



# The National **81** Fantasy Fan **Years**

Fandom's Second Oldest Print Publication

Cras ad Stellas— Tomorrow to the Stars

Volume 81 Number 7

July 2022

## Forward to the Past!

### The N3F Laureate Awards

The National Fantasy Fan Federation was the first sf/fnal group to give awards. With usual fannish regularity, we have continued to give them since. We now advance Forward to the Past and restore to them their original name, the N3F Laureate Awards. Please read the letter column for advice on good choices for whom to vote. Please advance to page 11 for the ballot.

### Franson Awards

The Franson Awards were created to allow the President to honor people who are doing important work for the N3F. Not that long ago, we had very few people working for the N3F, so one award a year was reasonable. That's changed considerably. If I only thanked one person a year, some of you would never get the thanks that you deserve. Therefore, for this year I am pleased to give the Presidential Franson Awards to:

John Thiel — Editor, Origin and Ionisphere.  
Jefferson Swycaffer, Collator, N'APA  
Jon Swartz, co-editor, TNFF and Tightbeam  
Justin E. A. Busch, Films Fantastic

### Treasurer's Report

Attached please find the treasurer's report and current roster. I have included in the treasurer's report a nudge to people to renew/upgrade their memberships.

Please advise the other directors that unless there are serious objections, I intend to file for non-profit status with the IRS so that people can donate money and write it off

on their tax returns if they like. Recent tax law changes allow people to write off up to \$300 in cash contributions to non-profits even if they don't itemize, and I think this could help us a bit without costing us anything.

I'm still looking for a hotel in which to hold Son of Silvercon next September, and I hope to have that venue nailed down before the end of the fiscal year. I am not requesting any funding from the club, though I am hoping to attract members to it since Las Vegas is pretty easy to reach from just about anywhere, and intend to donate some of the profits (if any) to the N3F, which is another reason to get 501(c)(3) status.

PayPal balance \$1030.00

In: \$6 (less transaction fees)

NSB balance: \$1436.33

2 life members + 18 electronic + 17 regular + 3 household members = 40 voting members

7 archive members + 243 public members = 250 non-voting members

Thanks to Greg Chaffins for upgrading to a voting membership!

I would like to remind everyone that the N3F is funded almost entirely through your membership dues, and the vast majority of our expenses are to reimburse officers for expenses incurred in printing & mailing our zines, maintaining our webserver, and other needful things. George and I have noticed a troubling trend in people not renewing their electronic and regular memberships, which in the short term is merely worrying but in the long term can be lethal to the club. If you simply forgot to renew, please use PayPal or send a check to the N3F at PO Box 143, Tonopah NV 89049. If you would like me to send you an

Continued on Page 2, Top Right

Special Notice: Page 11 is the N3F Laureate Awards ballot.  
If you are a dues-paying member, please vote.

## Your Volunteer Team

### Directors

Heath Row kalel@well.com (Chair)  
 Judy Carroll BlueShadows2012@gmail.com  
 Jefferson Swycaffer abontides@gmail.com  
 John Thiel kinethiel@mymetronet.net  
 Kevin Trainor wombat.soch@gmail.com

### Officers

**President** George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net  
**Treasurer** Kevin Trainor wombat.soch@gmail.com

### Editors

Editors, TNFF George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net; Jon Swartz jon\_swartz@hotmail.com . Artists Jose A. Sanchez, Angela K. Walker, Alan White, Nathan Warner  
 N'APA Jefferson Swycaffer abontides@gmail.com  
 Tightbeam George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net,  
 Jon Swartz jon\_swartz@hotmail.com  
 Ionisphere John Thiel kinethiel@mymetronet.net  
 Eldritch Science George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net  
 Mangaverse Patrick Ijima-Washburn patokon.com@gmail.com  
 Nameless News a cast of writers  
 Films Fantastic Justin E. A. Busch jeab@musician.org  
 Origin John Thiel kinethiel@mymetronet.net  
 The N3F Review of Books George Phillies  
 Fanactivity Gazette The illustrious contributors  
 Keeper of the Passwords Jessi Silver belindabird@gmail.com  
 Keeper of the URLs George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net  
 Hosts of the Web Site George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net;  
 Melody Friedenthal

### Bureau Heads

Anime Kevin Trainor wombat.soch@gmail.com  
 Artists Bureau Jose Sanchez <jose77sanchez@yahoo.com>  
 Birthday Cards Denise Fisk greenrose205@gmail.com  
 Book Review Bureau G. Phillies phillies@4liberty.net  
 Comics Stephanie Souders hobsonphile@gmail.com  
 Convention Calendar Mindy Hunt  
 Club Directory Heath Row kalel@well.com  
 Correspondence Bureau Judy Carroll  
 BlueShadows2012@gmail.com  
 Election Teller Jon Swartz. jon\_swartz@hotmail.com  
 Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau John Thiel  
 kinethiel@mymetronet.net  
 FanZine Review Editor Justin Busch jeab@musician.org  
 Film Bureau — Justin E. A. Busch jeab@musician.org  
 Forwarder Jefferson Swycaffer abontides@gmail.com  
 Franking Service George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net  
 Games Bureau Wesley Kawato  
 Gourmet Bureau Cedar Sanderson cedarlila@gmail.com  
 Historian Jon Swartz jon\_swartz@hotmail.com  
 History and Research Bureau John Thiel kinethiel@mymetronet.net; Jon Swartz jon\_swartz@hotmail.com  
 Kaymar Award Jon Swartz jon\_swartz@hotmail.com  
 Information Technology George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net

Continued Next Column, Middle

invoice when your membership is due to expire, please let me know and I will do so.

