



The National **83** Fantasy Fan **Years**

Fandom's Second Oldest Print Publication
Cras ad Stellas — Tomorrow to the Stars
Volume 83 Number 9 September 2024

Director's View Becky Jones, September 2024

It's been a good summer and although I no longer have my usual beginning of the school year frenzy, I am still sad to see summer end. I spent my summer attending a couple of cons and writing. In June I went to LibertyCon for the second time and my first time as a pro. July was Imaginarium which was more of a workshop con but still let me meet and talk to people like Devon Erikson, author of "Theft of Fire" and others.

Unfortunately, Imaginarium conflicted with Kevin Trainor's Son of Silvercon II and I was unable to attend SoS II. However, I did act as a judge for the writing contest at SoS II which was a lot of fun. There were two categories, adult and youth. We only had one youth entry, so please encourage your young friends and family members to submit stories next time around! The rest of you should consider submitting to the general category as well.

In N3F news, the Directors and President are hoping to find a volunteer willing to take on the position of Press Director. The Press Director is tasked with publicizing the N3F and its activities. Tasks of the Press Director could include:

- Circulate announcements of N3F activities such as the short story contest to social media sites.
- Send the table of contents of each issue of each N3F zine to social media, including N3F groups and pages, and to appropriate science fiction groups and pages on Facebook, Mewe, Discord, X, and other social media sites.
- Circulate N3F publicity to science fiction conventions.



The October TNFF Submission Deadline is October 18th.
The deadline for the 2024 Short Story Contest is December 31.
For rules, see page 9 of this issue,
which announces the 2024 Contest.



•Identify science fiction clubs across the world and invite them to become Public (non-voting) members of the N3F.

If you're interested in volunteering for the Press Director position, please contact George Phillies, N3F president, at phillies@4liberty.net.

Finally, we need the help of you, our readers and fans, to keep the doors open. Please consider becoming an email member of N3F. It's only \$6.00 a year! This level means you receive all the zines in electronic form, get to serve in office, vote in elections, and nominate and vote for Laureate Awards. At the next level, regular members (\$18/year) enjoy everything the email members do, plus receive print copies of the National Fantasy Fan zine.

As always, please let us know if you want to volunteer or have ideas for member benefits, articles for the zines, or ways to publicize the organization.

President's View

Greetings from Worcester, Massachusetts as we advance into Fall.

Elections are approaching. If you want to run for President or Directorate member, please consider being ready to be nominated. You may nominate yourself.

The Laureate Award process will begin in January with a discussion of categories. Some categories have recently had less interest. On the other hand, I have already had two tentative nominations, namely S.M. Stirling's To Turn the Tide and David Weber's Rebel (just out a few days ago).

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Continued Next Column, Middle

The somewhat bright news: We have five zines coming out regularly (TNFF, Tightbeam, N3F Review, FanActivity Gazette, N'APA), three that come out on occasion (Eldritch Science, Mangaverse, Films Fantastic), and two that are on hiatus (Ionisphere, Origins). Three cheers for all of our editors!

On a slightly different note, I recently had my 77th birthday. While I am still in excellent health, I am not getting any younger, and at some point will become an Initiate in the Mystery of Death. Since I currently seem to be occupying the role President For Life, I would like to pass off as many duties as possible so that when I advance to the

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 Video Bureau Heath Row, kalel@well.com
 Welcomittee Judy Carroll BlueShadows2012@gmail.com
 Writers Exchange Judy Carroll BlueShadows2012@gmail.com

Join or Renew

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

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 Send material for this zine as electronic files (txt or rtf preferred, images as jpgs, 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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next plane of existence there will be as little disturbance as possible in our operations. The complicated pass off is having a backup person to manage mailing all of our zines and maintaining our WordPress web pages. There are a long list of other more minor tasks, such as putting each zine's table of contents up on our Facebook and MeWe pages. I am not up to handling the electronics, but we could try zoom discussion groups or chat channels on Discord.

I would be delighted to pass along to someone else my editorships of Tightbeam and/or Eldritch Science. They could both use more attention than I can give them.

