



# The National Fantasy Fan

Volume 74 Number 2

February 2015

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## Your New Volunteer Team

### Directorate:

Heath Row  
Jean Lamb  
Jefferson Swycaffer  
Jon Swartz  
R-Laurraine Tutihasi  
President: George Phillies  
Treasurer: David Speakman

### Editorial Cabal:

Official Editor:  
Editor and Publisher, Tightbeam: David Speakman  
Editor and Publisher, TNFF: George Phillies  
Keeper of the URLs: Ruth Davidson  
Host of the Web Site: David Speakman  
Maintainers of Electronic Publications: vacant

### Bureau Heads

Birthday Cards: R-Laurraine Tutihasi  
Convention Calendar: new volunteer needed  
Games Bureau: George Phillies  
Historian: Jon Swartz  
N'APA :Jean Lamb  
N3F Bookworms: Heath Row  
Round Robins: Patricia Williams-King  
Short Story Contest: Jefferson Swycaffer  
Video Schedule: David Speakman  
Welcommittee: Heath Row  
Writers Exchange Bureau: Joy Beeson.

## Note from the New Editor

Greetings from the new Editor of TNFF. We have a new look, and a new plan. We're going to publish every month, so you and your Neffer friends all stay in touch with the N3F. Your Editor spent January down with the long-duration flu, so I am already behind schedule. Your support of TNFF, in terms of news, volunteer activity, fannish events, and more, would all be appreciated.

## Join or Renew

We offer three different memberships. Memberships with zines via papermail are \$18; memberships with zines via email are \$6. Joint memberships at one address are \$22. Public memberships are free. Send payments to N3F, POB 1925, Mountain View CA 94042 or pay online at N3F.org

## Tightbeam

David Speakman has volunteered to edit our fine zine *Tightbeam*. Tightbeam is our brag zine. The past directorate agreed that going forward, Tightbeam (named by former neffer Marion Zimmer Bradley) would be a Literary zine instead of a letterzine - which would publish creative and special pubs of fan-created content (fiction, reviews, essays, guides, fanbooks, etc.)

*Tightbeam* has published more than 270 issues. *Tightbeam* will be published occasionally, at least once a year. Its content will include both original fan-made stuff and cherry-picked "best-of" content from TNFF.

If you have art, fiction, media reviews, essays, guides, thoughtful pieces of commentary, or other material of general interest, please send it to David Speakman as soon as possible at [davodd@gmail.com](mailto:davodd@gmail.com)

## Electronic Publications

Yes, we have a bunch of electronic venues:

[www.N3F.org](http://www.N3F.org) Our web site.  
[www.facebook.com/groups/n3flist/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/n3flist/) - Our Facebook mail list 56-members  
[www.facebook.com/TheN3F](http://www.facebook.com/TheN3F) - The Facebook group page  
[groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/n3f](http://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/n3f) - Yahoo Group/email list

## TNFF

The National Fantasy Fan is our Official Organ, as described in our Bylaws and Constitution. TNFF has existed as long as we have: three quarters of a century. Seventy years ago, back in 1945, EE Evans renamed this magazine from "Official Organ" to "The National Fantasy Fan", a name it has kept almost continuously ever since.

The new Editor is George Phillies, [phillies@4liberty.net](mailto:phillies@4liberty.net). George is desperately short of fannish material of all sorts and will happily accept all manners of contribution, though the good art, essays, etc. should be sent to David Speakman for Tightbeam.

## Birthday Card Bureau

Many years ago, the N3F had a member with limited paths to contributing to our Federation. He volunteered to send Birthday cards to our members. This is not a completely inexpensive project: The Bureau is sustained by donations from individual members. The current BuHead is R-Laurraine Tutihasi, who can be contacted at [laurraine@mac.com](mailto:laurraine@mac.com).

## Convention Calendar

Heath Row asks for a replacement to continue his long-time effort of listing the SF conventions around the world. You can reach him at [kalel@well.com](mailto:kalel@well.com).

## Games Bureau

Once upon a time, the N3f Games Bureau published a newsletter, the Gamesletter. George Phillies reports that he has an almost complete set of these...he is missing issues 7 and 9...and that there is a reasonable likelihood that they will be scanned and uploaded to our web pages. The Games Bureau head is George Phillies, [phillies@4liberty.net](mailto:phillies@4liberty.net). He recently wrote a five-textbook series on Game Design (available on Amazon Kindle, Smashwords, or [3mpub.com](http://3mpub.com)).; you can hear him lecture on game design on his YouTube series on the GeorgePhillies Channel.