Best regards,  
 Kevin Trainor  
 Tonopah, NV

### Member of the Month

This is the third installment in a periodic series of features showcasing interesting people from among the members of the National Fantasy Fan Federation. We offer such profiles as a way to help connect members. Feel free to reach out to other Neffers—even if just to say hello—individually or within the pages of The Fan.

Jack Mulcahy  
 Ambler, Pennsylvania

## Your Volunteer Team

Lord High Proofreader Jon Swartz jon\_swartz@hotmail.com  
 Lady High Proofreader Jean Lamb  
 Membership Recruitment Kevin Trainor wombat.soch@gmail.com Jeffrey Redmond redmondjeff@hotmail.com  
 Neffy Awards Bureau George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net  
 Outreach Bureau  
 Pro Bureau George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net  
 Round Robins Judy Carroll - BlueShadows2012@gmail.com  
 Short Story Contest J. Swycaffer abontides@gmail.com  
 Social Media  
 Video Bureau Cathode Ray the anonymous  
 Welcomittee Judy Carroll BlueShadows2012@gmail.com  
 Writers Exchange Judy Carroll BlueShadows2012@gmail.com

## Join or Renew

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

**The National Fantasy Fan** (originally Bonfire), Vol. LXXXI  
 Number 7, July 2022, ISSN 2169-3595.

Published monthly by The National Fantasy Fan Federation.

**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.



<https://www.facebook.com/writerjackmulcahy/>  
<https://www.authorjackmulcahy.com/>

[www.authorjackmulcahy.com/](https://www.authorjackmulcahy.com/)

An avid reader of science fiction and fantasy since the mid-1960s, National Fantasy Fan Federation member Jack has been writing for most of his life. His responses to our questions were in depth enough that we've decided to offer his profile as a Q&A-styled interview rather than in the usual prose format.

N3F: How did you first start writing? What drew you to the craft?

Mulcahy: I started writing so long ago that I can't remember a particular reason. In grade school, I remember that I liked to tell the teachers stories. Some encouraged me, and others didn't. By the time I reached high school, I read a lot of Rod Serling and Ray Bradbury, and when I started writing, I wrote short stories in that vein that some of my friends and family were kind enough to read. I also read Marvel comic books more often than I read the assigned books. Looking back at my life, I do not encourage ignoring the required reading. I missed a lot of great writers because of doing that.

N3F: How were you first introduced to science fiction and fantasy?

Mulcahy: I began by reading Ray Bradbury, Rod Serling, J.R.R. Tolkien, and Michael Moorcock. Then Ballantine Books hired Lin Carter to assemble a line of fantasy fiction by authors such as E.R. Eddison, Lord Dunsany, William Morris, and H. Warner Munn. I heard about a lot of other fantasy authors through that Ballantine Books series, and I devoured many of them. That led me to *The Island of the Mighty* by Evangeline Walton, the first of her translations for the four branches of the Mabinogion. It was there that I "met" such

important characters as Rhiannon, Gwydion Son of Don, Bran the Blessed, and Arianrhod, which some people might find familiar. Lin Carter's introduction to the series stated that when Bilbo refers to "the Red Book" in *The Lord of the Rings* it was actually Tolkien's reference to the Mabinogion. In 1970, Ballantine brought out *Deryni Rising* by Katherine Kurtz, and Lancer had already published the Conan adventures, edited and rewritten by L. Sprague deCamp and Lin Carter. Somewhere along the line, I discovered Roger Zelazny's Amber books.

N3F: What draws you in particular to fantasy? And, specifically, what attracted you to sword and sorcery?

Mulcahy: I enjoy fantasy when it's well written, with engaging characters I can care about. I'm not exclusively drawn to fantasy, however. I also enjoy science fiction and history (both fiction and nonfiction). I find myself drawn to themes of journeys and battles against evil. Writing sword and sorcery, I can combine my interests in strong characters and history. And I believe I can possibly add something to that canon.

N3F: What do you appreciate about the work of your favorite authors?

Mulcahy: Lois McMaster Bujold creates characters with attitude. I've read all or most of her Vorkosigan novels. I like her views on things; she features strong female characters, and Miles Vorkosigan is a very likable character; he overcomes the obstacles he was born with, and is kind of a superhero. There's a lot of humor in Bujold's novels. One of her first novels, *Falling Free*, concerns Leo, an engineer who has created genetically modified humans designed exclusively for zero gravity. Called "Quaddies," they have four hands instead of two hands and two feet. One day, the corporation that owns the satellite and the Quaddies decides to cut back expenses, and tells Leo to dispose of "obsolete product," meaning the Quaddies. To the corporation, they're just "products," but to Leo, they're human beings. Whenever a friend tells me they "don't like science fiction," I suggest they read *Falling Free*.

