



The National **84** Fantasy Fan **Years**

Fandom's Second Oldest Print Publication
Cras ad Stellas — Tomorrow to the Stars
Volume 84 Number 3 March 2025

Kaymar Award

The nominee for the 2025 Kaymar Award is Jean-Paul Garnier. Persons who have already received the award and are current dues-paying members should send their votes to Jon Swartz, 12115 Missel Thrush Court, Austin, TX 78750. judgeswartz@gmail.com

Laureate Awards

We have finally reached the nominations stage of issuing the annual N3F Laureate Awards for material published in 2024. One bit of discussion of categories arrived a bit late, so we are asked to add a category Best Young Adult Novel.

Please nominate by April 15. Send nominations to George Phillies, phillies@4liberty.net. If you are a dues-paying or life member, you may make up to two nominations in each category.

The categories for stfnal work in 2024 are:

- Best Fan Writer
- Best Fan Artist
- Best Fan Poet
- Best Fan Editor
- Best Fan Web Site
- Best Non-N3F Fan Publication (electronic publication is allowed)
- Best N3F Fanzine
- Best Novel (over 100,000 words)
- Best Young Adult Novel



Art
4 ... Tribute to Close Encounters of the Third Kind
by Jose Sanchez
8 ... Spaceship and Pilot by Jose Sanchez



- Best Shorter Work (under 100,000 words) or Anthology
 - Best Animation (anime/cartoon)
 - Best Manga/Comic Book/Graphic Novel
 - Best Book Editor
 - Best Pro Artist, cover or otherwise
 - Best Television Show, Film, or Video
 - Best Literary-Critical Work
 - Best Historical Work
 - Best None of the Above
- Multiple Awards may be given for 'Best None of the Above'; this award is voted on as 'Yes' or 'No'.

Director's View

Jean-Paul L. Garnier, 2025

What are your thoughts on the term 'speculative fiction'? It's a way of defining our genres that has changed over time, moving from something more specific (to speculate) to a blanket term. Today, most people say it to mean: science fiction, fantasy, and horror. But I don't believe this was originally how it was intended. It's used as an umbrella term. But is clumping the genres together useful? Is the term used for genre solidarity due to genre fiction being stigmatized in the past? Personally, I do not like the term. While much of today's science fiction certainly contains less science than in previous eras, doesn't all fiction speculate? Even mundane fiction asks the question what if. I don't see much of a need in arguing over the definitions of various genres, but I am curious why SFFH is bundled when their readerships

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Continued Next Column, Middle

are often different, and they take on such drastically different subject matter and setting. Perhaps in the long run this isn't an important question at all, but I am curious what your thoughts are. Send us an LOC with what you think it means, or if you think there is a better term we could be using.

President's View

We are particularly grateful to Jean-Paul Garnier for his successful recruiting efforts on behalf of the N3F. Web page upgrades are under way.

Your Volunteer Team

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 Welcommittee 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.

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 Send material for this zine as electronic files (txt or rtf preferred, images as jpgs, please do not send PDFs) to the Editor: George Phillies, 48 Hancock Hill Drive, Worcester MA 01609, phillies@4liberty.net The submission deadline for each issue is the 15th of the month.

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Treasurer's Report

Paypal balance \$296.22
In: \$6 for membership (less fees)

NSB balance:
\$2532.34
In: \$18 for membership

2 life members
17 electronic + 9 regular = 28 voting members
8 archive members + 264 public members = 273 non-voting members

Voting memberships expiring this month: Jean-Paul Garnier

Thanks to Tom Feller for renewing!

Welcome to Casey Aimer and Eliot Jordan!

Neffers are reminded that preregistration for Son of Silvercon III has begun! The \$5 discount for N3F membership is available again. Attending memberships are \$40 (through June 15), supporting memberships are \$20, vendor tables are \$50, and sponsorships \$100. Mail checks & money orders to Friends of Fission-chan, PO Box 143, Tonopah NV 89049; PayPal payments go to fission.chan@gmail.com

Letters of Comment

Editors:

For what it's worth, when I was a student at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota from 1973-74, I met Kaymar during my frequent runs to the used bookstores in the Fargo-Moorhead area. He was a good man, definitely.

John Purcell

Hi George,

I have received John's approval to relaunch Ionisphere. So I'm starting to put together an issue with hopes of getting it out in March or April. At the moment I am aiming for at least 2 or 3 issues a year.

More soon,
Jean-Paul
[Editor: And, indeed the first issue under Jean-Paul's guidance is already out.]

