

The National Fantasy Fan

Cras ad Stellas— Tomorrow to the Stars

Volume 78 Number 7

July 2019

Editor's Notes

The Neffy Ballot is on the penultimate page. Please vote. Email ballots are good: phillies@4liberty.net.

We did a member survey. There was agreement that Tightbeam should be shorter or longer, with no agreement about which. I interpret the politics in reviews answer as meaning that discussion could be critical or pointed but not abusive. Adequate support was found for putting more reviews and writing/marketing commentary someplace to be revealed.

Elections are approaching. Important note: If you want to run for President or for one of the five positions on the Directorate, you must by August 15 have your dues paid up through December 31, 2020. Yes, this seems a bit early. Those rules were written when all communication and cash transfer was via the Post Office, with cross-continental mail taking over a week each way. Furthermore, TNFF was expected to show up perhaps once in each quarter of the year.

I'd tried running discussion letters, talking about how the N3F was doing, as a section in Tightbeam. Someone pointed out to me that some members do not use email and therefore do not receive any of our electronic zines. OK, I have recovered those discussion letters and am publishing them in this issue.

This is our yearly somewhat-overcrowded issue. Once a year, we must publish the N3F Constitution and Bylaws. They are found herein. With some regularity, we must send voting members a list of the other voting members.

Bureau Reports

Correspondence Bureau

Due to the demise of the Electronic Round Robins we have decided to resurrect a popular favorite of N3F members of several years ago.

Welcome to the Correspondence Bureau!

As much as we love science fiction, fantasy and horror sometimes we just want to talk about our other interests, or get to know someone living in another state or country, or find someone who likes to joke as much as we do.

By joining the Correspondence Bureau you will be able to talk about your love of fishing, sports, reading, cooking, running, movies. The list goes on - it's endless. Or perhaps you would like to talk with someone whose interests are unknown to you and discover this person and their interests with each conversation.

You have two choices for seeking a pairing:

Choice #1 - You want to be paired with someone of like interest. Send an email to the bureau head listing your interests. When someone with similar interest requests a pairing both of you will be notified and given the email of the other member. Contact the other member and the rest is up to you.

Choice #2 - You want to be paired with the next person whose interests are unknown. Send an email to the bureau head telling of your choice. You will be paired with the next person with unknown interests and both of you will be notified and given the email of the other member. The rest is up to you.



Art
Pages 12, 14 — Angela K. Scott



Your Volunteer Team

Directorate:

Cedar Sanderson - cedarlila@yahoo.com
 Judy Carroll - AutumnSeas8012@gmail.com
 Jefferson Swycaffer - abontides@gmail.com
 John Thiel - kinethiel@mymetronet.net
 R-Laurraine Tutihasi - lauraine@mac.com

President

George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net

Treasurer

David Speakman davodd@gmail.com

Editorial Cabal:

Editor, TNFF: George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net
 Art Editor, TNFF: Cedar Sanderson cedarlila@yahoo.com
 Editors, Tightbeam: George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net,
 Jon Swartz jon_swartz@hotmail.com
 Editor, Ionisphere: John Thiel kinethiel@mymetronet.net
 Editor, Eldritch Science: George Phillies
 Editor, Mangaverse Jessi Silver jessi@s1e1.com
 Editor, Films Fantastic: Eric Jamborsky mrsolo1@comcast.net
 Editor, Origin: John Thiel kinethiel@mymetronet.net
 N'APA Collator: Jefferson Swycaffer abontides@gmail.com
 Keeper of the URLs: David Speakman davodd@gmail.com
 Host of the Web Site: David Speakman davodd@gmail.com

Bureau Heads

Anime/Comics: Kevin Trainor wombat.soho@gmail.com
 Artists Bureau: Cedar Sanderson cedarlila@gmail.com
 Birthday Cards: R-Laurraine Tutihasi lauraine@mac.com;
 Judy Carroll autumnseas8012@gmail.com
 Book Review Bureau: G. Phillies phillies@4liberty.net
 Correspondence Bureau: Judy Carroll autumnseas8012@gmail.com
 Election Teller: Jon Swartz, jon_swartz@hotmail.com
 Fandom History/Research Bureau: John Thiel kinethiel@mymetronet.net ; Jon Swartz jon_swartz@hotmail.com
 Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau: John Thiel kinethiel@mymetronet.net
 Film Bureau: Eric Jamborsky mrsolo1@comcast.net
 Forwarder: Jeffrey Redmond
 Franking Service: George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net
 Games Bureau: George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net
 Gourmet Bureau: Cedar Sanderson cedarlila@gmail.com
 Historian: Jon Swartz jon_swartz@hotmail.com
 History and Research Bureau: John Thiel kinethiel@mymetronet.net
 Information Technology: David Speakman davodd@gmail.com
 Lord High Proofreader: Jon Swartz jon_swartz@hotmail.com
 Membership Recruitment: Kevin Trainor wombat.soho@gmail.com, John Thiel kinethiel@mymetronet.net, Jeffrey Redmond redmondjeff@hotmail.com
 Neffy Awards Bureau: George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net
 Pro Bureau: George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net
 Round Robins Patricia Williams-King, 335 Forrest Park Road, Apt # 75 Madison, TN 37115.
 Short Story Contest: J. Swycaffer abontides@gmail.com
 Social Media: David Speakman, George Phillies
 Video Schedule: David Speakman davodd@gmail.com
 Welcommittee: Judy Carroll autumnseas8012@gmail.com
 Writers Exchange : Judy Carroll autumnseas8012@gmail.com

Whichever way you choose will be an adventure. If you wish to join please contact
 Judy Carroll AutumnSeas8012@gmail.com

Recruitment

I've been seeing a lot of advertising by George Phillies around the Facebook SF pages. These are undoubtedly attracting some notice and causing some discussion. I haven't usually said much at those sites except indirectly referring to the N3F because I'm involved with other things in the facebook pages which would be looked at as a crossover of interests. So I'm glad to see George appearing there. I've been backing up Jeffrey Redmond's advertising at his pages with backup comments on his postings from time to time. Facebook seems to me to be a good place to look. We're in close with the President at recruiting, of course. Probably after the next TNFF I will send around interchanges with the other recruiters and the President, titling it "Interchange" ...John Thiel
 [GP: Current Membership, all classes is 240]

Films Fantastic

Eric Jamborsky reports that he is working on the next mailing, which will be the sixth.