T. Kingfisher is the pen name of author Ursula Vernon. As T. Kingfisher, she writes series and standalone novels. My favorites of hers include the *Clocktaur War* series (two books) and the *Saint of Steel* series (three books). She is terrific with a wry turn of phrase, such as this, from *Paladin's Grace* (pp. 49-50): "Grace had no idea what being wistful entailed, but she was pretty sure that you had to be younger and thinner and possibly have consumption." Or this, also from *Paladin's*

Grace (p. 111): “Rescue was bad. People who wanted you to be vulnerable and grateful tended to get very angry when you stopped being vulnerable and didn’t act grateful enough.”

I discovered Katherine Kurtz from the Ballantine Books fantasy series. Her Deryni series is a classic, and the world she created grew richer and deeper with each novel.

G. Willow Wilson’s writing of Ms. Marvel for Marvel Comics and her novel *The Bird King* both helped me adjust my attitude toward people of the Muslim faith (and I can see now that it needed adjustment). I like writers whose work challenges what “I know” in a non-confrontational way. *The Bird King* is a fantasy novel set at the time when Ferdinand and Isabella were consolidating their grip in Spain, setting up programs and laws to eliminate Muslims and Jews. The action follows a young Spanish girl who wants to be a good Christian, and knows she should turn in her friend, a young boy who is not only Muslim but also possesses magic. Knowing what will happen to him, however, she can’t do it. Her choice sets her and the boy off on an adventure to help him escape Spain.

Conn Iggulden is a historical novelist. I enjoy his work because of the extensive detail work he puts in. He wrote a series of books about Genghis Khan that I like very much. I’ve just started reading his series about the Wars of the Roses. Iggulden is a master at describing a setting. He places you in the world he builds and you can believe it all. As with fantasy and science fiction, the setting is extremely important. Setting is really another character, and Iggulden is excellent at working the setting in actively. That’s a term used in *A Writer’s Guide to Active Setting* by Mary Buckham. It’s a technique of using the point-of-view character’s reactions to and impressions of the setting, to bring it to life.

Tom King wrote, among other things, a graphic novel titled *Supergirl: Woman of Tomorrow*. It’s a fine story about the titular character’s adventures after she decides she wants to get drunk for her birthday. That leads her to a red sun planet, which she must access in a rocket... a rocket that is stolen by a killer on whom Ruthye, a young female denizen of the planet wants to exact revenge for murdering her father. Both *Supergirl* and *Ruthye* learn important lessons about loss and vengeance over the course of eight issues. Anyone who thinks a male writer cannot write strong female characters (assuming they aren’t familiar with Shakespeare) should read *Supergirl: Woman of Tomorrow*.

Tom Taylor writes terrific heroic adventures. I enjoy

his Superman: Son of Kal-El and *Nightwing* series, because he understands the characters so well. I don’t know what else to say; his books are a lot of fun, without being shallow.

Geoff Johns has reworked much of the DC Universe, so much so that he seems to me to be like a force of nature. I have enjoyed or am enjoying *Flashpoint*, *Flashpoint Beyond*, *Batman: Three Jokers*, *Doomsday Clock*, and *Batman: Earth One*, among others. If I see his name on a book, I buy it. He really “gets” the characters he’s creating.

N3F: You appreciate the work of several comic book writers. And you read *Alter Ego!* How do you see comic writing connecting with broader fantasy writing?

Mulcahy: I have been reading comics for most of my life. My first one was a *Lois Lane*, with a cover story called “The Witch of Metropolis,” in about 1958 or ‘59. (Editor’s note: *Superman’s Girl Friend, Lois Lane* #1, January 1958) My friends and I all read comics, but I was the only one (that I know of) who didn’t “grow out” of them, despite what the guys at DC thought at the time. I not only didn’t grow out of comics, I have steadily managed to avoid growing up all along! I was a Marvelite throughout my teens, to such an extent that when Steve Ditko left Marvel and his work started appearing in Charlton’s *Captain Atom*, I wrestled with my conscience (it still sounds silly to me, but I was 13 at the time) over whether to “join the other side” and buy the Charlton comic.

I’ve been a subscriber of *Alter Ego* since they began with TwoMorrows Publishing. I started as a Jack Kirby Collector subscriber, then moved to *Alter Ego* and *Back Issue*.

As for how I see comic writing connecting with broader fantasy writing, I have noticed a number of “brand name” novelists dipping their toes into the sea of comic book writing. I can’t read all the comics there are, any more than I can read every novel I’d like. But I’ve read some of the attempts made by novelists, and some of those efforts seem uneven to me. Writing a script for a comic book apparently requires different skills than are needed to write prose.

