

The Heinlein Society, a non-profit corporation, is an educational charity.
http://www.heinleinsociety.org
PO Box 1254
Venice, California 90294 USA

May 2003 Issue

Virginia Heinlein's Memorial Service held April 26th at San Diego Harbor



Mrs. Roberta Pournelle remembers her dear friend Ginny with a few words shortly before Virginia Heinlein's ashes join Robert's in the Pacific Ocean at the entrance of San Diego Harbor. At left is author Jerry Pournelle, and on the right is their niece.

Photograph © 2003 by Victor Koman

San Diego, CA, April 26, 2003 --

At about 4:30 p.m., a small cabin cruiser, commanded by a retired Navy Lieutenant Commander, left Shelter Pointe Marina in San Diego harbor. It carried Virginia Heinlein's ashes, some old dear friends, some newer ones, and a cargo, soon to be consumed, of the makings of Ginny's favorite

The Heinlein Society

cocktail, The French 75, and trays of hors d'oeuvres compliments of the US Navy, which regretted that, due to hostilities, it could not provide accommodations for visitors on any Naval vessel that could be made available for the ceremony.

About ninety minutes later, after we had made initial toasts in memory, the vessel rounded the breakwater, backed engines to hold stationary as we gathered in the bows, each to express a personal goodbye to Ginny. Then Dr. Amy Baxter knelt at the front of the boat, opened and emptied the container of ashes of Virginia Heinlein into the same seas of the Pacific that received the ashes of Robert Heinlein fifteen years earlier. We then floated a wreath of orchids, Ginny's favorite flower, over the seas that had received her ashes; and we turned away knowing we all had helped return her to her beloved Robert.

On the Inside:

Open Letter of Thanks.....	Pages 2 & 3
Scty-Treasr's Report.....	Pages 4 & 5
Membership Services.....	Pages 6 & 7
UC Santa Cruz appoints RAH Scholar.....	Page 8
Reports of Activities....	Pages 4 thru 14
Heinlein Award Dinner....	Pages 5 & 15
From the Chair.....	Page 16

An Open Letter of Thanks to Amy Baxter



Doctor Amy Baxter tosses wreath of orchids atop Virginia Heinlein's ashes. Photograph ©2003 by Victor Koman

Dr. Amy Baxter is known to many as the Heinleins' "adopted" granddaughter. She was never adopted. The term was conferred on her as their mark of the warm friendship in which they held her. Some several years ago a young girl wrote a letter telling Robert and Ginny she had no grandparents, that her parents were readers of his and had introduced her to his writings, that she knew they had no children, and asked could she please adopt them as her grandparents?

They wrote back warmly and said, kindly, "Of course you can." Over the years the letters continued. Eventually Amy visited and yet later came to spend some time with Virginia, who enjoyed her company and encouraged her dreams. Amy became a physician. During Virginia's last illnesses, Amy visited and ensured her adopted grandmother was receiving proper medical care, encouraging her to pursue the therapy necessary

to recovery, and helping to plan Ginny's return to her home. Sadly, on January 18th, Ginny died before those plans came to fruition.

During the weeks that followed Amy planned a small ceremony to reunite Ginny's ashes with Robert's in the Pacific. The Navy, because of hostilities, regretted it was unable to arrange a set time for a vessel that witnesses might board, but provided refreshments for the ceremony conducted on a boat owned and operated commercially by a retired Lieutenant Commander. Last month, in April, arrangements were completed, and Amy and her husband, Dr. Louis Calderon, arranged to travel to the Pacific Coast, with their smallest child, an infant girl, and invited a small number to attend an ashes ceremony held at her expense in San Diego Bay, California. Amy invited a small number of members of The Heinlein Society, of those local to Southern California,

to attend in appreciation for the effort we have made to pay forward both Robert's and Virginia's legacies. Our names aren't particularly important to anyone except ourselves, for we were representing all of you -- all of Heinlein's Children, but we were Bill Patterson, Victor Koman, Neil Shulman, Brad Linaweaver, Robert James, and myself. Also present were some old, close friends of Virginia and Robert, including Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Pournelle, their niece who kindly accompanied them in the drive down from Los Angeles, Lela and Jim Cunningham, who flew in from Tennessee, John and Bill Haywood (who have now adopted Snowy, Ginny's last cat), the son and widower of Ginny's old friend Laura, a neighbor in Florida, who visited her daily in her last illness and, then, suddenly passed away herself only a few weeks later, Ralph Vicinanza, Spectrum's agent from Hollywood, and a close friend of Ginny's: Laurie MacDonald, from San Diego, who was one of the founding corporate board of directors of this Society. Many others were invited, but had

to return their regrets.

Near the Sunset hour, on Saturday, April 26th, 2003, Amy conducted a dignified, but informal and warm ceremony, invited all aboard to speak a few words, then cast a small wreath of orchids to follow the ashes out to sea, then presided over refreshments while the boat returned to shore, and a dinner afterwards for those who could remain to attend.

On behalf of all of us, I thank Amy and Louis for their kindnesses, to us, but far more importantly to Ginny throughout her lifetime and afterwards.

Amy, your name really does Shine!

Both Amy and Louis, and their two older children, are charter members of The Heinlein Society. If any Heinlein Society member wishes to express your thanks to them individually, I'll be happy to forward any notes you send.

Respectfully yours,

David M. Silver, Secretary-Treasurer

"The Lieutenant expects your names to shine!"

Crossing The Bar

Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning of the bar,
When I put out to sea,

But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out the boundless deep
Turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
When I embark;

For though from out our bourne of Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crost the bar.

Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Memorial Day Heinlein Society Activities

We participated in three separate science fiction conventions Memorial Day weekend, at Baltimore, Maryland; at San José, California; and at Missoula, Montana.

There will be separate reports from Heinlein Society members throughout this newsletter, so I'll keep the summary short here.

