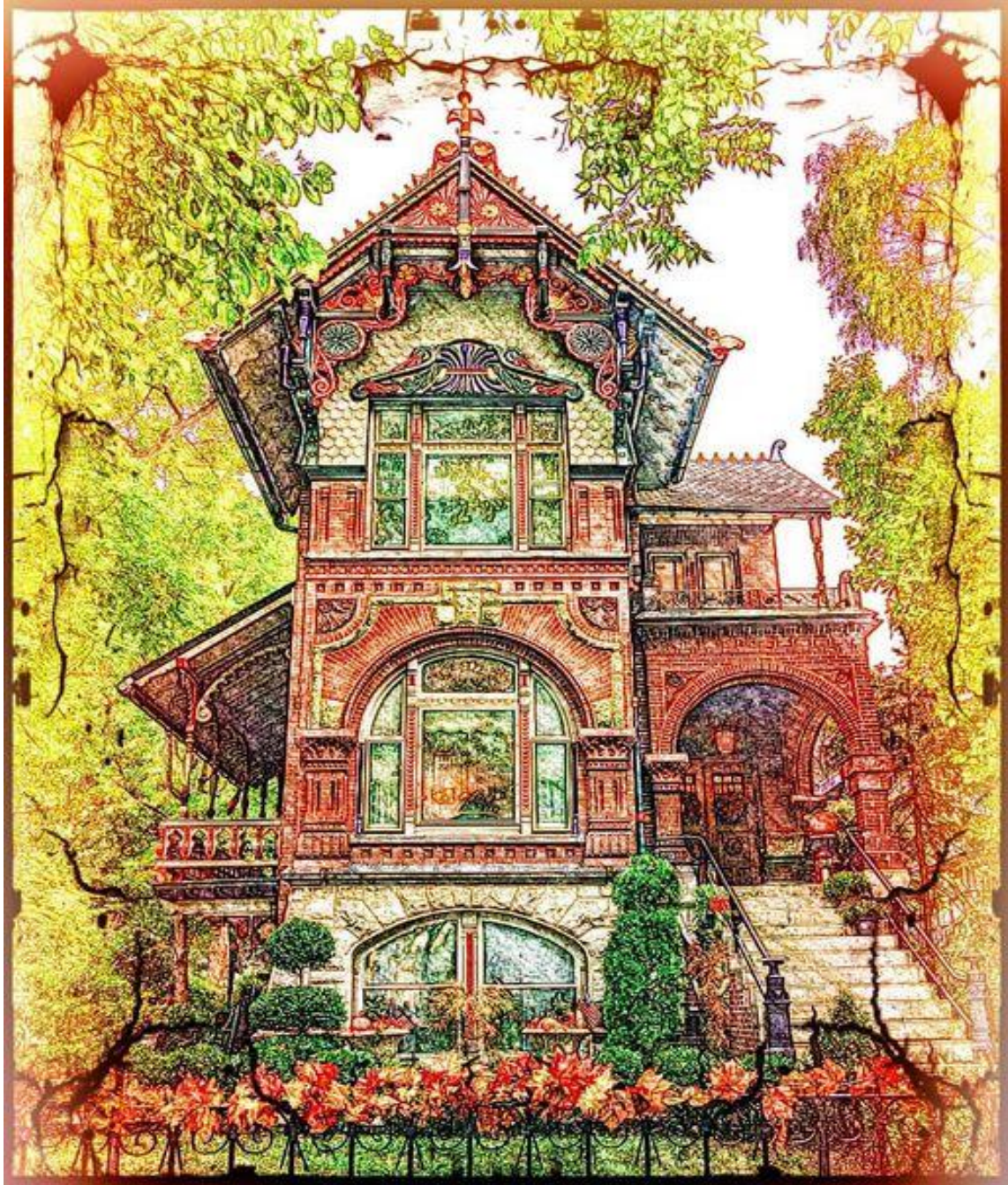


ORION 52



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Cover by Richard Andre

EDITORIAL



The Times are Favorable for Increase

Well, what do we have now but a gigantic inflation, which will be followed in order by a monstrous depression. Hardly good times for anyone to make out. But I would hazard the outlook that when such things strike, and there is nothing much going on, that is exactly the time for the commencement of activities designed not only for maintenance (survival), but for progress. Usually brilliant things in all areas come flashing out of a depression. That's when people with their own original ideas get busy, when there is massive social failure due to a malfunctioning economy. There are things and places which are new. You can take your ease among followers of the Age of Aquarius, seek the realm of Xanadu.

Many things are gone in fandom, but the N3F is still here, and is still pretty solidly devoted to science fiction and fantasy. Their hull has not been breached and their systems have not been compromised. You might say that the flag is still flying. Let us find enjoyment in what we still have and make the most of what we are doing. Here in this department we try to extricate what there has been in the past and gain a good perspective on what there is that constitutes science fiction fandom. We are where science meets magic in the NFFF, and it is a good thing to have both at our disposal. One of the secrets of progress is that it requires imagination, and we have that. When there is no good material outlook ahead, it is up to us to dream what the future should have and imagine what there could be, and then follow and talk these imaginings, and that it what is a vital element in progress. I say again as it has been said before (in science fiction's *history*), that science fiction must move forward and be a worthwhile element in the world of affairs. And if we take this perspective, we can view ourselves as

being at the source. In other words, we can be the origin of new things in this world. And what we view as favorable is what we must stick with.

Things weren't going very good when fandom first started. There was war and there was the depression and its poverty. Being particularly aware people, the early fans noticed all this, and made great efforts to evolve some hemisphere of thought and discussion based upon the reading matter that seemed to be above all this national gloom. They had numerous crashes in their efforts to get these things together, but no matter how many problems they encountered, they had evolved a continuing fandom. Their attempts to do this were laughable only to people who considered what they were doing to be too new and unusual to be reckoned with or thought about. Its novelty seemed silliness to them. But those who joined this evolving fandom did not think they were wasting their time. They viewed fandom as a path through social misery into a future with a better outlook.

