



The National Fantasy Fan

Cras ad Stellae — Tomorrow to the Stars

Volume 75 Number 12

December 2016

Elections

Election Teller Ruth Davidson reports the outcome. Each candidate received 10 votes. There were no write-in votes. Thus

Directorate:

Judy Carroll — 10 Votes — elected
John Thiel — 10 Votes — elected
Jon Swartz — 10 Votes — elected
Jefferson Swycaffer — 10 Votes — elected
R-Laurraine Tutihasi — 10 Votes — elected

President

George Phillies — 10 Votes — elected

A Sea of Stars Like Diamonds

We have finally entered the production phase. Cedar Sanderson is doing our covers. I am preparing to convert all the files into a single large file for production. We have the First, Second, Third, and Honorable Mention place winners, together with stories by Angela Parson Myers, Kent McDaniel, Jefferson Swycaffer, and George Phillies, and a history of N3F publications By Jon Swartz.

Wanted: Wordpress Volunteer

We badly need volunteers to help maintain the N3F Webpages and Facebook pages. The web pages are based on a WordPress arrangement, with which your editor is marginally competent, being extremely charitable.

Fanzine Support

As promised, we have started circulating other Fanzines to Neffers. If we have your email address, you should have received some of these already. If you have not received extra zines from us, we do not have your email address. Please send it if you want to see more fanzines.

Other N3F Zines

In the last month, the N3F published a new issue of our APA N'APA, an issue of Ionisphere, and the November TNFF. There is a new Tightbeam, currently lodged in our new zine publishing arrangement PHPLIST, where a minor bug needs to be removed.

Writers Exchange Bureau

December. Christmas. Joyous Music. Happy Faces. Helping Hands. Celebrating Traditions. Love. Peace.

I'm having fun with this, Folks. Won't any of you join me?

Write up your own Set of Words for the December Celebrations, or for January if you like, and send them to the Writers Exchange. They will be published in the January TNFF.

Send your Set of Words and stories you would like to have read to Judy Carroll AutumnSea-s8012@yahoo.com



Contributions Needed! We need more reports! We need more art! We need more letters and comments, and fannish news of every sort. Please send to the Editor of this, our Official Organ: George Phillies, 48 Hancock Hill Drive, Worcester MA 01609 phillies@4liberty.net 508 754 1859



Your Volunteer Team

Directorate:

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Many New Volunteers are needed: Electronic Publication Support, Readers for the Blind, Con Listings, Advertising, Convention Hospitality, Outreach, Correspondence, Comics, Films. Support the N3F. Volunteer Now!

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Round Robins

This month we are highlighting the Bookworms Round Robin. Following are quotes from writers on reading:

"The book to read is not the one that the one that thinks for you, but the one which makes you think."
 Harper Lee

"A mind needs books as a sword needs a whetstone if it is to keep its edge."
 George R. R. Martin

"To learn to read is to light a fire; every syllable that is spelled out is a spark."
 Victor Hugo

"There is no friend as loyal as a book."
 Ernest Hemingway

"You don't have to burn a book to destroy a culture. Just get people to stop reading them."
 Ray Bradbury

"Reading brings us unknown friends."
 Honore de Balzac

"A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies. The man who never reads lives only one."
 Eudora Welty

I hope this has inspired some of you to join the

Join or Renew

We offer four different memberships. Memberships with zines via paper mail are \$18; memberships with zines via email are \$6. 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. or pay online at N3F.org or send phillies@4liberty.net your email address for a public membership.

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Bookworms Electronic Round Robin .To Join
Contact Graham & Wolf leeandjj@gmail.com

Snail Mail Round Robins

Following is the list of current Snail Mail Round Robins and the number of members in each.

Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror in TV, Movies and Books. - 2 members

Writers and Their Works - Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror - 2 members

Fairy Tales and Folklore - 2 members

Beauty and the Beast in Fairy Tales, Movies and TV - 1 member

A Round Robin needs at least 3 members to start rounding. Please help these members by joining one of the above Round Robins.