The new edition of Ionisphere was, I think, superb. It looks quite professional and the interviews are outstanding. I am happy to see the publication continue and to be in Mr. Garnier's capable hands.

John Thiel

Book Review Bureau

The transition from monthly to bimonthly is under way. The next issue of The N3F Review of Books will be out at the end of April. Our objective is to have at least one review for every SF book published, but we seem to be falling behind. Your reviews are always most welcome at George Phillips, phillies@4liberty.net.

Welcomittee

We have two new members this month, Casey Aimer and Eliot Jordan. Welcome to the National Fantasy Fan Federation. We hope your stay will be long and full of many wonderful experiences.

Casey's Fannish interests is running semiprozines like Radon Journal, playing MMORPGs, Doctor Who, The Expanse, and space operas. Casey was introduced to the N3F by Jean-Paul L. Garnier.

Eliot's Fannish interests are novels and short stories. He found the N3F through Reedsy ("I think", said Eliot.)

Casey and Eliot, we hope you have a wonderful adventure, make new friends and enjoy your time with us. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, and I will do my best to help you.

If you know anyone you think may be interested in joining the N3F, please talk to them. Tell them how much you enjoy being a member of the N3F and how rewarding it can be to "hang out" with others who have the same interest in the imagina-

tive genres of Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror.

Remember - being active is the most fulfilling way to enjoy being a member of the National Fantasy Fan Federation. Why not offer this opportunity to others?

If you have questions about the N3F or are interested in helping with the Welcommittee please contact Judy Carroll at BlueShadows2012@gmail.com

Film Bureau

Films Fantastic continues to search for filmic material, especially from times past. If you have material on the brilliant productions of SF writers, creators, directors, and actors, send them to Films Fantastic: Jason P. Hunt <jphunt@scifi4me.com>



Tribute to Close Encounters of the Third Kind
by Jose Sanchez

N'APA 275

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Fan History Where We Came From

Yes, the N3F came from someplace. The N3F began with a letter from a very new fan, Damon Knight, who eventually became a very long-time fan.

An article written by Damon Knight in the October 1940 issue of Art Widner's Fanfare called for a general fan organization to replace the fading New Fandom. This inspired members of the Stranger Club and others to form the N3F.

According to Harry Warner, Knight's article was partly inspired by a letter written to him by Jerome Walton in 1937. The title itself was a play on the over-the-top speech Mutation or Death! and the old motto "Unite or Die!"

Some of Knight's ideas have dated slightly with changes in technology, but the notion of the N3F as a service organization, which most fans automatically join because we offer good things, still shines through.

Essay

Unite or Fie! by Damon Knight

One of the queerest things about fandom which has to date come to my attention, during the year-and-two-months I have been a fan, is the fact that fandom as a whole, is not, and apparently has never been, organized for its own defence and welfare. It is obvious that a need for such an organization exists. Obvious, for one reason – the number of sincere but half-cocked attempts which have been made from time to time at establishing one.

Most of these attempts at national organization failed, I think, because they assumed, to start with, something that isn't so. They assumed that all fans, or at least a workable majority, would co-operate in a single program of concerted endeavor. It should be apparent by now that any fantasy fan organization which takes sides on any important question can never hope to be national in scope, because of the unfortunate fact that there are almost as many opinions on any subject as there are fans.

But I sincerely believe that a successful national fantasy association is possible, that it could offer a needed service to every fan, and that it could be established today.

The association I mean would be organized with one purpose only: to supply the fantasy fans of America (and elsewhere, if there should be any left) with those services, with which they cannot supply themselves singly or in groups. Its general policy and its every act would be in the hands of its members as a whole, and not in those of its officers, nor of any other individual, or group of individuals.

Here are some of the services which it could perform. It could maintain a distributing agency for fanmag subscriptions; a centrally located place, to which each member could send, all together, the money he would ordinarily spend for fan publications, together with the list of publications desired. At regular intervals the agency would send the subscriber's accounts, and the accumulated money, by check or money order, to each of the magazines subscribed to; thus saving each member as much as 30¢ per fanmag dollar in postage, and encouraging the sale of all fan publications.

In its official organ, the association could offer regular, careful, and unbiased reviews of all existing fanmags, could keep its members informed as to where back numbers and books might be bought most cheaply at all times, could offer prizes to the authors of fan articles voted best in a given period by the members, (apologies to Julius Unger) as well as supply the usual association news, announcements of new projects, results of polls and so forth.