Many New Volunteers are needed: Cosplay, Electronic Publication Support, Convention Hospitality, Outreach. Support the N3F. Volunteer Now!

The National Fantasy Fan (originally Bonfire), Vol. LXXVIII, Number 7, July 2019, ISSN 2169-3595.
 Published monthly by The National Fantasy Fan Federation.

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 N3F, POB 1925, Mountain View CA 94042. Pay online at N3F.org. Our PayPal contact is treasurer@n3f.org Send phillies@4liberty.net your email address for a public membership.

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.

Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau

We're getting more into fans rather than pros in our interviews in Ionisphere, commencing with the August issue. It's the last issue of the yearly cycle and represents three years of IO and the existence of the bureau. I'll be pointing out how much we've accomplished in the forthcoming issue. I'm starting to consolidate our accomplishments and perhaps make something more of them, becoming more vocal about drawing fans and pros more closely together, and stressing the importance of the N3F in fandom."....John Thiel

History and Research Bureau

Jon Swartz does his history for TNFF, but he's keeping up a good pace with his historical pieces in Origin too. Judy Carroll's writing has been brightening our pages, and I like what we're hearing from Jeffrey Redmond too; he's been showing a lot of insights into out-of-the-way corners of sf and fandom. Our bureau members were already doing history and research before they joined the bureau, and I'm interested to see what parts of this will turn up in Origin. We're still getting acquainted; a lot in the N3F involves getting acquainted."....John Thiel

Birthday Card Bureau

5 birthday cards were sent out in June.
Lauraine Tutihasi
lauraine@mac.com

Welcommittee

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. Those members with email addresses are also sent attachments to the current TNFF and other publications the N3F has to offer.

This month we welcome Moira Grayland-Peat and Nola Frame-Gray. We hope your stay with us is long and enjoyable.

Needed: Members willing to help:

Duties: 1. Send greeting emails to new members which include the following:

Bureaus and Activities offered

Attachments of club publications

2. Help new members when needed

All members without an email address will be contacted by the bureau head. Anyone willing to help welcome new members to this wonderful club will be greatly appreciated

Please contact

Judy Carroll

AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com

Writers Exchange

Welcome to the Writers Exchange!

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.

In the June issue I told readers of my introduction to Shirley Jackson. This month I am sharing quotes from Memory and Delusion* one of Shirley Jackson's lectures on writing. Her lectures are more personal than one may hear from other writers. They are not so much -this is what you should do- as they are- this is what I do.

"The very nicest thing about being a writer is that you can afford to indulge yourself endlessly with oddness, and nobody can really do anything about it, as long as you keep writing and kind of using it up, as it were."

'All the time that I am making beds, and doing dishes and driving to town for dancing shoes, I am telling myself stories. Stories about anything, anything at all. Just stories After all, who can vacuum a room and concentrate on it? I tell myself stories.

....They keep me working, my stories."

"I cannot find any patience for those people who believe that you start writing when you sit down at your desk and pick up your pen and finish writing when you put it down again; a writer is always writing, seeing everything through a thin mist of words, fitting swift little descriptions to everything he sees, always noticing.'

* Taken from the book- Shirley Jackson Let Me Tell You; New Stories, Essays, and Other Writings Edited by Laurence Jackson Hyman and Sarah Hyman DeWitt

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.
AutumnSeas8012@gmail.com

Games Bureau

A Game Review of El Dorado.

In El Dorado each player is an archeologist searching for a lost treasure city in the jungles of South America. This is a deck building game. Each player starts with a deck of cards. The cards allow you to move your explorer across the various map boards. Certain cards allow you to enter hexes of certain terrain types. The key to winning this game is having the right card at the right time. Cards are worth money. Money allows you to buy more cards that are added to your deck. The game comes with numerous map boards which can be connected in various ways. That means no two games are alike. The rules come with a scenario sheet that rates the different game board combinations for difficulty. In the end the first player to reach the treasure city wins the game.

...Wesley Kawato

Treasurer's Report

\$2,602.88 (May 5, 2019)
+ 60.00 PayPal Dues
+ 0.00 Cash Dues
+ 0.00 Check Dues
+ 0.00 Money Order Dues
- 3.20 PayPal Fees
- 18.00 Printing and Postage (Pending George's confirmation)

\$2,641,68 (June 12, 2019)

New, Renewed, & Reinstated Members & Info Updates

Renewed/Reinstated:

#17 Dorothy Kurtz - Regular Voting (Exp. 5/2020)
#210 Steve Fahenstock - Regular Voting (Exp. 3/2020)
#246 Jessica Silver - Electronic Voting (Exp. 6/2020)

#243 John T Erb - Regular Voting (Exp. 3/2020)

New & Reinstated:

#271 - Moira Grayland-Peat - Public Non-Voting
#272 - Nola Frame-Gray - Public Non-Voting

IRL: Caregiver

B-Day: Nov. 24

Fan Interests: Blogging, Books, Cartooning, cartoons, and animation, Computers and technology, Correspondence, Editing, Fanzines, Online activities, Reading and book clubs, Reviewing, Round robins (group letters), Television, Writing

Fan for: Over 40 years

Fanac since: Over 40 years

Cons: Loscon, Westercon, Equicon/Filcom and Worldcon

Clubs: Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society (LASFS)

Fave Genres: Time traveling, paranormal fantasy, Classic SF where one does not need a computer! (I love computers but reading such stories is nostalgic.

Fave Creators: Harlan Ellison, Jack Vance, Ray Bradbury, Larry Niven, Neil Guiman, Octavia Butler.

N3F Interests: Artwork, Writing for club publications, Corresponding

Expired/Expiring Renew Now!!

