

The National Fantasy Fan

Vol. 7, No. 2 June 2007



Art by Lyne's Creations www.lynescreations.com

Table of Contents

Club Officers and Bureaus & Activities: 2
Kaymar Award Announcement: 3
Secretary's Report: 4
Directorate Report: 5
Tightbeam - Letters of Comment: 6
Art Bureau Report: 8
Correspondence Bureau Report: 9
Welcommittee & Subcommittees Note: 9
Writers Exchange Bureau Report: 9
Artiface 2007 guidelines: 10
Hand-Made Card Contest: 11
2007 N3F Constitution & Bylaws: 12

Kurt Vonnegut Tribute: 16
Tree-Free Greeting Cards (review): 18
Treasurer's Report: 19
Reading Reviews Column: 20
SF & Fantasy TV Shows on DVD: 23
Vignettes from N3F History: 25
Contraails: LA Con IV, Part 1: 26
TNFF Submission Guidelines: 30
2007 Short Story Contest rules & entry
blank: 31

Art credits: Lyne Masamitsu (cover),
Sarah Harder (9)

N3F Officers

PRESIDENT: Janine G. Stinson
PO Box 248, Eastlake, MI
49626-0248
tropicsf@earthlink.net

THE DIRECTORATE:

Dennis Davis / 25549 Byron St.,
San Bernardino, CA 92404-6403
n3f_info@yahoo.com

Sarah E. Harder / 1574 Notre
Dame Ave., Belmont, CA 94002
yseult_sg@yahoo.com

Susan Van Schuyver / 1921
Churchill Way, Oklahoma City,
OK 73120-1149
s_vanschuyver@yahoo.com

Sally Syrjala
PO Box 149, Centerville, MA
02632-0149
Ssyryjala@aol.com

Valerie Mignault
69 Laconia Rd, Cranston, RI
02920-1918
Vmignault@gmail.com

SECRETARY: Dennis Davis,
See Directorate

TREASURER: William Center
1920 Division St., Murphysboro,
IL 62966-2320
CaptBill@globaleyes.net

ELECTION TELLER: Jennett
Kaerie, 148 W. 220 S., Orem,
UT 84058
ladydragonlord@gmail.com

THE EDITORIAL CABAL:

Cabal Chief: *see President*

THE NATIONAL FANTASY FAN
MARCH – Janine Stinson (*see
President*)

JUNE – *Emergency Fill-In:*
Janine Stinson (no, I'm not tak-
ing over all the editing again!!
<grin>)

SEPTEMBER – Jeff Redmond,
1335 Beechwood NE, Grand
Rapids MI 49505-3830;
redmondjeff@hotmail.com

DECEMBER - Chris Garcia,
1401 N. Shoreline Blvd,
Mountain View CA 94043 ;
garcia@computerhistory.org

Online Editor:

Ruth R. Davidson, 434 Bird St.,
Yuba City CA 95991
qualtree@ruthiechan.net

Reviews Editor: Jon D. Swartz
11600 Starview Trail, Austin, TX
78750 jon_swartz@hotmail.com

Art Editor: Sarah E. Harder
See Directorate Vice Chairman

Publisher: Craig Boyd
POB 17088, Little Rock, AR
72222 libros@sbcglobal.net

Distributor: Dennis Davis, *See
Directorate*

Advisor: Ruth R. Davidson,
See Online Editor

Bureaus and Activities Information

ARTISTS BUREAU: Sarah E.
Harder — *See Directorate*

JUNE 2007

BIRTHDAY CARDS: OPEN

BLIND SERVICES: OPEN

COMPUTER GAMING: OPEN
**CONVENTION COORDINA-
TOR:** Chris Garcia, *see Editor-
ial Cabal*

CORRESPONDENCE: Sarah
Harder (*see Directorate*)

E-MAIL DIRECTORY: Dennis
Davis, *see Directorate*

FAN CLUBS: OPEN

FUTURE FANDOM: OPEN

GAMING: George Phillies
48 Hancock Hill Drive,
Worcester, MA 01609

KAYMAR AWARDS: William
Center, *See Treasurer*

MEMBERSHIP CARDS:
Dennis Davis,
See Directorate Chairman

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE:
Dennis Davis,
See Directorate Chairman

N3F BOOKWORMS: David
Speakman
501 Moorpark Way #83,
Mountain View CA 94041;
davodd@gmail.com

N3F HISTORIAN: Jon D.
Swartz, *See Reviews Editor*

N'APA: David Speakman; *see
N3F Bookworms*

JUNE 2007

NEFFY AWARDS: David Speakman; *see N3F Bookworms*

ROUND ROBINS: Lorna Hansmann, 148 W 220 S, Orem, UT 84058
lorna@todandlorna.com

SHORT STORY CONTEST: Jeff Redmond (*see Cabal*)

THE NATIONAL FANTASY FAN

TEACHING SCIENCE FICTION: OPEN

THE MANGAVERSE: Ruth R. Davidson, *See Online Editor*

WEBMISTRESS: Ruth R. Davidson, *See Online Editor*

WELCOMMITTEE & SUBCOMMITTEES: Cynthia Richter, 1740 Ocean

Ave. #11B, Brooklyn (NYC), NY 11230-5454

OR

David K. Robinson, 88235 Hwy 9, #5, Lineville, AL 36266-6944

WRITER'S EXCHANGE: Joy Beeson, 1700 Park Ave., Winona Lake, IN 46590-1637
joybeeson@earthlink.net

3

2007 Kaymar Award winner announced

by William Center
Award Chairman

The N3F was organized in April 1941, so the Kaymar Award has always been given in April every year since 1959.

THIS YEAR'S WINNER IS:

GEORGE PHILLIES

for all of the hard work he has put in over the years as member of the Directorate,

keeping us straight with our web pages, as Bureau head, and many, many other club activities.

PAST KAYMAR AWARD WINNERS:

1959 Ray C. Higgs; 1960 Eva Firestone; 1961 Ralph Holland; 1962 Janie Lamb; 1963 Art Hayes; 1964 Seth Johnson; 1965 Stan Woolston; 1966 Donald Franson; 1967 Alma Hill; 1968 Ann Chamberlin; 1969 Donald Miller; 1970 Elinor Poland; 1971 Gary Labowitz; 1972 Ned Brooks; 1973 Elaine Wojciechowiski ; 1974 Joanne Burger; 1975 Sheryl Birkhead; 1976 Will Morris; 1977 Lynne Holdom;

The National Fantasy Fan, Vol. 7 No. 2 June 2007 The Official Organ of the National Fantasy Fan Federation.

This issue was completed on 6/20/07. The editor for this issue was Janine Stinson. The editor for the next issue is Jeff Redmond (see Editorial Cabal for address). Yes, this time he really is the next ish editor! <grin> Please send your submissions and questions to him/her or the Editorial Cabal bureau head. **All opinions herein are those of the writers and do not reflect the opinions of the staff or other members of N3F except where so noted.**

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS: AUG. 15, 2007. E-mail accepted by arrangement only! This zine is to be published quarterly in March, June, September, and December.

ALL MATERIAL IN THIS ISSUE WAS CONTRIBUTED FOR ONE-TIME USE ONLY AND THE COPYRIGHT BELONGS TO THE CONTRIBUTOR. Reproduction in any media, including the Internet or e-mail attachments, of any portion of this publication is prohibited without official permission of the current President and Directorate, or individual contributor.

©2005 The National Fantasy Fan Federation -- find us on the World Wide Web at www.n3f.org

1978 Harry Warner, Jr.; 1979 Frank Denton; 1980 John W. Andrews; 1981 Edward W. Ludwig; 1982 Owen K. Laurion; 1983 Sally A. Syrjala; 1984 K. Martin Carlson; 1985 Howard Devore; 1986 Lola Ann (Andrew) Center; 1987 David Heath, Jr.; 1988 Fred Jakobic; 1989 William Center; 1990 Catherine Mintz; 1991 Tim Gatewood; 1992 Marianne Turlington; 1993 Sandra Morrese; 1994 Lyne-Marie Masamitsu; 1995 Michele (Nowak) Center; 1996 Craig Boyd; 1997 Diane (Miller) Blackwood; 1998 Susan Van Schuyver; 1999 Jefferson Swycaffer; 2000 Janine Stinson; 2001 Jacqueline Lichtenberg; 2002 Dennis Davis; 2003 Harold Marcum; 2004 Ginny Benson; 2005 Joy Beeson; 2006 Ruth Davidson.

As always, the selection was made by a committee, consisting of previous winners who are still in the club, from nominations submitted by members. The Kaymar Award, like few other awards in fandom, is awarded only once. It is given not for talent or popularity, but for work, for the benefit of the club and its members. It is a fitting memorial to K. Martin Carlson

(1904-1986), who originated, maintained and financed it for 25 years. Now it is paid for by the N3F Treasury, which is small compensation for the value of the work done by the winners over the years. Prizes include a year's membership extension, \$10 cash and a certificate.

Any member of the N3F may nominate someone who seems worthy of the Kaymar Award. Send your nominations to the Chairman of the Kaymar Awards Committee, at any time; but at least by the end of the year, so that the names can be voted on in time for next April's award. All names will be kept confidential. This is an honor, not a campaign, and only the winner's name will be published in TNFF.