I want to make clear that I’m just one guy with one guy’s opinion. I have no wish to slam anybody. Writing a novel is extremely difficult. So while I’m a fan, I am also a writer, and I do not want to criticize any other writers’ efforts. Even if I might think a particular novel is bad, I realize that the author put a ton of work into their writing, and nobody is perfect. Nobody ever started off with the

goal of writing a bad novel. And “bad” means different things to different people.

N3F: When and how did your reading interests and writing focus connect?

Mulcahy: I started writing when I was in high school, by emulating authors whose work I enjoyed. Along the way, I developed a serious interest in women’s rights, which is reflected in what I write. I’m passionate about the human rights of individuals to be whatever they choose. I was going to add a caveat along the lines of “as long as it’s not criminal,” but the way laws are being reinterpreted these days, there are some definitions of “criminal” with which I vehemently disagree.

N3F: When and how did you become a professional writer? What was your first sale?

Mulcahy: There are various definitions of “professional.” The Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America (SFWA) considers a “professional” sale as one that netted the writer 8 cents a word. They might have raised that since I last looked. The truth is, though, that by SFWA’s scale, I’m nowhere near a professional writer. I’ve been published in various places, but never for that much money. But scales aside, I am a professional writer, and a fairly successful one.

My first paid story was in a magazine called Lesbian Short Fiction. I received the princely sum of \$50 for my 5,600-word story. Drunk with that success, I sent the editor, a kind individual named Jinx Beers, another story, which she also liked, and she encouraged me to send more. Alas, Jinx contacted me about a year after she’d published “The Talisman,” and advised me that LSF was going under. But she felt badly for keeping that second story for so long, so she paid me for that one, too! That was in the years before email became as ubiquitous as it is today, so I unfortunately lost contact with her.

On the topic of “professional,” I’d like to say something about professionalism and submitting writing to editors. On the various Facebook writers’ groups I belong to, the question of manuscript format often comes up. I occasionally weigh in with the advice a writer gave me when he showed me how to format my manuscripts—and why it matters. “Manuscript format,” he told me, “is like wearing a suit to a job interview. It shows the editor or first reader that you are a professional.” I took that advice so seriously that I created a Microsoft Word template that follows proper manuscript format. It saves me a great deal of work.

N3F: You’ve contributed to several anthologies, includ-

ing *Young Adventurers: Heroes, Explorers & Swash-bucklers* and several Pulp Empire collections. How did those opportunities arise?

Mulcahy: I follow up on announcements on social media, and also those I gain from market sites, such as Duotrope.com (the one I go to most often) and Ralan.com. I also subscribe to *Writer’s Digest* and *The Writer*, and have many connections to writing-oriented Facebook groups, most of which post market news. There are also daily, weekly, and monthly pages, such as *Authorspublish.com*.

N3F: And you’re revising a novel, *Healer’s Awakening*, the first book of an expected trilogy. Tell us more about that project.

Mulcahy: This story first came to me in the mid-1980s, when I read the autobiography of a famous porn star named Linda Lovelace. She described being abused by a man and forced to do the movie *Deep Throat*. That situation inspired me to create my central character. At about the same time, I was working in an office for a woman supervisor who was used by higher management in the role of “disciplinarian.” The higher-ups would make her deliver news about work rules and other items that would make us angry with her. She was only the messenger. But the men who ran the office (in reality) made her the target of our anger. The common thread between that woman and Linda Lovelace is one of people (especially women) being forced to do things they really don’t want to do, with no real choice in the matter. This might be a result of my Catholic education; I simply hate seeing people getting robbed of their own free will.

I started the novel as a graphic novel, and actually showed it to a few comics professionals without success. But even without their comments, I realized I’m not so hot as an artist. So I made a conscious decision to play to my main strength and get the story out in prose. Life interfered with my writing more than once. I wrote a 300-page first draft, some 120,000 words, but then my wife at the time passed away. That rendered me unable to write for a couple of years. I’ve been working on it for most of my adult life, and I’m determined to get it in front of reading audiences.

N3F: Do you have any plans for publication?

Mulcahy: At this point, I haven’t decided whether to self-publish or try with a traditional publisher.

N3F: Despite not being too active in fandom, you were once a member of the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society. What was that experience like?

Mulcahy: I belonged to the PSFS for several years in the mid-1990s. It was fun belonging to such a great group, and I met some editors, publishers, and successful writers, including the late editor Gardner Dozois (a very funny man and an award-winning editor) and the author Connie Willis. I lost count of how many Hugo and Nebula awards Connie Willis earned when she reached five of each. And I actually got to meet her one year at Philcon. She's a very nice, very funny person. After a few years, though, I got tired of driving an hour each way to the PSFS meetings.

N3F: How has participating in writers' groups and workshops, including the Philadelphia Writers Conference and the Authors Guild, changed your approach to writing?

Mulcahy: The Philadelphia Writers Conference (PWC) was an annual event for more than 50 years. Held, oddly enough, in Philadelphia, PWC was an annual weekend event that featured workshops taught by working authors, guest speakers, and opportunities to meet agents and publishers. PWC held its last conference (so far) in the year 2020. COVID-19 prevented it from happening in 2021 and 2022, which I think is a dreadful loss to writers.