For the benefit of new and almost-fans, it could publish, and periodically revise, a complete handbook of fandom, explaining the mysteries which now plague them until they gradually worm the answers out of other fans piecemeal, I know.

And it could act, when and if necessary, as the mouthpiece of fandom in dealing with that vast body of aliens with which we are surrounded on all sides: the General Public. If that body continues to become increasingly aware of us, as it has done in recent months, fandom will certainly need a single voice which can speak fairly for all of fandom with a bias toward none.

If you agree that a national organization such as I have outlined is needed, and that it could be had, will you write to me, or to the editor of this magazine, and offer your suggestions? [Originally published in the fanzine *Fanfare*, Volume 1, Number 4, October 1940]

Pro Bureau

The N3F Pro Bureau, dedicated to the support of budding and professional writers, has two projects under way. First, our magazine *Prose Bono*, published as part of the N3F Review of Books Incorporating *Prose Bono*, continues to come out on a regular schedule. Second, invoking the suggestion of a Neffer who is a prominent SF writer, but who started on a less elevated plane, we are encouraging the publication of fan fiction, stories in familiar universes with the serial numbers filed off, in our APA N'APA.

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Eldritch Science

George Phillis writes that this was his final issue as editor of Eldritch Science. A hardware problem now fixed appears to have saved the wrong draft of Eldritch Science 13 before it was sent out to the membership. The corrected issue may be found on our web pages. The new Editor is G Steven Condrey gscondrey@gmail.com. Please send your material to him.

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

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

Interests:

Star Trek - original TV series

Fantasy and Science Fiction

Favorite author is me

Hobbies - reading, writing, watching TV, meeting with friends

Books and memorabilia collections

John Thiel - by Email - kinethiel@outlook.com

Interests:

Magazines: Reader's Digest, Future Science Fiction, Space Stories, Startling Stories and Thrilling Wonder Stories

Television shows: Tales of Tomorrow, The Sid Caesar show, Roy Rogers, Sky King, Masterpiece Theater

Books: mysteries of Mary Roberts Rinehart, Groff Conklin's anthologies, Tales of the Supernatural, the writings of Sigmund Freud, The Big Push by Mickey Spillane, Theodore Sturgeon's work

Television: Leo Margules' anthologies, Peyton Place;

Movies: Voyages of Ulysses, The Life of Omar Khayyam, The House of Wax, Kiss Me Deadly

Comics: 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 - gscondrey@gmail.com

Interests: Favorite genres: science fiction, fantasy, true crime and historical fiction

Favorite authors: Robert Heinlein, Ray Bradbury, Isaac Asimov, Robert E. Howard, Octavia Butler, Andre Norton, Anne McCaffrey, Frederik Pohl, 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!)

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.

Judy Carroll - By Email

BlueShadows2012@gmail.com

by Postal Mail 975 E 120 S

Spanish Fork, UT 84660

Interests:

Favorite Genres: Science Fiction and Murder Mysteries.

Favorite Authors: Shirley Jackson, Ray Bradbury, Dean Koontz, and Julie E. Czerneda.

Likes: Writing short stories and poems, working with young children.

If you would like to join the Correspondence Bureau and have your name and interests listed please contact me. Send email requests to :
Judy Carroll BlueShadows2012@gmail.com OR
Send postal mail requests to: Judy Carroll 975 E
120 S Spanish Fork, UT 84660

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Franking Service

We continue to receive new fanzines. Every so often we bundle them up in a .zip file and put them up on our web site for members to download. The old process, emailing the issues to the membership, eventually stopped working. Too many anti-spam services could not tell the difference between our mailings and mailings they were supposed to stop, in ways that caused our other fanzines to be blocked.

Tightbeam

Tightbeam is now a review zine. We try to cover all branches of SF fandom, though some are easier to cover than others. There is a huge cosplay fandom out there, some costumes being marginal and others being spectacular, but finding articles from cosplay fandom is almost impossible. Nonethe-

less, our objective is to have at least one article from each branch of SF fandom.

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Gourmet Bureau

Bureau Recipes continue to appear in the pages of Tightbeam. The regular column is Food of Famous Writers.

N'APA

Jefferson Swycaffer gives us regular assemblages of material of our APA N'APA. N'APA is becoming thicker and thicker with more and more material, a far cry from a decade ago, when N'APA was reduced to two members sending email to each other.

Writers Exchange Bureau

Last month I asked our readers, "When did you begin to tell stories?" I'm happy to say we have one reader who will tell us his story.