Kaymar Awards Committee: Art Hayes, John W. Andrews, Sally Syrjala, William Center, Lyne-Marie Masamitsu, Michele (Nowak) Center, Craig Boyd, Diane (Miller) Blackwood, Susan Van Schuyver, Jefferson Swycaffer, Janine Stinson, Jacqueline Lichtenberg, Dennis Davis, Ginny Benson, Joy Beeson, Ruth Davidson

Secretary's Report for June 2007

by Denny Davis

Drop List: John Jeffers III (0207)

Expired List: March - Robin Buehler, Art Hayes; April - Jeniffer Coats, Rev. Christopher Garcia.

The full roster was printed in the March 2007 TNFF. Please check your expiration date carefully. If you believe there

is an error, please contact me at 25549 Byron Street, San Bernardino, CA 92404-6403, or email n3f_info@yahoo.com. Notify me of any address changes ASAP. Thank you.

Total members on the Roster: 85

Renewals: Lyne Masamitsu (COA below), ; Jeff Redmond, 1335 Beechwood NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49505-3830.

Reinstated: Jason Burnett, 4903 Camden Ave N, Minneapolis, MN 55430; Lorna Hansmann (COA below); Linda Hardy, 20190 Milburn, Livonia, MI 48152;

Patricia King (COA below); Mark Nielsen, PO Box 482, Mahomet, IL 61853-0482.

New members: Robert Bosshardt, r_bosshardt@yahoo.com ; Caitlin Crowley, 1414 Eagle Bend Drive, Southlake TX 76092. Welcome!

Address changes/corrections:

Lorna Hansmann, 148 W 220 S, Orem, UT 84058; Patricia King, 510 Village Court, Nashville, TN 37206; Lyne Masamitsu, 1821 Key Largo Rd., Vista, CA 92081; Valerie Mignault, 69 Laconia Road, Cranston, RI 02920-1918.

Notes: If you give my email address out to someone, give them the n3f_info@yahoo.com address. Please send your checks for renewals, reinstatements or new memberships (made payable to WILLIAM CENTER) to the Secretary: Dennis L. Davis, 25549 Byron Street,

San Bernardino, CA 92404-6403. All of the above information is as correct as I can make it. Please contact me if you find a discrepancy or have not found your name in this report if it should be here. Thank you.

Please help me to serve you better by doing the following:

1) Check your information in the roster. Notify me of any changes.

2) Mark exp. date on your envelope, or include your renewal reminder card if renewing by regular mail; include this date in your message if you renew with PayPal.

3) Send address corrections as soon as possible. The USPS charges me to return undeliverable zines. Thank you.

Directorate Report June 2007

by Susan VanSchuyver, Vice Chairman

The Directors have been busy during the past few weeks. We now have a complete set of Directors: Denny Davis, Chair; Susan VanSchuyver, Vice Chair; Sarah Harder, Sally Syrjala, and Valerie Mignault.

The Directorate has unanimously passed a resolution to change the wording of the current Bylaws, Article IV, Section 3. The new wording is: "Annual election ballots will be handled by one or more of the following methods: printed ballots in the September issue of TNFF, sending online ballots to those members with Inter-

net access, and/or sending postcard ballots in the mail. Members eligible to vote are those in good standing as of September 30th each year. A member can only vote once per election. Each ballot shall include space for the N3F members to write their names in print, provide their signatures (if a paper copy is used to vote), and the date the ballot was completed. Ballots for Constitutional amendments and other membership referendums may also be handled by one or more of the methods listed. The postcard ballots will be sent by the Election Teller or another N3F member designated by the President and approved by the Directorate. All expenses for materials and postage will be reimbursed up to \$150 upon receipt by the Treasurer of an itemized list of expendi-

tures."

The Bylaws did state that the ballots would be included in the September issue of TNFF. Last year the election turnout was so small, we had to do a re-balloting. By providing options for elections, we hope to have an increase in the number of members who vote. The wording now is more flexible and, we hope, will better meet the needs of N3F.

The Directorate also approved authorization to renew Web services from SimeGen Inc., to continue the club's Web presence.

Tightbeam

Letters of Comment

[editorial comments in brackets]

Sarah Harder

Lynette Flowers: Thank you for a wonderful Artist's Spotlight in the last ish. The art you provided was perfect. I love how you convey motion in your work. What a wonderful idea, doing portraits at RenFaires and turning your subjects into fantasy personas. Ever make your way out to faires in Northern California? *wink* I've played with a similar idea using photography at conventions. But the amount of start-up money is too high so I focus my energies on art.

Lyne Masamitsu: Loved your cover piece in the last ish! I think it was cool that Janine listed your website; I hope many Neffers visit it. It's awesome!

Rick Brooks: You make a good point about club leaders/editors/bureau heads

asking for help if and when needed. The only thing I'd like to add is that when they ask then someone needs to help! It's up to the membership to step up to the plate and assist when possible. Not everyone can help in every instance, but when we can help then I think it would be the kind and honorable thing to do.

I also think it would be helpful if folks would volunteer to do something they feel they can handle (like head an open bureau) so that those who already are holding positions won't be over-burdened having to cover the responsibilities of other bureaus.

Besides that, volunteering is a great way to make new friends and feel more connected to the club. If it weren't for the Artists' Bureau, I wouldn't have nearly as many Neffer friends, wouldn't feel as much a part of the club, and wouldn't have found so many ways to be inspired artistically (usually by the other Neffer artists). I'm learning, growing and gaining experience with each project and connection I make. The same can be said for serving on the Directorate.

Regarding N3F being known for not following through - you're right. There's frequently a lot of talk and not a lot of follow through. Talking is great but then someone has to do something! Typically, the person making the suggestion should be the one to spear-head the task/idea and make it happen.

With that said, though, it's important to look at things that were talked about and HAVE happened! Look at David Speakman and the Neffys Awards, being able to pay for membership online (Ruth or Denny did that I think), the online fo-

rum (which were only shut down due to spam), the Artzine, Editorial Cabal, trying to spread the word about N3F through con/mag advertisements... I'm sure there's a gazillion more examples. Plus plenty of things that were started and have continued steadily for years such as the Short Story Contest and Writer's Exchange.

When we talk about the club to others it's important to focus on these positive examples. It's possible, however slowly, to change our image in the eyes of fandom as a whole. Also, I think it's important to focus on the positive when we talk about the club amongst ourselves as well (in addition to what needs to change). I know much needs to be improved, but we also have a lot to be proud of. Perhaps we need to change the image of N3F within ourselves. [*Um, what she said. You took my editorial material, Sarah! <grin> But I thank you for doing so, and I hope those reading this and your letter in particular will speak up, join in and follow through.*]

Joe Schaumburger

I have been very sick lately with something called Congestive Heart Failure (it sounds awful and it is) and have not been able to do much with fannish stuff. I just passed on the editorship of WOSS-NAME [the Klatchian Foreign Legion Newsletter, for fans of Terry Pratchett's Discworld books] to Annie Mac, and she will run it from now on.

Please tell the folks at N3F that Mother Nature has forcibly retired me, and if anyone is waiting to hear from me, best they move on to the next name on the list.

[*Dearest Joe, do take care, let others*

do things for you no matter how frustrated you get at having to ask for more help, and be well.]

Susan VanSchuyver

I am not a frequent writer of LoC's, but I do enjoy reading the ones in TNFF and write one occasionally. I haven't been very active in the club for the past few years; same old story — life and my job interfered with my club activities and I took a little break from being part of the offices and bureau heads. I kept a number of the Round Robins as RM and as a participant, and they are all doing fairly well.

As you know from the 2007 Election Results reported in the March 2007 issue of The Fan, I have joined the Directorate along with Sarah Harder, Denny Davis, Sally Syrjala and Valerie Mignault.

I am glad to help N3F out as much as I can. I have a new position at my work, so I hope to have a little more time for the club than I have had in the past few years. I want to thank Janine for stepping up and taking over as President; she didn't run for President (she did for Director) and did not have to graciously agree to take the helm when the club needed her. THANKS, Janine! [*I was hesitant at first, but when I considered the things I could do as president that I might not as easily do as a Directorate member, it seemed the logical thing to do to accept the position. Spock did it again!*]

All the members of the Directorate would welcome hearing from members of the club. Write to us or email—send your comments or suggestions!

Congratulations to Lee and JJ Mac-

Fadden for winning the 2006 Franson Award! Excellent artists—we are all benefiting from the talent they share with N3F.

Anyone been following “Lost,” “Jericho,” or “Heroes”? Those are my three favorite TV SF shows at this time. I also enjoy “Stargate: SG1” and “Atlantis.”

Some interesting sounding new shows are being planned for next season; I am the most interested in “Journeyman” on NBC. What are your thoughts on the state of SF on television?

Rick Brooks: Sorry to hear that your arthritis has gotten worse. That must be very painful, but it sounds like you keep as active as you can.

Dorothy Kurtz: It seems like we used to be on a RR together. How are you?

We Also Heard From: George Wells (hope that toothache is gone by now, George!).

Artist's Bureau Report

by Sarah Harder

Thank you Lee and J.J. MacFadden for your wonderful article on Tree-free Greeting Cards. I fell in love with their cards when I first discovered them at the Medieval Times Restaurant in LA in 2004 (I'd always wanted to go there so on my 30th birthday my friend and I took a road trip there). They are lovely as are the matching artistic envelopes. By the way, congratulations on receiving the Franson Award!