Belonging to writers' groups was, for the most part, a great experience. But all the groups I belonged to seemed to have a fairly high turnover, for whatever reason. One reason I was able to finish the first draft of the novel was because I got into a rhythm of writing a chapter a week to turn in for comments. I have met very interesting folks in writers' groups, and have received some good feedback. (As well as some that wasn't so good, but that's the way life is sometimes!)

In terms of media interests, Jack enjoys the current Star Trek universes on television, as well as the original Star Wars trilogy. He also appreciates the original series and Next Generation Star Trek movies, the Tobey McGuire/Kirsten Dunst Spider-Man movies, and most of the Marvel Cinematic Universe movies.

Other interests include astronomy, books, comic books, editing, history, movies, music, prozines, pulp fiction, reading, short stories, social media, space exploration, television, and writing.

A rousing Neffer hello to member Jack Mulcahy!

## Wanted — Facebook Volunteers

One of our most effective forms of outreach is people speaking up for us on social media groups. If you can try this on Facebook, please email [phillies@4liberty.net](mailto:phillies@4liberty.net).

## Letters of Comment

Fellow Neffers:

For your consideration, a few recommendations for the Laureate Awards. For Best Novel, Chris Nuttall's *Child of Destiny*. That's the end of a 20-novel sequence, with a proper ending, using plot elements laid down in novel number 1. Few authors indeed can pull that one off. Besides, it's a rousing good tale. I've also heard good things about Becky Chambers' novel and enjoyed *Governor*.

I endorse *Films Fantastic* for best N3F Zine. For best comic, note Jinnie Hex. She'd not a superheroine, though she has some gadgets she inherited.

For Critical Work, First Fandom Annual and Game Wizards are equally excellent. This is Jon Peterson's fourth book on the history of roleplaying games; an earlier volume was a Hugo nominee. There are very few professional top-end footnotes sf/fnal-critical works, and this is one of them.

George Phillies

Editors:

Jon Swartz's examinations of peripheral oddities continue to amuse, educate, and entertain. I was a bit startled to discover that the *Space Detective* episodes were from the 1950s; the plot descriptions seems more like throwbacks to the thirties, or even the twenties. I mean, really: "the beautiful, bewinged Bat Women of Mercury," who must surely have Ray Cummings in their lineage; "Skull-men from space [who] seize the luxury space liner *Star Queen*," probably after reading E.E. Smith; I suspect many of the plots would be familiar to long time fans of earlier periods.

You ask about reverting to the original name of the Neffys: the Laureate Awards. I think this would be a fine idea, the name emphasizing, as it would, the idea of significant achievement in the chosen fields (I presume that National Fantasy Fan Federation would be part of the overall name: The National Fantasy Fan Federation (or, possibly, the N3F) Laureate Awards for Science Fantasy Achievement, or something like that). In any event, whatever the award is called, I do hope that plenty of N3F members will make sure to vote.

Justin E. A. Busch

Dear George and Jon:

I've been away from the loc mines for a time, but now, I can return, if only for a day or two. I have here Vol. 81, No., 6 of *The National Fantasy Fan*, and I suspect, it will be mere minutes before the July issue comes out. Nevertheless...

Congrats to all the Neffy nominees. The picky editor in me says that Dale Speirs' zine is *Opuntia*, not *Opuntio* (does that make me a doryphore?), the Canadian in me supports Julie Czerneda, and the older fan in me supports the 2021 First Fandom annual by Coker and Swartz.

I am very glad that Melody Friedenthal liked Rob Sawyer's *Illegal Alien*... I am a Tuckerized character in the book! Someday, I hope soon, it will be made into a movie, and I would like to play myself. Well, I certainly have the Hawaiian shirts for it.

The study of words created through the ages is always interesting, to learn of words used regularly in the past, but unknown today. (You know I was going to refer to a feature I find on my Facebook feed most days, and of course, right on cue, I cannot find it...) I often use some of those words, which makes me sound older than I am.

I knew Otto Binder through the SF he wrote with his brother Earl under the pseudonym Eando Binder, but I did not know he also wrote for comic books. There truly is always something new to learn.

This coming weekend is one of the biggest fan-run events in Toronto, Anime North, one of the biggest anime conventions on the continent. Not only will we have a table in the crafters' area, ready to sell our costume jewelry and handmade Hawaiian-style shirts, but we have also been busy the last few months selling the tables to their main Vendors' Hall.

It has been crazy busy for some time (we must all be masked and vaccinated to be there, and so many people didn't read the large number of e-mails and letters they all received, and we do expect to turn some people away if they cannot prove their vaccination history) and we did not sell them all, but we have done what we could for our friends.

Once this pandemic is over (and right now, it is NOT over), things should return to normal. Attendance should be huge, so we are hoping for great sales, and our work on it for this weekend will start tomorrow, as we obtain our staff and crafters' badges.

That's all for now...take care, and see you again soon.

Yours,

Lloyd Penney

## Bureau Reports

### Round Robins Bureau

I would like to see the Round Robins Bureau active again.