At BayCon, in San José, there was a quite successful blood drive in which the Stanford University Bloodmobile had to turn away fifteen donors when it ran out of supplies and ran far behind in time on Saturday, May 24th. We hosted three very successful panels -- one of which was SRO and, because it was scheduled in the last afternoon slot on Saturday, with nothing following, ran a total of two and a quarter hours (75 minutes over) before we were allowed by the audience to leave to keep our dinner reservation, manned a fan table all weekend through Monday, and gained six new members. We were invited by various officials of other Cons to attend WesterCon and SilliCon, later this year, and reminded to attend NorWesCon early next year. We were asked also to submit panel suggestions to all three which, perhaps, we will be able to do with the aid of old and new members in those locales. In all, seven Heinlein Society members participated in the three panels we presented at BayCon, which were tuning-up subjects already suggested to Torcon3, which is the World Science-Fiction Convention to be held over Labor Day in Toronto, Canada.

Robert James, our new Education Committee Chair, did a fine job in arranging for the three panels we presented through our good friend, Katherine Daugherty, who was Programming Director for BayCon and had been in the same position last September for ConJosé.

Dave Jennings, a member of the Education committee who served on the Heinlein 101 panel, shot a digital tape of the last panel we presented Sunday; and it will be available on CD to locally-organizing Heinlein Society panels for review -- not because "one size fits all," but as a demonstration of what can be done with an attractive

topic, i.e., "Heinlein's Juveniles." The CD will also discuss preparing for a blood drive and manning a fan table for recruiting purposes at conventions. Audio tapes were also made of all three panels presented at BayCon; and transcripts now being prepared will be available to local groups of The Heinlein Society for the same purpose in the future.

Greg Bear, the writer Guest of Honor at BayCon, complimented us on the overall program we had put on, was happy especially to see the blood drive a success, and happy to see us attend.

Reports by our other members on the other Cons they attended will include some "lessons learned," to assist all of us in attending our local science-fiction conventions in the future, so I'll include my thoughts here on BayCon as well.

Items we'll need to improve upon include arranging for the blood taking facilities to be increased for the next time at BayCon, and a bit better publicity, since the same area produced over 100 volunteers last World Con. Perhaps we'll be able to put on a few more panels to allow other local members to gain experience in participating on panels at this fine and other local conventions; and we'll try to add yet other recruitment ideas.

At MisCon in Missoula, as Elizabeth Youmans' report will detail, several new memberships were obtained, some good lessons learned, and we were invited to present panels at the next MisCon, next year.

At Balticon, as Ogden Johnson and John Tilden's report will note, the Washington, D.C. membership contingent of our Society as well as members from Maryland gathered to support Con activities. A fairly successful blood drive was finally held for the local branch of the Red Cross, a vast improvement over last year when ConCom and the local Red Cross felt it necessary to cancel plans at the last moment. Dr. Yoji Kondo, a Heinlein Society director, was very helpful; we ran a fan table throughout; an ad hoc panel was held and chaired by John Tilden; and substantial plans for next year are already in process. Dale S. Arnold, Secretary of the Baltimore SF Society that presents the Con, has already asked us to suggest a couple of formal panels for next year's Balticon; and our Education Committee will have them finalized, fully planned and submitted well before 2004. Lois McMasters Bujold will be the writer

guest of honor in 2004; and her novels may tie in nicely to Heinlein themes.

Read closely the remaining reports, please. It's not difficult to prepare a program for the local science fiction and related conventions in your area. You can "Pay It Forward" yourself, as Mrs. Youmans, Messrs. Johnson and Tilden, and all the others who participated in three Cons this weekend have done. All you have to do is start planning now. Contact any of us for helpful suggestions and hints. One of our members drove over one thousand miles, one way, to help with a Con, this Memorial weekend. How about you?

Heinlein Award Design Approved

Dr. Yoji Kondo, one of our Society's directors, formed a panel of judges last summer at one of Ginny Heinlein's last requests to award, periodically, but not necessarily annually, should appropriately excellent works be written, The Heinlein Award. The judges are noted writers, educators, and scientists: Greg Bear, Joe Haldeman, Yoji Kondo (who writes science fiction under the name Eric Kotani), Elizabeth Moon, Larry Niven, Jerry Pournelle, Spider Robinson, Stanley Schmidt, Herb Gilliland, and John Hill. A noted artist, Arlin Robins, was commissioned to design the solid sil-



Heinlein Award Medallion

Rendition property and courtesy of artist Arlin Robins

ver medallion that will be presented when, and if, the Award is made. An artist's preliminary sketch of the medallion appears in the left column.

The panel of judges will make their writing selection on Robert Heinlein's birthday, July 7th, if any are found worthy to receive an award this year. In anticipation of a selection or selections, a dinner has been scheduled by The Heinlein Society, for Friday, August 29, at Torcon3, the 61st Annual World Science Fiction Convention, in Toronto, Canada. You'll hear and see more about that dinner elsewhere, in this issue, and before the event. There is an advertisement running for it, in Locus Magazine, and here; and that advertisement will be placed elsewhere. Please send your reservations in if you can possibly attend Torcon3 this year as soon as possible. It's going to be a gala event you won't want to say you missed!

Torcon3 Dinner and Attendance

We've already received a good response to invitations for the August 29th dinner we extended to the authors, scientists and educators who comprise the judge's panel for the inaugural presentation of The Heinlein Award. It's crucial and urgent that we ourselves have a good attendance. There is plenty of room. I urge you, if at all possible, to attend Torcon3, this year's World Science Fiction Convention, if only for that one evening, and our Memorial Dinner. It will be an historic event you'll be sorry to have missed if you don't.

