



The National **85** Fantasy Fan **Years**

Fandom's Second Oldest Print Publication
Cras ad Stellas — Tomorrow to the Stars
Volume 85 Number 2 February 2026

Presidential News Notes

I thank Jason Hunt for taking over the emailing of N3F magazines. There were unclear issues that appear to have receded since he replaced our PHPlist mailing arrangements.

I am pleased to note that our web pages have substantially but not completely recovered from last year's attack. If you see something that is missing, please advise.

We would benefit by having a Welcoming Bureau, a Multimedia Bureau, a NefferCon Bureau, a Professional Support Bureau, and a Social Media Bureau. The Welcoming Bureau would target putting the N3F name in front of the fannish public, for example at cons. Indeed, we now have members who attend conventions regularly and have volunteered to take N3F Fliers and bookmarks to the conventions that they attend. The Professional Support Bureau is working on projects. Jason and Mindy Hunt expressed an interest in the Multimedia Bureau.

Some of you will recall James Schmitz, whose Telzey Amberdon stories were a favorite of Analog readers fifty years ago. This winter, after a prolonged search, I was able to contact James Schmitz's literary heir. There was a successful negotiation on rights. I obtained non-exclusive rights to write additional stories using Telzey Amberdon and the remainder of the Hub universe, and a new novel is well under way. Telzey Amberdon will rise from her (literary) grave. Enthusiasts for this literary outcome may thank Allan Grohe, who began the discussion by asking me if anyone had ever written any Telzey Amberdon fan fiction.

An unfortunate difficulty has arisen with The N3F Review of Books Incorporating Prose Bono. The N3F Review is in large part an aggregator. We find reviews elsewhere, and with the permission of their authors republish them in a coherent order, so that people searching for book reviews can find them in one place.

We have now encountered an obstacle. For a long time UpstreamReviews.com published excellent reviews of authors not always mentioned elsewhere, especially writers of military science fiction. A few weeks ago, I received an editorial pronouncement from Upstream Review's Editor, announcing that our right to reprint reviews from Upstream Reviews had been revoked. The site owner was sympathetic but unable to help.

In any event, if you know anyone who writes good reviews for Upstream Reviews (or anywhere else for that matter) please ask them to consider letting us reprint and aggregate their reviews. They can reach me at phillies@4liberty.net.

The N3F Fan Gazette

Jason Hunt writes: There's a reason why this month's issue of the N3f Fan Gazette was later than usual. After discussing 2025 and how off the rails it went, I was fairly adamant that Mindy should take 2026 off in terms of accidents, incidents, hospital stays, and the like. Did she listen? Sort of.

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Art by Tiffanie Gray

Page 6: Dust Faun and Blue Sparkled

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 Writers Exchange: Jefferson Swycaffer abontides@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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The past couple of weeks, Mindy's been back in the hospital recovering from her third back surgery, this time expanding the vertebrae fusion in two directions, up to the L3 and down to the S1, the top of the sacrum. The x-rays are very impressive, and we joke that ultimately the goal is to make Mindy some kind of cyborg by the time we retire.

So, as you can imagine, things around here have been in a bit of a scramble as we rearrange the house to make it easier for her to navigate now that she's home from the hospital. Priorities shift, goals change, tasks that need to be done get set aside for other tasks that need to be done first.

I'm sure you've all been there, with best laid plans and such.

What it means for the Gazette is that there will be a bit of a delay implementing some of the things we'd like to do with the 'zine to make it more fan-centric. We've talked about this previously, and those goals are still in place. But this momentary setback gives us a chance to ask you what you'd like to see in these pages every month?

Feel free to send us your suggestions on what we can add to the new 'Zine Scene section and Bob's wonderful historical time capsules. (Perhaps we should collect them all in an anthology...)

More to come. Thank you for your continued patience and support.

~ Jason

Our Electronic Presences

On Facebook our regular group is National Fantasy Fan Federation (N3F) and our regular page is N3F.

The old name N3FList will take you to our facebook group. We had had a member who demanded that we create a separate public N3F Page, but he never did anything with it. He finally disappeared without leaving a forwarding address, so we seem to have managed to make the group go away.

On MeWe use N3F or Neffercon to find our MeWe groups.

On Discord use discord.gg/5w3GCjds55 to join our discord site.

There is a Tightbeam page on X.com, but it is inactive.

On Facebook the N3F Adult group had been used to divert pictures of underclad people, notably those of the female persuasion, from other N3F groups. Its Admins and Moderators all disappeared several years ago.

N3F Laureate Awards

We have received some nominations already, but only in some categories. If you see a category with no associated nominations, that's because no one has made a nomination yet. Please send your nominations to George Phillies, phillies@4liberty.net by March 20th. (Remember, N3F Officers are not eligible for the Best Novel Award.)