## Historian

The N3F Historian is Jon Swartz. He's preparing a report on what historical materials we have.

## N'APA

N'APA is our very long-lived APA. Its heroic colator, Jean Lamb, reports that membership is presently down to two (soon to be three), and that she has joined your President in being down with the very long-lived flu. We hope for her early recovery. We hope more members will join N'APA. You can send her your contributions at [tlambs1138@charter.net](mailto:tlambs1138@charter.net)

## N3F Bookworms

Heath Row has offered to revive the N3F Bookworms, a group that reads the same book and possibly even says something about it. Heath writes: I'd be willing to pick this back up in a more scaled down and less discussion oriented way. We could pick books for a monthly reading schedule for the year -- and then in the zine just include a description and some author info so folks could pick up the recommendation if they wanted to. But no discussion, no review... just the monthly recommendation on behalf of the club.

Heath is working on a list of books; send him your suggestions at [kalel@well.com](mailto:kalel@well.com). He has left me to choose a book for this month, so I shall propose David Weber's *Off Armageddon Reef*. David Weber specializes in extremely long, intricately plotted, deeply characterized series novels in which, in the best-romantic tradition, there are challenges that must be overcome, and characters who will overcome them. The villains are also real people with real objectives, motives, and human limitations. Long before it became popular, Weber's lead characters were often women rather than men, as seen successfully in his 20-or-so volume Honor Harrington series. The series begun by *Off Armageddon Reef* is still under way.

As an interesting counterpoint to *Off Armageddon Reef* I note my own novel *Mistress of the Waves*. The heroines of *Off Armageddon Reef* and *Mistress of the Waves* face the same challenge, a world locked in pre-modern technology. Weber's Nimue Alban has an unfair advantage over my Amanda Kirasdotr. Nimue at least knows that there is a lock in place and obstacles to be overcome. Amanda has no clue that there is a blockade in place. And when Amanda does get illicit off-world technical help, well, one of the helpers is a newspaper reporter, the second is a Communist (give or take) revolutionary, and the third is a Professor of the history of literary criticism.

## Round Robin Bureau

Patricia Williams-King reports on our Facebook site: "Hello Everyone, I'm about half through with RE-STARTING all the RR's that are delinquent, lost or dead.....so hopefully we can get the new

year off to a better start! Is anyone interested in a possible GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY RR? Or there any particular Pros who you might be interested in a RR about....let me know? You can reach her through her letter on our Facebook group [www.facebook.com/groups/n3flist/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/n3flist/) The newest proposal is for a "hard SF" round Robin.

## Short Story Contest

Judge Jefferson Swycaffer reports that the 2014 contest was not as successful as might have been hoped:

The 2014 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest had to be put away unfulfilled, as we received only one (count him, one!) entry. This is, of course, terribly disappointing, and quite sad -- and imagine how the one poor entrant must feel! The contest is good clean fun, and, with small numbers of entries, your (\*your!\*) chances of winning are pretty good. No entry fee, and cash prizes!

Pass the word! Let people know!

But, for now, alas and alackaday, we will just have to pretend that A.D. 2014 never happened. Mr. Sherman, adjust the WABAC machine!

I **\*know\*** that there are some mighty fine writers out there, many of you reading this report for yourselves. I hope, pray, and even beg for a bunch of entries for 2015. Otherwise, I'm going to nullify the entire 21st century so far, so we can do the whole Y2K thing again. And you wouldn't want that, would you?

Hope to see a flood of entries!

## Video Schedule

It's not a Bureau, but it is done by a fine Neffer, David Speakman [fandominion.com/2015/02/sftv-grid-week-35-feb-1-7-2015-first-full-week-of-ratings-sweeps/](http://fandominion.com/2015/02/sftv-grid-week-35-feb-1-7-2015-first-full-week-of-ratings-sweeps/) is a listing of Scripted genre TV programs, week, by week. You can also find the reports on our Facebook Group [n3flist/](http://n3flist/)

## Writer's Exchange Bureau

Joy Beeson has agreed to try reviving the Writer's Exchange Bureau. You can read about it at com-

munity.livejournal.com /writers\_n3f/ Jefferson Swycaffer has agreed to take on a role supporting the Writer's Exchange Bureau. The Writer's Exchange Bureau generates a list of people who are willing to read and comment on unpublished work in progress, a list of people who have material that they want read, and plays matchmaker between the lists. To participate, contact Jefferson Swycaffer at [abontides@gmail.com](mailto:abontides@gmail.com) or contact Joy via [community.livejournal.com/writers\\_n3f](http://community.livejournal.com/writers_n3f) .