Just a reminder to all of you artists (and everyone who just wants to be kept informed) to sign up for my bureau update

list. Email me

at artistsbureau@yahoo.com. I promise not to overload you with emails. I usually send out an update 1-2 times a month. If a deadline

is approaching that number may increase a bit. Besides updates, there may be occasions when I ask for your opinions on something the bureau is doing. And I always encourage everyone to share anything they'd like such as suggestions, feedback, what they find inspiring and/or informative. Join the fun!

The deadline for Artiface 2007 (the artzine) is fast approaching (July 15th). Please send your art to my email address above or to

Sarah E. Harder 1574 Notre Dame Ave. Belmont, CA 94002. (Please do not send original art.) I'm VERY EXCITED about the additions and changes to this years artzine. This is going to be even better than last years I think...and it'll keep getting better each year as we gain more experience. There are more participating artists in the club right now than there's been in a long time it seems - which will make for an exciting artzine! I will let you, the membership, know how much it will cost after I receive all submissions and get an idea of the page count. Any hardcopies need to be purchased in advance. The online version will be free.

Please notice our announcement for the Birthday Card Contest! This is a great opportunity for not only artists but crafty types as well. We are still in need of a Birthday Bureau head so in the meantime I am the tally person. Please also consider heading the Birthday Bureau! I'd like to see someone volunteer before the

contest closes so I have someone to send all these great cards to. I know Denise Fisk had some volunteers so whoever becomes head will already have helpers.

Correspondence Bureau Report

by Sarah Harder

Greetings Neffers and friends! I'm now the head of the "corry" bureau. I know there hasn't been much activity in this bureau for a while now. However, since there are some relatively new members in the club this bureau may start buzzing again.

I have new forms available either via email or snail mail (whichever you prefer). If you'd like one please write or email me at artistsbureau@yahoo.com. It's my address for the Artist's Bureau but since I don't get spam on it yet I'll be sure to get your email. Once I get your request I'll send you the form through my regular address which is yseult_sg@yahoo.com. I'll be sure to add you to my address book so I get your form back.

The form has some new options, for example, would you prefer to be a traditional penpal or an e-pal.

Also, for those of you who are new to the club you may want to contact Dennis Davis to be put on the yahoo group list. You're welcome to join in the discussions, start new ones or just



read what others have to say. Denny can give you the list rules. His email address is on the inside front cover of this ish.

Welcommittee Bureau has 2 new heads!

By Janine Stinson

That headline is more than a little joke, it's actually true. Lee and J.J. MacFadden have had to resign as co-heads of the Welcommittee & Subcommittees, and the new co-heads of this important bureau are David K. Robinson and Cynthia Richter. Their addresses are in the Bureaus and Activities listing in this ish (inside front cover). Thank you, Cynthia and David, for volunteering to run this bureau!

Writers' Exchange Report

by Joy Beeson

The Writers' Exchange is N3F's "dating service" for writers and beta readers. Members receive a list of people who are willing to read and comment on manuscripts, with a description of each person's preferences. Updates are published in the Writers' Exchange Bulletin.

The next W.E. Bulletin is scheduled for June. I still have only one letter for it. If you can't wait until June, I can send you the text of the working file by e-mail.

W.E. has a blog at <http://n3f.home.comcast.net/WEB/WEB.HTM> and a Live Journal page at <http://n3f-writers.livejournal.com/>. The Journal makes it much easier to respond, and I'm hoping to start a conversation.

Artifact 2007

Artifact is the N3F artzine, edited by Sarah Harder. Please read the following submission guidelines before submitting any material to her for this special publication.

Deadline is July 15, 2007. Submissions are open only to members of the N3F.

Art Requirements: Art **must** be Science Fiction or Fantasy related, must NOT contain anything obscene, racist, slash, demoralizing, or otherwise unseemly content (there are minors in the club and content will be restricted to a PG-13 rating). This is the club's only outlet for fan art so please feel free to submit work from your favorite shows or movies.

Art should be 8.5x11 and fill at least an 8x10 space. If you provide smaller (5x7) works, please send two so they can be on one page. 5x7 works should be horizontal; if vertical, they may appear on chapter heading pages but there is no guarantee. If submitting 5x7 works, please provide a dividing design/border in whichever genre you choose to separate the works. Otherwise, the separator will be provided for you by either another artist or a line of asterisks. Please include a title for your work; art received without titles will be listed as "untitled" in the Table of Contents.

Other Requirements: Include a 1-2 page biography; if you don't know what to write, you may fill out the brief questionnaire provided and one will be written for you. In order to receive a FREE contributor's copy you need to provide a minimum

of three (3) full-page works.

Bio Questionnaire: This questionnaire is for those who need help writing their bio and is optional. You may write and submit your own bio if you choose. Do not answer any question that you do NOT want included in your bio. At minimum, please include full name (or name you'd like used), date of birth, spouse's name, children's names, current career field, hobbies, and educational history.

Optional: Notes about your art are accepted and will be printed beneath each piece. You may include such things as the inspiration for the work, what it represents, or anything else you'd like us to know about it.

Some filler art will be accepted. This is ideal for those not able to commit to a larger work or if you have smaller work you'd like to include. Separating, dividing designs (horizontal) and borders and columns (vertical and horizontal) accepted.

Additions to *Artifact*: We may include quotes about art — please send on your favorites! Be sure to include names of quoted persons and book titles (where appropriate). Articles you write may be included, on any topic pertaining to art (i.e., how genre art has impacted society or fandom, why doing genre art appeals to you, your favorite artists, how to improve your art, how to find or get good deals on art).

Suggestions & Tips: When submitting art with a lot of dead space, create a border for it to make it look more complete. Although the zine is printed in black & white, you may submit color work. It can look good in b/w and have more depth than a typical line drawing.

Experiment! Try moving away from just a line drawing (preferably) and experiment with shading, color, various mediums, and new techniques. If you are good at calligraphy try adding some to your art. Try a new subject than what you are used to drawing.

Direct questions to Sarah Glasgow Harder 1574 Notre Dame Ave. Belmont, CA 94002 or email a message to yseult_sg@yahoo.com.

The Artist's Bureau and Birthday Card Bureau Presents:
The Hand-made Cards Contest

Idea by Lee and J.J. MacFadden. Submitted by Sarah E. Harder, Artist's Bureau

Goals: To promote cooperation and collaboration between bureaus. At the end of the contest the cards will be used by the Birthday Bureau and its volunteers to send Birthday wishes to the N3F membership as their birthdays approach.

Two Categories: Craft cards and Art cards

Winners: two, one per category. Whoever sends in the most cards per one category wins.

Prize: \$10, or the equivalent in art supplies, to each winner. Paid for by N3F Treasury.

Tally Person: Send cards to Sarah E. Harder (see Artist's Bureau, inside front cover)

Result: Membership receives cards throughout the year (these cards to be

used over other cards the B-day bureau has on hand. Should be divided between bureau volunteers who send out cards).

Deadline: October 15, 2007

Guidelines

Craft Cards may include:

Decorative paper
 Cardstock
 Rubber stamps
 Stickers
 Embellishments (i.e. Ribbons, die cuts, eyelets, etc.)
 Punch outs
 Writing
 Calligraphy

Envelopes must be included

Not limited to SF/F art

Crafters & Artists are encouraged to print or sign their name on the back of each card.

Art Cards may include:

Anything from the Craft category PLUS
 Original art
 Copies of original art embellished with borders, backgrounds, mats

Writing: Calligraphy, copied line drawings colored in by hand

Cards with *copies* of your original art must have something done to it by hand – mustn't be just a print out.

Envelopes must be included. Not limited to SF/F art but preferred. Crafters & Artists please print or sign your name on the back of each card.

2007 Constitution & Bylaws of the National Fantasy Fan Federation

The Constitution of the National Fantasy Fan Federation

Preamble:

The activity that centers around science fiction and fantasy has grown to require organization in order that desirable objectives, beyond the achievement of single individuals, may be attained through united effort. Under this Constitution, the National Fantasy Fan Federation (N3F) is established as an association of persons interested in promoting the progress of science fiction and fantasy, and in furthering its enjoyment by themselves and others.

Article 1 - Membership:

1. Membership, including any benefits created by the organization, and all rights such as voting, is gained by paying dues as set forth in the Bylaws. Dues changes may not go into effect until two(2) months after publication in the Official Organ and shall be further delayed until the completion of voting if the Official Organ receives a petition for submission as set forth in Article V, Section 1 for reversal, unless the change is the result of a vote on petition.

2. An organization may become a member of the N3F upon payment of dues as defined in Section 1 and is entitled to all rights and benefits of membership as outlined in this

Constitution except that said organization may not vote or hold elective office.

3. Joint memberships are available to two persons residing in the same household. A joint membership will include The National Fantasy Fan Federation(TNFF) and all rights such as voting and club activities. The dues shall be more than a single membership but less than a double, to be set by the Directorate.

Article II - Officers

1. A President conducts the affairs of the organization. His/her appointments, suspensions, and removals from office, whether the office concerned is elective or appointive, are subject to the review and approval of the Directorate, as are also his/her methods of procedure.

2. If, for any reason, the office of President becomes vacant, the Directorate appoints a President to complete the unexpired term. Any interim administrative duties are performed by the Chairman of the Directorate, during which time he/she may not vote in his/her capacity as Director except on motions of appointment.