Where there's a will, there's a way. But where there isn't a will, there isn't a way. This was touched upon by the philosopher Schopenhauer in his essay "The World as Will and Idea". It's just what I've been talking about. Idea is what's imagined, will is what is determined. A Way is something which is visualized, and it goes nowhere without the will existing to follow it and to find what is sought. Dream is as much a part of existence as material facts, as when you hear people speak of "My dreams came true". This does not happen without the will to bring it about, but it is a conception which exists until something is brought about from it. So dream your dreams, and speak of them, and approach the goal that has been visualized. Those early science fiction fans brought about a new form of society existing by mail which during the course of the nineteen fifties was at optimum, although not as yet fully realized. Calamity struck the nation just as they were about to bring things to their realization by means of the extra impetus which awaited science fiction in the sixties. But this came to havoc with the dire circumstances brought about in the nineteen sixties and recovery has been very difficult. We still suffer from it over half a century later. But still, we should not give up. The opportunity for engineering creativity is present, and we are likely to score in any advances we are able to achieve. The warfare seems to have ended in general collapse; now is the time to make something happen in the void that was left in our lives. It gives one a real feeling of doing something, and the inertia of doing nothing is a very unpleasant thing. Let's try a little on with things we have felt to be good.

WHAT I DID by Will Mayo



Using the imagination

When at last the Great Collapse comes and I am asked what I did before the Great Powers came crushing down I shall say I was a writer, though I didn't make much money at it.

"Nonsense!" they'll all say. "You should have been a fish and game man."

"I know," I'll reply. "I know."

And we'll go scrounging among the ruins for food once more.

Once I wanted to be somebody important. Somebody famous. Or, if not, somebody infamous. I wanted to shake and break things, to make things happen. But then I saw that the so-called important people don't last. Nor do the rest of the people. Countries, people and their gods, soon fade from the map. The memory of them is forgotten. And the earth abides without them.