The following Round Robins have 0 members each:

JAPANESE ANIME

Cartoons and Cartooning

Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror Video Games

Comics and Graphic Novels

A Round Robin needs at least 3 members to start rounding.

If you see any RR you would like to join please contact Judy Carroll AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com

Electronic Round Robins

We need at least 3 members to start an ERR. Following is the list of current ERR and the number of members in each one:

The Marvel Universe - 0 members

DC Superheroes and Villains - 0 members

All Things Star Wars - 0 members

Science Fiction, Fantasy & Horror in TV, Movies and Books - 1 member

Beauty and the Beast in Fairy Tales, Books, Movies and on TV - 1 member

Writers and Their Works - Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror - 1 member

Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror Artists - 2 members

Bookworms - In this ERR the members read and discuss books from a list selected by the Bureau Heads of the Bookworms reading club. Currently they have 3 members. For more information about the Bookworms reading list and their round robin contact --- Graham & Wolf leeandjj@gmail.com

If you see an ERR you would like to join contact Judy Carroll AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com
A Touch of Trivia

Holiday Traditions:

The Origins of Christmas Elves

Clement Clark Moore, author of the famous poem we know as 'Twas the Night Before Christmas, was one of the first authors to mention elves in the Christmas tradition. But the elf in Moore's story isn't who we'd expect. Moore describes Santa as the "jolly old elf." This early depiction of Santa might be one of the major reasons why elves are such a big part of Christmas today.

Most of us grew up never questioning why elves are such a big part of the holidays. Santa's little helpers are everywhere, from adorable Christmas elf decorations to some of our favorite characters in classic Christmas movies. Elves became a huge part of the Christmas tradition fairly early, and much like the reason behind why we decorate with holiday lights during the winter season, their part in the Christmas story can be traced back to ancient myths and folklore. Find out how elves first fit into the Christmas tradition with these fun facts.

Friendly Folklore

Several scholars point to the ancient Norse mythology as one of the first places where elves are mentioned. Characters in a rich mythological tapestry that included gods, fairies and giants, the "hidden folk," as the elf name is roughly translated, were far closer to characters from Tolkien's The Lord of the Rings than the happy toymakers in Santa's workshop. These mythical characters were likely used to explain the unknown conundrums and mysteries of the natural world before science and

logic could unravel them, and were depicted as dangerous almost as often as they were described as friendly.

Medieval Mayhem

Elf-like characters continued to appear in mythology deep into the medieval period. Yet, unlike some of the revered elves from earlier myths, the characters took a hard right turn toward the dark side. Popular themes like the everlasting duel between good and evil often placed elves in the company of demons and evil spirits, represented as deadly and devious. Interestingly, their transformation eventually split sometime later, picking that devious part of their character and explaining it in more whimsical terms. Thus the elf became known more as a clever creature or trickster.

Jolly Old Elf

The elf's centuries-long transition from evil to innocent would have been an important reason behind their eventual partnership with a merry, gift-giving character like Santa Claus. An early description of Santa Claus, and perhaps one of the most influential in Christmas history, came from Clement Clarke Moore's poem we now know as 'Twas The Night Before Christmas. A careful read reveals that Santa Claus was described as acting like a "jolly old elf" while delivering gifts to a family on Christmas Eve. It can't be verified that this very tiny description was the reason why elves were forever linked to Santa Claus, although that could very well be an explanation.

Santa's Workshop

As the decades continued and the whimsical Christmas stories expanded, Santa and his faithful elves became inseparable. Fittingly, the elves found themselves at the North Pole, closer to the original Norse territory than anywhere else, even if in that time they were drastically changed. More poems, Christmas stories and books followed Clarke's classic Christmas portrait. Finally, the elves started to look like the friendly little holiday helpers we've always known; the characters from our favorite movies and Christmas specials working hard to create fun toys for children.

