



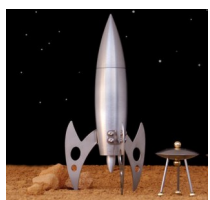
# The National **82** Fantasy Fan **Years**

Fandom's Second Oldest Print Publication  
Cras ad Stellas — Tomorrow to the Stars  
Volume 82 Number 8 August 2023

## The Laureate Awards

Once again, Neffers came together to vote on the Laureate Awards, the oldest set of awards in fandom. Many thanks to all who voted, continuing a fannish tradition now eight decades old. The awards this year are:

- Best Fan Writer — Martin Lock
- Best Fan Artist — Jose Sanchez
- Best Fan Website — Fanac.org from Joe Siclari, Edie Stern, and Mark Olsen
- Best Non-N3F Fanzine — Simultaneous Times Newsletter from Jean-Paul L. Garnier
- Best N3F Fanzine — Tightbeam
- Best Podcast — Simultaneous Times
- Best Novel — Lords of Uncreation by Adrian Tchaikovsky
- Best Shorter Work or Anthology — Return to Glory by Jack McDevitt
- Best Pro Artist — Austin Arthur Hart
- Best Editor — Toni Weisskopf
- Best SF Poet — Michael Butterworth
- Best Comic Book — New Think 1.0
- Best Anime — Chainsaw Man
- Best Manga — Mindset
- Best Television Show, Film, or Video — Heath Row's Productions
- Best None of the Above — Manuscript Press (Rick Norwood) and aruffo.com for reprinting the daily comic strip Alley Oop



## Art

Page Six ... Mathpainting 3 by David Russell  
Page Eight ... Elf Girl by Artist Fish



## Mindy Hunt — New FanActivity Gazette Editrix

Mindy Hunt has taken the reins as the new editrix of FanActivity Gazette. You've already seen her first issue. It was far thicker, far more interesting, and far more attractive than any of mine. Three cheers to Mindy Hunt for taking this burden off my shoulders.

...George Phillies, former Editor,  
FanActivity Gazette

## The Directors' View By Heath Row

In recent months, I've been trying to focus on participating in activities with other fen—within the National Fantasy Fan Federation, and otherwise. Rather than concentrating solely on fanac by way of fanzines—you might have noticed that I (and my alter ego Cathode Ray) aren't as present in the N3F clubzines as I once was—I've been focusing on activities with other people. (I even missed my deadline last month; thank you, Judy Carroll, for stepping up!)

Those activities include volunteering for and going to cons such as Gallifrey One and Loscon; attending local club meetings (the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society); serving as scribe for the LASFS; attending local film screenings with the Academy of Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror Films (the organi-

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Continued Next Column, Middle

zation behind the Saturn Awards); hosting screenings and old-time-radio listening sessions for the N3F Tape and Video Bureaus; writing letters of comment to other fanzines; and participating in an N3F email round robin about the Travelers television show.

For the last few weeks, I've been helping a LASFS friend organize, sort, file, and box the fanzine collection of a mutual friend who died earlier this year for donation to UC-Riverside's Eaton Collection of

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## Join or Renew

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

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Science Fiction & Fantasy. I even sent Bjo Trimble a birthday card and letter to help celebrate her 90th birthday this month.

This is a change for me—fanac with other fen, not just by myself through the written word. There's still plenty of writing and pubbing my ish, however. I recently bundled all of my apazines into a new monthly periodical, *The Stf Amateur*, which is available via eFanzines online, or from yours truly. Just let me know if you'd like to be on the distribution list. (Fanzines lead to fanzine fan friends, which are fine friends indeed.)

I forget who said it, but I occasionally encounter a quotation along the lines that fanzines are what we publish when we can't be fen together. I think that's true, and if there's a way for me to help bring people together, to encourage new friendships, and to help make something happen, it's of interest to me. Fanzines are not enough, though they're fun punctuation between in-person or online activities, shared experiences, and hanging out.