Dues

WHAT else am I ALWAYS required to write to you about? If you haven't paid them, please do as soon as possible. We are five months into the dues year. Your dues enable all of us to Pay It Forward; and it would be nice if "Maureen" didn't have to waste time and postage to send Letter No. 2. She will if she has to; and no one really wants to read Letter No. 3, which will come from me. I don't want to have to write any, so, as they said in *Friday*, please, "Don't make me come find you."

"The Lieutenant Expects Your Names to Shine!"
David M. Silver
Secretary-Treasurer



Heinlein Society members Elizabeth Youmans, RN, Centennial Committee Secretary, and Jane Silver, Membership Services Chair, at MisCon in Missoula, Montana, on Memorial Day, "manning" fan table.

Photo courtesy of Charles Youmans

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

Spring is the time for cleaning up and discarding all that trash accumulated over the long dark winter -- a time to implement plans made during those cold nights, dreaming of beautiful landscapes. The creative juices flow; putting those plans into action requires patience for refinement of those plans.

Most of you will have received my letter sent to you on April 28, 2003 introducing myself and letting you know that we all, The Heinlein Society Membership, are in a very creative and energized mode. There are all kinds of exciting and potentially rewarding endeavors afoot. Cons are sprouting up all over and I, myself, plan to be at the MisCon in Missoula, Montana over Memorial Day Weekend to help; however I may, Elizabeth Youmans man (woman/people?) the Heinlein Society table and give the Blood Drive a hand or a pint.

In my letter I invited you to contact me and let

me know your interests and areas of involvement desired within the Society. I am gratified to say that a number of members have responded very positively with exciting ideas of their own. I have forwarded a number of these letters to the Board and Committee Chairs. As I said in my letter, we want the membership involved actively and are inviting you to be involved in a very exciting future within the Society.

This column will be a recurring Newsletter forum soliciting feedback and queries; suggestions and complaints and, I feel, could be for general commentary from the membership.

Write to me, by e-mail to "membershipservices@heinleinsociety.org" or by postal mail c/o The Heinlein Society, PO Box 1254, Venice, CA 90294.

Here's a typical general information question I received and answer I made, in italics, recently as an example, with identifying information removed to ensure the member's privacy:

This Issue's Membership Services Letter and Reply

Dear Ms. Silver,

Thank you so much for your recent letter. I understand how important your position is, and I thank you for taking your duties seriously.

Dear {member's name removed},

Thank you for appreciating why we have instituted this position: to answer letters just like the one you've written me.

Having said that, I must also say, that since my application for membership, I've been forced to reevaluate my continuing membership. I honestly hadn't realized that I was joining a 'service' organization, and nothing more than that.

I don't think I would characterize it as "nothing more than" a service organization. There are many activities centered around the writings of Robert Heinlein and our goal to pay his legacy forward.

I think as you find out more about them, you'll realize that a literary educational charity can do as many things as its membership wishes, limited only by the prohibitions generally applicable to a legally-defined non-profit charity.

If a mistake was made, I'm sure that it is entirely my fault, as I am rabidly a lifetime fan of Robert's work, and probably jumped at the chance to be a part of anything remotely attached to anything Heinlein. Unfortunately though, as a full-time care-giver for my parents, I have very little time to devote to extra-curricular activities - at least those that take me out of my home.

Many of our members are in similar situations. Some are retired, some are confined themselves, as Ginny Heinlein who founded the society was. Some very useful work is being done by us.

I was a little taken aback to come to the understanding that the Heinlein Society was 'solely' centered around organizing blood drives, facilitating a literary charity, and soliciting funds for the society. I believe my efforts in these areas would not be as productive as either the Society or myself could hope for.

Again, I wouldn't consider all the works that an educational charity can do to be limited. "Paying Forward" the legacy of Robert Heinlein can be done in as varied a manner as we can imagine. But we have to start with some fundamental activities, principally keyed toward membership advertising, otherwise we'd find ourselves dissipating into nothingness.

I was also more than a little disappointed to learn that there is not a structured forum, within the Society, where members can discuss the Heinlein's work.

Here is where I can give you some good news. Actually, among other activities that may interest you, there is a structured forum, supported and founded by the Society, where members do discuss Heinlein's work, and it is something that you can do within your home.

The Society has conducted for over five years the Robert Heinlein Reading Group on the Internet, on AIM chatroom software, usually meeting in live time four times monthly, and discusses selected topics from Mr. Heinlein's works. Recently, there has been a hiatus in meetings because of Mrs. Virginia Heinlein's death; but the meetings are announced on the newsgroup alt.fan.heinlein. I've attended the meetings and found them, myself, very good.

See, <http://home.alltel.net/dwightsr/heinlein.html>

Look under "Introduction" for a description of how the reading group functions, how to find the newsgroup where notices are posted, and how to obtain the freeware used to participate. E-mail Mr. Wright, whose address I've copied (dwrighsr@alltel.net) if you'd like to be added to his mailing list for announcements of meetings.

[Omitted additional question and reply]

As you said in your letter, the Society is not just a 'club' you can join, and so, if that is really true - and I find that I cannot contribute in furthering the traditions that Robert and Ginny espoused, then perhaps it's better that I withdraw my membership.

Additionally, I think you'll find a great many of the Society's activities, while devoted to charitable service, but not "merely" service, will afford you an opportunity to involve yourself.

[salutations and signatures omitted]

This letter was the exact sort of informative letter and reply I hope becomes a recurring feature in every issue. Have a question? Write or e-mail me, and I'll answer, or get the answer for you.

Committee Needs

I've asked each of our committee chairs to state for this article their most needed area of help. Here they are:

Blooddrives: Mike Sheffield needs to know of any local convention of 300 or more people where you think you could volunteer to help sponsor a blood-drive. E-mail: areopagan@earthlink.net.

Centennial: Peter Scott's urgent need is anyone willing to help recruit, organize, and coordinate volunteers for a grassroots, outreach campaign. E-mail: centennial@psdt.com.