Expired in April
#233 Mark Harrit

Expiring in June
#32 Ray F Nelson
#218 Joseph P Martino

Expiring In July
#129 John W Andrews

Member Status Changes

#16 Patricia Williams - Regular Voting to Public Non-Voting (Exp. 3/2019)

#49 Kent McDaniel - Regular Voting to Public Non-Voting (Exp. 3/2019)

#135 Thomas McGovern - Electronic Voting to Public Non-Voting (Exp. 3/2019)

#211 Lynne Taylor Fahenstock - Household Voting to Public Non-Voting (Exp. 3/2019)

Letters

Hi George;

My votes on the three issues you want reader feedback on---

Tightbeam: There should be no limit on the number of pages in a Tightbeam issue. However much material you have on hand from members, that's how much you should run. In the past there were constraints due to printing and postage costs, but those limiting factors no longer exist since the zine is all pixel and sent over the internet.

The situation of typos and misspellings is a false flag. I'm sure everybody would like to see every issue absolutely perfect in every way, but in reality, who really cares if some typos or misspellings slip thru. So far as I can tell you do a pretty good job of catching errors when you assemble each issue and I don't think that is going to change in the future.

Bigoted reviews: Every reviewer no matter who s/he is, automatically applies his or her own values into any review of any book/movie/comic/game offered up. I personally would prefer that you exclude reviews that obviously and deliberately promote violent, or radically extreme viewpoints. I don't think the N3F or its publication should become a free-for-all battleground for the current political factions, or for people who promote racial or gender/sexual/religious hatred. People who use the concept of reviews merely to grind their personal axes should not be welcome.

On the other hand, honest opinions, and honest viewpoints in the context of reviews are a necessary part of the critical process. I oppose any idea on your part to heavily edit any submission. If the writer is just trying to be nasty, or deliberately provoking animosity, or honestly doesn't know that being vicious and condescending are faults, then it is up to you and Jon, as editors, to reject that submission outright and move on to something that represents an honest critical examination of the subject matter.

Prose Bono: I have already offered my opinion on this matter, but I'll say it again. There is no real need for a club fanzine that offers up advice on how to write and sell science fiction/fantasy. There are multiple thousands of other resources already available to anybody anywhere that will help that person become a better writer of fiction, and suggest ways to sell it commercially. Those

forums are all far better equipped to directly handle the problems and questions involved in writing fiction than anything our club could supply. I think the whole concept of Prose Bono should be dropped.

---Bob Jennings

Editor:

As head of the Welcommittee I receive information on new members - favorite science fiction and fantasy, authors, conventions attended, club interests. Many mention correspondence as something in which they would like to become involved. As of this writing, the club does not have a Correspondence Bureau. (I know there was a Correspondence Bureau in the 90's, and my understanding is that it was very active.) When I welcome new members I send them a list of bureaus and activities in which they may be interested. The postal mail and electric round robins are always listed with contact information for joining. They are the closest thing the club has, at the moment, to the Correspondence Bureau.

What I don't understand is why so few members take advantage of the round robins. I have never been involved in a round robin that only talked about the subject of the round robin. Robin members always bring their personalities and outside interests into the communication. That is one of the things that make them so fun.

As the bureau head of the Electronic Round Robins, (introduced in the January, 2016 issue of TNFF) I have tried for over three years to encourage members to join. I have tried many ideas. A long list of topics. A short list of topics. Combining topics. Cutting down the number of members to start an ERR to two members. Sending personal invitations to members who indicated an interest in round robins or correspondence. In the August, 2018 TNFF I introduced another version of the ERR in which two people are paired and discuss whatever topic they choose. Sort of like pen-pals. In last month's TNFF (April, 2019) I changed the name of the ERR to Electronic Round Robins - Correspondence, hoping this would spark some interest. So far nothing.

To date the ERR, in any form, has had only five interested members. Four of these members joined under the original ERR set up. One quit after the first rounding. Of the other three members one slowly dropped out of ERR existence. I have

no idea if that ERR is rounding with the remaining two members. The fifth interested member joined when the pair ERR was introduced. This person was a new member to the club and no one else joined the ERR.

I'm beginning to think the ERR is not a good use of space in the TNFF zine. [Ed: Indeed, Judy has just replaced it with the Correspondence Bureau.]

Judy Carroll

Scott Duncan writes:

First: I can accept some typos.

Second: some politics are okay...I do prefer more subtlety to the pile driver.

Third: I'd be interested in such a zine.

Kevin Trainor writes:

Perhaps instead of expanding Tightbeam, we can increase its frequency so we get the best of both worlds - more material with better proofing.

If a book is being preachy about its politics, I don't think we're doing anyone any favors by soft-pedaling it.

Personally, I think there are enough blog posts on writing and selling SF that we would do our members more of a service by just publishing a FAQ with links to pertinent posts, but then I am a link-mongler and my thoughts tend to bend that way. Also, why reinvent the wheel?

Editor:

If Tightbeam is bigger then more people can have their articles in it. All the magazines and zines have mistakes. There should be no politics of today in sci fi. I think Prose Bono is a good idea, especially if you know of editors using stories for publication.

I enjoy the n3f and the facebook page. there are nice people who are fantasy fiction fans, and some of them are friends on my facebook page. I like art, star trek, and cosplay, and like to read of the old mythologies of the Danes. they had magic, monsters, demons, gods, goddesses, heroes, and dragons.

The n3f is small, and I wish it would grow with more members. it has good magazines and newsletters, but more is too many I think. maybe make them larger, and not have so many smaller ones. quality and not quantity. in Denmark the science fiction and fantasy groups like to have more members and fewer publications.

It seems that the n3f has many bureaus, and there are just a few people in each. maybe 5 or 6 members are in charge of all of them. so maybe make the bureaus into larger combined groups, and give the in charge members more control. I am in the n3f forever, so for me it is always good. manga tak!

lisa nybaek

copenhagen

Hi Professor George,

I am home in Denmark for the summer. my friends say I speak Danish with a American accent. Yes please use my note in your zine. if you wish I can send you a longer 1. It is better to have quality than quantity, I think. In Copenhagen a zine may last for just a year and have 4 issues. In New York there are 100 zines, and some are from 20 years ago, but if a group has 1 or 2 zines there's more to say, because they can be bigger and better. 5 smaller zines do not say much and are lacking. Thanks for use of what I have to say.

