

The Heinlein Society

The principal mailing address of The Heinlein Society, a non-profit charitable corporation, is PO Box 1254, Venice, CA USA 90294-1254

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Why is the Newsletter back at sixteen pages?

Good question. It takes an amateur about one week's spare time to put together an edition, assuming everything comes together, whether it is sixteen or twenty-four pages. The problem is time. We need to get back to quarterly issues, and we need an editor.

Can you use Adobe In-Design or a compatible professional software? Solution: A volunteer. ARE YOU A COWARD? This is not for you. Permanent employment, moderate aggravation, no pay. E-mail chairman@heinleinsociety.org, or write c/o PO Box 1254, Venice, CA USA 90294-1254.

newsletter

2005 Heinlein Awards Given to Niven and Pournelle In Seattle at NASFiC



Larry Niven addresses grateful thanks to audience on the occasion of his Heinlein Award on Sunday, September 4, 2005, at The Heinlein Awards Dinner, jointly sponsored by Cascadia Con. Standing from Left to Right: Toastmaster and Heinlein Awards Judge Greg Bear, Awardees Dr. Jerry Pournelle and Mr. Larry Niven, Heinlein Awards judges, writer Michael F. Flynn and Naval Academy English Professor C. Herbert Gilliland. Seated as guests at lower left are Mrs. Andrea Silver and Miss Danielle Silver, wife and daughter of the Heinlein Society board chairman.

Photograph by L.N. Collier

Seattle, WA, September 4 --

A well-dressed sold-out audience of 150 attendees witnessed the presentation of Heinlein Awards to Larry Niven and Jerry Pournelle at the annual Heinlein Society's Awards Banquet. Awardees were also announced for both the Seiun and Golden Duck awards. The Society extends its thanks to Cascadia Con for the opportunity to award these honors to Mr. Niven and Dr.

Pournelle as part of NASFiC's formal program, and especially extends its thanks to Mrs. Bobbie DuFault, the Cascadia Con Chair, without whom the opportunity would not have been extended. A wonderful time was had by the awardees and all who attended.

Also featured was Heinlein Centennial Year committee chair Bob Grieve, who summarized the

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The Secretary-Treasurer's Table and Reports



Jane Silver at Noreascon Dinner

What a fabulous meeting we had in Cascadia Con!

From my perspective, which was mostly at our fan table with my stalwart Pam Somers, we were able to see all of the participants as they arrived. Our placement was in the entrance to the event and near the registration table. We chose to arrive a day early since there were so many activities in which we were involved.

It was great to see the many friends who I hadn't seen for over a year and to meet others face to face whom I had only met virtually: Alan Milner, Dr. James, Bill Patterson, Mike and Sharon Sheffield, Geo and Deb Rule, Lisa Edmonds, Bob Grieve and his daughter Autumn, Bob Preisinger, Mac McDonnell and L.N. Collier to name a few. And, of course our awardees Larry Niven and Jerry Pournelle, who had many wonderful stories to tell into the wee hours in our suite. Michael Cassutt dropped by as well as Amy Baxter and her husband Louis and one of our local members Jill Cohen.

The days do run together but the culmination of this weekend was our Awards banquet on Sunday evening. I am able to say, with a

little personal pride, that the banquet was a resounding success. I know from hearing about it that everyone had a great time.

At the banquet Bob Grieve presented his outline for our Centennial year celebration and we are poised and ready to get it going. In order to get it going we need all the help we can get. We need volunteers who can commit a fair amount of time and we need, dare I say it, the funding to accomplish this broad and comprehensive yearlong plan. Various irons are in the fire and we are looking forward to a very creative and noteworthy accomplishment with the help of our many friends.

At the General Meeting it was noted that we have a very large accounts receivable in the form of dues unpaid. I, once again, must ask that those of you who are on the fence to step up and bring your membership current. It is a cold hard fact that we cannot function and continue in our goals without your help. We have struggled along, accomplished many of those goals as you will read in other columns, but we cannot continue to show delinquent memberships and incur costs for them. The part of

this job that I abhor is sending out suspension letters and it pains me to write. Please make this year's end-of-the-year list a small one.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns I would be happy to hear from you. E-mail secretary@heinleinsociety.org or aggirlj@mac.com, or write Secretary, The Heinlein Society, PO Box 1254, Venice, CA USA 90294-1254.

Jane E. Silver
Secretary-Treasurer

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Heinlein Society's plans for the upcoming centennial of Robert Heinlein's birth in year 2007. Greg Bear served as toastmaster for the event, joined by Heinlein Awards judges C. Herbert Gilliland and Michael Flynn, and master of ceremonies David Silver, Heinlein Society chairman.

Service was pleasant, the program finished in time for the next scheduled event in the room, and the hospitality extended by our host, Cascadia Con was gracious.

A photo of the many guests taken during the dinner is below, and more will be placed on our website soon.



Only a few of the one hundred and fifty guests circulate and enjoy themselves during reception before the 2005 Heinlein Awards dinner.

Photograph by Geo Rule

The Centennial Year Plan

A Plan for the Heinlein Centennial Year

Editor's Note: What follows is substantially the initial full proposal presented the board of directors by Robert Grieve for our Society's activities for the Centennial Year for Robert Heinlein. Other a few internal recommendations for management have been omitted. The entire proposal is to enable each of you to make, if you wish, and we need to read and hear them, your thoughts known to us. E-mail Mr. Grieve (or any board member or officer) with your suggestions, or offers to help with any aspect of these plans, as soon as possible, for we need all your help to make them come to fruition.

Greetings!

The following detailed sketch of my plans is rather lengthy and I would like to apologize ahead of time to all you busy people. However, I wish to incorporate enough detail with each individual idea in the hopes of better communication and, more importantly, providing a stimulus for creative thinking by the reader that can benefit The Heinlein Society. By all means, incorporate any or all suggestions I have made into your own recommendations *and send them to me*. We are still at a stage where significant ideas may be incorporated into our plans if they have merit and can be done within our capabilities with your help. I hope this will be the impetus toward the creation of a truly wonderful series of centennial events for 2007.

As with any plan of this scope and nature, I have included more ideas than appear practical to actually use. Parts of this plan may be initiated on an as-is basis while other bits will need extensive revi-



Bob Grieve Announces Plan at Cascadia Con

sion. The basic premise is to offer a viable starting plan to celebrate Heinlein's centennial year. Where we go from here will be up to each and every one of you.