On a night like tonight, when the heat draws near and the tragedy of life keeps me up into the early morning hours, I think of the billions of planets in our galaxy and of those in far off star systems. And I think of Michio Kaku's string theory, of other dimensions, other universes. I think of the countless versions of me that must be out there somewhere that have not known such a cruel life. Then I ease back into sleep. Time to dream.

There is a new world coming. I will not live to see it, but this I know—it is on its way. Despite my seeming inability to get this technology to work for me, my rusty background when it comes to literature, and my loose temper, I have editors willing to work with me and see my words into print. I am grateful for that.

Once I thought the 90s were strange. Then the early 2000s. Now every day seems stranger than the last, full of strange people from preachers to politicians telling us how to live our lives. A man wants relief from all that.

A lot of things concern me here. Life. Death. The things of this universe. But primarily just a day to day setting through this existence. The Whys can wait.

Some say people are a plague on this earth.

They may well be right.

We've warred with one another,

done harm to our planet

and given ourselves

gods that torture and damn.

Myself, I am given to a world without people,

one good cat and a room full of books.

Leave gods out of the equation.



Jeffrey Redmond



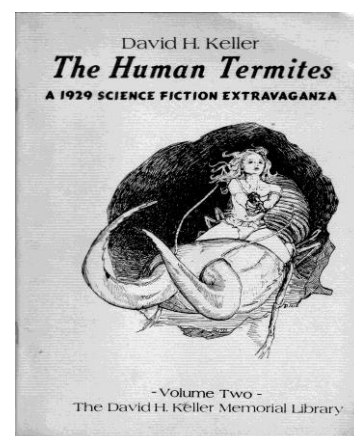
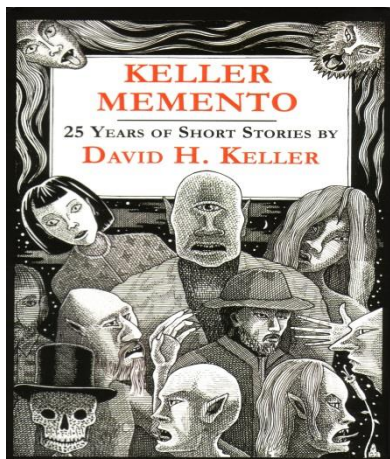
Jeffrey Redmond's column still has not returned to Origin, but to keep him in mind, here is a picture of him, as you can see welcoming you to most anything that's around.



DAVID H. KELLER by Jon D. Swartz, N3F Historian



A look at a prolific early writer of science fiction, who had much influence on the developing field



David Henry Keller (1880-1966), who usually published his fiction as David H. Keller, M.D., also used the pseudonyms of Monk Smith, Matthew Smith, Amy Worth, Henry Cecil, Cecilia Henry, and Jacobus Hubelaire. Keller wrote for the pulp magazines of the mid-20th Century, writing fantasy and horror stories as well as science fiction (SF). Genre historians have stated that he was the first psychiatrist to write SF.

Personal Life

Keller was born in Philadelphia and graduated from the School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania in 1903. He served as a neuro-psychiatrist in the United States Army Medical Corps during World Wars I and II, and was the Assistant Superintendent of the Louisiana State Mental Hospital at Pineville (until Huey Long's reforms removed him from his position in 1928).

Keller's medical training and unique experience during the two World Wars led to his many professional publications, including several monographs for servicemen. His specialty was treating soldiers who were "shell-shocked", the condition now known as post-traumatic stress syndrome (PTSD).

Writing Career

In the late 1920s Keller traveled to New York City to meet with Hugo Gernsback, publisher/editor of **Amazing Stories**, who had bought Keller's first published SF story, "The Revolt of the Pedestrians". Gernsback was impressed by Keller's quality of writing and ability to address sophisticated themes beyond commonplace technological predictions or alien encounters typically found in many of the early SF stories. He encouraged Keller's writing and later called these distinctive short stories "Kelleryarns".