Luv, Lisa

Editor

My vote is for a shorter issue -- 32 pages or less

...df

George:

In response to your question concerning Tightbeam, I would prefer a longer issue to a more carefully proofread issue.

...John Thiel

Running a little late with this reply, but I've been working on another book. That's a good thing.

Not sure you need my opinion on most of these questions, but I do want to say I'd be interested in a publication about how to market SF. At this stage of life I'm writing for fun after many years of writing for money. I write what I want to write. Marketing is important to me only because I have even more fun when others enjoy my writing. But I'm very bad at marketing.

Thank you for asking.

...Angela Myers

FIRST

I have looked at several Tightbeam issues of various length. Some of them are quite long. It doesn't

matter to me the length of each issue. I don't read every article. Only the ones that catch my interest.

Unless you have an uproar of members ready to abandon ship, I suggest you do what is easiest for you. You have a lot of responsibilities as president of the N3F. And that's not even counting all of the other things you do to keep the club going that do not fall under the president's umbrella.

If the members what more of N3F maybe you need to remind them we have seven other publications, besides Tightbeam, that appear regularly and Special Publications that appear periodically. And with your announcement of the Prose Bono Bureau, that makes a total of nine regular N3F publications. I think that should be enough for any fan.

If Tightbeam has errors in spelling and grammar, George, it doesn't bother me. If N3F were a publishing house I would expect publications to be error free.

(If you find spelling and grammar errors etc. please forgive me. copy/paste doesn't correct spelling.)

SECOND

I have no idea what review you are referring to. But, here is my opinion. One of the things I like about the N3F is that all the members have the same interest—science fiction, fantasy, horror. Genres that invoke a lot of imagination from the writer as well as the reader. When reading a review I don't mind if a little of the reviewer sneaks into the review. I kind of like that, actually. The personal touch. The reviewer can tell me the book was terrible, not well written, and not the writer's best work. I realize that is the reviewer's opinion. I do not like a review to turn into a platform in which the reviewer airs personal beliefs against the writer or his/her work. Or starts ranting personal beliefs about the current political situation and what should be done about it. If one choses to behave in this manner, I suggest he/she become a newspaper columnist.

THIRD

I like the idea of the Prose Bono publication. I believe the club in the 1990s to maybe the first decade of this century had something similar. A monthly writing lesson I believe.

I think I have addressed all your concerns, George. Thanks for asking my opinion.

Judy Carroll

Hi George;

Received the June issue of TNFF, which was interesting, as always. A few thots:

I don't think there is any crying need for a Pro Bureau fanzine devoted to articles on how to write and how to sell the material you write. There are already a dozen or more websites all across the web, some by N3F members that are pro and semi-pro authors themselves, covering those very same subjects. In addition, there are professional magazines devoted to the subject, and advice books on writing/selling fiction by the hundred, many available at any good library. I can't see that a new zine from the N3F is going to significantly add anything new or innovative, or even important on the subject. An amateur fanzine covering the same ground that creative writing classes in colleges, and hundreds of local writing co-ops and clubs, and writing chat boards and websites on the internet already deal with seems like a basically superfluous endeavor to me.

I enjoyed Jon Swartz's write-up on the Captain Marvel comic book club from the 1940s. I thot the article could have used just a little more fleshing out to add some additional detail, but this is a trivial complaint. The article was well written and presented all the info in a clear, friendly fashion. I do wonder why you ran this in TNFF instead of in Tightbeam, which seems to me would be a better forum for these kinds of articles, rather than being offered in the club newszine.

I also greatly enjoyed Jim McCoy's review of David Weber's "Uncompromising Honor". This is the kind of book review I like to see, good detail, good style/plot/background analysis, and a solid feel for the feeling and scope of the novel.

I continue to view the Neffy awards with considerable consternation and cynical skepticism. I notice that very few nominations were made, and thus far there has been absolutely no discussion of those few nominations that were placed by club members.

I notice some odd nominations, and also some odd omissions from some categories. For example, while I support the new Amazing Stories, and wish it would become a roaring success, there is no way on earth Amazing Stories is the best SF/fantasy magazine being offered today, yet, it is the only magazine nominated in that category. No doubt it is too late to make a suggestion, but I would at least add The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction and

Clarkesworld to that list.

We have a similar situation with the best SF movie/video category. I am sure "A Quiet Place" is a fine movie; several people whose opinions I respect have said good things about it, but with the dozens of SF movies that came out last year I find it difficult to believe that nobody bothered to nominate anything else.

I think that the N3F members in general care nothing about this whole Neffy awards business. If they did there would have been more nominations, and there would have been a more realistic examination of the categories involved. I again point out that thus far there has been no discussion of the awards at all, and I also will make a fearless prediction---that the number of N3F members who actually bother to vote for the Neffy Awards this year will be miniscule. I predict that fewer than fifteen people will bother to vote, out of a total club membership of over two hundred.

I suggest that the club discontinue the Neffy Awards and shelve the entire idea until such time as there is a genuine groundswell of interest in the things among the general club membership. My personal opinion is that there are already too many awards bounced around in this hobby, and it is abundantly clear that almost nobody has any real interest in seeing the Neffies continue.

---Bob Jennings

SerCon

N3F Founding Members:

Chris E. Mulrain, Jr.

by

Jon D. Swartz, Ph.D.

N3F Historian

Chris E. Mulrain, Jr. was a New Jersey science fiction (SF) fan in the late 1930s and early 1940s.

He was born in 1919 and lived in Absecon, Atlantic County, New Jersey, when he was a member of our club, The National Fantasy Fan Federation (N3F), according to Walt Daugherty's Directory of Fandom, published in April, 1942.

Mulrain served in the U. S. Army Air Corps during World War II.