Finally, a bit of sad news. The Round Robin Bureau is closing. Round Robins were a creative use of the U.S. Mails back before there was an Internet, back when AirMail cost more than regular mail, but with electronic communications being what they are, round robins have gradually become obsolete. Judy Carroll has the fine details in her report, but there is simply a lack of interest in this possible member activity.

The Correspondence Bureau is still up and running. On contacting the correspondents, I find that they are all hoping someone will contact with them and start corresponding. Corresponding with other Correspondence Bureau members mostly did not arise.

Treasurer's Report

PayPal balance \$301.14
 In: \$6.00 (less fees) for membership
 NSB balance: \$2472.34
 2 life members +
 18 electronic + 12 regular = 32 voting members
 8 archive members + 256 public members = 264 non-voting members!

Welcome to Katrina Templeton for joining as a voting member!

Voting memberships expiring this month: Bill McCormick, Margaret Treiber, and Wendy Van Camp.

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 Fissionchan, PO Box 143, Tonopah NV 89049; PayPal payments go to fission.chan@gmail.com

Tightbeam 360 — September 2024 Table of Contents

Art

Front Cover ... Flash and Sam Meet the Rapper by Jose Sanchez
 16 ... Unicorns by Artist Fish
 17 ... Robot by Artist Fish
 Back Cover ... Castles by Tiffanie Gray

Obituary

4 ... Taral Wayne MacDonald (October 12, 1951 – July 31, 2024) ...from Garth Spencer

Anime

5 ... Violet Evergarden ... Review by Jessi Silver

Fan History

8 ... The FanHistory Zoom Series ... message from Edie Stern

Films

8 ... Warner Brothers's The Matrix Resurrections ... Review by Jim McCoy

Games

10 ... Weird Giraffe Games Stellar Leap ... Review by Jim McCoy

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12 ... Push: A Review ... When push comes to shove ... Caroline Furlong

Novels

14 ... Travis Baldree's Legends and Lattes ... Review by Jim McCoy

SerCon

16 ... Don't Destroy My Favorite Franchises ... Opinion by Jim McCoy

18 ... George C. Johnson Bio-Bibliography ... by Jon D. Swartz, Ph.D.

Welcommittee

This month we welcome Katrina Templeton as our newest N3F member. Katrina, "I read science fiction and fantasy. I write a fanzine and write in a couple APAs. I also play video games and occasionally watch movies and TV." She found us through other fanzine fans.

Katrina, we hope you have a long and wonderful journey with the National Fantasy Fan Federation. Being active is the most fulfilling way to enjoy being a member.

Members, 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 imaginative genres of Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror.

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

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Round Robins Bureau Closes

Joy Beeson told me in an email -
"I have re-started World Wide Folklore many times, and it has never once made it back to the beginning. I think that it is dead."

Due to inactivity, The Round Robins Bureau is closing. Neither the Netflix Streaming section nor the Postal Mail section have had any members for several months.

If you have any questions or concerns you may contact:

Contact: Judy Carroll, 971 East 120 South, Spanish Fork, Utah 84660
OR Email : blushadows2012@gmail.com

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4 ... Garth Spencer

Hugo Award Nominees
4 ... How I Voted and Why by Tom Feller

Novels
20 ... A Canticle for Leibowitz by Walter M. Miller Jr.
... Review by Pat Patterson
21 ... A Fine and Private Place by Peter S. Beagle ... Review by Mindy Hunt
24 ... A Princess of Mars by Edgar Rice Burroughs ... Review by Caroline Furlong
25 ... Blood Cartel by Nicholas Woode-Smith ... Review by Declan Finn
27 ... Call of the Rougarou by Kelly Grayson ... Review by Pat Patterson
27 ... The Case of the Haunted Chapel by Karen Kelly Boyce ... Review by Caroline Furlong
29 ... Ganwold's Child by Diann Thornley Read ... Review by Pat Patterson
30 ... Monster Hunter International, by Larry Correia ... Review by Declan Finn
33 ... New Worlds Quarterly #1 edited by Michael Moorcock ... Review by Jean-Paul Garnier
33 ... Politics Kills by Declan Finn ... Review by Jim McCoy
35 ... The Resurrection of Roger Diment by Douglas R. Mason ... Review by Jean-Paul Garnier
35 ... The Secret of Seavale by Blake Smith ... Review by Caroline Furlong
37 ... Space Cowboys 2: Electric Rodeo edited by C.V. Walter ... Review by Pat Patterson
38 ... Storm Between the Stars, by Karl Gallagher ... Review by Declan Finn
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48 ... Keywords: Help your readers find your book by Cedar Sanderson
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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 housepets.

