



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

Fandom's Second Oldest Print Publication
Cras ad Stellas — Tomorrow to the Stars
Volume 85 Number 7 July 2026

2026 N3F Laureate Award Winners

Best Fan Writer — Lloyd Penney
Best Fan Artist — Jose Sanchez
Best Fan Editor: Bob Jennings — Fadeaway
Best Fan Poet — A Tie
Denise Dumars
Robert Frazier
Best Fan Website — Fanac
Best Non-N3F Fan Publication — The Obdurate
Eye
Best N3F Fan Publication — The N3F Fan Gazette
Best Novel — All that We See or Seem by Ken Liu
Best Shorter Work — The Dagger in Vichy
by Alastair Reynolds
Best Poem or Collection — Entropocene by
Jean-Paul L. Garnier
Best Book Editor — Toni Weisskopf — Baen
Books
Best Pro Artist — Bob Eggleton
Best TV show, film or video: Star Trek: Strange
New Worlds -- Paramount
Best Historical Work — Dreaming of Autonomous
Vehicles: Miloslav (Miles) J. Breuer: Czech-
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Fiction by Jaroslav Olša, Jr.
Best Literary-Critical Work — Playing at the World
Volume 2 by Jon Peterson
Best None of the Above — Story Hour story
hour2020.com

Three Cheers for Laureate Award Winners

Continuing a tradition that began in 1941, the N3F has once again issued its annual N3F Laureate awards to fen and pros who have made important contributions to the scientifiction hobby!

Web Site Disrupted Again

Once again, the N3F web site has been disrupted. This time the tables of old magazines have been reformatted in a way that prevents the addition of new magazines to the list. In addition, there was apparently a reboot from a much older backup, so many things are missing.

We will therefore be moving the N3F web site to a new web service provider. Ionos.com has served scifi4me.com faithfully for a long time, despite having a far larger bandwidth usage than needed by us.

The reboot will take a while. Magazine mailings are unlikely to be interrupted. Please stay with us.

Directorate Acts!

Good afternoon, George: The motion was: "agree to move the website to Ionos.com and to spend \$14/month for that purpose" The Directorate was unanimous, voting all in favor. Done deal!
Cheers! Jefferson Swycaffer

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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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Director's View from Jefferson P. Swycaffer

Meetings are being held, at the highest level, to establish the future of the N3F. I haven't been at these meetings because I lack the technology. I can do email, but I can't do Zoom. The Directorate meets via email, and we have one or two things on the table that we need to finalize. I know of no crises or disasters. George announced that our website had been hacked, but is being repaired. This is dismaying, but par for the course in this century. Evil abounds, even at so low a level as vandalizing a fan club's website. Not all that different from spray-painting someone's storefront, I guess.

Club operations seem to be running fine.* We have a wonderful plethora of fanzines and newsletters. I don't have any short story contest entries yet, but those tend to come around later in the year. We haven't had activity in the Writers' Exchange Bureau for a very long time, although I have had some writers send me stuff for critique outside of the official WEB purview. This and the contest always give me great optimism for the future of fantasy and science fiction: people really are writing! The market is brutal, and America is becoming less and less a country of readers of prose fiction. Even that may be too pessimistic, as there is activity in writing websites.

The N3F is very well-led at this time, with all due praise to our President, George Phillies, who does all this and writes energetically also. The Directorate doesn't have many calls upon its collective attention, which is usually a good sign.

Cheers!

Jefferson P. Swycaffer

*Editor: Web site issue cropped up after we received this letter.

Letters of Comment

Dear Neffers:

I have here issue 6. Volume 85, of The National Fantasy Fan, and as soon as the local thunderstorm outside calms down a little, I will get this loc to you. In the meantime, the main computer stays off, and I hope there isn't a sudden blackout or brown-out. Comments shall follow...I hope...

My loc...well, age may strike fear into some of us, but I have just turned 67, and hope to have another couple of decades in which to cause shenanigans and inspire general mayhem.

Vote! Vote...yes, I must vote. Not sure if it counts because I am an e-member only, but vote I must. Fingers crossed for that Laureate Award, and many thanks for your considerations.

I wish I had more to say! This is what I get for responding to only one issue. Take care all, and see you with the next.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

Editor:

The Tenth Anniversary issue of the First Fandom Annual (2026) is now available: "100 Years of Amazing Stories." Edited by John L. Coker III and Jon D. Swartz, Ph.D.

