



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

Fandom's Second Oldest Print Publication
Cras ad Stellas — Tomorrow to the Stars
Volume 85 Number 6 June 2026

Laureate Award Vote

The Ballot for the 2026 N3F Laureate Awards will be on the next-to-last page of the issue. Please vote.

Director's Piece from Kevin Trainor

As you will see elsewhere in this issue, your Directorate and officers are making efforts to expand the reach of the N3F by making short videos for Instagram and other social media. Jason will have more to say about this, but from where I sit the best thing you can do is preplan your video before you record it. Use the Five W's: WHO wrote or produced the thing you're reviewing, WHAT the thing is (show the book cover/DVD case, whatever), WHERE and WHEN does the action happen, and WHY did you like or dislike it?

By the same token, you can do short reviews for Prose Bono or our other zines. One of the perennial complaints is that there's too much new SF being produced by indie authors and it's hard to sort through the slop to find the good stuff. This is where you come in. Help us find the good stuff and avoid the slop! Write or record a review TODAY!

Outreach

SpaceCowboyBooks writes: I have more bookmarks, probably around 600, give or take. Happy to send them wherever needed. Jean-Paul Garnier
spacecowboybooks@gmail.com

Adrian railfanzine@gmail.com has volunteered to take on a segment of social media outreach. He wrote:

Hello!

I saw that you might want someone to do social media for TNFFF. I'm willing and able to do that if the role is still open. It looks like TNFFF doesn't have accounts on Twitter/X, Instagram and Bluesky — I can set some up and do posts on at least a weekly basis. Does this sound like it could be helpful?

The three locations are :

FantasyFanFed on BlueSky
FantasyFanFederation on Instagram
FantasyFanFed on Twitter

Thanks,
Adrian

Our Treasurer Reports

Paypal balance \$196.71
In: \$16 from registrations (less fees)

NSB balance: \$2558.34
In: \$18 from registrations

4 life members
24 electronic + 14 regular = 42 voting members
8 archive members + 260 public members = 268 non-voting members

Welcome to new members Paul Deane and Brian LeBanksy!

Thanks to Abby & Bill Buhler for renewing!

Expiring this month: Judy Carroll

Your Volunteer Team

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Join or Renew

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

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Son of Silvercon IV

Neffers are reminded that preregistration for Son of Silvercon IV is closed. The \$5 discount for N3F membership is available again. Attending memberships are \$50 (through June 15), supporting memberships are \$20. Mail checks & money orders to Friends of Fission-chan, PO Box 143, Tonopah NV 89049; PayPal payments go to fission.chan@gmail.com. More information at SonofSilvercon.Wordpress.com

Art Bureau

Jose Sanchez wrote: We received some really impressive artwork from Steve Fox. The first six pieces are

- #1 (I'm going to re-work it and already have his permission to do so. It's a little confusing at the moment, but I have confidence that we can give it a new life and then it will work out better for everybody).
- #2 "Landscape"
- #3 "Ugly Alien"
- #4 "Helmet & Asteroids"
- #5 "Worm Rider"
- #6 "Alien & Landscape"

Please send artwork for the N3F! If you've got some really neat artwork, we'd like to see it. The quickest way to send it, e-mail it to me at jose77sanchez@yahoo.com. The slower method is by regular snail mail.

The address is :

Jose Sanchez
9310 W Flagler St, Apt.111
Miami, FL 33174

Thank you !
Jose

FanActivity Gazette

I am looking for contributors to help assemble fan-nish activity material Please contact me if interested. Jason P Hunt jphunt@scifi4me.com

The June issue of the N3F Fan Gazette has been published.

Summaries of Fiction Nominees for the Laureate Award

by Samuel Lubell

Best Novel (over 100,000 words):

Heart of the Mountain by Larry Correia (Baen) – This is the final book in the six book fantasy series Saga of the Forgotten Warrior that began with Son of the Black Sword. Larry Correia is a popular Baen author.

A Kiss for Damocles by J. Kenton Pierce (Raconteur Press). This is the first book in the Tales From the Long Night series. The author calls the book “Post-apocalyptic science fiction” and it appears to emphasize action-adventure. It is available on Kindle Unlimited.