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 Kootz, 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

Franking Service FrankinZine Issue 6

As published by the N3F Franking Service. In this issue are the zines

Rhyme 6

MT VOID 2344

Obdurate Eye 43

Space Cowboy's Accretion 12

This Here 78

The STF Amateur 12

Welcome to the Writers Exchange!

For several months there has been little or no participation in the Writers Exchange. No one responded to questions or writers' prompts, and very few stories were critiqued.

This last month, I am happy to say, has brought a few requests for story critiques and interested club members are joining the Writers Exchange.

I would like to introduce two new members to the Writers Exchange - Chris Owens and Jeff Cassell.

Please do not contact a reader unless I have assigned that reader to you. I don't want any of our readers getting

"reading overload."

Writers Quote for the Month

A writer of fiction lives in fear. Each new day demands new ideas, and he can never be sure whether he is going to come up with them or not.

Roald Dahl *

This month, I think it would be fun for our readers to write a poem, a rhyme or a very short story, about Halloween. They will appear in the October Writers Exchange.

Following is my contribution.

One Autumn Night

Roaming the streets in the fading light
Are Goblins and Ghouls and Witches with cats

While high above screeching and diving
Are dozens of sharp fanged bats

Naked trees slowly bow
As Werewolves howl at the shining moon

Autumn leaves twirl and spin
While Skeletons dance to a clanging tune

Red spots appear on gray walks
While blood drips from Vampires teeth
Shouts of anger fill the air
As Pirates their swords unsheathe

The night is filled with dark shadows,
noise and scary beings

The clock strikes midnight
Silence bows in relieve

Only 364 days
Until it all repeats

I would like this bureau to be an informative and pleasant experience. If you have any ideas of what you would like to see in the Writers Exchange, please feel free to contact me by email or postal mail. and tell me your ideas. My contact information is at the end of this article.

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.

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

*bing.com

SerCon

Basil Wells Bio-Bibliography

by

Jon D. Swartz, Ph.D.

N3F Historian



Basil Eugene Wells was born in Springboro, Pennsylvania, on June 11, 1912, the son of Carl Wells (a grocer and miller) and Gertrude Worden Wells (an artist).

Early Life/Work

Wells attended Springboro High School, from which he graduated in 1929. He spent two years at Houghton College in upstate New York, where he wrote a few pieces for the school's newspaper.

Later, using an old manual Smith Corona typewriter, Wells wrote fiction on a part-time basis; his regular job was running chain machines that manufactured zippers for Talon, Inc.

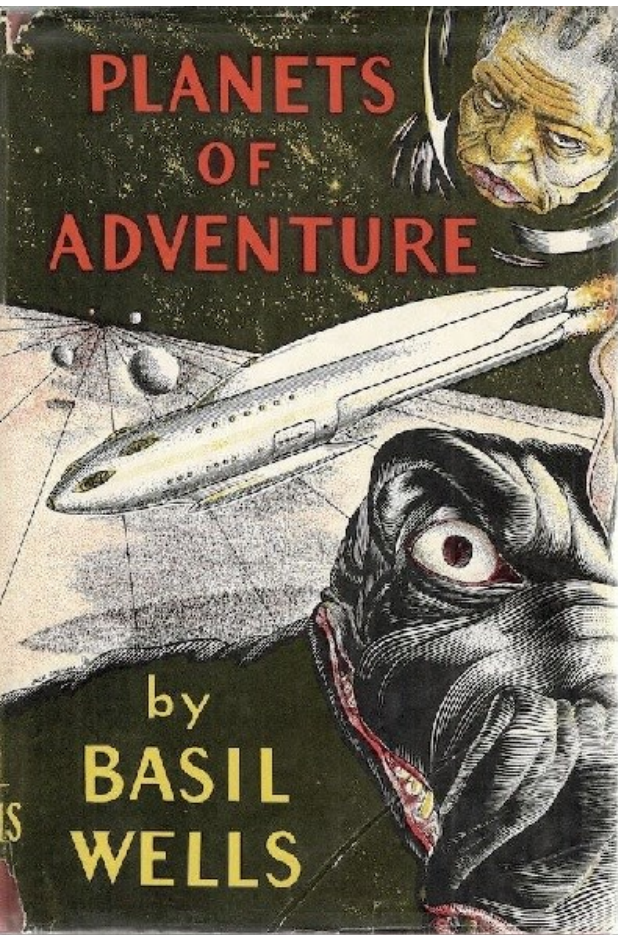
First Genre Publication/Other Publications