Contributors: Mike Ashley, James Bacon, Steve Davidson, Lloyd & Yvonne Penney, Robert Silverberg—in addition to Coker and Swartz.

Includes photo essays about the editors and illustrators of Amazing Stories with dozens of front and rear cover reproductions in full color.

Insider insights on writing for, editing, and publishing Amazing Stories over the decades. Very limited edition of (30) copies.

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To purchase a copy, please send check or money order (payable to John L. Coker III) at 4813 Light-house Road, Orlando, FL - 32808.

Thank you, and all best wishes,
John L. Coker III

N3F Activists Meet

On July 13 we had a meeting of N3F Activists. The following are notes on that meeting.

We came to order a bit after nine in the evening.

George Phillies noted that the website had been damaged again. This time it appeared that someone had done a restoration to events of a year ago, not an ideal way. Jason Hunt noted that he pays \$280 a year on Ionos for unlimited space. It was observed that if we moved to a new site we should also try to optimize the website for mobile examination. The hope was expressed that we could recruit more tech-savvy members who would maintain these things for us. The current Ionos Plus site, which appears to do everything we want, is \$14 month. If we get to the point where we are mailing a truly large number of issues of magazines, say more than ten thousand per month, we can procure something that will let us do that for a mere \$15 per month.

There was considerable detailed technical discussion of website issues.

George will contact Jefferson Swycaffer about putting a motion before the Directorate to spend the money for the Plus feature and move the website.

It appeared that several members are preparing to go to WorldCon. George will inquire which of them need flyers or copies of back issues of The National Fantasy Fan.



Flowered Woman by Angela K. Scott

Steve Condrey has set up a YouTube site for Eldritch science. It's currently at the technology testing stage, but was still quite impressive.

Jason Hunt suggested that it would be good to have a broad N3F YouTube site.

Phillies noted that new member RailFanZine has given us social media sites on three additional locations.

Phillies observed that A Gentle Stroll appeared not to be taking off, but that there would be at least one more issue.

He also reminded activists who've not yet voted for the Laureate awards to vote.

Lubell reported that he was going to collect interesting articles from old issues of our zines, but has not yet been able to start doing that.

New Social Media Sites

New Social Media Bureau Head Railfan Zine has given us new social media sites on Bluesky, Instagram, and Twitter/X. We are FantasyFanFed on BlueSky, and FantasyFanFederation or FantasyFan Fed on the other two sites.

Zines

Most of our zines are appearing on their expected schedules. The N3F Review of Books suffered a serious loss in its count of reviewers but I expect will eventually recover. Mangaverse appears to be taking another several-year pause in appearance, but this has happened before. Films Fantastic is approaching its next issue. A gentle Stroll was an experiment. I imagine that it will persist for a while yet.

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2026 Laureate Award Ballot

A Recipe for Summer The Tippy Orchard Cake by Cedar Sanderson

A simple but impressive mix-up:

This is partly a recipe and partly an encouragement to play with your food. Yes, I know you were told not to do that when you were little. But you're a grown-up now and cleaning up after yourself and it's fun to play with flavors! Also, doing something like this takes a simple cake and makes it into an entirely different creature. Finally, and need I say more? It's dead simple to do something like this. Because the first ingredient isn't a single thing. In the baking world if flour is an atom, the box baking mix is a complex molecular compound.

I was trying to come up with a dessert, hadn't been feeling well, and didn't want to do a whole thing from scratch. Really, though, this was about me going 'oh, that will work with this, and I could add that...'

Get confident with what flavors play nicely with others, be creative in the kitchen, and you'll get results that may surprise you. I can remember being told you could doctor a cake mix, and for some reason at that point in my teens this hadn't ever occurred to me to try - it broke the paradigm and I never looked back after I escaped the box recipe!

The Tippy Orchard Cake

Preheat oven to 350F

- 1 box spice cake mix
- 2 tsp pumpkin pie spice¹
- 3 large (or 4 pullet) eggs
- 1 c white wine (I had pinot grigio)
- 1/4 c oil (use what you have! melt butter, even)

For filling and frosting:

- 1 c apple butter (homemade. Seriously, yes this matters)
- 1 can cream cheese frosting
- 1/4 c toasted unsweetened coconut shreds
- Dried rose petals

Grease two 9" round cake pans (you can also use 8" and the layers will be thicker). I like to line them with a parchment paper round, as well. So easy to

get the cake out!