Welcommittee

Aloha*

* "Hawaiian. Simple and easy, you've heard this plenty of times. It also means goodbye. "Ah-loh-ha." (From How to Say Welcome in Different Languages - wikihow.com)

There is not much to report on in the town of Littleton this month. The residents are getting ready to celebrate the December Holidays. There is a lot of decorating, tree cutting, candle lighting etc. going on throughout the town - as well as the town elections. Check back next month for the results of the election and current town news.

If you would like to join in Littleton's activities please contact the bureau head of the activity in which you are interested. Look at the first or second page of this publication under "Your Volunteer Team.'

Stroll down to 'Bureau Heads' and pick out the bureaus you would like to join. Contact the Bureau Heads so you can fully enjoy the benefits of being a member of The National Fantasy Fan Federation. OR Contact Judy Carroll AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com for comments, questions or help.

Games Bureau

In *Fresco* each player is a Renaissance painter, working to complete the painting of a cathedral. This is a worker placement game. Each master painter assigns tasks to his apprentices. Some will go to the paint market to buy paint. Others will go to the Cathedral to work on the fresco. Some will paint portraits to earn money that will be used by more paint. Still others will be put to work mixing paint. That's the only way certain colors can be created. Players earn points by painting sections of the Cathedral fresco. To do that you must have the right color paints, sections requiring compound colors such as orange, green, or purple score more points. *Fresco*, produced by Queen games, is an old favorite still available and game stores. It was the game of the year in Germany in 2010.

Orleans is a board game set in the Middle Ages. It combines elements of a deck building game and

worker placement game. In this case your deck is your bag of worker counters. Workers can be used to recruit more workers of various kinds. Points are scored by earning money and building guild halls on the city map. Such tasks require the careful placement of worker counters. In my first game I fails to send enough workers to the University to earn science points. Science points multiply the point value of your guild halls. This is a common rookie mistake. Orleans is produced by Jon G Games. That company just came out with an expansion kit that allows for secret player goals, solitary play, and cooperative play.

Colditz Castle is a board game set in World War II at the infamous of German prisoner of war camp of that name. Most of the players are allied escape team leaders. One player takes the role of the German prison camp commander. The first ally player to perform the required number of escapes wins the game. The German player wins if none of the Allied players perform the required number of escapes before the time limit runs out. The Allied players move their prisoners from location to location in the prison camp to gather equipment required for their escape plan. If you're planning to dig a tunnel under the camp fence, then you'll need different equipment than someone planning to cut through the barbed wire fence. Keys and disguises are important if you're planning to bluff your way out of at the camp gate. Escape from Colditz is produced by Osprey games. There was an earlier version of escape from Colditz available from Google game stores during the 1980s, and another one going back to if your editor recalls correctly the 1960s. As far as I can tell from reading the back of the box, there are no rules changes from the earlier addition.

Membership Report

New and Reinstated Members

John Thiel - Electronic Voting

Expiry: 12/31/2017

kinethiel@comcast.net

Interests: APAs, Blogging, Books, Cons, Correspondence, Editing, Fanzines, Reviewing, RRs.

Fan Since: the 1950s

Fandom Since: The 1950s

Clubs: The Culp, FAPA, Saps, Apa-H, Lafayette Interstellars

Cons: Windycon, Chicago World Con 91, Hoosiercon, Wabashcon, Starbase Indy, Context

Zines: Asimov's. Analog, F&SF, eFanzines.com

Fave SF/F: Any kind

Fave Author/Creator: None in Particular

Willing to help N3F with: Writing for zines, Organizing

Bill Powe - Household (with Kathy Powe)

Expiry: 11/30/2017

bill.powe@gmail.com

Fan since: Always

Fandom for: 6 years

Clubs: Enterprise Tardis Connection (local sci fi club)

Cons: FenCon, AllCon, LoneStar WorldCon, Liberty Con

Zines: none, some blogs from favorite writers

Genres: hard sci fi, military sci fi

Fave Authors: Larry Correia, Michael Z. Williamson, John Ringo, Jerry Pournelle, Eric Flint, Lois McMaster Bujold, Jim Butcher, Robert A Heinlein

