recommend several short stories of potential interest. *Second Skin* is a dark fable of sorts about parent-child relationships, sibling rivalries, and learning a useful craft. *The Moss Kings* is rich enough to warrant a series of interconnected stories or novel. Having recently seen the movie *Midsummer*, I would like to see this is a quiet film. But first, more stories and books, please. The story is a pagan-esque mythic fantasy that carries much potential. *Apocalypse Considered through a Helix of Semiprecious Foods and Recipes* is a thematic, shortened piece that posits the role of various foods might play in futuristic societies of scarcity and moral rigidity. The beef stew section was especially effective. And Rebecca Campbell’s *The Fourth Trimester Is the Strangest* is a slightly confusing story about post-partum psychosis and the strain a newborn can put on a new mother. I’m not entirely sure what happened, but I really liked the story. Wonderfully done.

You might’ve gathered that I quite enjoy the remaining print SF magazines: *Analog*, *Asimov’s*, *F&SF*, *Inter-Zone*, *Galaxy’s Edge*, *Space and Time*. What do you read? I’m not always able to keep up with them, but I enjoy having them around and dipping into them to find some surprising gems like the above. Seriously! *The Moss Kings* is a stellar story

Heath Row

Sercon

Comic Book Clubs: Captain America's Sentinels of Liberty by

Jon D. Swartz, Ph.D.
N3F Historian

Captain America

Captain America is a superhero appearing in Marvel Comics. Created by Joe Simon and Jack Kirby, the character first appeared in 1941 in *Captain America Comics #1* (cover dated March, 1942) from Timely Comics, a predecessor of Marvel Comics. Cap was designed as a super soldier who fought the Axis during World War II, and was Timely Comics' most popular character during the wartime period. In addition to his own comic book, he appeared in several other Timely titles, including *All Winners, U.S.A., All Select,* and *Marvel Mystery*.

Cap wore a costume that bore an American flag motif, and was armed with a nearly indestructible shield that he used for defense but also threw at foes. The character was usually depicted as the alter ego of Steve Rogers, a frail young man enhanced to the peak of human perfection by an experimental serum in order to aid the United States government's efforts in World War II. He was originally aided in his efforts by a young, costumed sidekick named Bucky.

Bucky Barnes

James Buchanan "Bucky" Barnes, also created by Simon and Kirby, first appeared in *Captain America Comics #1*. He was an orphaned teenager who had been accepted by the troops as a mascot (his father was a soldier who had been killed), and accidentally discovered that private Steve Rogers was Captain America in his alter-ego. Because he knew his secret, Rogers was forced to train Bucky and accept him as his sidekick.

Having trained under Rogers and others in the time leading up to World War II, Bucky was a master of hand-to-hand combat and martial arts, as well as being skilled in the use of military weapons such as firearms and grenades. He also used throwing knives on occasion, and was a gifted advance scout.

The Young Allies

Created by Simon and Kirby as the Sentinels of Liber-

ty, "a multi-racial group of patriotic kids," this group was led by Bucky, and initially made up of him and four friends: Knuckles (Percival Aloysius O'Toole), Jeff (Jefferson Worthing Sandervilt), Tubby (Henry Tinkle), and Whitewash Jones. The kids appeared in a text feature in *Captain America #4* (June, 1941), but were swiftly moved into the comic as a regular feature to help Cap in his battles -- and became popular enough to be awarded their own title, *The Young Allies*.

When they appeared in their own title, they were joined by Toro, the sidekick of the Human Torch, another popular Timely character. One of the sub-plots in the stories involved Bucky and Toro arguing over which one was the leader of the group. *The Young Allies* subsequently appeared in a half-dozen other Timely titles. Captain America and the Human Torch at times appeared with the *Young Allies* in their strips.

Captain America in a Movie Serial

Captain America was very popular during the early 1940s, and there was even a 15-chapter, 1943 Republic serial about his exploits -- starring Dick Purcell as Captain America, with Lionel Atwill as The Scarab, an arch criminal. Actress Lorna Gray was the love interest.