In 1929 Gernsback founded **Science Wonder Stories** and not only published Keller's work in the first issue, but listed him as Associate Science Editor. It was this issue of Science Wonder Stories that introduced the term "science fiction" to the world. The beginning of this magazine also began an intense writing period for Keller, but he was unable to support his family solely on a writer's income and set up a small private psychiatric practice out of his home in Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania.

While a number of Keller's works are considered dated and utilize plot lines or ideas that have since been dismissed as too simplistic or cliched, other stories contained the detailed ramifications of future technology and addressed taboo issues of that era (such as bi-sexuality) that a reader might expect in a modern SF story.

The level of complexity found in Keller's writing rose above many other pulp stories of the same period and held the promise of "science fiction literature" that would later be fulfilled during SF's Golden Age.

Keller also wrote a number of horror and fantasy stories, which some critics regard as superior to his SF work. Most notable is his 1932 horror tale, "The Thing in the Cellar", that has been reprinted several times in genre anthologies (see below).

Keller also created a series of fantasy stories later called the "Tales of Cornwall" sequence; these were said to have been influenced by the stories of the famous escapist novelist James Branch Cabell.

Genre Novels

THE CONQUERORS (1929)

THE THOUGHT PROJECTOR (1929)

THE EVENING STAR (1930)

THE METAL DOOM (1931)

THE TIME PROJECTOR (1930) [with David Lasser]

THE WATERS OF LETHE (1937)

THE WHITE SYBIL (1939)

THE DEVIL AND THE DOCTOR (1940)

THE ABYSS (1948)

THE SIGN OF THE BURNING HART (1948) [published by the N3F]

THE ETERNAL CONFLICT (1949)

THE HOMUNCULUS (1949)

THE LADY DECIDES (1950)

A FIGMENT OF A DREAM (1962)

Short Story Collections

THE SOLITARY HUNTERS & THE ABYSS (1948)

LIFE EVERLASTING (1949)

TALES FROM UNDERWOOD (1952)

THE FOLSOM FLINT (1969)

Stories Reprinted in Genre Anthologies/Periodicals

"The Golden Bough" in THE GARDEN OF FEAR AND OTHER STORIES (Crawford, 1945)

"The Ivy War" in THE BEST OF SCIENCE FICTION (Conklin, 1945)

"Stenographer's Hands" in AVON FANTASY READER #2 (Wollheim, 1947)

"The Arrhenius Horror" in AVON FANTASY READER #4 (Wollheim, 1947)

"The Thing in the Cellar" in AVON FANTASY READER #6 (Wollheim, 1948)

"The Worm" in STRANGE PORTS OF CALL (Derleth, 1948)

"The Door" in THE ARKHAM SAMPLER (Derleth, Summer 1949)

"The Literary Corkscrew" in FROM OFF THIS WORLD (Margulies & Friend, 1949)

"The Revolt of the Pedestrians" in BEYOND TIME AND SPACE (Derleth, 1950)

"The Yeast Men" in AVON FANTASY READER #14 (Wollheim, 1950)

"The Living Machine" in EVERY BOY'S BOOK OF SCIENCE FICTION (Wollheim, 1951)

"Service First" in THE OUTER REACHES (Derleth, 1951)

"The Doorbell" in THE OMNIBUS OF SCIENCE FICTION (Conklin, 1952)

"The Thing in the Cellar" in THE SUPERNATURAL READER (Conklin & Conklin, 1953)

"The Star" in BEACHHEADS IN SPACE (Derleth, 1954)

"The Doorbell" in STRANGE ADVENTURES IN SCIENCE FICTION (Conklin, 1954)

"Euthanasia Limited" in **Amazing Stories** (March, 1962)

"The Thing in the Cellar" in THE SUPERNATURAL READER (Conklin, 1962)