Members of the N3F have the opportunity to be active fen (an actifan), not just passive fen (a passifan). There's a reason why con participants are considered members rather than attendees. (And cons aren't the only way to express your fandom.) Fandom in all its forms is what we make it, and the most rewarding approach is to put something into it—to interact with other fen—not to approach it as a consumer, expecting for someone else to do something for you, or waiting for something to happen. Frankly, that's boring.

In last month's "The Directors' View," Judy Carroll offered a handy map of Littleton to Neffers. You might have also seen my Bingo-like game Neffo. Both can be useful tools to explore the fandom in which we find ourselves—and to identify what form of activity best suits you. Activity becomes easier—second nature, even—if you find friends to hang out with.

Will you go to Artists Keep? Will you take a hike through N'APA Woods? Will you take a stroll down Writers Way? Regardless of where you choose to go, look around to see who else is also

there. Introduce yourself. Ask them a question about where you are and what you're doing. Find out what they're interested in, what they like—who they are. That way, you'll look forward to seeing them the next time you visit Littleton. You'll find a friend with whom to engage in activities. And you'll meet a fellow fan with whom you can share interests and experiences.

While volunteering for Loscon, I spent quite a bit of time with John Hertz and Eylat Poliner. I now count them among my friends, and my LASFS activity is all the richer for it. While organizing Marty Cantor's fanzine collection for donation to Eaton, I've been able to actively remember and learn more about my much-missed friend Marty—and get to know fellow LASFS member Nick Smith better. Hosting the Audio and Tape Bureau events helped me meet Janine Follett, who's often the only other participant for the film and video screenings, and OTR shows. I look forward to seeing her every single time. And participating in the Travelers round robin, I've enjoyed the weekly company and conversation of Judy Carroll and Mike McLain—neither of whom I'd know so well had I not participated. I look forward to our next TV show! (In fact, I miss you already.)

Not only do I know my way around Littleton better, I've made some good friends—and learned more about fandom as a whole. That will lead to new maps, new experiences, and even more new friends.

So if someone hosts a party—asking for letters of comment, organizing a relaxacon, or proposing a book discussion group—accept the invitation. No matter what it is, even if it's not entirely up your alley. Do something, even just to respect the invitation and be invited next time. Similarly, if someone mentions a book, story, movie, or TV show that interests you, check it out. See if you like it. Tell a friend—online or offline. Step up and show up. Who knows who else will be there, or what fun you'll have?

I and the other directors will see you on the streets of Littleton. We might even ask you for directions.

Where's the party?

## Treasury

Our Treasurer is in the hospital, and has no idea when he will be released. Get well cards to wombat.soho@gmail.com will doubtless be appreciated

## Web Pages

Member and author A.C. Cargill has taken on maintaining aspects of TNFFF.org. In particular, new issues of N3F magazines will be appearing there with a week's delay. She has full access to the pages, so if I become unavailable the web pages will be entirely secure.

## Eldritch Science

I have already received the first contribution to the next issue of Eldritch Science, a fine poem. A sufficient stock of short stories is available. Editorial time is the limit, unless someone else wants to take over producing the zine in question.

## Bylaws

The proposed Bylaws Amendments passed 3-1-1.

## Women Genre Writers: Kit Reed by Jon D. Swartz, Ph.D. N3F Historian

Lillian Hyde Craig Reed (June 7, 1932 – September 24, 2017), was an author of science fiction (SF), mainstream fiction, and psychological thrillers, usually under the name of Kit Reed.