Several years ago I joined the N3F and became involved in many activities and bureaus. One of my favorite bureaus was the Round Robins. I loved getting the letters which not only included discussions about the topic, but had personal stories as well. I became friends with a group of people from all over the country. It was wonderful. It was a lifeline to sanity that I desperately needed at that time in my life. Unfortunately, through no desire of my own, I gradually faded from the N3F.

I rejoined the N3F in June, 2015.

I would like to try something new. Granted, what I am about to suggest is different and may not work, but I would like to give it a try.

I have Netflix Streaming. I am curious as to whether N3F members who also have this would like to try a new version of the Round Robin. We need at least two members plus the Robin Master. I will be the RM for this experiment.

Following are three series to choose from:  
 Travelers - 3 seasons - series completed  
 Stranger Things - 4 seasons - on-going  
 Raising Dion - 2 seasons -on-going

Please contact me if you are willing to try this experiment..

I have only one active Round Robin that I am aware of. Worldwide Folklore #2. This RR has only three members. This Round Robin is through the mail. If you are interested in joining, please contact me at the address below.

I would really appreciate it if any other members of an active RR would contact me. The information would allow me to open up the RR to more members.

If anyone is interested in starting a new RR, please contact me. I will put the information in the next TNFF "as seeking more members."

Contact: Judy Carroll  
 971 East 120 South  
 Spanish Fork, Utah 84660

OR Email : blueshadows2012@gmail.com

### Artists Bureau

We hear from Cedar Sanderson that she has moved, now owns a house, is very busy, and would not object if she were replaced as Artists Bureau Head. I have asked our two regular artists if they would be interested in becoming the new BuHead.

### FanActivity Gazette

Some time back, I proposed that we should publish a monthly newszine. Some fannish circles ridiculed the effort. There was hardly enough news, and web sites covered it. Is there enough news? The answer is a resounding Yes! The latest issue of FanActivity Gazette had 23 pages, including

Editorial: George Phillies writes.  
 Letter of Comment (Lloyd Penney)  
 Science Fiction Club News by Heath Row  
 Fanzines: Fanfaronade from Justin E. A. Busch  
 Television: Rabid Ears: Ravings of a TV Fiend by Cathode Ray  
 FANAC Fan History Project FANAC Newsletter 18  
 Motion Pictures: Celluloid Sentience By Cathode Ray  
 Conventions: Forthcoming Conventions by Mindy Hunt  
 Science Fiction Pro and Fan Birthdays from Heath Row  
 SF Calendar and Cover Illo from Bob Jennings  
 — George Phillies

### History and Research Bureau

We are starting to do our utmost to interest our readers in both history and research of science fiction and of fandom. We are defining what research is all about and why it is valuable, and showing how interesting history can be. A new thought is to establish research contacts—and we have one in the July issue of Origin.—John Thiel

### N'APA

N'APA is now much thicker, with many more contributors than some years ago, when it had declined to two noble fen exchanging emails. Issues are seen at N3F.org. Send your contributions to Jefferson Swycaffer,

### Correspondence Bureau

Want to make new friends? What to discuss the latest

book by your favorite author? What to debate the merits of soft science fiction vs hard science fiction? Then you have come to the right place.

If you wish to join you need to do the following:

1. Send me your name and either email address OR postal address,
2. If you wish to correspond with a member already listed with the Correspondence Bureau include their name.
3. If you have a postal address and wish to correspond with someone listed "by email" let me know and I will contact them. I will let you know their reply.

Depending on your preference you will receive an email or postal mail with the contact information of the person or persons you wish to contact, and they will receive your contact information.

The following members are interested in corresponding  
 Jeffrey Redmond - by email  
 John Thiel - by email  
 Judy Carroll - by email or postal mail.  
 William Mayo - by email

Send email requests to: Judy Carroll BlueShadows2012@gmail.com  
 Send postal mail requests to: Judy Carroll 975 E 120 S Spanish Fork, UT 84660

### Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau

I am considering the idea of inter-bureau contacts. These already exist between this bureau and the History and Research Bureau, because there are three of us who are in both bureaus. There is, therefore, interaction between these bureaus. I'd like to establish some interaction with the Correspondence Bureau—which I think I might be able to do by advertising what it is doing in the Fan-Pro Bureau and discussing the significance of correspondence there. Our bureaus should not become secular.—John Thiel

### Writers Exchange

In last month's article I talked about the book, *The Dictionary of Difficult Words*, by Jane Soloman, and said, "I think it would be fun if our readers write six sentences with one of the following words in each sentence."

Unfortunately, no one responded.

If that task was too difficult, I'm sorry. I was curious to discover if someone could actually use these words in sentences that would make sense today. I couldn't come up with sentences that made sense, so I passed them on to



you.

If you have a story you would like read, please contact me, and I will check with our readers to see who is available. I will contact you with the name and email address of your reader.

Please do not contact a reader unless I have assigned that reader to you. Occasionally we get several short stories at the same time and I don't want any of our readers getting "reading overload."

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.