"The Thing in the Cellar" in TWISTED (Conklin, 1962)

"The Psychophonic Nurse" in GREAT SCIENCE FICTION ABOUT DOCTORS (Conklin & Fabricant, 1963)

"The Thing in the Cellar" in **Worlds of Weird** (Margulies, 1965)

"White Collars" in **Amazing Stories** (April, 1966)

"The Ambidexter" in **Fantastic Stories** (January, 1967)

"A Piece of Linoleum" in MASTERS OF HORROR (Norton, 1968) [anthology dedicated to Keller, "Whose tales of horror stemmed from his deep humanity"]

"The Feminine Metamorphosis" in WHEN WOMEN RULE (Moskowitz, 1972)

"The Rat Racket" in SATAN'S PETS (Ghidalia, 1972)

"The Hidden Monster" in ORIENTAL STORIES (Desmond, *et al*, 1975)

"The Lost Language" in SCIENCE FICTION OF THE 30s (Knight, 1975)

"The Worm" in CREATURES FROM BEYOND (Carr, 1975)

"The Ivy War" in ROOTS OF EVIL: WEIRD STORIES OF SUPERNATURAL PLANTS (Cassaba, 1976)

"A Twentieth Century Homunculus" in THE FANTASTIC PULPS (Haining, 1976)

"A Piece of Linoleum" in WHEN EVIL WAKES (Derleth, 1977)
"The Revolt of the Pedestrians" in THE ROAD TO SCIENCE FICTION #2 (Gunn, 1979)
"The Literary Corkscrew" in SCIENCE FICTION: THE BEST OF YESTERDAY (Liebman & Rosen, 1980)
"The House Without Mirrors" in WEIRD TALES #1(Carter, 1981)
"The Thing in the Cellar" in 65 GREAT SPINE CHILLERS (Danby, 1982)
"The Lost Language" in YOUNG MUTANTS (Asimov, *et al.*, 1984)
"The Goddess of Zion" in A TREASURY OF AMERICAN HORROR STORIES (McSherry, *et al.*, 1985)
"The Revolt of the Pedestrians" in AMAZING STORIES: 60 YEARS OF THE BEST SCIENCE FICTION (Asimov & Greenberg, 1985)
"Heredity" in VAMPS (Greenberg & Waugh, 1987)
"The Thing in the Cellar" in 100 TWISTED LITTLE TALES OF TORMENT (Dziemianowicz, *et al.*, 1998)
"The Purblind Prophet" in NEW HORIZONS (Derleth, 1999) [with Paul Spencer]
"The Jelly-Fish" in AMERICAN FANTASTIC TALES (Straub, 2009)

Note: Stories are listed by the publication dates (1945-2009) of the anthologies in which they were reprinted.

Contributions to Fanzines

Keller was a frequent contributor to SF fanzines, including Chad Oliver's satirical one-shot zine, **The Moon Puddle**. Oliver later said that Keller contributed to The Moon Puddle "during a period when he was sending everything to fanzines."

Critical Assessment

Genre critic Donald M. Hassler, writing in Smith's TWENTIETH CENTURY SCIENCE FICTION WRITERS, had the following to say about Keller: "The genre of science fiction and fantasy has seemed to attract some of the most talented, versatile, and idiosyncratic personalities and made writers of them...In all ways Keller was his own man; and it is perhaps too soon for a literary assessment of his work whether in abnormal psychology or in fantasy or humorous narrative."

In the Introduction to the Avalon edition of Keller's LIFE EVERLASTING (1947), genre historian Sam Moskowitz wrote: "I have personally selected the material for this anthology in the hope that it will show the work of a man who has lived fully and bravely; a man who has slowly, after fifty years of writing, made for himself a definite place in

literature.

"It is my belief that the evidence contained in this volume will convince many that, in David H. Keller, America has produced another important contemporary *author*."