Fundraising: Alan Milner needs people with money and lots of chutzpah. E-mail: sagemerlin@aol.com.

Education: Robert James needs teachers at any level and volunteers to serve as Heinlein panelists at conventions. E-mail: docjam00@aol.com.

Library: Anyone interested in helping reform the committee should contact David Silver. E-mail: ag.plusone@verizon.net.

Scholastic/Academic: Geo Rule needs help compiling a descriptive bibliography of every review, wherever published, of any Robert Heinlein work. E-mail: georule@civilwarstlouis.com.

Please let me and them know if you can help in any area.

Very truly yours,

Jane E. Silver

Membership Services

Patterson Appointed Heinlein Scholar at UC Santa Cruz



Bill Patterson, recruiting at Heinlein Society fan table, at NorWesCon in Seattle, Easter weekend, 2002.

The University of California, Santa Cruz, University Library's Special Collections & Archives, is pleased to announce that it is the recipient of a grant from the Robert A. and Virginia Heinlein Prize Trust, for the purpose of establishing a position of a Heinlein Scholar. The Scholar will work with Special Collections to organize, document, and promote use of the Robert Heinlein Archive housed in UCSC's University Library.

Special Collections has chosen William H. Patterson, Jr., as the Heinlein Scholar in 2003-2004. Mr. Patterson is the editor/publisher of *The Heinlein Journal* and Chairman (Pro Tem) of the Heinlein Society. He is also co-author with Andrew Thornton of *The Martian Named Smith* (Nitrosyncretic Press, 2001), a full-length critical study of *Stranger In a Strange Land*. In January 2000, Mr. Patterson was chosen by the late Virginia Heinlein to write a formal biography of her husband, Robert A. Heinlein, and his work with Special Collections over the last three years has resulted in an unique familiarity with the Archive. It is expected that a Finding Aid describing the contents of the Robert Heinlein Archive will be accessible via the University of California's Online Archive of California web site for future scholarly perusal and access.

The editor of this Newsletter extends the heartfelt best wishes of all The Heinlein Society to Bill for his receipt of this wonderful appointment.

Heinlein Society at BayCon Photographs

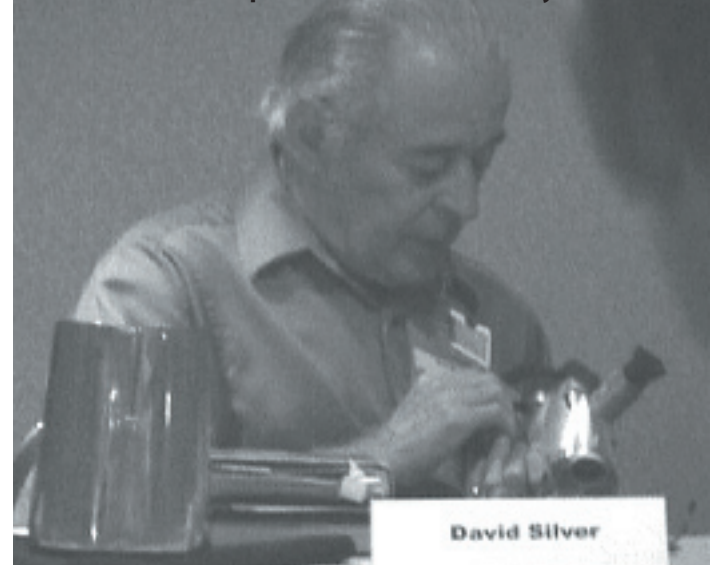


Geo Rule listens to question in "Heinlein's Woman" Panel



Right to Left: Bill Patterson, Tian Harter, and Dave Jennings after dinner on Saturday evening

"Now if I can just figure out how to make this thing work, we might even have some video of a good Heinlein panel to show The Society!"



Society Activities Reports

THS at BayCon

by Geo Rule, Academic/Scholastic
Committee Chair

The Society made a strong showing at BayCon 2003 (Memorial Day weekend) in San Jose, California, this year, presenting three well-attended programs. "Heinlein's Women," on Saturday evening, and "Heinlein Juveniles," and "Heinlein 101" on Sunday, were clearly appreciated by the audiences. As is usual with THS-run panels, one hour was just not enough to do the material full justice, and conversations (not to worry; no blood was spilled) continued out into the halls afterwards. Six new members joined. Some photos by Tian Harter, a long-time participant of the alt.fan.heinlein newsgroup, appear on the page to the left and at the right and bottom of this page.

A large and loud group of THS'ers continued the fun on Saturday night with a convivial dinner at a local establishment. The Blood Drive was a great success, with sixty-five pints donated the Stanford University bloodmobile, with several volunteers remaining when they ran out of supplies. Members in attendance over the course of the weekend were: Fred Moulton, John Strickland, Robert James, Bill Patterson, Deb and Geo Rule, Dave Jennings, Brad Lyau, and David Silver.



Deb Houdek Rule at the "Heinlein's Woman" Panel. The author, who writes as Deb Houdek, has expanded her presentation in light of questions and points raised at this year's BayCon panel; and her full presentation may now be read at <http://www.robtaheinlein.com/articles/womeninjuveniles.htm> -- a website maintained by herself and Geo Rule, that contains a good many other worthwhile articles, written by one or both.

Photograph courtesy of Tian Harter

Why not attend and present a Heinlein panel at your own local Con?



"Heinlein's Women Panel on Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend at BayCon 2003. Right to Left: Bill Patterson, David Silver, Dr. Robert James, panel moderator and Heinlein Society Education Committee Chair, Geo Rule and Deb Houdek Rule.