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. BlueShadows2012@gmail.com OR if you prefer postal mail, Judy Carroll 975 E 120 S Spanish Fork, UT 84660

### Welcommittee

Being active is the most fulfilling way to enjoy being a member of the National Fantasy Fan Federation. Please read the current TNFF for a list of the many activities and bureaus you can join. If you find a bureau or activity you are interested in, please contact the head of the bureau or activity for more information.

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. When possible, those members with email addresses are also sent attachments to the current TNFF and other publications the N3F has to offer.

If you have questions about the N3F or are interested in helping with the Welcommittee please contact: Judy Carroll at BlueShadows2012@gmail.com or 975 East 120 South, Spanish Fork, Utah 84660

### Gourmet Bureau

BuHead Cedar Sanderson now has a house with kitchen and is writing Eat This While you Read That again. Her column appears in Tightbeam.

SerCon

## Weird Science by Jon D. Swartz, Ph.D. N3F Historian

Weird Science was an American science fiction (SF) comic book that was part of the EC Comics line in the early 1950s. Over a four-year span, the comic ran for 22 issues, ending with the November - December, 1953, issue. Weird Fantasy was a sister title published during the same time frame. When sales of the two comic books fell off, they were combined as Weird Science-Fantasy.

Published by William (Bill) Gaines and edited by Al Feldstein, the bi-monthly Weird Science replaced the comic book Saddle Romances with the May/June, 1950, issue. Although the title and format change took effect with issue #12, Gaines and Feldstein decided not to restart the numbering in order to save money on second class postage. The U.S. Post Office took note and, starting with issue #5, all the issues were numbered correctly.

Because of this, Weird Science #12 could refer to either the May/June, 1950, issue, or the actual 12th issue published in 1952. The same confusion exists for issues #13 - #15, issue #15 being the last issue published before EC reset the numbering.

Artist/Writer Harry Harrison claims credit for giving Gaines the notion of publishing SF. Harrison has stated that he and artist Wally Wood were interested in SF and gave Gaines stories to read. Harrison, however, had no editorial control over the contents of the comic aside from his own stories and left EC by the end of 1950.

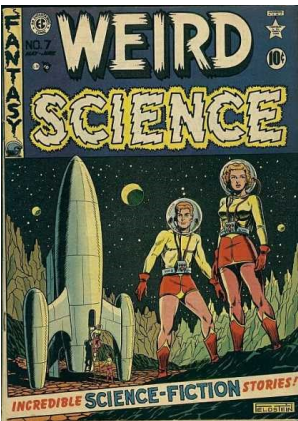
### Writers/Artists

Weird Science had some of the best artists and writers of the time.

Early cover illustrations were by Feldstein. Wood, the title's leading artist, took over as the regular cover illustrator in 1952. For a period of time in 1952, Wood drew two stories per issue.

The other Weird Science interior artists included Frank Frazetta, Al Williamson, Joe Orlando, George Evans, Harvey Kurtzman, Will Elder, Jack Kamen, Sid Check, Jack Olesen, and Harrison.

Writers in the early issues included Feldstein, Gaines,



Kurtzman, Gardner Fox, and Harrison. Gaines and Feldstein wrote nearly all the stories from 1951 to 1953.

Stories

As with the other EC comics edited by Feldstein, the stories in this comic were primarily based on Gaines reading a large number of SF stories and using them to develop

“springboards” from which he and Feldstein could launch new stories. Specific story influences that have been identified include the following:

“Lost in the Microcosm” (Issue 12 [1950]) – Henry Hasse’s “He Who Shrank”

“The Micro Race” (Issue 13 [1950]) – Theodore Sturgeon’s “Microcosmic God”

“The Sounds from Another World” (Issue 14 [1950]) – Roald Dahl’s “The Sound Machine”

“Machine from Nowhere” (Issue 14 [1950]) - Maurice Hugi's “Mechanical Mouse”

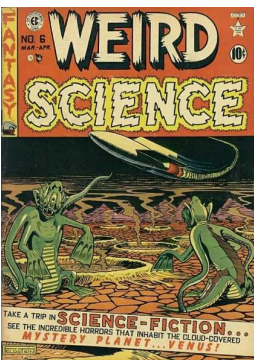
“Divide and Conquer” (Issue 6) – Donald Wandrei’s “A Scientist Divides”

“Monster from the Fourth Dimension” (Issue 7) - Donald Wandrei's “The Monster from Nowhere”

“The Martian Monster” (Issue 9) – Anthony Boucher’s “Mr. Lupescu”

“Why Papa Left Home” (Issue 11) – Charles Harness’s “Child by Chronos”

“Chewed Out!” (Issue 12) – Katherine Maclean’s “Pictures Don't Lie!”