3. A Directorate, composed of five members, regulates the affairs and controls the finances of the organization, and may define the duties of any office or official of the association.

4. Decisions of the Directorate are by majority of its five members except in the following instances: by unanimous vote the Directorate may refuse membership to any person; expel any member by refunding the balance of his dues; and may remove the President from office.

5. Vacancies in the Directorate, whatever the cause, are filled by majority vote of

the remaining Directors. If fewer than three Directors remain, the President shall appoint one or more up to the minimum of three.

6. Any person designated as Treasurer or otherwise empowered to keep or convey the funds of the organization must be over twenty-one years of age.

7. The Treasurer shall also have free dues as long as he or she holds office.

Article III - Elections

1. The President and five members of the Directorate are decided by the membership in an annual election of those officers. Ballots for the election are to be distributed before October 10th and the elected candidates take office on the following January 1st. Any member may seek office by complying with the official requirements which are to be published in the Official Organ at least two months previous to the filing deadline.

2. No person may hold two elective offices at the same time.

3. Each member may cast one vote for each of the five candidates of his/her choice in the election of the Directorate. The five candidates receiving the largest number of votes is elected. Ties are resolved by majority agreement of those elected candidates not included in the tie.

4. Of the candidates for President, the one receiving the largest number of votes is elected. In case of a tie, the elected Directorate chooses a President from the tied candidates.

Article IV - Official Organ

The association issues a publication of at least quarterly schedule which carries in addition to other material, a quarterly statement of

the financial status of the organization, together with a listing of new members and their addresses.

Article V - Petitions & Amendments

1. Petitions of whatever purpose, endorsed by five per cent of the members or twenty-five members, whichever is less, must, within sixty days after the Directorate receives them, be submitted to the membership for decision unless the Directorate has already taken the indicated action. Petitions looking towards the revision, reversion, or setting aside of any action of the President or the Directorate must be submitted within two calendar years following such action, or such petition is invalid and without force.

2. Any motion by the Directorate approved for presentation to the membership to alter or amend the Constitution must be printed in the next TNFF, and in no event, not less than two months prior to the actual voting date, if not the result of action under Section I of this article.

3. Amendments to the Constitution shall require two thirds(2/3) of the votes cast to be approved. All other decisions by the membership shall be by a majority of the votes cast.

4. Any alteration or amendment of the Constitution will be presented to the membership for vote exactly as it is to be entered, or the alteration or amendment is invalid and without force.

5. The power to alter or amend the Constitution is vested solely in the membership.

The Bylaws of the National Fantasy Fan Federation

I. Authority

Under the authority implied in Article II, Section 3 of the Constitution of the National Fantasy Fan Federation, the Directorate shall establish certain Bylaws to regulate the affairs of the organization, such Bylaws to be effective when approved by a majority vote of the Directorate as set forth in Article II, Section 4, of the Constitution. The secretary of the N3F shall keep a permanent record of the Bylaws, and current Bylaws shall be published in the Official Organ of the N3F not less often than once a year.

II. The Directorate

1. The Chairman of the Directorate shall report to the membership all measures passed by the Directorate. The Chairman of the Directorate shall maintain updated copies of the Bylaws, distribute them to the Directorate, President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Official Editor of The National Fantasy Fan (TNFF), at the beginning of the year and whenever changed, and turn them over to his/her successor.

2. Copies of all official Directorate correspondence shall be sent to the President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

3. Each Directorate shall adopt standing rules of procedure, which shall remain in force for the Directorate of the following year, until such time as the new Directorate shall vote to accept them or adopt new rules.

4. The number of Life or Honorary members created by Directorate vote may not exceed 1% of the total membership of the N3F. This rule shall not operate to reduce the number of existing Life memberships at any time.

5. A Director who has not voted or participated in Directorate discussion or corre-

spondence in any period of three consecutive months may be declared inactive by the Directorate, and may be removed by the President for this cause only, without prejudice.

III. The Secretary & Treasurer

1. The Secretary may bill the Treasury, as needed, for expenses incurred in the discharge of the office, including the purchase of supplies for new members, the sum not to exceed \$100 per year.

2. The Secretary will maintain a current membership roster, and will report new memberships, renewals, and changes of address to the President, Treasurer, Official Editor, Chairman of The Welcommittee, and such other officers as the President may direct, not less often than once a month.

3. The Treasurer will prepare a yearly report of all income to the N3F Treasury and an itemized list of expenditures. Also included in this report will be a listing of items which will require additional outlays, in the forthcoming year from the Treasury, and have been approved by the Directorate, but have not yet been paid. This report will be prepared for the first issue of TNFF to appear in the year following the year which the report covers.

IV. Elections

1. All candidates must, by the filing deadline of September 1st of each year, have paid their dues for the year in which they will hold office if elected, and agree to serve if appointed under Article II, Section 5 of the Constitution.

2. In addition to the regular candidates listed on the ballot, members may write in the name of any member in good standing as a

candidate for any elective office. Any candidate so elected must submit a written statement of his willingness to serve plus the dues for the year in which he will serve, to reach the Secretary within 14 days of his notification of election. In the event of non-compliance with the foregoing, the election will be voided and the candidate receiving the next highest number of votes for that office will be declared the winner.

3. Annual election ballots will be handled by one or more of the following methods: printed ballots in the September issue of TNFF, sending online ballots to those members with Internet access, and/or sending postcard ballots in the mail. Members eligible to vote are those in good standing as of September 30th each year. A member can only vote once per election. Each ballot shall include space for the N3F members to write their names in print, provide their signatures (if a paper copy is used to vote), and the date the ballot was completed. Ballots for Constitutional amendments and other membership referendums may also be handled by one or more of the methods listed. The postcard ballots will be sent by the Election Teller or another N3F member designated by the President and approved by the Directorate. All expenses for materials and postage will be reimbursed up to \$150 upon receipt by the Treasurer of an itemized list of expenditures.

V. Publication

1. Regular publication of the N3F. The N3F has one regular publication, the Official Organ, which shall be provided free to all N3F members in good standing. The Official Organ, currently titled The National Fantasy Fan, is published in March, June, September,

and December. The Editor and Publisher are appointed by the President.

a. The Publisher shall print enough copies to send to every member of the N3F as of the date of publication, plus extra copies for the President, Secretary, and head of Recruiting, and any other extra copies that the President may direct the Publisher to print.

b. In the event a regular Publication does not appear as scheduled and the President appoints a Stand-by Editor to publish it, this Editor will be reimbursed as if he were the regular Editor if the magazine is mailed within two months after the appointment by the President.

c. The Official Organ shall contain a list of new members and renewals, as reported by the Secretary; the Constitution and Bylaws of the N3F in the June issue, and the Roster of the membership in the March and September issues.

d. Deadlines for material submitted to TNFF shall be the 15th of the month preceding the month of publication. Any deviation from this date must be announced in the previous issue.

e. No single issue of TNFF may exceed 36 pages, without Directorate approval. The Publisher will notify the Chairman of the Directorate of receipt of any issue not conforming to this page limitation, before printing.

f. Advertisements in N3F publication is free, restricted to N3F members, and are subject to space limitations in the judgment of the editor.

g. The N3F Roster, while available for membership use, is not for sale as a mailing list to anyone.

2. Others. Publications issued by subordinate Bureaus of the N3F and not sent to the

entire membership shall be sent to the Secretary for information and record. In the case of N'APA that shall be construed to mean the Alliance Amateur or other official business publication and not the entire bundle. The cost will be borne by the Treasury of the N3F upon presentation of an itemized bill to the Treasurer.

3. Neffer Amateur Press Alliance. All N'APA members must be members in good standing of the N3F.

4. Exchange Agreements. The President can authorize exchange agreements with other publishers who will receive all N3F publications, and the President or other designated person will receive all their publications.

VI. Rescissions

Directorate motions in the nature of By-

laws passed prior to the original compilation and publication of these Bylaws and not included among them, are rescinded.

VII. Amendments

Amendments to these Bylaws may be made with approval of a majority of the Directorate.

VIII. Dues

Membership dues are payable annually and include receiving one copy of the Official Organ (paper or electronic). Individual memberships are \$18 per year. Additional memberships at the same household address, with no additional copies of the Official Organ, are \$4 per year per person.

A Tribute to Kurt Vonnegut 1922-2007

by Jeff Redmond

The literary world has recently lost a truly great man with Kurt Vonnegut, a famed writer often compared with Mark Twain. One of Vonnegut's favorite expressions was "So it goes," which he frequently included in many of his best-selling novels. So much of his own life was so fully reflected in his works.

Vonnegut's Works

Novels: Player Piano (1952), The Sirens of Titan (1959), Mother Night (1961), Cat's Cradle (1963), God Bless You, Mr. Rose-

water (1965), Slaughterhouse-Five (1969), Breakfast of Champions (1973), Slapstick (1976), Jailbird (1979), Deadeye Dick (1982), Galapagos: A Novel (1985), Bluebeard (1987), Hocus Pocus (1990), Timequake (1999).

Short Fiction and Essays: Canary in a Cathouse (1961), Welcome to the Monkey House (1968), Wampeters, Foma and Granfaloons (1974), Palm Sunday (1981), Fates Worse than Death: An Autobiographical Collage of the 1980s (1991).

Although many of these works are highly regarded, critics frequently argue that in his later works Vonnegut tended to reiterate themes presented more compellingly in earlier works. Nevertheless, Von-

negut remains one of the most-loved American writers.