All BayCon Photos on this and facing page are provided courtesy of Tian Harter

Society Activities Reports

THS at Balticon37

by Ogden "OJ" Johnson, III, and John "JT" Tilden
We, the Washington, D.C. contingent, myself and my wife, Ogden and Mya Johnson, and Teresa Redmond and her daughter Heather, arrived in Baltimore, Maryland, on Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend. We were met by THS member John Tilden and Dr. Yoji Kondo, one of The Society's directors, both Baltimore SF Society members. The Balticon organizers couldn't have been more gracious and helpful to us, despite our late reservation of a fan table.

They had moved heaven and earth and had a THS fan table for us in the "Main Concourse" area, right across from the Information Desk next to where the Art Show being held in one-third of the

the program modified to accommodate us, so JT ended up moderating a discussion about Heinlein and the Society, with OJ chipping in some good points, too. Dr. Kondo's stories are always entertaining!

The extemporaneous panel must have been well received. Attendance was pretty decent -- we have a total of sixteen in a small conference room, as the photos show. We've already been contacted informally by the Balticon folk who've asked us to make formal Heinlein Society panel suggestions for next year! Don't be too surprised if you live in the Baltimore area if someone from the Society calls and asks whether you'd like to participate in what we suggest.

The blood drive was conducted on Sunday. OJ



A Heinlein Society Panel emerges out of Dr. Kondo's "Koffee Klatch" -- Doctor Yoji Kondo, Heinlein Society Director, wearing a sweater vest, is seated facing the participants at the top center. Photograph courtesy of John Tilden

ballroom. They also presented us with a bit of a surprise when we arrived.

The husband of Balticon's husband and wife Artist GOH (guest of honor) team, Omar and Sheila Rayyan, had donated one of his paintings to be awarded by a drawing from tickets filled out by blood drive donors.

We had a panel discussion, which took all us by surprise to see it listed in the 'con program. Dr. Kondo, who writes science fiction under the pseudonym Eric Kotani, had originally scheduled a Koffee Klatch to discuss his own works, but had

spoke to Omar at Sunday's drawing and formally thanked him -- on behalf of The Heinlein Society -- for his great generosity. As so many other SF fans have, Omar cut his teeth on Heinlein, although his course in SFF has veered since. He is also former military, and a long-time blood donor himself. The lucky winner of the Omar Rayyan original was Michael Konold of Baltimore. Our congratulations to Michael; and we hope he will be the first of a long line of raffle winners at THS blooddrives.

Balticon had actively promoted the THS blood

Society Activities Reports

drive in their conference schedule, and in posters all over the Wyndham Inner Harbor Hotel that was the site of Balticon. The bloodvan was located in a good spot just off the Wyndham's Lower Lobby. Our sign-up table was set up right inside



in a lounge area, and right across from the Balticon Con Suite. That guaranteed a *lot* of traffic that we are certain contributed to our results.

Our final numbers on the Red Cross tally were:

Red Cross's Goal: 50 donors

Donors Scheduled: 21 [From preliminary sign-up sheets as of 10 a.m. Sunday.]

Donors Presenting: 48 [Woo-Woo!! -- and the main hang-up was the Red Cross, for people waited constantly from 11 am. through cut-off at 3:30 p.m. Our last donor left the trailer at 5:30 p.m.]

First Time Donors: 6

Total Units Collected: 36 [The Red Cross follows very restrictive standards nowadays]

After leaving, JT was contacted by Harold Feld, representing Conglomeration, the local fan-run filk organization and publisher, inquiring whether the literary estate would be interested in authorizing a CD-ROM of filk songs based on Heinlein works. We passed the information on to the Prize Trustee.

Left: "Location, location, location!" Ogden Johnson at the perfectly placed table. To a prepared retired Marine, and Teresa Redmond had brought all the materials OJ needed, a small table isn't even a minor problem! Below: Another view of The Heinlein Society panel. OJ, without "cover," faces Dr.Kondo. Photographs courtesy of John Tilden.

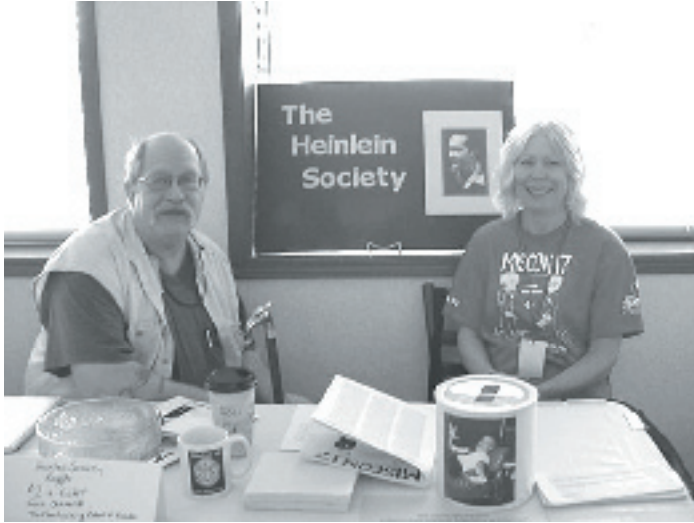


Society Activities Reports

Greetings, From MisCon 17 Or How To Run A Heinlein Society Table

by Elizabeth Youmans, R.N.

Back in February I decided I wanted to support The Heinlein Society at our local SF Con, here in Missoula, Montana. So I e-mailed THS Secretary-



New members Charlie Youmans and Linda Guens start off right at work at the fan table at MisCon17.

Photo courtesy of Mr. Youmans.

Treasurer David Silver and he sent me lots of information and ideas. Please don't ask him for a Mission Statement, though ... "Mission statements! We don't need no stinkin' mission statements!" was the reply I got. Seriously, David is a gold mine of information. I think he just hates writing mission statements!