### Personal Life

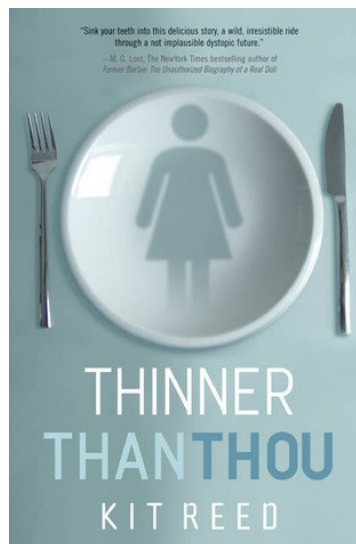
Reed was born Lillian Hyde Craig in San Diego, California. She was the daughter of schoolteacher Lillian Hyde and U. S. Naval Officer John R. Craig (who was later lost at sea). She was nicknamed "Kitten" at an early age and later legally changed her name to Kit Reed. She grew up on and around military bases in Connecticut, Florida, Hawaii, and elsewhere.



By age 12, she had written a series of books about a stand-up bunny rabbit. At the College of Notre Dame of Maryland, nuns let her write short stories instead of a research paper for her senior thesis, thus allowing her "to avoid the research she hated."

She served as a professor and resident writer at Wesleyan University for decades. She met her husband, film professor and artist Joseph Reed, on a blind date in St. Petersburg. She and Reed had three children together including Kate Maruyama, who later also became a genre author. Reed died at age 85, after being diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor.

### Publications



Reed's first short story, "The Wait" (1958), was published by editor Anthony Boucher in The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction (F&SF).

Her stories appeared in venues ranging from F&SF to The Yale Review and The Kenyon Review, and were widely anthologized. Many of her stories were published as feminist SF.

### Novels

Mother Isn't Dead She's Only Sleeping (1961)  
At War As Children (1964)  
The Better Part (1968)  
Armed Camps (1969)  
Cry of the Daughter (1971)  
Tiger Rag (1973)  
Fat (1974)  
Captain Grown-Up (1976)  
The Ballad of T. Rantula (1979)

Magic Time (1980)  
 Blood Fever (1982) (as by Shelley Hyde)  
 Fort Privilege (1985)  
 Catholic Girls (1987)  
 Gone (1992) (as by Kit Craig)  
 Twice Burned (1993) (as by Kit Craig)  
 Little Sisters of the Apocalypse (1994)  
 Strait (1995) (as by Kit Craig)  
 J. Eden (1996)  
 Closer (1997) (as by Kit Craig)  
 Some Safe Place (1998) (as by Kit Craig)  
 Short Fuse (1999) (as by Kit Craig)  
 @expectations (2000)  
 Thinner Than Thou (2004)  
 Bronze (2005)  
 The Baby Merchant (2006)  
 The Night Children (2008)  
 Enclave (2009)  
 What Wolves Know (2011)  
 Son of Destruction (2012)  
 Where (2015)  
 Mormama (2017)

### Awards/Honors/Recognitions



Reed was nominated for the James Tiptree Jr. Award three times. In 2005 her novel, *Thinner Than Thou*, was given the Alex Award by the Young Adult Library Services Association, a division of the American Library Association.

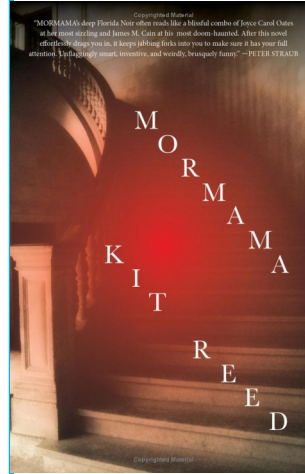
She was a Guggenheim Fellow (1964) and recipient of a five-year grant from the Abraham

Worsell Foundation (1965). In 1976, she was awarded an Aspen Institute Rockefeller Fellowship.

She worked as a journalist for a number of years, including stints at *The St. Petersburg Times* and *The New Haven Register*. She won awards for a series of articles about juvenile courts in Connecticut, and

twice was named the New England Newspaper-woman of the Year.

### Pseudonyms



In addition to Kit Reed, she published under the names Kit Craig and Shelly Hyde.

The *New York Times Book Review* had the following to say about her short fiction in 2006: “Reed has a prose style that’s pure dry ice, displayed in dystopian stories that specialize in bitterness and dislocation.”