At the suggestion by director Charles N. Brown, I have created a detailed but loose outline of ideas for the Heinlein Centennial Year to be presented by THS throughout 2007 at various conventions. I strongly recommend that this model be how we should proceed as it has the highest potential to be the most cost effective, reach the most people, build the most fannish bridges, and achieve the greatest number of positive results for The Heinlein Society of all the things that we could do to celebrate RAH's 100th birthday. This plan alleviates the need to negotiate hotel contracts (and all the subsequent headaches), does not have the budgetary issues peculiar to one-shot cons, and eliminates attendance number gambling faced by every weekend SF&F convention.

Director Brown's suggestion basically was this: create something that THS can send to an existing convention that will celebrate Heinlein, educate fans, and spread the gospel according to RAH. What I propose is that we form a team that will put together a minimum of

one major package and two minor packages (these numbers will more than likely rise as we, hopefully, receive enough "orders" to warrant an increase) that we can easily ship to any convention that makes a request. The packages shall consist of displays, exhibits, and materials relevant to the life of Robert Anson Heinlein: his career, his works, and his collateral influence above and beyond the genre of Science Fiction and Fantasy. The packages will incorporate everything that THS endorses, be true to the mission of THS, and promote the activities of The Heinlein Society as well as RAH himself.

In addition to a package, I suggest that we also help out with advertisement, programming, and professional commitments (by appropriate genre personages) for each participating convention. This will require funding as well as time and effort by THS members. Since money is always an issue, I suggest that we seek out sponsors who can contribute funds for the whole year and/or each event. To do this properly, we must find a person who can dedicate the time and effort to acquiring these sponsorships. We should also help this person with communication material in the form of THS pamphlets, committee brochures, current newsletters, activity descriptions, history details, and a tantalizing prospectus to facilitate their participation in the 2007 venture.

I'll go into more about funding and sponsors later in this proposal.

The Proposal

Major Package

This package will be available for large conventions (1,500 plus attendance) such as regionals, bid cons such as Westercon, and larger local

The Centennial Year Plan Cont'd

conventions with an established history. It will require that we have at least two (2) THS members in attendance at the event. More THS people present will be much better. The package will consist of an array of displays, materials, and exhibition appropriate to this level of THS participation. As this package will consume more resources, it should be limited in all but scope.

Minor Packages

These Packages shall consist of displays and/or exhibits that can be shipped to a requesting convention and will not need a THS member present at the event. If someone is available, that would be a plus, but the packages should include instructions for assembly and maintenance, disassembly and packaging, and the how-to/where-to for shipment to the next site. My vision is that THS will have a working contract with a commercial shipper (UPS, USPS, Fed-Ex, etc.) so that these packages can be utilized at a greater number of conventions. Some materials will be consumable (such as pamphlets, brochures, or newsletters) and will need to be sent to the participating convention separately.

Components of the Packages

Art Show Display: most conventions have an Art Show, to some degree, and THS should take advantage of this. What I suggest is that we PURCHASE panels to display in each cons' Art Show, one (1) or two (2) at smaller cons and possibly more at larger cons. What we ship for display will be an array of book cover art. This will necessitate contacting Artists, or their estates, for permission to display their works. The pieces on display should not be for sale (so that they will be available at the next con),

but we most definitely should encourage, promote, and help with the sale of reprints or other appropriate reproductions. This latter part can be a source of funds for THS since it is not uncommon to charge a 10% fee as an agent.

One very important aspect of this display that will be critical to the mission of THS is to include a short blurb about the book, the artwork, and the connection to RAH of whatever size format that can be placed below the correlating artwork. Interesting, anecdotal, and/or educational information will be the primary configuration for these captions.

Each panel will have an a banner emphasizing the source of the display. A photo of each artist, along with a short biography, be included. Preference should be given to any photograph that includes the artist AND Robert Heinlein. A side pocket, or other functional container, should be included with the entire display and a supply of THS informational membership brochures should be included. At cons where a member is present, we can ask that person to keep the container full.

We can also include art related RAH photos, or memorabilia, but most material of this sort would be better displayed elsewhere.

Art panels can vary in size quite a bit, so size will need to be taken into account when we ship from con to con. Another thing that can vary quite a bit is the Art Show rules about "mail-in art" and what can be displayed and sold in that particular Art Show. The solution is simple enough: ample contact and communication with the target convention about those rules and how THS can adapt to them prior

to shipping the Art Show part of a package. It is possible, though I think rare, that there may be cons that will not allow our display for one reason or another. However, I believe that most Art Shows will welcome us.

Table Displays: Most conventions have a "fan table" space appropriated for other cons, SF&F clubs, and similar entities. THS must take advantage of this opportunity to create two different types of displays. The first would be a display that does not require any, or very little, in the way of manpower to function. The other is manpower intensive but has distinct advantages given enough people to work the table.

I'm not sure what results we will get from the unmanned table exhibit. However, it is a very easy do, cost effective, and we can send this display to more conventions than we have members to attend. It should consist of an overhead, eye-catching banner with two side panels to display memorabilia. A brochure rack can be constructed in-between the two panels to distribute appropriate THS literature. The whole thing should be constructed to be easily put up, taken down, and packaged for shipment.

The manned display can be much more involved, larger in scope, and include rarer items for display. It should be made with the idea of attracting attention and stimulating curiosity of the target convention's membership. THS members manning the table should be well versed in what is being displayed so they can answer questions. A good way to do this would be to include a manual in a three-ring binder, to go along with the display, which has a one-page fact sheet

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about each item displayed.

In addition to being knowledgeable about display items, the members should have a brief manual about The Heinlein Society itself so that they can answer those types of questions as well and encourage fans to join the society.

Room Displays: IF available, it would be beneficial if we could create a full room exhibit of RAH paraphernalia for display at conventions where THS members will be in attendance. We will need appropriate manpower levels to maintain a constant presence in the room. The member will act as “museum curator,” “tour guide,” and THS representative. This exhibit will give us a chance to show off items that might not otherwise be displayed. This would include items too big and bulky for a table display, unsuitable for an Art Show panel, or otherwise inappropriate to exhibit elsewhere in the convention. With a little bit of research and work, this could be a hot ticket item for the bigger cons.

Potential items for a Room Display could include RAH artifacts, memorabilia from fans and pros, historical documents and photos, rare or famous manuscripts, and other similar materials that would create a walk through Heinlein’s life from A to Z. The items would need appropriate informational signs, display cases or boards, and room size banners. A more difficult task will be to make this exhibit mobile enough to go from one con to another.

Programming Assistance

This is a continuation of what we already currently do for conventions except that we need to include more of a centennial slant to our suggestions. This could easily be

done by the appropriate THS committee with a wee bit of coordination vis-à-vis the Centennial Committee. If all else fails, this should be our strong point.