All that We See or Seem by Ken Liu (Saga Press) – Ken Liu has won multiple awards for his short fiction, his translations of Chinese short fiction, and for his translation of The Three Body Problem by Liu Cixin. All that We See or Seem is the first book in his Julia Z series about an ethical hacker in a near future with AI and robots. In this book trying to solve the kidnapping of an artist who shapes people’s dreams leads Julia Z to confront a crime lord with an international slave conspiracy. This is a mystery/thriller that is complete in itself, but is clearly the first in a series of adventures for the main character.

The Book of Lost Hours by Hayley Gelfuso (Atria Books) – This first novel won the Baltimore SF Society’s Compton Crook Award for Best Debut Novel. In this book special watches enable their holders to enter a time-space dimension where people’s lives are recorded in book form. Lisavet Levy’s father saves her from the Holocaust in 1938 by giving her his watch. But governments use their watches to spy and maintain their version of history. This book has elements of historical fiction, spy thrillers, and romance.

Extinction by Michael Simon (Podium Publishing) – This action-oriented “military sci-fi thriller” has its hero trying to keep the peace on Europa, a moon of Jupiter, despite attempts by the civilian government to seize control of the military, a plague on Earth that could spread to Europa, food rationing, and the near extinction of humanity. This first book in a series is available on Kindle Unlimited.

First Command by Michael Simon (Aethon Books) – This is the first book in the five-book First Command series. When aliens attack two Alliance ships, a young ensign must repair a near-completely wrecked ship and prepare it for battle. This space opera series is available on Kindle Unlimited.

Katabasis by R. F. Kuang (Harper Voyager) – Kuang is a literary-oriented fantasy writer (best known for Babel and her mainstream novel Yellowface). In Katabasis, the two main characters, both magicians in graduate school who competed for their rather despicable graduate advisor’s attention, journey into Hell to rescue their advisor so they can obtain the necessary letters of recommendation to get good academic jobs. The book is modeled after Dante’s Inferno except that each level of Hell corresponds to a stage of graduate school. Kuang wrote it while in graduate school herself so both the humor and the bitterness seem well-earned.

Best Shorter Work (under 100,000 words) or Anthology:

“A Tide of Paper” by Leah Cypess (Asimov’s 9-10/25) – This is a historical mystery set in Renaissance Venice in which a ghost, who worked as printer, asks one of two brothers, who are Jews who conceal their religion, for help. This is mostly a historical with a few fantasy elements. It has strong characterization and an interesting mystery plot.

“The Chronolithographer’s Assistant” by Suzanne Palmer (Asimov’s 7-8/25) -- A small town young man asks a local artist for a job only to eventually discover that she is a time traveler and winds up having to travel to the future himself. This story

can be read at <https://asimovs.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/The-Chronolithographers-Assistant-Suzanne-Palmer.pdf>

“Crystal Singer’s Song” by David Weber (Baen) – This story in David Weber’s Honor Harrington series appeared in his anthology, Challenges: Tales From the Earliest Days of the Star Kingdom. This story has a treecat who is a memory singer tell Honor Harrington about a hopelessly stranded cargo pilot who discovers a previously unknown tribe of treecats. This is science fiction (and part of a military SF series).

The Dagger in Vichy by Alastair Reynolds (Subterranean) – This novella (published separately) is set in Earth’s future, long after some great disaster, and has a group of actors who promise to carry a seemingly holy relic through France to Avignon. This is science fiction that reads like fantasy for most of its length.

Disgraced Return of Kap’s Needle by Renan Bernardo (Dark Matter Ink) – This story is about a rebellion on a failing generation ship that is returning from its unsuccessful mission to establish a colony. This is dark space opera science fiction. It is available on Kindle Unlimited.

Letters of Comment

Dear George and Jon:

I have a bit of spare time in my work and travels, and I have Volume 85, No. 5 of The National Fantasy Fan. Let’s put the two together, and see what I can come up with...

We wish a quick recovery to Steve Condrey. Last car accident I was in, I got my knees banged up, but my injuries didn’t even come close to what Steve suffered. Fast healing, and be on your feet very soon.

Age...this concept must strike fear into the hearts of many, for of course, we’ve never been that old before! (Jon, I can’t believe you’re in your 90s! Hope I can get there, too.) (George, are you mentoring a possible successor?) I hope that as we age, people may step forward for you to train and mentor. The

job you hold, George may be seen as too large and daunting, so I think compiling a list of all the things you do (all committee members, too), so potential new committee members can see all you do, and make a decision whether or not to take it all on.

I wish I had more for you, but I am doing some editorial work for Amazing Selects' upcoming publications, and I've got a pile of zines to respond to, so I have more than enough to do. Many thanks, and I will try to do better the next time.