Captain America After World War II

The popularity of superheroes waned following the war and the *Captain America* comic book was discontinued in 1950, with a short-lived revival in 1953. Since Marvel Comics revived the character in 1964, Cap has been continuously in Marvel publication in one form or another. Recently he has been featured in several popular movies, with actor Chris Evans in the title role. Like other major superheroes of the 1940s, Cap had his own club that readers of his comic book could join.

Sentinels of Liberty Club

Timely Comics ran the *Captain America Sentinels of Liberty Club* during the 1940s. Some of the ads for the club had coupons, that were to be filled out, in the shape of badges. The club was advertised in several Timely Comics, and *Captain America Comics* had a regular column devoted to the club in each issue. Beginning in *Captain America #1*, readers could send in "one thin dime" and receive a brass (later copper) badge and a numbered membership card, all mailed in an illustrated envelope. These items, when original and not reproductions, are worth a small fortune today.

One version of the membership card, which the new member was to sign, stated: "I solemnly pledge to uphold

the principles of the Sentinels of liberty and assist Captain America in his war against spies in the United States of America.”

Another version of the card stated the following:

- (1) In God we trust.
- (2) Allegiance to the flag and the constitution of the United States of America.
- (3) To make myself a better citizen and defend my government forever.

Some Conclusions

Captain America was the greatest of the patriotic superheroes introduced in the 1940s. There were many such heroes who draped themselves in costumes that resembled the American flag, but Cap is the only one to survive until the present day. His club, however, no longer exists.

Because of the recent movies featuring Captain America, his exploits are followed by many more people today than in the 1940s. The feature film, *Captain America: The Winter Soldier* (2014), made nearly \$715 million worldwide!

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Note: In addition to the above sources, several Internet sites were consulted.

National Fantasy Fan Federation Awards -- Revisited

by

Jon D. Swartz, Ph.D.
N3F Historian

In an earlier issue of *TNFF*, I wrote about our club's Laureate Awards of the 1940s, and how they changed during that decade. In doing so, I mentioned some other fan polls and their findings.

The purpose of this article is to add to what I wrote then, bringing the history of our club awards more up to date. Again, I am relying upon the writings of Harry Warner, Jr. -- especially his *A Wealth of Fable* -- some early issues of *The National Fantasy Fan*, a few additional fan publications, and other sources I came upon as I researched this topic.

1950 Awards

According to Warner, in an early 1950 club poll, Mrs. Gertrude M. Carr of Seattle, Washington, was named the Best New Fan, even though she had been a reader (and a letter-writer) of *Weird Tales* since the 1930s! She went on to engage in many fannish activities, both in and out of the N3F, after this honor was bestowed. She later became active in Star Trek fandom.

Other award winners in 1950 were Lee Hoffman (Best Fanzine Editor), with *The Fancient* voted Best Fanzine, although Hoffman did not edit it at the time. No other award winners were named for 1950 by Warner, who concentrated on some of the problems our club had in the early 1950s, beginning with the idea that the N3F should start a book club (but without the funds to do so). In addition, the member in charge of our club's lending library at the time disappeared with the library funds, and all the club records were somehow lost!

In the late 1950s, Directorate chairman Ralph Holland recommended that our club give an award for the most promising new artist, and enlisted well-known fan Bjo Trimble to help him with this project. It's not clear whether or not this came about, but Trimble is credited with making art shows a part of all the subsequent world-cons. The Jack Gaughan Award, for best emerging artist, was not given before the 1980s; but it is still being awarded today.

Ralph M. Holland

Ralph Merridette Holland (1899 - 1962) was president of the N3F from 1958 until his death. The Ralph M. Holland Award was a club award named for him. It was later called the President's Award, and is now known as the Franson Award (re-named for Donald Franson, a later N3F president). It is still presented, usually annually, by our club president "for services to the club."