According to Bob Pavlat and Bill Evans in their Fanzine Index (December, 1952), Mulrain

produced two issues of a fanzine he titled The Sentinel. The first issue of The Sentinel was dated September, 1941, and the second issue was dated November, 1941.

Of course, Mulrain was also one of the founding members of our club, the N3F, in 1941.

It was very difficult to obtain information about him, mainly because his name is spelled differently in various sources. For example, most reliable sources I consulted had his name as Chris E. Mulrain, Jr., but some other sources had him listed as Charles E. Mulrain.

I hope this is not the problem with other charter members that I have not featured in these pages. It's difficult indeed to find information on people from nearly eighty years ago, especially when so-called reliable sources have them listed with different given names, or even sometimes with surnames spelled differently.

Comic Book Clubs of the 1940s:

Supermen of America

by

Jon D. Swartz, Ph. D.

N3F Historian

The Supermen of America was the official Superman fan club of the 1940s - 1960s. Readers of comic books in which Superman appeared could send away for special membership cards that sometimes doubled as decoders. New members also received buttons and four-color certificates with pictures of Superman on them. The club was one of the longest-running comic book clubs, lasting over twenty years. At one time the club had over a million members. Movie star Mickey Rooney was a member.

1948 Membership Kit

When I joined the club, the 1948 kit I received for only 10 cents consisted of the following items:

- 1) four-color certificate signed by Clark Kent ("Superman" printed under his signature)
- 2) Superman pocket code decoder folder
- 3) cello pin back button of Superman
- 4) letter to new member signed by Superman
- 5) an embossed membership card
- 6) envelope in which the club materials were mailed, with printed return address

Code Folder

The code folder was used to translate messages sent to members in various DC comic books that featured Superman, usually in Action Comics. The messages told of coming events in the various comic books in which Superman appeared. During World War II, they often were patriotic messages to the boys and girls of America who belonged to the club.

Certificate

My membership certificate, signed by Clark Kent, says the new member pledges to do everything to increase his or her STRENGTH and COURAGE, to aid the cause of JUSTICE, to keep absolutely SECRET the SUPERMAN CODE, and to follow the announcements of the SUPERMEN OF AMERICA in each month's issue of ACTION COMICS. These guidelines have been described as follows:

"It may not be the Ten Commandments, but as a set of moral guidelines for the secular children of an age of reason, the Superman of America creed was a start." – Grant Morrison, Supergods

The certificate I currently have on display in my collectible room is a copy sent to me by old-time radio author Jim Harmon, known as Mr. Nostalgia during the last years of his life. It has "Jimmie Harmon" typed in as the member and is signed by Jerry Siegel, co-creator of Superman.

Superman

Superman is a fictional super-hero appearing in comic books published by DC Publications. He was created by writer Jerry Siegel and artist Joe Shuster in 1933; later, in 1938, the character was sold to Detective Comics, Inc. (later DC Comics). Superman first appeared in a published comic book in Action Comics #1 (dated June, 1938) and subsequently appeared in many other comic books, in radio serials, in newspaper comic strips, on television programs, in animated cartoons, in movie serials, in feature films, on Broadway, in paperback and hardbound books, and even in video games. Thousands of toys have also been based on the character. With this success, Superman was the principal force in creating the super-hero genre in American comic books.

Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster

Jerome "Jerry" Siegel (October 17, 1914 – January 28, 1996) was the American co-creator of Superman, the first of the great comic book super-heroes and one of the most recognizable of the 20th Century. He also wrote many other comic book stories, sometimes under pseudonyms.

He and Shuster were inducted into the comic book industry's Will Eisner Comic Book Hall of Fame in 1992, and the Jack Kirby Hall of Fame in 1993.

Joseph "Joe" Shuster (July 10, 1914 – July 30, 1992) was a Canadian-American comic book artist. He contributed artwork to many comic books, including several ones featuring science fiction stories, but was best known for co-creating Superman, first published in Action Comics No. 1 (June 1938).

In 2005, the Canadian Comic Book Creator Awards Association instituted the Joe Shuster Awards, named to honor the Canada-born artist.

Action Comics

Action Comics is the comic book that introduced Superman in 1938. The publisher was originally known as Detective Comics, Inc., and later as National Comics and as National Periodical Publications, before taking on its current name of DC Comics. Its original incarnation ran from 1938 to 2011 and stands as one of the longest-running comic books with consecutively numbered issues; a second volume of Action Comics, beginning again with issue #1, was launched in 2011 and is still currently in publication.

Action Comics #1 had Superman on the cover and consisted of the following features:

"Superman" (pp. 1–13) by Siegel and Shuster.

"Chuck Dawson" (pp. 14–19) by H. Fleming.

"Zatara, Master Magician" (pp. 20–31) by Fred Guardineer.

"South Sea Strategy" (text feature, pp. 32–33) by Captain Frank Thomas.

"Sticky-Mitt Stimson" (pp. 34–37) by Alger.

"The Adventures of Marco Polo" (pp. 38–41) by Sven Elven.

"Pep" Morgan" (pp. 42–45) by Fred Guardineer.

"Scoop Scanlon, the Five Star Reporter" (pp. 46–51) by Will Ely.

"Tex Thompson" (pp. 52–63) by Bernard Baily.

"Stardust" (p. 64) by "The Star-Gazer."

"Odds 'n Ends" (inside back cover) by "Moldoff" (Sheldon Moldoff).

A copy in excellent condition has sold for as much as \$2.16 million.

It has been reported that the decision makers at DC didn't know why this first issue sold so well, apparently not recognizing the potential of Superman! Superman was not featured on the cover again until Action #7. The new character, of course, changed the popular culture of America. Siegel and Shuster received \$130.00 for Superman, signing over all rights to the publisher. This event has to rank in the forefront of the biggest mistakes in the history of American publishing.

Some Conclusions

At one time, there was also a Superman Muscle Building Club. Other than a badge issued to members, I know little about it.

Superman is a cultural phenomenon, and his Supermen of America Club was only one of the many manifestations of his popularity.