As the author of at least 19 novels, many of them best-sellers, as well as dozens of short stories, essays and plays, Vonnegut relished the role of a social critic. Indianapolis, his hometown, declared 2007 as "The Year of Vonnegut" -- an announcement he said left him "thunderstruck."

He lectured regularly, exhorting audiences to think for themselves and delighting in barbed commentary against the institutions he felt were dehumanizing people. "I will say anything to be funny, often in the most horrible situations," Vonnegut once told a gathering of psychiatrists.

A self-described religious skeptic and freethinking humanist, Vonnegut used protagonists such as Billy Pilgrim and Eliot Rosewater as transparent vehicles for his points of view. He also filled his novels with satirical commentary and even drawings that were only loosely connected to the plot. In Slaughterhouse Five, he drew a headstone with the epitaph: "Everything was beautiful, and nothing hurt."

But much in his life was traumatic, and left him in pain. Despite his commercial success, Vonnegut battled depression throughout his life. In 1984 he attempted suicide with pills and alcohol, joking later about how he botched the job.

"I think he was a man who combined a wicked sense of humor and sort of steady moral compass, who was always sort of looking at the big picture of the things that were most important," said Joel Bleifuss, editor of *In These Times*, a liberal magazine based in Chicago that featured Vonnegut articles.

"The firebombing of Dresden explains absolutely nothing about why I write what I write and am what I am," Vonnegut wrote in Fates Worse Than Death, his 1991 autobiography (of sorts). But he spent 23 years struggling to write about the ordeal, which he survived by huddling with other POWs inside an underground meat locker labeled Slaughterhouse Five (Schlachthaus Funf in German).

The novel, in which Pvt. Pilgrim is transported from Dresden by time-traveling aliens from the planet Tralfamadore, was published at the height of the Vietnam War, and solidified his reputation as an iconoclast.

"He was sort of like nobody else," said Gore Vidal, who noted that he, Vonnegut and Norman Mailer were among the last writers around who served in World War II. "He was imaginative; our generation of writers didn't go in for imagination very much. Literary realism was the general style. Those of us who came out of the war in the 1940s made it sort of the official American prose, and it was often a bit on the dull side. Kurt was never dull."

Critics ignored him at first, then denigrated his deliberately bizarre stories and disjointed plots as haphazardly written science fiction. But his novels became cult classics, especially Cat's Cradle in 1963, in which scientists create "ice-nine," a crystal that turns water solid and destroys the earth.

Many of his novels were best-sellers. Some also were banned and burned for suspected obscenity. Vonnegut took on censorship as an active member of the PEN writers' aid group and the American Civil Liberties Union. The American Hu-

manist Association, which promotes individual freedom, rational thought and scientific skepticism, made him its honorary president.

His characters tended to be miserable anti-heroes with little control over their fate. Vonnegut explained that the villains in his books were never individuals, but culture, society and history, which he protested were making a mess of the planet. "We probably could have saved ourselves, but we were too damned lazy to try very hard... and too damn cheap"; he once suggested carving into a wall on the Grand Canyon, as a message for flying-saucer creatures.

He retired from novel writing in his later years, but continued to publish short articles. He had a best-seller in 2005 with *A Man Without a Country*, a collection of his nonfiction work, including jabs at the Bush administration ("upper-crust C-students who know no history or geography") and the uncertain future of the planet. He called the book's success "a nice glass of champagne at the end of a life."

In recent years, Vonnegut worked as a senior editor and columnist at *In These Times*. Bleifuss said he had been trying to get Vonnegut to write something more for the magazine, but was unsuccessful. "He would just say he's too old and that he had nothing more to say. He realized, I think, he was at the end of his life," Bleifuss remembered.

Vonnegut himself once said that "Of all the ways to die, I would prefer to go out in an airplane crash on the peak of Mount Kilimanjaro." He often joked about the difficulties of old age.

"When Hemingway killed himself he put a period at the end of his life; old age is more like a semicolon," Vonnegut told the Associated Press in 2005. "My father, like Hemingway, was a gun nut and was very unhappy late in life. But he was proud of not committing suicide. And I'll do the same, so as not to set a bad example for my children."

Vonnegut also taught advanced writing classes at Smith College, and in November of 2000, he was named the State Author of New York.

Vonnegut was critically injured in a fire at his New York City brownstone Jan. 30, 2000. He also suffered brain injuries after a fall at his Manhattan apartment in March 2007.

The satirical novelist who captured the absurdity of war, and questioned the advances of science in darkly humorous works, died on Wednesday April 11th, 2007. He was 84. Oh, Kurt Vonnegut. We will miss you, old warrior. Rest in peace. And so it goes.

Tree-Free Greeting Cards

By Lee & J.J. MacFadden

When you get something from Tree-Free Greetings in the mail, you know it before you open it.

These artistic note cards are made from kenaf, an alternative to using trees. Kenaf is grown in the southern U.S. with no harmful chemicals used in its processing; it is 100% recyclable and has a terrific, smooth texture. Vision Paper supplies Tree-Free with their kenaf paper.

But the preservation of trees and

June 2007 Treasurer's Report by William Center

Receipts

Renewal dues	40.00
--------------	-------

Disbursements

Printing December 2006 TNFF	165.40
Mailing December 2006 TNFF	74.00
Printing March 2007 TNFF	165.29
Mailing March 2007 TNFF	45.00
Short Story Contest Prizes	100.00
Foreign Currency Conversion Fee	0.90
Kaymar Award	<u>10.00</u>
Total	560.59

Beginning Balance (2/15/07)	\$ 4,075.12
Additions	+ 40.00
Subtractions	- <u>560.59</u>
Ending Balance (5/15/07)	\$ 3,464.53

Send all dues, new or renewal to: Dennis Davis, 25549 Byron Street, San Bernardino, California 92404-6408. **Make checks payable to William Center**, not the N3F. Canadian and overseas members, please pay in U. S. funds.

support of kenaf farmers is only half the appeal of these cards. The art on them is visually *stunning*, and includes Amy Brown's faeries, Bob Peters' wild horses, paintings of tigers by Kayomi Harai and Donald Grant, and rich watercolor gardens by Amy Hautman. You're sure to find numerous selections to suit the taste of anyone to whom you'd send a card. The subjects are generally either nature (wild animals, domestics [dog and cats], landscapes) or fantasy (mermaids, unicorns, dragons), and even lighthouses. Most of these subjects have been tackled by more than one artist — we've seen Cicely Mary Barker's post-Victorian flower faeries, the more earthy Briad Froud fair folk, Amy Brown's wispy, stylized faeries, and Sheila Wolk's faeries in meadows. The card sets

offer either a sampling of several artists, or a set of one artist's work (those these are limited).

Each card is lush with magnificent artwork on both sides (the inside is a faded version of the card front). The envelopes also have art on both sides; the only drawback is that postage stamps will cover part of the art's beauty, but space is left for addresses on the envelope front.

Tree-Free cards can be purchased singly or in beautifully decorated tins of 12 or 16. We've found them in a natural-foods store, another called If It's Paper, and U.S. Factory Outlet. We've heard Wal-Mart and dollars stores sometimes have them. Phone orders are taken at 1-888-493-2253, or try PureFable.com; regular-mail orders aren't taken.

REVIEWS

Jon D. Swartz, Editor

Something Rotten by Jasper Fforde
New York: Viking, 2004

Investigator Thursday Next, formerly of Swindon's Literary Detective Office — and currently head of Jurisdiction, a policing agency that operates within classic literary works to safeguard the stability of the written word — tracks down an escaped Minotaur (a "Pagerunner" who had been hiding out in the western pulp fiction genre), then packs up her two-year-old son Friday (who speaks only Lorem Ipsum, the dummy text used by the printing and typesetting industry to demonstrate layout) and returns to real life in Swindon.

She's accompanied by Hamlet, the Danish prince, who is passing himself off as Thursday's cousin Eddie. Thursday finds caring for both her son and Hamlet too much to handle alone and sets out to get back her husband Landen to help. Luckily, those responsible for Landen's "eradication" in 1947, the operatives of the giant Goliath Corporation, have pledged to right their wrong. Unfortunately for Thursday, however, other problems arise immediately — including a call for mass book burnings by Yorrick Kaine, outlaw fictioneer.

Other colorful and memorable characters in this fourth Thursday Next adventure include several of her relatives (Granny Next, Wednesday Next, Mycroft Next, Colonel Next); Victor Analogy, the head of Swindon Literary Detectives; Lady Emma Hamilton, who lives in the spare

room at the home of Thursday's mother; St. Zvlkx, a 13th Century saint whose revelations often come true; Commander Trafford Bradshaw, Jurisdiction agent married to a mountain gorilla; Pickwick, a pet dodo; and Bartholomew Stiggins, a Neanderthal reengineered from extinction.

This book also has several pages devoted to the Fforde "extras" that make his novels so entertaining, including a full page ad for toast!

Mystery Book Review: The Vault by Peter Lovesey. New York: Soho Press, 2000

This police procedural novel has just about everything a reader could ask for in a literary mystery: William Blake, Mary Shelley, 1960s rock music, and even Stephen King.