E.F. Bleiler described Keller as "a very poor technician" when it came to writing fiction. However, he also argued that Keller "occasionally wrote fable-like stories, detached from daily realities and surrogate science fiction realities, that were excellent." Bleiler also described Keller's "The Revolt of the Pedestrians" as "a powerful story, horrible at times, but imaginative and rigorous in logic."

Awards/Honors

Keller was inducted into First Fandom's Hall of Fame in 1966, the third person inducted (after E.E. "Doc" Smith and Hugo Gernsback).

The Swarthmore College Library (Swarthmore, Pennsylvania) houses "The David H. Keller Collection", donated to the library in the 1980s. The Collection consists of SF and fantasy pulp magazines from the 1920s through the 1960s, as well as many of Keller's personal papers.

Concluding Comments

Keller is especially noteworthy in the history of our club, The National Fantasy Fan Federation (N3F, NFFF), because his book, THE SIGN OF THE BURNING HART, was published by our club in 1948.

The first printing of this book was limited to 250 copies, and copies of this printing are hard to find today. This publishing event meant that, since 1948, our club has been credited in many reference works as being a SF/Fantasy book publisher.

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Note: In addition to the above, several Internet sites were consulted, including FANCYCLOPEDIA 3 and WIKIPEDIA.



From the motion picture MANTIS



Overcoming



And achieving



by **Judy Carroll**

For many years I have heard the following saying: "I'm stamping out the nearest fire first." As a child I wasn't sure what that meant. When I became an adult and had so many things "on the front burner", I fully understood what that old saying was talking about. Things to do. Lots and lots of things to do. Some in a short time while others seemed to stretch out into the eternities.

As a child there were very little "fires" to put out. (At least that's what it looks like now, decades later.) Clean your room before you go outside to play. Get ready for bed. It's past your bedtime. Did you get your homework done? If I've told you once, I've told you a thousand times, do not put the dirty dish on the kitchen counter when you feed the cat. It belongs on the floor.

The older one gets, and no matter what job or profession one has, or what life style, the more fires there seem to be with less time to put them out.

If you are a parent you find yourself going back in time and reliving scenes from your childhood. Only this time you see them from a different point of view. You try to leave work early, on the busiest day of the week, to go to a Parent-Teacher conference because it is scheduled for the afternoon. There were no evening openings. You think you have a relaxing weekend ahead of you, only to discover that there is a birthday party for the child of a distant cousin—twice removed—(who you don't even know) on your dad's side of the family.

If you work in an office you discover shortcuts to get the filing done, the best way to greet people, and how not to show anger when someone is yelling at you for something you had nothing to do with. You have to cover for the boss when he/she decides to take an early lunch, knowing a client has an appointment at that time.

At last it's Friday. The week is over. You have taken care of work and family. What is left to take care of? As you drift off to sleep, happy and content, something starts buzzing in your head. It grows from a single buzz to the roar of a disturbed beehive with thousands of angry bees hovering. You start muttering, "No, no. Please leave me alone. I want peace. I want to sleep." Of course you can't sleep. The buzzing fades and a picture forms on the ceiling. It's a book. You ponder this a moment. Then you realize what it means. You had promised a friend weeks ago that you would read this book and discuss it at length. Your mind begins chasing itself. On what date were the two of you to discuss it? There is a slap in your mind as strong as thunder. Monday. This coming Monday at lunch break. You slowly get up. Drag yourself to the living room. Turn on the light by your favorite chair. Pick up the book that's been staring at you every evening for

the past two weeks, and begin to read.

The days seem to get shorter and shorter the older we get. More time seems to be spent on things we have to do rather than things we want to do. How can we stop this downward spiral? How can we do the things we need to do in life and still have time for things we want to do? We need to make time for ourselves. But how?

There are so many demands on our time lately. Demands that are hard and almost impossible to do. The demands come from not only our workplace and family members, but from outside influences as well. Do you find yourself upset, grumpy or sad most of the time? Have you looked at the things that surround you and are screaming for attention, whether you are interested in them or not?