Today his feature films gross millions of dollars worldwide.

Bibliography

Bails, Jerry & Hames Ware (eds.). *The Who's Who of American Comic Books, Volumes 1-4*. Detroit, MI: Jerry Bails, 1973-1976.

Korte, Steve (ed.). *The Superman Radio Strips*. NY: Billboard Books, 2001.

Jones, Gerald. *Men of Tomorrow*. NY: Basic Books, 2004.

Tye, Larry. *Superman*. NY: Random House, 2012.

Note: In addition to the sources listed above, several Internet sites were consulted.

The Constitution of the National Fantasy Fan Federation

Preamble:

The activity that centers around science fiction and fantasy has grown to require organization in order that desirable objectives, beyond the achievement of single individuals, may be attained through united effort. Under this Constitution, the National Fantasy Fan Federation (N3F) is established as an association of persons interested in promoting the progress of science fiction and fantasy, and in furthering its enjoyment by themselves and others.

Article 1 – Membership:

1. Membership, including any benefits created by the organization, and all rights such as voting, is gained by paying dues as set forth in the Bylaws. Dues changes may not go into effect until two (2) months after publication in the Official Organ and shall be further delayed until the completion of voting if the Official Organ receives a petition for submission as set forth in Article V, Section 1 for reversal, unless the change is the result of a vote on petition.

2. An organization may become a member of the N3F upon payment of dues as defined in Section 1 and is entitled to all rights and benefits of membership as outlined in this Constitution except that said organization may not vote or hold elective office.

3. Joint memberships are available to two persons residing in the same household. A joint membership will include The National Fantasy Fan Federation (TNFF) and all rights such as voting and club activities. The dues shall be more than a single membership but less than a double, to be set by the Directorate.

Article II – Officers

1. A President conducts the affairs of the organization. His/her appointments, suspensions, and removals from office, whether the office concerned is elective or appointive, are subject to the review and approval of the Directorate, as are also his/her methods of procedure.

2. If, for any reason, the office of President becomes vacant, the Directorate appoints a President to complete the unexpired term. Any interim administrative duties are performed by the Chairman of the Directorate, during which time he/she may not vote in his/her capacity as Director except on motions of appointment.

3. A Directorate, composed of five members, regulates the affairs and controls the finances of the organization, and may define the duties of any office or official of the association.

4. Decisions of the Directorate are by majority of its five members except in the following instances: by unanimous vote the Directorate may refuse membership to any person; expel any member by refunding the balance of his dues; and may remove the President from office.

5. Vacancies in the Directorate, whatever the cause, are filled by majority vote of the remaining Directors. If fewer than three Directors remain, the President shall appoint one or more up to the minimum of three.

6. Any person designated as Treasurer or otherwise empowered to keep or convey the funds of the organization must be over twenty-one years of age.

7. The Treasurer shall also have free dues as long as he or she holds office.

Article III – Elections

1. The President and five members of the Directorate are decided by the membership in an annual election of those officers. Ballots for the election are to be distributed before October 10th and the elected candidates take office on the following January 1st. Any member may seek office by complying with the official requirements which are to be published in the Official Organ at least two months previous to the filing deadline.

2. No person may hold two elective offices at the same time.

3. Each member may cast one vote for each of the five candidates of his/her choice in the election

of the Directorate. The five candidates receiving the largest number of votes is elected. Ties are resolved by majority agreement of those elected candidates not included in the tie.

4. Of the candidates for President, the one receiving the largest number of votes is elected. In case of a tie, the elected Directorate chooses a President from the tied candidates.

Article IV – Official Organ

1. The association issues a publication of at least quarterly schedule which carries in addition to other material, a quarterly statement of the financial status of the organization, together with a listing of new members and their addresses.

Article V – Petitions & Amendments

1. Petitions of whatever purpose, endorsed by five per cent of the members or twenty-five members, whichever is less, must, within sixty days after the Directorate receives them, be submitted to the membership for decision unless the Directorate has already taken the indicated action. Petitions looking towards the revision, reversion, or setting aside of any action of the President or the Directorate must be submitted within two calendar years following such action, or such petition is invalid and without force.

2. Any motion by the Directorate approved for presentation to the membership to alter or amend the Constitution must be printed in the next TNFF, and in no event, not less than two months prior to the actual voting date, if not the result of action under Section I of this article.

3. Amendments to the Constitution shall require two thirds (2/3) of the votes cast to be approved. All other decisions by the membership shall be by a majority of the votes cast.

4. Any alteration or amendment of the Constitution will be presented to the membership for vote exactly as it is to be entered, or the alteration or amendment is invalid and without force.

5. The power to alter or amend the Constitution is vested solely in the membership.

The Bylaws of the National Fantasy Fan Federation

I. Authority

Under the authority implied in Article II, Section 3 of the Constitution of the National Fantasy Fan Federation, the Directorate shall establish certain Bylaws to regulate the affairs of the organization, such Bylaws to be effective when approved by a majority vote of the Directorate as set forth in Article II, Section 4, of the Constitution.

II. The Directorate

1. The Chair of the Directorate shall report to the membership all measures passed by the Directorate. The Chair of the Directorate shall maintain updated copies of the Bylaws, distribute them to the Directorate, President, Treasurer, and Official Editor of The National Fantasy Fan (TNFF), at the beginning of the year and whenever changed, and direct that current copies of the Bylaws and Constitution are maintained on the club website.

2. Copies of all official Directorate correspondence shall be sent to the President and Treasurer.

3. Each Directorate shall adopt standing rules of procedure, which shall remain in force for the Directorate of the following year, until such time as the new Directorate shall vote to accept them or adopt new rules.

4. A Director who has not voted or participated in Directorate discussion or correspondence in any period of three consecutive months may be declared inactive by the Directorate, and may be removed by the President for this cause only, without prejudice.

III. The Treasury

1. The President or designated person may bill the Treasury, as needed, for expenses incurred in the discharge of the office, including the purchase of supplies for new members, the sum not to exceed \$100 per year.