The *Wall Street Journal* reported: “The title of Kit Reed’s [2013] selection of her own short stories, *The Story Until Now* (Wesleyan), reminds us that although she has been writing award-winning fiction for some 50 years, she’s still accelerating. The scope of these 35 stories is immense, their variety unmatched.”

### Concluding Comments

During her career she published over thirty books and more than a hundred short stories.

Both *The Story Until Now* (2013) and her 2011 collection *What Wolves Know* were Shirley Jackson Award nominees in 2011 and 2013, respectively.

### Sources

Clute, John & Peter Nicholls (eds.). *The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction*, 1993.

Currey, L. W. *Science Fiction and Fantasy Authors*, 1979.

Hawk, Pat. *Hawk’s Authors’ Pseudonyms II*, 1995.

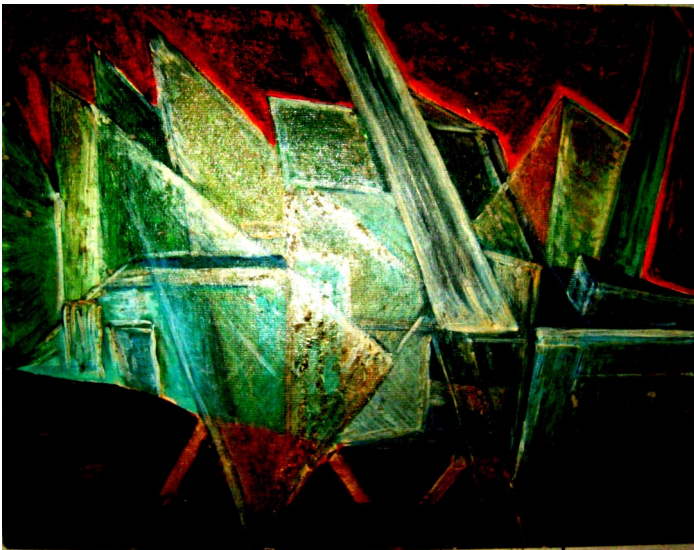
Mallett, D. F. & Robert Reginald. *Reginald’s Science Fiction and Fantasy Awards*, Third Edition, 1993.

Smith, C. C. (ed.). Twentieth Century Science Fiction Writers, 1986.

Tuck, Donald H. The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction and Fantasy, Volume 2: Who's Who, M – Z, 1978.

Yntema, Sharon (ed.). More Than 100 Woman Science Fiction Writers, 1988.

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



Mathpainting 3 by David Russell

## Round Robins Bureau

Welcome one and all.

We have two kinds of Round Robins available, Netflix Streaming and Postal Mail.

Netflix Streaming Round Robins

ATTENTION!!! The Netflix Streaming Round Robin Experiment Is Completed!

The Travelers NSRR was completed on August 4th. I am happy to announce it was a success!!!

We had three members, including myself as RM.

We decided to watch 2 episodes a week. After watching an episode we emailed the other two members in a joint mail and discussed the episode.

Following are what the members have to say about the Travelers NSRR:

### Mike McLain

I enjoyed the Travelers Round Robin. I had not heard of Travelers before this, and thought it was a fun show. It was complex enough to be involving, and imaginative enough to be fun. I would likely not have found it without the RR. The advantage of watching this show as part of the RR is that I watched it much more closely than I might have otherwise. Plot points were often advanced through a seemingly random remark, or a camera shot that only lasted a couple of seconds. Because I was writing my responses to the show as part of the RR, I watched it much more closely, including turning on subtitles, which often helped clear up who was speaking or what was happening in the background. The weekly emails with my fellow RR members were always fun, as the other members often noticed things I did not, and would interpret some things differently than I had, opening up new possibilities in the show. All in all, it was a lot of fun, and I look forward to the next one.

### Heath Row

#### Season 1 Episode 12

...as the last episode of a season, it had to end with enough promise and potential that viewers would return about a year later to continue the storyline. I think that the episode accomplishes that.