Sponsoring Member: Kathy Powe

Arthur D. Hlavaty - Public non-voting - Reinstatement
hlavaty@panix.com

Renewed

Judy Carroll - Regular Voting

Expiry: 6/30/2018

Angela Myers - Electronic Voting

Expiry: 11/30/2017

Rikki Winters - Regular Voting

Expiry - 12/31/2017

Interests: APAs (amateur press associations), Art, Books, Comic books, Costuming, Fanzines, Filk singing, Reading and book clubs, Writing

Fan for: 50 years

Fandom for: 42 years

Clubs: Star Trek; Doctor Who

Cons: I used to go to Copper Con, LeperCon and many of the Phoenix conventions.

Brian Toberman - Regular Voting

Expiry: 11/30/2017

Interests: Books, Cartooning, cartoons, and animation, Comic books, Computers and technology, Filk singing, Games and video games

Fan for: 45 years
Fandom for : 30 years

David Speakman - Regular Voting
Rich Speakman - Household
Expiry: 11/30/2020

Expired/Expiring Renew Now!!

Expired in November
Jason Freelan
Stewart Hunsaker
Steven Roberts

Expiring in December
Gary Casey
William Center
Michele Nowak Center
Dennis Davis
Charles D Ward

Expiring in January
John W Andrews
Lauren Clough
Sarah Glasgow Harder
R-Laurraine Tutihasi

Status Changes

John Theil - from public non-voting to electronic voting
Jaymie Collette - from regular voting to public non-voting
Joyce Katz - Dropped - Invalid email for public member
Linda Roberts - Dropped - invalid email for public member

Treasurer's Report

2676.53 (November 14, 2016)
+ 60.00 PayPal Dues
+ 22.00 Cash Dues
+ 6.00 Check Dues
- 18.00 Reimbursements
(Tres. Dues)
- 2.93 PayPal Fees
- 14.00 Returned Check Fee
+ 0.00 Interest

2743.60 (Dec. 17, 2016)

N3F Founding Members:

Ray Bradbury

by

Jon D. Swartz, Ph.D.
N3F Historian

Famous author Raymond Douglas Bradbury (August 22, 1920 – May 6, 2012) began to publish science fiction (SF) stories in fanzines in 1938. At that time he was invited by Forrest J. Ackerman, later his agent, to join the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society (LASFS) – and he attended meetings of this SF club for most of his life.

Bradbury's first published story was “Hollerbochen's Dilemma,” which appeared in the fanzine *Imagination!* in January, 1938. He started his own fanzine, *Futura Fantasia* in 1939, and wrote most of its four issues by himself.

He published dozens of books and hundreds of short stories during his career. His first book was *Dark Carnival*, published by Arkham House in 1947, and consisting of some of his early horror stories. It was reissued, with many stories revised, as *The October Country* in 1955.

His other notable books include *The Martian Chronicles* (1950), *The Illustrated Man* (1951), *Fahrenheit 451* (1953), *Dandelion Wine* (1957), *Something Wicked This Way Comes* (1962), *Farewell Summer* (2006) [a sequel to *Dandelion Wine*], and *Now and Forever* (2007). He also edited two paperback collections of genre stories for Bantam in the 1950s: *Timeless Stories for Today and Tomorrow* (1952) and *The Circus of Dr Lao and Other Improbable Stories* (1956).

In addition to SF and fantasy stories, Bradbury wrote poetry, mysteries, essays, and plays; and he both wrote and consulted on screenplays and television scripts, including the feature films *It Came from Outer Space* (1953) and *Moby Dick* (1956). Many of his stories were adapted to comic book, television, and film formats, beginning in the 1950s. François Truffaut's film version of *Fahrenheit 451*, starring Julie Christie and Oscar Werner, was a popular film in the 1960s.