Set in the 1990s in Bath, England, the plot involves a skeletal hand found in a vault under the Pump Room in Bath, England — near the site where Mary Shelley wrote Frankenstein. Then a skull is excavated, and it is determined that the bones came from different corpses — and one of them is modern. Curmudgeonly Detective Superintendent Peter Diamond has to solve a series of crimes involving these bones, William Blake and 19th Century art, Mary Shelley and her writing of Frankenstein, and a host of suspects — including the perpetrator, who considers himself to be the Frankenstein monster.

Mundane Book Review: The Golden Age of Big Little Books by Lawrence F. Lowery Danville, CA: Educational Research and Applications LLC, 2007

This massive reference work is not

completely “mundane” since many big little books (BLBs) were SF. In 532 pages Dr. Lowery tells the reader just about all s/he needs to know about these unique little books that were so popular with children during the 1930s-1940s.

Profusely illustrated, with most of the illustrations in color, this book is quite easy on the eyes. While the author’s emphasis is upon the company that originated BLBs, The Whitman Publishing Company of Racine, Wisconsin, there is a lot of information on other companies that published BLBs. Lowery provides a history; information on organizing, collecting, grading, and preserving BLBs; and even some data on related items (puzzles, coloring books, promotional items, etc.). I only spotted one error in the entire book. Highly recommended to anyone interested in these colorful children’s books.

Magazine Review: *Paperback Parade #67* (February 2007)

This quarterly magazine devoted to paperback books and related topics is edited/published by Gary Lovisi of Brooklyn, New York. This issue features David Garnett’s Bikini Planet on the cover (and an interview with Garnett as the lead article). Other highlights of the issue include a listing of Award Books, Kurt Brokaw on Irving Shulman and The Amboy Dukes, and Lovisi on pocket mini “pulp” paperbacks of 1950.

Although I don’t have an article in this issue, two my articles from earlier issues are praised in the LoCs — so how can this be anything but a superb issue?

Fanzine Review: *Trap Door #24* (January 2007)

This solid fanzine is edited/published by Robert Lichtman. After an amusing cover by Steve Stiles, there is excellent and varied content, including: an editorial in which Lichtman argues (again) for finding good homes for extensive fanzine collections, Grant Canfield gives us “Thrilling Architect Stories,” Jeff Schalles writes about his film career, Carol Carr tells us some very interesting “stuff” — including a poem she wrote to her first crush, Dan Steffan provides a travelogue which he also illustrates, Jay Kinney rants, Ted White writes about fandom, and there are 12 pages of letters. Among the letter writers I recognized was Dick Swan, a comic book dealer in San Jose, California. Dick was very helpful to me a year or so ago when I needed to borrow some comic books for background on a story I was writing.

Current & Forthcoming SF/Fantasy Books

May 2007:

Tony Ballantyne, Divergence (Novel, Bantam Spectra)

Elizabeth Bear, New Amsterdam (Novel, Subterranean Press)

Ben Bova, The Aftermath (Novel, Hodder)

Jon Courtenay Grimwood, 9Tail Fox (Novel, Night Shade Books)

John Crowley, Endless Things (Novel, Small Beer Press)

Dave Duncan, Mother of Lies (Novel, Tor)

Kathleen Ann Goonan, In War Times
(Novel, Tor)

John Scalzi, The Last Colony (Novel,
Tor)

David Zindell, The Silver Sword
(Novel, Tor)

Sean Williams, Saturn Returns
(Novel, Ace)

June 2007:

Brian Aldiss, HARM (Novel, Ballantine Del Rey)

Eric Brown, Helix (Novel, BL Publishing)

Jay Lake, Mainspring (Novel, Tor)

Scott Mackay, Phytosphere (Novel,
Penguin/Roc)

Laurie J. Marks, Water Logic (Novel,
Small Beer Press)

Sarah Monette, The Bone Key
(Collection, Wildside Press/Prime Books)

Susan Palwick, Shelter (Novel, Tor)

Alaistar Reynolds, Galactic North
(Novel, Ace)

Sheri S. Tepper, The Margarets
(Novel, HarperCollins/Eos)

Connie Willis, D.A. (Novel, Subterranean Press)

July 2007:

Kage Baker, Sons of Heaven (Novel,
Tor)

Stephen Baxter, Conqueror (Novel,
Ace)

Emma Bull, Territory (Novel, Tor)

Neil Gaiman, M is for Magic
(Collection, HarperCollins)

Mary Gentle, Ilario (Novel, HarperCollins/Eos)

Taniith Lee, Tempting the Gods
(Collection, Wildside Press)

Richard K. Morgan, Thirteen (Novel,
Ballantine Del Rey)

Chris Roberson, Set the Season Fire
(Novel, BL Publishing)

J. K. Rowling, Harry Potter & the
Deathly Hallows (Novel, Bloomsbury)

Warren Hammond, KOP (Novel, Tor)

Re: Reviewers & Reviewed

Jasper Fforde is the Welsh author of the "Thursday Next" series of SF/fantasy novels: The Eyre Affair, Lost in a Good Book, and The Well of Lost Plots. Two of these earlier books were reviewed in The Fan.

Robert Lichtman is a Californian who began his SF fannish activity in 1958 with his first fanzine, *Psi-Phi*. Over the years he has been a member of N3F, LASFS, IPSO, the Cult, SAPS, CRAP, GDA, SIC, and other SF clubs and apas. In the early 1960s he wrote one of N3F's famous Fandbooks. He later produced *Fanthology 2*, and currently edits/publishes *Trap Door*. He is famous in fannish circles for the size of his fanzine collection. Lichtman became a member of First Fandom in 2005 and has been married since 2000 to Carol Carr, the widow of Terry Carr.

Peter Lovesey, born in 1936, was a department head at Hammersmith and West London College until 1975, when he became a full-time professional writer. He is the author of the very popular historical whodunnits about Detective Sergeant Cribb. Equally popular are his Peter Diamond mysteries set in the England of today.

Gary Lovisi owns Gryphon Publications, which publishes a wide variety of SF

and mystery books as well as *Paperback Parade* and other genre magazines. He himself is an author of several books, including a series of detective novels.

Lawrence F. Lowery is professor emeritus at The University of California, Berkeley. He is an authority on Big Little Books and related publications and has written several children's books himself.

Note: Unless identified as written by someone else, everything in this column is by the Book Review Editor. N3F members are invited to submit reviews, preferably electronically. If you are not on the Internet and can only send your review by snail mail, I'll consider it but its publication probably will be delayed. If you send a review by e-mail and do not hear from me within a reasonable length of time, please write. It has become apparent that some Internet providers do not communicate with each other. My two addresses are as follows: jon_swartz@hotmail.com and 11600 Starview Trail, Austin, TX 78750.

SF & Fantasy TV Shows on DVD, Part 2

By Lyne Masamitsu

One of the best short-lived shows on TV was a series called "Roar," starring Heath Ledger (yum for the ladies!). This show was set in Celtic times during the conflict with the Romans. It has spiritual aspects with the Druids, and other "Mother Nature" beliefs, a bit of fantasy and magic, as well as the history of Christianity, touching on the "old scrolls" and other mysteries. There is a lot of battle

that is pretty gritty (for the guys I think!) and gorgeous landscapes that are seamlessly integrated with the sound stage parts! The best thing about this series is that they must have known they were going to be cancelled, because they closed off the story arc (especially regarding the terrible villain that "could not die"!) by the 12th Episode. There was a 13th episode on the DVD but it was like an "after thought" and I could tell that the network must have told them to "do one more to fill the season" or some such. It did not have all the main characters and was a bit different in feel and story type than the main 12 episodes. All in all, VERY worth the money!

Never having been a Doctor Who fan, my son and daughter-in-law told me about the new Doctor Who on DVD, highly recommending it. My son told me it was very modern with really great sets, effects and so on. He was like me, he never liked the original series with the "cheap sets" etc. Now before you get mad at me, if you are a die-hard fan of the original, please understand my reactions to this show are MY OWN and I mean no offense. I have since learned that the fans of the original series may not like the new, slick high-budget Doctor Who and vice versa! It's very serious business, this Doctor Who fandom! It's almost as flammable as a PC user vs. a MAC user can be! At any rate, I fell in love with the "not quite handsome" Doctor Who #9 of the first new series shows, and was a bit put off by the fact he did not stay on, and was replaced by a rather (in my own opinion) wimpy odd acting Doctor Who #10 in the next season also available on DVD. I also loved #9's

side kick girl, Rose, a lot, and in the next season she left toward the end with a cliff hanger of who the new girl partner would be for the newest Doctor. I thought the "Daleks" were a bit silly and not too scary, but I bought all the rest. I most enjoyed when they time-traveled into the future onto a space station of some sort! Wow!

If you can afford the sets (BBC-English series are both shorter in number of episodes and more expensive than we are used to here in the states), I highly recommend them! I also enjoyed the "Extras" that included interviews with the cast! I got so involved I got a Tardis (the Police call box time travel machine) model in 3D and also created a likeness of the 9th Doctor for my 3D art passion! :) You can see that art image in my slide show gallery here: <http://www.lynescreations.com/posergal.htm> . (don't include a "." after the htm if you are copying the address from here.)

For those fans of "The Pretender," two of the movies that continue the series (the 4 seasons are already on DVD) just came out. They are "Pretender 2001" & "Pretender - Island of the Haunted." I had remembered the TV movies as being less believable, less well acted than the regular series but when I watched them, I did enjoy them a lot! I think there are more movies, and that the series was never really tied up, but I am glad I bought the two movies out now.