A suitably extensive list of potential panels should be designed, for which a convention Programming Director can choose what best suites that particular con, along with a listing of pros to be on those panels (with emphasis to pros that have stated they will be attending or who are local to the convention’s area). The pros will have to be approached ahead of time (preferably 4-6 months out from the con) along with a listing of the Heinlein panels for which they have volunteered. This will entail recruiting and enticement about six months prior to that (i.e.: forming a preliminary list from whence a final list can be developed for delivery).

It would be nice if we could facilitate the attendance of pros that are not local by helping out with finances. This would need to be considered on a case-by-case basis and totally dependant on available funds.

We might produce more than merely typical “panels,” for example, Michael Cassutt, one of our members who is a screenwriter, is developing a one-man stage show about Robert Heinlein similar to Hal Holbrook’s MARK TWAIN TONIGHT! The show will be designed for production at SF conventions. Casting suggestions and other ideas can be directed to Michael at Cass54@aol.com. Jeanne and Spider Robinson long ago suggested we might produce for the Centennial a celebration in dance, and Jeanne is ready to work on that idea. Let us know if you can help with these ideas.

Along with “pros,” we should also encourage THS members to sit on panels where appropriate. This will provide a positive THS presence throughout fandom. Special Guests (something akin to a Guest of Honor--”GoH”) can be considered on a case-by-case basis but will require negotiations with the target convention. Care should be taken to meld with their GoH lineup and not compete. We should expect to pay at least half of the cost which may include airfare, hotel accommodations, meals, honorarium, or other expenses for those we send. An analysis of the cost versus benefit would play heavily in determining whether or not to proceed with this possibility.

Costume Contests: Quite a number of SF&F conventions have some form of costuming contest in the form of masquerades, fashion shows, masked balls, or some other format for their members to show what they made. The Heinlein Society can take “advantage” of this by sponsoring a RAH part of these events. We provide the rules, the prizes, and help with the advertisement. We could also have several entry levels (junior, novice, journeyman, and master), several categories (best creature, best character, most authentic), and/or several competitions (at the con, monthly, grand prize for the year).

If we proceed with this part of the proposal, it would be wise to disperse prizes at each target convention as a means of immediate gratification. Any other type of awards would be additional.

As a means of spreading the word of Heinlein across the breadth of fandom, we should exert all influence and effort into obtaining digital photos of all entries (as well

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as winners) for inclusion in an appropriate area of a website. This is one plan that could easily snowball, especially if we can entice several local costuming guilds into endorsing the contest. Above all the others, we should seek endorsement, if not sponsorship, by the International Costuming Guild.

RAH Filking: There are, perhaps, not as many cons that have Filk; but this is still be a part of fandom that we need to utilize to spread the gospel according to Heinlein. As with costuming, we could have contests to come up with the best filk songs that are about the books, stories, characters, life, career, or otherwise influenced by Robert A. Heinlein. Probably a big difference is here we can collect these filk songs and have them performed by an interested filk group that we contract with or we can collect taped sessions from individual conventions or a combination of both; all of which would be used to produce a Heinlein Centennial CD that we could sell in 2008 at cons and online.

We could also have a contest for the best body of work and award the winner with a recording contract that would be sponsored by THS and a recording studio. This would entail some extensive planning. We could enlist more sponsors. There are a number of other knots that would have to be untied. However, this also might be something that could be a big hit and help spread The Word well beyond 2007. A detailed cost versus benefit analysis is almost a must.

Gaming and Heinlein: This is a tough one. The hot ticket is CCGs (Collectible Card Games) but I really don't see any kind of contest that would put this part of the

proposal into play. Sure, we could have a contest and challenge gamers everywhere to invent a CCG based on Heinlein. However, gamers generally just like to game, and it is a distinct minority that create the games that gamers play. Still, we might form some sort of competition that would involve the gaming community. There are a number of game companies, right here in my own Pacific Northwest backyard, that would hop at the chance to pick up any viable product that is ultimately produce via this effort. What to do with the final result will not be a problem. Getting people involved could be the Gordian Knot to untie in this case.

Another option, that I believe is much more viable, is to enlist the aid of a company of SF&F artists to design RAH oriented playing cards of games that already exist. There are a number of companies that do this (e.g., http://www.newtscards.com/main_custom.asp) and there is bound to be one of them that can mass produce the quantity that we will need for a much reduced price per pack. There is also the option of printing our own with the help of some local print shop. Anyway that this happens, there will need to be some sort of quality control put into place to insure that we have a product that will represent THS in a positive light. Poker decks, pinochle, Uno, or other types of card games can be included but we will need to be careful about crossing the copyright line. This is the kind of thing that Mel Brooks referred to as "moichendizing."

Science Programming: Outside of what we already do for a convention's program, or what I have outlined already, I think we should

give some thought to special panels, demonstrations that specifically have to do with the career efforts and influence RAH had on the sciences, NASA, the aerospace industry, and so forth. We could influence local hard science folks to help out at the conventions. This type of pro is hard to come by for SF&F cons, and they will probably appreciate all the help that they can get. A real bonus would be to set up some sort of Heinlein related geewhiz science demonstration. The Heinlein Prize Trust's interests in commercial achievements in space-flight could be instrumental in this area.

Education Tracks: This is an area of fannish programming that Heinlein was an enthusiastic supporter. The Heinlein Society could easily further efforts by sponsoring any number of different ventures that will help the younger generations and, at the same time, green the pastures of RAH fandom. No matter how we choose to proceed, this is one part of this proposal that I am strongly in favor of doing.

An example would be to coordinate with a publisher to provide boxes of books to local school libraries and teachers. Funds will be needed, as books do cost money, but we can defray some of the cost by enlisting the aid of such sponsors as the Paul Allen Foundation or local SF&F groups, clubs, and the cons themselves. Contact and communication with target schools will be a must as not all schools will want these books or may insist on hard back versus paperback or trade. I think it would be a good idea to print up a number of small, self-adherent placards with THS information that could be pasted on an appropriate page of each book.

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If we choose to do so, we could coordinate with RFF/DYR groups to put together packages for teachers that contain 28-36 books and one teacher's copy (complete with a curriculum CD). This is a very viable way we can entice teachers to use Heinlein novels to teach various subjects. Cascadia Con had a micro-con for educators that could easily be used as a launch pad for this particular project. IF we include THS pamphlets, complete with instructions for educators to start school Heinlein clubs, we just may be ensuring the survival of Heinlein fandom for generations to come.

Another idea is to promote and support junior workshops (JW) at the target convention. This would require a great deal of very careful planning and communication with the appropriate people on the ConCom. We could also use other SF&F groups in the area, but coordination is essential to the success of a program such as this. The K.I.S.S. principal might work best in this case. It would be helpful if we had a THS member living in the area of each target convention where we target this kind of JW support.