But it's the new elements and developments that propel viewers and the plotline toward Season 2 that really shake things up.

#### Season 2 Episode 12

....a lot happened in Season 2. —and ended up somewhere quite different from what I'd expected.

#### Season 3 Episode 10

We have now reached the end of Travelers. The first episode of the show originally aired Oct. 17, 2016, and this episode aired Dec. 14, 2018, offering a season a year for three years. This was the only season with 10 episodes instead of 12, but it wasn't shorter because it was the end of the show, per se—just the end of the season...

Regardless, this episode was not a rush job by the cast and crew aware of a cancellation. It did not leave viewers hanging midseason without resolution, no future episodes or seasons to air. It was a studied, intended conclusion for the program.

### Judy Carroll

I loved being a part of this RR. The series was great and it was so fun sharing insights and what ifs with the other members. I was more involved in this Netflix series than in the ones I watch alone. I had to stay alert, and I found myself questioning situations I normally would have overlooked. Sometimes, I missed a clue and the other members explained the situation and got me back on track. I'm going to sign up for another series.



We are offering Travelers again in case the above reviews have piqued your interest.  
Travelers - 3 seasons - members and RM needed.

New series starting soon - Black Mirror.  
This series has a RM and 1 other member.

We have two NSRR waiting for RM and members.

-  
Stranger Things - 4 seasons - Netflix says the 5th and final season will be coming..

Raising Dion - Raising Dion - 2 seasons on-going.



### Stranger Things

Please contact me if you are interested in joining and/or becoming a RM.

If you have a suggestion for a NSRR please contact me.

The Netflix Streaming Round Robins work like this:

- 1 - A member chooses the series he/she wishes to watch.
- 2 - When they have decided which series they wish to watch they contact me and I will tell them whether there are enough members to begin the RR
- 3- When there are 2 members, and the Robin Master, the RR will begin.
- 4 - The Robin Master (RM) emails the Netflix Streaming Round Robin (NSRR) members with a schedule. Two episodes a week are recommended when starting the RR. However, more episodes a week can be considered if the members choose to do so. ALL members must agree to the number of episodes watched in a week. We want this to be a fun adventure. Not a cumbersome one.
- 5 - Once the required episodes for that week have been viewed, that member will email each member in a joint email with their comments. At the top of the email the episodes viewed should be listed.
- 6 - Repeat steps 4 & 5 each week until the series ends.

### Postal Mail

Postal Mail is the traditional Round Robin (RR). Members who have chosen the same topic discuss their likes and dislikes. Each RR needs at least three



Elf Girl  
by Artist Fish

members and a Robin Master (RM). When enough members have signed up the RM will send them a letter explaining how the RR works.

(If you want to know more about how a RR works before you join, please let me know and I

will give you more information. My email address and postal address are listed at the end of this article.)

We have one Postal Mail RR at this time - World-wide Folklore RR and a new one starting now - Heroic Women.

If you have any questions about either of these RR, or wish to join, please contact me by email, if possible, or by postal mail. My email and postal address are at the end of this article.

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

If interested in joining either of the RR above please contact me. My contact information is at the end of this article.

Contact: Judy Carroll  
971 East 120 South  
Spanish Fork, Utah 84660  
OR Email : blueshadows2012@gmail.com

## Welcomittee

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 Welcomittee 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 Welcomittee please contact: Judy Carroll at [BlueShadows2012@gmail.com](mailto:BlueShadows2012@gmail.com)

## Welcome to the Writers Exchange!

Last month I asked our readers "When did you begin writing or telling stories?" We have received one response to the above question.