Bradbury won many awards, and was nominated for many others. He was given a laureate award for being the outstanding “professional ex-fan” by the N3F in the late 1940s, the Invisible Little Man Award in 1950, the Forry Award in 1966, a World Fantasy Award (Lifetime Achievement) in 1977, the Balrog Award in 1979, a Prometheus Hall of Fame Award in 1988, the Bram Stoker Award for Life Achievement in 1988, the SFWA Grand Master Award in 1989, and he was Guest of Honor at Confederation, the 1986 Worldcon.

In 1992, an asteroid was named after him, and he won an Emmy in 1994. In 2002 he was elected to the First Fandom Hall of Fame.

In 2007, he received a special citation from the Pulitzer board for his “distinguished, prolific and deeply influential career as an unmatched author of science fiction and fantasy.”

Bradbury used several pseudonyms during his 70+ years of professional writing. Some of his pen names were D. R. Banat, Edward Banks, Don Reynolds, William Elliot, Leonard Douglas, William Spalding, Douglas Spaulding, and Leonard Spaulding.

He probably wrote more horror stories than stories in other genres; but he is remembered today mainly for his impact on the field of science fiction/fantasy.

Bradbury once said: “Collecting facts is important. Knowledge is important. But if you don't have an imagination to use the knowledge, civilization is nowhere.”

In addition, of course, in 1941 Bradbury was one of the founding members of our club, the National Fantasy Fan Federation, now celebrating its 75th year as a gathering place for SF fandom in this country.

Sources: Science Fiction and Fantasy Authors; All Our Yesterdays; Historical Dictionary of Science Fiction Literature; Pseudonyms of Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror Authors; Fancyclopedia 3; ISFDB; Wikipedia; and other Internet sites.

SF Magazines: Unknown

by
Jon D. Swartz, Ph.D.
N3F Historian

Unknown (later known as Unknown Worlds) was an American pulp fantasy and science fiction (SF) magazine published from 1939 to 1943 by Street & Smith and edited by John W. Campbell, Jr. Unknown was a companion magazine to Street & Smith's SF pulp, Astounding Science Fiction, which was also edited by Campbell; many of the same authors and illustrators contributed to both magazines. Unknown was published on a monthly, and then a bi-monthly, basis -- for a total run of 39 issues.

The title was expanded to Unknown Worlds with the October, 1941 issue. Over its run the size and price also changed, from pulp size to large pulp size, then back to pulp size -- and from 20 cents to 25 cents.

When wartime paper shortages became severe in late 1943, Campbell made the choice to keep Astounding monthly and cancel Unknown, rather than switch the former to a bimonthly schedule as well.

The last issue of Unknown was dated October, 1943.

Origins

The leading fantasy magazine in the 1930s was Weird Tales, which focused on horror stories. Campbell wanted to publish a fantasy magazine with more finesse and humor than Weird Tales, and put his plans into action when author Eric Frank Russell sent him his story “Sinister Barrier,” about aliens who own the human race. The first issue of Unknown appeared in March, 1939; in addition to “Sinister Barrier,” it included H. L. Gold's story “Trouble with Water,” a humorous fantasy about a New Yorker who meets a water gnome. Both “Sinister Barrier” and “Trouble with Water” have been reprinted many times since they were first published.

Campbell's Editing of Unknown

Campbell required his authors to avoid simplistic horror fiction and insisted that the fantasy elements in a story be developed logically. For example, Jack Williamson's "Darker Than You Think" described a world in which there is a scientific explanation for the existence of werewolves. Similarly, L. Sprague de Camp and Fletcher Pratt's Harold Shea series, about a modern American who found himself in the worlds of various mythologies, depicted magic based on mathematical logic.

Notable, and often reprinted, stories published in Unknown included ones by Robert Heinlein ("They"), Fritz Leiber ("Two Sought Adventure"), Theodore Sturgeon ("It"), Henry Kuttner ("The Misguided Halo"), Fredric Brown ("Armageddon"), Nelson Bond ("Prescience"), Cleve Cartmill ("Hell Hath Fury"), A. E. van Vogt ("The Book of Ptath"), Anthony Boucher ("Snulbug"), Lester del Rey ("The Pipes of Pan"), and Alfred Bester ("Hell is Forever"). These authors were known to Campbell because of the stories they had published in Astounding.