JWs will also require an adequate amount of function space before the con begins or during the early stages of the convention. This may be more than problematic for some cons but, if we can talk them into giving participants a free pass for the day, it would be like casting bread upon the waters. The convention simply needs to have a discount rate for turning an JW membership into a full weekend membership. Not only will the con show a profit for the weekend but, if they continue with this program

year after year because of that shown benefit, they also will show a steady increase in new members as the students reach adulthood and attend on an annual basis.

An JW is a golden opportunity to pay it forward by introducing or furthering the education of youngsters in the various aspects of Fandom. Mostly it is about broadening their horizons with SF&F literature. The Centennial gives us a great chance to do all this with a Heinlein twist. Think of writing classes using the works of RAH as the basis for teaching them about the craft. Think of art workshops using the worlds, characters, and beasts of Heinlein. Think of thesis tutoring using the fiction of Heinlein as the script. It would be all about teaching students and all about Heinlein – all at the same time.

Writing Workshops: Not all cons have them but if a participating convention does, it would be a great opportunity to push the Heinlein agenda. This would entail helping the target con advertise for manuscripts, recruit pros to attend and critique in the workshop, and solicit authors to teach specific writing workshop classes on the style, technique, and subjects that RAH used throughout his illustrious career. This could be as simple as a one-hour dialogue about Heinlein's Five Rules for Success in writing or something a bit more complicated such as teaching social and cultural lessons through the use of fiction. Obviously, the target con will have to buy into it and THS will need to find the fine folks to play the role of the Mad Pipers.

A bonus from this effort, if we can collect enough suitable manuscripts, would be to market a col-

lection of short stories produced from the workshops. I know of at least one publisher that would jump at the chance to produce a book based on this idea.

Sociocultural Programming: Not all SF&F conventions have a track of programming dealing with social or cultural issues. They should. Time and time again, the importance of good characterization in story is heralded throughout Fandom. Well, what makes for a better character than a protagonist (and in that very rare novel: the antagonist) who has to deal with socio-cultural problems in a unique and interesting way that leaves the reader sympathizing with their plight and empathizing with their solution?

Robert A. Heinlein was a master at this. One of the reasons why his works are so popular is his ability to tie-in what is happening in a fictional story with what is happening in the very real lives of the readers. The philosophy of RAH should be an easy sell to almost all of the cons that will want to participate in the Centennial. We should be prepared with a well-developed series or list of possible panel suggestions and a comprehensive list of the folks who will want to populate those panels.

This part of the project could be the key to the future of THS if we play the part of emissary correctly. We have the opportunity to start something extremely worthwhile for a lot of cons.

Fund Raising

Everything has a price and this traveling plan we will propose is no exception. We can shake trees and glean what apples fall but we cannot rely on donations alone. In addition to sponsors, I would like to



“Hiding in the Back of the Room” Members and guests listen to Bill Patterson’s reading of selections from his Robert Spencer, Marie Guthrie, Louis Calderon, Bob Preissinger, Amy Baxter, and Andrea Silver. At left center, against the wall

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propose a few other money making aspects of this project (other than those mentioned already).

First would be a convention-by-convention raffle. This will require-acquiring items to be raffled off. We can ask publishers for hard back RAH books, members for RAH paraphernalia in good shape that would be appropriate, beg for some autographed books from SF&F luminaries, and collect items from any number of other sources. We are only bound by our imaginations with this one.

Once we have items that can be raffled, we will need to classify them in one of three categories:

A) Items to be raffled as prizes for a single convention,

B) Items to be raffled on a more extended period such as a month or quarter,

C) Items to be used as a Grand Prize.

This last category could be lucrative if done correctly. Asking people to purchase a chance for a prize

to be given away sometime in 2008 would not yield much for most of 2007. However, if we tack it on to the cost of a raffle ticket for an item to be given away that weekend, we will have far more success. The strategy goes like this: if a raffle ticket is sold at \$2 for a chance at category A prize, the purchaser is then given the opportunity to win a category B prize for a mere \$1 extra. But wait! For just another one dollar bill, the ticket buyer may enter the drawing for the Grand RAH Prize to be held at a designated convention early in 2008.

How we word it, as well as what we offer, will make a world of difference in the net amount we garner. We can make this as big or as small as we like, but it is still a very easy way to generate funds. Obviously, we will need THS members present at cons in which we hold raffles. This will limit the number of cons which are involved in this process unless we can figure out a way to do it otherwise.

We should contact the appropriate publishing houses to see what they have in mind for reprinting RAH books in a special Centennial Edition. We could make an agreement with a publisher (or publishers) to sell special centennial editions of RAH books, at all the cons where we have a presence, for a small royalty. At the least, we should try to get a page added to all Centennial Edition RAH books with a short, enticing description of THS and a membership form on the other side. All this will take some negotiations to make work. We need to make an offer from which the publishers will profit in which THS plays a significant role. It may not pan out, but it is worth a shot. Nothing ventured, nothing gained.

Another idea would be to negotiate a book deal with one or more publishers on a collection of RAH short stories -- only these short stories will not have been written by the master but by another writer.



Heinlein biography in suite at the Raddison Hotel. From Left to Right: Dennis McDonnell. Lisa Edmonds, Vaughn, is a Kelly Freas portrait owned by THS member Jon Seward that might be available for travelling Centennial exhibits.

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My idea is to approach established authors, from within that publishing house, to write a short story based on a specific Heinlein book or story, that the publisher has the reprint rights to, and that will include at least some of the original characters. We would need to include both of the Heinlein Trusts as literary executors in the negotiations. The Heinlein Society would collect a royalty as "the editor," but time is of the essence. If we choose to go forward with this plan, we will need to do so in the very near future. Again, it will take some negotiations to make it work.

Banquets

Any convention that has a large enough hotel for a venue will know the benefits of holding food functions. Sure, these events have a real downside: getting members to fork over an often prohibitive fee that hotels generally charge for rubber chicken. The Heinlein Society could help out by sponsoring this activity at target cons by providing

keynote speakers, a desert bar (perhaps even a RAH birthday cake), coffee service, purchasing residual tickets, or other efforts to help make things work out.

This is not something that we should, or could, do at any given convention. I envision this as an opportunity that will come along rarely and, generally, at larger conventions. A cost versus benefit analysis is almost a must if we decide to proceed with idea.