His first published science fiction (SF) story, "Rebirth of Man," appeared in the prozine Super Science Stories in its September, 1940, issue.

During his career, Wells also wrote fantasy, western, and detective stories for various magazines.

Selected SF Stories, 1941 – 1997

Biped (1941)
 New Moon (1941)
 The Giant (1942)
 The Rebel Slug (1942)
 The Swift People (1943)
 Quest's End (1944)
 600 W (1945)
 Survival (1946)
 Scrambled World (1947)
 Caverns of Ith (1948)
 Prison Rats (1948) [as by Gene Ellerman]
 Wall of Darkness (1948)
 Crusader (1949) [as by Gene Ellerman]
 Empire of Dust (1949)
 The Twisted Men (1949) [as by Gene Ellerman]
 Under Martian Sands (1950)
 Barren World (1951)
 The Flesh Eaters (1952)
 Monster No More (1953)
 All the Angles (1954)
 Stalemate (1954)

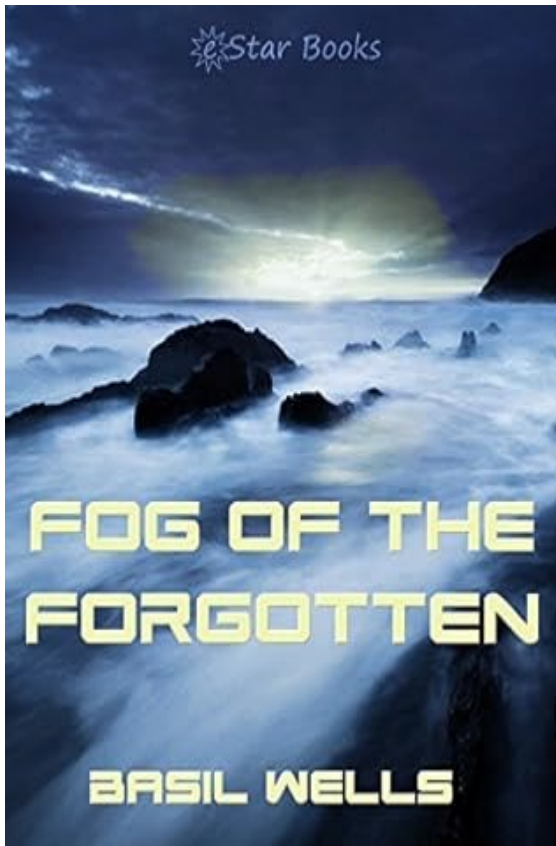


Pioneers (1955)
 Second Sight (1957)
 Utility Girl (1959)
 Blind Alley (1965)
 From Distant Earth (1968)
 Father Image (1969)
 All Brothers Are Me (1970)
 Axtan of the Kags (1976)
 Zulla (1977)
 Shape in the Shadows (1978)
 Returnee (1982)
 Rubber-Tired Gauntlet (1991)
 Man in Limbo (1992)
 The Laws of Juss (1994)
 Gift of Life/Gift of Love (1997)

Marriage

He married fellow Western Pennsylvania Science Fictioneers (WPSF) member, Margaret Hughes, in 1945; and they had two sons together, both born in the late 1930s.