The artists who contributed cover art to Unknown were H. W. Scott, Manual Isip, Modest Stein, Graves Gladney, and Edd Cartier. Today, Cartier is the artist most associated with Unknown/Unknown Worlds. Cover paintings for Unknown were discontinued with the July, 1940 issue. Thereafter, the issue's contents were displayed on the covers.

J. W. Campbell

John Wood Campbell, Jr. (June 8, 1910 – July 11, 1971) was a SF writer and editor. As editor of Astounding (later Analog) from late 1937 until his death, he is generally credited with shaping the Golden Age of Science Fiction. Isaac Asimov called Campbell "the most powerful force in science fiction ever, and for the first ten years of his editorship he dominated the field completely." As a writer, Campbell published space opera stories under his own name and "mood" type stories under his most famous pseudonym, Don A. Stuart. Campbell also wrote under the pen names Karl Van Kampen and Arthur McCann. Campbell

wrote very little fiction after he became editor of Astounding, although one of his Don A. Stuart stories, "The Elder Gods," was published in Unknown.

Edd Cartier

Cartier (August 1, 1914 – December 25, 2008) was one of the most influential artists in the SF/fantasy pulp magazines of the Golden Age, bringing the fantastic characters of Unknown and other genre magazines to life. He illustrated the lead novel in the first issue of Unknown, provided hundreds of illustrations for The Shadow and Doc Savage pulps, and was a mainstay of Campbell's Astounding during the 1940s and 1950s. Cartier did four other cover paintings during Unknown's run. In addition, he did the cover art for anthologies that reprinted Unknown stories in the 1960s and also for Stefan Dziemianowicz's The Annotated Guide to Unknown and Unknown Worlds, published in 1991.

Cartier also became the leading cover and interior artist for the emerging small press field in the late 1940s and early 1950s, especially Fantasy Press and Gnome Press. He illustrated Gnome Press Calendars in 1949, 1950, and 1952; and he furnished four designs for Fantasy Press bookplates in 1952. In addition to Astounding and Unknown, he worked for a number of other SF/fantasy magazines during the 1940s-1950s, including Fantastic Adventures, Other Worlds, Planet Stories, and Universe Science Fiction.

Related Publications

In 1948, Street & Smith reprinted several stories from Unknown in a bed-sheet size format, priced at 25 cents, with the title From Unknown Worlds: An Anthology of Modern Fantasy For Grownups. This was an attempt to determine if there was a market for a revived Unknown.

Street & Smith printed 300,000 copies, against the advice of Campbell; but although it sold better than the original, too many copies were returned for the publisher to be willing to revive the magazine. Contents included a novel, two novelettes, eleven short stories, and four poems by popular

SF/fantasy authors of the time, including L. Sprague de Camp, Anthony Boucher, Robert Bloch, Theodore Sturgeon, Henry Kuttner, Jane Rice, Philip St. John (Lester del Rey), and H. L. Gold. The cover art and interior illustrations were by Cartier.

This issue was reprinted in Britain in 1952, reduced in size and pages. Part of the Unknown run also was issued in Britain in a hardcover binding at a slightly higher price.

Two anthologies of stories from Unknown were published in the early 1960s. The Unknown appeared in 1963, and The Unknown Five in 1964. The former included eleven stories, an amusing foreword by Asimov, and an introduction by editor D. R. Bensen. The latter included four novelettes that had never been published in book form, and the first print appearance of "Author! Author!" by Asimov -- a story that had been sold to Unknown shortly before Street & Smith shut it down.

Out of the Unknown, a collection of six stories by A. E. van Vogt and his wife, E. Mayne Hull -- originally published in Unknown -- was issued by FPCI in 1948.