On a more humorous side, I decided to try "Third Rock from the Sun" – the sitcom about aliens who come to earth and take on the form of humans to study us. I had only watched an episode here

and there and decided that because I do love John Lithgow and Jane Curtin, I would give the first season a try. For me it is "laugh out loud" stuff and I plan on getting more of the seasons on DVD.

The only odd bit was that if you watch one episode at a time, it defaults to "play preview" of the episode instead of the episode itself, so you have to focus to select to play it. They did include extras – interviews with all the cast members, bloopers etc. that were fun!

If you have children or, like me are really a child at heart, you might want to find all the copies of "Worst Witch." This cute, well made Canadian series that was is finally out on DVD. It's about Mildred, the "worst witch" who just can't do anything very well, like fly her broom or make potions that work properly. She is picked on by the snobby know-it-all girls of the school. This series was sort of like watching a milder and all-girls school of the Harry Potter genre. The teachers are wonderful characters with one being very nasty, one being an oddball, etc.

I did have to go on line to figure out which box of DVD's to watch first because in reality the first box is half of Season 1 and the second box is the next half and so on. The entire series was not put on DVD. I think it came out to two full seasons in 4 boxes. I had to go to IMBD to study the order of the seasons' chapter titles to figure it all out, and then put a post note # on each box to make sure. There is a bit of a story arc so you would want to do this. You can visit IMBD at: <http://www.imdb.com/> and WARNING – there is a movie of the same name that is NOT any good, so you need to look for the series.

Look for “Worst Witch Collection # 1-4” titles. Both the movie and the TV series are sold on DVD.

Lastly, though it is not really Sci Fi or Fantasy, I highly recommend DUE SOUTH, starring Paul Gross, on DVD.... that only was around for 3 seasons. The first season (after the pilot episode, that was not very funny) was THE BEST, with the incredibly funny interaction between a displaced Canadian Mounty and his sort-of partner, a Chicago detective. This show had me really laughing out loud, and I loved the beautiful dog (who was not a real wolf in the main series, but a gorgeous, well-trained Siberian Husky). The dog, Diefenbaker, was only a prominent character in the first season, unfortunately. You know how network “suits” tell the writers how to change things for often dumb reasons. Also because of some contractual reasons the actor playing the Mounty’s partner had to leave the show and was replaced by a guy that just did not have the magical chemistry for the remaining two seasons....but I still plan on re-watching this “too good to be true hero” of a Canadian Mounty again! :)

Vignettes from N3F history: A book by a club President

By Jon D. Swartz
N3F Historian

An obscure little book, A Spacewoman Speaks by “Rolf Telano” (El Monte, CA: Understanding Publishing,

1960, 93 numbered pages) was written by Ralph M. Holland, paranormal enthusiast, member of the Borderland Research Group, and one-time president of N3F.

In A Spacewoman Speaks an alien woman supposedly sends a “message” to the people of Earth. The spacewoman identifies herself as Borealis, a native of Venus. Her message is a mixture of science fiction, the Atlantis myth, flying saucers, Deros, ideas from various religions, telepathy, reincarnation, fannish references, etc. Only a SF fan steeped in fannish lore could have written it. The eleven chapter headings give the flavor of the book: “In the Beginning,” “The Garden of Eden,” “Everywhere is Home,” “The Saucers,” “The Space Patrol,” “Mores and Morals,” “Reincarnation,” “Health,” “Mental Powers,” “Religion,” and “The Present Mission.” The final chapter is a warning that The Space Patrol might be forced to intervene if there is a threat of nuclear war by the nations of Earth.

Ralph Merridette Holland, Jr. was born in Youngstown, Ohio, on August 29, 1899, and lived there until his family moved to Akron in 1914. He received an engineering degree, worked at the *Akron Beacon Journal*, and later was employed by B. F. Goodrich. He spent the last 40 years of his life in Cuyahoga Falls where he worked for the Vaughn Machinery Company. He published his own fanzine, *The Science-Fiction Review*, and wrote about a fantasy character called Ghu. He said he adopted the alter ego of Rolf Telano because he was interested in paranormal phenomenon and knew that his interest in SF would cast doubt on anything he presented as fact in the paranor-

mal field. There is evidence that he was also the architect of the infamous "Rudolph Fentz" time travel hoax in the 1950s. He died in 1962.

Holland and the N3F

Holland was very active in N3F affairs. He served on the club's Directorate and became chairman in 1957. The next year he was elected president, and — by the time of his death — he had established a record for the longest period as president. Holland compiled Ghu's Lexicon, a 1958 chapbook of fannish terms that was published by the N3F. The Ralph Holland Memorial Award was begun in 1962 and presented at the Fan Art Show of the Worldcon that year to the Most Promising Artist. The first winner was BNF Juanita Coulson. One of Holland's fan interests was taking color films of his travels, including his trips to cons.

Publisher of *A Spacewoman Speaks*

The book's publisher was Daniel W. Fry who also provided a brief Foreword -- in which he wrote that the publication of Telano's book "was delayed until today, when the factuality of telepathic communication has become more generally known and accepted." Fry's company, Understanding Publishing, published at least seventeen books on similar subjects, including Fry's own To Men of Earth.

Rudolph Fentz Hoax

Rudolph Fentz was the name given to a man who supposedly time-traveled

from 1876 to 1950, only to be struck by an automobile and killed. Most fans in the United States were skeptical, but the story gained wide acceptance in Europe. A researcher, Chris Aubeck, traced the story back to Holland, who had written a story about the incident in 1953. It turned out that Holland had lifted his story from one by Jack Finney. Finney's story was published in 1951 in Tomorrow, the Stars, a SF anthology edited by Robert Heinlein.

Contrails:

L.A.Con IV -- Worldcon 64 Part One

L.A.Con IV, the 64th Worldcon, was held August 23-27, 2006, at the Anaheim Convention Center and the adjacent Hilton and Marriott hotels, within a few blocks of Disneyland. Guests of Honor: author Connie Willis, artist James Gurney, fan Howard DeVore; Special Guest, Frankie Thomas, TV's "Tom Corbett, Space Cadet". Both DeVore and Thomas died some months before the con opened.

L.A. Con IV occupied only about half the convention center, which struck me as something on the order of an aircraft carrier made of glass. Much space was empty, but some was shared with a real-estate investing seminar. One large room was given over to a kind of expo, consisting of displays and literature attacking "Psychiatry: An Industry of Death". Who organized it was not made evident, but I quickly realized it had something to do with a certain religion started by a cer-

tain science fiction writer. I would have picked up some of their literature, but they charged through the nose for it.

{ The Quick Way }

Thursday afternoon, "Space Drives: From Launch Lasers to Warp Drives" was presented by SF writer and aeronautical engineer G. David Nordley, satellite systems designer Jordin Kare, JPL scientist Henry Harris, SF writer and retired electrical engineer James P. Hogan, astronomy prof and hard SF writer Michael S. Brotherton, and moderated by fan and free-lance scientist Ctein.

Teeing off from the title, Nordley said that a mass beam is better than a launch laser because *all* the kinetic energy in the beam is transferred to the craft. It's a vast subject, said Kare. He has done panels just on getting to orbit, for example; as well as interstellar flight, fringe physics, etc.

On the subject of interstellar flight, Harris noted that the interstellar medium both erodes and charges a spacecraft moving through it. At relativistic speeds, "essentially you're sitting in the throat of a particle accelerator." Radiation protection is a major issue, Nordley agreed.

If we're to do anything substantial in space, said Hogan, we will have to go nuclear, using water or methane or whatever as reaction mass. But Kare thought beaming power was even better than nuclear. He proposed a beam made up of tiny light sails, that would accelerate a ship up to 0.1C (one-tenth of the speed of

light).

Harris said he is working on the design for an unmanned probe to be accelerated at 100G's. If you're using beamed power, Ctein explained, you want to do as much accelerating as possible while you're still close to the source of the beam, before it spreads out too far to be captured. On the other hand, Nordley noted that smart "particles" could steer themselves to counteract the spreading at longer distances. (But that, too, would cost energy, it occurs to me.) And a mass beam could deliver reaction mass for a spacecraft's return.

Aside from reducing the mass of the spacecraft, Ctein pointed out, another advantage of beamed power is that, in effect, the engine is left back home, where it can be easily maintained and repaired. But that has to be balanced against the "institutional risk" of social breakdown or loss of interest at home, over the decades or more of an interstellar flight.

Brotherton said that, in recent years, nuclear power has been improving its image relative to other forms of energy, so public hostility to using it in space is no longer so overwhelming. Hogan, *sotto voce*, "as if there were no radiation in space already!" Laughter.

What can we do to promote space exploration, Ctein wondered, "until one of you becomes dictator of the world—" "I volunteer!" interjected Kare. Hogan said he was content to remain dictator of his stories. Unfortunately no one has figured out how to use red tape as reaction mass, Kare said dolefully.

Questions: Would it be possible to use the solar corona for "aerobraking" a relativistic craft? That would involve decelerations on the order of a million G's, said Nordley. A drive that would "swim" through dark matter? Brotherton described a "dark matter drive called "The Bully" — 'cause it beats up WIMPs!" Groans. (Note: Weakly Interacting Massive Particles are a proposed constituent of dark matter.)