I am writing to let you know what went right, what went wrong and my plans to make it even better next year. Perhaps they'll help you organize your first trip to a convention for The Heinlein Society. Not much went wrong, the custard fruits tarts went nowhere, due to a refrigeration problem, so I made some cookies (ten dozen) and they went over well. Right off the bat ... don't get all excited about the food, Fen descend on food like locusts and hardly notice what they are eating. However, anything you serve should be homemade, by you or someone you know -- it shows you care.

Let me tell you, the biggest problem I came up against was lead-time.

Four months was not enough to do everything

right. Especially living in a relatively small community in a state with low-ranking income and budgets. Not only did I have a hard time setting up a blood drive, but also the fans were not prepared to make large donations. The folks who did come through for us, as I know the types of jobs they have and an idea of how much (or little) money they make, impressed me.

The Blood Drive:

The first thing to remember, even if you're a medical or nursing professional, is: don't assume you know how your local blood collection facility runs things. This first time I came up against budget problems I didn't expect. Our local Red Cross didn't have the staff or the budget to send out its Bloodmobile on a holiday weekend on such short notice. It also took me almost a month and a half to find the correct person to talk to. His name has gone into my Con building kit. Start real early with any blood collection agency, especially the Red Cross.

I will be talking soonest with the Red Cross and getting set up for next year. They have a bit of warning now and are ready to help me.

Lesson learned: some things will not come to pass. Don't let it discourage you. Improvise!

I handed out 'pin vouchers' as I did not have any blood donor pins. These I created myself with instructions to donate in RAH's name and how to report to THS their donation along with my address and to please make the donation within the next two weeks. When they return the voucher to me, I will send them a pin. Mike Sheffield, our Blooddrives Chair, has ample supplies, and will mail them out to you if you host support for a blooddrive; but you have to give him enough lead time. But that wasn't my main problem; most of the fans interested in donating (our local Vampire LARP) had already donated in the recent past and were unable to donate so soon. I gave them exceptions as to the timing of their donations. They will receive pins for their next donation, as long as I get the voucher back.

You Must Have a Raffle:

Yet another instance of no lead-time: I spent \$20 and only made \$8 on the raffle. Tickets were

Society Activities Reports

sold for \$2 each. I did pay attention and notice what the folks were buying in the dealer room.

You know from *Stranger in a Strange Land* you have to give the rubes what they want or what they think they need. Next year I am going to get donations from some of the local dealers. Lesson learned: pay attention to what the dealers are selling, ask them if need be. Remember to e-mail GOHs and ask for signed copies of their books to be donated for the raffle. Some will consider donating signed copies to all blood donors!

Printing Flyers:

If you live in a city/town with a university or college there are lots of locally owned print shops close to campus; they have the best rates, up to 50% cheaper than the nationwide chains. Use the 'self-service' option, it's cheaper, you get your copies faster and if you have no idea how to use the copier, the same person who would run them off in the first place will come over and set it up for you. Also, they will use the same copier you would use for 'self-service.' These new copiers colate and all you have to do is stand there with the shop's stapler and everything is done by the time you leave the shop.

Color copy is expensive, if you can, print these out on your computer at home. If you want to use colored paper, buy yourself a ream from an office supply and take it to the copy shop. Their colored paper is priced for profit and they should charge you less to copy on your own paper.

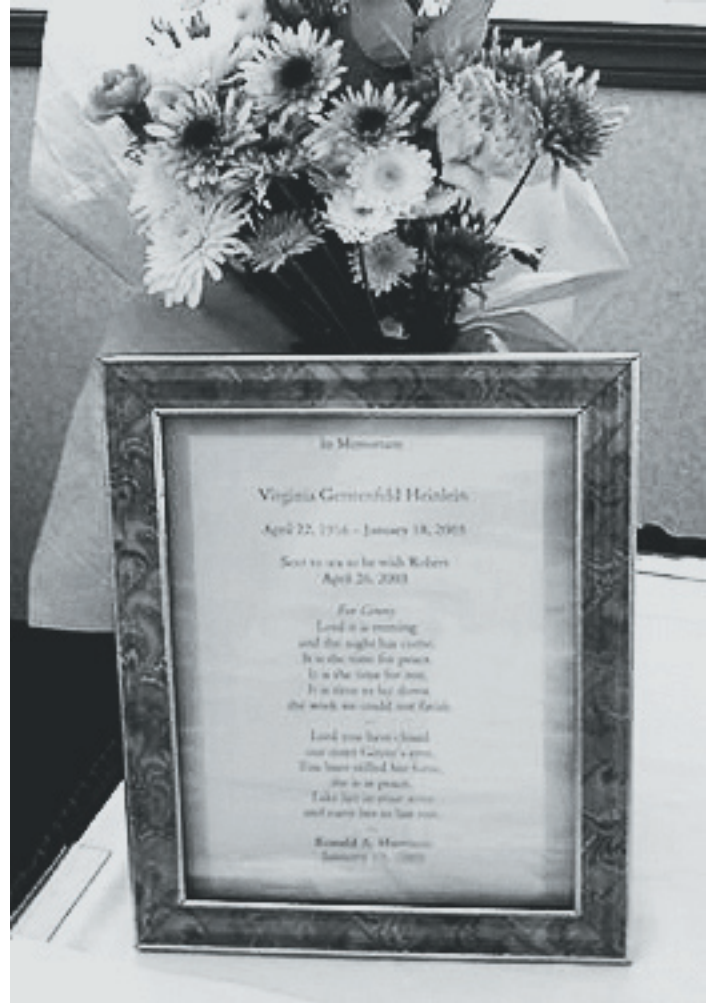
Print out information sheets on card stock, they tend to stay put when people walk by or the air conditioning kicks on. I used information from the website for these types of information sheets.

Donation Can:

By all means, put out a begging can. It is nice for putting the raffle money in and fans can drop small amounts into the can and still contribute to the Society. I also bought a lock box for the checks and cash I would be getting from memberships; this went with me anytime I had to leave the table.