Best Fan Writer
Lloyd Penney

Best Fan Artist
Jose Sanchez

Best Fan Editor
George Phillies

Best Fan Poet
Denise Dumars
Robert Frazier

Best Fan Website:
Fanac
Galactic Journey
Ansible

Best Non-N3F Fan Publication:
The Obdurate Eye
Pablo Lennis

Best N3F Fan Publication
The N3F FanActivity Gazette
Eldritch Science

Best Novel (over 100,000 words)
Heart of the Mountain by Larry Correia

Best Shorter Work (under 100,000 words) or Anthology:
Disgraced Return of Kap's Needle by Renan Bernardo
Electronic Brain #1

Best Poem or Collection:
Life During the Lazarus Age by Robert Frazier

Best Book Editor:
Eric Fomley
Toni Weisskopf

Best Pro Artist:
Bob Eggleton
Dante Luiz
Bruce Pennington

Best Television Show, Film, or Video
Best Animation (anime/cartoon)
Best Manga/Comic Book/Graphic Novel
Best Computer or Role-Playing Game.
Best Literary-Critical Work

Best Historical Work:
Dreaming of Autonomous Vehicles: Miloslav (Miles) J. Breuer: Czech-American Writer and the Birth of Science Fiction by Jaroslav Olša, Jr.
First Fandom 20254 Annual (Coker, Swartz)

Best None of the Above:
Story Hour (event series <https://www.storyhour2020.com/>)

Best None of the Above is for categories we missed. There can be multiple Awards for 'Best None of the Above'. These have usually been voted on as 'Yes' or 'No'.

Letter to the Editors

Dear George and Jon:

Got a copy of The National Fantasy Fan, Vol. 85, No. 1, and congratulations, that is an achievement. I will try to grace it with a decent letter, wish me luck, and it starts in the next paragraph.

Good luck to all on the various awards to be voted upon. We usually have a measure of confidence about the quality of what we write and submit to publications such as this one, and few will admit that finding that others share that same confidence is a validation for the soul. It's a subtle hint that you are doing things right, and I am sure the awards will go to those confident people.

Best Newsy? That's a really old term, but I think that was the award for Best Newszine. We had a lot more newszines back then. Are there any leads as to who could have destroyed the club's website, and are there any software protection packages that could prevent this in the future?

Work continues apace on the first new issue of Amazing Stories for 2026, and when it comes to other awards, I would humbly ask that the N3F membership who are going to this year's Worldcon, LA-Con V in Anaheim, might consider nominating The Martian Trilogy for Best Related Work. This book shows there was a second Amazing Stories in the pages of Black newspapers in the Deep South of the USA in the mid-1930s, publishing great SF by many Black authors. This is a part of the history of science fiction that has been forgotten, and it is a treat to see that it has been rediscovered. Fan historians are enjoying this new information, I'm sure.

I wish I had more for you, but the well is dry right now. Still working on stories for the AS website, too, and feeling a little stretched thin. I just got the latest Tightbeam today, so no rest for the wicked, IU suppose. Thanks for this issue, and I will look for more.

Yours,
Lloyd Penney

Bureau Activities

Historian

N3F Historian Jon Swartz writes: "In my years as our historian, I have been asked many times by N3F members to aid them with various tasks related to our club and its membership. Recently, I agreed to help Jean-Paul Garnier with one of his writing projects."

Short Story Contest

Jean-Paul L. Garnier prepared award certificates for the Short Story Contest. I have now printed these up. They will be mailed soon.

The 2026 contest has been announced.

Franson Awards

Jean-Paul L. Garnier prepared award certificates for the Franson Awards. I have printed these up. They have now been mailed.

Treasury

N3F Treasury as of February 16, 2026

PayPal balance \$117.17

In: \$6 for memberships (less fees) and \$100 from NSB

Out: \$70 and 25 Euros for short story contest prizes

NSB balance: \$2540.34

Out: \$100 to PayPal

2 life members

26 electronic + 12 regular = 40 voting members

8 archive members + 263 public members = 271 non-voting members

Welcome to Gabriel Roark!

Voting memberships expiring this month: None!

I'd like to put in a plug for Mike Williamson's Confinement VII, which, like Son of Silvercon, is a nice cross between large house party and small convention. It's at the Comfort Suites in Lebanon, TN (a few miles outside Nashville) on Feb 27 – Mar 1, 2026. Memberships are \$45 in advance. Guest of honor is Devon Eriksen, author of the Prometheus Award-winning THEFT OF FIRE. I'm not a guest or anything, but I'll be there to promote the N3F and Son of Silvercon.

More information at confinementcon.org.