07-07-07 Celebrations

Needless to say, we need to have a really big blow-off planned for RAH's 100th birthday. I suggest that we start a contest for all conventions, societies, and other SF&F groups to celebrate this auspicious occasion. What we do is come up with a list of rules, formats, categories, and so forth that will get people excited about Heinlein. We set-up a website where these various entities can upload a synopsis of what they plan to do, what they actually did, and encourage them to

send us all the pictures to prove it. We judge the results and hand out the prizes. Or we can open it up to online voting by members of THS. The big thing is to make it fun and get people celebrating 100 years of Heinlein.

Academic Papers

This is something we do already. It would be a good idea if we have a shadow program for 2007 with the centennial in mind. We could call for papers and produce a quarterly journal that could be sold at the conventions we visit. This journal could be bi-monthly, or monthly, if the response warrants. Subscriptions might be another option that would entail less schlepping publications but more headaches with the snail mail. An electronic version might be the way to go but that also has its downside.

Anyway we do it; this is almost a must for the centennial. We would simply need to pick out a selection of themes and get the word out. This will have to be done in the

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very near future to give prospective authors enough time to research and write their papers. Let us not beat the drums slowly on this one.

Something else that we could include in this endeavor would be to solicit non-fiction articles of actual Heinlein events from the people who were there. Someone like John and Bjo Trimble would be a great source of Heinlein news, quips, and stories that folks may not have heard heretofore. Even if one is familiar with the tale, it might be a worth a tickle or two to hear from the person who was actually present at event. Straight from the participant's fingers, so to speak.

The Project Team

We need to form a project team as soon as possible...

Editor's Note: The discussion of nuts and bolts is omitted, but note that Mr. Grieve is calling here for volunteers. A Project Team is being formed now. E-mail Mr. Grieve or chairman@heinleinsociety.org if you wish to take part.

Website

It will be critical to the success of this project to have a website ...

Editor's Note: Another nuts and bolts discussion is omitted, but watch for website announcements resuming the set up of heinlein100.net.

Timelines and Deadlines

Our official starting date ("January 1st") is September 4, 2005, the day of the awards banquet at NASFiC. At that banquet I did ceremoniously kick this whole thing off with a (short and to the point!) presentation designed to entice a few more folks than would otherwise show up to join us, by summarizing, as the box on the right column here does, what we have in mind.

The calendar will consist of all the tasks and sub tasks that need to be accomplished to make this project a success.

The end date ("December 31st") should be the day of the last centennial event. That might need to remain flexible but this should not present a problem.

A word of caution about all this: while it is important to make firm deadlines for the goals we wish to achieve, we also need to be realistic about when a volunteer can complete a task. Some will write their own due dates but the majority of projects and sub-projects should be scheduled so that there is a little room for life's myriad intricacies. This is not to say that we should not hold people accountable --rather it is that we should form realistic expectations and schedule deadlines accordingly.

Epilogue:

I believe that I have covered a very large portion of what should be part of the centennial celebration. However, I would be a fool to think that I have thought of everything. Here is the challenge to the rest of THS: come up with some ideas of your own! How can we make this an event that will be long remembered? What can we do during 2007 that will lay the foundation for THS activities for decades afterward? What events can we present that will promote the society's ideals, interests, and mission? What else can we do to bring Robert A. Heinlein to the average reader?

Respectfully Submitted,

*Robert J. Grieve, Heinlein
Centennial Year Committee Chair
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P.O. Box 1702
Yelm WA 98597*

The Heinlein Centennial Year

An Art Show Exhibit complete with RAH book cover artwork
A museum quality display of artifacts and paraphernalia pertaining to the life of RAH.

Display tables for dispensing the word of RAH and encouraging new membership in THS.

RAH focused programming paneled by Heinlein knowledgeable pros and THS members.

Contests, raffles, and other associated fund raising activities with a RAH flavor.

THS sponsored Blood Drives to pay it forward with RAH centennial twists.

RAH book donations to local schools to get students hooked on the master.

RAH oriented workshops for budding young writers.

Banquets and celebrations of RAH's 100th birthday on 07-07-07.

Got some spare time? Volunteer to work on the Centennial.

E-mail:
chairman@heinleinsociety.org



"I need a couple guys what don't owe me no money fer a little routine patrol." --Bill Mauldin, Up Front, ©1944

Heinlein Society Website Committee Report



David Wright, Sr., at
home in Georgia

A Tribute

Some years ago, David Silver asked me to take over maintenance of the Society's Website. With, I'm afraid, some false pride, I did so. I inherited a very bland website and struggled to keep it maintained, but not, I'm afraid, with any success in overcoming its staid appearance and structure. Some months later I received a call from David saying that he had decided to turn the site over to Deb Houdek-Rule. Of course, I said, "Fine." My vanity was somewhat pricked, but I very soon came to realize that not only did Deb have much better tools with which to work, but she also had a much higher degree of innovative creativity than I had ever had or would ever possess. With better tools at her disposal, but even more importantly, by her own creative abilities, she quickly overcame several of the problems that I had struggled with, such as being able to present a consistent layout and format for all pages. Under her new rule, (pun intended), the site rapidly improved, in layout, graphic design, and, under the hood, with

a much better structure than it previously had. By the way, many of those graphics were personally created by Deb. In addition, she was able to find additional content far in excess of what I would ever have thought of, such as getting the permission to add the Cowan Heinlein Concordance to the site, plus many other innovations including the beginnings of adding a more international appeal to the site through the use of other-language pages.

The site has grown to have well over a thousand pages and almost that many graphic images of many sorts. I googled heinleinsociety.org and got a count of over 9540 entries for web pages of all sorts which had references to our website in them. I think that this kind of notice for the site and to the Society is all due to her many hours of diligent work.

I have said many times over the years since she took over the site that she has done a marvelous job and I am happy to repeat that here and raise a toast to our former WebMistress, Deb Houdek-Rule.

May she have continued success in all her endeavors. I know that she and her husband, Geo, will continue to be the great assets to the Society that they have been in the past.

Now, with a great deal more humility, I am again in charge of the website. I will do my best to live up to her example, but I am sure that I will fall far short.

*David Wright, Sr.
Website Committee Chair*

In July, Deb asked to be relieved from her duties concerning the website. She has a new full-time job, a newly-purchased home, moving across the country to establish it. The Board voted at its last meeting to perpetually credit her work on The Heinlein Society website and the Board's designation of her as Designer Emeritus for The Heinlein Society, for her years of devoted work.