Jefferson Swycaffer — For me it was relatively late, in my college years. I was all but illiterate in high school. I read voraciously, but my writing was ghastly. I didn't know what a paragraph was! I'd start writing, and the words just drooled down the page without pause. It was hideous! The American public school system certainly let me down. I had to learn to write **by writing!** I had to make mistakes -- horrid ones! -- and correct them. I studied other writers and tried to do what they did -- without plagiarism, of course! I had to learn by observation. Here, being a tireless reader served me well. Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery...and it's also a really good way to learn how to do things. I also have to give a lot of credit to my sister, who taught me how to read, and who read my material and pointed out the (many!) errors. She was -- and still is! -- a great tutor and, to this day, I still run everything past her for her suggestions! The Writers' Exchange Bureau is a place where I can "pay forward"



the constructive criticism that has so much benefited me and my writing.

Cheers!  
Jefferson

Thank you so much, Jefferson. I really appreciate you taking the time to respond to my question.

The question/writer's prompt for August is -- What motivates you to write? Following is some Information I hope you will find as interesting as I did:

What Motivates These Seven Famous Authors To Write?

by Lee Purcell BookBaby March 17, 2023  
(Following is a brief introduction. Read the entire article for the complete information on what motivates these seven authors.)

I've collected insights and inspirational quotes from some of my favorite authors, who are (or who have been) masters of the art of writing, reaching the peak in their field. It's noteworthy that they struggle with the same challenges — the same doubts and misgivings — that many of us have when embarking on a project, be it a short story, novel, or essay.

What does it take to go beyond the ordinary and enter that special realm that elevates a written word? These famous writers have some insights.

Table of Contents:

- Margaret Atwood – Writing motivated by a fear of death
- John Steinbeck – Wrestling with self-doubt
- Kurt Vonnegut – Living through apocalyptic events
- Anne Lamott – Becoming conscious as a writer
- Octavia Butler – The virtue of persistence
- Jeff VanderMeer – Finding your core of creativity
- Ray Bradbury – What does writing teach us?

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

## Correspondence Bureau

"In a very real sense, we are all Aliens on a strange planet. We spend most of our lives reaching out and trying to communicate. If during our whole lifetime, we could reach out and really communicate with just two people we are indeed very fortunate."

Gene Roddenberry

Please Note: Changes have been made in the way one contacts a member listed in the Correspondence Bureau.

Following are the names, interests and contact information of members seeking correspondence:

Jeffrey Redmond - by Email - redmondjeff@hotmail.com by Postal Mail  
1335 Beechwood St NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49505-3830

I am an old Star Trek of the original television show days. I enjoy both Fantasy and Science Fiction. My favorite author is me with my Chronicles of Erda fantasy fiction books. My hobbies include reading,

writing, watching TV, and meeting with friends. I have books and memorabilia collections, and try to keep up with my cat.

John Thiel - by Email - kinethiel@outlook.com

I am interested in things I haven't seen much that have something about them that gives me a feeling of looking for more about them.

Magazines which have interested me have been The Readers Digest, Future Science Fiction, Space Stories, Jack and Jill magazine, Startling Stories and Thrilling Wonder Stories, Arizona Highways and others; Television shows that have interested me have been Tales of Tomorrow, The Sid Caesar show, Roy Rogers, Sky King, Masterpiece Theater.

Interesting books have been the mysteries of Mary Roberts Rinehart, Groff Conklin's anthologies, Tales of the Supernatural, the writings of Sigmund Freud, the life of Francoise Villon, The Big Push by Mickey Spillane, Theodore Sturgeon's books, Leo Margules' anthologies, Peyton Place; Movies of interest were the Voyages of Ulysses, The Life of Omar Khayyam, The House of Wax, Kiss Me Deadly; comics of interest were Dick Tracy, Little Orphan Annie, King Aroo; radio shows, Sky King, Boston Blackie, Marty Faye. Interesting places, Venice, California, the Florida Everglades, Valparaiso, Indiana.

Steve Condrey - By Email - scondrey@gmail.com

Favorite genres: science fiction and fantasy, also some true crime and historical fiction. I particularly enjoy military and post-apocalyptic science fiction (but not of the "retired Navy SEAL who just happens to own a ranch in Montana bugs out amid a rampaging zombie horde that's totally not a proxy for societal undesirables" variety of apocalypse).