2. The Treasurer will assist the President in maintaining a current online membership roster by reporting new membership payments, renewals, and changes of address to the President and such other officers as the President may direct, not less often

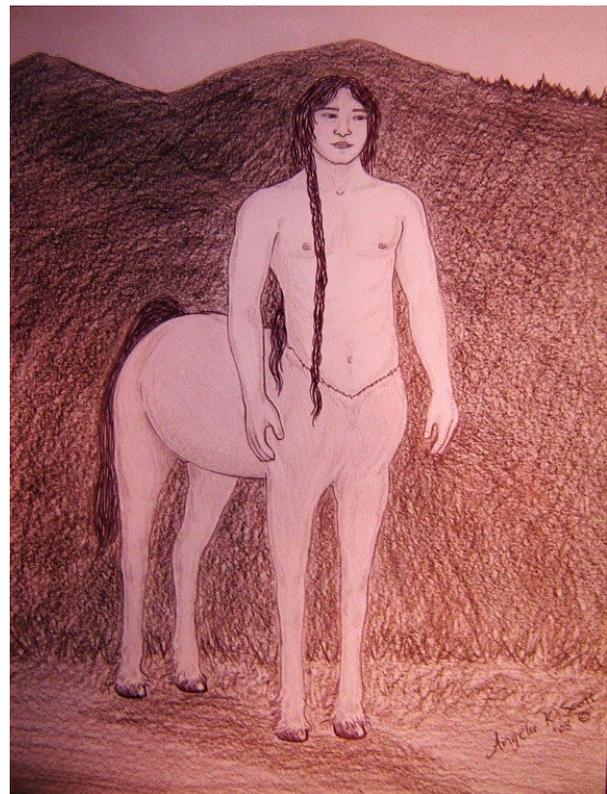
than once a month.

3. The Treasurer will prepare a yearly report of all income to the N3F Treasury and an itemized list of expenditures. Also included in this report will be a listing of items which will require additional outlays, in the forthcoming year from the Treasury, and have been approved by the Directorate, but have not yet been paid. This report will be prepared for the first issue of TNFF to appear in the year following the year which the report covers.

4. The President shall not hold the office of Treasurer, except on a temporary basis not to exceed 4 weeks – due to vacancy or emergency. If the president fails to appoint a replacement within three weeks of an office vacancy or either the Treasurer, the Directorate shall move on its own to appoint a replacement for the vacant office.

IV. Elections

1. All candidates must, by the filing deadline of August 15 of each year, have paid their dues for the year in which they will hold office if elected, and agree to serve if appointed under Article II, Section 5 of the Constitution.



Angela K. Scott — Centaur

2. In addition to the regular candidates listed on the ballot, members may write in the name of any member in good standing as a candidate for any elective office. Any candidate so elected must submit a written statement of his willingness to serve plus the dues for the year in which he will serve within 14 days of his notification of election. In the event of non-compliance with the foregoing, the election will be voided and the candidate receiving the next highest number of votes for that office will be declared the winner.

3. Annual election platforms are to be printed in the September issue of TNFF. The election ballot will either be printed in the September issue of The Fan or mailed to members separately. Members may submit either a photocopy of the election ballot or vote from an email account previously registered with the secretary rather than the ballot itself. Each paper ballot shall include space for the N3F member to write their name in print, provide their signature and also the date the ballot was completed. Ballots for Constitutional amendments and other membership referendums may also be sent out with TNFF.

V. Publications

The intent of this club is to distribute at least one publication each month to members in good standing in the form of either the Official Organ or other publication as follows:

1. Regular publications of the N3F: The N3F has two regular publications: The National Fantasy Fan (TNFF), the Official Organ, and Tightbeam (TB), a member-created fanzine.

2. Special Publications may be issued upon approval of the President.

3. Publication Officers: The Official Editor and Publisher are appointed by the President. Editors of special publications are appointed by the Official Editor with the President's approval.

4. Printing: The Publisher shall print enough copies to send to every regular member of the N3F as of the date of publication, plus any other extra copies that the President may direct the Publisher to print.

5. The National Fantasy Fan shall be published at least quarterly with no more than four months between issues.

6. In the event a Regular Publication does not appear as scheduled, the President shall appoint a Stand-by Editor. This Editor shall be reimbursed as if he were the regular Editor if the magazine is mailed within two months after the appointment by the President.

7. Required Notices: TNFF shall contain a list of new members and renewals in each issue; the Constitution and Bylaws of the N3F in the Summer quarter; and the roster of the membership in the Spring and Autumn quarters.

8. Submission Deadlines: Deadlines for material submitted shall be the 15th of the month preceding the month of publication. Any deviation from this date must be announced in the previous issue.

9. Reimbursement. The treasury shall reimburse expenses for printing and mailing regular publications. Total annual reimbursement per voting member household from the Treasury for printing and postage shall not exceed \$14 for 12 issues. No single issue of a regular publication may exceed a printing cost of 50 cents per issue, without Directorate approval. The Publisher shall notify the Chairman of the Directorate of receipt of any issue not conforming to this limitation, before printing. All other publication reimbursements require Directorate approval.

10. Advertisements in N3F publication are free, restricted to N3F members, and are subject to space limitations in the judgment of the editor.

11. The N3F Roster, while available for membership use, is not for sale as a mailing list to anyone.

12. Others. Publications issued by subordinate Bureaus of the N3F and not sent to the entire membership shall be sent to the President or other designated person for information and record. In the case of N'APA that shall be construed to mean the Alliance Amateur or other official business publication and not the entire bundle. The cost will be borne by

the Treasury of the N3F upon presentation of an itemized bill to the Treasurer.

13. Neffer Amateur Press Alliance. All N'APA members must be members in good standing of the N3F.

14. Exchange Agreements. The President can authorize exchange agreements with other publishers who will receive all N3F publications, and the President or other designated person will receive all their publications.