You Need Help:

You need someone who can spell you at the table or a partner in crime. There are times you



Virginia Heinlein Memorial at fan table at MisCon17
Photograph courtesy of Charles Youmans

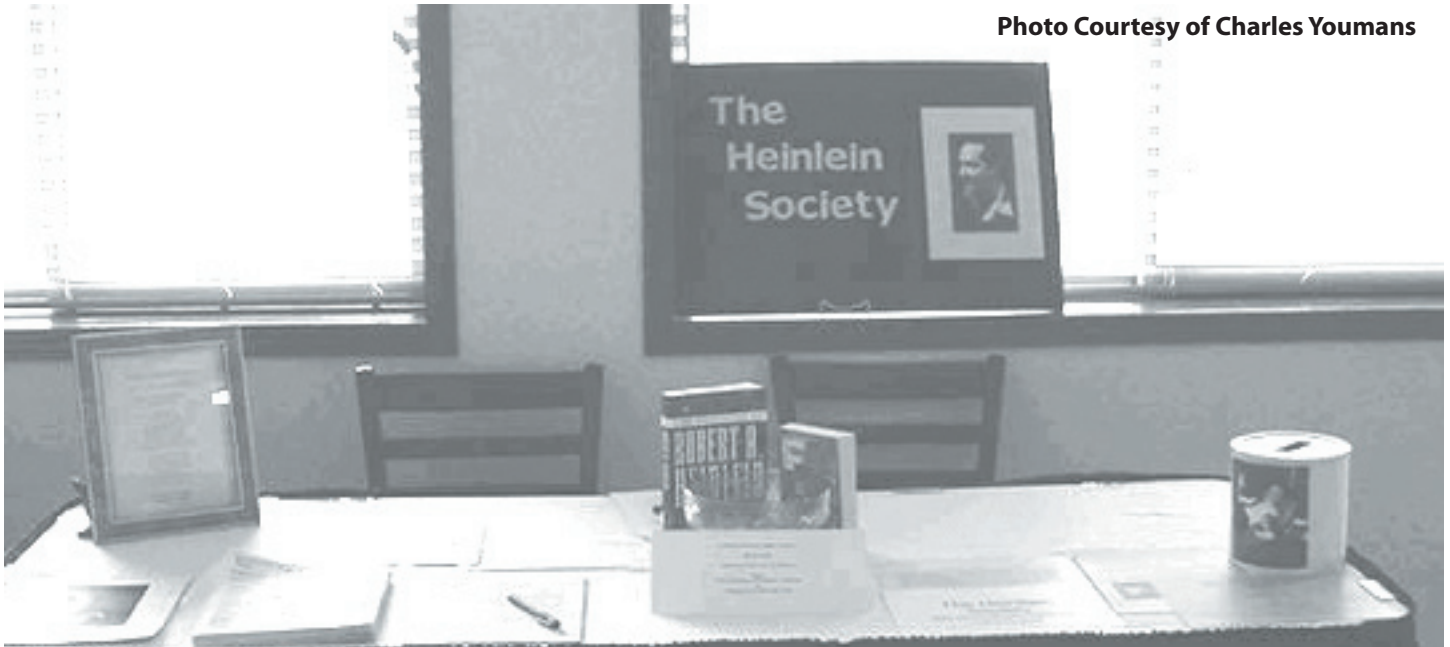
want to leave the table, if for nothing else but to stretch your legs. Me, I couldn't resist the boxes of books going into the dealer's room and the Art room. There were also panels I wanted to attend, we traded off for some of the panels, but there are some that both of us wanted to get to. In that case we would pack up anything we didn't want to walk away and left a note telling people what panel we were attending.

Besides needing help, we offered help to the Con Com. Simple things, we would watch the registration table, and allowed schedules to be placed on our table for those fans who had lost theirs or needed directions to the different floors of the convention center.

We also helped some of the kids on the Con staff who had spent all their money just to get to the Con and had nothing left for food. I set up a

Society Activities Reports

Photo Courtesy of Charles Youmans



Heinlein Society Fan Table at MisCon17, Memorial Day Weekend, Ready to Go

tab for them in the hospitality room and nobody took advantage. In exchange for the help, Con Security hung around more and registration staff pointed out our table as THE place to visit.

Last Day Of The Con:

Don't blow off the last day. Many fans attending the con are stingy with their money the first couple of days, by the end of the con they are getting tired and generous. Continue your presence at least until the dealer room closes.

But What Do I Say?

The Heinlein Society has an excellent website and everything they stand for is listed on the site. Read it, read it again, mull it over and make it your own. This is much better than having a rote speech written down. Just talk to folks, find out what their first Heinlein book was; what does Heinlein mean to them? One fellow was talking about his relationship with Heinlein; and I found out later it was David Gerrold ... another hint: know what the GOHs look like.

We had several nice surprises, many of the fans we talked to we knew from the 'outside' and never knew they read and enjoyed SF. Since MisCon is so small there were many friends we meet up with every year. This made our first attempt at a Heinlein table easy on us.

What Will Be Different Next Year?

Advertising:

- The local TV stations have community service spots, and the public access station is available
- I'm planning to distribute Flyers in the bookstores and ask MisCon to include us on their flyers

Panels:

- Find out the theme for next year and arrange panels that fit the theme - Participate in a couple of other interest panels
- Have a room party and take the Con Com and the GOHs out to dinner or for cocktails.
- Offer to help with movies in the video room, I have a large selection, surely we can come up with something.

Start earlier, the best strategy I can recommend. By the time I was in a position to offer, a lot of the things I had planned were already in place. MisCon 18 will be the place to be in 2004.

But most of all ... Even though I have a hard time believing in myself, I believe in Heinlein and what he has taught me. His memory makes it easier.

Elizabeth Youmans, RN, who lives and works in Missoula, MT along with her husband Charlie, who bakes for a living. They are owned by one cat. His name is Smudge.