Wells and his wife attended Cinvention together in 1949, Midwestcon in 1951, and other SF cons.



Other Fannish Activities

Wells was a member of the WPSF, the ISFCC, and Vanguard, and wrote for SF fanzines such as The Explorer, JD-Argassy, and Fantastic Worlds.

Pseudonym

He sometimes under the pseudonym of Gene Ellerman (see stories listed above).

Books

Two early collections of his stories, Planets of Adventure (1949) and Doorways to Space (1951) were published by Fantasy Publishing Company. Later book collections of his work were Little Monsters (1976) and Silverskin and Other Little Monsters (1976).

A final collection of his stories, Final Voyage and Other Science Fiction Stories, was published posthumously in 2016.

Critical Comments

Wells was an imaginative author who enjoyed a successful period following his debut on the SF scene in the early 1940s.

Genre critics have noted that the influence of Edgar Rice Burroughs is evident in many of Wells' early stories.

Concluding Comments

After retiring from his full-time job at Talon, where he had worked for well over 30 years, Wells stopped writing fiction and began writing weekly columns for his local newspaper. In 1979, he and his wife moved from Pennsylvania to live out their retirement in Keystone Heights, Florida. He died on December 23, 2003.

Sources

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

Day, Donald B. Index to Science Fiction Magazines 1926 – 1950, 1952.

Hawk, Pat. Hawk's Author's Pseudonyms II, 1995.

Metcalf, Norm. The Index of Science Fiction Magazines 1951-1965, 1968.

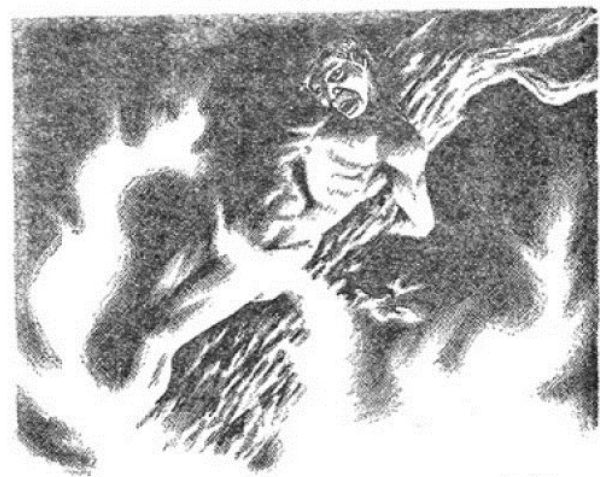
Reginald, R. (ed.). Contemporary Science Fiction Authors, 1975.

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

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

REBIRTH OF MAN

The green planet of Earth was only a laboratory for the knowledgeable Great Ones. But they doomed themselves by the success of their own experiment. . . .



By BASIL E. WELLS

2024 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest Story Contest Rules and Entry Blank

Now and then, it has been suggested to open the N3F Amateur Short Story Contest to professional writers, writers who have had one or two sales. I've never favored this. It is my opinion that we want new blood. We want to reward the new kids on the block. To be blunt, we want writing that is not that good. We want stories from people who don't know their object from their subject, who don't know where commas go, and who use apostrophes to denote plurals -- but who have a story to tell. I want stories from guys nobody's ever heard of...but in the years ahead, we will. Those who are already successful don't need the encouragement of our little contest. If they were to enter the contest, the danger is that they'd win, every time, and crowd out the promising newcomer.

1. This contest is open to all amateur writers in the field, regardless of whether they're members of the National Fantasy Fan Federation. For the purposes of this contest, we define an amateur as someone who has sold no more than two (2) stories to professional science fiction or fantasy publications.
2. Stories entered in the contest must be original, unpublished, not longer than 8,500 words in length—and 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, 2024.
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 2025. 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, 2024. Good luck!

Please supply on a separate page the following information as your entry form.

Title of story (for identification): Author's name and address: Author's email address:

I have read the above rules for the 2024 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



Director's View Becky Jones, September 2024

President's View

Treasurer's Report

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Welcome to the Writers Exchange!

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