## Welcommittee

Heath Row has agreed to personally welcome new members as they join. I look forward to a future in which a large Welcommittee is kept very busy welcoming new members. To volunteer to help the Welcommittee, please contact Heath Row, [kalel@well.com](mailto:kalel@well.com)

## Where We Came From

Yes, the N3F came from someplace. The N3F began with a letter from a very new fan, Damon Knight, who eventually became a very long-time fan.

An article written by Damon Knight in the October 1940 issue of Art Widner's *Fanfare* called for a general fan organization to replace the fading New Fandom. This inspired members of the Stranger Club and others to form the N3F.

According to Harry Warner, Knight's article was partly inspired by a letter written to him by Jerome Walton in 1937. The title itself was a play on the over-the-top speech Mutation or Death! and the old motto "Unite or Die!"

Some of Knight's ideas have dated slightly with changes in technology, but the notion of the N3F as a service organization, which most fen automatically join because we offer good things, still shines through.

## Essays Unite or Fie!

by  
Damon Knight

One of the queerest things about fandom which has to date come to my attention, during the year-and-two-

months I have been a fan, is the fact that fandom as a whole, is not, and apparently has never been, organized for its own defence and welfare. It is obvious that a need for such an organization exists. Obvious, for one reason – the number of sincere but half-cocked attempts which have been made from time to time at establishing one.

Most of these attempts at national organization failed, I think, because they assumed, to start with, something that isn't so. They assumed that all fans, or at least a workable majority, would co-operate in a single program of concerted endeavor. It should be apparent by now that any fantasy fan organization which takes sides on any important question can never hope to be national in scope, because of the unfortunate fact that there are almost as many opinions on any subject as there are fans.

But I sincerely believe that a successful national fantasy association is possible, that it could offer a needed service to every fan, and that it could be established today.

The association I mean would be organized with one purpose only: to supply the fantasy fans of America (and elsewhere, if there should be any left) with those services, with which they cannot supply themselves singly or in groups. Its general policy and its every act would be in the hands of its members as a whole, and not in those of its officers, nor of any other individual, or group of individuals.

Here are some of the services which it could perform. It could maintain a distributing agency for fanmag subscriptions; a centrally located place, to which each member could send, all together, the money he would ordinarily spend for fan publications, together with the list of publications desired. At regular intervals the agency would send the subscriber's accounts, and the accumulated money, by check or money order, to each of the magazines subscribed to; thus saving each member as much as 30¢ per fanmag dollar in postage, and encouraging the sale of all fan publications.

In its official organ, the association could offer regular, careful, and unbiased reviews of all existing fanmags, could keep its members informed as to where back numbers and books might be bought most cheaply at all times, could offer prizes to the authors of fan articles voted best in a given period by the members, (apologies to Julius Unger) as well as supply the usual association news, announcements of new projects, results of polls and so forth.

For the benefit of new and almost-fans, it could publish, and periodically revise, a complete handbook of fandom, explaining the mysteries which now plague them until they gradually worm the answers out of other fans piecemeal, I know.

And it could act, when and if necessary, as the mouthpiece of fandom in dealing with that vast body of aliens with which we are surrounded on all sides: the General Public. If that body continues to become increasingly aware of us, as it has done in recent months, fandom will certainly need a single voice which can speak fairly for all of fandom with a bias toward none.

If you agree that a national organization such as I have outlined is needed, and that it could be had, will you write to me, or to the editor of this magazine, and offer your suggestions? [Originally published in the fanzine *Fanfare*, Volume 1, Number 4, October 1940]

## Where We're Going

*Cras ad stellae — Tomorrow to the Stars*

A February 2015 Message from our New President

It's 2015. Fantasy fandom is reaching new highs. Big-budget, big-return motions pictures are mostly fantasy. When I was a little boy, we could be grateful that there was one SF show on the air during each year; we now have an SF channel. The computer game industry is now three times the size of Hollywood; it sells fantasy of all sorts. Fantasy games, starting with D&D as designed by my late friends Gary Gygax and David Arneson, is a big part of the lives of young people. Courtesy of the Internet, Kindle, and Smashwords, SF novel publishing has soared beyond the wildest dreams of past generations.

Now should be our time. The National Fantasy Fan Federation is the oldest international fantasy organization in the world. It's time to reach out, to put our names and our activities before the fannish public. It's time to create a world in which fen automatically choose to become public and dues-paying members of the N3F, because we are the source of news and events and ideas that all fen no matter where they live will want to experience.

**This TNFF includes an Outreach Flier. Please share it.**

Member application form  
here

N3F TNFF

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