The Heinlein Society



*You are cordially invited
to join the members of
The Heinlein Society*

at Torcon3, The 61st World Science Fiction Convention,
for the inaugural presentation of the annual Heinlein Award
for outstanding published works of science fact and fiction
that inspire humanity's expansion into space.

The Heinlein Award was established at the request of the late
Virginia Heinlein, the author's widow, shortly before her final
illness. Robert Anson Heinlein's dream was to see
humanity establish itself on the other planets of this solar
system and eventually reach the stars, themselves.

Join the members of the Heinlein Award board of judges
Greg Bear, Joe Haldeman, Yoji Kondo, Elizabeth Moon,
Larry Niven, Jerry Pournelle, Spider Robinson, Stanley Schmidt,
Herb Gilliland, and John Hill in this first event honoring a great
man's vision and a great lady's dedication to that cause.

Beginning at 6 P.M., sharp!
Friday, August 29, 2003

Joe Badali's Italian Ristorante
156 Front Street West
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
(one block east from Torcon3 headquarters)

Tickets are \$75 (U.S.) until August 23, 2003
Late Reservations \$100 (U.S.) at the door
(15% discount for orders of six or more)

R.S.V.P. with payment in advance payable to:

The Heinlein Society

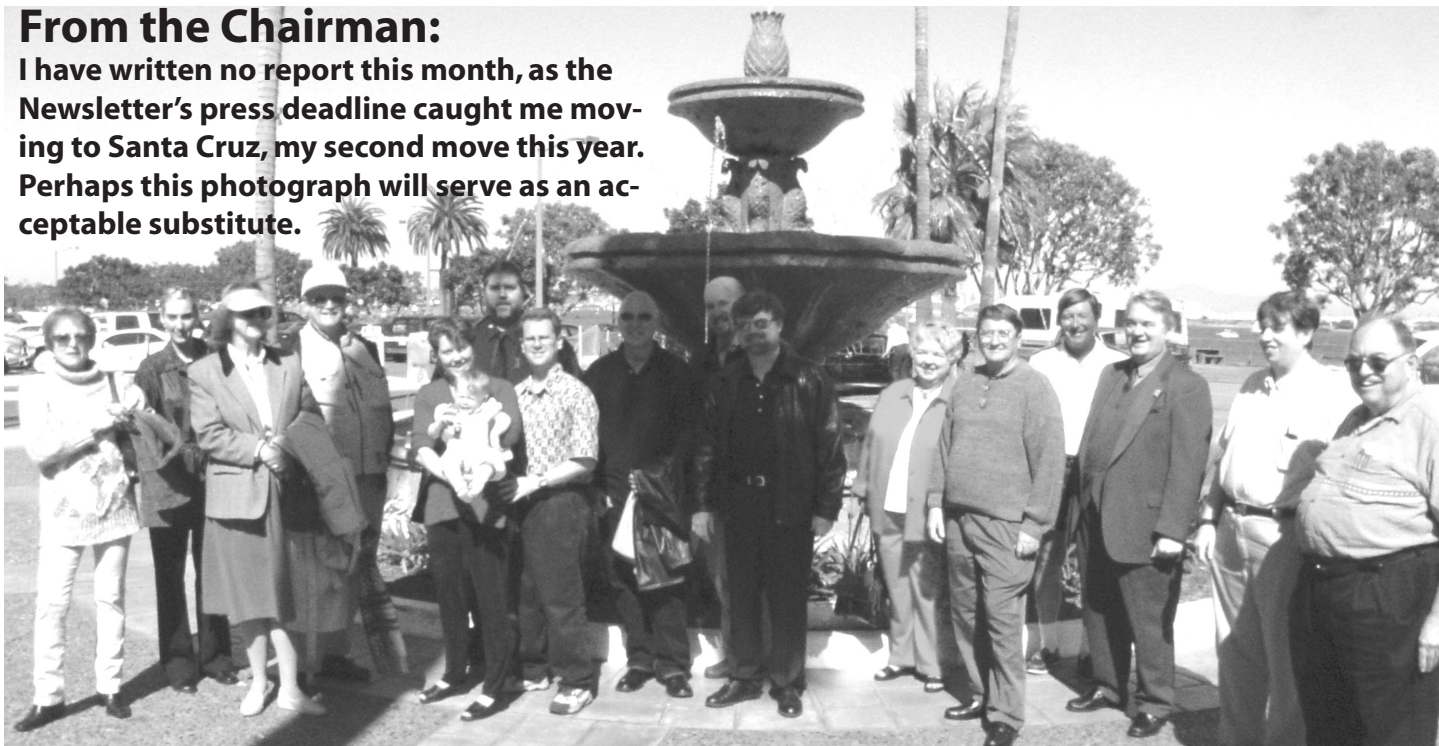
Attn.: The Heinlein Awards Dinner
PO Box 1254
Venice, California 90294-1254



Reserve Now: Don't Miss This Dinner

From the Chairman:

I have written no report this month, as the Newsletter's press deadline caught me moving to Santa Cruz, my second move this year. Perhaps this photograph will serve as an acceptable substitute.



April 26, 2002, at Virginia Heinlein's memorial in San Diego. Left to right: Laurie MacDonald, Roberta and Jerry Pournelle and their niece, Amy Baxter (and daughter Jill), J. Neil Shulman, Louis Calderon, Ralph Vicinanza, Robert James, Brad Linaweaver, Lela and James Cunningham, Boat's Captain Bill Whalen, LCmdr, US Navy, ret'd, Bill Patterson, John and Bill Haywood. Victor Koman and David Silver are off-camera, taking this photo and a digital video.

Photograph ©2003 by Victor Koman

The Heinlein Society
PO Box 1254
Venice, California 90294-1254
USA



Place Correct
Postage Above