Unknown Worlds: Tales from Beyond, edited by Stanley Schmidt and Martin H. Greenberg, was published in 1988 and reprinted in 1993. It contained 25 of the most famous short stories from Unknown, with an introduction by Schmidt. Unfortunately, there were no illustrations by Cartier, or anyone else.

Listed Contents of Unknown

The complete contents of all 39 issues are listed in Monthly Terrors, a reference work compiled by Parnell and published in 1985; Metzger's Index gives all the stories by author and title, as well as information on reprints; and an issue-by-issue commentary is provided in An Annotated Guide to Unknown and Unknown Worlds by Dziemianowicz.

Some Conclusions

One genre critic stated the following: "Unknown/Unknown Worlds provides a turning point for the entire field of science fiction. One may assert that both in tone and in content it led to Galaxy Science Fiction

and The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction, magazines which skillfully combined elements of science fiction and fantasy." As partial evidence of this assertion, it was pointed out that the first book in the Galaxy Science Fiction Novel series was "Sinister Barrier," the story that was the impetus for the creation of Unknown.

SF author/critic Brian Stableford has written: "Unknown provided an invaluable laboratory for the investigation of the potential of chimerical fantasies."

Although not a commercial success, Unknown was a tremendous success with its readers. As the only fantasy magazine that had as its direct ancestor a science fiction magazine, it was unique. Issues still are highly sought after, probably more so than issues of any other early fantasy or SF magazine.

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

N3F Founding Members:

Trudy and Louis Kuslan

by

Jon D. Swartz, Ph.D.

N3F Historian

Gertrude Kuslan (known in fandom both as Trudy Kuslan and as tKuslan) was an early science fiction (SF) fan, as was Louis Kuslan. At one time Trudy and Louis shared a publishing house, Cosmic Publications (later re-named LuGerKus); a fanzine, Cosmic Tales; and the apazines, FAPA Review (a one shot) and Nucleus.

Earlier in these pages, in a Founding Member article about Mary C. Gray, I wrote that Louis and Gertrude were husband and wife. I want to correct that error here. They were brother and sister.

In the late 1930s the Kuslans lived in West Haven, Connecticut. In 1938, BNF Jack Speer – who was touring the Northeast and visiting as many fellow fans as possible – crashed his car into a utility pole near their house.

Trudy was at one time romantically involved with fellow SF fan Earl Singleton, of pseuicide fame, who, in the early 1940s, dedicated the first issue of Nepenthe -- his fanzine devoted to poetry -- to her. Even after she became aware that his reported suicide was a hoax, she helped cover it up -- even putting on an emotional outburst at a Boskone convention to help perpetuate the hoax.

She is also remembered as serving as one of the room hostesses (along with Pogo) at Morojo's famous Room 689 at Chicon I, held in Chicago in 1940. Pogo and Morojo were the fan names of cousins Mary Gray and Myrtle Douglas, prominent Los Angeles fans at the time -- and close friends of BNF Forrest J Ackerman. Trudy was attending SF conventions as late as the mid-1950s.

Trudy appears in a group picture of fans – along with Ackerman, Morojo, Wilson “Bob” Tucker, Ross Rocklynnne, Robert Madle, Julius Unger, and others – in Harry Warner's history of fandom in the 1940s, All Our Yesterdays (Advent, 1969).

Trudy's brother Louis shared most of his fanac with

her. While he was attending college, he owned an auto known in fandom as The Empress of FooFoo. At one time he ran (unsuccessfully) for the Directorate of our club, The National Fantasy Fan Federation (N3F).

Both Trudy and Louis Kuslan were charter members of the N3F, founded in 1941, and celebrating its 75th year of activity in 2016.

Sources: All Our Yesterdays; The Immortal Storm; Fancyclopedia 3; ISFDB; Wikipedia; and other Internet sites.