“Say Your Prayers” (Issue 13) -- Anthony Boucher's “Expedition”

“The Island Monster” (Issue 17) – Merian C. Cooper and Ernest B. Schoedsack’s “King Kong”

“Keyed Up!” (Issue 19) - Duncan Munro's “U-Turn”

Ray Bradbury Adaptations

After their unauthorized adaptation of one of Ray Bradbury’s stories in another magazine, Bradbury contacted EC about their plagiarism of his work. They reached an agreement for EC to do authorized versions of some of Bradbury's short fiction. These official adaptations included the following:

“The Long Years” (Issue 17)

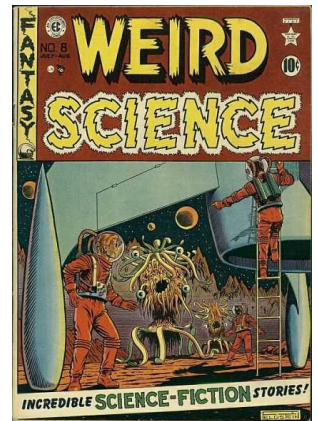
“Mars is Heaven” (Issue 18)

“The One Who Waits” (Issue 19)

“Surprise Package” (Issue 20)

“Punishment Without Crime” (Issue 21)

“Outcast of the Stars” (Issue 22)



Some Conclusions

Weird Science Fiction is still remembered with affection by its fans, as is Weird Fantasy, the later combined title, Weird Science-Fantasy, and Incredible Science Fiction, the title that the magazine took with issue #30.

Weird Science-Fantasy #24 published Harlan Ellison’s first professional story. The series ended with issue #33.

Reprints

All of the Weird Science issues have been reprinted, and are available in the excellent EC Archive Editions.

Sources

Bails, Jerry G. Collector’s Guide: The First Heroic Age, 1969.

Bails, Jerry G. & Hames Ware (eds). Who’s Who of American Comic Books, 4 Volumes, 1973 – 1976.

Benton, Mike. The Comic Book in America, 1989.

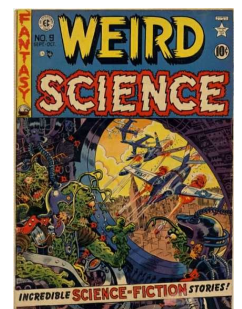
Duin, Steve & Mike Richardson. Comics Between the Panels, 1998.

Goulart, Ron. Great History of Comic Books, 1986.

Keltner, Howard. Howard Keltner’s Index to Golden Age Comic Books, 1976.

Overstreet, Robert. The Comic Book Price Guide, 1971 – 2021.

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



## N3F Laureate Awards for 2022 The Ballot

Welcome to the 2022 N3F Laureate Awards ballot. You are eligible to vote if you are a dues-paying or life member of the N3F.

Instructions: Give a numerical vote to each nominee for which you choose to vote. Give your top choice a 10. Give your next choice a 9. Give your third choice an 8. If you have a tie for the next two places, give them the average of the places in the tie, so a tie between the 4th and 5th places would get each a vote of 6.5. You do not have to vote in every category.

Mail your votes to phillies@4liberty.net or send via paper-mail to George Phillies, 48 Hancock Hill Drive, Worcester MA 01609.

Best Novel or Anthology (over 100,000 words)  
Spectrum (Julie E Czerneda)  
Seize What's Held Dear (Karl Gallagher)  
Governor (David Weber/Richard Fox)  
The Galaxy and the Ground Within  
(Becky Chambers)  
Child of Destiny (Christopher Nuttall)  
Behold, Humanity! May We Come In?  
(Ralts Bloodthorne)

Best Shorter Work or Collection Thereof  
(under 100,000 words)  
Fantastic Schools (Lamplighter/Nuttall)

Best Fan Writer  
Cheryl Cline  
Andy Hooper  
Ulrika O'Brien

Best Fan Artist  
Larry Etn  
Brad Foster  
Ulrika O'Brien  
Jose Sanchez  
Alan White

Best Fan Editor  
William Breiding  
Nic Farey  
Fred Lerner

Best Non-N3F Fan Publication  
Beam  
Fadeaway  
Littlebrook  
Lofgeornost  
Opuntia  
Portable Storage  
The Zine Dump  
This Here

Best N3F Fanzine  
Eldritch Science  
Films Fantastic  
The National Fantasy Fan  
Tightbeam

Best Live-Action Television Show, Film, or Video  
Supergirl  
Stargirl  
The Expanse

Best Animation  
Komi Can't Communicate

Best Manga/Comic Book/Graphic Novel  
Telepaths  
Monstress  
Lady Mechanika  
Jinnie Hex

Best Book Editor:  
Toni Weisskopf

Best Pro Artist, cover or otherwise  
Brad Fraunfelner

Best Literary-Critical or Historical Work  
2021 First Fandom Annual (Coker & Swartz)  
Game Wizards (Jon Peterson)

Best Other Fannish Activity  
This was a completely new category. It had no nominations.



Forward to the Past! — The N3F Laureate Awards  
Franson Awards — Treasurer's Report

Member of the Month

Wanted — Facebook Volunteers

Letters of Comment

George Phillis — Justin E. A. Busch — Lloyd Penney

Bureau Reports

Round Robins Bureau — Artists Bureau — FanActivity Gazette

History and Research Bureau — N'APA — Correspondence Bureau

Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau — Writers Exchange — Welcomittee — Gourmet Bureau

SerCon

Weird Science

Laureate Awards Ballot

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