Heinlein Society Blood Drives Committee Report

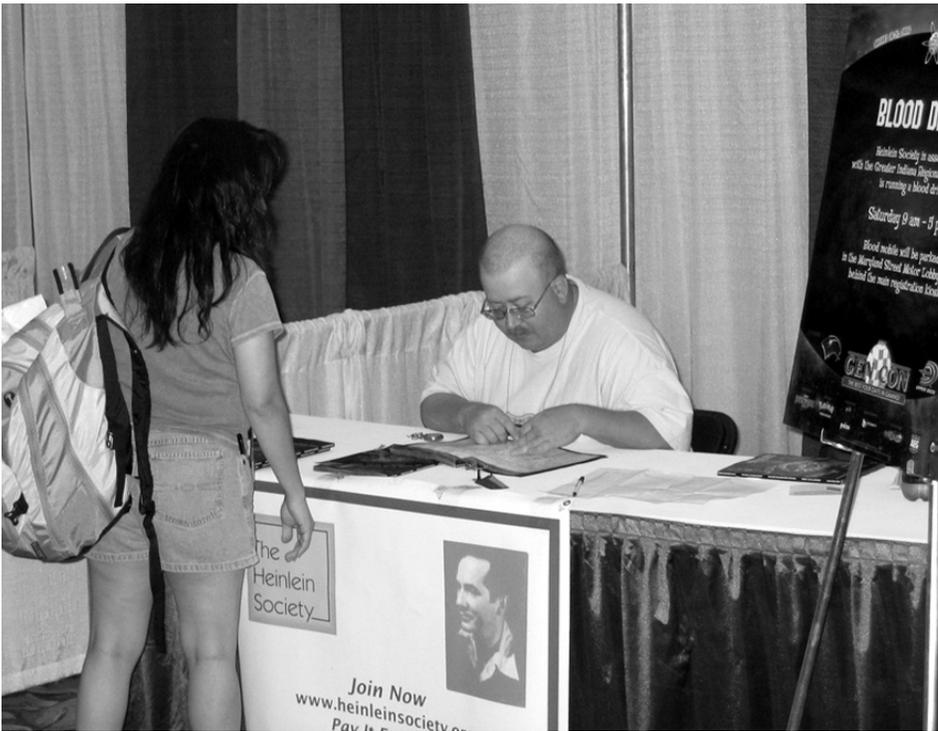


Michael and Sharon Sheffield
at dinner at Cascadia Con

I'm happy to report that our blood drive efforts in the past three months have been quite successful, with a couple of notable exceptions.

We were unfortunately unable to hold a blood drive at Due North, the 58th Westercon in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, due to logistics problems. I was able to find only two members--Hugh Gregory and Lynda Williams--who were planning to attend the convention. Both had professional obligations there and were thus understandably unable to commit to spending a large amount of time at the table. Also, Canadian Blood Services was not set up to have remote blood drives in Calgary, and would have needed to ferry people off site to donate, requiring donors to take more time from the con. Reluctantly I was forced to cancel. It was the first time in four years that there has not been a blood drive at Westercon.

We were also unable to manage a blood drive at Interaction, the 63rd World Science Fiction Convention in Glasgow, Scotland, though for much different reasons. The National Blood Service in the UK requires that all donors be in the country for a minimum of 28 days before giving blood, which would



Society Blood Drive a Success, By Scott Hann

“Donate blood, save a life! It only takes ten minutes to save a life! Pay it forward with the Heinlein Society Blood Drive!” rang out into the crowd from the Heinlein Society blood drive booth. The Heinlein Society, spearheaded by Society Blood Drive chair Mike Sheffield, recruited a handful of enthusiastic volunteers to man the desk while attending GenCon 2005, the premier convention for players of games of all sorts. This was done entirely by E-mail and word of mouth. The volunteers included Mike Urbansky and Jennifer Bernstein of Rockford, IL, and Scott Hann, an Indianapolis native.

On Thursday and Friday, the booth was manned and the call went out. Saturday, the Bloodmobile set up shop outside and began taking donors. Of fifty-one that presented themselves to donate, forty were accepted, nearly exceeding the Bloodmobile’s capacity!

Potential donors recruited at the booth included several foreign visitors as well as a soldier on leave, just three months home from Iraq.

Above: Non-member volunteer Scott Hann helps out at Gen Con in Indianapolis. Scott was telephoned by Doc Krin, a member in Louisiana, and asked to help. P.S. Doc Krin is fine.

Photograph by Heinlein Society member Mike Urbanski

have prohibited all but the local fans from participating. Since this would have drastically reduced the available pool of donors, I decided it would be best not to proceed. Again, this is the first time in six years that there has not been a blood drive at the Worldcon.

Now, on to our successes. As we have for the past couple of years, we gave blood donor pins to Comic-Con International in San Diego,

California (July 14-17). We also had a fan table at the convention and got to meet a number of interested Heinlein fans. Jerry Munger, Tim Morgan, Sharon Sheffield, and David Silver and I staffed the table.

On July 30 we held our first ever blood drive at Demicon in Des Moines, Iowa. Both the con committee and the blood center were enthusiastic about having the drive there. We had 39 donors,

22 of whom were first timers and 22 units of blood were collected. Thanks to Sheril Harper and Alan Koslow for running the drive there. All involved are looking forward to doing it again next year.

Next up was Gen Con in Indianapolis, Indiana. We had a good turnout, though we had fewer donors than last year. In total there were 51 donors from whom 40 units of blood were collected. Many thanks to Scott Hann, Mike Urbanski and Jennifer Bernstein for running this drive. We nearly didn’t have a drive for lack of people to staff the table, but they not only came through but have offered to organize next year’s drive, and connected with folks from another gaming convention, Origins, and will be setting up there as well.

As usual, we ran two drives on Labor Day weekend. First was our third annual drive at Dragon*Con in Atlanta, Georgia. As it did last year, the drive ran all four days of the convention. Turnout was absolutely astounding. There were 309 donors and LifeSouth collected 267 units of blood! This is triple what they got in 2003 and more than an 50% increase over last year, which were both respectable drives. Donations may have been driven in part by concerns for the victims of Katrina, but this is still amazing. As premiums for those giving blood, besides our donor pins, they had very cool blood drive T-shirts, which they ran out of before the drive was through. Thanks to Scott Mealy, Alan Koslow and Dan Poore, all of whom have helped with this drive in previous years as well. Thanks as well to Pat and Sherry Henry, the owners of Dragon*Con, who have been very supportive.

Our other drive that weekend was

equally successful, though on a smaller scale. The drive at Cascadia Con took place on Saturday, Sept. 3 and the results were quite impressive. Puget Sound Blood Center had set a target of 35 donors based on their previous experience with Norwescon blood drives. We brought in 48 donors and collected 41 units of blood and overwhelmed them. This was from an on site attendance of about 1,800. Thanks to Pam Somers, Bob Preisinger, Jane Silver, Sharon Sheffield and Dana Marshall for their help.

Coming up, I've sent donor pins to Michelle Zellich, con chair of Archon in Collinsville, Illinois (very near St. Louis, MO), for their annual blood drive. If any of you plan to attend, please try to find some time to volunteer to help promote the drive.