Yours,
Lloyd Penney

Dear George and Jon,

Maybe by having my direct art gallery link (listed below) shown to N3F members, they can actually see more of my work and be able to vote easier on the Laureate awards.

<https://www.deviantart.com/jose77sanchez>

Yours, Jose Sanchez

Summer Relaxation

Raspberry Mojito
A cocktail recipe
Cedar Sanderson

I'm not a big drinker. However, the fun of playing with flavors is something I really enjoy, and doing that with something like this also makes for a nice refreshing evening relaxation. Just what I need on a hot summer night once in a while!

I'd walked out to turn on the irrigation, which meant stepping into a patch of mint (yes, I have some planted in-ground. It's planned. It's controllable. I love the smell when I mow the edge of the patch) and that reminded me I wanted to look up a mojito recipe and play around with it.

I don't have simple syrup on hand and wasn't in the mood to make up a batch. Plus, like I said, I don't drink often so I feel like it would go bad before I used it. What I did have was a Raspberry syrup I'd

bought for coffee. Works. I didn't have limes on hand. I did have key lime juice in the fridge that needed to be used up. Spiffy!

Raspberry Mojito

2 oz white rum

1 oz key lime juice

1/2 oz raspberry syrup

three small sprigs of mint

Club soda to top off glass (I don't know, six ounces?)

Combine the rum, juice, syrup, and two sprigs of mint in a cocktail shaker with a handful of ice. Shake vigorously for no more than a half a minute until it's very cold. Strain liquid into a 16 oz glass about half-filled with ice. Pour club soda over this. Stir very gently. Garnish with sprig of mint and sip.

Beautifully tart, with a hint of mint that isn't overwhelming. So smooth and refreshing. Dangerous, really.

I actually think this would work very well as a mocktail, just leave out the rum, and it will still have a lot of flavor without the kick. I'll try that soon!

Enjoy! Kick back with a book on the porch and let your cares drift away.

Directorate Meets

The N3F directorate met on Saturday, June 13, starting at 4 PM. It was asked what worked, or what we could do better.

Steve Condrey suggested that we should meet more often. We should show in particular new members what we do. What else do we have besides fanzines?

Kevin Trainor observed that bookmarks work, but we need more. Recruitment could be thought of as each one reaches one as an approach.

Sam Lubell suggested that more online content is needed. Fandom has moved on from fanzines. More radical methods are needed.

Jason Hunt suggested using online material more often. We need to reach younger people.

Mindy Hunt remarked on the existence of movies and television. There a lot of people who have not read classics or even modern well-known science fiction books. The suggestion was made to use thirty-second or so reels, short reads from books and book recommendations. Lists of books that people might want are also a good thing the notion is if you liked A you will like the rest of this list, or much of it.

There was a proposal to do videos reviewing books. This could be done on reels or otherwise. The notion is that you put up to Instagram a video or simply an audio of your review, and we will copy your review, put it in a video envelope, and put it up for the public. In addition, with modern electronics one can do transcripts in which artificial intelligence converts a section of spoken words to the matching text. Some modest work is then needed to polish the output.

Things needed in order to do good sound recording were observed. You need a quiet place. You want to use in general your cell phone or a quality microphone rather than a laptop, because the laptop mics tend to gather all of the noise in the room. We could then set up a Google depository to hold the material that has been read and another repository to hold the material that has been read after it's been converted to a reel or whatever.

We discussed challenges with fancyclopedia, namely there has been a certain amount of hostile editing. Steve Condrey volunteered to be the editor of our fancyclopedia entry. On the same line, people asked whether famous SF figures who were also N3F members are being identified as N3F members on Wikipedia. This question will be investigated.

There is sentiment that we need more activity on social media groups. The discussion tended to push Discord in particular as a good social media site, though we also have entries on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, MeWe, and BlueSky. Three of those entries are due to the very recent work of new member RailFanZine.

Methods for ensuring that more tables of contents are put up on social media sites were discussed.

George Phillies noted that A Gentle Stroll appears to have died through lack of enthusiasm.

Sam Lubell proposed creating and selling an anthology of old National Fantasy Fan articles. He volunteered to attempt to assemble the anthology.