Can you turn on the TV without being told one of the following:

*You should buy your car online and have it delivered to your door.

(Is buying a car after only seeing one picture a good idea? Wouldn't you rather meet the car you will be driving?)

*If you have these listed symptoms you should see your doctor and tell him/her you want to start taking that medication instead of the one you are taking now.

(When did you get a medical degree? Have you read the small print listing the possible side effects—many of which are worse than the disease itself?)

*A former movie or TV celebrity is telling you to call the number below and see if you qualify for one of the offers Medicare may have available in your area.

(Have you read the small print telling you they are not connected to Medicare? If you have any questions about Medicare shouldn't you call the Medicare office and ask them?)

How do you feel about the movies and TV series being advertised on the Netflix Website (DVDs by mail), Netflix Streaming, YouTube and regular TV? Have you noticed how many are so depressing? I think the movies advertised for the theater are more depressing than ever. Whatever happened to happy uplifting movies and TV shows? How many movies that are out now are suitable for the entire family and are really fun to watch?

There are so many things screaming at us from the TV and online news that we don't have enough time to process any of it. Watching the news is like trying to hit the balls from a baseball-hitting machine when we don't even know how to hold the bat.

We need a break, people. A break from the negative elements constantly swirling around us. We need to know what things we can set aside and what things we need to do to make our lives better and less stressful.

Suggestions:

*Cut your Netflix, YouTube and TV watching down. Cut out at least one night a week.

*Read a book you have been wanting to read or reread a book you love.

*Cut down on the news programs. Have time away from all the sad and terrible things going on in the world.

(If we are invaded by aliens, I'm sure you will hear about it without watching TV.)

*Decide to get more active in the N3F. Take time to correspond with other members, write LoCs, join bureaus, read all the e-zines the N3F has to offer.

We need to try hard to think positive thoughts. We need to do positive deeds for one another. It doesn't have to be a special occasion for you to give cookies to a neighbor or to help someone weed their garden. We need to smile more and think of the good things we have—family, friends, neighbors, home.

Suggestions:

*Have at least one time a week to spend with your family. Play games. Watch fun movies. Camp out in the yard.

*Invite friends to watch a movie with you. Provide the popcorn.

*Do one good deed a week for a neighbor without them knowing it was you.

*Write a letter to someone you care about. You can mail it to them or give it in person. Written words can be read over and over again.

*Smile and say "Hi" to everyone you meet. Some may look at you like you're crazy. For others you may brighten up their day.

We need to notice the beauty of the world around us and the wonderful people in it. We need to take back our lives and not let the despair of the world's condition control us.



afterthoughts by John Thiel



art: "The Thinker" by Auguste Rodin

History and research. What value do these two things have? What if they had no value at all? If they had no value at all they would not be here and there would be an exhilarating feeling of relief from those forced against their will to study and to contemplate them. Their return would bring about an implacable solidity that would prove that they existed. It would be clear that both had substance.

But what are they for? Asks the man who has and knows no history, and the man who does no research has the same question.

As mentioned, history has substance, and it substantiates things of the present to which it is relevant. Hence the NFFF would be substantiated by its history and a person aware of that history would have a more substantial understanding of what he is in than would a person unaware of that history. Things could get rather effluvious, rather ephemeral without this history, and even begin to lack what it takes to contribute to the maintenance and progress of the organization. Yes, history is serious-constructive, but serious constructiveness is a good thing, as I have often maintained here. People who have an awareness of what there has been feel better, and do profit from knowledge of things of the past. And here with our bureau, things come free and easy, and no tests are taken to bother the life and existence of our membership and readers. And research? We do that to acquire historical knowledge, among other things. Research might take some things we may be well interested in from the little known to common knowledge; we may uncover some things we should have known all along, as we are following our desires for what research to do rather than researching upon assignment.



Sheree Renee Thomas, new editor of Fantasy and Science Fiction

A piece of present-day science fiction history

End of Issue