On the first weekend in November, Dennis McDonnell is working to set up a drive at Orycon in Portland, Oregon. Later in the month, on the weekend before Thanksgiving (Nov. 17-20) will be our second annual drive at Gen Con in Anaheim, California. The auxiliary events coordinator, Jeanette LeGault, has already arranged for additional cool premiums from White Wolf Publishing for the donors.

We are also trying to arrange a blood drive at this year's Philcon in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (Dec. 9-11). Barry Berman has been working tirelessly to get past obstacles with the local Red Cross chapter there. Time will tell if he is successful, but I'm grateful for all of his efforts.

In January we will be running our third annual drive at Arisia in Boston, Massachusetts. On the same weekend we will have a drive at Chattacon in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Last year's drive at Chattacon

was cancelled at the last minute due to mechanical problems with the bloodmobile. I am also working on setting up a third drive for that weekend at ConFusion in Troy, Michigan.

In February we plan to have a drive at Gallifrey in Los Angeles. It had a drive in 2004 but low donor turnout. They moved to a new venue and hope to do better this time.

Also coming in the near future, I plan to hold an online meeting for all those interested in blood drives to get your feedback and suggestions. I'm also working on a brief guide to running blood drives to make it easier for those without experience to organize a drive.

In closing, I encourage everyone to volunteer to help with at least one THS activity every year. We need more than just your annual membership dues; we need your time and energy to make our efforts pay off. Thank you for continuing to pay it forward.

Michael Sheffield
Blood Drives Committee Chair

Heinlein Society Education Committee Reports



**Deb and Geo Rule
at Cascadia Con**

From Small Beginnings ...

Many of us have just returned from Cascadia Con, where the Society had many successes. I'd like to tell you about one of them, and at the same time ask for your help in making it an even bigger suc-

cess.

Regularly, we hear from teachers and librarians who are interested in teaching science fiction, and particularly Robert Heinlein's works, in their schools. They come for help, in hoping we can provide them the raw material to bootstrap a SF reading program into their classrooms. We always point at those resources we know. Yet, we've always had the sense we would like to do more--to really provide a resource that would allow them to hit the ground running in making the case to their colleagues and administrators that this is a Good Idea with a practical set of tools in hand to make it a success.

With that goal in mind, the Society agreed last year to partner with Cascadia Con, the Science Fiction Museum, and Reading for the Future (RFF) to make a CD of materials that would be used both for Cascadia Con's first ever "Educators Conference" at the just completed NASFiC in Seattle, and as a continuing resource for the much larger number of teachers around the world who could not attend the conference, but who would be open to such a program in their school if they had some help. Our Society undertook the funding and creation of the CD itself, after a collaborative effort with our partners to identify the materials to be included. The navigation and compatibility of the CD would be as basic, yet friendly, as we could make it, so that both Windows and Mac-using schools could use the same CD. While many contributed to making this CD happen, and we appreciate them all, special thanks are due to Bobbie DuFault of Cascadia Con and David-Glenn Anderson of RFF Utah for their unflagging support and good-natured cooperation with

the Society on this project. As the project developed, two groups of information were included on the disk. The first mirrored, in Portable Document Format, the materials provided as hardcopy to those teachers who were lucky enough to be present themselves at the Cascadia Educators Conference. Materials from such leading educators as Julie Czernada and James Van Pelt are included, and subjects as diverse as fairy tales, speculative poetry, H. G. Wells, and Teaching Science Fact with Science Fiction were featured. And, oh yeah, some fellow named Heinlein, who you may have heard of, also has his own section in this first grouping.

The second grouping is labeled “CD Extras,” and as it developed, features even more materially relevant to teachers who want to use Heinlein’s works. We would be more than happy to include additional materials in this section. All it takes is willingness on the part of others to provide them. As you will see in a moment, the bar has been set quite high on what constitutes “generosity” in donating to the success and usefulness of this CD! Included in the “CD Extras” sections are two excellent lesson plans from Robert James--on *Have Spacesuit Will Travel* and *Tunnel in the Sky*; an educators’ presentation on *Have Spacesuit Will Travel* from David Silver, focusing on broadening teachers thinking on what this book (and that sneaky author we all love) is really teaching our children—the *humanities of philosophy, literature, and art*, as well as the nuts and bolts of the physical sciences; and a Language Arts and Science Arts program based around *Have Spacesuit Will Travel* that www.spaceweek.org prepared for World Space Week 2005; and ...

drum roll please.

Three, count ‘em, THREE Heinlein juvenile shorts--the complete text of each with an included license for teachers and librarians to reproduce a copy for each student who is assigned them as reading. I will pause for a moment while you scrape your jaw off the floor—based on my own experience, it might be awhile before the buzzing in your ears subsides. We really do need you to pay attention to the rest. What happened was, we went to the literary executor, the Heinlein Prize Trust, explained the purpose of the CD, the intended audience, and the crying need we saw for such a project. We noted the respected partners we had associated with. We talked about “Pay it Forward” and exercising the kind of leadership that Robert himself always did. Then we mentioned we all love the “official Heinlein juveniles” (those Heinlein novels published by Scribners between 1947 and 1958), but isn’t it a crying shame that Robert wrote some really fine, shorter-than-novel-length pieces aimed at young readers that do not get nearly the attention they deserve? Here, we said, is a wonderful opportunity to get a new generation hooked on Heinlein by one of his shorter works, and then move them into the novel length works. So, ummm, we were thinking ... maybe ... one of these three, you pick, we love them all: “A Tenderfoot in Space” or “The Black Pits of Luna” or “The Menace from Earth.” Then we held our breath. We hadn’t quite turned blue yet when the response came back, “Sure, use all three, and make sure the license reads that they may be reproduced only for assignments.”

Such generosity and leadership means that, going forward, we can

also go to other authors or their estates and ask them to step up to the plate as well for contributions to the next version of the CD. And, yes, I mean YOU, and YOU, and most definitely YOU, over there, behind that tree!

But now we come to it. It is not only the Heinlein Prize Trust and other authors and estates that we must turn to for “generosity and leadership” fully to enable this project. Our Society provided a CD to every teacher who attended the Cascadia Educator’s Conference, and we will send a CD to those teachers who take the trouble to hunt us down and ask for one (so encourage all teachers of your acquaintance to contact secretary @heinleinsociety.org and request a CD).