Neffers are reminded that preregistration for Son of

Silvercon IV 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

A Gentle Stroll

A Gentle Stroll is our APA for Role-Playing Games. The collator for its bimonthly issues is George Phillies. To join, just submit PDFs of your pages (comments on past issues are traditional) to George Phillies.

Recent N3F Zines

Many of our zines are bimonthly, quarterly, or published less often, so they will be back next issue. Not visible here are Eldritch Science, Films Fantastic, Ionisphere, Mangaverse, NAPA, Origins. And the N3F Review of Books.

The N3F Fan Gazette

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Tightbeam

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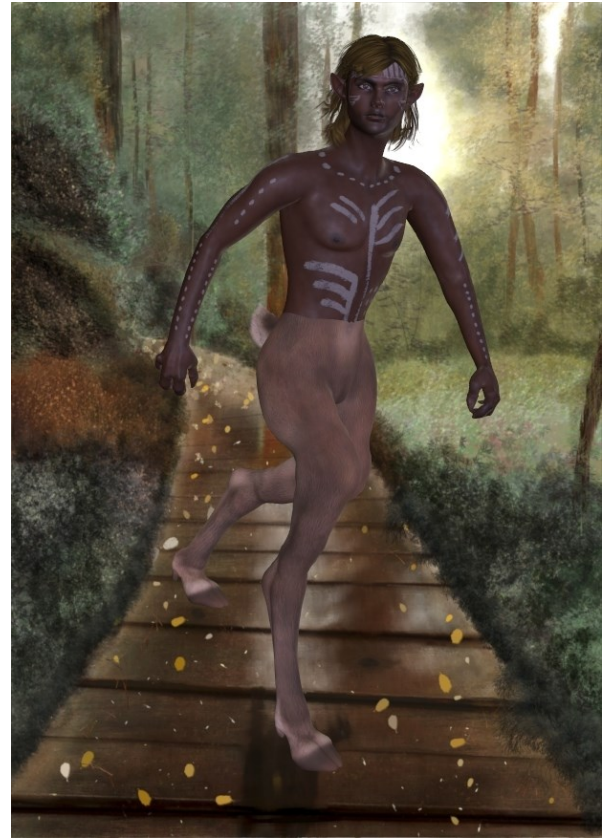
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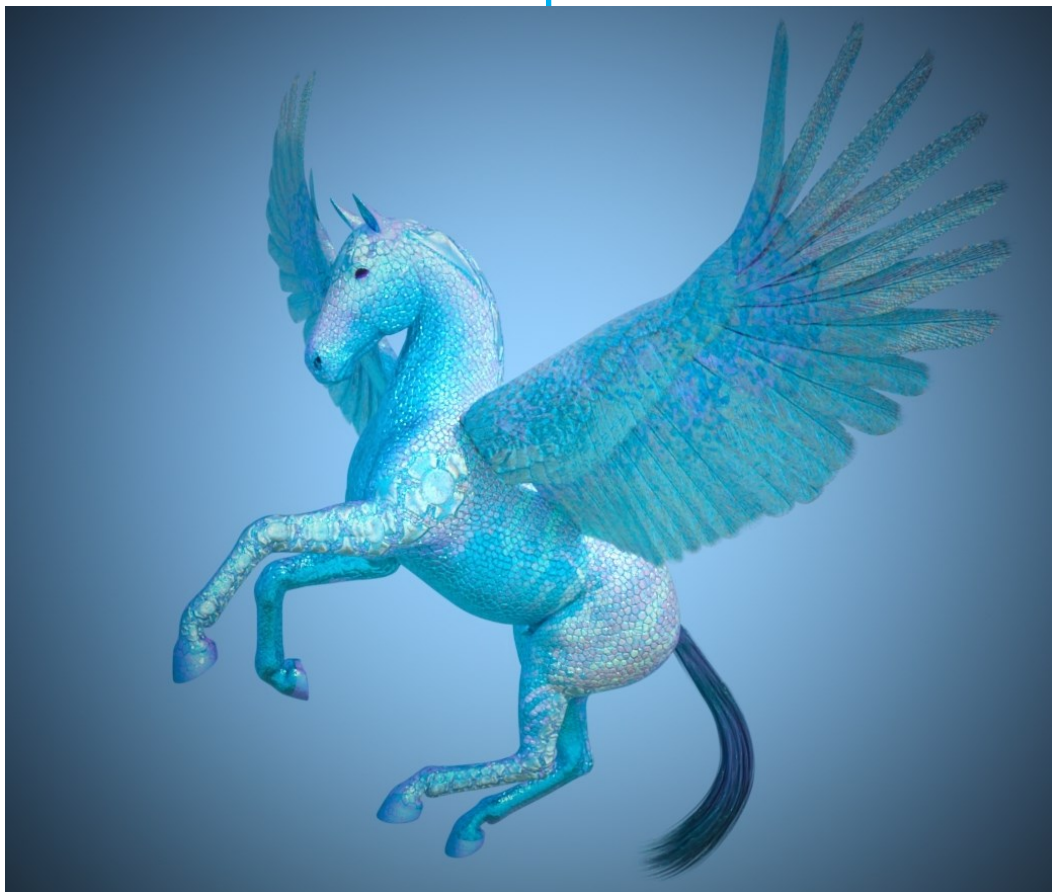
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Art by Tiffanie Gray

