

## 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