But it isn’t enough. We have a tool, we must now get it out to the mass audience that would be willing to use it, if only they knew about it. This can mean thousands of CDs, and tens of thousands of dollars for both production costs and advertising costs to reach that audience. The Cascadia Educator’s Conference was a wonderful event, created and attended by dedicated educators we are proud to be associated with—and it is not enough. We must reach out beyond the usual speculative fiction knowledgeable teacher community into the larger community of tens of thousands of K-12 schools in this country, and the hundreds of thousands of teachers employed there. And the only way to do it is if YOU and YOU and yes, YOU, over there, behind that tree, step up and make it possible with a donation that demonstrates *your* “generosity and leadership.”

Geo Rule
Education Committee Chair



A Non-Profit Corporation
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 Venice, California 90294-1254
 www.heinleinsociety.org

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Dear Prospective Member:

The Heinlein Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the intellectual and literary concerns, and social legacy, of Robert A. Heinlein. In addition to his main reputation as a science fiction writer and futurist, Heinlein during his lifetime tried to give worthy social causes a boost. The best way we can show our appreciation for his legacy is to PAY IT FORWARD.

Some examples of projects already proposed for the Society (now pending tax-exempt charity status) are: continuing the series of blood drives he started; developing an educational curriculum using Heinlein's writing; sponsoring educational programs such as essay contests; keeping his books in libraries; sponsoring scholarly and literary work on Heinlein; and doing our best to promote space exploration. A complete list of the working sections already started is in the information part below. We will want to add more worthy projects as time goes by.

Membership in the various working sections is not mandatory, but it is certainly encouraged. Also we want your ideas for working projects in the future! An annual Supporting Membership level is provided for students and those on fixed incomes who wish to support the work of The Heinlein Society.

If you are interested in joining us in continuing the good work Robert Heinlein started, please fill out the application form below and mail it to The Heinlein Society, P.O. Box 1254, Venice, CA 90294-1254. Or visit our web site at <http://www.heinleinsociety.org>, where you may apply for membership by an online application form. For further information, please contact the Society at the above postal address or Internet E-mail via "membership@heinleinsociety.org."

"I think the Heinlein Society is a fine idea. Robert would be proud of the way his Children have grown up." -- Virginia Heinlein, October 2000.

Detach Here for Application

Name: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Street Address: _____ Home Telephone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Work Telephone: _____

Annual Membership Dues Check Enclosed Regular Membership \$35 _____ *Supporting Membership: \$15 _____
 [*Supporting membership is available only to students enrolled for a degree or certificate, or persons retired and on a limited income. It confers no eligibility to vote or hold Society office.]

I wish to join and work on the following projects (check as many as you wish):

_____ Membership _____ Library support _____ Scholastics-Academics
 _____ Blood Drives _____ Fund-raising _____ Education (K-12 grades)
 _____ Centennial Celebration of Robert Heinlein's Birth _____ Aerospace Outreach

Other Projects I would like to see the Society become involved in: _____

Other Comments: _____

Cut Here

“A new year, but still, a few small things ...”

Expect some changes in the focus of our activities these next months--and over the next two years to the end of 2007. We will be looking to pay it forward a bit farther.

We have elected a new director, Jerry Pournelle, and have reached a membership number where we can be a bit more effective in communication of our goals and, with some changes, perhaps act more efficiently and enterprisingly. The past two months, Katrina did her best to destroy New Orleans and western Mississippi, and three weeks ago Rita struck the east Texas coast with damage that extended as far as Houston, which is the home of two of the three trustees of the Heinlein Prize Trust, the major literary executor of the Heinlein estate. Happily, the trustees and their families in Houston came through safely, without too much damage to property, except a large oak tree, which is destined now for furniture and without damage to mind and body, except that caused by an awfully long time in an automobile to evacuate temporarily. They are now back home and restoring their lives and properties alongside their neighbors. So, as the Gulf coast rebuilds, we too will be rebuilding our foundations and building on them anew. Our standing offer to do whatever we properly can to assist the Prize Trust's activities has been accepted.

In building and helping, we expect to be physically present in more places nationally and, at least by 2007, perhaps in 2006, worldwide. That will aid our help to the Trust and build support for the Heinlein Centennial Year.

Expect to see us somewhere different, new or old, at least monthly.

New Works Due Out:

By the end of this month, an important work, society member Joseph Major's *Heinlein's Children*, a comprehensive look at all the Heinlein juvenile novels, will be published, available from Advent. I've already read the galleys. It's a fine book, a must read for anyone who loves those works. Expect to see a review of it on our website this month. Expect the temptation to re-read all the juveniles with more adult pleasure after you finish Joe's work. Monthly issuance



David Silver at Society Annual Meeting at Cascadia Con

of the definitive Virginia Edition of all Robert Heinlein's works will also begin by January 1st. Also, some time next year we expect to see Spider Robinson's writing of Heinlein's *Virtual Star*.

One Final Note:

All charities run on one thing: money. Membership-based charities run on two things: members' efforts and money. On membership, expect to hear a bit personally from our directors before the end of the year. On money, a most important word: **By the end of this year we need to significantly surpass the Trust's annual matching grant for the first \$15,000 to maintain eligibility for full tax benefits to all our donors. We need to do far better than merely raise \$15,000 by ourselves to do that.**

If you plan to deduct the full amount, challenge yourself and be *very* generous while you write your checks to support our very worthwhile charitable efforts before the end of this year, please, for the charities we all support by membership in this fine Society Ginny founded to support the Heinleins' charitable goals.

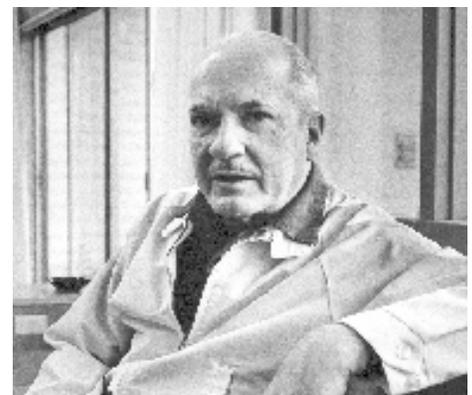
I'd like to set a goal for each of us who cares to meet that challenge. When I started reading Heinlein's juveniles in the early 1950s, my father was a truck driver, my mother a waitress. He and mom saw to it that we collectively put more than twenty bucks, which is what \$100 is today, in the collection baskets of the Church we attended each Sunday--every week for 52 weeks a year. Dad and Robert Heinlein were born in 1907. That generation knew it had to do more than just pay their dues. Is there a good reason why each of us cannot donate at least \$100 between now and January 1st?

Please do what you can.

And a Sincere Thank You:

I repeat the Society's sincere thanks to Deb Rule for her work on the website: you've been wonderful, Deb.

*David M. Silver
President and Chairman
"The Lieutenant expects
your names to shine!"*



“Pay It Forward--”