There are several large conventions, such as World-Con, at which large numbers of fan assemble. Some respectable number of these people might be N3F members. The idea was advanced of organizing a dinner, or an assembly of people eating at a food court, the people all being N3F fen who would get to talk to each other. We also described the use of meet ups, as seen on meet up.com. It was noticed that you now have to pay significantly to organize a meet up. It would be good to use conventions to hand out bookmarks for publicity, since many conventions have a freebie table for that sort of thing. However, finding how to contact these conventions seems to be a bit challenging. A remarkable number of conventions seem to leave out information on how to contact the convention committee, for example to see about buying table space or whatever.

After some discussion, we tentatively agreed to meet again on July 14 at 9 PM Eastern. Meeting adjourned! God save the Federation!

Ionisphere

Jean-Paul Garnier writes: I'm nearly finished with the SFPA Grand Masters issue of Ionisphere. There's been a slightly delay but I hope to get the issue out in June. And after that I will be doing an issue focusing on this year's winners of the Writers of the Future contest.

Tightbeam

Tightbeam continues on its regular monthly schedule. Your Editors continue to find enough material for a proper issue, but the range of topics sometimes fluctuates. Your reviews of anything Stfnal are most welcome.

phillies@4liberty.net Editor.

The N3F Review of Books Incorporating Prose Bono

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- 10 ... The Fallen Gods Trilogy by Hannah Kaner ... Review by Tom Feller
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Aliens -- Art by our excellent new artist Steve Fox



Unicorn Island by Tiffanie Gray

2026 Laureate Award Ballot

We have reached voting for the N3F Laureate Awards.

To vote, mail your ballots to George Phillies, phil-lies@4liberty.net. Give your first choice 10 points, your second choice 9 points, etc. Please have your ballot arrive here by July 17. Results will be announced in the next issue of The National Fantasy Fan.

Best Fan Writer:

Lloyd Penney
Niall Shapiro

Best Fan Artist:

Jose Sanchez
Tiffanie Gray

Best Fan Editor:

Bob Jennings - Fadeaway
Rob Carroll - Dark Matter Ink

Best Fan Poet:

Denise Dumars
Robert Frazier
Juan Manuel Pérez

Best Fan Website:

Ansible
Fanac
Galactic Journey

Best Non-N3F Fan Publication:

Ancillary Review of Books
Nerds of a Feather
The Obdurate Eye
Pablo Lennis
Unofficial Hugo Book Club

Best N3F Fan Publication:

Eldritch Science
N'APA
The N3F FanActivity Gazette
Origins
Ionisphere

Best Novel (over 100,000 words):

Heart of the Mountain by Larry Correia
A Kiss for Damocles by J. Kenton Pierce
All that We See or Seem by Ken Liu

The Book of Lost Hours by Hayley Gelfuso
Extinction by Michael Simon
First Command by Michael Simon
Katabasis by R. F. Kuang

Best Shorter Work (under 100,000 words) or Anthology

A Tide of Paper by Leah Cypess
The Chronolithographer's Assistant by Suzanne Palmer:
Crystal Singer's Song by David Weber
The Dagger in Vichy by Alastair Reynolds
Disgraced Return of Kap's Needle by Renan Bernardo

Best Poem or Collection:

Life During the Lazarus Age by Robert Frazier
Space Exploration: Strange New Worlds by John C. Mannone
Entropocene by Jean-Paul L. Garnier

Best Book Editor:

Eric Fomley — Shacklebound Books
Cedar Sanderson — Raconteur Press Boys Books
Jenni Hill -- Orbit
Lindsey Hall -- Tor
Oliver Dougherty -- Tor
Toni Weisskopf — Baen Books
Rob Carroll - Dark Matter Ink

Best Pro Artist:

Bob Eggleton
Dante Luiz
Bruce Pennington
Cedar Sanderson

Best TV show, film or video:

Star Trek: Strange New Worlds -- Paramount
Superman -- Warner
Wicked: For Good -- Universal

Best Historical Work:

A Selection of Golden Age Science Fiction and Fantasy
Artists by Coker and Swartz
Dreaming of Autonomous Vehicles: Miloslav (Miles) J. Breuer: Czech-American Writer and the Birth of Science Fiction by Jaroslav Olša, Jr.
The Martians by David Barron
Women of the Fairy Tale Resistance by Jane Harrington

Best Literary-Critical Work

Playing at the World Volume 2 by Jon Peterson

Best None of the Above:

Story Hour (<https://www.storyhour2020.com>) (vote will be Yes or No).



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2026 Laureate Award Ballot

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