



**‘Stranger’ discussion:** From left to right: Dr. Robert James, Ph.D., English, UCLA; Bill Patterson; Prof. Herb Gililland, USNA (Captain, USNR, retired) and Geo Rule.

*Photo by Art Dula*

## CONVENTION

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else will write a piece on these outlines and influences that may be in them and succeed in having it published in The Heinlein Journal, or elsewhere, for your delight and enjoyment. Something to do in my spare time, eh?

Deb Houdek took some photos of this visit we posted on our website, on our archives page. Look under Conventions.

Late Thursday afternoon, Peter Scott, Andrea and I left Bill and everyone else to their own devices; and I touched bases with the manager of the Eulipia, to ensure whether he'd been successful in obtaining some equipment we needed for the program for the Friday night and ensure he was ready for sixty-plus guests we expected.

He had and assured us he was. It is a

beautiful little restaurant, nice bar, in very good taste, with a good menu. The staff we met were very friendly and helpful. I was a little worried about how more than 60 people would fit in that banquet room of theirs, but assured they all would.

Then Peter, Andrea, and I enjoyed a nice Italian dinner at the San Jose Hyatt, which was a bit far from the convention center, but nicely appointed, with an excellent restaurant including patio seating, around a good sized pool and spa.

### ‘Heinlein 101’

Later Thursday night Robert James arrived at the airport (having arranged to take a Friday off from his classes); and we picked him up and lodged him in the hospitality suite Andrea and I had rented. Robert, Peter, myself, and two others: Bart Kemper and author John Maddox Roberts, were scheduled to kick off our first panel the next morning at

9 am, Heinlein 101. Robert is an English teacher with a Ph.D from UCLA, whose writings you might recognize if you subscribe to The Heinlein Journal. He wrote a beautifully researched article on Leslyn MacDonald Heinlein, second wife of Robert. Peter owns a software consulting company up in Seattle; and Bart is an engineer from Louisiana and was then the C.O. of a combat engineer company in the Army Reserve - National Guard. Just your standard bag of ordinary Heinlein readers, sorta. John is a good friend of and co-author with Yoji Kondo, then our newest Board member; and Yoji had asked John to appear on a couple of our panels.

We checked in to the Convention Center, and safely found each other in the Green Room, managed to find the room where Heinlein 101 was scheduled, and started to

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