Harry Warner, Jr.

Warner (1922 - 2003), known in fandom as “The Hermit of Hagerstown,” was editor of the first *Bonfire*, and author of two respected histories of fandom: *All Our Yesterdays* (1969) and *A Wealth of Fable* (1992). Warner was voted into The First Fandom Hall of Fame in 2005.

Kaymar Award

Another club award is the Kaymar Award. It is given in April each year, supposedly because the N3F was organized in the month of April. The selection each year is voted upon by previous winners who are still in the club. This award, unlike other awards in fandom, can be won only once. It’s given for work “for the benefit of the club and its members.”

The award is a memorial to K. Martin Carlson (1904 - 1986), who originated, maintained, and financed it for twenty-five years. Carlson was a long-time member who held many positions in our club, including club president and club historian. He went by the fan name of Kaymar.

Winners of this award, presented since 1959, are given on our club’s website.

Solacon

At the Solacon of 1958, held in Los Angeles, our club gave prizes of some sort to popular science fiction (SF) pro authors Robert Bloch, David Keller, and Bob Silverberg.

Detention

The 1959 Worldcon, the Detention, was held in Detroit, Michigan. It featured the presentation for the first time of yet another award related to our club, this one the E. Everett Evans Memorial Award, now known as the Big Heart Award. It’s still given each year at worldcons, but is now called the David A. Kyle Big Heart Award. In an article about the award, Kyle said that it was given annually to someone who cares deeply “about the spirit of science fiction fandom.” The first recipient was E. E. “Doc” Smith. Evans, Kyle, and Smith were all charter members of the N3F.

Our club also prepared a plaque to be awarded to Evans’ widow in honor of her husband.

Pittcon

At the 1960 Pittcon, our club sponsored a trophy for the encouragement of new artistic talent, with the competition open to all artists, fan and pro, and with judging done by the Pittcon Art Show Judging Panel. The trophy was won by neffer Tim Dumont, who also won a Second Prize and an Honorable Mention as well. Bjo Trimble won a blue ribbon for one of her pictures, and also won the Most Popular Award by a vote of convention attendees.

A triple-ribbon Grand Prize was awarded to artist Ron Cobb, who later had lifetime N3F member, Forrest J Ackerman, as his agent. During his career Cobb made significant artistic contributions to many SF films.

Some Conclusions

In 1948 there was a large-scale attempt in fandom to organize a set of awards on a national or international scale, and a Committee of Awards and Nominations for Meritorious Work in the Production of Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Weird Fiction was set up. At the time, some deemed it as inappropriate because our club, the N3F, was already doing something similar.

But the idea was discussed in SF fandom at large. Subsequently, the International Fantasy Awards were given in 1951 by an international panel of fans and pros, and the first Hugo Awards (originally named The Science Fiction Achievement Awards) were given out in 1953 at the Worldcon in Philadelphia (Philcon II).

Since most of these awards were given in categories similar to the ones used by our club, it’s not too much of a stretch to assume that many fans, including some of our own club members, saw these new awards as taking the place of our former annual club awards.

Various awards were given by our club in the 1950s and 1960s; but, as detailed above, they were not given as systematically as the annual awards, originally the Laureate Awards, had been in the 1940s..

Today, our club gives Franson, Kaymar, and Neffy Awards on a regular basis.

2019 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, 2019.
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 by March 2020. 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, 2019. 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 2019 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest, and I agree to them.

Signature:

Date: _____



Franson Award — The N3F Review of Books
Neffy Discussion — Elections

Club Activities

Treasury — Member Data — Correspondence Bureau
Birthday Card Bureau — Recruiting Bureau — Welcomittee
Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau — History and Research Bureau
Book Review Bureau — Zines — Pro Bureau — Writers' Exchange Bureau

Letters of Comment

Heath Row — Heath Row

Sercon

Comic Book Clubs: Captain America's Sentinels of Liberty
National Fantasy Fan Federation Awards Revisited

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