Set the pans aside while the oven is preheating and in a mixing bowl beat together the oil, eggs, wine, and spices. I used wine I'd opened for a chicken dish, and was looking for a way to use up (not much of a drinker here) so I suspect any white wine would work just fine here. Pour in the spice cake mix, beat just until well combined. Pour the batter into the two cake pans, as evenly separated as you can manage. I'm not fussy about this, and you'll find that with practice you'll get it really close.

Bake for about 15-20 minutes if in metal 9" round pans. If you are using a different pan you may need to adjust the time, a smaller round with deeper batter will need a little longer, for instance. Use a tester or a toothpick and when it comes out cleanly you're done.

Turn the cakes out on a cooling rack and allow to cool.

For the frosting and filling I started with a little dam of frosting piped around the bottom layer, as my apple butter might have been runny enough to flow off. Store-bought apple butter is bland and if that's all you have use some other jam or something here instead. Place the top layer on, and frost just the top of the cake. I wound up with frosting left over I'll use elsewhere, we all prefer the frosting not be too thick, it can overwhelm the cake. Sprinkle on your toasted coconut for a little decoration and flavor. The dried rose petals were just for pretty and you can totally leave them off.

The apple butter will soak into the cake nicely and make it moister. The apple and the wine really play well together. The added spices give this cake mix real bite, which in my opinion it needs.

My rule of thumb is to add flavor in any way I can without disrupting the formula. A box cake mix is great, because they are going to be reliable almost every time when you follow directions. However, you can and should! play with them. Instead of water, what can you use that adds flavor? Wine, coffee,

tea, juice, you name it. You can add a little espresso powder to a chocolate cake to boost the chocolatey taste without having it taste like coffee - unless you want that, in which case add a tablespoonful instead of a teaspoon! Here I used what I had on hand to dress up the cake. It's a fun game to play when you have a pantry full of oddments, as I do. Also, it uses things up that you only have a bit of, which is useful.

So! Have fun with your food! And if you are looking for a smash hit cake, make this one for your next gathering. As you can see, there wasn't much left for me to photograph.

1 — Look, there's no pumpkin in Pumpkin Spice spice blend. If it makes you happy call it apple pie spice to coordinate with the apple-centric theme of this cake.



In Wolf's Tread by Angela K. Scott

N3F The National Fantasy Fan Federation

Fans of as many
hues and sizes
as dragons!

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

Nine fanzines emailed to your computer

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



Interest Bureaus
Short Story Contest
Writer's Exchange

Art
Book Reviews
Birthday cards
Fannish history
Games

Round Robins
Fan-Pro Coordination
APA
Gourmet Bureau



Membership Levels

Electronic -- \$6/year with email of TNFF

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

Public -- free, but non-voting



To Join: <https://n3f.org/to-join/>
PayPal to pay: treasurer@n3f.org

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

2026 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest

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

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

2) Answer DO or DO NOT I do/do not wish to become a public (no dues, no vote) member of the N3F and receive for free all N3F magazines.

Testify: I have read the rules for the 2026 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest, and I agree to them.

Signature/Date: _____

Mail to: Jefferson Swycaffer, P. O. Box 15373, San Diego, CA 92175-5373 ; or email abontides@gmail.com

We are here to encourage new writers, to reward the new kids on the block. We want writing that is not that good. We want stories from people who don't know their object from their subject, who don't know where commas go, and who use apostrophes to denote plurals — but who have a story to tell. We want stories from guys and gals nobody's ever heard of...but in the years ahead, we will.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

There are no entry fees.

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.

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, 2026.

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.

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.

The NSF may want to publish an electronic book including top entries from one or more years of publication. You will not be contacted about this until after the contest is over and prizes have been awarded. If we want to publish your story, you will have to sign over to us first world serial rights. Your willingness to sign over rights cannot affect whether or not you win the contest. Winners will be notified as soon as the judging is completed. Announcements and notifications of winning entries will be made by March 2027. Please take your time and submit your best work. You can resubmit stories previously entered if they did not win previously. All entries will be kept confidential and will be judged fairly and anonymously. The deadline for all entries is Dec. 31, 2026. Good luck!



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