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N3F **THE NATIONAL** **FANTASY FAN FEDERATION**

**Covering all branches of SF:
Science Fiction, Fantasy, Horror,
Occult including Books, Films,
Manga, Television, Anime, Comics
and MORE!**

NINE FANZINES
emailed to your computer!

National Fantasy Fan: Monthly Newszine • **Tightbeam:** Monthly Reviews

Ionisphere: Fan-Pro Interactions • **Origin:** Monthly Fan History

Eldritch Science: Fiction • **N'APA:** Amateur Press Association

Mangaverse: Manga and Anime • **Fanactivity Gazette:** Monthly Fandom News

The N3F Review of Books: Monthly Book Reviews

Interest Bureaus • Short Story Contest • Writer's Exchange

Book Reviews • Birthday Cards • APA • Fannish History • Round Robins

Fan-Pro Coordination • Gourmet Bureau • Art • Games

Welcomittee • Correspondence

Four Membership Levels:

Regular: \$18/year with papermail of TNFF

Electronic: \$6/year with email of TNFF

Family: \$4/year (regular/electronic member at same address)

Public: Free, but non-voting



**TO
JOIN:**

<https://n3f.org/to-join/>

PayPal to pay: treasurer@n3f.org

Public Membership: send name and email
address to: phillies@4liberty.net

ALAN WHITE

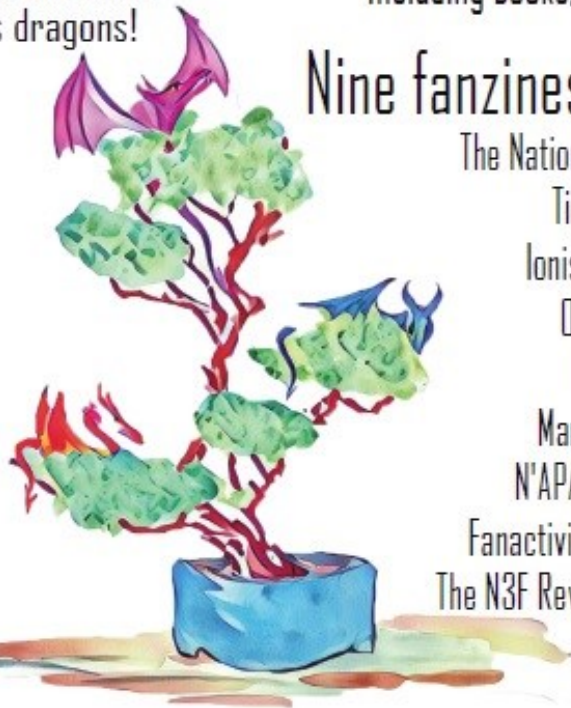
N3F The National Fantasy Fan Federation

Fans of as many hues and sizes as dragons!

Covering all branches of SF: science fiction, fantasy, horror, occult, and more
Including books, films, manga, television, anime, comics

Nine fanzines emailed to your computer

The National Fantasy Fan -- monthly newszine
Tightbeam -- monthly Reviews
Ionisphere -- Fan-Pro Interactions
Origin -- monthly fan history
Eldritch Science -- Fiction
Mangaverse -- manga and anime
N'APA -- amateur press association
Fanactivity Gazette -- monthly Fandom news
The N3F Review of Books -- monthly book reviews



Interest Bureaus
Short Story Contest
Writer's Exchange

Art
Book Reviews
Birthday cards
Fannish history
Games

Round Robins
Fan-Pro Coordination
APA
Gourmet Bureau



Membership Levels
Electronic -- \$6/year with email of TNFF
Family -- \$4/year (regular/ electronic member at same address)
Public -- free, but non-voting



To Join: <https://n3f.org/to-join/>
PayPal to pay: treasurer@n3f.org
Public Membership: send
phillies@4liberty.net your name and email address

2026 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 following rules for the 2026 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 2027. 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, 2026. Good luck!



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Bureau Activities

Historian

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Treasury — A Gentle Stroll

Recent N3F Zines

The N3F Fan Gazette

Tightbeam

Ad Fliers

Short Story Contest

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c/o George Phillips
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