When did I begin to tell stories? It just happened, out of the blue, when I was a freshman in college. My sister had published a book of non-fiction, and she taught me the ropes, the technical details of writing and publishing. When I started, I didn't even know what a paragraph was! Content just slurped down the page without a break. My sister showed me how it ought to be done. I also studied other published authors -- Fritz Leiber and Poul Anderson taught me many valuable lessons on how to write a story! One day, for no reason at all, I sat down and started filling pieces of lined paper with a ballpoint pen, and the end result of that was my first novel. It all "just happened" with no conscious intent on my part at all! To this day, I write "blindly," without really planning or scripting or plotting or outlining. I use a computer and not a ballpoint pen, but very little else has changed!

...Jefferson Swycaffer

Thank you, Jefferson, for participating. I really appreciate your input.

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

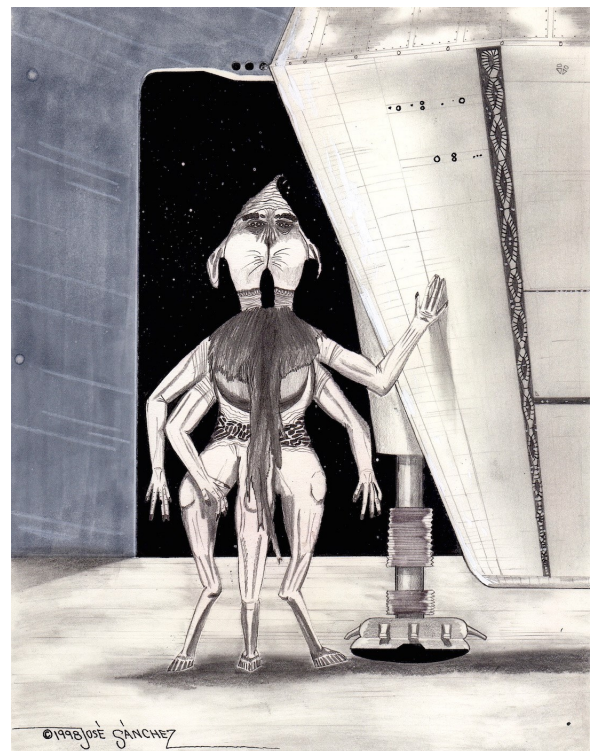
reader to you. Occasionally we get several short stories at the same time and I don't want any of our readers getting "reading overload."

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.

The National Fantasy Fan

Readers who receive TNFF via paper mail report that their issues are sometimes appearing in badly damaged condition. If this ever happens to you, please contact me and I will send a replacement. - George Phillies, phillies@4liberty.net TNFF Editor.



Spaceship and Pilot by Jose Sanchez

2025 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest
Story Contest Rules and Entry Blank

To enter a story, on a separate page, please supply the following information, followed by your story:

- 1) Title of story (for identification): Author's name and address: Author's email address:
- 2) Answer DO or DO NOT I do/do not wish to become a public (no dues, no vote) member of the N3F and receive for free all N3F magazines.

Testify: I have read the above rules for the 2025 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

We are here to encourage new writers, to reward the new kids on the block. 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. We want stories from guys and gals nobody's ever heard of...but in the years ahead, we will.

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 related to the science fiction, fantasy, or similar genres in the opinion of the judge.
3. Email attachments of Word documents are acceptable for submission. Manuscripts on paper should be typed, single sided on 8 1/2"-by- 11" white paper, double spaced, with pages numbered. The name of the author should not appear anywhere on the manuscript to ensure impartial judging. Photocopies are acceptable, if they are of good quality. Computer printouts must be legible.
4. Contestants can enter up to three stories. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) if you would like your story returned at the end of the contest. Stories will not be returned without an SASE. Do not send your only copy in case of accidental loss. We are not responsible for lost manuscripts.
5. Email entries will be accepted. Send to Jefferson P. Swycaffer at abontides@gmail.com. No guarantee can be made of email receipt. Privacy and property rights will be absolutely respected. No one other than the Short Story Judge will ever see the submission.
6. There are no entry fees.
7. Cash prizes totaling \$100 will be awarded as follows: First prize is \$50, second \$30, and third \$20. Honorable mentions and semi-finalists will receive a certificate of award.
8. Send all manuscripts to the contest manager: Jefferson Swycaffer, P. O. Box 15373, San Diego, CA 92175-5373; abontides@gmail.com. Emails with the story attached in word format are preferred. Paper manuscripts are acceptable. All entries must be received or postmarked no later than Dec. 31, 2025.
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 2026. 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, 2025. Good luck!



Kaymar Award—Laureate Awards
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