{ The Slow Way }

Early Friday afternoon, the panelists for "Faster Than Light Or Slower Than Molasses" were space artist and engineer Joe Bergeron, who has worked for space entrepreneurs; Henry Harris of NASA, who has done work on solar propulsion; astronomer turned software engineer Mark L. Olson; SF writer and mechanical engineer Todd McCaffrey; hard SF writer Jack McDevitt; and moderated by SF writer Allen M. Steele.

Interstellar travel is either just a matter of time, said Steele; *or*, "we're stuck in the solar system", due to the extreme distances involved. If the ancient philosopher Socrates had launched a mission to Alpha Centauri traveling at the speed of the Apollo mission to the Moon, said McDevitt, it would now be just two percent of the way. What about faster-than-light travel? FTL will either be "simple or impossible", said McCaffrey — and, he thinks, in the end it will be simple.

Harris said that he had been instructed to design an unmanned, 40-year

mission to Alpha Centauri: "*Today*, we do have the technology to do that!" The problem, once again, is politics — building his laser — not technology. Potentially, it's a "weapon of pinpoint destruction" rather than a weapon of mass destruction, but it's still a sensitive issue.

For a long time, Steele said he had thought interstellar travel impractical, if not impossible, until he did the research for his "Coyote" series of stories about interstellar colonization. He said velocities approaching one-fifth of the speed of light "might be possible in 100 years." Traveling the slow way would require "bio-stasis" (suspended animation) — "I don't believe generation ships would work." The interstellar medium itself becomes a problem over 1% of the speed of light, Harris warned.

Harris said he had advised NASA against a one-shot, Apollo-style mission to Mars. Instead, build a space station to learn "long-term space habitation technology". So far, we haven't even solved the problem of radiation, especially solar flares, which can't be predicted. "The number one thing should be survival" of the species. Human life on Earth is threatened by asteroids, supervolcanoes, interstellar dust clouds, etc.

Citing astronaut Buzz Aldrin, Olson noted that pro-space politicians would often like to do more; but in many cases, "this was the biggest project they could get across."

"I'm sure Mr. Bush would be delighted to see us get to Mars, and do other things," said McDevitt, "provided it didn't

cost money." Steele said he had heard Aldrin urge public-private cooperation; that is, the government would leverage its limited resources by providing seed money for private efforts.

If we have to choose between unmanned probes and manned exploration, I said, the planets and the science will still be there a hundred years from now. But I don't know how much time we have to ensure human survival. NASA Administrator Mike Griffin agrees that survival is the highest priority, said Harris.

Japan, China, India, and the United States have all announced they are planning to go back to the Moon, said Steele. Perhaps not coincidentally, these are all heavy energy users. If solar power satellites are ever built, they will be made of lunar material. And fusion reactors may use Helium Three extracted from the lunar crust. An audience member chimed in, one shuttle bay full of Helium Three can power the entire Earth -- if fusion power finally becomes a reality.

In the words of Poul Anderson's interstellar merchant, Nicholas van Rijn, said Olson, governments come and go, "but greed goes on forever." If people can make money in space, they will go there.

{ Physics, Including the Kitchen Sink }

Later Friday afternoon, "21st Century Physics" was presented by: Eric Van, Readercon Chairman and physics dropout, who promised to "speculate wildly". SF writer Wil McCarthy, who said that as an aerospace engineer he's been living in

the 21st Century for years. Physicist and SF writer Geoffrey Landis, who cautioned the audience: "For those of you looking for the 'furry sex' panel", you're in the wrong place. James P. Hogan, who started out as an electrical engineer and "learned to wing it with physicists", his customers.

On the physicists' Holy Grail, the Theory of Everything, Van said that the standard model of physics is dying of paper cuts, rather than the kind of big hole that killed earlier theories. Call it the "Theory of Some Stuff", said McCarthy. "Theory of Everything" is presumptuous.

Though both are experimentally verified, said Landis, quantum theory and relativity are "fundamentally, at the core, incompatible". One must be wrong; or both. Or, we're wrong about them being incompatible! (Laughter.)

String theory is often proposed as the road to a Theory of Everything, but it is stingy with opportunities for experimental verification. "This romance with mathematics, I'm very wary of," said Hogan. He doesn't trust theories in which, as he put it, the 51st decimal place determines whether the universe collapses or not. However, as Landis later reminded us, a few decades ago there were only a handful of relativity experiments. Now, there are dozens; for example, the GPS satellite system has to be designed to allow for relativistic time dilation resulting from the satellites' orbital speed.

Some physicists foresee an "end of physics"; in other words, a Theory of Everything that truly leaves no more ques-

tions to be answered. Landis saw three general possibilities. First, a Theory of Everything that is the last word, string theory or loop quantum gravity or whatever. Second, levels beneath levels beneath levels ad infinitum -- Van recalled the old yarn about "elephants all the way down" -- but perhaps organized by meta-rules of some kind. Third, "a maximally complex theory that human beings can under-

stand." "The hidden postulate in science is that it is simple," Landis explained, "but what if it isn't?" What if there is a Theory of Everything, but we humans are incapable of understanding it?

[Part Two of this report, if room allows when required content is used up, will appear in the September TNFF. --ED.]

TNFF Submission Guidelines

Publishing Schedule: TNFF is published four times a year (quarterly) in March, June, September, and December.

Deadlines: The 15th day of the month preceding the publication month. As an example, material intended for the June issue should be in the Editor's hands by May 15. ***If it doesn't get here in time, it usually goes in the next issue.***

What We Publish: This is the official clubzine for N3F, a combination of what used to be published in TNFF (all the official reports) as well as *Tightbeam's* traditional content: reviews (book, movie, TV show, game, etc.), con reports, genre poetry, flash fiction (original short stories under 1000 words). Art is always needed.

Formats We Will Accept: Paper copies are accepted, but electronic formats are preferred for ease of use. Submissions can be made via disk or email, to the Editorial Cabal Chief (whoever is club president at the time) or the EC Advisor; query first for instructions. Unexpected format

files can be eaten by virus checkers.

Please send only copies of your work, whether it is art or text. We do NOT return submissions made on paper unless the sender has included an SASE.

Not Sure What to Send?

For articles, etc: If you've never submitted an article to any zine, and aren't comfortable with writing an article per se, you can always write about something in an LoC and the editor can do a bit of editing to turn it into an article. More than one article started out that way. Bureau reports, articles, LoCs, con-reports, poetry, flash fiction (original short stories under 1000 words), and art are welcome and needed.

Art and Reviews: The formation of the Editorial Cabal helps to spread the work about, hopefully creating a more timely publication of The Fan.

In order to facilitate this, *art should be sent to the Art Editor*, Sarah Harder, 1574 Notre Dame Ave., Belmont, CA 94002; yseult_sg@yahoo.com. *Reviews should be sent to the Reviews Editor*, Jon D. Swartz, 11600 Starview Trail, Austin, TX

2007 NATIONAL FANTASY FAN FEDERATION (N3F) AMATEUR SHORT STORY CONTEST

Story Contest Rules and Entry Blank

1: This contest is open to all amateur writers in the field, whether members of N3F or not. We define an amateur as someone who has sold no more than two stories to the professional science fiction or fantasy publications.

2: Stories must be original, unpublished, not more than 7500 words in length, and must be science fiction and/or fantasy in the opinion of the judges.

3: Manuscripts should be typed on one side of a 8 ½" x 11" white paper, double spaced, with the title on each page. The name of the author should not appear anywhere on the manuscript to ensure impartial judging. Photo copies are acceptable, if they are of good quality. Computer print outs must be legible.

4: Contestants may enter any number of stories, provided each is accompanied by a separate entry blank and fee. Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) for the return of the story at the end of the contest. Keep a copy in case of accidental loss. We are not responsible for lost manuscripts.

5: Entry fees are \$2 for N3F members in good standing, \$4 for non-members. The extra \$2 is for printing and publicity, paid for by N3F funds. The basic \$2 is for judge's expenses and prizes. Members of N3F are encouraged to enter the contest, but will not receive preference in judging. Due to a long-standing agreement with the British Science Fiction Association, BSFA members pay the same fee as N3F members.

6: Cash prizes totaling \$100 will be awarded as follows: First prize is \$50; Second \$30; Third \$20. Honorable mentions and semi-finalists will receive a choice of paperback books available.

7: Send all manuscripts, together with SASE's, blanks, and entry fees, to the contest manager: **Jeff Redmond, 1335 Beechwood NE Grand Rapids MI 49505-3830; redmondjeff@hotmail.com . Make checks payable to Jeff Redmond.** Dollar bills, or unused stamps (mint, not recycled) are acceptable. **All entries must be received or post-marked no later than December 31st, 2007.**

8: The Preliminary Judge, who will pick the 10 or 12 semi-finalists, will be a knowledgeable N3F member. The Final Judge will be a professional writer.

9: The N3F assumes no publishing rights or obligations. We want to encourage pro sales, not fan publication. All entries will be returned after the contest is over. Winners will be notified as soon as the judging is completed. A full report will be made to N3F soon after the first of the year.

ENTRY BLANK (Detach or not, as you wish, but must accompany story)

Title of Story (for identification): _____

Author's Name & Address:

Enclosed is the entry fee of \$4 (N3F or BSFA member \$2). I have read the rules for the 2006 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest, and agree to them.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

*Send all address corrections
and undeliverable copies to:*

**Dennis L. Davis
25549 Byron Street
San Bernardino, CA
92404-6403**



**ADDRESS LABELS
HERE**