Gourmet Bureau

Alfredo Sauce

By Cedar Sanderson, including recommendations by David Weber

Ingredients

1 stick (8 oz) butter
1 cup half and half
2 cups freshly grated Parmesan
3 tbsp crushed garlic

Instructions

In a non-stick pan, melt the butter. Add the cream and garlic, whisking occasionally to prevent burning and sticking, and bring to a boil. Slowly, while stirring, add the parmesan cheese. Cook at a low boil until thickened. Remove from heat and serve over pasta with a green salad on the side. Adding cooked chicken or shrimp makes this a hearty meal.
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I will note that I did alfredo sauce for this series once before, and although it came out very tasty, the texture was a bit off. I did some research and realized that although I don't buy the 'stuff in a green jar' even the pre-shredded parm I do use has anti-clumping stuff in it. Which then comes out in the sauces as unwanted texture. This sauce, made from a wedge of parmesan I shredded moments before use, came out silky smooth.

Other than the shredding – and I cheated with my food processor as you can see. Took seconds! – this

is a very fast and simple dish to put together. It's so rich you won't want it often, but there is no reason you have to wait until you're out at a restaurant for it, or settle for the stuff in a jar.

I used half and half in this recipe on David's recommendation, and as he said, it came out perfectly even without using heavy cream. It's still not something you'd want to eat every day, but a little less caloric!

Letters to the Editor

Jean Lamb writes:

Thank you so much! Isn't it delightful what can be done with electronic zines, and their formatting? Loved to see both Taral Wayne and Teddy Harvia still active...(I wonder if Teddy remembers the night when our family landed on him at 11 at night? He rose to the occasion magnificently, and in return, I found a friend who made a couple of stuffed Wingnuts and sent them to him.).

Jean Lamb

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Look for Jean Lamb's author page on Amazon—
<http://www.amazon.com/Jean-Lamb/e/B00IR0YO20/>

Phoenix in Shadow is up!

<https://www.amazon.com/Phoenix-Shadow-Chronicles-Empire-Book-ebook/dp/B01G4HD80G/>

Our regular artist Jose Sanchez writes:

Hi everyone,

Please visit my new link here: shopvida.com/collections/jose77sanchez where you can find my artwork on new apparel products that can make great gifts-especially now in the holidays! Thank you and pass it on! :)

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December 8, 2016

Dear Neffers:

Many thanks for the October and November issues of The National Fantasy Fan, Vol. 75 Nos. 10 and 11. Not sure if No. 12 is on the go, but here comes some comments on those two extant issues.

October...I certainly enjoy more than my share of fanzines from all over the world, and I hope the membership will enjoy them, too. Fanzines are the very first form of fanac, going back to the N3F's founding members, and they can be some real fun. If you like to create, write your own articles, draw your own art, or even better, try producing your own zine! You can have them ready for download on eFanzines.com.

Not much more to comment on, except that the contents are the basics of the club itself, and is perfect for getting more members.

November...Microsoft strikes again, I see. I hope everyone will participate...again! Has the N3F ever had this many publications, e- or otherwise? Many clubs have no club publications at all, so you Neffers are quite lucky.

We keep losing our first members, like Norm Stanley. Joyce Katz and Dave Kyle passed recently, so the news will continue to get worse and worse. Hey, the rest of you! Stay horse-healthy, okay? This regular list of obituaries is getting depressing. Thanks to Jon Swartz for articles of real fannish history. Have you thought to put these articles into one publication, Jon?

Given the time of year, Yvonne and I would like to wish the members of the N3F a Merry Christmas, a Happy Hanukkah, and a prosperous New Year. 2016, you are so fired. 2017 will be better, because I can't see it being any worse. See you in that far-off SFnal year of...2017!

Yours

Lloyd Penney

Dear George,

Just sent you my rechristened personalzine. I should add that e-APA, an electronic apa, is soliciting members, and I am now the Official Editor. Contributions are requested in PDF format, limited to 500KB (or 4 to 6 pages). Deadline is the first of each month.

Yours truly,

Garth Spencer

garth.van.spencer@gmail.com

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Letters to the Editor (Lamb, Sanchez, Penney, Spencer)

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