15. Standing Rule. Fandom rests on honest recognition of the creative works of others. If in an N3F-sponsored activity there are reasons to believe that nominally creative works claimed to be by a person appear to be copied from creative works of others, the person suspected of having copied without appropriate attribution will be presented by the President or Chair with the evidence and invited to explain the similarities. The President or Chair will report the person's response to the Directorate, which will choose an appropriate action, up to and including finding the person exonerated or returning dues and severing all connection between the N3F and the person.

VI. Rescissions

Directorate motions in the nature of Bylaws passed prior to the original compilation and publication of these Bylaws and not included among them, are rescinded.

VII. Amendments

Amendments to these Bylaws may be made with approval of a majority of the Directorate.

VIII. Dues

1. Membership dues are payable annually as follows:

A. Regular Member: Individual memberships are \$18 per year, and include receiving one print copy of all club publications.

B. Joint/Household Member: Dues are \$4 per year per person residing at the same household address at the same household address as a Regular, Life, or Electronic Member. This membership does not include print copies of club publications.

C. Life Member: Dues are \$0 per year. Any Founding Member, as listed in the June 1942 membership list of the official organ, shall be granted life membership.

D. Electronic Member: Dues are \$6 per year. This membership does not include print copies of club publications.

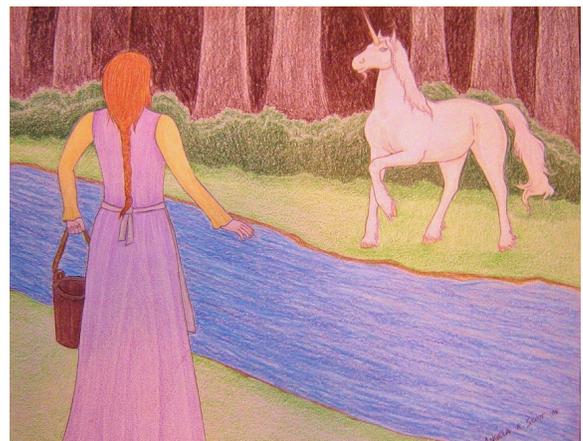
2. The number of Life or Honorary members, other than Founding Members, created by Directorate vote may not exceed 5 memberships or 1 percent of the total membership of the N3F, whichever number is greater. This rule shall not operate to reduce the number of existing Life memberships at any time.

IX. Member Benefits

1. The following membership benefits are reserved solely to dues-paying members ("paid members"): holding, running for, or being appointed to any elected office; holding the office of Treasurer, Publisher or Official Editor; voting for elected office; receiving printed copies of club publications paid for by the treasury; and representing the organization in any official capacity.

2. Life Members appointed by the Directorate are granted the same membership benefits as Paid Members, regardless of whether they pay dues or not.

3. Members of the general public may fully participate in all N3F activities except for those reserved solely to paid members.



Angela K. Scott — Encounter

**VOTE FOR NEFFIES
FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS**

There are categories. They are listed. In each category, give your first choice a 5. Give your second choice a 4. Give your third choice a 3. Give your fourth choice a 2. Give your fifth choice a 1. To vote “no award” in a category, give the category a “0”. Mail this ballot (or send email) to George Phillies, phillies@4liberty.net, 48 Hancock Hill Drive, Worcester MA 01609 to arrive by AUGUST 15.

Winners will be announced next issue.

Best Novel (over 100,000 words)

Against Three Lands—George Phillies
A Guide For Murdered Children—Sarah Sparrow
Legion---The Many Lives of Stephen Leeds - Brandon Sanderson
The Princess in the Tower—Chris Nuttall
Uncompromising Honor—David Weber
We Sold Our Souls - Grady Hendrix

Best Shorter Work (under 100,000 words)

Shadowdrop - Chris Willrich—Beneath Ceaseless Skies issue 261
The Black God's Drums - P. Djèlí Clark - Tor Publishing
Joyride - Kristine Kathryn Rusch - Asimov's Science Fiction 11-12/2018
What Is Eve? - Will McIntosh - Lightspeed Magazine issue 95
Intervention - Kelly Robson - Infinity's End, Solaris
Bloom - Kate Elliott - The Book of Magic, Bantam Books
When We Were Starless - Simone Heller—Clarkesworld issue 145
Prophet of the Roads - Naomi Kritzer - Infinity's End, Solaris
A Song of Home, the Organ Grinds - James Beamon - Lightspeed Magazine issue 98
Meat And Salt And Sparks - Rich Larson - Tor.com
The City of Lost Desire - Phyllis Eisenstein - the Jan-Feb F&SF

Best Book Editor

Toni Weiskopf

Best Fanzine (electronic publication is allowed)

Ionisphere from John Thiel
Optuntia from Dale Spiers
Origin from John Thiel
Spartacus, published by Guy Lillian
Tightbeam from the N3F

Best Blog

Gary Labowitz
Mad Genius Club—the Mad Genii

Best TV Show

Game of Thrones
Supergirl

Best SF Movie/Video

A Quiet Place

Best Anime

A Place Further Than the Universe
Aggretsuko
Devilman Crybaby
Planet With
Revue Starlight

Best Graphic Art Publication

Lady Mechanika - M. M. Chen and Joe Benetez
Monstress - Marjorie M. Liu and Sana Takeda
Raven Daughter of Darkness - Marv Wolfman

Best Cover Art

Kent Bash - the March-April 2019 F&SF
Brad Fraunfelter - The Broken Throne (novel by Chris Nuttall)

Best Magazine

Amazing



Editor's Notes
Bureau Reports
Correspondence Bureau—Recruitment—Films Fantastic
Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau—History and Research Bureau—Birthday Card Bureau
Welcommittee—Writers Exchange—Games Bureau
Treasurer's Report—Membership Changes
Letters
Bob Jennings—Judy Carroll—Scott Duncon—Kevin Trainor—Lisa Nybaek (twice)
Df—John Thiel—Angela Myers—Judy Carroll—Bob Jennings
Sercon
N3F Founding Members: Chris E. Mulrain, Jr.—Comic Book Clubs of the 1940s:
Supermen of America
Constitution of the N3F—Bylaws of the N3F
(Voting Members Only — List of Voting Members)
Neffy Ballot

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