Favorite authors: Like many others, I cut my teeth on Robert Heinlein, Ray Bradbury, and Isaac Asimov. I also enjoy Robert E. Howard, Octavia Butler, Andre Norton, Anne McCaffrey, and Frederik Pohl. Among writers who are still alive and active

today, I like Harry Turtledove, Larry Niven, Robert Sawyer, David Weber, and S. M. Stirling.

Movies and TV shows: Star Trek, Babylon 5, Star Wars, Doctor Who, Aliens, Blade Runner, Conan the Barbarian (1980).

I do like to write, but haven't worked up the nerve to publish something. Maybe getting more involved here will help me get to that point (I hope!). Outside of fandom, I am active in my local astronomy club. I edit their newsletter and occasionally do outreach activities. I also volunteer at my church. Most of all, my wife, two kids (ages 16 and 12), and a fluctuating menagerie of house pets. Collections: I had a pretty sizable collection of books, games, and memorabilia that unfortunately was a casualty of the 2019 Missouri River flooding. I am currently rebuilding. My home office is heavily inspired by Forry Ackerman's Ackermansion, but at a much smaller scale (for the time being).

Mick Taylor - By Postal Mail - 2945 SE Taylor St, Portland, OR 97214-4032

I am a somewhat marginal fan in that although I have been reading Science Fiction and Fantasy all my life, I have never been to a convention and it's been quite a while since I did a zine. I love the old weird pulp writers - H.P. Lovecraft, Clark Ashton Smith, Robert E. Howard and that era. Of the more modern authors I enjoy Tim Powers, James Blaylock, Paolo Bacigalupi, William Gibson. I do like discovering new authors too. Apart from reading, I also like to collect paper stuff - stamps, covers, QSL cards, that sort of thing. For work, I manage an IT department at a teaching hospital in Portland, Oregon.

Judy Carroll - By Email BlueShadows2012@gmail.com by Postal Mail 975 E 120 S, Spanish Fork, UT 84660

My favorite genres are Science Fiction and Murder Mysteries. My favorite authors are Shirley Jackson, Ray Bradbury, Dean Koontz, and Julie E. Czerneda. I like to write short stories and poems. I love being around young children. Their laughter, happiness, and excitement are contagious.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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, 2023.
9. The Short Story Judge is a published science fiction professional, and also a loving fan of the sf and fantasy genres. All comments and critiques are solely the Short Story Judge's opinion, but he promises to be constructive and polite.
10. Stories will also be reviewed by the Editor of the N3F Fiction zine Eldritch Science; authors of suitable tales will be invited to submit their tales for publication in our zine. This review and invitation will only occur after contest winners have been announced, so it can have no effect on the contest outcome.
11. The NSF may want to publish an electronic book including top entries from one or more years of publication. You will not be contacted about this until after the contest is over and prizes have been awarded. If we want to publish your story, you will have to sign over to us first world serial rights. Your willingness to sign over rights cannot affect whether or not you win the contest. Winners will be notified as soon as the judging is completed. Announcements and notifications of winning entries will be made by March 2024. Please take your time and submit your best work. You can resubmit stories previously entered if they did not win previously. All entries will be kept confidential and will be judged fairly and anonymously. The deadline for all entries is Dec. 31, 2023. 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 2023 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest, and I agree to them.**

**Signature/Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:** Jefferson Swycaffer, P. O. Box 15373, San Diego, CA 92175-5373 ; or email [abontides@gmail.com](mailto:abontides@gmail.com)



The Laureate Awards  
Mindy Hunt — New FanActivity Gazette Editrix  
The Directors' View by Heath Row  
Treasury  
Web Pages  
Eldritch Science  
Women Genre Writers: Kit Reed  
Round Robins Bureau  
Welcommittee  
Welcome to the Writers Exchange!  
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N3F TNFF  
c/o George Phillips  
48 Hancock Hill Drive  
Worcester MA 01609